

The Forest and the Sea

2 Esdras 3:1 – 5:20

by Don Falkos

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A man named Ezra, a Jewish scribe among the exiles in Babylon, prayed, "Lord, Israel has been more faithful to your Law than any other nation on earth, certainly more so than Babylon. Why have you brought your chosen people into exile in this land?"

God sent the angel Uriel to ask, "How do you weigh fire? How do you measure wind? How do you bring back the past?"

Ezra replied, "I don't know."

"Exactly. If you don't understand things that have always been a part of your life – fire, wind, the past – how could you possibly expect to understand how God works in the world?"

Once upon a time the forest said, "I'm going to attack the sea and push it back, so there will be more room for my trees." At the same time, the sea said, "I'm going to flood the forest, so there will be more room for my waves." But fire burned down the forest, and the sand along the shore held back the sea.

"Who do you think was right and who was wrong?"

Ezra answered, "Both the forest and the sea were wrong. The trees belong in the forest, and the waves belong in the sea."

"Right! And so it is with you. Your realm is finite, while God's realm is infinite. However, when the end of this age comes and the new age begins, all will be revealed."

"When is that going to happen?"

"It will happen when it happens – when the time is right. It's like a woman who has been pregnant for nine months. When the time is right for her baby to be born, her baby is born; she can't hold it back. At that time the world will go mad; all sorts of dreadful things will happen; and people will be very confused."