

The Book of EZRA

DAYS of gloom were looming;
Where bondage made sad hearts.
Where homeward skies were distant,
And it was a dream long past.
Then out of the blue the king said,
“The Lord! The Lord is God!
Who will go build the Lord’s temple?”
And just like that, new hope was born.
At a time when gold and silver were virtually unknown,
To carry them in abundance with a charge
and homeward bound.

EZRA 1

¹It was the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, and as those days dragged slowly on, the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, was about to come to pass.

The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, Persia’s king; and he proclaimed throughout his kingdom, and also in writing:

²“So says Cyrus, king of Persia: The Lord God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has commanded me, to build Him a house at Jerusalem, in Judah.”
We listened as He ascribed, to our God His true worth.

³*And then he asked who among them was ready to go home.*

³“Who is there among His people, willing to go up?”

May his God be with him, and let him go; and let him build the house of the Lord God of Israel in Jerusalem; for He alone is God.

⁴“And anyone who remains in any place where he lives, let the men there help him with silver, gold, goods, and livestock, in addition to the freewill offering for the house of God in Jerusalem.”

⁵Then the chief of the fathers’ houses of Judah and Benjamin, the priests and the Levites, and all those whose spirit God had stirred up, rose to go up to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.

⁶All the people around them, strengthened them with articles of silver and gold, with goods, animals, and valuable things, in addition, everything was offered willingly.

⁷The king, Cyrus, also brought the vessels of the house of the Lord, that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem, and placed in the temple of his gods.

⁸King Cyrus brought these out by his servant Mithredath the treasurer, and he counted them and gave them to Sheshbazzar, prince of Judah.

⁹This is the amount of them: there were thirty chargers of gold, one thousand silver chargers, twenty-nine knives;

¹⁰thirty gold basins, four hundred and ten silver basins of similar design, and the other articles were one thousand.

¹¹The silver and gold articles totalled five thousand four hundred in number.

Sheshbazzar had taken all these with the captives whom he brought from Babylon to Jerusalem.

CWDS Bible Quotes

- 1. The wisdom of authority is to acknowledge the source of your authority; this is your authenticity.*
- 2. The heart of kings is in the hand of the Lord, like butter in His hand, or rivers in the land, He turns it to channel His plans and desires.*
- 3. God can command rocks to sing His praise and sinners to blaze His trail.*
- 4. There is no shortage of resources to build the kingdom; if it is in the earth it is in God’s domain and within His command power; if it does not exist it is within His creative power.*
- 5. The grace of God attracts the goodness of men towards you; please God and they will please you for they must do His pleasing.*
- 6. If it belongs to God they must release it to God; if you belong to God they must release it to you.*
- 7. Ride the wave of blessings to your destiny; God will create oceans of blessings to expedite His will in the earth.*
- 8. God’s property in the camp or coffers of the enemy is still under God’s authority.*
- 9. Your release and your redemption have been prophesied, now it is provided, prepared and positioned; just embrace it.*
- 10. Your good fortune has a kingdom designation, receive it and pursue its purpose.*

PRAYER POINTS

- King of kings, who alone has the highest authority in every nation, place it in the hearts of kings and governments to favor the advance of Your kingdom and the work of the church. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let every authority in this nation acknowledge the source of their authority and submit to Your instructions, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Thank You Father that You will cause people of substance and resources to favor me and Your assignment for my life, in the name of Jesus.
- Good Father, Your grace is sufficient for me. Amen. Your loving-kindness is better than

life; I will celebrate Your goodness towards me every day. Amen.

- Father, I declare that I live in the place of overflow. My storehouses shall run over. I am blessed with more than enough. I shall never lack resources to pursue Your assignment for my life, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**SEE them come in numbers
With everything they have;
See them offer freely
To build a temple to God.
Come you, in your thousands,
Come you one and all;
You will be free from bondage
If you will be a house to the Lord.**

EZRA 2

¹These are the people of the province who returned from captivity, of those whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried to Babylon, who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own city.

²Those who came with Zerubbabel were: Jeshua, Nehemiah and Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.

The number of the men of the Israelites:

³the children of Parosh, two thousand, one hundred and seventy-two;

⁴three hundred and seventy-two of Shephatiah;

⁵seven hundred and seventy-five of the people of Arah.

⁶The people of Pahath-moab, of the people of Jeshua and Joab, were two thousand, eight hundred and twelve;

⁷of the children of Elam, one thousand, two hundred and fifty-four men.

⁸The children of Zattu, nine hundred and forty-five;

⁹and of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁰the children of Bani, six hundred and forty-two;

¹¹of Bebai, six hundred and twenty-three;

¹²of Azgad, one thousand two hundred and twenty-six;

¹³of the children of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty-six;

¹⁴of the children of Bigvai, two thousand and fifty-six;

¹⁵of Adin, four hundred and fifty-four;

¹⁶of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight;

¹⁷the children of Bezai, three hundred and twenty-three;

¹⁸of Jorah, one hundred and twelve;

¹⁹of Hashum, two hundred and twenty-three;

²⁰the children of Gibbar, ninety-five;

²¹of Bethlehem, one hundred and twenty-three;

²²of the children of Netophah, fifty-six;

²³the men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight;

²⁴of the children of Azmaveth forty-two;

²⁵the children of Kiriath-arim, Chephirah and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty-three;

²⁶the children of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty-one;

²⁷of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two;

²⁸the men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred and twenty-three;

²⁹the children of Nebo, fifty-two;

³⁰of Magbish, one hundred and fifty-six;

³¹the children of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

³²of Harim, three hundred and twenty;

³³the children of Lod, Hadid and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-five;

³⁴the children of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five;

³⁵the children of Senaah, three thousand, six hundred and thirty.

³⁶These are the households of the priests who gathered:

the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and seventy-three;

³⁷the sons of Immer, one thousand and fifty-two;

³⁸the sons of Pashur, one thousand, two hundred and forty-seven;

³⁹the sons of Harim, one thousand and seventeen.

⁴⁰There also came children of the Levites:

the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, seventy-four.

⁴¹The singers; sons of Asaph, one hundred and twenty-eight.

⁴²The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum and Ater, and Talmon, and Akkub, and Hatita, and Shobai, one hundred and thirty-nine in total.

