

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Ezra Dedicates the Temple

Last week we learned that after the people of Israel had been prisoners for 70 years God freed the Israelites. Then God used Cyrus, King of Persia, to build His temple. Ezra taught the people about God's Word. He prayed and asked God's forgiveness for their sins.

Ezra 3-6

Read the Bible

READ: Ezra 6:1-19 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse:

God's grace has saved you
because of your faith in Christ.
Your salvation doesn't come
from anything you do.
It is God's gift.
It is not based on anything
you have done. No one can brag
about earning it.
(Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)

Begin with Prayer

When Darius was king of Persia of the province of the Medes (Ezra 4:5; 6:2), Tattenai, governor of the land west of the Euphrates River, and some friends asked the Jews who told them to rebuild the temple. But God was watching over them so they didn't have to stop their work. They sent a report to King Darius. (Ezra 5:3-5)

King Darius made a search in the records of Babylon. They found a scroll that contained the order given by King Cyrus. (Ezra 6:1-2)

Goals

1. Understand that King Darius of Persia helped the Jews with the rebuilding of the temple.
2. Recognize that King Darius told Tattenai to help the Jews.
3. Learn that the Jews finished the temple just as God commanded.
4. Understand that God had freed the Jews from captivity.

King Cyrus told the Jews to rebuild the temple. He said, "Rebuild the temple.... The temple must be 90 feet high and 90 feet wide. Its walls must have three layers of large stones. They must also have a layer of beautiful wood. Use money from the royal treasures to pay for everything." (Ezra 6:3-4 NIV) King Cyrus also had the gold and silver that belonged in the house of God returned to the Jews. (Ezra 6:5)

King Darius told Tattenai and his friends to leave the Jews alone. He told them not to try stop the work on God's temple. King Darius told them to help the Jews. The expenses were to be paid from the royal treasures and the money collected from the people who lived west of the Euphrates. (Ezra 6:6-8)

King Darius further instructed Tattenai:

"Don't fail to give the priests in Jerusalem what they ask for each day. Give them what they need.... so they can offer sacrifices that please the God of heaven. And I want them to pray that things will go well for me and my sons." (Ezra 6:9-10 NIV)

"The elders of the Jews continued to build the temple. They enjoyed

Ezra Dedicates the Temple — Bible Facts

1. Tattenai asked the Jews who authorized them to rebuild the temple.
2. A report was sent to King Darius.
3. The Jews kept rebuilding the temple.
4. King Darius told Tattenai to help the Jews.
5. The Jews celebrated for seven days when the temple was completed.

great success because of the preaching of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.” (Ezra 6:13-14)

They finished building the temple just as God commanded. When it was completed, the Jews celebrated with great joy. They offered sacrifices to God. They celebrated the Passover Feast. (Ezra 6:15-19)

“The priests and Levites had made themselves pure and clean. The Levites killed the Passover lamb for everyone who had returned from Babylon. They also did it for themselves and their relatives, the priests.” (Ezra 6:20)

They celebrated for seven days. “That's because the Lord had filled them with joy. “(Ezra 6:21-22) Once again the Jews had freedom. They were no longer captive. The Bible says, “God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)

Review

1. **Who questioned the Jews when they were rebuilding the temple?** (Tattenai asked the Jews who authorized them to rebuild the temple.)
2. **What happened next?** (A report was sent to King Darius.)
3. **What did the Jews do?** (The Jews kept rebuilding the temple.)
4. **What else did King Darius do?** (King Darius told Tattenai to help the Jews.)
5. **When the temple was finished, what did the Jews do?** (The Jews celebrated for seven days.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin. If we believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He rose from the dead, we can be saved. (Romans 10:9-10) When we confess our sins, God forgives us. (1 John 1:9) Would you like to be saved?

Prayer Time

1. **Take a moment to listen to God.**
2. **Thank God for sending Jesus to save us.**
3. **Ask God to help you do what He commands.**
4. **Pray for friends and family members who need to do what God commands.**

Application

King Darius helped the Jews with the rebuilding of the temple. He searched the records of Babylon to find the order given by King Cyrus to rebuild the temple. Then King Darius told Tattenai to help the Jews. They finished the temple just as God commanded. God had freed the Jews from captivity. He wants to do the same for us. “God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift” (Ephesians 2:8 NIV)

Planning for Next Week

Nehemiah — Nehemiah 1-2

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Ezra 6:1-19 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Salvation is God's gift. Wrap boxes like gifts.

When Darius was king of Persia, Tattenai, governor of the land west of the Euphrates River, and some friends asked the Jews who told them to rebuild the temple. But God was watching over them so they didn't have to stop their work. They sent a report to King Darius.

