### Ezra

## Chapter 5

1It was then that the Prophets HagGai and ZechariAh (son of IdDo) [each] spoke prophecies about the Jews in Judah and JeruSalem in the Name of the God of IsraEl.  
  
2So, ZerubBabel (son of ShealtiEl) and JoShua (son of JoZadek) got up and started rebuilding the Temple of God in JeruSalem once again, along with the Prophets of God who came to help them.  
  
3Then TatNai (the vassal king on the other side of the river) and ShetharBozNai and their fellow servants came to them and asked:  
  
 ‘By whose decree are you rebuilding this Temple?  
  
 ‘Where did you get the money? 4And what are the names of the men who have started rebuilding this city?’  
  
5Well, the eyes of God had been watching over the captivity of Judah and He didn’t make them stop working on the Temple during the time that a report was being carried to Darius by his tax collector, and while they were thereafter awaiting his reply.  
  
6This is what the letter that was sent to King Darius by TatNai (the vassal king from the other side of the river), ShetharBozNai, and their fellow servants (who were ApharSachaeans that lived on the other side of the river) said:  
  
 7‘To Darius the king,  
  
 ‘May you have peace in everything.  
  
 8‘Let it be known to the king that we went into Judea to the Temple of the great God, and found it being rebuilt with the best of stone and with timbers being inserted into the walls. We also found that the workmanship was well done and proceeding very well under them.  
  
 9‘So, we asked the elders there by whose decree this Temple was being rebuilt, who was providing the money for the construction, 10and what their names were, so we could send [this information] to you.  
  
 11‘And this was their reply:  
  
 ‘We are servants of the God of the lands and the skies, and we’re rebuilding the Temple that was built here many years ago by a great king of IsraEl, who prepared it for [His people].  
  
 12‘But when our ancestors made the God of of the heavens angry, He handed them over to NebuChadNezzar, the Chaldean king of Babylon.  
  
 ‘So, this Temple was allowed to rest and the people were resettled in Babylon.  
  
 13‘However, in the 1st year of Cyrus (the king [that conquered] the Babylonians), he issued a decree to rebuild this Temple of God, 14and to return the items of gold and silver to the Temple of God which NebuChadNezzar had taken from the Temple in JeruSalem and carried to his own temple in Babylon.  
  
 15‘Then King Cyrus had these things taken from the temple in Babylon and he gave them to SheshBazzar (his royal treasurer), telling him to go and return it all to the Temple of God in JeruSalem, so that it could be rebuilt in the place where it once stood.  
  
 16‘So, SheshBazzar went to JeruSalem and laid the Temple foundation… Which has been under construction since that time, but it hasn’t been finished yet.’  
  
 17‘Now, if the king approves... Please send someone to the treasury in the king’s temple in Babylon to see if King Cyrus really did issue such a decree to rebuild the Temple of God in JeruSalem.  
  
 ‘And when the king finds out, may he send a reply to us.’