

**Picking up the Broken Pieces**

**Franklin Heights Church**

**April 12, 2026**

**Rocky Mount-CrossPointe-Union Hall-Ferrum College-Recovery Church-Español**

Text: Ezra 1:1-11 (ESV)

2 Kings 17:7-8 (ESV)

*And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced.*

Jeremiah 25:11 (ESV)

*This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.*

**1. God \_\_\_\_\_ His promises.**

Ezra 1:1a (ESV)

*In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled,*

Jeremiah 29:10 (ESV)

*“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.*

Isaiah 44:28 (ESV)

*who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”*

Isaiah 46:10 (ESV)

*declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’*

Isaiah 46:3-4 (ESV)

*“Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.*

**2. God \_\_\_\_\_ powerful people.**

Ezra 1:1 (ESV)

*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:*

Proverbs 21:1 (ESV)

*The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.*

Ezra 1:2–4 (ESV)

*“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. 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. 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.”*

**3. God \_\_\_\_\_ people’s hearts.**

Ezra 1:5 (ESV)

*Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem.*

Ezra 1:6 (ESV)

*And all who were about them aided them with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with beasts, and with costly wares, besides all that was freely offered.*

**4. God \_\_\_\_\_ what was lost.**

Ezra 1:7-8 (ESV)

*Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the house of the LORD that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods. Cyrus king of Persia brought these out in the charge of Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.*

Ezra 1:9-11 (ESV)

*And this was the number of them: 30 basins of gold, 1,000 basins of silver, 29 censers, 30 bowls of gold, 410 bowls of silver, and 1,000 other vessels; all the vessels of gold and of silver were 5,400. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up, when the exiles were brought up from Babylonia to Jerusalem.*