

Time to Rebuild, Part 4
January 22, 2017

I Last week

- A) **SLIDE Psalm 33:12 (NIV)** ¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance.
- B) Ezra: rebuilding the temple
 - 1) **SLIDE Ezra 1:5 (NIV)** ⁵ Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites--**everyone** whose heart God had moved--prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.
 - 2) **SLIDE 1 Peter 2:4-5 (NIV)** ⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone--**rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him**-- ⁵ **you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**
 - 3) To restore this nation, God will restore the foundation of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, which is our spiritual temple
 - 4) To restore the spiritual temple, God will restore the stones

II Friday

A) Theme of Rebuilding

- 1) We began this year with the message that it is time to Rebuild
- 2) **SLIDE** The Lord led us to Ezra and to Nehemiah
- 3) From Ezra, we learn that we need to rebuild the temple founded on the Cornerstone of Jesus Christ, that temple being our hearts and the heart of this nation
- 4) From Nehemiah, we learn that after rebuilding the temple, we need to rebuild the spiritual wall around this nation
- 5) Building the temple without rebuilding the wall would be like building a house but not installing any doors.
- 6) Friday, Pres. Trump began the day attending services at St. John's Episcopal Church.

- 7) The service has been a tradition since 1933 with FDR.
 - 8) During the turmoil of the Civil War, Lincoln would sometimes walk to St. John's and sit on a back pew, seeking the Lord
 - 9) Yesterday, the pastor chose as his text for Pres. Trump's inauguration the Book of Nehemiah
 - 10) His theme: time to rebuild the wall
 - 11) The same text and the same message God gave us.
 - 12) Something very exciting is going on.
- B) Laying the Foundation of Jesus Christ
- 1) **SLIDE** Headlines
 - a) Unprecedented Prayer on Display at Trump Inauguration
 - b) Donald Trump Held a Very Godly Inauguration
 - c) At Trump Inauguration, Charismatic Leaders Pray Boldly in Jesus' Name: Is This Foreshadowing a New Day in America?
 - d) Donald Trump's Inaugural Speech May Be His Most Religious Yet
 - 2) This is not about lifting up Donald Trump
 - 3) This is about lifting up Jesus Christ, the Chief Cornerstone, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—
 - 4) The name of Jesus, the name that is above every other name, was mentioned from sun up until sun down
 - 5) Performer after performer praised Jesus
 - 6) At the inauguration, we heard the name of Jesus four or five times alone.
 - 7) **SLIDE** Pres. Trump said, "'The Bible tells us, 'how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity,'" and "There should be no fear ... most importantly, we are protected by God,"
 - 8) **SLIDE** Steve Strang, founder of Charisma Magazine wrote, "What a historic day in America. Today the inauguration of Donald J. Trump was bathed in prayer! And in his inauguration speech, the new chief executive called on God to protect us."

C) **SLIDE** This brings us the end of last week's message: **Ezra 3:11**
(NIV) ¹¹ With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: "He is good; his love to Israel endures forever." And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

- 1) The Cornerstone of our foundation is Jesus Christ
- 2) The foundation is the entire truth of Jesus
- 3) For us, the foundation is the spiritual temple of this nation is found in the hearts of the people
- 4) God's people are to repent and cleanse themselves
- 5) We are to return to the Word of God
- 6) How good it is to hear the name of Jesus lifted up not as a curse but as praise and honor and glory

III What's Next?

A) **SLIDE** What's next? Opposition

- 1) The attacks of the enemy are meant to weaken the bond between us and cause us to doubt
- 2) We cannot restore our spiritual heritage without expecting opposition
- 3) We cannot bring Jesus into our families or towns or nation without expecting opposition.
- 4) Why? Because Jesus brings the light that exposes the hearts of all us
- 5) And there are those who do not like the light!
- 6) During the Inauguration and after those prayers in the name of Jesus, we read....
 - a) Two of those who prayed are prosperity preachers who are present to sell themselves (from Evangelical leaders)
 - b) Thus, their prayers in the name of Jesus were self-serving prayers.
 - c) The New York Times wrote that at the Inauguration, Trump was "laying it on thick" in the religion department.

- d) The Times continued to point out that Trump lost the popular vote while others compared Trump to Hitler
 - e) Other opposition pointed out that Trump and those who prayed ignored Muslims, LGBT, and other fringe groups, making the prayers divisive
 - f) We read: The Washington National Cathedral, which has long been a gathering spot for symbolic national events, has found itself in the middle of controversy over whether Christians who oppose Donald Trump's rhetoric should participate in his inauguration.
 - g) CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim-rights group, stated that if Trump truly wanted to unite our nation, he should start by dropping Rev. Franklin Graham from the program
- 7) Madonna
- a) Women's March in DC yesterday
 - b) She said, "'Welcome to the revolution of love.'
 - c) She also said, "Yes, I'm angry. Yes, I am outraged. Yes, I have thought an awful lot about blowing up the White House."
- B) Again, we should not be surprised because God's word warns us
- 1) We are not to allow these protests sidetrack us
 - 2) We are not to allow these attacks to get us angry so that we fight back
 - 3) Through Ezra, God has shown what to expect and what to do

IV **SLIDE** Opposition

- A) **Ezra 4:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the LORD, the God of Israel, ² they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families
- 1) Almost immediately, we see that the restoration of God's temple stirred up the opposition
 - 2) Jesus says if the world opposes Him, it will certainly oppose us

- 3) Looking to Ezra, we get an idea as to the types of opposition that we will encounter

B) **SLIDE** First Attack: Cooperation that leads to Compromise

- 1) **Ezra 4:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the LORD, the God of Israel, ² they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, "Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here."
- 2) **SLIDE** The enemies of Israel were upset because the rebuilding of the temple interfered with their way of life
- 3) They wanted to serve God in their own way so they took offense at these people who dared to restore the temple
- 4) As with many of the traps of the enemy, there is a grain of truth to this statement
- 5) When Israel was taken into captivity, people from Babylon came to take their places
- 6) These Assyrians intermarried with the Israelite women who remained in Israel and were known as Samaritans
- 7) So, it was true they had been taught about God, but they worshipped Him in their own way
- 8) They worshipped God along with every other idol they fancied
- 9) They claimed to worship the same God so it seemed logical they should be allowed to help
- 10) **SLIDE** On the surface, they seemed to be sincere, but, in reality, their intentions were dangerous
- 11) Cooperating with these people would require the Jews to make compromises that would undermine their true purpose
- 12) Instead of building a temple to the LORD, they would be building a temple to a representation of the LORD
- 13) Cooperation that requires compromise is dangerous because we will be the ones who will have to compromise our faith