

# **This Isn't Your Parent's Country:**

*Christians in a Secular Land*

*Ezra 5 & 6*

- The Search (5:17 – 6:2)
- The Memorandum (6:3-5)
  - The Reply (6:6-12)

1. We Should Be Looking for **P** \_\_\_\_\_  
NOT **P** \_\_\_\_\_ (*Ezra 5: 3-5*)

- Don't look for love in all the wrong places.
- Don't go beyond what is written.
- Don't assume non-permission.
- Don't keep asking questions, when you have permission.
- Don't risk in the wrong direction. Life is a risk - risk in the direction of God.

2. We Should be **C** \_\_\_\_\_  
NOT **C** \_\_\_\_\_ (*Ezra 6: 1-12*)

- Fighting the government is not the call.
- Fighting the government will harm the call of the church.
- Fighting the government is short-sighted (impatient).
- Co-Operating with the government is probably not disobedience to God.
- Fighting the government brings glory to man.

**Ezra 5** <sup>1</sup>Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. <sup>2</sup>Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them. <sup>3</sup>At that time Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates went to them and asked, “Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and to finish it?” <sup>4</sup>They also asked, “What are the names of those who are constructing this building?” <sup>5</sup>But the eye of their God was watching over the elders of the Jews, and they were not stopped until a report could go to Darius and his written reply be received.

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**Ezra 6** <sup>1</sup>King Darius then issued an order, and they searched in the archives stored in the treasury at Babylon. <sup>2</sup>A scroll was found in the citadel of Ecbatana in the province of Media, and this was written on it: Memorandum: <sup>3</sup>In the first year of King Cyrus, the king issued a decree concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem:

*Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be sixty cubits high and sixty cubits wide, <sup>4</sup>with three courses of large stones and one of timbers. The costs are to be paid by the royal treasury. <sup>5</sup>Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, are to be returned to their places in the temple in Jerusalem; they are to be deposited in the house of God.*

<sup>6</sup>Now then, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and you other officials of that province, stay away from there. <sup>7</sup>Do not interfere with the work on this temple of God. Let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders rebuild this house of God on its site.

<sup>8</sup>Moreover, I hereby decree what you are to do for these elders of the Jews in the construction of this house of God:

*Their expenses are to be fully paid out of the royal treasury, from the revenues of Trans-Euphrates, so that the work will not stop. <sup>9</sup>Whatever is needed—young bulls, rams, male lambs for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, and wheat, salt, wine and olive oil, as requested by the priests in Jerusalem—must be given them daily without fail, <sup>10</sup>so that they may offer sacrifices pleasing to the God of heaven and pray for the well-being of the king and his sons.*

<sup>11</sup>Furthermore, I decree that if anyone defies this edict, a beam is to be pulled from their house and they are to be impaled on it. And for this crime their house is to be made a pile of rubble. <sup>12</sup>May God, who has caused his Name to dwell there, overthrow any king or people who lifts a hand to change this decree or to destroy this temple in Jerusalem.

*I Darius have decreed it. Let it be carried out with diligence.*