



Ezra

Restoring the Temple and People

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary • BibleStudyDownloads.org

Key Word

**289
39**

Temple

Ezra

Theme

Restoring the Temple and People

Ezra

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" (9:8)**

Ezra

Kingdom Statement

39

**God began restoring his rule via
Zerubbabel (**temple**: 1–6) and Ezra
(people: 7–10).**

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.**

Ezra

Covenant

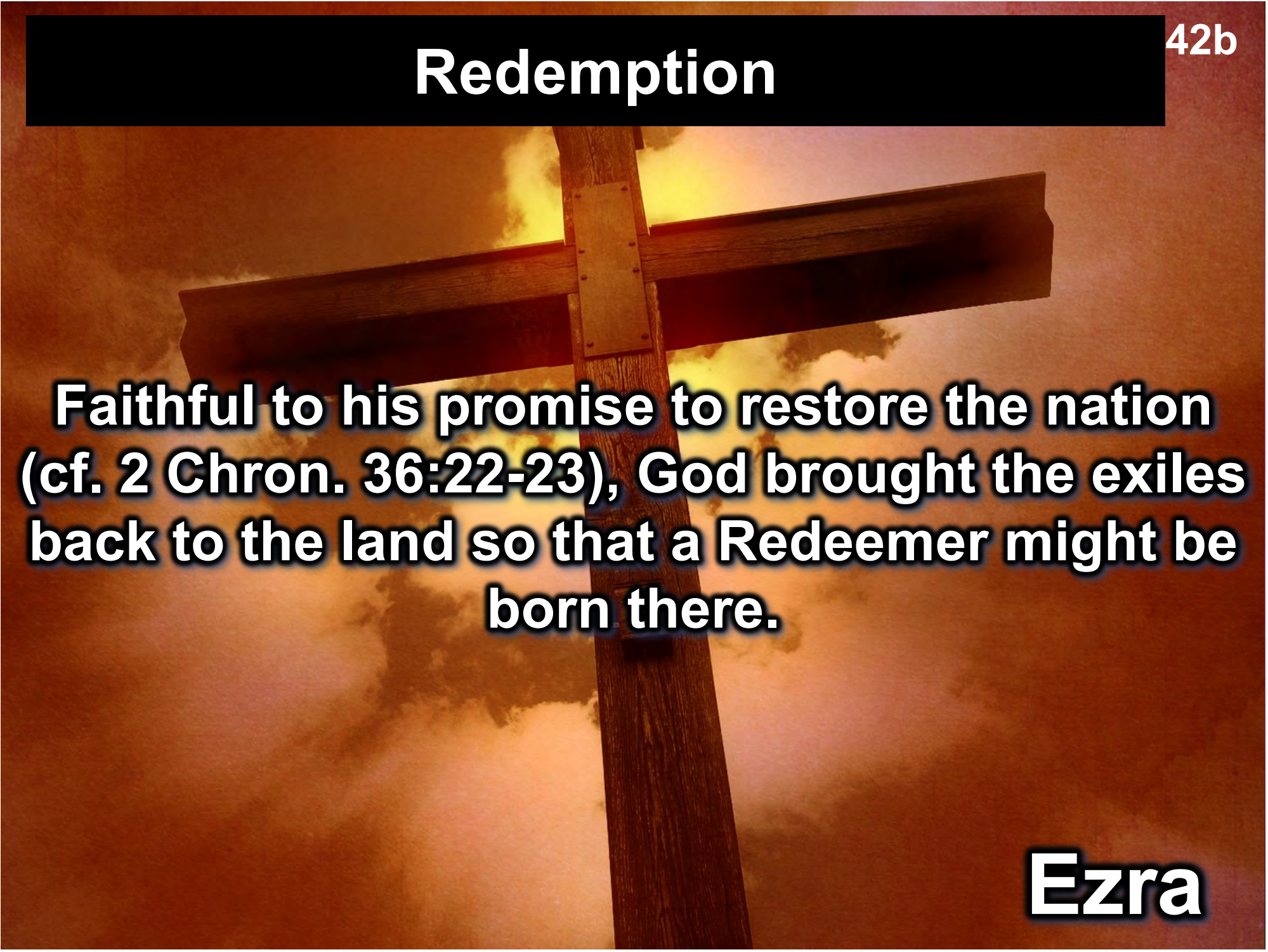
42b

Covenant loyalty on God's part seen in restoring the remnant to the land must be shown among the returning remnant in temple worship and holy living to keep David's line pure.

Ezra

Redemption

42b

A wooden cross is the central visual element, set against a dramatic sky with warm, orange, and yellow hues, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is made of dark wood and is positioned slightly off-center, with its vertical beam extending from the bottom towards the top of the frame. The horizontal beam is also made of wood and is attached to the vertical one with metal brackets. The background is a soft, hazy sky with wispy clouds, creating a contemplative and spiritual atmosphere.

Faithful to his promise to restore the nation (cf. 2 Chron. 36:22-23), God brought the exiles back to the land so that a Redeemer might be born there.

Ezra

Messiah

Zerubbabel's role in restoring the exiles to the land prefigures the work of his Descendant who will restore his chosen ones from a life a sin.

Ezra

Ezra's Correlation with Esther

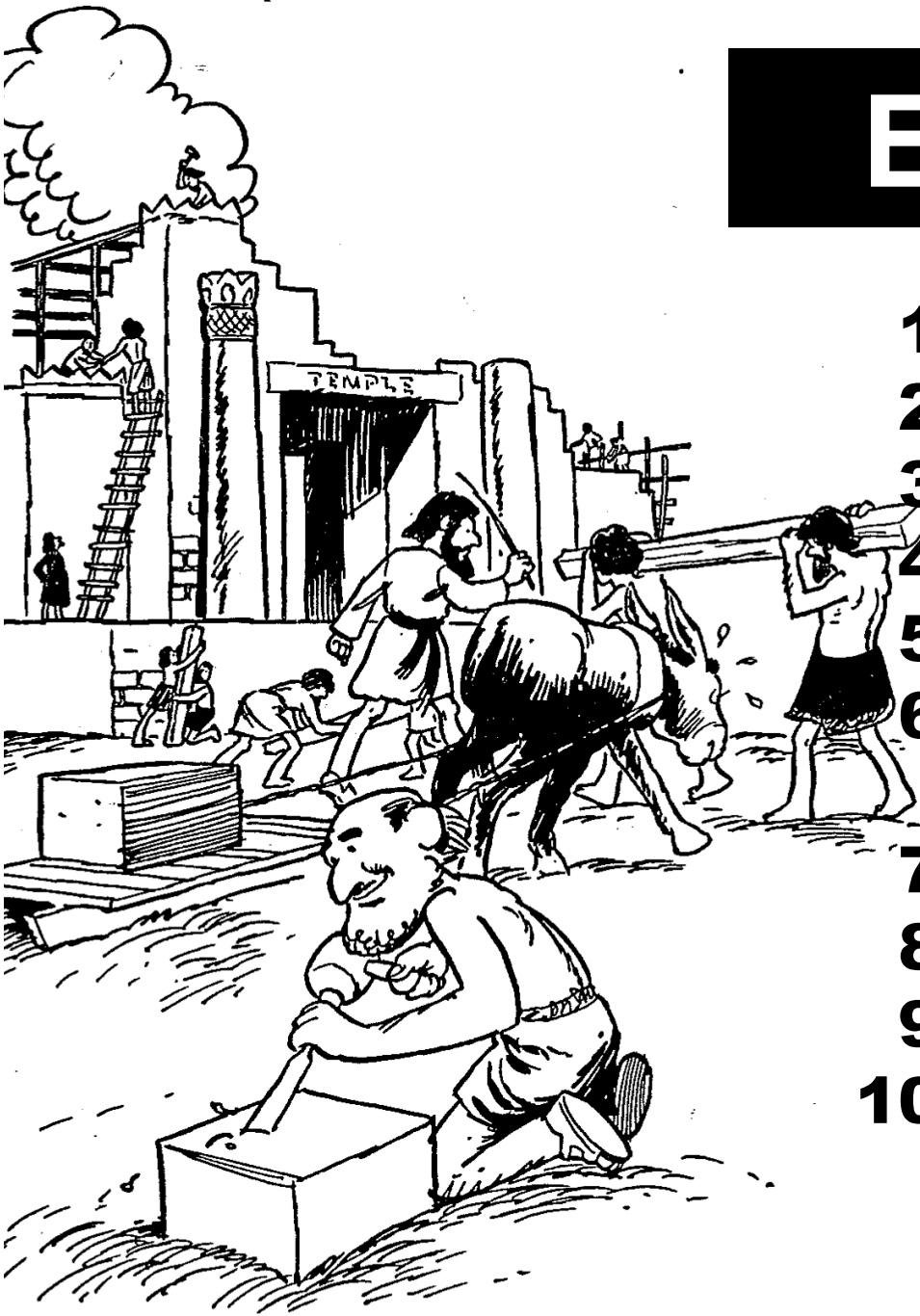
289

Restoring the Temple and People

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

Book of Esther (58 YEAR GAP)

Ezra



- 1** Temple proclamation by Cyrus
- 2** Exiles return under Zerubbabel
- 3** Making the temple foundation
- 4** Postponement of the work
- 5** Letter written to Darius
- 6** Exiles finish the temple
- 7** Warrant authorizing Ezra's return
- 8** Outline of Ezra's return
- 9** Repentance prayer by Ezra
- 10** Keeping foreign wives judged

Be Worshipful

Ezra

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Why does God **restore** us?



Two 70-Year Exiles

560

People Exile



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"
(Jeremiah 25:11-12).

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



The Book of Ezra

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



Ezra for Us

A man with a beard, wearing a dark jacket and pants, is kneeling on a wooden pier that extends into a body of water. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Several birds are flying in the sky. The text "God transforms" is at the top, "EXILES INTO WORSHIPPERS" is in the middle with a large white arrow pointing from "EXILES" to "WORSHIPPERS", and "Main Idea of Ezra" is at the bottom.

God transforms

EXILES

INTO


WORSHIPPERS

Main Idea of Ezra

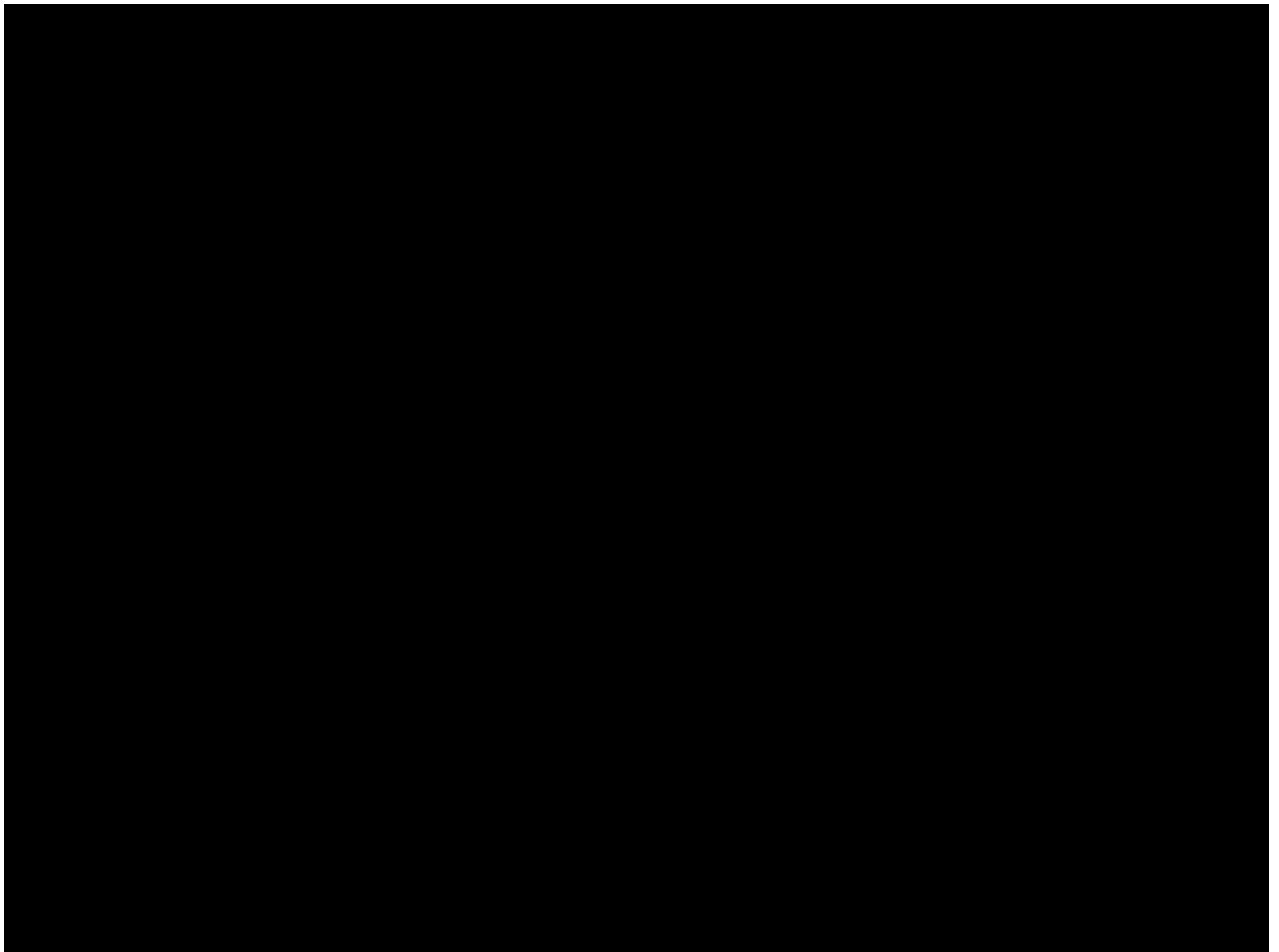
A photograph of a person in silhouette, seen from the back, with their hands raised in a gesture of worship or praise. The person is in the foreground, and the background is a dimly lit church interior. A large wooden cross is visible in the background, illuminated by a warm, golden light. To the left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

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

Application

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.***



Ezra-Nehemiah

Jesus

David

Abraham

Flood

Today

Kings

Church

Tribes

3

2

1

0

1

2

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

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Creation

New

Creation

Timeline

Ezra-Nehemiah

United
Kingdom

1050-930

Divided
Kingdom

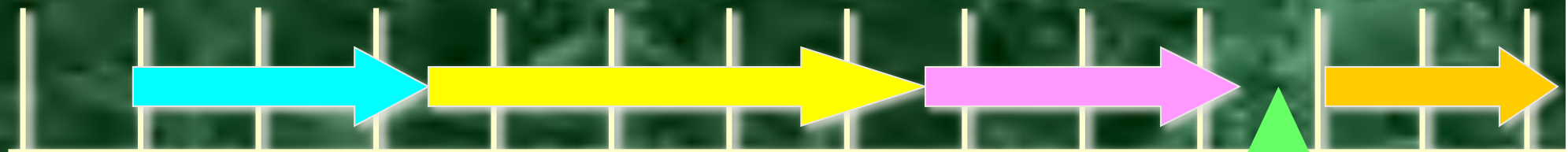
930-722

Solitary
Kingdom

722-586

Post-
Exile

536-425



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

Exile 605-536

Chronology of Ezra-Nehemiah

Zerubbabel
(537-516)

Nehemiah
(444-430)

Ezra (457-
444)



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

Buddha 560-477

Socrates 470-399

Confucius 551-479

Esther
479-473

Plato 427-347

THE POSTEXILIC PERIOD

THE EXILIC PERIOD

THE INTER-TESTAMENTAL PERIOD

Temple Destroyed
(586)

Temple
Rebuilt (515)

City Walls
Rebuilt (444)

*BABYLONIAN
EMPIRE*

PERSIAN EMPIRE

Nebuchadnezzar
605-562

Cyrus

Darius I

Xerxes I
(Ahasuerus)

Artaxerxes I

539

530

522

486

465

424

Jeremiah
Daniel
Ezekiel

1-2 Chronicles

Haggai
Zechariah

Esther

Malachi

1st Return
Zerubbabel
538

2nd Return
Ezra
458/57

3rd Return
Nehemiah
444

Designed by
Dr. J. Paul Tanner

EZRA A Scribe of Priestly Descent

BABYLON
CONQUERED
539 BC

PERSIAN KINGS:

Cyrus	550-530 BC
Cambyses	530-522
Darius I	522-486
Xerxes I	486-465 (= Ahasuerus)
Artaxerxes	465-424

RESTORATION OF THE PLACE OF WORSHIP

538 BC The 1st Return by Cyrus

Cyrus' Decree Permitting the Return	List of the Returning Exiles
1:1-11	2:1-70

1:1—2:70

537/6 BC Revival of Temple Worship

Construction of the Altar (sacrificial system)	Foundation of the Temple Laid
3:1-6	3:7-13

3:1-13

536-450 BC Historic Opposition to Rebuilding

During the Reigns of Cyrus & Darius (536-520)	During the Reign of Xerxes I (ca. 485)	During the Reign of Artaxerxes I (ca. 450)
4:1-5	4:6	4:7-23

4:1-23

520-515 BC Opposition to the Temple in the Reign of Darius I

Temple Construction Renewed	Enemies Interfere by Appeal to Darius	Darius' Decree to Permit Temple Rebuilt	Successful Completion of Temple
520 BC Haggai & Zechariah	5:3-17	6:1-12	Feb-Mar 515
4:24-5:2		6:13-22	

4:24—6:22

RESTORATION OF THE PEOPLE FOR YHWH

458/57 BC

The 2nd Return Under Ezra the Scribe

2 nd Return Headed by Ezra the Scribe	Artaxerxes' Authorization for the Return	List of Returnees Under Ezra	Preparations for the Journey	Safe Journey to Jerusalem
7:1-10	7:11-28	8:1-14	8:15-30	8:31-36

7:1—8:36

The Problem of Foreign Wives

The Report to Ezra of Mixed Marriages	Ezra's Intercession & Confession to God	People Agree to End Mixed Marriages	The Offenders
9:1-4	9:5-15	10:1-17	10:18-44

9:1—10:44

TO TRACE THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF YHWH
WORSHIP UNDER ZERUBBABEL AND JOSHUA
(Focus on Temple Rebuilding)

TO TRACE THE SEPARATION OF
THE PEOPLE FROM FOREIGN
INFLUENCE

MESSAGE: YHWH Worship is Re-established at Jerusalem Following the Exile Through YHWH's Sovereignty in Permitting the Return and Rebuilding of the Temple Under Zerubbabel (1—6), and the Efforts of Ezra for a Renewed Dedication to the Covenant Law Separate from all Foreign Influence (7-10).

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by
J. Paul
Tanner

Cyrus Conquered Babylon



Belshazzar's Feast (Daniel 5)

Fall of Babylon

BABYLON FELL (539 BC)

Cyrus entered under the water gates



Daniel 5

(Belshazzar's Feast)



Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

544b

The History of the Persian Wars 1.191 (430 BC)

"[Cyrus] placed a portion of his army at the point where the river enters the city, and another body at the back of the place where it issues forth, with orders to march into the town by the bed of the stream, as soon as the water became **shallow enough**: he then himself drew off with the unwarlike portion of his host, and made for the place where Nitocris dug the basin for the river, where he did exactly what she had done formerly: **he turned the Euphrates by a canal into the basin**, which was then a marsh, on which the river sank to such an extent that the natural bed of the stream became fordable.

"Hereupon the Persians who had been left for the purpose at Babylon by the river-side, entered the stream, which had now sunk so as to reach about midway up a man's thigh, and thus got into the town.

Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

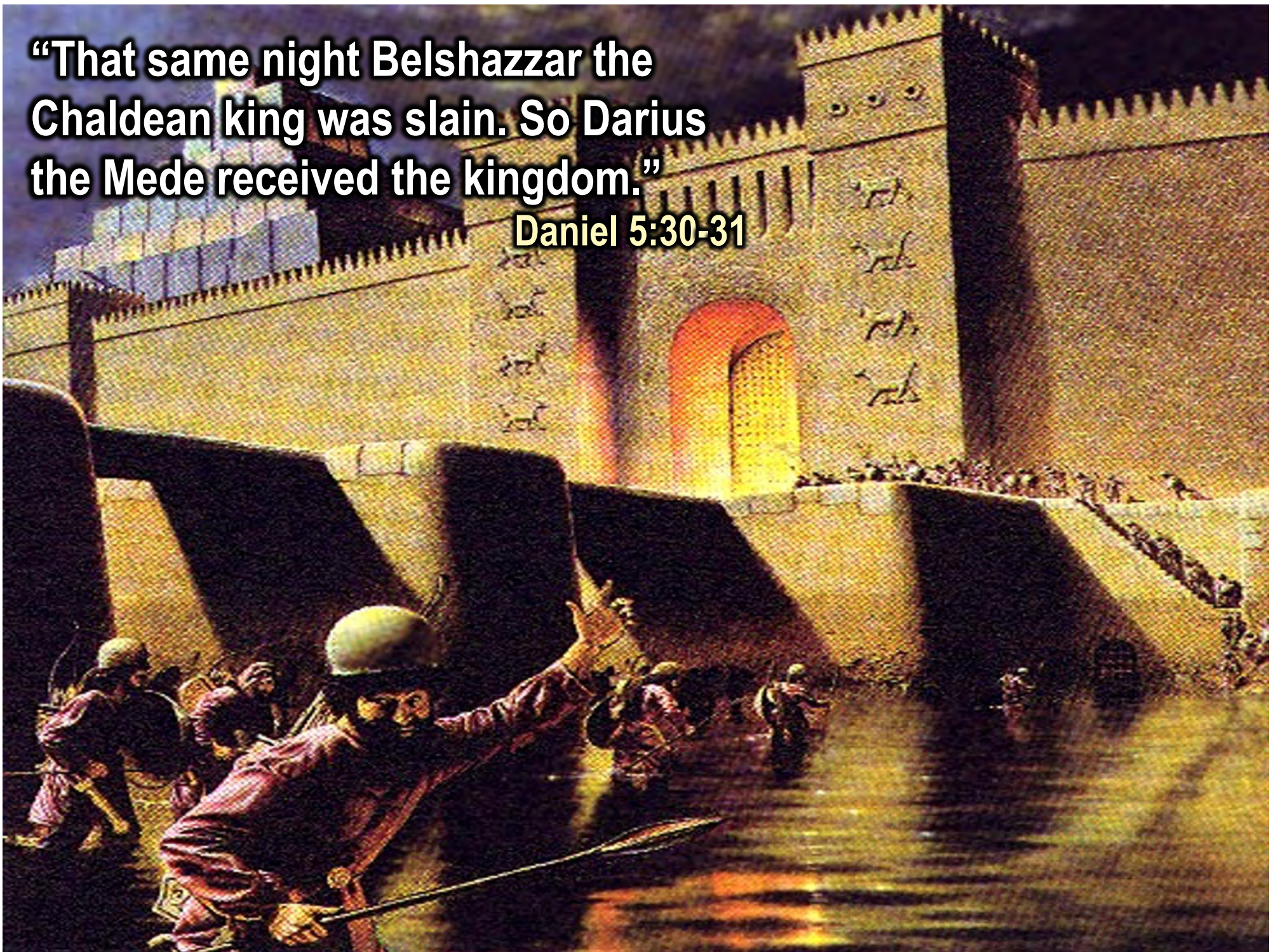
544b

"Had the Babylonians been apprised of what Cyrus was about, or had they noticed their danger, they would never have allowed the Persians to enter the city, but would have destroyed them utterly; for they would have made fast all the street-gates which gave upon the river, and mounting upon the walls along both sides of the stream, would so have caught the enemy, as it were, in a trap. But, as it was, **the Persians came upon them by surprise and so took the city.** Owing to the vast size of the place, the inhabitants of the central parts (as the residents at Babylon declare) long after the outer portions of the town were taken, knew nothing of what had chanced, but as **they were engaged in a festival**, continued dancing and reveling until they learnt the capture but too certainly. Such, then, were the circumstances of the first taking of Babylon."

The History of the Persian Wars 1.191 (written over a century later in 430 BC)

**“That same night Belshazzar the
Chaldean king was slain. So Darius
the Mede received the kingdom.”**

Daniel 5:30-31



The Identifications of Darius the Mede

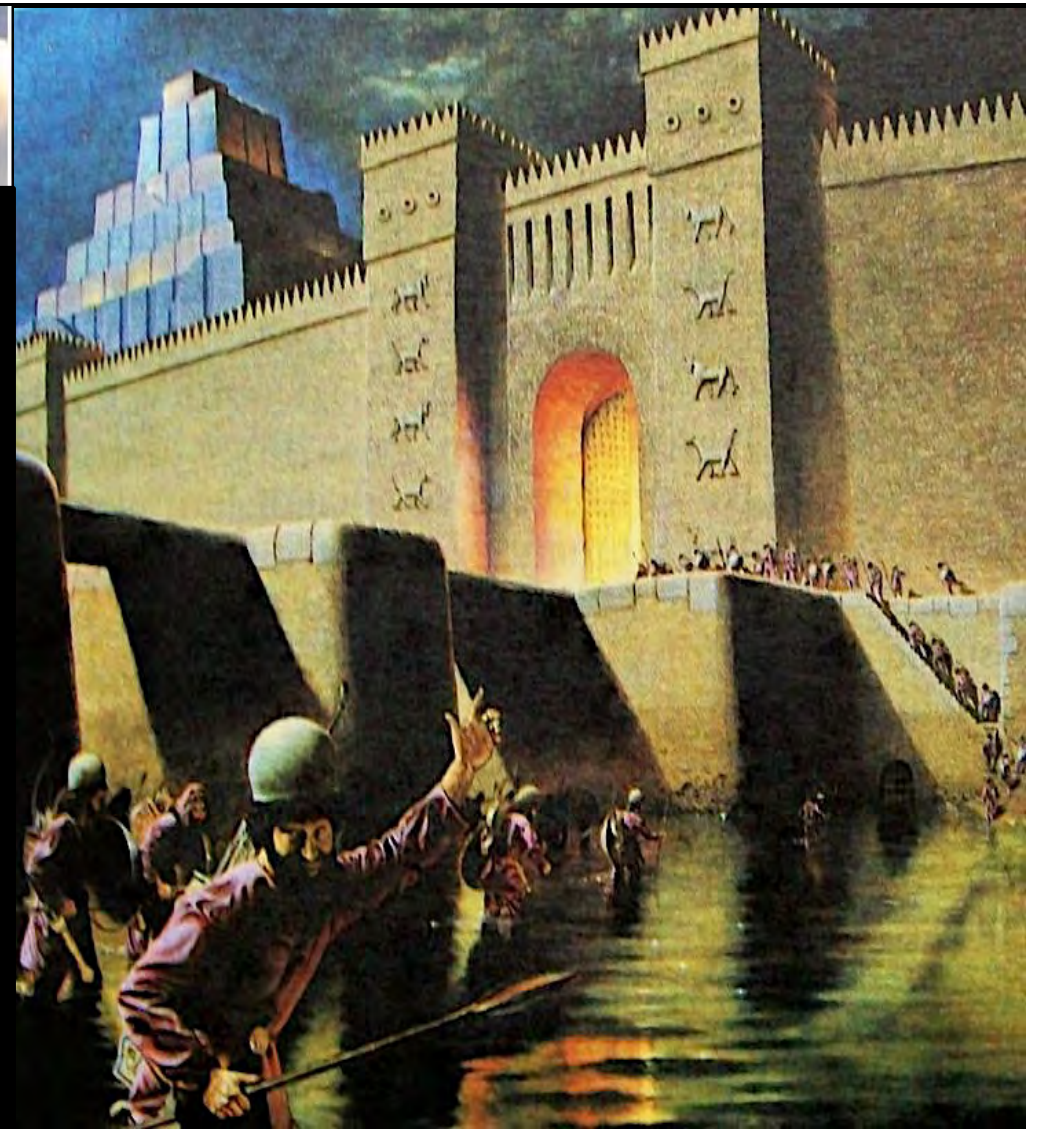
Stephen D. Anderson



Cyrus Conquers Babylon

539 BC





On 12 Oct 539 BC, after Cyrus' engineers diverted the waters of the Euphrates, the soldiers entered Babylon without fighting.

“It is I who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.’ And he declares of Jerusalem, ‘She will be built,’ and of the Temple, ‘Your foundation will be laid. Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His **anointed**, Whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him, and to loose the loins of kings; to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze, and cut through their iron bars. And I will give you the treasures of darkness, and hidden wealth of secret places, in order that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.” **Isaiah 44:28–45:3**

God's Shepherd Cyrus



“Anointed”



***Mashiach* (Messiah)**

God's "anointed," whether a patriarch (Ps. 105:15), priest (Lev. 4:3, 5, 16), king (1 Sam. 24:6; 2 Sam. 1:14, 16), or prophet (1 Kgs. 19:16) was a person chosen and "set apart" (the act of "anointing" with oil) to do a special work for God. In the case of Cyrus, he was set apart to serve God's purpose in releasing the captive Jews and returning them to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple, as He had promised: "'Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,' declares the LORD, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation'" (Jeremiah 25:12). God would subdue nations before Cyrus and give him the wealth of those nations in order that Cyrus would come to recognize that Israel's God had done this for him.



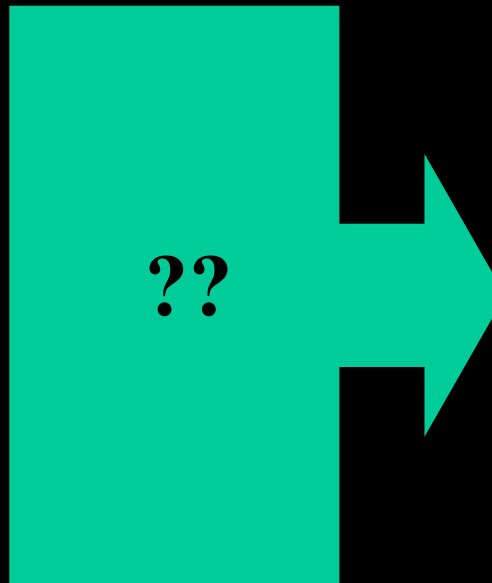
The Meaning of "Anointed"

Amazing Prophecies

460



**Stamford
Raffles (1819)**



**Lee Kwan Yew
(1959)**

Did you hear that Raffles wrote 140 years before Lee Kwan Yew, "Behold, a man named Lee will arise to make Singapore its own country..."?

Amazing Prophecies

460



Isaiah (700 BC)

41:2-3, 25
44:28
45:1-2
45:13-15



Cyrus (539 BC)

"When I say of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,' he will certainly do as I say. He will command, 'Rebuild Jerusalem'; he will say, 'Restore the Temple' " (Isa. 44:28 NLT)

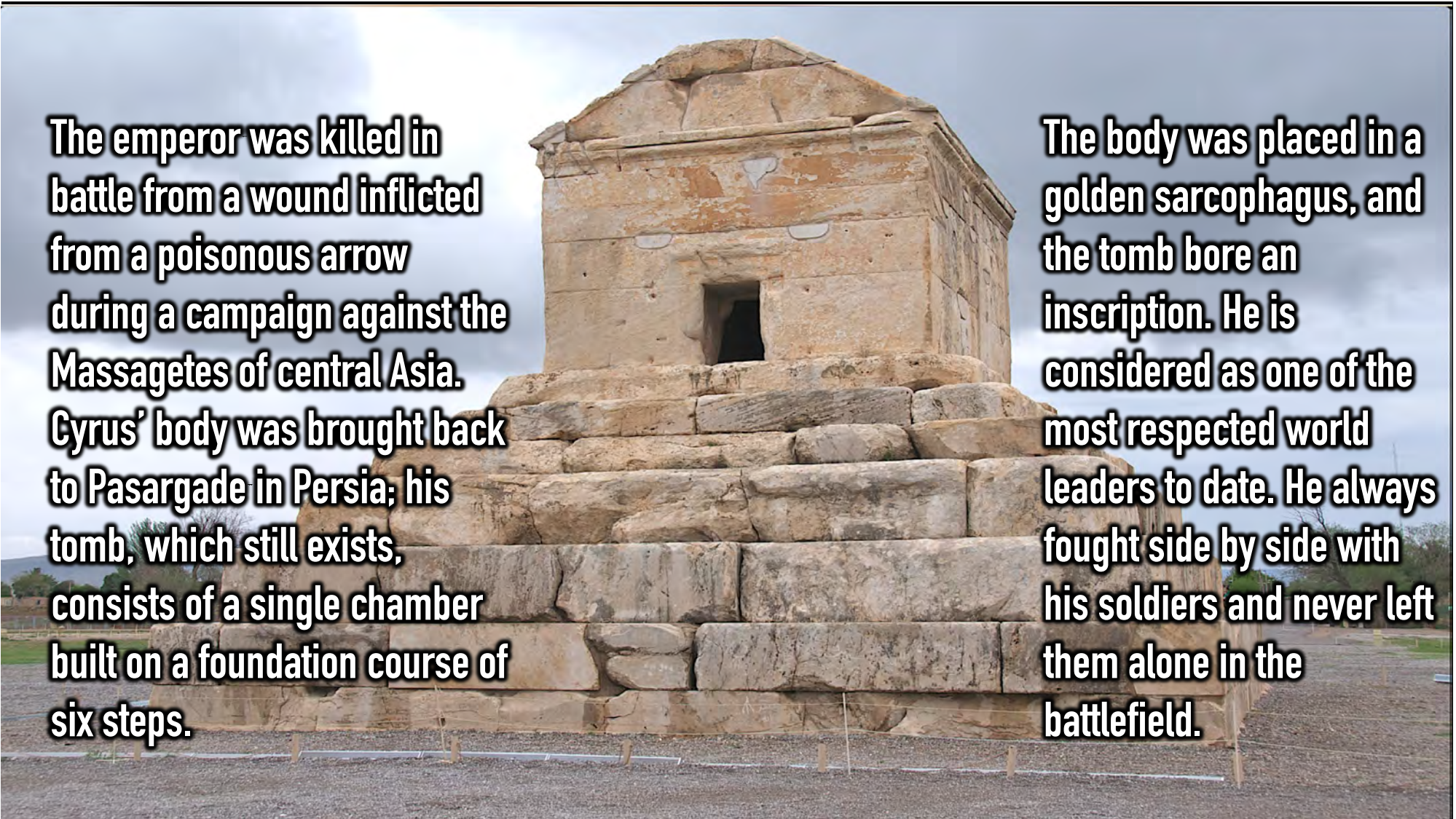
Cyrus Prophesied



**“Who has stirred up this king from
the east,
rightly calling him to God’s service?
Who gives this man victory over
many nations
and permits him to trample their
kings underfoot?
With his sword, he reduces armies to
dust.
With his bow, he scatters them like
chaff before the wind”
(Isaiah 41:2 NLT).**

“He delivers up nations before him, and subdues kings. He makes them like dust with his sword, as the wind-driven chaff with his bow. He pursues them, passing on in safety, by a way he had not been traversing with his feet.” Isaiah 41:2b-3

Cyrus moved from country to country, conquering every king in his path. Around 550 BC he unified the Medes and Persians to defeat the powerful kingdom of Lydia (Asia Minor) in 546 BC. Turning south to Babylon, his army under the command of Darius conquered the city in 539 BC.



The emperor was killed in battle from a wound inflicted from a poisonous arrow during a campaign against the Massagetes of central Asia. Cyrus' body was brought back to Pasargade in Persia; his tomb, which still exists, consists of a single chamber built on a foundation course of six steps.

The body was placed in a golden sarcophagus, and the tomb bore an inscription. He is considered as one of the most respected world leaders to date. He always fought side by side with his soldiers and never left them alone in the battlefield.

Tomb of Cyrus the Great

CYRUS CYLINDER



What: Clay cylinder, 22.5 cm by 10 cm, inscribed with arguably the world's first known human rights charter

Antiquity: 539 BC when Persian emperor Cyrus conquered Babylon


Contents: Freedom of worship for all, call for repatriation of deportees

Place: London Museum

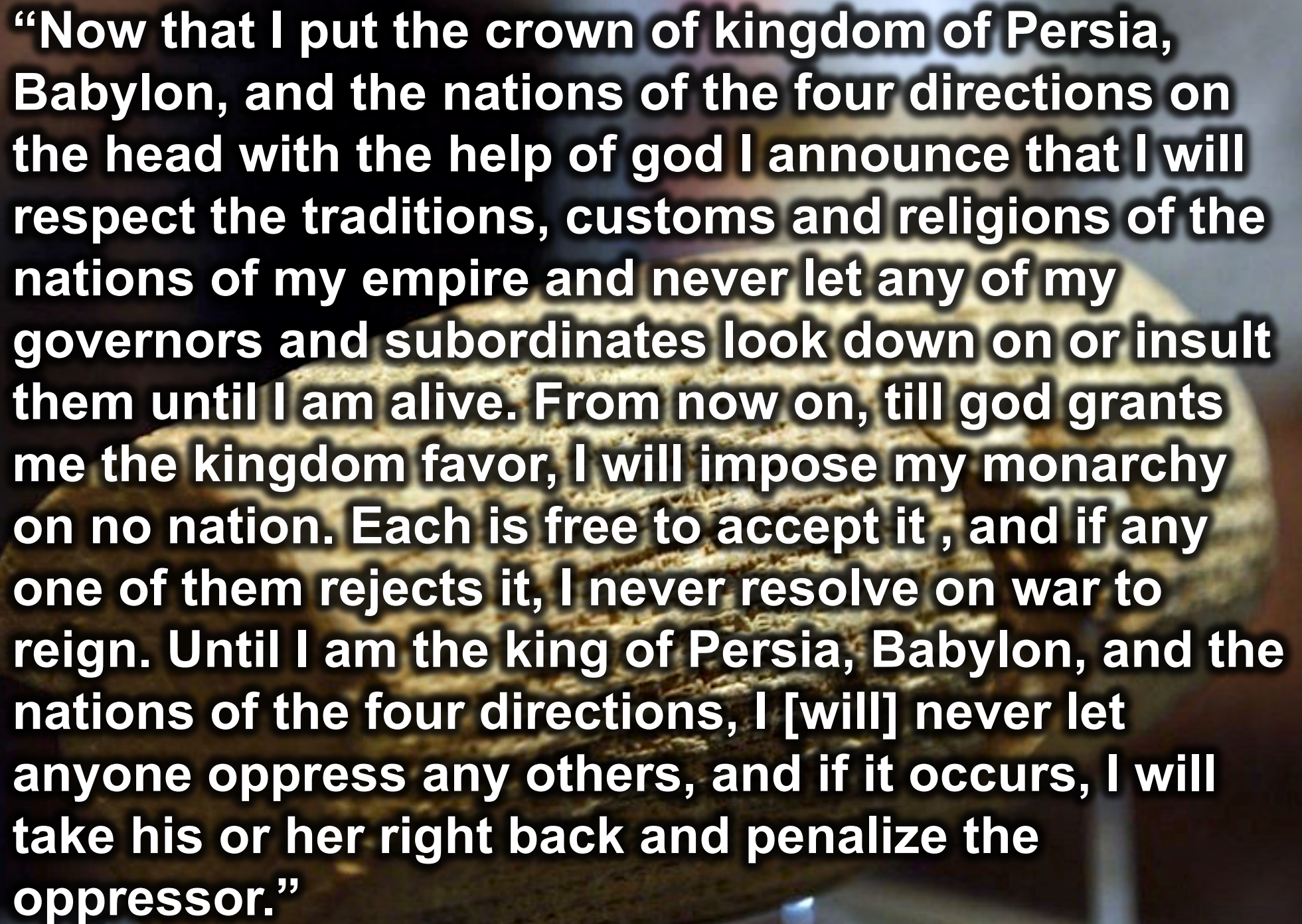
“I am Cyrus, king of the world, great king, legitimate king, king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four rims (of the earth), son of Cambyses, great king, king of Anshan, descendant of Teispes, great king, king of Anshan, family (which) always (exercised) kingship.”

Policies of Cyrus the Great

Cyrus Cylinder



"I am Cyrus, king of the universe..."
"Nabonidus, the king who did not fear me..."
"Since the gods of foreign lands made permanent sanctuaries which are now dilapidated, I returned people to their lands and made provisions to rebuild."

The background of the image is a close-up photograph of a large, weathered stone tablet. The surface of the tablet is covered in intricate, ancient cuneiform script, which is slightly out of focus. The lighting is dramatic, with highlights on the edges of the tablet and deep shadows in the recesses of the script. The overall tone is historical and scholarly.

“Now that I put the crown of kingdom of Persia, Babylon, and the nations of the four directions on the head with the help of god I announce that I will respect the traditions, customs and religions of the nations of my empire and never let any of my governors and subordinates look down on or insult them until I am alive. From now on, till god grants me the kingdom favor, I will impose my monarchy on no nation. Each is free to accept it , and if any one of them rejects it, I never resolve on war to reign. Until I am the king of Persia, Babylon, and the nations of the four directions, I [will] never let anyone oppress any others, and if it occurs, I will take his or her right back and penalize the oppressor.”

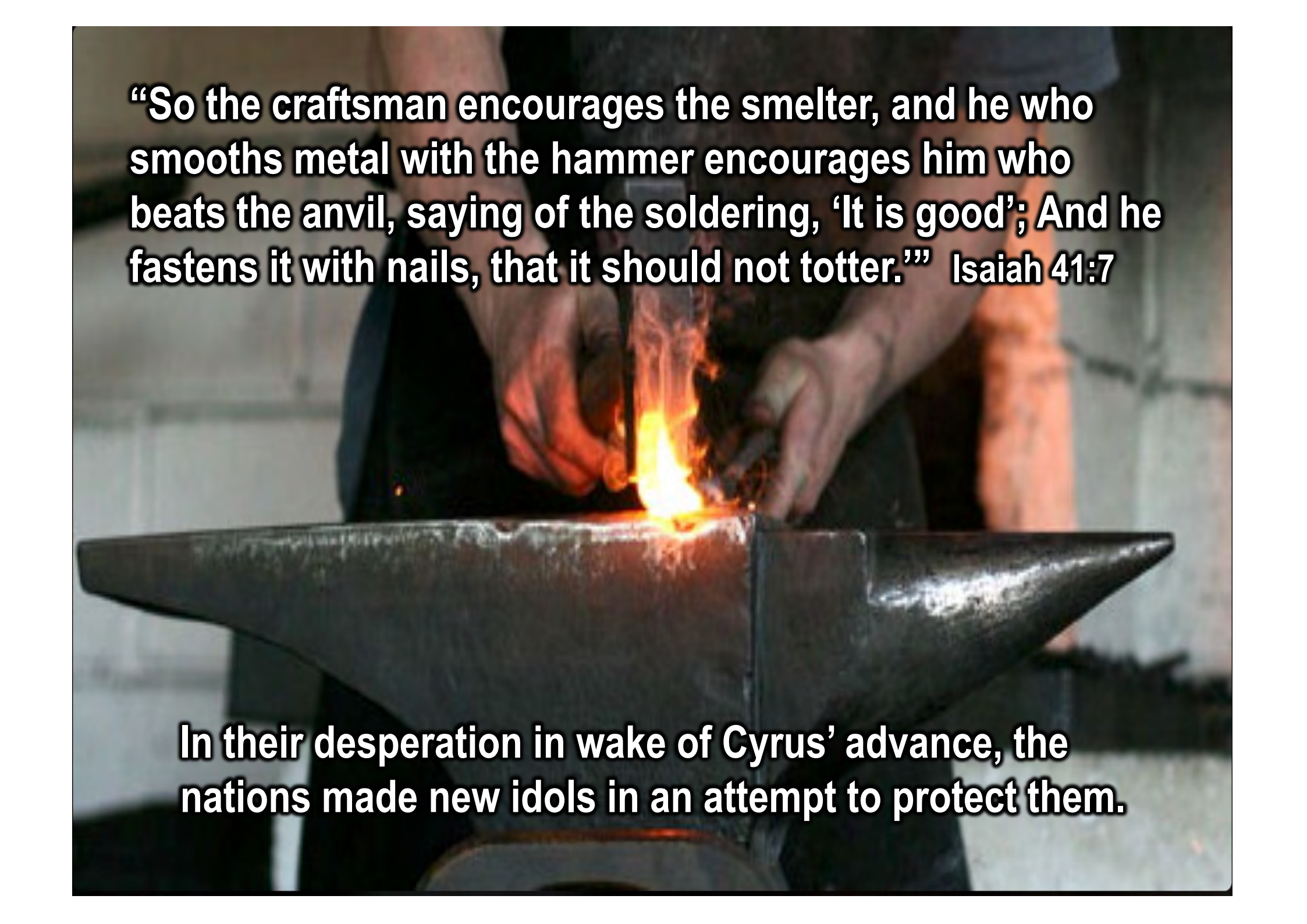
“And until I am the monarch, I will never let anyone take possession of movable and landed properties of the others by force or without compensation. [While] I am alive, I [will] prevent unpaid, forced labor. Today, I announce that everyone is free to choose a religion. People are free to live in all regions and take up a job provided that they never violate other’s rights. No one [can] be penalized for his or her relatives’ faults. I prevent slavery and my governors and subordinates are obliged to prohibit exchanging men and women as slaves within their own ruling domains. Such traditions should be exterminated the world over. I implore to god to make me succeed in fulfilling my obligations to the nations of Persia, Babylon, and the ones of the four directions.”



**“Who has performed and
accomplished it, calling forth the
generations from the beginning?”**

**‘I, the LORD, am the first,
and with the last. I am He.’”
Isaiah 41:4**

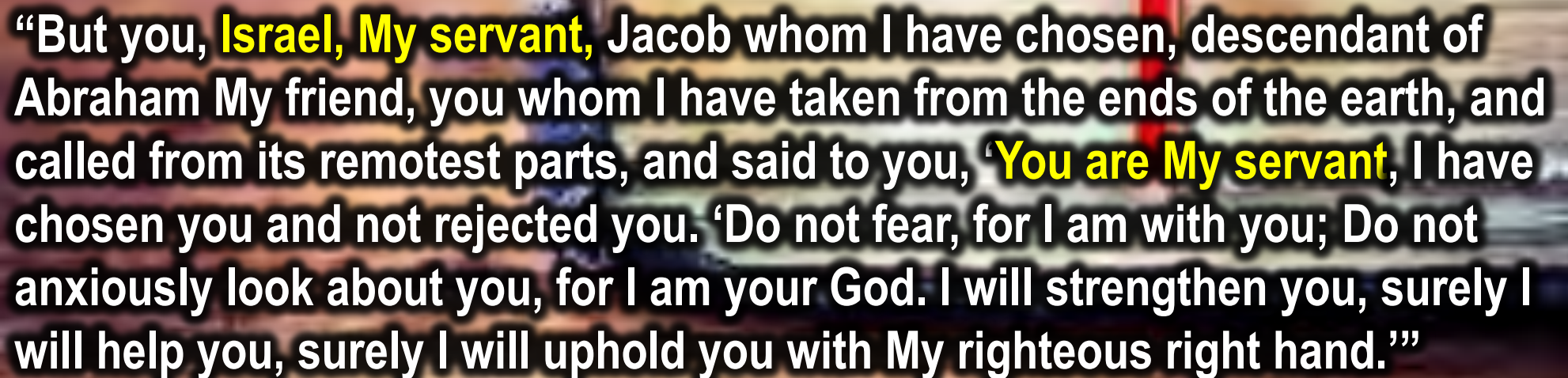
**The focus is on
time. God is the
same God to the
first generations of
man as the very
last. He is always
God for all time.**



“So the craftsman encourages the smelter, and he who smooths metal with the hammer encourages him who beats the anvil, saying of the soldering, ‘It is good’; And he fastens it with nails, that it should not totter.” Isaiah 41:7

In their desperation in wake of Cyrus’ advance, the nations made new idols in an attempt to protect them.

God's Servant Israel

A close-up photograph of an open book. The left page is dark blue with a textured cover. The right page is light-colored, possibly parchment or aged paper, and features a prominent red cross symbol. The background is a warm, reddish-brown color.

“But you, **Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham My friend, you whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its remotest parts, and said to you, ‘**You are My servant**, I have chosen you and not rejected you. ‘Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’”**

Isaiah 41:8–10

Is Trump a Cyrus?

*Neither claimed to be a Jew/Christian,
but they worked tirelessly for biblical causes*



Israel the servant nation should not fear since God is sovereign over Babylon's puny idols as he will appoint Cyrus (41:25) as the only one who knows the future.



Isaiah 41 Summary

Map of the Persian Empire

317

Barry J. Beitzel, *Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*, 150-51



"I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of **Susa**, which is in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal" (Dan 8:2 NAU).

*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

Be Worshipful

Ezra

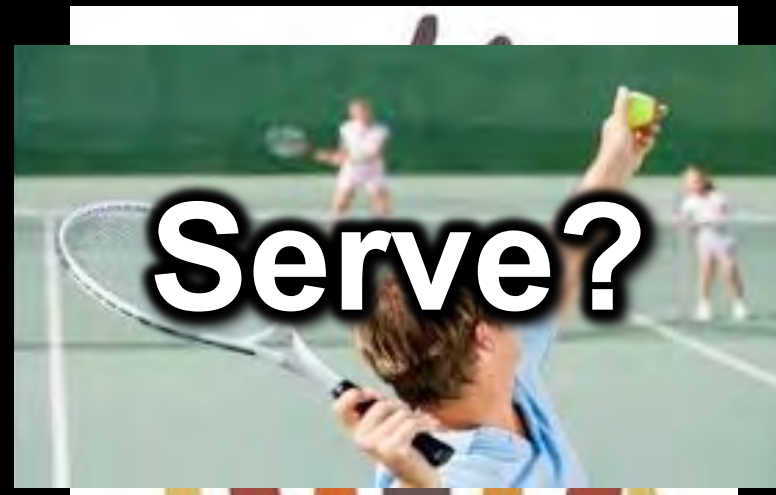
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How to find a church...

Yellow Pages



Why church?



Mei Ling



Mei Ling



Dr. Raz messed up.

My mother needed restoration.

Only God could truly restore her.

Mei Ling



We all have messed up.

We all need restoration.

Only God can truly restore us.

Why does God **restore** us?

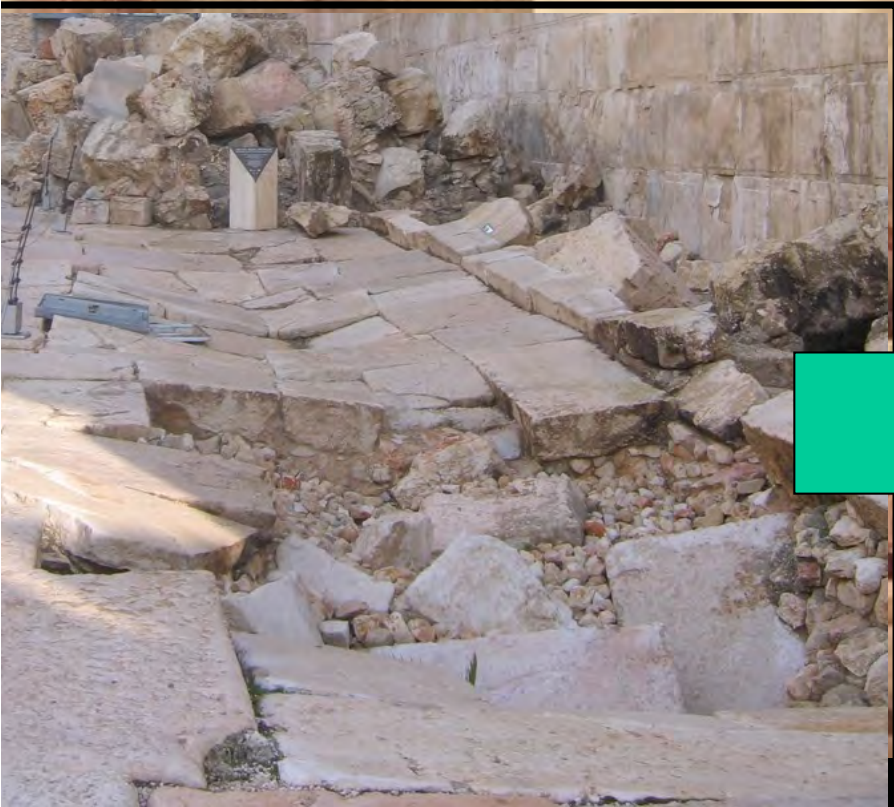


**God delivers us from our
bondage to **worship** him.**



Main Idea to Apply Ezra

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



Two 70-Year Exiles

560

People Exile



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"
(Jeremiah 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



72 years

Others:

Zerubbabel

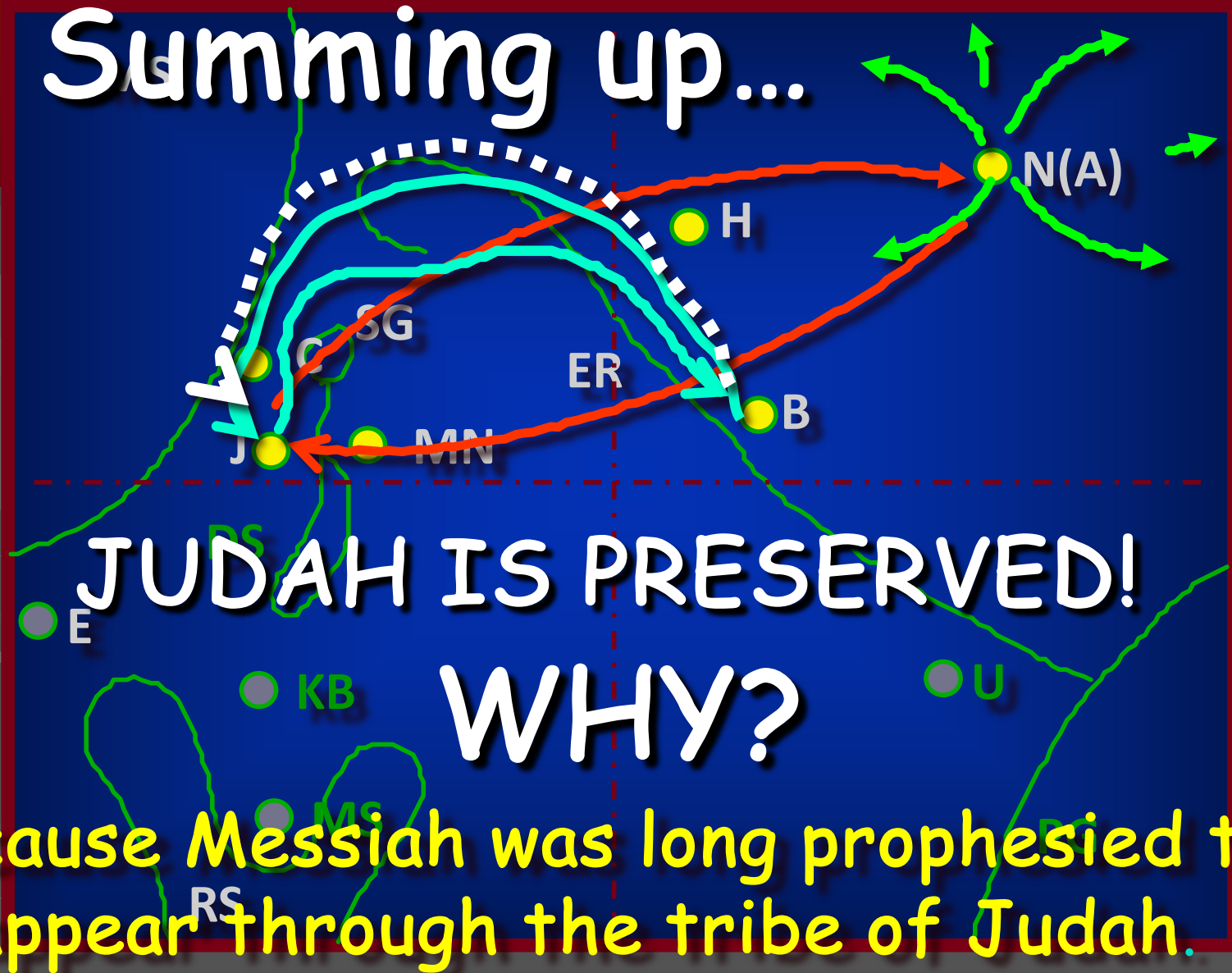
Esther Ezra

Nehemiah

Persian Kings: Cyrus Darius Xerxes Artaxerxes

DRESSING
THE
STAGE

Summing up...



7

The **THIRD**
of
THREE
SOCIETIES
is:

A R C

CAPTIVITY

CAPTIVITY

The Ancient City of Babylon



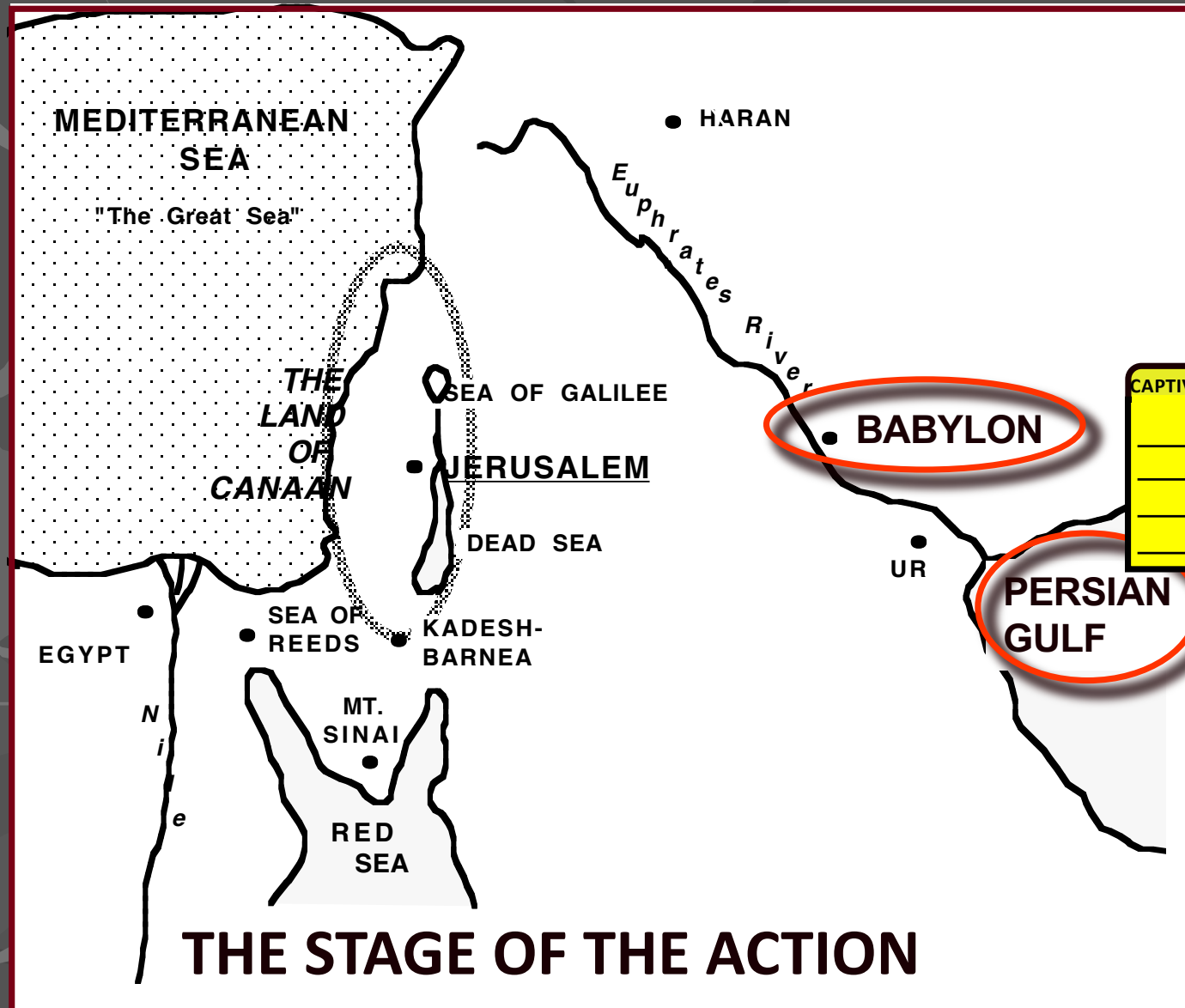
Euphrates River

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

CAPTIVITY

Handbook pg. 37-38

7



Handbook pg. 37-38

7

CAPTIVITY

70 YEARS

3 TREKS

A R C

CAPTIVITY

70 Years

3 Treks

"JEWS"
"SYNAGOGUE"

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.

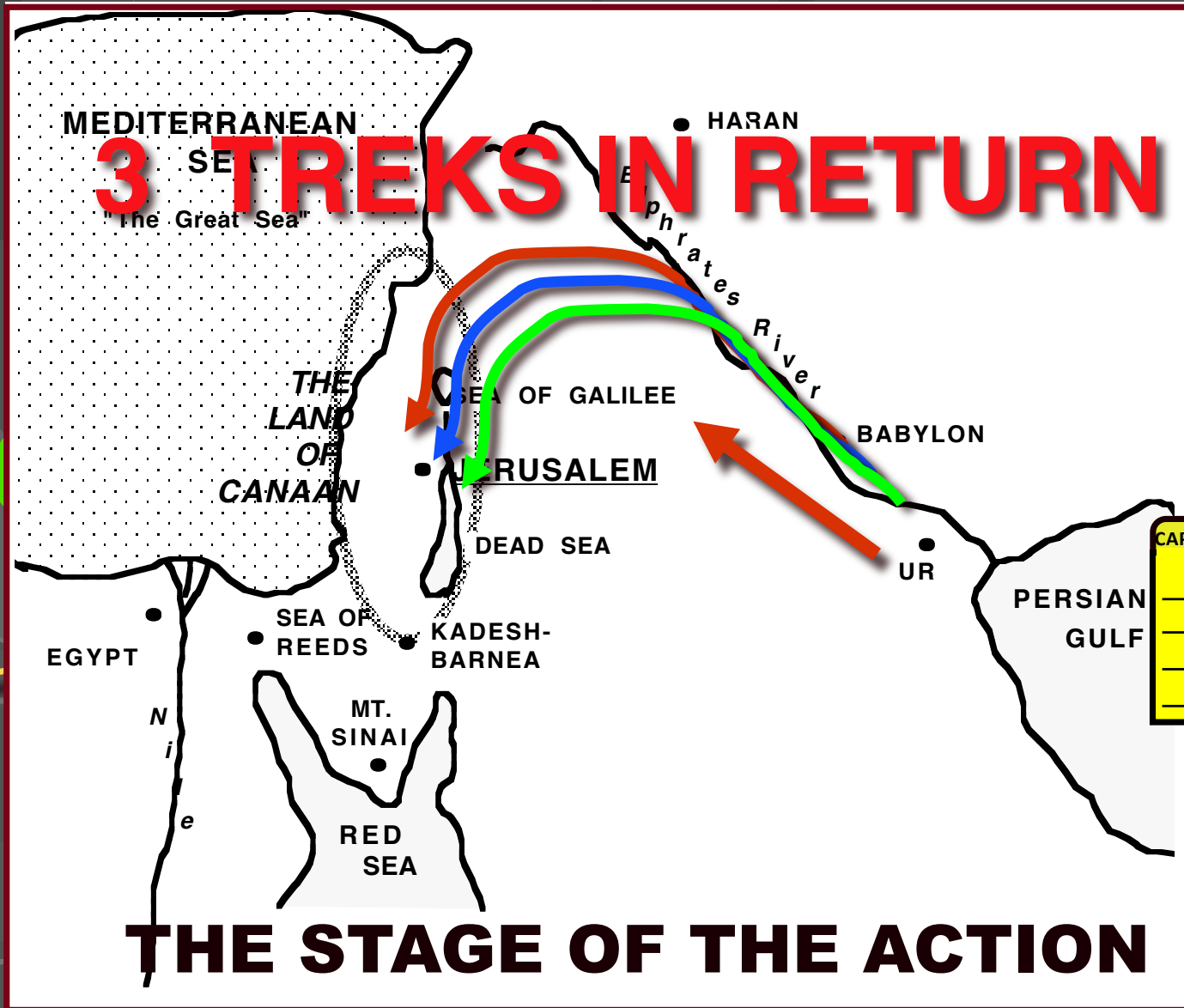


The Book of Ezra

Ezra 1

7

3 TREKS IN RETURN



CAPTIVITY
70 Years
3 Treks

THE STAGE OF THE ACTION

7

A R C

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

A R C

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.

