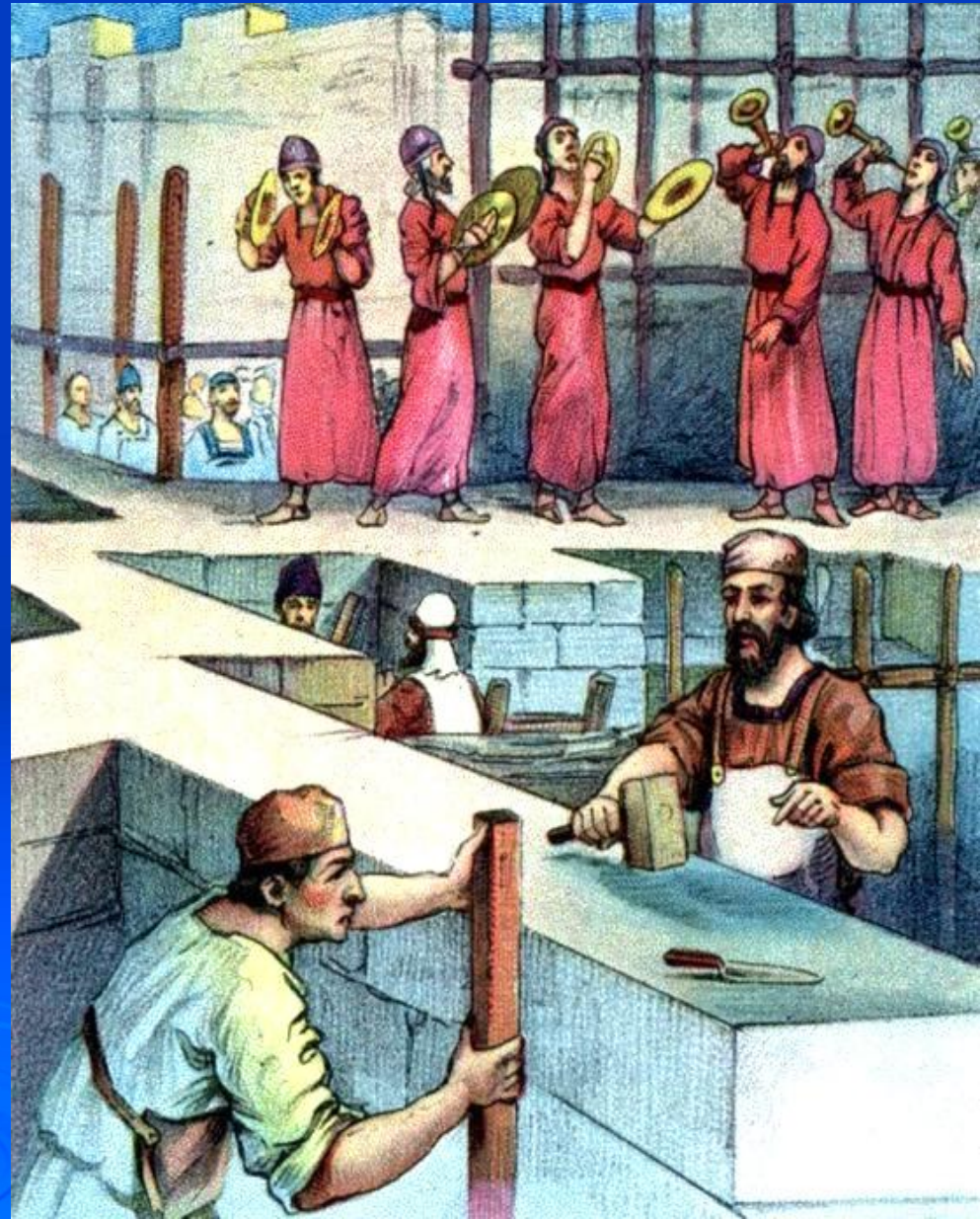
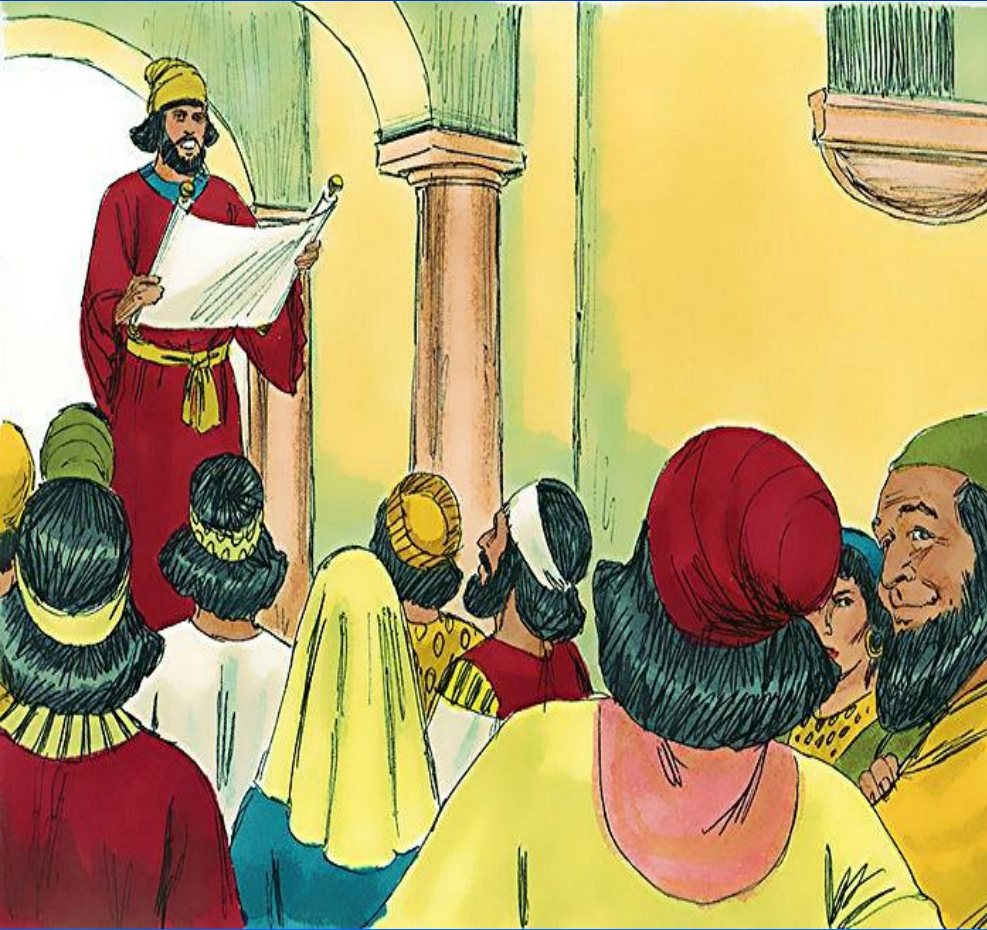


# THE TEMPLE IS COMPLETED

- The style of the Bible is to carefully and thoroughly document God's instructions
- But when His worshippers DO what He commands, the telling of it is brief for the glory is to God, not to man
- In Ezra 6 we are told that in response to God's command to build the Temple, the Judahites did
- No fanfare, no glorification of those who obeyed



# THE JEWS GET GOOD NEWS

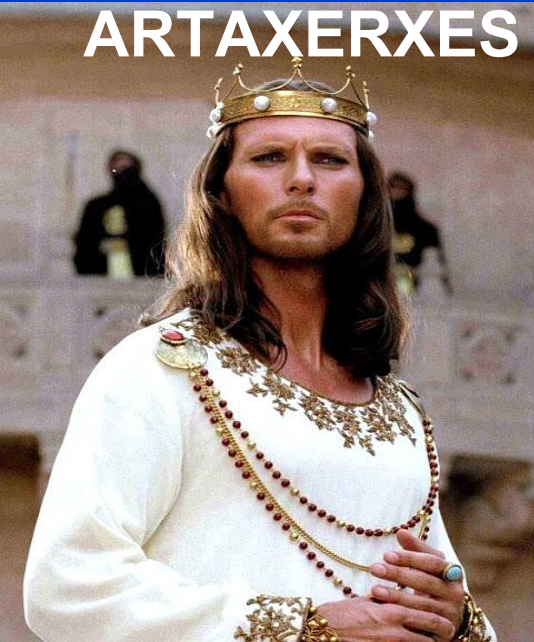


- *Tatnai* sends letter to King Darius to see if what Zerubbabel told him was true, and the Temple rebuilding can continue
- The King writes back that it is true, and that the Jews are to be allowed to complete their Temple in peace
- Darius is magnanimous in his support of the building project, and vows a curse on anyone who interferes



God's  
promises  
never  
fail

ARTAXERXES



- Haggai 2:15-19 “*..from this day on I will bless you....*”
- Because the Jews obeyed and started rebuilding the Temple, the blessings were more than imagined!
- It is clear that God was the true force behind the rebuilding
- Why was Artaxerxes included in kings list since Temple was completed long before him?
- F. Charles Fensham: Modern logic is NOT the same as it was for these ancient Hebrew writers

# THE TEMPLE IS CONSECRATED

- 12<sup>th</sup> month, Adar, in 6<sup>th</sup> year of Darius's reign, Temple inaugurated into service
- 515 B.C.
- 12 goats sacrificed for "all Israel"
- A pleasant fiction since Judah is only 2 tribes of the 12
- Next, Priests and Levites are ritually cleansed "As written in the Book of Moses"
- Exodus 29, Leviticus 8, Numbers 3 and 8 are purification procedures





# PASSOVER OBSERVED

- Month after Temple dedication was Nisan, month of Pesach
- **Ki** = because, due to
- **Ki** is a connecting word
- Passover was celebrated **BECAUSE** the Priests and Levites were purified
- Next observed Matza, starts day after Passover
- Celebrated with **JOY !!**
- Modern Believers should celebrate these feasts and do it with joy as we know the ultimate spiritual meaning



# CYRUS

# DARIUS

# XERXES

# ARTAXERXES

539 B.C. Persia conquers Babylon



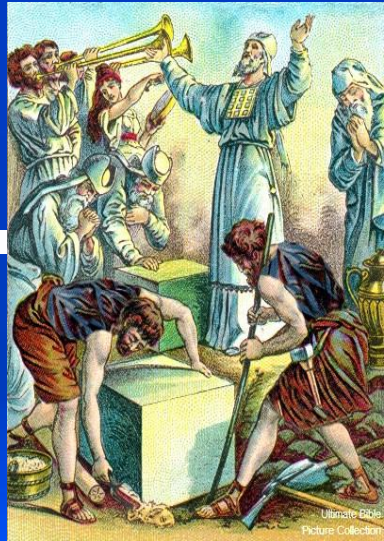
480 B.C.



458 B.C.



515 B.C.



538 B.C.

TEMPLE COMPLETED

1st wave of Jewish exiles returns to Judah

Ezra leads another wave of Jews to Judah

# THE CHALLENGE OF BIBLICAL GENEALOGY

**Aaron**

**Eleazar**

**Phinehas**  
Judges 20:29

**Abishua**

**Bukki**

**Uzzi**

**Zerahiah**

**Mergioth**

**Azariah**

**Amariah**

**Ahitub**

**Zadok**  
2 Sam 8:17

**Shallum**

**Hilkiah**

**Azariah**

**Seraiah**

**EZRA**

- Ezra “son of” Seraiah
- Eleazar is the ONLY Priestly line
- Ezra was of the lineage of Priests
- **Ben** = son of, and it has a different meaning than in modern times
- **Ben** more means “descendant of”
- Bible genealogies were purpose driven, not exact with no gaps
- Seraiah was either Ezra’s great or great-great grandfather
- Purpose of this particular genealogy was to establish Ezra’s priestly credentials

**TORAH**

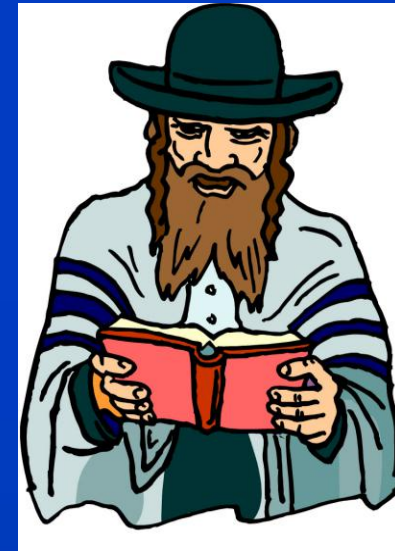
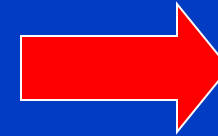
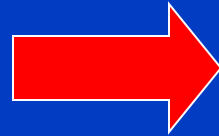
**TORAH + NEW TRADITIONS**

**JUDAISM**

**SAMUEL**

**EZRA**

**RABBI**



**PROPHET**

**PRIEST**

**TEACHER**

**PRIEST**

**TORAH**

**OF**

**JUDGE**

**TEACHER**

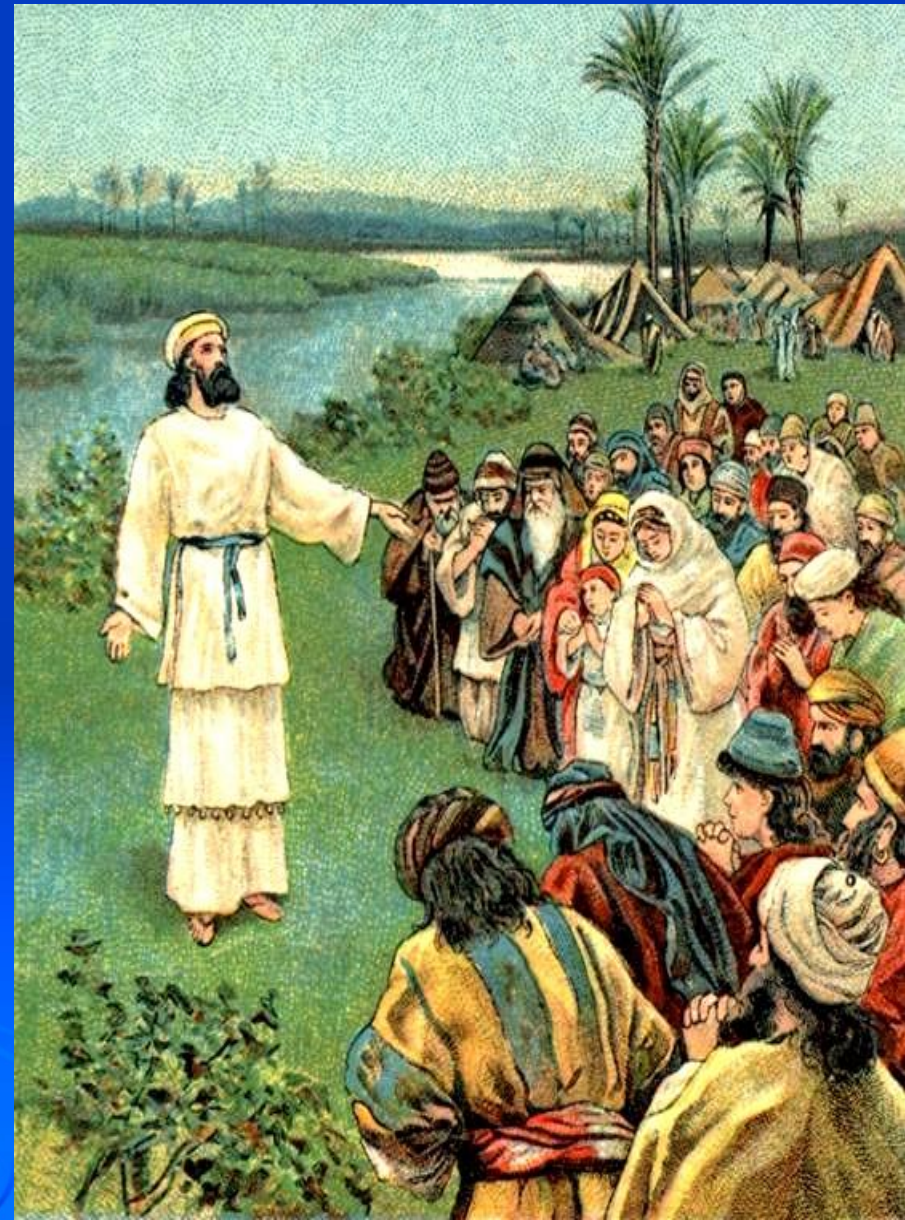
**TRADITION**

**(HALAKAH)**



# EZRA RETURNS TO JUDAH

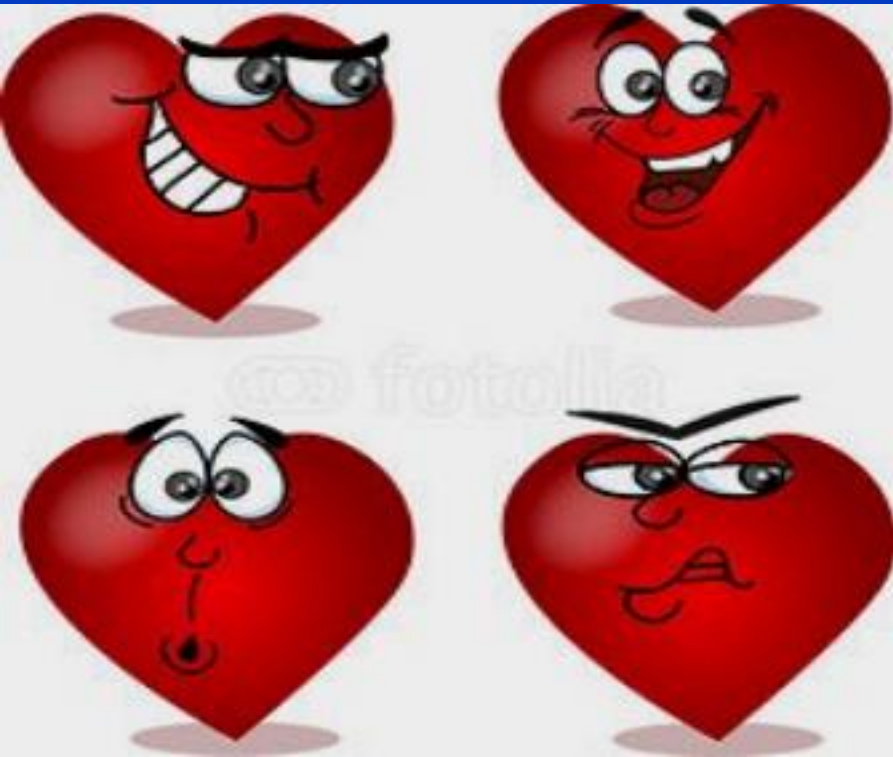
- Ezra was a Torah expert, and operated OUTSIDE of the Priesthood
- Live in Babel
- Ezra need royal authority because he planned on assuming authority of the Temple and the people in Judah
- Some priests and Levites of various occupations went with Ezra

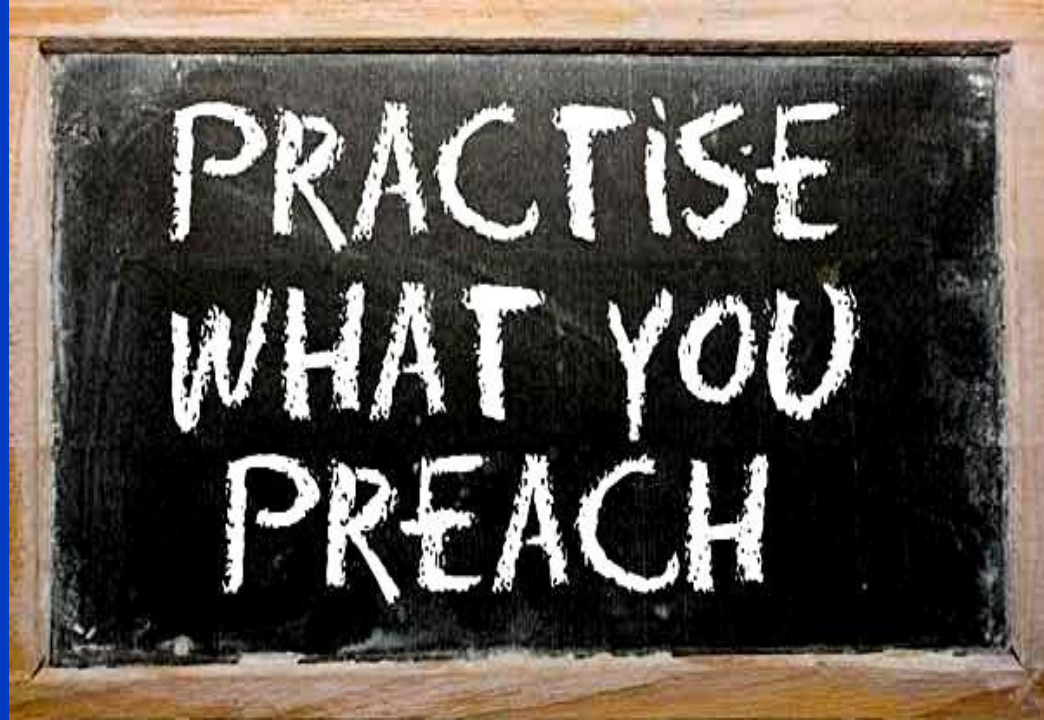




# A DANGEROUS JOURNEY

- 7<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes, and Egypt was in rebellion
- Took 4 months to reach Judah
- Vs. 10 *“For Ezra set his heart...”*
- God’s good hand upon Ezra BECAUSE (*ki*) he had set his heart on the Torah
- *Lev* = heart
- Does NOT mean emotions
- In ancient times the heart was the seat of intellect





- Ezra not only a student but he practiced what he taught
- He no doubt compared what he saw in earliest Judaism with the Torah and saw a problem
- H.G.M Williamson: ***“Ezra a model reformer....what he taught, he first lived”***
- ***“study, conduct, and teaching put....in this right order....”***

walk

the

talk