Walking with the Captives

Week 6

Return of the captives with Zerubbabel

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To read the Bible online go to:

http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/King-James-Version-KJV-Bible/



Cyrus gave the permission for the rebuilding of the temple



Work on the temple begins

To read KJV in 21st Century English go to:

http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/21st-Century-King-James-Version-KJ21-Bible/

Sunday

Cyrus says to rebuild the temple

Bible Reading: Ezra 1v1-11

(cp. 2 Chronicles 36v22+23)

1. Who was the king of Persia? (v1) *Find Persia on a map*
2. What prophet had spoken God's Word? (v1)
3. Who moved Cyrus to fulfil prophecy? (v2)
4. What did God tell Cyrus to do? (v2)
5. What did Cyrus want people to do? (v3) *Find these places on a map*
6. What people did he want to do this? (v3)
7. Who did Cyrus call 'the God'? (v3)
8. How were they to be helped? (v4-6)
9. Who went to build the temple? (v5)
10. What did Cyrus send with them? (v7)
11. Where had they been kept? (v7)
12. Who brought the vessels to Cyrus? (v8)
13. Who brought them safely to Jerusalem? (v11)

Answers

1) Cyrus; 2) Jeremiah; 3) The LORD; 4) To build the temple at Jerusalem; 5) To go to Jerusalem and build temple; 6) God's people; 7) The LORD God of Israel; 8) People were to give them gold, silver, animals, good and precious things for the temple; 9) Chief men of Judah and Benjamin, priests, Levites and those who spirit God moved to do so; 10) The temple vessels Nebuchadnezzar had brought out of Jerusalem; 11) House of Nebuchadnezzar's gods; 12) Mithredath; 13) Sheshbazzar

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." (Proverbs 21v1)

MEANINGS:

Stirred up = moved to do;

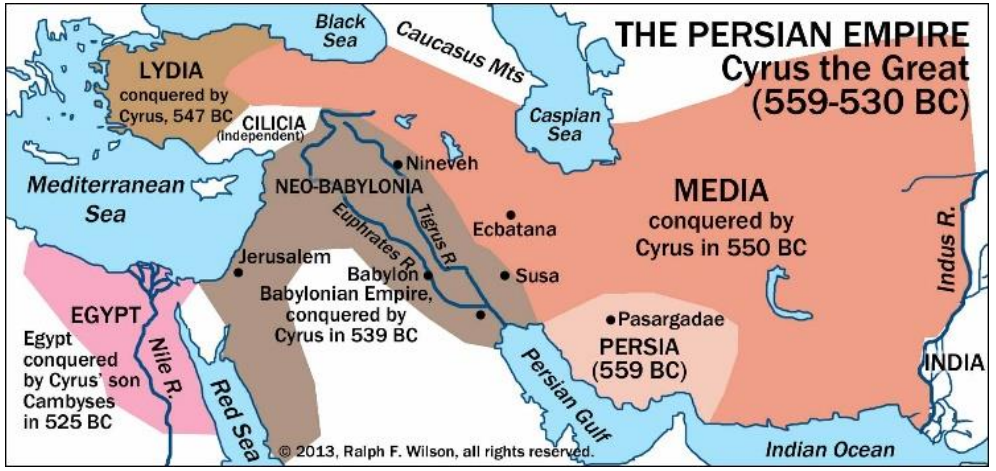
Proclamation = public announcement;

Charged = ordered;

Sojourneth = stays there for a time;

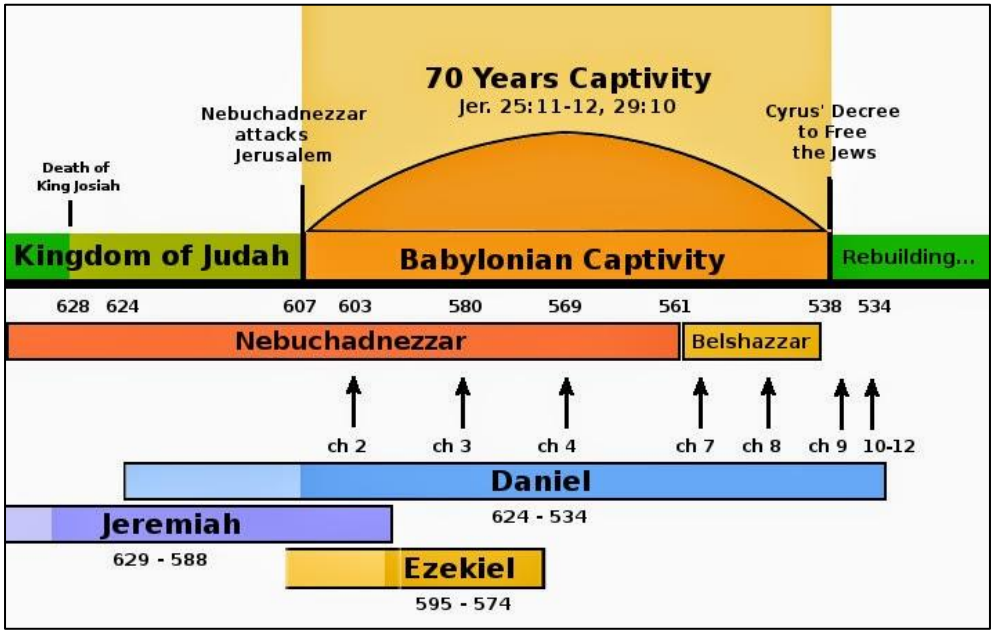
Beasts = animals;

Charger = large flat dish, platter





The prophet **Jeremiah** had prophesied that the Babylonian captivity would last for 70 years (Jeremiah 25v11-14; 29v1-14).



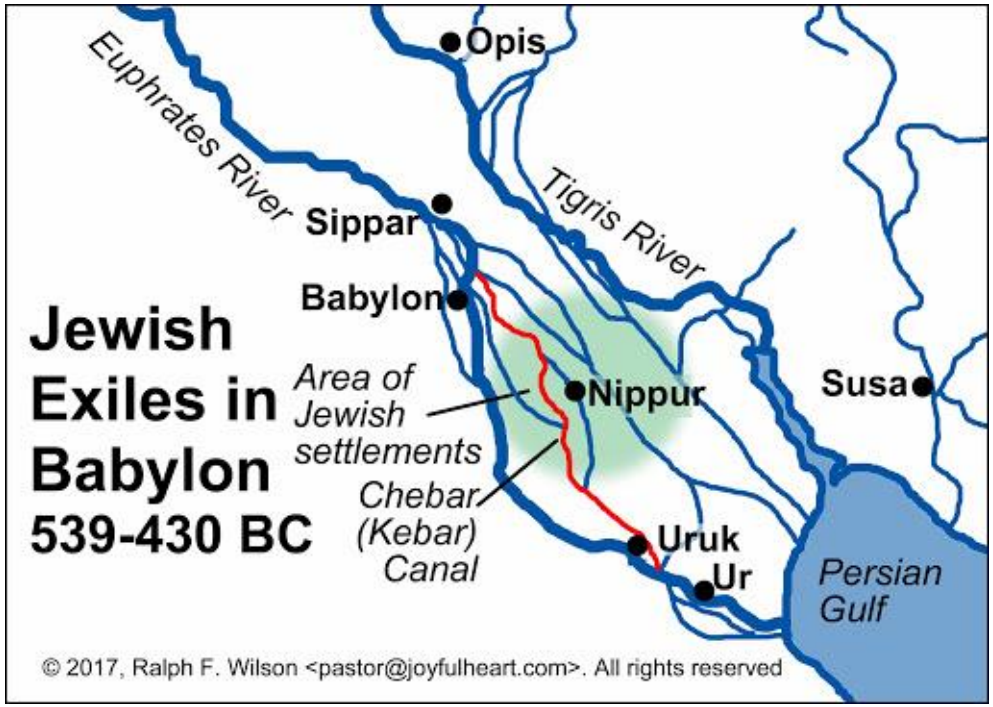
"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29v13)

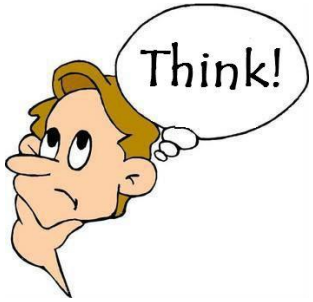


Did you know?

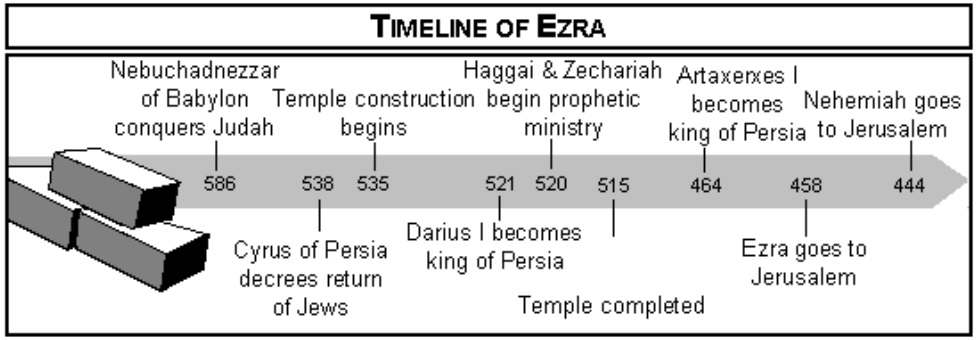
God said that Cyrus was His shepherd (Isaiah 44v28) and His anointed (Isaiah 45v1). He conquered Babylon in 539 BC.

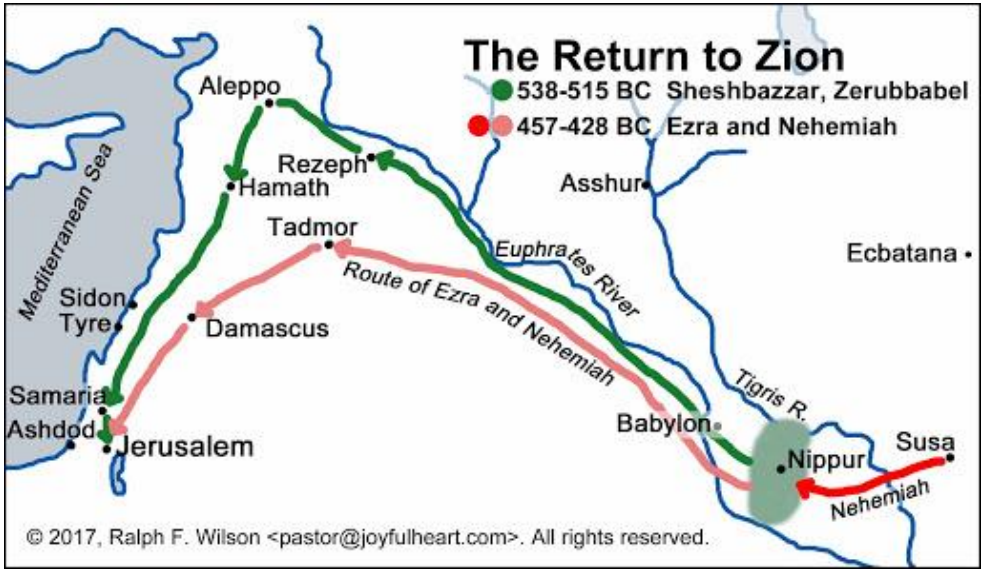
Isaiah prophesied that he would order the temple to be built….and he would let the captives go (Isaiah 44v28; 45v13).





God is Sovereign. He rules over all. He can move the hearts of ungodly, heathen kings to fulfil His purpose. So, pray for all leaders today...even the ungodly ones.





Monday

Return with Zerubbabel

Bible Reading: Ezra 2

You can also read the list of names in Nehemiah chapter 12.

1. What does this chapter tell us numbers of? (v1)
2. Who led them? (v2)

Please note that the Nehemiah mentioned here is NOT the wall builder. Also, the Mordecai here is NOT the Mordecai with Esther.

3. What are some of the places they went up from? (v59)
   Find them on a map
4. What could some people not show? (v59)
5. Why were some priests put from the priesthood? (v62)
6. What did the Tirshatha NOT allow them to do? (v63)

The Tirshatha was the governor ruling over them.

7. Until when? (v63)
8. How many people went altogether? (v64)

If we add the 7337 servants and 200 singers (v65) we get 49897

9. Where did they go to? (v68) *Find it on a map*
10. What did some chief fathers do? (v68)
11. How did they give? (v69)
12. Where did they dwell? (v70)

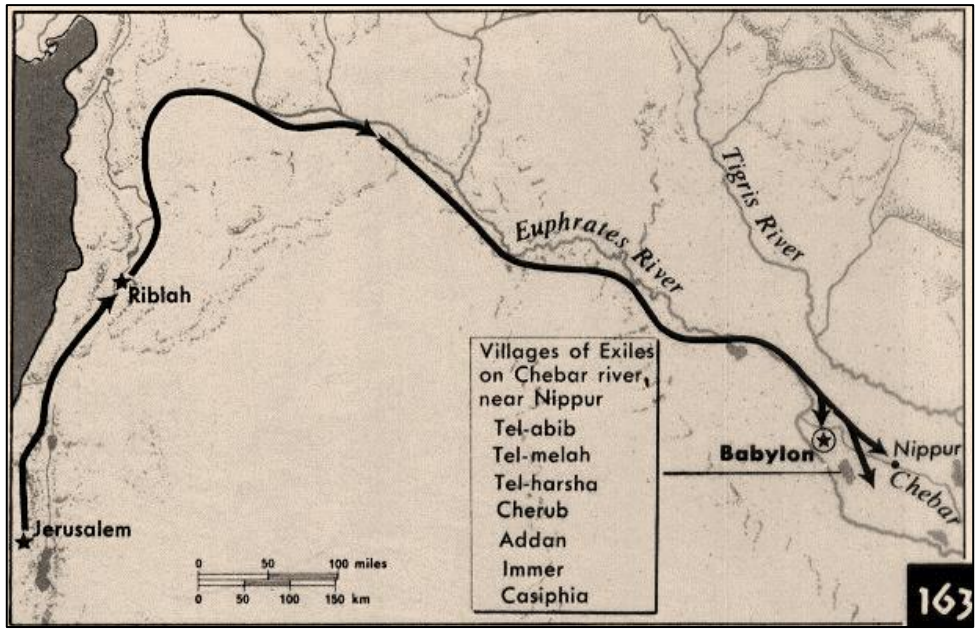
MEANINGS:

Seed = descendants;

Reckoned = recorded;

Polluted = unclean, made unholy;

Threescore = 60



Answers

1) Those who returned from Babylon; 2) Zerubbabel; 3) Tel-melah, Tel-harsa, Cherub, Addan, and Immer; 4) Their ancestry, whether they were of Israel; 5) They could not find the register of their genealogy; 6) They should not eat of the most holy things; 7) There was a priest with the Urim and Thummim; 8) 42360 people; 9) Jerusalem; 10) Offered freely for the house of God; 11) After their ability; 12) In their cities



The priests had to have their name on the register or else they were put out of priesthood as unclean.

We must have our names in the Lamb's Book of Life if we want to get into heaven. God does not allow any sin in heaven.

"The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there." (Psalm 87v6)



Did you know?

Zerubbabel was a grandson of king Jehioachin (Jeconiah, Coniah, Jechonias). So, he was from the royal family of Judah. He was a descendant of king David. He is in the Messianic line to Christ (Matthew 1v12).

Zerubbabel was governor of Judah (Haggai 1v1).



What were the Urim and Thummim?

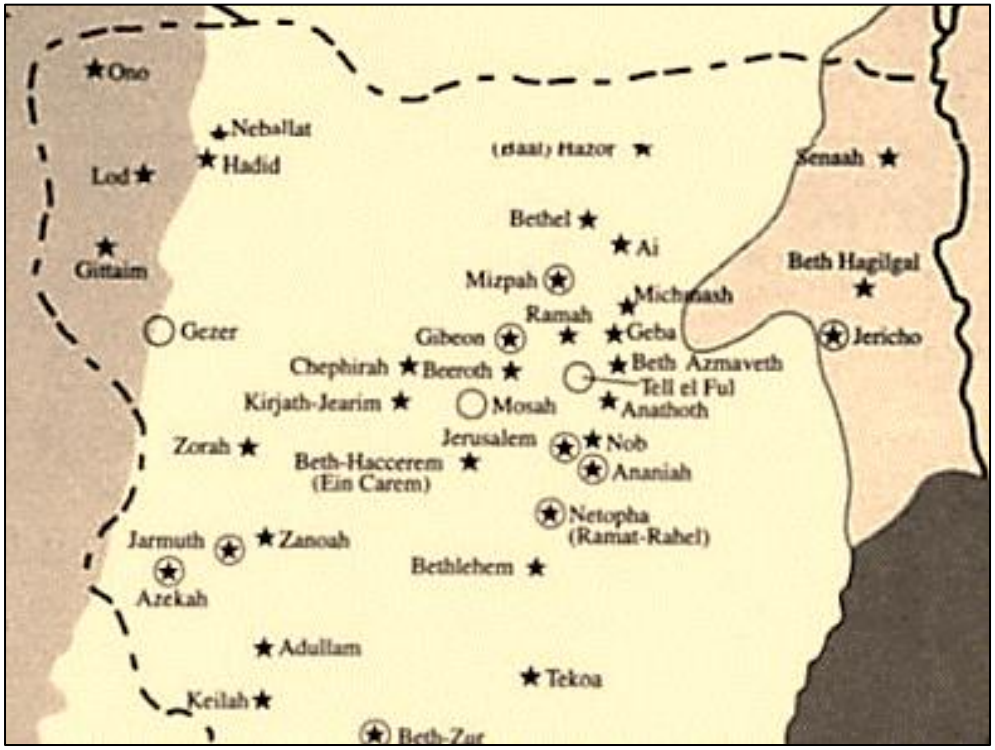
The high priest wore a breastplate as part of his special high priest garments. The Urim and Thummim were put inside it (Exodus 28v30). Urim means 'lights'. Thummim means 'perfections'. The Urim and Thummim were used to find out what God wanted people to do (1 Samuel 30v7+8).

