

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Ezra 1:1-4

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:

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."

ALSO READ

Jeremiah 25:12-13

Isaiah 44:24-45:13

Study Guide 9 Jan 2011 – The Undeniable Word of God



Summary

The nation of Israel is in exile because they have disobeyed God, but God promised a return to Jerusalem when their hearts turn back to Him.

Everything that God says comes true. Even though Isaiah prophesied the name of King Cyrus 500 years before, no one had ever foreseen the events that God would put into motion to exile Israel and pave the way for their return.

God is not sentimental or lacking in will. He is patient and cannot be denied. His word has come true in the past and it will come true in the future. Those who imagine that they may ignore or escape God's words are mistaken. God is true to His word.

The word of God in our lives gets challenged and opposed all the time. It may not be direct opposition, but our society always finds a way to grind against the values that God has given to us, whether it is God-centeredness, family, justice or love.

Because it is true and good, God's word must then be repeated and preached to everyone.

Key points

God is not a hypocrite or liar – His person is inseparable from His word.

Explanation

>>What would you do if you could foresee the future?

>>Is God's word utterly true? In what sense?

>>If God's word is completely true, what are the implications on our lives? What if it was false?

Application

>>How does a person live as if God's word was important?

>>How valuable is a book that is completely accurate about the past and the future? Do we treat the bible like it is as valuable as it truly is?

Final thoughts

We have a great treasure and a great message to proclaim – the true word of God that cannot be denied!