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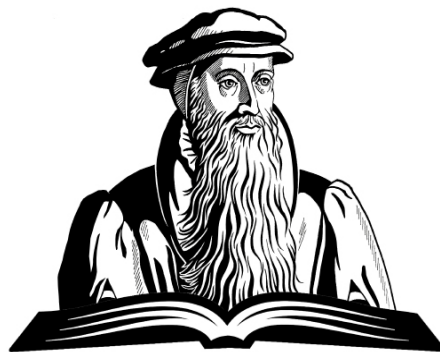
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 93

Ezra - Rebuilding the Temple

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
- 93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple**
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 93

Ezra - Return from Captivity

The Book of Ezra, chapters 3 through 6

Memory Verse

*“Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain:
and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying,
Grace, grace unto it.” - Zechariah 4:7*

Rebuilding the Temple

By the second month of the second year after their return from Babylon, enough timber had arrived from Tyre and Sidon, and enough stones had been carried from the quarries, so that Joshua, and Zerubbabel, and the Levites of twenty years and older, together with the masons and carpenters, could begin the work of rebuilding the temple. When the foundation was completed, the builders paused to thank the Lord. Everyone gathered at the site. The priests and Levites put on their white garments and played their trumpets and cymbals. A loud cheer went up among the young builders. They felt God’s favor, and could not help shouting with joy. However, we read that there were also some who wept! There were some very old Jews who still remembered the Temple of Solomon. Looking at this modest foundation, they remembered the size and magnificence of that temple, and the terrible day when that had all gone up in flames.

A Tempting Offer

The builders continued undeterred. One day, a group of men rode up and offered to help. “Let us build with you, for we seek your God, as ye do,” they said. This was a tempting offer. In Ezra 3:3, we read that “fear was upon them because of the people of those countries.” Any sign of friendship would have been welcomed with open arms, we might think. Thankfully, God gave Zerubbabel and the other leaders wisdom to foresee what the consequences would be if they accepted their help. These men were Samaritans, the descendents of the Assyrian and Babylonian people, who had moved into the depopulated country of the ten tribes, and married with the poor Israelites who had remained. The religion of the Samaritans became a strange mixture. The colonists added the worship of the Lord to the worship of their own idols. In II Kings 17:41, we read: “So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images...unto this day.” The leaders of the Jews realize how dangerous it would be to unite with these people in the worship of the Lord.

Opposition and Setbacks

In chapter 4, we read how the Samaritans now showed their true colors. In every possible way they began to obstruct the building of the temple. When a new king ascended the throne of the Persian Empire, the Samaritans sent him alarming reports about the Jews of sedition and rebellion, and succeeded in convincing the king to halt all building at Jerusalem. What a discouragement this

must have been! For sixteen years, all work stopped. The half-finished temple was more and more forgotten.

The Temple Completed

With every year that went by, the thought of ever completing the temple must have seemed more impossible. What could motivate the leaders and the people to resume their task? Only the Word of the Lord could do this. God sent two prophets who urged and encouraged the people of Judah to put the cause of the Lord before their own concerns. By these prophets, the Lord “stirred up the spirit” of Zerubbabel and Joshua, “and the spirit of all the remnant of the people” (Haggai 1:14). When the people began to build once again, the Lord inclined the heart of the Persian king to give new orders: no one was allowed to hinder the builders, and expenses would be paid for by government funds!

Four years later, the temple was completed. How the Jews must have rejoiced! “The children of Israel... kept the dedication of this house of God with joy” (Ezra 6:16). Indeed, “the Lord had made them joyful” (Ezra 6:22). If you have ever experienced the joy of undeserved salvation, or even the joy of feeling that the Lord takes notice of you, you know how this joy thrills you, and deeply humbles you at the same time. This joy runs deeper than any other possible joy on earth.

Review Questions

Ezra chapter 3

1. Which four words are the same in Ezra 3:2, Ezra 3:4, and Ezra 6:18?

2. How did the Jews pay the people of Tyre and Sidon for the cedar trees?

- a. With money
- b. With a grant from the king
- c. With meat and drink and oil
- d. Both b and c

3. Who wept when the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid?

- a. The Samaritans
- b. Joshua and Zerubbabel
- c. The young builders
- d. The ancient men

Ezra chapter 4

4. What 2 reasons did the Samaritans give why they should be able to help? _____

5. What reason did Joshua and Zerubbabel give why they could not help?

- a. The command of King Cyrus
- b. The Law of Moses
- c. The secret enmity of the Samaritans
- d. All of the above

6. How did the Samaritans bother the people of Judah?

- a. They weakened their hands
- b. They troubled them in building
- c. They hired counselors against them
- d. All of the above

7. What did the Samaritans pretend to be concerned about in Ezra 4:13?

Ezra chapters 5 and 6

7. What happened when the Jews began to build the temple again?

- a. The governor questioned them
- b. The Samaritans attacked them
- c. A letter was sent to the King to inform him
- d. Both a and c

8. Darius made several decrees when he discovered what had been written by Cyrus. What were some of these decrees? (Ezra 6)

verses 6 and 7 _____

verse 8 _____

verse 9 _____

verse 10 _____

9. From Ezra 6:14, list the four names of those who gave commandment to build and complete the temple.

Discussion Questions

10. Why did Joshua and Zerubbabel refuse the offer of the Samaritans to join them in building the Temple? Are there any lessons in this for churches today? _____

11. What two kinds of people are being referred to in Ezra 6:21? How was it possible for Gentiles to serve and follow God at that time? _____

