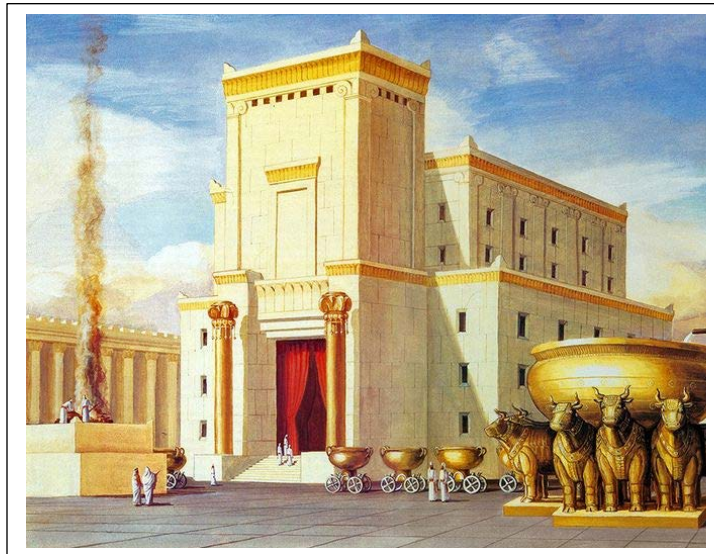


## Lesson 62

# Opposition to rebuilding, the completion and dedication of the Temple

Ezra 4:1-24; 6:13-22



**Teacher, please remember that the commentary below is intended to help you in your study, not to be read to your students. Make your own list of applications, using the help from the commentary, but don't necessarily try to cover everything! Think of the students in your class, then be prayerfully selective.**

Contents:

1. Preparation
2. Memory verses
3. Theme
4. Lesson introduction
5. Verse by verse commentary (suggested location of activities included)
6. Suggested prayer to close
7. Attention grabbers
8. Activities
9. Bible Text (in full, without commentary)

### **1. Preparation**

- 1) Choose memory verse
- 2) Select attention grabber to start off lesson / break the ice - optional, recommended for younger classes. (see point 7)
- 3) Suggested activities- optional, recommended for younger children (see point 8)

### **2. Memory verse**

Romans 8:31 b

If God is for us, who can be against us?

### **3. Theme**

Though others may be against us, God is for us.

### **4. Lesson introduction**

Have you ever experienced times of opposition in your Christian walk? The word "opposition" can be defined as "hostile resistance or an obstacle that is set against someone." Have you ever come across obstacles or hostile resistance? As you begin a good work for the Lord, obstacles may appear everywhere you turn. In our lesson last week, the children of Israel were rejoicing, celebrating the completion of the foundation of the temple. God's promise had come to pass! God had accomplished this big task using the talents and abilities of the people who had determined to serve Him. Laying the foundation was just the beginning. The people again set themselves to the task of rebuilding the temple, but there arose opposition! They wrote to the King Artaxerxes to convince him to stop the work. They accused the Israelites of planning to rebuild Jerusalem and their temple with the thought of rebelling against the king. Sadly, the king listened to them and ordered the work to stop. Indeed, it must have been a discouraging time. The situation looked bleak! But the story wasn't over! Several years later, God moved

King Darius to search the archives (kind of like a library); he found a decree from King Cyrus. The decree told about the time when King Cyrus gave permission for the Jews to return to their land and to rebuild the temple. King Darius decided to order that the work begin again.

