

The background is a dark blue-grey color, decorated with various geometric patterns. There are several orange circles of different sizes, some solid and some outlined. White dotted patterns form various shapes, including a large circle in the top left, a hexagon in the top center, a vertical rectangle on the right, and a semi-circle at the bottom right. Orange lines form a hexagon in the top center, a diamond shape on the right, and a triangle at the bottom left. A horizontal dotted line is positioned above the text, and another is below it.

Sovereign Over Us

Nehemiah 2:1 – 20

..... Nehemiah 2

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ² And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid.

..... Nehemiah 2

³ I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴ Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

..... **Nehemiah 2**

⁵ And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.” ⁶ And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

..... Nehemiah 2

⁷ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸ and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

..... **Nehemiah 2**

⁹ Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. ¹⁰ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

..... **Nehemiah 2**

¹¹ So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode.

..... **Nehemiah 2**

¹³ I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

Approaching the Book of Nehemiah



Chronological

Seeing how the story unfolds



Biblical Narrative

How Nehemiah fits into the Biblical narrative



01. Confirmation of God's purposes

02. Claiming God's purposes

03. Connection of God's purposes





01

Confirmation of God's Purposes





**Part of the confirmation of
God's purposes is our waiting.**






**In his wait, Nehemiah's
character was shaped by God.**

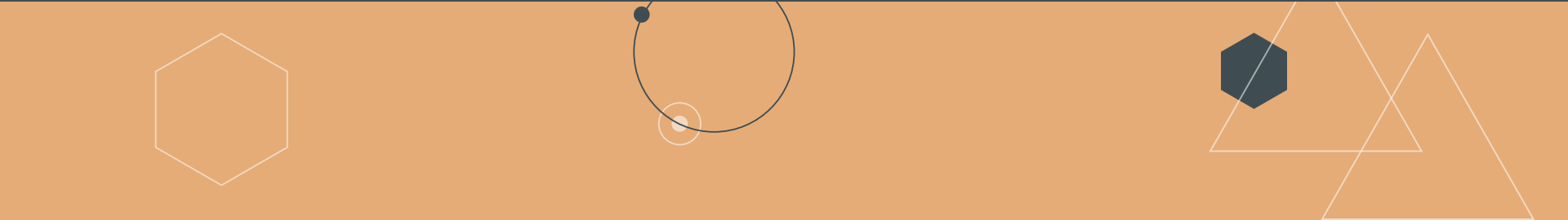


..... **Nehemiah 2**

⁴ Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” **So I prayed to the God of heaven.**



**God uses our waiting to
shape our character**



..... Nehemiah 2

⁷ And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, **let letters be given me** to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸ and **a letter to Asaph**, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.” And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.



**God's purposes will
always be fulfilled**

Nehemiah 2



Character

Shaping
Nehemiah's
character



Wisdom

Nehemiah's
wisdom



Boldness

Nehemiah's
boldness
before the king

Above all, Nehemiah 2 is a
reminder that God will **ALWAYS**
fulfil His purposes.



**God's purposes will
always be fulfilled**



**What is our story of God fulfilling
His purposes in our lives?**





01. Confirmation of God's purposes

02. **Claiming God's
purposes**

03. Connection of God's purposes

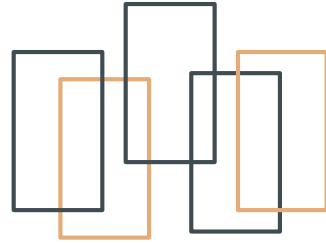


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⁹ Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. ¹⁰ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

