

God's hand of help

Ezra 8

- I. Ezra gathered people to go to Jerusalem because He saw God's hand at work (Ezra 7:27-8:14).
 - A. Ezra praised God for working in King Artaxerxes to authorize Ezra's return to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:27-28a).
 - B. Ezra took courage to lead a large group back to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:28b – 8:14).
 - 1496 men + families = 6000?

- II. Ezra's journey was successful because God answered their prayers with His gracious hand (Ezra 8:15-36).
 - A. Recruiting – God provided workers to serve in the temple in Jerusalem (8:15-20).
 - B. Safety – Ezra prayed for God's hand to keep them and their possessions safe (8:21-23).
 - C. Finances – Ezra handled financial donations with careful accountability (8:24-30).
 - D. God's answers – God gave them a safe, successful journey (8:31-36).
 1. God protected them from enemies (31-32).
 2. God protected their finances (33-34).
 3. They worshipped God for His faithfulness (35).
 4. They delivered the king's orders and received the help he promised (36).