



WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT



Jeremiah  
Lamentations

Micah Zechariah Joel  
Obadiah Habakkuk Haggai

# PROPHETS

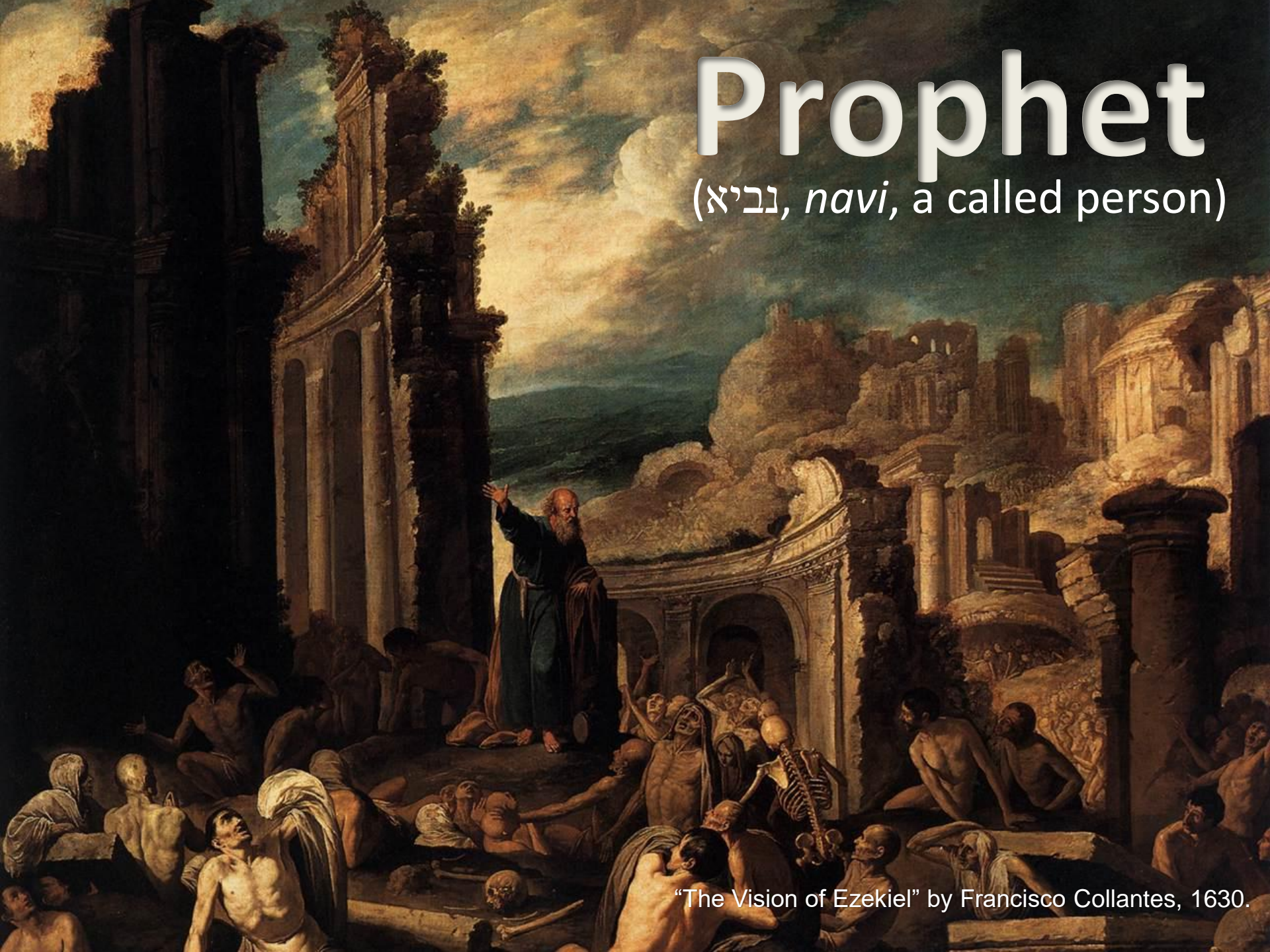
Ezekiel Nahum Zephaniah Isaiah  
Hosea

Amos Jonah Malachi

Daniel

# Prophet

(נביא, *navi*, a called person)



"The Vision of Ezekiel" by Francisco Collantes, 1630.



Prophets are distinct from other biblical authors in that their writing includes and may centre around oracles, dreams, visions, laments, proclamations, and warnings that convey God's direct message.

“Elijah Fed by the Ravens” by Paolo Flammingo, c. 1585.



In ancient days, prophets were highly respected religious figures who acted as the mouthpiece of God to the tribes of Israel and neighbouring countries.

“The Sermon of John The Baptist” by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1566.

Prophets were frequent visitors to both the courts of Kings and to the streets of villagers.



"The Prophet Nathan rebukes King David" by Eugène Siberdt, c. 1875.

# Typical Roles of a Biblical Prophet

## • Communicate God's message to His people.

- Represent the throne of heaven at royal courts.
- Seer (look into and describe heavenly goings on) (2 Chron 18:18).
- To speak forth (Haggai 1:13).
- Call people back to obedience to God.
- Denounce injustice, idolatry, and empty rituals.

## • Intercede (sometimes) on behalf of His people.

## • Speak beforehand.

- Watchman, advise of what's on the horizon (Ezekiel 3:17).
- Predict the future (short term).
- Foretell the future (long term).

# Signs

God used two methods to validate His prophets and His messages.

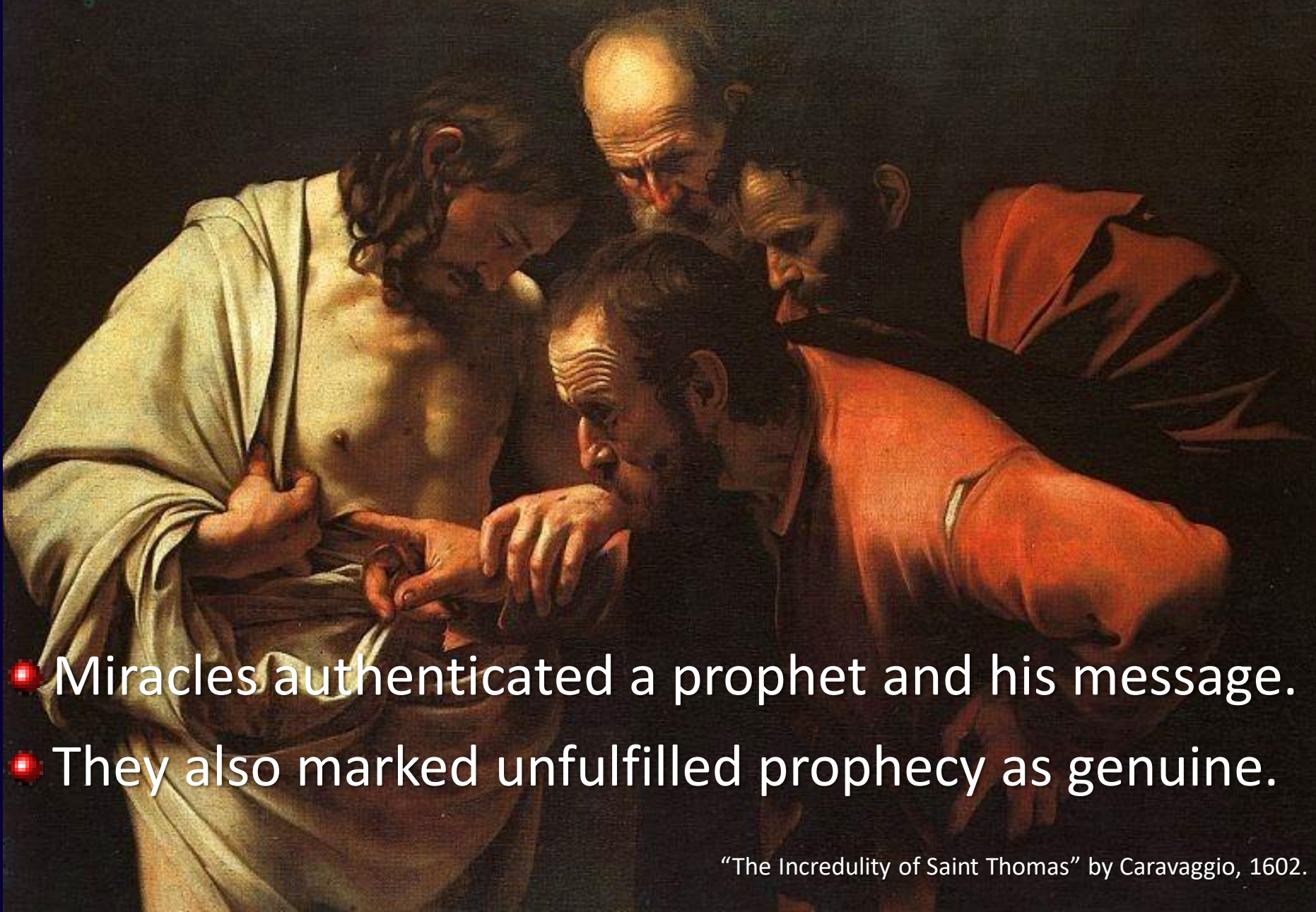
“Elijah calling fire from Heaven to destroy the soldiers of Ahaziah” by Gaspare Diziani, c.1740.



# Wonders



# Miracles



- Miracles authenticated a prophet and his message.
- They also marked unfulfilled prophecy as genuine.

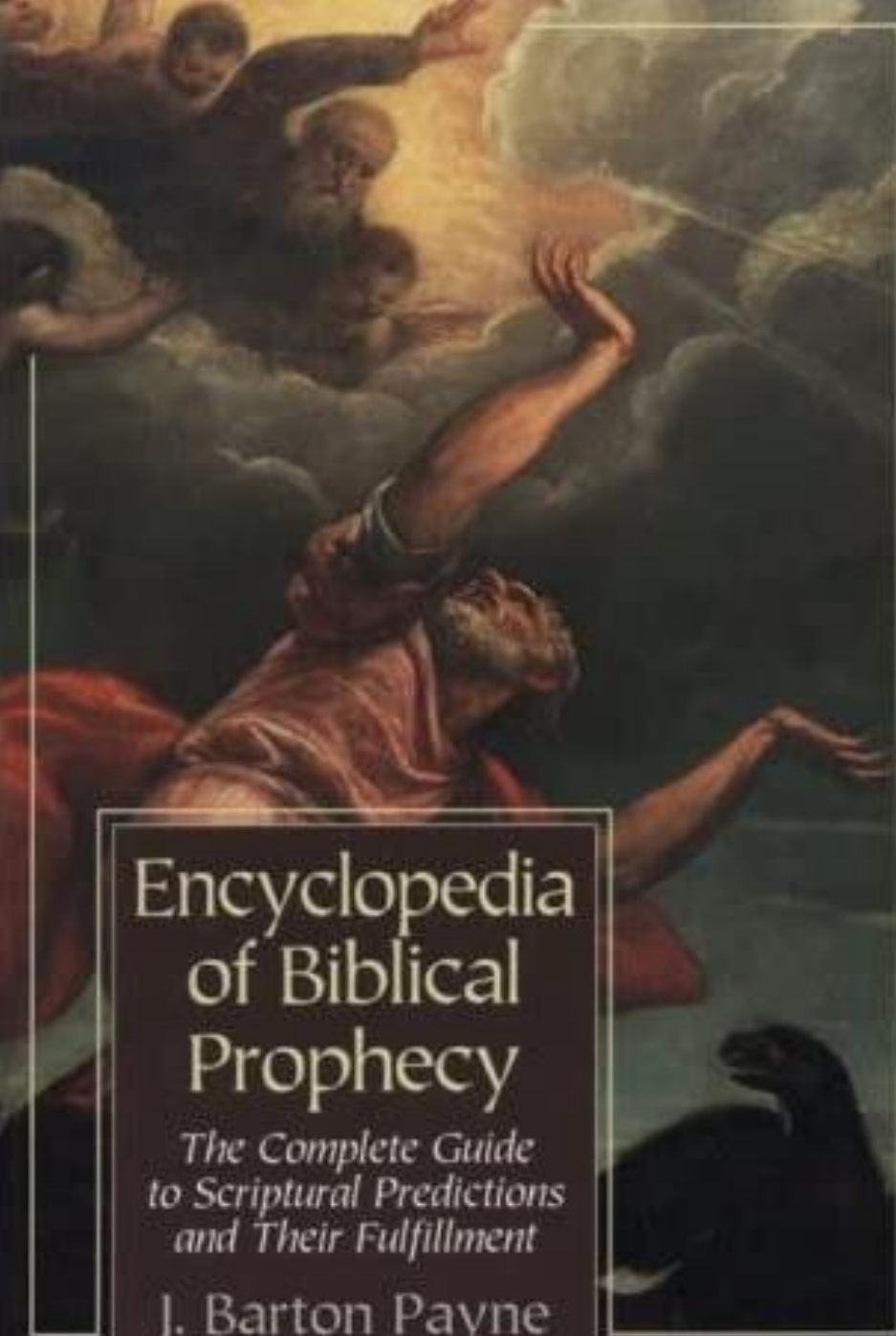
“The Incredulity of Saint Thomas” by Caravaggio, 1602.



But there was a risk

**“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”**

(Deuteronomy 18:20)



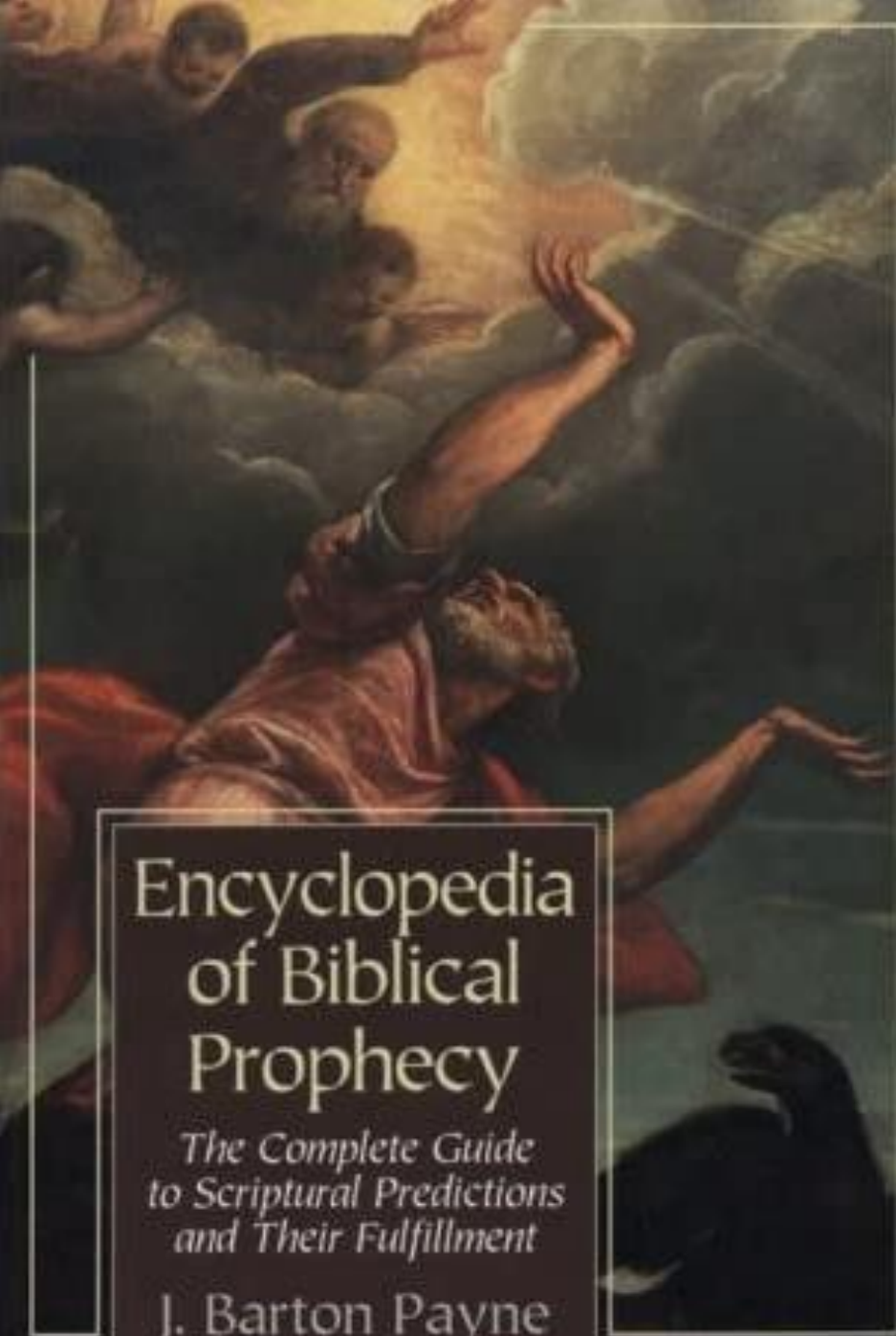
# Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy

*The Complete Guide  
to Scriptural Predictions  
and Their Fulfillment*

J. Barton Payne

- ❖ 8,352 verses (**27%**) out of 31,124 in the Bible are **predictive**.
- The Old Testament is 28.5% predictive.
- The New Testament is 21.5% predictive.
- ❖ The Bible has 1,817 separate predictions covering 737 topics.

Per J. Barton Payne, *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, 1973.



## Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy

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- The Bible has 1,817 separate predictions covering 737 topics.

Per J. Barton Payne, *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, 1973.

> **80%**

of the predictions have come true; **every single one** except those of the End Times and the Second Coming of Christ.

# Prophets in Scripture

72 godly prophets (*navi*) are identified in the Old Testament including 12 women<sup>1</sup> (*neviah*).

1. Excluding Virgin Mary and her relative Elizabeth, sometimes included.

# 72

# Prophets in Scripture

Sixteen of these prophets are accorded books.

16

"Elijah, Ahab, & Jezebel in Naboth's Vineyard" by T.M.Rooke, 1880.

# Prophets in Scripture

Sixteen of these prophets are accorded books.

4 Four have longer books (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel). They are called “**major prophets**”.

12 Twelve with smaller books are called “**minor prophets**”. In no way are their prophecies “minor” or second tier.

1 The Hebrew Bible treats the minor prophets as a **single book** called “The Book of the Twelve Prophets”.



# Prophets in Scripture

Jesus Christ brought in a new age of prophetic truth.

John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old Testament era.

"Saint John the Baptist Bearing Witness" by Annibale Carracci, c.1600.



# True Prophets in Scripture

- Seventy-two godly prophets (*navi*) are identified in the Old Testament including twelve women (*neviah*)<sup>1</sup>.
- Sixteen of these prophets are accorded large sections (books):

**4** Four have longer books (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel). They are called “**major prophets**”.

**12** Twelve with smaller books are called “**minor prophets**”. In no way are their prophecies “minor” or second tier.

**1** The Hebrew Bible treats the minor prophets as a **single book** called “The Book of the Twelve Prophets”.

- John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old Testament era. Jesus Christ brought in a new age of prophetic truth.

1. Virgin Mary and her relative Elizabeth, omitted here, are sometimes included.

# True Prophets of God in the Bible

Aaron (Exodus 4:10-17; 7:1)	Abel (Hebrews 11:4)	Abigail (1 Samuel 25)
Abraham (Hebrews 11:8-19)	Agabus (Luke 10:1-24)	Agur (Proverbs 30)
Ahijah HaShiloni (1 Kings 11:29)	Amos (Amos 1:1)	Anna (Luke 2:36-38)
Asaph (1 Chronicles 15:16-19; Psalms)	Azariah (2 Chronicles 15:1)	Chariline bath Philip (Acts 21:8-9)
Daniel (Matthew 24:15)	David (Hebrews 11:32)	Deborah (Judges 4:4)
Elijah (1 Kings 18:36)	Elisha (2 Kings 9:1)	Enoch (Jude 1:14)
Eukhidia bath Philip (Acts 21:8-9)	Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:3)	Ezra (Ezra 7ff)
Gad (1 Samuel 22:5)	Gideon (Judges 6 through 8)	Habakkuk (Habakkuk 1:1)
Hadassah/Esther (Esther 2:7)	Haggai (Haggai 1:1)	Hanani (2 Chronicles 16:7)
Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1)	Hermione bath Philip (Acts 21:8-9)	Hosea (Hosea 1:1)
Huldah (2 Kings 22:14)	Iddo (2 Chronicles 13:22)	Irias bath Philip (Acts 21:8-9)
Isaac (Genesis 26:2-7)	Isaiah (2 Kings 19:2)	Isaiah's wife (Isaiah 8:3)
Jacob (Genesis 28:11-16)	Jehu (1 Kings 16:7)	Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:2)
Jesus Christ (John 4:19; et al.)	Job (Job 1:1)	Joel (Acts 2:16)
John of Patmos (Revelation 1:1-3)	John the Baptist (Luke 7:28)	Jonah (2 Kings 14:25)
Joshua (Joshua 1:1)	Judas Barsabbas (Acts 3:15)	Lamech (Genesis 5:28-29)
Lucius of Cyrene (Acts 13:1)	Malachi (Malachi 1:1)	Manahen (Acts 13:1)
Micah (Micah 1:1)	Micaiah (1 Kings 22:9)	Miriam (Exodus 15:20)
Moses (Deuteronomy 34:10)	Nahum (Nahum 1:1)	Nathan (2 Samuel 7:2)
Noah (Genesis 7:1)	Obadiah (Obadiah 1:1)	Oded (2 Chronicles 28:9)
Oded, father of Azariah (2 Chr 15:8)	Paul the Apostle (Acts 9:20)	Philip the Evangelist (Acts 8:26)
Samuel (1 Samuel 3:20)	Shemaiah (1 Kings 12:22)	Silas (Acts 15:32)
Simeon Niger (Acts 13:1)	Uriah (Jeremiah 26:20)	Zechariah ben Berechiah (Zech 1:1)
Zechariah ben Jehoiada (2 Chr 24:20)	Zechariah (Luke 1:36; 67-79)	Zephaniah (Zephaniah 1:1)

# True Biblical Prophets (Women)

Abigail (1 Samuel 25)

Deborah (Judges 4:4)

Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1)

Irias bath Philip (Acts 21:8-9)

Anna (Luke 2:36-38)

Eukhidia bath Philip (Acts 21:8-9)

Hermione bath Philip (Acts 21:8-9)

Isaiah's wife (Isaiah 8:3)

Chariline bath Philip (Acts 21:8-9)

Hadassah/Esther (Esther 2:7)

Huldah (2 Kings 22:14)

Miriam (Exodus 15:20)



*“Now this man (Philip the Evangelist in Caesarea Maritima) had four virgin daughters who prophesied.”* (Acts 21:8-13)

