


Welcome to

calvary
chapel
portsmouth



www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk

Simply teaching the Word simply

A sunset with vibrant orange and red clouds over a landscape. In the foreground, an open Bible is laid flat, with its pages visible. The text on the pages is partially legible, including phrases like "The wicked are not: but", "A man shall be commended", and "The fool shall inherit".

Through The Bible

Session 18

Ezra & Nehemiah

From the miracle of our origin to the mystery of our destiny

Old Testament

Torah - 5

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Historical - 12

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles

Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Poetical Books - 5

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

Post Exile History

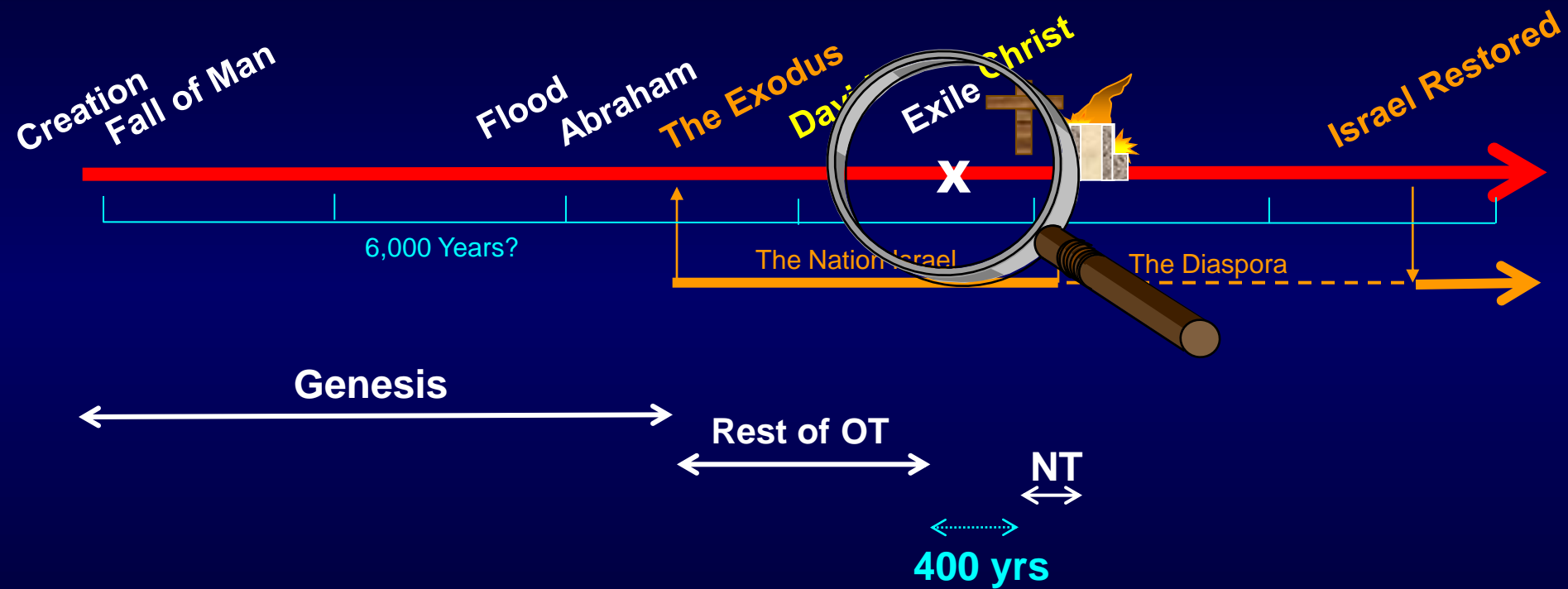
Major Prophets - 5

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

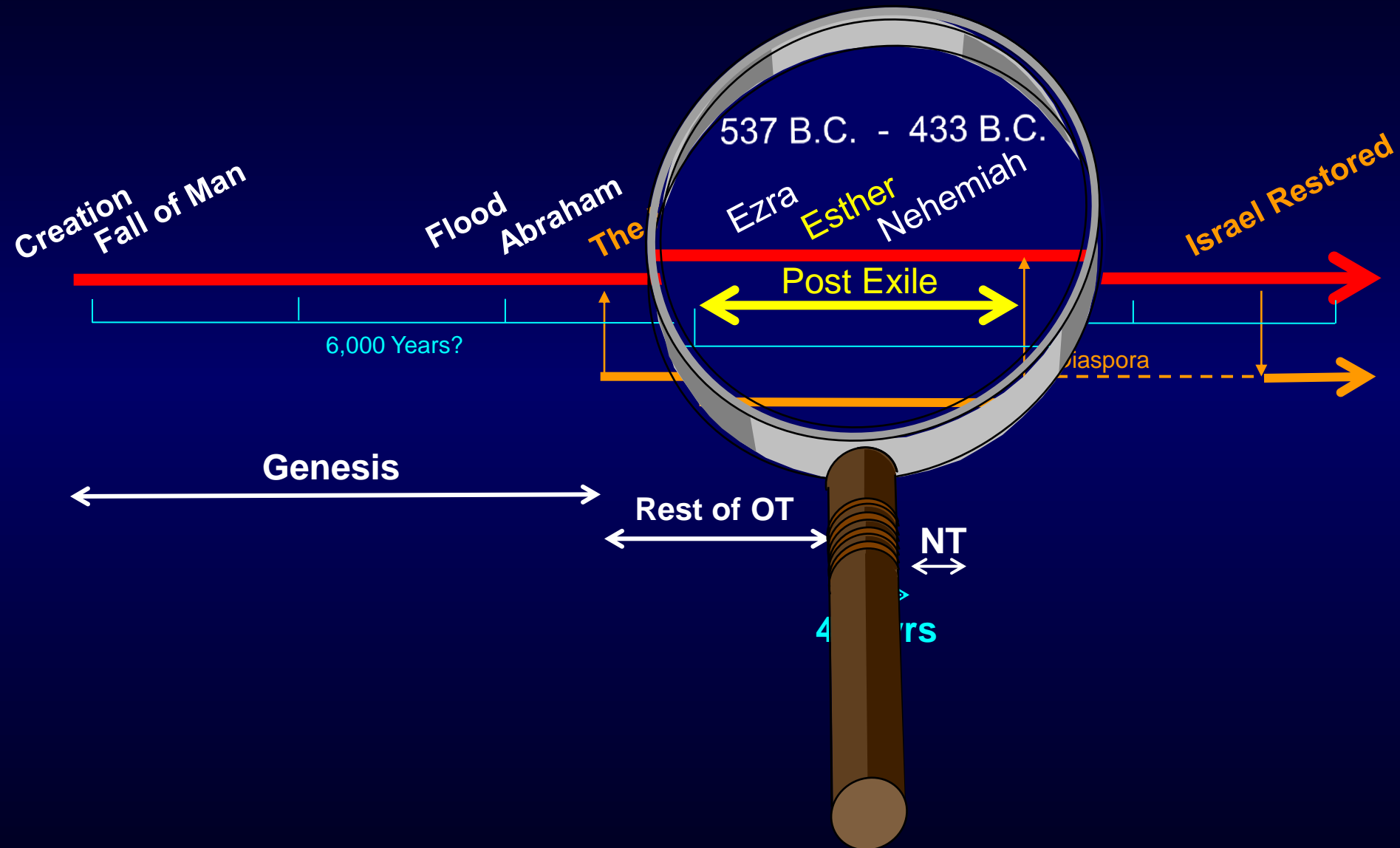
Minor Prophets - 12

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The Panorama of History

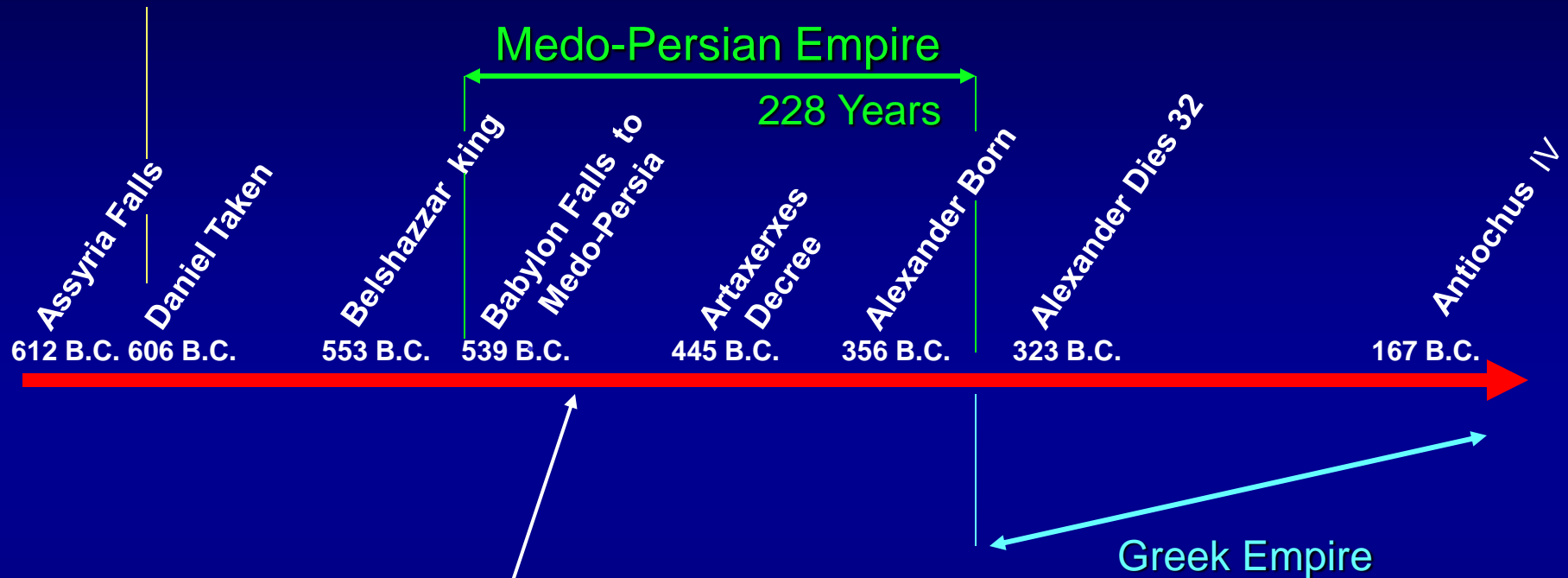


The Panorama of History



History of the Times

Times of the Gentiles Luke 21:24



History



Ezra / Nehemiah / Esther

Prophetic



Haggai / Zechariah / Malachi

The Sabbath for the Land

- 3 Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof;*
- 4 But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.*

Leviticus 25:3-4

The Sabbath for the Land

- 31 And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.*
- 32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.*
- 33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.*

Leviticus 26:31-35

The Sabbath for the Land

- 34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.*
- 35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.*

Leviticus 26:31-35

Sabbath Rest For The Land

17 Therefore [God] brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.

Sabbath Rest For The Land

¹⁹ And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

²⁰ And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

²¹ To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

The Seventy Years

- There are two periods of 70 years
- ‘The servitude of the nation’
 - Specifically in regard to the PEOPLE
- ‘The desolations of Jerusalem’
 - Specifically in regard to the LAND

The Servitude of the Nation

- 8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.
- 9 For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:8-11

The Servitude of the Nation

- IO** For thus saith the LORD, That after **seventy years** be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, **in causing you to return to this place.**
- II** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an **expected end.**

Jeremiah 29:8-11

The Servitude of the Nation

- Nebuchadnezzar put Israel under servitude with the 1st Siege of Jerusalem in summer 606 B.C.
- Daniel deported to Babylon
 - 23rd July 606 B.C. (?)
- Servitude ends following the decree of Cyrus in summer of 537 B.C.
 - 20th July 537 B.C. (?)
- The interval is 25,200 days,
 - 70 years of 360 days each.

The Desolations of Jerusalem

- 8 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words,
- 9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual* desolations.

Heb: `owlam i.e. the vanishing point;

time out of mind

Jeremiah 25:8-11

The Desolations of Jerusalem

- IO** Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.
- II** And **this whole land shall be a desolation,** and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jeremiah 25:8-11

The Desolations of Jerusalem

- ¹ Again in the ninth year, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*
- ² Son of man, write thee the name of the day, even of this same day: the king of Babylon set himself against Jerusalem this same day.*

Ezekiel 24:1-2

The Desolations of Jerusalem

- At the very time the Babylonian army was surrounding Jerusalem, Ezekiel, hundreds of miles away in Babylon, is told to record,
 - 10th day of Tebeth, 587 BC (16th Aug 587 B.C.)

The Desolations of Jerusalem

¹⁵ And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD...

¹⁸ ... Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid, consider it.

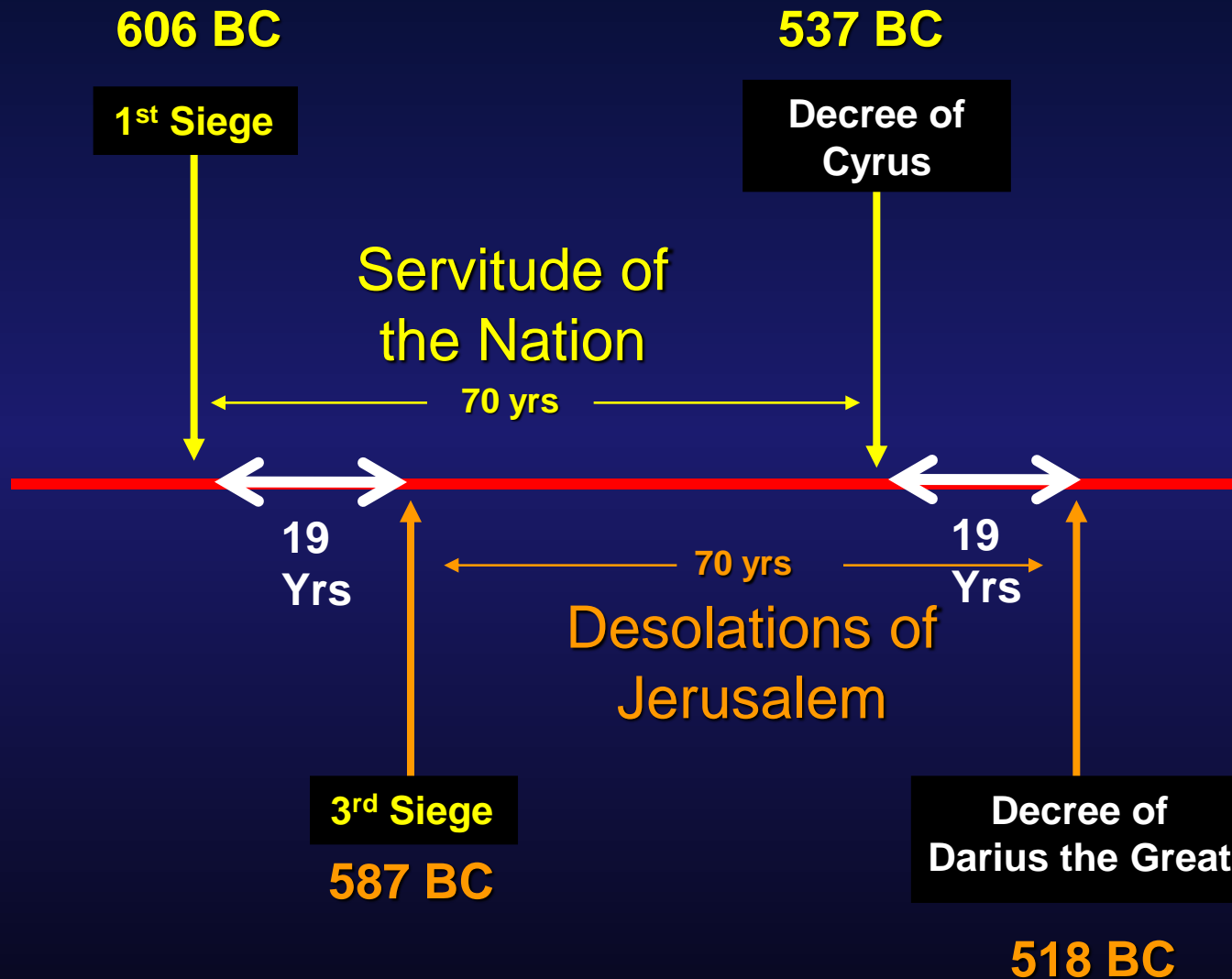
Haggai 2:15-18

The Desolations of Jerusalem

- Haggai, nails the date they ended,
 - 24th day of Kislev, 518 BC (14th Aug 518 B.C.)
- The interval is 25,200 days,
 - 70 years of 360 days each.

(Cf. 2 Kings 25:1; Jeremiah 52:4)

Servitude / Desolations



Kings of Babylonian Empire



The Babylonian Empire



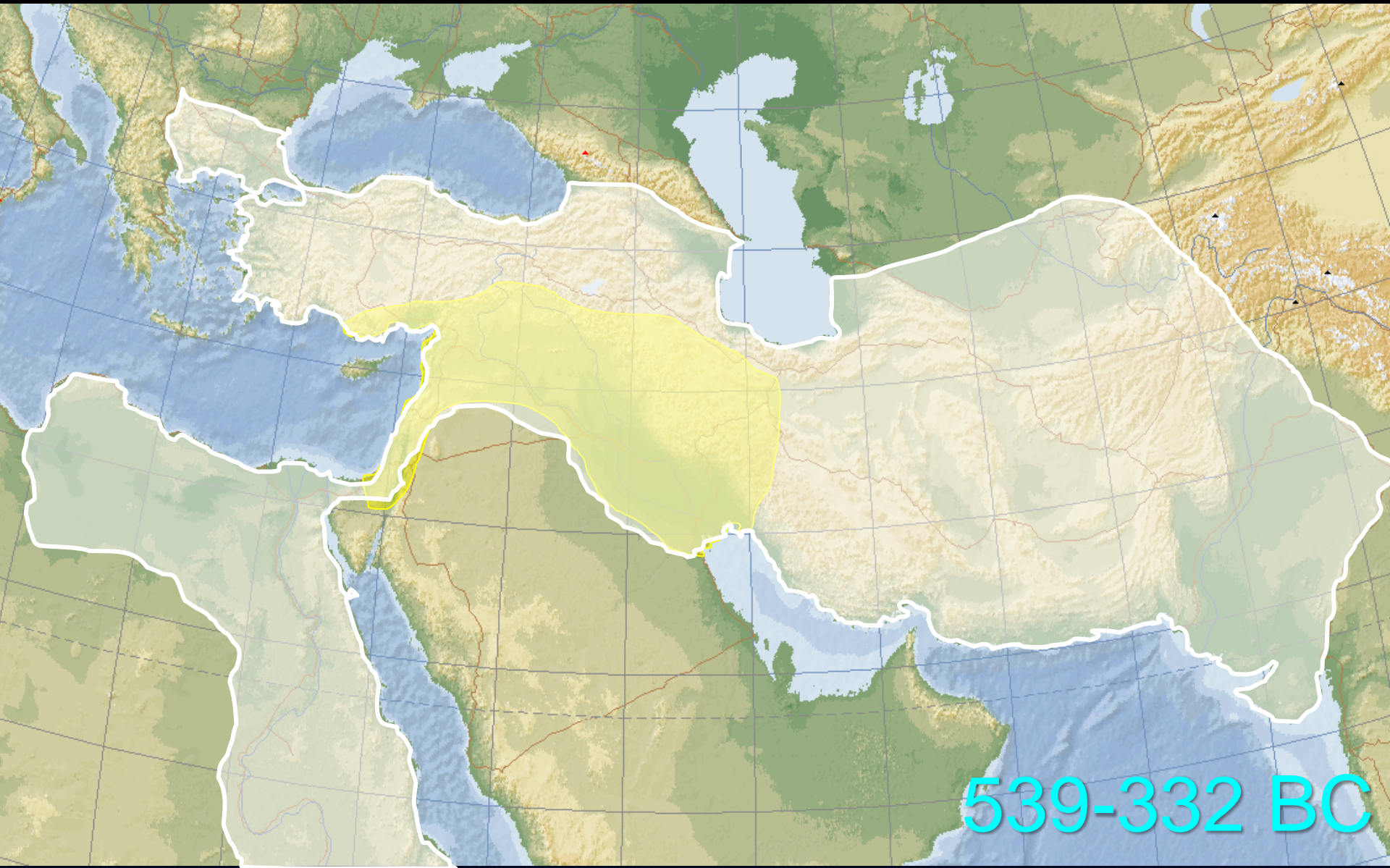
Babylon

606-539 BC

Kings of Persian Empire

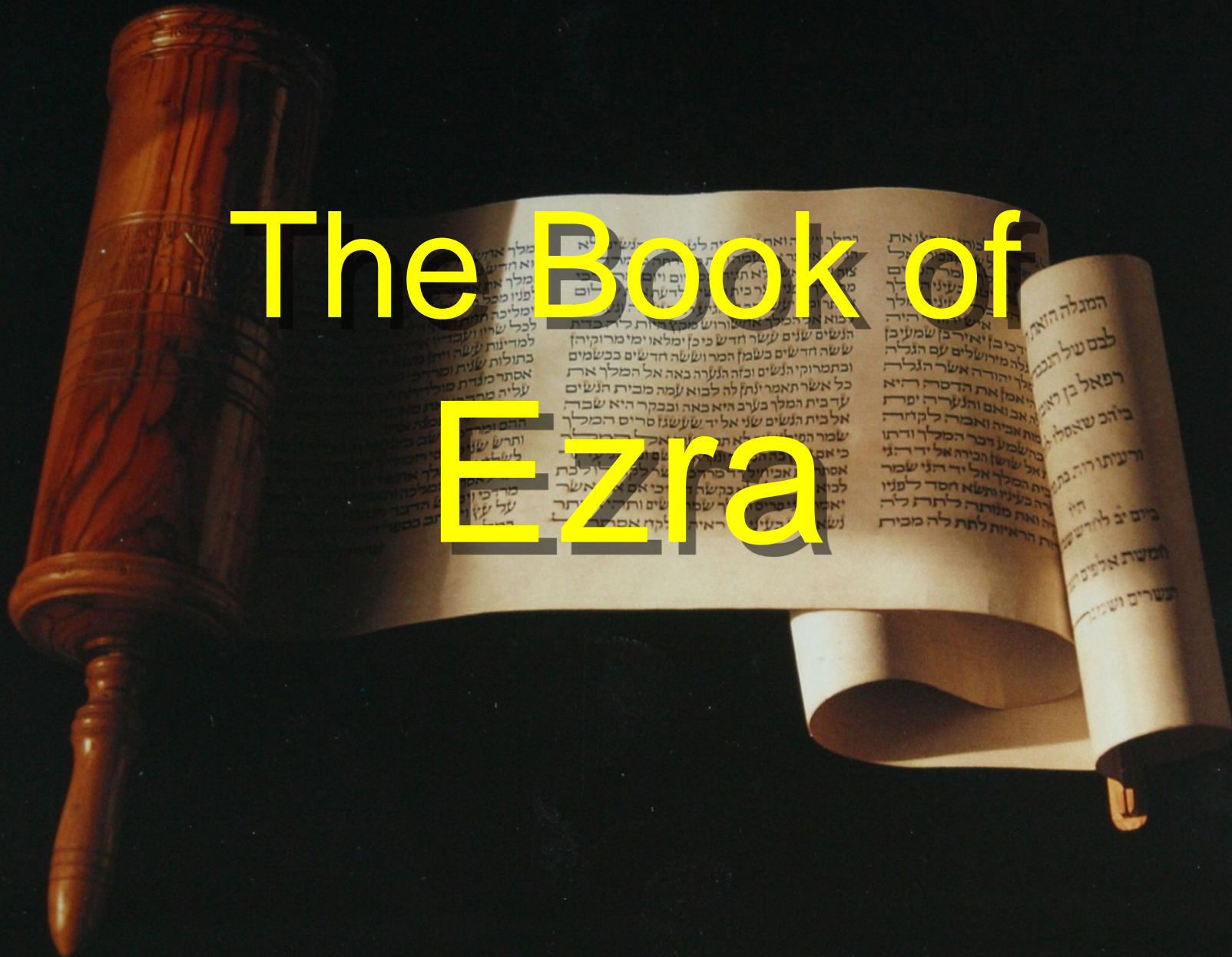


The Persian Empire



539-332 BC

The Book of Ezra



The Book of Ezra

- 10 Chapters
- Most probably written by Ezra
- Purpose:
 - To record the 1st national regathering after the Babylonian captivity
- Theme:
 - End of the Servitude & the rebuilding of the Temple
- Key characters:
 - Ezra, Cyrus, Darius, Artaxerxes
 - Zerubbabel (son of Shealtiel), Jeshua (son of Jozadak)
 - Tatnai (Governor),

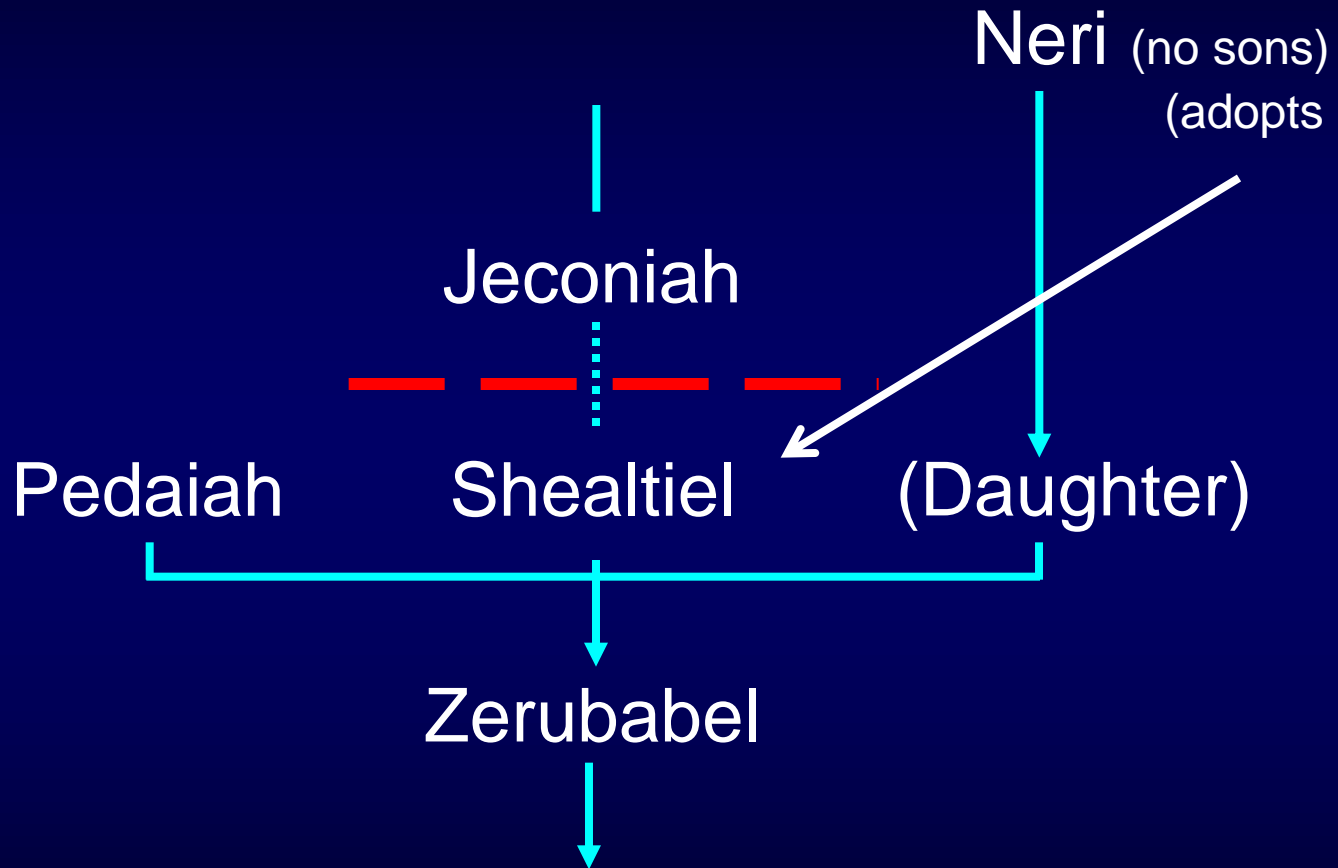
Some Difficulties

- Zerubbabel is called the son of Shealtiel, but *also* the son of Pedaiah
Ezra 3:2, 8; 5:2; Neh. 12:1; Hag. 1:12, 14; 2:2, 23;
Matt. 1:12; Luke 3:27
- Shealtiel and Pedaiah were brothers 1 Chr 3:17-18
- Apparently Shealtiel died without children
- So to fulfill the Levitical requirement for succession... Deut. 25:5-10 'Levirite Marriage'
- Pedaiah (his younger brother) raises up seed for his deceased brother

Some Difficulties

- In Luke's genealogy he identifies Shealtiel as the son of Neri (descendant of Nathan)
- However, Shealtiel is actually the son of Jeconiah (descendant of Solomon)
 - upon whom is a blood curse

Royal Decent



The House of David

Matthew:

Luke:

Solomon

Rehoboam
Abijah
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Jehoram
Ahaziah*
Joash*
Amaziah*
Uzziah
Jotham
Ahaz
Hezekiah
Manasseh
Amon
Josiah

Nathan

Mattatha
Menan
Melea
Eliakim
Jonan
Joseph
Juda
Simeon
Levi
Matthat
Jorim
Eliezer
Jose
Er
Elmodam
Cosam
Addi
Melchi
Neri

Salathiel**
Zerubbabel

Jehoiakim*

Jehoiachin*

Salathiel**
Zerubbabel

Abiud
Eliakim
Azor
Sadoc
Achim
Eliud
Eleazar
Matthan
Jacob
Joseph

Rhesa
Joanna
Juda
Joseph
Semei
Mattathias
Maath
Nagge
Esli
Naum
Amos
Mattathias
Joseph
Janna
Melchi
Levi
Matthat
Heli
(Mary)

Daughters of Zelophehad

- Torah exception on rules of inheritance
 - Requested of Moses Numbers 27:1-11
 - Granted by Joshua Joshua 17:3-6
- Husband *adopted* by father of the bride
Ezra 2:61=Neh 7:63; Num 32:41, cf. 1 Chr 2:21-23, 34-35
- Anticipates the lineage of Christ
 - Joseph was the *son-in-law* of Heli Luke 3:23
nomi,zw, nomizo, reckoned as by law

The Blood Curse on Jeconiah*

** Also called Jehoiachin*

Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

Jeremiah 22:30

- Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, son of **Jeconiah** does *not* become king! Yet the Messiah can

The Virgin Birth

- Hinted at the Garden of Eden:
 - *“The Seed of the Woman...”* **Genesis 3:15**
- Prophesied by Isaiah:
 - *A Virgin shall conceive...”* **Isaiah 7:14**
- *Required* by the blood curse on the royal line **Jeremiah 22:30**



The Book of Ezra

Chapter 1 End Of The Exile

I Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Ezra 1:1

2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.

Ezra 1:2-3

4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

Ezra 1:4

The Cylinder of Cyrus



The Cylinder of Cyrus

"...without any battle, he entered the town, sparing any calamity; ... I returned to sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which have been ruins for a long time... and established for them permanent sanctuaries. I also gathered all their former inhabitants and returned to them their habitations."

British Museum, London.

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.

Ezra 1:5

6 And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;

8 Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

Ezra 1:8



The Book of Ezra

Chapter 2
Return From Exile

I Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city;

Ezra 2:1

*64 The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,
65 Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.*

Ezra 2:64-65

42,360 Returned from Exile
+ 7,337 servants etc.

Total = 49,697



The Book of Ezra

Chapter 3
Return From Exile

1 And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

2 Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

3 And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, even burnt offerings morning and evening.

4 They kept also the feast of tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;

5 And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the LORD.

6 From the first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings unto the LORD.

But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.

8 Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD.

II And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel.

And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Ezra 3:11

12 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.



The Book of Ezra

Chapter 4 Delayed Work

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

6 And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

God's Timing

- It is incredible to realise that the objections of a few 'locals' were enough to thwart the decree of a Persian king for and prevent the rebuilding of the Temple
- Even more incredible when we remember that the 'law of the Meads and Persians' cannot be altered!
- Yet until God's time was right and the decreed desolations were ended, the Jews were seemingly powerless.

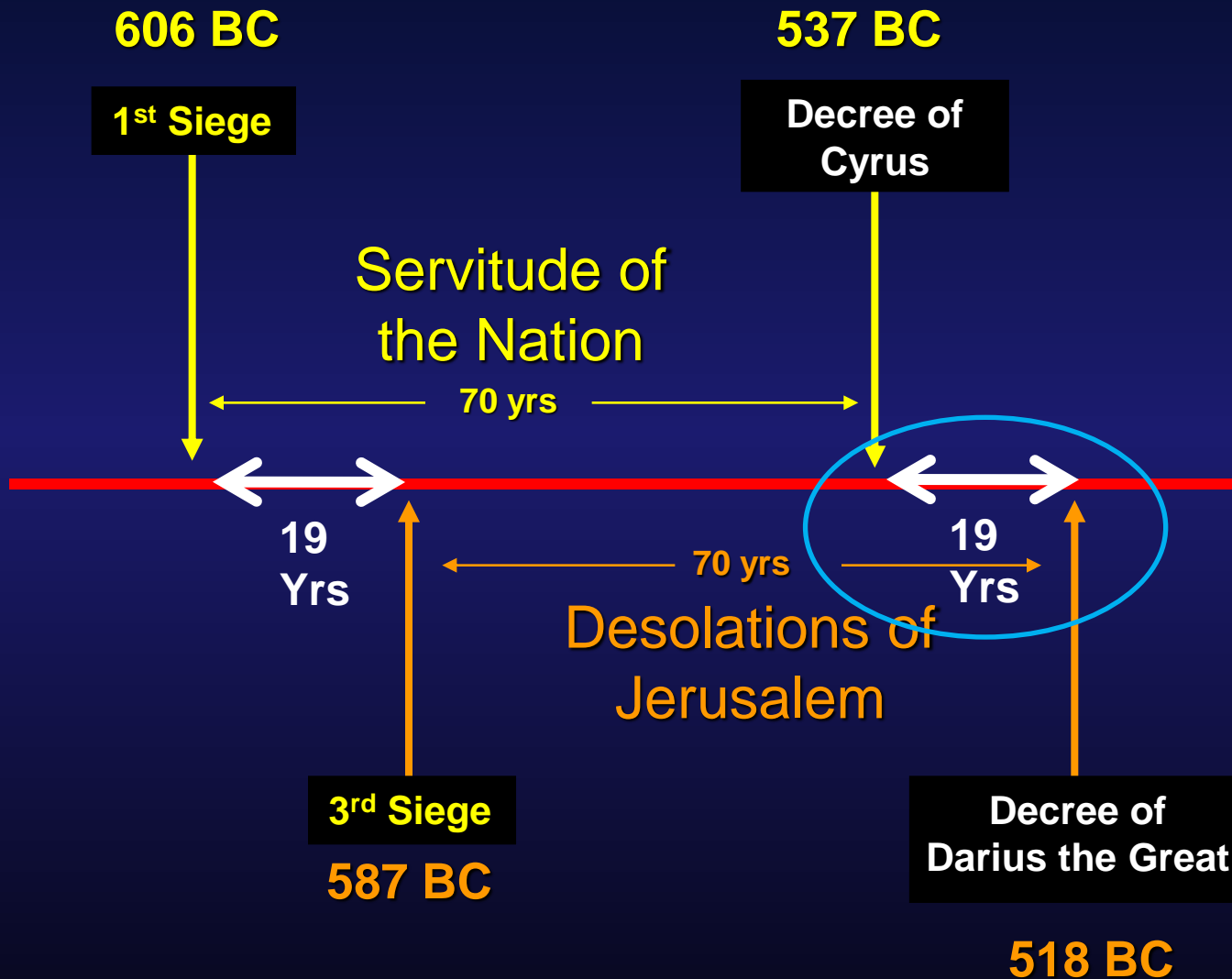
God's Timing

- But mark the contrast when God *“stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God”* (Hag 1:14)
- From this point the Temple was rebuilt in just a little over 4 years, two months!

