

“Through the Bible: Ezra 1-5”

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I. Return from Exile; Plans to Rebuild the House of the Lord (Ezra 1-2)

- A. Cyrus, king of _____, received a message from God in the _____ year of his reign. What was the message (Ezra 1:1-2)?

- B. “_____ is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to _____, which is in Judah, and _____ the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem” (Ezra 1:3).
- C. According to Ezra 1:5-6, who rose to the challenge, and what supplies did they gather?

- D. Cyrus also returned, in total, _____ pieces of gold and silver which had been stolen from the house of the Lord by Nebuchadnezzar (Ezra 1:11).
- E. List the names of the men who returned to Israel alongside Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:2). _____
- F. An enumeration is also made of the return of the _____ (Ezra 2:36), the _____ (Ezra 2:40), the _____ (Ezra 2:41), the children of the _____ and the _____ (Ezra 2:43).
- G. As given by the book of Ezra, what were the raw numbers returning from captivity? The whole congregation numbered _____. The servants and maids totaled _____. Among them were _____ singing men and women (Ezra 2:64-65).

II. Repair of the Lord’s House Begins (Ezra 3)

- A. “And when the _____ month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as _____ man to Jerusalem” (Ezra 3:1).
- B. From this time, the people began to offer _____ offerings to the Lord. However, what had yet to be accomplished (Ezra 3:6)? _____
- C. Men began to be assigned the task of repairing the house of the Lord. As this was being completed, what did the people do according to Ezra 3:11, and why?

- D. “But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were _____ men, that had seen the _____ house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, _____ with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for _____” (Ezra 3:12).

III. Troublemakers Emerge; Repair Work Halted (Ezra 4-5)

- A. Who showed up in Ezra 4:1-3, and what did they have to say to Zerubbabel and the other leaders, and what was the response? _____

- B. A series of troubling occurrences began in Ezra 4:4. Note them below.
1. The people of the land _____ the hands of the people of Judah and _____ them in building (Ezra 4:4).
 2. _____ were brought in to _____ the purpose (Ezra 4:5).
 3. False _____ were brought in the days of _____ (Ezra 4:6).
- C. A letter was sent to Artaxerxes the king. Read Ezra 4:11-16 and summarize it.

- D. "Give ye now commandment to cause these men to _____, and that this city be not _____, until another commandment shall be given from me. Take heed now that ye _____ not to do this: why should damage grow to the _____ of the _____" (Ezra 4:21-22).
- E. Sadly, the work on the house of the Lord was ceased by _____ and _____ (Ezra 4:23).
- F. What two prophets are mentioned in Ezra 5:1? What do they do with Zerubbabel and the others according to Ezra 5:2? _____

- G. Immediately, what question was posed to the builders of the house of the Lord (Ezra 5:3)? _____
- H. Another letter was written, this time to a king named _____ (Ezra 5:7).
1. In the letter, it is noted the work of building the house is ongoing, and it was _____ (Ezra 5:8).
 2. When asked their names, the builders responded by saying, "We are the _____ of the _____ of heaven and earth, and _____ the house that was builded these many _____ ago, which a great king of Israel builded and set up" (Ezra 5:11).
 3. The builders admitted in the past, their fathers had _____ the God of heaven, and were carried away by _____. At the same time, the house of the Lord was _____ (Ezra 5:12).
 4. The builders reminded the king, through this letter, they were sent back in the first year of _____, to build the house again (Ezra 5:13).
- I. At this point, the people awaited to hear the king's _____ (Ezra 5:17).