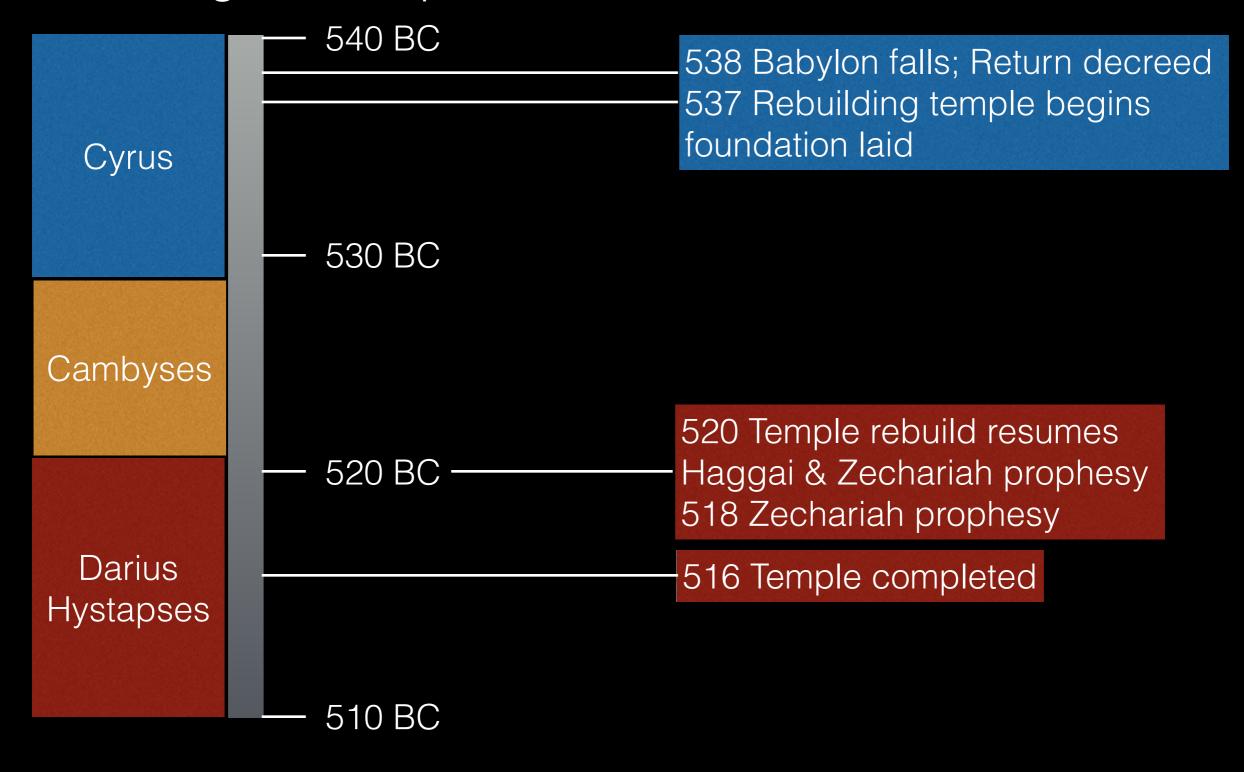
# Israel and the Super Powers

Rebuilding the Temple



#### Cyrus

1 Now 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, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and [put it] also in writing, saying,

2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah.

[Ezr 1:1-2 KJV]