⁴³The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, of Hasupha, of Tabbaoth,

⁴⁴the sons of Keros, of Siaha, of Padon,

⁴⁵the sons of Lebanah, of Hagabah, of Akkub,

⁴⁶the sons of Hagab, of Shalmi, of Hanan,

⁴⁷the sons of Giddel, of Gahar, and of Reaiah,

⁴⁸of Rezin, of Nekoda, of Gazzam,

⁴⁹of Uzza, of Paseah, of Besai,

⁵⁰of Asnah, of Meunim, of Nephisim,

⁵¹of Bakbuk, of Hakupha, of Harhur,

⁵²of Bazluth, of Mehida, of Harsha,

⁵³of Barkos, of Sisera, of Tamah,

⁵⁴of Nezhiah, and of Hatipha.

⁵⁵The children of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, of Sophereth, of Peruda,

⁵⁶of Jaala, of Darkon, of Giddel,

⁵⁷of Shephatiah, of Hattil, of Pochereth-hazzebaim, and of Ami;

⁵⁸all the Nethinim and the children of Solomon's servants totalled three hundred and ninety-two.

⁵⁹And there were those who came up from Tel-melah, from Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer as well,

but they could declare their father's house, or their ancestry, whether they were of Israel:

⁶⁰the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the

sons of Nekoda, six hundred and fifty-two;
⁶¹the sons of Habaiah, of Hakkoz, of Barzillai, who took one of Brazillai the Gilliadi's daughter for his wife, and was called by their name.

⁶²They sought to be registered among those who were listed but they were not found; therefore they were not included in the priesthood, but listed as defiled.

⁶³The governor told them not to eat of the most holy things until a priest could consult God with the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁴The entire congregation together numbered forty-two thousand, three hundred and sixty,
⁶⁵besides their male and female servants who numbered seven thousand, three hundred and thirty-seven;

and they had two hundred male and female singers.

⁶⁶The horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, and they had two hundred and forty-five mules,

⁶⁷four hundred and thirty-five camels, and six thousand, seven hundred and twenty donkeys.

⁶⁸And some of the heads of the fathers' houses offered freely to set the house up in its place, when they came to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.

⁶⁹They gave into the treasury for the work as they were able, sixty-one thousand pieces of gold,

five thousand pounds of silver, and one hundred priestly garments.

⁷⁰So the priests and the Levites, the Nethinim, the singers, the gatekeepers and some of the people, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Your identity is not lost in captivity, just your freedom.*
2. *Follow the word of God to freedom and redeem your surrendered heritage.*
3. *Captivity does not remove who you are, it just restricts what you can do. Even in captivity the freedom of Christ releases you.*
4. *There is no true freedom outside of Christ. It is better to be physically bound and truly free; for if Jesus sets you free then you are free indeed.*
5. *Your function is already determined by God before you were born, your functionality is determined by you. Find your purpose and pursue it to fulfillment.*
6. *The Lord who orders your release deserves the freewill offering of your increase.*
7. *If God is the Most Important Person (MIP) in your life, then make it the Most Important Thing (MIT) to you to set your heart to build His house.*
8. *Find your place and function in the grand 'kingdom design' of building human tabernacles for God.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Father, I will be counted and numbered among those who have accepted the freedom of Christ. Amen.

- I bring my name, my skills, my talents and my resources into the kingdom to be used for the glory of God, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Thank You Father for calling me by name out of the bondage of sin, and giving my name significance in the work of the kingdom. Amen.
- O God my Father, make me an effective kingdom citizen, rightly positioned and functioning, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Father, I make You this personal commitment to set my heart to kingdom building, in the name of Jesus.

THERE was weeping, there was shouting, there was joy, there were regrets. The foundation had been laid so some praised Him, but there were some who knew the best. Build on your offering; His word will make your building strong. You can construct God's temple, but you must know your foundation.

EZRA 3

¹The seventh month had come, and in the cities all Israel were settled.

Then all the people gathered to Jerusalem unified as one person.

²And Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren the priests,

and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brethren, rose up and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings as the Law of Moses commanded.

³They set the altar on its bases, although they feared because of the people of the countries about;

and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord; both the burnt offerings of the morning and the evening.

⁴They also kept the Feast of Tabernacles, just as it was written,

and they offered the daily burnt offerings in the required number, as the custom of the daily duty required.

⁵Then they offered the regular burnt offering, and those for the New Moons,

and for all the consecrated feasts that were appointed, and the offering of everyone who offered a freewill offering to the Lord willingly.

⁶They began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord in the seventh month, from the first day, though the foundation of the Lord's temple had not yet been laid.

⁷They also gave the masons and carpenters money, and food, oil and drink to the people of Tyre and Sidon to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, as Cyrus the king of Persia had granted permission for.

⁸And in the second month of the second year of their return to the house of God at Jerusalem,

Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Jeshua the

son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all the others who came out of captivity to Jerusalem,

began work and appointed the Levites from twenty years of age and upwards to oversee the work of the house of the Lord.

⁹Then Jeshua with his sons and brothers, Kadmiel and his sons, and the sons of Judah, came together to oversee the work of the house of the Lord:

from among their sons, the sons of Henadad with their sons and their brethren the Levites were chosen.

¹⁰And the builders laid the foundations of the house of the Lord, and the priests stood in their priestly garments with trumpets.

There was rejoicing, there was praising, for the foundation had been laid.

The priests in their apparel and with trumpets lifted praise;

the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals praised the Lord.

As David the king had ordained, so they did; following his word.

¹¹The foundation was in order for them to build the house.

There was praising and thanksgiving as responsibly they sang:

“For He is good, for His mercies endure forever towards Israel.”

And all the people shouted with a great and joyous shout of praise, for the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

¹²But mixed with the rejoicing were the voices of many who wept aloud; some of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers’ houses, the older men who had seen the first temple of Solomon;

they wept aloud and agonized when they watched the foundation of this temple laid, although many shouted for joy.

¹³The people could not discern the noise of the rejoicing from the weeping of the people; for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard from a great distance.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *You cannot wilyly rebuild what you recklessly broke down. Easy to break; painstaking to build.*
2. *Experience the refreshing feeling of repairing old altars and rebuilding your pillars of faith.*
3. *Let the fear of the cross propel you beyond the fear of the people.*
4. *Do not wait until the foundation is laid to offer your offering; do not wait until the house is built to worship. Worship and offering expresses the heart; the heart expresses the house.*
5. *It takes monetary sacrifices and intentional giving to advance the work of God.*
6. *Know your foundation and you will not settle for just anything; the Word (Jesus) is your founda-*

tion.

