



DIGGING DEEPER

Ezra 1-2 – Return

PLEASE READ – Ezra 1-2

SUMMARY...

Under the sovereign hand of the Lord, the people of God **return** from Exile in Babylon in order to rebuild the temple and recommit their lives to worshipping him.

GETTING STARTED

Why did God's people end up in exile? (See 2 Chronicles 36v15-19)

What promise did God make through Jeremiah concerning their return? (See Jeremiah 29v10-11)

1) GOD ON THE MOVE FOR... HIS PEOPLE (Chapter 1)

What is the key phrase in Ezra 1v1 that shows God is behind all these events?

What do we learn about...

- God's faithfulness
- God's sovereignty
- God's generosity

How does these truths keep us humble when things go well?

How does these truths encourage us when things don't go well?

In what ways do these characteristics come to the fore at the cross?

Why is the focus on restoring the temple rather than rebuilding the city? (v1-6)

Why does the writer include the list of items belonging to the temple? (v9-10)

How committed are we to corporate worship? What things distract us from engaging fully with the Lord and his people when we meet together?

2) PEOPLE ON THE MOVE FOR... THEIR GOD (Chapter 2)

Why do you think the author records all the names & job descriptions in chapter 2?

Why do we need to know about those who can't prove their lineage? (v61-63)

Why is purity so important? (See also Mt 5v17-18) What can we learn from this account of God's people at their best?

What does it look like for you to renew your commitment to...

- Sunday Gathering
- Prayer
- Small Groups
- The Lord's Day
- Fighting sin
- Personal evangelism

Meditate on the words of the Jesus below...

Matthew 5v17-18: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.