



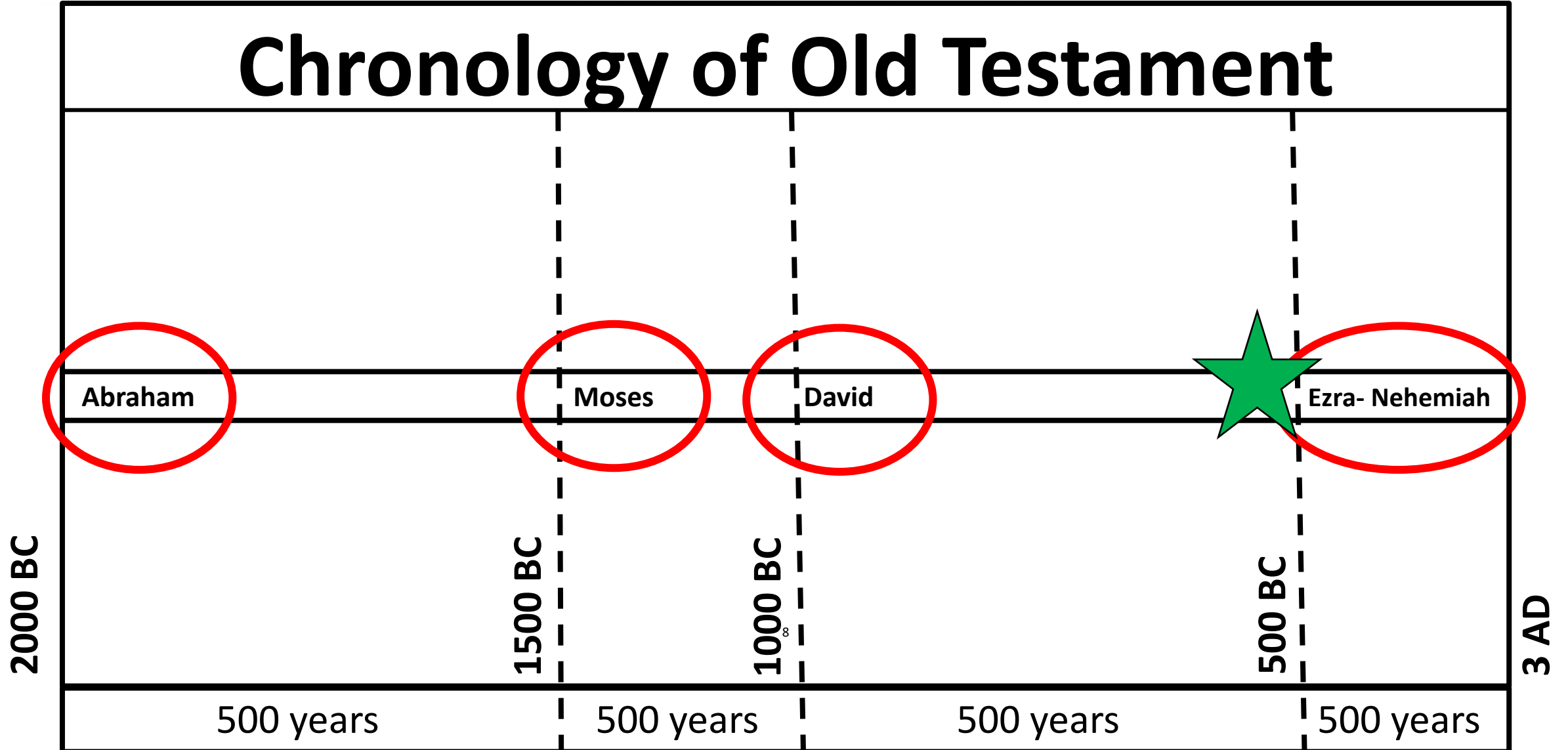
# REBUILD

a study of Ezra and Nehemiah



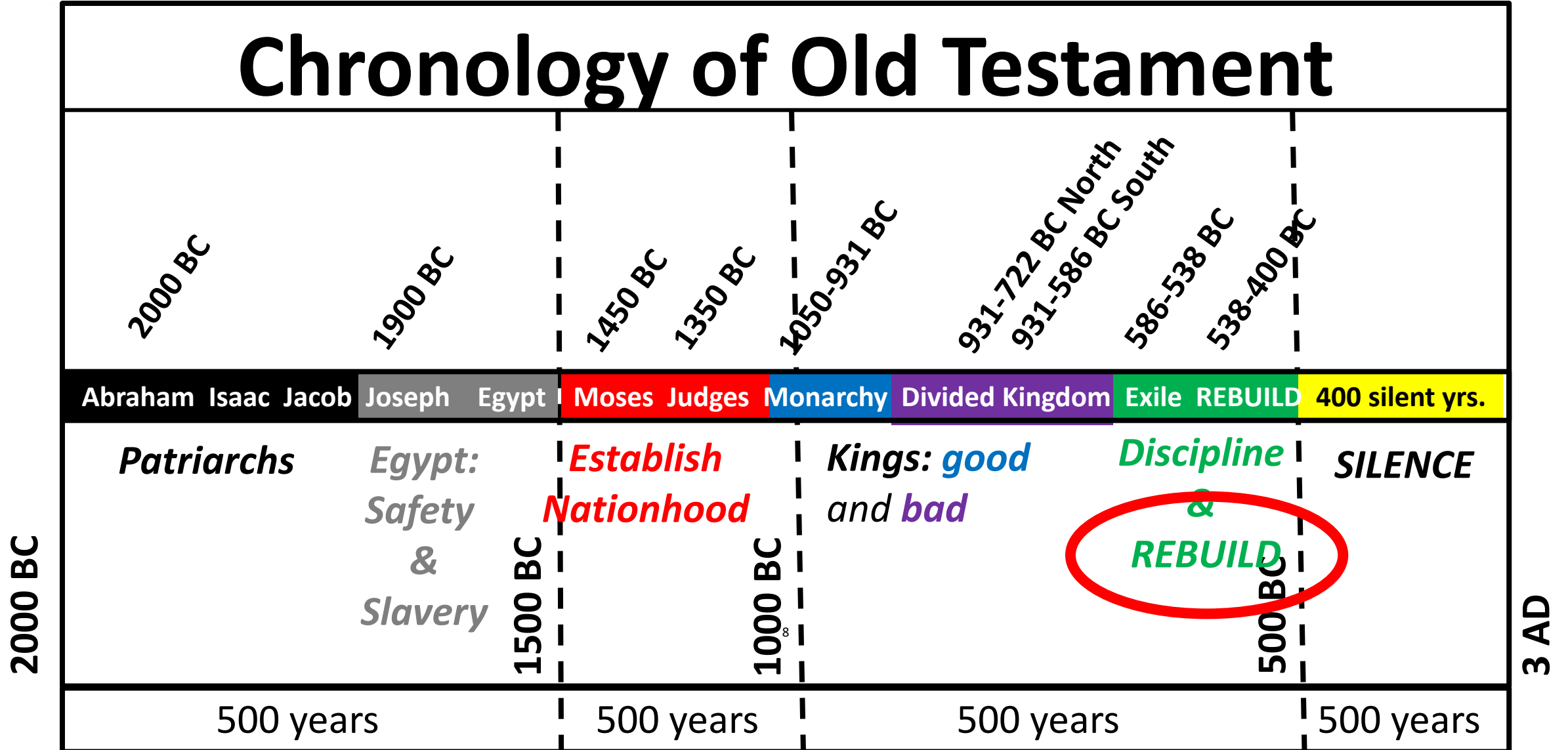
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## Chronology of Old Testament



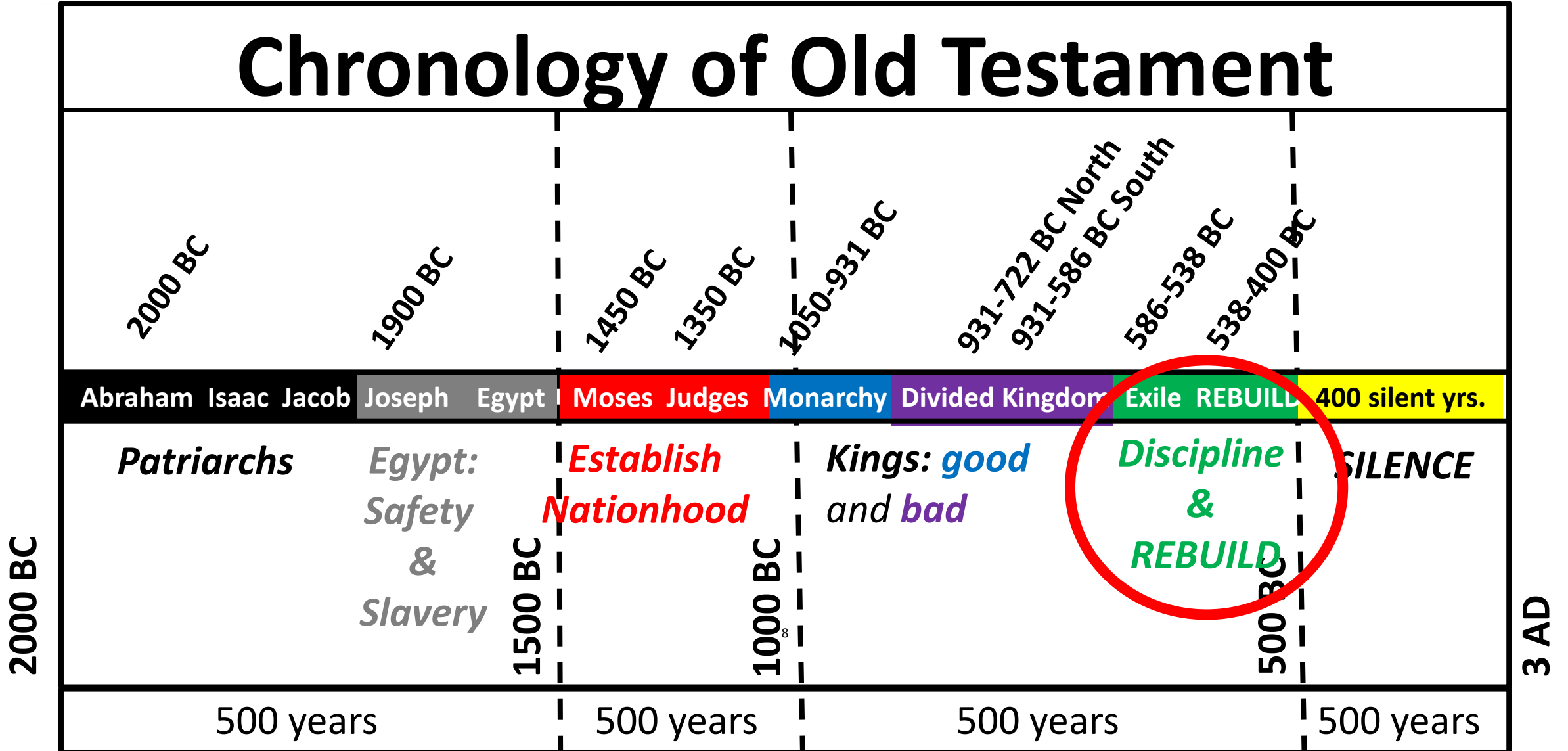
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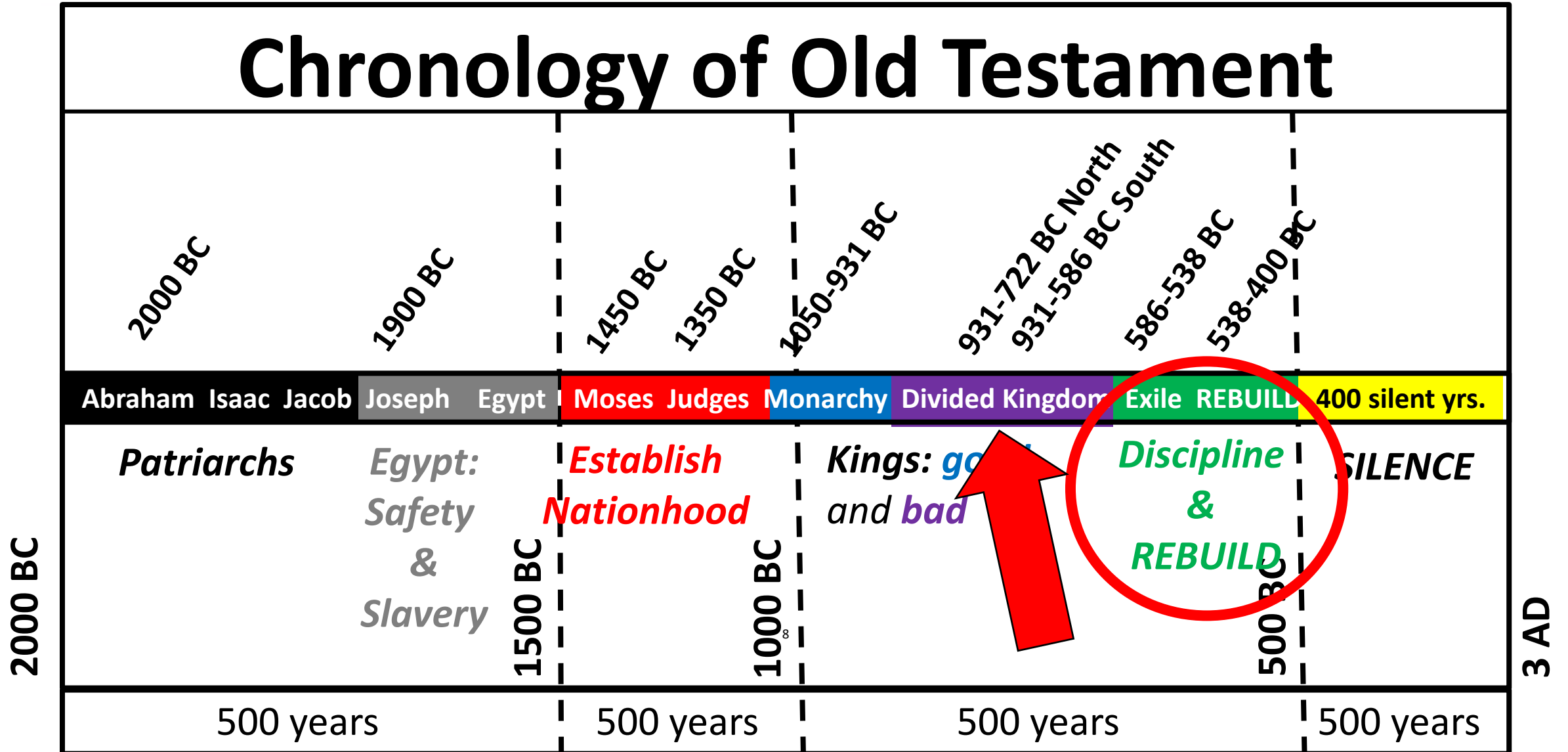
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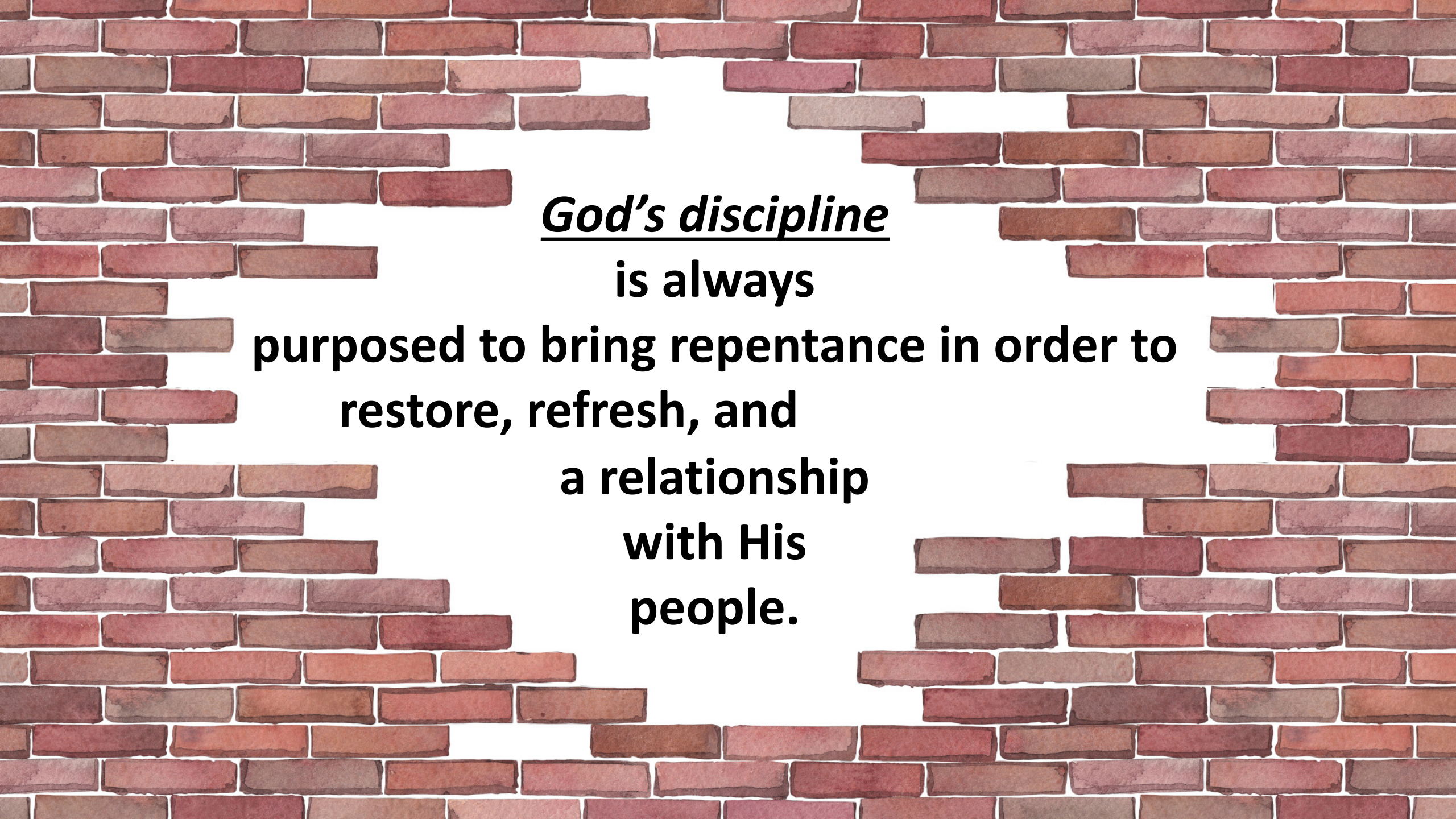




