

Restoring Foundations

Restoring Promise Part 1: Ezra 6:13-22

This Bible study lesson is developed to use in preparation for Pastor Jared's sermon on Ezra Chapter 6.

1. From Pastor Jared's sermon on Chapter 5, how can we move forward faithfully with God's plan despite opposition?
2. Read Ezra 6:11-14. How did the governor react to the king's decree? Who contributed to the rebuilding of the temple and what were their roles?
3. Read Psalm 22:28, Proverbs 8:15, Daniel 2:20-21, Isaiah 45:6-7, Romans 8:28, Romans 13:1, and 1 Timothy 2:1-3. What do these verses say about national leaders in relationship to God? Regardless of your political ideology, what should your attitude be toward the leaders of our nation and what should you do with respect to them? If God can use an unbelieving leader for His purposes, what can He do with a believer who sins?
4. Read Ezra 6:15 with Ezra 3:8-11 and Zechariah 4:6-9. According to Zechariah who would finish the construction of the temple and what would this show? How does he say it will be accomplished and why do you think Zerubbabel and Jeshua are no longer mentioned by name after the completion of the temple?
5. Read Ezra 6:16-18 with 1 Kings 8:62-63 and Numbers 18:1-7. Compare and contrast Solomon's original dedication to the one in Ezra. Why was it important for the priests and Levites to be properly installed at the dedication? Why is it important that we are properly instructed in the Word of God?
6. Read Ezra 6:19 & 22 and Exodus 12:1-20. What was the origin of the Passover and what would it mean to the Israelites to celebrate it again after 70 years of exile?
7. Read Ezra 6:20-21 with Isaiah 53:7, John 1:29, Matthew 26:2, John 19:36, Acts 12:4, Revelation 5:6-14, and 1 Corinthians 5:7. In Ezra, who was excluded from participating in the Passover? Who ultimately fulfilled the role of the Passover lamb? What is your response to the Lamb that was slain?
8. Read Acts 2:36-40 with 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Who will have eternal life through the Lamb of God and who will be excluded? With your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers in mind, what is the ultimate destination of many around us? What can you do today to make a difference in their eternal destination?
9. What was the most important outcome of completing the temple? Should we view our church building in the same way that the Israelites viewed the temple, why or why not? What work of God have we left undone at GracePoint?