

# **Sunday School Live Lesson**

**November 10, 2024**

## **Collective Redemption for God's People**

**Ezra 6:1-12**

1

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

# Sunday School Lesson

## Question for Us Today

**November 10, 2024**

2

As we cope (struggle?) with the results of this week, how will we / shall we / should we go forward?

# Sunday School Lesson

## Objective

**November 10, 2024**

3

To apply the redeeming Word of the Lord to our lives today.

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1**

**November 10, 2024**

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Ezra

# Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

**November 10, 2024**

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These things

## Points of Information – Ezra

Ezra was a priest and a scribe who was a descendant of Aaron.

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It is believed that Ezra may have written the longest Chapter in our Bible: the 119<sup>th</sup> Number of Psalms (176 Verses).

## Points of Information – Ezra

In the Hebrew Bible, Ezra and Nehemiah constitute one Book.

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Both Books were written after the Babylonian exile – a time known as the postexilic period.

## Points of Information – Ezra

At the behest of Artaxerxes I, Ezra led people in a second phase of return from exile. He then oversaw the reestablishment of worship with the rebuilding of the Temple.

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In the eighth Chapter of the Book of Nehemiah, Ezra stood on a pulpit and read to the people from the Law of Moses.



# Collective Redemption

## Lesson Context

The first Chapter of Ezra tells how Cyrus, the ruler of Persia, decreed that the Hebrew people were to return (from exile) to Jerusalem.

Chapter 2 lists the names of the people who returned from exile.

# Collective Redemption

## Lesson Context

In Chapter 3, the temple construction is begun.

Chapter 4 details the opposition to the building work.

# Collective Redemption

## Lesson Context

In Chapter 5, the opposing forces make a formal complaint to the Persian leader, Darius.

This move backfires on them.

# Collective Redemption

## Lesson Context

Now, in Chapter 6, we see the movement of the Persian King Darius, by way of the plan of the Lord for His people.

## Ezra 6:1 [NLT]

So King Darius issued orders that a search be made in Babylonian archives, which were stored in the treasury.

## Ezra 6:2

But it was at the fortress at Ecbatana in the province of Media that a scroll was found. This is what it said:

“Memorandum:

## Ezra 6:3

“In the first year of King Cyrus’s reign, a decree was sent out concerning the Temple of God at Jerusalem.

“Let the Temple be rebuilt on the site where the Jews used to offer their sacrifices, using the original foundations. Its height will be ninety feet, and its width will be ninety feet.

## Ezra 6:4

Every three layers of specially prepared stones will be topped by a layer of timber. All expenses will be paid by the royal treasury.



## Ezra 6:5

Furthermore, the gold and silver cups, which were taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar from the Temple of God in Jerusalem, must be returned to Jerusalem and put back where they belong. Let them be taken back to the Temple of God.”

## Ezra 6:6

So King Darius sent this message:

“Now therefore, Tattenai, governor of the province west of the Euphrates River, and Shethar-bozenai, and your colleagues and other officials west of the Euphrates River – stay away from there!

## Ezra 6:7

Do not disturb the construction of the Temple of God. Let it be rebuilt on its original site, and do not hinder the governor of Judah and the elders of the Jews in their work.

## Ezra 6:8

“Moreover, I hereby decree that you are to help these elders of the Jews as they rebuild this Temple of God. You must pay the full construction costs, without delay, from my taxes collected in the province west of the Euphrates River so that the work will not be interrupted.

## Ezra 6:9

“Give the priests in Jerusalem whatever is needed in the way of young bulls, rams, and male lambs for the burnt offerings presented to the God of Heaven. And without fail, provide them with as much wheat, salt, wine, and olive oil as they need each day.

## Ezra 6:10

Then they will be able to offer acceptable sacrifices to the God of Heaven and pray for the welfare of the king and his sons.

## Ezra 6:11

“Those who violate this decree in any way will have a beam pulled from their house. Then they will be lifted up and impaled on it, and their house will be reduced to a pile of rubble.

## Ezra 6:12

May the God Who has chosen the city of Jerusalem as the place to honor His Name destroy any king or nation that violates this command and destroys this Temple.

“I, Darius, have issued this decree. Let it be obeyed with all diligence.”



## Remember these things:

God has not lost a battle.

God has not forgotten His people.

The Lord has and will continue to rescue and redeem His people.

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## Bibliography – 2

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Understanding the Old Testament. Our Daily Bread.

# Next Sunday School Live Lesson

**November 17, 2024**

## **God's Plan For Our Personal Redemption**

**Ezra 6:1-12**

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Instructor: Michael McCants