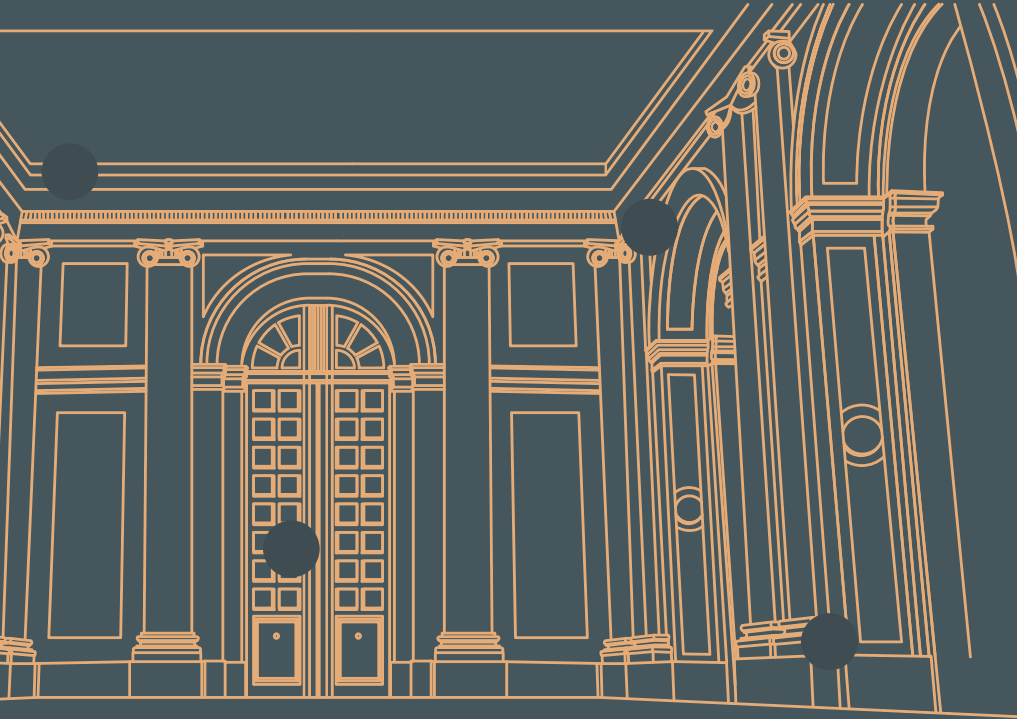
¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. ¹³ I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

Most Commentaries



Nehemiah was going
incognito, secretly
inspecting the walls.

..... Nehemiah 2



Nehemiah was inspecting the walls as a SON.



**Nehemiah's inspection was not just
reconnaissance, it was repentance.**



Looking at Sin



Administrator

Plans &
programmes



Governor

Downplay the
seriousness

Nehemiah 2 confronts us with the
truth: take ownership of our sin



**Part of claiming God's purposes
is letting go of ours.**



17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." 18 And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, **"Let us rise up and build."** So they strengthened their hands for the good work.



