



Ezra and Nehemiah

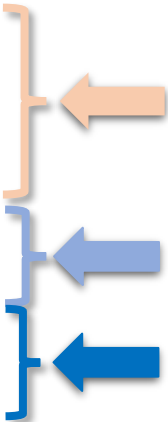
“Let us rise up and build.”

(Nehemiah 2:18)

4. Ezra in Jerusalem

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

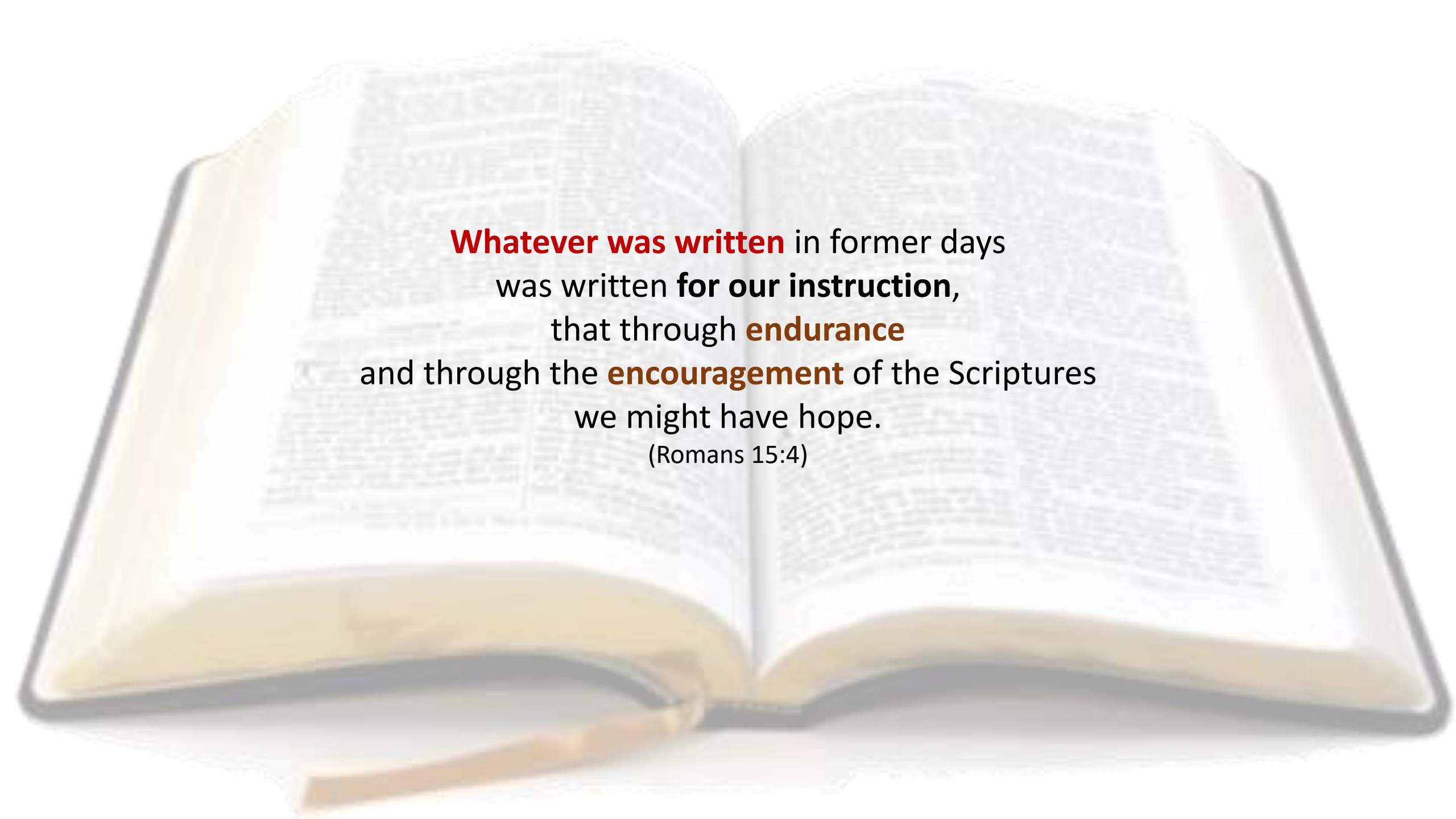


The history of Israel (both the northern and southern kingdoms) from Samuel until **the destruction of Jerusalem**.

The history of Judah from David up to **the destruction of Jerusalem**.

Returning to Jerusalem, **rebuilding** the House of God and the walls of the city, and **teaching** the people God's way.

Ezra and Nehemiah are about recovering loss 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)

The House of God in the New Testament

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

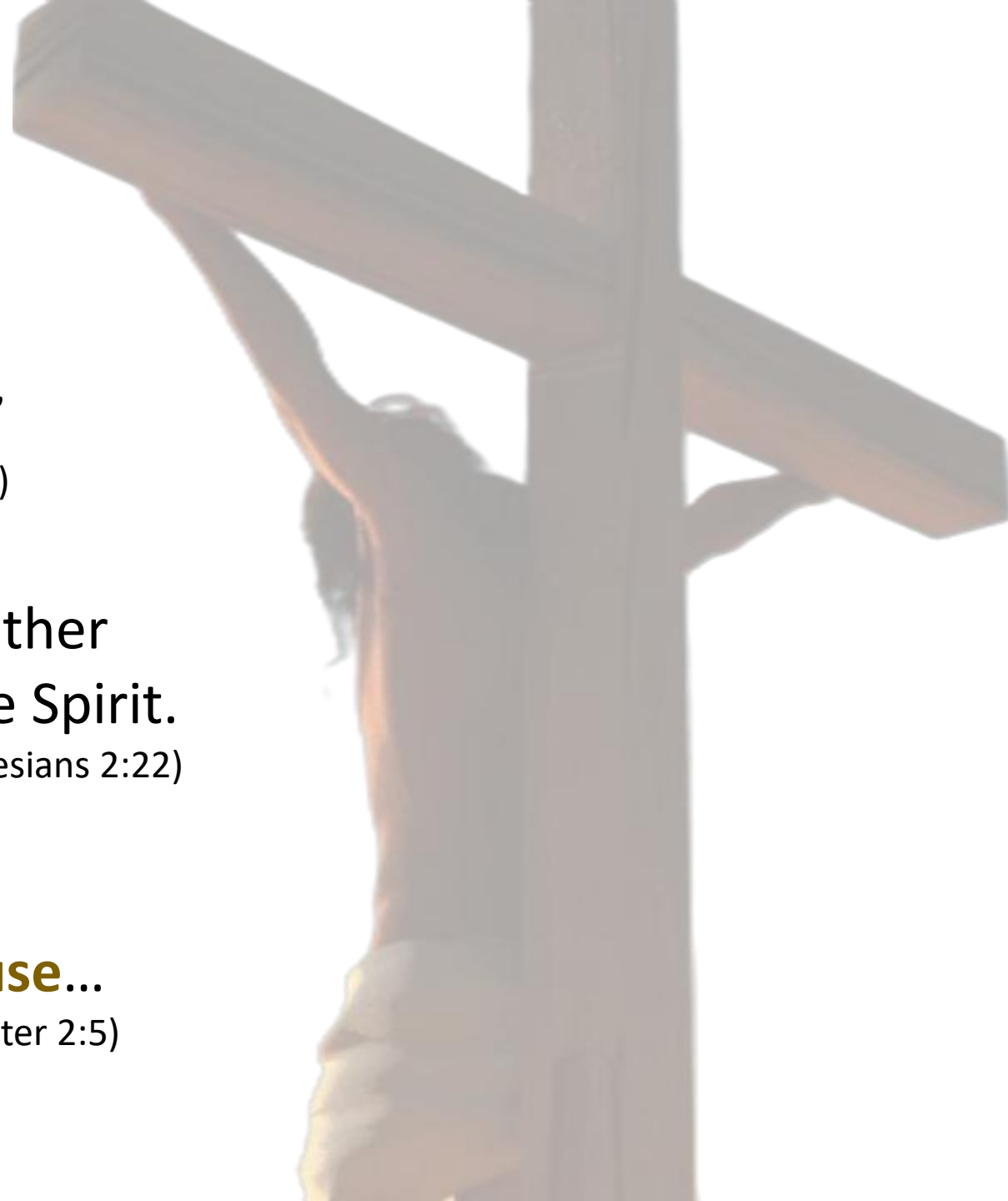
(John 2:19)

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

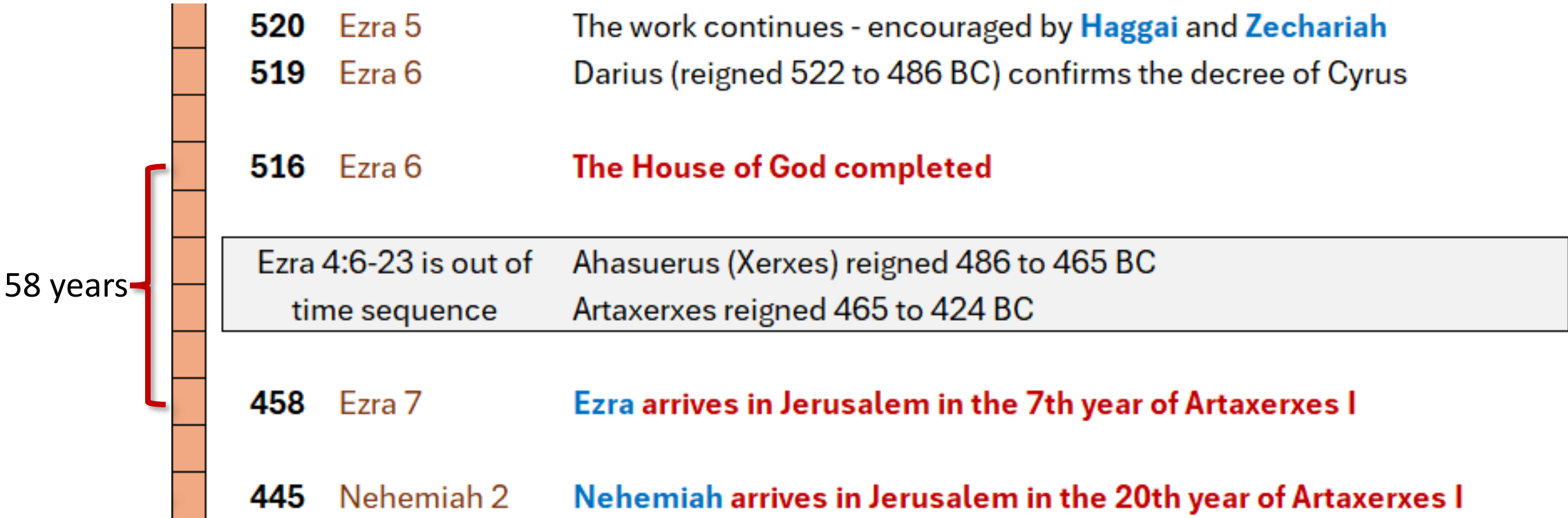
(Ephesians 2:22)

...you yourselves like living stones
are being built up as **a spiritual house**...

(1 Peter 2:5)



Time in Ezra and Nehemiah



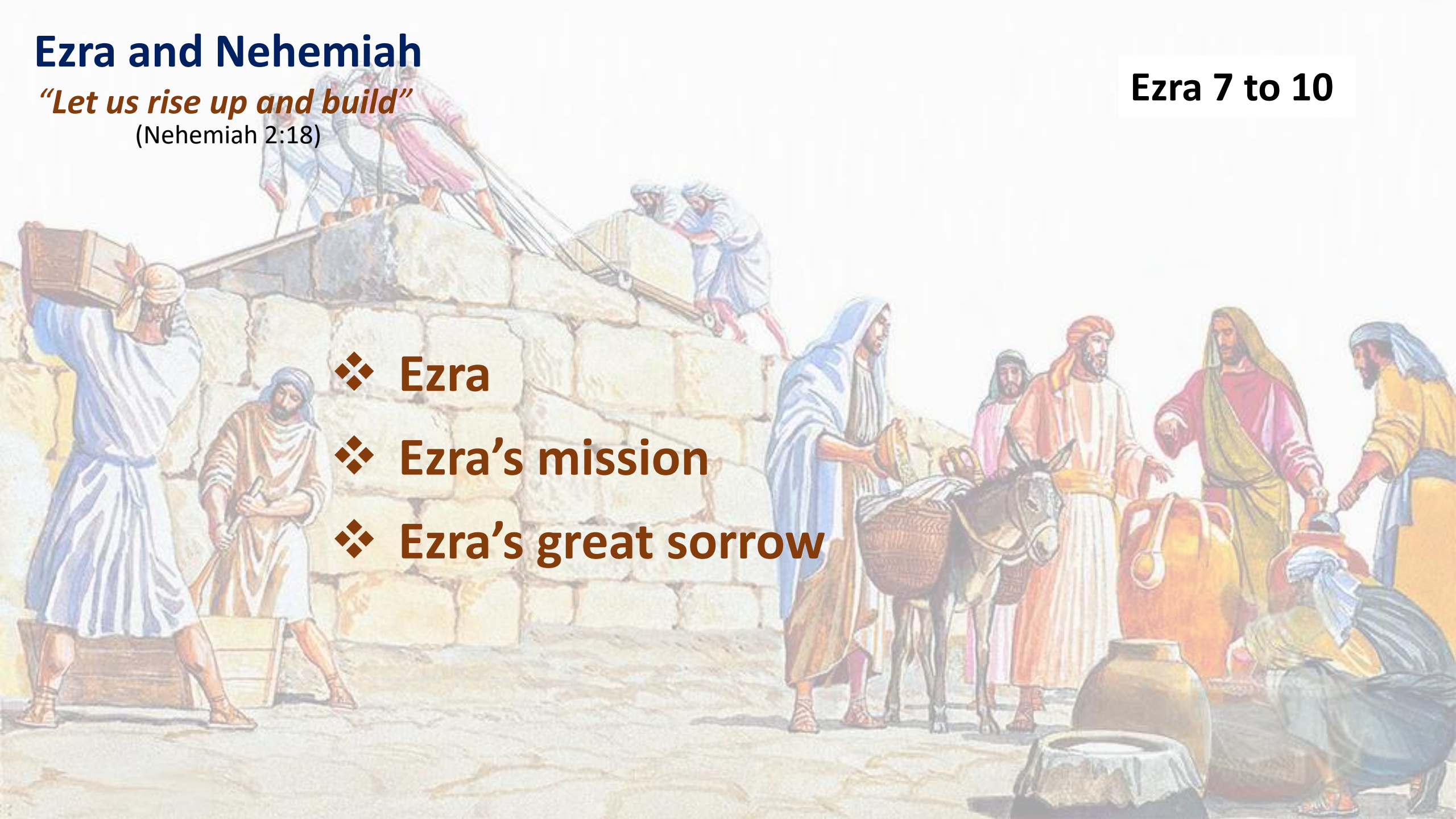
Ezra and Nehemiah

“Let us rise up and build”

(Nehemiah 2:18)

Ezra 7 to 10

- ❖ Ezra
- ❖ Ezra's mission
- ❖ Ezra's great sorrow



Ezra and Nehemiah

"Let us rise up and build"

(Nehemiah 2:18)



Ezra 7:1-10

❖ **Ezra**



Who is Ezra?

Ezra the son of Seraiah,
son of Azariah,
son of Hilkiah,
son of Shallum,
son of Zadok,
son of Ahitub,
son of Amariah,
son of Azariah,
son of Meraioth,
son of Zerahiah,
son of Uzzi,
son of Bukki,
son of Abishua,
son of Phinehas,
son of Eleazar,
son of Aaron the chief priest...

Ezra was the grandson, or
great grandson of Seraiah

*Do not marvel
that I said to you,
“You must be born again.”*

But to all who did receive Him,
who believed in His name,
He gave the right to become
children of God,
who were born... of God.
(John 1:12-13)

Some generations are omitted
– see 1 Chronicles 6:3-15

See Ezra 7:1-5

Who is Ezra?

Ezra the son of Seraiah,
son of Azariah,
son of Hilkiah,
son of Shallum,
son of Zadok,
son of Ahitub,

...this Ezra went up from Babylonia.

He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses
that the LORD, the God of Israel, had given....

(Ezra 7:6)

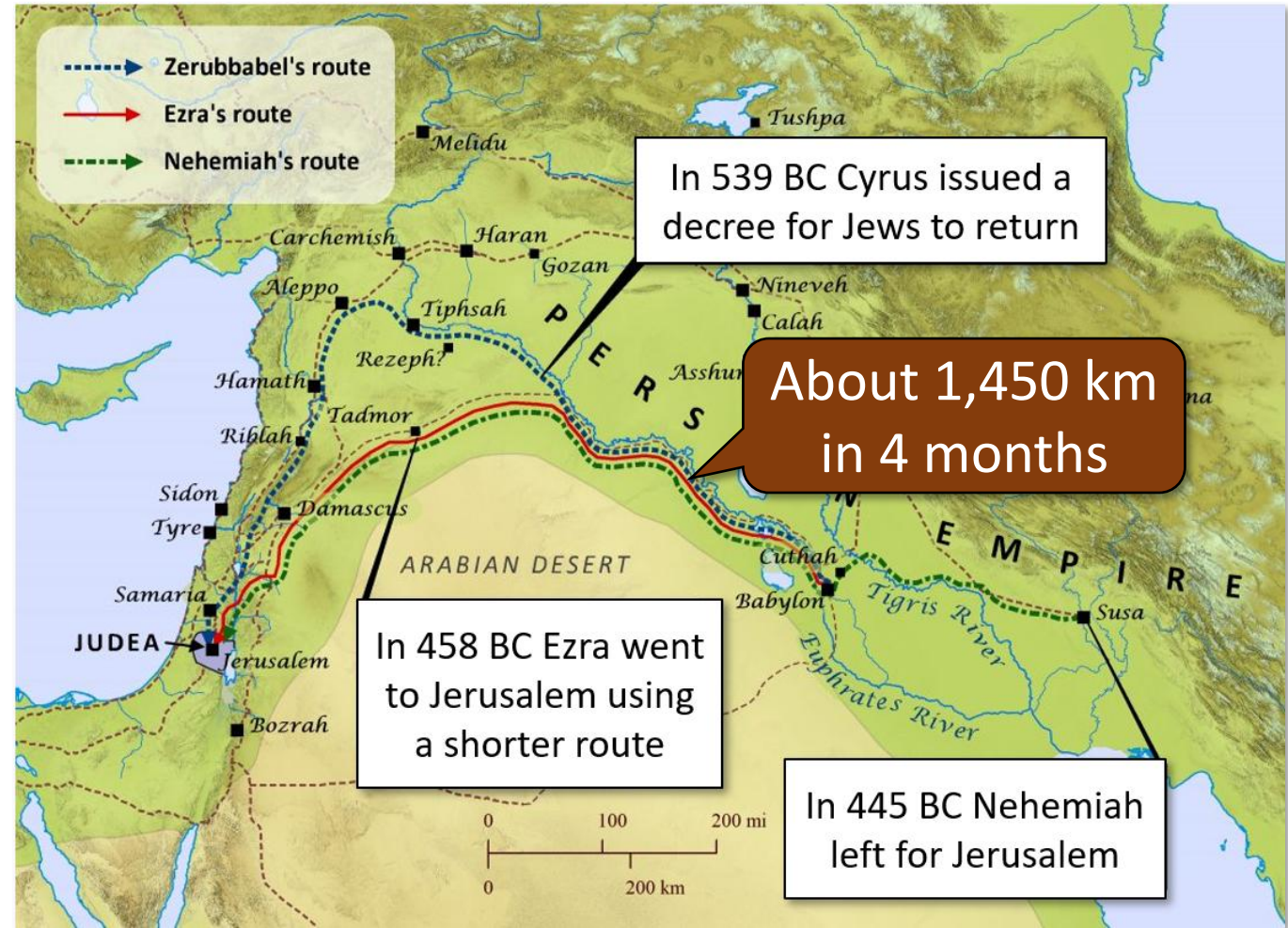
son of Uzzi,
son of Bukki,
son of Abishua,
son of Phinehas,
son of Eleazar,

son of Aaron the chief priest...

Who is Ezra?

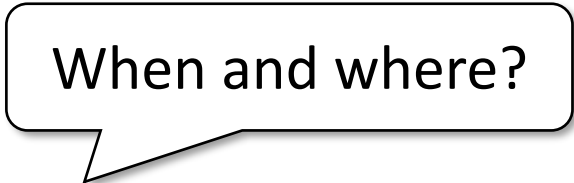
And Ezra came to Jerusalem
in the 5th month,
which was in the 7th year of the king.

On the 1st day of the 1st month
he began his journey from Babylon,
and on the 1st day of the 5th month
he came to Jerusalem,
according to the good hand
of his God upon him.
(Ezra 7:8-9)



Who is Ezra?

...according to the good hand
of his God upon him.



When and where?

For Ezra had set his heart

- to **study** the Law of the LORD, and
- to **do** it, and
- to **teach** his statutes and rules in Israel.

(See Ezra 7:10)

Who are you?

Set apart... See Romans 12:1-2

For Ezra had set his heart

- to **study** the Law of the LORD

✓ *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.*** (2 Timothy 2:15)

- to **do** it

✓ *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: **to visit** orphans and widows in their affliction, **and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*** (James 1:27)

- to **teach** his statutes and rules

✓ *Let no one despise you for your youth, but **set the believers an example** in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.* (1 Timothy 4:12)

Ezra and Nehemiah

"Let us rise up and build"

(Nehemiah 2:18)



Ezra 7:11-28

❖ Ezra

❖ Ezra's mission



The letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra

Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest...

I make a decree that anyone of the people of Israel
or their priests or Levites in my kingdom,
who freely offers to go to Jerusalem, may go with you.

For you are sent by the king and his seven counsellors
to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem
according to the Law of your God, which is in your hand,
and also **to carry the silver and gold that the king and
his counsellors have freely offered to the God of Israel**,
whose dwelling is in Jerusalem...

The letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra

To all the
treasurers



With this money, then, you shall with all diligence buy bulls, rams, and lambs... and **you shall offer them on the altar of the house of your God** that is in Jerusalem.

...whatever Ezra the priest... requires of you, let it be done with all diligence, up to 100 talents of silver, 100 kors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much....

Whatever is decreed by the God of heaven, let it be done in full for the house of the God of heaven, lest His wrath be against the realm of the king and his sons.

The letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra

We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on anyone of the priests, the Levites... or other servants of this house of God.

And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, **appoint magistrates and judges** who may judge all the people in **the province Beyond the River**, all such as know the laws of your God. **And those who do not know them, you shall teach.**

Whoever will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him...

West of the
Euphrates

(See Ezra 7:11-26)

The letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra

*The king's heart is a stream of water
in the hand of the LORD;
He turns it wherever He will.*

(Proverbs 21:1)

Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers,

who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king,

- to beautify the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem,
- and who extended to me His steadfast love before the king and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty officers.

Mercy, favour,
kindness

I took courage, for the hand of the LORD my God was on me,

and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

(Ezra 7:27-28)

Ezra's mission to Jerusalem

These are the heads of their fathers' houses,
and this is the genealogy of those
who went up with me from Babylonia,
in the reign of Artaxerxes the king: ...

- **1,496 men** are listed
- +
• **Women and children** in those families

I gathered them to the river
that runs to Ahava,
and there we camped 3 days.



+ **38 Levites**
+ **220 Temple servants**
+ **their families**

As I reviewed the people and the priests,
I found there none of the sons of Levi.

(See Ezra 8:1-15)

Ezra's mission to Jerusalem

Then **I proclaimed a fast there**, at the river Ahava,
that we might humble ourselves before our God,
to seek from Him a safe journey for ourselves,
our children, and all our goods.

For **I was ashamed to ask the king** for
a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us
against the enemy on our way,
since we had told the king,

*“The hand of our God is for good on all who seek Him,
and the power of His wrath is against all who forsake Him.”*

So we fasted and implored our God for this, and
He listened to our entreaty.

(Ezra 8:21-23)

Ezra's mission to Jerusalem

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40)

Then **I set apart** twelve of the leading priests...

And I weighed out to them the silver and the gold...

And I said to them,

"You are holy to the LORD, and the vessels are holy, and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the LORD, the God of your fathers.

Guard them and keep them..."

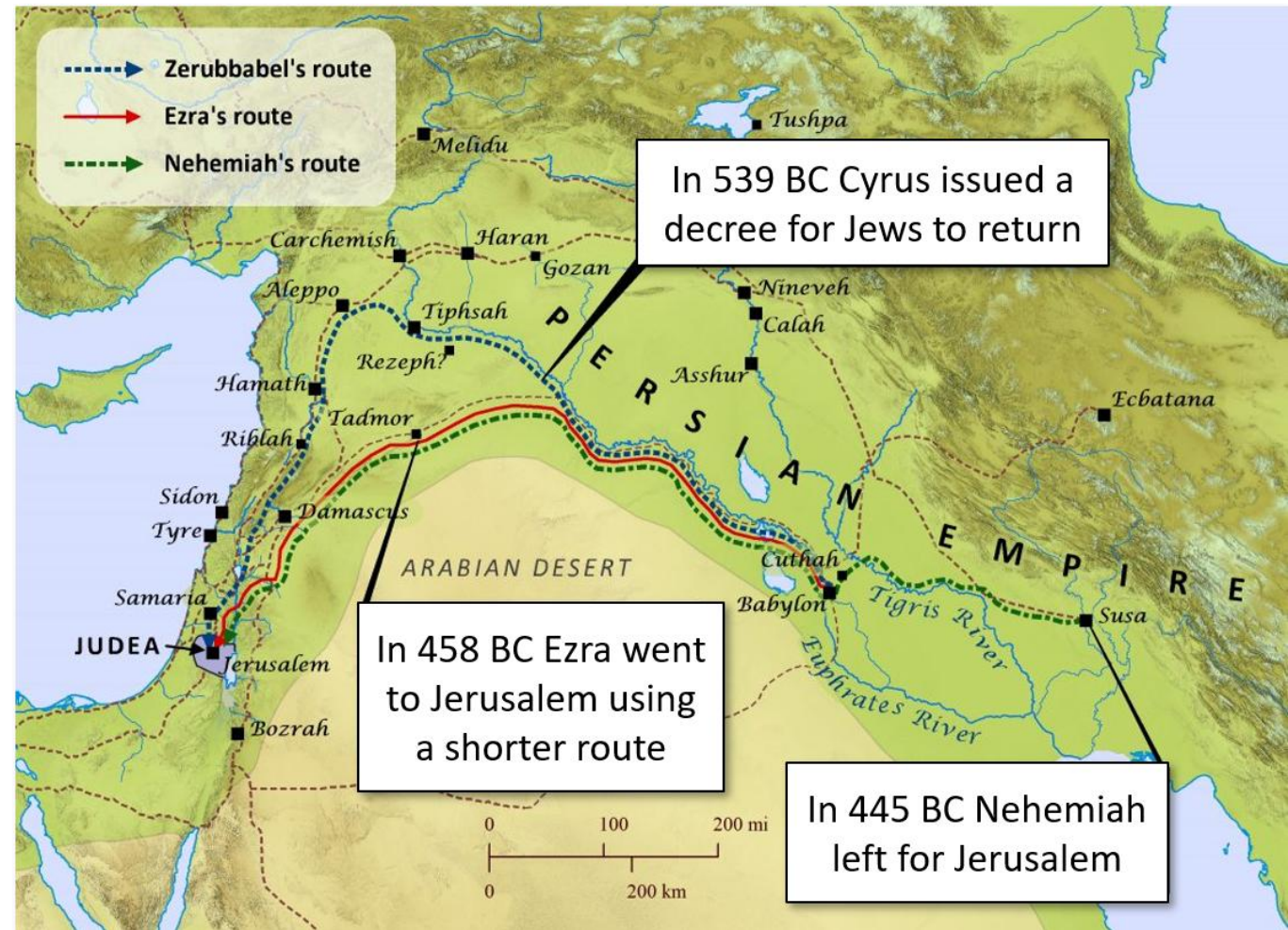
(See Ezra 8:24-29)



Ezra's mission to Jerusalem

Then we departed from the river Ahava
on the 12th day of the 1st month,
to go to Jerusalem.

**The hand of our God was on us,
and He delivered us**
from the hand of the enemy
and from ambushes by the way.
(Ezra 8:31)



Ezra's journey to Jerusalem

We came to Jerusalem, and there we remained 3 days.

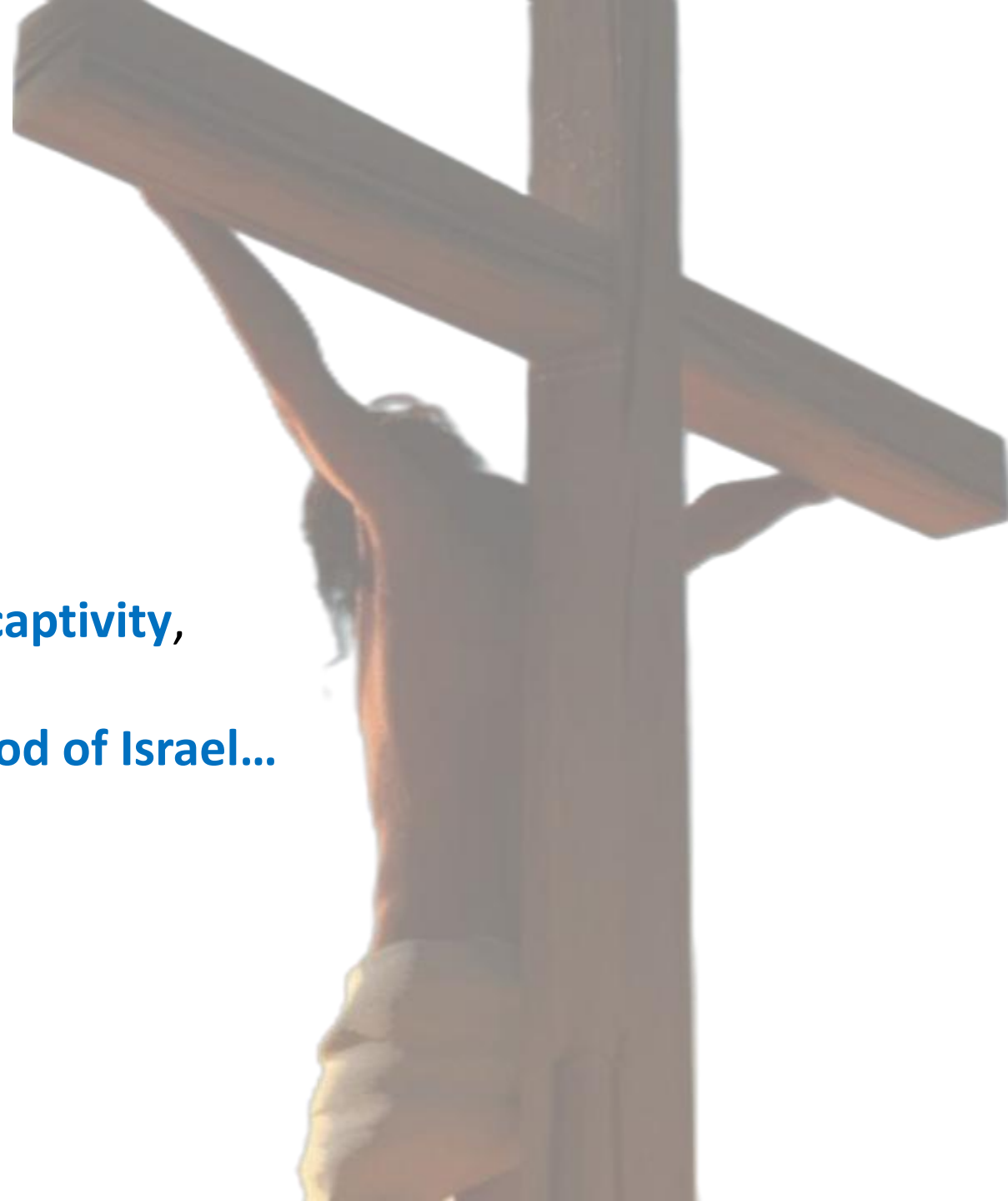
On the 4th day, within the house of our God,
the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed
into the hands of Meremoth the priest...

(Ezra 8:32-33)



Ezra's mission to Jerusalem

At that time
those who had come from captivity,
the returned exiles,
offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel...
(Ezra 8:35)



Ezra and Nehemiah

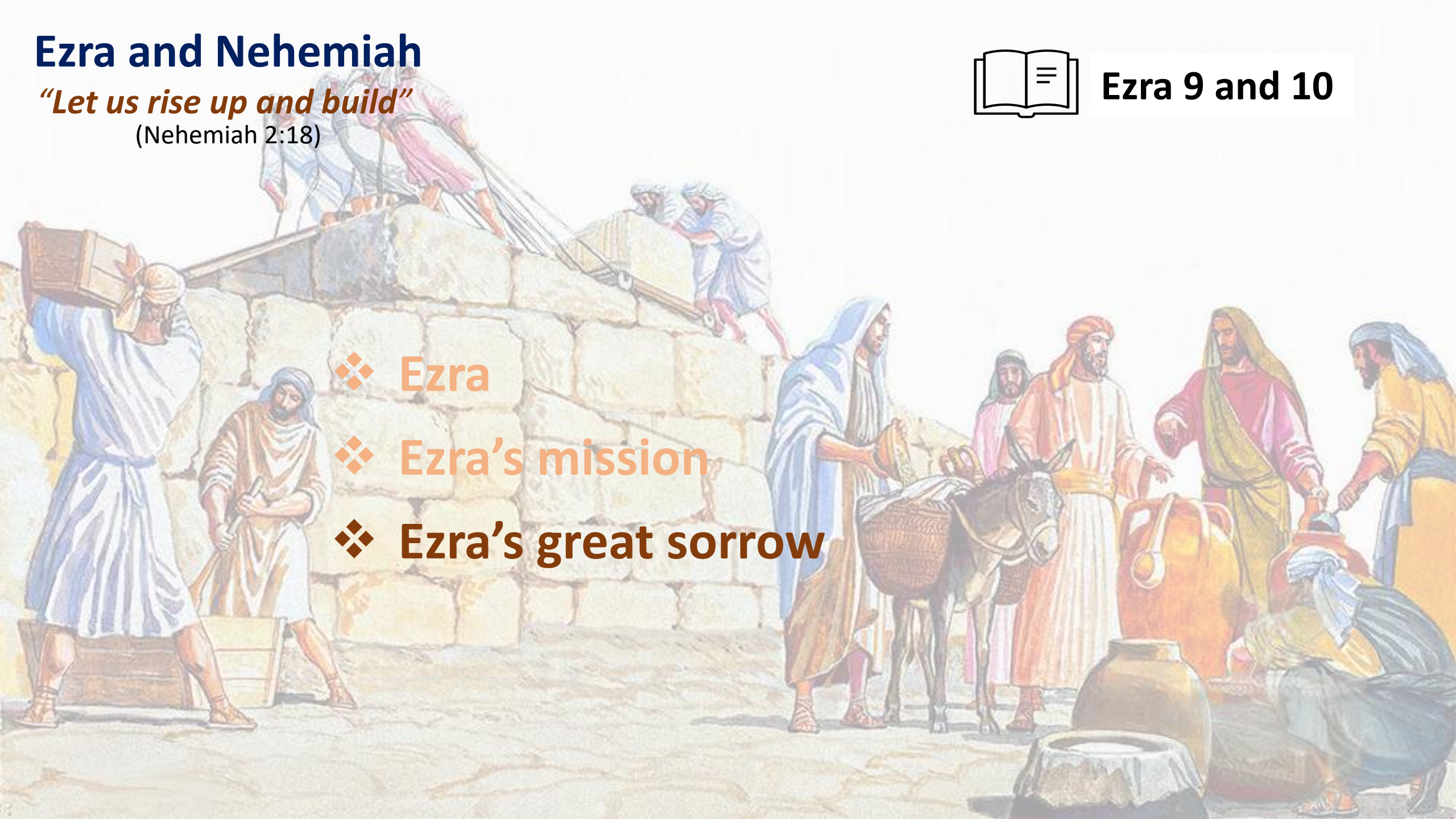
"Let us rise up and build"

(Nehemiah 2:18)



Ezra 9 and 10

- ❖ Ezra
- ❖ Ezra's mission
- ❖ Ezra's great sorrow



Ezra's great sorrow

After these things had been done,
the officials approached me and said,

“The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites
have not separated themselves from
the peoples of the lands with their abominations....”

“For they have taken some of their daughters
to be wives for themselves and for their sons,
so that **the holy race** has mixed itself
with the peoples of the lands.

“**And in this faithlessness the hand of the officials
and chief men has been foremost.**”

(Ezra 9:1-2)

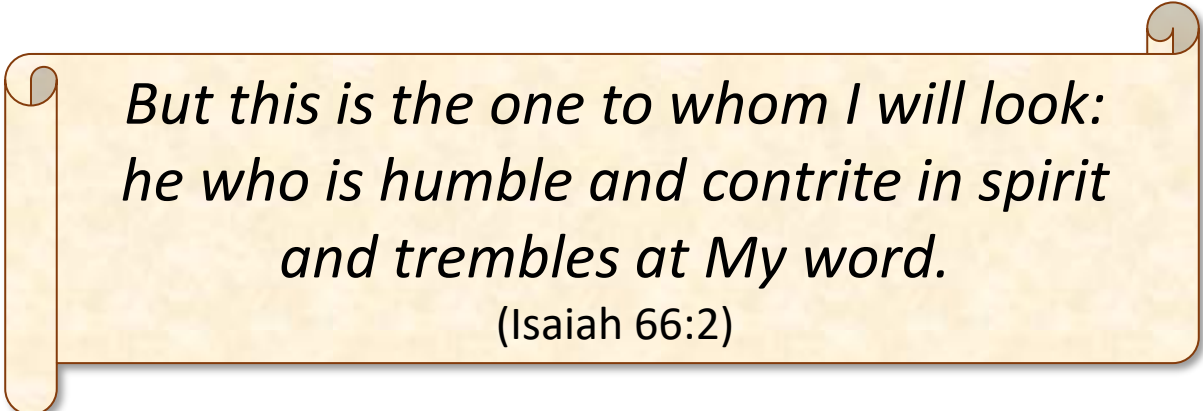


Ezra's great sorrow

As soon as I heard this, I tore my garment and my cloak and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled.

Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel,
because of the faithlessness of the returned exiles,
gathered around me while I sat appalled
until the evening sacrifice.

(Ezra 9:3-4)



*But this is the one to whom I will look:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit
and trembles at My word.*

(Isaiah 66:2)

Ezra's great sorrow

“O my God, **I am ashamed** and blush to lift my face to You, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.”

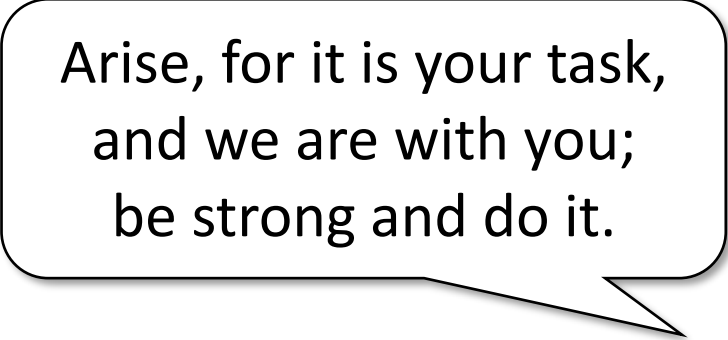
“And now, O our God, what shall we say after this?
For **we have forsaken Your commandments...**”

O LORD, the God of Israel, You are just, for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold, we are before You in our guilt,
for none can stand before You because of this.”

Ezra's great sorrow

While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for **the people wept bitterly**.

On the 1st day of the 10th month they sat down to examine the matter; and by the 1st day of the 1st month they had come to the end of all the men who had married foreign women.



Arise, for it is your task,
and we are with you;
be strong and do it.

(See Ezra 10)

Ezra's great sorrow

Now there were found some of the sons of the priests who had married foreign women...

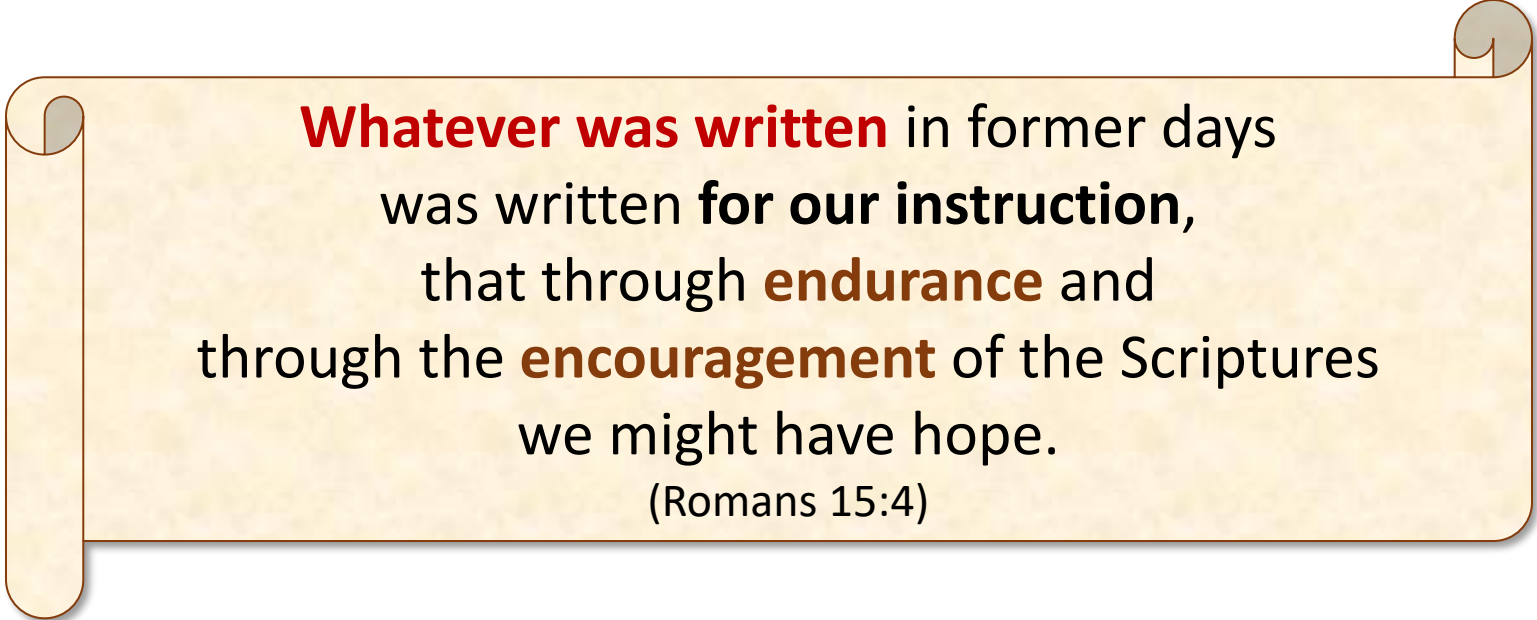
They pledged themselves to put away their wives, and **their guilt offering was a ram of the flock** for their guilt.

(Ezra 10:18-19)



Who is Ezra?

- A man who set his heart to learn, to obey and to teach.
- A servant leader and an example to his people.
- A man who loved God's house and served His people.



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)