

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**May 15, 2022**

**Ezra 2: To Increase Our Obedience ...**

To stay the course in our faith...

1. We need to meet together with living people – followers of Christ.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24, 25)*

2. We need to be encouraged by dead people.

By faith Noah... (Hebrews 11:7)



By faith Abraham... (Hebrew 11:8)



By faith Moses' parents... (Hebrew 11:23)



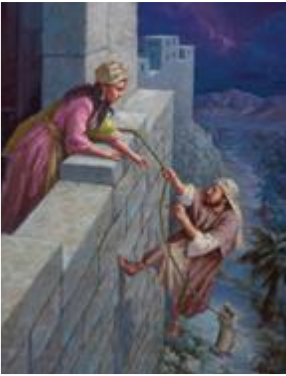
By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. (Hebrews 11:24)



By faith the people passed through the Red Sea... (Hebrew 11:29)



By faith the prostitute Rahab... (Hebrew 11:31)



*There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. (Hebrews 11:35-38)*

Not just from the Bible... I might also encourage you to read biographies of those who have served Christ when it was hard...

Corrie Ten Boom

Jonathan Edwards

George Mueller

Gladys Alyward

C.S. Lewis

Hudson Taylor

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Amy Carmichael

Elisabeth Elliot

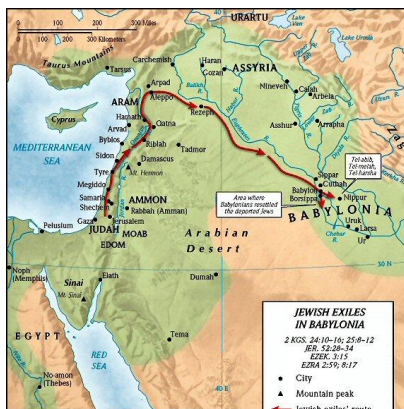
William Carey

D.L. Moody

Jackie Pullinger

David Brainerd

## Those who returned (Ezra 2)



After 70 years, God moved on the heart of the King of Persia to allow the captured exiles to return, and those whom God moved on their hearts returned.

The leaders are listed here.

## The best place to have your name written!

*...do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:20)*

*Nothing impure will ever enter it (Heaven), nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:27)*

The giving of an offering Ezra 2:68-70

## Become a giver!

*Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. (Ephesians 4:28)*

One more thing about Ezra Chapter 2.

Verse 2 says: "in company with ZERUBBBABEL..."

Turn to Matthew 1 Chapter 1

(No Home Group Questions this Week.)