7. *Weep for every departure from foundational standards that has become the boast of the end times church.*
8. *When you know the word you will never accept the world or be satisfied with any other foundation.*
9. *There is the sound of confusion in the church; one set of voices weeping over the same standards the other set of voices is rejoicing over.*
10. *The church has very cause to weep when the standards of the world are accepted, established and celebrated in the church.*

PRAYER POINTS

- My Father, my God, I will be very careful to maintain the standards of my faith so I will save myself the arduous task of rebuilding and repairing, in the name of Jesus.
- King of glory, I submit to the power of the cross; I refuse to let fear prevent me from offering myself to kingdom building. Amen.
- I will not wait on structures to give my time, resources and worship; I am completely sold out to the kingdom. Amen.
- Thank You Jesus for being that foundation that cannot be shaken, shifted, changed, or challenged. You have already defined our faith and we align ourselves. Amen.
- Let every departure from standards be rooted out of the body of Christ, and let every voice of confusion be silenced, in the name of Jesus.
- Every spirit that is creating divergence from the word of God in the body of Christ, be scattered to desolation. Amen.

**THEY came with love and blessing;
They came in the Lord’s name;
They came as if to help,
But to stop us was their aim.
When we stood against them,
We could see them drop their guise,
And try to block us from every angle
by their diverse devices.
But when they came against us,
With the backing of the state,
They came out in the open,
And showed their ugly face.**

EZRA 4

¹When the adversaries of Benjamin and Judah heard that the temple of the Lord was being built by the people who came out of captivity,

²they came to Zerubbabel and the leaders of the fathers’ houses, and said to them, “Let us help you to build, for we seek your God just as you, and we care, we have been sacrificing to Him since the king of Assyria brought us here.”

³But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the other leaders of the fathers’ houses in Israel responded to them; “You shall have nothing to do with us in building this house to our God; we will build this house to the Lord our God of Israel by ourselves, just as Cyrus the king of Persia commanded us.”

⁴But their efforts were not finished, though the fathers said, "Be gone!" The people of the land troubled them in building, they attempted to discourage them from the work.

⁵They hired counsellors against them to frustrate them in their plans, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, until the reign of Darius who replaced him.

⁶In the days of Ahasuerus, at the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷In the days of Artaxerxes they sought the backing of the state; Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabel, and their other companions wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia;

the letter was written in Syrian and translated into the Syrian language,

⁸Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai who was scribe, wrote this letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king.

⁹Rehum the chancellor, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions; representing the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Susanchites, ¹⁰and the rest of the nations that were brought over by Osnappar the Great, and that were placed in the cities of Samaria and the remainder of people on this side of the River.

¹¹This is the copy of the letter that their accusers sent:

"To King Artaxerxes from your servants who are in the region on this side of the River:

¹²did you know, O king? We will tell it to you then.

The Jews who came up from you have come to us at Jerusalem, and they are building the city known to be rebellious as well as evil and bad. They have set up the walls and have joined the foundations.

¹³"Let the king know, if they build this city and complete the walls, they will diminish the king's revenues, for they will not pay tribute or tax at all.

¹⁴"Now because you sustain us, O king, we do not want to see you dishonored, therefore we have sent to you this letter,

¹⁵"that you may search the books of your fathers' records;

you shall find that this is a rebellious city, harmful to kings and provinces, that they have moved seditions in that city in the past.

The city was destroyed for this very thing.

¹⁶"O king, if the city is rebuilt and its walls fully erected, you will lose your dominion on this side of the River."

All their devices could not stop the building, though

it made them slow their pace; so with craftiness and deception, they sought the backing of the state.

¹⁷Then the king returned an answer:

"To Rehum the chancellor, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions who live in Samaria, and to everyone beyond the River: peace and so forth.

¹⁸"The letter you sent to us has been read to me with clarity,

¹⁹and I commanded that a search to be done, and it was found that in the past this city has made insurrection against kings, and there were sedition and rebellion in it.

²⁰"That there have also been mighty kings over Jerusalem who have ruled over all the nations beyond the River, and tax, tribute and customs, were paid to them.

²¹"Therefore now, give command for these men to cease,

that no further work be done on this city until you hear again from me.

²²"Be careful that you do not fail to do this. Why should damage grow to hurt the kings?" *It was all they needed; it was their confidence.*

²³When the copy of the letter sent by King Artaxerxes was read before Rehum, Shimshai, and their companions

they went to Jerusalem against the Jews in haste, and by force and power that stopped the work that day.

²⁴So the work on the house of God at Jerusalem stopped;

The enemy showed his ugly face.

it was not restarted until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Choose your team carefully; the chain is as strong as the weakest link. Let principles and standards dictate your choice and not sentiments.
2. It is best to confront your known enemies outside than not to know what is confronting you inside.
3. Not every good offer is a God offer, hear God.
4. There is always a demonic master-plan to weaken your hands and frustrate your efforts when you are pursuing the Master's plan.
5. Strategic terrorism against kingdom building is enemy mechanism.
6. The manipulation of facts have been a key weapon in the enemy's arsenal; truth will always rebound to the rescue.
7. State backing of satanic agenda will empower and embolden the enemy. They may stop the building but they can never stop the church.
8. Universal acceptance and state backing will cause the enemy to openly oppose and block the work of God.
9. You expose them, but now they are opposing and blocking you; the will of God will stand.

PRAYER POINTS

- Father God, I thank You for raising up and binding the hearts of people with leadership quality to my assignment. Amen.
- Omniscient God, let the blood of Jesus Christ

filter out and scatter every enemy of my vision from my life, in the name of Jesus.

- I refuse to be infiltrated by those who want to stop and block me. Father turn their deception on their own heads and feed them with the bread of shame, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- My father my God, frustrate all those who are assigned to frustrate Your work in my life, in the name of Jesus.
- King of glory, do not let the church and ambassadors of Your kingdom be frustrated by legislations against them. Send help from your sanctuary. Amen.

**If God commands it, none can stop it,
Let the work of God go on.
You have heard from His prophets,
do not be hampered then by man.
Know His word, deal with the building;
Let them take it to the king.
You shall prosper in your construction;
The Lord will deal with their writings.**

EZRA 5

¹Word came from the prophets Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo; they prophesied to the Jews who lived in Judah, and in Jerusalem, in the name of the Lord, God of Israel, who was over them.

²Then Zerubbabel and Jeshua rose up and began building the Lord's house in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God were alongside them helping;

@They gave their muscles not just their word.

If He commands it, none can stop it!

³Then Tattenai the governor on this side of the River, Shethar-Boznai, and their companions came and spoke to them,

“Who gave you the authority to build this temple and complete this wall?”

⁴So we gave them the names of the men who were responsible for constructing the work.

⁵But the eye of God was on the elders of the Jews,

and nothing could make them stop until a report was sent to Darius.

A written response was sent regarding the matter.

⁶The letter that Tattenai sent reads:

“The governor of the region beyond the River, Shethar-Boznai, and his companions, the Persians in this region, to King Dairus.”

⁷The letter read,

“All peace to you, O King Darius.

⁸“Let it be known to you, O king; we went to the province of Judah, and we saw them building the house of the great God with large stones, and they lay timber in the walls. The work continues with diligence and is prospering.

⁹“We asked the elders, ‘Who commanded you to build this temple and complete these walls?’

¹⁰“We asked their names to inform you, that we may give you the names of their leaders.

¹¹“Then they returned to us this answer,

‘We are servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we now rebuild His temple that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel had built.

¹²But our fathers provoked the God of heaven to anger, and He gave them over to Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldeans, who destroyed the temple and carried the people away to Babylon.

¹³But in the first year of King Cyrus, Cyrus the king of Persia made a decree to rebuild this temple.

¹⁴And the articles of gold and silver belonging to the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from this temple in Jerusalem, and placed in the temple of his gods in Babylon,

King Cyrus took from the temple of Babylon and gave them to Sheshbazzar whom he made governor.

¹⁵He instructed them, saying, “Take these articles back to the temple in Jerusalem, and build the house of God again in its former location.”

“Then Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundation of the house of God in Jerusalem; and from that time until now it has been under construction and it is not finished to this day.”

¹⁶“Now if it seems good to the king of Babylon, let him order a search of the king's treasure house, there in Babylon, to confirm that a decree was made by Cyrus to build this house of God in Jerusalem, and let the king send us his pleasure concerning this matter.”

If He commands it, none can stop it.

Let the work of God go on.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Set your face to building in the face of strong oppositions.
2. The prophetic voice will break the stalemate and provide the power to proceed.
3. You fight the waves when you are presumptuous; you ride the waves when you hear God.
4. Your audacious faith will be challenged; be ready with the word.
5. The Rhema word from the prophet is always needed not nothing encourages and expedites like the rigorous work of the prophet; be always ready to back your word with your work and muscles.
6. Honor authority to preserve a move; even though you may never embrace them engage them.
7. Ignorance ignores authority; intelligence engages and relates to local government.
8. Prepare sound legal arguments and proceed. Proclaim your prepared reasoning and let God work on your behalf as you do His work.
9. Your arguments will secure your present; your God will secure your future.
10. The heart of a king is in the hand of the Lord, He turns it like the rivers. Kingdom can work its glory through local governments and authority.

11. *They may never acknowledge it openly, but the King of kings has the final say.*

PRAYER POINTS

- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let the spirit of resilience fall upon the church to keep building in the face of adversity and adverse proclamations. Amen.
- Awesome and amazing God, let the prophetic voice arise in this generation to speak decisively into stubborn situations, in the name of Jesus.
- I prepare myself with the word of God to give an answer to everyone who needs an answer, or who seeks to challenge my work of faith, in the name of Jesus.
- My Father, my God, thank You for wisdom to respond decisively to stubborn challenges, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Let every stubborn Pharaoh pursuing my life and my dream, be swallowed by their Red Sea and put to shame, in the name of Jesus.
- I soak my life, my family, my business, my work and my ministry with the blood of Jesus and with the fire of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I HAVE seen it and I know it; go and spread it all around.

The enemy seeks to curse you, but their words are blessing bound.

I see the smile is growing; it has gone from ear to ear;

While the foreign king sustains you, the enemy will wilt in fear.

Even the wicked works your favor, and you know what God's about,

When you keep the Lord's Passover in a completed house.

EZRA 6

¹Then Darius the king made a decree and they searched the archives where they kept the treasures in Babylon.

²And at Achmetha, in the palace that was in the province of Media, they found a scroll with the following record:

³In the first year of King Cyrus, Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God in Jerusalem:

"Let that house be built again, in the place where they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations be soundly laid.

Its height and width shall be sixty cubits by sixty cubits,

⁴and it shall be laid with three rows of large stones and one row of new timber. Let the expense be paid out of the king's treasury.

⁵And let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon,

be restored and returned to the temple in Jerusalem,

each to its original place in the house of God."

⁶Then Darius returned an answer, "To Tattenai, governor beyond the River, Shethar-

bozanai, and your companions the Persians beyond the River; keep yourselves far from the work.

⁷"Leave the work of the house of God alone.

Let the governor and elders of the Jews build the house of their God at that location.

⁸"Moreover, hear my decree about them; this is what you shall do for the elders of the Jews and for the building of the house of God; let the cost of the building be at the king's expense from taxes collected beyond the River. Give this to these men with immediate effect so that they are not hindered.

⁹"Also give to them anything that they need for the burnt offering to the God of heaven, the bull, rams and lambs;

and also wheat, salt, wine, and oil as the priests in Jerusalem may request;

give this to them each day, day by day without failure,

¹⁰that they may offer sacrifices of sweet aroma to the God of heaven,

and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

¹¹"And to ensure that you have heard,

I decree that anyone who dares to alter the king's word,

let timber be pulled down from his house and set up to hang him on,

and let his house be made a refuse heap because he has done this.

¹²"Also may God who causes His name to dwell there destroy any king or people who extend their hand to modify it, or to destroy this house of God in Jerusalem.

I Darius have decreed. Let it be expedited."

@I have seen it and I know it; go and spread it all around.

The enemy seeks to curse you, and to block you, but their words are blessing bound;

with Daniel in the palace,

and God who must be feared,

the response is overwhelming,

when it reaches you there.

