

A watercolor-style landscape painting. The background features layered mountains in shades of blue, teal, and brown. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the colors of the sky and mountains. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

HOMECOMING

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May 9 – Reopening the Bible

May 16 – Rebuilding Differently

May 23 – Returning to God

May 30 – Reigniting Our Worship

¹ **After these things**, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah...

Ezra 7:1 (NIV 2011)

¹⁵ The temple was completed... in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

Ezra 6:15 (NIV 2011)

“After the reign of John F. Kennedy
during the reign of Joe Biden...”

¹ After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, ² the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³ the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, ⁴ the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵ the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest — ⁶ this Ezra came up from Babylon.

Ezra 7:1-6 (NIV 2011)

¹ After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, ² the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³ the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, ⁴ the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵ the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest...

Ezra 7:1-5 (NIV 2011)

A. **Ezra**, re-boot of the Mosaic System

B. Seven priests to the destruction of the temple

X. **Azariah** (First priest in Solomon's Temple)

B' Seven priests before the construction of Solomon's Temple

A' **Aaron**, the first chief priest of the Mosaic System (brother of Moses)

⁶ He was a **teacher** well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

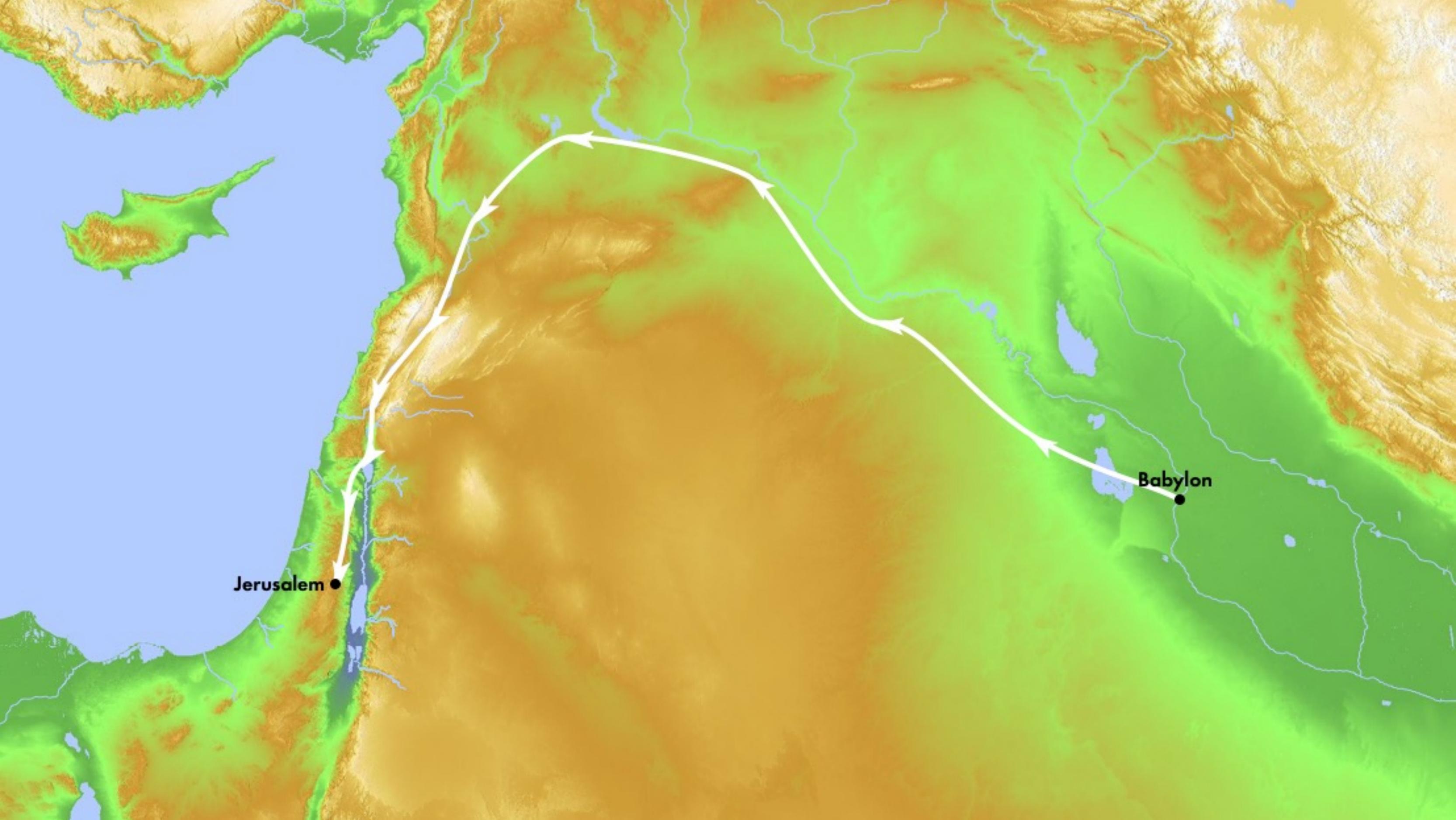
Ezra 7:6 (NIV 2011)

ספֿר – SOH-fayr

Has the idea of “one who counts” – “secretary”

⁸ 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 7:8-10 (NIV 2011)



Jerusalem ●

Babylon ●

⁸ 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 7:8-10 (NIV 2011)

⁷³ When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, ¹ all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

Nehemiah 7:73b-8:1 (NIV 2011)

⁶⁶ The whole company numbered 42,360...

Nehemiah 7:66 (NIV 2011)

⁷³ When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, ¹ all the people came together as one **in the square before the Water Gate**. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

Nehemiah 7:73b-8:1 (NIV 2011)



LUCDAV

² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of **men and women and all who were able to understand.**

Nehemiah 8:2 (NIV 2011)

³ He read it aloud **from daybreak till noon** as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And **all the people listened attentively** to the Book of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:3 (NIV 2011)

⁴ Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion... ⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and **as he opened it, the people all stood up.**

Nehemiah 8:4-5 (NIV 2011)

⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then **they bowed down and worshiped** the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Nehemiah 8:6 (NIV 2011)

⁷ The Levites — Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah — instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

Nehemiah 8:7-8 (NIV 2011)

⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “**This day is holy** to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:9 (NIV 2011)

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. **This day is holy** to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” ¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for **this is a holy day**. Do not grieve.”

Nehemiah 8:10-11 (NIV 2011)

The Bible is hard to
understand.

The Bible seems
Irrelevant to my life.

Expressive Individualism:

My identity is not determined by any person, family, or social norms outside of my own desires and passions. I will find my greatest fulfillment as a human being by being true to my own personal goals and dreams and not compromising those goals and dreams for anyone else.

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV 2011)

We are too busy.

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¹ All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

⁴ Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened the book, all the people stood up. Then he praised the LORD, the great God, and all the people lifted their hands and



Ezra-Nehemiah



Historical



Narrative, Epic Narrative

Many Israelites return to Jerusalem after the



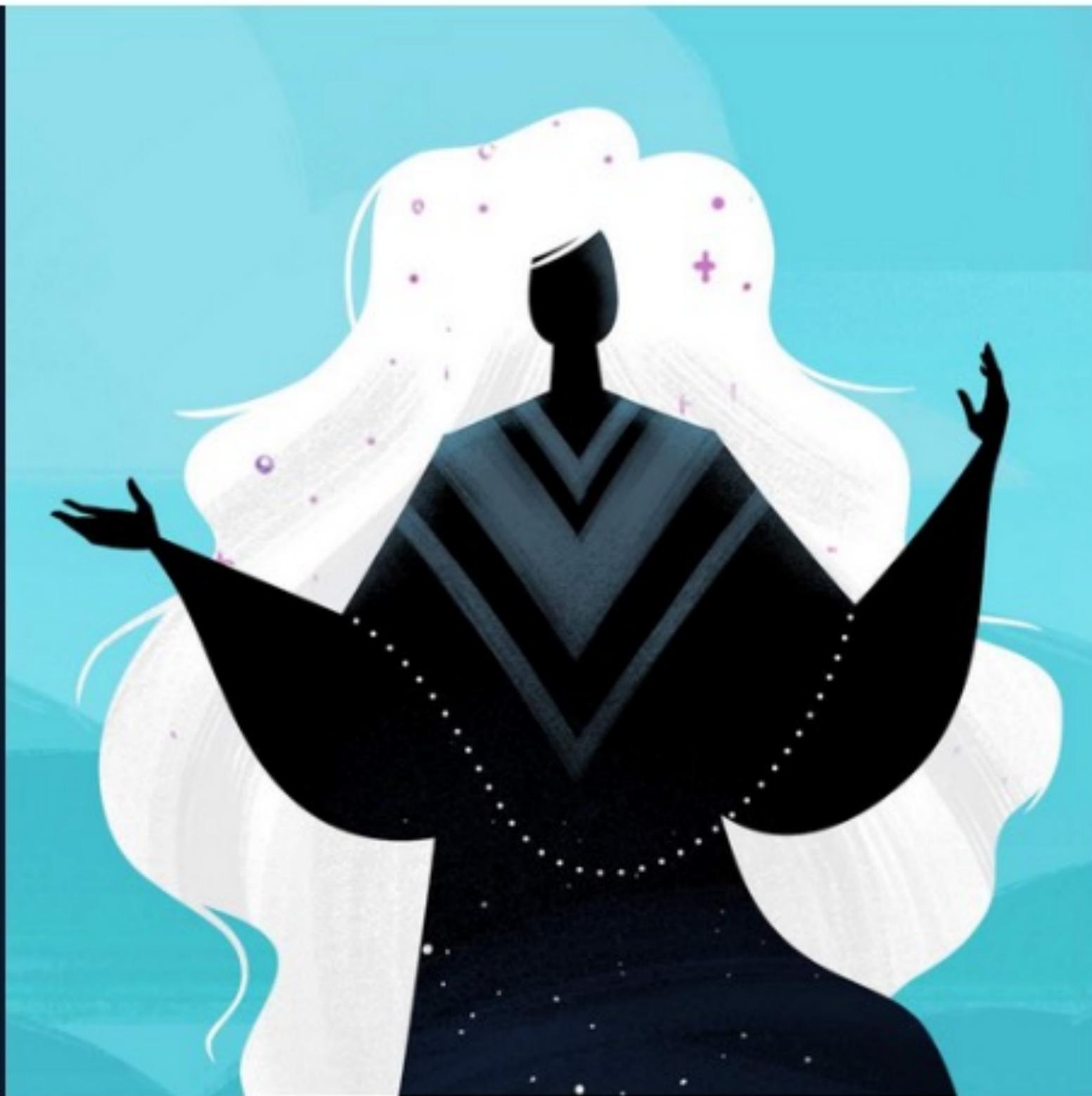
Our newest video

The Call of Wisdom

Proverbs 8 portrays God's wisdom as a noble woman who invites us to learn her ways and find true life.

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Read or listen to the book of Proverbs with your calendar

Read or listen to the book of Mark

Read or listen to the book of Romans

Read or listen to the Sermon on the Mount

Life Groups

Read the Sermon on the Mount – then Pray

A background image of a field of lavender flowers in bloom, with a soft, warm light filtering through the scene, creating a serene and peaceful atmosphere. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds.

WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

IN-PERSON | Mondays, June 14-July 26, 7:00-8:30 pm

ONLINE | Tuesdays, June 15-July 27, 7:30-9:00 pm

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