
Stirred Up To Rebuild (Anointed for the First Wave)

Rebuilding The Work

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Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: Stirred Up To Rebuild (Anointed for the First Wave)

Lesson Text

Ezra 1:3–5 (KJV)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.

Introduction

In our first series of 2023, “Revive Us Again,” we looked at how God brings life for that which was counted by everyone else as dead. But we learned that the dry bones can live.

So far in our second series, “Rebuilding The Work,” we’ve studied Call to Rebuild and the reason why the Rebuild is necessary, which is the fact that the first work has been Torn Down.

It was either torn down because of corruption that has damaged it beyond repair, it’s outdated or too small for what’s coming, or because it simply gets better in the end.

Today we want to look at how the work of the rebuild actually gets started.

Have you ever met or know someone who always talks about what needs to be done or what they are going to do, but they never ever start or begin the work? This is because they have not been stirred or anointed to do the work.

The Children of Israel have been set free and commissioned to go back and rebuild. But being set free and operating in one’s freedom are two different things.

During the emancipation of the slaves during the civil war, some slaves voluntarily stayed on the plantation because they had been so institutionalized that slavery was all they knew.

For a lifetime, seventy years, they had been in captivity and bondage. Some of them were born in it, and that’s all they had ever known.

So God gave a selected group a special anointing to rise up as the first wave to go and rebuild.

Ezra 1: 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 1:5 (NLT)⁵ **Then God stirred the hearts** of the priests and Levites and the leaders of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple of the Lord.

Once the work has been completed, you’ll have a lot of people show up for the ribbon cutting, but God will stir up an initial group to go and begin the work of rebuilding what was torn down.

Series and Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: Stirred Up To Rebuild (Anointed for the First Wave)

“Stirred Up to Go, Stirred Up to Worship, and Stirred Up to Praise”

I. Stirred Up to Go

Ezra 1: 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.

In order to rebuild, we must first be stirred up to break loose from a place of bondage.

When a person has been in bondage and captivity for an extended period of time, they become institutionalized, accepting that place as normal and commonplace.

This institutionalization can be so debilitating that even when offered the opportunity to go free, the institutionalized person will choose to stay in captivity.

The place of bondage can be an emotional place of anger, bitterness, depression, or just sadness.

The place of bondage can be a physical place of captivity, struggle, poverty, or lack.

The place of bondage can also be a spiritual place of strongholds, addiction, sin, or wickedness.

It becomes an albatross or yoke of bondage around their neck, and they can't go!

The Children of Israel had been in bondage for seventy years. Captivity and bondage had become a way of life, a place of acceptance and complacency.

Although God has set them free, they needed an Anointing to raise up or stir them up to go!

Ezra 1: 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.

Isaiah 10:27 (KJV)²⁷ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

Isaiah 58:6 (KJV)⁶ *Is* not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Matthew 11:28–30 (KJV)²⁸ **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** ²⁹ **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.** ³⁰ **For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden *is* light.**

2 Corinthians 3:17 (KJV)¹⁷ Now the Lord *is* that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

Galatians 5:1 (KJV)¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

II. Stirred Up To Worship

Ezra 1: 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.**

But not only does God stir us up to go, he stirs us up with an anointing to build the place of Worship.

A lot of people go to church, but they never really go to worship.

Worship is less about what we do externally and more about who we are internally.

Worship is the expression or feeling of reverence, devotion, and adoration for God.

Although we physically go to the place of worship, and we physically fall on our knees or lay prostrate before God, true worship is about what is in our hearts.

Psalms 96: ⁹ O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

I love wearing my suits to church, I love dancing and shouting, I love the praise (we'll talk about that later); but how we look, how we dress, what we do is not worship in holiness.

John 4:23–24 (KJV)²³ **But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

Worshipping God in the Beauty of Holiness is what we do in Spirit and in Truth.

Exodus 34:14 (KJV)¹⁴ For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God:

Luke 4:6–8 (KJV)⁶ And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. ⁷ If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. ⁸ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

Matthew 6:33 (KJV)³³ **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

James 4:8 (KJV)⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

III. Stirred Up To Praise

Ezra 1: 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.

The Anointing of the First Wave:

- We are stirred up by the Spirit of God to Go!
- We are stirred up by the Spirit of God to Worship!
- We are stirred up by the Spirit of God to Praise!

The final thing God stirs up in us is Praise. “Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah (Praise)”.

The significance of stirring up our praise is to give us strength for the work to rebuild.

Nehemiah 8:10 (KJV)¹⁰ Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for *this* day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Luke 6:23 (KJV)²³ **Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.**

Psalms 33:1 (KJV)¹ Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: *for* praise is comely for the upright.

Praise is fitting, it sounds right, it's what we're supposed to do!

Hebrews 13:15 (KJV)¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

Psalms 27:5–6 (KJV)⁵ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. ⁶ And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (KJV)¹⁶ Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Psalms 34:1–3 (KJV)¹ I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. ² My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad.

³ O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Stirred Up To Rebuild (Anointed for the First Wave))

Lesson Text

- Ezra 1:3–5

Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *Stirred Up To Go*
- II. *Stirred Up To Worship*
- III. *Stirred Up To Praise*

Questions (What was your takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. Aside from Jesus, what is the one thing that always makes you smile when you think of it?
2. What is your life motto or favorite quote?

II. Into the Bible

1. Case Study: The Anointing of the Holy Spirit. Use reference scripture for your answers.
 - (i) What is the anointing of the Holy Spirit?
 - (ii) What are the purposes of the anointing?
 - (iii) Is every believer anointed?
 - (iv) Give examples where the anointing is in operation in a believer's life.
2. Read Luke 6:45. What is the effect that praise and worship has on our mouths and hearts especially in the stage of rebuilding?

III. Life Application

1. Have you ever received a vision and instructions to get up and go do a thing and something (fear, lack of energy, lack of know-how, etc.) kept you from getting started? What can you do to encourage yourself to get started in spite of the resistance?
2. Now you're at a point where you've followed the instructions to go towards your vision and you begin to lose steam; you're tired, and what you were doing isn't working anymore. List three practical steps you can take to refresh and revive to get back on track?