

Ezra-Nehemiah Part 4

Major Theme

God blesses Kingdom work

Ezra 5:1-5 Opposition in the Time of Darius

- Work resumes because the people repent and obey the Word of God.
- Haggai 1
- God protects His people from the opposition.
 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. // Matthew 6:33

Ezra 5:6-17 - Letter to Darius

- “Ezra sets these two letters, which have so much in common, side by side, the later one first, in order to say to his generation, struggling to rebuild city and wall, that God will make them victorious, just as He caused the effort to rebuild the temple to succeed.” // James Hamilton Jr - Exalting Jesus in Ezra-Nehemiah
- Servants of the God of heaven and earth
 - gods/deities in the ancient world were often viewed as having provincial rule or dominion.
 - The God of Israel has a territory - heaven and earth.
- So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. // Isaiah 55:11

Ezra 6:1-12 - Decrees of Cyrus and Darius

- The opponents to the rebuilding of the temple succeeded only in getting the work financed. // James Hamilton Jr - Exalting Jesus in Ezra-Nehemiah
- And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. // Romans 8:28
- The opponents must leave (v6)
- The opponents must allow the Temple to be rebuilt (v7)
- The opponents must pay for the construction and worship (v8-9)
- Darius wants to make sure the local gods of the people he has conquered do not get angry (v10-12)

Ezra 6:13-22 - The Temple and Passover

- There is joy in worship and forgiveness
- In Joshua 5, the people of Israel enter Canaan and have their first Passover in the Promised Land.
- Non-Israelites are welcome to eat the Passover and have their sins forgiven - as long as they have become worshippers of God.