

Discipleship University Bible Reading Guide

Leaders of the Restoration (Hebrew Prophets III): Ezra 3-6, Haggai, Zechariah

(For class to be held on February 3, 2018)

Read Ezra 3 and Psalm 126 – Rebuilding of the Temple Begins

1. What was the first thing they built so they could corporately worship God together? _____
2. What feast day was the first one they kept when back in their homeland? _____
Psalm 126 was probably written in response to the proclamation of Cyrus for Jews to return to Judah and rebuild the temple and Jerusalem. It seems certain that they sang this Psalm again during this feast day.
3. What parts of Psalm 126 best fit this occasion? _____. What could verse 6 apply to besides farming? _____
4. In the second year in Judah, what was accomplished for the rebuilding of the temple? _____
_____. What put a damper on their celebration of this accomplishment? _____

*****Suggested Reading, *Prophets and Kings*, Chapter 45, pages 551-566**

Read Ezra 4:1-5, 24; 5:1-2; Haggai 1:1-2:9; Zechariah 1:1-6, -- Prophets Inspire People to Resume Building

1. In Ezra 4:1-5, why did the Samaritans hire counselors to interfere with the building of the temple? _____
_____. Note: Ezra is writing about this 80 years later. To add to his point that these people always worked against the Jews rebuilding, he then tells how they also opposed the building of the walls of Jerusalem in his own day and influenced Artaxerxes to stop the work. This is Ezra 4:6-23. We will come back to this when we actually get to Ezra's time.
2. Read Verse 24 which sums up Ezra 4:1-5. According to 5:1-2, what motivated Zerubbabel and Jeshua to lead the people back to building the temple? _____
3. What year did Haggai and Zechariah first receive messages from God? _____. In Haggai's first message, what did he say was the reason they were not prospering? _____
4. When they decided to build the Lord's house, what was Haggai's next message? _____
5. In Haggai 2:1-9, the earlier weeping and despair because this temple would be inferior to Solomon's temple was addressed. How would this temple be superior to Solomon's? _____
6. What was Zechariah's warning in Zech. 1:1-6? _____

Read Haggai 2:10-23, Ezra 5, Zech. 1:7-2:13, and Ezra 6:1-12 – Challenges to Building; Faith in God's Promises

1. What was concluded about the Jews in Haggai 2:10-14? _____. Because they decided to obey the prophets, what would be different from that day and upward? _____. What does it mean that God would make Zerubbabel as a signet? _____
2. In Ezra 5 what was the new threat to the rebuilding of the temple? _____
_____. Did they stop building? _____. To whom did Tatnai write to investigate if the Jews had authorization to build a temple? _____
3. At a time when it seemed that permission to build might be withdrawn, what was encouraging about Zechariah's message in Zech. 1:7-17? _____
_____. If the four horns are those powers that did much damage to Israel, what is implied by the four carpenters? _____
4. What replaces the walls of Jerusalem in Zech. 2? _____. Who is called to "come forth" to join the restoration of Judah? _____. What is verse 11 all about? _____

5. What discovery was made by Darius as recorded in Ezra 6:1-5? _____.
_____. By what means did Darius decree that Tatnai should provide funds to the Jews to help with the building of the temple? _____

*****Suggested Reading, *Prophets and Kings*, Chapter 46** pages 567-581

Read Zechariah 3 – Joshua and the Angel

1. Who was accusing and working against Joshua? _____. What was removed from Joshua in verse 4, and what did that mean? _____. What did Joshua receive? _____

*****Suggested Reading, *Prophets and Kings*, Chapter 47**, pages 582-592

Read Zechariah 4 and Ezra 6:13-22 – The Temple Finished by My Spirit Says the Lord

1. What does “Not by might, nor by power” mean? _____. What came from the olive trees into the bowl, the pipes and into the lamps to keep them burning? _____. What does that represent? _____
2. What was prophesied regarding Zerubbabel and the temple? _____
_____. Where in Revelation are the “two olive trees” or “two anointed ones” of Zechariah chapter 4? _____
3. In what year of Darius was the temple completed? _____. Along with the dedication of the temple, what two holy day (feast days) were celebrated? _____

*****Suggested Reading, *Prophets and Kings*, Chapter 48**, pages 593-597

Read Zechariah 5-14 – More Messages from Zechariah before the Completion of the Temple

Directions: Write the chapter number on the blank next to each description. Some chapters are used more than once. There is only one answer per blank.

- ___ Joshua is described as the BRANCH that shall build his temple and be a priest upon his throne.
- ___ Idols give no strength, but God gives the latter rain and gathers His people from all over the world.
- ___ An open scroll containing a curse would fly to and enter the houses of thieves and perjurers.
- ___ Four chariots pulled by horses are dispatched by God to the earth, with extras going to the north.
- ___ Nations will gather against Jerusalem, the mount of olives will split into a valley, there will be no night, living waters shall go out from Jerusalem, and the LORD will be king over all the earth.
- ___ A woman sitting in an ephah with a talent of lead thrown in was flown by two women to Babylon.
- ___ Insincere fasting is condemned. The people of Judah should have obeyed the former prophets and showed mercy to the widows, orphans, and strangers. Instead they had hearts of stone and God scattered them among the nations.
- ___ The wicked heathen will be destroyed, but the Messianic king comes riding on a foal of a donkey.
- ___ The work of false shepherds described and the rejection of truth.
- ___ God expresses His great desire to restore Jerusalem and bless them if they will speak truth, do justice, and seek peace. Then other nations will come to seek the LORD in Jerusalem.
- ___ Jerusalem was to be under siege, but the LORD would defend them making the feeble inhabitants as mighty as David. Then there will be great mourning in Jerusalem for one whom they pierced.
- ___ The shepherd would be smitten, a fountain opened cleansing from sin, and 1/3 would be purified.