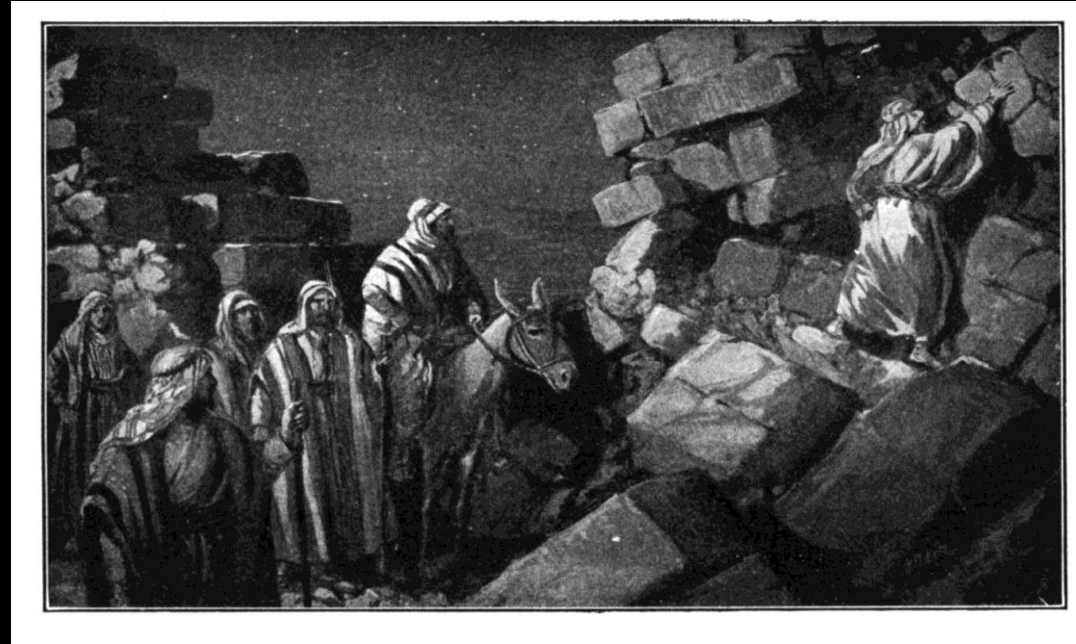


# A Time to Build



*A Study of the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther*

# Survey of Ezra

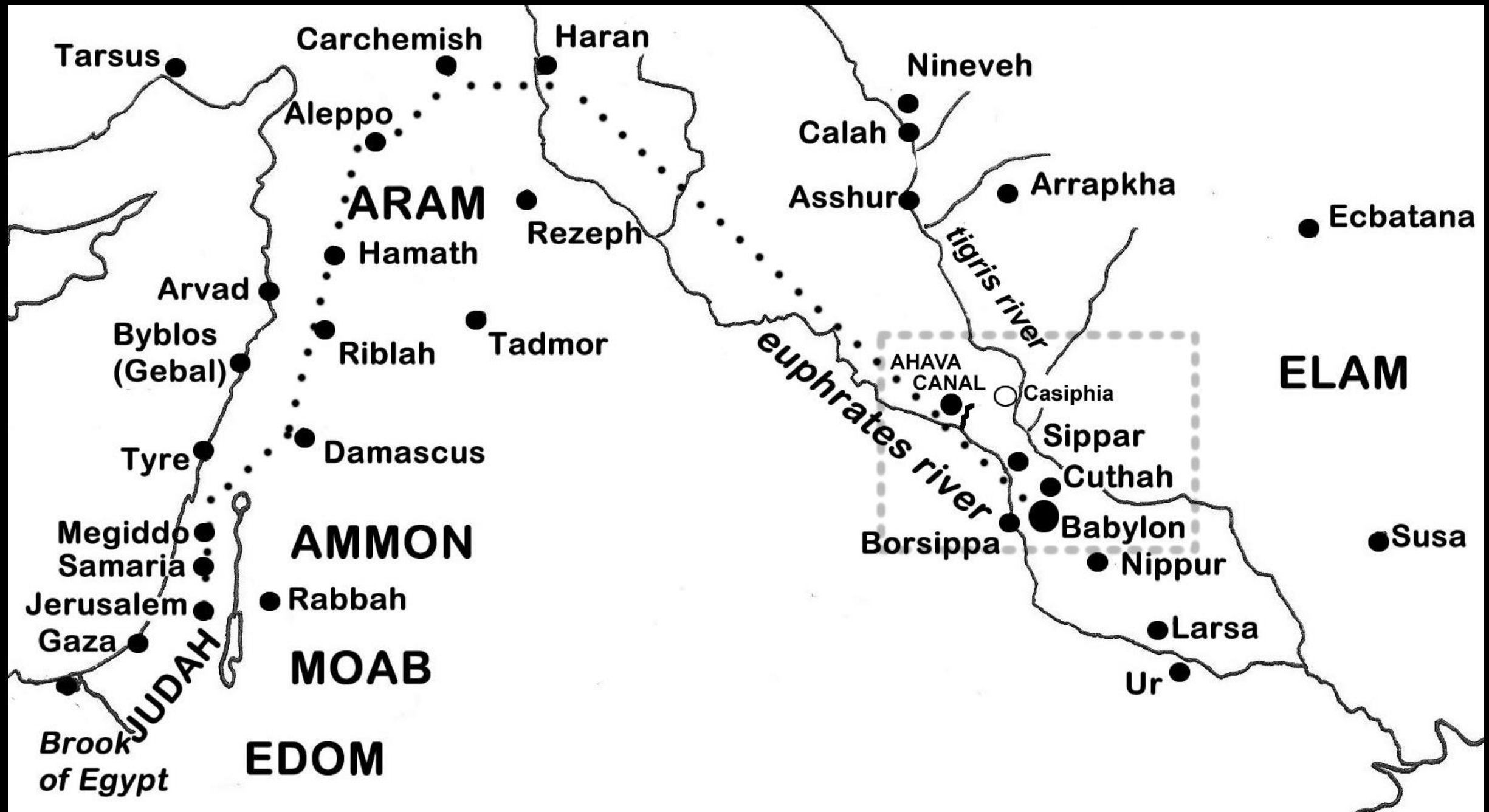
Restoration of the Temple 1:1 – 6:22		58-year gap of time	Reformation of the People 7:1 – 10:44	
First Return to Jerusalem (1-2)	Construction of the Temple (3-6)		Second Return to Jerusalem (7-8)	Reformation of the People (9-10)
Zerubbabel			Ezra	
First Return (49,897)			Second Return (1,754)	
From Babylon to Jerusalem			From Babylon to Jerusalem	
22 years (538 - 516 B.C.)			1 year (458 - 457 B.C.)	

