

Jeremiah 29:10 (NLT)

This is what the LORD says: You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again.

Daniel 9:1–4 (NLT)

¹ It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede... ² ...I Daniel, learned from reading the Word of the LORD, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years.

³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with Him in prayer and fasting. I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes. ⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed...

4...“O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep Your promises of unfailing love to those who love You and obey Your commands.

Our Promise

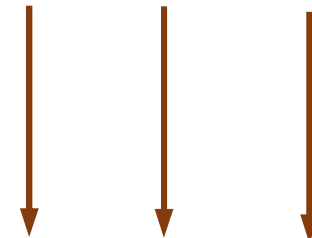
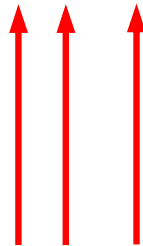
KEEPING God

Ezra 1-2

EXILED to ASSYRIA - BABYLONIANS Conquer Assyria - EXILE to BABYLON - PERSIANS Conquered Babylon

612-609 b.c.

Israel
↑
722 b.c.



767 b.c. 715 b.c. 640 b.c.
Uzziah Ahaz Hezekiah Josiah

597 586 582 b.c.
Three separate deportations

Zerubbabel Ezra Nehemiah
538 bc 458 bc 445 bc

Judah

Daniel 9:4 (NLT)

⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: “O Lord, you are a great and awesome God!

You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands.

→ Because **God Kept His Promises** to Israel
we can **Count on His Promises** to us

➤ We have High Priest who **Understands us**

Heb.4:15–16 (NIV) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to **sympathize with our weaknesses**, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then **approach the throne of Grace with confidence**, so that we may receive **mercy** and find **grace** to help us in our time of need.

➤ We can **Come** to the **Throne of Grace** **BOLDLY**

➤ **We WILL go through Testing and Trials**

John 15:18, 20 (NIV) If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated **ME first**. ...²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: '**No servant is greater than his Master**. If they persecuted **Me**, they will persecute **you** also...

➤ We **NEVER** Suffer Alone

Heb 13:5 (NIV) Keep your lives **FREE** from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, **NEVER will I Leave you; NEVER will I Forsake you**

➤ We Can **RESIST** the Devil

James 4:7 (NIV) **Submit** yourselves, then, **to God**.
Resist the **devil**, and **he will flee** from you.

⁵ Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites **everyone whose Heart God had MOVED** prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem. (NIV)

Hebrews 3:7–8 (NIV)

So, as the Holy Spirit says:

Today, IF you Hear HIS voice,

⁸ do NOT Harden your hearts

as you did in the rebellion...

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

Do NOT let any **unwholesome talk** come **OUT** of your **mouths**, but only what is **HELPFUL** for **BUILDING others up** according to **THEIR NEEDS**, that it may **BENEFIT** those who listen.

Two Major Leaders in the Book of Ezra...

Zerubbabel chpt. 1-6

Zerubbabel leads 50,000 people back to Israel

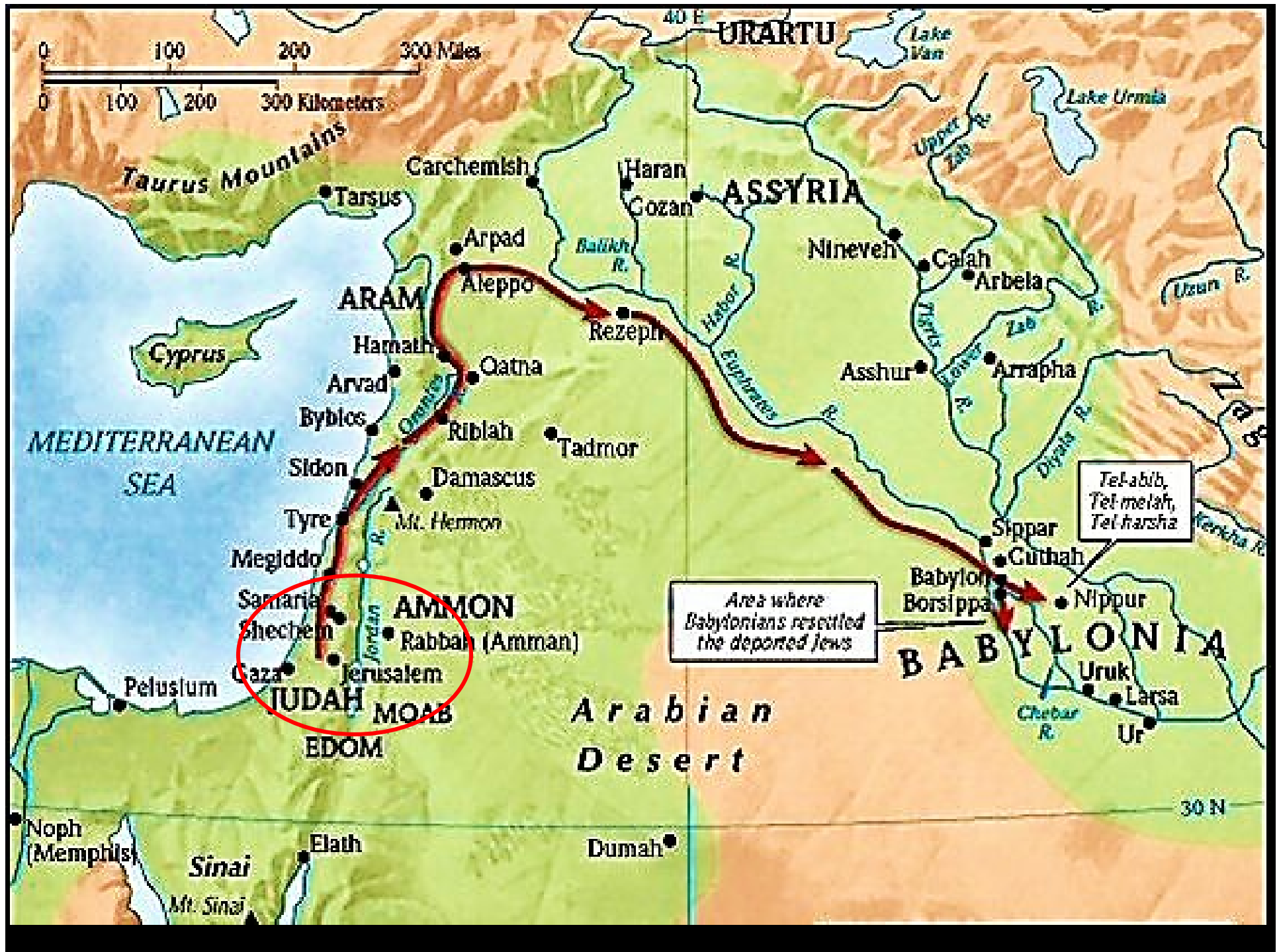
Rebuild the Temple

Ezra chpt. 7-10

Ezra leads a group of 5,000 back to Israel
Religious Revival

The Lists included people...

- by **Family** Grouping
- by **Geography**
- by **Vocation**



2:68 After they arrived at the LORD's house in Jerusalem, some of the family heads **gave freewill offerings for the house of God** in order to **have it REBUILT** on its **original site**. (CSB)

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

Keep your **lives FREE** from the **Love of money**
and be **CONTENT** with what you have,
because **God has said**, “Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

For I know the **plans I have for you**,
declares the LORD, **plans to prosper you**
and **NOT** to harm you, plans to give you
HOPE and a **FUTURE**.

Jeremiah 29:10–13 (NIV)

¹⁰ This is what the LORD says: **When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you** and fulfill my gracious promise to Bring you Back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD...

¹¹...“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you
will **call upon Me** and come and **pray to Me**,
and I **will listen** to you. ¹³ You will **seek Me**
and **find Me** when you **seek Me** with
ALL your **heart**.

There is strength within the sorrow
There is beauty in our tears
And you meet us in our mourning
With a love that cast out fear
You are working in our waiting
You're sanctifying us
When beyond our understanding
You're teaching us to trust

Your plans are still to prosper
You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever
Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us