

Text: Ezra 1:1-4  
Topics: Faith, God's Promises, Restoration  
Series: Courage to Trust God's Promises

Monroe Bible Church  
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## God Promises

### I. The Word of the Lord (1)

The Predicament... *exiled in captivity.*

The Promise... *I will bring you back to your land.*

The Proclamation... *the Lord stirred the Gentile king to act!*

Me? *My own prosperity, or God's purpose & promises?*

### II. The Word of *the* King (2-4)

The Deference... *the Lord has given me and appointed me.*

The Decree... *whoever is willing, go and build.*

The Donations... *support them with freewill offerings.*

What God promises in His Word He brings about in His world!

*What promise of God am I acting on right now?*

Application Questions - *These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group, for even more benefit.*

1. Have you, or someone you know, struggled with the question of why God allows bad things to happen to good people? How did you work through it?

2. Read 2 Kings 17:1-23. What happened to the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom (Israel)? Why?

3. Read 2 Chronicles 36:11-21. What happened to the 2 southern tribes (Judah)? Why?

What do you think God's message is to His people in what happened to Israel & Judah?

What does this say about how the individual believer is to think and act in relation to the community of believers? Does your life line up?

4. What covenant promises did God make in the passages below?  
Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-8

2 Samuel 7:8-13

How did God want His people to see themselves? What did God want His people to be to the world?

5. How do we reconcile God's desire for His people (question #4) and what He allowed to happen to them (questions 2 & 3)?

What effect did the Israelites conduct, and the consequences, have on God's covenant with them?

6. What is the main application of this study, and/or the sermon and its passages, for you?