¹³According to all the things King Darius decreed, Tattenai governor beyond the River, Shethar-boznai, and their companions did with speed and diligence.

¹⁴So the Jews built and prospered, as Haggai the prophet and Zechariah had prophesied.

And so the house of God was finished, as the Lord God of Israel had commanded, and as He caused Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia to order done.

¹⁵Now the temple was finished on the third day of month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

¹⁶Then the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the descendants of those who were in captivity dedicated the finished house with joy.

¹⁷They offered sacrifices to dedicate the house of God: one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and twelve male goats as a sin offering for all Israel, one for each tribe.

¹⁸They assigned the priests and Levites to their duties,

over the service of God in Jerusalem, as is written in the Book of Moses.

¹⁹On the fourteenth day of the first month the descendants of Israel returning from captivity kept the Lord's Passover.

²⁰The priests and Levites had purified themselves; they were all clean according to the Law.

They killed the Passover lambs for all the descendants of Israel returning from captivity, ²¹and the children of Israel who had returned from captivity ate with all who had separated themselves from the filthiness of the nations in the land in order to seek the Lord God of Israel.

²²They kept the feast of unleavened bread for seven days with great joy, for the Lord had made them joyful, and He had turned the heart of the Assyrian king towards them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of the Lord God of Israel.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *The Higher authority has written a decree about you that every authority must agree and respond to.*
2. *Trust the word of God in every area of your life; if it states it, it is settled; believe the prophets and you will prosper.*
3. *You will be surprised at how detailed the decree designated by heaven to your success and to your kingdom impact is.*
4. *When your hell becomes your help, your push-backwards becomes your fast-forward, and the letter designated to stop you becomes the solicitation of favor for you, you know the good hand of God overrides the evil design of man.*
5. *One moment of favor outweighs a lifetime of fervor.*
6. *Your opposition will be the proposition of your success; your opponent will be the proponent of your breakthrough; their attempt at division will be their confusion and exemplary service to your vision; their efforts to block you will be your highway to His 'none can stop you' plan for your life.*
7. *The voice of prophecy prospers and accelerates the vision.*
8. *A move of God propelled by faith will cause people to separate from the filth of the land and follow.*
9. *Nothing like the feeling of being a part of a move of God and seeing kingdom progressing.*
10. *You know it is God when it is expressed by favor; you know it is good when you praise with fervor and rejoice in the finished labor.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Father God I thank You for turning the curses designed against me into blessings; thank You Father for conveying my breakthrough on the backs of wicked schemes against me, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Awesome God, let the enemy gathered against me to eat up my flesh, stumble and fall by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Eternal Father, send Your word to speak into my situation, Amen. Let the voice of prophecy to

me, or through me, override every voice of uncertainty speaking to my destiny, in the name of Jesus.

- Amazing God, continue to amaze me with Your wonderful works on my behalf, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, Your work in my life shall be expressed until completion. Amen. My enemies shall see and be ashamed, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GOD needs no man to help Him;
He can do just anything,
Or at His own desire

Place it in the heart of kings.

When they decree the silver

So that you can buy the lamb

To make the Lord His offering,

Then know that God, He is the One.

When the king commands the teachers

To teach God's laws throughout the land,

Know that God needs no man to help Him,

But can command just anyone.

EZRA 7

¹After these events, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia,

Ezra the son of Seraiah, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah,

²whose father was Shallum, son of Zadok, son of Ahitub,

³the son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of Meraioth,

⁴the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, son of Bukki,

⁵the son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron who was the chief priest—

⁶this Ezra went up from Babylon; he was a scribe prepared in the Law of Moses, which was given to him by the Lord God of Israel.

All he requested of the king were granted; the hand of the Lord his God was upon him so the king granted all of them.

⁷Some of the children of Israel, the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, and the Nethinim,

went up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

⁸Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

⁹He left Babylon and began his journey on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month,

as the good hand of the Lord guided him.

¹⁰For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of his God, and to perform it and to teach His judgment and ordinances to Israel.

¹¹*God needs no man to help Him; He can do just anything,*

or at His own desire place it in the heart of kings.

¹²This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest,

a scribe who was proficient in the word of the commandments, and His statutes to Israel.

12“Artaxerxes, king of kings,
to Ezra the priest,

a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven:
at such a time, perfect peace.

13“I decree that any person of Israel, and the priests and Levites in my realm,
who desire to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you to Jerusalem.

14“Now whereas you are being sent by the king and his seven counselors,
to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, regarding the Law of your God which is in your hand;

15“and whereas you are to carry the gold and the silver which the king and his counselors have offered freely to the God of Israel who dwells at Jerusalem;

16“and whereas all the silver and gold you find in all the province of Babylon,
and all that the people freely give,
and all that the priests offer willingly,
are to be freely offered for the house of their God at Jerusalem;

17“be careful to use this money to buy bulls, rams, lambs and their grain and drink offerings,
and offer them on the altar of the house of your God at Jerusalem.

*Indeed God needs no man to help Him,
for the earth to Him belongs.*

18“Now do whatever seems good to you and your brethren with the gold and silver that is left over,
do it in accordance with the will of your God.

19“Also deliver all the vessels that are given to you for the service of the house of your God in full before your God in Jerusalem.

20“Now whatever else is needed for the house of your God, which you may need to provide,
pay for it from the king’s treasury.

21“And I, Artaxerxes the king, now decree to all my treasurers in the region beyond the River: whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven requires of you,
let it be done diligently; do it with speed,
22“up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred measures of wheat;
one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and an unlimited supply of salt.

23“Whatever the God of heaven commands, let it be done with diligence for the house of the God of heaven.

*God needs no man to help Him,
but they will move when He commands.*

For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

24“Now concerning the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or workers in the house of the Lord,
it is not lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom on any of them.

25“And Ezra, I charge you, according to the

wisdom given to you by your God,
set magistrates and judges in place to judge all the people throughout the land beyond the River,
all those who know the ways and laws of your God, and all those who do not know them.

26“Anyone who will not observe the law of your God and the king’s law,
let him be judged speedily,
whether it be death, or banishment, or prison, or confiscation of his goods.”

