

EZRA'S JOURNEY
(Ezra 8:1-36)

- I. Roster of RETURNEES (Ezra 8:1-20)
 - A. The VOLUNTEERS who assembled (8:1-14)
 - 1. Records HEADS of households by GENEALOGY
 - 2. Totals 1,496 men plus WOMEN and CHILDREN
 - B. The LEVITES who were RECRUITED (8:15-20)
 - 1. Camped THREE DAYS to get ORGANIZED
 - 2. Discovered no LEVITES were with them
 - 3. Sent men to Casiphia to charge Iddo to “bring MINISTERS to us for the HOUSE of our GOD”
 - 4. Returned with 38 Levites and 220 “temple servants”

- II. Making the JOURNEY (Ezra 8:21-32)
 - A. SPIRITUAL preparation for the journey (8:21-23)
 - 1. Proclaimed a THREE-DAY FAST
 - 2. Unwilling to request ARMED ESCORT
 - 3. God ANSWERED their PRAYER
 - B. ADMINISTRATIVE preparation for the journey (8:24-30)

1. Appointed TWELVE priest-and-Levite TEAMS
2. Assigned them to TRANSPORT the temple TREASURE
3. CONSECRATED the couriers and the treasure to GOD
4. Charged them to SAFEGUARD the treasure until it is WEIGHED at the temple

C. SUMMARY of the journey (8:31-32)

1. Said God DELIVERED them from the ENEMY
2. Announced their ARRIVAL in JERUSALEM

III. Activities upon ARRIVAL (Ezra 8:33-36)

A. Presentation of the DONATIONS (8:33-34)

1. WEIGHED the treasure in the TEMPLE
2. NAMED the priests and Levites who took CUSTODY

B. Offering of the SACRIFICES (8:35)

C. Delivery of the king's EDICTS (8:36)

IV. Lessons

- A. The importance of FAMILY
- B. The value of careful ACCOUNTING and RECORDS
- C. The centrality of WORSHIP
- D. The testimony of CONFIDENCE in God