



# People of God comes back with delight

Main Scriptures: Ezra, chapters 1, 2



Seventy years have passed since the people of Israel were taken captives to Babylon. God had already told about this captivity seventy years ago through Jeremiah.

“I, the Lord say to you. After seventy years in Babylon I will bring you back from captivity to the land of Israel.”

This promise of God was fulfilled. After seventy years of Israel's captivity in Babylon, Cyrus, the king of Persia made a proclamation throughout his realm which freed the people of Israel to go back to their own land:

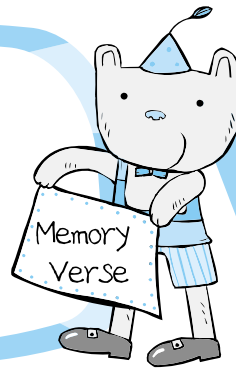
“The God of Israel is the only God. Anyone of His people among you, let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD.”

King Cyrus also told to his people,

“And the people of any place where survivors may now be living are to provide him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.”

The Israelites who heard the word of King Cyrus prepared to go back to Jerusalem. The

The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad. (Psalm 126:3)



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people of Babylon who were neighbors to Israelites gave them gold, silver, livestock and many other things. They also got offerings for the temple of God from Babylonians. King Cyrus returned the precious bowls and articles, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, to the people of Israel.

The Israelites came back with delight from the land of Babylon to their own land. They began to build an altar to God to sacrifice burnt offerings on it. They also started to rebuild the temple of God. The people joyfully offered to God their possessions in rebuilding the temple of God.





## Today's Study

### The joy of Israelites

After reading the verses below, answer the following questions.

When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who

Then our mouth was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ and our tongue with \_\_\_\_\_

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them,

"The LORD has done great things for us, and we are \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 126:1-2)

1. The Israelites came back to Jerusalem after seventy years of captivity in Babylon. Who brought them to Jerusalem from Babylon? ( )

- ① God      ② Cyrus, the king of Persia      ③ Jeremiah

2. The Israelites were taken captives to Babylon due to their sins. How would have they felt when they came back to the land of Israel after seventy years of captivity?

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3. What did Israelites do when they joyfully came back to their land? Choose all the answers. ( )

- ① They built their own houses.  
② They rebuilt the temple of God.  
③ They built an altar to God and sacrificed burnt offerings on it  
④ They cultivated the land.

The people came back to their own land after seventy years of captivity and were very grateful to God. They voluntarily brought offerings with joy to rebuild the temple of God.



## Today's Lesson

It was a great joy to the people of Israel, who were suffering from their sin, to go back to Jerusalem for rebuilding the temple of God.

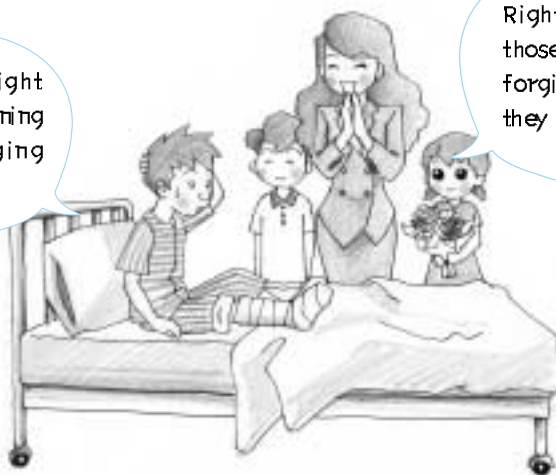


Read about Chris below and write what you want to say to him.

Chris didn't go to church for three weeks. Listening to the Sunday sermons was boring and doing Cornerstone wasn't fun. Memorizing the Bible verses was the last thing he wanted to do. So he overslept on Sundays and hung out with his friends in the amusement park and played computer games.

One day, Chris badly injured his foot when he was rollerblading. As he was being hospitalized, Chris realized that it was chastisement for his sin. When he was in the hospital, his Sunday school teacher and church friends visited him.

Teacher! I wasn't right before God. I miss learning the Bible and singing praises at the church.



Right, Chris. God chastises those who do wrong but He forgives and loves them if they turn back from their sin.



When Chris went to the church again, how would he have felt?

Turn yourself to me, and have mercy on me, for I am desolate and afflicted. (Psalm 25:16)

If any one of you has had an experience like Chris, talk about it with your teacher.

# Parable



## A joy of seeing Jesus



Crosby had been blind since her childhood. She found Jesus through her grandmother who taught her the Bible. Being grateful to God's grace she composed over 8,000 hymns. Her hymns includes 'Jesus Shed His Blood for Me'(144), 'Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine'(204), 'All the Way My Saviour Leads Me'(434), and many others.

A pastor once expressed that he wished Crosby wasn't blind.

"If I could be born again I want to born blind. When I open my eyes in heaven I will see Jesus in my first sight. What an indescribable joy it will be." Miss Crosby replied.

She wrote the following song when she was eighteen years old.

"Right now I can't see but I'm very happy. I've got God's blessing what the others haven't got. Although I can't see I'll never be sad."

Parents

Teacher