

Sunday School Lesson

July 9, 2023

Temple Restored

Ezra 3:8-13

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Questions for Us Today

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July 9, 2023

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Have you ever witnessed, participated in or heard of a project which included work and worship?

If so, how was that experience for you?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

July 9, 2023

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To understand Ezra's account of the temple restoration and how the people responded.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

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1. Bibliography
2. Points of Information: Ezra

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

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3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember This

Points of Information – Ezra

Ezra, a great-grandson of the priest Hilkiah, was born into the priestly line of Aaron.

Ezra's name means "God is my helper."

Ezra performed a number of roles in service to the Lord: Elder, scribe, priest, prophet, preacher, civic and spiritual leader.

Points of Information – Ezra

Along with the Books of Nehemiah and Esther, the Book of Ezra speaks of the time after the captivity [exile] of the Jews in Babylon – the post-exilic period. In the Jewish tradition, the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah are combined into one Book.

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In addition to the Book named for him, it is believed that Ezra may have also written First and Second Chronicles, as well as Psalm 119.

Points of Information – Ezra

Ezra led a second wave of approximately 2,000 people back to Jerusalem, from the 70-year captivity in Babylon. Ezra teamed with Nehemiah in the work to rebuild the walls and temple for and in the City of Jerusalem.

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The first wave was led by Zerubbabel and others. About 50,000 people were included in that group.

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Lesson Context - 1

The Israelites had been released from exile by Cyrus, the ruler of Persia – as foretold by Isaiah, two centuries earlier. Isaiah 44:28—45:2, 13; 48:14, 15.

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In the first Chapter of Ezra, he described the decree from Cyrus for their return.

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Lesson Context - 2

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In the second Chapter, Ezra provided a detailed list – a census – of all those (especially the children) who had returned.

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Lesson Context - 3

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Now, in the third Chapter, Ezra told us that the people had gathered for a restoration of worship and of the Temple.

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Text – UMI Outline #1

12

Ezra 3:8-9

The Temple Work Begins

Ezra 3:8 (NLT)

The construction of the Temple of God began in midspring, during the second year after they arrived in Jerusalem. The work force was made up of everyone who had returned from exile, including Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of Jehozadak and his fellow priests, and all the Levites. The Levites who were twenty years old or older were put in charge of rebuilding the LORD's Temple.

Ezra 3:9

The workers at the Temple of God were supervised by Jeshua with his sons and relatives, and Kadmiel and his sons, all descendants of Hodaviah. They were helped in this task by the Levites of the family of Henadad.

Joyful Worship Restored

Text – UMI Outline #2

15

Ezra 3:10-11

The Temple Work Incites Praise

Ezra 3:10

When the builders completed the foundation of the LORD's Temple, the priests put on their robes and took their places to blow their trumpets. And the Levites, descendants of Asaph, clashed their cymbals to praise the LORD just as King David had prescribed.

Ezra 3:11

With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the LORD: “He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!” Then all the people gave a great shout, praising the LORD because the foundation of the LORD’s Temple had been laid.

Joyful Worship Restored

Text – UMI Outline #3

18

Ezra 3:12-13

The Temple Work Sparks Lament

Ezra 3:12

But many of the older priests, Levites, and other leaders who had seen the first Temple wept aloud when they saw the new Temple's foundation. The others, however, were shouting for joy.

Ezra 3:13

The joyful shouting and weeping mingled together in a loud noise that could be heard far in the distance.

Remember this:

Let us not forget to honor God by recognizing and respecting His Temples and worshipping accordingly.

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