

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

Lesson X.

Ezra 3 : 10-4 : 5—Memory Verses, 10, 11

September 3, 1899

10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Le'vites, the sons of A'saph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of Da'vid king of Is'rael.

11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD ; because *he is good*, for his mercy *endureth* for ever toward Is'rael. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

12 But many of the priests and Le'vites and chief of the fathers *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice ; and many shouted aloud for joy :

13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people : for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

1 Now when the adversaries of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Is'rael ;

2 Then they came to Zerub'babel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you : for we seek your God, as ye *do* ; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of E'sar-had'don king of As'sur, which brought us up hither.

3 But Zerub'babel, and Jesh'ua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Is'rael, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God ; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Is'rael, as king Cy'rus, the king of Per'sia hath commanded us.

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Ju'dah, and troubled them in building.

5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, even until the reign of Dari'us king of Per'sia.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The story of the journey from Babylon to Jerusalem was written by Ezra. It was many weeks before the people got there. Then they found a great deal of work waiting to be done.



Jerusalem, where the beautiful temple had stood, was just a heap of stones. So, before they could begin to build, they had to spend a long time clearing away rubbish. But

everybody helped and soon the ground was ready for the masons and carpenters to do their work.

When at last the foundation was laid, the trumpets sounded for all the people to hold a great thanksgiving. The priests put on their beautiful purple and scarlet coats, trimmed with gold and precious stones. The singers got together and started David's thanksgiving psalm beginning, "Oh give thanks unto the Lord for he is good." Everybody knew the chorus, "For his mercy endureth for ever!" and soon all the people were singing and shouting and praising God for His goodness.

But Ezra saw some old men crying. They had seen the first temple. Perhaps it made them sad to think why it had been destroyed. But most were very glad because now there was to be a new temple.

The singing and the shouting and the crying all together made a noise that could be heard miles away.

When the Samaritans near by, who were partly heathen, knew what was doing, they