



THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION









SWALLOW-TAILED KITE
2013 Southbound Migration
07/15/13 - 1/14/14

- Palmetto
- Pace
- Gulf Hammock
- Suwannee
- Day
- MIA
- Slidell
- Pearl MS

ARCI



www.arcinst.org

Image Landsat
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
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Google earth

9/9/2014 4pm



Swallow-tailed Kites 2014 Southbound Migration 7 Jul - 9 Sept 2014

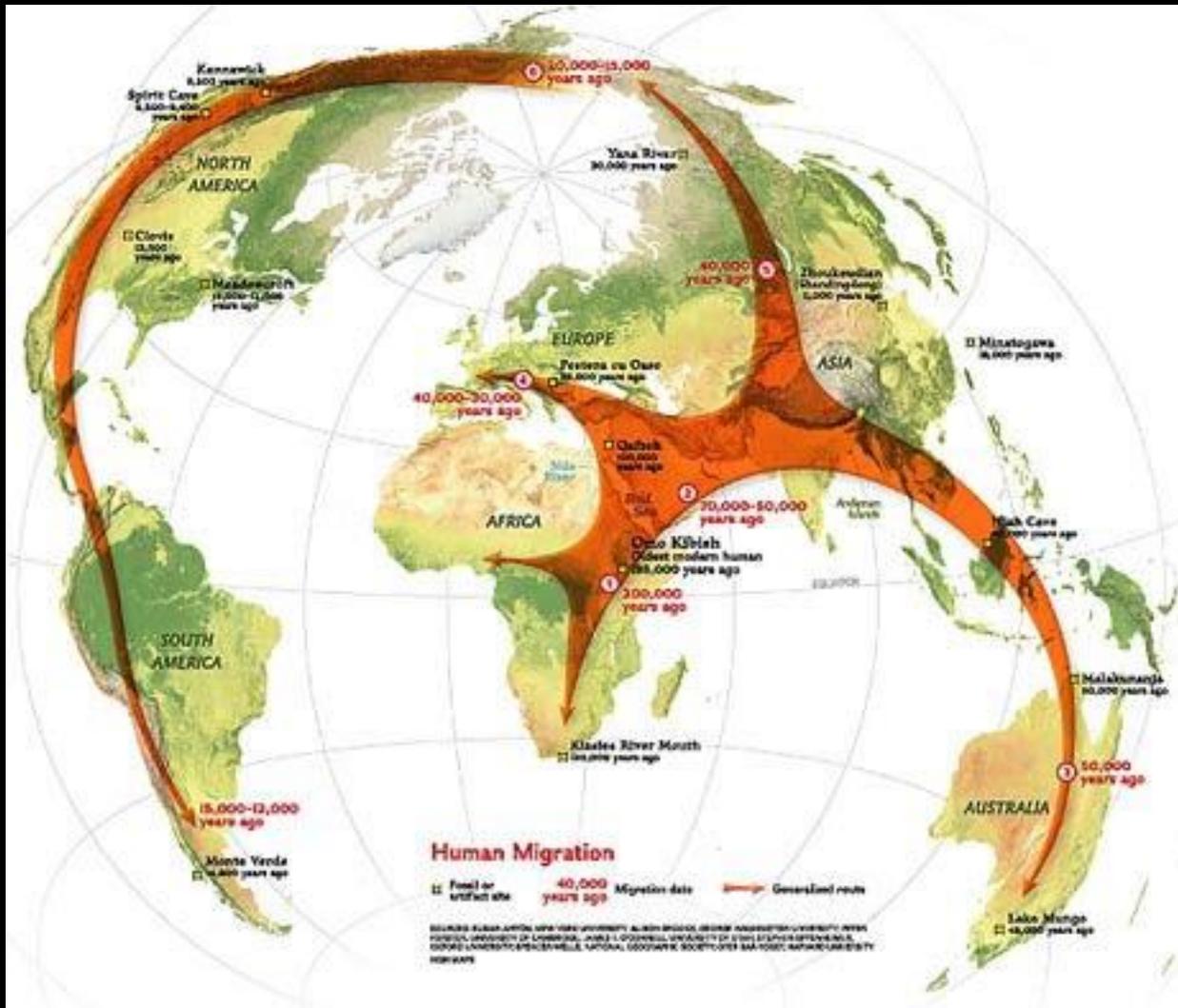
- Palmetto
- Bluff
- Gulf Hammock
- Pace
- Day
- MIA
- PearlMS

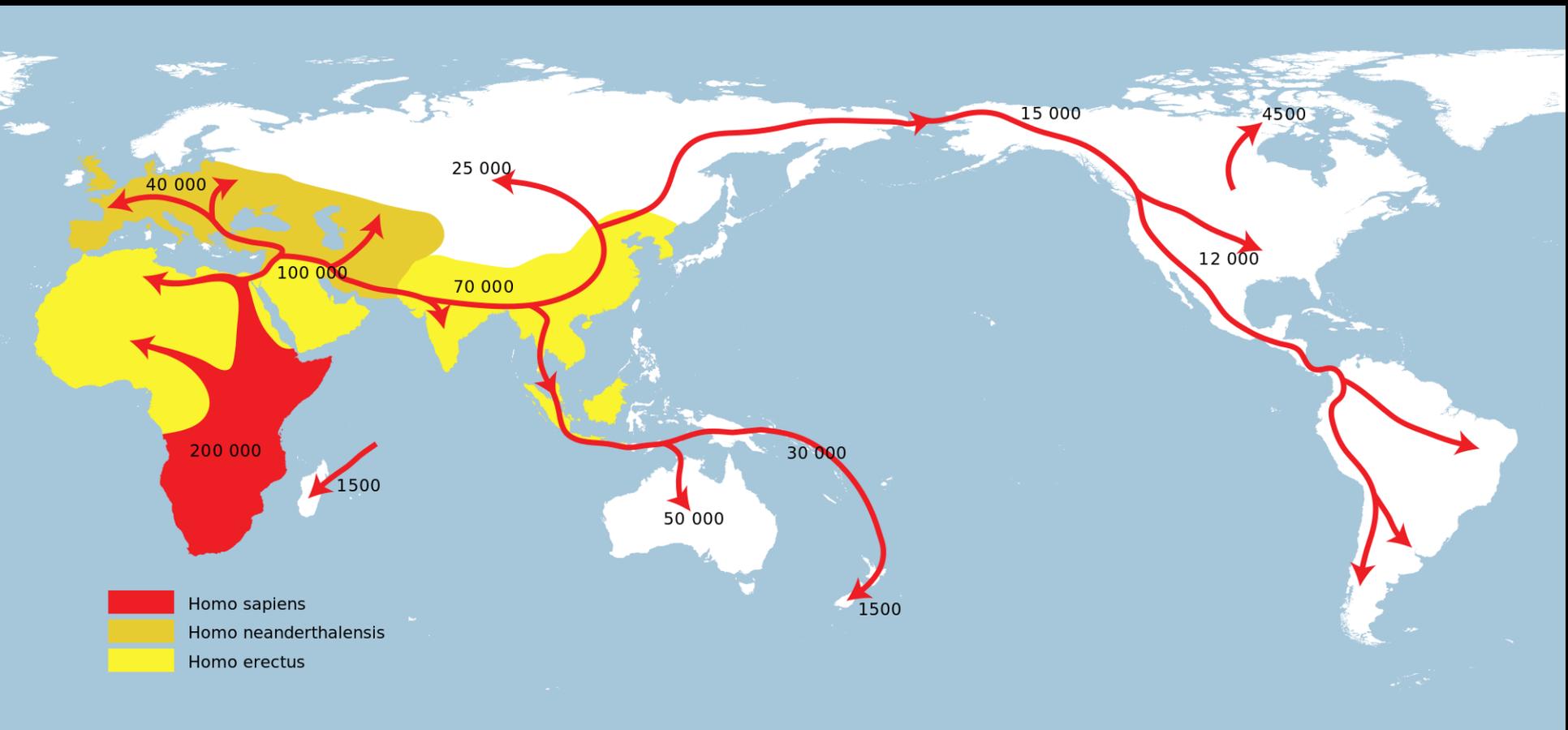
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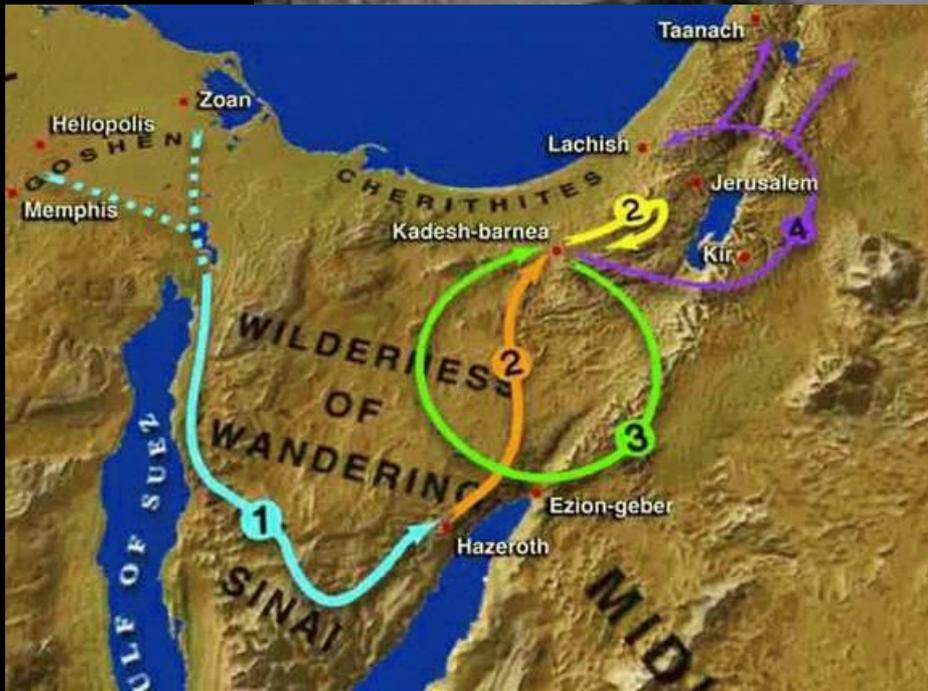
Image Landsat
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
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US Dept of State Geographer



