

# GOD PRINCIPLES, MEDDLING, AND A PERSONAL CALL TO ACTION

- Nehemiah: devout, single-minded
- Many practical applications to our modern lives
- Defines Godly leadership, but also the value of a Godly people who are responsive
- Desire to control Jerusalem irrationally dominates the thoughts of Israel's enemies
- *“....no share, right, or history to commemorate in Jerusalem...”*

**OPEN WITH CAUTION!**



**BOOK OF  
NEHEMIAH**



# THE IMPORTANCE OF JERUSALEM

"I WILL  
NEVER BREAK  
MY COVENANT  
WITH YOU"

~Judges 2:1

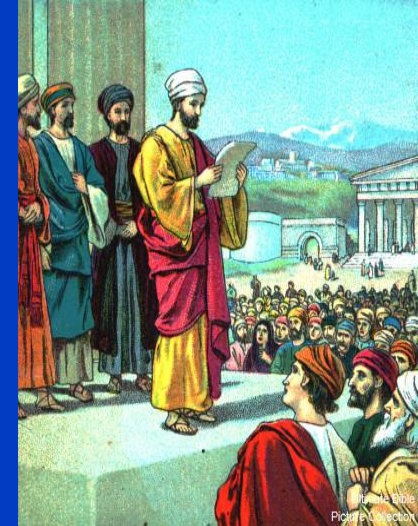
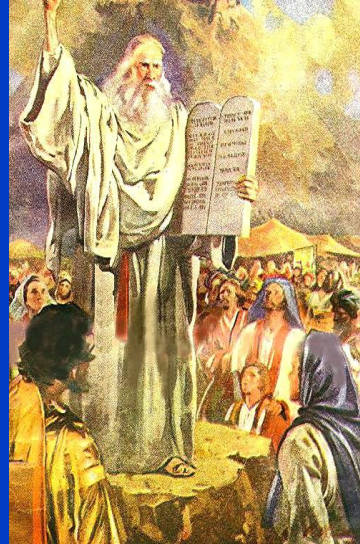


- Covenant of Abraham
- Jerusalem the ONLY city God has set His claim & Name
- Battle over Jerusalem is because of the Abrahamic Covenant
- Bride of Christ is JERUSALEM !
- Rev. 21:9, 10
- Jerusalem = the redeemed city inhabited ONLY by God's redeemed people
- Abrahamic Covenant is the context for the book of Nehemiah





**ABRAHAMIC  
COVENANT**



**1800 B.C.**

**1300 B.C.**

**420 B.C.**

**ABRAHAM**

**MOSES**

**EZRA &  
NEHEMIAH**



# NEHEMIAH

## CHAPTER 8

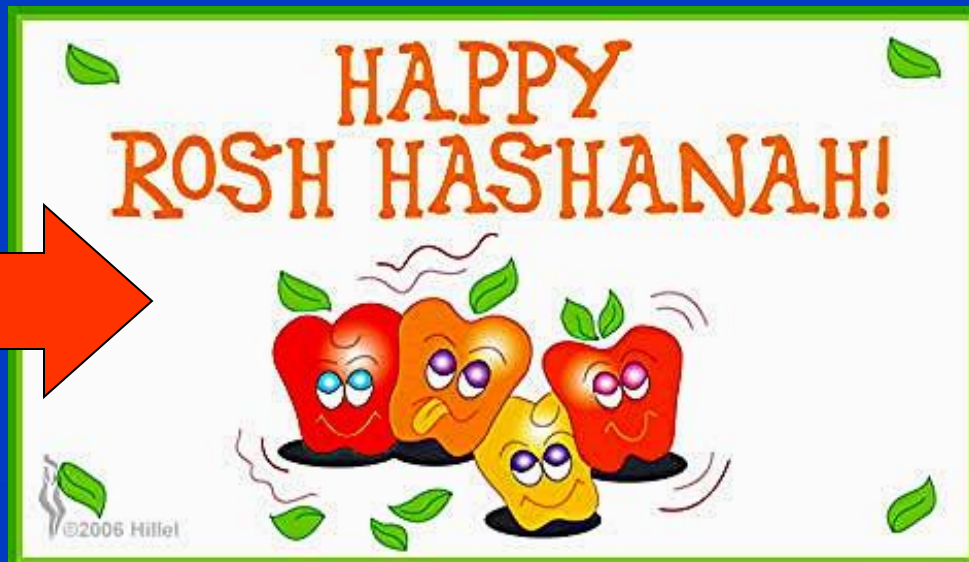
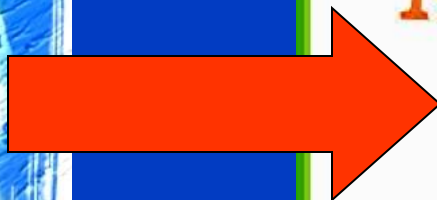


- Wall complete on *Elul* 25
- Congregation meeting on *Tishri* 1
- *Elul* = 6<sup>th</sup> month
- *Tishri* = 7<sup>th</sup> month
- Ezra could have been organizing the religious gathering while Nehemiah was finishing the wall
- 1<sup>st</sup> day of 7<sup>th</sup> month is *Yom Teruah* the Day of Trumpets
- Lev. 23:24
- Numbers 29:1





# WHAT HAPPENED??



- Notice that Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) is skipped over
- Yom Teruah somehow changed to Rosh Hashanah
- How can New Year's Day be on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the year ?!
- The term Rosh Hashanah never appears in Scripture
- First documented instance of reference to Rosh Hashanna is in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D., with Hillel and Shammai at the time of Paul
- Next instance is in the Mishna 200 A.D.



# CALENDAR ISSUES

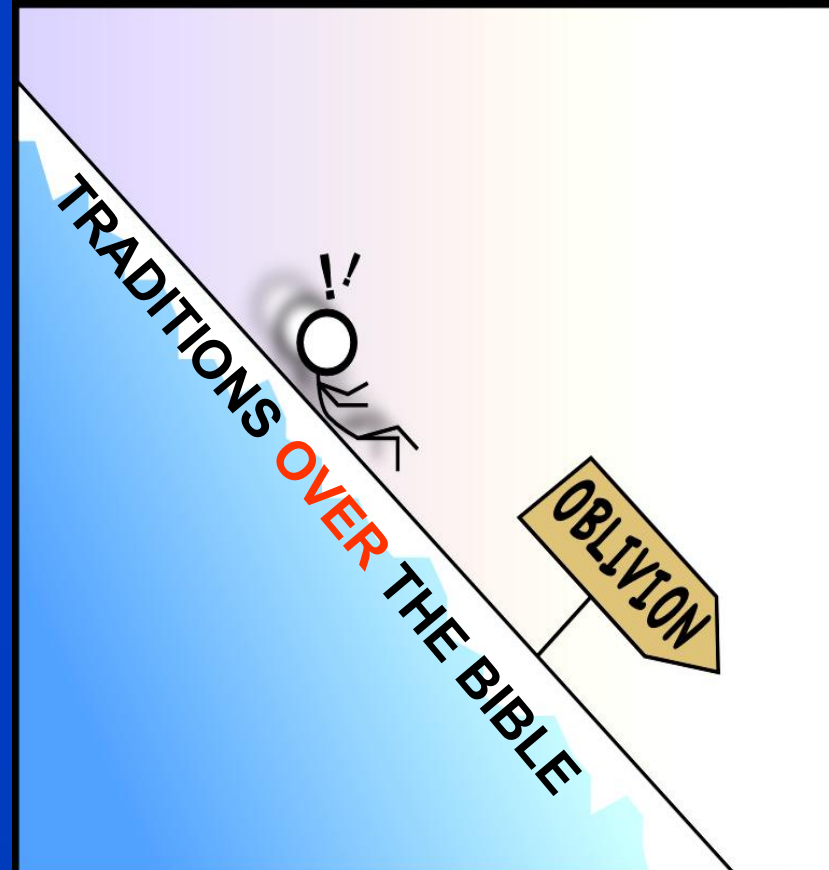
- Mishna says Rosh Hashanah to be used to count years, sabbatical cycle, Jubilee years
- Biblically, Nisan is the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the year
- So does it make sense that the 7<sup>th</sup> month, Tishri, is New Year?
- Torah and Tanach only number months (and days)
- All the names on the Jewish Calendar are Babylonian
- Doesn't really hurt anything, but it leads to a slippery slope

1. Nisan	30 days	Nisan 14 Nisan 15-21 Nisan 16	Passover Unleavened Bread Firstfruits
2. Iyar	29 days		
3. Sivan	30 days	Sivan 6	Shavuot (Weeks)
4. Tammuz	29 days		
5. Av	30 days	Av 9	Tisha B'Av
6. Elul	29 days		
7. Tishri	30 days	Tishri 1 Tishri 10 Tishri 15-21	Rosh Hashanah Yom Kippur Sukkot (Tabernacles)
8. Heshvan	29 or 30 days		
9. Kislev	29 or 30 days	Kislev 25- Tevet 2/3	Hanukkah
10. Tevet	29 days		
11. Shevat	30 days		
12. Adar	29 days (30 in leap year)	Adar 14	Purim

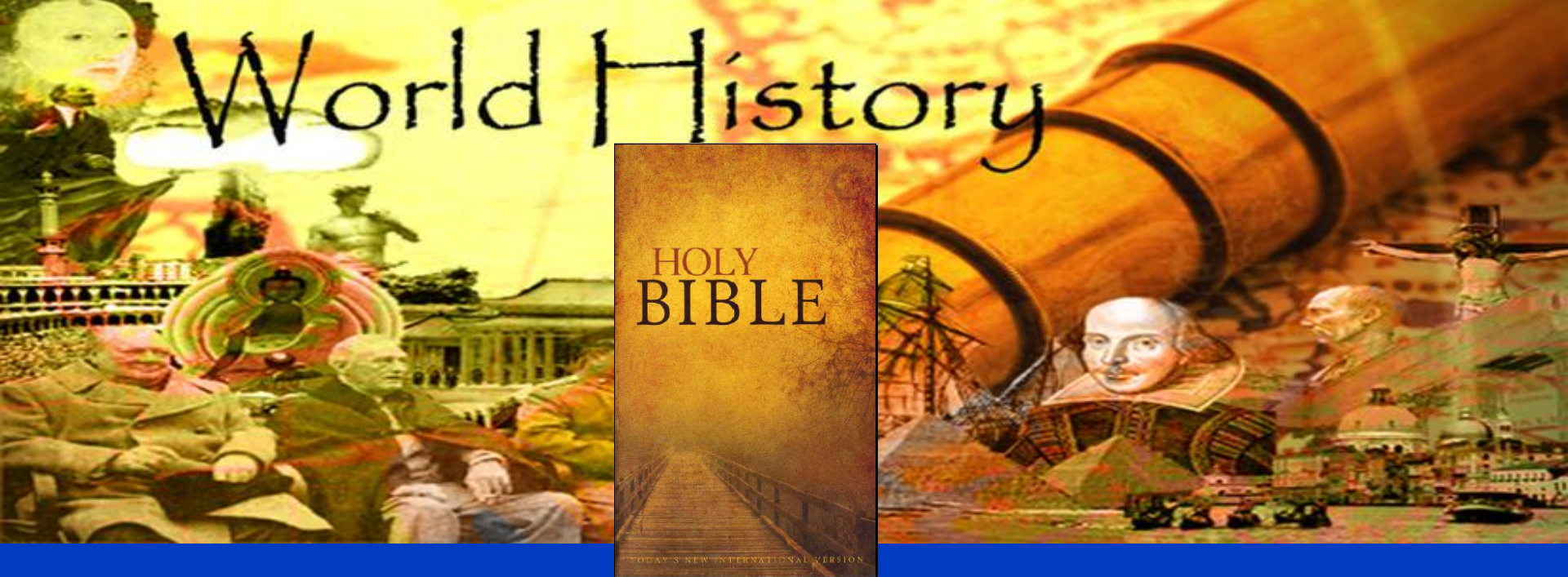


# LITTLE THINGS BECOME BIG THINGS

- Jewish exile to Babylon brought a sea change in Jewish life and worship
- Karaite Jews do not follow modern Hebrew calendar
- Only about 5% of Jews ever returned to their homeland
- Jews assimilated into Babylon and Persia, adopted some of their ways and vocabulary
- ***Arah Tishritum*** = The month of beginning



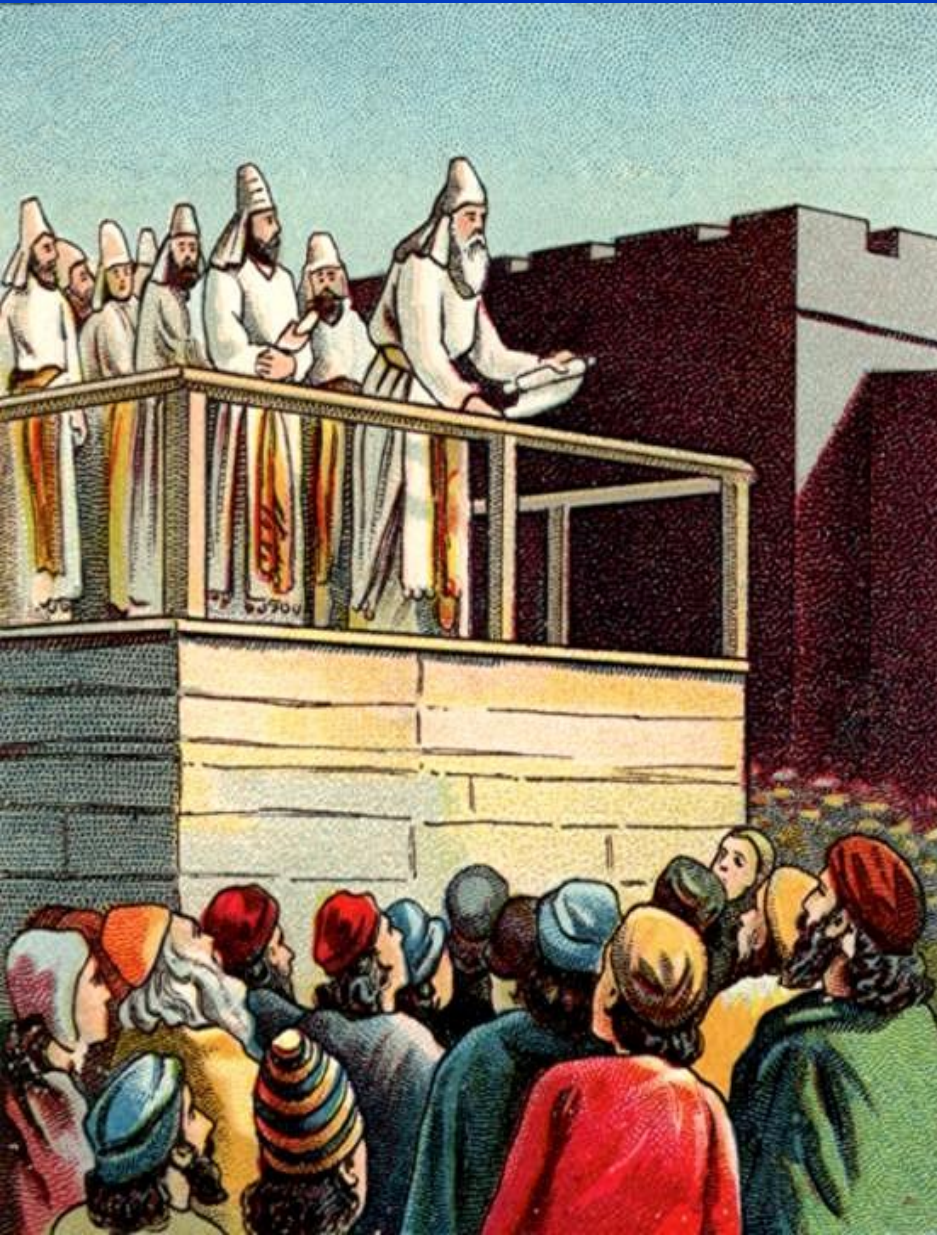




- Very difficult to keep God's Word as time passes, the world evolves, and we create new traditions to deal with it
- After a couple of generations from a new tradition, no one asks where it came from or if it is right
- The Jews listening to Ezra were eager to hear God's Word because they understood how ruinous it was to rebel
- Men, women and children came; all mature enough to make sense of what was heard

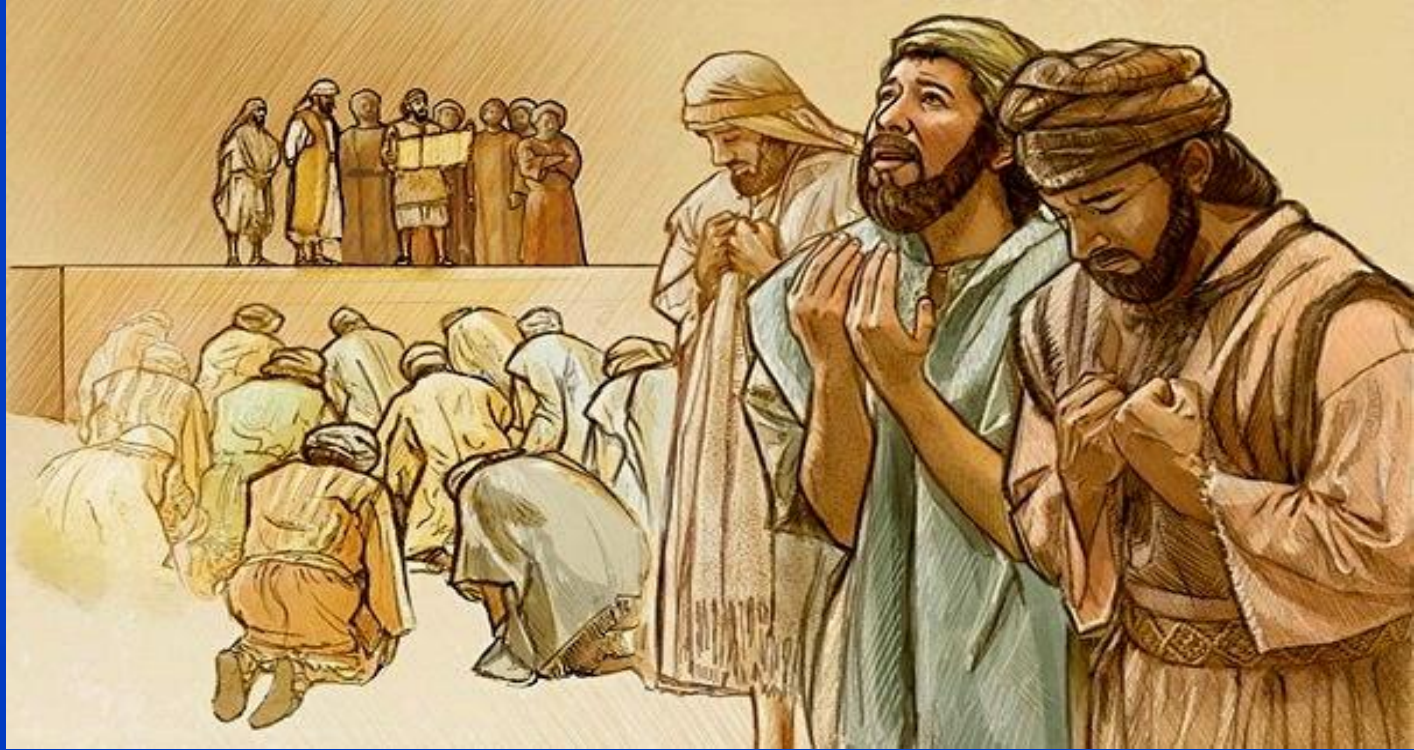


# EZRA READS THE LAW



- Ezra spoke for 6 hours
- People gathered by the Watergate
- 13 men stood beside him
- Proceeding commenced with prayer
- ***Ezra barach YHWH***
- Great God, a Persian term = ***hagaddol Elohim***
- People shouted Amen, raised their hands, bowed their heads, lay prostrate
- All of these expressions and more are acceptable to God





- 13 more people are presented, all Levites
- They go through the crowd and help people understand
- Translate into Aramaic, answer questions, repeat it for those who couldn't hear Ezra
- This was precisely the function that God assigned to the Levites, to teach Torah



# WHEN GOD'S WORD IS NOT MET WITH EXPECTANCY AND FAITH

- Mark 6:1 – 6
- If the speaking of God's Word doesn't bring a proper responsiveness from the listeners, there was no value to speaking it at all
- Yeshua became frustrated, so He did not do the miracles He came to do
- He left the villagers to themselves, and took His message and blessings to those who wanted them

