God Uses Land As A Repository Of His Blessings For His People

REPOSITORY: a place, building, or receptacle where things are or may be stored.

God’s People Are Not Equipped Or Enabled To Occupy The Land Of God’s Promise Without A Godly Lifestyle That He Can Bless

We Must Hang On To The Repositories Of God’s Blessing
Ezekiel 21:24 (NIV) — 24 “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Because you people have brought to mind your guilt by your open rebellion, revealing your sins in all that you do—because you have done this, you will be taken captive.

Ezra 9:7 (NIV) — 7 From the days of our forefathers until now, our guilt has been great. Because of our sins, we and our kings and our priests have been subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation at the hand of foreign kings, as it is today.
Babylon Would Be The Instrument Of God’s Correction
It Was A Temporary Exile -- They Would Be Brought Back

Jeremiah 33:7–8 (NIV84) — 7 I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. 8 I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me
This Promised Return Was Fulfilled By Cyrus, King Of Persia

2 Chronicles 36:22–23 (NIV) — 22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing: 23 “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you—may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.’”
In Ezra: The People Who Had Left God Were Now Returning

This Return Was Absolutely Essential In God’s Plan Of Salvation

If The People Did Not Get Back To The Lord And His Word -- They Would Not Know His Blessing -- Or Have A Repository For His Blessing
This Plan Would Not Be Fulfilled In Babylon But In Jerusalem

Jerusalem Was The Location Chosen By God

Psalm 135:21 (NIV) — 21 Praise be to the LORD from Zion, to him who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

God’s People Could Not Stay In Exile And Be The Home Of All Of This

Ezra Is A Book About A Miraculous Rebuilding And Restoration

Ezra Is About The Very Necessary Return To The Land
Isaiah: You Have Left God -- You Are On Your Own -- Your Life Is Attacked -- There Is No Hope In The Direction That You As A Nation Are Going

- He Presents The Remedy And Choice – They Can End This Horrendous Apostasy – If They Will Return To The Lord --- But It Is Up To Them

- Isaiah 1:18–20 (NIV) — 18 “Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; 20 but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.” For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
While They Were In Exile The Israelites Yearned For The Day They Could Go Home

God Has A Plan To Bring His People Back To Their Land Of Promise
ISAIAH PROPHESIED A COMING KING -- CYRUS – WHO WOULD ENSURE THE PEOPLE’S RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY – BACK TO JERUSALEM

Isaiah 45:1 (NIV) — 1 “This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

Isaiah 45:4–6 (NIV) — 4 For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. 5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, 6 so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.
Isaiah 44:28 (NIV) — 28 who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, “Let it be rebuilt,” and of the temple, “Let its foundations be laid.”’
Read: Ezra 1:1-11

Ezra 1:1–4 (NIV84) — 1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing: 2 “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. 3 Anyone of his people among you—may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem. 4 And the people of any place where survivors may now be living are to provide him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.’ ”
God Has A Plan For His People TO RETURN-- His Plan Will Go Forward -- PERIOD!!!

- God Will Establish His Plan Because He Is In Charge
- God Wants His People To Return – His Plan Will Go Through
- Proverbs 21:1 (NLT) ¹ The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; he guides it wherever he pleases.
He Is Above All -- His Plans Will Go Forth — No Matter What Anyone Says Or Does

- God Can Do What He Wants To Do
- God Can Use Who He Wants To Use
- God’s Way Is Always Right
If He Answers -- There Is A Reason He Answers - There Is Also A Reason If He Doesn't Answer

(Phil 2:13 NIV) for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.
God's Purpose Is To Bring His Creation -- His Whole Creation--To Fullness And Completion Thru Fellowship With Him

(2 Cor 5:19 NIV) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
God Has A Plan For His Church, His People, This Nation

The Church Is To Be A Redemption Center

He Has Committed To The Church The Good News Of The Message Of Reconciliation

This Nation & His People Are To Be Repositories Of His Blessing
God’s Business Is The Restoration Business

God Delights In Rebuilding:

The Things We Have Lost Thru Neglect

And

The Things The Devil Has Tried To Steal From Us
The Temple Represented:

- The Place Of Worship
- A Specific Address – Not Babylon But Jerusalem
- The Place Of God’s Presence And Glory
- An Important Part Of God’s Plan For His People

- God Had A Plan To Restore His Temple
- Today -- God Plans To Restore His Church, This Country, His People To The Glory He Designed Us To Have
“Before God Restored The Spiritual Glory To The People Of God -- He Restored The Physical Glory Of The House Of God”
Ezra -- The Return 2020

- How Does God Establish His Plan?

  The Plan Of God Is Established As...
  - God Moves The Heart Of Kings
  - God Moves The Heart Of His People
  - God Moves The Hearts Of The Friends Of His People
In Order To Establish His Plan -- God Provides Everything That Is Needed
God’s Sees Those Who Are Evil And Those Who Try And Rob Or Steal From Him -- They Will Not Get Away With It -- They Will Be Punished (IE. Nebuchadnezzar)

Will A Man Rob God and Get Away With It? No!!!
God Wants To Restore You And Your Life

You Don’t Have To Live In Chains Of Bondage Any Longer

God Wants You To Know His Glory And His Presence In Your Life
The Good News

- God Had A Plan To Restore The Temple -- He Caused It To Happen
- This Same God Wants To Restore His Church
- He Wants To Restore Every Area Of Your Life
- He Wants To Restore This Nation