

# Rejoicing in God's Sovereignty

Ezra 1-2

*Because God is sovereign...*

1. His Word will be fulfilled (v1)
2. Secular agencies will serve Him (v1)
3. His people can have confidence in Him

## FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. What was the toughest time in your life that you can recall? What was God's role in it? Did you question His fairness? How have you come to grips with it now?
2. Is it a fair defense of God to say He allowed certain things to happen? What's the difference between saying that and saying He caused them to happen? If a God with infinite power allows something that He could have stopped, did He cause it?
3. Read Jeremiah 25:1-14. What do you know of the Babylonian Empire? How does God refer to King Nebuchadnezzar in v9? Who is it in verses 9-10 who destroys God's people? Do verses 12-14 balance the equation?
4. Read Lamentations 1:1-5 to see a close-up view of what the Babylonians inflicted on God's people. Read Lamentations 4:9-10. Where is God? Read verse 11.
5. The justice of God is tough to uphold in a world where evil exists. How do you affirm it in the light of these three statements:
  - a. God is infinitely powerful.
  - b. God is infinitely loving.
  - c. Evil exists in the world.
6. Do you agree with each of those statements? Must one fall for the other two to stand? If you think so, which do you deny? What perspective does 2 Peter 3:8-13 contribute?
7. How would it change your perspective to see God as sovereign over everything?