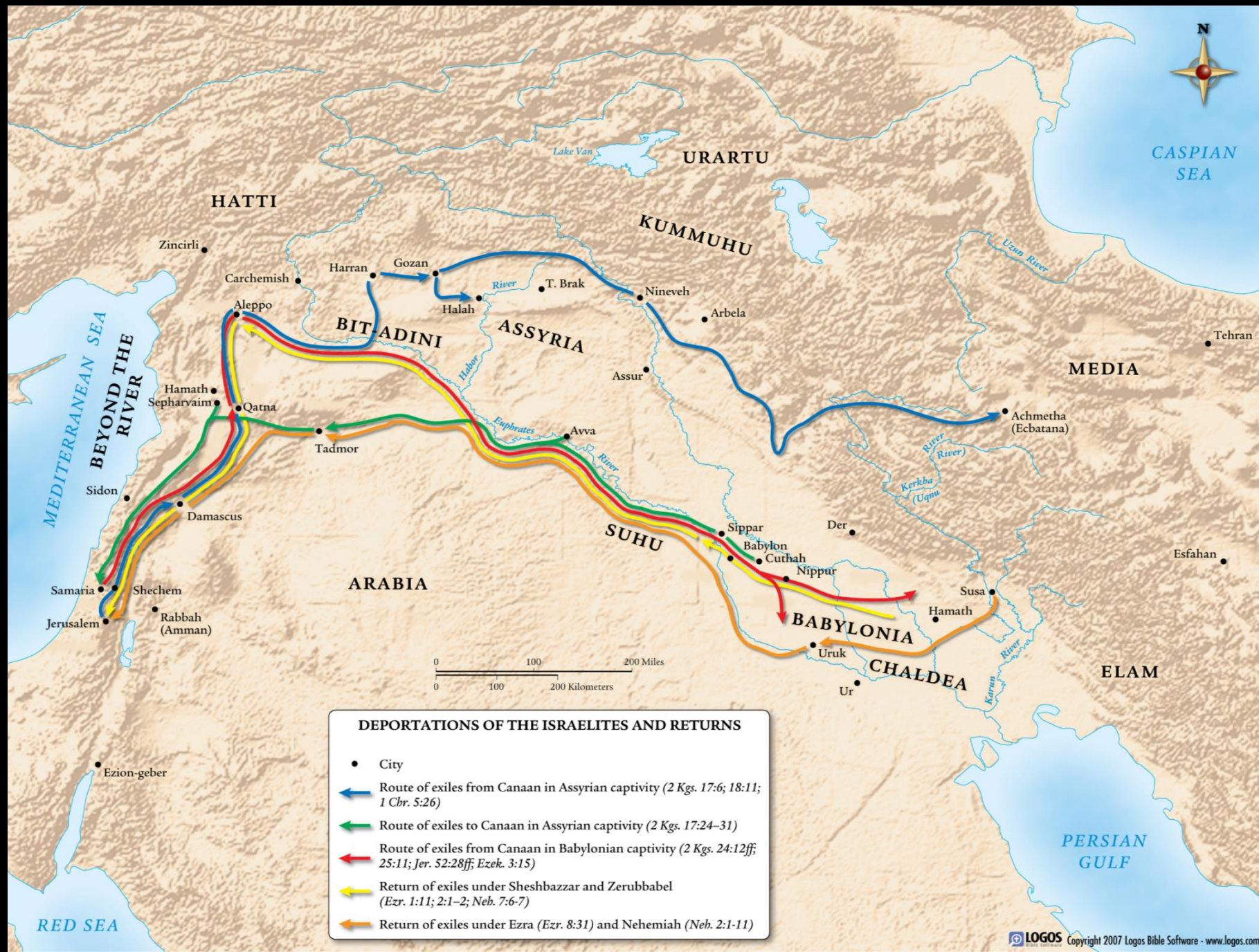
# Ezra: A Time to Build

<b>Ezra 1-6</b>	<b>Ezra 7-10</b>
Physical building	Spiritual building
Rebuilding the temple	Reforming the people
Ezra 1:1-4	Ezra 7:10, 25-26
538 – 516 B.C.	458 – 457 B.C.

# Ezra: A Time to Build

Chapter	Theme
Ezra 1-2	Return
Ezra 3-4	Rebuild
Ezra 5-6	Revive
Ezra 7-8	Replenish
Ezra 9-10	Reform





**DEPORTATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES AND RETURNS**

- City
- ← Blue arrow: Route of exiles from Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:6; 18:11; 1 Chr. 5:26)
- ← Green arrow: Route of exiles to Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:24-31)
- ← Red arrow: Route of exiles from Canaan in Babylonian captivity (2 Kgs. 24:12ff; 25:11; Jer. 52:28ff; Ezek. 3:15)
- ← Yellow arrow: Return of exiles under Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel (Ezr. 1:11; 2:1-2; Neh. 7:6-7)
- ← Orange arrow: Return of exiles under Ezra (Ezr. 8:31) and Nehemiah (Neh. 2:1-11)

# Applications for Today

1. Like Ezra, let us be skilled with the words of God and let us set our heart to seek the law of the Lord (learn it), to do it, and to teach it to others (7:6, 10-12, 14, 21, 25-26; 2 Tim. 2:2, 15).
2. The Lord's "good hand" works providentially in our lives to accomplish his will (7:6, 9, 27-28; 8:18, 22, 31; 1 Cor. 4:19).

# Applications for Today

3. Volunteer freely to do the Lord's work and bring a free-will offering to the Lord (7:13-16; 8:28; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Philemon 14).
4. Do the commands of God to avoid the wrath of God (7:23; Rom. 1:18; 2:5, 8).



# Applications for Today

5. Law is only as good as the enforcement of it.  
