

A PRACTICAL OUTLINE for Ezra 1:1-4 ...

1) The LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, 1:1.

- The LORD did this so that “the word of the LORD” might be fulfilled.
- The LORD did this so that Cyrus would make his proclamation.

➔ **PRACTICE:** The LORD stirs our spirits so that his word might be fulfilled, 1:1.

2) Cyrus makes his proclamation via the stirring of the LORD, 1:2.

- He first acknowledges what God has given him, 1:2a.
- He then acknowledges that God “has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem,” 1:2b.

➔ **PRACTICE:** This stirring of the LORD brings about an acknowledgement of what God has done in our lives and an awareness of what God desires to do in and through our lives, 1:2.

3) Cyrus blesses and commissions the ones who would return to Jerusalem to rebuild the house of the LORD, 1:3-4.

- May God be with you.
- Go and rebuild the house of the LORD.
- May you be assisted by the people and supported by freewill offerings.

➔ **PRACTICE:** When the LORD stirs our spirits he promises to be with us as he exhorts us to move forward in the commissioning that he has given, 1:3-4.

Jeremiah ...

For thus says the LORD: When **seventy years** are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

(Jeremiah 29:10 ESV)

Daniel ...

So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius **and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.**

(Daniel 6:28 ESV)

Outline of Ezra

I. The **First Return** under **Zerubbabel** (1:1-6:22)

- A. Cyrus’ Decree to Return (1:1-4)
- B. Treasures to Rebuild the Temple (1:5-11)
- C. Those Who Returned (2:1-70)
- D. Construction of the Second Temple (3:1-6:22)
 - a. Building begins (3:1-13)
 - b. Opposition surfaces (4:1-5)
 - c. Excursus on future opposition (4:6-23)
 - d. Construction renewed (4:24-5:2)
 - e. Opposition renewed (5:3-6:12)
 - f. Temple completed and dedicated (6:13-22)

II. The **Second Return** under **Ezra** (7:1-10:44)

- A. Ezra Arrives (7:1-8:36)
- B. Ezra Leads Revival (9:1-10:44)1

(MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). The MacArthur study Bible: New American Standard Bible. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.)

*Prophesied concerning the events of Ezra.

