



DIGGING DEEPER

Ezra 5-6 – Rejoice

PLEASE READ – Ezra 5-6

SUMMARY...

Summary – The building program has stalled due to opposition. God speaks again through his prophets (Haggai and Zechariah) and the people go back to work. The temple is completed in 515BC and the people **rejoice** as they recall everything that the Lord has done for them

GETTING STARTED

Why did God's people return to Jerusalem?

What happened to the building project at the end of chapter 4? Why?

1) THE WORD OF THE LORD... RESTORES AND RENEWS

Which 2 characters get the work restarted in chapter 5? Who are they and what do they do?

Have a look at the heart of Haggai's sermon (Haggai 1v13-14). Why is this simple message so powerful given the context and opposition they were facing?

What place does the ministry of God's word have in kingdom building today? How can we ensure this is not lost?

How can we encourage those who preach and teach God's word?

2) THE HAND OF THE LORD... PROTECTS AND PROVIDES

What do you notice in these chapters about the way God protects and provides for his people? Focus particularly on the decree of Darius in chapter 6v1-12...

What is the result of these interventions? (6v13-15)

What do we need to remember when we face opposition to Kingdom building?

Talk about the different ways God's promise in Rom 8v31-32 comforts you and encourages you...

3) THE JOY OF THE LORD... FILLS AND OVERFLOWS

What leads to the celebrations and rejoicing we read about in 6v16 and 6v22?

Why do you think the Passover is so prominent in this final section?

Is the joy of knowing Jesus visible in your life? Discuss...

How do we obey Paul's command in Philippians 4v4?

Meditate on the words of Paul below...

Philippians 4v4: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!