

11. Construction

Scriptures:	Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi
Focal point:	Rebuilding of Jerusalem
Principal characters:	Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah, King of Persia
Primary events:	Babylon Overthrown by Persia Zerubbabel Rebuilds the Temple Ezra Re-establishes the Temple Worship and the Law Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall of Jerusalem

King Cyrus issued a proclamation allowing Jews to *return* to Jerusalem and rebuild the house of God. Ezra 1:3

- The decree of Cyrus brought an official ***end*** to the captivity.

The first company returned under Zerubbabel, a *prince* of Judah.

- The group consisted of less than 50,000 people.
- Because of opposition and spiritual indifference, the work was caused to cease for about **16** years.
- The people got busy building again, and about five years later the ***temple*** was completed and dedicated with great joy.

The second expedition was led by *Ezra*, a scribe, about 78 years after Zerubbabel's return.

The final expedition was led by Nehemiah, whose burden was to rebuild the *walls* of the city.

- Nehemiah declared, "Let us arise and build." With enthusiasm, prayer, and hard work, they ***finished*** the colossal task. Everybody did their part!

Imagine what could be accomplished if every believer found his place and had a mind and a will to work with ***united*** devotion for the cause of Christ. Nehemiah 6:15-16