Ezra - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Daily Sacrifice, February 29

Article from https://bibletruthpublishers.com/bible-truth-study-bible/btsb

“For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him; but His power and His wrath is against all them that forsake Him”— Ezra 8:22.

THERE was nothing wrong in asking for a guard of soldiers in order to protect the caravan which included besides men, so many defenseless women and children, as they wended their way across the open spaces to the land of Palestine. But Ezra felt that for him to ask such a guard would be out of harmony with his declaration that God Himself was all-sufficient to protect them from every foe. Therefore, he called the people to prayer and fasting, and in the strength of the Lord they went forward, counting upon God’s all-protecting arm instead of looking to any humanly-devised means of security. The result was they were carried through in triumph—something that always takes place when the soul depends on God alone.

—John Newton.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 19

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments” —Ezra 7:10.

THE order here is most instructive, particularly for any who desire to serve the Lord in ministering to others. Note the four things that characterized Ezra. First “he prepared his heart.” We are told that “the preparation of the heart of man is from the Lord” (Prov. 16:1). This is all-important. A prepared mind will never take the place of a prepared heart. In the second place, Ezra sought the law of the Lord. He endeavored to become acquainted with his Bible. Thirdly, he set himself to do according to what he found written therein. He was obedient to the Word. Then, lastly, he began to teach others the statutes and judgments of the Lord. To do and then to teach was what was exemplified in our Lord Himself (Acts 1:1). We can only help others as we walk in obedience ourselves. It is the surrendered life that counts for God.

—Barbara E. Cornet.

Daily Sacrifice, February 28

“But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius: and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter”— Ezra 5:5.

NO matter what opposition Satan may raise up in his attempt to hinder the work of God, where His people press forward in the energy of faith the Lord can be depended upon to give all needed grace and wisdom that they may carry out that which He Himself has planned. Unbelief looks at the hindrances and shrinks from the dangers, but faith looks to God alone and counts on Him to undertake in His own marvelous way. This is a lesson that we all need to learn as we face the difficulties and perplexities of life.

—Charles Wesley.

Daily Sacrifice, February 27

“They sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because He is good, for His mercy endureth forever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid”— Ezra 3:11.

EVERY revival of the work of the Lord is an occasion for renewed praise and thanksgiving, Jerusalem had been in ruins for seventy years. Its glorious temple had been utterly destroyed, but through the good hand of God the foundation of the new temple was laid and this filled with rejoicing the hearts of the remnant, who had returned to the land and to the city where Jehovah had set His name. So from time to time throughout the centuries when things have been at a very low ebb indeed, God has come in grace and given revival and blessing to His people. This spiritual refreshment is an evidence of His unceasing care for His own,

—Helen McDowell.