



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

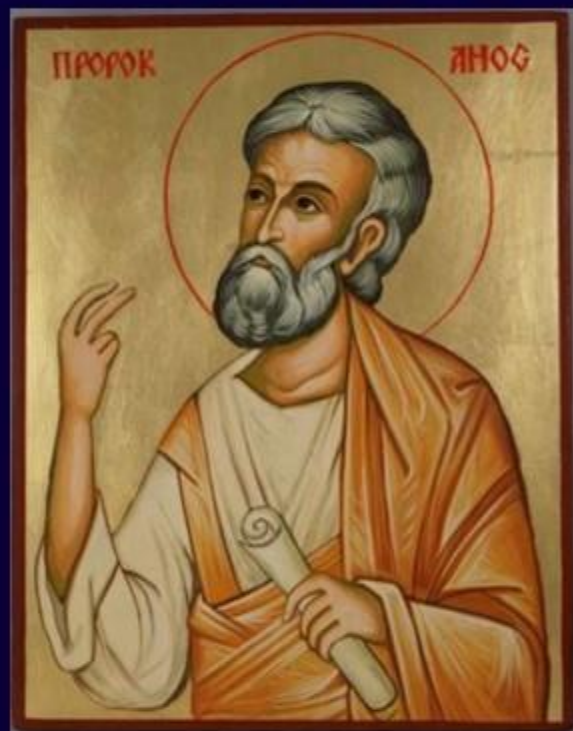


2021
SESSION
6
TERM 4

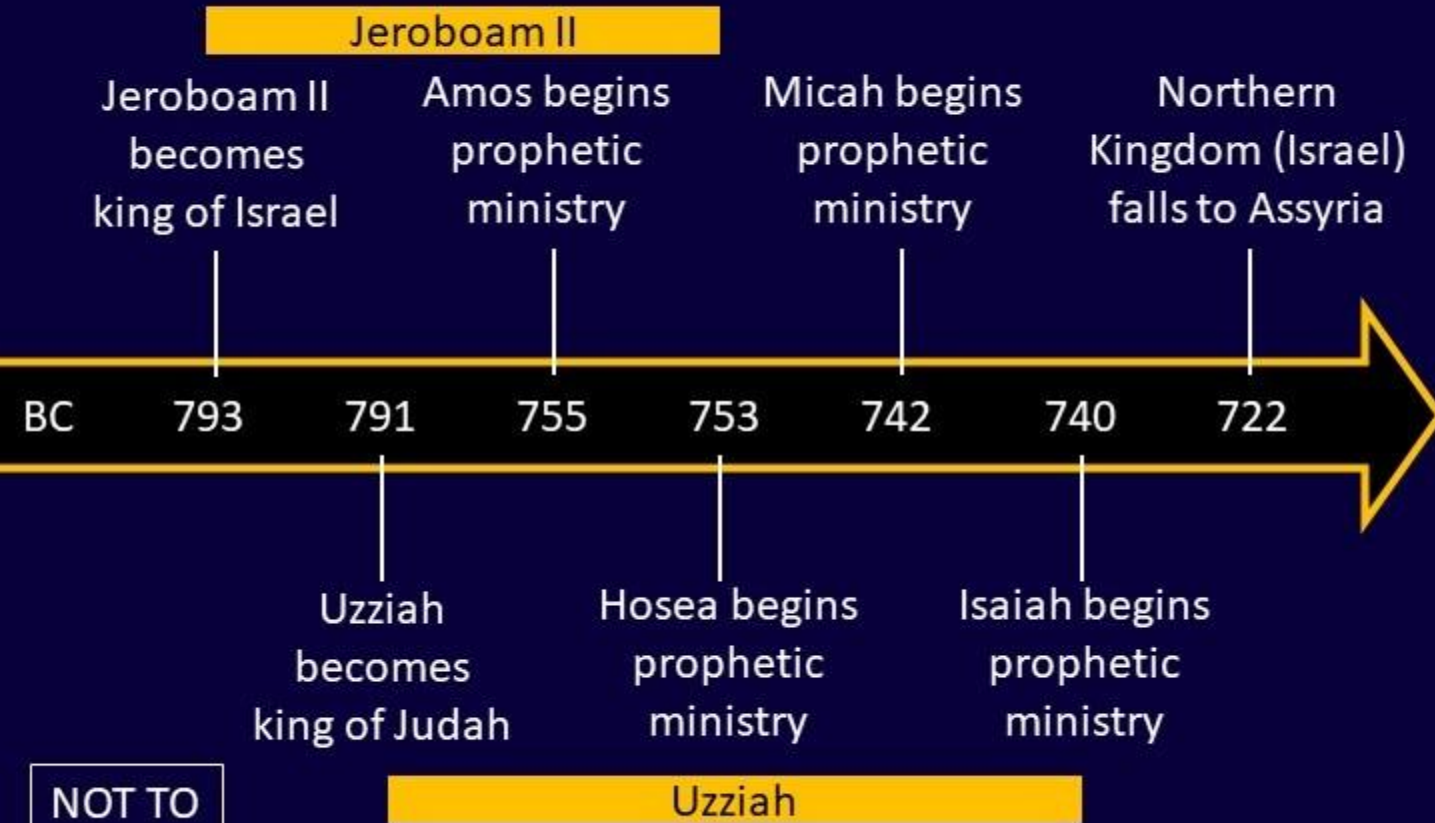
The book of
Amos

AMOS, AN UNLIKELY PROPHET

- Amos (“burden bearer”) was a herdsman and cultivator of sycamore trees when called to prophesy from 760-755 BC. He was not a member of the Jewish religious or political elite.
- He lived in the Judean village of Tekoa during the reigns of Uzziah in Judah (790–740 BC) and Jeroboam II in the northern kingdom of Israel (793–753).
- Amos was called to prophesy about the social injustices and eventual destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel. He moved to Bethel, then the royal residence of Jereboam II.
- Vilified, he was expelled from the Northern Kingdom. Upon return to Judea, Amos wrote his message so that it could still be heard, becoming the first prophet to do so. He died in 745 BC.



THE TIMELINE OF AMOS



NOT TO
SCALE

Look around and see God's Judgment

(Amos 1-2)

Eight nations judged:

- Six Gentile nations condemned—1:1–2:3
- Judah condemned—2:4–5
- Israel condemned—2:6–16

Look within and see the Corruption

(Amos 3-6)

Three sermons to the people of Israel:

- Message #1: Israel's judgment certain—3:1–15
- Message #2: Israel's sins denounced—4:1–13
- Message #3: Israel's doom lamented—5:1–6:14

Look ahead and see the End coming

(Amos 7-9)

Five visions of judgment—7:1–9:10

- 1. The locusts—7:1–3
- 2. The fire—7:4–6
- 3. The plumb line—7:7–9
- Historical interlude: Amos at Bethel—7:10–17
- 4. The basket of summer fruit—8:1–14
- 5. The ruined temple—9:1–10

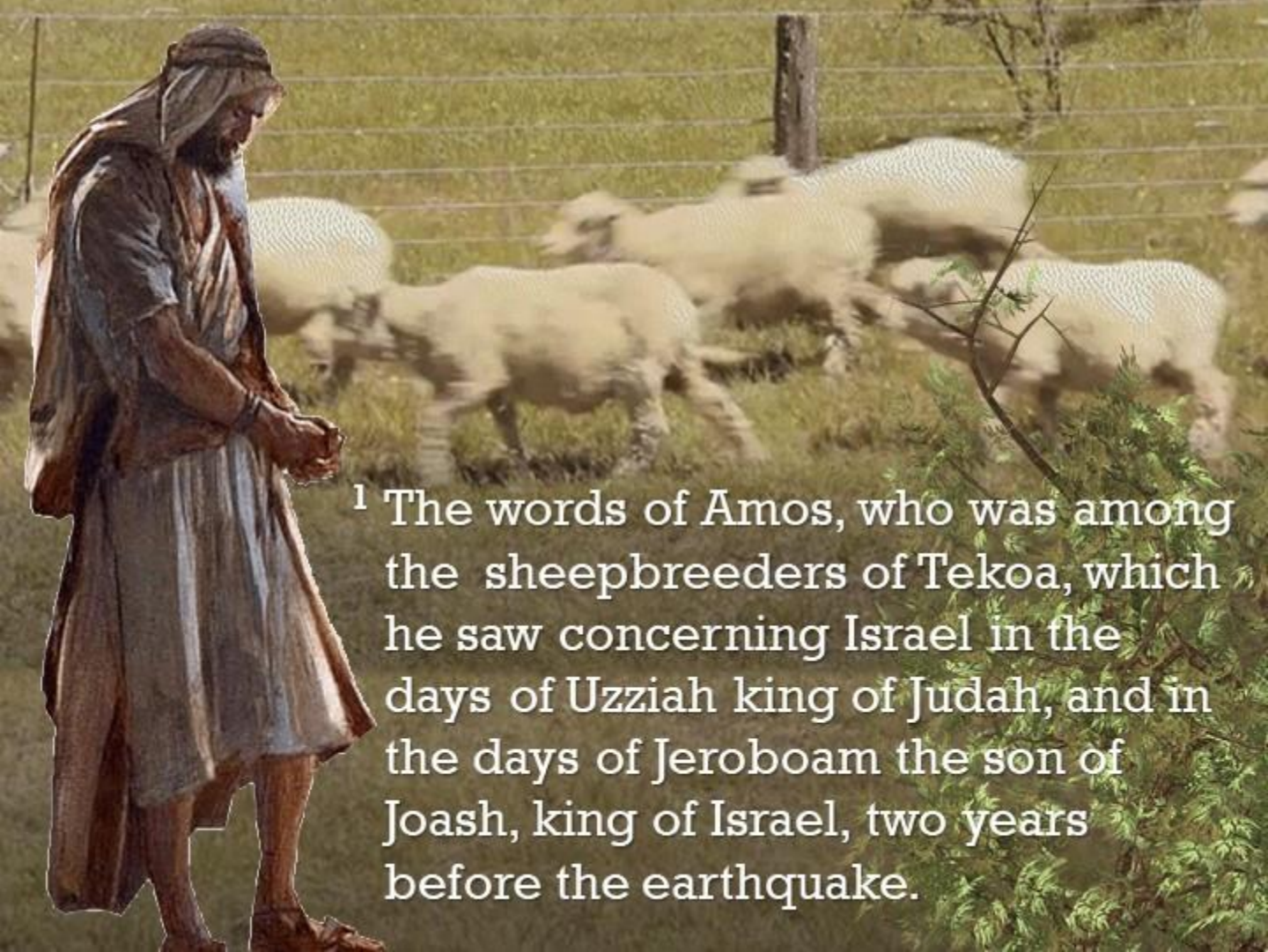
Restoration: a vision of the glorious kingdom—9:11–15



Part I

Amos

Look around and see
God's Judgment

A man with a beard, wearing a long, light-colored robe and a head covering, stands in the foreground on the left. He is looking down at his hands. In the background, a flock of sheep is grazing in a grassy field. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a fence visible in the distance.

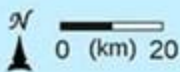
¹ The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.



1. The **call** of **Amos**!

² And he said:

“The LORD roars from Zion,
And utters His voice from Jerusalem;
The pastures of the shepherds mourn,
And the top of Carmel withers.”



1. Gentile neighbours:

- Damascus (1:3-5)
- Gaza (1:6-8)
- Tyre (1:9-10)

Mediterranean Sea

TYRE

DAMASCUS

4. Israel itself:

- Israel (2:6-16)

ISRAEL

AMMON

GAZA

JUDAH

MOAB

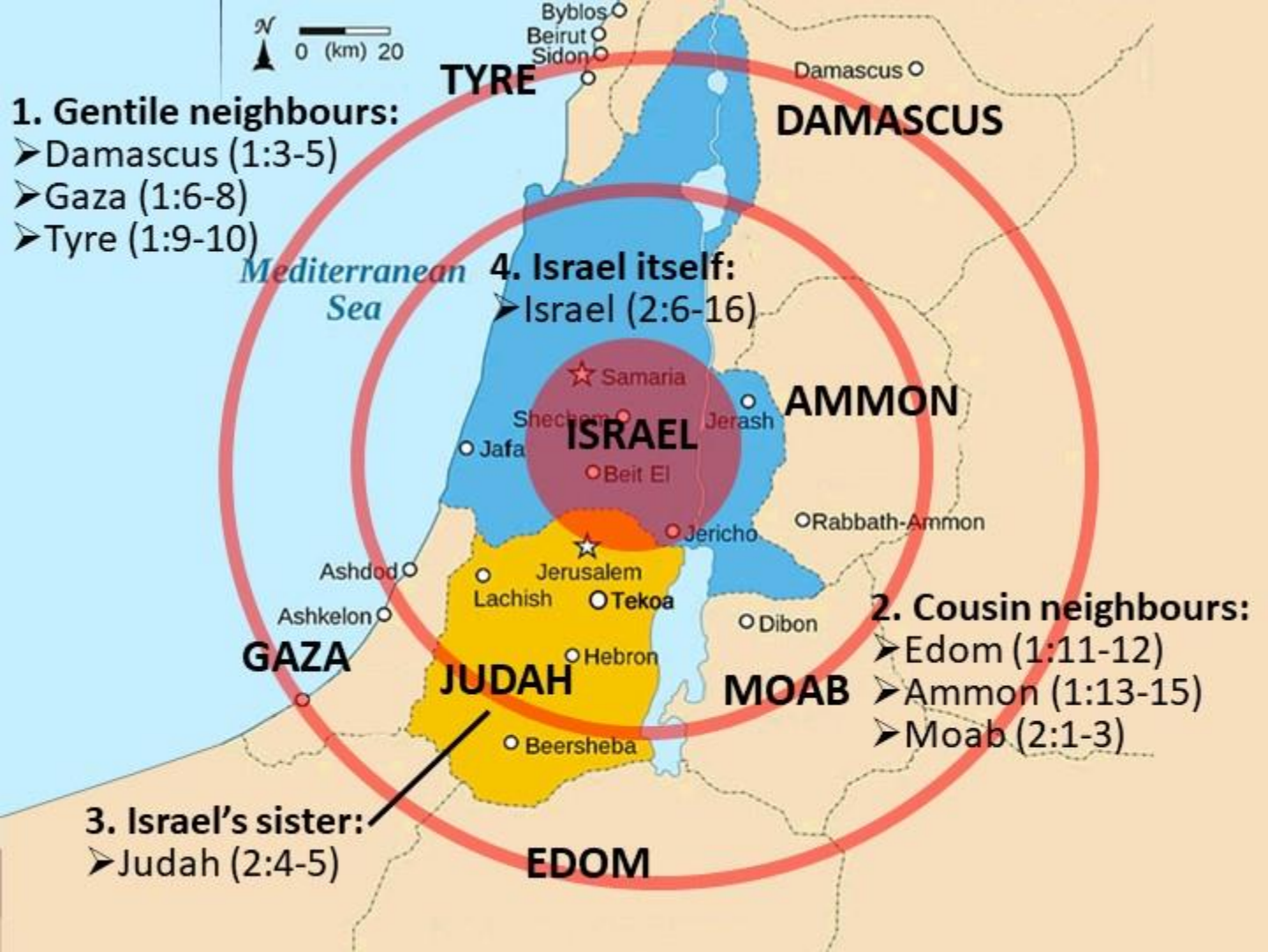
2. Cousin neighbours:

- Edom (1:11-12)
- Ammon (1:13-15)
- Moab (2:1-3)

3. Israel's sister:

- Judah (2:4-5)

EDOM





DAMASCUS

DAMASCUS

(CAPITAL OF SYRIA)

1. CRUELTY TOWARD
GILEAD AND ATROCITIES

JUDGMENT

Destruction and
captivity

FULFILLMENT

2 Kings 16:1-9
732 BC to Assyrians





TYRE

DAMASCUS

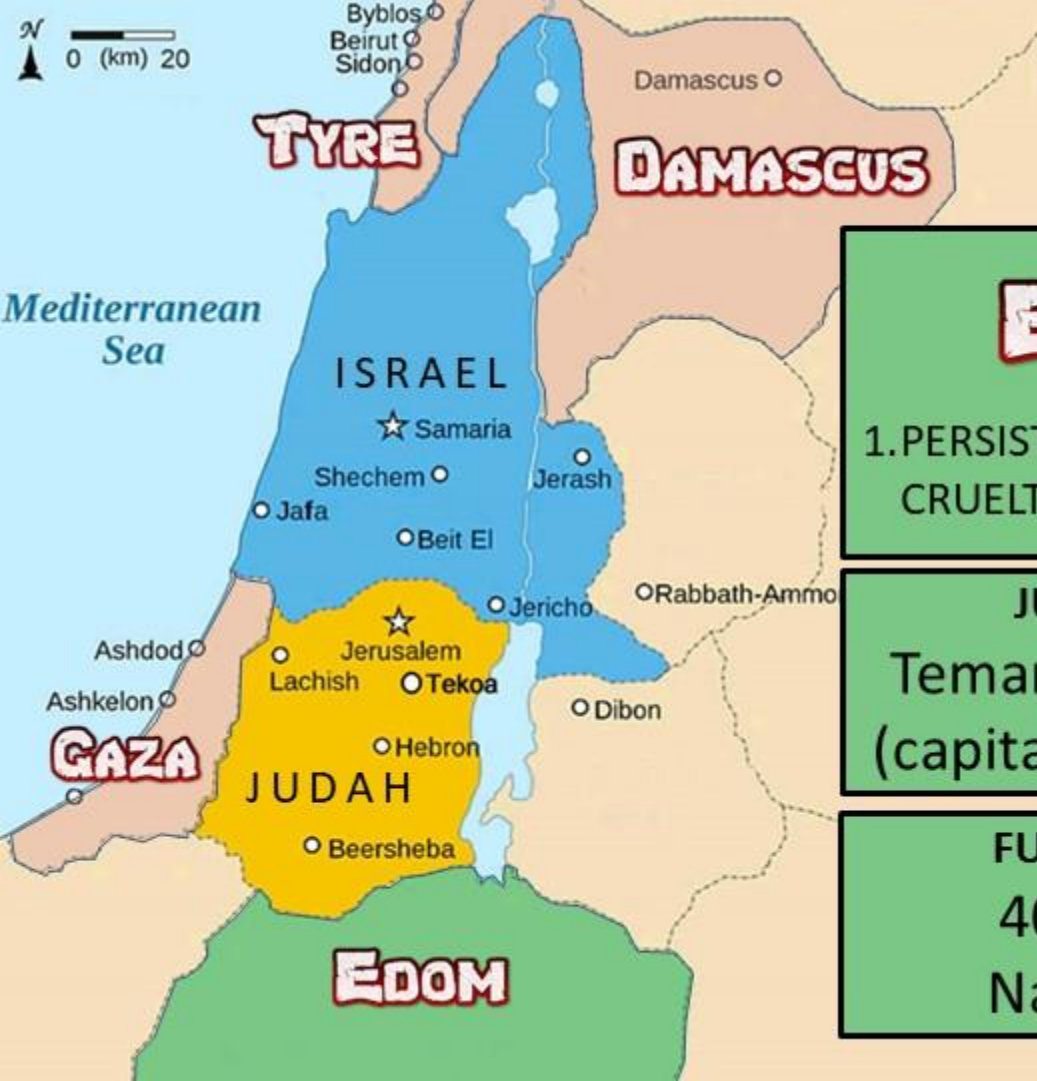
TYRE

(CAPITAL OF PHOENICIA)

1. SLAVERY DESPITE
BROTHERLY COVENANT

JUDGMENT
Destruction

FULFILLMENT
322 BC by
Alexander the Great



EDOM

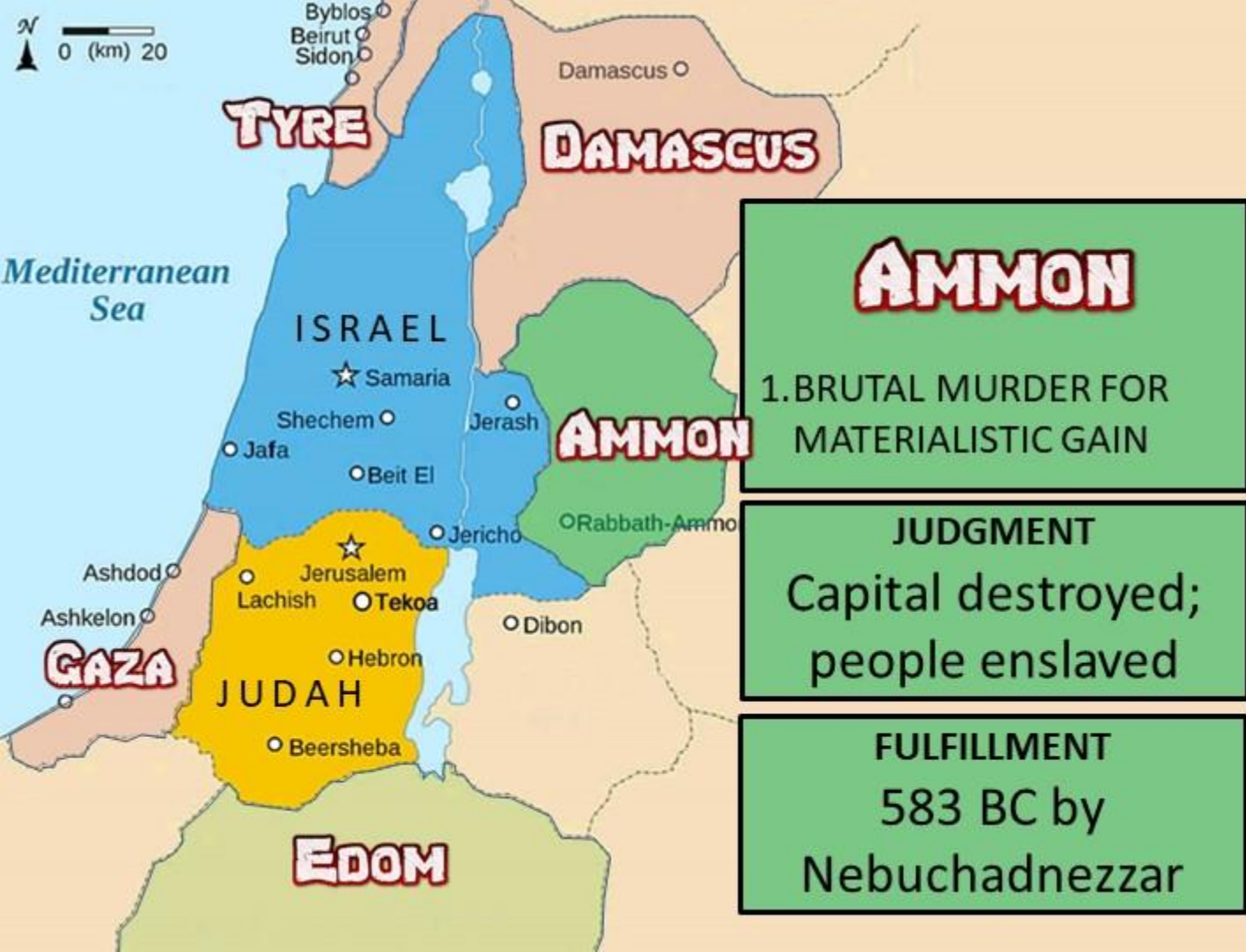
1. PERSISTENT HATRED AND CRUELTY TO BRETHREN

JUDGMENT

Teman and Bozrah (capitals) destroyed

FULFILLMENT

400 BC by Nabateans



AMMON

1. BRUTAL MURDER FOR MATERIALISTIC GAIN

JUDGMENT

Capital destroyed;
people enslaved

FULFILLMENT

583 BC by
Nebuchadnezzar



MOAB

- 1. DISHONOURED DEAD
- a. DISHONORING GOD

JUDGMENT

Capital destroyed;
royalty killed

FULFILLMENT

581 BC by
Nebuchadnezzar



JUDAH

1. BROKE COVENANT

- a. REJECTED GOD'S LAWS
- b. IDOLATRY

JUDGMENT

Jerusalem (capital)
to be destroyed

FULFILLMENT

586 BC by
Nebuchadnezzar



ISRAEL

1. SOCIAL INJUSTICE
2. ABUSE OF POWER AND OPPRESSION
3. OPEN IMMORALITY
4. THEOLOGICAL ERRORS
BREAKING GOD'S LAW
5. OPEN IDOLATRY
6. DEFIANCE AGAINST GOD
7. INGRATITUDE AGAINST
GOD

JUDGMENT!

Fulfilled by Assyrians, 722-721 BC





Part 2

Amos

Look within and
see the Corruption



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 3


Sermon 1
Israel's Present

3 Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying:

2 “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

Israel's **judgment** is **certain!**

Israel's **judgment** is **certain!**

A wide-angle photograph of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water and sand. Two silhouetted figures are walking away from the camera along the water's edge. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds.

³ Can two walk together,
unless they are agreed?

4 Will a lion roar in the forest,
when he has no prey?
Will a young lion cry out of his den,
if he has caught nothing?



⁵ Will a bird fall into a snare on the earth, where there is no trap for it?



Will a snare spring up from the earth, if it has caught nothing at all?



⁶ If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid?

If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done *it*?

'The Fall of Samaria' by William Hole

⁷ Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

Indeed,
the Sovereign Lord
never does anything
until he reveals
his plans to
his servants
the prophets.

AMOS 3:7; NLT

⁸ A lion has roared! Who will not fear?
The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?



⁸A LION HAS ROARED!
WHO WILL
NOT FEAR?

THE LORD GOD HAS SPOKEN!
WHO CAN BUT PROPHECY?

AMOS 3:8

PUNISHMENT OF ISRAEL'S SINS

- 9 “Proclaim in the palaces at Ashdod [LXX Assyria],
And in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say:
‘Assemble on the mountains of Samaria;
See great tumults in her midst,
And the oppressed within her.

אֲשְׁדּוֹד Ashdod

אַשּׁוּר Assur

PUNISHMENT OF ISRAEL'S SINS

- 9 “Proclaim in the palaces at Ashdod [LXX Assyria],
And in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say:
‘Assemble on the mountains of Samaria;
See great tumults in her midst,
And the oppressed within her.
- 10 For they do not know to do right,’ Says the LORD,
‘Who store up violence and robbery in their
palaces.’ ”



¹¹ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:

“An adversary *shall be* all around the land;
He shall sap your strength from you,
And your palaces shall be plundered.”



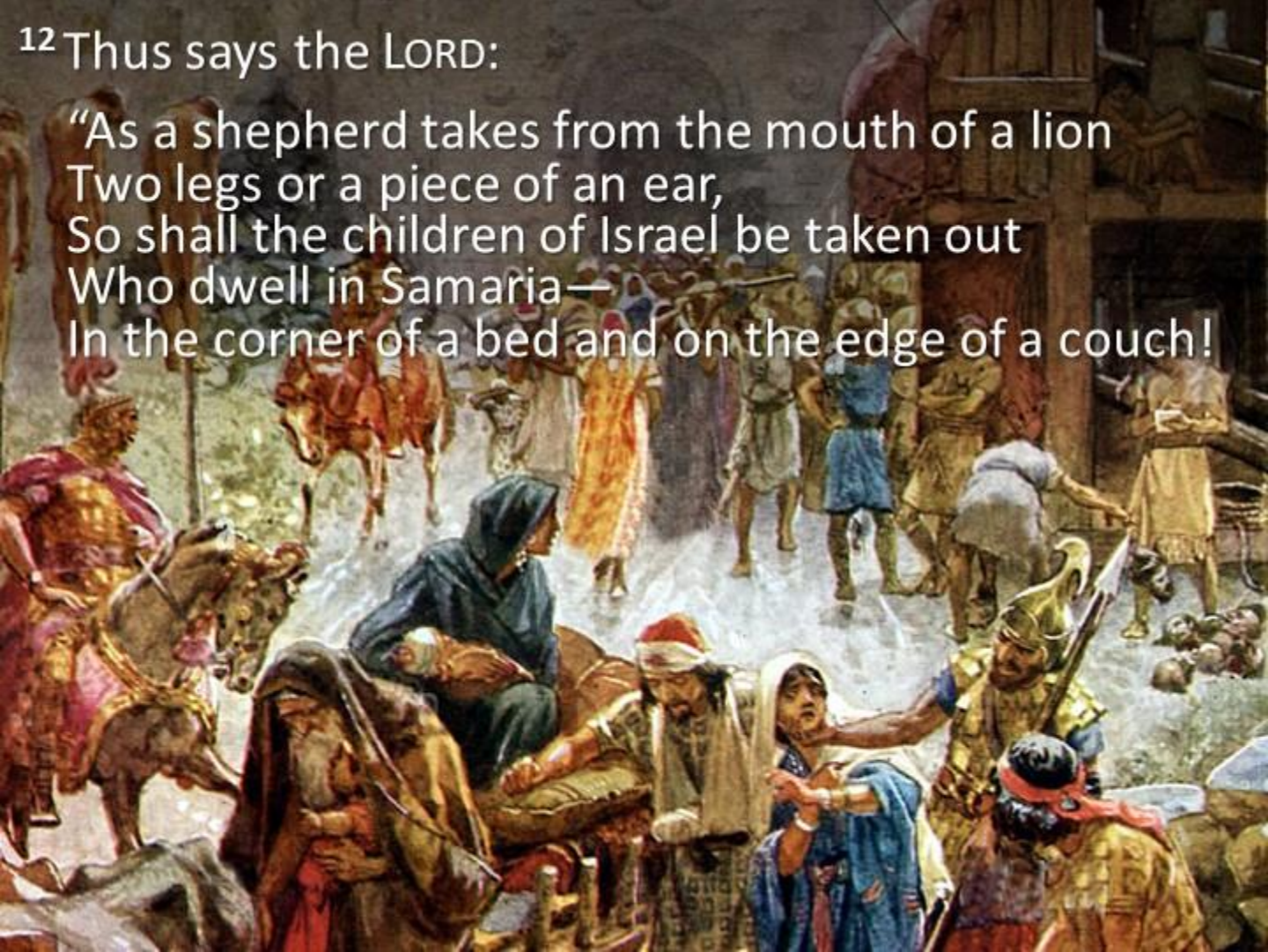
“The Fall of Samaria” by Don Lawrence, 1964.

**Reliefs from
the palace of Sargon II
at Khorsabad, 713 - 706 BC**



¹² Thus says the LORD:

“As a shepherd takes from the mouth of a lion
Two legs or a piece of an ear,
So shall the children of Israel be taken out
Who dwell in Samaria—
In the corner of a bed and on the edge of a couch!

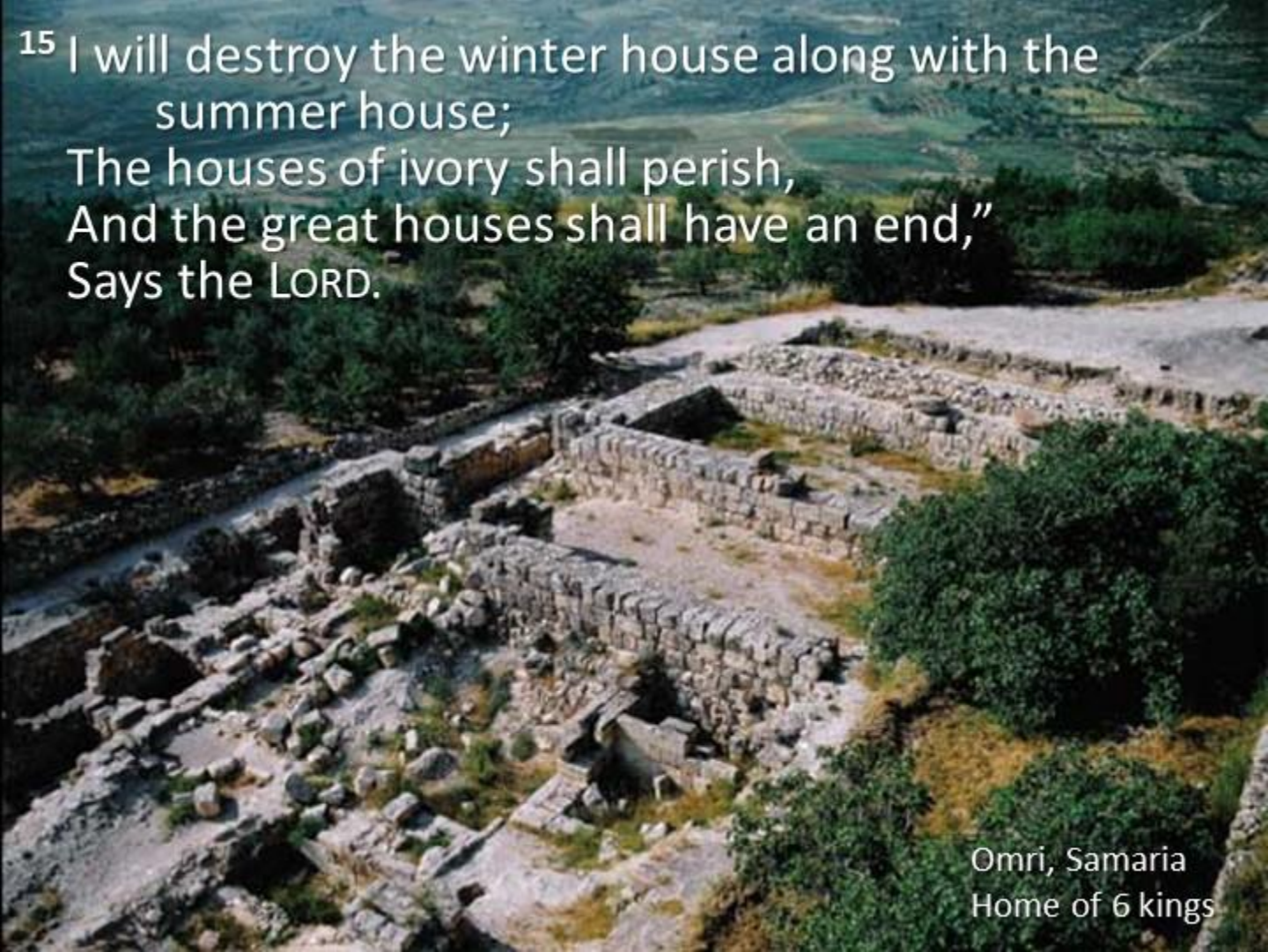


¹³ Hear and testify against the house of Jacob,"
Says the Lord GOD, the God of hosts,

¹⁴ "That in the day I punish Israel for their
transgressions,

I will also visit *destruction* on the altars of Bethel;
And the horns of the altar shall be cut off
And fall to the ground.



An aerial photograph showing the ruins of an ancient city, likely Omri in Samaria. The ruins consist of several rectangular stone structures with walls made of large, roughly-hewn blocks. The structures are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some larger buildings and smaller courtyards. The surrounding landscape is a lush green valley with rolling hills and scattered trees. The sky is clear and blue.

15 I will destroy the winter house along with the
summer house;
The houses of ivory shall perish,
And the great houses shall have an end,"
Says the LORD.

Omri, Samaria
Home of 6 kings

Sermon on Israel's Present

- Amos concludes a sermon on the Northern Kingdom's present:
 - The people are enslaved or in body parts
 - The temples at Dan and Bethel are in ruins
 - The great palaces are in rubble.
- God does not judge a nation without warnings.
 - In Chapter 3, **Hear the Word** was addressed to the Sons of Israel.
 - In the next chapter, **Hear the Word** will be addressed to the women of Samaria.




WHAT THE
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AMOS

Chapter 4

Sermon 2
Israel's Past

Israel's **sins** are **renounced!**



4 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan,
who *are* on the mountain of Samaria,
Who oppress the poor,
Who crush the needy,
Who say to your husbands,
“Bring *wine*, let us drink!”

Israel's **sins** are **renounced!**

² The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness:
“Behold, the days shall come upon you
When He will take you away with hooks,
And your posterity with fishhooks.”





COWS
[פָּרָה · pārah]

³ “You will go out *through* broken walls [פֶּרֶץ · peres],
Each one straight ahead of her,
And you will be cast into Harmon [palace (dungeon)],”
Says the LORD.

4 "Come to Bethel and transgress,
At Gilgal multiply transgression;
Bring your sacrifices every morning,
Your tithes every three days.

Israel's **Ceremonies** will **cease!**

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



5 Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven,
Proclaim *and* announce the freewill offerings;
For this you love, *You* children of Israel!
Says the Lord GOD.

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

ISRAEL DID NOT ACCEPT CORRECTION

6 “Also I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities,
And lack of bread in all your places;
Yet you have not returned to Me,”
Says the LORD.

7 “I also withheld rain from you,
When *there were* still three months to the harvest.
I made it rain on one city,
I withheld rain from another city.
One part was rained upon,
And where it did not rain the part withered.



⁸ So two *or* three cities wandered to another city to drink water,
But they were not satisfied;
Yet you have not returned to Me,”
Says the LORD.

