

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Isaiah 43–48

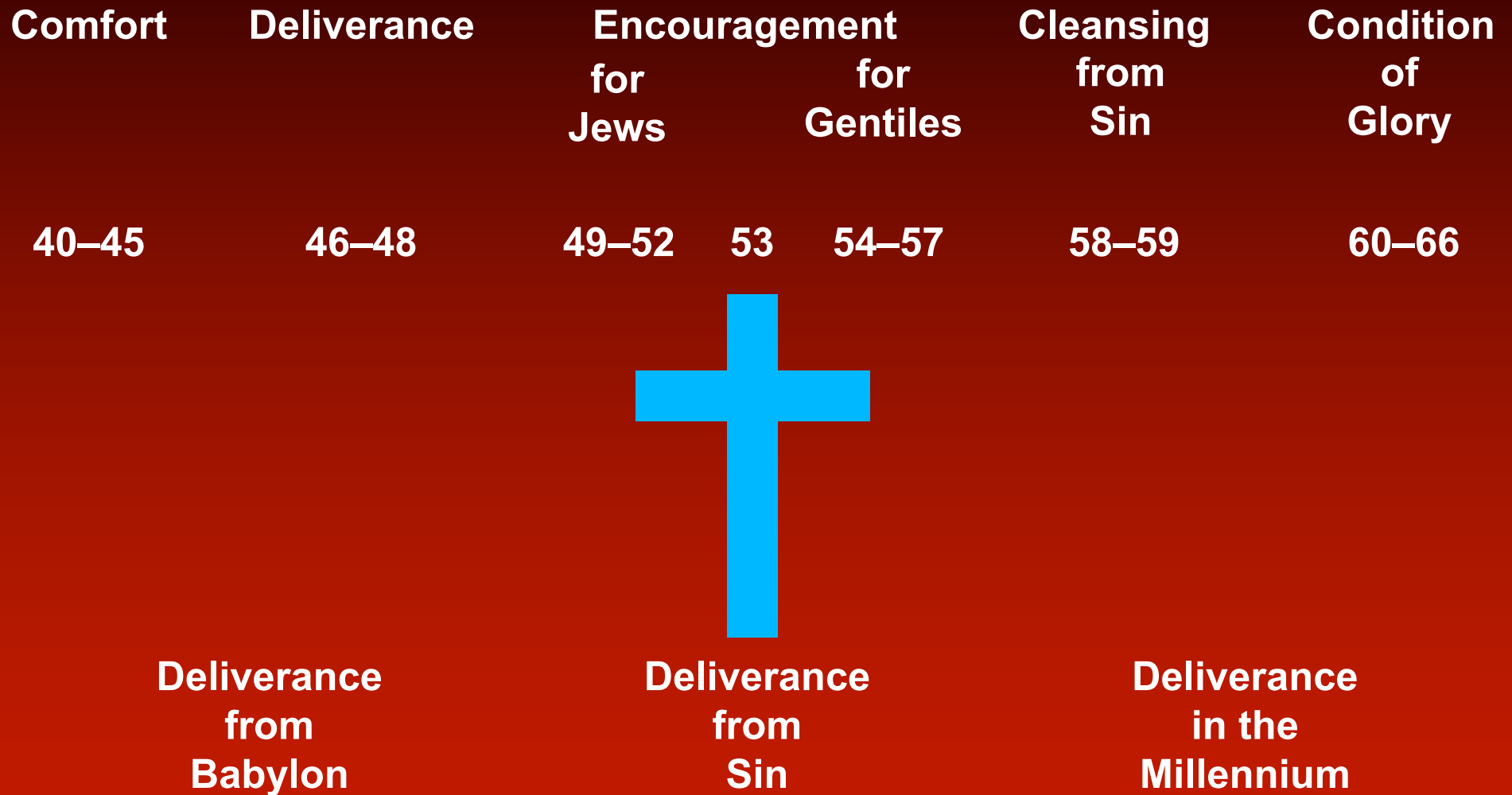


Judgment (and Salvation)				Salvation (and Judgment)			
Chapters 1–39				Chapters 40–66			
Assyrian Invasion				Babylonian Captivity			
Prophecy			History	Prophecy			
Mostly Condemnation			Inter-lude	Mostly Consolation			
Violations & deliverance 1–12	Judgment on the nations 13–23	Worldwide judgment & blessing 24–35	Salvation sickness & sin 36–39	Shepherd of Israel 40–48	Suffering Servant 49–57	God's Initiative 58–59	Restoration under Messiah 60–66
Judah							
739-681 BC (Before, during and after Israel's fall to Assyria in 722 BC)							

Isaiah 40–66 Structure

469

Adapted from John A. Martin, Dallas Seminary





**How will God complete his
plan for all creation?**

Be Complete



Judgment
1–39

*God will **judge** those who reject him (Isaiah 1–39).*

Be Complete



Judgment
1–39

Salvation
40–66


*God will **save** those who trust him (Isaiah 40–66).*

Isaiah 43

The Promise of Protection

Isaiah 43





“But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator...”

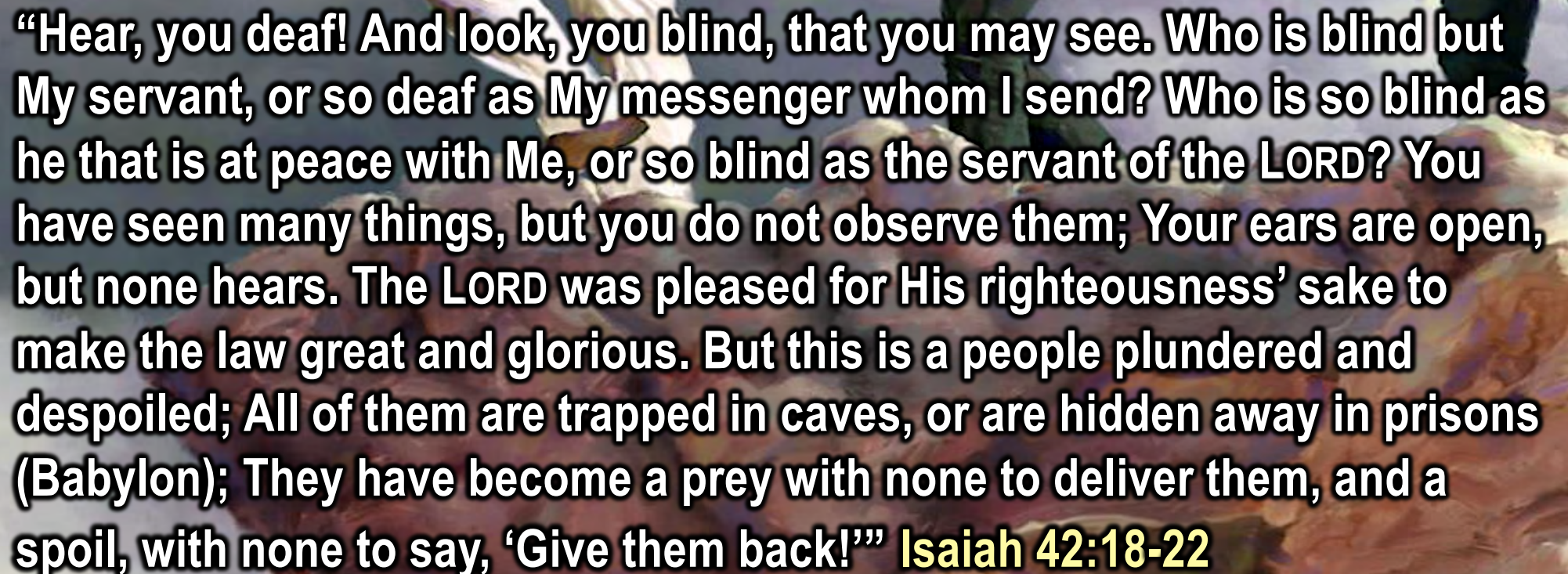
41:1

Israel's past — ruin (41-42)

But now ...

Israel's future — restoration (43)

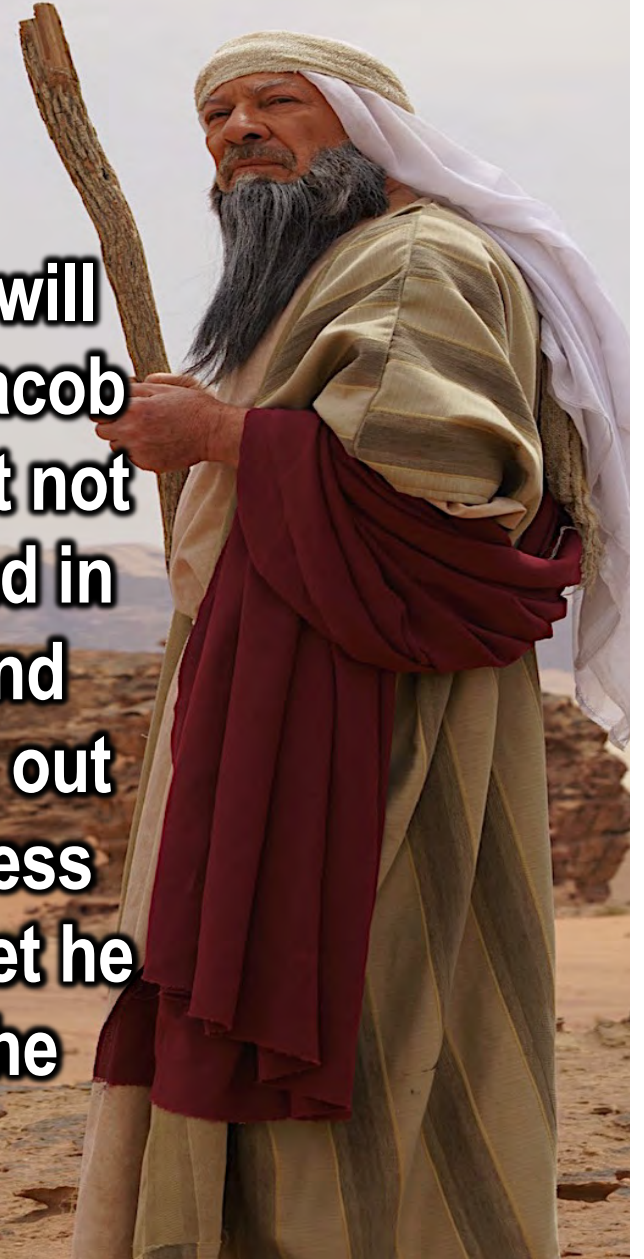
The Penalty of Israel's Captivity

A photograph of three men walking in a line on a rocky, uneven path. They are all blindfolded with white cloth. The man in the center is being guided by the man on his right, who is also being guided by the man on his left. They are walking away from the camera towards a cloudy sky. The man on the left is wearing a grey t-shirt and white pants. The man in the center is wearing a light green long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The man on the right is wearing a dark patterned sweater and dark pants.

“Hear, you deaf! And look, you blind, that you may see. Who is blind but My servant, or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace with Me, or so blind as the servant of the LORD? You have seen many things, but you do not observe them; Your ears are open, but none hears. The LORD was pleased for His righteousness’ sake to make the law great and glorious. But this is a people plundered and despoiled; All of them are trapped in caves, or are hidden away in prisons (Babylon); They have become a prey with none to deliver them, and a spoil, with none to say, ‘Give them back!’” **Isaiah 42:18-22**

The Problem for Israel's Present

“Who among you will give ear to this? Who will give heed and listen hereafter? Who gave Jacob up for spoil, and Israel to plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned, and in whose ways they were not willing to walk, and whose law they did not obey? So he poured out on him the heat of his anger and the fierceness of battle; And it set him aflame all around, yet he did not recognize it; And it burned him, but he paid no attention.” Isaiah 42:23–25





OUTLINE

I. The Protection of Israel **43:1-45:25**

A. The Promise of Protection **43:1-13**

1. The Calling of the Nation **1-9**

2. The Commissioning of the Nation **10-13**

Divine Protection

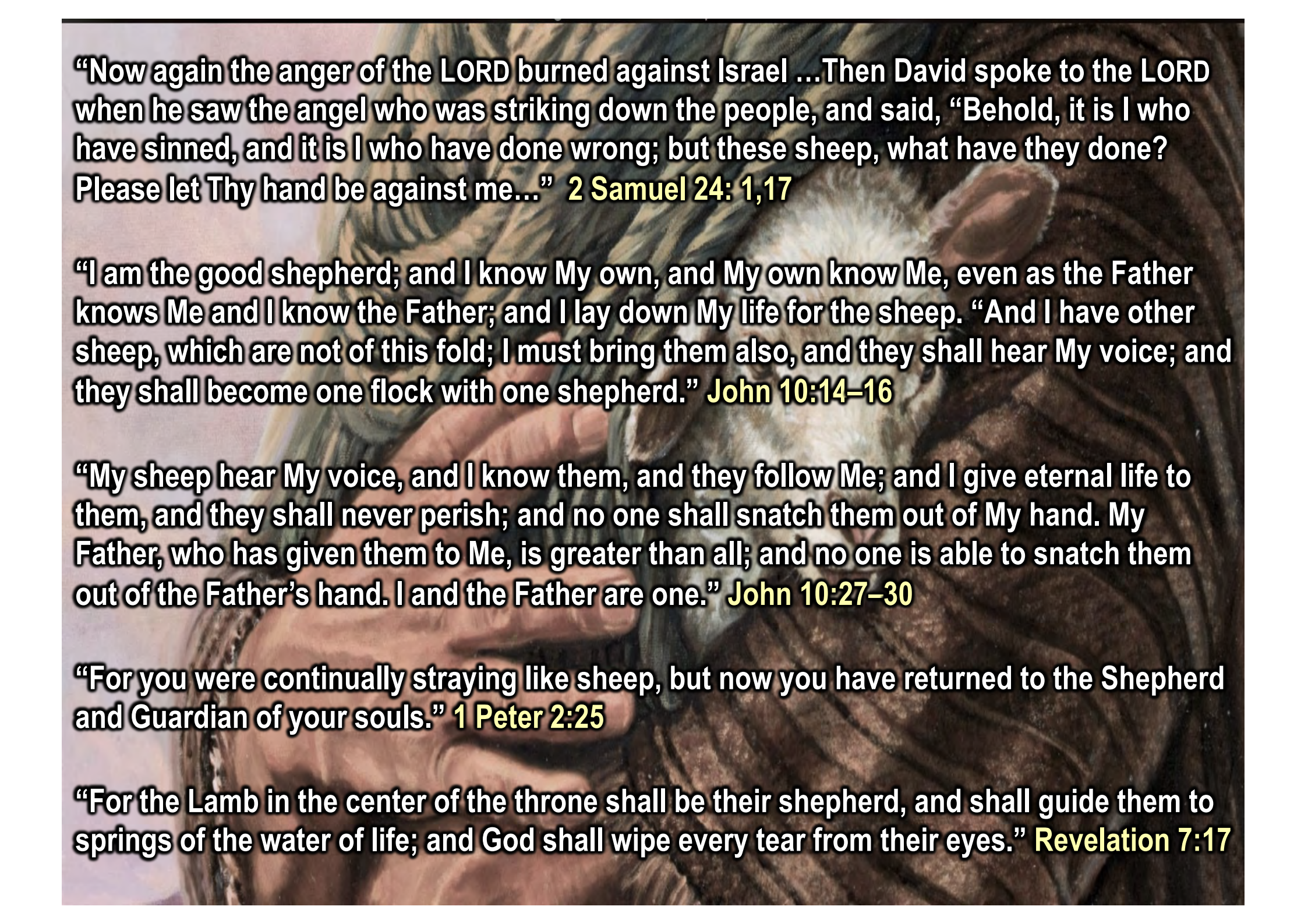
“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself.” Exodus 19:4

“How precious is Thy lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings.” Psalms 36:7

“He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.” Psalm 91:4

“But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.” Malachi 4:2

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.” Matthew 23:37



“Now again the anger of the LORD burned against Israel ...Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking down the people, and said, “Behold, it is I who have sinned, and it is I who have done wrong; but these sheep, what have they done? Please let Thy hand be against me...” 2 Samuel 24: 1,17

“I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. “And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.” John 10:14–16

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” John 10:27–30

“For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.” 1 Peter 2:25

“For the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:17

Israel, Meet Your God

“But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you...” (43:1)

ברא

Bring into existence
that which did not
exist before

bara' (“create”)

יצר

Shape something
(used of a potter
molding clay)

yatzar (“form”)

גאל

Verb form
of noun for
redeemer

ga'al

גואל

“Kinsman-
Redeemer”

Go'el

What's in a Name?

“But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!” (43:1).

CYRUS - “I have also called you by your name ...” Isaiah 45:4

“And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.” Genesis 2:19

“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His ...’” 2 Timothy 2:19

Refers to GOD's choice for His purpose (based on knowledge of person and nature)

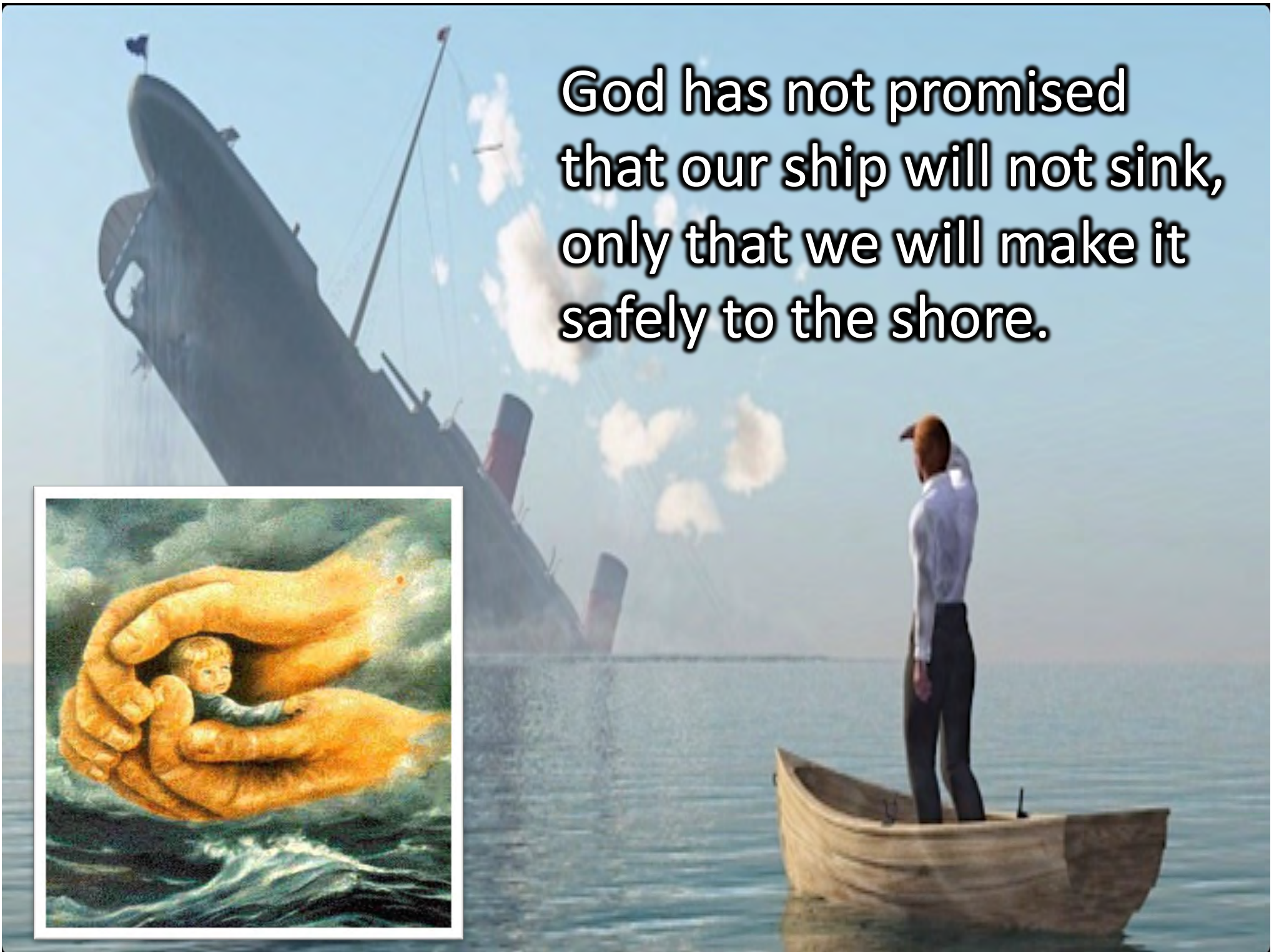
1. The Calling of the Nation

43:1-9

“But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.’”

Isaiah 43:1-2

God has not promised
that our ship will not sink,
only that we will make it
safely to the shore.



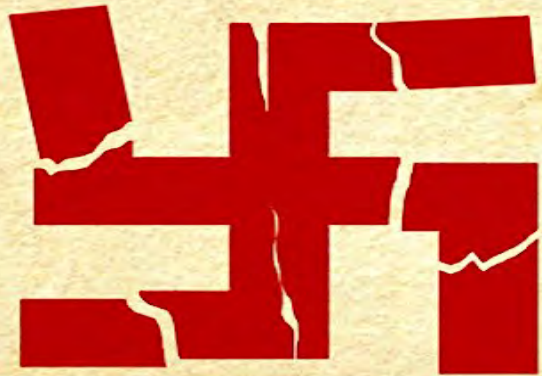
“Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, ‘Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!’ Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king’s high officials gathered around *and* saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire *even* come upon them.” Daniel 3:26–27



“I will be with you”

**Out of the 11
million people
killed in the
Holocaust,
6 million were
Jews**



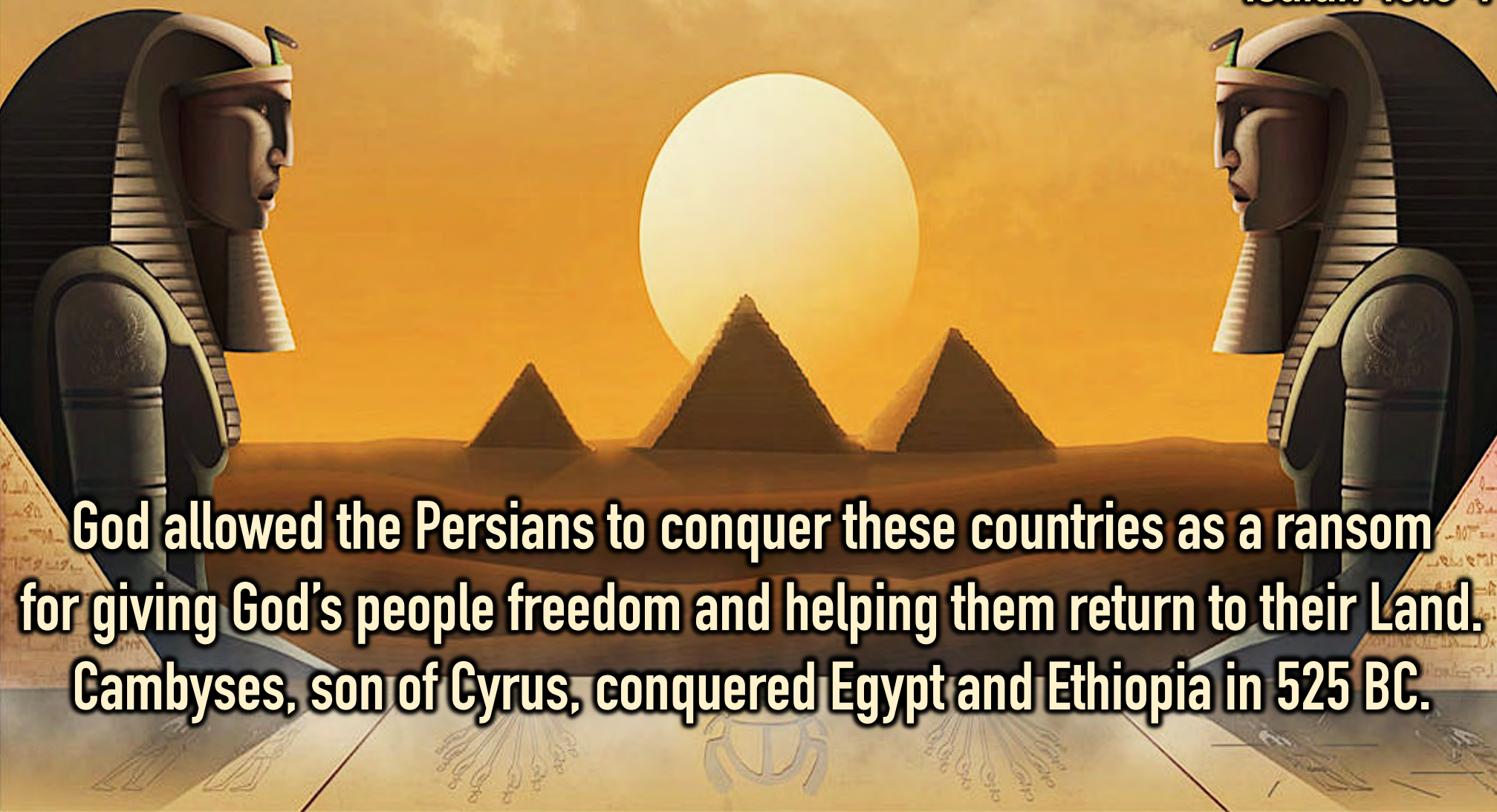


AFTER THE HOLOCAUST



“For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. Since you are precious in My sight, since you are honored and I love you, I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life.”

Isaiah 43:3-4



God allowed the Persians to conquer these countries as a ransom for giving God's people freedom and helping them return to their Land. Cambyses, son of Cyrus, conquered Egypt and Ethiopia in 525 BC.

The purpose Israel was created and will be restored is for God's glory



ISRAEL

“Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created *for My glory*, whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”

Isaiah 43:5-7

“Bring out the people who are blind, even though they have eyes, and the deaf, even though they have ears.

All the nations have gathered together in order that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them can declare this and proclaim to us the former things? Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified, or let them hear and say, ‘It is true.’” **Isaiah 43:8-9**



2. The Commissioning of the Nation

43:10-13

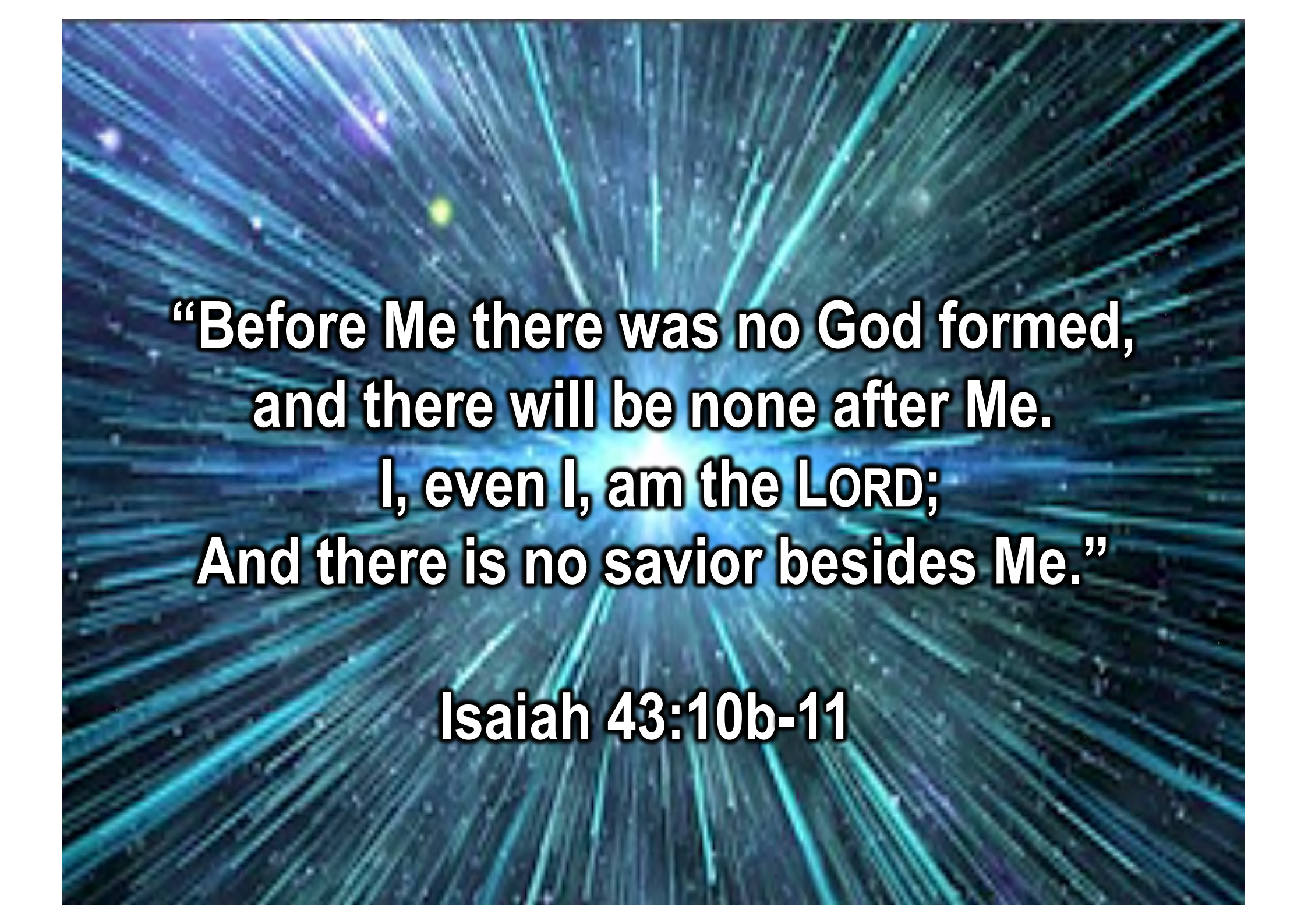
“You are My witnesses,’ declares the LORD, and My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me. I, even I, am the LORD; And there is no savior besides Me. It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, and there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses,’ declares the LORD, and I am God. Even from eternity I am He; And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?”

Isaiah 43:10-13

What God Says His People are to Be

Our Position as Christians My witnesses
My servant

Our Purpose as Christians That you may know Me
That you may believe Me
That you may understand I am



**“Before Me there was no God formed,
and there will be none after Me.
I, even I, am the LORD;
And there is no savior besides Me.”**

Isaiah 43:10b-11

A high-resolution image of Earth from space, showing the continents of North and South America. The Earth is set against a dark, star-filled background. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

**“IF GOD CREATED
THE UNIVERSE, THEN
WHO CREATED GOD?”**

—One of the Big Objections—

ⓧ To ask where someone who is eternal, someone who had no beginning, came from ('Who created God?') is like asking, 'To whom is the bachelor married?'
It is an irrational question.

**Before Me there was no God formed
and there will be none after Me**

Self-existence

I alone am the LORD

Incomparability

There is no savior besides Me

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Why Do Smart People Believe Stupid Things?

