

# REBUILDING

A STUDY IN EZRA & NEHEMIAH





# THE FAST

EZRA 8:1-36



These are the heads of their fathers' houses, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylonia, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king...

Ezra 8:1





Of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom. Of  
the sons of ulthamar, Daniel. Of the sons  
of David, Hattush.

Ezra 8:2





I gathered them to the river that runs to Ahava, and there we camped three days. As I reviewed the people and the priests, I found there none of the sons of Levi.

Ezra 8:15





Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them. And they abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their fathers, and served other Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.

2 Chronicles 24:17-19





Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

2 Chronicles 24:17-19





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.

Ezra 8:21





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.”

Ezra 8:22





So we fasted and **implored** our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.

Ezra 8:23








**Ezra—and all of the Old Testament—  
is pointing us to the priest  
who made a sacrifice so  
we could rightly worship God  
and point the nations to him.**



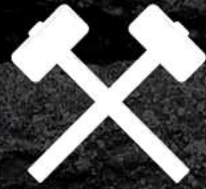


“He’s leading us to the promise  
land! There will be fullness of joy  
there, and there is plenty of joy en  
route. Believe me.”

Elisabeth Elliot







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