

**THE GOOD HAND OF GOD RESTORING  
AND PRESERVING HIS PEOPLE  
(A Study of Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther)**

**Lesson Three: The Road From Ruin to Restoration  
(Ezra 1-3)**

**STEP 1: RETURN TO THE PLACE OF BLESSING (Ezra 1-2)**

- Get **HONEST** about my backslidden condition.

*I acknowledged MY sin to Thee, And MY iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess MY transgressions to the Lord; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of MY sin.* Psalm 32: 5

*He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.* Proverbs 28: 13

- **HURT** for damaging God's reputation.

*Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.* James 4: 9-10

- **HEAD BACK** to God.

*Why should we, mere humans, complain when we are punished for our sins? Instead let us test and examine our ways, let us **TURN BACK TO THE LORD.*** Lamentations 3: 39-40 (NLT)

*Let the wicked **FORSAKE HIS WAY**, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him **RETURN TO THE LORD**, and He will have compassion on him...* Isaiah 55: 7

*Draw near to God & He will draw near to you.* James 4: 8a

**STEP 2: REBUILD THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE (Ezra 3: 1-3)**

- Receive **FORGIVENESS** at the altar through the blood of the one sacrificed for me.

*...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.* Hebrews 9: 22b

*...how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* Hebrews 9: 14

- **SURRENDER** my life on the altar to live for the one who died for me.

*I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.* Romans 12: 1-2

*For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.* 2 Corinthians 5: 14-15

### STEP 3: REESTABLISH THE PRIORITY OF WORSHIP (Ezra 3: 4-13)

- Fellowship with God's people under **GOD'S AUTHORITY**.

*...let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.* Hebrews 10: 24-25

- Learn, love, and obey **GOD'S WORD**.

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work....* 2 Timothy 3: 16-17

*Oh how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.* Psalm 119: 97

*But don't just listen to God's Word. You must DO what it says...and if you DO what it says...God will bless you for DOING it.* James 1: 22-25 (NLT)

- Invest time, talent, & treasure to complete **GOD'S WORK**.

*...where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.* Matthew 6: 21

*...not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord...Rom. 12:11*

*...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.* 1 Corinthians 15: 58

- Live to exalt, enjoy, & display **GOD'S WORTH**.

Psalm 146, 147, & 148 - Praise the sovereign God at all times and in all things because He takes pleasure in restoring the brokenhearted and wounded who **TRUST IN HIS MERCY**.