

→Scripture Reading - 1 Kings 9:3-9

Completion of the Temple ~ Ezra 6:13-15

¹³ 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. 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. ¹⁵ The Temple was completed on March 12, during the sixth year of King Darius's reign. (NLT)

IMPLICATION

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. (NLT)

→God Said IT - I Believe IT - and that Settles IT

Romans 8:28 (NLT) ...we know that **God causes** everything to **work together** for the **Good** of those who love God...

→God Said IT - I Believe IT - and that Settles IT

Dedication of the Temple ~ Ezra 6:16-18

¹⁶ 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. 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. 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**. (NLT)

Contrast with the Dedication of Solomon's Temple

Ezra - 100 bulls → 22,000 cattle - Solomon

Ezra - 200 rams 400 male lambs → 120,000 sheep and goats - Solomon

→They were Starting Over - so they made Sure to OBEY God's Word Completely

Celebration of Passover at the Temple ~ Ezra 6:19-22

¹⁹ On April 21 the returned **exiles celebrated Passover**. ²⁰ 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. 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 corrupt practices to worship the LORD**, the God of Israel. 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. (NLT)

TAKE AWAY ??

Starting OVER...

➤ **Humility** - Brokenness before God

Psalm 51:17 (NLT) The sacrifice You desire is a **broken spirit**. You will **NOT reject a broken and repentant heart**, O God.

➤ **Confession** - to plead guilty

1 John 1:9 (NLT) But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

➤ **Dependence** - Total complete Surrender

2 Corinthians 1:8–9 (NLT) We think you ought to know... about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. **We were CRUSHED and OVERWHELMED beyond our ability to endure**, and we **thought** we would **never live through it**. ⁹ In fact, **we expected to die**. But **as a result**, we **stopped RELYING on ourselves** and **learned to RELY ONLY ON GOD**, who raises the dead.

➤ **Thanksgiving and Praise** - For ALL things

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NLT) Always be **joyful**. ¹⁷ **Never stop praying**. ¹⁸ **Be thankful** in **ALL circumstances**, for **this is God's Will** for you who **belong to Christ Jesus**.