

Opposition at the Temple

Lesson 21

Ezra 5-6

The temple reconstruction was once again progressing well. Prophets Haggai and Zechariah were there to deliver the Lord's words of encouragement to the workers as well as lend willing hands to help with the labor. Zerubbabel and Joshua had both received confirmation from the Lord that they had been chosen to complete the building and they were told not to be afraid because the Lord promised He would be with them.

Governor Tattenai - Ezra 5

1. Then Tattenai, the governor of Trans-Euphrates arrived along with some of his associates. He went to the temple site and started asking questions. What did he want to know? (Ezra 5:3 & 4)
2. In the past, this would have caused great concern and probably stopped their progress. Using Ezra 5:5:
 - Why didn't the work stop this time?
 - What was the solution to his questions?
3. So Tattenai sent a letter to king Darius. His letter began, "*To King Darius: Cordial greetings.*" Tattenai continued by using this letter as a report to the king about what was going on in Jerusalem. Using your own words, what did Tattenai say in each of the following verses?
 - Ezra 5:8
 - Ezra 5:9 & 10
 - Ezra 5:11 & 12
 - Ezra 5:13

- Ezra 5:14 & 15

- Ezra 5:16

- Ezra 5:17

King Darius Decree - Ezra 6:1-12

4. After receiving the report from Tattenai, king Darius issued an order to search the archives of Babylon. *"A scroll was found in the citadel of Ecbatana in the province of Media..."* What did the king discover in that scroll?
 - Ezra 6:3-4a

 - Ezra 6:4b

 - Ezra 6:5

5. With the information he had been seeking at hand, King Darius sent word back to Tattenai. What did he say to Tattenai and his associates? (Ezra 6:6-7)

6. Along with that order, what did King Darius decree? (Ezra 6:8-10)
 - Please comment on this.

7. The king adds a 'furthermore' to his decree. What did he add? (Ezra 6:11 & 12)

The Temple is Completed - Ezra 6:13-22

8. When king Darius' decree arrived, what did Tattenai and his associates do? (Ezra 6:13)

9. What did the elders do? (Ezra 6:14)

10. When was the temple completed? (Ezra 6:15)

11. What information is recorded regarding the dedication of this second temple?
(Ezra 6:16-18)

12. What festival had they celebrated when the foundation was laid? (Ezra 3:4)

13. What was the first festival they celebrated after the completion of the Temple?
(Ezra 6:19 & 22)

14. The people were filled with joy because the Temple was finally complete. What else were they rejoicing over? (Ezra 6:22)