27 *Blessed be the king for all this, though he only played his part.*

Rather blessed be the Lord God of our fathers,
who has put this in the king’s heart,
to beautify the house of the Lord in Jerusalem,

28and for giving me mercy before the king and his counselors, and before all his mighty princes.

I was strengthened by the hand of the Lord upon me,
and I got men of Israel who were leaders, to go up with me.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *There is confidence in coming from a respected family, yet nothing beats the confidence and assurance of being named in the family of God. You have the blood of the King in you.*
2. *The good hand of the Lord on you will procure the hand of goodness and favor in high places for you.*
3. *Play to the tune of God and kings will play your tune; grant the Lord His desires and He will grant all yours. Seek the kingdom first and everything will be added to you.*
4. *The confidence of kingdom advancement is to know you are not limited by your needs but by your confidence in asking for what you need.*
5. *Prepare your heart to seek the word of God and to perform His dictates, to be a witness and to go, and you are assured of the good hand of the Lord on you.*
6. *God will entrust great things to you if He finds you trustworthy; seek to engage His trust first.*
7. *Strategy minimizes effort; play for impact where it matters most. Get the king on board and His subjects will be subjected to follow.*
8. *God can command His own offering; He owns it all. Just command your own faithfulness and position yourself.*
9. *Even the heathen king fears the wrath of his superior; God of heaven who is King of kings.*
10. *If it is so easy for God to place so much in the heart of man, why is it so difficult for you to obey and trust Him completely in the face of uncertainty?*
11. *It is wisdom for any government to facilitate and support kingdom activities and to ensure the word of God is expedited and taught in the nation.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O Lord my God, rest Your good hand upon me to promote and excel me in this life and in the pursuit of godliness and my destiny, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- God of wonders, work Your wonders in my life.

- Amen.
- King of kings; Lord of lords, let kings and governors and stewards of Your resources here on earth favor me as I align myself with Your will for my life, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Majestic God, professor of heaven and earth, I acknowledge who You are and I will ask great things of You. Amen.
- I refuse to live an ordinary life in the service of an extra-ordinary God; I refuse to live a normal life with the DNA of a supernatural God in me. Amen.
- Father God, give me divine strategies that will move my life forward, in the name of Jesus. I will boldly make petition of local authorities knowing You are the source of all things. Amen.

**WE are going up, the way we once came,
Up to the temple that is called by
God's name.
Up without protection; we were afraid to
ask the king.
Up in the Lord's arms; we left it all up to
Him.
Up, for we are delivered from all those who
lay in ambush;
And when the aroma of our offering goes
up, then know He brought us up...safe.**

EZRA 8

- ¹These were the heads of their fathers' houses, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with Ezra from Babylon, in the reign of King Artaxerxes:
- ²of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom; of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel; of the sons of David, Hattush;
- ³of the sons of Shecaniah, of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah, with him were registered one hundred and fifty males;
- ⁴of the sons of Pahath-Moab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerariah and two hundred males with him;
- ⁵of the sons of Shechaniah, Ben-Jahaziel with three hundred males;
- ⁶of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan with fifty males;
- ⁷of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah with seventy males;
- ⁸of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael with eighty males;
- ⁹of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel with two hundred and eighteen males;
- ¹⁰of the sons of Shelomith, Ben-Josphiah with one hundred and sixty males;
- ¹¹of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah his son with twenty-eight males;
- ¹²of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan with one hundred and ten males;
- ¹³of the last sons of Adonikam: Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, with sixty males;
- ¹⁴of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud with seventy males.
- ¹⁵And I gathered them all to me by the river

that runs to Ahava, and there we camped in tents for three days. And I looked among the people and the priests and found no Levite there.

¹⁶So I sent for Eliezer, Ariel and Shemaiah, Nathan, Zechariah and Meshullam, who were leaders;

I also sent for Joiarib and Elnathan, who were men of understanding.

¹⁷Then I sent them to Iddo, the chief person at Casiphia with a command;

I told them to tell him and his brethren the Nethinim to bring us servants for the house of our God.

¹⁸And by the good hand of God upon us, they brought a man of insight, of the sons of Mahli, son of Levi, son of Israel; Sherebiah with his sons and brothers, eighteen men;

¹⁹and Hashabiah, with whom was Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, with his brothers and their sons, twenty men,

²⁰and of the Nethinim, whom David and the leaders had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty person came, with each of them designated by their name.

²¹Then, there by the river of Ahava, I proclaimed a fast, to afflict our souls, to humble ourselves before God, to seek of Him the right way for us and our little ones and for our possessions,

²²for I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to escort us and to fight our enemy on the way, for we had boasted to the king of our Lord, saying,

“The hand of the Lord our God for good is upon all who seek Him, but His power and wrath is against all those who turn away from Him.”

²³So we sought the Lord in fasting, and entreated Him for this, and He favored us.

²⁴Then I separated twelve of the chief priests—Sherebiah, Hashabiah and ten of their brethren also—

²⁵and I weighed out to them the gold, the silver, and the vessels, the offering for the house of our God, which the king, his counsellors and his princes, and all Israel who were present had offered.

²⁶I weighed six hundred and fifty talents of silver, with silver vessels of one hundred talents, and one hundred talents of gold,

²⁷with twenty gold basins worth a thousand drachmas, and two vessels of fine bronze that were as precious as gold.

²⁸And I said to them, “You are holy to the Lord, and the vessels are holy also. The silver and the gold are freewill offering to the Lord God of our fathers.

29^a“Watch them and keep them until you weigh them in Jerusalem before the priests and the Levites and the chief of the fathers’ houses of Israel, in the chambers of the house of the Lord.”

30 So the priests and the Levites took the gold, the silver and the vessels by weight, to bring them to the house of our God at Jerusalem.

31 Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month to go to Jerusalem.

And the hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of all our enemies, and from ambush on the journey.

32 So we came to Jerusalem, and we stayed there for three days.

33 On the fourth day we weighed the silver, the gold, and all the vessels in the house of our God,

by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest, and Eleazar the son of Phinehas.

With them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui.

34 They took the number and weight of everything, and all the weight was recorded at that time.

35 And the children of those who had come out of captivity offered burnt offering to the God of Israel:

twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and twelve male goats for a sin offering.

This was a burnt offering to the Lord.

36 They delivered the king’s orders to his lieutenants and governors in the region beyond the River.

So they gave support to the people and the house of God.

