

LESSON 5: WORSHIP IS WHAT I DO

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 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 NIV

Ezra writes this to help us shift to the power of worship. Restoration of worship takes purpose over political success, personal gain, position, and status.

Worship should lead us back to God. Restoration for Jerusalem also represents spiritual alignment more than geography.

"To worship God in truth is to recognize Him for being who He is, and to recognize ourselves for what we are."

— *Brother Lawrence*

God is the Creator; we are His finest creation

- A. God's chosen place of worship
- B. Covenant re-established worship
- C. Community of worship

"God is the greatest influencer over non-believers, to fulfill His divine purpose."

Proverbs 21:1 NIV

V1: "Blessed be the Lord" means to acknowledge God's role as sovereign and all-powerful in the events of life.

Blessings of faithfulness

You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. ~ Deuteronomy 28:6 NIV

V1: "God of our ancestors" means that God is the God of generations; connections matter to the heritage of Israel.

Generational inheritance of blessings

15 He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations, 16 the

covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. 17 He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant. ~ 1 Chronicles 16:15–17

God's faithfulness is revealed through generations.

V1: The king's heart—compassion reaches to the local level.

A. God works through leaders

B. God helps us prepare for the journey

Human Action	Divine Source
King makes decree...	God moves the heart
Resources provided...	God inspires generosity
Temple restored...	God desires worship

This is divine providence, not public dramatic intervention.