

## EZRA THE PRIEST

### *Ezra 7:1-10*

February 7, 2010

v. 10 – Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

Ezra's three passions:

- 📖 Studying God's Word
- 📖 Obeying God's Word
- 📖 Teaching God's Word

### 1. Ezra the Scribe

Scribes:

Defining "God's law"

📖 Three types of *law* (as God defines it):

- ☞ Moral law (The Decalogue)
- ☞ Ceremonial Law
- ☞ Civil law

📖 The Pentateuch

📖 The OT

📖 The Bible

The **KEY** reason we should share this passion: that we might **KNOW God**.

Scripture is like a pair of spectacles which dispels the darkness and gives us a clear view of God John Calvin

Jeremiah 9:23-24a (NIV)

### **3 other reasons to immerse ourselves in God's Word:**

📖 The one who knows God's Word, knows true freedom.

Psalm 119:45; John 8:32

📖 God's Word is the source of true wisdom.

Psalm 119:98

📖 The one who truly wants to be like Christ is a student of the Scriptures.

Acts 17:11

### 2. Ezra the Priest

What is a *priest*?

## Shorter Catechism Question 25

Hebrews 10:10; Romans 8:34 (Heb. 7:25); 1 Peter 2:9

Peter's three duties of this priesthood:

📖 'to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Pet. 2:5),

📖 to 'declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light', (1 Pet. 2:9).

📖 To live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Pet. 1:12)

Psalm 119:9, 11

### **One other duty of our priesthood:**

📖 To intercede for and with each other and for the unbelievers all around us.

Ezra 8:21-23

### 3. Ezra the Prophet

What is a prophet?

Romans 15:4

Ezra "demonstrates that what the world needs is not new thinkers or thoughts. It needs people to pay attention to the thoughts—and words—of God." Fran Sciacca

Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself but because it contradicts them." E Paul Hovey

A Truth to Remember & A Challenge to Consider:

Ezra devoted himself to the study & observance of the Law of the Lord, & to teaching its decrees & laws

One thing I heard this morning was...

**Next Wk: RUTH – PURSUING OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER** (Ruth – Selections)