

# Ezra 1: Good News from the King

**Luke 24:44-45 (ESV) – 44** Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

What a seemingly controversial declaration about Himself!

**Isaiah 44:24-28 (ESV) – 24** Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, **25** who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish, **26** who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be inhabited,’ and of the cities of Judah, ‘They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins’; **27** who says to the deep, ‘Be dry; I will dry up your rivers’; **28** who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’ ”

**Psalms 72:8-11 (ESV) – 8** May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! **9** May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! **10** May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! **11** May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

**Ezra 1:1 (ESV) – 1** 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:

**Jeremiah 29:10-14 (ESV) – 10** “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. **11** For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. **12** Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. **13** You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

**Ezra 1:2-4 (ESV) – 2** “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. **3** 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. **4** And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts, besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.”

**(SHOW IMAGE)** In the British Museum, there is an artifact there called the Cyrus Cylinder, It was discovered in Babylon, (Iraq) 130 years ago and it does well for us to pay attention to it, because its monumental in the case of human history. **It is called the VERY FIRST DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.** “I returned to these sacred cities, the sanctuaries of which have been ruins for a long time, the images which to live therein and established for them permanent sanctuaries. I also gathered all their inhabitants and returned them to their habitations... May all the gods of whom I have resettled in their sacred cities ask daily Bel and Nebo for long life for me... to Marduk, my lord, may they say this: Cyrus the king who worships, and Cambyses, his son...”

**Ezra 1:5-11 (ESV) – 5 Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem. 6 And all who were about them aided them with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with beasts, and with costly wares, besides all that was freely offered. 7 Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods. 8 Cyrus king of Persia brought these out in the charge of Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. 9 And this was the number of them: 30 basins of gold, 1,000 basins of silver, 29 censers, 10 30 bowls of gold, 410 bowls of silver, and 1,000 other vessels; 11 all the vessels of gold and of silver were 5,400. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up, when the exiles were brought up from Babylonia to Jerusalem.**