



# Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church

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## Key Sources:

Eugene Peterson, Derek  
Kidner, Bible Project,  
A.W. Tozer

Now There Is  
**HOPE**

The Books of Ezra & Esther

Hope From  
God's Leaders



God's  
Covenant  
Faithfulness

How does God accomplish  
this Covenant faithfulness?

How does God accomplish  
this Covenant faithfulness?

**He is sovereign.**



God's  
Complete  
Lordship.

**He is sovereign:**

Through design.

Through events.

Through timing.

Through arrangement.

Through people.



Now There Is  
**HOPE**

The Books of Ezra & Esther

Ezra 7 and 8

# Return to Jerusalem

516 BC

478

458

444

430 BC

**1<sup>st</sup> Zerubbabel**

“Born in Babylon”

Ezra 1-6

**The Temple**

**Esther**

“The Star”

Book of Esther

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ezra**

“Helper”

Ezra 7-10

**The Heart**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nehemiah**

“God Comforts”

Nehemiah

**The Walls**



God's  
Complete  
Lordship.

## *Ezra 7:1*

<sup>1</sup> “After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia...

## *Ezra 7:1-6*

“...Ezra son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, <sup>2</sup> the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, <sup>3</sup> the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, <sup>4</sup> the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, <sup>5</sup> the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest— <sup>6</sup> this Ezra came up from Babylon.



THRACE

ARMENIA

IAN SEA

LYDIA

ASSYRIA

GREECE

SYRIA

MEDIA

PARTHIA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

BABYLONIA

SUSA

JUDEA

PERSIA

JERUSALEM

BABYLON

EGYPT

ARABIA

RED SEA

Medo-Persian Empire  
at the Time of Ezra

## *Ezra 7:6b*

“He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him.”

