

■ Is God merely an anachronism in 2014?

- Does God belong in our story now as he did in the Old Testament?
- Is the mighty hand of God “a thing of the past”?
- Does the Sovereign LORD of Ezra’s time not fit our current perspective of God?
- Is this Sovereign LORD too old-fashioned, out-dated?

Anachronism ...

- A thing belonging or appropriate to a period other than that in which it exists, esp. a thing that is conspicuously old-fashioned.
- Something (such as a word, an object, or an event) that is mistakenly placed in a time where it does not belong, such as in a story, movie, etc.; **a person or a thing that seems to belong to the past and not to fit in the present.**

Example 1: Seeing a cell phone on the bedroom dresser in a 1940’s movie.

Example 2: The following instance in William Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar is a popular example of anachronism. (From Act II, scene i : lines 193 - 194 of Julius Caesar)

- Brutus: “Peace! count the clock.”
- Cassius: “The clock has stricken three.”
- The year was 44 AD, and there were no mechanical clocks at the time of Julius Caesar but were present in Shakespeare’s times that is, when the play was written.

Example 3: Another dialog from the same play is a prominent anachronism example.

“he plucked me open his doublet and offered them his throat to cut”

- A doublet is a garment that was worn during the time of Shakespeare, and not during the time of Julius Caesar.

World War II ended in 1945, almost 70 years ago.

- **What if ...** that war had ended differently and Germany and Japan had won?
- **What if ...** we had been carried away captive as a nation and were just now being faced with the opportunity to return to America to begin rebuilding?
- **What if ...** our children had been born in Germany and Japan?

How did they do it?

- 1) They **rose up**, 1:5a.
- 2) **God stirred** their spirits to go, 1:5b.
- 3) They were **supported**, 1:6-11.
- 4) They **came up out** of the captivity, 2:1.
- 5) They **came with** Zerubbabel, 2:2-70.

