

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How did this decree of the king differ from the previous one in chapter 4?
2. How was the work provided for?
3. By what authority do we as Christians carry out God's work today?
4. Are provisions always provided for us in order to do God's work? If so by whom, and how?
5. In what ways can our lives be dedicated to the Lord? Is this a one time event?

SUMMARY:

Evil men stopped the building of the temple, but God raised those up that went forward with the work in the midst of the opposition. By the dedicated efforts of these men, God was able to bring about a new decree by the king not only making it possible to continue the work, but provision was given for their sustenance and also for the needs of sacrifice. God had so wonderfully provided for them and how often He is waiting to provide for us, if we would but have the faith in Him to step forward, in spite of opposition, and carry on the work of the Lord in joy and rejoicing.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

August 6, 2006

Third Quarter

DEDICATING THE TEMPLE

LESSON TEXT: *Ezra 6:1-22*

LESSON SETTING: The finishing of the temple in Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 519 B.C.

I. DECREE OF THE KING. *Ezra 6:1-12*

- A. God's Providence (vs. 8-10) Psalm 23:5; Psalm 31:19; John 14:2
- B. Protection (vs. 11-12) Isaiah 25:4; John 17:11; 2 Timothy 1:12

II. DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE. *Ezra 6:13-18*

- A. Dedication and Consecration (vs. 16) Roman 12:1-2; Philippians 3:7-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- B. Joy in Service - Luke 10:17; John 4:36

III. KEEPING OF THE PASSOVER. *Ezra 6:19-22*

- A. Feasts (vs. 19) Leviticus 23:5-6
- B. Seeking God (vs. 21) Deuteronomy 4:29; Isaiah 55:6; Luke 11:10; Acts 17:27
- C. Spiritual Joy (vs. 22) Acts 8:5-8; 1 Peter 1:8

GOLDEN TEXT: *KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, WHICH YE HAVE OF GOD, AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN?* 1 Corinthians 6:19

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Ezra 7:1-28; 8:21-36

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 10:1-20
Acts 26:12-20

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People Restored

TOPIC: EZRA'S MISSION

INTRODUCTION:

The temple was finished and dedicated to God. It was now ready to receive all the silver and gold and vessels that belonged to the house of God. Ezra also needed priests to carry on the work. He prayed to God for the same. He proclaimed a fast at the river before he and the exiles started back to Jerusalem. He asked for a safe journey for all and that the vessels, gold and silver would be brought safely to the temple. His prayer was granted and God kept them safe.

Ezra's mission was in God's will. He therefore knew that God would answer his fasting and prayer. In like manner, we know God hears and answers our prayers if we are in His will. We cannot expect Him to care for us if our service of self-service is done for self glory and not for God's glory. We must be certain that what we do is God's will for us, and is what the Holy Spirit directs us to do. Then we have the faith to know that God will care for us.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Those who use their hands for God's work may expect His hand of help and favor to rest upon them.

GOLDEN TEXT: *I WAS STRENGTHENED AS THE HAND OF THE LORD MY GOD WAS UPON ME.*

Ezra 7:28

How it must have thrilled the heart of Ezra, when the king of Persia commissioned him to return the holy vessels of copper, silver and gold to the restored temple in Jerusalem. He knew that God had touched the hearts of heathen kings to acknowledge that the Lord God of Israel was the God of heaven and earth. Knowing that the hand of the Lord his God was upon him, he would have been ashamed to ask the king for an armed escort to protect his company on the way. (Ezra 8:22) So they fasted and sought the protection of God, who brought them safely to Zion with all the precious treasure in spite of all the robbers who were lying in wait. So, God has ever protected and guided those who are in His will and about His "business." We remember the words of Abraham's servant, "*I being in the way, the Lord led me.*" (Genesis 24:27) And of Paul, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.*" (Philippians 4:13)

Today our missionaries and all who have chosen to enter the vineyard of Christ can also depend upon His promise, "*and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*" (Matthew 28:20)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF August 7 – 13

M. Moses Commissioned. Exodus 3:1-10

T. Joshua Commissioned. Joshua 1:1-9

W. *Ezra's Mission. Ezra 8:21-36

T. Isaiah's Call. Isaiah 6:1-13

F. Jonah's Commission. Jonah 3:1-10

S. The Apostles' Initial Commission. Matthew 10:1-14

S. The Great Commission. Mark 16:15-20