

NIV MEMORY VERSE: Ezra 3:11b**BEGINNING AGAIN 23-1**

Then all the people shouted with a great shout,
when they praised the Lord, because the foundation
of the house of the Lord was laid.

"RESTORATION UNDER ZERUBBABEL"**Ezra 1:1 – 6:22; Haggai 1:1 – 2:23**

1. What was a lasting impression from the lesson last week?

DAY 1 – READ Ezra 1:1-2:70

2. a. To fulfill the prophecy of Jeremiah, what did the Lord do?
 - b. What had Isaiah foretold in Isaiah 44:28?
3. Who prepared to go in Ezra 1:5?
4. a. What assistance did their neighbors provide?
 - b. Why do you think these neighbors chose to help but not go, and what application do you see in this for us today?
5. a. What did King Cyrus contribute?
 - b. How many articles of gold and silver were there?
6. The Jews did not creep back, but returned triumphant. This was God's doing.
 - a. For what was God praised in Psalm 126?
 - b. . . . in Isaiah 48:20?
7. The returning exiles were classified under leaders, families and clans, places of settlement, priests, Levites and temple servants. What action was taken concerning those priests who could not prove their ancestry?
8. What did the exiles do when they arrived at the house of the Lord in Jerusalem?

DAY 2 – READ Ezra 3:1-4:24

9. Led by Jeshua and Zerubbabel the altar was built and offerings made despite (vs.3)
_____.
10. Briefly, what preparations were made for the rebuilding of the house of God in 3:7-9?
11. a. Describe the dedication service at the completion of the temple foundation in vs. 10-11.
 - b. Many scholars believe Psalm 136 was used in this ceremony. What phrase was echoed?

DAY 2 (Continued) – READ Ezra 3:1-4:24

12. The young people shouted for joy. Who wept and why?
13. When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin were denied participation, how did they retaliate?
14. a. Letters of accusation were written to King Ahasuerus (Esther 1:1) and later to King Artaxerxes. Briefly state what accusations were included in the letter.

b. The King agreed. Therefore, what was his decree?

c. Seizing opportunity, what did Rehum and Shimshai do?
15. a. Opposition to godly goals and objectives is not new. What opposition do you see facing the church in society today?

b. What can you do personally to help stand against or overcome this opposition?

DAY 3 – READ Haggai 1:1-15

16. When Haggai began his ministry, who was:
 - a. the Persian king?
 - b. the Jewish governor?
 - c. the Jewish high priest?
17. a. It had been 16 years since the temple foundation was laid. What conditions prevailed in the land?

b. Why, according to verse 9?

c. What was God's punishment for their delay?
18. Using Matthew 6:25-33, how would you explain the root of their problem?
19. In verses 12 and 14, what did the people do in response to Haggai's message?

DAY 4 – READ Haggai 2:1-23 and Ezra 5:1,2

20. a. How did the Lord encourage those working on the temple in Haggai 2:4,5?

b. How is that an encouragement for you as you work for the kingdom of God?
21. What did God say about the temple in verse 9?
22. a. Having neglected work on the temple, the people had experienced what in verse 17?

b. Renewal to commitment would bring what from the Lord in verse 19?
23. What prophecy was given about Zerubbabel?

DAY 4 (Continued) – READ Haggai 2:1-23 and Ezra 5:1,2

24. a. From Ezra 5:1, who was also a prophet at this time?
- b. What resulted from their preaching?
- c. Besides the gospel message that brought your conversion, what other message have you heard that prompted immediate action on your part? (i.e. tithing, forgiveness, evangelism, etc.) Please share.

DAY 5 – READ Ezra 5:3-6:22

25. a. When temple rebuilding commenced again, a report was made to King Darius. What request was made of him in 5:17?
- b. What did King Darius discover and what message did he send Tattenai according to Ezra 6:6,7?
26. a. What else was Tattenai ordered to do?
- b. What was to be the punishment for disobedience?
- c. How did this group react to the King's instruction?
- d. How do you think they felt?
27. When the temple was completed /dedicated, what two feasts were observed?
28. a. Have you ever had an extended project that seemed full of obstacles and setbacks? Share how you felt when the project was completed.
- b. Ezra 6:22 says, "The Lord filled them with joy." How has God filled you with joy this week? Please share.

BEGINNING AGAIN 23-4

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LECTURE NOTES:

PRAYER REQUESTS: