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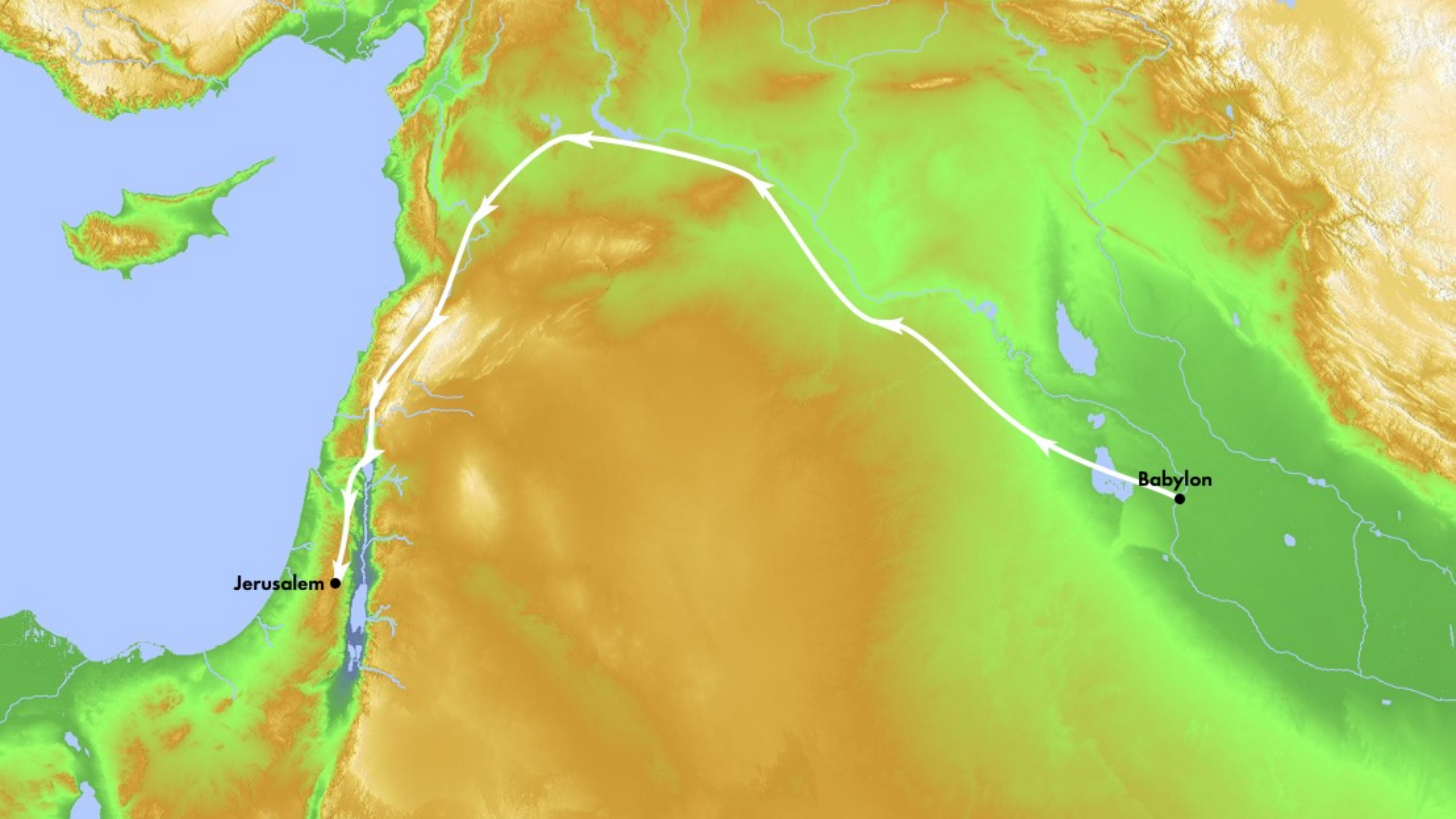
May 2 – Rediscovering Our Story

May 9 – Reopening the Bible

May 16 – Rebuilding Differently

May 23 – Returning to God

May 30 – Reigniting Our Worship



Jerusalem ●

Babylon ●

¹ When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem.

Ezra 3:1 (NIV 2011)

²³ The LORD said to Moses, ²⁴ “Say to the Israelites: ‘On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of sabbath rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts. ²⁵ Do no regular work, but present a food offering to the LORD.’ ”

Leviticus 23:23-25 (NIV 2011)

²⁶ The LORD said to Moses, ²⁷ “The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present a food offering to the LORD. ²⁸ Do not do any work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the LORD your God.

Leviticus 23:26-28 (NIV 2011)

³³ The LORD said to Moses, ³⁴ “Say to the Israelites: ‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD’S Festival of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. ³⁵ The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. ³⁶ For seven days present food offerings to the LORD, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present a food offering to the LORD. It is the closing special assembly; do no regular work.

Leviticus 23:33-36 (NIV 2011)

¹ 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.

Ezra 3:1-2 (NIV 2011)

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. ⁴ Then in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day.

Ezra 3:3-4 (NIV 2011)

⁵ After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings, the New Moon sacrifices and the sacrifices for all the appointed sacred festivals of the LORD, as well as those brought as freewill offerings to the LORD. ⁶ On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, though the foundation of the LORD'S temple had not yet been laid.

Ezra 3:5-6 (NIV 2011)

¹⁰ When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David king of Israel.

Ezra 3:10 (NIV 2011)

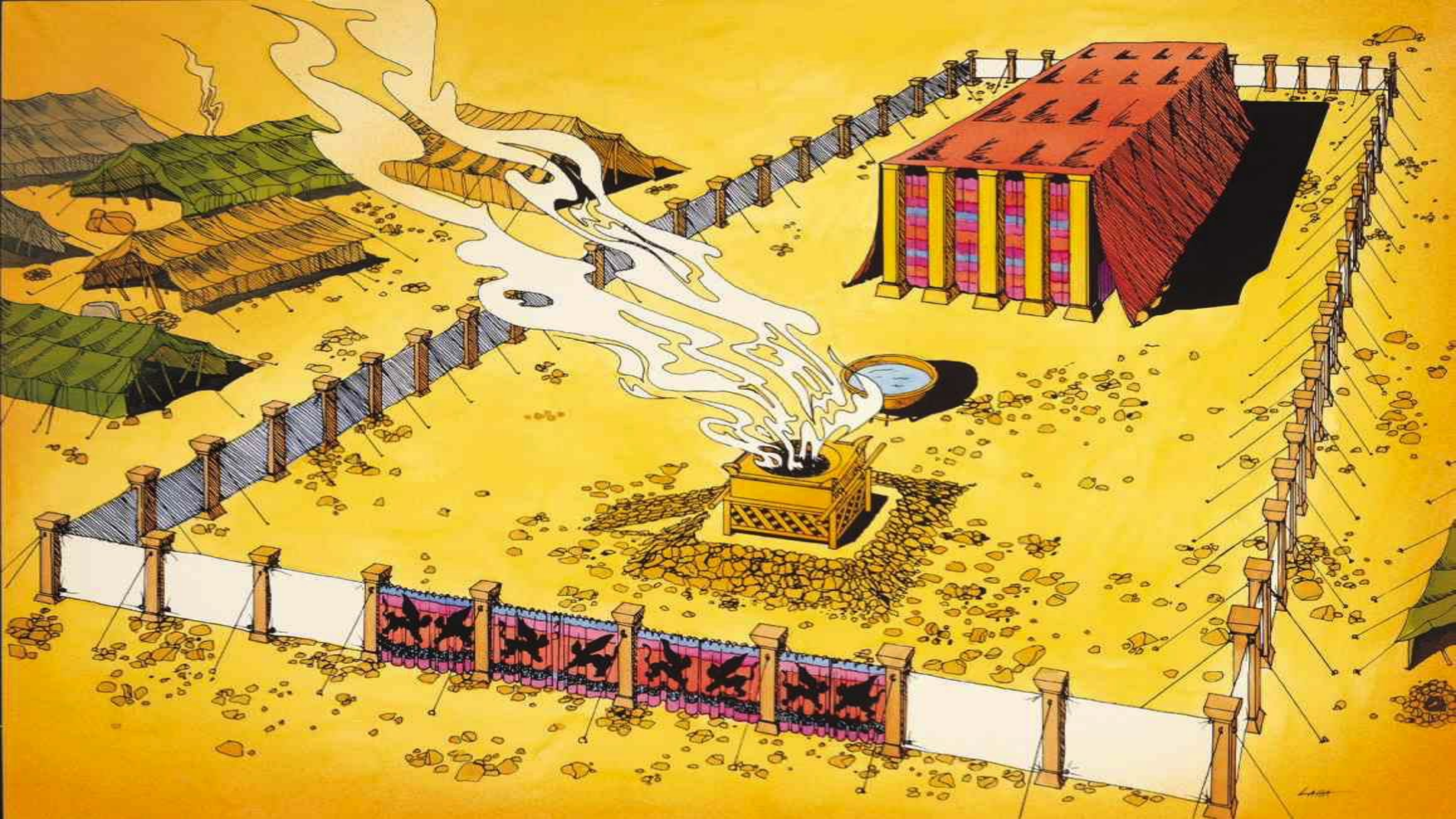
¹¹ With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: “He is good; His love toward Israel endures forever.” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

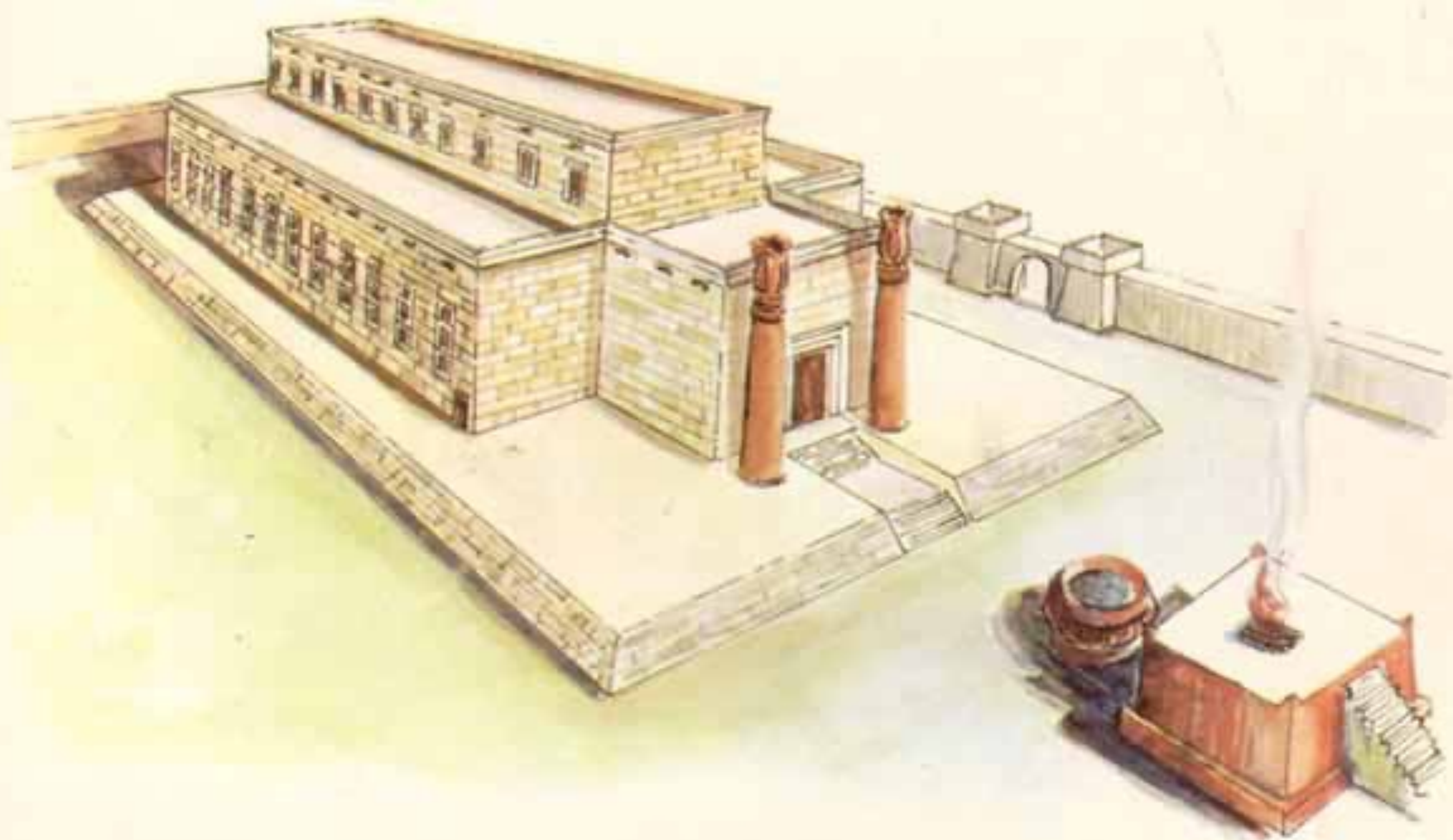
Ezra 3:11 (NIV 2011)

¹² But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. ¹³ No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

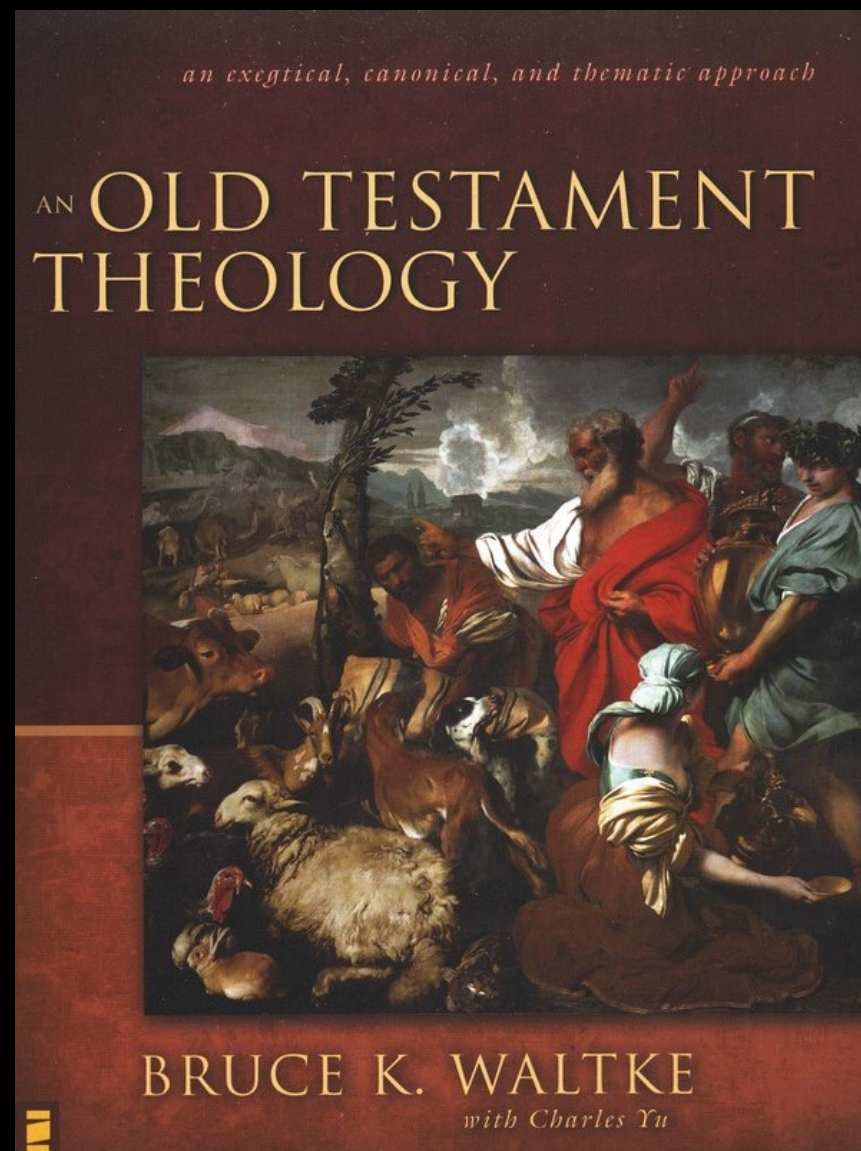
Ezra 3:12-13 (NIV 2011)







“[Worship] enables and enacts a meeting of the whole person with God... [it] aims to lead participants into a religious experience. Those who see the structure of [worship] are engaged both emotionally and cognitively.”



Bruce Waltke,
An Old Testament Theology, 448

¹⁶ ...For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

2 Corinthians 6:16b (NIV 2011)

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV 2011)

¹⁹ Consequently, you are... fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV 2011)



