

THE REBUILDERS

HAGGAI & ZECHARIAH

EZRA & NEHEMIAH

In our intro last week, we learned that the first captives left Babylon 75 years before Ezra and then 13 years later, Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem.

Chapters 1 thru 6 of Ezra: Tells the story **from Cyrus**, who conquered Babylon and freed the Jews to return and rebuild the Temple of their God, – to the arrival of Ezra.

During that time:

The rebuilders encountered “the adversaries” (4:1).

You should know that this is how the devil works. These are his method! This is how he will attack YOU!

First: They want to join with them. Which would result in syncretism - a mixing of pagan with true worship of Yahweh.

Second: They “tried to discourage them” (4:4).

Third: They “hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose” (4:4). Maybe these counselors were ancient lawyers - who were bringing frivolous lawsuits.

Fourth: They accuse. These adversaries “wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. (4:6) I wonder what it said??

Fifth: Then later in during the reign of Artaxerxes (that would be Esther’s son or stepson), they wrote a letter (4:9-16) Basically - the letter says that Jerusalem is a rebellious and evil city.” (It WAS!) It warns the king that if this city wall is completed - it’s citizens will not pay taxes. It warns the King that he will loose control over “the region beyond the River” if this city is rebuilt. And of course, the writers of the letter claim that they have the Kings’s best interest at heart “because we receive support from the palace.”

So - The Devil will bring up your past!! How about my past??

RESULT - King Artaxerxes (he must have been the stepson, and not the son of Esther) orders the work stopped.

Ezra - a priest, a scribe - "Return to the LAW"

Nehemiah - governor - appointed by the King.

Jeshua - High Priest

During the reign of Darius:

Haggai and Zechariah being to prophesy. This Temple WILL be built!! (Ezr 5:1-2)

Their preaching stirs the hearts of the people.

Zerubbabel rose up and began to build the house of God.

This doesn't make the governor of the region very happy. They rush over and demand to know, "Who has commanded you to build this temple and finish this wall?" (5:3)

Don't be surprised if your ministry in the last days - is illegal!

But the builders won't stop.

ANOTHER LETTER TO THE KING:

This time to King Darius.

They inform the King of what's going on, AND they tell him what the builders say, when asked why they are doing this against the command of Artaxerxes.

Ezra 5:11-17 "And thus they returned us an answer, saying: **"We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth**, and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and completed. 12 "But because our fathers provoked the God of heaven to wrath, He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and carried the people away to Babylon. (THE CONFESSION) 13

"However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, **King Cyrus issued a decree to build this house of God.** 14 "Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple that was in Jerusalem and carried into the temple of Babylon-- those King Cyrus took from the temple of Babylon, and they were given to one named Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor. 15 "And he said to him, 'Take these articles; go, carry them to the temple site that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its former site.' THEY TELL OF CYRUS DECREE 16 "Then the same Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jerusalem; but from that time even until now it has been under construction, and it is not finished." THEY GIVE THE HISTORY SINCE THAT DECREE 17

Now therefore, if it seems good to the king, let a search be made in the king's treasure house, which is there in Babylon, whether it is so that a decree was issued by King Cyrus to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send us his pleasure concerning this matter. THEY ASK FOR A SEARCH OF THE RECORDS, AND THEY ASK TO KNOW THE KING'S PLEASURE. (Ezr 5:11 NKJ)

RESULT: A search of the archives was made. The decree of Cyrus was found.

Darius order the Temple finished! With no more interference.

The Temple is finished just in time to celebrate The Passover.

Ezra 6:21 is interesting -

WE WILL COME BACK TO EZRA AND NEHEMIAH.

Don't you want to know WHAT Haggai and Zechariah said to the returnees
- to turn them into builders.

Most of you were raised in church. You heard Bible stories.
You learned that God exists, and that He gave His own Son - for you.

But somewhere between your childhood in church - many of you bogged down.
You ceased the building.
Some of you got really lost - (Like ME).

So we need a Haggai message:

Haggai 2:1 In the seventh month, on the twenty-first of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying:

2 "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying:

3 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?'

4 'Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and **work; for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts.**

5 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so **My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!**

6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts: '**Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land;**

7 'and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to **the Desire of All Nations,** and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.

8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts.

9 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And **in this place I will give peace,**' says the LORD of hosts."

10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,

11 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Now, ask the priests concerning the law, saying,

12 "If one carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and with the edge he touches bread or stew, wine or oil, or any food, will it become holy?'" Then the priests answered and said, "No."

13 And Haggai said, "If one who is **unclean** because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?" So the priests answered and said, "It shall be unclean."

14 Then Haggai answered and said, "'**So is this people, and so is this nation before Me,**' says the LORD, '**and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.**

15 'And now, carefully consider from this day forward: from before stone was laid upon stone in the temple of the LORD—

YOU WERE CURSED

16 'since those days, when one came to a heap of twenty ephahs, there were but ten; when one came to the wine vat to draw out fifty baths from the press, there were but twenty.

17 **'I struck you** with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not turn to Me,' says the LORD.

NOW YOU WILL BE BLESSED!

18 'Consider now **from this day forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid-- consider it:**

19 'Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But **from this day I will bless you.**"

20 And again the word of the LORD came to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying,

21 "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: **'I will shake heaven and earth.**

22 **I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother.**

THIS IS SECOND COMING LANGUAGE

23 'In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, **'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,'** says the LORD, **'and will make you like a signet ring;** for I have chosen you,' says the LORD of hosts."

