

**The Book of Ezra**  
**Study #11**  
**(Ezra 6)**  
**The Temple Completed!**

**I. The Reply (6:1-12)**

**A. The Decree of Cyrus (1-5)**

1. The Discovery (1-2)
2. The Details (3-5)
  - a. The Construction (3-4)
  - b. The Contents (5)

**B. The Decree of Darius (6-12)**

1. The Prohibition (6-7)
2. The Provision (8-9; Matt. 6:25-34)
3. The Purpose (10)
4. The Punishment (11-12)

**II. The Rebuilding (13-18)**

**A. The Conformity (13)**

**B. The Completion (14-15)**

1. The Importance of the Work
2. The Importance of the Word

**B. The Celebration (16-18)**

1. The Offering (16-17; 1 Chron. 16:29)
2. The Organization (18)

**III. The Renewal (19-22)**

**A. The Purification (19-21)**

1. The Priests (19-20)
2. The People (21)

**B. The Praise (22)**

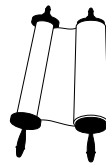
1. God's Providence
2. God's Provision
3. God's Place (Ps. 84:10; 122:1)

**CONCLUSION:**

There are many ways to pray for God's help. Have you ever considered that God would change the attitude of a person or group of people? God is infinitely powerful, his insight and wisdom transcend the laws of human nature. While you must always change your attitude as a first step, remember that he can change the attitude of others.  
 (LAB)

**EZRA: OUTLINE**

- I. Rebuilding the Place of God (Chapters 1-6)  
 (The Ministry of Zerubbabel)
  - A. The Return (Chapters 1-2)
  - B. The Rebuilding (Chapters 3-6)
    1. The Restoration of Worship (3:1-7)
    2. The Rebuilding of the Temple (3:8-6:22)
      - a. Commenced (3:8-13)
      - b. Contested (4:1-6:12)
        - 1) The Opposition (Ch. 4)
        - 2) The Outcry (Ch. 5)
          - a) God's Decree (5:1,2)
          - b) Governor's Dilemma (5:3-17)
        - 3) The Outcome (Darius' letter) (6:1-12)
      - c. Completed (6:13-22)
        - 1) The Finishing (6:13-15)
        - 2) The Feast (6:16-18)
        - 3) The Feasts (6:19-22)



**DARIUS I (521-486 BC)**

This king was also known as Darius Hystaspes and Darius the Great. Darius I seized the throne of the Persian Empire after the death of Cambyses II. His authority was not accepted in all the provinces. After Darius crushed several revolts, however, his power was firmly established. He turned his attention to expanding the empire. His military campaigns extended Persian borders to the Danube River in the west and to the Indus River in the east. Those efforts made him ruler of the largest empire the world had known. A conflict between Greece and Persia continued until Alexander the Great conquered the empire in 330 BC. The conflict began when Darius launched two invasions of Greece after conquering Thrace and Macedonia. The first march was destroyed by a storm in the Aegean Sea. The second group was defeated by the Athenians in the famous battle of Marathon in 490 BC.

An able administrator, Darius did much to promote trade and commerce. He instituted a uniform system of weights and measures. During his reign, a canal from the Nile River to the Red Sea was completed. In addition, a sea route from the Indus River to Egypt was explored.

Darius built at Babylon, Ecbatana, and Susa, his capital. A great royal road was constructed from Susa to the Lydian capital of Sardis. His greatest architectural accomplishment was the founding of Persepolis. Darius also allowed temples to be built in Egypt and in Jerusalem. He continued Cyrus's policy of respecting the religious customs of his subjects.

Darius I is the Darius, king of Persia, mentioned in the books of Ezra, Haggai, and Zechariah. Ezra 5-6 records that Zerubbabel and Jeshua, with the help of Haggai and Zechariah, finished rebuilding the temple during Darius's reign. Zerubbabel and Jeshua had returned to Jerusalem under Cyrus II about 538 BC (Ezra 2:2). They completed the temple in the sixth year of Darius (Ezra 6:15). That must have been the sixth year of Darius I (516 BC). That identification was confirmed by discovery of a Babylonian document, dated June 5, 502 BC. (*Illumina*)