




THE PRINCE OF PERSIA

Five Studies in the Book of Daniel

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The background of the slide is a photograph of an ancient Egyptian wall painting. On the left side, there is a large, detailed profile of a deity, likely Osiris, wearing a tall, striped headdress (nemes) and a long, pleated kilt. The deity has a dark, curly beard and a serene expression. The painting is in a traditional Egyptian style, with clear outlines and a limited color palette. The right side of the slide is a solid brown rectangle containing the title text in white.

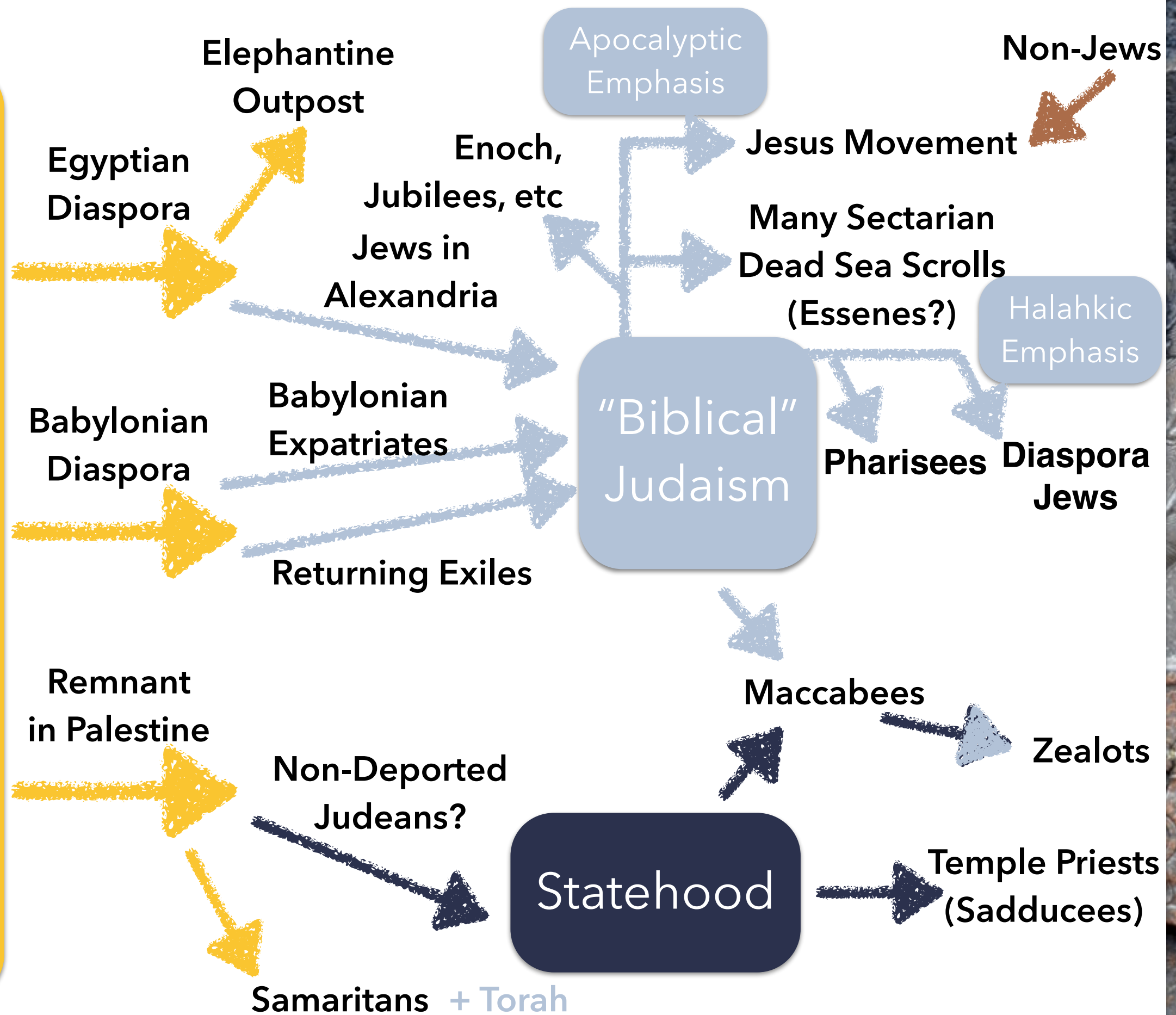
WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS OF MODERN CHRISTIANITY & RABBINIC JUDAISM?

Two Different Inheritors of Biblical Judaism

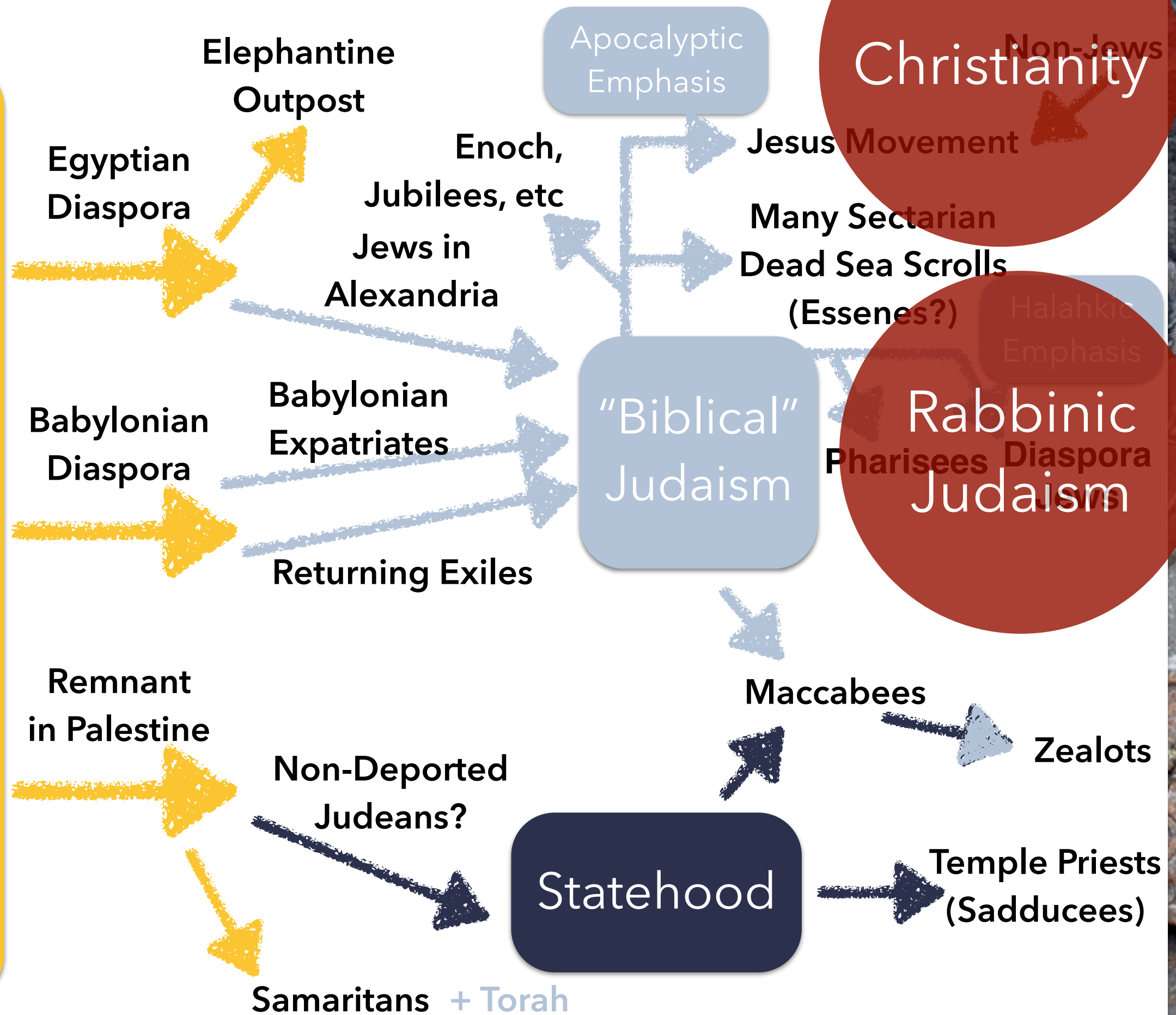


A “Map” of Second Temple Judaism

Pre-Exilic Israel and Judah

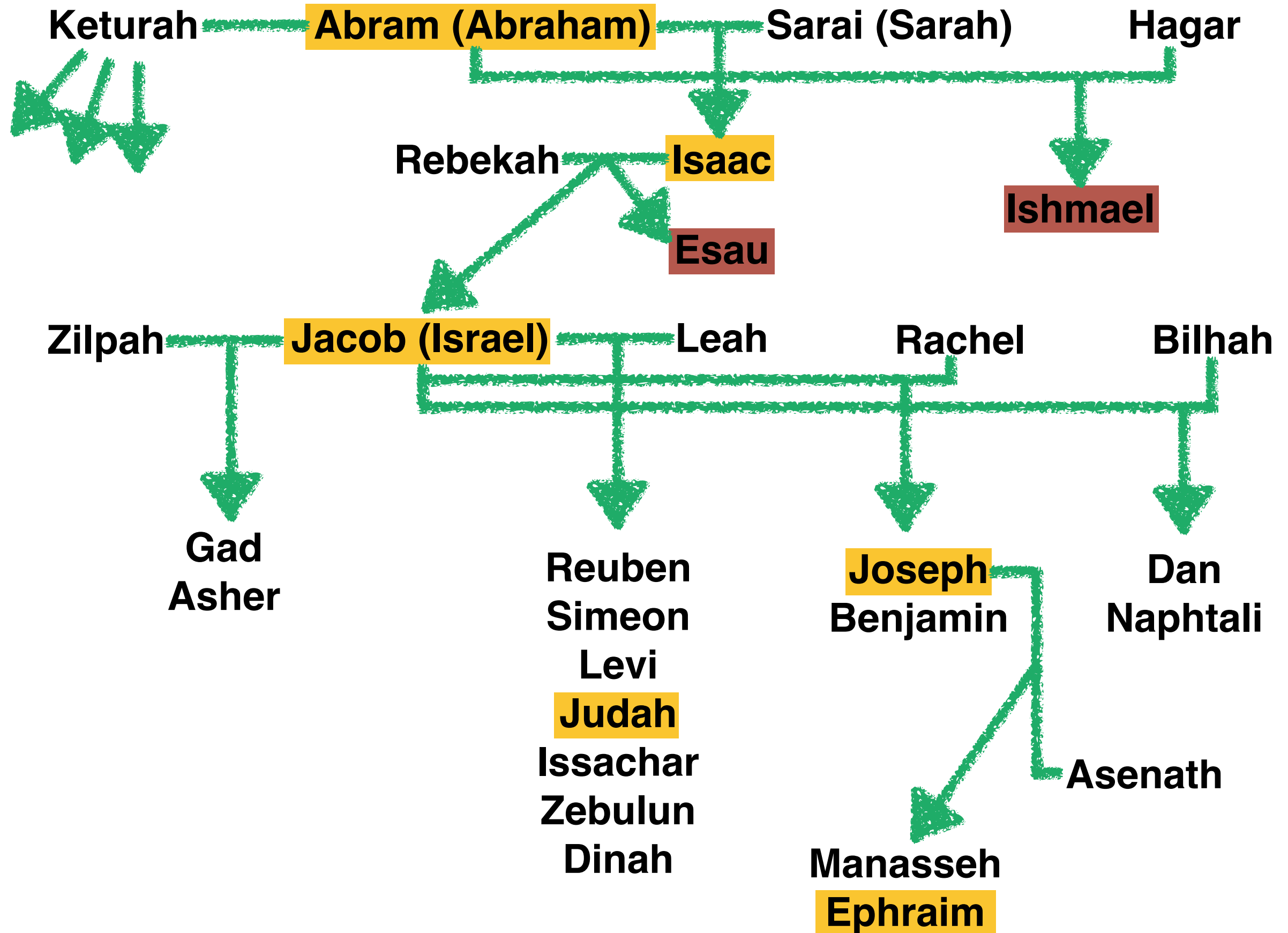


Pre-Exilic Israel and Judah



CONFLICT BETWEEN FATHER AND SON OR TWO BROTHERS?

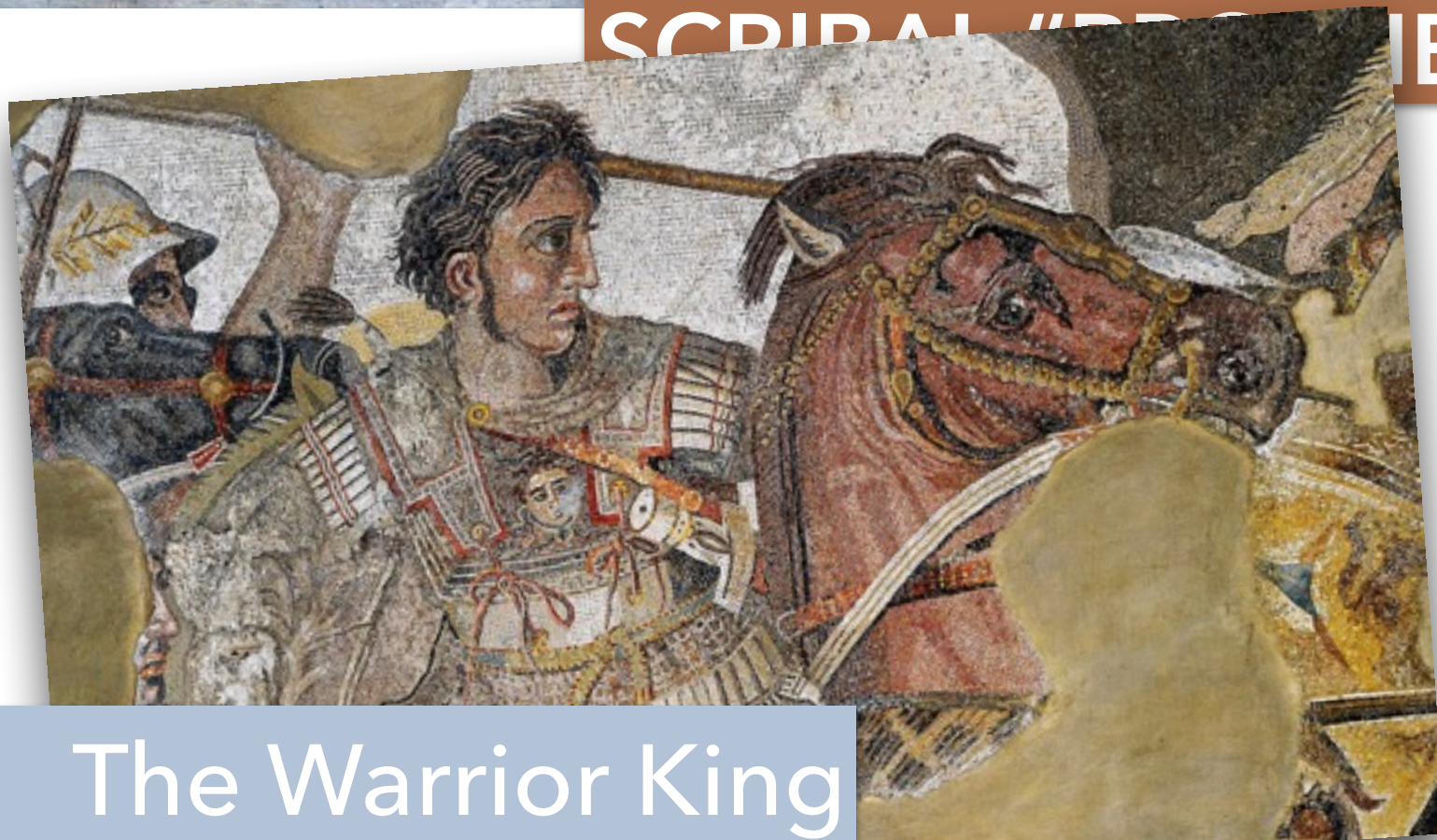






Daniel 10-12

Scribal "Prophecy"



The Warrior King



The "Kittim"



The King of the North



The King of the South

SCRIBAL "PROPHECY"

The descendants of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.

Genesis 10:4 NRSV

The oracle concerning Tyre.

Wail, O ships of Tarshish,
for your fortress is destroyed.
When they came in from Cyprus
they learned of it.

Isaiah 23:1 NRSV

For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall lose heart
and withdraw. He shall be enraged and take action against the holy
covenant. He shall turn back and pay heed to those who forsake the
holy covenant.

Daniel 11:30 NRSV

SCRIBAL "PROPHECY"

[Gabriel] said, "Listen, and I will tell you what will take place later in the period of wrath; for it refers to the appointed time of the end.

