

Discover your Destiny: Finding your Place in God's Wall... Persist

The Background and Historical Setting:

1. Ezra and Nehemiah were originally a single book (per the Hebrew Bible, the Talmud, the Jewish historian Josephus, and the oldest manuscripts of the Septuagint with Origen, A.D. 185-253, being the first to separate this book into 2 separate books) of historical narrative that was compiled from a variety of historical sources, including **the personal memoirs of Ezra the scribe (458 BC) and Nehemiah the cupbearer to the king (445 BC)**, which, according to Jewish tradition, Ezra compiled into its current form. The **purpose of these narratives** was to encourage the Jews who had returned from exile by reminding them that their **sovereign God was keeping His covenant and continuing His redemptive work in and through them for His glory**. The compilation date was likely around 425-400 BC.
2. **Three key theological themes** that arise from Ezra and Nehemiah: (1) **God is always at work** in His world and among His people in order to reveal His glory and call the lost to Himself; (2) **sin** always has **consequences but God is always offering** the opportunity to "**begin again**" through repentance and faith; (3) the life of faith is lived through **dependence upon God's grace** and **determined action for God's purposes**.

Discovering your Destiny: A Recap...

1. begins with _____ your _____!
2. requires _____ to _____!
3. becomes reality through a _____ commitment to living the _____!

Discovering your Destiny and Finding your Place in God's Wall Calls Forth a _____ to _____!

Nehemiah 4:1-23 & 5:1-19

A Passion to Persist necessitates...

1. Looking _____ for the _____ around you! (4:1-3)
 - 1) Killjoys always point out the _____.
 - 2) Killjoys always make you feel _____.
 - 3) Killjoys often get _____.

"The heart of the habitual critic resists change. To him/her change is a threat. In any organization, those who are most critical of change are those who are the most _____." Chuck Swindoll

2. Looking _____ for the _____ to do what God wants of you. (4:6-8. 9b, 10-14a)
 - 1) Strength is often found in _____—linking hands and hearts with fellow believers to accomplish God-given goals.
 - 2) Strength is often found in _____—each one finding their particular place of Christ-honoring service.
 - 3) Strength is often found in _____—refusing to quit and get creative to solve problems.
3. Looking _____ for the _____ and _____ only God can give.
 - 1) _____ for...(4:4-5, 9a, 14b, 15-23)
 - (1) the truth and right to win out.
 - (2) the right solution to immediate problems.
 - (3) the confidence to _____ in an awesome God and to _____ in faith.
 - 2) _____ in... (5:1-19)
 - (1) _____ to others...this keeps you compassionate.
 - (2) _____ well to the perpetrators...this keeps you focused.
 - (3) _____...this keeps you faithful.
 - (4) _____ by example...this keeps you humble.

Two Kinds of People

There are two kinds of people on earth to-day;
Just two kinds of people, no more I say.
Not the sinner and saint, for it's well understood
The good are half bad and the bad are half good....
Not the happy and sad, for the swift flying years
Bring each man his laughter end each man his tears.
No; the two kinds of people on earth I mean
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.