King Darius made a search in the records of Babylon. They found the order given by King Cyrus.

King Darius told Tattenai and his friends to leave the Jews alone. He told them not to try stop the work on God's temple. King Darius told them to help the Jews.

The Jews continued to build the temple. They enjoyed great success because of the preaching of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.

They finished building the temple just as God commanded. When it was finished, the Jews celebrated with great joy. They offered sacrifices to God. They celebrated for seven days. That's because the Lord had filled them with joy.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help us.
3. Ask God to help you do what He commands.

Memory verse for younger children

Salvation ... is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8

Learning Activities

- Memory verse activity** — Make scrolls. Write the Bible verse on the scroll.
- Test your memory** — Have several pictures of the temple. Write the names of key characters in the story on the pictures. Hold up the pictures as you tell the story. Allow the children to retell the story.
- Taste activity** — The Israelites had to travel far to go home. Make sandwiches for a snack.
- Think about it** — Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the people as they were building the temple. Talk about the importance of finding encouragement in God's Word.

Talk about ways to be an encourager.

The Israelites continued rebuilding even when they had opposition. Talk about the importance of obeying God even when we are faced with opposition.

- Touch activity** — Salvation is God's gift. Wrap some small gift boxes with candy in them. Ask the children to take the boxes. Talk about how salvation is a gift we must receive.

Bring building blocks to make a building.

Cyrus and Darius were kings that were used by God to rebuild the temple.

Make crowns and decorate them.

- Run and play** — Hide a scroll. Have the children find it. Talk about the decree made by Cyrus and how Darius made sure it was carried out.
- Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to obey.
- Sing** — Sing "Work for the Night is Coming," "Here I Am to Worship," or another song related to the story.
- Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take a scroll to them. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

God's grace has
saved you because of
your faith in Christ.

Your salvation
doesn't come
from anything you do.

It is God's gift.

It is not based on anything
you have done.

No one can brag
about earning it.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God

set the

captives

free.

Word Search

T S D R G B F S Y A D N E V E S S
C Y G D T R B C M T K N Y T S E B
D C E R R F L U E R S I F K T D L
E K E N B K J M I K R R L A U B N
S L A L Z S P R B L M S R R Y C U
B S T F E L F E Y I D H D L O G Z
I V D F E B F T A F P C A B R F E
A T N S L P R H N U I I A T S R I
N B E S P E S A E N K N S R U M F
E F S U I R A D T D G N I S V D H
T F T R F S A R Z E J F A S B A G
T S M Y T I L I T M S E P G H E F
A G G C R A D C G E R B F L S E L
T S B S K S L R T T N K L T V J D

EZRA
PERSIA
BUILD
FINISHED

CYRUS
TATTENAI
TEMPLE
CELEBRATE

DARIUS
EUPHRATES
TREASURE
SEVEN DAYS

Word Search



EZRA
 PERSIA
 BUILD
 FINISHED

CYRUS
 TATTENAI
 TEMPLE
 CELEBRATE

DARIUS
 EUPHRATES
 TREASURE
 SEVEN DAYS

Word Search

K F B G L R W H D F L J
S F S D R G S F K B P M
B F V M T G S B P R D N
J M K C E L E B R A T E
T P J W B D F I N I S H
J C B R F G L S Y K D M
S B R M K J D R K B N P
D M W F R G T F D A Y S
R S H V T R E A S U R E
N B S R G F L B L V S M
S G F M J R T E M P L E
M B N G E D F B U I L D

BUILD

TEMPLE

TREASURE

FINISH

CELEBRATE

DAYS

Word Search

K	F	B	G	L	R	W	H	D	F	L	J
S	F	S	D	R	G	S	F	K	B	P	M
B	F	V	M	T	G	S	B	P	R	D	N
J	M	K	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E
T	P	J	W	B	D	F	I	N	I	S	H
J	C	B	R	F	G	L	S	Y	K	D	M
S	B	R	M	K	J	D	R	K	B	N	P
D	M	W	F	R	G	T	F	D	A	Y	S
R	S	H	V	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E
N	B	S	R	G	F	L	B	L	V	S	M
S	G	F	M	J	R	T	E	M	P	L	E
M	B	N	G	E	D	F	B	U	I	L	D

BUILD

TEMPLE

TREASURE

FINISH

CELEBRATE

DAYS

Anagram

CRAEG

VAESD

SEEAUBC

THAIYNNG

ITFG

GDO

NODE

ABGR

SHNSAEEIP

Anagram

GRACE

SAVED

BECAUSE

ANYTHING

GIFT

GOD

DONE

BRAG

EPHESIANS