



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

2021
10
SESSION

WHAT THE
BIBLE
Is ABOUT

The Minor Prophet
Micah

Micah

MESSAGE OF WARNING,
MESSAGE OF HOPE



MICAH

742-687 BC

God's Law is Fit and Right

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God takes His p
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MICAH

Prop. c.737- c.686 BC

Micah, a prophet from Judah during the reigns of Jotham (750–735 BC), Ahaz (735–715 BC), and Hezekiah (715–686 BC), was a contemporary of Amos, Hosea and Isaiah.



MICAH

Prop. c.737- c.686 BC

The text mentions nothing about his family background but it does describe his hometown Moresheth, a farming village 40 kilometres southwest of Jerusalem.



MICAH

Prop. c.737- c.686 BC



Authorship of Micah is not heavily disputed, as the prophet identifies himself in the first verse (Micah 1:1).

Micah wrote during 735-700 BC, during a time of great prosperity in Judah, especially under the rule of one of Judah's better kings: Hezekiah. Nevertheless, they faced grave threats from the kingdom of Assyria, which conquered the neighboring Northern Kingdom in 722 BC and unsuccessfully besieged Jerusalem in 701 BC. Aware of the "social ills" of his day, Micah didn't want the Southern Kingdom to end up in the same state as the North.



'Hezekiah Reopens the Temple'
by Thomas C. Dugdale, c. 1920.

Since Micah likely wrote this prior to Hezekiah's reign, he would have been under the rule of evil Judean king Ahaz.

Ahaz became a vassal of Assyria, instead of trusting in God. He practiced idol worship and tore down elements of God's temple.

Micah foresaw the coming judgment of Samaria under Assyria (722 BC) as well as the fall of Jerusalem and Judah to Babylon (606–596 BC).

But Micah's ministry finally successfully encouraged the great Judean reformation under Hezekiah (Jer. 26:18; 2 Ki 18-20).

Judah's king Ahaz sacrifices son to Moloch' by Gustava Dore, c.1864.



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

Micah

Who is like the LORD?



Summary
Chapters

1-5

A Warning:

by Micah

Judgment is coming

Micah 1 – Sins Against God

- The **LORD** is coming! **God** will judge both kingdoms. The mountains (governments) will melt.
 - "I will make Samaria a ruin." Her wound is incurable.
 - Disaster will come to 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.”

Micah 1:2

Micah 2 – Sins Against Each Other

- Woe to those who plot evil! The LORD says: "I am planning disaster. My people have risen up like an enemy."
- A remnant receives restoration at the end of that passage.

“ House of Jacob, should it be said, Does the LORD become impatient? Does he do such things? Do not my words do good to those whose ways are upright? ”

Micah 2:7

A Promise:

by Micah

A deliverer is coming

Micah 3 – Sins By Leaders

- Rulers such as Ahaz and false prophets were rampant during his day, and lead the people astray; “You rulers tear the skin from my people.”
- God will judge them harshly for their actions. The sun will set for the prophets. Zion will be ploughed up like a field.

“Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them. At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done.”

Micah 3:4

- But hope still exists for the Breaker (Messiah) shall come.

Micah 4 – The Coming Kingdom

- In the last days, nations will come to the mountain of the LORD. Zion will be rescued from Babylon.

**THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES,
AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS**

MICAH 4:3

- As for us, we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.”
- Yet now also many nations have gathered against you (the battle of Armageddon), who say, “Let her be defiled, And let our eye look upon Zion.” (Micah 4:11)
- But God will rescue His people, “I will make your horn iron and your hooves bronze.” (Micah 4:13)

Micah 5 – The Coming King

- The Messiah will come from Bethlehem.



**“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you One will go forth for Me to be
ruler in Israel.**

His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”

- The Assyrian will come, but the remnant of Jacob will be like a lion reliant on God, who will punish the nations that did not obey.

A Challenge:

by **Micah**

Trust the LORD now!



Micah

Guilt, punishment, mercy!

Micah

Who is like the LORD?



Chapter
6

6 Hear now what the LORD says:

“Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
And let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, O you mountains, the LORD’s complaint,
And you strong foundations of the earth;
For the LORD has a complaint against His people,
And He will contend with Israel.



3 “O My people, what have I done to you?
And how have I wearied you?
Testify against Me.
4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
I redeemed you from the house of bondage;
And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.



5 O My people,
remember now
What Balak king of
Moab counseled, And
what Balaam the son of
Beor answered him,



**From Acacia Grove [*Shittim*] to Gilgal,
That you may know the righteousness of the LORD.”**



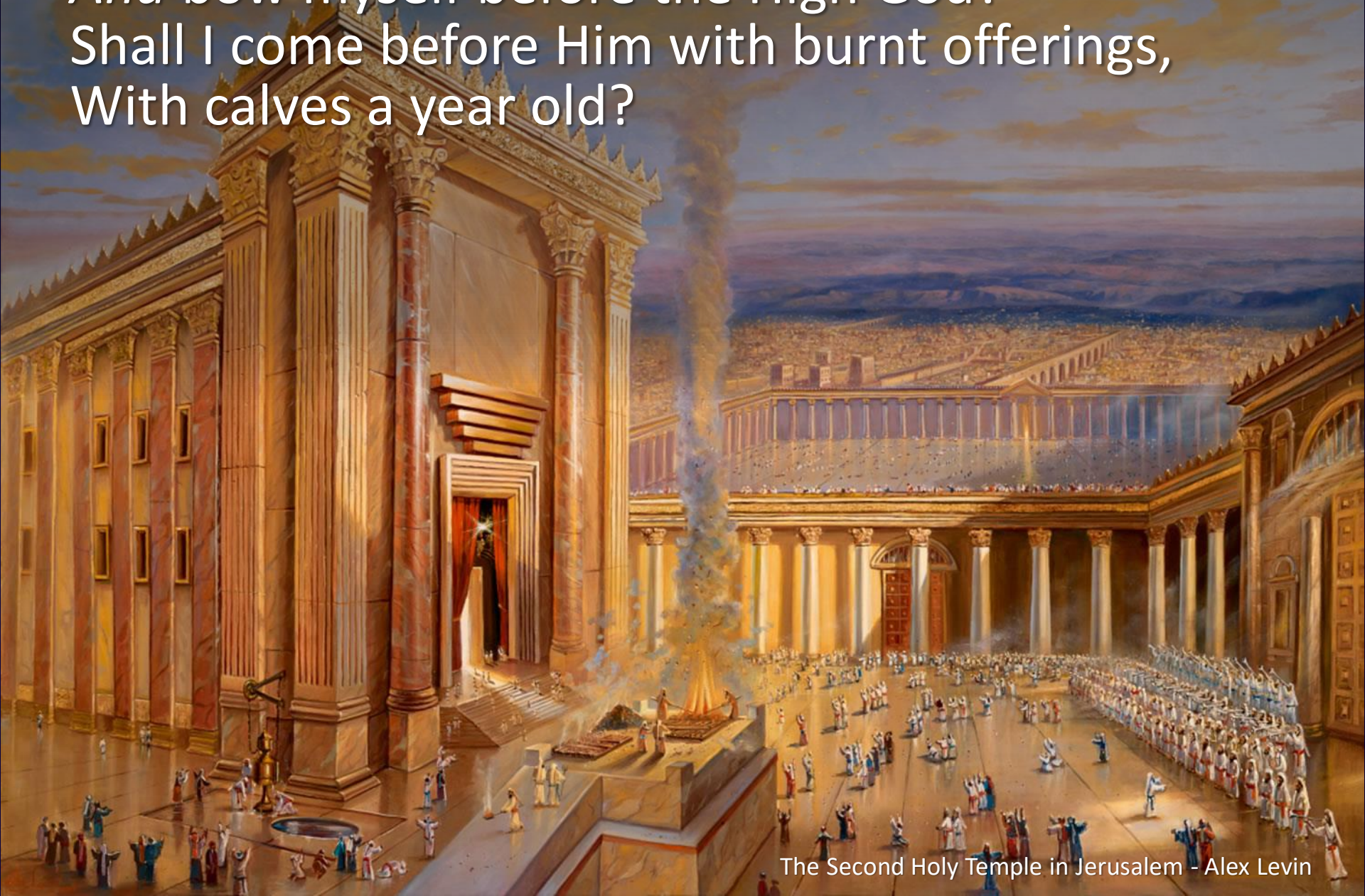
"Joshua Passing the Jordan River With the Ark of the Covenant" by Benjamin West. 1800.

Micah's Declaration of Spiritual Religion

- 6 With what shall I come before the LORD,
And bow myself before the High God?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
With calves a year old?
- 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
Ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression,
The fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul?
- 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?



⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD,
And bow myself before the High God?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
With calves a year old?



7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
Ten thousand rivers of oil?

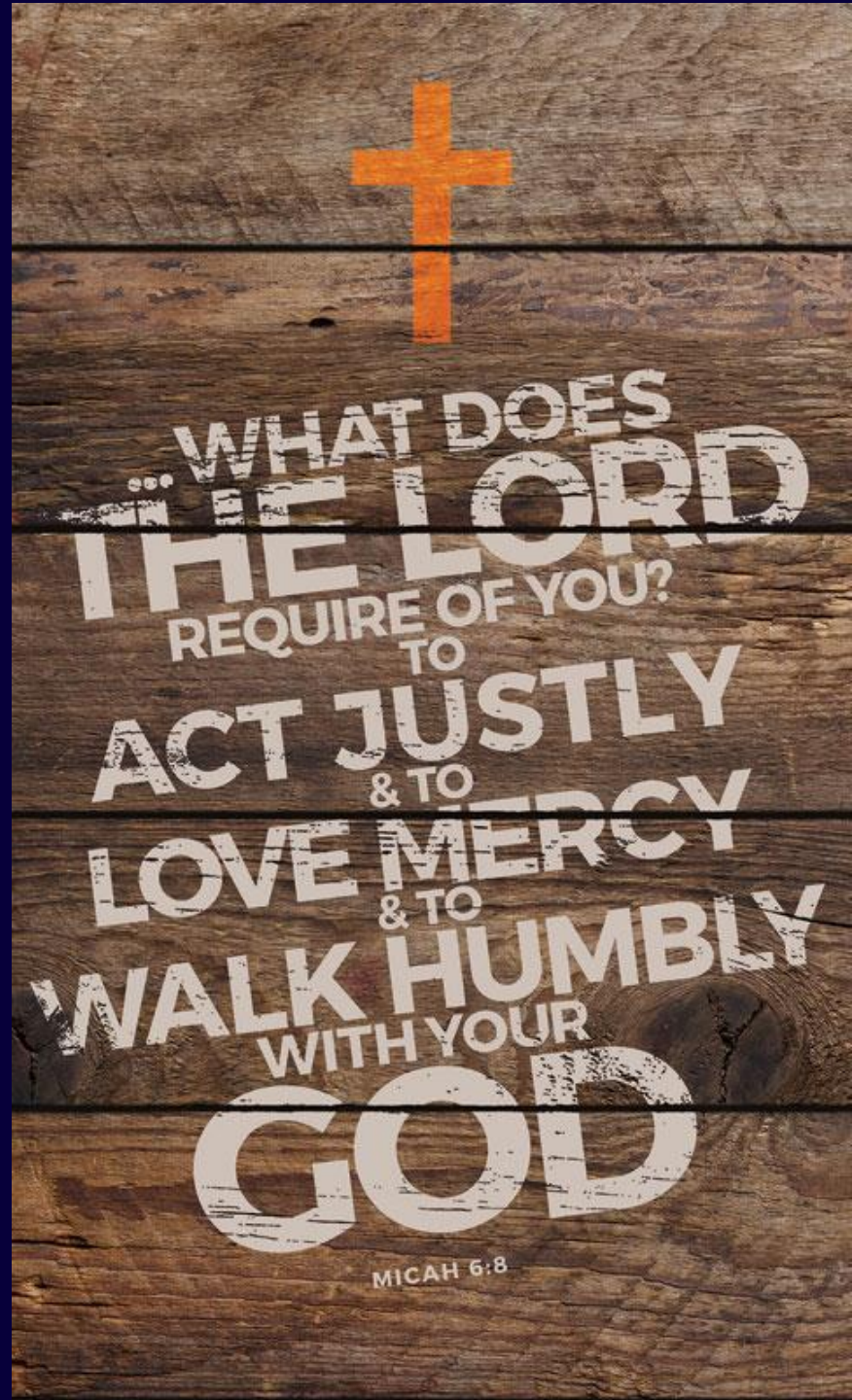


Shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression,
The fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul?



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?



Punishment of Israel's Injustice

⁹ The LORD's voice cries to the city—
Wisdom shall see Your name:

“Hear the rod!

