

Rebuilding the Temple Ezra 5

It is being built but not yet finished
7. Request King to search for a decree – 17
Was such a decree actually made?

I. Challenge of the Prophets 5:1

1. The work on the Temple is stopped – 4:24
The foundation is laid and celebrated - 3:8-13
Opposition is successful in halting the work
Work appears to remain stopped 535 to 520 B.C.
2. Haggai & Zechariah speak for God – 5:1
They encourage the leaders to build
Zechariah with prophecies about Israel's future
Encourages Zerubbabel he is to rebuild – Zech 4:8-9
Haggai with practical challenge to resume work
This message is recorded in Book of Haggai
Note Haggai 1:1-15
3. Haggai's message from God – Hag. 1:1-11
The time has come to build God's House – 1:2
You have found time to build your houses – 3-4
But you say it is not good time to build God's House
"Consider your ways" – 5-7
Are you really prospering in what you do?
Resume the work on God's House – 8
Face the challenge & God will be pleased
God's blessing withheld if you do not obey – 9-11
4. Response to God's message – 12-15
Leaders & people obey God, return to work – 12
God promises His presence with them – 13
God stirred them up to return to work – 14-15

II. Work is Resumed – Ezra 1:2-5

1. Leaders resume building the Temple – 2
God's prophets continue to encourage them
2. Opposition to building also resumes – 3-4
Officials challenge them as to their authority
Who told you that you could resume building?
Tell us the names of those who are building
3. God's eye continued upon them – 5
Refused to stop building until contact with Darius
Check with Darius & we will continue till he responds

III. Letter to King Darius – 1:6-17

1. Letter from Governor & officials – 6
All those who ruled on other side of the river
2. To King Darius who rules Persia – 7
3. Report made on Temple's progress – 8
This work continues rapidly with great success
4. We challenged their authority – 9-10
We also ask for names of the builders
5. They told us of the first building – 11-12
The Temple built under King Solomon
How that Temple was destroyed -12
Israel's departure from God
God's gave them into hand of Nebuchadnezzar
6. Claim King Cyrus made a decree – 13-16
He gave back all the Temple vessels – 14-15
They are to be put in this new Temple
It is on this authority that they are building – 16