

RETURN, REBUILD, RESTORE

Summit Christian Athletics December Devotional



EZRA 5:7B-17 A LETTER SENT TO THE KING...

To King Darius: Cordial greetings. The king should know that we went to the district of Judah, to the temple of the great God. The people are building it with large stones and placing the timbers in the walls. The work is being carried on with diligence and is making rapid progress under their direction. We questioned the elders and asked them, "Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and to finish it?" We also asked them their names, so that we could write down the names of their leaders for your information. This is the answer they gave us:

"We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, one that a great king of Israel built and finished. But because our ancestors angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar the Chaldean, king of Babylon, who destroyed this temple and deported the people to Babylon.

"However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, King Cyrus issued a decree to rebuild this house of God. He even removed from the temple of Babylon the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to the temple^[c] in Babylon. Then King Cyrus gave them to a man named Sheshbazzar, whom he had appointed governor, and he told him, 'Take these articles and go and deposit them in the temple in Jerusalem. And rebuild the house of God on its site.' "So this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem. From that day to the present it has been under construction but is not yet finished."



INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

Players & Coaches: Use this space to write down a prayerful reflection on how this scripture applies to your team

TEAM REFLECTION

1. This letter is being sent by the region's new governor. We are not told if he was for or against the work of rebuilding the temple, just that he wanted to find out why the work had started again. What does it tell you that someone outside of their "team" said that their work was "being carried on with diligence and is making rapid progress?" How can we make people say this about our team?
2. These men didn't see their work as a new thing. They said they were "rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, one that a great king of Israel built and finished." Whose work are you "rebuilding?" Alumni? Family members? Siblings? How are you playing for more than yourself?
3. They acknowledge that their work is not yet finished....What are the final pieces we need to add to our puzzle to finish what we have started this season?