Daniel 8:19 NRSV

The two kings, their minds bent on evil, shall sit at one table and exchange lies. But it shall not succeed, for there remains an end at the time appointed.

Daniel 11:27 NRSV

"At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south, but this time it shall not be as it was before.

Daniel 11:29 NRSV

מוֹעֵד

mō'ēd

"appointed
time"

מוֹעֵד

mō'ēd

For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

Habakkuk 2:3 NRSV

"appointed
time"

SCRIBAL "PROPHECY"

[The King of the North] shall seduce with intrigue those who violate the covenant; but the people who are loyal to their God shall stand firm and take action. The wise among the people shall give understanding to many; for some days, however, they shall fall by sword and flame, and suffer captivity and plunder. When they fall victim, they shall receive a little help, and many shall join them insincerely. Some of the wise shall fall, so that they may be refined, purified, and cleansed, until the time of the end, for there is still an interval until the time appointed.

Daniel 11:32-35 NRSV

Who are "the people loyal to their God"?

Who are "the wise"?

What is happening in their community?



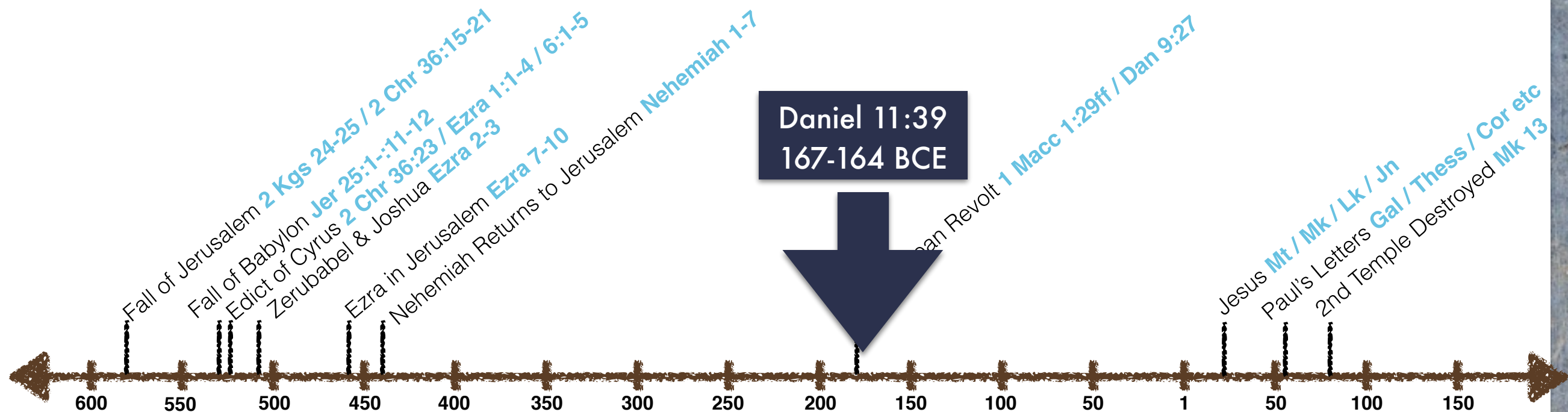
Daniel 10-12

Scribal "Prophecy"

The Eschatological Transition Between
v. 39 and v. 40

Latter Narrative Books

Post-exilic Judah and Second Temple Judaism



Daniel

Haggai

Esther

Zechariah

Ezekiel

Malachi

"2nd" Isaiah

"3rd" Isaiah

Joel

Acts

Revelation

Narrative Setting of Other Books

Hasmonean State
110 - 63 BCE

World Events

Ptolemies & Seleucids
4th -2nd c. BCE

Septuagint LXX
3rd - 2nd c. BCE

Codex Invented
1st c. CE

Bar Kohkba
130s CE

Cyrus the Great
559-530 BCE

Alexander the Great
333 BCE

Dead Sea Scrolls
4th to 1st c. BCE

Herodian Dynasty
47 BCE - 92 CE

Rabbinic Tannaitic
Period 1st & 2nd c CE

SCRIBAL "PROPHECY"

"At the time of the end the king of the south shall attack him. But the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. He shall advance against countries and pass through like a flood. He shall come into the beautiful land, and tens of thousands shall fall victim, but Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites shall escape from his power. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the riches of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall follow in his train. But reports from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to bring ruin and complete destruction to many. He shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with no one to help him.

Daniel 11:40-45 NRSV



Jerusalem

★ Babylon

★ Ecbatana

★ Pasargadae



★ Jerusalem

★ Babylon

★ Ecbatana



Sogdiana



Daniel 10-12

The Resurrection of the Dead

SCRIBAL "PROPHECY"

When they are inflamed, I will set out their drink
and make them drunk, until they become merry
and then sleep a perpetual sleep
and never wake, says the LORD.

Jeremiah 51:39 NRSV

Now I would be lying down and quiet;
I would be asleep; then I would be at rest
Job 3:13 NRSV

“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase.”

Daniel 12:1-4 NRSV

SCRIBAL "PROPHECY"

For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;
I am like those who have no help,
like those forsaken among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.

Psalm 88:3-5 NRSV

“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase.”

Daniel 12:1-4 NRSV



Daniel 10-12

The Resurrection of the Dead

Death is a (hopefully) temporary state—like sleep

SCRIBAL "PROPHECY"

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 37:5-6 NRSV

Your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise.

O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy!
For your dew is a radiant dew,
and the earth will give birth to those long dead.

Isaiah 26:19 NRSV
also Isa 66:22-24

"At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase."

Daniel 12:1-4 NRSV

SCRIBAL "PROPHECY"

Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make
many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

Isaiah 53:11 NRSV

“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase.”

Daniel 12:1-4 NRSV



Daniel 10-12

The Resurrection of the Dead

Death is a (hopefully) temporary state—like sleep

Resurrection of the righteous only—particularly martyrs?

SCRIBAL "PROPHECY"

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Daniel 12:1-4 NRSV

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24 NRSV

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a *natural* body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a *natural* body, there is also a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NRSV



Daniel 10-12

The Resurrection of the Dead

Death is a (hopefully) temporary state—like sleep

Resurrection of the righteous only—particularly martyrs?

It is a *bodily* resurrection with continued existence *on earth*



Daniel 10-12

Daniel's Changing Character

DANIEL'S CHARACTER

To these four young men God gave knowledge and skill in every aspect of literature and wisdom; Daniel also had insight into all visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:17 NRSV

Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night, and Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:19 NRSV

Now you, Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are unable to tell me the interpretation. You are able, however, for you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods.”

Daniel 4:18 NRSV

Then Daniel answered in the presence of the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, or give your rewards to someone else! Nevertheless I will read the writing to the king and let him know the interpretation.

Daniel 5:17 NRSV

As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter:

Daniel 7:15-16 NRSV

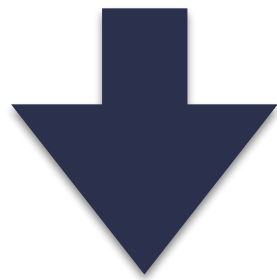
When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I tried to understand it. Then someone appeared standing before me, having the appearance of a man, and I heard a human voice by the Ulai, calling, “Gabriel, help this man understand the vision.”

Daniel 8:15-16 NRSV

So I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days; then I arose and went about the king's business. But I was dismayed by the vision and did not understand it.

Daniel 8:27 NRSV

DANIEL'S CHARACTER



DANIEL'S CHARACTER

But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase.”

Then I, Daniel, looked, and two others appeared, one standing on this bank of the stream and one on the other. One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was upstream, “How long shall it be until the end of these wonders?” The man clothed in linen, who was upstream, raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven. And I heard him swear by the one who lives forever that it would be for a time, two times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end, all these things would be accomplished. I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are to remain secret and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be purified, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked shall continue to act wickedly. None of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. From the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that desolates is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred ninety days. Happy are those who persevere and attain the thousand three hundred thirty-five days. But you, go your way, and rest; you shall rise for your reward at the end of the days.”

Daniel 12:4-13 NRSV

DANIEL'S CHARACTER



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 The end of Daniel seems to invite the readers to become the prophets and scribes who interpret God's presence and activity in our own time. How was this invitation accepted in the NT? In our own time?
- 2 To what extent does Daniel's (and the New Testament's) view of Resurrection challenge and/or enrich popular ideas about the afterlife today?
- 3 Do Christians have a special relationship to Jews distinct from our relationships with other religions?



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