

## **Lesson 9: Clean and Unclean Ezra 7:1-10:44**

1. Read Ezra 7-10. Use your outlines to make notes and comments for class discussions.
2. Read Lesson 9 in your books.
3. Answer questions in Dimension 1.
4. Consider the following questions:
  - a. In Ezra 7:6, we read that Ezra was “well versed” in the Law. Who instilled in you a love for the Word? How can you install a love for the Word in others?
  - b. In Ezra 7:9 and 7:28, we read how the “hand of the Lord” was with Ezra. How is the “hand of the Lord” evident in your life? What leadership role does that encourage you to take?
  - c. In Ezra 8:15-20, how does Ezra handle the lack of response by the Levites to his planned pilgrimage? Is he end-running divine authority? Or pursuing an additional channel for God’s blessing? Why do you think so? (What do the numbers in Ezra 2:40 tell you?)
  - d. Is God’s hand more directly involved in the lives of those who strip themselves of all visible means of support and protection? Or are God’s fingerprints just more obvious or necessary at such times of naked trust? Why do you think so?
  - e. In Ezra 8, we read about how God protected Ezra and the Israelites from their enemies. How and when have you sensed God protecting you from enemies? What enemies (internal and external) might you still need God’s protection from?
  - f. In your study of Ezra, what have you learned about your own human nature? About God’s nature? About his desires for you? His discipline of you?
  - g. What kind of pilgrim would you have made back in Ezra’s day? How is that shown in your faith now?