

Be Patient

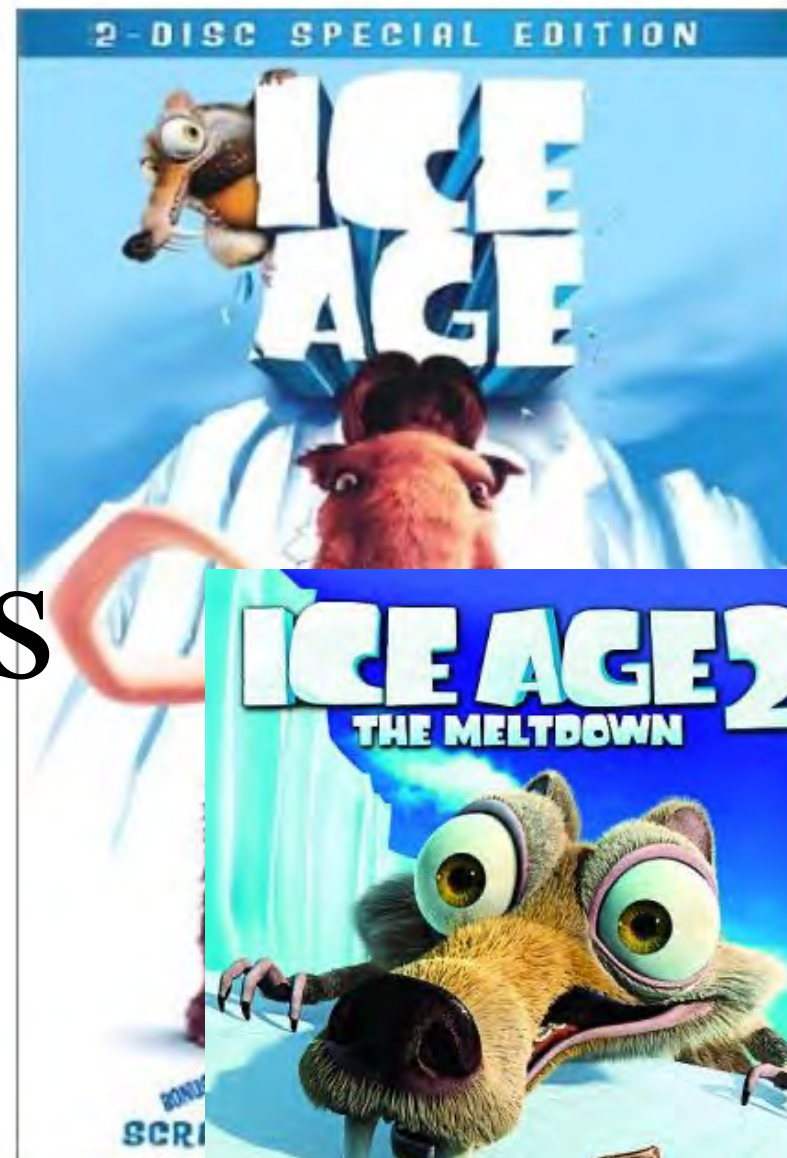
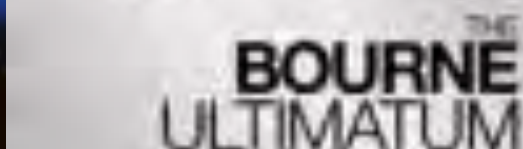
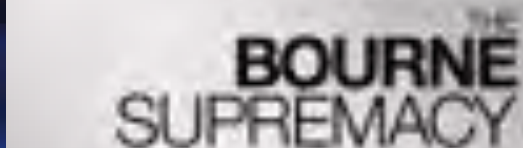
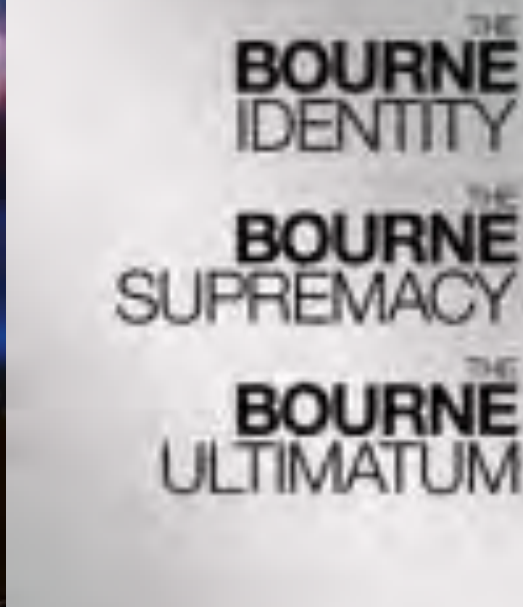
Nahum



Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
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Sequels



Major Messages, Minor Prophets



***God's Old
Message for
Our New Day***

Hosea

Loyal

Joel

Amos

Just

Obadiah

Humble

Be...

