



## 1. THE Stirring OF THE LORD (v. 1-2)

### A. In a mysterious way

*"That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." (Isaiah 44:28)*

*"So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian." (Daniel 6:28)*

### B. For a Marvelous Work

*"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." (Proverbs 21:1)*

*"...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Psalm 30:5)*

## 2. THE Motivation OF THE PEOPLE (v. 3-4)

### A. Differing Motivations

SOME JEWS WENT BY FAITH TO JERUSALEM

*"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13)*

*"(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" (2 Corinthians 5:7)*

SOME JEWS STAYED IN BABYLON - VS. 4

**Quote:** "A worldly church cannot and will not reach the world."  
—R. Kent Hughes

### B. Differing Involvement

THEY GAVE MATERIALS

**Quote:** "Those who did not go were commanded to assist their brethren who went."—Adam Clarke

THEY GAVE OF THEIR FREE WILL

*"And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers." (Ezra 8:28)*

**Quote:** "When we come to the end of life, the question will be, 'How much have you given?' not 'How much have you gotten?'"  
—George Sweeting

*"And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: 44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." (Mark 12:43-44)*

**Quote:** "Giving isn't hard if we love the object of our gift. If we don't love the recipient of the gift, giving is extremely difficult."  
—Kent Crockett

### 3. THE Participation OF YIELDED SERVANTS

*"The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore, 65 Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women." (Ezra 2:64-65)*

#### A. Participation through Giving

*"And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the Lord which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place." (Ezra 2:68)*

THEY GAVE FREELY

**Quote:** "There are two ways in which a Christian may view his money—'How much of my money shall I use for God?' or 'How much of God's money shall I use for myself?'"

—W. Graham Scroggie

THEY GAVE BY ABILITY

*"They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments. 70 So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities." (Ezra 2:69-70)*

**Quote:** "God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving."—Randy Alcorn

*"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." (2 Corinthians 9:6)*

*"Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;" (2 Corinthians 9:11-12)*

**Quote:** "There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving, and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, 'I have to'; duty giving says, 'I ought to'; thanksgiving says, 'I want to.'"

B. Progress through Working

*"And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. 11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. 12 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: 13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off." (Ezra 3:10-13)*

THE ALTAR WAS SET UP

THE FOUNDATION LAID

*"And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel." (Ezra 3:10)*

THE FAMILIES PRAISED

*"Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord." (Haggai 1:8)*

*"Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. 7 Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength. 8 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts." (Psalm 96:6-8)*

C. Preaching from Prophets

*"Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. 2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them." (Ezra 5:1-2)*

*"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13)*

**CONCLUSION**

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*"And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia." (Ezra 6:14)*

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*"It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." (Hebrews 9:23-26)*