

"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.*"

Ezra 1:1-2 ("Jeremiah 29:1, 10")

"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. And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which *is* in Jerusalem." **Ezra 1:3-4**

"Then the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem."

Ezra 1:5

“Timely Men ” Ezra 1:1-5

1. Israel & Judah Cast Out Of Land

1) Because Of Their Sins

(1 Ezekiel 23:28-30

(2 Returned After 70 Years

Jeremiah 29:10

2) Completed The Return Ezra-Esther

(1 “All whose spirits God had moved”

Ezra 1:5

(2 Leaders Arose

2. Thousands Were Led To “Get It Done”

“Timely Men” Ezra 1:1-5

1. Zerubbabel = “seed of Babel”

1) Urgently Cyrus’ 1st Year Ezra 1:1

2) United - Temple Began Ezra 3:1-6:15

3) Uncertainty Ezra 3:8-4:24

2. Ezra = “Help”

1) Prepared Ezra 7:6

2) Pointed Sin & Repentance Ezra 10:10-12

“Timely Men” Ezra 1:1-5

3. Nehemiah 13 years later Nehemiah 2:1

1) Moved To Hear Nehemiah 1:1-5

2) Moved Men To Work Nehemiah 2:17-18

4. Leaders’ Lessons – Even For Church

1) Keep Main Goal – Altar, Temple, City

2) Encourage Workers’ Faith

Ezra 3:2; 7:6; Nehemiah 2:18

3) Work Toward Finishing The Project

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

4) Take Work Personally , Not Criticism

John 15:18; Acts 2:38, 47; 9:4