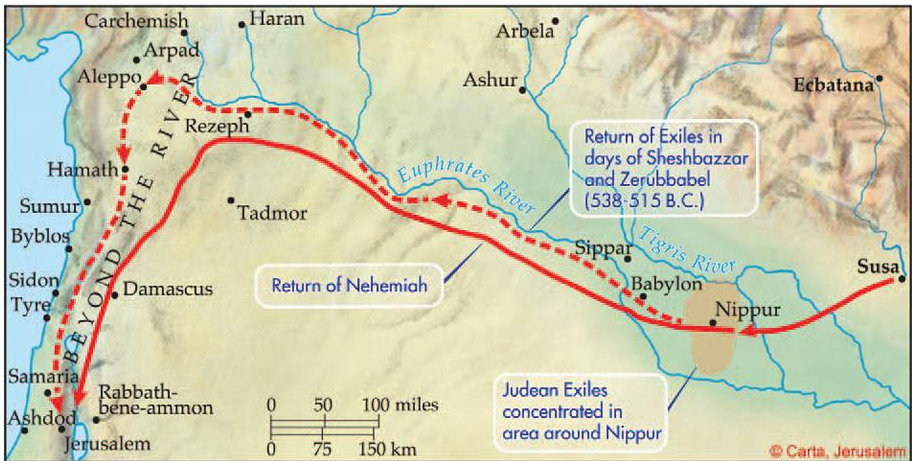


Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

June 5, 2022

Ezra 4 (part 2): The World, The Flesh, and the Devil

The Trans-Euphrates: the land beyond the river.



What did the Israelites return to Jerusalem for?



Ezra 4:11-24

What did the enemies say to persuade the king of Persia?

What did the king say in response to their letter?

Our Opposition: The World, The Flesh, and the Devil

1. The World

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. (James 4:4)

2. The Flesh

So, I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. (Romans 7:21-23)

3. The Devil

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. (Luke 22:31-32)

There are two ditches you can end up in relating to what you think about the devil...



You can overestimate how much the devil is trying to oppose you. And you can underestimate that the devil is trying to completely devour you.

What does the Bible say are your three enemies?

Should I be scared?

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

Help others find freedom from the world, the flesh, and the devil.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.
(Ephesians 2:1-5)

No HOME GROUP questions this week.