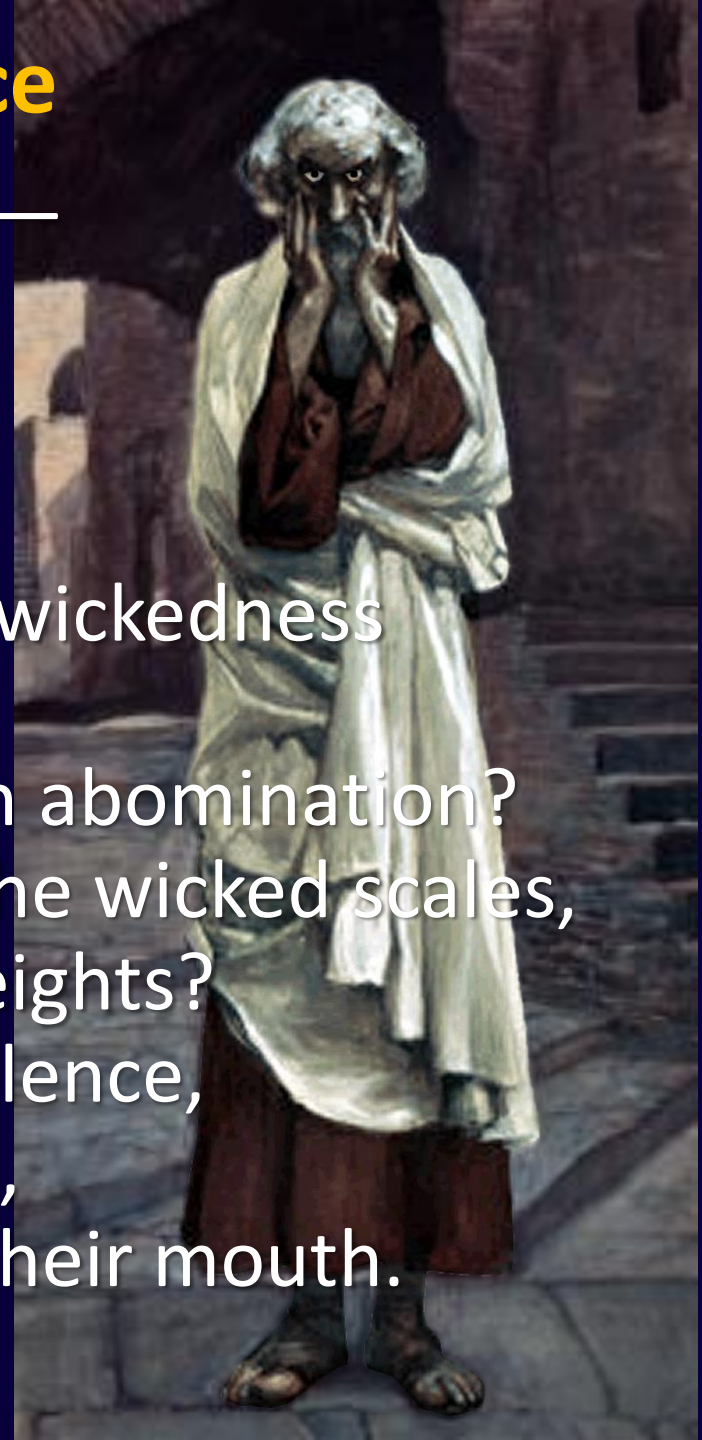


Who has appointed it?

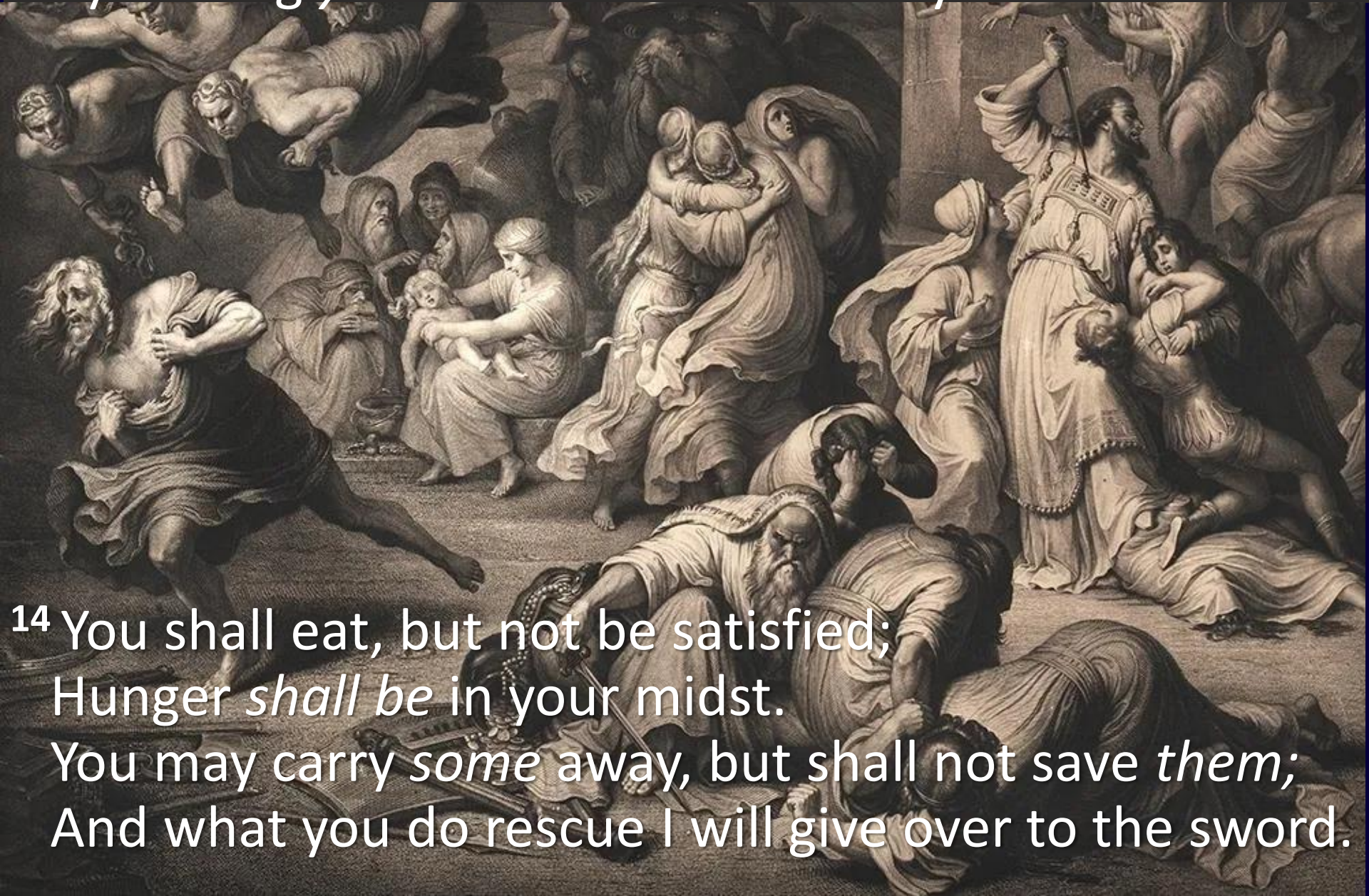
¹⁰ Are there yet the treasures of wickedness
In the house of the wicked,
And the short measure *that is* an abomination?

¹¹ Shall I count pure *those* with the wicked scales,
And with the bag of deceitful weights?

¹² For her rich men are full of violence,
Her inhabitants have spoken lies,
And their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.



¹³ “Therefore I will also make *you* sick by striking you,
By making *you* desolate because of your sins.



¹⁴ You shall eat, but not be satisfied;
Hunger *shall be* in your midst.
You may carry *some* away, but shall not save *them*;
And what you do rescue I will give over to the sword.

15 “You shall sow, but not reap;
You shall tread the olives,
but not anoint yourselves with oil;
And *make* sweet wine, but not drink wine.



Lebanon-Israel Border in 2010.

