

PASTOR'S HEART | Return from Exile

What are some things in your life that have had to be put “on hold” over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Read [Joshua 23:11-13](#). What is the warning that Joshua gives to the Israelites?

Read [Jeremiah 11:9-13](#) and [Jeremiah 25:11](#). What is the verdict the Lord gave through the prophet Jeremiah several generations later?

The Israelite people were carried off into exile. They were without a land to call home and a proper place to worship God. After seventy years, the Persian leader, Cyrus, allowed the Hebrew people to return home in order to resettle the land and rebuild the temple as prophesied.

Read [Ezra 1:1-3](#). What is the decree of King Cyrus? How does this fulfill God’s plan of returning His people to the Promised Land?

Read [Ezra 5:1-3](#). What is the promise that the Lord makes to His people in verse 3?

Read [James 4:8](#). What is the promise James offers for Christians? How is this similar to Old Testament passage in Ezra? What does this mean for us today?

Application Questions:

As you navigate the road back to a more normal pace of life, what impact would you say the pandemic has had on your spiritual life?

What is one area of your life that needs to change in order for you walk more closely with God? What roadblocks could be hindering you from connecting with God?

What is your PPSEP (Post Pandemic Spiritual Engagement Plan)? How are you planning to connect with God through His Word and with His people this week?

Who could you reach out to in order to help them gain traction on a PPSEP?

SERVE: NWA

Worship One, Serve One

Consider volunteering in one of our many children’s classes during a Sunday morning service. Contact Robyn at royates@fellowshipnwa.org for information about newborn-preschool volunteer openings, or contact Jodie at joclements@fellowshipnwa.org for volunteer opportunities in the elementary classes.

Connect DAILY

April 12 [2 Kings 24:1-17](#)
Babylon invades Jerusalem

April 13 [2 Kings 24:20-25:21](#)
Jerusalem is destroyed

April 14 [Daniel 1:1-21](#)
Daniel living in exile

April 15 [Jeremiah 31:1-14](#)
God promises to restore

April 16 [Ezekiel 11:14-20](#)
God’s people will return

QUESTIONS?

connect with community

communityministries@fellowshipnwa.org

fellowshipprogers.org/adults

fellowshipprogers.org/services

FELLOWSHIP ROGERS