



Grades 4–5 • Unit 12 • Lesson 113

# Zerubbabel Returns to Israel

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ezra 1:1–6, 2:64–65, 3:10–11, 4:4–5, 6:15–17

Each statement below has an incorrect bold word. Find the correct words in the stones and draw a line to match them to each statement to make them true. Look up the Bible verses for help! We used the ESV.



1. God told the Jews through the prophet Jeremiah that their captivity in Babylon would last **one hundred** years. Jeremiah 29:10
2. God stirred the spirit of King **Darius** to let the Jews return to Judah. Ezra 1:1–3
3. The people were going to rebuild the **city** of the Lord. Ezra 1:3
4. The people of Babylon gave the Jews silver, gold, goods, animals, and costly **paintings**. Ezra 1:6
5. Many Jews returned to **Egypt**, led by Zerubbabel. Ezra 2:1–2
6. When the **courtyard** of the temple was completed, the people praised the Lord with music and singing. Ezra 3:10–11
7. The people of the **temple** discouraged the Jews and stopped the building. Ezra 4:4–5
8. The Jews **mourned** when the temple was completed 21 years after they started. Ezra 6:15–16

Answers: 1) seventy, 2) Cyrus, 3) house, 4) wares, 5) Judah, 6) paintings, 7) land, 8) mourned

## Memory Verse

Cross out all the Zs and write the other letters in order in the blanks below to complete the memory verse.

zzszuzfzzfezrzezzzdzzzgzzrazzczezzglzozryzzzrzezzzzzstzzozrzzzezzzz

And after you have \_\_\_\_\_ a little while, the God of all \_\_\_\_\_, who has called you to his eternal \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. **1 Peter 5:10**



## **What You Heard** *In the Word*

- God stirred King Cyrus of Persia to make a proclamation saying the Jews could return to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.
- Zerubbabel led the people back to Judah, and they began to rebuild the temple. After 21 years, the temple was completed, and the people celebrated God's faithfulness with great joy and praise to God.

## **OutWord** *For Family Discussion*

What if your friend is confused about God's sovereignty? He asks, "If God is in control, then why should I be interested in obeying? How will anything I do change God's mind or plans?" **What could you say?**

*That's a great question. God is in control of everything. Not only that, but God will always accomplish his perfect plans. God is free to choose how he is going to accomplish his purposes. God often chooses to use people to do that. You can't—and won't—change God's mind, but he can use you as you pray, study the Bible, obey his commands, and try to do his will. You may never know how he is using you now, but God promised to reward those who serve him faithfully. It is a privilege to be used by God!*

## **HomeWord** *For Parents*

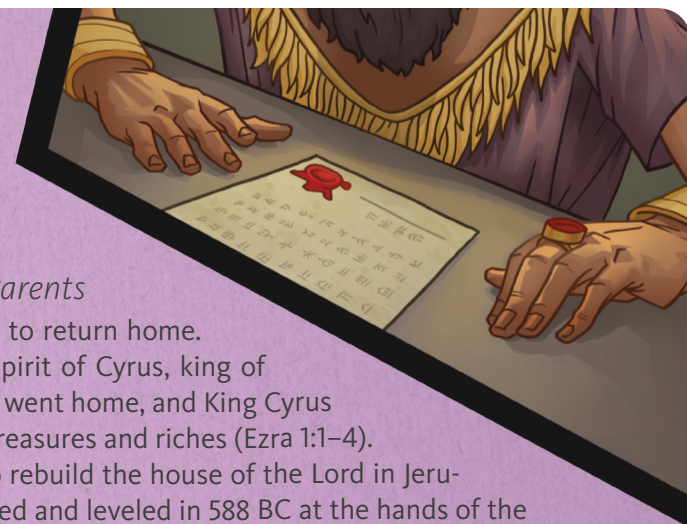
It was time for the Jews to return home. And the Lord stirred the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia, to send them. They went home, and King Cyrus sent them off with many treasures and riches (Ezra 1:1–4).

They were returning to rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem that had been burned and leveled in 588 BC at the hands of the Babylonians (2 Chronicles 36:17–21). King Cyrus returned the vessels from the temple, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem when he destroyed the temple. The people would place them into the new temple.

The altar was rebuilt, and offerings were made to the God of Israel (Ezra 3:2). The feasts were kept, and donations were given to continue the restoration of the temple. A celebration of praise and thanksgiving followed the completion of the foundation of the temple (Ezra 3:10–11).

But then . . . the jubilation stopped when the adversaries of Judah came to stop the project and discourage the Jews. The opposition was successful, and the project was delayed for many years. But God later sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to the people to encourage them to continue to build (Ezra 5:1). The temple was finally finished in 515 BC, 21 years after Zerubbabel had begun the work (Ezra 6:13–15).

God guided the hearts of the kings, and the Jewish leaders and people, to restore his worship at the temple (Ezra 6:22). The temple and the sacrifices that took place there foreshadowed Jesus. The Passover and the other festivals that were celebrated all pointed forward to Jesus. God was continuing to guide history to the birth of the Messiah and to the redemption that would be accomplished when God took on flesh to dwell with men.



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