

## Haggai, Ezra and Nehemiah

*Gail Arterburn –2021*

Monday, 9:30 – 11:00 am

To be discussed –02/08/21

Lesson 6

Ezra 8:1-36

1. Read Ezra 8:1-20. Ezra lists those who volunteered to return with him by the heads of the families. The descendants of the priestly and royal families are listed first (vv. 2-3) followed by the names of the rest of the Jews. Before leaving Babylon, what essential group did Ezra realize was missing from those returning with him? In light of Ezra's primary purpose to re-establish the knowledge and observance of the Mosaic Law to Israel, why were they essential?
2. What did he do to resolve the problem? Was he successful? Why?
3. Read Ezra 8:21-23. Why did Ezra proclaim a fast before they began their journey? What was he concerned about? Why didn't he ask the king for an armed escort to insure their safe journey considering they were literally carrying a fortune with them? Do you think he was wise or foolish?
4. Why do you think fasting and prayer are often found together in scripture? How do they complement each other?
5. Read Ezra 8:24-30. What sensible precaution did Ezra take with the wealth that was entrusted to his care?
6. Read Ezra 31-35. What was God's answer to their prayers? What did they do when they first arrived?
7. On the fourth day after they arrived, what did Ezra have them do with the silver and gold and sacred articles? Why?
8. What two actions (in what order) concluded their safe arrival?