

Year 3

Week 107

God Brings His People Back and Rebuilding of the Temple Begins

Scriptures: Ezra 1-4

Key Verse: Ezra 4:1... “Then all the people shouted with a great shout, they praised the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.”

Key Points:

1. When King Cyrus of Persia became king, the Lord stirred his spirit to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem after their captivity in Babylon. The king made a proclamation that all Jews could voluntarily return to Jerusalem and restore the temple.

2. All the heads of the houses of Benjamin and Judah prepared to return. King Cyrus brought out the precious articles of the temple that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods. Their neighbors also helped them with gifts of gold and silver. Zerubbabel, (Sheshbazzar is the Chaldean name) the Prince of Judah, was to watch over these as they traveled back to Jerusalem.

3. When the children of Israel were in the cities they all gathered together in Jerusalem. Jeshua, Zerubbabel and the priests built an altar and restored daily sacrifices. Free-will offerings were given for the work to restore the temple. The work began, overseen by the Levites and priests. A great shout with trumpets and cymbals came out from the people as the temple foundations were laid.

4. Enemies of Benjamin and Judah heard of the rebuilding and restoration of worship and offered their help, however this was just an evil plan. Zerubbabel and the rest of the men refused their help. These enemies continued to frustrate the children of Israel during their building.

5. As Artaxerxes began to reign, their enemies wrote to the king false accusations about the children of Israel, saying Jerusalem is an evil city and they will be rebellious and not pay their taxes. The king had found that in latter times Jerusalem had been somewhat controversial and ordered that the building of the temple be stopped.

Return to Zion

King Cyrus was a friend to the captive Jews. Cyrus gave honor to God and commanded that the temple be rebuilt in Jerusalem.

The Jews were filled with joy when they heard this news. They had been away from Jerusalem for seventy years and were glad to go back.

Cyrus gave back all the valuables that had been removed from the temple. The Jews took these objects and returned to Jerusalem, which is also called Zion.

Again they sang a song, but this time it was a song of joy.

Psalm 126

When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion,
we were like men who dreamed.

Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

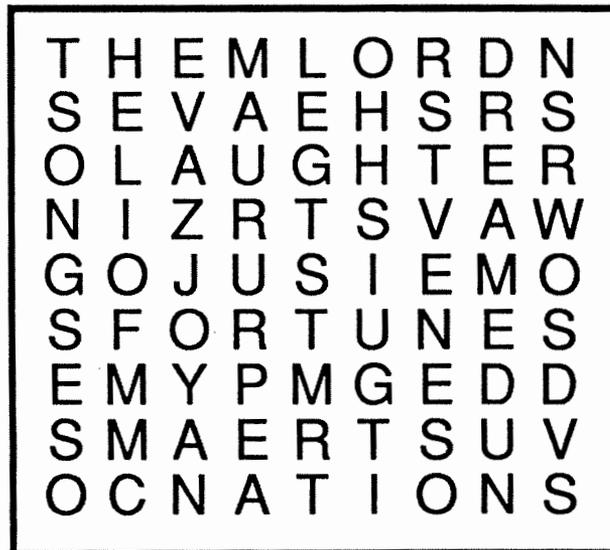
Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow in tears
will reap with songs of joy.

He who goes out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,

will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with him. (NIV)

