

**The Book of Ezra**  
**Study #4**  
**(Ezra 1:5-11)**  
**Headed Home!**

**I. A Heart to Go (5)**

**NOTE: The parallel to the gospel call.**

- All are invited.
- All may come.
- Sadly, not all will respond.

▶ **Invitations to Faith (Isa.1:18; 55:1; Prov.1:20-33;**

**Lk.13:34-35; 14:12-24)**

▶ **Invitations to Fellowship (Rev. 3:20)**

**A. The Response (5a)**

1. Patriarchs
2. Priests & Levites
3. People

**B. The Reason (5b; 1 Samuel 17:28-29)**

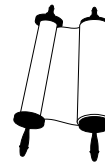
**II. A Heart to Give (6-11)**

**A. From Their Communities (6; Ex. 11:2; 12:35)**

**B. From Cyrus (7-11; 2 Ch. 36:7; Dan. 5:1-3; Jer. 27:22)**

**Conclusion (Hos. 14:4; Isa. 48:9; Jon. 3:1; Prov. 24:16)**

- ▶ As with His people then, so with His people today, God is ready to welcome the erring child back home!



**ZERUBBABEL**

Zerubbabel is a shadowy figure who emerges as the political and spiritual head of the tribe of Judah at the time of the Babylonian captivity. Zerubbabel led the first group of captives back to Jerusalem and set about rebuilding the Temple on the old site. For some 20 years he was closely associated with prophets, priests, and kings until the new Temple was dedicated and the Jewish sacrificial system was reestablished. As a child of the Captivity, Zerubbabel's name literally means "offspring of Babylon." He was the son of Shealtiel or Salathiel (Ezra 3:2, 8; Hag. 1:1; Matt. 1:12) and the grandson of Jehoiachin, the captive king of Judah (1 Chr. 3:17). Zerubbabel was probably Shealtiel's adopted or levirate son (1 Chr. 3:19). Whatever his blood relationship to king Jehoiachin, Zerubbabel was Jehoiachin's legal successor and heir. A descendant of David, Zerubbabel was in the direct line of the ancestry of Jesus (Luke 3:27; Matt. 1:12). Zerubbabel apparently attained considerable status with his captors while living in Babylon. During the early reign of Darius, he was recognized as a "prince of Judah" (Ezra 1:8). Zerubbabel was probably in the king's service since he had been appointed by the Persians as governor of Judah (Hag. 1:1).  
*(Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)*

**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)

**N**

**Sheshbazzar** (1:11) This is the Persian name of Zerubbabel. It should be noted that some commentators do not equate the two. Some feel that Sheshbazzar is the official representative of Cyrus, while Zerubbabel is the leader recognized by the Jewish people. We will revisit this issue in chapter 5.