



# GOD IS ABLE TO RENEW

**PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | FEBRUARY 8, 2026**

**Text:** Ezra 1:1–5

*Now 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, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, 2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. 4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem. 5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.” (Ezra 1:1-5)*

## INTRODUCTION

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## THE RECORD OF THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL'S TEMPLE

1. The First Temple Built (965–958 B.C.)
2. First Temple Destroyed (586 B.C.)
3. The Second Temple Built  
Construction Began (536 B.C.)  
Construction Completed (516 B.C.)  
Law Is Taught (458 B.C.)

*“So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” (Daniel 6:28)*

### 1. THE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR HELP (v. 3–4)

*“That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.” (Isaiah 44:28)*

*“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.” (Proverbs 21:1)*

#### A. A \_\_\_\_\_ Request (v. 3)

TO A SPECIFIC PURPOSE

TO A SPECIFIC PEOPLE

*“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5)*

*“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.” (Hebrews 13:15)*

*“And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.” (Revelation 5:8)*

*“Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.” (Philippians 4:17–18)*

#### B. A \_\_\_\_\_ Request (v. 4)

FOR GOING

FOR GIVING

**Quote:** “Those who did not go, were commanded to assist their brethren who went.”—**Adam Clarke**

*“Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.” (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)*

*“And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers.” (Ezra 8:28)*

**Quote:** “When we come to the end of life, the question will be, ‘How much have you given?’ not ‘How much have you gotten?’”  
—**George Sweeting**

*“And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: 44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.” (Mark 12:43-44)*

**Quote:** “Giving isn’t hard if we love the object of our gift. If we don’t love the recipient of the gift, giving is extremely difficult.”  
—**Kent Crockett**

## 2. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE PEOPLE (v. 5-6)

**Quote:** “‘Then rose up’ – the decree had to be a most welcomed decree to the Jews in captivity. It signaled the end of the forced captivity and now gave the Jews freedom to return to Palestine if they so choose to do so.”—**John G. Butler**

### A. A Response of the \_\_\_\_\_

GODLY RESPONSE

SPIRITUAL RESPONSE

*“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)*

### B. A Response of the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6)

THEY GAVE ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY

*“And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the LORD which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place: 69 They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests’ garments. 70 So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.” (Ezra 2:68-70)*

#### THEY GAVE OF THEIR FREE WILL

*“I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee. 14 Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand; 15 And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, 16 And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem.” (Ezra 7:13-16)*

**Quote:** “God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.”—**Randy Alcorn**

*“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6)*

*“Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;” (2 Corinthians 9:11-12)*

**Quote:** “There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving, and thanksgiving.”

**Quote:** “There are two ways in which a Christian may view his money— ‘How much of my money shall I use for God?’ or ‘How much of God’s money shall I use for myself?’”

—**W. Graham Scroggie**



### **3 TAKEAWAYS**

1. God Requests His People's Involvement in Giving
2. God Provides for His People's Involvement in Giving
3. Godly People Rise Up with Spiritual Response



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