



A large flock of sheep is grazing in a field of red poppies. The sheep are scattered across the field, some in the foreground and some in the background. The poppies are in full bloom, creating a vibrant red carpet under the sheep. The scene is captured from a slightly elevated perspective, showing the density of the flock and the extent of the field.

Presentation Outline

- **What is rural life?**
- **Geography and its effects**
- **Work**
- **Housing**
- **Family Life**
- **Hospitality**
- **Journeys and Travels**
- **Applications**



What is Rural Life?

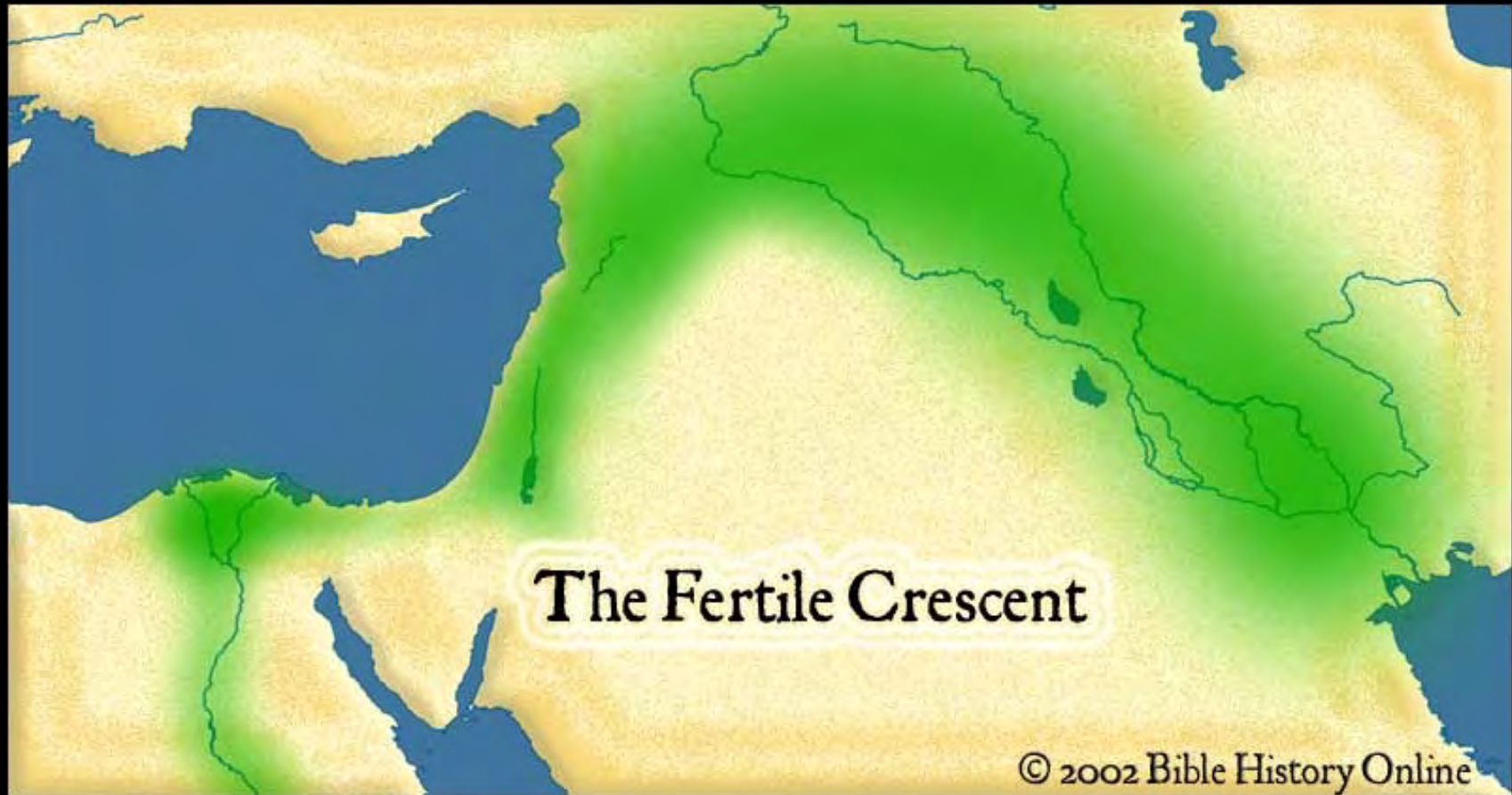
- Write a definition on page 158a
- A Definition of "Rural":
"Happening in or connected with the countryside, not the city."

(Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English)

