



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM MARCH 2/3 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, check out biblechapel.org/sermons.

1. This week we picked up where we left off last week in Ezra 8, when with all hands on deck, Ezra prepared the hearts of the second wave of exiles to leave Ahava for Jerusalem. Read our text again from this week.

[Ezra 8:21-36](#)

What sticks out to you the most in the story of their journey to Jerusalem?

We said this week that a dominating theme used by Ezra in chapters 7 and 8, is the phrase, “the hand of our God/Lord.”

When you initially hear that phrase, “the hand of our God/Lord”, what comes to mind for you?

2. Read [Ezra 7:9-10](#), [Ezra 8:21-23](#), [Acts 14:23](#), and [Matthew 6:16-18](#).

We said this weekend:

As His children, the sovereign hand of our God
guides us when we humbly seek Him.

How does a believer practically humbly seek the Lord?

Has anyone ever fasted before? What did you do and what was that experience like with the Lord?

3. Read [Ezra 8:18](#), [Ezra 8:22](#), [Ezra 7:28](#) and [Romans 8:28](#)

We see Ezra refer to God’s hand as “good”. And we said this weekend we can learn from Ezra that:

As His children, the sovereign hand of our God
gives us constant confidence in His unwavering goodness.

How does God's "good" differ from what we often view as "good"?

How can we practically live, regardless of the situation, with constant confidence in the goodness of our God?

4. Read [Ezra 8:22](#), [Romans 8:38-39](#), [Revelation 21:3-4](#), and [John 10:28-29](#).

We said this weekend:

As His children, the sovereign hand of our God
gives us eternal security in our final destination.

In the verses you just read, what sticks out to you regarding your eternal security in Christ?

As believers, do we live with the right amount of excitement and anticipation of our final home with the Lord? If not, why not?

5. This week, instead of a final question, let's have a final period of seeking the Lord.

First, use accountability in your group by having everyone commit to setting aside a dedicated period of time in the coming week to seek the Lord in His Word and prayer. Maybe this will include for some of you a period of fasting. Don't feel pressured by someone else's response, just everyone commits to some period this week dedicated to an extended time in God's Word and prayer.

Second, end your time together in corporate prayer, including praising our God for His goodness and the eternal security we have received by His sovereign hand over our lives.