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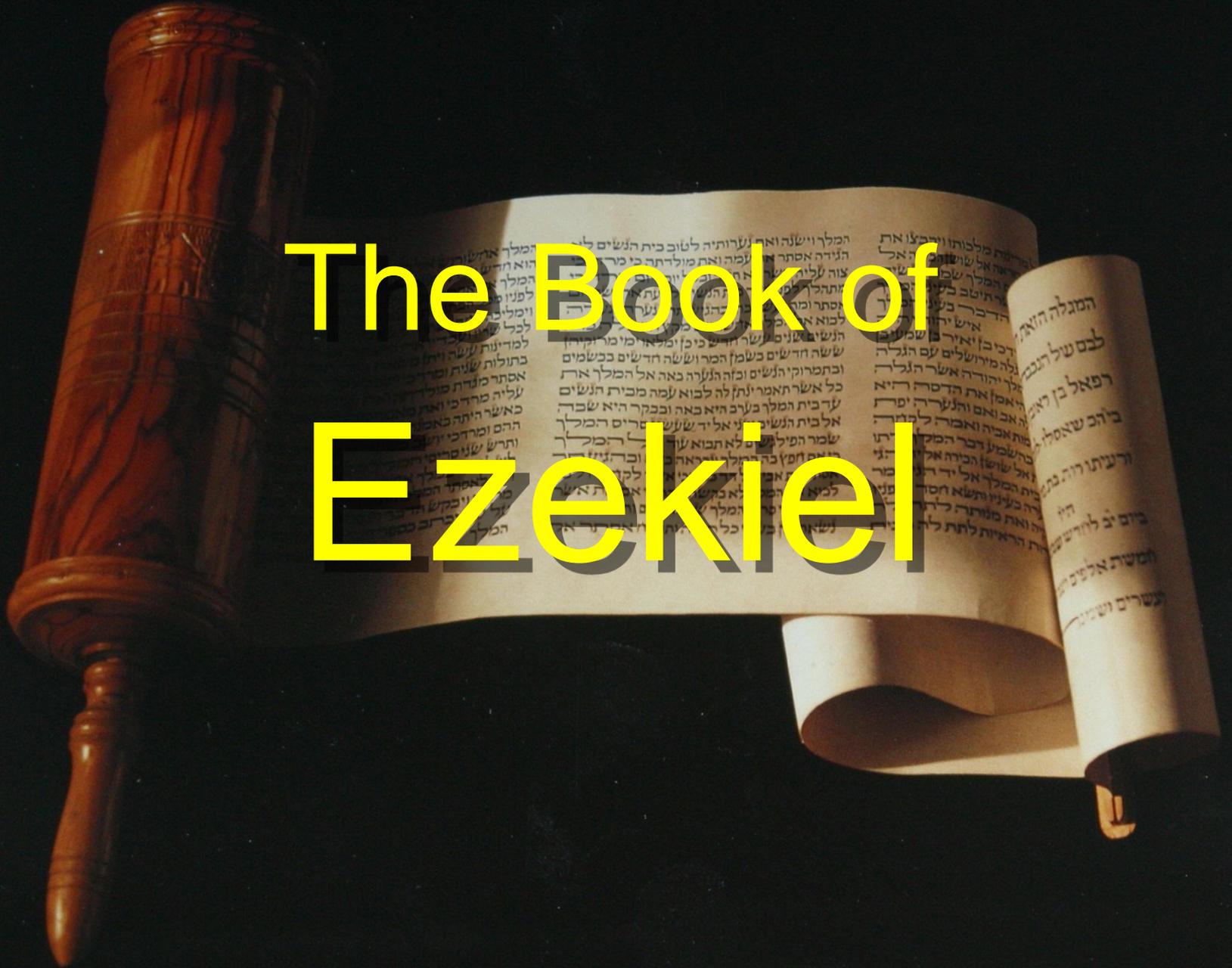
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Simply teaching the Word simply

The Book of Ezekiel



Ezekiel

"Probably no book of the Old Testament is as little read as his, and it may well be the least popular, as it is the least known of the Old Testament"

John Paterson

Ezekiel

"His book is difficult, obscure and tantalizing...but man needs it just as much as the Hebrew exiles needed it."

"There is no book of the Old Testament in which the theological views of the author shine out with greater clearness than they do in this"

P. C. Plumptre

Ezekiel

"We best understand Ezekiel as we try to grasp what his own generation should have understood..."

Ellison

Ezekiel

"Ezekiel adds something almost completely missing from modern thought..."

...the element of hope"

A. Blackwood

Ezekiel

"His mission was to justify God's dealings with Israel, and to keep alive in individual souls the faith which was ready to perish under the pressure of adversity"

James Hastings

Ezekiel

- Prophet to the exiles in Babylon
- Taken captive from Jerusalem in 597 B.C.
- Contemporary with Jeremiah & Daniel
 - Most likely very influenced by Jeremiah's preaching
- Taught & prophesied to his people for 22 years
- The most dramatic of all the prophets
 - Classed as one of the 'major prophets'

Ezekiel

- His name means 'God will strengthen'.
- He was a priest (1:3). Of the line of Zadok, of the family of Eleazar, son of Aaron the Levite (compare 43:19 and 40:46).

Ezekiel

- Born around 622 B.C.
 - in the midst of Josiah's reformation.
 - Saw the iniquity of the 3 subsequent kings
- He was taken to Babylon at age 25 and began his work at age 30
- As with Isaiah and Jeremiah, His ministry started with a specific call of the LORD, to deliver a specific message
- Ezekiel was God's man of the hour

Ezekiel

- He knew how to struggle
- His wife died (in fulfilment of prophecy) as the final siege on Jerusalem was taking place.
- He was Christ-like
 - Acquainted with grief
 - Had a shepherds heart (16x)
 - He (metaphorically) wept over Jerusalem
 - Yet declared God's righteousness and faithfulness

Ezekiel

- He was a prophet and preacher:
- *“As a prophet, preacher, writer and watchman of souls, Ezekiel stands with the greatest of the Hebrews. He is at once one of the most mysterious, yet one of the most entrancing, of the Hebrew seers”*

J. P. Richter

Ezekiel

- *"Ezekiel stands forth as the most powerful figure during the years of Jewish captivity in Babylonia...He kept alive in an alien land the faith which had made Israel"*
E. Chase
- *"He deserves credit for leading the exiled nation safely through their ordeal"*
John Waddey

Life in Babylon

- The Jews were treated well, not harshly as slaves.
- They were settled in communities, family ties were respected, and were able to remain separate from the other nations
- They were allowed to practice their religion; their elders were allowed to function.

Life in Babylon

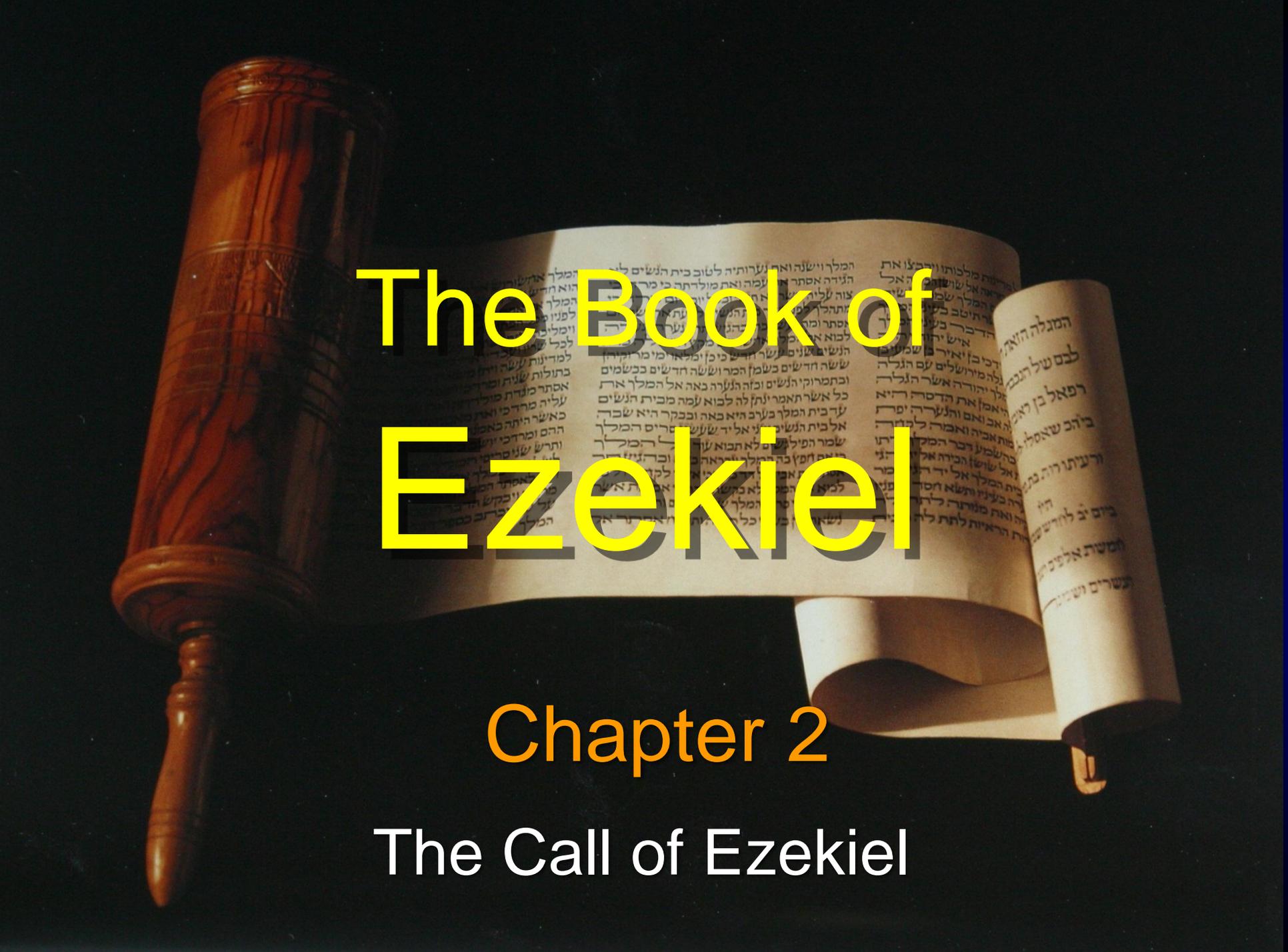
- Their only restriction seems to have been that they could not return to their homeland.
- Many became so comfortable that they chose to stay even after the exile had ended

Life in Babylon

- False prophets were filling the exiles with false hopes for a speedy return to Jerusalem (Jer. 28:1-4):
- They "*saw peace for Jerusalem when there was no peace...and caused the people to trust in lies*" (13:16, 19).

Life in Babylon

- While **Jeremiah** was declaring the imminent fall of Jerusalem from *within the city*...
- ...**Ezekiel** was predicting the same from *the land of Babylon*.
- **Daniel** was by now elevated to a place of prominence in Nebuchadnezzar's government
- Daniel was God's prophet to the Babylonian rulers, Ezekiel to the captive Hebrews



The Book of Ezekiel

Chapter 2

The Call of Ezekiel

1 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

4 For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, **Thus saith the Lord GOD.**

5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

- This phrase occurs 203x in the book!

4 For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

- A message for today?
- We are in a strange land
- Does our generation know that a servant of God has been among them?

7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.

Ezekiel 2:7

- As with Jeremiah, we are called to speak, even if they won't listen!

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

2 Timothy 4:2-4

- In season, out of season.
- When it is convenient, and when it isn't!

17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Ezekiel 3:17-21

19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Ezekiel 3:17-21

21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Ezekiel 3:17-21

II Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live

Ezekiel 33:11

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

- “I don’t believe a God of love would send me to Hell”
- Because God is a God of love, He has given **you** the dignity to **chose** where you will spend eternity

Ezekiel

- Ezekiel's mission was to vindicate God for bringing judgment on Israel
- He also had to undo the teaching of the false prophets and to clear their minds of their delusions.
- He had to convince them to "unpack," to make their homes in Babylon and serve God, waiting for a future restoration

Miscellaneous

- In the land of Babylon the **synagogue** and the office of the **scribe** were born. They have stayed with the Jews to this day.
- Ezekiel often quotes from the TORAH
- For a history of the period, see:
 - 2 Kings chapters 21-25 and
 - 2 Chronicles chapters 33-36
- At least 25 references to the Holy Spirit are found in his book; more than in any other Old Testament book

Ezekiel

- Key Phrases:
 - "Son of man," used over 100 times. It stresses the humanity of Ezekiel in contrast to God.
 - "The word of the LORD came unto me" used 49 times.
 - "And ye shall know that I am Jehovah" used over 60 times (see 6:7, 10, 13, etc.).
 - "The glory of the Lord" used 12 times in the first 11 chapters.

Ezekiel

- Key Thought:
 - Ezekiel taught Israel that before they could ever return to their homeland, they must return to God.

Outline of Ezekiel

1–3 The Call of the Prophet

4–24 God's Judgment on Jerusalem

Given before the siege of Jerusalem

25–32 God's Judgment on the Muslim Nations

Given during the siege

33–48 The Restoration of the Jews

Given after the siege

33–36 The return to their land

37 They experience new life and unity

38–39 They are protected from Gog and Magog

40–48 The Millennial Temple & Kingdom

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Chapters 1-3

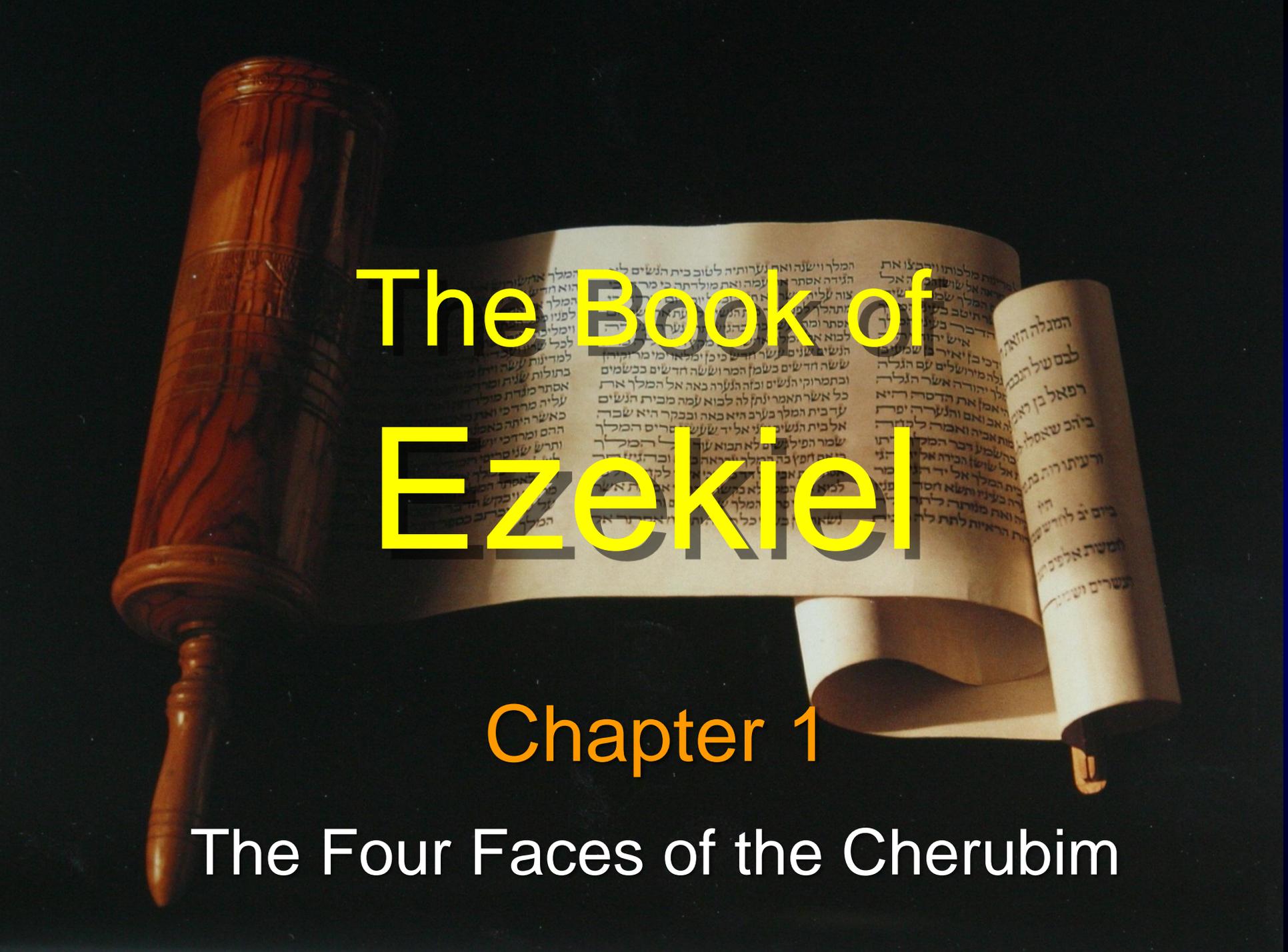
- The book opens with Ezekiel's call to the prophetic office (1:4-28)
 - He needed to know more about Jehovah, so God revealed Himself to him, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient.
 - His vision of stormy wind and fire (1:4).
 - The four cherubim (1:5-14):
 - The wheels (1:15-21),
 - The throne of the glory of Jehovah (1:22-28a).

Chapters 1-3

- Ezekiel's commission (2:1-3:27):
 - He needed to know more about his mission, so God reveals that in 2:1-7:
 - He needed to know about his message, so God gave him the scroll (2:8-3:3).
- God promises to equip him (3:4-11).
 - He is taken in the spirit to the camp of the captives in Babylon. He needed to know his audience, so he went to the exiles at Telabib (3:12-15):

Chapters 1-3

- Ezekiel the watchman
 - He needed to know his duties so they were given (3:16-21)
- The opening section ends with a second vision of God with a special commission to speak God's message to rebellious Judah (3:22-27)



The Book of Ezekiel

Chapter 1

The Four Faces of the Cherubim

4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

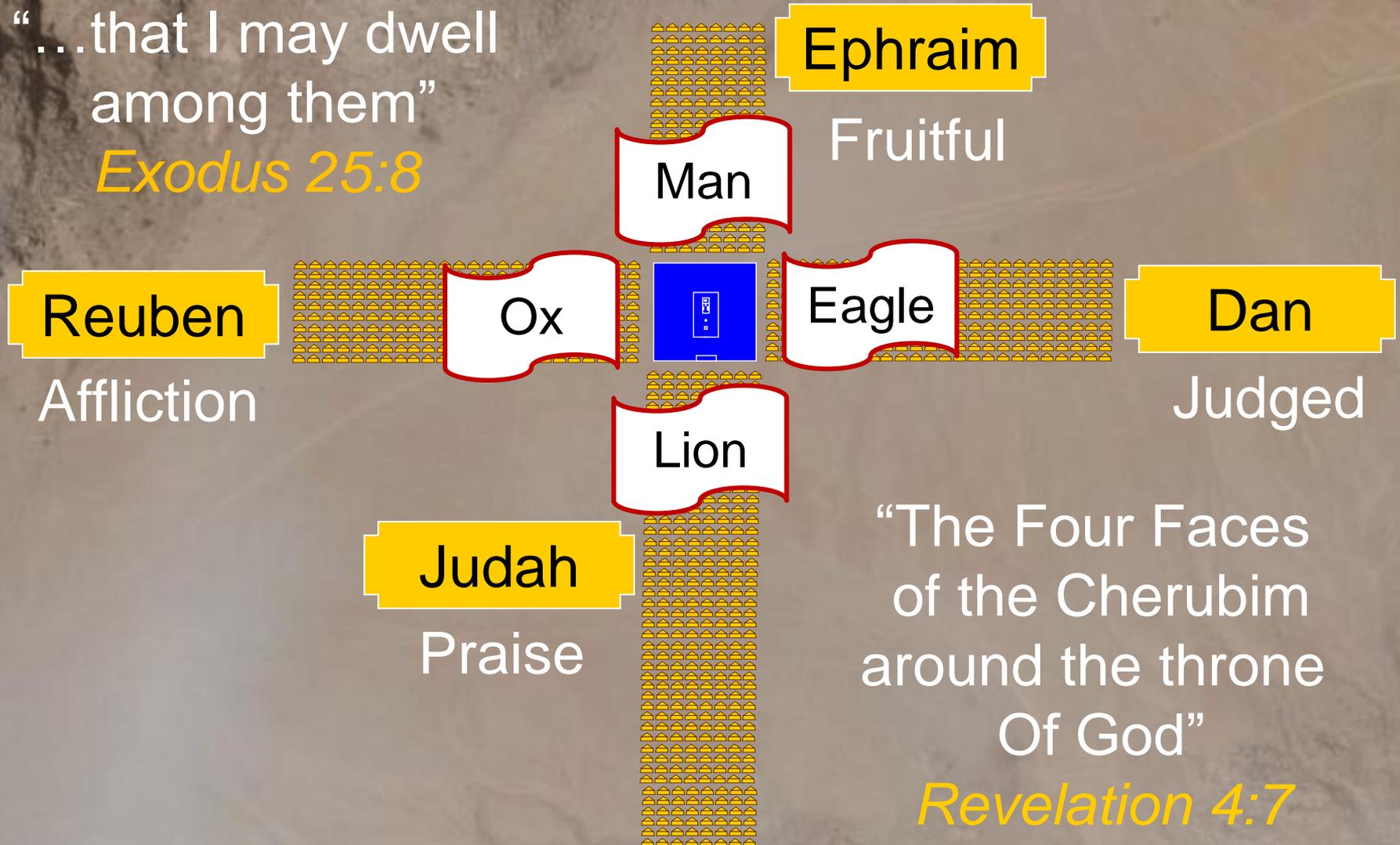
Ezekiel 1:4-10

10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

Ezekiel 1:4-10

The Camp of Israel

“...that I may dwell
among them”
Exodus 25:8



The Design of the Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Presents as:	Messiah	Servant	Son of Man	Son of God
Genealogy:	Abraham (Legal)	--	Adam (Blood line)	Eternal (Preexistence)
What Jesus	Said	Did	Felt	Was
To the:	Jew	Roman	Greek	Church
1st Miracle:	Leper cleansed (Jew = sin)	Demon expelled	Demon expelled	Water to Wine
Ends with	Resurrection	Ascension	Promise of Spirit: Acts	Promise of Return: Revelation
Camp Side:	East	West	South	North
Ensign:	Judah	Ephraim	Reuben	Dan
Face:	Lion	Ox	Man	Eagle
Style:	Groupings	Snapshots	Narrative	Mystical

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God's Timepiece

“Ezekiel is for the Christian today. It is a book of the times, for God's time is always revealed by His dealing with the Jew”

Henrietta C Mears

Unexplained Prophecy?

Ezekiel gives us a mathematical prophecy concerning the judgment on the Nation:

Unexplained Prophecy?

¹ Thou also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it before thee, and pourtray upon it the city, even Jerusalem:

² And lay siege against it, and build a and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set battering rams against it round about.

Ezekiel 4:1-6

Unexplained Prophecy?

3 Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the house of Israel.

4 Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity.

Unexplained Prophecy?

⁵ For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, **three hundred and ninety days:** so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.

⁶ And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah **forty days:** I have appointed thee each day for a year.

Unexplained Prophecy?

- Ezekiel prophecies a total of 430 years of judgment against Israel as a Nation
- 70 years are accounted for in Babylon
- We are left with 360 years of judgment unaccounted for.
- However we are given a clue in Leviticus 26...

Unexplained Prophecy?

14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart:

Lev 26:14-18

Unexplained Prophecy?

16b and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Lev 26:14-18

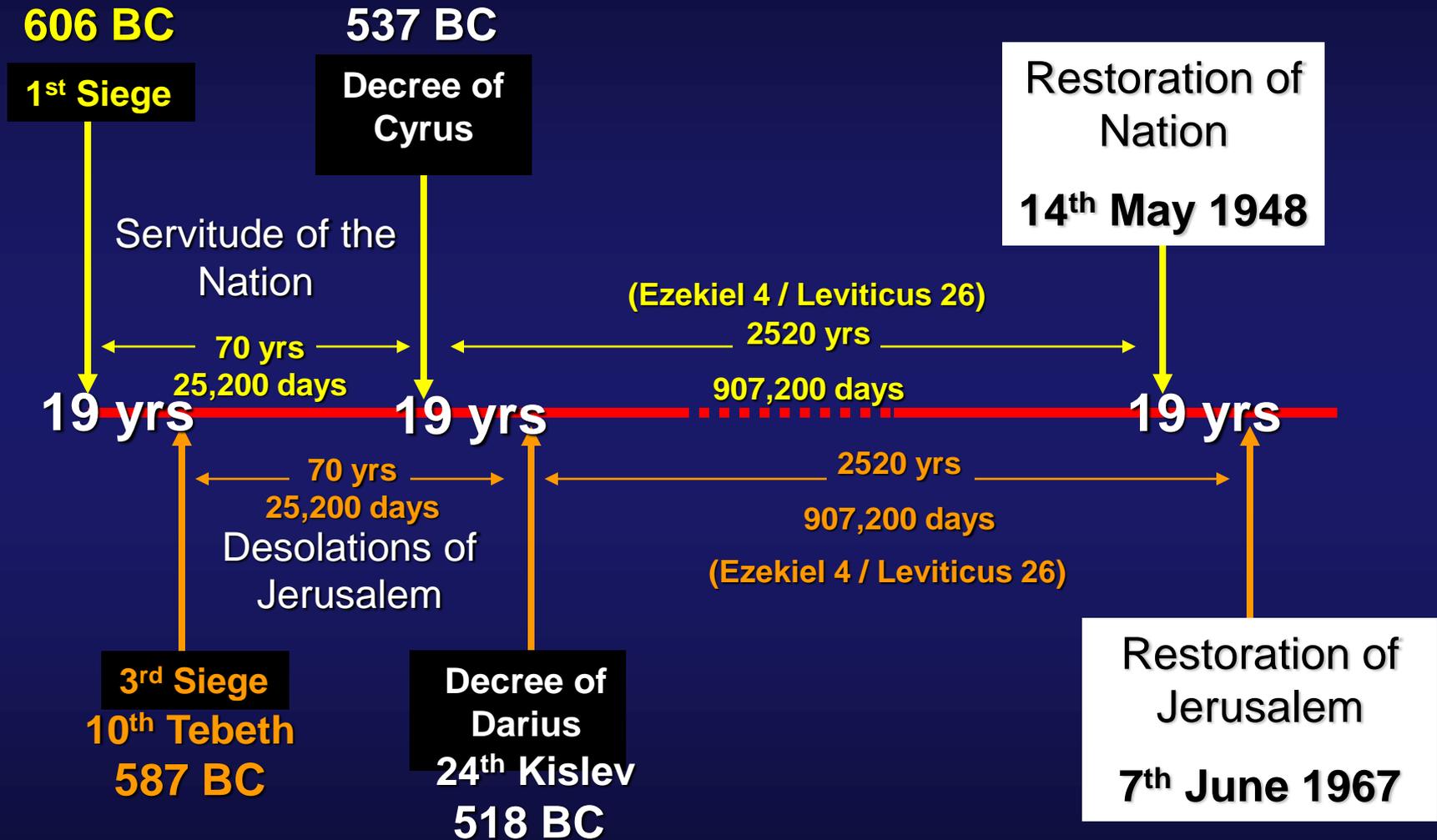
Unexplained Prophecy?

- This 'seven time more' is repeated four times in this one chapter (v18, 21,24,28)
- As prophesied, Israel were punished for their disobedience with 70 yrs in Babylon
- But that still leaves 360yrs unaccounted
- Israel still did not 'hearken unto Him'
- So if we apply Leviticus 26 as indicated...

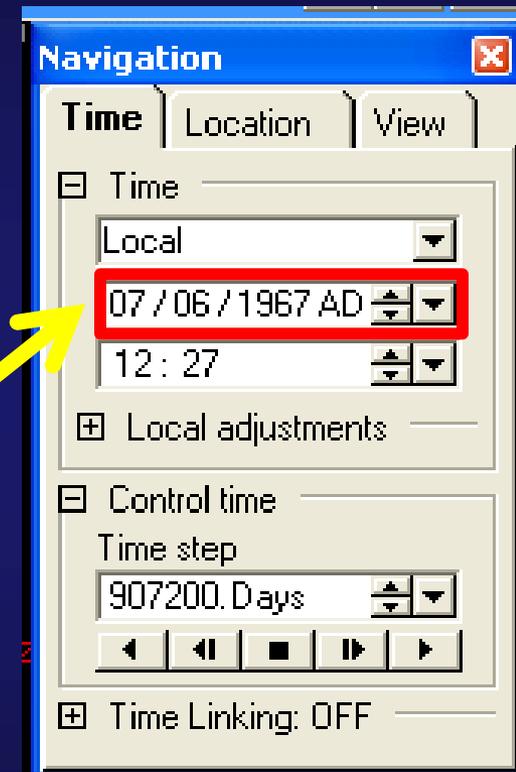
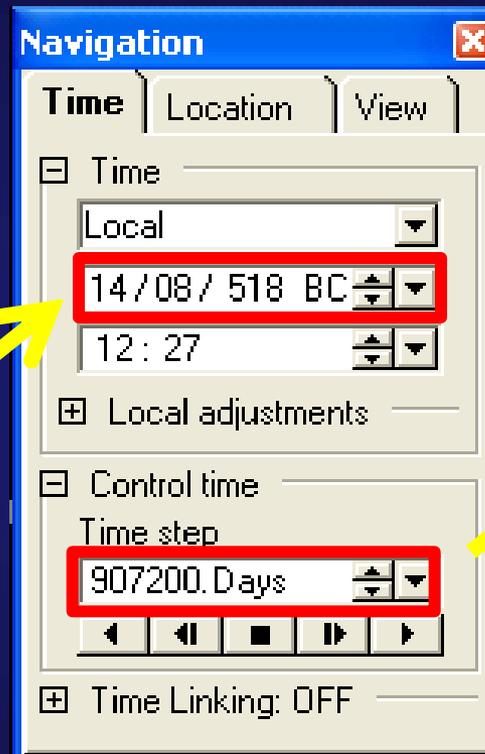
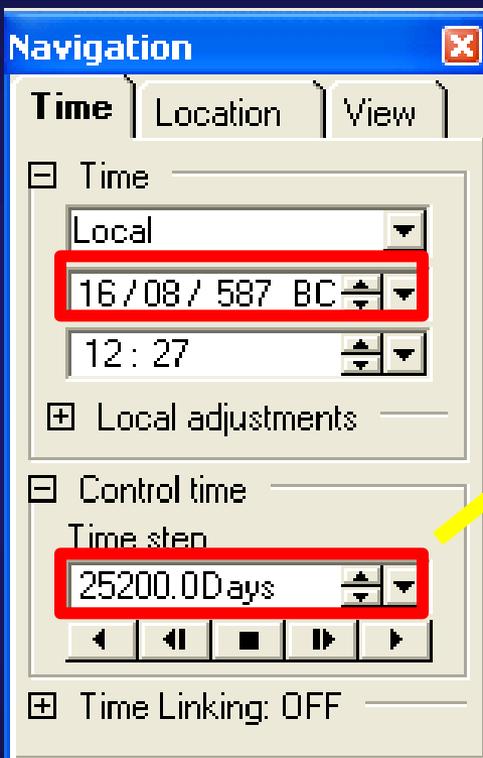
Unexplained Prophecy?

- If we multiply the remaining 360 years x7
- = 2520 years
- Multiply by 360 (days in a prophetic year)
- We find a potential 907,200 days until Ezekiel's prophecy would be fulfilled.

Precision of Prophecy



Desolation of Jerusalem



Servitude of the Nation

Navigation

Time Location View

Time

Local

24 / 07 / 606 BC

12 : 27

Local adjustments

Control time

Time step

25200.0 Days

Time Linking: OFF

This screenshot shows the 'Navigation' dialog box with the 'Time' tab selected. The 'Local' time is set to 24 / 07 / 606 BC. The 'Control time' section shows a 'Time step' of 25200.0 Days. A red box highlights the date field, and another red box highlights the time step field. A yellow arrow points from this dialog to the next one.

Navigation

Time Location View

Time

Local

21 / 07 / 537 BC

12 : 27

Local adjustments

Control time

Time step

907200.0 Days

Time Linking: OFF

This screenshot shows the 'Navigation' dialog box with the 'Time' tab selected. The 'Local' time is set to 21 / 07 / 537 BC. The 'Control time' section shows a 'Time step' of 907200.0 Days. A red box highlights the date field, and another red box highlights the time step field. A yellow arrow points from this dialog to the next one.

Navigation

Time Location View

Time

Local

14 / 05 / 1948 AD

12 : 27

Local adjustments

Control time

Time step

907200.0 Days

Time Linking: OFF

This screenshot shows the 'Navigation' dialog box with the 'Time' tab selected. The 'Local' time is set to 14 / 05 / 1948 AD. The 'Control time' section shows a 'Time step' of 907200.0 Days. A red box highlights the date field, and another red box highlights the time step field.

Chapters 4 - 11

- Ezekiel shows the necessity of Jerusalem's judgment because of her disobedience.
- He then dramatises the impending siege through a series of signs, and then explains the reason for the siege through two messages and an extended vision.

Chapters 12 - 19

- However, the people were still not ready to accept the fact of Jerusalem's fall.
- Therefore Ezekiel gives a new series of signs and messages: Any optimism would be futile; Jerusalem's fate had been sealed.

The word of the LORD came again to me,
saying,

Son of man, when the land sinneth against me
by trespassing grievously, then will I
stretch out mine hand upon it, and will
break the staff of the bread thereof, and will
send famine upon it, and will cut off man
and beast from it:

Ezekiel 14:12-13

The Four Sore Judgments

- The prophet declares that when the land sins, God sends one of his four judgments against it: **cf. 5:16, 17**
 - **Famine** vv.12-14
 - **Hurtful beasts** vv.15, 16
 - **Sword and war** vv.17, 18
 - **Pestilence** vv.19, 20

Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 14:14

- Daniel already noted in Babylon for his piety and obedience to his God

Symbols, Allegories, Parables

- He gives two symbolical representations of flight from the besieged city
12:1-20
- Expostulates with false prophets
12:21–14:23
- Pictures Israel as a useless vine
Chapter 15
- Allegorically recalls Israel's long history of unfaithfulness to her bridegroom
Chapter 16

Symbols, Allegories, Parables

- Returns to the metaphor of the vine to emphasize Zedekiah's disloyalty

Chapter 17

- Answers objections to divine punishment by an analysis of individual responsibility

Chapter 18

- Bursts forth into a dirge over the princes of Judah and over Judah itself

Chapter 19

Nevertheless I will remember my covenant
with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will
establish unto thee an everlasting covenant

Ezekiel 16:60

*“It is a continual source of encouragement
to God’s people to have the assurance from
His Word that He remains faithful even
when they themselves are unfaithful!”*

Chuck Missler

³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Ezekiel 22:30

- God gives us a unique privilege to become involved in His programs
- God has chosen to do nothing except in answer to the prayers of the saints

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Judgment of the Nations

- Ammonites 25:2-7
- Moab 25:8-11
- Edom 25:12-14
- Philistines 25:15-17
- Tyre 26:2-21
- Sidon 28:21-24
- Egypt 29:2-16
- Ethiopia /Libya/Lydia 30:1-9

Prophecy Against Tyre

- Ezekiel prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar would destroy Tyre
- Many nations would be against Tyre
- Dust scraped to become like bare rock
- Fishermen would spread their nets on the remains of Tyre
- Stones & timber thrown into the sea
- Tyre would never be rebuilt
- Tyre would never be found again

Prophecy Against Tyre

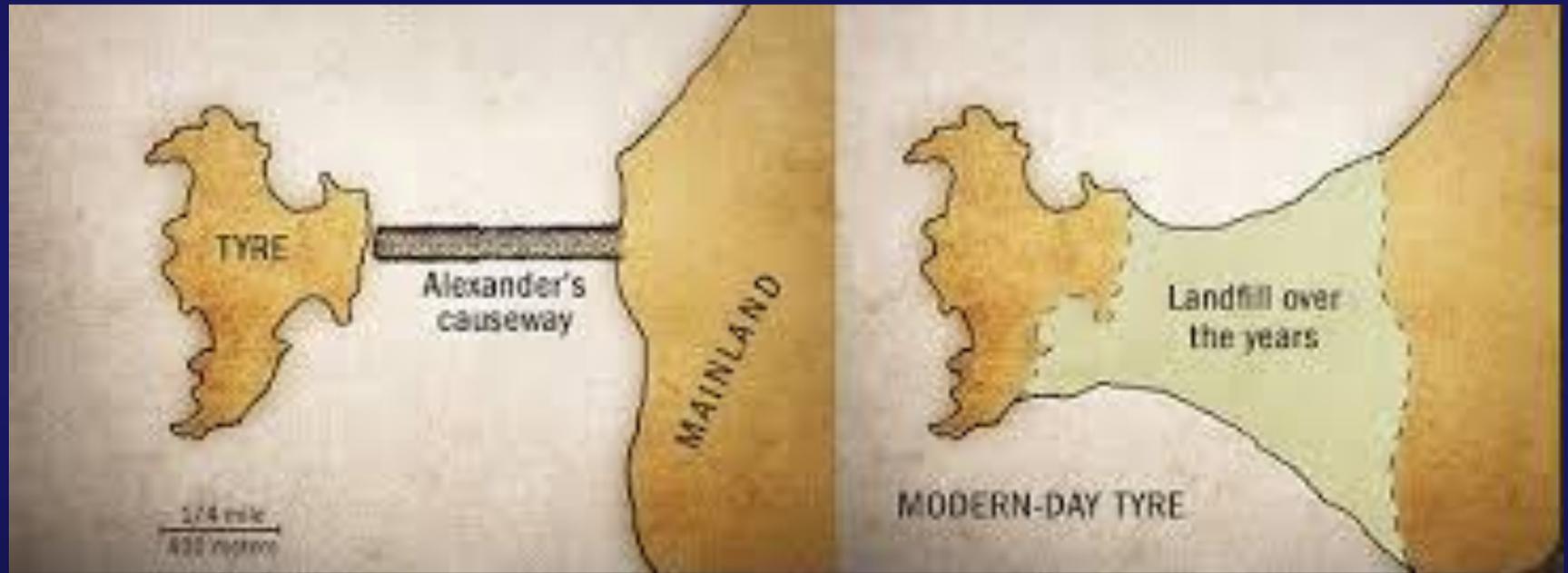
- Three years after this prophecy, Nebuchadnezzar came up against Tyre
- After a 13 year siege, Nebuchadnezzar finally broke the gates down, only to find the city almost deserted!
- The people had all fled to an island $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off the coast
- This new Tyre was almost impenetrable

Prophecy Against Tyre

- Alexander the Great was the next antagonist
- In order to take the new Tyre, he build a causeway out from the mainland
- He literally scrapped the remains on the old city into the sea, and left just bare rock
- Upon those rocks, fishermen to this day lay their nets
- Over the next 1600 years, many nations did attack and destroy Tyre, until her final destruction in 1291 during the Crusades

Prophecy Against Tyre

- Alexander's Causeway



Prophecy Against Tyre

- Floyd Hamilton in the *Battle for the Christian Faith* states:
- *“It is also written, ‘thou shalt be built no more’. Other cities destroyed by enemies had been rebuilt; Jerusalem was destroyed many times, but always has risen again from the ruins; what reason was there for saying that Old Tyre might not be rebuilt? But twenty-five centuries ago a Jew in exile over in Babylonia looked into the future at the command of God and wrote the words, ‘thou shalt be build no more!’*

Prophecy Against Tyre

- *The voice of God has spoken and Old Tyre today stands as it has for twenty-five centuries, a bare rock, uninhabited by man! Today anyone who wants to see the site of the old city, can have it pointed out to him along the shore, but there is not a ruin to mark the spot It has been scraped clean and has never been rebuilt!”*

Prophecy Against Tyre

- *“The great freshwater springs of Reselain are at the site of the mainland city of Tyre, and no doubt supplied the city with an abundance of fresh water. These springs are still there and still flow, but their water runs into the sea. The flow of these springs was measured by an engineer, and found to be about 10,000,000 gallons daily. It is still an excellent site for a city and would have fresh water enough for a large modern city, yet it has never been rebuilt. Thus [this prophecy] has stood true for more than 2500 years*

Floyd Hamilton

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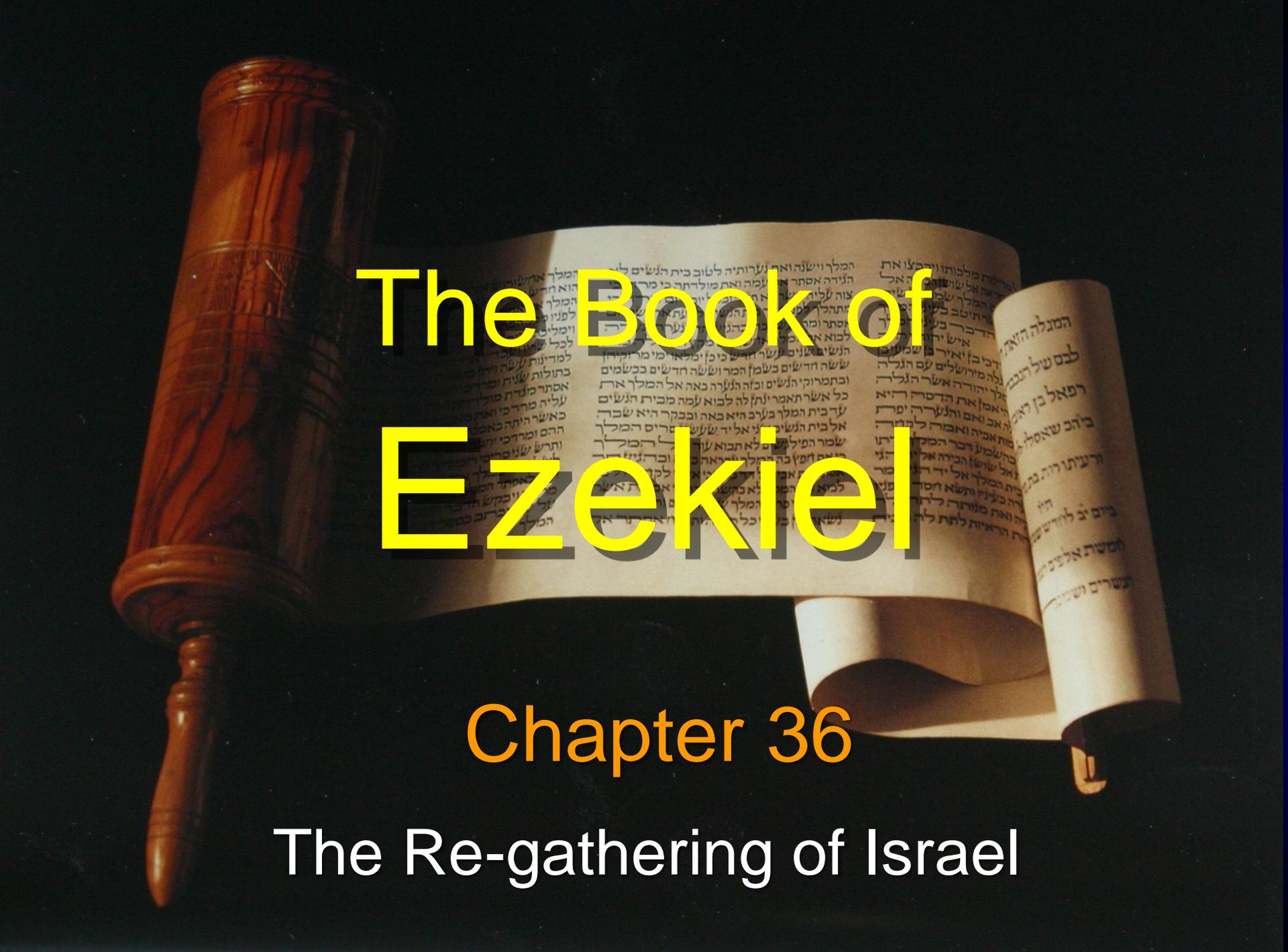
Given after the siege

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The Book of Ezekiel

Chapter 36

The Re-gathering of Israel

24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

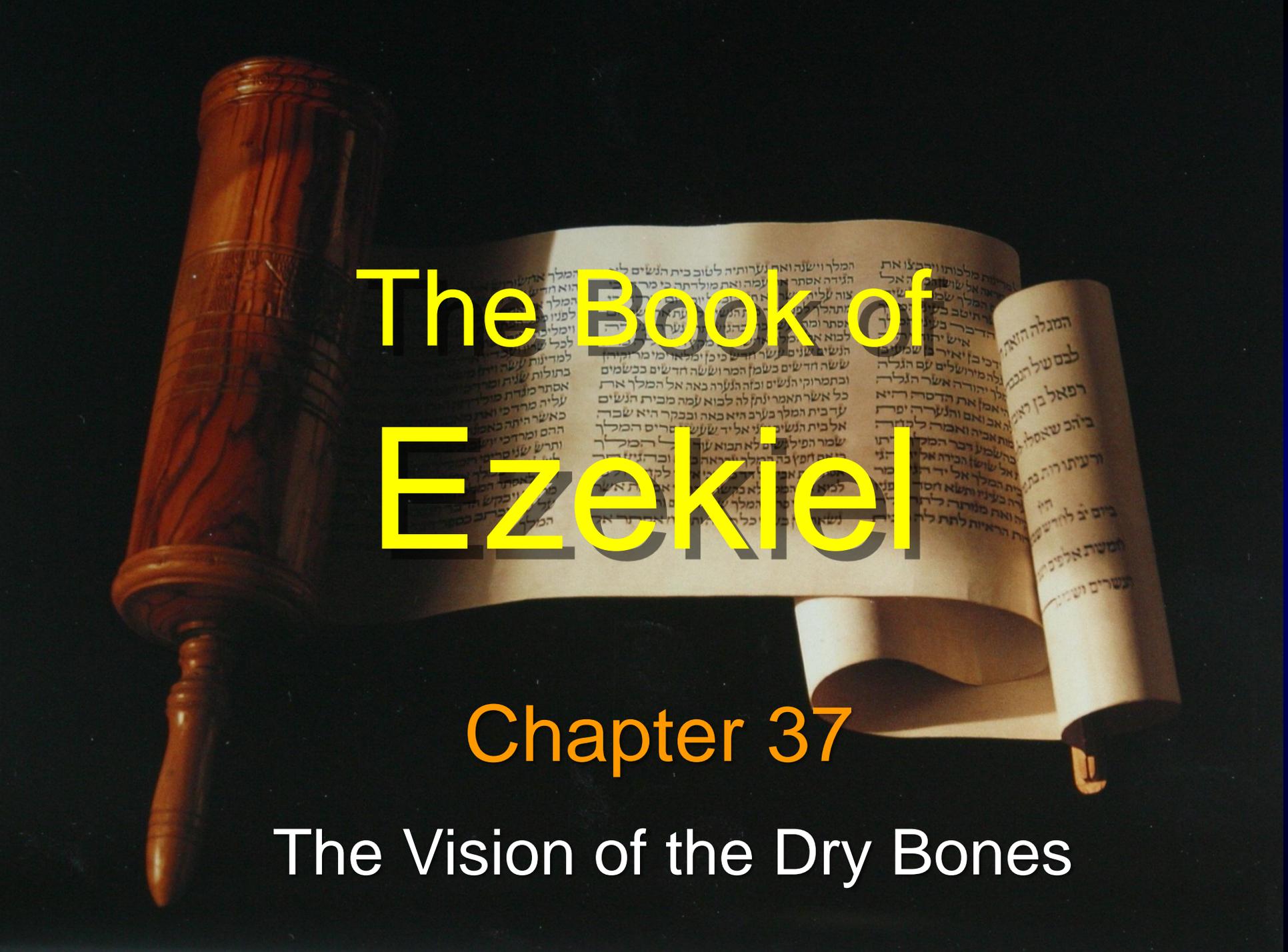
26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36:24-28



The Book of Ezekiel

Chapter 37

The Vision of the Dry Bones

The Vision of Dry Bones

- A Vision of the Restoration of Israel
 - Brought back to life in the flesh
 - Later, breathed with the Spirit



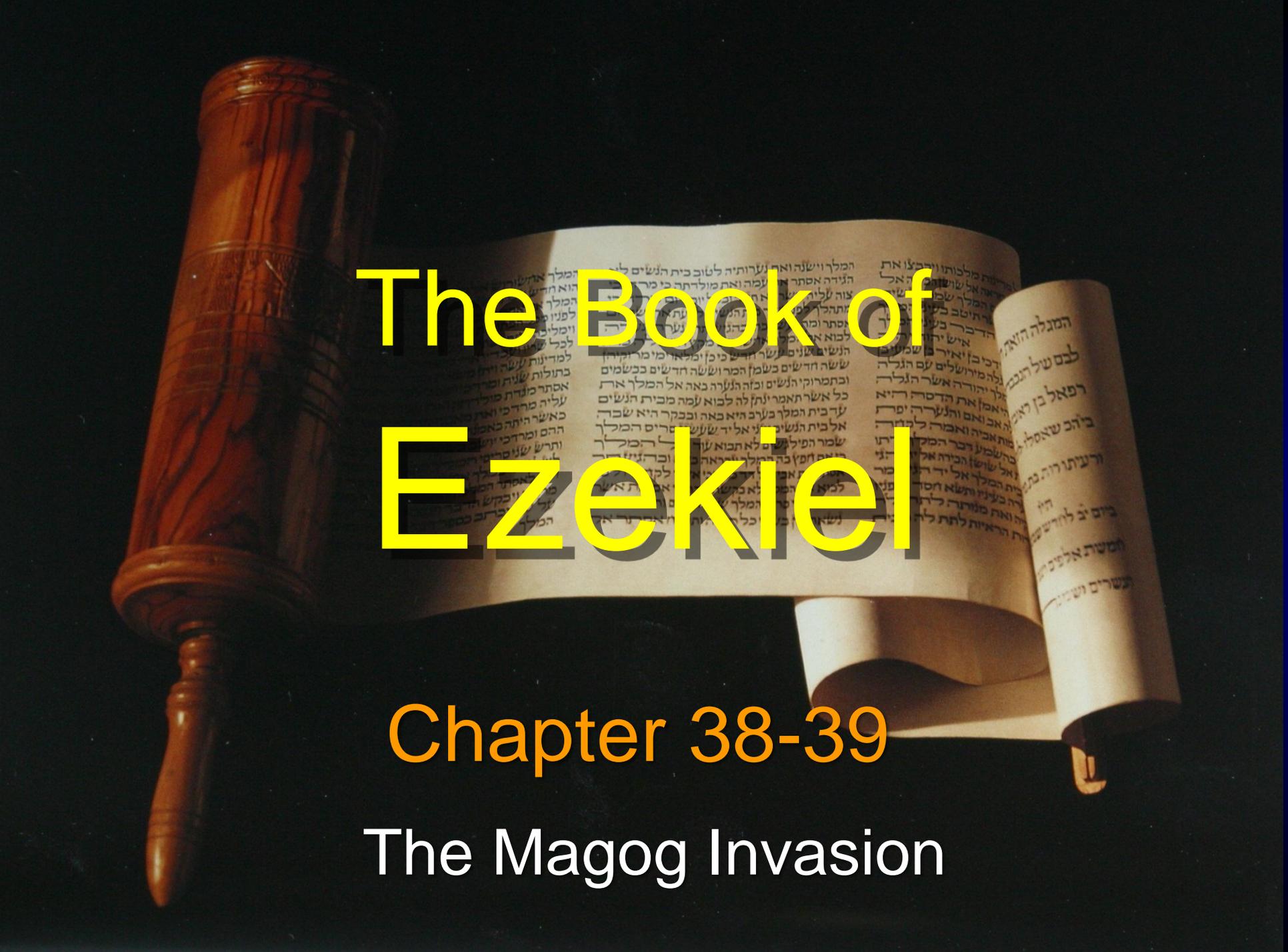
The Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people...