EZRA...returns to teach the Law of the Lord.

100 YEARS / 50,000

Z - E - N

NEHEMIAH...returns as the great Old Testament leader and rebuilder of the city's gates and its walls.

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

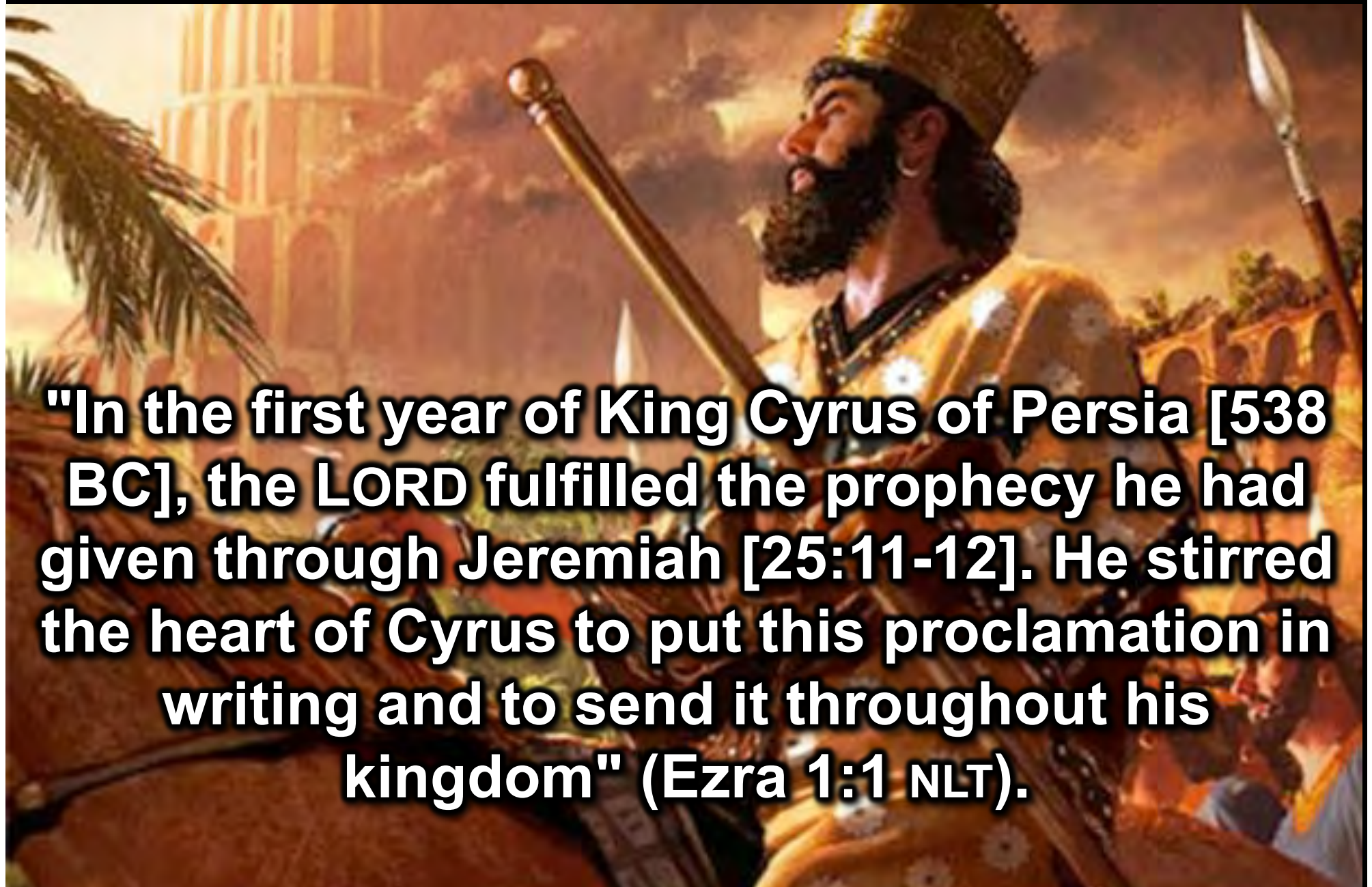
70 Years

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).

**Temple at Hibis in the
Great Oasis (Kharga)**



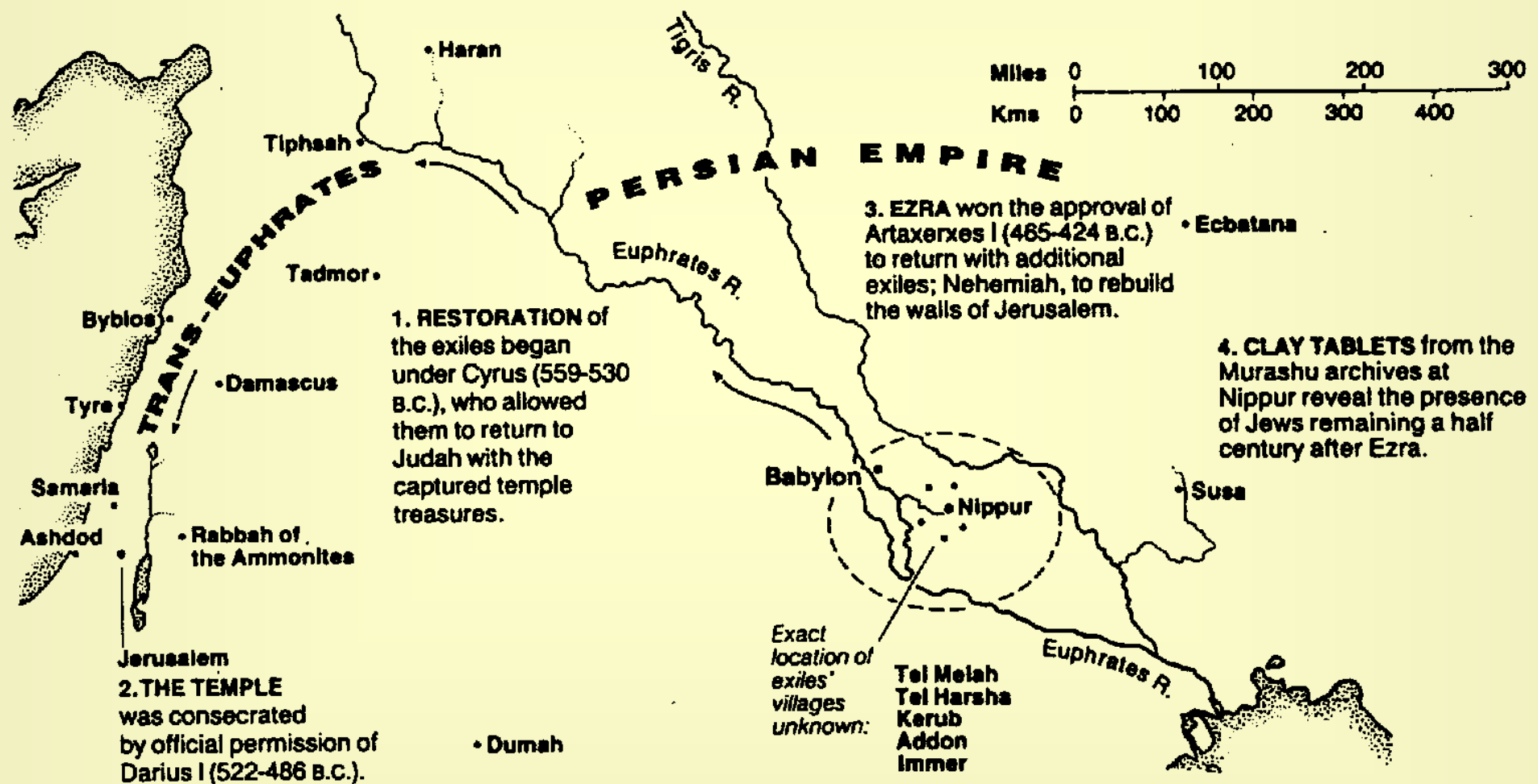
Kharga

"In Egypt, under Cambyses and especially Darius I, the Persian kings sought to patronize the local cults. For Cambyses the high dignitary Udja-Hor-resenet acted in the role of an Egyptian adviser, and enlisted his interest in the temple of the goddess Neith of Sais. Darius I in turn was served by this same dignitary, sanctioned building work on Egyptian temples, and caused to be built a whole new temple at Hibis in the Great Oasis (Kharga)."

K. A. Kitchen, *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), Kindle Edition loc. 1859 of 14459

Return from Exile

The Bible Visual Resource Book, 95



Map of the Persian Empire

317

Barry J. Beitzel, *Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*, 150-51



"I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of **Susa**, which is in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal" (Dan 8:2 NAU).

*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



Har Homa

Mar Elias



Ramat Rahel



Bethlehem aerial from north near Jerusalem

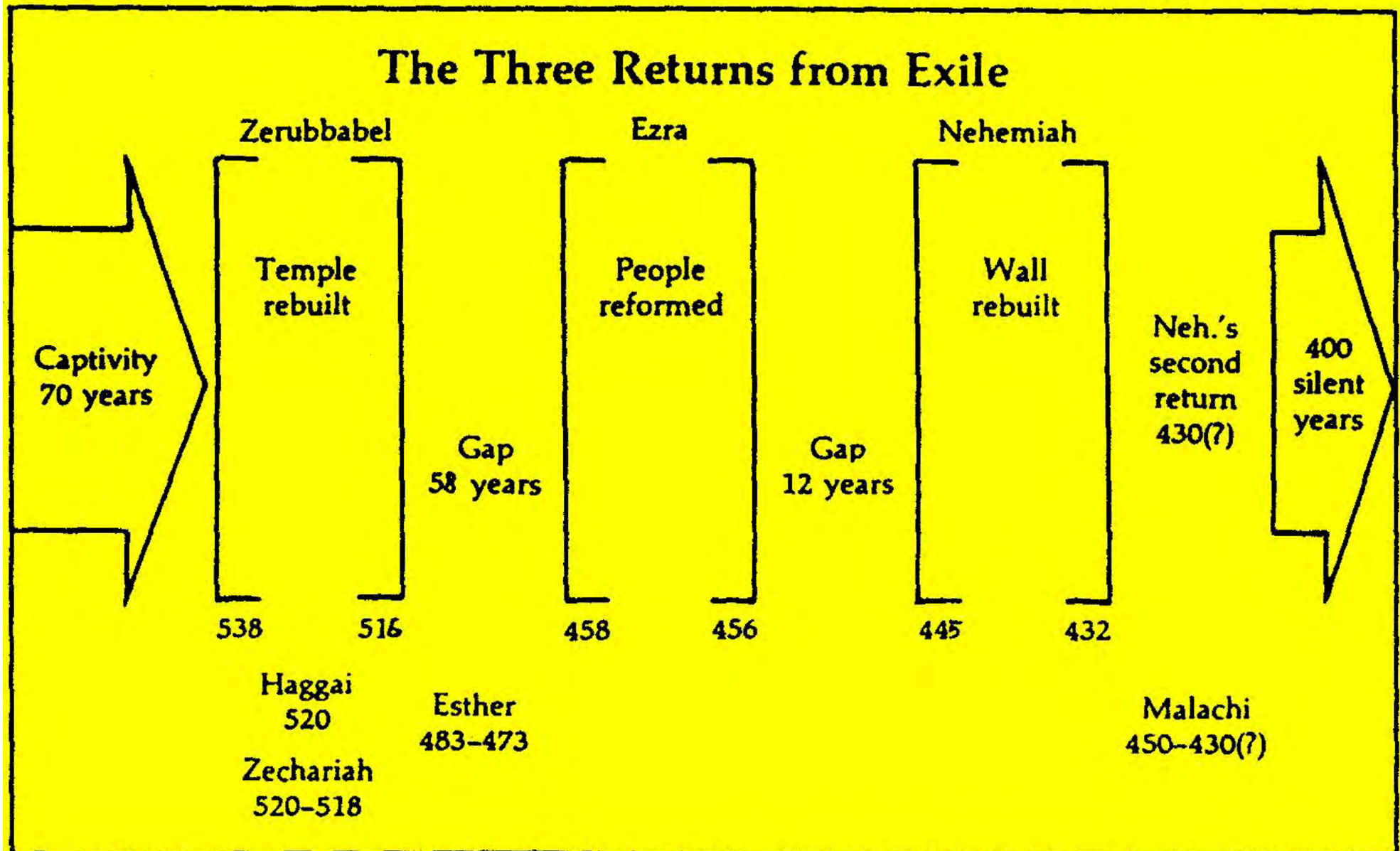


Ezra 2

Returns from Exile

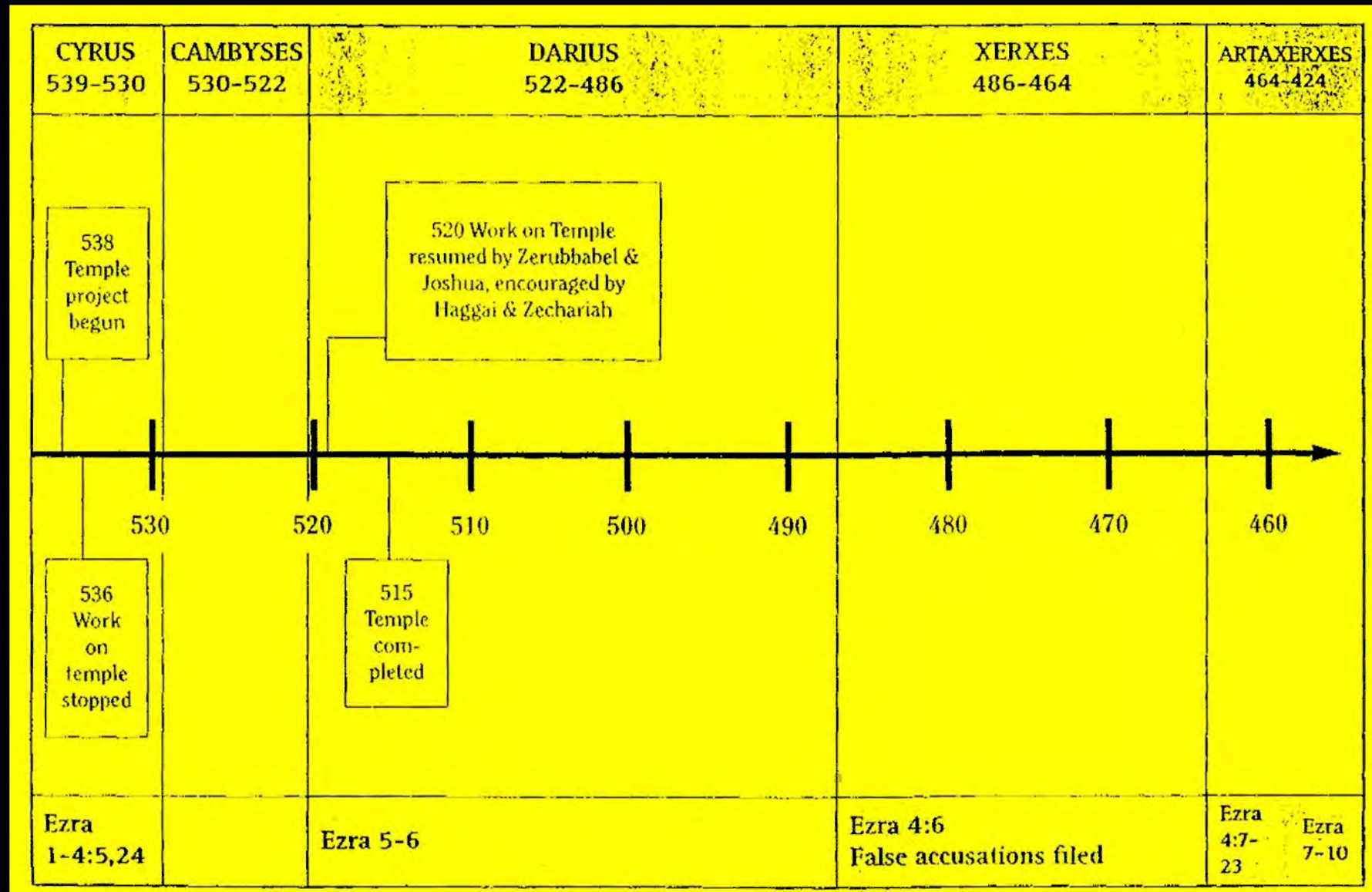
295

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*, 35 &
John A. Martin, "Ezra," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:652, adapted



Chronological Sequence in the Book of Ezra

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the OT*, 2d ed., 36



Dates below are given according to a Nisan-to-Nisan Jewish calendar
(see chart on "Hebrew Calendar," p. 102).

Roman numerals represent months; Arabic numerals represent days.

540 B.C.

	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	EVENT	REFERENCE
530	539 B.C.	Oct.	12	Capture of Babylon	Da 5:30
	538	Mar.	24	Cyrus's first year	Ezr 1:1-4
	537	to Mar.	11		
520	537(?)			Return under Sheshbazzar	Ezr 1:11
	537	VII		Building of altar	Ezr 3:1
	536	II		Work on temple begun	Ezr 3:8
510	536-530			Opposition during Cyrus's reign	Ezr 4:1-5
	530-520			Work on temple ceased	Ezr 4:24
	520	VI =Sept.	24 21	Work on temple renewed under Darius	Ezr 5:2; Hag 1:14
500	516	XII =Mar.	3 12	Temple completed	Ezr 6:15
490					
	458	I =Apr.	1 8	Ezra departs from Babylon	Ezr 7:6-9
		V =Aug.	1 4	Ezra arrives in Jerusalem	Ezr 7:8-9
480		IX =Dec.	20 19	People assemble	Ezr 10:9
		X =Dec.	1 29	Committee begins investigation	Ezr 10:16
470	457	I =Mar.	1 27	Committee ends investigation	Ezr 10:17
	445	Apr.	13	20th year of Artaxerxes I	Ne 1:1
460	444	to Apr.	2		
	445	I =Mar.-Apr.		Nehemiah approaches king	Ne 2:1
		Aug.(?)		Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem	Ne 2:11
450		VI =Oct.	25 2	Completion of wall	Ne 6:15
		VII =Oct. to Nov.	8 5	Public assembly	Ne 7:73-8:1
440		VII =Oct.	15-22 22-28	Feast of Tabernacles	Ne 8:14
		VII =Oct.	24 30	Fast	Ne 9:1
430 B.C.	433	Apr.	1	32nd year of Artaxerxes;	Ne 5:14; 13:6
	432	to Apr.	19	Nehemiah's recall and return	

Chronology of Ezra- Nehemiah

*The Bible Visual
Resource Book, 93*

Chronology of the Captivity

**Judah's
Captivity
605-536**

**Temple's
Desolation
586-516**

70 years

50 years

70 years

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

Judgments = 70 years

Bondage = 50 years (586-536)

