

Return to the Land ⇒ Cyrus' Decree (Ezra 1:1-4)

Observations

Who?	Cyrus		Jews in Persia
When?	First year of Cyrus' reign (~538 B.C.)		
What?	Issued decree		
Where?	Persia		
Why?	Lord stirred him; Response to what God did for him		
How?	In writing		

Lessons

- The _____ the spirit of Cyrus
 - _____ of God
 - God keeps His _____
 - God works in history according to His _____ (Dan. 2:21)
 - An amazing testimony – “God has _____ me!”
Pride
Perspective
 - An amazing command
- Gods were known as being _____

Application

- Am I sensitive to God's _____?
- The greater-to-the-lesser principle (x 2):
 - Humility
 - What has God _____ me to/for?

Motivation for Abiding in Christ's Word

- Christ's _____ (John 8:31)
- Seeing _____ do it
- Learning _____ God's Word for myself
- _____ and _____ God work through His Word.
- _____
- Need / want to know what _____ says about something.

Benefits of Abiding in Christ's Word

- Spiritual _____ (Jn. 8:51; 1 Pet. 1:23; 2 Tim. 3:14-15)
- Spiritual _____ (1 Pet. 2:2)
- Keep from _____ (Psa. 119:9,11)
- _____ God (Jn. 1:1,14)
- Fruit-bearing and _____ prayer (Mk. 4:14,20; Jn. 15:7-8)
- _____ from bondage in and to _____ (Jn. 8:32^{ff})
- Guidance to know God's _____ (Ps. 119:105; Rom. 12:1-2)
- _____ unto God (2 Tim. 2:15)
- _____ to others (2 Tim. 2:15; 4:2; Tit. 1:9)
- Fruitful, blessed, with staying _____ (Psa. 1:1-3)
- Godly _____ (Psa. 119:98-100)

Close-Up – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

- All Scripture is inspired by God ⇒ _____ wrote the Bible
- Scripture is profitable
 - For _____
 - For **reproof**
 - For _____
 - For **training in righteousness**
- Result (v. 17) – *the man of God is adequate / equipped*

Application Project Titus 2:1-10