@When the treasure is delivered and recorded and put away;

when the sweet aroma of the sacrifice fills the atmosphere;

when the authorities support the people and the Lord’s house in its place;

yes, when all this has happened, then know, we were delivered safe!

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Freedom is a matter of choice; restoration is an arduous process with challenges, opposition, self-sacrifice and discipline; will your name be recorded among those who chose freedom?
2. Babylon represents bondage of sin and every sinful pleasure; the King has ordered your release. Will you love Him more than Babylon?
3. Not because salvation is free means it will be accepted.
4. The nearest to the house of God may be the furthest from the kingdom of God. The Levites were absent from the roll call.
5. Commitment to a completed work is easy; commitment to an emerging vision is noble. It takes commitment to bring the design to designation; yet, the greater satisfaction is to be there from the beginning.
6. The God who got you out is faithful to get you in if

you commit the journey to Him.

7. Be willing to demonstrate the things you declare. Unbelievers will believe the demonstration of the kingdom above the proclamation.
8. Ensure you initiate, that is, strategize, organize and put people in place, before you initialize. Identify your key positions and attract key personnel to fill them.
9. Kingdom provides for and protects kingdom assignment. It is best to depend on the good hand of the Lord than on the strong hand of sinners.
10. You have arrived at a place does not mean you have arrived at completion; prepare to work until your King shows up.
11. Accountability and solid management is necessary for handling kingdom resources, both human and monetary.

PRAYER POINTS

- Lord Jesus, touch the hearts of sinners in this land; let them step away from the bondage of sin and enter the door of grace that You opened up through Your flesh. Amen.
- All powerful God, we are not only willing to proclaim our confidence in Your word, but we are willing to hang our resources, our integrity, and our safety on it. Amen.
- Power to organize for success, fall upon the body of Christ now, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Father receive our offering of resources and words of thanksgiving for every victory, every success, every progress, for every new day, and thank You for Your ever present help, in the name of Jesus.
- By the Holy Ghost and fire, I call forth accountability and effective management in the body of Christ, to steward end-time resources, both human and monetary, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

EVER been so astonished and so amazed
at sin,
With no strength in you, no, none to rise again?

Do you tremble before God, and detest the sins that your nation does?

Do you cry to God for them, and sometimes in agony you groan?

At the rebellion and the wickedness, do your knees get numb, and in astonishment and wonder, all you can do is to sit down?

EZRA 9

1^aThis is just how it happened when the princes came to me; they said, the people of Israel with the Levites and the priests

have not kept themselves separate from the people, the inhabitants of the lands; they do the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Moabites, the Amorites, and the Egyptians.

2^aThey have taken their daughters and their sons in marriages, and now the holy people are mixed with the peoples of those lands. The leaders and the rulers are the main instigators of this trespass.

³When I heard this I ripped my garment and the robe that I wore, and I plucked out some of the hair from my head and my beard, and I sat down, too weak to stand anymore.

I was astonished, so astonished, there was no strength in me left.

@Is your heart so tender you tremble daily at sin?

This is what is needed for change to set in.

⁴And everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered to me because of the transgressions of those who returned from captivity, and I sat down there astonished until the evening sacrifice.

⁵At that time I arose from my heaviness; having torn my garment and robe, I fell down on my knees, and extended my hands to the Lord, my God.

⁶And I said, "O Lord my God, I am too ashamed and disgraced to lift my face up to You;

for our iniquities have increased above our heads and our guilt has risen to the heavens.

⁷"Since the days of our fathers we have transgressed, because of our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered to the kings of other lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to confusion as it is today.

⁸"Now, O Lord God of heaven, for a little while you have shown us grace, and left a remnant of us and caused us to escape,

to give us a peg in Your holy place, that You may enlighten our eyes and give us some revival in bondage.

⁹"We were slaves, yet You did not forsake us in our bondage, but you gave us mercy with the kings of Persia,

a reviving, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild the desolation, and to give to us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

¹⁰"After all this, what shall we say?

For we have forsaken Your commandments, ¹¹"which You commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying,

"The land you are entering to possess is an unclean land filled with the uncleanness of the peoples of the land;

their abominations have filled it from end to end with impurity,

¹²therefore now, do not give your daughters to their sons as wives, nor take their daughters for your sons;

and do not ever seek their peace or prosperity, so that you may be strong and eat the good of the land,

and that your children may forever inherit it."

¹³"After all that has come on us for our transgressions and our sins,

since You, Lord God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and You have given us this great deliverance, ¹⁴"should we turn again and break Your commandments, to join in marriage with people committing these abominations?

Would not Your anger once more burn against us, so that no remnant would be left?

¹⁵"Lord God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant today.

We are here before You in our trespasses; however, because of this how can we stand before You?"

@How can you stand? Just look around you; sin should so amaze you that it moves you to intercede to fast and to weep daily before God.

CWDS Bible Quotes

- 1. The spirit of Babylon corrupts kingdom building; you cannot entangle with the world.*
- 2. To love God is to hate evil; be among those who tremble at the word of God and are astonished daily at the sin permeating the church.*
- 3. Where sin has infiltrated the work of God, you will find Church leaders at the centre of it.*
- 4. Your excessiveness will limit and corrupt your effectiveness.*
- 5. Failure to acknowledge and appreciate God daily will lead to the abuse of grace.*
- 6. Grace is free to you but it is costly to God.*
- 7. Understanding hearts tear up at the abuse of grace, and lie before God in shame and humiliation, afraid to look up at Him because of the sin overtaking the church.*
- 8. Sin in the world is the rejection of grace; sin in the church is the abuse of grace and the betrayal and re-crucifixion of Christ.*
- 9. Keep praying, keep interceding, keep confessing; believers, sinners and the nation will keep sinning.*
- 10. Let your experiences with God teach you faithfulness to God. When will a people learn?*
- 11. Never deliver to God the sins He delivered you from; instead let sin devastate you daily.*
- 12. It is not good to be indifferent to sin although you are different; stand up and impact; let your light so shine; you can be a difference.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Father God, raise up intercessors who will not be able to hold their composure in the midst of this sinful generation, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- O God, my Father, my tears overflow daily because of this sinful nation and sin in the church. Amen.
- Let a tender heart for the things of God, fall upon every believer who loves You. Amen. Let the words, 'To love God is to hate evil' echo in their ears and settle in their spirits. Amen.
- Jesus my Savior, I refuse to abuse Your grace towards me. Amen. I refuse to nail You to the cross a second time by my rejection of Your sacrifice. I refuse to live in iniquity. Amen.
- By the Spirit of the living God in me, I refuse to be nonchalant and indifferent to sin. Sin will move me to action as it moved You Father to action; sin will drive me to my knees as it drove You, Jesus to the cross; sin will move me to painful

tears as it caused You to suffer excruciating pain. Amen.

