

Rebuild Don't Relax, Part 4

Steve Berger February 12, 2017

Review

We've been looking at rebuilding our spiritual lives—not sitting back, relaxing
Taken from the biblical story of the Jewish people being given permission to leave Babylon, and provision to rebuild Jerusalem, the Temple, and its walls — from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, 536BC-445BC — by some highly unlikely, un-kosher, foreign, pagan kings

“Obedience is Opportunity for God’s Provision”

GOD IS FOR US! — He has given us everything to rebuild our lives in Christ. He has held nothing back!

- **Romans 8:1-30** — no condemnation, free from sin and death, life of God experience in mortal bodies, adopted children, heirs of God, joint-heirs with Jesus, hope of heaven, help of the Spirit, all things work together, predestined to be conformed into the image of Jesus, called, justified, glorified...
- **Romans 8:31-32**
What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Application — *God is for us, who can be against us — God gave Jesus, He'll give us all things freely. Therefore my focus is on God's permission and provision to rebuild — and **not** the opposition that comes with the rebuilding. When the Jews' focus was right — rebuilding and success happened — when it was wrong —fear and failure; same for us*

Back to the biblical narrative

- **Cyrus the Great** 536-530BC, Ezra 1-3, released the Jews from Babylon, 50,000 responded to rebuild, 100,000 relaxed; given all the silver and gold of the Temple that Nebuchanezzar had taken. ***Jewish people were given everything they needed by the King!***
- Cambyses/Ahasuerus and Artaxerxes/Smerdis — 15 years passed, not finished...
- **Darius** 521-486BC, Ezra 6, rebuild Temple, restore articles, rebuke enemy, resources the project from King's treasury. ***King gives everything they need!***
- 57 years pass from Ezra 6-7, book of Esther, under Xerxes/Ahasuerus II

- **Artaxerxes Longimonus** 465-424BC, 445 in 459 sends Ezra back, Ezra 7:12-26, perfect peace, people, law, money from King's treasury, silver, wheat, wine, oil, salt, whatever, tax-free, appoint leaders, punish oppressors. Ezra put in charge of newly-formed government. ***Ezra is given everything he needs from the King!***

- **Ezra 4:27-28**

Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.

- 13-14 years later, 445BC, Artaxerxes Longimonus, ***The King gives Nehemiah everything he needs to rebuild!*** Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem, gathers leaders, and... [*same king, second time in 14-year-period*]

- **Nehemiah 2:17-18**

Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

Throughout the biblical narrative, the Kings gave permission and provision to rebuild — too often the Jews relaxed for too long, gave in to the opposition — the rebuilding process would be delayed — and would then have to restart... tragic, frustrating!

God has given us everything and withheld nothing in our rebuilding process!

NOTICE — the foreshadowing of the ancient king's permission and provision to rebuild — and our Almighty King's permission and provision to rebuild

- **Ephesians 1:3**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

- **Philippians 4:19**

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- **2 Peter 1:1-4**

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- His divine power has given us all things for life and godliness — all things!
- He's given us exceedingly great and precious promises — find yours!
- through which we become partakers of the divine nature — power!
- have escaped the corruption of the world — past tense — don't go back!

Since you have everything you need to rebuild in Christ — don't relax!

• **2 Peter 1:5-10**

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble

- for this very reason — because you've got all you need
- giving all diligence — rebuild don't relax
- add to your faith — progress in your faith by adding...
- virtue — moral excellence, virtuous power
- knowledge — insight, understanding
- self-control — temperate, holding oneself in, composed
- perseverance — patient, cheerful, hopeful, endurance
- godliness — piety, holiness
- brotherly kindness — fraternal affection
- love — agape, by choice, as an act of your will, not someone's earning

***Application** — if these are yours, you abound in them, rebuild with them, you'll never be barren or unfruitful, never stumble to point of falling into ruin. Peter is speaking of his own life rebuilding here, exhorting us to follow his example*

Obedience is Opportunity for God's Provision

**King Jesus has given us everything we need to rebuild our lives,
He's held nothing back from you, He is for you,
hear that deep in your spirit and respond with obedience
where He's asking you to rebuild...**

Discussion Questions

1. Which of these t-shirts would other people see you as wearing — Condemned; Satisfied; Arrived; Under Construction?
2. Which of these t-shirts do you see yourself as wearing — Condemned; Satisfied; Arrived; Under Construction?
3. Read Ephesians 1:3: Discuss the issue of Receiving vs. Appropriating what you need.

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4. What part of your personal life needs some rebuilding?
 5. In 2 Peter 1:5-10, what do you need to appropriate to rebuild your life?

Before the Throne: Worship Night

Tuesday, February 28th

6:30 pm

Sanctuary