

THE GOOD HAND OF OUR GOD IS UPON US

A Study of Ezra & Esther

Big Picture & Class Outline (Chronological Study)

- First Exile Expedition: Temple from Ruins (Ezra 1-6).
- Back in Persia: Everyone almost Dies (Esther).
- Second Exile Expedition: A Return to the Law (Ezra 7-10).

Background of Ezra

- Israelites desire a restoration of the theocratic kingdom:
 - Need a Davidic King.
 - Need Priesthood (Temple).
 - Need to keep the Mosaic Covenant.
- “The good hand of our God is upon us.”
(Ezra 7:6, 9, 28; 8:18, 22, 31)

Lesson 10 – Ezra 8

The good hand of God is upon Ezra and His people for their good!

- I. God’s hand provides and answers prayer as Israel prepares to return (8:1-30).
 - A. Ezra lists the volunteers who returned with him (8:1-14).
 - B. Ezra realizes they have no Levites (8:15-20).

- C. Ezra chooses to trust the hand of God for their good, instead of his own fearful worries (8:21-23).
[Nehemiah 2:7-9: Nehemiah trusts the Lord with His provision of a military escort]
- D. Ezra chooses 12 leaders of the priests to carry the offerings (8:24-30).
- II. God's hand guards Israel from enemy and ambush on the journey (8:31-36).
- A. God protected His people and their funds (8:31-34).
- B. First, the people offer sacrifices to their God (8:35).
- C. Second, the people delivered the king's orders (8:36).

So What?

- We must humble ourselves before the face of our God to know the straight way for us and our little ones (8:21).
- God's good hand brings goodness to us (Romans 8:28).
- If God wanted us to have a military escort, we would (Nehemiah 2:7-9).
- We can have faith that the path God has us on is His good path. Follow Him in the moment-by-moment decisions of life, and you will be right where He wants you to be.