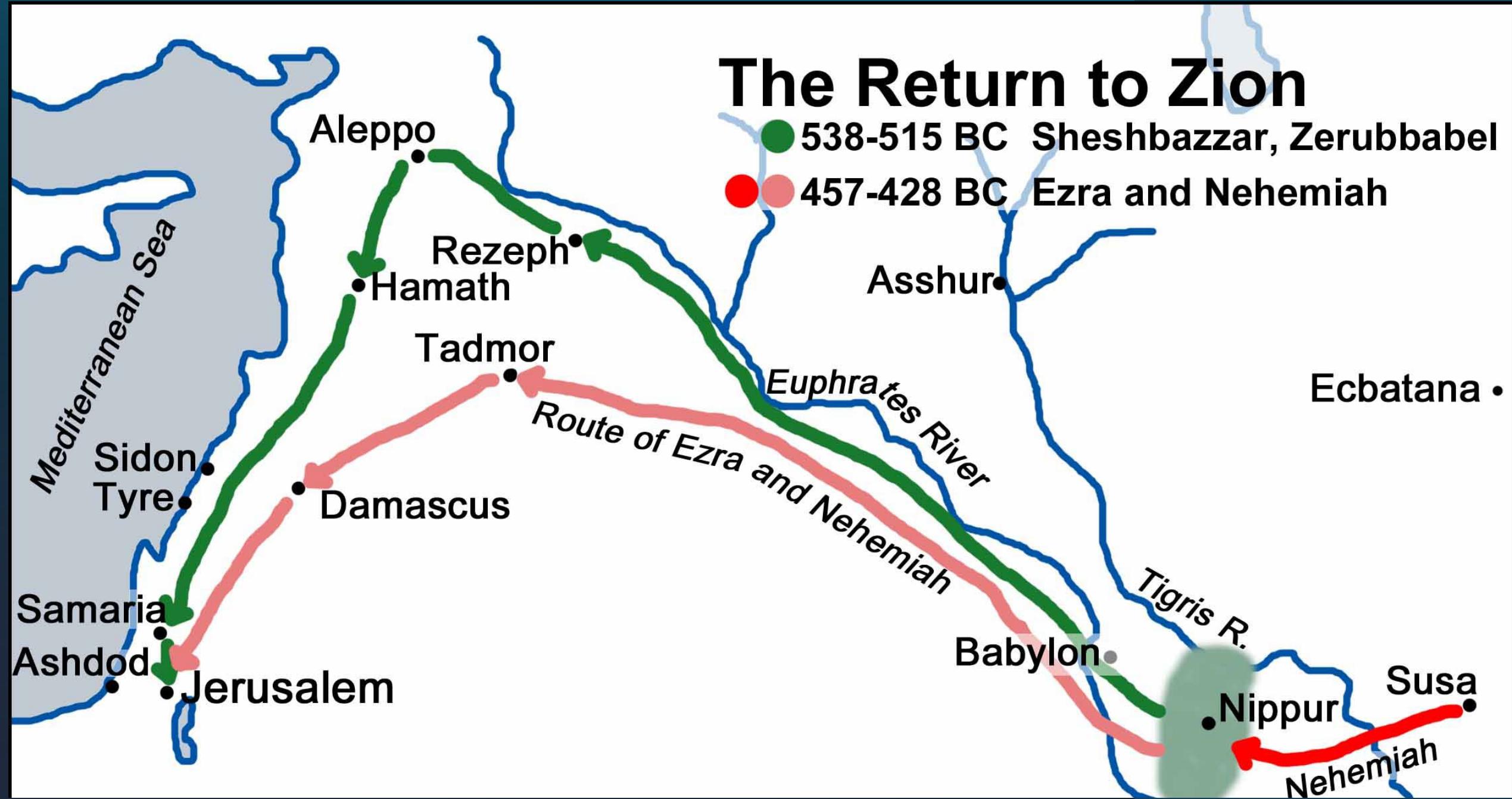


The Return to Zion

- 538-515 BC Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel
- 457-428 BC Ezra and Nehemiah

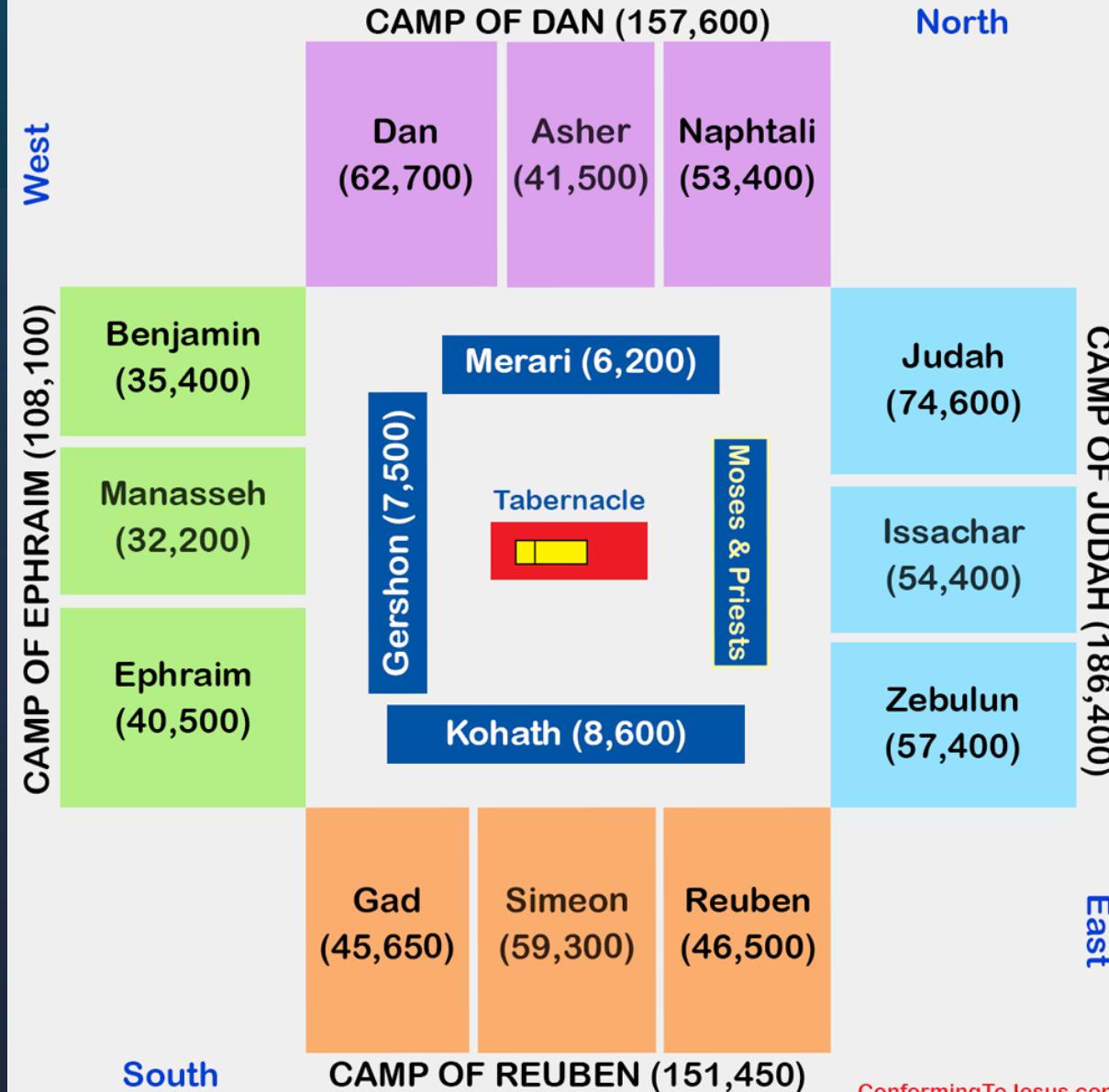


...the entire reason for our worship is that God deserves it. (Worship) immerses us in the regal splendor of the King of the cosmos...provides opportunities for us to enjoy God's presence in corporate ways that takes us out of time and into the eternal purposes of God's kingdom. As a result, we shall be changed—but not because of anything we do. God, on whom we are centered and to whom we submit, will transform us by his Revelation of himself.

—Marva Dawn “A Royal Waste of Time”

ENCAMPMENT OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 2:1 - 3:39



A.W. Tozer on Ingredients to Worship

One is **admiration**. We can admire without worshiping — but we cannot worship without admiring, because worship is admiration carried to infinitude.

In the same way, we can **honor** what we do not worship — but we cannot worship the one we do not honor. So worship carries with it an ingredient of honor.

Then there is the spirit we call **fascination** — or transcendent **wonder**. Here the mind ceases to understand and goes over to a kind of delightful astonishment. We can only worship that which fascinates us. That kind of worship is found throughout the Bible. *Moses* hid his face before the presence of God in the burning bush. *Paul* could hardly tell whether he was in or out of the body when he was allowed to see the unspeakable glories of the third Heaven. When *John* saw Jesus walking among His churches, he fell at His feet as dead. Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery — God. ...If God can be understood by me, then I cannot worship God. Mystery always baffles the understanding and stuns the mind — and we come before God in speechless humility in the presence of the inexpressible mystery. When we come into this sweet relationship, we are beginning to learn astonished reverence, breathless adoration, awesome fascination, lofty admiration of the attributes of God.

Another ingredient is **love**. We can love without worshiping, but we cannot worship without loving. Then love, when it lets itself go and no longer has any restraints, becomes **adoration**. Worship becomes a completely personal love experience between God and the worshiper. Worship seeks union with its Beloved, and an active effort to close the gap between the heart, and the God it adores — is worship at its best. To adore God means we love Him with all the powers within us. We love Him with fear and wonder and yearning and awe. The *music of the heart* is adoration. The music of *Heaven* is adoration. When we get to Heaven, we will find that the harpers harping on their harps are just adoring God, nothing more.

61000 Daric of Gold	8.4 gram	\$148.22	\$75,947,928
	1 Daric	1gram	
5000 Minas of silver	1.2566 lbs	\$1,312.65	\$8,247,379
	1 Mina	1 lbs	
Total Given		\$84,195,307	

God's revelation... unmasks our illusions about ourselves. It exposes our pride, our individualism, our self-centeredness - in short, our sin. But worship also offers forgiveness, healing, transformation, motivation, and courage to work in the world for God's justice and peace - in short, salvation in its largest sense.

—Marva Dawn “A Royal Waste of Time”