### Verse by Verse Commentary

#### Ezra 4:1-5

Adversaries (or enemies) of the children of Israel came to Zerubbabel and the chiefs of the people. They wanted to participate in the rebuilding of the temple. Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the chiefs would not allow them to help. They made a wise decision. You may remember, the Assyrians had conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel and had scattered the ten tribes throughout the world. Their strategy was to move conquered people to new lands. Foreigners from other lands were resettled in Israel. Fearing disfavor with the God of Israel, the foreigners sought help to learn how to worship God, yet the Bible says, "they feared Jehovah and worshiped their own gods" (2 Kings 17:33). God was added to their worship program; yet, they did not truly worship Him, nor were they the descendants of Israel. Their hearts were divided. Compromise is dangerous. To allow their participation could cause the children of Israel to stray away from God. Notice, they were called the "people of the land," not the people of God. Sadly, they did not take well the rejection of their offer to participate. They began to discourage the people of Judah and "troubled them in building." They went so far as to hire counselors to frustrate their efforts. The "people of the land" caused problems for the remaining five years of King Cyrus' reign until the second year of the reign of Darius, fourteen years in all! As Christians, we should be cautious to not fall into the traps of our enemy, Satan. Those who would work against us may try at first to join us. The enemy will use their involvement to cause us to compromise, to lose focus, and be made weak. It is always dangerous for us to spend too much time with "the people of the land." 1 Corinthians 15:33 tells us, "Be not deceived; evil company corrupts good morals." In 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 we read, Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." "Unequally yoked" is a term referring to the use of two "unmatched" animals "yoked" or "tied" together on a cart or plow to do work. For instance, two horses pulling a cart or a plow would be a smooth operation. What would happen if one has a horse and an ox pulling the same cart? It would not be a smooth ride. They are different sizes and are built for different purposes. So, the Christian cannot join with a person of the world to accomplish God's purposes, for he has very different values, goals, and purposes. We have been "called out," a "separate" people--in this world, but not of this world.

#### Ezra 4:6-16

The people of the land sent out quite an accusation to the king against the children of Israel who had returned to rebuild their temple. While they represented themselves as loyal to the king and concerned for his welfare; they represented the children of Israel as being disloyal to the king and a danger to his government. They represent Jerusalem as a "rebellious and bad city." After throwing suspicion on the Jews and labeling them as a defiant people, the accusers conclude: "...if this city is rebuilt and its wall are

completed, the result will be that you will have no dominion beyond the River.” Note, their information concerning the building of the walls was not correct; for, the Jews had only begun to build the temple just as Cyrus had commanded them. No work had been done on the walls. How sad the situation seems now! The opposition certainly knew how to present a powerful case—an accusation—against God’s people. As Christians, we too, face opposition and accusation. “Satan is the accuser of the brethren” (Revelation 12:10). Not only does he accuse us before God, but he will also accuse us to one another, endeavoring to create strife and division within the body. His goal is destruction. He does not want to see God’s plans accomplished. Though others may be against us, God is for us.

*Suggested Activity: Watch Out Down Under Game*

#### **Ezra 4:17-24**

In response to the letter, the king sent orders to stop the work of rebuilding the city and the temple. Sadly, he did not examine the situation for himself; he just believed the opposition. The king did examine the records about Jerusalem and found that the city had rebelled against the king of Babylon; he, therefore, concluded that “rebellion and sedition have been fostered in it.” Learning that kings in times past had reigned in Jerusalem to whom all the countries (Jerusalem side of the river) had paid tribute (special taxes), he feared that the people of Judah might once more rebel if ability and opportunity were allowed. He appointed the “accusers” to stop the building of the city immediately until further orders should be given about it. These men then ran with haste to Jerusalem. The builders were served orders to stop immediately. They were successful in stopping the work, but only for a time, until the second year of the reign of King Darius. Though at times, it may appear that the enemy has stopped the work of God, he is a defeated foe. We must never be discouraged. Discouragement is a tool of the enemy. Luke 18:1 states, “...men always ought to pray and not lose heart.” In Ephesians 6:11 we are admonished, “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” In 1 Peter 5:8,9 we are warned, “Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith...” God was faithful to the children of Israel. In time, the temple was complete, despite opposition and setbacks. When the Lord wants something to be accomplished, it is going to happen. When we set out to do God’s work, we will encounter opposition just as the people of Israel did. Our adversary, the devil, will be sure of that! Opposition comes in many different forms—people, circumstances, temptations, etc. Yet as a Christian, we have God’s assurance of victory over our enemies for “...He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4) and “...If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). Though others may be against us, God is for us.

