

Cyrus Helps the Exiles to Return - Ezra 1:1-11

Topics: Challenge, Church, Commitment, Craftsmanship, Generosity, Gifts, Giving Up, God, Government, Guidance, Involvement, Possessions, Prophecy, Resources, Restoration, Teamwork

Open It

1. How do you think your view of the church is different from your grandparents'?
- * 2. When was the last time you felt there was something you "just had to do"?
3. What's something you have rebuilt, restored, refinished, or fixed up?

Explore It

4. Who was Cyrus? (1:1)
5. Why did Cyrus make his proclamation? (1:1)
6. Whose prophecy did Cyrus's decree fulfill? (1:1)
- * 7. What motivated Cyrus to make his announcement? (1:1)
8. What did Cyrus believe he was appointed to do? (1:2)
9. Who gave Cyrus the authority to build the temple? (1:2)
- * 10. What specific instructions did Cyrus give to the people? (1:3-4)
11. Who was to provide the materials to build the temple? (1:4)
12. Who went to Jerusalem to build the temple? (1:5)
- * 13. What motivated the people of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi to go to Jerusalem? (1:5)
14. What specific materials were provided to build the temple in Jerusalem? (1:6)
15. Where did King Cyrus get the articles that he provided for the temple? (1:7)
16. Who took all of the temple articles from Persia to Jerusalem? (1:8-11)
17. What had been stolen from the temple by Nebuchadnezzar? (1:9-11)

Get It

18. What does this passage reveal about Cyrus, the king of Persia?
19. What kind of relationship do you think Cyrus had with Israel and their God?
20. In what specific ways was Cyrus's generosity demonstrated to the Jews?
21. Why were freewill offerings necessary to rebuild the temple?
22. What specific acts can we do to show respect for church?
23. What role did God play in these events?
- * 24. What can you learn from this story about God's sovereignty over history?
25. How does this passage motivate you to pray for political leaders?
- * 26. When have you ever felt the Lord "move your heart"?
27. How have you seen the Lord change the attitudes or actions of a nonbeliever?
28. In what specific way do you need God to change the attitude of your heart?

Apply It

- * 29. What steps can you take to allow the Lord to work in you?
30. Who are two political leaders for whom you could pray this week?