

# Malachi

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary  
[BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)



**Key Word**

659  
343

**Hypocrisy**

**Malachi**



**Theme**

659

**Warning of Judgment for  
Hypocrisy**

**Malachi**

# Key Verse

659

**"You have wearied the LORD with your words. 'How have we wearied him?' you ask. By saying, 'All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them' or 'Where is the God of justice?' 'See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the LORD you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the LORD Almighty"**

**Malachi 2:17–3:1**

# Kingdom Statement

343

**Judah must repent of hypocrisy  
(1–3) for blessing in the messianic  
kingdom (4).**

**Malachi**





## Summary Statement

**The LORD rebukes postexilic Judah for their **hypocrisy** by answering their defensive questions to encourage them to leave their sinful lifestyle and return to Him in preparation for the coming day of judgment and blessing.**

**Malachi**

# Covenant

347e

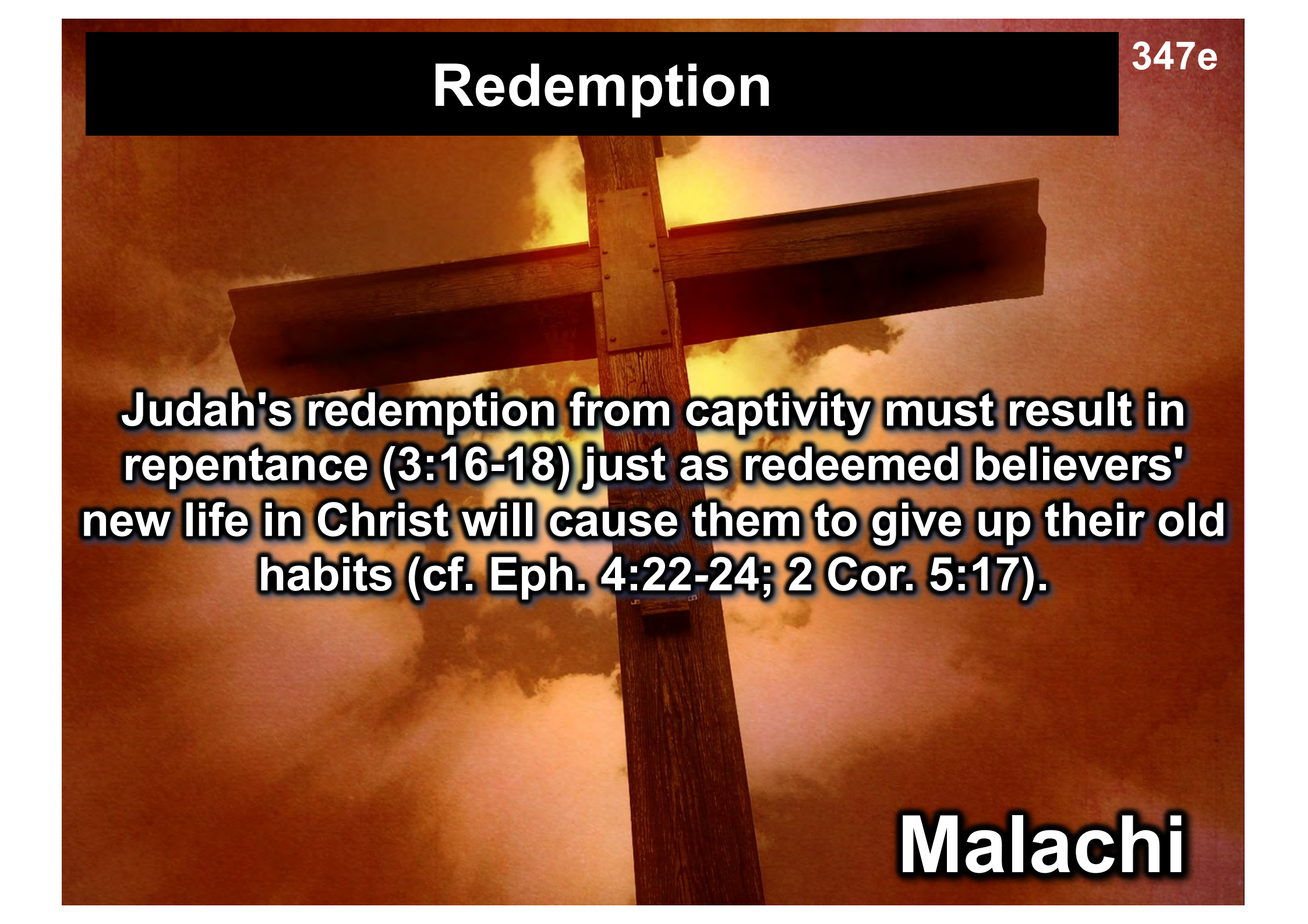
**The Levites had violated their covenant with God to serve faithfully (2:4, 5, 8, 10) and were judged (2:9) because they broke their marriage covenant (2:14) by marrying pagan wives (2:11), and likewise others must not break the Mosaic covenant (4:4).**

**Malachi**



# Redemption

347e



**Judah's redemption from captivity must result in repentance (3:16-18) just as redeemed believers' new life in Christ will cause them to give up their old habits (cf. Eph. 4:22-24; 2 Cor. 5:17).**

**Malachi**



# Messiah

**Christ's first coming would be preceded by an "Elijah" (3:1; 4:5) who was John the Baptist (Matt. 3:3; 11:10-14; etc.) and Christ will bring healing (4:2) to those who fear his name (3:16-17) but judge the wicked at his second coming (3:2-5).**

## Malachi

# Warning of Judgment for Hypocrisy

659

Chapters 1–3			Chapter 4		
Present Rebuke of Seven Sins			Future Blessing		
Pollution of the Nation			Promise to the Nation		
1:1–3:18	Israel's 7 Questions	God's 7 Responses	Day of Judgment	Obey Law	Heed Elijah
1:1-5	"How have you loved us?"	Election	4:1-3	4:4	4:5-6
1:6–2:9	"How have we despised Your name?"	Unacceptable sacrifices			
2:10-16	"Why do You despise our offerings?"	Divorce			
2:17–3:7a					
3:7b-8a		Stop robbing Me			
3:8b-12	"How have we robbed You?"	Withholding tithes			
3:13-18	"How have we blasphemed You?"	Materialistic motives			

**Warning of Judgment for Hypocrisy**

**Malachi**

Jerusalem in ca. 425 BC



# Malachi

- 1 **L**ord reproves and reminds
- 2 **O**ffenses of the priests
- 3 **R**obbing God is cursed
- 4 **D**awning of a new day



# Be Genuine

***Malachi***



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# The Postexilic Era

## *Prophets:*

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

605

586

539

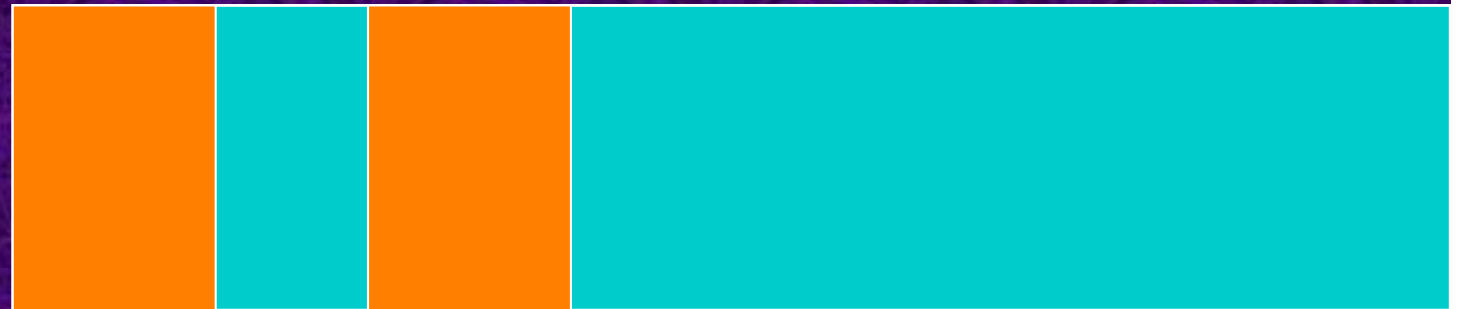
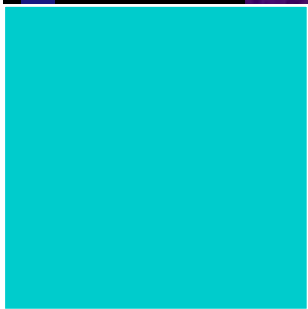
536

520

516

483-473

444-425



## *Others:*

Zerubbabel

Esther

Ezra

Nehemiah



Temple work

***HOW CAN YOU BE...?***



***TWO WAYS TO AVOID  
HYPOCRISY***

# ***HOW CAN YOU BE GENUINE?***



**Malachi 1–3**



**II. Consider your **future**.**



**Malachi 4**

# Main Idea



**Stop  
making  
excuses** **and** **consider  
your  
future.**

**Malachi**



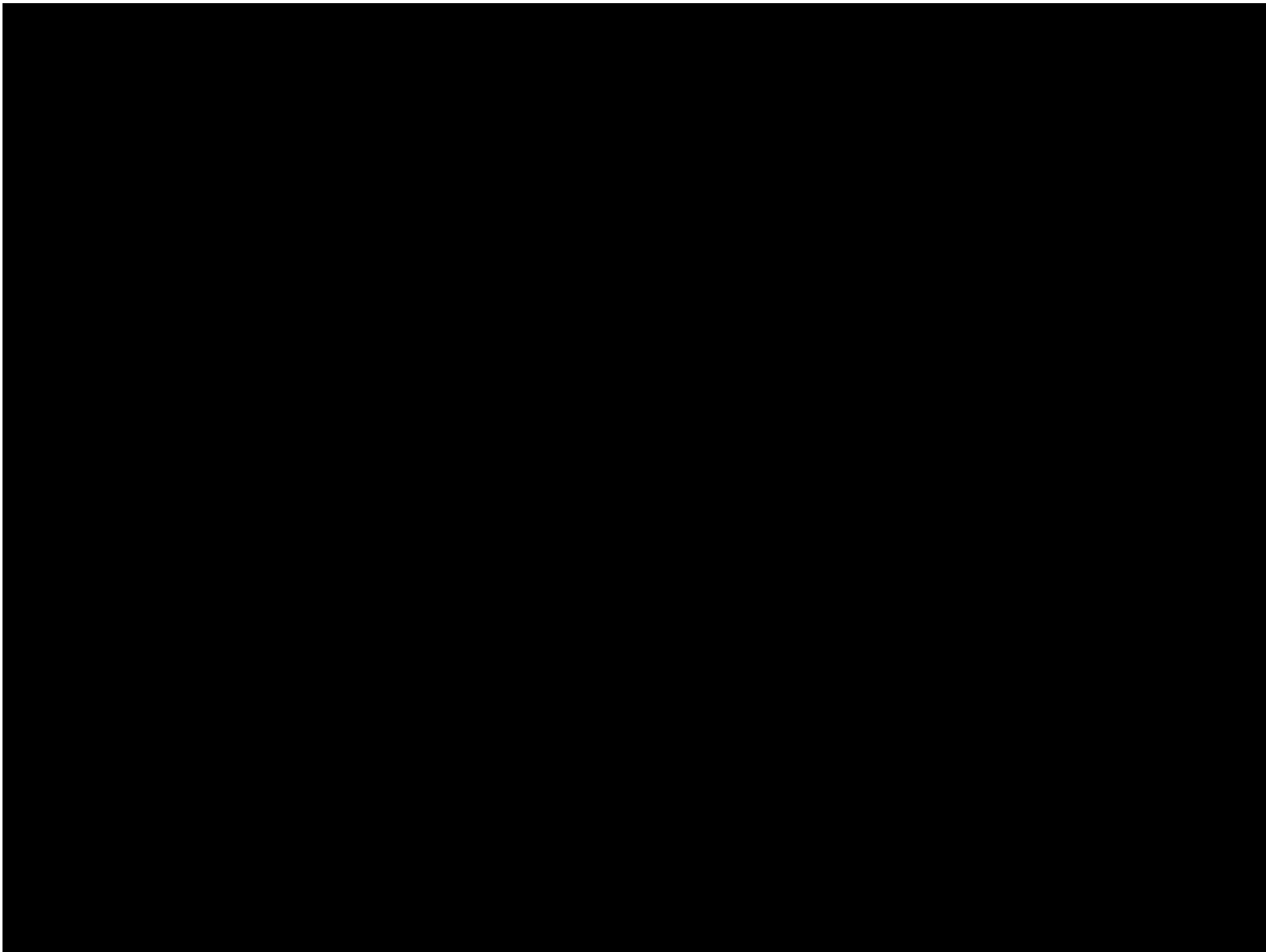
# Applying Malachi

- 1. Christians belong to the godly seed.**
- 2. Acceptable worship requires an acceptable lifestyle.**
- 3. God hates divorce. Jesus agrees.**
- 4. Christians have Jesus, who will bring judgment and purification. Repent and obey while you await his return.**



# Applying Malachi

- 5. God desires to bless us. Bless Him, His servants and those who are in need.**
- 6. Do not rob God of what he has loaned you.**
- 7. Check your motive for giving.**



