

Ezra 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

Analysis

And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. This precise dating—'third day of Adar' (twelfth month, roughly February/March)—demonstrates historical accuracy. The Hebrew verb shlam (שָׁלָם, 'finished') shares root with shalom, suggesting completion brings peace. The temple was finished exactly as prophesied, showing God's faithfulness to His timeline.

The 'sixth year of Darius' (515 BC) means construction took approximately four years after work resumed under Haggai and Zechariah's preaching (520 BC). Adding earlier delays, the total time from Cyrus's decree (538 BC) to completion spanned twenty-three years—a generation. Yet God's purposes prevailed despite human opposition and delay.

This completion occurred almost exactly seventy years after Solomon's temple destruction (586 BC), fulfilling Jeremiah's prophecy with remarkable precision. The temple's completion marked restoration from exile, though its glory was diminished compared to Solomon's temple (Haggai 2:3). Yet God's presence mattered more than architectural grandeur.

Historical Context

Adar corresponded to late winter, strategically timed before Passover (celebrated in Nisan, the following month). This allowed proper dedication and the first Passover celebration in the restored temple, connecting the exodus deliverance to the exile return. The temple stood on this site until Herod's expansion, and that structure until AD 70.

Archaeological evidence from this period is limited but confirms Persian-era occupation in Jerusalem. The 'Second Temple' served as Israel's worship center for nearly 600 years, witnessing Jesus's ministry. Though lacking the Ark of the Covenant, it maintained sacrificial worship and God's ordained priesthood.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness to complete the temple despite decades of delay encourage trust in His timing?
2. What does the diminished glory of the Second Temple teach about the relationship between external splendor and spiritual reality?
3. How should believers balance appreciation for sacred architecture with recognition that God's presence matters most?

Interlinear Text

וַיְשִׁיכְיָא	בֵּית הַ	דָּת הַ	וְעַד	יֹם	תַּלְמֵת הַ	לִיכְחָדָךְ	אַדְרָא
was finished	house	And this	on	day	the third	of the month	Adar
H3319	H1005	H1836	H5705	H3118	H8532	H3393	H144
דַּי	שָׁנָת	שְׁתִּים	שְׁתִּים	לְמַלְכֵה	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ
H1768	which was	year	in the sixth	of the reign	of Darius	the king	
H1932	H8140	H8353	H4437	H1868	H4430		

Additional Cross-References

Esther 3:7 (Kingdom): In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

Esther 9:21 (Parallel theme): To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,