



*Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:27)*



A painting depicting three men in a lush, sunlit landscape. The man on the left is seen from the back, wearing a dark tunic and a vibrant red shawl, holding a walking stick. The man in the center is facing him, wearing a light-colored robe and gesturing upwards with his right hand. The man on the right is wearing a brown and red robe, looking towards the other two. They are standing on a dirt path that leads into a valley. In the background, there are large, leafy trees and a distant city or town nestled in a valley. The sky is bright and hazy. A white rectangular box is overlaid at the top of the image, containing the text 'The Reformer' in a black, italicized serif font.

# *The Reformer*

A white rectangular box is overlaid at the bottom left of the painting, containing the name 'Ezra' in a black, italicized serif font.

*Ezra*

# *A Brief Timeline*

DAVID

SOLOMON

ISRAEL  
(10 TRIBES)

JUDAH  
(2 TRIBES)

EXILE

EXILE

EZRA &  
NEHEMIAH

RETURN

# RETURN #1

- Ezra 1:1-4
  - 538-536 BC - approx. 50k people
  - Foretold by Isaiah 160+ yrs before (Isa. 44:28-45:13; cf. Dan. 6:28)
  - Rebuild altar; observe sacrifices & feasts; rebuild temple



## RETURN #1

- “They celebrated the Feast of Booths, as it is written...” (3:4)
  - A yearly reminder of deliverance from Egypt (see Lev. 23:33-43)
  - National *pot-luck* celebrating God’s provision (Deut. 16:13-17)

# *Type / Foreshadowing*

- *Types* of God's delivering:
  - From *slavery* (Lev. 23:41-43)
  - From *exile* (Jer. 23:1-8)
  - From *darkness* (Col. 1:13-14)

# *Type / Foreshadowing*

- All nations will celebrate the *Feast of Booths* (Zech. 14:1-19)
  - “the LORD will be king over all the earth” (14:9; cf. 4)
  - God will keep His promise to bring His people back to the land



## RETURNS #2 & 3

- Ezra 7:1-7
  - 458 BC - approx. 1,800 people
  - Return to faithfulness (Ezra 9-10)
- Neh. 2
  - 444 BC - ? people
  - Rebuild the wall

# *Type / Foreshadowing*

- Ezra 7:1-7
  - He was skilled in the law
  - He practiced the law
  - He wanted others to live the law
  - He interceded when the law was broken

# Skilled In The Law

- “This Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given...” (Ezra 7:6)
  - Skilled = quick, prompt, diligent, ready, apt*

# Skilled In The Law

- Jesus: “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’” (Matt. 4:4; cf. Deut. 8:3)

# Skilled In The Law

- “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’” (4:7; cf. Deut. 6:16)
- “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’” (4:10; cf. Deut. 6:13)

# Skilled In The Law

- Matt. 5:17-18 – fulfill the Law
- Matt. 12:1-14 – *lawful* (cf. 19:3-9)
- Matt. 22:15-46 – look to Scripture
- Luke 10:25-28 – “What is written in the Law?”
- “How has this man become learned ...?” (John 7:15)

# Practiced the Law

- “For Ezra had **set his heart** to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.” (7:10)
  - Set – determined; prepared; fixed*  
(cf. 2 Chron. 12:14; 19:3; 30:19)

# Practiced the Law

- “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.” (Matt. 5:17)
- “...I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” (John 8:29)



# Live the Law

- Ezra was determined to help the people live out God's word
  - Disobedience -> exile (2 Chron. 36)
  - E.g. – *foreign wives* (Ezra 9-10; cf. Deut. 7:1-6)
    - Confession, then action

# Live the Law

- Jesus cleansed a leper (Matt. 8:1-3)
- “And Jesus said to him, ‘See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.’” (8:4)

# Live the Law

- “But go and learn what this means: ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matt. 9:13; cf. Hos. 6:6)

# Live the Law

- “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.” (Luke 8:21)
- “...blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.” (Luke 11:28; James 1:25)

# Live the Law

- “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt. 7:12)
  - Love your neighbor as yourself* -> fulfills the law (Gal. 5:13-14)

