

# Ezra 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto him, Take these vessels, go, carry them into the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be builded in his place.

## Analysis

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Cyrus's command contained two directives: transport the vessels to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. The Aramaic *hekal* (temple) specifically denotes a palace or sanctuary, emphasizing the structure's sacred purpose. The phrase "in his place" (*al athreih*) required rebuilding on the original site—the threshing floor David purchased (2 Samuel 24:18-25), where Solomon constructed the first temple.

The authorization "let the house of God be builded" transformed temple reconstruction from Jewish initiative to Persian imperial decree. This legitimized the project within the empire's legal framework. The Jews were not acting independently but executing orders that traced back to Cyrus himself—documentation that would prove decisive when Darius searched the archives.

## Historical Context

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The requirement to rebuild "in his place" preserved the temple's location on Mount Moriah, traditionally identified with the site where Abraham offered Isaac (Genesis 22) and where the angel halted the plague in David's time. This continuity of sacred geography was essential for proper worship. The Samaritans would later offer to help build but were rejected partly because they proposed alternative worship locations.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What is the significance of rebuilding the temple "in his place"—on the exact original location—rather than choosing a new site?
2. How does Cyrus's decree illustrate that God can accomplish His purposes through secular governments and legal systems?

## Interlinear Text

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וַאֲמַר	הֵן	לֵה	אֵלֵה	מֵאֵי אֵלֵה	שֶׁ אֵלֵה	אֶזֶל	אֶחָד	וְהֵם
And said	H0	these	vessels	unto him	Take	go	carry	them
H560		H412	H3984	H5376		H236	H5182	H1994
בְּהִיכֹל אֵלֵה	דִּי	בִירוּשָׁלַם	וְיֵת	אֱלֹהֵה	יִתְבֵּן אֵלֵה			
into the temple	H1768	that is in Jerusalem	and let the house	of God	be builded			
H1965		H3390	H1005	H426	H1124			
עַל	אֶתְרָה:							
in	his place							
H5922	H870							