

**The Book of Ezra**  
**Study #10**  
**(Ezra 5)**  
**The Building Resumes!**

**I. A Renewal of the Construction (1-2)**

**A. An Exhortation From the Lord**

(1; 2 Tim. 4:8; Haggai 1:2-8)

**B. An Example From the Leaders (2)**

**II. A Renewal of the Concerns (3-5)**

**A. The Leaders' Interrogation (3-4)**

1. Concerning Permission (3)

2. Concerning Personnel (4; 2 Tim. 2:12)

**B. The Lord's Intervention (5; Ps. 33:10)**

**III. A Renewal of the Correspondence (6-17)**

**A. A Report to the King (8-16)**

1. Concerning The Actions of the Jews (8-10)

2. Concerning The Answers of the Jews (11-16)

a. Our Reason (11; 2 Tim. 1:12)

b. Our Removal (12; Deut. 11:26-28)

c. Our Restoration (13-15; Heb. 12:5-11)

d. Our Return (16)

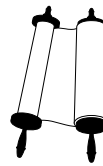
**B. A Request for the King (17)**

**CONCLUSION:**

1. We should be constant in our witness.
2. God cares about the lives of His children.
3. God is in control!
4. God will be there!
5. We ought to be thankful!

**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)



**Zerubbabel / Sheshbazzar**

In response to Tattenai Zerubbabel and Jeshua stated that Cyrus had allowed a remnant to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and even gave them articles which had been taken from Solomon's temple (cf. 1:2-4, 7-11). The letter-writers also recounted the fact that Cyrus gave Sheshbazzar the task of carrying out the king's command—to return the articles and to build another temple in the city. Sheshbazzar was mentioned to show Tattenai that the building program was legal. Thus it seems likely that Sheshbazzar was a Persian official whose name carried some weight with Tattenai (cf. comments on 1:8 on several views of Sheshbazzar's identity). Are Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel the same person? Many think so because Sheshbazzar laid the temple foundations, and so did Zerubbabel (3:8-10). However, this is not absolute proof that the two men were identical. Sheshbazzar could have been responsible, as the king's representative, to see that the work was begun, and Zerubbabel the Jewish leader who completed the task. Tattenai and the officials asked that the king research the records in Babylon (cf. 6:1-2) to find out if what the Jews had said about a decree from Cyrus was true. That such records were carefully kept is attested by archeology. (*Bible Knowledge Commentary*)

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5:3 **Tatnai** - of foreign derivative; Tattenai, a Persian. Cuneiform tablets mention Tattenai, governor of the province Trans-Euphrates.