

RETURN, REBUILD, RESTORE

Summit Christian Athletics January Devotional



EZRA 6:14-22

So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

Then the people of Israel—the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles—celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. For the dedication of this house of God they offered a hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs and, as a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, one for each of the tribes of Israel. And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses.

On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover. The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their relatives the priests and for themselves. So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors in order to seek the LORD, the God of Israel. For seven days they celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because the LORD had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION



Players & Coaches: Use this space to write down a prayerful reflection on how this scripture applies to your team

TEAM REFLECTION

1. It was Haggai and Zechariah that also got the work started again in the beginning of chapter 5. Their leadership must have been incredible! How can you be like these leaders and get people going during hard times, as well as help their work prosper in the good times?
2. It says in verse 16 that they celebrated the work with joy! How can we be a team with joy, and how will joy help us as a team?
3. Now that the temple was ready for the Passover, the people had to get themselves ready! The priests and Levites had to be ceremonially clean, the common people had to bring offerings, etc. How can we prepare ourselves for every game day we have left?