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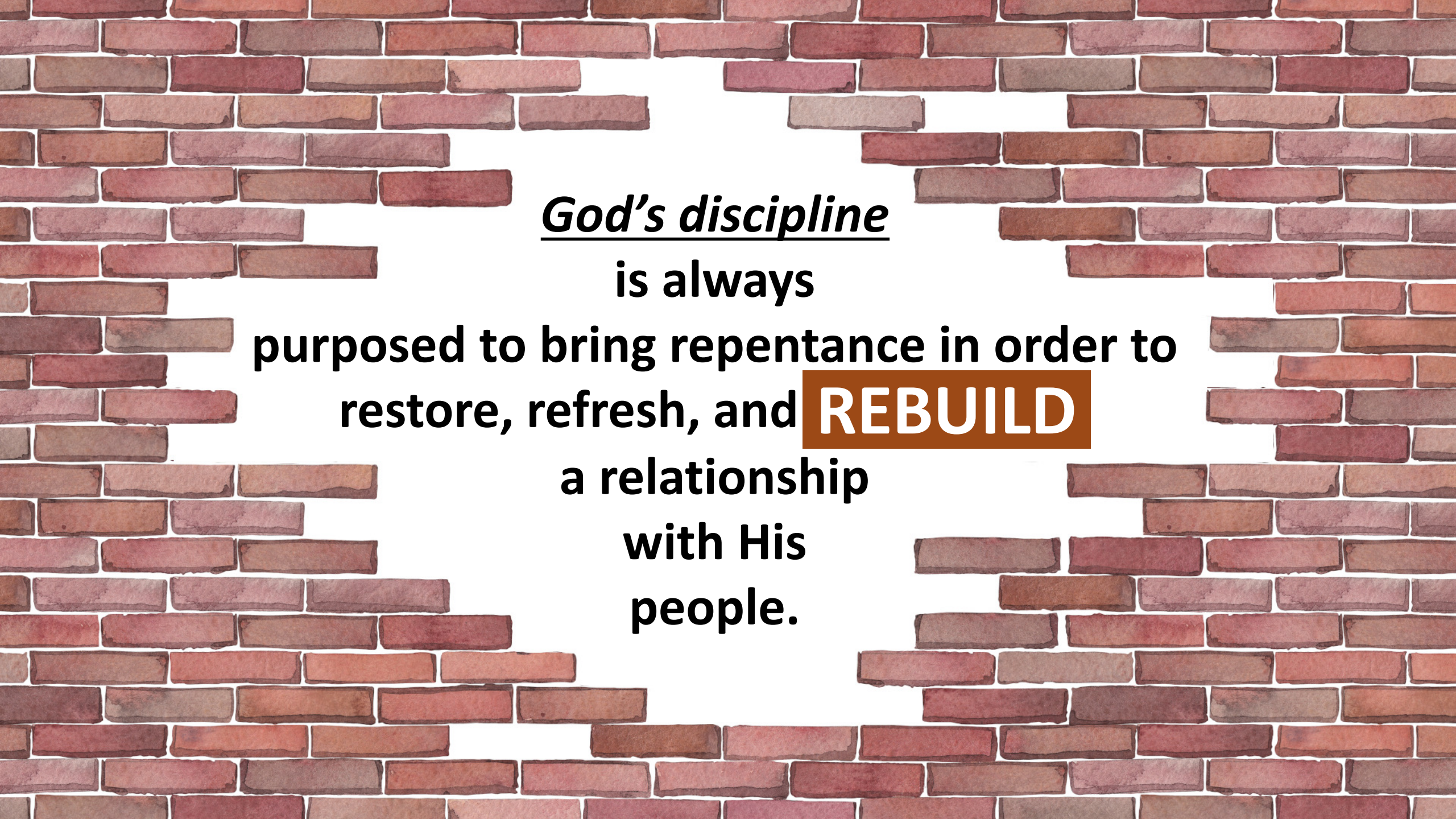
training that corrects, molds, or matures  
mental faculties or moral character.





