

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



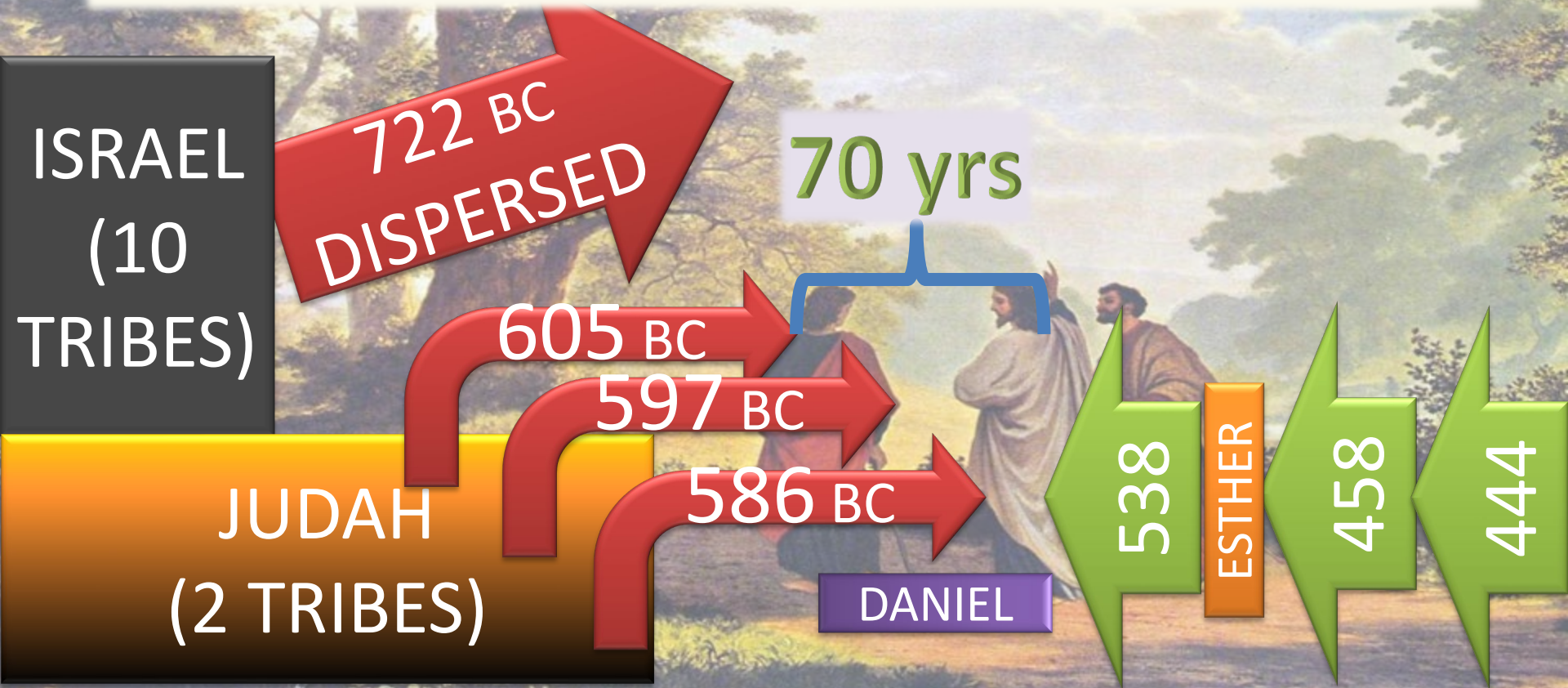
A painting depicting three men in a lush, green landscape. The man on the left is wearing a red shawl over a dark tunic and is walking away from the viewer. The man in the center is wearing a light-colored shawl and is gesturing upwards with his right hand. The man on the right is wearing a brown shawl over a red tunic and is looking towards the man in the center. In the background, there are large, leafy trees and a distant city or town. A white rectangular text box is overlaid at the top of the image.

The Man of Zeal

A white rectangular text box overlaid at the bottom left of the image, containing the name 'Nehemiah' in a black, italicized serif font.

Nehemiah

A Brief Timeline



Type / Foreshadowing

- Nehemiah, a *type* of Christ
 - Zeal
 - Praying
 - Reverence
 - Justice
 - Determination

Nehemiah's Zeal

- Nehemiah was born in the *captivity*
 - He had never been to Jerusalem
- See Neh. 1:1-11
 - Great zeal for Jerusalem (*the wall*)
 - He knew the God, the history, and the law of Israel

Nehemiah's Zeal

- Four months later... (2:1-8)
 - Being sad was dangerous
 - The king stopped the rebuilding of Jerusalem years before (Ezra 4:21)
 - Nehemiah tactfully appealed to honor and respect (2:3)

Nehemiah's Zeal

- Nehemiah 13
 - House-keeping (8)
 - Reprimanding the officials (11)
 - Reprimanding the nobles (17)
 - Threatening the Sabbath-breakers (21)

Nehemiah's Zeal

- Nehemiah 13
 - “So I contended with them and cursed them and struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God...” (25)

Jesus' Zeal

- Jesus made a scourge and drove the sellers and money changers out of the temple (John 2:13-22)
 - “His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.’” (John 2:17)

Jesus' Zeal

- Jesus had stern words for the scribes and Pharisees (see Matthew 23)
 - “Woe!” => indignation!
 - “Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often I wanted to gather your children together...” (23:37)

Nehemiah's Praying

- “...I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven” (1:4)
- “So I prayed to the God of heaven.” (2:4b)
- “But we prayed to our God” (4:9a)

Nehemiah's Praying

- “Hear, O our God, how we are despised!” (4:4; cf. 6:14; 13:29)
- “Remember me, O my God...” (5:19; 13:14, 22, 31)
- “But now, O God, strengthen my hands.” (6:9)

Jesus' Praying

- “In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.” (Mark 1:35)

Jesus' Praying

- “But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.”
(Luke 5:16)
- “...while Jesus was praying in a certain place” -> “Lord, teach us to pray...” (Luke 11:1-13)

Nehemiah's Reverence

- “the great and awesome God” (1:5)
- “...should you not walk in the fear of our God ...?” (5:9)
- He did not domineer the people
“because of the fear of God” (5:15)
- Condemned unfaithfulness (13:26-27)

Jesus' Reverence

- “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matt. 10:28)
- “...I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” (John 8:29)

Nehemiah's Justice

- The rich were taking advantage of the poor (Neh. 5:1-5; cf. Ex. 22:25)
- In his zeal, Nehemiah sought justice for the oppressed (5:6-13)
 - And he modelled it! (5:14-19)

Jesus' Justice

- Isa. 9:6-7
 - *A child will sit on the throne of David and minister with justice and righteousness thru the zeal of the LORD of hosts*

Nehemiah's Determination

- He waited 4 months to present his proposal to the king (1:1 -> 2:1)
- Once in Jerusalem, he started right away (2:11)
- In spite of opposition, the wall was rebuilt in 52 days (6:15)

Nehemiah's Determination

- Opposition:
 - Mockery (4:1-3)
 - Threats (4:7-8)
 - Traps (6:1-4)
 - Lies (6:5-9)
 - Temptation (6:10-14)
- Just Like Jesus:**
Matt. 27:27-44
Luke 13:31-33
Matt. 22:15-22
Mark 14:53-60
Matt. 4:1-4

Jesus' Determination

- “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (John 6:38; cf. 4:34; 5:30; Heb. 10:9; Ps. 40:7-8)
 - Obedient even to death (Phil. 2:8)
 - He accomplished it! (John 19:28)

So What?

- Do you think people prayed that Jesus would not be crucified?
- “It is dangerous to have zeal without knowledge, and the one who acts hastily makes poor choices.” (Prov. 19:2 NET)

So What?

- We need to be *all in* on living for God
- But our zeal needs two guardrails:
truth and *perspective*
 - We need to make sure we are on-board with God's plan first
 - Note: His plan may differ from ours

So What?

- God uses even man's sinful choices to accomplish His purposes (E.g. - 2 Sam. 24:1)
- We must renew our minds with God's word to know Him, His character, and His plan, and then trust Him