Chronology of the Captivity

Judah's Captivity 606-536

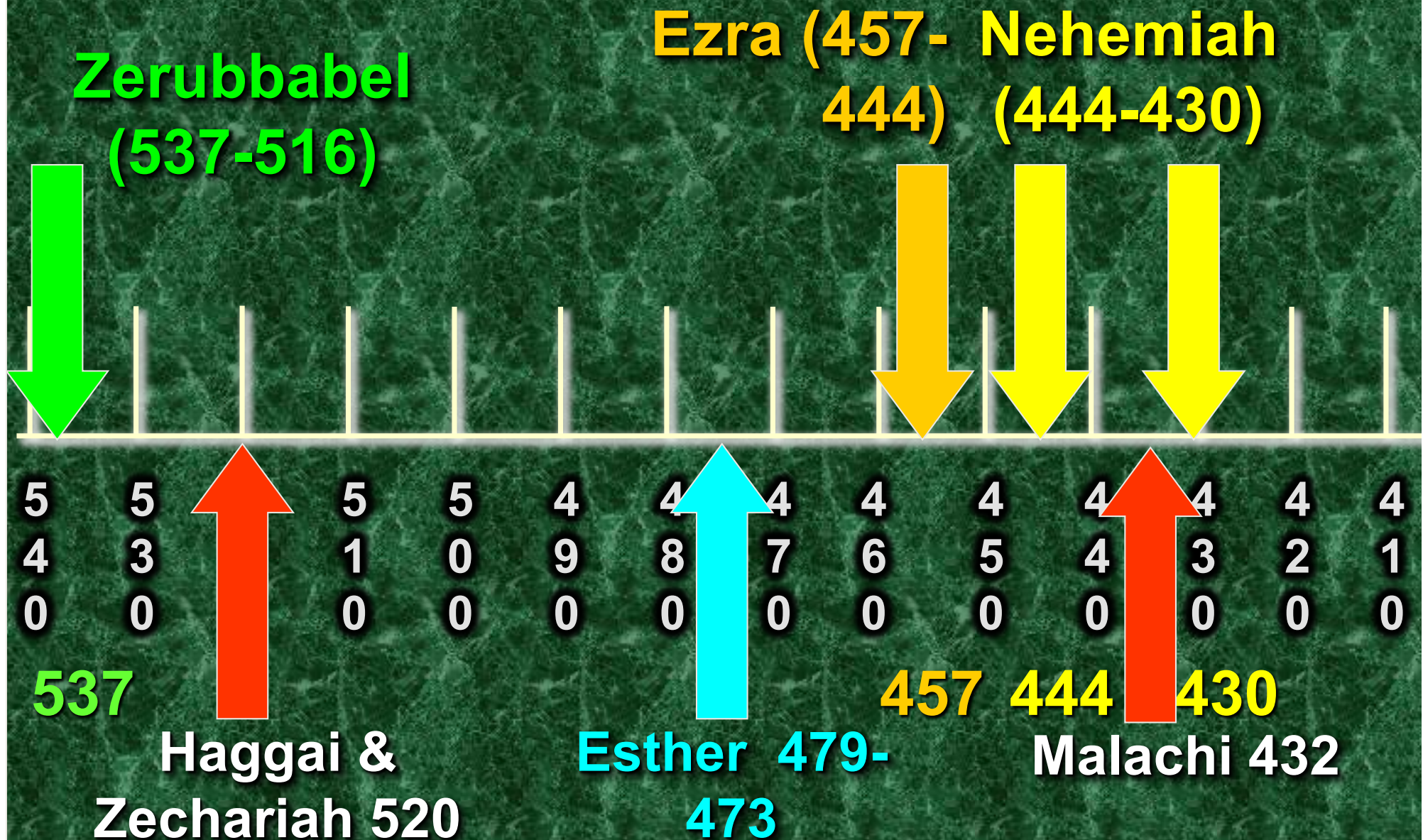
Temple's Desolation 586-516

Ezekiel 597-572

Daniel: 606-536

[illegible]

Chronology of Ezra-Nehemiah



Ezra's Correlation with Esther

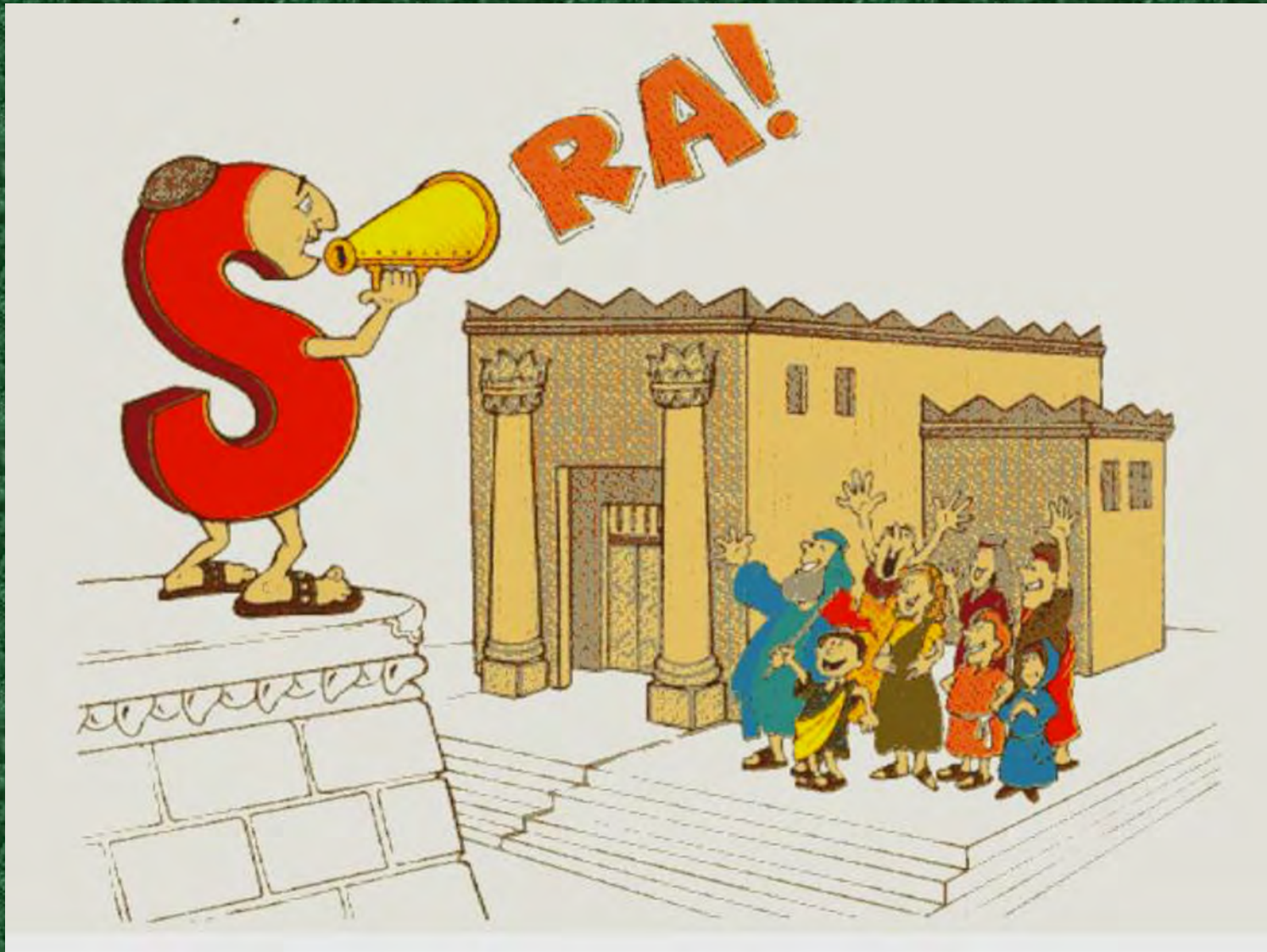
289

Restoring the Temple and People

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

Book of Esther (58 YEAR GAP)

Ezra: Temple/People



Zerubbabel's Temple

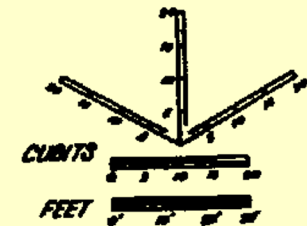
The Bible Visual Resource Book, 95

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)

Title

- **Ezra & Nehemiah originally formed one book according to Josephus, Jerome, & the Talmud.**
- **The Hebrew Bible also has the two books together under the title Ezra Nehemiah.**
- **However, the repetition of Ezra 2 in Nehemiah 7 may indicate that the two were originally separate works.**
- **Ezra means "help, succour, assistance" & Nehemiah means "Yahweh comforts".**

External Evidence

The Jewish talmudic tradition has long held that Ezra authored this book.



Internal Evidence

- In 7:27–9:15 the author refers to himself in the first person. This is significant since Ezra was not even born during the events of chapters 1–6 (538-516 BC) since he is first introduced in 7:1 (458 BC).
- As in Chronicles, the book has a strong priestly emphasis, and Ezra was in direct descent from Aaron through Eleazer, Phineas, and Zadok (7:1-5).

Date

The events of Ezra 7–10 in which Ezra had part occurred in 458-457 BC. Also, Ezra was contemporary of Nehemiah (Neh. 8:1-9; 12:36), who arrived in Jerusalem in 444 BC. A likely date of composition may be between these 2 dates, placing the writing at approximately 450 BC.

However, the Book of Ezra itself covers 2 distinct time periods separated by 58 years. Ezra 1–6 relates the story of Zerubbabel (538-516 BC) while Ezra 7–10 is mostly an autobiographical account of Ezra that begins 6 decades later (458-457 BC).

Occasion

Ezra continues the account of the Jewish history recorded in 2nd Chronicles.

The Chronicles record how God was faithful in fulfilling His promise of *judgment* for Judah's sin; Ezra records how God was faithful to His promise of *restoration* after 70 years as prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10).

Ezra's account of this restoration served to exhort the returnees to follow the LORD wholeheartedly.

Occasion

Ezra continues the account recorded in 2nd

The Chronicles record how fulfilling His promise of judgment

Ezra records how God was faithful of restoration after 70 years Jeremiah (Jer. 25:11-17)

Ezra's account of this restoration the returnees to follow the LORD

Recipients

Ezra's 1st readers comprised Jews who had recently returned to Israel from Persia & the grandchildren & great-grandchildren of those who returned from Babylon a century earlier.

Characteristics

- A. Ezra records the 1st events following the Babylonian Exile, but only in a selective sense as a 58 year gap separates chapters 1–6 & 7–10. The book of Esther occurs during this gap.**
- B. Ezra is one of the few books of Scripture which was originally written in 2 languages. Almost one 4th (67 of 280 verses) is written in Aramaic with the majority in Hebrew. This material (4:8–6:18; 7:12-26) is Aramaic because it mainly comprises official correspondence for which Aramaic was the standard language of the day.**

Characteristics

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).

- 1) Events: The events of the restoration revolved around the three returns to the land from Babylon.**
 - a) The 1st return under Zerubbabel (538 BC) involved about 50,000 Jews who came back to the land to rebuild the temple as a result of Cyrus' decree (cf. Ezra 1–6).**
 - b) The 2nd return under Ezra (458 BC) brought back about 5,000 Jews during the reign of Xerxes (Ezra 7–8).**
 - c) The 3rd return under Nehemiah (444 BC) to rebuild the Jerusalem walls revolved around Nehemiah himself, as the number of Jews with him are never recorded.**

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.

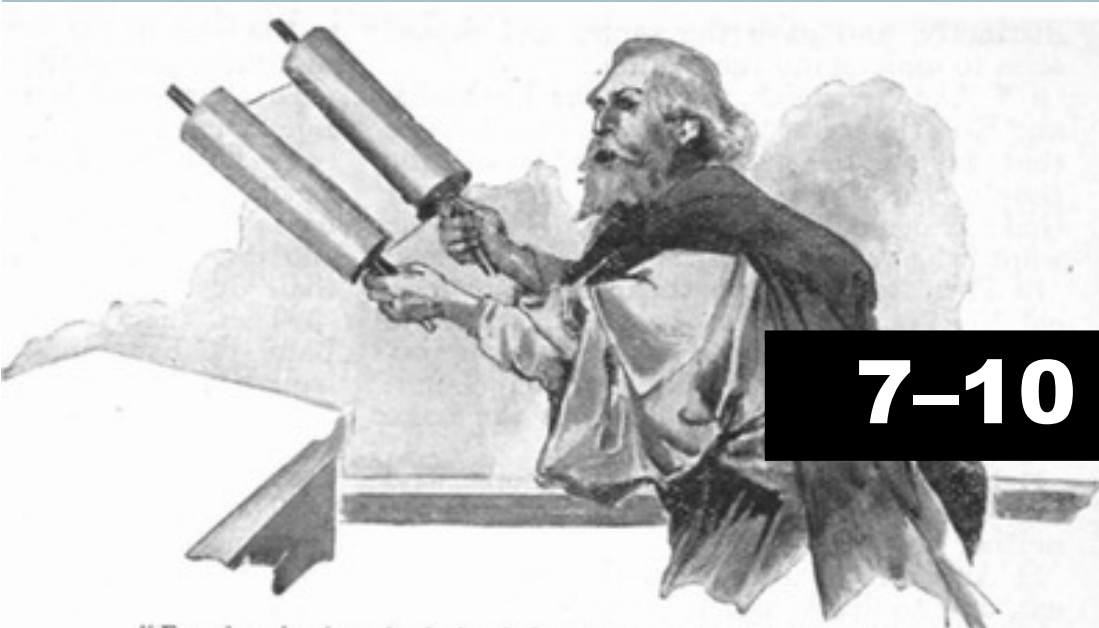
- A. The Book of Ezra concerns the temple as it continues from the end of 2 Chronicles.**
- B. Unfortunately, the remnant who returned did not convey as strong a commitment to the covenant & temple as one would expect.**
- C. Therefore, Ezra records the restoration of the temple under Zerubbabel (1–6) & the restoration of the people to their covenant obligations under Ezra (7–10) to encourage the remnant in true temple worship and covenant obedience.**

Synthesis

Restoring the temple and people

Partial fulfillment of land promise

1–6 Temple–Zerubbabel



7–10

People–Ezra

Outline

292-294

I. (Chs. 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
1–6

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

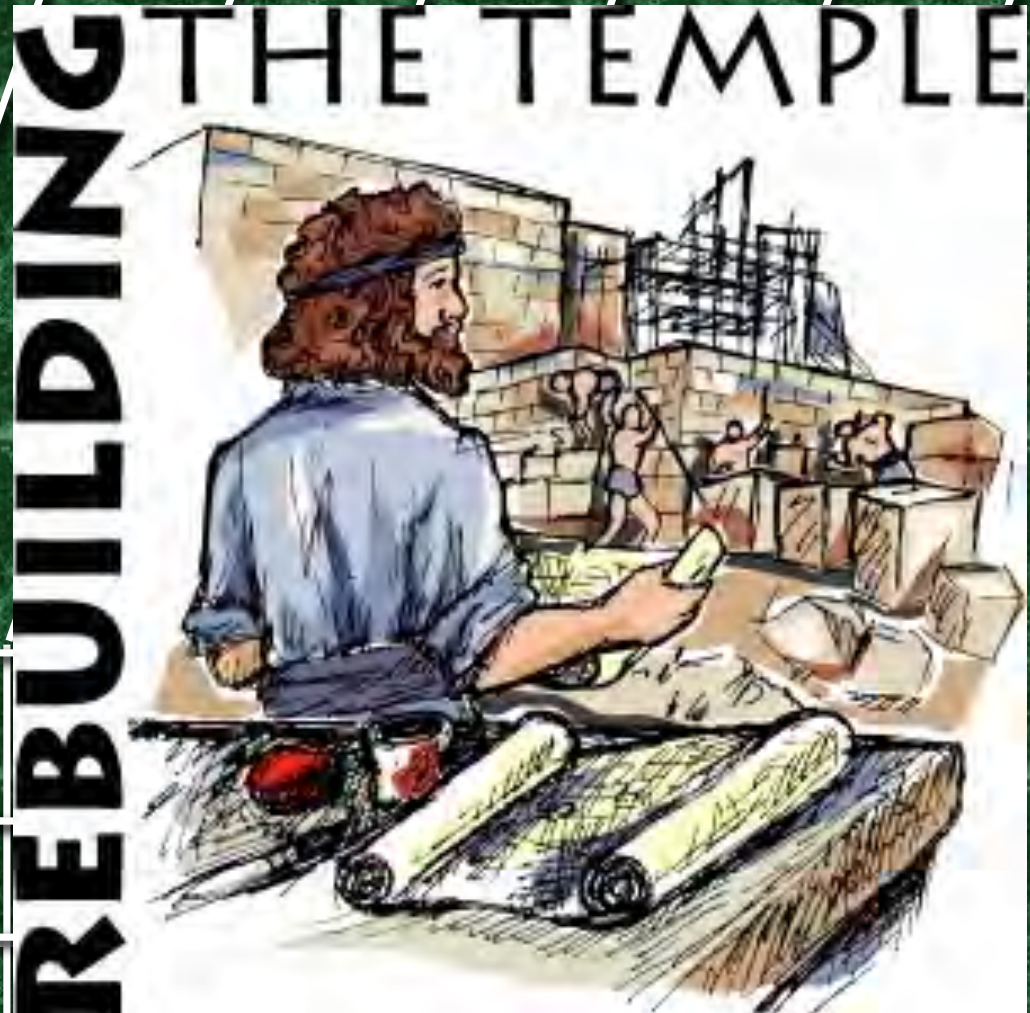
Returning 1–2

Restoring 3–6

**Rebuilding
1–6**

Zerubbabel

537



OT Pre-exilic Prophets on Chart

232 & 342

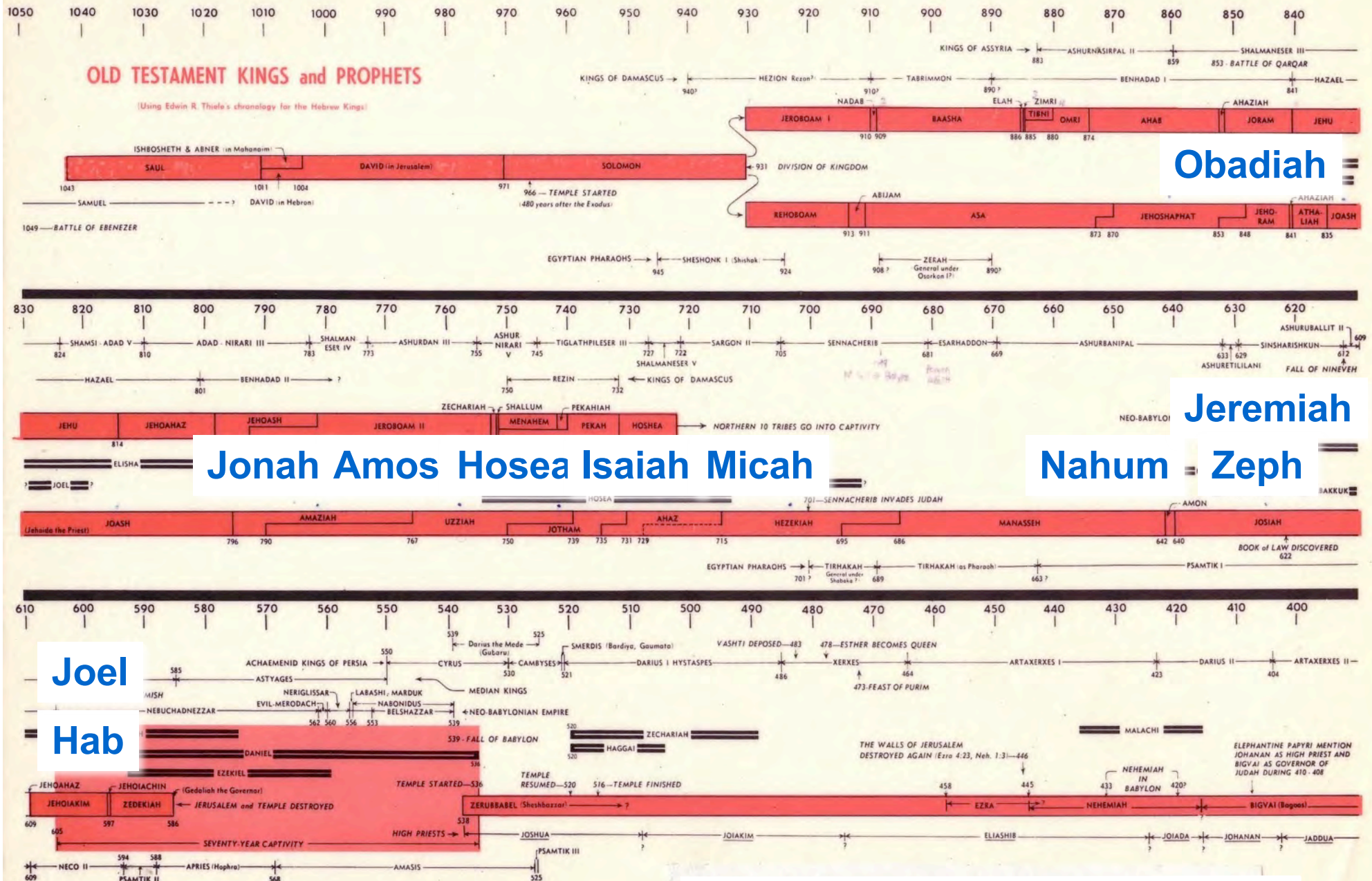
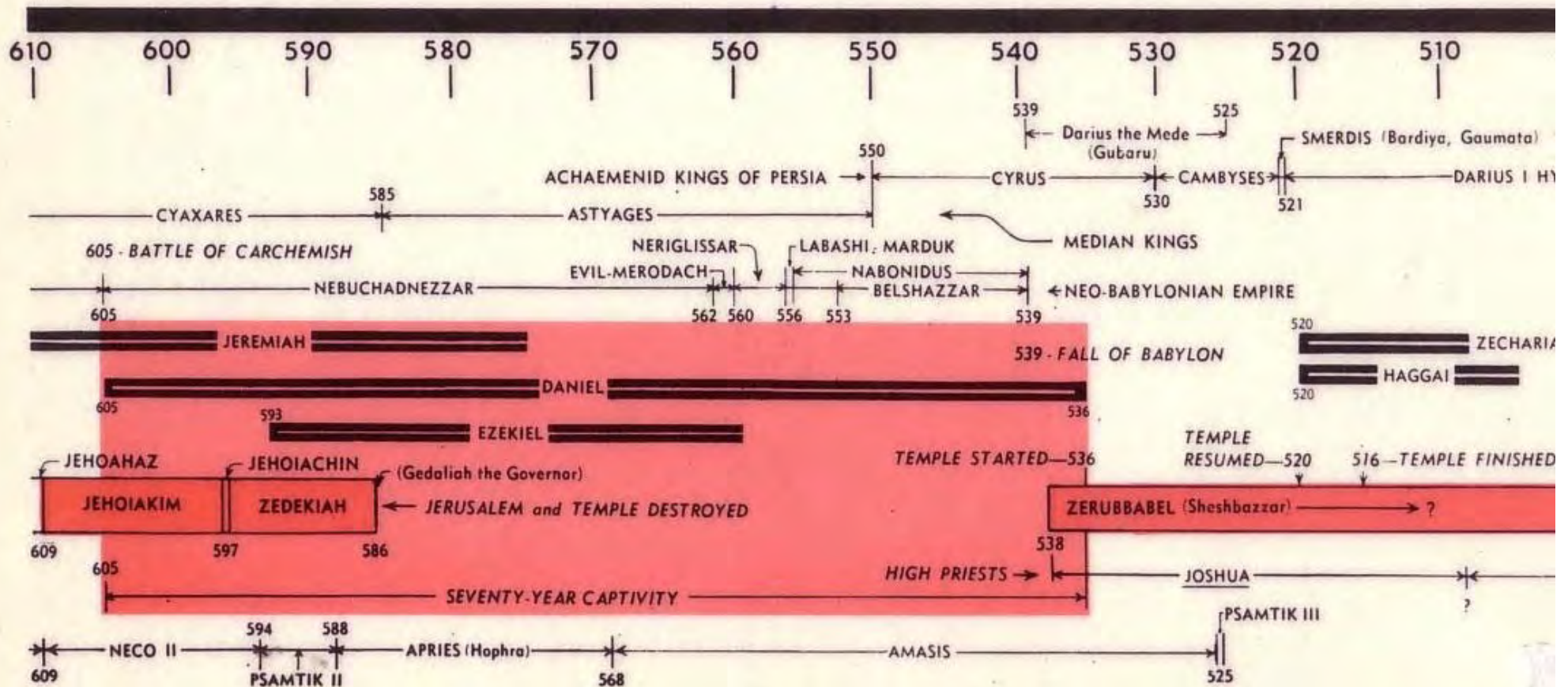


