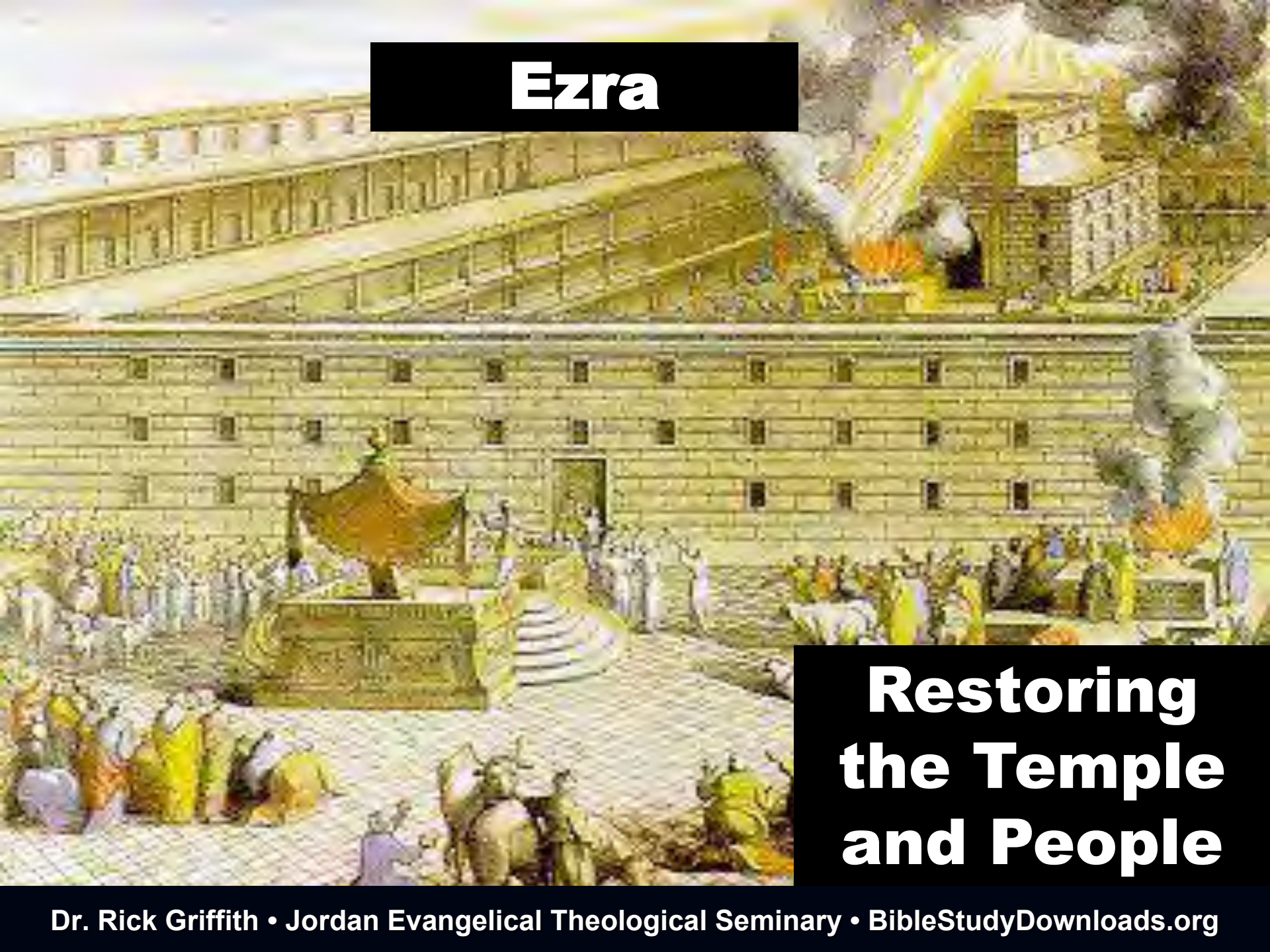


Ezra



Restoring the Temple and People

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

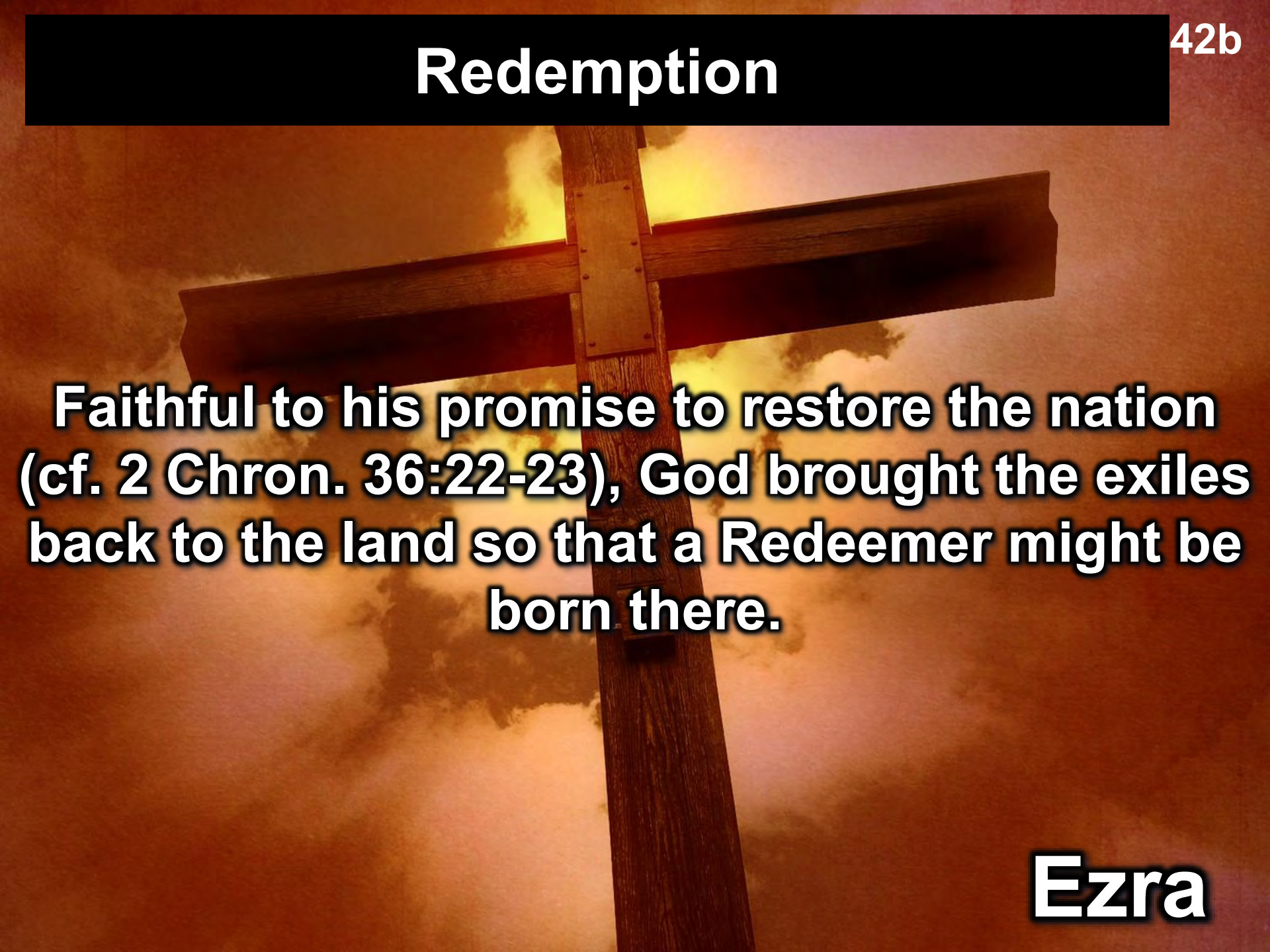
The restorations of the **temple and people to the land under Zerubbabel and Ezra record God's faithfulness and mercy in fulfilling His promise of restoration to encourage the remnant in true temple worship and covenant obedience.**

Ezra

Covenant 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.

Redemption

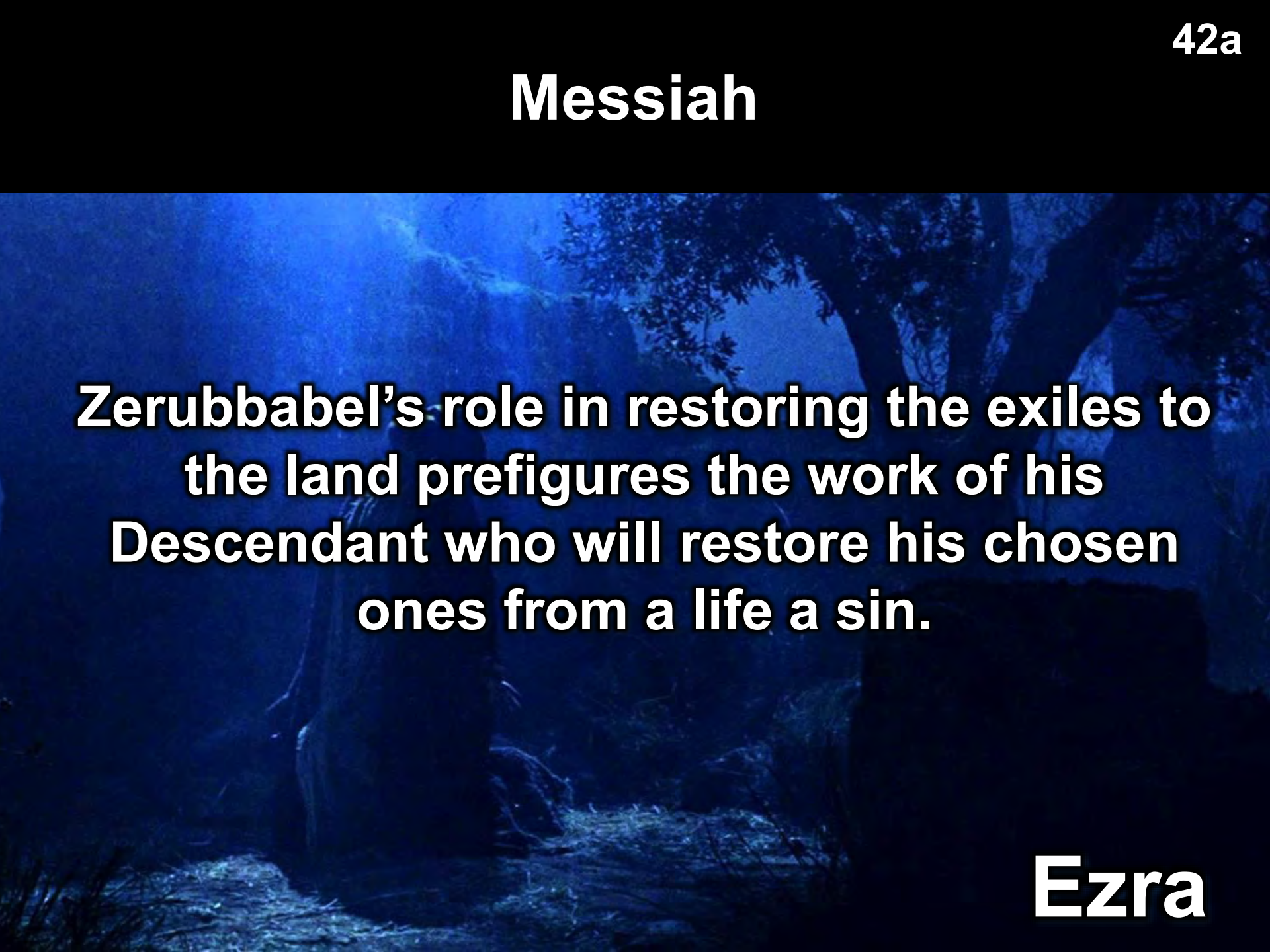
42b

A wooden cross is centered in the image, set against a dramatic sky with orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is made of dark wood and has a metal plate at the intersection.

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.

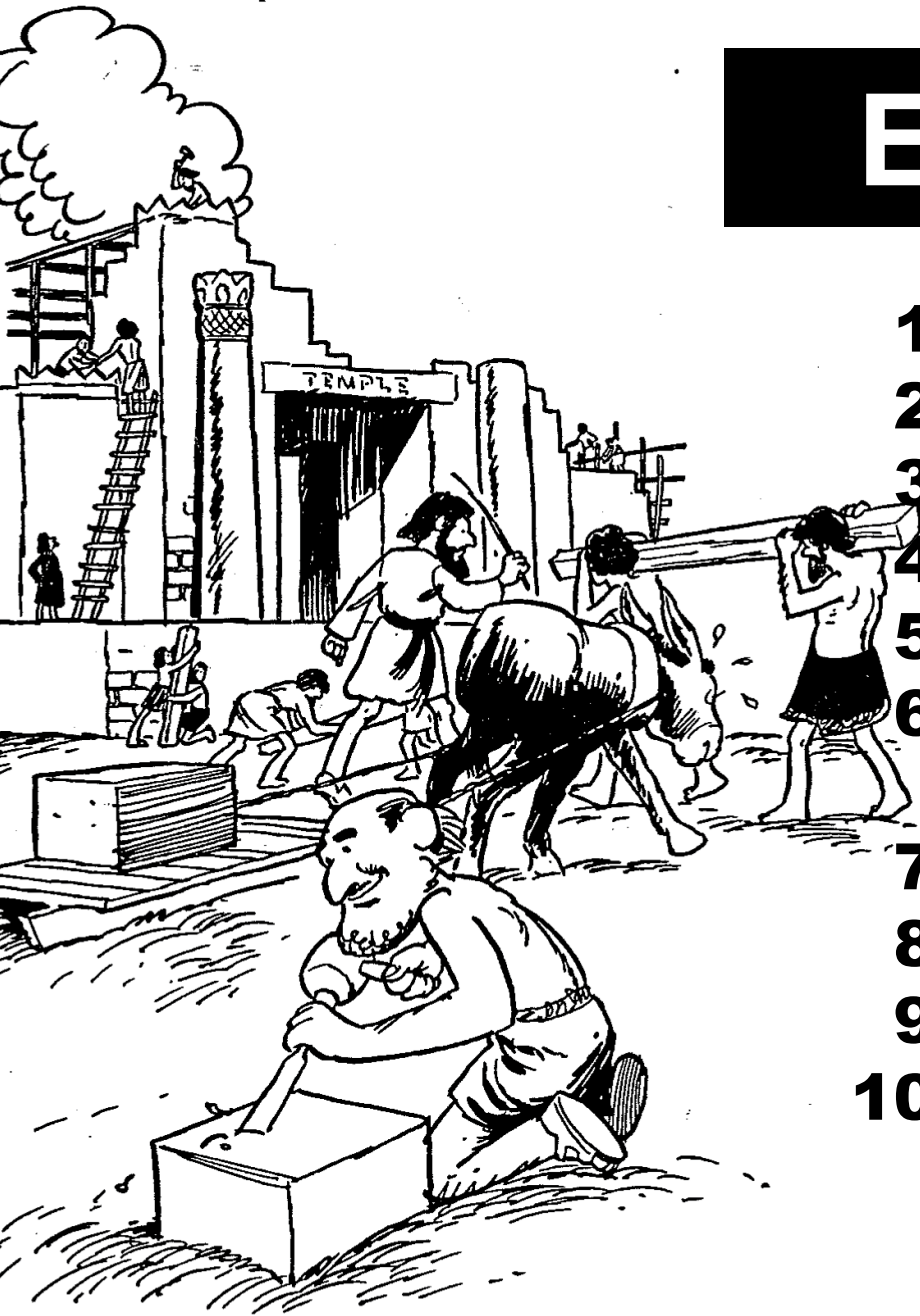
Ezra

Ezra's Correlation with Esther

Restoring the Temple and People

Temple					Book of Esther (58-year gap)	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



- 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

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org

Why does God **restore** us?



Two 70-Year Exiles



"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

God transforms

EXILES  INTO WORSHIPPE
RS

Main Idea of Ezra

A person is shown in silhouette, facing away from the camera with their hands raised in a gesture of worship or praise. The background is dimly lit, featuring a large wooden cross and a screen displaying text. Several small, warm-toned lights are visible, creating a soft, atmospheric glow. The overall scene suggests a church service or a moment of spiritual reflection.

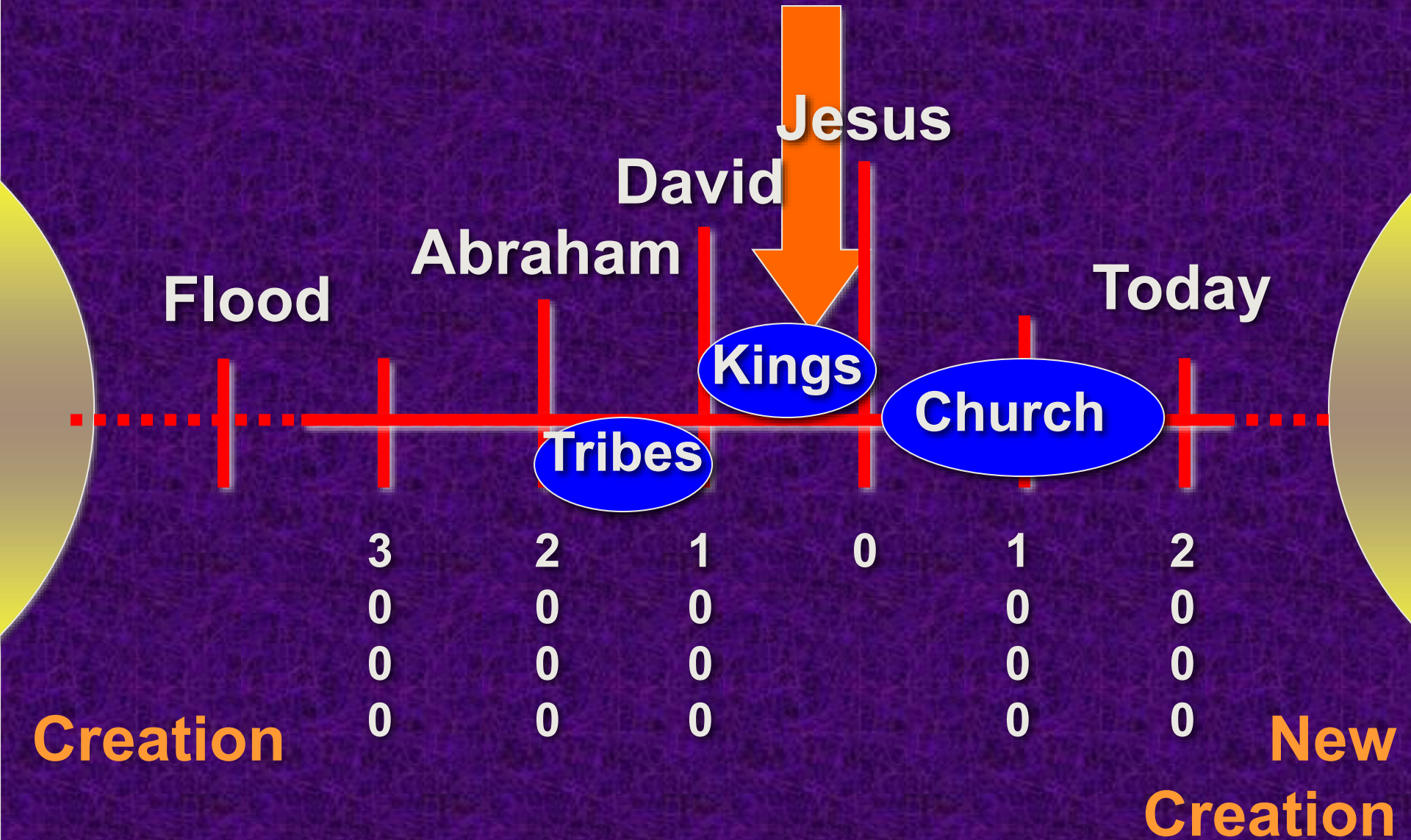
**What would change in your
life if your chief reason to live
was to worship?**

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 through the wooden structure.

Restoration to God
for the repentant
believer requires
action.

Ezra-Nehemiah



Timeline

Ezra-Nehemiah

United
Kingdom

Divided
Kingdom

Solitary
Kingdom

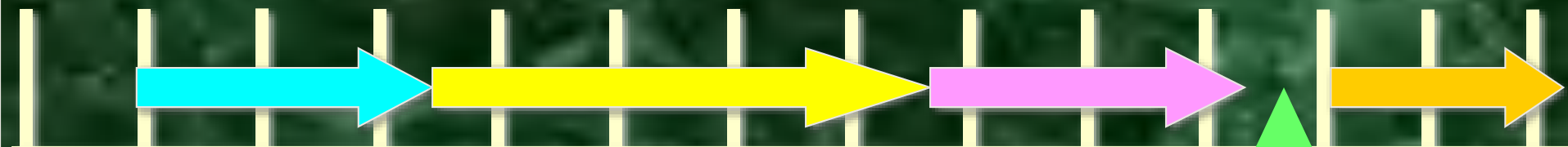
Post-
Exile

1050-930

930-722

722-586

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

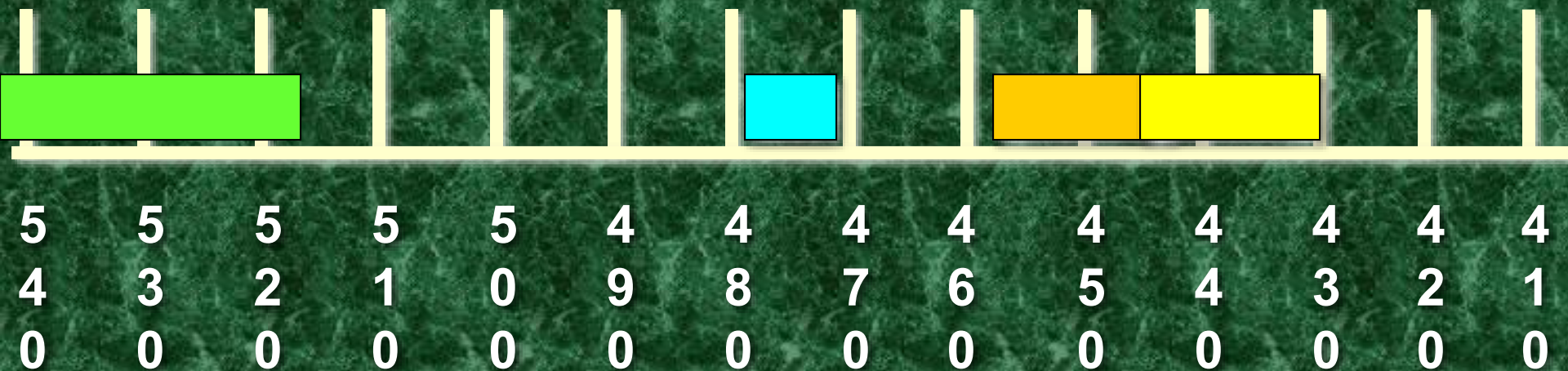
Exile 605-536

Chronology of Ezra-Nehemiah

Zerubbabel
(537-516)

Nehemiah
(444-430)

Ezra (457-
444)



Buddha 560-477

Socrates 470-399

Confucius 551-479

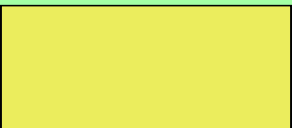
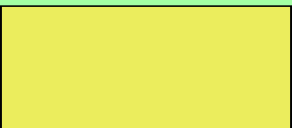
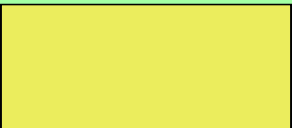
Esther
479-473

Plato 427-347

BABYLONIAN
EMPIRE

PERSIAN *EMPIRE*

EMPIRE
EMPIRE



EZRA

A Scribe of Priestly Descent

CONQUERED

CONQUERED

539 BC

RESTORATION OF THE

PEOPLE FOR YHWH

538 BC | 537/6 BC | 536-450 BC | 520-515 BC

The 1 st Return by Cyrus	Revival of Temple Worship	Historic Opposition to Rebuilding	Opposition to the Temple in the Reign of Darius I
1. The Jews returned to Jerusalem in 538 BC. 2. They began rebuilding the Temple. 3. The Temple was completed in 520 BC. 4. The Temple was dedicated in 516 BC.	1. The Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. 2. The Temple was rebuilt by the Persians in 520 BC. 3. The Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 538 BC. 4. The Temple was rebuilt by the Persians in 520 BC.	1. The Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. 2. The Temple was rebuilt by the Persians in 520 BC. 3. The Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 538 BC. 4. The Temple was rebuilt by the Persians in 520 BC.	1. The Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. 2. The Temple was rebuilt by the Persians in 520 BC. 3. The Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 538 BC. 4. The Temple was rebuilt by the Persians in 520 BC.

The 2nd Return Under The Problem

Ezra the Scribe

Wives

Cyrus' Decree Permitting the Return	List of the Returning Exiles	Construction of the Altar (sacrificial system)	Foundation of the Temple Laid	During the Reigns of Cyrus & Darius (536-520)	During the Reign of Xerxes I (ca. 485)	During the Reign of Artaxerxes I (ca. 450)	Temple Construction Renewed to Darius	Enemies Interfere by Appeal to Darius	Darius' Decree to Permit Temple Rebuild	Successful Completion of Temple	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	The Report to Ezra of Mixed Marriages	Ezra's Intercession & Confession to God	People Agree to End Mixed Marriages	The Offenders
1:1-2:70	1:1-11 2:1-70	3:1-6 3:7-13	4:1-5 4:6	4:7-23 4:24-5:2	5:3-17 6:1-12	6:13-22 7:1-10	7:11-28 8:1-14	8:15-30 8:31-36	9:1-4 9:5-15	9:16-17 9:18-19	9:20-21 9:22-23	9:24-25 9:26-27	9:28-29 9:30-31	9:32-33 9:34-35	9:36-37 9:38-39	9:40-41 9:42-43	9:44-45 9:46-47	9:48-49 9:50-51	9:52-53 9:54-55
1:1-2:70	3:1-13	4:1-23	4:24-6:22	7:1-8:36	9:1-10:44														

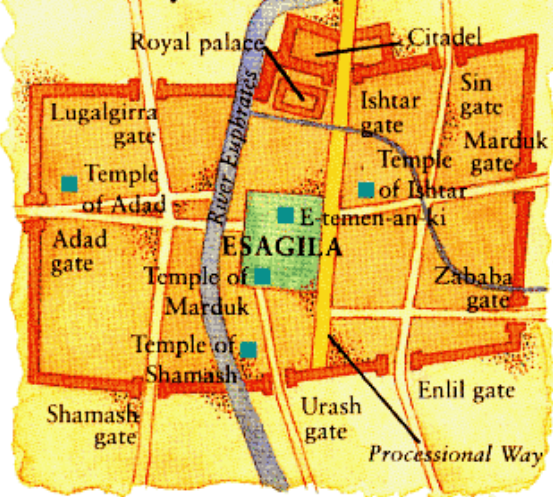
TO TRACE THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF YHWH
WORSHIP UNDER ZERUBBABEL AND JOSHUA

(Focus on Temple Rebuilding)

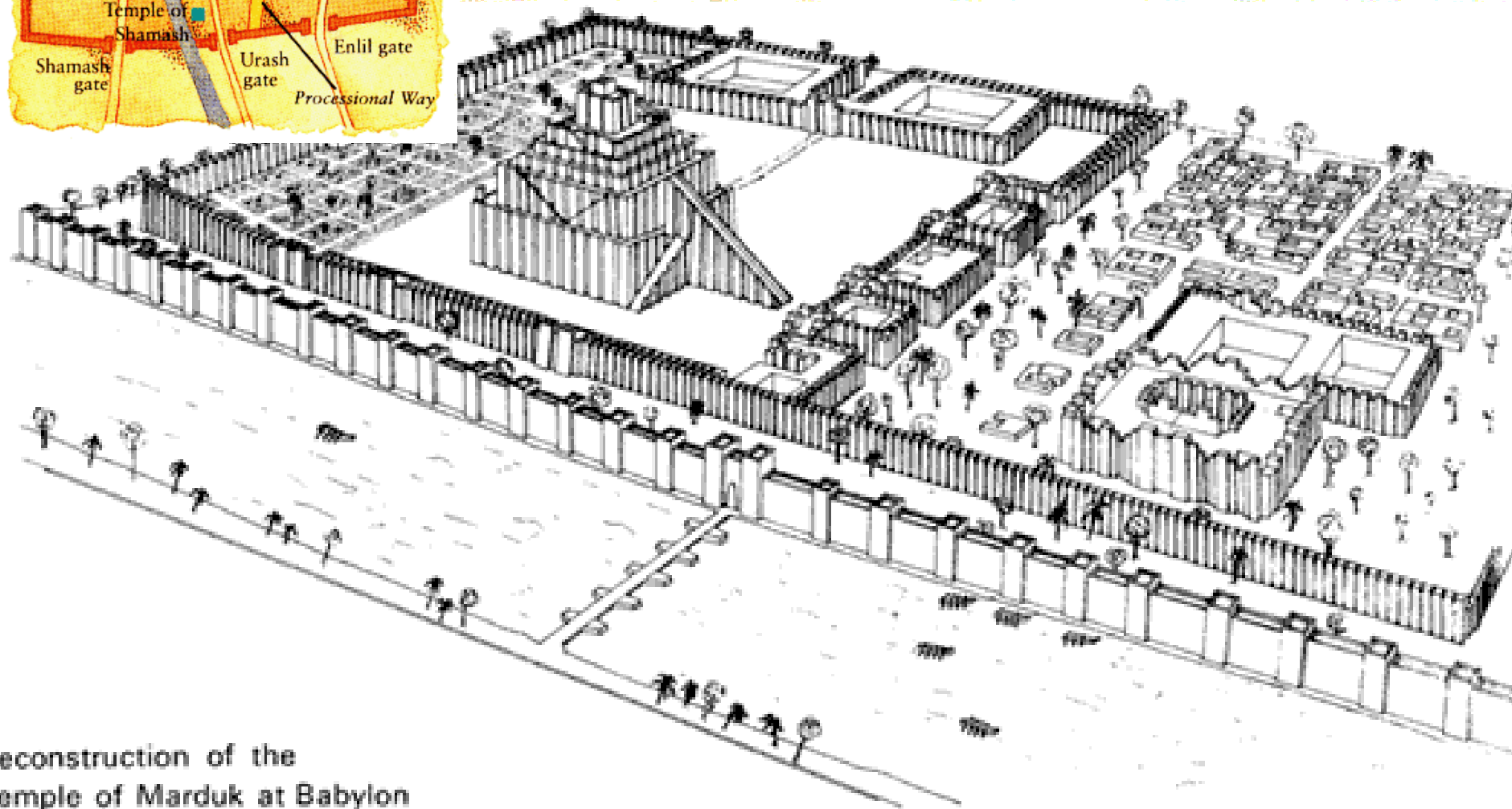
TO TRACE THE SEPARATION OF
THE PEOPLE FROM FOREIGN
INFLUENCE

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).

The city of Babylon



Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon 137



Reconstruction of the
Temple of Marduk at Babylon

RELIGION

138

Babylonians had many gods – Sumerian, Akkadian, imports from mountainous regions (N & E of Meso.) – which reflected their needs and fears

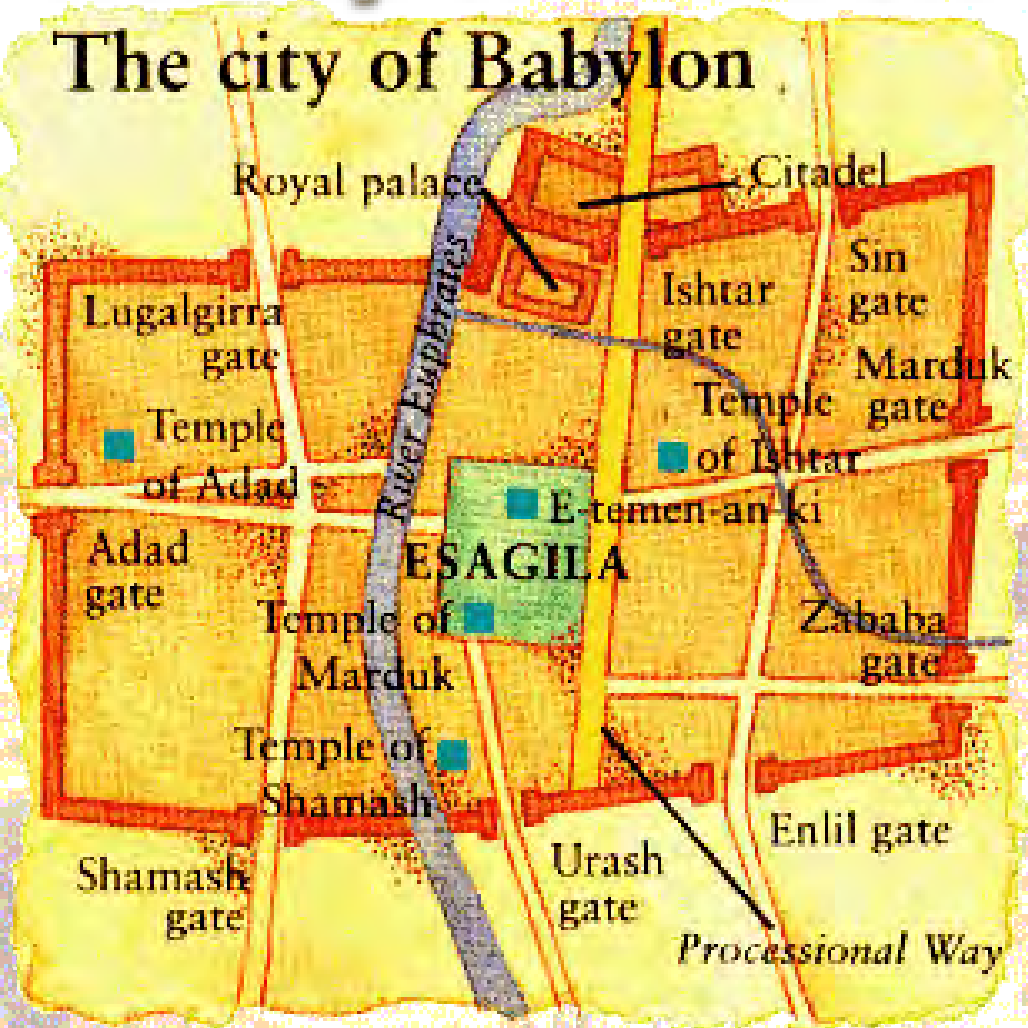
Marduk (Bel / Baal)

1. Son of Ea (wisdom)
2. Chief of Babylon's gods (rising sun)
3. Temples & a huge ziggurat (the temple of Esgalia)
4. Wife called Sarpanitu / Son - Nabu
5. Sacred number 10 / Planet Jupiter
6. Statue of pure gold – Babylon
7. Made men and fashioned the world



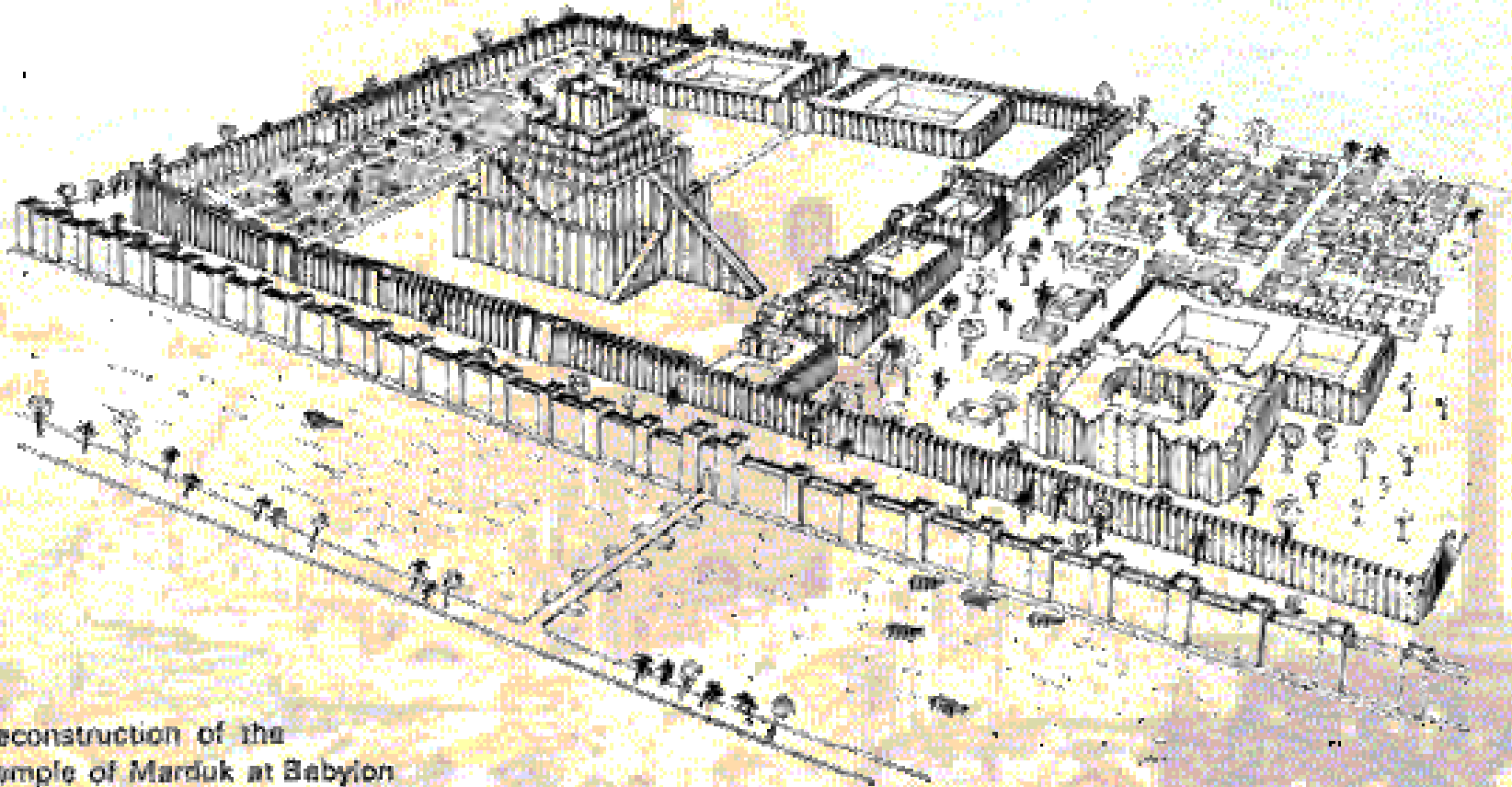
Worship of MARDUK

The city of Babylon



Babylon - time of Nebuchadnezzar II
Esagila - a huge sanctuary complex / temple of Marduk,
and E-Temen-an-ki,
the great ziggurat of Babylon,
probably the
prototype of the
Tower of Babel

Worship of MARDUK



Reconstruction of the
Temple of Marduk at Babylon

OTHER BABYLONIAN GODS

Pantheons – overlapped many cities

Every street bore the name of one of the gods

ISHTAR (goddess) – moon god

ENLIL (Sumerian Nanna) – charge of justice

SIN (Sumerian King god) – Venus

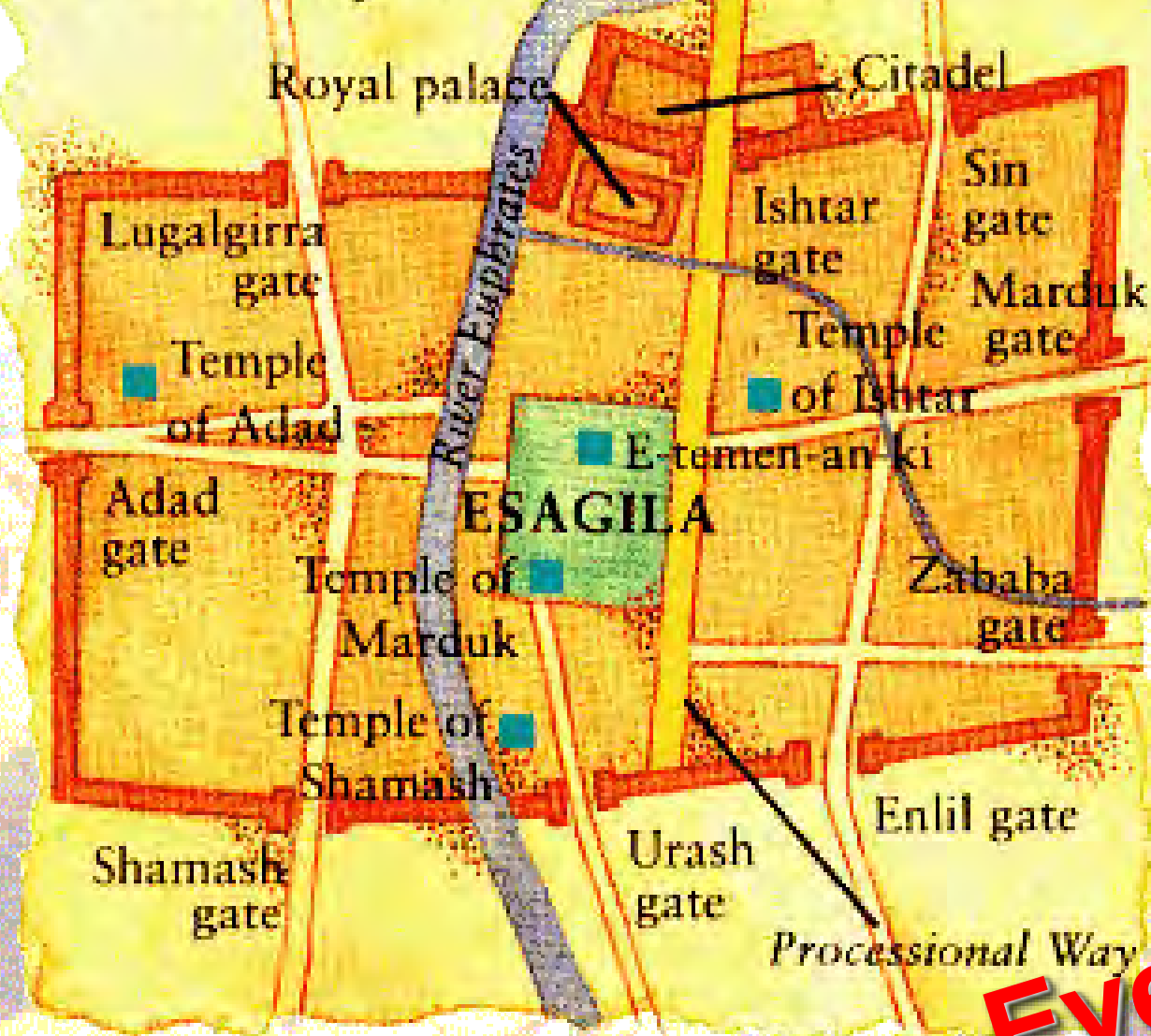
EA (Sumerian god) – god of heavens

SHAMASH (Sumerian god) – god of war and love

ANU (Sumerian god) – In charge of the weather

ADAD (weather god) – In charge of wisdom & magic

The city of Babylon



**Where
were the
gods?**

Everywhere!

Temples and Rituals

A RELIGIOUS METROPOLIS

- 53 temples of the chief gods
- 55 chapels of Marduk
- 300 chapels for earthly deities
- 600 for heavenly deities
- 180 altars for the goddess Ishtar
- 180 for gods Nergal and Adad
- 12 other altars for different gods

Babylon, the mother of prostitutes and of the
abominations of the earth (Rev 17:5)

RITUALS

- Daily presentation of offerings
- Cleaning garments of divine statues
- Purification of temples
- Special festivals (Akitu – New Year)

TEMPLES

- Each city had its own god and temple
- Had own land, slaves, animals & precious stones
- Priests foretold by reading nature & other elements
- Selling of charms and magical formulae

PERSONAL IDOLS

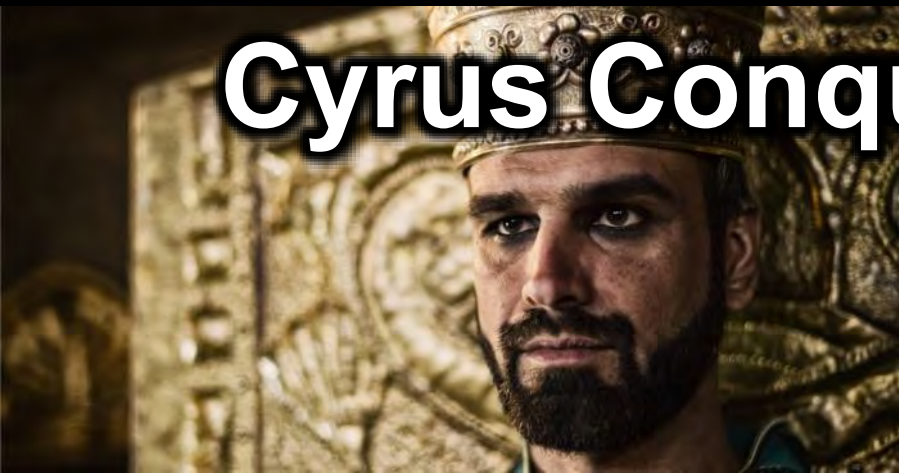
- Each Babylonian citizen had a 'personal' god
- Individuals made special requests (e.g., relief from illness)
- Acted as mediators from devotees to higher gods
- Benefit-driven so one would often abandon his god

Ziggurats

- Shows the city and king's devotion to their city god
- Huge stepped structure



Cyrus Conquered Babylon

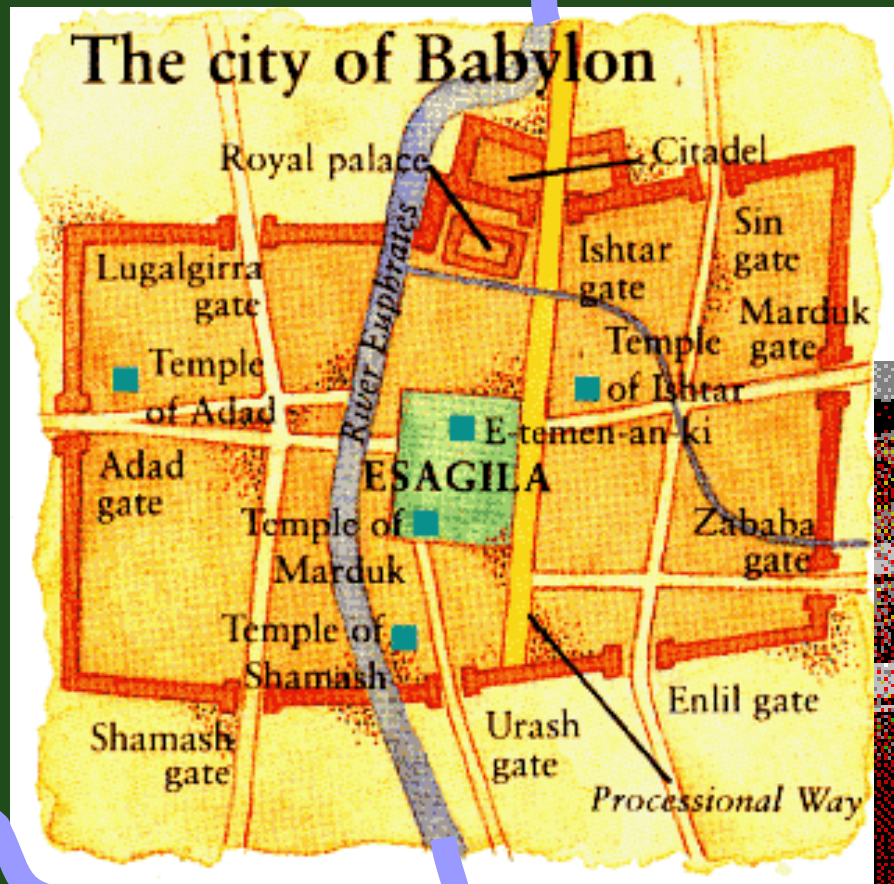


Belshazzar's Feast (Daniel 5)

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)

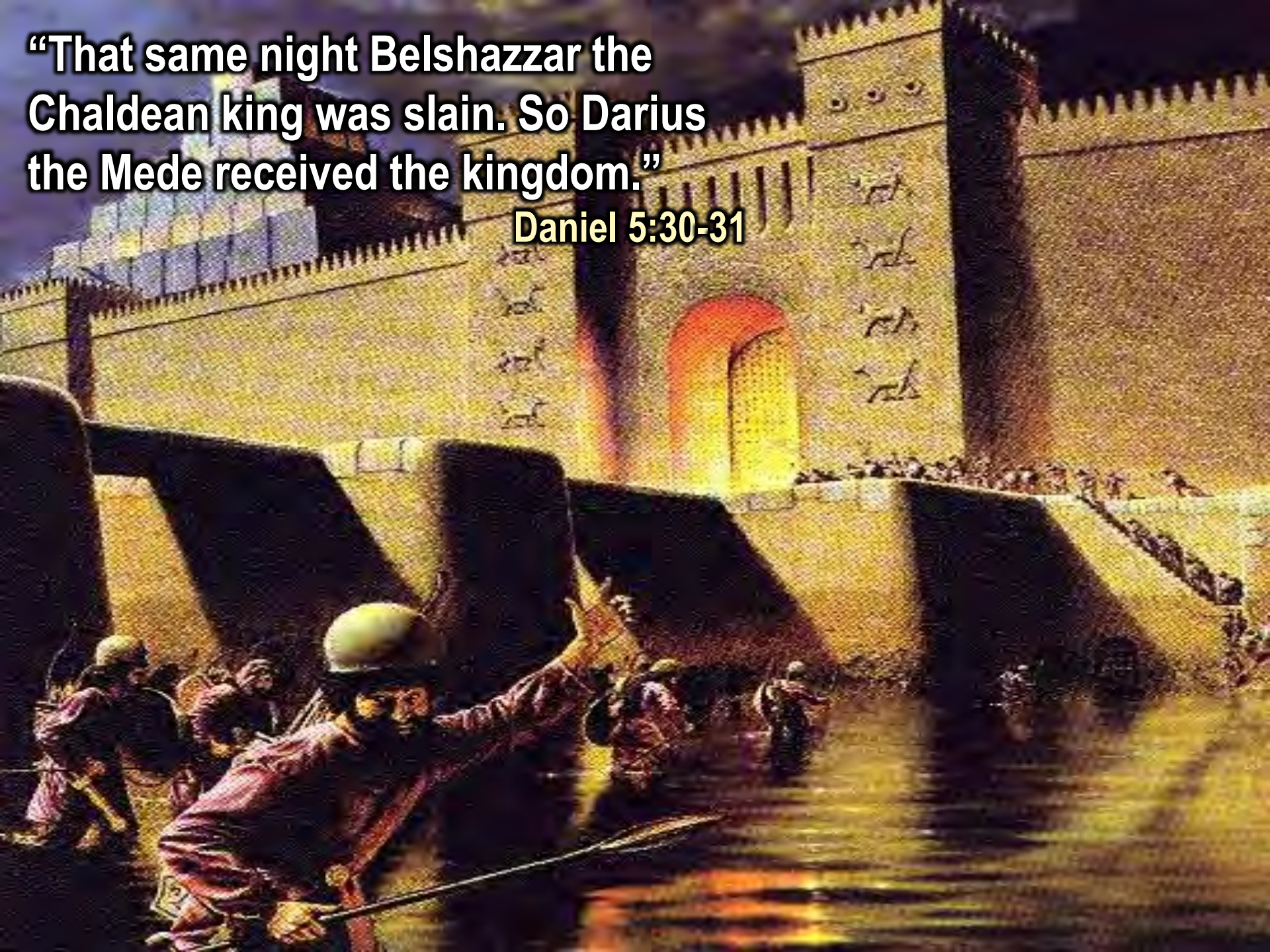
544b

"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

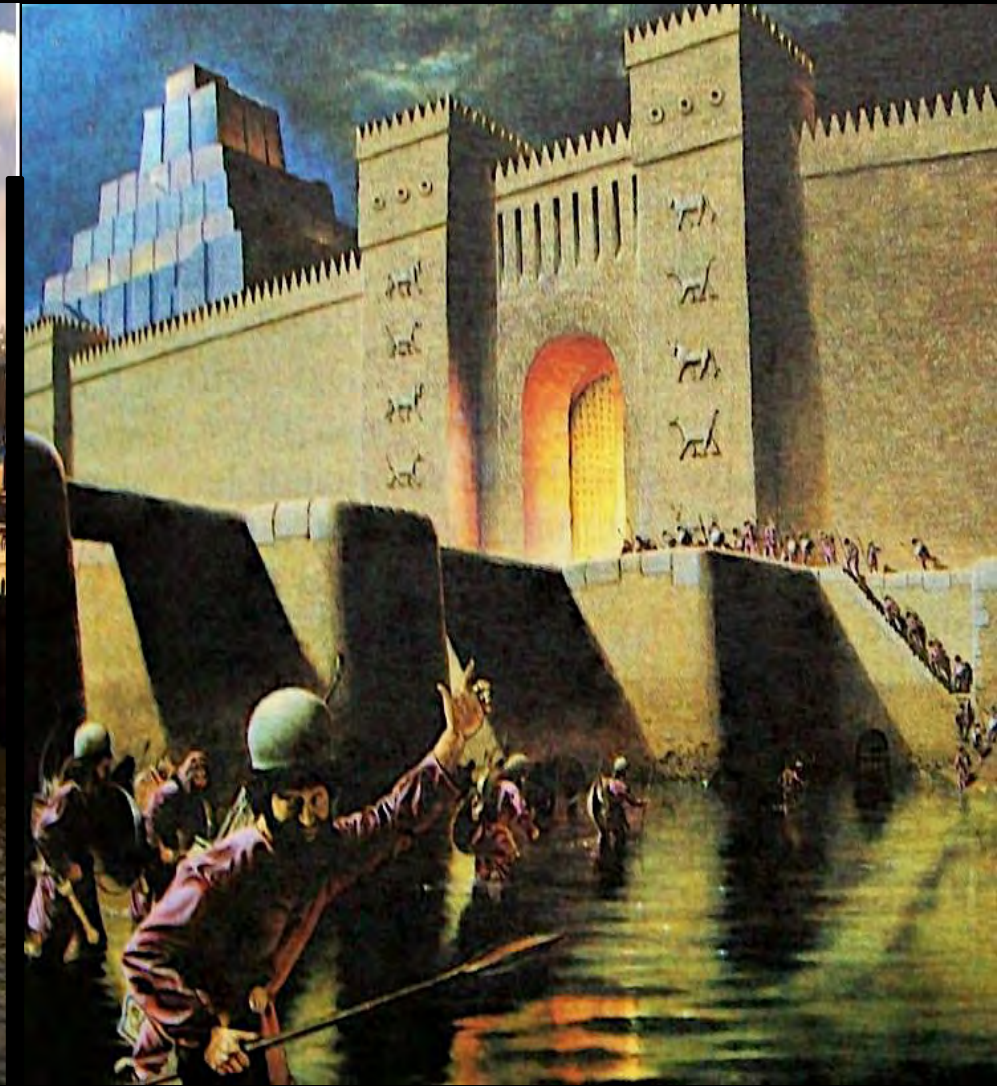
Stephen D. Anderson



Cyrus Conquers Babylon

A dramatic painting depicting the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus the Great. The central figure is Cyrus, a bearded man wearing a golden crown and an ornate, patterned robe. He holds a long spear in his right hand and a bundle of reeds in his left. He is surrounded by soldiers, some of whom are visible in the foreground and background, holding spears. The background shows the ruins of the city of Babylon, with its characteristic arches and walls. The sky is filled with smoke and fire, suggesting a battle scene. The overall tone is heroic and epic.

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.



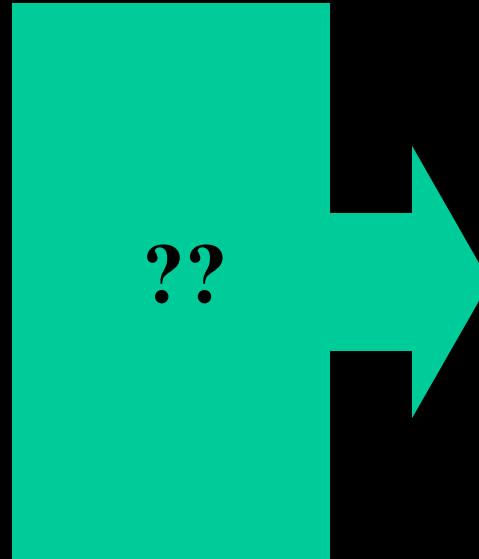
The Meaning of "Anointed"

Amazing Prophecies

460



**Stamford
Raffles (1819)**



**Lee Kwan Yew
(1959)**

Did you hear that Raffles wrote 160 years before Lee Kwan Yew, "Behold, a man named Lee will arise to make Singapore its own country..."?

Amazing Prophecies



Isaiah (700 BC)

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



Cyrus (539 BC)

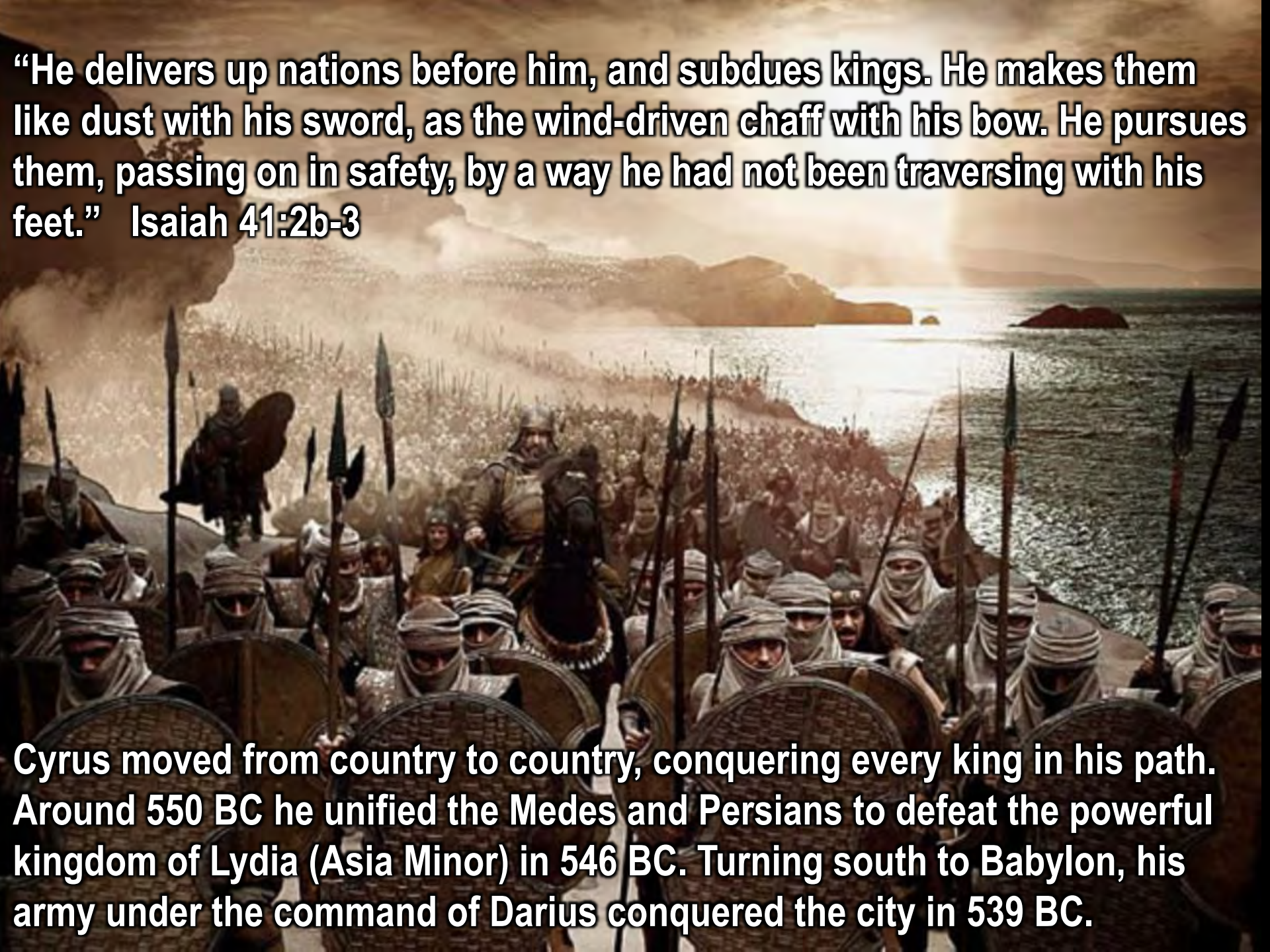
"When I say of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,' he will certainly do as I say. He will command, 'Rebuild Jerusalem'; he will say, 'Restore the Temple' "
(Isa. 44:28 NLT)

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

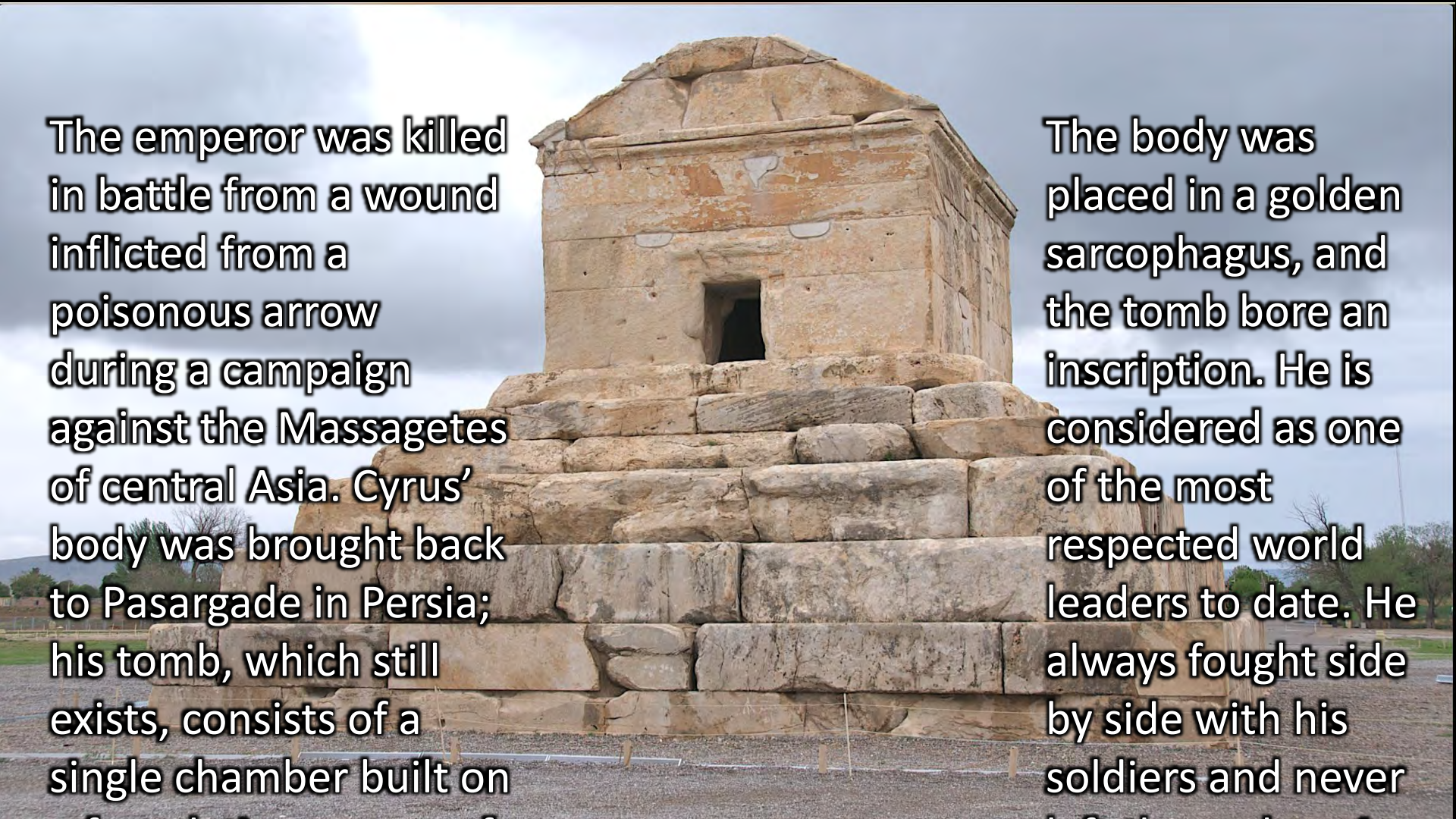


Cyrus moved from country to country, conquering every king in his path. Around 550 BC he unified the Medes and Persians to defeat the powerful kingdom of Lydia (Asia Minor) in 546 BC. Turning south to Babylon, his army under the command of Darius conquered the city in 539 BC.

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



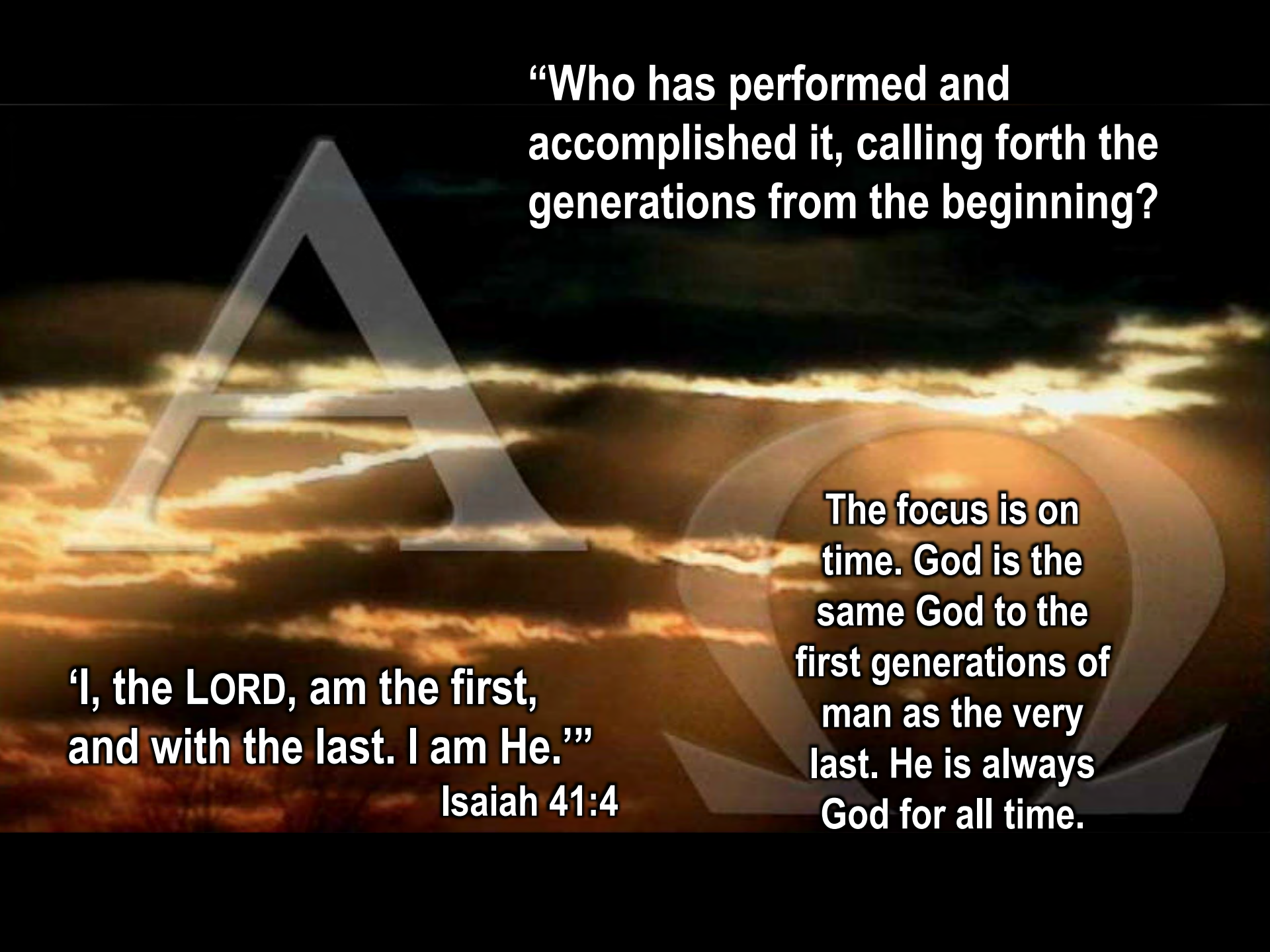
"I am Cyrus, king of the universe..."

"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."

“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



“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.

A close-up portrait of a man with a dark beard and mustache, wearing a golden crown adorned with intricate designs and small green and blue gemstones. He is looking slightly to the left with a serious expression. The background is a blurred, golden-toned wall with ancient stone carvings and reliefs.

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

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org

[illegible]

Why church?

A woman with dark hair is shown from the chest up, singing with her mouth open and hands raised. Three musical notes (yellow, orange, and white) are floating in the air around her head. The word "Sing?" is written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline across the center of the image. The background is a soft, light green gradient.

Fellowship?

Serve?

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?

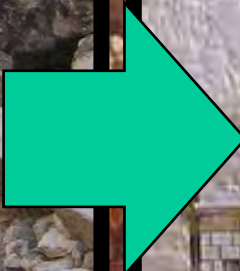
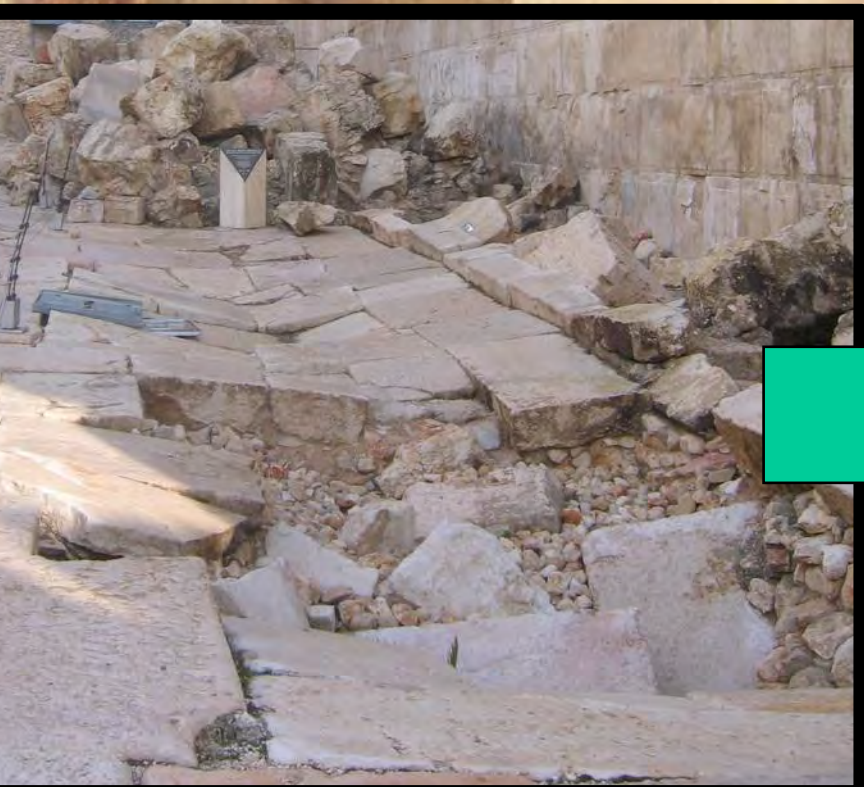


**God delivers us from our
bondage to **worship** him.**



Main Idea to Apply Ezra

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



Two 70-Year Exiles

560



"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



Others:

Zerubbabel

Esther

Ezra

Nehemiah

Persian Kings:

Cyrus

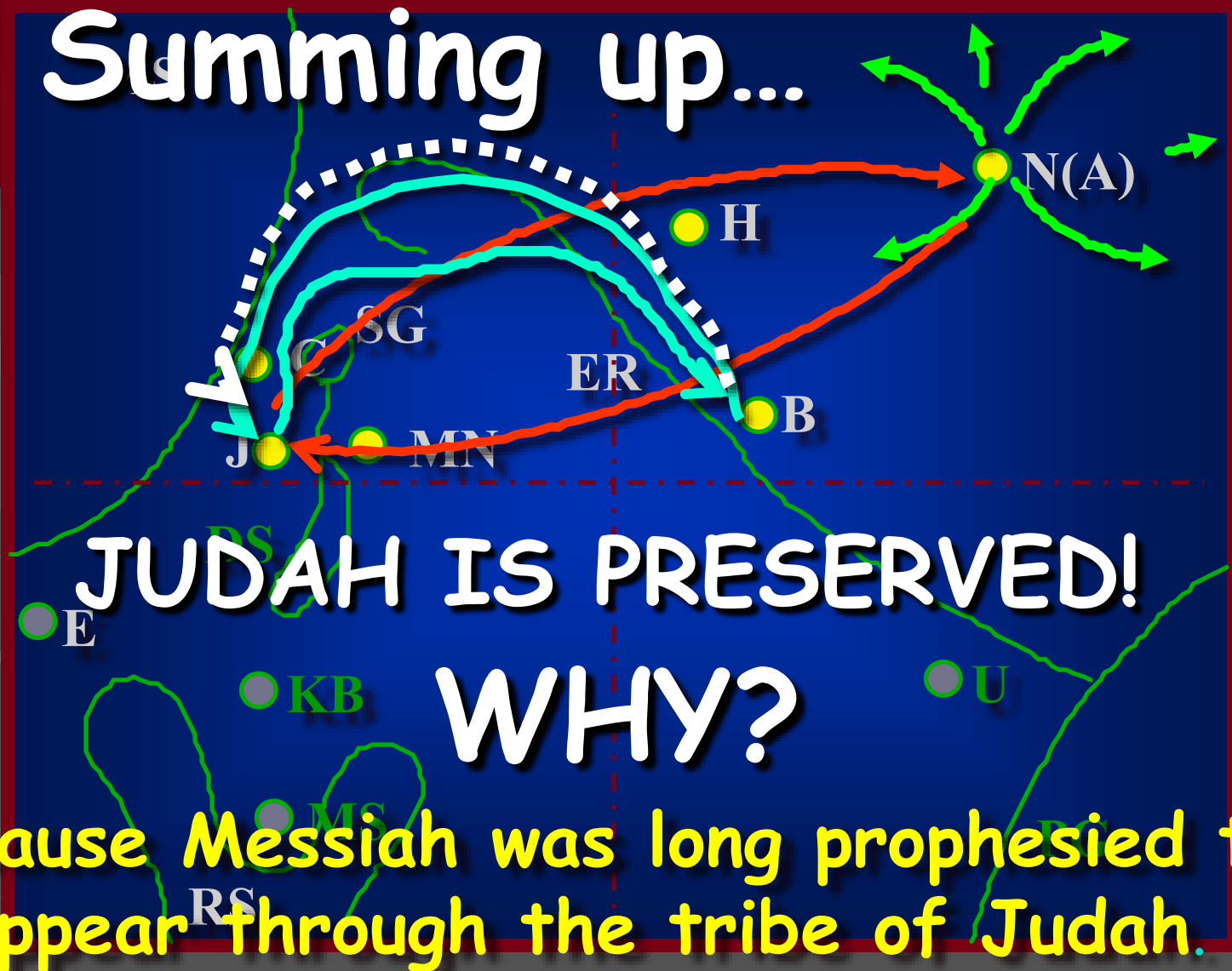
Darius

Xerxes

Artaxerxes

**DRESSING
THE
STAGE**

Summing up...



7

The *THIRD*
of
THREE
SOCIETIES
is:

ARC

CAPTIVITY

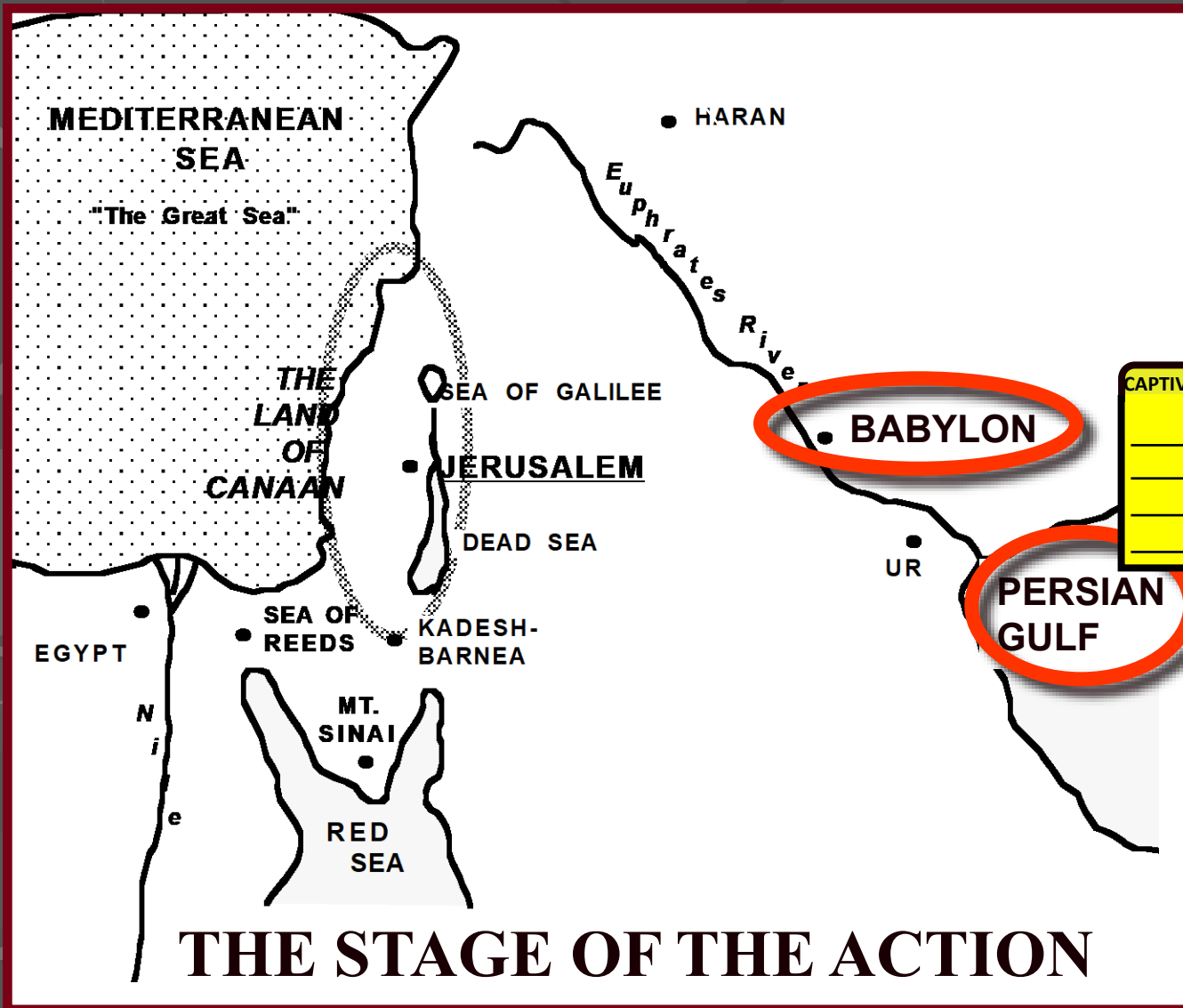
CAPTIVITY

The Ancient City of Babylon

Euphrates River

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

CAPTIVITY



7

CAPTIVITY

70 YEARS

3 TREKS

ARC

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

Judaism in Israel and the Diaspora



Jewish life revolved around Solomon's temple for 400 years (959-586 BC)

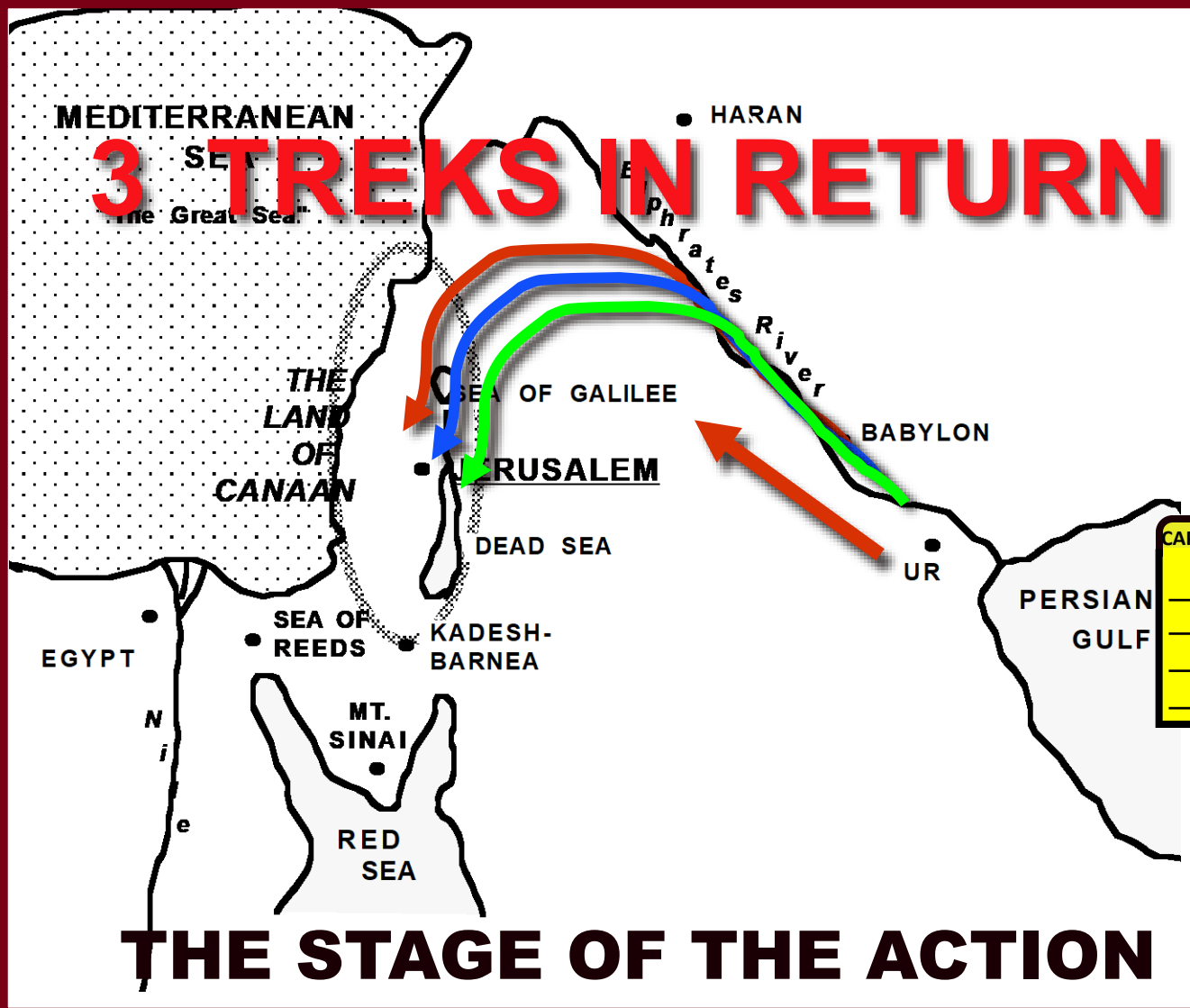
The background is a classical painting of the Temple of Jerusalem. It features a large, ornate entrance with two tall, fluted columns topped with papyrus capitals. The architecture is made of light-colored stone blocks. In the foreground, there is a sandy courtyard. To the right, a large, tiered stone structure, possibly an altar or a platform, is visible. Two figures in long, flowing robes are standing near this structure. The overall style is that of a 19th-century religious painting.

**Jews Maintained
Holiness at the Passim**

**Temple
Destroyed!**

7

AR



CAPTIVITY

70 Years
3 Treks

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

70 YEARS

3 TREKS

100 YEARS / 50,000

Z - E - N

EZRA

ARC

NEHEMIAH

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.

70 YEARS
3 TREKS
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

The Kingdom in Matthew 1

FALL OF THE KINGDOM

ESTABLISHING THE ETERNAL KINGDOM





The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

"In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of King Jehoiachin of Judah, Evil-merodach ascended to the Babylonian throne. He was kind to Jehoiachin and released him from prison on April 2 of that year. ²⁸He spoke kindly to Jehoiachin and gave him a higher place than all the other exiled kings in Babylon. ²⁹He supplied Jehoiachin with new clothes to replace his prison garb and allowed him to dine in the king's presence for the rest of his life. ³⁰So the king gave him a regular food allowance as long as he lived."

—2 Kings 25:27-30 NLT

Kindness to Jehoiachin in Exile

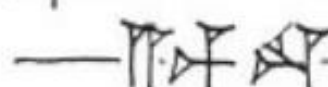
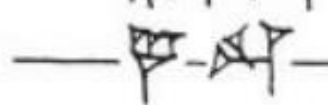


**Ration Tablet
Berlin Museum**

Babylon
excavation
1899-1917



Jehoiachin's Ration Tablet in Exile

38.  38.
39.  39.
40.  40.

B, Vs. II :

38. $\frac{1}{2}$ (PI)	<i>a-na</i> [¹ <i>j</i>] <i>a-'u-DU</i> <i>šarri</i> <i>šá</i> <i>mátja</i> -[<i>a-hu-du</i>]
39. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>sila</i>	<i>a-na</i> 2[+ 3 <i>mârê</i>] ^{meš} <i>šarri</i> <i>šá</i> <i>mátja</i> - <i>a-hu-du</i> [...]
40. 4 <i>sila</i>	<i>a-na</i> 8 ^{amél} <i>ja-a-hu-da-a-a</i> $\frac{1}{2}$ [<i>sila</i> ^{am}]

38.10 *sila* (oil)

for Jaukin, King of Judah.

39. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sila* (oil)

for 5 sons of the King of Judah.

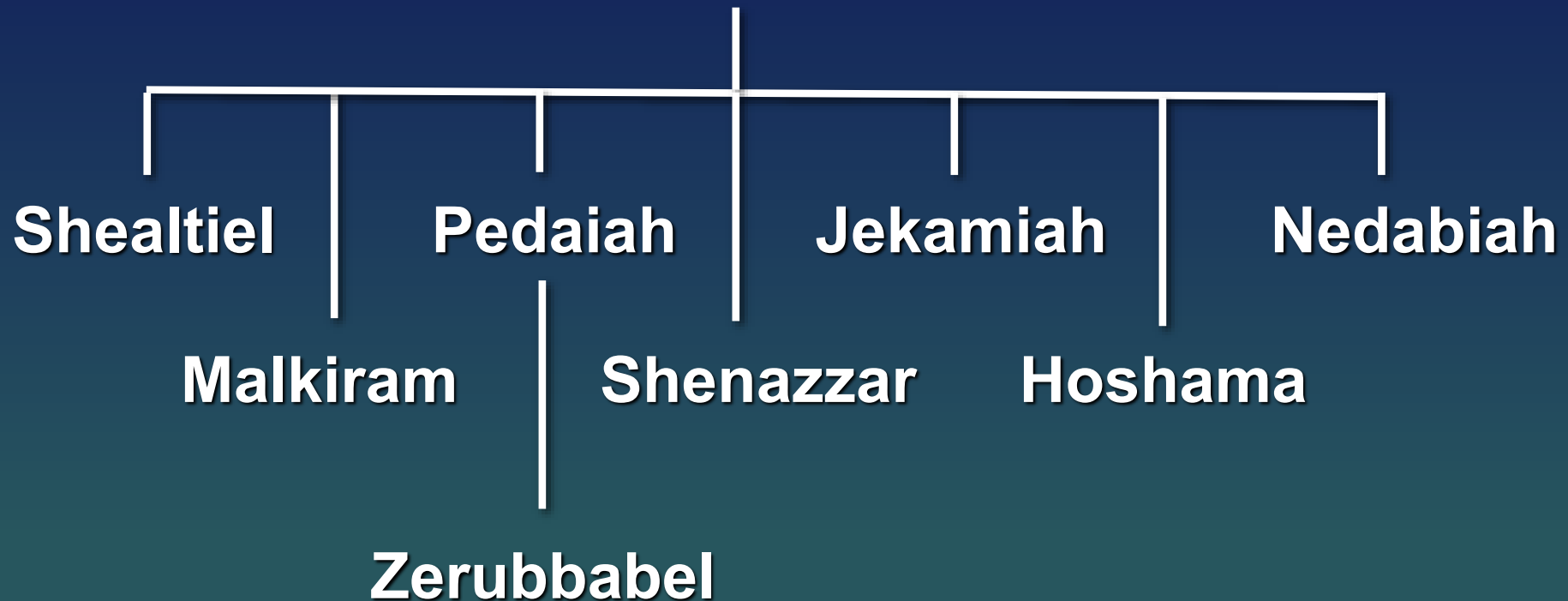
40. 4 *sila* (oil)

for 8 men of Judah; $\frac{1}{2}$ *sila* [for each man].

Grace in Exile

Jehoiachin
(Jeconiah/Coniah)

597 (ruled 3 mos.)



The Lineage of Jehoiachin/ Jeconiah/ Coniah

(1 Chron 3:17-24)

Jehoiachin



Pedaiah

+ 6 brothers



Zerubbabel

+ 1 brother (Shimei)



Hananiah

+ 6 brothers + 1 sister



Shecaniah

+ 5 brothers



Shemaiah

+ 0 brothers



Neariah

+ 5 brothers



Elioenai

+ 2 brothers

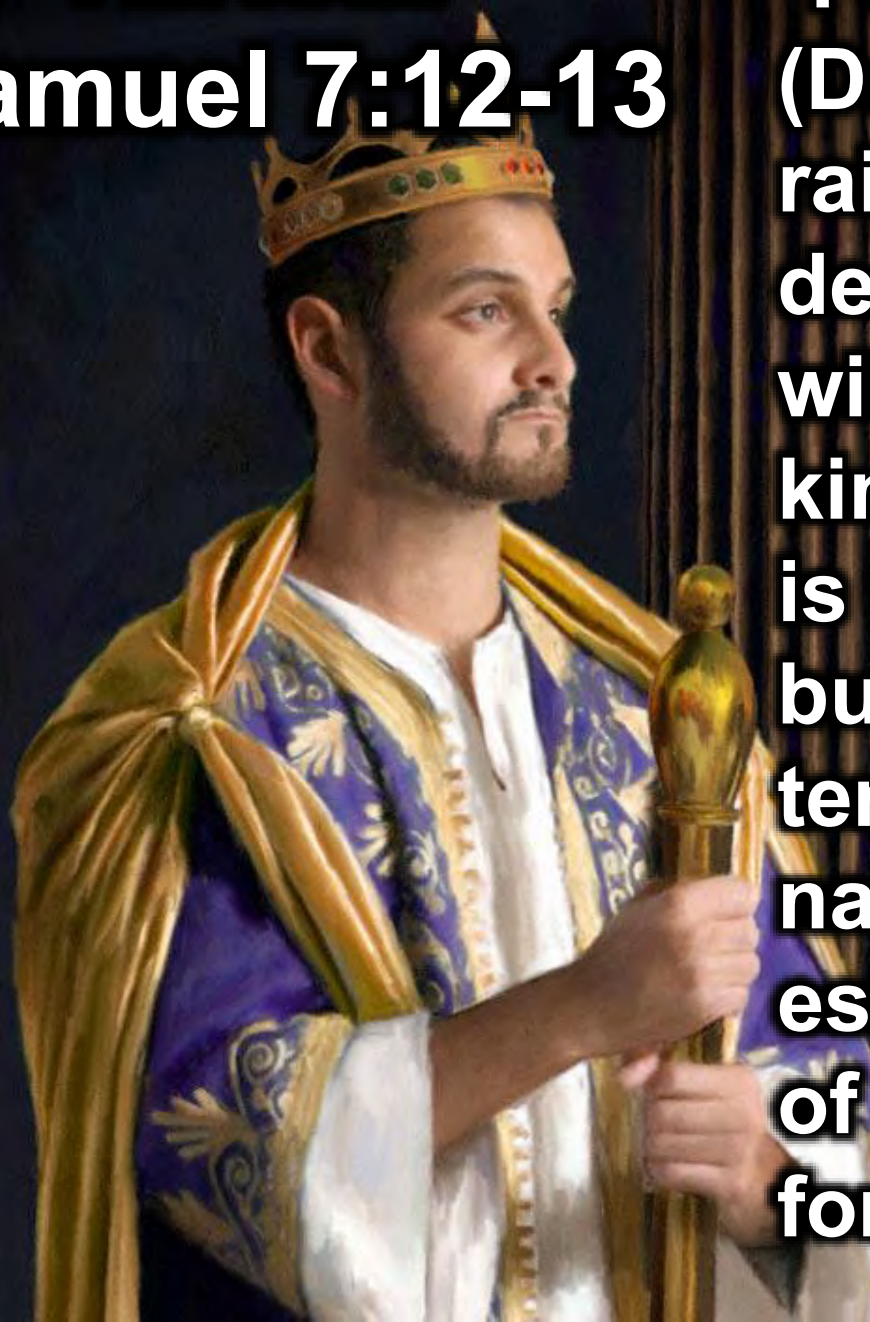


Hodaviah

+ 6 brothers



KEY VERSE:
2 Samuel 7:12-13



209
“For when you
(David) die, I will
raise up one of your
descendants, and I
will make his
kingdom strong. He
is the one who will
build a house—a
temple—for my
name. And I will
establish the throne
of his kingdom
forever.”

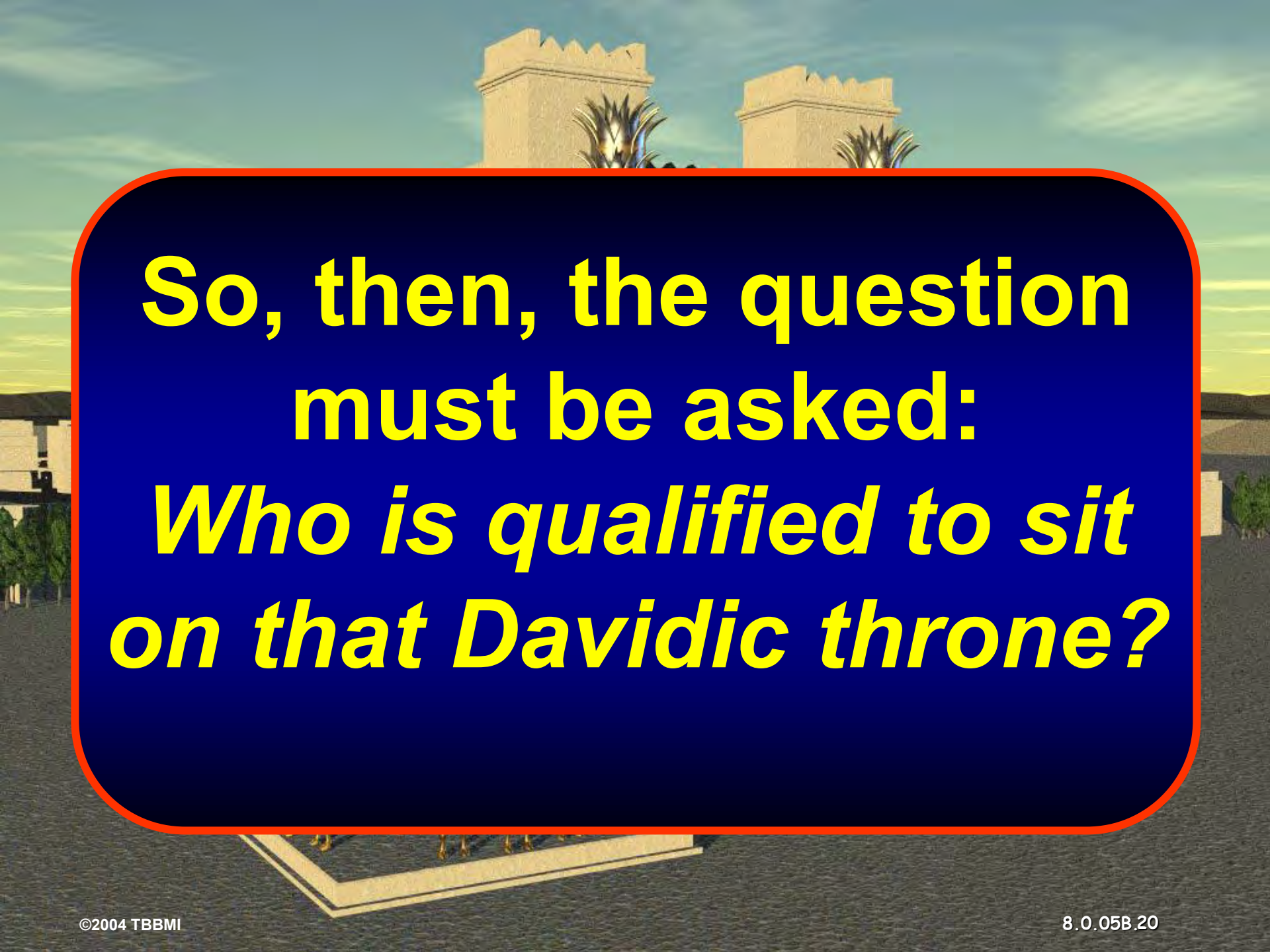


THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

ITS THREE GUARANTEES

2 Samuel 7

¹⁶ Your **house** and your **kingdom** will endure forever before me; your **throne** will be established forever.



**So, then, the question
must be asked:
*Who is qualified to sit
on that Davidic throne?***



THE DAVIDIC DYNASTY

The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ

STUDY HELP #16

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*

***VASTLY
ABBREVIATED**

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*

ADAM — EVE

Scripture Location:

Genesis 3:20

***VASTLY
ABBREVIATED**

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



Scripture Location:

Genesis 4:1-2; 4:8

***VASTLY
ABBREVIATED**

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



Scripture Location:

Genesis 4:25

***VASTLY
ABBREVIATED**

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



Scripture Location:

Genesis 5:29

***VASTLY
ABBREVIATED**

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



Scripture Location:

Genesis 11:26

***VASTLY
ABBREVIATED**

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



Scripture Location:

Matthew 1:2-6

NOAH

ABRAHAM (Sarah)

DAVID

***VASTLY
ABBREVIATED**

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



Scripture Location:

2 Samuel 12:24

NOAH

ABRAHAM

DAVID — BATHSHEBA

***VASTLY
ABBREVIATED**

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*

ADAM — EVE
└──┬──┘
CAIN ABEL SETH

⋮
NOAH

⋮
ABRAHAM

⋮
DAVID — BATHSHEBA
└──┬──┘
NATHAN SOLOMON

Scripture Location:

2 Samuel 5:14

*VASTLY
ABBREVIATED

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*

ADAM — EVE
└──┬──┘
CAIN ABEL SETH

Scripture Location:

Luke 3:23
Plus Others

NOAH

ABRAHAM

DAVID — BATHSHEBA

NATHAN SOLOMON



MARY

*VASTLY
ABBREVIATED

LUKE 3:23 (see other references)

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*

LUKE 3:23 (see other references)

Luke 3:23: "Now Jesus himself was about 30 years old when He began His ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph." (NIV)

"Luke was tracing the line of Mary. Many interpreters [among varied positions...] argue that Luke was giving the genealogy of Mary, showing that she also was in the line of David and that therefore Jesus was qualified as the Messiah, not only through Joseph (since he was the oldest legal heir) but also through Mary."

Louis Barbieri, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, eds. John Walvoord & Roy Zuck (Victor Books, 1983), 212.

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*

ADAM — EVE
└──┬──┘
CAIN ABEL SETH

Scripture Location:

Matthew 1:16

NOAH

ABRAHAM

*VASTLY
ABBREVIATED

DAVID — BATHSHEBA
└──┬──┘
NATHAN SOLOMON



MARY



JOSEPH

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*

ADAM — EVE
└──┬──┘
CAIN ABEL SETH

Scripture Location:
Matthew 1:16

NOAH

ABRAHAM

*VASTLY
ABBREVIATED

DAVID — BATHSHEBA
└──┬──┘
NATHAN SOLOMON



MARY — JOSEPH
└──┘
JESUS CHRIST

THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



THE LINE OF DAVID: The Royal Genealogy of Jesus Christ*



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

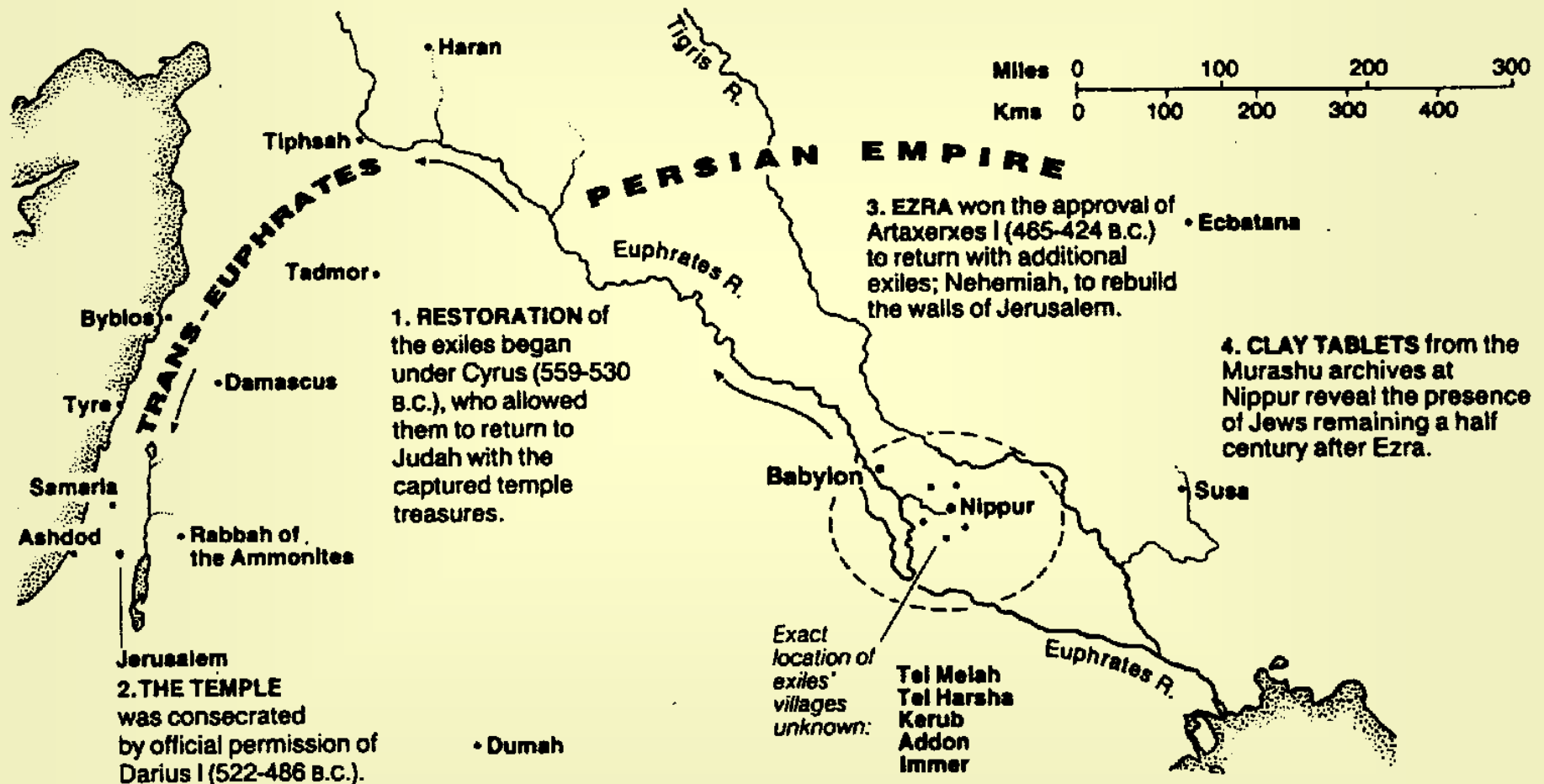


"In Egypt, under Cambyses and especially Darius I, the Persian kings sought to patronize the local cults. For Cambyses the high dignitary Udja-Hor-resenet acted in the role of an Egyptian adviser, and enlisted his interest in the temple of the goddess Neith of Sais. Darius I in turn was served by this 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



*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



Syria

Lebanon

Israel

Jordan

Egypt

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**

Har Homa

Tantur

Mar Elias

Ramat Rahel

Bethlehem aerial from north near Jerusalem



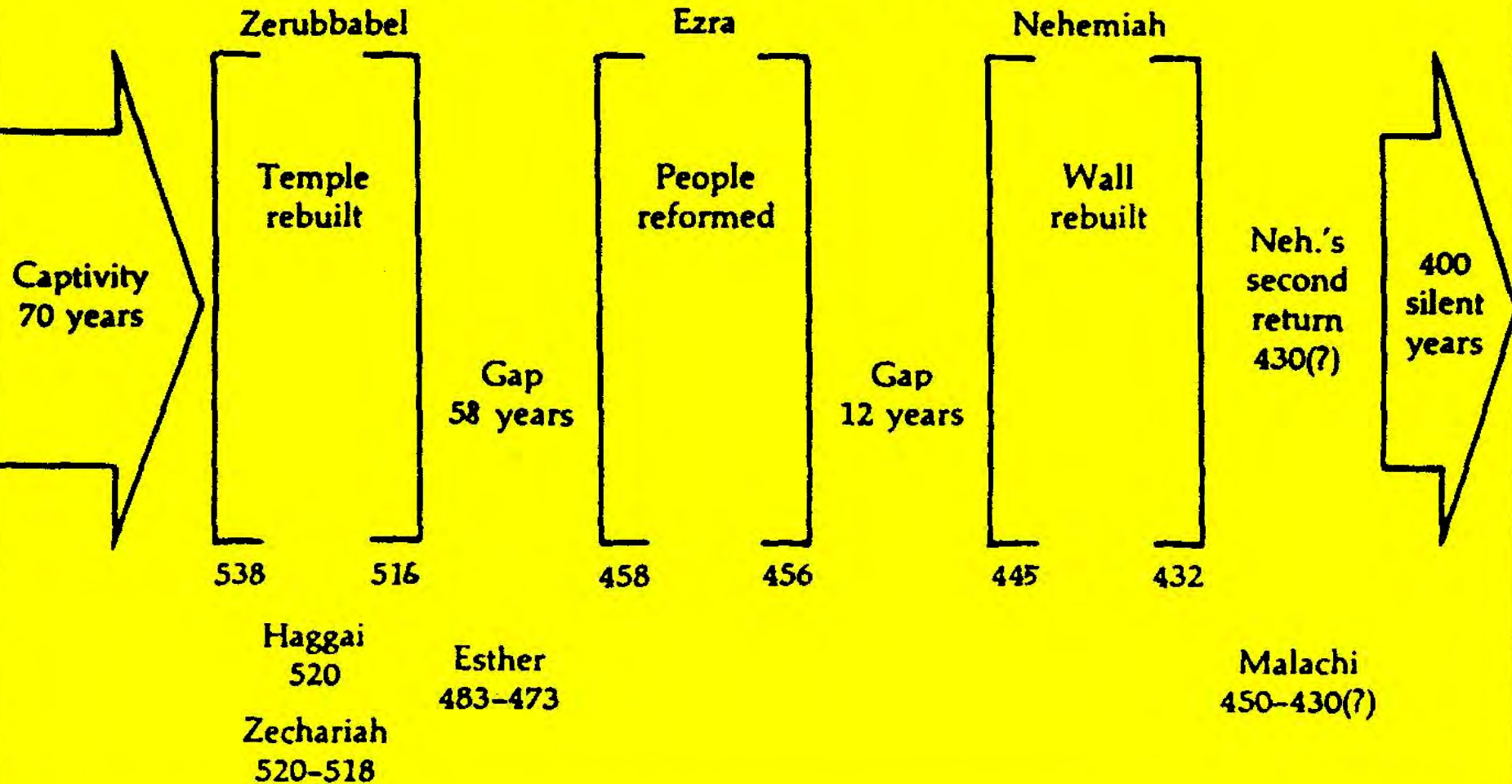
Ezra 2

Returns from Exile

295

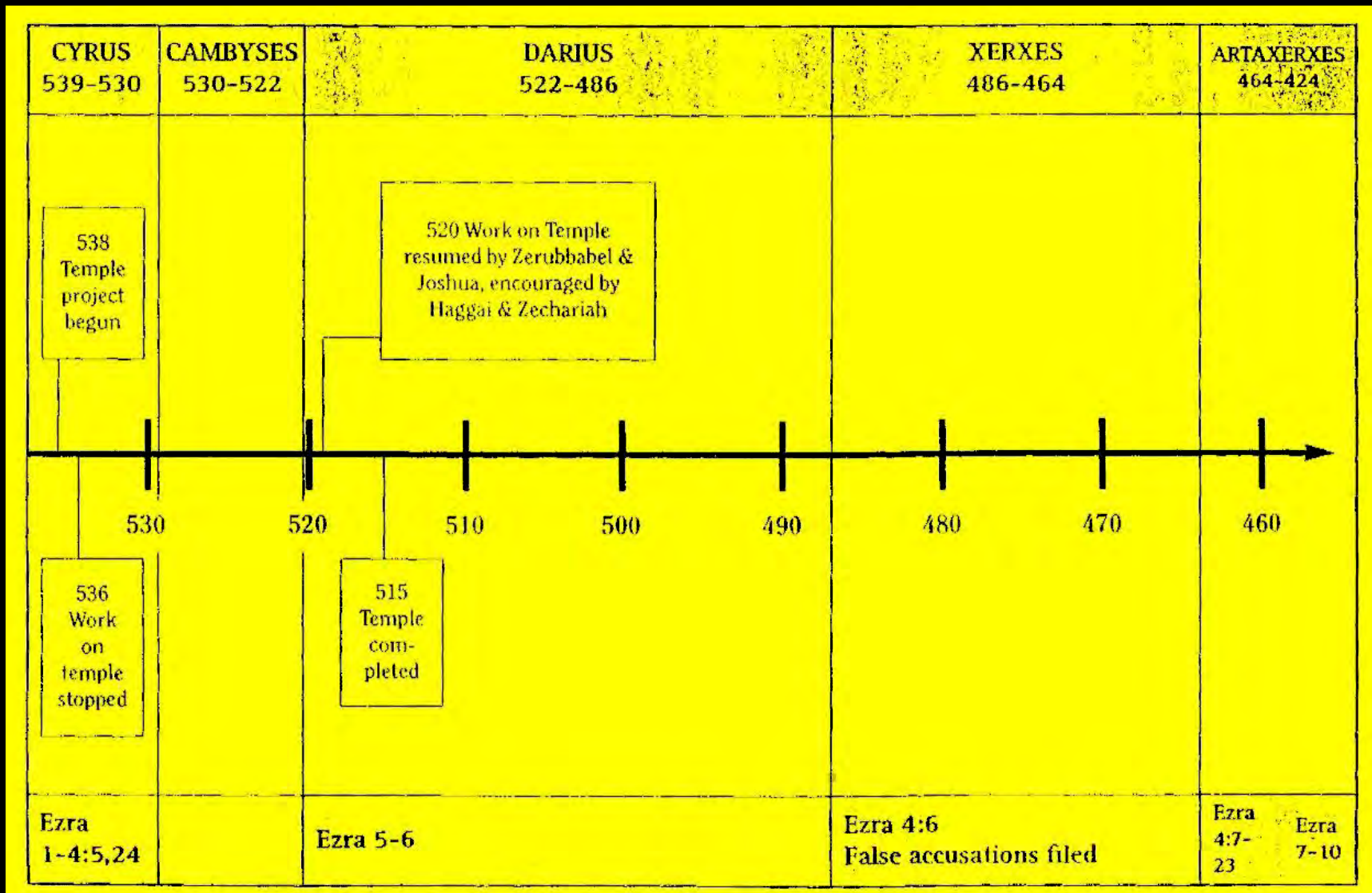
John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*, 35 &
John A. Martin, "Ezra," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:652, adapted

The Three Returns from Exile



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.

	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	EVENT	REFERENCE
540 B.C.					
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
500	520	VI +Sept.	24 21	Work on temple renewed under Darius	Ezr 5:2; Hag 1:14
	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



Judgments = 70 years

Bondage = 50 years (586-536)

Chronology of the Captivity

Judah's Captivity 606-536

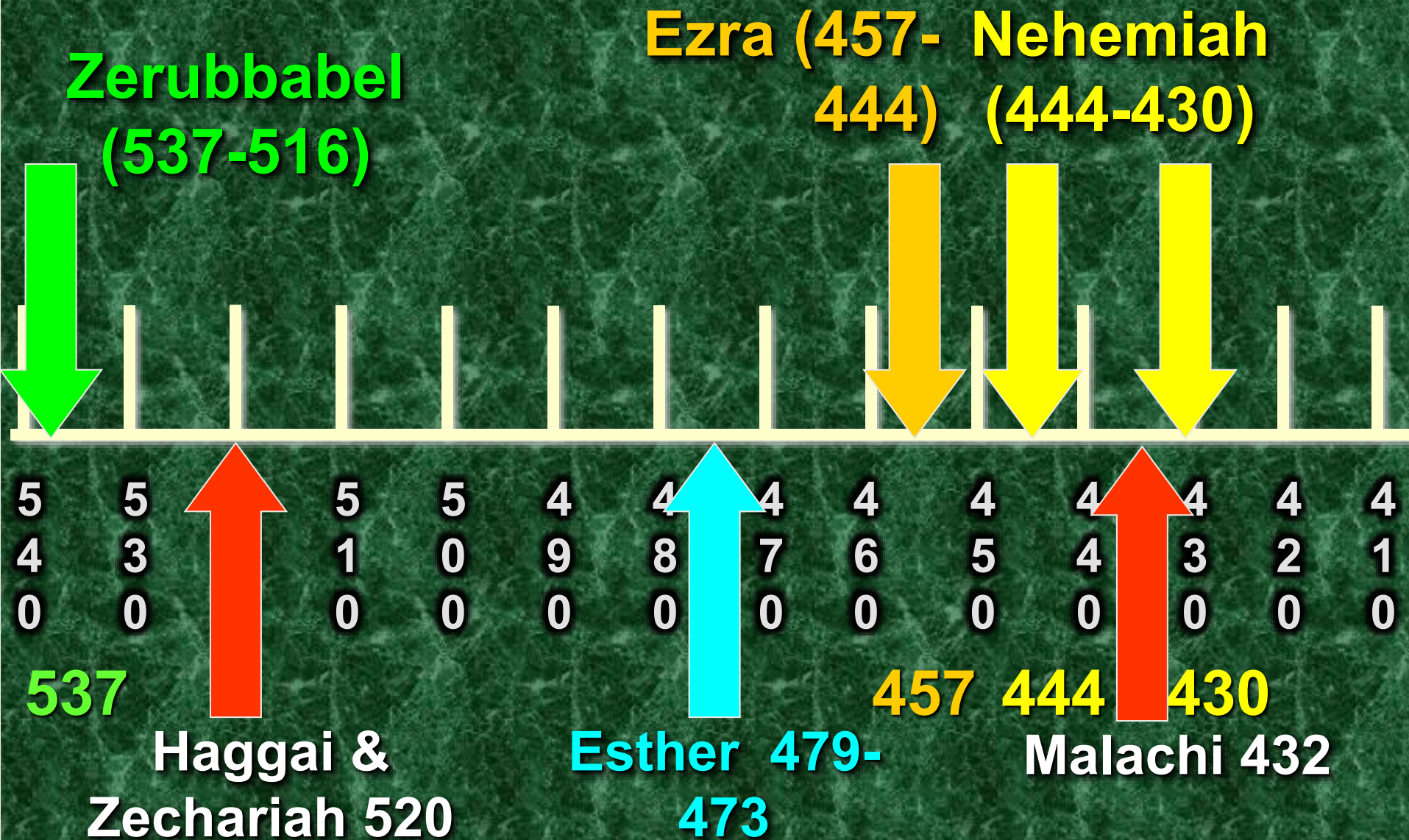
Temple's Desolation 586-516

Ezekiel 597-572

Daniel: 606-536

[illegible]

Chronology of Ezra-Nehemiah



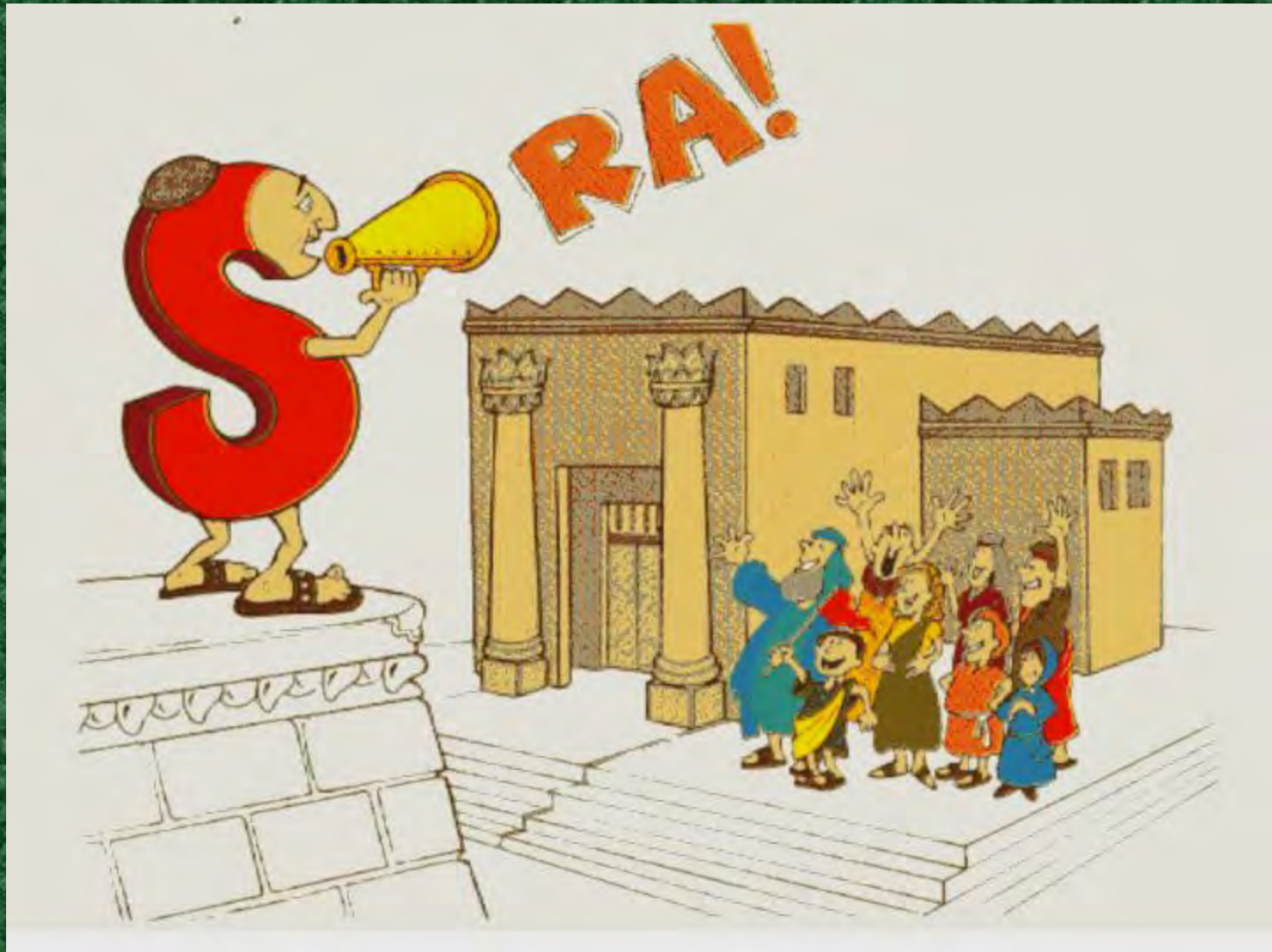
Ezra's Correlation with Esther

289

Restoring the Temple and People

Temple					Book of Esther (58 YEAR GAP)	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)

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

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

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

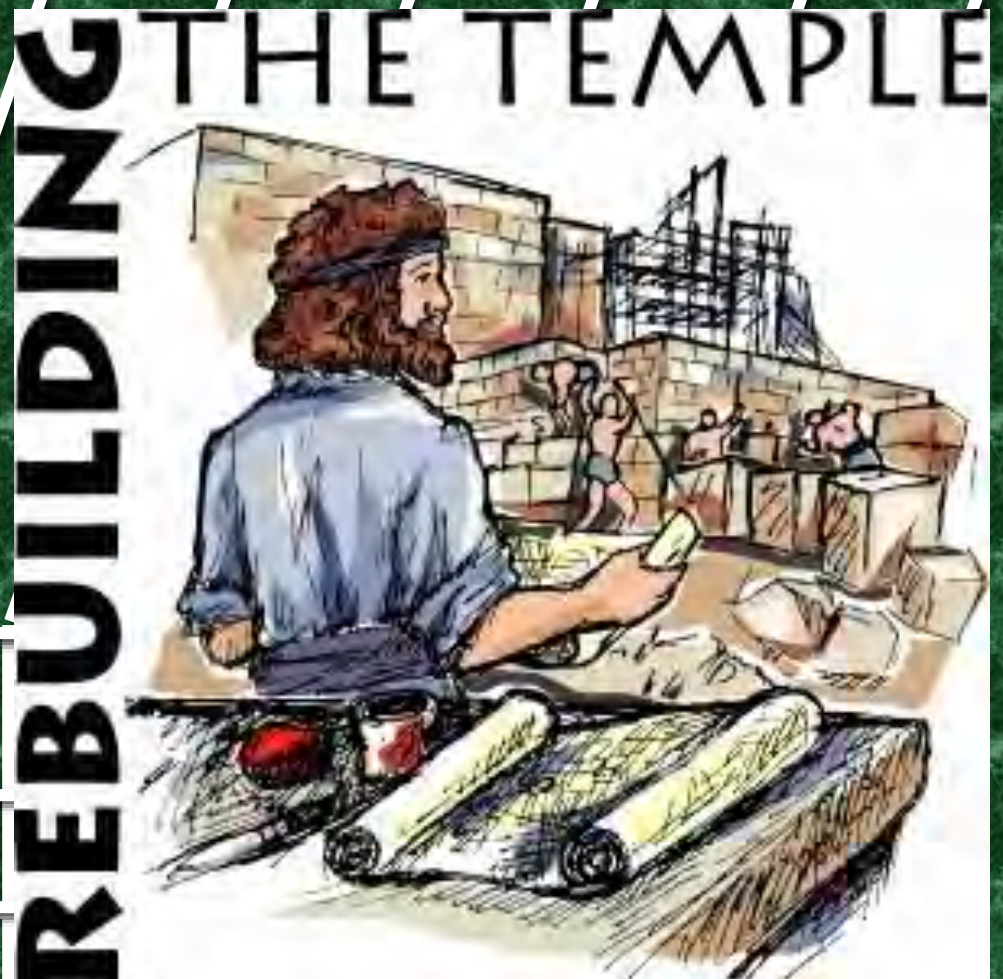
Returning 1-2

Restoring 3-6

Rebuilding
1-6

Zerubbabel

537

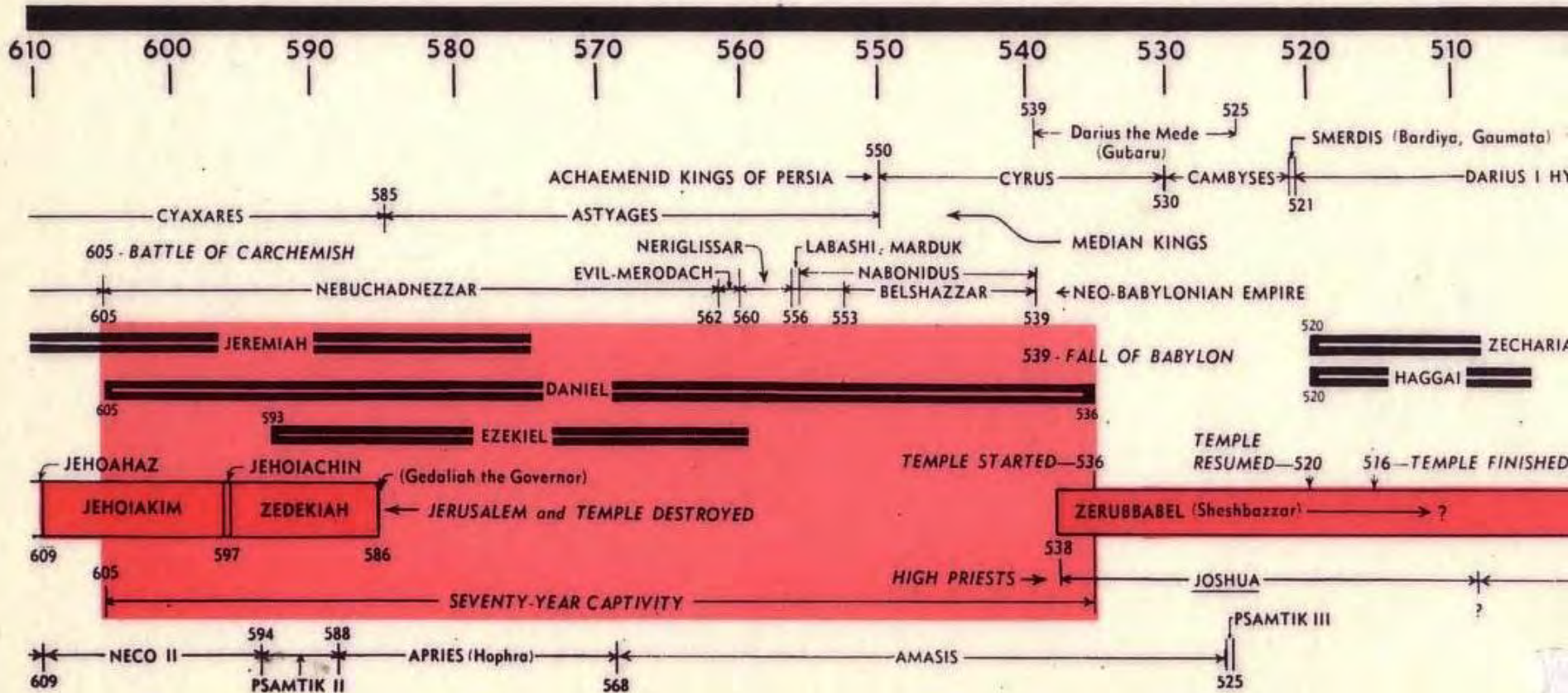


232 & 342



Chart of the Exile

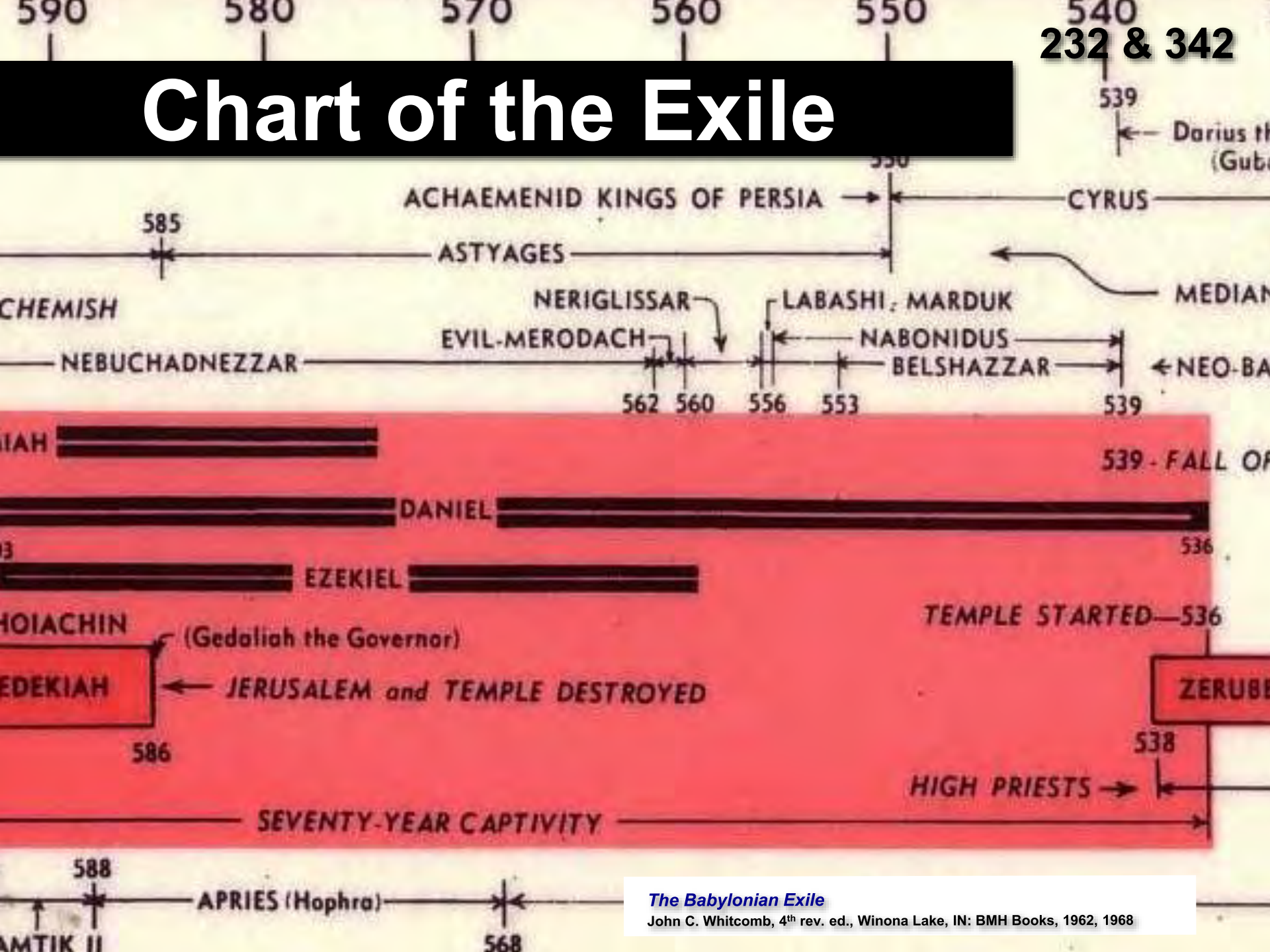
232 & 342



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)





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



Date

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

Dates in Haggai

Prophecy
#1

8/29

1:1

Rebuilding
Resumes

9/21

1:15

Prophecy
#2

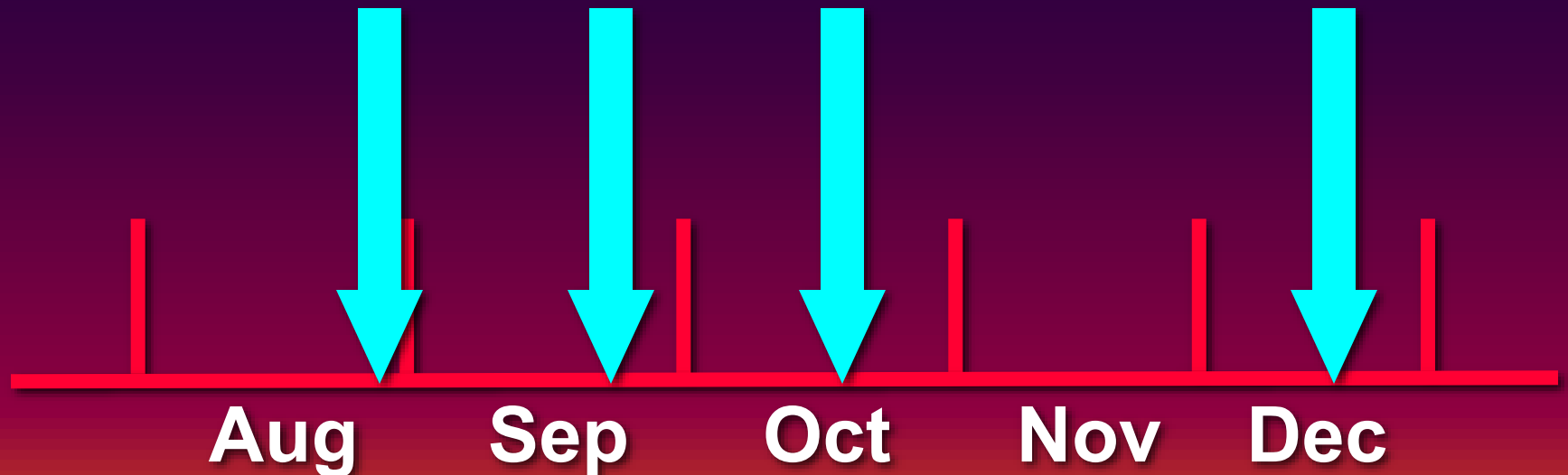
10/17

2:1

Prophecies
#3-4

12/18

2:10, 18, 20



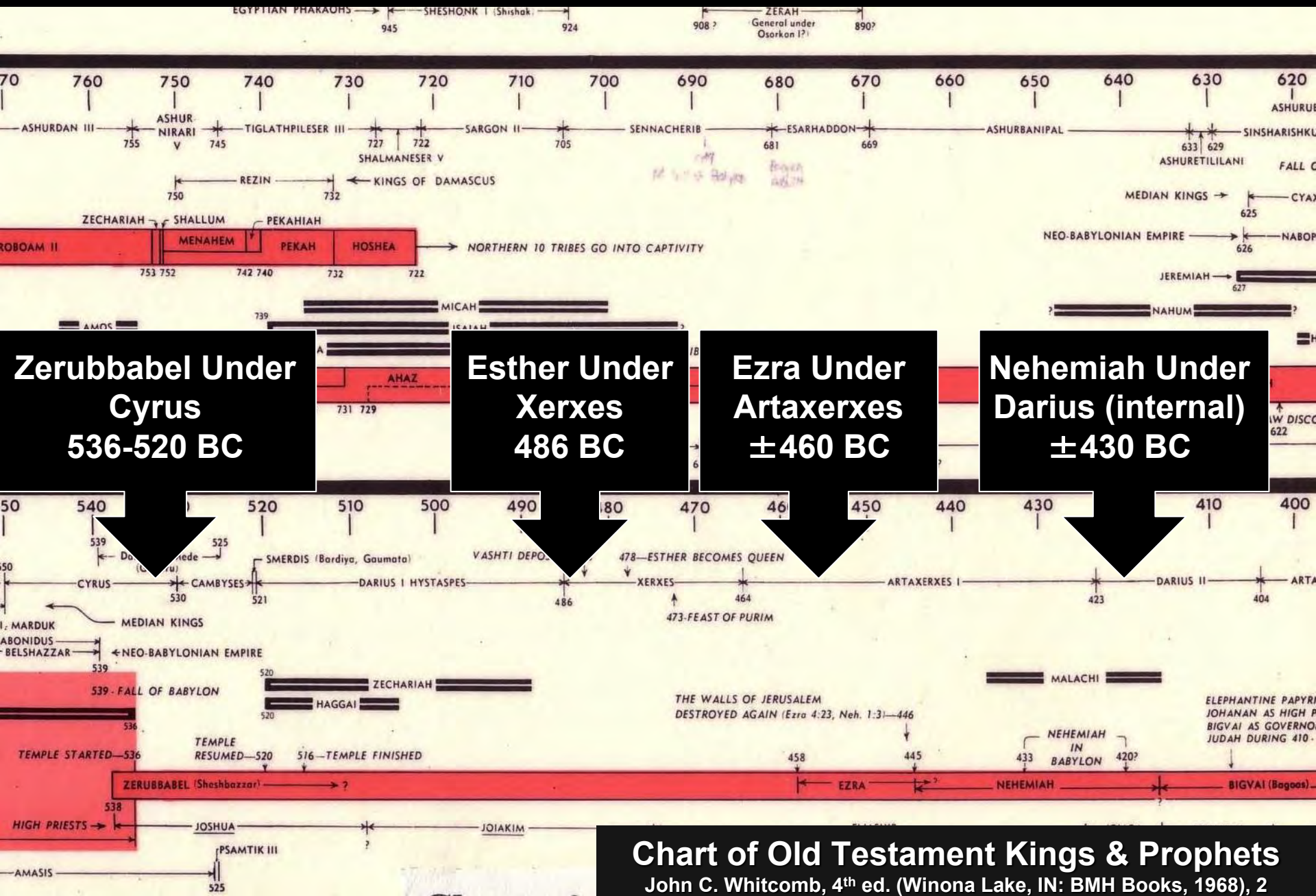
520 B.C.

“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

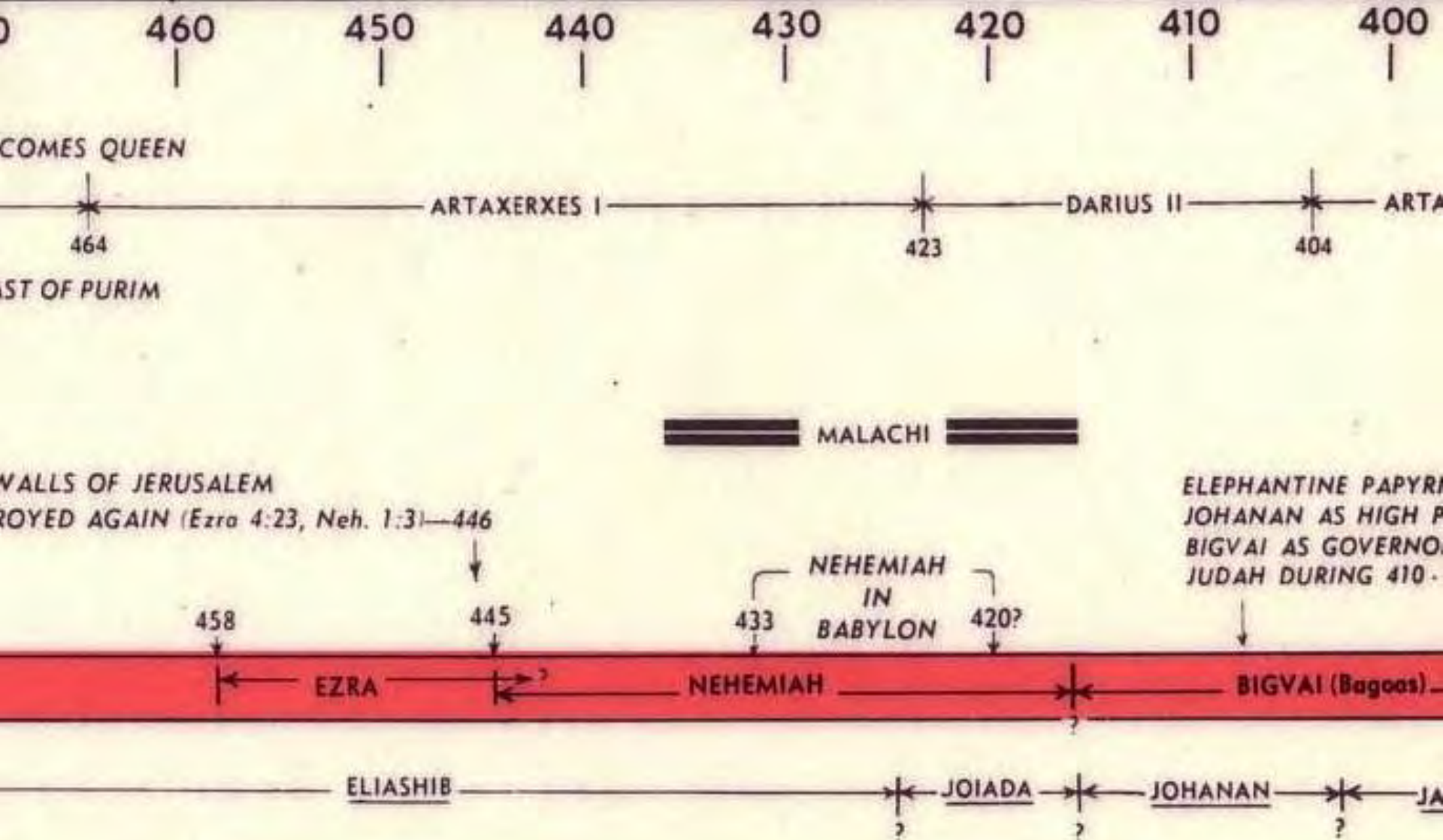
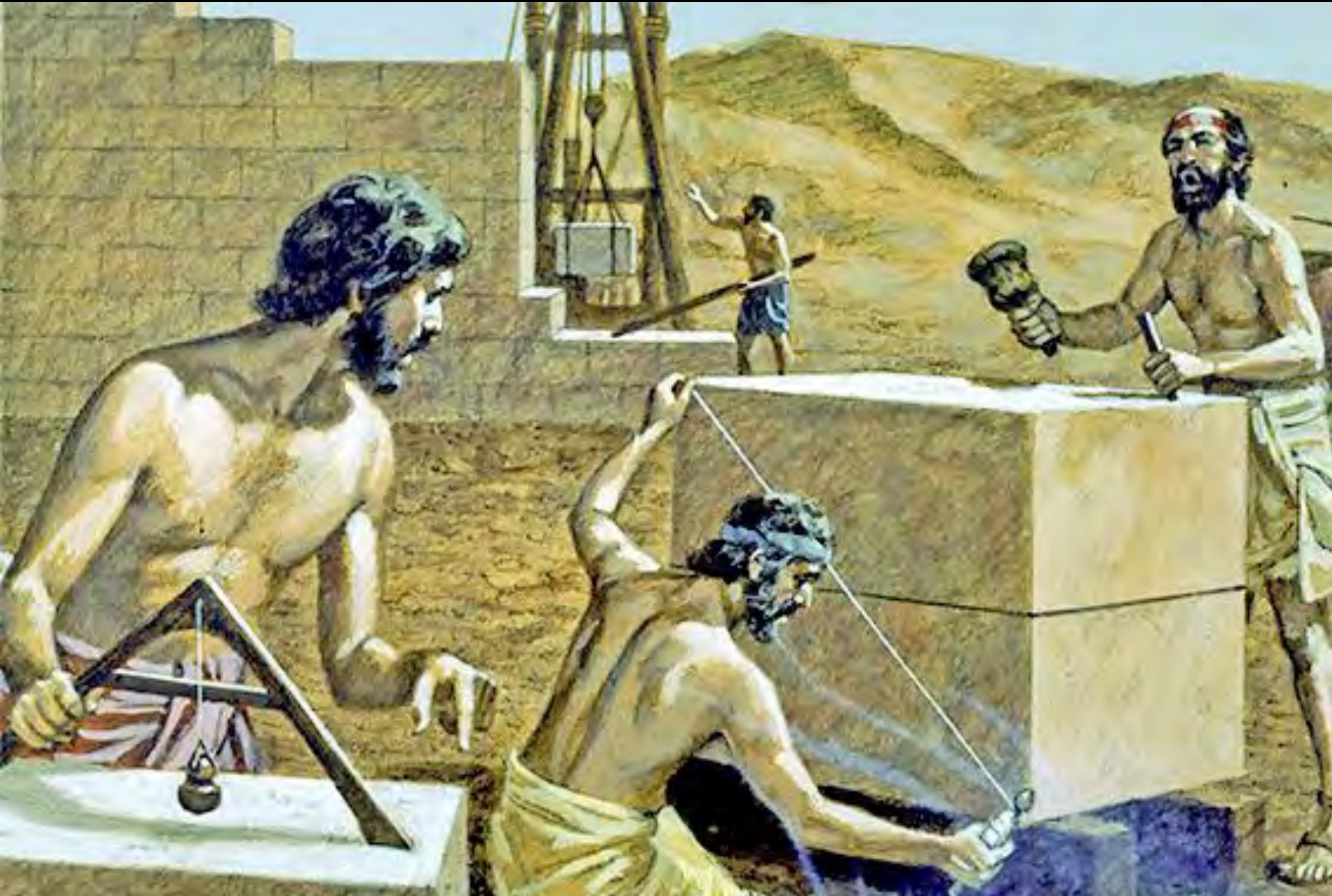


Chart of Old Testament Kings & Prophets

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				Book of Esther (58 YEAR GAP)	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

Ezra 6

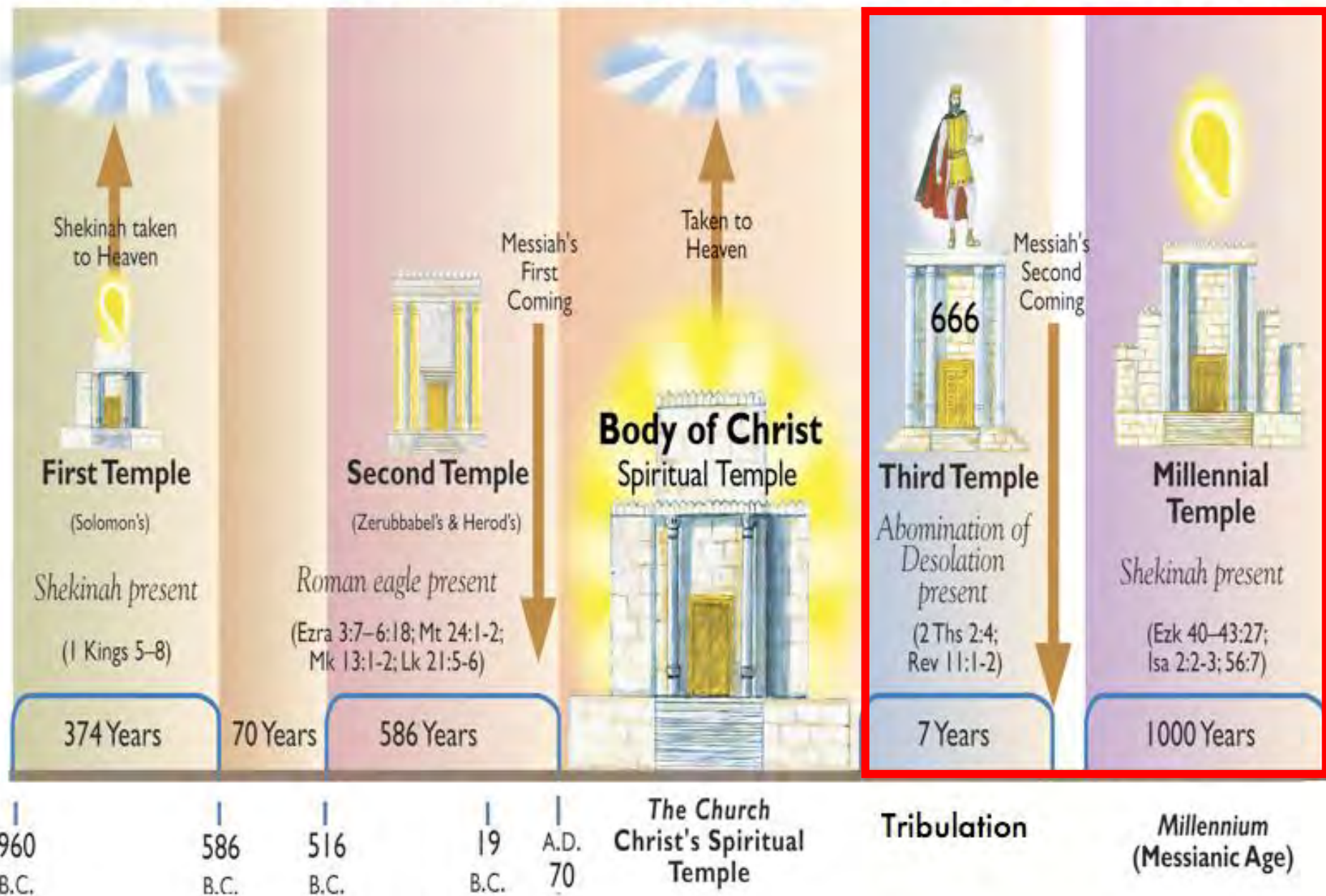


**Temple Completion in 516 BC
(Ezra 6:15)**

Temple Location



THE TEMPLE THROUGH TIME

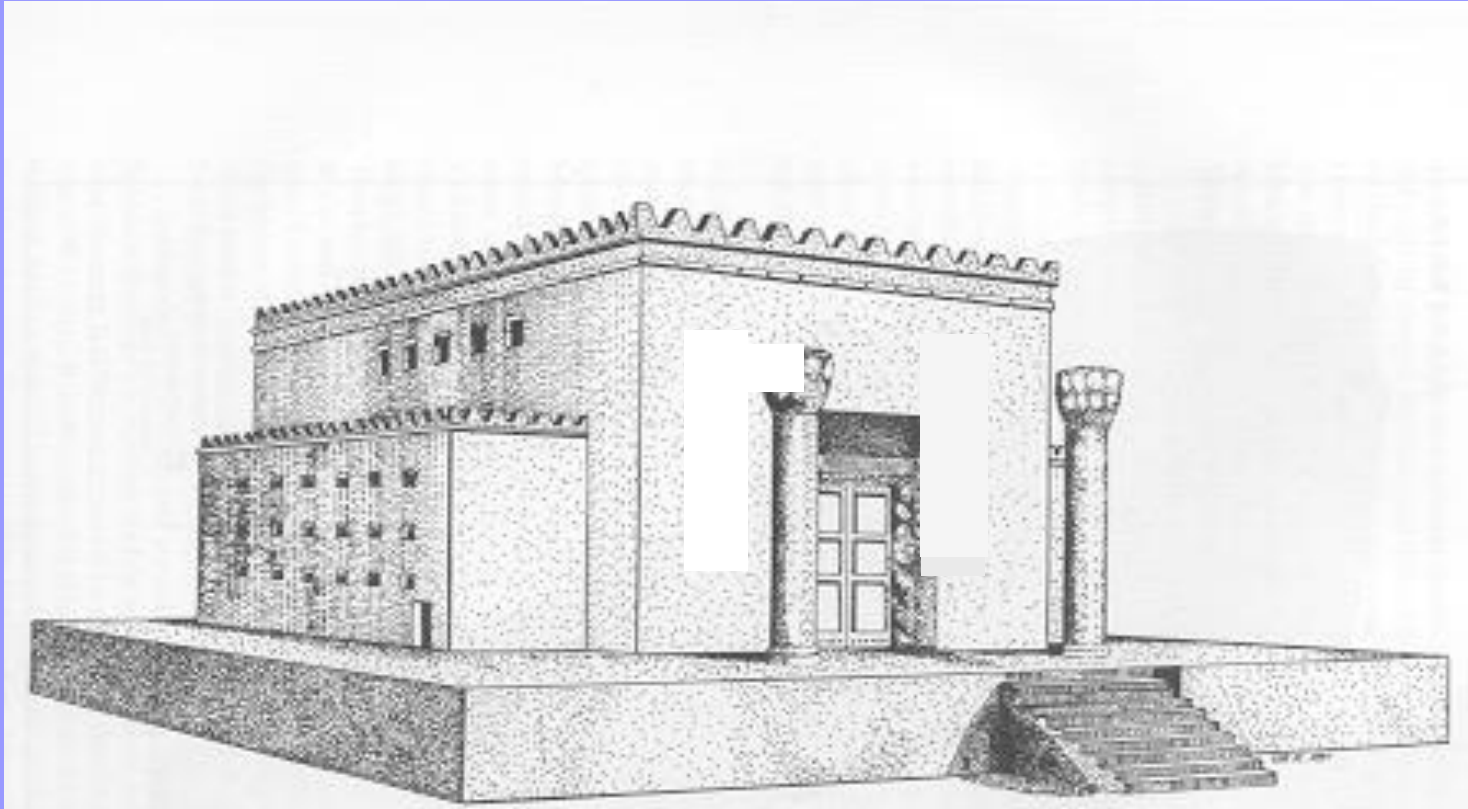


Temples in the Bible

	Solomon	Zerubbabel/ Herod	Tribulation	Millennial 644
<i>Temple Period</i>	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<i>Description</i>	1 Kings 6–7	Ezra 3–6	Rev. 11:1-2	Ezek. 40–43
<i>Haggai Texts</i>	Haggai 2:3a, 9b	Haggai 1:4, 8-9; 2:3b	—	Haggai 2:7, 9a
<i>Construction</i>	966-959 BC	536-516 BC	Materials being gathered now	Still future
<i>Desecrated by</i>	Israelites and pagan kings	Antiochus, money changers, Pompey, Titus	Antichrist (Dan. 9:27)	No one (Zech. 14:20-21)
<i>Destruction</i>	586 BC (2 Kings 25)	AD 70 (Matt. 24:1-3)	End of Great Tribulation?	Before new heavens and new earth (Rev. 21:22)
<i>Longevity</i>	380 years	606 years	Under 7 years?	1000 years
<i>Sacrifices</i>	Before Christ	Before (approved) and after Christ (unapproved)	After Christ (unapproved)	After Christ (approved)
<i>God's Glory</i>	Filled it (1 Kings 8:10-11)	Didn't fill it	Won't fill it	Will fill it (Ezek. 43:1-5)
<i>Sanctuary</i>	90' x 30' = 2,700 sq. ft.	?	?	87.5' x 175' = 15,312 sq. ft.
<i>Inner Court</i>	150' x 400' = 60,000 sq. ft.	?	?	175' x 427.5' = 74,812.5 sq. ft.
<i>Outer Court</i>	875' x 875' or six times larger!	?	?	875' x 875' = 765,625 sq. ft.



