

A Renewed Remnant

Lesson 7

The Rebuilding Work Is Resumed & Completed (Ezra 5-6)

Introduction

Having been “stirred,” the remnant once again took up their building tools and resumed construction on the Lord’s house. As in 4:1-5, they are again opposed...this time, by territorial officials (5:3). The remnant Jews are allowed to continue building while the appeal to the authorization given by the now dead Cyrus is considered by Darius (5:5; 6:1-5). Receiving a favorable response, the remnant completes the temple and eventually reinstitutes acceptable worship of God, culminating with the Passover.

- 1) When was the reconstruction work resumed? (Ezra 4:24) Who played a major role in getting the remnant back to work after the 16-year stoppage? (5:1-2)

- 2) Once again, the remnant was “officially” challenged. Who were the opponents this time, and what did they do? (5:3)

- 3) How did the remnant leaders respond to this challenge? (5:4) How does Ezra emphasize the providence of God? (5:5)

- 4) What did the remnant’s enemies do? (5:6-17) Briefly summarize their letter.

- 5) How did Darius respond to Tattenai’s letter? (6:1) What was uncovered? (6:2-5)

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- 6) What dimensions had Cyrus given for the new temple? **(6:3)** How high had some features of Solomon's temple been? **(2 Chron. 3:3-4)** Could this difference account for the reactions we see in **Ezra 3:12** and **Hag. 2:3**?

- 7) What else had Cyrus decreed re: the cost of rebuilding the temple as well as the gold & silver objects taken by Nebuchadnezzar some 85 years earlier? **(6:4-5)**

- 8) What instructions did Darius put in his reply to Tattenai? **(6:6-12)**

- 9) How did Tattenai receive Darius' response? **(6:13)** How does Ezra credit the temple's completion? **(6:14-15)** After 16 years of inactivity, how long did it take to complete the temple? **(6:15; 4:24)**

- 10) What was finally allowed to happen again? **(6:16-18)** How did this "dedication" compare with the activities when Solomon "dedicated" his temple? **(2 Chron. 7:4-5)**

- 11) What was done re: the priests? **(6:18; cp. 1 Chron. 24:3; Lk. 1:5-9)**

- 12) What else took place? **(6:19-22)** Re: the "king of Assyria" in **6:22**, who do you think this was?