

Redemption through his blood ... “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7 ESV).



■ Ezra the priest, the scribe ...

- Ezra was fit for God’s mission because he was **skilled in the Law of the LORD** and had set his heart firmly to **study** it, to **obey** it and to **teach** it. This is how Ezra accessed **the light** that was needed to **penetrate the pagan darkness of his world. Same for us.**

- (John 3:19 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness rather than the light** because their works were evil.
- (John 8:12 ESV) Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have **the light of life.**”
- (John 12:46 ESV) I have come into the world as light, so that **whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.**
- (Ephesians 5:8 ESV) For at one time you were darkness, but **now you are light in the Lord.** Walk as children of light.
- (1 Thessalonians 5:5 ESV) For you are all **children of light,** children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.
- (1 Peter 2:9 ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who **called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**
- (1 John 2:8 ESV) At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because **the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.**
- (1 John 5:4 ESV) For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. **And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**