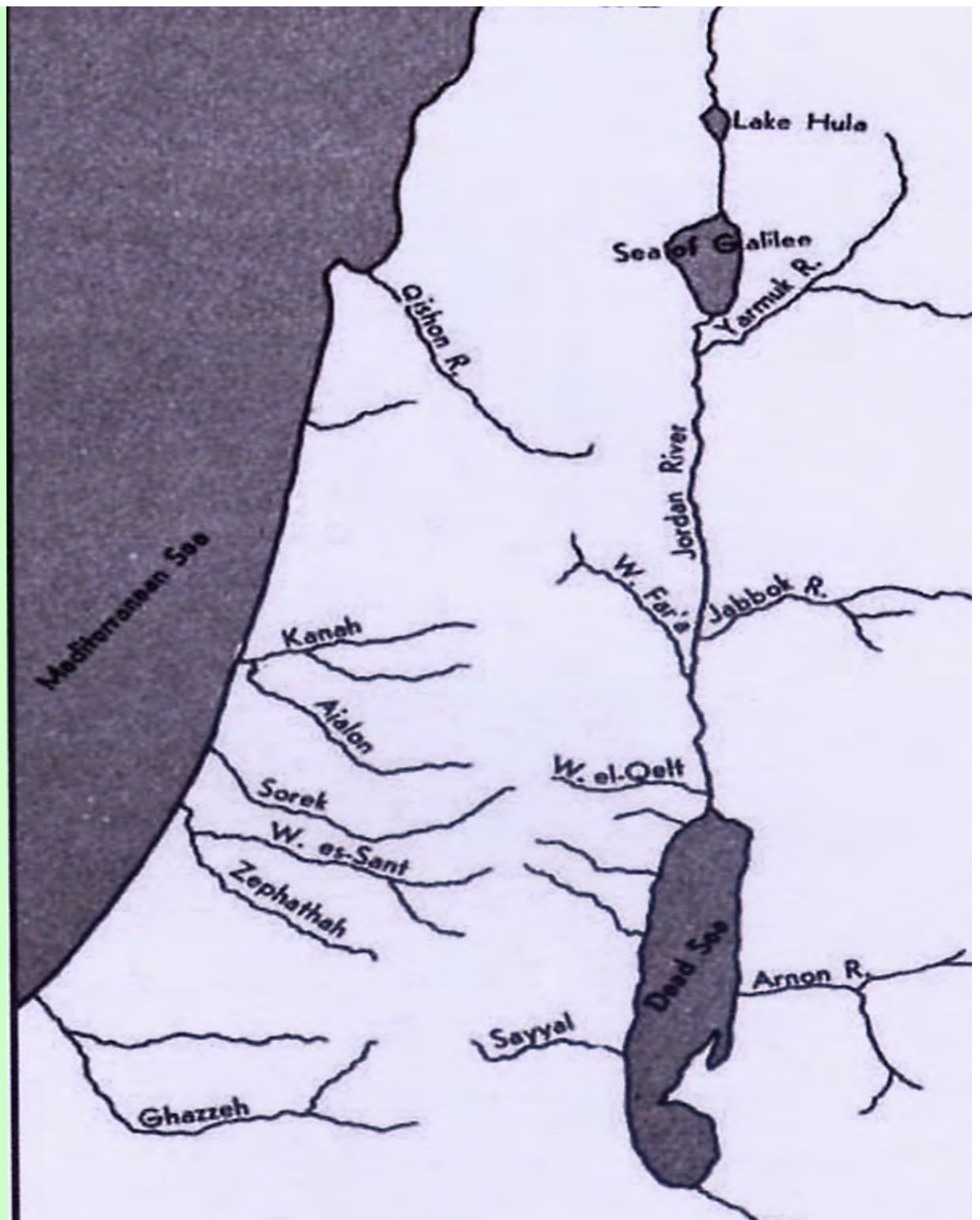




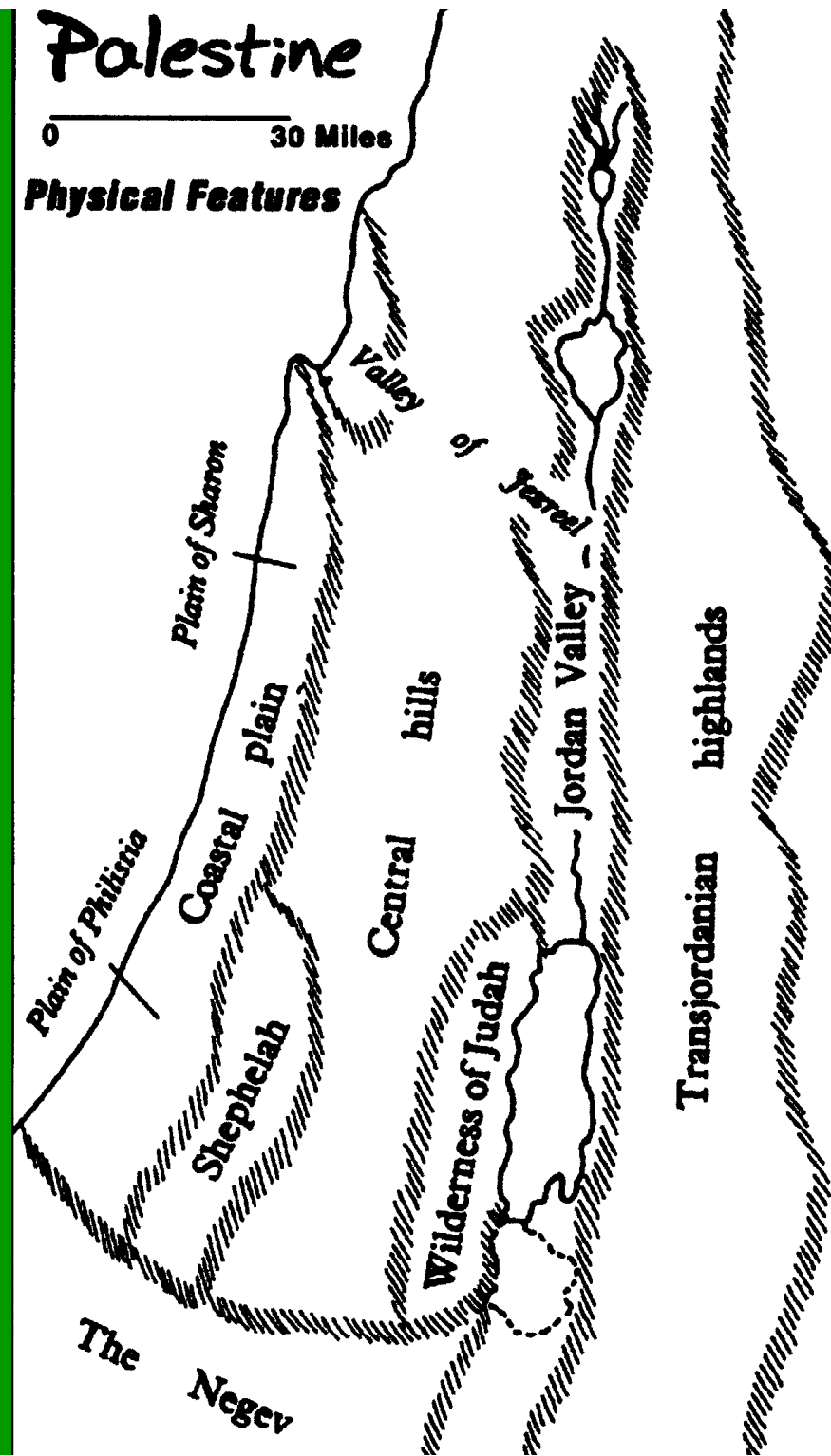
The Fertile Crescent



Water Sources in the Land of Canaan



Physical Features of Canaan



Seasons

- January** **Coldest month, dark and gloomy with heavy rainfall**
- February** **Rainy days and sunny days alternate frequently**
- March** **Much more sunshine but very heavy winds**
- April** **The greenest month. Many times during this month, dry desert winds blow in for 3 days at a time, melting the snow and quickening the vegetation.**
- May** **The heat intensifies and the rain ceases for about 5 months**

Seasons

June	Barren and parched
July	Intense heat cooled by the westerly breeze
August	Hottest month of the year
September	Summer heat intensified by the desert winds
October	Rains begin to fall again
Nov / Dec	Heavier rains and cooler weather

Climate

- **All along the Mediterranean coastline, the lands have a climate which are almost tropical.**
- **Canaan enjoys sunny blue skies from the beginning of May to the end of September with little or no interruption.**
- **The winters are wet and summers hot and dry. Because of these seasonal contrasts in Canaan, snow falls on the mountains and tropical fruits ripen in the plains.**
- **Mount Hermon, which is 40 miles north of the Sea of Galilee, towers 9000 feet above sea level, has white snow caps all year round.**

Climate

- **It rains far more in the mountains than in the plains.**
- **Due to the rift, which is the long straight land trench of the Jordan valley, the city of Jericho receives very little rainfall (about 4 inches annually) while Jerusalem, only 15 miles to the west, has about 20 inches of annual rainfall.**
- **Rainfall in Israel has never been consistent. Sometimes there were very wet winters while other times had famines and drought.**
- **This fluctuation has long taught God's people to depend on Him.**

Work

- Two main ways to make a living:
 - Agriculture
 - Shepherding



Agriculture

- The Gezer Calendar

The two months are olive harvest	Sep/Oct
The two months are planting grain	Nov/Dec
The two months are late planting	Jan/Feb
The month is hoeing up of flax	Mar
The month is barley harvest	Apr
The month is harvest and festivity	May
The two months are vine tending	Jun/Jul
The month is summer fruit	Au

