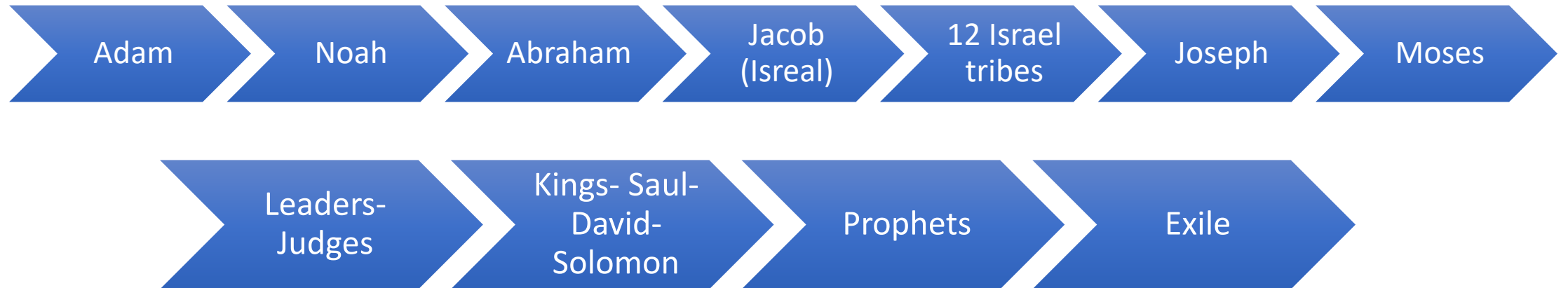


Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther

Character of a True Servant

Quick timeline recap



How the Story started...

The Exile (the captivity)

- God allowed His people to be exiled and held captive due to their own sins
- The blessing, the grace of God, the Divine protection leaves man



How the Story started...

The Exile is ending after the prophets and the people cried out to God

- Isiah
- Daniel
- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel

God listened, which is a miracle (Service and God's work)

- Zerubbabel
- Ezra
- Nehemiah

Ezra



Ezra- Trust in God

- 10 chapters
 - First 5 chapters – Zerubbabel
 - Second 5 chapters- Ezra
- “the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia”

Ezra- How to Pray

- And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, since You our God have punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*,

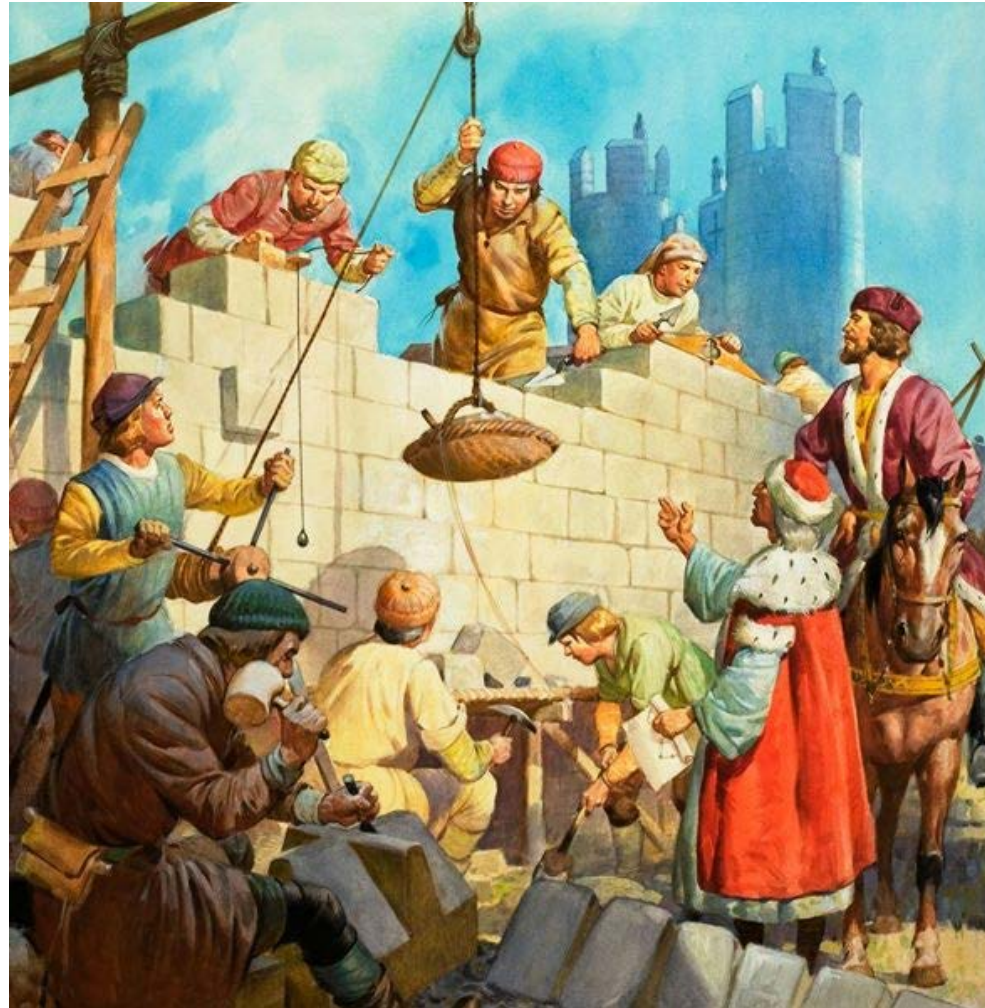
Ezra- How to defeat the Devil

- The Priests wept for Joy.
- The Devil will fight back.

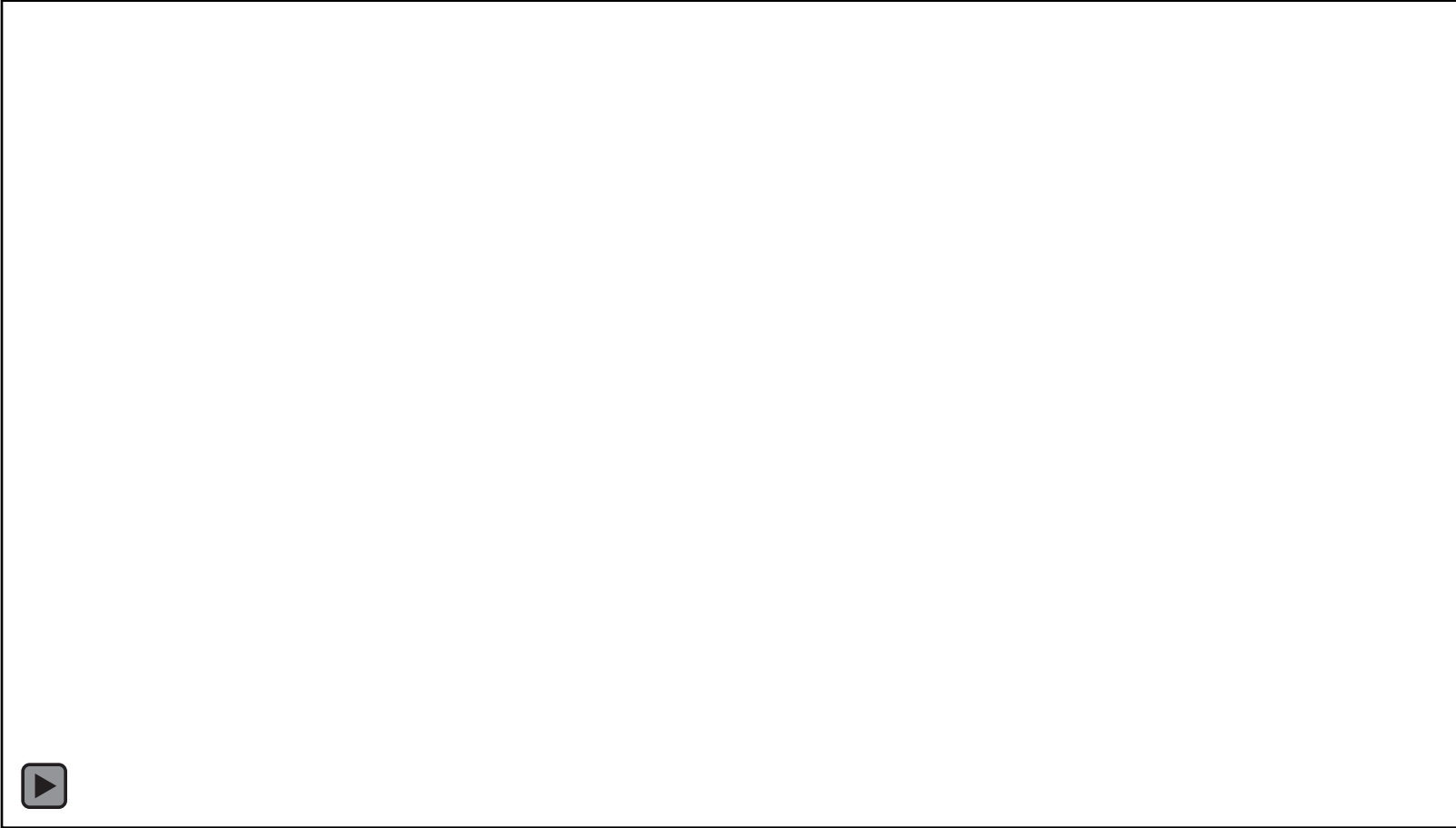
Ezra- Priorities

- To revive the spiritual status of his people

Nehemiah



Nehemiah



Nehemiah

- Nehemiah means: God has comforted
- His characteristics: responsible, *zealous*, *wise*, *humble*

Nehemiah- The Humble

- So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept , and mourned *for many* days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah- How to Pray

- ⁵ And I said: “I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, *You* who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with those who love You^[b] and observe Your^[c] commandments ,
- but *if* you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them,
- So I prayed to the God of heaven

Nehemiah- How to defeat the devil

- But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard *of it*, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, “What *is* this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?”
- Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* beside him, and he said, “Whatever they build, if even a fox goes *upon it*, he will break down their stone wall.

Nehemiah- Priorities

- Now the wall is built, the gates are built. Nehemiah has a security schedule. Yet the houses inside the city are still a disaster.

Esther



Esther- The Obedient (Queen)

- It's a story of Salvation- of God's people.
- Resemblance to the salvation of the new testament
- Mordechai is the character responsible for the salvation- Just like our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Ester is the Church.

Esther- How to defeat the devil

- Mordechai helped save the king from a trap, but was never rewarded.
- But was condemned to death
- The decree to kill all the people of Isreal
- Mordechai told Esther to tell the King She's a Jew in order to save the people of Isreal (Obedient Queen)

Esther- How to Pray

- Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.

Esther- Priorities

- To save the people of Isreal

Recap



Ezra



Nehemiah



Esther



How do I start?

- In all situations from now until I start service, I need to be able to entrust God.
- I need to do all that's in my power
- Yet know that none of it will be fruitful unless God intervenes
- Change of heart and mind
- Change of view on life