

# *GOING HOME*

## THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

Chapter Nineteen

May 27, 2012

*The Temple is Rebuilt*



# GOING HOME

Ezra 1:1-3

**What does God do when we make  
His Big Thing our Small Thing?**

# GOING HOME

## Ezra 1:1-3

### Ezra 1:1-3

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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

# GOING HOME

Ezra 1:1-4

<sup>4</sup> 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.

# Reasons Why God Wanted the Temple Rebuilt

God's powerful passion of proximity

As a reminder of our problem of iniquity, our  
sin

Access to God is through the shedding of blood

## Ezra 3:1-3

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God

## Ezra 3:1-3

<sup>3</sup> Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and evening sacrifices.

God's Big Thing had become their small thing

The rebuilding of the temple project was abandoned for 16 years

# Haggai 1:3-11

Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: <sup>4</sup>“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses while this house remains a ruin?

<sup>5</sup> Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>6</sup> You have planted much, but harvested little you eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill you put on clothes, but are not warm.



# Haggai 1:3-11

You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”

<sup>7</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>8</sup> Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored says the LORD.

# Haggai 1:3-11

<sup>9</sup> “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little what you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin while each of you is busy with your own house. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld dew and the earth its crops.

# Haggai 1:3-11

<sup>11</sup> I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains on the grain, the new wine the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands

# How God Gets Our Attention When We Won't Give Him Ours

He lets us stink with the pigs

He lets us sink with the fish

He permits droughts and downturns and  
difficulties

There are seasons of God ordained struggles

Examine our ways

# Points to Ponder

We have a chest of forgotten passions

God is either a big thing or He is nothing

It's never too late to begin again

God said, "I am with you"

# Points to Ponder

<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

# Points to Ponder

## Revelation 2:4-6

I have this against you, that you have left your first love, remember therefore from where you have fallen and do the first works

# Points to Ponder

If we put God in first place, the second place things fall into order

C.S. Lewis

If you put first things first, we get second things thrown in

But if you put second things first, we lose both first and second things