

Ezra 5 Reflection Questions

Restoration Fellowship

October 6, 2024

In Ezra Chapter 5 we read that the Prophets of God were with them supporting the exiles (Ezra 5:2). Haggai challenged the exiles to "consider" their ways (Haggai 1:5, 2:15, 18). Zechariah challenged the exiles to "return" to their LORD and he would return to them (Zechariah 1:3).

To reflect on these prophetic words for our own lives, in light of our need for restoration and healing, it may be useful to ask ourselves:

1. Who am I listening to? Am I filling my ears with the words of cynics, adversaries, or the Word of God? Am I listening to genuine critics realizing I have a log in my own eye and that I can then see the speck in the eyes of others?
2. What is the Lord asking me to consider in my life? What is he saying about my finances? My true identity in Christ? My desire for busyness in religious matters without addressing deeper, underlying issues in my heart, soul, and character? What long, hard, work do I need to do internally in order to be transformed from the inside out? Have I exited Babylon yet Babylon has not exited me?
3. How might we as a community return to the Lord? What processes do we need to follow to be restored? Do we desire the blessings of God without the presence of God? Do we rely on power-plays rather than the grace of God? Do we despise the day of small things? Do we ignore residual sin in our lives personally? Have we identified collective sins of our church, our family, our race, our nation? Are we truly hoping in the victory of Christ on the Cross? Do we experience the "eye of God" (Ezra 5:5, Zech 2:8) in our efforts at restoration?