



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

Returning
Home

THE BOOK OF EZRA

Returning Home

PART 1: THE RETURN

Children of Israel lost their connection with God.

1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, 2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. 3 Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. -Ezra 1:1-3

What is Home? Reconnecting with God

God will do everything He can to return us Home!

**We must realize that God is ever present
and in control**

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Who will Respond? *Who is among you of all His people? Ezra 1:3*

Prayer, God move my heart right now!

Is my Name there? _____

According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for the work sixty-one thousand gold drachmas, five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priestly garments. Ezra 2:69

Let us not slacken our resolve nor be without hope, for with every breath that we take our Lord Jesus Christ gives us opportunity for repentance. - St Macarius the Great

Take your next step!

Your job is to work upon yourself, for this you were chosen; the rest is in the hands of God. - St Theophan the Recluse

What is my small step back home?

- Commitment to go to confession?
- Commitment to daily Prayer?
- Commitment to daily scripture?
- Commitment to finally serve Him?
- _____

Come, and let us RETURN to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. Hosea 6:1

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PART 2: THE REBUILD

**GOD NEVER _____ US EVEN WHEN
WE _____ HIM**

“When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem. Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it...Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and evening sacrifices.” Ezra 3:1-2

**OUR _____ ARE DRIVEN OUT IN THE
PRESENCE OF _____**

“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

“The devil is afraid of us when we pray and make sacrifices. He is also afraid when we are humble and good. He is especially afraid when we love Jesus very much.” St. Anthony the Great

“Then in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day. After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings, the New Moon sacrifices and the sacrifices for all the appointed sacred festivals of the Lord, as well as those brought as freewill offerings to the Lord. On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, though the foundation of the Lord’s temple had not yet been laid.” Ezra 3:4-6

STOP _____ FOR THE _____ TIME

“When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: “He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.” Ezra 3:10-11

_____ BUILDING IS A _____ WORK

“But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.” Ezra 3:12-13

DON'T LET _____ YOUR JOY

NO MORE _____
NO MORE _____
NO MORE _____
NO MORE _____

Returning Home

PART 3: THE OPPOSITION

“When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the Lord, the God of Israel, they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, “Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here.” But Zerubbabel, Joshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, “You have no part with us in building a temple to our God. We alone will build it for the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us.” Ezra 4:1-3

**A _____ is the _____ road to
your desired _____**

“Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building. They bribed officials to work against them and frustrate their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia. To King Artaxerxes, from your servants in Trans-Euphrates: The king should know that the people who came up to us from you have gone to Jerusalem and are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are restoring the walls and repairing the foundations. Furthermore, the king should know that if this city is built and its walls are restored, no more taxes, tribute or duty will be paid, and eventually the royal revenues will suffer...We inform the king that if this city is built and its walls are restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates... Now issue an order to these men to stop work, so that this city will not be rebuilt until I so order. Be careful not to neglect this matter. Why let this threat grow, to the detriment of the royal interests? As soon as the copy of the letter of King Artaxerxes was read to Rehum and Shimshai the secretary and their associates, they went immediately to the Jews in Jerusalem and compelled them by force to stop. Thus the work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill...” Ezra 4:11-24

“Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.” Ezra 5:1-2

A _____ isn't the end of the war

“Do not be cast down over the struggle, the Lord loves a brave warrior. The Lord loves the soul that is valiant.” St. Silouan the Athonite

“At that time Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates went to them and asked, “Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and to finish it?” They also asked, “What are the names of those who are constructing this building?” But the eye of their God was watching over the elders of the Jews, and they were not stopped until a report could go to Darius and his written reply be received.” Ezra 5:3-5

“...If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:31-39

Our _____ in God’s love will determine the _____ of our resilience

“We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, one that a great king of Israel built and finished. But because our ancestors angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar the Chaldean, king of Babylon, who destroyed this temple and deported the people to Babylon. “However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, King Cyrus issued a decree to rebuild this house of God... Now if it pleases the king, let a search be made in the royal archives of Babylon to see if King Cyrus did in fact issue a decree to rebuild this house of God in Jerusalem. Then let the king send us his decision in this matter.” Ezra 5:11-17

“Their expenses are to be fully paid out of the royal treasury, from the revenues of Trans-Euphrates, so that the work will not stop. Whatever is needed...as requested by the priests in Jerusalem—must be given them daily without fail, so that they may offer sacrifices pleasing to the God of heaven and pray for the well-being of the king and his sons... So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper... They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. The temple was completed...Then the people of Israel the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the exiles celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy.” Ezra 6:8-16

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” Philippians 1:6

_____ doesn’t leave anything _____

Returning Home

PART 4: THE REVIVAL

Your temple will _____ others to God

"A bride seated in the bridal chamber is not as beautiful as a soul that appears in Church, giving off spiritual fragrance." - St John Chrysostom

Your temple will spark a _____

Your temple will reveal your _____

"this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him." Ezra 7:6

"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." 2 Timothy 1:6

Ezra is a Hebrew name meaning _____

God will complete His work

"On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him." Ezra 7:9

We must complete ours

"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel." Ezra 7:10

"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." Romans 13:11

It is never too late for anyone to return!

God's gives _____ to complete His revival

"I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you." Ezra 7:13

"And whatever more may be needed for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to provide, pay for it from the king's treasury." Ezra 7:20

What are you waiting for?

Your Gifts + Your Failures [Experience] + What you are Passionate about + God's Grace = _____

Y'all we need to look for the people who are missing.

"I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you." Ezra 7:13

"And whatever more may be needed for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to provide, pay for it from the king's treasury." Ezra 7:20

Missing into _____ / Lost into _____

God's good hand and my faithful effort = _____

"For we are God's **fellow workers**; you are God's field, you are God's building."
1 Corinthians 3:9

Summary for this Week! - Revival Has Started

1. Your Temple will attract others to God
2. Your temple will spark a REVIVAL
3. Your Temple will reveal your Gift from God.
4. God will do His Part & We must do ours.
5. Be a fellow worker & willing participant.

A Revived Church is the only hope for a dying world!

Returning Home

PART 5: THE RESTORED LIFESTYLE

Live a _____

Spiritual _____ is better than spiritual diet.

Keep Running:

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." 1 Corinthians 9:24

"Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions." Ezra 8:21

"Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness." Psalm 143:10

Keep running towards _____

No More Relapse & Compromise:

When these things were done, the leaders came to me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, with respect to the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. Ezra 9:1

"You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin." Hebrews 12:4

Be extreme and don't _____

PRAYER: God help protect me from backsliding and compromising.

Hold onto that little light:

And now for a little while grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage. Ezra 9:8

Hold onto His _____ so we can always return

Restored lifestyle needs a constant cleaning:

Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly. Ezra 10:1

And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this. Ezra 10:2

Restored lifestyle needs a _____

Restored lifestyle needs a covenant with God:

"Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. Ezra 10:3

Restored lifestyle needs a _____ with God

Live the Lifestyle:

1. Keep running towards God's will
2. Be extreme and don't compromise
3. Hold onto His light so we can always return
4. Restored Lifestyle needs a constant cleaning
5. Restored lifestyle needs a covenant with God

A restored lifestyle will always _____ your eternity!

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