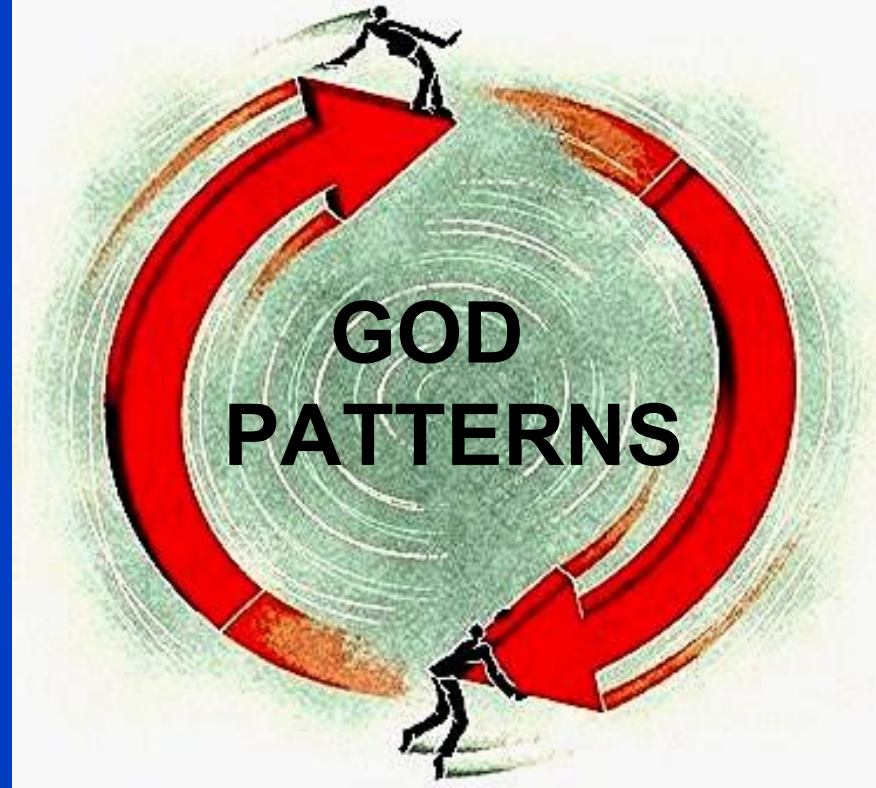
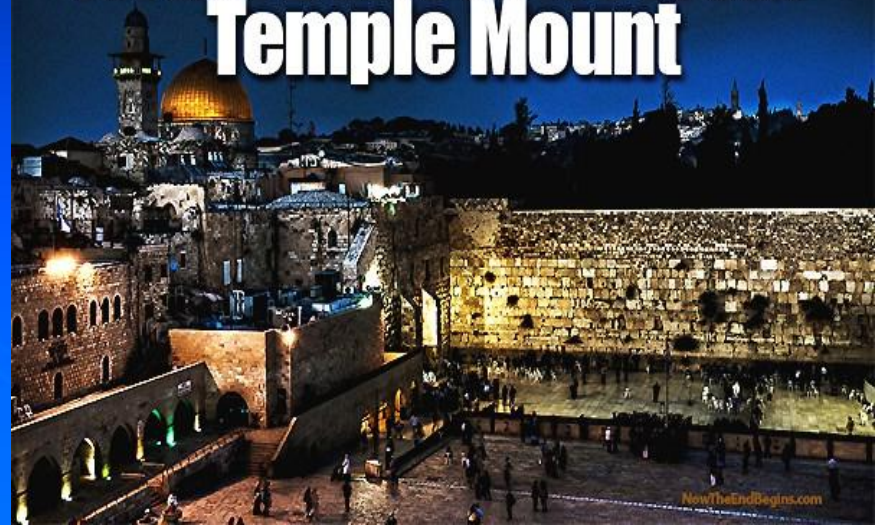


# OPPOSITION TO GOD'S PLANS

- History is cyclical, and God's patterns repeat forever
- We see that the challenges the Jews face in their homeland have not changed for 2500 years
- Several opposition groups, each with their own agenda
- The common point: opposing God's people means opposing God's plan



## Israel Bans Jews From Temple Mount

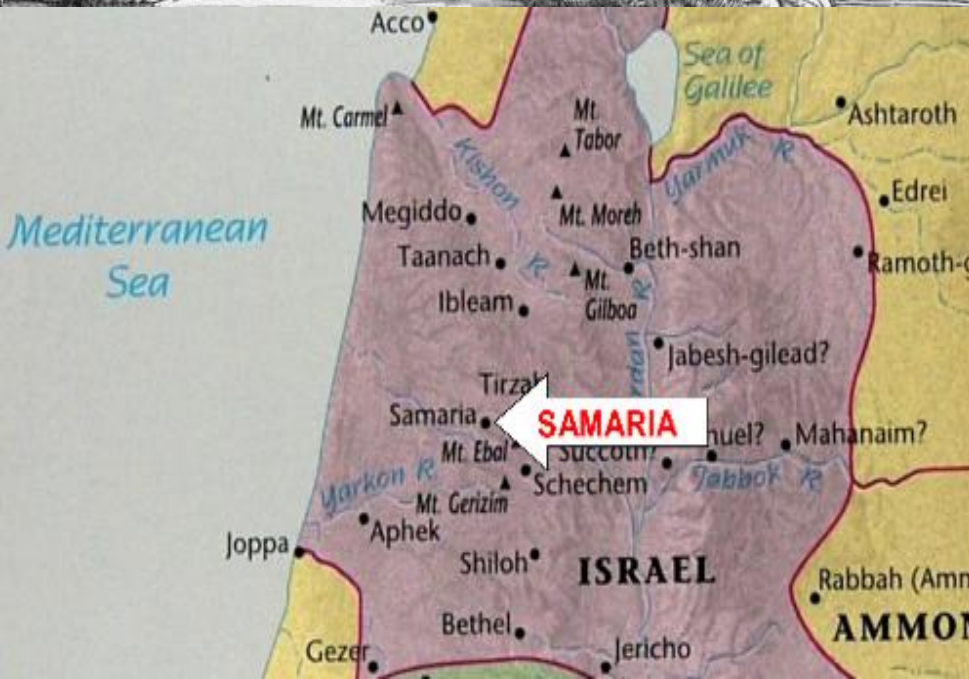






# THE SAMARIANS

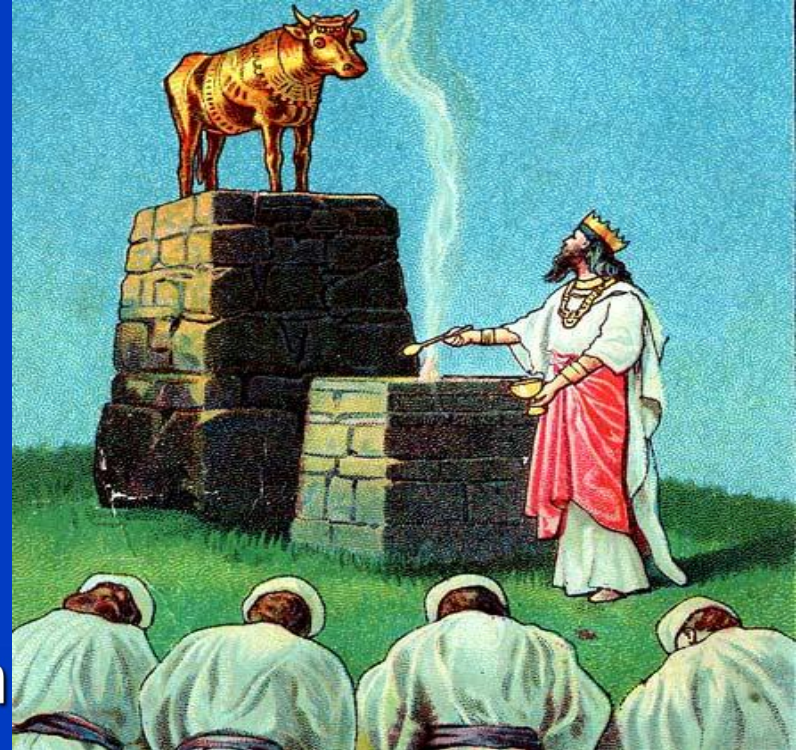
- Jews came peacefully but their intentions were opposed by the current inhabitants of Jerusalem
- Jews intended to:
  - 1) Rebuild Temple
  - 2) Reconstitute the Priesthood and Torah lifestyle
  - 3) Rebuild city walls
  - 4) Reclaim lost land
  - 5) Repopulate with Jews
- Samaritans a mixed people
- Result of the Assyrian exile





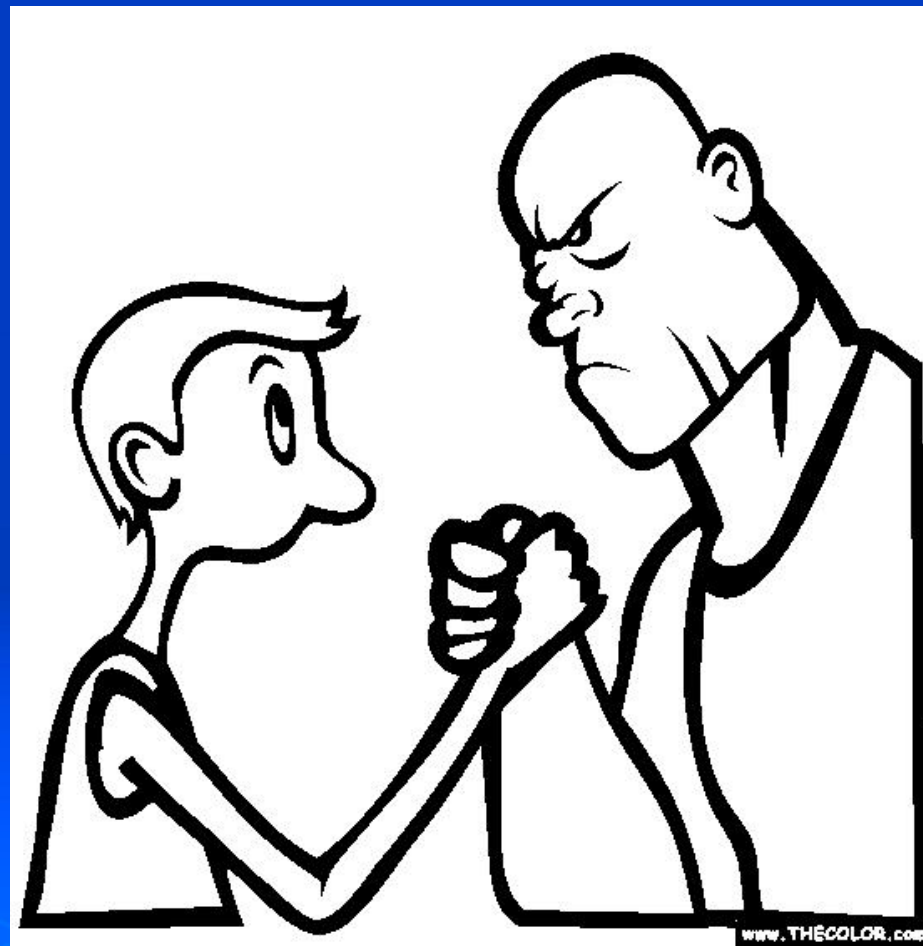
# 10 NORTHERN TRIBES BECAME IDOLATORS

- Jeroboam instituted Calf Worship, with new Priests, and worship center (Samaria)
- Religious schism divided Judah and Ephraim-Israel
- Samaritans mostly Hebrews mixed with gentiles, their religion polluted with paganism
- Many distinct sects of Judaism
- Many MORE distinct denominations of Christianity



# THE JEWISH –SAMARIAN COLD WAR

- It was a few weeks of peace and calm when Jews first returned
- But quickly it turned to physical threats, economic subterfuge, bribery, and harassment
- Samaritans determined Jews would NOT rebuild their Temple
- Jews determined Temple would be rebuilt, and Jewish society would replace Samaritan society





Cyrus



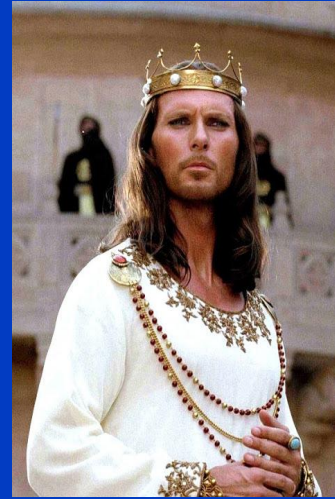
2 Kings

Cambyses  
&  
Bardiya

Darius



Xerxes



Artaxerxes

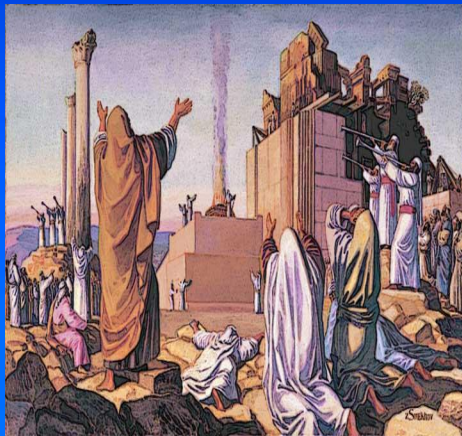


Ezra 4 Vss. 1 - 5 + Vs. 24

Ezra 4 Vss. 6 - 23

559  
B.C.

**REBUILD TEMPLE**



486  
B.C.

**REBUILD WALLS**



424  
B.C.



# HAGGAI: PRIORITY

JUDGMENT LOVE  
REJOICING OBEDIENCE  
RIGHTEOUSNESS MISSION  
FAITH DISCOURAGEMENT  
THE 12 DEVASTATION  
PRIDE RELIGION

NOW  
 LATER

# HAGGAI: ENCOURAGER

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of King Darius
- 521 / 521 B.C.
- Samaritans had frustrated Jews efforts for 35 years
- Kings of Persia STILL supported the rebuilding
- Procrastination and paralysis
- We often think the pathway to doing God's will ought to be clear of obstacles

what has been  
will be done  
again


there is nothing new under the sun

- Fear drove the Jews to stop building, BUT...there were other factors as well
- Haggai the first prophet to arise since Jews' release
- This statement is addressed to the wealthy and the clan leaders
- Some wanted a renewed relationship with God, but others just wanted a renewed personal prosperity
- Spiritualized rationalizing and insincerity have always been part of mankind's ways



# PROSPERITY DOCTRINE

- Makes our walk with the Lord all about wealth
- Believers of this doctrine insist that wealth is the sign of faithfulness to God
- But Believers who never get the wealth they seek live unhappy joyless lives
- If wealth is our motive, God **OFTEN** holds back blessing

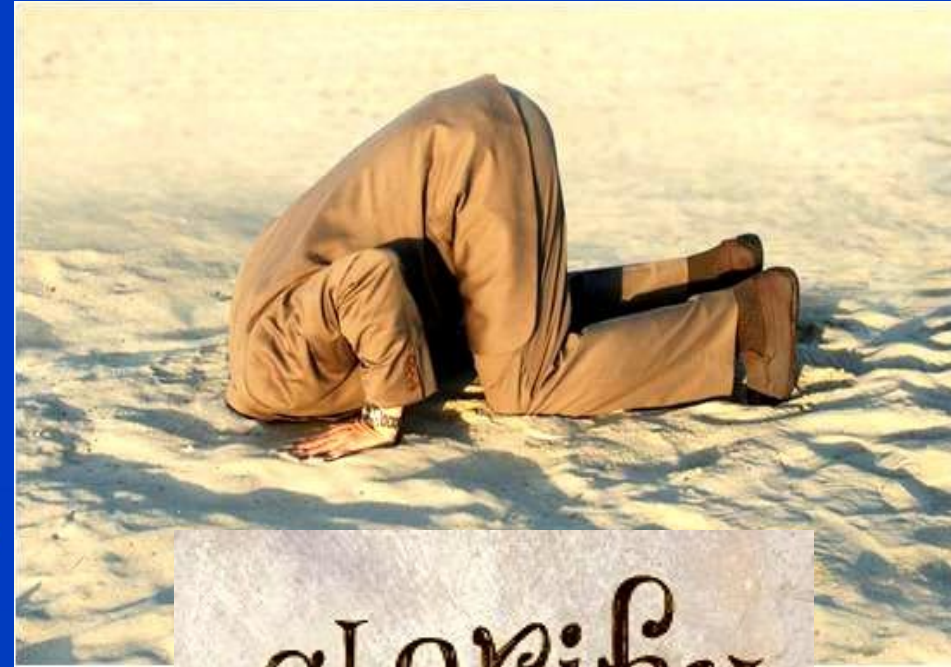


What's  
**WRONG** with  
my faith ??



# *“Think about your life !!”*

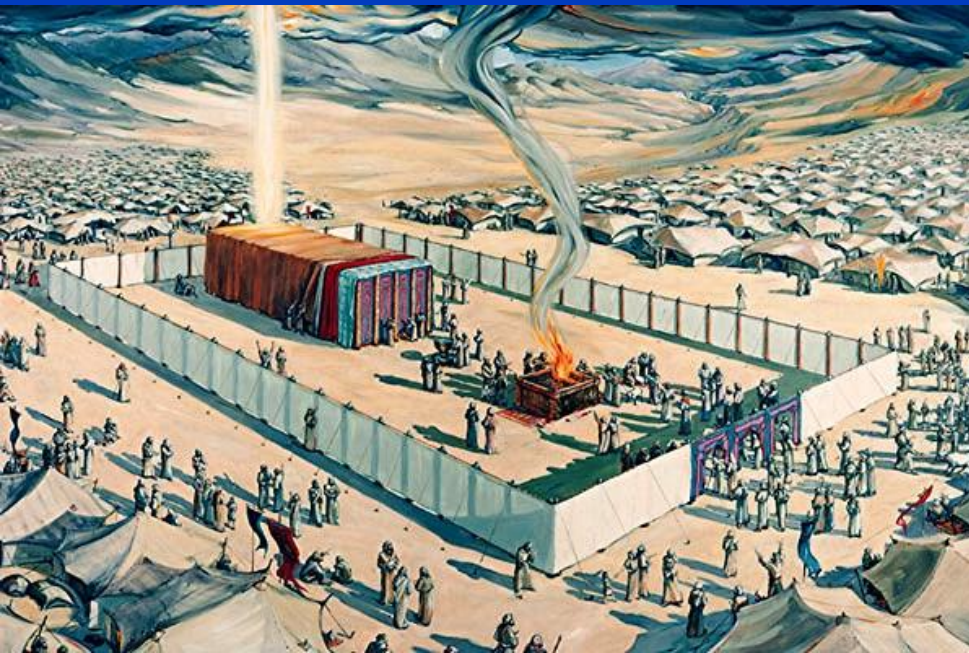
- Compare God’s principles with what you are striving for
- Do you have enough food but it doesn’t satisfy?
- Do you have enough wine but still can’t find joy?
- Do you work harder and yet always seem to have less?
- Do you not have shalom?
- Then get to work on what God wants, and glorify Him !!



glorify  
**God** &  
*enjoy him*  
**FOREVER**

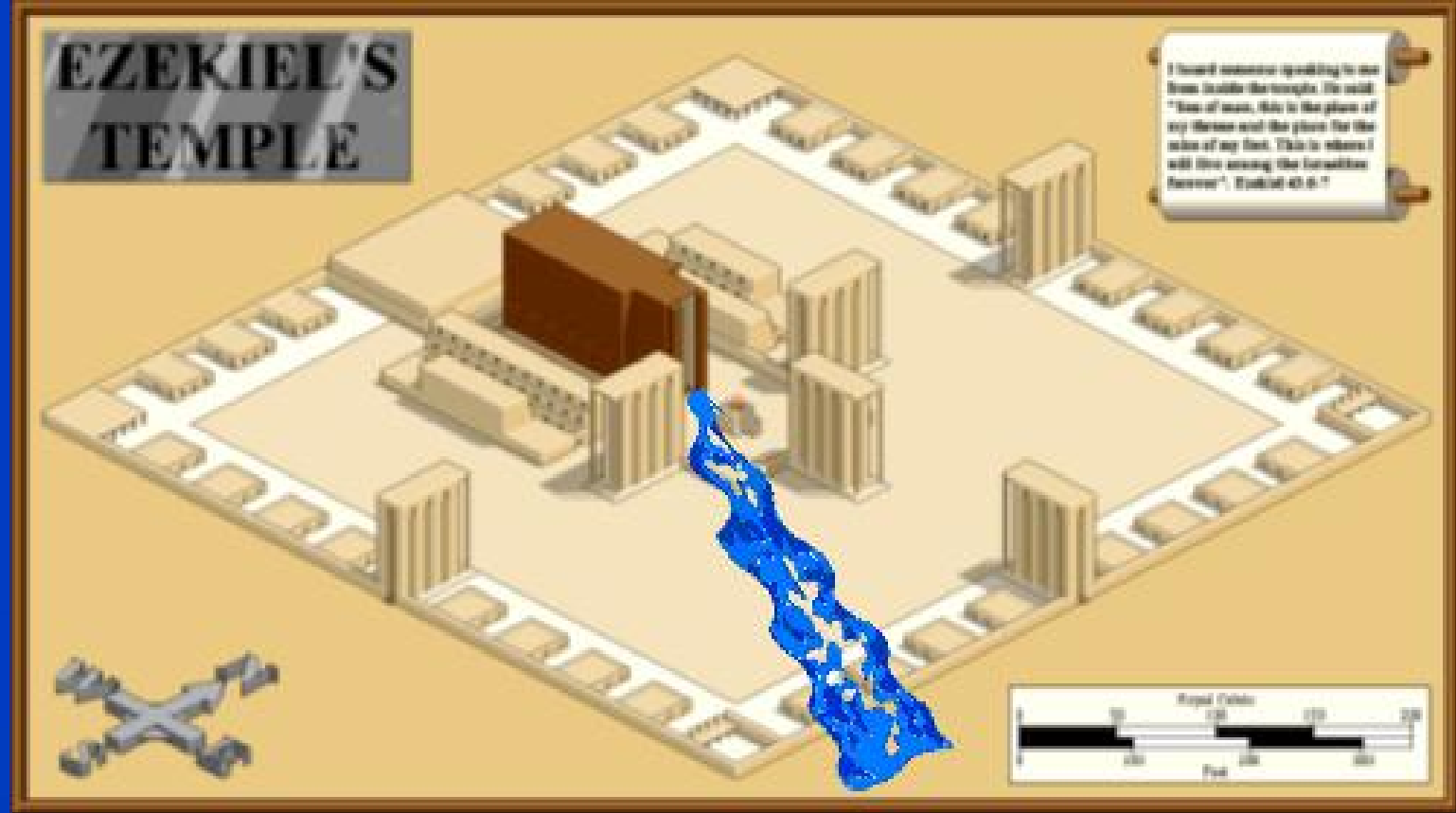


# TEMPLE IS IMPORTANT TO GOD



- BECAUSE Jews have not rebuilt Temple, God has caused this frustration
- Jews started out well, rebuilt Altar and began to sacrifice and observe appointed times
- Temple a sign of the people's faithfulness towards God
- The Temple is the place where fellowship with God occurs





- Ezekiel's Temple is real, tangible, God ordained
- It is necessary to fully restore fellowship with God
- The Temple MUST precede Christ's return
- Currently, the Kingdom is coming, and in a sense it is here in Christ's followers, the Holy Spirit



# BACK TO WORK

- Zerubbabel and the people listened to Haggai and obeyed
- Their fear of the Lord became greater than their fear of the Samaritians
- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Darius, the Jews began rebuilding again
- They ignored the threats and the politics
- Modern Israel must do the same thing and rebuild the Temple of God NOW !!

