



**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

Week 3

Ezra 5-6

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Day 1- Ezra 5-6

Read Ezra 5-6 in your Bible.

- Pray as you read, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in understanding, praise, confession, thanksgiving, and petition in light of the truth you are reading.
- Underline/highlight key words, phrases, and verses that stand out to you.

Day 2- Ezra 5:1-5

Digging Deeper: Two months after Haggai brought God's message to the people, Zechariah joined him in prophesying. Look up Zechariah 1:1-6. What was Zechariah's warning to the people?

1. In verse 2, how did Zerubbabel and Jeshua respond to the Word of the LORD through the prophets? What did the prophets do in turn?

Scholar's Note: "Haggai dealt more especially with the consciences of the people. His are stirring, cutting words. Zechariah was commissioned to speak more to their hearts, enthusing them to holy boldness in view of the coming glory. Both lines of ministry were needed, for God's people are possessed of conscience and heart, and each must be appealed to." H.A, Ironside

2. How did the pagan governor and his colleagues try to intimidate the Jews in verses 3-4?

3. How was God watching over his people in verse 5?

Day 4- Ezra 6:1-12

8. What detail of the royal record do we see in verse 4, that was not made completely known in the public decree in Ezra 1:4?



The enemies of God's people succeeded in getting the temple completely funded! The Bible teaches how God turns Satan's efforts against God's people into blessings for them.¹ Only God can take what Satan means for evil and turn it into good!

This is so comforting to us, and so frustrating to Satan.

- Recall from chapter 5 what the people were doing when this letter was being delivered and read by Darius.
- How do you hope to remain faithful and obedient in difficult circumstances?
- When you face trying circumstances do you ever look ahead to the blessings God will bring out of it?
- How has God ever brought a blessing out of something difficult you faced?
- How does Hebrews 12:2 tell us Jesus endured the cross?

9. List all the blessings God brought about through the response of Darius.

¹ James M. Hamilton Jr.

10. What does Darius want out of the bargain in verse 10?

11. How does Darius guarantee his decree will be carried out? (vs.11-12)

Day 5- Ezra 6:13-22

12. Because the people listened to, and obeyed the Word of God through his prophets, what happened in verse 14?



Read Psalm 1. What does this Psalm have to say in verses 1-3 about what makes people prosper?

F.B. Meyer says it is not enough to read the Bible as a duty; we must come to it with delight...in happy fellowship with the Author.

It is all too easy for us to approach Bible reading as a duty or academic pursuit. One thing that makes it a delight is to remember that the Bible is how God speaks to us. Then we respond and speak back to God in prayer. Relationship takes place with communication. If communication is only one-sided then the relationship is frustrating and superficial. If you find Bible reading to mainly be a duty in your life don't give up!

- Approach your time in the Word as if you are meeting with a dear friend, not going to a lecture.
- Meditate on the words you read. Don't just shovel them in, but take time to taste and savor them. Reflect on how the Scripture passage reveals the character of God and then praise him for that. What does it show you about yourself that you need to repent of? Consider what need the passage reveals that you have and then ask God to provide. It takes reading *and* meditation to let the truth that we read connect to our hearts in a way that brings us delight.

13. What did the people do once the temple was finished? (vs.14-16) Why was it so important that they have a temple?

14. In verse 21, who is eating the Passover meal? How does this show that God is concerned with holiness, not nationality or race?

15. Verse 22 ends the first section of Ezra. The next chapter takes place 58 years later. Put the “happy ending” in your own words. (King of Assyria is referring to Darius)

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?