

Ezra 7:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

Analysis

Ezra's doxology continues: 'and hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes.' The term *chesed* (mercy/steadfast love) is God's covenant faithfulness. Ezra experienced this concretely —'before the king' in personal audience, and 'before all the king's mighty princes' in governmental circles. The response combines divine confidence ('I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me') with responsible action ('gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me').

Historical Context

Ezra's experience of favor before Persian elite wasn't chance but divine providence. The 'king's mighty princes' were powerful officials who could have opposed the mission. God's hand secured not just permission but enthusiastic support. Ezra's gathering of 'chief men' (approximately 1,500 males plus families, Ezra 8:1-14) required persuasion and leadership. His success in recruiting demonstrated both divine calling and human capability to inspire others toward costly obedience.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does recognition of divine favor ('hand of the LORD my God') prevent pride while inspiring confident action?
2. What does combination of trusting God and gathering leaders teach about balancing faith with responsible human effort?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל יִ H5921	הִטָּה H5186	חַסְדָּ H2617	לִפְנֵי י H6440	הֵם לְ H4428
And hath extended		mercy	unto me before	and before all the king's
וְיִוִּשָׁעָיו H3289	וְלֹכֵל H3605	שָׂרֵי י H8269	הֵם לְ H4428	הַגִּבּוֹרִים H589
and his counsellors		princes	and before all the king's	mighty
וְהִתְחַזְקִיתִּי H2388	כַּיָּד H3027	יְהוָה H3068	אֱלֹהֵי H430	עַל יִ H5921
And I was strengthened	as the hand	of the LORD	my God	
וְאֶקְבֹּץ ה H6908		מִשָּׁבָע ל H3478	רָאשֵׁי ים H7218	לָעֵל וְת H5973
was upon me and I gathered together		out of Israel	chief men	to go up

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 9:9 (Grace): For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 2:8 (Kingdom): And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Ezra 5:5 (References God): 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 8:18 (References God): And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen;