

Hearts God moves

17/5/26. St Peter's Nimmitabel. Andrew Monk

Series: What is *that* doing in the Bible?

Text: Ezra 1:1-3:1.

Epistle: Revelation 21:6-27. Gospels: John 4:13-26.

May the force be with you

- Episode I: *Solomon Turns to the Dark Side*
- Episode II: *The Dark Side comes for God's People*
- The *one thing* God's people want back
- *A Temple far, far away* (Psalm 79)

The Call of God: get Back to the Temple (1:1-4)

- Promises God keeps (1:1, Jeremiah 25:11-12)
- Unknown caller... *It's me, Cyrus*
- The day the bad guy turned up (1:2)
- The ringtone God chooses: 🎵 ...and may their God be with them 🎵 (1:3)

Hearts God moves (1:5-8)

- Dirty dishes in the sink: The **remnant**, the **rest** and the **redeemer**

The remnant God moves (1:5)

- *Can't the dishes just wash themselves?*
 - Inward (effectual) call (Genesis 22:1-2)

The rest God... doesn't move (quite as much) (1:6)

- *Who are you calling exile, exile?* (Exodus 12:35-36)
- Restraint Ezra shows (...for now)
- The "good life" Babylon promises
 - Outward (general) call

The redeemer God moves (1:7-8)

- The shepherd God anoints (Isaiah 44:28, 45:1)

- The redeemer who... doesn't know God? (Isaiah 45:5)
- Wait, what? *That* guy is... the redeemer?
 - Instrumental (providential) call (Proverbs 21:1)

Stuff God shows off (1:9-11)

- The dishwasher God endorses (Exodus 40:1-16)
- Holiness: God's finished product

Hearts God moved (2:1-67)

- The big list: *True worshippers*
- Fathers the Father moves (2:3-20)
- Places God extracts exiles out of (2:21-35)
- Professional ~~dishwashers~~ sanctifiers God sanctifies (2:36-58)
- The fatherless the Father moves (2:59-63)
- Sheep the Shepherd knows by name (2:64-67)

A place for God to call home (2:68-3:1)

- Worshippers the Father seeks (2:68-70)
- The day God's people turned up (3:1)

Episode IV: *The Real Mud Huts of Babylon*

- The pathetic life Babylon ended up with (Isaiah 13:19-20)
- Satellite navigation services God provides
- *Where we're going...*
- The day Jesus turns up (Revelation 21)
- Stained-glass windows God approves of (21:18-21)
- The life mud huts miss out on (Psalm 147)
- *Are we there yet?*
- *We don't need a Temple* (John 4:13-26)
- ⚠️ A very annoying ringtone ⚠️ (John 21:15-17)
 - Ringtones God assigns (John 14:26)
 - The day God calls you

Bible readings

Sermon: Hearts God moves

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Text: Ezra 1:1-3:1.

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Text: Ezra 1:1-3:1

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

“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. And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.””

Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.

Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god. Cyrus king of Persia had them brought by Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

This was the inventory:

gold dishes 30, silver dishes 1,000, silver pans 29, gold bowls 30, matching silver bowls 410, other articles 1,000.

In all, there were 5,400 articles of gold and of silver. Sheshbazzar brought all these along with the exiles when they came up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Now these are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive to Babylon (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to their own town, 2 in company with Zerubbabel, Joshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah):

The list of the men of the people of Israel:

the descendants of Parosh 2,172, of Shephatiah 372, of Arah 775, of Pahath-Moab (through the line of Jeshua and Joab) 2,812, of Elam 1,254, of Zattu 945, of Zakkai 760, of Bani 642, of Bebai 623 of Azgad 1,222, of Adonikam 666, of Bigvai 2,056, of Adin 454, of Ater (through Hezekiah) 98, of Bezai 323, of Jorah 112, of Hashum 223, of Gibbar 95, the men of Bethlehem 123 of Netophah 56, of Anathoth 128, of Azmaveth 42, of Kiriath Jearim, Kephirah and Beeroth 743, of Ramah and

Geba 621, of Mikmash 122, of Bethel and Ai 223, of Nebo 52, of Magbish 156, of the other Elam 1,254, of Harim 320, of Lod, Hadid and Ono 725, of Jericho 345, of Senaah 3,630.

The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua) 973, of Immer 1,052, of Pashhur 1,247, of Harim 1,017.

The Levites: the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel (of the line of Hodaviah) 74.

The musicians: the descendants of Asaph 128.

The gatekeepers of the temple: the descendants of Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita and Shobai 139.

The temple servants: the descendants of Ziha, Hasupha, Tabbaoth, Keros, Siaha, Padon, Lebanah, Hagabah, Akkub, Hagab, Shalmal, Hanan, Giddel, Gahar, Reaiah, Rezin, Nekoda, Gazzam, Uzza, Paseah, Besai, Asnah, Meunim, Nephusim, Bakbuk, Hakupha, Harhur, Bazluth, Mehida, Harsha, Barkos, Sisera, Temah, Neziah and Hatipha.

The descendants of the servants of Solomon: the descendants of Sotai, Hassophereth, Peruda, Jaala, Darkon, Giddel, Shephatiah, Hattil, Pokereth-Hazzebaim and Ami.

The temple servants and the descendants of the servants of Solomon 392

The following came up from the towns of Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Kerub, Addon and Immer, but they could not show that their families were descended from Israel:

The descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah and Nekoda 652.

And from among the priests: The descendants of Hobaiah, Hakkoz and Barzillai (a man who had married a daughter of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by that name).

These searched for their family records, but they could not find them and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean. The governor ordered them not to eat any of the most sacred food until there was a priest ministering with the Urim and Thummim.

The whole company numbered 42,360, besides their 7,337 male and female slaves; and they also had 200 male and female singers. They had 736 horses, 245 mules, 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.

When they arrived at the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the families gave freewill offerings toward the rebuilding of the house of God on its site. According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver and 100 priestly garments.

The priests, the Levites, the musicians, the gatekeepers and the temple servants settled in their own towns, along with some of the other people, and the rest of the Israelites settled in their towns.

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem.

Epistle: Revelation 21:6-27

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured

the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick. The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Gospels: John 4:13-26

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

“I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”