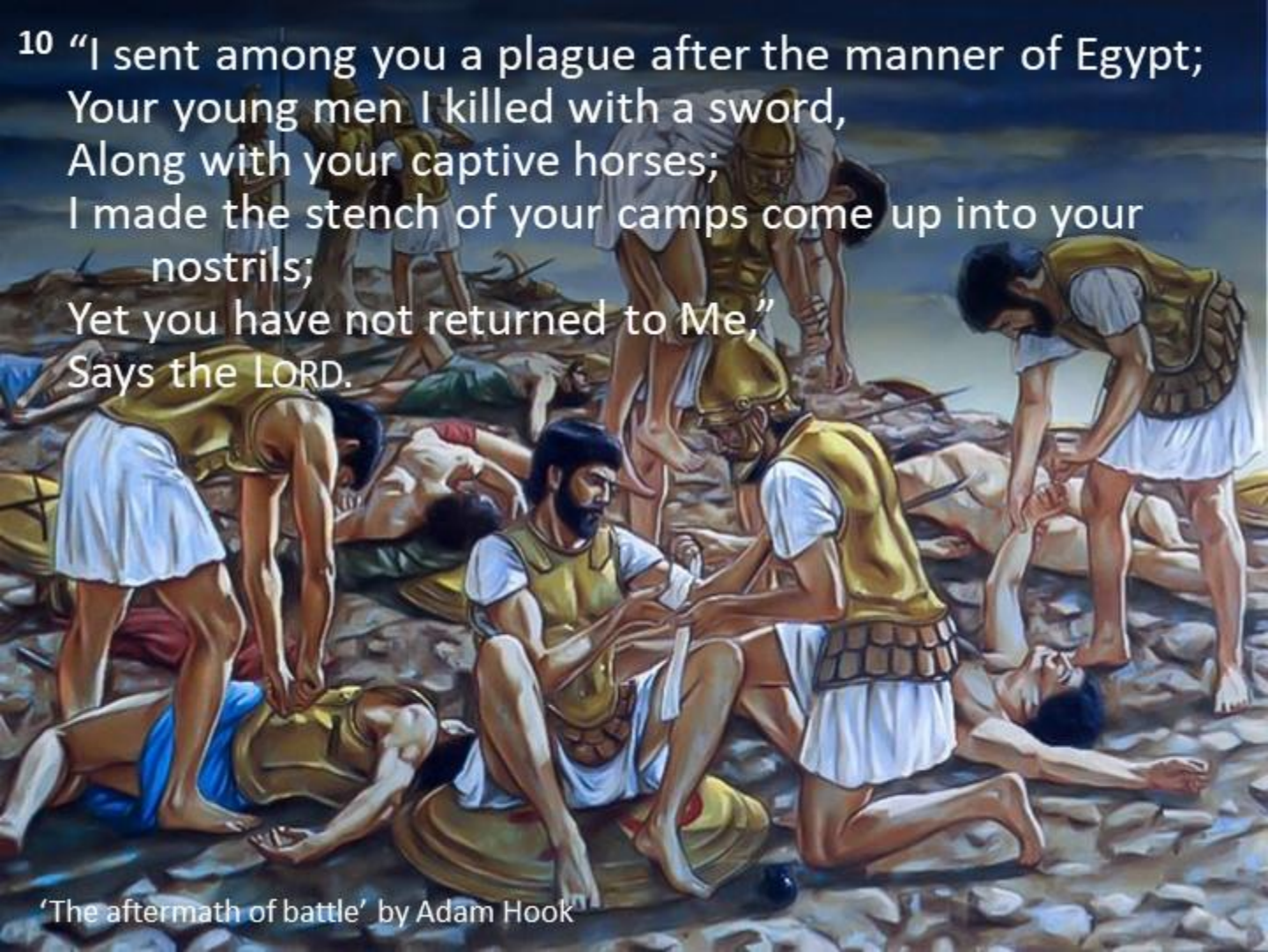
“The Great Famine”, Dublin



9 "I blasted you with blight and mildew.
When your gardens increased,
Your vineyards,
Your fig trees,
And your olive trees,
The locust devoured *them*;
Yet you have not returned to Me,"
Says the LORD.