¹⁶ For the statutes of Omri are kept;
All the works of Ahab's house *are done*;

Palace at Samaria

An aerial photograph of the archaeological site of the Palace at Samaria. The palace ruins are visible as a complex of stone walls and foundations on a hillside, surrounded by green vegetation and olive trees. In the background, the modern city of Samaria is visible, built on a hillside overlooking a valley. The terrain is hilly and covered with dense greenery.

In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri began to reign over Israel, and he reigned for twelve years; six years he reigned in Tirzah. He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver, and he fortified the hill and called the name of the city that he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill. Omri did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did more evil than all who were before him. For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in the sins that he made Israel to sin, provoking the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger by their idols.
(1 Kgs 16:23-26).



Palace at Tirzah



Excavations of Omri's Palace at Samaria
by the Harvard Expedition of 1908-1910

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“Omri, king of Israel”



[3] Omri was the king of Israel, and he oppressed Moab for many days, for Kemoš was angry with his land. And his son succeeded him, and he said – he too – “I will oppress Moab!” In my days he did so, but I looked down on him and on his house, and Israel has gone to ruin, yes, it has gone to ruin for ever!

[4] Omri had taken possession of the whole land of Medeba and he lived there in his days and half the days of his son, forty years, but Kemoš restored it in my days.



The Moabite Stone or Mesha Stela.

And you walk in their counsels,
That I may make you a desolation,
And your inhabitants a hissing.
Therefore you shall bear the reproach of My people.”



Micah

Who is like the LORD?



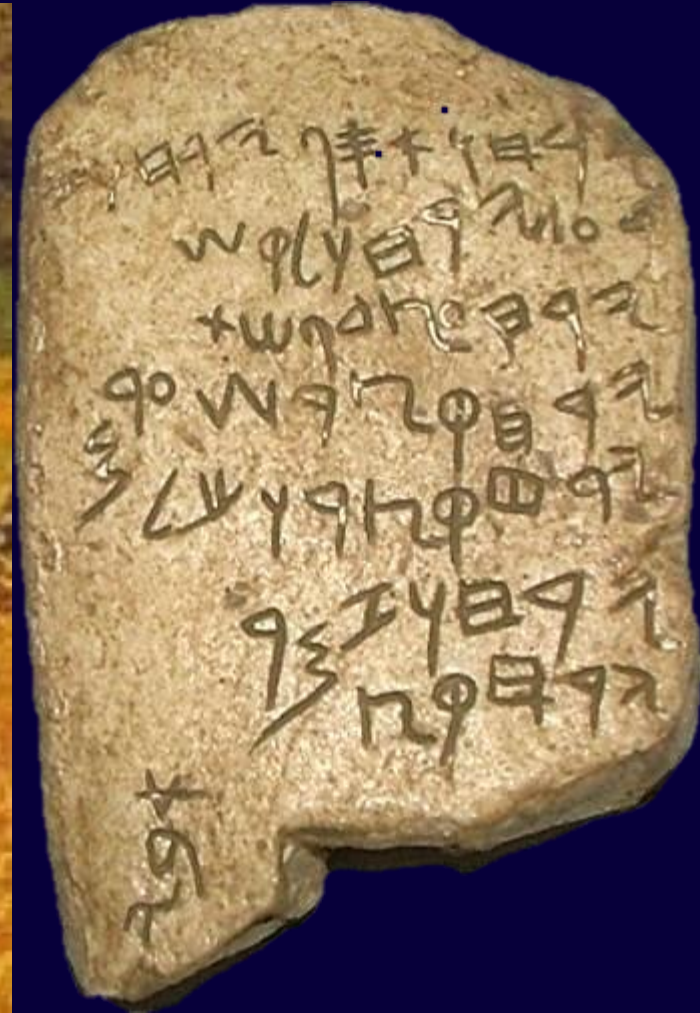
Chapter
7


¹ Woe is me!



WOE
is
ME

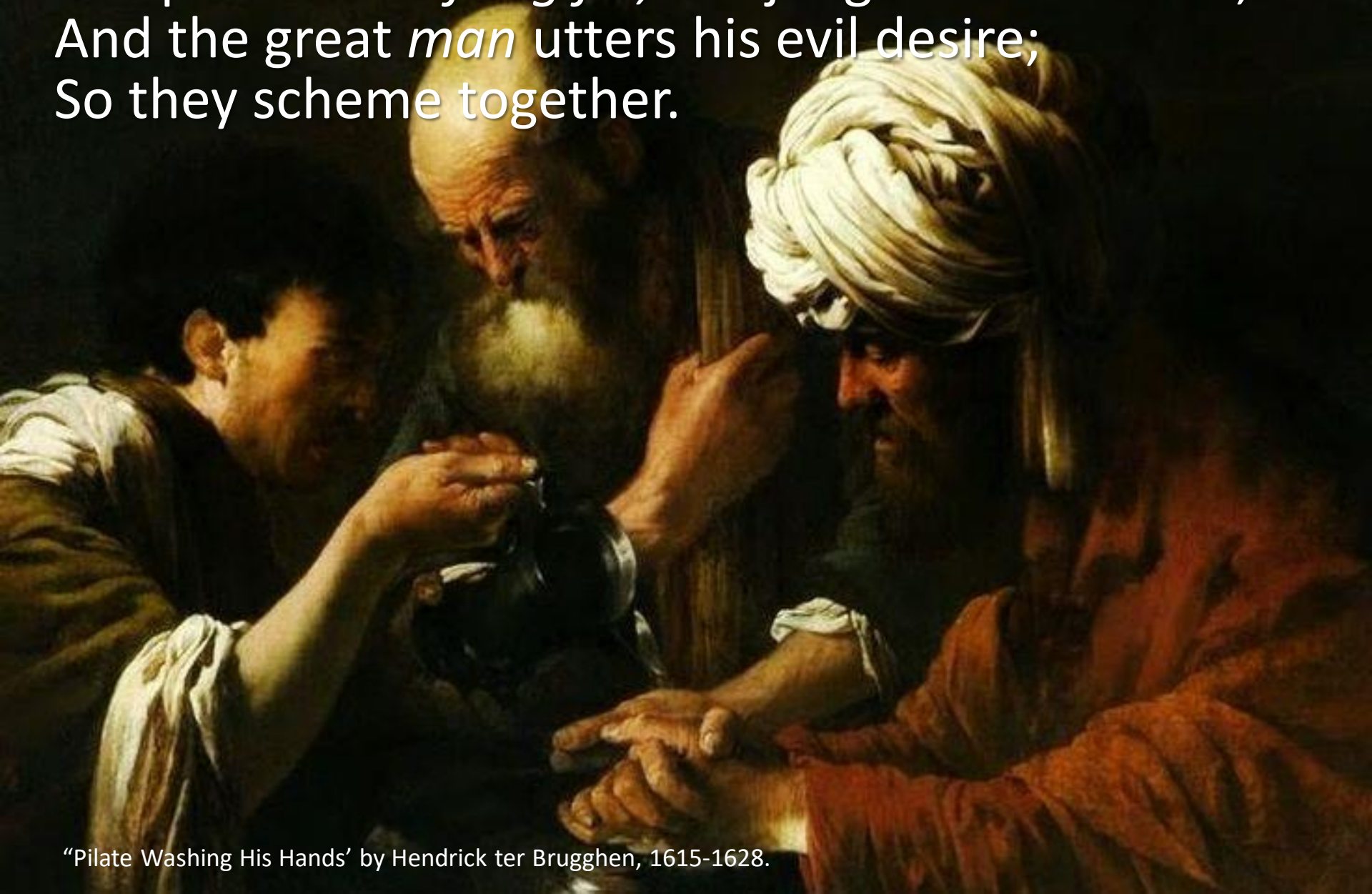
For I am like those who gather summer fruits,
Like those who glean vintage grapes;
There is no cluster to eat
Of the first-ripe fruit *which* my soul desires.





