

May 17, 2026

THE FAVOR OF GOD

Pastor: [Jesse Bradley](#) Series: [Come Home](#) Scripture: [Ezra 6:1-22](#)

Chapter Six – FINISH THE JOB

Read [Ezra 6:1-22](#)

The original decree and document validated the Israelites' claims. It was not in Babylon's archives because Cyrus made the decree in 538 while he was 300 miles northeast, where he lived that particular summer. Vindication came when the decree included financial gifts from the royal treasury, the return of gold and silver articles to the temple, and penalties for violators. King Darius had some respect for Yahweh. The governor Tattenai's inquiry backfired.

God always prevails.

God gives grace to the humble but opposes the proud. The temple was fully completed in 515 BC. Although it was smaller and less impressive than Solomon's original temple, it was still very significant. In fact, Jesus would one day set foot in this temple. In that way, the glory was greater in the later edifice.

God's presence is what the temple is all about in its essence.

The people celebrated the Passover for the first time in 70 years. God works through pagan leaders to accomplish His purposes and plans.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is the decree of Darius? ([Ezra 6:1-5](#))
2. What are the blessings from God in this chapter? ([Ezra 6:6-10](#))
3. Why is it important to diligently protect what we value in life? ([Ezra 6:11-12](#))
4. What does city transformation look like? ([Ezra 6:13-18](#))
5. What is the significance of the Passover and this celebration? ([Ezra 6:19-22](#))
6. Who can you share this Scripture with during the upcoming week?

SERMON POINTS

Blessings come from unexpected people and places.

You respond with a joyful diligence to serve your community and glorify God.

The new blessings are connected to ancient blessings and future blessings.