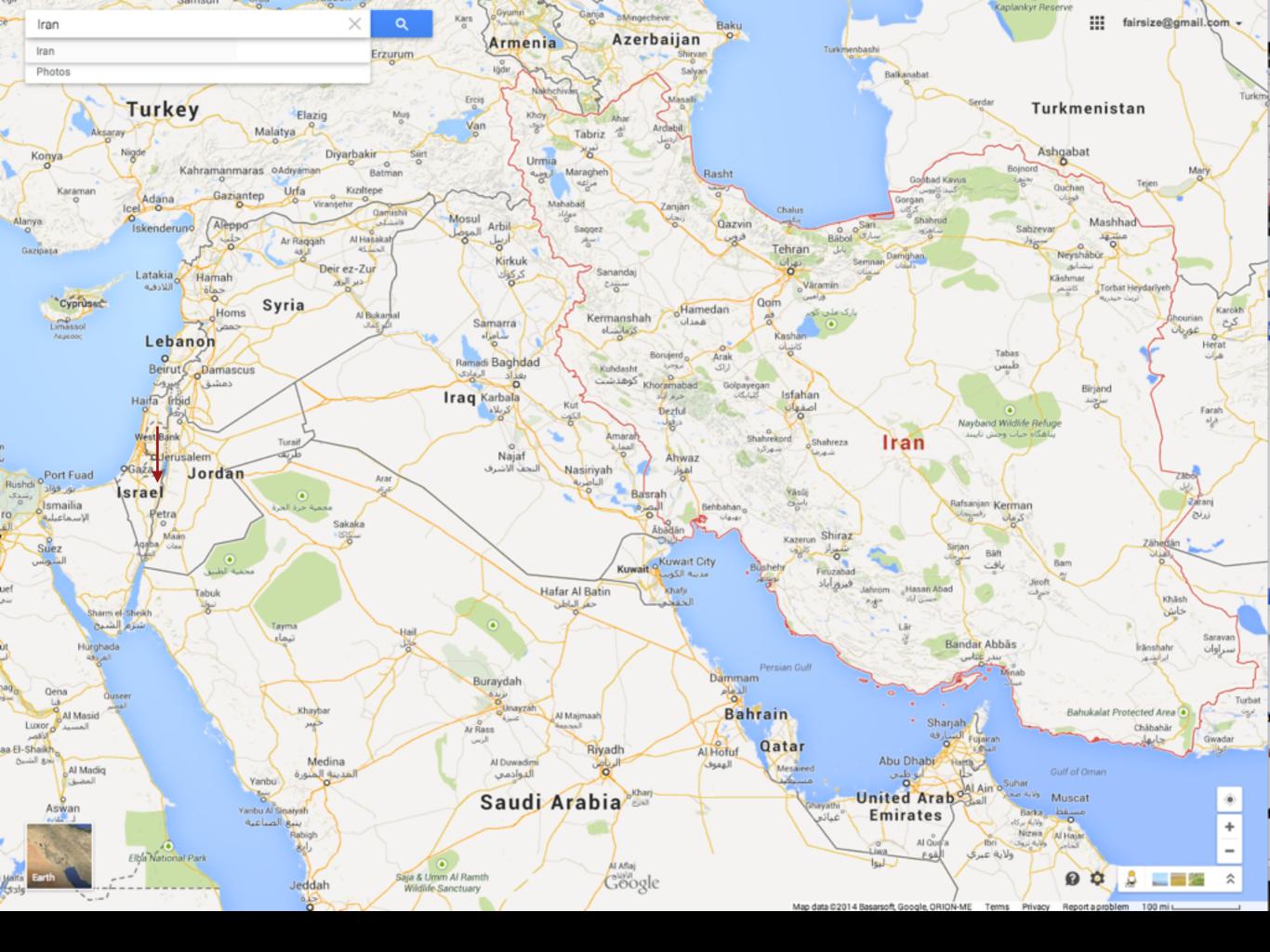
#### Cyrus

