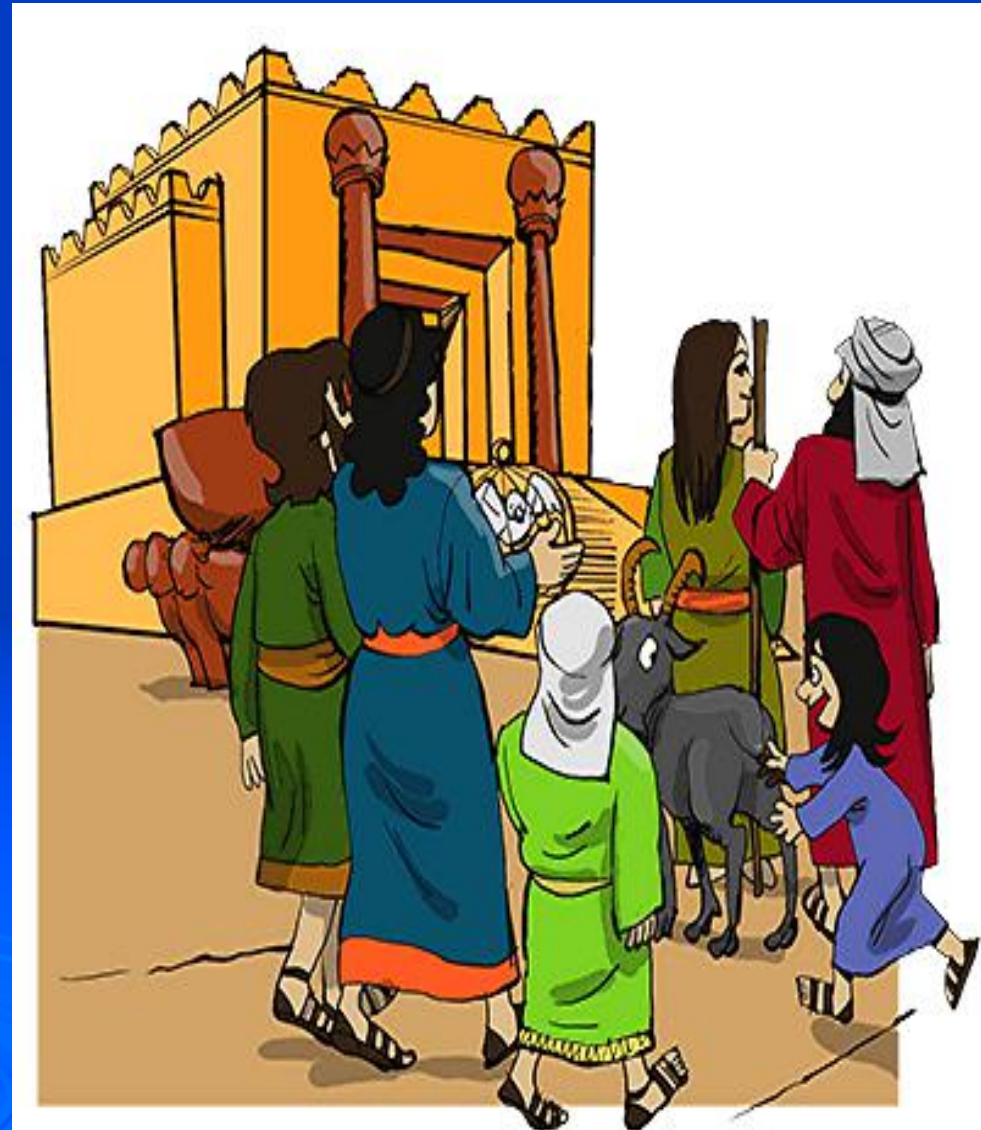




- 520 B.C., about 15 years after return to Judah
- Haggai and Zechariah give God's oracles to get back to work on the Temple
- As a result work again began regardless of the political pressures and threats against it
- Haggai and Zechariah remained throughout the rebuilding process to offer encouragement
- No doubt the opposition groups re-doubled their efforts when they saw the Temple work begin

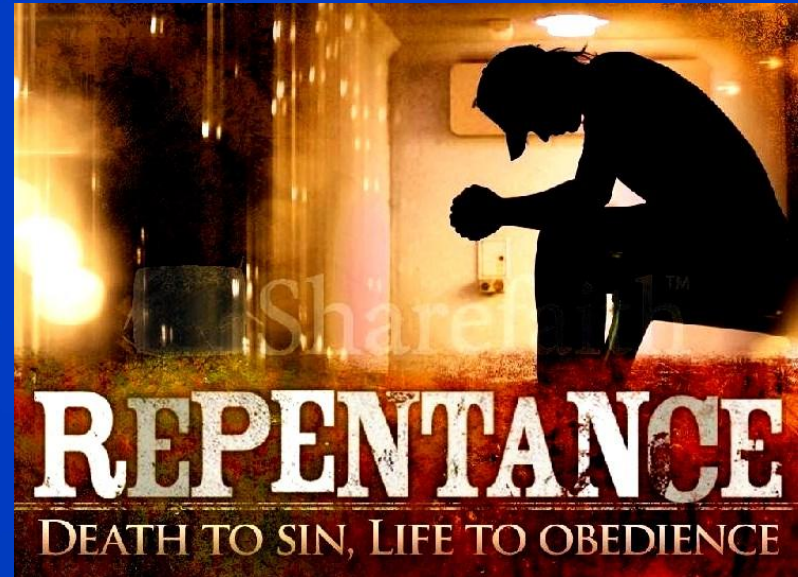
# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TEMPLE

- Temple was important to God
- YHWH suspended His fellowship with Jews for 70 years
- Meeting point of fellowship was the Temple
- The Lord saw rebuilding of the Temple as proof of Jews returning to Him
- IF you return to me THEN I will return to you !!
- Zechariah 1:3



# TRUE REPENTANCE IS MORE THAN JUST SHOWING UP

- Repentance must be proved by our actions
- DOING is what God requires, and it might be uncomfortable, dangerous, and cost us friendships
- God-Principle: Do your best, as God directed, and let the chips fall where they may
- The outcome is in God's hands
- Success isn't always winning
- Success must be seen from God's viewpoint
- Sometimes the larger puzzle won't be visible until later

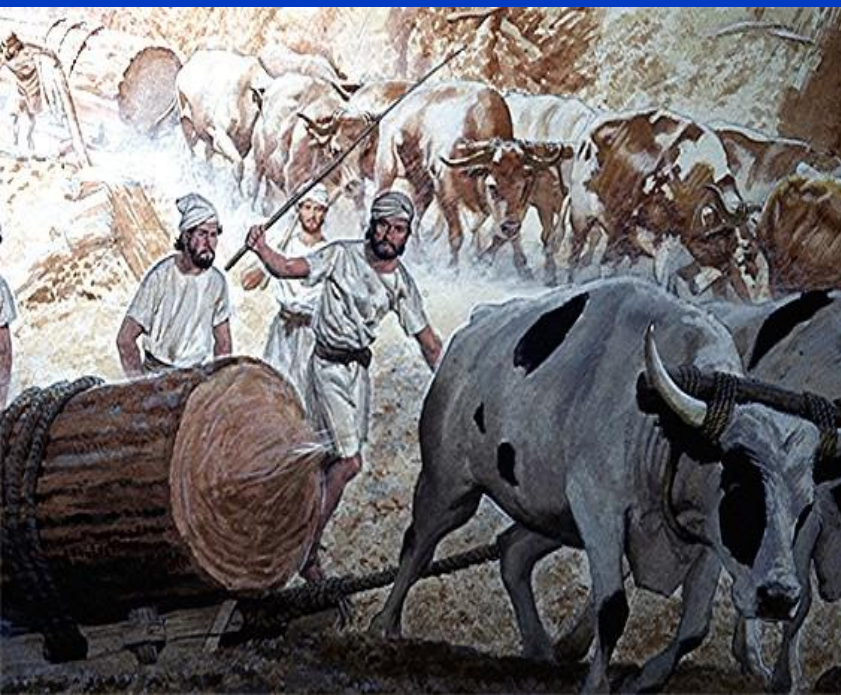
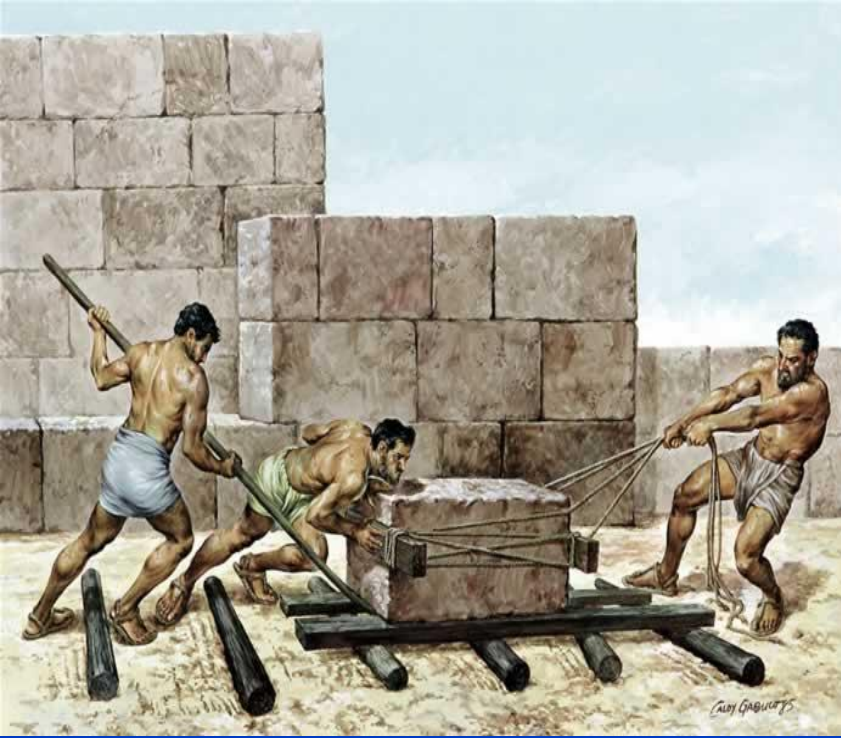


# TATNAI COMES TO INVESTIGATE



- *Tatnai* a high Persian government official
- *Ushtannu* was the governor of the Beyond the River Province
- *Tatnai* must have reported to him
- *Pechah* = Aramaic, a flexible term for governing a district, province, etc.
- Samaritans likely complained to *Tatnai*
- Seems to have held no bigotry against the Jews

# LETTER SENT TO KING DARIUS



- *Tatnai* did NOT stop the construction while he waited for the King's reply
- Large stones being used
- Structural timbers for rafters
- Workers are zealous
- Judah, Jews, Temple and all belong to the Persian Empire
- The Great God = *Rav Elah*
- *Elah* = Aramaic generic term for a god

# JEW'S JUSTIFY BUILDING THE TEMPLE

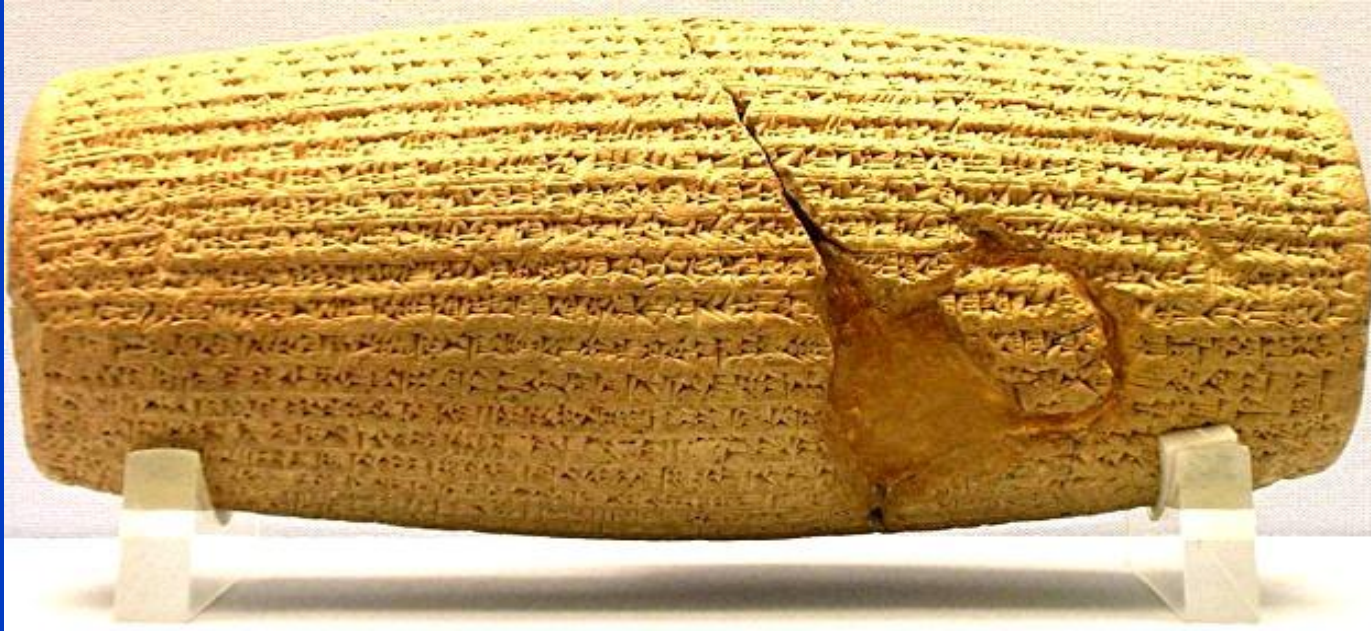
- *Tatnai* intends on being fair
- God of Heaven and earth = *Elah shamayin arah*
- Persians believed in God of Heaven and creator god named *Ahuramazda*
- Jews give brief history of Temple from Solomon, to Jew's being unfaithful, with consequence of Babylon destroying the Temple
- *Zerubbabel* says Cyrus gave authorization to rebuild and even gave back all the ritual implements that had been taken



# EZRA CHAPTER 6: KING DARIUS'S REPLY



- King Darius ordered records search in Babel, and then Ecbatana
- Record of Cyrus's edict to rebuild Temple found
- Record says:
  - 1) 1<sup>st</sup> year of King Cyrus
  - 2) Rebuild at same location
  - 3) Dimensions given
  - 4) 3 rows of large stones, and large timber for rafters
  - 5) Persian treasury to pay for the project
  - 6) All gold and silver articles taken to be returned



- Beyond The River Province is to be the source of taxes to pay for the Temple rebuilding, and all the sacrificial animals, wine, oil, etc.
- In return King Darius wants the Levite Priest to pray for him and his family
- Cyrus Cylinder: ***“May all the gods who I have resettled in their sacred cities ask daily Bel and Nebo for a long life more me.....”***
- Cyrus believed that by showing respect to all gods he’d receive the affection of the people and the favor of all the gods



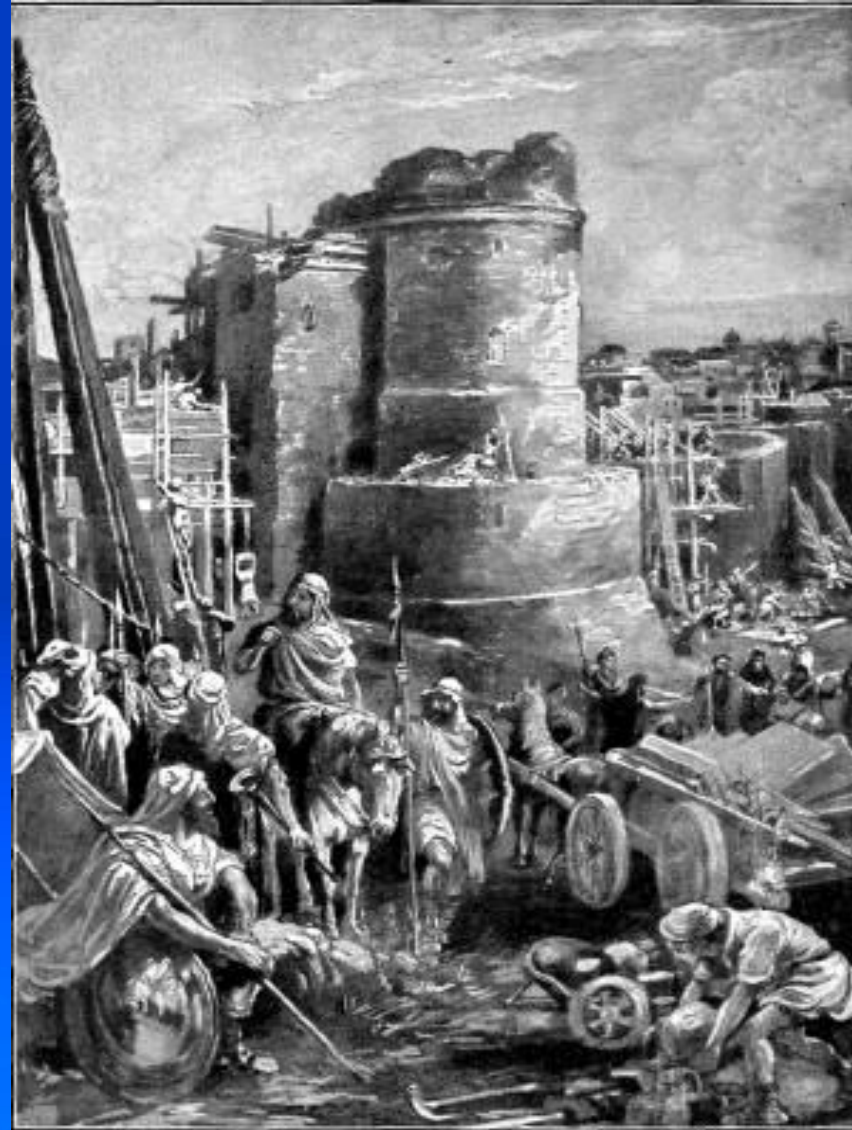
# KING DARIUS'S LETTER ENDS WITH A CURSE

- Wood beam to be removed from violator's house, and then the violator is to be impaled on it
- The person's house would also be destroyed, extending the penalty to his entire household
- Curses from kings after issuing and edict were the norm
- Darius invokes the God of Temple in Jerusalem as the guarantor of his curse



# DARIUS AFFIRMS THE JEWS' RIGHT TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE

- *Tatnai* and all others obeyed the King's edict
- Temple finished in 6<sup>th</sup> year of Darius, 515 B.C.
- 72 years from destruction according to modern Gregorian Calendar
- Bible tends to use round numbers (40, 70, etc.)
- There was no standard calendar in that era, so they varied widely in how a year was counted



# JUDAH CLAIMS TO REPRESENT ALL 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL



- Those attending Temple Dedication were:
- 1) Laypeople
- 2) Levites
- 3) Priests
- Sin offering of 12 goats to symbolize all Israel
- 10 northern tribes are mentioned only in prophecy in remainder of Bible
- When the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple is built, there WILL be representatives present from all 12 tribes !!