

Celebration Services (October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008)  
**"Returning with a Mind to Work"**

**Returning From Exile (Pt. 4)**

**INTRO....** It's Time to Go .... Are You Packed Yet?

## IT'S TIME

- **God Appoints and Controls the Times**

Gal 4:4 "in the fulness of time God sent forth His Son..."

Mark 1:14-15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Acts 1:6-7 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority."

### ***God Appointed the Time of Exile and the Time of the Return***

- **God Places You in History [His Story]**

- **Zerubbabel** (~540BC) ... God's Appointed Man to Lead the First Wave and those who would rebuild the TEMPLE
- **Esther** (~480BC) ... arose and mysteriously became queen during a time when Persian official (Hamaan) sought to exterminate the Jews — Esther 4:14 "who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this"
- **Ezra** (~458BC) ... God's appointed man to restore the WORD
- **NEHEMIAH**(~445BC) ... God's appointed man to Rebuild the Wall around Jerusalem
  - **God Sets Nehemiah's INTERNAL ALARM CLOCK** ... Neh 1:1-11
    - God's Call Would Disrupt Nehemiah's Current Life Patterns .... "Now I was cupbearer to the king"
  - **Something Needed to be Done!** .... It's nearly 100 yrs later and the city & walls are still in "RUINS"
  - **People with a Burden from God Can Accomplish a LOT!!**
    - Neh 2:1-8
    - Neh 4:6
    - Neh 6:15

***What Made the Difference? ... a Burden from God in the Heart of Men***

WARNING: People with a Burden From God can be DIFFICULT to Be Around  
Neh 4:4-5  
Neh 13:23-27

## *When God Moves.... Movers & Shakers Must Emerge*

### **ARE YOU PACKED?**

*... Where are you going? ... What will you be doing there?*

**Neh 4:6** .... They Were Going to WORK!

### WHAT DID "WORK" LOOK LIKE?

#### **1. It Looked Like a PASSION**

Neh 4:6 (Other Translations): "The people were inspired by the work" ; "the people worked with all their heart" (NIV);

**" the heart of the people was to do the work"; their heart was set on it."**  
**Charles Fensham, The Book of Nehemiah, NICOT, p. 182**

**Ex 36:2** And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work .

**1 Chron 29:1-3** "And David the king said to all the assembly, "Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the LORD God. **2** So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble. **3** Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God:"

**2 Cor 8:16-17** But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. **17** For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord.

## **2. It Looked Like PARTICIPATION ... Neh 3:1-5**

– When They Came Under Attack and Faced Opposition ... Neh 4:15ff

***" and next to him ...***

- Who Are You Standing Next to?
- What's Your Job? How are You Contributing to the Building of the Kingdom?
- Who's Back are you Covering?

***So... What's In Your LUGGAGE?*** ...Am I Returning with a "Mind to Work"?

- ...The Ministry of Hospitality
- ...The Ministry of Prayer
- ...The Ministry of Serving
- ...The Ministry of Evangelism
- ... Other gifts & callings of the Holy Spirit