

21 January 2018: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

**Topic: A Study of Ezra: God's Work is Unstoppable**

Scripture text: Ezra 6:1-15

1. In the service for God, there will be times of distress and seemingly lack of progress but according to God's sovereign decree, all things will work together for good for the glory of God. The rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem was unstoppable amidst persecution because it was God's will for it to be rebuilt.
2. The rebuilding of the Temple was unstoppable because of God's divine intervention (v.1-5). God worked in king Darius' heart to make a diligent effort to search for the particular roll containing the details of king Cyrus' decree 16 years earlier. The content of the roll verified the testimony of the Israelites in Ezra 5:14 and ultimately allowed them to resume God's work. The government is under God's control and He can use them as instruments to work out His will.
3. The rebuilding of the Temple was unstoppable because of God's divine protection (v.6-7) and provision (v.8-9). The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. If God be for us, no man can stand against us. The daily religious offering and sacrifices to God was sufficiently provided for out of the king's treasury. Likewise, when God commissions His servants, He will take care of all their physical and spiritual needs. We must therefore remain prudent and trust in the Lord.
4. The rebuilding of the Temple was unstoppable because God turned things according to His will (v.10) and pronounced His judgment through king Darius (v.11-12). By the good hand of God, the Temple was finally rebuilt 20 years after it was first constructed (v.15). God's work will surely go when He opens the door. Let God's servants find comfort in His promises and labour faithfully.