

## “RISE UP AND BUILD”

### INTRODUCTION

**A. Nehemiah 2:17-18**

Following seventy years of exile, first in Babylon, and then in Persia, many Jews sought to return to the Promised Land to rebuild the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem ([Ezra 9:9](#); [Nehemiah 2:5](#))

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:9-17**

The church is God’s Temple at present and we are duty-bound to further its construction; therefore, it is appropriate that we contemplate the example of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel when they undertook a similar task in ancient time.

### I. SPIRITS WERE STIRRED

**A. Ezra 1:1-5; Haggai 1:1-15**

Persian King Cyrus’s spirit was stirred ([Ezra 1](#)) to proclaim the rebuilding project, and the spirits of the priests, Levites, and others were stirred to get going ([Ezra 5](#)). The spirits of Zerubbabel the governor, Joshua the high priest, and the remnant of the people were all stirred to rebuild ([Haggai 1:14](#)).

**B. Acts 17:16-17**

When something’s wrong, our spirits need to be stirred up.

### II. HANDS WERE SET

**A. Nehemiah 2:18**

When it was time to get started, they set their hands to the task. Picture a baseball player gripping a bat as he anticipates the pitch or a gunslinger in an old western ready for the clock to strike high noon. Similarly, those people whose spirits were stirred then set their hands to work!

**B. Ezra 4:4-5 KJV/ASV; Nehemiah 6:1-9**

Adversaries opposed the work and did their utmost to slacken the hands of the builders. When the enemies tried to weaken their hands by distractions, Nehemiah refused to cease. We must do likewise!

**C. Hebrews 12:12**

Weak hands are still in need of strength!

**III. OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN**

**A. Ezra 2:68-69; 7:12-20**

The people gave freely. Even the king and his counselors contributed.

**B. Romans 12:6-8**

Liberal givers are still needed today!

**IV. PEOPLE WERE UNITED**

**A. Ezra 3:1-2; Nehemiah 8:1-3**

When it came time to begin sacrificing at the rebuilt altar, the people gathered together as one man. They were gathered together as one man to listen to the reading of God's Law.

**B. Acts 4:32; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:10**

Christians still need to be of one heart and soul, of one mind and judgment.

**V. WHAT IS WRITTEN WAS FOLLOWED**

**A. Ezra 3:1-2; 3:4; 6:18; Nehemiah 8:15; 10:34, 36**

The altar was rebuilt according to what was written. What was written was the basis for everything they did in this time of reconstruction

**B. Acts 7:44; Philippians 3:17**

What they built followed a pattern from Moses' time. We still need to be following patterns today.

**VI. SEPARATION WAS COMMITTED TO**

**A. Ezra 9:1-10:4; Nehemiah 9:1-2**

The people separated themselves from the pagans they had associated with and even married because they had offended God in doing so.

**B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14-18**

We still need to be different from the world around us cut off bad influences.