

Monday (Nov 24 th)	<p>Scripture: Ezra 5:1-17</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What about this episode is seen as a blessing from God? Why? 2. How is God’s hand of blessing evident in Tattenai’s letter to Darius (verses 6-17)? What human instruments has God evidently been using to bless and discipline his people? 3. In the work God has given you to do, when is his hand of blessing obvious to you: (a) In warding off opponents, as in verse 5:5? (b) In “making rapid progress,” as in 5:8? (c) Often in construction delays? (d) Only in the project’s completion, as in 6:15-17? 4. When something is not progressing according to plan, are you likely to conclude that it must not be God’s will?
Tuesday (Nov 25 th)	<p>Scripture: Ezra 6:1-22</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When have you invoked God’s authority as your own? Where do you draw the line and dare someone to cross over or defy your authority? What kind of defiance by whomever, could bring you and them into a conflict? 2. What “sacrifices” and prayers are you offering on behalf of those in authority over you?
Wednesday (Nov 26 th)	<p>Scripture: Ezra 7:1-28</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sixty years have elapsed since the end of chapter 6. Ezra was well-versed in the Law. What subject matter are you well-versed in? By Comparison, how well-versed are you in the Bible? 2. Who instilled in you a love for the Word? What do you do to build upon that? 3. What aspect of praise, gratitude, and healthy self-esteem does your small group enjoy as a result of your devotion to God’s Word?
Thursday (Nov 27 th)	<p>Scripture: Ezra 8:1-23</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Ezra handle the lack of response by the Levites to his planned pilgrimage? Is he testing the divine authority or pursuing an additional channel for God’s blessing? 2. Is God’s hand more involved in the lives of those who strip themselves of all visible means of support and protection?

	<p>yet necessary, at such times of naked trust? Why do you think so?</p>
Friday (Nov 28 th)	<p>Scripture: Ezra 8:24-36</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Ezra show spiritual dependence, political level-headedness, and common-sense in his trek from Ahava to Jerusalem? What do you make of Ezra praying and fasting instead of the customary escort? 2. At face value, it seems Persian kings gave Ezra 32 tons of silver and gold to underwrite the temple project. What principles of financial accountability do you see in the way Ezra handled this vast amount of money? 3. What might be the Lord asking you now to consecrate for Him? Would fasting help you to know God’s answer for an important decision you are facing?
Saturday (Nov 29 th)	<p>Scripture: Ezra 9:1-15</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the tone in Ezra’s response to the intermarriages? Why is he so heart-broken? 2. What problem do you have with people marrying outside the Christian faith? 3. What does this prayer tell you about which is greater—guilt or grace? God’s anger or mercy?
Sunday (Nov 30 th)	<p>Scripture: Psalm 77</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observe in detail the depth of the psalmist’s depression. What was the chief question underlying his distress? How did he find an answer to it? 2. What particular aspects of the character of God are mentioned in verses 11-20? How do these begin to resolve the psalmist’s problem? Do we in times of depression similarly ‘call to mind the deed of the Lord’? (ref. Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledgement: Alan M. Stibbs (General Editor), [Search the Scriptures](#), and the [NIV Serendipity Bible](#) were used as a guide to prepare the above devotions.