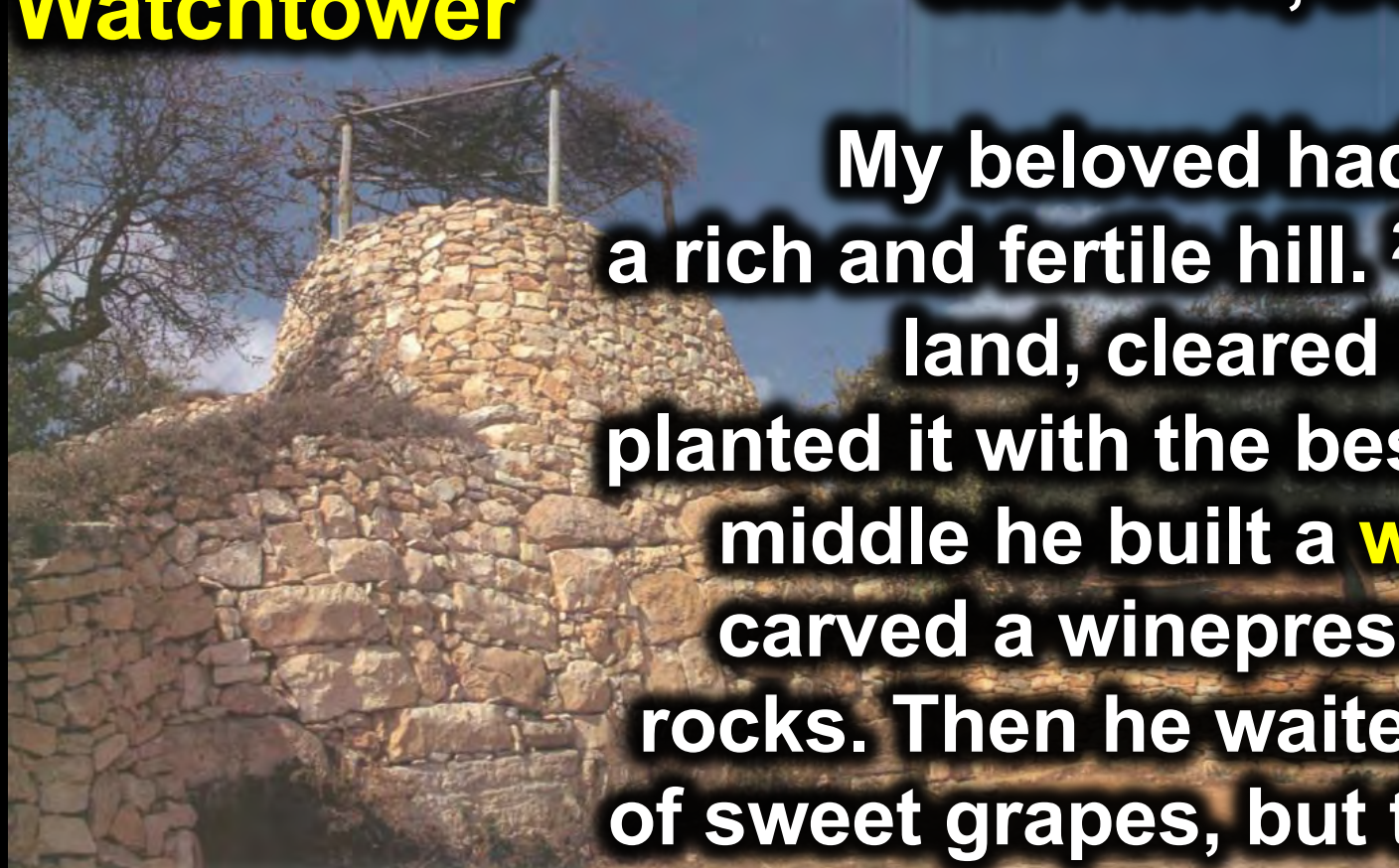
Agriculture

Vineyard

Watchtower

Isa. 5:1 NLT “Now I will sing for the one I love, a song about his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a rich and fertile hill. ²He plowed the land, cleared its stones, and planted it with the best vines. In the middle he built a **watchtower** and carved a winepress in the nearby rocks. Then he waited for a harvest of sweet grapes, but the grapes that grew were bitter. “



Agriculture

Treading Grapes



Isa. 63:2 NLT “Why are your clothes so red, as if you have been treading out grapes? ³I have been treading the winepress alone; no one was there to help me. In my anger I have trampled my enemies as if they were grapes. In my fury I have trampled my foes. Their blood has stained my clothes. ⁴For the time has come for me to avenge my people, to ransom them from their oppressors.”

Agriculture

- Grape Treading



Joel 3:13 NLT
“Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread the grapes, for the winepress is full. The storage vats are overflowing with the wickedness of these people.”

Agriculture

- The two most important grain crops:

– Wheat

– Barley



Agriculture

- The different agriculture / farming seasons

AUTUMN	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER								
OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Early ← Wet Season →				Latter ← Summer Dry Season →							
Rains				Rains							
Ploughing + Planting ←				Growing →				Reaping (Harvesting)			

Harvests Lasted Apr-Nov

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Harvesting & Ingathering Based on Modern Agricultural Practices in Israel

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Wheat			X						
Barley		X							
Oats			X						
Peas		X	X						
Chickpeas				X					
Lentils		X	X						
Vetch		X	X						
Sesame					X				
Flax					X				
Millet					X	X			
Grapes				X	X	X	X		
Figs						X	X		
Pomegranates						X	X		
Olives							X	X	X



The olive harvest was the final harvest. No wonder why the olive tree represents Israel being restored and fruitful in last days (Jeremiah 11:16; Hosea 14:6; Romans 11:16-21)

<http://www.wcg.org/lit/law/festivals/harvest.htm>

Plowing

- Plowing



Plowing

- ***A Possible Parallel:***

When the ground is hard, the seed does not go in. When the heart is hard, the Word does not go in. How can I tell if my heart is hard? Before the worship service begins on Sunday morning, what can you do to prepare your heart for God's Word? Before you open your Bible at home, what can you do to prepare your heart for God's Word?

Planting / Sowing

- Sowing of Seeds



Harvesting / Reaping

- Harvesting



Threshing

- Threshing



Winnowing

- Winnowing



Winnowing

- ***Figurative of the Future:***

At Christ's return God will separate people into 2 groups (Matt. 3:12):

1. The Wheat—good men (those God wants to keep for Himself)
2. The Chaff—worthless men (those that God must punish and judge)

Farming Tools



Shepherding



Sheep

Young Goat

Shepherding



View of a flock of sheep and a few goats in Jordan

Shepherding

The Good Shepherd



The Shepherd's Sling

Jackal – One of the dangers to the flock

Housing



Ancient nomadic people lived in woven tents

Tent Dwelling

158g



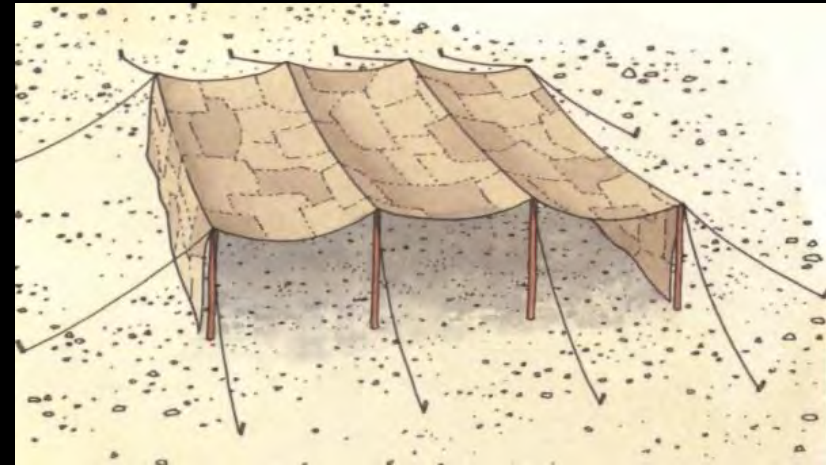
- **Material is made from black goat's hair**
- **Woven into strips & pieced together by thread**
- **Goat's hair cloth porous when dry but waterproof after rains have shrunk it**

How are tents erected?

158h



Poles are planted and ropes stretched across to hold the canvas.



The two ends of the canvas are pegged to the ground with tent nails.



The two dividing hangings make an open porch where visitors can be received.

Interior structure

158h



Women's section with cooking and storage



Men's section for receiving guests



Tent Hearing

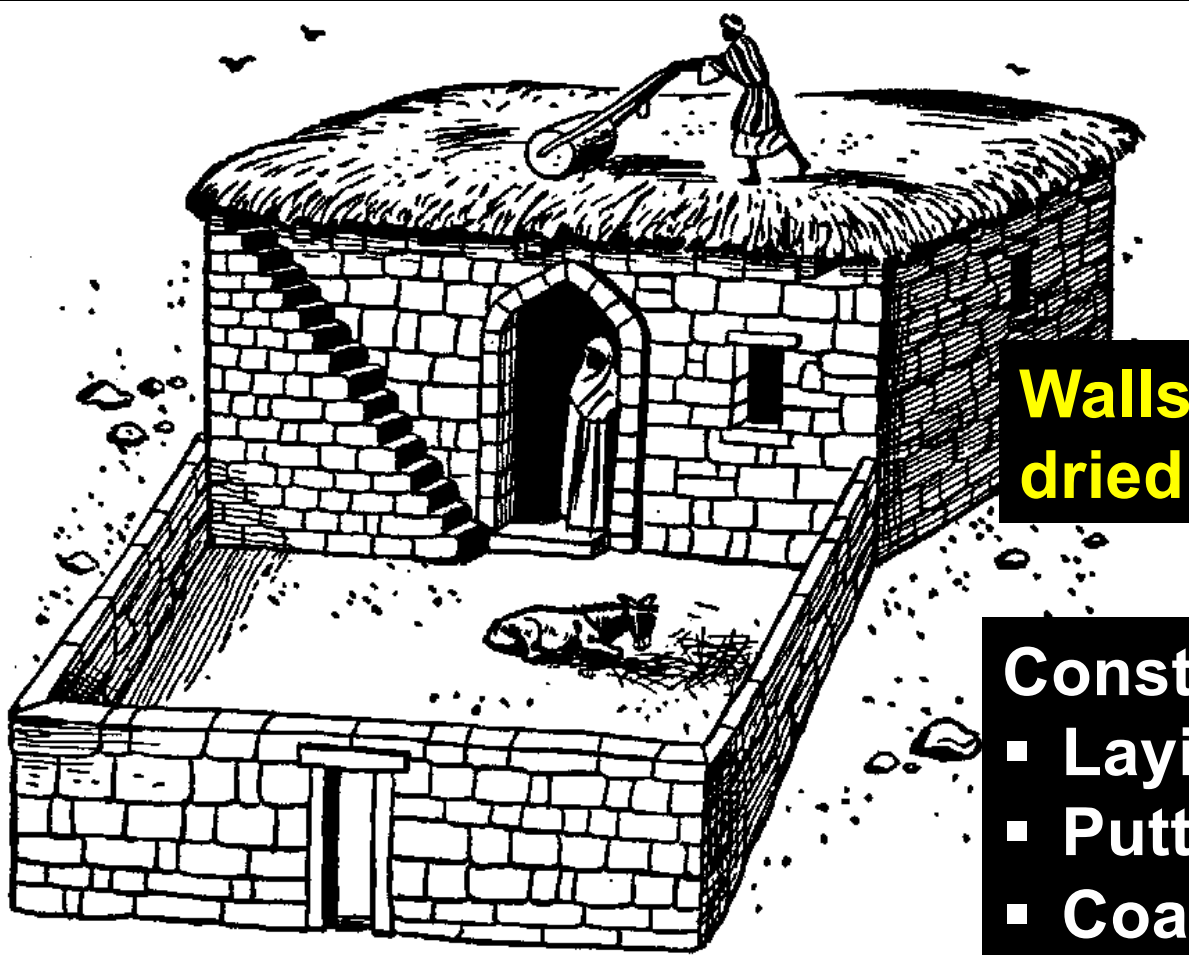
The women in the inner area are screened from the view of those in the reception area, but they can hear what goes on in that room

In Genesis 18:10-15, Sarah in the inner area overheard what the angelic guest said in the reception area of Abraham's tent.



One-Room Dwelling of the Common People

158h



Peasant's One-Room House

Walls made of sun-dried mud bricks

Construction of the roof:

- Laying of beams
- Putting on a mat of reeds
- Coating clay over it
- Scattering sand and pebbles
- Using a stone roller to make it smooth to keep out the rain

Two Characteristics of the Roof:

158h



1) Leaky roof

A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day.

