

Ezra 5-6

1. Read Psalm 1:1-3. What is the outcome for the one who delights in the law or instruction of the Lord?
2. Read either Haggai 1:1-4 or Zechariah 1:1-6.
 1. When did the prophet start his ministry?
 2. What is the basic message the prophet proclaimed?
3. In Ezra 5:3-5:
 1. Who is questioned?
 2. Who does the questioning?
 3. What are the two questions?
 4. How do the people respond?
4. Summarize the letter that Tattenai to King Darius.
5. What do you notice about the *attitudes* of the officials and the Israelites?
6. What are some other times in the Bible where people around them unfairly accused people who were obeying God's word?
7. Rhetorical question: How would you have reacted if you were among those approached by the officials demanding names?

8. Pick either Cyrus's decree (6:1-5) or Darius's follow-up decree (6-12). Summarize it, including any surprising details.

9. Compare the dedications of Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 8:5, 63) and the dedication of the Second Temple (Ezra 6:17).

10. Write down, in order, those who decreed that the temple should be rebuilt.

11. From Ezra 6:19-22, what did the people celebrate? Who was among those who had returned to build the temple?

12. What is our celebration of remembrance? How are people not from Bethany treated during that celebration?

13. Similarly, what is the emotion felt by those at the celebration in Ezra? Is that our emotion during our celebration?

14. What decree of the Lord do you need to confidently put into practice *today*, as the Israelites obeyed the command to rebuild the temple?