

# THE Story

## Lesson 31 Chapter 21 Rebuilding the Walls (Pt 1) p.291-301

1. We are introduced to Ezra ("help") on pages 291-292. What do we learn about Ezra from these pages?

What's impressive about his family tree?

What family members have laid the spiritual foundation for your life?

2. On the top of page 292 we read that Ezra devoted himself to studying God's Word and following what it teaches. How do you think Ezra's commitment to God's Word shaped his life and ministry?

Why is it so important that we do more than just know the content of the Bible but actually obey what it teaches?

3. On pages 293-294 we read how God worked through King Artaxerxes to send a second group of exiles back to Jerusalem to reestablish the worship of God in their new temple. How have you seen God use surprising people and circumstances to accomplish His will in this world?

4. What lessons do we learn from Ezra's response of praise to the King's decree that is recorded in the middle paragraph on page 294?

5. Thirteen years after Ezra began his ministry in Jerusalem, we are introduced to the king's cupbearer whose name was Nehemiah ("consolation in God"), son of Hakaliah ("who waits on God"). What might have been included in his job description?

6. When Nehemiah heard about the plight of his people in Jerusalem, he wept and then he prayed (p.295). What can we learn from the example of Nehemiah's prayer? Note his attitude, his knowledge of the Scriptures and his grounds for expecting his prayer to be answered.

7. After receiving the King's permission to travel to Jerusalem, what impresses you about the way Nehemiah spent his first few days in the city? (the bottom of page 295 to the middle of page 296)

8. How did Sanballat try to discourage the workers building the walls and what impresses you about the way Nehemiah responded to that challenge? (P.296-297)

9. Nehemiah not only prayed hard but he worked hard. How do you see this balance in his life?

What is the danger of praying hard but not working hard?

What are some possible consequences of working hard but forgetting to pray?

10. After the wall was rebuilt, how did God use Ezra to help rebuild the lives of His people? (P.300-301)

11. As you review this portion of God's inspired Word, what truths do you learn

about our humanity....sins to avoid & examples to follow

about our God... His promises to claim & His character to embrace