

Ezra 6:13-22
Celebrating the
Faithfulness of God

Israel's Big Questions in Exile

- **Is YHWH supreme since other nations (and their gods) have subjugated His people?**
- **Does God still care for His people since He has put them in peril under a yoke of slavery?**
- **How is Israel now related to God since the prophets have made clear that their disobedience resulted in condemnation and departure of the glory from Israel?**
- **Answered during 3-fold return: Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah**



Saint Peter by [Dirck van Baburen](#)

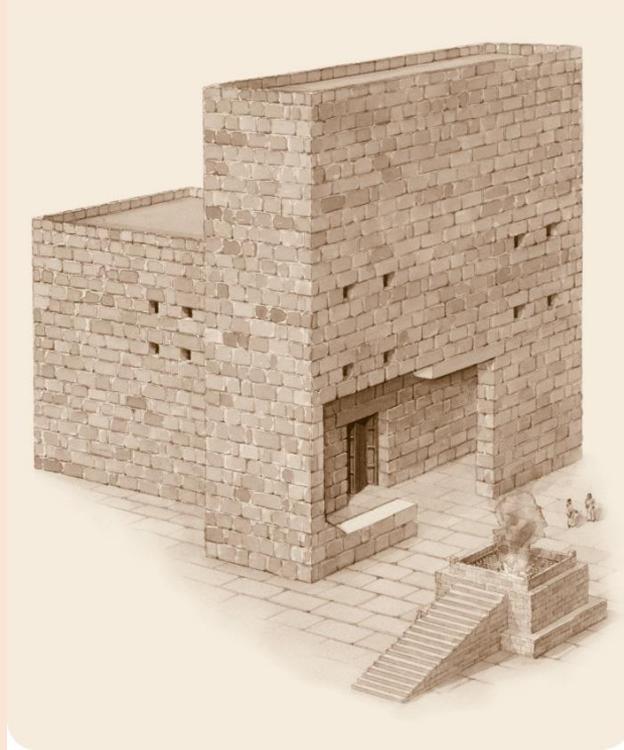
Ezra 6:13 Then, because of the decree King Darius had sent, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates carried it out with diligence. So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

Ezra 6:16 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. For the dedication of this house of God they offered a hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs and, as a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, one for each of the tribes of Israel. And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses.

- **Ezra 6:19** On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover. The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their relatives the priests and for themselves. So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors in order to seek the Lord, the God of Israel.

- **Ezra 6:22 For seven days they celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because the Lord had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel.**

The Second Temple

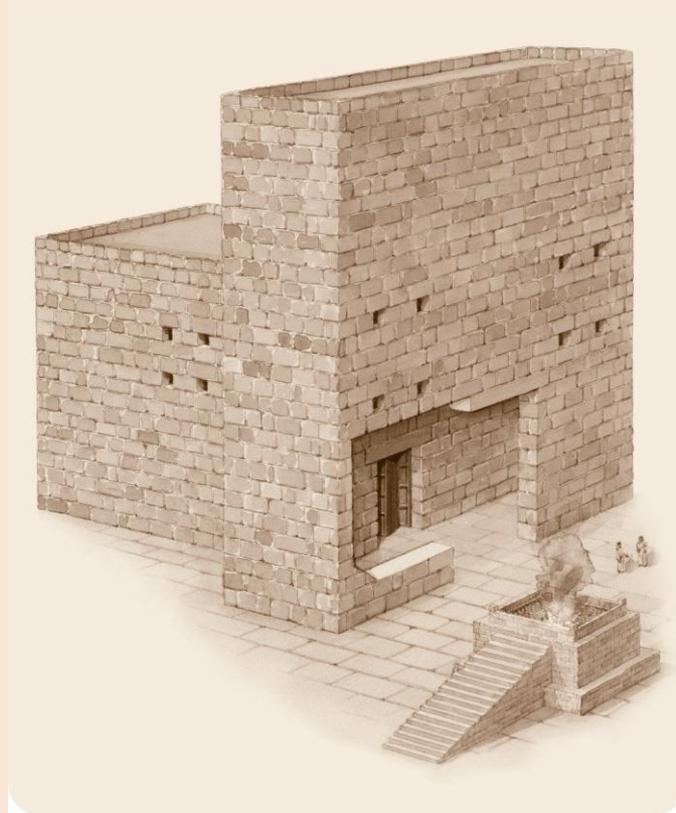


https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/illustration_15_zerubbabels-temple/

