Walking with the Captives

Week 7

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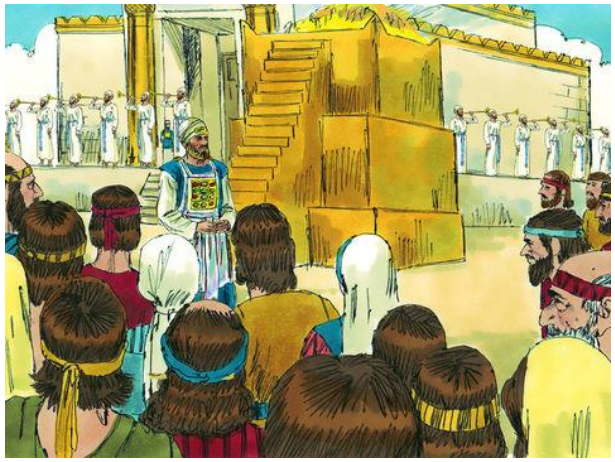
Old English words 15

To read the Bible online go to:

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



King Darius ordered work on the temple was not to stop



Temple finished and people worship God

To read KJV in 21st Century English go to:

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

Sunday

The Jews letter to Darius

Bible Reading: Ezra 5v1-17

1. In whose name did Haggai and Zechariah prophecy? (v1)
2. Who began to build the temple? (v2)
3. Who questioned their work? (v3)

Tatnai was the Persian governor over the area west of the river Euphrates. Shethar-boznai was probably his assistant. The Apharsachites were Samaritans.

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4. What was upon the elders of the Jews? (v5)
5. What could their enemies NOT do? (v5)
6. So, who did they write to? (v5-7)
7. How was the work going on? (v8)
8. What did the Jews call themselves? (v11)
9. Who had commanded the temple to be rebuilt many years before this? (v13)
10. What had been sent to Jerusalem? (v14+15) *Find Jerusalem on a map*
11. Who had Cyrus made governor to lead the work? (v14+16)
12. What had NOT been finished? (v16)
13. What did Tatnai and friends ask Darius to do? (v17)

Answers

1) The God of Israel; 2) Zerubbabel, Jeshua and the prophets of God; 3) Tatnai, Shetharboznai and their companions; 4) The eye of God: 5) Cause them to cease; 6) King Darius; 7) Fast and prospered; 8) The servants of the God of heaven; 9) Cyrus king of Babylon; 10) Vessels of gold and silver that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple; 11) Sheshbazzar; 12) Temple of God in Jerusalem; 13) Search to see if Cyrus had made a decree for the temple to be rebuilt

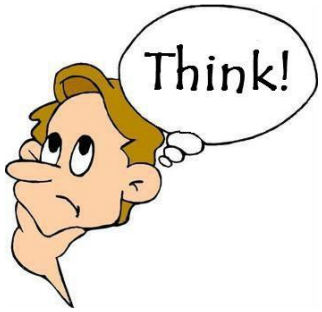
MEANINGS:

Certify = inform to be true;

Decree = law;

Provoked to wrath = made angry;

Send his pleasure = tell what pleases him



The eye of God was upon the Jews as they built the temple. The eye of God is upon His children as they do His work.

"Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy." (Psalm 33v18)

Monday

Darius' decree to build temple

Bible Reading: Ezra 6v1-12

1. What did Darius order to be done? (v1)
2. Where was the scroll found? (v2)

Achmetha was also called Ecbatana. Find it on a map

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3. What did the scroll basically say? (v3-5)
4. So, who did Darius write to? (v6)
5. What did he tell them to do? (v7)
6. What were they to give the Jews? (v8)
7. Why? (v8)
8. What was to be given daily without fail? (v9)
9. What did he want the Jews to pray for? (v10)
10. What would happen to anyone who altered his decree? (v11)
11. Who did he say God would destroy? (v12)
12. How did he want his decree to be obeyed? (v12)

Answers

1) Search in house of scrolls in king's treasures in Babylon; 2) Palace in Achmetha; 3) King Cyrus had commanded the temple to be rebuilt and the temple vessels to be brought back to Jerusalem; 4) Tatnai, Shetharboznai and their companions the Apharsachites; 5) Let the work on temple alone and let the Jews build it; 6) Expenses were to be given to the Jews for the work, paid out of taxes; 7) That the work be not hindered; 8) Bullocks, rams and lambs for burnt offerings, and wheat, salt, wine and oil; 9) The life of the king and his sons; 10) Timber pulled down from his house then set up to hang him on it; 11) All kings and people who would alter and destroy the temple at Jerusalem; 12) With speed

MEANINGS:

House of rolls = house where scrolls of records were kept;

Threescore = 60;

Tribute = tax;

Expenses = costs;

Appointment of priests (v9) = word, request of priests



Darius was a heathen king but he wanted the prayers of God's people (v10). Sometimes ungodly people ask for prayer. They need your prayers too!

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." (Zechariah 4v6)


Medo-Persian Empire
SCYTHIA
Black Sea
Caspian Sea
Phasis
MACEDONIA
THRACE
Byzantium
GREECE
Marathon
Salamis
Athens
LYDIA
Sardis
ARMENIA
ASSYRIA
CILICIA
Tarsus
Issus
Carchemish
Nineveh
MEDIA
HYRCANIA
ELBURZ MTS.
Maracanda
(Samarkand)
SOGDIANA
BACTRIA
PARTHIA
ARIA
DRANGIANA
ARACHOSIA
Euphrates
Tigris
Tadmor
SYRIA
Sidon
Tyre
Damascus
Jerusalem
Ecbatana
(Achmetha)
ZAGROS MTS.
Babylon
Shushan
(Susa)
ELAM
Persepolis
Pasargadae
Mediterranean Sea
(Great Sea)
Cyrene
LIBYA
Memphis
(Noph)
EGYPT
ARABIA
Elath
(Eloth)
Tema
PERSIA
Persian Gulf
Indus
GEDROSIA
INDIA
Nile
Red Sea
No-amon
(Thebes)
Syene
N
0 mi
500
0 km
500

Tuesday

The Temple is finished

Bible Reading: Ezra 6v13-22

1. Who had to obey king Darius' command? (v13)
2. How quickly? (v13)
3. What did the elders of Judah prosper through? (v14)
4. They built and finished according to what? (v14)
5. When was the temple finished? (v15)
6. What was kept with joy? (v16)
7. What did they offer at the dedication? (v17)
8. How did the priests and Levites do their work? (v18)
9. When was the Passover kept? (v19)
10. What had the priests and Levites to be before they killed the Passover? (v20)
11. What had the Israelites to separate from? (v21)
12. Who made them joyful? (v22)
13. Whose heart was turned to help them? (v22)

"The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." (Psalm 126v3)

Answers

1) Tatnai, Shetharboznai and their companions; 2) Speedily; 3) The prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah; 4) The commandment of God; 5) On 3rd day of month Adar in 6th year of Darius' reign; 6) The dedication of the temple; 7) 100 bullocks, 200 rams, 400 lambs and 12 male goats; 8) As it is written in the book of Moses; 9) On 14th day of 1st month; 10) Purified; 11) Filthiness of the heathen; 12) The LORD; 13) King of Assyria

MEANINGS:

Dedication of temple = special ceremony to set aside the temple for the worship of God;

Courses = in turns;

Purified = made clean for holy worship;

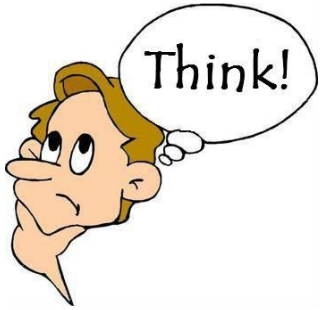
Filthiness = uncleanness



What was the Passover?

The Passover was a special remembrance of the time that God delivered the Israelites from Egypt. When the blood of the lamb was on the doorposts of a house…the angel of death passed over…and the firstborn were safe. Read about it in Exodus chapters 11-13.

The Israelites kept it on the 14th day of the 1st month.



The people had to worship God according to the way God had told Moses. They had to be ceremonially clean. And the LORD made them joyful.

Remember God wants us to be holy and obedient as we worship Him. Then He will give us real joy.

"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." (Psalm 29v2)

"for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8v10)

Wednesday

Ezra goes to Jerusalem

Bible Reading: Ezra 7v1-13

The story of Esther happened between Ezra chapters 6+7.

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1. Who did king Artaxerxes send to Jerusalem? (v1) *Find Jerusalem on a map*
2. Who was Ezra a descendant of? (v5)

Aaron was the brother of Moses. Remember Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. Aaron was the high priest of Israel. Read about him in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers.

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3. Where did Ezra go from? (v6) *Find it on a map*
4. What was he a skilled scribe in? (v6)
5. Whose hand was upon him? (v6)
6. Who went with him? (v7)
7. When did they arrive in Jerusalem? (v8+9)

This journey took 4 months. No doubt it would have been difficult and dangerous at times. But the LORD was with them and protected them.

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8. What did Ezra prepare his heart to do? (v10)
9. Who gave Ezra a letter? (v11)
10. What did Artaxerxes call himself? (v12)
11. What was he sending to Ezra at that time? (v12)
12. Who did he say could go with Ezra? (v13)

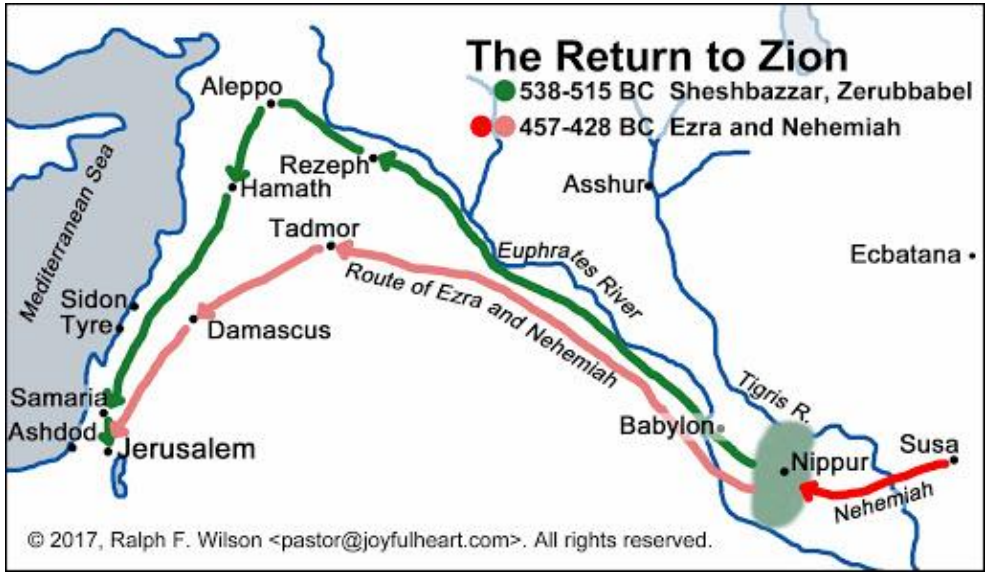
MEANINGS:

Ready scribes = skilful scribes;

Statutes = laws;

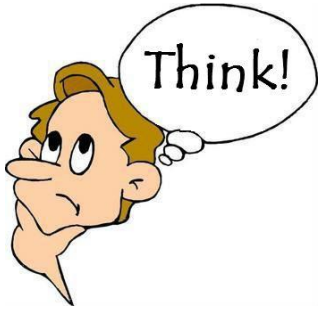
Judgments = what God says is right;

Realm = kingdom



Answers

1) Ezra; 2) Aaron the chief priest; 3) Babylon; 4) The law of Moses; 5) The LORD his God; 6) Some Israelites, priests, Levites, singers, porters and Nethinims; 7) On 1st day of 5th month in the 7th year of the king; 8) To seek the law of the LORD, to do it and to teach it; 9) King Artaxerxes; 10) King of kings; 11) Perfect peace; 12) All people of Israel, priests and Levites of their own free will



Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of God, to do it and to teach it (v10).

Ezra got his own heart right and obeyed God's Word before he taught it to others.

Make sure your heart is right with God… and you are walking in obedience to Him… before you try to teach others from the Bible.



Stop and Think!

No one was forced to go to Jerusalem against their will (v13). You are not being forced to follow God. BUT you will miss out on the joy of the LORD if you don't!

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3v16)



Who was Ezra?

Ezra was a priest. He was a descendant of Aaron (Ezra 7v1-5).

He was a skilled scribe in the law of God (7v6). He prepared his heart to seek and teach God's law (7v10). He brought it to Jerusalem with him to teach it (7v14).

The Persian king Artaxerxes sent him to Jerusalem (7v14). Some Jewish exiles returned with him (7v7+13).

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1v8)

Thursday

Artaxerxes' letter sent with Ezra

Bible Reading: Ezra 7v14-28

1. Who sent Ezra from Babylon? (v14)
2. To do what? (v14) *Find these places on a map*
3. What was Ezra to take with him? (v15, 16+19)
4. Who had freely and willingly offered to God? (v15+16)
5. What was the money to buy? (v17)
6. How was the rest of the silver and gold to be used? (v18)
7. Where would they get money for anything else that was needed for the temple? (v20)
8. What was to be done speedily? (v21)
9. What was to be done diligently? (v23)
10. Who did NOT have to pay taxes? (v24)
11. What was Ezra to do by God's wisdom? (v25)
12. What were the magistrates and judges to know? (v25)
13. What would happen to anyone who did NOT obey God's law? (v26)
14. Give some things Ezra thanked God for? (v27+28)
15. What strengthened Ezra? (v28)

Answers

1) The king and his 7 counsellors; 2) To enquire about Judah and Jerusalem according to the law of God; 3) Silver, gold and temple vessels; 4) The king and his counsellors, the people and priests; 5) Bullocks, rams, lambs for offerings; 6) After the will of God; 7) The king's treasury; 8) Whatever Ezra required; 9) What God commanded; 10) Priests, Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims or ministers of the temple; 11) Appoint magistrates and judges; 12) The laws of God; 13) Judgment executed speedily on him, death, banishment, confiscation of goods or imprisonment; 14) That God put it in the king's heart to beautify the temple, and extended mercy to Ezra before the king, his counsellors and mighty princes; 15) The hand of the LORD

MEANINGS:

Bestow = give;

Impose = to force something on someone;

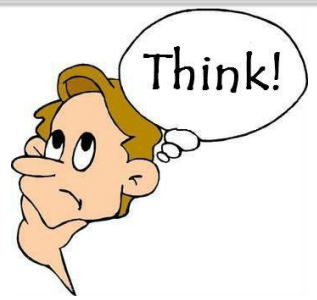
Judgment executed = judgment done;

Banishment = punishment of being sent away to another place;

Confiscation = seize, take property away from someone;

Beautify = make more beautiful;

Extended mercy = showed compassion



Ezra taught people God's laws. He carefully chose judges who knew God's laws.

People often follow their leaders. Good rulers will lead and judge according to what God says. People need to be taught and guided by God's Word.



The Hand of the LORD

1. The hand of the LORD was upon Ezra (7v6).
2. The hand of the LORD is good (7v9; 8v18).
3. The hand of the LORD strengthened Ezra (7v28).
4. The hand of the LORD is upon all who seek HIM for good (8v22).
5. The hand of the LORD protects (8v31)

Think about what it means for the hand of the LORD to be upon you!

"I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me." (Ezra 7v28)



Friday

Return of captives with Ezra

Bible Reading: Ezra 8v1-20

1. Who did Ezra gather together to go with him? (7v28)
2. When did Ezra lead captives from Babylon? (8v1)

If you count the numbers of people in these verses you will get a rough idea of how many went with Ezra. They are named by the chief fathers. This means they are listed in families.
Find Babylon and Jerusalem on a map

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3. Where did he gather them? (v15) *Find it on a map*
4. How long did they stay there? (v15)
5. Who were NOT among the group? (v15)

This is important. The descendants of Levi were needed for temple worship. The priests were descendants of Aaron. The other Levites helped the priests in temple worship.

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6. Who did Ezra send for? (v16)
7. How are they described? (v16)
8. Who did he send them to? (v17) *Find Casiphia (Kasiphia) on a map*
9. What were they to ask for? (v17)
10. How is the hand of God described? (v18)
11. What sort of person was brought? (v18)

MEANINGS:

Reckoned = recorded;

Genealogy = line of descent from one's ancestors;

Expressed by name = named

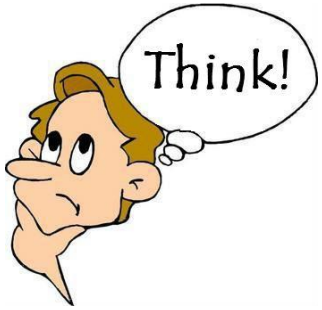


Stop and Think!