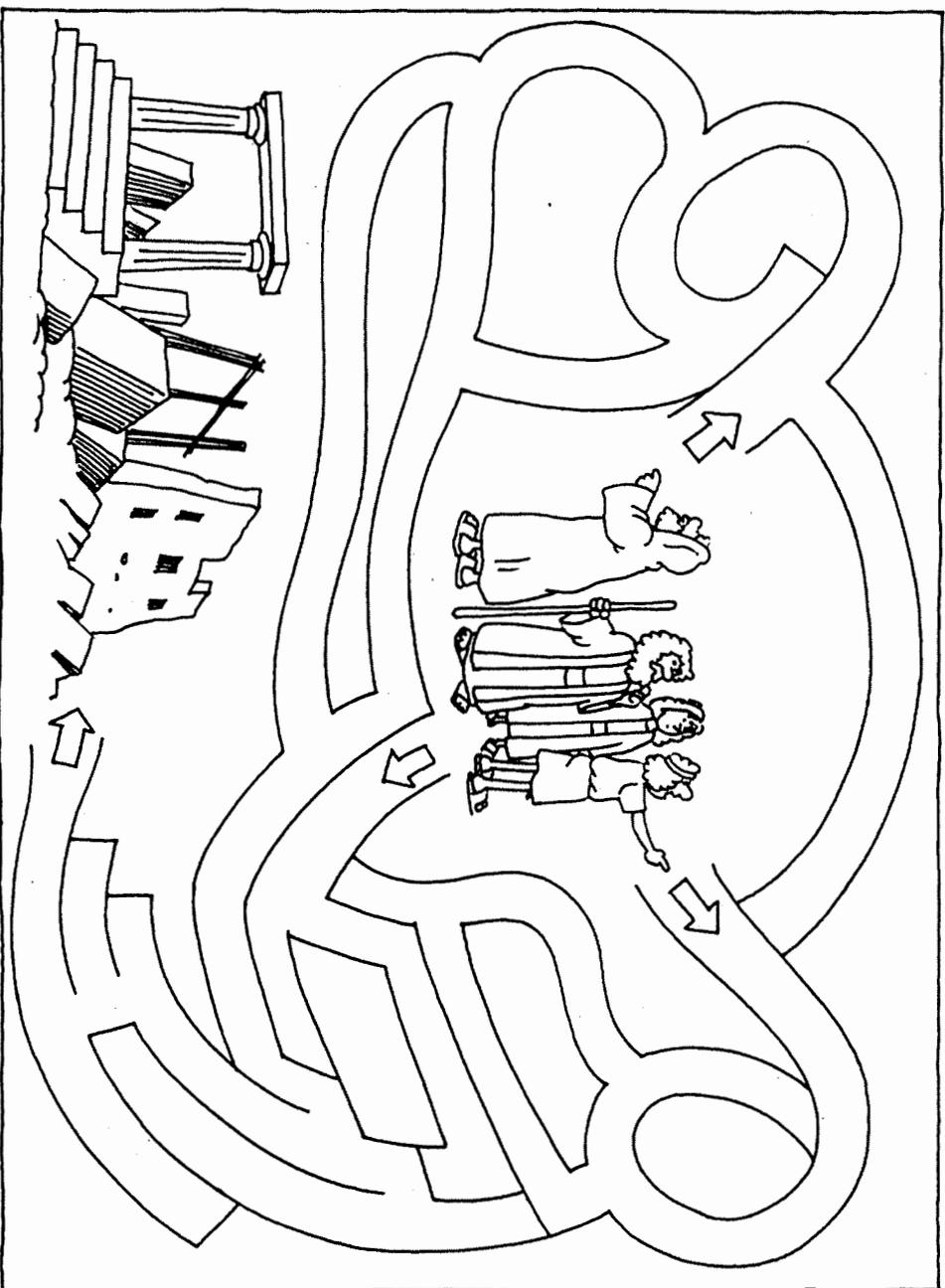
Find the underlined words in the word search.



THE ISRAELITES GO HOME

Book of Ezra

Help the Israelites find the way to their own land.



The Persians took over the land of Babylon. The Persian king, Cyrus said the Israelites could go home. So Ezra led the first group of Israelites back to Israel. The first thing they did was to rebuild the temple.

**Return From
Exile
Jeremiah 29**

I Have Plans for You

God spoke to Jeremiah about the future of Israel in Jeremiah 29:11. Follow the instructions to discover what God told him.

Use the code to interpret the message. The first letter of the code represents the vertical column and the second letter the horizontal column. For example, "DF" would be the letter "W."

