

## Ezra, the Servant of God:

- (7:6) Skilled in the Law of the Lord  
(7:10) Set in his heart to study the words of God  
to practice them  
to teach others His ways  
(7:11) Learned in the words of the commandments of the Lord and His statutes

## Ezra's Calling and Assignment:

- (7:17) To offer sacrifices in the newly completed Temple  
(7:18) To do "whatever seems good" according to the will of God  
(7:19) To return plundered utensils to the Temple service  
(7:25) To appoint leaders over the people  
a. leaders who know the ways of God  
b. leaders who are willing to learn the ways of God  
(7:26) To administrate the affairs of the region according to the Law of the Lord  
and of the King  
(7:28; 8:15) To recruit leaders to go with him

## Ezra's Prayer of Confession:

- (9:6) We are ashamed and embarrassed to lift our faces because of our sins.  
(9:7) We fell into bondage because of our past guilt. The bondage has left us  
confused, frustrated, disappointed and plundered.  
(9:8) Even in our bondage, God has not abandoned us. He has opened an door of  
escape and deliverance that will enlighten and revive us.  
(9:9) Though we are in slavery to our captors, God has allowed us an opportunity  
to restore the Temple that was ruined, and to rebuild the walls of the city.  
(9:10-15) We have even blown the chance You granted us for deliverance because we  
allowed ourselves to be intermingled with the ways and the practices of the  
world around us.