



*What To Do in Case
of Fire*

Sunday 08-18-2024

Ezra 1, 4, 6

Tragic Dates

- **722 B.C. Fall of Northern Kingdom to Assyria**
- **586 B.C. Fall of Judah to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon**

Ezra 1:1-2

God Speaks to Pagans

¹ 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, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying,

² Thus says Cyrus king of Persia:

All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which *is* in Judah.

Ezra 1:3-4

God Speaks to Pagans

³ Who *is* among you of all His people? May 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* God), which *is* in Jerusalem.

⁴ And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which *is* in Jerusalem.

Two Distinct Periods

- ❖ *536-516 BC 20 years, in which, under Zerubbabel the Governor and Joshua the Priest, the Temple, center of their national life, was re-built, Ezra chapters 3 to 6. To this period belonged Haggai and Zachariah.*
- ❖ *457-432 BC 25 years, in which, under Nehemiah the Governor and Ezra the Priest, the wall was rebuilt, and Jerusalem restored as a fortified city. To this belonged Malachi.* ¹

¹All taken from *Bible Handbook* by Henry H. Halley, 21st edition, copyright 1957, page 212

Three Returns

- ❖ 536 BC Zerubbabel with 42,360 Jews, 7,337 servants, 200 singers, 736 horses, 245 mules, 435 camels, 6720 asses, 5400 gold and silver vessels which had been taken from Jerusalem
- ❖ 457 BC Ezra with 1754 males, 100 talents of gold, 750 talents of silver, which included offerings from the king. Not stated whether women and children went.
- ❖ 444 BC Nehemiah, as governor, with an army escort, went to rebuild and fortify Jerusalem, at government expense. ¹

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*Chronology of the Restoration*¹

- ❖ *536 BC 49,897 return from Babylon to Jerusalem.*
- ❖ *536 BC 7th month, they built the altar, and offered sacrifice.*
- ❖ *535 BC Work on the temple begun, and stopped.*
- ❖ *520 BC Work renewed by Haggai, Zachariah.*
- ❖ *516 BC Temple Completed*
- ❖ *478 BC Esther becomes queen of Persia*
- ❖ *457 BC Ezra goes from Babylon to Jerusalem*
- ❖ *444 BC Nehemiah rebuilds the wall*
- ❖ *432 BC Nehemiah returns again from Babylon*

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*Prophetic
Anticipation*

Jeremiah 25:11-12

- 11** And this whole land shall be a desolation *and* an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.
- 12** ‘Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, *that* I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,’ says the LORD; ‘and I will make it a perpetual desolation.’

Ezra 1:5-7

The Temple Vessels

- 5 Then the heads of the fathers' *houses* of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the LORD which *is* in Jerusalem.
- 6 And all those who *were* around them encouraged them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with precious things, besides all *that* was willingly offered.
- 7 King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods;

Ezra 1:8-11

The Temple Vessels

- ⁸ and Cyrus king of Persia brought them out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.
- ⁹ This *is* the number of them: thirty gold platters, one thousand silver platters, twenty-nine knives,
- ¹⁰ thirty gold basins, four hundred and ten silver basins of a similar *kind, and* one thousand other articles.
- ¹¹ All the articles of gold and silver *were* five thousand four hundred. All *these* Sheshbazzar took with the captives who were brought from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Ezra 4:1-3

Work Began with Opposition

- 1** Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the descendants of the captivity were building the temple of the LORD God of Israel,
- 2** they came to Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers' *houses*, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we seek your God as you *do*; and we have sacrificed to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here."
- 3** But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of the fathers' *houses* of Israel said to them, "You may do nothing with us to build a house for our God; but we alone will build to the LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."

Ezra 4:4-5

Work Began with Opposition

- 4** Then the people of the land tried to discourage the people of Judah. They troubled them in building,
- 5** and hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Ezra 6:13-15

Work Completed

- 13** Then Tattenai, governor of *the region* beyond the River, Shethar-Boznai, and their companions diligently did according to what King Darius had sent.
- 14** So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished *it*, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.
- 15** Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.