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### Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

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### Ezra

Ezra 1 Vss 1-11 the first year of King Cyrus of Persia fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah, The Lord stirred his heart, god has stirred my heart to rebuild the temple, then God stirred the hearts of the Levites and priests, presented the articles taken by Nebuchaddnezzar to Shezzbazzar

Commentary: it did not take long. In the first year, Cyrus returns an expedition to Judah to rebuild His temple.

C2 1 Vss 1- 70. Exiles returning, leaders Zerebbabel, Jeshia, Nehemiah...others, several families and priests and Levites return, temple servants, those who couldn't prove what family they belonged to, 42360 returned in addition to others, the leaders gave gifts to begin building the temple.

Commentary: The return is led by spiritual leaders. Ironically, they were led into captivity by wayward monarchs, but they would return with spiritual leaders. What a demonstration of what's needed for any people, nation, or family. There must be a spiritual basis.

5/12

C3-5vss1-13. The people after settling met in Jerusalem with a unified front, they were

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afraid but built the altar in its original location,  
They celebrated the Festival of Shelters, and gave offerings as required by Law, the hired masons, the workers were the prime who returned including priests and Levites, when they completed the foundation the priests put their robes on, the Levites sang, joyful shouting and weeping

Commentary: Any time that people come together with all in common and one mind it is an unstoppable alliance in God's economy. When a foundation is laid, it's time to rejoice. Everyone including priests work in a reclamation project. There something about building from scratch that helps to be cautious with whatever is being built.

C4 1-24 their enemies offered to help them with the work, they refused them, then the residents hired people to bribe the king, the wrote a letter to Artaxerxes warning him to look into history records and find that Jerusalem is a hotbed of insurrection, he did search the record and stopped the building unto the 2 year of Darius of Persia

Commentary: What a lesson we see here where your enemy will try to help you so he can hurt you. Satan told Jesus turn these stones to bread if you are the son of God (Matthew 3:1-4). Nevertheless, they refused. So Satan went to another tactic. The enemy can be an obstacle.

C5 1-17

Haggai and Zechariah prophesy over them, they begin rebuilding, Govenor Tattanaï ask why they started who gave them permission, he reported to Darius and asked him to search the records of king Cyrus

Commentary: Two prophets tell the people to go to work. There is declaration and affirmation. Look for both of them. Then there is acceleration of God's plan. Again the people are questioned but this time they are ready. They have an answer.

5/13

C6-8

C6 Vss 1-22. Darius checks records and tell Gov Tattenai not to disturb the construction, and help them build, pay the full cost with my taxes, persons violating will have their house turned to rubble, Jewish elders greatly encouraged by Haggai and Zechariah, temple completed in 6th year of Darius, they celebrated Passover,

Commentary: The key to any effort concerning kingdom building is that it is God's program. The Jews given inspiration from the prophets overcame the obstacle. And believers do likewise.

C7 Vss 1-28 years later Ezra the scribe, others traveled with him to Jerusalem, Artaxerxes gives letter allowing for any to return, inquire of your God, and take silver and gold that we are presenting as an offering to God, use donations for sacrifices, any left over use to.

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The will of layout God, the decree sent to all the treasurers, Ezra to use wisdom to appoint judges/magistrates, praise The Lord Ezra says,

Commentary: Just an amazing unfolding. This demonstrates how God can touch authorities hearts and have them pour into God's work. This is different than those who were trying to destroy the work.

C8 Vss 1- 36. Family leaders who returned during the reign of Artexerxes, 15 families, not one Levite, asked for persons to minister in the temple, sent Sherebiah, a Levite, I gave orders for people to fast, The Lord give us safe travels, the governors cooperated

Commentary: Ezra knew they must have persons designated to minister according to the Law.

C9-Nehemiah 1

C9 vss 1-15 Many of the people including priests and Levites have married women of the land, Ezra tore his clothes, and prayed, kings, priests and people were in captivity because of their conducted, The Lord touch the hearts of the kings of Persia and allowed them to rebuild, you told us when we entered the land (historical) not to marry their woman and don't give our sons to their daughters.

Commentary: It's amazing how ruts stay with us. Already the people have dishonored God, but it shows how important it is to have courageous leadership. Ezra coils have done the same thing. But he stood.

C10 Vss 1-44 Ezra on his face and praying, the people repent, Schecaniah proclaims that everyone is to divorce their pagan wives and get rid of the children. All agree except for two leaders, everyone was guilty priests Levites singers gatekeepers

Commentary: What a controversy this text causes where they are to rid themselves of these wives. Juxtapose this with Paul telling believers to stay with their unbelieving spouses. In this case they were to divorce.

Here's the difference. Pagans were already married to pagans in Corinth. Whereas the Jews already knew the command not to marry the inhabitants. So it's an apples and orange comparison.

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