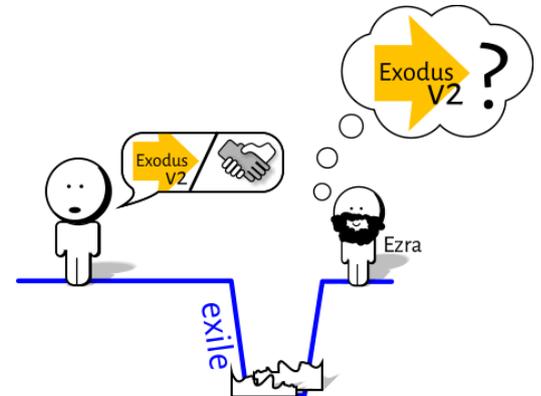


# Talk 3: Are we nearly there yet? (Ezra 7–10)

Have a read of Ezra chapters 7–10.

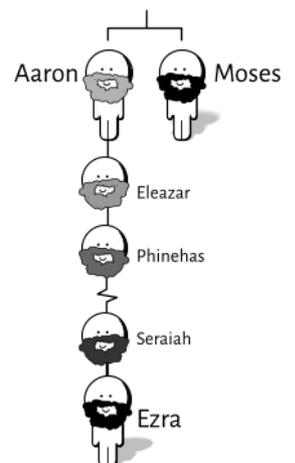
Ezra is sent to Judah to check on how they're doing. How does he get on?

## A question that really matters



## Ezra's quest (7:1–8:36)

A new Aaron (7:1–10)



## A fulfilling mission? (7:11–28)

“For you are sent ...

1. ...to make enquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the Law of your God, which is in your hand,
2. and also to carry the silver and gold that the king and his counsellors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem...”

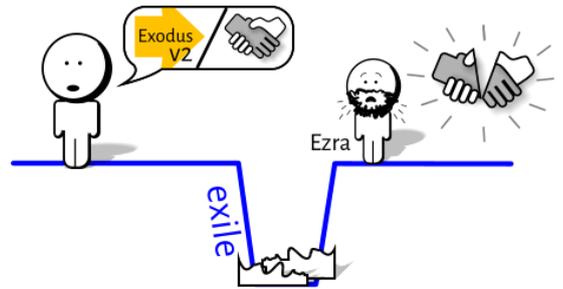
(v14–15)

## The beautiful house (8:1–36)

## Ezra's answer (1): a resounding "no" (9:1–10:44)

### The devastating report (9:1–10:15)

cf Deuteronomy 7:1–4

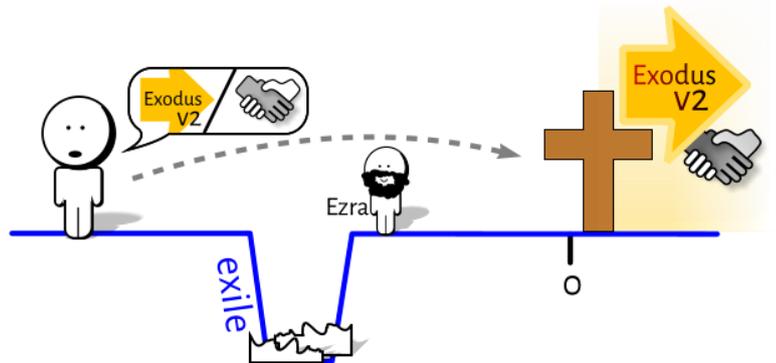


### The damage assessment (10:16–44)



## Key lesson #4:

## Ezra's answer (2): Jesus

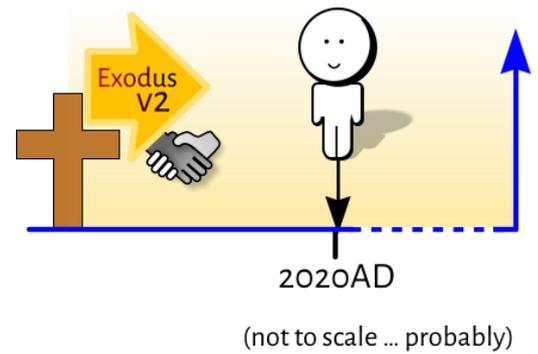


"This is my blood of the covenant  
which is poured out for many."  
(Mark 14:24)

"But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old  
as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises." (Hebrews 8:6)

"For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." (Hebrews 10:14)

## Where are we?



### Key lesson #4 (revisited):

## Life beyond lockdown?

### Questions for discussion and reflection

- “Are we nearly there yet?” What’s your answer?
- How does their disappointment (chapters 9–10) help us to appreciate what we have in Jesus?
- “**Their** celebrations should really be **our** celebrations.” How can we help each other appreciate where we find ourselves in salvation history?
- “We’re not there yet.” Why does that matter? What difference should it make?
- What sort of picture of God do we get in the book of Ezra?
- How has the book of Ezra helped us see the significance of what God is doing?