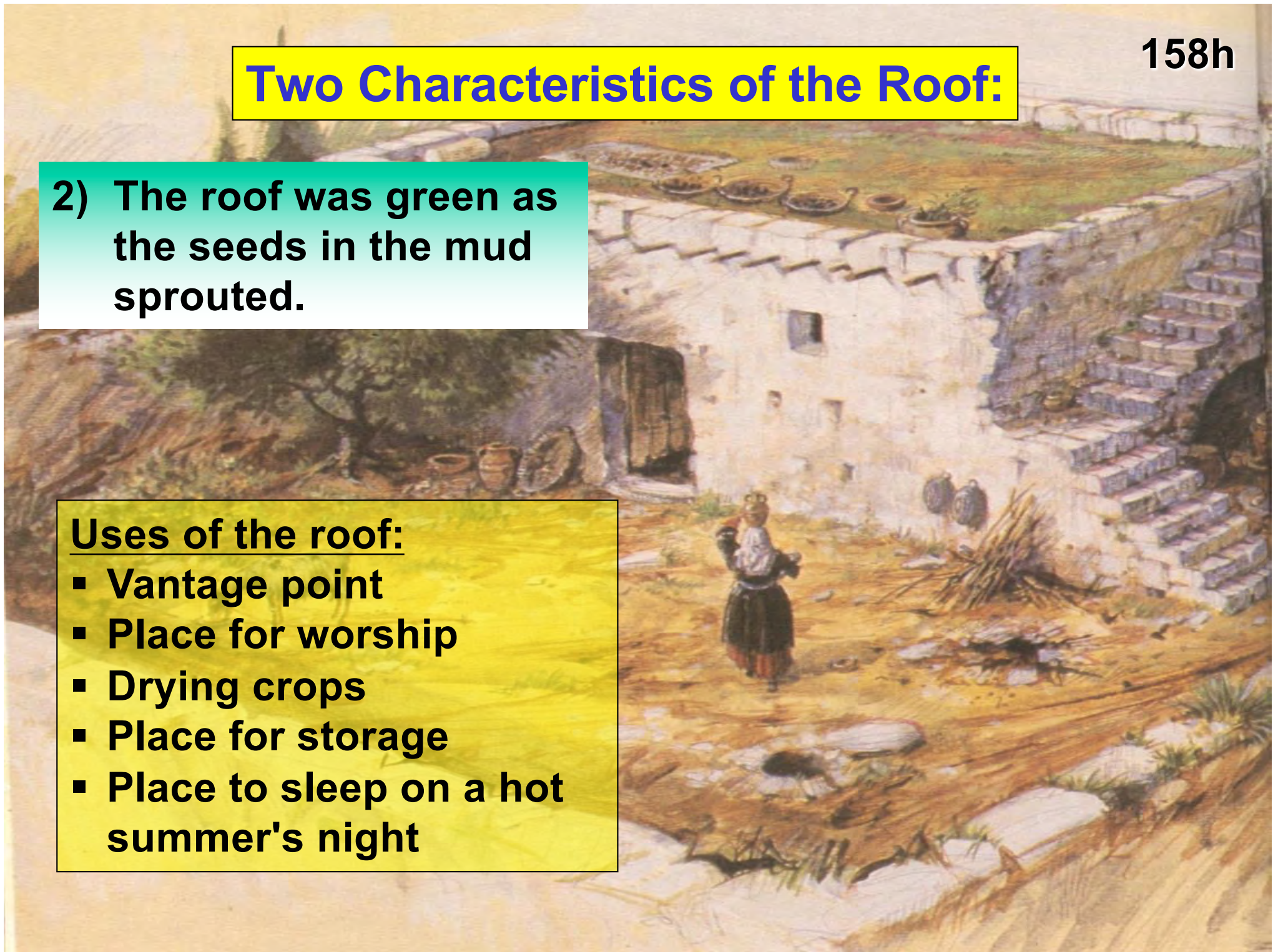
Proverbs 27:15

Two Characteristics of the Roof:

2) The roof was green as the seeds in the mud sprouted.

Uses of the roof:

- Vantage point
- Place for worship
- Drying crops
- Place for storage
- Place to sleep on a hot summer's night



The interior of a peasant's house

Various jars and pots for storage



Oil lamp: earthenware saucer to hold the olive oil and a pinched lip to hold the wick



Raised platform used for family activities



Family Life

Emphasis on large families

Children worked in the home or fields

Father was the head of the household



**"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction
And do not forsake your mother's teachings"
(Prov. 1:8)**

Family Continuity

Authority passed to the eldest son upon the death of the father. Thus Isaac became the new leader over his father's household after Abraham died (Genesis 25).

The Family Shepherd

- **The youngest boy shepherded the sheep.**
- **Jesse raised his family of eight sons (1 Sam. 16:11) and David, being the youngest, became the family shepherd.**



Hospitality

A sacred duty as guests were believed to be sent by God himself



Included:

- Food and drink
- Protecting guests
- Accommodations



FARMERS' LAW OF HOSPITALITY

158j

Eating grain in the field

Travelers could eat of the wheat as they passed by or through a field, but they could not carry any away with them (Deut. 23:25)



Grain left for the poor

Farmers would never touch the corners of their field when harvesting. It was left for the poor and the stranger (Lev. 23:22).

Travel

- Did people enjoy traveling during the OT times?



Travels (cont'd)

Reasons they did **not** enjoy traveling:

1. Bandits
2. At the mercy of the local people
3. Limited food
4. Taxes
5. Heat
6. Time taken to greet one another
7. Need to take care of animals
8. No 5-star hotels

Modes of travel

THE DONKEY

- (a) Basic pack animal
- (b) Must be near settlements
- (c) First animal used by nomadic people
- (d) Can carry people as well as goods
- (e) Can pull a plow (Isa. 32:20)

Donkey

- (f) Cannot be paired with a larger animal such as an ox (Deut. 22:10)
- (g) Can be harnessed to corn mills and to water wheels
- (h) Some marked out for royal usage (Judges 5:10)
- (i) Replaced by mules as a status symbol
- (j) Gradually became a symbol of labour and peace although always the mount of ordinary people (Zech. 9:9; John 12:15)





Camel

- (a) Domesticated about 2000 BC**
- (b) Gave nomadic tribes independence of settlements**
- (c) Stored enough water for several days (these "desert ships" can travel long distances)**
- (d) Abraham used camels only for long journeys (Gen. 24:3, 64) as did Jacob (Gen. 31:17)**
- (e) Important beast of burden--can carry more than a donkey (Camel Load – 2 Kings 8:9)**

Camel

f) Not easy to ride. Humans would travel on donkeys while camels would bear the loads.

g) Most common type of camel is the single humped camel (Dromedary). It lacks endurance (little fat to store water), but it could travel at nearly 16 km/hr.

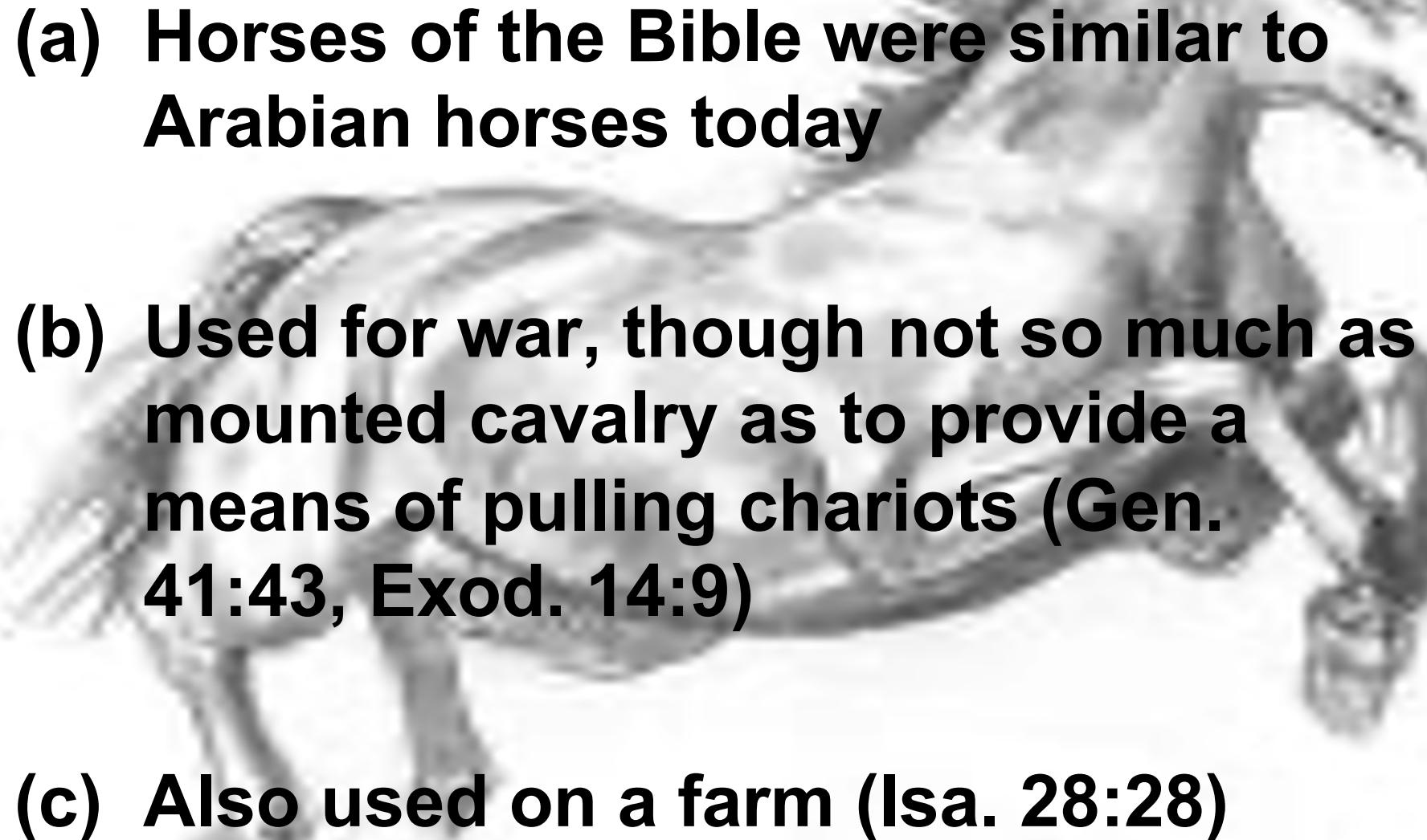


Mule

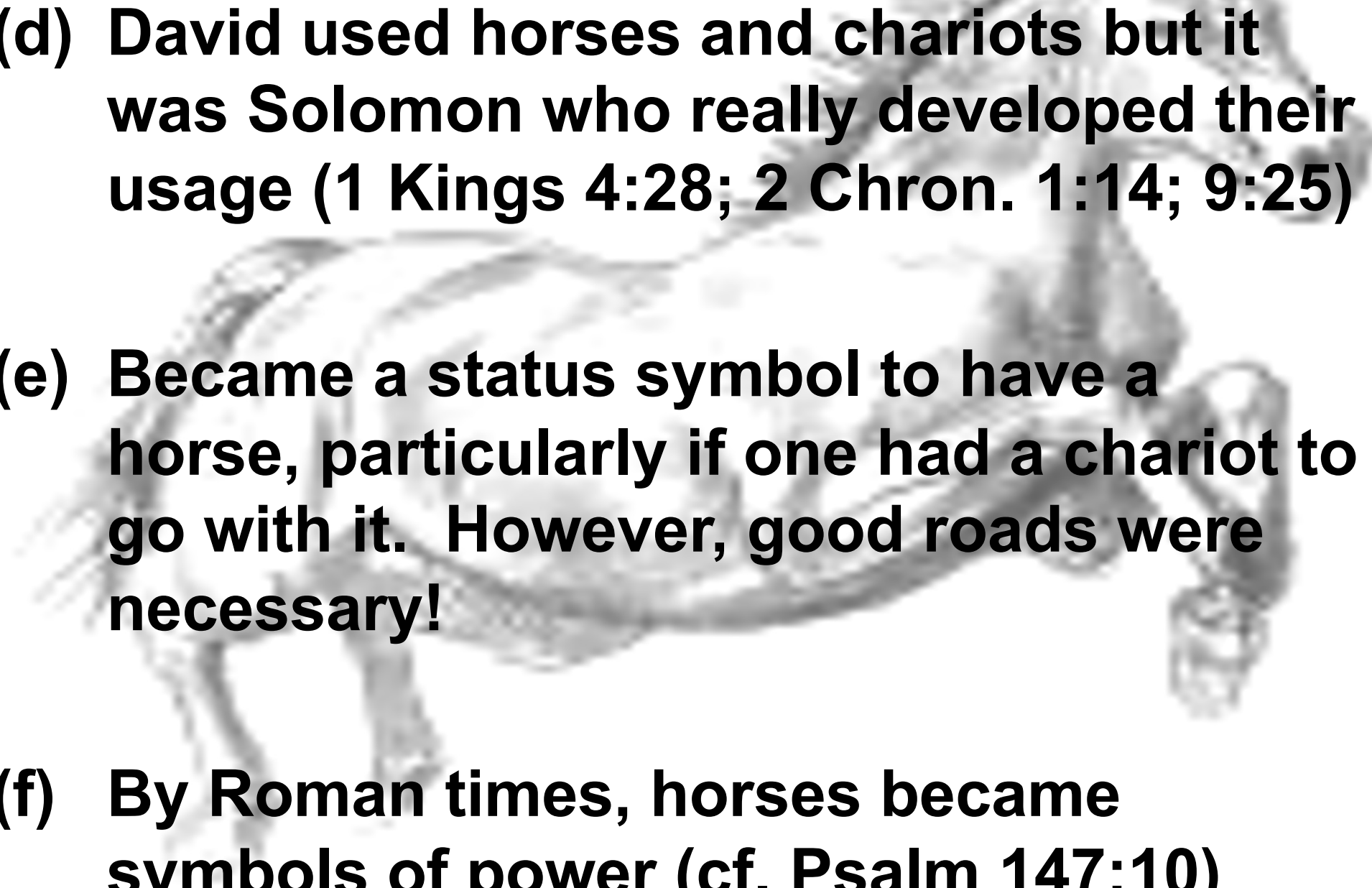
1. Mules were not used much until David's time because an animal bred from mixed parentage was contrary to the law (Lev. 19:19).
2. Used as royal mounts (2 Sam. 13:29): When Solomon rode David's mule, it was a sign that he was heir apparent (1 Kings 1:33, 44).
3. By the time of Isaiah, they were very common (Isa. 66:20).



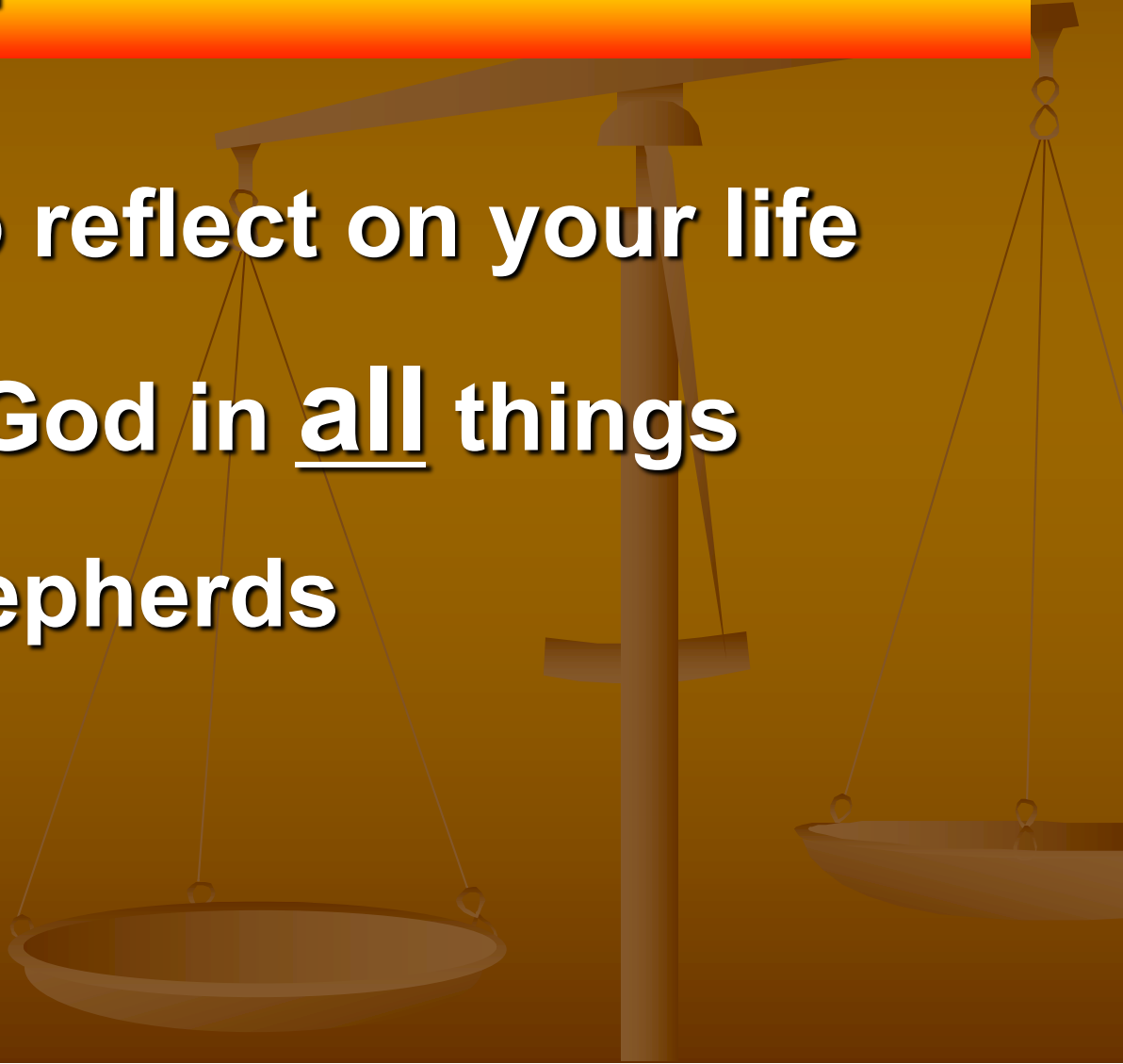
Horse

- 
- (a) Horses of the Bible were similar to Arabian horses today**
 - (b) Used for war, though not so much as mounted cavalry as to provide a means of pulling chariots (Gen. 41:43, Exod. 14:9)**
 - (c) Also used on a farm (Isa. 28:28)**

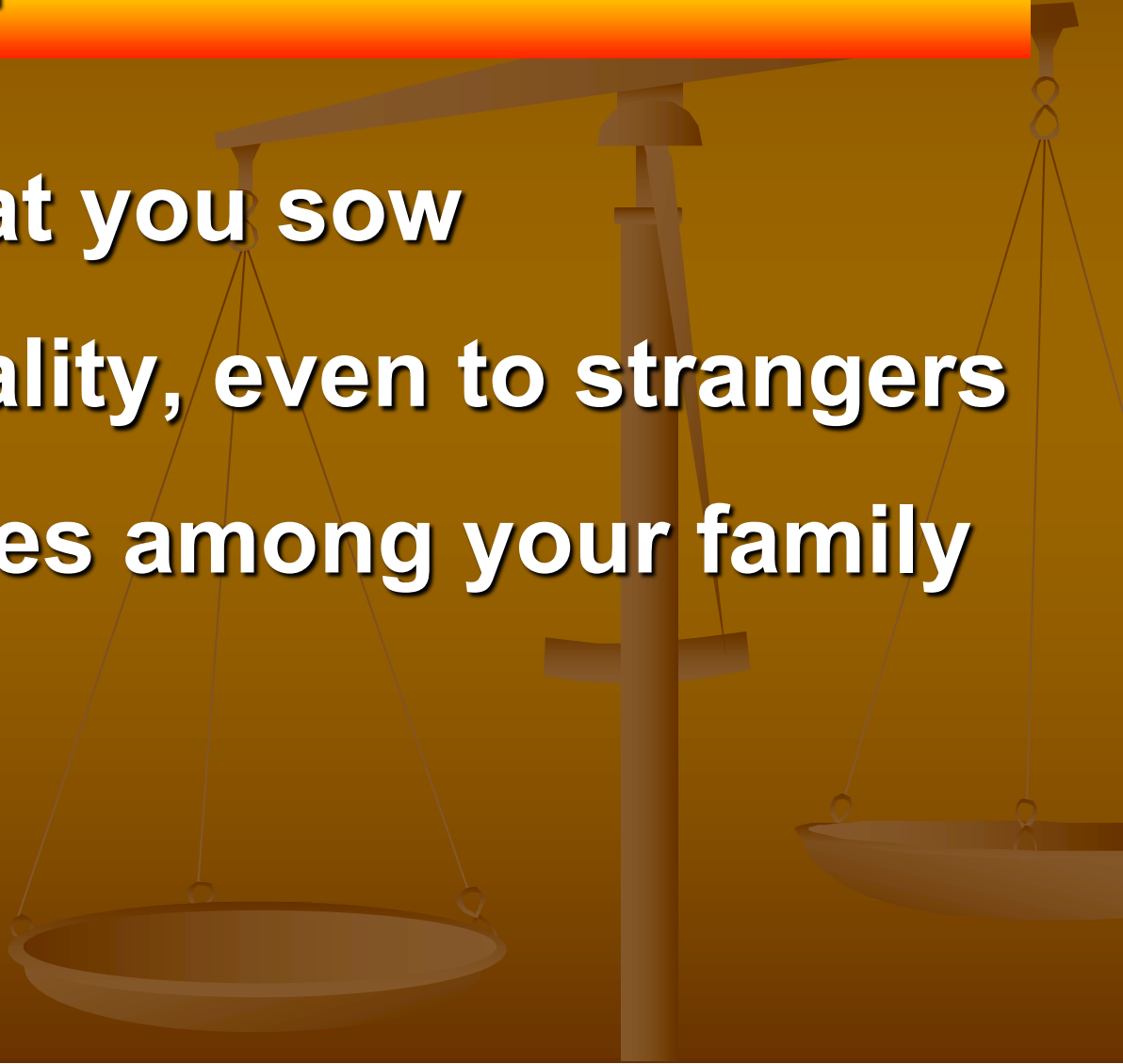
Horse

- 
- (d) David used horses and chariots but it was Solomon who really developed their usage (1 Kings 4:28; 2 Chron. 1:14; 9:25)**
 - (e) Became a status symbol to have a horse, particularly if one had a chariot to go with it. However, good roads were necessary!**
 - (f) By Roman times, horses became symbols of power (cf. Psalm 147:10)**

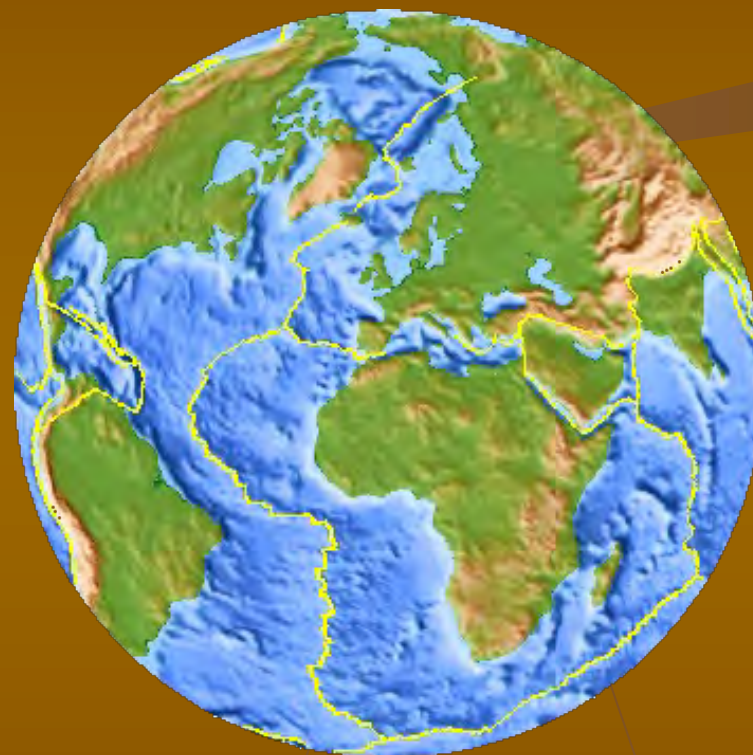
Applications

- Take time to reflect on your life
 - Depend on God in all things
 - Be good shepherds
- 

Applications

- You reap what you sow
 - Show hospitality, even to strangers
 - Keep close ties among your family
- 

Obey the Great Commission!



Sources

- **Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Chicago: Moody, 1987.**
- **<http://www.biblemagazine.com>**
- **<http://www.holylandphotos.org>**
- **<http://biblicalstudies.info/transjor.htm>**
- **<http://bibleplaces.com/southernwildlife.htm>**
- **<http://www.padfield.com/overhead.html>**

A large flock of sheep is grazing in a field of red poppies. The sheep are of various colors, including white, black, and brown. The field is filled with vibrant red flowers, and the background shows more sheep and a hazy landscape.

Rural Life

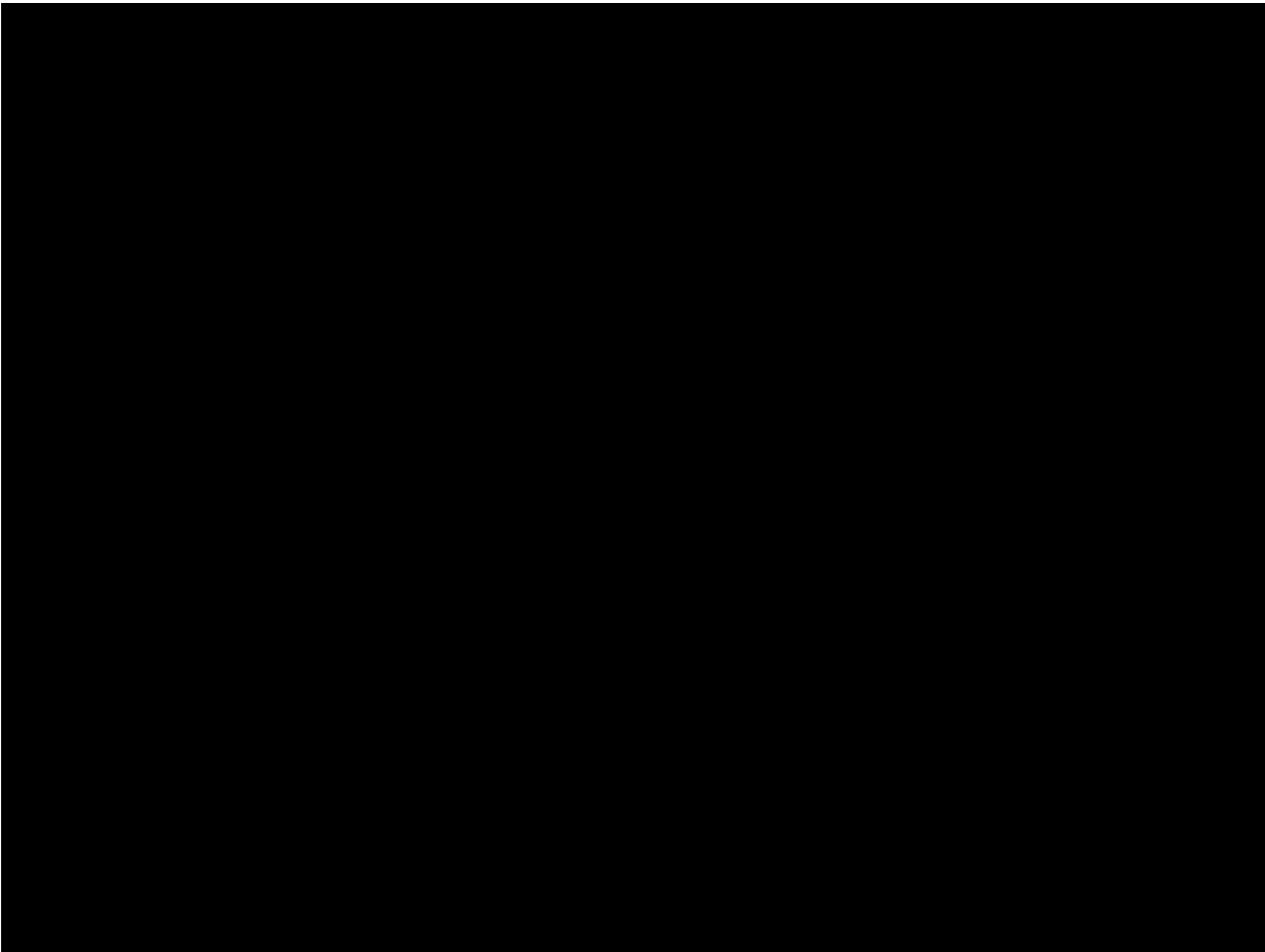
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