ZERUBBABEL IS A TYPE OF CHRIST - THE TRUE BUILDER OF THE TEMPLE OF GOD.

I would be encouraged by such a message!

REMEMBER: - YOU are the Temple of the LORD!

II Peter 2:5 **"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house,** a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, 'Behold I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.'"

THE MESSAGE OF ZECHARIAH

1:3 **"Return to Me,"** says the LORD of hosts, **"and I will return to you."**

1:4 Don't be like your fathers - who rebelled and did not listen.

1:6 Didn't all my warnings come to pass?

1:6 The people agree that the LORD has been just with them.

THE VISION OF THE FOUR HORSES

I'm not going to try to interpret these prophecies, until the LORD actually explains to me their meaning. All I really understand is that the LORD has angels who move over the earth and who see everything that happens on the earth.

A PROMISE

1:14 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal. I am exceedingly angry with the nations are ease; for I was a little angry, And they helped--but with

evil intent.” (Babylon “helped” the LORD to discipline Judah.)

Therefore thus says the LORD: ‘I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; **My house shall be built** in it,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘And **a surveyor’s line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.**’”

1:17 “**My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; The LORD will again comfort Zion, and will again choose Jerusalem**”

1:18 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were **four horns**. (Daniel 8)

COMMENT: Up to this point Egypt, Assyria, Babylon and Medo-Persia have conquered or overpowered Israel.) But this prophecy may have a dual application to the last days. In the last days there will again be 4 horns.

19 And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" So he answered me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

20 Then the LORD showed me **four craftsmen**.

21 And I said, "What are these coming to do?" So he said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but **the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.**" (Zec 1:18-21 NKJ)

Zechariah 2:1 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, **a man with a measuring line** in his hand.

2 So I said, "Where are you going?" And he said to me, "**To measure Jerusalem**, to see what is its width and what is its length."

COMMENT: Revelation chapter 11. Again we see a man with a measuring line.

3 And there was the angel who talked with me, going out; and another angel was coming out to meet him,

4 who said to him, "Run, speak to this young man, saying: 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls, because of the multitude of men and livestock in it.

5 'For I,' says the LORD, 'will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.'"

6 "Up, up! **Flee from the land of the north,**" says the LORD; "for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven," says the LORD.

7 "**Up, Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.**"

REFERENCE: Revelation 18:1-4 "Come out of her my people."

8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; **for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.**

9 "For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me.

10 "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD.

11 "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people.
COMMENT: HERE IS YOUR 8TH Day - Gentiles coming to the LORD.

And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.
12 "And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

13 "Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!"
(Zec 2:1-13 NKJ)

ZECHARIAH CHAPTER THREE

1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. (SATAN IS ALWAYS THE ACCUSER - WHY?- BECAUSE HE WANTS TO DESTROY YOU!)

2 And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

COMMENT: Joshua stands for all of Jerusalem, the people of God.)

3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

4 Then He (the Angel of the LORD) answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes."

5 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

6 Then the Angel of the LORD admonished Joshua, saying,

7 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here.'

HERE WE SEE THE FUTURE PRIESTHOOD, WHO WILL JUDGE HIS HOUSE.

8 'Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.

Isaiah 66:18-21 (After the destruction of v. 15-17) For I know their works and their thoughts: the time cometh, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and shall see my glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send such as escape of them (those raised first) unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brethren out of all the nations for an oblation unto Jehovah, upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith Jehovah, as the children of Israel bring their oblation in a clean vessel into the house of Jehovah. And of them also will I take for priests and for Levites, saith Jehovah. (ASV)

9 For behold, **the stone** That I have laid before Joshua: **Upon the stone are seven eyes.** Behold, I will engrave its inscription,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'And **I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.**

COMMENT: Is this the day that Christ died for the sins of Jerusalem, or the Day that fire cleanses the earth at the Gog/Magog battle, or is this the final Lake of Fire - which truly will consume all evil.

10 In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree.'"

(Zec 3:1 NKJ)

ZECHARIAH CHAPTER FOUR

NKJ Zechariah 4:1 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep.

2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is **a lampstand of solid gold** with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand **seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps.**

3 "Two olive trees (BRANCES) are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."

OLIVE BRANCH
ANOINTED ONE
COVERING CHERUB

OLIVE BRANCH
ANOINTED ONE
COVERING CHERUB

GOLDEN BOWL
YESHUA MESSIAH

PIPE PIPE PIPE PIPE PIPE PIPE PIPE

7 Angels to the seven churches
The seven eyes & the seven horns.

LAMP LAMP LAMP LAMP LAMP LAMP LAMP

The seven churches.

4 So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?"

5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: **Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.**

7 `Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth **the capstone** (Cornerstone) With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"

REFERENCE: Zech 14:4, and Isa 40:4/Luke 3:5 "Every Valley shall be exalted, and every Mt. made low.

8 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

9 "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

COMMENT: Zechariah spoke of himself (a sign to them that he was a true prophet), but THE completion of the Millennial Temple will be a sign for us, that our LORD has spoken truth. Here Zerubbabel is a type of Christ - the True Builder.

10 For who has despised the day of small things? For **these seven rejoice to see** The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. **They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."**

REFERENCE: Look back at Zech 3:9, and forward to Rev.

Revelation 5:6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood **a Lamb** as though it had been slain, **having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.** (Rev 5:6 NKJ)

11 Then I answered and said to him, "What are **these two olive trees**-- at the right of the lampstand and at its left?"

12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these **two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?**"

13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

14 So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth." (Zec 3:9-14 NKJ)