



NEW DEVOTION: WHEN THE HAND OF GOD IS UPON YOU

EZRA 7-8

Sermon Notes:

Review the background of Ezra:

The recurring theme:

“The _____ of God was _____ us.”

Ezra’s devotion to the Word, and ours:

- ✓ _____ it.
- ✓ _____ it.
- ✓ _____ it.

God’s Supply: “*The _____ of the king is in the _____ of God.*” (Proverbs 21:1)

Conclusion:

The _____ and _____ of God’s Word → The Hand of God
→ God’s evident _____ for His work.

Action Steps:

Ask God to give you a growing hunger for His Word. Identify ways you can grow in “the study and observation of God’s Word” like Ezra. Make it a point for your speech to be an overflow of God’s Word dwelling richly in your heart.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. While God’s hand is always on the believer (Romans 8:28), Ezra experienced God’s special hand of favor upon him. Tell about a time where you really felt God’s hand upon you.
2. What impressed you most about the character of Ezra?
3. Remember Hudson Taylor’s quote, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will never lack God’s supply?” How did we see that principle play out in the account in Ezra 7-8?
4. Re-read Ezra 7:10. What are some ways that we can prioritize the “study and observance” of God’s Word in our lives? In our church?
5. Describe some practices and habits you have found helpful for the study and observance of God’s Word.
6. What did you think about Ezra’s decision NOT to ask the king for protection for the journey? Does it seem radical to not ask for help even though he probably would have received it? What are some implications for us today?
7. God’s Hand and God’s Word always dwell together. Do you agree? Why?
8. How have you seen Satan try to steal your attention on God’s Word? How can you combat that? Share among the group.