



Introduction

The times of the Jewish kings came to an end in about 600 BC when the Babylonians carried them into captivity. Now, 70 years later, the Persian king, Cyrus, is inviting the Jews to return to their land.



Questions

1. What did God command Cyrus to do?
2. What did Cyrus say to the people?
3. What did Cyrus do to help



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 4** Cyrus encourages those Jews who want to resettle their land saying, “may his God be with him” (see theme). People in Babylon (see map) are asked to donate gold, silver and other goods to help with the rebuilding of the house of the LORD
- **v 5 to 11** Those returning to rebuild the LORD’s house are given goods to take with them. Cyrus also gives back all the treasures for the house that Nebuchadnezzar had taken to Babylon

Timeline 500 BC (see below)



Theme / Information

God is with his people

A selection of verses showing that God promises always to be with his people.

God promises to be with Abraham’s son [Isaac] and his grandson [Jacob]:

Genesis 26 verse 3, 28 verse 15

God says he will be with Joshua as he was with Moses:

Joshua 1 verse 5

God says he was with David wherever he went. He has destroyed his enemies and made him great:

2 Samuel 7 verses 8 and 9

David asks that God will be with his son Solomon in building the temple:

1 Chronicles 22 verse 11

Jesus Christ promises that he and God will be with those who love him:

John 14 verse 23

Paul ends his letter to the Romans by asking that God may be with the early believers:

Romans 15 verse 33



Babylonian empire

Map showing the extent of the Babylonian empire.



Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 2, Q 2: v 3, Q 3: v 7 and 8



Bible timeline