*Suggested Activity: The Decree*

#### **Ezra 6:13-15**

After those who were against God’s people received the decree of King Darius, they became cooperative with the people’s effort to rebuild the temple. They had no choice! For King Darius solemnly warned that there be no interference with the rebuilding of the temple. Since King Darius was the ruler of the known world, they listened! After nearly ten years of interruption, work began again on the temple of the Lord. God’s promises will always prove true. It is nothing to God to stir the hearts of kings! So, the temple was completed in the month of Adar, which is the twelfth month in the Jewish religious calendar.

## **Ezra 6:16-18**

The Bible says that the people, “celebrated with joy!” After 70 years as captives in a foreign land, the people were not only freed, but they returned to their homes with blessing and provisions to rebuild their temple. Though they would need to trust God through opposition, hostilities, and long delays, God was faithful! Their hearts must have been filled with both joy and awe as they considered the faithfulness of their God! God had heard the cries of His people while in captivity in Babylon. Though the people’s years of sin and rebellion had led to God’s judgment, while in Babylon, the people thought about the God they had forsaken and repented of their sins. God forgave their sins, restored their land, and enabled them to build the House of the Lord once again. When we ask for forgiveness, God always gives us another chance.

*Suggested Activity: God’s House*

## **Ezra 6:19-22**

The people completed their temple in the month of Adar, the twelfth month of their calendar. The next month was Nisan, the month of their most important holiday, Passover! This was a special celebration of God’s deliverance from slavery in Egypt. On the first Passover in Egypt, the people had to sacrifice an innocent lamb and spread the blood on their doorposts; the Angel of Death would “pass over” them. What a picture for us of the innocent blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, shed to save us! While the children of Israel were being saved from bondage and slavery in Egypt, we are being saved from the bondage and slavery of our sin which leads to death! Can you imagine having a party at church for seven days?!! After 70 years of having no altar to sacrifice a lamb, no celebration of their most precious holiday--Passover, they now had the opportunity to do these things again. They celebrated with much joy! Again, the Passover is a picture of what the Lord has provided for us in salvation. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the sacrifice for our sins. We can now have eternal life, become citizens of heaven, and worship Him. As Christians, we can celebrate God’s salvation in our lives every day! Just as God desired that the children of Israel would follow Him, God wants us to follow Him. In His great love, He has saved us. When we stumble, He picks us up. Even as we are disciplined, it is good to know--as God’s Word says--when we ask for forgiveness, God always gives us another chance.

*Suggested Activity: Passover Meal*

## **5. Prayer**

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that the Lord is for us and is faithful to keep all of His promises. May we turn to the Lord for help whenever we face opposition. Thank the Lord that He will forgive us and restore us to fellowship with Him when we ask for forgiveness. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

## **6. Attention Grabbers**

### **What you will need:**

- 1) A 1 lb. bag of unshelled peanuts and two large paper bags and masking tape.

2) A “Learning about Forgiveness” template for each child in your class and one brown paper bag.

**Carrying out the attention grabber:**

**1) God’s Work May Seem Tough!**

For this game you will need a 1 lb. bag of unshelled peanuts, two paper bags, and masking tape. God has work for us to do; but at times, there may be those who are opposed to it. Sometimes there are a lot of obstacles or things in our way when accomplishing what God wants us to. Divide the class in half to form two equal teams. Have the children form two lines next to each other. At the opposite end of the classroom, place the two paper bags. The object of the game is to have the children take turns placing a peanut between their knees and hop or scoot to the other end and get the peanut into the bag. As a fun twist you could have a few other children try to distract or get in the way of the children with the peanuts (but remind the kids no hitting, tackling or rough-housing!). Their purpose is to be a distraction. You may also place chairs or books for obstacles. The children with the peanut may not use their hands. If the peanut falls, they have to go back to the starting line and try again. See which team can get done first. Ask the children how difficult this game was. Was it more difficult with all the “obstacles” in the way? Explain that God’s people in our story today had a lot of obstacles to get around. But God helped them to get His work accomplished. God also has a special work for us to do. It may not be something that is always easy to do. God will help us as well. You may want to allow the children to eat the peanuts afterwards. NOTE: Please check with parents to make sure there are no allergies to peanuts!

