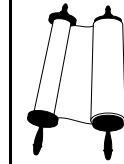


**The Book of Ezra**  
**Study #3**  
**(Ezra 1:1-4)**  
**The Decree of Cyrus**



**CYRUS**

Cyrus, king of Persia (559-530 B.C.), had already begun his rise to power in the Near East by unifying the Medes and Persians into a strong empire. As he conquered cities, he treated the inhabitants with mercy. Although not a servant of Yahweh, Cyrus was used by God to return the Jews to their homeland. Cyrus may have been shown the prophecy of Isaiah 44:28-45:6, written over a century earlier, which predicted that Cyrus himself would help the Jews return to Jerusalem. Daniel, a prominent government official (Daniel 5:29; Daniel 6:28), would have been familiar with the prophecy. The book of Daniel has more to say about Cyrus. (*Life Application Bible*)

**I. The Sovereignty (1a)**

**II. The Stirring (1b)**

**A. The Prophecy (1 Kings 8:56; Isaiah 44:28-45:13)**

**B. The Person (Daniel)**

**C. The Principle (Proverbs 21:1)**

**III. The Statement (2-4)**

**A. His Destiny (2a)**

**B. His Duty (2b; Isaiah 44:28)**

**C. His Declaration (3-4)**

**1. The Call to Go (3)**

**2. The Call to Give (4)**

**Conclusion (Hos. 14:4; Isa. 48:9)**

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**EZRA: OUTLINE**

- I. Rebuilding the Place of God (Chapters 1-6)  
(The Ministry of Zerubbabel)
  - A. The Return (Chapters 1-2)
    - 1. Proclamation of the Departure (1:1-4)
    - 2. Provision for the Departure (1:5-11)
    - 3. People of the Departure (Chapter 2)

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**stirred** (1:1) - Heb., to open the eyes, to awaken, to stir up.