Therefore, punishment should be executed on anyone who does not do the law (7:26; Rom. 13:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:6; 2 Thess. 1:9; Heb. 10:29; 2 Pet. 2:9; Jude 7).
6. The Lord can influence world leaders to do his will (7:27; Ezra 6:22; Prov. 21:1; 1 Tim. 2:1-2).

# Applications for Today

7. The Lord will extend lovingkindness and will strengthen us in our daily walk with him (7:28; 2 Tim. 4:17).
8. Be a person of understanding and discretion (8:16, 18; 1 Sam. 25:33; 1 Chron. 22:12; Prov. 19:11).
9. Humbly seek the Lord's help in prayer in your journey of life and he will answer you (8:21-23, 31; 2 Chron. 7:14; 20:3; Dan. 9:3; Jas. 4:10).

# Applications for Today

10. Honest and trustworthy men are needed in the Lord's work, especially in money matters (8:29; 2 Cor. 8:18-22).
11. Do what you can to help and support your brethren in their life and work for the Lord (8:36; Ac. 18:27; 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:16; 1 Thess. 5:14).

# Ezra 7-8: Replenish

- The Jews who returned first would soon need reinforcements; their resources, both physical and spiritual, would need replenishing – Ezra was the man for the job (7:6-10, 11, 14, 25-26; 8:35-36)
- Do we need to replenish our own spiritual resources and that of the next generation? It takes (7:10)...
  - A prepared heart (1 Sam. 7:3)
  - Seeking God's law (Prov. 2:4)
  - Doing God's law (Jn. 13:17; Jas. 1:22)
  - Teaching God's law (2 Tim. 1:5; 2:2; 3:15)

# Ezra and the Law of God (Ezra 7)

- Learn it (7:6, 10, 11-12, 14, 21)
- Do it (7:10; see 3:2)
- Teach it (7:10)
- Judge by it (7:25)
- Enforce it (7:26; see 10:3)