



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

2021
SESSION
9

WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

The Minor Prophet
Micah

Micah

MESSAGE OF WARNING,
MESSAGE OF HOPE



2 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ²He said:

¹"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.

³You 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.

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

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

⁶To 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.

⁷"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. ⁸But let man and beast be
covered with sackcloth. Let everyone
call urgently on God. Let them give up
their evil ways and their violence.
⁹Who 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."

¹⁰But the LORD said, "You have
concerned about this vine, though you
not tend it or make it grow. It sprang
overnight and died overnight. ¹¹But
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.

¹Listen, 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.

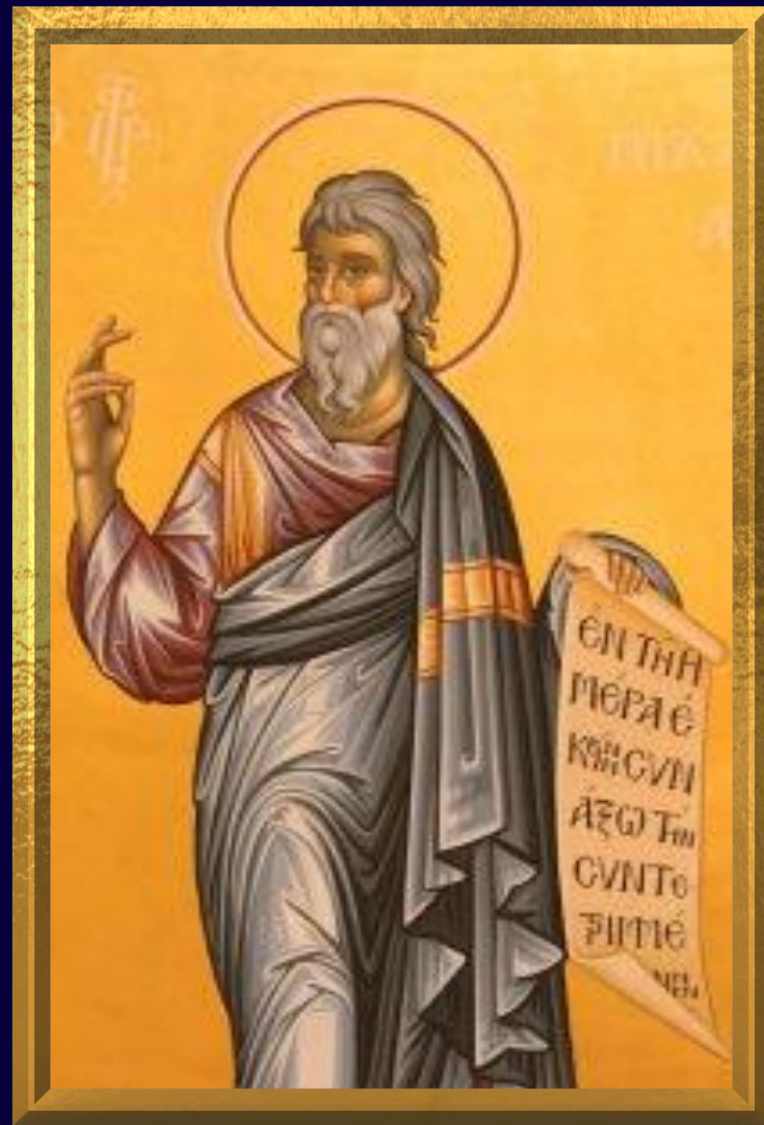
Judgment Against Samaria and Jerusalem

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

⁴The mountains melt beneath
his feet, and the valleys split
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

- ⁸ 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

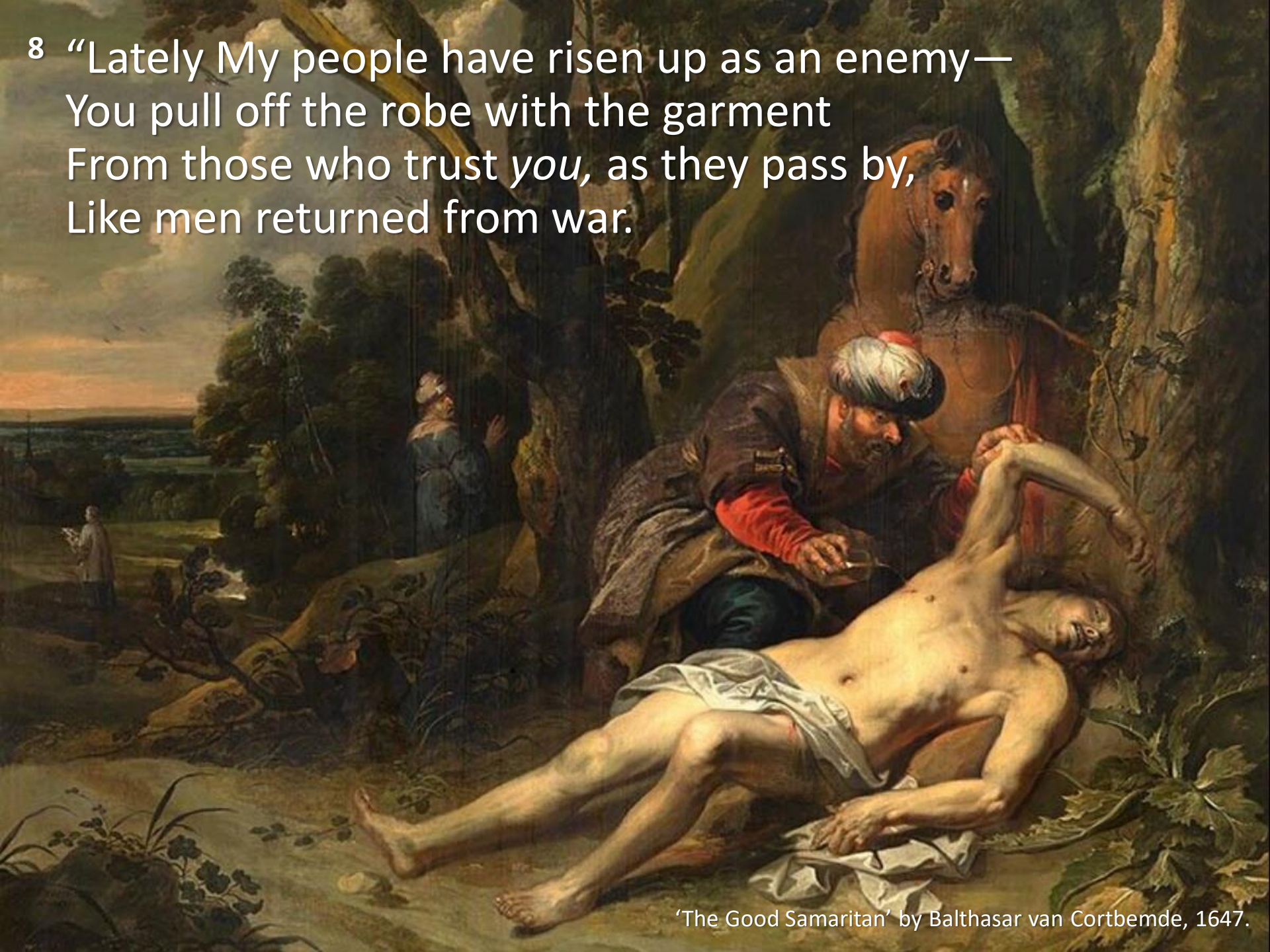
Micah

Who is like the LORD?



