

Be Worshipful

Ezra

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
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How to find a church...

Yellow Pages



Why church?



Sing?



Fellowship?



Why church?



Why does God **restore** us?

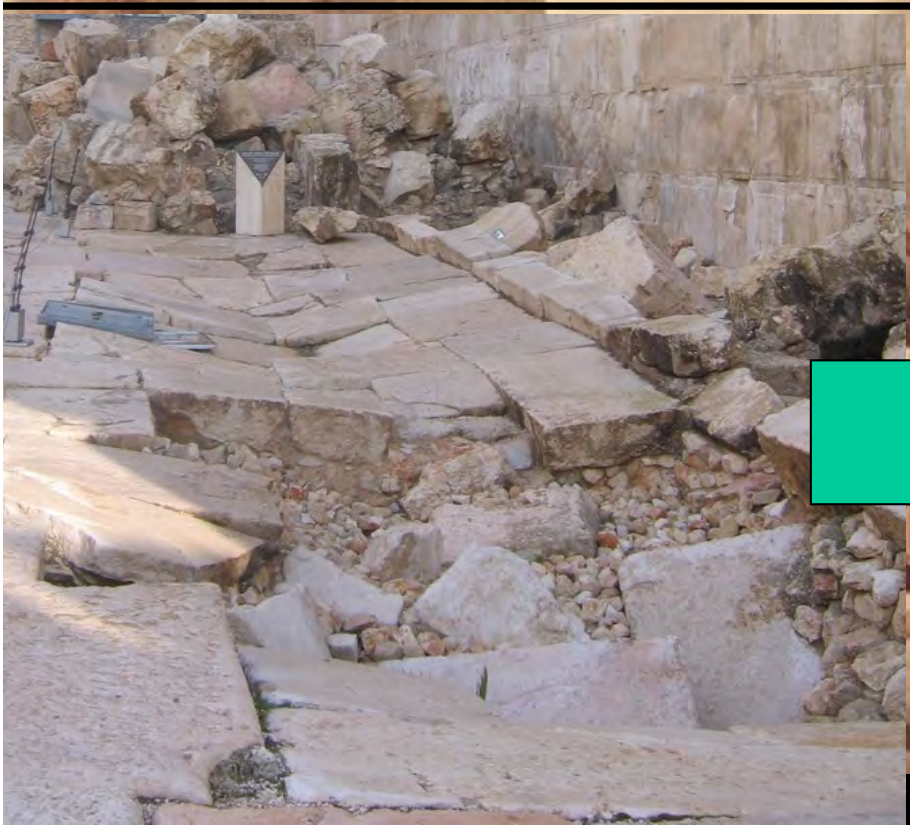


**God delivers us from our
bondage to **worship** him.**



Main Idea to Apply Ezra

**Israel messed up.
The Jews needed restoration.
Only God could restore them.**



Two 70-Year Exiles

560

People Exile

605 586 539 536 516

A horizontal timeline with two orange bars. The first bar starts at 605 and ends at 586. The second bar starts at 539 and ends at 516. A white double-headed arrow spans from 605 to 536.

Temple Exile

"This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for **seventy years**. ¹²Then, after the **seventy years** of captivity are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his people for their sins," says the LORD. I will make the country of the Babylonians a wasteland forever"
(Jer. 25:11-12).

The Postexilic Era

295
296
560

 Temple work

Prophets:

Haggai
Zechariah

Malachi

605

586

539

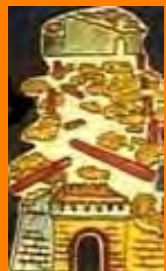
536

520

516

483-473

444-425



Others:

Zerubbabel

Esther Ezra

Nehemiah

Persian Kings:

Cyrus

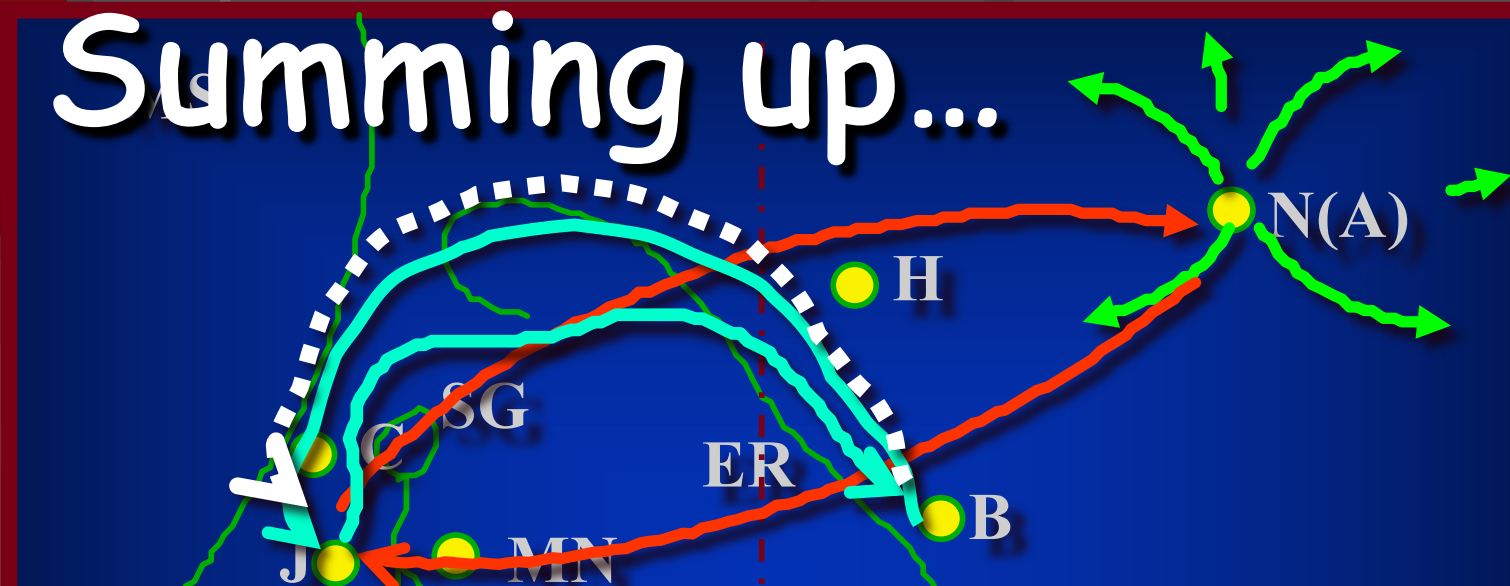
Darius

Xerxes

Artaxerxes

**DRESSING
THE
STAGE**

Summing up...



JUDAH IS PRESERVED!

WHY?

Because Messiah was long prophesied to appear through the tribe of Judah.

7

The *THIRD*
of
THREE
SOCIETIES
is:

ARC

CAPTIVITY

CAPTIVITY

The Ancient City of Babylon

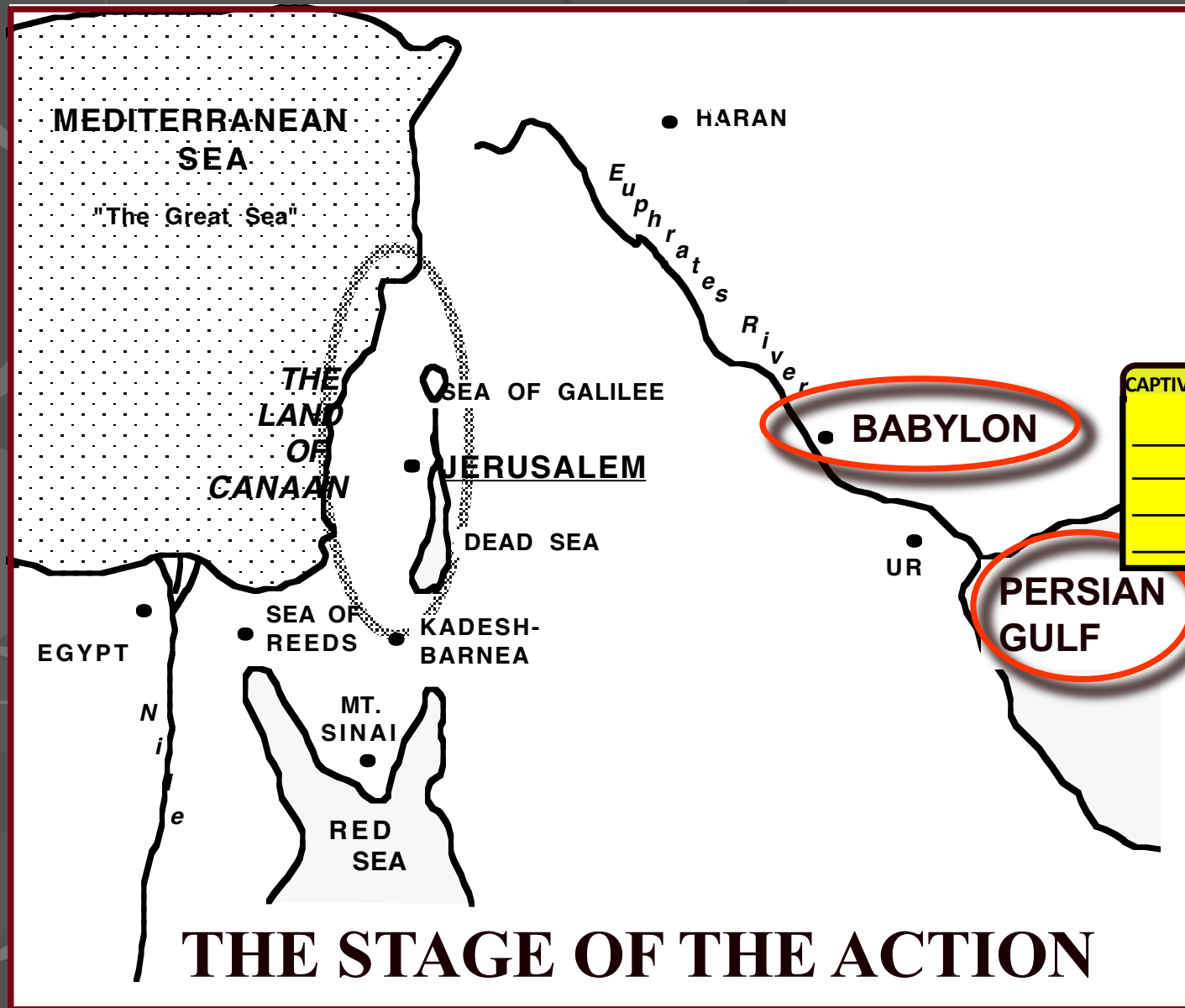
Euphrates River

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

CAPTIVITY

Handbook pg. 37-38

7



7

CAPTIVITY

70 YEARS

3 TREKS

ARC

CAPTIVITY

70 Years

3 Treks

"JEWS"
"SYNAGOGUE"

Handbook pg. 37-38

Let's Study Through Scripture

The Bible: Book by Book



Why does God **restore** us?



- Why them?
- Why us?

I. God delivered the Jewish exiles to **worship** him.

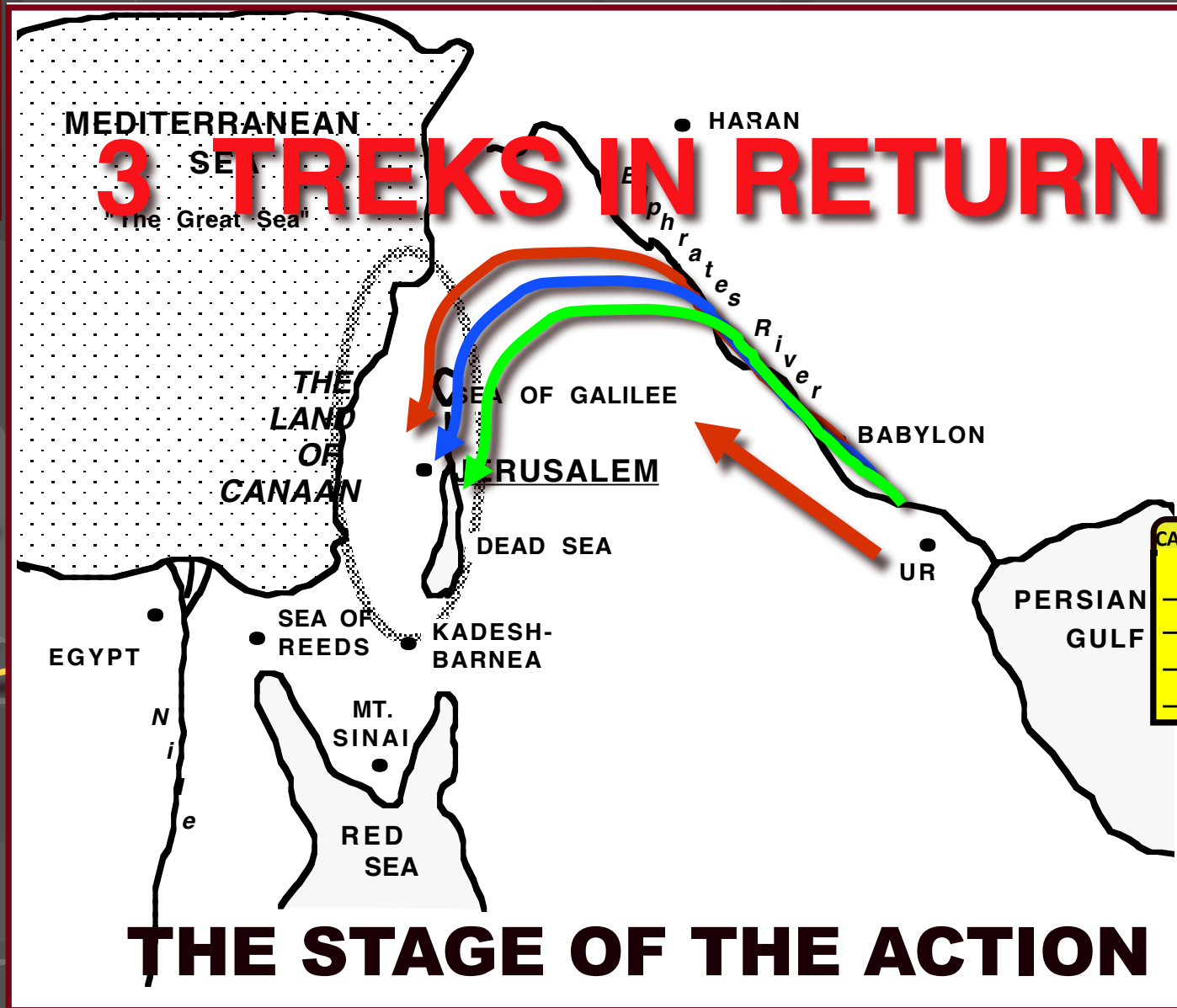


The Book of Ezra

Ezra 1

7

AR



7

ARC

CAPTIVITY

70 YEARS

3 TREKS

100 YEARS / 50,000

CAPTIVITY

70 Years

3 Treks

100 Years / 50,000

50,000 RETURNED!

BUT MANY MORE
STAYED BEHIND
TO FINANCE THE
RETURN.

CAPTIVITY

70 Years

3 Treks

100 Years / 50,000

7

ZERUBBABEL

CAPTIVITY

EZRA

ARC
NEHEMIAH

70 YEARS

3 TREKS

100 YEARS / 50,000

Z - E - N

CAPTIVITY

70 Years

3 Treks

100 Years / 50,000

Z - E - N

7

ZERUBBABEL...returns to begin
rebuilding the Temple.

EZR
Law

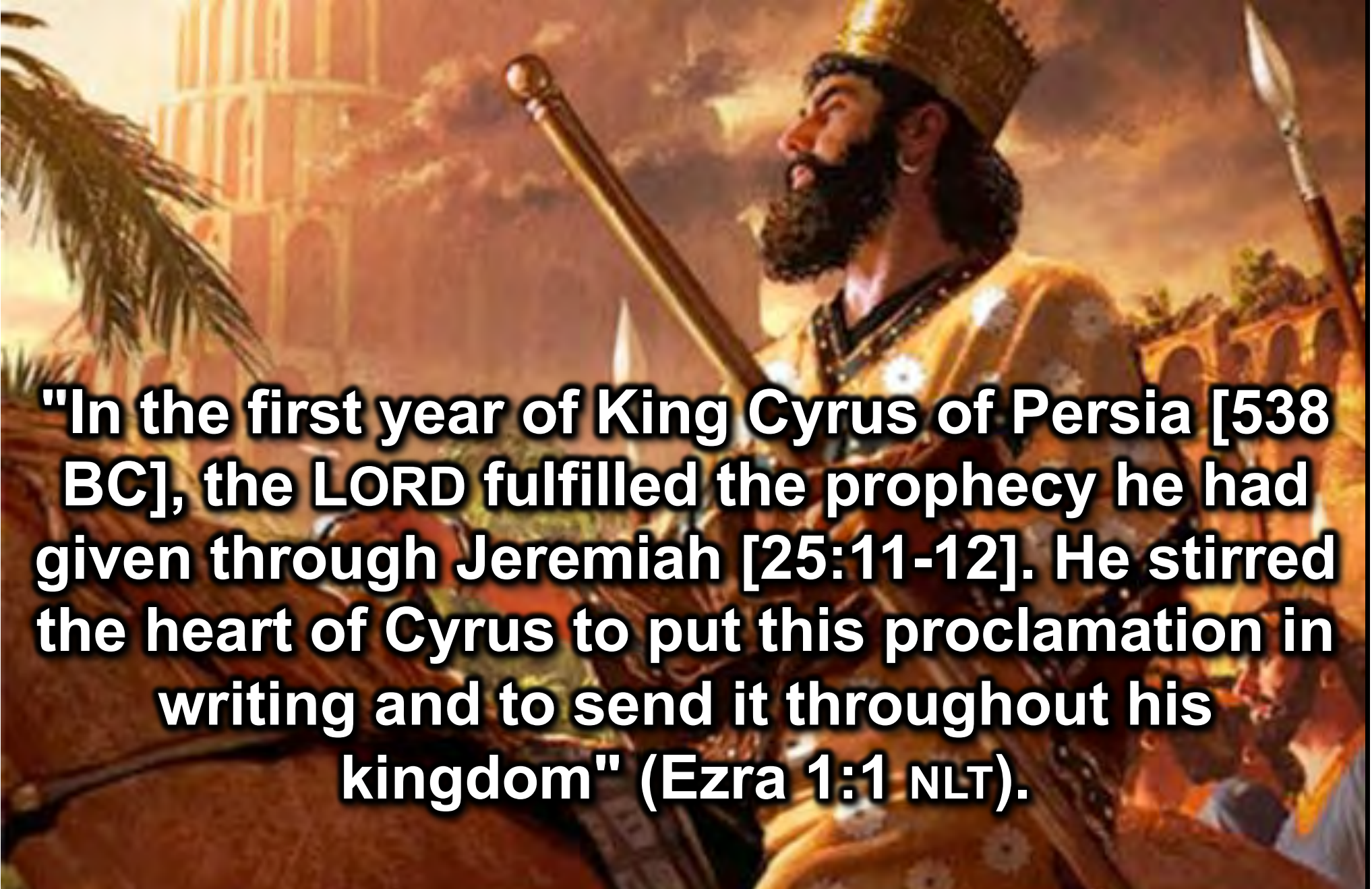
Z-E-N

THREE DIPLOMAT
PRIESTS

NEHEMIAH
the great
leader and
the city's gates and its
walls.

CAPTIVITY
70 Years
3 Treks
100 Years / 50,000
Z - E - N

Cyrus the Great Conquers Babylon



"In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia [538 BC], the LORD fulfilled the prophecy he had given through Jeremiah [25:11-12]. He stirred the heart of Cyrus to put this proclamation in writing and to send it throughout his kingdom" (Ezra 1:1 NLT).

Decree of Cyrus



"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. ³Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. ⁴And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem' " (Ezra 1:2-4 NLT).

The Persian Empire



*The Persian Empire in the 5th century BC
extended "from India and Ethiopia" (Esther 1:1)*

**The boundaries of the empire that Cyrus II initiated
and Darius I consolidated stretched from Greece to India**

**But WHY
was a return to the land
of Israel so important?**

Borders of the Land Promised to Abraham



Genesis 15:18

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates" (ESV)

Herodium

Bethlehem

Church of Nativity

**Rachel's
Tomb**

Tantur

Mar Elias

Har Homa

Ramat Rahel

Bethlehem aerial from north near Jerusalem

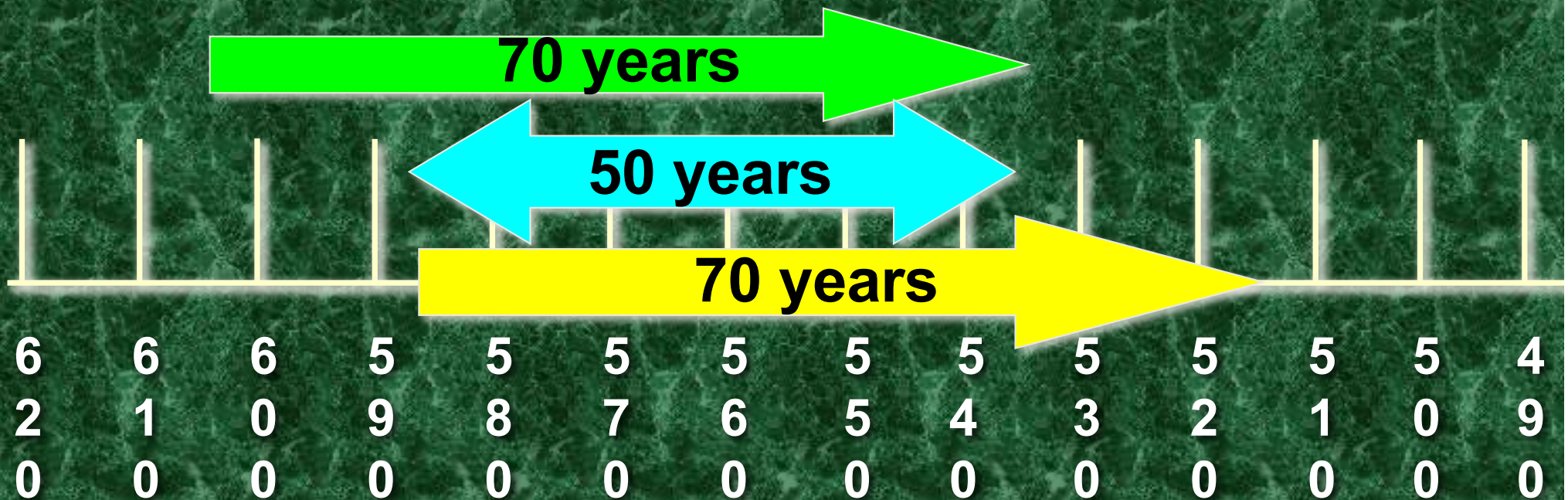


Ezra 2

Chronology of the Captivity

Judah's
Captivity
605-536

Temple's
Desolation
586-516



Judgments = 70 years

Bondage = 50 years (586-536)

Chronology of the Captivity

Judah's
Captivity
606-536

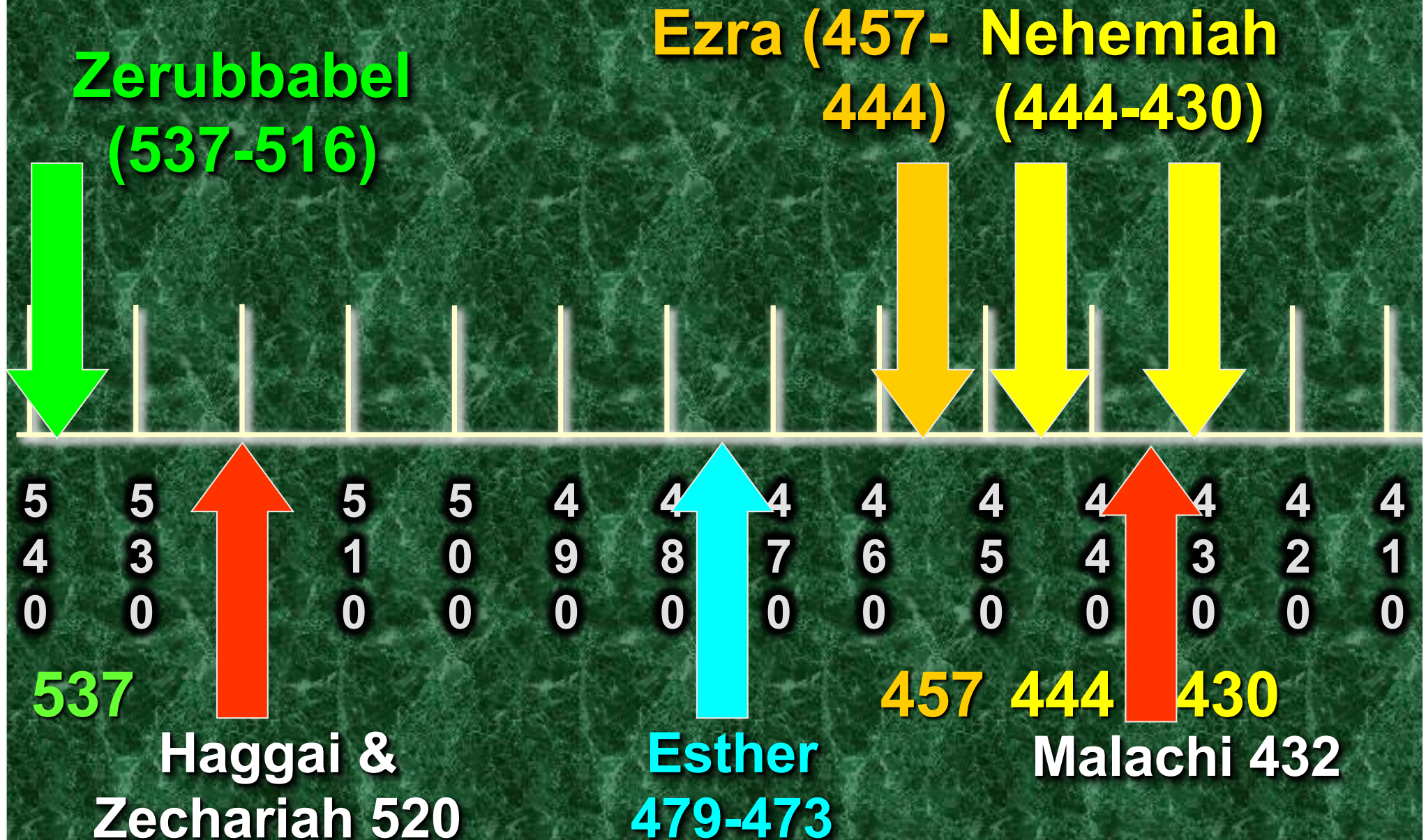
Temple's
Desolation
586-516

Ezekiel 597-572

6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
2	1	0	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Daniel: 606-536

Chronology of Ezra-Nehemiah



Ezra's Correlation with Esther

289

Restoring the Temple and People

Book of Esther (58 YEAR GAP)

Temple

People

Zerubbabel

Ezra

Ezra 1–6

Ezra 7–10

50,000 Return

5,000 Return

Survival

Revival

Working

Worshipping

538-516 BC (22 Years)

458-457 BC (1 Year)

External Opposition: Samaritans

Internal Opposition: Intermarriage

Return
1–2

Rebuilding
3–6

Return
7–8

Restoration
9–10

Decree
1

Returnees
2

Begins
3

Opposed
4:1–6:12

Ends
6:13-22

Qualifications
& Provisions
7

Returnees
& Protection
8

Inter-
marriage
& Lament
9

Divorces
Carried Out
10

Ezra: Temple/People



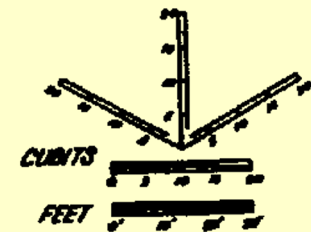
Zerubbabel's Temple

The Bible Visual Resource Book, 95

Key Word

Temple

Temple source materials are subject to academic interpretation, and subsequent art reconstructions vary.



Key Verse

"... for a brief moment, the LORD our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage" (Ezra 9:8)

Characteristics

290-291

C. The restoration to the land under Ezra & Nehemiah related directly to God's purposes for Israel as stated in the promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3).

2. Relationship to the Abrahamic Covenant

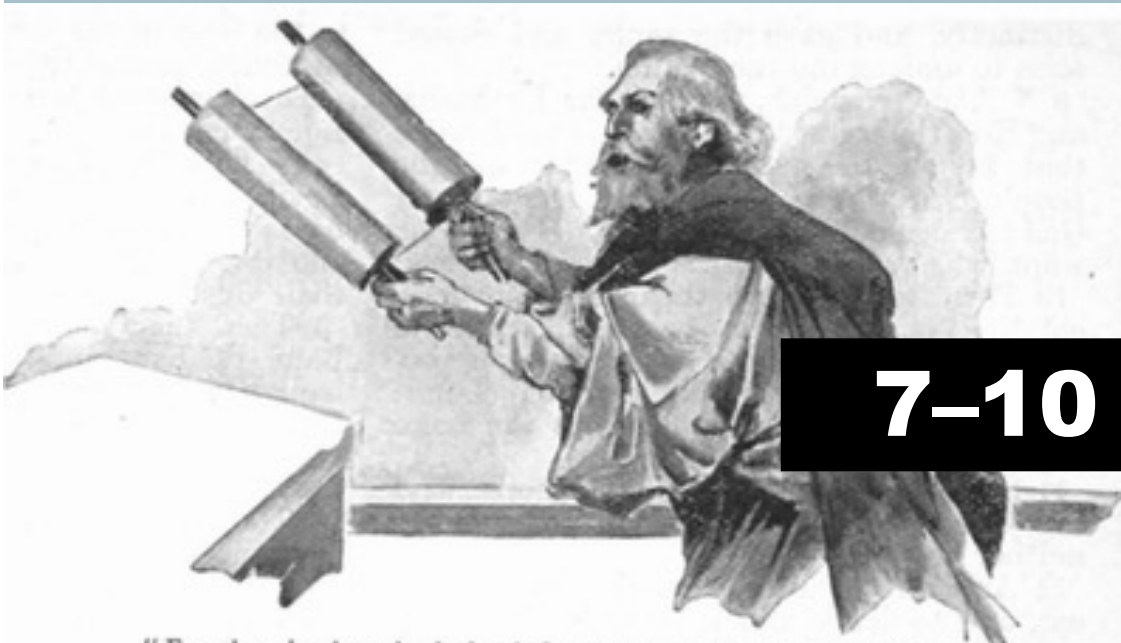
- a) God promised Abraham that his descendants would occupy the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates (Gen. 15:18), yet Israel in Babylon was living outside of these boundaries. The nation needed to return to the land.**
- b) The Messiah had already been prophesied to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).**
- c) Intermarriage threatened the purity of the Davidic line to fulfill the seed promises originally given to Abraham.**

Synthesis

Restoring the temple and people

Partial fulfillment of land promise

1–6 Temple–Zerubbabel



7–10

People–Ezra

Ezra
1-6

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

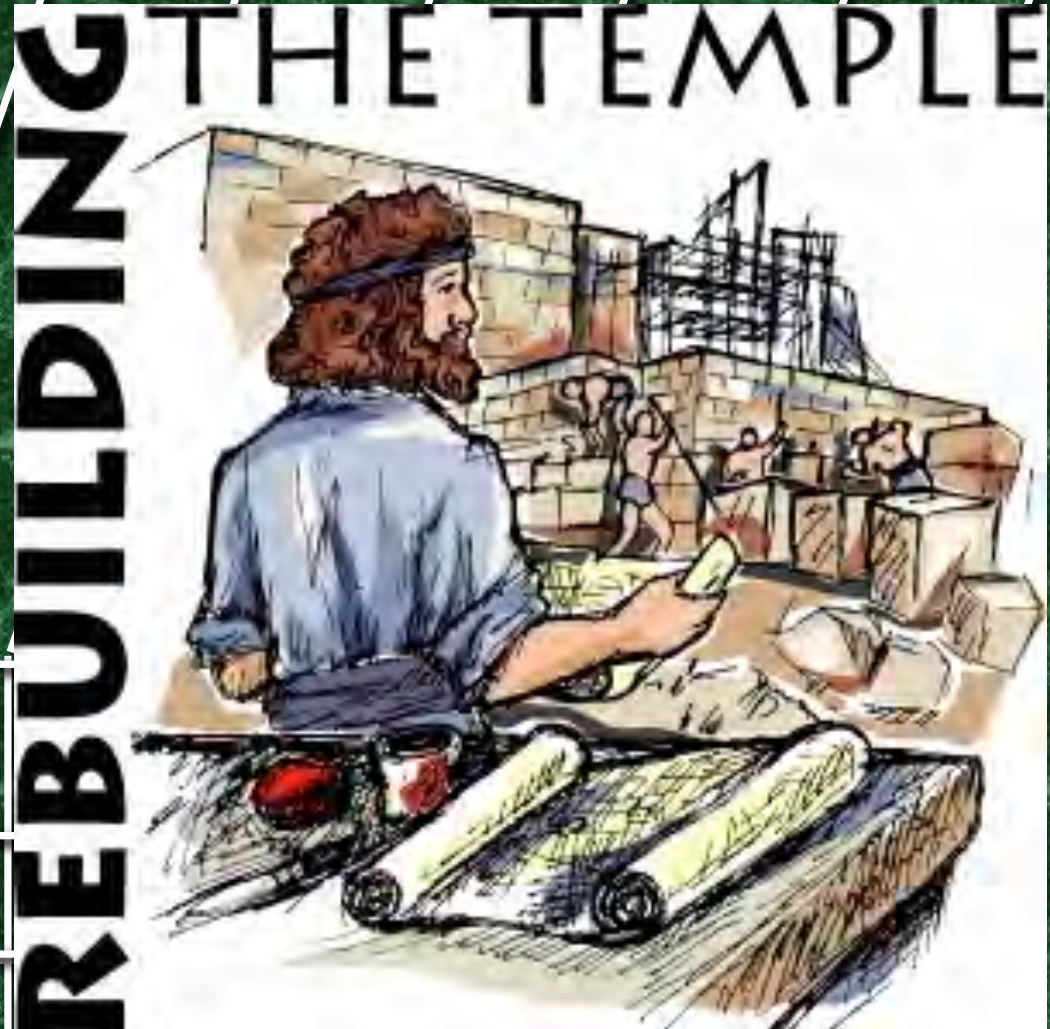
Returning 1-2

Restoring 3-6

**Rebuilding
1-6**

Zerubbabel

537



Ezra 3

The altar was rebuilt first (Ezra 3:1-6)



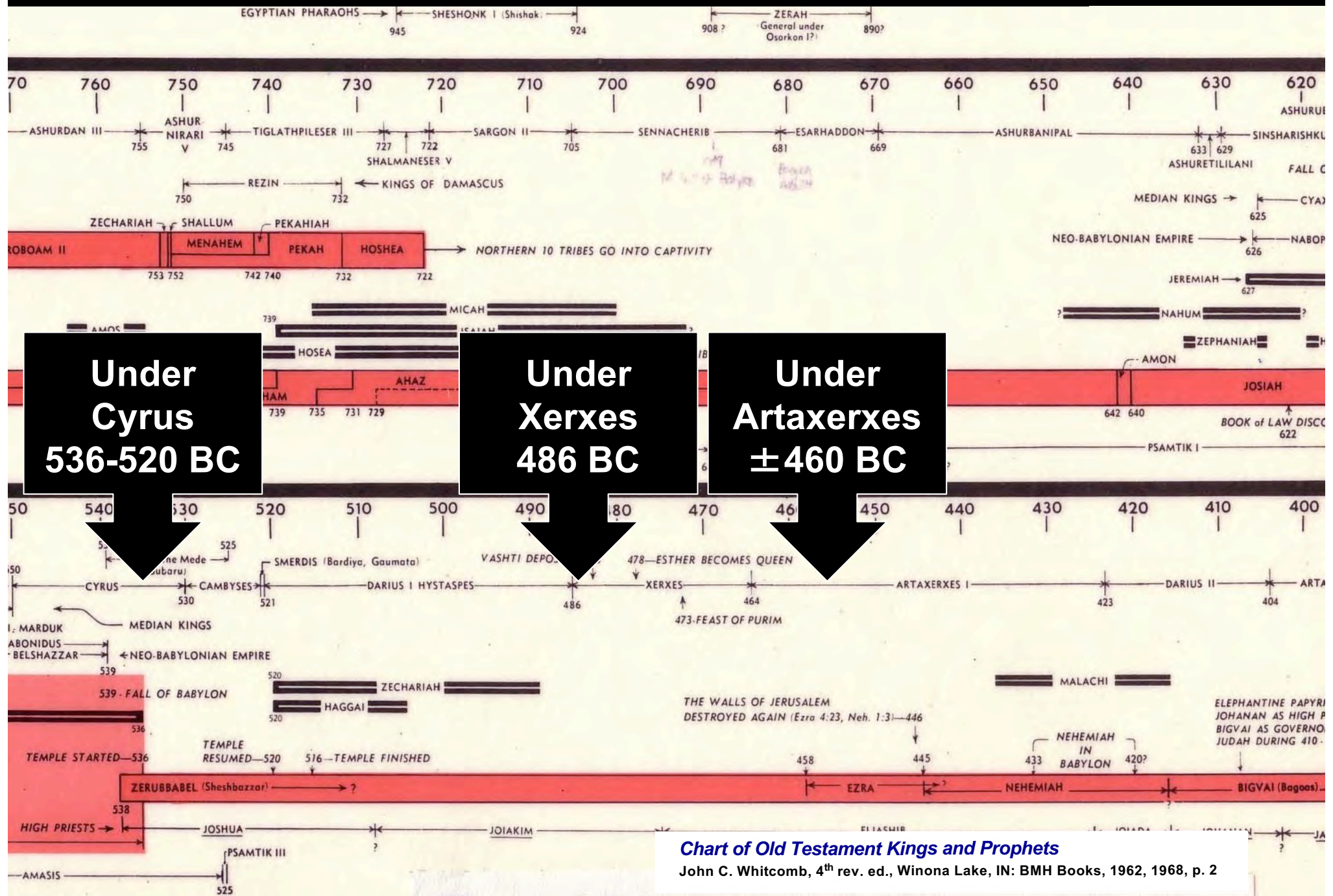
Ezra 4

God's work was opposed (4:1-2)



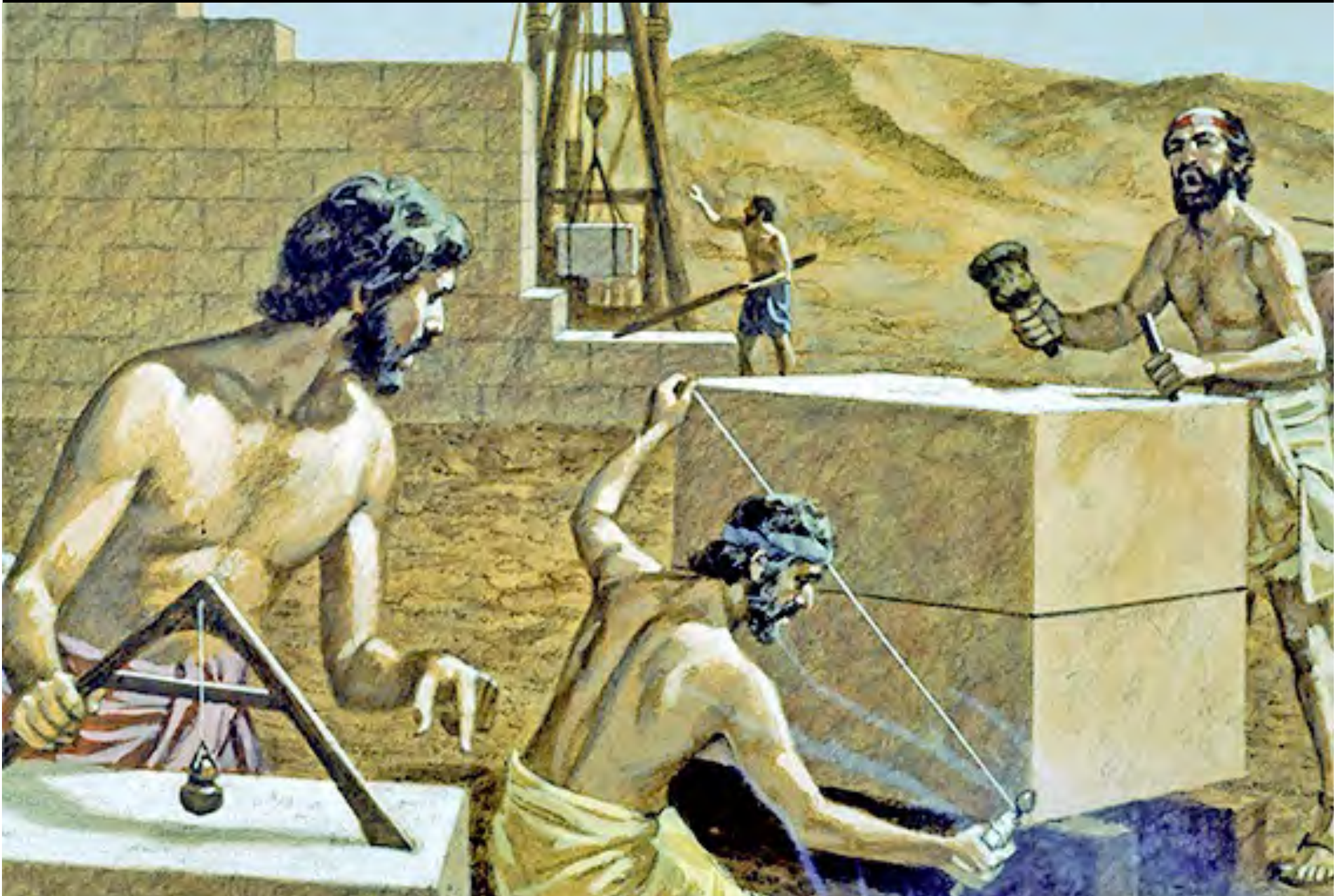
Opposition Timeline (Ezra 4)

232 & 342



Ezra 5

God's work is always opposed



Ezra's Correlation with Esther

289

Restoring the Temple and People

Book of Esther (58 YEAR GAP)

Temple

People

Zerubbabel

Ezra

Ezra 1-6

Ezra 7-10

50,000 Return

5,000 Return

Survival

Revival

Working

Worshipping

538-516 BC (22 Years)

458-457 BC (1 Year)

External Opposition: Samaritans

Internal Opposition: Intermarriage

Return
1-2

Rebuilding
3-6

Return
7-8

Restoration
9-10

Decree
1

Returnees
2

Begins
3

Opposed
4:1-6:12

Ends
6:13-22

Qualifications
& Provisions
7

Returnees
& Protection
8

Inter-
marriage
& Lament
9

Divorces
Carried Out
10

Ezra 6



**Temple Completion in 516 BC
(Ezra 6:15)**

I. Ezra 1–6: The rebuilding of the temple in the first return under Zerubbabel with 50,000 Jews encourages the remnant to worship only at the temple because of God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promise of restoration (538 BC).

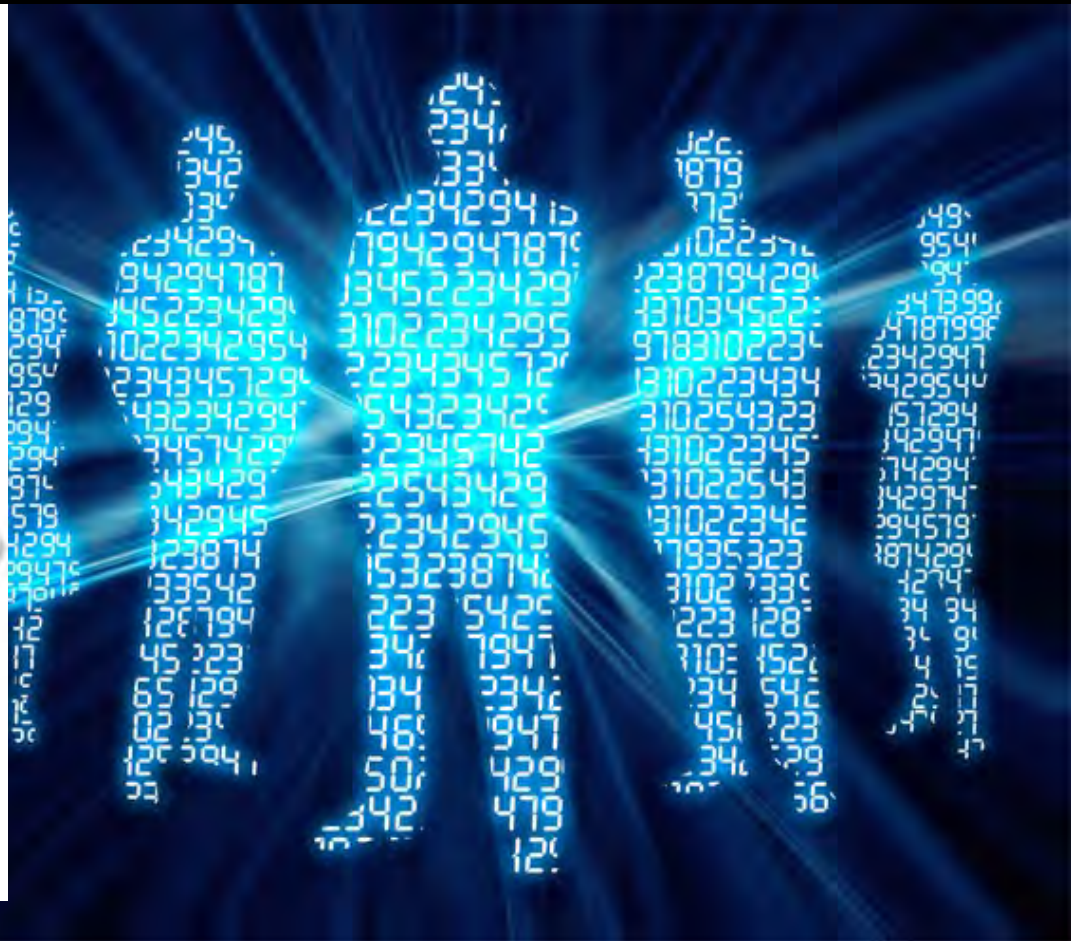
Ezra 7

Which is more important?

Hardware?



Software?



Which is more important?

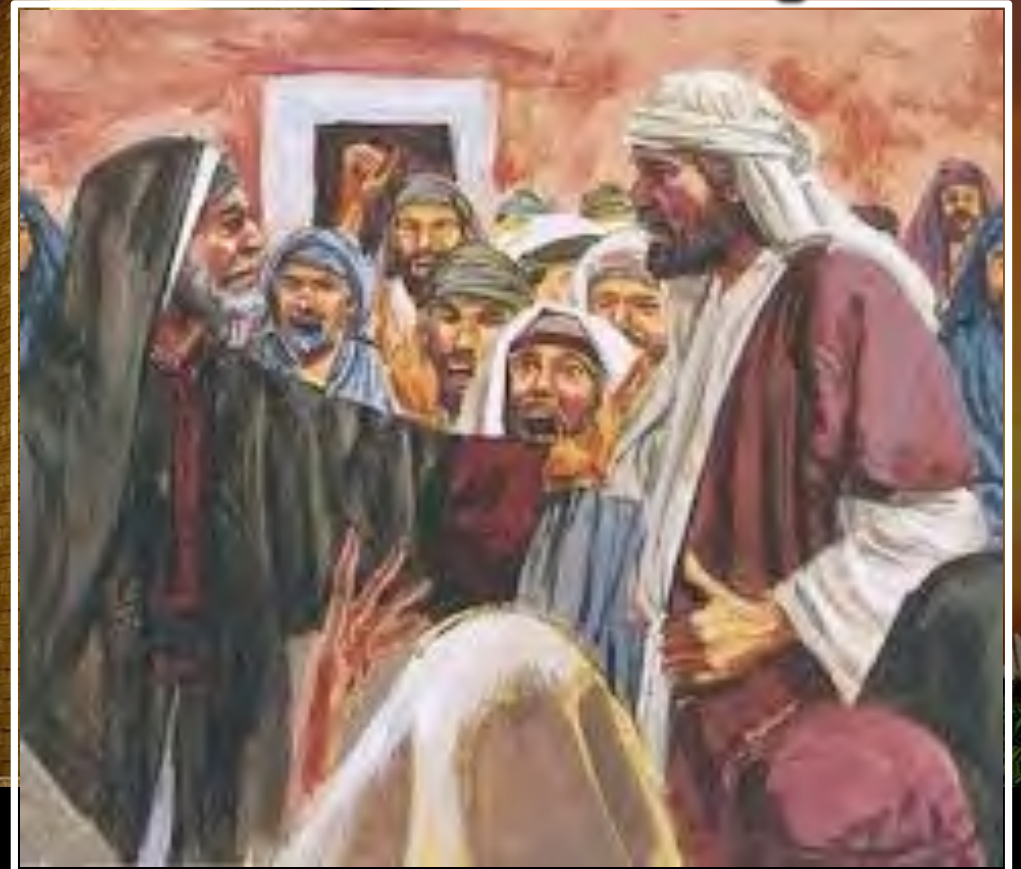
Hardware?

Rebuild Temple



Software?

Rebuild People



Which is more important?

