

FULLY
GOD
FULLY
HUMAN

GOD'S GRACE: A CO-OPERATIVE VENTURE WITH HUMANS

- The theory is not difficult, but putting it to action is!
- Accompanying Principle: Humans created error filled doctrines, now humans must reform them
- Ezra moved by the Spirit to become a Torah Teacher in order to lead a reform movement



BUMPER-STICKER THEOLOGY IS NOT NEW !



- End of Daniel, Book of Esther, Ezra there was a widespread ignorance of Torah
- Jewish cultural traditions arose to replace Biblical worship and observances
- Christ tried to expose the falsehood of manmade traditions but was murdered for His trouble
- Ezra expected his reforms to be resisted, so he enlisted the King's help

WHO ARE THE JEWS?

FANTASY VERSUS REALITY

- Ezra 8 list of families called “key men of Israel”
- The other 10 tribes known as “10 Lost Tribes”
- Ejected from their land by Assyria
- Ezekiel 37 explains the rejoining of Judah and the 10 lost tribes
- It is happening only NOW, in our day!
- Jews are Judah (and Benjamin)

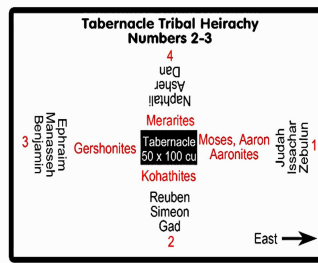


Twelve Tribes of Israel

Manasseh	Asher
Naphtali	Zebulun
Issachar	Gad
Ephraim	Dan
<u>Benjamin</u>	Reuben
Simeon	<u>Judah</u>

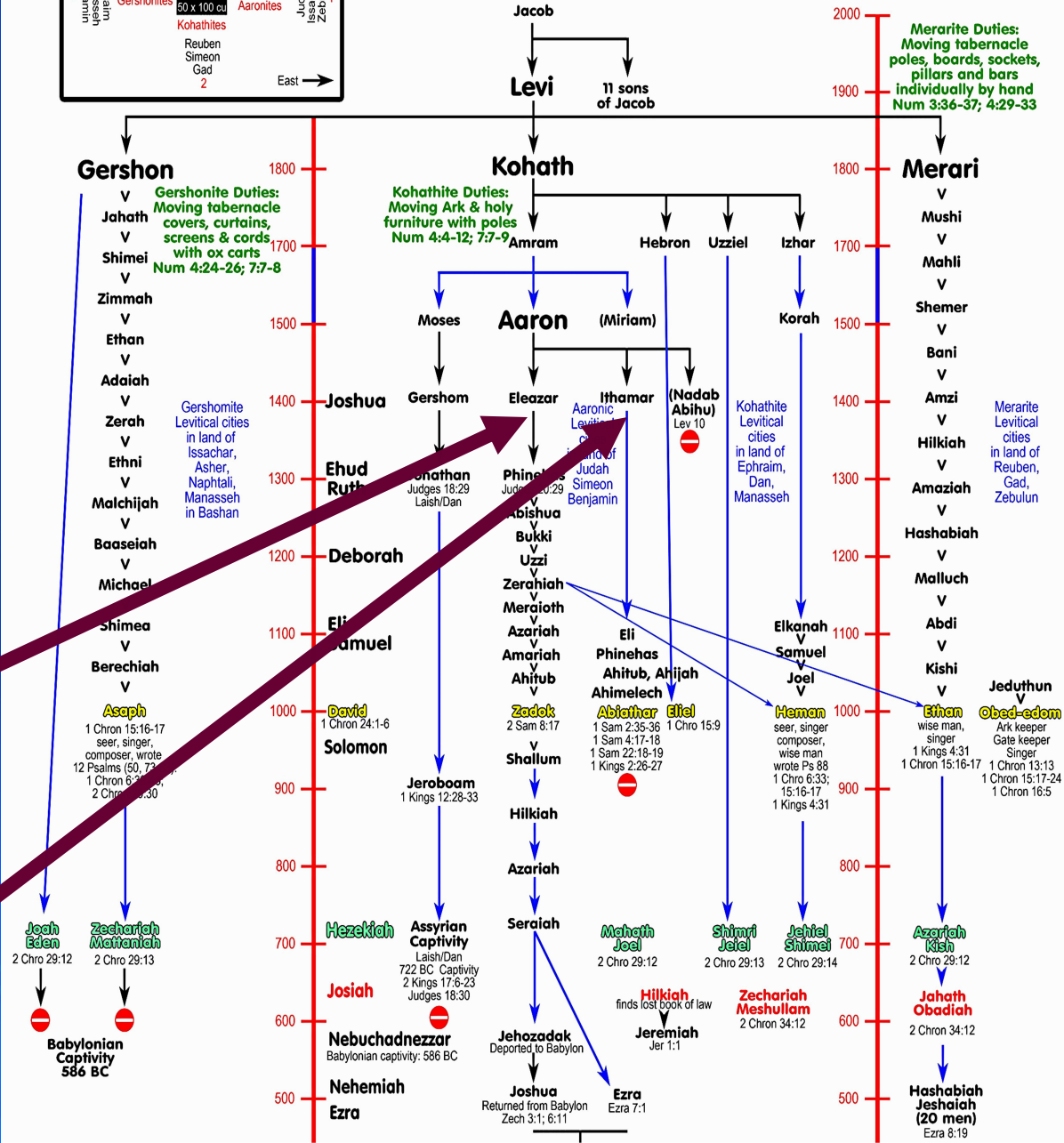
MORE GENEALOGY

- Ezra's genealogy went back to Aaron, and 2 priestly families are shown like that
- Pinchas, son of Eleazar (High Priest line)
- Daniel connected to Ithamar (reg. priests)



The Levitical Priesthood

Ex 6:16-20
1 Chron 6:1-30





A ROYAL FAMILY IS REPRESENTED

- Hatush, descendant of King David
- Uncertain why a royal family was needed to move to Judah
- Zerubbabel (builder of Temple) was also a descendant of David
- Ezra makes much use of the symbolism of 12
- Several “round” numbers used to count family members (approximations)
- 1500 MALES
- 5,000 total with women and children

12

FAMILIES ASSEMBLE AT THE AHAVA RIVER

Returning from Exile

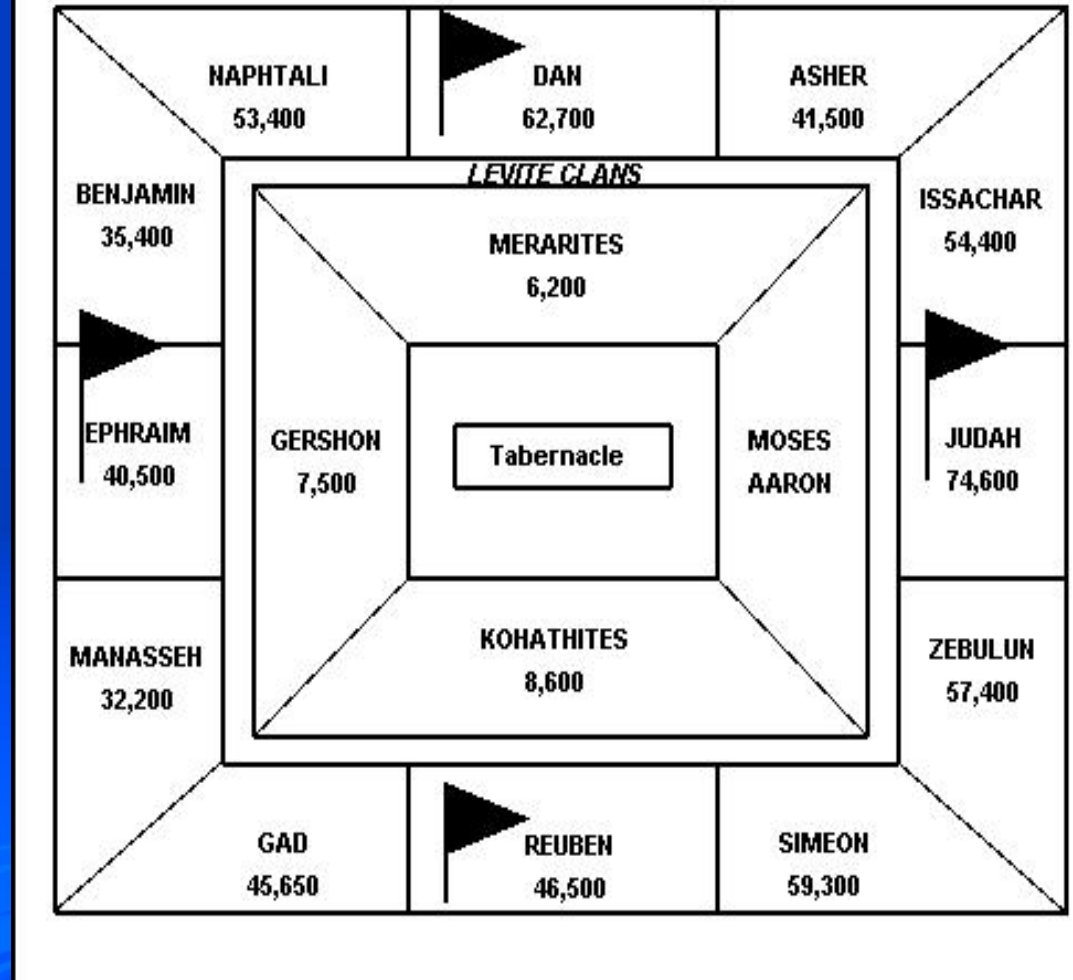


- > Ezra used dangerous route without military escort
- > Return under Ezra and Nehemiah (457–428 B.C.)
- > Return of exiles in days of Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel (537–515 B.C.)
- Judean exiles concentrated in area around Nippur

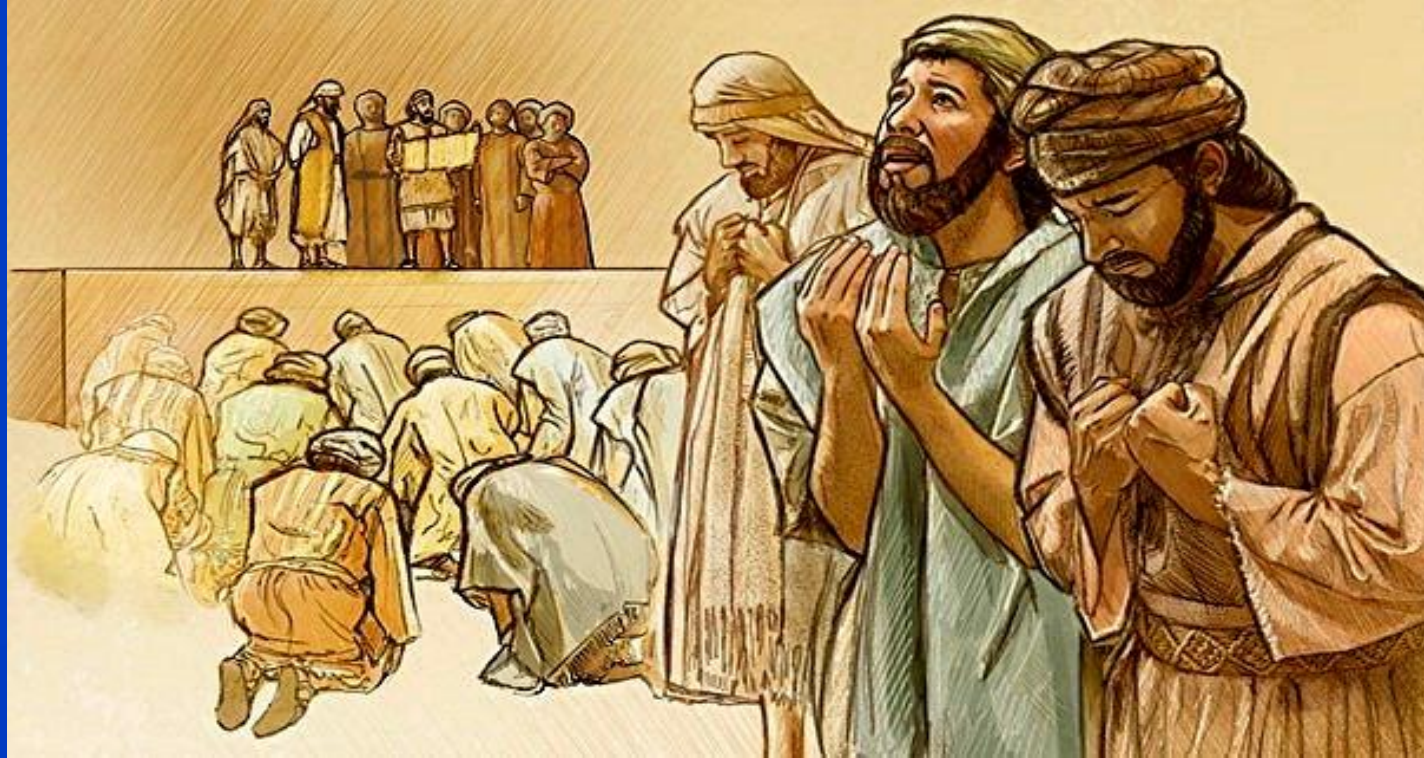
- Left Babel on 1st day of 1st month, but then went to Ahava River
- Ezra found no Levites present
- Why would these families move to Judah?
- Had to be at the urging of the Holy Spirit !
- God's land is where they belonged

UH-OH. NO LEVITES!

WILDERNESS TABERNACLE CAMP: THE EXODUS JOURNEY FROM EGYPT



- Ezra's group:
- Leader, Torah Teacher (Ezra)
- Priests (High and reg.)
- 12 families (common folks)
- Meant to mimic the Exodus from Egypt
- 11 men sent to *Iddo* at *Kasifya* to bring some Levites
- 3 *Elnatan's* & 2 *Yariv's*
- *Yoyariv* = *Yariv*



- 38 Levites dutifully responded to the call
- 220 ***Nethinim*** (Temple workers) came with them
- ***Nethinim*** were servants for the Levites
- A tradition begun by King David
- Genealogy proved that Levites were legitimate and went back to ***Machli*** and ***Merari***

FAST for the JOURNEY

a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions. *Ezra 8:21*

EZRA'S FAST vs. ESTHER'S FAST

- With Levites in hand, Ezra is ready to go !
- He called for fasting AND PRAYER
- Esther 4:16
- NO mention of prayer or being before the Lord
- Esther's fast much like a "moment of silence"
- 1000 mile journey would be treacherous, so Ezra sought God's protection

The Fast of Esther

