

The Jews Return

CHARACTERS: Zerubbabel, Ezra. All

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Ezra 7

FK reading level: 6.8

Ezra's Arrival

ZERUBBABEL: Ezra, a scribe and descendent of Aaron, the first high priest, came up from Babylon.

EZRA: Because God was with me, the king granted me everything I requested.

ZERUBBABEL: It is good you determined in your heart to study the law of the Lord, obey it, and teach it to others.

EZRA: Here is the letter he gave me.

ZERUBBABEL: (*reading*) You are to bring the silver and gold the king and his counselors have willingly given

ALL: to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem

ZERUBBABEL: and all the silver and gold you receive throughout the province of Babylon

ALL: together with the freewill offerings given by the people and the priests to the house of their God in Jerusalem.

EZRA: The king commanded I buy bulls, rams, lambs, grain and drink offerings and offer them on the altar at the house of God.

ZERUBBABEL: (*reading*) And to do whatever seems best with the rest of the silver and gold, according to the will of your God.

EZRA: Plus, he allows me to use the royal treasury to pay for anything else needed for the house of God.

ZERUBBABEL: (*reading*) the treasurers in our area are commanded to provide promptly whatever is commanded by the God of heaven.

EZRA: Nor may they tax priests, Levites, singers, doorkeepers, temple servants, or other servants of this house of God.

ZERUBBABEL: He commands you, according to God's wisdom that you possess, to appoint magistrates and judges.

EZRA: And to teach anyone who does not know God's law.

ALL: Praise Yahweh the God of our fathers, who has put it into the king's mind to glorify the house of the Lord in Jerusalem

EZRA: God has shown favor to me before the king.

ALL: Take courage, Ezra; you are strengthened by God.

Those Returning with Ezra

CHARACTERS: Iddo, Ezra. All

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Ezra 8

FK reading level: 4.5

EZRA: Iddo, find some Levites to return to Jerusalem with me.

IDDO: As you wish.

EZRA: Let us fast and humble ourselves before our God

ALL: Let us ask Him for a safe journey for us, our children, and all our possessions.

EZRA: We need not have the king's infantry and cavalry protect us

ALL: Because the hand of our God is gracious to all who seek Him.

EZRA: (to audience) We were strengthened by our God

ALL: He protected us from the power of the enemy.