Artaxerxes had given the command for people, priests and Levites that were willing to go to Jerusalem (7v12+13). BUT Ezra found no Levites among them! I wonder why. Had they got too comfortable in Babylon and didn't want their lives upset? Or was it that they knew it was a long journey and hard work ahead?

Answers

1) Chief men of Israel; 2) In the reign of king Artaxerxes; 3) To the river that runs to Ahava; 4) Three days; 5) Sons of Levi; 6) Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, Meshullam, Joiariband Elnathan; 7) Chief men, Men of understanding; 8) Iddo the chief at Casiphia; 9) For ministers for the temple; 10) Good; 11) A man of understanding

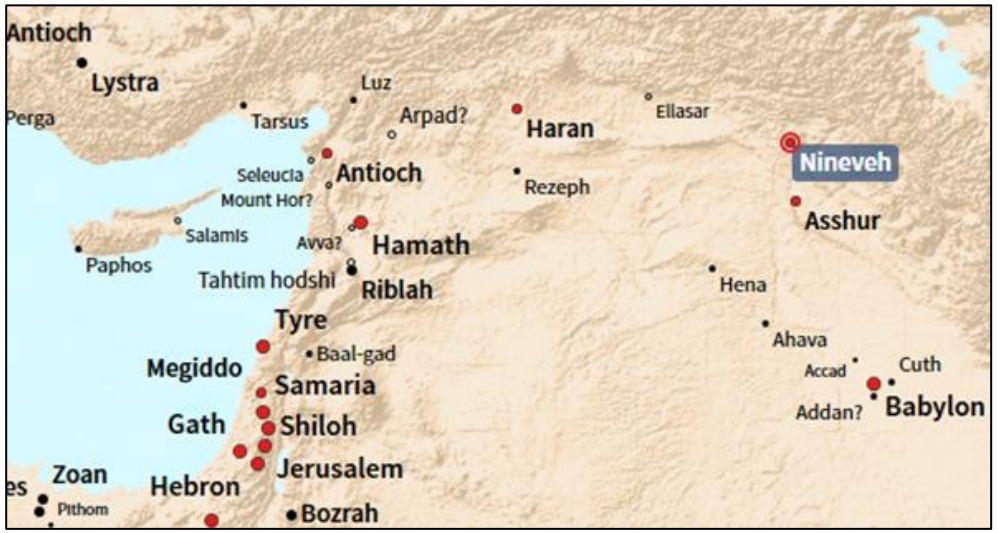


Ezra had all the money he needed to set up temple worship in Jerusalem BUT he needed the Levites to help the priests do the work!

God is still wanting workers to serve Him. Are you willing to do the work He has for you? If so, He will give you the strength to serve Him.

"And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD." (Zechariah 10v12)

"But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." (Daniel 11v32)





Saturday

Ezra keeps a fast and arrives in Jerusalem

Bible Reading: Ezra 8v21-32

1. What did Ezra proclaim? (v21)
2. Why? (v21)
3. What was Ezra ashamed to ask the king for? (v22)
4. Why? (v22)
5. Did God answer their prayers? (v23)
6. Who did Ezra separate? (v24)
7. What did he give them to take care of? (v25+30)
8. What was holy? (v28)
9. What was the gold and silver? (v28)
10. Where were the priests and Levites to bring these to? (v29+30)
    Find it on a map
11. When did they leave to go to Jerusalem? (v31)
12. What did the hand of God do for them? (v31)
13. What did they do when they arrived? (v32)

"The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him." (Ezra 8v22)

Answers

1) A fast; 2) To afflict themselves before God, to seek a right way for them, their children and substance; 3) A band of soldiers and horsemen to protect them on the way; 4) He had already told the king that God would protect them; 5) Yes; 6) Twelve chief priests; 7) Silver, gold, temple vessels and offerings; 8) The priests and the vessels; 9) A freewill offering to God; 10) Temple in Jerusalem; 11) On the 12th day of the 1st month; 12) Delivered them from the enemy and those who lay in wait to attack them; 13) Stayed at Jerusalem 3 days

MEANINGS:

Proclaimed = announced;

Afflict = suffer;

Substance = wealth;

