

FIRST RETURN FROM BABYLON, PART 1
(Ezra 1:1-11)

- I. Cyrus's _____ (Ezra 1:1-4)
- A. Introduction and background (1:1)
1. Issued in _____ BC, Cyrus's first year of rule over _____
 2. Fulfilled God's prophecy of _____ captivity (cf. Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10)
 3. Produced by _____ moving "the _____ of Cyrus"
 4. It was proclaimed _____ and posted in _____
- B. The _____ (1:2-4)
1. Intended to placate the _____ of the conquered _____
 2. _____ Jews to return to Jerusalem to _____ the _____
 3. Encouraged those who _____ to make _____ contributions to those who were _____
 - a. Gifts for their _____
 - b. Donations for the _____

II. God's _____ (Ezra 1:5-11)

A. He _____ people _____ to return

1. _____ from the tribes of _____ and

2. Some of the _____ and _____

B. God prompted people to _____

1. Personal gifts for the _____ of those _____

2. "Freewill offering" for "the _____ of _____"

C. Cyrus _____ articles from the temple that Nebuchadnezzar had

1. Handled by "Mithredath the _____"

2. Transferred into the custody of Sheshbazzar, "the _____ of Judah"

a. Possibly a Jewish leader to be _____ by Zerubbabel

b. Possibly Shenazzar (1 Chron. 3:18), descended from _____
and an _____ of Zerubbabel

c. Probably _____ for Zerubbabel

3. Safely _____ from Babylon to Jerusalem

III. Lessons

A. God works through the resources of this _____ to accomplish
_____ for His people

B. God's _____ will not _____