

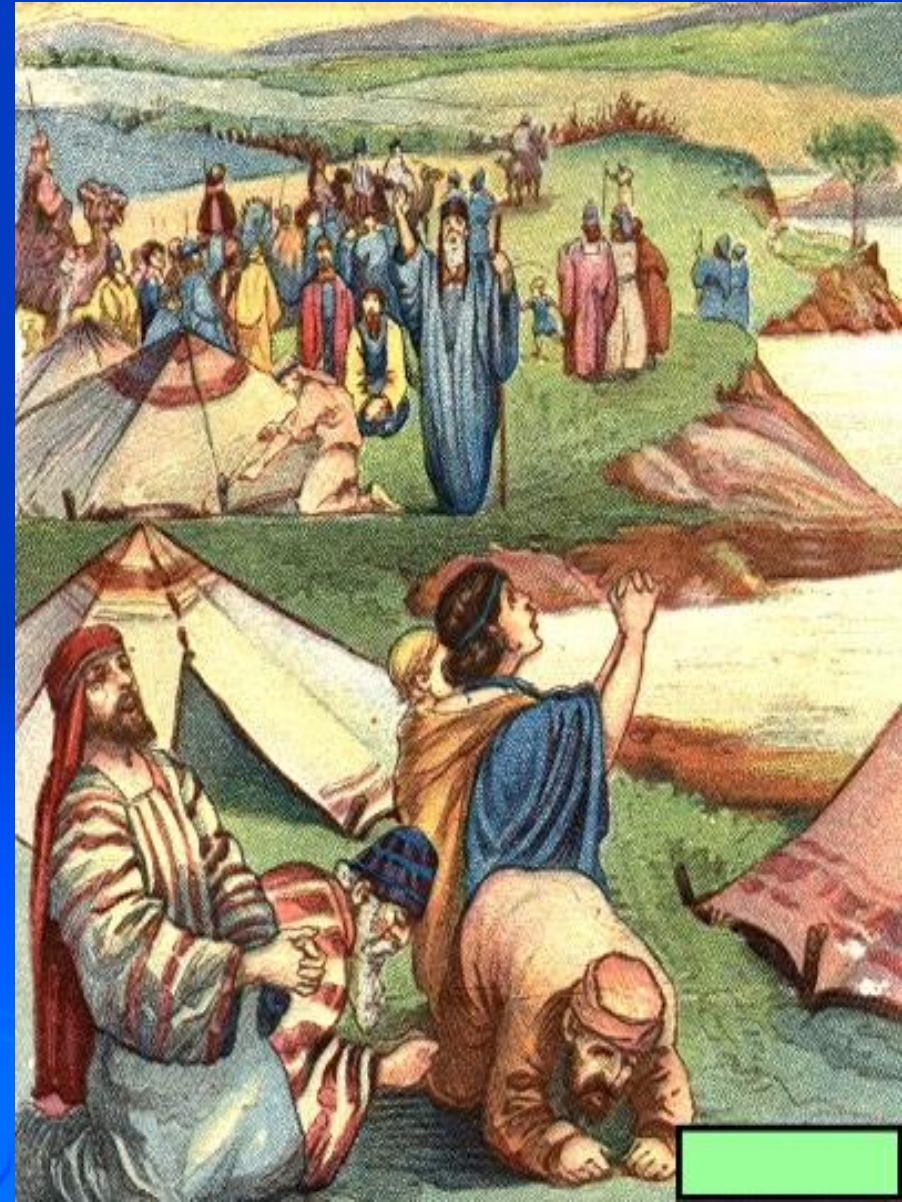


RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

- Ezra chapter 8
- Ezra organizing a caravan of 5,000 men, women, & children
- 458 B.C., the 7th year of King Artaxerxes
- The King has given Ezra authority to establish Torah Law in the Beyond the River satrapy among the Jewish people
- The Torah had become separated from the Jewish religion
- The Persian Kings were supportive of the Jews

WHY DID THEY WANT TO GO?

- Rallying point was the Ahava River
- Moving causes big disruptions so why did these families want to go?
- It had to be that the Spirit of God was upon them
- 2 Priestly families were anxious to serve at the Temple, even though they had never seen it
- Royal family represented by *Hatush* might have hoped that one day he would be King of Judah if he allied with Egypt



A RELIGIOUS MISSION



- 12 regular Jewish families went due to a spirit-driven zealousness to obedience
- Ezra's Torah teaching was the catalyst
- Matthew 7:13, 14
- Ezra proclaimed a fast with prayer to ask for a safe journey
- Ezra refused the offer of a military escort
- **Idealism** is based on human philosophies
- **Trust** is based on faith in the power of Our Lord

EZRA AS LEADER OF THE 2ND EXODUS



- High Priest family, common priest family, Levites, and 12 regular families were symbolic of the Exodus
- Moses received Law at a foreign place
- Ezra received Law at a foreign place
- Both led their respective groups out of captivity and to the Promised Land

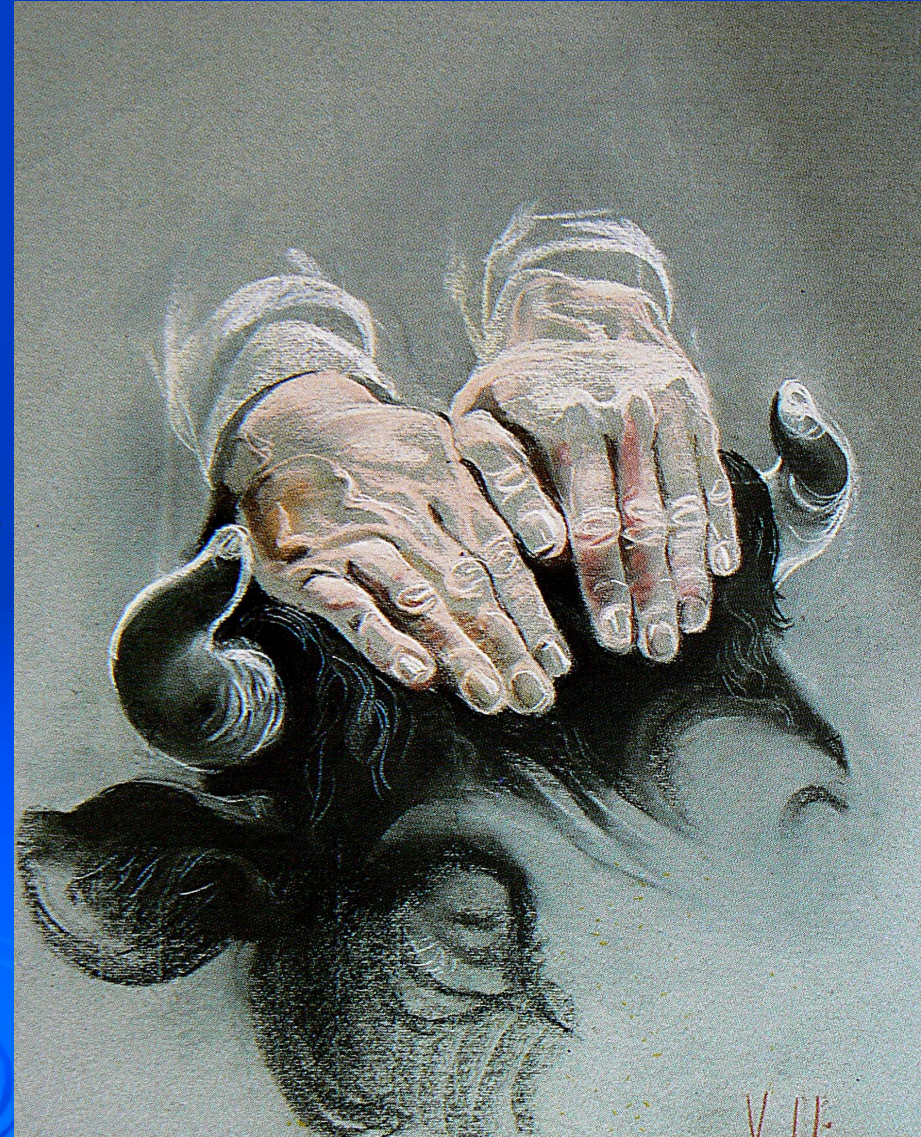
SAFEGUARDING THE GOLD AND SILVER

- Ezra consulted the Torah to see how to handle the gold and silver items
- 12 priests and 12 Levites were chosen to handle and transport the items
- Numbers 3, 4 requires ONLY Priests and Levites to handle items dedicated to the Temple
- Not likely 25 tons of gold and silver
- **Kikkar** is an undefined unit of weight
- A camel can carry 1000 lbs. short distances or 350 lbs. for long distances



DEDICATING THINGS TO GOD

- **God-Principle:** The instant a person DECIDES to dedicate something to God, the transfer occurs
- That item is then holy-fied
- It now becomes God's holy property
- Caravan left Ahava River on the 12th day of 1st month
- 4 ½ month journey
- **The number 12:** 12 bulls, 96 Rams (12 X 8), 12 goats
- 77 lambs, symbolic of the ideal divine number



EZRA'S CRUSADE AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED MARRIAGES



The Book of Ezra Chapter 9 - 10

- These chapters have caused severe heartburn among Christian scholars
- Prophet Malachi lived in about the same era
- Law of Moses and the Prophets are organically connected
- The Law presents the statutory rules and commands
- The Prophets deal with the spirit of the Law
- Yeshua demonstrates this in Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount

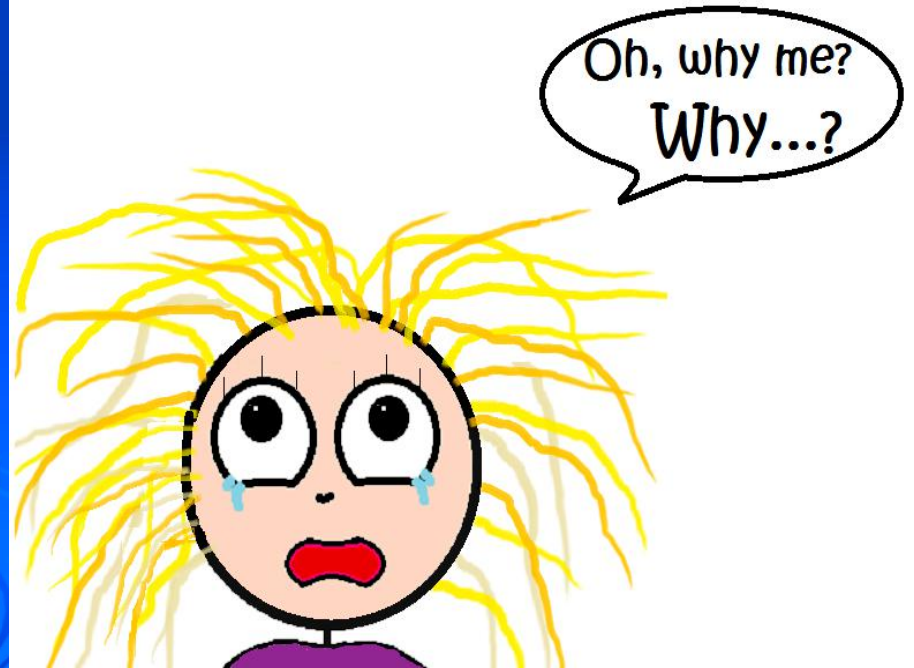
MALACHI CHAPTER 2



- For applying this to today, substitute Rabbi and Pastor for “Priest”
- Priests are not honoring God because they are not teaching His TRUE Torah
- Covenant of Levi is partially found in Numbers 3:5 – 13

BREAKING FAITH

- Judah broke faith with God BY marrying foreigners
- “Daughter of a foreign god”
- This means a foreigner who worships a different god
- Jews wonder “WHY?” bad things keep happening
- Don’t know God’s Torah, because the Priests don’t teach them
- God says: “ You say anyone doing **WRONG** is doing good in God’s eyes, and God delights in it !!”





WHERE THE
RUBBER
HITS THE ROAD

- It is the responsibility of Pastors and Rabbis to teach people GOD'S WORD
- NOT manmade doctrines, weak sayings, & social issues
- It is NOT OK to declare everything before Matthew to be irrelevant, even dangerous, it is an affront to the Lord
- Good becomes evil / evil becomes good, has become a foundational doctrine for many in institutional Judaism and Christianity
- Race and ethnicity is NOT the issue of Ezra 9 and 10
- Foreigners who worship false gods, becoming part of Hebrew families, is the issue