

#5 Ezra, a Priestly Scribe, and the Need for Ezra—Those Skilled in the Word of God

Bird's-eye view 3/20-26

I Ezra was a priest and also a scribe; thus, he was not a letter scribe but a priestly scribe: [Ezra 7:6](#) This Ezra...was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which Jehovah the God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all his request according to the hand of Jehovah his God upon him. **A** A priest is one who is mingled with the Lord and saturated with the Lord; Ezra was this kind of person. **B** Ezra was a man who trusted in God, who was one with God, who was skilled in the word of God, and who knew God's heart, God's desires, and God's economy. **C** As a priestly scribe, Ezra was one with the Lord by contacting Him continually. **D** Ezra spoke nothing new; what he spoke had been spoken by Moses. **E** The priests and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe in order to gain insight into the words of the law; in Nehemiah 8:13 insight refers to apprehending the intrinsic significance. [Neh. 8:13](#) And on the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, the priests, and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe, that is, in order to gain insight into the words of the law. **II** Ezra reconstituted the people of Israel by educating them with the heavenly truths so that Israel could become God's testimony: [Neh. 8:2](#) And Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly.... **3** And he read it... And the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. **6** And Ezra blessed Jehovah the great God; and all the people answered, Amen, Amen. **8** And they read in the book, in the law of God, interpreting and giving the sense, so that they understood the reading. **A** God's intention with Israel was to have on earth a divinely constituted people to be His testimony—a people reconstituted with the word of God. [Col. 3:16](#) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.... **B** After the return from captivity, the people of Israel were still unruly, for they had been born and raised in Babylon and had become Babylonian in their constitution: **1** The Babylonian element had been wrought into them and constituted into their being. **2** After they returned to the land of their fathers to be citizens of the nation of Israel, they needed to be reconstituted with the word of God. **C** There was the need of teaching and reconstitution to bring the people of God into a culture that was according to God, a culture that expressed God; this kind of culture requires a great deal of education. **D** For the reconstituting of God's people, Ezra was very useful, for

he bore the totality of the heavenly and divine constitution and culture, and he was one through whom the people could be reconstituted with the word of God. **E** Ezra brought the people back to the Word of God so that they might be reeducated and reconstituted with the heavenly truths in the divine Word. **F** In order to reconstitute the people of God, there was the need to educate them with the Word that comes out of the mouth of God and that expresses God: **1** To reconstitute the people of God is to educate them by putting them into the word of God so that they may be saturated with the word. **2** As the word of God works within us, the Spirit of God, who is God Himself, through the word spontaneously dispenses God's nature with God's element into our being; in this way we are reconstituted. [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#) All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work. **G** As a result of being reconstituted through the ministry of Ezra, Israel (in type) became a particular nation, a nation sanctified and separated unto God, expressing God: [Isa. 49:6](#) You would be My Servant / To raise up the tribes of Jacob / And bring back the preserved of Israel; / I will also set You as a light of the nations / That You may be My salvation unto the ends of the earth. **1** The returned captives were reconstituted personally and corporately to become God's testimony. **2** They were transfused with the thought of God, with the considerations of God, and with all that God is; this made them God's reproduction. **3** By this kind of divine constitution, everyone became God in life and in nature; as a result, they became a divine nation expressing the divine character. [1 Pet. 2:9](#) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **III** In the Lord's recovery we need Ezras, priestly teachers who contact God, who are one with God, who are mingled with God, who are filled with God, and who are skillful in the Word of God; this is the kind of person who is qualified to be a teacher in the recovery: **A** The Lord Jesus taught the people in order to bring them out of the satanic darkness into the divine light: [Acts 26:18](#) To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me. **1** Man's fall into sin broke his fellowship with God, making all men ignorant