# **REVIEW QUIZ on Zechariah**

**1. Zechariah was a contemporary of**

**\_\_\_\_\_.**

**2. Like him, Zechariah deals with**

**\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**3. Zechariah records 8 \_\_\_\_\_.**

**4. Zechariah prophesies about the  
splitting of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

# REVIEW QUIZ on Zechariah

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# REVIEW QUIZ on Zechariah

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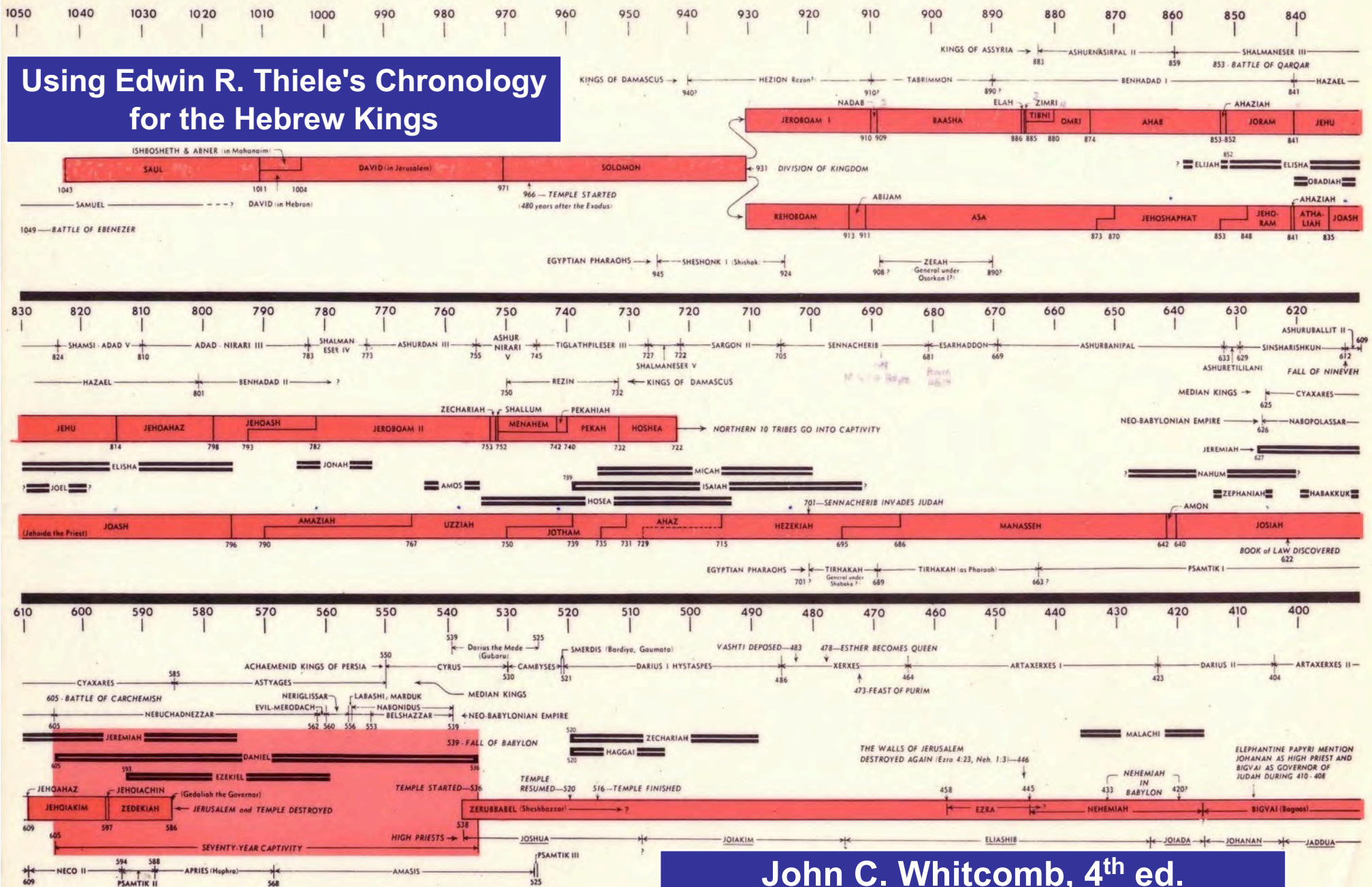
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# Chart of OT Kings & Prophets

342

## Using Edwin R. Thiele's Chronology for the Hebrew Kings



John C. Whitcomb, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(Winona Lake, IN: BMH, 1968), 2



# Contrasting Prophets by Time Period

# How do the preexilic and exilic/postexilic prophets differ?

# How are they alike?

# Malachi

Dr. Rick Griffith, Singapore Bible College  
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# "Hearts of Stone"



# Characteristics

## The Man Malachi

660

1. No biographical info in the Bible
2. Name (1:1; 3:1) could be a proper noun (Malachi) or a common noun (my messenger)

מַלְאכִי



## B. The Book

### 1. Date/Occasion

- during the Persian period
- a century after Temple in 516 BC
- postexilic prophets 100 years

earlier:

Haggai & Zechariah



## 2. Historical Context

- Period of tension
- No greatness of God's Kingdom after the temple
- No sign of God's presence and blessing
- People did not conform to God's expectations
- They were not zealous for the Lord
- They failed to tithe
- They divorced their wives
- They married foreign women
- They offered maimed and diseased animals
- The priests accepted these sacrifices for God

### 3. Purpose

- To restore the people to a right relationship with God (Van Gemeren)
- To rebuke Israel's sin to exhort the people to leave their sinful lifestyle in exchange for blessing in the Kingdom (Griffith)
- To rekindle the faith of a discouraged people and set forth the continuing demands of the covenant upon those who truly know God (Leggett)

# Audience

---

- Time: third or fourth generation Jews after the return from exile 100 years earlier
- Their Expectations: fulfillment of the glory of the new temple under Messiah in the kingdom
- Reality: disillusioned, discouraged, and doubting people experiencing poverty and drought



# Literary Form and Structure

- *superscription and 6-8 rhetorical disputation speeches*
- *speech form (disputation) is a unique feature*
- *one of the simplest and most repetitive OT prophetic books*
- *four elements of the disputation: assertion, questioning, response, implication*
- *thrust of the book: love, comfort, assurance and hope*

# Be Genuine

***Malachi***



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# **hyp·o·crite**

(hip'ə krit)

Function: *noun*

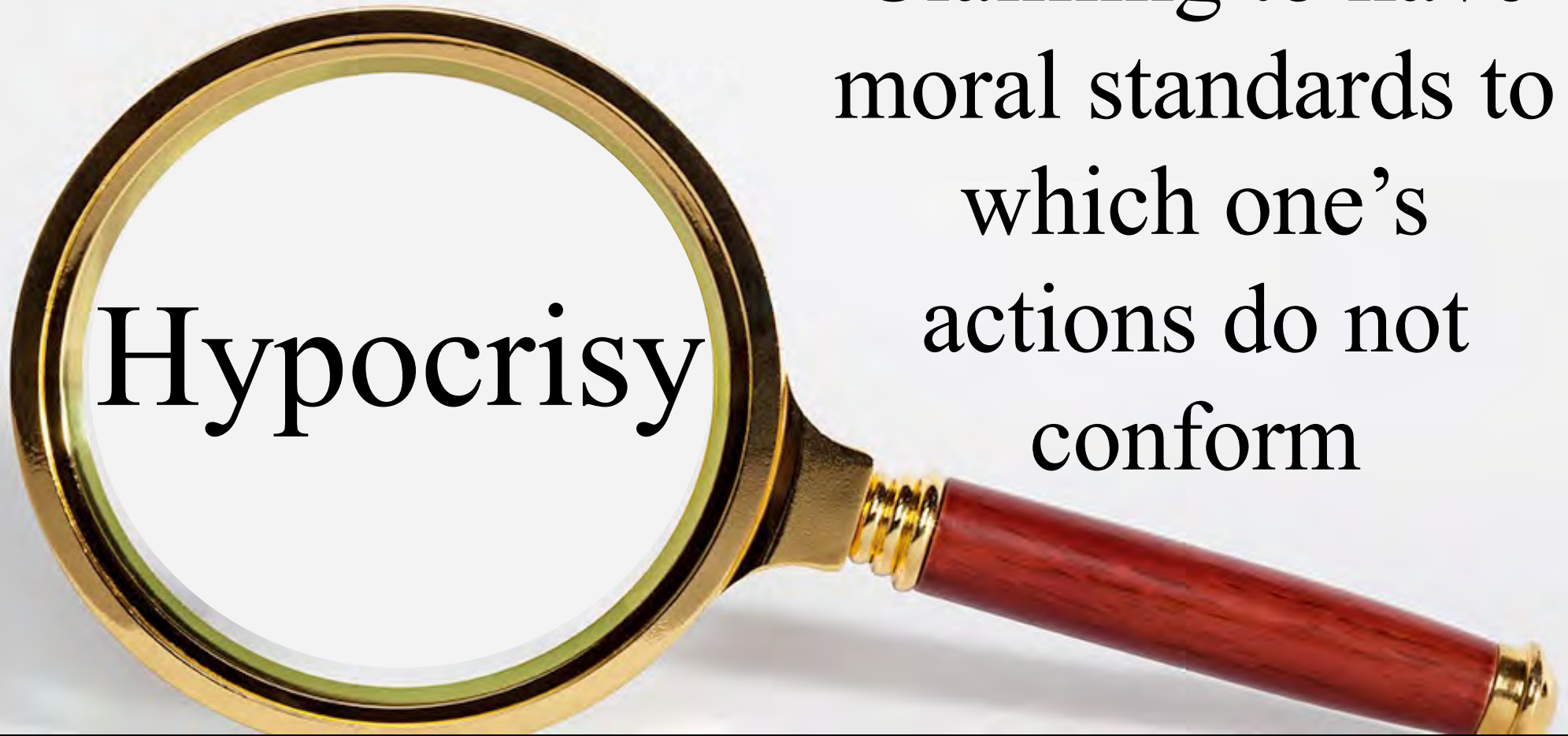
## **Meaning:**

- 1. a person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion**
- 2. a person who acts in contradiction to his or her stated beliefs or feelings**

**If you don't walk the talk,  
it's probably best not to talk the talk**



Claiming to have  
moral standards to  
which one's  
actions do not  
conform



Hypocrisy

# *Hypocrites* (Greek stage term)





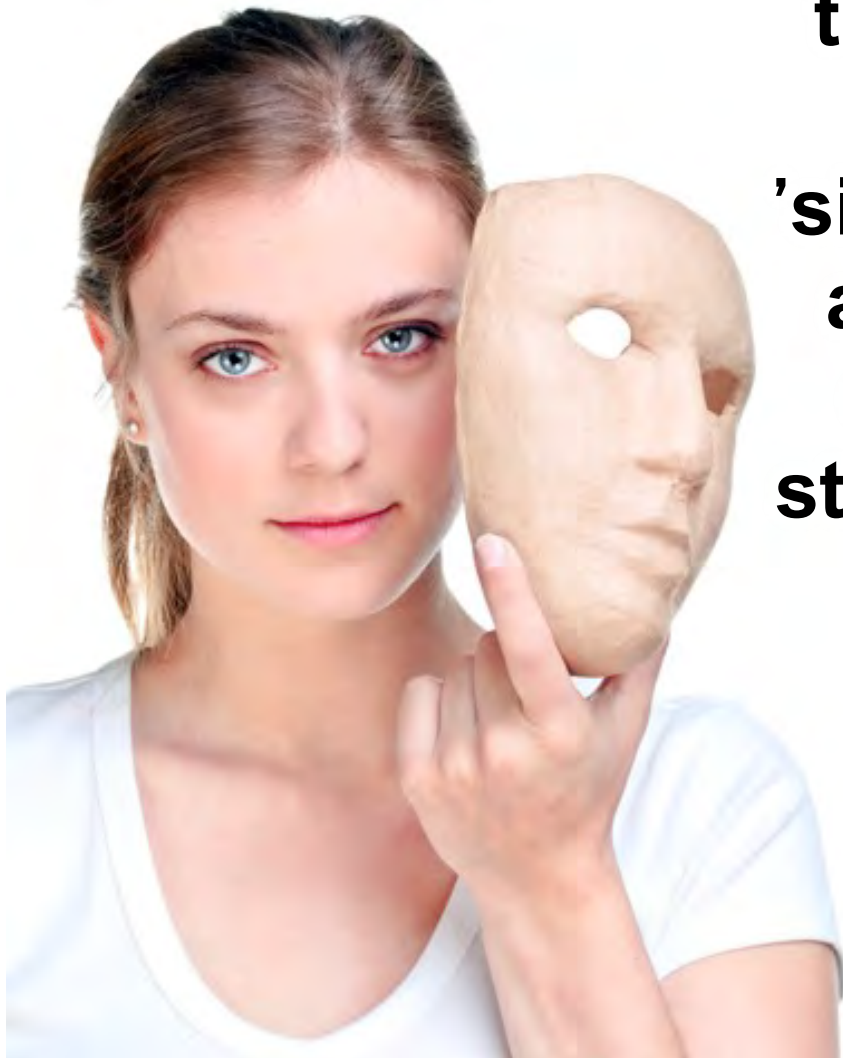
# Pharisee Hypocrisy





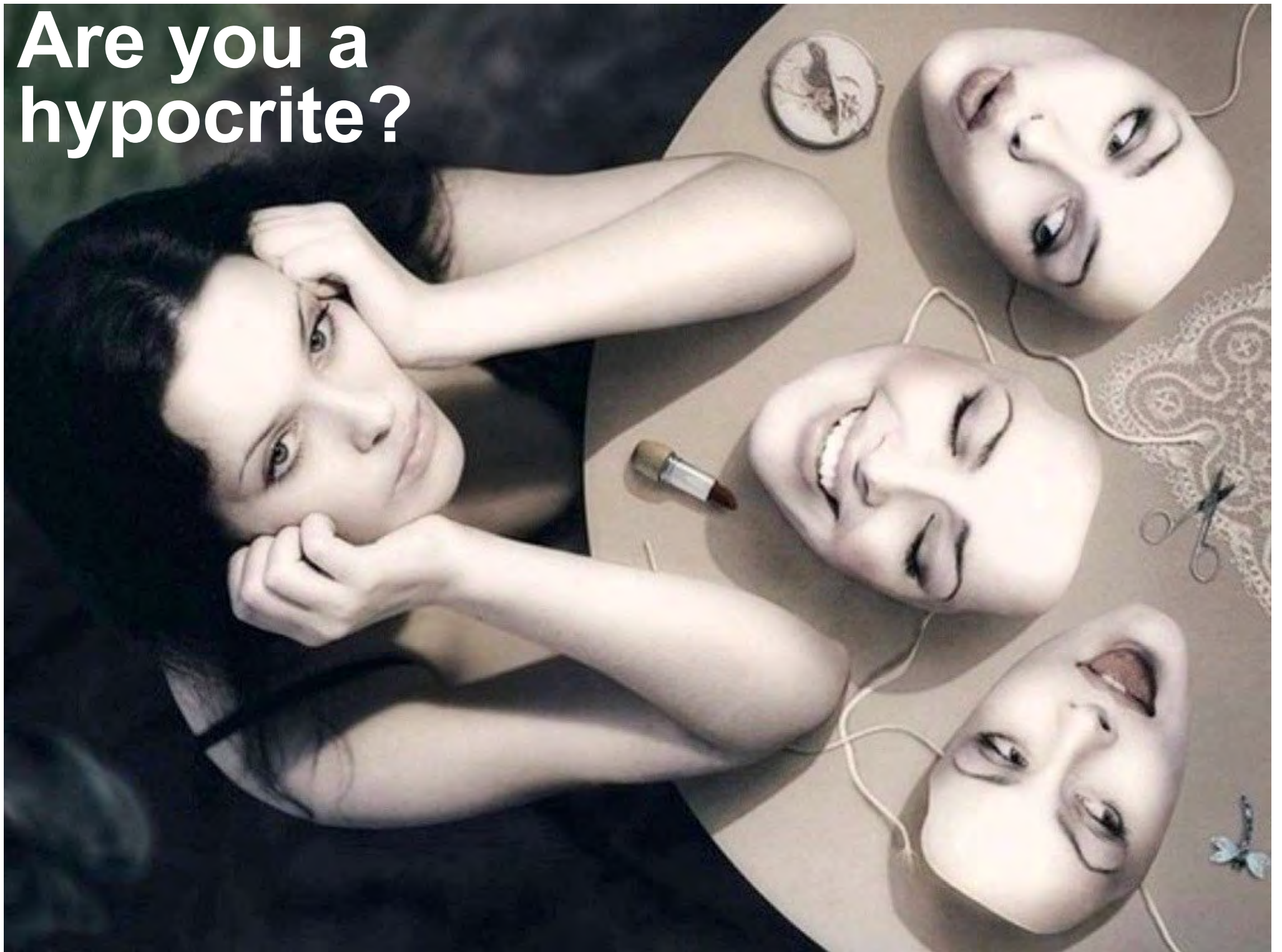
# Hypocrisy

J. Harold Greenlee and Allan R. Killen, "Hypocrisy, Hypocrite,"  
*Wycliffe Bible Dictionary*



**"The meaning of the words, 'hypocrite' and 'hypocrisy,' as used in the Bible by our Lord Jesus Christ (primarily directed toward the 'religious' leaders of the day) implies more than a 'simple pretense' or 'acting out as a stage-player.' It embodies... a determined effort to enforce a standard of conduct upon others, which conduct the enforcer knowingly and deliberately refuses to apply to himself—hence, action born of full knowledge and evil intent."**

