

**What is the core is
at the heart of th
charismatic deba**



My suggestion:

- It's NOT theology
- It's a desire to feel or experience God
- To be assured that he exists and is active in my life.

A Question:

- Is this desire wrong?
- Do you want to be assured that God is actively working in your life?

The situation / occasion in Ezra & Nehemiah

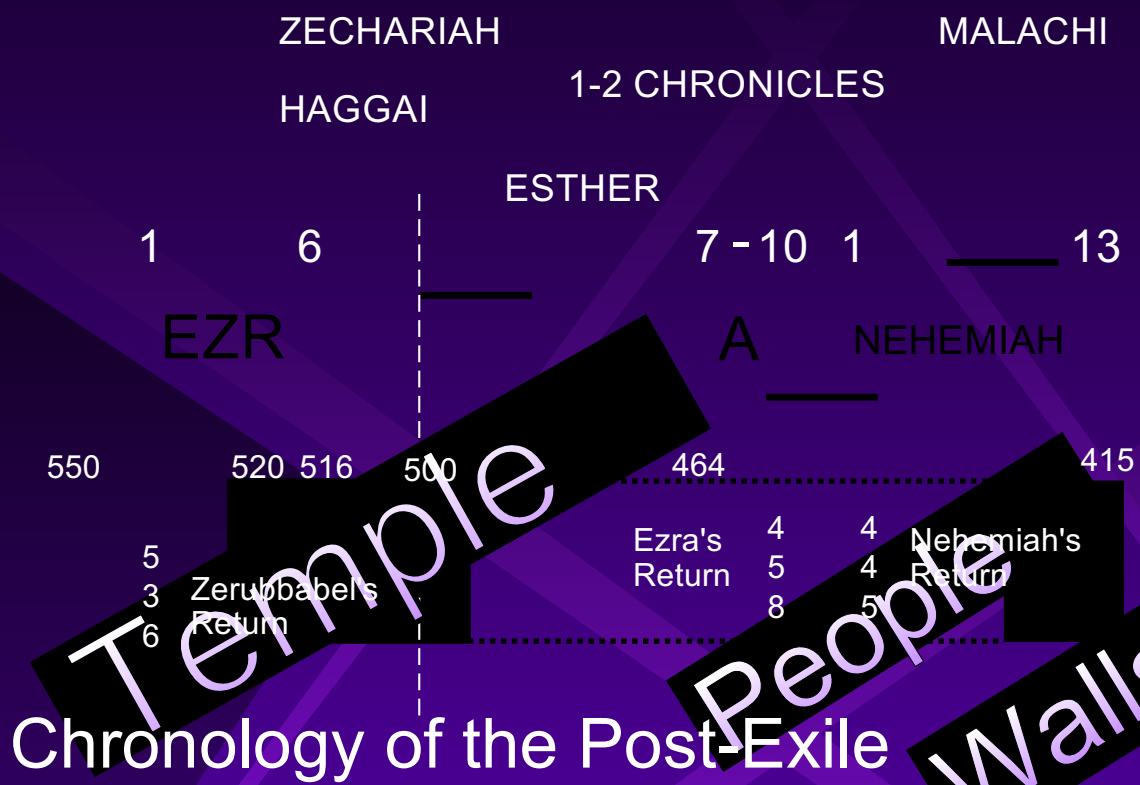
- Light's on--nobody's home
- Our relationship with God as defined by Deuteronomy is pretty well over
- Is He active and working in the life of the nation?

How do the books of Ezra & Nehemiah answer this?

- By recounting the stories of rebuilding ...
- the Temple (Ezra) and the Walls (Nehemiah)
- ...
- with special emphasis upon the providential actions of God.

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Providence vs. Miraculous

- Miracles--when God “breaks” the laws of nature
- Providence--when God is at work “behind the scenes,” manipulating events, but which the unbeliever would not recognize as from Him.

Ezra 1-6, the rebuilding of the Temple under “Z”

1:1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord ... *the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation . . .*

1:5 *everyone whose heart God had moved*--prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord

3:2 Then Joshua and Zerubbabel ... began to build the altar of the God of Israel . . . in accordance with . . . the Law of Moses.

5:5 But *the eye of their God was watching* over the elders of the Jews, and they were not stopped . . .

6:12 Darius writes “*May God, who has caused his Name to dwell there overthrow anyone* who attempts to destroy this temple.

- 6:22 For seven days they celebrated with joy the Feast . . . because the Lord had filled them with joy *by changing the attitude of the king* of Assyria.
- 7:6 The king granted him everything he asked, *for the hand of the Lord his God was on him.*

- 7:27 Praise be to the Lord, the God of our fathers, *who has put it into the king's heart* to bring honor to the house of the Lord. . . . Because the *hand of the Lord my God was on me*, I took courage . . .
- 8:18 Because *the gracious hand of our God was upon us* . . .
- 8:22 The *gracious hand of our God is on everyone* who looks to him !

Nehemiah

- Same message

Nehemiah 2:4, 8

4 The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven,

And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me,
the king granted my requests.

Nehemiah 2:20

20 I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven
will give us success. We his servants will start
rebuilding,

Nehemiah 4:9

9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Nehemiah 4:15

15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work.

Nehemiah 6:9

9 They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.”

But I prayed, “Now strengthen my hands.”

Nehemiah 6:15-16

15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

Malachi

- The last word before Messiah comes

Malachi 3:1

1 “See, I will send **my messenger**, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; **the messenger of the covenant**, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

Malachi 3:3

3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

Malachi 4:5-6

5 “See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

Luke 1:17

17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Matthew 17:2-3

2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Matthew 17:10-12

10 The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

11 Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah **comes and will restore** all things. 12 But I tell you, Elijah **has already come**, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.”

Revelation 11:3-6

3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6 These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

Malachi 3-4

What

Daniel 9:24-27

Malachi 3-4

When

Micah 5:2-4

Daniel 9:24-27

Where

2 Sam 7

Micah 5:2-4

Who

12:1-3

7

3:15

12:1-3

3:15



Some free ones...

■ Dates

- ★ Deportation of Judah / Destruction of Jerusalem
- ★ Deportation of Israel
- ★ Division of the Kingdom
- ★ Exodus
- ★ Abraham

■ References

- ★ Abrahamic Covenant
- ★ Davidic Covenant
- ★ New Covenant