

# HOPE IN GOD

PSALM  
43:5

Sunday Morning, February 11, 2024 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title: Hope for Follow-Through**

**Message Text:** Daniel 6:28, Ezra 1-6

## Introduction

Many of you have been making wonderful decision for Christ. You have been taking steps of growth. You have been allowing the Holy Spirit to root out attitudes, behaviors and habits. You have been praying and seeking the will of the Lord. You have been endeavoring to grow in the studying of God's Word. Any time that we determine to obey God there will be a test of our resolve and there will be opposition. *How will you follow-through on your decisions to obey the will of God as He has made it clear to you?*

## 1. Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ in Cyrus Reign

(Daniel 6:28, Ezra 1:1-4)

*Daniel 6:28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

DEFINITION—PROSPERED: thrive

*Ezra 1:1-4 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, saying, 2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. 4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.*

NOTE — God used an earthly king to enable His people accomplish His will.

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sermon notes



## 2. God's People \_\_\_\_\_ to Jerusalem

(Ezra 2:1-2)

*Ezra 2:1-2 Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city; 2 Which came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:*

\_\_\_\_\_ people returned led by Zerubbabel

CYRUS SENT THEM WITH:

\_\_\_\_\_ vessels from the temple (1:11)

\_\_\_\_\_ Servants (2:65)

\_\_\_\_\_ Singers (2:66)

\_\_\_\_\_ Horses, Mules, Camels and Donkeys

\_\_\_\_\_ of Gold, silver and priests garments (2:68)

QUOTE: I would much rather be a trusting child of a rich Father, than a beggar at the door of worldly men. — Corrie Ten Boom

QUOTE: God pays for what He orders. — Unknown

## 3. God's People began to \_\_\_\_\_ the Temple (Ezra 3:8-13)

*Ezra 3:8 Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the Lord.*

NOTE — Construction began a year after they arrived. Likely it took this time to get organized and settled.

Note — They laid the foundation and many rejoiced, but some were sad.

*Ezra 3:11–13 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. 12 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: 13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.*

*Zechariah 4:10 For who hath despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven;*

*1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

## 4. God's People became \_\_\_\_\_

(Ezra 4:1-7)

*Ezra 4:1–7 Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the Lord God of Israel; 2 Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esar-haddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither. 3 But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the Lord God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us. 4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,*

*Continue reading in Ezra 4:5-7*

*2 Corinthians 7:5 For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.*

*Ezra 4:24 Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.*

NOTE — The temple construction was stopped for the next \_\_\_\_\_ years.

## 5. God sent \_\_\_\_\_ to Encourage His People (Ezra 5:1)

*Ezra 5:1 Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them.*

HAGGAI'S MESSAGE — *Haggai 1:1-7*

ZECHARIAH'S MESSAGE — *Zechariah 4*

NOTE — *The vision Zechariah saw and was to give to Zerubbabel, was one of a candlestick that never ran out of oil. They were connected directly to the olive tree. The oil represented a constant flow of God's power.*

*Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, Saith the Lord of hosts.*

## 6. God's People \_\_\_\_\_ the Temple

(Ezra 5:2; 6:14-15)

*Ezra 5:2 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: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.*

NOTE — Construction was started around 520 BC and finished March 12, 515 BC.

*Ezra 6:14-15 And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. 15 And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king*

### Conclusion

QUOTE: Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind. We are useless. C.H. Spurgeon

*John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing*

*Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

*John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

*Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

*Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*



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