

GODLY LEADERSHIP

EZRA

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

**Questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 1 • Ezra 1 & 2 • September 22, 2010

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's **Overview** has helped you?

SECTION 1: READ EZRA 1

2. In what year does the book of Ezra begin?
3. a) Who issued the proclamation, and what was his realm?

b) What was the purpose of the proclamation?
4. What motivated the King to make such a proclamation? Read Isaiah 44:28.
5. a) Describe a time when you have done something because the Lord moved your heart.

b) What greater purpose did He fulfill in moving you to action?
6. Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-21. How did the Israelites come to be living in Babylon?

7. What struck you about King Cyrus' proclamation given he was such a powerful pagan king?
See 2 Chronicles 36:23.
8. Read Jeremiah 25: 11-12 and 29:10-14. What did the Lord prophesy in these verses?
9. In **V5**, who responded to the proclamation, and what motivated them?
10. In **V6-7**, who else contributed to the rebuilding, and what did they contribute?
11. a) Why do you think that King Cyrus inventoried the articles belonging to the temple of the Lord?
- b) Take inventory and comment on the treasures God has placed in your life.
- c) Cyrus gave back to God what was rightfully His; in what areas in your life is God moving you to do the same?

SECTION II: READ EZRA 2

12. Ezra listed the people who came up from captivity. To where did each return?
13. a) From **V2-66**, write observations you make about the list of returning exiles.

b) Why do you think God has included such detail about the exiles who returned to Jerusalem?

14. In **V61-63**, some people were excluded from the priesthood? Why would this be important?

15. a) In **V68-69**, what did some of the exiles do upon arriving in Jerusalem?

b) Think about the concept of a “freewill offering,” and share your thoughts on what that means to you personally.

16. Re-read **1:1** and **1:5**. As we begin a year of looking at Godly leadership, write a prayer inviting God to move in your heart in some profound way.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We all experience times when we feel like we are “in exile,” waiting for God to fulfill His promises. What insight have you gained from the Jews’ exile experience about God or yourself that could encourage you in yours?

2. The temple was the last thing to be destroyed when the nation fell into captivity and the first place God began his work of restoration. What was the significance of the temple to the Israelites? Read 1 Kings 8:10-13; 20-22, Ezekiel 43:7-12.

3. From the following verses, how is the New Testament believer a picture of the temple?

1 Peter 2:4-5 _____

1 Corinthians 6:19 _____

