

SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2023

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Ezra 6:1-22

In 1989, our dear shepherd at that time, Pastor Ron Blough, initiated our reading through a portion of the 66 books of the Bible as a congregation, typically a chapter each Sunday. Since then, we have been through the entire Bible one full time and are currently in Ezra, the 15th book of the Bible.

TODAY'S SERVICE

- 1. Hymn #19 "O for a Thousand Tongues"
- 2. Opening Prayer & Announcements a. CBC Marriage Statement Reading
- 3. Hymn #15 "Across the Lands"
- 4. Hymn #171- "A Shelter in the Time of Storm"
- 5. Hymn #578 "How Firm a Foundation"
- 6. Reading: Bro. Steve K.
- 7. Message: "Christ <u>WILL</u> Complete His Church"
- 8. Hymn #591 "Some Golden Daybreak"
- 9. Benediction

10. Sunday Evening Service Holy War #81; Ecclesiastes 7:1a





CHRIST WILL COMPLETE HIS CHURCH

and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. **EZRA 6:15**, ESV

I. the BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A. Destruction of the Temple, 586 BC B. Decree of Cyrus to Rebuild, 536 BC

C. Darius' 6th Year, Finished, 516 BC

II. the BREAKDOWN of the CHAPTER

A. Cyrus' Decree Sought & Found, vv1-5

B. Continued Work by Darius' Decree, vv6-12

C. Completion of God's House & Dedication Thereof, vv13-18

D. Celebration of the Passover, vv19-22

III. the Blessings Emphasized from Our Text

And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 1:6**, ESV

A. Practical Gospel Illustrations & Applications

- prophetic pictures & parallels of Christ & His church a. the tabernacle of Moses' day b. the temple of Solomon's day c. the temple of Ezra's day
- 2. particular points in the building of God's house (Christ's church)
 - a. a prophecy fulfilled, Ezra 1:1-12
 - b. a people of captivity called out, Ezra 2:1-70
 - c. a priority in approach to worship, Ezra 3:1-13

d. a progress opposed by religious unbelief, Ezra 4:1-24

- e. a power inspired by God's Word & Spirit, Ezra 5:1-17
- f. a purpose fulfilled for the glory of Christ by His people, Ezra $6{:}1{-}22$

3. practical applications for our repentance & rejoicing

- a. Christ exalted historically, scripturally, worshipfully
- b. Christ expected to finish work honorably, sufficiently, wonderfully
- c. Christian experience is humble, spiritual, wise

Book of Ezra National Restoration under Zerubbabel Return to Land, 1-2 Rebuilding the Temple, 3 Resisting the Enemy, 4-6 Spiritual Reformation under Ezra Ezra Comes to the Land, 7-8 Ezra Confesses Sins, 9 Ezra Cleanses Nation, 10 But what she did argue was this: "This man who was just now sitting on the well, is he not the Christ?" How did she prove it? First, she did as good as say, "He must be Christ, *because he has revealed me to myself:* he has told me all things that ever I did." The words are wide. Stop, dear woman; surely he has not revealed all your life, certainly not in words. He has revealed your unchastity, but nothing else. But she was right. Were you ever out in a black and murky night when a single lightning-flash has come. It has only smitten one oak in the field, but in so doing it has revealed all the landscape. It struck one object, but all around you was light as day for the moment. So, when the Lord Jesus Christ revealed this woman's lustfulness, she saw clearly the whole of her life at a single view, and the Lord had indeed told her all things that ever she did. Do you wonder that she said, "Is not this the Christ?"

Beloved, no one proves himself to be truly anointed unless he begins by showing you your sins. If any teacher leads you to hope that, without repentance, or any sense of sin, you may be saved, he is not of Christ. I charge you fling away any hope which is not consistent with your own entire hopelessness apart from Jesus. If you have not known yourself a sinner you cannot know Christ as a Saviour. Some are preaching up nowadays a dryeyed faith, and men seem to jump into assurance as if there were no new birth, no conviction of sin, and no repentance. But it is not so: "Ye must be born again." That birth is not without pangs. Trust in Christ brings a hatred of sin and a mourning because of it. A man cannot hate what he does not know; but this woman was made to see her sin, and that sight proved that the Messiah was dealing with her. The non-repentance prophets cry, "Peace, peace," where there is no peace: they film the sore, but Jesus puts the lancet into it, lays it wide open, and makes the patient see the gangrene of the wound, and then he closes it up, and with his heavenly ointment makes a sure cure of it. There is no binding up the heart that was never broken: there is no comforting a man who has always been comfortable: there is no making a man righteous who always was righteous: there is no washing a man who has no filthiness. No, and this is what the Messiah does: he lays bare the disease, and this is a proof that he is sent of God, because he does not adopt the flimsy, flattering mode of deceivers, but goes straight to the truth. Her argument is, -He must be the Messiah, for he revealed me to myself. [emphasis in original]

"The Samaritan Woman and Her Mission" from the text, John 4:27-30 a sermon delivered on September 10th, 1882 by **Charles Haddon Spurgeon** *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, Volume 28, Sermon No. 1,678 This Week's Bible Portions from Robert Murray McCheyne's "Daily Bread"

FAMILY READINGS			PRIVATE READINGS	
2 Samuel 4-5	1 Cor. 15	10	Ezekiel 13	Psalms 52-54
2 Samuel 6	1 Cor. 16	11	Ezekiel 14	Psalms 55
2 Samuel 7	2 Cor. 1	12	Ezekiel 15	Psalms 56-57
2 Samuel 8-9	2 Cor. 2	13	Ezekiel 16	Psalms 58-59
2 Samuel 10	2 Cor. 3	14	Ezekiel 17	Psalms 60-61
2 Samuel 11	2 Cor. 4	15	Ezekiel 18	Psalms 62-63
2 Samuel 12	2 Cor. 5	16	Ezekiel 19	Psalms 64-65
2 Samuel 13	2 Cor. 6	17	Ezekiel 20	Psalms 66-67

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