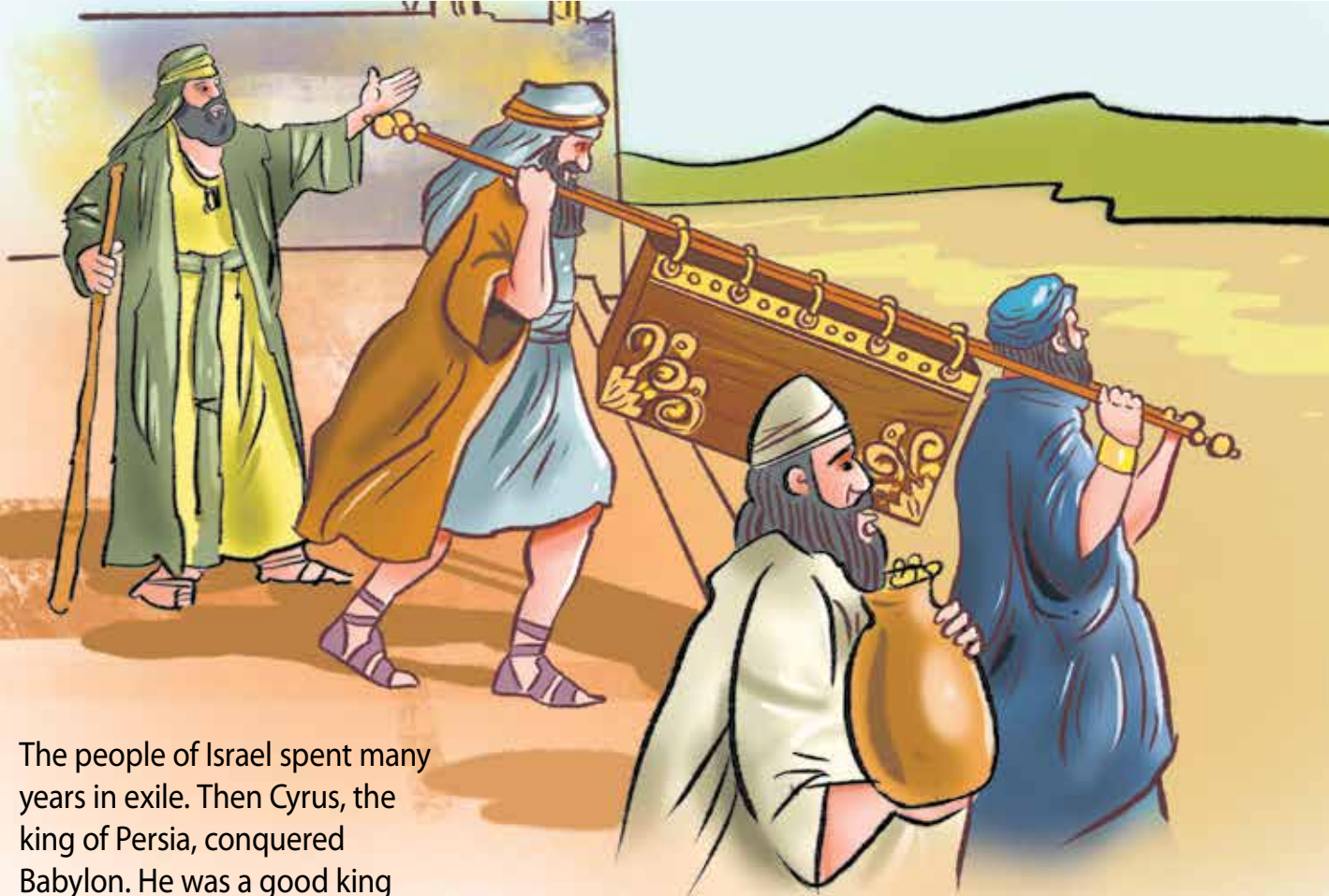


## Return from Exile

God never gets tired of saving His people even when they were far away from the Promised Land. He ensured they return home, reminding them of His covenant with Abraham



The people of Israel spent many years in exile. Then Cyrus, the king of Persia, conquered Babylon. He was a good king and told the people of Israel that they were free to go back to their own land and rebuild their temple and past glory. The Israelites were happy to hear this. King Cyrus returned the precious items that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple and many Israelites set out on the journey to Jerusalem. In the second year of their return, the Israelites began rebuilding the temple. The people rejoiced and sang praises. They gave money, jewellery and food to help the builders.

