

2015 Anno Domini
The Year for Abiding

700BC

Isaiah 45:1 Thus says the LORD **to his anointed, to Cyrus**, whose right hand I have grasped, **to subdue nations before him** and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:

Isaiah 45:13 I have stirred him up in righteousness, and I will make all his ways level; **he shall build my city and set my exiles free**, not for price or reward,” says the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 44:28 who says of **Cyrus**, ‘He is my shepherd, and **he shall fulfill all my purpose**’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘**She shall be built,**’ and of the temple, ‘**Your foundation shall be laid.**”

630BC

Jeremiah 25:11 This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and **these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**

Jeremiah 29:10 “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, **I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.**

586BC

2Chronicles 36:19 And they **burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem** and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels.

2Chronicles 36:20 He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons **until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia,**

538BC

Ezra 1:1 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, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing:

Ezra 1:2 “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and **he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem**, which is in Judah.

Ezra 1:3 Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and **let him go up to Jerusalem**, which is in Judah, and **rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem**.

Ezra 1:5 Then rose up the heads of the fathers’ houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, **everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem**.

Ezra 3:2 Then arose **Jeshua** the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and **Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel** with his kinsmen, and **they built the altar of the God of Israel**, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.

Ezra 3:3 They set the altar in its place, **for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands**, and **they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD**, burnt offerings **morning and evening**.

Ezra 3:6 From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD. **But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid**.

Ezra 3:7 So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians **to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia**.

Ezra 3:8 Now in the **second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem**, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak **made a beginning**, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the

priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the LORD.

536BC

Ezra 3:10 And when **the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD**, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

Ezra 3:11 And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.” **And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.**

Ezra 4:1 Now when the **adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel,**

Ezra 4:2 they approached **Zerubbabel** and the heads of fathers’ houses and said to them, “Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here.”

Ezra 4:3 But **Zerubbabel, Jeshua**, and the rest of the heads of fathers’ houses in Israel said to them, “You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, **as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us.**”

Ezra 4:4 **Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build**

Ezra 4:5 and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, **even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.**

Ezra 4:24 **Then the work on the house of God that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.**

520BC

Haggai 1:1 In the **second year of Darius the king**, in the **sixth month**, on the **first day of the month**, the word of the LORD came by the hand of **Haggai** the prophet to **Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to **Joshua** the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

Haggai 1:2 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say **the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.**”

Haggai 1:3 Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet,

Haggai 1:4 “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your **paneled houses**, while this house lies in ruins?”

Haggai 1:8 Go up to the hills and bring wood and **build the house, that I may take pleasure in it** and that **I may be glorified**, says the LORD.

Haggai 1:9 You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, **I blew it away**. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. **Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.**

Haggai 1:12 Then **Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel**, and **Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest**, with all the remnant of the people, **obeyed the voice of the LORD their God**, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.

Haggai 1:13 Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, **spoke to the people** with the LORD’s message, “I am with you, declares the LORD.”

Haggai 1:14 And the **LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel, **governor of Judah**, and the **spirit of Joshua** the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the **spirit of all the remnant of the people**. And they came and **worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,**

Haggai 2:4 **Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel**, declares the LORD. **Be strong**, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. **Be strong**, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. **Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts,**

Haggai 2:5 according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. **My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.**

515BC

Ezra 6:15 and this **house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.**

Zechariah 4:6 Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to **Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.**

Zechariah 4:7 Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. **And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’”**

Zechariah 4:8 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Zechariah 4:9 “**The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house (536BC); his hands shall also complete it (515BC).** Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.

Zechariah 4:10a **For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel....**

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.**

Galatians 5:16 But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:18 But **if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

Galatians 5:23 **gentleness, self-control;** against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, **let us also keep in step with the Spirit.**

“According to my judgement **the most important point to be attended to is this: above all things see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord.** Other things may press upon you, the Lord's work may even have urgent claims upon your attention, but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that you should seek above all things to have your souls truly happy in God Himself! **Day by day seek to make this the most important business of your life.** This has been my firm and settled condition for the last five and thirty years. For the first four years after my conversion I knew not its vast importance, but now after much experience I specially commend this point to the notice of my younger brethren and sisters in Christ: **the secret of all true effectual service is joy in God, having experimental acquaintance and fellowship with God Himself.”**

“But in what way shall we attain to this settled happiness of soul? How shall we learn to enjoy God? How obtain such an all-sufficient soul-satisfying portion in him as shall **enable us to let go the things of this world as vain and worthless in comparison?** I answer, **This happiness is to be obtained through the study of the Holy Scriptures. God has therein revealed Himself unto us in the face of Jesus Christ.”**

“The more we know of God, the happier we are. . . . When we became a little acquainted with God . . . our true happiness . . . commenced; and the more we become acquainted with him, the more truly happy we become. **What will make us so exceedingly happy in heaven? It will be the fuller knowledge of God.”**

“Now in brotherly love and affection I would give a few hints to my younger fellow-believers as to the way in which to keep up spiritual enjoyment. It is absolutely needful in order that happiness in the Lord may continue, **that the Scriptures be regularly read. These are God's appointed means for the nourishment of the inner man.** . . . Consider it, and ponder over it. . . . Especially we should read regularly through the Scriptures, consecutively, and not pick out here and there a chapter. If we do, we remain spiritual dwarfs. I tell you so affectionately. For the first four years after my conversion I made no progress, because I neglected the Bible. But when I regularly read on through the whole with reference to my own heart and soul, I directly made progress. Then my peace and joy continued more and more. Now I have been doing this for 47 years. I have read through the whole Bible about 100 times and I always find it fresh when I begin again. Thus my peace and joy have increased more and more.”

“My dear Christian reader, will you not try this way? Will you not know for yourself . . . the preciousness and the happiness of this way of casting all your cares and burdens and necessities upon God? This way is as open to you as to me. . . . Every one is invited and commanded to trust in the Lord, to trust in Him with all his heart, and to cast his burden upon Him, and to call upon Him in the day of trouble. Will you not do this, my dear brethren in Christ? I long that you may do so. **I desire that you may taste the sweetness of that state of heart, in which, while surrounded by difficulties and necessities, you can yet be at peace, because you know that the living God, your Father in heaven, cares for you.**”

George Mueller

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