

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 119: CYRUS HELPS THE EXILES TO RETURN
EZRA 1:1-11

During the first year that Cyrus was king of Persia, the LORD caused him to make an announcement. It was written down, and Cyrus ordered that it be read throughout his kingdom. This was done so that what the LORD had told Jeremiah to say many years before would now happen. This was the announcement that was read: "From King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, gave all the kingdoms on earth to me. And he chose me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in the country of Judah. If any of God's people are living among you, I pray God will bless them. You must let them go to Jerusalem in the country of Judah. You must let them go build the Temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem. And so in any place where there might be survivors of Israel, the men in that place must support these survivors. Give them silver, gold, animals, and other things. Give them gifts for God's Temple in Jerusalem." So the family leaders from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin prepared to go up to Jerusalem. They were going to Jerusalem to build the LORD'S Temple. Also everyone whose spirits God had moved got ready to go to Jerusalem. All their neighbors gave them many gifts. They gave them silver, gold, animals, and other expensive things like expensive clothes and dishes. Their neighbors gladly gave them all those things. Also, King Cyrus brought out the things that belonged in the LORD'S Temple that king Nebuchadnezzar had taken away from Jerusalem when he captured the people of Judah. He had put them in his own temple where he kept his false gods. King Cyrus of Persia told Mithredath, the man who keeps his money, to bring those things out. So Mithredath brought them out to a man named Sheshbazzar, who was the leader of Judah. This is what Mithredath brought out of king Cyrus' temple: 30 gold dishes, 1000 silver dishes, 29 knives and pans, 30 gold bowls, 410 silver bowls similar to the gold bowls, and 1000 other dishes. All together, there were 5,400 things made from gold and silver. Sheshbazzar brought them all with him when the prisoners left Babylon and went back to Jerusalem.

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(EZRA 1:1-11)



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MEMORY VERSE:

"I was glad when they said, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'" PSALMS 122:1

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The first year that Cyrus was king of Persia, the LORD caused him to make an announcement to his kingdom. TRUE or FALSE
2. The prophet Jeremiah had spoken that this was going to happen a long time ago, and now it was going to come true. TRUE or FALSE
3. The announcement king Cyrus wrote down said, "The LORD God has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and now He has commanded me to build him a mouse. TRUE or FALSE
4. But all the family leaders of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, the priests and the Levites, and everyone whose spirits God had moved would not get up and get ready to go. TRUE or FALSE
5. All the people living around them gave them lots of silver and gold, animals and all kinds of expensive things. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Did God make king Cyrus want to help the people of Judah build the LORD's Temple again?
2. Did Jeremiah the prophet say that this was going to happen a long time ago?
3. What did king Cyrus bring out of his own temple? Was it all the things that king Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the LORD's temple when he captured Judah?
4. What did the neighbors of the people of Judah give them? (Silver, gold, animals, and lots of expensive things!)
5. Did those neighbors want to give the people of Judah those things? Why did they want to help them? Was it because the LORD put it in their hearts to help them? Yes!
6. Were there a lot of things that were in king Cyrus' temple that belonged to the LORD's Temple? Yes! There were thousands of things brought out of king Cyrus' temple.

Lesson 119

ONLY color the things that the neighbors of Judah gave to the people.