Jonah

Caring

Micah

Generous

Nahum

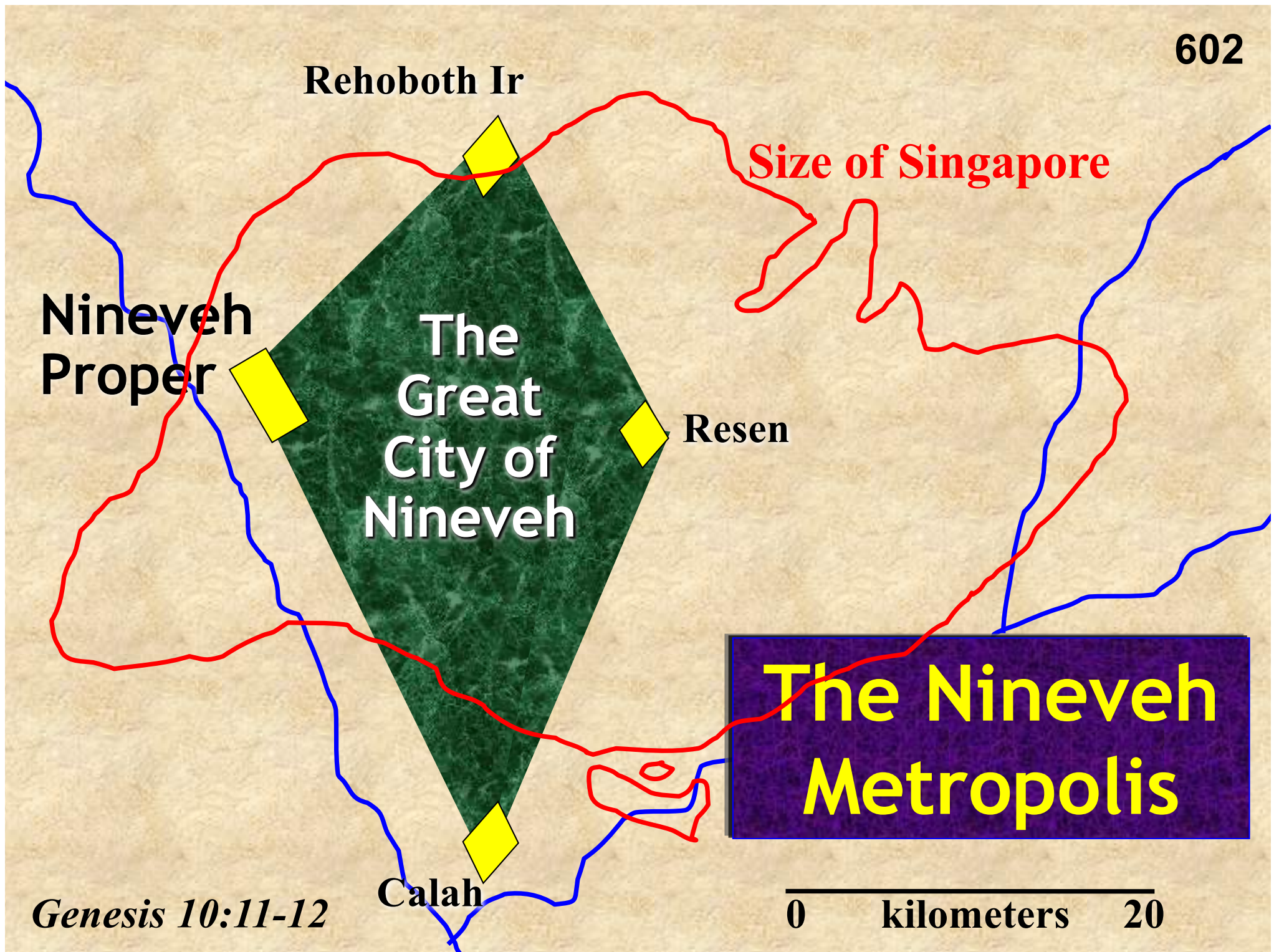
Habakkuk

Stephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

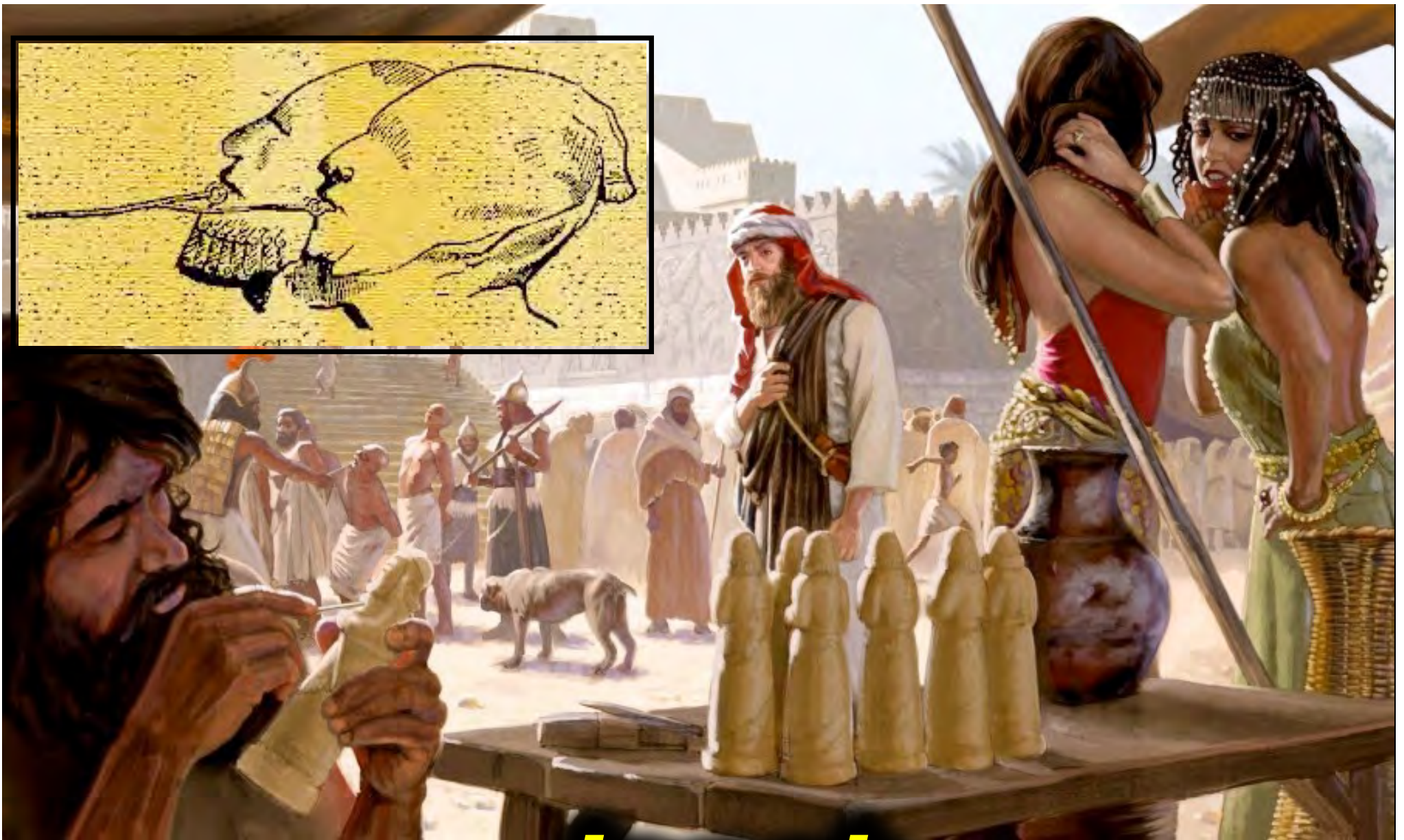
Malachi





Jonah

God's Reluctant Prophet



Jonah

Wicked Nineveh



Jonah

Amazing Repentance of Nineveh



**So what happened
afterwards?**

Jonah

Waiting for Judgment

A Prophetic Word for a Day of Military Might



Placing the Prophets

342

Key Dates



The Assyrian Threat





MINOR PROPHETS

The Assyrian Demise



MINOR PROPHETS

The Assyrian Demise

The Incredible Patience of God



What mistake do
we too often make
about God's
patience?





The Sequel to Jonah



Tiglath-Pileser

Assyria Strong

ASSYRIA

100 Years

Later...

Jonah 760

Israel's Fall 722

Nahum 660

Nineveh's Fall 612

0011

900

850

800

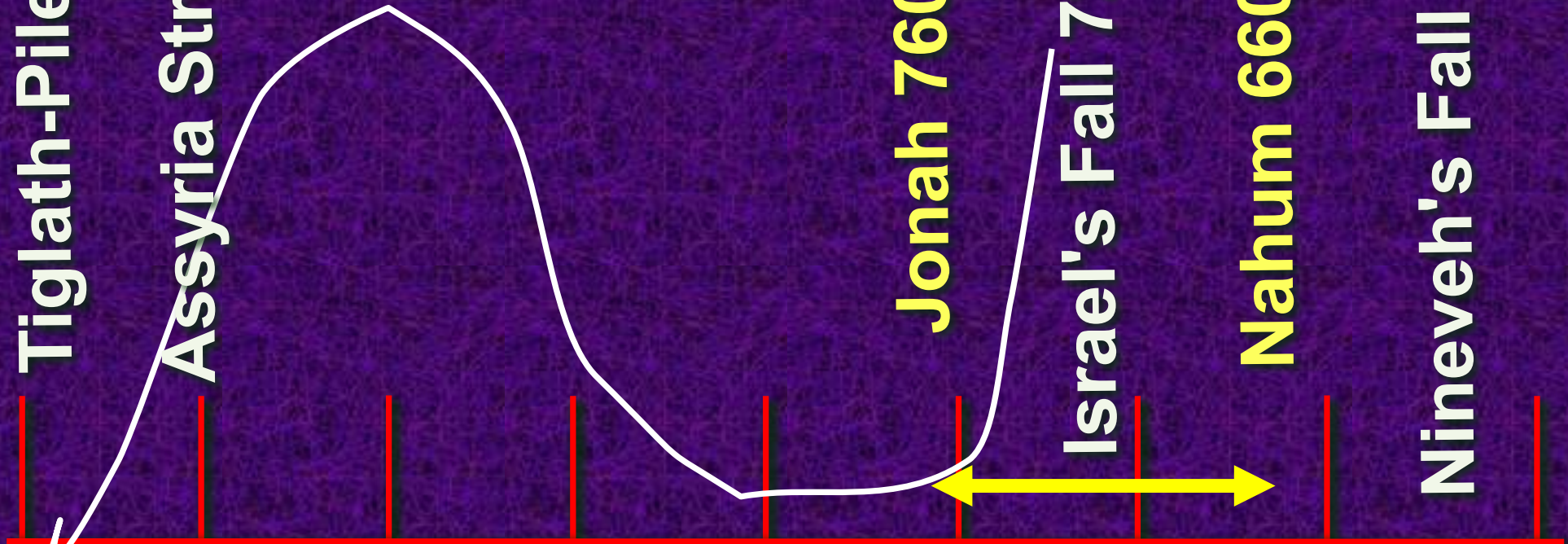
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700

650

600

Nineveh's
Relapse





Nineveh



Nahum

Today's Study:

I. Nineveh's Future

II. Our Future



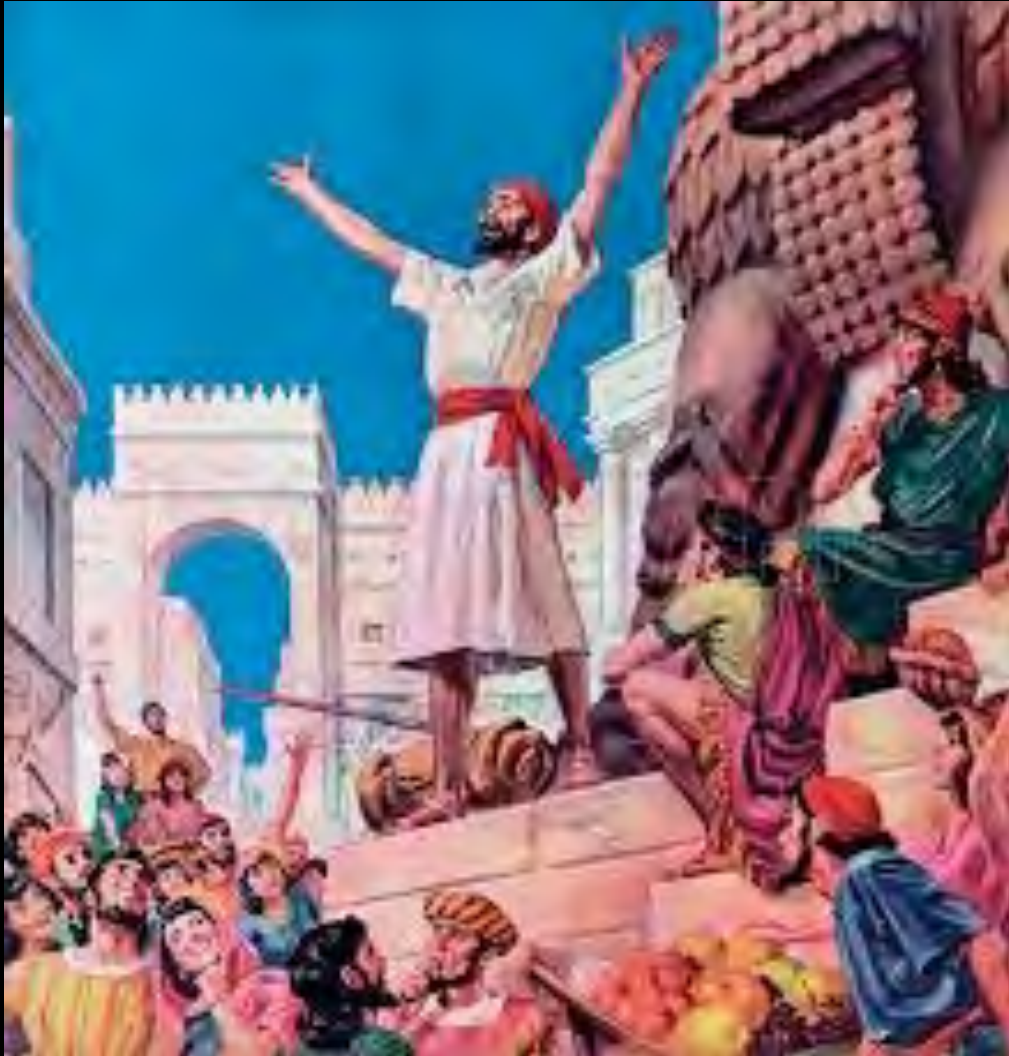
I. God would **destroy** Nineveh
but save Judah (Chapters 1–3).



