

THE STORY: "The Return Home"

Ezra 1:1-4

I. Intro: Closet of forgotten passions

II. God turns the heart of Cyrus, the Persian king, toward the Jews and Cyrus
_____ them to return home

*This is what the Lord says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again."
(Jeremiah 29:10 NLT)*

*"Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you!"
(Ezra 1:3 NLT)*

A. The people of God return home with the primary task of _____
the _____

But many of the older priests, Levites, and other leaders who had seen the first Temple wept aloud when they saw the new Temple's foundation. The others, however, were shouting for joy. The joyful shouting and weeping mingled together in a loud noise that could be heard far in the distance. (Ezra 3:12-13 NLT)

B. In Israel's typical pattern, they _____ from their _____

*"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: The people are saying, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.'" Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: "Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?"
(Haggai 1:2-4 NLT)*

III. The Lord's preparation for restoring His people is a matter of _____,
keeping _____ things _____ (Command 1)

"If we put first things first, we get the second things thrown in; but if we put second things first, we lose _____ the first and second things." (C.S. Lewis)

A. Where is God making preparation in your life for restoration, for a
_____ of the _____?

**Redeemer ... a place to GATHER, GROW, & GO
in your relationship with Jesus Christ!**

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.



part 19
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