**2) Learning about Forgiveness**

In the Old Testament, animals were sacrificed to cover people’s sin. The Bible says that the “wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). In other words, the punishment for our sin is death. God provided a way of forgiveness through His Son Jesus. But before Jesus died on the cross, God gave His people a picture of Jesus’ death through the animal sacrifices. When the innocent lamb was slain and the priest prayed, laying the sins of the people on the lamb, it was a beautiful picture of how Jesus would one day take upon Himself the punishment for our sins. We do not have to do animal sacrifices anymore; when Jesus died on the cross, He took away all of our sins forever. Now, we who come to Jesus, can know that we are forgiven and our sins are removed from us for good. The Old Testament system was not complete; they had to continually sacrifice animals. It only foreshadowed the complete and perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God, which was to come.

For the children to gain better understanding of this concept, have them cut out the animals from the enclosed sheet. They can color the animals if they would like. Have them think of something that they have done wrong and write it on the animal. You will have to assist the younger children. After this is done, have a volunteer go around with a brown paper bag and collect all of the animals.

Explain to the children that in Old Testament times they would make an offering of the animal for a covering of their sins. Explain to the children that you will place the bag out of sight never to be remembered again. That is how God’s forgiveness works. Today, we do not sacrifice animals; we come to God to receive forgiveness of sins through Jesus. Is it not wonderful that we can turn to God through faith in Jesus Christ and receive forgiveness of sin? He removes our sin forever. God judged the sins of His disobedient and rebellious people. They spent 70 years in Babylon; while in Babylon they cried out to God and repented of their sins. God forgave them and restored them to their land. When we ask for forgiveness, God always gives us another chance.

## 7. Activities:

### What you will need:

- 1) A medium size ball (about the size of a soccer ball).
- 2) Parchment paper (one sheet per child) or construction paper, markers, glue, and tongue depressors.
- 3) Drawing paper and markers.
- 4) A bowl, a towel and pitcher with water to wash hands, a table cloth or sheet, a flashlight (to represent a candle), pot-pourri (to represent incense), napkins, assorted green vegetables (lettuce), grape juice, saltine crackers, and lunch meat cut into 4 pieces.

### How to carry out the activities:

#### 1) Watch Out Down Under Game

The object of this game is to remain strong as a group, even in the middle of opposition. Try not to let the ball escape out of the circle. You will need one medium size ball (about the size of a soccer ball). Choose a person to be "it" and have them stand in the middle of the room. Have the rest of the children make a circle around that child. Have them all stand facing outward, with their backs to the person in the middle. They should stand shoulder to shoulder with their hands to their sides and feet spread out evenly. The children's feet should be touching the foot of the person next to them. The opening between their feet should be large enough for the ball to roll through. The goal is to not let the ball come out of the circle. Here are the rules: once the children in the circle find their position they must stand straight, they cannot move their hands or feet. They can only block with their knees or legs. The child in the middle will try to get the ball out of the circle, but they can only roll the ball through someone's legs. They should not toss the ball anywhere else except towards the legs and feet of the children in the circle. If the ball gets out of the circle, the person that allowed it to come out will then be "it." After the game, talk about how they had to be on guard against the ball trying to get out. How can we learn about being on guard against spiritual warfare or opposition in our lives?

#### 2) The Decree

We learned in today's lesson that the enemies of God's people wrote a letter to the king to convince him to have the work stopped. It worked! The king made a decree and the work stopped. But, God did not allow the work to stop for good. Despite the enemy's tricks, it would begin again. Have the children make their own decree that God is for them. You will need parchment paper (one sheet per child) or construction paper, markers, glue, and tongue depressors. For older children, have them use markers to write the following:

THE KING OF KINGS' DECREE

"FOR I KNOW THE THOUGHTS THAT I THINK TOWARD YOU, SAYS THE LORD, THOUGHTS OF PEACE AND NOT OF EVIL, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."

