The Story: Chapter Twenty

The Queen of Beauty and Courage

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. **15**My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. **16**They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.  John 17:14-16

**Some important considerations:**

* The Medes and the Persians according to King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream:
  + Breast and arms of **silver**.
  + Daniel 2:39
  + Daniel 5:28
* It has been almost 60 years since the decree of King Cyrus.
  + 50,000 Israelites returned to Judah
  + Many Israelites stayed in Babylon (Land of Medes & Persians)
  + Several factors may have contributed to staying:
    - **Age**
    - **Families**
    - **Comfort**
    - **Safety**
    - **Work**
    - **Hard Hearts**
* The Temple in Jerusalem is completed (516 BC – approx. 40 years prior to death edict)
  + The Israelites living in the Land of the Medes & Persians
    - Following **traditions**
    - Separated from **God’s means of grace**

**Some important takeaways:**