

Return from Exile

EZRA

Thank You!



Fellowship Bible Church NWA

Thank you for taking
great care of our Mercy
kids during a pandemic.

You are such a blessing!



Thank You for all
your support &
kindness

Thank you!
Elic Ull

Thank you!
Julia St

Thank you!
Patty Miller

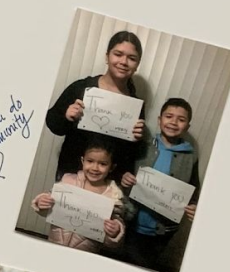
You guys are the
best &
bestest & taken
care of us
& our family

What an
amazing gift
you have
given to us
forever grateful
Thank you

Thank You!

Spencer

Thank you
for all you do
for our community



Thank you!
Lindsey



We appreciate you!
Travis
Hilli

Thank you!
Cristina

Thank you for
everything!!
Christa Pedraza

Thank you!
Cristina

We appreciate you so much!
Amy Haines

We appreciate
all your prayers
& support!
Kim

Thank you for being
a blessing!
Lindy

Thank you!
Jennifer

Mercy



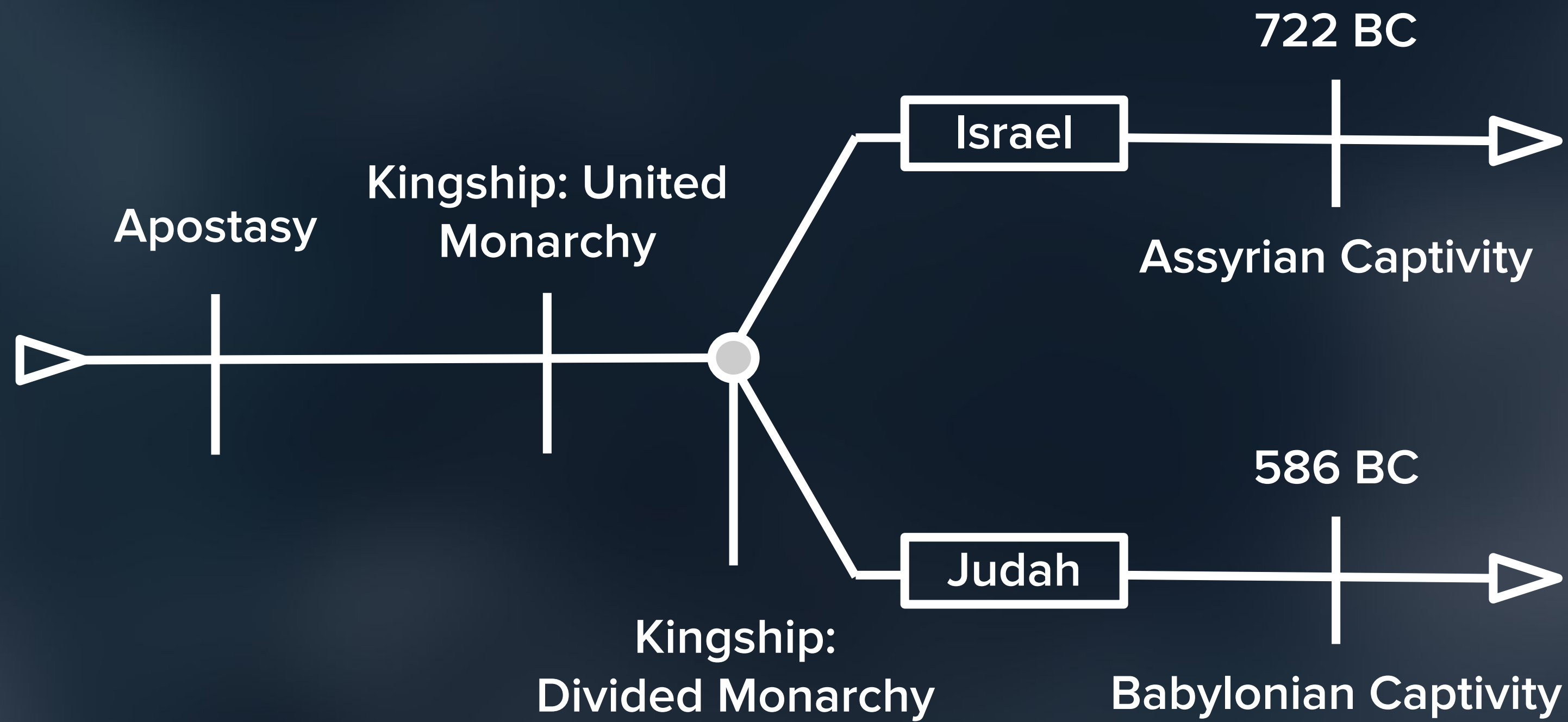
God uses His people
to accomplish His plans
for His purpose.

Return from Exile

Daniel	Responds with Repentance
Zerubbabel	Rebuilds the Temple
Ezra	Rebuilds the People
Nehemiah	Rebuilds the Wall

JOSHUA 23:16 NIV

“If you violate the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, the LORD’s anger will burn against you, and you will quickly perish from the good land he has given you.”



2 CHRONICLES 36:15-17 NIV

The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. ¹⁷ He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.

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2 CHRONICLES 36:18-20 NIV

He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD's temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. ¹⁹ They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there. ²⁰ He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power.

2 CHRONICLES 36:21 NIV

The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.

DANIEL 9:1-2 NIV

In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

JEREMIAH 29:10-14 NIV

This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

DANIEL 9:3-5 NIV

So I turned to the LORD God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.
⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: “LORD, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁵ we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.”

Repentance Precedes
Restoration

1 JOHN 1:9 NIV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

EZRA 1:1-3 NIV

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: ² “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. ³ Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.”

ISAIAH 44:28 NIV

“...who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, “Let it be rebuilt,” and of the temple, “Let its foundations be laid.””

Return from Exile

Ezra Chs. 1-6

National Restoration:
Zerubbabel

Ezra Chs. 7-10

Spiritual Reformation:
Ezra

EZRA 1:5-7 NIV

Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem. ⁶ All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings. ⁷ Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god.

EZRA 3:1-3 NIV

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem. ² Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. ³ Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening sacrifices.

EZRA 5:1-2 NIV

Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. ² Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.

ZECHARIAH 1:1-3 NIV

In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo: ² “The LORD was very angry with your ancestors. ³ Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Return to me,’ declares the LORD Almighty, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the LORD Almighty.”

EZRA 5:1-2 NIV

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EZRA 7:8-10 NIV

Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. ⁹ He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰ For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

EZRA 9:3-4 NIV

When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled. ⁴ Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me because of this unfaithfulness of the exiles. And I sat there appalled until the evening sacrifice.

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Repentance Precedes
Restoration

**Post
Pandemic
Spiritual
Engagement
Plan**

What do you need to...

- **Start** Scripture Reading & Spiritual Practices
- **Stop** Sin or Bad Habits
- **Return to** Gathering Together (Church & Small Group)