

New Beginnings

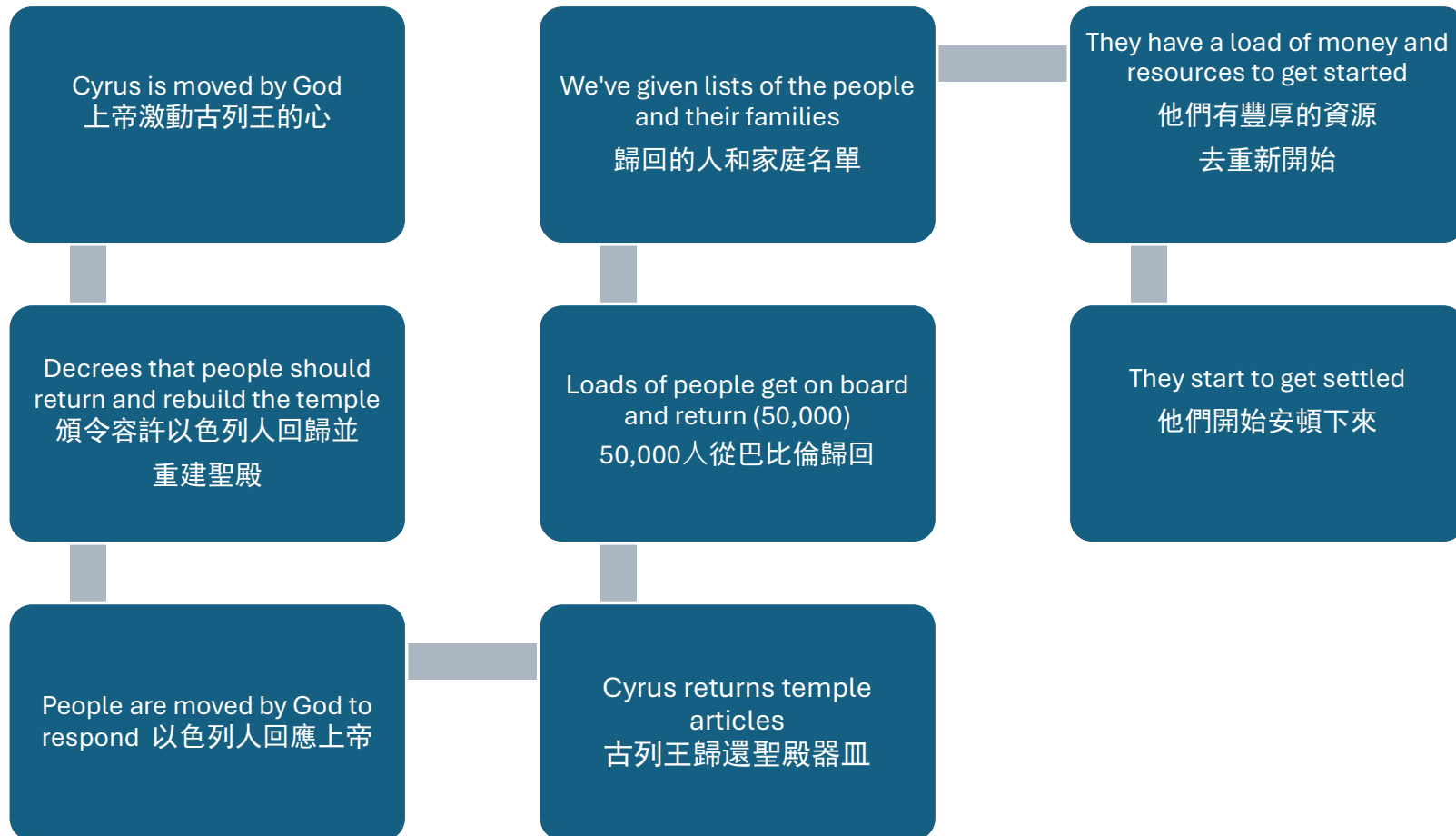
新的開始

Ezra 以斯拉記 1&2



Living in the Lament
活在哀歌中

Ezra 以斯拉記 1&2: a quick overview 概覽



Help comes
from
unexpected
places
意想不到的
幫助

- *1:1. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia (NASB)*

「波斯王居魯士元年，耶和華為要應驗藉耶利米的口所說的話，就激發波斯王居魯士的心...」
(和合本修訂版)