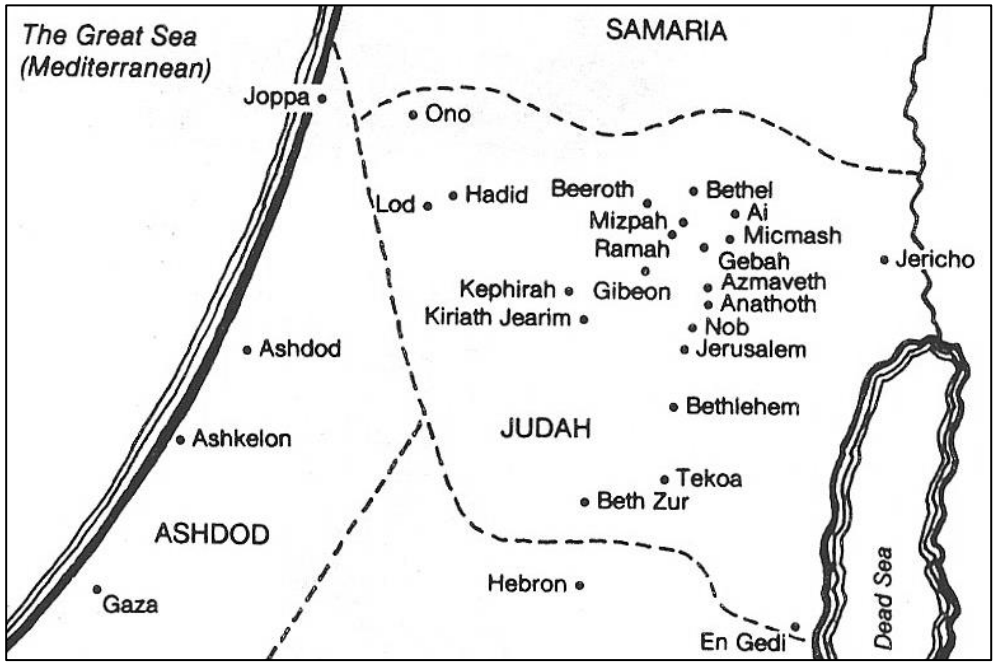


Ezra 2 gives names of families that returned from captivity, priests, Levites, singers and porters. But in Ezra 2v20-35 there are towns mentioned.

See if you can find some of them on the maps. (They are not all there)

Gibbar (Gibeon), Bethlehem, Netophah, Anathoth, Azmaveth, Kirjathjearim, Chephirah (Kephirah), Beeroth, Ramah, Gaba, Michmas, Bethel, Ai, Nebo, Magbish, Elam, Harim, Lod, Hadid, Ono, Jericho, Senaah





Tuesday

Temple foundation laid

Bible Reading: Ezra 3v1-13

1. What happened in the 7th month? (v1) *Find it on a map*
2. Who built the altar of God? (v2)
3. Why? (v2)

Note Moses is called 'the man of God'. These offerings were done according to God's law given to Moses.

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4. Why did they fear? (v3)
5. How did they offer to the LORD? (v5)
6. What was the money used for? (v7)

Wood for the temple was to be brought from Lebanon for the temple. Solomon got wood from Lebanon for the first temple (1 Kings 5v9). Find Lebanon, Joppa, Tyre and Sidon on a map

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7. When did they start work on the temple? (v8)
8. What age were the Levites? (v8)

The Levites were the priests' helpers in temple worship.

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9. What happened when the foundation was laid? (v10)

Asaph was one of the music leaders in worship during David and Solomon's time (1 Chronicles 15v16,17+19; 16v5; 2 Chronicles 5v12). He wrote Psalms 50, 73-83. So, his sons continued in praise worship.

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10. Why did they praise God? (v11)
11. What did the people do? (v11)
12. Why did some very old men cry? (v12)
13. What did others do? (v12)
14. Where was all the noise heard? (v13)

MEANINGS:

Bases = foundations;

Consecrated = set apart for holy use;

Apparel = clothes;

Ordinance = rules, order;

By course = in turns;

Ancient men = very old men;

Mercy = pity, compassion, lovingkindness;

Discern = recognise

"I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord." (Psalm 104v33+34)

Answers

1) People gathered together to Jerusalem; 2) Jeshua, the priests, Zerubbabel and his brethren; 3) To offer burnt offerings on; 4) Because of the people of those countries; 5) Willingly; 6) Masons, carpenters, food, drink, oil, cedar trees; 7) Second month of second year after coming to Jerusalem; 8) Twenty years and older; 9) Priests and Levites praised God with trumpets and cymbals; 10) Because the LORD is good and His mercy endures forever; 11) Shouted loudly; 12) They remembered the first temple; 13) Shouted aloud for joy; 14) Afar off



Sometimes old people weep over the past. They remember good days, sad days and hard days in life. But they can rejoice in God's blessing in the present. And they have hope that their children will trust God for the future. Will you?

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord." (Psalm 105v1-3)



Who was Jeshua?

Jeshua (Joshua) was the high priest (Haggai 1v1; Zechariah 6v11).

Satan stood against Jeshua to resist him as a great enemy (Zechariah 3v1)



Daily Sacrifices

Every day animal sacrifices were offered to God. But each morning and evening a lamb was sacrificed (Exodus 29v38+39). They were completely burnt up.

These sacrifices could never take away sin. But they pointed to the time when Messiah (Christ) would come and die for sin.



Feast of Tabernacles

(Feast of Ingathering)

15th – 22nd of 7th month

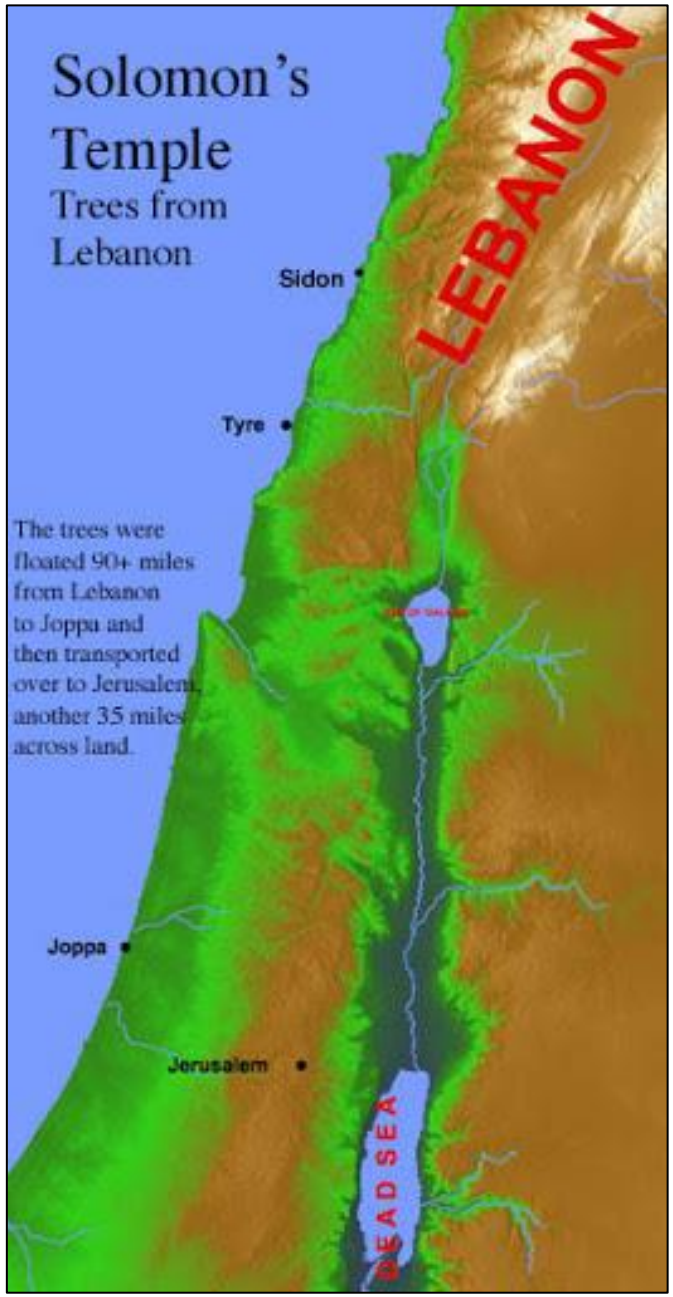
The 15th and 22nd days were special Sabbaths to the LORD.

The people lived for 7 days in booths. These were huts made from branches of trees. This was to remember life in the wilderness.

This Feast was a feast of great joy.

The Jews kept the feast of tabernacles (3v4).

"My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." (Psalm 84v2)



Wednesday

Enemies hinder the work

Bible Reading: Ezra 4v1-16

1. Who came to Zerubbabel? (v1+2)
2. What did they want to do? (v2)
3. What did they claim to do? (v2)
4. Who would not let them help? (v3)
5. So, what did they do? (v4+5)
6. For how long? (v5)
7. What did they do in the reign of Ahasuerus? (v6)

Ahasuerus is also called Xerxes 1.

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8. What did they do in the reign of Artaxerxes? (v7+8)
9. What language was it written in? (v7)
10. What did they call Jerusalem? (v12)
11. What did they say would happen if the city was built? (v13)
12. What did they claim they didn't want to see? (14)
13. What did they ask the king to do? (v15)

Answers

1) Adversaries of Judah and Benjamin; 2) Help build the temple; 3) Seek God and sacrifice to Him; 4) Zerubbabel, Jeshua and chief fathers; 5) Weakened the hands of the people of Judah, troubled them in building, hired counsellors against them to frustrate their purpose; 6) Until the reign of Darius; 7) Wrote an accusation to him against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem; 8) Wrote a letter against Jerusalem to him; 9) Syrian; 10) rebellious and bad city; 11) The people of Jerusalem would not pay toll, tribute, custom and kings revenue would be damaged; 12) The king's dishonour; 13) Search the records and see Jerusalem was a rebellious city

MEANINGS:

Adversaries = enemies;

Weakened their hands = tried to discourage;

Frustrate their purpose = hinder their plan;

Syrian tongue = Syrian (Aramaic) language;

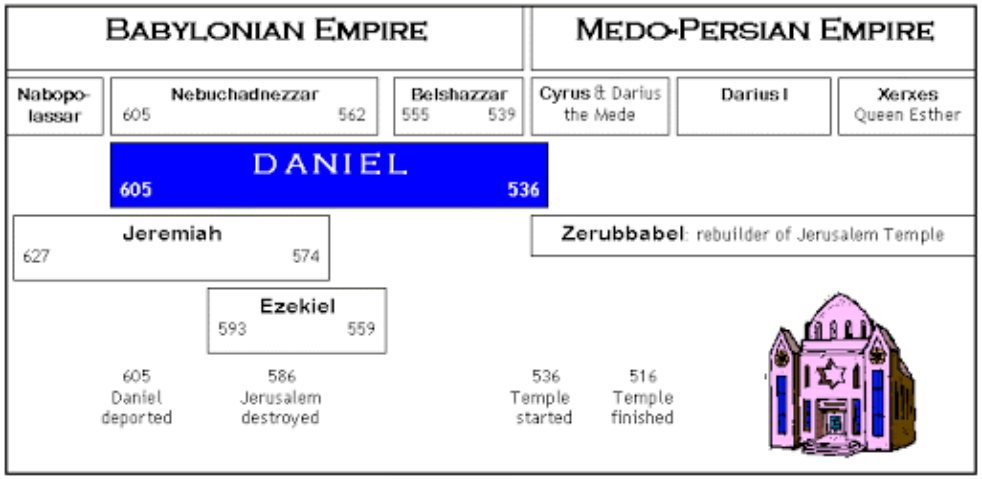
Toll, tribute, custom = various taxes, money paid to king;

Revenue = money received from tax;

Certified = informed;

Endamage = damaged, harmed, lost;

Meet for us = proper





Who were the adversaries?

