

**DISCOVERING EFFECTIVE BIBLE STUDY FOR DYNAMIC CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
(Ezra 7:10; cf. 2 Tim.2:15)

**INTRODUCTION**

**Ezra 7:10 --- Accountability of Teachers of the Word:**

1. Prepare their hearts
  2. Seek the meaning of the Word
  3. Practice what is discovered (cf. Josh.1:7-9)
  4. Teach what they have learned (cf. 2 Tim.2:2; 3:14-17)
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1. Ezra, a descendent of Hilkiah, the high priest (Ezra 7:1), who found a copy of the law during the reign of king Josiah (cf. 2 Chron.34:14-15)
2. Ezra, though a priest of Israel, was forbidden to serve during the Babylonian captivity
3. The Temple had been destroyed
4. Ezra, however, gave himself to the study of the Word of God (Ezra 7:6)
5. Ezra was a great revivalist and reformer, & revival began with the reading & study of the Word of God by Ezra (Nehemiah 8; cf. 1 Tim.4:11-15))
6. Ezra organized the synagogue; founded the order of the scribes; helped to settle the canon of Scripture & to arrange the Psalms --- the first to begin a revival of Bible study
7. "The next revival will be the revival of Bible study" – Dwight L. Moody (Those who have tried to initiate revival by organization, by certain methodology, by gimmicks have failed
8. Revival will come only as people return to the study and the obedience to the Word of God
9. Key to Ezra: 7:10; 9:4; 10:3

**Dr. James M. Gray: "We have seen that the Babylonian captivity did not bring the Jews to national repentance and so lead to national restoration, As the reading of Ezra will disclose, when Cyrus, king of Persia, gave permission to the captives to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, scarcely fifty thousand Jews availed themselves of the privilege, a considerable portion of whom were priests and Levites of the humbler and poorer class."**

At the close of 2 Chronicles, the southern kingdom of Israel went into captivity for seventy years. There is then no word from them after their capture until Ezra picks up their history.

Historical Books --- three post-captivity: Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther  
Prophetical Books -- three post-captivity: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

Books of Ezra and Nehemiah belong together. Ezra was a priest; Nehemiah a layman – together they led the rebuilding of the walls, the city of Jerusalem and the Temple.

Haggai and Zechariah also worked together – they encouraged the people to build the Temple  
The books of Haggai and Zechariah should be studied with the book of Ezra, for all three books were written in the shadow of the Temple and were written to encourage the people in building

Two major divisions in Ezra: the return of the captives from Babylon led by Zerubbabel (chaps. 1-6); then the return under Ezra (chaps. 7-10)

### **EFFECTIVE BIBLE STUDY**

1. Bible study is essential to spiritual growth (1 Pet.2:2; Ps.19:7-14)
2. Bible study is essential to spiritual maturity (Heb.5:11-14)
3. Bible study is essential to spiritual effectiveness in every area of life (2 Tim.3:16-17; Matt.4:1-11)
4. Bible study is hard work, but worth it eternally (Acts 6:1-7; 2 Tim.2:15; 3:10-17)

**“How To Study Your Bible”** --- J. Vernon McGee

1. Begin with prayer (1 Cor.2:9-14; Jn.14:26; 16:12-15)
2. Read the Bible (2 Tim.3:15-17; Neh.8:1-3)
3. Study the Bible (2 Tim.2:15; 3:15-17; Neh.8:8)