The Bible explains why intelligent people choose to believe impossible things—firstly the universe, then life, came into existence without any adequate cause. They choose to illogically accept that their beginning had no sufficient cause, rather than acknowledge and honor their Creator.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools . . . ” **Romans 1:18-22**

You Can't Undo What God Has Done – and Will Do

“Even from eternity I am He; And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?” (Isaiah 43:13)

God is immutable (never changes)

God is sovereign (no one can hinder His work)

God is faithful (no one can take God's people from Him)

“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.’” 2 Timothy 2:19

SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING;
NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH.
DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?
**I WILL MAKE A WAY
IN THE WILDERNESS &
RIVERS IN THE DESERT.**
ISAIAH 43:19



Isaiah 44

God's restoration of the unworthy nation to the land comforts his people so that they can trust him (Isaiah 43:1–44:5)

- 1. Israel should not fear since the LORD will be with them through difficulty and restore them to the land (43:1-13).**
- 2. God will deliver unfaithful Israel from Babylon as he did from Egypt despite their neglect to give sacrifices (43:14-28).**
- 3. The LORD elected his servant nation Israel not to fear since he would pour out his Spirit on her children (44:1-5).**

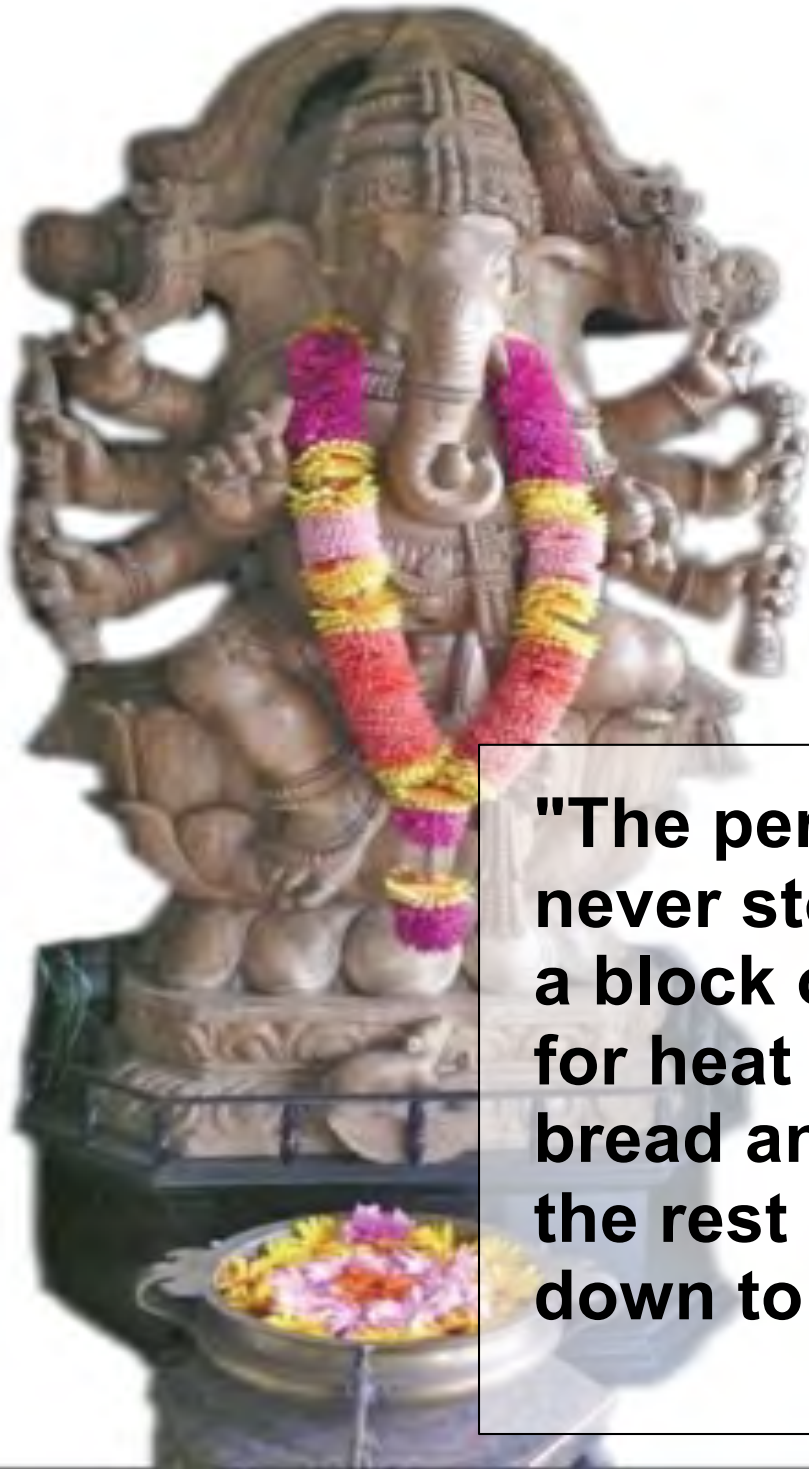
God's uniqueness should urge Judah not trust idols but rather see that he appointed Cyrus to restore them to their land (Isaiah 44:6–45:25).

- 1. Since God predetermines history while idols can do nothing, Israel should return to him for forgiveness (44:6-23).**
- 2. Cyrus will be God's shepherd and messiah to ruin nations but rebuild Jerusalem in 140 years (44:24–45:8).**
- 3. Gentiles should abandon their idols and trust the LORD who will raise up Cyrus without even rewarding him (45:9-25).**

Self-Made Idols Are Useless

Babylon & Us





"The person who made the idol never stops to reflect, 'Why, it's just a block of wood! I burned half of it for heat and used it to bake my bread and roast my meat. How can the rest of it be a god? Should I bow down to worship a piece of wood?'"

(Isa. 44:19 NLT)

Imagery of Wood in Isaiah

**Wood is cut to
make idols
(Isa. 44:13-19)**

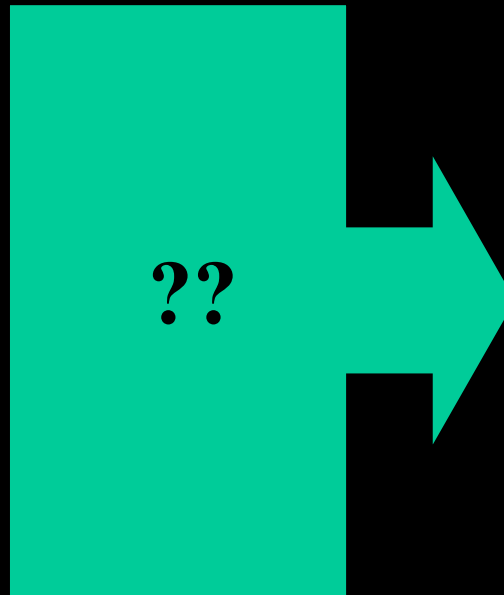
**Yahweh plants trees
(Isa. 41:19).
Trees praise Yahweh
for His work in
salvation (Isa. 44:23).**

Amazing Prophecies

460



**Stamford
Raffles (1819)**



**Lee Kwan Yew
(1959)**

Did you hear that Raffles wrote 140 years before Lee Kwan Yew, "Behold, a man named Lee will arise to make Singapore its own country..."?

Amazing Prophecies

460



Isaiah (700 BC)

41:2-3, 25
44:28
45:1-2
45:13-15



Cyrus (539 BC)

"When I say of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,' he will certainly do as I say. He will command, 'Rebuild Jerusalem'; he will say, 'Restore the Temple' "
(Isa. 44:28 NLT)

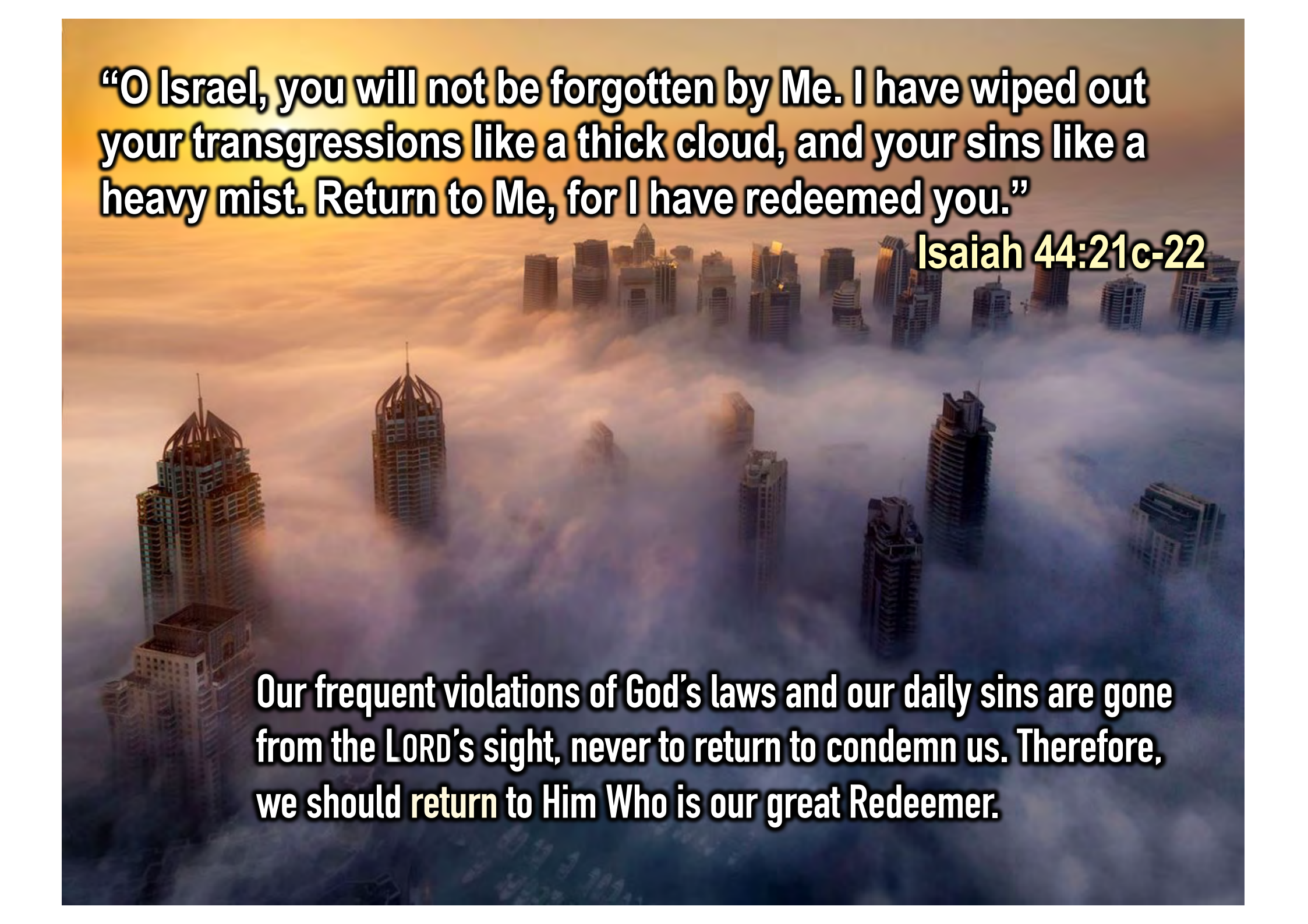
Is Nostradamus a prophet?

Did this predict Hurricane Katrina?

"The cities of Tours, Orleans, Blois, Angers, Reims and Nantes are troubled by sudden change. Tents will be pitched by (people) of foreign tongues; rivers, darts at Rennes, shaking of land and sea."

(Century 1, Quatrain 50)



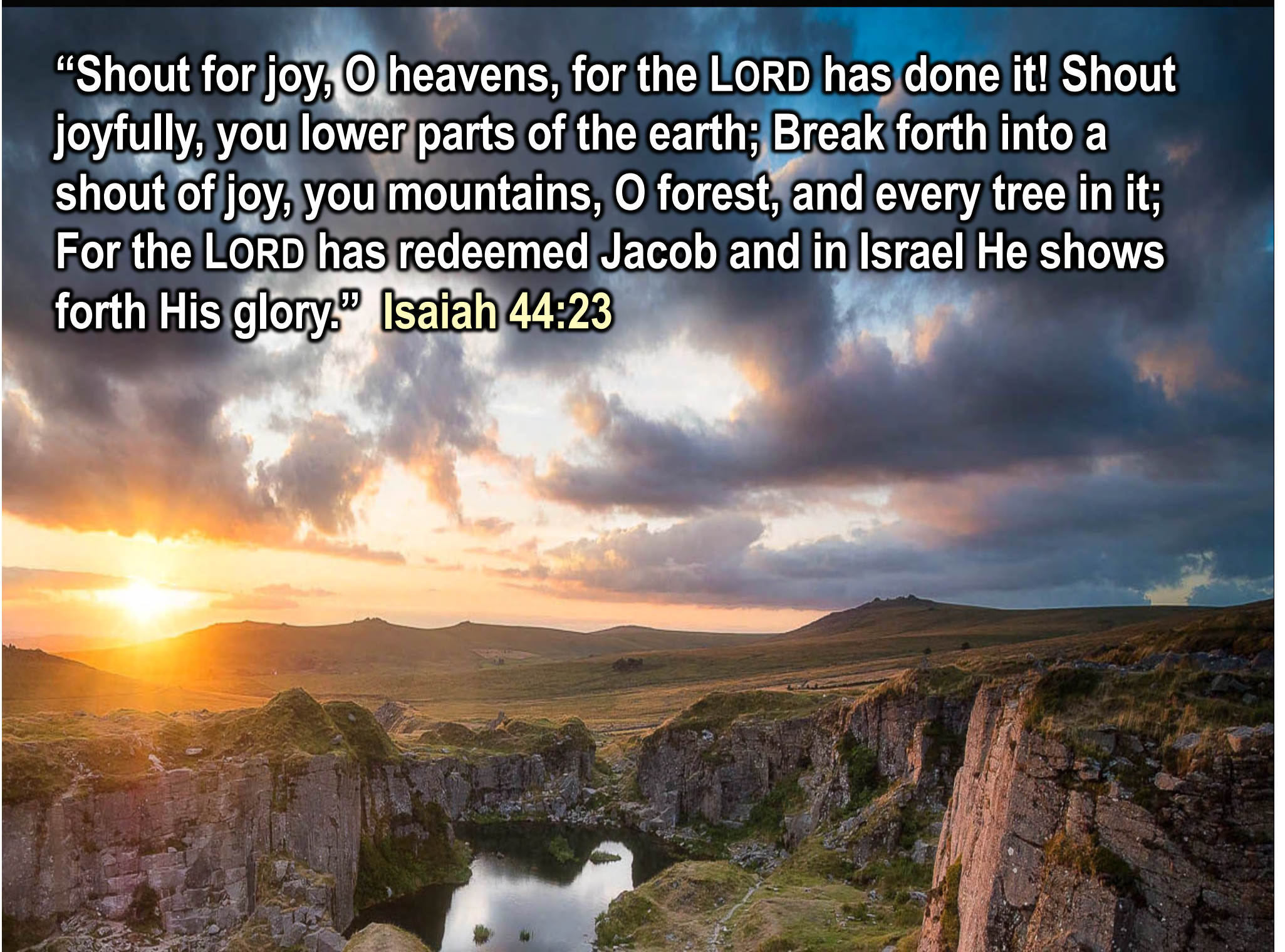
An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely Dubai, with several prominent skyscrapers. The city is partially obscured by a thick, white layer of clouds or fog that fills the lower half of the frame. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

“O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me. I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud, and your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”

Isaiah 44:21c-22

Our frequent violations of God’s laws and our daily sins are gone from the LORD’s sight, never to return to condemn us. Therefore, we should return to Him Who is our great Redeemer.