**“My Name shall be there”
(1 Kings 8:29)**

**“Hear the supplication of
your people Israel when they
pray toward this place...
forgive ... vindicate the
innocent.” (1 K 8:30, 32)**

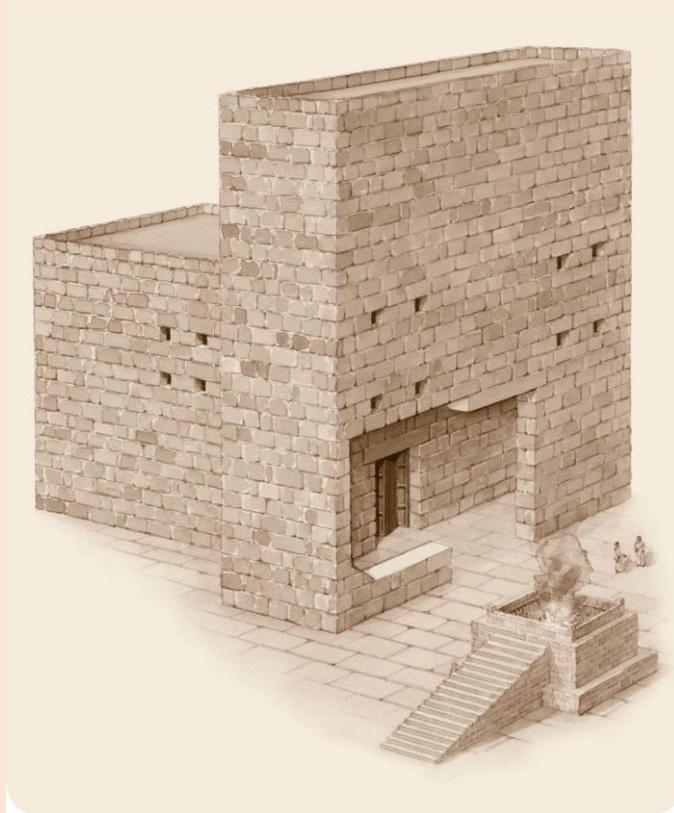
**“As for the foreigner ... when
they come and pray toward
this temple ... Do whatever
the foreigner asks of you, so
that all the peoples of the
earth may know your name
and fear you.” (1 K 8:41-43)**



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**“But if you or your
descendants turn away from
me... then I will cut off Israel
from the land I have given
them and will reject this
temple I have consecrated for
my Name.” (1 K 9:4-8)**

**“When they sin against you
and you give them over to
their enemies ... and if they
repent and plead with you ...
hear their prayer... and forgive
your people ... and cause their
captors to show them mercy;
for they are your people and
your inheritance, whom you
brought out of Egypt.” (1K
8:46-51)**

Answers to Israel's Big Questions

- Is YHWH supreme since other nations (and their gods) have subjugated His people? **YES**
- Does God still care for His people since He has put them in peril under a yoke of slavery? **YES**
- How is Israel now related to God since the prophets have made clear that their disobedience resulted in condemnation and departure of the glory from Israel?

GOD IS IN CONTROL

**“The Lord changed the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work.”
(Ezra 6:22)**

GOD WILL LIVE WITH ISRAEL

“The work on the house of God, the God of Israel.” (Ezra 6:22)

GOD FORGIVES AND RESTORES

“They offered as a sin offering for all Israel... And they installed the priests and the Levites for the service of God at Jerusalem.” (Ezra 6:17-18)



**REJOICE IN GOD'S
CONTROL, MERCY &
RESTORATION**

**TRUST IN GOD'S PRESENCE
(PASSOVER, PRAYER)**

SEPARATE, SEEK, OBEY
**“Separated themselves
from the unclean
practices of their
Gentile neighbors in
order to seek the Lord.”
(Ezra 6:21)**



GOD IS IN CONTROL

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matt. 28:18 6:22)

GOD LIVES WITH US

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (Matt. 18:20)

GOD FORGIVES AND RESTORES

“Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me? ... Feed my lambs.’” (John 21:15-17)



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REJOICE IN GOD’S CONTROL, MERCY & RESTORATION

TRUST IN GOD’S PRESENCE

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.” (1 Tim. 2:1)

SEPARATE, SEEK, OBEY

“Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.” (2 Tim. 2:19)