

# “The Beginning Of Something Beautiful”

Ezra 1:1-11



## I. The Purpose Is Proclaimed (1-2)

- A. The purpose originated with God (1a) - "...the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia..."
- B. The purpose proceeded through man (1b-2) - "...he made a proclamation...and also put it in writing...The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the
- C. kingdoms of the earth, and He has charged me to build Him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah."

## II. The Servants Are Summoned (3-4)

- A. An appeal to the family (3a) - "Whoever is among you of all His people, may his God be with him..."
- B. An acknowledgment of the freedom (3b) - "...and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel..."
- C. An acquisition of the funding (4)
  - i. Mandated contribution - "And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts..."
  - ii. Freewill offering - "...besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."

## III. The People Are Empowered (5-6)

- A. The people with position were committed (5a) - "Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites..."

- B. The people with passion were committed (5b) - "...everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem. "
- C. The people of preparation were committed (6)
  - i. The willingness for the work was there (6a) - "And all who were about them aided them..."
  - ii. The wealth for the work was there (6b) - "with...silver...gold, with goods...beasts, and with costly wares, besides all that was freely offered. ..."

***God had sovereignly prepared these individuals to be alive & enabled during the time in which He would do this new and great work.***

#### IV. The Captured Are Consecrated (7-10)

- A. A reacquisition of holy vessels (7)
- B. A recounting of holy vessels (8-10)
- C. A recommissioning of holy vessels (11) - "All these did Sheshbazzar bring up, when the exiles were brought up from Babylonia to Jerusalem."

***"Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work." - 2 Timothy 2:20-21***