

A wooden cross is positioned on the right side of the frame, extending from the top right towards the bottom center. The background is white with numerous red splatters of varying sizes and shapes, creating a stark, dramatic effect. The text "THE COST OF SEPARATION" is centered in the middle of the image, written in a white, serif, all-caps font.

THE COST
OF SEPARATION

After **70 years** of being oppressed in a foreign land, God's people are finally back in **Jerusalem**

The **foundation** of the temple had been laid (there's a mixture of shouts of **joy** and cries of deep **sorrow**)

A wooden cross is positioned in the upper right corner of the frame. The background is white with numerous red splatters of varying sizes and shapes, creating a stark, dramatic effect. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS

Ezra 1:1-4

Finally, they were back in Jerusalem
and the **rebuilding** of the temple
was being supported and funded
by the **Persian Empire**

This was an exciting start, but they
were anticipating **MORE**
(before long they'd experience
God's blessings)

Ezra 3:8-9

After collecting ALL the necessary
resources, work on rebuilding the
temple was officially underway

Zerubbabel – was the governor
(the political leader)

Jeshua – was the High Priest
(the spiritual leader)

God was re-establishing both
the throne and the altar
(and both pointed forward and
are fulfilled in Jesus Christ)

Ezra 3:10-11

What a massive historical moment-
after 70 long years, the foundation
to God's holy temple was laid

Ezra 3:12-13

For those who had seen with
their own eyes the splendor and
glory of the first temple
this one missed the mark

This temple **paled** in comparison
to Solomon's version

But the HOPE and true splendor
was NOT in a building it was in the
Son of God who came to take away
the sin of the world

The **greater glory** was attached
to the person who would enter
the temple and His death would
tear the curtain in two
(**ALL HOPE** was attached to Jesus-
the long-awaited Messiah)