



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

How do you think these Israelite leaders felt when they returned to their homeland?

- A) Thankful.
- B) Discouraged.
- C) Confused.
- D) Elated.



God's prophets foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, the exile, and the return of God's people to their homeland. (Jeremiah 33:1-11.) What does the return of His people tell you about God?

- A) He does favors.
- B) He keeps His promises.
- C) He saves His people.
- D) He preserves Israel.

What does the return of God's people tell you about your own second chances and new beginnings?

Look at the way the temple was rebuilt in Ezra 3:10-13. What were the people demonstrating about their relationship with God?



Many times it is mentioned that the hand of the Lord was on Ezra. When have you felt that the hand of the Lord was on you?

When have you confessed and repented of a sin? How did that experience affect your relationship with God and with others?

Christ Connection

Read Jesus' parable in Luke 15:8-10. How does this encourage you on your walk with God?



Ezra Teaches God's People BETWEEN THE LINES

Take some time to read the story of Ezra in Ezra 1:1-7; 7:6-10, 25, 27; 9:1-6; 10:1-11.



WHAT DOES IT SAY?

After the Babylonians took God's people captive and destroyed the temple, what decree did Cyrus King of Persia make that allowed the heads of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin to return to their homeland? (See Ezra 1:1-7.)

What task did Artaxerxes King of Persia assign to Ezra? (Ezra 7:25.)

Who joined Ezra as he wept and confessed the sins of the people? (Ezra 10:1.)

After this, who led the people in a plan to repent? (Ezra 10:10-11.)



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

How had God prepared Ezra for his role in his homeland? (See Ezra 7:10.)

Why would the temple be the first rebuilding project of the returning exiles?

Why was Ezra so upset when he learned of the people's disobedience?

Esra Teaches God's People BETWEEN THE LINES

Take some time to read the story of Esra in
Esra 1:1-7; 7:6-10, 25, 27; 9:1-6; 10:1-11.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

After the Babylonians took God's people captive and destroyed the temple, what
decree did Cyrus King of Persia make that allowed the heads of the tribes of Judah and
Benjamin to return to their homeland? (See Esra 1:1-7.)

What task did Artaxerxes King of Persia assign to Esra? (Esra 7:25.)

Who joined Esra as he wept and confessed the sins of the people? (Esra 10:1.)

After this, who led the people in a plan to repent? (Esra 10:10-11.)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

How had God prepared Esra for his role in his homeland? (See Esra 7:10.)

Why would the temple be the first rebuilding project of the returning exiles?

Why was Esra so upset when he learned of the people's disobedience?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

How do you think these Israelite leaders felt when they returned to their homeland?

- A) Thankful.
- B) Discouraged.
- C) Confused.
- D) Elated.

God's prophets foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, the exile, and the return of God's people to
their homeland. (Jeremiah 33:1-11.) What does the return of His people tell you about God?

- A) He does favors.
- B) He keeps His promises.
- C) He saves His people.
- D) He preserves Israel.

What does the return of God's people tell you about your own second chances and
new beginnings?

Look at the way the temple was rebuilt in Esra 3:10-13. What were the people demonstrating
about their relationship with God?

Many times it is mentioned that the hand of the Lord was on Esra. When have you felt that the
hand of the Lord was on you?

When have you confessed and repented of a sin? How did that experience affect your relationship
with God and with others?

Christ Connection
Read Jesus' parable in Luke 15:8-10. How does this encourage you on your walk with God?

KEEP THIS PAGE IN YOUR BIBLE OR IN A NOTEBOOK
WITH YOUR OTHER JOURNAL ENTRIES.