

The Decree of Darius - Ezra 6:1-22

Topics: Administration, Advice, Affirmation, Answers, Approval, Authority, Celebration, Consequences, Craftsmanship, Enthusiasm, Generosity, Good News, Government, Help, History, Instructions, Joy, Leadership, Needs, Opposition, Possessions, Punishment, Restoration, Sacrifice, Serving, Teamwork, Work

Open It

- * 1. What do you think is valuable about studying history?
- 2. When have you discovered something about the past that has helped you in the present?
- 3. How has your study of Israel's history helped you in your own Christian walk?

Explore It

- 4. Why were the archives in Babylon searched? (6:1)
- 5. What was found in the archives of the Babylonian treasury? (6:2)
- 6. What decree had King Cyrus issued concerning the temple in Jerusalem? (6:3-5)
- 7. What specific instructions were given to those rebuilding the temple? (6:3-5)
- * 8. What order did King Darius give to Tattenai and his associates? (6:6-7)
- 9. What additional help did King Darius order the governor to give to the Israelites? (6:8-12)
- 10. How did the king insure that his edict would not be changed? (6:11)
- 11. How did the governor and his associates react to the king's decree? (6:13)
- * 12. Under whose instruction did the work of the Jews prosper? (6:14)
- 13. When was the temple in Jerusalem completed? (6:15)
- * 14. How did Israel react to the completion of the temple? (6:16-22)
- 15. Why were priests installed at the temple? (6:18)
- 16. When and how was Passover celebrated? (6:19-22)
- 17. How did the restoration of the temple affect those Israelites who had been involved in the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors? (6:21)
- 18. Why was this Passover celebrated with such great joy? (6:22)

Get It

- 19. How do you think the Israelites felt when they heard King Darius's decree?
- 20. What causes Christians to drift away from the Lord as some of the Israelites did?
- * 21. What does this passage tell us about God's involvement in the lives of unbelievers and Christians alike?
- 22. How have you seen God's hand at work in the life of a non-Christian friend?
- 23. When has the Lord ever provided for your needs in a miraculous way?
- 24. How was Israel's celebration in this situation different from the way we celebrate our faith today?
- 25. Why do we not give sin offerings to the Lord nowadays?
- 26. What reasons do Christians have to celebrate?
- * 27. What is one thing the Lord has done for you that causes you to praise Him?

Apply It

- * 28. What is one tangible way this week you can celebrate what God has done for you?
- 29. What could you do this week to encourage a friend who has drifted away from God?
- 30. What are some steps you can take in the next month to guard yourself from drifting away from the Lord?