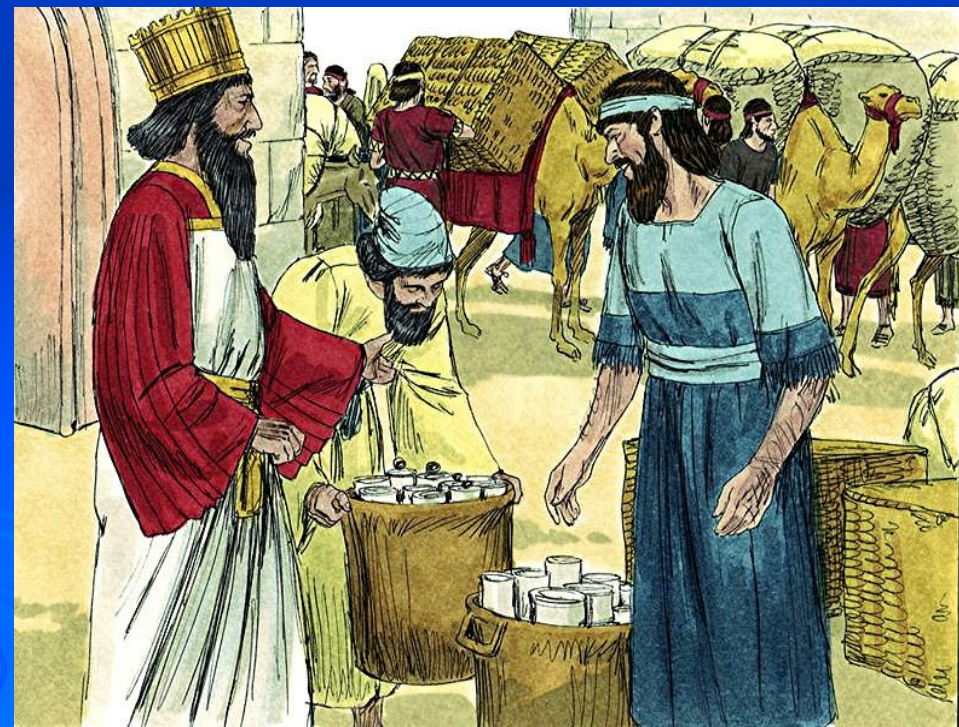


EZRA 1 & 2: The Preliminaries

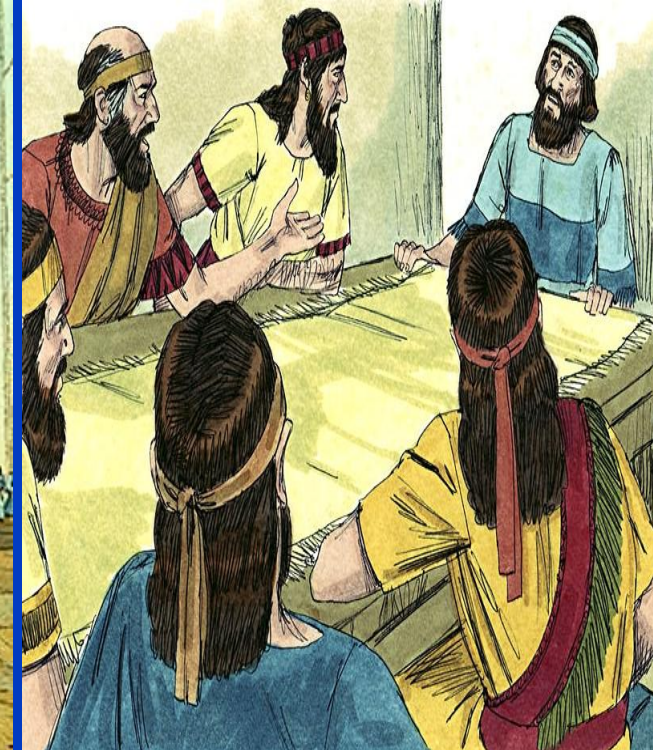
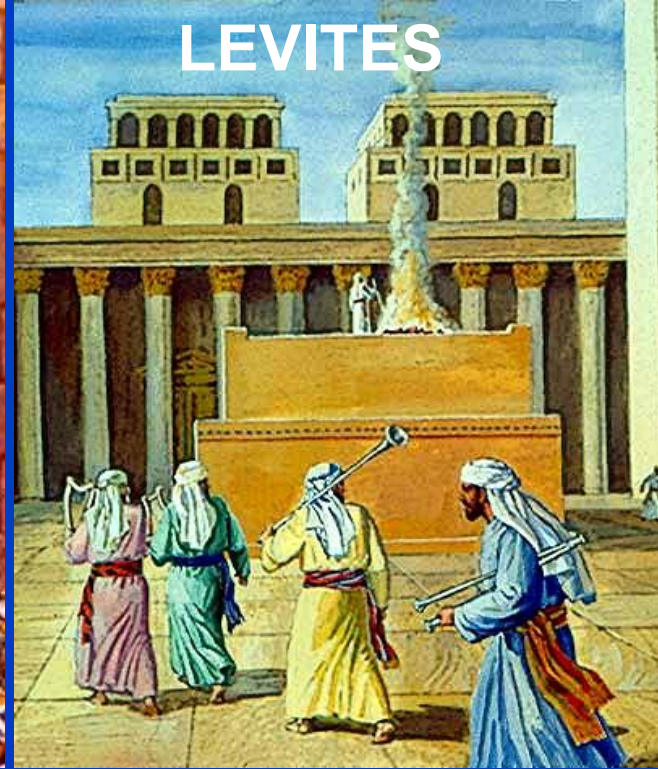
- Chapter 1 records the end of the Babylonian exile by King Cyrus
- The “Babylonian” Jews overnight became the “Persian” Jews
- Ezra 1:5 *“...all whose spirit God had stirred....”*
- Only 5% of the Jews were motivated to return



PRIESTS



LEVITES



- Priests had a spiritual and personal motivation to return, because they had lost their status in Babylon
- Levites less anxious to return, because they owned the less prestigious positions
- Heads of their Father's Clans had an economic incentive to return, in order to reclaim their land holdings in Judah

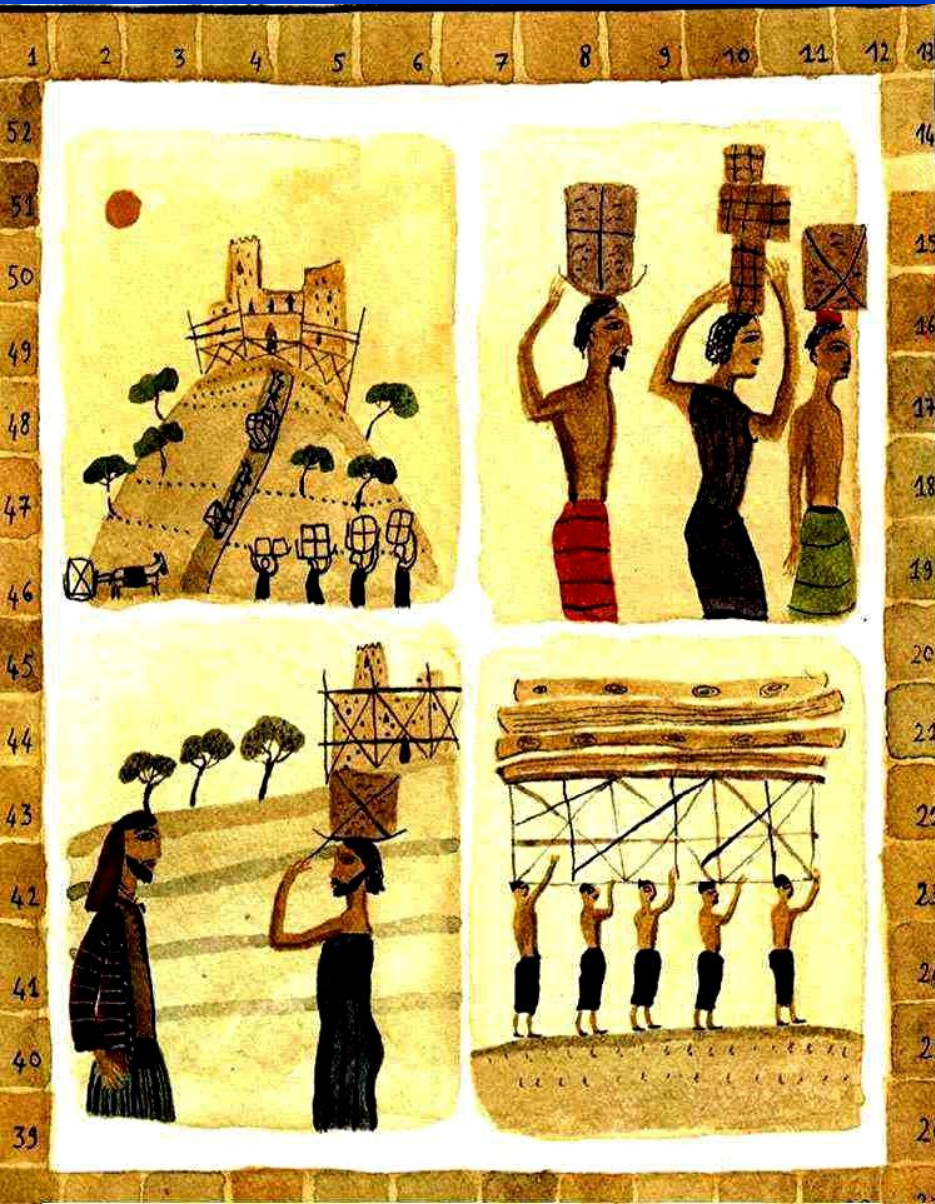


The Psalm of Asaph

Do not keep silent, O God! Do not Hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel

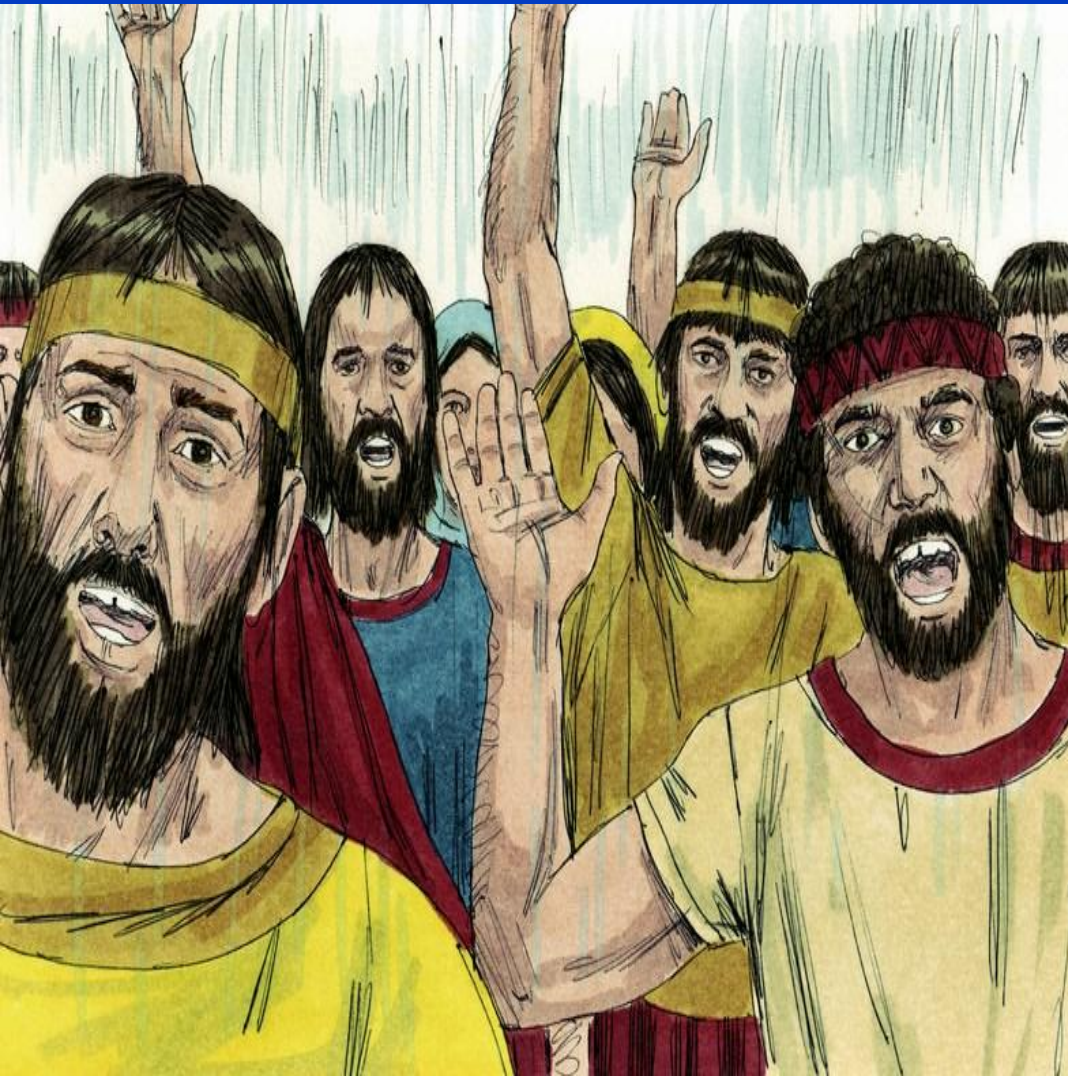
against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, "Come, and let us **cut them off from *being a nation***, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more." For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: (Psalm 83:1-5 NKJV)

NETHINIM AND SOLOMON'S SERVANTS



- *Nethinim* = Temple workers
- Solomon's servants goes back to time that David appointed his own priests and workers
- These were NOT Levites
- Priesthood didn't seem to have a problem with them doing "Temple" work, even though technically it was against the Torah

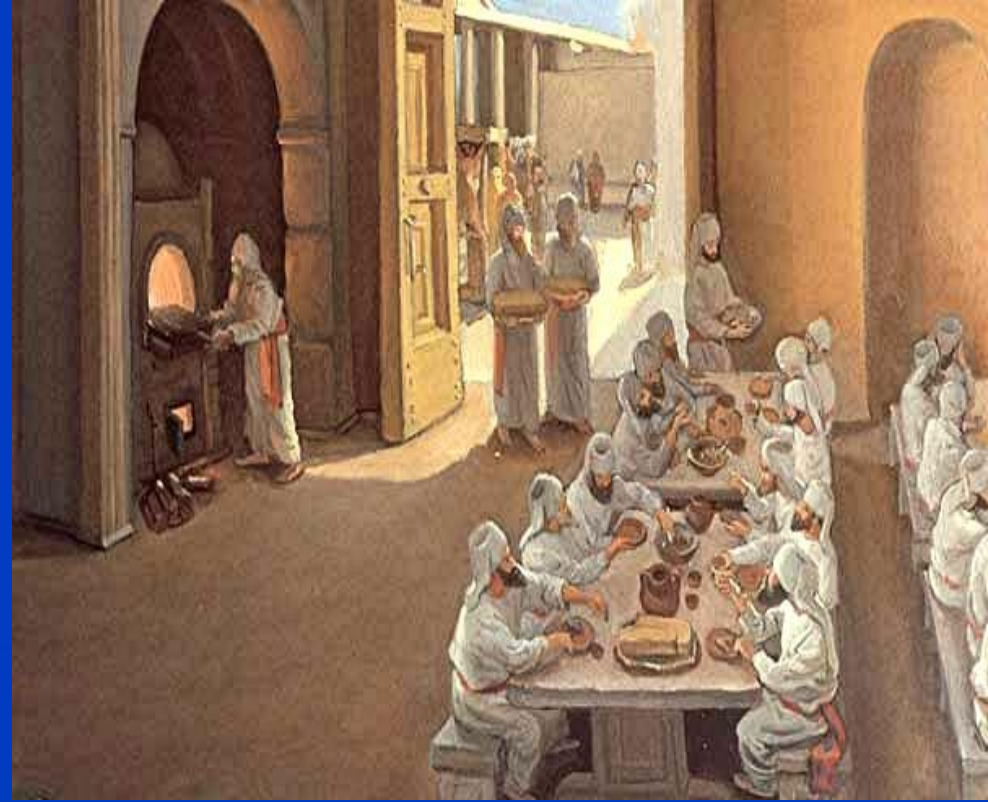
JEWES? OR NOT JEWES?



- Some of the returnees could not prove their claim of being Jews
- Couldn't have claimed land, so motivation to go to Judah had to be spiritual
- Vs. 61, names of Jews who claimed to be Priests, but couldn't prove it
- Not allowed to serve as Priests until it could be verified

THE *TIRSHITA* TAKES CHARGE

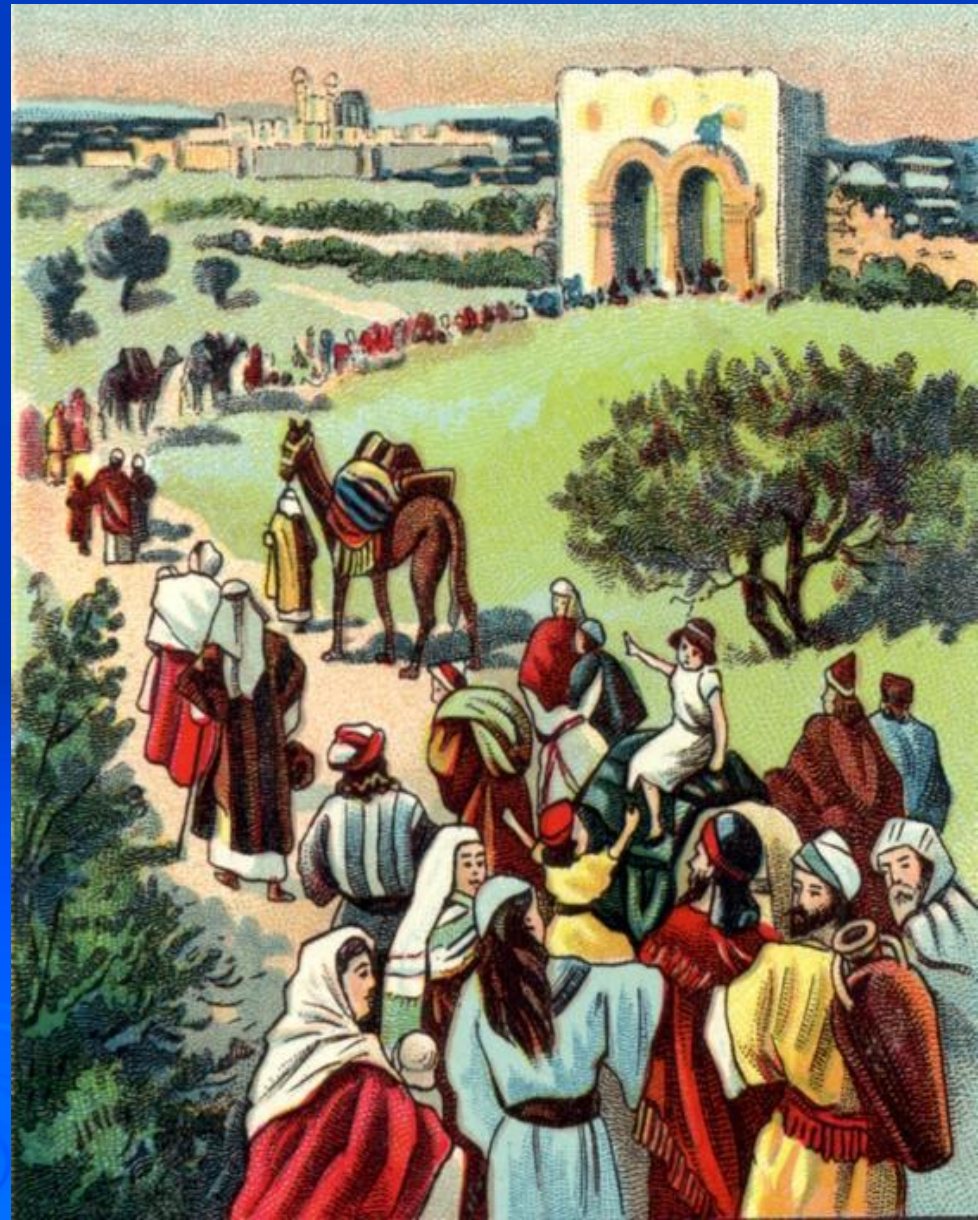
- The *Tirshita* would not allow the non-verified Priests to eat the Holy food portions Lev. 2, 7
- The only means of verification was a High Priest using the Urim and Thummim
- *Tirshita* = Persian word for governor
- Was probably either Zerubbabel or Sheshbazzar



