

THE PROMISE KEEPING GOD ~ Ezra 1:1-2:70

GOING HOME ~ Ezra 1:1-4

[1] In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing: [2] "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "'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. [3] Anyone of his people among you--may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem. [4] And the people of any place where survivors may now be living are to provide him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.

APPLICATION

***Daniel 9:4 (NLT)** I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands.*

➔ **Because God Kept His Promises to Israel we can Count on His Promises to us.**

WE WILL...

➤ **Have Bold Access To God**

➤ **Have A God Who Understands Our Pain**

***Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT)** This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. [16] So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*

➤ **Go Through Trials And Suffering**

***John 15:18-20 (NIV)** "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ...[20] Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also...*

➤ **Never Suffer Alone**

***Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)** Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

➤ **Have Victory Over Satan (if we SUBMIT to GOD & Resist)**

***James 4:7 (NIV)** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

RETURNING ARTICLES FROM THE TEMPLE ~ Ezra 1:5-11

[5] 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. [6] All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings. [7] Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god.

APPLICATION

Ephesians 4:29-30 (NIV) Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. [30] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

ZERUBBABEL LEADS THE FIRST GROUP ~ Ezra 2:1-68

[1] Now these are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive to Babylon (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town, [2] in company with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah):

GIVING ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY ~ Ezra 2:68-70

[68] When they arrived at the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the families gave freewill offerings toward the rebuilding of the house of God on its site. [69] According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 drachmas of gold, 5,000 minas of silver and 100 priestly garments. [70] The priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers and the temple servants settled in their own towns, along with some of the other people, and the rest of the Israelites settled in their towns.

APPLICATION

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV) ...Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV) Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

SO WHAT ??

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:10-13 (NIV) This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. [11] For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. [12] Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. [13] You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.