

**DANIEL BISHOP** ——— *Lead Pastor*









**HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!**



**247 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

# **THE RISK TO BELIEVE**

*Ezra 7-8*



## **MAIN QUESTION**

Will you risk believing God will come through for you in your time of need after telling everyone for years how great God is?

### **EZRA 1:1-4 (ESV)**

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord  
by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled,

### **EZRA 1:1-4 (ESV)**

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:



### **EZRA 1:1-4 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth,



### **EZRA 1:1-4 (ESV)**

and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Whoever is among you of all his people,



**EZRA 1:1-4 (ESV)**

may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—





**EZRA 1:1-4 (ESV)**

he is the God who is in Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns,



**EZRA 1:1-4 (ESV)**

be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold,  
with goods and with beasts,



**EZRA 1:1-4 (ESV)**

besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."



**EZRA 7:6 (ESV)**

this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the Lord, the God of Israel, had given,

**EZRA 7:6 (ESV)**

and the king granted him all that he asked,  
for the hand of the Lord his God was on him.





**EZRA 7:9-10 (ESV)**

9 For on the first day of the first month  
he began to go up from Babylonia,

**EZRA 7:9-10 (ESV)**

and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem,  
for the good hand of his God was on him.



**EZRA 7:9-10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> 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.

1

There is a time to **study**, a time to **believe (do it)**, and a time to **share**.



**EZRA 1:1-4 (ESV)**

he is the God who is in Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns,

**EZRA 8:21-23 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast,  
so that we might humble ourselves before our God



**EZRA 8:21-23 (ESV)**

and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children,  
with all our possessions.

**EZRA 8:21-23 (ESV)**

22 I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road,



**EZRA 8:21-23 (ESV)**

because we had told the king,  
"The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him,

**EZRA 8:21-23 (ESV)**

but his great anger is against all who forsake him." <sup>23</sup> So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.





**JAMES 1:22 (ESV)**

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,  
deceiving yourselves.



**2**

There will be **risks** in choosing to **believe and go where you haven't gone.**



## **MAIN QUESTION**

Will you risk believing God will come through for you in your time of need after telling everyone for years how great God is?



**ZACH ALESSI**











## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

Where is God wanting you to believe He will come through for you in your time of need after telling everyone for years how great He is?



## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

How do you need to set your heart on believing  
and doing what God wants?





3

**Believing** and **seeking** go **hand in hand.**

**EZRA 8:21 (ESV)**

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava,  
that we might humble ourselves before our God,





**EZRA 8:21 (ESV)**

to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves,  
our children, and all our goods.

**EZRA 7:14-15 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> For you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem



**EZRA 7:14-15 (ESV)**

according to the Law of your God, which is in your hand, <sup>15</sup> and also to carry the silver and gold that the king and his counselors

**EZRA 7:14-15 (ESV)**

have freely offered to the God of Israel,  
whose dwelling is in Jerusalem



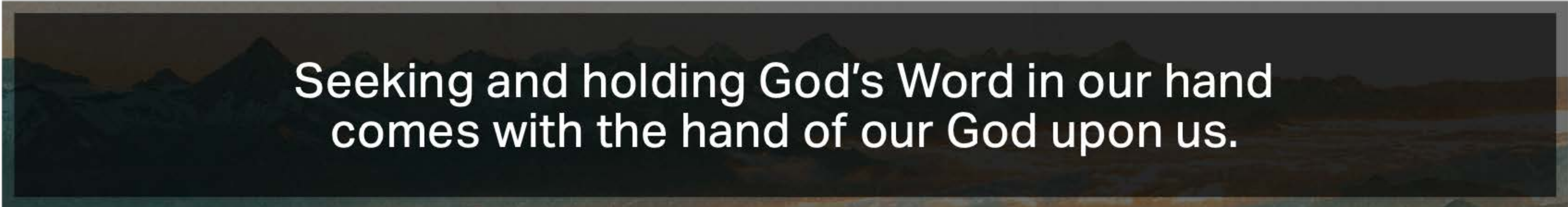
## **APPLICATION QUESTION**

How are you seeking God today with the Word of God in your hand helping you to believe?



**[THEGROVE.CC/READINGPLAN](https://thegrove.cc/readingplan)**





Seeking and holding God's Word in our hand  
comes with the hand of our God upon us.



4

The **hand** of our God is for **good** on all who **seek Him**.



**EZRA 7:9 (ESV)**

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.

**EZRA 7:28 (ESV)**

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 8:21-23 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast,  
so that we might humble ourselves before our God

**EZRA 8:21-23 (ESV)**

and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children,  
with all our possessions.



**EZRA 8:21-23 (ESV)**

22 I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road,

**EZRA 8:21-23 (ESV)**

because we had told the king,  
"The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him,



**EZRA 8:21-23 (ESV)**

but his great anger is against all who forsake him." <sup>23</sup> So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

**EZRA 8:33 (ESV)**

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





4

The **hand** of our God is for **good** on all who **seek Him**.



**MARK 9:24 (ESV)**

“I believe; help my unbelief!”