

Built for Worship
Ezra 1: The Lord in control

Intro – Who’s in control?

God and His Judgement (2 Chronicles 36:15-21)

“God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar” (v.17)

“He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors...

...until the kingdom of Persia came to power.” (v.20)

God and His King (Ezra 1:1-4)

“The Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia” (v.1)

“Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord” (v.3)

God and His people (Ezra 1:5-11)

“Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites – everyone whose heart God had moved – prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.” (v.5)

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Questions to think and pray through this week

Why does our human nature put ourselves at the centre of life? Why is it important to remind ourselves that actually God should take centre stage?

Do you sometimes doubt that God is in control, even over the decisions of powerful rulers? How might this story encourage you to trust in God's sovereignty over the world?

Why do you think God's first concern is that the temple in Jerusalem is rebuilt before anything else?

Has God moved your heart to respond to Jesus' sacrifice? Is he stirring you now?

In what other ways have you experienced God moving your heart to follow His ways?

How might you offer your life to God in worship in response to His saving of you through Jesus?

In what ways have you experienced God's generosity towards you? How thankful are you to Him?

How does knowing God is in sovereign control help us when things seem to be going badly?