



## Sermon Notes: The Hand of The LORD

### Background.

- Jeremiah 25:8-14.
- Jeremiah 29:10-14.
- Isaiah 44:24—45:1.
- 2 Chronicles 36:11-23; Ezra 1:1-3.

### Key Verse:

### Key Phrase:

### Gospel Applications:



## Gospel Applications: The Hand of The LORD

### Discuss.

1. What did you know of Ezra and Nehemiah prior to this message?
2. How does the historic context already begin to help you understand the purpose and place these books have in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. Imagine you were one of "God's people" living in the days of Jeremiah. How would you feel upon hearing that God was going to use a pagan Babylonian king as his chosen servant to punish you for your sins?
4. In what ways can you relate to the people of God living in exile? What are some sources of ruin, slavery, or desolation in your life? In what ways does it feel like God is far off or is withholding blessing from you?
5. How does the overarching theme of God's sovereignty – even over the hearts of kings and the affairs of nations – encourage you in your circumstances today?
6. How would you like to see the hand of the Lord working good in your life?
7. What is your responsibility according to the key verse of Ezra 8:22? What does that mean? What are some ways you can do that immediately?
8. What are some promises of God you're struggling to believe right now? Why? What causes you to lose hope? How does the theme of Ezra and Nehemiah speak to your doubt right now?

### Pray.

1. Ask God to show you any ways you're displeasing or doubting him. Confess these attitudes and actions, and turn from them.
2. Praise the Lord for his steadfast, pursuing love. Trust him – and trust his promises that relate to you. Ask him to show you his hand of favor because of the grace of Jesus.