



MEANINGFUL SUCCESS

Ps. Hennie Swart

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Ezra 7.1-10

¹Now after this, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah... son of Aaron the chief priest - ⁶this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the LORD, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

⁷And there went up also to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king, some of the people of Israel, and some of the priests and Levites, the singers and gatekeepers, and the temple servants.

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Ezra 7.1-10

⁸And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

⁹For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

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Ezra 7.9-10 paraphrased
Ezra experienced good success in his
calling (7.6, 9)
for
the 'hand of God was on him' (7.6, 9)
for
he had 'set his heart' on the Word of
the Lord (7.6, 10)

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OUTLINE

The passage teaches us the:

1. Ezra experienced good success,
2. The reason Ezra experienced good success
3. The reason behind the reason

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Deuteronomy 33.10

⁸And of Levi he said, "...¹⁰They shall teach Jacob your rules and Israel your law; they shall put incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar."

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The “hand of God”

Ezra 7.6: and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

Ezra 7.9: ...he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him.

Ezra 8.31: The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambushes by the way.

Ezra 7.28: I took courage, for the hand of the LORD my God was on me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

Ezra 8.18: And by the good hand of our God on us, they brought us a man of discretion... namely Sherebiah with his sons and kinsmen.

Ezra 8.22: ... 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."

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Ezra 1.1, 5

¹In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing...

⁵Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem.

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CONCLUSION

If, like Ezra the priest, we seek God through His Word, we invite His good hand on our lives, and experience good success in our callings.

Jesus, the ultimate High Priest, is like Ezra on steroids – He has “set His heart to teach” us God’s Word and written it on our hearts through His Spirit.

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