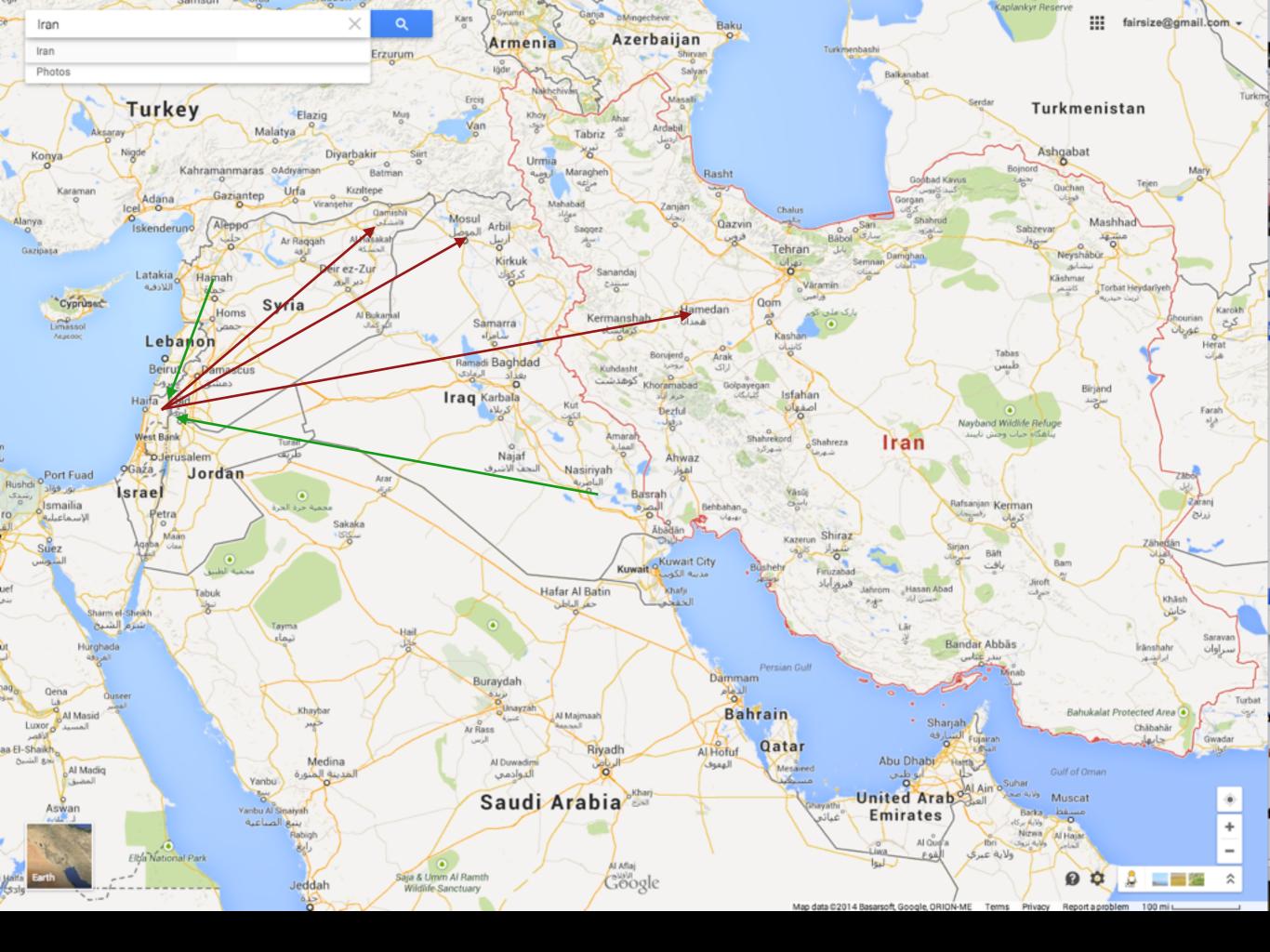
[Isa 44:28 KJV]

