

THE STORY

Sermon Outline
February 12, 2017
Pastor Dave Erickson

The Return Home

Chapter 19
Ezra 1-6

God's people faced a dramatic moment,
launched from an _____.

² "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

"The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms
of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for
him at Jerusalem in Judah.

God turns the heart of a Persian King
_____.

People freed and funded by the king make
their _____ to
Jerusalem.

We are about to learn that home is not
really about geography. _____ is
actually about _____. God's
presence! Geography is secondary.

The people _____.

*We should stop here and notice the contemporary
message.*

At the points in life that require you to
start over, make sure you _____
_____, at the altar of God in repentance and
worship.

Do you ever wonder what God does when
we treat His mission _____?

He often causes us to live in the
_____.

God brought these people back to
Jerusalem so that He would be first in
their life. His presence _____!

1 Peter 2:11-12

*¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain
from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live
such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse
you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and
glorify God on the day he visits us.*

Eugene Petersen provides this paraphrase in the Message:

*Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make
yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of
your soul. Live an exemplary life among the natives so that
your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won
over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration
when he arrives.*