Chart of Old Testament Kings and Prophets

John C. Whitcomb, 4th rev. ed., Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1962, 1968, p. 2

Chart of the Exile

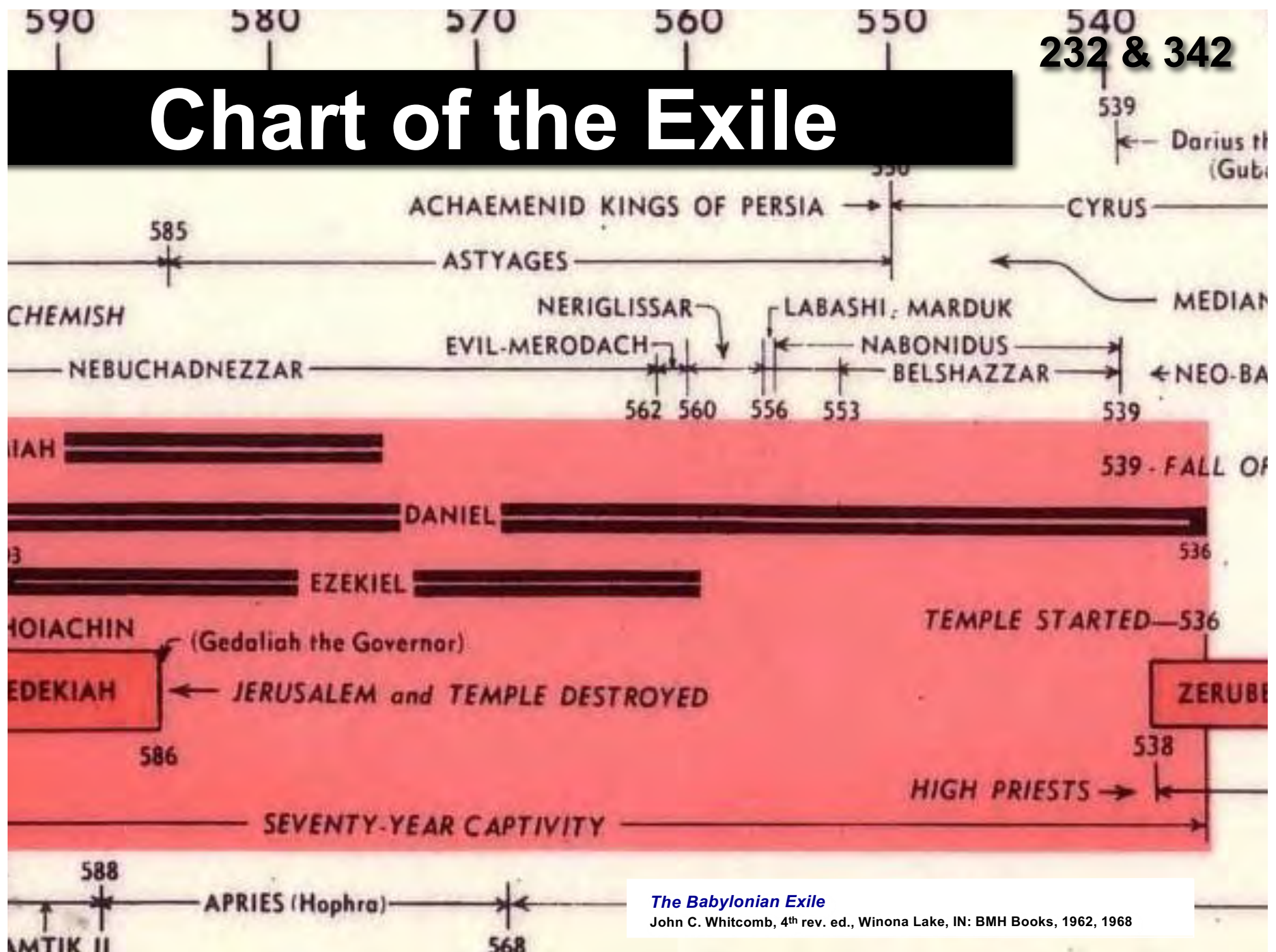
232 & 342



The Babylonian Exile

John C. Whitcomb, 4th rev. ed., Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1962, 1968

Chart of the Exile



Ezra 3


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



Ezra 4

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



A historical painting of Jerusalem's Temple Mount, showing the Temple walls and the Dome of the Rock. Five white arrows with black outlines point towards the Temple Mount from the word 'External' at the top left and 'Opposition to Rebuilding' at the bottom.

External

Opposition to Rebuilding

The Context:

Opposition to Temple Rebuilding

536 BC: As soon as the copy of the letter of King Artaxerxes was read to Rehum and Shimshai the secretary and their associates, they went immediately to the Jews in Jerusalem and compelled them by force to stop. Thus the work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia [520 BC].

Ezra 4:23-24 (NIV)



Internal

Opposition to Rebuilding

"Temple"

Haggai

Hug-I

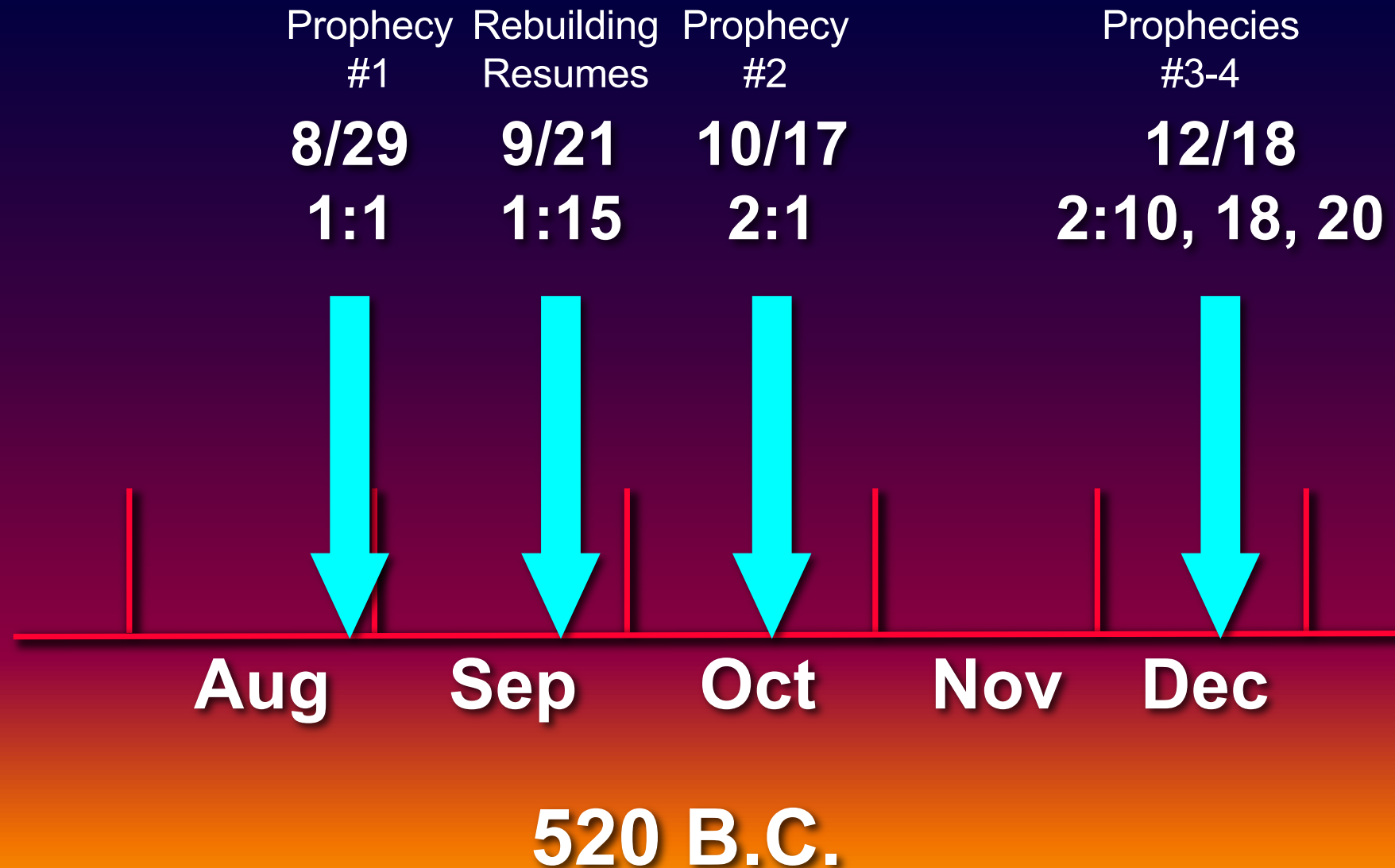


Walk Through The Bible ©1989

Date

- Haggai is the most precisely dated book of the Bible, recording messages given between August and December in 520 BC

Dates in Haggai

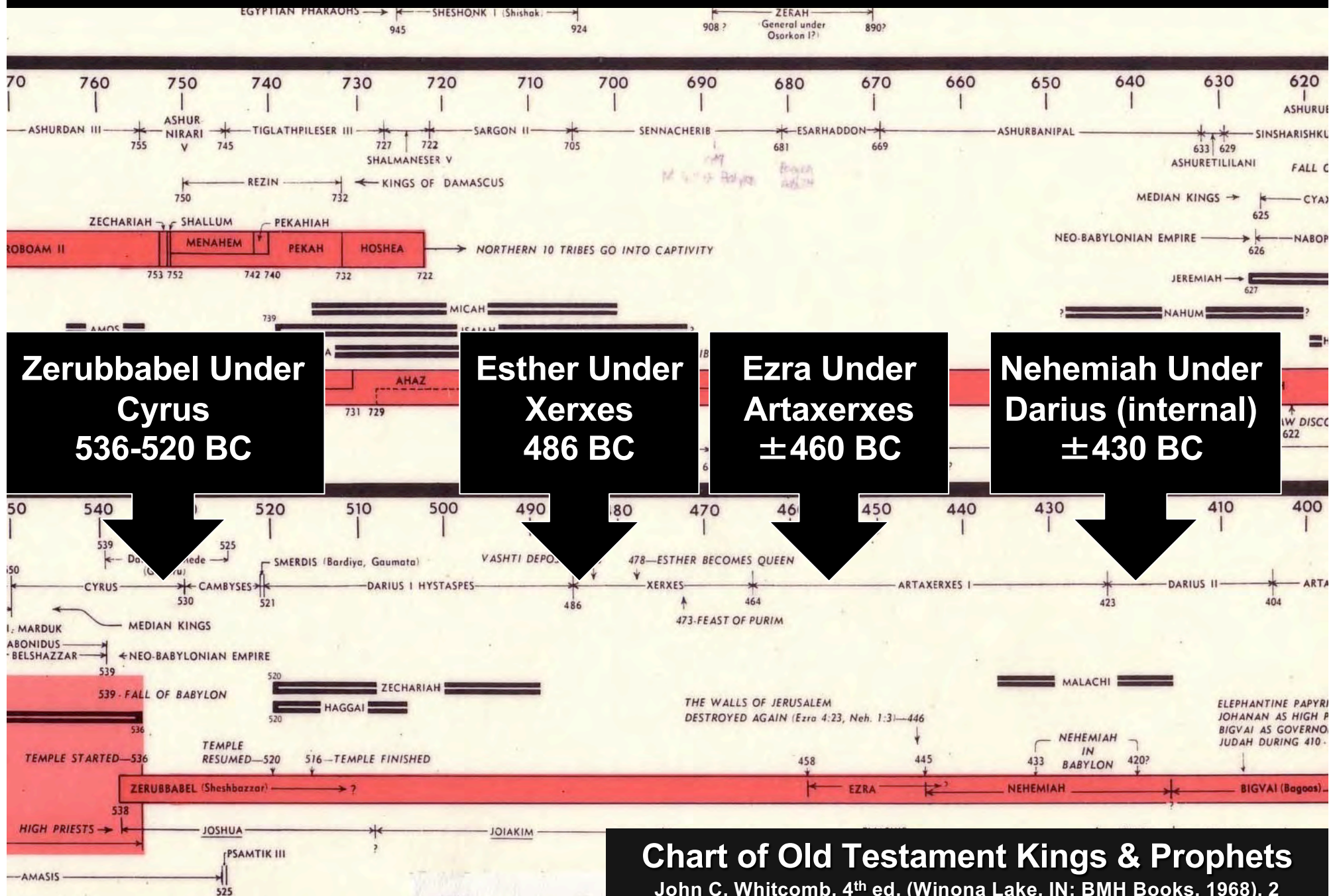


“On August 29 of the second year of King Darius’s reign, the LORD gave a message through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest” (Haggai 1:1 NLT).



Opposition Timeline (Ezra 4; Esther 1; Neh 13)

232
342



Later Postexilic Era (Ezra 7–10; Neh 1–13)

232
342

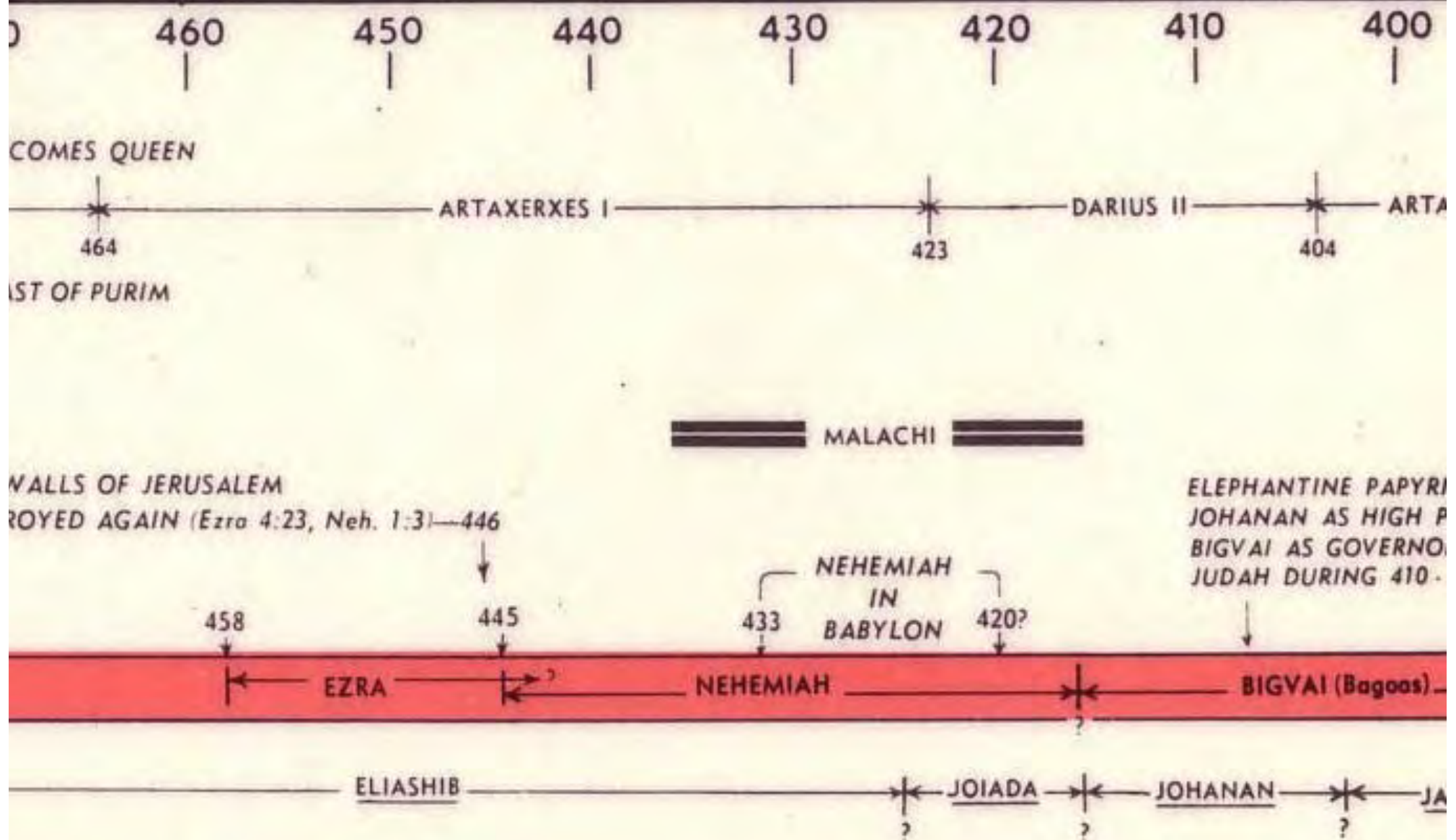
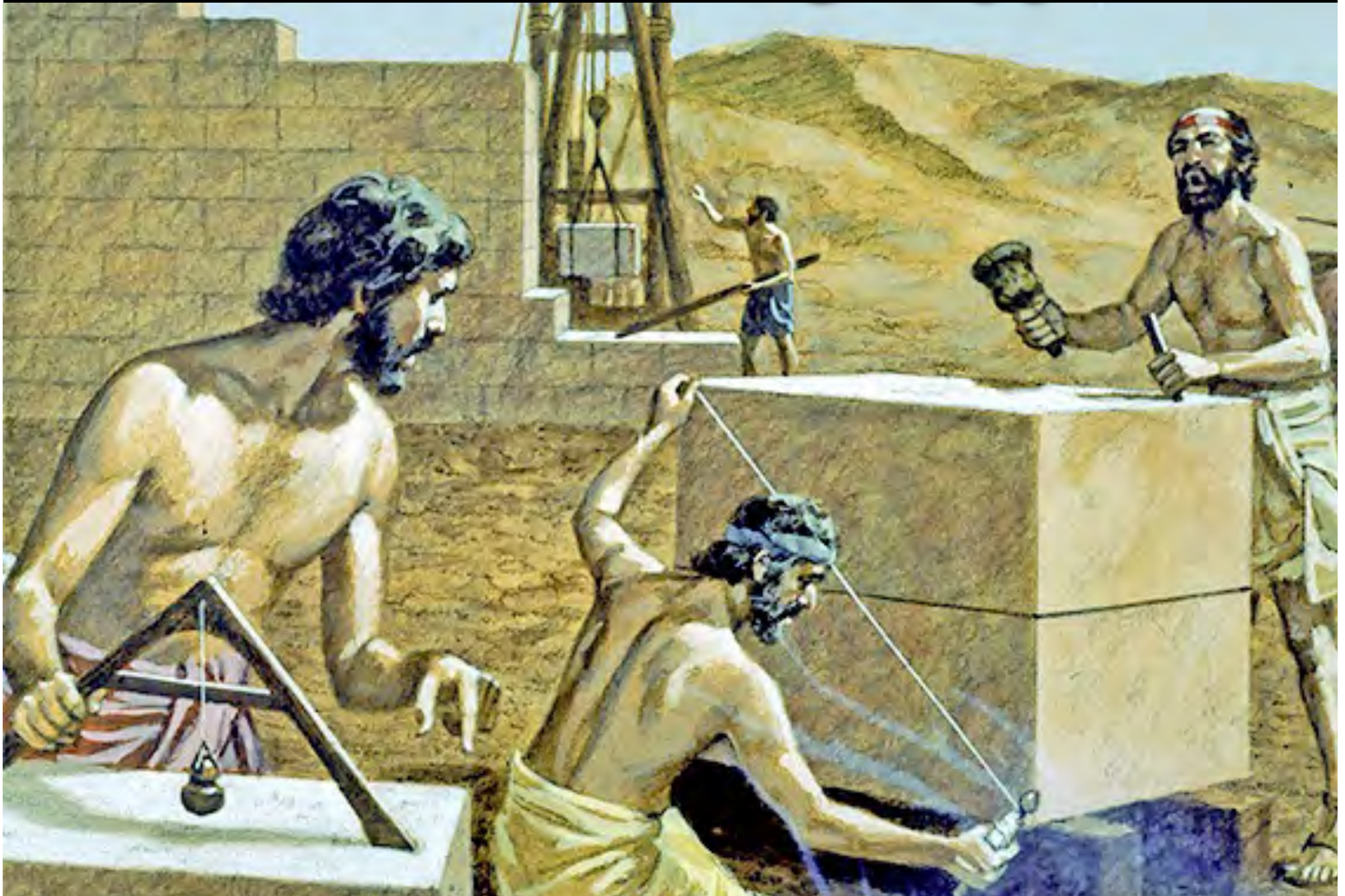


Chart of Old Testament Kings & Prophets

John C. Whitcomb, 4th ed. (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1968), 2

Ezra 5

God's work is always opposed



Ezra's Correlation with Esther

289

Restoring the Temple and People

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	Ends 6:13-22	Qualifications & Provisions 7	Returnees & Protection 8	Inter-marriage & Lament 9	Divorces Carried Out 10

Book of Esther (58 YEAR GAP)

Opposed
4:1–6:12

Ezra 6



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

Outline

292-294

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?



