



A GRACIOUS STEWARD

GRACE TO REBUILD

Pastor Paul Chappell • Sunday Morning • February 26, 2017

“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, 2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. 4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem. 5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.” (Ezra 1:1-5)

INTRODUCTION

“For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (Jeremiah 29:10-11)

1. A _____ STIRRING

A. From a _____ King

“That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.” (Isaiah 44:28)

“So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” (Daniel 6:28)

B. For a _____ Purpose

“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.” (Proverbs 21:1)

2. A _____ CALLING

A. To a _____ People

SOME JEWS CAME BY FAITH TO JERUSALEM

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)

SOME JEWS STAYED IN BABYLON

Quote: “A worldly church cannot and will not reach the world.”
—**R. Kent Hughes**

B. For a _____ Offering

THEY WERE TO GIVE MATERIALS

Quote: “Those who did not go, were commanded to assist their brethren who went.”—**Adam Clarke**

THEY WERE TO GIVE FREE WILL

“And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers.” (Ezra 8:28)

Quote: “When we come to the end of life, the question will be, ‘How much have you given?’ not ‘How much have you gotten?’”
—**George Sweeting**

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:” (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

Quote: “Giving isn’t hard if we love the object of our gift. If we don’t love the recipient of the gift, giving is extremely difficult.”

—**Kent Crockett**

3. A _____ **COMPLETION**

A. The _____ **in Giving**

“They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests’ garments. 70 So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.” (Ezra 2:69-70)

Quote: “God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.”—**Randy Alcorn**

“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;” (2 Corinthians 9:6, 11-12)

Quote: “There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving, and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, ‘I have to;’ duty giving says, ‘I ought to;’ thanksgiving says, ‘I want to.’”—**Robert Rodenmeyer**

B. The _____ **of the Foundation**

“And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.” (Ezra 3:10)

C. The _____ **of the Prophets**

“Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. 2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.” (Ezra 5:1-2)

Definition: *helping them*—to support, sustain, strengthen, comfort

“Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the Lord. 13 Then spake Haggai the Lord’s messenger in the Lord’s message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the Lord. 14 And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts, their God,” (Haggai 1:12–14)

D. The _____ of Victory

“Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.” (1 Kings 8:56)

CONCLUSION