of the knowledge of God, with such ignorance issuing in darkness and death. **2** The Lord as the light of the world came as a great light to shine on the people who were sitting in the shadow of death. **3** The Lord's teaching released the word of light that those in darkness and death might receive the light of life. **B** Teaching equals revelation, which is the opening of the veil: **1** To teach is to roll away the veil; as we are teaching others, we should be taking away the veil so that they may see something of the Triune God. **2** When we speak something in the church meeting, our speaking should be the rolling away of the veil; this means that our teaching should present a revelation. 2 Tim. 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be competent to teach others also. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth. **C** The recovery has the highest truth—the truth that is the consummation of the truths recovered during the past centuries: **1** The greatest need that must be met is to bring the saints in the Lord's recovery into the truth to carry the recovery on. 1 Tim. 2:3 our Savior God... 4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth. **2** We have both the objective truths and the subjective truths in the Holy Scriptures. **3** In our study of the Bible, we should not pay attention merely to the "branches" but go deeply into the "roots" and the "trunk". **4** We need to see the crystallized significances of the steps of God's economy and of the Body of Christ. **D** To be constituted with the truth is to have the truth wrought into us to become our intrinsic being, our organic constitution: **1** The intrinsic element of the divine revelation must be wrought into and constituted into our being. **2** Once the truth gets into us through our understanding, it remains in our memory, and then we retain the truth in our memory, causing us to have an accumulation of the truth. **3** After the truth gets into our memory, it becomes a constant and long-term nourishment; then we have an accumulation of the truth, and we are under the constant nourishment. **E** All the saints in the Lord's recovery should be trained in the divine revelation: **1** Nearly all the crucial revelations in the Bible have been covered in the ministry of Brother Nee and Brother Lee; we should pay our attention to these pure and healthy things and not waste our time collecting "poisonous gourds". **2** We all need to be helped through the Life-studies and the Recovery Version with the footnotes to see the intrinsic significance of the word of the Bible.

神戸に在る召会交わりと報告事項

1. **3/19** 本山学生福音センターで主日集会開始:
2. **余力聖美S・ルーカス君、林純正B、純安S** 来日:
本山学生福音センターのopenに合わせて、ブレンディングに来られます。聖美S:3/18-29、純正B:3/18-25、純安S:3/18-23
3. **3/21(火・祝)の祈り集会**: 祝日のため、**19:00-20:30**に時間変更して行います。
4. **3/21(火・祝)YP Welcome RGブレンディング**:
リジョイスガーデンに**9:10**到着。昼食は、BBQです。**15:30**下山。各地区、誰でも参加可能です。**【参加費(交通費500円込み)】**大人:1500円、大・中・高生:1000円、小学生:800円、幼児:600円、乳児:500円※福音友人、新しくYPに入る人は、500円です。申し込み締め切りは、**3/19(主)**です。各地区でとりまとめて、武富夏美SにLINEで連絡して下さい。
5. **調布の石合S、前田朱見S神戸ブレンディング**:
3/27-29にブレンディングに来られます。
6. **東大阪とのブレンディング**:
3/25(土)-3/26(主)に東大阪からの家族、手話者含めて、29名来られます。宿泊10名、3/25(土)のみ3名、3/26(主)のみ16名。
4. **3月国際長老責任者訓練**:
3/31(金)8:30-17:30 M1,M2,M3
4/1(土)8:30-17:30 M4,M5,M6
4/2(主)13:30-17:30 M7,M8
5. **3月-4月福音集会担当按配**:
3/26 六甲、4/2 三宮・神戸、4/9 魚崎・六アイ、4/16 YP、4/23 六甲、4/30 召会全体@魚崎で合同集会
6. **3月-4月土曜8:30-9:00の預言準備集会担当**:
3/25 本山、4/1 YP、4/8 三宮・神戸、4/15 夙川、4/22 魚崎・六アイ、4/29 六甲
7. **5月全国特別集会**:
5/5(金・祝)13:30-15:30 集会1
5/6(土)10:00-12:00 集会2
13:30-15:30 集会3
5/7(主)10:00-12:30 パンさき集会、集会4
今年は東京に集まります。青少年ブレンディング、子供集会も行われます。現場参加希望の兄弟姉妹は、宿泊按配もあるので、**4/1(土)**までに、各地区とりまとめて、武富夏美Sにまでご連絡ください。

