

# GOD'S GOOD HAND

## SERVING UNDER SOVEREIGNTY

### *God Keeps His Promises*

Ezra 1:1-11

January 11, 2026

#### Context

1. Under the leadership of Cyrus the Great, the Persian Empire peaked around 539 B.C. by defeating the Babylonians and absorbing a vast territory, including the land of \_\_\_\_\_ and Judah.
2. Before the peak of the Persian Empire, Jews were taken into \_\_\_\_\_ in Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C.
3. Cyrus the Great allowed the \_\_\_\_\_ to return home to Judah around 538-537 B.C.
4. Jews began rebuilding the \_\_\_\_\_ in 536 B.C. and finished in 516 B.C.
5. \_\_\_\_\_, a Jewish scribe and priest, left Babylon and arrived in Jerusalem around 458 B.C.  
(Ezra 7:6-9)

#### Outline of the Book

- I. Cyrus' Decree and the Return of Exiles from \_\_\_\_\_ (1:1-2:70)
- II. The Returned Exiles Rebuild the \_\_\_\_\_ on Its Original Site (3:1-6:22)
- III. Ezra the Priest Comes to \_\_\_\_\_ to Establish the Law of Moses (7:1-8:36)
- IV. Ezra Discovers and Confronts the \_\_\_\_\_ of Intermarriage (9:1-10:44)

#### The Book of Ezra

1. Chapters 1-6 describe events \_\_\_\_\_ Ezra the priest arrives on the scene.
2. Chapters 7-10 describe events with Ezra as the \_\_\_\_\_ figure.
3. The book covers events taking place over almost \_\_\_\_\_ years.
4. Events described in chapters 7-10 (537 – 515 B.C.) occur about \_\_\_\_\_ years after events described in chapters 1-6 (458 – 433 B.C.).
5. Ezra authored some but probably not all of the \_\_\_\_\_.

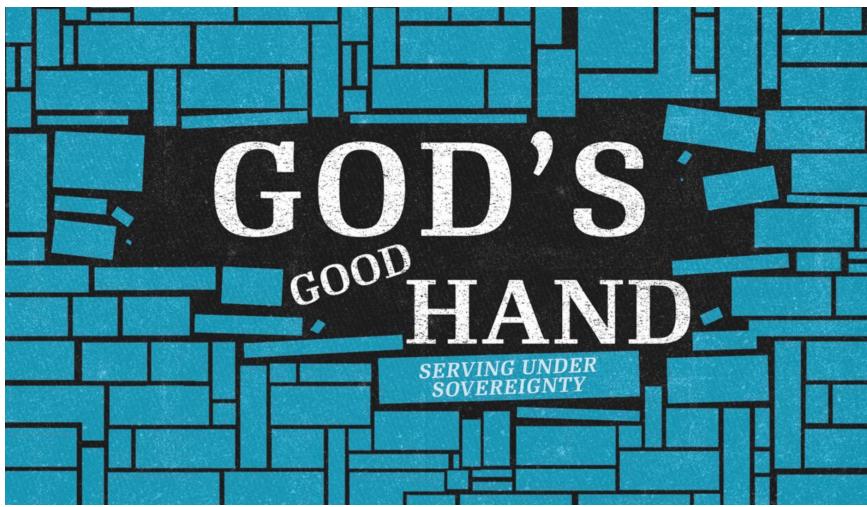
#### **Sovereign Truth: God keeps His promises using power and people.**

##### I. \_\_\_\_\_ Up Spirits

- A. God fulfills His promises through lost and saved \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ for lost and saved leaders.
- B. God fulfills His promises through His \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Remember God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Recognize God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Trust and obey God's \_\_\_\_\_.

##### II. \_\_\_\_\_ Needed Resources

- A. God fulfills His promises using money and possessions held by \_\_\_\_\_ people, governments, companies, etc.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ for those with financial and material resources.
- B. God fulfills His promises using money and possessions held by \_\_\_\_\_ people.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ that God is owner and His people are managers (stewards).
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ His wealth and possessions to meet needs, bless others, and bring glory to His name.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new sermon series begins today: **God's Good Hand - Serving Under Sovereignty**. This Sunday morning sermon series from Ezra and Nehemiah will help us see God's people serving during challenges and opposition as He keeps His good hand upon them for their success and His glory - an encouragement and example for us today. Sermon note binders are available on the front pew.

Church leadership is thankful and excited to share a **master plan for campus expansion**. This new construction would include common gathering space adjacent to the sanctuary and children/preschool space as a wing east of the sanctuary. **Everyone, including children and students, is urged to attend today's church-wide presentation at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary to view renderings, hear helpful information about this exciting endeavor, and participate in discussions (childcare is available for K5 and under)**. The plan is to have a church-wide vote by ballot during the quarterly business meeting at 4:30 p.m. (before the Meal and Message) Sunday, January 25. "Question and Answer" meetings are scheduled in Boatner Hall for Wednesday, January 14 at 6:45 p.m. and Sunday, January 18 at noon for those who have questions or comments for church leadership. Please begin praying for this significant growth opportunity and stay informed and involved along the way.

Praise the Lord for **budget giving in 2025 surpassing the annual church budget** with over \$1.8 million given to glorify God by making disciples of all nations! In addition, we anticipate a healthy surplus of giving over spending for last year. If you are not actively giving to Him through the church, please be a glad giver and begin giving for the good of others, the growth of the church, and the glory of His name.

All college-age and students and their families are invited to a **Family Night of Worship** tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary following the campus expansion presentation.

The **Wednesday evening church-wide fellowship meal** menu for this week is chicken tenders, mashed potatoes & gravy, and green beans. Meals are served in Boatner Hall from 4:45-5:45 p.m. The meals are \$6 for adults, \$4 for children, and \$25 family max. Sign up at the Welcome Center or with the QR code (only those who sign up are guaranteed a meal). The deadline to sign up is Monday at 9:00 a.m.



Ladies, the PPBC Women's Ministry is offering **two Bible studies** beginning Tuesday, January 20. *All Things New*, led by Rhonda Daniels, will meet Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in Room 206 on the church campus. *Luke in the Land*, led by Jana Grubbs, will meet Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Room 225 on the church campus. The books for both studies are \$20. Scan the corresponding QR code or sign up at the Welcome Center.



MORNING



EVENING

Make plans to join us for our church-wide **SEND WEEKEND** Saturday & Sunday, January 24-25! The events begin Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. in Boatner Hall. Hear stories of God's work in the nations from IMB missionaries, Mick & Dalese Stockwell, who served 31 years in Ukraine and Prague. All ages are encouraged to attend (childcare provided for K5 and under). Lunch will follow around 11:00 a.m. Scan the QR code or sign up at the Welcome Center. Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m., all students and college-age are invited to meet with our IMB guests at the 2nd Mission House—522 Manchester Drive, Pearl (supper provided). Send Weekend continues Sunday (after the business meeting at 4:30 p.m.) with our Meal & Message at 5:15 p.m. followed by the Global Missions Fair. Don't miss this exciting weekend as we seek to fulfill our mission statement: Park Place glorifies God by making disciples of all nations.