**Are you a  
hypocrite?**







***HOW CAN YOU BE...?***



# Background to Malachi



# Timeline

**United  
Kingdom**

**Divided  
Kingdom**

**Solitary  
Kingdom**

**Post-  
Exile**

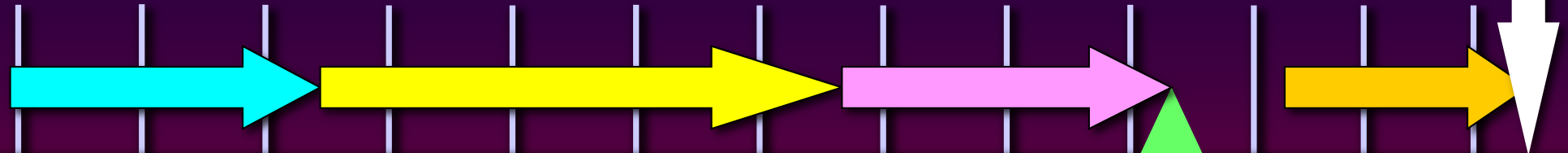
**1050-930**

**930-722**

**722-586**

**536-425**

**430**



1	1												
0	0	9	9	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5	4	
5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

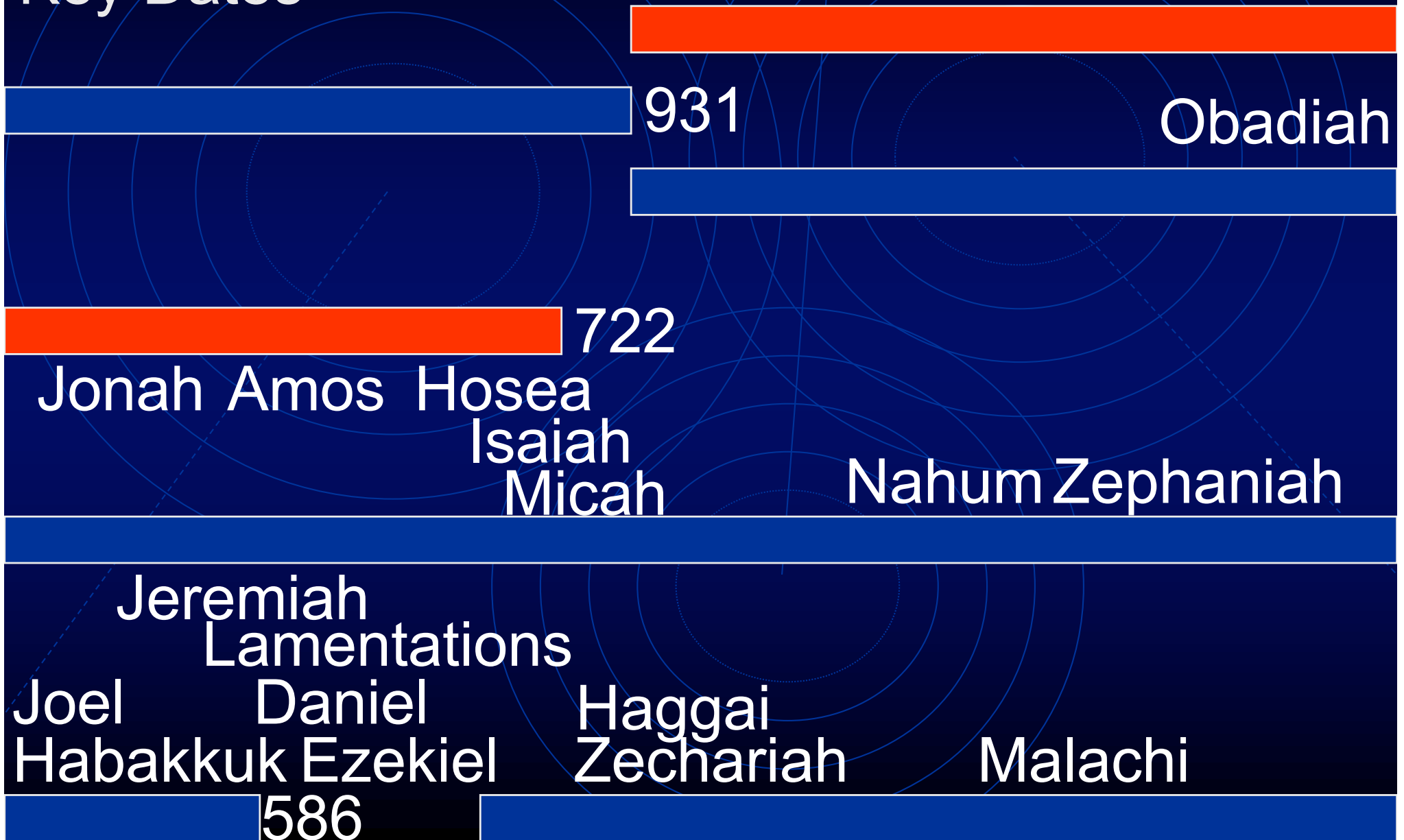
**Exile 586-536**



# Placing the Prophets

342

## Key Dates





# The Biblical Bookshelf

# Chronology of Ezra-Nehemiah

HZZ



MEN

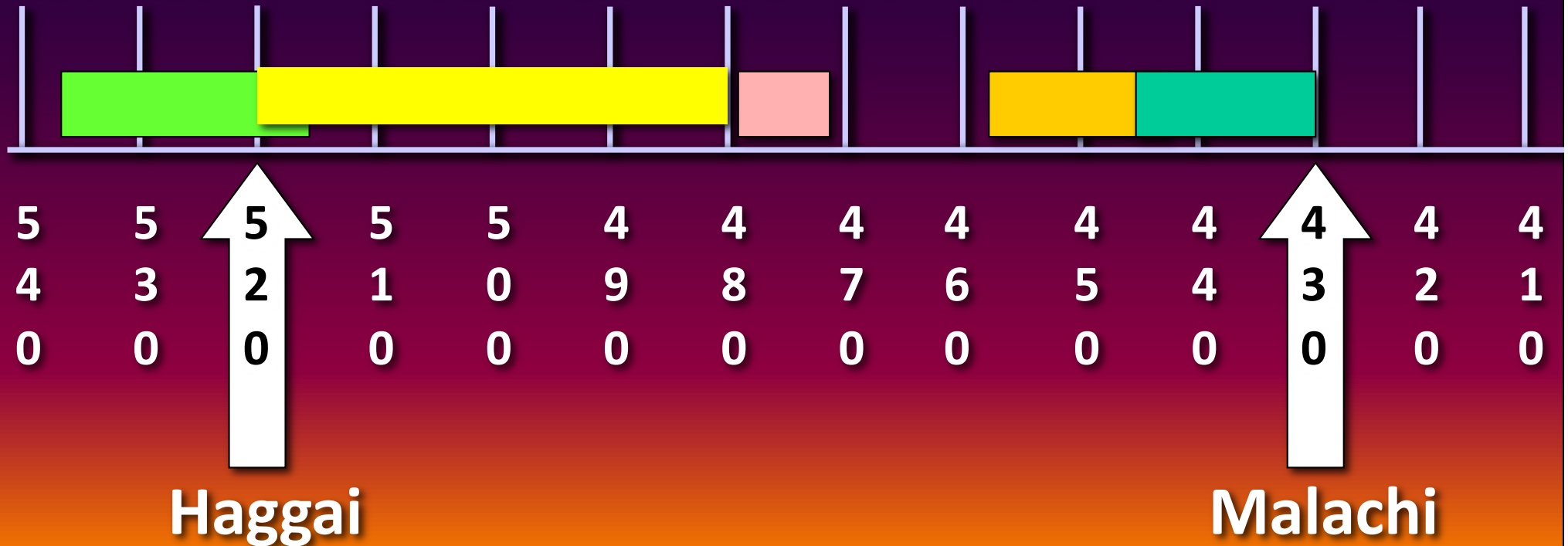
Zerubbabel  
537-516

Zechariah  
520-480

Esther  
479-473

Ezra  
457-444

Nehemiah  
444-430

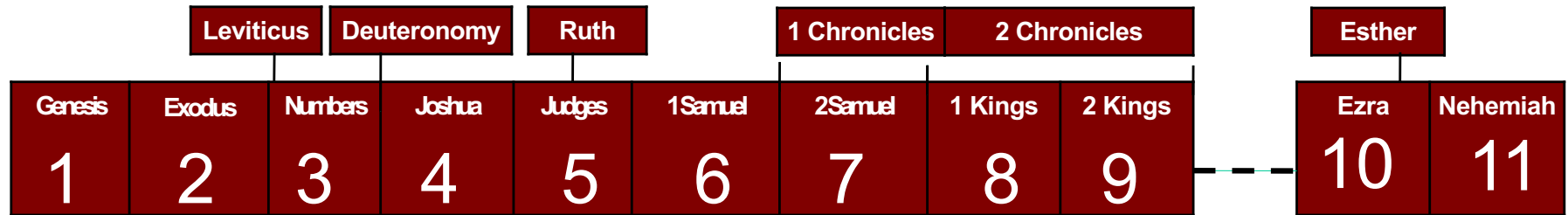




# Integration of the Old Testament

43

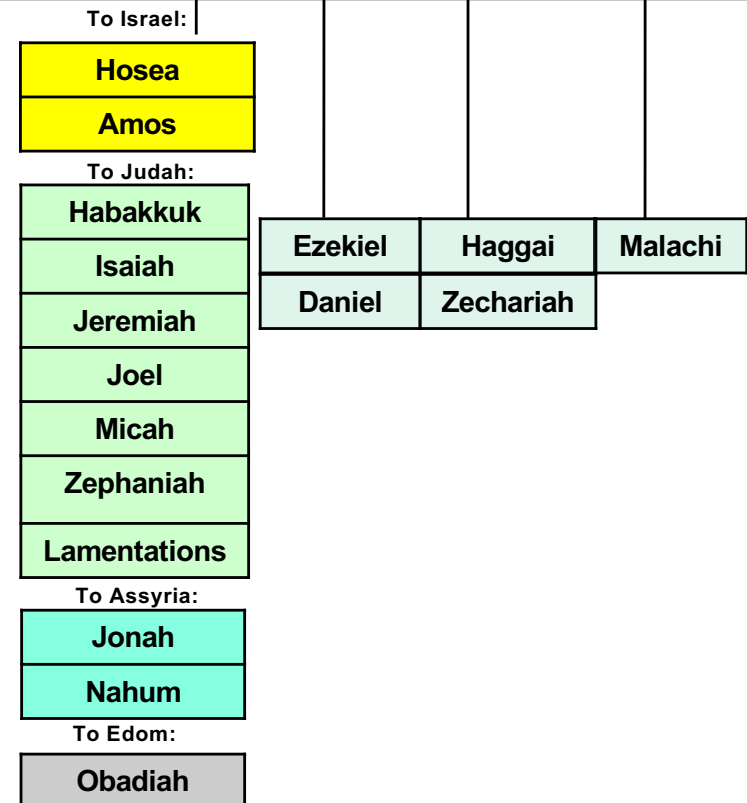
Historical



Poetical



Prophetical



Hosea

**Loyal**

Joel

**Disciplined**

Amos

**Just**

Obadiah

**Humble**

**Be...**

Jonah

**Caring**

Micah

**Generous**

Nahum

**Patient**

Habakkuk

**Amazed**

Stephaniah

**Hopeful**

Haggai

**Restored**

Zechariah

**Encouraged**

Malachi

**Genuine**





**Hosea** was chosen by God to be an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he never stopped loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.



**Joel** prophesied during a time when the land of Israel had suffered from a great plague of locust. Joel proclaims this as a sign from God as a precursor to the Day of the Lord.



**Amos** was a sheep breeder and a tender of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.



**Obadiah** is the shortest book in the old testament with only 21 verses. The book is a proclamation of judgment against Edom for aiding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.



**Jonah** is the most famous of the minor prophets because a giant sea animal was used to set him back on course after going astray. His mission was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent of their wrongdoings.



**Micah** in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



**Nahum** predicts the destruction of Nineveh the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Jonah did not last long.



**Habakkuk** identifies himself as a psalmist and musician by ending his book with a hymn of redemption and grace to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.



**Zephaniah** contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.



**Haggai** makes his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrew's return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.



**Zechariah** like Ezekiel received vivid prophesies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some of the imagery includes flying scrolls, olive trees, and angels. There are several Messianic passages as well.



