

The Achaemenid Empire (537 BC)



In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, the Lord fulfilled the prophecy He had given through Jeremiah.

Ezra 1:1

For thus says the LORD: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you My promise and bring you back to this place.”

Jeremiah 29:10

49
years

586 BC: Jerusalem destroyed; people exiled
537 BC: Cyrus: "You are free to leave."

70
years

606 BC: The king and his family, "nobility,"
"youths without blemish" (including
Daniel), and Temple plunder taken
to Babylon.

536 BC: arrival back in Jerusalem

...the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout his kingdom and also put it in writing:

Ezra 1:1

King Cyrus' Proclamation (Ezra 1:2-4)

1. God has given me this vast kingdom
2. He has told me to help rebuild the Temple
3. All Hebrew people are free to leave
4. Their neighbors should contribute toward their travel expenses and the rebuilding of the Temple.

Ezra 1:5-11

5: God stirred the hearts of many of the Jews to return to rebuild the Temple.

6: The neighbors did what Cyrus commanded

7-11: King Cyrus gave back all the plunder taken from the Temple in Jerusalem in 606 BC and 586 BC

They came with **Zerubbabel**, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.

Wave #1: Zerubbabel (538 BC)

Wave #2: Ezra (458 BC)

Wave #3: Nehemiah (444 BC)

Ezra 2:2

Ezra 2:64-69

- 42,360 people
- 7,337 servants
- 200 singers
- 736 horses
- 245 mules
- 435 camels
- 6,720 donkeys
- 61,000 gold coins
- 6,250 lbs. of silver
- 100 robes for the priests

Takeaways

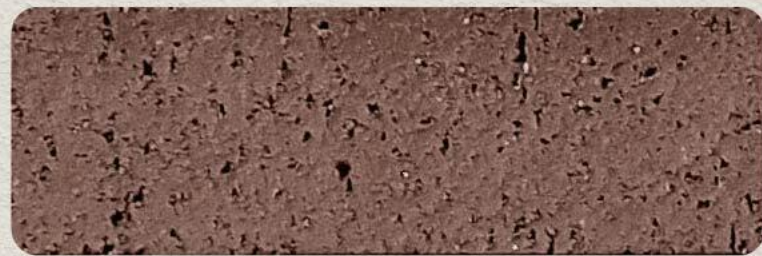
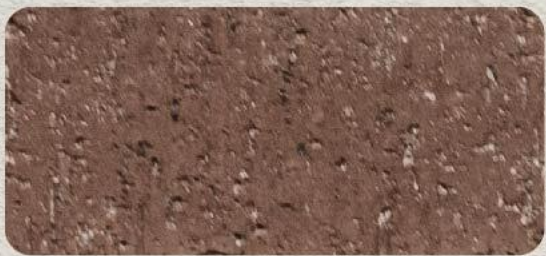
1. Let's be at least as kind as Cyrus (and hopefully, even kinder).
2. Let God stir your heart.

² They built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.

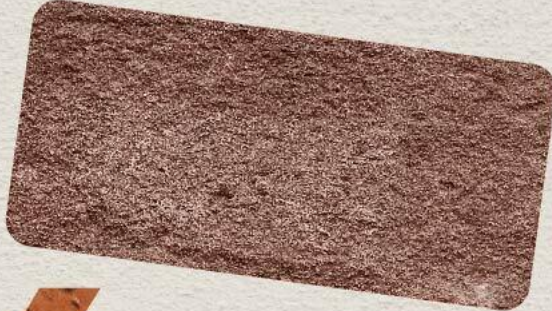
Ezra 3:2-3

³ They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening.

Ezra 3:2-3



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