Chapter
2


8 “Lately My people have risen up as an enemy—
You pull off the robe with the garment
From those who trust *you*, as they pass by,
Like men returned from war.



‘The Good Samaritan’ by Balthasar van Cortbemde, 1647.

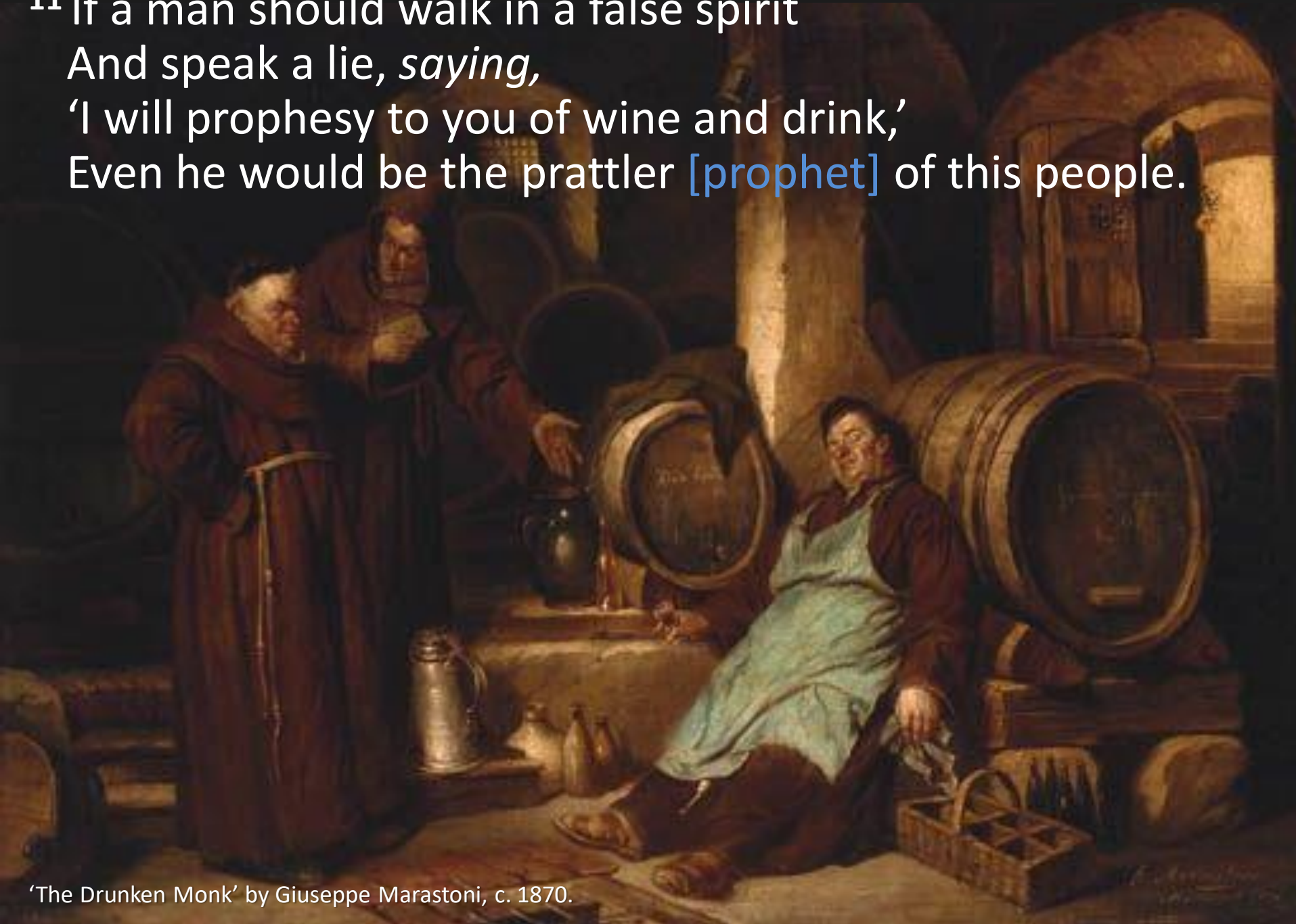
⁹ The women of My
people you cast out
From their pleasant
houses;
From their children
You have taken away
My glory forever.






¹⁰ “Arise and depart,
For this *is* not *your* rest;
Because it is defiled, it
shall destroy,
Yes, with utter destruction.

¹¹ If a man should walk in a false spirit
And speak a lie, *saying*,
'I will prophesy to you of wine and drink,'
Even he would be the prattler [prophet] of this people.



'The Drunken Monk' by Giuseppe Marastoni, c. 1870.

Israel Restored



¹² “I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob,
I will surely gather the remnant of Israel;
I will put them together like sheep of the fold,
Like a flock in the midst of their pasture;
They shall make a loud noise because of *so many* people.

The Oppressors' Plan and God's Counterplan

Micah Chapter 1

People sin against God; God reveals His counterplan

Micah Chapter 2

Sins against each other; God reveals His counterplan

Oppressors' Plan

Plot evil and carry it out

Covet others' property

Steal others' property

Cheat others out of their homes and inheritances of land

God's Counterplan

Plans disaster against them

Allows others to ridicule and taunt them

Takes their land and divides it up

Assigns their fields to traitors so they no longer receive an inheritance of land

A Promise:

by Micah

A deliverer is coming

Micah

Who is like the LORD?



Chapter
3

Chapter 3

¹ And I said:

“Hear now, O heads of Jacob,
And you rulers of the house of
Israel: *Is it* not for you to know
justice?”

² You who hate good and love
evil; Who strip the skin from
My people, And the flesh from
their bones;

³ Who also eat the flesh of My
people, Flay their skin from
them, Break their bones,
And chop *them* in pieces
Like *meat* for the pot,
Like flesh in the caldron.”

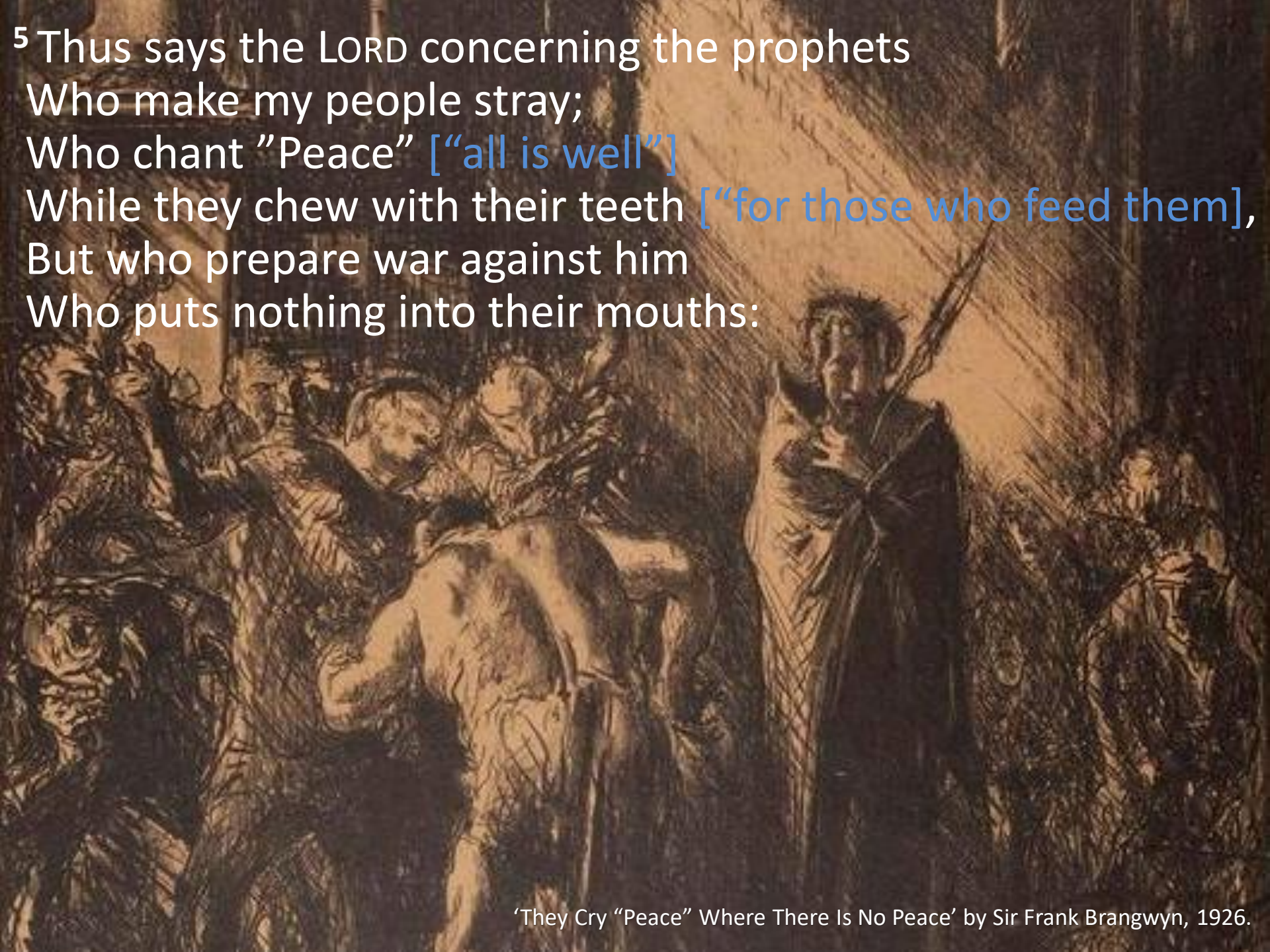


4 Then they will cry to the LORD,
But He will not hear them;
He will even hide His face from them at that time,
Because they have been evil in their deeds.



'The Destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem' by Nicolas Poussin, 1637.

⁵ Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets
Who make my people stray;
Who chant "Peace" ["all is well"]
While they chew with their teeth ["for those who feed them],
But who prepare war against him
Who puts nothing into their mouths:



'They Cry "Peace" Where There Is No Peace' by Sir Frank Brangwyn, 1926.

6 “Therefore you shall have night without vision [“prophecy”],
And you shall have darkness without divination;
The sun shall go down on the prophets,
And the day shall be dark for them.

*“Behold, the days come,” says the Lord GOD,
“That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of
bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words
of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and
from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking
the word of the LORD, but shall not find it.”*

Amos 8:11-12

7 So the seers shall be ashamed, and the diviners abashed;
Indeed they shall all cover their lips [Leviticus 13:45];
For *there is* no answer from God.”



8 But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD,
And of justice and might,
To declare to Jacob his transgression
And to Israel his sin.

I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

2 Timothy 4:1-4



⁹ Now hear this,
You heads of the house of Jacob
And rulers of the house of Israel,
Who abhor justice
And pervert all equity,

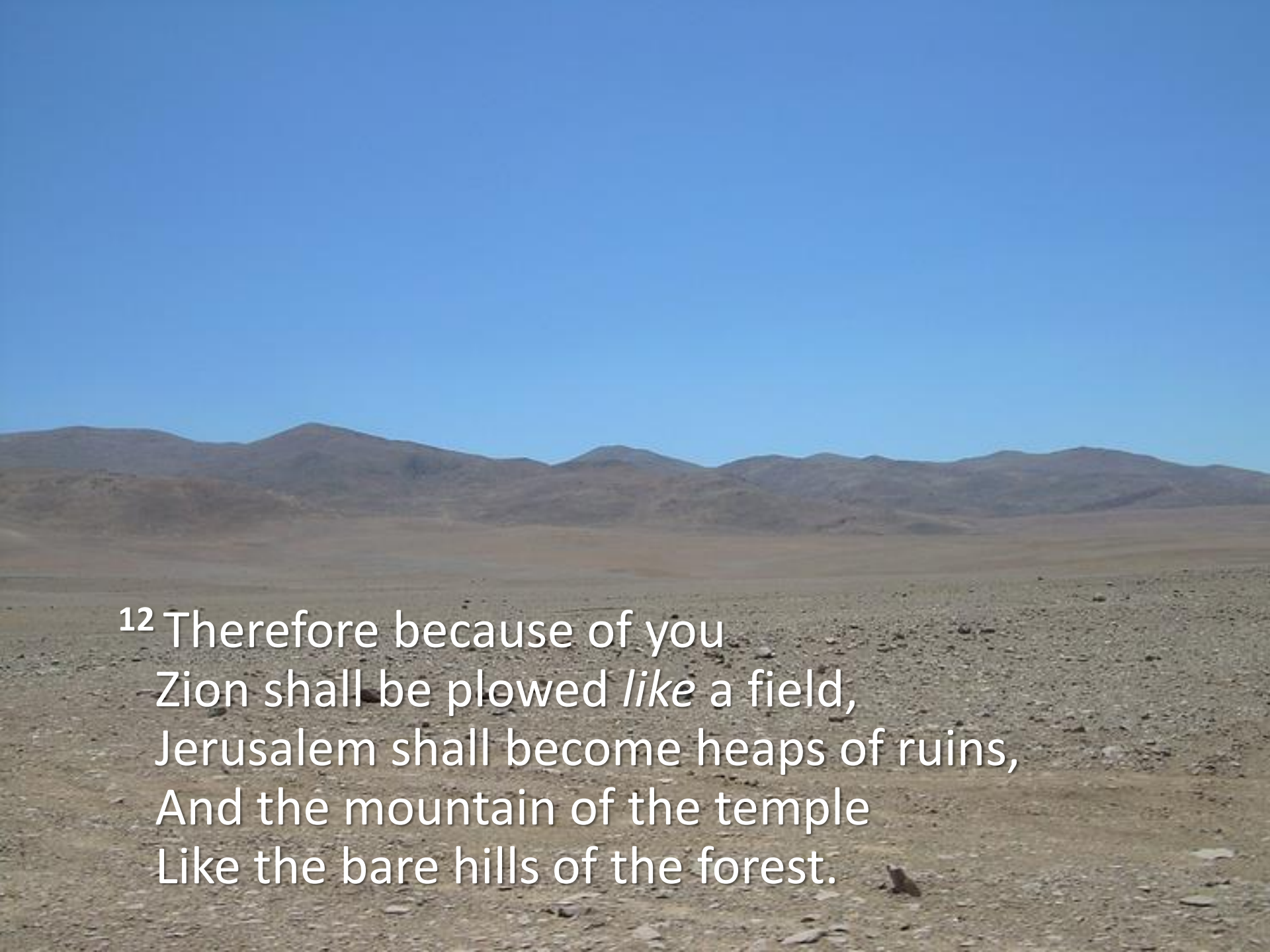
¹⁰ Who build up Zion with bloodshed
And Jerusalem with iniquity:

'Jeroboam's Sacrifice at Bethel' by Gerbrand van den Eeckhout, 1656.



¹¹ Her heads judge for a bribe,
Her priests teach for pay,
And her prophets divine for money [“silver”].
Yet they lean on the LORD, and say,
“Is not the LORD among us? No harm can come upon us.”





¹² Therefore because of you
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.

Tisha B'Av

AD 135



COLONIA AELIA CAPITOLINA



Camp of the
10th Roman
Legion

Temple of
Aphrodite

Roman
Cardo

Damascus
Gate

Hippicus
Tower

Bath
houses

Temple of
Jupiter?

Equestrian
Statue of
Hadrian in
Holy Place

Temple Mount

Kedron Valley

Therefore because of you
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.

[Micah 3:12]

Tisha B'Av
AD 136

"Should I weep in the fifth month and fast as I have done for so many years?"



Tisha B'Av - 9th of Av

Micah

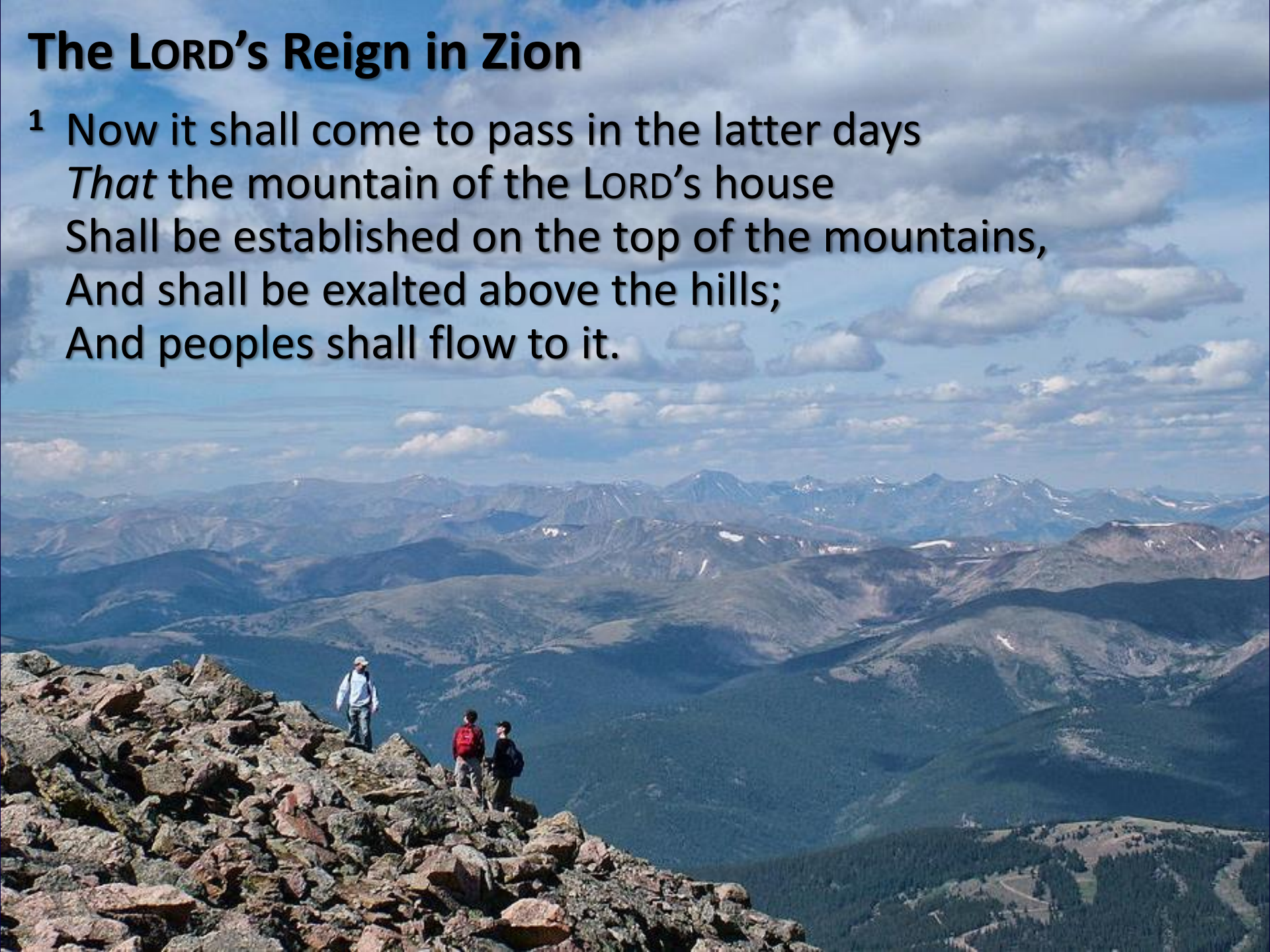
Who is like the LORD?

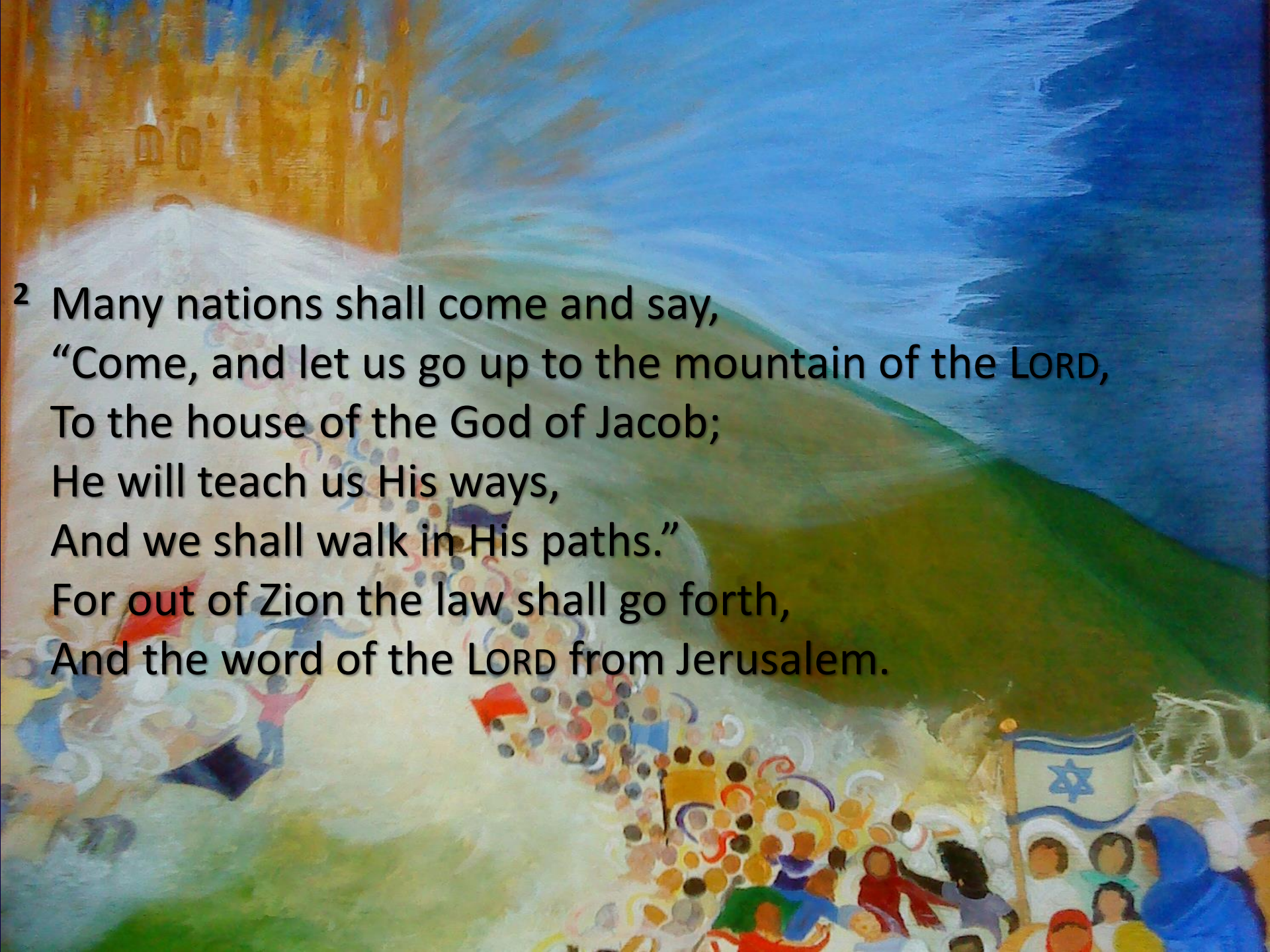


Chapter
4

The LORD's Reign in Zion

¹ Now it shall come to pass in the latter days
That the mountain of the LORD's house
Shall be established on the top of the mountains,
And shall be exalted above the hills;
And peoples shall flow to it.



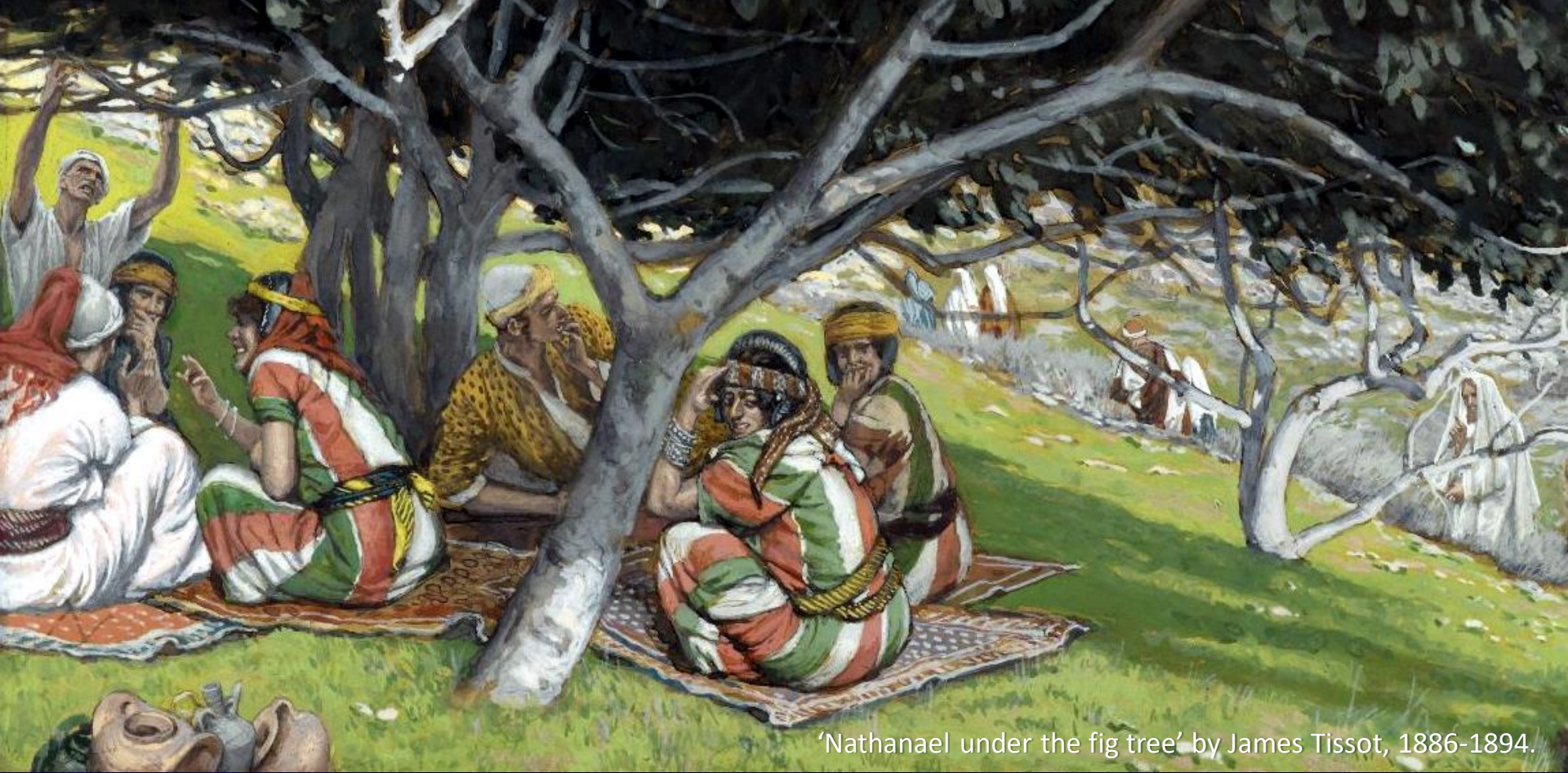


² Many nations shall come and say,
“Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
To the house of the God of Jacob;
He will teach us His ways,
And we shall walk in His paths.”
For out of Zion the law shall go forth,
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.



³ He shall judge between many peoples,
And rebuke strong nations afar off;
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁴ But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree,
And no one shall make *them* afraid;
For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
⁵ For all people walk each in the name of his god,
But we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
Forever and ever.



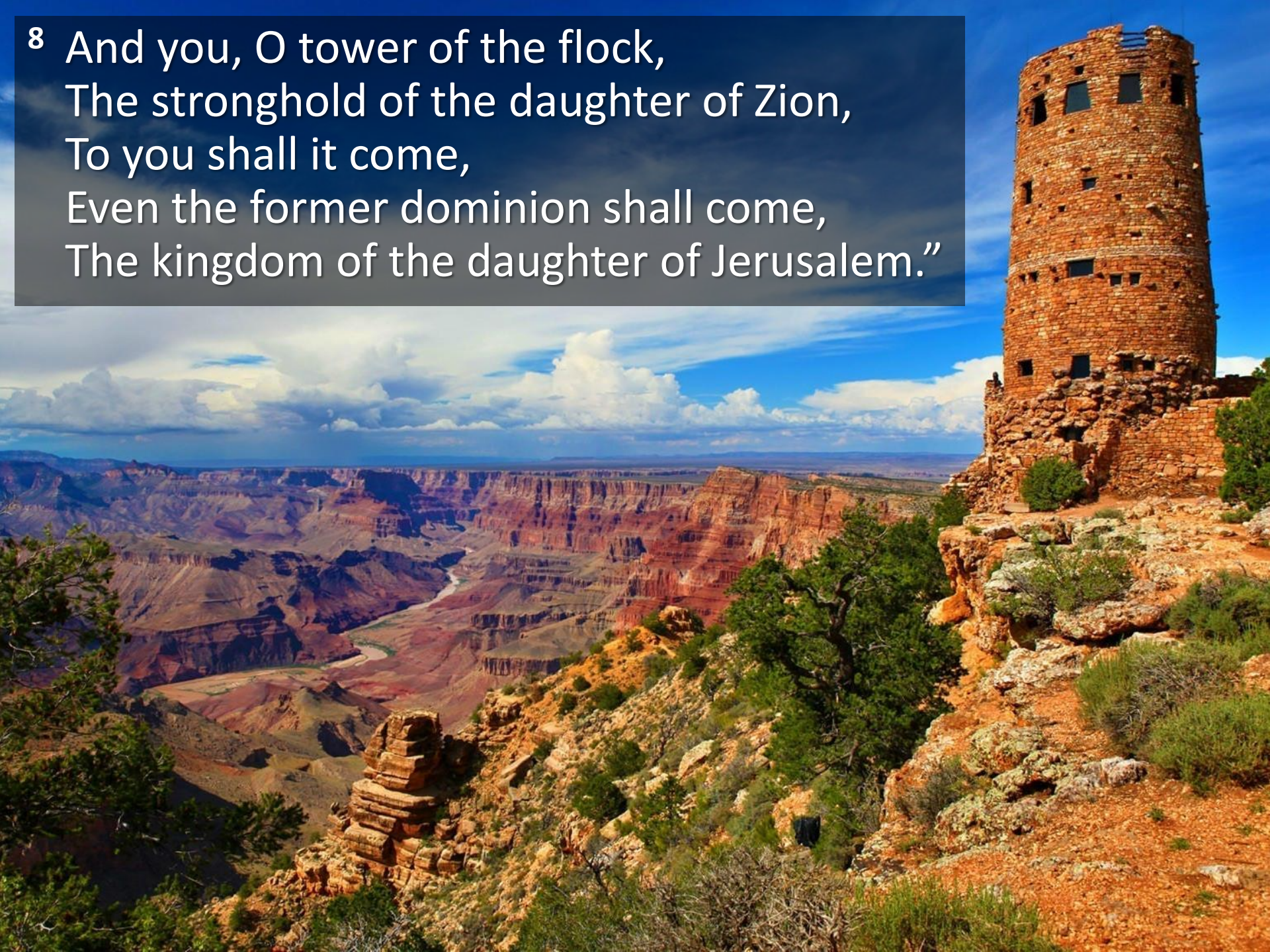
'Nathanael under the fig tree' by James Tissot, 1886-1894.

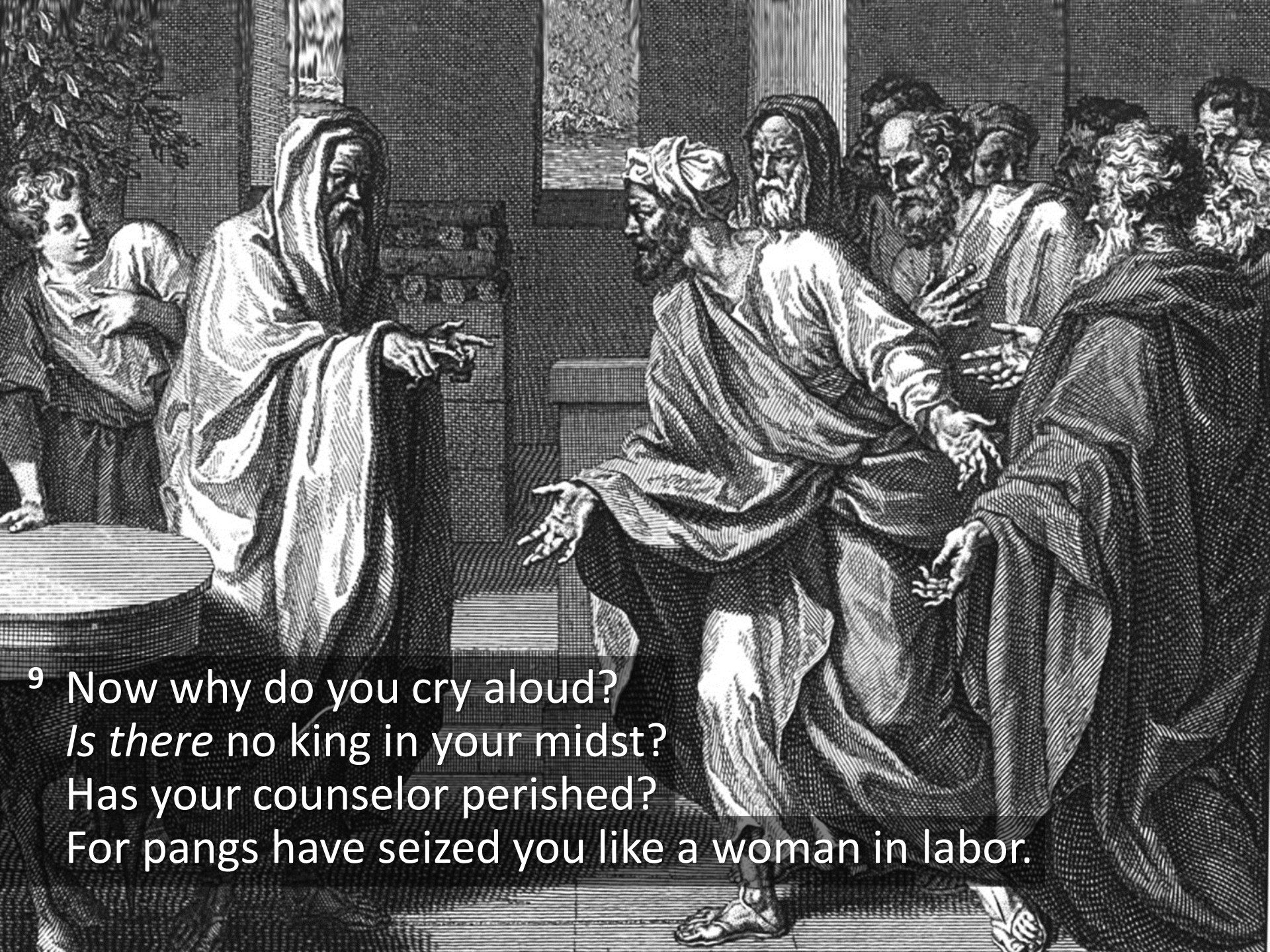
6 “In that day,” says the LORD, “I will assemble the lame,
I will gather the outcast And those whom I have afflicted;

7 I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcast a strong
nation; So the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion
from now on, even forever.



⁸ And you, O tower of the flock,
The stronghold of the daughter of Zion,
To you shall it come,
Even the former dominion shall come,
The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.”





⁹ Now why do you cry aloud?
Is there no king in your midst?
Has your counselor perished?
For pangs have seized you like a woman in labor.

¹⁰ Be in pain, and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, Like a woman in birth pangs. For now you shall go forth from the city, You shall dwell in the field, And to Babylon you shall go. There you shall be delivered; There the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.



The Flight of the Prisoners, James Tissot, 1902

¹¹ Now also many nations have gathered against you, who say,
“Let her be defiled, And let our eye look upon Zion.”

¹² But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD,
Nor do they understand His counsel;
For He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor.



