

## "Renewed Strength!"

This Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him. <sup>7</sup> Some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, musicians, gatekeepers and temple servants, also came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. <sup>8</sup> Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. <sup>9</sup> He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. <sup>10</sup> For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. *Ezra 7:6-10*

**Renewed Hope:** Begins with steps of faith, is cultivated by praise and thanksgiving, and is maintained in community.

**Renewed Strength:** It's all about God's grace, our prepared hearts, and the power of God's Word.

### 1. God's grace makes us strong.

*The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.* V. 6

*For the gracious hand of his God was on him.* V. 9

#### a. Grace to stand firm.

*This is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.* 1 Peter 5:12

#### b. Grace to overcome weakness.

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.* 2 Corinthians 12:9

### 2. Strength is renewed in prepared hearts.

*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.*

*Ezra 7:10 NKJV*

#### a. Waiting on God.

*You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.* James 5:8

#### b. Trusting God's purpose.

*He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do.* Psalm 33:15

### 3. There is power in God's Word.

*For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.*

*Ezra 7:10*

#### a. Study it.

*Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.* Joshua 1:8

#### b. Practice it.

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* James 1:22

#### c. Share it.

*Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.* Psalm 107:2

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