

Series: The Exile & God's Restoration

Sunday, October 19.

1. GOD KEEPS HIS P EVEN WHEN IT TAKES TIME

(Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10; Daniel 9:2; Isaiah 44:28; Ezra 1:2-3)

- God's promises never expire. Even after seventy years of exile, the Lord fulfilled His word exactly as He said—raising up King Cyrus to send His people home. God's timing is often slower than ours, but it is always perfect. What He speaks, He will do, even when we can't yet see how. Trust that God's promises still stand firm even when His timeline feels delayed. He is never late; He is right on time.
- What promise or prayer have you been waiting on God to fulfill—and how can you trust His timing today?

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2. GOD MOVES H TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES

(Ezra 1:1,4-6; 2:2,36,40-43,61-67; see also Isaiah 45:13; Proverbs 21:1)

- God stirred the heart of a pagan king, the hearts of leaders like Zerubbabel and Jeshua, and the hearts of thousands who returned to Jerusalem. God still moves hearts today—to give, to serve, to go, to lead. The question is not whether God is moving—but whether we are willing to respond when He does. Be ready for God to move your heart. Whether through generosity, leadership, or obedience, let your heart remain open and responsive to His leading
- When has God stirred your heart toward obedience or generosity—and how did you respond?

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3. GOD CALLS US ON A J THAT REQUIRES FAITH

(Ezra 1-2; see also Ezra 7:9; Hebrews 11:8)

- The return from exile was no easy journey—900 miles through wilderness, danger, and ruin. Yet the people went because God’s promise was greater than Babylon’s comfort. Following God often means leaving what’s familiar to step into what’s faithful. Faith means moving forward even when the path is uncertain. God calls His people to trust His provision and pursue His purposes.
- What “journey of faith” might God calling you to begin, or continue today?

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This Week’s Application: This week, take time to notice how God is inviting you to move with Him. Perhaps He is asking you to wait patiently on a promise that feels delayed, or to act in obedience when He stirs your heart toward generosity, service, or faith. Maybe He is leading you to take a courageous step into something new, uncertain, or uncomfortable. Whatever the situation, remember that the God who kept His promise to bring His people home, who moved the heart of a pagan king, and who led the exiles safely through their long journey, is the same faithful God who leads you today. Walk with Him in trust, obedience, and hope, confident that His timing is perfect and His ways are good.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that You are faithful to Your promises and sovereign over every heart and circumstance. Move my heart to trust You, obey You, and follow You wherever You lead. May my life bring glory to Your Name and participate in Your restoring work. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

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