**Malachi** is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

**—A Preaching Series on the Minor Prophets—**



JUDGMENT

IDOLATRY

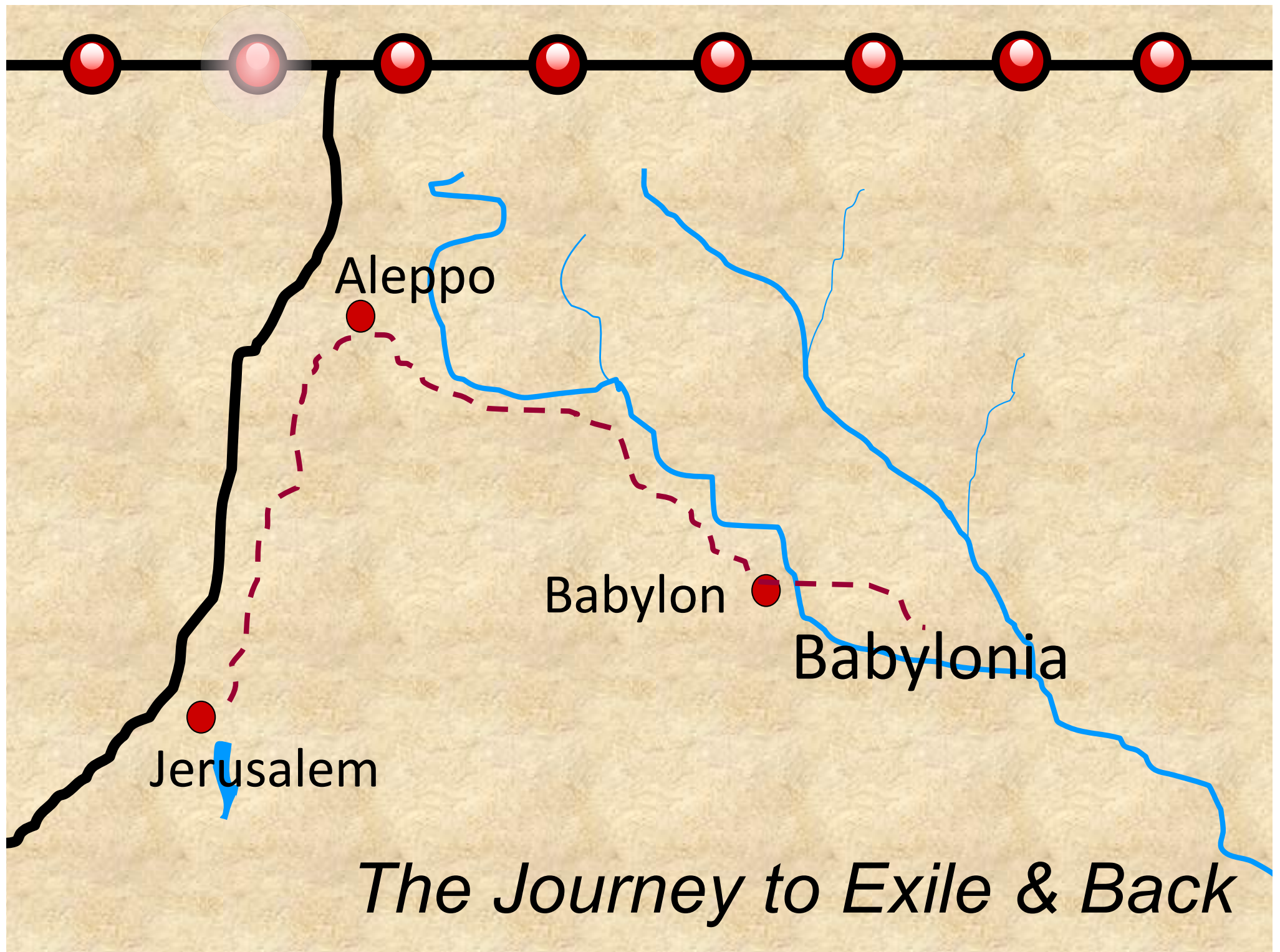
WRATH

EDZÆNK I Æ L

PUNISHMENT

SIN

DISOBEDIENCE





# Timeline of the Exile

605 ← **70 Years** → 536

Ezekiel 592-572 (20)

Daniel 605-537 (68)

Jeremiah 626-586 (40)

Belshazzar 550-539 (11)

Nabonidus 555-539 (16)

Neriglissar 559-555 (4)

Evil-Merodach 561-560 (1)

Nebuchadnezzar 605-561 (44)

Nabopolassar 630-605 (25)

Babylonian kings  
Prophets

650

600

550

500 BC



# The Postexilic Era

295  
296  
560

 Temple work

***Prophets:***

Haggai  
Zechariah

Malachi

605

586

539

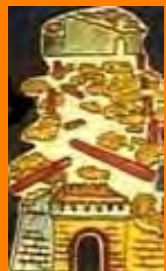
536

520

516

483-473

444-425



***Others:***

Zerubbabel

Esther Ezra

Nehemiah

***Persian Kings:***

Cyrus

Darius

Xerxes

Artaxerxes

***HOW CAN YOU BE...?***



***TWO WAYS TO AVOID  
HYPOCRISY***

# Warning of Judgment for Hypocrisy

659

Chapters 1–3			Chapter 4		
Present Rebuke of Seven Sins			Future Blessing		
Pollution of the Nation			Promise to the Nation		
1:1–3:18	Israel's 7 Questions	God's 7 Responses	Day of Judgment	Obey Law	Heed Elijah
1:1-5	"How have you loved us?"	Election	4:1-3	4:4	4:5-6
1:6–2:9	"How have we despised Your name?"	Unacceptable sacrifices			
2:10-16	"Why do You despise our offerings?"	Divorce			
2:17–3:7a	"How have we despised You?"	Materialistic motives			
3:7b-8a	"How have we despised You?"	Stop robbing Me			
3:8b-12	"How have we robbed You?"	Withholding tithes			
3:13-18	"How have we blasphemed You?"	Materialistic motives			

**Warning of Judgment for Hypocrisy**

Jerusalem in ca. 425 BC



# ***HOW CAN YOU BE GENUINE?***



**Malachi 1–3**

***1:2 "How have you loved us?"***

***1:6 "How have we shown contempt for your name?"***

***1:7 "How have we defiled you?"***

***2:14 "Why don't you accept offerings?"***

***2:17 "How have we wronged you?"***

***3:7 "How are we to return?"***

***3:8 "How can we answer you?"***

***3:13 "What have we said against you?"***

**EXCUSES! EXCUSES!**

**Key Word**

659  
343

**Hypocrisy**

**Malachi**



# How to Curb Hypocrisy

659

Command

Our Excuse

God's Answer

**Appreciate  
1:1-5**

**"How have you loved  
us?"**

**"I chose you but you  
despise me."**

# Malachi 1

# What Would You Give a King?



**Malachi 1**



# Apathy

**“The worst sin towards  
our fellow creatures is  
not to hate them, but to  
be indifferent to them”**

***George Bernard Shaw***



How can you  
worship God  
without  
apathy?

Privilege 1:1-5						
Introduction 1:1	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Love 1:2-5					
Past 1:1-5						
Respond to God's Covenant Love						

430 B. C.

430 B. C.



# Component Parts of the Book

## *1. Superscription (1:1)*

*- Malachi: vehicle for divine message (Yahweh - the source, Israel - the audience, Malachi - intermediary)*


## *2. First Disputation (1:2-5) \* Dispute about God's love*

*- I have loved you.*

*- How have you loved us?*

*- I chose you as my special servant: Jacob, not Esau*

*- Oracle against Edom on God's covenant love and power and his distinguishing good from wicked.*

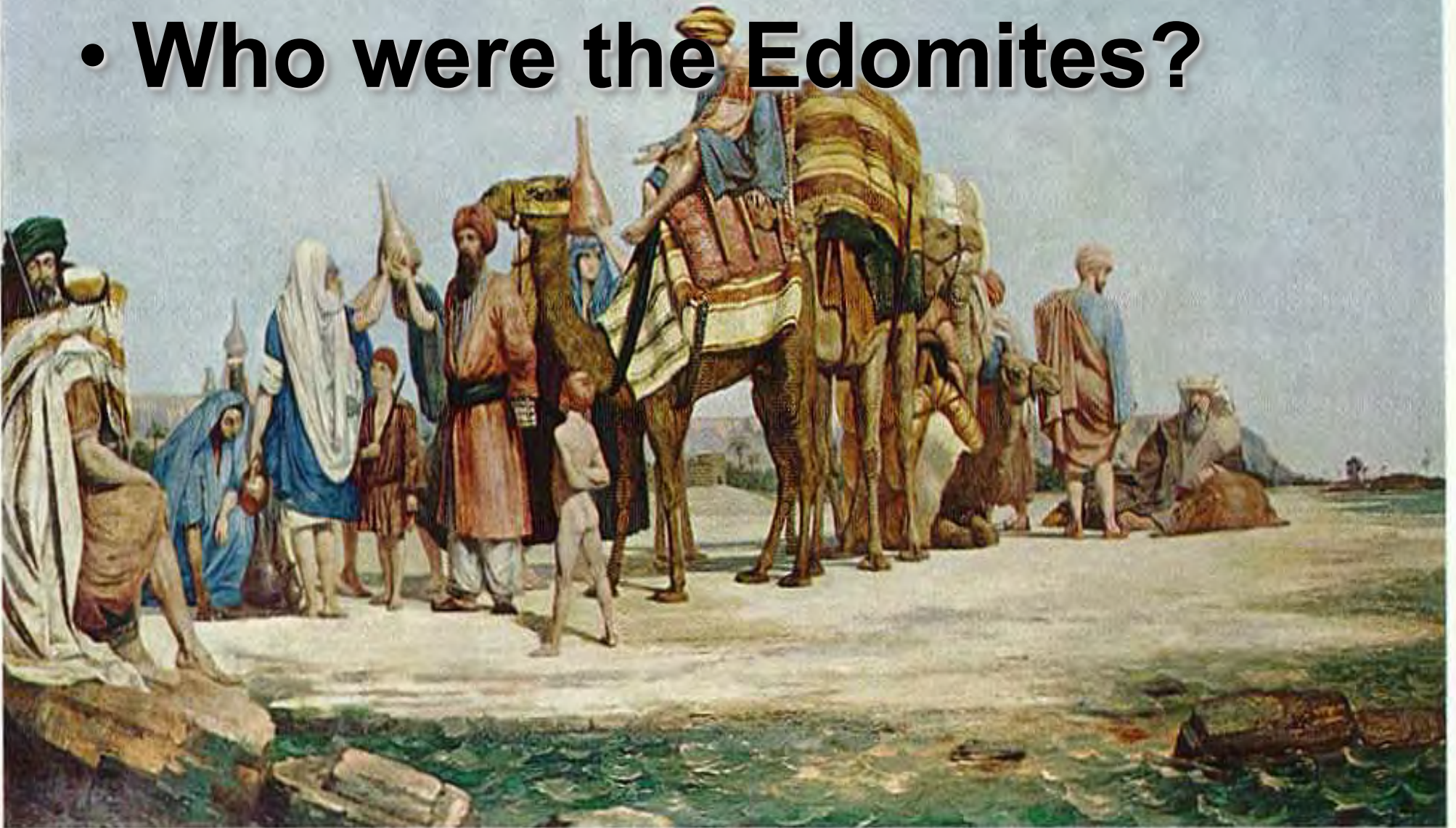
A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a deep valley with green and brown hillsides. A massive, swirling cloud formation, resembling a giant's foot or a giant's head, dominates the sky, casting shadows over the valley. The sky is a mix of deep blue and white, with the cloud formation having a yellowish-white interior. The text is centered over the sky area.

**Appreciate: God  
chose you for  
blessing (1:1-5).**



## Key Questions:

- **Where was Edom?**
- **Who were the Edomites?**





# God chose Jacob over Esau

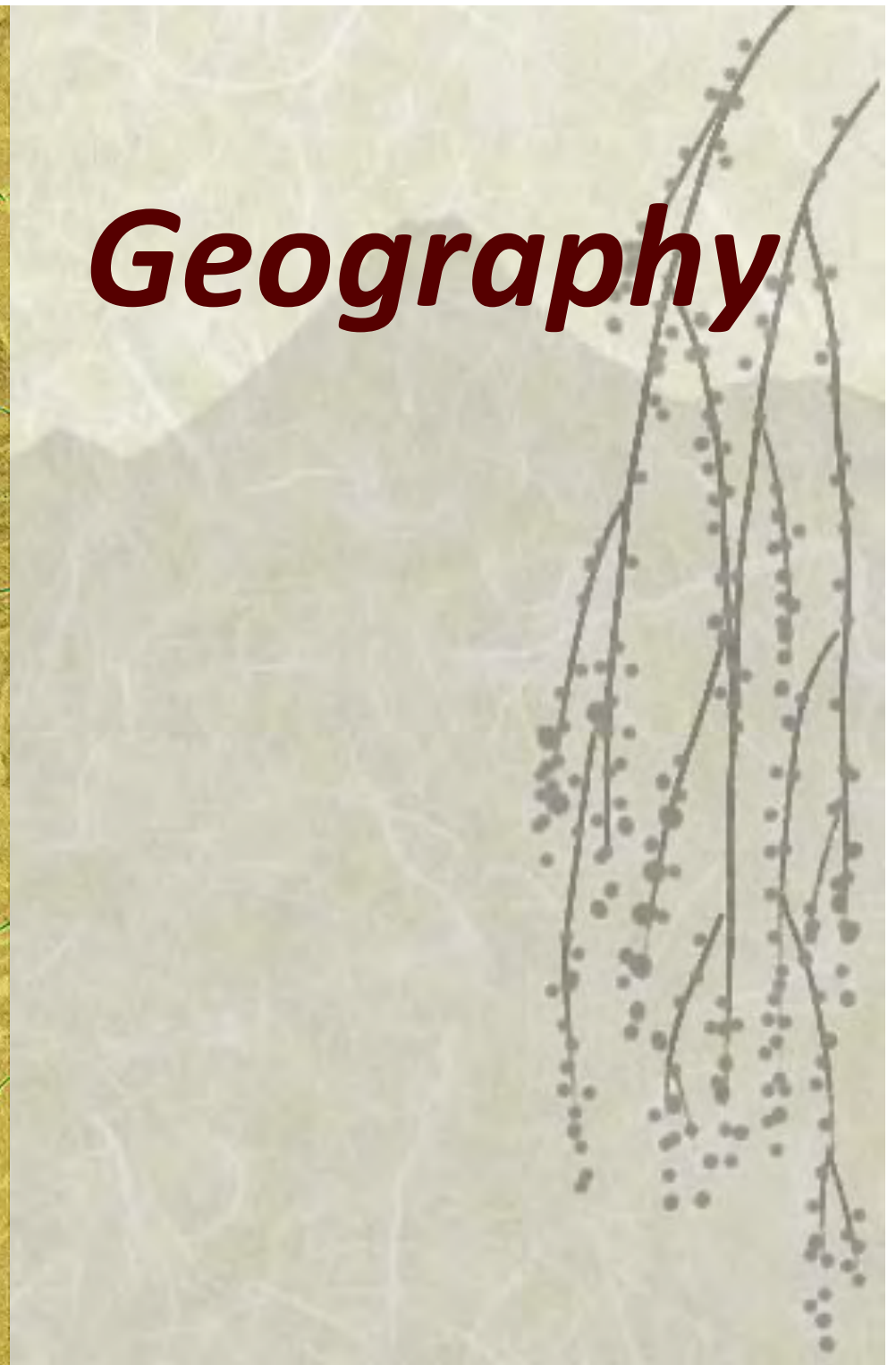


**Genesis 27**





# Geography



# ***GOD CHOSE EVEN APATHETIC JEWS***





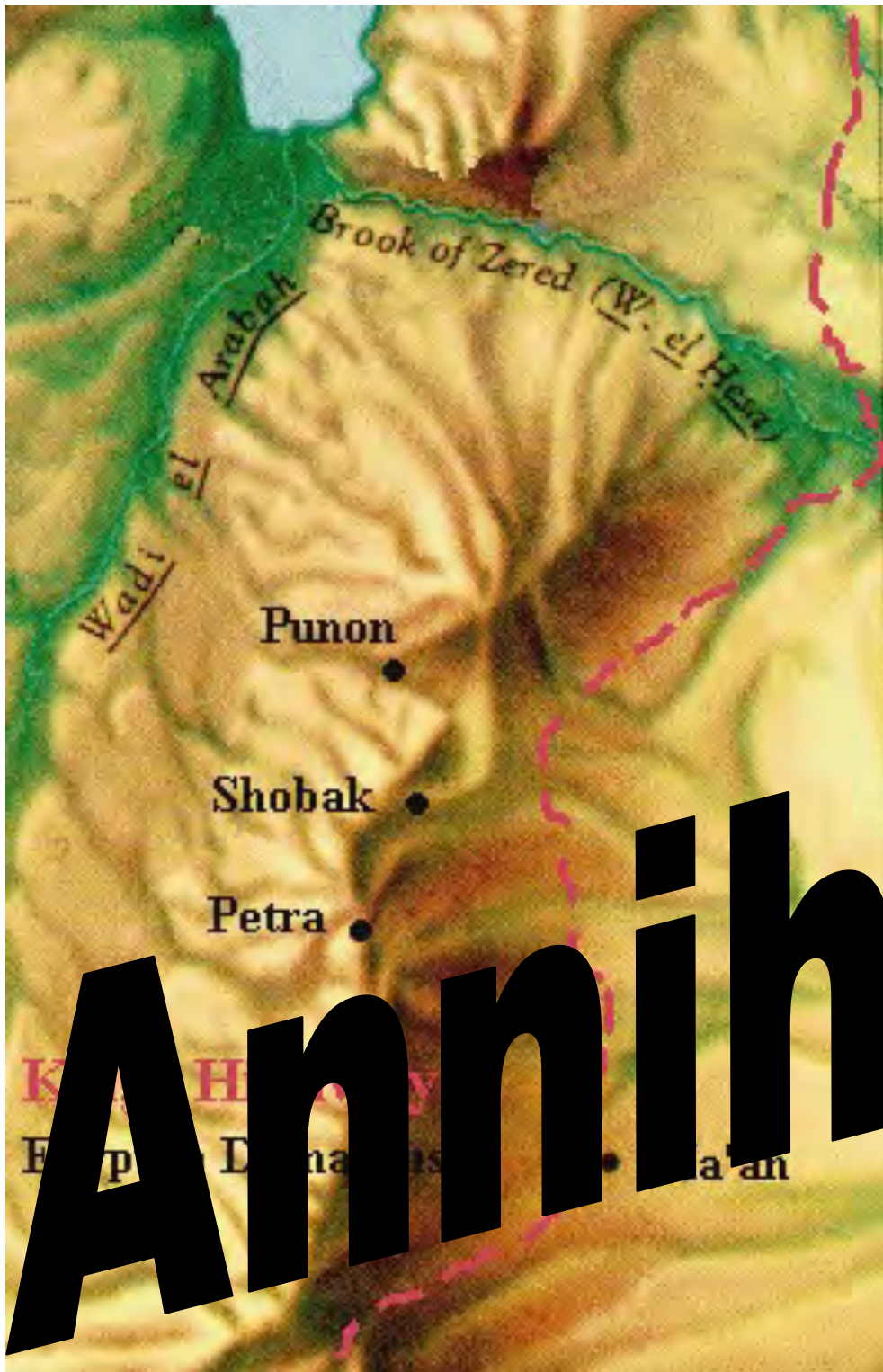
# The Edomite Wasteland



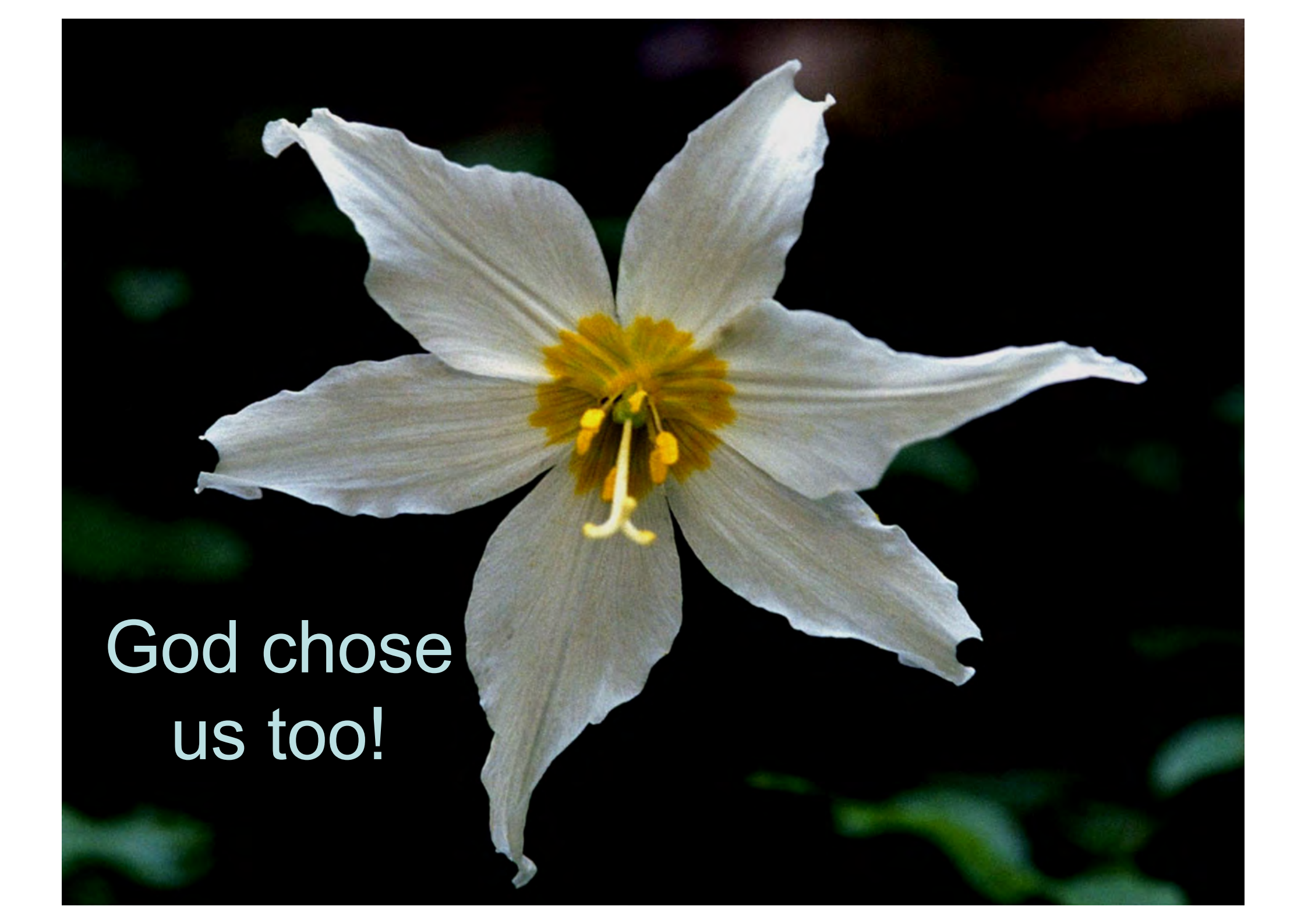
Israel was restored but  
Nabateans finished off  
the final remnant of  
Edomites in 312 BC

# Annihilated

Idumea, or Edom,  
ceased to be.





A close-up photograph of a single white flower with five petals, each having a slightly wavy, torn edge. The center of the flower is a vibrant yellow, composed of numerous stamens and a central pistil. The flower is set against a dark, blurred background of green foliage. In the bottom left corner, the text "God chose us too!" is written in a white, sans-serif font.

God chose  
us too!



*He loves me, He loves me not...?*





# Election in Ephesians 1

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup>For he **chose** us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he **predestined** us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--





# Election in Ephesians 1

<sup>11</sup>In him we were also **chosen**, having been **predestined** according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.



Privilege 1:1-5		Problems 1:6–3:12					
<i>Introduction 1:1</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	<i>Love 1:2-5</i>	<i>Honor 1:6–2:9</i>					
Past 1:1-5		Present 1:6–2:16					430 BC
Respond to God's Covenant Love							

430 BC

# How to Curb Hypocrisy

659

Command	Our Excuse	God's Answer
Appreciate 1:1-5	"How have you loved us?"	"I chose you but you despise me."
Honor 1:6–2:9	"How have we despised your name?"	"You offer lousy sacrifices."

**Give your **best** to him  
(1:6-14).**





# Malachi 1:6-2:9

## ***3. Second Disputation (1:6-2:9) Dispute about God's honour and fear***

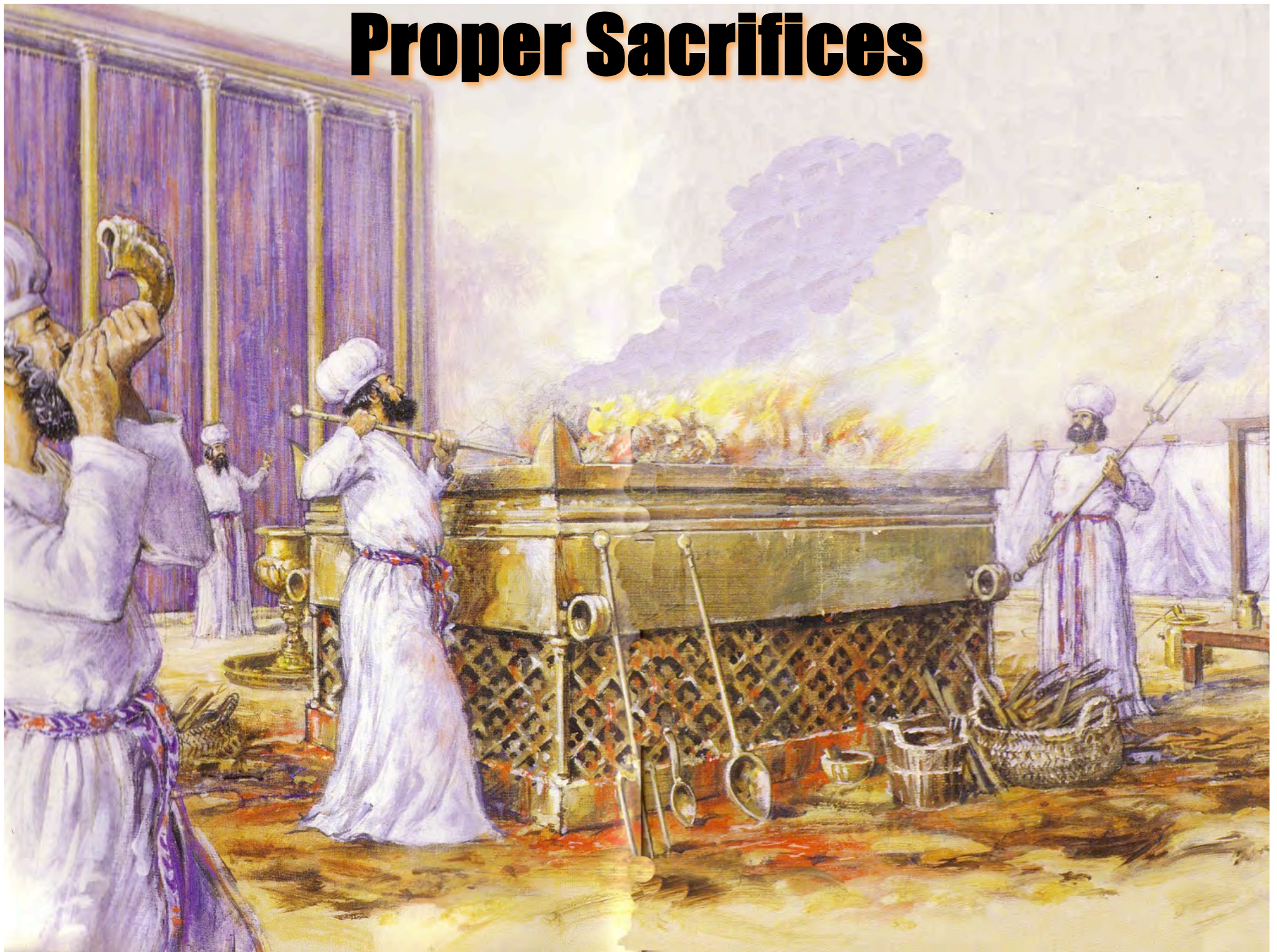
- You have despised my name.**
- How have we despised your name?**
- By refusing to give me honour a son would give to his father and a servant to his master.**

# How to give God your best in worship:

- Evaluate your **actions** during worship



# Proper Sacrifices













# ***Oracle Against Priests***

***-Oracle against Jerusalem priests for their unfaithfulness to the covenant:***

- They ignored the Sinai Covenant***
- They profaned the sacrificial system***
- They violated the covenant with Levi***



**One day  
at SBC...**





Would you  
give our PM  
junk?

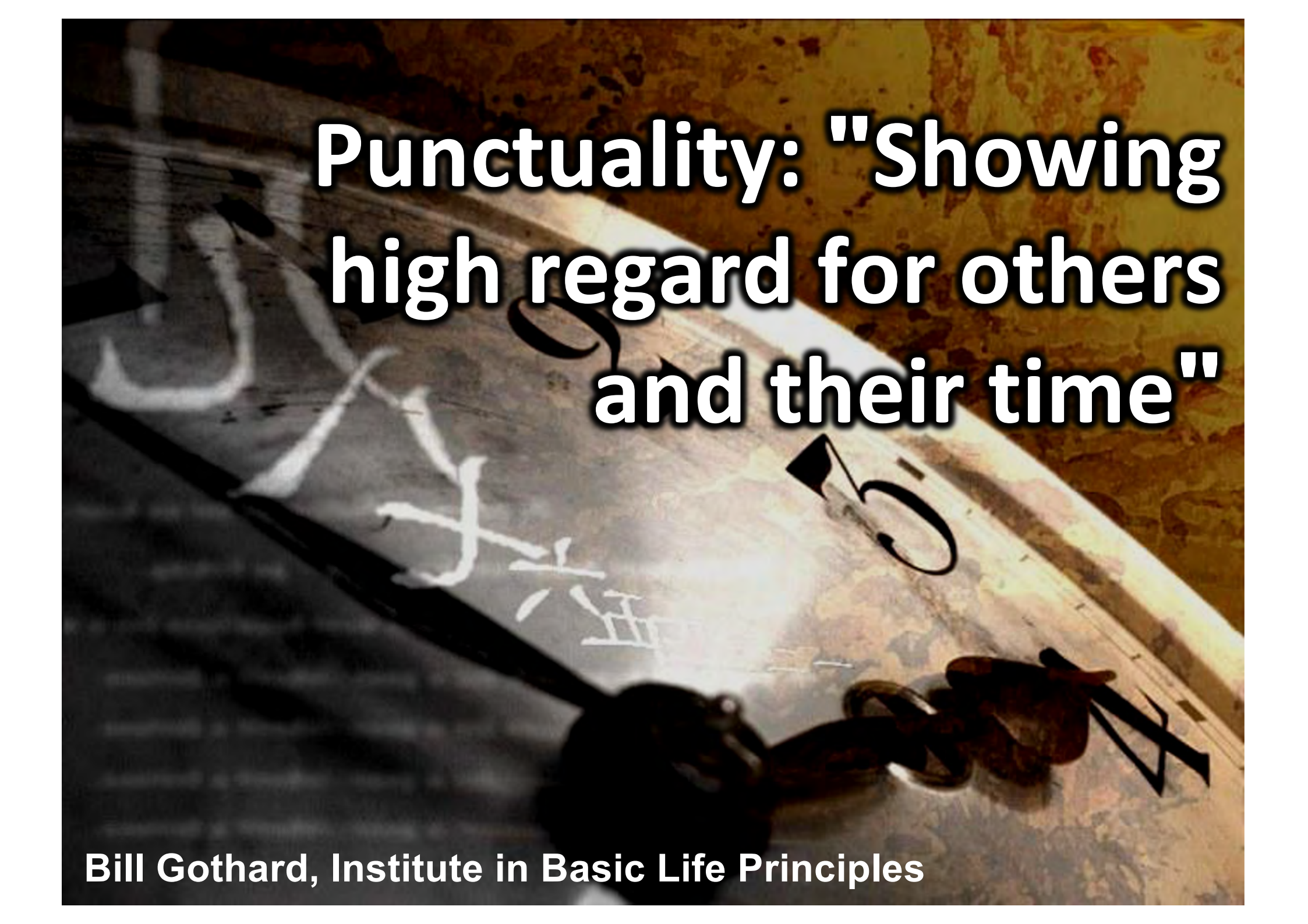




# How to give God your best in worship:

- Evaluate your **actions** during worship
- Evaluate your **attitudes** during worship



The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of an open book. The pages are covered in intricate calligraphy, likely in Arabic or Persian script, written in dark ink. A quill pen is visible in the lower right corner, resting on the page. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the paper and the fluidity of the script.

