

sacred service. **Watch ye.** They were to use the utmost diligence in guarding the treasure. **Chambers;** rooms on each side of the main building for the priests (1 Kings 6:5), also for store rooms (Neh. 13:5.)

31, 32. The hand of our God. Ezra

was conscious of the presence of the Almighty. **Delivered us.** By preventing attacks or by enabling Ezra to repel them. **To Jerusalem;** after a journey of four months (7:9). The distance was about 600 miles.

Juniors

ASK YOURSELF

Seniors

21. Upon what journey were the people setting out? Upon what had Ezra determined? (Ch. 7:10.) What does seeking God include? (Psa. 27:8; Job 8:5). When should it be done? (Psa. 105:4; Isa. 55:6; Heb. 11:6). To what does it lead? (Prov. 8:17; Psa. 34:4). What did Ezra proclaim? Why? From whom did Ezra seek guidance? Who is our Guide? (Psa. 25:9; Isa. 58:11.)

22, 23. Whose help did Ezra decline to ask? Why? To whom does God show kindness? To whom wrath? How may we obtain the one and avoid the other?

24-30. To whom did Ezra commit the treasure? Of what kinds was it? How much? Why was the journey dangerous?

31, 32. What fresh proof of God's goodness?

21. Whom did the king allow to go to Jerusalem? (Ch. 7:13.) Why did they "afflict" themselves? What is the true spirit of fasting? (Isa. 58:6, 7). By what should it be accompanied? (Joel 2:12, 13; Deut. 9:18.) What is the best security against evil?

22, 23. What sustained Ezra? What are the encouragements to trust God? (Isa. 26:4; Psa. 36:7; 1 Pet. 5:7.) In what should we trust? (Psa. 119:42; Eph. 3:12.) What is the result of forsaking God? (Jer. 17:13; Ezek. 6:9.)

24-30. What should we consecrate to God? Why? How may we best use our means? How careful was Ezra about the treasure? What lesson from it?

31, 32. What is God's Providence?

PRACTICAL

1. We should go to God for help in all our difficulties.

2. If God be for us we have nothing to fear.

3. The prayer of faith never goes unanswered.

4. We should do God's business in a business-like way (v. 24).

5. We should be faithful and diligent in doing any kind of work for God (v. 29); each one doing his own part and putting his conscience into it.

6. God helps those who trust in Him.

7. The end of life's journey will be peace and joy to all who trust and obey.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Explain why Ezra was ashamed to ask soldiers from the king.

2. What arrangements did he make for the safe carriage of the treasure?

3. How may we be always sure of God's protection?