



BUILDING THE TEMPLE



EZRA 3:10-13; 4-6

The people were ready to build the temple in Jerusalem. After they worked on the first part, the people stopped to celebrate. Priests put on their special clothes and played music on their instruments. Others played cymbals while the people sang praises to God.

Some people in the neighboring towns wanted to build the temple, too. But the Israelites said they alone must build it. More people tried to cause trouble for the Israelites in Jerusalem. Then the king stopped everyone from building the temple!

Some of God's prophets encouraged the Israelites to start building again.

The king told the men who quarreled and complained about the building to stop their work. "Leave the building of the temple alone," the king said. The king told the men that the money for the building would be paid so the work did not stop. "Whatever is needed, give it to the people," said the king.

The people did what the king said, and the Israelites kept on building the temple exactly as God said to build it.

When the temple was finished, the priests and all the families celebrated. The people ate together and had a festival for seven days. The people worshiped God for His goodness.