1st Temple - Solomon



2nd Temple - Zerubbabel



2nd Temple - Herod

3rd Temple - Tribulation

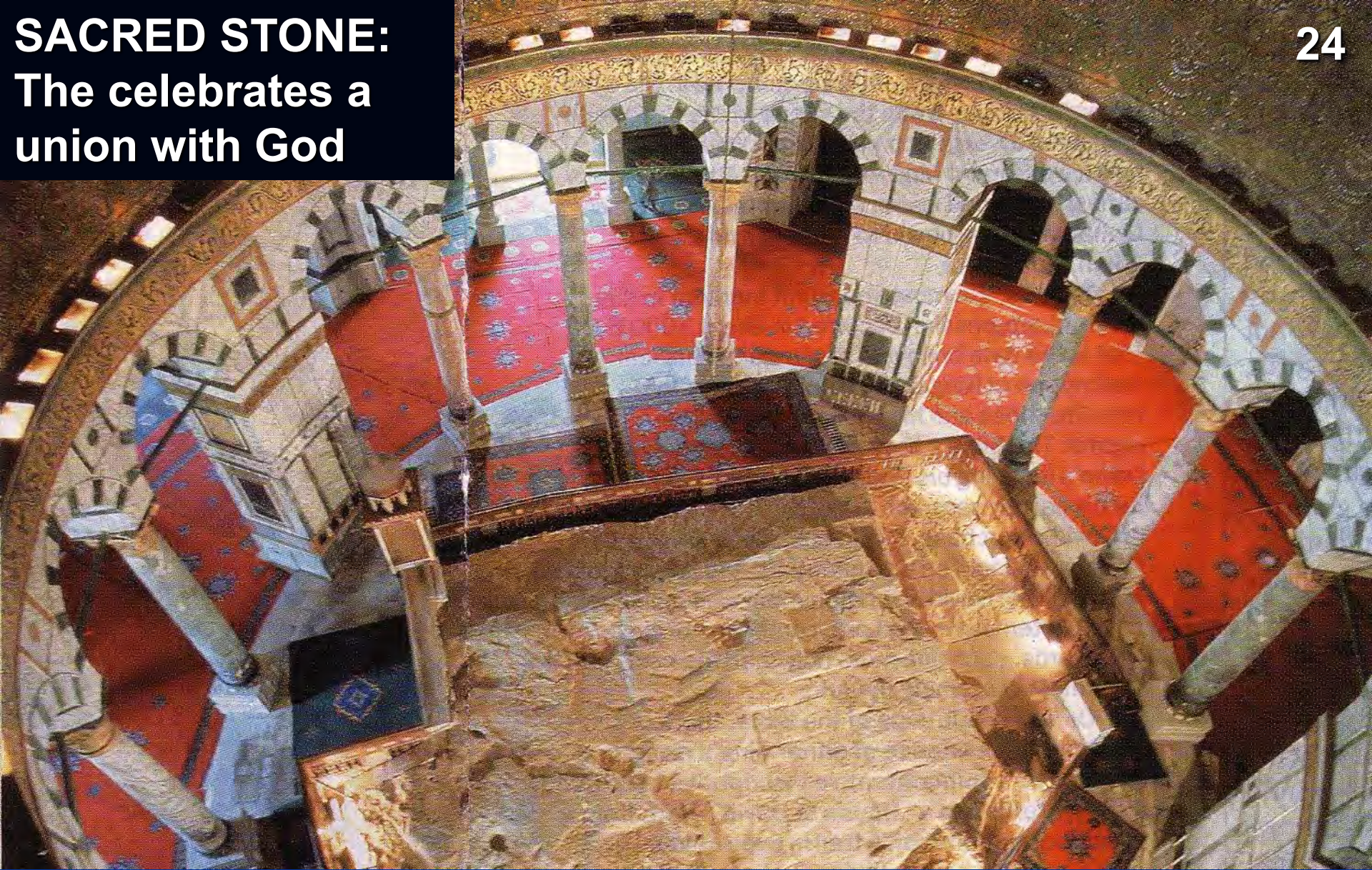


Replace This with a
Temple?

Good luck!

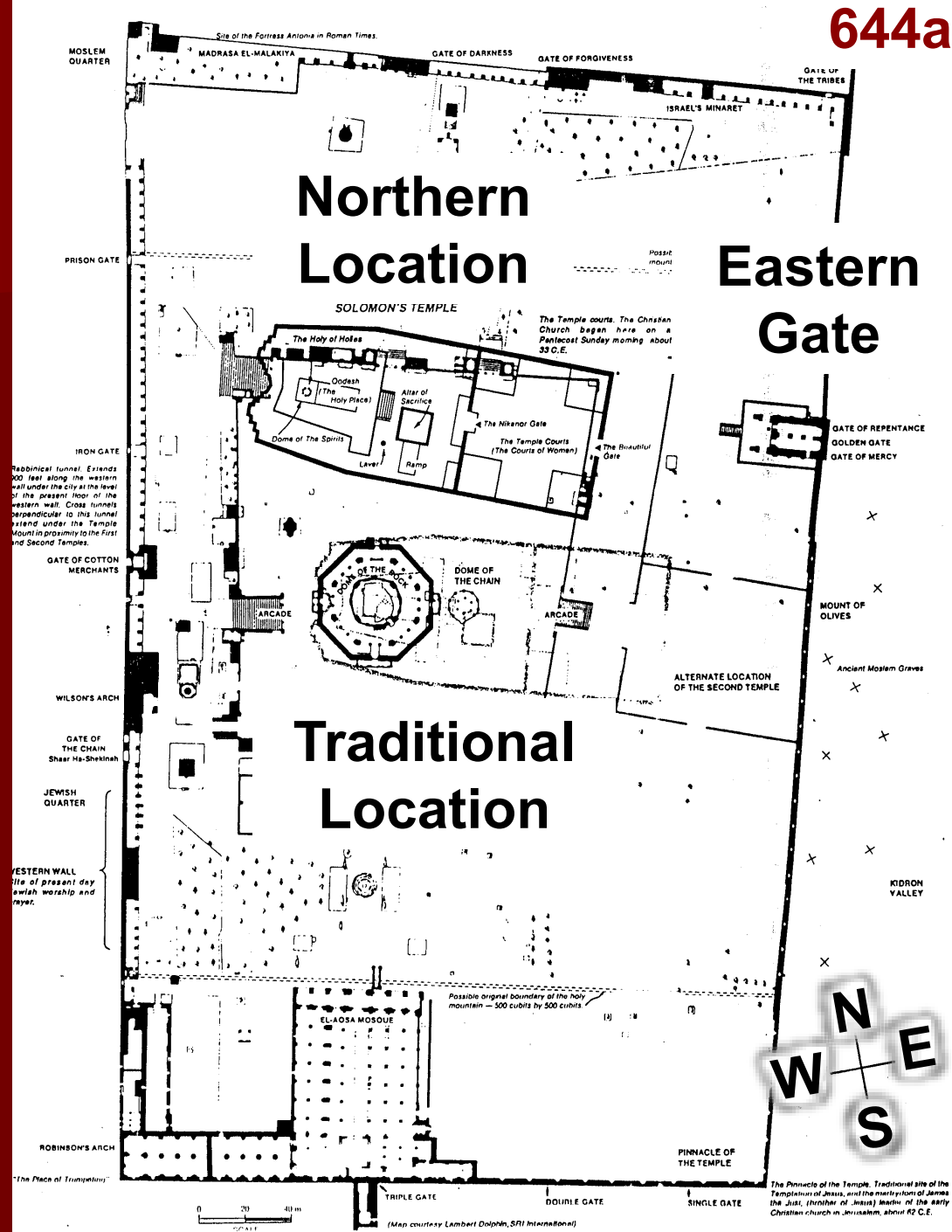


SACRED STONE:
The celebrates a
union with God



The Rock Inside

Modern Temple Mount



Events of the 70th "Week"

70th "Week"

*All Israel
shall be saved*



"He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him" (Daniel 9:27 NIV).

**Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty
with Israel**



**This will likely enable the rebuilding of the
Jerusalem temple**

In 2017, Israel Commemorated President Trump's Efforts to Rebuild the Temple



This ½ shekel preparation for the Third Temple is compared to Cyrus Helping Build the Second Temple in 539 BC

Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty with Israel



Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty with Israel



This will likely enable the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple

Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty with Israel



This will likely enable the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple

Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty with Israel



This will likely enable the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple

Outline

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).

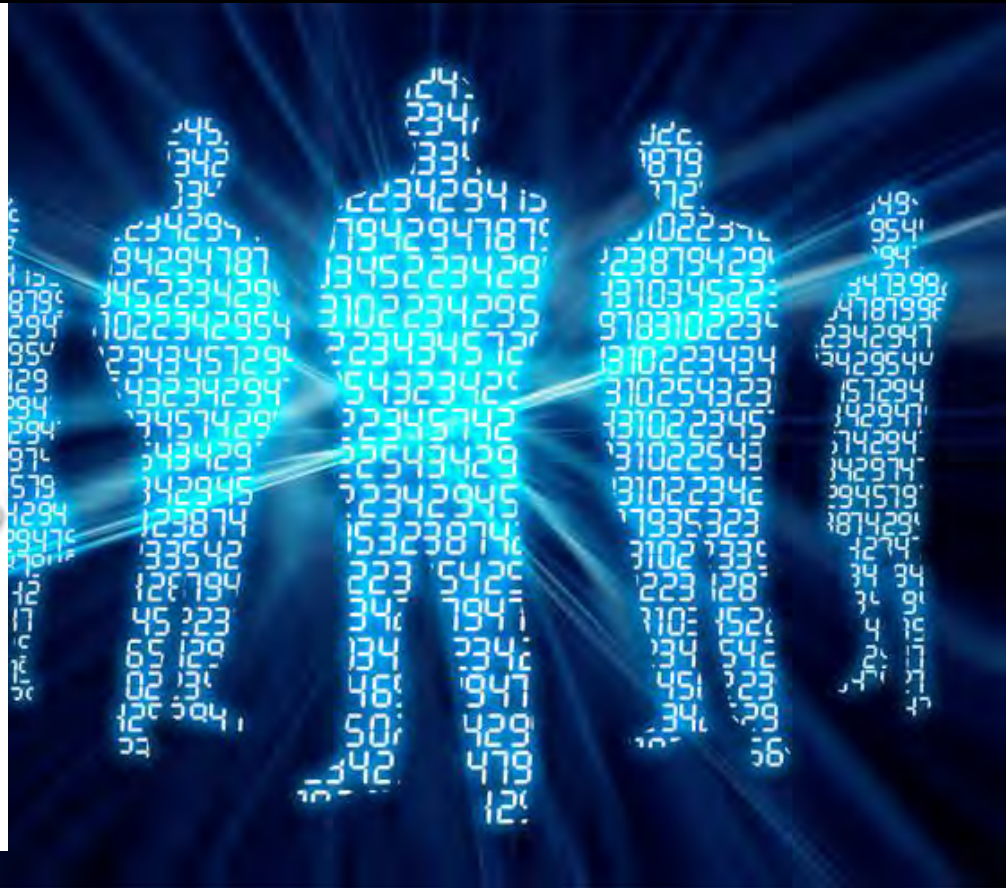
Ezra 7

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?**

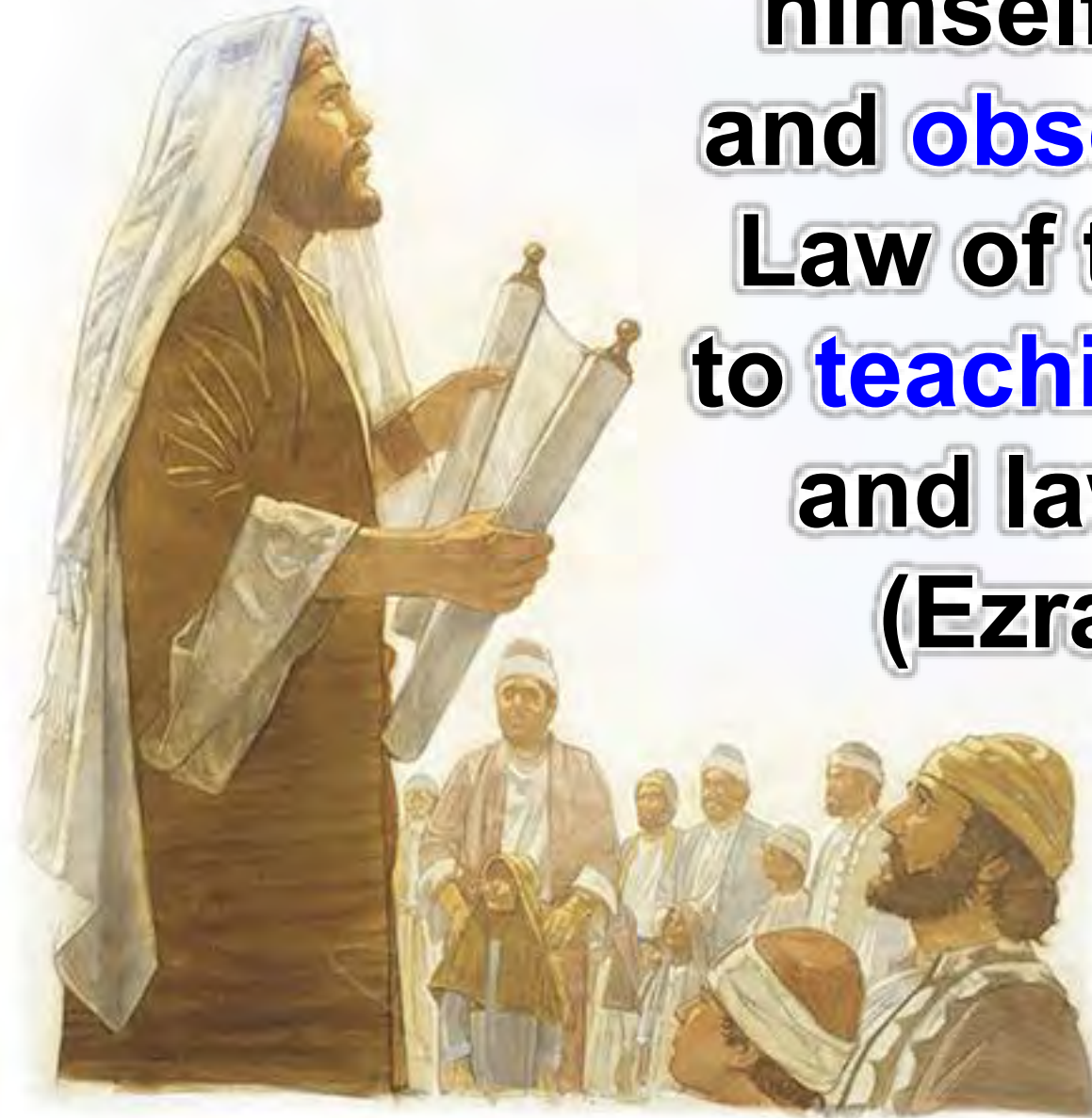


Outline

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

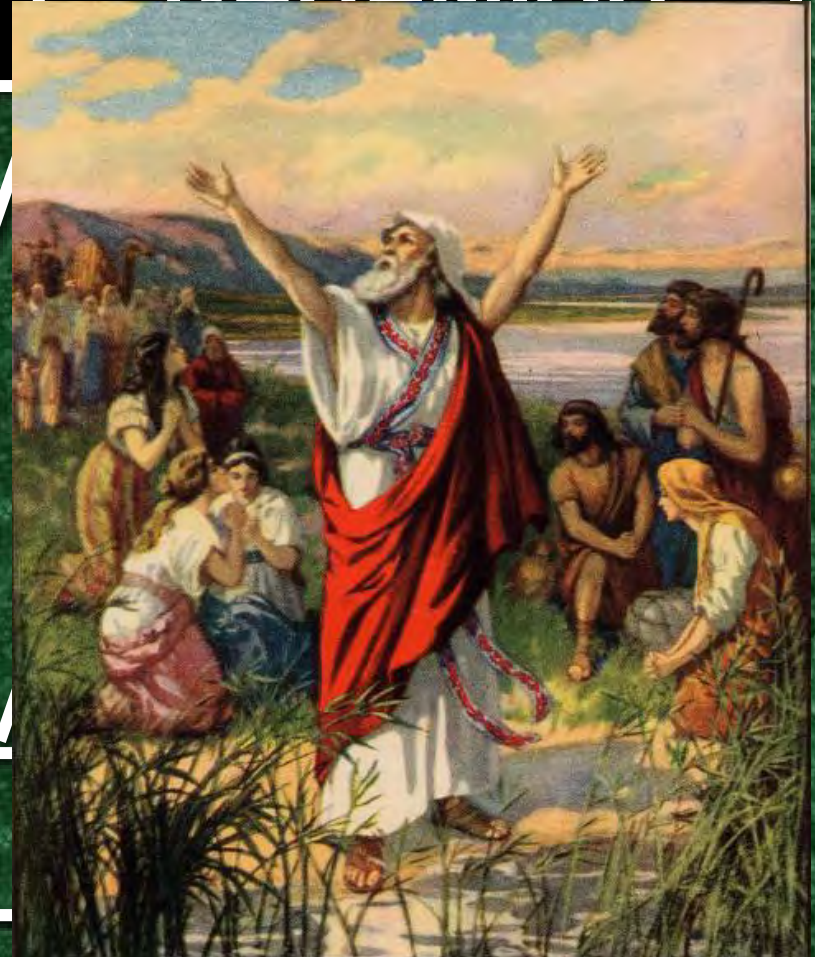
Redirecting
7-10

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) 49,697	1,500 men 38 Levites 220 helpers 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)

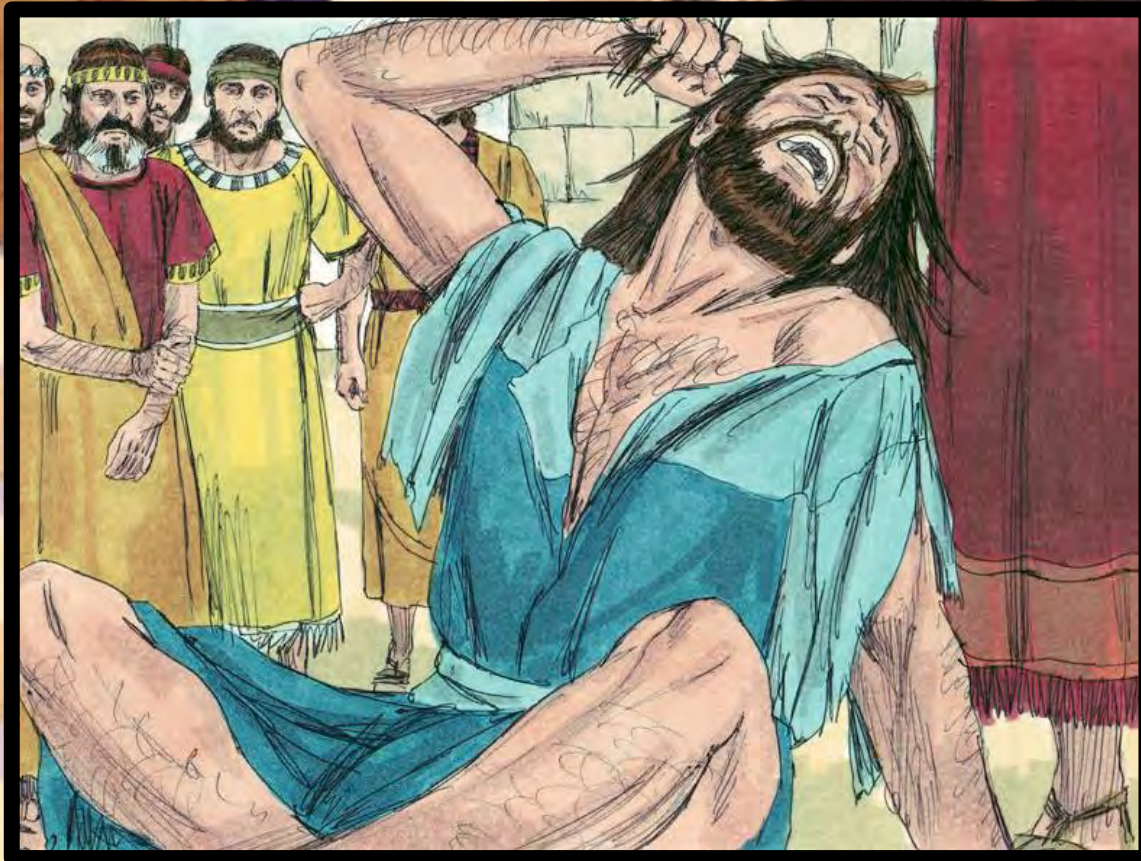




**Ezra
proclaims
a fast
(Ezra 8:21)**

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

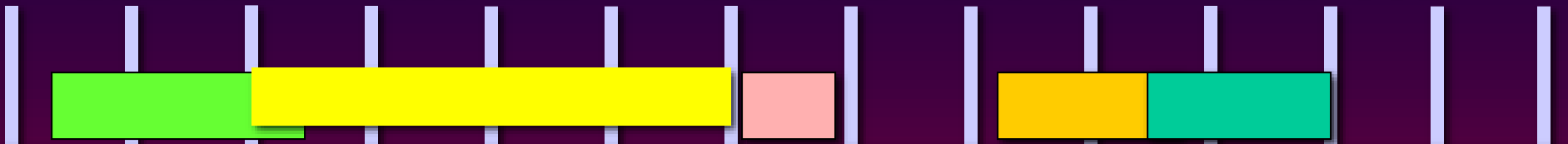
516-537

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?

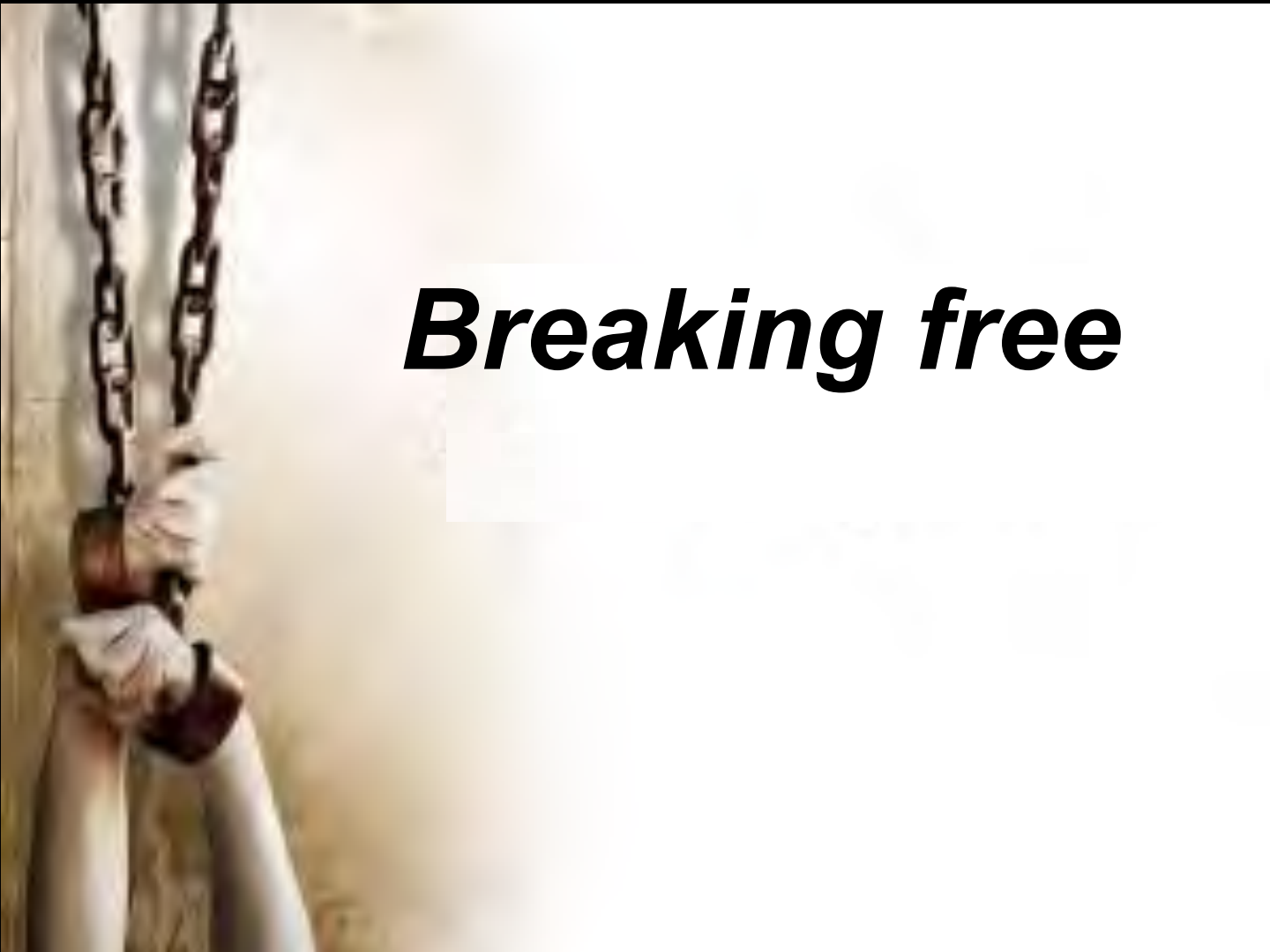


**II. God delivers us from our
bondage to worship him.**



Ezra for Us

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

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, wearing white gloves, breaking through a thick metal chain. The hands are positioned on the left side of the frame, with the fingers gripping and pulling at the chain links. The background is a bright, hazy, yellowish-white light, suggesting a bright, open space. The overall image conveys a sense of liberation and freedom.

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

Why does God **restore** us?



God transforms

EXILES  INTO WORSHIPPE
RS

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 person is shown in silhouette, facing away from the camera with their hands raised in a gesture of worship or praise. The background is dimly lit, featuring a large wooden cross and a screen displaying text. Several small, warm-toned lights are visible, creating a soft, atmospheric glow.

**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 through the wooden structure.

Restoration to God
for the repentant
believer requires
action.

Get this presentation and script for free!



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PURIFY MY HEART

Brian Doerksen

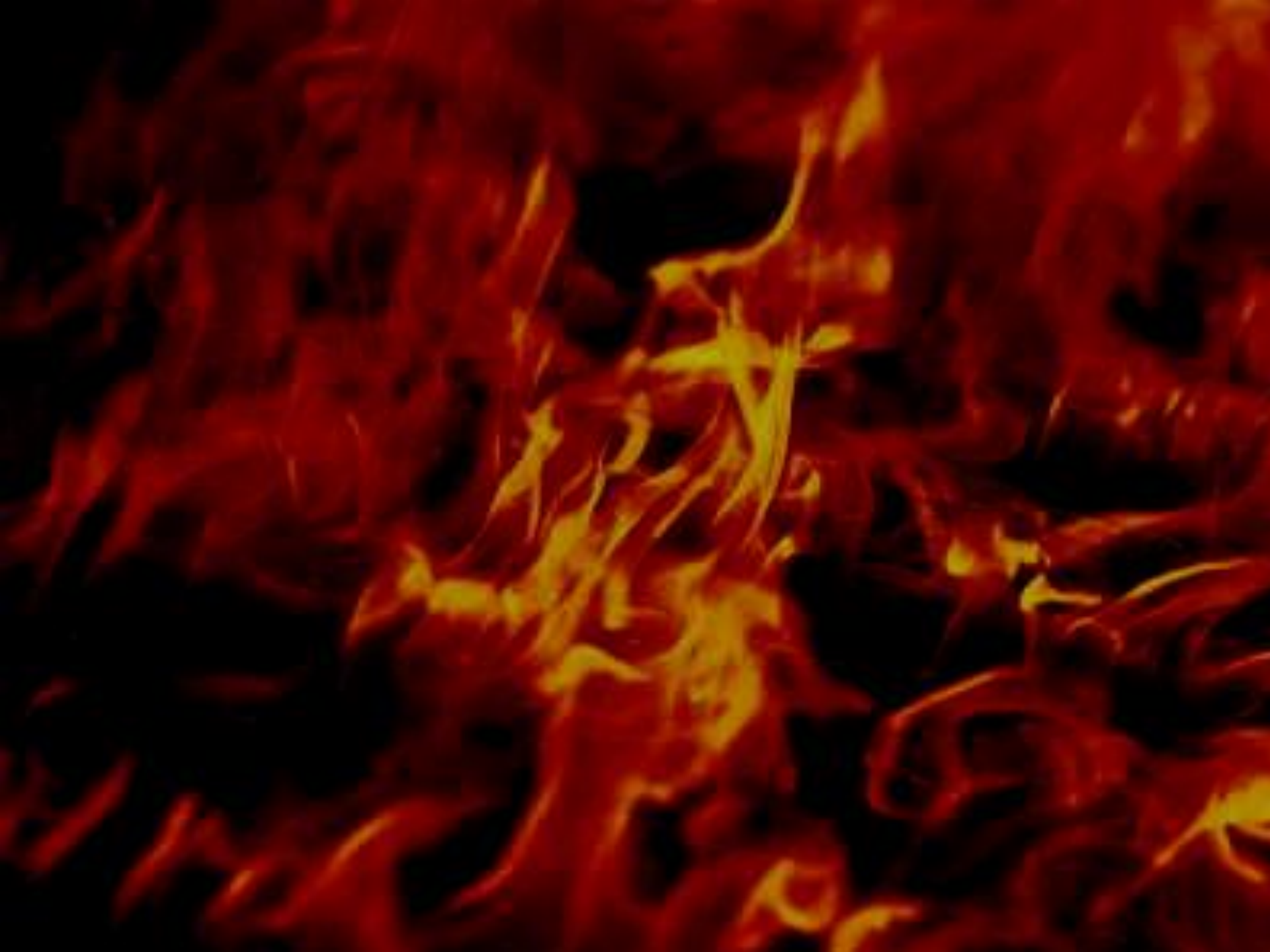
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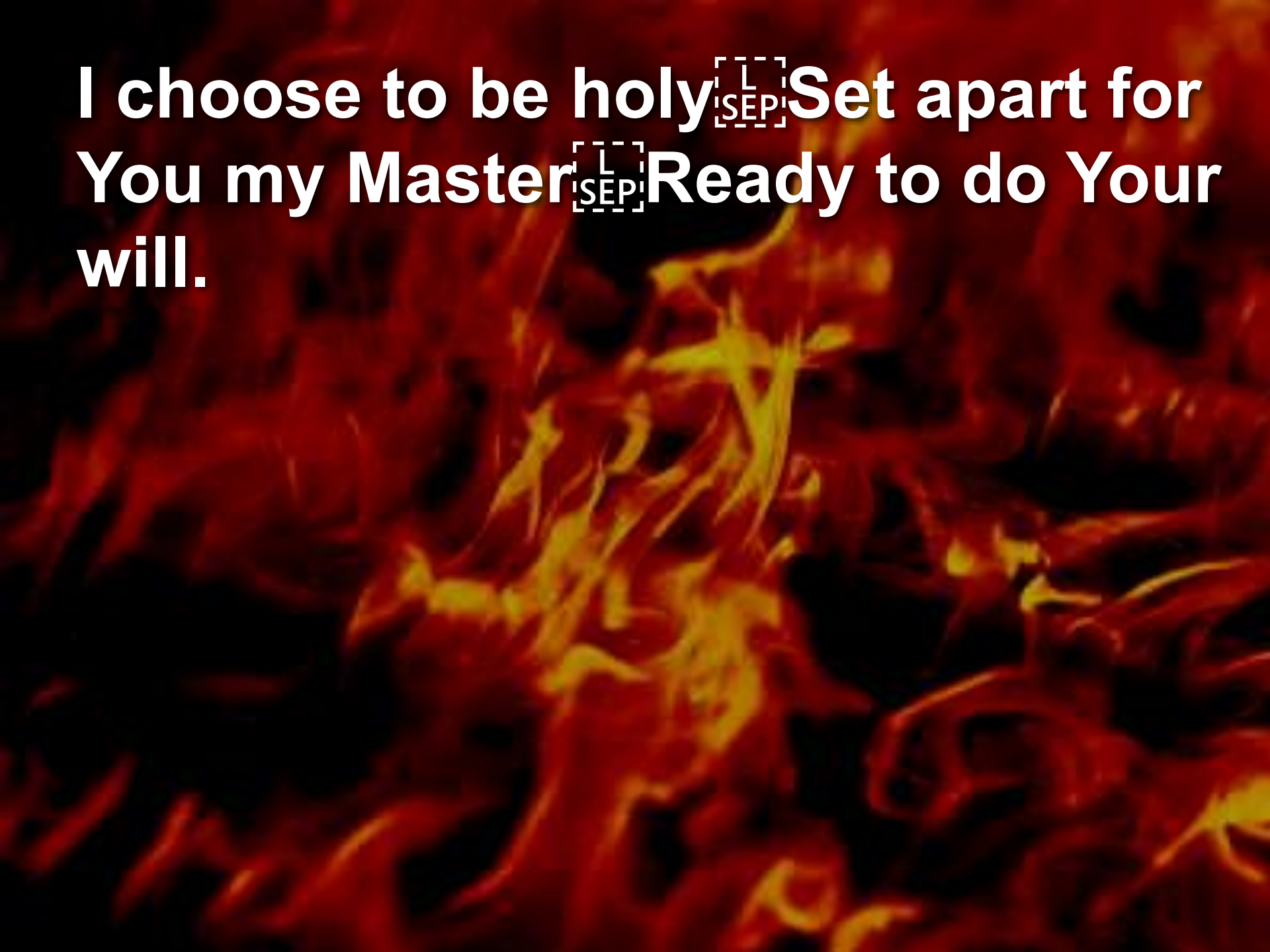
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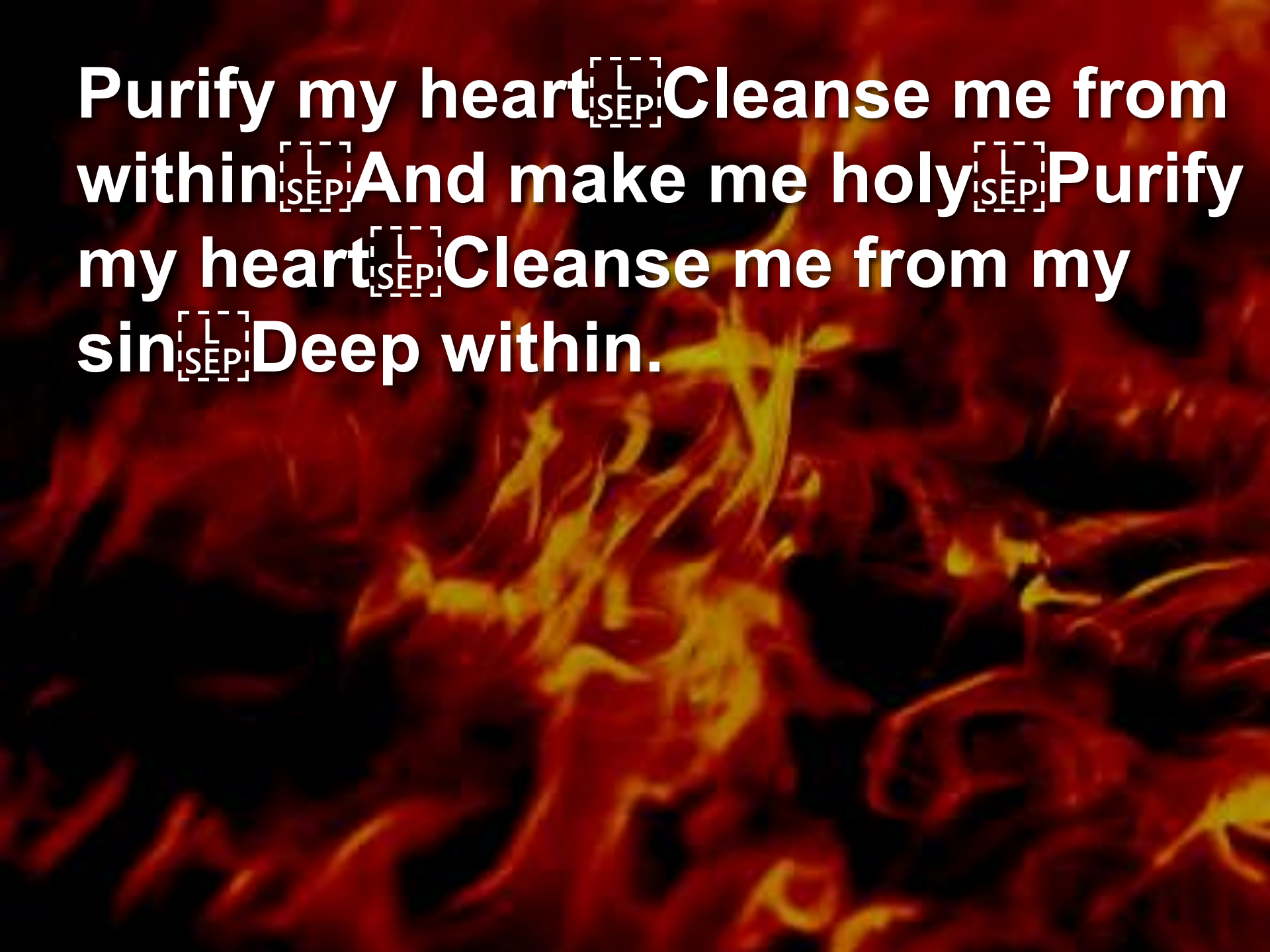


**Purify my heart^[L]_[SEP]Let me be as
gold^[L]_[SEP]And precious silver^[L]_[SEP]Purify
my heart^[L]_[SEP]Let me be as gold^[L]_[SEP]Pure
gold.**

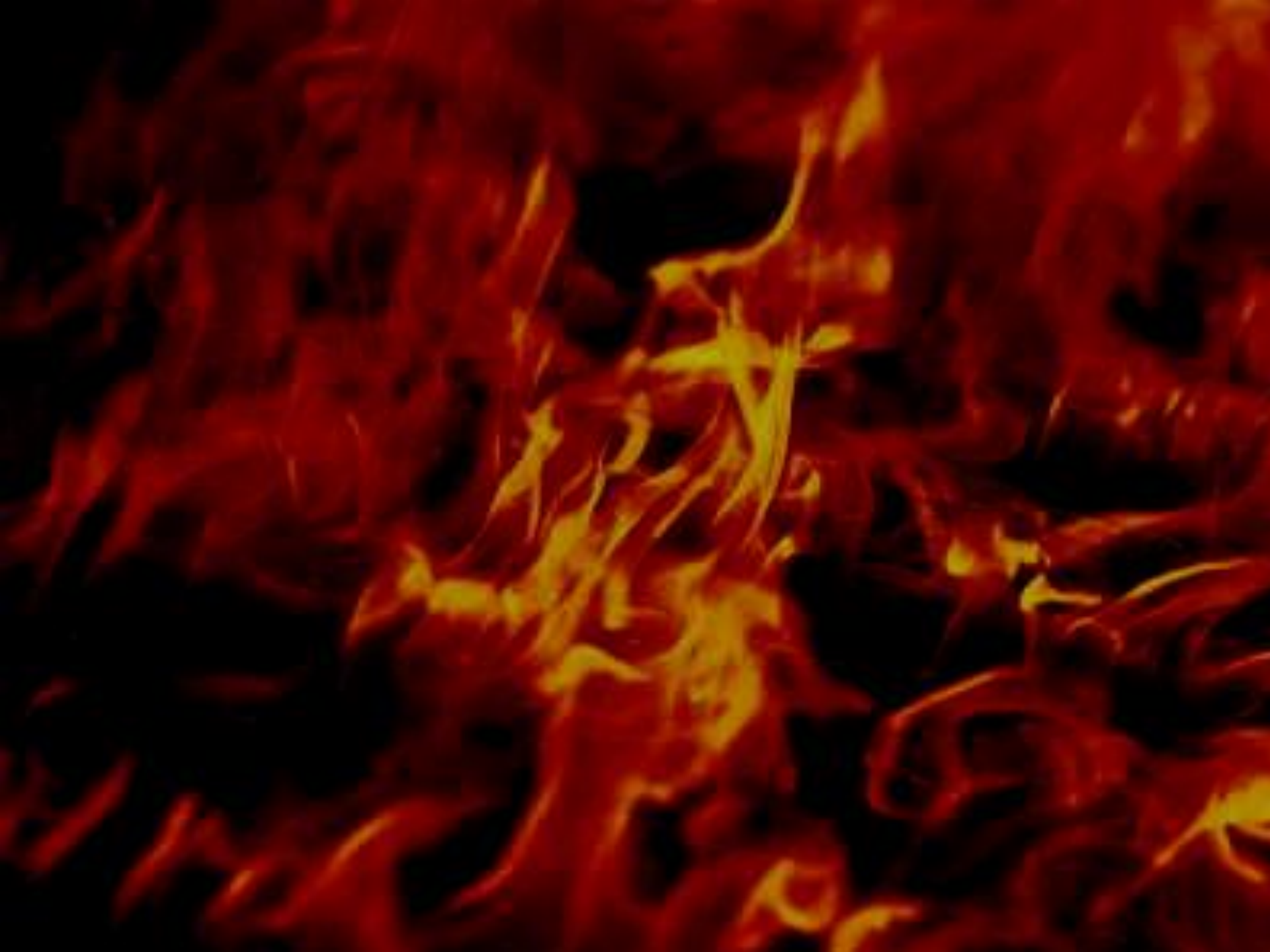


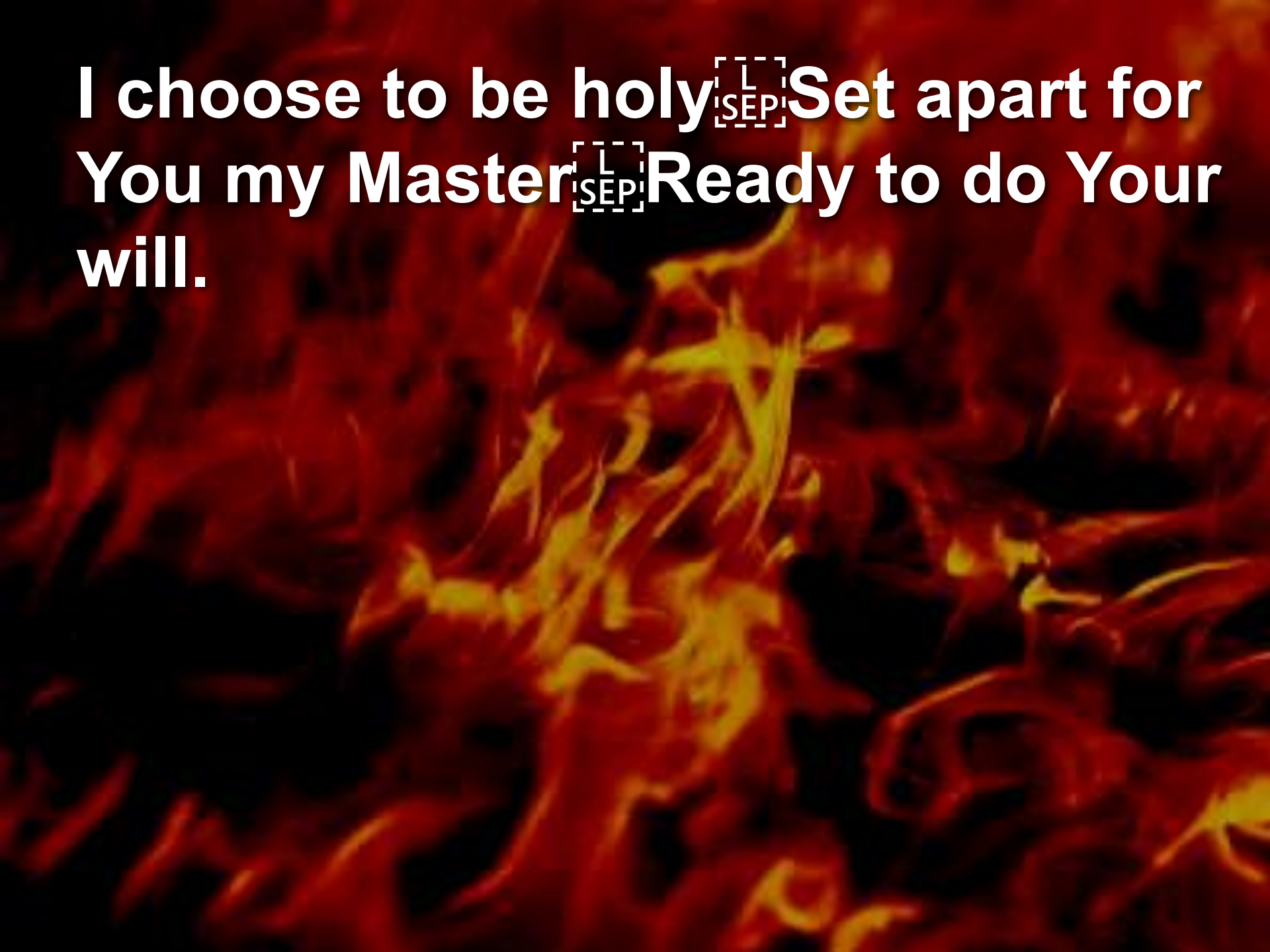
The background of the image is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of fire. The flames are a mix of bright yellow and orange, with darker red and black areas in between, creating a textured, swirling pattern. The fire appears to be burning intensely, with some areas being brighter than others.

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

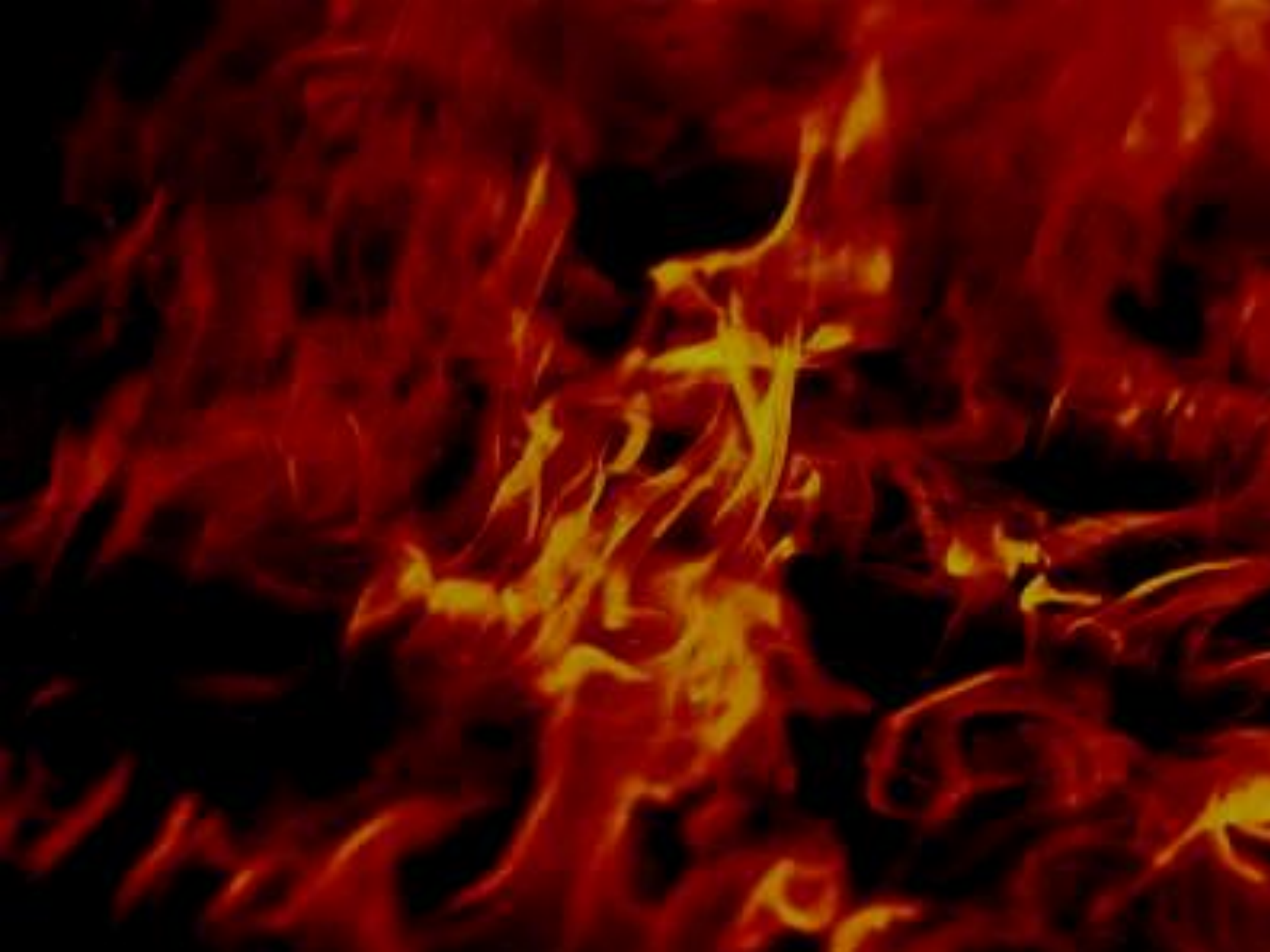


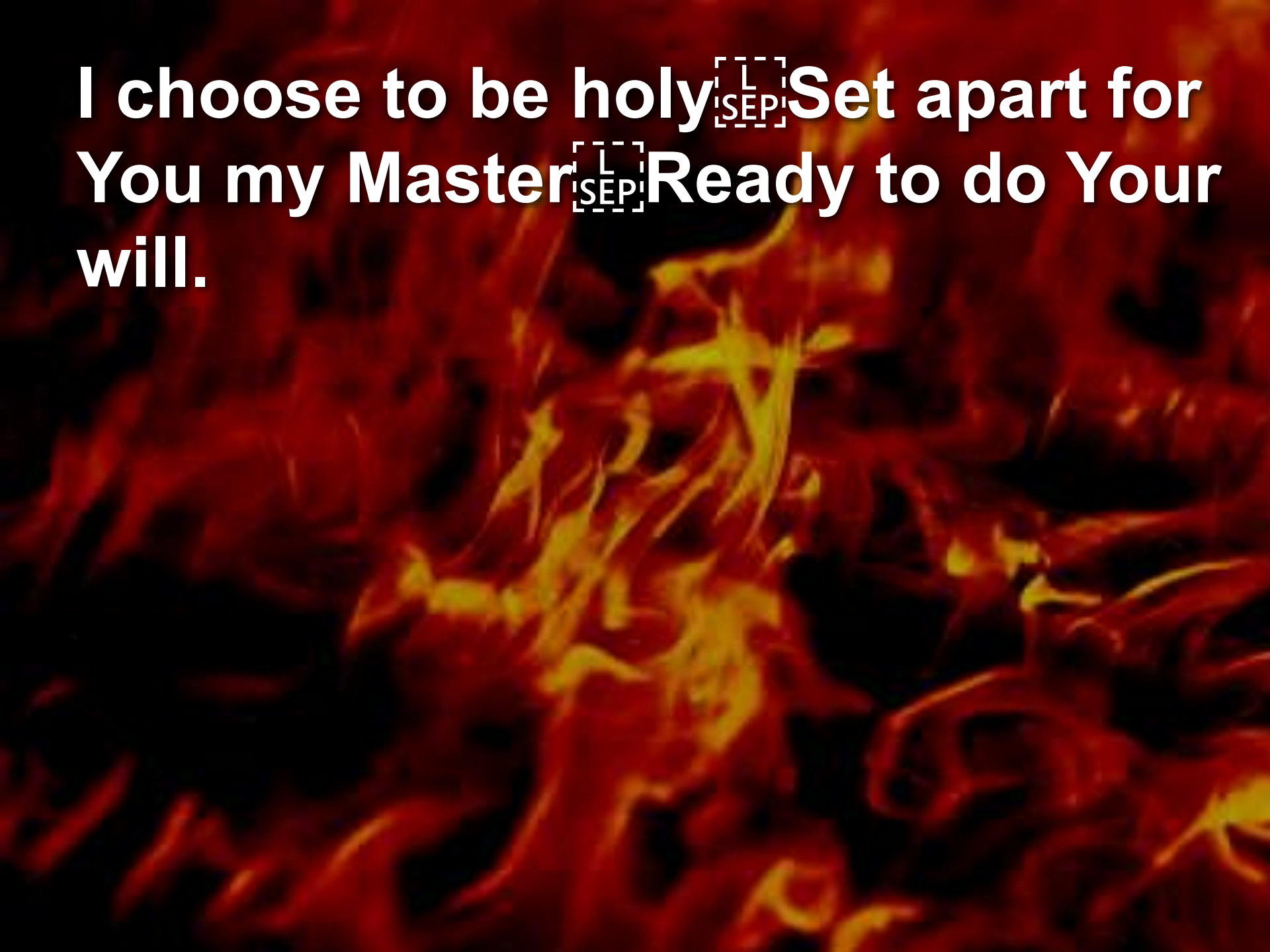
**Purify my heart^[L]_[SEP]Cleanse me from
within^[L]_[SEP]And make me holy^[L]_[SEP]Purify
my heart^[L]_[SEP]Cleanse me from my
sin^[L]_[SEP]Deep within.**



The background of the image is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of fire. Bright yellow and orange flames are visible, with dark red and black areas in between, creating a textured, intense visual effect. The fire appears to be consuming something, with wisps of smoke or ash visible in the darker areas.

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



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