

Series: The Exile & God's Restoration

Sunday, October 26.

1. W - HEARTS SET ON PRAISING GOD

(Ezra 3; See also Exodus 20:24-25)

- Before rebuilding walls or homes, the people rebuilt the altar and began to worship. They praised God even while surrounded by ruins and fear, declaring His goodness and steadfast love. True renewal begins when we put worship first — even before comfort or certainty.
- What would it look like for you to make worship your first priority this week?

NOTES:

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2. W - THE ENEMY'S OPPOSITION

(Ezra 3:3; Ezra 4; see also 2 Corinthians 2:11)

- As soon as God's people began to build, opposition arose — through fear, pretense / false friendship, discouragement, bribery, and accusation. Yet the work of God is never stopped by the enemy's schemes for long. Expect resistance when you obey God, but don't let it silence your faith. Opposition may confirm that you're on the right path, doing the Lord's work.
- How can you stay faithful when discouragement or spiritual resistance comes?

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Turn page over for #3

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3. GOD'S W..... HAND – DIVINE PROVISION & VICTORY

(Ezra 5-6; see also Haggai 1:7-8; 2:3-4,9; Zechariah 4:6,8-10; Romans 8:3)

- When the work had stalled for sixteen years, God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to reignite courage in the hearts of Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people. As they resumed the building, God also turned the heart of King Darius, who protected their efforts and provided resources from the royal treasury. Empowered by God's Spirit and strengthened by His Word, Zerubbabel and the returning exiles completed the temple, and joy once again filled Jerusalem. God's hand works through His Spirit, His Word, and His people. When we trust and obey, He supplies what's needed to finish His work.
- Where might God be inviting you to pick up the tools again and trust Him to complete what He began?

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This Week's Application: Worship when it's hard. Stand firm when it's opposed. Keep building in faith. The same God who strengthened Zerubbabel and His people will strengthen you to finish the work He's given you.

Prayer: Lord, help me to worship You first, stand firm through every trial, and keep building even when the work feels slow or hard. By Your Spirit, strengthen my hands and heart to finish what You've begun. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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