

# BIBLICAL

A verse-by-verse  
series through the  
book of Ezra

## BUILDING

### WEEK 2:

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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For the First Baptist Church of Gaston



# MONDAY, MAY 5TH, 2025

## ‘PRAY FOR POLITICANS!’

For this morning’s devotional, I want to focus on just one verse from yesterday, Ezra 1:1. Which states, ‘In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing’.

As we discussed yesterday morning, Jeremiah, the ‘weeping’ Prophet, had prophesied that the exile would last 70 years and then Babylon would be punished, and Judah would be restored. The sad thing is that only 42,000-50,000 of a million Jews actually returned to Jerusalem. The rest assimilated into Babylonian society. In verse 1 the English word ‘stirred’ is translated from the Hebrew word ‘he’ir’ (הֵעִיר), which literally means stir and awake someone to do something. The main thing that we must grasp from verse 1 is that Cyrus did not ‘all of a sudden’ become a huge proponent of the Jews. And ‘all of a sudden’ grant them to return to their homeland, Jerusalem, to worship Yahweh. No. This was all God. God is the one, according to the Scriptures that caused Cyrus to have this thought.

Even though you and I may disagree with different political leaders and such, we must never forget that God Himself **CAN ALWAYS** awake our political leaders. He can, at any time, awake them to move for His Glory. This is why we must never stop praying for our city, state, and national elected officials.



**Application for Today:** Just as God moved and stirred in the heart of Cyrus, He can move in the heart of our political leaders today. We must remember that God allows the political leaders that are in their positions to actually be in those positions.

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today (no matter your political preferences) praying for President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Vance, Governor McMaster, and Mayor Troy Bivens, among many other elected officials.

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying specifically for the baseboards that will be in the multi-purpose building.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.



# TUESDAY, MAY 6TH, 2025

## ‘WHEN GOD GETS YOUR ATTENTION!’

This morning as we begin our Tuesday together, I want to invite you to open up your Bible to Ezra 1:2-3. As we studied this text this past Sunday, I find it imperative that we turn out attention, to a situation in which God immediately got the attention of an ‘unsaved’ and pagan individual. Because if God can get King Cyrus’s attention, then truly He can get anyone’s attention at any time and for any reason.

Ezra 1:2 says, ‘Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.’ Notice that King Cyrus says that God ‘Charged’ him to allow the Jews to build a temple in Jerusalem. That English word ‘Charged’ comes from the Hebrew word ‘pa’qad’ (פָּקַד). This word occurs a whopping 304 times in the Old Testament and literally means to pay attention, to be appointed, and to charge. When I read that King Cyrus, a powerful man, says that God Himself ‘charged Him’ to make the proclamation that he made, it is because God got has attention. Do you see in this text just how powerful God really is? If God wants to get your attention, He sure will. The issue is when you and I purposefully choose not to listen to God and not to pay attention to the times when He tries to get our attention. Obviously, King Cyrus is obedient when God sought to get his attention. My question for us this morning is, are we obedient when God tries to get our attention? Whether that is for us to share the Gospel, give, or go. Are we obedient to when God tries to get our attention. Because if we constantly ignore God, eventually, our hearts will harden...

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**Application for Today:** God wants our attention, but sadly, we often refuse to give it to Him. Do we realize that the growth God has blessed our Church with could be God trying to get our attention that NOW is the time to build? For future generations to be able to have an encounter with God?

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today asking God if He is trying to get your attention. If so, how?

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying specifically for the shingles on the roof of our future multi-purpose building.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.



# WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH, 2025

## ‘GOD PROVIDES!’

God always provides no matter what we may go through. It’s a proven fact all throughout God’s Word that oftentimes God will use human vessels to provide for His people. We had a front row view this past Sunday when God used Cryrus’s proclamation and we also looked at it pretty heavily on Monday and Tuesday mornings. But this morning, I want us to focus on how God provides. Grab your Bible and turn with me to Ezra 1:4...

‘And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts, besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.’

Towards the end of Cyrus’s proclamation, he calls the Jews (survivors) to band together with their resources in order to put the temple back together. The Jews had been spread throughout the country side due to Babylonian exile, and Cyrus calls them to come together. Cyrus is calling all of the Jews to come together with their own offerings, which are their resources, so that the house of God may be rebuilt. Oftentimes when God does provide, He uses His people in unity to come together. Notice though, that it would take personal sacrifice for the Jews to be able to put together offerings for the temple of God. They would have to bring their own gold and silver and Cyrus makes it clear that the people of his kingdom (persians) needed to give too. God will and can use whoever He wants to provide for His will to be done and Glory to be given to His name. We shouldn’t ask others to sacrificially give towards our Field of Dreams vision, if we aren’t giving to it personally.

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**Application for Today:** The verbiage ‘God provides’ has often become such a ‘cliche’ in our culture. But, as we see in Scripture and in our lives, it is so true. Are you apart of God’s BIG plan in your own personal giving?

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today asking God if you are sacrificing enough in your life for Him.

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying specifically for the cups that will be in the cabinet space in the kitchen off of the gym.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.



# THURSDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

**Application for Today:** Though I did not write a full devotional for today, I want to encourage you to read Ezra 1:6. Look as how freely the persians gave to the Jews temple rebuilding project. How often do we give towards those we don't know?

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today asking God if you personally understand that when you give towards field of dreams, that you're also giving to people you don't yet know...

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying specifically for the chairs that will be in classroom #1.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.





# FRIDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

**Application for Today:** Though I did not write a full devotional for today, I want to encourage you to read Ezra 1:11. The supplies had been given, and the Jews made it to Jerusalem. Now the time had come for the building to begin. But, as we will see on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Ezra listed all of those who returned to Jerusalem. See you Sunday for Mother's Day!

**Prayer Point #1:** Spend time today praying for all the Mom's of our Church.

**Prayer Point #2:** Spend time today praying specifically for the lightbulbs in classroom #2.

**Prayer Point #3:** Spend time today praying what God would have you give towards the building fund this coming Sunday.

