

Rebuilding What Was Lost
The Book of Ezra-Nehemiah



Rebuilding What Was Lost

- *A Little Bit of Background*
- *The Return*
- *Laying the Foundation*
- *Letters to Kings*
- *The Return of the Heroes*
- *After “The End” (part 2)*



After “The End”

- Ezra the Scribe has come back to Jerusalem
 - Everyone was doing it right at the end of Chapter 8
 - Please read Ezra 9:1-2
 - What had God specifically said to His people when they entered Canaan way back in Deuteronomy 7:1-4?
 - How closely does Ezra 9:1-2 parallel Deuteronomy 7:1-4, from centuries earlier?
 - So how could they have screwed this up?
 - How can we apply that within our own contexts today?



After “The End”

- Ezra the Scribe has come back to Jerusalem
 - Everyone was doing it right at the end of Chapter 8
 - Please read Ezra 9:1-2
 - What was Ezra's reaction in Ezra 9:3?
 - Why did he respond this way?
(in particular, why was he so *personally* shocked and devastated by their actions?)



After “The End”



Funky little teaching moment...

- Quick farming quiz...
 - Can you grow corn by planting rutabagas?
 - Why not?
 - If you want to grow corn, you should plant corn
 - Can you grow holiness by planting unholiness?
 - Why not?
 - If you want to grow holiness, you should plant...?
 - How or why might people try to do it some other way...?



After “The End”

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 - Please read Ezra 9:1-2
 - What was Ezra's reaction in Ezra 9:3-4?
 - Why did he respond this way?
 - How did *others* respond to his response in 9:4? (and what does that suggest about the importance of dealing with visible sin in such a visible way sometimes?)

(NOTE: How does any of this relate to what Isaiah had written 300 years earlier in Isaiah 66:1-2? Or, for that matter, to what he then wrote in Isaiah 66:3-4?)

- This is precisely what got them in trouble in the first place —so how could the people have forgotten (or at least laid aside) all of that, even as they rebuilt their Temple?



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 - Please read Ezra 9:1-2
 - What was Ezra's reaction in Ezra 9:3-4?
 - Why did he respond this way?
 - How did *others* respond to his response in 9:4?
 - How do you think that the *rest* of the people would have responded to these responses?



After “The End”

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 - Please read Ezra 9:1-2
 - What was Ezra's reaction in Ezra 9:3-4?
 - How did Ezra pray in Ezra 9:5-7?
 - Why would he pray this way—wasn't the whole point that *he* had been trying to do the right thing and that it was the *other* group that was sinning?
 - Is it *healthy* to pray this way? Why or why not?
 - What does it do to your self-perception when you do?
 - What can it do to your self-perception when you don't?



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 - What was Ezra's reaction in Ezra 9:3-4?
 - How did Ezra pray in Ezra 9:5-7?
 - Please read Ezra 9:8-9
 - How do you read this?
 - Is this a light of hope to cling to in the darkness?
 - Is this a light of hope to cling to in the darkness that we've now just foolishly thrown away?
 - Why would we ever do that?