JEREMIAH 29:11

You may want to write this out for the younger children, or write one and make copies that can be cut and pasted onto the parchment. After doing this, glue tongue depressors across the top and bottom edge of the paper. With a marker, color the tongue depressors brown. Allow the glue to dry and then roll

the paper to look like a scroll. Explain to the children that no matter what the decree is toward us, our heavenly King has decreed that He is for us!

### 3) God's House

For this activity, you will need a sheet of paper and markers. Have the children draw a church building. It might be a traditional looking building or another kind of building as many churches now meet in various places. Today, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. But we still gather in buildings as His people did in the Old Testament times. Have the children think of ways that they can serve the Lord by taking care of the building that He has given them. Have the children list ways they can help take care of the church building God has allowed them to meet in. Remember, the people had been gone from their special land for over 70 years – many of the people who returned to Israel were born in Babylon. They had never seen the land or the “Beautiful City” as Jerusalem was called in the days of King David. But how much they must have had heard about it! Do your grandparents ever tell you stories about the olden days? -- where they used to live and what life was like? The Jewish children knew they were “strangers in a strange land.” What excitement there must have been when they heard they were being released to go back to their homeland, the place where they really belonged! As Christians, God's Word tells us that we are “sojourners and pilgrims” (1 Peter 2:11). He is going to call us to come “home” (heaven) someday. That is something to look forward to, isn't it?

### 4) Passover Meal

In our lesson today, the people of Israel celebrated Passover for the first time in 70 years. They were very excited to have this opportunity. As a reminder of Passover and what it represents, serve a Passover Meal in your class. You will need a bowl, a towel and pitcher with water to wash hands, a table cloth or sheet, a flashlight (to represent a candle), potpourri (to represent incense), napkins, assorted green vegetables (lettuce), grape juice, saltine crackers, and lunch meat cut into 4 pieces.

Explain to the children what the elements represent and how it is a picture of the Lord's deliverance from Egypt. You may also want to compare it to the Lord's Supper in the New Testament and remind them that Jesus is the Passover Lamb, His blood being shed for our sins. The following is how the elements are represented.

Eating the greens – Rebirth and the renewal of spring.

1. Salt water – Reminds God's people of the tears that were shed in bondage and the Lord's deliverance through the Red Sea (Before coming to Jesus we are in bondage to our sin).
2. Grape juice – Reminds us of the blood of the Lamb that had to be applied over the doorposts (blood of Jesus).
3. Crackers – Unleavened Bread (Jesus is the bread of life; His body was broken for us on the cross).
4. Lunch Meat – Represents shank bone of lamb, which was sacrificed for the sin of the people (Jesus is the Lamb of God, come to take away the sins of the world).

For more information you may wish to consult a good Bible dictionary.



## 8. Bible text (NIV):

### Ezra 4:1-24

#### Opposition to the Rebuilding

1 When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the Lord, the God of Israel, 2 they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, “Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here.”

3 But Zerubbabel, Joshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, “You have no part with us in building a temple to our God. We alone will build it for the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us.”

4 Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building.[a] 5 They bribed officials to work against them and frustrate their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia.

#### Later Opposition Under Xerxes and Artaxerxes

6 At the beginning of the reign of Xerxes,[b] they lodged an accusation against the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

7 And in the days of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel and the rest of his associates wrote a letter to Artaxerxes. The letter was written in Aramaic script and in the Aramaic language.[c][d]

8 Rehum the commanding officer and Shimshai the secretary wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king as follows:

9 Rehum the commanding officer and Shimshai the secretary, together with the rest of their associates—the judges, officials and administrators over the people from Persia, Uruk and Babylon, the Elamites of Susa, 10 and the other people whom the great and honorable Ashurbanipal deported and settled in the city of Samaria and elsewhere in Trans-Euphrates.

11 (This is a copy of the letter they sent him.)

To King Artaxerxes,

From your servants in Trans-Euphrates:

12 The king should know that the people who came up to us from you have gone to Jerusalem and are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are restoring the walls and repairing the foundations.