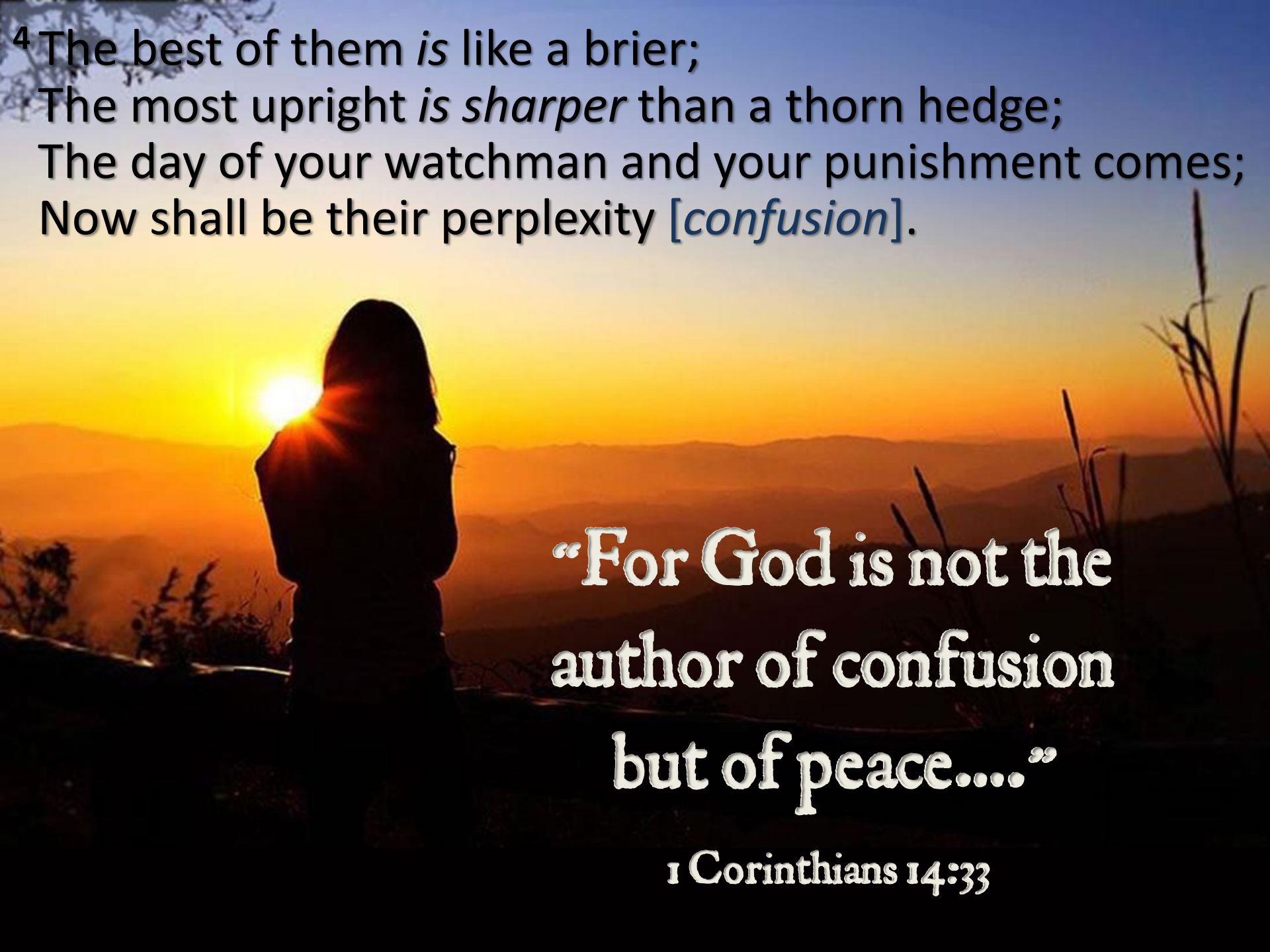
² The faithful *man* has perished from the earth,
And *there is* no one upright among men.
They all lie in wait for blood;
Every man hunts his brother with a net.

³ That they may successfully do evil with both hands-
The prince asks *for gifts*, the judge *seeks* a bribe,
And the great *man* utters his evil desire;
So they scheme together.



“Pilate Washing His Hands’ by Hendrick ter Brugghen, 1615-1628.

4 The best of them *is* like a brier;
The most upright *is sharper* than a thorn hedge;
The day of your watchman and your punishment comes;
Now shall be their perplexity [*confusion*].



“For God is not the
author of confusion
but of peace....”

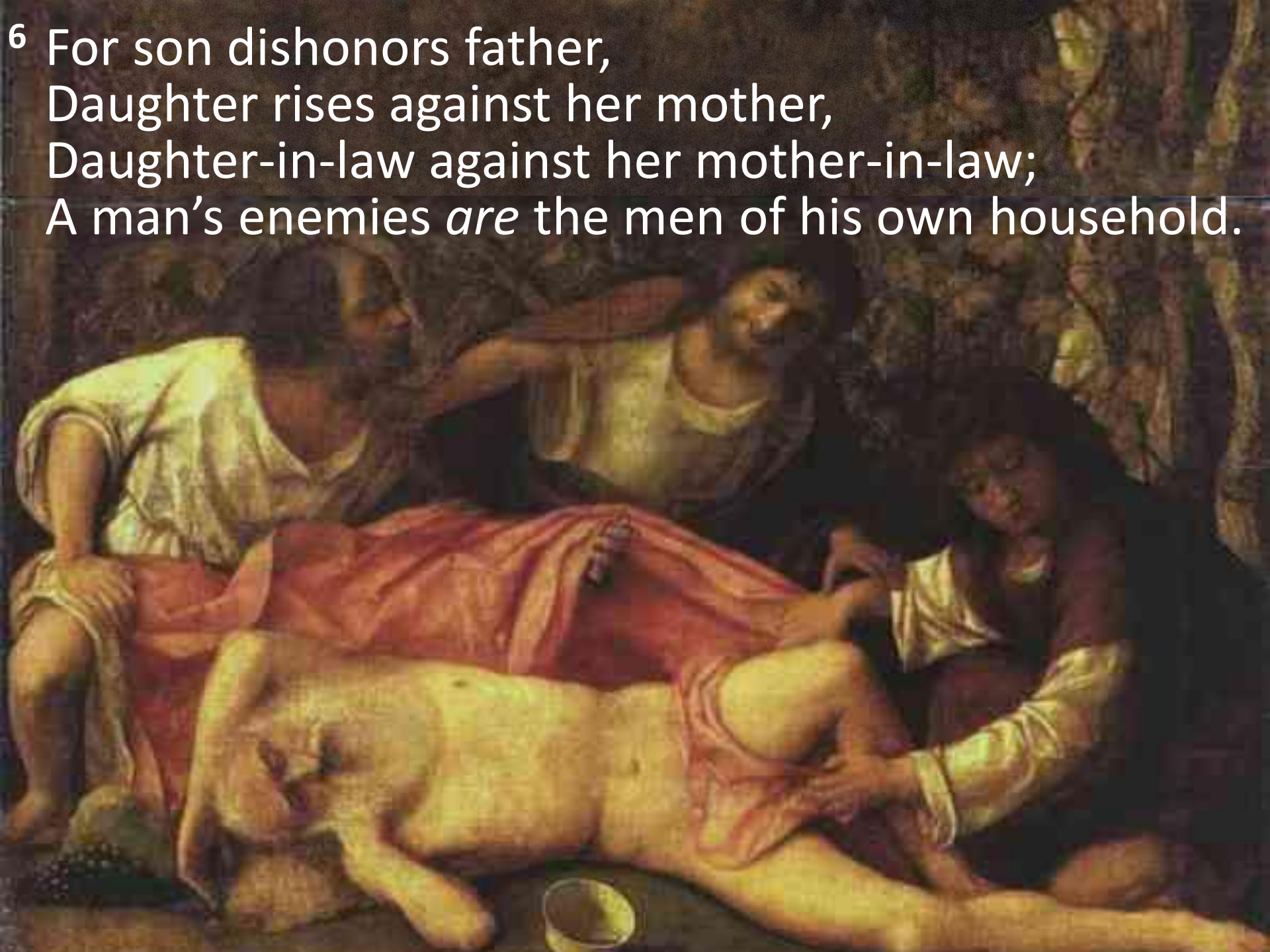
1 Corinthians 14:33

⁵ Do not trust in a friend;
Do not put your confidence in a companion;
Guard the doors of your mouth
From her who lies in your bosom.

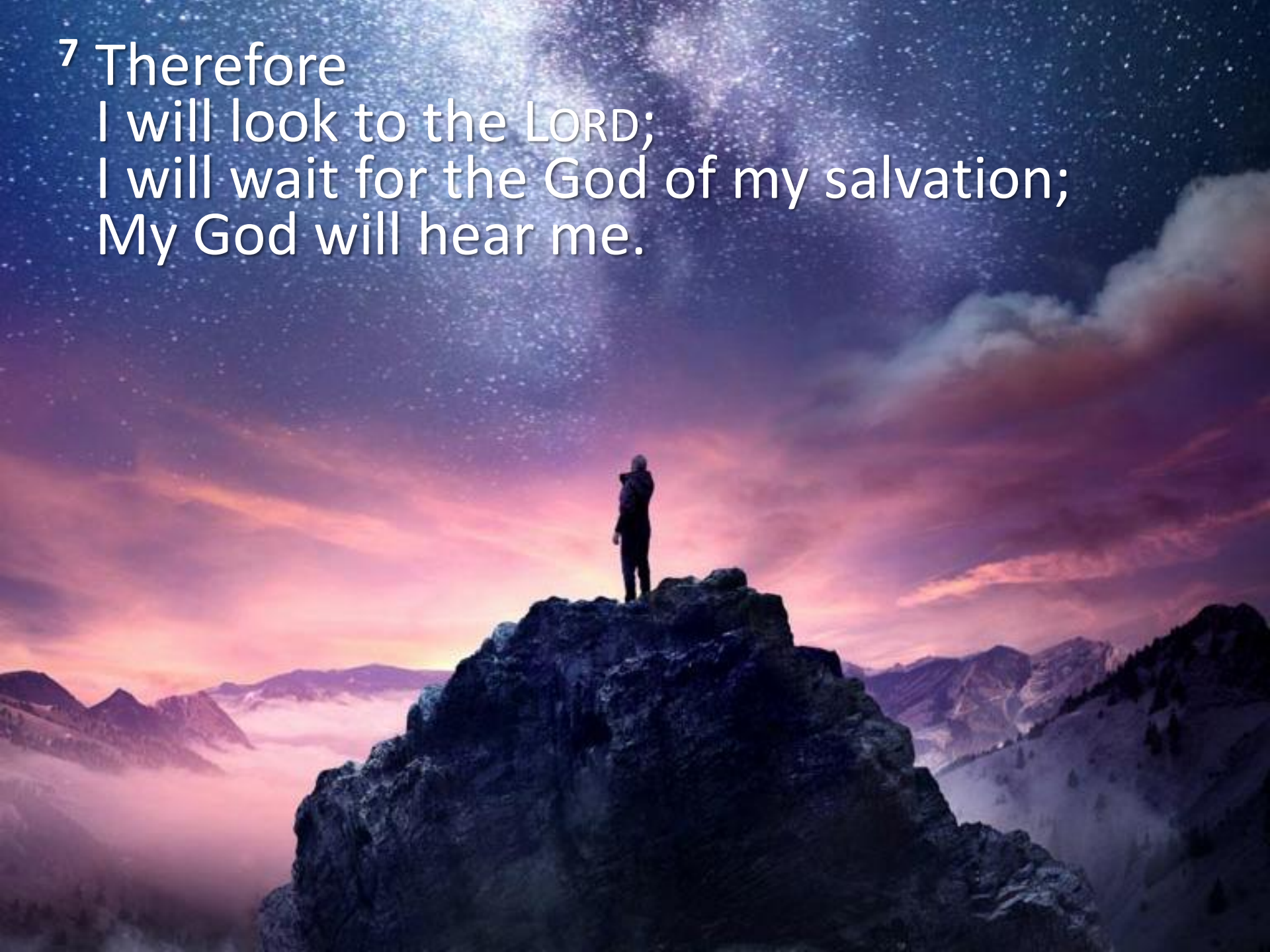


'Betrayed' by Walter Langley, 1887.

⁶ For son dishonors father,
Daughter rises against her mother,
Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
A man's enemies *are* the men of his own household.



