

V. 9. *Jeshua*; not the one mentioned in the previous verse, but a Levite. (See ch. 2:40; Neh. 8:7.) He was the head of a Levitical house. *Kadmiel*; the head of another Levitical family. *The sons of Judah*; should probably be, "the sons of Hodaviah." This may mean that the sons of Kadmiel mentioned are limited to those of the Hodaviah branch of the family. *Together*; literally, "as one man." *To set forward*; to assist. *The sons of Henadad*; another Levite family. *Their brethren*; other Levites.

II. The Laying of the Foundations, 10-13.

V. 10. *Laid the foundation*. The prophets Haggai and Zechariah seem to imply that the foundation was not begun until the second year of Darius Hystaspis (B.C. 520), sixteen years later than Ezra places it here. But the language of the two prophets may arise from the fact that the commencement of the work was so soon postponed that when it was begun in B.C. 520 it seemed practically a new work. *In their apparel*; in their official robes. *Trumpets*; specially used at the feast connected with the new moon of the seventh month (see Lev. 23:24), but also used on semi-religious occasions of joy. *Cymbals*; instruments of brass, used to mark the time of the music. *After the ordinance*; as set forth in 1 Chron., ch. 25.

V. 11. *They sang one to another* (Rev. Ver.); one part of the choir answering another part. Some of the psalms are specially composed to be sung thus. *For his mercy*, etc.; possibly a reflection of Ps. 136. *Shouted*; heartiness and loud noise being often accompaniments of Hebrew praise.

Vs. 12, 13. *Ancient men*; "old men," as in Rev. Ver. *The first house*; the temple of Solomon. *Wept with a loud voice*; giving expression to their emotion in true Oriental fashion. *The shout of joy*; raised especially by the younger people who were filled with hope now that the temple was again established. *The weeping of the people*; because of the contrast to the former building presented by the meanness of the new one, and the small resources for its completion.

III. The Completion of the Temple, ch. 6: 14-18.

Vs. 14, 15. *The elders... builded*; after the annoying postponements of the work

described in chs. 4, 5. *Haggai... and Zechariah*; the former a layman, the latter a priest. Haggai's message was a direct one; Zechariah made use of symbols. But both sought to bring practical encouragement to the builders. *The son of Iddo*; more probably the grandson. *The decree of Cyrus* (Rev. Ver.). See ch. 1:3. *Darius*; Darius Hystaspis, the third king in succession to Cyrus. *Artaxerxes*; the second king after Darius. There is a difficulty here, seeing that the temple was finished in the reign of Darius. Artaxerxes, however, bestowed treasure upon it. See ch. 7. *Adar*; February-March. *The sixth year*; B.C. 516. The temple had thus taken more than four years to finish after the second beginning.

Vs. 16-18. *Kept the dedication*. For the account of the dedication of the first temple, see 1 Kgs., ch. 8. *Twelve he goats*. See Num. 7:87. The number was representative of the twelve tribes, although only a few of them had returned and were present at the feast of dedications. *Divisions... courses*. See 1 Chron., chs. 23, 24.

Light from the East

WEeping AND JOY—The people of the Orient are like children; they give free expression to their feelings. If you give an Arab something to eat he must show his appreciation by smacking his lips and making many sounds and gestures that to us appear undignified. They will shout for joy and they will weep. I saw the men of a country village assemble night after night in front of their chieftain's house in Jerusalem,—he was mayor of the city at the time—and spend hours in dancing and sword play and shouting, all to do honor to their kinsman, the mayor, who was to be married in a few days. In the house of death and at funerals people's feelings break out freely in wailing and tears. Of course there is a tendency for both joyous shouting and the wailing of mourners to fall into rhythmical forms. When the younger people sang at the temple building it would be some such song as Psalm 136 with its refrain for all to join in the joyous shout. When the old men wept I have no doubt that wail answered wail and thus they comforted one another in their grief.