

* THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL IS A TYPE, AN EXAMPLE FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS (1 COR. 10:6, 11)
 * THESE ARE WRITTEN FOR OUR INSTRUCTIONS THAT WE MAY NOT REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES (ROM. 15:4)

GOD'S BUILDING - HIS HEARTS DESIRE

THE RECOVERY OF GOD'S BUILDING (2)

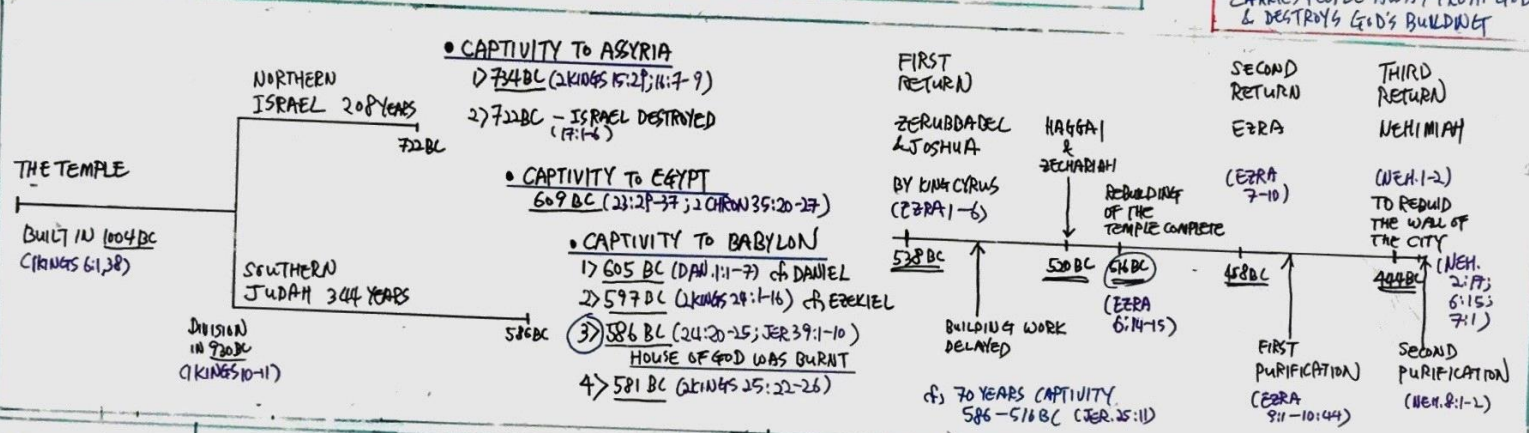
"RIVER OF CHEBAR"
 "WATERS OF EUFRATES"
 (ZEK 1:1; ISA 8:7-8)
 CARRIES PEOPLE AWAY FROM GOD & DESTROYS GOD'S BUILDING

VS.

"RIVER FLOWS OUT OF THE TEMPLE"
 (ZEK 47:1)
 BRINGS PEOPLE INTO GOD'S LIFE & BUILDS UP GOD'S HOUSE

DIVISION & CAPTIVITY

- ↳ BY SETTING UP DIFFERENT WORSHIP CENTERS (CF. JUDG. 18:3; 1 KINGS 12:26-32)
- ↳ REPEATING THE SIN OF JEHOASHAM (1 KINGS 12:30)
 - 1) BUILT DIFFERENT WORSHIP CENTERS
 - 2) MADE TWO GOLDEN CALVES (= JEHOASHAM)
 - 3) APPOINTED PRIESTS NOT FROM LEVITES
 - 4) ORDAINED FEASTS
- ↳ ISSUED IN IDOLATRY & CAPTIVITY



FOUR CRUCIAL MATTERS OF GOD'S RECOVERY

- 1) RECOVERED THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S CALLING ISRAEL TO BE HIS TESTIMONY.
- 2) RECOVERED THE ONENESS OF ISRAEL UPON THE UNIQUE GROUND OF JERUSALEM
- 3) RECOVERED ISRAEL'S ENJOYMENT OF THE GOOD LAND PROMISED BY GOD
- 4) ALLOWED GOD TO FULFILL HIS INTENTION OF HAVING HIS HOUSE BUILT & HIS KINGDOM ESTABLISHED

FIRST RETURN (EZRA 1-6)

- FOR THE REBUILDING OF THE HOUSE OF GOD
- * UNDER THE KINELY LEADERSHIP OF **ZERUBBABEL** (A DESCENDANT OF ROYAL FAMILY OF DAVID)
- * FIVE "UP" FOR GOD'S RECOVERY (EZRA 1:1-5)
 - 1) STIR UP
 - 2) RISE UP
 - 3) GO UP
 - 4) BRING UP
 - 5) BUILD UP
- * RETURN TO THE GROUND OF ONENESS (JERUSALEM)
 - ↳ THE PLACE GOD HAD CHOSEN (2 CHRON. 6:6)
 - ↳ TO PUT HIS NAME (DEUT. 12:5-6)
 - ↳ TO GATHER ISRAEL THREE TIMES A YEAR FOR THEIR ONENESS (16:16)
- * NEED OF THE PRIESTHOOD & THE KINGSHIP
 - ↳ THE KINGSHIP - THE DIVINE AUTHORITY (ZERUBBABEL)
 - ↳ THE PRIESTHOOD - TO BRING PEOPLE INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD TO CONTACT GOD, TO BE SATURATED WITH GOD, TO BE OCCUPIED & POSSESSED BY GOD. (JOSHUA)
- * REBUILDING THE ALTAR & LAYING THE FOUNDATION (EZRA 3:3-10)

STRENGTHENING OF THE PROPHETHOOD (EZRA 5:1-2)

- ↳ DUE TO THE SUBTLETY OF THE ENEMY THE BUILDING WORK OF THE TEMPLE WAS STOPPED. (CF. 2 KINGS 17:24; EZRA 4:2, 4, 24)
- ↳ THROUGH THE HELP OF **HAGGAI** & **ZECHARIAH'S** PROPHECYING, ZERUBBABEL & JOSHUA ROSE UP TO CONTINUE THE BUILDING WORK. (EZRA 5:1-2)
- * PROPHETHOOD IS TO STRENGTHEN THE PRIESTHOOD & THE KINGSHIP (1 SAM. 3:11-21; 2 SAM. 12:1-25)
- * IN GOD'S ECONOMY, THE PRIESTHOOD & THE KINGSHIP WILL REMAIN FOREVER, BUT THE PROPHETHOOD WILL NOT BE NEEDED. (REV. 22:3, 5; CF. DAN 9:24)
- HAGGAI** SAYS;
 - 1) "CONSIDER YOUR WAYS" (HAG. 1:5, 7)
 - 2) CHRIST IS THE "DESIRE OF ALL THE NATIONS" (2:7)
- ZECHARIAH**, A PROPHET OF RESTORATION
 - ↳ GOD GAVE A HEARTY CONSOLATION & PROMISE TO BRING THE SCATTERED ISRAEL BACK TO THE GOOD LAND WITH THE EXPECTATION OF THE TIME OF RESTORATION.

SECOND RETURN (EZRA 7-10)

- * UNDER THE PRIESTLY LEADERSHIP OF **EZRA** (A DESCENDANT OF THE HIGH PRIEST AARON)
- * EZRA WAS ALSO A SCRIBE, SKILLED IN THE LAW OF MOSES (7:6)
- ↳ AFTER THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE, THE PEOPLE WERE STILL UNRULY FOR THEY HAD BECOME **BABYLONIAN** IN THEIR CONSTITUTION.
- ↳ THERE WAS A NEED OF AN EZRA WHO WAS BOTH A PRIEST TO SERVE GOD AND A SCRIBE SKILLED IN THE WORD OF GOD. (CF. 7:10, "TO TEACH")
- * BY KNOWING GOD'S HEART, EZRA "WENT UP" TO THE KING AND VOLUNTEERED FOR THE RETURN. (CF. FIRST RETURN WAS INITIATED BY GOD)
- * **THE NEED OF PURIFICATION**
 - ↳ AT EZRA'S TIME, NOT ONLY COMMON PEOPLE BUT EVEN THE PRIESTS & THE LEVITES HAD FOREIGN WIVES. (9:11-2)
 - ↳ THIS WAS AGAINST GOD'S COMMANDMENT (DEUT. 7:1-6)
 - ↳ SO THEY NEGLECTED & DESPISED THEIR RIGHT TO ENJOY THE GOOD LAND, AND, AS A RESULT FELL INTO CAPTIVITY.
 - ↳ REPEATING THE INDULGENCE OF LUST OF SOLOMON (1 KINGS 11:2; 2 COR. 6:14) (CHUCH BISH)

THIRD RETURN (NEH. 1-2)

- FOR THE REBUILDING OF THE WALL OF THE CITY & FURTHER RECOVERY OF SERVICES & WORSHIP TO GOD
- * UNDER THE AGGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP OF **NEHEMIAH**
 - ↳ HE WAS A CUP BEARER OF THE KING
 - ↳ BUT WHEN HE HEARD THE SITUATION OF JERUSALEM HE "AGGRESSIVELY" VOLUNTEERED TO RETURN TO REBUILD THE WALL OF THE CITY. (1:1-2; 2:3-5)
 - ↳ HE LOVED GOD & HIS INTERESTS ON THE EARTH; 1) THE HOLY LAND, 2) THE HOLY TEMPLE, 3) THE HOLY CITY.
- * CITY OF JERUSALEM IS THE SAFEGUARD & PROTECTION OF THE HOUSE OF GOD (CF. SEPARATION)
- * DUE TO FURTHER FRUSTRATION OF THE ENEMIES (MOABITES & AMMONITES), ISRAEL WAS PREPARED TO FIGHT & NEHEMIAH TOOK THE LEAD EVEN IN THE NIGHT WATCH (4:1-8, 18)
- * REBUILDING THE HOUSE - RECOVERY OF DEGRADED CHURCH
- * REBUILDING THE CITY - RECOVERY OF THE KINGDOM
- * **THE NEED OF FURTHER PURIFICATION** (8:1-10:34)
 - ↳ TO RECONSTITUTE THE RETURNED CAPTIVES WHO WERE BORN & RAISED UP IN BABYLON
 - ↳ BY THE WORD OF GOD TO BE HIS TESTIMONY (13:30)

"I CLEASD THEM FROM EVERYTHING FOREIGN"