

Sunday, 07-16-2023

**Dedication of the Temple**  
**Bible Background: Ezra 6**  
**Printed Text: Ezra 6:13-22 KJV/NLT**  
**Devotional Reading: Ezra 5:1-5**

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**Aim for Change:**

- **UNDERSTAND** that we should celebrate with joy what God has done in our lives.
    1. What don't I **UNDERSTAND** about celebrating with joy what God has done in my life?
  - **DESIRE** to celebrate God's blessings with joy.
    2. Is my **DESIRE** to celebrate God's blessings with joy?
  - **CELEBRATE** God's blessings with joy.
    3. How am I **CELEBRATING** God's blessings with joy?
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**Devotional Reading: Thursday: The Eye of God Upon Them – Ezra 5:1-5**

- In what ways has God protected me from opposition?
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**Focal Verses – The Temple's Dedication – Ezra 6:13-22**

1. **The People Dedicate the New Temple (vv. 13-16) – 1 Kings 8:22-23; Haggai 1:1-9; Zechariah 1:1-6**
    - How am I encouraged by the preached word? Does it move me to do God's will? Am I discouraged when I think I don't see God's work in action? When I enter God's house, do I remember my deliverance? How have I seen favor from the Lord? Did it promote worship to God or create pride in self? How can God use me to promote unity? How do I remain dedicated to God's temple with joy?
  2. **The People Offer Sacrifices to God for the New Temple (vv. 17-18) – Leviticus 4; 16:3-11; 1 Chronicles 24; Luke 21:1-4**
    - How am I instituting worship to God throughout the day or just on Sunday's? How am I sacrificing for the Lord to express joy/gratitude for His grace? Am I in right fellowship with Him? Is my sin out of ignorance or rebellion? What course am I on to serve the Lord? What was the significance of the offerings unto the Lord, particularly the sin offering, as the new Temple was dedicated (*Discuss the Meaning*)?
  3. **The People Celebrate Passover in the New Temple (vv. 19-22) – Proverbs 16:3-9; John 1:29-34; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8**
    - How do I represent the temple of God within me? How do I consecrate myself for the Lord? Have I removed all unclean practices to please God? How has God's favor brought me peace? What am I doing to make His name great? Why do you think that the Scripture notes in (v.22) the Lord "made them joyful" (*Discuss the Meaning*)?
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**Daily Readings:**

- **Monday: Resistance to Rebuilding the Temple – Ezra 4:1-5**
  - Can I let anyone help me do what the Lord commanded?
- **Tuesday: Accusations of Sedition – Ezra 4:11-16**
  - How have I let false accusations hinder my servitude to the Lord?
- **Wednesday: Temple Construction Halted – Ezra 4:17-24**
  - Who/what has made me stop working on the temple God gave me?
- **Friday: Who Gave You a Decree? – Ezra 5:6-17**
  - How well do I know God's decree (BIBLE)? What would He find stored in my heart?
- **Saturday: The Temple's Official Endorsement – Ezra 6:1-12 (Bible Background)**
  - How has God provided for my temple through someone else?

\*\*Note – Sunday School Lessons originate out of the Precepts for Living w/Commentary 2022-2023\*\*  
<https://store.urbanministries.com/collections/precepts-for-living/products/precepts-for-living-2023>