



Through the Bible Series: Ezra

Book of Ezra

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Pencils/Markers
- ✓ One small doll or action figure per child
- ✓ Copies of Word Trace
- ✓ Copies of Coloring Sheet
- ✓ Copies of Take Home Overview



Books of the Bible Series: Ezra

Objective of Lesson

The objective of this lesson, and every lesson in this series, is for our children to become familiar with the structure and order of the books of the Bible and point out how each book is written to specifically picture the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reference

Book of Ezra

Lesson Instructions

1. Every week we have been learning an overview of another Book of the Bible. By doing this I hope you have learned two things: 1. The whole Bible from cover to cover is about Jesus Christ the Son of God and everything HE did to save His fallen people from their sins. 2. The order of the books, so you can find them and follow along when your pastor or your parents read to you from this book. Can you name the books of the Bible you have learned so far? Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles. Whoa! The list is getting longer!
2. Today we are going to learn about the book of Ezra. Can you find the book of

Ezra and point to the first verse? In order to get an overview of this book we are going to discuss three things the Lord did for the people of Judah: 1. He kept them 2. He revived them and 3. He restored them. We are going to talk about what each of those mean and then I will tell a story that shows how He did all that for them.

3. The first thing we are going to talk about is, "God keeping his people." What does that mean, "God keeps his people?" I am going to give each of you a doll. (These can be Barbies, Polly Pockets, or small action figures) I want you to put your figures in the middle of the table. We are going to pretend these figures are the people of Israel, God's chosen people, and we are their rulers and keepers. It is our responsibility to "Keep" these people. If it is your responsibility to "keep" them, what would you need to do for these people?
4. The first thing they need to know is who you are, right? I mean they wouldn't know who their leaders were if they couldn't see you, right? You would teach them about yourself. (Have them say, "I am your keeper and I am going to provide everything for you.") The next thing you would do is give them jobs as a way to provide for themselves, feed themselves, and find shelter for themselves. (Have them pretend they give them these things) If you were their keeper what else would you do? You would control EVERYTHING around them to make sure they not only survived but that they were prosperous and had everything in abundance that they needed. (Have them surround the figures with their hands to act like they are controlling everything around them) Are you going to let this people do anything they want, including things that are harmful to themselves? (Take one of the figures and pretend it is running around the table "crazy".) No. Why? It is because they are your special people and you love them and you promised to take care of them. You teach them things that are good for them, and you correct them when they do evil things, because you love them.
5. The Bible says, "God keeps his people." Can you name some of the ways the Lord keeps us? The first thing God did for us was to tell us who He was,

right? I mean we wouldn't know who our God was since we don't have the ability to see Him. God taught us about Himself. He said, I am your keeper and I am going to provide everything for you. The next thing God did was give us jobs and a way to provide for ourselves and feed ourselves and shelter ourselves. God controls everything around us to make sure we not only survive but we prosper and have everything in abundance of what we need. Does our Lord let His people do anything they want, including things that are harmful to themselves? No. Why? It is because they are His special people and He loves them and cares for them and promised to take care of them. God teaches His people things that are good for them and corrects them when they do evil things, because He loves them. (Romans 8:28 - "And we know that **all things work** together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.")

6. "God revives his people." What does this mean? Let's each take our figures and demonstrate this. Let's imagine these figures were really tired and hot from working in the sun all day. They are weak and moving very slowly. What would make them have more energy and not so tired? What about a nice cool wind? (Have them blow on their figures) What about an ice cold drink of water? (Have them give their figures a drink of water) Wow! When you are tired those things help to revive you, right? Did you know you can also be revived in spirit? What if your little figure was down and weary in spirit. (Act this out with their figures) They have been going to work every single day. They were just going through the motions of daily life and just (sigh) very lazy about things - not looking forward to anything - not excited about anything - just down. What would revive them? What if you came to them and reminded them what they were working for, and they thought, OH Yeah! I forgot about that. I am really looking forward to that! They would feel a sense of reviving, right? That is another type of reviving.
7. "God revives his people." Our Lord is constantly reviving us in just those ways! He sends us everything - from a cool breeze to reminding us what He

has done for us and what He is going to give us in His love and mercy. All those things revive us and give us renewed energy to keep moving forward and trusting and praising our God! He revives us again!

8. God restores His people. Let's all take our figures. Let's pretend they are all walking alone and they fall into a big hole. OH!!!! (Crash all the figures into a pile) They are in a big mess, dirt all over them and far from home. We are going to restore them. That means we are going to pick them up, clean them off and restore them to their original spot. (Have them act this out with their figures) How is this a picture of us? We fell into a big mess when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden. Christ came, pulled us out of our mess, did what we could not do, and restored us again to God.
9. Everything we just demonstrated with our figures is EXACTLY what happened in this book of Ezra. I am going to tell a story and I want you to act it out with your figures. Take your figures and put them in the middle of the table. (Have them act out the following story with the figures) These figures are the people of Israel. They disobeyed God and as their keeper the Lord corrected them for their rebellion. He had them captured by the Babylonian people and they were taken away from their homes and into the land of Babylon to serve as slaves. When they were down in this land the Lord "kept" them. He provided for them. He made them to prosper and learn new skills, and they became very successful in the Babylonian society. Seventy years after they were taken captive, God told the King of Babylon to send His captive people back to their homeland and command them to build the house of the Lord again. God revived the spirit of the people and reminded them how wonderful it was to worship God in His house, and they became very excited and revived about going back to do it. God then restored the people to their original place by putting in the King's heart to not only allow His people to go back to Jerusalem to build the house of the Lord but COMMANDED them to, and even paid for all the restoration! God "kept" them all through their captivity and when it came time He "revived"



their spirits to follow Him again and He "restored" them to their original place.

10. What a wonderful and powerful God we have! This story we just told is a picture of what Christ does for ALL His people. He keeps His people in this world; He revives their spirits with His word and in the end He will restore them again to God the Father. Amen

Lesson Activities

- Word Trace
- Coloring Sheet



Take Home Lesson Overview

Through the Bible Series: Ezra

Scripture Reference:

Book of Ezra

Lesson Overview:

In the Book of Ezra the people of God rebelled against their Lord and their Lord God corrected them for their rebellion. He had them captured by the Babylonian people and they were taken away from their homes and into the land of Babylon to serve as slaves. When they were down in this land the Lord kept them. He provided for them. He made them to prosper and learn new skills and they became very successful in the Babylonian society. 70 years after they were taken captive, God told the King of Babylon to send his captive people back to their homeland and command them to build again the house of the Lord. God revived their spirit of the people and reminded wonderful it was to worship God in his house and they became very excited and revived about going back to do it. God then restored the people to their original place by putting in the King's heart to not only allow his people to go back to Jerusalem to build the house of the Lord but **COMMANDED** them to and even paid for all the restoration! God kept them all through their captivity and when it came time he revived their spirits to follow him again and he restored them to their original place.

What a wonderful and powerful God we have! This story we just told is a picture



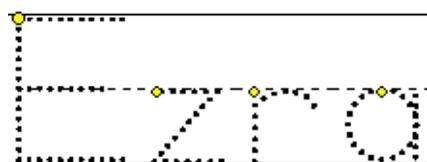
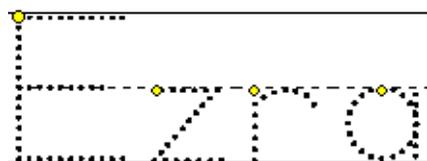
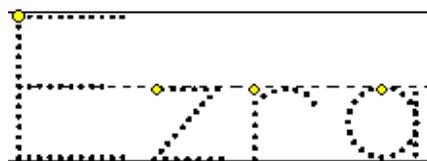
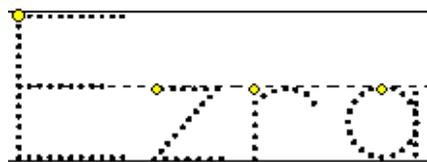
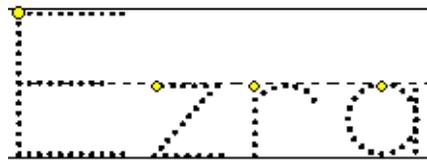
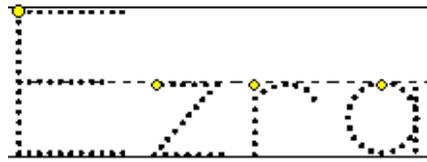
of what Christ does for ALL his people. He keeps his people in this world, he revives their spirits with his word and in the end Christ Jesus our Lord will restore us again to God the Father

Student Name _____

Date _____

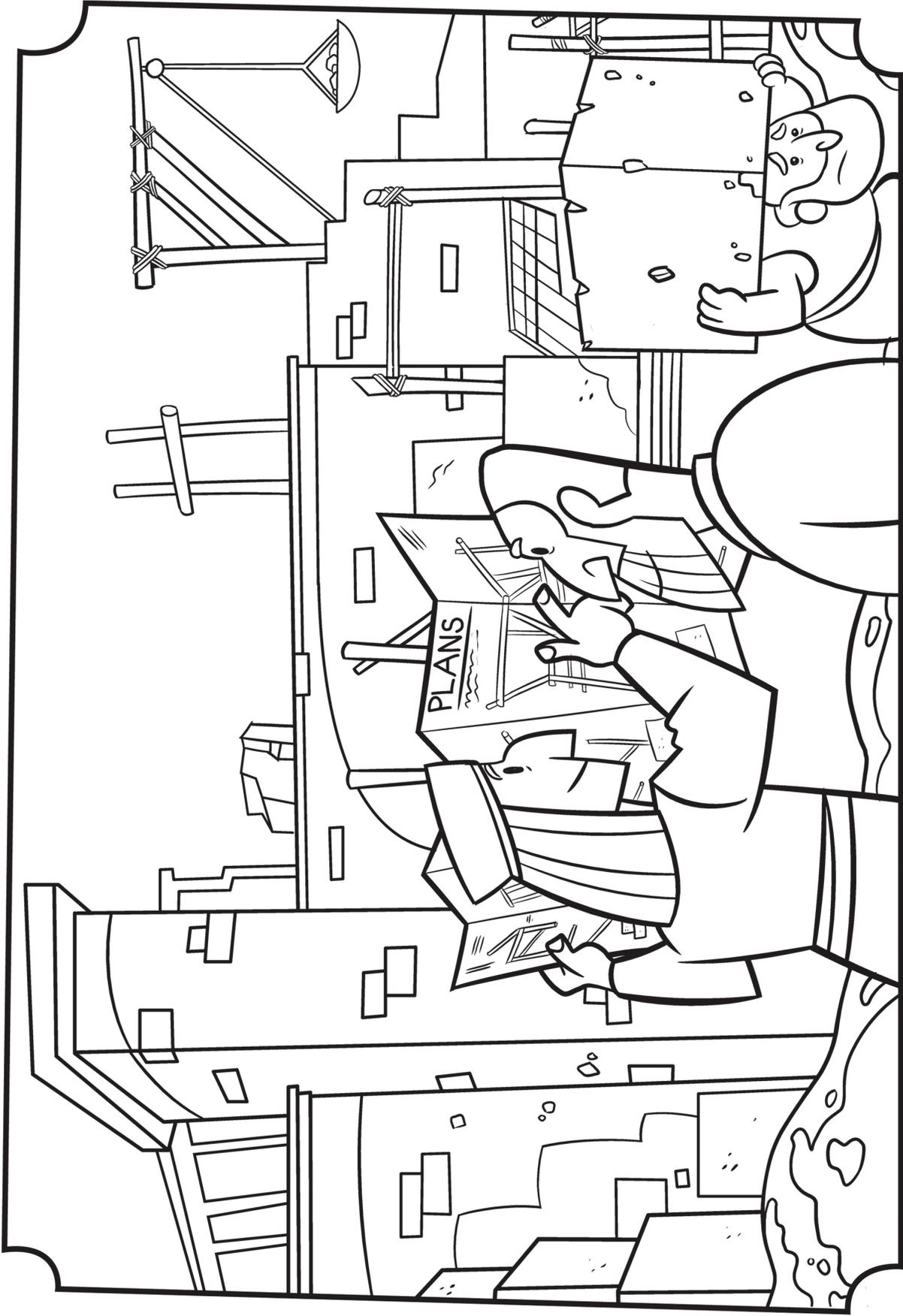
Handwriting Practice **Basic Print - Large Letters** - 13/16 inch

To print worksheet widest side horizontal click "File" - "Page Setup" and "Landscape"



Hundreds more free reading worksheets and materials at [TempaPede.com](http://www.TempaPede.com)

hundreds more free reading worksheets and materials at rainboweas.com



Joshua and Zerubbabel led the Israelites to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, which was finished in 516 B.C.. - **Ezra 3**

Title: **EZRA**
“Our God hath not forsaken us.”

Text: Ezra 9:1-15

Subject: *Preservation and Restoration*

Date: Tuesday Evening—May 13, 2003

Tape # X-60a

Readings: *Lindsay Campbell and Rex Bartley*

Introduction:

The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther cover the history of Israel immediately following their return from Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem. There was only a remnant that returned, a remnant “*whose spirit God had raised,*” who returned to Jerusalem. Though there were probably three million Jews in Babylon at the time, only 50,000 returned.

The Jews had gone down into Babylon as shepherds. But while they were there they learned the ways of Babylon and became successful businessmen, merchants and shop keepers. They became so prosperous, so lost to materialism, that they did not want to go back to Jerusalem even though they were still slaves in exile from their own land. They preferred the drudgery of Babylonian bondage, with its wealth, to the liberty of worshipping God in Jerusalem.

Some have suggested that they became a different people while in Babylon. But that was not the case at all. The Lord sent them into captivity to prove them; and there they proved what they really were. So it is with all trials. Trials do not change us. They simply prove what we are.

There was an elect remnant in Babylon whom the Lord reserved, whose spirit he revived, whose seventy year trial in Babylon made them pine for liberty and the worship of God in Jerusalem. Many of them refused to return when God opened the door. But

the Spirit of God stirred up the hearts of some and made them willing in the day of his power. The message of this Book is found in chapter 9 verse 9.—“***OUR GOD HATH NOT FORSAKEN US.***”

Proposition: The Book is all about God’s great grace in keeping, reviving, and restoring his people.

Actually, the Book of Ezra speaks of two returns from Babylon. First, in chapters 1-5. Zerubbabel led about 50,000 back to Jerusalem. After building again the altar of God and laying the foundation of the temple, there was another long period of languishing. This is the period covered by the Book of Esther. Then, in chapters 6-10, Ezra led another group, even smaller than the first, out of Babylon and back to Jerusalem.

Chapter 9 records Ezra’s prayer, one of the most remarkable prayers of repentance found in the Bible. In this prayer, we see the whole of Israel’s problem and the bounteous, indestructible grace of God set forth in this Book. Let’s read chapter 9. Then, I will show you the message of the Book of Ezra.

(Ezra 9:1-4) "Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, *doing* according to their abominations, *even* of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. {2} For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of *those* lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

That was the cause of Israel’s trouble.

(Ezra 9:3-4) And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished. {4} Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

EZRA'S PRAYER

(Ezra 9:5-15) And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God, {6} And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over *our* head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens. {7} Since the days of our fathers *have we been* in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, *and* our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as *it is* this day. {8} And now for a little space grace hath been *showed* from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage. {9} For we *were* bondmen; **yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage**, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem. {10} And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments, {11} Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness. {12} Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor

seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave *it* for an inheritance to your children for ever. {13} And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*, and hast given us *such* deliverance as this; {14} Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed *us*, so that *there should be* no remnant nor escaping? {15} O LORD God of Israel, thou *art* righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as *it is* this day: behold, we *are* before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this."