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*God's discipline*  
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## **Hebrews 12:1-14**

- 1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- 2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 3** Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.
- 4** In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.



## Hebrews 12:1-14

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses

**Recognize that God's character is that of being a Father...**

**...who disciplines His children out of a love for them...**

**...in order to mold them and mature them...**

**...with a maturity that radiates God's holiness...**

**...and empowers His people to be strong and courageous  
while being tenderized by a heart of peace.**



# REBUILD

## Chronology of Ezra and Nehemiah

Cyrus	Darius	Xerxes I	Artaxerxes
1st Return under <b>Zerubbabel</b> (Temple)	Events of the book of Esther	2 <sup>nd</sup> Return under <b>Ezra</b> (People)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Return under <b>Nehemiah</b> (Wall)
<b>Ezra 1-6</b>	Book of Esther	<b>Ezra 7-10</b>	<b>Book of Nehemiah</b>
<b>538-515 B.C.</b>	475 B.C.	<b>458-457 B. C.</b>	<b>445-430 B.C.</b>
<b>Zechariah Haggai</b>		<b>Malachi</b>	



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**REBUILD**

***4 Stages of each 'Return'***





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## Ezra 3

- 1** When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem.
- 2** Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.
- 3** They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening.
- 4** And they kept the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the rule, as each day required,
- 5** and after that the regular burnt offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the appointed feasts of the LORD, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill offering to the LORD.



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- 4 And they kept the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the rule, as each day required,
- 5 and after that the regular burnt offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the appointed feasts of the LORD, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill offering to the LORD.



- 6** From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.
- 7** So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia.
- 8** Now in the second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the LORD.
- 9** And Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, and Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together supervised the workmen in the house of God, along with the sons of Henadad and the Levites, their sons and brothers.



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**10** And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

**11** And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,  
***"For He is good,  
for His steadfast love endures forever toward Israel."***

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

**12** But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy,

**13** so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.



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Many biblical words such as *mercy, compassion, love, grace, and faithfulness* relate to the Hebrew word *hesed*, but none of these completely summarize the concept. *Hesed* is not merely an emotion or feeling but involves action on behalf of someone who is in need. *Hesed* describes a sense of love and loyalty that inspires merciful and compassionate behavior toward another person.



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***Hesed*** expresses God's faithfulness to His people.





