

Sunday School Lesson

July 16, 2023

Dedication of the Temple

Ezra 6:13-22

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions for Us Today

^s **July 16, 2023**

2

How have you celebrated the Lord's blessings for you?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

July 16, 2023

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To understand what Ezra has told us regarding the completion of the Temple – particularly how the Lord directed and enabled it to be done as well as the responses of the people.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

July 16, 2023

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Ezra

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

July 16, 2023

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

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, prayer warrior, 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.

Dedication of the Temple

Lesson Context - 1

In the fourth Chapter of Ezra, fierce and forceful opposition was made against the Jews' rebuilding of the Temple. Formal complaints and false accusations were filed with the Persian kings and the reconstruction effort was forced to cease.

Dedication of the Temple

Lesson Context - 1

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In the fifth Chapter of Ezra, the opposition and the shenanigans continue.

Dedication of the Temple

Lesson Context - 2

11

Now, in the sixth Chapter of Ezra, since King Darius had been petitioned, this Persian ruler ordered that the work should continue unhampered.

Dedication of the Temple

Text – UMI Outline #1

12

Ezra 6:13-16

The People Dedicate the New Temple

Ezra 6:13 (NLT)

Tattenai, governor of the province west of the Euphrates River, and Shethar-bozenai and their colleagues complied at once with the command of King Darius.

Ezra 6:14

So the Jewish elders continued their work, and they were greatly encouraged by the preaching of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo. The Temple was finally finished, as had been commanded by the God of Israel and decreed by Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, the kings of Persia.

Ezra 6:15-16

The Temple was completed on March 12, during the sixth year of King Darius's reign.

The Temple of God was then dedicated with great joy by the people of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the people who had returned from exile.

Dedication of the Temple

Text – UMI Outline #2

16

Ezra 6:17-18

**The People Offer Sacrifices to God for the
New Temple**

Ezra 6:17

During the dedication ceremony for the Temple of God, 100 young bulls, 200 rams, and 400 male lambs were sacrificed. And 12 male goats were presented as a sin offering for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Ezra 6:18

Then the priests and Levites were divided into their various divisions to serve at the Temple of God in Jerusalem, as prescribed in the Book of Moses.

Dedication of the Temple

Text – UMI Outline #3

19

Ezra 6:19-22

The People Celebrate Passover in the New Temple

Ezra 6:19-20

On April 21, the returned exiles celebrated Passover.

The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were ceremonially clean. So they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves.

Ezra 6:21

The Passover meal was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile and by the others in the land who had turned from their immoral customs to worship the LORD, the God of Israel.

Ezra 6:22

Then they celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days. There was great joy throughout the land because the LORD had caused the king of Assyria to be favorable to them, so that he helped them to rebuild the Temple of God, the God of Israel.

Remember these things:

Through His grace and mercy, the Lord provides us with unmerited favor and spares us according to His will.

We should thank the Lord profusely, celebrate our blessings and dedicate ourselves to serve Him.

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