

Ezra 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Analysis

Ezra's character summary: 'For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.' The Hebrew reveals intentionality: 'hekin libbo' (he set/established his heart) in threefold commitment:

1. 'lidrosh' (to seek/study) the Torah
2. 'la'asot' (to do/obey) it
3. 'le-lammed' (to teach) it.

This sequence matters: study precedes application, personal obedience precedes public teaching. Ezra didn't merely learn God's Word intellectually; he internalized and obeyed it, qualifying him to teach others. This models faithful ministry: leaders must be students of Scripture, practitioners of truth, and teachers of God's people. Paul's similar charge to Timothy: 'Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine' (1 Timothy 4:16)—character and content both matter.

Historical Context

Ezra, a priest and scribe, returned from Babylonian exile to Jerusalem in 458 BC (seventh year of Artaxerxes, Ezra 7:7), roughly 80 years after the first return under Zerubbabel. Persian King Artaxerxes commissioned him to teach God's law to the returned community (7:25-26). The exile occurred partly because pre-exilic Israel had forsaken Torah (2 Chronicles 36:15-16); restoration required Scripture-centered renewal. Ezra's reading of the law (Nehemiah 8) precipitated national

repentance and covenant renewal. His model established the 'scribe' role in Second Temple Judaism—scholars devoted to studying, preserving, and teaching Scripture. This emphasis on Word-centered faith prepared for Jesus, who fulfilled the Law (Matthew 5:17) and sent apostles to teach His commands (Matthew 28:20).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Is my heart truly set on knowing, obeying, and teaching God's Word, or do I treat it casually?
2. How does the sequence—study, obey, teach—challenge my approach to Scripture and ministry?

Interlinear Text

וְהִנֵּה הַתּוֹךְ תְּאַת לִדְרֹשׁ וְשַׁחַד יְהִי לְבָבְךָ וְעַצְבָּא כִּי
H3588 For Ezra H5830 had prepared H3559 his heart H3824 to seek H1875 H853 the law H8451 H3068 of the LORD

וְלֹא תַּעֲשֶׂה תְּמִשְׁפָּט כִּי קְרָבָא לְבִישָׁרָא לְוַלְּמִם דְּבִרְךָ יְהִי וְלֹא תַּעֲשֶׂה
H6213 and to do H3925 it and to teach H3478 in Israel H2706 statutes H4941 and judgments

Additional Cross-References

Malachi 2:7 (Word): For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

2 Timothy 4:2 (Word): Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Matthew 7:24 (Parallel theme): Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

John 13:17 (Parallel theme): If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Psalms 1:2 (Word): But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Ezra 7:25 (Judgment): And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not.

Psalms 19:7 (Word): The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Deuteronomy 33:10 (Judgment): They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar.

Psalms 10:17 (References Lord): LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

1 Chronicles 29:18 (References Lord): O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee: