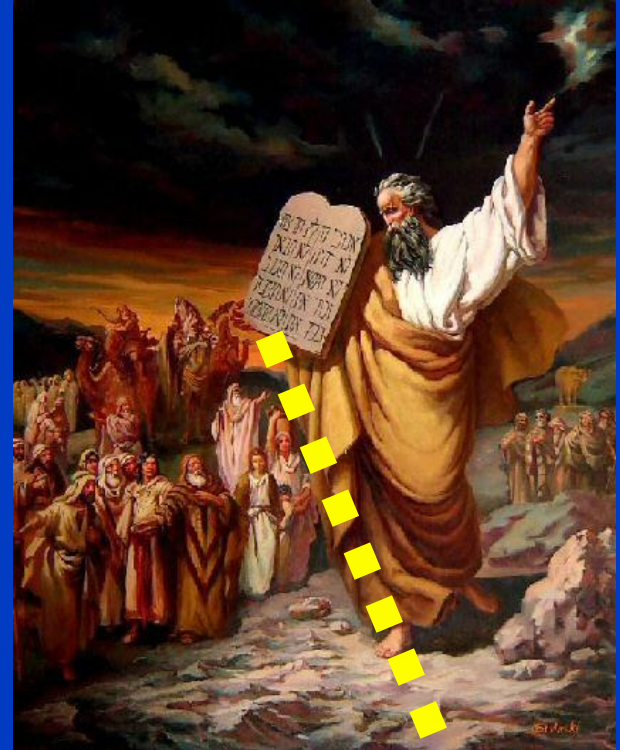
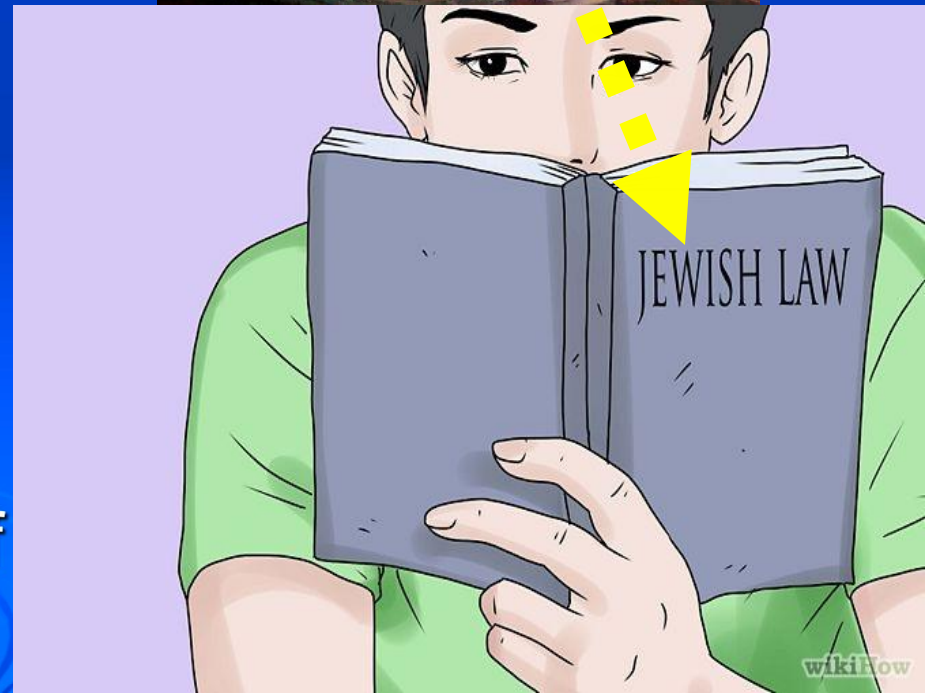


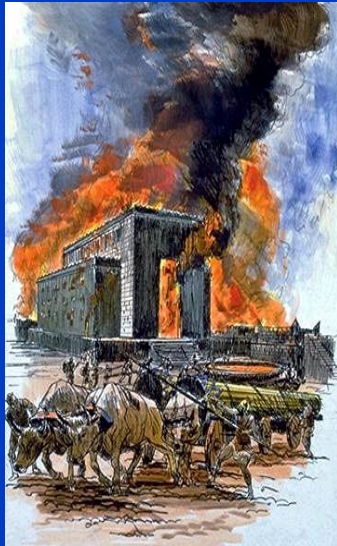
# “A radical break from the past.....”



- Dr. H.G.M. Williamson
- Word Bible Commentary
- Bottom line: Judaism was born in Babylon
- Hebrew-ism = Religion of Israel
- Circumstances of the exile caused the Jews to reinvent their religion
- Judah-ism = the Religion of Judah



**586 B.C.**



539 B.C. Persia conquers Babylon



**480 B.C.**



**605 B.C.**

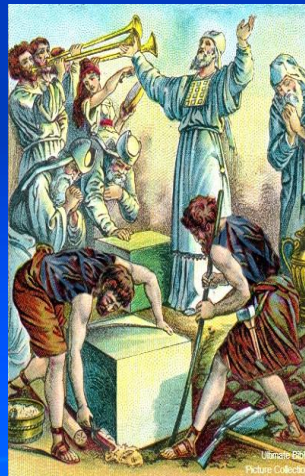
**538 B.C.**

**458 B.C.**

**445 B.C.**

Babylon conquers Judah

1st wave of Jewish exiles returns to Judah



**515 B.C.**

Ezra leads another wave of Jews to Judah

Nehemiah comes to Judah

# ANCIENT FENCE OF PROTECTION DISSOLVED



- A dramatic religious transition
- Jews built NEW icons, NEW rituals, NEW appointed times, NEW non-Levite leadership
- Most felt this was adequate
- Some like Ezra knew they were on the wrong path and dedicated his life to change it

# EZRA CHAPTER 1: CYRUS'S DECREE



- Decree to free Jews published in the “1<sup>st</sup> year of Cyrus (Koresh)”
- Daniel 10: 1
- Daniel 9:1, 2
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Cyrus coincided with the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Darius
- Yet: in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Cyrus Daniel was praying to know when the exile would end ???!  
Even though Ezra says it was in Cyrus’s 1<sup>st</sup> year that he freed the Jews ??



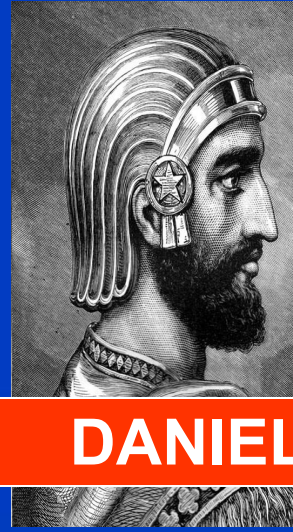
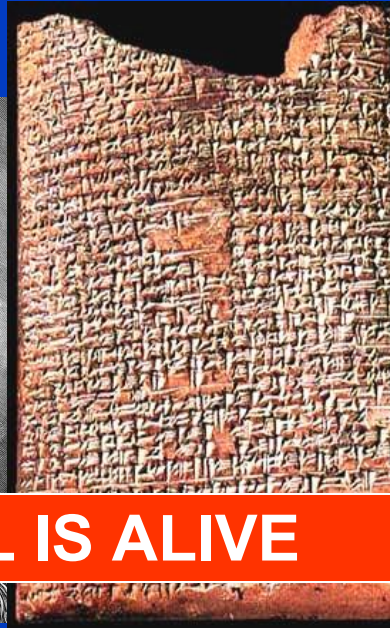
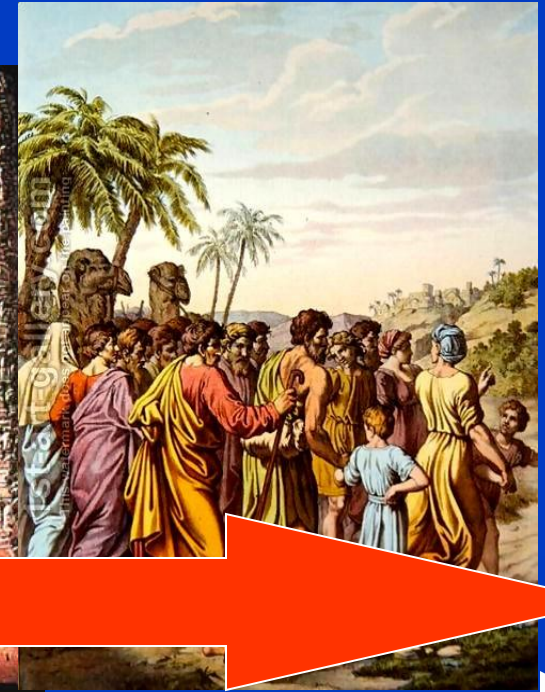
Cyrus the  
Great  
559-529 BC

558 – 557 B.C.

539 – 538 B.C.

542 B.C.

539 B.C.



**DANIEL IS ALIVE**

**JEWS  
RETURN TO  
JUDAH**

**CYRUS'S  
DECREE TO  
FREE THE  
JEWS**

**CYRUS  
BECOMES  
KING OVER  
BABYLON  
AS WELL**

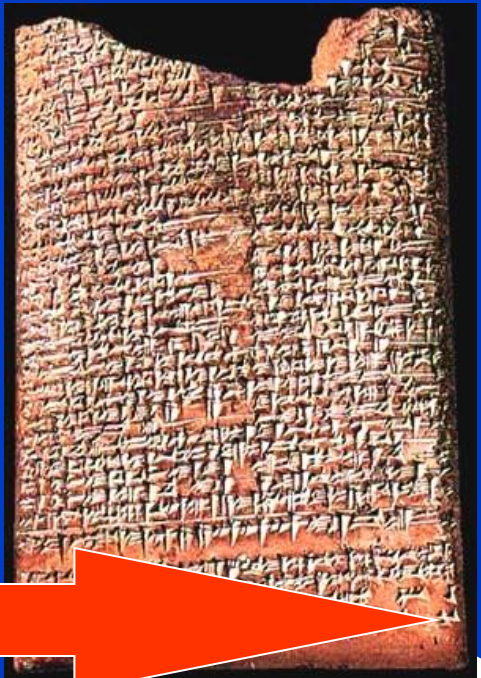
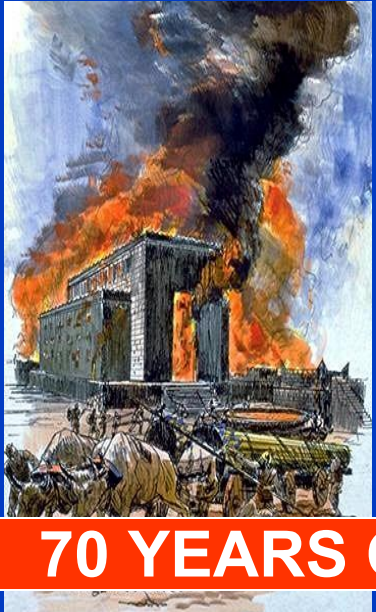
**CYRUS  
BECOMES  
KING OF  
MEDIA-  
PERSIA**

**CYRUS  
BECOMES  
KING OF  
PERSIA**

538 – 537 B.C.

587 – 586 B.C.

607 - 606 B.C.



70 YEARS OF EXILE



NEBUCHADNEZZAR  
FIRST ATTACKS  
JERUSALEM



JERUSALEM  
AND TEMPLE  
ARE  
DESTROYED

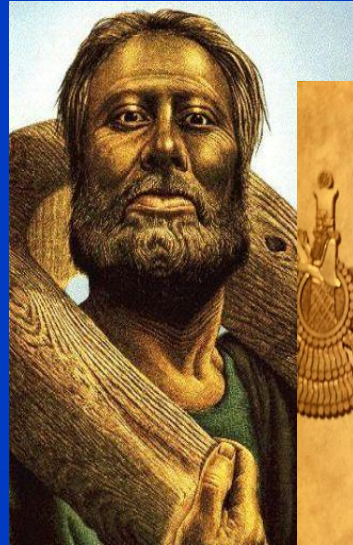


CYRUS'S EDICT  
AND JEWS  
RETURN TO  
JUDAH

700's B.C.



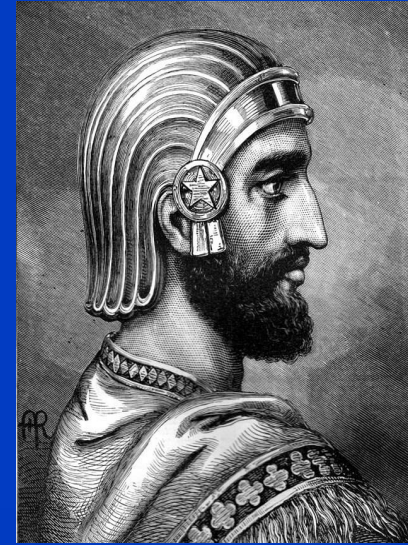
UP TO  
586 B.C.



587 – 586 B.C.



539 – 537 B.C.



ISAIAH  
PREDICTS  
CYRUS



JEREMIAH  
PREDICTS  
70 YEAR  
CAPTIVITY



NEBUCHADNEZZAR  
DESTROYS  
JERUSALEM AND  
TEMPLE



CYRUS  
FREES THE  
JEWS

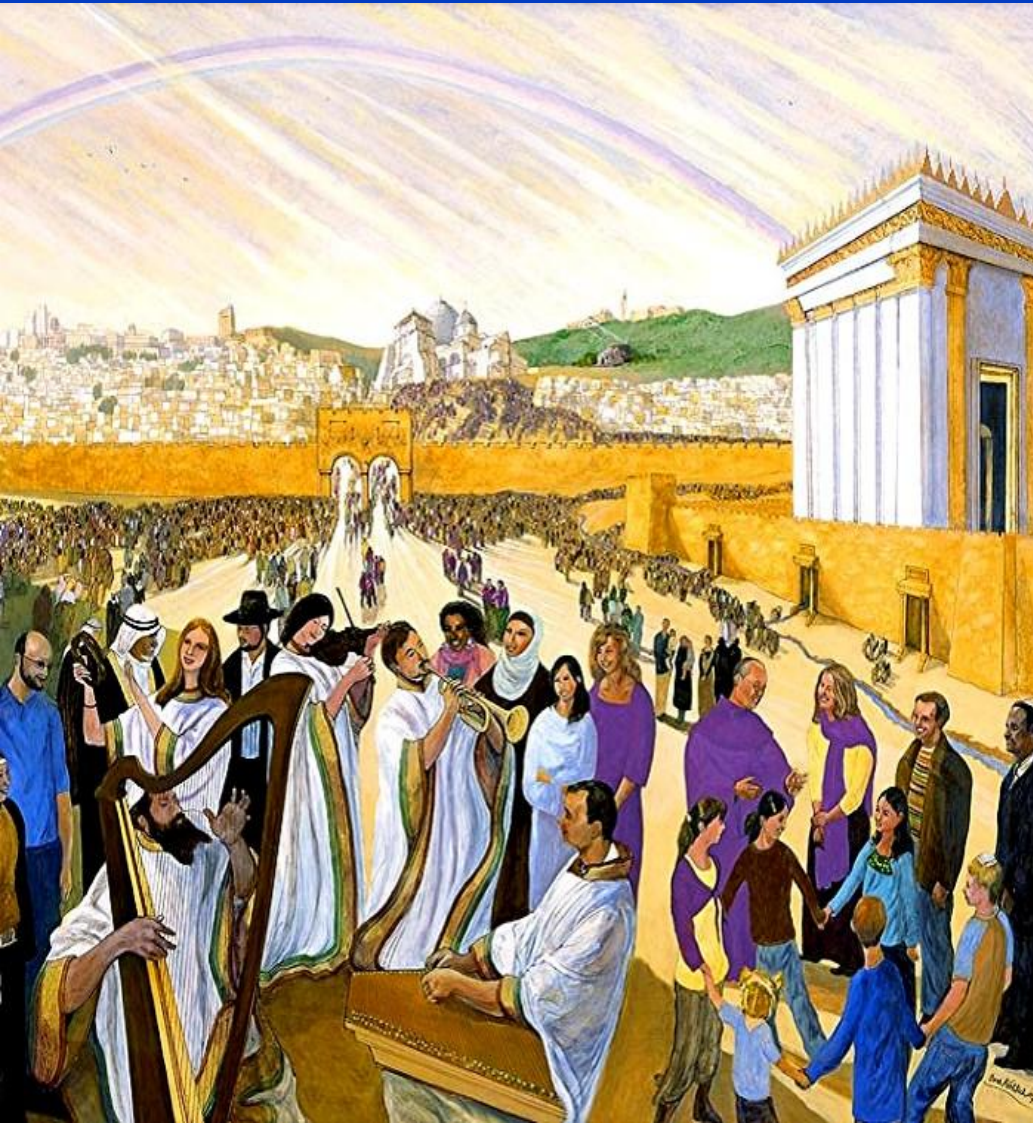
# CYRUS CALLS GOD BY HIS NAME

- Vs. 2 *“YHWH God of Heaven....”*
- Daniel was alive, serving Darius
- Persian edict was a response to a formal Jewish petition to return to Judah
- Daniel might have been involved in crafting the decree
- Isaiah 45 comment of Cyrus not “knowing God” means to not worship Him, it doesn’t mean not being aware of His name





# “.....a house of prayer for all peoples.....”



- Cyrus's edict told "neighbors" to help the returning Jews with items they'd need
- Gentiles and Jews were to contribute
- Isaiah 56:7
- Haggai 2:6 – 9
- Gentiles played a big role in rebuilding the Temple in the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C., and will do so with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple in the near future

# TEMPLE ITEMS ARE GIVEN BACK



- Vs. 7 the order is given to return the items Nebuchadnezzar took from the Temple
- Mithradath the Persian Treasurer
- Carefully itemized and recorded
- Numbers don't add up
- Items turned over to Sheshbazzar

# IS SHESHBAZZAR ALSO CALLED ZERUBBABEL ?

- Sheshbazzar a Babylonian name
- Zerubbabel is probably Aramaic
- 1 Chronicles 3 a list of King David's descendants
- Sheshbazzar = Shenazzar ?
- Sheshbazzar probably Zerubbabel's uncle
- **Nasi** = prince, chief
- Returnees gathered at Babel and 50,000 left from there
- Jewish power center later moved to Susa (Shushan)

