

July 1, 2018

Restoring Foundations

The Restoration of the Peoples Identity: Ezra 2:1-70

This Bible study lesson is developed to use in preparation for Pastor Jared's sermon on Ezra Chapter 2.

1. Reflecting on Pastor Jared's sermon on Chapter 1, how have you seen the devastating consequences of disobedience and the faithfulness of God in your own life?
2. Read Ezra 2:1 with 2 Kings 24:8-17. Who did Nebuchezzar carry away into captivity and who returned? Where in the land were they each going to return?
3. Read Leviticus 25:1-7; 26:27-35, 2 Chronicles 36:20-21, and Jerimiah 25:8-11. What were the Israelites commanded to do regarding the land? What were the consequences if they did not? What did the land enjoy during the 70 years of captivity? Why was this important?
4. Read 2 King 17. What happened to the Kingdom of Israel and why? What tribes were missing in the return to Jerusalem?
5. What does this reveal to you about the character of God? What warnings do you see for those who call themselves God's people today?
6. Read Ezra 2:1-2 with Ezra 1:11 & 3:2, Haggai 1:1, 1 Chronicles 3:10-19, Matthew 1:1 & 12, and Luke 3:23 & 27. Who are the leaders of the group that would be returning to rebuild the temple? What do these verses reveal about some of them? Why would it be important to the rest of the people returning to know that this group was also going with them?
7. Read Ezra 2:2b-63 with Ezra 1:5-6. What was the defining characteristic of those who returned to Jerusalem and how did those who did not return contribute to the efforts to rebuild the temple? Why do you think God chose to record the names and the numbers of those returning to rebuild the temple? What call has God placed on your heart and how will you answer the call?
8. Read Ezra 2:64-70 with Numbers 1:17-48. How many people returned to Jerusalem? How many men were counted in the first census taken by Moses after leaving Egypt? What truths do you see in the discrepancies of these numbers?
9. What things has God commanded that you or we at GracePoint have not obeyed? How do you justify this disobedience? What hope do you see in these passages? What can you or we at GracePoint do today to honor God in areas of past disobedience?
10. Read Ezra 2 & Revelation 20:11-15. Why do individuals matter to God? What is the most important book for your name to be written in? What are the consequences of your name not being found there? In your life, whose name is not written? What will you do with that reality?