



# New Expectation

Ezra 1-2

*Put Your Name on His Promises!*

*After 70 years of captivity, the time has come for God to fulfill His promise to bring His people back into the promised land. And He does – in a completely unexpected way, beyond what anybody imagined! He does it in a way that ought to leave us in awe of Him, inspire us to serve Him, and cause us to drive a stake into the ground of His promises to us – because truly nothing is too hard for the Lord!*

**The Lord calls His shot... and delivers – just so we know He is God! (Ezra 1:1-4)**

*Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? – Isaiah 44:8*

**The Lord provides for His people to fulfill His purposes! (Ezra 1:5-2:70)**

**Put your name on God's promises with great expectation of what the Lord can do! (Jeremiah 32)**

*Nothing is too hard for the Lord – Jeremiah 32:17*

God is with you (Matthew 28:19-20).  
God is for you (Romans 8:28-39).  
God is able (Jeremiah 32:17).  
Expect it. Believe it. Put your name on it!

## ACTION STEPS

- **DAILY RENEWAL** – Pastor Mike has developed a daily guide to help us spend time with the Lord each day this summer. The new guide includes meditations from Jeremiah and specific prayers based on God's Word in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther! You can download it here: <https://www.forcey.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Renewal-Summer-2020.pdf>
- **RENEWAL NIGHTS** – Considering hosting or attending a small outdoor gathering with a worship guide – you can sign-up here: <https://www.forcey.org/media/blog/renewal-nights-summer-2020/>

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Watch this good introduction to Ezra and Nehemiah from The Bible Project - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkETkRv9tG8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkETkRv9tG8)
- Another good overview of Ezra - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2mHeaHjWII](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2mHeaHjWII)
- Listen to "Do it Again" - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B\\_InQIITxU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_InQIITxU)
- Read *The Promises of God* by Charles Spurgeon and Tim Chester
- Read *Unshakable Hope: Building our lives on the promises of God* by Max Lucado
- Watch "Encountering God's Promise" by Tony Evans - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPv05SrGf4c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPv05SrGf4c)

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Share about a time when God did "immeasurably more than all you could ask or imagine."
3. Share about a time when you feel like God was doing much less than you asked or imagined. How did you feel during that time and what do you think God was trying to do?
4. Read Isaiah 45:1-6, one of the prophecies about Cyrus. What stands out to you in this passage or in the Cyrus prophecy in general?
5. We talked about how the Lord "called His shot" in predicting Cyrus. What "shots" do you think God has called today? Do you think He has called some you might not even be aware of?
6. Read Proverbs 21:1 and Daniel 5:18-23. What do we learn about God's sovereignty in these passages, and how does that encourage you today? What difference should the fact that God is sovereign over the rulers of this world make in our hearts this year?
7. On a scale of 1-10, how much expectation do you feel in your heart about how God is at work in your life during this season?
8. How do we grow a healthy expectation for God's work? What difference does it make in our hearts? Are we ever afraid to "expect great things from God" because we don't want to be disappointed? What do we do with that?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 4:13 and 19, Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, and James 1:2-4. Which one of these promises from God means the most to you right now and why?
10. What would it actually look like for you to "drive a stake into the ground" of God's promises today?