

**“For the word of the LORD is right;
and all his works are done in truth.”**

Psalm 33:4

Lifting Up The **STANDARD**

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

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The Return of The Remnant

“And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.”

(Ezra 9:8)

The seventy years of captivity in Babylon that had been predicted by Jeremiah was over. God in His mercy touched the heart of the king who allowed God's people to return to Jerusalem.

Ezra a priest, was unable to serve during the captivity; However, he gave his time to the study of the word of God. The Book of Ezra has a major focus on the word of the Lord. The phrase “the law” occurs eight times in the Book of Ezra. We will never know anything regarding the revival we so badly need until we get back to the Word of God.

Ezra 9:4,

*“Then were assembled unto me **every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel,** because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished (Translated “astonished” 20x - “desolate” 49x) until the evening sacrifice.”*

Out of the millions of Israelites who were allowed to return from Babylon only a small remnant took advantage of it. The rest were quite content to live with the Babylonians.

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
(John 17:17)



BUDDY SMITH
Grace Baptist Church
Malanda, Australia

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The Outline of Ezra

1. **Chapter 1** - The decree for **restoration**.
2. **Chapter 2** - The interest of the **remnant**.
3. **Chapter 3** - Zerubbabel leads in the **return**.
4. **Chapter 4** - The handling of the **resistance**.
5. **Chapters 5,6** - The temple **reconstruction**.

God Was, And Is, In Control

The King of Persia was named 200 years before he was born.

Ezra 1:1,2,

*“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, 2 Thus saith **Cyrus king of Persia**, The LORD God of **heaven** hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.”*

The phrase “the LORD God of heaven” is found only in Ezra, Nehemiah and Daniel. after years, and years of warning God’s presence in Israel ended.

Jerusalem fell and God was no longer identified with Israel or with the temple as the One who dwelt between the cherubim. The glory had departed. Ezekiel wrote of the departure of the Shekinah glory (Ezekiel 9-11). In Bible books written during this timeline we find the phrase “The LORD God of heaven.”

Nehemiah Chapter One

Verses 1-3,

*“The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said unto me, **(1) The remnant** that are left of the captivity there in the province are in **(2) great affliction** and **(3) reproach**: **(4) the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down**, and **(5) the gates thereof are burned with fire.”***

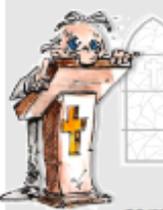
God Has Always Had A Remnant

The word “remnant” occurs 92x in the Word of God.

Romans 11:5,

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”

God’s remnant today is made up of sincere Christians who desire to remain true to the Word of God in an age of apostasy.



“Committed To Thy Trust”
 In First Timothy 6:20 Paul warned those of us who are pastors to, “keep that which is committed to thy trust.” As pastors, we need to consider the seriousness of this charge. We are dealing with lives and we are dealing with eternity.

The Doctrine of Salvation Is Committed To Our Trust
 Jack Hyles and Curtis Hutson were wrong when they promoted the heresy that repentance is an enemy of soul winning. The Sword of the Lord was wrong when they removed the references to repentance out of hymns in their 1989 version of Soul-Stirring Songs and Hymns. Those who know better should have risen up in protest against this “damnable heresy.”

The Doctrine of Separation Is Committed To Our Trust
 We will lose our young people to the flood of apostasy that is destroying our so-called fundamentalism if we shy away from preaching the truth about separation from professed Christians who are actually promoting apostasy. We must expose the compromisers or we will lose our young people to their influence.

If our next generation is not taught to “mark” and “avoid” compromisers they will become compromisers themselves. The pastor who does not expose compromisers is a compromiser.

God's remnant in Nehemiah's day was "in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also was broken down, and the gates thereof were burned with fire."

Nehemiah's Concern

Verse 4,

"And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven."

Most of God's people could care less about the remnant and their problems. They were not about to mess up their life style and so they went about enjoying the lifestyle of the Babylonians.

Nehemiah was what we call a layman. He had a very important government job; however, God's remnant was far more important to him than his present lifestyle.

Verse 4

"And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that (1) I sat down and (2) wept, and (3) mourned certain days, and (3) fasted, and (4) prayed before the God of heaven,

The Prelude To Revival

In chapters eight and nine of the Book of Nehemiah we find Israel experienced a tremendous God-sent revival. In the first seven chapters we have the prelude to that revival.

A Concern For The Remnant

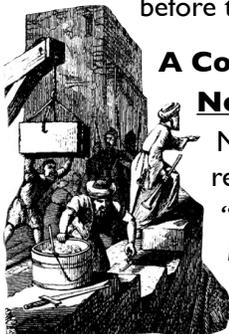
Nehemiah 1:2,3,

"I asked them **concerning** the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said unto me, **The remnant** that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire."

A Cause For Repentance

Nehemiah 1:4,

"And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven."



A Course of Action For Restoration

Nehemiah 2:11,12,

Nehemiah said to the few men that made up the remnant,

"Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach."

Nehemiah's Gates



Sheep Gate

Relationship With Christ

Fish Gate

Becoming Fishers of Men

Old Gate

"Ask for the old paths"

Valley Gate

"If my people...shall humble themselves."

Dung Gate

Getting Out The Garbage

Water Gate

Back To The Word of God

Fountain Gate

Holy Spirit Control

Horse Gate

Back Into The Battle

East Gate

Focus On The Return of Christ.

Gate Miphkad

Place of Military Strategy

"Come, and let us build...that we be no more a reproach."

Nehemiah 2:12

“The Word of Truth.”

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

“Study”

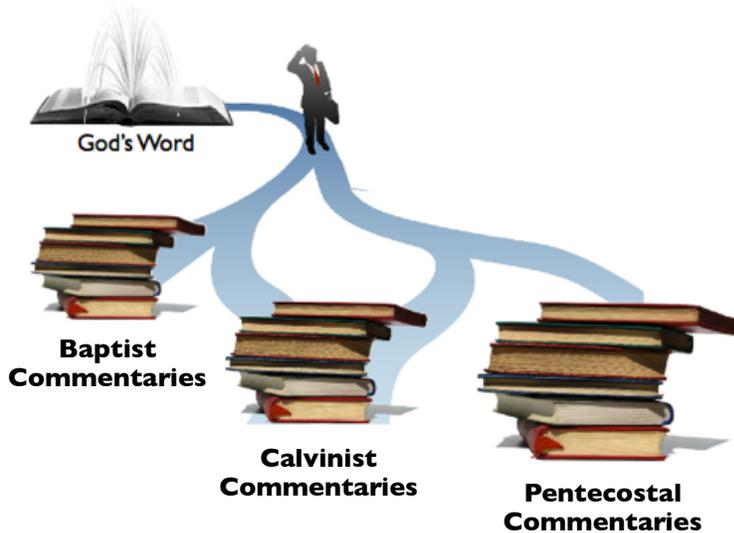
The Greek word translated “study” here is “spoudazō.”

It has been translated “endeavour” three times, “do diligence” twice, “be diligent” twice, and “labour” one time.

To endeavour to do something is to exercise an “earnest and industrious effort, especially when sustained over a period of time.” The word “diligence” is to exercise a “careful and persistent work effort.” The word “labour” means to “work hard; make great effort.”

“The Word of the LORD is right; and all His works are done in truth.”

Psalm 33:4



Commentaries?

Second Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing **the word** of truth.”

Commentaries?

Psalm 119:130

“The entrance of **thy words** giveth light; it giveth understanding...”

Commentaries?

Second Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing **the word of truth.**”

Commentaries?

Acts 17:11

“They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched **the scriptures** daily, whether those things were so.”

Commentaries?

Matthew 13:23

“But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth **the word**, and understandeth it.”

Commentaries?

Acts 6:2

“It is not reason that we should leave **the word** of God.”

Commentaries?

Acts 6:2

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of **the word.**”

Commentaries?

Acts 20:32

“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to **the word.**”

Commentaries?

Romans 10:17

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by **the word** of God.”

Commentaries?

Galatians 6:6

“Let him that is taught in **the word** communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.”

Commentaries?

James 1:22

“Be ye doers of **the word.**”