



## **TO BE READ BY ALL CANDIDATES PRIOR TO EXALTATION**

### **“THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR JOURNEY”**

**“THE STORY ABOUT TO UNFOLD, ON ENTERING THE CHAPTER, TAKES PLACE SOME 500 YEARS AFTER THE DEDICATION OF KING SOLOMON’S TEMPLE.**

**KING SOLOMON HAS LONG SINCE DIED, JERUSALEM HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY THE BABYLONIANS, THE CITY AND IT’S ONCE MAGNIFICENT TEMPLE HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND THE INHABITANTS TAKEN INTO CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON WHERE THEY HAVE REMAINED FOR 70 YEARS.**

**WE ARE NOW AT THAT PERIOD OF HISTORY WHERE THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE ITSELF HAS BEEN ATTACKED AND DEFEATED BY CYRUS, KING OF PERSIA. CYRUS HAS RECENTLY ISSUED A DECREE ALLOWING THE DESCENDANTS OF THE HEBREW EXILES TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM.**

**AS THE CANDIDATE FOR EXALTATION, YOU REPRESENT ONE OF THOSE EXILES RETURNING TO JERUSALEM AS A SOJOURNER JOURNEYMAN BUILDER.**

**YOU DISCOVER THAT THE TEMPLE AND THE HOLY CITY ARE IN RUINS AND, WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES, OFFER ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING A NEW TEMPLE WHEN, AS YOU WILL EVENTUALLY SEE, A DISCOVERY OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE IS MADE”**

