

# DAY 11

THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 9

*"God is looking for those with whom He can do the impossible— what a pity that we plan only the things that we can do by ourselves." —A.W. Tozer*

"Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him." So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty." Ezra 8:21-23

## TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

As another group of exiled Israelites return to Jerusalem, a skilled teacher of the law was commissioned to be a part of God's plan for renewal and revival. Convinced the catalyst for restoration begins with God's word, Ezra sets his mind to teach His word to the people (Ezra 7:10).

With any God ordained mandate, he wisely anticipates the journey will be met with resistance, and the travelers subject to attacks along the way. Jesus warned in the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world. Ezra's response to the pending danger is not intimidation, fear, or anxiety. Instead, he courageously trusts in the Lord with all his heart. Having influence with the king, it would have made sense to request the king's protection. Rather, Ezra decides to ask God for provision for the path. We would do well to make our request known to God. What a privilege to have access to seek the one who knows all for answers, instead of defaulting to unreliable confidence in the flesh, subject to destruction (Proverbs 14:12).

Ezra demonstrates the importance of godly leadership as he leads the people to set their faces towards the Lord in fasting and prayer. This was his resolve on the front end of the journey, not the middle, or the end. Prayer must be our first response, not our last resort. Prayer and fasting humbles us, bringing into focus the reality of our utter human frailty and desperate need for God.

The Lord faithfully answered the request of the people and gave them safe passage. What glory we bring to the Father when we trust Him, and what good we enjoy when we depend on Him completely.

## TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, we pray that we would be mindful of Your will for our lives. We ask that You fill us with the knowledge of Your will, in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Give us the hunger to seek Your wisdom, and the courage to obey Your word, even when we don't understand it, in Jesus' name, amen.

## TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, we pray for those on our list. We know You love them more than we ever could. We pray Colossians 1:9-11 over them today. Send someone to plant or water the seed of Your word. May Your Spirit bring the word to life, and make it grow, in Jesus' name, amen.

REQUEST



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