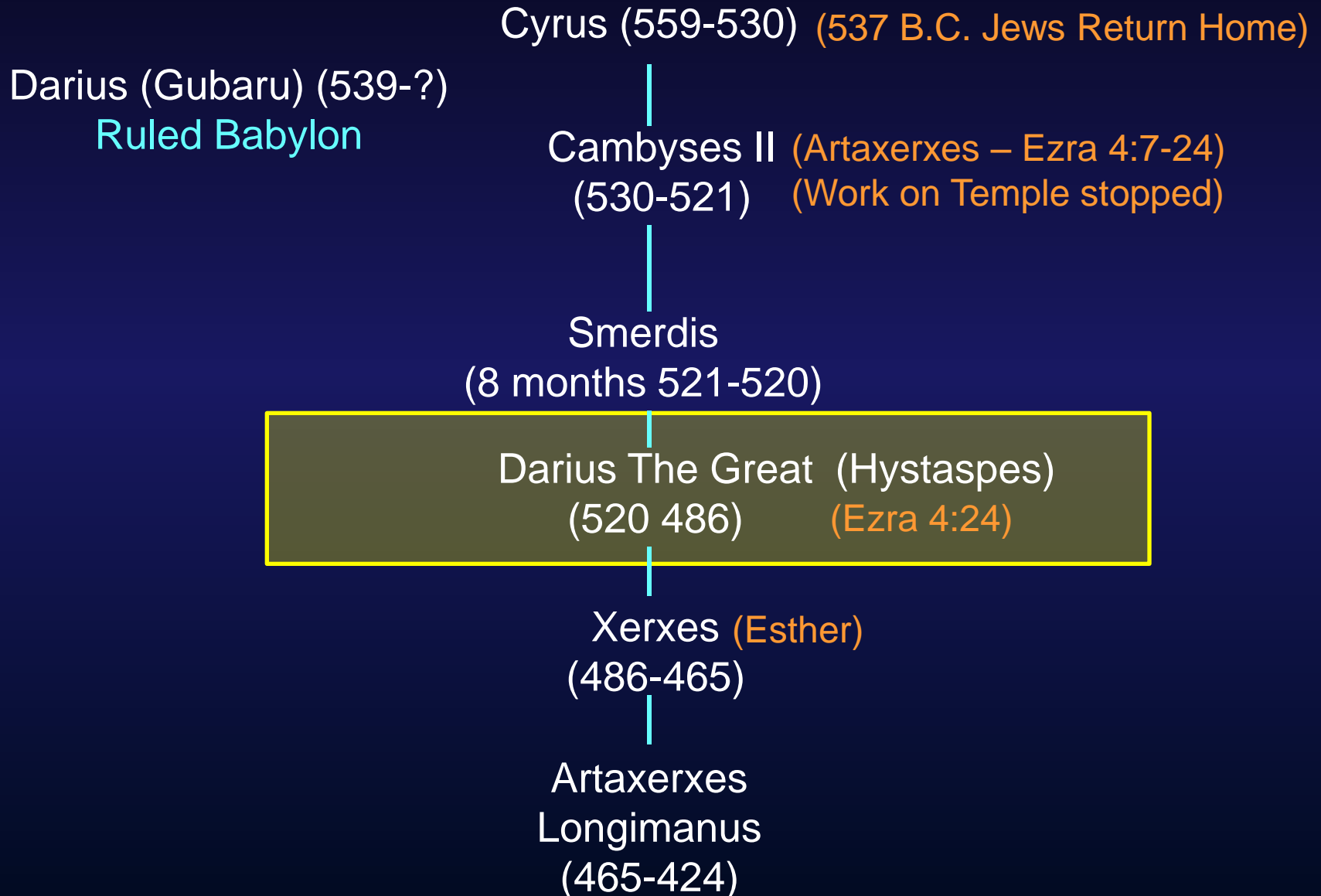
God's Timing

- Cyrus signs decree in **537 B.C.**
- Jews return home (c. 50,000)
- Nothing is done regarding the temple **c.2yrs**
– **c.535 B.C.**
- The next **5 years** are 'troublous times'
- Cyrus's son Cambyses > king **530 B.C.**
- The Samaritans seize the opportunity...
- They petition Cambyses regarding the Jews
- Cambyses calls a halt to the work (Ezra 4:21)
- This lasts for another **12 years** – to **518 B.C.**
- **19 years** from the decree to return home

Servitude / Desolations



Kings of Persian Empire





The Book of Ezra

Chapter 5-6

The Work Completed

I Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them.

Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.

Ezra 5:1-2

Troublous Times

- Tatnai (the governor)
 - *“Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?”* Ezra 5:3
- Letter sent to Darius (naming the Elders)
- A search is made in the archives
- The decree of Cyrus is found
- The reply is sent from Darius:
 - *“Let the work of this house of God alone”*
- Darius then also makes his own decree granting expenses and
 - *“all which they have need of”*

14 And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

15 And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.



The Book of Ezra

Chapter 7
Ezra the Teacher

1 Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,

6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.