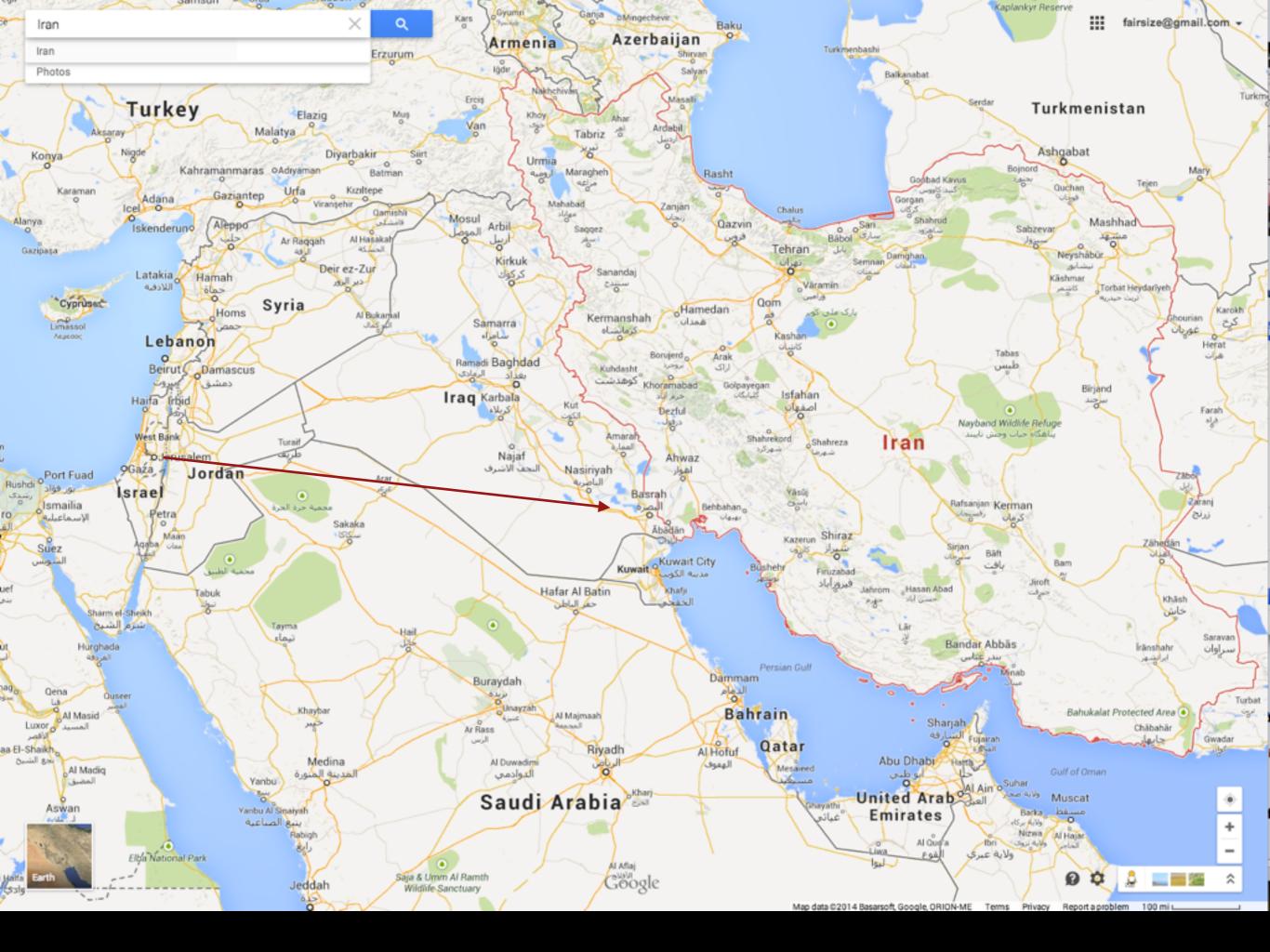
28 That saith of Cyrus, [He is] my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

# Returning Captives

- 538 BC Zerubbabel (Sheshbazzar) the prince of Judah and Joshua the priest
- 458 BC Ezra and company
- 446 BC Nehemiah







- Over 42,000 of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi return (Ez 2:64)
- Plus servants and livestock and belongings (Ez 2:65-69)
- Settled in their cities (Ez 2:70)
- In the 7th month kept the feast of tabernacles (Ez 3:1-6)
- Money to masons and carpenters (Ez 3:7)
- Provisions to Tyre and Sidon for cedar trees from Lebanon (Ez 3:7)
- 2nd year, 2nd month Levites begin work on temple (Ez 3:8)
- When temple foundation laid, ceremony praises the Lord (Ez 3:10-13)
- Enemies appear to "help" build the temple (Ez 4:1-3)
- The rebuffed adversaries hire people to frustrate work (Ez 4:4-6)
- Work ceases until the second year of Darius (Ez 4:24)
- Prophets Haggai and Zechariah strengthen the Jews (Ez 5:1; 6:14)
- Enemies appeal to Darius re: command of Cyrus to build (Ez 5:6-6:12)
- House finished 3 Adar, Darius 6th year (Ez 6:15)
- Temple dedication held (Ez 6:16-18)
- Passover held the next month (Ez 6:19-22)

#### 70 Years

#### Jer 25:11

And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

#### **Jer 25:12**

And it shall come to pass, when **seventy** years are accomplished, *that* I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

#### Jer 29:10

For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

#### 70 Years

#### Dan 9:2

In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to **Jeremiah** the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

70 Years