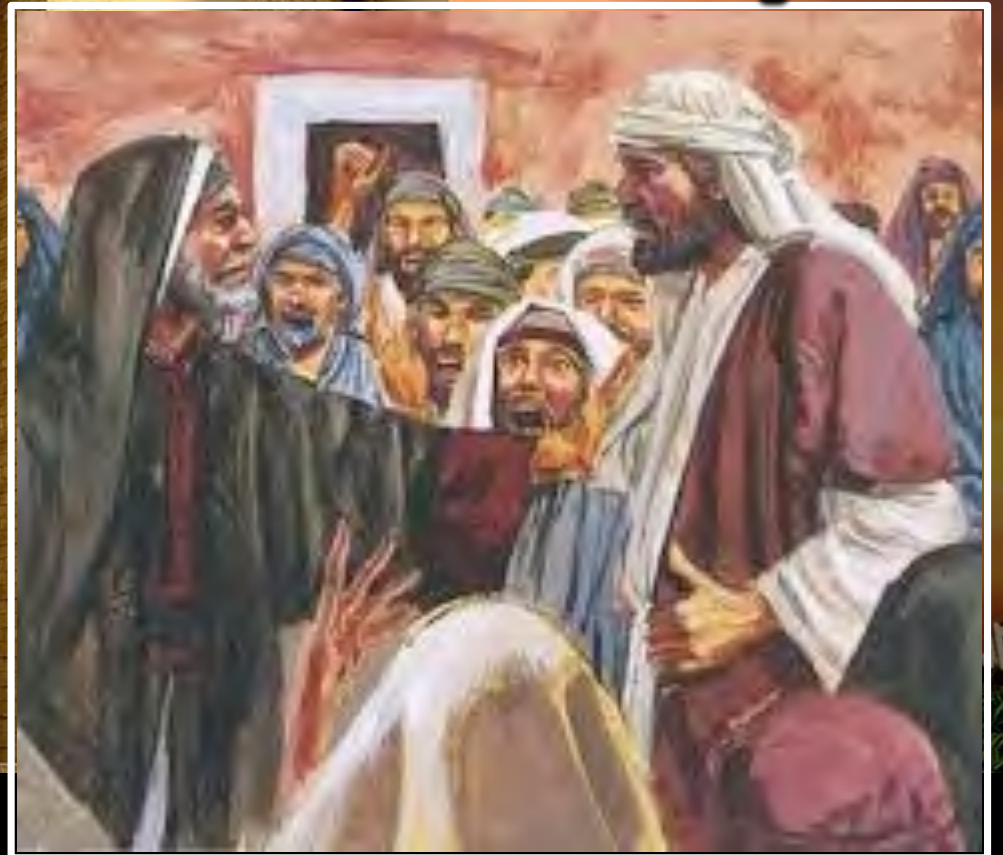
Which is more important?

Hardware?

Rebuild Temple

Software?

Rebuild People



Which is more important?

**Presence of
the Spirit?**



**Submission to
the Spirit?**



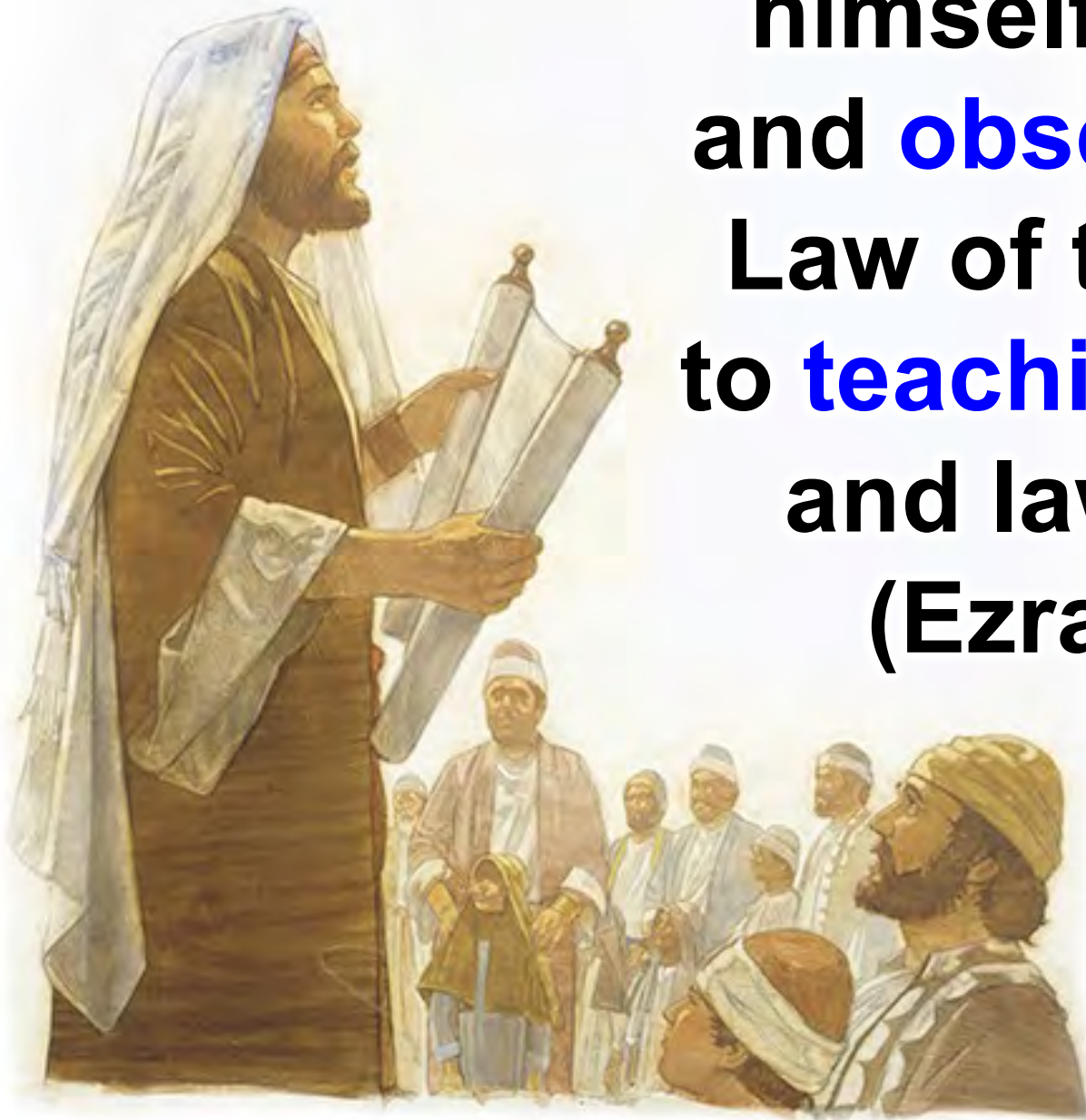
Outline

292-294

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

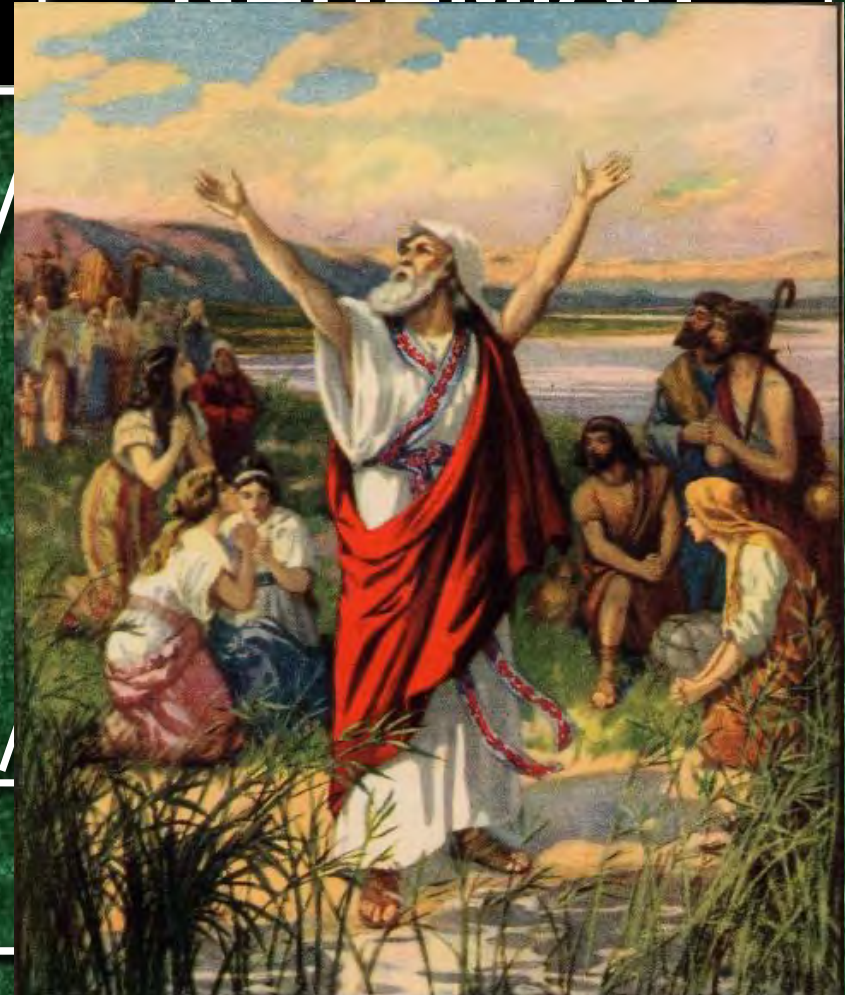
Redirecting
7-10

Zerubbabel

Ezra

537

457



Ezra 8

Returns from Exile

295

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*, 35 &
John A. Martin, "Ezra," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:652, adapted

RETURN	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Reference	Ezra 1–6	Ezra 7–10	Nehemiah 1–13
Date	538 BC	458 BC	444 BC
Leaders	Sheshbazzar Zerubbabel Jeshua	Ezra	Nehemiah
Persian King	Cyrus	Artaxerxes Longimanus	Artaxerxes Longimanus
Elements Of the Decree	As many as wished to could return. Temple could be rebuilt, partially financed by royal treasury. Vessels returned.	As many as wished to could return. Finances provided by royal treasury. Allowed to have own civil magistrates.	Allowed to rebuild the wall

Returns from Exile

295

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*, 35 &
John A. Martin, "Ezra," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:652, adapted

RETURN	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Number Returning	42,360 7,337 (servants) <hr/> 49,697	1,500 men 38 Levites 220 helpers <hr/> 1,758 + 5000?	Unknown
Events & Problems	Temple begun; sacrifices made & Feast of Tabernacles celebrated. Samaritans made trouble, & work ceased until 520. Temple completed in 516.	Problems with intermarriage	Wall rebuilt in 52 days, despite opposition from Sanballat, Tobiah, & Geshem. Walls dedicated & Law read.

Leadership for Revival (Ezra 8:15-20)

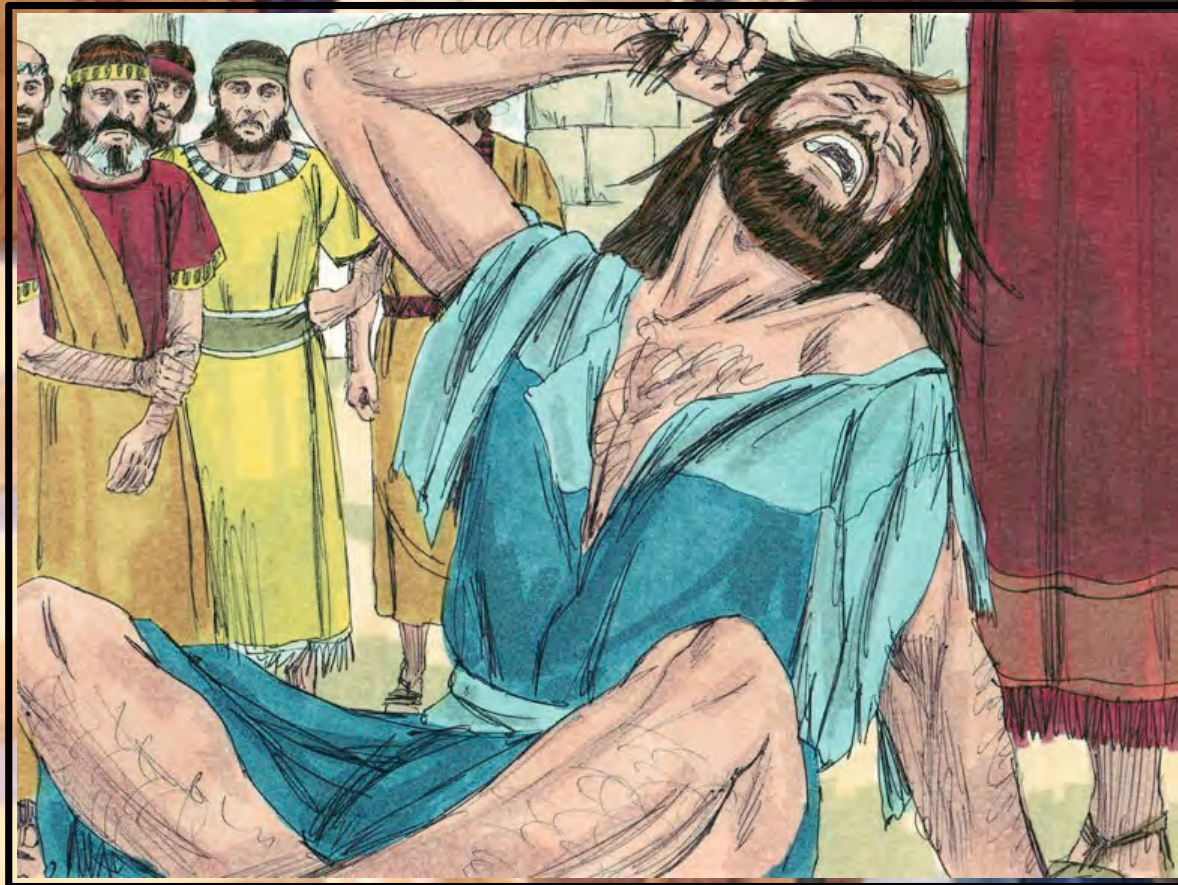




**Ezra
proclaims
a fast
(Ezra 8:21)**

Ezra 9

Internal Opposition (Ezra 9)



Zerubbabel's Temple

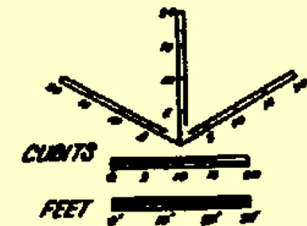
The Bible Visual Resource Book, 95

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)



Do Ezra and Nehemiah teach us proper leadership style?

If so, then whom should you follow?

- ⇒ Intermarriage led Ezra to pull out his own hair (Ezra 9:13)
- ⇒ Intermarriage led Nehemiah to pull out others' hair (Neh. 13:25)!

Leadership?

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.

Public Confession of Sin (Ezra 10)



التسلسل الزمني لعزرا - نحميا

ح ز ز

م ع ن



زربابل

زكريا

أستير

عزرا

نحميا

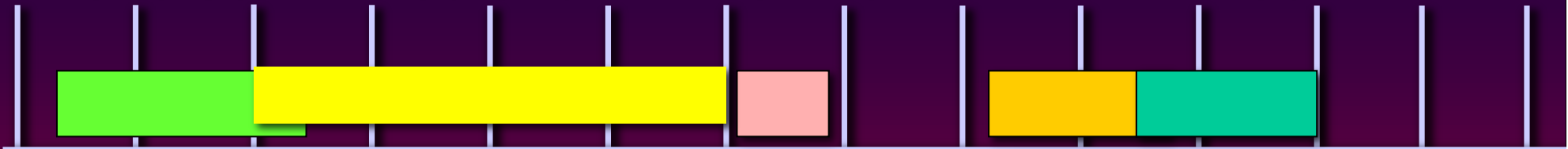
516-537

480-520

473-479

444-457

430-444



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

حجي

ملاخي

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**
WRITTEN BY: **EDGAR WINTER**
EMAIL: edgarwinter@gmail.com

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IMAGE FIRST PUBLISHED: 22/07/2013 / 2:40 A.M.
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



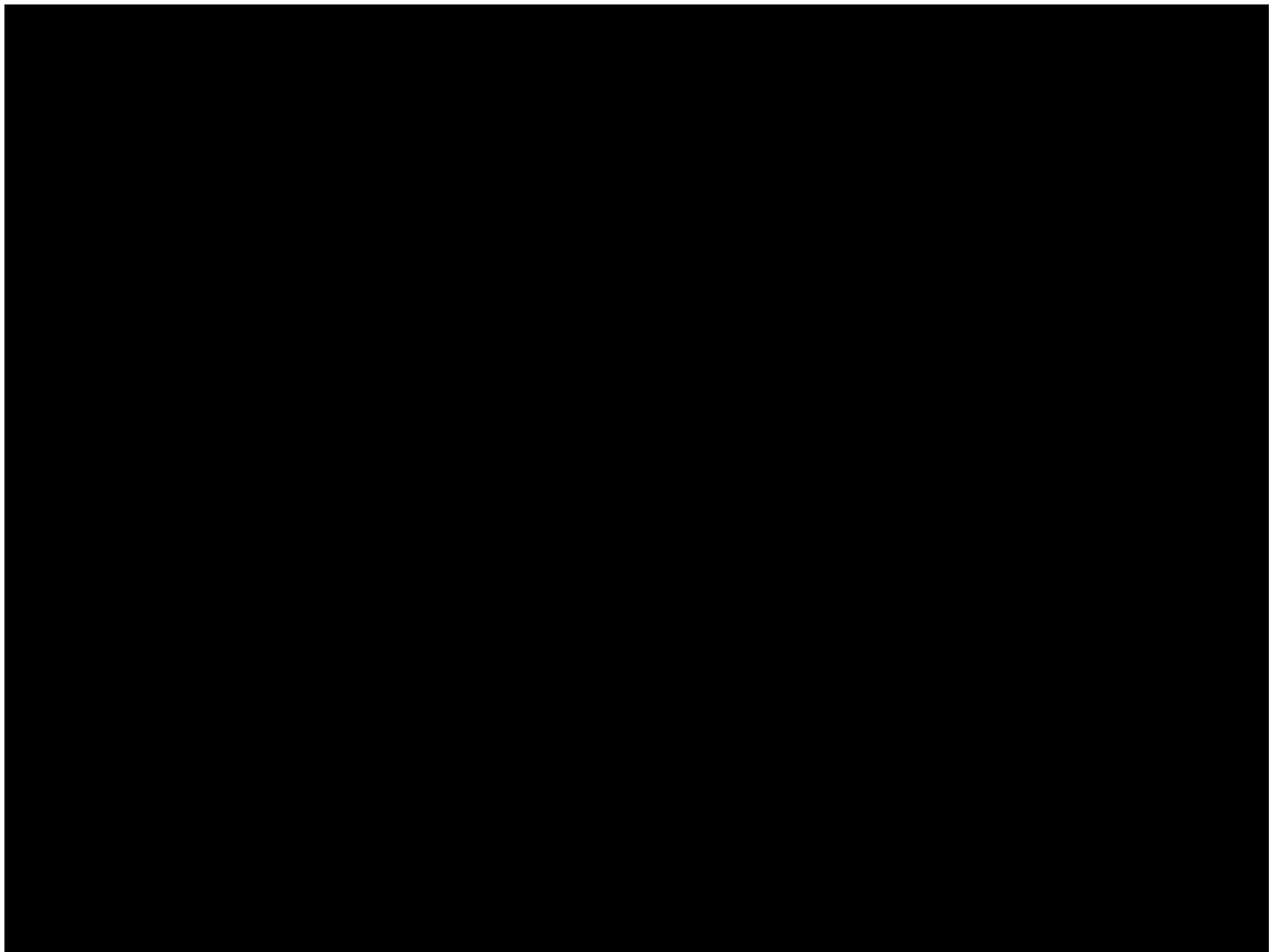
A photograph of a church interior during a service. In the foreground, the silhouette of a person's hand is raised high in a gesture of worship. The background is softly blurred, showing a large wooden cross on the wall, a screen displaying text, and warm, ambient lighting from several small lights. The overall atmosphere is one of devotion and spiritual reflection.