	A	D	F	G	V	X
A	F	L	I	A	O	2
D	J	D	W	3	G	U
F	C	I	Y	B	4	P
G	R	5	Q	8	V	E
V	6	K	7	Z	M	X
X	S	N	H	0	T	9

" AA AV GA FD VD XD AV DF XV XF GX FX AD AG XD XA
FD XF AG GV GX AA AV GA FF AV DX' DD GX FA AD AG GA GX XA
XV XF GX AD AV GA DD' " FX AD AG XD XA XV AV FX GA AV XA FX GX GA
FF AV DX AG XD DD XD AV XV XV AV XF AG GA VV FF AV DX'
FX AD AG XD XA XV AV DV FD GV GX FF AV DX XF AV FX GX
AG XD DD AG AA DX XV DX GA GX"

**MEMORANDUM: IN THE FIRST YEAR OF KING CYRUS, THE KING
ISSUED A DECREE CONCERNING THE TEMPLE OF GOD IN
JERUSALEM**

Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be ninety feet high and ninety feet wide, with three courses of large stones and one of timbers. The costs are to be paid by the royal treasury. Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, are to be returned to their places in the temple in Jerusalem; they are to be deposited in the house of God.

Made scrolls on parchment paper —

CYRUS HELPS THE EXILES

(EZRA 1:1-11)

MEMORY VERSE:

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.' " PSALM 122:1

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing." EZRA 1:1

TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANK:

2. "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a _____ at Jerusalem which is in Judah." EZRA 1:2

TRUE OR FALSE:

3. But the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, and all those whose spirits God moved, would not arise to go up and build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. EZRA 1:5

TRUE OR FALSE

4. "And all those who were around them encouraged them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered." EZRA 1:6

TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

5. "King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which _____ had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods." EZRA 1:7

6. "And Cyrus king of Persia brought them out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of _____." EZRA 1:8

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

7. "This is the number of them..." EZRA 1:9-10
thirty gold (PLATTERS, HATTERS)
one thousand silver (PLATTERS, HATTERS)
twenty-nine (LIVES, KNIVES)
thirty gold (RAISINS, BASINS)
four hundred and ten silver (RAISINS, BASINS) of a similar kind
and one thousand other (ARTICLES, PARTICLES)

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

8. "All the articles of _____ and _____ were five thousand four hundred." EZRA 1:11

TRUE OR FALSE:

9. "All these Sheshbazzar took with the captives who were brought from Babylon to Jerusalem." EZRA 1:11

TRUE OR FALSE

REBUILDING THE ALTAR AND THE TEMPLE

(EZRA 3:1-13)



“And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.”

EZRA 3:10

THE OPPOSITION OF REBUILDING

(EZRA 4:1-24)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Now when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem against the Jews, and by force of arms made them cease." EZRA 4:23

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. "Now when the _____ of Judah and Benjamin heard that the descendants of the captivity were building the temple of the LORD God of Israel, they came to Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers' houses, and said to them, 'Let us build with you, for we seek your God as you do; and we have sacrificed to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here.' " **EZRA 4:1-2**
2. "But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of the fathers' houses of Israel said to them, 'You may do _____ with us to build a house for our God; but we alone will build to the LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us.' " **EZRA 4:3**

TRUE OR FALSE:

3. "Then the people of the land tried to discourage the people of Judah." **EZRA 4:4**
TRUE OR FALSE
4. They helped them in the building. **EZRA 4:4**
TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANK:

5. They "hired counselors against them to _____ their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia." **EZRA 4:5**

TRUE OR FALSE:

6. "Now in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem." **EZRA 4:6**
TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANK:

7. "Now when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem against the Jews, and by force of arms made them _____." **EZRA 4:23**

TRUE OR FALSE:

