

EZRA

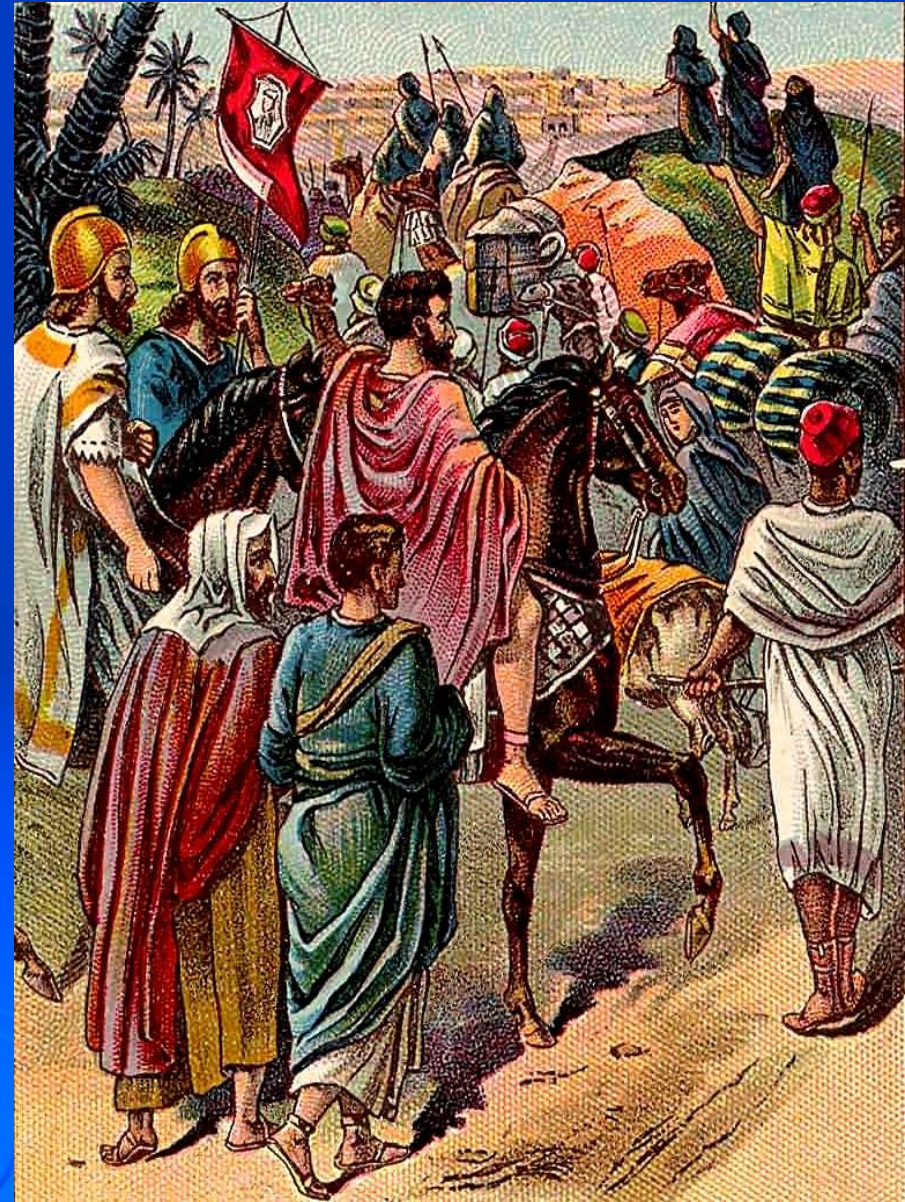
Rebuilding God's House

Restoring God's People

- Historically, the restoration is about rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple
- Spiritually, it is about reinstating the Mosaic Law, complete with atoning sacrifices
- Israel ONLY became a set-apart nation at Mt. Sinai
- Torah and Law of Moses became Israel's constitution and rules to live by
- Without Temple and observance of the Law, Israel could not be a nation of God

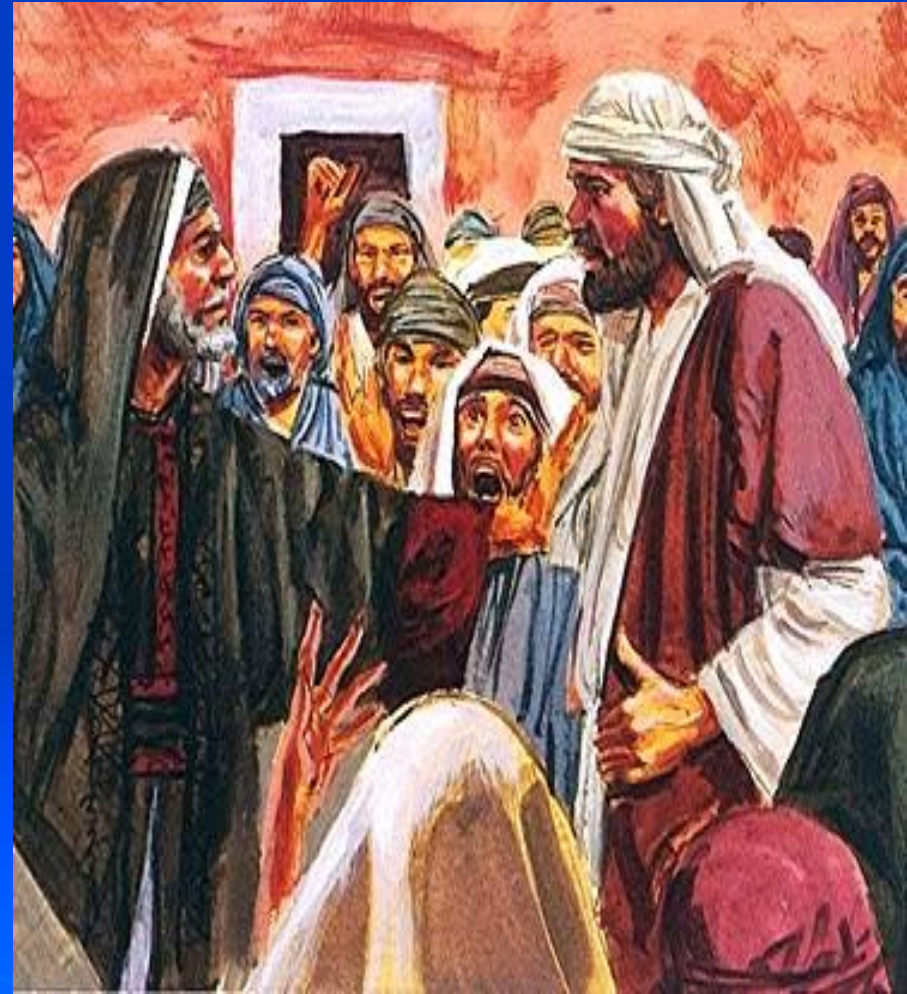
FIRST WAVE OF RETURNEES: 538 – 521 B.C.

- The list of Ezra 2 probably didn't go back in one large group at the same time
- Same list is found in Neh. 7 and in Esdras
- Sum total of about 50,000
- Means about 95% of all Jews did NOT go back to Judah
- Some returned for spiritual reasons, others to reclaim land holdings

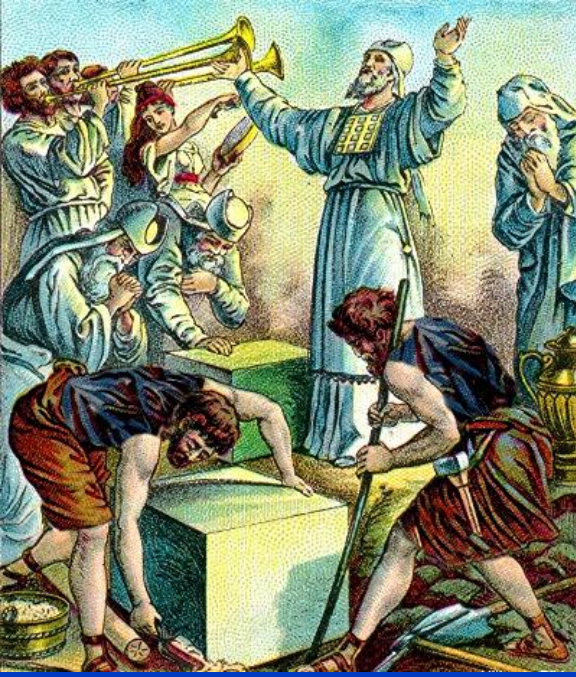


SHESHBAZZAR AND ZERUBBABEL

- ***Zerubbabel*** and ***Sheshbazzar*** are two different, but related, people
- 1Chronicles 3 ***Shenazzar*** is ***Zerubbabel's*** uncle
- ***Shenazzar*** = ***Sheshbazzar***
- ***Sheshbazzar*** is a “prince” of Judah (***nasi***), which can only mean the dynasty of David
- 3 reasons for variations in Biblical names and places
- 1) Same name in different languages
- 2) Place names change over time
- 3) Words can be pronounced differently



