

"I took courage, for the hand of the Lord my God was on me ..." 7:28b.

1) WORD: The good hand of God was on Ezra because he had set his heart firmly on the Word of God, 7:1-10.

- Set his heart firmly to study the Word, 7:10.
- Set his heart firmly to live the Word, 7:10.
- Set his heart firmly to teach the Word, 7:10.

KEY VERSE: For 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, 7:10.

2) WILL: Because Ezra set his heart firmly on the Word of God, the Word of God was in his hand, and he was able to follow the will of God, 7:11-24.

- The will of God directed their discernment in the affairs of Judah and Jerusalem, 7:11-14.
- The will of God directed their handling of finances for worship, 7:15-17.
- The will of God directed them in whatever was required for the house of God, 7:18-22.
- The will of God directed them in the responsibility and intensity of carrying out their assignments, 7:23-24.

KEY VERSE: Whatever is decreed by the God of heaven, let it be done in full for the house of the God of heaven, 7:23a.

3) WISDOM: Because God was directing Ezra by his word and by his will, then Ezra was entrusted with a comprehensive plan to judge and teach the people according to the wisdom of God, 7:25-28.

- The wisdom of God was in his hand, 7:25.
- To appoint overseers, 7:25.
- To teach those who didn't know, 7:25.
- To execute judgment on those who wouldn't obey, 7:26.

KEY VERSE: And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, 7:25a.

7:1-5. After these things points to a gap of 57 years since the events at the end of chapter 6. The temple was completed in 515 B.C. in the reign of Darius I. After Darius' death in 486 his son Xerxes ruled for 20 years (485-465). Since Xerxes was the Ahasuerus mentioned in the Book of Esther, the events of that book occurred between Ezra 6 and 7. Then Xerxes' son Artaxerxes ruled from 464 to 424. From 515 to 458 (Artaxerxes' seventh year; 7:7) was 57 years. [Martin, J. A. (1985). Ezra. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 1, p. 665). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.]

Living in the Hand of God / Ezra 7

- The Word of God ...
- The Will of God ...
- The Wisdom of God ...

