

- (v1) Haggai and Zechariah _____
- (v2) Building begins again (_____ month, 24th day—Haggai 1:14-15)
- (v3) Tattenai and Shethar-Boznai _____ Zerubbabel and Jeshua
- (v4) Tattenai and Shethar-Boznai _____ the names of the builders
- (v5-17) Letter to Darius
 - (v8) The people are _____ the Temple
 - (v9-10) We questioned them and took their names down
 - (v11-12) Retelling of Israel's history
 - (v13-14) Retelling of Cyrus' _____
 - (v16) Sheshbazzar laid the _____, but Temple is not finished
 - (v17) Find Cyrus' decree and advise us

EZRA 6

- (v1) Darius' decree
 - (v2) Search for the scroll of Cyrus
 - (v3-5) Cyrus' _____ is retold
 - (v6-7) Leave the work on the House of God alone
 - (v8-10) Give them _____
 - (v11-12) Any man that tries to hinder them will be _____ on gallows and his house be torn down
- (v14) House of God _____ at the command of the God of Israel, Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes
- (v15) Temple _____, _____ year of Darius, 3rd of Adar (12th month)
- (v16) Children of Israel _____ the _____ of the Temple
 - (v17) _____ sacrifices
 - (v18) _____ priests and Levites their divisions of service
 - (v19-21) Kept _____ (14th day of 1st month)
 - (v22) Kept Feast of _____ (15th-21st of 1st month)

Chapter 5-6 focus:

Examine the timeline:

- Is chapter 5-6 chronological?
- What project milestone is completed in Darius' reign and when (v15)?
- What milestone is mentioned but not yet accomplished in Darius' reign (v14)?
- What was the timing of Haggai and Zechariah's messages? [see timeline handout]

Examine the people:

Read Haggai 1:1-2:9, 2:15-23.

- Why would the people say "It is not the time to build the Lord's house" (Haggai 1:2)?
- How has God made life difficult for them? Why? (Haggai 1:9)
- The building of the House of God continues with us. **Self-assessment:** How are you engaged in that project? How does day-to-day living get in the way?
- When God's people aren't working to build His house, do we find life lacking something?
- How does Lord encourage and motivate the people through Haggai's message?

Haggai helped them identify the source of their _____ and gave them a vision of a

- **Read Zechariah 14:10-21.** How did Zechariah's message motivate the people?

- If you were battling enemies, how would this encourage you? Does it still encourage us today?
- How were the prophets' messages taken by Tattenai and Shethar-Boznai?
- What was the first tactic Tattenai and Shethar-Boznai tried to get the Jews to stop building (v3-5)?
- What name do they use for Zerubbabel?

Examine the document:

- In Darius' decree, what did he command Tattenai and Shethar-Boznai to do?
- What is the punishment for interfering with the work on the House of God?
- Who does this remind you of? **Read Esther 7:9-8:2, 7**

Examine the tasks:

- How did the people celebrate achieving this milestone (v16-22)?
- What spiritual task has been accomplished (v20)?
- Why is the celebration of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread appropriate to mark this accomplishment? What do these feasts represent?



Key Step in Revival (Ezra 1-6): Return to worship

Key Step in Revival (Ezra 7-10): Return to _____

Chronological Order of Ezra

Cyrus' reign (Chapters 1-3)

- Zerubbabel brings the 1st wave of returnees to Jerusalem
- They set up the altar, begin worship
- They begin laying the foundation for the Temple
- The adversaries trouble them throughout the reigns of Cyrus and Darius (4:5)
- At some point work on the foundation stops until the 2nd year of Darius (4:24)

Darius' reign (Chapter 5-6)

- 2nd year of Darius (Chapter 5)
 - o Haggai and Zechariah prophesy
 - o Work on the foundation resumes
 - o **The foundation is laid** in the 9th month
 - o Work on the Temple structure begins
- 4th year of Darius
 - o Zechariah's final prophecies of the coming King and Kingdom
- 6th year of Darius (Chapter 6)
 - o **The Temple is completed**
 - o Work on the city begins (assumed, since there is a decree issued by Artaxerxes to stop work on the city. Not much progress is made, as Nehemiah finds the gates and walls still in ruin)

} Letter from Tattenai and Shethar-Boznai (they report that work on the Temple is progressing but not finished).
Darius' decree – let it be built

Artaxerxes' reign (Chapter 7-10)

- Early in his reign (Chapter 4)**
 - o 1st letter sent by Bishlam, Mithredath, and Tabel
 - o 2nd letter sent by Rehum and Shimshai
 - o Artaxerxes' decree stops work on the city
- 7th year of Artaxerxes
 - o Artaxerxes decrees that Ezra is to take the 2nd wave of returnees to Jerusalem & teach the people the Law (Chapter 7-8)
 - o Ezra begins **sanctifying God's people** (Chapter 9-10)
- 20th year of Artaxerxes
 - o Artaxerxes decrees that Nehemiah is to rebuild the city (Book of Nehemiah)
 - o **The city wall is completed** in 52 days
 - o **Grand celebration**

**Artaxerxes issues three decrees:

1. Stop work in the city (Chapter 4)
2. Send Ezra to teach the people the Law (Chap 7-10)
3. Send Nehemiah to build the city (Nehemiah)

We do not know when Artaxerxes made the decree to stop work on the city. We know the Persian official had made him afraid that the city would be a rebellious city and revolt against him.

It seems natural that he would cause work on the city to stop, and then send Ezra to teach the people to be law-abiding citizens. That is the focus of Ezra's work in chapters 7-10 – to teach the people the Law.

Whether the decree to stop building the city comes before or during Ezra's commission to Jerusalem, the effect is to bring work on the physical House of God to a stop so that work on the spiritual House of God – the people – gets full attention.