

Restoring Foundations

Restoring Promise Part 1: Ezra 5:1-6:12

This Bible study lesson is developed to use in preparation for Pastor Jared's sermon on Ezra Chapter 5.

1. From Pastor Jared's sermon on Chapter 4, why is it important for us to be unified as we pursue God's mission for The Church?
2. Read Ezra 3:8-11 with Ezra 4:1-5 & 24. *Note: From the timeline provided by Dr. Gary Smith, Cyrus was king from 539 to 530 B.C. followed by Cambyses, who is not mentioned in the Bible, from 529 to 520 B.C. and then Darius from 520 to 486 B.C.* Approximately when was the foundation of the temple laid, when did the opposition to its reconstruction begin, and potentially how long was the work on the temple abandoned?
3. Read Ezra 5:1 with Haggai 1:1-11. What had the Israelites been concerned with instead of rebuilding God's Temple and what were the consequences of their failure to fulfill their God ordained mission? In verse 7 what does God tell them to do and why?
4. Read Ezra 5:2 with Haggai 1:12-15. How did Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the people respond to Haggai's message? How is Haggai's message to the people is different than his message to the leaders and what did God do to enable them to obey.
5. Read Matthew 28: 18-20 with John 17: 20-23 and Acts 1: 6-8. What is the God ordained mission of the church and of GracePoint? Do you think we at GracePoint have always done our best to fulfill in God's mission and how have the consequences of our failures been similar to those the Israelites experienced? What can we do today to more fully obey our calling?
6. Read Ezra 5:3-5 with Haggai 2:1-9. What happens as soon as they resumed construction of the temple? Do you think the leaders and people expected opposition again? How does God show he is with them and how does He encourage them to continue their work?
7. Read Ezra 5:6-17 with Zechariah 1:1-8. What was the content of the governor's message to King Darius and what does he ask the king to do? Why were the Israelites deported to Babylon in and why do you think they included this in their answer to the governor?
8. Read Haggai 2:10-19. What do these verses reveal about the people? In spite of their condition what does he say he will do if they obey him in the rebuilding of the temple? Do you think the value of our work for God depends more on our ability or our obedience?
9. Read Ezra 6:1-12 with Hebrews 11:1-2. What did the search of the archives reveal? What 4 things did King Darius order the governor to do and how does this show God's provision for His work? How do you personally need to obey and trust God in faith so that you can see him work in your life? Will you do it today?