

GODLY LEADERSHIP EZRA

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

**Questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 5 • Ezra 5 & 6 • October 20, 2010

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Haggai 1 & 2** has helped you?

SECTION I: READ EZRA 5

2. a) How did the Jewish leaders respond to the message of Haggai and Zechariah?

b) After reading the last sentence in **V2**, what Godly leadership trait do you see in the prophets?
3. a) Who was Tattenai, and why do you think he questioned the Jews?

b) According to **V5**, what was the underlying reason the rebuilding of the temple proceeded?
4. Compare the earlier letter of opposition in 4:11-16 with Tattenai's letter in **V8-10**. Summarize the differences in the overall tone and in the content.
5. a) Tattenai's letter to King Darius recounted the Jewish elders' answer to his questions. Summarize what they said in **V11-16**.

b) Given their investigation in **V9-10** and their response in **V11-16**, what inspires you about the attitude of the elders?

6. In **V17**, what did Tattenai and his associates suggest that the King do?
7. Tattenai's letter might have felt like déjà vu opposition to the exiles. In what situation do you feel like opposition keeps resurfacing?

SECTION II: READ EZRA 6:1-12

8. In **V1-5**, what did King Darius do, and what did he find?
9. a) What was the King's clear instruction in **V6-7**?

b) What further actions did the King take in **V8-10**?
10. a) In **V7-12**, list the variety of ways King Darius mentioned the Israelites' God.

b) What does King Darius ask of the Jews in **V10** and of God in **V12**?

c) What do your answers in a) and b) reveal about King Darius?
11. As you consider the turn of events from ch.5 to ch.6, write an unchanging truth about God's provision.

SECTION III: READ EZRA 6:13-22

12. a) How did Tattenai and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates respond to Darius' decree in **V13**?

b) As the temple building reached completion, what details in **V14** encourage you and why?

c) According to **V15**, when was the temple completed?

13. In **V16-18**, how did the people of Israel celebrate the dedication of the temple?

14. From **V19-22**, what did you learn about how Passover was celebrated?

15. In **V22**, the Lord filled the Israelites with joy by changing the attitude of the King. Write a prayer request regarding a situation in your life where there has been longstanding opposition to your God who is famous for attitude adjustments.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In Ezra 6:6-7, King Darius instructed Tattenai and Shethar-Bozenai not to interfere with the exiles' work on the temple. Read Daniel 6 about Daniel in the lions' den. Given that the Persians kept detailed chronicles from all previous Kings, how may Daniel's interaction with King Darius have had a ripple effect on the King Darius in Ezra 5-6?
2. King Darius refers to the temple as a place God "has caused His Name to dwell" in Ezra 6:12a. Read Deuteronomy 12:4-7 and write down other details about the place of worship where His Name dwelt?

