WORKSHEET # 1: Cyrus’ Decree

Carefully read 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4; Ezra 1:9-11; Ezra 6:3-5.

1. A. Lay out the first two passages in parallel columns in such a way as to highlight the similarities and differences between the two passages. Do this in some detail, comparing words and phrases in a formal-equivalence version of the Bible (e.g., NKJV, NASB, RSV, ESV). (5 pts)

   B. How do you account for the differences between them? In your answer, please deal with the narrative function of each passage in its own context, i.e., how each passages contributes to the overall argument of the larger text in which it is found. (5 pts)

2. A. In similar fashion, compare Ezra 6:3-5 with Ezra 1:1-4 and Ezra 1:9-11. (5 pts)

   B. Again, how do you account to the differences here? (5 pts)