

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

EZRA 6

Ezra 6

The people of the land who opposed the work were upset when they could not discourage the people from following the Word of the LORD as proclaimed by the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. They immediately resorted to the legal tactics of writing the King of Persia with a slanted and biased report of the work that the Jews were doing. They requested a search be made in the records of the Persian kings, since the Jews had said that Cyrus the great king of Persia ordered them to build the temple to the God of Israel in Jerusalem. This time the search was made legitimately, and this time Darius found the original decree from Cyrus.

"Moreover, I issue a decree concerning what you are to do for these elders of Judah in the rebuilding of this house of God: the full cost is to be paid to these people from the royal treasury out of the taxes of the provinces beyond the river, and that without delay. Whatever is needed, both young bulls, rams, and lambs for a burnt offering to the God of heaven, and wheat, salt, wine and anointing oil, as the priests in Jerusalem request, it is to be given to them daily without fail, that they may offer acceptable

sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons and I issued a decree that any man who violates this edict, a timber shall be drawn from his house and he shall be impaled on it and his house shall be made a refuse heap on account of this. May the God who has caused His name to dwell there overthrow any king or people who attempts to change it, so as to destroy this house of God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, have issued this decree, let it be carried out with all diligence!" (Ezra 6:8-12)

God honored the Word of His prophets and blessed the work of the people as they built the temple in His name. The temple was finished in 516 B.C. and dedicated to the glory of God with praise, worship, and celebration. This took place exactly seventy years after the first temple had been destroyed.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, thank you that you are merciful and loving to me and that you send me Your Word to bring me back to you! Help me to begin again today in walking in obedience to YOU.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