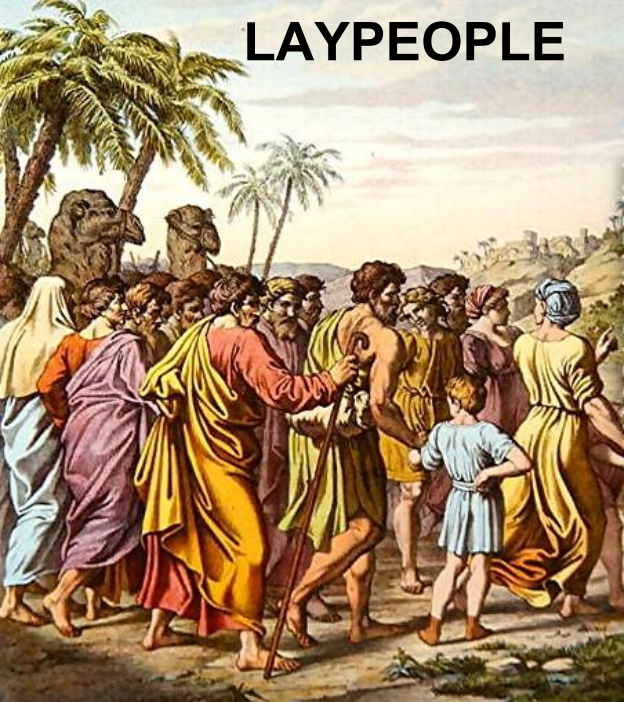
YESHUA HIGH PRIEST OF THE RESTORATION



- Not Jesus of Nazareth
- *Yeshua, Yahshua, Yehoshua* and Joshua all the same name
- *Seraiah* High Priest killed by Nebuchadnezzar
- *Seraiah* = grandfather of Yeshua
- Yeshua the High Priest of the restoration of Judah's return from Babylonian Exile
- Messiah Yeshua the High Priest of the restoration for the Millennium



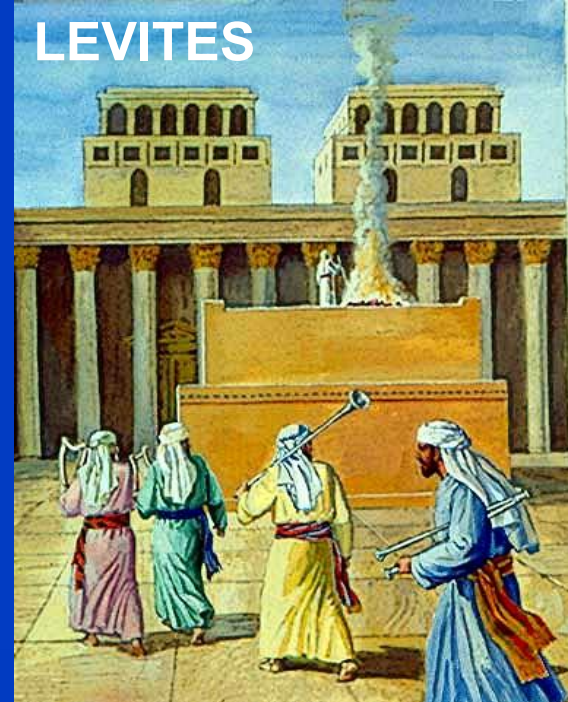
LAYPEOPLE



PRIESTS



LEVITES



- 1st category: Laypeople
- 2nd category: Priests
- 3rd category: Levites
- 4th category: Singers
- 5th category: Gatekeepers
- 6th category: Temple servants
- 7th category: Shlomo's servants

- Starts at verse 3
- Starts at verse 36
- Starts at verse 40
- Starts at verse 41
- Starts at verse 42
- Starts at verse 45
- Starts at verse 55

WHY THE MENTION OF “ISRAEL” ?

- 722 B.C. 10 northern tribes of Israel were exiled by Assyrians
- They were absorbed by the gentile world of Asia
- Torah says Israel was divided into 2 groups: laypeople and the Levites
- Jews began to think of themselves as the surviving remnant of Israel
- Ezra 8 In order to dedicate the new Temple 12 priests sacrificed 12 bulls to represent “all Israel” (all 12 tribes)
- Tradition today says that Jews are all 12 tribes....this is fiction



JUDAH

JOSEPH / EPHRAIM

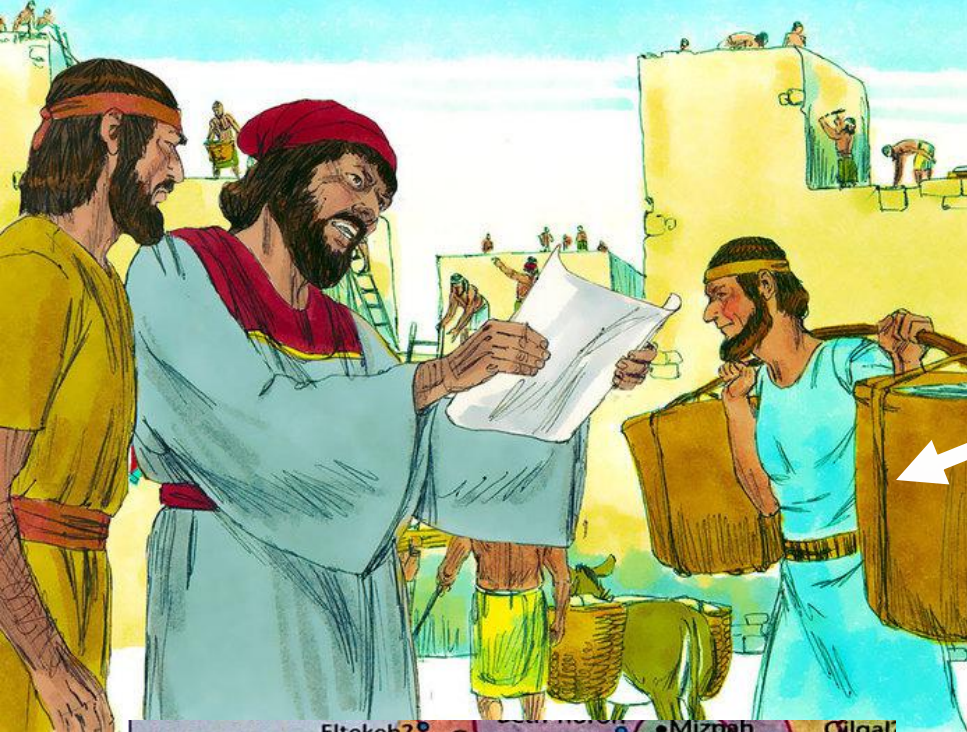


HOUSE OF ISRAEL

- There will be a time when Ephraim/Israel joins together with Judah
- Jews of Babylonian exile thought their return was a fulfillment of Ezekiel 37
- But...they only paid attention to the first 22 verses and not the final 7
- Modern Jews have continued this 2500 year Tradition of being “all Israel”
- Ezekiel 37 is being fulfilled today, in the 21st Century, and we are eyewitnesses !!



DECIPHERING THE LISTS



➤ Verses 3 – 20 are clan or family names who returned

➤ Verses 21 – 35 are the names of cities and towns in Judah where folks are returning to claim land holdings

➤ Names can NOT be classified into Judah names and Ephraim-Israel names



PRIESTS

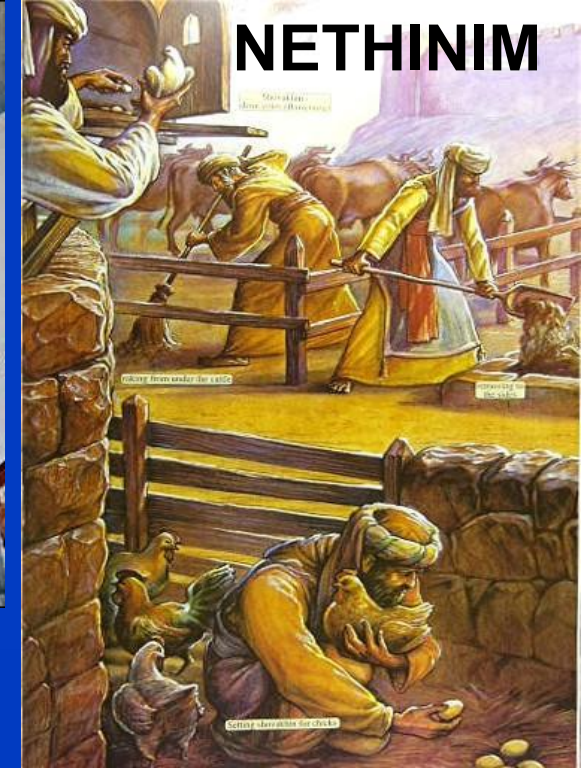


LEVITES



SINGERS, GATEKEEPERS

NETHINIM



- Only 4 Priestly family names
- Comes from 1Chonicles 24
- Levites.....Singers & Gatekeepers... A small number
- Temple workers = **Nethinim** Lowest class, probably a mix of Levites, Gibeonites, and foreigners