

September 26, 2021 Ezra 5:1-17
**A New Beginning, Meddlesome Meddlers, Those Who Inspire,
The Power Of Repentance, And God's Watchful Eye**

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Haggai and Zechariah were used of God to stir the people to have them resume the work on the temple. Haggai describes the deplorable situation: housing shortages, disappointing harvests, lack of clothing and jobs, and inadequate food supply.

It is now 16 years later since the foundation repair first began and little progress had been made. Haggai rebukes the people for this inaction/sin to stir them up to work! God rebukes His children.

The work had slowed. These prophets lay the blame for this on the people. It was due to a lack of obedience to rebuild the temple! Obedience of God's people is better than sacrifice.

Zerubbabel and Jeshua set to work to rebuild the house of God, they were supported by the prophets of God who helped them along in this undertaking. Let's work together and support one another as we live for the glory of God and not our own glory!

Adversity arrives yet the Lord's favor was upon His people Israel. Their inquiry went out but they were allowed to continue the building until such a time as the investigation launched was complete. God's hand of favor was upon them. God was watching over His people and still does today by the way.

God is at work to restore His people in seemingly impossible circumstances. Is anything too hard for God? NO! See **Jeremiah 32:27; Matthew 19:26; 21:22.** Be mindful that God will do nothing that is not in accord with His perfect character.

APPLICATION:

Sometimes Christians get "off track" regarding the will of God. God loves us too much to just leave us there. He often will rebuke His children. **Proverbs 9:8** states, "Do not reprove a scoffer or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you." **Proverbs 17:10** speaks directly to this as well, "A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred blows into a fool." When you find yourself being rebuked by the Lord always ask, Lord, what are you trying to teach me?

Obedience of God's people is better than sacrifice. We all sin as individuals and groups, the key to moving forward is to confess sin, repent of sin, renounce sin, and rely on the Lord completely. God's watchcare is always over His children, even when they sin and are being rebuked. God instructs His children in the paths of righteousness through His word. God also sends people to help us along the way when we have strayed. God also uses His children to be encouragers and to one another to good works, **Hebrews 10:23-25**, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful, and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day dawning near."