

**RISKING ALL
ON GOD**

EZRA 8:21-23

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21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22 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.

23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

Introduction

B. We all pass through worrisome periods of danger

1. We experience anxiety over our adversaries

1 Corinthians 16:9

For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

2. Anxiety robs us of joy, peace, health

Psalms 127:2

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

I. Ezra Leads His People In Seeking God (v 21)

A. He calls for fasting and prayer

Psalm 121:1-3

1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

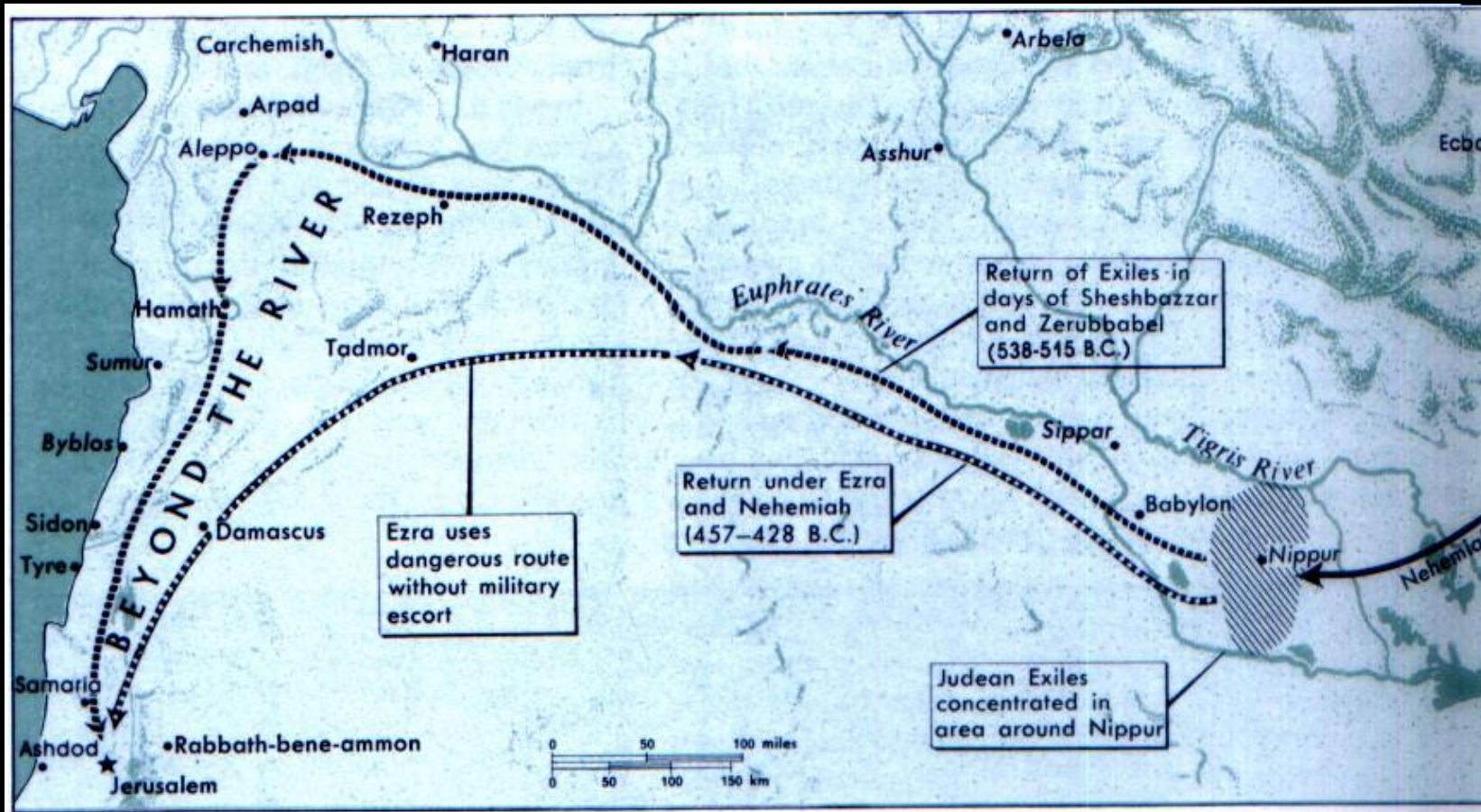
3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

I. Ezra Leads His People In Seeking God (v 21)

B. This was a time for desperate praying

1. Danger awaits

2. Everything precious to them was on the line



I. Ezra Leads His People In Seeking God (v 21)

C. Heroes of the faith have sought God in desperate times

1. David

Psalm 27:8

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

2. Isaiah

Isaiah 26:9

With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

I. Ezra Leads His People In Seeking God (v 21)

**C. Heroes of the faith have sought God in desperate times
(continued)**

3. Daniel

Daniel 9:3

**And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer
and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:**

D. Those who earnestly seek God find Him

Jeremiah 29:13

**And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search
for me with all your heart.**

II. Ezra Leads His People In Surrendering To God (v 22)

**A. The temptation is to look to people for help instead of
to God**

1. The king could help them

2. Soldiers could be their salvation

Psalm 118:9

**It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence
in princes.**

II. Ezra Leads His People In Surrendering To God (v 22)

B. Their testimony for God was at stake

1. They had told the king of God's power

2. They had testified of God's faithfulness in the past

Revelation 12:11

**And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and
by the word of their testimony; and they loved
not their lives unto the death.**

II. Ezra Leads His People In Surrendering To God (v 22)

C. They chose to risk all on God in faith

1 Corinthians 15:30

And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?

James 1:6-7

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

II. Ezra Leads His People In Surrendering To God (v 22)

Would we have dared do the same?

III. God Saves Ezra And His People (v 23)

A. God meets His people where they are

B. This text pictures salvation

Hebrews 7:25

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

III. God Saves Ezra And His People (v 23)

C. This text pictures deliverance

Psalm 18:3

I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Ezra 8:31

Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

**Seek The Lord And His Salvation And
Deliverance Today**