



1

Careful and deliberate preparation for the journey to Jerusalem 7:28b-8:30

- Documentation of the heads of the families returning 8:1-14
- The people committed to the journey encamped by a river for three days and a review revealed that there were no sons of Levi in the group. 8:15-20
 - It seems that there were priests present but no other Levites. The Levites were a necessary part of the ongoing functioning of the temple in their support role to the priests. (Numbers 18:1-7)

2

Careful and deliberate preparation for the journey to Jerusalem 7:28b-8:30

- Documentation of the heads of the families returning
- The people committed to the journey encamped by a river for three days and a review revealed that there were no sons of Levi in the group. 8:15-20
 - Ezra sent out people to find and enlist Levites to join them. 20 Levites and 220 servants of the Levites were found. (1 Chronicles 9:22-32)

3

Careful and deliberate preparation for the journey to Jerusalem 7:28b-8:30

- Fasting and prayer for a safe journey 8:21-23
 - Ezra began this journey with prayer and fasting to seek God's blessing and protection.
 - Ezra had expressed his confidence to Artaxerxes in God's ability to watch over His people.
 - Ezra also knew that we have not because we ask not.

4

Careful and deliberate preparation for the journey to Jerusalem 7:28b-8:30

- Ezra chose 12 of the leading priests and divided the temple offerings among them. 8:24-30
 - He weighed out and recorded the sums and revealed that an accounting would be made upon arrival at the temple.
 - The vessels and offerings were considered holy since they had been dedicated to temple service and therefore could only be handled by the priest.

5

The journey and arrival 8:31-36

- Ezra gathered the people at a tributary that ran into the Ahava River on the first day of the first month.
- They departed for Jerusalem on the twelfth day of the first month.
- God did bless them with safe passage.
- After a few days of recovery from the trip they weighed out the offerings to the priests at the temple.
- Burnt offerings were made to the LORD.
- Artaxerxes' letter is delivered to the rulers of the area.

6



7



8

Lessons

- Preparation for obedience is obedience.
- It is often that extra effort of encouragement that makes a difference to get people to join God in what He is doing.
- We should always prayerfully consider how God would lead us to carry out His will.
- We should always practice good stewardship with the resources with which God's entrusts us.
- Honor God for His faithfulness.

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