

STARTING OVER ~ Ezra 6:13-22

→ Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 9:1-9

COMPLETION OF THE TEMPLE ~ Ezra 6:13-15

[13] Then, because of the decree King Darius had sent, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates carried it out with diligence. [14] So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building *the temple* according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. [15] The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

APPLICATION

Ezra 6:14 (ESV) And the elders of the Jews built and prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their BUILDING by decree of the GOD of Israel and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia;

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DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE ~ Ezra 6:16-18

[16] Then the people of Israel--the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles--celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. [17] For the dedication of this house of God they offered a hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs and, as a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, one for each of the tribes of Israel. [18] And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses.

Contrast with the Dedication of Solomon's Temple...

Ezra- → Solomon-

Ezra → Solomon-

"This kingless, hard-pressed group was all that outwardly remained of the nation of Israel. The sin offering for all Israel was a an explicit comment ...on the nation as a whole. It was a confession of FAILURE but also of FAITH. There was still Atonement and still the Covenant of God with His people..." [Tyndale OT Comm pg. 60]

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CELEBRATION OF THE PASSOVER AT THE TEMPLE ~ Ezra 6:19-22

[19] On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover. [20] The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their brothers the priests and for themselves. [21] So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors in order to seek the LORD, the God of Israel. [22] For seven days they celebrated with joy the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because the LORD had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria, so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel.

SO WHAT ??

How Can We Start Over?



Psalms 51:17 (NLT) The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.



Acts 3:19 (NIV) Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,



1 John 1:9 (NASU) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NLT) We think you ought to know...about the trouble we went through... We were **CRUSHED** and **OVERWHELMED** beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. [9] In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped **RELYING** on ourselves and learned to **RELY ONLY ON GOD**, who raises the dead.



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV) Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.