¹³ “Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion;
For I will make your horn iron,
And I will make your hooves bronze;
You shall beat in pieces many peoples;
I will consecrate their gain to the LORD,
And their substance to the Lord of the whole earth.”



Micah

Who is like the LORD?



Chapter
5

5 Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops;
He has laid siege against us;
They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.



'Nabuchodonosor Has Zedekiah's Children Killed before his Eyes' by François-Xavier Fabre, 1787.

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting.”



‘Bethlehem’ by Edward Lear, c. 1860.



'The Death of Rachel' by Francesco Furini, c. 1635.



"Summer," Nicolas Poussin, 1660.

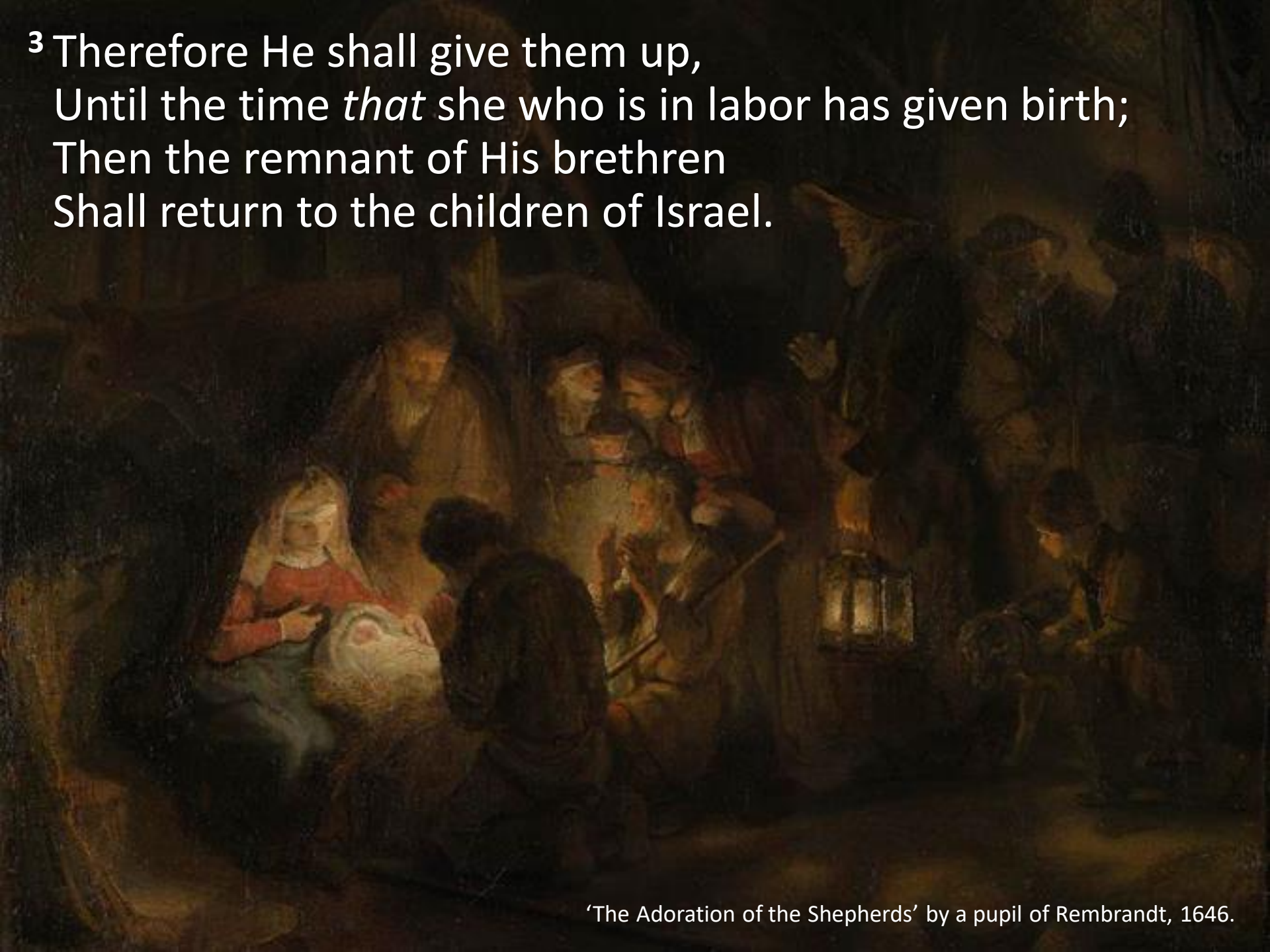


DAVID

- David was Bethlehem's most famous son. Through his family, the promised Messiah would come.

'The Shepherd David'
by Elizabeth Jane Gardner,
1895.

³ Therefore He shall give them up,
Until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth;
Then the remnant of His brethren
Shall return to the children of Israel.



'The Adoration of the Shepherds' by a pupil of Rembrandt, 1646.



- 4 And He shall stand
and feed *His flock*
In the strength of
the LORD, In the
majesty of the name
of the LORD His God;
And they shall abide,
For now He shall be
great To the ends of
the earth;
- 5 And this *One* shall be
peace.



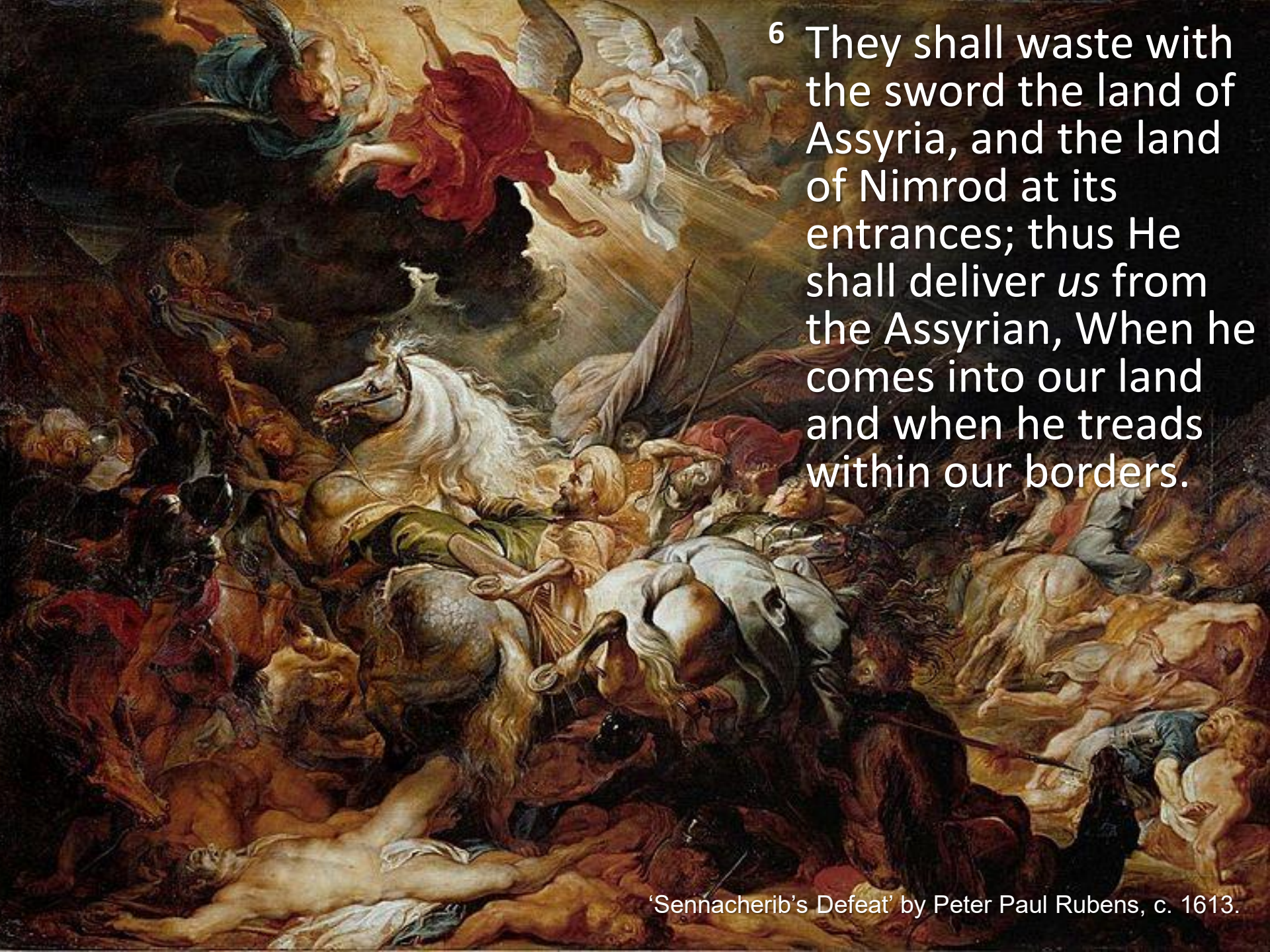
'Christ the Good Shepherd' by Bartolome Esteban Murillo, c.1660.