**Presence of
the Spirit?**



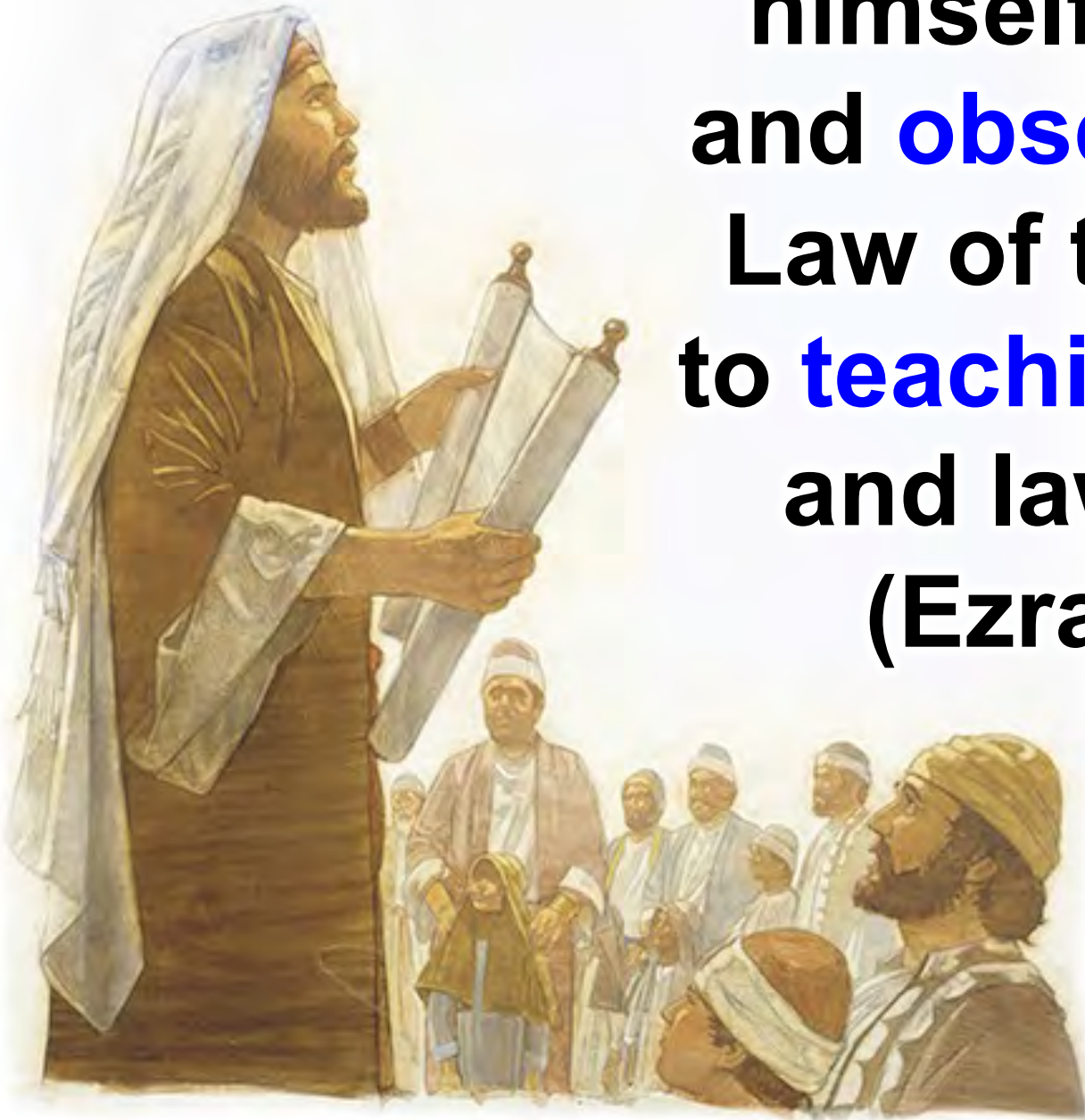
**Submission to
the Spirit?**



I. Ezra 1–6: The rebuilding of the temple in the first return under Zerubbabel with 50,000 Jews encourages the remnant to worship only at the temple because of God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promise of restoration (538 BC).

II. Ezra 7–10: The reformation of the people in the second return under Ezra with 5,000 Jews is recorded to encourage the remnant to fulfill its covenant obligations on the basis of God's mercy (458 BC).

"For Ezra had devoted himself to the **study and **observance** of the Law of the LORD, and to **teaching** its decrees and laws in Israel" (Ezra 7:10 NIV).**



Ezra 7-10

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Returning 1-2

Restoring 3-6

Returning 7-8

Restoring 9-10

Rebuilding
1-6

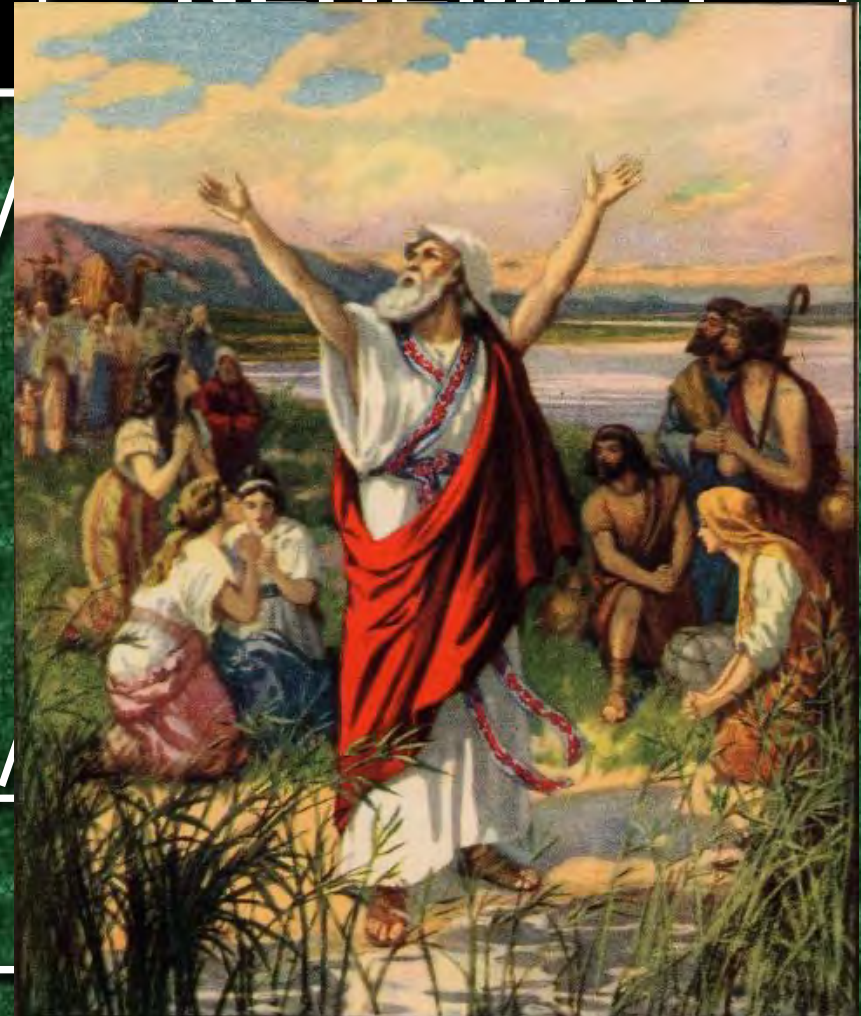
Redirecting
7-10

Zerubbabel

Ezra

537

457



Ezra 8

Leadership for Revival (Ezra 8:15-20)

