

**Rebuilding Broken Places**  
**Studies in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Haggai**  
**God's Hand Is Upon You**  
**Ezra 7:1-28 8:1-32**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In the Hebrew culture the "right hand" represented someone's ultimate strength and power. In the case of David, the sense that God was at his **right hand was a feeling of confidence**. Along the same lines, David has identified the Lord as his guide, and guard. (Psalm 16:11) *A reference to the blessings of peace, and satisfaction that come from living under the authority of God. And this morning we are taking a look at Gods "good hand upon Ezra".*

**I. HOW IS GOD'S HAND OF FAVOR SEEN IN EZRA? V1-10**

- A. Through Ezra's ability as a scribe and teacher of the law of God. He was possibly a member of the Persian bureaucracy, because he was a scribe. It was common practice for ancient Near Eastern governments to employ persons trained as diplomats and lawyers. They were used to interpret documents and to investigate and aid the King. (Nehemiah 8:1-3)
- B. And with the ability and position he had before the people and King. God's hand was upon him and he "set his heart to study, practice and teach God's statutes and ordinances in Israel" (V10)
  - 1. The Hebrew word for set is "**kuwn**"; meaning **to set up, establish, fix, or prepare. To be stable, make firm, it is a verb and the primary action is to be fixed or steadfast. It is the action that indicates setting in place or erecting an object.** (Deuteronomy 11:18-28), (Psalm 119:11), (Colossians 3:16),
  - 2. *Christ dwells within us. Are we dedicated to "set our hearts to His word and practice it in our everyday lives in public as well as private in Maple Heights or abroad"?*

**II. THE KING'S DECREE ON BEHALF OF THE ISRAELITES V11-26**

- A. Ezra had the full blessing of King Artaxerxes. The King showed a consistent interest in insuring that the Israelites in his kingdom maintained the favor of their God.
- B. The King granted Ezra to lead a second wave of exiles home in c. 458 BC, with resources to restart the building of the temple.

1. Ezra led according to God's Holy Divine "Wisdom". (Proverbs 2:6), (Proverbs 3:7), (James 1:5), (James 3:17)
2. *When we are called to what God has commissioned us to do, we must seek His guidance on how we should carry out His "cause".* (Psalm 35:13), (Daniel 9:3-5), (Acts 14:23)

### III. GOD'S HAND OF FAVOR GOES BEYOND YOU V27-28

- A. King Artaxerxes' heart was guided to put in order the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. Lovingkindness was extended to the King's counselors and princes. "Leading men from Israel" were gathered. (8:1-20)
- B. Ezra gathers the exiles near the banks of the Euphrates River in Babylon and proclaims a time of prayer and fasting for the upcoming journey. (8:21-23)
- C. God's hand truly was upon Ezra. But it went far beyond him, this infectious favor brought insight to others who is the true and living God. "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14)  
*If God's hand is upon us, are we living it out before others regardless of the opposition?* (Isaiah 41:10)

*Ezra 8:22*

*, "The hand of our God is favorably disposed to all who seek Him, but His power and His anger are against all those who abandon Him."*

G.T.G

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