When the Assyrian comes into our land, And when he treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight princely men.



⁶ They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; thus He shall deliver *us* from the Assyrian, When he comes into our land and when he treads within our borders.



'Sennacherib's Defeat' by Peter Paul Rubens, c. 1613.



701 BC

At night the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia.

2 Kings 19:35-37



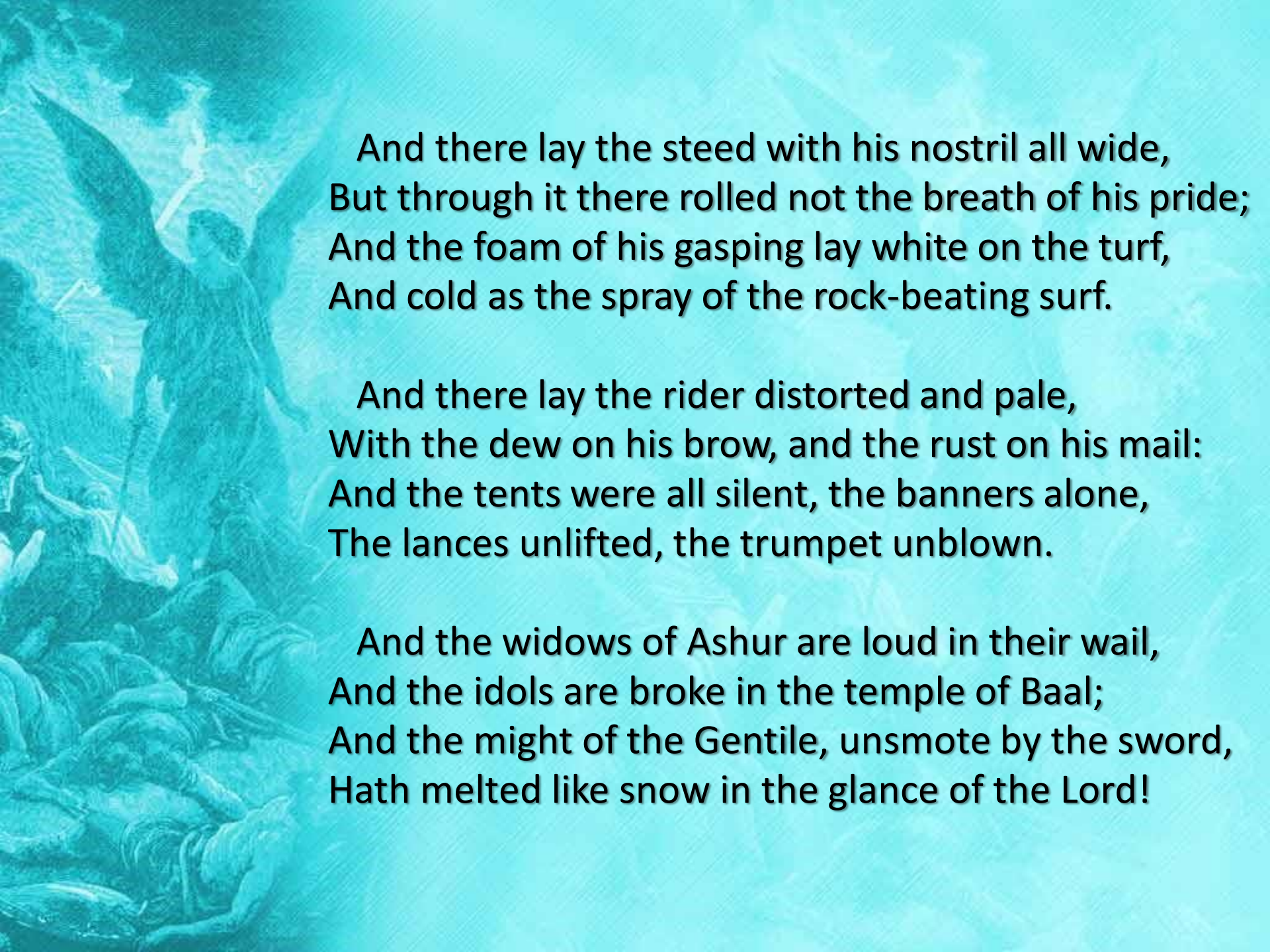
The Destruction of Sennacherib

By Lord Byron (George Gordon)

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,
That host with their banners at sunset were seen:
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed;
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still!



And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide,
But through it there rolled not the breath of his pride;
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail:
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord!

7 Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples, like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, That tarry for no man nor wait for the sons of men.



'Timeline: A History of the Jewish People' by Jonathon Mandell, 2003.

8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles,
In the midst of many peoples,
Like a lion among the beasts of the forest,
Like a young lion among flocks of sheep,
Who, if he passes through,
Both treads down and tears in pieces,
And none can deliver.



⁹ Your hand shall be lifted against your adversaries,
And all your enemies shall be cut off.

'We who were here knew we had been witness to a real miracle'
Israeli soldiers celebrate Six Day War



¹⁰ “And it shall be in that day,”
says the LORD,
“That I will cut off your
horses from your midst
And destroy your chariots.

¹¹ I will cut off the cities of your
land
And throw down all your
strongholds.

This is not to leave them
defenceless, but to leave God
as their *only* place of defence,
their *sole* high tower.



¹² I will cut off sorceries from your hand,
And you shall have no soothsayers.

¹³ Your carved images I will also cut off,
And your *sacred* pillars from your midst;
You shall no more worship the work of your hands;

'The Golden Calf' by James Tissot, c. 1898.

14 I will pluck your
wooden images
from your midst;
Thus I will destroy
your cities.



¹⁵ And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury
On the nations [heathen] that have not heard [obeyed].”

God's Promise:
A deliverer will come