13 Furthermore, the king should know that if this city is built and its walls are restored, no more taxes, tribute or duty will be paid, and eventually the royal revenues will suffer.[e] 14 Now since we are under obligation to the palace and it is not proper for us to see the king dishonored, we are sending this message to inform the king, 15 so that a search may be made in the archives of your predecessors. In these records you will find that this city is a rebellious city, troublesome to kings and provinces, a place with a long history of sedition. That is why this city was destroyed. 16 We inform the king that if this city is built and its walls are restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates.

17 The king sent this reply:

To Rehum the commanding officer, Shimshai the secretary and the rest of their associates living in Samaria and elsewhere in Trans-Euphrates:

Greetings.

18 The letter you sent us has been read and translated in my presence. 19 I issued an order and a search was made, and it was found that this city has a long history of revolt against kings and has been a place of rebellion and sedition. 20 Jerusalem has had powerful kings ruling over the whole of Trans-Euphrates, and taxes, tribute and duty were paid to them. 21 Now issue an order to these men to stop work, so that this city will not be rebuilt until I so order. 22 Be careful not to neglect this matter. Why let this threat grow, to the detriment of the royal interests?

23 As soon as the copy of the letter of King Artaxerxes was read to Rehum and Shimshai the secretary and their associates, they went immediately to the Jews in Jerusalem and compelled them by force to stop.

24 Thus the work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

**(Ezra 6:1-12 - not part of the lesson, only for understanding of the context for the teacher**

### **The Decree of Darius**

6 King Darius then issued an order, and they searched in the archives stored in the treasury at Babylon. 2 A scroll was found in the citadel of Ecbatana in the province of Media, and this was written on it:

#### **Memorandum:**

3 In the first year of King Cyrus, the king issued a decree concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem: Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be sixty cubits[a] high and sixty cubits wide, 4 with three courses of large stones and one of timbers. The costs are to be paid by the royal treasury. 5 Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, are to be returned to their places in the temple in Jerusalem; they are to be deposited in the house of God.

6 Now then, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and you other officials of that province, stay away from there. 7 Do not interfere with the work on this temple of God. Let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders rebuild this house of God on its site.

8 Moreover, I hereby decree what you are to do for these elders of the Jews in the construction of this house of God:

Their expenses are to be fully paid out of the royal treasury, from the revenues of Trans-Euphrates, so that the work will not stop. 9 Whatever is needed—young bulls, rams, male lambs for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, and wheat, salt, wine and olive oil, as requested by the priests in Jerusalem—must be given them daily without fail, 10 so that they may offer sacrifices pleasing to the God of heaven and pray for the well-being of the king and his sons.

11 Furthermore, I decree that if anyone defies this edict, a beam is to be pulled from their house and they are to be impaled on it. And for this crime their house is to be made a pile of rubble. 12 May God, who has caused his Name to dwell there, overthrow any king or people who lifts a hand to change this decree or to destroy this temple in Jerusalem.

I Darius have decreed it. Let it be carried out with diligence.)

## **Ezra 6:13-22**

### **Completion and Dedication of the Temple**

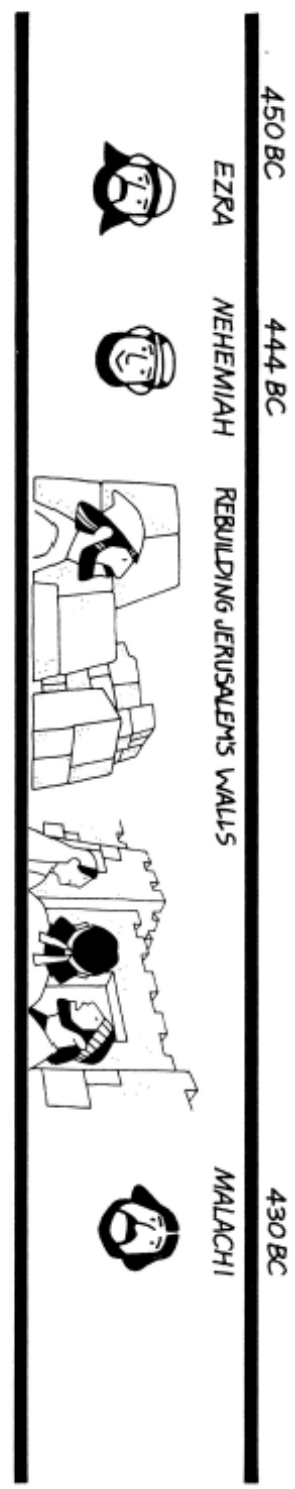
13 Then, because of the decree King Darius had sent, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates carried it out with diligence. 14 So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. 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. 15 The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

