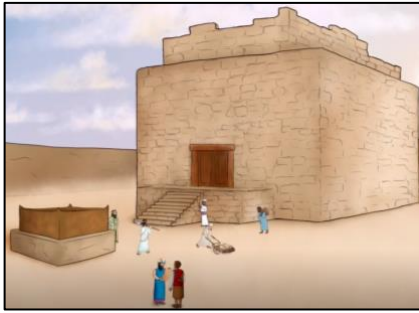


Video:
[biblestoriesonline.com/stories/
Zerubbabel-and-Jeshua-
Returning- Home-to-Rebuild-
the-House](http://biblestoriesonline.com/stories/Zerubbabel-and-Jeshua-Returning-Home-to-Rebuild-the-House)



Video:
[biblestoriesonline.com/
stories/Haggai-Sees-
The-Return-of-Gods-
Glory](http://biblestoriesonline.com/stories/Haggai-Sees-The-Return-of-Gods-Glory)

Lesson #15: GOD’S PEOPLE RETURN & REBUILD THE TEMPLE (Isaiah 44:24-28; Ezra 1-3) (Haggai 2; Ezra 6:13-22)



The Bible says that God’s Children had been scattered to other lands. God’s land, Judah was a broken-down mess. Remember that had sent prophets beforehand to say that all this would happen. But, He also told them, through Jeremiah and Isaiah, that their discipline would only last 70 years. God told them that king named Cyrus would do something special for God’s Family.

Well, 70 years had passed and their discipline time was almost up. The nation of Babylon had been conquered by Persia. Now there was a new king ruling the land, Cyrus. And this new King Cyrus was about to do something very special!

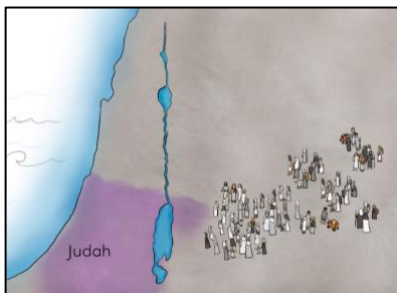


King Cyrus told all the children of Israel, “Your God is awesome! He gave me all this land to rule, and He wants to have a Temple again in Jerusalem. So, anyone



that wants to can go back home to Jerusalem.” Cyrus also said that people would give them silver, gold and everything they needed. King Cyrus even gave back all the special things that belonged in God’s Temple (that Nebuchadnezzar had stolen.)

One Israelite going back was Zerubbabel. He cared very much about God and His House. Jeshua, the High Priest, was going too.

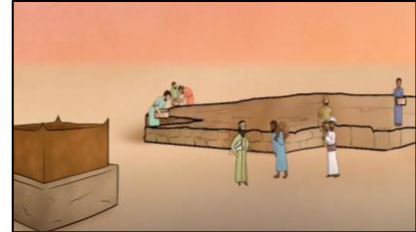


God’s people started for home. There were thousands of them: men, women, children, priests, singers, as well as all their horses, mules, camels and donkeys. They had waited 70 years for this day.



When they got to Jerusalem, they saw their city in a big mess. The first thing they did was rebuild the altar and offer gifts to God. Then they got to work — re-building God’s House.

They worked really hard. When the foundation was finally finished, the people started shouting. Their voices got louder and louder. They were praising God! You could hear them for miles.



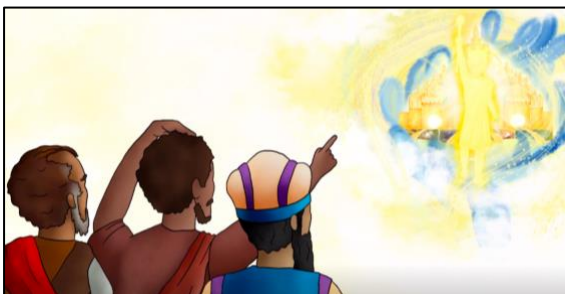
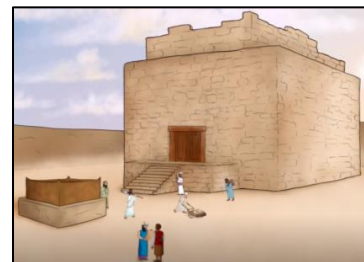
But some of God’s Family who had seen Solomon’s Temple way back before it was destroyed, were crying. They cried because this new Temple wasn’t looking as big and beautiful as the first one that Solomon had built.

After the people had been building God’s House for a while, God said to Haggai, “I have a message that I want you to send to Zerubbabel and Jeshua.” God’s message to them was: “Remember what the House (the one Solomon built) looked like before it was destroyed? Remember how big and beautiful it was? This House isn’t as glorious, is it?”



But Haggai wasn’t finished with God’s message. He said, “Be strong, Zerubbabel and

Jeshua! Be strong, all My Children! It’s going to be okay. I am with you. My spirit is among you. So, don’t be afraid. Just keep working!”



God told them, “In just a little while, I will send something bigger and better!”

That’s just what happened when Jesus came! God himself, Jesus came to earth. God lived among His people in the form of Jesus — that’s much better than a Temple building for God!

PRIMARY GRADES ACTIVITY

Color the Picture of King Cyrus



C Y R U S

J E R U S A L E M



UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY
Rebuilding the Temple Wordsearch

J E R U S A L E M K O V O C R
N R H L P D C E D A R L O G S
E I R H Q F S G W E V N T R I
B Y A B L N Z P B O M V H H V
P S T D E H O N R J G M K A V
U Y L R B L R I V A D U U N T
U D A O A D O W T S I H W N L
R Y H L B I J T B A S S W V C
J B B K B P M H S E D O E B M
Z O N K U E L A J H O N R R W
F J B W R M L N H Z O W U B B
J C T C E W A K C N T U L O M
F V Y D Z L G S O W B M T Z F
E G L O R G H B Y I U G R E P
O W Y F K T E M P L E Q Q L D

- ALTAR JESHUA SHOUTED
CEDAR LOGS LORD TEMPLE
FOUNDATION MERCY THANKS
JERUSALEM PRAISE ZERUBBABEL



What do you learn about God in this story?

Handwriting lines for the student's response.