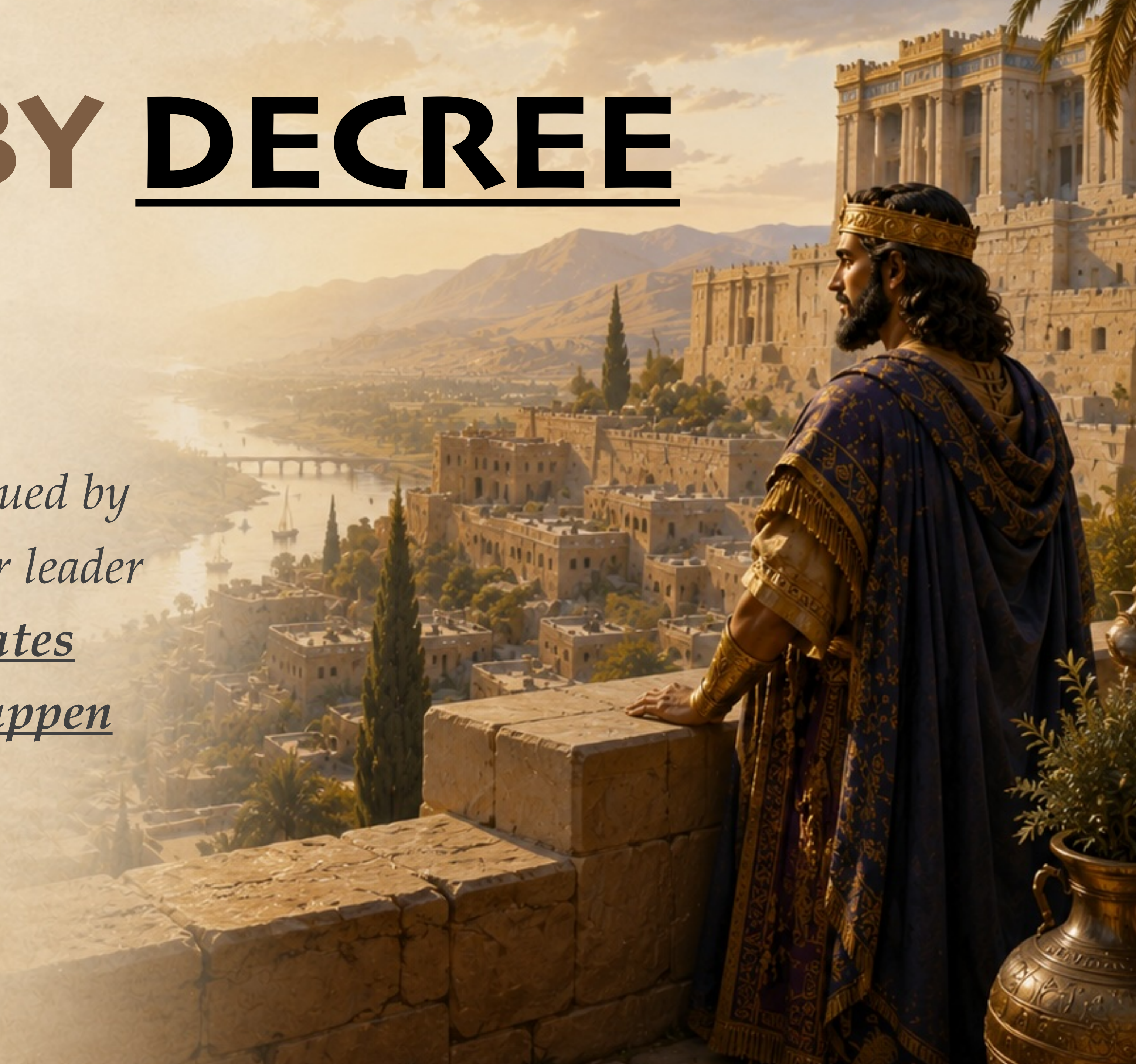


RETURN BY DECREE

Definition of Decree:

*A **decree** is an official order issued by a legal authority, government, or leader that has the force of law. It dictates that a specific action must happen*

EZRA 1:1-4



SCRIPTURE READING

Key Points

1. The LORD works through Those outside the church Involving outsiders in what he's doing for the church making room for those outside to find their place in his Kingdom
2. The Same God we serve, is the Same God who also Gives to our enemies, and has called us to not be partial in our Giving.
3. God Brings out The Destiny helpers from those we least Expect.
4. The LORD establishes the Provisions, Reaping where He has not Sown. Calling us to Building his Kingdom by involving others rather than focusing on self works. What I am doing, rather than what have I helped others to do.

EZRA 1:1-4

- 1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,
- 2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.
- 3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.
- 4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.



THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ The Relationship with The 7th Year Sabbatical in **Leviticus 25:1–7**, and the Release of Israel in **Ezra 1:1–4**
 1. God commands Sabbath years (like a decree)
 2. Israel neglects them for generations.
 3. Exile comes, and the land enjoys its missed Sabbaths (2 Chronicles 36:21)
 4. God fulfills His promise by stirring Cyrus to send the people home

So Ezra 1 can be viewed as the beginning of Israel's restoration after the consequences of ignoring principles established in Leviticus 25. The God who required the land to rest is the same God who later brings His people back to it.

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

❖ The Relationship with The 7th Year Sabbatical in [Leviticus 25:1–7](#), and the Release of Israel in [Ezra 1:1–4](#)

1. God had disciplined His people through exile.
2. The period of judgment was complete.
3. God remained faithful to His covenant promises.
4. The people were being given a fresh start in the land.

trusting God's ownership and provision.

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ God commands Israel not to **sow their fields, prune their vineyards, or reap the crops as a regular harvest** during the Sabbath year. Yet verses 6–7 say the land's produce “shall be food for you.”
- ❖ The land would continue producing volunteer plants from seeds left in the ground and fruit from existing trees and vines. Israelites were allowed to gather enough for immediate use and eat it, but they were not to treat it as a regular harvest belonging exclusively to them. Same As Cyrus shifted his focus from all that was given to him to be used for himself and his own profit, to rather helping to build for someone else and the profit of others. In this Case, (God and his people) The Church.

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ Notice the wording in Leviticus 25:5
“You shall not reap what grows of itself...” Cyrus also acknowledged that all the kingdoms of the earth were given to him by God, even though he had to work hard for it. And gave back to God that which he has received from God by the work of his own hands that he painfully toiled for.

Then verse 6 immediately explains that the Sabbath produce of the land **“shall be food for you.”** This is not a contradiction, rather Confirmation. **YOU CANT REAP IT,** but you **CAN EAT IT.**

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ What does this Communicate? (1 Tim 6:1-22 Study at Home)
That what God has given us in this life, is not intended for self Gain. All the provisions, Promotions, Successes, blessings. Children, Husbands, wives, our leaders, Ministries, Giftings, abilities to Work and make income and so on, Even our own bodies, the things which do not belong to us Is to:
 1. To be Given to God
Which
 2. will then meet our needs (Matthew 6:33 Ref)
And
 3. Will meet the needs of others (Acts 4:32 Ref)

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ This is also why later in the chapter God promises an unusually abundant crop in the sixth year to sustain the people through the seventh-year rest (Leviticus 25:20–22). The Sabbath year was an exercise in faith that the land ultimately belonged to God, not to the Stewards (you and I, who are tending to it).
- ❖ Not only is there an abundance Released Prior to a sabbatical (Restoration period) we also see this echoed through scripture that during the 7th year all debts are cleared. This means the abundance God is releasing through this period this time of Prosperity, is to First Establish the Rebuilding of his house. And the Lives of his people and the lives of others.
- ❖ NOT FOR SELF INDULGENCE, PLEASURE OR GAIN. IT IS RELEASED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING HIS KINGDOM.

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ All of us who have been apart of this Sabatical has received provisions, to bring Restoration to the House of God. Even as we are called the Restored House Chapel. The mission is in our Name.

Cyrus a Persian King Caught the Revelation. It wasn't Left to Israel, Pastors and Leaders alone. You may be Like Cyrus, someone who is in the church, and may see yourself as an outsider out of the board of Decision makers, just part of the congregation not a pastor, or leader or worker. But God wants to involve you to participate in what he's doing.

You may not be a pastor or leader, and that's exactly who God is looking for to build his house. He took David a Shepard boy to Lead Israel. Moses with low self esteem who stuttered in his speaking, to be God's Mouthpiece to Pharo of Egypt. Joseph, a imprisoned Slave, to be Priminister.

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ let us not make a dangerous mistake by taking the things we have received in this season to be self-seeking for personal Gain to be profiting our own lives, building our own homes while leaving the house of God in ruins.

“The land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me” (Leviticus 25:23).

- ❖ The future of God’s people does not depend ultimately on human effort, **“unless the Lord Builds the House”** (Psalm 127:1)

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ Let us Lay aside our Inadequacies, our weaknesses. And shortcomings, and trust what God says, that in the midst of our weaknesses that's when his strength is made perfect.

He uses the foolishness of this world to confound the wise, and has encouraged us that we can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens us.

He desires our weakness to show himself strong through us. Let us therefore not depend on our own strength. But TRUST IN HIM, and take the step of faith to Avail ourselves to him.

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ Just as Israel was supposed to trust God enough to stop farming for a year, the exiles had to trust God 's Faithfulness according to his own timing to leave Babylon and return to a devastated homeland.

How can we trust God when we remain in control?
Control Shuts the Door to Developing Trust.

I can't be trusting God at the same time taking every matter back into my own hands.

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

- ❖ Many in church fear public speaking
But I want you to consider this:
- ❖ if we seen everyone as family, and had love which cast out all fear we would not have issue to preach on Sundays.
- ❖ God is Calling us out. We have been publicly quiet but secretly Loud.
- ❖ Men are called to our rightful place to speak

❖ THE REVELATION of REFLECTION

EZRA 1:1

The LORD reflects.

In all that your hands
find to do, as doing
it before the Lord.

Thus do unto
others as you would
have it done to you

