

January 12th, 2020

Dr. Jacob T. King, Senior Pastor

Sermon Title: "Fervent Fasting"

Series: "Fervent"

Text: Ezra 8:21-23

²¹ Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. ²² For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him." ²³ So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.

Ezra 1:5

Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem.

Ezra 4:4-5

Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build ⁵ and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

What is God doing in fervent fasting?

1. *Activating our passion (vs. 21a)*

"Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God..."

Rev. 2:4: "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love." (NASB)

2. *Assuring our protection (vs.21b-22)*

"...to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. ²² For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him."

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."

3. *Answering our prayers (vs. 23)*

“So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.”

Ezra 8:31: “Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambushes by the way.”