**Punctuality: "Showing  
high regard for others  
and their time"**

**Bill Gothard, Institute in Basic Life Principles**

**What is God saying to  
apathetic people today?**







*Summing Up  
Malachi 1....*

God gave  
you His  
**best...**

So give Him  
your **best!**



# Malachi 2

Privilege 1:1-5		Problems 1:6–3:12					
<i>Introduction 1:1</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	<i>Love 1:2-5</i>						
	<i>Honor 1:6–2:9</i>						
	<i>Duty 2:10-16</i>						
Past 1:1-5   Present 1:6–2:16							
Respond to God's Covenant Love							430 BC

430 BC

# How to Curb Hypocrisy

659

Command	Our Excuse	God's Answer
Appreciate 1:1-5	"How have you loved us?"	"I chose you but you despise me."
Honor 1:6–2:9	"How have we despised your name?"	"You offer lousy sacrifices."
<b>Bond 2:10-16</b>	<b>"Why do you despise our offerings?"</b>	<b>"You divorce your wives."</b>



# Malachi 2:10-16

## ***4. Third Disputation (Malachi 2:10-16): Dispute about faithlessness***

- You have polluted me
- How have we polluted you?
- You offered me defiled food and blemished animals
- *Oracle against people of Judah on their unfaithfulness to their marriage covenant—they intermarry with pagan women or divorce their wives*



**“I hate  
divorce,”**

**says the Lord God of Israel,**

**“So guard yourself  
in the spirit  
and do not  
break faith.”**

**Malachi 2:16**

# "I hate divorce!" (Malachi 2:16)





Privilege 1:1-5		Problems 1:6–3:12					
<i>Introduction 1:1</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	<i>Love 1:2-5</i>						
	<i>Honor 1:6–2:9</i>						
	<i>Duty 2:10-16</i>						
	<i>Hope 2:17–3:6</i>						
Past 1:1-5   Present 1:6–2:16		Future 2:17–4:6					
Respond to God's Covenant Love							

430 BC

430 BC

# Marriage



If you want something to last *forever*,  
you treat it *differently*.

You **SHIELD** it and **PROTECT** it.

You **NEVER** abuse it.

You don't expose it to the elements.

You don't make it common or ordinary.

If it ever becomes tarnished,  
you lovingly *polish* it  
until it gleams like new.

*It becomes special*

BECAUSE YOU HAVE MADE IT SO,

AND IT GROWS

*more beautiful and precious*

**AS TIME GOES BY.**

~F. Burton Howard~



**“I’m leaving you, Gilbert. You can keep the bowl, but I’m taking the water and all the colored stones!”**



# The Marriage Pronouncement

**I now pronounce you  
husband and wife! You  
may now update your  
Facebook status!**



**Watch your words.**



**AS THE FATHER  
SEES**



**AS THE CHILD  
SEES**



**AS THE MOTHER  
SEES**



**Raise children together!**



# How to Curb Hypocrisy

659

Command	Our Excuse	God's Answer
Appreciate 1:1-5	"How have you loved us?"	"I chose you but you despise me."
Honor 1:6–2:9	"How have we despised your name?"	"You offer lousy sacrifices."
Bond 2:10-16	"Why do you despise our offerings?"	"You divorce your wives."
Wait 2:17–3:7a	"Why aren't you just?"	"Messiah will judge—so repent."

# Key Verses

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**"You have wearied the LORD with your words. 'How have we wearied him?' you ask. By saying, 'All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them' or 'Where is the God of justice?' 'See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the LORD you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the LORD Almighty"**

**Malachi 2:17–3:1**

Privilege 1:1-5		Problems 1:6–3:12					
<i>Introduction 1:1</i>  <i>Love 1:2-5</i>  <i>Honor 1:6–2:9</i>  <i>Duty 2:10-16</i>  <i>Hope 2:17–3:6</i>  <i>Obedience 3:7-12</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
							430 BC
Past 1:1-5		Present 1:6–2:16		Future 2:17–4:6			
Respond to God's Covenant Love							

430 BC



# Malachi 3

# How to Curb Hypocrisy

659

Command	Our Excuse	God's Answer
Appreciate 1:1-5	"How have you loved us?"	"I chose you but you despise me."
Honor 1:6–2:9	"How have we despised your name?"	"You offer lousy sacrifices."
Bond 2:10-16	"Why do you despise our offerings?"	"You divorce your wives."
Wait 2:17–3:7a	"Why aren't you just?"	"Messiah will judge—so repent."
Repent 3:7b-8a	"How can we repent?"	"Stop robbing me."

## ***5. Fourth Disputation (2:17–3:5): Dispute about God's Justice***

- You have wearied me.**
- How have we wearied you?**
- By not only trying to make evil good, but by implying that I delight in evil because I do not dispense immediate justice.**
- *Oracle against the people of Judah re: unfaithfulness to the covenant: they are unrighteous and unjust; the Day of the Lord will judge all evildoers and them.***



# How to Curb Hypocrisy

659

Command	Our Excuse	God's Answer
Appreciate 1:1-5	"How have you loved us?"	"I chose you but you despise me."
Honor 1:6–2:9	"How have we despised your name?"	"You offer lousy sacrifices."
Bond 2:10-16	"Why do you despise our offerings?"	"You divorce your wives."
Wait 2:17–3:7a	"Why aren't you just?"	"Messiah will judge—so repent."
Repent 3:7b-8a	"How can we repent?"	"Stop robbing me."
Give 3:8b-12	"How have we robbed you?"	"No tithe—that blasphemes me."

## ***6. Fifth Disputation (3:6-12)***

### ***Dispute about Repentance***

3:6-12

- You have robbed me
  - How have we robbed you?
  - In unpaid tithes
- 
- *Oracle against the people of Judah re: their unfaithfulness to the covenant: they fail to provide tithes and adequate offerings to God; promise of great blessing for the faithful (upon arrival of Day of the Lord)*



**"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it'" (Malachi 3:10 NIV).**



Privilege 1:1-5		Problems 1:6–3:12					Promise 3:13–4:6
<i>Introduction 1:1</i>  <i>Love 1:2-5</i>  <i>Honor 1:6-2:9</i>  <i>Duty 2:10-16</i>  <i>Hope 2:17-3:6</i>  <i>Obedience 3:7-12</i>  <i>Reverence 3:13–4:3</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Past 1:1-5		Present 1:6–2:16		Future 2:17–4:6			
Respond to God's Covenant Love						430 BC	

430 BC

# How to Curb Hypocrisy

659

Command	Our Excuse	God's Answer
Appreciate 1:1-5	"How have you loved us?"	"I chose you but you despise me."
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Repent 3:7b-8a	"How can we repent?"	"Stop robbing me."
Give 3:8b-12	"How have we robbed you?"	"No tithe—that blasphemes me."
Respect 3:13-18	"How have we blasphemed you?"	"Your motive to give is to get."

## ***7. Sixth Disputation (3:13-18)***

### ***Dispute about Speaking Against God***

3:13-18

- You have spoken against me.
- What have we spoken against you?
- In saying it is vain to serve me unless I bless you with immediate prosperity
- *Oracle against the people of Judah regarding their unfaithfulness to the covenant: they fail to fear and honour God. It includes a warning of the coming of the Day of the LORD.*



**This church  
is not full of  
hypocrites.**

**There's always room for more.**

**Romans 3:10 "No one is righteous—not even one"**

# Who are you, really?



## Identity crisis.

If it is important to  
you, you will find a  
**way**

If not, you'll  
find an  
**excuse**





**SOMETIMES WE DON'T EVEN  
GET TO THE STARTING LINE**



**“I DON'T HAVE TIME!”**



**"Lord, take all my excuses..."**





***HOW CAN YOU BE...?***



***TWO WAYS TO AVOID  
HYPOCRISY***

# ***HOW CAN YOU BE GENUINE?***



**Malachi 1–3**

**II. Consider your **future.****



**Malachi 4**



# Malachi 4

Privilege 1:1-5		Problems 1:6–3:12					Promise 3:13–4:6
Introduction 1:1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Love 1:2-5		Honor 1:6-2:9					
		Duty 2:10-16					
		Hope 2:17-3:6					
		Obedience 3:7-12					
		Reverence 3:13–4:3					
		Summary 4:4-6					
Remember the Law 1:1–2:16				Rely on the promises 2:17–4:6			
Past 1:1-5		Present 1:6–2:16		Future 2:17–4:6			
Respond to God's Covenant Love							

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## 8. Conclusion (ch. 4)

*-A summary of two main themes:*

*-the need to **keep the Law** of Moses  
(primary themes of disputations #1-3)*

*and*

*-the need to **be prepared** for the coming Day  
of the LORD  
(primary themes of disputations #4-7)*



***"But for you who fear my name,  
the Sun of Righteousness will rise  
with healing in his wings."***

***Malachi 4:2 NLT***



THE DAY OF JUDGMENT IS COMING, BURNING LIKE A FURNACE  
The arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw on that day  
But for you who fear my name

THE SON OF RIGHTEOUSNESS  
WILL RISE WITH HEALING  
IN HIS WINGS

and you will go free  
leaping with joy like calves  
let out to pasture

*Malachi 4:2b*



***"...you will go  
free, leaping with  
joy like calves let  
out to pasture."***



***Malachi 4:2b***



# The Big Ten (Malachi 4:4 NLT)

**“Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant—  
all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on  
Mount Sinai for all Israel.”**

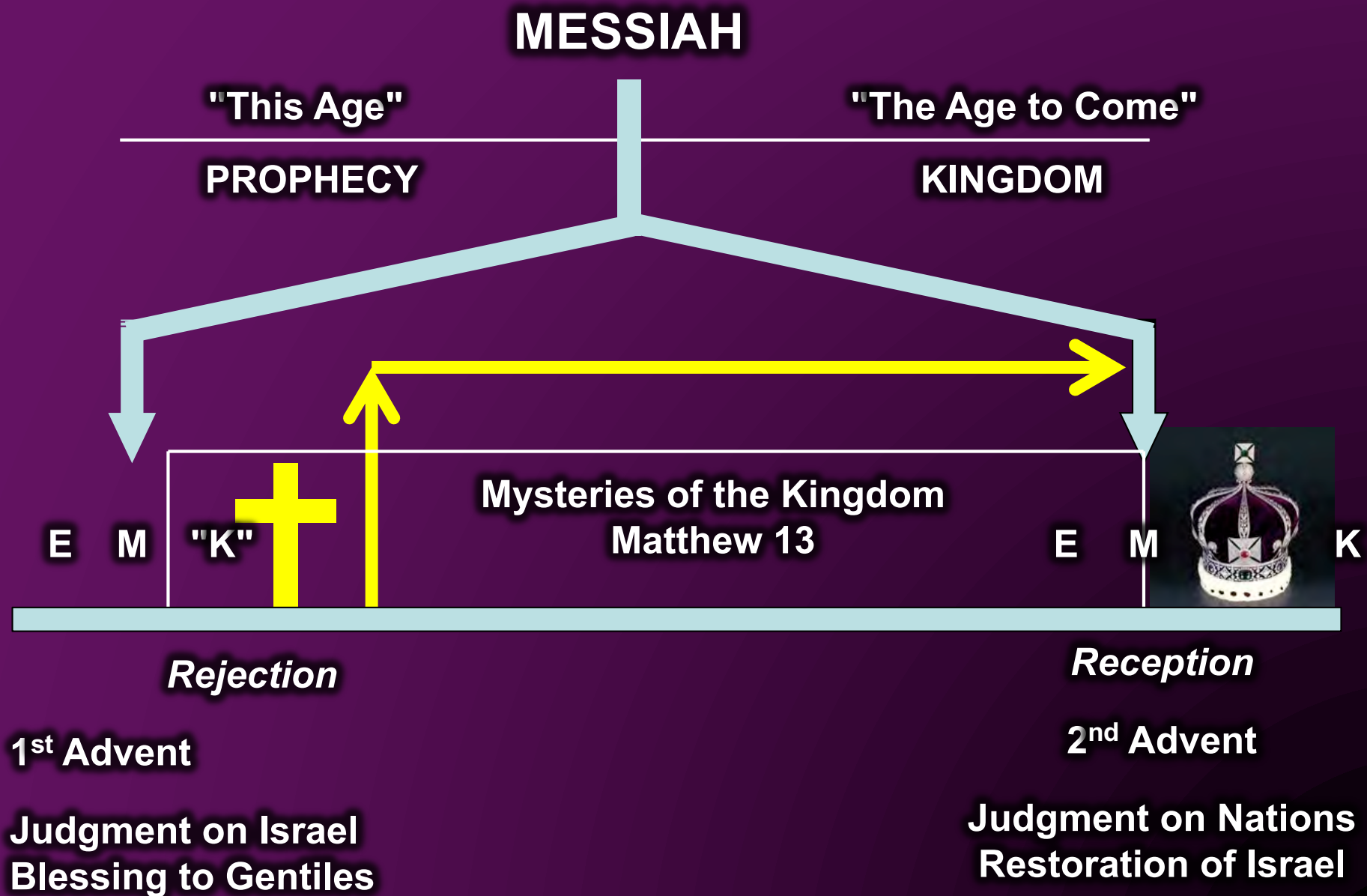




**"Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. <sup>6</sup> His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:5-6 NLT).**