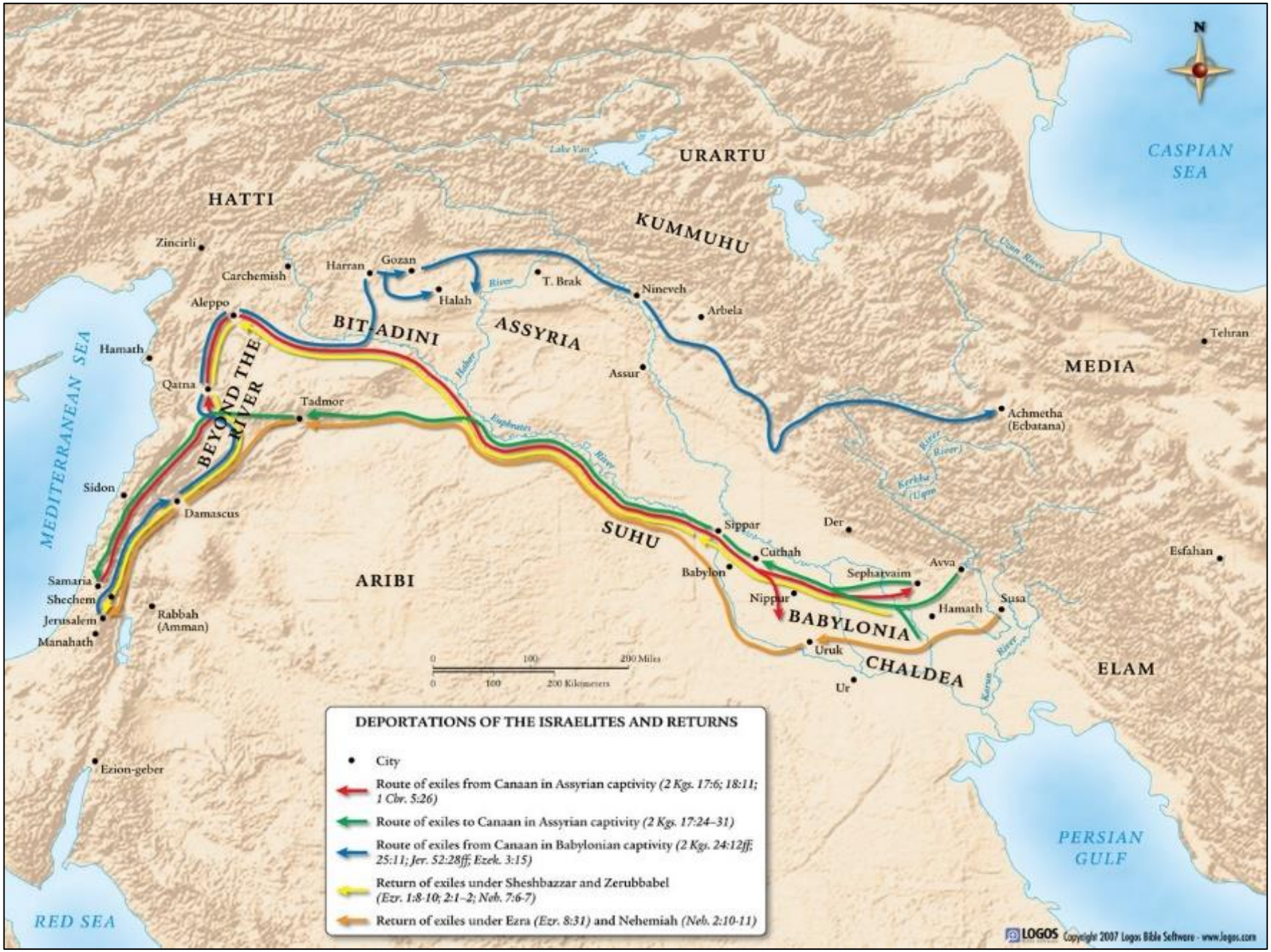
Besought = begged;

Intreated = answered



Ezra and those with him wanted to know the right way for themselves and their children. They fasted, suffered and prayed until God answered.

Maybe you are struggling to know the right way to go in your life. Well, God will never lead you wrong. If you truly seek Him with all your heart, He will show you.


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
Forthwith	Immediately, without delay
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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