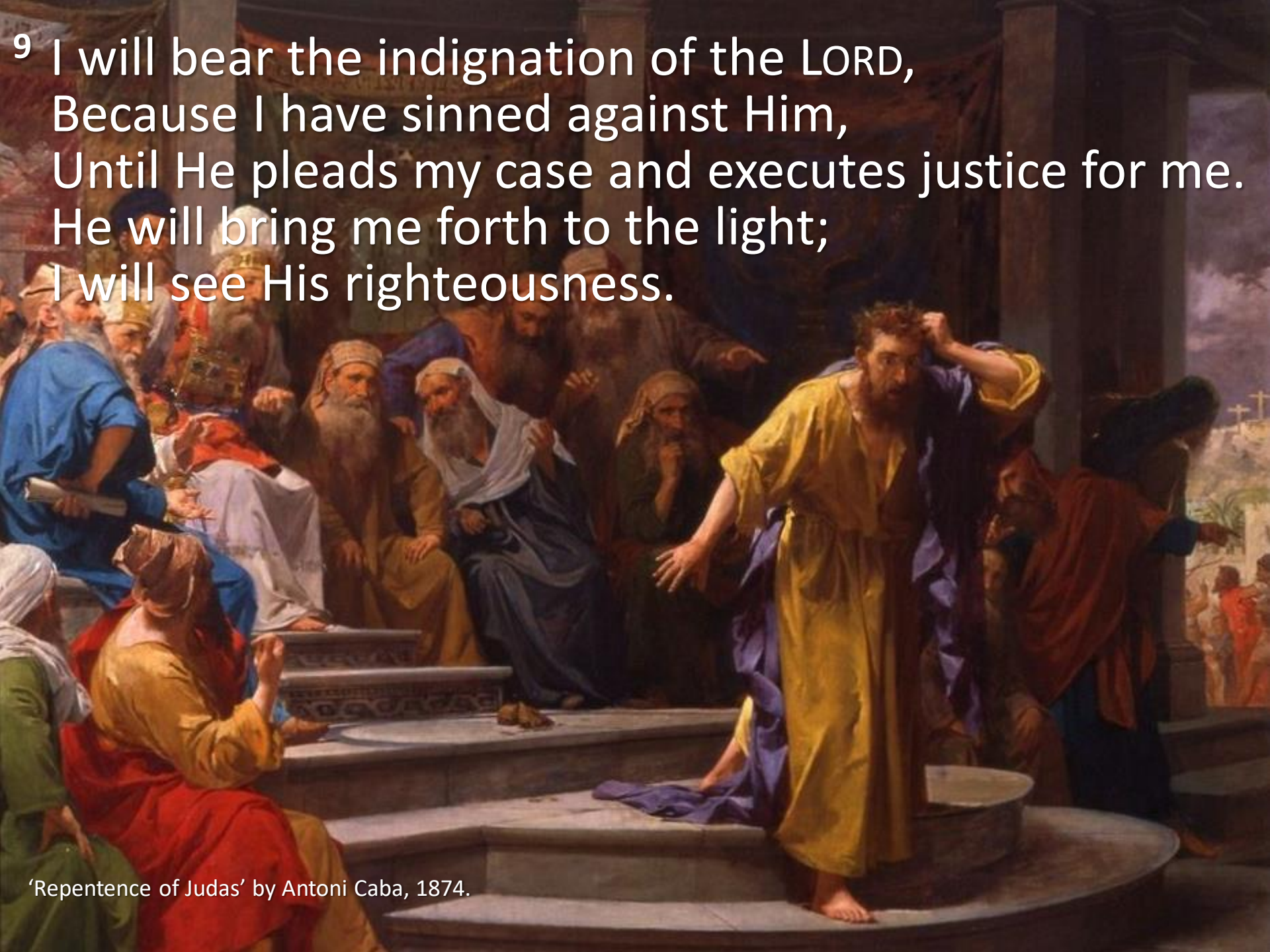
⁷ Therefore
I will look to the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
My God will hear me.





⁸ Do not rejoice over me, my enemy;
When I fall, I will arise;
When I sit in darkness,
The LORD *will be* a light to me.

⁹ I will bear the indignation of the LORD,
Because I have sinned against Him,
Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me.
He will bring me forth to the light;
I will see His righteousness.



'Repentance of Judas' by Antoni Caba, 1874.

¹⁰ Then *she who is* my enemy will see,
And shame will cover her who said to me,
“Where is the LORD your God?”
My eyes will see her;
Now she will be trampled down
Like mud in the streets.



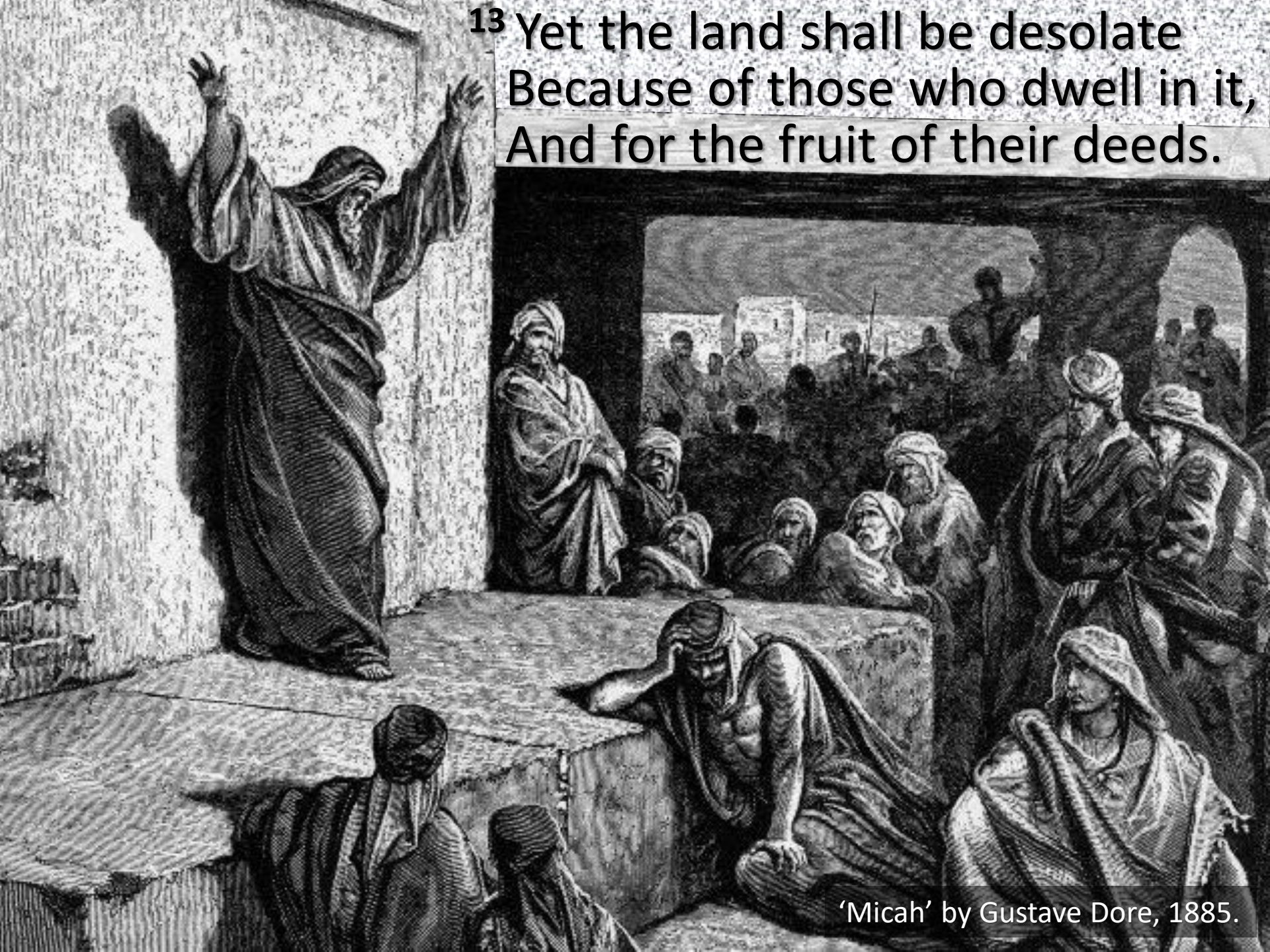
‘Shame on You’ by Ben Austrian, 1906.

11 *In* the day when your walls are to be built,
In that day the decree shall go far and wide.

12 *In* that day they shall come to you
From Assyria and the fortified cities,
From the fortress to the River, from sea to sea,
And mountain to mountain.



¹³ Yet the land shall be desolate
Because of those who dwell in it,
And for the fruit of their deeds.



'Micah' by Gustave Dore, 1885.

God Will Forgive Israel

¹⁴ Shepherd Your people with Your staff,
The flock of Your heritage,
Who dwell solitarily *in* a woodland,
In the midst of Carmel;
Let them feed *in* Bashan and Gilead,
As in days of old.



¹⁵ “As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.”

¹⁶ The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; They shall put *their* hand over *their* mouth; Their ears shall be deaf.

¹⁷ They shall lick the dust like a serpent; They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the LORD our God, And shall fear because of You.

**I will
show them
wonders.**

MICAH 7:15



18 Who *is* a God like You,
Pardoning iniquity
And passing over the
transgression of the
remnant of His heritage?

He does not retain His anger
forever,
Because He delights in mercy.

19 He will again have
compassion on us,
And will subdue our iniquities.

You will cast all our sins
Into the depths of the sea.

WHO IS A GOD
LIKE YOU,

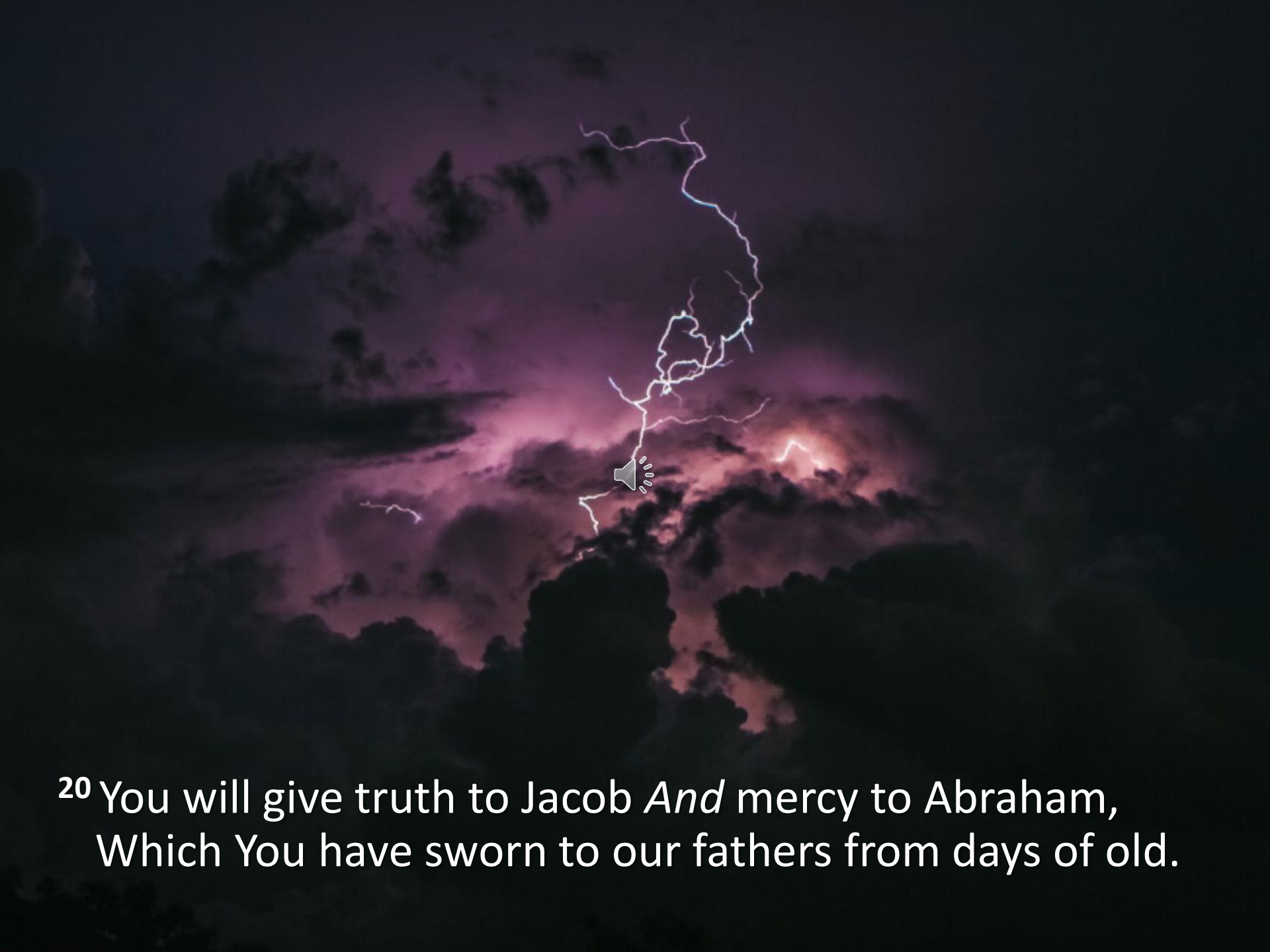
WHO PARDONS SIN AND FORGIVES
OUR TRANSGRESSIONS

YOU DO NOT STAY ANGRY
FOREVER BUT
DELIGHT TO SHOW MERCY.

YOU WILL AGAIN HAVE
COMPASSION ON US

YOU WILL TREAD OUR
SINS UNDERFOOT AND
HURL ALL OUR
INIQUITIES
INTO THE DEPTHS
OF THE SEA.

Micah 7:18-19



²⁰ You will give truth to Jacob *And* mercy to Abraham,
Which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old.

🔊 Tashlikh



Practical Lessons in Micah



God will forgive and restore His people by maintaining a faithful remnant.

How people treat others reflects the state of their heart.

God promises to send a Saviour.

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

God judges sin.

God will not protect His people from the consequences of their actions.

Micah's Three Messages

WARNING: JUDGMENT IS COMING

(Micah 1:1-2:13)

- The Judge appears
- The nations are judged (Samaria; Judah)
- Why judgment is coming
- Hope for the remnant

PROMISE: A DELIVERER IS COMING

(Micah 3:1-5:15)

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

CHALLENGE: TRUST THE LORD NOW

(Micah 6:1-7:20)

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