

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

May 21, 2023

The church in Phoenix

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – English-speaking prayer meetings at Districts 1 & 2

7:30 pm – Chinese-speaking prayer meeting at District 2

7:00 pm - Spanish-speaking prayer meeting in the homes

Friday

6:30 pm – English-speaking College Meetings

7:00 pm – Chinese-speaking Student Meetings

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Saturday

9:30 am – Cleaning & Maintenance at the Hall

7:30 pm – Young People's Meeting

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Continue in the Ministry
and the Word

Holy Word for Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther – Week 8

Riches from the Ministry

The Recovery of God's House and God's City, Chapter 7

Announcements

❖ 2023 July Semiannual Training

- Video Training Dates: **Wednesday, July 5; 7:00 pm – Lord's Day, July 16; 4:00 pm**
- Late Registration Donation (including outline): \$155 per seat (\$130 plus \$25 late fee)
- Late Registration Due Date: **June 20, 2023**
- Registration Fee can be sent through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: register@churchinphoenix.org. Please indicate on the memo line "2023 July Training".
- Registration Form: <https://tinyurl.com/cipregisterjuly23>

❖ 2023 International Memorial Day Conference - Video

- In-Person Meeting at CIP meeting hall
- Message 1: Saturday, May 27, 10:00 AM
- Message 2: Saturday, May 27, 1:00 PM
- Lord's Table: Lord's Day, May 28, 9:30 AM
- Message 3: Lord's Day, May 28, 10:00 AM
- Message 4: Lords Day, May 28, 1:00 PM
- Message 5: Monday, May 29, 10:00 AM
- Message 6: Monday, May 29, 1:00 PM

❖ HWMR – Crystallization-Study of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, Vol. 2

- Available for sale in church bookroom

❖ Memorial Service for brother William Tul

- Place: Green Acres Mortuary & Cemetery
401 N Hayden Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85257
- Date: Thursday, May 25
- Time:
Viewing: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
Memorial Service: 11:00 AM

❖ Offerings

- Please send your offerings through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: offerings@churchinphoenix.org

Riches from the Ministry

According to the books of the recovery, the history is like this: First, the return of the captivity was begun. In the return there were two leaders: the governor, Zerubbabel, representing the kingship, and the high priest, Joshua, representing the priesthood. Zerubbabel and Joshua returned with people to recover the temple. Ezra arrived more than fifty years later with a group of returned captives to enrich the recovery. Ten or eleven years after Ezra came, Nehemiah came to build up the city and protect the temple. Between Zerubbabel and Ezra's time, the recovery of the temple ceased for about fifteen years, and Haggai and Zechariah were raised up to encourage the people to continue the work.

Throughout this history of the recovery, six names stand out: Zerubbabel, Joshua, Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra, and Nehemiah. Zerubbabel was the governor of the province of Judah, representing the kingship, and Joshua was the high priest, representing the priesthood. It was under these two ministries that the recovery of God was begun. But the ministry of the prophethood was also required, and this came through Haggai and Zechariah. Haggai was used to stir up the spirit of the people to continue the work on the building of the temple. He told them that if they would finish the building, they would bring in the Desire of all the nations, who is Christ. Zechariah followed Haggai to tell the recovered ones more about Christ. This is really the proper prophecy. It must start with stirring up the spirit of the people, and it must end with Christ. The stirring up of the spirit of the people only requires two chapters, while all the things of Christ require fourteen chapters. The book of Zechariah is really wonderful; he mentions so much about Christ in God's recovery...Even today in God's recovery we need such a prophecy to recover all the aspects of Christ.

But Ezra was still needed to enrich and strengthen the recovery. By the time Ezra returned, everything was recovered, but there was the need of strengthening and enrichment. The remnant of the people who returned was still small; the number needed to be increased, so Ezra brought back a good number. Today we really need more Ezras. The number we have today in the Lord's recovery is still too small; we need some Ezras to come back from Babylon to strengthen the recovery in number. So many priests, leaders, Levites, singers, and gatekeepers are still there in Babylon. They must be for the Lord's recovery. They may have been born in Babylon, but they were not born for Babylon. They were saved in the denominations, but they were not saved for the denominations; they were saved for the Lord and His recovery. We must pray that the Lord will raise up some Ezras. We need more Ezras today. Ezra strengthened the recovery by bringing with him a good number of returned captives.

...The Lord raised up Ezra to strengthen and enrich His recovery. So Ezra gave us a record of the silver, the gold, the vessels, and the bowls that he brought back to the temple of God. This is not a small thing, for these are the riches of Christ returned from the captivity.

... There is much silver, much gold, and many vessels in Babylon, but these things should not remain in Babylon. They must be brought back to Jerusalem. All the things of Christ must be recovered from Babylon. In the denominations there is considerable work of the Lord, yet all the people of God and all the works of the Lord are not for the denominations; they are for the local churches. All the children of Israel in Babylon, even those born there, were not for Babylon but for Jerusalem. All the work the Lord accomplished in Babylon was not for Babylon but for Jerusalem. We must pray that an increasing number of the Lord's children will be brought back to the local churches, and we must pray that all the experiences of Christ will be returned to the local churches. All the silver, all the gold, and all the vessels belong to the temple in Jerusalem.

Ezra was a priest, a descendant of Aaron, and he was also a scribe. The scribe in the Old Testament equals the teacher in the New Testament. But there is a difference between the prophet and the scribe or teacher. The prophet is one who speaks directly from God, and the teacher is one who teaches the things spoken by the prophet.

Haggai and Zechariah were prophets because they spoke directly from God. What was spoken by Haggai was new; it was never revealed to anyone else. Zechariah's message is even more marvelous. He said that Christ is the shoot, the foundation stone with seven eyes, and the topstone... Zechariah was not a teacher but a prophet, speaking from God's instant, present, up-to-date inspiration. Ezra spoke nothing new. What he spoke had been already spoken by Moses. He was a scribe and a teacher. But according to the principle in God's recovery, we do not need an old teacher, but a priestly teacher. Ezra was also a priest.

A priest is one who is mingled with the Lord, saturated with the Lord, feeding upon the Lord, and breathing Him in all day long. Whatever he speaks is just the Lord Himself. This is exactly what the teachers in the Lord's recovery must be. Ezra was this kind of person... He was not a letter-scribe, but a priestly scribe. (Lee, *The Recovery of God's House and God's City*, Chapter 7).

