

EZRA and NEHEMIAH

Ezra 1-2

Lesson 2

1. What time frame do these chapters take place?
2. List the cases of God's providence working in chapter 1.
3. List some of the accomplishments of Cyrus (see introduction). How does Isaiah describe his rise to power and his purpose (see Isaiah 45:1-13, especially v.4, 13)?
4. What mission does Cyrus give the group returning to Judah?
5. In Ezra 1:8-11 and 5:14-16, who is Sheshbazzar and what is his role? Does this contradict Haggai 1:1 and Ezra 3:8ff? How can this be explained?
6. To what extent did Cyrus help the Jews returning to their land? Did all of the Jews return to Judah?
7. List two ways that a Jew was characterized in chapter 2 (see vs. 3-19 and 21-35). Why would the text list those who couldn't give their qualifications as a Jew (2:59-60)?
8. What happened to the priests who could not prove their genealogy (2:61-63)? How important was it for a man to know he was descended from Aaron for his service in the priesthood? (see Numbers 16:40 and the context).
9. How many people returned in this first group?
10. Describe the giving that the leaders did. Why do this in light of the Persian grant?