



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

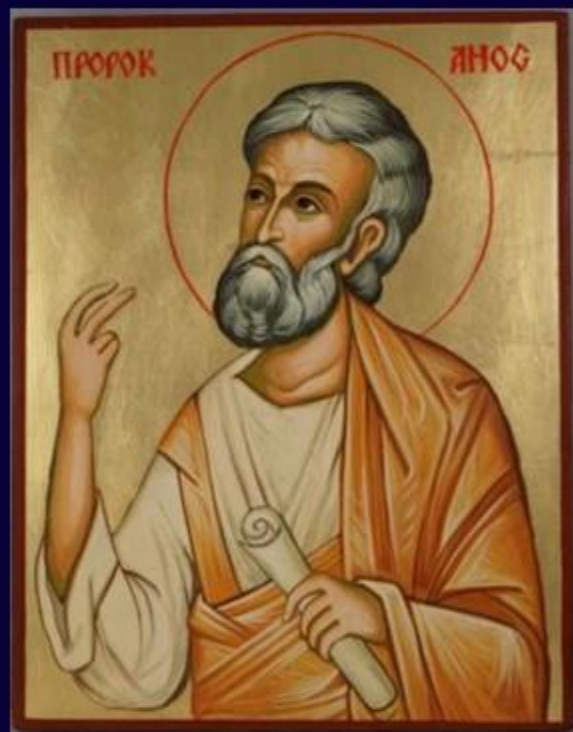


2021
7
SESSION
TERM 4

The book of
Amos

AMOS, AN UNLIKELY PROPHET

- Amos (“burden bearer”) was a herdsman and cultivator of sycamore trees when called to prophesy from 762-755 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.



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

The Thirteen Pericopes of Amos

A	Judgment on nations (Amos 1:1-2:16)
B	Sin of Israel (Amos 3:1-15)
C	Unbelief of Israel (Amos 4:1-11)
D	Seek the LORD (Amos 4:12-5:8)
E	The day of judgment (Amos 5:9-17)
F	Festival and justice (Amos 5:18-27)
G	Judgment on arrogant people (Amos 6:1-14)
F'	The first and second vision (Amos 7:1-6)
E'	The third vision (Amos 7:7-9)
D'	Amaziah complains to the king (Amos 7:10-17)
C'	The fourth vision (Amos 8:1-3)
B'	The God of whole world (Amos 8:4-9:10)
A'	The restoration of David's kingdom (Amos 9:11-15)



A: Wither like plant.

B: Exodus.

C: Day of the LORD.

D: Hear this word.

E: Midst of the people.

F: Escaping from danger.

G: Judgement on arrogant people.

The Literary Structure Divided by 2



A: Wither like plant.

B: Exodus.

C: Day of the LORD.

D: Hear this word.

E: Midst of the people.

F: Escaping from danger.

G: Judgement on arrogant people.

The Literary Structure Divided by 4



A: Wither like plant.

D: Hear this word.

G: Judgement on arrogant people.

B: Exodus.

E: Midst of the people.

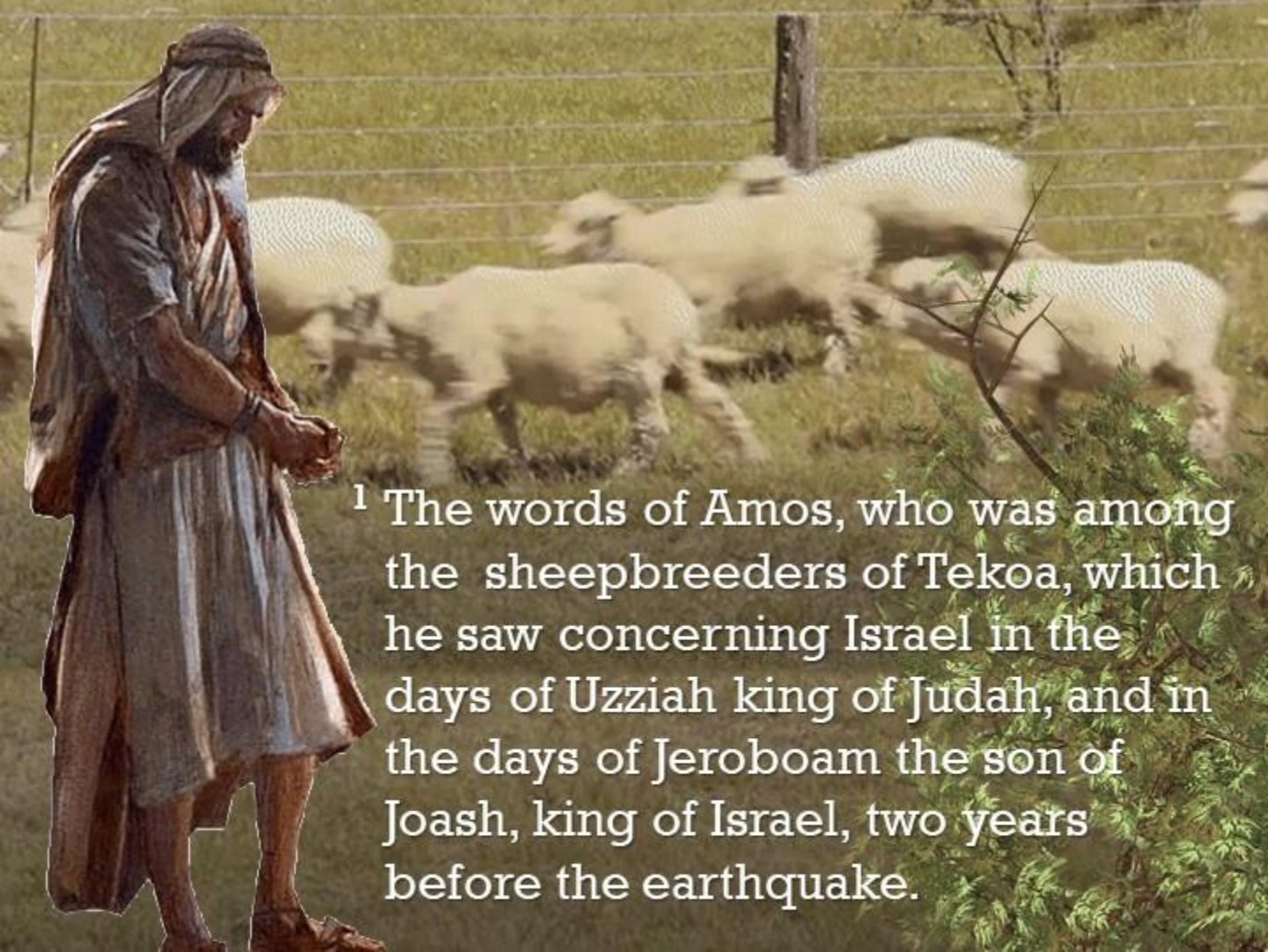
C: Day of the LORD.

F: Escaping from danger.

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 green field. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a fence visible in the distance.

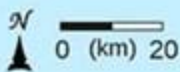
¹ The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

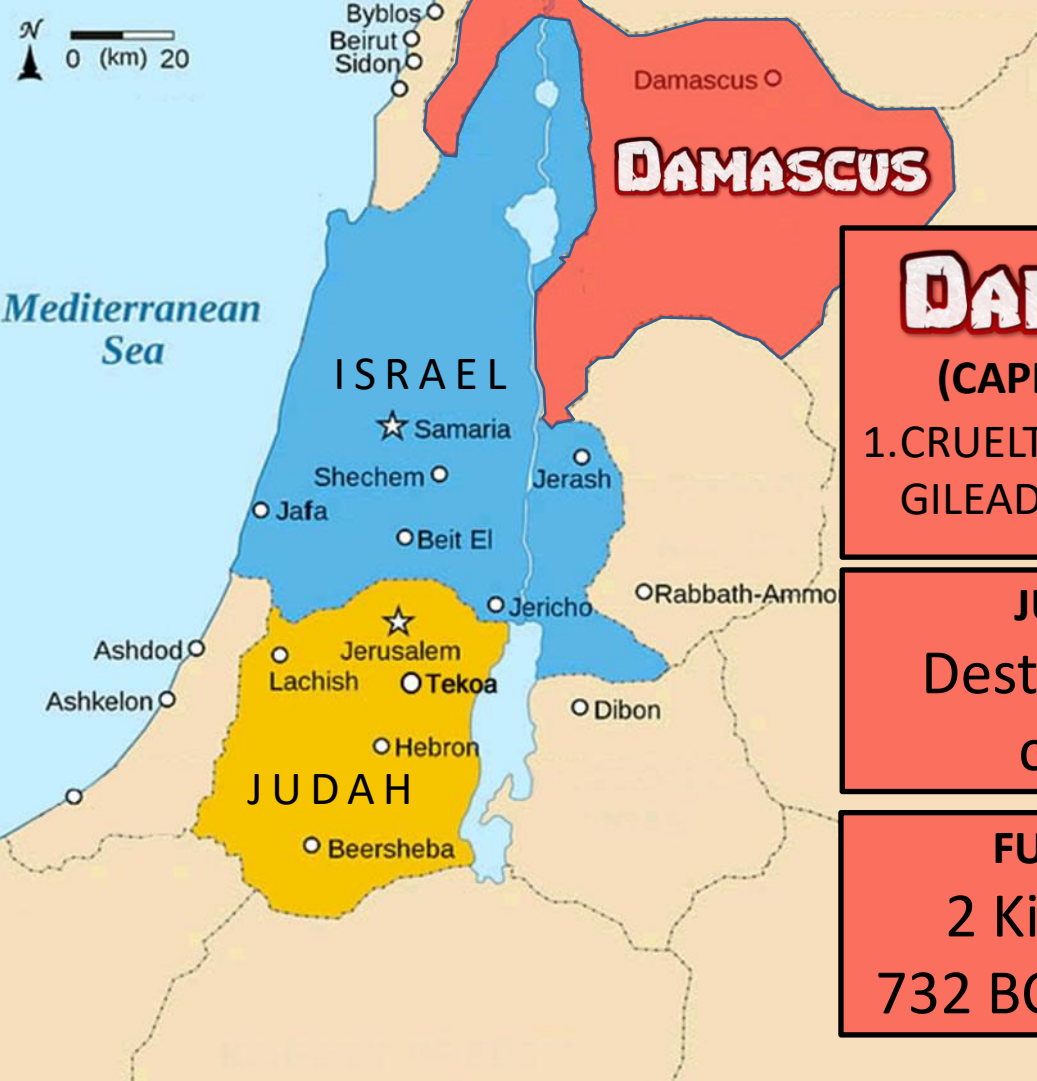


1. The **call** of **Amos**!

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.”





DAMASCUS

DAMASCUS

(CAPITAL OF SYRIA)

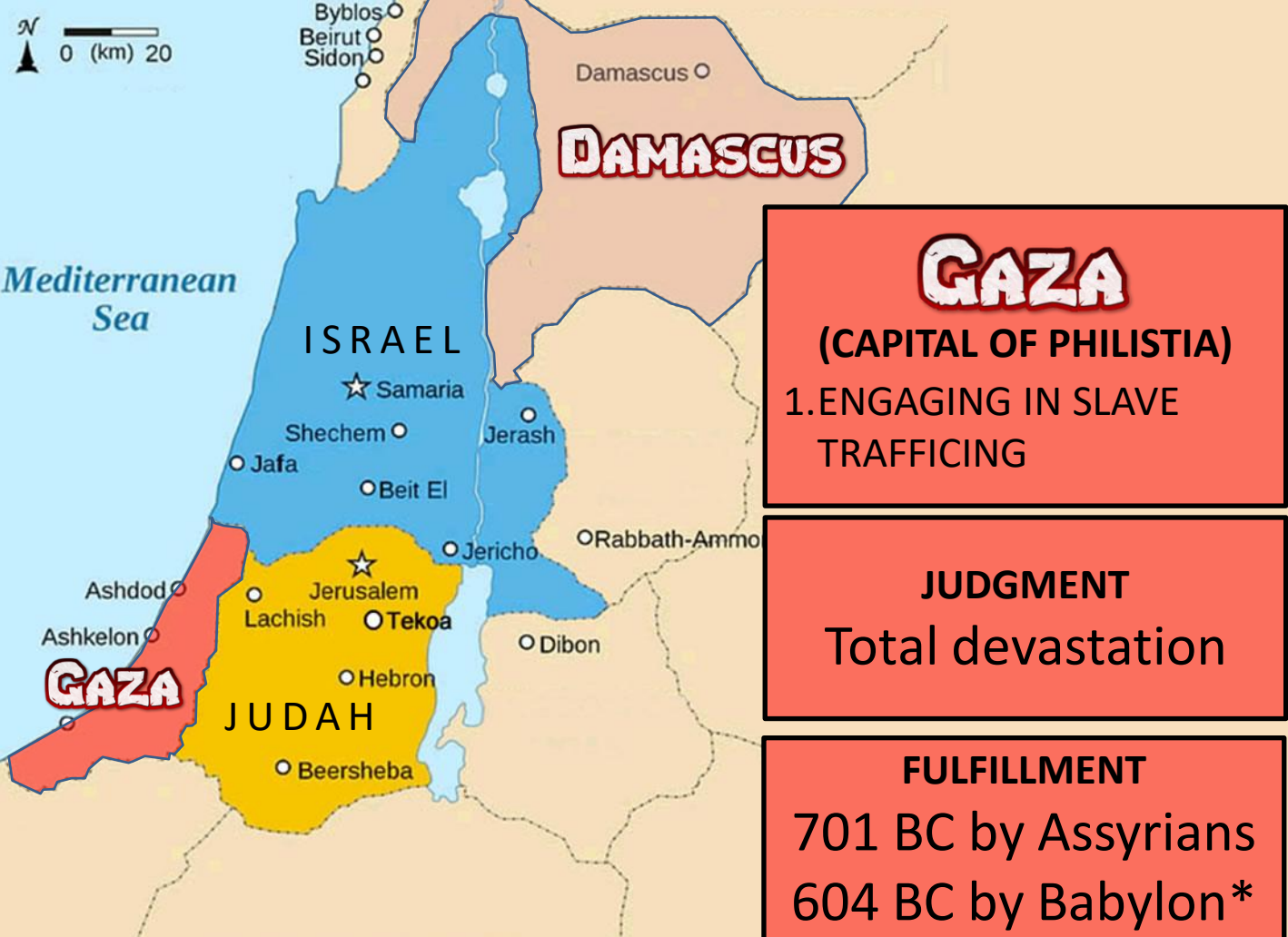
1. CRUELTY TOWARD
GILEAD AND ATROCITIES

JUDGMENT

Destruction and
captivity

FULFILLMENT

2 Kings 16:1-9
732 BC to Assyrians



DAMASCUS

GAZA

(CAPITAL OF PHILISTIA)

1.ENGAGING IN SLAVE TRAFFICING

JUDGMENT

Total devastation

FULFILLMENT

701 BC by Assyrians
604 BC by Babylon*

*Philistines disappear from written record after conquest by Nebuchadnezzar II.



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

Temán and Bozrah
(capitals) destroyed

FULFILLMENT

400 BC by
Nabateans



AMMON

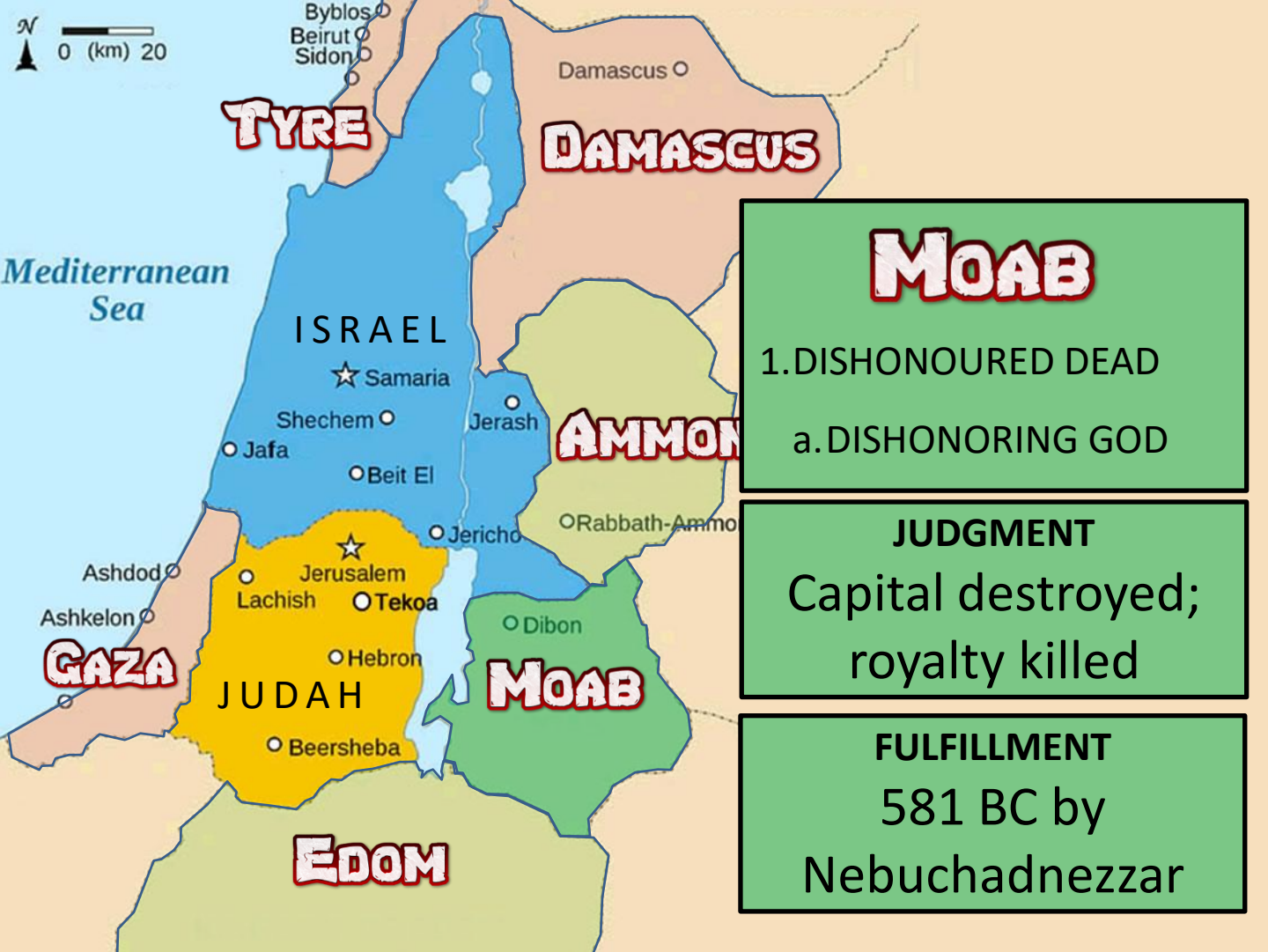
1. BRUTAL MURDER FOR MATERIALISTIC GAIN

JUDGMENT

Capital destroyed;
people enslaved

FULFILLMENT

583 BC by
Nebuchadnezzar



TYRE

DAMASCUS

MOAB

- 1. DISHONOURED DEAD
- a. DISHONORING GOD

AMMON

JUDGMENT

Capital destroyed;
royalty killed

MOAB

FULFILLMENT

581 BC by
Nebuchadnezzar

EDOM

JUDAH

GAZA

ISRAEL

★ Samaria

Shechem

Jafa

Beit El

Jerash

Jericho

Rabbath-Ammon

★ Jerusalem

Lachish

Tekoa

Hebron

Beersheba

Dibon

Ashdod

Ashkelon

Damascus

Byblos
Beirut
Sidon

0 (km) 20

Mediterranean
Sea



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





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!**

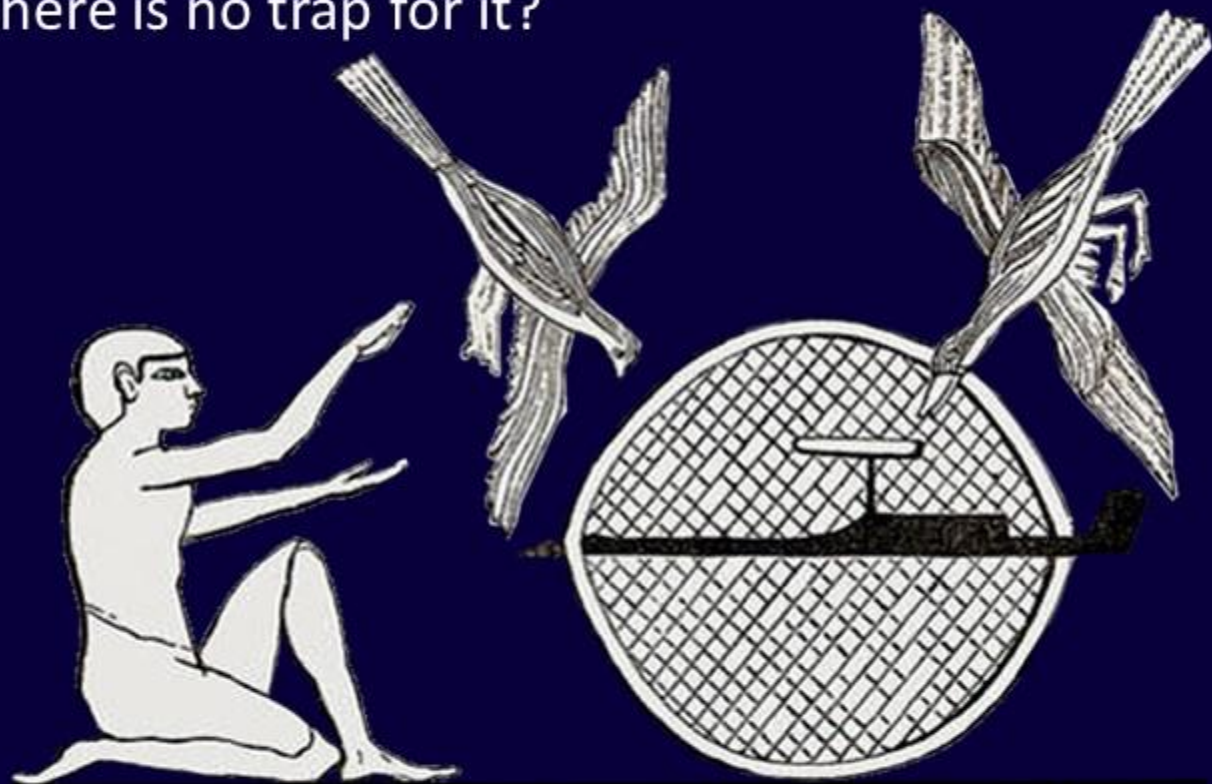
A wide-angle photograph of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water and sand. Two silhouetted figures are walking away from the camera along the water's edge. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds.

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.
- 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:

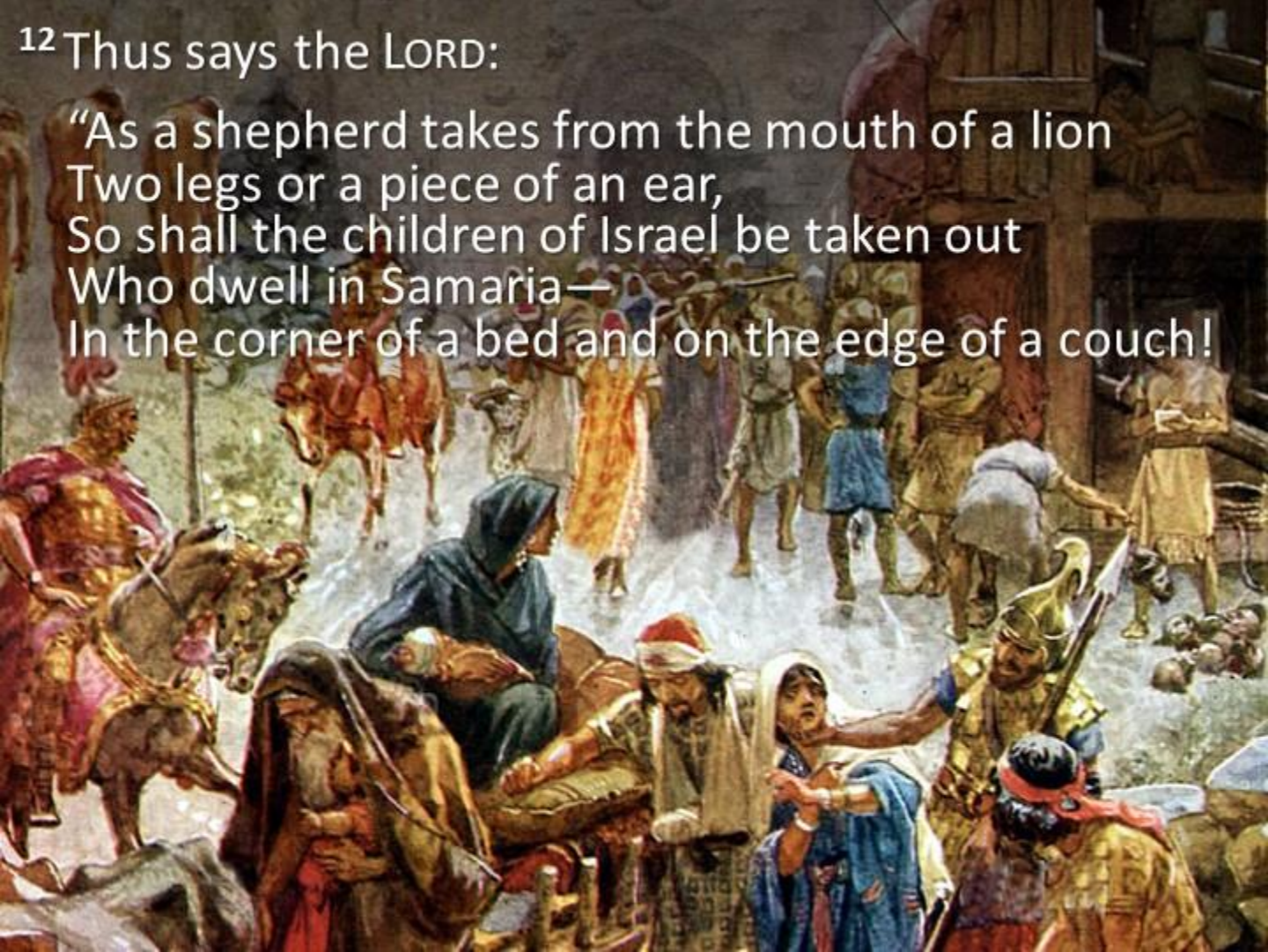
“An adversary *shall be* all around the land;
He shall sap your strength from you,
And your palaces shall be plundered.”



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

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!

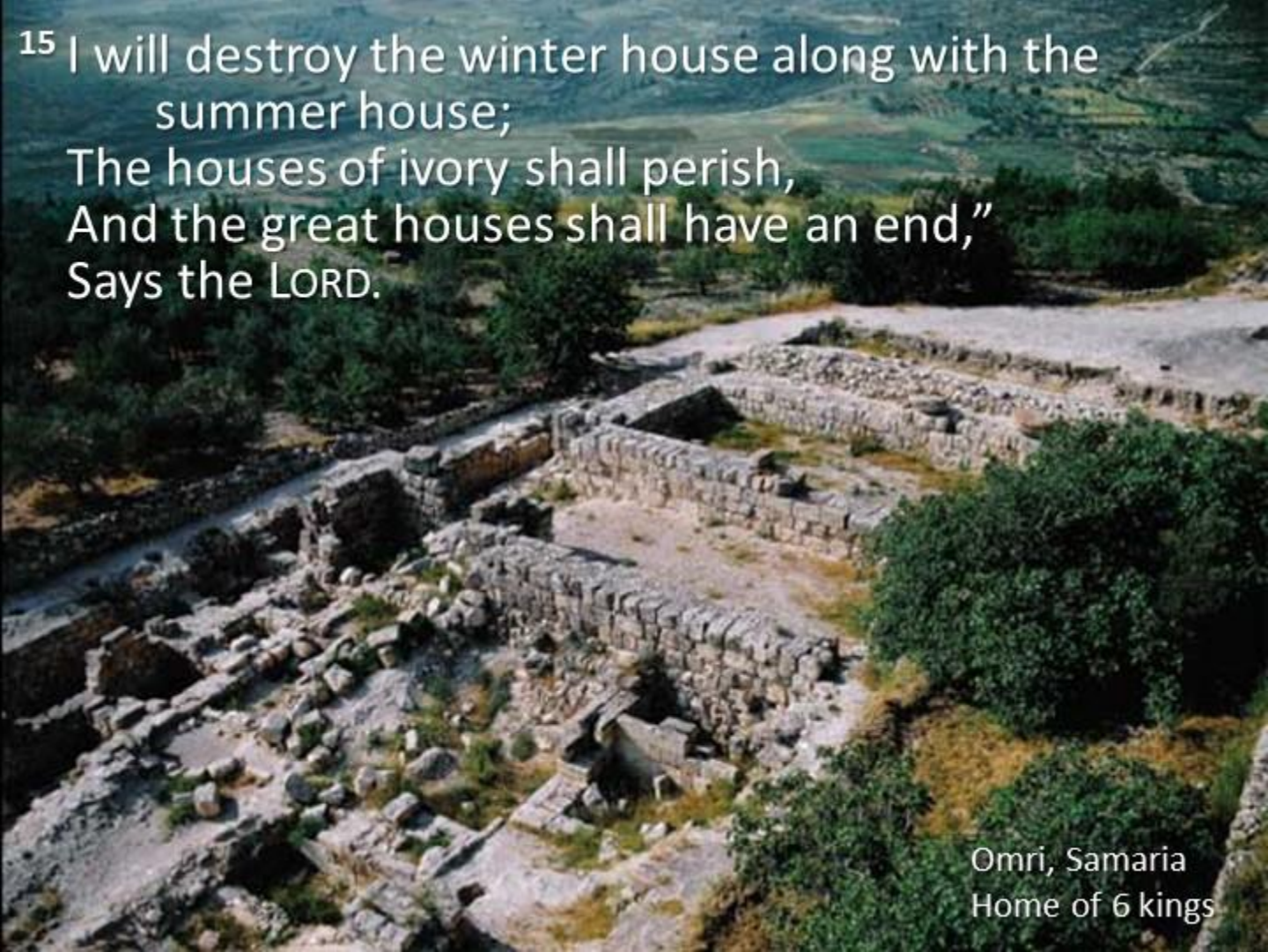


¹³ Hear and testify against the house of Jacob,"
Says the Lord GOD, the God of hosts,

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 large, rectangular stone structures with thick walls, some of which are partially collapsed. The site is situated in a valley with green hills in the background and some trees in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

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 days:
 - 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
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

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 [פְּרָץ · 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.

