

Read: Ezra 1:1-11

Connect Questions:

1. What was the historical context of the book of Ezra and how does that help us understand the critical nature of the events it describes?
2. Why did God allow Israel's exile in Babylon?
3. In what ways did Cyrus (the king of Persia) fulfill prophecy, knowingly and unknowingly?
4. How should our faith and life be impacted by seeing the incredible ways in which God fulfills His promises in the Book of Ezra?
5. Why did so many Israelites refuse to go back to Jerusalem? How are we like or unlike them in our lives?

Memory Verse: Ezra 1:2 NKJV

² 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.

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RIDGEVIEW CHURCH

Scripture: Ezra 1:1-11

The Book of EZRA

- Author
- Date
- Content

- Theme
- Historical Context...

Title: The LORD Keeps His Promises!

1. Prophecy Fulfilled!

- King Cyrus sending the People and Holy Articles back

- King Cyrus paying attention to Prophecies
Isaiah 44:27-45:3

Jeremiah 25:8-12

Jeremiah 29:10

God is in Control...Keeps ALL His Promises!

2. Returning to Jerusalem

Cyrus' Decree: Ezra 1:2-3 = 2 Chronicles 36:23

- Only about 50,000 were Stirred to Return
- They went back with wealth
- **Sheshbazzar & Zerubbabel**

If you're looking for a Connect Group visit the Connect Group Launch Pad on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM.

4/23/23



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