



Mark Your Calendar

11.5
Church Breakfast/Work
Day

11.12
Ladies Luncheon

11.20
Thanksgiving Dinner

12.9
Christmas Fellowship

12.18
Christmas Service

The Faithful Few

Ezra 2:1

God often moves in the hearts of His people in order to accomplish His will. In this passage we find the Lord stirred the hearts of the Jews in captivity and encouraged them to return to Jerusalem. This was not an easy thing for God's people to do. The journey would be filled with many hardships and their future in the land was uncertain. But, we find a group willing to be led by the Lord. Ezra chapter two is a record of their faith in God and desire to follow after Him.

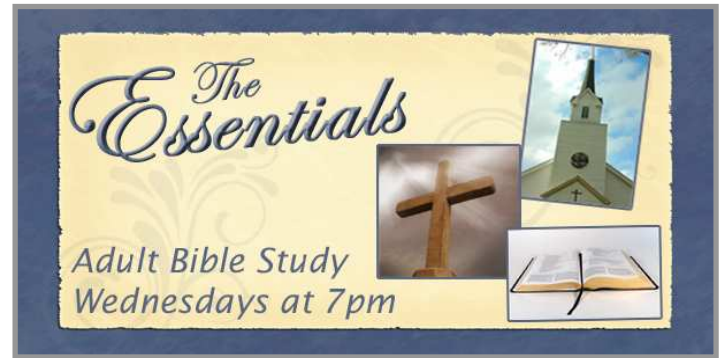
Nebuchadnezzar had taken the Jews into captivity. Because of their sin God allowed them to be overcome and they were taken to Babylon in several deportments over a twenty-year period. In 606 BC the first stage of Jewish deportments occurred, Daniel and others of royalty were taken at this time. The second stage of deportments, which included mighty men of valor and the skilled workmen, happened in 597 BC. Finally, many of the remaining citizens were taken to Babylon in the third stage of Jewish deportments in 586 BC. It is at this time that Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed and left in ruins. For the Jews in

captivity, their situation may have seemed hopeless.

It has been said that God's light shines brightest during the darkest hours. The Jews lived in captivity while their homeland lay in ruins. But, the Lord did not forget them. Two things occurred which opened the door for the people to return to Jerusalem. First, God worked in the hearts of the people. (Ezra 1:5) The Lord stirred them up and gave them a burden for their homeland. Without God's working in their hearts, they would have remained in Babylon. Second, the Lord enabled them to return to Jerusalem. Babylon fell to the Persians in 539 BC and three years later Cyrus, the king of Persia, issued a decree that allowed the Jews to return home. Because of the Lord, they had the desire and opportunity to go back to Jerusalem. Let us never forget that God is able to accomplish His will in our lives.

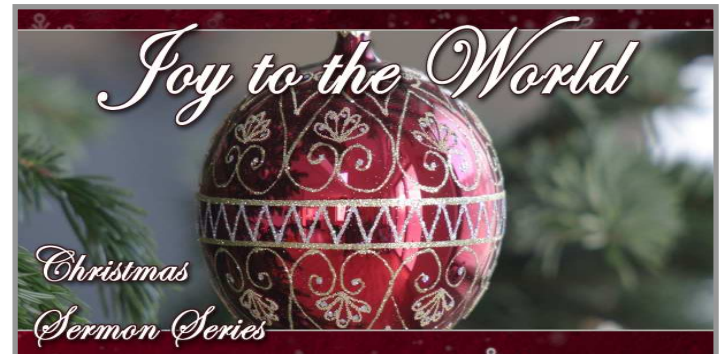
With God's direction the people decided to return to Jerusalem. For the Jews, this was a matter of dedication. They were leaving much; life in a prominent city, homes, businesses and for some the only place they had ever known. They were not getting much in return. The Jews were going to a land filled with hardships and enemies to rebuild what had been destroyed. It would prove to be a difficult and dangerous task. However, they were going where God directed and that probably settled the matter in their hearts.

The record in chapter two reminds us of their dedication; God blessed them by preserving their testimony of faith and courage. They lived by faith and trusted God's direction and protection. Their dedication serves as an example to us; God's work might be difficult and at times seem hopeless, but the Lord is able to do all things.



The Essentials
Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays at 7pm

The logo features the title 'The Essentials' in a cursive font, with 'Adult Bible Study' and 'Wednesdays at 7pm' in a sans-serif font below it. To the right are three small images: a wooden cross, a church steeple, and an open Bible.



Joy to the World
Christmas
Sermon Series

The logo features the title 'Joy to the World' in a cursive font, with 'Christmas Sermon Series' in a sans-serif font below it. The background is a close-up of a red Christmas ornament with gold patterns.

Central Baptist Church

A Place to Grow in God's Grace

Church Information

15601 Taylor Loop Road

Little Rock, AR 72223

501-868-7703

centralbaptistchurch.org

Pastor, Cory Ramirez

Associate Pastor, Will Ramirez

Service Times

Sunday

Early in the Word - 9:15

Bible Classes - 10:00

Morning Service - 11:00

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study - 7:00

King's Kids - 7:00



Current Bible Class

We invite you to join us Sundays at 10:00 am for our Bible Class. Practical and timely lessons will be presented each Sunday from the Book of Hebrews.

The Book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians, so they would not return to their ceremonies and traditions but instead abide with Christ and remain faithful to their Saviour. Unlike Galatians, the epistle does not address a specific error but encourages the reader from falling into error.

The Book of Hebrews magnifies and exalts Jesus Christ. It displays His character and manifests His service and work for mankind before God the Father. Jesus Christ is shown to be greater than Moses the one whom received the law. Jesus Christ is shown to be greater than Joshua the one that led the people into the Promised Land. Jesus Christ is shown to be greater than Aaron the High Priest. Jesus Christ's sacrifice is shown to be greater than the sacrifices offered under the law.

The Book of Hebrews encourages the believer to look to Jesus Christ in all things. Studying this book should deepen our love for Christ and draw us nearer to Him.

Come and join us as we study the Book of Hebrews.

Bible Classes

11.6
Hebrews 7 - The Priestly Christ

11.13
Hebrews 8 - The Excellent Christ

11.20
Hebrews 9 - The Perfect Christ

11.27
Hebrews 10 - The Obedient Christ

12.4
Hebrews 11 - The Promised Christ

12.11
Hebrews 12 - The Seated Christ

12.25
Hebrews 13 - The Eternal Christ