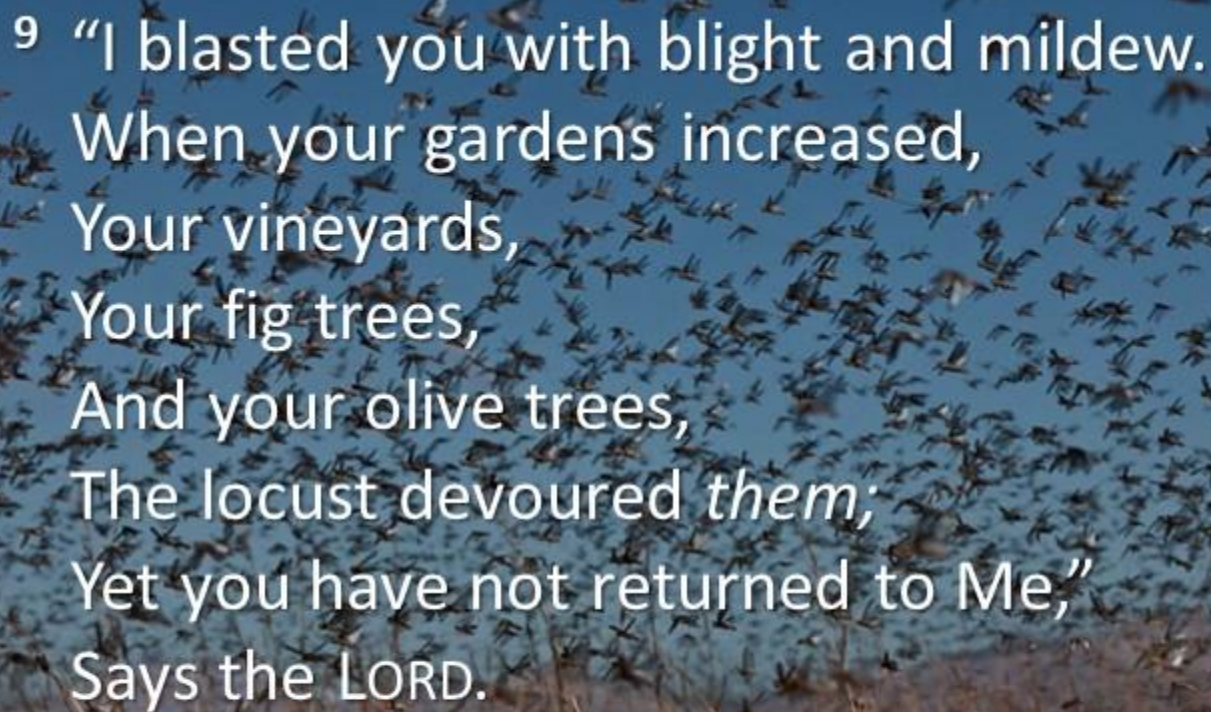
7 “I also withheld rain from you,
When *there were* still three months to the harvest.
I made it rain on one city,
I withheld rain from another city.
One part was rained upon,
And where it did not rain the part withered.



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.

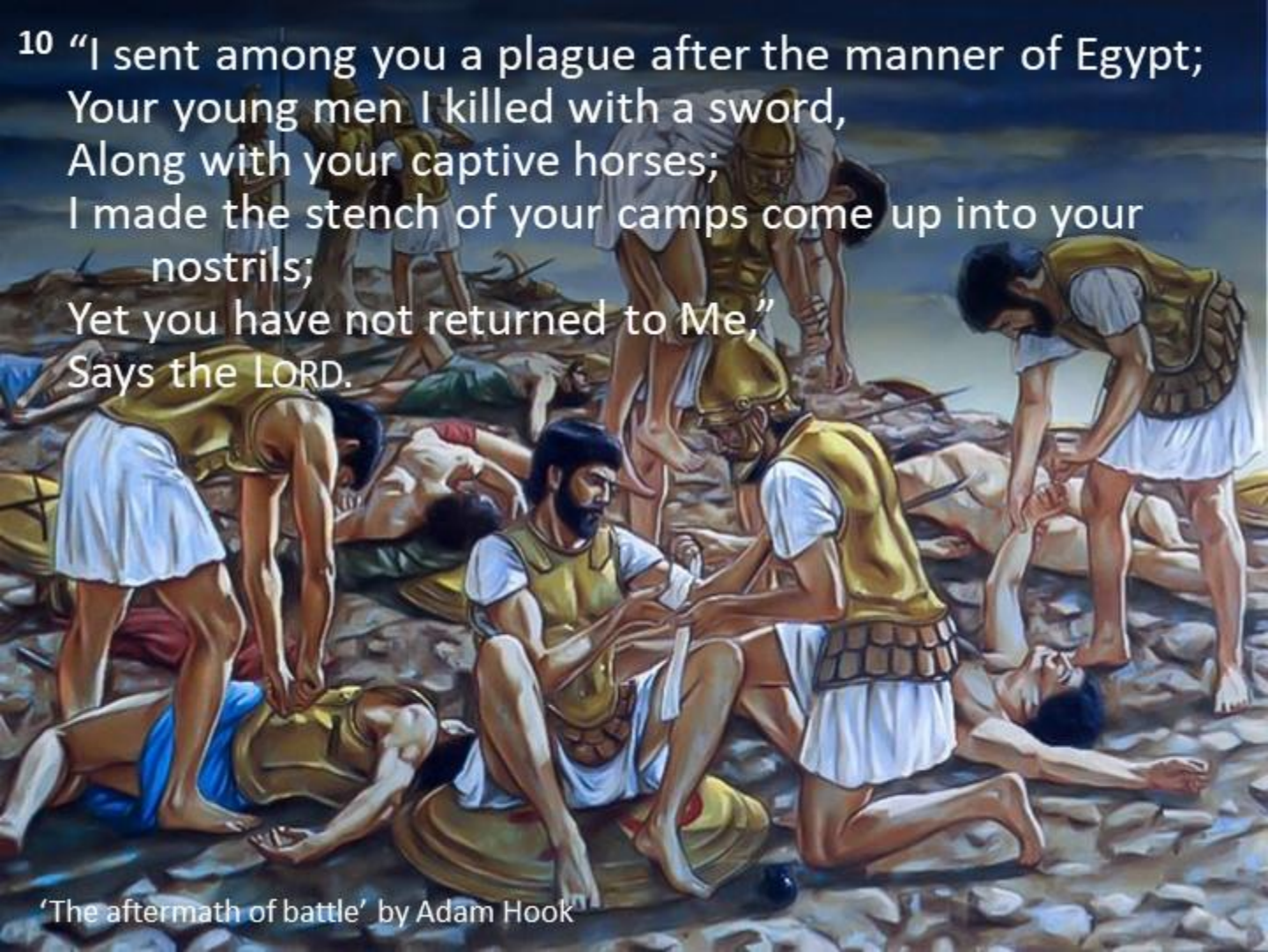


"The Great Famine", Dublin

A large flock of locusts is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The locusts are densely packed, filling most of the upper two-thirds of the frame. Below them, a field of dry, golden-brown grass is visible, with some locusts also seen on the ground. The overall scene depicts a massive locust infestation.

