

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of March 15, 2020

The Good Hand of His God Was On Him

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Ezra 7:1-10](#)

¹ Now after this, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah, ² son of Shallum, son of Zadok, son of Ahitub, ³ son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of Meraioth, ⁴ son of Zerahiah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki, ⁵ son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the chief priest—⁶ this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the LORD, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

⁷ And there went up also to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king, some of the people of Israel, and some of the priests and Levites, the singers and gatekeepers, and the temple servants. ⁸ And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. ⁹ For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰ For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

- We have jumped ahead 60 years from where we were last week at the dedication of the Temple. It is now 458 BC and we are finally introduced to Ezra.
- He traveled 4 months through a Middle Eastern summer to arrive at Jerusalem.
- He apparently as we shall see had a burden to teach the people in Jerusalem the Word of God because after the Temple was built, normalcy had returned and the people were falling prey to sins of presumption, formality and neglect of God's Word.
- What was needed was a reminder of the goodness of God and a reminder of the utter gravity of sin.
- What do we learn about Ezra the man:
 - First, he is a credentialed priest.
 - Second, he had a dual authority, from Artaxerxes and from God
 - Third, He was skilled in the law of Moses.
 - Fourth, He had courageous faith. He asked of the King.
 - Fifth, He was a reformer, first of himself, "had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD and to do it and to teach it".
- The combination of passion and discipline were remarkable.
- As great as Ezra was, Jesus is greater.

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