

02 – Ezra 2 1-70 – The people at their best**Why is it in God's word**

1) A (fraction of) a nation returns

... not some anonymous mass

... God's people at their best.

Verse 70 they each returned to their own place

2) Those listed are important.

...common names that more than one person has

v 2. Zerubbabel is.

... he is the descendant of King David

Haggai 1:1 ... the governor of Judah.

... from v 36 = people directly connected with right worship of YHWH.

... those who were returning were serious about the right worship of YHWH

... the focus of the book of Ezra = the return of God's people to establish the right worship of YHWH...

3) A spontaneous act of worship

... they respond with a combined economic offering that was massive.

= 500kg of gold and 2.8 metric tonnes of silver.

... Cyrus was bankrolling the rebuild... so why?

... right worship of YHWH flows from their heart

A few questions

Firstly, ... Ezra 2 is almost identical to Nehemiah 7 ... but there are a few significant differences in the list of names.

Secondly, if you add up all the numbers ... they do not add up to the number in v 64 of 42 360 people.

For us as followers of Jesus today

1) **The big story**

... find our place as God's people in the big story.

1 Peter 2, they/we are referred to as people who are being built, “into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

2) Right worship is vital

God, ... wants us to worship him properly by offering spiritual sacrifices to him through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-10. *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

God’s people, at their best, should long to worship God

“How do we worship God?”

... the reality is that none of us really get this worship of God 100% right.

Jesus ... is the perfect example for us to look at.

... we will be people under grace who seek to be like Christ, like Jesus. Once again, do we see to worship God like this?

3) Extraordinary Generosity

What is the connection between our worship of God, our trust in God’s promises and our generous giving?