Building for God

Pembroke Bible Chapel D Axford – Mar 22, 2009 Series No. DA-EZRA-01

Released From Captivity Ezra 1-2

I. THE PROMISE

God keeps His promises (Ezra 1:1a; Jer.25:12; 29:10).

II. THE PLAN

The Lord anointed a pagan king to release His people from captivity (*Ezra 1:1b; Is.44:28; 45:1-7*).

III. THE PROCLAMATION

King Cyrus sent a written proclamation throughout his kingdom freeing the Jews to go to Jerusalem and build a house for their God (*Ezra 1:1c-4*).

IV. THE PROVISION

Funding for the project came from the people and from the king's treasury and amounted to some 300 million dollars in gold (*Ezra 1:4-11; 2:69; 6:4-5*).

V. THE PARTICIPANTS

Many, about 50,000, chose to return to their homeland but many remained in Babylon/Persia (*Ezra 1:5; 2:1-68*).

These people were led by Zerubbabel in the long and difficult task to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

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ApplicationThe believer in Jesus has been released from bondage

This is not a question of justification

The penalty for your sins has been paid by Jesus blood Your sins – past present & future have been atoned for

Has all to do with the sin nature – deliverance from yourself

The real question is how are you delivered from this?

Your sin nature is dealt with by the cross not the blood!

Your old self was crucified with Christ on the cross Not annihilated but crucified - put to death on His cross When saved you were positioned by God in Christ Dead, buried, raised, ascended, and seated in Heaven

The believer is to take up his cross daily (Luke 9:23)

This cross is not primarily your trials and tribulations
It is Calvary – where you were crucified with Christ
It is this cross which delivers you from your sinful self
It is a daily, moment by moment, death to self
Counting your own desires and wishes dead but alive to him
Yielding to His Spirit within

Dead to the world and the world is dead to us – Gal.6:14

This is true deliverance from captivity

The proclamation of your emancipation has been made

The message = know/believe/present yourself to Him

Why live the miserable Romans 7 existence?

You have been joined to another – even Christ (Rom.7:4)

Like the captives who took Cyrus at his word and returned

What about you today?

Have you experienced this deliverance from yourself? From your sin nature?

The cross of Christ provides that deliverance.

Don't be like Patty Hearst

So accustomed to enemy territory that you can't see where you are – The Stockholm Syndrome?

"But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Galatians 6:14