

# THE COMPLETION AND CELEBRATION OF THE TEMPLE

## EZRA 6:12-18

Text:

Introduction:

With confirmation of Cyrus' decree and Darius' decree, the Temple building continued and was completed.

Notice:

### **1. THE COMPLETION OF THE TEMPLE (VSS. 12, 13)**

#### **Ezra 6:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter *and* to destroy this house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed. <sup>13</sup> Then Tatnai, governor on this side the river, Shetharboznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily.

#### A. The Haste in the Completion

The completion of the Temple was done quickly.

Note:

- The Mandate – (vs. 12)

Darius' decree mandated speed in the completion of the Temple and this certainly helped to keep things moving at a good pace.

## B. The Help for the Completion (vs. 14)

### **Ezra 6:14**

<sup>14</sup> And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished *it*, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

Four things are cited for helping to complete the Temple.

- The People for the Help

The elders were the supervisors, the overseers. They would encourage and exhort the building, and this helped it progress.

- The Prophets in the Help

Some of the encouragement came from the prophets.

- The Precepts in the Help

“According to the commandment of the God of Israel.”

- The Princes in the Help

## **2. THE CELEBRATION ABOUT THE TEMPLE (VS. 16-18)**

### **Ezra 6:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy, <sup>17</sup> And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. <sup>18</sup> And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which *is* at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

The word dedication is used to describe the occasion of celebration for the completion of the rebuilding of the Temple.

Notice:

#### A. The People in the Celebration (vs. 16)

All the people were involved in the celebration. It wasn't a secret celebration but a nation-wide celebration.

#### B. The Pleasure in the Celebration (vs. 16)

The great joys of the people concerned sacred things. Today our joys are too often found only in secular things.

### C. The Piety in the Celebration (vs. 17)

#### **Ezra 6:17**

<sup>17</sup> And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

Note two things about the offering.

- The cost of the offerings

These people were in considerable poverty yet they did not hesitate to bring offerings for the celebration. These offerings were not those the king had ordered to be provided for out of his expenses.

- The crowd in the offerings

While the bulk of those who returned were from the tribe of Judah, the leaders were anxious to include all the tribes and represent the entire nation of Israel, not just Judah.

Close:

Several lessons can be learned from this.

We need to serve the Lord and do the Lord's work with haste.

As the Lord rewards the work we should honor and praise Him.