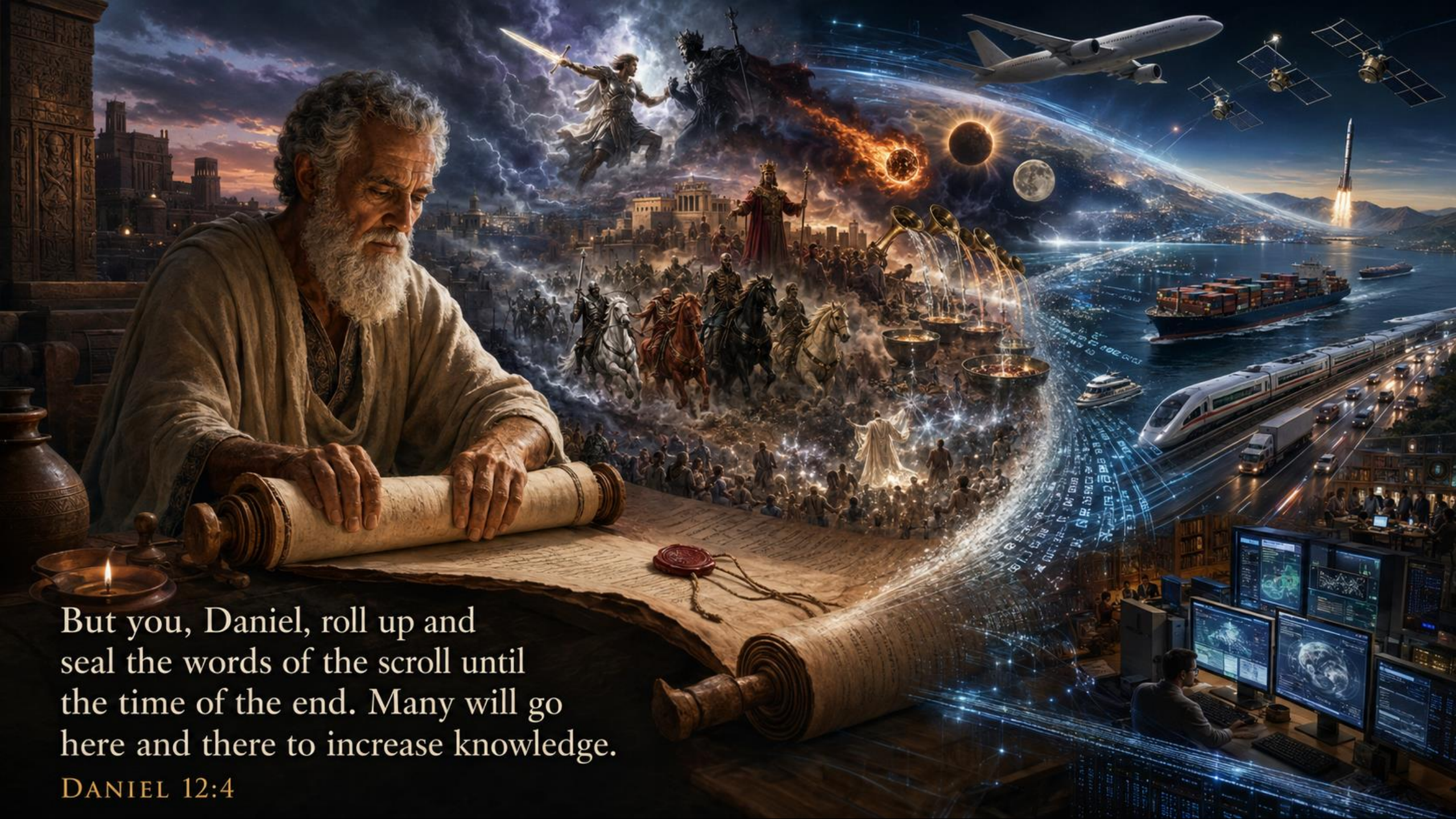


EZRA 1

RESTORATION:

RISE, RETURN AND REBUILD





But you, Daniel, roll up and
seal the words of the scroll until
the time of the end. Many will go
here and there to increase knowledge.

DANIEL 12:4

1 In the first year of
Cyrus king of Persia,
that the word of the LORD
by the mouth of Jeremiah
might be fulfilled, the LORD
stirred up the spirit of Cyrus
king of Persia, so that he
made a proclamation
throughout all his kingdom
and also put it in writing:

EZRA 1:1



1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,

...

that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

4 For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.

5 I am the LORD, and there *is* no other,
...

13 I have stirred him up in righteousness,
and I will make all his ways level;
he shall build my city
and set my exiles free,
not for price or reward,
says the LORD of hosts.

ISAIAH 45

680 B.C. • 142 YEARS BEFORE CYRUS' DECREE



2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3 Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel

EZRA 1:2-3



4 And let each survivor,
in whatever place he
sojourns, be assisted
by the men of his place
with silver and gold,
with goods and with
beasts, besides freewill
offerings for the house
of God that is in
Jerusalem.

EZRA 1:4



5 Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem.

EZRA 1:5



6 And all who
were about them
aided them with
vessels of silver,
with gold, with
goods, with beasts,
and with costly
wares, besides all
that was freely
offered.

EZRA 1:6



35 The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing.

36 And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

EXODUS 12:35–36



7 Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the house of the LORD that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods.

8 Cyrus king of Persia brought these out in the charge of Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

EZRA 1:7-8



9 And this was the number of them: 30 basins of gold, 1,000 basins of silver, 29 censers, 10 30 bowls of gold, 410 bowls of silver, and 1,000 other vessels; 11 all the vessels of gold and of silver were 5,400. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up, when the exiles were brought up from Babylonia to Jerusalem.

—◆—
EZRA 1:9–11



RESTORED TO WORSHIP

God does not merely bring us
out of bondage—
He brings us back to His presence.

RISE • RETURN • REBUILD