CP1 Read the Bible every day, reeducated by the heavenly truth and become the corporate testimony on earth

IE Ezra brought the people back to the Word of God so that they might be re-educated and reconstituted with the heavenly truths in the divine Word. [Neh. 8:2](#) And Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly... [3](#) And he read in it... And the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. [6](#) And Ezra blessed Jehovah the great God; and all the people answered, Amen, Amen... [8](#) And they read in the book, in the law of God, interpreting and giving the sense, so that they understood the reading. [Col. 3:16](#) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs... God's word reconstitutes us. We all have our own kind of disposition and habitual behavior, but God is able to reconstitute us through His word. This is why we need to read the Bible. God's word gradually changes our mind and our way of thinking. The word of God is one with the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). When the word of God works within us, the Spirit, through the word, spontaneously dispenses God's nature with God's element into our being. We may not even be aware that such a dispensing is taking place within us. By this way we are reconstituted.

Most of those who had returned to Jerusalem from the captivity in Babylon had been born not in Israel but in Babylon, and they were raised in Babylon. The Babylonian element had been wrought into them and constituted into their being. Therefore, after they returned to the land of their fathers to be citizens of the nation of Israel, they needed a reconstitution. Ezra was very useful at this point, for he was one through whom the people could be reconstituted with the word of God.

God's intention with Israel was to have on earth a divinely constituted people to be His testimony. In order for God's people to be His testimony, they had to be reconstituted with the word of God. Under Ezra and Nehemiah the returned people of Israel were collectively constituted by and with God through His word to be a nation as God's testimony.

In order to be reconstituted, we need to read the sixty-six books of the Bible again and again. As one who has been reading the Word for more than sixty-five years, I can testify that I have been reconstituted through the daily reading of the Word. Every day I am reconstituted a little more.

[Application to young people, college student, new ones](#)

Testimony 1 Every time I read the Bible, I found it

difficult and there was a veil of "the Bible is too difficult for me to understand". One day I read in Nehemiah that even though we return from Babylon to Jerusalem, we are still in the Babylonian constitution on the inside and need to be reconstituted by the Word of God. So I prayed to the Lord, "Lord Jesus, I find the Bible difficult, but I need to read it because I need to be reconstructed by the Word of God. Lord, I open it to You. Give me an appetite and understanding for the Word of God". Every time I came to the Word, I prayed this prayer and the Word became more and more enlightening and sweet to me. 3 years ago, we started pursuing the collective works of brother Lee and we read it for 30 minutes every day except the Lord's Day. I have enjoyed it so much and my appetite for the Word of the Lord has increased and I want to read other spiritual books as well. I feel that the inside is being reconstituted. The Lord also recently touched on the matter of food I eat every day. I am fat because of my love for carbohydrates and sweets. It was enlightened to me that I need to be restricted by the Lord and I prayed to Him. "Lord, I have been in the habit of the old man of eating only what I wanted to eat. Lord, please reconstitute me in my eating habits as well." Strangely enough, after praying, I no longer have a taste for sweets, and I no longer eat them late at night. I believe that this is not the result of external forceful correction, but because I have been reconstituted by the Word of God and my mind has been renewed. I thank the Lord.

Testimony 2 When I was in the upper grades of elementary school right after I was saved, I was preparing every week to prophesy as well as the older brothers and sisters in the church. But I didn't really understand what it meant to enjoy and share the words of the Bible. At that time, I had to share in front of the brothers and sisters on how to do pray reading, and for this purpose, the serving brothers and sisters did a lot of pray reading of the Word with me. Pray-reading the Bible not only enabled us to eat and enjoy it, but also to better understand its contents. As a result, I was able to exercise the spirit and share it in front of the brothers and sisters. Since then, when I prepare to prophesy at Lord's Day meetings, I do not try to understand the words of the Bible on my own, but first pray read them and enjoy them before I share them with the brothers and sisters. In doing so I touch the Word of the Bible inside, and began to be constituted by it, filled with it, and able to speak it out. Thank the Lord.

