

Ezra 1:1-3; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia,
that the word of the LORD

by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled,
the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia,
so that he made a proclamation throughout
all his kingdom and also put it in writing:

Ezra 1:1-3; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23

“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia:

The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up

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Whoever is among you of all his people,
may his God be with him, and let him go up
to Jerusalem, which is in Judah,
and rebuild the house of the LORD,
the God of Israel –
he is the God who is in Jerusalem.”

Jeremiah 25:11-12

This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste,
and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon
seventy years.

Then after seventy years are completed,
I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,
the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,
declares the LORD,
making the land an everlasting waste.

Jeremiah 29:11-12

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.

For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the LORD,
plans for wholeness and not for evil,
to give you a future and a hope.

Daniel 9:1-12

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus,
by descent a Mede, who was made king
over the realm of the Chaldeans –
in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel,
perceived in the books the number of years that,
according to the word of the LORD
to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before
the end of the desolations of Jerusalem,
namely, seventy years.

Daniel 9:24

Seventy weeks are decreed about your people
and your holy city, to finish the transgression,
to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity,
to bring in everlasting righteousness,
to seal both vision and prophet,
and to anoint a most holy place.”

Ezra 3:10-13

And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,
“For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

Ezra 3:10-13

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

Ezra 7:25

And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom
of your God that is in your hand,
appoint magistrates and judges who may judge
all the people in the province Beyond the River,
all such as know the laws of your God.

And those who do not know them,
you shall teach.

Ezra 7:27-28

Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers,
who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king,
to beautify the house of the LORD
that is in Jerusalem, and who extended to me
his steadfast love before the king and his counselors,
and before all the king's mighty officers.

I took courage, for the hand of the LORD my God
was on me, and I gathered leading men from Israel
to go up with me.

Ezra 9:1

After these things had been done,
the officials approached me and said:

“The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites
have not separated themselves from
the peoples of the lands with their abominations,
from the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites,
the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites,
the Egyptians, and the Amorites.”

Ezra 9:2

“For they have taken some of their daughters
to be wives for themselves and for their sons,
so that the holy race has mixed itself
with the peoples of the lands.

“And in this faithlessness
the hand of the officials and chief men
has been foremost.”

Ezra 9:3-4

As soon as I heard this,
I tore my garment and my cloak
and pulled hair from my head and beard
and sat appalled.

Then all who trembled at the words
of the God of Israel, because of
the faithlessness of the returned exiles,
gathered around me while I sat appalled
until the evening sacrifice.

Ezra 9:5-6

And at the evening sacrifice I rose from my fasting,
with my garment and my cloak torn,
and fell upon my knees and spread out my hands
to the LORD my God, saying:

“O my God, I am ashamed
and blush to lift my face to you, my God,
for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads,
and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.”

Ezra 9:7

“From the days of our fathers to this day
we have been in great guilt.

“And for our iniquities we,
our kings, and our priests have been given
into the hand of the kings of the lands,
to the sword, to captivity, to plundering,
and to utter shame, as it is today.”

Ezra 9:8-9

“But now for a brief moment
favor has been shown by the LORD our God,
to leave us a remnant and to give us
a secure hold within his holy place,
that our God may brighten our eyes
and grant us a little reviving in our slavery.

For we are slaves.

Yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery,
but has extended to us his steadfast love
before the kings of Persia, to grant us some reviving
to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins,
and to give us protection in Judea and Jerusalem.”

Ezra 9:10-11

“And now, O our God, what shall we say after this?

For we have forsaken your commandments,
which you commanded by your servants the prophets,
saying, ‘The land that you are entering,
to take possession of it, is a land impure
with the impurity of the peoples of the lands,
with their abominations that have filled it
from end to end with their uncleanness.’”

Ezra 9:12

“Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons,
neither take their daughters for your sons,
and never seek their peace or prosperity,
that you may be strong and eat the good of the land
and leave it for an inheritance
to your children forever.”

Ezra 9:13-14a

“And after all that has come upon us
for our evil deeds and for our great guilt,
seeing that you, our God, have punished us
less than our iniquities deserved
and have given us such a remnant as this,
shall we break your commandments again
and intermarry with the peoples
who practice these abominations?”

Ezra 9:14b-15

“Would you not be angry with us
until you consumed us,
so that there should be no remnant,
nor any to escape?

“O LORD the God of Israel, you are just,
for we are left a remnant that has escaped,
as it is today.

“Behold, we are before you in our guilt,
for none can stand before you because of this.”

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John 16:33

“In this world you will have trouble.

But take heart:

I have overcome the world!”

Psalm 20:7-9

Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

They collapse and fall,
but we rise and stand upright.

O LORD, save the king!
May he answer us when we call.

Isaiah 26:1-5

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

“We have a strong city; he sets up salvation
as walls and bulwarks.

Open the gates, that the righteous nation
that keeps faith may enter in.

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind
is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Trust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD God is an everlasting rock.

For he has humbled the inhabitants
of the height, the lofty city.

He lays it low, lays it low to the ground,
casts it to the dust.”