

Together We Build: The Call for Revival and Renewal

July 21, 2024 | *Ezra 1:5-11*



Ezra 1:5:

- A stirring (a spiritual awakening) was happening in the people and the leadership.
 - God provided the vision to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.
 - This journey would be several hundred miles from Babylonia.
1. Vision comes from God: divine direction on where to go.
 2. God (The Holy Spirit) stirs leaders and people to follow God's vision.

Ezra 1:6

- The community helped by supporting God's vision.

For believers:

- * Pray for revival (the awakening / stirring of hearts.
- * Support the local church
- * Find ways to help in God's mission

Ezra 1:7

- Cyrus returned the stolen vessels to take to the Temple. (*2 Kings 24:10-13 and Daniel 1:1-2*)

Vessels: A physical object and a spiritual person. (*2 Timothy 2:20-21, Romans 9:21-23, Acts 9:15*, 2 Corinthians 4:7**)
[*same Greek word vessel as other verses])

- ◆ Christ takes us (human vessels) from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of light (*Colossians 1:13*)

Ezra 1:8

- Key leaders contributed to the counting and transport of the vessels.
- **Mithredath**: Later opposes the building of the temple (Ezra 4:7)
- **Sheshbazzar**: Continues the mission by
 - Receiving and transporting vessels
 - Laying the foundation of the Temple.
 - (*Ezra 1:11, Ezra 5:14, Ezra 5:16*)

Ezra 1:9-11

- **5400** vessels were counted to travel over **500** miles with over **40,000** people.

Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life"

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Lessons from today's sermon:

1. **God's Plan and Vision:** God has a plan for **all** of us. God works his plan through people. God's vision transforms lives. (*Proverbs 19:21, Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 2:10*)
 2. **Growing in the Faith:** Grow in Christ from milk to solid food. Be encouraged to live out your faith every day. (*Hebrews 5:12-14, 1 Peter 2:2, Colossians 1:10*)
 3. **The Role of the Holy Spirit:** The Spirit stirs hearts for revival. Pray for His work in leaders and believers. (*Acts 1:8, John 14:26, Romans 8:26*)
 4. **The Support of the Church and the Community:** We are stronger together, united in Christ. (*1 Corinthians 12:27, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Ephesians 4:16*)
 5. **Restoration and Renewal:** Christ restores us, just like the vessels in Ezra. We are new creations in Him. (*2 Corinthians 5:17, Isaiah 61:3, Ezekiel 36:26*)
 6. **The Simple Gospel Message:** Believe in the Lord and be saved. Believe in the death, burial and resurrection - this is the Gospel (*1 Corinthians 15:1-4, John 3:16, John 6:47*).
 7. **Biblical Stewardship:** Everything is a gift from God. Take Inventory of your Time, Talent, and Treasure. Manage it all for the glory of God. (*1 Peter 4:10, Colossians 3:23-24, James 1:17*)
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What action steps can I take? (Application)

- **Stewardship:** Take inventory of your time, talent, and treasure. Decide where or how you can give back to God. (*Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 16:10, 1 Peter 4:10*)
 - **Trust in the Lord:** God is in control. God is faithful. God is constant. God is good. (*Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 37:5, Isaiah 26:3*)
 - **Commit to Christ's Mission:** Love God, love others, make disciples. Ask God for your own specific direction and role in the body of Christ. (*Matthew 22:37-39, 28:19-20, John 13:34-35, Acts 1:8*)
 - **Rely on the Holy Spirit:** Seek the Spirit's strength and guidance. Let Him stir your heart for God's glory. (*Galatians 5:16, John 14:26, Romans 8:26*)
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