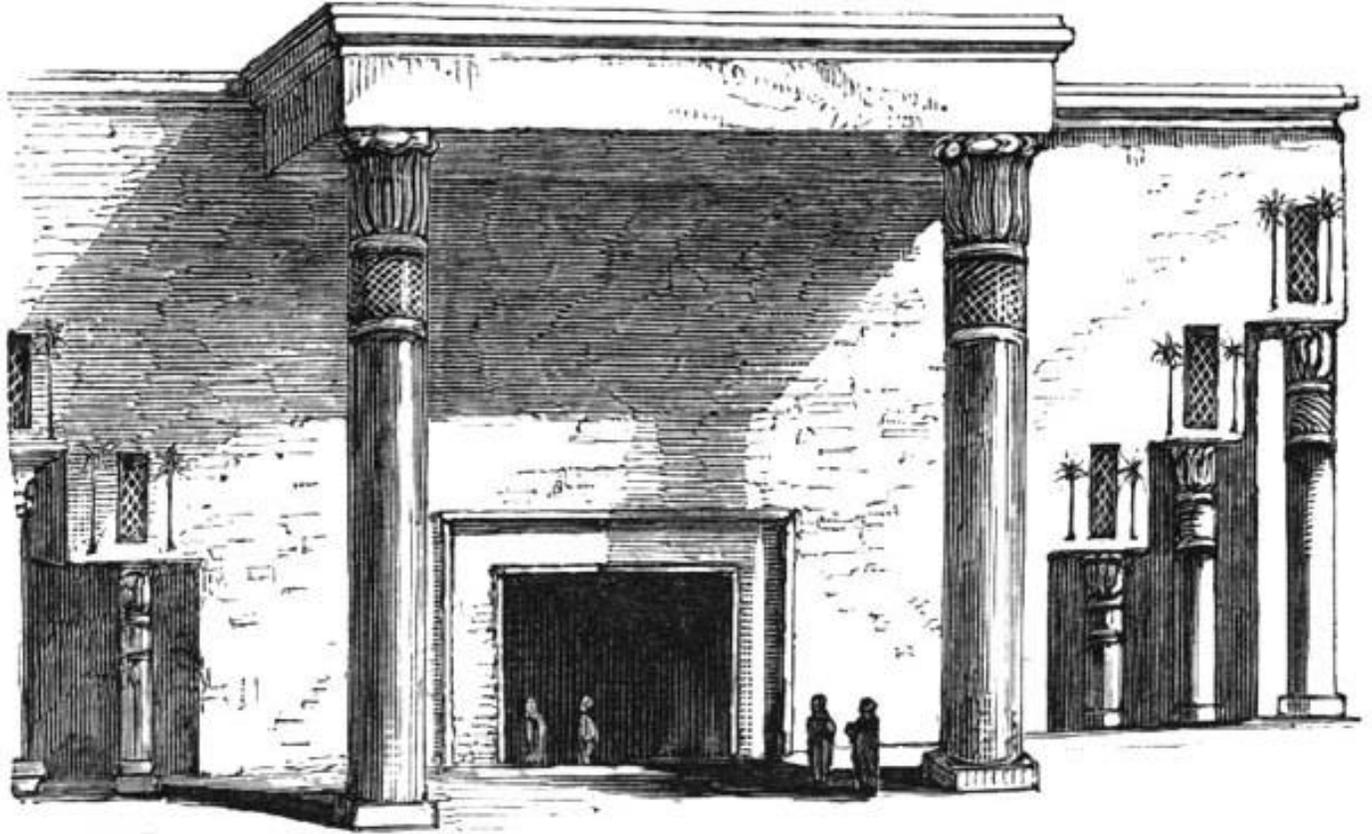


# Return from Captivity & Rebuilding the Temple

Ezra 1 - 6



Temple porch



All of these things can cause us trouble. Tell what kind of trouble each thing can cause. Today we are going to see how God took care of all troubles for the children of Israel. God also takes care of all our troubles.



# The Story

The children of Israel were God's people. God blessed them and gave them a beautiful land in which to live. The land was called Canaan or sometimes, Israel. God took care of them and gave them everything they needed. Even though God gave the children of Israel everything they needed, they did not obey God's commandments. To punish them, God let some enemies take the children of Israel away to a far land as prisoners. The far land was called Babylonia and the children of Israel had to stay there for 70 years.

Today we will hear a story written down by Ezra the prophet. This is not a make-believe story, but a true story. Ezra lived back in the time when the children of Israel were prisoners in Babylonia. God helped Ezra write a perfect story to tell us what happened to the children of Israel.

