

The Return to Jerusalem - Ezra 8:1-36

Topics: Accountability, Challenge, Circumstances, Confidence, Danger, Delegation, Depend, Environment, Faith, Fasting, Generosity, Gifts, Help, Needs, Plans, Possessions, Prayer, Protection, Reliability, Traditions, Trust, Wealth

Open It

1. What are some common dangers everybody faces?
2. How does the average person protect himself or herself from the dangers in life?
- * 3. What makes you feel safe?

Explore It

4. Where did Ezra and his traveling companions assemble? (8:15)
5. What was Ezra unable to find in his camp? (8:15)
6. Why did Ezra choose these particular men? (8:16)
7. Whom did Ezra send to Iddo and for what reason? (8:16-17)
8. What did the men ask of Iddo, the leader in Casiphia? (8:17)
9. Whom did Ezra credit for the men's success? (8:18)
- * 10. Why did Ezra proclaim a fast? (8:21)
- * 11. Why was Ezra ashamed to ask the king for protection? (8:22)
- * 12. How did God respond to the Israelites' prayers and fasting? (8:23)
13. Why did Ezra set apart twelve men? (8:24)
14. What was donated for the house of the Lord? (8:25-27)
15. What specific instructions did Ezra give to the twelve priests? (8:28-29)
16. How was Ezra's caravan able to travel safely between the Ahava Canal and Jerusalem? (8:31)
17. What happened on the fourth day after Ezra and his group arrived in Jerusalem? (8:33-34)
18. What did the exiles do upon returning to their homeland? (8:35-36)

Get It

19. Why would thieves have been more tempted to rob Ezra's caravan than others?
20. How did Ezra show his own faith in God's protective hand?
21. Why do you think Ezra chose to fast and pray on this occasion?
- * 22. What does this story reveal about God's protection of His people?
23. How did Israel demonstrate their thankfulness to the Lord for His protection?
24. What results have you experienced when you have fasted and prayed?
25. Under what circumstances do you think it is good to fast and pray?
26. For what danger or challenge in your life do you need God's protection or help?
- * 27. How does God want us to deal with fear and anxiety?
28. What should be our response whenever we experience God's protection or guidance?

Apply It

29. For what concern in your life do you want to fast and pray? When can you?
30. If you were to fast and pray on a regular basis, who is one person who could join you or help keep you disciplined?
- * 31. What steps could you begin to take this week to depend less on your own strength and more on God's power to help you through the challenges you face?