Rehum *is called 'chancellor' (4v8,9,17+23). He was some sort of high official over the province. He was under the rule of the king of Persia.*

Shimshai *was his scribe.*

Bishlam, ***Mithredath***, *and* ***Tabeel*** *wrote to Artaxerxes against the Jews rebuilding the temple (4v7).*

They had companions too. They were Samaritans (4v9+10). Various groups of Samaritans are named in verse 9.

"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." (1 Corinthians 16v9)



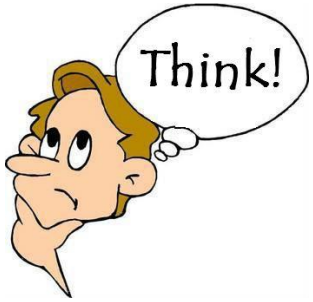
What was wrong with the Samaritans helping to build the temple?

The Samaritans had been brought by the king of Assyria to live in the land after Israel was taken into captivity. They worshipped their own gods but also mixed God into their religion.
Read about it in 2 Kings 17v27-33. Ezra 4v9+10 lists people who were brought to settle in cities in Samaria.

See Ezra 4v2 where they said they sacrificed to God…. since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria. God is NOT pleased with this. You cannot worship the One True God and idols as well.

The temple was for worshipping the LORD in. It was NOT for worshipping idols in. So, Zerubabbel and Jeshua would not let them help build the temple.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6v14)



As you seek to follow Christ you will get opposition.

Satan will attack to get you to stop God's work. Be prepared and stand fast in the strength the Lord gives you.

"but Satan hindered us." (1 Thessalonians 2v18)



The word 'accusation' (v6) is the same word in the Hebrew as for Satan the accuser.

Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation12v10). He will accuse you of all sorts of things to try to destroy you. But remember we overcome the devil by the Blood of Christ.

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Revelation 12v11)

List of the Kings of Persia from 550 BC to 330 BC	
Persian Kings	**Period of Reign (Approx)**
Cyrus II "the Great"	550-529 BC
Cambyses II	529-522 BC
Darius I	522-486 BC
Xerxes I	486-465 BC
Artaxerxes I	465-425 BC
Xerxes II	425-424 BC
Darius II	423-404 BC
Artaxerxes II	404-359 BC
Artaxerxes III	359-338 BC
Arses	338-336 BC
Darius III	336-330 BC

Thursday

Artaxerxes' letter

Bible Reading: Ezra 4v17-24; 5v1

1. Who did the king of Persia write to? (4v17)
2. What letter had he read? (v18)
3. What had he commanded to be done? (v19)
4. What did he discover? (v19)
5. What did the king tell Rehum and Shimshai to do? (v21)
6. Until when? (21)
7. What were they to take heed about? (v22)
8. Why? (v22)
9. Where did they go in haste? (v23) *Find it on a map*
10. How did they stop the work? (v23)
11. How long did the work cease? (v24)
12. What 2 prophets of God spoke to the Jews? (5v1)

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46v10)

Answers

1) Rehum, Shimshai and their companions; 2) The letter they had sent against Jerusalem to get the building of temple stopped; 3) A search to be made in records about Jerusalem; 4) It had made insurrection against kings and rebellion and sedition had been in it; 5) To cause the work to cease; 6) Until he gave another commandment about it; 7) That they did not fail to do this as he said; 8) So, that no damage would grow to hurt the kings; 9) To Jerusalem; 10) By force and power; 11) Until the 2nd year of king Darius; 12) Haggai and Zechariah

MEANINGS:

Companion = friend or person you spend a lot of time with;

Insurrection = violent uprising against the government;

Sedition = cause to rebel against king or government

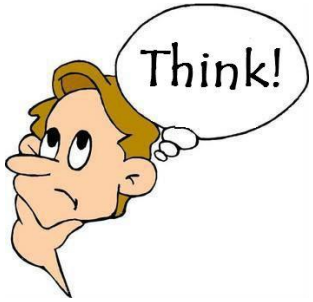


Haggai and Zechariah

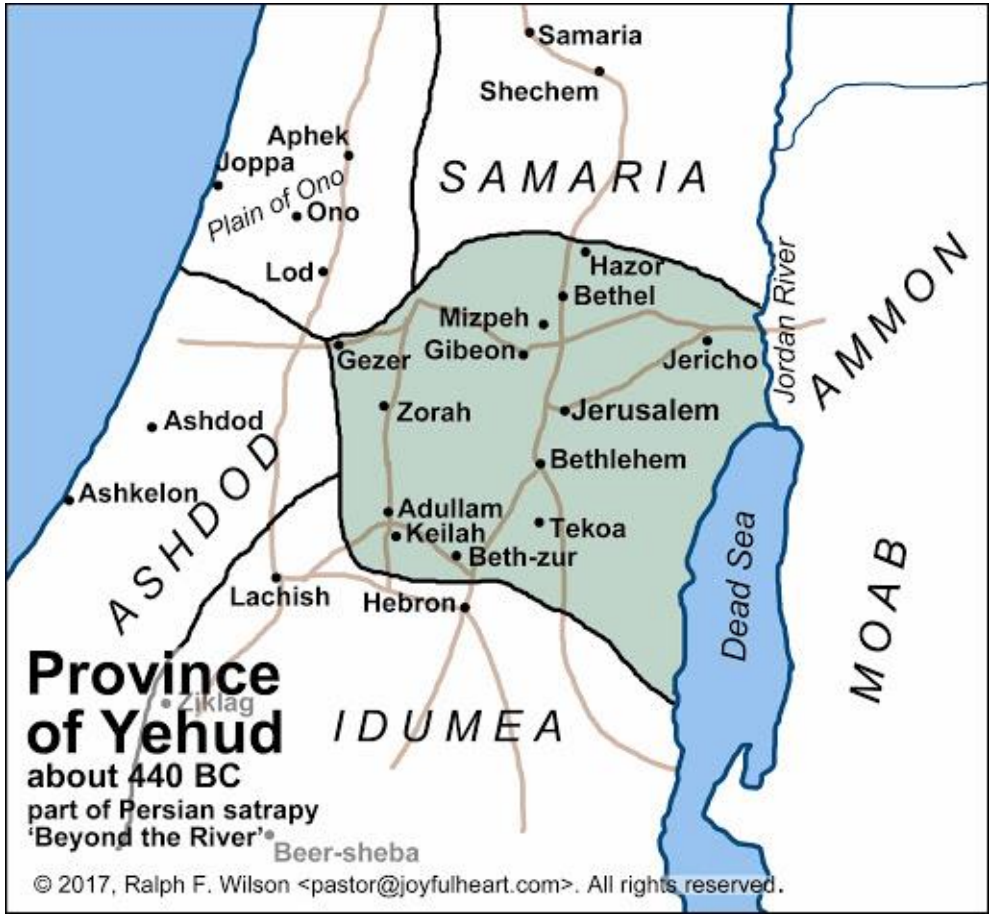
Haggai and Zechariah were prophets. They encouraged the Jews to start rebuilding the temple. They each wrote a book in the Bible. Read more about what they told the people there.

Zechariah was the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo (Zechariah 1v1). He was from a priestly line (Nehemiah 12v1+16).

Zechariah made lots of prophecies about the first and second comings of Christ.



The enemies of the gospel may use great power against you. They may even stop God's work for a time. BUT remember if you are on God's side, you are on the winning side! God will defeat all those who stand against HIM.



Friday

Haggai tells Jews to build the temple

Bible Reading: Haggai 1v1-15

1. Who did Haggai speak God's Word to? (v1)
2. When? (v1)
3. What was it time to do? (v2)
4. What had they built? (v4+9)
5. What were they to consider? (v5+7)
6. Why were they to go to the mountain? (v8)
7. How would the LORD feel? (v8)
8. Why was there drought and things were scarce? (v9-11)
9. How did the people react to Haggai's words? (v12)
10. What was Haggai called? (v13)
11. Who would be with them? (v13)
12. What did the LORD do? (v14)
13. What did the people do? (v14)
14. When? (v15)

Please note that this is not the same Darius as in Daniel chapter 6

Answers

1) Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest; 2) 1st day of 6th month in 2nd year of king Darius; 3) Build the Lord's house (temple); 4) Their own houses; 5) Their ways; 6) To get wood to build the temple; 7) Pleased and glorified; 8) Because they had not built up God's house; 9) Obeyed and feared the LORD; 10) The LORD's messenger; 11) The LORD; 12) Stirred up Zerubbabel, Joshua and the people; 13) Work in the house of the LORD their God; 14) On the 24th day of the 6th month in the 2nd year of Darius

MEANINGS:

Ceiled houses = panelled, covered in wood;

Stayed from dew = withheld the dew;

Drought = long period with little or no rain;

Remnant = what was left, remaining;

Stirred up = moved to do



God wants us to consider our ways. Are they good ways that are right in His sight? Or are they sinful ways, displeasing Him?

"Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways." (Haggai 1v5)

Saturday

Haggai and Zechariah speak God's Word

Bible Reading: Haggai 2v1-9; Zechariah 1v1-6

1. When did God's Words come to Haggai? (Haggai 2v1)
2. Who was Haggai to speak to? (v2)
3. How was the temple compared to the first temple? (v3)
4. Why were they to be strong? (v4)
5. Why were they NOT to fear? (v5)
6. What would the LORD shake? (v6+7)
7. What would He fill the temple with? (v7)
8. What would He give? (v9)
9. When did God's Word come to Zechariah? (Zechariah 1v1)
10. Why was the LORD displeased with their fathers? (v2+4)
11. If they turned to the LORD, what would He do? (v3)
12. What were they to turn from? (v4)

"Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts." (Zechariah 1v3)

Answers

1) On the 21st day of the 7th month; 2) Zerubbabel, Joshua and the people; 3) As nothing; 4) The LORD was with them; 5) God's Spirit remained among them; 6) The heavens, earth, sea, dry land, and nations; 7) His Glory; 8) Peace; 9) In the 8th month of 2nd year of Darius; 10) They would not listen to the prophets and obey the LORD; 11) He would turn to them; 12) Their evil ways

MEANINGS:

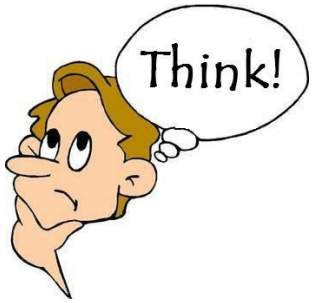
Residue = what was left;

Comparison = considering how things are alike;

Glory = beauty, honour, praise;

Sore displeased = very, very displeased;

Statutes = rules, laws



Sometimes the work ahead for God seems so, big and hard. It causes us to doubt and fear. BUT God says 'Be strong and do it. I am with you to help you'.

