

## God's hand of direction

Ezra 7

- I. Summary: God's hand directs us when we are committed to His word (Ezra 7: 1-10).
  - A. God's hand enabled Ezra to lead more Jews back to Jerusalem (1-9).
    - Ezra was in the priestly line of Aaron (1-5).
    - Ezra had success through God's hand (6-9).
  - B. God directed Ezra because he was devoted to God's word (10).
    - Ezra studied, obeyed & taught God's word.
  
- II. The letter: God's hand controls events as we pursue godly purposes (Ezra 7:11-26).
  - A. Spiritual care: Artaxerxes authorized Ezra to go check on the Jews spiritually (7:11-14).
  - B. Worship: Artaxerxes authorized donations and royal financial aid for worship (7:15-24).
  - C. Apply and teach truth: Artaxerxes authorized Ezra to appoint judges and teach (7:25-26).
    - *When we commit to do God's will He shapes circumstances and directs our decisions to accomplish His will (Proverbs 3:5-6).*
  
- III. Praise: God must be praised when His hand supports and directs us (Ezra 7:27-28).
  - A. Ezra praised God for the king's support (7:27).
  - B. Ezra led courageously because God's hand clearly supported the plan to return (7:28).