

**Rebuilding, Restoring & Revitalizing with God**



**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
SERIES

**Ezra 1-3**

# Ezra 1:1

**In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, the Lord fulfilled the prophecy he had given through Jeremiah. He stirred the heart of Cyrus to put this proclamation in writing and to send it throughout his kingdom:**

## **Ezra 1:2**

**“This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.**

# Ezra 1:3

**Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you!**

# Ezra 1:4

**Wherever this Jewish remnant is found, let their neighbors contribute toward their expenses by giving them silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock, as well as a voluntary offering for the Temple of God in Jerusalem.”**

# Ezra 1:5

**Then God stirred the hearts of the priests and Levites and the leaders of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple of the Lord.**

## **Ezra 1:6**

**And all their neighbors assisted by giving them articles of silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock. They gave them many valuable gifts in addition to all the voluntary offerings.**

# Ezra 1:7

**King Cyrus himself brought out the articles that King Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his own gods.**



# Ezra 1:8

**Cyrus directed Mithredath, the treasurer of Persia, to count these items and present them to Sheshbazzar, the leader of the exiles returning to Judah.**

# **Ezra 1:9-10**

**This is a list of the items that were returned:**

**gold basins - 30**

**silver basins - 1,000**

**silver incense burners - 29**

**gold bowls - 30**

**silver bowls - 410**

**other items - 1,000**

# **Ezra 1:11**

**In all, there were 5,400 articles of gold and silver. Sheshbazzar brought all of these along when the exiles went from Babylon to Jerusalem.**

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**Ezra 1-3**

# Principle #1

**Rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God must always start with His initiation. It will always be confirmed by the entire counsel of His Word, by the conviction in His people's hearts, and by the accompaniment of His supernatural activity.**

# It's ALL God

The Lord God made Cyrus king. Cyrus' coming to power, and the decree he would issue to rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem was prophesied by God 150 years before Cyrus was even born!

**Isaiah 44:24-45:7**

# Isaiah 44:24

**This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer and Creator: “I am the Lord, who made all things. I alone stretched out the heavens. Who was with me when I made the earth?”**

# Isaiah 44:25

I expose the false prophets as liars  
and make fools of fortune-tellers,  
I cause the wise to give bad  
advice, thus proving them to be  
fools.



# Isaiah 44:26

**But I carry out the predictions of my prophets! By them I say to Jerusalem, ‘People will live here again,’ and to the towns of Judah, ‘You will be rebuilt; I will restore all your ruins!’**

# Isaiah 44:27

When I speak to the rivers and say, 'Dry up!' they will be dry.

# Isaiah 44:28

When I say of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,' he will certainly do as I say. He will command, 'Rebuild Jerusalem'; he will say, 'Restore the Temple.'"

# Isaiah 45:1

**This is what the Lord says to  
Cyrus, his anointed one, whose  
right hand he will empower.  
Before him, mighty kings will be  
paralyzed with fear. Their fortress  
gates will be opened, never to  
shut again.**

# Isaiah 45:2

**This is what the Lord says: “I will go before you, Cyrus, and level the mountains. I will smash down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.**

# Isaiah 45:3

**And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness— secret riches. I will do this so you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by name.**

# Isaiah 45:4

**And why have I called you for this work? Why did I call you by name when you did not know me? It is for the sake of Jacob my servant, Israel my chosen one.**

# Isaiah 45:5

**I am the Lord; there is no other  
God. I have equipped you for  
battle, though you don't even  
know me,**



# Isaiah 45:6

so all the world from east to west  
will know there is no other God.  
I am the Lord, and there is no  
other.

# Isaiah 45:7

I create the light and make the darkness. I send good times and bad times. I, the Lord, am the one who does these things.

# It's ALL God

God promised through many of His prophets that once His people were exiled for 70 years as punishment for their sins, idolatry, and unrepentant hearts; He would bring back a remnant to the Promised Land.

# It's ALL God

- God stirred the hearts of the priests, Levites and leaders to rebuild the Temple.
- God provided all of the necessary resources by moving the king and neighbors to provide for and fund the project.

# Principle #2

**When it is God's perfect will (meets the criteria of God's initiation, confirmation, conviction, and supernatural activity), it is never too late and it is never impossible to receive a new beginning!**

# Principle #3

**Part of the work of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God must begin by revisiting history, by learning from it, and by recognizing how it is things came to be the way they are now.**

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# Principle #4

**Rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God is always a team effort. The team God assembles for His new beginning is one that is personally called and prepared by Him, has a holy conviction, and is wholeheartedly dedicated to the cause.**



# Ezra 2:1

Here is the list of the Jewish exiles of the provinces who returned from their captivity. King Nebuchadnezzar had deported them to Babylon, but now they returned to Jerusalem and the other towns in Judah where they originally lived.

