

Introduction:

- A. Last week, we learned that after years of God’s warnings had been disregarded, God allowed His people to be taken into Babylonian _____.
- B. God had prophesied that the exile would last _____ years, and that King _____ of Persia would allow God’s people to return and rebuild.
- C. Today we want to examine what took place as God’s people began to take advantage of the edict allowing them to return and rebuild.

I. The Story.

- A. Ezra 1:5-11
 - 1. The southern kingdom was made up of two tribes: _____ and _____.
 - 2. Those in whose _____ God _____ decided to return.
 - 3. Neighbors assisted them by giving them _____, _____ and livestock.
 - 4. Most significantly, the _____ of the _____ were returned to God’s people.
- B. Ezra 2:1-2
 - 1. The lists in Ezra and Nehemiah serve important purposes - they are a monument to God’s _____ and Israel’s _____.
 - 2. A primary motive for the grouping is not _____, but _____.
- C. Ezra 2:64, 68-70
 - 1. Upon arrival their first desire was to make a _____ to God.
 - 2. It is interesting there is no acknowledgment of the _____ of the journey.
 - 3. Those who returned made a huge _____ statement.

II. The Application - Lessons We Learn

- A. When God is ready to _____, He will _____ His people.
- B. Everyone has a _____ to _____ - we can all be partners in God’s enterprise (Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Cor. 12:4-7; 18-20).
- C. God is all wise and all knowing, and that God has the power to carry out all His _____ and _____.

Answer Key: Intro.A. captivity. B. 70, Cyrus. I.A.1. Judah, Benjamin. I.A.2. heart, moved. I.A.3. money, goods, livestock. I.A.4. articles, temple. I.B.1. care, vitality. I.B.2. social, religious. I.C.1. offering. I.C.2. difficulty. I.C.3. faith. II.A. move, move. II.B. part, play. II.C. plans, promises.