

ALTARED

*Rebuild, Worship, Persevere,
Dedicate: Restored Lives*

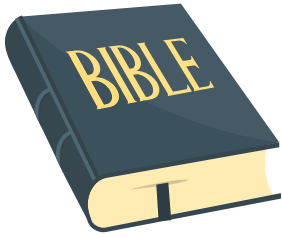
Week One

The Call to Rebuild



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Key Scripture: Ezra 1:1-4

Background

At the end of 2 Chronicles, the writer describes how Babylon had taken control over Judah and Jerusalem. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the Temple of God, and the few who survived were taken as exiles to Babylon, serving the king until Persia took over.

Seventy years passed, and then we find ourselves at the closing of 2 Chronicles and the opening of Ezra. King Cyrus of Persia was moved by God to issue a decree allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, fulfilling the prophecy given through Jeremiah.

Discussion Questions

1) God's Sovereignty in Revival

READ: Ezra 1:1-4

- How does God's stirring of King Cyrus's heart illustrate His sovereignty over nations and leaders?
- Can you think of a time in your life when God used an unexpected person or situation to bring about a significant change or revival?

2) **The Importance of Responding to God's Call**

READ Ezra 1:5-11

- The leaders of Judah and Benjamin responded to God's call to rebuild. What does this teach us about the importance of taking action when we feel God stirring our hearts?

3) **Rebuilding Our Spiritual Foundations**

READ Ezra 2:68-70

- Why do you think the returning exiles prioritized giving offerings to rebuild the temple?
- How does this apply to our spiritual lives today?

Living It Out

This week, take time each day to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in your life that need rebuilding. Whether it's a call to deepen your prayer life, to step out in faith, or to restore relationships, allow God to guide you. Here are some steps to help you live out this message:

1. **Pray Daily**: Start each day asking the Holy Spirit to stir your heart as He did with King Cyrus. Listen for God's call and be open to His direction.
2. **Reflect**: Spend time reflecting on the areas in your life where you've sensed God's call. Are there steps of faith you need to take?
3. **Act**: Make a practical plan to rebuild a neglected area in your spiritual life. Whether it's committing to regular prayer, reading the Bible more consistently, or serving others, take that first step.