# True Biblical Prophets (Men)

Aaron	Abel	Abraham
Agabus	Agur	Ahijah HaShiloni
<b>Amos</b>	Asaph	Azariah
<b>Daniel</b> (Matthew 24:15)	David (Hebrews 11:32)	Elijah (1 Kings 18:36)
Elisha (2 Kings 9:1)	Enoch (Jude 1:14)	<b>Ezekiel</b> (Ezekiel 1:3)
Ezra (Ezra 7ff)	Gad (1 Samuel 22:5)	Gideon (Judges 6 through 8)
<b>Habakkuk</b> (Habakkuk 1:1)	<b>Haggai</b> (Haggai 1:1)	Hanani (2 Chronicles 16:7)
<b>Hosea</b> (Hosea 1:1)	Iddo (2 Chronicles 13:22)	Isaac (Genesis 26:2-7)
<b>Isaiah</b> (2 Kings 19:2)	Jacob (Genesis 28:11-16)	Jehu (1 Kings 16:7)
<b>Jeremiah</b> (Jeremiah 20:2)	<b>Jesus Christ</b>	Job (Job 1:1)
<b>Joel</b> (Acts 2:16)	John of Patmos (Revelation 1:1-3)	John the Baptist (Luke 7:28)
<b>Jonah</b> (2 Kings 14:25)	Joshua (Joshua 1:1)	Judas Barsabbas (Acts 3:15)
Lamech (Genesis 5:28-29)	Lucius of Cyrene (Acts 13:1)	<b>Malachi</b> (Malachi 1:1)
Manahen (Acts 13:1)	<b>Micah</b> (Micah 1:1)	Micaiah (1 Kings 22:9)
Moses (Deuteronomy 34:10)	<b>Nahum</b> (Nahum 1:1)	Nathan (2 Samuel 7:2)
Noah (Genesis 7:1)	<b>Obadiah</b> (Obadiah 1:1)	Oded (2 Chronicles 28:9)
Oded, father of Azariah (2 Chr 15:8)	Paul the Apostle (Acts 9:20)	Philip the Evangelist (Acts 8:26)
Samuel (1 Samuel 3:20)	Shemaiah (1 Kings 12:22)	Silas (Acts 15:32)
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Zechariah ben Jehoiada (2 Chr 24:20)	Zechariah (Luke 1:36; 67-79)	<b>Zephaniah</b> (Zephaniah 1:1)

# Major Prophets



**Isaiah** is noteworthy for being the most quoted of the prophets in the New Testament. Many passages are messianic in nature, even predicting events in the life of Christ such as the Virgin birth Isaiah 7: 14. His writings cover a long period of time in a wide variety of topics.



**Jeremiah** was heavily persecuted for his prophecies during the Babylonian siege. He often used metaphors such as the potter and clay (Jeremiah 18: 1-7) to illustrate God's message to the people. Known as the weeping prophet, he is also believed to be the author of Lamentations.



**Ezekiel** prophesied during Israel's captivity in Babylon. He often received elaborate visions from God such as the "vision of dry bones" where skeletons came to life to form a great army. Almost every aspect of his life served a symbolic purpose, from how he cooked his food to the way he slept at night.



**Daniel** was taken captive to Babylon as a hostage at Nebuchadnezzar's first siege. His gift to translate dreams gave him favour with kings, and he rose to become Prime Minister. God often sent him prophetic dreams about the near and distant futures. On one occasion he was thrown into a den of Lions for serving God exclusively, but the Lord rescued him.

# Example



**Hosea** was chosen as an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he did not stop loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.



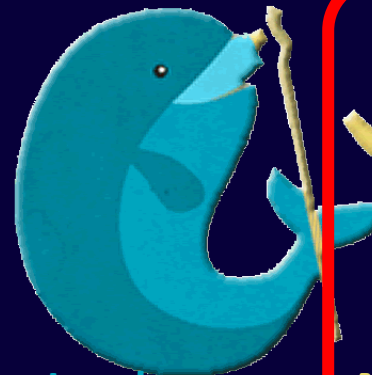
**Joel** prophesied during a time when the land of Israel suffered from a great plague of locusts. Joel proclaims this is a sign from God as a precursor to the Day of the Lord.



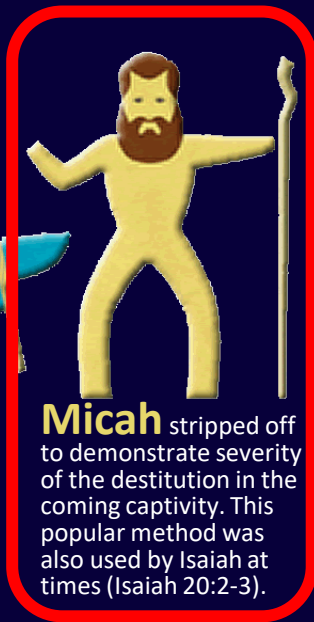
**Amos** was a sheep breeder and a tender of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.



**Obadiah** is the shortest Old Testament book with 21 verses. It proclaims judgement against Edom for aiding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem



**Jonah** is the best known because a giant sea animal set him back on course after he went astray. His job was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent. They did and he sulked.



**Micah** stripped off to demonstrate severity of the destitution in the coming captivity. This popular method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



**Nahum** predicted Nineveh's destruction 100 years after Jonah, and ten years later, Nineveh burned down and the Assyrian Empire collapsed.



**Habakkuk** was a psalmist and musician who ended his book with a hymn of grace and redemption to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.



**Zephaniah** issued stern judgements directed against Israel, Judah, and their neighbours for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.



**Haggai** makes his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.

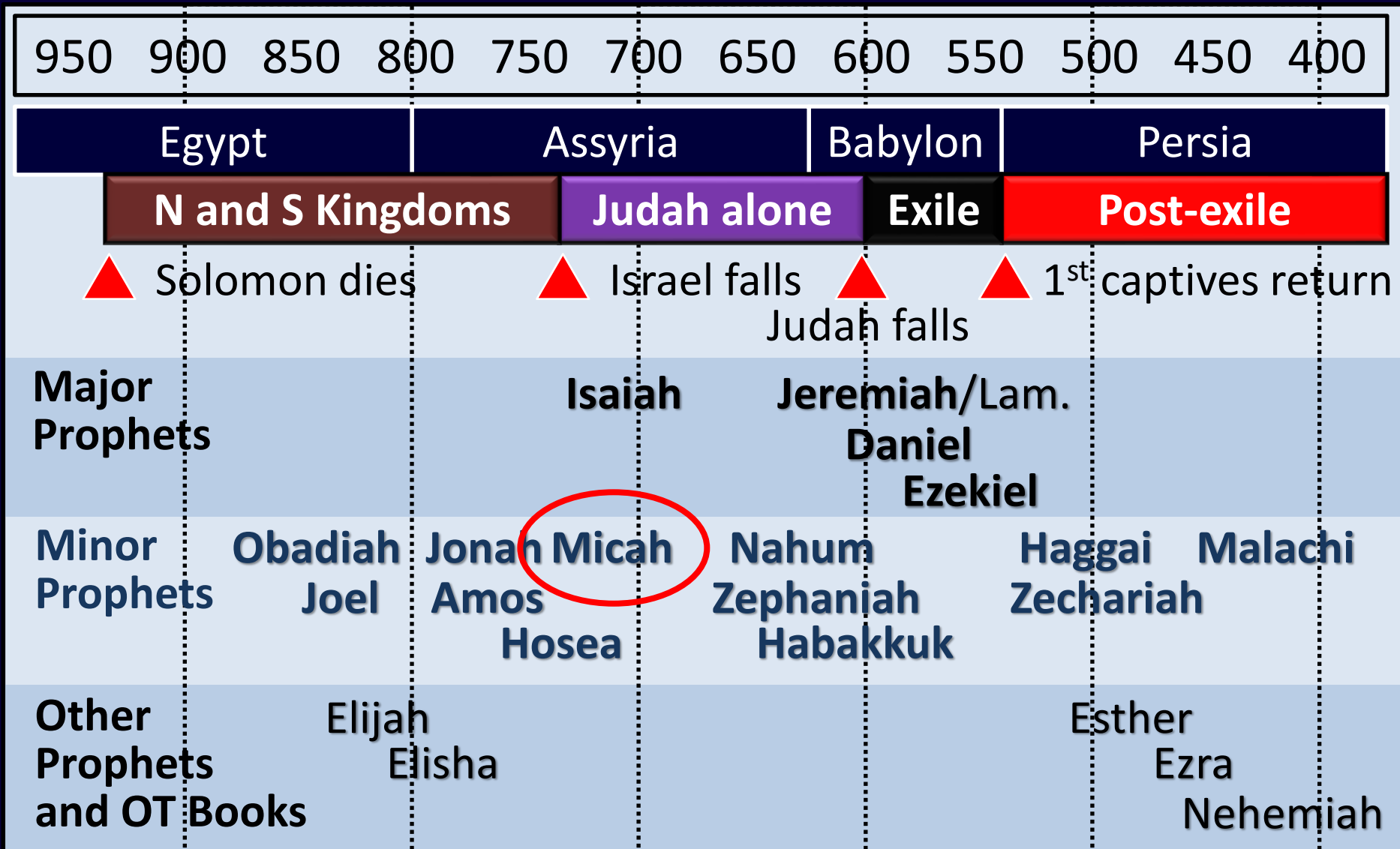


**Zechariah** like Ezekiel received vivid prophecy in symbolic visions. His visions included flying scrolls, olive trees, and angels. He predicted the First and Second Comings of the Messiah.



**Malachi** was a reformer who directed his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

# Timeline of the Prophets





# Chronological Order of the Prophets

## Before the Exile – (before 606 BC)

		<u>Propheesied</u>
• Obadiah	to Edom	887 B.C.
• Jonah	to Nineveh	862 B.C.
• Joel	to Judah	800 B.C. (835-756?)
• Amos	to Northern Kingdom	787 B.C.
• Hosea	to Northern Kingdom	785 - 725 B.C.
• Isaiah	to Judah	760 - 698 B.C.
• <b>Micah</b>	<b>to Israel and Judah</b>	<b>750 – 710 B.C.</b>
• Nahum	to Nineveh	713 B.C.
• Zephaniah	to Judah	630 B.C.
• Habakkuk	to Judah	626 B.C.
• Jeremiah	to Judah	629 – 588 B.C.

## During the Exile (606 – 538 BC)

• Jeremiah	.....	629 – 588 B.C.
• Ezekiel	.....	595 – 574 B.C.
• Daniel	.....	607 – 534 B.C.

## After the Exile (after 538 BC)

• Haggai	.....	520 B.C.
• Zechariah	.....	520 – 518 B.C.
• Malachi	.....	397 B.C.

(All dates approximate)

# PROPHECY



# A Hebraic view of prophecy

- ❖ As Westerners when we think “prophecy” our minds seek prediction/fulfilment.
- ❖ Eastern (Hebraic) thought **ALSO** looks for patterns and then multiple fulfilment as the patterns repeat.

The Bible is a book of  patterns and models:

**11” Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”**

(1 Corinthians 10:11)

# PROPHECY

The background image is a reproduction of Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam' fresco. It shows two hands reaching toward each other, with a bright light emanating from the gap between them. The word 'PROPHECY' is written in a stylized, glowing font at the top.

## GREEK CULTURE

### Prediction

- προφητεία, *prophēteia*, G4394, “the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth”
- *prophētēs*, G4396 “an interpreter or forth-teller (predictor) of the divine will”

## HEBREW CULTURE

### Prediction + Pattern

- נְבוּאָה, *nevuah*, H5016, “a pattern or prediction (spoken or written)”
- נָבִיא, *navi*, H5030, literally means “spokesperson”; he speaks to the people as a mouthpiece of God, and to God on behalf of the people.

# Two different views of prophecy

## The Greek (Western) View

● Prediction ⇨ Fulfilment

### PROPHECY (x2):

1. Zechariah 9:9. Messiah (“the King”) will ride into Jerusalem on a donkey.
2. Daniel 9:25: Gabriel tells Daniel that the Messiah will enter Jerusalem 173,880 days after the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem. (N.B. Calculation omitted)

### FULFILMENT:

- A. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on 6 April 32 AD exactly 173,880 days after Artaxerxes Longimanus so ordered on 14 March 445 B.C.

## The Hebrew (Eastern) View

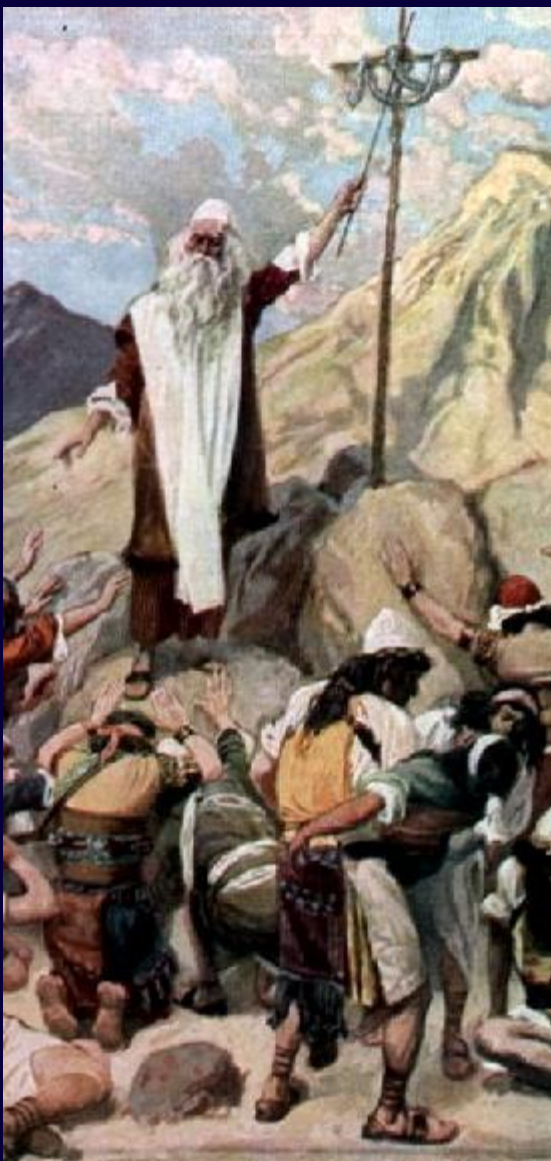
● Pattern(s) ⇨ Repeated

### How Joseph’s life prefigures Jesus

1. Despised for his prophetic gift.
2. Betrayed by Jews into Gentile hands.
3. God turns the betrayal into salvation.
4. Betrayed by brother Judah(s) for silver.
5. Cloak taken as proof he was not in the pit.
6. Falsely accused at an unfair trial.
7. Condemned with two criminals, one who lives and one who dies.
8. Condemnation to exaltation in three days.
9. Upon exaltation, every knee bowed.
10. Upon exaltation married a Gentile bride.
11. Not recognised at first coming, at second coming Joseph’s brothers wept.
12. Joseph beloved of his father.

The richness and understanding that accompanies discovery of the Midrashic hermeneutic is one of the most exciting aspects of studying the Old Testament.

# Typical Hebrew Prophecy: Numbers 21:5-10



5. And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.”
6. So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.
7. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.
8. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery [brazen, bronze] serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.”
9. So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

NOTE: 1. Throughout the Bible, *bronze* symbolises “judgement”.

## Typical Hebrew Prophecy: Numbers 21:5-10

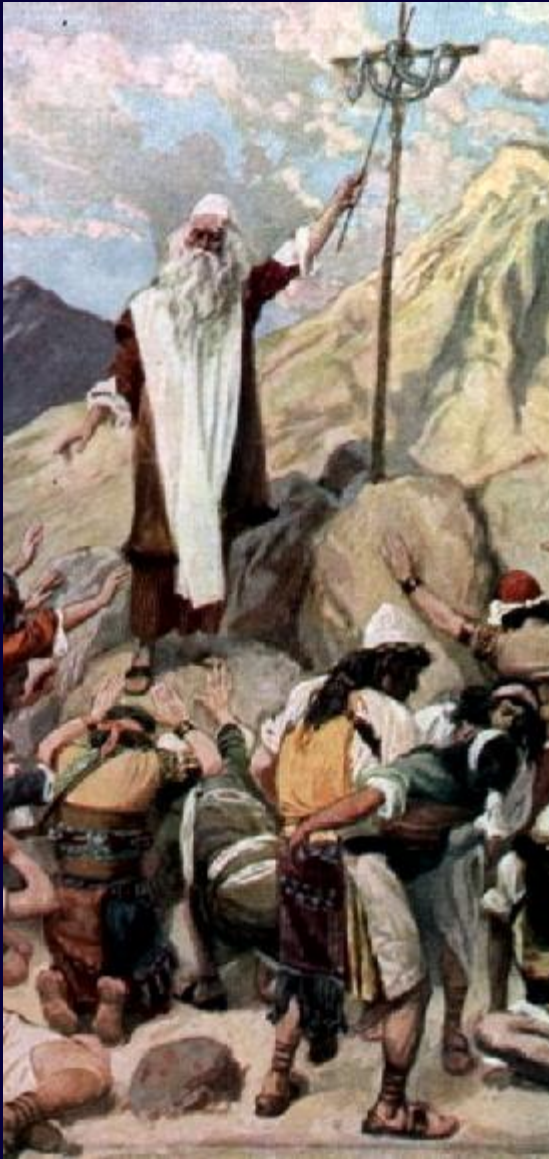


**THE OLD TESTAMENT  
ENDED WITH NO ONE  
THE WISER ABOUT THIS  
WEIRD PASSAGE!**

5. And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our hearts are sick because of this wilderness.”
6. So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.
7. Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you, pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.”
8. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery [brazen,] serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.”
9. So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

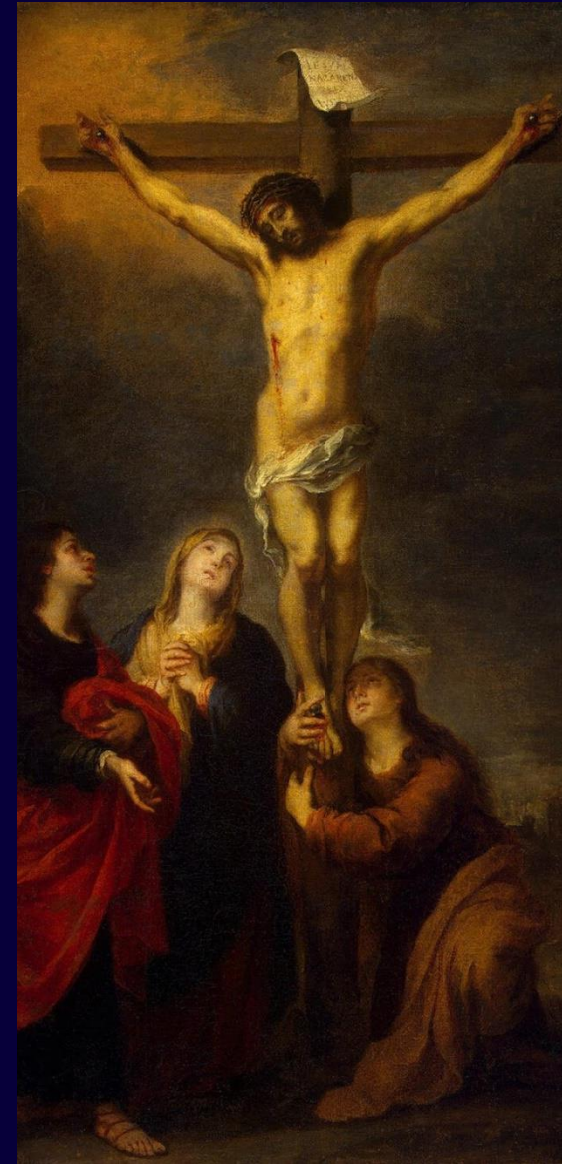
NOTE: 1. Throughout the Bible, *bronze* symbolises “judgement”.

## Until Jesus explained in John 3:14-15...



14. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up:

15. That whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.





... and John 3:16

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE  
WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS  
ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT  
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT  
HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**



# Genesis 5

## Genesis 5 The Family of Adam

5 This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. <sup>3</sup> And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. <sup>4</sup> After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

<sup>6</sup> Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. <sup>7</sup> After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>8</sup> So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died.

<sup>9</sup> Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan. <sup>10</sup> After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>11</sup> So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died.

<sup>12</sup> Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. <sup>13</sup> After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>14</sup> So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died.

<sup>15</sup> Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. <sup>16</sup> After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters.

<sup>17</sup> So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died.

<sup>18</sup> Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch.

<sup>19</sup> After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup> So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

<sup>21</sup> Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

<sup>25</sup> Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. <sup>26</sup> After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup> So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

<sup>28</sup> Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son.

<sup>29</sup> And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed." <sup>30</sup> After he begot Noah,

Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup> So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died.

<sup>32</sup> And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

## Genesis 5

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Transliterate to English</u>
אדם	Adam
שת	Seth
אנוש	Enosh
קינן	Cainan
מהללאל	Mahalalel
ירד	Jared
חנוך	Enoch
מתושלח	Methuselah
למך	Lamech
נח	Noah

## Genesis 5

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Transliterate to English</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
אדם	Adam	Man (is)
שת	Seth	Appointed
אנוש	Enosh	Mortal
קינן	Cainan	Sorrow (but)
מהללאל	Mahalalel	The Blessed God
ירד	Jared	Shall come down
חנוך	Enoch	Teaching <sup>1</sup>
מתושלח	Methuselah	His death shall bring
למך	Lamech	(the) Despairing
נח	Noah	Comfort, Rest

1. From Hebrew root.

## **A prophecy in Genesis 5?**

**Man is appointed to mortal sorrow, but the Blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring the despairing comfort and rest.**

**ALTERNATE RENDERING THAT INCLUDES YHWH**

**God has appointed man to mortal sorrow, but the Blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring the despairing comfort and rest.**

16 " Thus says the LORD of hosts:

'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.

They make you worthless;

They speak a vision of their own heart,

Not from the mouth of the LORD.' "

(Jeremiah 23:16 NIV)

## CAUTION

**Beware of false prophets,  
which come to you in  
sheep's clothing, but  
inwardly they are  
ravening wolves.**

Matthew 7:15

"Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem"  
Rembrandt van Rijn, 1630



## How can God prophesy?

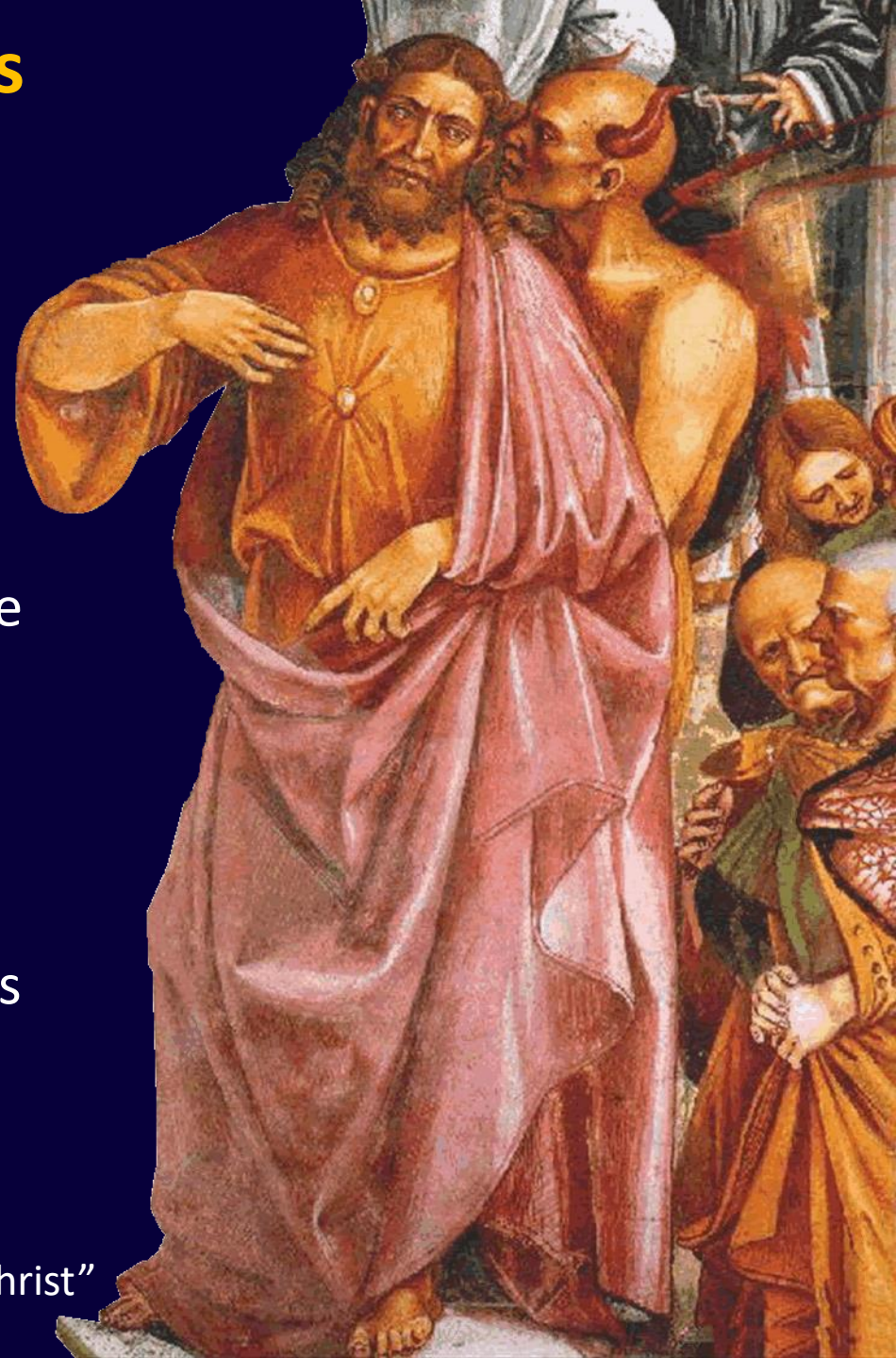
- “I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning.” (Isaiah 46:10)
- “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” (Proverb 15:3)

**Per the Bible, God is  
eternal. He is not  
constrained by time.  
He created time.**

# False Prophets

- ❖ **1 John 4:1** - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- ❖ **2 Peter 2:1** - But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.
- ❖ **Matthew 24:24** - For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

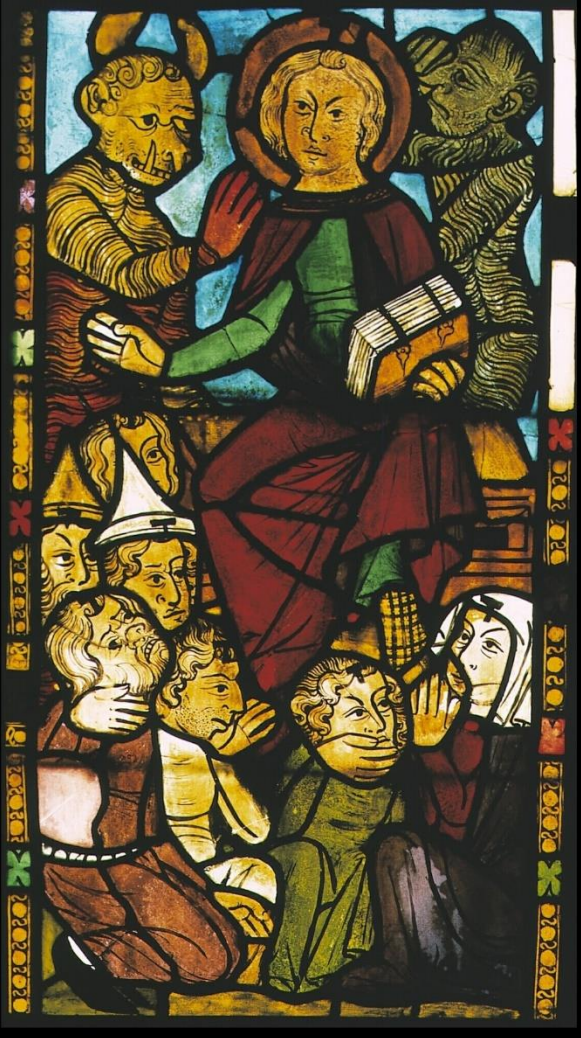
“Sermons and Deeds of the Antichrist”  
Luca Signorelli, 1501





# The Antichrist in the book of Zechariah

Zechariah 11 gives a physical description of the Antichrist:



<sup>15</sup> And the LORD said to me, “Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd. <sup>16</sup> For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land *who* will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces.

<sup>17</sup> “Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock! A sword *shall be* against his arm and against his right eye; his arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded.”

## A Word of

# CAUTION

- ❖ In these strange times, many call themselves apostles and prophets of God.

“For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” (Matthew 24:24)

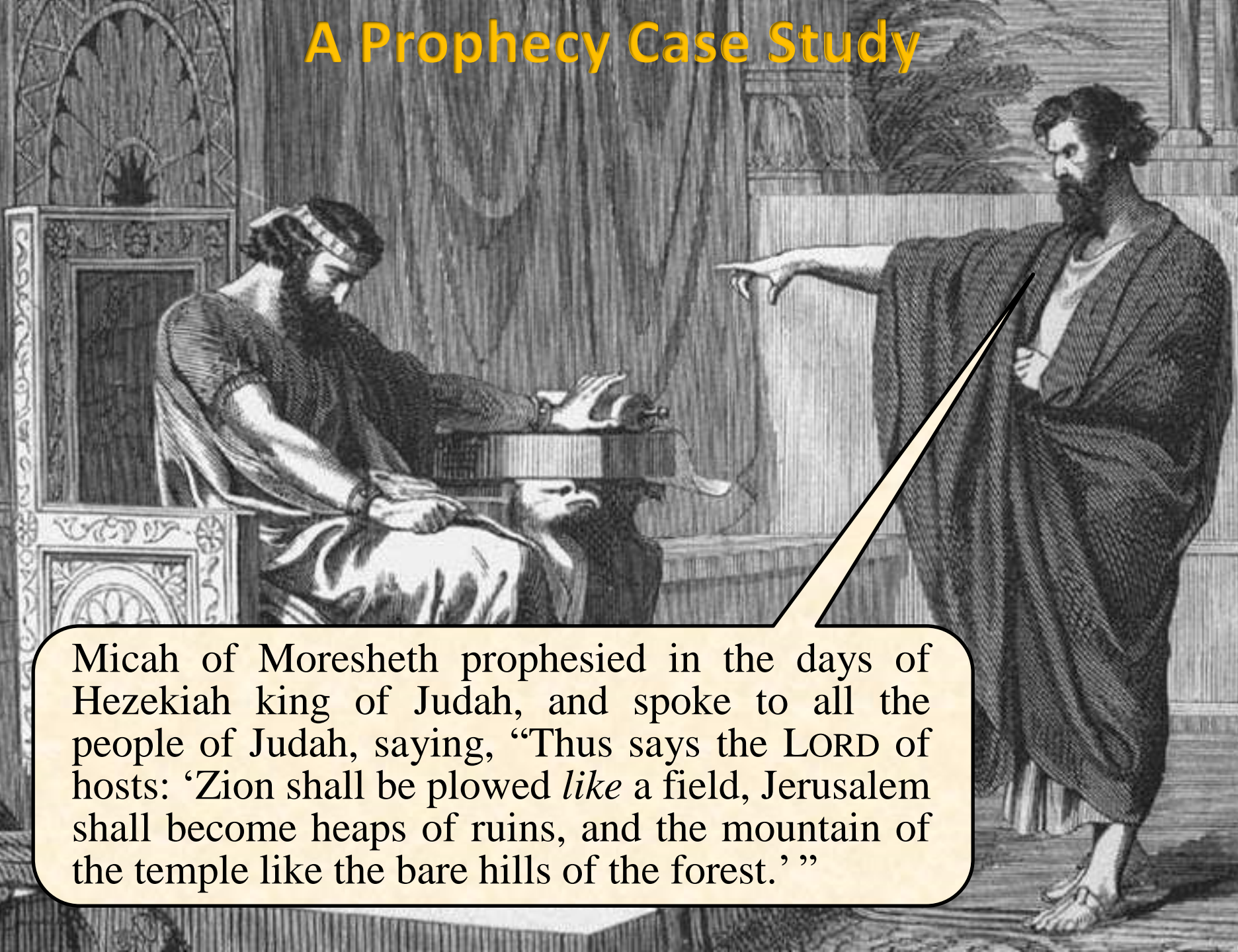
“For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.” (Romans 16:18)

- ❖ This is not only **dangerous** for us, but for them as well.

“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.” (Deuteronomy 18:20)

- ❖ Now as then, the great challenge is to properly discern those who are genuine from those who are false.

# A Prophecy Case Study



Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Zion shall be plowed *like* a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest.’ ”

2021  
SESSION  
8

WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
Is ABOUT

The Minor Prophet  
Micah

# Micah

MESSAGE OF WARNING,  
MESSAGE OF HOPE



## Practical Lessons in Micah

*Micah spoke out against the oppression of the people by both spiritual and secular leaders.*

1. God judges sin.
2. God will not protect His people from the consequences of their actions.
3. God will forgive and restore His people by bringing them back from Babylon.
4. How people treat others reflects the state of their hearts.
5. God promises to send a Saviour.

2 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. <sup>2</sup>He said:

<sup>3</sup>"In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me.

From the depths of the grave I called for help,

and you listened to my cry.

<sup>3</sup>You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.

<sup>4</sup>I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'

<sup>5</sup>The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.

<sup>6</sup>To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you brought my life up from the pit,

O LORD my God.

<sup>7</sup>"When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you.

ers were at my throat

Do not let any man or beast, ha  
flock, taste anything; do not let them  
eat or drink. <sup>8</sup>But let man and beast be  
covered with sackcloth. Let everyone  
call urgently on God. Let them give up  
their evil ways and their violence.  
<sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may yet relent and  
with compassion turn from his fierce  
anger so that we will not perish."

God saw what they did and how  
turned from their evil ways, he had

"I am angry about the vine?  
die."

<sup>10</sup>But the LORD said, "You have  
concerned about this vine, though you  
not tend it or make it grow. It sprang  
overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup>But  
veh has more than a hundred and ten  
thousand people who cannot tell their  
hand from their left, and many do not  
well. Should I not be concerned about  
great city?"

# Micah

The word of the LORD that came to  
Micah of Moresheth during the reigns  
of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of  
Judah—the vision he saw concerning Sa-  
maria and Jerusalem.

Listen, O peoples, all of you,  
listen, O earth and all who are in it,<  
because the sovereign LORD may witness  
against you,  
because the LORD is with his holy temple.

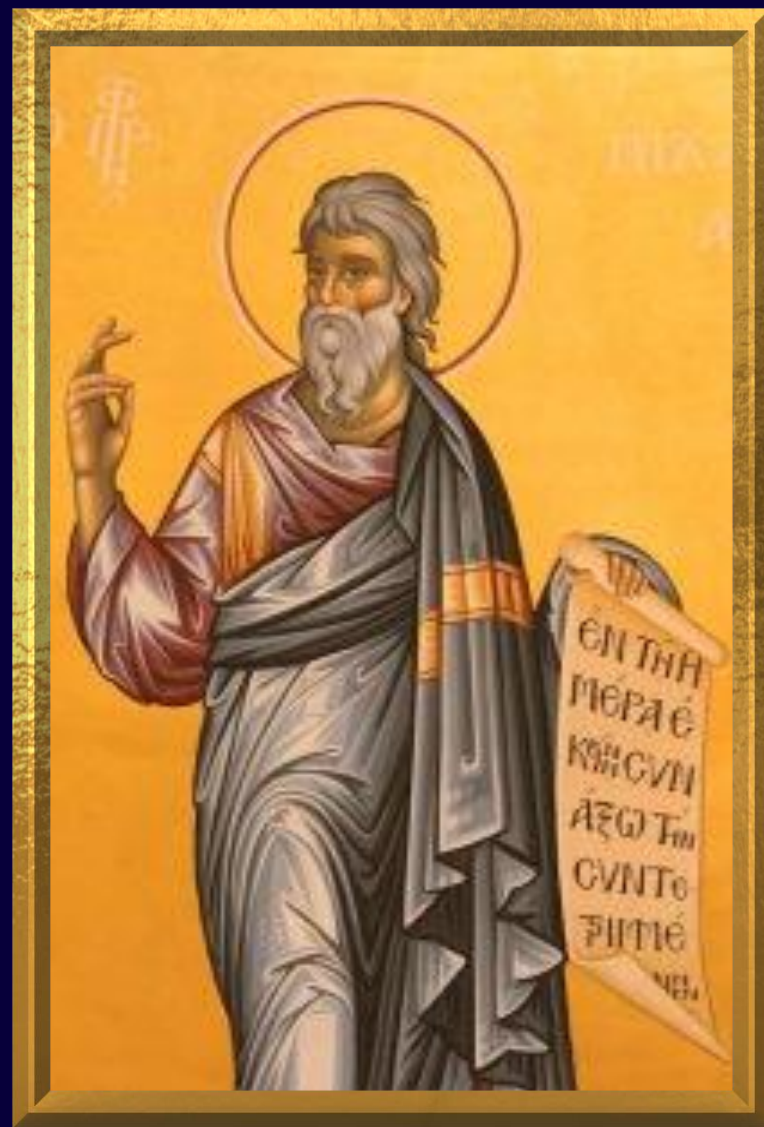
## *Judgment Against Samaria and Jerusalem*

<sup>3</sup>Look! The LORD is coming from  
his dwelling place;  
he comes down and treads  
the heights of the earth.

<sup>4</sup>The mountains melt beneath  
his feet, and the valleys split apart  
like wax before the fire.

## Micah (“Who is like YHWH?”)

- ❖ Micah (“Micaiah,” “Who is like Jehovah?”) was from the Judean farming village of Moresheth 40 km southwest of Jerusalem.
- ❖ He prophesied during the reigns of Judean kings Jotham (750–735 BC), Ahaz (735–715 BC), and Hezekiah (715–686 BC).
- ❖ He also prophesied to the Northern Kingdom (“Israel”) during the reigns of Pekahiah, Pekah and Hoshea.
- ❖ Unlike most prophets except Jonah, the message of Micah was heeded by Judah, and Judah postponed disaster for a century.



**Micah** (prop. 737 to 696 BC.)



- ❖ Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah (right) in Judah and Amos and Hosea in Israel.
- ❖ Micah foresaw the coming judgment of the Israel under Assyria (722 BC) as well as the fall of Jerusalem and Judah to Babylon (606–596 BC).
- ❖ He sought to call the Jews back to faithful worship of Jehovah and sincere obedience to His covenant, but they refused to listen.
- ❖ As wealthy investors bought up small farms to turn into large holdings, Micah spoke out against oppression of the displaced poor by both spiritual and secular leaders.
- ❖ But Micah's ministry finally successfully encouraged the great Judean reformation under Hezekiah (Jer. 26:18; 2 Kings 18-20).



'The Prophet Isaiah' by James Tissot, c. 1898.

## Key Verse – Micah 6-8

<sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;  
And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justly,  
To love mercy,  
And to walk humbly with your God?

**ACT JUSTLY  
LOVE MERCY  
WALK HUMBLLY**

# Outline

## A Warning: Judgment is Coming

- The Judge appears
- The nations are judged:
  - Judgment on Samaria
  - Judgment on Judah
- Why judgment is coming:
  - Because of covetousness
  - Because of false prophets
- Hope for the remnant

**Micah**

1:1-2:13

## A Promise: A Deliverer is Coming

- The sins of the leaders
- The future of the nation
- The coming of Messiah
- The defeat of the enemy

**Micah**

3:1-5:15

## A Challenge: Trust the LORD Now

- In spite of the indictment
- In spite of the sentence
- Because of the Lord's mercies

**Micah**

6:1-7:20

A Warning:

by Micah

Judgment is coming

# Micah

Who is like the LORD?

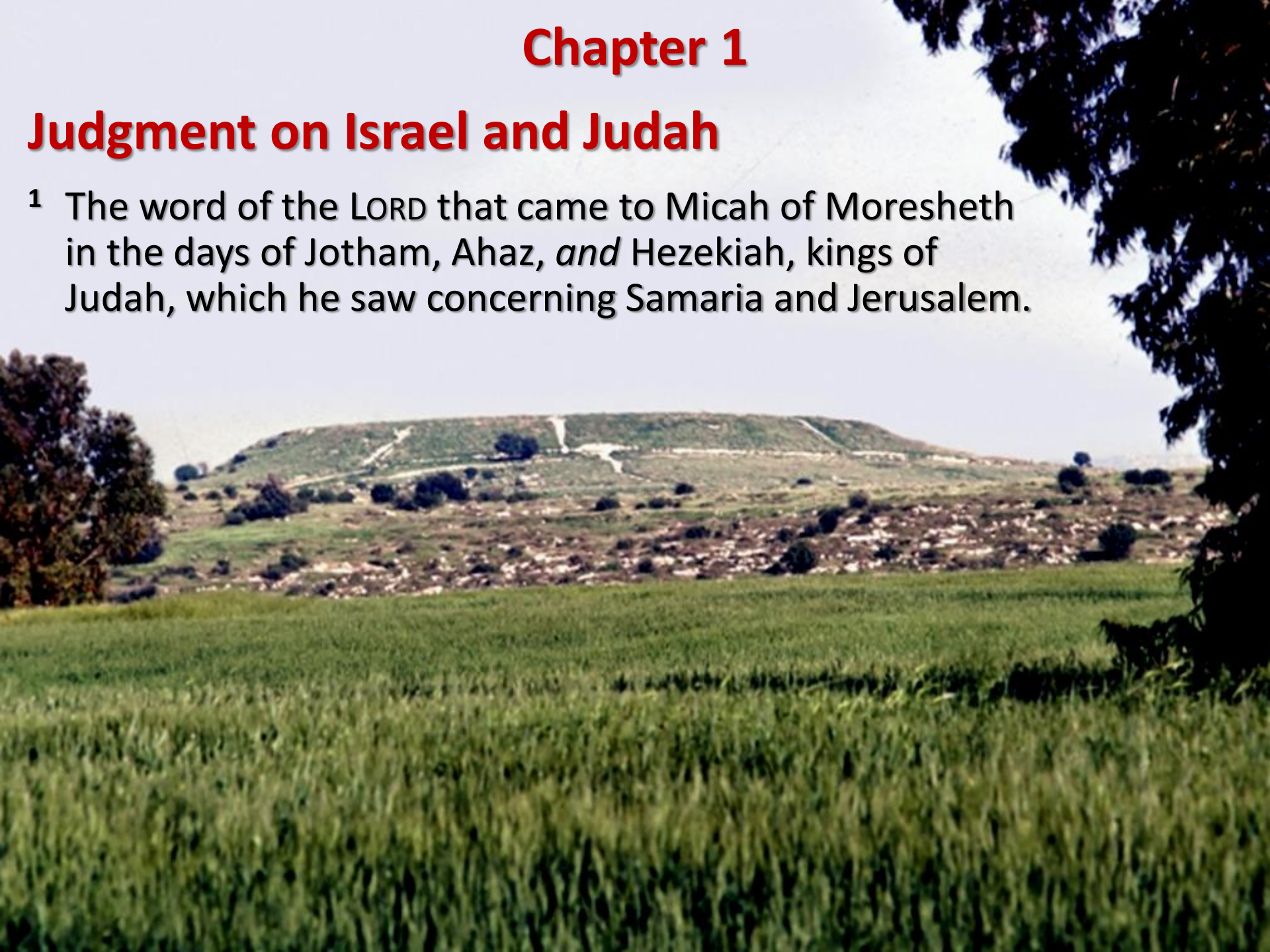



Chapter  
**1**

# Chapter 1

## Judgment on Israel and Judah

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.



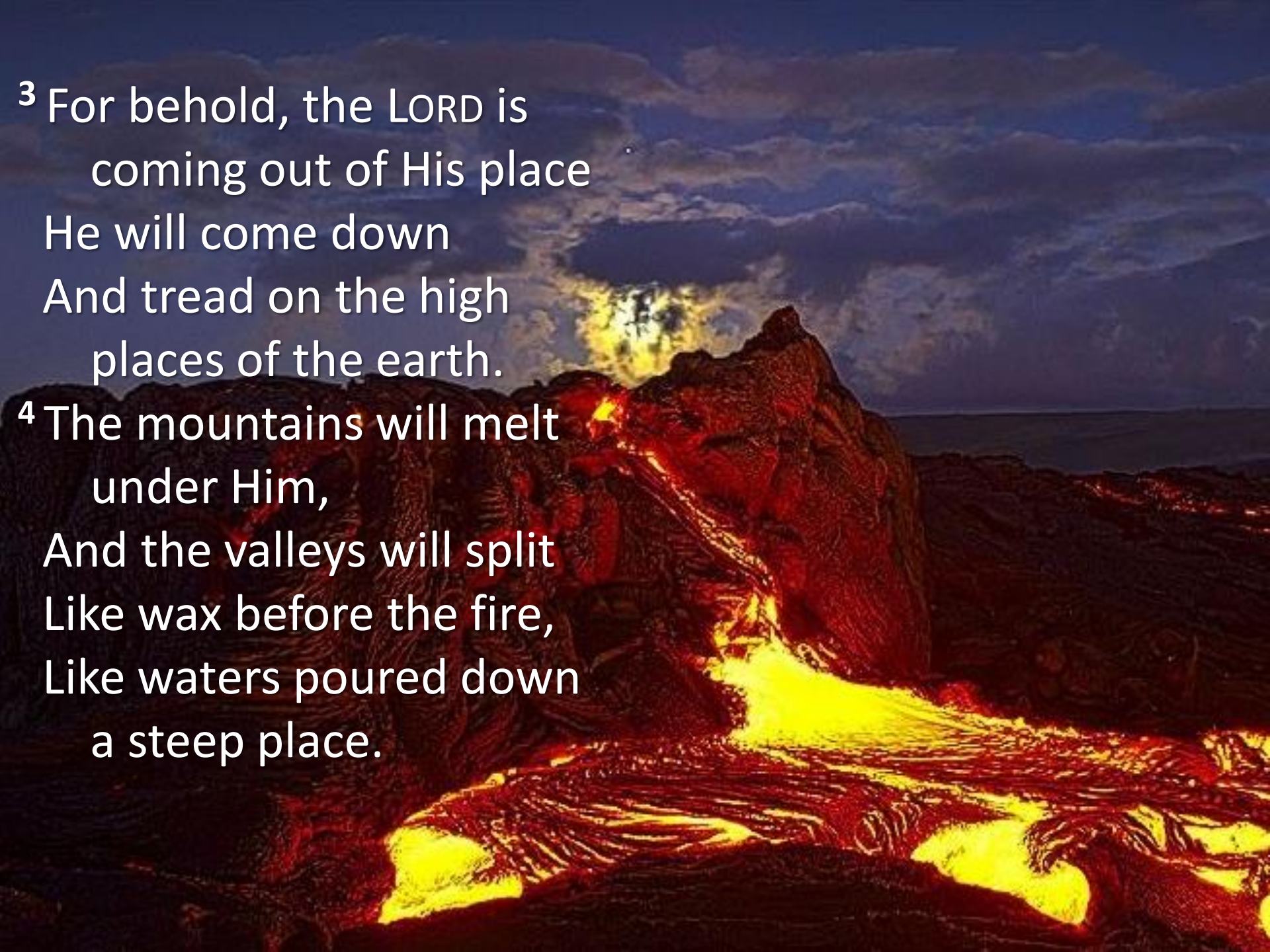


🗣️🗣️ Hear, all you peoples! Listen,  
O earth, and all that is in it! Let  
the LORD GOD be a witness against  
you, The LORD from His holy temple. ””

Mcah 1:2

<sup>3</sup> For behold, the LORD is  
coming out of His place  
He will come down  
And tread on the high  
places of the earth.

<sup>4</sup> The mountains will melt  
under Him,  
And the valleys will split  
Like wax before the fire,  
Like waters poured down  
a steep place.





<sup>5</sup> All this is for the transgression of Jacob  
And for the sins of the house of Israel.

What *is* the transgression of Jacob?

*Is it not Samaria?*

And what *are* the high places of Judah?

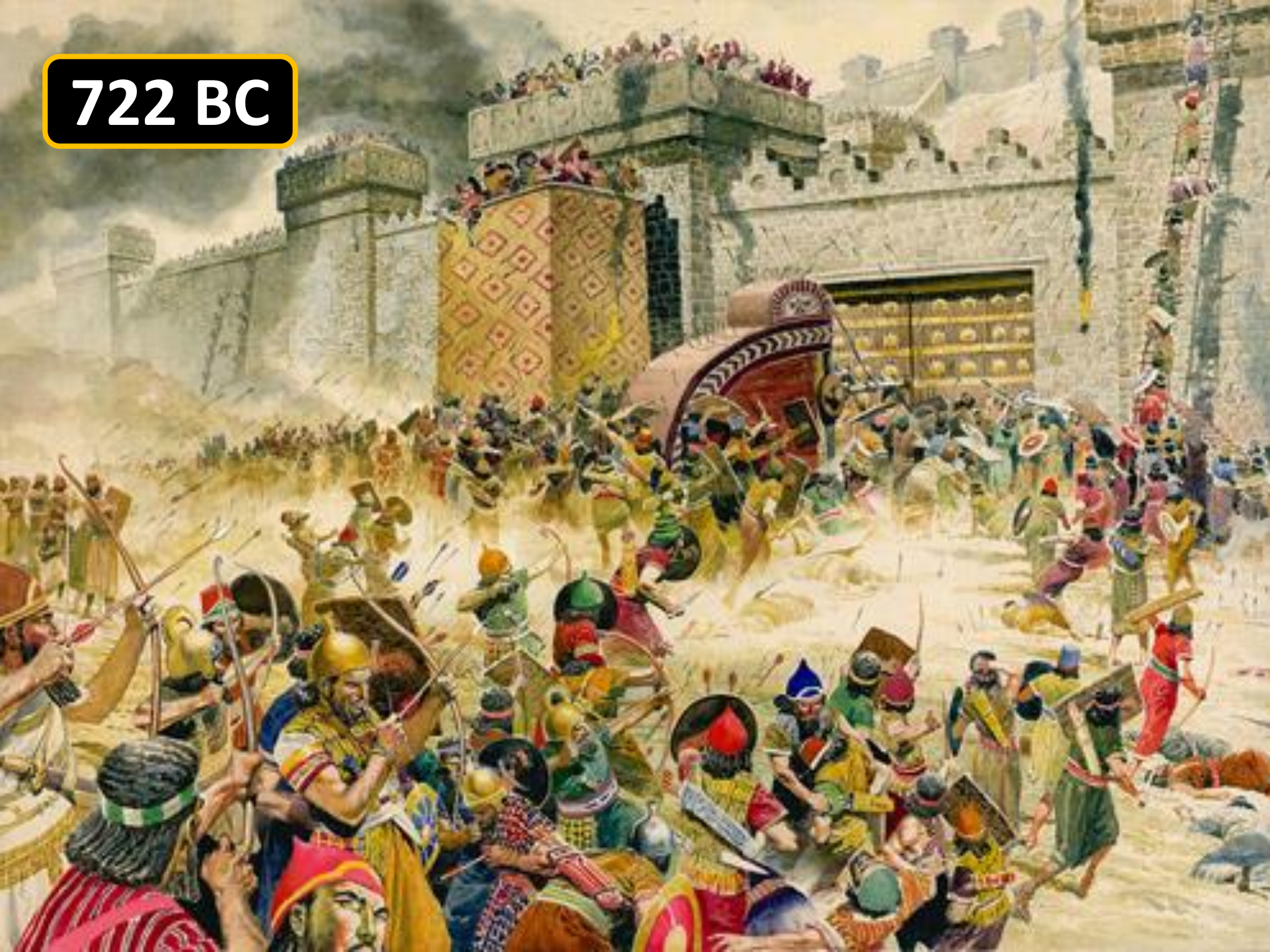
*Are they not Jerusalem?*

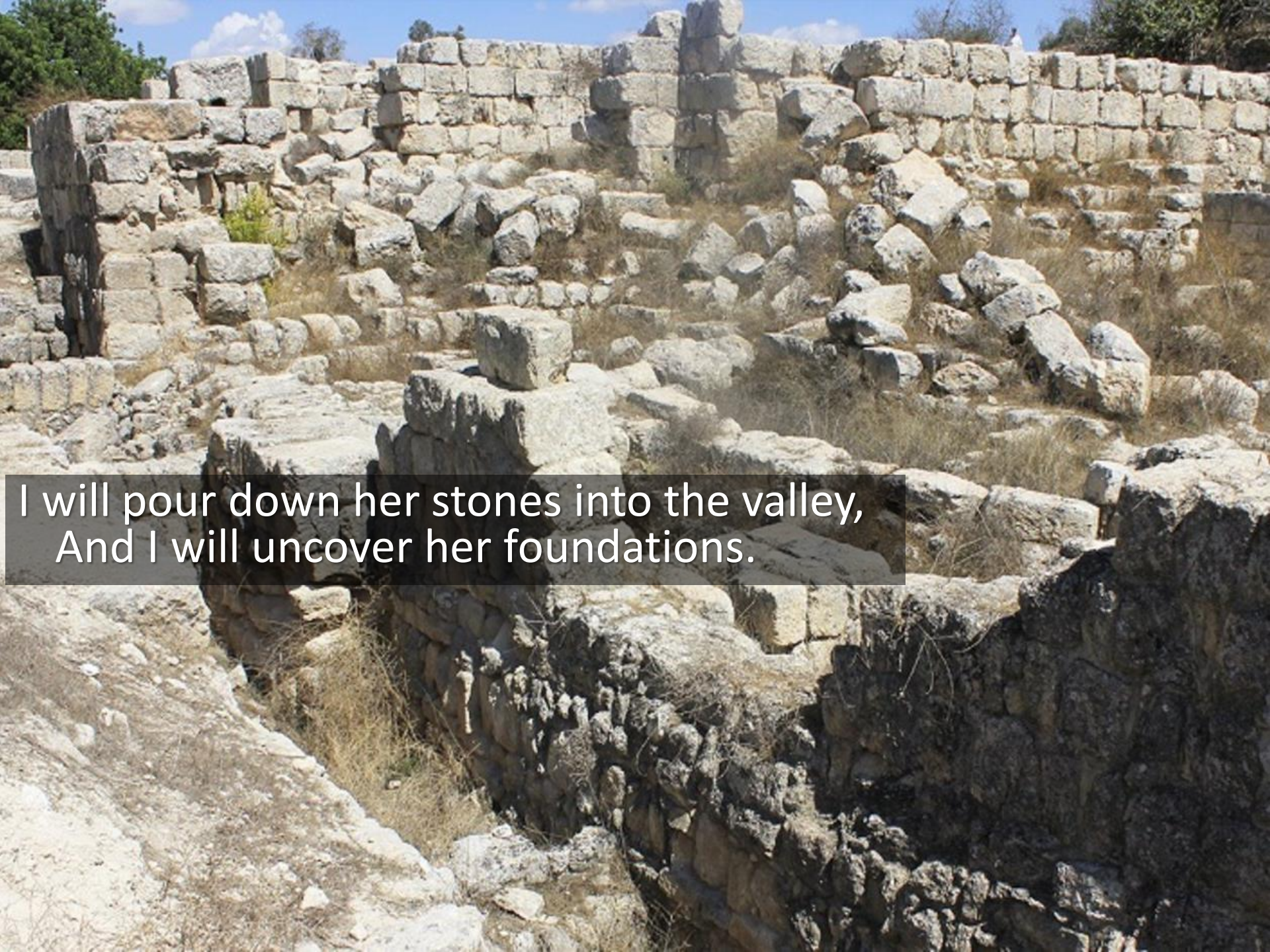


6 “Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field,  
Places for planting a vineyard;



722 BC





I will pour down her stones into the valley,  
And I will uncover her foundations.

7 All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces,  
And all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire;  
All her idols I will lay desolate,  
For she gathered *it* from the pay of a harlot,  
And they shall return to the pay of a harlot.”



# Mourning for Israel and Judah

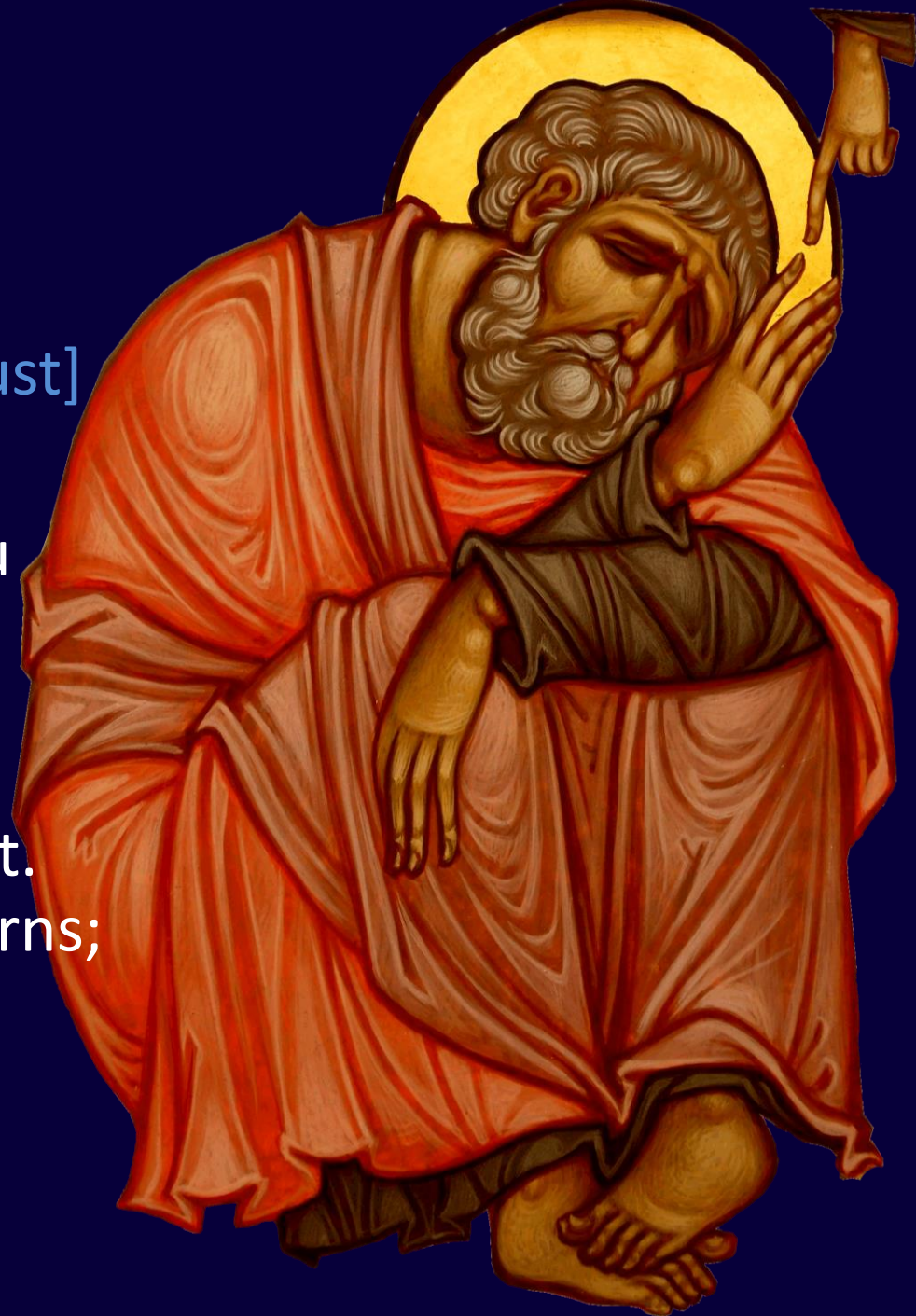


<sup>8</sup> Therefore I will wail  
and howl,  
I will go stripped and  
naked;  
I will make a wailing  
like the jackals  
And a mourning like  
the ostriches,

<sup>9</sup> For her wounds are  
incurable.  
For it has come to  
Judah; It has come to  
the gate of My people  
—To Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> Tell *it* not in Gath,  
Weep not at all;  
In Beth Aphrah [House of Dust]  
Roll yourself in the dust.

<sup>11</sup> Pass by in naked shame, you  
inhabitant of Shaphir  
[beautiful];  
The inhabitant of Zaanan  
[going out] does not go out.  
Beth Ezel [House Near] mourns;  
Its place to stand is taken  
away from you.



<sup>12</sup> For the inhabitant of Maroth [“bitterness”] pined [were sick] for good,

But disaster came down from the LORD To the gate of Jerusalem.



‘Assyrian King Sennacherib besieges Judah in 701 BC’ by James McConnell.



**13** O inhabitant of Lachish, Harness the chariot to the swift steeds  
(She *was* the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion),  
For the transgressions of Israel were found in you.

Siege of Lachish, 720 BC



- <sup>14</sup> Therefore you shall give presents to Moresheth [possession of] Gath;  
The houses of Achzib [“lie”] shall be a lie to the kings of Israel.
- <sup>15</sup> I will yet bring an heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah;  
The glory of Israel shall come to Adullam [“inheritance”].
- <sup>16</sup> Make yourself bald and cut off your hair,  
Because of your precious children;  
Enlarge your baldness like an eagle,  
For they shall go from you into captivity.

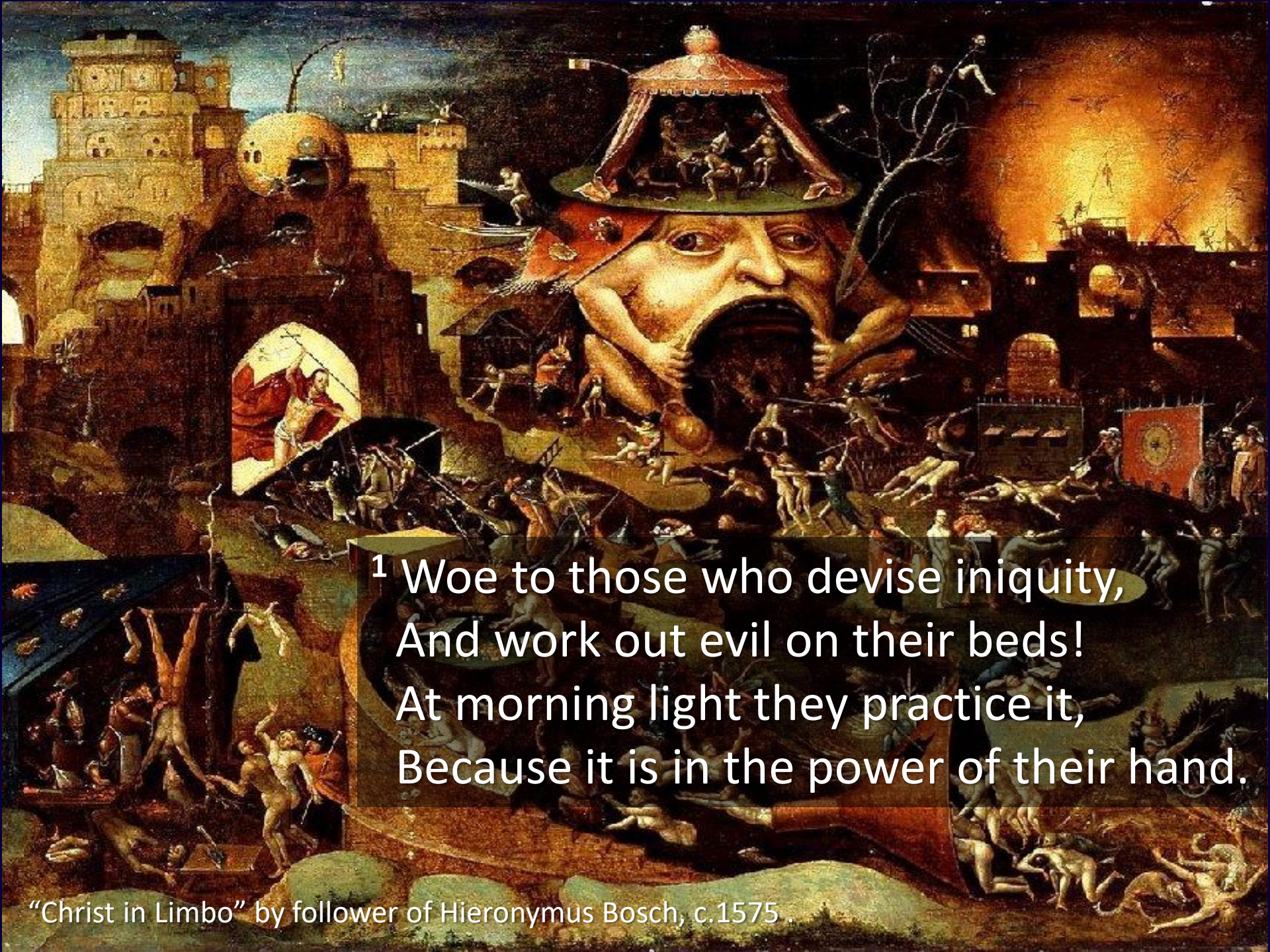


# Micah

Who is like the LORD?



Chapter  
**2**



<sup>1</sup> Woe to those who devise iniquity,  
And work out evil on their beds!  
At morning light they practice it,  
Because it is in the power of their hand.

“Christ in Limbo” by follower of Hieronymus Bosch, c.1575 .

<sup>2</sup> They covet fields and take *them* by violence,  
Also houses, and seize *them*.  
So they oppress a man and his house,  
A man and his inheritance.



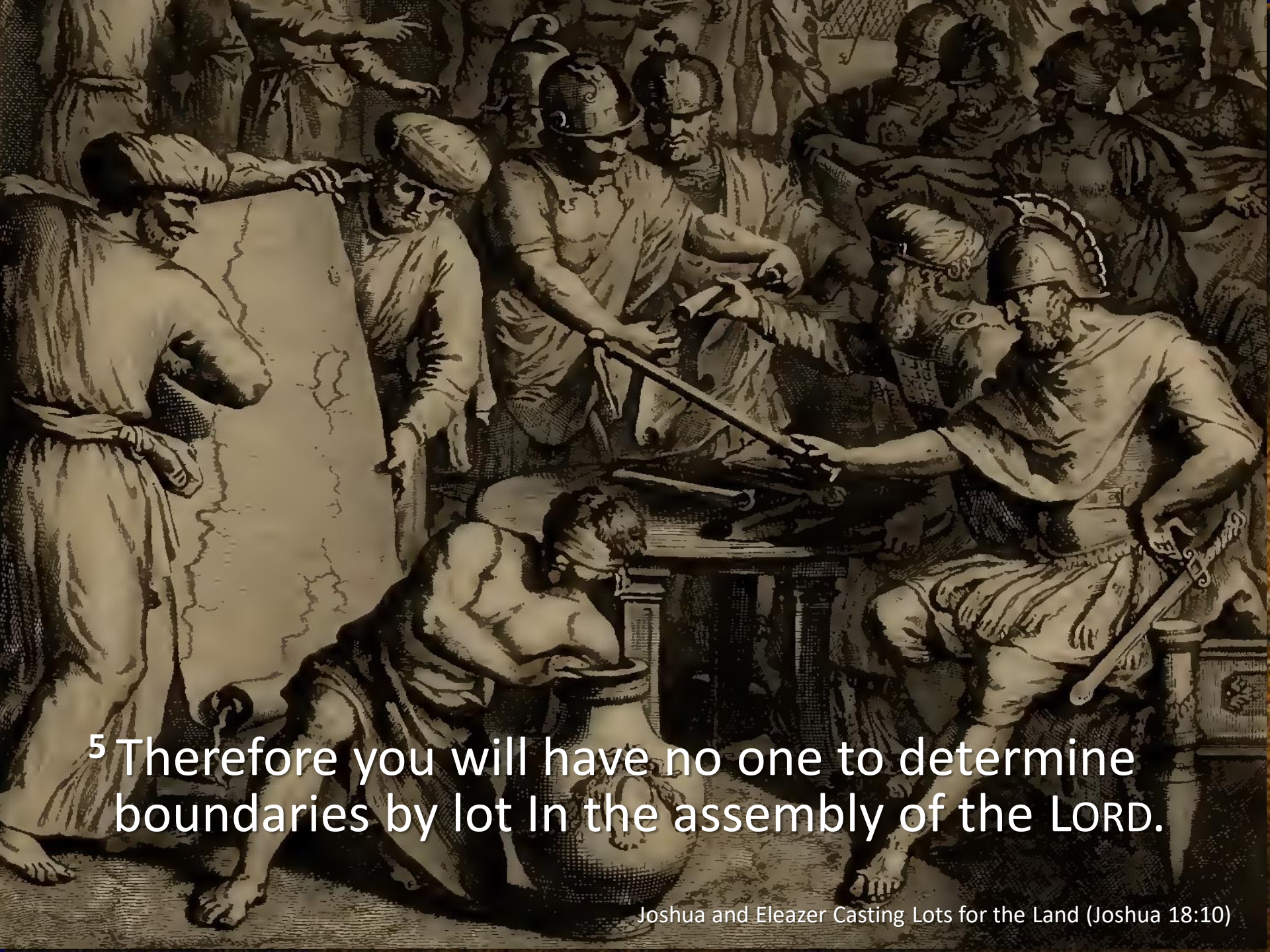


<sup>3</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD:

“Behold, against this family I am devising disaster,  
From which you cannot remove your necks;  
Nor shall you walk haughtily,  
For this *is* an evil time.

<sup>4</sup> In that day *one* shall take up a proverb against you,  
And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying:

‘We are utterly destroyed!  
He has changed the heritage of my people;  
How He has removed *it* from me!  
To a turncoat He has divided our fields.’ ”



<sup>5</sup> Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD.

## Lying Prophets

<sup>6</sup> “Do not prattle,” *you say to those* who prophesy.  
So they shall not prophesy to you;  
They shall not return insult for insult.





<sup>7</sup> *You who are* named the house of Jacob:

“Is the Spirit of the LORD restricted? *Are* these His doings?  
Do not My words do good To him who walks uprightly?

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.  
(1 Corinthians 10:13)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.  
(Philippians 4:6-7)