

October 3, 2021
Ezra 6:1-18
Without Delay, With All Diligence

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The 2nd temple was completed in 515 BC. This was 21 years after the work was begun in 536 BC. This was 4.5 years after Haggai had first come and began to prophesy. The total of all of this from the destruction of the temple in 586 BC to this dedication was 70.5 years. God's promises will come to pass. They may not happen as we think they should or in our timing.

To get a more complete picture of what was going on in the life of Israel and why, one will do well to read the OT books of Haggai and Zechariah.

In the course of this reestablishment in the land, Israel was led by men of God who were well versed in the Scriptures and at all times pointed the people toward an attitude of obedience steeped in humility to carry things out the way God desired. This shows that they had learned from the exile. God's people suffer when they sin.

The glory of the second temple was not to be compared to that of Solomon's. Some of the older exiles wept over this fact. There was another significant difference, this temple's Most Holy Place was left empty because the ark of the covenant had been lost through the Babylonian conquest. Sin has consequences.

Application:

The plans of those who opposed the construction of the temple backfired on them. What they meant for evil, God meant for good for His people Israel. Not only were the opponents not allowed to prevail in stopping the construction, they also had to lend support to the exiles in reestablishing the temple. God used pagan kings and His enemies to accomplish His purposes. God is sovereign over our lives, He is sovereign over all of creation, blessed be the Lord.

Meditate on this, **8** "Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you wrongdoers. **9** Remember the former things long past,

For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My plan will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure' **11** Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a distant country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, I will certainly do it. Listen to Me, you stubborn-minded, Who are far from righteousness I bring near My righteousness, it is not far off; And My salvation will not delay, And I will grant salvation in Zion, *And My glory for Israel.*" (**Isaiah 46:8-13** NASB) Take complete comfort in the fact that God's righteousness will prevail because He is sovereign over His creation.