

Let Us Rise Up And Build

by

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Welcome to this series of Bible studies entitled, “Let Us Rise Up And Build.” The theme for this study is derived from the restoration shelf in the Old Testament department of the Bible library. When Nehemiah issued the call to build up the wall of Jerusalem, the answer resounded, “Let us rise up and build” (Neh. 2:18). The lessons that follow take principles from the Old Testament house and wall builders and make practical application to Christians today in building up the body of Christ.

“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:16).

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith...” (Jude 20).

If you have any questions or comments to make, write them in the appropriate place so you can remember to mention them at the right time. Write your name on your material as you will want to keep it for further study.

Name

Date and Place of Study

Material Prepared By:
John Isaac Edwards

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Suggestions For Using This Material:

1. Study the material in class form. Be sure to encourage class participation.
2. This material makes for a good study in different member's homes, or it may be studied in a Bible class at the meeting place of the church.
3. It is recommended that you follow this study with our *Soul Winning Tool Kit*, which contains an eight lesson Soul Winning Lesson Book for personal workers and Soul Winning Tools for use in building up the church.

Raising Up Stirred Spirits

Introduction

1. It all begins with stirred spirits. Restoration literature opens with spirits being stirred up and raised (Ezra 1:1-5). People will never be stimulated to rise up and build, until their spirits are stirred!
2. This Bible study takes us back about 2500 years, to the Period of Return and Restoration, in an effort to evoke strong feeling and rouse to activity.

Discussion

I. **The Spirit Of Cyrus**

- A. Unlike the gods that could not “shew the former things” or “declare things for to come” (Is. 41:22), the Holy One of Israel declared the end from the beginning (Is. 46:10). Some 100 years before his birth, God mentioned Cyrus and the work he would do.
 1. God said of Cyrus, “He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid” (Is. 44:28).
 2. How many times does the personal pronoun “I” occur in Isaiah 45:1-7? _____
This shows “that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men” (Dan. 4:17), and worked through King Cyrus to accomplish His aim and perform His purpose.
- B. Ezra 1:1 says, “Now 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, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing...”
 1. What prophecy of Jeremiah was being fulfilled? _____

 2. What was the result of Cyrus’ stirred spirit? _____
 3. Give the proclamation of Cyrus, in few words. _____

II. **The Spirit Of The Chief Fathers, The Priests, And The Levites**

- A. Rising up to build began with the leadership of the Lord’s people.
- B. “Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem” (Ezra 1:5).
 1. Give a brief description of the chief of the fathers, the priests, and the Levites.

 2. What was it that moved these to rise up to build? _____

III. The Spirit Of Zerubbabel, Joshua, And All The Remnant

- A. By His messenger Haggai, “the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts, their God” (Hag. 1:14).
1. Describe the setting when Haggai appeared on the scene. _____

 2. What was the Lord’s message unto the people? _____

- B. Ezra 5:1-2 shows the effect of this spirit-stirring. “Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem...”
1. With spirits stirred, the building prospered and was _____ (Ezra 6:14).
 2. In order for men to rise up and begin to build, what must happen? _____

IV. The Spirit Of Nehemiah

- A. As Nehemiah, “the king’s cupbearer” (Neh. 1:11), “in Shushan the palace” (Neh. 1:1), heard of the distress of the Jews, sadness and sorrow were stirred in his heart (Neh. 1).
1. How is Nehemiah’s concern for his brethren seen? _____

 2. What was the state of the remnant? _____

 3. When Nehemiah heard the words of affliction, what five things did he do? _____

- B. With his spirit stirred, Nehemiah journeyed to Jerusalem, viewed the wall and sounded the building call, “come, and let us build up the wall...” (Neh. 2:17).
1. What request did Nehemiah make before Artaxerxes the king? _____

 2. What was it about Nehemiah’s arrival that exceedingly grieved Sanballat and Tobiah? _____

 3. If we would but take time to “view the walls,” perhaps our spirits would be stirred in such a way that we would say, “Let us rise up and build” (Neh. 2:18).

Conclusion

1. Notice other spirit-stirring stories, as time permits.
 - a. The spirit of the tabernacle givers (Ex. 35:21-36:7).
 - b. The spirit of Paul (Acts 17:16).
2. As long as we live, there will be the need to raise up stirred spirits (2 Pet. 1:13; 3:1). We hope this study raises within you a stirred spirit to rise up and build!