

EZRA + NEHEMIAH

Restoring Foundations

EZRA + NEHEMIAH

Restoring Resolve

EZRA 4:1-24

The book of Ezra opens with a stirring account of God's providence and faithfulness to His covenant promises.

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Restoring Resolve: EZRA 4:1-24

- What Ezra chapter 2 reveals to us is that we are each counted, recognized and received by name!

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Restoring Resolve: EZRA 4:1-24

- What Ezra chapter 2 reveals to us is that we are each counted, recognized and received by name!
- Last week, in chapter 3, we saw this remnant showcase their love and loyalty to God by putting “first things first.”

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Restoring Resolve: EZRA 4:1-24

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Restoring Resolve

EZRA 4:1-24

EZRA 4:24

“Then work on the house of God in Jerusalem
ceased...”



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Restoring Resolve: EZRA 4:1-24



- Opposition and trouble will always be before the people of God.

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Restoring Resolve: EZRA 4:1-24

- Opposition and trouble will always be before the people of God.
- The events of everything happening in **Ezra chapters 1-3** (and **4:1-5**) take place around 536 B.C.

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Restoring Resolve: EZRA 4:1-24

Chapter 4 was intentionally put together thematically, rather than chronologically.

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Whether it was in their 70-year captivity, or in their troubles during the building of the Temple, God was present and faithful through it all.

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- Restoring Resolve Requires Steadfastness (vs. 1-5)

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

Steadfastness: “fixed in direction; steadily directed.”

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

“They approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers’ households, and said to them, ‘Let us build with you, for we, like you, seek your God; and we have been sacrificing to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here.’”

~ Ezra 4:2

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

“But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of father’s households of Israel said to them, ‘You have nothing in common with us building a house to our God; but we ourselves will together build to the LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia has commanded us.’”

~ Ezra 4:3

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

“Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and frightened them from building.”

~ Ezra 4:4

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

“The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel.”

~ 2 Kings 17:24

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

“They feared the LORD and served their own gods according to the custom of the nations from among whom they had been carried away into exile. To this day they do according to the earlier customs: they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances or the law, or the commandments which the LORD commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel.”

~ 2 Kings 17:33-34

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

They didn't say no and deny this "friendly" request because they were being mean or intolerant, it's because they were being faithful to God who is holy!

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

They didn't say no and deny this "friendly" request because they were being mean or intolerant, it's because they were being faithful to God who is holy!

- "You shall have no other gods before Me."

~ Exodus 20:3

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

Syncretism: a blend of one or more systems of thought.

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

And so this immediate response (*by Zerubbabel and Jeshua*) was one of steadfastness. It was a commitment and dedication to the holiness of God that nothing should tarnish or ruin His Name's sake.

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

“If men are not Christians until they are renewed after the image of Christ, and if the people of England, in general, are not so renewed, why do we term them so? The god of this world hath ‘long blinded their hearts’. Let us do nothing to increase their blindness; but rather recover them from that strong delusion, that they may no longer believe a lie.”

(John Wesley)

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

“And do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

~ James 4:4

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“And do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

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“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?”

~ 2 Corinthians 6:14

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

Did Jesus love and accept such people simply because He welcomed them with open arms? Or did Jesus love and accept such people because He wanted to expose them to the uncompromising truth of God's justice, mercy and grace?

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

“I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”

~ John 8:11

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

It would have been *unloving* if Jesus fellowshiped with sinners and acted as if everything they were doing was okay simply because “God is love”.

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RESTORING RESOLVE REQUIRES STEADFASTNESS

There is only one attribute given of God that is declared repeatedly in Scripture – “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty!”

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