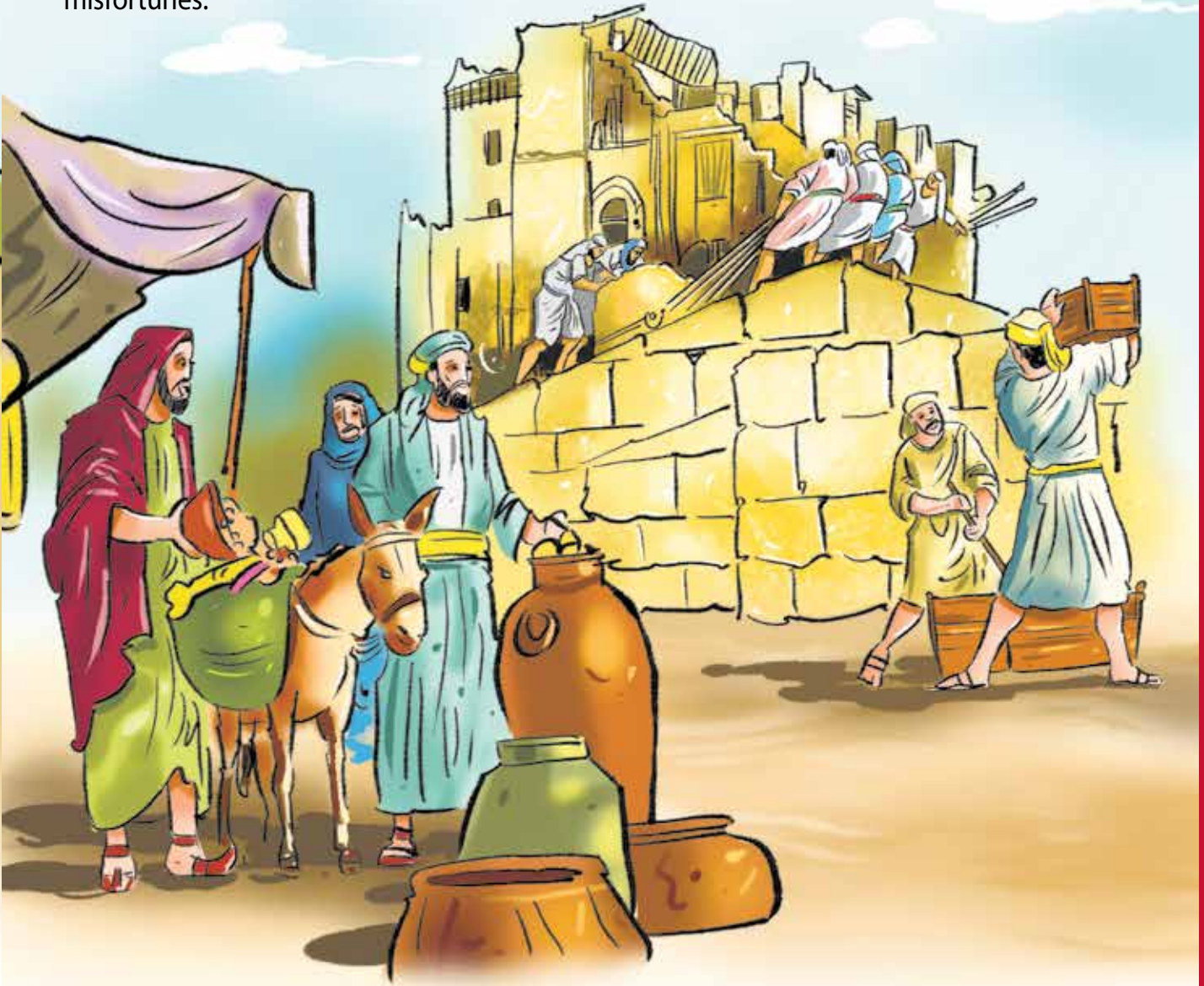


**Book:** *A History of the Jewish People during the Babylonian, Persian and Greek Periods* by Charles Foster Kent gives a scientific history of the Jewish people and the importance of the Temple of Jerusalem in 408 pages.

**Book:** *Return to Me* by Lynn Austin is a fictional narrative of the return of the Jewish people from Babylon to Jerusalem and in 459 pages it tells how King Cyrus joyfully prepares for their departure, only to learn that his family, grown comfortable in the pagan culture of Babylon, wants to remain back.

There were many difficulties along the way but the builders did not stop until the temple was completed.

After the temple, the builders set out to build a thick wall around Jerusalem so that it was well protected. The people celebrated its completion and thanked God for saving them from many misfortunes.



When the exiles arrived at the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem, some of the leaders of the clans gave freewill offerings to help rebuild the Temple on its old site. They gave as much as they could for this work.

*Ezra 2: 68-69*

Find out five important facts about the Temple of Jerusalem along with a nice photograph. Paste the picture at the centre in your scrapbook and write down the five facts below or around it.





There are nine words here. A puzzle below also has these words arranged from left to right and top to down. Find these words and put a line to identify them.

ISRAEL

CYRUS

TEMPLE

PROPHETS

PERSIA

JERUSALEM

KING

BABYLON

GOD

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | N | O | S | X | N | L | P | G | B |
| E | D | G | Z | S | T | W | G | O | A |
| R | P | T | E | M | P | L | E | D | B |
| U | L | O | I | S | R | A | E | L | Y |
| S | Z | N | Y | B | O | S | D | G | L |
| A | D | P | W | D | P | E | X | W | O |
| L | L | D | X | Q | H | G | S | K | N |
| E | Q | N | Y | P | E | R | S | I | A |
| M | Z | G | O | L | T | Y | Z | N | L |
| P | C | Y | R | U | S | O | P | G | S |