

## Lesson IV.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE SECOND  
TEMPLE LAID

October 22, 1911

Ezra 3 : 8 to 4 : 5. Study Ezra 3 : 1 to 4 : 5—Memory Verse, ch. 3 : 11.

**Golden Text**—Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.—  
Psalm 100 : 4.

8 Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jeru'salem, in the second month, began Zerub'babel the son of Sheal'tiel, and Jesh'ua the son of Jo'zadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Le'vites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jeru'salem ; and appointed the Le'vites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the Lord.

9 Then stood Jesh'ua with his sons and his brethren, Kad'miel and his sons, the sons of Ju'dah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God : the sons of Hena'dad, with their sons and their brethren the Le'vites.

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.

Ch. 4 : 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

At last the people of Judah were ready to begin building the temple of the Lord in Jeru'salem. They had already set up an altar on which they offered up sacrifices every day to God, and they had gathered together from far distant countries the precious woods and the stone of which the temple was to be built.

Then, on the day when the foundation was to be laid, the people gathered together for a great thanksgiving service. The priests and the Levites played on sweet instruments of music and sang songs of praise to the Lord. And the people were glad, and shouted with joy, because the building of the temple was begun. But many of the old men, who remembered the beautiful temple which had stood there before and which had been destroyed because of Israel's sins, wept

loudly. So, both the sounds of shouting and the sounds of weeping went up together and were heard far off.

Now, years before, when the king of Assyria had carried away captive the ten Northern tribes of Israel, he sent people from his own land to live in the cities which they had left, and these people, who were called Samaritans, had been living there since that time. Though they pretended to serve God, they really worshiped idols. But when they heard that the people of Judah had returned and were building the temple, they came to Zerubbabel the prince of Judah, and Jeshua the high priest, and others of the rulers, and said to them, " Let us help you, for we are servants of God as well as you, and have offered up sacrifices to Him ever since the