

Outline:

The Commission to Reinstall God's Palace Servants on Earth An Exodus Manifest – Part Two

I. Introduction: The Importance of Accounting for Every Life

- Personal story: Fire drill process and the value of accounting for every individual
- Transition: This matters in God's covenant community

II. Historical and Theological Context

- **Ezra and the Return from Exile**
 - Israel's covenant with God: Blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28).
 - Exile: judgment for idolatry and covenant-breaking; Babylonian rule for 70 years.
 - Exodus: God leads a remnant back to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple (Ezra 1–2).

III. The Leaders of Israel

- **Zerubbabel:** Heir to the Davidic throne; oversees temple reconstruction; ancestor of Jesus
- **Jeshua:** High priestly lineage; reinvigorates priesthood and rituals.
- **Christological Connection:** Jesus as King of Kings and Great High Priest.

IV. The Men of Israel

- **Genealogical Proof Required:**
 - Each man had to document lineage for land redistribution and community restoration (Ezra 2:59–63).
 - **Scripture:** Ezra 2:59–63; Book of Life imagery (Revelation 20:12, 21:27).
- **Christological Connection:**
 - The Lord's book of life; true Christians accounted for and living with God forever.

V. The Priests

- **Priestly Office and Responsibilities:**
 - Lawgiver, sacrifice, temple, mediator.
 - **Scripture:** Exodus 28–29; Leviticus 8–9; Hebrews 7–10.
- **Christological Connection:**
 - Jesus as ultimate priest, lawgiver, and sacrifice; believers restored to priestly status (1 Peter 2:9).

VI. Christ as Fulfillment

- **Recapitulation:**
 - Jesus' life retells OT history: destruction and resurrection of the temple (John 2:19–21).
 - Resurrection as new exodus and life with God.
- **Goal:** To shape understanding of the OT toward Christ.

VII. The Levites (Ezra 2:40–42)

- **Who Are the Levites?**
 - Tribe set apart after the golden calf incident (Exodus 32; Deuteronomy 10:8).
 - Only those with documented lineage could serve (Ezra 2:40–42).
- **Levite Responsibilities (List):**
 - Carrying the tabernacle (Numbers 1:50–51)
 - Guarding the perimeter (Numbers 1:52)
 - Assisting priests (Numbers 3:6–7)
 - Caring for temple furnishings (Numbers 3:8)
 - Gershonites: Curtains, screens, hangings (Numbers 3:25–26; 4:24–26)
 - Kohathites: Ark, lampstand, altars, holy vessels (Numbers 3:31; 4:4–15)
 - Merarites: Frames, bars, pillars, bases (Numbers 3:36–37; 4:29–33)
 - Overseeing finances (1 Chronicles 23:28–32)
 - Sacrifice preparation (2 Chronicles 29:34; 35:10–14)
 - Teaching Israelites (2 Chronicles 35:3).
- **Christological Connection:**

- Believers serve as God's living temple, caring for one another and guarding the church (1 Peter 4:10; 2 Corinthians 3:3).

VIII. The Singers (Ezra 2:41)

- **Lineage:** Descendants of Asaph, appointed by David (1 Chronicles 16:7; 15:28).
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Leading worship with cymbals, harps, lyres.
 - Prophesying with music (1 Chronicles 25:1).
 - Guarding storerooms (Nehemiah 12:45–47).
 - Singing during sacrifices (2 Chronicles 29:27–28; 35:15).
- **Christological Connection:**
 - Mastering music as dominion over creation; singing to God and one another (Colossians 3:16).

IX. The Gatekeepers (Ezra 2:42)

- **Lineage:** Descendants of Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita, Shobai.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Guarding temple gates (1 Chronicles 9:23–24).
 - Overseeing chambers, treasuries, utensils, flour, oil, wine, spices, showbread (1 Chronicles 9:17–32).
- **Theological Significance:**
 - Protecting holy boundaries; preparing bread of the presence for priests.
- **Christological Connection:**
 - Jesus as the ultimate gatekeeper (“I am the way...” John 14:6).
 - Communion as fellowship meal with God; believers as priests dining with God.

X. Application and Exhortation

- **Serve as God's Living Temple:**
 - Care for one another, guard the church, teach and build up the body.
- **Worship and Communion:**
 - Adore Christ, participate in gospel-centered worship and communion.
- **Gospel Invitation:**
 - Repent, believe, be baptized, and join in communion as a royal priesthood.

XI. Conclusion

- **Summary:**
 - The return from exile and restoration of temple service points to Christ's work of redemption.
 - Believers are called to live as priests, servants, worshipers, and gatekeepers in God's house.
- **Final Call:**
 - Worship, serve, and commune with God through Christ.

Scripture References Used Throughout

- **Ezra 2:40–42, 2:59–63, 7:1–5, 6:18, 10:18–19**
- **Exodus 32, Deuteronomy 10:8, Numbers 1–4, 3:11–13, 16–18**
- **1 Chronicles 9, 15–16, 23, 25, 29**
- **2 Chronicles 29, 35**
- **Nehemiah 12**
- **John 2:19–21, 14:6**
- **1 Peter 2:9, 4:10; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Colossians 3:16; Revelation 20:12, 21:27; Hebrews 7–10**