# Ezra 2:2

Their leaders were Zerubbabel,  
Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah,  
Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan,  
Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and  
Baanah. This is the number of the  
men of Israel who returned from  
exile...

# Ezra 2:58

In all, the Temple servants and the descendants of Solomon's servants numbered 392.

## **Ezra 2:59**

**Another group returned at this time from the towns of Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Kerub, Addan, and Immer. However, they could not prove that they or their families were descendants of Israel.**

# Ezra 2:60

**This group included the families of Delaiah, Tobiah, and Nekoda—a total of 652 people.**

# **Ezra 2:61**

**Three families of priests—  
Hobaiah, Hakkoz, and Barzillai—  
also returned. (This Barzillai had  
married a woman who was a  
descendant of Barzillai of Gilead,  
and he had taken her family  
name.)**

## **Ezra 2:62**

**They searched for their names in the genealogical records, but they were not found, so they were disqualified from serving as priests.**

## **Ezra 2:63**

**The governor told them not to eat the priests' share of food from the sacrifices until a priest could consult the Lord about the matter by using the Urim and Thummim—the sacred lots.**



## **Ezra 2:64-67**

**So a total of 42,360 people returned to Judah, in addition to 7,337 servants and 200 singers, both men and women. They took with them 736 horses, 245 mules, 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.**

# Principle #5

**Rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God will cost you everything.**

## **Ezra 2:68**

**When they arrived at the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, some of the family leaders made voluntary offerings toward the rebuilding of God's Temple on its original site,**

## **Ezra 2:69**

**and each leader gave as much as he could. The total of their gifts came to 61,000 gold coins, 6,250 pounds of silver, and 100 robes for the priests.**

## **Ezra 2:70**

**So the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, the Temple servants, and some of the common people settled in villages near Jerusalem. The rest of the people returned to their own towns throughout Israel.**

# Ezra 3:1

In early autumn, when the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled in Jerusalem with a unified purpose.

# Principle #6

**Genuinely rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God must begin with the hard, tedious, and time consuming work of preparing, creating, and laying the right foundation.**

## **Ezra 3:2**

**Then Jeshua son of Jehozadak joined his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his family in rebuilding the altar of the God of Israel. They wanted to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, as instructed in the Law of Moses, the man of God.**



# **Ezra 3:3**

**Even though the people were afraid of the local residents, they rebuilt the altar at its old site. Then they began to sacrifice burnt offerings on the altar to the Lord each morning and evening.**

# Ezra 3:4

**They celebrated the Festival of Shelters as prescribed in the Law, sacrificing the number of burnt offerings specified for each day of the festival.**

## **Ezra 3:5**

**They also offered the regular burnt offerings and the offerings required for the new moon celebrations and the annual festivals as prescribed by the Lord. The people also gave voluntary offerings to the Lord.**

## **Ezra 3:6**

**Fifteen days before the Festival of Shelters began, the priests had begun to sacrifice burnt offerings to the Lord. This was even before they had started to lay the foundation of the Lord's Temple.**

**Rebuilding, restoring, and  
revitalizing with God begins with  
the purification of our hearts,  
minds, souls, and strength.**

## **Ezra 3:7a**

**Then the people hired masons and carpenters and bought cedar logs from the people of Tyre and Sidon, paying them with food, wine, and olive oil.**

## **Ezra 3:7b**

**The logs were brought down from the Lebanon mountains and floated along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Joppa, for King Cyrus had given permission for this.**

## **Ezra 3:8a**

**The construction of the Temple of God began in mid-spring, during the second year after they arrived in Jerusalem. The work force was made up of everyone who had returned from exile,**



## **Ezra 3:8b**

**including Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of Jehozadak and his fellow priests, and all the Levites. The Levites who were twenty years old or older were put in charge of rebuilding the Lord's Temple.**

## **Ezra 3:9**

**The workers at the Temple of God were supervised by Jeshua with his sons and relatives, and Kadmiel and his sons, all descendants of Hodaviah. They were helped in this task by the Levites of the family of Henadad.**

# **Ezra 3:10**

**When the builders completed the foundation of the Lord's Temple, the priests put on their robes and took their places to blow their trumpets.**

**And the Levites, descendants of Asaph, clashed their cymbals to praise the Lord, just as King David had prescribed.**

# **Ezra 3:11**

**With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the Lord: “He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!” Then all the people gave a great shout, praising the Lord because the foundation of the Lord’s Temple had been laid.**

# Ezra 3:12

**But many of the older priests, Levites, and other leaders who had seen the first Temple wept aloud when they saw the new Temple's foundation. The others, however, were shouting for joy.**

# **Ezra 3:13**

**The joyful shouting and weeping mingled together in a loud noise that could be heard far in the distance.**

# Principle #7

**When you partner with God in spiritually rebuilding, spiritually restoring, and spiritually revitalizing something; don't ever forget that He's the boss not you! When it gets rebuilt, restored, and renewed it is because of Him and not you.**



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