



MEMORIAL DRIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Church's One Foundation Hymn #442 Piano Accompanist – Tattin Harvin

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;

She is His new creation by water and the word;

From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride; With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

The Church's One Foundation Hymn #442

Elect from every nation yet one o'er all the earth. Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth; Our holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

The Church's One Foundation Hymn #442

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war.

She waits the consummation of peace forevermore. Till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest, And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.



Deuteronomy 6:17

Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees He has given you.

Deuteronomy 6:17



I. Messiah Comes Through the House of David Return God has been preparing people's hearts **Prophecy Proclamation** People Rebuild The Altar **The Foundation** The Temple Resistance **The Samaritans** Assyrians Xerxes Artexerxes II. Restoration and Renewal Comes to Israel Ezra Repentance

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. Proverbs 21:1 "I am the Lord, the Maker of all things, who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid.""

Isaiah 44:28

"This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

Isaiah 45:1-7

"When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you, and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

Jeremiah 29:10-14

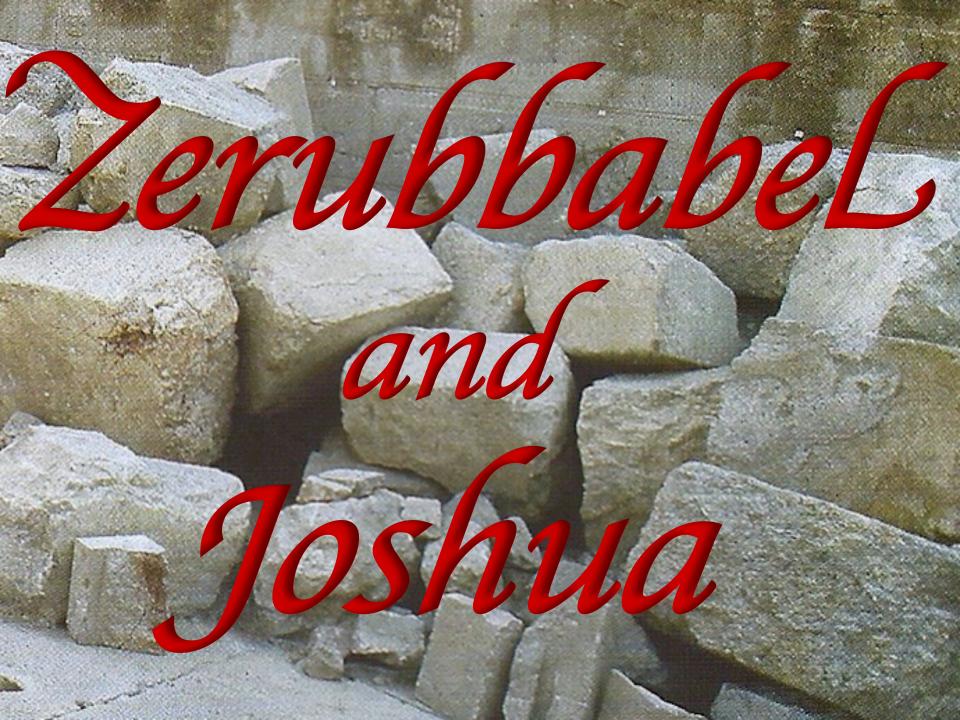
"This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.""

Ezra 1:1-3 and 2 Chronicles 36:22-23

1st RETURN OF THE EXILES

YEAREXILESRULERLEADER538 BC50,000CyrusZerubbabel

They rebuilt the temple, but only after a 20-year struggle. The work was halted for several years but was finally finished.



The People Rebuild the Altar

"Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the Lord both the morning and evening sacrifices."

Ezra 3:3

"Then in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the festival with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day." Ezra 3:4

THE FEAST of TABERNACLES

The People Rebuild the Foundation

"When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: "He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.""

Ezra 3:10-11

'But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

Haggai 2:4-5 Festival of Tabernacles 520 BC **Opposition to the Rebuilding** "And the sound was heard far away..."

"When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the Lord, the God of Israel, they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, 'Let us help you build because like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here."



Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8**

"Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

Haggai 1:4

ASSYRIAN EMPIRE Mesopotamia, Nineveh

Tiglath-Pileser Shalmaneser Sargon II Sennacherib Esarhaddon Ashurbanipal Conquered by Babylon

745-727 B.C. 726-722 B.C. 721-705 B.C. 704-681 B.C. 680-669 B.C. 668-627 B.C. 612 B.C.

BABYLONIAN EMPIRE Chaldeans, Ur

Babylon Conquers Assyria612 BCNabuchadnezzar604-562 BCAwel-Marduk562-560 BC

PERSIAN EMPIRE, Susa

Cyrus 559-530 BC Conquered Babylon. Sent Zerubbabel to Jerusalem, financed his project, and returned the gold and silver articles that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple.

Darius 522-486 BC Supported construction of the temple in Jerusalem.

Xerxés 486-465 BC Was Esther's husband.

Artaxerxés 465-424 BC Had Nehemiah as his cupbearer. Allowed both Ezra and Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem. "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty. What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'"

Zechariah 4:6-7 Key Verse of Zerubbabel "On that day,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,' declares the Lord, 'and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the Lord Almighty."



Haggai 2:22

THE LORD'S SIGNET RING

Completion and Dedication of the Temple

So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai and Zechariah. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

from Ezra 6:14-15

PASSOVER

"So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors in order to seek the Lord, the God of Israel." Ezra 6:21

2nd RETURN OF THE EXILES

YEAREXILESRULERLEADER458 BC2,000ArtaxerxesEzra

Ezra confronted the spiritual disobedience of the people, and they repented and established worship at the temple. But the wall of Jerusalem remained in ruins.



Ezra Arrives in Jerusalem

"...the gracious hand of his God was on him. For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel."

Ezra 7:10

"The leaders came to me and said, 'The people of Israel, including the priests and the Levites, have not kept themselves separate from the neighboring peoples with their detestable practices, like those of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, **Egyptians and Amorites.**"

Ezra 9:1-4

♦ Sin is serious ♦ No one sins without affecting others ♦ No one is sinless ♦ God's love and mercy spares us when we do nothing to deserve it

SIN

"While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites-men, women and children—gathered around him. They too wept bitterly."

Ezra 10:1

Then Shekaniah son of Jehiel, one of the descendants of Elam, said to Ezra, "We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the peoples around us. But in spite of this, there is still hope for Israel. Now let us make a covenant before our God to send away all these women and their children, in accordance with the counsel of my lord and of those who fear the commands of our God."

Ezra 10:2-4

3rd RETURN OF THE EXILES

The city was rebuilt, and a spiritual awakening followed. But the people still struggled with ongoing disobedience.



We are cleansed by our great High Priest who, when we earnestly confess our sin, washes away the guilt, tidies up the past, and restores us to a place of fellowship and blessedness in his sight.

Praise Him this week!