CP2 Take away the veil, see God's revelation, be constituted with the truth, and be God's testimony on the earth.

III B1 To teach is to roll away the veil; as we are teaching others, we should be taking away the veil so that they may see something of the Triune God. **2** When we speak something in the church meeting, our speaking should be the rolling away of the veil; this means that our teaching should present a revelation. **3** Today's Ezras should labor to constitute God's people by educating them with the truth so that they may be God's testimony, His corporate expression, on the earth. [Acts 26:18](#) To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me. [2 Tim. 3:16](#) All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **17** that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

Whenever we see something of God, we realize our mistakes, wrongdoings, shortcomings, and sins. The result is that we are convicted; we are rebuked...When in our reading of the Scriptures we receive a revelation, the revelation will convict us and rebuke us. Teaching, or revelation, brings us conviction, and conviction produces correction. Correction is a matter of setting right what is wrong, turning someone to the right way, and restoring to an upright state. After we have been corrected, we will receive the proper instruction—the instruction in righteousness. Whereas Paul here does not use any modifiers for teaching, conviction, and correction, he does use a modifier for instruction and speaks of the instruction in righteousness. Righteousness is a matter of being right. Hence, the instruction here is for us to be right.

The reason we are convicted and rebuked is that we are wrong in many different ways and aspects. We may be wrong with God, with Christ, and with the Spirit. We may be wrong with the church, with the brothers and sisters, with our husband or wife, with our parents, with our children, with our neighbors, and even with ourselves. We may be wrong in the way we spend our money, in the way we spend our time, in the way we dress, or in the way we style our hair. Because we may be wrong in so many different things, we are rebuked by the revelation we receive when we read the Scriptures.

[Application to business persons, graduate students](#)

[Eph.1:17](#) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the

Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him, **FN spirit of wisdom and revelation** Wisdom is in our spirit that we may know the mystery of God, and revelation is God's Spirit that He may show us the vision by opening the veil. First, we have wisdom, the ability to understand, which enables us to know spiritual things; then the Spirit of God reveals the spiritual things to our spiritual understanding. **Testimony** I completed graduate school, began full-time service, and read many messages from the ministry during the year before going to the training in Taiwan. At that time, before we have the publication of Holy Word for Morning Revival, we prepared excerpts from the Word and message of the weekly pray-reading in the amount of an A3 (the same as the current weekly handout). To excerpt the most appropriate message, I had to select from two or three sections and had to read a lot of messages. At that time, I realized that no matter how much I read, even if I understood the surface of the message from the ministry, I could not enter into the essence of the Bible because my mind was covered with religious concept, Japanese culture, and natural personality. And I prayed to the Lord as follows, "Oh Lord Jesus, I have many preconceptions, religious concepts, cultural thinking, natural personalities, and other veils that hinder my understanding of visions and revelations. I turn my heart to the Lord. Remove my veil." Then a little of the veil was removed and I was able to make the handout.

I then went to Taiwan in May-June 1986, before the full-time training began. Then, in mid-August, I attended full-time training. At that time, I was enlightened by the patterns of brothers Andrew Yu, Benson Phillips, and others. They were outside the Chinese culture and the American culture, and they were people in Christ. They were the believers in the economy of God, which I read and understood in the ministry messages.

It was at this point that I began to wish that I too could be a little role model. "Lord Jesus, may I be a pattern of a person in Christ to those around me! Lord, give me grace!" **Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, when I come to the Word of God, if I have my own culture, religious concepts, and preconceptions, they become a veil over me and I cannot receive the Word of God correctly. Give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation when I come to the Word. Please take away my veil. May I follow the pattern of the brothers and sisters who see God's revelation in God's economy, and may I be the pattern to be found in Christ by the new ones.