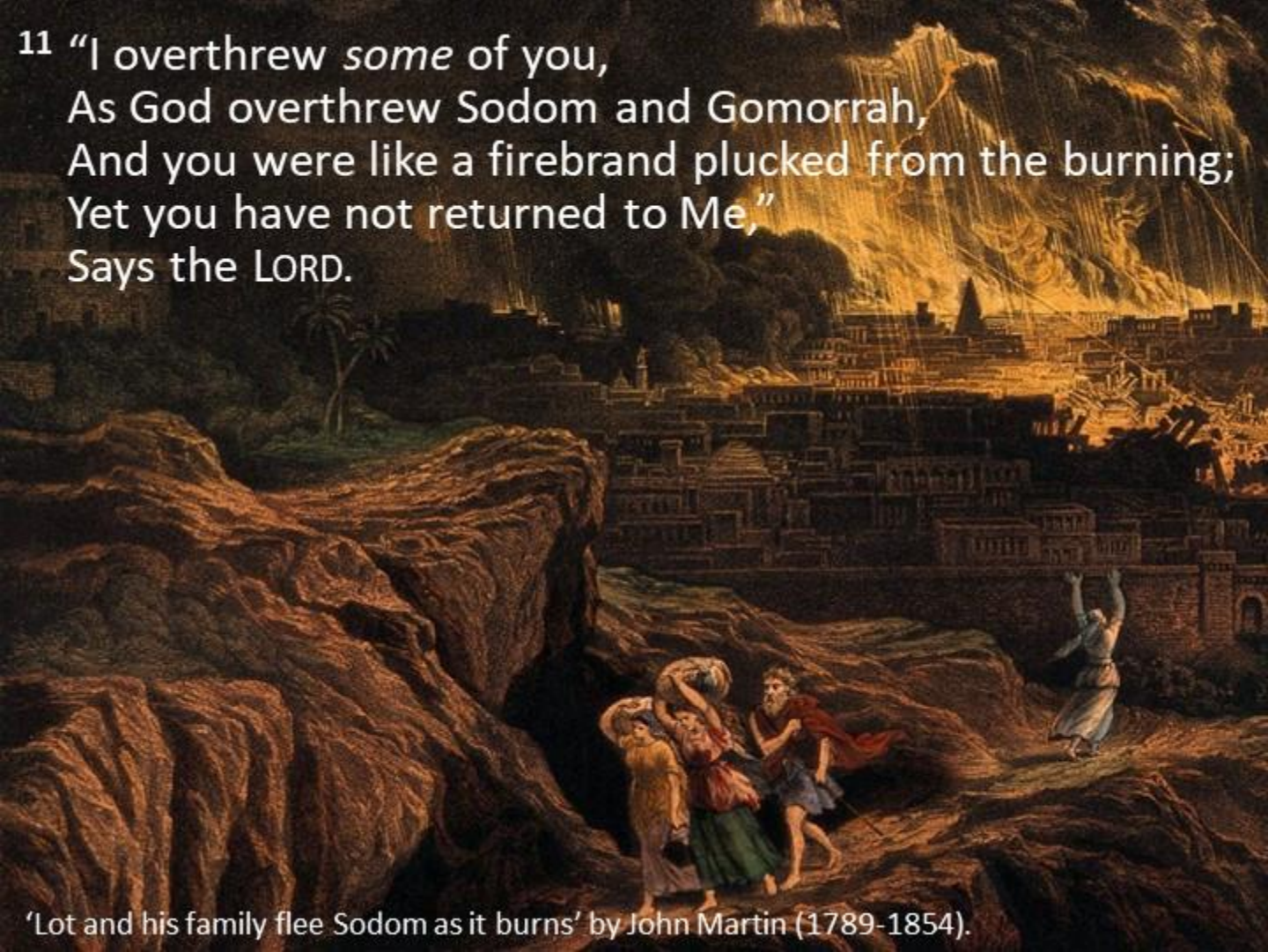


10 "I sent among you a plague after the manner of Egypt;
Your young men I killed with a sword,
Along with your captive horses;
I made the stench of your camps come up into your
nostrils;
Yet you have not returned to Me,"
Says the LORD.



'The aftermath of battle' by Adam Hook

11 “I overthrew *some* of you,
As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,
And you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning;
Yet you have not returned to Me,”
Says the LORD.



‘Lot and his family flee Sodom as it burns’ by John Martin (1789-1854).

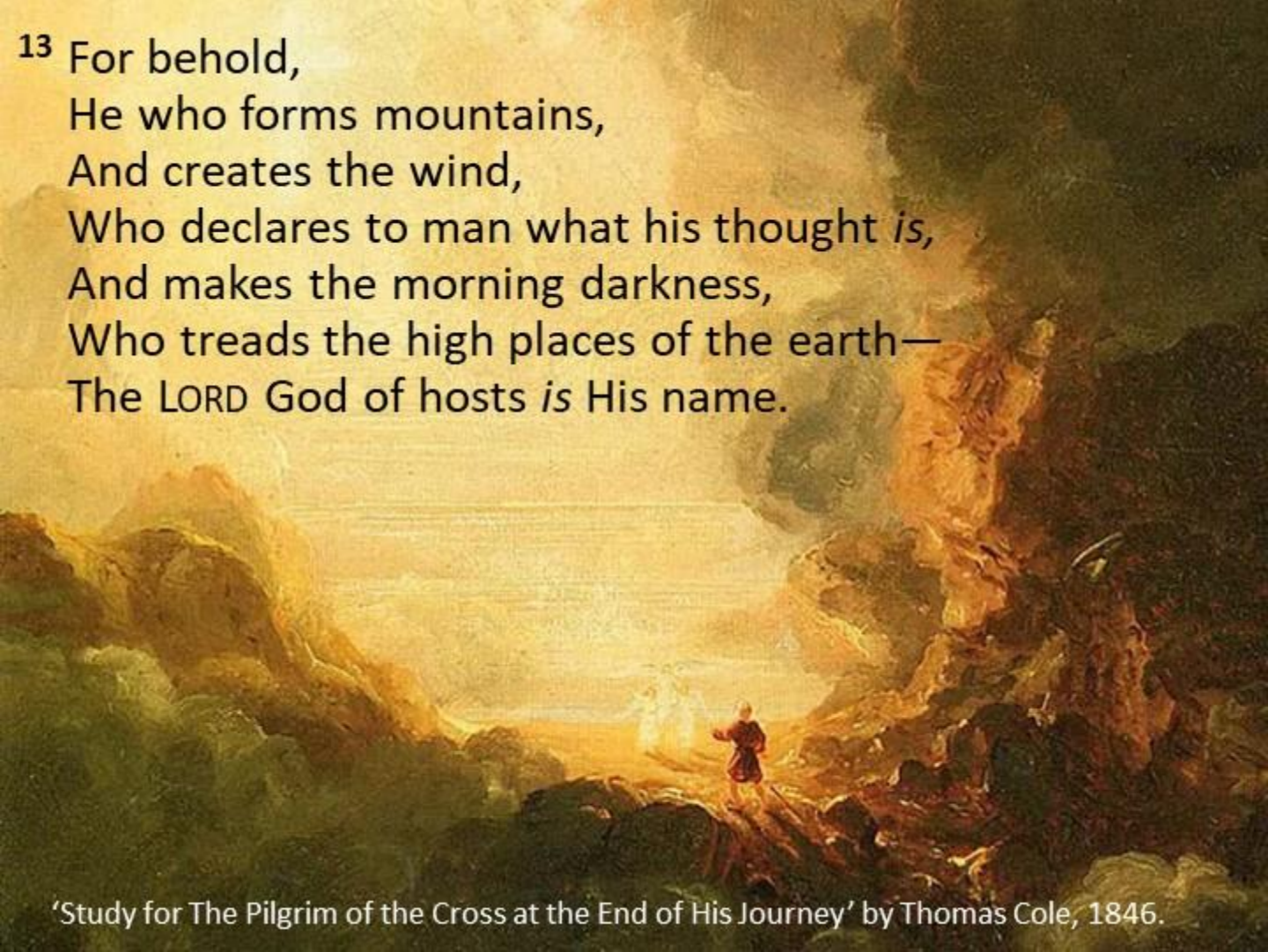
¹² “Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel;
Because I will do this to you,

**PREPARE
TO MEET
THY GOD**

AMOS 4:12

Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

13 For behold,
He who forms mountains,
And creates the wind,
Who declares to man what his thought *is*,
And makes the morning darkness,
Who treads the high places of the earth—
The LORD God of hosts *is* His name.



'Study for The Pilgrim of the Cross at the End of His Journey' by Thomas Cole, 1846.