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Lighthouse Bible Church

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Title: Back to business

Ezra 5:1-17

Chapter 5 starts out mentioning the prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah. Their prophecy spurred the Jews back on toward their work.

Haggai 1:12-15

**Perhaps Tattenai thought Zerubbabel
was the Branch that Zechariah
prophesied about.**

Isaiah 11:1-6

Jeremiah 23:5-8

Zechariah 3:8, 6:9-15

There's a great deal of Persian turmoil at this point in time, which might explain why Tattenai asks about their work (Ezra 5:3). The Persian army placed its support behind Darius.

Darius I:

- King of Persia (Ezra 4:5) from 521 to 486
- Succeeds Cambyses II, who had a frightful eight year reign
- Succeeded by Ahasuerus/Xerxes

**The search for the Israelites' permit
(Ezra 5:5) matters — one king could not
change the decree of a previous king.**

Daniel 6:6-15

There's another example of a decree in Esther, then a new one later. Remember Ahasuerus from Ezra 4:6?

Esther 3:8-11, then Esther 8:8-13

Darius (Darius I) gets a letter about the rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 5:6). The work has restarted under his reign, but it began under another man.

Remember that Tattenai and the other people were beyond the River, as in the Euphrates River (Ezra 5:6).

It's an important region: Ezra 4:8-16

Notice they — Israelites — reference the rebuilding of a temple of old (Ezra 5:11) and the great king that built that temple.

**That great king, as a reminder, was
Solomon. The first temple came up
during his reign.**

1 Kings 6:1-7

**Why does Ezra 5:16 say Sheshbazzar
laid the foundations of the temple?**

**We read about this man some weeks
back: Ezra 1:7-11**

He's the governor at the time.

**Zerubbabel, a popular leader at the
time, also gets credit for laid the
temple's foundation: Ezra 3:8-11**

**Notice how much more reasonable
Tattenai is than the first wave of folks
who opposed the temple rebuilding. God
is in control, as always.**

God used the pause to put people in place who would be amenable to the building of the second temple. He will do so with His plans more generally in our lives, too.

Chapter 6 details how Darius finds the decree Cyrus gave that the Jews could rebuild their temple + the city's ruins.

The eye of our God is on us in the same way that it was on the Jewish elders as God allowed them to continue building while they waited for an answer. We'll read about the answer next week.