“Shout for joy, O heavens, for the LORD has done it! Shout joyfully, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into a shout of joy, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it; For the LORD has redeemed Jacob and in Israel He shows forth His glory.” Isaiah 44:23



The Purpose of God's Servant Cyrus

“Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by Myself, and spreading out the earth all alone, causing the omens of boasters to fail, making fools out of diviners, causing wise men to draw back, and turning their knowledge into foolishness, confirming the word of His servant, and performing the purpose of His messengers. It is I who says of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be inhabited!’ And of the cities of Judah, ‘They shall be built.’ And I will raise up her ruins again. It is I who says to the depth of the sea, ‘Be dried up!’ And I will make your rivers dry.” **Isaiah 44:24-27**



Nothing can help pagan idolaters (43:9–44:20) whose prophecies will fail and show their foolishness. By contrast, God having punished His people for their syncretism (43:24-28) through exile (43:14-21), will show that His prophecies do not fail and that as a powerful Redeemer, He can forgive their sins and restore them to the Promised Land (44:1-8, 21-23).

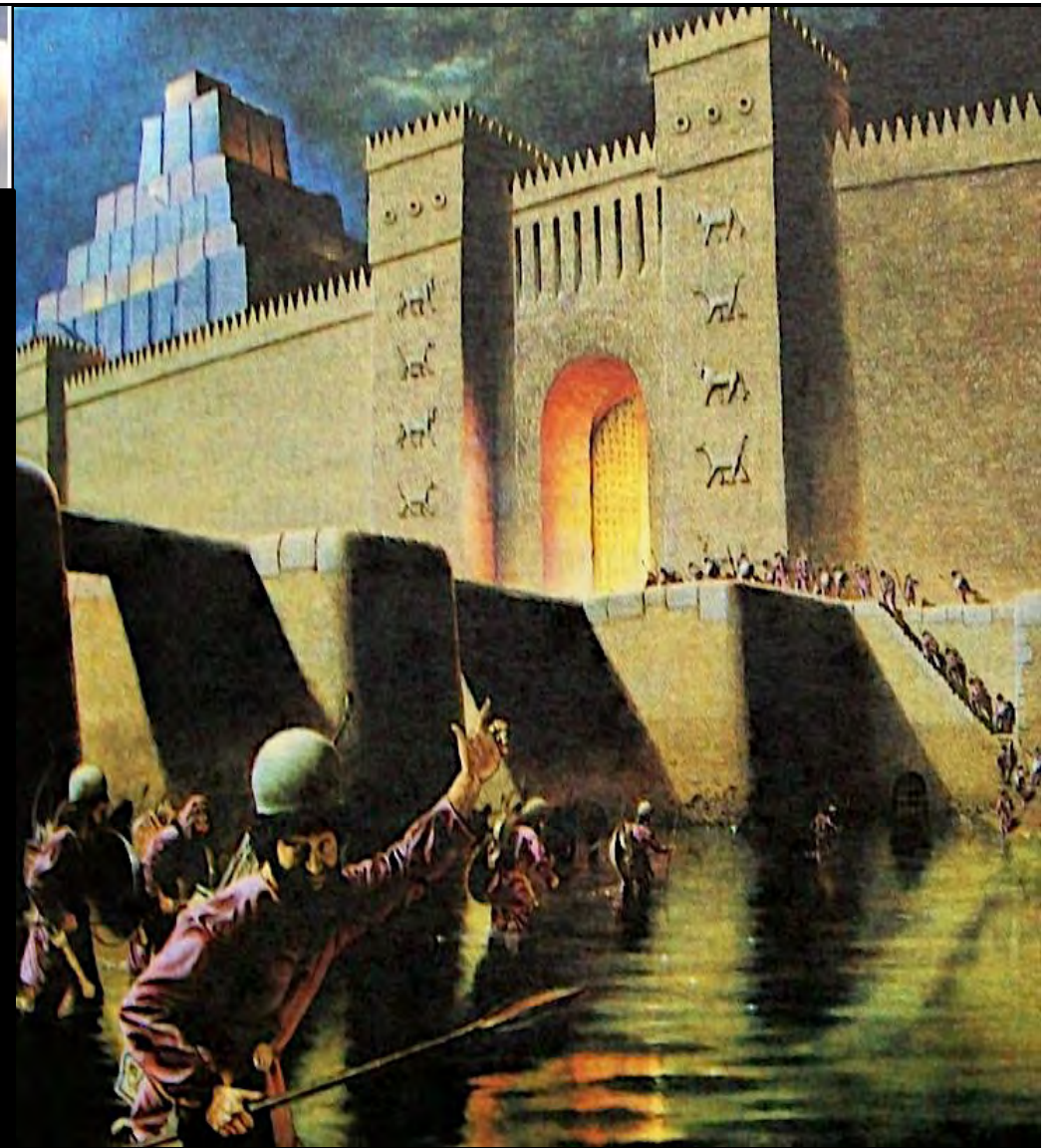


Isaiah 45

Cyrus Destroyed Babylon



Belshazzar's Feast (Daniel 5)



On 12 Oct 539 BC, after Cyrus' engineers diverted the waters of the Euphrates, the soldiers entered Babylon without fighting.

“It is I who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.’ And he declares of Jerusalem, ‘She will be built,’ and of the Temple, ‘Your foundation will be laid. Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His **anointed**, Whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him, and to loose the loins of kings; to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze, and cut through their iron bars. And I will give you the treasures of darkness, and hidden wealth of secret places, in order that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.” **Isaiah 44:28–45:3**

God's Shepherd Cyrus



“Anointed”



Mashiach (Messiah)

Isaiah 45:1

God's "anointed," whether a patriarch (Ps. 105:15), priest (Lev. 4:3, 5, 16), king (1 Sam. 24:6; 2 Sam. 1:14, 16), or prophet (1 Kgs. 19:16) was a person chosen and "set apart" (the act of "anointing" with oil) to do a special work for God. In the case of Cyrus, he was set apart to serve God's purpose in releasing the captive Jews and returning them to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple, as He had promised: "Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation," declares the LORD, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation'" (Jeremiah 25:12). God would subdue nations before Cyrus and give him the wealth of those nations in order that Cyrus would come to recognize that Israel's God had done this for him.



CYRUS CYLINDER



What: Clay cylinder, 22.5 cm by 10 cm, inscribed with arguably the world's first known human rights charter

Antiquity: 539 BC when Persian emperor Cyrus conquered Babylon

Contents: Freedom of worship for all, call for repatriation of deportees

Place: London Museum

“I am Cyrus, king of the world, great king, legitimate king, king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four rims (of the earth), son of Cambyses, great king, king of Anshan, descendant of Teispes, great king, king of Anshan, family (which) always (exercised) kingship.”

Events of the 70th "Week"

70th "Week"

*All Israel
shall be saved*



"He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him" (Daniel 9:27 NIV).

**Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty
with Israel**



**This will likely enable the rebuilding of the
Jerusalem temple**

In 2017, Israel Commemorated President Trump's Efforts to Rebuild the Temple



This ½ shekel preparation for the Third Temple is compared to Cyrus Helping Build the Second Temple in 539 BC

Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty with Israel



Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty with Israel



This will likely enable the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple

Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty with Israel



This will likely enable the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple

Antichrist will make a 7-year treaty with Israel



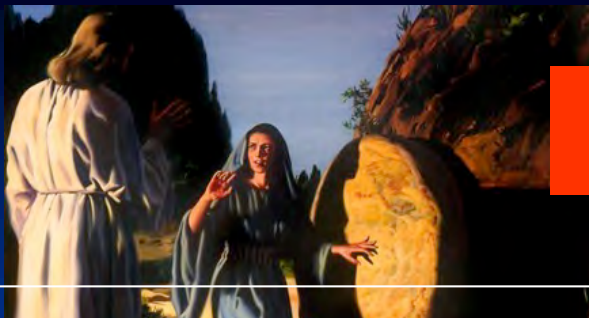
This will likely enable the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple

**"...Who
foretold this
long ago,
who declared
it from the
distant past?
Was it not I,
the LORD?
And there is
no God apart
from me, a
righteous
God and a
Savior; there
is none but
me."**

**"Turn to me and be saved, all
you ends of the earth; for I am
God, and there is no other."**



Isa. 45:21-22 NIV



Christology

Isaiah contains some of the richest and most extensive references to the person and work of Christ found anywhere in the OT

THEOLOGY IN ISAIAH

Eschatology

Isaiah's view of the future includes times of both unparalleled judgment and joy with prosperity in a [millennial] paradise regained.



THEOLOGY IN ISAIAH

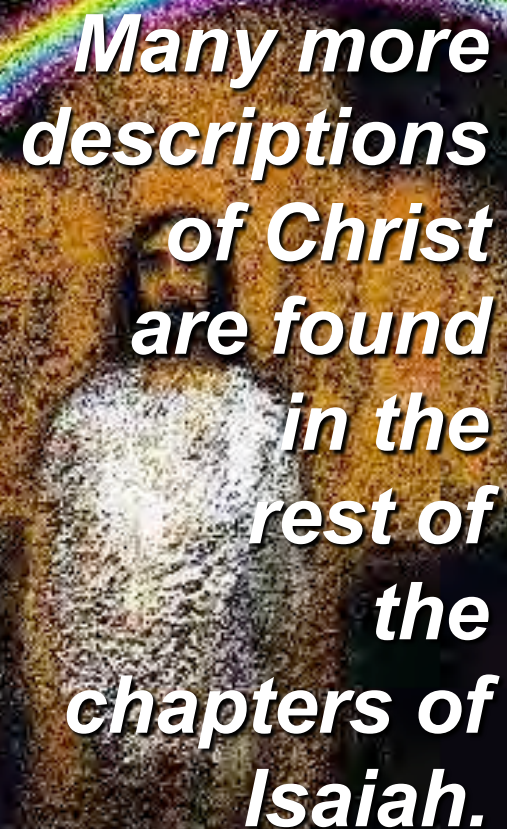
Christology

1. His Incarnation

- Virgin Birth (7:14)
- Deity (9:6)

2. His Character

- Lowly Beginning (11:1)
- Royal lineage (11:1)
- Wise (9:6)
- Eternal (9:6)
- Peace (9:6)
- Truthful (53:9)



*Many more
descriptions
of Christ
are found
in the
rest of
the
chapters of
Isaiah.*

THEOLOGY IN ISAIAH

Eschatology

1. THE DAY OF THE LORD

- "*the LORD Almighty has a day*" (2:12; 22:5)
- "*the day of the LORD*" (13:6, 9)
- "*in that day*" (35 times, mostly in chaps. 1–39)

Two distinct emphases for "the Day of the LORD"

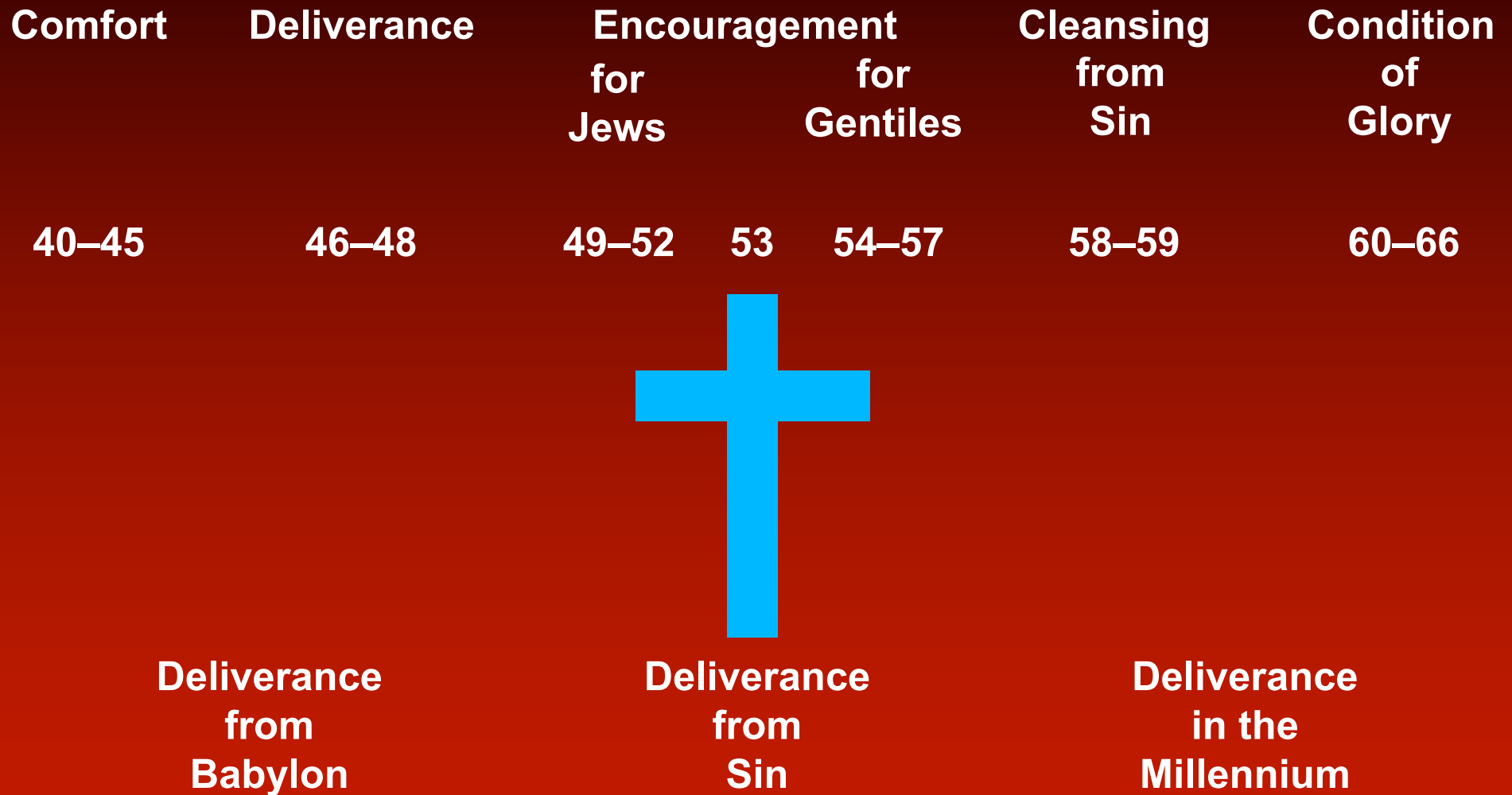
- A day of distress and wailing
- A day of victory and redemption

Isaiah 46

Isaiah 40–66 Structure

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Adapted from John A. Martin, Dallas Seminary



God will deliver Israel by destroying Babylon so his people will know that he alone is sovereign and committed to his covenant (Isaiah 46–48).

- 1. God will destroy Babylon's useless idols through Cyrus (46:11) because he alone is God who can plan salvation for Israel (Isa 46).**
- 2. Babylon's empire that appeared invincible as a queen trusting in astrology will be destroyed because God is greater (Isa 47).**
- 3. Israel's liberation from Babylon and return to its land will show God keeps his covenant (Isa 48).**

Babylon's gods judged



**“Bel and Nebo, the gods of Babylon,
bow as they are lowered to the ground.
They are being hauled away on ox carts.
The poor beasts stagger under the weight.
² Both the idols and their owners are bowed down.
The gods cannot protect the people,
and the people cannot protect the gods.
They go off into captivity together”
(Isaiah 46:1-2 NLT).**

God versus Babylon

Isaiah 46–47



God has prophetically promised Israel a return from Exile, but this will depend on the defeat of Babylon. The fall of Babylon is depicted in terms of the disgrace of its gods, since God has been declaring and demonstrating to the Nation His superiority to the gods of the nations. Believing this prophetic promise requires faith, since human sight only sees the might and power of these nations and the declining status of Israel (as a result of God's discipline) at the present time and the fulfillment will be past the lifetimes of Isaiah and his immediate audience. All of the pagan gods will fail and the empires of their makers will fall, but the God of Israel will faithfully fulfill His promise of Israel will be delivered and see God's glory.





