

Don't Settle!...STIR!

Evangelist Matthew Longmore

Main Scripture: Haggai 1; 2 Timothy 1:1-6

Supporting Scriptures: Ezra 4

Notes:

This scripture comes at a time when the Jewish People were still living in bondage and slavery. They were told that if they continue in idolatry they would end up in slavery and captivity. But the people continued to serve other gods and so King Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon (modern-day Iraq) and had them as slaves. The scripture said that a prophet Jeremiah prophesied that they would be in this bondage for 70 years and that the slavery would be so bad that it would make slavery in Egypt look like a joke. They were removed from their homes but also the temple was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar and some of them are still longing to go home. So God to show his sovereignty spoke to Isaiah 150 in advance and tells him that there will be a man named Cyrus and speak to him as though he is not yet born Cyrus is from modern-day Iran - Persia and tell him that king Cyrus is the king that God brings up and he will be the one to build the temple. In Ezra appears on the scene and Cyrus gives the order to build up back the temple in Jerusalem (Ezra 1: 2-4) I can imagine that the children of Israel are so excited to go back and then they start off with rebuilding the alter.

Whenever we need to have an encounter with God build an altar. We cant call on the name of the Lord until the altar is built. Somewhere along the line in Ezra 4, the bible tells us about a set back the people began losing the zeal because of how many counselors were working against him

Somewhere between chapters 1 and Chapter 4, they weakened the hands of those who were ready to build.

God is saying to stir up the gift in praise and prayer. As when you have to stir up a drink so that the flavours can be balanced. God wants someone to stir up a gift that has been dormant for too long. You may be wondering why you have gone through so man challenges and maybe you have the gift of miracles. Stir it up.

That man sniffing drugs or that lady wining in a club, bound in prostitution these are part of my church. Stir up the gift and rebuild my temple. Go out and reach the lost that are part of my church.

Stir up the gift!