



July 30 & 31, 2016 | Beth HaMikdosh #4 | Various Scriptures | Dennis Miller

TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. Although the CHRISTIAN is the "temple of God today," throughout history, and in the prophetic FUTURE, the Temple in Jerusalem is CRITICAL.
2. The importance of the Temple to God, REMINDS us of the importance of forgiveness and WORSHIP today!

SEVENTY YEARS OF CAPTIVITY

Because they had TURNED from the Lord, God allowed His people to be made CAPTIVE in Babylon. It was a SAD time.

Psa. 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. 2 There on the poplars we hung our harps, 3 for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" 4 How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land? 5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget [its skill.]

But God also PROMISED that His people would RETURN to their homeland someday.

Jer. 29:10 This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place."

RETURNING TO RE-BUILD THE TEMPLE

Ezra 1:1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: 2 "This is what



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Cyrus king of Persia says: “ ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. 3 Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. 4 And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.’ ” . . . 7 Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god.

The Temple had been DESTROYED and the Israelites were carried off to BABYLON in 586 BC. In 539 BC, Babylon was conquered by the PERSIAN Empire and King CYRUS told the Jews that they could go home.

Two men, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel from the tribe of Judah (the governor of Jerusalem) and Joshua the son of Jehozadak (the high priest) LED the CHARGE.

About 50,000 Jews agreed to be part of this GREAT PROJECT!

Ezra 2:64 The whole company numbered 42,360, 65 besides their 7,337 male and female slaves; and they also had 200 male and female singers.

The SINGLE purpose of returning to Jerusalem was to BUILD the temple.

Ezra 1:3 Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.

BUT, SIXTEEN YEARS LATER . . .

Hag. 1:1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: 2 This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’S house.’ ” 3 Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 4 “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” 5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. 6 You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” 7 This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. 8 Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD. 9 “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.

When the people ARRIVED in Jerusalem, and saw their enemies and the CONFLICT, it took away their FOCUS.

God sent the prophet HAGGAI to the leaders and the people 16 years after they had RETURNED from Babylon.

He encouraged them to get BACK to WORK and complete the work that they were SENT to do.

What had happened to these people?

1. They had lost the excitement and JOY of their PURPOSE.
2. The people became CONTENT.
3. The people made EXCUSES.

Because of this, the Lord gave them no SATISFACTION in anything ELSE that they did! (v. 7)

EZRA TO THE RESCUE

Ezra 3:8 In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak and the rest of the people (the priests and the Levites and all who had returned from the captivity to Jerusalem) began the work. . . . 11 With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: “He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. 12 But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy.

Ezra 6:15 The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. 16 Then the people of Israel—the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles—celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy.

Ezra (and later Nehemiah) did the LEGAL, political and SPIRITUAL work needed to get the Temple completed.

Although the final product was a POOR representation of the original Temple, God’s House was RESTORED and worship could continue. The Temple was dedicated in 516 BC.

This Temple would be horribly ABUSED by Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) who MOCKED God and the Jews.

In 164 BC the Temple was RECLAIMED by Judah Maccabee and his family in a sensational DEFEAT of Antiochus and his army. A ONE-day supply of oil in the Menorah burned for 8 consecutive days, which the people celebrated with the holiday of HANUKKAH (Feast of Dedication).

John 10:22 Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade.