



THE EXILE - PART 4

POST-EXILE

MARCH 28

ALLAN FULLER

EZRA 1:1-2, EZRA 3:1-6, EZRA 3:7-12, HAGGAI 1:1-9,
EZRA 6:13-15, NEHEMIAH 3, NEHEMIAH 4:1-3, 13-18

The people of God were promised hope and comfort while they were in exile. That’s a beautiful thing... but what about getting out!? Hope can last for awhile - but what about restoration? What about things getting fixed? After many years, about 50,000 people returned to Jerusalem to rebuild their broken city. They began with the altar (the place where sin is dealt with), then the temple (where people experienced fellowship with God), and finally they completed the wall around the city (a symbol of significance in ancient cities). God offers restoration - but it often doesn’t look the way we expect.

NOTES:

REFLECTION:

ASK QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever experienced a time where your sin was “dealt with”? Do your past mistakes just fade into history? Or have you ever had to face them head on?
- Can you think of a time in your past when you were thriving in your relationship with God? Are you trying to recreate that? Or are you seeking new experiences with him?
- Think of a person you know personally who has “worldly significance”. Can you think of someone who’s living a life of “spiritual significance”? Which do you seek?
- However you would define “family” at this stage of your life... can you think of a spiritually significant adventure that you could share with your family?
- Put yourself in 2000-year-old, Jewish shoes... do you think you would have seen Jesus for who he was? Or might you have missed him because you were expecting something different?
- What about today?

RESOURCES:

“What the Bible is All About” by Henrietta Mears (it’s a great overview of the biblical story)
“The Family Man” (2000 movie - success gets redefined for Jack Campbell)