

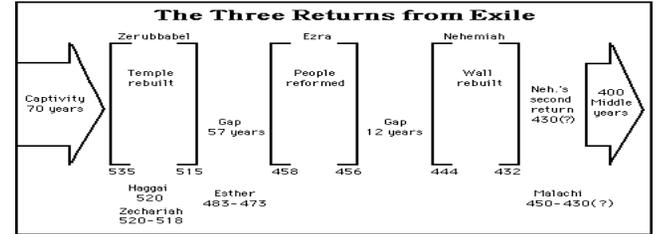
WHO'S COMING WITH US?

"Faithful to Fulfill: A Study of God as Revealed in Post-Exilic Scripture"

Ezra 2:1-35 / Part 2 / Pastor Matthew Jones

www.delreychurch.com

HISTORY OF POST-EXILIC ISRAEL IN SCRIPTURE



Providence and Sovereigns (Ezra 1)

Province and Sons (Ezra 2:1-35)

Priests and Servants (Ezra 2:36-58)

Purity and Separation (Ezra 2:59-63)

Population and Sacrifice (Ezra 2:64-70)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. The book of Ezra covers the history of Israel's return to the promised land after exile. Last week in our questions, we reflected on why Israel was exiled to begin with and the faithfulness of God to the children of Abraham in bringing them back to the land. With this in mind, discuss the fears of the return back to Israel for this generation of exilic Israelites. What temptations would they have encountered for staying put and not going back? Try to place yourself in the historical moment and reflect on your own anxieties and sins; how might you personally have wrestled with the news of going back and the biblical significance of God's covenant with your people and your responsibility in it?
2. In our study this Lord's day we saw that many Israelites did not want to go back. In the census details of chapter 1-2 we find that only a minority were willing to sacrifice for mission to be in the location of the land. With this in mind, discuss how mission today for Christ's church requires a willingness to sacrifice to be in a given place (in our case Los Angeles). What temptations do we as active disciples at DRC face to leave the area or even the state? As well, in the midst of a consumerist culture, what temptations might church attenders face in small hard-working churches like ours to find bigger or more accommodating places of worship that provide more attractive spiritual amenities? How do we as faithful disciples resist consumerism and comfort to stay on mission and enjoy the humble means of grace given to the church for making disciples?
3. In Ezra 2, we read a long list of names that are foreign to us, but of course they were known to their community and ultimately to God who called them. If you were making your own spiritual census of the names of people who have impacted your life positively for Christ, drawing you to the gospel and repentance, who would you list (not religious celebrities like Bible teachers on the radio, YouTube, or authors, but people you personally know) and why?
4. In Ezra 1-2, we see God was stirring in the hearts of the people and even the pagan ruler Cyrus to accomplish His will. In your own life, what is your prayer that God would stir in you to energize you in a particular area of personal, relational, or social sanctification for God's mission and glory? Share.