

The Whole Company

Ezra 2:1-70

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We saw in Ezra 1 that God stirred in a pagan ruler and in His people to return them to their homeland. Their first priorities were to rebuild their lives with God and with one another. We closed with this question: “What is God stirring in you as we rebuild our lives together after COVID?”

Today, we look at Ezra 2 and two key characteristics of God’s people needed to successfully rebuild together.

Rebuilding Together Successfully Requires:

1. A People Who Know Their Identity

The people of Ezra’s day found their identity in their ancestry

Ezra 2:1

Now these are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive to Babylon (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to their own town,

Ezra 2:2-35

...in company with Zerubbabel, Joshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah):

The list of the men of the people of Israel: the descendants of Parosh...shephtai...Arah...Pahath-Moab (through the line of Jeshua and Joab)...Elam...Zattu...Zakkai...Bani...Bebai...Azgad...

...the men of Bethlehem...Netophah...Anathoth...Azmaveth...”

We have an identity in Christ FAR GREATER than theirs. Receive it and live into it!

Ephesians 2:11-13

“Remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth . . . at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ”



2. People Who Each Play Their Key Role

Ezra 2:36-55

The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua) 973; of Immer 1,052, of Pashhur 1,247, of Harim 1017.

The Levites: the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel (of the line of Hodaviah)

The musicians: the descendants of Asaph 128;

The gatekeepers of the temple: the descendants of Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita, and Shobai 139

The temple servants...the descendants of the servants of Solomon...

Ezra 2:64, 68-69

The whole company numbered 42,360...⁶⁸ When they arrived at the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the families gave freewill offerings toward the rebuilding of the house of God on its site.⁶⁹ According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver and 100 priestly garments.

Jesus' followers are the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12).

- You have a key role to play in rebuilding our life together!