

Ezra – Chapter Five

“God Watches O’er His Own”

Timeline

Cyrus the Great 559-530
First Wave Returned 538 (Zerubbabel & Jeshua)
Work on Temple Begins 536
Work on the Temple Ceases 536 or 535
Cambyses 529-522
Darius 521-486
Haggai & Zechariah Write Their Prophecies 520
Work on the Temple Resumes 520
Temple Completed 516
Second Wave Returned 458 (Ezra)
Ezra Writes Ezra circa 445-450
Third Wave Returned 445 (Nehemiah)

Review

Chapter 4

- 1-3:** Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the other leaders refused to compromise their loyalty to God.
4-5: The people of the land then rose up in opposition to the Jews in their rebuilding project.
24: The building stopped for 15 years: 535-520
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The Word That Produced Revival 1-2

- 1:** Haggai & Zechariah were prophets used by God to stir up Judah in 520.
- The people had become worldly, materialistic, and lethargic about the work of God. Haggai 1:1-9, 12-15
 - The priests had become careless in following God’s instructions regarding the Temple and what is clean and unclean. Haggai 2:3-14, 19b, 20-24 (Messianic)
 - Zechariah’s vision of Joshua (Jeshua) the High Priest 3:1-10
- 2:** There was immediate response and repentance by Zerubbabel and Jeshua and others. 3 weeks later (22 days) they resumed the rebuilding.

The World That Presented Opposition 3-4

- 3:** The governor and other government officials became concerned:
- Do you have a building permit? Do you have permission from the government?
- 4:**
- Who is responsible for this? v. 10: They asked for their names ... “a subtle threat”?

The God Who Provided Protection 5-17

- 5:** The leaders were resolved not to be intimidated this time. God was watching over them!
6-7: Tattenai sent a letter to Darius summarizing the situation: 6-17
8: “rolling stones” – too heavy to be carried. The fear was they were building a fortress.
9-10: They asked for their names and who they were.
11-16: The bold response of the people of God!
17: Tattenai: Search and see if there was such a decree

Doctrinal Conclusions

1. How Easy It Is To Allow Worldliness and Uncleaness to Creep Into Our Lives and Distract Us From The Work We Are Called to Do

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica ... **Colossians 4:14** Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

Definition of worldliness: “Worldliness is whatever makes sin look normal, and righteousness look strange.”

We need to consider our ways. “The Christian life is an examined life.”

2. God Uses His Word to Revive the Hearts of His People

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **(13)** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **(17)** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3. God Watches Over Us! Are We Living In That Awareness and Trusting Him?

“Have Faith In God”

1

Have faith in God when your pathway is lonely,
He sees and knows all the way you have trod;
Never alone are the least of His children;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

2

Have faith in God when your prayers are
unanswered,
Your earnest plea He will never forget;
Wait on the Lord, trust His Word and be patient,
Have faith in God, He'll answer yet.

3

Have faith in God in your pain and your sorrow,
His heart is touched with your grief and despair;
Cast all your cares and your burdens upon Him,
And leave them there, oh, leave them there.

4

Have faith in God tho' all else fail about you;
Have faith in God, He provides for His own;
He cannot fail tho' all kingdoms shall perish,
He rules, He reigns upon His throne.

Chorus

Have faith in God, He's on His throne;
Have faith in God, He watches o're His own;
He cannot fail, He must prevail;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.