DIVINE FAITHFULNESS

First, let's go back to chapter 1 and learn something about the character of our great God. As Cyrus put it in verse 3, "*The Lord God of Israel, he is the God!*"

(Ezra 1:1-3) "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."

- A Display of Divine Inspiration—Isaiah's Prophecy and Jeremiah's
- A Display of Divine Sovereignty—The king's heart is in his hand.

- A Display of Divine Faithfulness—Our God is always faithful. He promised to bring Judah out of Babylon after 70 years; and he did. They had forsaken him; but he would not forsake them.

Here is a picture lesson in divine chastisement. When God sends chastisement, it is not to destroy us, but to refine us. Judah fell captive to Babylon because Israel had fallen captive to their own lusts. But the Lord did not destroy them, he restored them. And in their restoration, he used even the very thing that had threatened to destroy them to enrich them. Ultimately, all the expenses needed for their restoration were given out of the king's house in Babylon (6:4).

But, learn this too, we must—Once we have fallen into a state of spiritual declension from our God, once we have been drawn away from him, we will never return to him, except he return us. The only ones who came back to Jerusalem were those “*whose spirit the Lord had raised.*”

When Zerubbabel brought Israel back to Jerusalem, **his first act was the building of God's altar.** That is always the very first thing that takes place when God restores our souls. He causes us to turn again to Christ and his great sacrifice for us, acknowledging with renewed consecration that we are his (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

The second thing they did was to lay the foundation of the temple. The work was met with mixed feeling (3:1-3, 11-13).

(Ezra 3:1-3) "And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel *were* in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem. {2} Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the

altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as *it is* written in the law of Moses the man of God. {3} And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear *was* upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, *even* burnt offerings morning and evening."

(Ezra 3:11-13) "And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because *he is* good, for his mercy *endureth* for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. {12} But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: {13} So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off."

What a picture this is of the bitter sweetness of true repentance. When the Lord graciously grants us a little reviving in our souls, we weep because of our horrible offenses and rejoice because of his great goodness.

Then, a third thing happened. In chapter four, the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin tried to turn them away from God again. These adversaries were Samaritans. They pretended to be friends, wanting to help rebuild the house of God. When Zerubbabel and the men of Judah refused to allow them to help, they turned on them fiercely, and (for a time) delayed the work.

- These men were like our flesh. Everything in us, by nature, would turn us from our God.

- Judah could not allow these Samaritans to have any part in the work, because they had no part in the worship of God.—We must never lean to the flesh to do God’s work and will!

GOD’S METHOD OF GRACE

There is another lesson here that we must not miss. God always accomplishes his purpose of grace. But he uses human means to do it.

- Cyrus issued his decree because God put it in his heart to do so (1:1); but Cyrus issued the decree.
- Those who returned returned because God raised their hearts to return; but they returned.
- Ezra succeed because the good hand of the Lord was upon him; but he succeeded (7:9).
- Artaxerxes supported the work of rebuilding the temple because the Lord put it in his heart to do so (7:27); but he supported the work.
- God favored the nation with repentance because of Ezra’s prayer (9-10). The Lord put the prayer in his heart, but Ezra prayed.
- God raised up two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, to prophesy to his people and move them to the work (5).
- And deliverance came at exactly the time God had purposed and promised.

GRACE ALL-SUFFICIENT

The last thing I want you to see is this.—God’s grace is sufficient.

- To Supply all Our Need

- To Preserve and Keep Us
- To Enable us to Do His Will

(Ezra 9:8-9) "And now for a little space grace hath been *showed* from the LORD our God, to leave us **a remnant** to escape, and to give us **a nail** in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us **a little reviving** in our bondage. {9} For we *were* bondmen; yet **our God hath not forsaken us** in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, **to set up the house** of our God, and **to repair the desolations** thereof, and to give us **a wall** in Judah and in Jerusalem."