The new king was named Cyrus. He believed in God. Cyrus wanted to let the children of Israel go home. He made a law that said the children of Israel could go home. He told them to rebuild Jerusalem, the main city of the children of Israel. Cyrus also said that he would give them all the money they would need to rebuild the temple. He also made a law that everyone in the land should give the children of Israel something to help them rebuild their city.

Zerubbabel was the new leader of the children of Israel. He led all the people back to Canaan. The people were very happy to return to the Promised Land of Canaan. God had told the children of Israel that they would live in the Promised Land. God also told them that the Savior Jesus would be born there. So when the people got back to Canaan, they started to build the Temple. The Temple was the

big church in which the people worshiped. The people wanted to worship God and thank Him for bringing them back to the Promised Land.

There were many people who did not want the children of Israel to live in the land of Canaan. They tried to stop the children of Israel from building the Temple. They would fight against them with armies. They even tricked the new king named Artaxerxes and the new king told the children of Israel to stop building the Temple. So the children of Israel had to wait for 16 years before they could keep building the Temple. Then another new king came to power. His name was Darius. Darius told the children of Israel that they could continue building the Temple. Finally, the Temple was rebuilt so the children of Israel could worship God again.

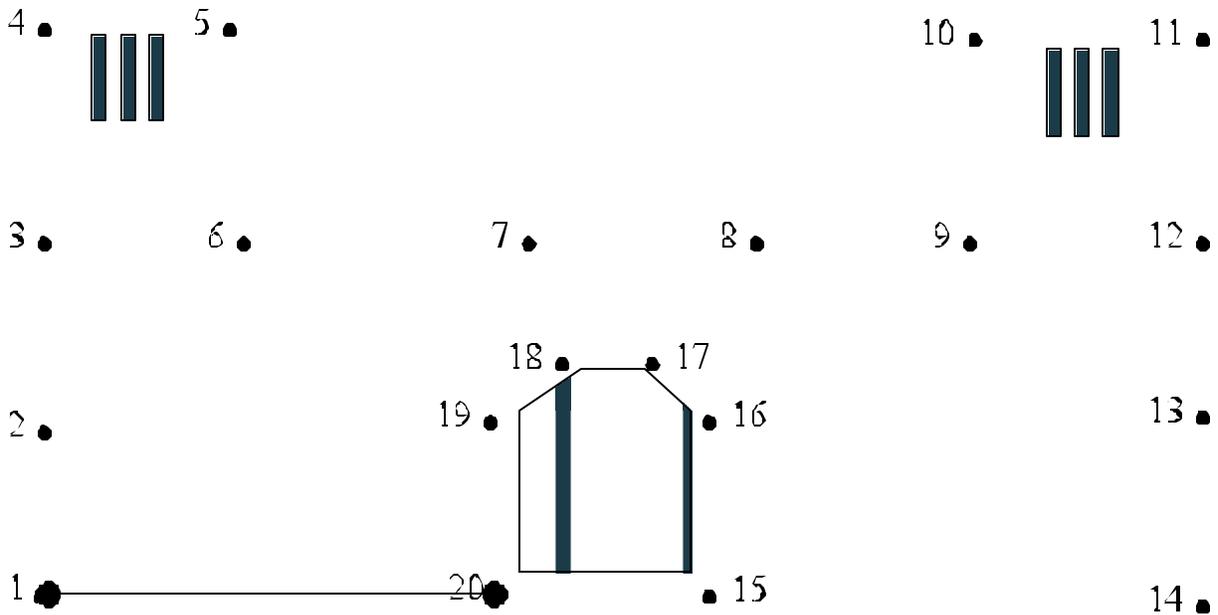
You might think that all the troubles were done now that the Temple was built. They weren't. In those days, your city needed to have high walls around them or your enemies could attack you easily. Jerusalem didn't have any walls so they needed to build walls. This was a big job. The enemies of the children of Israel didn't want the walls built, so they tried to stop them again. But God helped the children of Israel to finish the walls of Jerusalem so they could live safely.

Again you might think all the troubles of the children of Israel were done, but they weren't. The Temple was built. The walls were done. The people had a safe place to live and worship, but some of the people ignored God's commandments again. God sent the prophet Ezra to go to the people and tell them about their sins. When Ezra reminded them of God's words, the people repented and started to do what God wanted them to.

Questions for the teacher to ask for review.

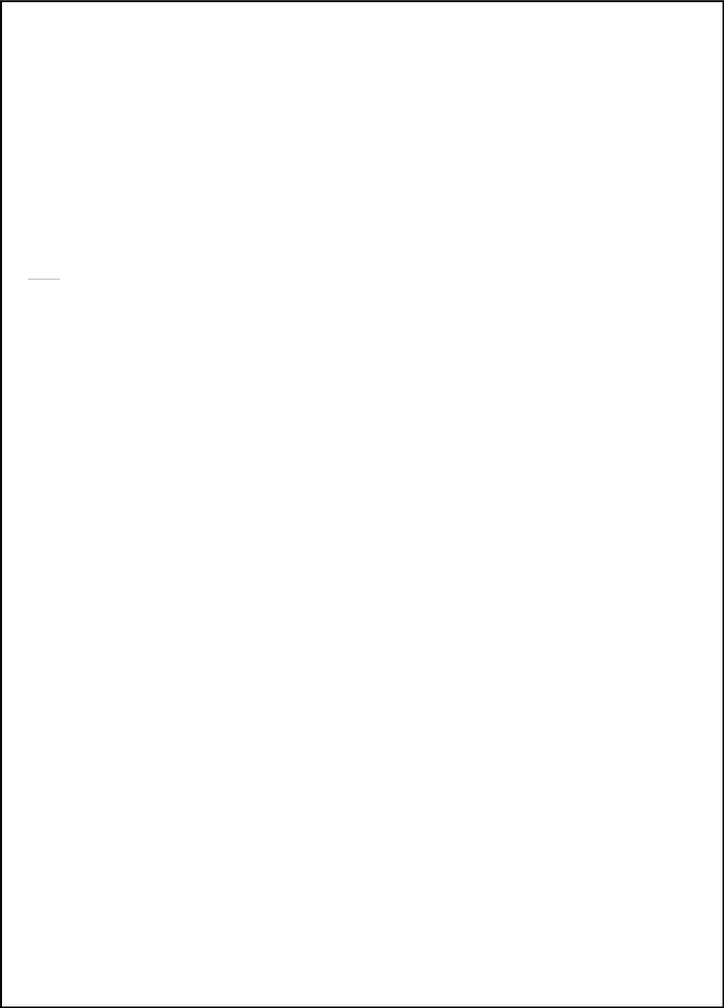
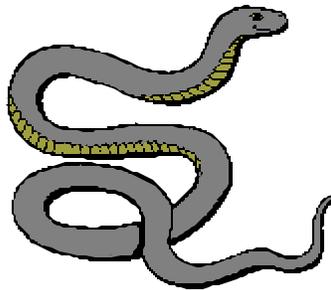
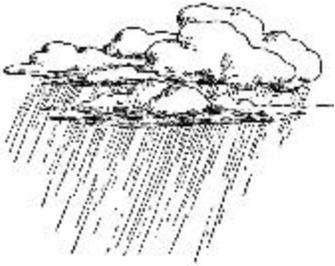
1. Why were the children of Israel captives in Babylonia?
2. Who said that the children of Israel could return home?
3. Who was the one who really made it possible for the children of Israel to go back to Canaan?
4. What was the first thing the children of Israel rebuilt in Jerusalem?
5. Why did they rebuild the Temple first?
6. Who tried to stop them from rebuilding?
7. How did God help the children of Israel to finish building the Temple?
8. What else did God have to help the children of Israel rebuild?
9. Who told the people that they should listen to what God told them?
10. What did the people do when they heard God's word about their sins?

**Activity One** - Help Zerubbabel and the children of Israel to rebuild Jerusalem by connecting the dots in order from 1 to 20 . When you are finished building the city, color it.



**God delivered His people from their captivity and brought them back to the Promised Land of Canaan.**

**Activity Two** -Circle the things that can cause us problems. What kinds of trouble can these things bring us? The question mark means, "What other things can you think of that give us troubles?" Who will take care of all our troubles? In the box, draw a picture of Jesus, the one who takes care of all our troubles.



**God delivers us from every trial.**

## Passages

Psalms 136:1 - Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Joshua 24:15 - But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

## Hymn - TLH #636 v. 1, 3

Great is the Lord, our God,  
And let His praise be great;  
He makes His churches His abode,  
His most delightful seat.

In Zion God is known,  
A Refuge in distress;  
How bright has His salvation shone,  
How fair His heav'nly grace!

## Prayer

Dear God in heaven, we all have some troubles in our lives. You are the only one who can take care of all those troubles. Thank You for showing us in our story today how You fixed the troubles of the children of Israel. Also, remind us that You will take care of our troubles, too. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen