





## The Ministry of Jeremiah

- Foretold the length of the exile (70 yrs)
- *Nebuchadnezzar, my servant* (25:9) – to remove Israel from the land in order to:
- Give the land 70 years of rest (*until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths*)
- Remove Israel long enough from their “gods” – *they never worshipped them again upon their return!*

## Judah falls to Babylon (606-586 BC)

- 2 Kings 23-25; 2 Chron 36
- Pharaoh Neco deposes Josiah's son
- Judah caught between Babylon and Egypt at war.
- 606 – Neb takes best & brightest of Judah to Babylon, takes Temple furnishings
- When kings rebel (*Jeremiah & Ezekiel counseled them not to!*) – Neb destroys Jerusalem



## Assyrian/ Babylonian empires

- Dominant 745 – 538BC
- Assyrians – captured Northern Tribes in 721
- Babylon – captured Judah 3x from 606 – 588
- Practice – remove best & brightest from land
- Daniel, etc. taken in 606



## The Great Image



## Daniel's revelation of the age of empires

Neb's dream: [Dan 2:31-44](#)

► Daniel 2:44 *"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."*

## Persian Empire: the arms of silver (538-332BC)

538 Cyrus conquers Babylon

► Expanded to borders of India, Egypt, inroads into Greece.

► Ruled similar to Babylon, but friendlier (in general) to Israel



## **God's people under Persian Rule**

538 Darius conquers Babylon, succeeded by Cyrus

536 **Zerubbabel** sent to Jerusalem to govern & rebuild temple

515 **Temple dedicated** after 21 years thanks to ministry of Haggai & Zechariah

458 **Ezra** sent to re-establish priesthood.

450's? God saves Jews through **Esther**

445 Nehemiah sent to rebuild Jerusalem

## **God still speaks through his prophets**

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.

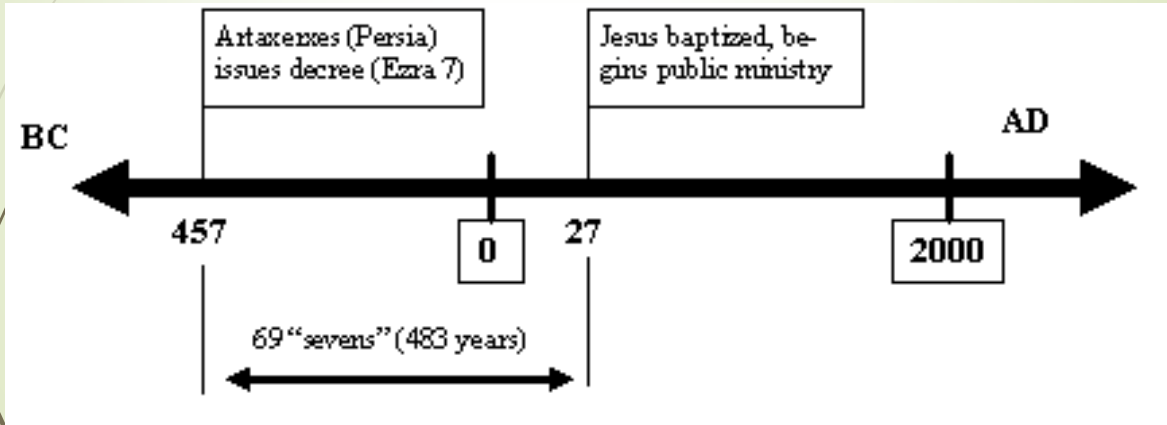
- ▶ **Daniel** – astounding prophetic accuracy
- ▶ Likely the reason the “wise men from the east” knew to look for a sign in the heavens
- ▶ Prophesied the rise and fall of 4 empires
- ▶ Prophesied the year of Jesus' crucifixion

## **The 70 weeks of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27)**

70 “Weeks” or “Sevens”

- Prophetic language for a full Sabbath cycle (7 years)
- (v.25) from the...command...until Messiah...7+62
- 457 Artaxerxes decree – Ezra 7:13
- 70<sup>th</sup> “week begins 27AD (Jesus baptized)
- “in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice” 30AD – Jesus crucified

- Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to **finish the transgression**, to **make an end of sin**, to **make atonement** for iniquity, to **bring in everlasting righteousness**, to **seal up vision and prophecy** and to **anoint the most holy place**.



## Preparing the World for the Chosen Seed

- Among the Greeks
- In the Far east
- In the diaspora
- In exile: Daniel's prophecies

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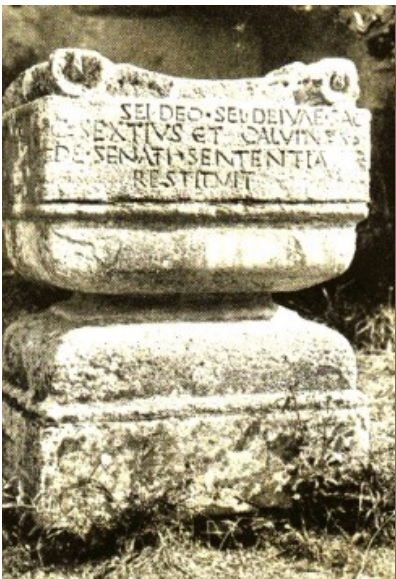
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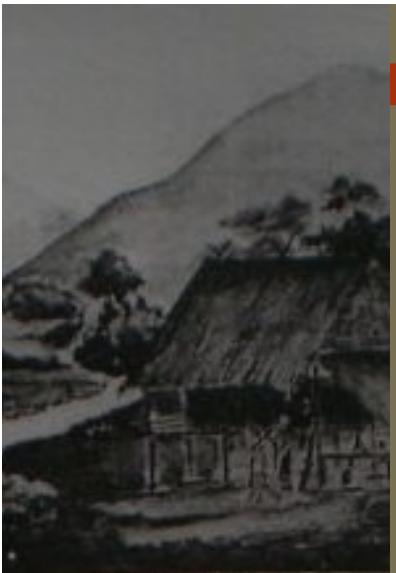


## God among The Greeks

Socrates, Plato, Great Philosophers and playwrights taught during this time period:

- Higher morality, deeper questioning of meaning of life
- Spoke of one supreme God (unnamed)
- Epimenides (known & quoted by both) --
- **The Great Plague**





## God among The Burmese

### The People of the Lost Book

- The “Karen” people – worshipped “Y’wa”
- Waiting for a “white brother” to bring back a lost book,
- Buddhists could not reach them – fiercely independent.
- **Adoniram Judson (1817)** – his disciples reached millions in just a decade.

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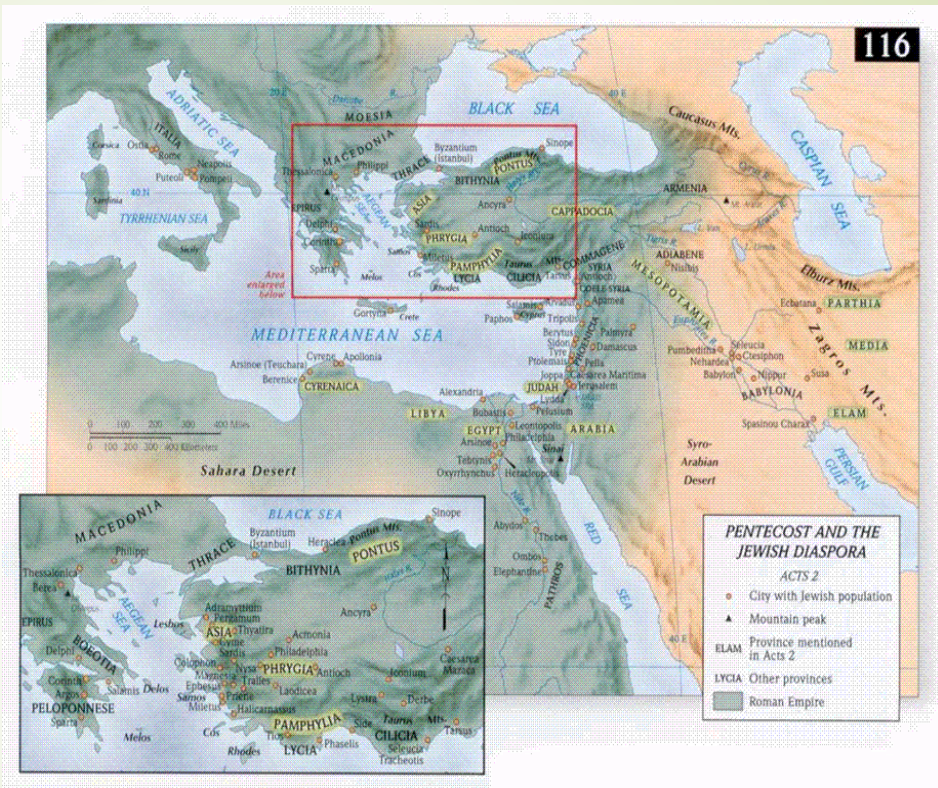
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## The “Diaspora”

**Synagogues:**  
gathering places in  
nearly every major  
city of empires

- Must have 10 men to form -- Elect a ruler
- Still travel to Jerusalem for feasts
- First converts to Christ were Jews!  
Jesus/ Paul ministered here first







### **The exiles return to the Land:**

**Nehemiah** – rebuilt Jerusalem

- Worked together with Ezra after temple was finished to rebuild the city around it
- An administrator/ governor; not Davidic king.
- **God's people need His biblical order to build HIS Kingdom in the earth**
- Malachi – final prophet of OT – 10 years after Nehemiah

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### **The Empire of Alexander the Great (Thighs of brass) 332 – 146BC)**



### **Under Alexander the Great's empire**

- A common language now spoken throughout the known world (Greek)
- A connection made between eastern & western culture.
- Universities, Olympics, philosophy with high moral ethic
- The Septuagint – Greek translation of the Hebrew bible

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