"Be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts." (Haggai 2v4)

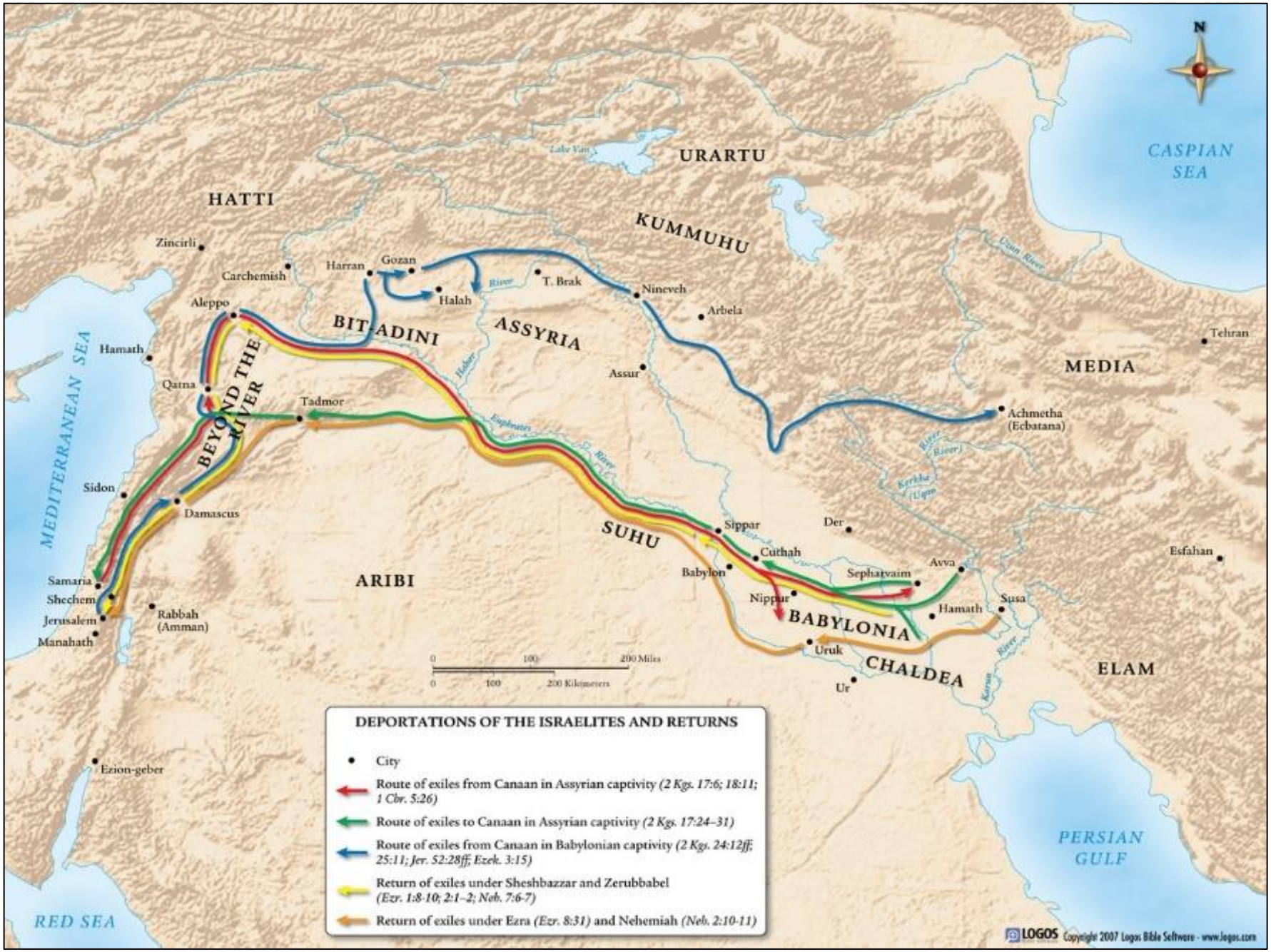


Stop and Think!

Zerubbabel was chosen by God (Haggai 2v23). He had a special work to do for God.

God promised Zerubbabel that he would finish the work (Zechariah 4v9+10).

God has a special work for you to do for Him. He will give you the strength to finish it.


N
CASPIAN SEA
URARTU
HATTI
KUMMUHU
Lake Van
Zincirli
Carchemish
Harran
Gozan
Halah
T. Brak
Nineveh
Arbela
Aleppo
BIT-ADINI
ASSYRIA
Assur
Tehran
MEDIA
Hamath
Qatna
BEYOND THE RIVER
Tadmor
Euphrates
Achmetha (Ecbatana)
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Sidon
Damascus
SUHU
Sippar
Der
Cuthah
Babylon
Avva
Esfahan
Sephatvaim
Samaria
Shechem
Jerusalem
Manahath
Rabbah (Amman)
ARIBI
Nippur
Hamath
Susa
BABYLONIA
Uruk
CHALDEA
ELAM
Ur
0 100 200 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers
DEPORTATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES AND RETURNS
City
Route of exiles from Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:6; 18:11; 1 Chr. 5:26)
Route of exiles to Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:24–31)
Route of exiles from Canaan in Babylonian captivity (2 Kgs. 24:12ff; 25:11; Jer. 52:28ff; Ezek. 3:15)
Return of exiles under Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel (Ezr. 1:8-10; 2:1–2; Neh. 7:6-7)
Return of exiles under Ezra (Ezr. 8:31) and Nehemiah (Neh. 2:10-11)
Ezion-geber
RED SEA
PERSIAN GULF
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Old English words

Afar	Far away
Ass	Donkey
Aught	Anything at all
Befallen	Happened to
Dealt	Done
Dost, Doest	Do
Draw nigh	Come near
Fetch	Go and get
Gat	Get, got
Hence	From this place
Hereby	By this
Heretofore	Before now
Hindmost	Last
Hither	Here
Hitherto	Up until now
Howbeit	However, nevertheless
Inasmuch	Since
Midst	Middle
Mixt	Mixed
Nigh	Near
Notwithstanding	Nevertheless, in spite of this
Peradventure	Perhaps
Plow	Plough
Straightway	Immediately
Selfsame	That same
Shew	Show
Thereon	On that
Therewith	With that
Thither	To there
Thou	You *(singular)*
Thou art	You are
Thrust out	Cast out
Uttermost	Farthest
Whence	From where
Wherefore	Why
Wherewith	With which
Whilst	While
Whither	To where
Whomsoever	Whoever
Wilt	Will
Wit, wot, wist	Know
Withholden	Held back
Wont to do	In the habit of doing
Wrought	Done, made

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