Outline of Isaiah 46–47

- I. Babylon's Idols Fail, but Israel's God is Faithful. 46:1–11**
 - A. Babylon's Idols Fail because they Cannot Save. 46:1–2**
 - B. Israel's God Saves because He Cannot Fail. 46:3–4**
 - C. Babylon's Idols Fail because they have no Power. 46:5–7**
 - D. Israel's God Cannot Fail because He is All-Powerful. 46:8–11**

“The king reflected and said, ‘Is this not **Babylon the Great**, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?’”

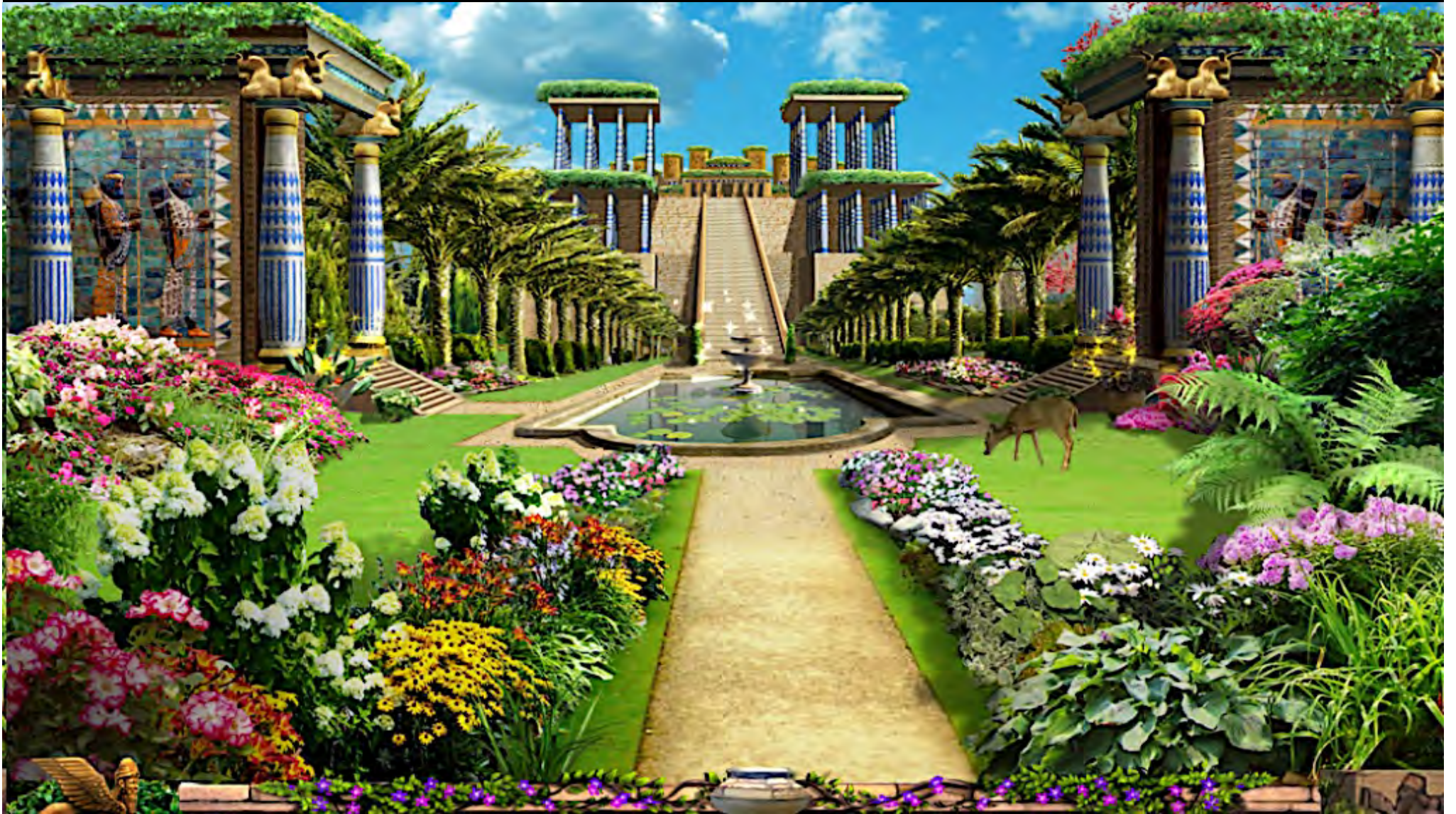
Daniel 4:30



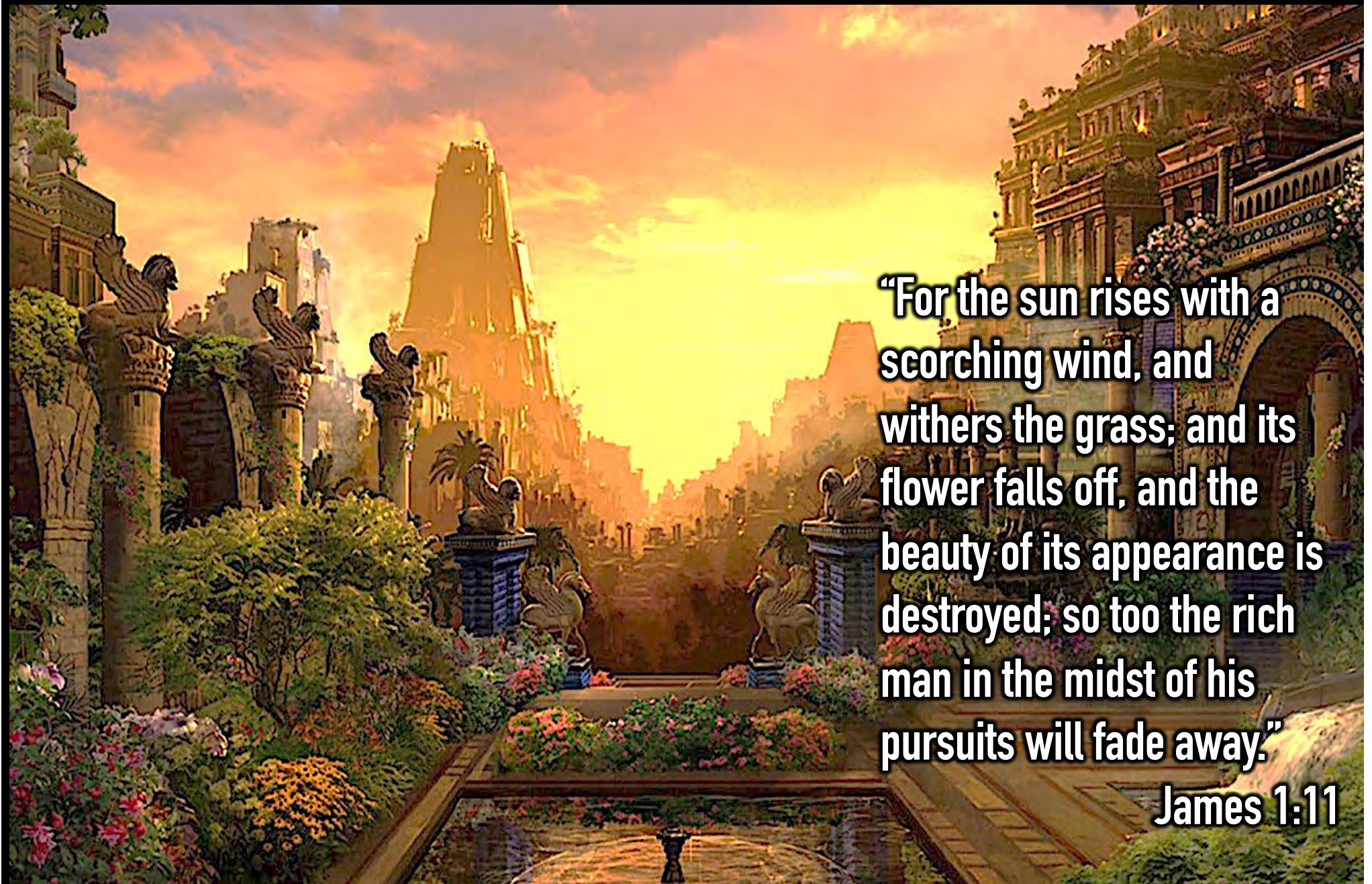
The Hanging Gardens of Babylon



The Hanging Gardens of Babylon



“for the form of this world is passing away.” 1 Corinthians 7:31



“For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.”

James 1:11

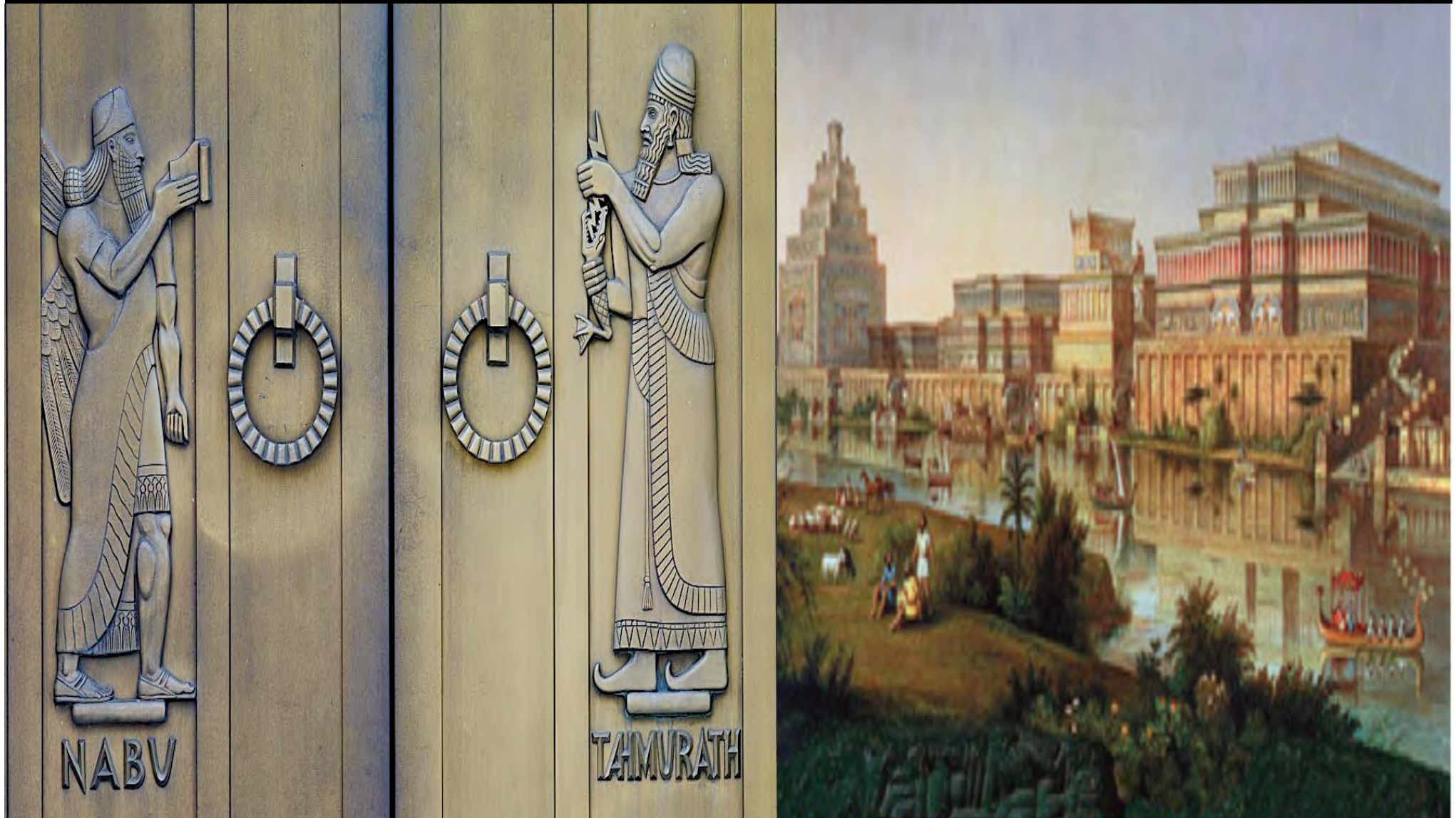
The First Sin of Babylon

Then they said, “Come, let’s build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world.”

—Genesis 11:4 NLT



Gate of the Gods of Babylon



Priest honoring Marduk



List of the Babylonian Gods/Goddesses

- ▶ Anu: the god of the highest heaven
- Marduk: national god of the Babylonians
- Tiamat: dragon goddess
- Enlil: god of weather and storms
- Nabu: god of the scribal arts
- Ishtar: goddess of love
- Ea: god of wisdom
- Enurta: god of war
- Anshar: father of heaven
- Shamash: god of the sun and of justice
- Kishar: father of earth



Adad (Ishkur)



Amurru (Martu)



Anu (An)



Anzu



Apkallu fish



Apkallu griffin



Apkallu human



Apsu (Abzu)



Ashur



Bull Man



Bull of Heaven



Dumuzi

AN ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY

Gods, Demons and Symbols of Ancient Mesopotamia



JEREMY BLACK AND ANTHONY GREEN

Illustrations by Tessa Rickards

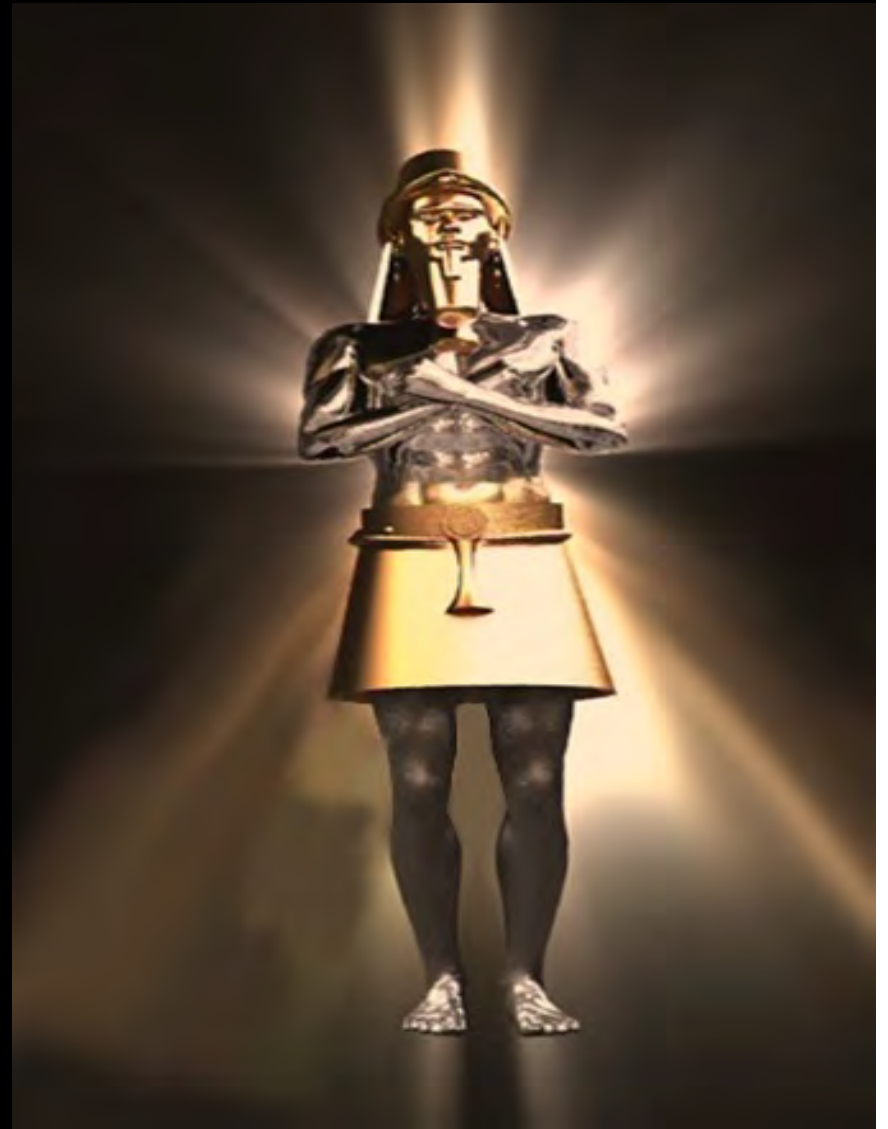


“For the king of Babylon stands at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination; he shakes the arrows, he consults the household idols, he looks at the liver.”

