

## Regathering, Rebuilding, and Revival

### Ezra 1:1-4

**Intro: The book of Ezra is a historical narrative given by Ezra the scribe. It can be divided into two segments. Chapters 1-6 is the returning of the captives under Zerubbabel the Prince. Chapter 7-10 Revival under Ezra the Priest.**

#### I. The Initial Movement-Ch. 1-6

**Ch. 1- The Releasing of the Jews**

**Ch. 2- The Remnant of the Jews**

**Ch. 3-The Rebuilding of the Temple and Restoring of Worship**

**Ch. 4- The Resistance to the Temple**

**Ch. 5- The Resuming of the Building**

**Ch. 6-The Returning of the Law**

#### II. The Intensified Movement-ch.7-10

#### READ TEXT

**Five important truths:**

**I. The Period of Liberation-v.1..first year of the reign over Babylon**

**II. The Prophecy of the Lord-v.1**

**a. Fulfilled Plan of God**

- **Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> For thus says the LORD: After **seventy years** are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and **perform (Performance of God)** My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of **peace (Peace of God)** and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

<sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I **will** listen to you. (**Promise of God**)

<sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and **find Me**, when you search for Me with all your heart. (**Promise of God**)

<sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity(**Promise of God**); I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive. (**Punishing of God**)

#### b. Foretold Person used of God

- **Isaiah 44:28 (NKJV)...140 years before Isaiah named who would set the Jews free and begin the rebuild**

<sup>28</sup> Who says of Cyrus, '*He is* My shepherd, And he shall perform all My **pleasure**,(desire of God) Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."

#### III. The Proclamation of the Lord-v.2-3...pagan king

**Would please the captives by allowing them to worship their god.**

**Ezra 1:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> Who *is* among you of all His people? **May his God be with him**, and let him go up to Jerusalem which *is* in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (**He is God**), which *is* in Jerusalem.

### **Proverbs 21:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, *Like* the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

**A. Acknowledged the Sovereignty of God –v.2 Lord God of Heaven...would have known the prophecies because of Daniel**

**B. Acknowledged the Supplying of God-v.2 has given**

**C. Acknowledge the Sacrificing to God-v.4**

### **Matthew 7:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

## **IV. The Provisions of the Lord-v.4...caused a pagan king to**

### **A. He built the house-**

#### **Ezra 4:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of the fathers' houses of Israel said to them, "You may do nothing with us to build a house for our God; but we alone will build to the LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."

### **B. He bought the materials-Ezra 3:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> They also gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre to bring cedar logs from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the permission which they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

### **C. He brought the articles of service-v.7-11**

#### **Ezra 5:13-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, King Cyrus issued a decree to build this house of God.

<sup>14</sup> Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple that *was* in Jerusalem and carried into the temple of Babylon--those King Cyrus took from the temple of Babylon, and they were given to one named Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor.

<sup>15</sup> And he said to him, 'Take these articles; go, carry them to the temple site that *is* in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its former site.

#### **Ezra 6:3-5 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus issued a decree *concerning* the house of God at Jerusalem: "Let the house be rebuilt, the place where they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations of it be firmly laid, its height sixty cubits *and* its width sixty cubits,

<sup>4</sup> *with* three rows of heavy stones and one row of new timber. Let the expenses be **paid** from the king's treasury.

<sup>5</sup> Also let the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple which *is* in Jerusalem and **brought** to Babylon, be restored and taken back to the temple which *is* in Jerusalem, *each* to its place; and **deposit** them in the house of God"—

## **V. The Power of the Lord-stirred up-v.1 and v.5**

### **A. The Lord Moved People**

### **B. The Lord Made Produce**

Conclusion: The glory of the Lord had been removed from the church. The people of God had been released to return to the church. The worship of God must be restored back to the church.

**Notice: Cyrus said all the right things and could have even believed them. He was even moved in his spirit but wasn't saved. He accomplished the plan of God. He recognized the hand of God but wasn't saved.**