

“The Magnificent Seven”

- I. The _____ of God’s Word over all obstacles.
(Ezra 1:1–4; II Chronicles 36:22; Jeremiah 25:11–14, 27:22, 29:10, 33:7–13; Isaiah 45)
- II. The _____ of God over governments.
(Ezra 1:1–3, 7–10; Proverbs 21:1, 16:9)
- III. The _____ of God’s Spirit over the hearts of the lost and the saved.
(Ezra 1:1–4, 6; 2:68; 3:7)
- IV. The _____ few who would leave the “comforts of captivity” for the adventure of faith.
(Ezra 2:64–65)
- V. The _____ of _____ when God’s people come together for God’s purposes.
(Ezra 3:1–2)
- VI. The _____ of the remnant to keep the Law.
(Ezra 3:2, 4–5, 8–10)
- VII. The _____ of reaction to the same data by the people of God.
(Ezra 3:10–14)

Additional Notes:



Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

Ezra 1-3

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1. God fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecy with exact timing and even named Cyrus long before his birth. How does confidence in God's promises affect the way you face long delays, unanswered prayers, or discouraging circumstances?
 2. Cyrus believed he was acting politically, yet Scripture says God stirred his heart. What does this reveal about God's sovereignty over human rulers? How should this truth shape the way Christians respond to political anxiety or hostility toward the faith?
 3. God stirred pagan kings, pagan neighbors, backslidden saints, and faithful remnant alike. What does this teach us about the reach of God's Spirit? How does this encourage you to pray boldly for God to move in people who seem spiritually distant?
 4. Scripture emphasizes that God initiates His work by stirring hearts. Why is this essential for understanding prayer and ministry? Where might God be calling you to pray more expectantly rather than more cautiously?
 5. Only a small remnant returned to Jerusalem. The majority preferred the comforts of captivity to the hardship of obedience. Why does Scripture so often emphasize faithful minorities rather than obedient majorities? What comforts or securities might make obedience harder for you when God calls you to step out in faith? In what ways might comfort be quietly dulling your willingness to sacrifice for God's purposes?
 6. The people gathered "as one man" to rebuild the altar. God chose to work through a unified people rather than isolated individuals. What does this teach us about God's design for the church? How can you more intentionally contribute to unity rather than merely consume community?

7. The foundation of the temple was laid according to God's blueprint. The remnant rebuilt the altar and worshiped exactly as written in the Law. How does this challenge modern ideas that the church must constantly reinvent itself to be effective?
8. Scripture records both joy and weeping at the same event without condemning either. How might this inform how differences in style do not necessarily mean that one form is wrong or another better?
9. God celebrates beginnings even when they seem unimpressive. Why does Scripture warn against despising "the day of small things"(Zechariah 4:10)? Where might God be calling you to remain faithful in something that feels insignificant or slow?
10. Which of the seven "S's" stands out most to you right now- Surety, Sovereignty, Stirring, Surprising Few, Solidarity, Scrupulousness, or Separation of reactions? Why?
11. Where might God be asking you to leave comfort behind in order to participate more fully in His work? (Ezra 2:64-65)
12. What would it look like for you to trust God's promises more deeply, obey His Word more carefully, and serve His purposes more joyfully this season?
13. How can this group pray for one another to be part of the faithful remnant-willing to obey, eager to unite, and patient with God's timing?