

# BIBLICAL

A verse-by-verse  
series through the  
book of Ezra

## BUILDING

### WEEK 5:

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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For the First Baptist Church of Gaston



# MONDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2025

## ‘IS YOUR FAMILY UNITED?’

We are already five weeks into our ‘Biblical Building’ series, and it’s already June! Not sure about you, but for me, this year has certainly flown by.

Verse 9 from yesterday’s text is quite intriguing to me. Let’s revisit that verse once again. ‘And Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, and Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together supervised the workmen in the house of God, along with the sons of Henadad and the Levites, their sons and brothers.’

As I mentioned yesterday, there is a particularly important Hebrew word that has not been included in most modern English translations of the text. (Which is why for those who teach God’s Word, it’s important to study the original languages.) As we learned yesterday, the word ‘Ke’had כְּהָדָה means to join together for one cause. What is interesting here is that within the context of verse 9, this means that Levites, who were all family members, all related, came together to build the temple.

This is a simple devotion to start the week, but a serious truth does accompany it. I’m sure within the Levites of that day, some within the family didn’t get along. I’m sure of it. Because in my own family there are times I may not get along with other family members. Whether that be close or distant family members. On Monday of this week, let’s follow the example of the Levites. Let’s come together with those in our blood family. Anyone you have an issue within your blood line today? Deal with it!

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**Application for Today:** Make sure that if there are any rifts or distances between you and any family members in your life today, that you deal with that today and seek to make it right with them. If they choose not to converse, that's on them, but may we all be 'one' in Christ within our families.

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today praying over your family and asking God to reveal of any rifts that make exist between you and someone in your family that you aren't aware of.

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying for the window that will be on the back of classroom #8.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.



# TUESDAY, JUNE 3RD, 2025

## ‘WHY DO WE SING IN CHURCH?’

This morning’s devotional title reminds me of my days while singing in the Choir on Scholarship at Anderson University. We would usually practice 3-5 hours a day on reading music, vocal exercises, and singing together as a choir. It was a joy and a pleasure to have been able to do so. One of the songs we would sing in daily warm-ups was called ‘My Eye is on the Sparrow’. One of my favorite lyrics was, ‘Sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free’. Because of what Jesus has done for us, we can have real happiness. And real freedom in Him. But truly, why do we sing in Church?

For centuries now, musicians have composed and created beautiful hymns and worship songs that we get to sing to the top of our lungs during a worship service, in the car, or at home.

In Ezra’s Day, the idea of singing in worship was still relatively new. David is the one who first introduced the idea of singing in a worship service and wrote many Psalms that would be sung within temple Worship. David was a musician, yes, but he was a Man after God’s own heart. While he began his musical career out in the field with the sheep, probably calming them and allowing them to rest, he transitioned to playing the harp for the distressed man who only wanted to kill him, Saul.

David was such an expressive person. So the reason that we sing in Church or any other time, is to give God praise, honor and glory. Not to be heard, not to be seen, and not to be applauded, but to lift a joyful noise.



**Application for Today:** The next time you have an opportunity to lift your voice in song, do so for the Lord! For an audience of one, and to lift praises to His name for all that He has done.

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today praying over the songs that we will sing tomorrow night and this coming Sunday. Pray for all of those who lead us in worship. From Mrs. Sherrell, the choir team, and the praise team.

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying for the microphones that will be used by all those who will sing in our multi-purpose building.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying about what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.



# WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH, 2025

## ‘ROBES, TRUMPETS, CYMBALS.’

Remember Sunday when we looked at Ezra 3:10? Here it is for a quick refresher. ‘And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the directions of David, king of Israel.’

In this verse, we find Robes (aka vestments), Trumpets, and Cymbals. And then in verse 11, we are told of the verse of scripture that they had sung together, after the foundation for the temple was laid. The particular praise song that is quoted in verse 11 comes from Psalms 100:5, which was written by King David. There are instruments and special outfits present at this occasion. The robes that the priests and Levites had on were in accordance with Exodus 28. The Cymbals and Trumpets were also used elsewhere in Scripture in similar worship of thanksgiving. But here’s the beautiful thing about our worship today.

Because of what Christ Jesus has done on the Cross to bring us to the New Covenant, we no longer have to live by the OT law. Which means, we don’t have to wear the robes that the priests and Levites wore. We can use trumpets in worship, or cymbals, or drums, or pianos, or organs, or guitars. We can use anything as long as it is bringing honor and glory to Jesus. Let’s not get caught up in ‘There’s no organ’, or ‘There’s no Guitar’, let’s get caught up in love and admiration for Christ Jesus when we worship!



**Application for Today:** The next time you're tempted to groan about not having an organ, guitar, or your favorite musical instrument, remember, it's not about the instrument, but the Savior!

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today praying for those who play our piano, those who occasionally play our organ, and that God would raise up those who can play other instruments to come and be a part of our Worship team, soon!

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying for instruments that will be purchased for and used in the new building.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying about what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.



# THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH, 2025

## ‘WITH AGE, COMES RESPONSIBILITY!’

For tomorrow morning, you'll just have your prayer points. We are going to look at verses 12-13 from Ezra 3 this morning, and I don't want to be too redundant in my writing to you this week. Plus, I encourage you to spend even more time in prayer than usual tomorrow morning since you won't have a devotional (from me) to read.

In Ezra 3:12, we are told that the priests, Levites, heads of households, and old men were the one's who groaned when they looked down at the foundation and realized just how small this temple was going to be. As we talked Sunday, there was no longer an ark of the Covenant to house and only 5% of the people who worshipped at Solomon's Temple would be worshipping in this one. So there was no need for it to be large.

But still, they moaned and grieved so loudly that Ezra 3:13 makes it very clear that it was hard to distinguish the sounds of praises to God to the complaints to God. What a travesty that if we aren't careful, can quickly become us. When we see things done in the Church that weren't done that way 5 years ago or 50 years ago, we can be tempted to think, 'Well, it's wrong!'. Just because something isn't done the way we are used to, doesn't mean that God isn't using that particular method to get His message across. Those who are older, remember, you have a great responsibility. Many of the young people in our Church, including Hannah and I, are looking to you. I challenge you to be the Christ honoring examples that we need. Not the kind of attitudes we have to pacify.

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**Application for Today:** Before you say something today, and every day, ask yourself this. Is what I'm about to say similar to what people said in Ezra 3:10-11, or more like the ones in Ezra 3:12-13?

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today praying that ALL of us at FBCG, no matter our age, would seek to be the kind of people who reflect Ezra 3:10-11.

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying for instruments that will be purchased for the attitudes of each person who will attend a service, game, or class in the Multi-Purpose building.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying about what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.



# FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH, 2025

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today praying that God would place it on the hearts of people OUTSIDE our Church to give towards the Field of Dreams Giving initiative.

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying for the AC Unit(s) that will be on our new multi-Purpose building.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying about what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.

