

Lesson 3
The Rebuilding of the Temple Resumed and Completed
(Ezra 5-6)

Questions

1. What two “minor prophets” encouraged the Jews to resume building the temple (5:1-2; see also 6:14)?

2. What did Tattenai and others ask the Jews concerning the rebuilding of the temple and what response did they get (5:3-5)?

3. What request did Tattenai and others make in their letter to Darius the king (5:6-17)?

4. What did Darius find concerning Tattenai’s request when he made a search in the archives (6:1-5)?

5. What did Darius write and tell Tattenai and his companions to do concerning the rebuilding of the temple (6:6-12)?

6. What happened after Tattenai and his companions received the letter from Darius (6:13-15)?

7. What did the Jews do when the temple building was finished (6:16-18)?

8. What feast did the Jews keep and how is their spiritual and ceremonial condition described (6:19-22)?

Digging Deeper

1. What is the approximate date for the ministry of Haggai and what is written in the book of Haggai that gives us insight into why the temple building had ceased?
2. What is the approximate date for the ministry of Zechariah and what is written in the book of Zechariah that gives us insight into why the temple building had ceased?
3. How is the letter of Tattenai (5:6-17) different from the letter of Bishlam (4:7-16)?
4. Who was the “great king of Israel” that built and finished the temple (5:11)?
5. Who laid the foundation of the temple, Sheshbazzar the governor (5:14, 16), or Zerubbabel (3:8-10)? Are these two different men, or two different names for the same man?
6. Where was the city of Achmetha (Ecbatana) located (6:2)?
7. What king is being prayed for in Ezra 6:10?
8. What was the month of Adar in the Hebrew calendar and when was the sixth year of Darius (6:15)?
9. Why is Artaxerxes mentioned in Ezra 6:14 when the temple was already finished by the time he began to reign (see 7:15-20)?
10. Why is the “king of Assyria” mentioned in Ezra 6:22 when Darius king of Persia is the ruling king at this time?

Applications for Today

1. It is good to encourage your brethren to keep doing the Lord's work and help them to do that work (5:1-2; 6:14; Haggai 1:14; 2 Tim. 1:6).
2. The "eye of God" sees his people and gives them help (5:5; Ex. 2:25; Ezra 7:6, 28).
3. It is good to be diligent and prosperous in the Lord's work (5:8; Rom. 12:11).
4. Don't be afraid to tell others that you are the servants of the God of heaven and earth (5:11; Dan. 3:26; Acts 16:17).
5. You do not want to provoke God to wrath (5:12; 2 K. 22:17; 2 Chron. 34:25).
6. Pray for the leaders of your nation (6:10; 1 Tim. 2:1-2).
7. It's not enough to start a good work; you have to finish what you start (6:14-15; Lk. 14:25-35).
8. God's people should always worship and serve God with joy (6:16, 22; Lk. 24:52).
9. Always follow God's law when worshipping him (6:18; Col. 3:17).
10. Both separation from worldliness and seeking the Lord are necessary in being a faithful child of God (6:21; Jas. 4:7-10).
11. The Lord can "turn the heart of the king" to do his will (6:22; Prov. 21:1).