Ezekiel 21:19, 21

“Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was 60 cubits and its width 6 cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon ...Then the herald loudly proclaimed: ‘To you ¹the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language ... you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.’... There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up. ... If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Daniel 3:1, 4, 12, 17-18



The background of the slide is a detailed image of a Babylonian winged goddess statue, likely Ishtar, carved from terracotta. The statue features a large, ornate headdress with long, flowing ribbons, a face with a serene expression, and a long, beaded necklace. Large, feathered wings extend from the shoulders. The entire image is set against a black background.

Outline of Isaiah 46–47

I. Babylon's Idols Fail, but Israel's God is Faithful.

46:1–13

A. Babylon's Idols Fail because they Cannot Save.

46:1–2



“Bel [“lord” = Marduk] has bowed down, Nebo [son of Bel] stoops over [tied to animal laying down]; Their images are consigned to the beasts and the cattle. The things that you carry [the idols] are burdensome, a load for the weary beast. They stooped over, they have bowed down together; They could not rescue the burden, but have themselves gone into captivity.” Isaiah 46:1-2

The background of the slide is a detailed image of a Babylonian winged goddess statue, likely Ishtar, carved from terracotta. The statue features large, feathered wings, a horned headdress, and a beaded necklace. The text is overlaid on this image.

Outline of Isaiah 46–47

- I. Babylon's Idols Fail, but Israel's God is Faithful. 46:1–13**
 - A. Babylon's Idols Fail because they Cannot Save. 46:1–2**
 - B. Israel's God Saves because He Cannot Fail. 46:3–4**



“Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, you who have been borne by Me from birth, and have been carried from the womb; Even to your old age, I shall be the same, and even to your graying years I shall bear you! I have done it, and I shall **carry you; And I shall bear you, and I shall deliver you.”**

Isaiah 46:3–4



Outline of Isaiah 46–47

- I. Babylon's Idols Fail, but Israel's God is Faithful. 46:1–13**
 - A. Babylon's Idols Fail because they Cannot Save. 46:1–2**
 - B. Israel's God Saves because He Cannot Fail. 46:3–4**
 - C. Babylon's Idols Fail because they have no Power. 46:5–7**

The Insufficiency of Inanimate Idols

“To whom would you liken Me, and make Me equal and compare Me, that we should be alike? Those who lavish gold from the purse and weigh silver on the scale hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; They bow down, indeed they worship it. They lift it upon the shoulder and carry it; They set it in its place and it stands there. It does not move from its place. Though one may cry to it, it cannot answer; It cannot deliver him from his distress.” **Isaiah 46:5–7**





Outline of Isaiah 46–47

- I. Babylon's Idols Fail, but Israel's God is Faithful. 46:1–13**
 - A. Babylon's Idols Fail because they Cannot Save. 46:1–2**
 - B. Israel's God Saves because He Cannot Fail. 46:3–4**
 - C. Babylon's Idols Fail because they have no Power. 46:5–7**
 - D. Israel's God Cannot Fail because He is All-Powerful. 46:8–11**

The Sufficiency of the Sovereign God

“Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors. Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.”

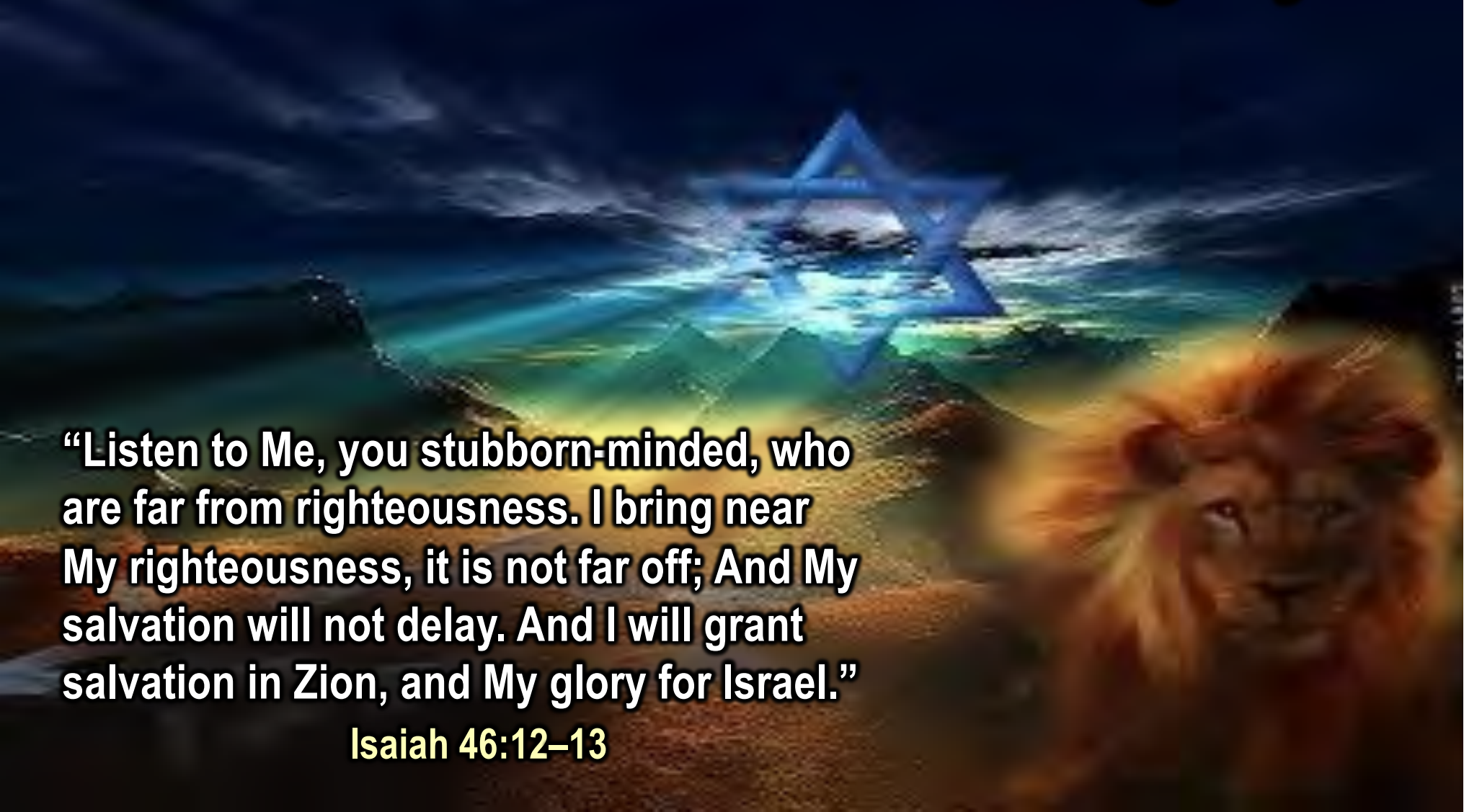
Isaiah 46:8–11



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 - D. Israel's God Cannot Fail because He is All-Powerful. 46:8–11**
 - E. Israel's God will Save and Give His Glory to Israel. 46:12–13**

Israel will be saved for God's glory



“Listen to Me, you stubborn-minded, who are far from righteousness. I bring near My righteousness, it is not far off; And My salvation will not delay. And I will grant salvation in Zion, and My glory for Israel.”

Isaiah 46:12–13

Isaiah 47



Outline of Isaiah 46–47

II. God's Coming Judgment on Babylon.

47:1–15

A. God Crushes Babylon but Carries Israel.

47:1–3

B. God is the Redeemer of Israel, but the Ruin of Babylon.

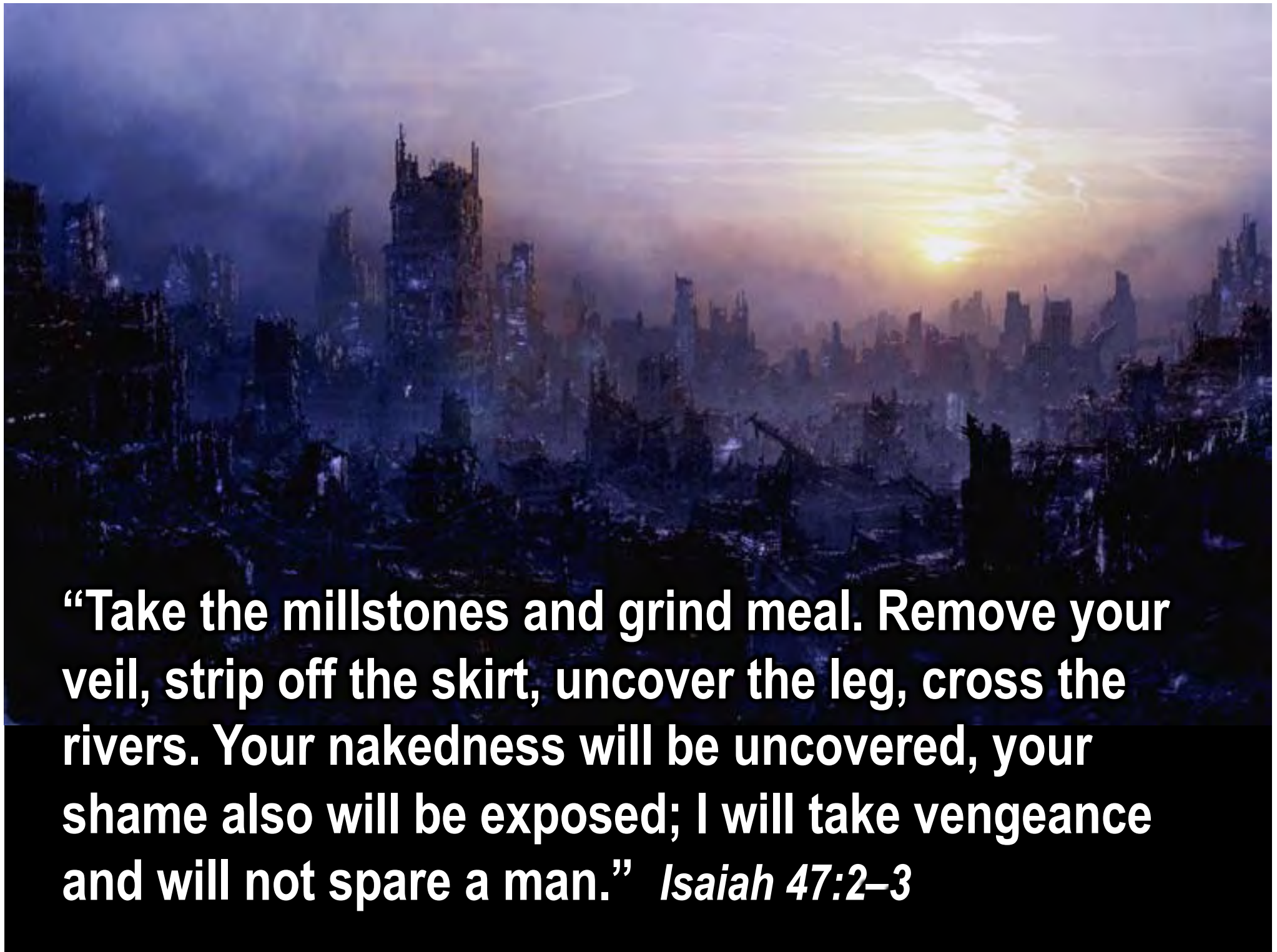
47:4–11

C. Sorcery will Ruin not Rescue Babylon.

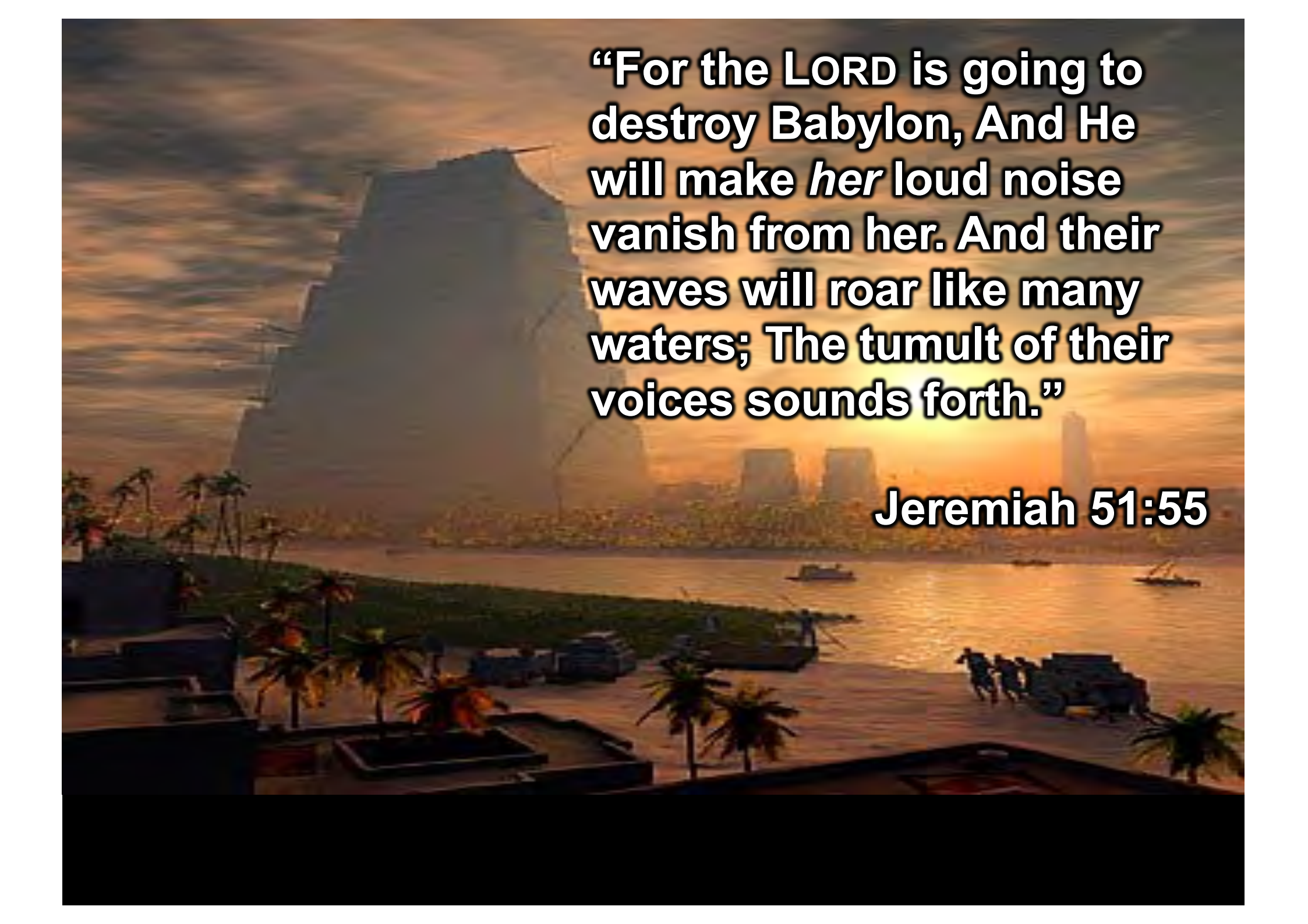
47:12–15

“Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; Sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans. For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate.” **Isaiah 47:1**





“Take the millstones and grind meal. Remove your veil, strip off the skirt, uncover the leg, cross the rivers. Your nakedness will be uncovered, your shame also will be exposed; I will take vengeance and will not spare a man.” *Isaiah 47:2–3*



**“For the LORD is going to
destroy Babylon, And He
will make *her* loud noise
vanish from her. And their
waves will roar like many
waters; The tumult of their
voices sounds forth.”**

Jeremiah 51:55



Outline of Isaiah 46–47

II. God's Coming Judgment on Babylon

47:1–15

A. God Crushes Babylon, but Carries Israel

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47:4–11



Ishtar, Queen of Heaven and goddess of sex and war was painted red and wore a horned headdress. She held a rod and ring of justice, symbols of divinity. She had multi-colored wings that hung down and her feet ended in talons, like the owls at her feet. She is depicted standing on mountains.

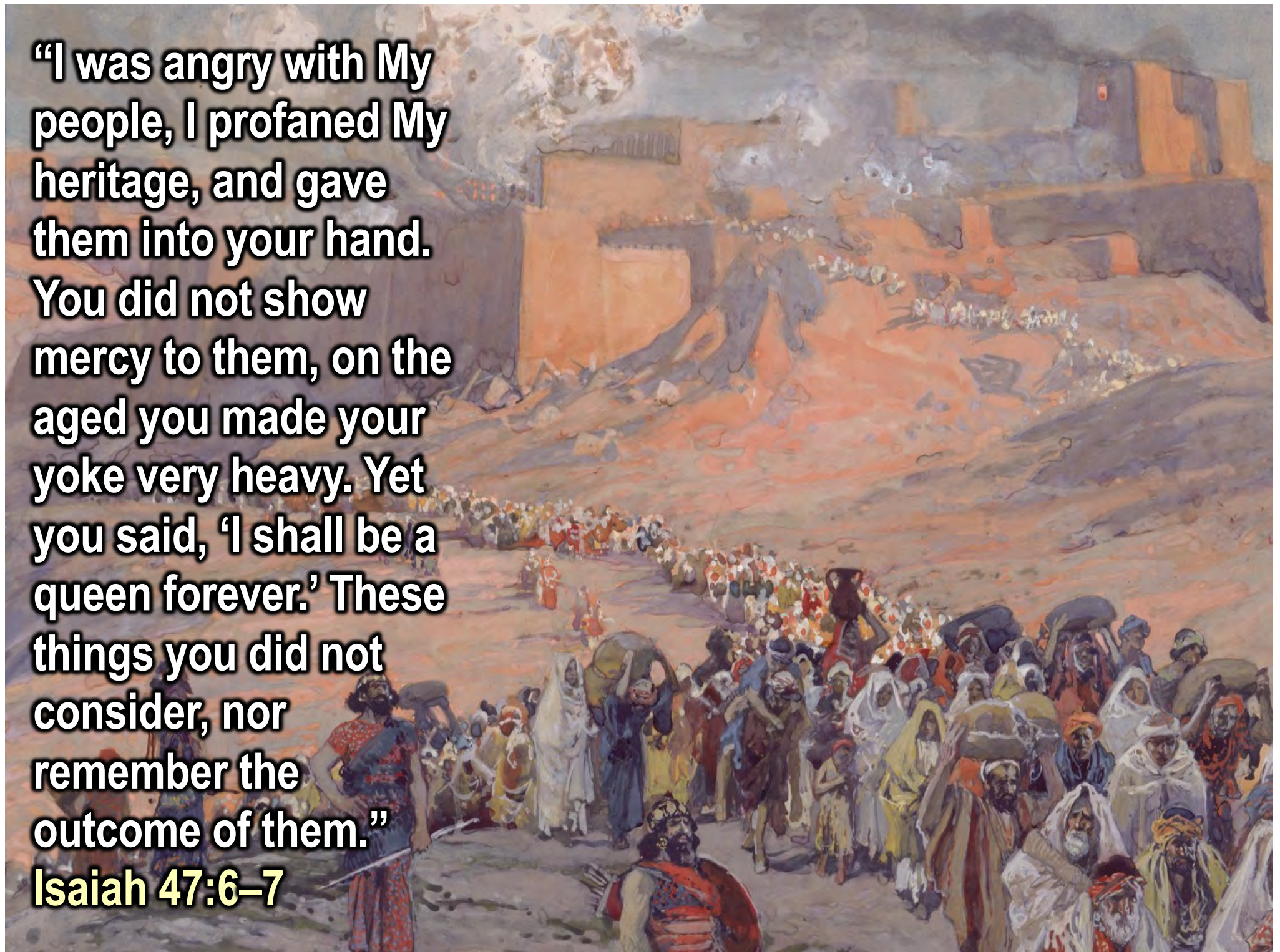
**“Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, the Holy One of Israel. Sit silently, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; For you will no more be called the queen of kingdoms.”
Isaiah 47:4–5**

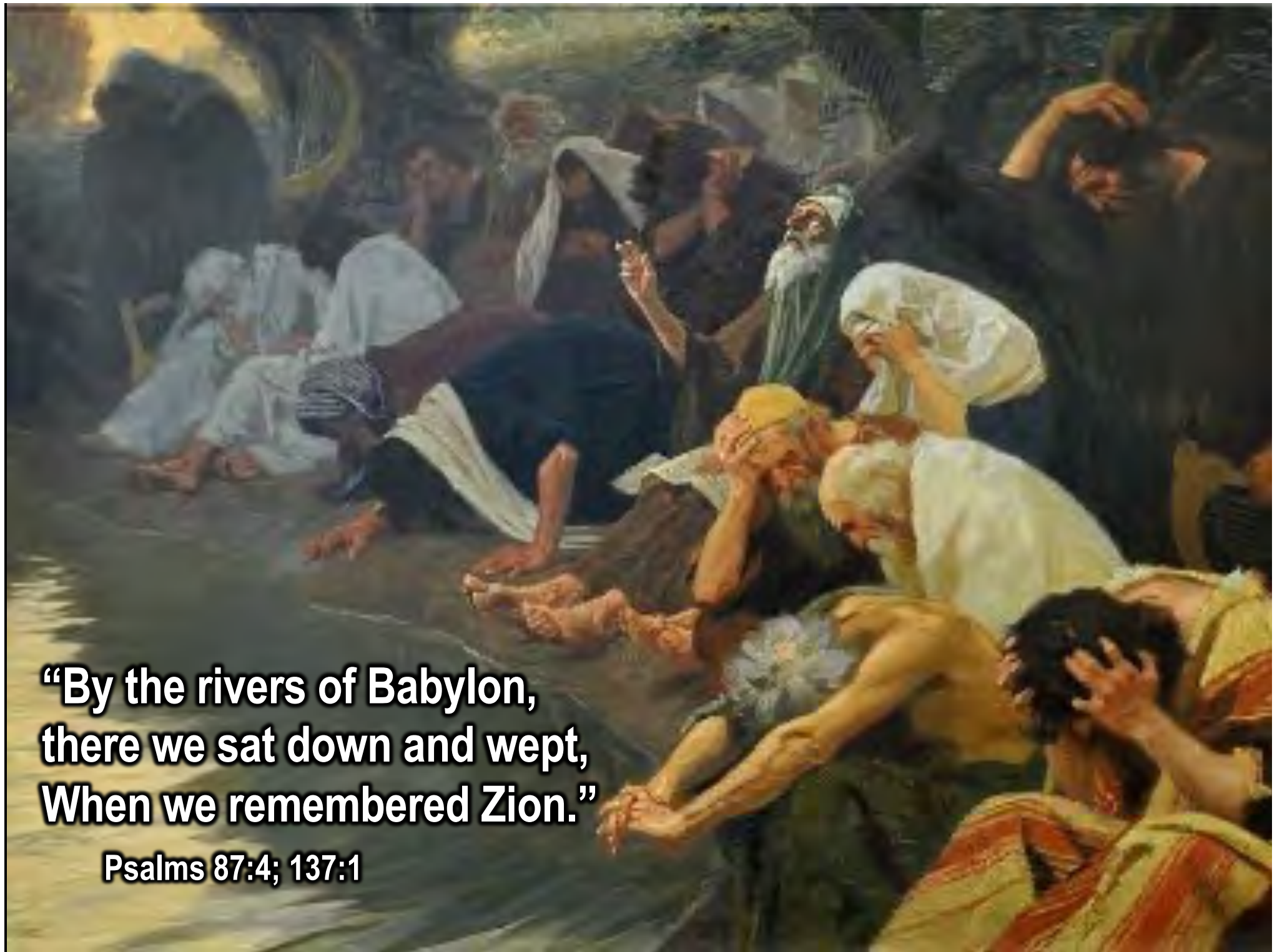
Ishtar Gate



“I was angry with My people, I profaned My heritage, and gave them into your hand. You did not show mercy to them, on the aged you made your yoke very heavy. Yet you said, ‘I shall be a queen forever.’ These things you did not consider, nor remember the outcome of them.”

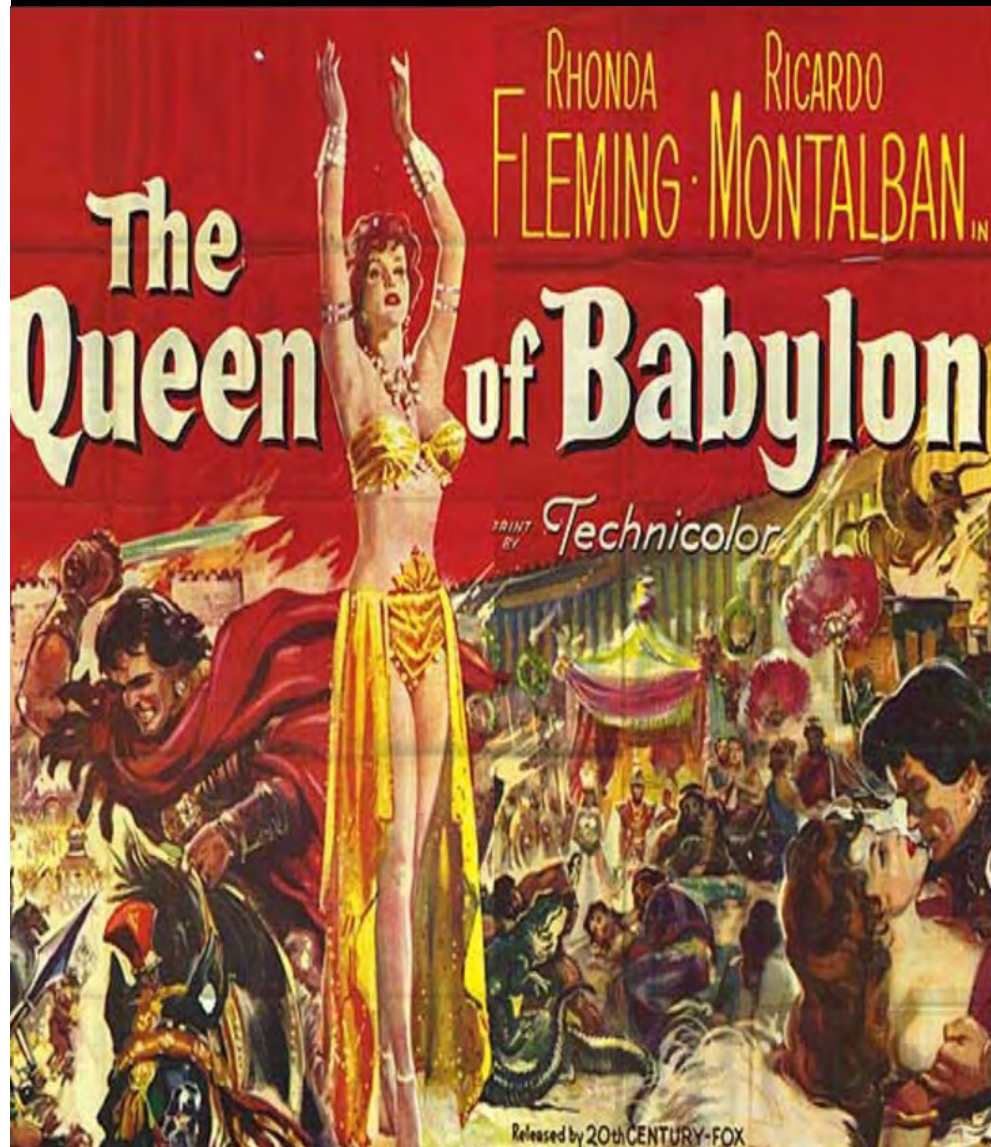
Isaiah 47:6–7





**“By the rivers of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
When we remembered Zion.”**

Psalms 87:4; 137:1



“Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, who dwells securely, who says in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one besides me. I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know loss of children.’ But these two things shall come on you suddenly in one day: loss of children and widowhood. They shall come on you in full measure in spite of your many sorceries, in spite of the great power of your spells. And you felt secure in your wickedness and said, ‘No one sees me.’ Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; For you have said in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one besides me.’ But evil will come on you which you will not know how to charm away; And disaster will fall on you for which you cannot atone, and destruction about which you do not know will come on you suddenly.” Isaiah 47:7–11

The Errors of Babylon

- 1. Focused on Pleasures**
- 2. Ignored the Future**
- 3. Exalted itself**

The background of the slide features a detailed relief of a Babylonian winged goddess, likely Ishtar, with a human face, a crown of horns, and large, feathered wings. The image is in a warm, golden-brown color palette.

Outline of Isaiah 46–47

II. God's Coming Judgment on Babylon.

47:1–15

A. God Crushes Babylon, but Carries Israel.

47:1–3

B. God is the Redeemer of Israel, but the Ruin of Babylon.

47:4–11

c. Sorcery will Ruin not Rescue Babylon.

47:12–15



“Stand fast now in your spells and in your many sorceries with which you have labored from your youth; Perhaps you will be able to profit, perhaps you may cause trembling. You are wearied with your many counsels; Let now the astrologers, those who prophesy by the stars, those who predict by the new moons, stand up and save you from what will come upon you. Behold, they have become like stubble, fire burns them; They cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame; There will be no coal to warm by, nor a fire to sit before!”

Isaiah 47:12–14

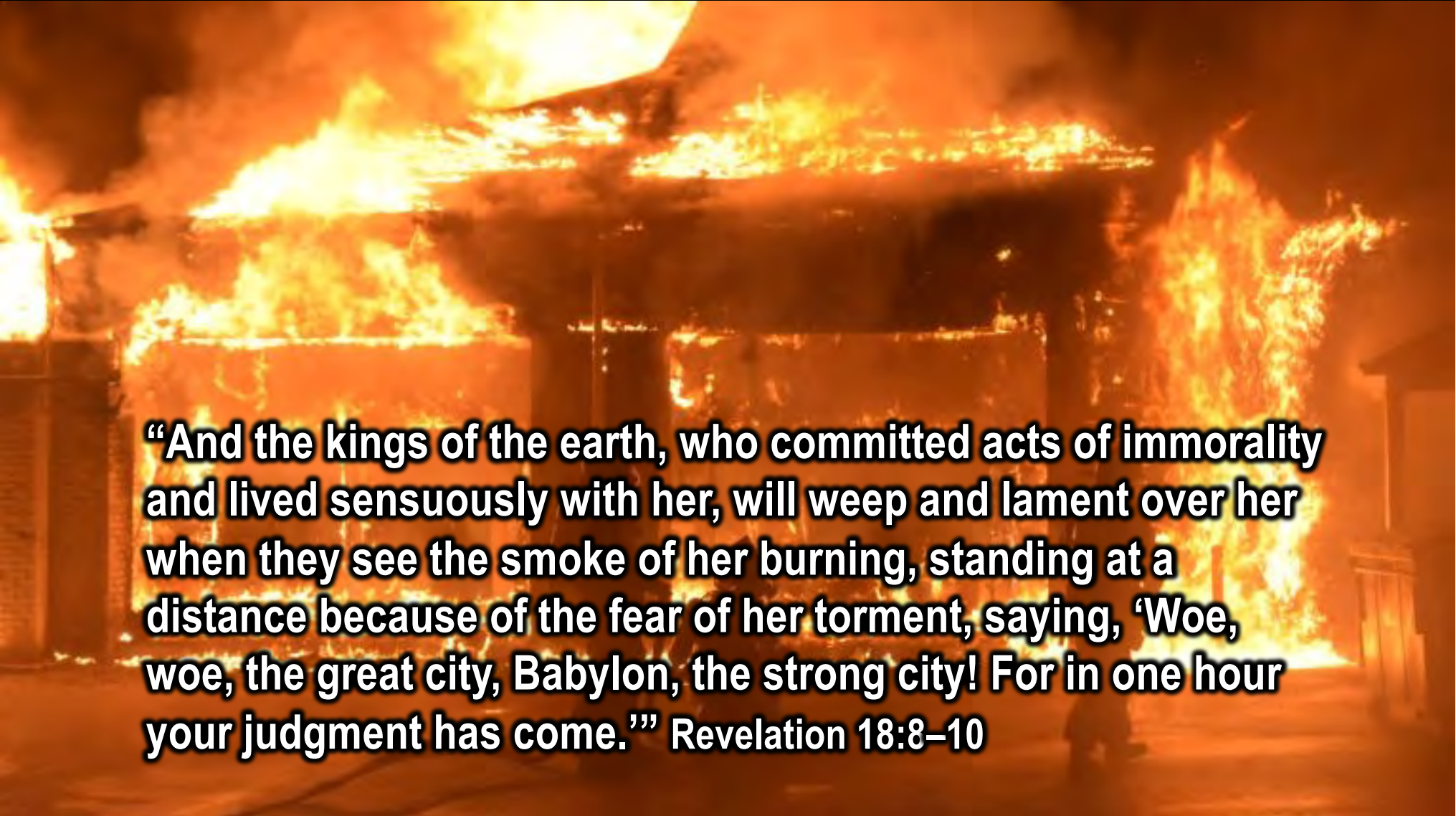


“Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of* immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.” And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” **Revelation 17:1–5**



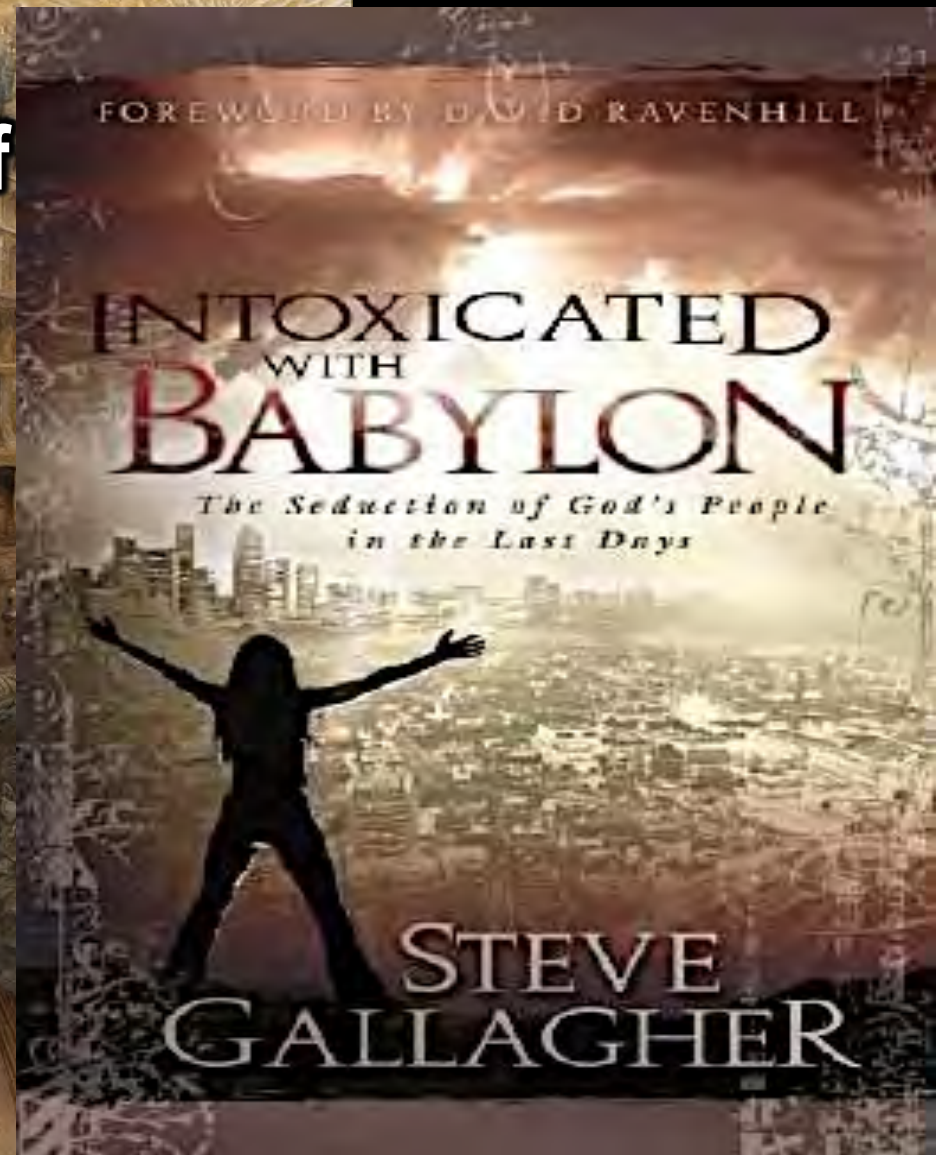
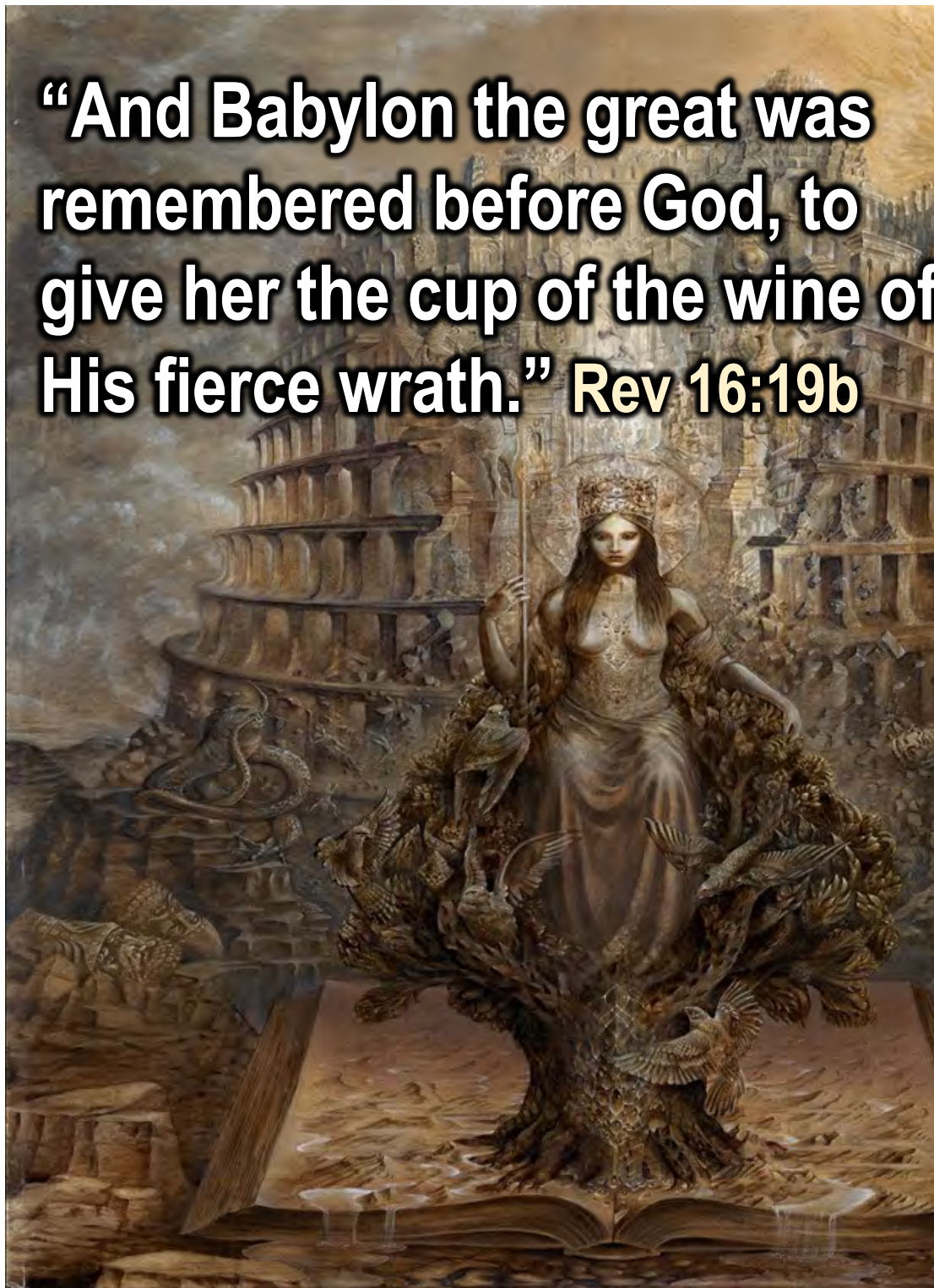
**“So have those
become to you
with whom you
have labored,
who have
trafficked with
you from your
youth; Each has
wandered in his
own way. There
is none to save
you.”**

Isaiah 47:15


A dramatic, apocalyptic scene of a city engulfed in flames. The fire is intense, with bright orange and yellow flames reaching high into the air, consuming buildings and structures. Thick, dark smoke billows from the fire, filling the sky. The overall atmosphere is one of destruction and judgment.

“And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’” Revelation 18:8–10

“And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.” Rev 16:19b



“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,” 1 Timothy 4:1–2



“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these ... But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 3:1–5, 13-15

Isaiah 48

Israel's liberation from Babylon and return to its land will show God keeps his covenant (Isaiah 48)

- 1. God's rebuke of Israel's stubbornness to see how he fulfilled past prophecies exhorts them to see his glory in future fulfillments (48:1-11).**
- 2. God—not the idols—proclaims that they will leave Babylon once he redeems them (48:12-22).**

Stubborn Israel

**“You have heard my predictions and seen them fulfilled,
but you refuse to admit it.**

**Now I will tell you new things,
secrets you have not yet heard.**

⁷ They are brand new, not things from the past.

So you cannot say, ‘We knew that all the time!’”

—Isaiah 48:6-7 NLT—



**How will God complete his
plan for all creation?**

Be Complete



Judgment
1–39

*God will **judge** those who reject him (Isaiah 1–39).*

Be Complete



Judgment
1–39

Salvation
40–66

*God will **save** those who trust him (Isaiah 40–66).*

The Main Idea of Isaiah



Judgment

1–39

Salvation

40–66

*God will both **judge** and
save his creation.*

Key Word

452
343

Restoration

Isaiah

APPLICATION



The future restoration of the earth should cause us to get our priorities right now

***Realize that God is preparing you
for your future rule now!***

Jesus Shall Reign

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Jesus Shall Reign

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run
His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To Him shall endless prayer be made.
And princes throng to crown His head,
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.**



Jesus Shall Reign

**He shall reign in glory
crowned with grace and might.**

**Bless His name and
praise the Sovereign King!**

**He shall reign forever
with His chosen bride,
And all the earth shall sing
that Jesus is the King!**



Jesus Shall Reign

**People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.**

**Blessings abound where'er He reigns:
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.**

Jesus Shall Reign

**He shall reign in glory
crowned with grace and might.**

**Bless His name and
praise the Sovereign King!**

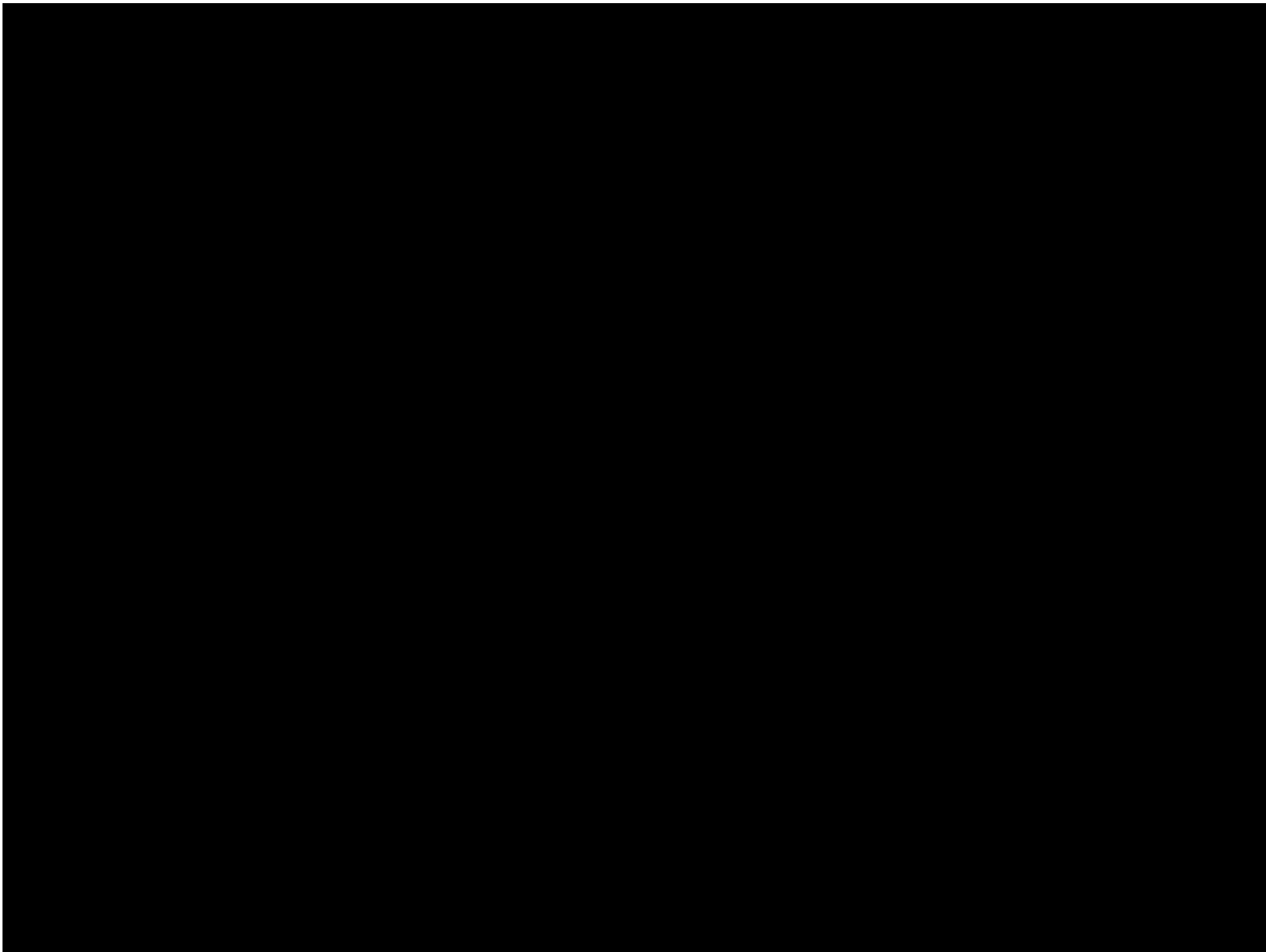
**He shall reign forever
with His chosen bride,
And all the earth shall sing
that Jesus is the King!**



Jesus Shall Reign

**Where He displays His healing power
Death and the curse are known no more;
In Him the tribes of Adam boast
More blessings than their father lost.**

**Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.**



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