



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

NINILCHIK

SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2023

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Ezra 5:1-17

In 1989, our dear shepherd at that time, Pastor Ron Blough, initiated our reading through a portion of the 66 books of the Bible as a congregation, typically a chapter each Sunday. Since then, we have been through the entire Bible one full time and are currently in Ezra, the 15th book of the Bible.



TODAY'S SERVICE



1. Hymn #102 - "I Stand Amazed in the Presence"
 2. Opening Prayer & Announcements
 - a. CBC Bylaws Reading
 3. Hymn #161 - "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"
 4. Hymn #141 - "He Hideth My Soul"
 5. Hymn #116 - "The Wonder of It All"
 6. Reading: **Bro. Larry C.**
 7. **Message:** "Renewed Zeal for Work that's Real"
 8. Hymn #119 - "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
 9. Benediction
 10. Fellowship Meal
(No Evening Service)
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RENEWED ZEAL *for* WORK *that's* REAL

Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak arose and began to rebuild the house of God that is in Jerusalem, and the prophets of God were with them, supporting them. EZRA 5:2, ESV

I. *the* BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- A. Destruction of *the* Temple, 586 BC**
- B. Decree of Cyrus to Rebuild, 536 BC**
- C. Darius' 6th Year, Finished, 516 BC**

II. *the* BREAKDOWN of *the* CHAPTER

- A. Prophets Inspire, vv1-2**
- B. Persian Authorities Inquire, vv3-17**
 - 1. require information of the work, vv3-5
 - 2. request for Darius to research records, vv6-17

Book of Ezra

*National Restoration
under Zerubbabel*

Return to Land, 1-2

Rebuilding *the* Temple, 3

Resisting *the* Enemy, 4-6

*Spiritual Reformation
under Ezra*

Ezra Comes to *the* Land, 7-8

Ezra Confesses Sins, 9

Ezra Cleanses Nation, 10

III. *the* BLESSINGS EMPHASIZED *from* OUR TEXT

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, Hebrews 1:1, ESV

A. Practical Gospel Illustrations & Applications

- 1. the prophets speak
 - a. Hebrews 4:12
 - encouragement
 - empowerment
 - endurance
- 2. the personal support
 - a. Hebrews 10:24-25
 - gospel witness (love); John 13:35
 - good works; Eph 2:10
- 3. the prudent stance
 - a. expect opposition
 - b. embrace opportunity to trust Christ
 - c. employ & exercise the truths above (points 1 & 2)

QUOTE of the WEEK

In the early dawn of Christian history, there was a preparation of the church before it received an increase. Look at the obedient disciples sitting in the upper room, waiting with anxious hope; every heart there had been ploughed with anguish by the death of the Lord, each one was intent to receive the promised boon of the Spirit. There, with one heart and one mind, they tarried, but not without wrestling prayer, and so the Comforter was given, and three thousand souls were given also.

The like living zeal and vehement desire have always been perceptible in the church of God before any season of refreshing. Think not that Luther was the only man that wrought the Reformation. There were hundreds who sighed and cried in secret in the cottages of the Black Forest, in the homes of Germany, and on the hills of Switzerland. There were hearts breaking for the Lord's appearing in strange places, they might have been found in the palaces of Spain, in the dungeons of the Inquisition, among the canals of Holland, and the green lanes of England. Women, as they hid their Bibles, lest their lives should be forfeited, cried out in spirit, "O God, how long?" There were pains as of a woman in travail, in secret places there were tears and bitter lamentations, on the high places of the field there were mighty strivings of spirit, and so at length there came that grand convulsion which made the Vatican to rock and reel from its foundation to its pinnacle. There has been evermore in the history of the church the travail before there has been the result.

And this, dear friends, while it is true on the large scale, is true also in every individual case. A man with no sensibility or compassion for other men's souls, may accidentally be the means of a conversion; the good word which he utters will not cease to be good because the speaker had no right to declare God's statutes. The bread and meat which were brought to Elijah were not less nourishing because the ravens brought them, but the ravens remained ravens still. A hard-hearted man may say a good thing which God will bless, but, as a rule, those who bring souls to Christ are those who first of all have felt an agony of desire that souls should be saved. This is imaged to us in our Master's character. He is the great Saviour of men, but before he could save others, he learned in their flesh to sympathise with them. He wept over Jerusalem, he sweat great drops of blood in Gethsemane; he was, and is, a high priest who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. As the captain of our salvation, in bringing many sons unto glory, he was made perfect by suffering. Even Christ went not forth to preach until he had spent nights in intercessory prayer, and uttered strong cryings and tears for the salvation of his hearers. His ministering servants who have been most useful have always been eagerly desirous to be so....

"Travailing for Souls" from the text, Isaiah 56:8

a sermon delivered on September 3rd, 1871

by **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Volume 17, Sermon No. 1,009

This Week's Bible Portions from *Robert Murray McCheyne's "Daily Bread"*

SEPTEMBER 2023

FAMILY READINGS			PRIVATE READINGS	
1 Samuel 27	1 Cor. 8	3	Ezekiel 6	Psalms 44
1 Samuel 28	1 Cor. 9	4	Ezekiel 7	Psalms 45
1 Sam. 29-30	1 Cor. 10	5	Ezekiel 8	Psalms 46-47
1 Samuel 31	1 Cor. 11	6	Ezekiel 9	Psalms 48
2 Samuel 1	1 Cor. 12	7	Ezekiel 10	Psalms 49
2 Samuel 2	1 Cor. 13	8	Ezekiel 11	Psalms 50
2 Samuel 3	1 Cor. 14	9	Ezekiel 12	Psalms 51
2 Samuel 4-5	1 Cor. 15	10	Ezekiel 13	Psalms 52-54

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