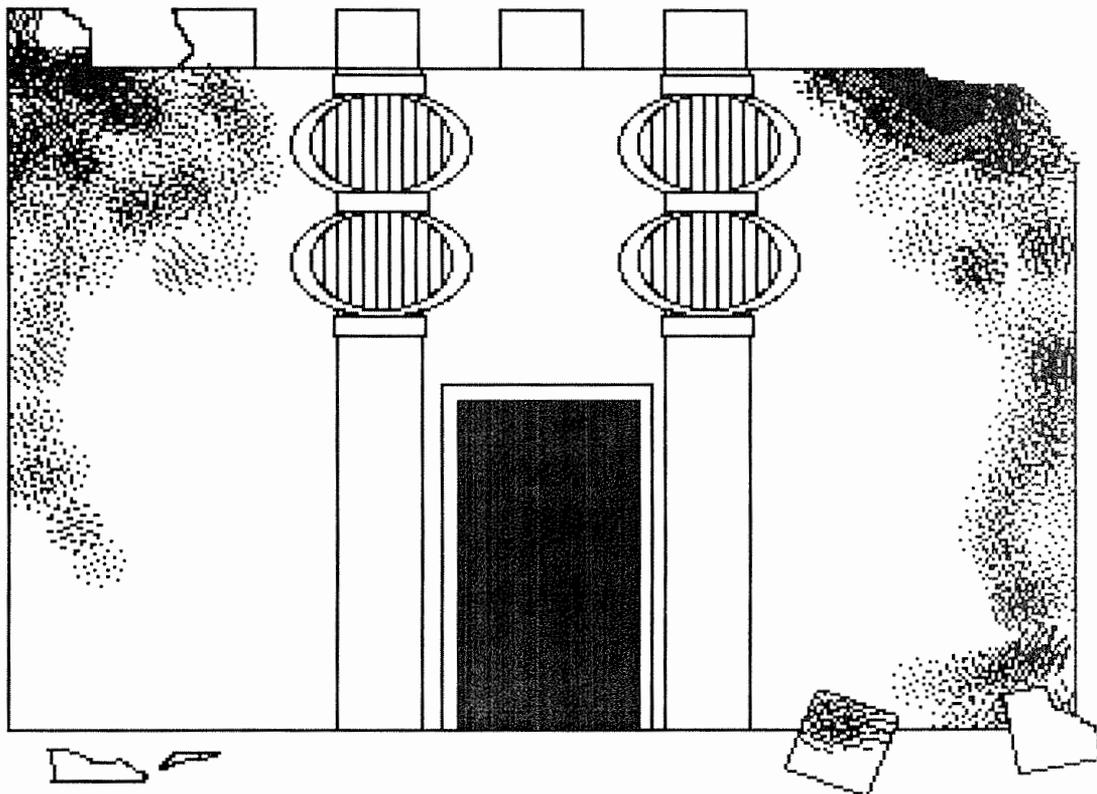
8. Thus the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem continued without any problems. **EZRA 4:24**
TRUE OR FALSE

REBUILDING THE ALTAR AND THE TEMPLE

(EZRA 3;1-13)

C Y P R A I S E O F
E D T H A N K S O A
D E E O S J U U Q L
A T H W R D N A Y T
R U L H V D U C L A
L O B J A H R O A R
O H R T S E R C E A
G S I E M D V G G T
S O J E L P M E T N
N J E R U S A L E M

