

**A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study**  
**Sunday, August 9, 2020**  
**Ezra 1-2**

1. We've just finished a long study in Jeremiah on Wednesday nights. What happened at the end of the book of Jeremiah? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. When does the book of Ezra happen, according to Ezra 1:1? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What does Cyrus say in his proclamation, according to Ezra 1:1-4?
  - a. The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.
  - b. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build a temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.
  - c. ...in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.
  
4. Why did Cyrus say this?
  - a. He was a man of God.
  - b. The Persians had a different way of conquering and occupying people than the Babylonians.
  - c. Well, he had just conquered the Babylonian empire and some accounts suggest that there were enough people who were unhappy with being taken from their homes and how the Babylonian rulers were treating them that the Persians were seen as liberators rather than conquerors by many Babylonians.
  - d. While he may not have been a man of God as we understand it, he certainly seemed to understand the will of God working through his life and the value of having the people of Israel and the God of Israel supporting his leadership.
  - e. Does it matter? We are not really the judge and God's will was being accomplished.
  
5. This must have been quite a time of celebration. Do you suppose this was the end of the story?
  - a. Yep, they had waited a long time to get home and now everything is fixed...all better.
  - b. Well, it is one thing to go back and a whole other thing to think about what was there when they get back.
  - c. Ultimately, this is really just the beginning. They still have a lot of work to do!
  
6. Have you ever looked forward to something soooooo much...and then realized that what you had imagined as the end of your "longing" was actually the beginning of your role in a rebuilding project? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. How do you think this applies to the church today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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