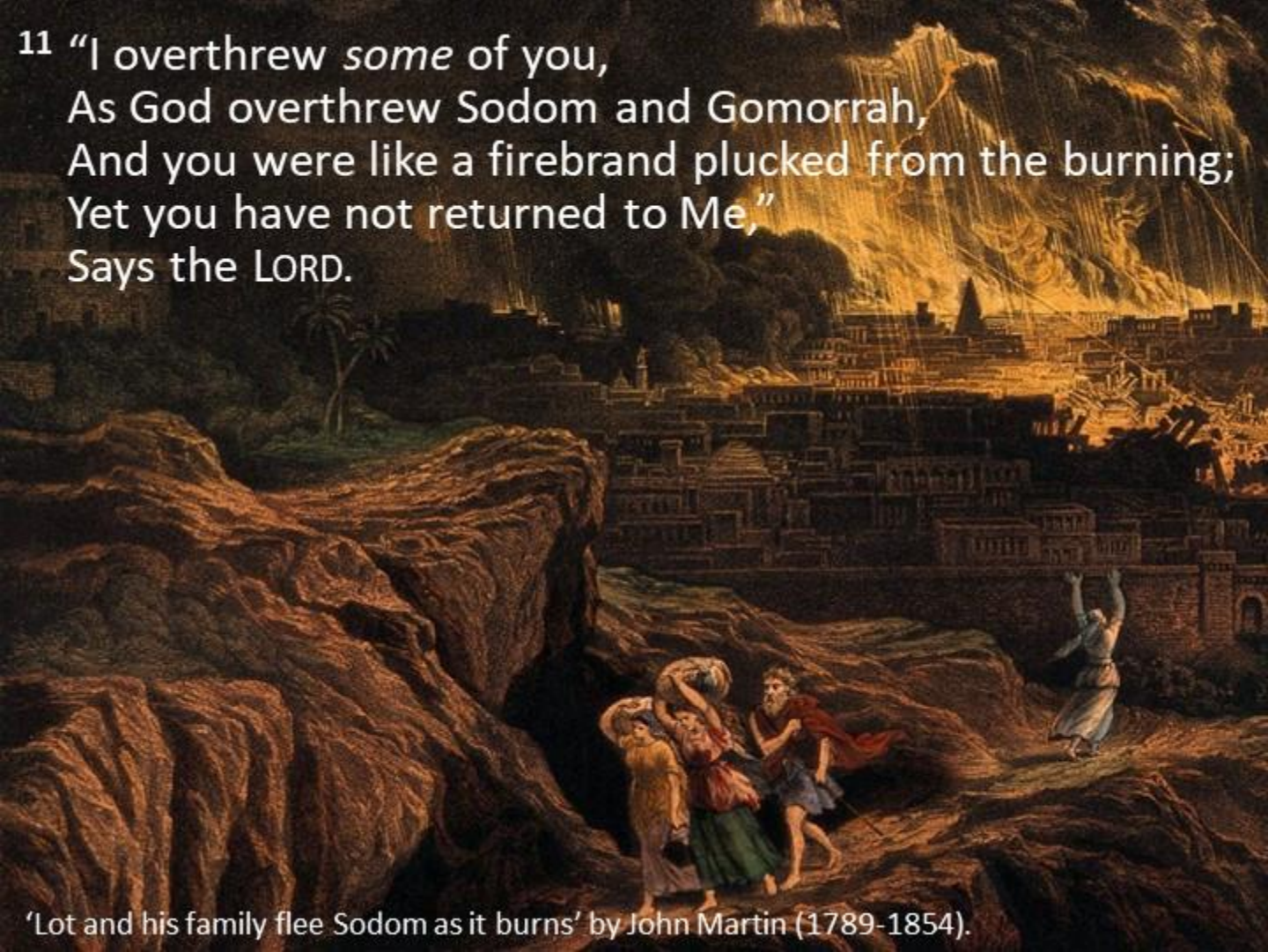
9 “I blasted you with blight and mildew.
When your gardens increased,
Your vineyards,
Your fig trees,
And your olive trees,
The locust devoured *them*;
Yet you have not returned to Me,”
Says the LORD.

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).

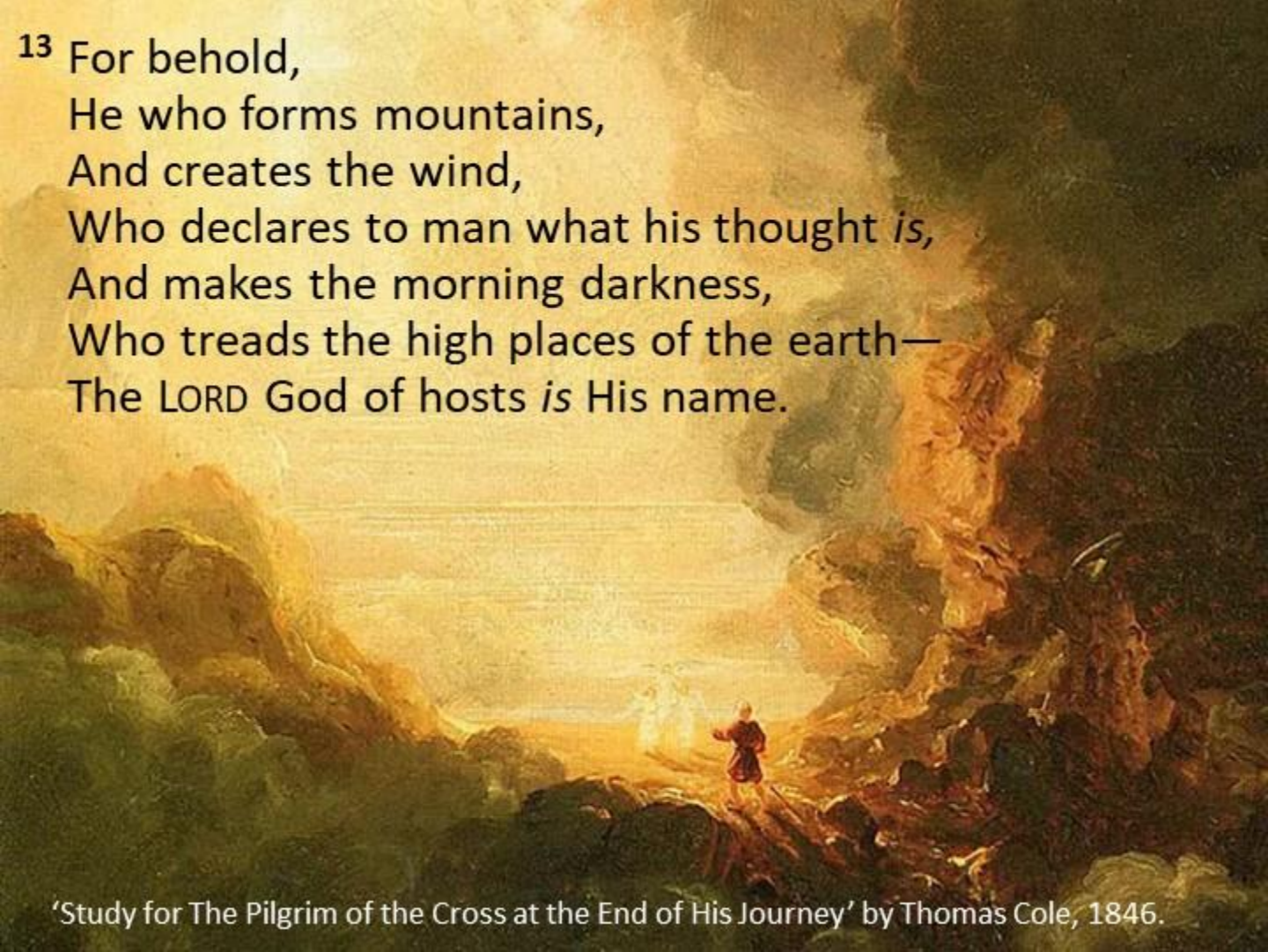
¹² “Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel;
Because I will do this to you,

**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.

Sermon on Israel's Past

- Amos calls out the depraved women of Israel:
 - Fat and lustful cows immersed in indulgences
 - Crying out for wine (at the expense of the poor)
 - Oppressors would become the oppressed.
- God sent warnings which they rejected:
 - Famine, drought, pestilence, plagues and war
 - The earthquake of Amos (two years later)
 - They failed to repent
- Therefore, **prepare to meet your God!**



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 5

Sermon 3
Israel's Future

A LAMENT FOR ISRAEL

5 **Hear this word** which I take up against you,
a lamentation, O house of Israel:

2 The virgin of Israel has fallen;
She will rise no more.
She lies forsaken on her land;
There is no one to raise her up

Israel's **doom** is **lamented!**

3 For thus says the Lord GOD:

“The city that goes out by a thousand
Shall have a hundred left,
And that which goes out by a hundred
Shall have ten left to the house of Israel.”

DECIMATED

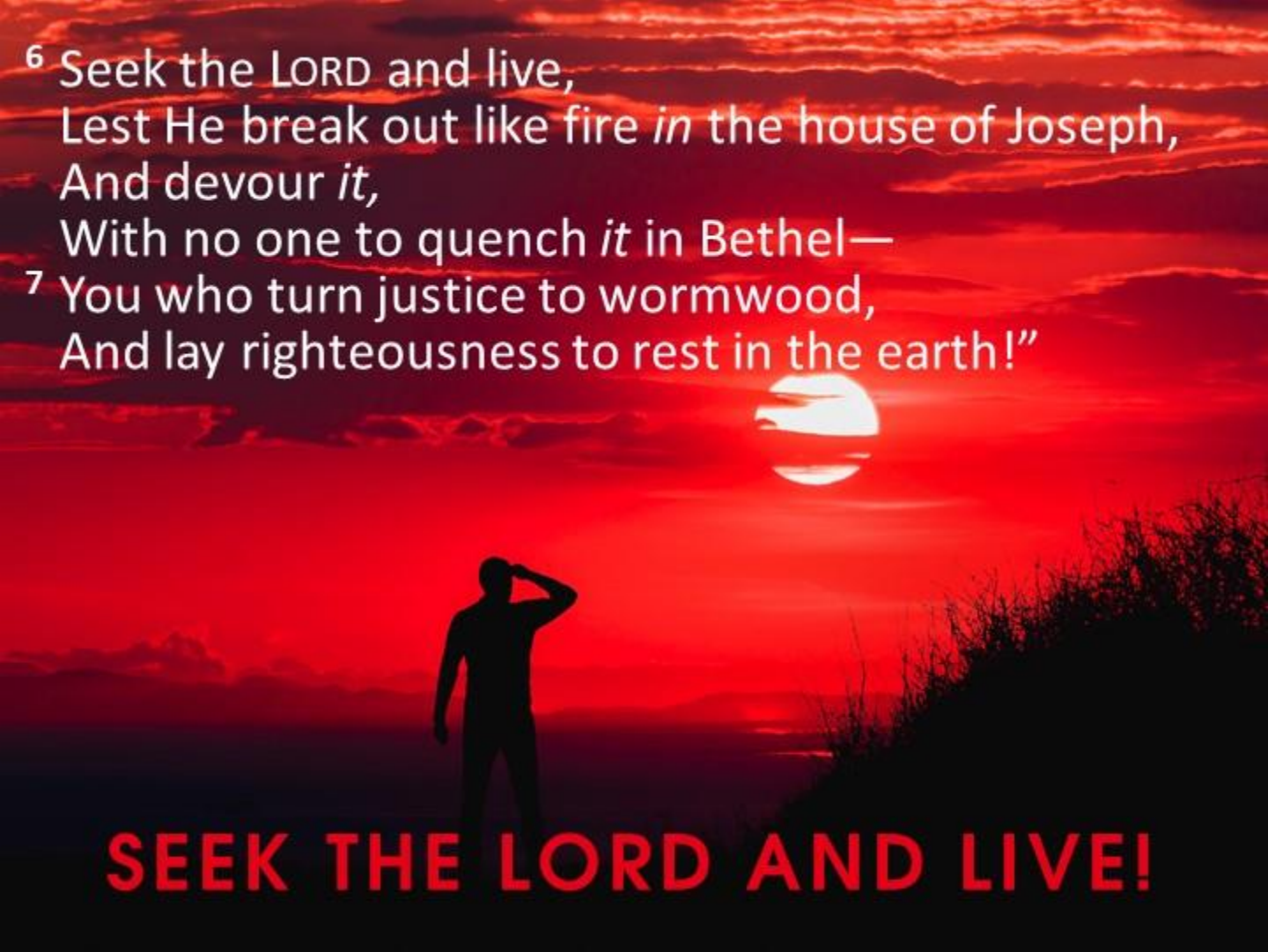
The background of the image shows a vast, arid landscape with ancient stone ruins. In the foreground, there are large, dark stone blocks and a low wall. In the middle ground, a paved path leads through more ruins towards a larger structure. The sky is clear and blue. The word 'DECIMATED' is written across the center in large, white, bold letters with a red, blood-splattered texture.

