

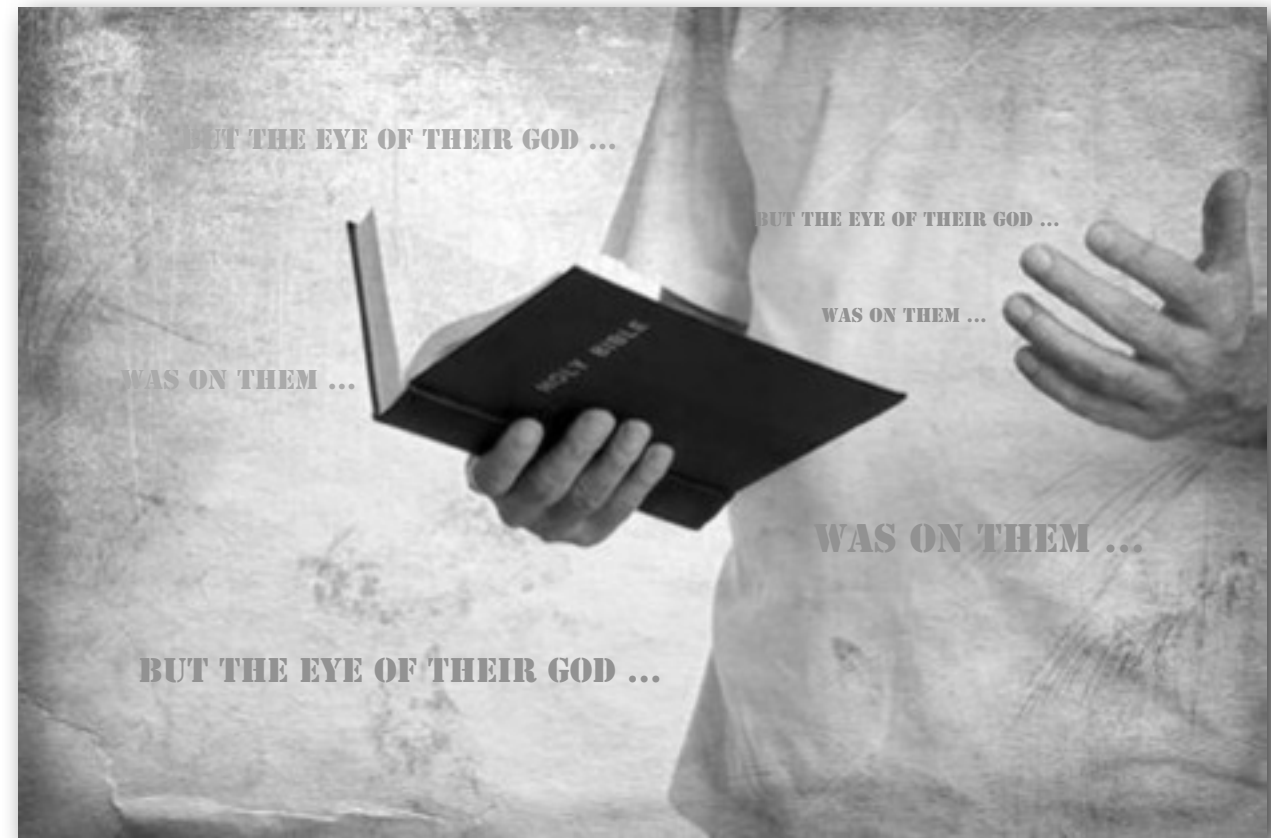
## ■ THE LETTER (Ezra 5:6-17):

(V6) This is a copy of the letter ...

- ➔ **THE SENDERS:** (V6) Tattenai, Shethar-bozenai and the other governors in the province.
- ➔ **RECIPIENT:** Darius the king
- ➔ **THE CONTENTS IN THE FORM OF A REPORT SENT TO DARIUS:**
  - **(V7) Greetings to the king:** [They sent him a report, in which was written as follows: "To Darius the king, all peace."]
  - **(V8) Summary of their concern:** The house of the great God is being built and the work prospers.
  - **(VV9-10) Information is asked of the builders:** Who gave you orders to build? What are your names?
  - **(VV11-16) The reply of the builders:** [11 And this was their reply to us:]
  - **(V17) Conclusion and request:** Search the archives and send us a reply.

## ■ THE REPLY OF THE BUILDERS (Ezra 5:11-16):

- ➔ **WHO WE ARE:** We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth,
- ➔ **WHAT WE ARE DOING:** We are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.
- ➔ **BACK STORY TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE:**
  - We angered God and he destroyed the house.
  - Cyrus king of Babylon (Persia) decreed the house of God to be rebuilt.
  - Cyrus king of Babylon (Persia) made provision for the house of God to be rebuilt.
  - The foundation has been laid but the building is not yet finished.



**Everyone doing his or her job ...**

- The prophets prophesying ...
- The builders building ...
- The opposers opposing ...
- God being God!

**What is my job?**

- Preaching/teaching?
- Listening/building?
- Rebelling/opposing?

**What am I doing?**

**Who am I doing it for?**

- **“The god who will get me to heaven:”** Some of us merely serve a god we hope gets us to heaven after a good, full life here on earth. And we miss the joy of serving the God who is LORD over heaven and earth.