

Ezra
Facts of the Story

- Those whom God had moved went back (1:5)
- Well funded (1:7 – 11)
- In fear of other residents (3:3)
- Some rejoiced, some cried when foundation laid (3:12)
- Palestinians wanted to join (4:2 – 3)
- When denied, they made accusations (4:6 – 16)
- Work stopped (4:17 – 22)
- Haggai and Zechariah encourage the people (5:1)

Ezra
Facts of the Story

- They appeal to the king to look up the decree of Cyrus
- Darius finds the decree of Cyrus, work restarts (6)
- Ezra, a descendant of Aaron, arrives with more royal help (7 – 8)
- Ezra rebukes the people for taking pagan wives (9)
- They repent (10)

**How is the church like the Israel recorded in
Ezra?**

- Has the church ever returned from “captivity”?
- Has restoration been both a joy and sadness?
- Have outsiders wanted to merge with the church?
- Has restoration been stifled by opposition?
- Have Christians carried old habits into the restored church?
- Has the church been financially assisted by pagans?

**How are our spirits like the Israel recorded in
Ezra?**

- Have our spirits ever returned from “captivity”?
- Has restoration been both a joy and sadness?
- Have outsiders wanted to merge with my spirit?
- Has restoration been stifled by opposition?
- Has my spirit been troubled by old habits?
- Has my spirit been financially assisted by pagans?