



# BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **10th Grade | Unit 10**

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# BIBLE 1010

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# The Restoration

## Introduction

Before the fall of Jerusalem and the captivity of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar, Jeremiah had predicted both the captivity and its duration, seventy years (Jeremiah 25:11–12). The captivity began with Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion of Judah (605 B.C.; 2 Chronicles 36:2–7) and ended with Cyrus' permission to return to the land (536 B.C.; Ezra 1).

The judgment of Judah by Babylonian exile did not lead to national repentance. When Cyrus, King of Persia, gave permission for the Jews to return to their land of Israel, only relatively few of them returned. Three different returns were led by Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. The returning Jews rebuilt the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem. The prophets of the Restoration period were Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you will be able to:

1. Trace the history of Israel during the Restoration period.
2. Compare God's use of Cyrus to that of previous Gentile rulers.
3. Discuss the first return of the exiles under Zerubbabel.
4. Describe the rebuilding of the Temple.
5. Discuss the preservation of the Jews against threatened destruction during Ahasuerus' reign.
6. Discuss the second return of the exiles under Ezra.
7. Relate the reforms in Jerusalem under Ezra.
8. Discuss the third return of the exiles under Nehemiah.
9. Describe the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.
10. Recount the revival and reform in Israel under Nehemiah.
11. Summarize the life and ministry of three prophets of the period: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.
12. Trace the revelation of God's redemptive plan.



# 1. THE FIRST RETURN FROM EXILE

The book of Ezra begins with the decision of Cyrus to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and his permission proclaimed throughout his kingdom for the return of the **Jews** to Israel (Ezra 1:1–4). The first six chapters of Ezra include the decree of Cyrus, the return of a remnant under Zerubbabel, and the rebuilding of the Temple.

## Section Objectives

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Trace the history of Israel during the Restoration period.
2. Compare God's use of Cyrus to that of previous Gentile rulers.
3. Discuss the first return of the exiles under Zerubbabel.
4. Describe the rebuilding of the temple.

## Vocabulary

**Study this word to enhance your learning success in this section.**

### Jews

**Note.** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

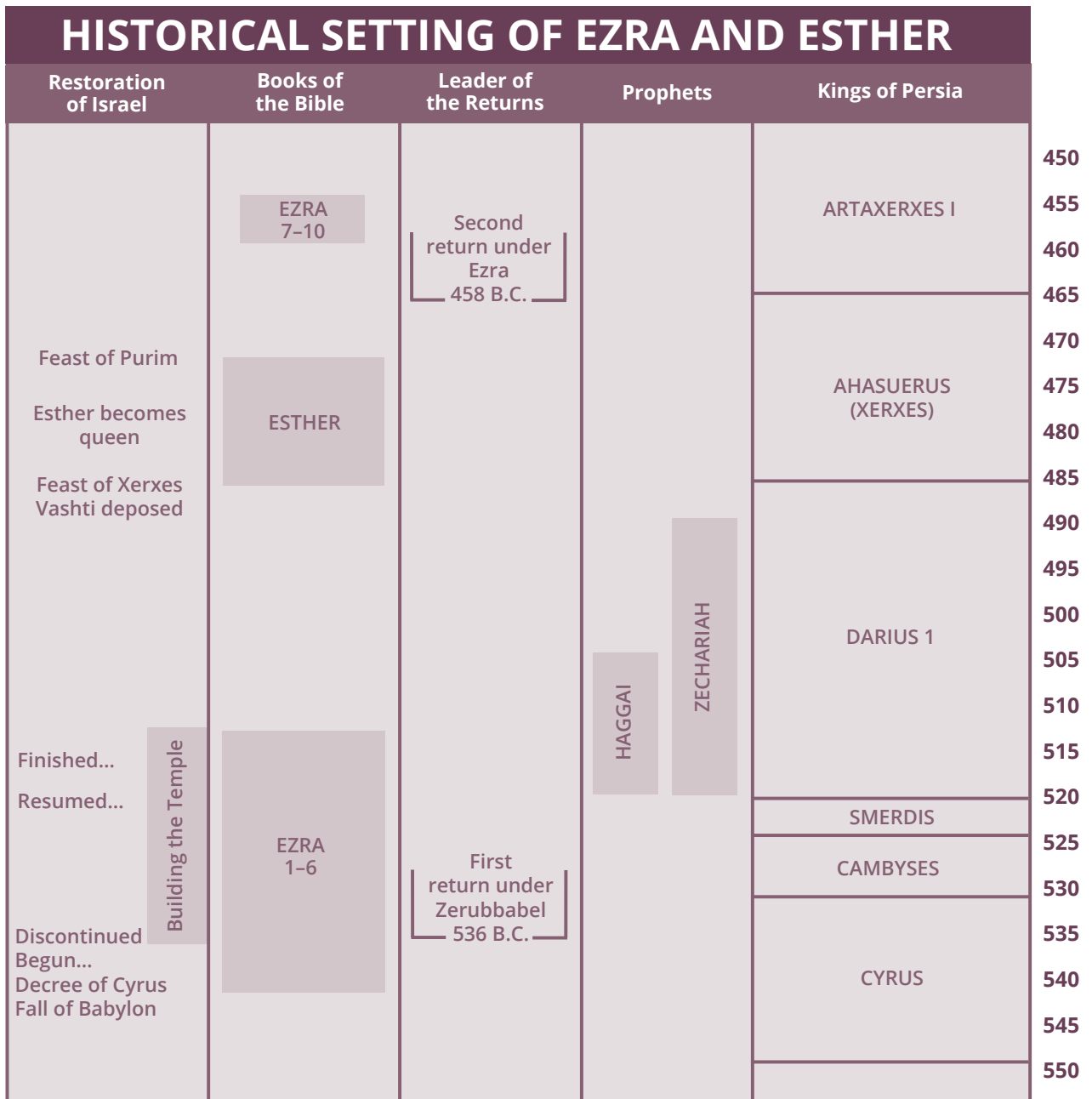
## THE DECREE OF CYRUS

Referring to Jeremiah's prophecy, Ezra pointed to its fulfillment by the Lord through Cyrus, king of Persia. Upon his conquest of the Babylonian Empire, King Cyrus proclaimed throughout his vast kingdom that the Lord God of heaven had given him all the kingdoms of the earth and had commissioned him to build the Lord a house in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:22–23 and Ezra 1:1–4). Cyrus, therefore, granted

permission for all of the Lord's people to return to their land and to rebuild the house of the Lord. Cyrus further decreed that those remaining should give assistance—gold, silver, goods, and beasts with freewill offerings—to those returning to rebuild the Temple city. Also, Cyrus returned to the Lord's people the Temple vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem.

Read Ezra 1–6





**Complete the following statements.**

- 1.1 Both the Babylonian Captivity and its duration had been predicted by \_\_\_\_\_, the prophet.
- 1.2 According to God’s Word by the prophet, the Babylonian Captivity would last for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

- 1.3** The Babylonian Captivity began with Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion of Judah in  
 a. \_\_\_\_\_ B.C. and ended with King Cyrus' permission to return to the  
 land in b. \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.
- 1.4** The book of Ezra opens with the proclamation of King Cyrus that the Lord God of  
 heaven had given him a. \_\_\_\_\_  
 and had charged him b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.5** The proclamation that Cyrus made throughout his kingdom permitted (in Scriptural order):  
 a. \_\_\_\_\_,  
 b. \_\_\_\_\_, and  
 c. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.6** King Cyrus also returned the \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
 Jews which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem.

## THE RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL

Previously, the Lord had used heathen nations only to judge His people even as He used Nebuchadnezzar to judge Judah by the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of Judah. For the restoration of His people and the rebuilding of His house, God made the king of the greatest empire of the world, Cyrus of Persia, His instrument. (*Note: From this point on in our study, the name Israel will be used in reference to God's people of the Restoration.*)

**The leaders.** Observe that the people of Israel who formed the new congregation of the Restoration apparently did not represent an external membership in a particular nation (the northern kingdom, Israel, or the southern kingdom, Judah) or tribe. The return to the Land of Israel was based completely upon the free choice of each exiled family. However, the returning congregation continued to be represented by leaders—exactly twelve when the name of Nahamani, omitted in Ezra 2:2 but listed in Nehemiah 7:7, is included: Zerubbabel and his eleven associates. Zerubbabel (Sheshbazzar in Ezra 1:8) was the appointed leader

and worked closely with his associate, Jeshua the priest (Ezra 3:2, 8; 4:23; and 5:2).

**The people.** In Ezra 2:3–35, the people were listed according to family names with some names of cities included. Over fifty thousand Israelites were among the first to return to the Land of Israel, including over seven hundred thousand servants.

**The priests.** The greater proportion of the returning remnant were priests (Ezra 2:36–39 and 61–63; about one in seven of the ones returning to Jerusalem from exile were priests). This fact should have ensured greater defense against apostasy and idolatry; but, unfortunately, the priestly, spiritual character apparently was not a result of this priestly proportion (Ezra 10:18–19).

**The Levites.** The Levites returning belonged to three different groups according to their different official duties: assistants, singers, and porters (Ezra 2:40–42; 1 Chronicles 24:20–31; 25:1–31; and 26:1–19).

**The servants.** The accompanying servants included the Nethanims (Ezra 2:43–54), who



were Temple servants—probably descended from the Gibeonites (Joshua 9:21–27)—and the servants of Solomon, mentioned again in Nehemiah 11:3, who were probably descendants of Solomon’s servants (Ezra 2:55–58).

**The unidentified.** Among those returning from exile were some families that could not identify their ancestors (Ezra 2:59–63). Included in this group with an unidentifiable ancestry were some who claimed to be priests.



**Answer true or false.**

- 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_ Instead of an instrument of judgment, God made King Cyrus a servant of righteousness.
- 1.8 \_\_\_\_\_ The basis for the return to the Land of Israel from exile was not a tribal name, but an individual choice.
- 1.9 \_\_\_\_\_ Jeshua was the appointed leader of the returning Israelites.
- 1.10 \_\_\_\_\_ The leaders of the returning remnant numbered eleven.
- 1.11 \_\_\_\_\_ The registry of the first return listed people according to both family name and names of cities.

**Answer the following questions.**

- 1.12 What was the approximate proportion of priests among the first returnees?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.13 To what three groups did the returning Levites belong? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.14 Who were the Nethanims and what was their probable origin? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.15 What priest was a close associate of Zerubbabel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.16 Did the high proportion of priests among the returning remnant positively affect their spiritual character? Illustrate citing a reference. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

From the decree of Cyrus (Ezra 1:1–2) to the first donations of the Israelites (Ezra 2:68–69), the rebuilding of the Temple, the house of the Lord, was in view. In the seventh month after the first return, the people gathered in Jerusalem, reconstructed the altar, and offered burnt offerings unto the Lord. Their concern for the state of the Temple was implied by the words of Ezra 3:6: “But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.” Their preparation for the laying of that foundation had already begun (Ezra 3:7):

*They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.*

**The construction begun.** Soon the actual construction work on the Temple began (Ezra 3:8–9). The initiative in Israel for the building of the Lord’s house was no longer left to a king; all the returned people participated with holy zeal, enthusiasm, and dedication. Following the tradition of Moses (Numbers 4:1–4) and of David (1 Chronicles 23:2–5 and 27–28), the Levites were appointed to positions of leadership in the work on the house of the Lord (Ezra 3:8).

When the foundation of the Temple was laid, the priests, the Levites, and the people praised the Lord with musical instruments and with songs (Ezra 3:10–11; compare also 1 Chronicles 16:34, 41 and Psalm 118). Among the ones rejoicing at the new beginning were those older people who had survived the destruction of the first temple, the seventy years of captivity, and the laying of a new foundation. Those “ancient men” wept. Their tears could have been tears of both joy and sorrow. They surely shared the joy of an accomplishment toward which they had volunteered by returning from Babylon and in which they had shared by gifts and by labor. However, they probably also expressed a

note of sadness as they recalled the glory and splendor of Solomon’s Temple and compared it to their present rather modest foundation (Haggai 2:3 and Zechariah 4:10).

**The construction interrupted.** The downfall of both Israel and Judah and the destruction of the Temple had resulted directly from their apostasy and idolatry—they forsook the word of the Lord and went after strange gods. Now the returned people rejected a request by the Samaritans to join in their work and worship. The congregation must not fall into the failures of the past. Their policy must be steadfastly a policy of exclusiveness.

Since the Samaritans could not interfere with the work of God’s people by intermingling with them, they sought other means of opposing their good work (Ezra 4:4–22): by direct interference with the work, by falsely accusing them through “counselors” before Cyrus, and by letters also containing false charges. They continued their efforts to frustrate the work of Israel in rebuilding the Temple from the days of Cyrus through the reign of Ahasuerus. Finally, they succeeded in persuading Artaxerxes to stop the work on the Temple (Ezra 4:23–24).

**The construction resumed.** At the word of the Lord by Haggai, His prophet, in the second year of Darius, the work of the congregation on the Temple was resumed (Ezra 5:1–2 and Haggai 1:1–8).

When the enemies of God’s people tried again to stop the building, Darius, the king of Persia, searched the records and found the former decree of Cyrus authorizing the return of the captives and the building of the Temple. Darius, therefore, commanded that interference with the building of God’s house cease (Ezra 6:7). He also made a decree that allowance be given the **Jews** from the king’s tribute: expenses for construction, animals for sacrifice, and provisions for food. Darius also decreed that anyone



| Ezra Rebuilding the Temple

altering his word should be punished by hanging and should have his house destroyed.

**The construction completed.** In the ninth year of Darius, the construction was completed and the Temple was dedicated. Assisted by Darius and prospered by the ministries of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah (Ezra 6:14),

the people of Israel completed the house of the Lord according to the commandment of the Lord. Following the Law of Moses, they appointed priests and Levites for Temple service (Ezra 6:18) and observed the Passover followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Ezra 6:15–22).



**Write the letters for the correct answers on the blanks.**

- 1.17** In the seventh month after the first return, the people of Israel \_\_\_\_\_ .
- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. gathered in Jerusalem             | b. reconstructed the altar |
| c. laid the foundation of the Temple | d. offered burnt offerings |
| e. a, b, c, and d                    | f. a, b, and d             |
- 1.18** Following the traditions of Moses and David, the congregation appointed \_\_\_\_\_ to positions of leadership in the work on the house of the Lord.
- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| a. prophets | b. priests |
| c. Levites  | d. princes |
- 1.19** When the foundation of the Temple was laid, the people praised the Lord with \_\_\_\_\_ .
- |                        |            |                    |
|------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| a. musical instruments | b. songs   | c. burnt offerings |
| d. prayers             | e. a and b | f. a, b, and d     |
- 1.20** The tears of the “ancient men” were probably \_\_\_\_\_ .
- |                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| a. tears of joy                 |
| b. tears of sorrow              |
| c. tears of both joy and sorrow |
- 1.21** Concerning the request of the Samaritans, Israel’s policy was one of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| a. inclusiveness  | b. seclusiveness |
| c. conclusiveness | d. exclusiveness |
- 1.22** Failing in their first attempt at interference with work on the Temple, the enemies of God’s people continued their opposition by all of the following procedures except \_\_\_\_\_ .
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. direct interference with the work    | b. false accusations through “counselors” |
| c. personal appearances before the king | d. letters containing false charges       |
- 1.23** The Samaritans continued their efforts to frustrate the work of Israel on the Temple from the days of Cyrus through the reign of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- |              |               |           |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| a. Ahasuerus | b. Artaxerxes | c. Darius |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
- 1.24** Finally, the Samaritans persuaded \_\_\_\_\_ to stop the work on the Temple.
- |              |               |           |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| a. Ahasuerus | b. Artaxerxes | c. Darius |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
- 1.25** At the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, work was resumed on the Temple during the second year of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- |              |               |           |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| a. Ahasuerus | b. Artaxerxes | c. Darius |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
- 1.26** Assisted by the king of Persia and prospered by the \_\_\_\_\_ , Israel completed the house of the Lord.
- |             |            |            |            |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| a. prophets | b. priests | c. Levites | d. princes |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|