Isaiah 11:11

- Part fulfilled in the 1st half of 20th century

The Vision of Dry Bones

- The Lord, through Ezekiel, proclaims to Israel the coming resurrection of her national life vv.1-14
 - That restoration has to do both with the national entity of Israel as well as the *spiritual* revival or restoration which the Lord announced in the preceding chapter.
- He foretells by the symbolic act of joining two sticks the future union of the two kingdoms under one head, David vv.15-28



The Book of Ezekiel

Chapter 38-39

The Magog Invasion

The Magog Invasion

Ezekiel 38 & 39

- The occasion in which God Himself intervenes to quell the ill-fated invasion of Israel by Magog and its allies
 - Persia, Cush, Phut, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah, Meshech, Tubal
- The passage appears to anticipate the use of nuclear weapons.

Noah

Gen. 10:2;
1 Chr 1:5

Shem

Elam

Asshur

Arphaxad

Lud

Aram

Ham

Cush

Mizraim

Put

Canaan

Japheth

Gomer

Magog

Madai

Javan

Tubal

Meshech

Tiras

Noah

Gen. 10:2;
1 Chr 1:5

Shem

Elam

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Phut

Canaan

Japheth

Gomer

Magog

Madai

Javan

Tubal

Meshech

Tiras



Magog

Gomer

Togarmah

Meshech

Tubal

Persia

Israel

Phut

Libya

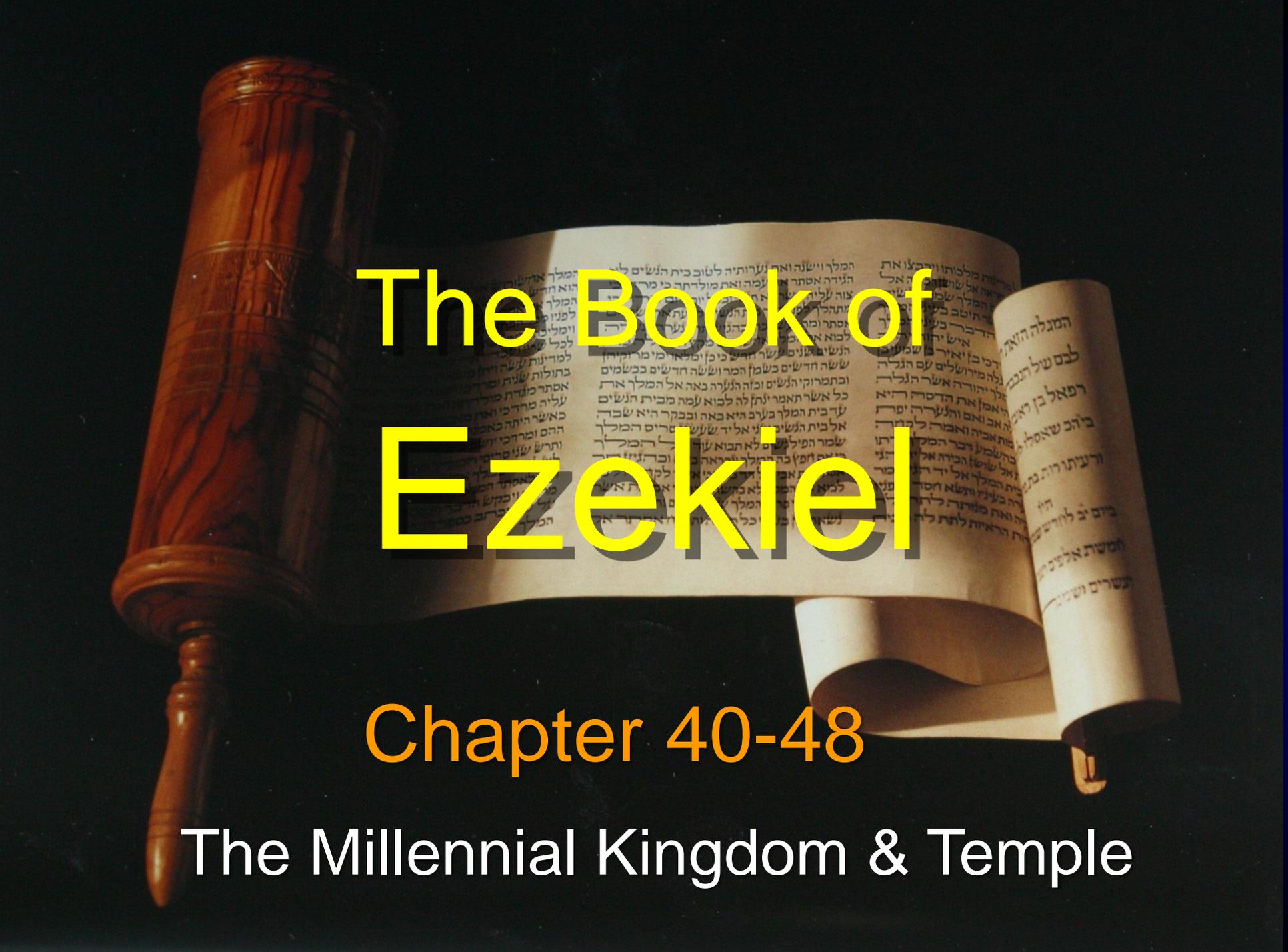
Dedan?

Cush

Sheba?

Nuclear Weapons?

- Left-over weapons provide all the energy for the nation Israel for 7 years
- Professionals hired to clear the battlefield
 - They wait 7 months; then clear for 7 months
 - Bury the dead east of the Dead Sea (downwind)
- If a traveler finds something the professionals have missed, he doesn't touch it: he marks the location and lets the professionals deal with it.



The Book of Ezekiel

Chapter 40-48

The Millennial Kingdom & Temple

The Millennial Temple

Ezekiel 40 - 48

- Description of Millennial Temple
 - Highly detailed (not simply symbolic)
 - All nations to worship there
 - Offerings and sacrifices resumed
 - (Open only on the Sabbath Day and New Moons)

Outline of Ezekiel

1–3 The Call of the Prophet

4–24 God's Judgment on Jerusalem

Given before the siege of Jerusalem

25–32 God's Judgment on the Muslim Nations

Given during the siege

33–48 The Restoration of the Jews

Given after the siege

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:5



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