

The Hand of God

(Ezra 7:9-10)

- Introduction:
1. (Romans 15:4).
 2. One of the great comforts found in the Bible is the fact that we need not go through life alone (Romans 8:28).
 3. God's care and the reason for his care for a man named, Ezra is recorded in the book that bears his name.
 4. Let's learn a few lessons from this account.

I. Background to Ezra

- A. The children of God have been in captivity a long time.
- B. Ezra, a priest and a scribe gains permission from King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.
- C. It took him four months to make this trip (Ezra 7:9).
- D. It was a dangerous trip, and he didn't request soldiers to escort them for the hand of God was upon them (Ezra 8:22, 31).

II. Why God's Hand Was Upon Him

- A. (Ezra 7:9-10).
- B. He had prepared his heart.
 1. It was and still is a matter of the will.
 2. We choose our life's priorities.
- C. To seek the Law of the Lord.
 1. The Hebrew word for seek literally means to "beat a path."
 2. Ills. of neighbor's dog.
 3. Do you "beat a path" to the Bible?
 4. Ills. of Pilgrim's Progress (John Bunyan, 1678).
- D. To do the Law of the Lord.
 1. (James 1:22).
 2. There are many who know the Bible but won't do it.
 3. (Matthew 7:21).
 4. Ills. of China.
- E. To teach the Law of the Lord.
 1. Will you keep what you know to yourself?
 2. (2 Timothy 2:2).
 3. Must I go and empty handed.

- Conclusion:
1. Let's abound in studying, doing, and teaching the word of God this year.