Imagery Date: 4/9/2013 lat 11.440327° lon -85.356462° elev 265 ft eye alt 2265.69 mi





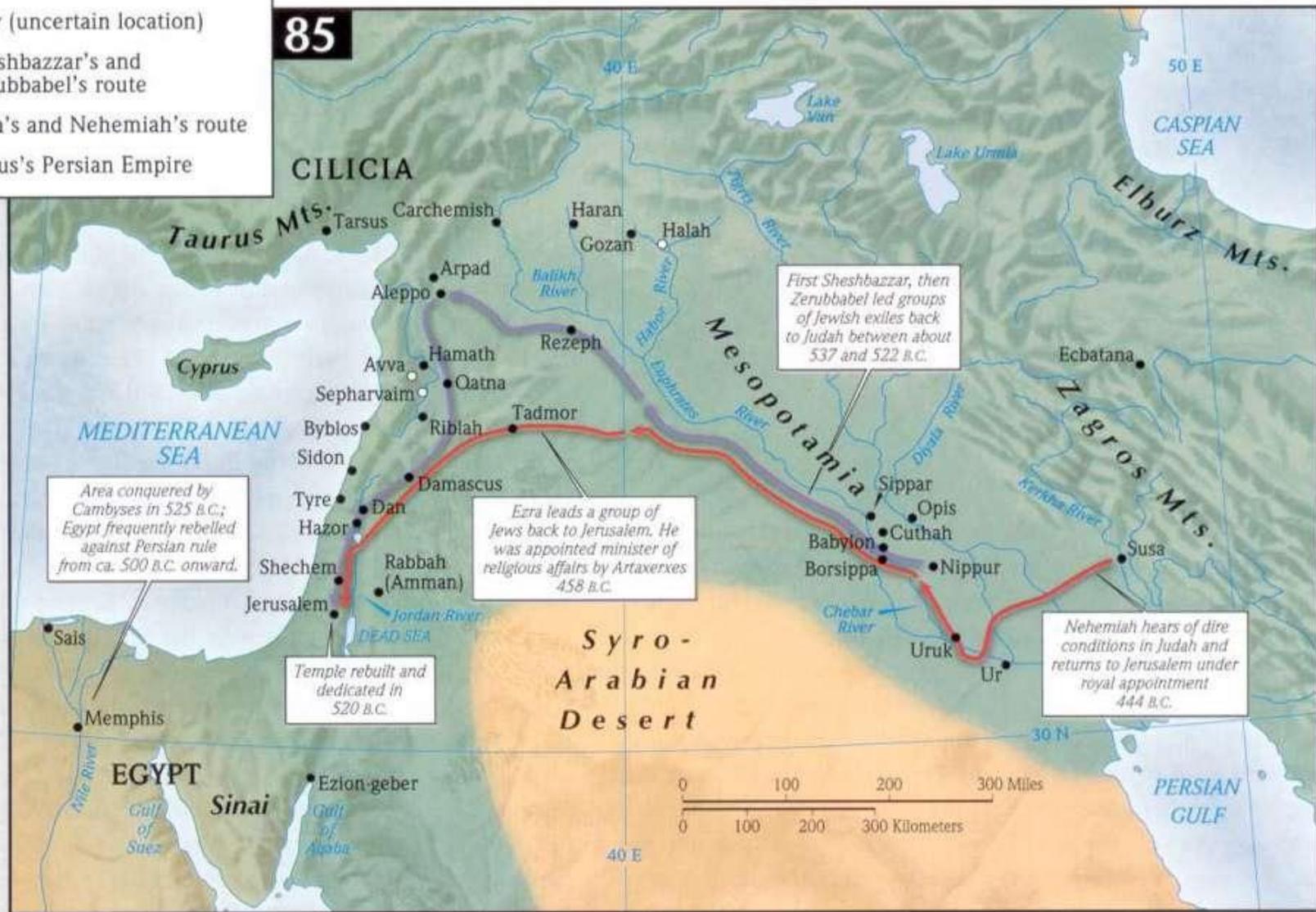


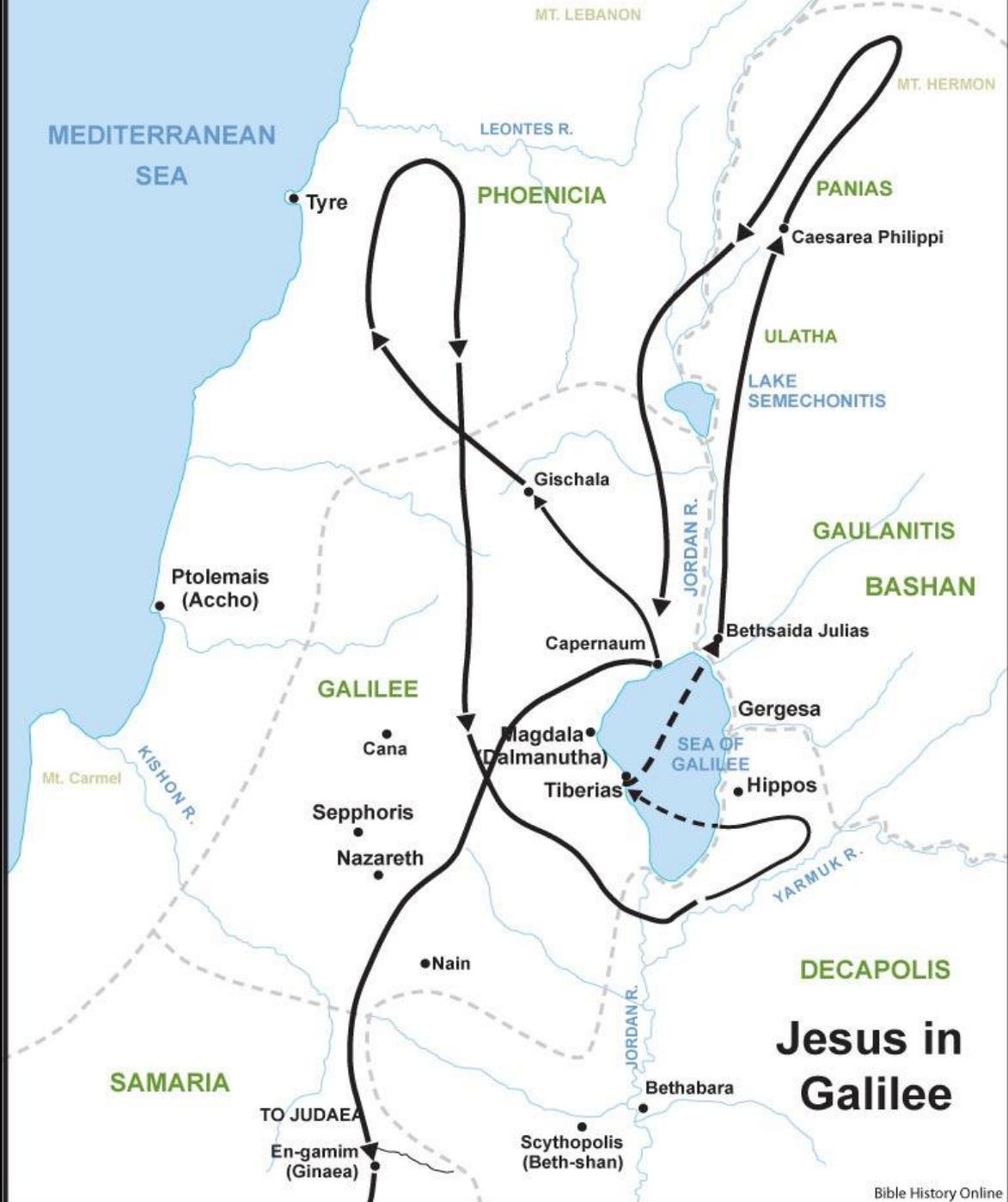
THE RETURNS OF JEWISH EXILES TO JUDAH

THE EDICT OF CYRUS: EZRA 1:2-4; 6:1-4
 see also EZRA 1:5-8:35
 NEH. 1-3

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ← Sheshbazzar's and Zerubbabel's route
- ← Ezra's and Nehemiah's route
- Cyrus's Persian Empire

