

Sunday, September 10, 2023

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What do we learn from this? How to apply it?

## Restoration: The Story of Israel

Ezra 1:1-4, 3:8-13

*Welcome to the 10th of 10 sermons on the Story of Israel. The Story of Israel is (true) history, it is sacred history, and it is our family history. We last heard of Judah, the southern kingdom of Israel, being sent into exile in Babylon. But today we will learn that their story is not over.*

What is restoration?

Review of our series

The call back to the promised land (Ezra 1:1-4)

- Cyrus the Persian sends them back!?

The rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 3:8-13)

- It's not Solomon's temple, but it's a pretty amazing thing

Not all is great. Nehemiah will say, "We are slaves in our own land." (Neh 9:36)

- Is God promising restoration *to me*? Can I claim this by faith?

- We have more to say next week. A bonus epilogue sermon to the Story of Israel!

### Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Have you ever had a moment of restoration in your life? What was it that was restored to you?
2. Read 3:8-13. What made this moment so dramatic?
3. Looking back on our series, why did Israel/Judah *have to* come back from exile?
4. Have you heard salvation in Christ called "restoration"? Do you think it should be?

- In what way does salvation in Christ entail restoration?
- In what way does it exceed restoration?