

TAKE — THE — GAP

ONE HOPE **STELLENBOSCH**



PARALLEL DESIGN

1. PERSIAN KING MOVED BY GOD TO SEND A LEADER TO JERUSALEM

2. LEADER FACES OPPOSITION TO REBUILDING

3. STRANGE ANTI-CLIMAX

EZRA 1-6 ZERUBBABEL THE TEMPLE

WHICHEVER WANTS TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM, MAY GOD BE WITH YOU! (EZEKIEL 25)

ZERUBBABEL: "PLANTED IN BABYLON"

1-2

3-6

GOD'S PRESENCE?

YOU HAVE NO PART IN THE TEMPLE!

WE DON'T WANT TO HELP!

ISRAELITES WHO NEVER WENT INTO EXILE

THE END

EZRA 7-10 EZRA FOR THE COMMUNITY

GO TEACH THE TORAH AND REBUILD YOUR COMMUNITY!

1-8

9-10

THESE PEOPLE ARE AS WISE AS CHILDREN!

GOD NEVER COMMANDS EZRA TO DO THIS

GOD OPPOSES DIVORCE (SEE MALACHI 2:13-16)

MIXED RESULTS LEAD TO ANOTHER ANTI-CLIMAX

DEUTERONOMY 23:1-9

YOU HAVE NO PART IN ISRAEL!

THE END

NEW 1-7 NEHEMIAH CITY WALLS

MAY I GO REPAIR JERUSALEM'S WALLS?

YES! GO IN PEACE!

YOU HAVE NO PART IN JERUSALEM!

THE END

50 YEARS LATER

PROPHETIC HOPES AFTER EXILE

- FUTURE MESSIANIC KING (ISAIAH 11; HOSEA 3)
- GOD'S PRESENCE IN A NEW TEMPLE (EZEKIEL 40-48; ZECHARIAH 2)
- GOD'S KINGDOM OVER THE NATIONS (ISAIAH 2; ZECHARIAH 8)

THE FULL DRAUGHT TO ABRAHAM

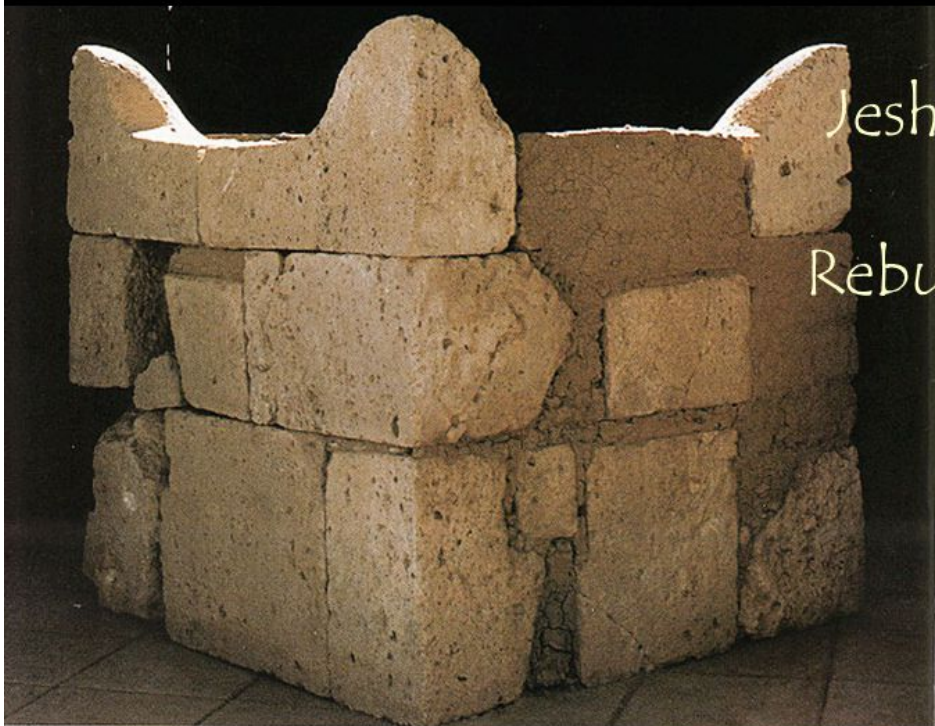
Zerubbabel the Governor

Jeshua the Priest

Rebuild the Altar

ca. 538 BC

Ezra 3:1-3



ONE HOPE

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אברהם יצחק ויהודה נפטר
ביום חמישי כ"ב אלול ה'תשנ"ב
בבית הקברות הרחוק
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"If one remembered a sabbath with bad deeds
is in vain. Rabbi Yehuda says: If a person
remembers the sabbath, it is rewarded."





ONE HOPE

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EZRA 4:1-5

Opposition to the Rebuilding

¹When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the Lord, the God of Israel, ²they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, “Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here.”

³But Zerubbabel, Joshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, “You have no part with us in building a temple to our God.

EZRA 4:1-5

We alone will build it for the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us.”

⁴Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building.⁵They bribed officials to work against them and frustrate their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia.

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Who are “the enemies of Judah and Benjamin” or “the people around”?

2 KINGS 17:24-33

²⁴The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Kuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its towns. ²⁵When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lord; so he sent lions among them and they killed some of the people. ²⁶It was reported to the king of Assyria: “The people you deported and resettled in the towns of Samaria do not know what the god of that country requires. He has sent lions among them, which are killing them off, because the people do not know what he requires.”

2 KINGS 17:24-33

²⁷Then the king of Assyria gave this order: “Have one of the priests you took captive from Samaria go back to live there and teach the people what the god of the land requires.” ²⁸So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the Lord.

²⁹Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places. ³⁰The people from Babylon made Sukkoth Benoth, those from Kuthah made Nergal, and those from Hamath made Ashima;

2 KINGS 17:24-33

³¹the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelek and Anammelek, the gods of Sepharvaim. ³²They worshiped the Lord, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to officiate for them as priests in the shrines at the high places. ³³They worshiped the Lord, but they also served their own gods in accordance with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought.

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CLUE #1

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CLUE #1

Their response created unnecessary opposition

CLUE #2

They entered self preservation mode

EZRA 1:3-4

³Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. ⁴And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.’”

WAS THIS A MISSED OPPORTUNITY?

CLUE #1

Their response created unnecessary opposition

CLUE #2

They entered self preservation mode

CLUE #3

They forgot their original mandate

ZECHARIAH 2:10-11

¹⁰“Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,” declares the Lord. ¹¹“Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.