THE HAND OF OUR GOD

And the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way. Ezra 8:31 (KJV)

 From Babylon to Jerusalem the Jews had traveled without so much as a guard or guide because Ezra had bragged to the king that he served a God who would deliver them safely in Jerusalem. Thus he could truthfully say “the hand of our God was upon us.” Ezra fully trusted in the hand of God. The way to Jerusalem was one that would take a military guard for the large caravan that was led by Ezra. They carried much silver and gold. This large unprotected group would naturally be a prime target for the thieves and bandits that made their living off the weary travelers. Much greater than any military escort was the hand of God that protected them every step of their journey.

 It is a comfort to know that we too are protected by the hand of our God who sees around every bend of the road, who knows who may be lurking and lying in wait to ambush our Christian walk. He can cause the enemy to fear and never approach us. If he so chooses he can put them to flight so that we would never see them. Yes, the hand of our God is a mighty hand.

 His hand is a guiding hand. This was a way untraveled by many in Ezra’s caravan yet they were led by the guiding hand of God. He was their guide as well as their scout. They would not be led astray as long as they were led by God’s blessed hand. He knew the way to his city. They were going to worship Him. He would not lead them wrong.

 They were not only led in the right way and kept safe as they traveled but they were blessed as they traveled also. The hand of our God is a good hand. Though traveling a road that they had never traveled they had no fear. There was great joy to be had and experienced. We can enjoy our walk with the Lord. It is a way that is a good way. There may be times in our journey that God’s glory gets so great that he hides us in a cleft and covers us with his hand and only allows us to see what we can stand to see and still live.

 It has been a joy to experience his guidance, to know that I am where I am because he has led me thus far. We may never know what we have been protected from. Many of our enemies have gone unseen. Some have been destroyed before they ever came in sight. The good hand of God has provided multiplied blessings every single day of our lives. I believe when we stand at Heaven’s gate we can truly say “the hand of our God was upon us.”

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram