# **Vision - New Beginnings - Pt 11 - Big Picture Regeneration and Sanctification**

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Remember from the very beginning we talked about three key aspects to the books of Ezra:

The rebuilding of the physical temple

The rebuilding of the people

The rebuilding of the wall

Each of these things has had a parallel that relates to the church. There is a natural, physical action we read in Ezra and Nehemiah

[Ezra 1-6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ezr1-6) Covers the rebuilding of the Temple

[Ezra 7-10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ezr7-10) Covers the rebuilding of the people part A

[Nehemiah 1-7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1-7) Covers the rebuilding of the wall

[Nehemiah 8-13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne8-13) Covers the rebuilding of the people part B

There is a spiritual picture we see as we pull back and look at this not through a natural lens but through the eyes of the spirit:

Paul said I pray that the eyes of your understanding would be enlightened and that we may know what the hope of His calling is ([Ephesians 1:18](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eph1.18))

**1 Corinthians 2:9–14 NKJV**

9 But as it is written:
*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,*
*Nor have entered into the heart of man*
*The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

10 **But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit**. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

13 These things we also speak, **not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.** 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them,* **because they are spiritually discerned.**

There are things found in scripture that are **spiritually discerned**, taught by the Holy Spirit it is one of these pictures I want to share with you this morning:

**Ezekiel 36:26–27 NKJV**

26 I will give you a **new heart and put a new spirit within you**; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

### Ezra is a spiritual picture if verse 26

The rebuilding of the temple:

The temple was utterly destroyed: It is the picture of a dead heart of stone in Man. Your spirit is dead.

[2 Chronicles 36:18-20](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Ch36.18-20) “18 And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. 19 Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. 20 And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,”

**Sin entered and brought death - Death that is utter desolation to the spirit of man.**

[Romans 5:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro5.12) “12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, **and thus death spread to all men**, because all sinned—”

[John 3:3-7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn3.3-7) “3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

 **Christ came to pay the penalty of our sin: Once for all that we might become the temple of the Lord**

[1 Corinthians 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Co3.16) “16 Do you not know that **you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you**?”

When Zerubbabel and Jeshua came from [Ezra 1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ezr1) through [Ezra 6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ezr6) and rebuild the foundation of the Temple it is a picture of Regeneration. A picture of Salvation for you and I we were dead, there was nothing worthwhile in our lives. The foundation is laid on Christ the chief cornerstone:

[1 Peter 2:4-6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Pe2.4-6) “4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, **are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.””

They Laid the foundation of Worship and the alter of Sacrifice

**Because of Christ a spiritual foundation is laid in our hearts, a new heart giving the ability to worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth -**

[John 4:22-24](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn4.22-24) “22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.””

 **The Alter of sacrifice was rebuilt:**

[Romans 12:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro12.1) “1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” [Hebrews 13:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Heb13.15) “15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

Ezra comes to the Regenerate heart and reveals the word of God, to prepare that heart to learn, to do and ultimately to teach the word of God to others - **this is one progression of becoming a Disciple**

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**The book of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the wall is a picture of a broken life that is being restored by the Holy Spirit.**

**Theologically we call this “Sanctification”**

We use language like this when we talk about salvation:

**We ARE saved - Justification/Regeneration** This is the picture of the Book of Ezra

**We ARE BEING saved - Sanctification**. This is the picture of the book of Nehemiah

**We WILL BE saved - Glorification**. This will be our final state at the resurrection

**Justification -**[**Romans 3:23-24**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro3.23-24) “23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being **justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**,”

**Sanctification** - [Hebrews 2:10-11](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Heb2.10-11) “10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 **For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified** are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,”

Paul describes the way we feel about sin as we are being “rebuilt” through Sanctification in [Romans 7:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro7.19) “19 **For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.”** [Romans 7:24-25](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro7.24-25) “24 **O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**Glorification -** [**Philippians 3:20-21**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Php3.20-21) “20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 **who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,** according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”