

SESSION TWO

BUILD THE TEMPLE

Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1,2,6,8

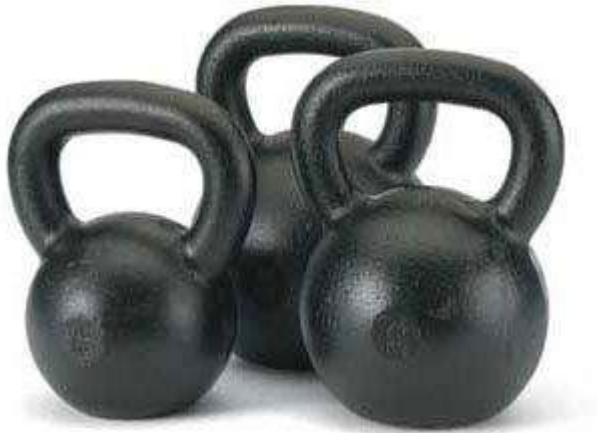
I. Introduction

- A. Only about _____ return to Judah and Jerusalem from a possible 1,000,000.
1. It is easy to get into sin, but it is much more difficult to get out.
 2. It is easy to go the way of the world, but it is difficult to get out.
 3. It is easy to start on the road to carnality, but it is much more difficult to leave it.
 4. It is much easier to compromise, than it is to return from compromise.
- B. Babylon is a type of the world.
- C. The keys are to build a temple and then build a wall to protect it!

II. Build the altar - 3:1,2

- A. The first thing you need to do when coming to God is getting a heart for Him in dealing with sin.

1. If you have never trusted Christ, trust Him.
2. You must come before God, humble yourself with repentance, and ask for forgiveness.
3. If we are going to go on with our Christian lives, we have to follow Hebrews 12:1 "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us."



III. Build the temple - vs 6-10

- A. After you confess sin, don't just get active in ministry and church.
1. Do not mistake _____ for spirituality!
 - a. When your activity becomes about you – no temple.
 - b. When activity becomes about the need for feeling involved – no temple.
 - c. When your motive is wrong – no temple.
 - d. When critical instead of spiritual – no temple.
 2. We just don't need to be in Jerusalem, we need to have a temple!
- B. The _____ was where the presence of God was.
- C. We need to practice the presence of God.
- D. Have a place where you go to meet with God.
1. Your prayer life is your foundation.
 2. Have a place every day where you get alone and meet with God.
- E. We need to have a heart that is desiring God.



IV. Be ready for hindrances and adversaries. - 4:1-4

- A. Once you have determined to have the temple in your life, hindrances will come to stop it.
- B. Many times, the enemy tries to friend you first. vs 2

V. Helps for maintaining the temple or the presence of God in your life. Ezra 7-10

- A. A need for Godly _____.
- B. We need to be in the Bible.

1. The Bible needs to be important in your life.
 - a. You need to be in It every day.
 - b. You need to be ready for the preaching.
 - i. Prepare your heart to seek the Law of the Lord as Ezra did.
 - ii. Each service, come ready to eat.
 - c. You will not maintain the presence of God in your life without _____ to the Word of God!