ALTAR	JESHUA	SHOUTED
CEDAR LOGS	LORD	TEMPLE
FOUNDATION	MERCY	THANKS
JERUSALEM	PRAISE	

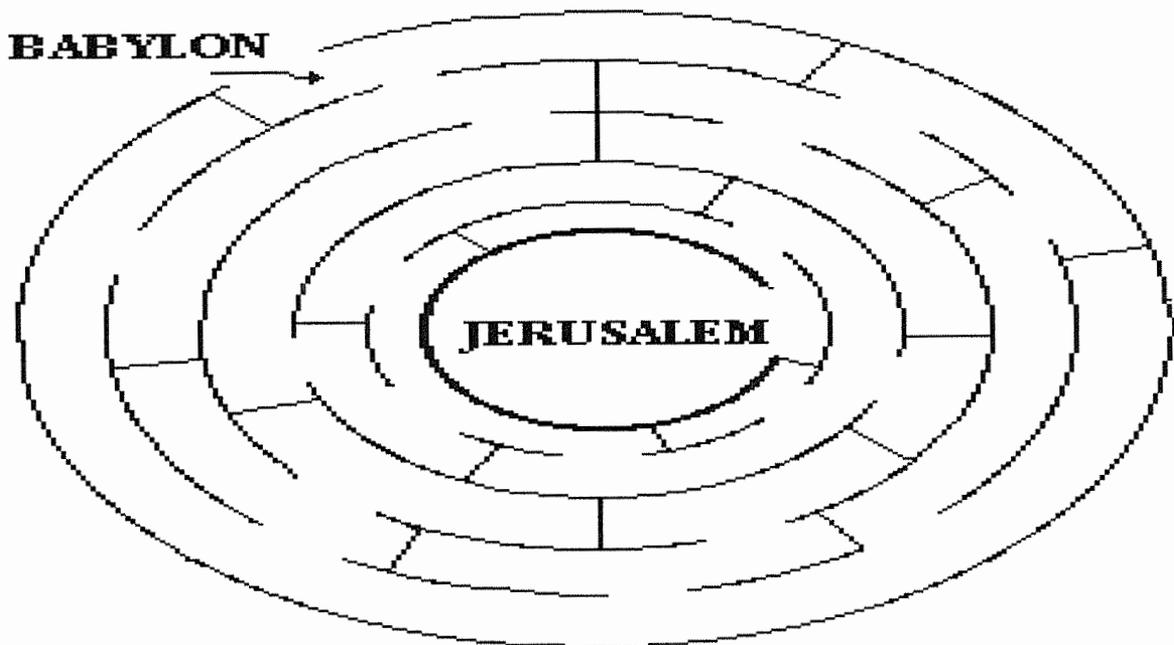


CYRUS HELPS THE EXILES

(EZRA 1:1-11)

L Z W N P M J Z J J V E J J B P D O O I
 I M E L A S U R E J A C S I K P V B A K
 V R U G G L K Y H H R N B P K A S U T N
 E P F Z K B K N Q Q L Q E T A N M L M P
 S J I J B M P J O O W L S E L C I T R A
 T H R A Z Z A B H S E H S V G O L D Z P
 O G D P U A Z T A E J K S S I L V E R U
 C E G N K C Y P W W U D C E T V C P J Z
 K U Y U C W Y L V E O D A A V Q Z M S V
 W W P O U J O J M B E O V R P I L C M F
 S D Y F M U J C B N P B D F W T N C M R
 V D R O L E H T F O E S U O H S I K P K
 O W B L D R F V S S T Q Q E L U U V C K
 J Y D L L O A T W U W W E J A R T V E Y
 J P R N O L Y B A B S L N O B Y M Z D S
 E Z C M S I H W U H C W R U A C O B T R
 P R O C L A M A T I O N Y G S G E F N G
 A W G S V T A H D P H K Y F I N M K R I
 W B R Z R E H P S E U I D B N I N S G K
 L M G F C S R E T T A L P D S K N M E U

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| ARTICLES | HOUSE OF THE LORD | PLATTERS |
| BABYLON | JERUSALEM | PROCLAMATION |
| BASINS | KING CYRUS | SHESHBAZZAR |
| CAPTIVES | KNIVES | SILVER |
| GOLD | LIVESTOCK | |

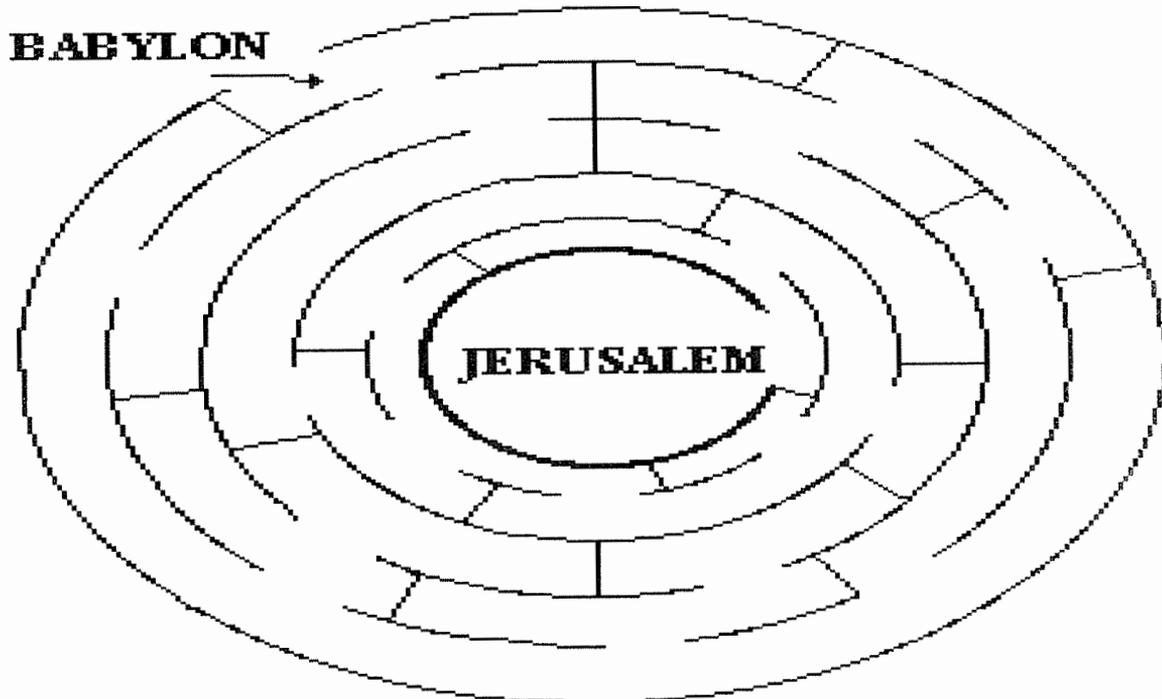


CYRUS HELPS THE EXILES

(EZRA 1:1-11)

C A P T I V E S V I J I J N H
 S V I H I Y W L B V H L T O E
 S W P Y M H G O D A N D U B H
 O K C O T S E V I L S S B L L
 E I Q G Q G L P I E E I V L S
 Z U N M J F O D M O F L N D R
 S H R N B E W L F M G V Q S E
 E I C U V Q R T D N I E O N T
 V P G V B M H U O B E R N K T
 I K O E W E D Q S A G O V A A
 N R W Z L H C J O A L S Y U L
 K E J O Y Y I J F Y L W D W P
 P N R U R M C C B S W E C K B
 E D V B U G P A U P K J M Y R
 U A S B K Q B L D W O L J Y O

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------|-----------|
| BABYLON | GOLD | LIVESTOCK |
| BASINS | HOUSE OF THE LORD | PLATTERS |
| CAPTIVES | JERUSALEM | SILVER |
| CYRUS | KNIVES | |



Year 3

Week 108

Jerusalem is Rebuilt

Scriptures: Ezra 5 & 6

Key Verse: Ezra 6:21 “Then the children of Israel who had returned from the captivity ate together with all who had separated themselves from the filth of the nations of the land in order to seek the LORD God of Israel.

Key Points:

1. Temple building had been halted. Prophets Haggai and Zechariah encouraged Zerubbabel (Prince of Judah) and Jeshua (high priest) to resume the building of the temple and the wall. Tattnai, a governor in the region, asked by who’s authority had they resumed the building. They gave them the names of the men working on the building. God was with them and the building was allowed to continue until official word from King Darius could be given.
2. Tattnai sent a letter to King Darius. He explained the history of the destruction of the original temple and how the children of Israel had been exiled to Babylon. He also explained how King Cyrus had issued a decree that the temple could be rebuilt, allowing the articles of the temple that Nebuchadnezzar had taken and carried to the temple of Babylon be recovered and placed back in the new temple. Tattnai asked the king how they were to proceed.
3. King Darius ordered a search for the decree of King Cyrus. The scroll was found and because Darius respected Cyrus, he sent an order back that the building of the temple could be allowed. Also in the decree were orders that all the articles stolen from the temple could be restored and taken back where they belonged. He even requested that taxes paid to the king could be used for the rebuilding so their work would not be hindered.
4. Tattnai and his companions encouraged the rebuilding and did all according to what King Darius had decreed. The Jews finished the temple and they prospered.
5. They celebrated the completion of the temple and dedicated it with great joy. They purified themselves, and kept the Passover and Feast of Unleavened bread, setting back in order the ceremonies of the temple that God had commanded.