

# Ezra 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.

## Analysis

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**Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.** Cyrus's decree transitions from proclamation to invitation. The interrogative 'Who is there among you' functions as both invitation and challenge, requiring voluntary response. The blessing 'his God be with him' acknowledges the personal covenant relationship between Yahweh and His people.

The parenthetical affirmation 'he is the God' represents remarkable confession. Whether Cyrus was affirming monotheism or acknowledging Yahweh's supremacy, this validated Jewish faith and provided official recognition. The phrase 'which is in Jerusalem' emphasizes Jerusalem's unique status as God's chosen dwelling place.

Theologically, this verse teaches that true worship must be voluntary, not coerced. The invitation-format respects human agency while providing divine authorization. God's presence ('his God be with him') is the true source of success, not merely favorable circumstances.

## Historical Context

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Ancient decrees typically commanded obedience; Cyrus's invitation-format respected Jewish religious conviction. The journey from Babylon to Jerusalem covered approximately 900 miles, requiring four months of travel. This involved real sacrifice and risk, separating those with deep conviction from those comfortable in exile.

Many Jews had established successful lives in Babylon over two generations and faced genuine dilemma about leaving prosperity for uncertain future. The voluntary nature meant returnees demonstrated genuine commitment rather than mere compliance.

The emphasis on Jerusalem's unique status countered syncretistic tendencies to worship elsewhere. The Samaritans had established alternative worship centers, but God's presence was specifically identified with Jerusalem.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What does the voluntary nature teach about authentic faith versus cultural religion?
2. How do believers navigate tension between attachment to comfort and God's call to costly obedience?
3. What does Cyrus's blessing teach about divine presence as the true source of security?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּאָלָה יִם יְהִי  
H1961 H430

מִקְלָבְכָם מִן  
H4310 H0 H3605

Who is there among you of all his people

H5971

עִם זֶה

בְּיִהְוֹדָה הַ אֲשֶׁר בֵּ יְרוּשָׁלָם:  
which is in Judah

בְּיִהְוֹדָה הַ אֲשֶׁר בֵּ יְרוּשָׁלָם:  
which is in Judah

בְּיִהְוֹדָה הַ אֲשֶׁר בֵּ יְרוּשָׁלָם:  
which is in Judah

הַ וְאֵשֶׁר אָתָה בְּ יְהֹוָה בָּאָלָה יִם  
of Israel he is the God of the LORD the house and build

הַ וְאֵשֶׁר אָתָה בְּ יְהֹוָה בָּאָלָה יִם  
of Israel he is the God of the LORD the house and build

הַ וְאֵשֶׁר אָתָה בְּ יְהֹוָה בָּאָלָה יִם  
of Israel he is the God of the LORD the house and build

בֵּ יְרוּשָׁלָם: אֲשֶׁר בָּאָלָה יִם  
to Jerusalem he is the God to Jerusalem

H3389 H834 H430

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 10:10** (References God): But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

**Daniel 6:26** (References God): I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

**Isaiah 45:5** (References God): I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

**Acts 10:36** (References God): The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

**Matthew 28:20** (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**Deuteronomy 32:31** (Parallel theme): For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

**Joshua 1:9** (References God): Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

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