Nahum

Nahum 1

Nahum 1:1 (NLT)



"This message concerning Nineveh came as a vision to Nahum, who lived in Elkosh"

God is Just: Nahum 1:2-3

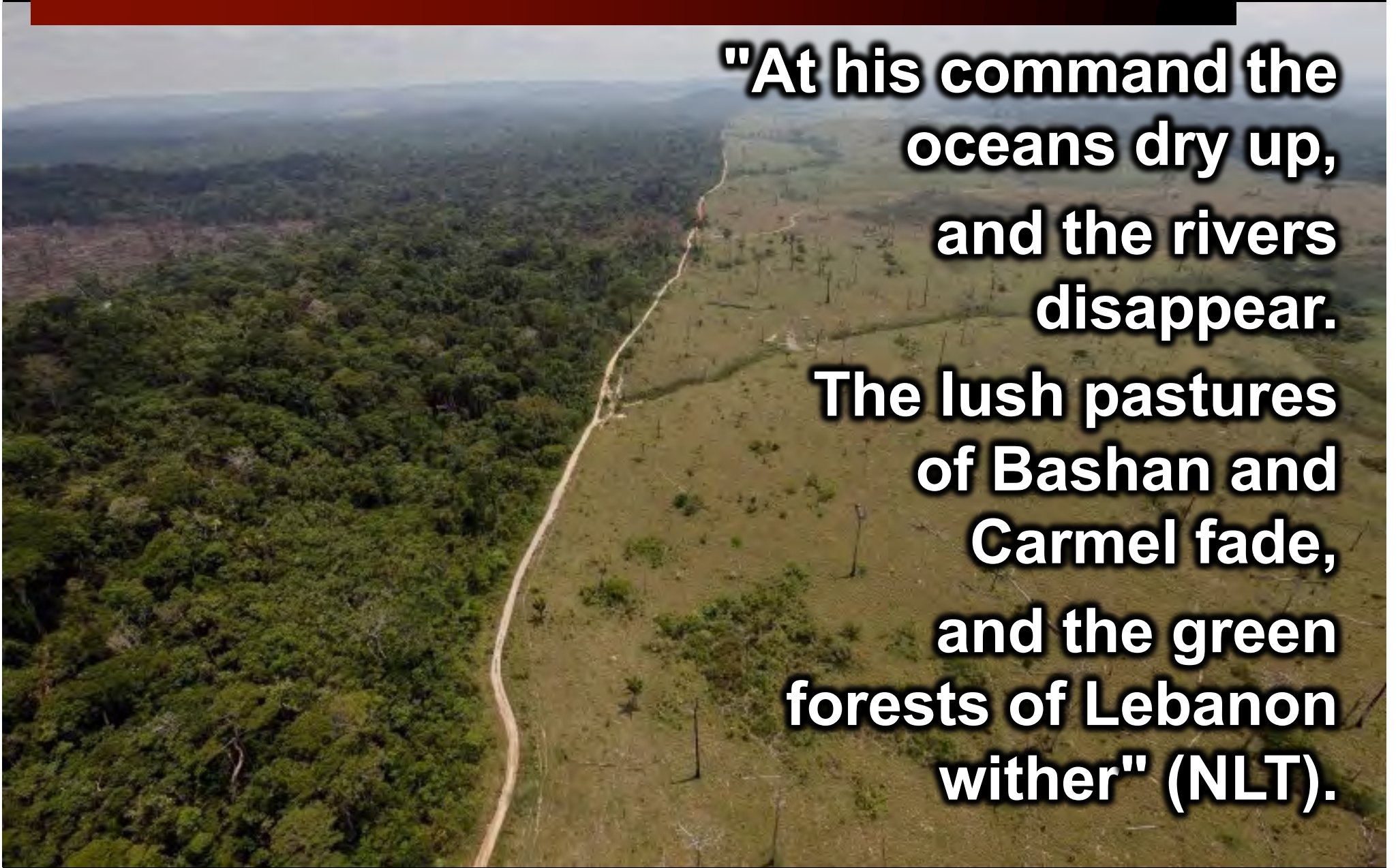
"The LORD is a jealous God, filled with vengeance and rage. He takes revenge on all who oppose him and continues to rage against his enemies!

**³The LORD is slow to get angry, but his power is great, and he never lets the guilty go unpunished. He displays his power in the whirlwind and the storm. The billowing clouds are the dust beneath his feet"
(NLT).**