# The Expectation: Elijah, Messiah, Kingdom

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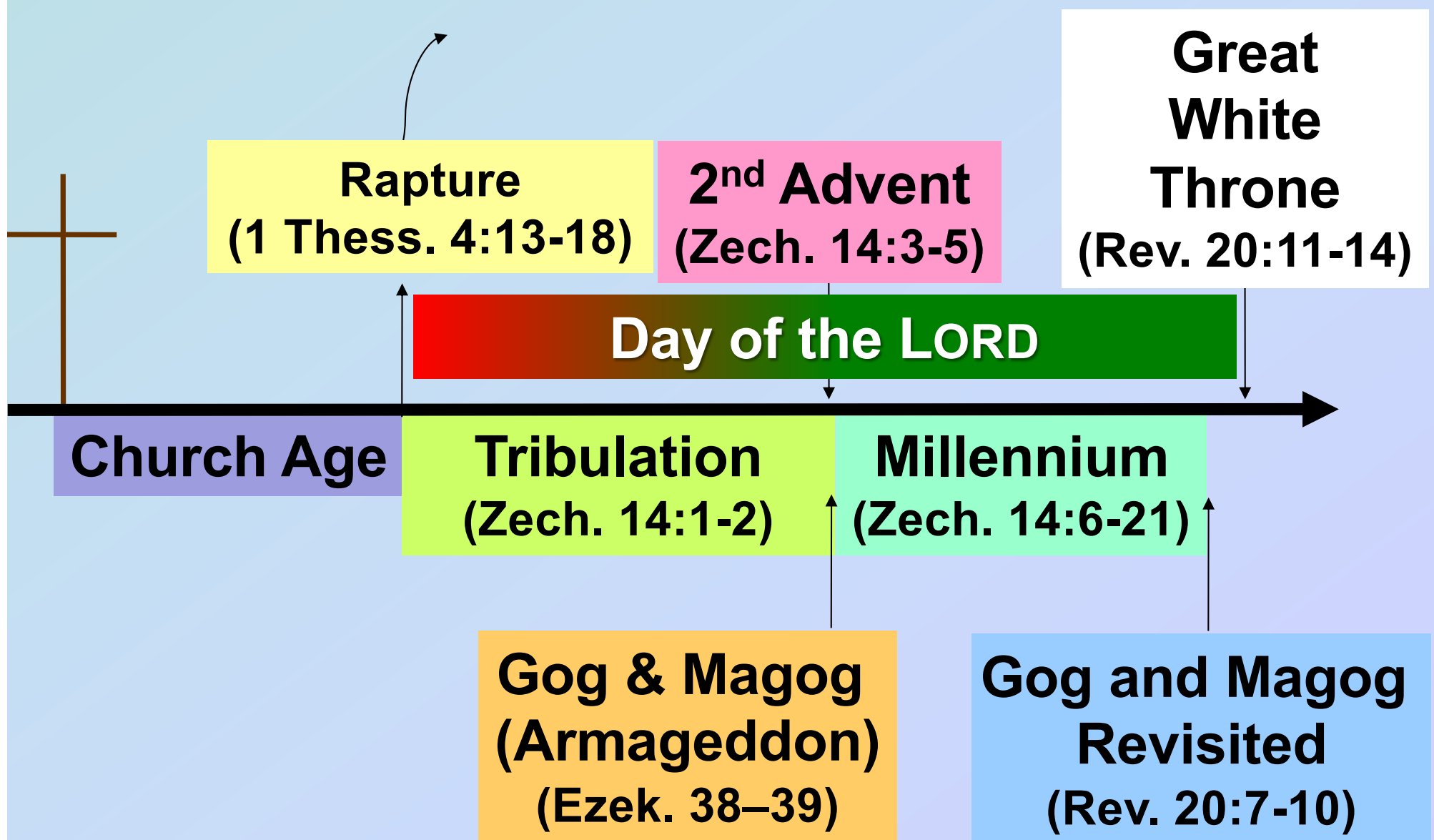


Adapted from Mark L. Bailey, DTS class notes, 1986



# A Timeline of the Future

437



Wherefore take **Be** the whole armour  
of God, that ye may be able to withstand  
the evil day, and having done all, to  
stand. Stand about the loins, and having on the  
breastplate of righteousness; And your feet  
shod with the preparation of the gospel of  
peace; And taking the shield of faith,  
wherewith ye shall be able to  
quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.  
And take the helmet of salvation, and the  
sword of the spirit, which is the word of  
God: Praying always with all prayer and  
supplication in the name of the Lord Jesus  
Christ, watching thereunto with thanksgiving  
and supplication for all saints;

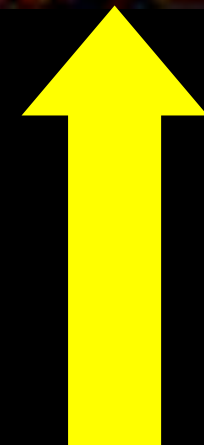
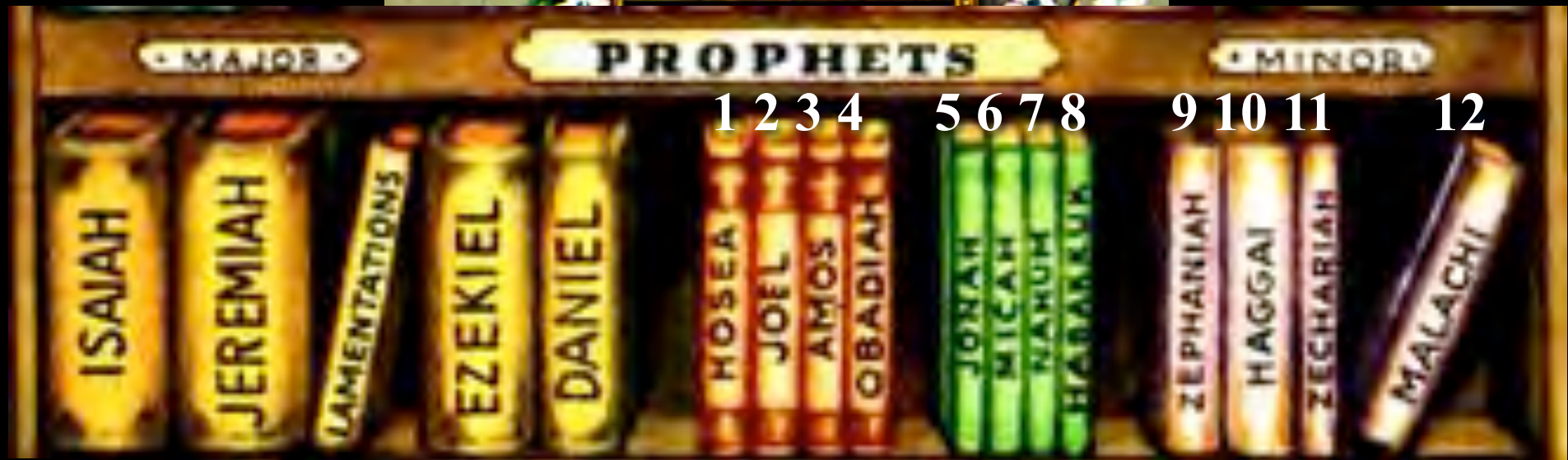
**Keep the  
faith!  
Obey!  
Repent!**



Application



# Malachi Ends "The Twelve"





# Malachi Kingdom Statement

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**Judah must repent of hypocrisy  
(1–3) for blessing in the messianic  
kingdom (4).**



## Malachi

### Summary Statement

**The LORD rebukes the **hypocrisy** of postexilic Jews by answering their defensive questions so they will prepare for the coming judgment and blessing by leaving their sin and returning to Him.**



***HOW CAN YOU BE...?***



***TWO WAYS TO AVOID  
HYPOCRISY***



# Main Idea of Malachi



**Stop  
making  
excuses** **and** **consider  
your  
future.**

# ***HOW CAN YOU BE GENUINE?***



**Malachi 1–3**



**II. Consider your **future**.**



**Malachi 4**



# Hypocrisy

**Every veil  
secretly desires  
to be lifted,  
except the veil of  
hypocrisy.**

***—Richard Garnett***



***HOW CAN YOU BE GENUINE?***

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white rectangular sign. The hand is positioned with the thumb and index finger gripping the top edge of the sign. The person is wearing a light blue button-down shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

**STOP  
MAKING  
EXCUSES**

# How to Curb Hypocrisy

659

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<b>Appreciate</b> 1:1-5	"How have you loved us?"	"I chose you but you despise me."
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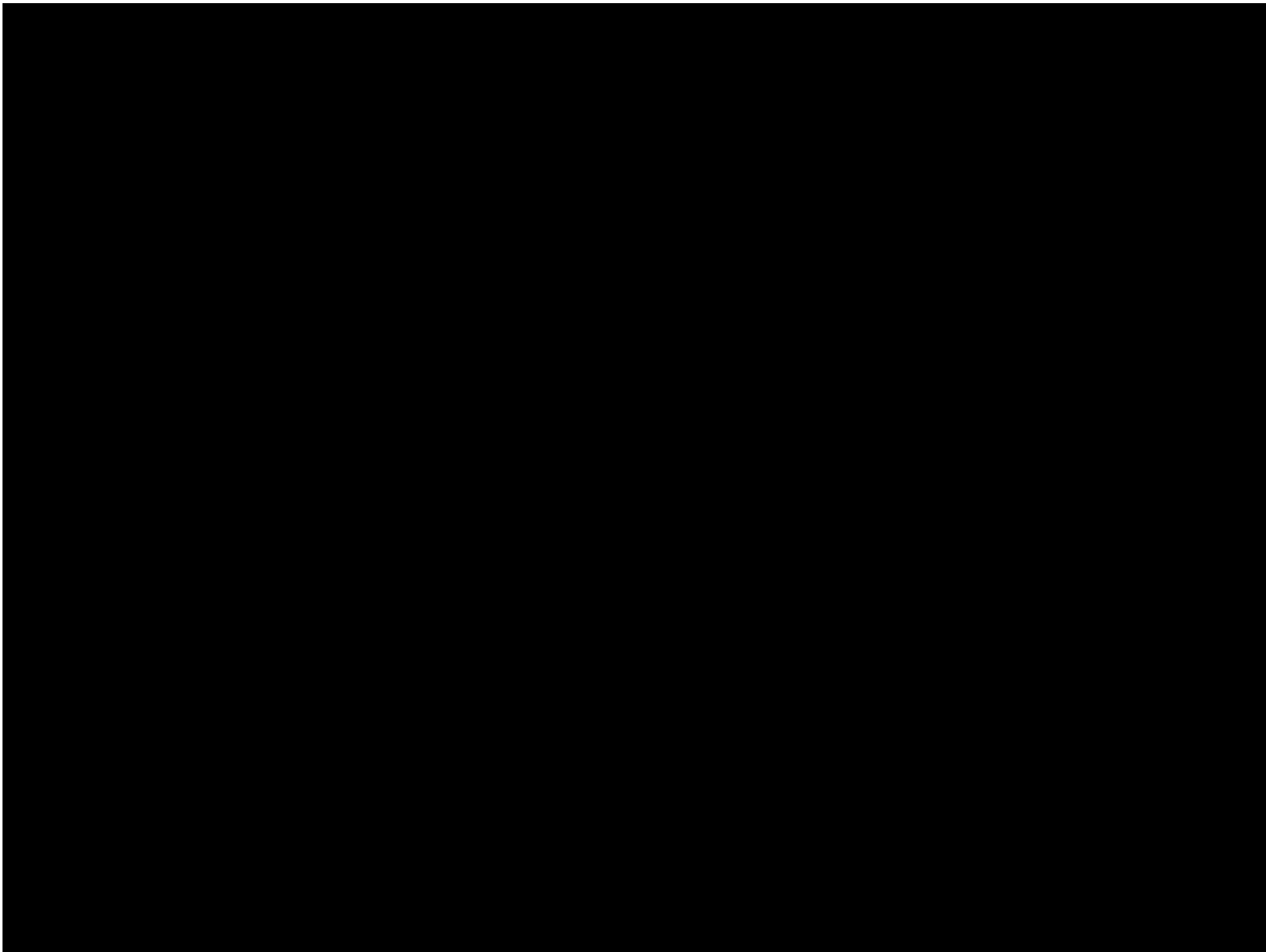


# Applying Malachi

- 1. Christians belong to the godly seed.**
- 2. Acceptable worship requires an acceptable lifestyle.**
- 3. God hates divorce. Jesus agrees.**
- 4. Christians have Jesus, who will bring judgment and purification. Repent and obey while you await his return.**

# Applying Malachi

- 5. God desires to bless us. Bless Him, His servants and those who are in need.**
- 6. Do not rob God of what he has loaned you.**
- 7. Check your motive for giving.**






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# **The Theology of Malachi**

# Theology

## *1. God's love for Jacob and Israel*

- Those who feared Him would be His special people.
- God would never forget His covenant with Abraham.
- In fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant, the day will come when all the nations would call Israel blessed.



## ***2. The Character of God***

- **God is superior to the gods of Edom, Assyria, Babylon**
- **Israelites: fickle v. Yahweh: unchangeable**
- **His love for Israel continues**
- **Yet God is holy and demands obedience**
- **No repentance = judgment**
- **Assurance that the wicked will be punished and those who serve the Lord will be blessed**

### ***3. The Sinfulness of the Priests & People***

- The priests set a poor example by showing contempt of the sacrificial system
- Their careless attitude made a mockery of worship. Hence, shut the temple doors!
- Put an end to hypocrisy
- The people divorced and intermarried
- God hates divorce that disintegrates the family and affects society adversely

## ***4. The Reward of Faith and Fearing the Lord***

- 6x - fear and serve God**
- If priests and people continue to sin = curse**
- Those who fear the Lord = scroll of remembrance**
- One practical way to serve the Lord: Bring tithes and offerings**
- Result: God will "throw open the floodgates of heaven = abundance"**



## ***5. The Messenger of the Lord***

- 3 times in NT = John the Baptist**
- "who will prepare the way"**
- Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27; cf. Mal. 3:1**



## ***6. The Coming Messiah***

- second messenger (3:1)
- "messenger of the covenant"
- identified with "the Lord you are seeking"
- Jesus Christ
- Sun of righteousness
- Zechariah called Jesus "the rising sun"

## ***7. The Day of the Lord***

- a dreadful day
- evildoers will be set fire

## ***8. Robbing God***

- In robbing God, they robbed themselves
- Withheld blessings for themselves



## ***9. Van Gemeren***

- Yahweh is Father and King**
- Yahweh is Righteous in His Love**
- Yahweh is Loving**
- Yahweh is the Divine Warrior in blessing and in judgment**

# ***PROBLEM PASSAGES***

## ***1. "I have loved Jacob, but Esau I hated" (1:2-3)***

- "love" and "hate" = covenant terms
- = "I chose Jacob," but "I did not choose Esau."
- Jacob = plural noun = nation of Israel
- May refer to the nations founded by the twin brothers

## **2. " ...great is my name among the nations..." (1:11)**

**This is a difficult verse in the OT to interpret**

**Various interpretations:**

- A. Roman Catholic view - mass**
- B. Diaspora view - Jews of Diaspora**
- C. Syncretistic view - pagan worship**
- D. Eschatological view - imminent eschatology**



### ***3. "My covenant with Levi should be maintained"* (2:4)**

- Moses' blessing of Levi**
- Levi a personification of early priesthood**
- Deuteronomistic materials allow Levites to function as priests.**

#### **4. " *Did he not make one...?*" (2:15)**

**-Dentan: "One of the most obscure verses in the OT. Almost every word raises a question."**

**-Smith: "one" = Yahweh; "one" = Israel as one;  
"One" – Yahweh**

#### **5. Elijah (4:1)**

**see class notes, 667**

13 Now the God of	ing to you.	you all. Amen.	14 Salute Ananias, Philemon
-------------------	-------------	----------------	-----------------------------

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6 Now I beseech you, brethren,  
for the Lord Jesus Christ's

# Chris

# stian

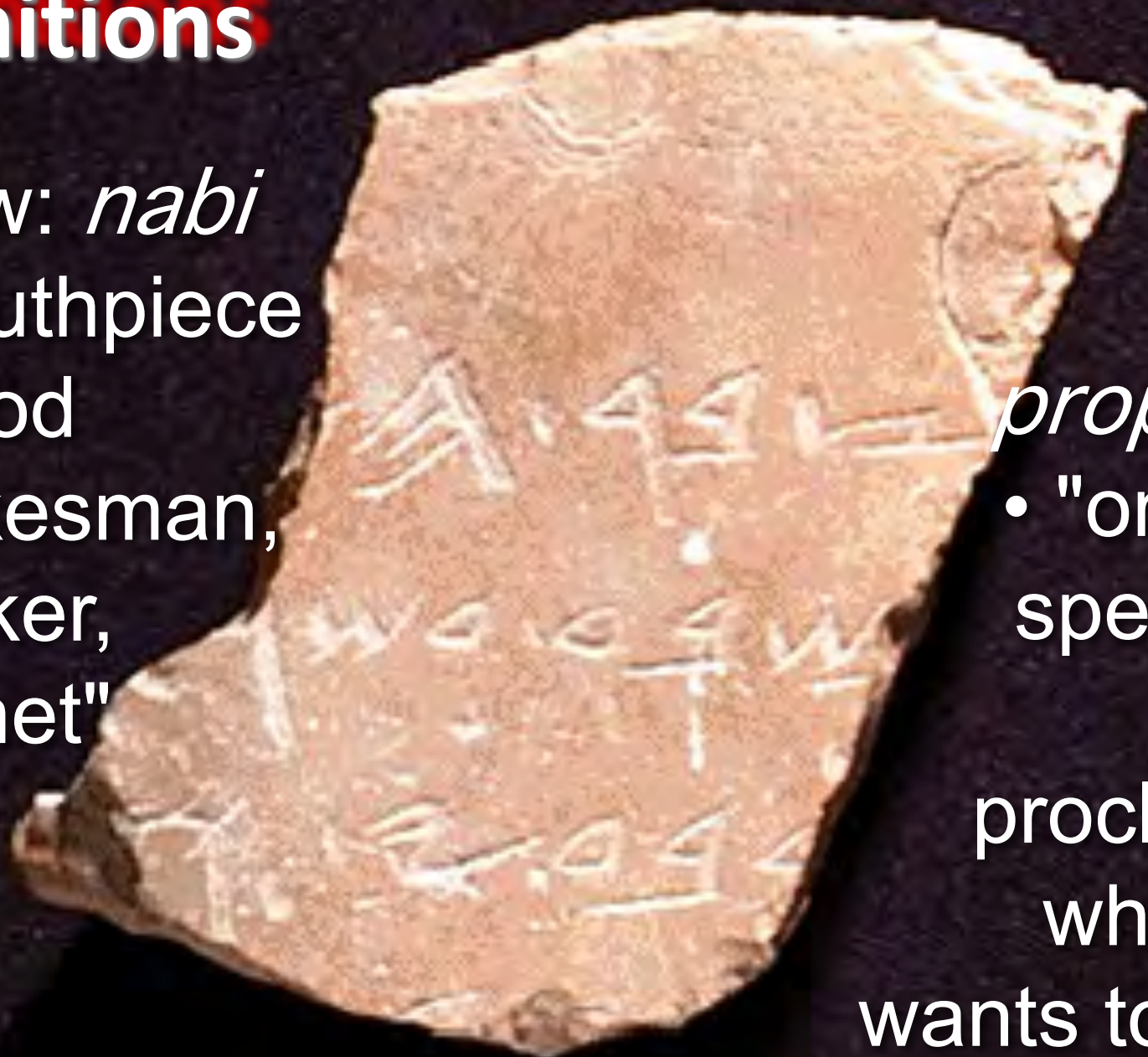
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# Definitions

Hebrew: *nabi*

- a mouthpiece for God
- "spokesman, speaker, prophet"



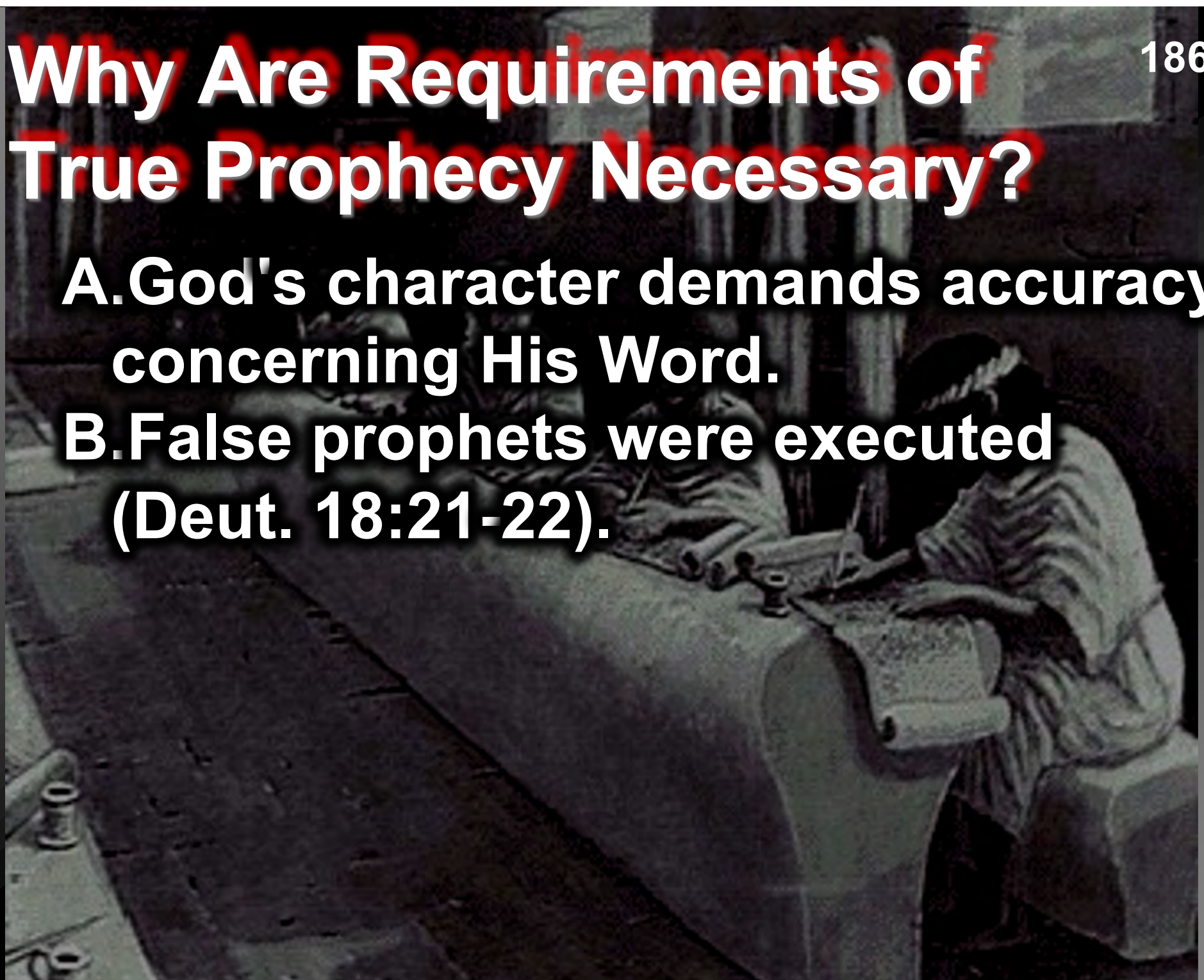
Greek: *prophetes*

- "one who speaks for God, proclaiming what God wants to make known"



# Why Are Requirements of True Prophecy Necessary?

- A. God's character demands accuracy concerning His Word.
- B. False prophets were executed (Deut. 18:21-22).





# Tests of a True Prophet (Deut. 18:18-20)

**1. Predictions  
100% true**



**2. Worships the  
LORD**



# **Why Are Requirements of True Prophecy Necessary?**

- A. God's character demands accuracy concerning His Word.**
- B. False prophets were executed (Deut. 18:21-22).**
- C. Many today claim to utter prophecies from God—so we must be able to discern truth from error.**
- D. Equipping comes from knowing God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17).**

# WHY IS GOD'S WORD SO VITAL?

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)



# What is Prophecy?

*"knowing this first of all, that **no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.***

*For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit"*

**2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV)**



# Contrasts Between Biblical & Pagan Prophecy

## *Thought Questions:*

A. Which difference between these two types was most significant to you?

B. Why?



# What is Prophecy?

*"knowing this first of all, that **no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.***

*For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit"*

**2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV)**



## DISCUSSION GROUP A

What should a church do with a so-called prophet who:

- predicts false events
- falls into moral sin, or
- leads people to false gods?



## **DISCUSSION GROUP B**

**Is prophecy "telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind" (Wayne Grudem)?**

- Can true prophecy contain errors?**
- Why or why not?**

## Grudem's View

Prophecy is declaring anything (true or false) that the Spirit brings to one's mind

The above definition was invented in 1988 by Wayne Grudem

OT prophets are parallel to NT apostles

God changed the definition of prophecy from the OT to the NT

God gives some prophecies with errors

Any believer can prophesy

There's two kinds of NT prophecy (fallible and infallible)

Fallible prophecy can be inspired

God sometimes lies

## Biblical View

Prophecy is declaring God's inspired and inerrant revelation to others

The above definition has been the teaching of the church for 20 centuries

OT prophets are parallel to NT prophets

God kept the meaning of prophecy consistent between the two testaments

God gives all prophecies without errors (2 Pet. 1:20-21)

Only those with the gift of prophecy can prophesy (1 Cor. 12:29)

There's one kind of NT prophecy (infallible)

Fallible prophecy is false prophecy (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:14-20)

God always tells the truth since He cannot lie (Heb. 6:18)

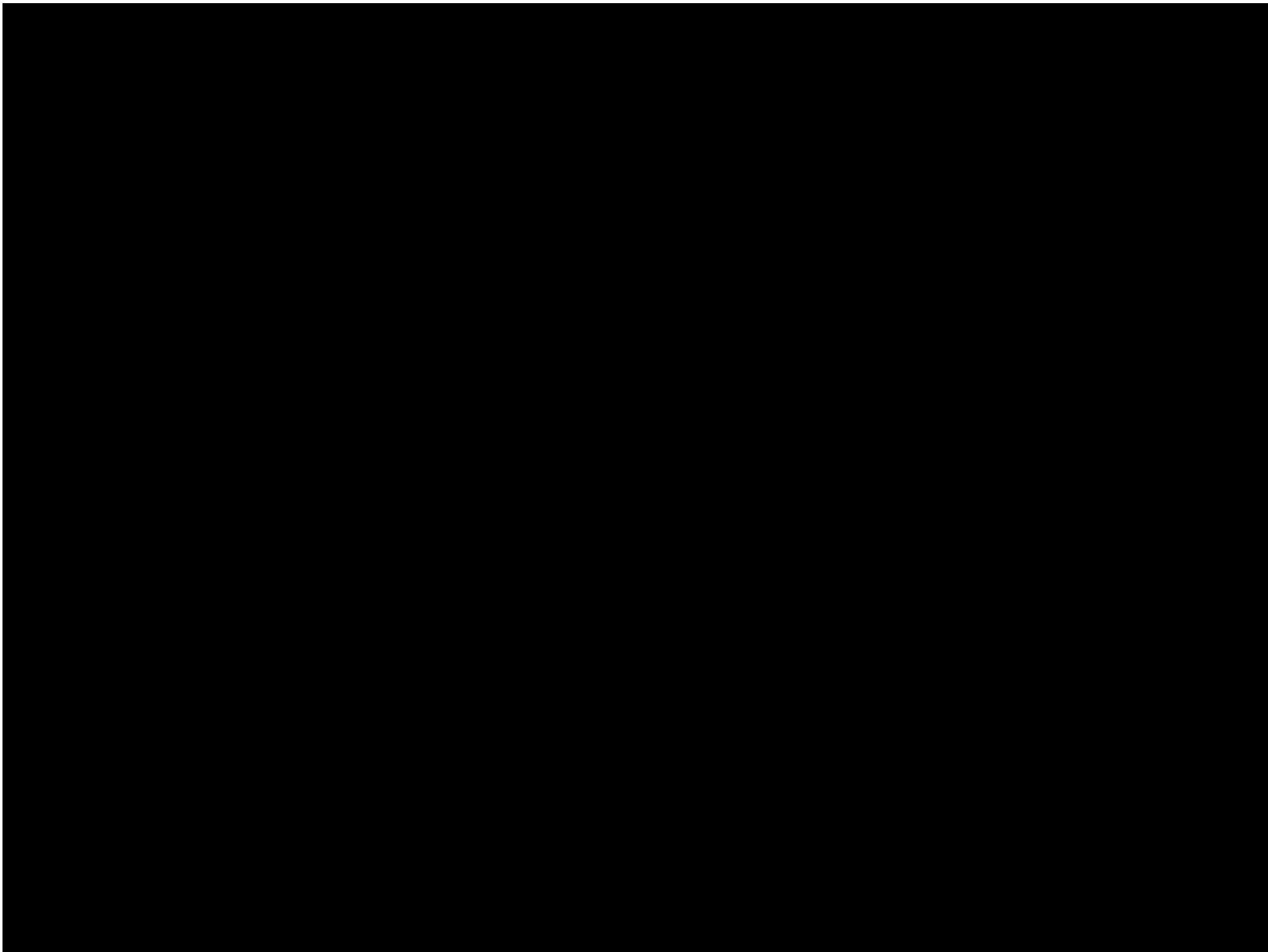
# Questions

1. Are the kinds of sins committed by the priests of Malachi's time being committed by Christian leaders today?
2. If your answer is yes, how can lay Christians deal with such a problem?
3. Does the principle of tithes and offerings apply today? If so, how?



# Questions


4. What is your relationship to the 10 commandments?
5. Do you need to repent for not giving your best to the Lord?
6. Do you need to repent for compromising your testimony?
7. Do you need to repent for disobeying the Lord?



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