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

Application

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.***




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

Welcome

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The background of the entire slide is a close-up, high-contrast image of flames. The colors range from deep red and orange to bright yellow and white at the hottest points, creating a dynamic and intense visual texture.

PURIFY MY HEART

Brian Doerksen

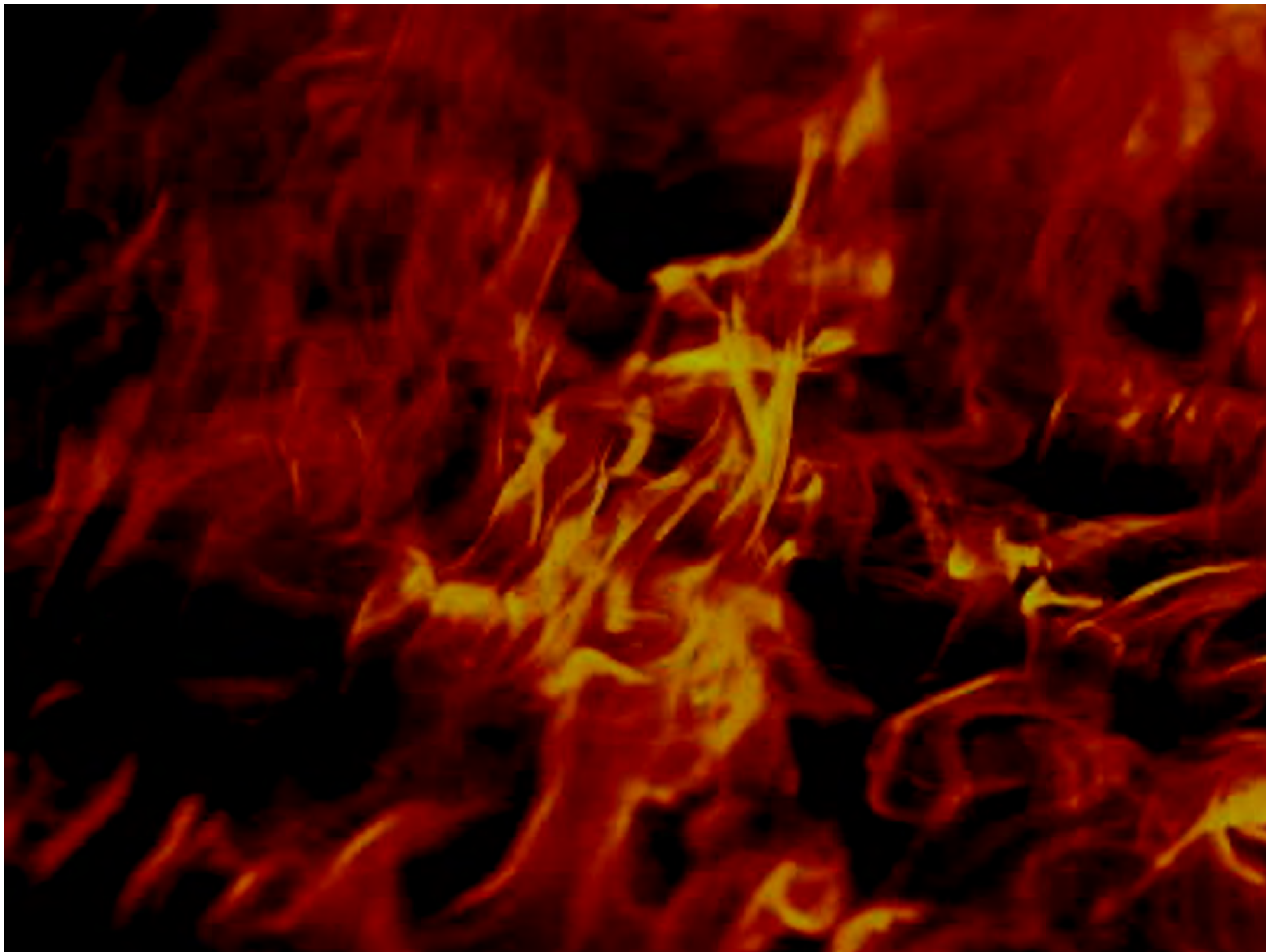
CCLI Song # 426298

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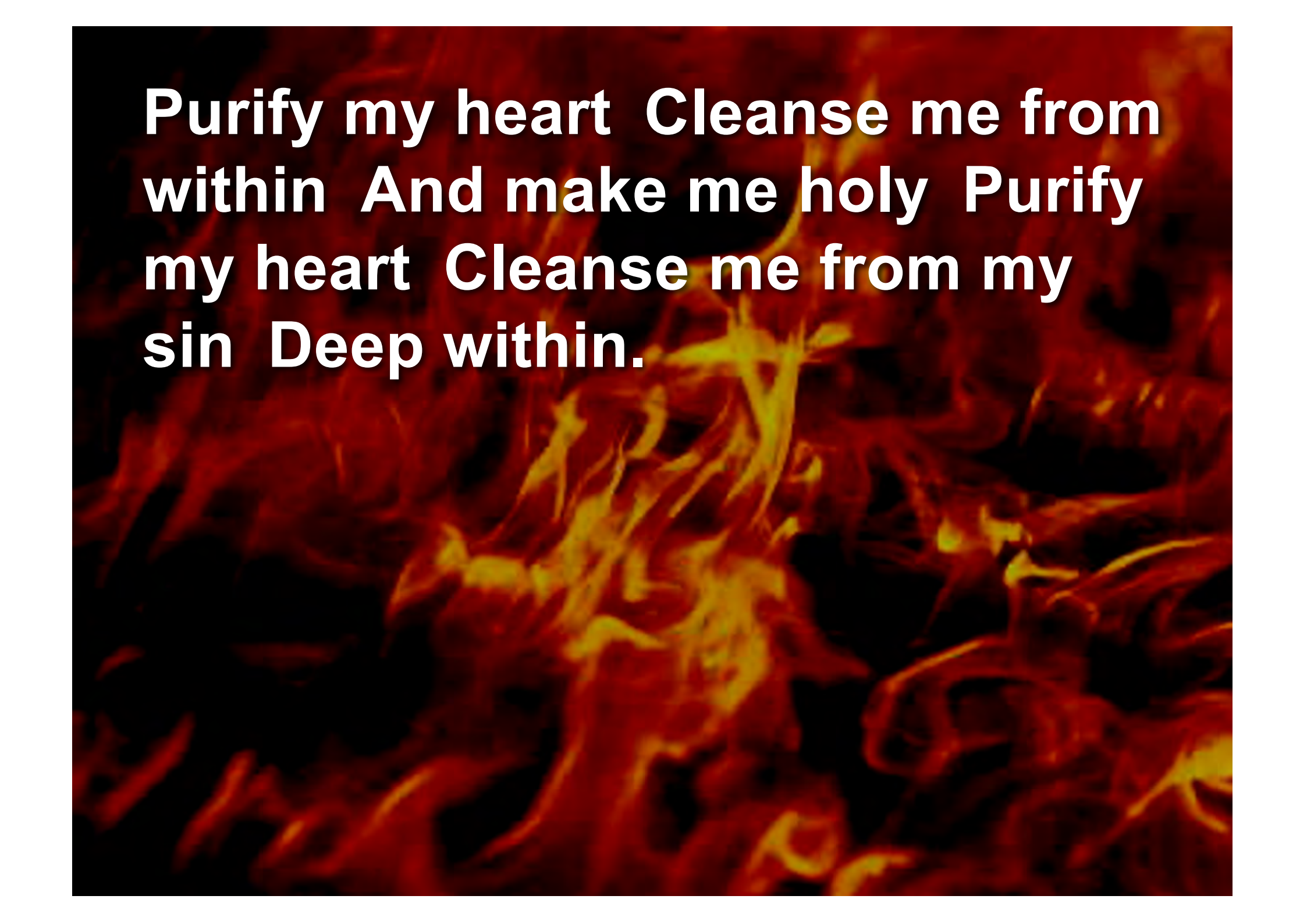


**Purify my heart Let me be as
gold And precious silver Purify my
heart Let me be as gold Pure gold.**

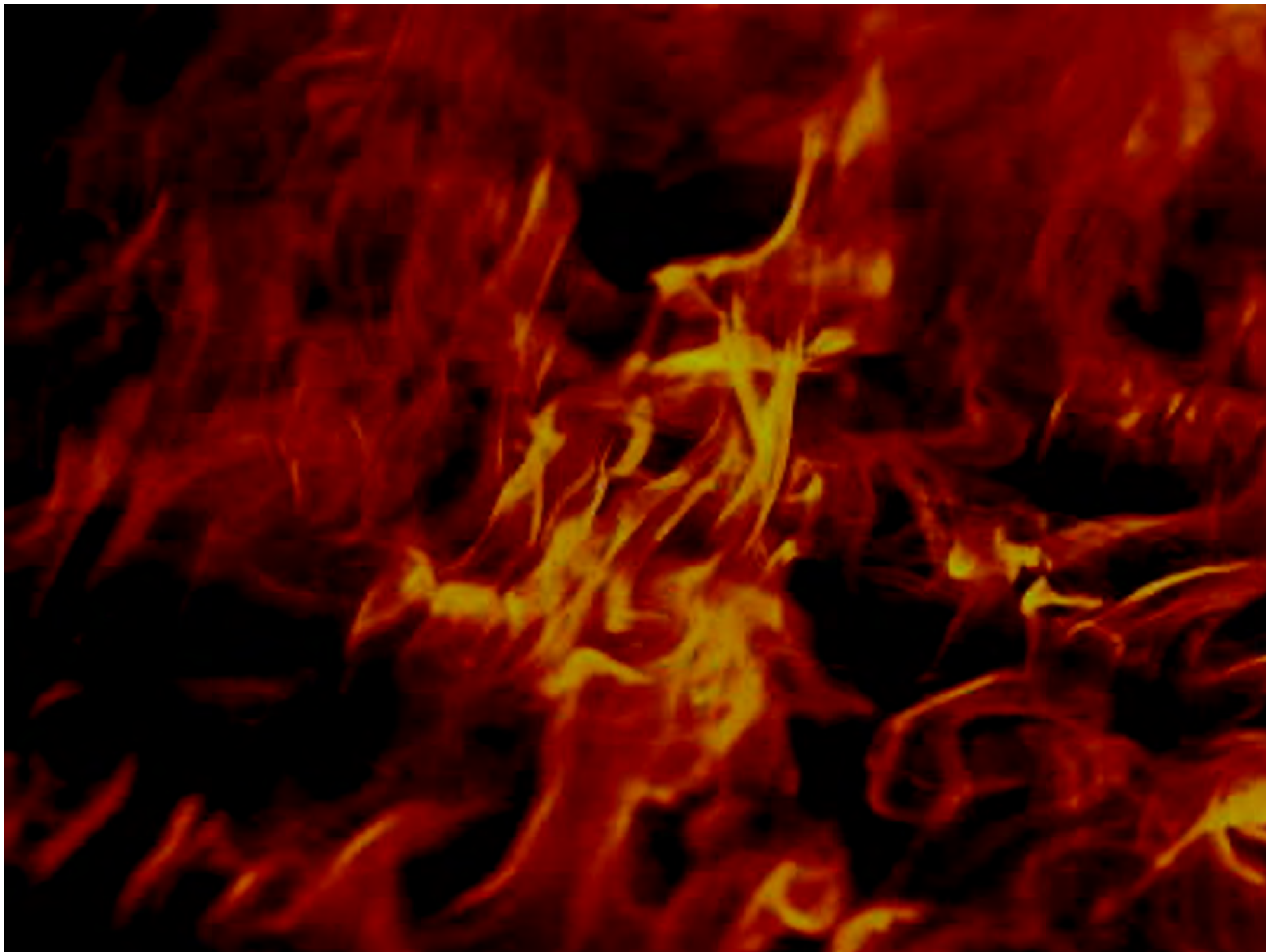




**I choose to be holy Set apart for
You my Master Ready to do Your
will.**

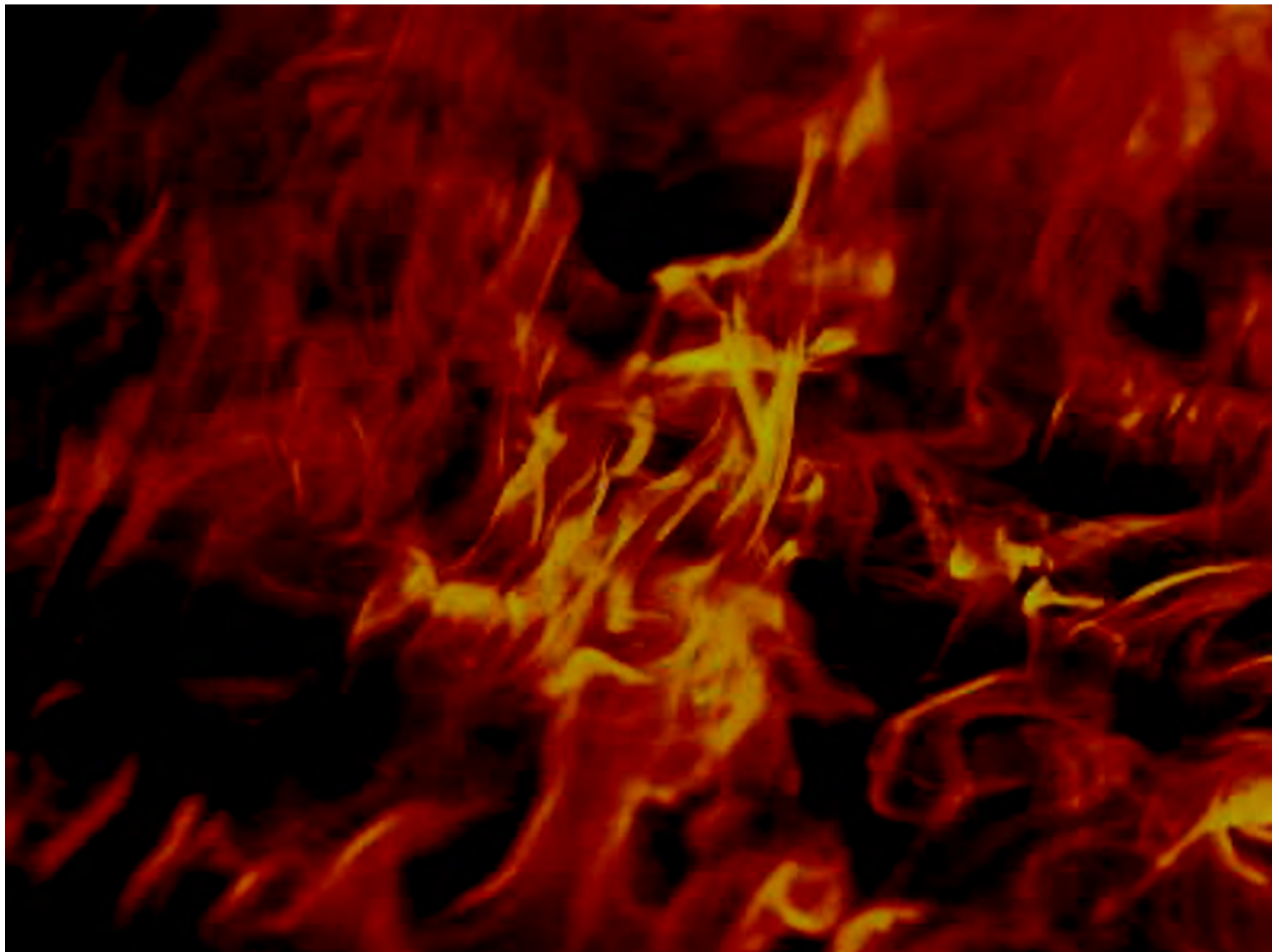


**Purify my heart Cleanse me from
within And make me holy Purify
my heart Cleanse me from my
sin Deep within.**





**I choose to be holy Set apart for
You my Master Ready to do Your
will.**

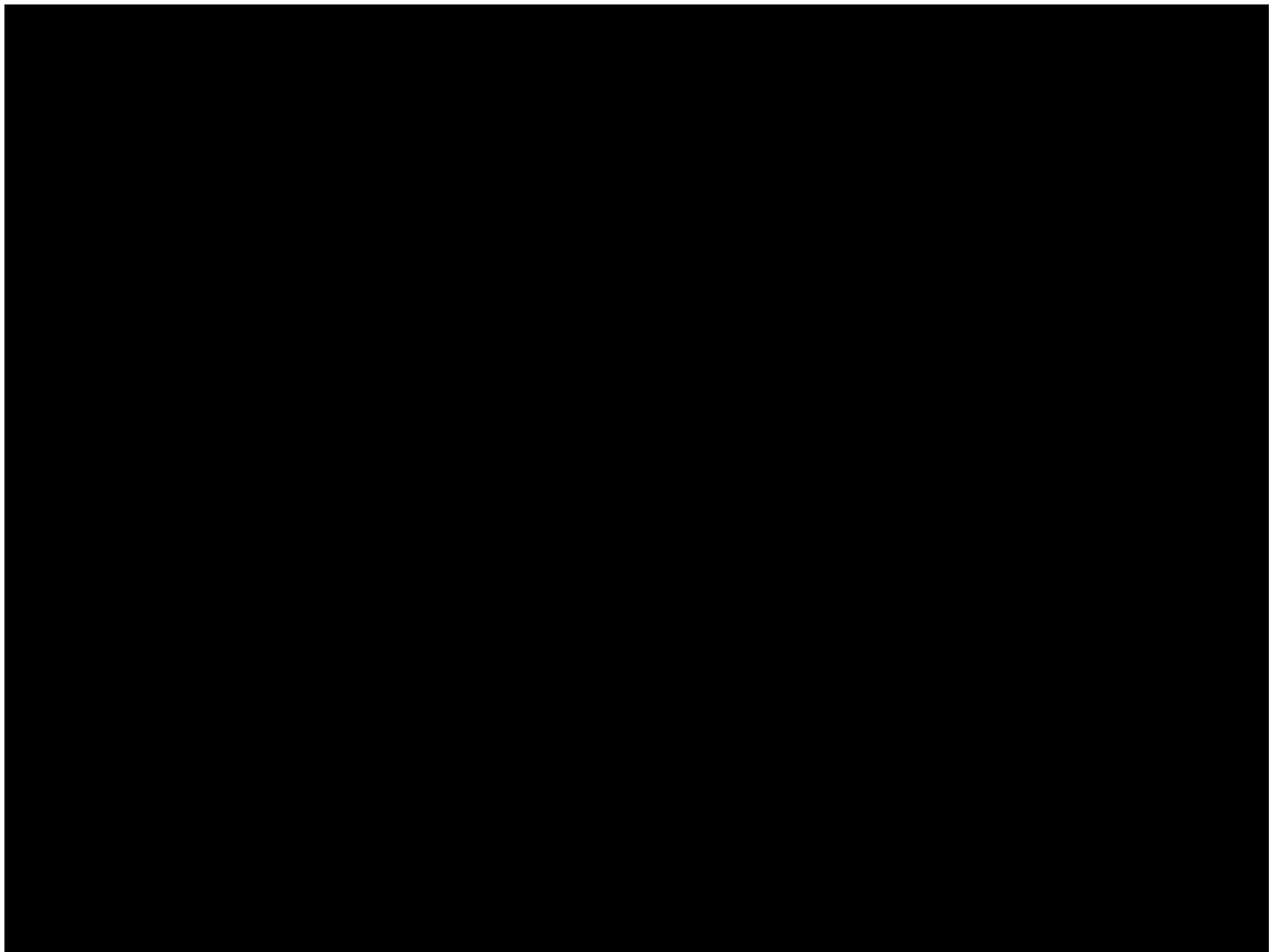




**I choose to be holy Set apart for
You my Master Ready to do Your
will.**

Ready to do Your will.






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