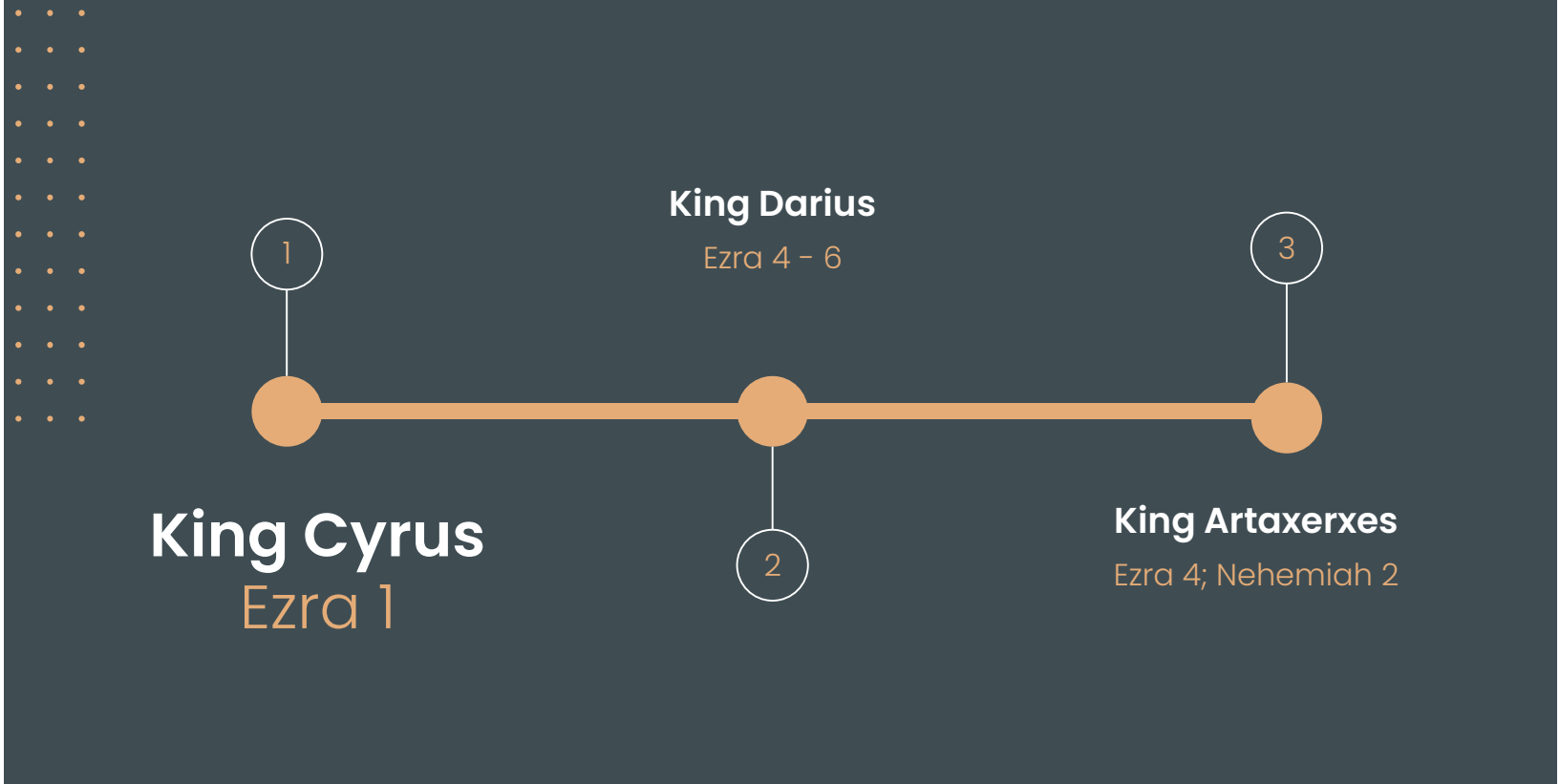
01. Confirmation of God's purposes

02. Claiming God's purposes

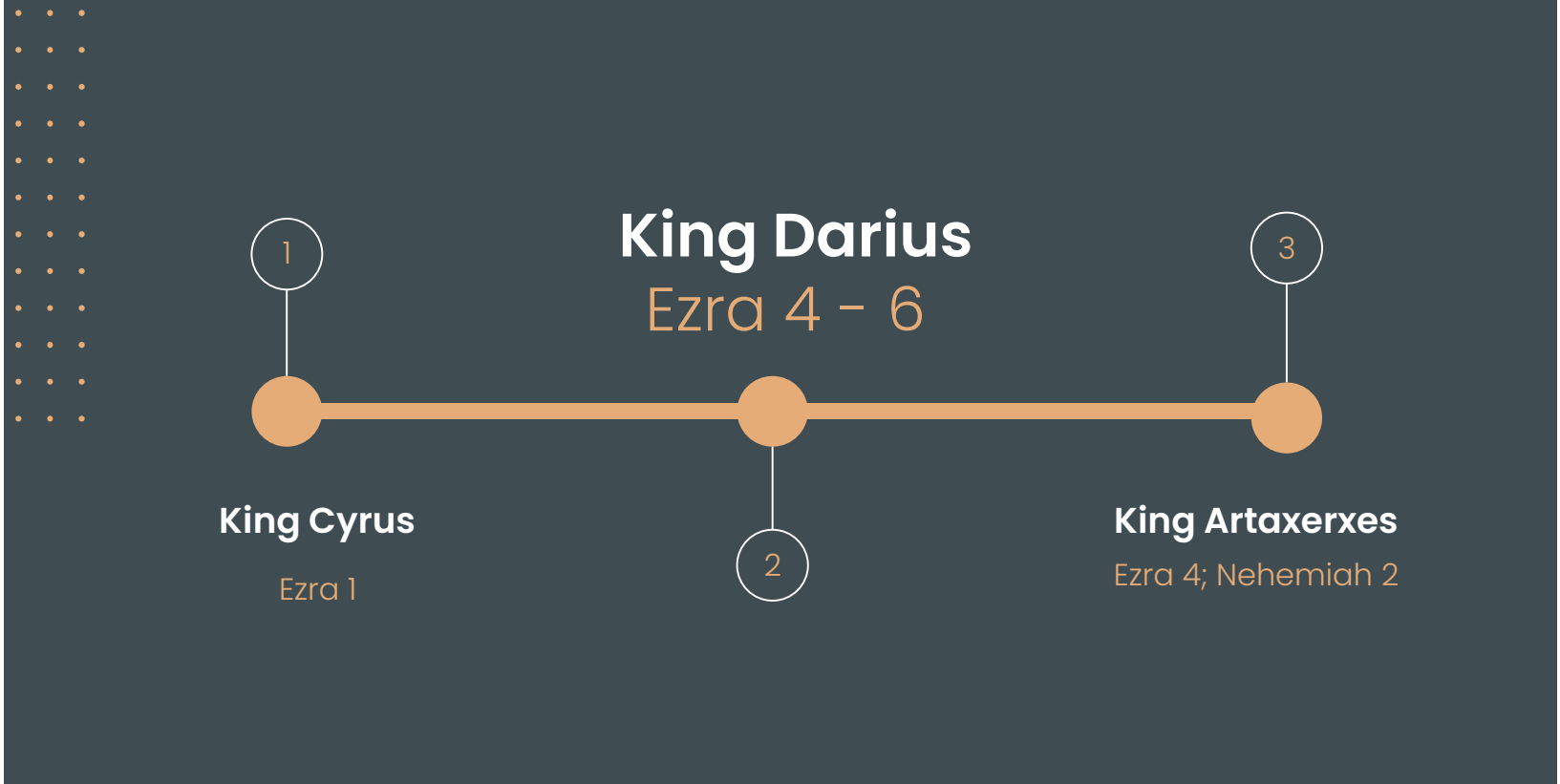
03. **Connection of
God's purposes**



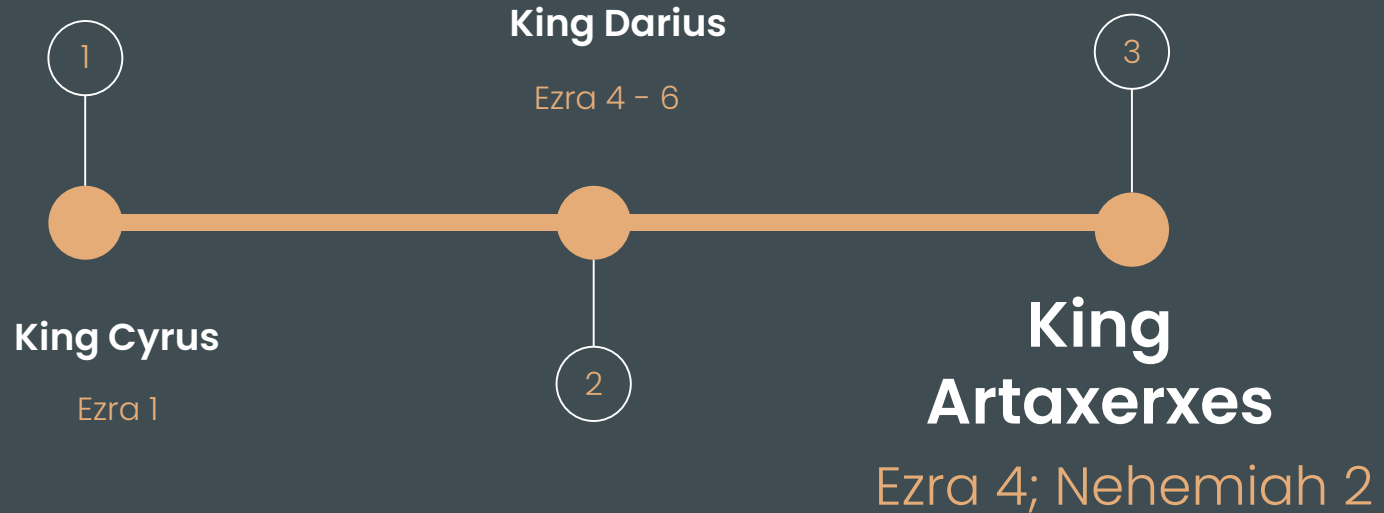
..... **Timeline of God's intervention**



