

*How do we move against the darkness?*



#### OUTLINE: Building God's Kingdom in a Pagan Land (Ezra 8:1-36)!

##### 1) **HELP:** Ezra knew that they needed godly help, 8:1-20.

- He camped for three days as he reviewed the people and the priests, 8:15.
- He formed a leadership team of responsible, willing men of insight, 8:16
- By the good hand of God his leadership team found the necessary help, 8:18.
  - They found men of discretion, 8:18.
  - They found Levite teachers of the Law of God: Bible teachers, 8:15.
  - They found temple servants: saints who were called to serve, 8:18-20.

##### 2) **HUMILITY:** Ezra knew that they needed humility, 8:21-30.

- They humbled themselves and asked for a safe journey, 8:21, 23.
- They acknowledged that the reality of life challenges our theological assertions, 8:22.
- They made a detailed plan of holiness to see that the valuables were appropriately cared for, 8:24-30.

##### 3) **HAND OF GOD:** The hand of God delivered them safely to their place of service, 8:31-32.

##### 4) **HONOR:** They honored God with their industry, their honesty and their worship, 8:33-36.

Humbling Ourselves before God and seeking a safe journey/ Ezra 8/FFC/dave scott/033014 HANDOUT ONE

## A Faith Journey ...



From darkness ...

To light ...

### Moving against the darkness in “our” pagan world ...

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

“... that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him *a safe journey* for ourselves, our children, and all our goods.”

“... 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 ...*”