

# You Can Still Return to The Lord Again

*(The Book of Ezra)*

(Sunday May 22)

## **I. The First Return to God (Ezra 1-6)**

(The first return to God was under the leadership of Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple in 538-515 B.C.)

### ***A. The People are Restored to God (Ezra 1-3)***

1. The Providence of God (Ezra 1:1-4) (Cyrus' Decree)
  - a. Nebuchadnezzar's foreign policy was deportation to fulfill Jer 25:12
  - b. Cyrus' foreign policy was repatriation to fulfill Isa 44:28
2. The Response to the Providence of God (Ezra 1:5-3:13)
  - a. The first response is worship (Ezra 3:1-7)
  - b. The next response is work (Ezra 3:8-13)

### ***B. The Work is Opposed (Ezra 4-6)***

1. Opposition to the Work (4:1-24)

Ezra dealt with the outside opposition
2. Exhortation from the Word (5:1)

Prophets dealt with the internal spiritual problem of disobedience

Haggai 1:1-15 Message of Rebuke  
Haggai 2:1-9 Message of Encouragement  
Haggai 2:10-19 Message of Promise  
Haggai 2:20-23 Message of Hope
3. Completion of the Work (Ezra 6:15)

## **II. The Second Return to God (Ezra 7-10)**

(The second return to God was under the leadership of Ezra to reform the people in 458-456 B.C.)