
Rebuilding During The Delay (It's Not A Denial)

Rebuilding The Work

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April 2, 2023

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Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: Rebuilding During The Delay (It's Not A Denial)

Lesson Text

Ezra 4:1–6 (KJV)¹ Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; ² Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye *do*; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither. ³ But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us. ⁴ Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, ⁵ And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia. ⁶ And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they *unto him* an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

Ezra 4:24 (KJV)²⁴ Then ceased the work of the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Isaiah 40:29–31 (KJV)²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Introduction

To “Rebuild The Work” that has been torn down, we must be Called, Anointed, Receive Provisions, and Build an Altar and Foundation.

Tooday, we want to look at what you do when the work of the rebuild is delayed.

Have you ever felt like people are out to get you? And people will tell you, “Oh I’m just being paranoid!” Well, just because you may be paranoid, doesn’t mean they aren’t out to get you!

Psalms 69: ⁴ They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away.

This is where we find the Children of Israel in our lesson text. They have overcome 70 years of bondage, and been called, anointed, and blessed to begin the work of rebuilding the temple.

And although they have built their Altar to overcome their fears, and have a solid foundation to endure their storms, the enemy still won’t let up.

He starts with a plot to undermine the work, which inevitably will lead to delays in the work, and eventually cause a complete work stoppage.

Today, we will look at what to do when the enemy delays and even stops the progress of the work that God has called you to do!

Series and Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: Rebuilding During The Delay (It's Not A Denial)

“Rebuilding During The Plot, The Attack, and The Stoppage”

I. Rebuilding During The Plot (Work Undermine)

Ezra 4: ³ But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

A plot is defined as scheme, subversion, or a conspiracy. It is a plan made in secret by a group of people to do something illegal or harmful.

Anytime you begin to do the work of the Lord, there will always be conspirators with a plot to subvert or undermine what God has called you to do.

Ezra 4: ¹ Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; ² Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye *do*; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

The question is not whether or not the enemy is out to get you and stop you; he is. The question is what do you do about it?

Matthew 10: ¹⁶ Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

“Beware of Greeks offering gifts”

- This is a phrase that refers to an act of charity that masks a hidden destructive or hostile agenda. It originates with a story from Greek mythology known as the Trojan War.
- The Greeks devised the idea of constructing a large horse to pose as a peace offering to the Trojans.
- The Trojans opened their gates and wheeled the horse within their walls, not knowing the belly of the beast was filled with armed soldiers who would soon destroy their city.
- Proverbs 29:5 (The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language)⁵ A flattering neighbor is up to no good; he's probably planning to take advantage of you.

To Rebuild during The Plot, be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove; and tell the devil: “No Thanks, I’m Good.”

The Enemy has a Plot, but God has a Plan!

Jeremiah 29: (NLT)¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Isaiah 40: ²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

Psalms 50: ¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world *is* mine, and the fulness thereof.

Philippians 4: ¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

II. Rebuilding During The Attack (Work Delays)

Ezra 4: ⁴ Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, ⁵ And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

When the Plot doesn't work, the enemy will come with an all-out Attack!

Although it seems like the attack is going to destroy you, its true design is to weaken, trouble, and frustrate you.

Isaiah 54: ¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

The Attack will not prosper, but it can create delay.

Delay through discouragement: Psalm 34: ¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Delay through troubles: 2 Corinthians 4: ⁸ *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

Delay through frustration: Psalm 34: ¹⁸ The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Isaiah 40: ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

The enemy may create delay, but he cannot cause denial.

Isaiah 40: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Galatians 6: ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

III. Rebuilding when Everything Cease (Work Stoppage)

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Ezra 4: ²⁴ Then ceased the work of the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

- To Rebuild during the Plot, know that God has a Plan for your Work Undermine
- To Rebuild during the Attack, know that God gives your strength for your Work Delays
- To Rebuild when everything Cease, know that God gives you confidence for your Work Stoppage

When everything stops, the enemy wants us to lose confidence that it will ever get done.

“It’s never going to work, it’s never going to happen for me, it’s never going to finish!”

Ezra 4: ²⁴ So the work on the Temple of God in Jerusalem had stopped, and it remained at a standstill *until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.*

The enemy wants us to think that the Work Stoppage will be forever, but God always has an **“UNTIL!”**

When life gives you a “Work Stoppage,” just wait “Until!”

- Psalm 73: ¹ Truly God *is* good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a clean heart. ² But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. ³ For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- Psalm 73: ¹⁷ **Until** I went into the sanctuary of God; *then* understood I their end.
- Job 14: ¹⁴ If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, **till** my change come.

Since we have an “Until” Coming, we can be “Confident” during our Work Stoppage!

During the Work Stoppage I’m Confident that God Hears my Prayers: 1 John 5: ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

During the Work Stoppage I’m Confident that God will Finish what He Started: Philippians 1: ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

During the Work Stoppage I’m Confident that God will Perfect Me: Psalm 138: ⁸ The LORD will perfect *that which* concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, *endureth* for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Rebuilding During The Delay (It's Not A Denial))

Lesson Text

- Ezra 4:1–6, 24; Isaiah 40:29–31

Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *Rebuilding During The Plot (Work Undermine)***
- II. *Rebuilding During The Attack (Work Delays)***
- III. *Rebuilding when Everything Cease (Work Stoppage)***

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

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. Would you rather always be slightly late or super early?
2. If you could watch only one movie for the next 5 years, what would it be?

II. Into the Bible

1. Isaiah 40:30 and Psalm 27:14 encourage us to wait on the Lord. What does it mean to wait on the Lord? What is the benefit of waiting on the Lord?
2. Read Romans 8:28-30. Paul starts this passage with a declaration: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." When facing a delay or an attack, how do we know that all things will work together for good? Use as many scriptures as you like to support your answer.

III. Life Application

1. When you are experiencing delay after delay in seeing your assignment completed, is your mindset: a) Why won't people support me; b) Maybe God didn't give me this assignment; c) Is God behind this delay or is it the devil; d) I feel rejected, abandoned and discouraged; e) What is God teaching me. How can you deal with any of these mindsets in order to move forward?
2. What advice can you offer a brother or sister in Christ whose work is being undermined by someone who is close to them?