

The Restoration Period: God's people return home after the exile

- **539 B.C. to ca. 430 B.C.**

- **Ezra**
- **Nehemiah**
- **Joel (likely)**
- **Haggai**
- **Zechariah**
- **Malachi**

¹⁰And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

¹¹ And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

¹²But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy,

¹³so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

Ezra 3:10-13

Applying the Restoration Period Today

- What needs restoration in my life?**
- In the midst of rubble, what foundation am I rebuilding?**
- What aspect of this work fills me with joy and hope?**
- What aspect makes me weep?**

Nehemiah's prayer is preparation for restoration.

Why do we need preparation for restoration?

Opposition in Nehemiah

- **2:10**
- **2:19-20**
- **4:1**
- **4:7-8**
- **4:15**
- **6:1-9**

Why do we need preparation for restoration?

- **There is always opposition to restoration**

How do we engage in preparation for restoration?

- **Outline for Nehemiah's Prayer**
 - **Nehemiah *adores* God for who He is—v.5**

**"Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion."
"Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a
man. Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather
nervous about meeting a lion"..."Safe?"
said Mr Beaver ..."Who said anything about
safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good.
He's the King, I tell you."**

**— C.S. Lewis
*The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe***

How do we engage in preparation for restoration?

- **Outline for Nehemiah's Prayer**

- **Nehemiah *adores* God for who He is—v.5**
- **Nehemiah *admits* his sin and the truth of God's Word—vv.6-7**
- **Nehemiah *asks* God to provide by “pleading the promises”—vv.8-11**

Pieces of the Prayer Puzzle—Matt. 6:9-13

- **Adore—v.9**
- **Align—v.10**
- **Ask—v.11**
- **Admit—v.12**
- **Acknowledge—v.13**
- **Amen—v.13**

How do we engage in preparation for restoration?

- **Outline for Nehemiah's Prayer**

- **Nehemiah *adores* God for who He is—v.5**
- **Nehemiah *admits* his sin and the truth of God's Word—vv.6-7**
- **Nehemiah *asks* God to provide by “pleading the promises”—vv.8-11**
- **Nehemiah *adds* others to pray with him—v.11**
- **Nehemiah *prays again and again*—1:1, 4, 2:1, 2:4-5**

What is the result of preparation for restoration?

- **Nehemiah's perspective is transformed**

“I do think,” said Shasta, “that I must be the most unfortunate boy that ever lived in the whole world...” And being very tired and having nothing inside him, he felt so sorry for himself that the tears rolled down his cheeks. What put a stop to all this was a sudden fright. Shasta discovered that someone or somebody was walking beside him...What he could hear was breathing.

His invisible companion seemed to breathe on a very large scale...And he had come to notice this breathing so gradually that he had really no idea how long it had been there... At last he could bear it no longer. “Who are you?” he said, scarcely above a whisper. “One who has waited long for you to speak,” said the Thing. Its voice was not loud, but very large and deep...Tell me your sorrows.”

Shasta was a little reassured by the breath: so he told how he had never known his real father or mother and had been brought up sternly by the fisherman. And then he told the story of his escape and how they were chased by lions and forced to swim for their lives; and of all their dangers in Tashbaan and about his night among the tombs and how the beasts howled at him out of the

desert. And he told about the heat and thirst of their desert journey and how they were almost at their goal when another lion chased them and wounded Aravis. And also, how very long it was since he had had anything to eat.

“I do not call you unfortunate,” said the Large Voice. “Don’t you think it was bad luck to meet so many lions?” said Shasta.

“There was only one lion,” said the Voice.
“What on earth do you mean? I’ve just told you there were at least two the first night, and—” “There was only one: but he was swift of foot.” “How do you know?” “I was the lion.” And as Shasta gaped with open mouth and said nothing, the Voice continued. “I was the lion who forced you to join with Aravis. I was the cat who comforted you

among the houses of the dead. I was the lion who drove the jackals from you while you slept. I was the lion who gave the Horses the new strength of fear for the last mile so that you should reach King Lune in time. And I was the lion you do not remember who pushed the boat in which you lay, a child near death, so that it came to shore where a man sat, wakeful at midnight, to receive you.”

“Then it was you who wounded Aravis?”
“It was I.” “But what for?” “Child,” said the
Voice, “I am telling you your story, not hers.
I tell no one any story but his own.” “Who
are you?” asked Shasta.

“Myself,” said the Voice, very deep and low so that the earth shook: and again “Myself,” loud and clear and bright: and then the third time “Myself,” whispered so softly you could hardly hear it, and yet it seemed to come from all round you as if the leaves rustled with it.

— C.S. Lewis
The Horse and His Boy

Applying the Restoration Period Today

- **What needs restoration in my life?**
- **In the midst of rubble, what foundation am I rebuilding?**
- **What aspect of this work fills me with joy and hope?**
- **What aspect makes me weep?**
- **What story is Jesus telling me through all of this?**

⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

Luke 19:41-42