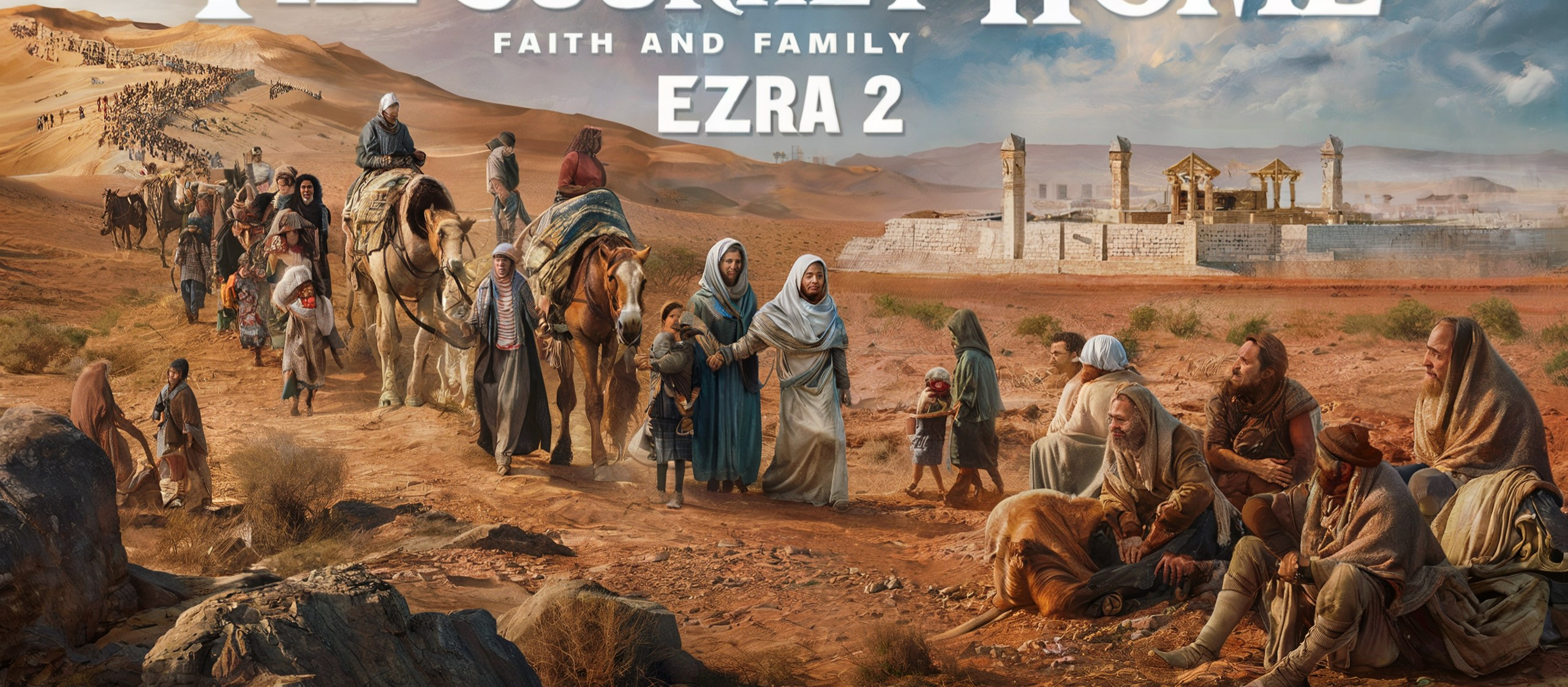


THE JOURNEY HOME

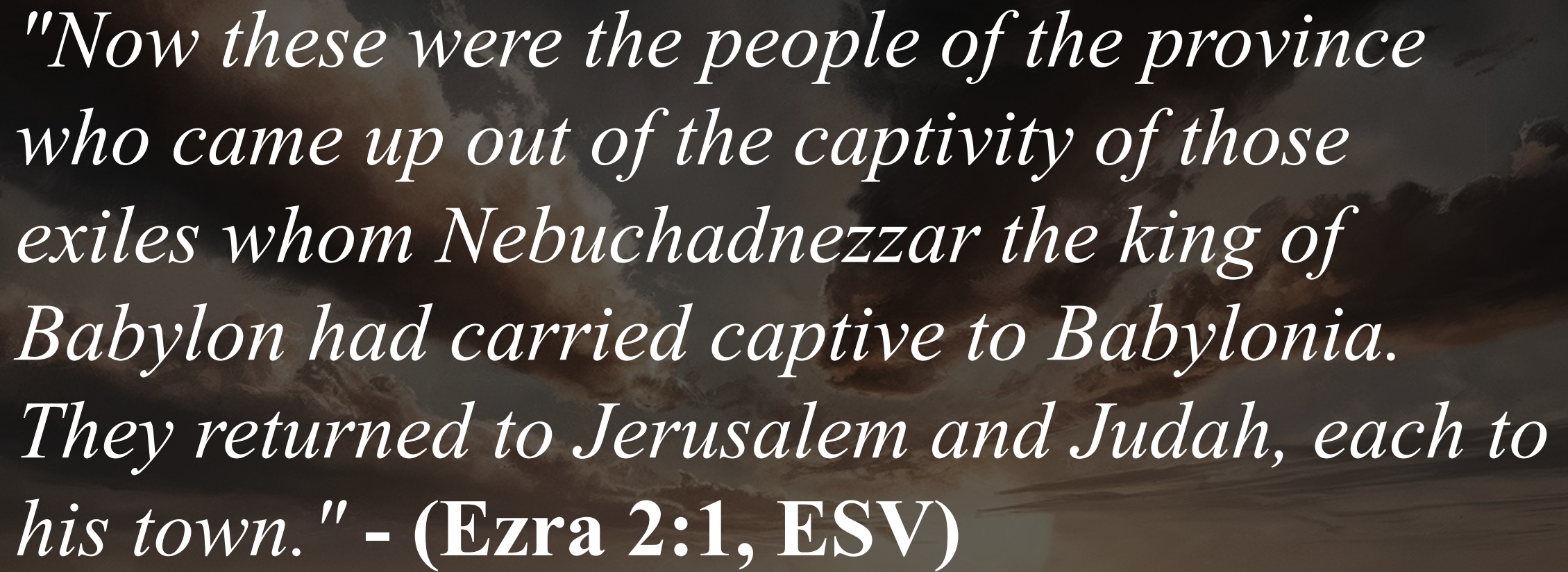
FAITH AND FAMILY

EZRA 2



PRAYER

A dramatic landscape featuring a vast desert in the foreground with rolling sand dunes. The sky is filled with large, billowing, golden-brown clouds against a deep blue background. The word "PRAYER" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

The background of the image is a dramatic landscape. The upper portion is dominated by a dark, moody sky filled with heavy, layered clouds in shades of grey and brown. Below the sky, the terrain is a vast, undulating desert or dunes, rendered in warm, earthy tones of brown and tan. The lighting is low, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall mood is somber and reflective, which complements the biblical text overlaid on the image.

"Now these were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried captive to Babylonia. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his town." - (Ezra 2:1, ESV)

"The whole assembly together was 42,360, besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337, and they also had 200 male and female singers. Their horses were 736, their mules were 245, their camels were 435, and their donkeys were 6,720. Some of the heads of families, when they came to the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem, made freewill offerings for the house of God, to erect it on its site. - (Ezra 2:64-68, ESV)

According to their ability they gave to the treasury of the work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver, and 100 priests' garments. Now the priests, the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants lived in their towns, and all the rest of Israel in their towns." (Ezra 2:69-70, ESV)

Observations from Ezra 2 :

- Over **40,000** men, representing 120,000 - 200,000 people. (*Assuming 3-5 family size*)
- Journey of more than **500** miles from Babylonia to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.
- They brought **5400** vessels with them.

God's Faithfulness

God is faithful to fulfill His promises. He gives all of us a second chance to be saved through faith.

Reference Verses: Lamentations 3:22-23, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Timothy 2:13

