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A God-Stirred Spirit

Ezra 1:1-11

God Stirs Up

- Stirred the Assyrians (1 Chron. 5:26)
- Stirred the Medes (Isa. 13:17)
- Stirred others (2 Chron. 21:16; Isa. 9:11; 19:2; Jer. 50:9)

Lessons Learned

1. The human spirit needs stirring
 - Why? To accomplish God's will
 - It would be hard, but they had a purpose to fulfill: to build the house (Ezra 9:9)

Lessons Learned

- It is easy to become complacent, settled, apathetic, indifferent (Amos 6:1; Zeph. 1:12)
- Selfishness (Hag. 1:4, 14)
- Challenging times (Mt. 24:12)

Lessons Learned

- Asleep (Rom. 13; 1 Cor. 15; Eph. 5)
- Worldly (Jas. 4:8)
- Cold (Rev. 2:4)
- Dead / lukewarm (Rev. 3:1, 16)

Lessons Learned

2. Stirring results in good actions
 - Cyrus made a proclamation and the Jews returned
 - Ex. 35:21, 26; 36:2

Lessons Learned

- Conversion (Acts 2:37)
- Repentance (2 Cor. 7; Rev. 3:19)
- Good works (Tit. 2:14)
- Growth (2 Pet. 1:5)

Lessons Learned

3. How God stirs both directly and indirectly
 - Cyrus; possibly through the teaching of Isaiah (45:1, 13), Jeremiah, or Daniel (9:2)

Lessons Learned

- Today through his preaching (Mt. 21:10; Lk. 23:5), his people (2 Cor. 9:2; Heb. 10:24), and his written word (2 Pet. 1:13; 3:1 = to arouse completely)

Lessons Learned

- We must do our part to “stir up” (2 Tim. 1:6; lit. “fan into flames”, NIV, NLT, ESV; “kindle afresh”, NASV; “rekindle”, CSB, NET)
- Will you be stirred to revival today (Hos. 6:1-3)?