

God's Unfailing Presence in Every Season

September 15, 2024 | *Ezra 5:3-17*



Observations from Ezra 5:3-17

What is happening in these verses?

The Questioning of God's People: Ezra 5:3-5

- **Context:** During the spiritual awakening of Zerubbabel and Jeshua, Tattenai, Shethar-bonzhai and the associates questioned the people of God. (v3a)
- **First Question:** What gave you the authority to build the temple? (v3b - v4)
- **Second Question:** Who are you / what are your names? (v4)
- **God's Protection:** The eye of the Lord protected the people (the elders) of God, the work was not stopped. (v5)

The Confirmation with King Darius: Ezra 5:6-10

- **The Report:** This is the letter (the report) from Tattenai and the others to Darius (v6-7)
- **What was observed:** The temple is being built (v8)
- **What was asked:** They questioned the people of God (Who gave the authority and who are you?) (v9-10)

The Confidence in Serving God: Ezra 5:11-17

The people of God:

- **Identity:** Identified who they serve, "The God of heaven and earth" (v11)
- **Purpose:** Stated their purpose of rebuilding Solomons Temple (v11)
- **History:** Explained the disobedience of their fathers and the destruction that follows (v12)
- **Decree:** Told about the decree from Cyrus (earthly authority) to rebuild (v14)
- **The Vessels:** The vessels were returned (v15)
- **The progress:** The foundation being laid (v16)
- **Call to action:** The call to search the archives and verify what was said (v17)

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 Ezra 5:3-17

What can we learn (interpret) from these verses?

1. When Faith is Questioned, Respond

- When the people of God were questioned, they responded with confidence, standing firm in their faith in the Lord.
- **Reference verses:**
1 Peter 3:15, Philippians 1:27-28, Acts 5:29, Colossians 4:5-6

2. Know that God's "Eye" is Protecting You

- God's watchful presence offers protection, guidance, and strength in every situation and season in life.
- **Reference verses:**
Proverbs 15:3, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Psalm 33:18, Psalm 32:8, Isaiah 40:10, Deuteronomy 31:6

3. God's Plan Works Even Through Human Authority

- God uses human authorities and systems to fulfill His divine purpose, turning challenges into opportunities for His plan.
- **Reference verses:**
Romans 8:28, Proverbs 21:1, Daniel 2:21, Isaiah 46:10, Proverbs 19:21, 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Application from Ezra 5:3-17

How can I apply / live out these verses?

1. Stand Firm and Respond When Questioned

- Remain rooted in your faith and trust in God's Word, responding with confidence when your faith is challenged.
- **Reference verses:**
Philippians 1:27, James 1:12, Ephesians 6:13-14

2. Trust in God's Protection and Presence

- Trust that God is with you in every season, guiding and protecting you, even when the path is unclear.
- **Reference verses:**
Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 46:1, Proverbs 18:10

3. Never Stop Growing and Doing Good in Christ

- Continue growing in faith and doing good, even during times of opposition or waiting, trusting in God's purpose.
- **Reference verses:**
Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 12:1-2, 2 Peter 3:18, James 1:4, Colossians 1:10

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