# Live the Law

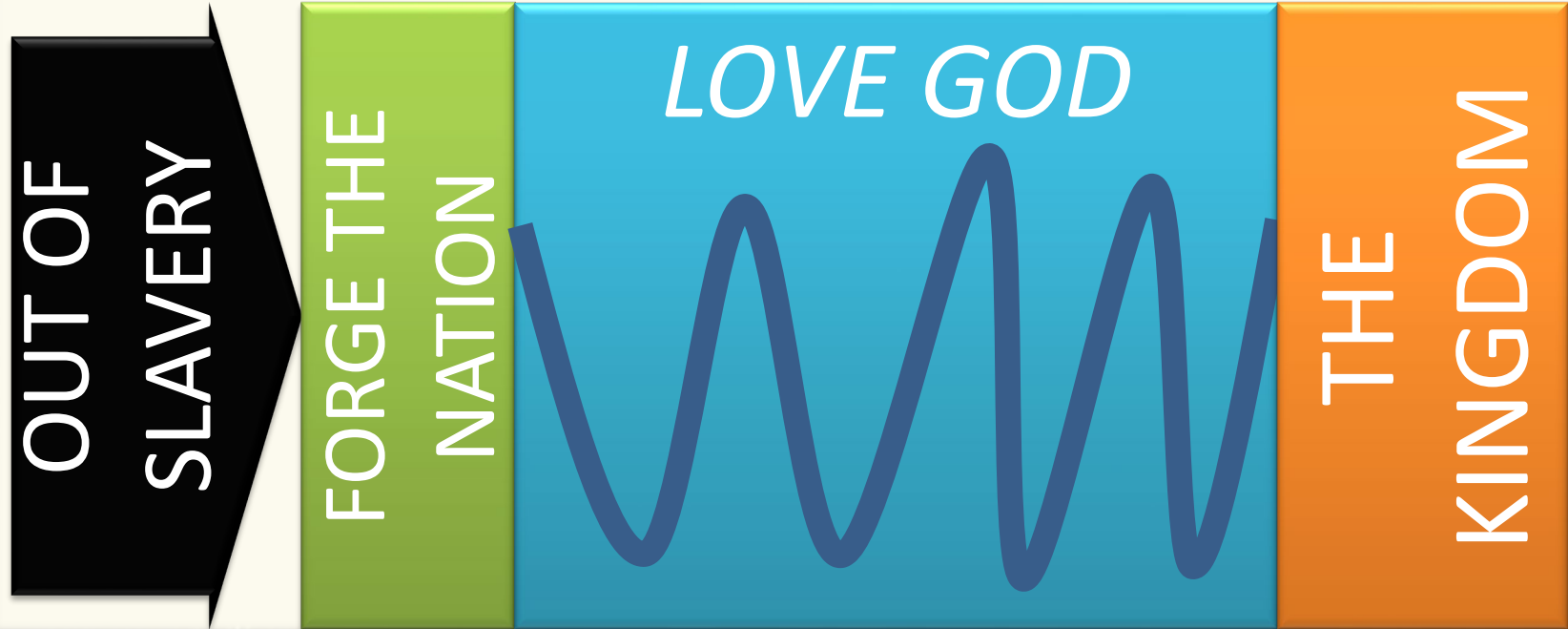
- Scribes & Pharisees were *hypocrites* full of *all uncleanness* (Matt. 23:27)
  - “So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” (23:28)

# The Broken Law

- The people had sinned (Ezra 9:1-4)
  - Ezra identified with the sinners and interceded for them (9:5-15)
- Jesus identifies with us (Heb. 2:9-18; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24)
  - And intercedes (Rom. 8:34)

# *So What?*

- The Life of the Nation of Israel:





# *So What?*

- The Life of Believers (cf. 1 Cor. 10):



# *So What?*

- As believers, we are not called to *obey* the law but to *fulfill* it (Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:13-14; James 2:8-13)
  - Love God with ALL your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22:34-40)

# *So What?*

- God brings many opportunities for us to see what our hearts really love
- We need to measure our loves against the standard of God's word
- What is God showing you?