

1 Kings 9:3–9 (NLT)

The LORD said to him, “I have heard your prayer and your petition. I have set this Temple apart to be holy - this place you have built where My Name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for **it is dear to my heart.**”

⁴ “As for you, IF you will follow Me with integrity and godliness, as David your father did, obeying all my commands, decrees, and regulations, ⁵ then I will establish the throne of your dynasty over Israel forever...

⁶ “But IF you or your descendants abandon Me and disobey the commands and decrees I have given you, and IF you serve and worship other gods, ⁷ THEN I will uproot Israel from this land that I have given them...

⁷ ...I will reject this Temple that I have made holy to honor My Name. I will make Israel an object of mockery and ridicule among the nations.

⁸ And though this Temple is impressive now, all who pass by will be appalled and will gasp in horror. They will ask, 'Why did the LORD do such terrible things to this land and to this Temple?'

⁹ “And the answer will be, ‘Because His people abandoned the LORD their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt, and they worshiped other gods instead and bowed down to them. That is WHY the LORD has brought all these disasters on them.’ ”

A Fresh START

Ezra 6:13-22

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**

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**

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.**