

A DAY WITH THE KING

This week we will study about how God kept His promise to free His people from their Babylonian exile and took them home.



Torchlight

"In being honored with the personal presence of Christ during His earthly ministry, and in this alone, did the second temple exceed the first in glory. The 'Desire of all nations' had indeed come to His temple, when the Man of Nazareth taught and healed in the sacred courts"
– Prophets and Kings p. 597

A DAY WITH THE KING



Freed at Last



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father in Heaven, help me to listen when You send me warnings and to obey You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JEREMIAH 29:13

“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Leviticus 26:34-35, 43-44

KEY TEXT: Leviticus 26:44

“Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I am the Lord of their God.”

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

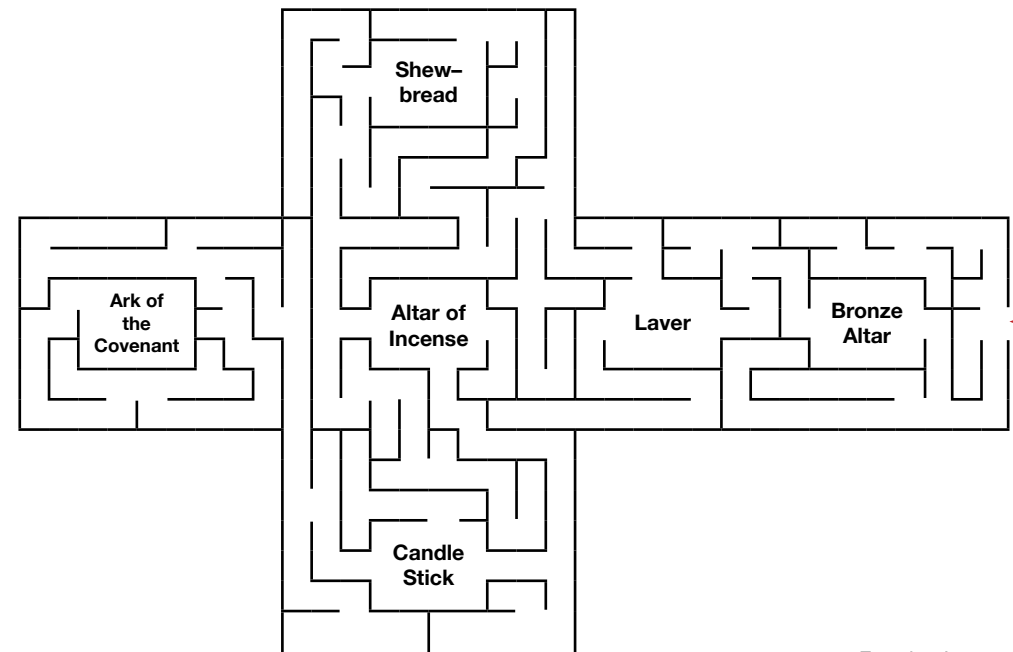
The temple was finally completed – after many years. But, it was not as beautiful as the original temple of King Solomon. Older people, who had seen Solomon's temple, cried with bitter disappointment when they saw the new one. Others rejoiced that God's dwelling place on earth was, at last, ready for Him again.

God prophesized through Haggai that the Desire Of Ages (Jesus) would come to this temple, making its glory even greater than Solomon's beautiful temple. God Himself, in human form, would walk its courtyards. It shows us that it is not the outward appearance that makes the difference, but the One who is in it. It's the same for us. If we let God into our hearts, we are made beautiful in character, which is much more important than any outward beauty.

God is wanting to live in you. Why not ask Him to live in your heart right now. Give yourself to God, to be used according to His will, so you can be a blessing to your family, friends, and the whole world.

FOLLOW JESUS THROUGH THE SANCTUARY

Starting at the arrow, follow Jesus through the Sanctuary to the Ark of the Covenant—God's throne.





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Almighty Father in Heaven, I want Jesus' beautiful character to be reflected in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JEREMIAH 29:13

“ _____ and _____
 _____, when _____ with
 _____.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Ezra 6:14; Haggai 2:7,9

KEY TEXT: Ezra 6:14

“So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Remember, it was because of rebellion that God allowed the Jews to be taken into captivity by the Babylonians. In Leviticus 26 God told the children of Israel that they would receive blessings for obedience, and captivity for continual disobedience. God's warnings were to help them choose the good path. Read the whole chapter to find out more.

Why was the captivity for 70 years? Funny number, isn't it? When leading the people from Egypt to the Promised Land God said that every 7th year the land should not be planted and harvested, to let the land have a sabbath rest.

In today's verses, God said the land would enjoy her Sabbaths while the people were in captivity. Since the time of King Saul the land had not had her Sabbaths. There were 490 years from the days of King Saul to the captivity in Babylon. So, if the land should rest every 7th year, how many sabbaths had the land missed? $490 \div 7 = 70$. That's why the captivity was for 70 years.

BLESSINGS AND CURSES

Colour each square BLUE if it's a blessing, or RED if it's a curse.

RAIN	TERROR	DROUGHT
SWORD	DISEASE	PEACE
SAFETY	SORROW	PUNISH
FEVER	REST	ENEMIES
FOOD	WASTE	FRUIT
BREAD	FREEDOM	HAPPINESS
PLAGUES	FAVOUR	NO FEAR





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Father in Heaven, I want Jesus to set me free from my sins. Thank you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JEREMIAH 29:13

“ _____ seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Jeremiah 29:10–14

KEY TEXT: Jeremiah 29:14

“I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity...”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Yesterday we learned that the people who had taken the land of the Jews didn't want them there and tried to hinder their work of rebuilding the Temple. It seemed that everything the people did was hampered by these enemies. Sometimes they pretended to be friendly, other times they openly opposed them.

When they noted that the work had resumed in Jerusalem, they sent letters of complaint back to Babylon. These letters were full of lies. Satan was using them to discourage God's people and to stop the work of rebuilding God's temple.

But, God was on their side. King Darius searched the decree of Cyrus and, not only upheld it, but expanded it, giving the Jews in Jerusalem even more power. Everything they needed for the temple would be paid for out of the taxes collected, and if anyone interfered with the building they would be punished. The evil plans of God's enemies backfired. Regardless of our lack of power and strength, with God we can do anything.

THREE DECREES - THREE KINGS

There were three decrees regarding the rebuilding of Jerusalem by three different kings. Look up the verses below and draw a line to match up the decree to the king.

Artaxerxes Cyrus Darius

“Let the house be rebuilt, the place where they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations of it be firmly laid, its height sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits, 4 with three rows of heavy stones and one row of new timber.”
Ezia 6:3, 4

“All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah” Ezia 2:18

“I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you.” Ezia 7:13





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Lord, I want to walk with You, so that You can show me the safest way through life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JEREMIAH 29:13

“ _____ and _____
_____, when _____ with all
your heart.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Ezra 6:7–13

KEY TEXT: Ezra 6:7

“Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God on its site.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

It was continual disobedience that resulted in the Jews being taken into captivity. Through Jeremiah, God promised He would return them to Jerusalem after 70 years. Along with promising to perform His good work in returning them home, God gave them many more promises through Jeremiah.

He only ever had thoughts for their good, never to bring them harm. He only ever wanted to give them peace and hope, never evil. But, if they disobeyed, He would be forced to allow them to suffer the natural consequences of their own choices.


It is the same for us today. We can obey God and rejoice in his constant presence, care and peace. Or, we can disobey, following the ways of Satan, and allow him to control us, taking us into deeper evil and lots of pain. The choice is ours. If we really want to know God, and give Him charge of our lives, we will find Him. Then, when we pray to Him, He will listen, as He did to Daniel, and will answer.

FIND THE ANSWER!

Unscramble the words and write them on the lines below to find what happens when we turn from our sins and seek God with all our hearts.

I liwl eb dunfo yb oyu assy eht rlod nda l
iwill rbign ouy cabk mfor oyru ayctipvti





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Lord, Thank you for watching over me and knowing my name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JEREMIAH 29:13

“ _____ and find Me,
when you search for Me with all your
heart.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Isaiah 44:28; 45:1-7,13; Ezra 1:1-2

KEY TEXT: Isaiah 44:28

“Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure’, saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built,’ and to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Those who returned from exile to Jerusalem didn't have an easy time. Other people in the land didn't want the Jews there. They wanted the land for themselves and did everything they could to stop the work.

The persecution was so bad toward God's people that they even gave up building the temple for a number of years and built their own homes instead. They became very involved in everyday life and forgot what God wanted them to do.

But, God sent His prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, to encourage Zerubbabel and Joshua, the High Priest. Their own power and might would not complete the work. But it would be done by relying on the Holy Spirit to direct and strengthen them. They had to trust and obey God and lean on Him for support and direction as they worked. God wants to do the same thing for us. We are to trust God and stay faithful to Him and He has promised to direct our paths.

A HIDDEN MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

X	L	K	O	Y	R	U	D	A	W	F	I	H	T	G	H	T	A	Z
E	<p>We've hidden a message of encouragement in this puzzle.</p> <p>To find it, you will have to start at the correct letter (which one is it?) and then read every second letter, going in a clockwise direction.</p> <p>Next, go to Proverbs chapter 3 and find the verse with this encouraging message.</p> <p>How long will it take you to discover what it is?</p> <p>“ _____ ”</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Proverbs 3:_____</p>																L	
A																	K	
H																	L	
G																	W	
T																	Y	
V																	J	
N																	O	
J																	M	
I																	U	
D																	Q	
T	R																	
O	S	K	U	B	R	N	T	Q	T	L	R	G	A	H	E	E	H	S



THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Father in heaven, may Your Spirit lead and guide me always. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JEREMIAH 29:13

“ _____ and _____
_____, when _____ for Me with all
your heart.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Ezra 4:4–5; Zechariah 4:6, Haggai 2:4

KEY TEXT: Zechariah 4:6

“So he answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.’”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

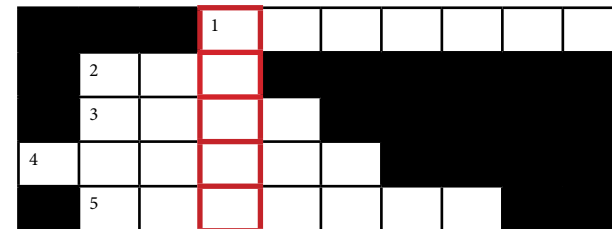
God mentioned Cyrus by name one hundred and fifty years before he was even born. In Isaiah 45:4 God said, “I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.” Isn't it amazing. God says He personally chose Cyrus's name. He knows everyone of us by name too. That includes you!

There are other remarkable prophecies about Cyrus, detailing the part he would play in overthrowing Babylon and freeing the Jewish captives. In early Jewish writings, there is a record that Cyrus was shown these prophecies concerning himself in the writings of the Jewish prophets. He must have been astonished and, perhaps, this influenced his decision to assist the Jewish people in returning to Jerusalem to rebuild God's temple.

In Isaiah 45 we find details of how Cyrus would divert the Euphrates river and break the gates, cutting the iron bars, allowing his soldiers to enter Babylon. It also mentions that Cyrus would be part of rebuilding Jerusalem and would let the exiles go home.

CALLED FOR A PURPOSE

Find the hidden word in the red squares by filling the missing words in the messages from God found in the verses below.



- 1 "...make the _____ places straight..." (Isa 45:2)
- 2 "That you _____ know that I the Lord..." (Isa 45:3)
- 3 "...and cut the _____ of iron..." (Isa 45:2)
- 4 "I have named you _____ you have not known Me..." (Isa 45:4)
5. "There is no other God _____ besides Me." (Isa 45:6)





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, Help me to be unselfish in giving of myself and the things You have given me, so that others can know more about you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - JEREMIAH 29:13

“ _____ and _____
_____, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Ezra 1:3–6

KEY TEXT: Ezra 1:4

“And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

All our possessions are a gift from God – our time, talents and resources – everything comes from God. The seemingly impossible task of rebuilding the temple and the broken city walls lay ahead of those who chose to return to Judah and Jerusalem – many Jews remained in Babylon because they had made themselves comfortable there. Money was needed to purchase the necessary resources to complete the work and take care of the workmen.

God provided His people with an opportunity to strengthen their faith through co-operating in giving of their time, talents and material possessions. Those who remained in Babylon, and truly loved God, happily responded by uniting in unselfish and generous giving to those who were returning. This enabled the task God laid before them to go ahead with His blessing.

Our time, talents and resources are all very helpful and needed. However, there is something else more valuable that God wants us to give to Him. Do you know what that is?

SOMETHING GOD VALUES MORE THAN SILVER OR GOLD

Find and colour the words in the list, and you will discover the treasure.

G	O	L	D	G	I	V	E	R	O	P	E
H	A	M	M	E	R	C	H	I	S	E	L
W	A	T	E	R	M	E	S	T	O	N	E
J	E	W	E	L	S	S	I	L	V	E	R
W	O	O	D	Y	O	U	R	F	O	O	D
C	O	I	N	S	W	O	R	K	M	E	N
R	A	M	H	E	A	R	T	B	U	L	L
B	U	C	K	E	T	B	R	I	C	K	S

- BRICKS
- BUCKET
- BULL
- CHISEL
- COINS
- FOOD
- GOLD
- HAMMER
- JEWELS
- RAM
- ROPE
- SILVER
- STONE
- WATER
- WOOD
- WORKMEN

