

Passage: Ezra

Date: 2.15.2020

Discovered:

- The Lord directed King Cyrus of Persia to allow the exiles to return to Jerusalem & rebuild the temple.
- King Cyrus sent the holy things taken by Nebuchadnezzar.
- All together there were 42,360 people, 7,337 servants, 200 singers, 736 horses, 435 camels & 6,720 donkeys returned.
- In the 7th month, they built an altar & began to offer burnt offerings as instructed by Moses.
- 2nd year, month 2, Zerubbabel & Jeshu w/kinsmen began work on the temple. They assigned Levites to supervise the work.
- After the foundation was laid, they celebrated.
- Adversaries offered to help build the temple but were turned away: it is our task.
- The people living in the land made it difficult to complete work.
- Return the Commander wrote to Artaxerses, King of Persia that they were rebuilding a wicked city & if allowed to finish, you will lose power.
- The King replied: stop the work. Work stopped until 2nd year of King Darius
- Haggai & Zechariah prophesied to Jerusalem & work began again on the temple.
- Governor Tattenai wrote a letter to King Darius: They are successfully working on rebuilding their temple.
- Can you verify that King Cyrus said they could rebuild the temple?
- The decree was found & Darius issued a new one: the temple will be rebuilt & paid for out of the treasury & those who stop the work will be impaled.
- The temple was finished on 3rd day of Adar, 6th year of Darius's reign.
- They celebrated Passover, all of exiles & anyone who joined them in believing in God.
- Ezra was a scribe who studied the Law of Moses, wanted to teach it.
- Ezra headed to Jerusalem with blessing from King Artaxerses, anyone who wanted to join could, was also given a large freewill offering for the Lord.
- About 1500 men went with Ezra, they camped at river Ahava & Ezra sent for Levite priests. (They were put in charge of guarding the offerings.)
- They arrived in Jerusalem unharmed & handed over the offerings.
- Ezra prayed / mourned over the intermarriages of Israelites / others.
- Ezra gathered every exile to Jerusalem. All who had married foreign women were to confess their sin (broke the covenant law) & divorce their wives.

Help me to remember:

God was returning to the Israelites, but they needed to return to Him, follow ALL His Law.

Lord, I ask that

You help me to understand Your Law & its purpose, even when it might not make sense in today's world.

Heavenly Father, I am thankful for...

Your grace & under Christ we have freedom from the Law.