



REBUILDING
THE
FIRST
TEMPLE
ANTICIPATING
THE
FUTURE
TEMPLE

Lesson #1 Background of the Book

ZECHARIAH

1/4/2023

Paul Blair: Study of Zechariah (Lesson 1) Introduction and 1-1
Thru 1-21

1

Three Conquests

Three Prophets

606BC – **Daniel** taken to Babylon

597BC - **Ezekiel** take to Tel Aviv

Ezekiel called about 592BC.

586BC – Jerusalem destroyed (**Jeremiah**)



Jerusalem Destroyed 586-587 BC



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140 years before Jerusalem fell, God foretold of their return

Isaiah 44:26-28

²⁶ That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:

²⁷ That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:

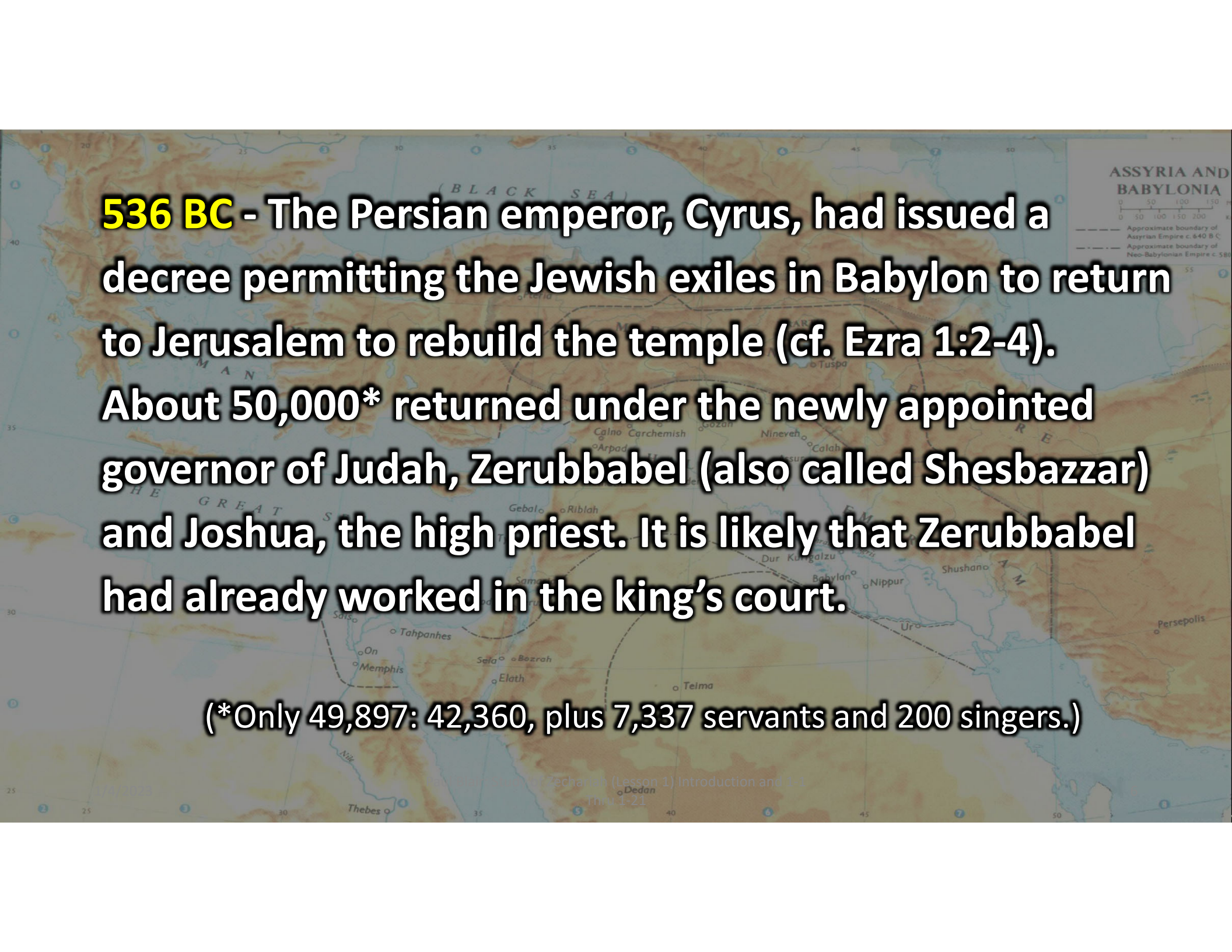
²⁸ That saith of **Cyrus**, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.



JEREMIAH 29:10

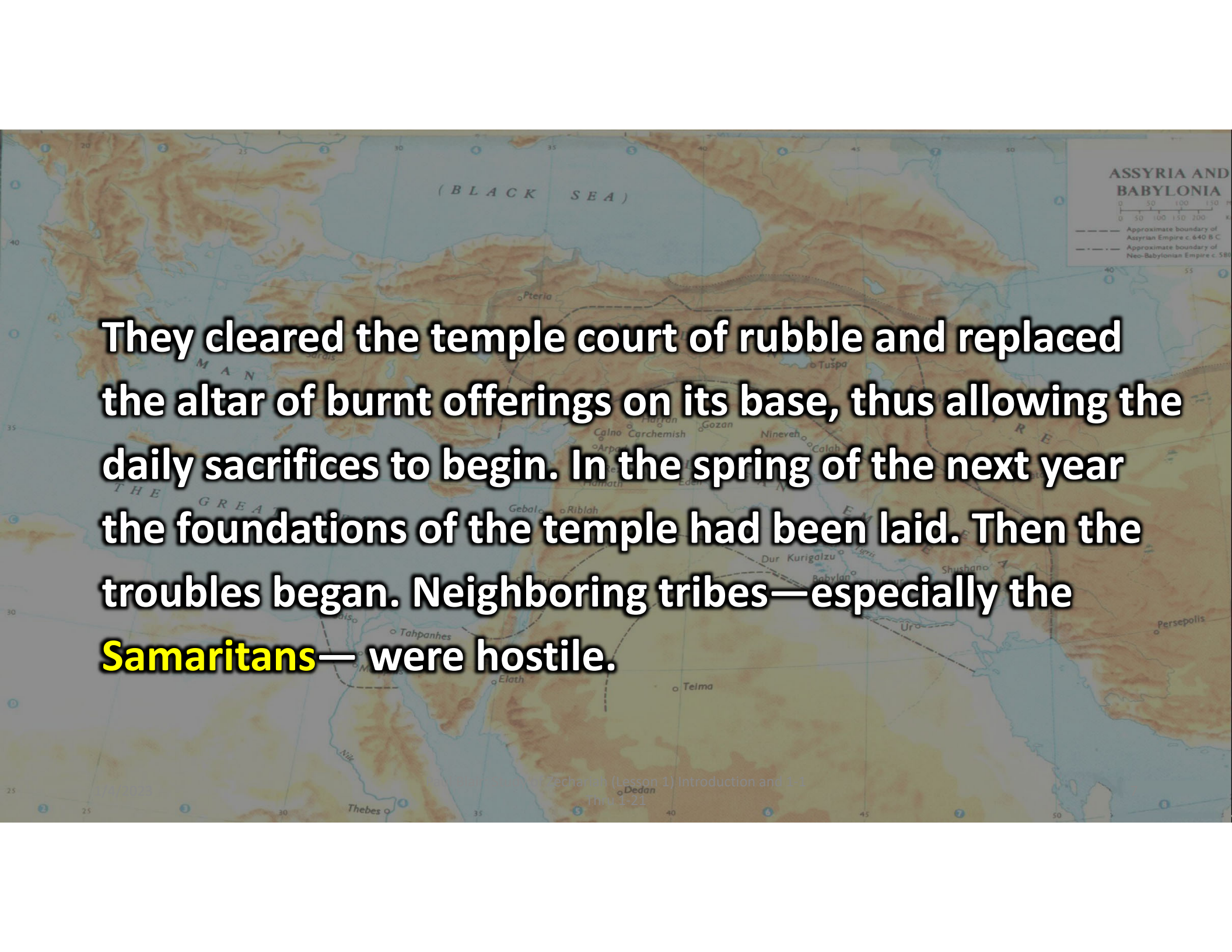
For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

Jeremiah

A historical map of the region of Assyria and Babylonia, showing the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the Persian Gulf, and the Black Sea. The map includes labels for various cities and regions, such as Nineveh, Babylon, and Persia. A legend in the top right corner identifies the approximate boundaries of the Assyrian Empire (c. 640 B.C.) and the Neo-Babylonian Empire (c. 580 B.C.).

536 BC - The Persian emperor, Cyrus, had issued a decree permitting the Jewish exiles in Babylon to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (cf. Ezra 1:2-4). About 50,000* returned under the newly appointed governor of Judah, Zerubbabel (also called Shesbazzar) and Joshua, the high priest. It is likely that Zerubbabel had already worked in the king's court.

(*Only 49,897: 42,360, plus 7,337 servants and 200 singers.)



They cleared the temple court of rubble and replaced the altar of burnt offerings on its base, thus allowing the daily sacrifices to begin. In the spring of the next year the foundations of the temple had been laid. Then the troubles began. Neighboring tribes—especially the **Samaritans**—were hostile.

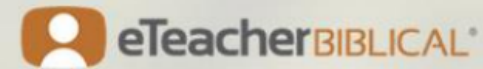
Sargon II and Samaria

When King Sargon II conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BCE he led many Israelites into slavery to Babylon. To insure loyalty Samaria was populated with inhabitants of city of Cutha (40 miles north of Babylon).



The people of ancient Near East believed that each land has its own deities attached to it and it was normal for settlers to adopt local gods. When new settlers from Babylon experienced hardships, a priest was brought back from the Assyrian Empire to teach them how to worship the God of Israel.

Cuthians and Israel's God



24 The **king of Assyria brought men from Babylon and from Cuthah** and from Avva and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and **settled them in the cities of Samaria** in place of the sons of Israel... 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Take there one of the priests whom you carried away into exile and let him go and live there; and **let him teach them the custom of the god of the land.**" 28 So one of the priests whom they had carried away into exile from Samaria came and lived at Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord. 29 But **every nation still made gods of its own** and put them in the houses of the high places which **the people of Samaria** had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived. (2 Kings 17: 24,27-29)

Samaritan Israelites

Lunar and Solar Calendar

Mt. Gerizim (near Shechem) is the sacred mountain/center of the world

Sacred Texts: Torah
(Only Five Books of Moses)

Ancient Hebrew Script
(Paleo-
Hebrew/Phoenician
influenced)

Judean Israelites

Typically Lunar Calendar

Mt. Zion (Jerusalem) is the sacred mountain/center of the world

Sacred Texts: Hebrew Bible
(Torah, Prophets, Writings)

Square Hebrew Script
(Persian/Aramaic
influenced)





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1-1 Thru 1-21)

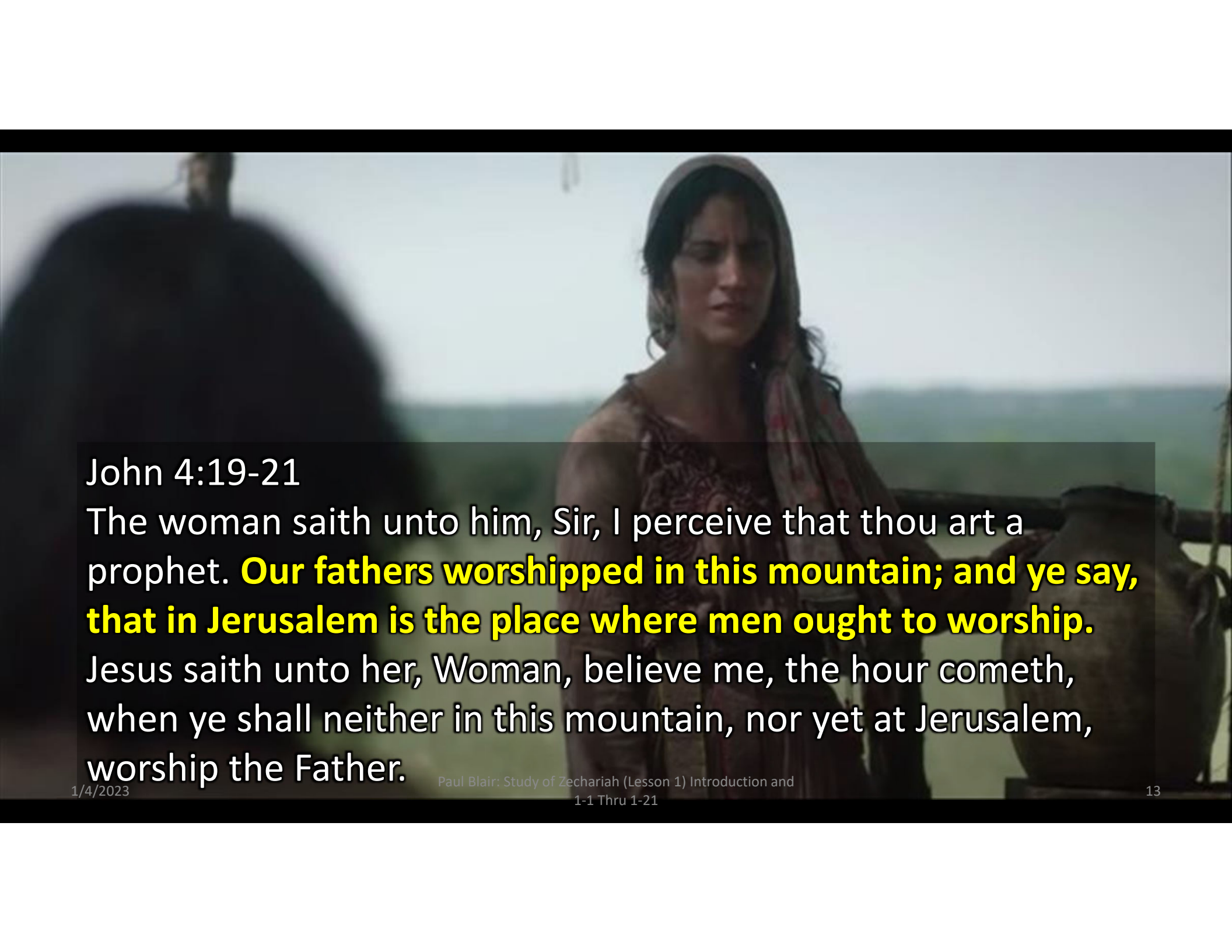
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1-1 Thru 1:21

12



John 4:19-21

The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. **Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.**

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Terminology

29 But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the houses of the high places which the **people of Samaria** (הַשְׁמֶרֹנִים) had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived. (2 Kings 17: 29)

It is reasonable to assume that **some** of the local Israelite population in Samaria mixed with newcomers, **but not all** of them did.

שְׁמֶרֹנִים

Inhabitants of Shomron

שְׁמֶרֹן (city of Samaria)

According to Samaritan Israelites **Shomronim** was the name given to outsiders who settled in the area. LXX translated this word as

οἱ Σαμαρῖται
(hoi Samatiai)

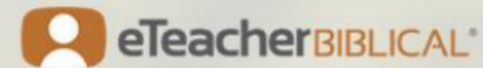
Rebuilding the Temple

Not all Israelites were led into captivity by Sargon II. Some remained in Northern Israel, retained their identity, preserved their ancestral ways and their hereditary connection to their forefather Jacob.

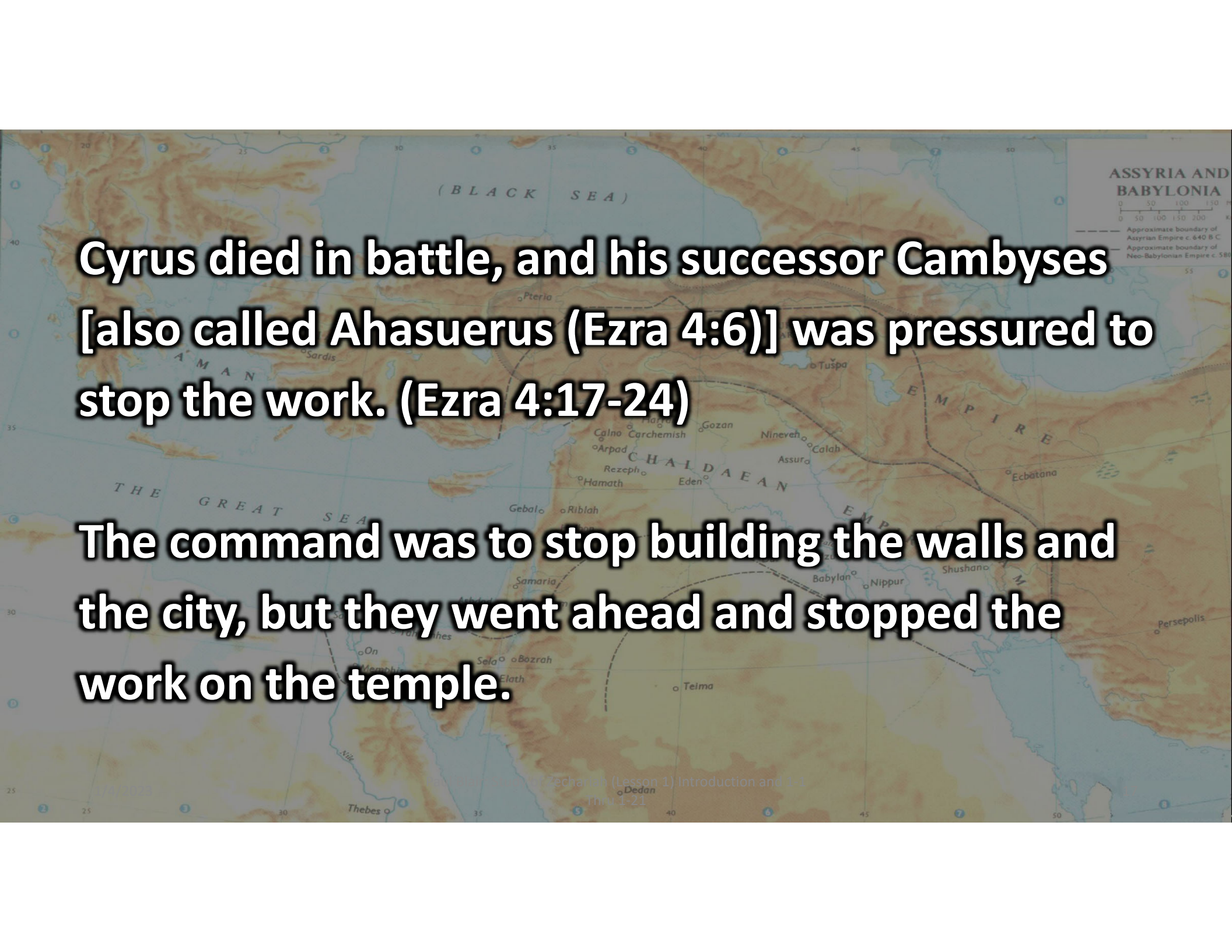
Israelite worship that developed in the Northern Kingdom included the rejection of Jerusalem and Davidic dynasty. **These Israelites would not offer help to Judeans in rebuilding their temple.** The offer came from the new foreign settlers.



Rebuilding the Temple



1 Now when **the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin** heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the Lord, the God of Israel, 2 they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them, **"Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here."** 3 But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, **"You have nothing to do with us** in building a house to our God..." (Ezra 4: 1-3)

A historical map of the ancient Near East, specifically focusing on Assyria and Babylonia. The map shows the Black Sea to the north and the Persian Gulf to the south. Key cities like Nineveh, Assur, Babylon, and Susa are marked. Dashed lines indicate the boundaries of the Assyrian Empire around 640 B.C. and the Neo-Babylonian Empire around 580 B.C. The map is titled 'ASSYRIA AND BABYLONIA' in the top right corner.

**Cyrus died in battle, and his successor Cambyses
[also called Ahasuerus (Ezra 4:6)] was pressured to
stop the work. (Ezra 4:17-24)**

**The command was to stop building the walls and
the city, but they went ahead and stopped the
work on the temple.**



Cyrus Command:

Ezra 1:3

Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and **build the house of the Lord God of Israel**, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.

Ahasuerus New Concern:

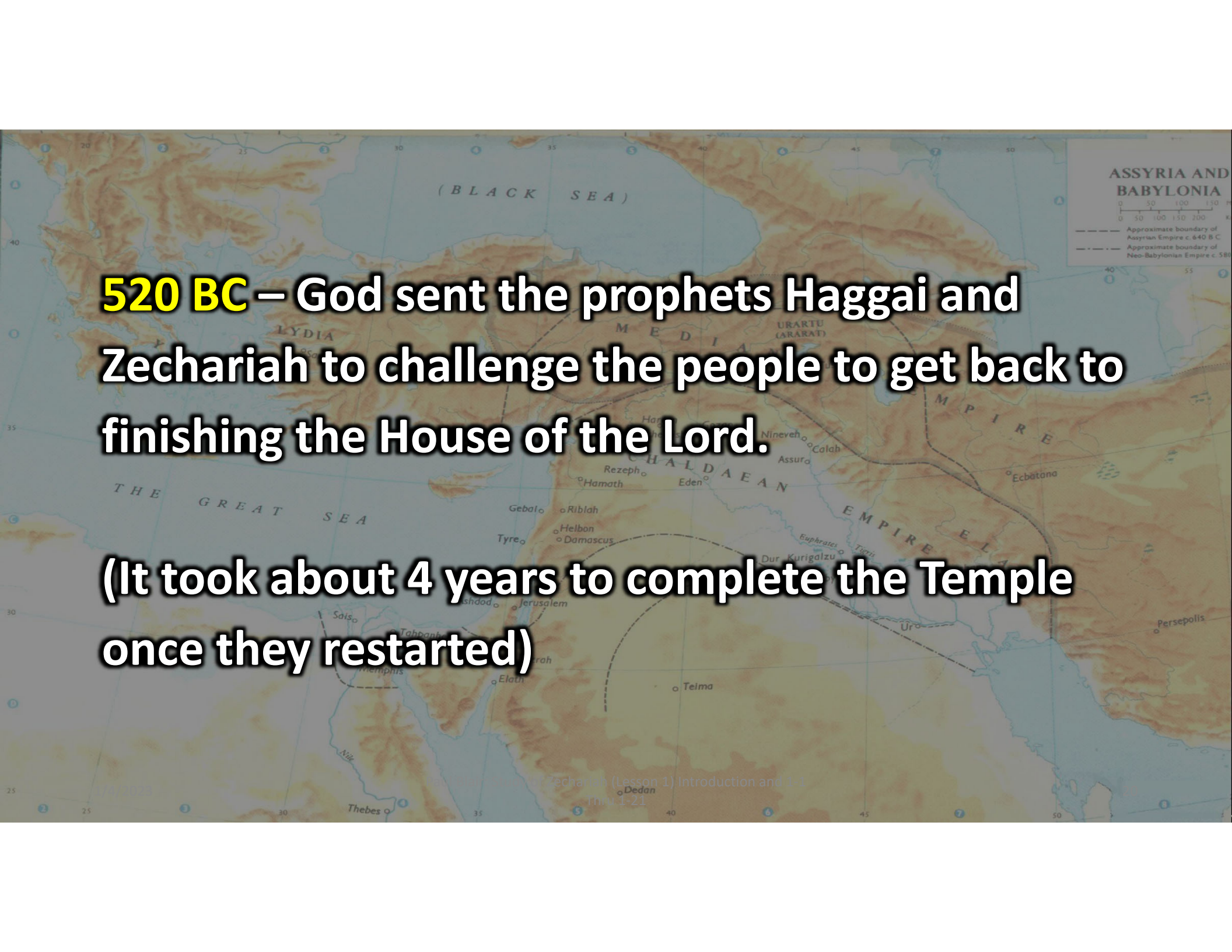
Ezra 4:21

Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that **this city be not builded**, until another commandment shall be given from me.

A historical map of the Near East, specifically focusing on the regions of Assyria and Babylonia. The map shows the Black Sea to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the west, and the Persian Gulf to the south. Key geographical features include the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the Nile river, and various mountain ranges. Major cities and regions are labeled, including Lydia, Media, Urartu (Ararat), Assyria, and Babylonia. The map also shows the approximate boundaries of the Assyrian Empire around 640 B.C. and the Neo-Babylonian Empire around 580 B.C. The text is overlaid on the map, providing context for the historical events described.

When the work ceased for 14-17 years.

The people returned to their private affairs, and gradually became accustomed to worshiping among the ruins of the once-great temple. The desire to rebuild died out and they became reconciled to remaining the secular occupants in an impoverished land.

A historical map of the Near East, specifically focusing on the regions of Assyria and Babylonia. The map shows the Black Sea to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the west, and the Persian Gulf to the south. Key geographical features include the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the Persian Empire, the Median Empire, and the Chaldean Empire. Major cities like Nineveh, Assur, Babylon, and Jerusalem are marked. A legend in the top right corner identifies the approximate boundaries of the Assyrian Empire (c. 640 B.C.) and the Neo-Babylonian Empire (c. 580 B.C.).

520 BC – God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to challenge the people to get back to finishing the House of the Lord.

(It took about 4 years to complete the Temple once they restarted)

Order of revelations:

- **Month 1** – Haggai – Rebuild (1:1) (2nd Year of Darius, 6 mo. 1st day)
- **Month 2** – Haggai – Encouragement (2:1) (7 mo. 21st day)
- **Month 3** – Zechariah – Get with it (Zech 1:1-6) (8 mo.)
- **Month 4** – Haggai – Confirmation (9 mo. 24th day)
- **19 months later** – Zechariah's Eight visions in one night



458BC – Ezra the priest led a group back to Jerusalem resulting in a Spiritual Revival among the people and priesthood.

444 BC – Nehemiah, the cupbearer to the King (Artaxerxes) heard about the deplorable condition of the city (some 13 years after Ezra's return) and led a group that completed the rebuilding of the walls and streets of the city. (Malachi was apparently a contemporary of Nehemiah)



606 BC – Jerusalem Conquered

597 & 587 BC – Jerusalem
Destroyed

536 BC – Cyrus gives command to
rebuild. Zerubbabel leads 50,000+

Altar rebuilt
Foundation laid

Haggai
Zechariah

Temple Finished – 516 BC

458 BC - Ezra

444 BC –Nehemiah

Haggai reproved the people for their failure to rebuild the temple.

Zechariah encouraged the people by presenting to them the coming glory of the Messiah.

Zechariah will have series of visions, eight/ten of which occur in one night, early in his ministry. More will follow late in his life. The visions predict the:

- **Overthrow of Gentile world powers**
- **The judgment of apostate Jews**
- **The cleansing restoration and glory of a remnant**
- **The future prosperity of Jerusalem.**
- He also presents the King entering Jerusalem humbly on an ass, betrayed and rejected for 30 pieces of silver, smitten as the good shepherd, returning in power on the Mt. of Olives to rule the world.

- Month 1 – Haggai – Rebuild (1:1) (2nd Year of Darius, 6th mo. 1st day)
- Month 2 – Haggai – Encouragement (2:1) (7th mo. 21st day)
- Month 3 – Zechariah – Get with it (Zechariah 1:1-6) (8th mo.)
- ~~Month 4 – Haggai – (9th mo. 24th day)~~
- 19 months later – Zechariah’s ten visions (Ch.1:7-Ch. 8)
- ?? – Later Messianic and apocalyptic prophecies

Zech 1:1-2

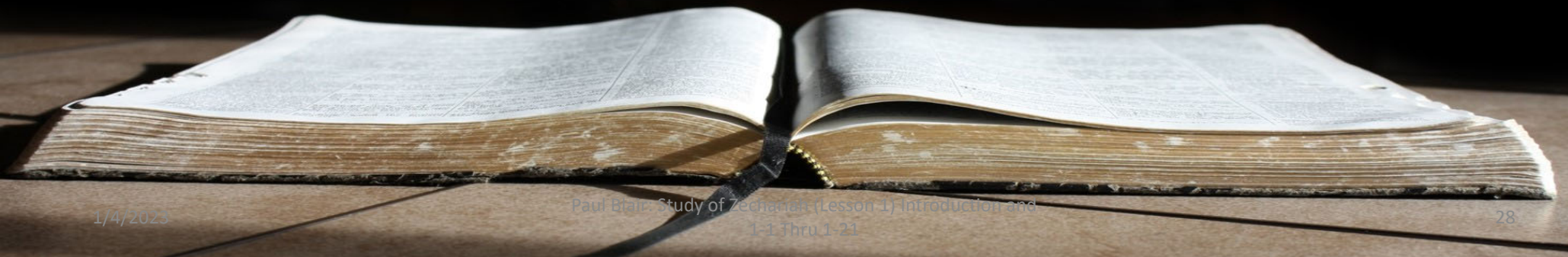
1 In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord unto **Zechariah**, the son of **Berechiah**, the son of **Iddo** the prophet, saying,

2 The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers.



3 Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.

4 Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; **Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings:** but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the Lord.



Sh'ma Yisrael (Shema)

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד:

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your might.*

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Links for OT:8085

1/4/2023

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OT:8085 (Strong's)

OT:8085 שָׁמָע **shama`** (shaw-mah'); a primitive root; to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience, etc.; causatively, to tell, etc.):

KJV - ^x attentively, call (gather) together, ^x carefully, ^x certainly, consent, consider, be content, declare, ^x diligently, discern, give ear, (cause to, let, make to) hear (-ken, tell), ^x indeed, listen, make (a) noise, (be) obedient, obey, perceive, (make a) proclaim (-ation), publish, regard, report, shew (forth), (make a) sound, ^x surely, tell, understand, whosoever [heareth], witness.

OT:8086 שָׁמָע **shema`** (Aramaic) (shem-ah'); corresponding to OT:8085:

KJV - hear, obey.

OT:8087 שָׁמָע **Shema`** (sheh'-mah); for the same as OT:8088; Shema, the name of a place in Palestine and of four Israelites:

KJV - Shema.

OT:8088 שָׁמָע **shema`** (shay'-mah); from OT:8085; something heard, i.e. a sound, rumor, announcement; abstractly, audience.

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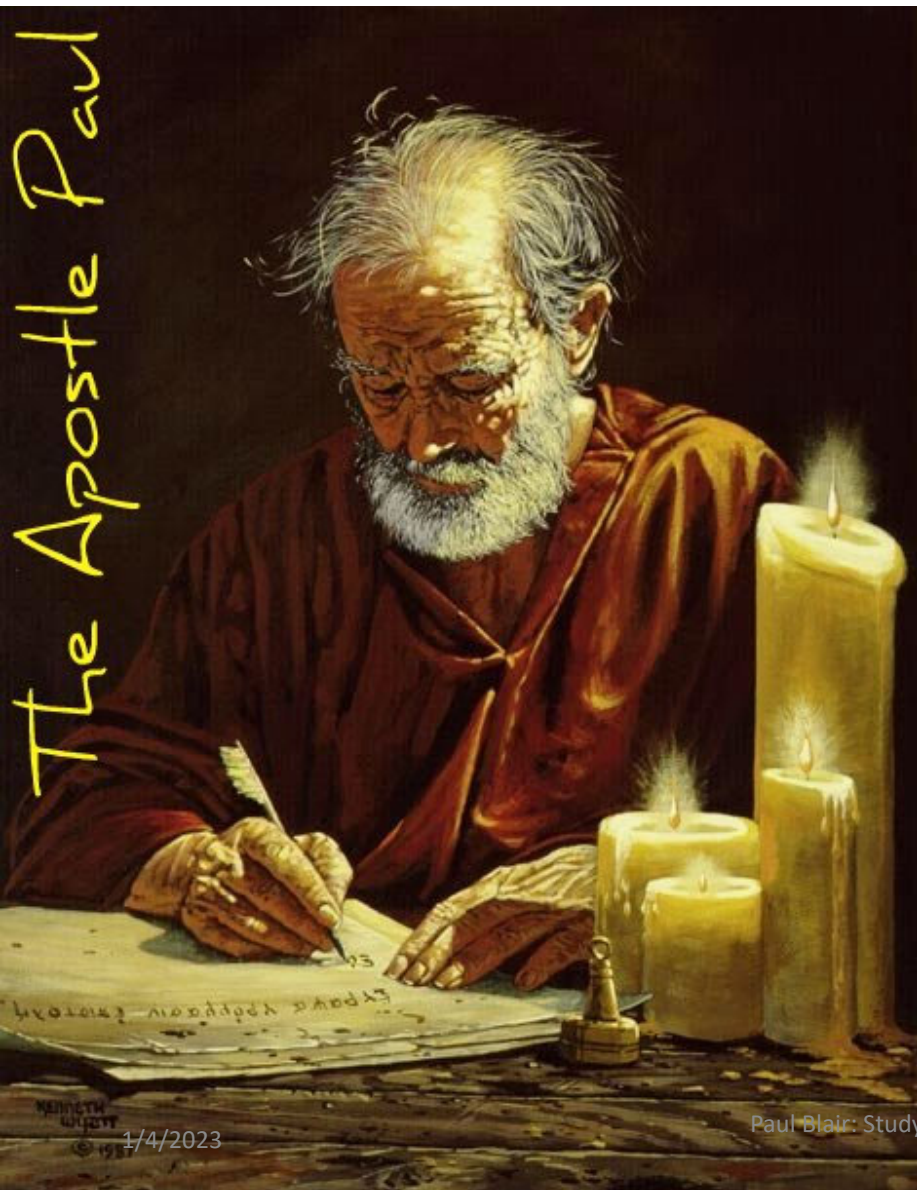
Charges Against Judah:

- Dishonest in Business
- Ignored Sabbatical Release
- Unjust weights and measures
- Removed landmarks
- Bribed judges
- Leaders fed off of the flock rather than caring for it
- Disrespectful to parents and elders.
- Didn't care for their family
- They lived for revelry and drunken parties.
- They murdered their children.
- Religion became big business.
- They were no longer ashamed of immorality even CELEBRATING homosexuality and paraded and reveled in their debauchery.
- Things that common sense and God said was evil, they called good.
- Things that experience and common sense and God called good, they called evil.
- They were proud and arrogant
- Their court system became corrupt
- The government was corrupt
- They denied and abandoned God
- They went through the motions of religion – “Look! We have the Temple.”

Jeremiah 7:4-5

4 But don't be fooled by those who promise you safety simply because the Lord's Temple is here. They chant, *"The Lord's Temple is here! The Lord's Temple is here!"*





Eph. 4:11-12

And he gave some, apostles;
and some, prophets; and
some, **evangelists**; and
some, **pastors** and **teachers**;
*For the perfecting of the
saints, for the work of the
ministry, for the edifying of
the body of Christ:*

“I only preach the gospel...”

- Jesus of Nazareth IS the promised Messiah
- Proper government
- Taxes
- Proper sexuality
- Sexual sin
- Homosexual sin
- Marriage
- Circumcision
- Church Discipline
- Work and Work Ethic
- Integrity as business owners
- Charity
- Church organization
- Care for widows & orphans
- Handling disputes
- Pride/humility/forgiveness
- Gossip
- Cultural issues – dress, hairstyles, clean & unclean food
- Proper doctrine
- Eschatology, etc., etc.

Matt 28:19

Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

Acts 11:26

And the *disciples* were called **Christians** first in Antioch

NT:5546 Χριστιανός **Christianos** (khris-tee-an-os'); from NT:5547; a Christian, i.e. follower of Christ:

KJV - Christian.

5 Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?

6 But **my words and my statutes**, which I commanded my servants the prophets, **did they not take hold of your fathers?** and they returned and said, Like as the Lord of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.



Zech 1:7-8

7 Upon the four and twentieth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Sebat, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

8 I **saw** (*not a dream, a vision*) by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the **myrtle trees** (**Hadassah/“Esther”**) that were in the bottom (*subjugated*); and behind him were there red horses, speckled, and white.



Zech 1:9-10

9 Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be.

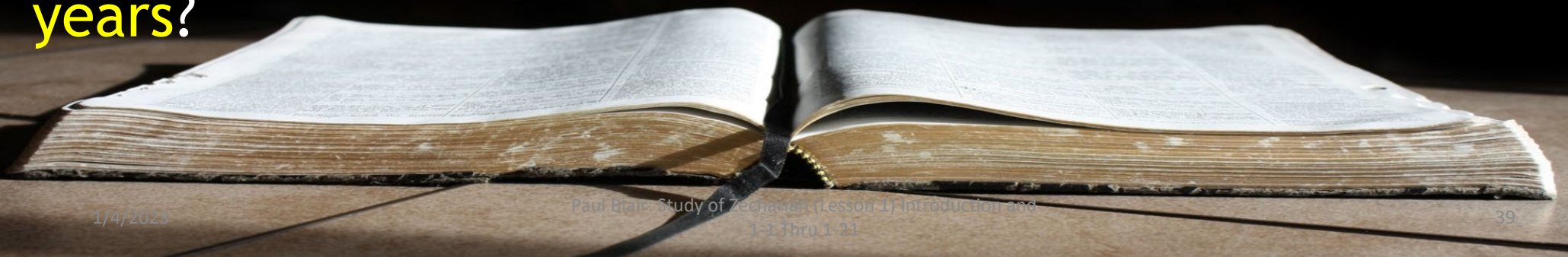
10 And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, **These are they whom the Lord hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth.**



Zech 1:11-12

¹¹ And they answered the angel of the Lord that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.

¹² Then the angel of the Lord answered and said, **O Lord of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?**



Zech 1:13-15

¹³ And the Lord answered the angel that talked with me with good words and comfortable words.

¹⁴ So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; **I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.**

¹⁵ And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

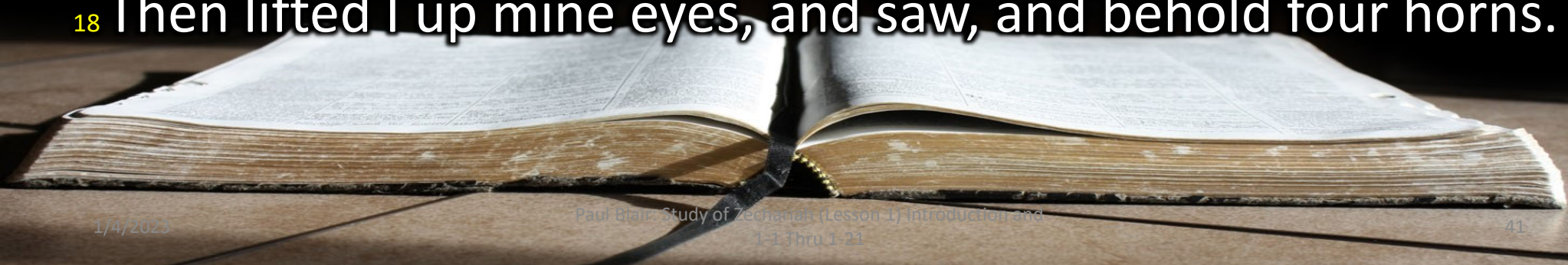


Zech 1:16-18

16 Therefore thus saith the Lord; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the Lord of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem.

17 Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the **Lord of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.**

18 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and behold four horns.



Zech 1:19-21

¹⁹ And I said unto the angel that talked with me, What be these? And he answered me, **These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.**

²⁰ And the Lord shewed me four carpenters.

²¹ Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it.