

1 Kings 9:1-3 (NIV)

When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, [2] the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. [3] The LORD said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

1 Kings 9:4-6 (NIV)

"As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, [5] I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' [6] "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them

1 Kings 9:7-9 (NIV)

and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. [8] And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' [9] People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them--that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.'"

Starting Over

Ezra 6:13-22



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...**

→ God **MOVED the hearts of
three different
Pagan kings of Persia
to do HIS WILL**

**→ God SAID it,
I BELIEVE it,
and
that SETTLES it!**

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

Ezra- 100 bulls → Solomon- 22,000 cattle

Ezra- 200 rams 400 lambs →

Solomon- 120,000 sheep and goats

“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]

→ They were Starting Over
So they made Sure
to **OBEY** God's Word
COMPLETELY

How Can We Start Over?

- **Humility - Brokenness before God**
 - **Psalms 51:17 (NLT) The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.**
- **Repentance - Turning Away From Sin back to 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,**

How Can We Start Over?

- Confession - to plead guilty
 - 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.

How Can We Start Over?

- Dependence - Total & Complete Surrender
 - 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NLT) ...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.

How Can We Start Over?

- **Thanksgiving and Praise - for Everything**
 - **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.**