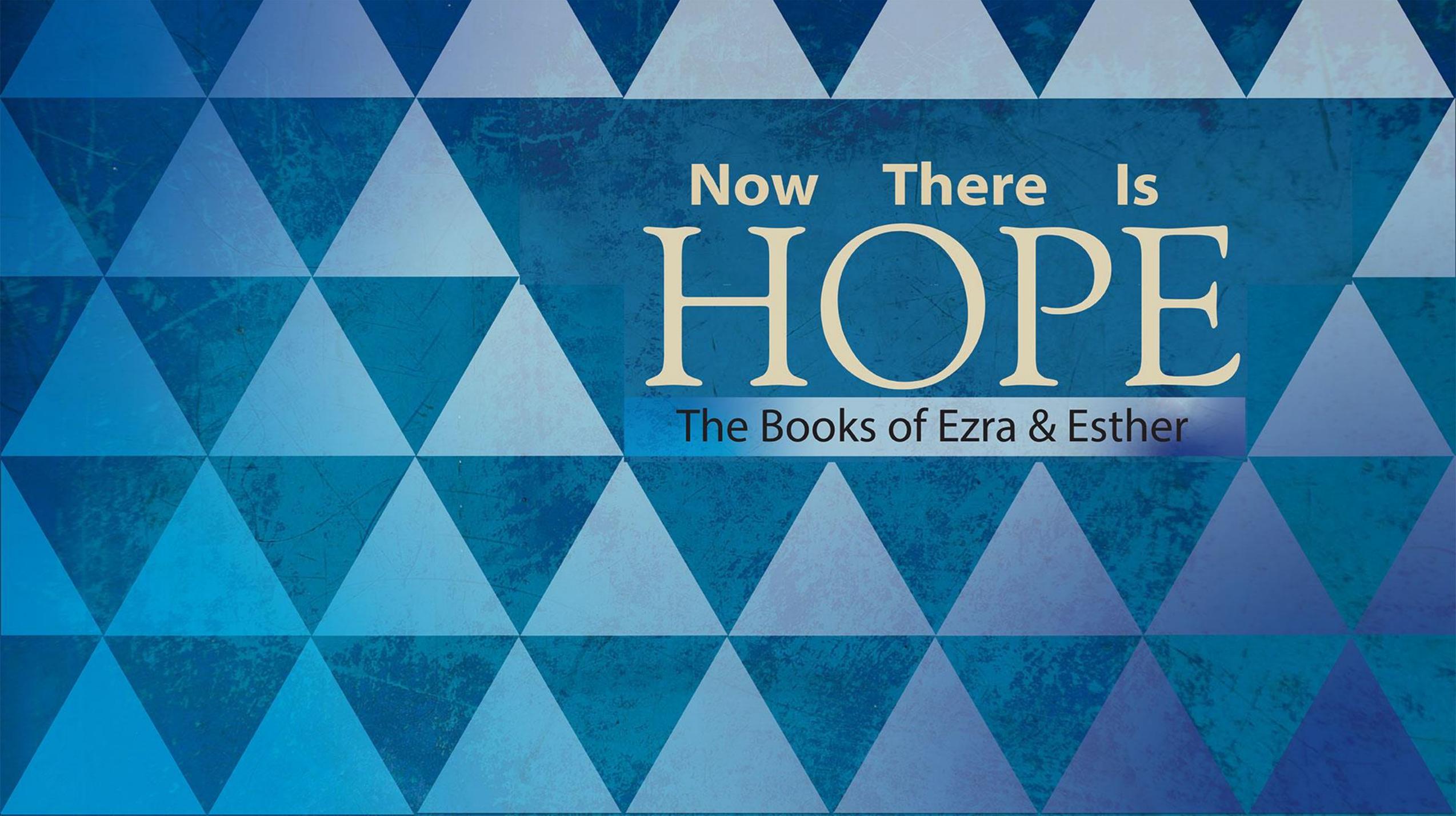
## *Ezra 7:7*

<sup>7</sup> Some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, musicians, gatekeepers and temple servants, also came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. <sup>8</sup> Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king.

## *Ezra 7:9-10*

<sup>9</sup> He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him.

<sup>10</sup> For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel...



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The Books of Ezra & Esther

## *Ezra 7:25-26 Artaxerxes' Letter*

<sup>25</sup> And you, Ezra, in accordance with the wisdom of your God, which you possess, appoint magistrates and judges to administer justice to all the people of Trans-Euphrates— all who know the laws of your God. And you are to teach any who do not know them...

## *Ezra 7:27-28*

<sup>27</sup> “Praise be to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, who has put it into the king’s heart to bring honor to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem in this way <sup>28</sup> and who has extended his good favor to me before the king and his advisers and all the king’s powerful officials. Because the hand of the Lord my God was on me, I took courage and gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.”

## Ezra 7:27-28

27 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, who has put it into the king’s heart to bring honor to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem in this way 28 and who has extended his **good favor** to me before the king and his  
king’s powerful officials.  
of the Lord my God was on  
me, I took courage and gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.”

*hesed*: covenant  
faithfulness



God's  
Covenant  
Faithfulness

**God is sovereign:**

He calls Ezra.

7:28

He calls other leaders.

8:1-14

He calls the Levites.

8:15

**Leaders who  
prepare spiritually.  
8:21-23**

**Leaders who  
prepare practically.  
8:24-30**



God's  
Complete  
Lordship.

## *Ezra 8:31-34*

<sup>31</sup> The hand of our God was on us, and he protected us from enemies and bandits along the way. <sup>32</sup> So we arrived in Jerusalem, where we rested three days. <sup>33</sup> On the fourth day, in the house of our God, we weighed out the silver and gold and the sacred articles...

## *Ezra 8:35*

<sup>34</sup> Everything was accounted for by number and weight, and the entire weight was recorded at that time.

<sup>35</sup> Then the exiles who had returned from captivity sacrificed burnt offerings to the God of Israel...

**He is sovereign:**  
Through design.  
Through events.  
Through timing.  
Through arrangement.  
Through people.  
**Through Jesus.**

## *Ephesians 1:4-12 Message Version*

<sup>4</sup> Long before he laid down earth's foundations, God had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. <sup>5</sup> Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) <sup>6</sup> He wanted us to enter into

## *Ephesians 1:4-12 Message Version*

the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

<sup>7</sup> Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people — free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free!

## *Ephesians 1:4-12 Message Version*

<sup>8</sup> He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, <sup>9</sup> letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, <sup>10</sup> a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

## *Ephesians 1:4-12 Message Version*

<sup>11</sup> It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, <sup>12</sup> part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.



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