**16** to Him who led His people through the wilderness,  
**17** to Him who struck down great kings,  
**18** and killed mighty kings,  
**19** Sihon, king of the Amorites,  
**20** and Og, king of Bashan,  
**21** and gave their land as a heritage,  
**22** a heritage to Israel His servant,  
**23** It is He who remembered us in our low estate,  
**24** and rescued us from our foes,  
**25** He who gives food to all flesh,  
**26** Give thanks to the God of heaven,

for His steadfast love endures forever;  
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## Haggai 2

**1** In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet,

**2** "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say,

**3** 'Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes?

**4** Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD.

Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts,

**5** according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt.

My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.

**6** For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.

**7** And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.

**8** The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts.

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## Ezra 4

**1** Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel,

**2** they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them,

***"Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here."***

**3** But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them,

***"You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."***



- 4 Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build
- 5 and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.
- 6 And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.
- 7 In the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam and Mithredath and Tabeel and the rest of their associates wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia.  
The letter was written in Aramaic and translated.
- 8 Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king as follows:



**9** Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their associates, the judges, the governors, the officials, the Persians, the men of Erech, the Babylonians, the men of Susa, that is, the Elamites,

**10** and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River.

**11** (This is a copy of the letter that they sent.)

**12** "To Artaxerxes the king: Your servants, the men of the province Beyond the River, send greeting. And now be it known to the king that the Jews who came up from you to us have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations.

**13** Now be it known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and the royal revenue will be impaired.

14

Now because we eat the salt of the palace  
and it is not fitting for us to witness the king's dishonor,  
therefore we send and inform the king,

15

in order that search may be made in the book of the records of your  
fathers. You will find in the book of the records and learn that this  
city is a rebellious city, hurtful to kings and provinces, and that  
sedition was stirred up in it from of old.

That was why this city was laid waste.

16

We make known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls  
finished, you will then have no possession in the province Beyond  
the River."



**17** The king sent an answer:

"To Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their associates who live in Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River, greeting. And now

**18** the letter that you sent to us has been plainly read before me.

**19** And I made a decree, and search has been made, and it has been found that this city from of old has risen against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made in it.

**20** And mighty kings have been over Jerusalem, who ruled over the whole province Beyond the River, to whom tribute, custom, and toll were paid.

**21** Therefore make a decree that these men be made to cease, and that this city be not rebuilt, until a decree is made by me.

**22** And take care not to be slack in this matter.

Why should damage grow to the hurt of the king?"

- 23** Then, when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their associates, they went in haste to the Jews at Jerusalem and by force and power made them cease.
- 24** Then the work on the house of God that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.



*So...therefore...what now?*



*So...therefore...what now?*

In response to God's glory...  
...we are moved to confession and repentance...  
...which allows us to find peace in His presence.



# *So...therefore...what now?*

In response to God's glory...  
...we are moved to confession and repentance..  
...which allows us to find peace in His presence.

**God's faithfulness to His people endures forever,  
through anything and everything.**







16 to Him who led me through the wilderness,  
17 to Him who \_\_\_\_\_,  
18 and \_\_\_\_\_,  
19 \_\_\_\_\_,  
20 \_\_\_\_\_,  
21 and \_\_\_\_\_,  
22 a heritage to His servant,  
23 It is He who remembered me in my low estate,  
24 and rescued me from my foes,  
25 He who gives food to all flesh,  
26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,

for His steadfast love endures forever;  
for His steadfast love endures forever;  
for His steadfast love endures forever;  
for His steadfast love endures forever;  
for His steadfast love endures forever;  
for His steadfast love endures forever;  
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for His steadfast love endures forever;  
for His steadfast love endures forever;  
for His steadfast love endures forever.  
for His steadfast love endures forever.

# Hesed

Many biblical words such as *mercy, compassion, love, grace, and faithfulness* relate to the Hebrew word *hesed*, but none of these completely summarize the concept. ***Hesed*** is not merely an emotion or feeling but involves action on behalf of someone who is in need.

***Hesed*** describes a sense of love and loyalty that inspires merciful and compassionate behavior toward another person.

Most of all ***Hesed*** expresses God's faithfulness to His covenant people.



# *So...therefore...what now?*

In response to God's glory...  
...we are moved to confession and repentance...  
...which allows us to find peace in His presence.

God's faithfulness to His people endures forever,  
through anything and everything.

**The movement of God is never left without opposition...**



# *So...therefore...what now?*

In response to God's glory...  
...we are moved to confession and repentance..  
...which allows us to find peace in His presence.

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**The movement of God is never left without opposition...  
BE STRONG ... DO THE WORK ... DO NOT FEAR!!!**