

A LEADER FROM GOD
LUKE 3:27 / 6-3-18 / PM

I. ZERUBBABEL'S LIFE.

- A. What do we know about him?
1. His name means "**Born in Babylon**".
 2. He was from the tribe of Judah and in fact is considered the prince of Judah—Ezra 1:8.
 3. He was also a descendant of King David.
 4. Furthermore he is listed as an ancestor of Jesus—Luke 3:27.
- B. Zerubbabel led the first of three groups of Jewish exiles who returned from Babylonian captivity.
1. Israel or the Northern Kingdom had been destroyed and mostly exiled by the Assyrians in 721 B.C.
 2. Judah or the Southern Kingdom had been destroyed and mostly exiled by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.
 3. The Persians defeated the Babylonians in 539 B.C. and allowed the Jewish exiles who wanted to return to their homeland to do so as long as they paid them tribute or taxes.
 4. This fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah found in Jeremiah 29:10.
 5. Zerubbabel led this first group to return—Ezra 2:1-2.
 6. Cyrus, King of Persia appointed Zerubbabel as the Governor of Judea—Haggai 1:1.
 7. Zerubbabel was allowed to return with the vessels of gold and silver stolen from the Temple during the Babylonian destruction—Ezra 1:11.
- C. What did Zerubbabel and the exiles do when he arrived at Jerusalem?
1. They immediately rebuilt the altar that was in front of the Temple.
 2. They kept the Feast of Tabernacles.
 3. They started to rebuild the Temple that was destroyed by the Babylonians. It's often called "**The Second Temple**" or "**Zerubbabel's Temple**".
 4. This Second Temple would be remodeled by King Herod the Great at the time of Jesus' birth.

5. After two years construction was halted due to Samaritan opposition and their convincing the Persians it would be in their best interest to stop construction—Ezra 4:4 .
 6. A secondary reason for the delay in rebuilding the Temple was mentioned by the Prophet Haggai as the exiles preoccupation with building their own homes—Haggai 1:2-4.
 7. Following a delay in construction of 17 years the exiles resumed rebuilding the Temple in 520 B.C.at the urging of the Prophets Haggai and Zechariah—Ezra 5:1-2.
 8. The Temple was finally finished 4 years later in 516 B.C. exactly 70 years after the Prophet Jerimiah said it would be—Ezra 6:16.
- D. What happened after the Temple was finally rebuilt?
1. They celebrated Passover for the first time in 70 years—Ezra 6:19.
 2. Haggai promised the God would bless Zerubbabel for all he did in rebuilding the Temple—Haggai 2:23.
 3. Interestingly there is no mention of Zerubbabel at the Temple’s dedication or any time after this.

II. LESSONS FROM ZERUBBABEL.

1. **God can use anyone regardless of their station in life if they are willing.** Although Zerubbabel was born in exile God used him in a mighty way.
2. **Something good can come from something bad.** Although the Temple was destroyed and the people were exiled God delivered them and rebuilt the Temple.
3. **Expect opposition.** The Samaritans opposed the exiles rebuilding the Temple and the city of Jerusalem.
4. **Good things sometimes can get in the way of the best things.** The exiles building their homes interfered in rebuilding the Temple.
5. **God puts people in our lives to help us serve Him.** The prophets Haggai and Zechariah encouraged Zerubbabel and the exiles to finish building the Temple.
6. **God blesses our spiritual service.** Haggai issued God’s blessing on Zerubbabel’s service of God (Haggai 2:23).

