

From Ruin to Resurrection

Proclamation Bible Study; Week of Sunday, October 20, 2019; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: Israel was judged for their sin and seemingly ruined when they were sent into exile. In fulfillment of prophecy, God resurrected His people by sending them back to the land and restoring the temple and city. This pattern points us forward to a greater restoration in Jesus Christ.

I. Overview of Israel's History

- A. In Genesis 1-3, a pattern is established that includes: God's command, man's sin, exile from God's presence and God's land, and a future promise of restoration. How do you see this pattern played out in Genesis 4-9 with Noah and the flood? How do you see it played out in the rest of the O.T.?
- B. After the Exodus, God gave clear commands that he expected the Israelites to obey, like loving the one true God (Deut. 6:4), not intermarrying with pagan people (Deut. 7:1-4) and worshipping in the one true temple (Deut. 12:1-7). Can you think of times in Israel's history when they disobeyed these commands?
- C. We're all just as sinful as the Israelites. In what areas of your life are you prone to break God's commands over and over again? How does this highlight the glory of God's patience and mercy to us in Christ?

II. Overview of Ezra and Nehemiah

- A. Who exactly is Ezra (Ezra 7:6)? Who exactly is Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:11-2:1; 5:14)? What would you say are the main themes in each of these books? What important ideas stand out to you?
- B. List some of the ways in which knowing Israel's history is critical to understanding Ezra and Nehemiah. What part of Israel's history and background is most helpful to you personally?
- C. Read 2 Chronicles 36:11-21. In what ways do you see the pattern of God's command, man's sin, and exile from God's land. In what ways is 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 the fulfillment of God's promise of restoration?
- D. How does the reality of sin at the end of Ezra (9:1-10:44) and Nehemiah (13:1-31) help point us forward to a better temple and a greater city? What N.T. passages are most helpful with regard to these 2 ideas?

III. Overview of Redemptive History

- A. How is Jesus' interaction on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-49) helpful as you think about interpreting both Ezra and Nehemiah? How are His statements in vv.25-27 and vv.44-47 particularly beneficial?
- B. How does the idea of heaven, the Celestial City and the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-22:5) help to motivate you during the trials and tribulations of everyday life?
- C. What intimidates you the most about studying O.T. books like Ezra and Nehemiah? What are some practical things that you can do to help conquer those fears?