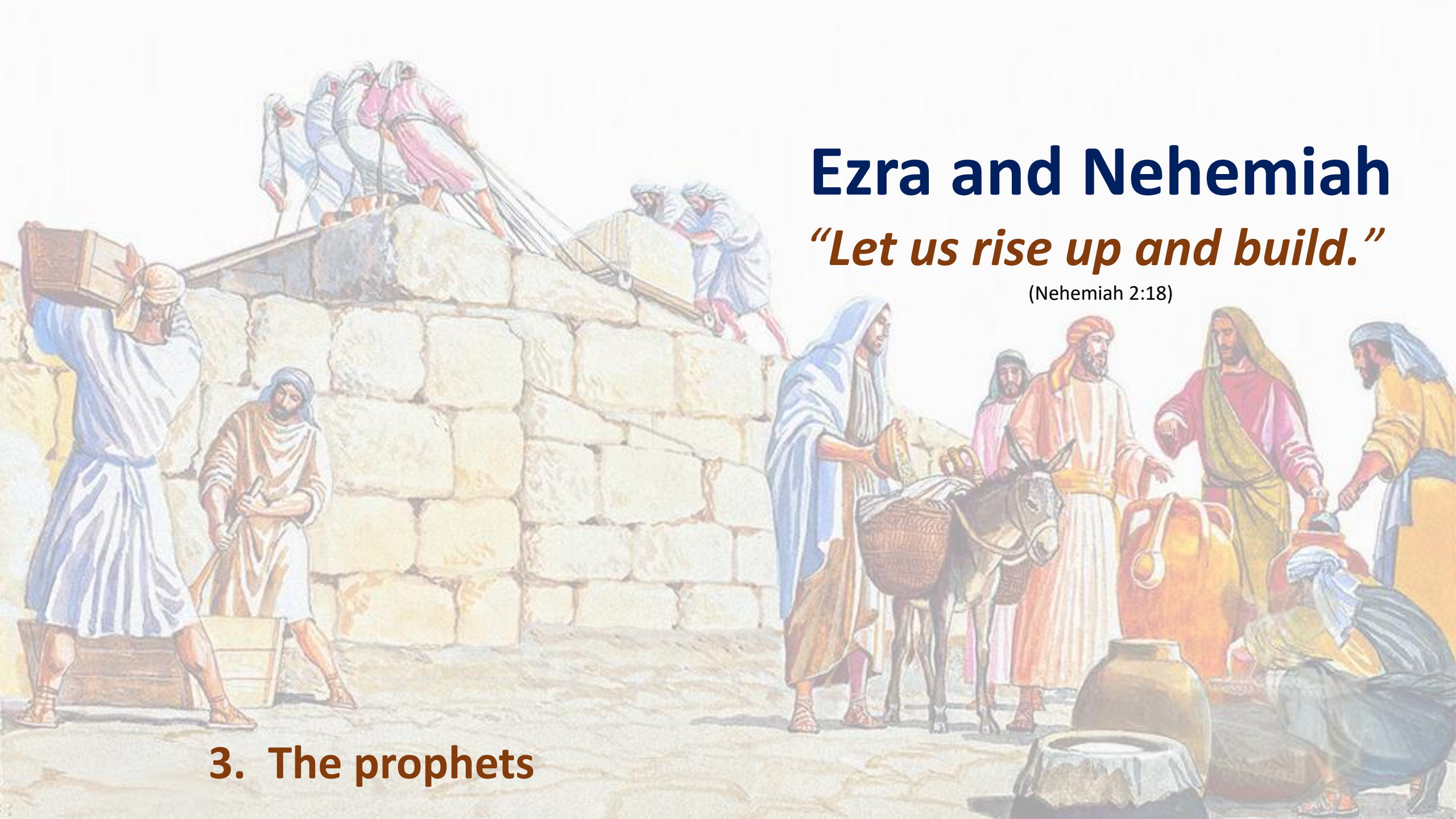


An illustration depicting the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls. In the background, several men are working on a high stone wall, with one man pulling a rope to move a large stone block. In the foreground, a group of men are engaged in various tasks: one man carries a large wooden box on his head, another sits with a hammer and a wooden frame, and a group of men are gathered around a donkey and large earthenware jars, possibly preparing food or supplies. The scene is set in a dusty, outdoor environment with a clear sky.

Ezra and Nehemiah

“Let us rise up and build.”

(Nehemiah 2:18)

3. The prophets

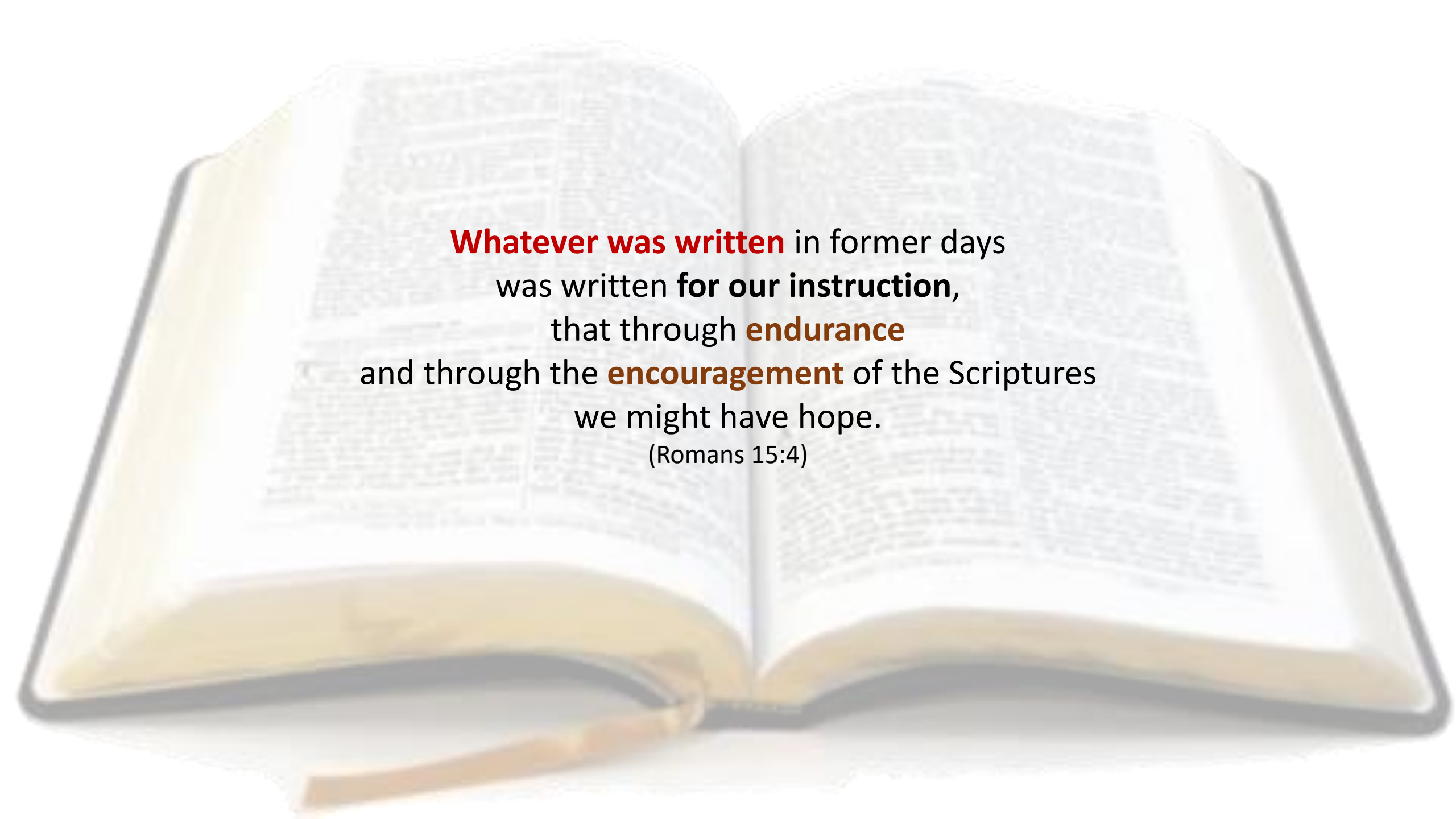
The Old Testament	
Law	1. Genesis
	2. Exodus
	3. Leviticus
	4. Numbers
	5. Deuteronomy
History	6. Joshua
	7. Judges
	8. Ruth
	9. 1 Samuel
	10. 2 Samuel
	11. 1 Kings
	12. 2 Kings
	13. 1 Chronicles
	14. 2 Chronicles
	15. Ezra
	16. Nehemiah
	17. Esther
Wisdom	18. Job
	19. Psalms
	20. Proverbs
	21. Ecclesiastes
	22. Song of Solomon
Prophets	23. Isaiah to 39. Malachi

The place of Ezra and Nehemiah in the Old Testament

The history of Israel (both the northern and southern kingdoms) from Samuel until **the destruction of Jerusalem**.

The history of Judah (the southern kingdom) from David up to **the destruction of Jerusalem**, and in **Ezra** and **Nehemiah**, **the return to Jerusalem and the work to rebuild it**.

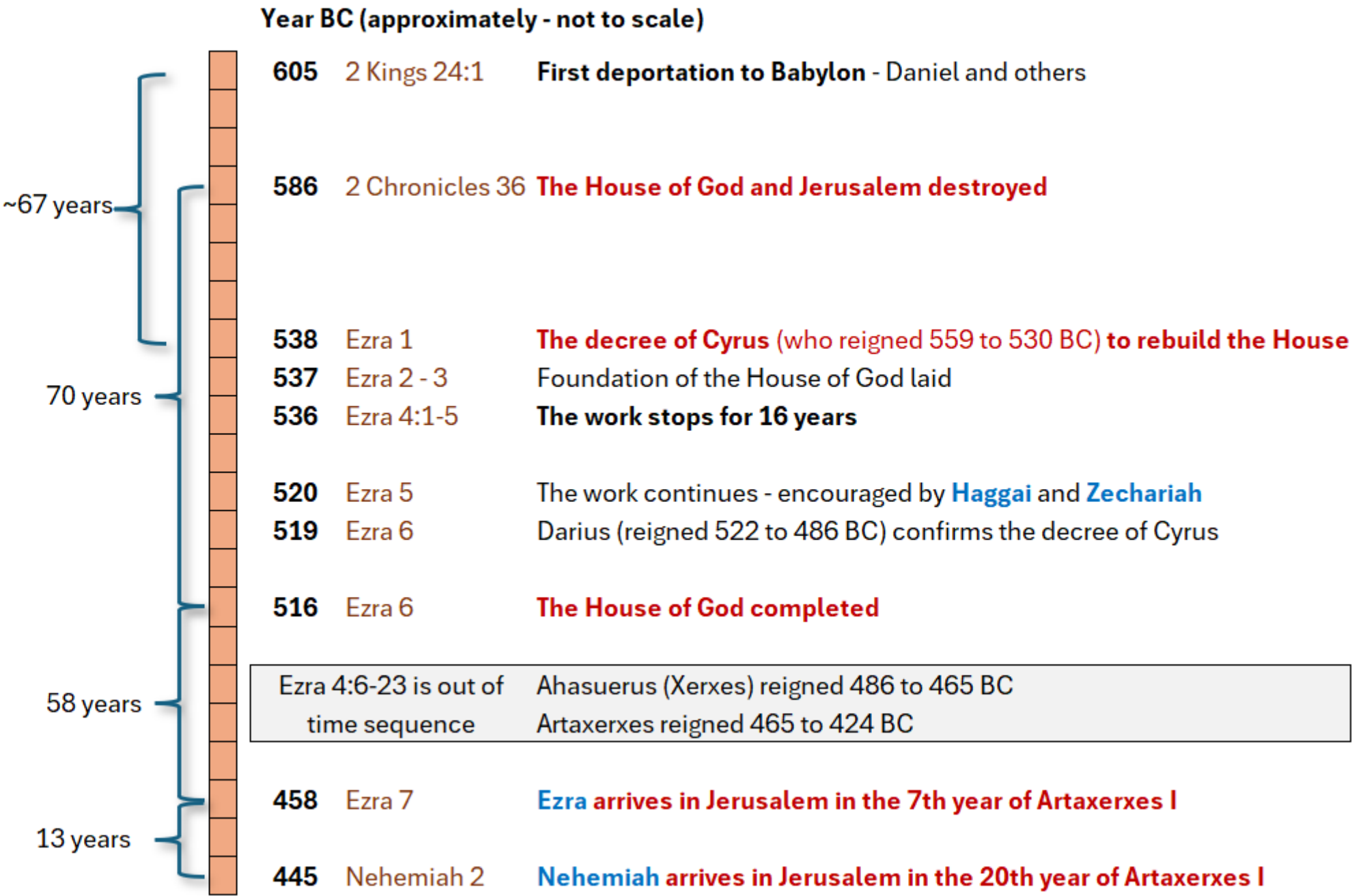
Ezra and Nehemiah are about recovering and rebuilding

An open book with a dark cover is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white with faint, illegible text. Overlaid on the center of the open pages is a block of text in various colors and bolding.

Whatever was written in former days
was written **for our instruction**,
that through **endurance**
and through the **encouragement** of the Scriptures
we might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)

Time in Ezra and Nehemiah



Esther became queen in the 7th year of the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes) which is about 479 BC, well before Ezra went to Jerusalem

Time in Ezra and Nehemiah

538	Ezra 1	The decree of Cyrus (who reigned 559 to 530 BC) to rebuild the House
537	Ezra 2 - 3	Foundation of the House of God laid
536	Ezra 4:1-5	The work stops for 16 years
520	Ezra 5	The work continues - encouraged by Haggai and Zechariah
519	Ezra 6	Darius (reigned 522 to 486 BC) confirms the decree of Cyrus
516	Ezra 6	The House of God completed

Exiles return to the Land

...they built the altar of the God of Israel,
to offer burnt offerings on it,
as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.

They set the altar in its place...

And they kept the Feast of Booths, **as it is written**,
and offered the daily burnt offerings...
and after that the regular burnt offerings...

(Ezra 3:2-5)

The House in the New Testament

*“Destroy this temple,
and in three days I will raise it up.”*

(John 2:19)

In Him you also are being built together
into **a dwelling place for God** by the Spirit.

(Ephesians 2:22)



Ezra and Nehemiah

“Let us rise up and build”

(Nehemiah 2:18)

Ezra 4:24 to 6:22

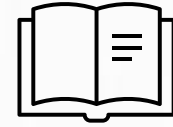
- ❖ The word of the Lord
- ❖ Opposition
- ❖ Joy



Ezra and Nehemiah

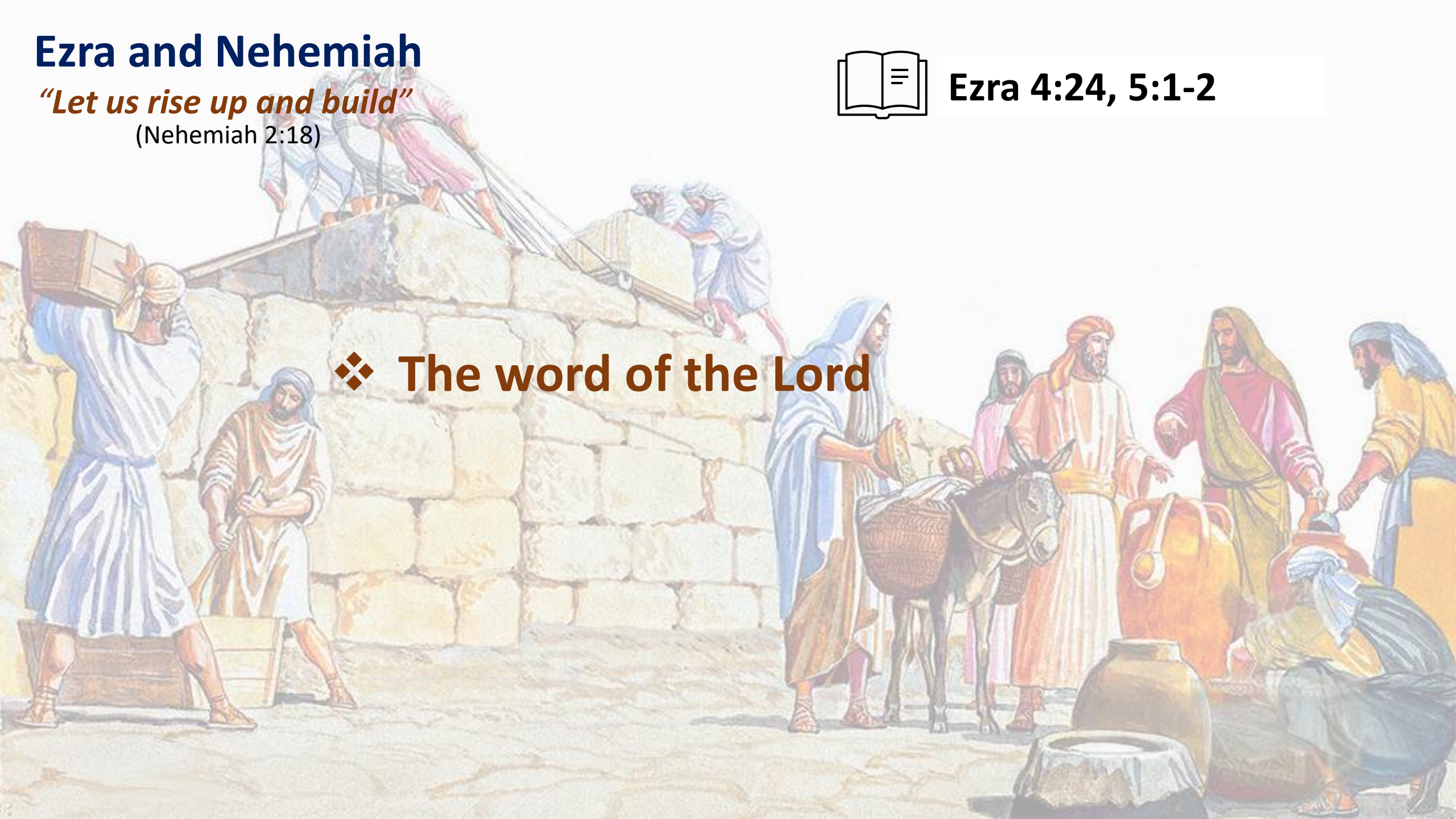
"Let us rise up and build"

(Nehemiah 2:18)



Ezra 4:24, 5:1-2

❖ **The word of the Lord**



❖ The word of the Lord

Now the prophets, **Haggai** and **Zechariah** the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them.

Then **Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel and **Jeshua** the son of Jozadak arose and began to **rebuild the house of God** that is in Jerusalem, and the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.
(Ezra 5:1-2)

The Old Testament	
Law	Genesis to Deutronomy
History	Joshua to Esther
Wisdom	Job to Song of Solomon
Major Prophets	23. Isaiah
	24. Jeremiah
	25. Lamentations
	26. Ezekiel
	27. Daniel
Minor Prophets	28. Hosea
	29. Joel
	30. Amos
	31. Obadiah
	32. Jonah
	33. Micah
	34. Nahum
	35. Habakkuk
	36. Zephaniah
	37. Haggai
	38. Zechariah
	39. Malachi





Haggai 1:1-15

Haggai

to build the House of the Lord
the second year of King Darius, on the
first of the sixth month, the word of
the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to
Zerubbabel, governor of Judah,
and to Sheshbazzar, the high
priest, son of Jehozadak, the high

priest. The Lord Almighty says:
"The time has not yet come
to build."

The word of the Lord came through
the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel
governor of Judah, and to Sheshbazzar
the high priest, son of Jehozadak, the high

priest. The Lord Almighty stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of She-
bazzar, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Je-
hozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the
whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the
fourth day of the seventh month, the second
year of King Darius.

❖ The word of the Lord

In the 2nd year of Darius the king, in the 6th month, on the 1st day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet...

“Thus says the LORD of hosts:

These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.” ...

“Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your panelled houses, while this house lies in ruins?”

(Haggai 1:1-4)

❖ The word of the Lord

“Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts:

Consider your ways.

- You have sown much, and harvested little.
- You eat, but you never have enough;
- you drink, but you never have your fill.
- You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm.
- And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.”

(Haggai 1:5-6)

❖ The word of the Lord

Consider your ways.

“Go up to the hills and bring wood
and build the house,
that I may take pleasure in it
and that I may be glorified.”
(Haggai 1:8)

The House
is for God

❖ The word of the Lord

Then **Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel,
and **Joshua** the son of Jehozadak, the high priest,
with all **the remnant** of the people,
obeyed the voice of the LORD their God,
and the words of Haggai the prophet,
as the LORD their God had sent him.
And the people feared the LORD.

Or
'because'

(Haggai 1:12)

❖ The word of the Lord

Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD'S message,

“I am with you, declares the LORD.”

And the LORD stirred up the spirit of **Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of **Joshua** the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of **all the remnant of the people**.

And they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, on the 24th day of the month, in the 6th month, in the 2nd year of Darius the king.

About 3
weeks later

(Haggai 1:13-15)



Haggai 2:1-9

Haggai

to build the House of the Lord
the second year of King Darius, on the
first of the sixth month, the word of
the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to
Zerubbabel, governor of Judah,
and to Sheshbazzar, the high
priest, son of Jehozadak, the high

priest. The Lord Almighty says:
"The time has not yet come
to build."

For the temple has not yet come through
the fire for you have not yet
reached the day of the Lord.

stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of She-
tubai, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Je-
hozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of
the whole remnant of the people.
They came and began to work on the
fourth day of the month.
The word of the Lord came on the
second day of the seventh month of the
second year of King Darius.

The latter glory of this house...

In the 7th month, on the 21st day of the month...

The last day of the
Feast of Tabernacles

Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory?
How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes?

Yet now **be strong**, O **Zerubbabel**, declares the LORD.

Be strong, O **Joshua**, son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

Be strong, **all you people** of the land, declares the LORD.

Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts,
according to **the covenant** that I made with you when you
came out of Egypt. **My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.**

(Haggai 2:3-5)

“Not by strength and not by power, but by My Spirit...”

(Zechariah 4:6)

The latter glory of this house...

For thus says the LORD of hosts:
Yet once more, in a little while,
I will shake the heavens and the earth
and the sea and the dry land.

And I will shake all nations,
so that the treasures
of all nations shall come in, and
I will fill this house with glory,
says the LORD of hosts.
(Haggai 2:6-7)

At Mt Sinai

At that time His voice shook the earth,
but now He has promised,

***“Yet once more I will shake not only
the earth but also the heavens.”***

This phrase, **“Yet once more,”** indicates
the removal of things that are shaken
—that is, things that have been made—
in order that the things that
cannot be shaken may remain.
(Hebrews 12:26-27)

The everlasting kingdom
of the Lord Jesus Christ

The latter glory of this house...

*The latter glory of this house
shall be greater than the former,*
says the LORD of hosts.

And in this place I will give peace,
declares the LORD of hosts.
(Haggai 2:9)

Ezra and Nehemiah

"Let us rise up and build"

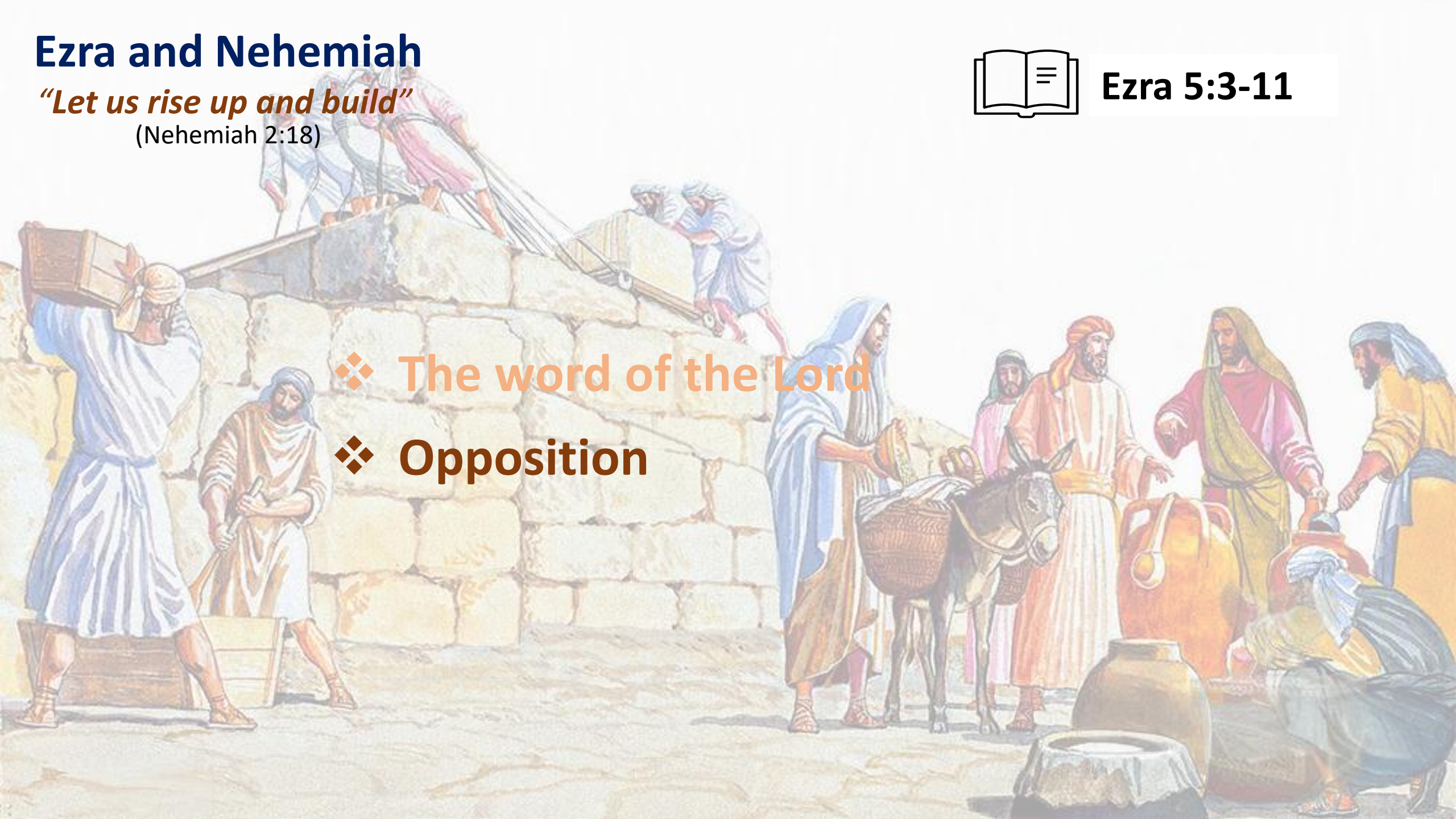
(Nehemiah 2:18)



Ezra 5:3-11

❖ The word of the Lord

❖ Opposition



Opposition

To Darius the king, all peace.

Be it known to the king that we went to the province of Judah, to the house of the great God. It is being built with huge stones, and timber is laid in the walls. **This work goes on diligently and prospers in their hands.**

... And this was their reply to us:

‘We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished....’

(See Ezra 5:7-17)

Opposition

“Now therefore, ... keep away.

Let the work on this house of God alone.

Let the governor of the Jews and the elders
of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site.

I Darius make a decree; let it be done with all diligence.”

(See Ezra 6:1-12)



Ezra and Nehemiah

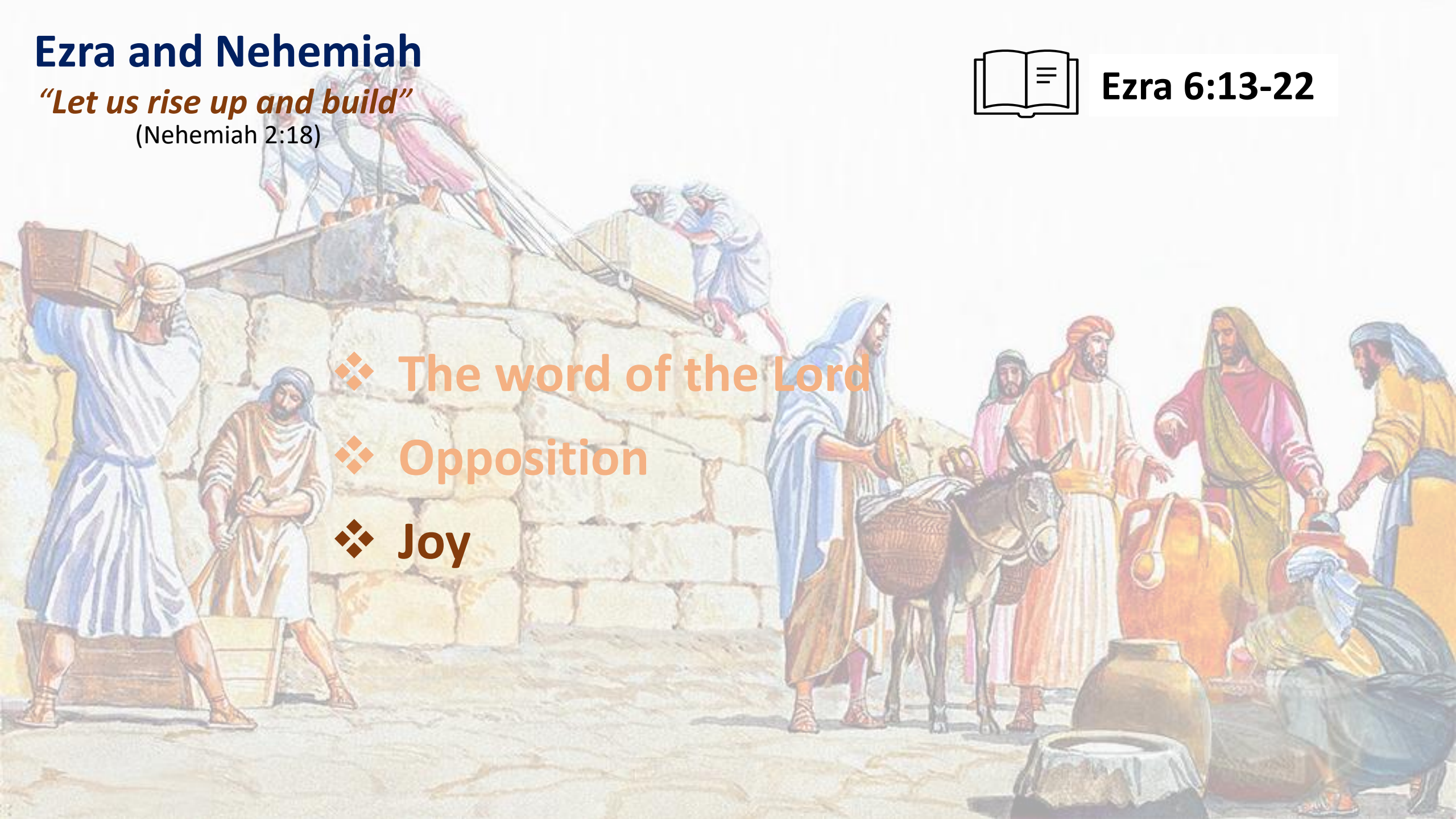
"Let us rise up and build"

(Nehemiah 2:18)



Ezra 6:13-22

- ❖ The word of the Lord
- ❖ Opposition
- ❖ Joy



❖ Joy, joy, joy

And the elders of the Jews **built and prospered** through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo.

They finished their building by decree of the God of Israel

and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia; and this house was finished on the 3rd day of the month of Adar, in the 6th year of the reign of Darius the king.

(Ezra 6:14-15)

The 12th
month

The work had restarted in
the 6th month of the 2nd year of Darius

❖ Joy, joy, joy

And the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites,
and the rest of the returned exiles,
celebrated the dedication of this house of God **with joy**.

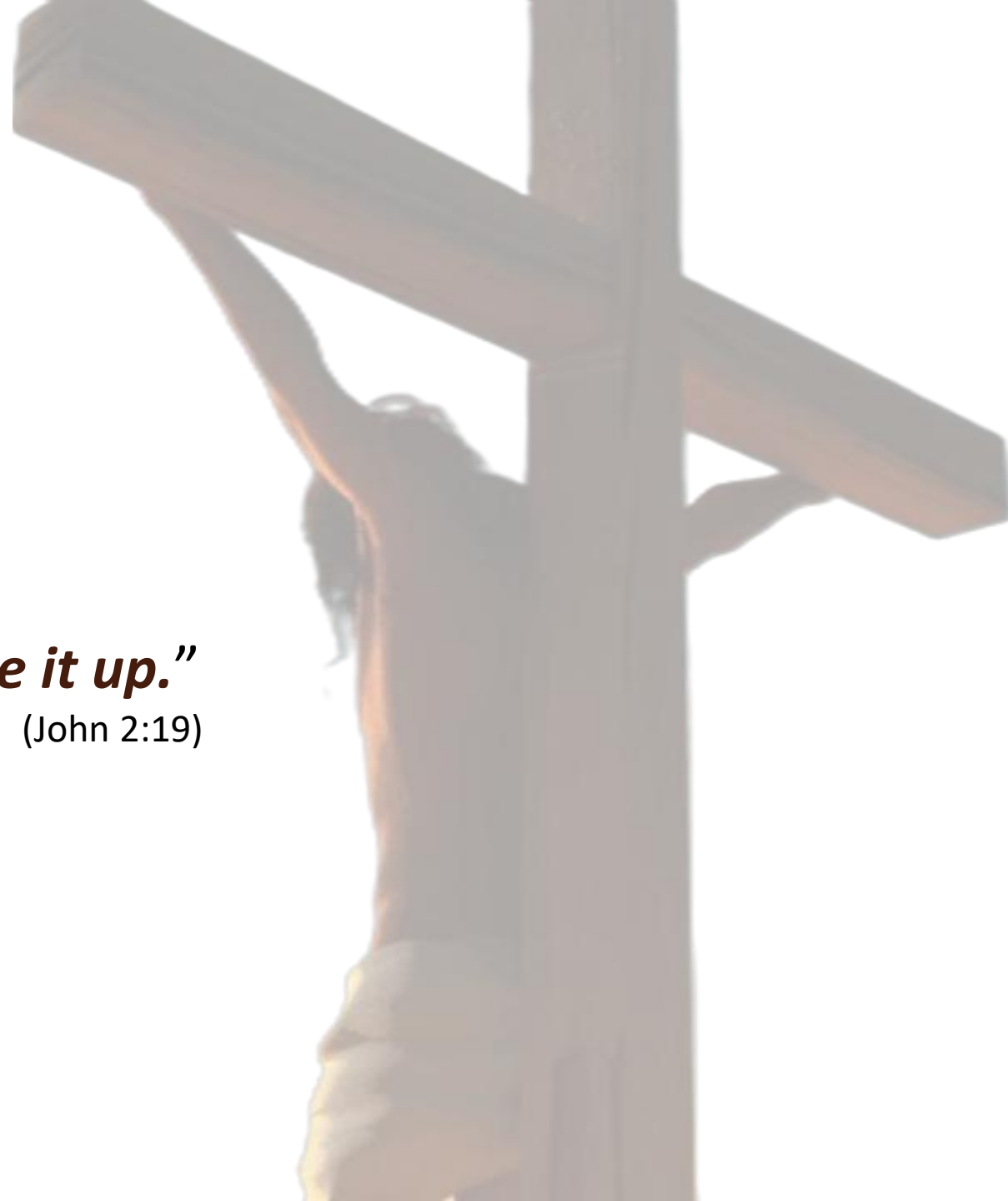
They offered at the dedication of this house of God
100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel
12 male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

And they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites
in their divisions, for the service of God at Jerusalem,
as it is written in the Book of Moses.

(Ezra 6:16-18)

***“Destroy this temple,
and in three days I will raise it up.”***

(John 2:19)



❖ Joy, joy, joy

On the 14th day of the 1st month, **the returned exiles kept the Passover.**

For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together...

It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile,
and **also by every one who had joined them** and separated himself
from the uncleanness of the peoples of the land
to worship the LORD, the God of Israel.

And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread 7 days with joy,
for the LORD had made them joyful

and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them,
so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

(Ezra 6:19-22)

Proverbs 16:7

Proverbs 21:1

**The time has not yet come
to rebuild the house of the LORD.**

Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD,
spoke to the people with the LORD'S message,
"I am with you, declares the LORD."

...according to **the covenant** that I made
with you when you came out of Egypt.
My Spirit remains in your midst. **Fear not.**

“I am with you, declares the LORD.”

“Let us rise up and build.”

(Nehemiah 2:18)