

## When God Moves

Ezra 1:1-4

- I. God controls all history for His purposes and for His people (historical background of Ezra).
  - A. God warned Israel through Moses (1400 BC) that disobedience would bring captivity (Deuteronomy 28:36-68).
  - B. God promised Israel if they repented when disciplined, He would restore and bless them (Deuteronomy 30:1-10).
  - C. God prophesied through Isaiah (740 BC) a king named Cyrus would restore them to the land (Isaiah 44:24 – 45:6).
- II. God moved King Cyrus of Persia to urge Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1-4).
  - A. God moved the heart of King Cyrus (Ezra 1:1).
    - God works even in unbelievers through circumstances, believers and His word.
  - B. King Cyrus gave permission to exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:2-3).
    - When God moves to begin a new season in our life it is so that we can glorify Him.
  - C. King Cyrus urged those who would not return to support financially those who would (Ezra 1:4).
    - When God moves in a new season in our lives, He will provide the resources to accomplish it.