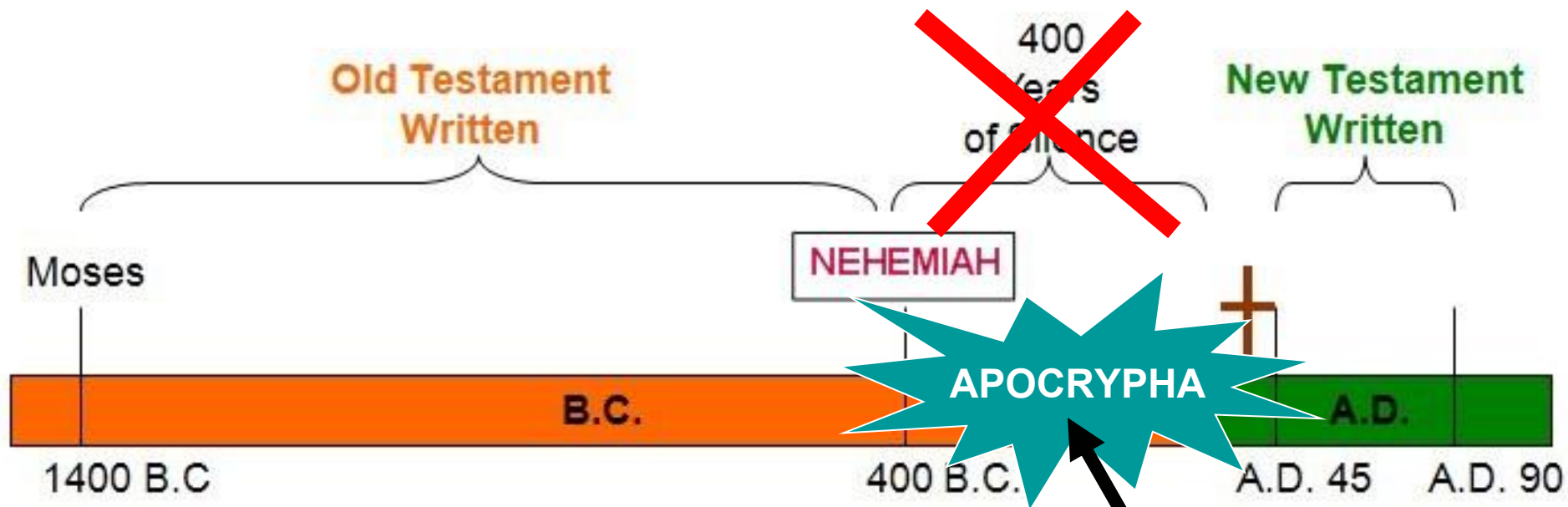




- Understanding the regional politics of the day is the key to understanding the Book of Nehemiah
- Egypt and other nations near Judah in constant rebellion
- King Artaxerxes needed to maintain the loyalty of the Jews in Judah, so he was greatly accommodating
- Persians had freed the Jews from the Babylonians, so there were good relations between them



- 15 books of the Apocrypha cover the “missing” 400 years
- History of the Hebrew people, truthful but of lesser divine inspiration
- KJ Version of 1611 contained the Apocrypha
- No evidence that Apocrypha ever considered as “Scripture”
- Important that Believers read it because it reveals the rise of Greek cultural influence on Judaism, later transferred to Christianity

TISHRI (CIVIL) CALENDAR YEAR

NEW
YEAR
BEGINS

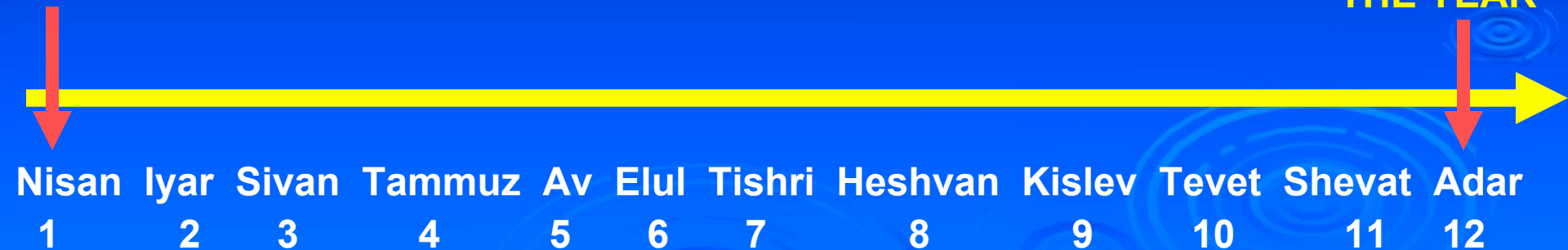
END OF
THE YEAR



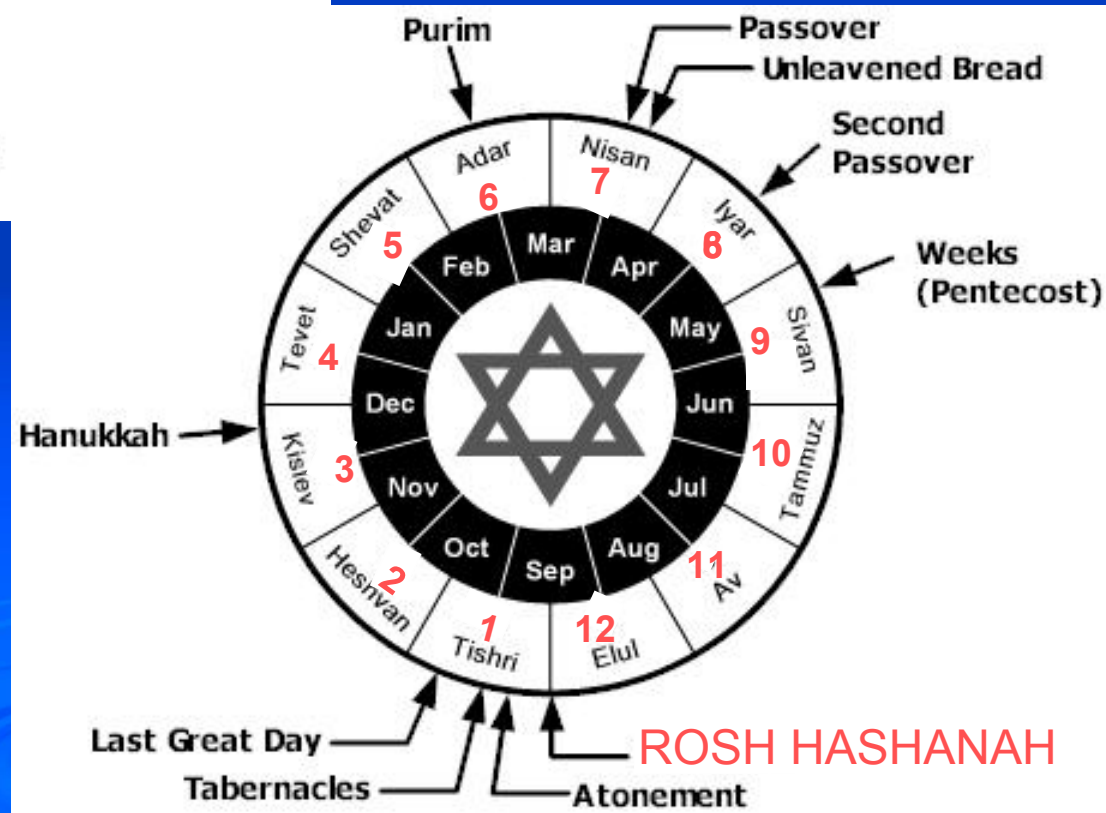
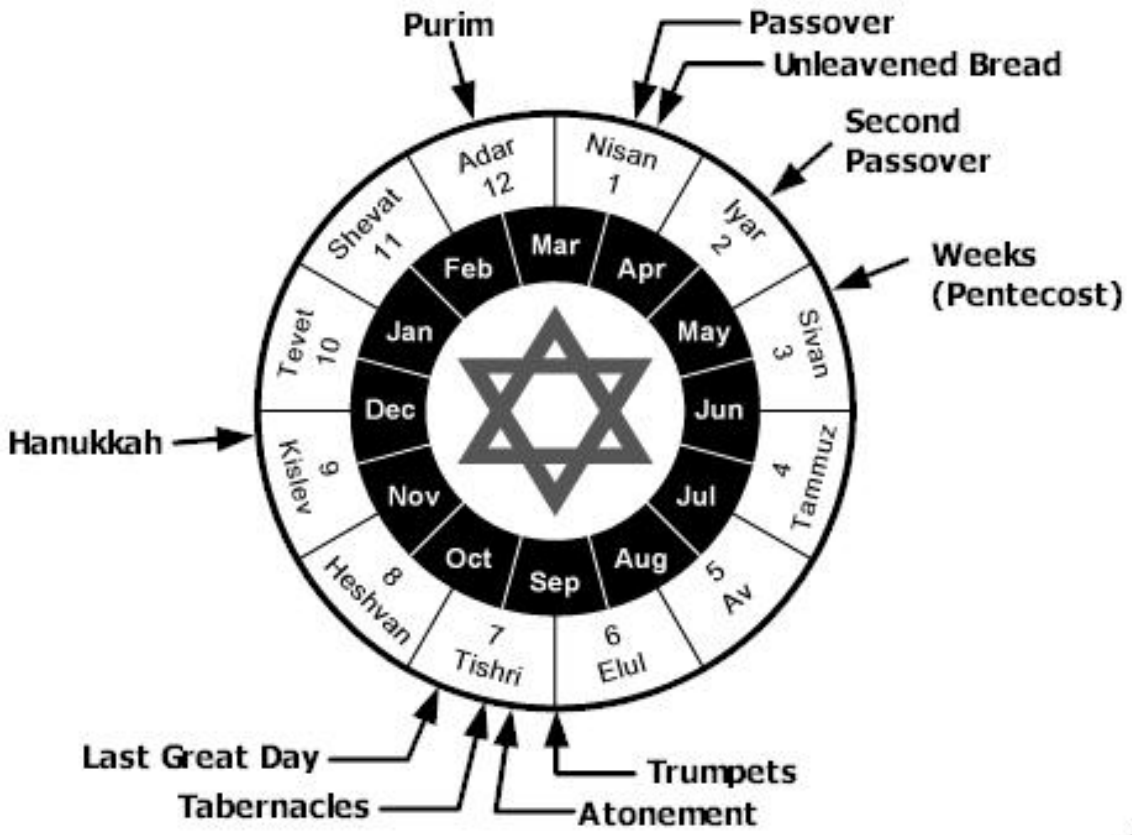
BIBLICAL (RELIGIOUS) CALENDAR YEAR

NEW YEAR
BEGINS

END OF
THE YEAR



BIBLICAL CALENDAR FEASTS



TISHRI CALENDAR FEASTS

NEHEMIAH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW
YEAR
BEGINS

END OF
THE YEAR

ARTAXERXES' 20TH YEAR

Tishri Heshvan Kislev Tevet Shevat Adar Nisan Iyar Sivan Tammuz Av Elul
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Nehemiah is told
Jerusalem's walls
still in ruin

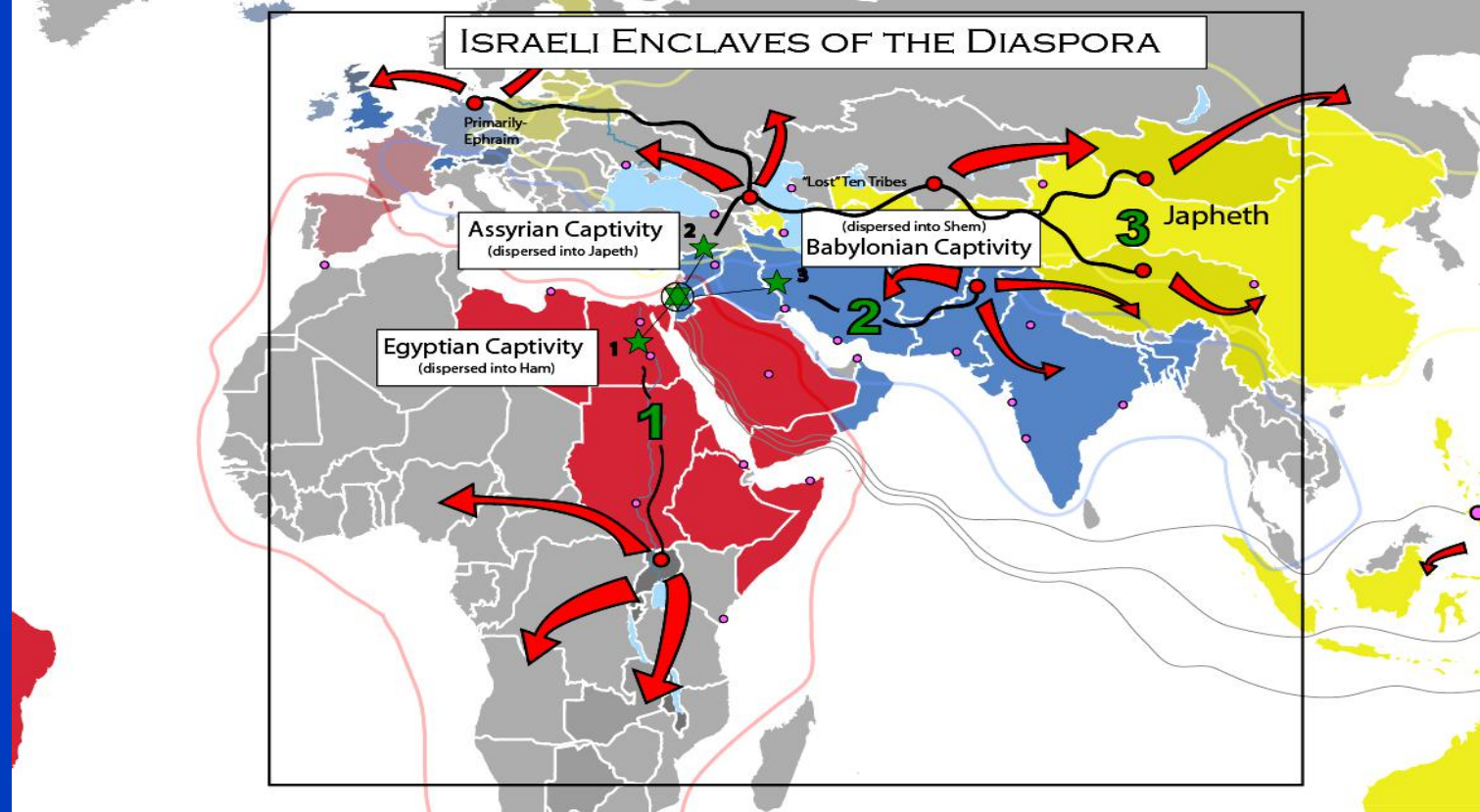
Nehemiah goes to the
King and asks to go
to Jerusalem

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER



- Born in Persia
- Not just “religious”, but knew the Torah
- “Please, *YHWH, Elohe ha’Shamayim...*”
- Based on God’s covenants and grace
- Despite living in a gentile world, with Jews embracing early Judaism, he turned to God’s commandments
- Many modern Believers beginning to do the same!!



