



Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, September 6, 2026

Ezra 5:1-17 – Rebuilding Requires... Repentance

When faced with renewed opposition to rebuilding the temple, the Israelites responded with repentance and faith, persevering in their commitment.

The Israelites acknowledged the sins of their ancestors.

The Israelites made their appeal based on what the Lord had already said and done.

We respond and apply the Word of God we have heard by repenting communally and relying on the Lord.

May we, your people, who are called by your name, humble ourselves and pray and seek your face and turn from our wicked ways. May you then hear from heaven, and forgive our sin and heal our land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Discussion Questions:

- What was different about the opposition that the Israelites faced when they resumed rebuilding the temple?
- How did the Israelites respond when asked to provide the names of those constructing the temple?
- What did the Israelites confess about their ancestors' sins and the Lord's righteous judgment? Why did they repent communally?
- In what ways did the Israelites rely on what God had already said and done to make their appeal to Darius to permit the rebuilding of the temple?
- What should repentance in our individual and communal lives look like?
- What is the significance of the Lord keeping a record of names in his Book of Life?