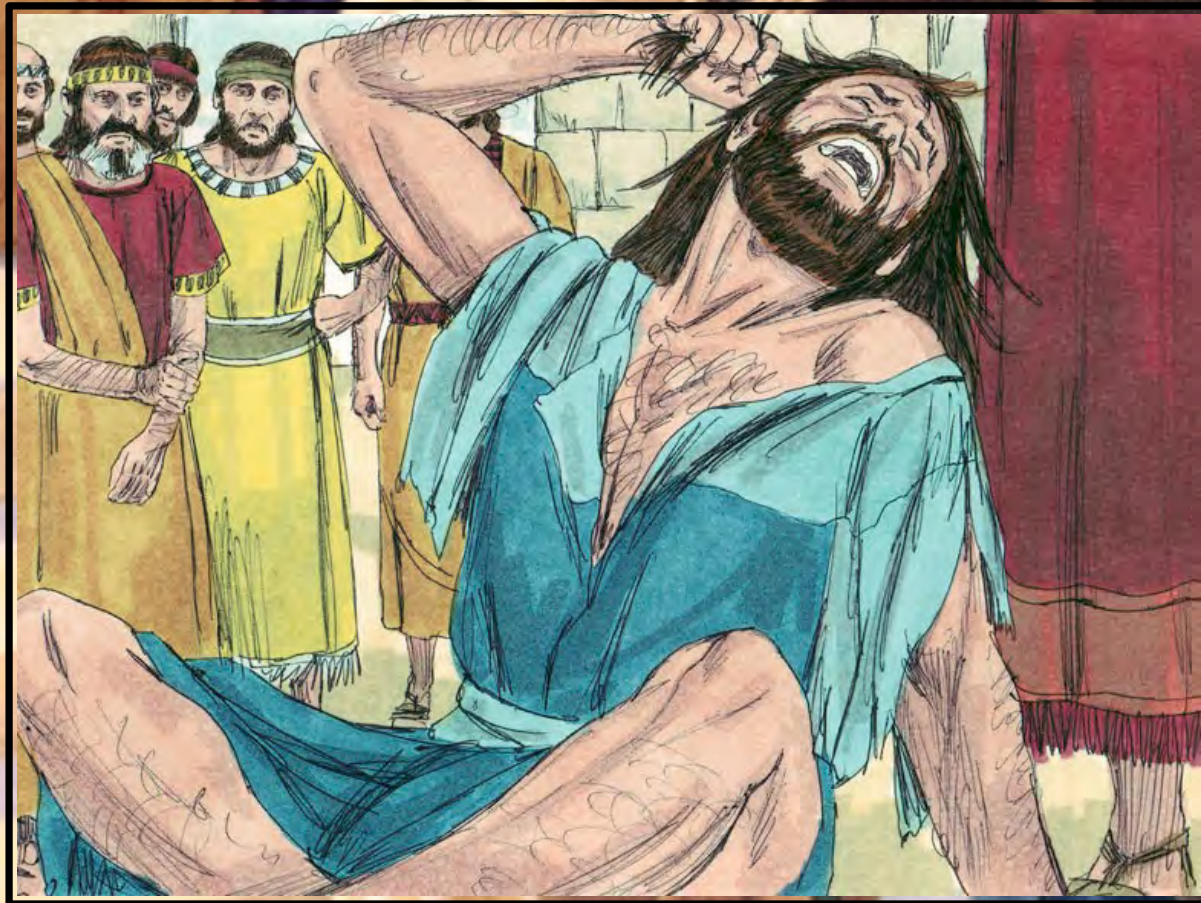




**Ezra
proclaims
a fast
(Ezra 8:21)**

Ezra 9

Internal Opposition (Ezra 9)



Ezra 10

Public Confession of Sin (Ezra 10)



God Approved Divorce under Ezra?

Issue: How could God approve of divorce here when He elsewhere disapproves of it and even says clearly, "I hate divorce" (Mal. 2:16; cf. Matt. 19:8)?

- The text doesn't specifically say that God approved of divorce. One solution could have been for the 113 men to leave the community with their families. However, for the sake of argument, the other reasons below are offered...
- The account serves to illustrate that maintaining the purity of the covenant people of God was more important than even keeping some individual families intact.
- Although 113 men may seem to be a small number, since this included leaders of the people, the intermarriage was certainly going to spread further to all the common people as had happened in the Jewish community in Egypt & the kingdom of Israel to the north.

This small beginning led to the first century AD restoration of Jerusalem



Why does God **restore** us?



**II. God delivers us from our
bondage to worship him.**



Ezra for Us

**God knows how horrible slavery
to false gods is for us.**



Breaking free

Do you need to be restored from your slavery to sin?

“THE WORSHIP EVOLUTION”

ADAPTED FROM EDGAR WINTER



PHASE 1
True Worship,
Purity & Transparency,
Prudence & Dignity

PHASE 2
Dependence on God
& His Favor
with a Grateful Heart

PHASE 3
Disposition
& Service

PHASE 4
Independence,
Personal Interests,
& Change in Vision

PHASE 5
Indisposition,
Self-Service &
Self-Satisfaction

PHASE 6
Idolatry,
Self-Worship &
Ungrateful Heart

FROM THE BOOK: **THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID TODAY**
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Why does God **restore** us?





God transforms

EXILES

INTO

WORSHIPPERS

Main Idea of Ezra

I. God delivered the Jewish exiles to **worship** him.



The Book of Ezra

Summary Statement

The restorations of the temple and people to the land under Zerubbabel and Ezra record God's faithfulness and mercy in fulfilling His promise of restoration ***to encourage the remnant in true temple worship*** and covenant obedience.

**II. God delivers us from our
bondage to worship him.**




Ezra for Us

My Journey in Worship

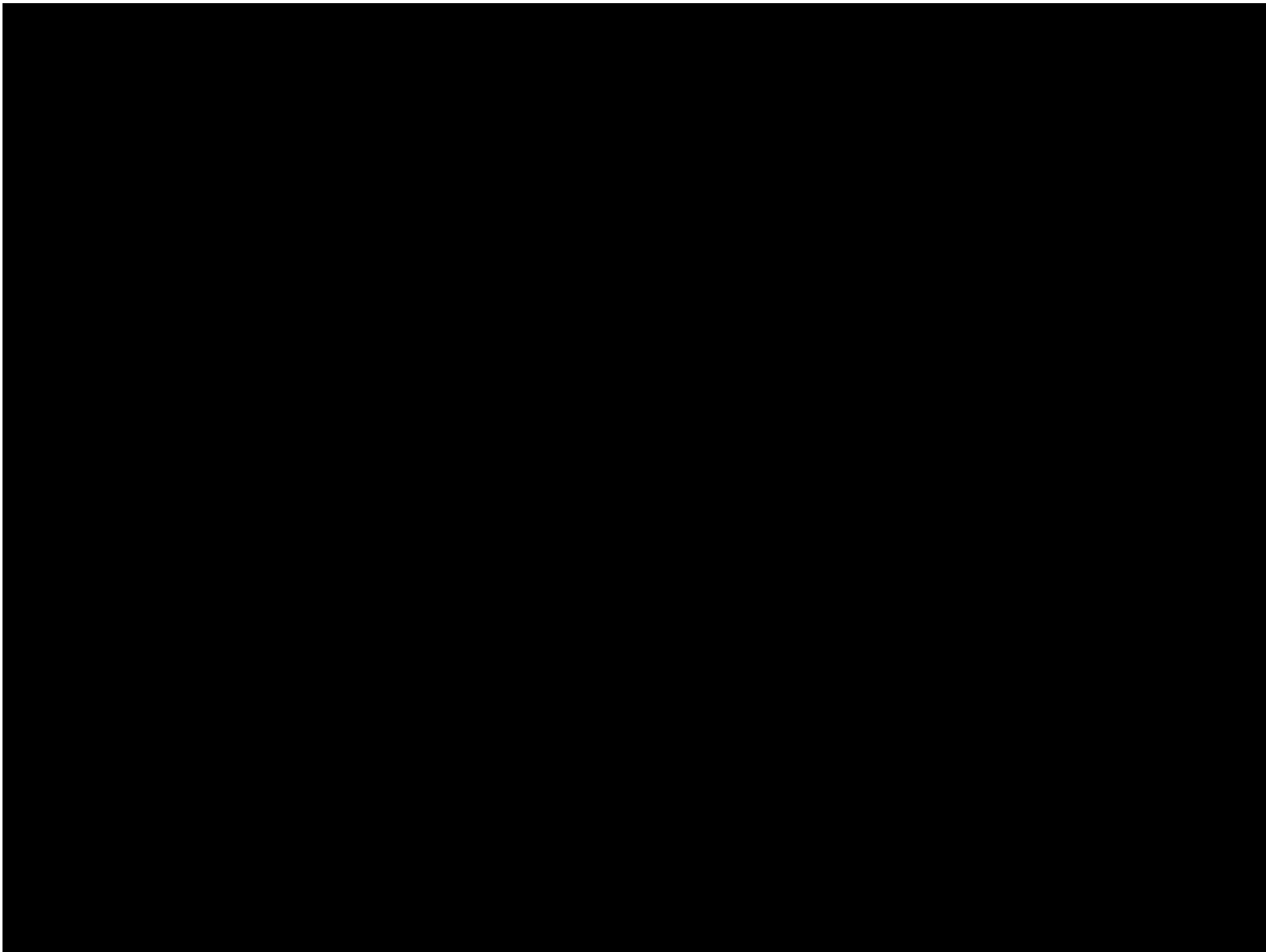


A photograph of a person in silhouette, seen from behind, with their hands raised in a gesture of worship or prayer. The person is in the foreground, and the background is a dimly lit church interior. A large wooden cross is visible in the background, illuminated by a warm light. To the left of the cross, there is a large screen displaying text. The overall atmosphere is solemn and spiritual.

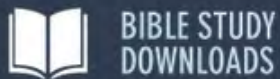
**What would change in your
life if your chief reason to live
were to worship?**

A construction worker is silhouetted against a bright sunset sky, hammering a nail into a wooden frame. The worker is wearing a hard hat and a watch. The scene is set outdoors, with a residential neighborhood visible in the background under a cloudy sky.


Restoration to God
for the repentant
believer requires
action.



Get this presentation and script for free!

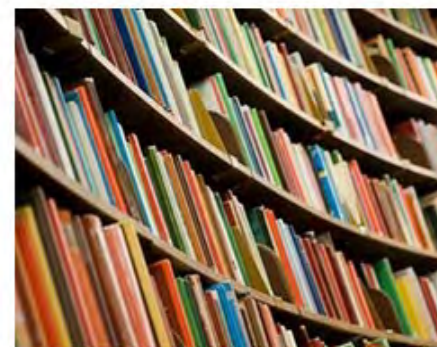


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A large background image for the main banner showing a close-up of a person's hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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