A CALL TO REPENTANCE

An aerial photograph of the Tel Be'er Sheva archaeological site. The image shows a vast expanse of ancient stone ruins, including walls, foundations, and some larger structures. The ruins are arranged in a somewhat grid-like pattern. In the background, a modern concrete bridge spans across the site. The surrounding landscape is a mix of dry earth and sparse green vegetation. The overall scene is one of historical significance and archaeological discovery.

⁴ Nor pass over to Beersheba;
For Gilgal shall surely go into
captivity, And Bethel shall
come to nothing.

Tel Be'er Sheva archaeological site



⁶ Seek the LORD and live,
Lest He break out like fire *in* the house of Joseph,
And devour *it*,
With no one to quench *it* in Bethel—
⁷ You who turn justice to wormwood,
And lay righteousness to rest in the earth!”

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE!

⁸ He made the Pleiades and Orion;
He turns the shadow of death into morning
And makes the day dark as night;



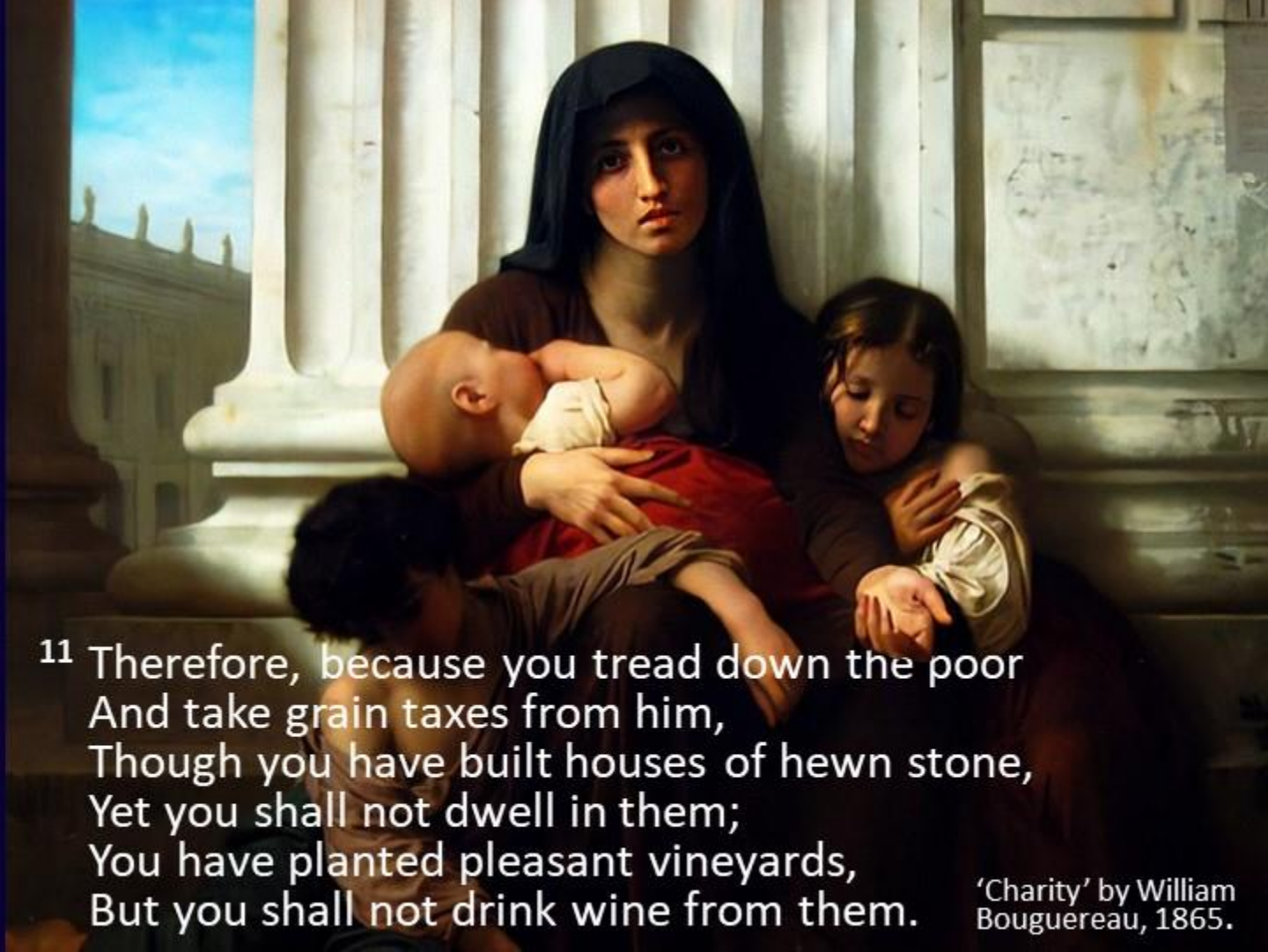


He calls for the waters of the sea
And pours them out on the face of the earth;
The LORD *is* His name.

- ⁹ He rains ruin upon the strong,
So that fury comes upon the fortress.
- ¹⁰ They hate the one who rebukes in the gate,
And they abhor the one who speaks uprightly.

'Elders at the Gate' by James Tissot.





11 Therefore, because you tread down the poor
And take grain taxes from him,
Though you have built houses of hewn stone,
Yet you shall not dwell in them;
You have planted pleasant vineyards,
But you shall not drink wine from them.

'Charity' by William
Bouguereau, 1865.

¹² For I know your manifold transgressions
And your mighty sins:
Afflicting the just and
taking bribes;

Diverting the poor *from*
justice at the gate.

¹³ Therefore the prudent
keep silent at that time,
For it *is* an evil time.

'The Little Beggar' by William
Adolphe Bouguereau, 1880.



14 Seek good and not evil,
That you may live;
So the LORD God of hosts
will be with you,
As you have spoken.



15 Hate evil, love good;
Establish justice in the gate.
It may be that the LORD God of hosts
Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

The background of the image is a dark, fiery landscape with bright orange and yellow flames. In the foreground, a person is shown from the chest up, their face buried in their hands in a gesture of intense grief or despair. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the person's hands and the flames, creating a somber and apocalyptic atmosphere.

¹⁶ Therefore the LORD God of hosts, the Lord, says this:

*“There shall be wailing in all streets,
And they shall say in all the highways,
‘Alas! Alas!’*

They shall call the farmer to mourning,
And skillful lamenters to wailing.

¹⁷ In all vineyards *there shall be wailing,*
For I will pass through you,”

Says the LORD.

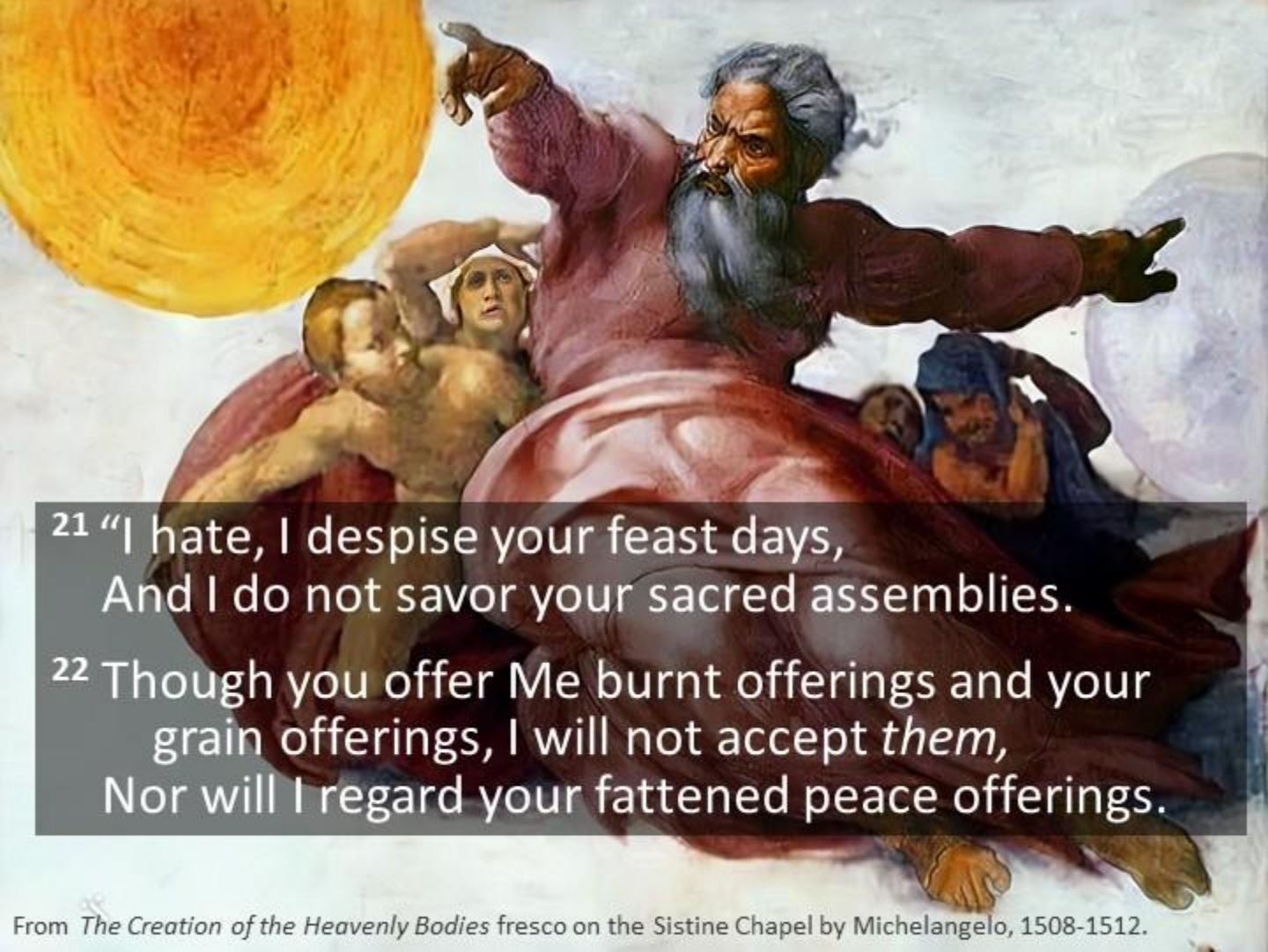
¹⁸ Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
For what good *is* the day of the LORD to you?
It *will be* darkness, and not light.



Woe to you who **desire**
the day of the LORD!

¹⁹ *It will be* as though a man fled from a lion,
And a bear met him!
Or *as though* he went into the house,
Leaned his hand on the wall,
And a serpent bit him!

²⁰ *Is not* the day of the LORD darkness, and not light?
Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?

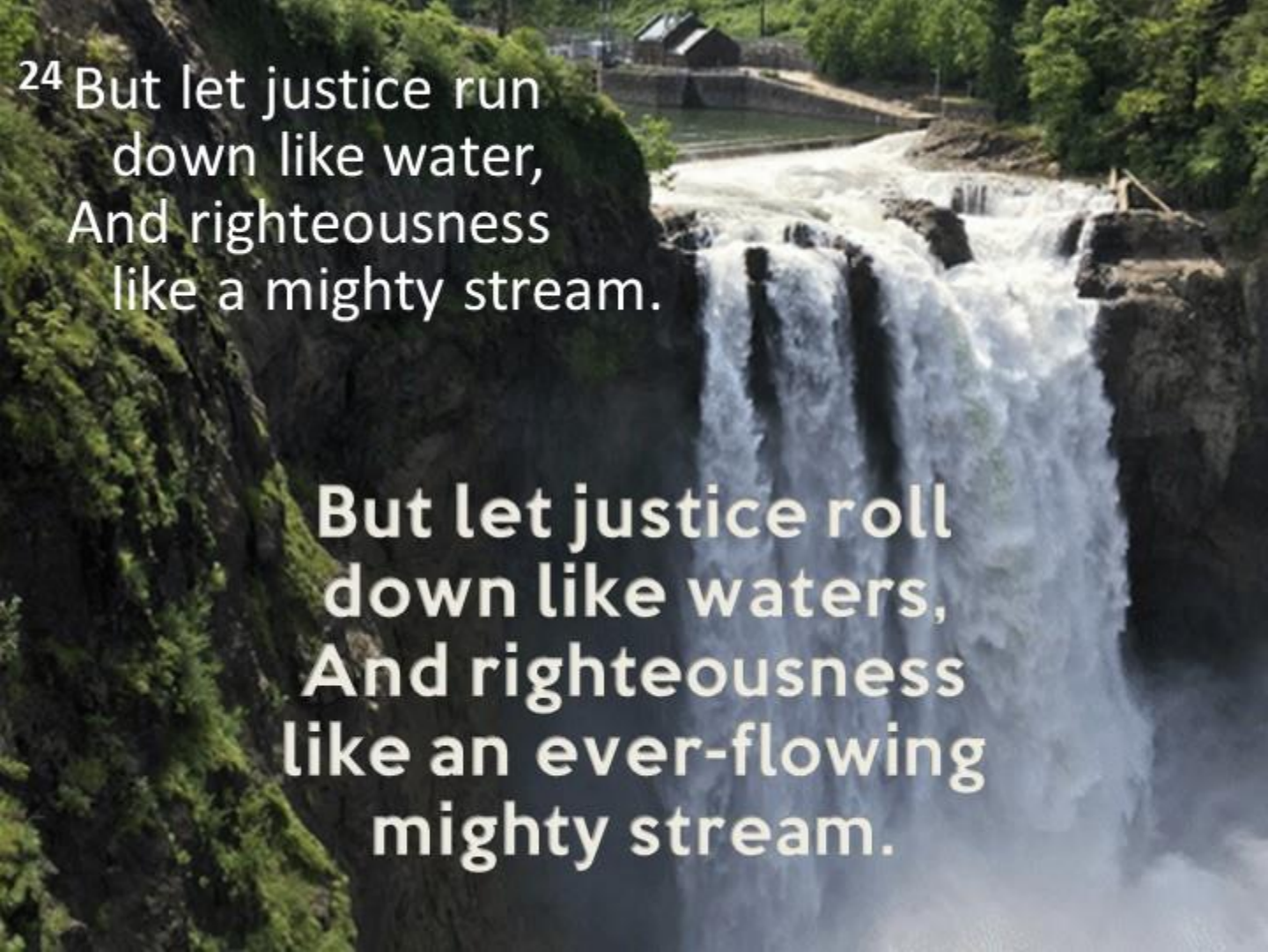


²¹ “I hate, I despise your feast days,
And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.

²² Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your
grain offerings, I will not accept *them*,
Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.

23 Take away from Me the
noise of your songs,
For I will not hear the
melody of your
stringed instruments





²⁴ But let justice run
down like water,
And righteousness
like a mighty stream.

**But let justice roll
down like waters,
And righteousness
like an ever-flowing
mighty stream.**

25 "Did you offer Me sacrifices and offerings
In the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel?"



²⁶ You also carried Sikkuth your king and Chiun,
your idols, the star of your gods,
Which you made for yourselves.



“What experience and history teach us is
this that nations and governments have
never learned anything from history.”

(Hegel)

²⁶ You also carried Sikkuth your king and Chiun,
your idols, the star of your gods,
Which you made for yourselves.



'Priapus' by Man Ray, 1967.

²⁶ You also carried Sikkuth (*tent*) your king (*of Moloch*) and Chiun (*pillar/statue of Priapus/Baal-Peor*), your idols, the star (*prince*) of your gods (*Saturn*), Which you made for yourselves.



You also carried the tents of Moloch and Chien, your idols, the princes of Saturn, which you made for yourselves.

27 Therefore I will send you into captivity beyond
Damascus,”
Says the LORD, whose name *is* the God of hosts.





WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 6

Sermon 3
Israel's Future
— CONTINUATION —

WARNINGS TO ZION AND SAMARIA



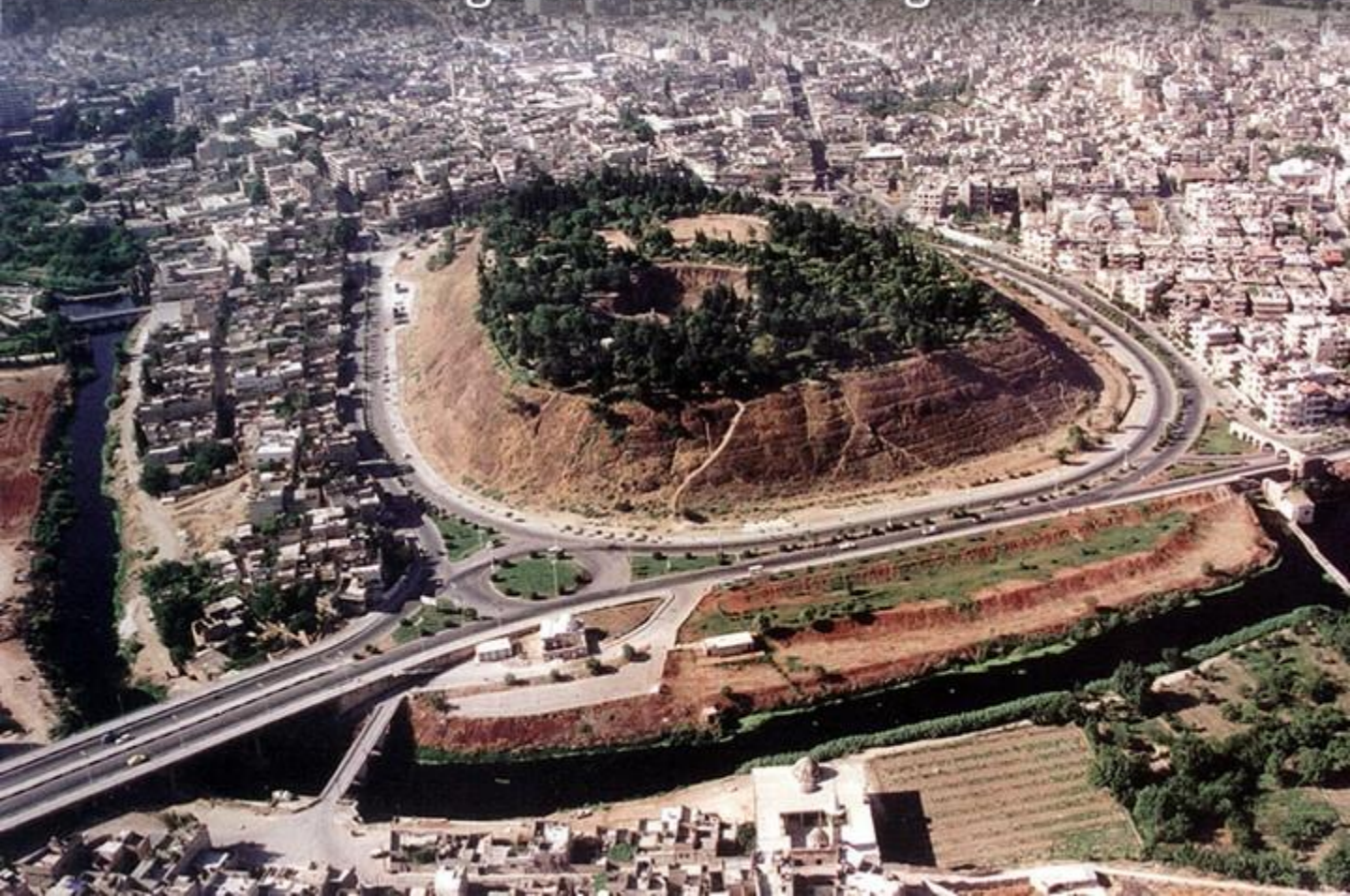
6 Woe to you *who are* at ease in Zion,
And trust in Mount Samaria,
Notable persons in the chief nation,
To whom the house of Israel comes!

'Woe unto You, Scribes and Pharisees' by James Tissot

² Go over to Calneh and see;



² Go over to Calneh and see;
And from there go to Hamath the great;



² Go over to Calneh and see;
And from there go to Hamath the great;
Then go down to Gath of the Philistines.



² Go over to Calneh and see;
And from there go to Hamath the great;
Then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your territory?



Hamath,

Syria.

Conquered by
Shalmaneser III in
Tiglath-pileser III in 730 BC
Sargon II in 720 BC



Calneh,

Mesopotamia.

Conquered by
Tiglath-pileser III in 738 BC



Gath,

Philistia.

Conquered by
Joshua c. 1266 BC
Hazeal of Aram in 830 BC
Uzziah of Judah c. 763 BC
Sargon II in 721 BC

- ³ *Woe to you who put far off the day of doom,
Who cause the seat of violence to come near;*
- ⁴ *Who lie on beds of ivory, Stretch out on your couches,
Eat lambs from the flock
And calves from the midst of the stall;*
- ⁵ *Who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments,
And invent for yourselves musical instruments like David;*

Woe to you
who **put off** the
day of doom!

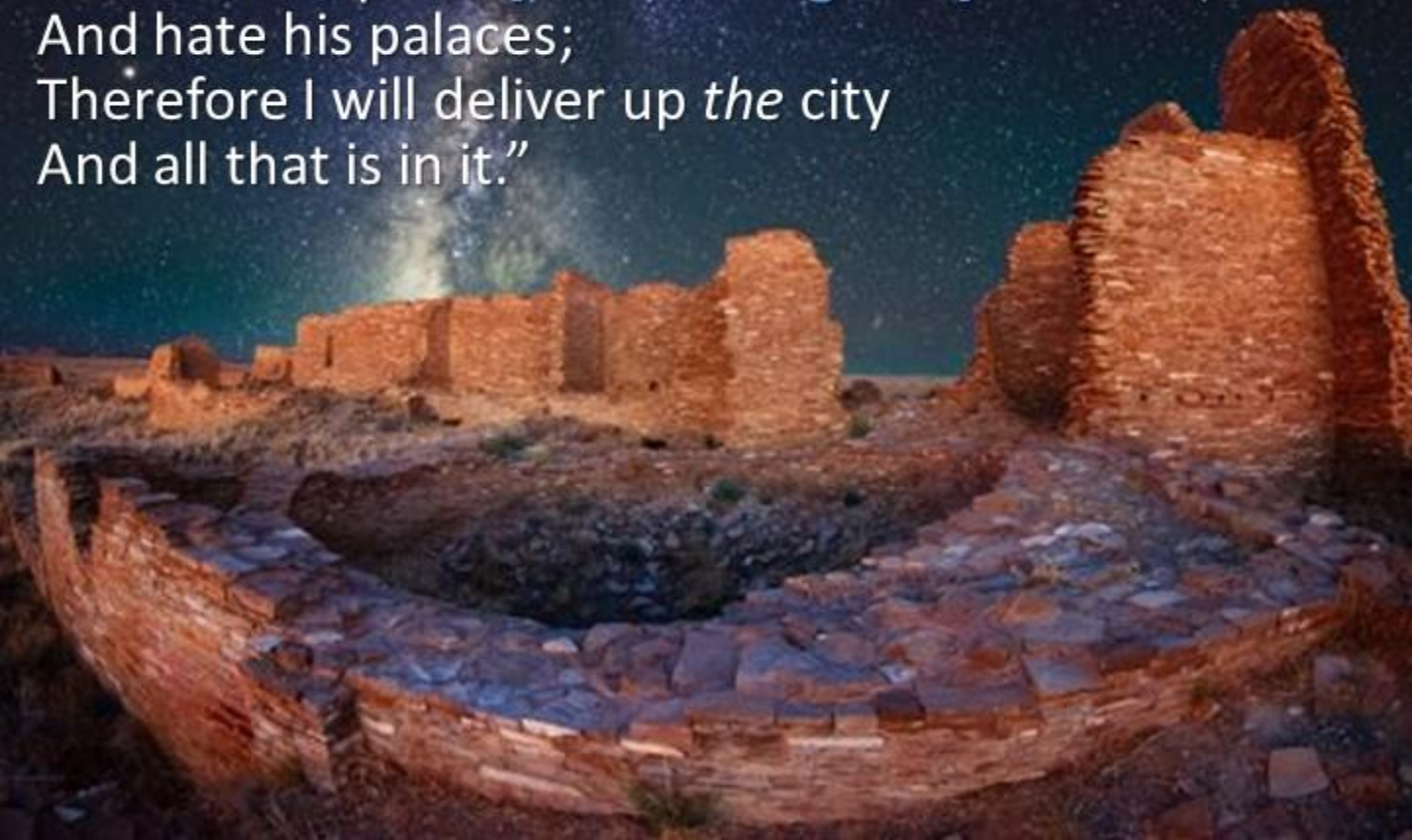


- ⁶ Who drink wine from bowls,
And anoint yourselves with the best ointments,
But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.
- ⁷ Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the
captives,
And those who recline at banquets shall be removed.



"A Roman Feast" by Roberto Bompiani c. 1887.

⁸ The Lord [Adonai] God [YHWH] has sworn by Himself,
The LORD [YHWH] God [Elohim] of hosts says:
“I abhor the pride [pomp, arrogance] of Jacob,
And hate his palaces;
Therefore I will deliver up *the* city
And all that is in it.”



⁹ Then it shall come to pass, that if ten men remain in one house, they shall die.

¹⁰ And when a relative [*“uncle; loved one”*] of the dead, with one who will burn *the bodies*, picks up the bodies [*“bones”*] to take them out of the house, he will say to one inside [*“beside”*] the house, *“Are there any more with you?”*

Then someone will say, *“None.”*

And he will say, *“Hold your tongue! For we dare not mention the name of the LORD.”*



11 For behold, the LORD gives a command:
He will break the great house into bits,
And the little house into pieces.

12 Do horses run on rocks?
Does *one* plow *there* with oxen?
Yet you have turned justice into gall,
And the fruit of righteousness into wormwood,



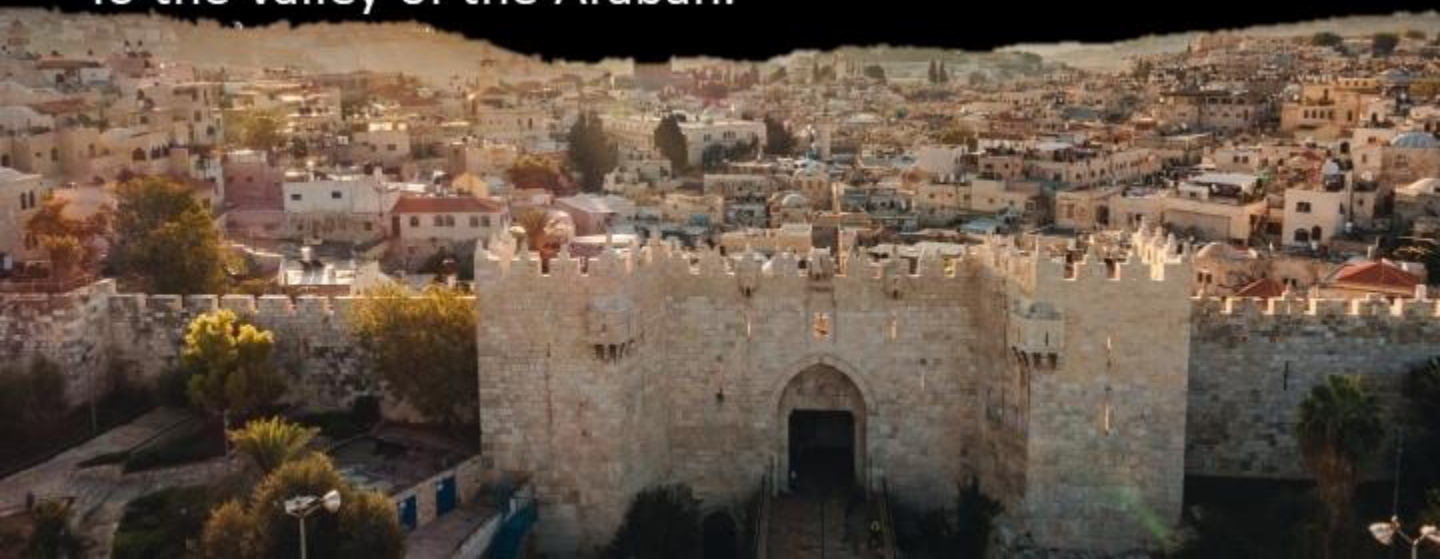
13 You who rejoice over Lo Debar [“nothing”],
Who say, “Have we not taken Karnaim [“horns”] for
ourselves

By our own strength?”

14 “But, behold, I will raise up a nation against you,
O house of Israel,”

Says the LORD God of hosts;

“And they will afflict you from the entrance of Hamath
To the Valley of the Arabah.”



Part 3

Amos

Look ahead and
see the End coming