

Rejoicing in Restoration (Ezra 6:13-22)

The finishing line

The key truth of Ezra 6:13-22:

God will _____

Can't believe that? 6:15!

But how did the people in Ezra reach that point?

The best case scenario...

....didn't come about simply because of human goodwill!

“They finished their building **by decree** of the God of Israel **and by decree** of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia” (v.14b, ESV)

The doctrine of concurrence:

God can and does work through human action and natural events, actively directing them to accomplish his eternal purposes, even as creatures act freely according to their own nature.

No abstract doctrine!

Heidelberg Catechism Q28:

What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by his providence?

Ans: That we may be patient in adversity; thankful in prosperity; and that in all things, which may hereafter befall us, we place our firm trust in our faithful God and Father, that nothing shall separate us from His love; since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will they cannot so much as move.

What is the finishing line?

The big way God works out his providence: v.14a

If this is true, how should we respond?

a) We celebrate!

Joy (v.19, 22) — The (theological) logic of verse 22

For us today (cf. Luke 10:20, 1 Peter 1:8)

b) We consecrate!

True Israel (v. 17, 21)

As you celebrate, you keep separating and consecrating