

## LESSON IV.

## REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

October 22, 1905

Ezra 3 : 10 to 4 : 5. Study ch. 3 : 1 to 4 : 5. Commit to memory vs. 10, 11.

Read chs. 5, 6 and Haggai, chs. 1, 2.

GOLDEN TEXT—The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—1 Corinthians 3 : 17.

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 Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of Da'vid king of Is'rael.

11 And they sang <sup>2</sup> together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord, <sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>4</sup> chief of the fathers, <sup>5</sup> 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.

Revised Version—<sup>1</sup> order; <sup>2</sup> one to another in houses; <sup>3</sup> the old men; <sup>4</sup> a; <sup>5</sup> the; <sup>6</sup> drew near;

Ch. 4 : 1 Now when the adversaries of Ju'dah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded <sup>6</sup> the temple unto the Lord <sup>7</sup> God of Is'rael;

2 Then they <sup>8</sup> came to Zerub'babel, and to the <sup>9</sup> 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 Esar-had'don king of As'sur, which brought us up hither.

3 But Zerub'babel, and Jesh'ua, and the rest of the <sup>4</sup> 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 <sup>5</sup> 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.

praising; <sup>2</sup> saying, For he is; <sup>4</sup> heads of fathers' Assyria.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—537-521 B.C.; Jerusalem and its neighborhood.

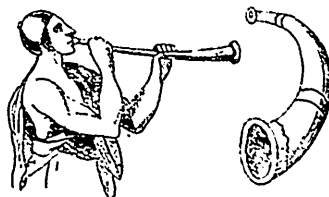
Connection—Under the leadership of Shesh-bazzar, or Zerubbabel, (see Lesson III.) 42,360 Jews (Ezra 2 : 64) left Babylon in 538 B.C. and returned to their native land. In the autumn of the same year, they erected an altar in Jerusalem for the worship of God, ch. 3 : 2. The following spring they laid the foundations of the temple.

I. THE WORK BEGUN.—10. The builders; either Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Joshua), the high priest (Zech. 3 : 1), who had charge of affairs, or the workmen. Laid the foundation of the temple; having spent the winter (see Connection) gathering material, cedar wood from Lebanon (v. 7) and stones from the ruins. Set the priests in their apparel. It was a great occasion, like laying the corner stone of a new church with us, and so the priests wore their splendid robes of blue and scarlet and purple, adorned with gold and gems, Ex., ch. 39. With trumpets; used, like our church bells, to summon assemblies (Num. 10 : 2, 3) and proclaim joyful events, 2 Kgs. 11 : 14. Sons of Asaph with cymbals. David had assigned instrumental music to the Levites, the cymbals especially to the descendants of Asaph, 1 Chron. 16 : 4, 5; 25 : 6.

11. They sang one to another (Rev. Ver.); perhaps one choir singing the first clause in each verse of such a psalm as the 136th, and another responding with the second clause. Praising . . . giving thanks . . . shouted . . . praised the Lord. What a picture of gladness! Because, etc. There was the best of reasons for their joy. The temple was commenced, and this was a sign that God was among them to bless.

12, 13. Many . . . that had seen the first house (Solomon's temple, 1 Kgs. ch. 7, destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, 2 Kgs. 25 : 9) . . . wept; the old people whose memory went back to the sad scenes

of seventy years before. Many shouted . . . for joy. The younger people had no sad memories of Solomon's temple. They remembered only the exile, and rejoiced at being back in their own land. Noise . . . of joy . . . noise of . . . weeping. So, amid mingled weeping and shouting, the foundations of the sacred building were laid. It was the beginning of new glory for the Jewish nation.



Ancient Cornets

II. THE WORK HINDERED.—Ch. 4 : 1. The adversaries . . . heard. These were the people who lived in Palestine at the time of the Jews' return. They were a mixed people, made up of : (1) The people of the Northern kingdom who had been left behind; (2) Colonists brought into the land by Sargon (2 Kgs. 17 : 24), Esar-haddon (v. 2), and Assur-banipal (Asnapper), v. 10. They were called Samaritans, from Samaria, the old capital of the Northern kingdom. Children (people) of the captivity; called in ch. 2 : 1, "children of the province" (of Judah, now part of the Persian empire). The first title points to their past calamities, the second to their restoration.

2, 3. Came to Zerubbabel; who was now governor of Judah under King Cyrus. Then they . . . said . . . Let us build with you. These people wished to be reckoned among the worshippers of