The Power of Family and Community

The strength (unity) of family and community is essential in fulfilling God's purposes.

*Reference Verses: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12,
Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:42*

The Importance of Recordkeeping

Detailed records in Scripture showcase the significance of each individual to God.

*Reference Verses: Revelation 20:12,
Philippians 4:3, Daniel 12:1*

Responding to God's Call

It is critical for us to respond to God's call for our lives for restoration, renewal, and revival to occur.

*Reference Verses: Isaiah 6:8, Romans 8:28,
Matthew 4:19*

The Power of Community Generosity

Give generously according to your ability of your **time, talent and treasure**. This can greatly advance God's work.

Reference Verses: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Luke 6:38, Proverbs 11:25



**What can I do with this
information?**

**What action steps can I
take?**

Trust in God's Faithfulness

As God was faithful to His people, He is faithful to believers.

*Reference Verses: Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 37:5,
Isaiah 26:3*

Become Part of a Spiritual Community

Join the local church, a spiritual community, a family to journey together in faith.

Reference Verses: Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 12:27

Realize Your Value to God

You are valuable to God. You are made in His image. You are loved by Jesus Christ.

Reference Verses: Psalm 139:13-14, Jeremiah 1:5, Matthew 10:30-31

Practice Generosity

Give according to your ability of your time, talent, and treasure.

Reference Verses: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Luke 6:38, Proverbs 11:25

Begin on a Spiritual Journey in Christ

Begin today on your spiritual journey in Christ through learning and growing in Him.

*Reference Verses: Colossians 2:6-7,
Philippians 3:12-14, Hebrews 12:1-2*

Leave a Legacy

Leave an everlasting legacy in Christ with your name written in the Book of Life through faith in Christ.

*Reference Verses: Revelation 20:12,
Revelation 20:15, Revelation 21:27, Revelation
3:5, Philippians 4:3, Daniel 12:1, Luke 10:20*



PRAYER

BENEDICTION