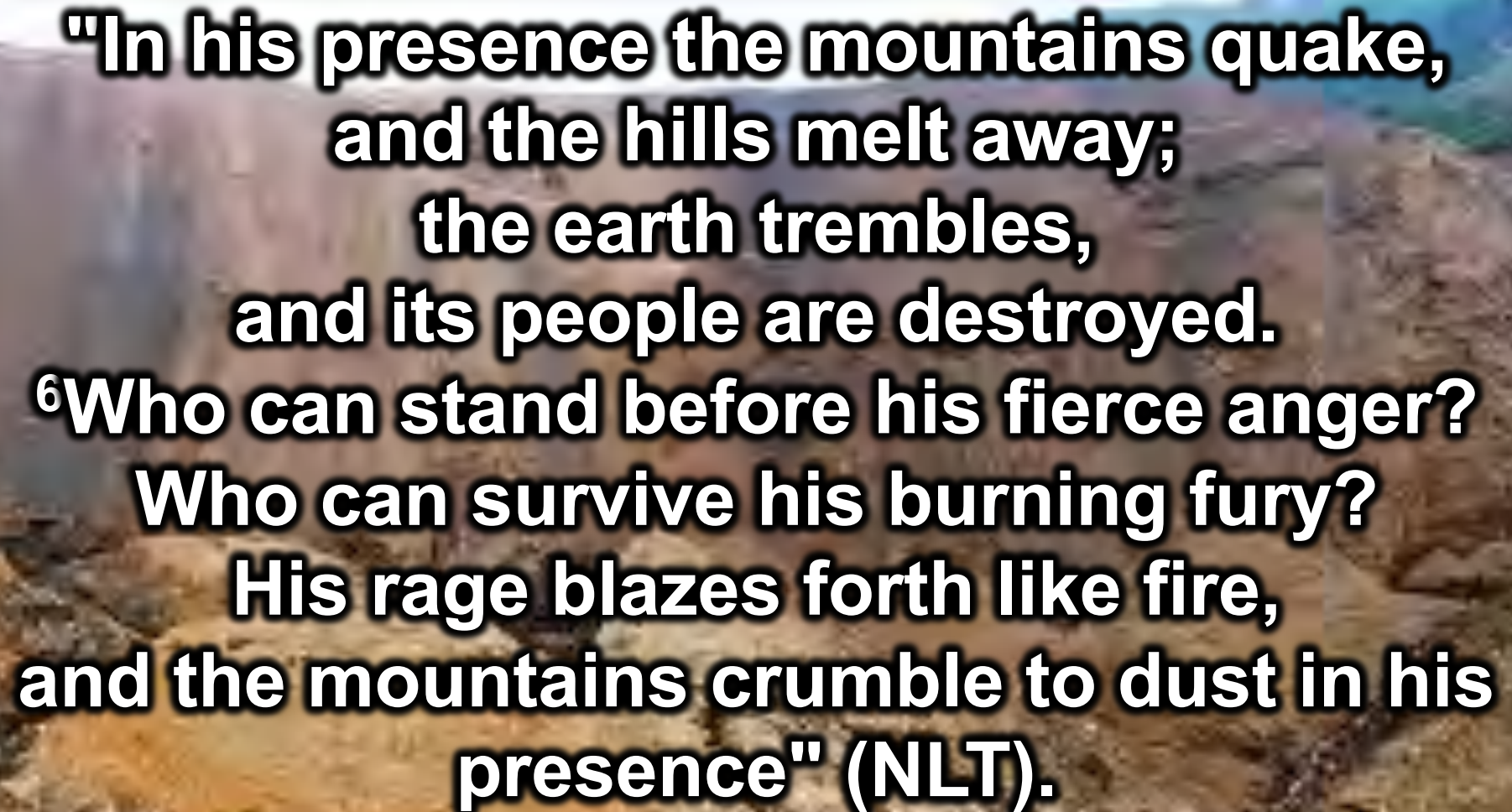
God is All Powerful: Nahum 1:4

**"At his command the
oceans dry up,
and the rivers
disappear.**

**The lush pastures
of Bashan and
Carmel fade,
and the green
forests of Lebanon
wither" (NLT).**



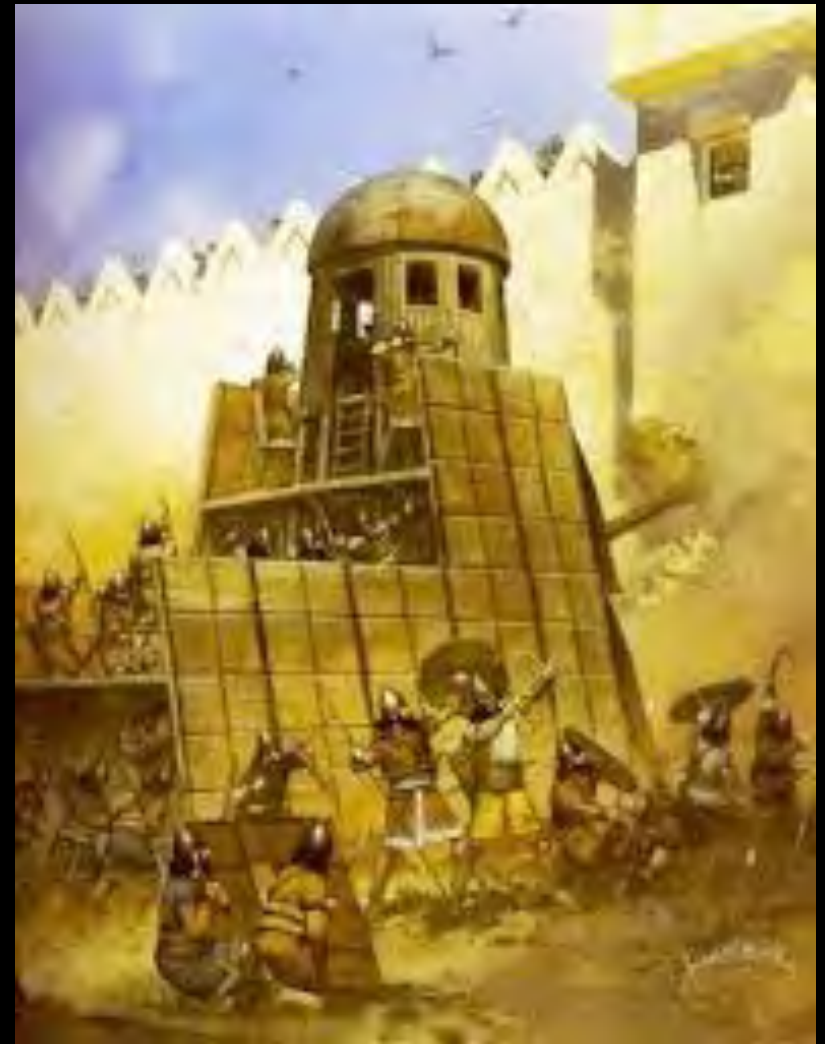
God is All Powerful: Nahum 1:5-6



**"In his presence the mountains quake,
and the hills melt away;
the earth trembles,
and its people are destroyed.
⁶Who can stand before his fierce anger?
Who can survive his burning fury?
His rage blazes forth like fire,
and the mountains crumble to dust in his
presence" (NLT).**

God is Good: Nahum 1:7

"The LORD is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him" (NLT).



HäT

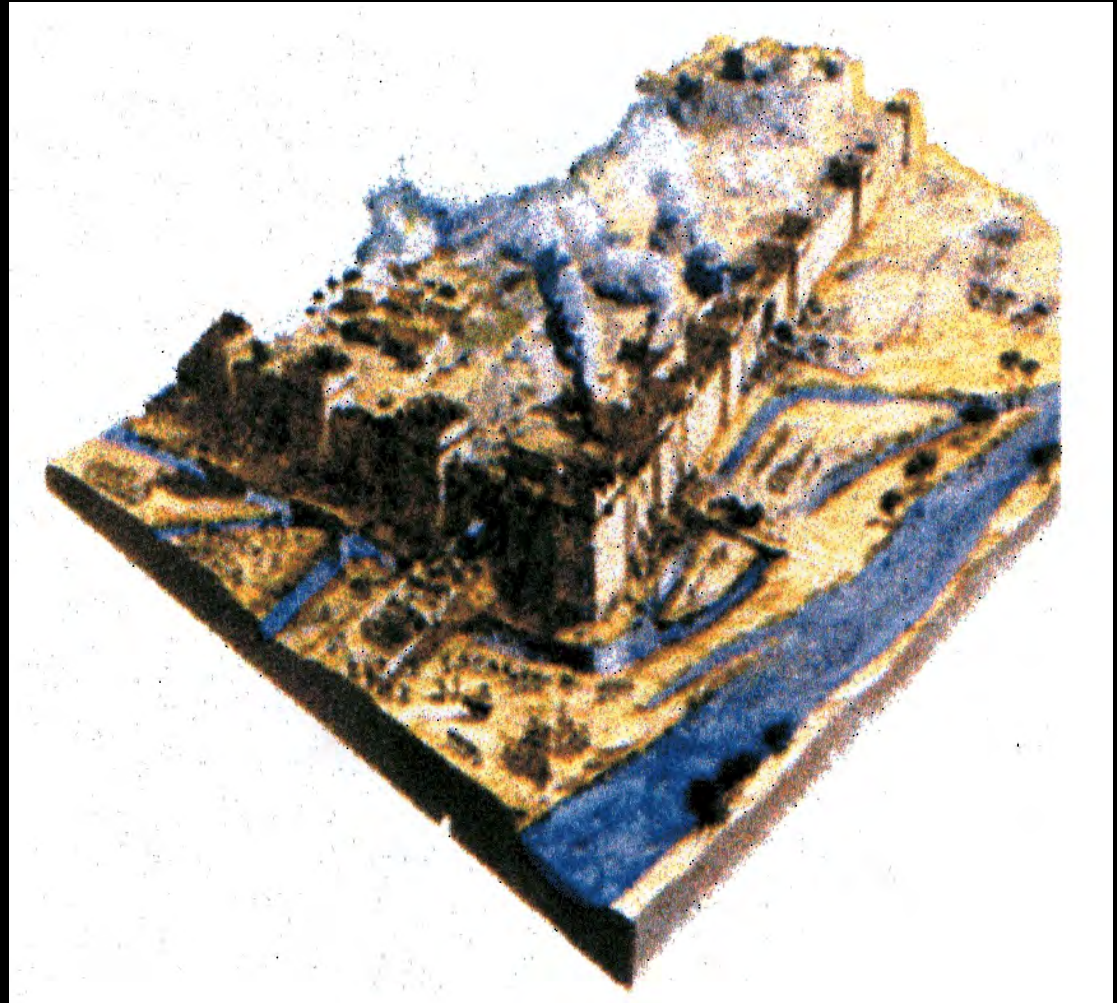


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3 H
1/72 SCALE

Assyrian Chariots

God is Good: Nahum 1:8

"But he will sweep away his enemies in an overwhelming flood. He will pursue his foes into the darkness of night" (NLT).



"Flood"

Nahum



Nahum 1:8

Walk Through The Bible ©1989

**"Why are you scheming against the LORD?
He will destroy you with one blow; he won't
need to strike twice!**

**¹⁰His enemies, tangled like thornbushes and
stagging like drunks, will be burned up like
dry stubble in a field"
(Nahum 1:9-10 NLT).**



Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies	Historical Fulfillments
"From you, O Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the LORD and counsels wickedness..." (1:11-12)	Sennacherib made arrogant threats in 701 BC against Judah and Jerusalem (cf. 2 Kings 18–19).
"Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away" (1:13)	Judah's service to Assyria ended at Nineveh's demise (2 Kings 18:14; 2 Chron. 33:11).

Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies

**12. Nineveh's
destruction would be
final (1:9,14)**

Historical Fulfillments

**12. Many cities of the
ancient Near East were
rebuilt after being destroyed
(e.g., Samaria, Jerusalem,
Babylon) but not Nineveh.**

Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies

11. Nineveh's images and idols would be destroyed (1:14).

Historical Fulfillments

11. The statue of the goddess Ishtar lay headless in the debris of Nineveh's ruins

(“The British Museum Excavations on the Temple of Ishtar at Nineveh, 1930-1,” *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology* 19, pp. 55-56).

**"Look! A messenger is coming over the
mountains with good news!
He is bringing a message of peace.
Celebrate your festivals, O people of Judah,
and fulfill all your vows,
for your wicked enemies will never invade
your land again.
They will be completely destroyed!"
(Nahum 1:15 NLT).**



Theology of Nahum

God as Sovereign King



God rules the universe. He controls both nature and nations, judging them and using them as instruments of judgment by His will. Not even mighty Assyria, earth's superpower in Nahum's day, could withstand the LORD's judgment. The LORD would destroy Nineveh's idols (1:14), showing His sovereignty over the Assyrian gods.

Theology of Nahum

God as Warrior

THE WARRIOR KING

The LORD is Divine Warrior *par excellence*. The book begins with a terrifying portrayal of the angry, avenging warrior in a storm frightening all of nature with His battle cry (1:2-6). In these verses, Nahum used many of the same words used by Assyrian kings to describe their prowess and exploits in battle. This emphasized that the LORD, not Assyria's king, was the most powerful warrior. The "LORD Almighty," or "LORD of Armies," personally announced He would defeat Nineveh (2:13; 3:5).

Nineveh's Destruction

Certain				Detailed		Justified		
Chapter 1				Chapter 2		Chapter 3		
Destruction Decreed				Destruction Described		Destruction Deserved		
Verdict of Vengeance				Vision of Vengeance		Vindication of Vengeance		
What God Will Do				How God Will Do It		Why God Will Do It		
God's Anger				God's Actions		God's Accusations		
God's Predictions for Judah				God's Power for Judah		God's Justice for Judah		
Title 1:1	God's Traits 1:2-8	Plotting Against God 1:9-11	Destruction is Judah's Deliverance 1:12-15	Battling vs. Judah's Splendor 2:1-2	Destruction & Despoiling 2:3-13	Destruction for Cruelty 3:1-7	Drunk When Destroyed 3:8-11	Burned With Fire 3:12-19
In Judah Against Assyria's Capital, Nineveh								
c. 660 BC								

Nahum 2



"Your enemy is coming to crush you, Nineveh. Man the ramparts! Watch the roads! Prepare your defenses! Call out your forces! ²Even though the destroyer has destroyed Judah, the LORD will restore its honor. Israel's vine has been stripped of branches, but he will restore its splendor" (Nahum 2:1-2 NLT).

**"Shields flash red in the
sunlight! See the scarlet
uniforms of the valiant troops!
Watch as their glittering chariots
move into position, with a forest
of spears waving above them.**

**⁴The chariots race recklessly
along the streets and rush wildly
through the squares. They flash
like firelight and move as swiftly
as lightning"**

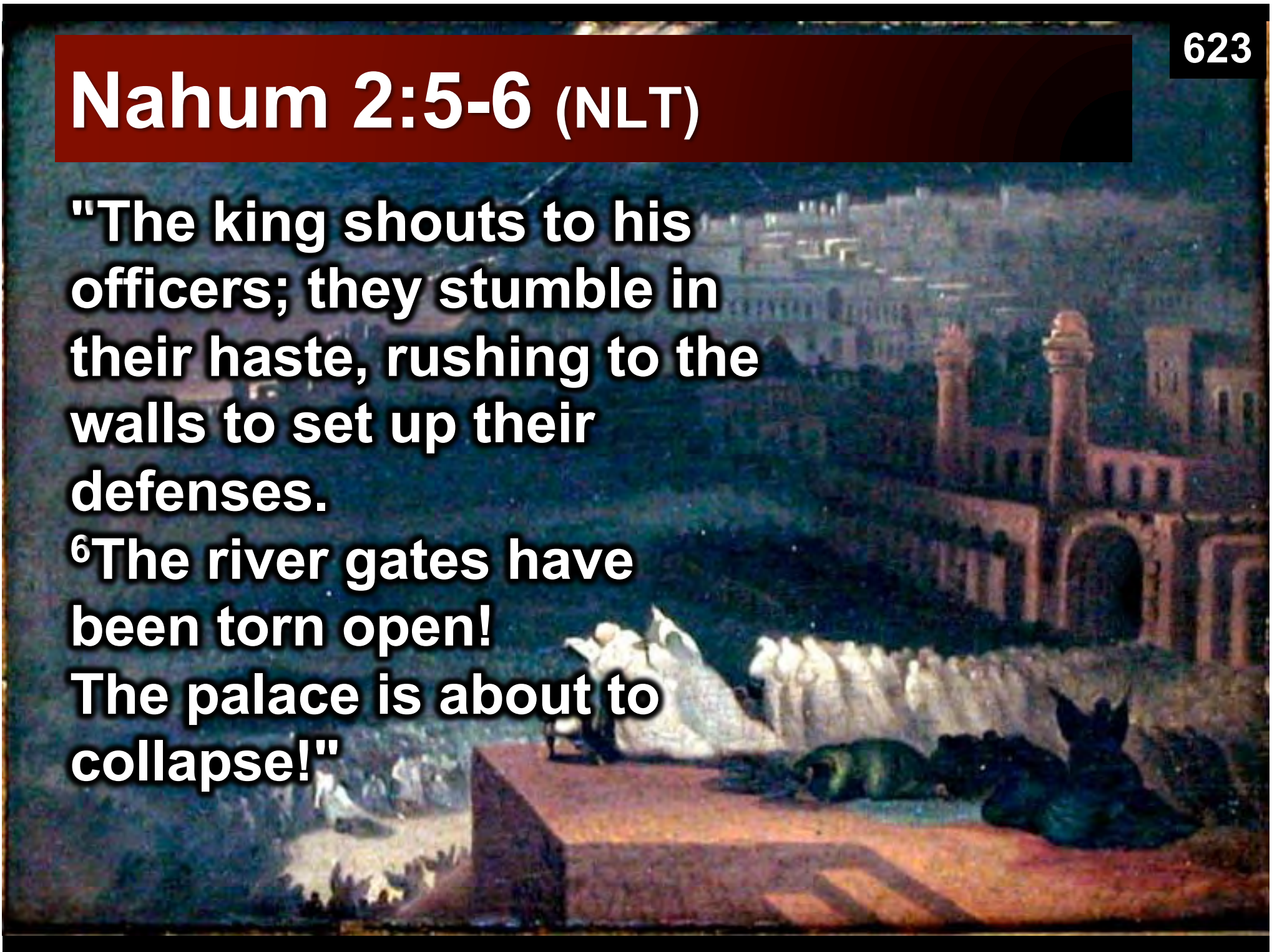
(Nahum 2:3-4 NLT).



Nahum 2:5-6 (NLT)

"The king shouts to his officers; they stumble in their haste, rushing to the walls to set up their defenses.

**⁶The river gates have been torn open!
The palace is about to collapse!"**



Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies	Historical Fulfillments
<p>9. When Nineveh would be captured its people would try to escape (2:8):</p> <p>"Nineveh is like a leaking water reservoir! The people are slipping away.</p> <p>'Stop, stop!' someone shouts, but no one even looks back" (NLT).</p>	<p>9. "Sardanapalus [another name for King Sin-shar-ishkun] sent away his three sons and two daughters with much treasure into Paphlagonia, to the governor of Kattos, the most loyal of his subjects"</p> <p>(Diodorus, <i>Bibliotheca Historica</i> 2.26.8).</p>

Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies

5. Nineveh would be destroyed by a **flood** (1:8; 2:6, 8)

Historical Fulfillments

5. Nineveh weakened by an unusually heavy & long **flood of the Tigris**. This carried away a huge section of the rampart around the city, allowing the enemy in. Terrifying thunder (presumably with a storm) accompanied the capture (Diodorus, *Bibliotheca Historica* 2.26.9; 2.27.13; Xenophon, *Anabasis* 3.4.12).

Nineveh's Water System Destroyed

*"And He will stretch out His hand against the north
and destroy Assyria, and He will make Nineveh a
desolation, parched like the wilderness"
(Zeph. 2:13)*

- The prophesied destruction of Nineveh (Zeph. 2:13), the capital of Assyria in what is now Iraq, fell in 612 BC into the hands of the neighboring Babylonians, with the whole empire taken by 605 BC. The prediction that God would leave Nineveh "dry as a desert" is remarkable in view of the fame of the city's great irrigation system.

Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies

8. Plundering and pillaging would accompany the overthrow of the city (2:9-10).

Historical Fulfillments

8. According to the Babylonian Chronicle, “Great quantities of spoil from the city, beyond counting, they carried off. The city [they turned] into a mound and ruin heap”

(Luckenbill, *Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia*, 2:420).

Chiastic Structure of Nahum

- a Yahweh, like a terrible force of nature, avenges his enemies (1:2-10)
- b Yahweh will destroy Nineveh but restore Judah (1:11-15)
- c Vivid description of the attack upon Nineveh (2:1-10)
- d CENTER: Lament over fall of Nineveh (2:11-13)**
- c' Vivid description of the looting of Nineveh (3:1-7)
- b' Nineveh will be destroyed: it is vulnerable, like Thebes (3:8-13)
- a' Nineveh, likened to a force of nature, will be destroyed (3:14-19)

Adapted from David A. Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis – Malachi* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999)

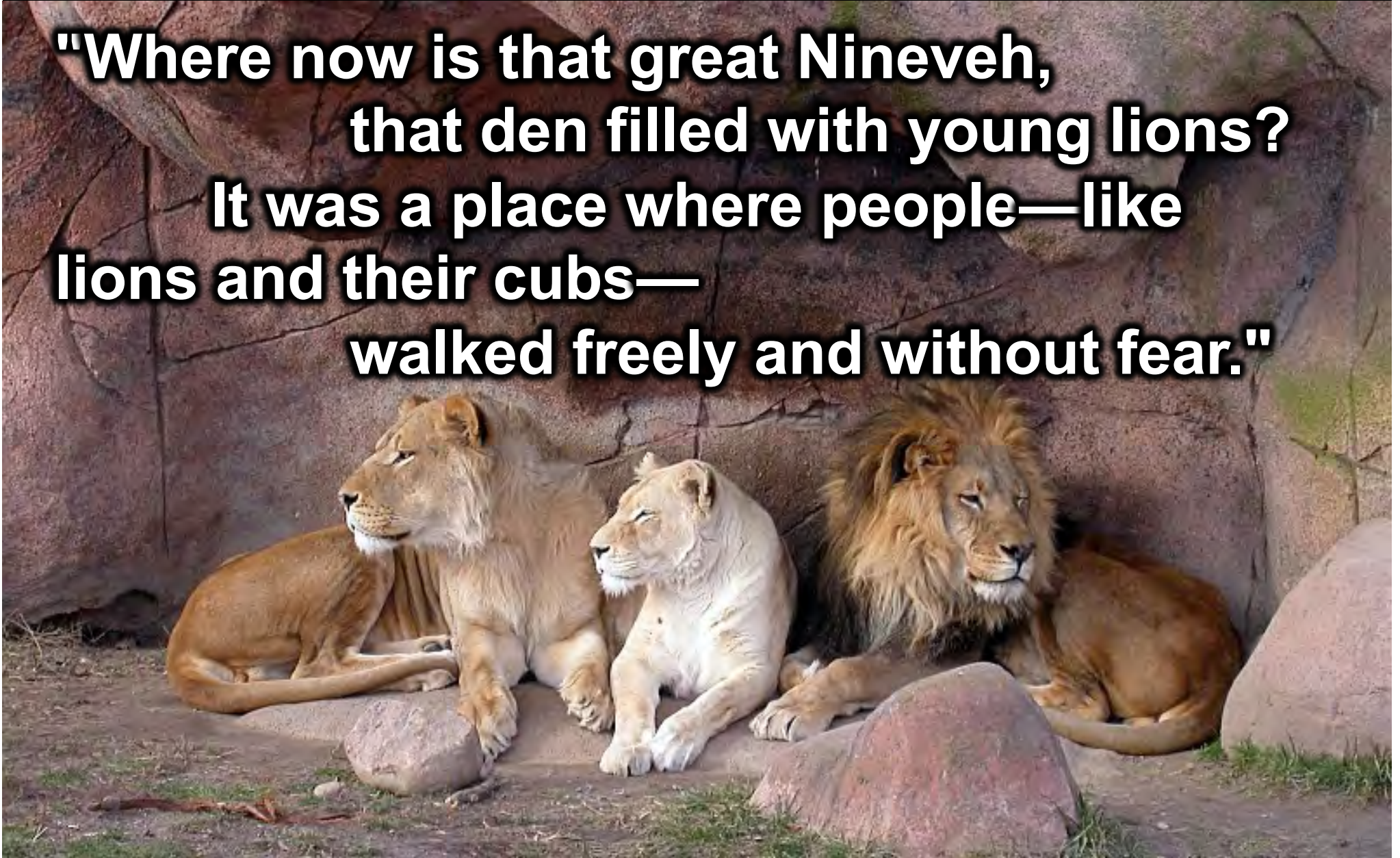
Dorsey reveals that the placement of the eulogy over the "lion's den" in the book's highlighted central position reinforces the sense of certainty of Nineveh's fall.

Lion Imagery (2:11-13)



Nahum 2:11-13 (NLT)

**"Where now is that great Nineveh,
that den filled with young lions?
It was a place where people—like
lions and their cubs—
walked freely and without fear."**



Nahum 2:12 (NLT)

**"The lion tore up meat for his cubs
and strangled prey for his mate.
He filled his den with prey,
his caverns with his plunder."**



"I am your enemy!"

says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

'Your chariots will soon go up in smoke.

Your young men will be killed in battle.

**Never again will you plunder
conquered nations.**

**The voices of your proud messengers
will be heard no more'" (2:13).**



Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies	Historical Fulfillments
6. Nineveh would be destroyed by fire (1:10; 2:13; 3:15).	6. Archaeological excavations at Nineveh have revealed charred wood, charcoal, and ashes. "... about 2 inches thick..." (R. Campbell Thomson and R. W. Hutchinson, <i>A Century of Exploration at Nineveh</i> . London: Luzac, pp. 45, 77).

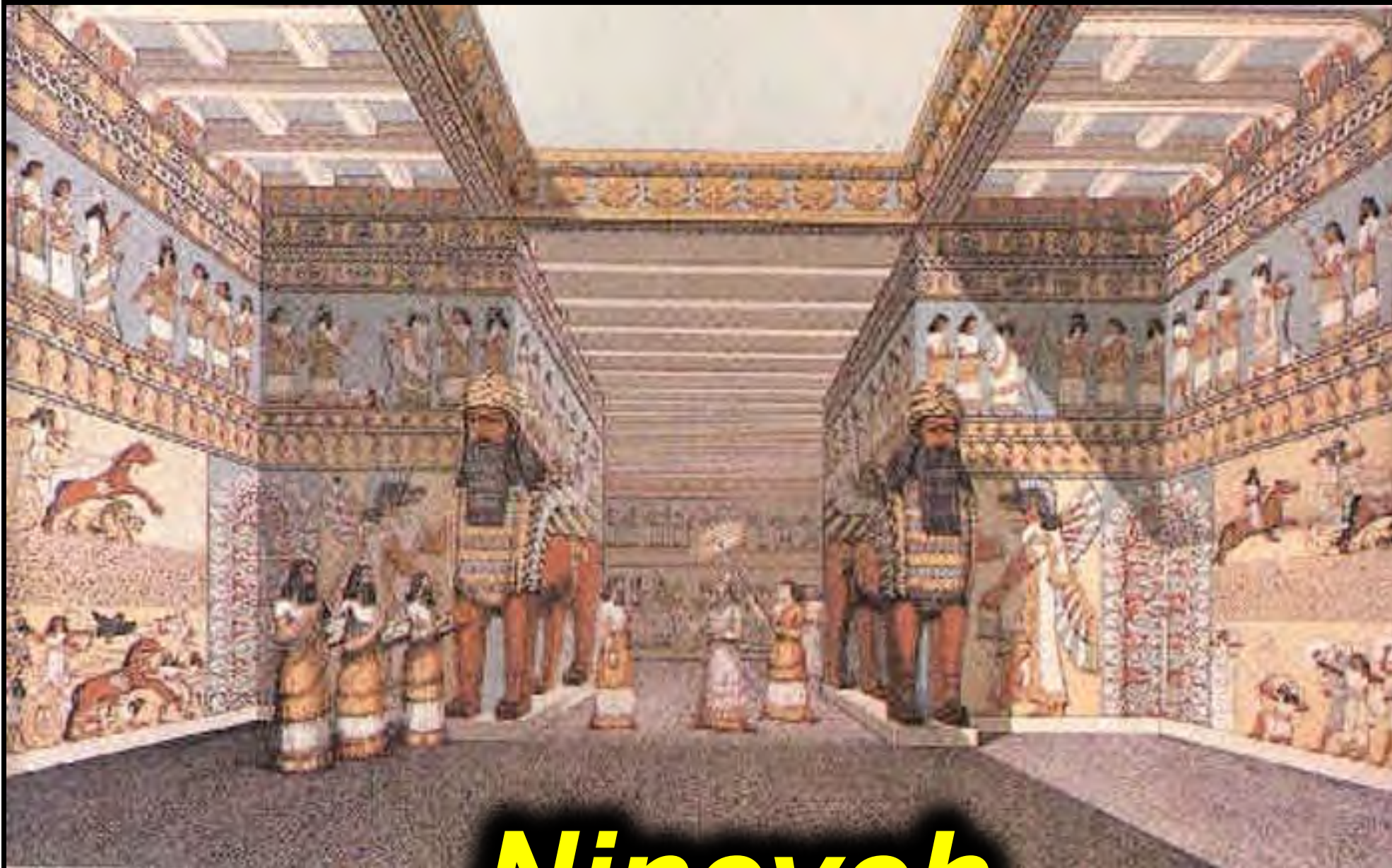
Nahum 3

Nahum 3:1 (NLT)

**"What sorrow awaits
Nineveh, the city of
murder and lies!**

**She is crammed with
wealth and is never
without victims."**





Nineveh

Interior of Sennacherib's Palace



**"Hear the crack of whips,
the rumble of wheels!
Horses' hooves pound,
and chariots clatter wildly.
³See the flashing swords and
glittering spears
as the charioteers charge past!
There are countless casualties,
heaps of bodies—so many
bodies that people stumble
over them"
(Nahum 3:2-3 NLT).**

Llamsu Guarded Nineveh's Gates



British Museum

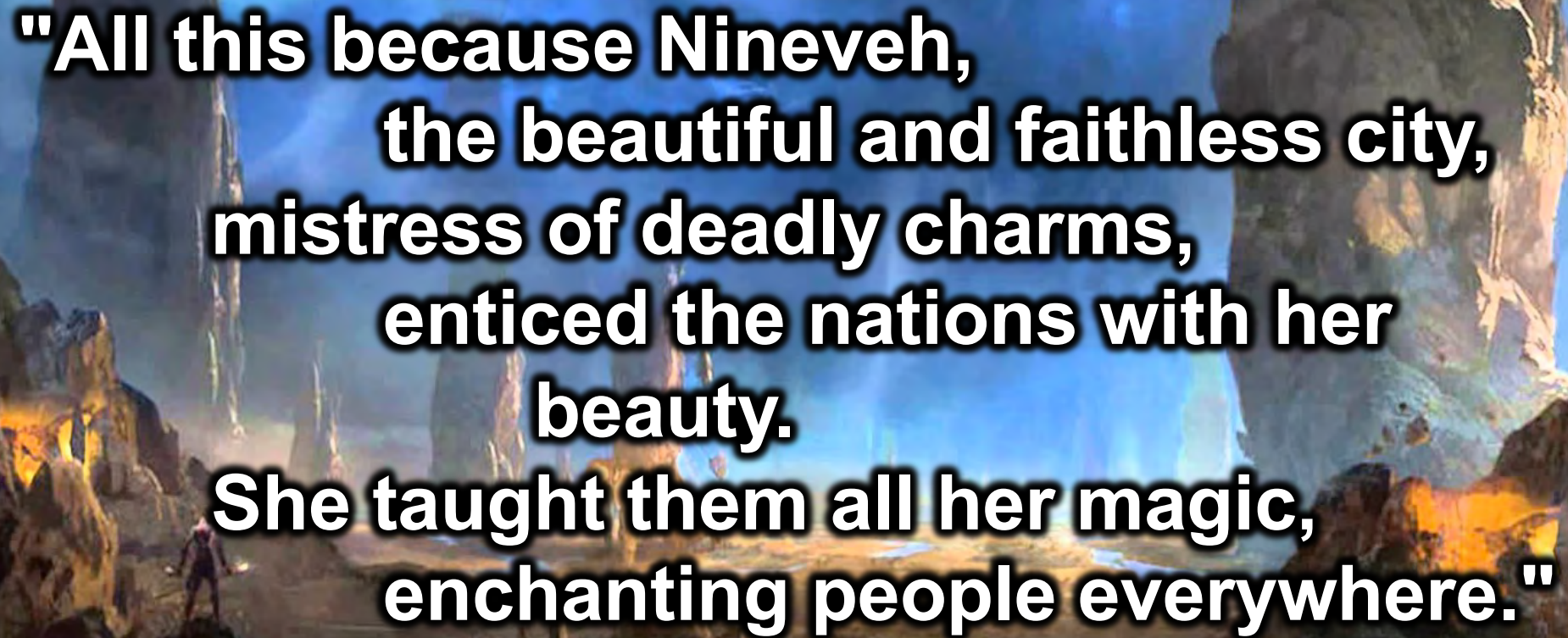
Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies	Historical Fulfillments
<p>7. The city's capture would be attended by a great massacre of people (3:3).</p>	<p>7. "In two battles fought on the plain before the city the rebels defeated the Assyrians... So great was the multitude of the slain that the flowing stream, mingled with their blood, changed its color for a considerable distance"</p> <p>(Diodorus, <i>Bibliotheca Historica</i> 2.26.6-7).</p>

Nahum 3:4 (NLT)

**"All this because Nineveh,
the beautiful and faithless city,
mistress of deadly charms,
enticed the nations with her
beauty.
She taught them all her magic,
enchancing people everywhere."**



Assyrian Chariots Humbled (3:5-7)



Ishtar Gate of the Conquering Babylonians



The Benefit of Egyptian Chronology



Fall of Thebes (663 BC)



Nahum 3:8-10

Fall of Thebes (663 BC)



Fall of Thebes (663 BC)





Thebes

Conquered again by Alexander in 335 BC

Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies

Historical Fulfillments

1. The Assyrian fortresses surrounding the city would be easily captured (3:12)

1. According to the Babylonian Chronicle the fortified towns in Nineveh's environs begin to fall in 614 BC, including Tabris, present-day Sharis-Khan, a few miles northwest of Nineveh.

Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies	Historical Fulfillments
2. The besieged Ninevites would prepare bricks and mortar for emergency defense walls (3:12).	2. A. T. Olmstead reported: “To the south of the gate, the moat is still filled with fragments of stone and of mud bricks from the walls, heaped up when they were breached” (<i>History of Assyria</i>, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951, p. 637).



Nineveh

Destroyed by Flood (3:14) & Fire (3:12)

Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies	Historical Fulfillments
3. The city gates would be destroyed (3:13).	3. Olmstead noted: “The main attack was directed from the northwest and the brunt fell upon the Hatami gate at this corner... Within the gates are traces of the counter wall raised by the inhabitants in their last extremity” <i>(History of Assyria, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951, p. 637).</i>

Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies

4. In the final hours of the attack the Ninevites would be **drunk** (1:10; 3:11)

Historical Fulfillments

4. After the Assyrians had repulsed the enemy's attack, they got **drunk** and feasted, and as a result were surprised by the Medes and the city was taken.

(Diodorus, *Bibliotheca Historica* 2.26.4).

Nahum's Prophecies Happened

625

Nahum's Prophecies

**10. The Ninevites
officers would weaken
and flee (3:17).**

Historical Fulfillments

**10. The Babylonian
Chronicle states that “[the
army] of Assyria deserted
[lit., ran away before] the
king”**

**(Luckenbill, *Ancient
Records of Assyria and
Babylonia*, 2:420).**

Nahum 3:19 Final Verse (NLT)

Nineveh. Nebi Yunus. Head of a lamassu at the Iraqi excavation of the entrance to a late Assyrian building east of the mosque. (photo May 1990)

**"There is no healing for your wound;
your injury is fatal.
All who hear of your destruction will clap
their hands for joy.**

**Where can anyone be found who has not
suffered from your continual cruelty?"**



II. God will **judge** the wicked
and deliver the righteous in
the future too.

Be patient.

Be patient.



And more patient.



Some Nineveh Walls Remained



An aerial satellite image of Mosul, Iraq, showing the Tigris River winding through the city. The river is a prominent dark feature, curving from the bottom center towards the right. The surrounding area is densely packed with buildings and infrastructure, typical of a large urban center. The image is taken from a high angle, providing a clear view of the city's layout and the river's path.

Modern Map

**Mosul, Iraq, surrounds
Nineveh's ancient ruins**

Google Earth



Nineveh

ISIS captured Modern-Day Mosul



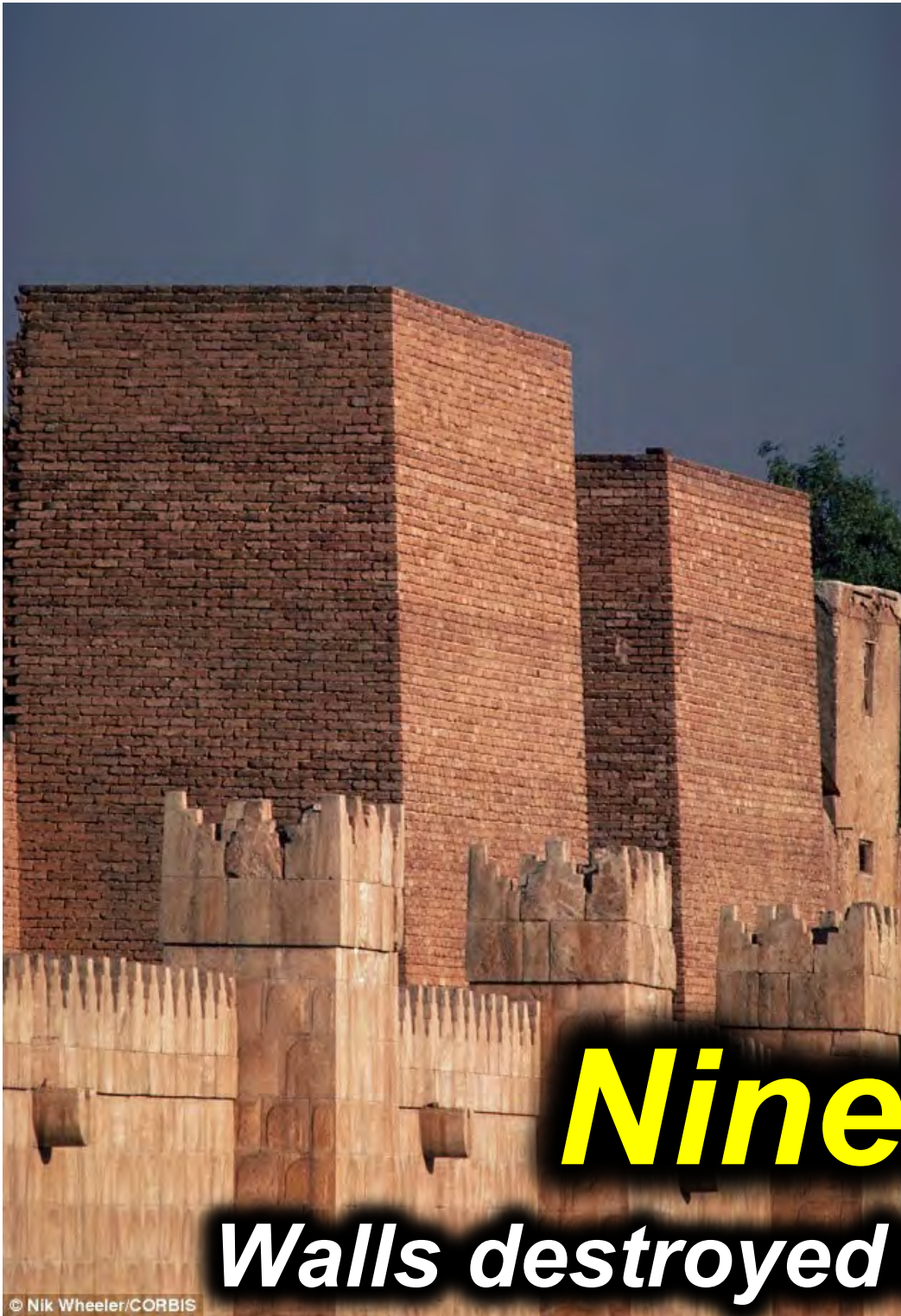
Nineveh

ISIS forced out 200,000 Christians



Nineveh

Walls destroyed by ISIS in 2015



Nineveh

Walls destroyed by ISIS in 2015

Is this the moment ISIS destroyed Jonah's Tomb in Mosul?

اخبار
العراق
News of Iraq



Nineveh

Jonah's Tomb Destroyed by ISIS

The Recapture of Mosul (2017)

Hey, ISIS!
Remember us?
We're back!

Support the NPU





Oprah Winfrey

- No preaching on sin
- Led in prayer at gay "wedding"



Joel Osteen



Motivational Speaking

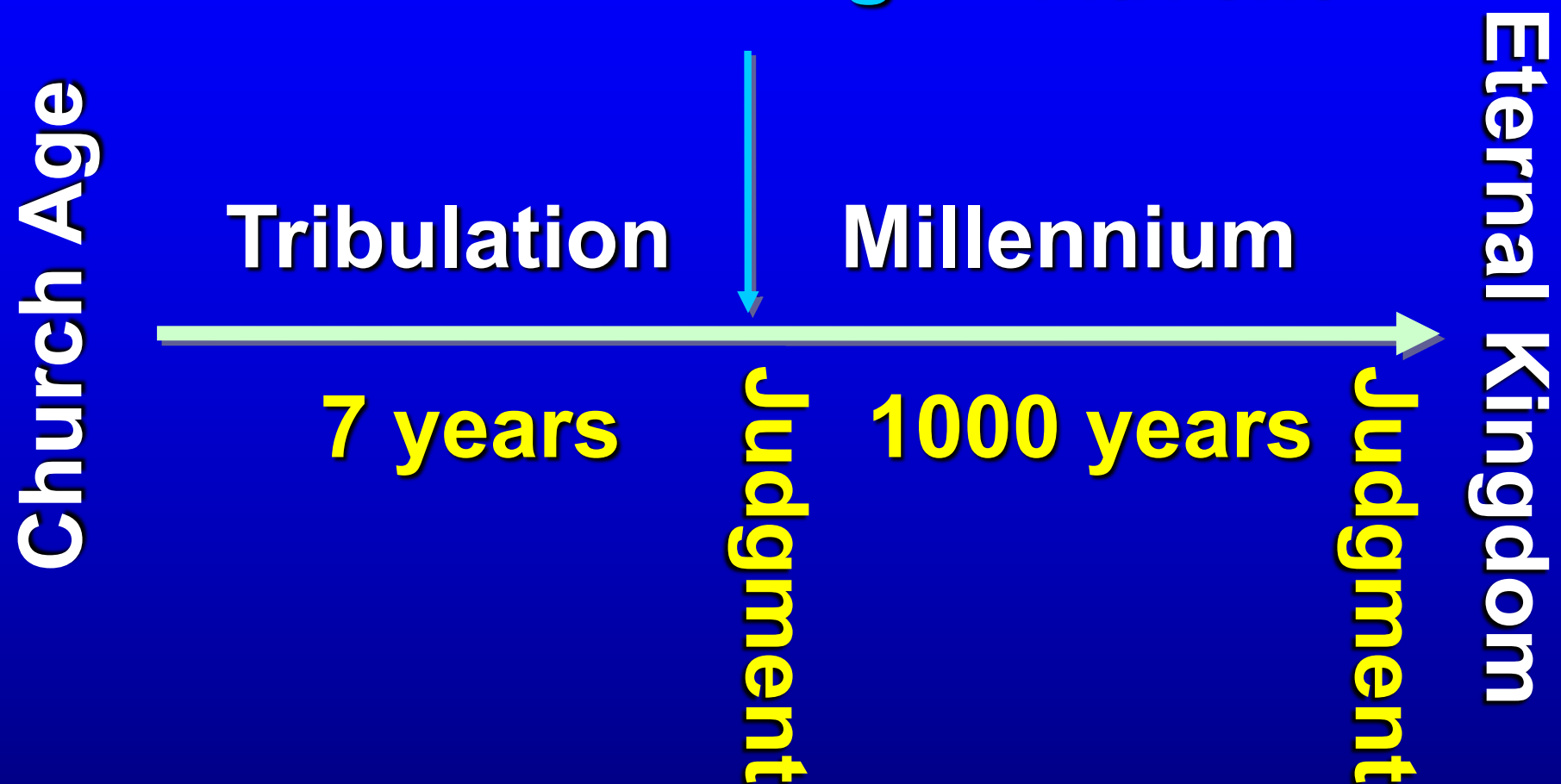
Magical prayers, feel good messages, have it your way theology; surely this is too awesome to be what Paul warned us about



THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

**We have a tremendous future ahead
of us in Christ (Rev. 20:1-6).**

**Second
Coming = Second
Advent**



A Literal, Political Kingdom

"Jesus replied, 'I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel'"

(Matt. 19:28 NLT)



Our Future

**Jesus will bring worldwide
truth, peace, prosperity,
holiness and protection**



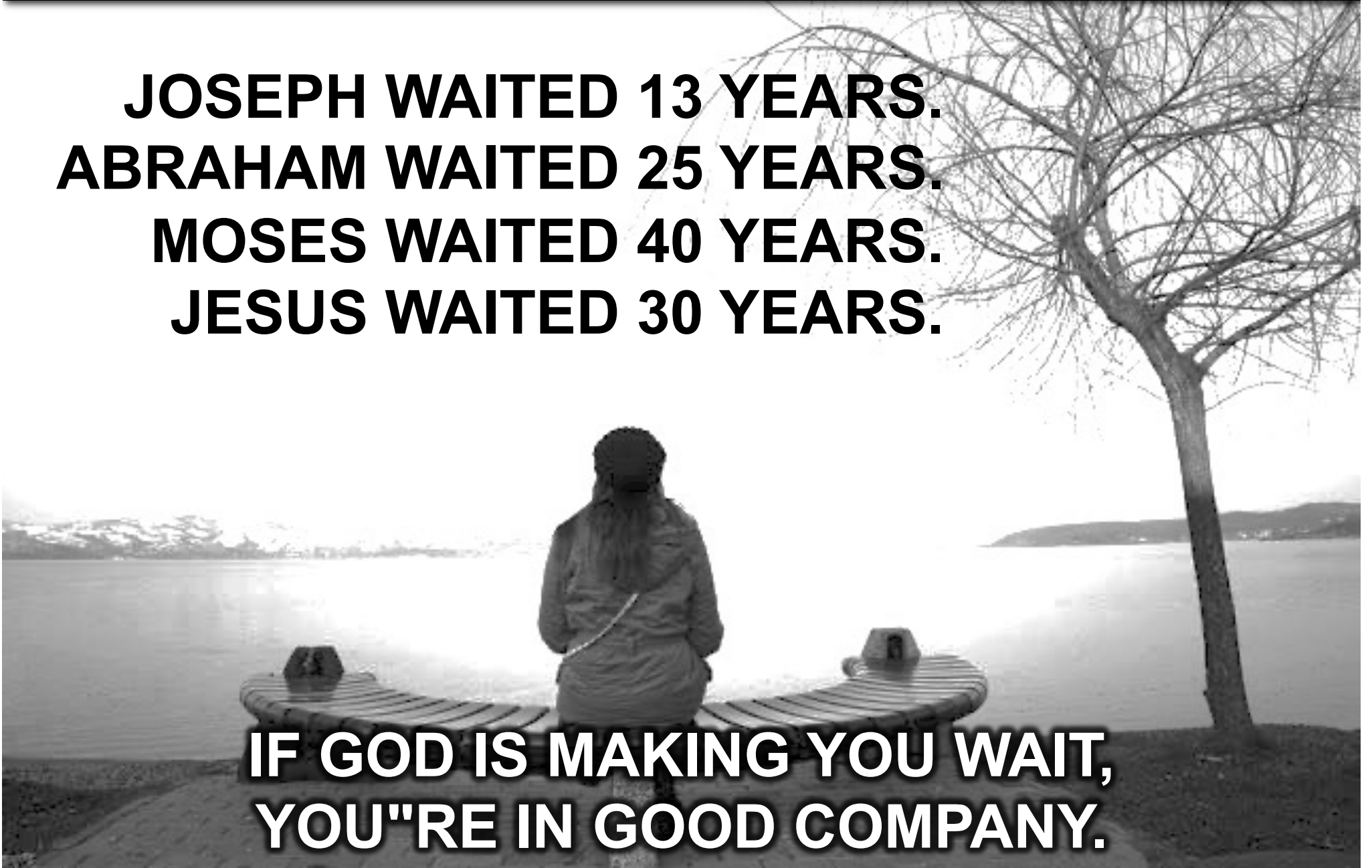
Don't mistake
the **patience** of
God as the
impotence of
God.

Main Idea

Wait. It's biblical.

**JOSEPH WAITED 13 YEARS.
ABRAHAM WAITED 25 YEARS.
MOSES WAITED 40 YEARS.
JESUS WAITED 30 YEARS.**

**IF GOD IS MAKING YOU WAIT,
YOU'RE IN GOOD COMPANY.**



I. God would **destroy** Nineveh
but save Judah (Chapters 1–3).



Nahum



II. God will **judge** the wicked
and deliver the righteous in
the future too.

Be patient.

Key Verse

621

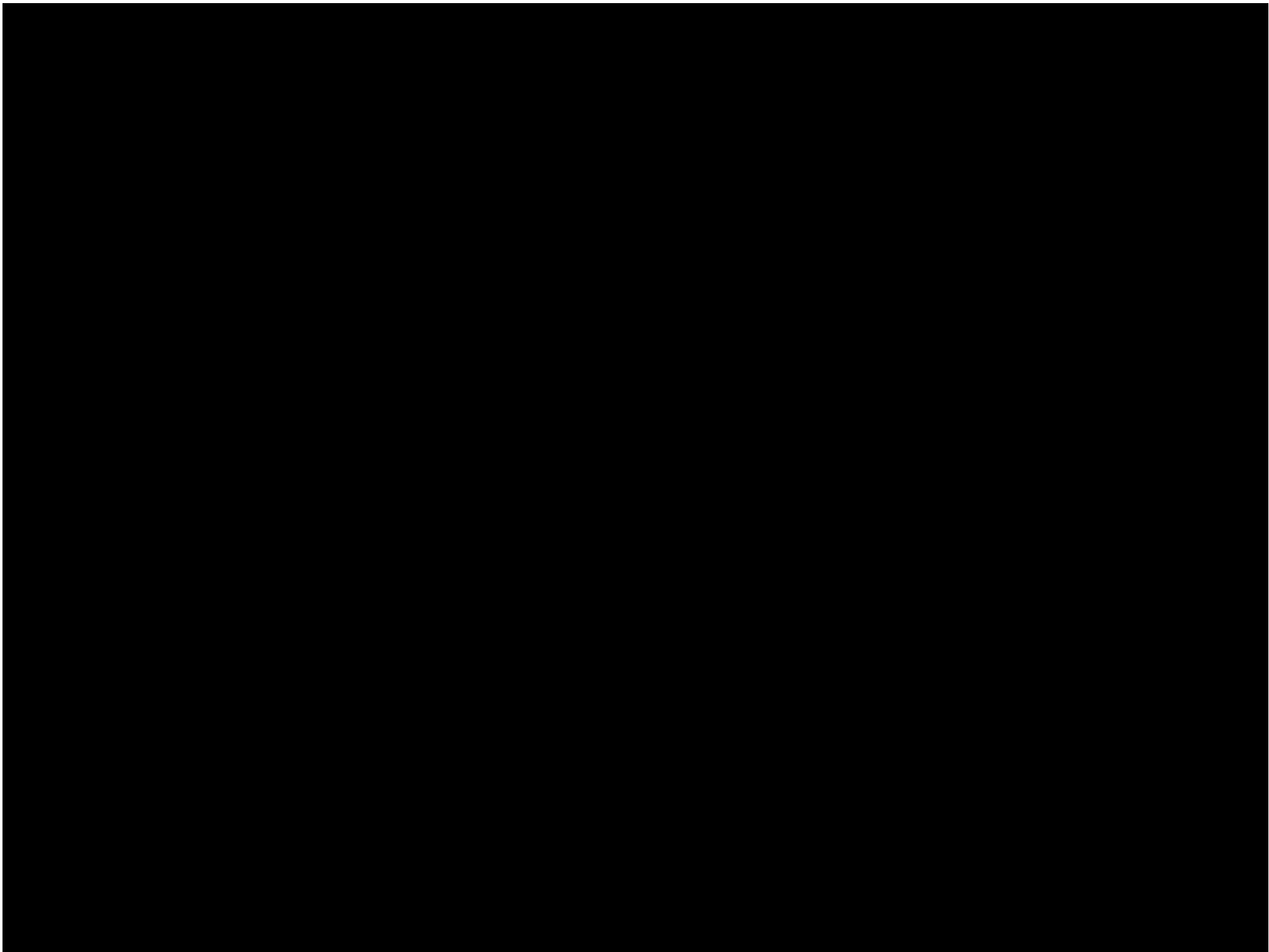
"The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; he will not leave the guilty unpunished" (Nahum 1:3a).

Nahum

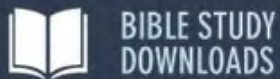
What are you waiting for?

God's 3 answers to your prayers:

- 1. Yes.**
- 2. Not yet.**
- 3. I have something better in mind.**



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A large banner image showing a close-up of a person's hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. The book has a small gold cross emblem on the front cover.

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