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## Restoration Then - Restoration Now

Last time we mentioned the Judean kingdom with David's throne in Jerusalem. All of his successors are mentioned in the Bible, with their tragic downs and thrilling ups. But then the dynasty apparently comes to an end with Zedekiah, who is put to death with his sons by Nebuchadnezzar in the last of the Babylonian invasions. The city, including Solomon's temple, is destroyed, and the survivors are deported to Babylon. It seems to be the definite closing of a wonderful chapter of history that started with Abraham and the patriarchs, continued with Moses and the prophets, and which went on so promisingly with David, Solomon and their successors. God had warned them over and over that this is what would happen if they'd forget him.

Yet, surprisingly, when we get to the New Testament, we find ourselves in a new temple in Jerusalem, built by a very different king, not part of David's dynasty, King Herod. That building of a new temple - in reality a third one - had, according to John 2, already taken 46 years. So what had happened in the preceding centuries?

After a total of 70 years of exile, a remnant of the Israelites, now commonly called Jews, returned to Jerusalem. First, they were to re-

build their temple under the leadership of Zerubbabel, a direct descendant of David, and Joshua, a high priest; then, to restore the city-walls. In Daniel 9, the prophecy says that all this would take place in "troublesome times", a very apt description of what Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi found. These servants of God give striking accounts of all that went on and went wrong. But God's restoration was unstoppable!

Nehemiah mentions "**the hand of the enemies**" four times. How they schemed and conspired to stop God's restoration. But "**God's good hand upon them**" is mentioned by Ezra and Nehemiah a total of 9 times. It keeps and leads them. But notice also "**Ezra's hand**" (Ezra 7). With it he holds on to "the law of his God". And when Nehemiah testifies of "**the hand of his God which had been good upon him...**", it motivates "**all of them to set their hands to this good work**" (Neh. 2). In view of God's present and future RESTORATION, take good note of three indispensable factors:

1. **God's good hand** *must* be on his child;
2. **His child's hand** *must* hold on firmly to **God's book**;
3. **His child's hands**, as a result, *must* be fully committed to **God's work!**



## JANET'S ANGLE

This time round, if Janet could write to you today, she would do so from a hospital bed... On November 8, she had a polyp removed, which had been playing up. Its analysis showed a tiny tumour that was malignant. Because of it, the surgeons decided on a complete hysterectomy, to be performed on December 3.

The fact of her age, and the fact that she is on a blood-thinner because of her heart problems, and the fact that medicines have caused damage to the kidneys, meant the operation was going to be so much less straightforward. Afterwards, the head surgeon spoke of the five hours it took them, of a ruptured vein and blood-transfusions, as they took out the different organs, including the appendix, through what could be described as a “vertical caesarean”.

After a long wait of two full weeks (in hospital), the results came back: cancer was, indeed, found in these different organs. Now everything is being done to see if there has been any further metastasis. Janet is fully conscious of the different facts and possibilities (in contrast to the average Spaniard who is kept in the dark in such a situation).

During the morning after the operation, Janet looked fine and was cheerful, but then she seemed to get increasingly weaker. She began to have difficulty talking, which was a result of her body fluids not being sufficiently processed and so interfering with her breathing. Consequently, she spent 26 hours in the Intensive Care Unit. That is where Lydia found her on arrival on Dec. 7.

What a blessing to have Lydia around for a full week, especially with her great nursing experience and having specialized in chest problems. Then, almost as soon as she left, Andrew arrived on Dec. 15. He stayed for 4 days, and then..., lo and behold, Lydia was back again, having made arrangements at her hospital in Windsor for another absence.

Through a (painful) endoscopy it was found that Janet has a small stomach ulcer, causing loss of blood and so making her anemic. It means that for a while she isn't allowed to eat, which the doctors trust will allow the ulcer to heal without having to operate. Of course, she gets protein through one of her tubes, so she isn't starving.

On top of that, since one of the kidneys is on strike, she should have another operation. In the present situation, however, this is postponed until she has had a chance to convalesce. All being well, it could be February or March when that is done.



We are very grateful for your prayer help in our time of need! As HIS eyes are upon us and HIS ears open to our prayer, so our eyes also are on HIM and our ears longing to hear HIS voice. We are not concerned just for health and new strength for Janet, but for an on-going vigorous work of the Holy Spirit in this town and further afield!

Every blessing in Christ,

*Jim & Janet*

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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

“WHAT AILS YOU?” - *Howel Jones* / “The Evangelical Professor”

“Hopelessly Sold Out” - *AW Tozer*

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The butterfly is certainly heeding the invitation and tasting of all the Lord has provided for him, finding it very good! It is our experience too. The figure of a banquet is often employed in the Scriptures, the last one of this nature is in Revelation 3. There, the Lord, having been shut out, is wanting to be invited to the table. For that to happen, first of all, the heart's door must be opened wide for the King to enter and take his place at the table. The innkeeper at Bethlehem didn't think he could fit him in. But when He finds an open door and sits down, that banquet and the whole atmosphere are wonderfully transformed - in fact the Guest becomes the Host! Just think about what happened when Chief Publican Zacchaeus invited him in (Lk. 19)!

No one else, and nothing else, is worthy of taking that place in your life and home. May your experience of Christ, during this festive season and throughout the new year, be just that - glad surrender to his claims and joyful companionship with the King of kings!