10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

The Kings Decree

- Artaxerxes commissions Ezra to return to Jerusalem
 - All of Israel who are willing may also return
- They are granted to take silver & gold to purchase animals for sacrifice
 - And 'whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God'
- All the treasurers 'beyond the river' are to comply with whatever Ezra wants
- Ezra and the Levites are not to be taxed
- Ezra to appoint Godly magistrates & judges
- A warning given to any who would oppose



The Book of Ezra

Chapter 8
Seek ye first...

My help comes from the LORD

- Those who were to return with Ezra were assembled
- Ezra then called a fast to seek God's protection
- (Their journey was dangerous and they were carrying great wealth)

22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, 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.

23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

Ezra 8:22-23

31 ...and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

32 And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days.

Ezra 8:31-32



The Book of Ezra

Chapter 9

The Discouragement of Disobedience

I Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.

Ezra 9:1

2 For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.

Ezra 9:1-2

- Desert rose? Sometimes it can seem as if you are the only one trying to serve Him will all your heart (cf. Elijah / Jeremiah / Paul)

4 Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

5 And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God.

Ezra 9:4-5

National Repentance

- Ezra then prayed on behalf of the nation...
- Called the people together...
- Threatened to 'excommunicate' any who did not separate themselves...
 - *“Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do”*
Ezra 10:12
- There has to be separation if we are to know the blessing of being His chosen people
 - Rev 18:4 / 2 Cor 6:17



The Book of Nehemiah

Nehemiah

- 13 Chapters
- Also written by Ezra (and/or Nehemiah)
- Theme:
 - End of the Desolations & the rebuilding of the city



The Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 1 Nehemiah's Prayer

Nehemiah's Prayer

- In the 20th year of king Artaxerxes of Persia
 - 445 B.C.
- Nehemiah – the king's cup-bearer - (in Susa/Shushan) receives word from Jerusalem
 - *“The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire”* Nehemiah 1:3
- Nehemiah, no doubt aware of the work of Ezra (having assumed all is well), is bewildered and commits himself to fast and pray
- God lays on his heart to petition the king

The Persian Empire



Shushan Palace

- Susa, 230 miles east of Babylon; 150 miles north of head of Persian Gulf, midway between Ecbatana and Persepolis
- Susa capital of Elamites in antiquity; later main residence of Persian kings; Famous palace begun by Darius I and later enlarged by Xerxes
- Home of Esther Est 1:2,5; 2:3,5
- City of Nehemiah Neh 1:1
- Code of Hammurabi found there in 1901



The Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 2
Artaxerxes Decree

1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.

2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,

3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 2:1-4

- **Artaxerxes grants Nehemiah's request**
 - Including 'official letters' to commence the work
 - Access to the kings forest for trees
 - And a military escort!



The Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 3
A Vested Interest!

Every part doing it's share!

- The work to rebuild the wall commences
- Each man was commissioned to rebuild the part of the wall by his own house
 - The people were only too willing to take ownership and do a good job
- They were united within...
- So the attack comes from without!
- Chapter 4 details the oppression
- ...and the need to be armed and prepared
- Chapter 5 deals with just judges
- Chapter 6 records an assassination attempt



The Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 7
A Scribal Error?

You will find many other numerical “difficulties” within scripture, that need guidance given on how to discern...eg. compare Ezra 2vv1 and 2, with Nehemiah 7 vv 6 and 7, and you will find exactly the same definition of people returning. When you look at the figures quoted, they vary considerably, by a couple of thousand, although there is massive agreement, within the lists.

To hide behind an “all-embracing” word like “inerrant” creates difficulties for people, who will end up asking “which one is right?”, instead of “how do we interpret that, in the light of God’s inspiration of His Word?”

Sincerely,

Thomas Chew
SBC

We all know that there are inherent problems with numbers in the Old Testament, because a “dot”, or not, above a letter (there are no numerals in Hebrew as you will know) can change it by a factor of a thousand! And “dots” do not survive well on a cracked manuscript.

I have submitted my online application to your esteemed jurisdiction. Enclosed with this letter are application copies and an additional letter of recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chew

Esq.

To gladly preach (as I have, and will do again)
that there are no contradictions in scripture,
will not serve my people well when they come
across some!

Sincerely,

Thomas Chew
Sect.

So when they arise (as on Sunday night) I may mention them, rather than try to ignore them, and teach right principles of Biblical interpretation, (which I did not do on Sunday night...there was my mistake...hands up to that! but did do in a series entitled “The Reliability of the Bible”, before Christmas) so that the “discerning” process is stimulated.

- a minister

Questions, Questions!

- Are there numerical 'difficulties' in scripture?
- Ezra vs. Nehemiah – who is right?
- Are we reduced to trying to decipher cracked manuscripts for the truth?
- What are 'right principles of Biblical interpretation'?

Lists of the Exiles

- Ezra 2 & Nehemiah 7 we have two lists of the returning exiles from Babylon
- The numbers differ – which is correct?

Lists of the Exiles

Exhibit 'A'

I Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city;

Ezra 2:1

- Ezra states that he is giving the details

Lists of the Exiles

Exhibit 'B'

⁵ And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein,

⁶ "These are the children of the province, that went up out of the captivity,... of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, every one unto his city..."

Nehemiah 7:5

Lists of the Exiles

- Ezra tells us the exact details
- Nehemiah tells us what was on the list he found!
- This is evidence that this is not contrived
- There is no 'difficulty'
- This is not a contradiction
- God's Word has been preserved!



The Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 8
An Expository Teacher

1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.

2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

3 ...and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose...

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:

Nehemiah 8:1-8

6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

Nehemiah 8:1-8



The Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 9-10

A Brief History of the Nation
and a new covenant

An open scroll of Hebrew text, likely a Torah scroll, is the central focus. The scroll is unrolled, showing several columns of text in a traditional Hebrew script. To the left, a wooden handle with a decorative, fluted design is visible. The background is dark, making the scroll and the yellow text stand out. The title 'The Book of Nehemiah' is written in large, bold, yellow letters across the middle of the scroll. Below it, the chapter range 'Chapter 11-14' and the subtitle 'Living In The Land' are written in white and light blue respectively.

The Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 11-14
Living In The Land



calvary
chapel
portsmouth

www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk