

Lesson 2
The Rebuilding of the Temple Started and Stopped
(Ezra 3-4)

Questions

1. What was built in Jerusalem during the seventh month (3:1-2)?
2. What did the people do after they built the altar (3:3-6)?
3. Why was money given and for what purpose (3:6-7)?
4. What was laid down in the second year and the second month (3:8-10)?
5. What did the people do after the foundation of the temple was laid (3:10-11)?
6. What kind of noise was being made at the same time (3:12-13)?
7. What request did the Jews' adversaries have and what response was given to them (4:1-3)?
8. What did the people of the land do to the Jews who had started to build the temple (4:4-5)?
9. What was done against the Jews in the reign of Ahasuerus (4:6)?
10. What accusation was made against the Jews in the reign of Artaxerxes and how effective was it (4:7-23)?

11. How long did the work on the temple cease (4:24; see also 4:5)?

Digging Deeper

1. When was the “seventh month” (3:1) and the “second month” (3:8) in the Hebrew calendar? What is the approximate date for the “second year” (3:8)?

2. Who was Zerubbabel and what important role did he play in the rebuilding of the temple (3:2, 8; 4:2; see also 5:2)?

3. What was the feast of tabernacles (3:4)?

4. What grant had the Jews received from Cyrus king of Persia (3:7)?

5. What OT law spoke of the need for the Levites to be 20-years old and upward (3:8)?

6. What is said in Haggai 2:3 and Zechariah 4:10 that may help us to understand what was recorded in Ezra 3:12 concerning the old men?

7. Who was Esarhaddon king of Assyria and what did he do with the Jews (4:2)?

8. What are the approximate dates for the reigns of the following Persian kings: Cyrus (4:5), Darius (4:5, 24; see also Ezra 5-6 and the books of Haggai and Zechariah), Ahasuerus or Xerxes (4:6; see also the book of Esther), and Artaxerxes (4:7-23; see also Ezra 7-8 and the book of Nehemiah)?

9. Why is there opposition mentioned in the reigns of Ahasuerus (4:6) and Artaxerxes (4:7-23), which is after the temple is complete?

10. Who was the “great and noble Osnappar” (4:10)?

11. What is the approximate date for the “second year of the reign of Darius” (4:24)?

Applications for Today

1. It is good that the Lord’s people can be united – as one man – to do the Lord’s work (3:1; Eph. 4:1-16).
2. Always do things according to the law of God (3:2; Col. 3:17).
3. Bring your free-will offerings and sacrifices to the Lord (3:3-6; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Heb. 13:15-16).
4. The foundation of the Lord’s temple that is laid for the NT church is Jesus Christ himself (3:10; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20-21).
5. Instrumental music in worship to God is “after the order of David king of Israel”, but it is not according to the law of the son of David [Jesus] king of kings (3:10; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
6. We should praise and thank the Lord for his goodness and lovingkindness (3:11; Isa. 63:7).
7. Just because someone says they seek and serve God just like we do does not mean that is actually true (4:2; Jer. 10:10; Jn. 17:2; 1 Thess. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:20).
8. There will always be adversaries and individuals who make false accusations against the Lord’ people and seek to oppose the doing of the Lord’s work (4:1-24; 1 Cor. 16:9-10; Phil. 1:28; 1 Thess. 2:18; 3:2; 2 Tim. 4:14-18; 1 Pet. 5:8).
9. People in the world will “twist the truth” and use it against God’s people (4:12; Luke 23:2; Acts 16:20-21; 17:7).
10. Don’t allow yourself to be hindered in doing the Lord’s work and never stop doing the Lord’s work (4:24; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10).