

4 March 2018: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

**Topic: A Study of Ezra: A Ready Return**

Scripture text: Ezra 8:15-36

1. Ezra prepared himself physically for a ready return to Jerusalem by seeking for capable men to assist in the Temple. By God's providence, men of spiritual wisdom were used to recruit capable Levites and Nethinims. They had the necessary skills to fulfill their tasks in the Temple. The Levites were God's chosen people to assist the priests in the worship of God, while the Nethinims supported the Levitical ministry. Likewise, we must pray for God's wisdom when electing leaders in the Church, ensuring that they are spiritually ready and are the right men for the tasks (v. 15-20).

2. Ezra prepared himself spiritually for a ready return by seeking the Lord's will in prayer. They were totally dependent on God's sovereign will to direct their paths back to Jerusalem, even willing to do without the need for food and water. God was faithful to lead them. If we want to do well for the Lord, we must pray without ceasing and trust in the Lord (v. 21-23).

3. Ezra prepared himself for a ready return by ensuring that he was blameless before God and men. Ezra ensured to remind the priests and Levites to be faithful stewards of the Lord's money and resources. There was transparency and precision in weighing the Lord's treasures and all resources were accounted for when it reached Jerusalem. Likewise, all servants of God are accountable to God and man and we should serve Him with integrity of hearts (v. 24-36).