

Promise Keeper

Ezra 6:1-22

- The people of Judah who came back from captivity in Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem, the temple, and restore worship, because of persecution had stopped that project, and for more than a decade focused their time and efforts upon building their own houses, while they neglected the work of The Lord.
- The Lord chastened His people using local officials like Tattenai to threaten and steal their comfort and convenience from them, preachers like Haggai and Zecharia to share the Word with them, and droughts that took their food and money sources away from them, all this The Lord used to get their attention back to Him.

V1-22

- **V1-5** Darius was told by the enemies of Judah to research the history books, as it's there you will find how the Jewish people have always been difficult to control, especially if they have a homeland and temple to defend and call their own.
- In looking up the Jewish people's history they find at an old summer palace, some three hundred miles away a decree written by Cyrus where he told Judah they could go back and rebuild Jerusalem and their temple, and not only that, but that he, the Medes and Persians empire would finance the building project as well.
- This is not what the enemies of Judah thought would happen when they asked King Darius to go on his history expedition, in their minds all he would find was Israel's rebellious acts toward the Assyrians, Egypt, The Babylonians, and everyone else who opposed them. But all that is happening is spiritual, even though it had gotten political, but again this shows us that God is in control of both the social and political landscape, so I don't have to worry about which group is in the majority.
- **V6-7** the King then tells Tattenai- you little tattler, to stay away and leave the people of God alone, literally keep your distance, so they can build the house of God. This was not what Satan or his followers expected from the King, but The Lord The King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, shows us once again that He is in control.

- **Rom 2:4** it is the goodness of The Lord that leads us to repentance, was God solely interested in this temple building **Acts 7:48, 17:24**? Of course not, He wants our hearts, and that happens when we are obedient to His Word and diligent to do His will. This broken down, in shambles temple, represented their broken fellowship with God, so The Lord uses restoration of the temple to reflect healing of their relationship, and he doesn't stop there look what else He does for them.
- **V8-12** Darius tells Tattle tale that the taxes they pay him are to be used to fund the restoration of the temple, and sacrifices in the temple, The Lord has a sense of humor, you talk about throwing salt on the wound. It's like congress being told to take all the tax money and use it to fund the gospel going out into schools, job sites, communities, advertisements, other countries, people would be irate, they would storm the capitol, and you would have to bring in the armed forces.
- If you don't like it remember they are praying for my family, therefore this is for my good, and to hinder this house from being built, will cost you both your house and your life. History tells us that Darius once impaled three thousand people for not carrying out just one of his written decrees, so he had a reputation for dealing harshly with anyone who disobeyed him. The Lord knows how to deal with troublemaker's folks, you talking about something backfiring in your face.
- **V13-14** The Lord made sure that both Haggai and Zechariah was mentioned in stirring the people up to do God's work and carry out His will despite their fears, apathy, and disobedience, these men still spoke up. **1 Cor 14:3**- is what prophecy is meant to do, to spur people on to complete what God has commanded, not this nonsense we see going on in the church today > all emotion but no repentance.
- **V15-18** once they finished the work they have a high time in The Lord, as we see the joy of The Lord, and praise to The Lord, as they remember The Word of The Lord. Also by commandment from the king, all the sacrifices were provided by tattle tale.
- **V19-22** this is an example of > **2 Cor 10:6**- once their obedience was complete notice then they didn't want any disobedience near them. In closing two things God used then and still uses today to fulfil His will, and sometimes to make us uncomfortable > **1. Preachers of The Word, 2. People in authority**