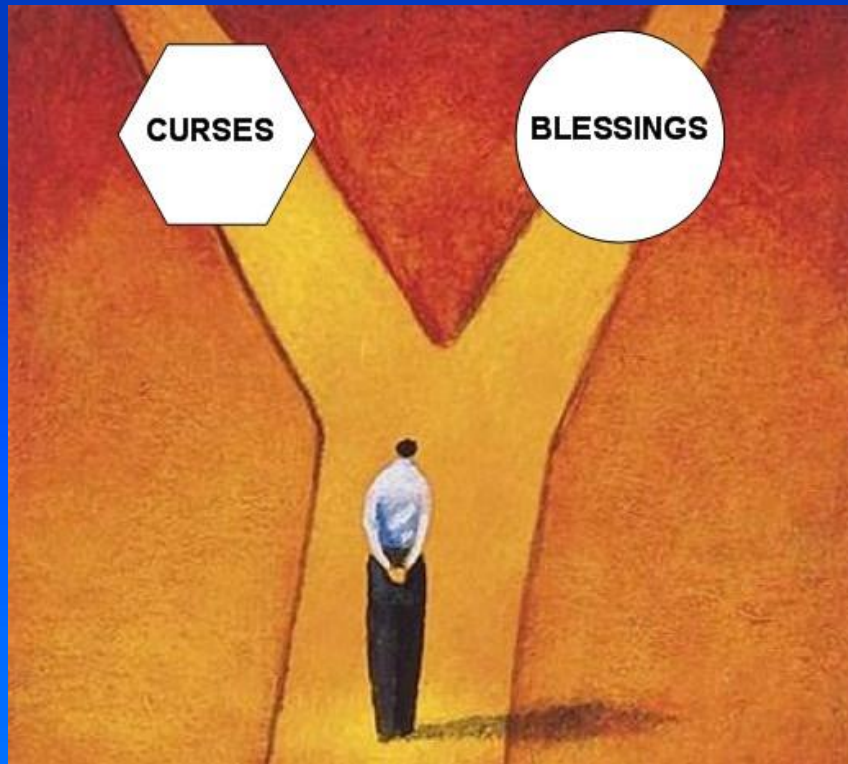


- Nehemiah identifies himself with Israel's sins
- Consequence of their sins was to be scattered throughout the nations
- Forgiveness was possible, however, if God's people would turn from their sins to obedience to the Lord's commandments
- God would return His people to ***".....the place where I have chosen for bearing my name"*** This is Jerusalem

THE TRANSGRESSORS WERE GOD'S REDEEMED PEOPLE !



- Redemption was not immunity from prosecution
- God's people did NOT lose their redemption
- Romans 11:22
- Covenant has two sides to it: Blessings and Curses
- Matthew 5:17 – 20
- OT and NT formula is the same
- There are earthly and eternal consequences for disobedience to God's commandments



OUR NEED FOR PRAYER PARTNERS



- Almost all of Nehemiah's prayers were paraphrases and near verbatim quotes from Deuteronomy
- Deuteronomy 30:1 – 4
- Only AFTER acknowledging his sin, and his covenant relationship with God and that God keeps His promises, did Nehemiah ask for favor from God
- Nehemiah had prayer partners
- The Bible makes clear that the prayers of many are of more effect than the prayer of ONE !

THE KING'S PERSONAL ATTENDANT

- A substantial personal achievement
- Why would Nehemiah ever want to give this up to throw in his lot with the Jews of Judah?
- The news of Jerusalem's and the Jew's condition overwhelms Nehemiah
- Aware his life is going to radically change
- He is going to give up luxury, prestige, and security
- He knew it was God calling him; his only choice was to say YES or NO !

