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Christ in Every Chapter

#MC28

Ezra 1–10

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CHAPTER 1

Verses 3-4: **“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. 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.”** There’s a great spiritual application here. Jerusalem pictures our “new Jerusalem” (Gal. 4:26; Rev. 3:12), and the great effort here on the part of the people to build the house of the Lord pictures the present building of Christ’s “spiritual house” (I Pet. 2:5). Even the “silver” and “gold” and “goods” are familiar elements to those acquainted with the Judgment Seat of Christ (I Cor. 3:11-15; II Cor. 5:10).

CHAPTER 2

Verses 59-62: **“And these were they which went up from Telmelah, Telharsa, Cherub, Addan, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Israel: The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two. And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name: These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood. And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.”** What a splendid foreshadow of the White Throne Judgment where only the true seed of Christ will have their names recorded in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 13:8; 20:11-15). Everyone else will be “as polluted.” The words “Urim” and “Thummim” mean “lights” and “perfection,” and they remind us of our High Priest, Jesus Christ, who has full light and

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perfection in all things, including in His judgment (John 5:22). He is the holy standard by which God will judge all men (Rom. 2:16), just as the high priest here was to pass perfect judgment.

CHAPTER 3

Verse 11: **“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.”** Likewise, *Christians* should be singing and giving thanks because our Foundation, the Lord Jesus Christ, was laid. He was laid to rest, yet He rose the third day that we might be justified and that we might begin building on a sure foundation. The reference is another 3:11: **“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”** (I Cor. 3:11) Also see Isaiah 28:16.

CHAPTER 4

Verses 1-5: The people of God saw first hand how Satan would raise up “adversaries” to oppose the work. So it is today, as we endeavor to accomplish Christ’s work in this world, Satan (meaning “adversary”), the chief enemy of Christ, raises up his agents to oppose our efforts (I Cor. 16:9; I Ths. 2:18; II Tim. 3:12). He doesn’t oppose every good cause in the world, but he always opposes the cause of Christ, especially you work to rebuild and strengthen your own personal “temple” (I Cor. 3:16).

CHAPTER 5

Verse 11: **“... and build the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great king of Israel builded and set up.”** Obviously, the passage refers to the literal temple being rebuilt after the Babylonian captivity, but a great spiritual application can be made also. Jesus is the “great king” Who built His church, but throughout history His church suffered greatly, and it seemed that it would be torn down completely, but during the Philadelphia church period He raised up some new builders, much like He raised up some builders in Ezra and Nehemiah.

CHAPTER 6

Verse 19: **“And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month.”** As always, the Passover pictures Christ (I Cor. 5:7) as it memorializes an event where God passed over His people and spared them the wrath that so many others would suffer (Exo. 12-13).

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All this was due to the blood of the Passover lamb that had been personally applied, obviously pointing to Christ.

CHAPTER 7

Verse 10: **“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”** The same is true of our Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, who spent His entire earthly ministry teaching “in Israel statutes and judgments.”

Verse 13: **“... of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem ...”** So it is today with those who follow Christ. No one is forced. Every follower of Jesus serves by his “own freewill.” May we also remember that if we follow Jesus “up to Jerusalem,” we will have to bear a cross as He did and endure much of the same persecution (II Tim. 3:12).

CHAPTER 8

Verse 18: **“... And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding ...”** What man has more understanding than the Lord Jesus Christ? He understands all the ways of God, and He was touched with “the feeling of our infirmities” and was “in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” (Heb. 4:15). It’s interesting that they “brought” a man of understanding to the people. Our duty as Christians is to bring Jesus Christ to the lost (Mat. 28:18-20).

CHAPTER 9

Verse 8: **“... to give us a nail in his holy place ...”** The “nail” in the verse speaks of something being sure and settled (“nailed down,” etc.). A good cross reference on Christ is Isaiah 22:23: **“And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.”** Ironical, is it not? *The One that they nailed to the cross turns out to be the “nail in a sure place” on which our salvation hangs!*

Verse 13: **“... our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this ...”** How true those words are today for every born-again child of God! But “such deliverance as this” would not be possible if not for the Lord Jesus Christ, “the Deliverer” (Rom. 11:26; Luke 4:18).

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CHAPTER 10

Verse 1: “Now when Ezra had prayed . . .” Everything that follows in the chapter hinges on the intercession of Ezra the priest. A “covenant” is worked out (vs. 3) whereby the people of the land will be able to put away their strange wives and be reconciled to God, but this comes only after Ezra prays to God on behalf of the people. This obviously pictures Christ in His office as the “one mediator between God and men” (I Tim. 2:5) and the “mediator of the new covenant” (Heb. 12:24).