

# Building for God

Pembroke Bible Chapel  
D Axford – Mar 22, 2009  
Series No. DA-EZRA-01

## Released From Captivity Ezra 1-2

### I. THE PROMISE

God keeps His promises (*Ezra 1:1a; Jer.25:12; 29:10*).

### II. THE PLAN

The Lord anointed a pagan king to release His people from captivity (*Ezra 1:1b; Is.44:28; 45:1-7*).

### III. THE PROCLAMATION

King Cyrus sent a written proclamation throughout his kingdom freeing the Jews to go to Jerusalem and build a house for their God (*Ezra 1:1c-4*).

### IV. THE PROVISION

Funding for the project came from the people and from the king's treasury and amounted to some 300 million dollars in gold (*Ezra 1:4-11; 2:69; 6:4-5*).

### V. THE PARTICIPANTS

Many, about 50,000, chose to return to their homeland but many remained in Babylon/Persia (*Ezra 1:5; 2:1-68*).

These people were led by Zerubbabel in the long and difficult task to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

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## Application

### **The believer in Jesus has been released from bondage**

This is not a question of justification

The penalty for your sins has been paid by Jesus blood

Your sins – past present & future have been atoned for

Has all to do with the sin nature – deliverance from yourself

The real question is how are you delivered from this?

Your sin nature is dealt with by the cross not the blood!

Your old self was crucified with Christ on the cross

Not annihilated but crucified - put to death on His cross

When saved you were positioned by God in Christ

Dead, buried, raised, ascended, and seated in Heaven

The believer is to take up his cross daily (Luke 9:23)

This cross is not primarily your trials and tribulations

It is Calvary – where you were crucified with Christ

It is this cross which delivers you from your sinful self

It is a daily, moment by moment, death to self

Counting your own desires and wishes dead but alive to him

Yielding to His Spirit within

Dead to the world and the world is dead to us – Gal.6:14

This is true deliverance from captivity

The proclamation of your emancipation has been made

The message = know/believe/present yourself to Him

Why live the miserable Romans 7 existence?

You have been joined to another – even Christ (Rom.7:4)

Like the captives who took Cyrus at his word and returned

### **What about you today?**

Have you experienced this deliverance from yourself?

From your sin nature?

The cross of Christ provides that deliverance.

Don't be like Patty Hearst

So accustomed to enemy territory that you can't see where you are – The Stockholm Syndrome?

*“But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” Galatians 6:14*