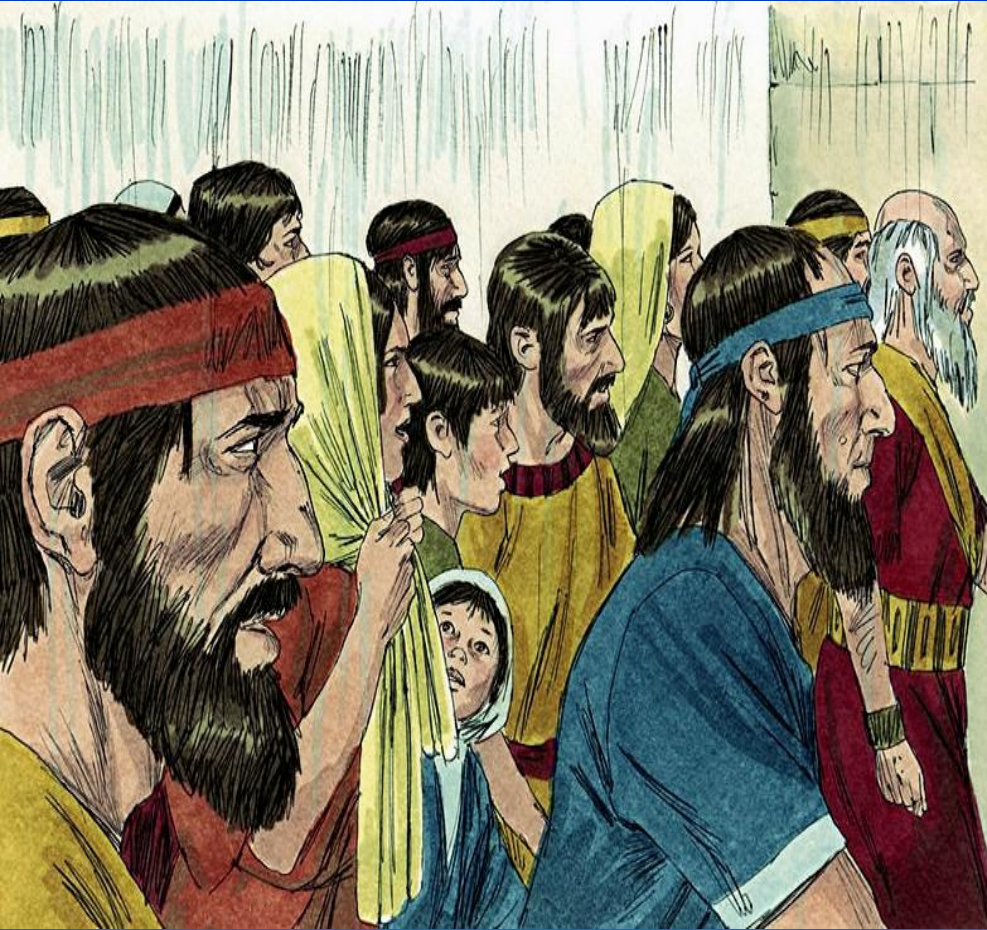
URIM & THUMMIM

SUMMARY OF THE RETURNEES

- 42,360 returned, those who were Jews and who claimed to be Jews
- 7,337 slaves Non-Jews
- 200 males and female singers
- Not Levites, but rather musicians for the entertainment of the wealthy
- 8,000 animals, beasts of burden for the journey
- Current residents of Judah NOT happy about these returning Jews coming to reclaim lands and homes



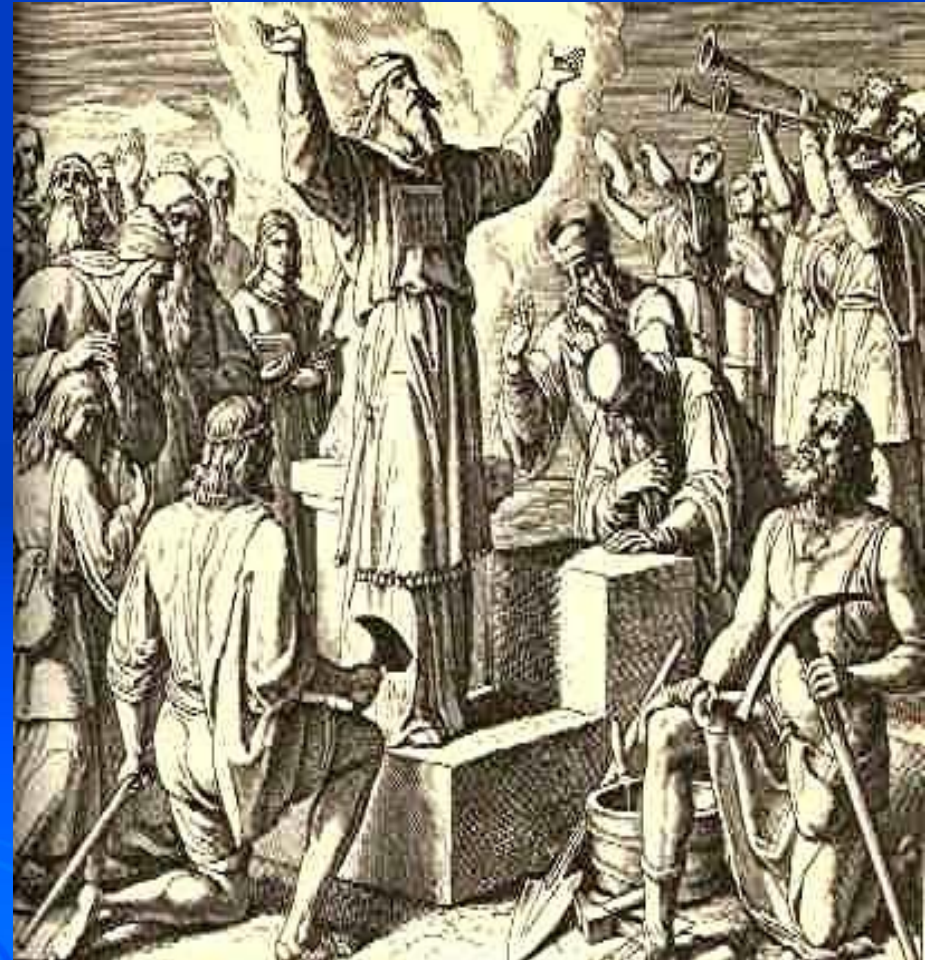
EZRA CHAPTER 3: GATHERING “AS ONE MAN”



- 7th month means month of Tishri
- “The people of Israel” continues the belief of the Jews that they represented all 12 tribes
- ***Ke-ish echad*** = as one man
- Means one in mind and spirit, not in flesh
- Carries over to Eph.2:15

FIRST GOAL: REBUILD THE ALTAR

- Yeshua, 1st High Priest of the return
- Did NOT organize to rebuild the Temple, just the Altar
- Sacrifice was seen as the MOST important thing
- Ideological schism between Jews who stayed behind and returning Jews
- Diaspora Jews believed that with their new “Judaism” they had an alternate means to atonement and harmony with God
- Humankind prefers our ways to God’s ways





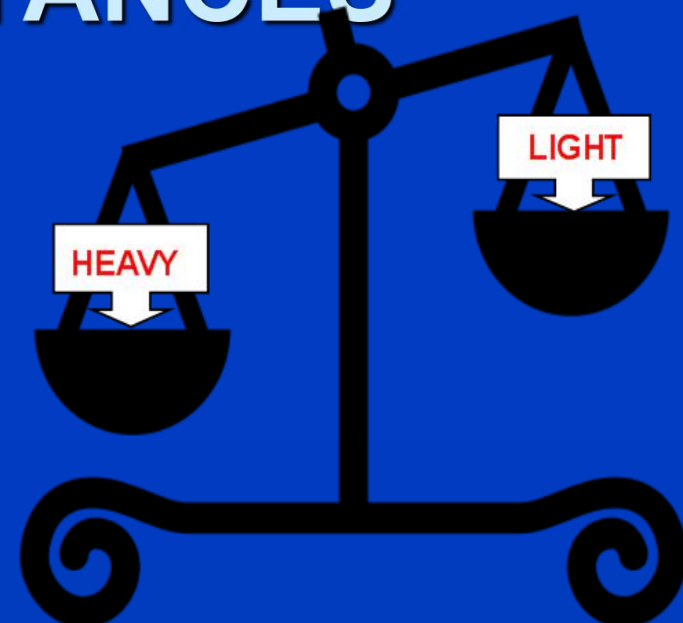
A FEAR OF THE “PEOPLE OF THE LANDS”

- New Altar built on foundation of Solomon’s Altar
- ***Ammim ha-eretz*** = people of the lands
- Means people other than the returning Jews
- ***Tamid*** = daily burnt offerings
- 7th month Tishri:
- 1st day = Yom Teruah (later called Rosh Hashanna)
- 10th day = Yom Kippur
- 15th day = Sukkot



THEY DID THE BEST THEY COULD IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES

- Because of no Temple, they could only do some of the ritual Torah Law
- Kal V'homer, light vs. heavy
- Better to do as much as you can, rather than choose to do nothing or invent something else entirely
- Timing of the events of Ezra and Nehemiah are challenging
- Bible divided into chapter in the 1200's A.D., then into verses in the 1500's A.D.
- Chapters and Paragraphs denote CHANGE



Why are good paragraphs important?



A LEAP AHEAD IN TIME

55 The children of Solomons ser-
uants. The children of Sotai, the chil-
dren of Sophereth, the children of || Pe-
ruda,
56 The children of Jaalah, the chil-
dren of Darkon, the children of Siddel,
57 The children of Shephaniah, the
children of Hattai, the children of Poche-
reth of Zebaim, the children of || Ami.
58 All the * Nehumims, and the chil-
dren of * Solomons seruants, were three
hundred ninctie and tivo.
59 And these were they which went by
from Tel- melah, Tel- Harla, Cherub,
Addan, and Janner: but they could not
shewe their fathers house, and their
seed, whether they were of Israel.
60 The children of Delajah, the chil-
dren of Tebajah, the children of Nekoda:
sice hundred fiftie and tivo.
61 And of the children of the priests:
the children of Habajah, the children of
Kos, the children of Barzillai. (which
tooke a wife of the daughters of * Bar-
zillai the Gileadite, and was called af-
ter their name.)
62 These sought their register among
those that were reckoned by genealo-
gie, but they were not found: therefore
were they * as polluted, put from the
priesthood.
63 And the || Tirhatha said vnto
them, that they should not eate of the
most holy things, till there stood vp a
priest with * Arim & with Thummin.
64 The whole Congregation to-
gether, was fourtie and tivo thousand,
three hundred and threescore:
65 Beside their seruants and their
maids, of whom there were seuen thou-
sand, three hundred thirtie and seuen:
and there were among them tivo hun-
dred singing men, and singing women.
66 Their horses were seuen hundred,
thirtie and sice: their mules, tivo hun-
dred fourtie and sice:
67 Their camels, four hundred,
thirtie and sice: their asses, sice thousand,
seuen hundred and twentic.
68 And some of the chiefe of the fa-
thers, when they came to the house of
the LORD which is at Jerusalem, of-
fered freely for the house of God, to set
it vp in his place:
69 They gaue after their abilitie, vnto
the * treasure of the worke, threescore
and one thousand diammes of golde,
and sice thousand pound of silver, and
one hundred priests garments.

70 So the priests and the Leuites,
and some of the people, and the singers,
and the porters, and the Nehumims,
dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in
their cities.

CHAP. III.

1 The Altar is set vp. 4 Offerings frequented.
7 Workmen prepared. 8 The foundations of
the Temple are laid in great joy & mourning.

ND when the seuenth
moneth was come, and
the children of Israel were
in the cities: the people ga-
thered themselves toge-
ther, as one man to Jerusalem.

2 Then stood vp || Jeshua the sonne
of Jozadak, & his brethren the priests,
and Zerubbabel the sonne of * Sheat-
ciel, and his brethren, and builded the
Altar of the God of Israel, to offer
burnt offerings thereon, as it is * written
in the laib of Moses the man of God.

3 And they set the altar vpon his ba-
ses, (for feare was vpon them, because of
the people of those countreys) and they
offered burnt offerings thereon vnto
the LORD, euen burnt offerings, morn-
ing and evening.

4 They kept also the feast of taber-
nacles, * as it is written, and * offered the
dayly burnt offerings, by number, accord-
ing to the custome, † as the duetie of e-
uery day required:

5 And afterward offered the conti-
nuall burnt offering, both of the new
moones, and of all the set feasts of
the LORD, that were conserated,
and of euery one that willingly offered,
offered a free will offering vnto the
LORD.

6 From the first day of the seuenth
moneth, began they to offer burnt offer-
ings vnto the LORD: but the founda-
tion of the temple of the LORD
was not yet laid.

7 They gaue money also vnto the
malons, and to the || carpenters, and
meate, and drinke, and oyle, vnto them
of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring
Cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea
of * Joppa: according to the grant that
they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

8 **N**ow in the second yere of their
comming vnto the house of God at Je-
rusalem, in the second moneth, began
Zerubbabel the sonne of Sheatciel,
and Jeshua the sonne of Jozadak, and

|| Or, Iofua.
Hegge i. 1.
* Math. 1.
12 and Luke
3. 27, called
Zorobabel.
* Math. 1.
12 and Luke
1. 27, called
Salathiel.
† Deut. 12. 5.

* Num. 29.
12.
* Exod. 29.
16.
† Hebr. she
master of the
day in his
day.

† Hebr. she
Temple of
the Lord
was not yet
founded.
|| Or, worke-
men.

* Acts 9. 31.

|| Or, Perida
as Nehem.

|| Or, Amm
as Nehem.
11. 27.
1. 2. 29. 9. 2.
1. King 9.
21.

|| Or, pe-
gion.

* Sam. 17
27.

† Hebr. they
were polluted
from the
priesthood.
|| Or, gener-
ation.

* Exod. 28.
35.

* 1. Chron.
16. 20.

- In Ezra Chapter 3, paragraph break after verse 8 is in the wrong place
- Should be after verse 6
- After verse 6, leap from 2nd year of Cyrus, to beginning of the reign of Darius
- About 17 or 18 years pass
- Simply not enough time for Jewish leaders to journey back, create plans for new Temple, order materials, have them arrive, and build