

**Pastor Allen Jackson**



## I. In a Foreign Land (the Exile)

### A. Daniel's Insight

Daniel 9:1-6 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom-- <sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. <sup>3</sup> So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>4</sup> I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, <sup>5</sup> we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. <sup>6</sup> We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

### B. Information Available

2 Peter 1:19-21 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>19</sup> And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## II. Return & Rebuilding

### A. Temple Rebuilt — Zerubbabel

Ezra 3:10-13 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: "He is good; his love to Israel endures forever." And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. <sup>12</sup> But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. <sup>13</sup> No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.



We want to send you the 5-message CD Collection of  
**You Have a Mighty Source – Part II**  
as our thank you for your financial support today!  
Click on Learn More or call **1-800-880-5102** and give generously.  
Thank you!

## **B. Ezra Returns**

Ezra 7:8-10 (NIV®)

<sup>8</sup> Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. <sup>9</sup> He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. <sup>10</sup> 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.

## **III. Jerusalem**

Nehemiah 1:1-4 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> The words of Nehemiah . . . one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." <sup>4</sup> When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

### **A. Cooperation**

Nehemiah 3:1-2 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. <sup>2</sup> The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.

### **B. Opposition (disappointing)**

Nehemiah 4:1-2 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, <sup>2</sup> and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble--burned as they are?"

### **C. Succeed or Fail**

Nehemiah 4:9-14 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup> But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat. <sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall." <sup>11</sup> Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work." <sup>12</sup> Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us." <sup>13</sup> Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. <sup>14</sup> After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

#### **1. Prayed & stood guard, v.9**

James 5:16 (NIV®)

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

#### **2. Wrestled with weariness, v.10**

Psalms 73:2-3 (NIV®)

<sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. <sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

### 3. Threats, v.11

Matthew 4:3 (NIV®)

<sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

### 4. Antagonists, v.12

### 5. Attention to Defense, v.13

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NIV®)

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

## 6. The Lord is Great & Awesome — REMEMBER

### **D. Restored: physically & spiritually**

Nehemiah 8:1-6 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. <sup>2</sup> So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. <sup>3</sup> He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. <sup>4</sup> Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. . . . <sup>5</sup> Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. <sup>6</sup> Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

## **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the privilege of hearing your Word. We choose to open our hearts and receive all which you have for us. We say yes to you, we want to be cooperative. Forgive our sins, our rebellion and our idolatry. Apart from you we have no hope, in you there is mercy and forgiveness. We rejoice in your faithfulness may our lives be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV®) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®, COPYRIGHT © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. ®. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.