**1 Corinthians 7:21** Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.

**Ezra 1:1** Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying:2“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem. 4Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.’”

**The Published Proclamation:**

The Lord **stirred** up the spirit of King Cyrus **(Ezra 1:1)**

**Jeremiah 25:12** ‘Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,’ declares the Lord, ‘for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation. 13I will bring upon that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book which Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nations. 14 For many nations and great kings will make slaves of them, even them; and I will recompense them according to their deeds and according to the work of their hands.)’”

* The Lord **sent** King Cyrus on assignment **(Ezra 1:2)**
* The **scope** of emancipation **(Ezra 1:3)**
* The **support** of emancipation **(Ezra 1:4)**

1. **THE PURPOSE OF EMANCIPATION**

# Ezra 1:5 Then the heads of fathers’ *households* of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem.

# THE PARTNERSHIP OF EMANCIPATION

# Ezra 1:6 All those about them encouraged them with articles of silver, with gold, with goods, with cattle and with valuables, aside from all that was given as a freewill offering.

# THE PLUNDER OF EMANCIPATION

# Ezra 1:7 Also King Cyrus brought out the articles of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and put in the house of his gods; 8and Cyrus, king of Persia, had them brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and he counted them out to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. 9Now this *was* their number: 30 gold dishes, 1,000 silver dishes, 29 duplicates; 1030 gold bowls, 410 silver bowls of a second *kind and* 1,000 other articles. 11All the articles of gold and silver *numbered* 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought them all up with the exiles who went up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

# Some questions for your consideration:

# What did I learn from this lesson?

# How can I apply this lesson to my life?

# What is my God given assignment?

# Am I fulfilling my assignment?

# Why am I not fulfilling my assignment?

# Who will partner with me?

# How do I get back what the evil one has stolen from me?

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