



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**June 26, 2022**  
**Ezra 5: My Need For Grace**

Famous unfinished buildings ...



La Sagrada Familia, Spain



National Monument of Scotland

And the Temple, at the time of Ezra 5...

Ezra 5:1-2:

## Sermon #1: The Power of Encouragement.

Do you wonder what Haggai and Zechariah said to encourage them to start rebuilding again?



*You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the Lord Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”*

*Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord.*

*Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: "I am with you," declares the Lord. So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month. (Haggai 1:9-15)*

*Then the word of the LORD came to me: “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.” (Zechariah 4:8-9)*

These prophets encouraged the people to build.

### The Power of Encouragement

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)*

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*

**Homework #1: Try to encourage one person every day this week.**

Ezra 5:3-6:

Archaeology proving the existence of Tattenai.



*But the eye of their God was watching over the elders of the Jews, and they were not stopped... (Ezra 5:5)*

Ezra 5:7-17:

Sheshbazzar is maybe Zerubbabel (or the previous governor).

What was the response from the Israelites?

We are servants of the Most High God...

We were blessed and had it good...

We had a great king who built a great temple to worship God here...

But we (our ancestors) messed it all up with our sin...

However, God is gracious and kind and moved on the heart of King Cyrus to let us come back and rebuild the temple.

## **Sermon #2: We are sinners who need God's grace.**

This sort of humility should be in all our testimonies.

*God created us to be with Him.*

***Our sin separates us from God***

*Sin cannot be removed by good deeds.*

*Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.*

*Everyone who trusts in Jesus will have eternal life.*

*Life with Jesus starts now and last forever.*

Confession of sin is vital to the Gospel.

**Ask**

**Admire**

**Admit**

Admitting that you are a sinner who needs to be forgiven and saved.

**Homework #2: Share the GOSPEL or Ask, Admire, Admit once this week.**