

## Finally on the ROAD ~ Ezra 8:1-36

→Scripture Reading - Jeremiah 29:10-14

### INTRODUCTION

→Map

<sup>7:28</sup> ... Because the hand of the LORD my God was on me, I took courage and gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me. (NIV)

### List of RETURNING Families ~ Ezra 8:1-20

<sup>8:1</sup> Here is a list of the family leaders and the genealogies of those who came with me from Babylon during the reign of King Artaxerxes: (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> I assembled the exiles at the Ahava Canal, and we camped there for three days while I went over the lists of the people and the priests who had arrived. I found that not one Levite had volunteered to come along. (NLT)

### Praying and FASTING ~ Ezra 8:21-23 and 31-32

<sup>21</sup> And there by the Ahava Canal, I gave orders for all of us to fast and humble ourselves before our God. We prayed that He would give us a safe journey and protect us, our children, and our goods as we traveled. <sup>22</sup> For I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to accompany us and protect us from enemies along the way. After all, we had told the king, "Our God's hand of protection is on ALL who worship Him, but His fierce anger rages against those who abandon Him." <sup>23</sup> So we fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and He heard our prayer.

...<sup>31</sup> We broke camp at the Ahava Canal on April 19 and started off to Jerusalem. And the Gracious hand of our God protected us and saved us from enemies and bandits along the way. <sup>32</sup> So we arrived safely in Jerusalem, where we rested for three days. (NLT)

#### Proclaimed a Fast to

- Humble ourselves before God
- Ask for a Safe Journey

### IMPLICATION

<sup>23</sup> we Fasted and PLEADED with our God (CSB) <sup>23</sup> So we Fasted and EARNESTLY prayed (NLT)

#### Examples of Fasting in N.T.

- WHEN you Fast- Matt 6:16
- they WILL Fast- Mark 2:20
- Worshipping and Fasting- Acts 13:2
- Appointed Elders and Fasted- Acts 14:23

When we Fast we are saying to God that He is more important to us than Food. MBI

### Financial ACCOUTABILITY ~ Ezra 8:24-30 and 33-34

<sup>24</sup> I appointed twelve leaders of the priests - Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten other priests - <sup>25</sup> to be in charge of transporting the silver, the gold, the gold bowls, and the other items that the king, his council, his officials, and all the people of Israel had presented for the Temple of God. <sup>26</sup> I weighed the treasure as I gave it to them and found the totals to be as follows: 24 tons of silver, 7,500 pounds of silver articles, 7,500 pounds of gold, <sup>27</sup> 20 gold bowls, equal in value to 1,000 gold coins, 2 fine articles of polished bronze, as precious as gold. (NLT)

#### Total Weight

- 24 ½ tons of silver
- 3 ¾ tons of silver objects
- 3 ¾ tons of gold objects
- 20 gold bowls
- 2 items of polished bronze

#### → Camels Donkeys

<sup>28</sup> And I said to these priests, "You and these treasures have been set apart as holy to the LORD. This silver and gold is a voluntary offering to the LORD, the God of our ancestors. <sup>29</sup> Guard these treasures well until you present them to the leading priests, the Levites, and the leaders of Israel, who will weigh them at the storerooms of the LORD's Temple in Jerusalem." <sup>30</sup> So the priests and the Levites accepted the task of transporting these treasures of silver and gold to the Temple of our God in Jerusalem. (NLT)

<sup>33</sup> On the fourth day after our arrival, the silver, gold, and other valuables were weighed AT the Temple of our God and entrusted to Meremoth son of Uriah the priest and to Eleazar son of Phinehas, along with Jozabad son of Jeshua and Noadiah son of Binnui - both of whom were Levites. <sup>34</sup> Everything was accounted for by number and weight, and the total weight was officially recorded. (NLT)

## IMPLICATION

**1 Timothy 3:2-3** (CSB) An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not an excessive drinker, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy.

**1 Timothy 3:8** (NIV) Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.

## Sacrifices at the Temple ~ Ezra 8:35-36

<sup>35</sup> Then the exiles who had come out of captivity sacrificed burnt offerings to the God of Israel. They presented twelve bulls for ALL the people of Israel, as well as ninety-six rams and seventy-seven male lambs. They also offered twelve male goats as a sin offering. All this was given as a burnt offering to the LORD.

<sup>36</sup> The king's decrees were delivered to his highest officers and the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, who then cooperated by supporting the people and the Temple of God. (NLT)

## TAKE AWAY ??

<sup>22</sup> I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road, ...because we had told the king, The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who LOOKS to him... (NIV)

**Hebrews 12:1-2** (ESV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

<sup>2</sup> LOOKING to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

O soul are you weary and troubled  
No light in the darkness you see  
There's light for a look at the Savior  
And life more abundant and free

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

His Word shall not fail you He promised  
Believe Him and all will be well  
Then go to a world that is dying  
His perfect salvation to tell

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace