



# THE PEOPLE GO BACK



## EZRA 1-3

God's people, the Israelites, had been in a faraway land for seventy years. Now it was time to go back to Jerusalem. The king gave the people permission to return to Jerusalem and build a new temple for God.

All the family leaders and the priests prepared to go. Neighbors were kind and gave the Israelites animals, gold and silver, and many other things they could use. The king gave the Israelite people things to take for the temple.

Men, women, and children prepared for the journey to Jerusalem. When the people arrived, they gave offerings for the temple to be built. The people then found places to live.

After a while, the people built an altar where they could worship God. They celebrated with a festival for many days. The people gave money to the workers and food to neighboring people who would bring them wood.

Then God's people began the work to build the temple. Everyone helped in some way.