

## PEOPLE SENT FROM GOD

Ezra 7:1-10, 27-28 Rev. Brian W. Secor  
Broadway Christian Church 8/31/2014

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**When God wants something done,  
he sovereignly sends a person or persons  
to do his work and his will.**

### I. EZRA THE MAN

#### A. At just the right \_\_\_\_\_.

1. 80 years since Cyrus, 538 BC & beginning of book & 58 years after end of ch. 6, 516 BC.  
483-474 BC Story and time of Esther  
458 BC Ezra comes to Jerusalem from Babylon  
444 BC Nehemiah comes to Jerusalem.

#### B. A \_\_\_\_\_ of God. v. 1-5

#### C. A \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word of God. v. 6a

#### D. A \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word of God.

#### E. A \_\_\_\_\_ of men. v. 28b

#### F. A man living under the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. v, 27-28a

1. When Ezra received letter from Artaxerxes, he =/ give the exiles credit. He =/ give Artaxerxes credit. He =/ even give himself credit. He gave credit to the God of heaven who sovereignly moved heart of the king to give approval to Ezra's plan & moved the heart of 1500 exiles & their families to return to the land of promise.
2. This is a big deal. God rules in the affairs of men. Presidents & kings, leaders & rules come & go but God remains — sovereign, King of the Ages, Ruler from Eternity to Eternity the God who created all things for his own pleasure & the God who will bring time to its climax & introduce the everlasting reign of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am resting in the sovereignty of God for our country & world. And I am resting in the sovereignty of God for his work here.

### II. EZRA'S COMMISSION. v. 11-26

#### A. To lead a \_\_\_\_\_ of exiles.

1. Trip began in April & lasted until August

#### B. To carry great wealth \_\_\_\_\_ to Israel for worship.

#### C. To ensure that the worship of God is \_\_\_\_\_ conducted.

#### D. To oversee the annual resources for \_\_\_\_\_.

#### E. To administer justice according to the law of \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. APPLICATION: THE POWER OF \_\_\_\_\_ MINISTRY IN A HEALTHY CHURCH.

**Christian Schwarz *Natural Church Development*: None of the eight qualities characteristics showed nearly as much influence on both personal & church life as "gift oriented ministry." .... It is a crucial element for the life of each and every Christian.**

1. Ezra was a man gifted for his ministry by God.
2. Important Reformation doctrine is the priesthood of believers. It means all of us are called & equipped by God to do the work of the ministry of the Church. There are different functions & responsibilities.

#### A. The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_ filled & empowered body.

1. Healthy church functions best when the gifts of the Holy Spirit are recognized & practiced.
2. Ray Steadman *Body Life* "A gift is a specific capacity or function that is given to us by the Spirit of God."

#### B. The gifts of the Spirit are for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 12. I Corinthians 12 & 14. Eph. 4**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ — perceive & systematize great facts of Scripture. \_\_\_\_\_ — apply insights to specific situation
2. \_\_\_\_\_ — see what needs to be done & trust God for it.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ — physical, emotional & spiritual.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ — short-circuit nature by supernatural activity.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ — proclaiming the faith. Greatest gift of all. I Cor. 14:3
6. Discernment of \_\_\_\_\_ — distinguish between spirit of error & spirit of truth before error does harm.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ & interpretation of tongues — speaking in known language in which God is praised & people drawn to Christ who do not know him.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ — I Cor. 12:28 — Lend a hand wherever need

appears & to do so in such a way as to strengthen, support & encourage others.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Rom. 12:6-8 — Inspire others to action, awaken renewed spiritual interest, & steady the struggling, stressed or faltering
10. \_\_\_\_\_ — Earn & give money for advancement of God's work for pure joy of giving.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ — lead & facilitate so that people are edified & helped spiritually & God's work is done in the world.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ — provide undeserved aid to those who most people find repugnant or offensive because of the condition & situation.

**B. To be a healthy church is to be a church functioning under the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.**

1. Thomas the Tank Engine Theme — ***Engine Roll Call***  
**They're two, they're four, they're six, they're eight,**  
**Shunting trucks and hauling freight.**  
**Red and green and brown and blue,**  
**They're the Really Useful crew.**  
**All with different roles to play**  
**'round Tidmouth Sheds or far away,**  
**Down the hills and round the bends,**  
**Thomas and his friends.**
2. When we are open to God's Holy Spirit, he will empower us & bring to us through those now here or those yet to come into this congregation, everything we need to be effective for Christ in mission & in ministry. \_\_\_\_\_ Christian is gifted by the Holy Spirit for active ministry in the Church and the world.
3. EX—Robin Williams took his life because he no longer could see any reason to live, any purpose for being. Being gifted by God to serve, share & minister, no Christian ever lacks a \_\_\_\_\_ for being. We might be lazy, we might be indifferent to Spirit's leading, we might think we no longer count but as long as we're above ground, the Spirit has a use & place for us so that God's body will function as it is intended to function. There is no place in a healthy church for long-term spectators.
4. Christian Schwarz, **When Christians serve in their area of giftedness, they generally function less in their own strength & more in the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus ordinary people can accomplish the extraordinary!** p. 24

5. Every person has a hunger to be part of something \_\_\_\_\_, to have a life that counts. God has met that need by the working of the Holy Spirit in his people to give gifts so that the body will function as God means for it to function.
  - a. We have been \_\_\_\_\_ of God, we are the elect. From all around us, at this time, in this place God has called us together in Christ first to save us but secondly to make us one in him, a Christian congregation that shows the world how to serve, how to love, how to grow in grace. We are the very useful crew.
  - b. We have been \_\_\_\_\_ by God through his Holy Spirit. We are not here by accident but by divine providence. We have different roles to play
  - c. We are the people \_\_\_\_\_ by God to show forth his love, joy & peace to a world in which none of that truly exists as it ought to exist. What we have with one another is not ours to keep but ours to share. As this service concludes we go as the body of Christ, the people of God sent forth with his blessing here & far away, down the hills, round the bends, friends of Jesus committed to ministry, committed to Spirit-filled effective mission.
6. When I think of who you & I are going to touch this week, I get excited because the power of God, the Holy Spirit, is among, upon and with us & there's no telling what he'll do when we let him do it through us, the sent \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

