



## **From Cyrus to Esther**

**Ezra 1-6, Esther 1-2**

### **Lesson 90 Visuals**

- **God moved in King Cyrus' mind and heart so that he wanted to build a new temple in Jerusalem.**
- **God gave King Cyrus the desire to show favor to the Jews.**
- **Jeremiah had prophesied that the Jewish exiles would one day return to where? \_\_\_\_\_ Jerusalem**
- **Isaiah mentioned Cyrus by name before this king was even born.**
- **Isaiah prophesied that Cyrus would give an order for Jerusalem and the temple to be rebuilt.**
- **Zerubbabel led 42,000 Jews to return to Jerusalem from exile.**
- **The first thing they built was an altar to the LORD God so that they could have morning and evening burnt offerings.**



- **Some of the people who had lived in Jerusalem before the exiles returned offered to help rebuild the temple. Zerubbabel and the other Jewish leaders did not let them because they didn't trust them.**
- **Those people eventually showed Zerubbabel that he was right to not trust them when they tried to stop the rebuilding of the temple.**
- **Those same people wrote to King Artaxerxes and said the Jews were trying to rebel against the king.**
- **After King Artaxerxes read that letter, he ordered the Jews to stop rebuilding.**
- **When the prophets Haggai and Zechariah told him that God wanted them to start rebuilding the temple again, Zerubbabel listened and went back to work.**
- **The government leaders tried to stop the work and sent a letter to King Darius.**



- **When King Darius found Cyrus' decree, he ordered the government's leaders to NOT interfere with the work on the temple.**
- **Darius ordered for money to be taken out of his own royal treasury so that it could be given to the Jews to assist them with rebuilding the temple.**
- **The temple was completed several years later.**
- **Not all the Jews returned to Jerusalem. There were still thousands and thousands of Jews in Persia.**
- **Mordecai raised his much younger cousin Hadassah like she was his own daughter because her parents had died.**
- **Hadassah was her Hebrew name. Esther was the name she went by in Persia.**
- **Esther was beautiful in appearance was beautiful. The Bible tells us that she was lovely in form and features.**
- **King Ahasuerus was king of the massive Persian empire.**



- **King Ahasuerus' palace was in Susa.**
- **King Ahasuerus held a banquet for all his nobles and officials. King Ahasuerus' banquet lasted seven days.**
- **On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the banquet, the king ordered Queen Vashti to come. He wanted her to come so everybody could see how beautiful she was.**
- **Queen Vashti refused to come. She did obey the King's order.**
- **As punishment for that, Queen Vashti was never allowed to come into the king's presence again and her royal position was given to another woman.**
- **A search was made that went throughout the Persian empire. They were searching for all the young beautiful women who could possibly be the new queen.**
- **Esther did not reveal that she was a Jew because Mordecai told her not to.**



- **Mordecai walked back and forth near the palace courtyard in order to find out about Esther. Of all the women who came before the king, the king was most attracted to Esther.**
- **Esther received the royal position of queen of the Persian Empire.**