

RL GROUPS

Grace | God-sized Vision | For Every Generation

Ezra 1

2 “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. 3 Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. 4 And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.” 5 Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.



Questions for Discussion

1. Read Ezra 1.
2. Why might it have been important for the Israelites to return from slavery and rebuild their homeland?
3. What does it teach us that God used King Cyrus of Persia - someone who did not believe in the Hebrew God - to rebuild the Temple?
4. In the book of Exodus, God commands the building of a Tabernacle, and later a Temple. Why might a house of worship have been important to God?
5. In an era in which traditional structures do not carry the same meaning that they used to, what would you tell someone who asked - why do Christians need a house of worship?

Take time to pray for for one another.