1.27 Upon completion of the Temple and following the Law of Moses, the congregation

- \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. appointed priests and Levites for Temple service
  - b. offered sin offerings
  - c. kept the Passover
  - d. kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread
  - e. a, b, c, and d
  - f. a, c, and d



**Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

# SELF TEST 1

**Answer true or false** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.01** \_\_\_\_\_ Both the Babylonian Captivity and its duration were predicted by Jeremiah.
- 1.02** \_\_\_\_\_ The Babylonian Captivity began with Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion of Judah in 536 B.C.
- 1.03** \_\_\_\_\_ God's prophetic message to Judah was that their captivity would last for fifty years.
- 1.04** \_\_\_\_\_ King Cyrus proclaimed throughout his kingdom that the Lord God of heaven had charged him to build Him a house in Jerusalem.
- 1.05** \_\_\_\_\_ King Cyrus returned to the Jews the Temple vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem.

**Write the letters for the correct answers on the blanks** (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.06** The registry of the first return listed people according \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. to family name                      b. to tribal name                      c. to names of cities  
 d. a and c                                  e. a, b, and c
- 1.07** The approximate proportion of priests among the first returnees was \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. one in six                              b. one in seven                      c. one in eight  
 d. one in nine                            e. one in ten
- 1.08** The returning Levites could be classified as \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. assistants                              b. musicians                            c. scribes  
 d. porters                                  e. a, b, and d                          f. a, b, and c
- 1.09** The Nethanims were probably descendants of the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. Reubenites                            b. Gibeonites                          c. Gadites
- 1.010** At the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, work was resumed on the Temple during the second year of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. Ahasuerus                              b. Artaxerxes                          c. Darius

**Complete the following statements** (each answer, 5 points).

- 1.011 The Samaritans continued their efforts to frustrate the work of Israel on the Temple from the days of Cyrus through \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.012 In the seventh month after the first return, the people of Israel gathered in Jerusalem, reconstructed the altar, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.013 Following the traditions of Moses and David, the congregation appointed Levites to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.014 The people praised the Lord with musical instruments and songs when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.015 The tears of the “ancient men” were probably tears of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.016 Concerning the request of the Samaritans, Israel’s policy was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.017 The Samaritans finally persuaded Artaxerxes to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.018 At the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, work was resumed on the Temple during \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.019 Assisted by the king of Persia and prospered by the prophets, Israel \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.020 The congregation appointed priests and Levites for Temple service, offered sin offerings, kept the Passover, and observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread (when?)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer the following questions** (each question, 5 points).

- 1.021 What events and dates marked the beginning and end, respectively, of the Babylonian Captivity?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- 1.022** What three permissions (in order) were granted by Cyrus in his kingdom-wide proclamation concerning the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.023** How did the Lord change His usual procedure with foreign nations in relation to Cyrus of Persia? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.024** What does the following statement mean: “The people of Israel who formed the new congregation of the Restoration apparently did not represent membership in a particular tribe”? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.025** Did the high proportion of priests among the returning remnant positively affect their spiritual character? Illustrate, citing a reference. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>SCORE</b> _____	<b>TEACHER</b> _____	initials _____	date _____
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*“Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.” — Ezra 6:7*





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