

Outline: Ezra 5:1-6:12 Whose decree and authority?

1. The temple today. Building the temple.
2. Ezra 4. The rebuilding of the temple has stopped. Ezra 4. External opposition to complacency.
3. Prophecy unfulfilled? Is there hope?
4. Why does God bother?
  - a. Who He is.
  - b. Who the Jews are to him.

Ezra 5:11 – God of heaven and earth.

Ezra 5:1 – The God of Israel, who was over them. Promise keeper.

Ezra 5:5 – The eye of God was watching over them.

- a. God works through his word. He turns the hearts of his people.

God rebukes (Hag 1:4) . God assures (Hag 1:13, 2:4-5; 2:9 Zech 2:8; 4:6; 8:9.). People respond (Ezra 5:2).

A new obstacle. A clear and present danger. (Ezra 5:3-4)

The Jews: Servants of the God of heaven and earth (Ezra 5:11)

The Jews: Idolatrous past. (Ezra 5:12)

God's spectacular but quiet work through the ordinary.

The KING is on His throne.

- b. God works behind the scene. He turns the tables.

The work is not stop. The eye of God is watching over the Elders. (Ezra 5:5)

The reply from Darius (Ezra 6:1-12). God does more than the Jews could imagine.

God provided:

Authorisation (Ezra 6:3-5)

Financial sufficiency (Ezra 6:4; 8-10)

An end to any and all opposition.(Ezra 6:6-7;11-12)

- c. God works to complete his salvation plan. He turns the wheels of history.

God readies a covenant community ready to receive the Messiah.

Zechariah prophecies of the Messiah: Zec 9:9; 11:12-13; 13:7; 12:10; 13:1

God readies a political, religious and social climate to complete the work of salvation.

God readies the world for Jesus to return.

If you are not a Christian: God has a plan for you.

What do we do in the meantime? Build His temple - Disciple making.

It's a done deal if you hang on to Jesus.