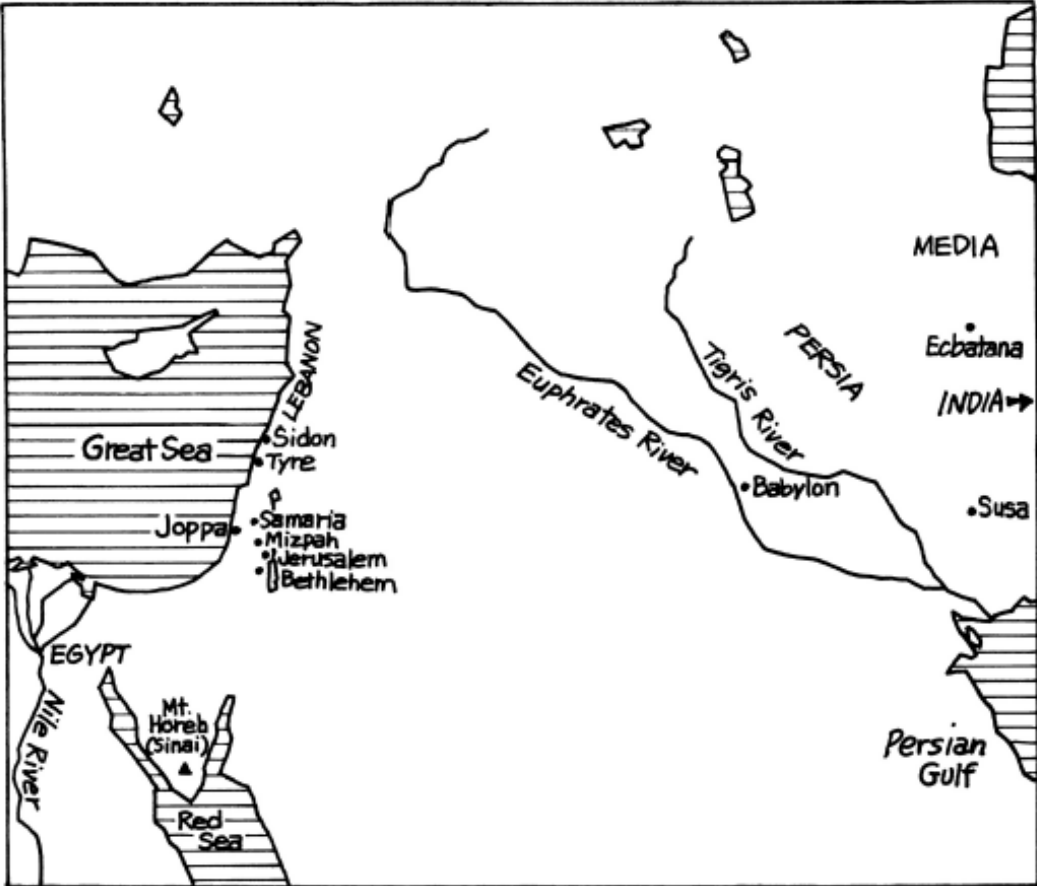
16 Then the people of Israel—the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles—celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. 17 For the dedication of this house of God they offered a hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs and, as a sin offering[a] for all Israel, twelve male goats, one for each of the tribes of Israel. 18 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.

### **The Passover**

19 On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover. 20 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. 21 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. 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.

Template - Time Line





Template - Learning About Forgiveness Activity

