

REBUILD

EZRA/NEHEMIAH

REBUILDING FROM RUBBLE

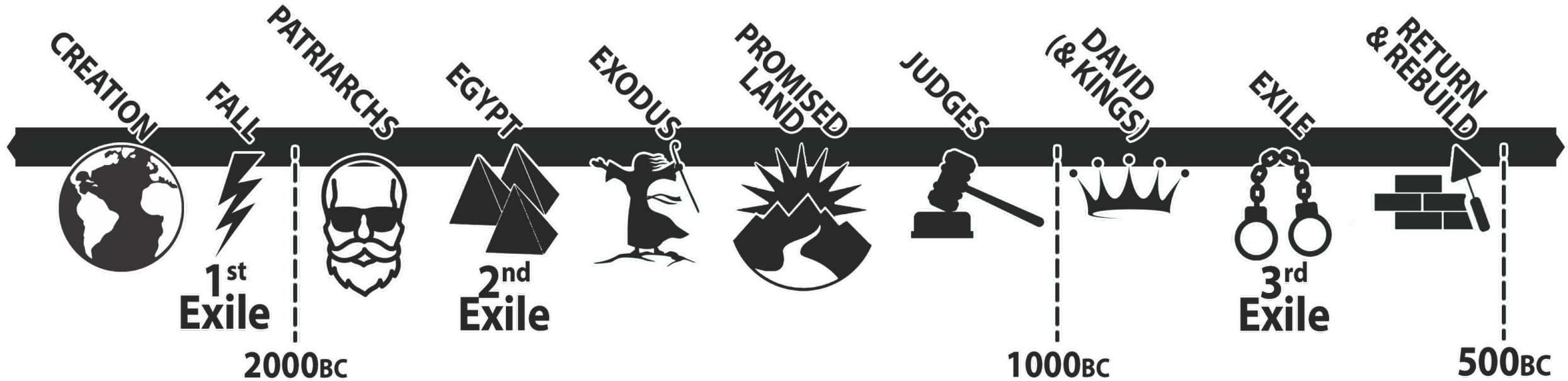
EZRA 1:1-3
“REBUILDING FROM RUBBLE”
SEPTEMBER 19

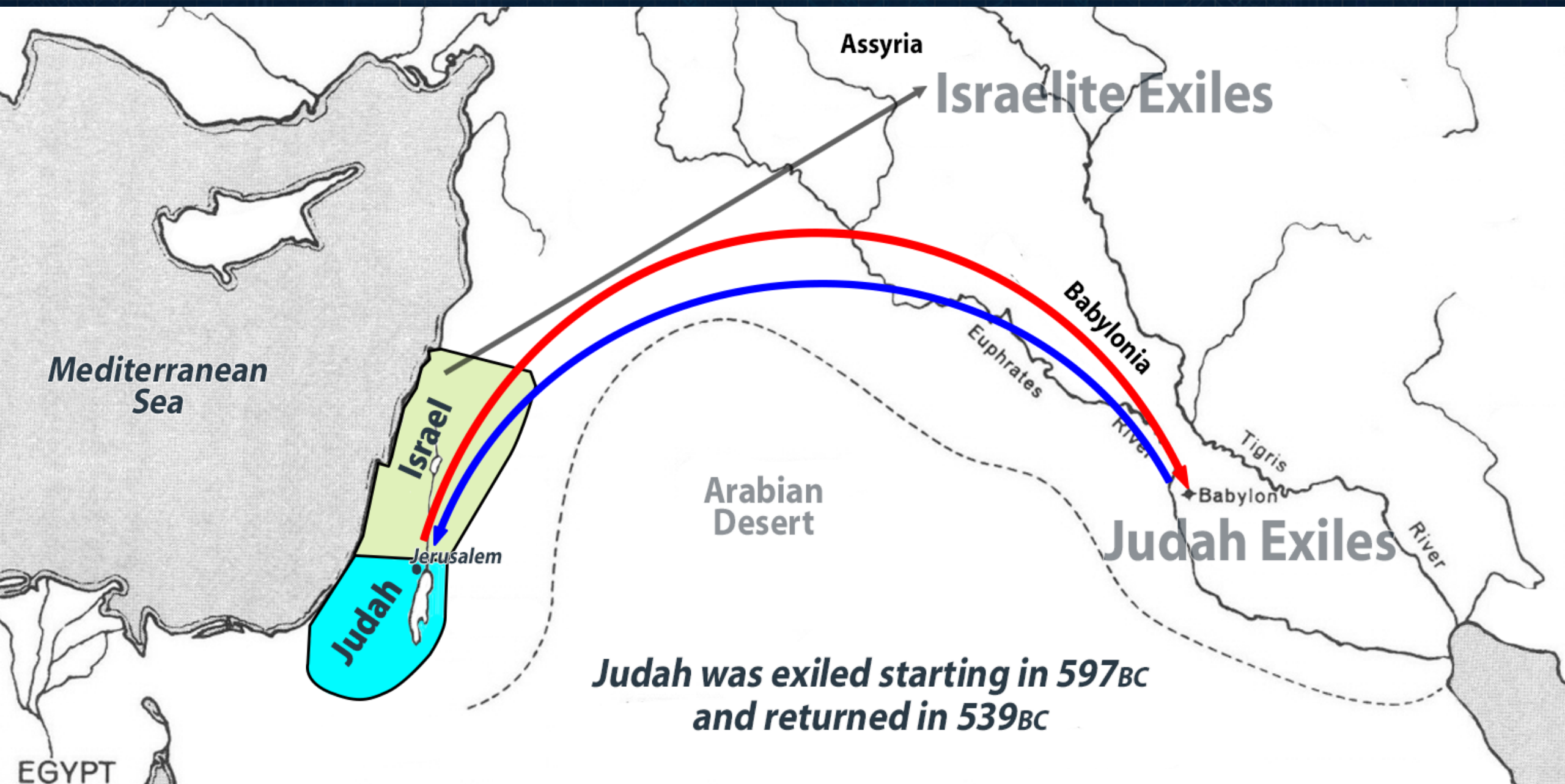
Ezra 1:1-3

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, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing:

² “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. ³ Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem.

Timeline





Nehemiah 12:26

These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and in the days of **Nehemiah** the governor and of **Ezra**, the priest and scribe.

Ezra 1-6

Rebuild the Temple
(Zerubbabel)

The Presence
of God

Ezra 7-10

Rebuild the Word
(Ezra)

The Community
of God

Nehemiah

Rebuild the Walls
(Nehemiah)

The Protection
of God

Ezra 9:9

For we are slaves. Yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, to grant us some reviving to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us protection in Judea and Jerusalem.

The Exile

Habakkuk

^{1:5} “Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. ⁶

For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans (Babylonians), that bitter and hasty nation...⁷

They are dreaded and fearsome;

^{3:1} O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear.
In the midst of the years revive it;
in the midst of the years make it known;
in wrath remember mercy.

Ezra 9:9

For we are slaves. Yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, to grant us some reviving to set up the house of our God, to repair its **ruins**, and to give us protection in Judea and Jerusalem.

The Exile

The Ruins

2 Kings 25

King Nebuchadnezzar...⁹ burned the house of the LORD and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem...(and) broke down the walls around Jerusalem.

Ezra 9:9

For we are slaves. *Yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia,* to grant us some reviving to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us protection in Judea and Jerusalem.

The Exile

The Ruins

The Promises

Ez 1:1 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

Ezra 9:9

For we are slaves. Yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, *to grant us some reviving to set up the house of our God, to repair* its ruins, and to give us *protection* in Judea and Jerusalem.

The Exile

The Ruins

The Promises

The Rebuilding

Joel 2:25 | I will restore (“shalom”) to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,

Our Exile, Ruins, Promises and Rebuilding

This is the perpetual cycle of God's people, with an end date.

“Never let a good crisis go to waste”

Winston Churchill before WW2

For Us Personally

For Grace Brevard

Our Exile

Ezra 9:9 For we are slaves.

For Us Personally

Where do you feel enslaved
and “dislocated”?

- Fear
- Fighting
- Relationships

Our Exile

Ezra 9:9 For we are slaves.

For Us Personally

Where do you feel enslaved and “dislocated”?

- Fear
- Fighting
- Relationships

For Grace Brevard

How are we “dislocated”?

- Budget
- Limitations
- Relationships

Psalm 137

¹ By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.

² On the willows there
we hung up our lyres.

³ For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

Our Ruins

Nehemiah 2:3

the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins...

For Us Personally

What have you lost?

- Relationships
 - Vocation
 - Finances
 - Security
 - “Comfort”

Our Ruins

Nehemiah 2:3

the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins...

For Us Personally

What have you lost?

- Relationships
 - Vocation
 - Finances
 - Security
- “Comfort”

For Grace Brevard

What have WE lost?

- Relationships
- “Momentum”
- “Security”

INSERT “HOLDING ON” CLIP

Our Promises

Joel 2

²⁵ I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.

²⁶ “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Our Promises

that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled,

For Us Personally

What will God give?

- Comfort
- Renewal
- Himself

Our Promises

that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled,

For Us Personally

What will God give?

- Comfort
- Renewal
- Himself

For Grace Brevard

What will God give?

- Relationships
- Revitalization
 - Himself

Our Rebuilding

We can't go "home" again

Ezra 3:12

But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid,

Our Rebuilding

We can't go "home" again

Ezra 3:12

But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid,

We'll have a new home

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

The Ultimate Exile / Ruins / Promises / Rebuilding

Act 13:40

(quoting Habakkuk 1:5 regarding God exiling his people)

Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

*⁴¹ “Look, you scoffers,
be astounded and perish;
for I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.”*

The Ultimate Exile / Ruins / Promises / Rebuilding

Joel 2

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁸ “And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

The Ultimate Exile / Ruins / Promises / Rebuilding

Joel 2

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26



BENEDICTION

Psalm 90:17

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands;
yes, establish the work of our hands!