

THE FIRST RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL AND JESHUA Ezra 1 – 6

Just as the capture of Judah took place in several stages, so also did the return of the captives to their national homeland. Study now about the first return, which took place in 536 B.C., exactly 70 years after the first captives left Judah:

A. The Command to Return: Read Ezra 1:1-11

1. What happened to the kingdom of Babylon in 526 B. C.? Daniel 5:28

2. What were the names of the first two kings of the new kingdom?
Daniel 5:31, 6:28

3. How did God begin to fulfill His promise He had made to the Jews through Jeremiah?
Jeremiah 29:10; Ezra 1:1b

4. What two things did the new king want the people of Judah to do? Ezra 1:3

5. How did the king say those who did not go back were to help? Ezra 1:4

6. What special vessels did the king give them to take back to Jerusalem?
Ezra 1:7-11

B. The People's Work in Judah: Read Ezra 3:1-4:6, 23-5:5

1. How many of the people went back at this time? Ezra 2:1, 64, 65

2. What did they do first when they returned? Ezra 3:2

3. What did the people do after they had laid the foundations of the temple? Ezra 3:11-12

4. Who then asked to help with the building of the temple? Ezra 4:1-2

5. What did they do when Zerubbabel and Joshua would not let them help?
Ezra 4:4-6

6. What happened as a result? Ezra 4:24

7. What caused the work on the temple to begin again? Ezra 5:1-2

8. Who next questioned their right to build the temple? Ezra 5:3

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9. Why could they not stop the work? Ezra 5:5

10. What king made a decree that the work should be completed?
Ezra 6:1, 8, 12

11. How did the people feel when they had completed the building?
Ezra 6:16, 22

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What made it possible for Judah to complete the temple in spite of all the opposition and interruptions? (See Numbers 23:19)

2. Need I allow anything to stop me from completing my God given tasks?