- The Lord is the instigator of how the return from exile takes place
上帝是促使「被擄歸回」的啟動者
- His plan is beyond earthly powers and authorities
祂的計劃超越世上的權勢和掌權者
- Nothing is impossible with God
在神沒有難成的事

Responding
to the call...
...to go
回應呼召...
起行

- 1:5 – a heavenly call
 - “everyone whose spirit God had stirred” NASB
 - “everyone whose heart God had moved” NIV
 - “everyone, in fact, God prodded” Message

1章5節 - 從天而來的呼召

- 「所有被神激動了心靈的人」
(新譯本)
- 「凡是心被上帝感動的人都起來」(和合本修訂版)
- 「每一個心裡被上帝感動的人都準備好了」
(現代中文譯本)

- Not everyone is going to be a part of a new movement

並非每個人都願意一同參與

- It's not easy to leave your life behind when you're settled

當你已經安頓下來時，要拋下一切並不容易

Responding
to the call...
...to support
回應呼召
... 支持

- 1:6 – on board and active
 - *“Their neighbours rallied behind them enthusiastically with silver, gold, tools, pack animals, expensive gifts, and, over and above these, Freewill-Offerings.”* The Message

1 章6節 - 參與其中並積極行動

- 「他們的鄰居全都來幫助他們，給他們金器銀器、旅途所需物品和牲畜。除了自願的奉獻以外，這些鄰居還送給他們許多貴重的禮物」
(新普及譯本)

- Support is more than words – it’s sacrificial
不僅是用言語去支持—卻是犧牲的付出
- We can support the plans of God even if we aren’t on the front lines
即使不在前線，我們也可以支持神的計劃
- We can pray, encourage, give financially, provide practical support etc
我們可以禱告、鼓勵、經濟奉獻、提供實際的幫助等

What's in a name? 有誰的名字?

- 2:64-65
 - *“The whole assembly together totalled 42,360, besides their male and female slaves who totalled 7,337; and they had two hundred singing men and women”* NASB

2章64-65節

- 「全會眾共有四萬二千三百六十名。此外，還有他們的僕婢七千三百三十七名，又有歌唱的男女二百名。」和合本修訂版

- Adding it all up 合共:
 - 24,144 men 男人
 - 4,289 priests 祭司
 - 341 Levites / gatekeepers etc 利未人 / 守門者等
 - 652 men of unknown origin 找不到族譜祖先為何人的一群人
 - 12,542 women & children? 婦人及兒童
 - 7,337 servants 僕人
 - 200 singers! 歌手
- Everyone is important 每個人都很重要
- We can have generational impact 我們可以產生世代影響

Some takeaways 一些反思

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- **God is the initiator** – He prompts the heart of Cyrus, he moves the hearts of His people

神是啟動者—祂感動了古列王的心，祂也感動了祂子民的心

- **Some are called to a specific purpose, but all have a role to play** – we exist in community and work together to bring about God's plans and purposes

有些人被呼召去完成特定的使命，但每個人都有自己的角色—我們存在於群體中，一同合作來實現神的計劃和旨意。

- **Leaders are nothing without followers** – it is the list of names of those who get involved that really make the difference; what we do matters

領袖若沒有追隨者便一無是處——真正帶來改變的是那些參與其中的人名單；我們所做的是極其重要的。

Takeaways questions 反思問題

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1. What are you lamenting where we can pray for unexpected breakthrough? 你正在為哪些事感到哀嘆，我們可以一起禱告，求神帶來意外的突破？
 2. What calling (or prompting of your heart) do you have to do something for the Lord, or to support someone else doing something for the Lord? 你是否感受到神呼召或感動你，要為祂做些什麼，或是支持他人為主做些什麼？
 3. What is the impact on your life of those who have come before you? And what impact will your life have on those who will follow after? 那些走在你前面的人對你的生命有什麼影響？而你的生命將對後來的人有什麼影響呢？