

GOD KNOWS THE FUTURE AND HAS A PLAN

Family Devotion – Lesson 87

MEMORY VERSE – EZRA 7:10

“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.”

- Ezra was one of three key leaders to leave Babylon (after the captivity) for the reconstruction of Jerusalem. Zerubbabel reconstructed the temple (Ezra 3:8), Nehemiah rebuilt the walls (Nehemiah chapters 1 and 2), and Ezra restored the people and worship. He was a scribe and priest sent with religious and political powers by the Persian King Artaxerxes to lead a group of Jewish exiles from Babylon to Jerusalem. Ezra had made a decision in his heart that he was going to learn God’s laws and ways and be obedient to them. He also decided that he was going to teach them to his people in Jerusalem. *Statutes* and *Judgments* can be defined as God’s laws and consequences.
- God’s future plan was to restore Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. God was getting Ezra ready to rebuild the people of Israel.
- God prepares people before He carries out His future plan.
- We must be ready to fulfill God’s will. Isn’t it amazing that God wants to use us! It is important to know how we can prepare for this to happen. We should do what Ezra did:
 - 1) Prepare your heart to SEEK God’s word.
 - Read it. Study it. Listen to it. Learn it. Think about it.
 - 2) Prepare your heart to DO God’s word.
 - Obey it. Live it. Love it. Lean on it.
 - 3) Prepare your heart to TEACH God’s word.
 - Share it. Proclaim it. Pass it on. Declare it. Preach it.
- Notice that all of this starts in your HEART. It is heart preparation.
- If God has your heart, you will seek to learn, do, and share His word. This is God’s plan for your life.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- How did Daniel fulfill God’s will according to Daniel 1:8?
- Why is the order of first learning and doing God’s word important before you teach it to someone else?
- Why is obedience a key factor in fulfilling God’s plan for the future?

PRAYER TIME

- Ask God to put a desire in your heart to learn His word and do it.
- Pray for God to give you an opportunity to share His word with someone.

CHALLENGE

- Do the work of a *scribe* and write out word for word a psalm in the Bible. Have someone check it after you are finished to see if you recorded it accurately.