

# 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).

#### I. Ezra's Return (Ezra 7:1-26)

##### A. A providential hand

1. Ezra enjoyed a rich spiritual heritage (vs 1-6a)
2. God uses the conditions facing Persia to persuade Artaxerxes to let Ezra lead a second return to Judah. (vs 6b)
3. Ezra had become sensitized to the Lord's leading through God's Word (vs 7-10)

##### B. A Persian King's Help (7:11-26)

1. God changes Artaxerxes' attitude
2. Artaxerxes recognizes Ezra's stewardship of God's Word
3. Artaxerxes and his nobles endorsed Ezra's desire to return to Jerusalem
4. Artaxerxes feared that God would judge the empire if it refused to cooperate with Him
5. Artaxerxes grants Ezra the authority to appoint judges

#### II. Ezra's Response

##### A. Ezra Praised God

1. God's sovereign hand is on display in His prompting of Artaxerxes' heart
2. God's sovereign hand is on display in His provision of financial and physical needs

## B. Ezra is Encouraged by God

1. Ezra recognized God's hand over the king's decrees
2. Ezra confidently selected leaders to take to Jerusalem

## So What?

### Ezra 7:10

- Study it
  - Become a student of the Word
    - Exercise discipline, dedication, respect, and reverence for the word.
    - Understand the rich history that is at our fingertips to understand the spiritual struggles that regular history books leave out.
- Do it
  - Know what the Word says and allow it to guide you
    - Know the commandments and principles that Christ has set for us.
    - Emulate the life that Christ lived for us as an example
- Teach it
  - Talk about scripture with other believers
    - Challenge one another in the word
    - Seek to disciple and/or be disciplined
  - Share the word with those who don't know Christ
    - Know the Word so you can be ready to share the good news of Jesus Christ