

## **10 – Ezra 7:11-28 – Another King .... Another letter**

Do you struggle with talking to people about Jesus?

“How can followers of YHWH further God’s purposes in a kingdom that seems openly opposed to him?”.

### **Ezra’s mission**

Ezra 7:10, he devoted himself to study of God’s word

Ezra wanted to know God’s word and to obey God’s word himself.

Devoted to knowing God’s word, to obeying God’s word and to teaching God’s word.

### **Ezra’s authority**

The authority of Artaxerxes

... his absolute position of authority.

### **A greater authority**

v 12 ... Ezra is a priest and teacher of the Law of the God of heaven.

V 23 ... because he wants to cover his bases and protect his rule and the rule of his sons.

... the incredible nature of this letter from Artaxerxes is NOT lost on God’s people.

v 27-28.

... Ezra is spurred on.

### **For us today**

1) Not a biblical basis for tax free status of Christian churches

Romans 13 God’s word commands Christians to pay their tax.

2) Not a promise

... not a universal promise telling us that God will always change the heart of the king or our government to make things easy or easier for his people.

3) God is in control

... How should this sovereign rule of YHWH impact how YOU live?

fill you with confidence as you live for and serve Jesus?

... how might we use this event for gospel opportunity with those in our world?

We need to be people who know God is in control of all things that see how the events before us enable his plans and purposes to come to pass.

4) Be encouraged

Be encouraged when you feel overwhelmed with the task of gospel ministry.