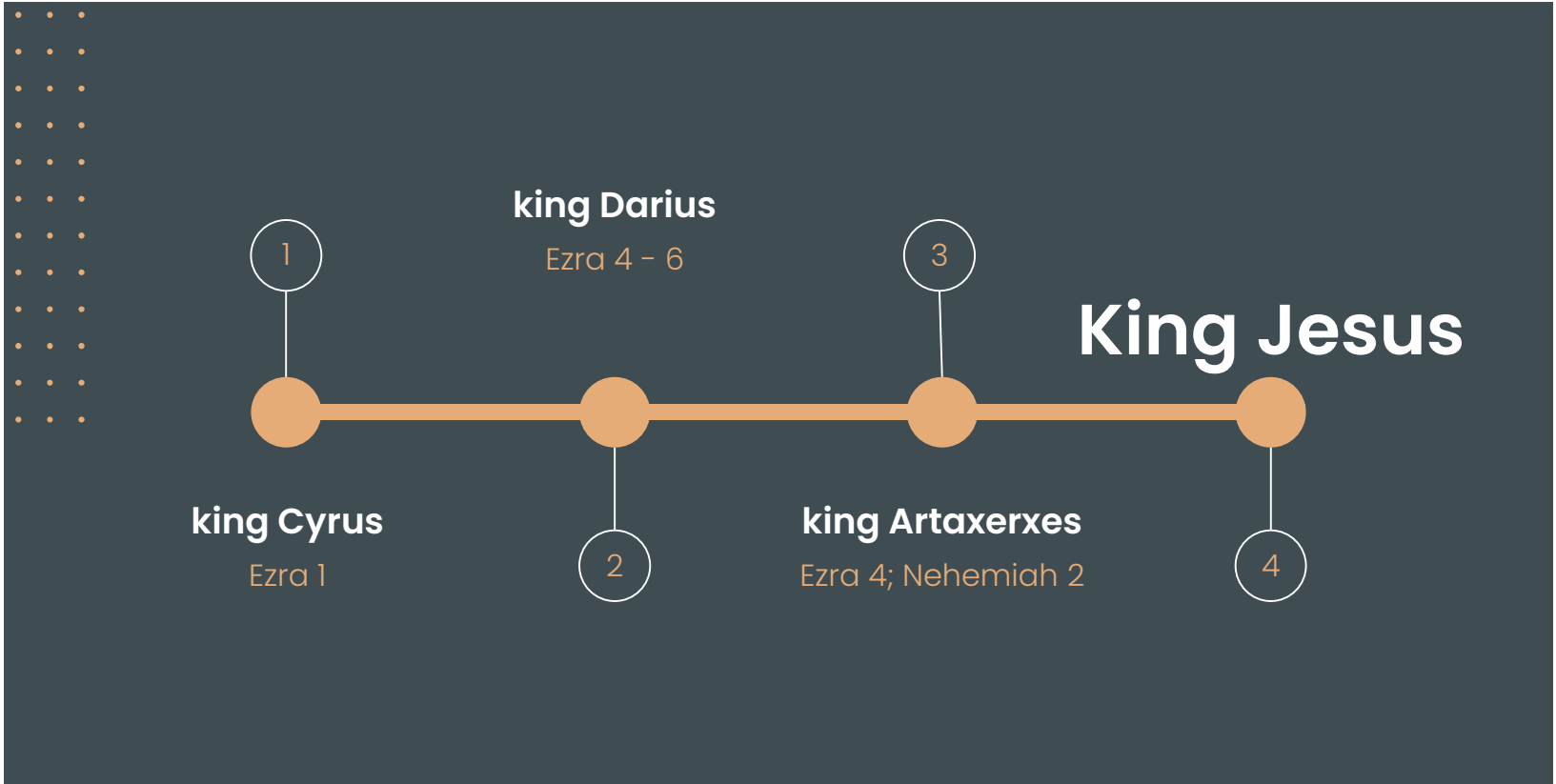
Timeline



Timeline



Timeline





Our response



Why

Asking why
reveals our lack of
control



Who

Asking who
reminds us of our
identity



How

Asking how helps us
connect God's
purposes to our lives





Our response



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Asking why reveals our lack of control



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