TIME for confession and to weep before the Lord;

Time to repent now that you hear His word.

Time to put aside evil and to make right every wrong.

You could sense it and check the weather; a new day in time had come.

EZRA 10

¹While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God in soul-stirring bitterness, a very large congregation of men, women and children gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly in grief and remorse.

²And Shecaniah, son of Jehiel, a son of Elam, said to Ezra,

“We have trespassed against God by taking wives from the pagan nations of the land, but there is hope for Israel still.

³“Let us make a covenant with our God to put all these wives away and all the children they have borne,

according to my lord’s counsel, and those who tremble at God’s commandments; let this be done according to the law.

⁴“Rise up, for this matter is your responsibility; we will be with you, so arise. Be of good courage and do it; arise, it is action time.”

⁵Then Ezra rose up and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear an oath that they would do according to this word spoken to them.

⁶Ezra then rose up from before the house of God

and went into the chamber of Jehohanan, the son of Eliashib; he ate no bread and drank no water for he mourned because of the trespass of the people who returned from captivity.

⁷And they made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem, and to all the descendants of the captivity, that they should gather at Jerusalem.

⁸Whoever did not come in three days, by the counsel of the leaders and elders, would lose all their wealth, and he would be separated from the congregation of Israel.

⁹And so within three days all the men of Judah and Jerusalem gathered at Jerusalem. On the twentieth day of the ninth month, the street was filled with them.

They sat in the open square of the Lord’s house, trembling because of this matter and because of the heavy rain;

For the great rain mirrored the mood of them all.

¹⁰Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to

them,

“You have transgressed and taken foreign wives to increase the trespass of Israel.

¹¹Now therefore, confess to the Lord God of your fathers, and do His will;

it is time to do His pleasure and to separate yourself from all your wrongs.

Separate from the people of the land, and from all your pagan wives.”

¹²And with a loud voice all the people answered, “We must do so just as you instruct us.

¹³“But our people are many, and the rain is very heavy in this season, and we cannot stand outside, and this work will exceed two days, for many of us have transgressed in this matter.

¹⁴“Now then, let all the leaders of the congregation stand, and let all those in our cities with pagan wives come at their times appointed, with the elders of every cities, and their judges, until the fierce wrath of our God is turned away.”

¹⁵“Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah son of Tikvah, were the only ones to oppose this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite supported them.

¹⁶And the children of captivity did so. And Ezra the priest with some of the leaders of the fathers’ households were designated by names, and they sat down on the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.

¹⁷By the first day of the first month they finished questioning all the people who had taken pagan wives.

¹⁸These were the names of those with pagan wives among the sons of the priests; of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib and Gedaliah,

¹⁹they made commitments to put their wives away, and they offered a ram for their trespass offering.

²⁰Of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah; ²¹of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, She-maiah, Jehiel and Uz-ziah;

²²of the sons of Pashur: Elieoenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad and Elasaah.

²³Of the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (also called Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah and Eliezer.

²⁴ Eliashib of the singers; and of the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem and Uri.

²⁵Of the rest of the people of Israel: of the sons of Parosh: Ramaiah, Je-ziah, Malchiah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malchijah, and Benaiah.

²⁶Of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Eliah;

²⁷of the sons of Zattu: Elieoenai, Eliashub, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza;

²⁸of the sons of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai;

²⁹of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Ramoth;

³⁰of the sons of Pahath-moab: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh;

³¹of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,

³²Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah,

³³of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei;

³⁴of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel,

³⁵Benaiah, Bedeiah and Cheluh,

³⁶Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

³⁷Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasai,

³⁸Bani, Binnui, Shimei;

³⁹Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,

⁴⁰Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,

⁴¹Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah,

⁴²Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph;

⁴³of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel and Benaiah.

⁴⁴All these men had pagan wives, and some of them had children with these wives.

They all moved to put them away, for separation was what the time required.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Sincere, whole-hearted repentance of leaders is contagious; it will affect and infect nations.*
2. *The solution to your crisis will locate you on your knees.*
3. *A repentant, grief-stricken nation is impossible to ignore; God will hear from heaven, forgive and heal.*
4. *There is hope in spite of your sins if you are prepared to deal with it decisively.*
5. *It is best to lose your members than to lose your place in the kingdom. Cannot put your mother, father, spouse or children above your King.*

6. *Be strong in dealing with sin, it is best to lose your popularity than to lose your authority and your place.*

7. *The condition is always right for repentance in spite of the weather; sin demands immediate attention.*

8. *Tremble at the rain and cold but never be distracted from addressing your sin; tremble at sin and the terror of God. Be numbered among those ready to fast and mourn because of sin.*

9. *Be numbered among those ready to let go of the strongest and most treasured relationships to pursue God and the treasure of His kingdom.*

10. *Emotional trauma requires emotional incision; fasting, prayer and the word. This fills the void and accelerates recovery.*

11. *'Relationship matters' state that relationship matters if it does not conflict with your relationship with God.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Father God, we call forth leaders of integrity in the church today, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the spirit of brokenness and personal accountability fall upon the leaders of the church in this nation, in the name of Jesus.
- Righteous Father, soak our leaders in the blood of Jesus Christ and the fire of the Holy Ghost; equip them with a spirit of fearless decisiveness in dealing with sin, in the name of Jesus.
- I will be among those who fast and mourn continually because of sin. Amen. Holy Spirit, give me the heart of the Father. Amen.
- Father God, I confess my sins and turn from them now; I refuse to love anything more than You; I refuse to hold on to anything that will give the devil a foothold in my life; in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I will suffer the pain of hard decisions rather than suffer the shame of eternal damnation; I will suffer the crisis of a broken heart so I can maintain a wholesome heart; I refuse to trade Heaven for anything here on earth, in the name of Jesus. Amen.