85



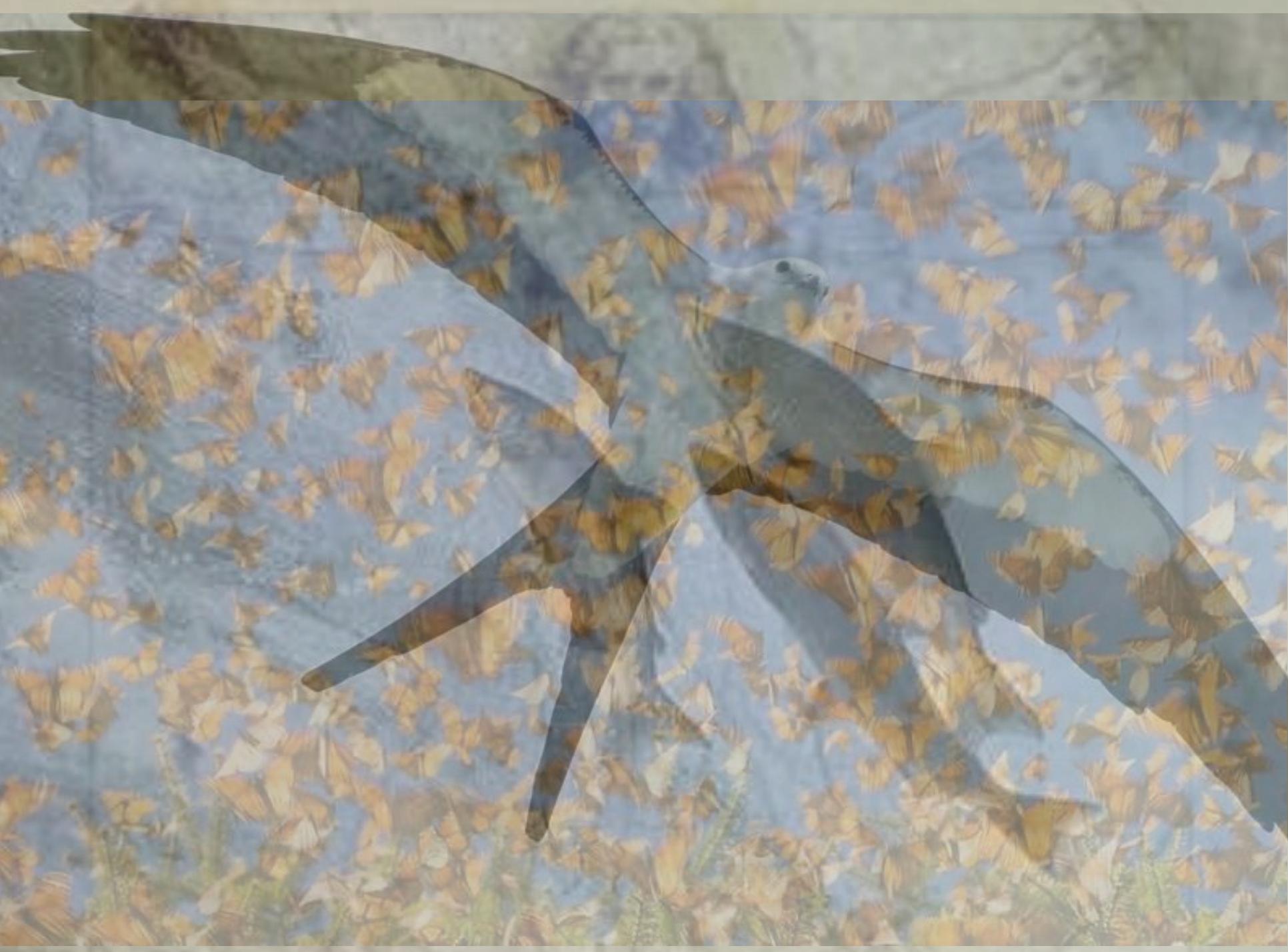


Jesus in Galilee











THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

Religion is at its best when it leads us forward, when it guides us in our spiritual growth as individuals and in our cultural evolution as a species. Unfortunately, religion often becomes more of a cage than a guide, a buffer to constructive change rather than a catalyst of it.

In times of rapid and ambiguous change, a regressive turn in religion may be understandable, but it is even more tragic. When a culture needs wise spiritual guidance the most, all it gets from religious leaders is a big dose of nostalgia.

Today, millions of us—Catholics, Evangelicals, mainline Protestants, and Orthodox Christians—share something that we seldom verbalize: we're worried that the “brand” of Christianity has been so compromised that many of us are barely able to use the label anymore

a reading



Three Migrations

A spiritual migration

from system of beliefs to way of
life/way of love



A theological migration:

from violent Supreme Being

to nonviolent Holy Spirit/
Spirit of
Christ



A missional migration:

from organized religion (for self-protection)

to religion organizing for the common good

(institutions and movements in romance,
forming & deploying spiritual activists)



It has been said that Christianity is always one generation away from extinction. We could also say that Christianity is one generation away from conversion and rebirth.

q & r



May we feel in our innermost being a beautiful
and holy dissatisfaction,
a hunger and thirst for true aliveness.

May that holy dissatisfaction ignite in us a holy
refusal
To remain stuck where we have been.

May that holy refusal break open our hearts to
a holy hope,
So that the wind, wine, and fire of the Holy
Spirit will fill us all.

May we learn to live in the way of love,

May we experience, enjoy, and embody God as
Jesus did,

As the radiant light of perfect compassion for all
creation.

And may we find or form our flocks,

And may ten thousand flocks and more arise together

In a great spiritual movement of justice, joy, and
peace.

But first,

May we feel in our innermost being a beautiful and
holy dissatisfaction.



THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

There is so much right with Christianity. Sunday by Sunday, caring ministers prepare sermons into which they pour their hearts. Week by week they care for their flock, visiting the sick, honoring the dead, welcoming new life, nurturing those in need of counsel, challenge, recovery, or encouragement. Church musicians practice and prepare a weekly feast of beauty. Faithful people show up and generously show kindness to one another, from sharing after-church coffee and baked goods to preparing epic potluck dinners to cooking nourishing meals for the hungry and lonely. Hospitality abounds. Mission flows. People give money, year after year, so staff are supported, buildings are constructed and maintained, and the good news is spread in word and deed.

There is so much right with the world. The sun faithfully does its work, bathing us in life-sustaining energy. The moon faithfully does its work, lifting tides and letting them fall, and no one worries it will fail. Water faithfully does its work, the lifeblood of our planet, circulating from cloud to rain to stream to river to sea to cloud. Creatures do their work as well, filling the earth with life and song, sharing the gift of life through death and birth, through nesting and migration, through pollination and germination, each specimen a living miracle if we have eyes to see. Your body, a civilization of cells more sophisticated than any megacity, works amazingly well amazingly often, your heart beating, your lungs breathing, your eyes seeing, your mind aware.

There is so much right in humanity. Children play. Adolescents fall in love. Young couples marry. Lovers entangle their limbs, breath, and dreams. Babies are conceived and born and nurtured, through their smiles and cries teaching their parents to love in ways they never knew they were capable of. Friends laugh, plan adventures, throw parties, stick together, weep at gravesides after a lifetime of shared joy. Farmers grow, harvesters pick, transporters transport, grocers distribute, and meals of unimaginable variety and delight are prepared and eaten. Entrepreneurs plan and launch new ventures. Colleagues work side by side as managers seek to steer their companies toward success. Researchers seek cures, discoveries, solutions, understanding. Teachers teach and children catch the gift of curiosity. People are honest. They make promises they keep. People take vacations. They watch the surf, ride horses, cast lines, take hikes, swim, ski, bike, sail, and slow down so they can remember they are alive. Grandparents and elders watch all this, their eyes brimming with tears of joy.

There is so much right in the church, in the world, in humanity. There is so much good. And so much beauty. When we see it, even a tiny glimmer of how precious it is, our hearts swell in gratitude and awe.

And we feel in those moments why it matters for forward-leaning Christians to embark on this great spiritual migration: to support the wild goodness, rightness, beauty, and aliveness that surround us so that they can ever grow, ever thrive, ever diversify and deepen.