

# THE STORY

## FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

### The Return Home

Chapter 19 — August 23, 2015

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- I. **Cyrus**, King of Persia, releases the Jews to return to Jerusalem.
  - A. What's special about the **temple**?
    1. God's **passion**: to dwell among His people.
    2. Our **problem**: Sin separates us from Him.
    3. God's solution: **Blood** Sacrifice to re-enter His presence.
  - B. The task of **rebuilding** the temple. Ezra 3:1-3
    1. God's **big** thing becomes their **little** thing.
    2. The prophet **Haggai** calls the people back to their primary task.

*"Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" – Haggai 1:4*
- II. God sends seasons of **trial** to call his people to their purpose.
  - A. But not all testing is a result of personal **sin**.
  - B. He exhorts us to **examine** our ways.
  - C. He calls us from **distractions** that cloud His purpose.

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well – Matthew 6:33*
  - D. He calls us to **repentance**.

Message based on materials provided by Oak Hills and Shoreline churches.