

The Temple Completed (March 12, 515 BC)

Ezra 6:14b–18

14b And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

15 This temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

16 And the sons of Israel, the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

17 They offered for the dedication of this temple of God 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel 12 male goats, corresponding to the number of the tribes of Israel.

18 Then they appointed the priests to their divisions and the Levites in their orders for the service of God in Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses.

Passover Celebrated (April 21–27, 515 BC)

Ezra 6:19–22

19 The exiles observed the Passover on the fourteenth of the first month.

20 For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were pure. Then they slaughtered the Passover *lamb* for all the exiles, both for their brothers the priests and for themselves.

21 The sons of Israel who returned from exile and all those who had separated themselves from the impurity of the nations of the land to *join* them, to seek the LORD God of Israel, ate *the Passover*.

22 And they observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had caused them to rejoice, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them to encourage them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

Make a Joyful Noise to the LORD (c. 515 BC)

Psalms 98

A Psalm.

- 1 O sing to the LORD a new song,
For He has done wonderful things,
His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.
- 2 The LORD has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- 3 He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 4 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;
Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.
- 5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
With the lyre and the sound of melody.
- 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
Shout joyfully before the King, the LORD.
- 7 Let the sea roar and all it contains,
The world and those who dwell in it.
- 8 Let the rivers clap their hands,
Let the mountains sing together for joy
- 9 Before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth;
He will judge the world with righteousness
And the peoples with equity.

Let the Redeemed of the LORD Say So (c. 515 BC)

Psalm 107

- 1 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say *so*,
Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary
- 3 And gathered from the lands,
From the east and from the west,
From the north and from the south.
- 4 They wandered in the wilderness in a desert region;
They did not find a way to an inhabited city.
- 5 *They were* hungry and thirsty;
Their soul fainted within them.
- 6 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;
He delivered them out of their distresses.
- 7 He led them also by a straight way,
To go to an inhabited city.
- 8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!
- 9 For He has satisfied the thirsty soul,
And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good. [[Luke 1:53](#)]
- 10 There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death,
Prisoners in misery and chains,
- 11 Because they had rebelled against the words of God
And spurned the counsel of the Most High.
- 12 Therefore He humbled their heart with labor;
They stumbled and there was none to help.
- 13 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;
He saved them out of their distresses.
- 14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death
And broke their bands apart.
- 15 Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!
- 16 For He has shattered gates of bronze
And cut bars of iron asunder.
- 17 Fools, because of their rebellious way,
And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.
- 18 Their soul abhorred all kinds of food,
And they drew near to the gates of death.
- 19 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;
He saved them out of their distresses.
- 20 He sent His word and healed them,
And delivered *them* from their destructions.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!
- 22 Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
And tell of His works with joyful singing.
- 23 Those who go down to the sea in ships,

Who do business on great waters;
24 They have seen the works of the LORD,
And His wonders in the deep.
25 For He spoke and raised up a stormy wind,
Which lifted up the waves of the sea.
26 They rose up to the heavens, they went down to the depths;
Their soul melted away in *their* misery.
27 They reeled and staggered like a drunken man,
And were at their wits' end.
28 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
And He brought them out of their distresses.
29 He caused the storm to be still,
So that the waves of the sea were hushed.
30 Then they were glad because they were quiet,
So He guided them to their desired haven.
31 Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!
32 Let them extol Him also in the congregation of the people,
And praise Him at the seat of the elders.
33 He changes rivers into a wilderness
And springs of water into a thirsty ground;
34 A fruitful land into a salt waste,
Because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it.
35 He changes a wilderness into a pool of water
And a dry land into springs of water;
36 And there He makes the hungry to dwell,
So that they may establish an inhabited city,
37 And sow fields and plant vineyards,
And gather a fruitful harvest.
38 Also He blesses them and they multiply greatly,
And He does not let their cattle decrease.
39 When they are diminished and bowed down
Through oppression, misery and sorrow,
40 He pours contempt upon princes
And makes them wander in a pathless waste.
41 But He sets the needy securely on high away from affliction,
And makes *his* families like a flock.
42 The upright see it and are glad;
But all unrighteousness shuts its mouth.
43 Who is wise? Let him give heed to these things,
And consider the lovingkindnesses of the LORD.

I Will Praise the LORD While I Live (c. 515 BC)

Psalm 146

1 Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
2 I will praise the LORD while I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

- 3 Do not trust in princes,
In mortal man, in whom there is no salvation.
- 4 His spirit departs, he returns to the earth;
In that very day his thoughts perish.
- 5 How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
Whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- 6 Who made heaven and earth,
The sea and all that is in them; [[Acts 4:24b; 14:15b](#)]
Who keeps faith forever;
- 7 Who executes justice for the oppressed;
Who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free.
- 8 The LORD opens *the eyes of* the blind;
The LORD raises up those who are bowed down;
The LORD loves the righteous;
- 9 The LORD protects the strangers;
He supports the fatherless and the widow,
But He thwarts the way of the wicked.
- 10 The LORD will reign forever,
Your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD!

Opposition to the Remnant During Ahasuerus' [Xerxes] Reign (c. 486/485 BC)

Ezra 4:6

6 Now in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they [the local residents] wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

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