

TIME WARP TO DAYS OF EZRA

- Ezra did not rebuild the Temple. It was completed 30 years earlier
- Getting the Temple rebuilt accomplished through goading by Prophets Haggai and Zechariah
- Political pressures and threats were to be ignored
- Today, Israel's political leaders won't rebuild Temple due to political pressures and threats
- August 2014, Gaza War is underway partly as consequence of sins from a time in the past



THE REAL CAUSE OF IT ALL

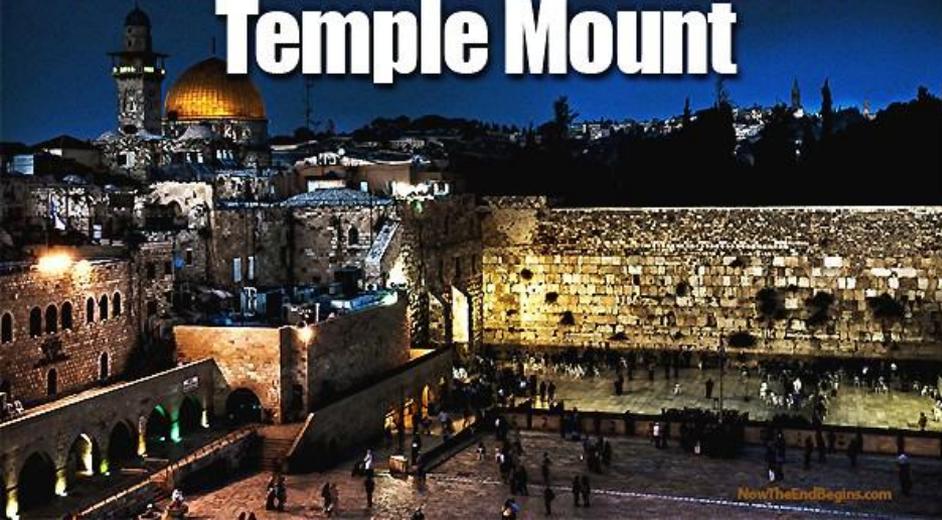
- Judges 2: 1- 4, 20 – 23
- Judges 3: 1 – 5
- Northern Canaan coast
- Mt. Herman to Lebanon
- Southern Canaan coast
- Palestinians = Greek for Philistines
- Israel in the same fix as their ancestors
- What can change that situation?
- Zech. 1:1 - 6



SINCERE RETURN TO GOD IS REQUIRED



Israel Bans Jews From Temple Mount



- Haggai 2:15 – 22
- Visible, tangible sign of return is to rebuild the Temple !
- God says when Temple is rebuilt, blessing will flow and tribulation will stop
- Islam has emerged as Israel's true enemy
- Temple Mount open to Muslims, closed to Jews

NO GOD-SENT PROPHETS TO ISRAEL IN RECENT TIMES

- No more divine instruction or warning is needed, or is likely coming
- Israel must choose now: obey or disobey what has been written
- Christians and Messianics must whole-heartedly stand with Israel
- Prophecy seems to say that it will be the Anti-Christ who facilitates rebuilding of the Temple (but that's not certain)

WE STAND



WITH ISRAEL

**"I will bless those who bless you,
and I will curse him who curses you.**

**In you will all of the families
of the earth be blessed."**

Genesis 12:3

EZRA IS A TRANSITIONAL FIGURE



- After Temple is built, Ezra journeys from Babel with authorization from Artaxerxes
- A hereditary priest, Ezra will operate above the Priesthood
- Ezra the first of a new office: Torah Teacher
- Job of knowing and teaching Torah is separated from the Priesthood





EZRA: PRIEST & SCRIBE

- *Caphar* = scribe
- *Hacaphar dabar mitzvot Yehoveh* = the scribe of the words of the commandments of YHWH
- Ezra a teacher of God's Laws, NOT of Tradition
- Although a priest, he won't perform priestly functions
- Has credibility to teach the Jews and to reform the Temple rituals



CATASTROPHIC STATE OF DENIAL

- Artaxerxes reiterates that anyone who wants to go to Judah is urged to
- Jews of Persia in Esther's day COULD have fled Haman, but didn't
- Jews before WWII COULD have left Germany, but didn't
- Jews of modern Europe CAN leave for Israel, but most aren't
- They see only with carnal eyes, and not spiritual reality
- Self-deception is the result



LEVITES

MUSICIANS
GUARDS
LABORERS
SINGERS
TEND FIRES
FILL WATER BASINS

ALL OTHER LEVITES



TRIBE OF LEVI

COMMON ISRAELITES



PRIESTS

THE KING TAKES NO CHANCES!



- Ezra to be the chief examiner of the Temple and Jewish society
- Were the Jews being properly Torah observant?
- Ezra must have become aware that what was being practiced in Judah wasn't right
- King gave Ezra a rich gift of gold and silver to take back to Judah for the Temple
- Artaxerxes believed in the power of all the gods in his empire, so he showed respect to them all

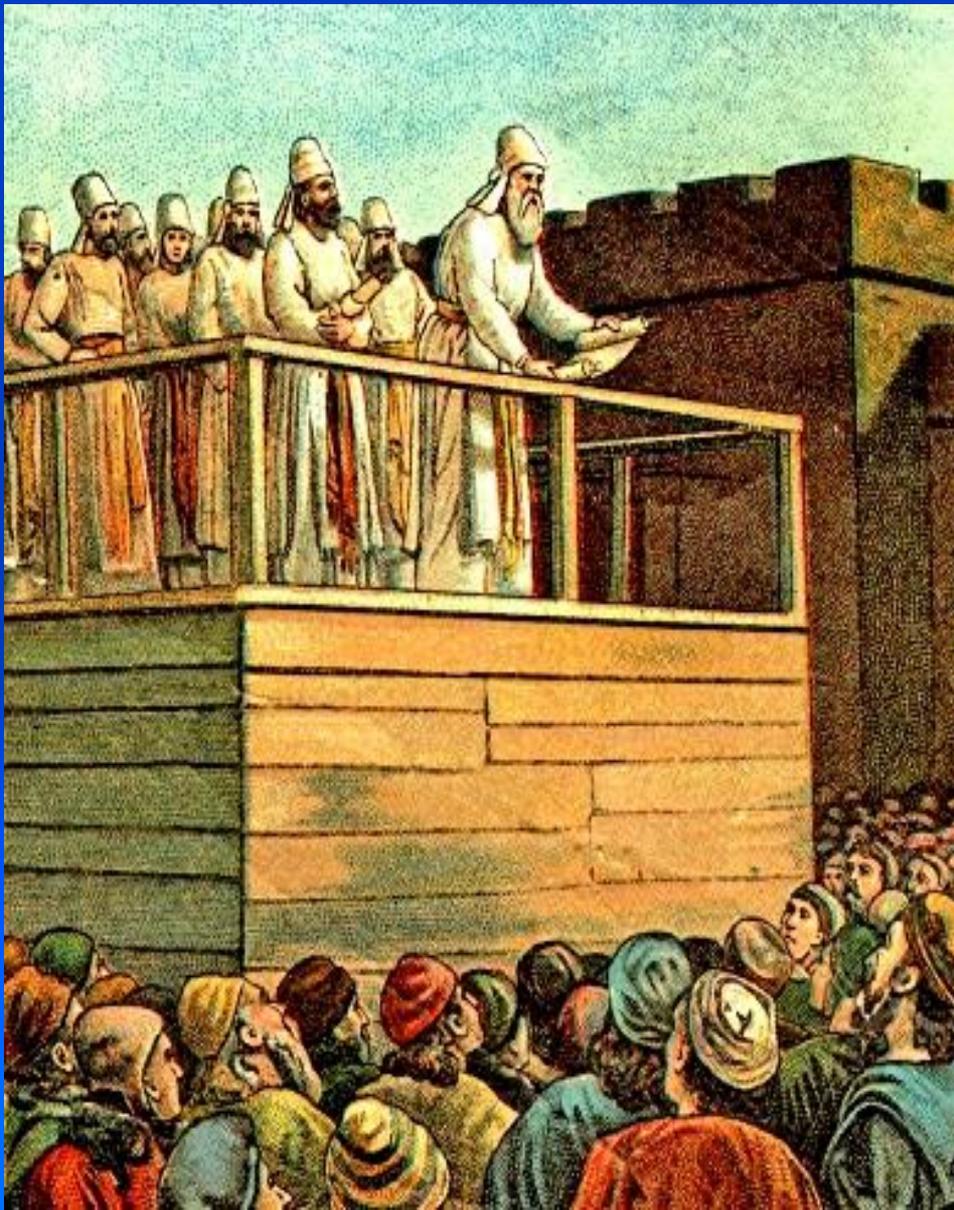


PERSIA

**JUDAH STRATEGICALLY
LOCATED**

JUDAH

THE LONG REACH OF EZRA



- Ezra is final authority over all Jews throughout the Beyond the River satrapy (not just Judah)
- King promises a curse on anyone who goes against Ezra or the King
- Ezra profusely praises the Lord for putting “such a thing as this” in the King’s heart (mind)
- God influenced the pagan gentile Artaxerxes
- The Lord is the Lord of ALL humanity, and influences anyone He deems may advance His will on earth !!