

Lesson 11

The Story of Judah's Doom

The story in this lesson is not about an individual, but it is a narrative of how the depravity of Judah's kings brought the nation to its end.

Refer to these charts to follow the demise of the kings and the tears of the prophets.

PROPHETS

Jonah
Joel
Amos
Hosea
Isaiah
Micah
Jeremiah
Zephaniah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Obadiah
Daniel
Ezekiel
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam	975-958
Abijah	958-955
Asa	955-914
Jehoshaphat	914-892
Jehoram	892-884
Ahaziah	885
Athaliah	885-878
Joash	878-839
Amaziah	839-810
Uzziah	810-758
Jotham	758-742
Ahaz	742-726
Hezekiah	726-698
Manasseh	698-643
Amon	643-641
Josiah	641-610
Jehoahaz	610
Jehoiakim	610-599
Jehoiachin	599
Zedekiah	599-586

Chronological list of the prophetic books of the Old Testament.

The names in red on the charts indicate the prophets and kings contemporary to the time discussed in this lesson.

It was a time when there was no hope for the nation of Judah because they were doomed to suffer the consequences of King Hezekiah's sinful pride.

PROPHETS

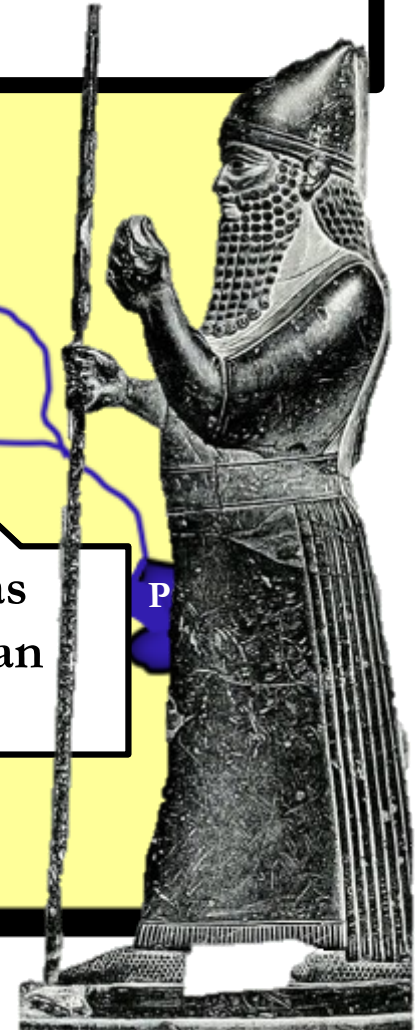
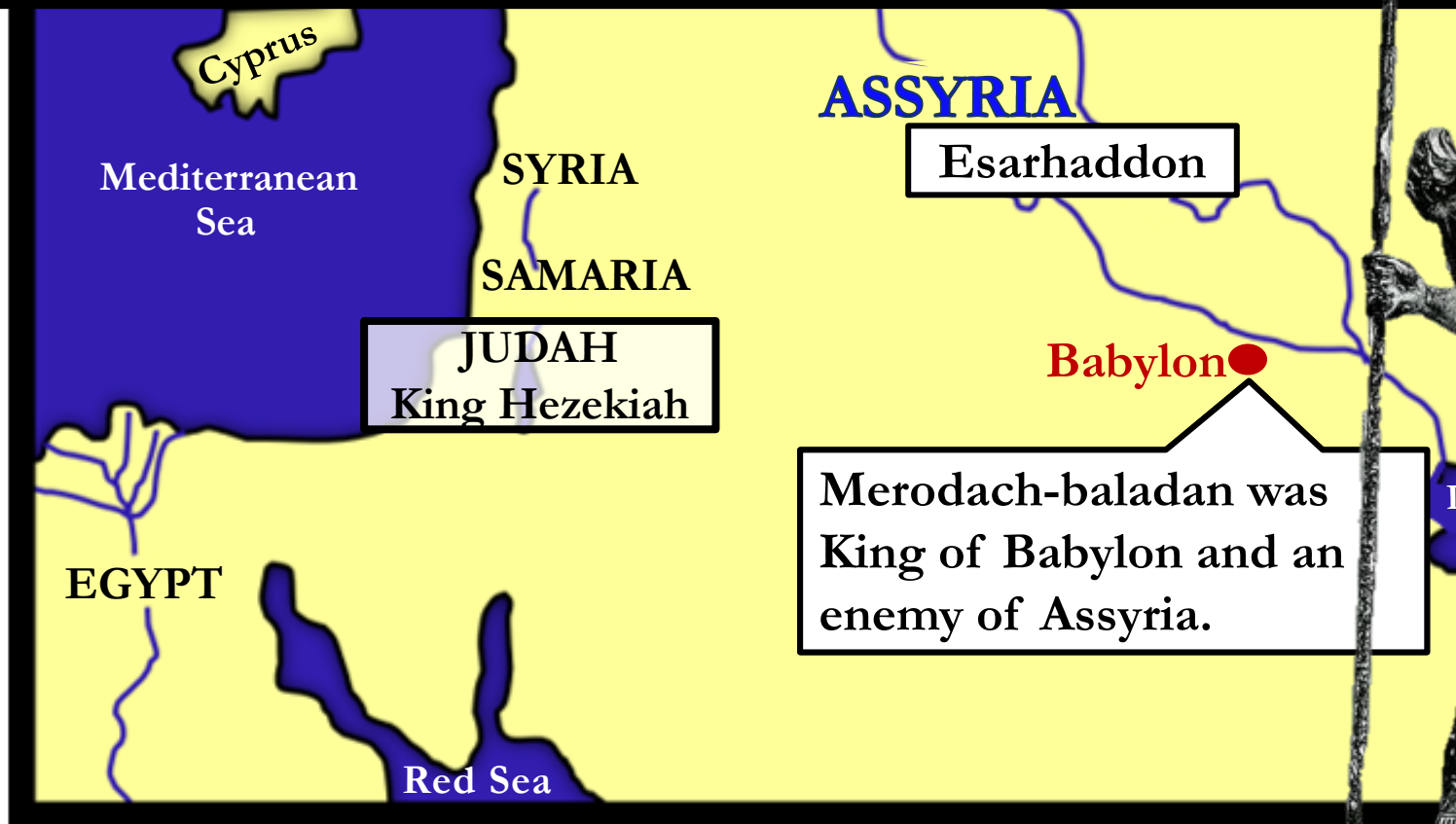
Jonah
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Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi prophesied after the Jews returned from captivity.

Remember from our last lesson that **Hezekiah** made the mistake of befriending **Merodach-baladan**, king of the city of Babylon. **Hezekiah's** sin was that he showed **Merodach-baladan** the treasures of Judah.



Hezekiah's Sin

Hezekiah was flattered by the attention of the powerful King of Babylon, and pride raised its ugly head.

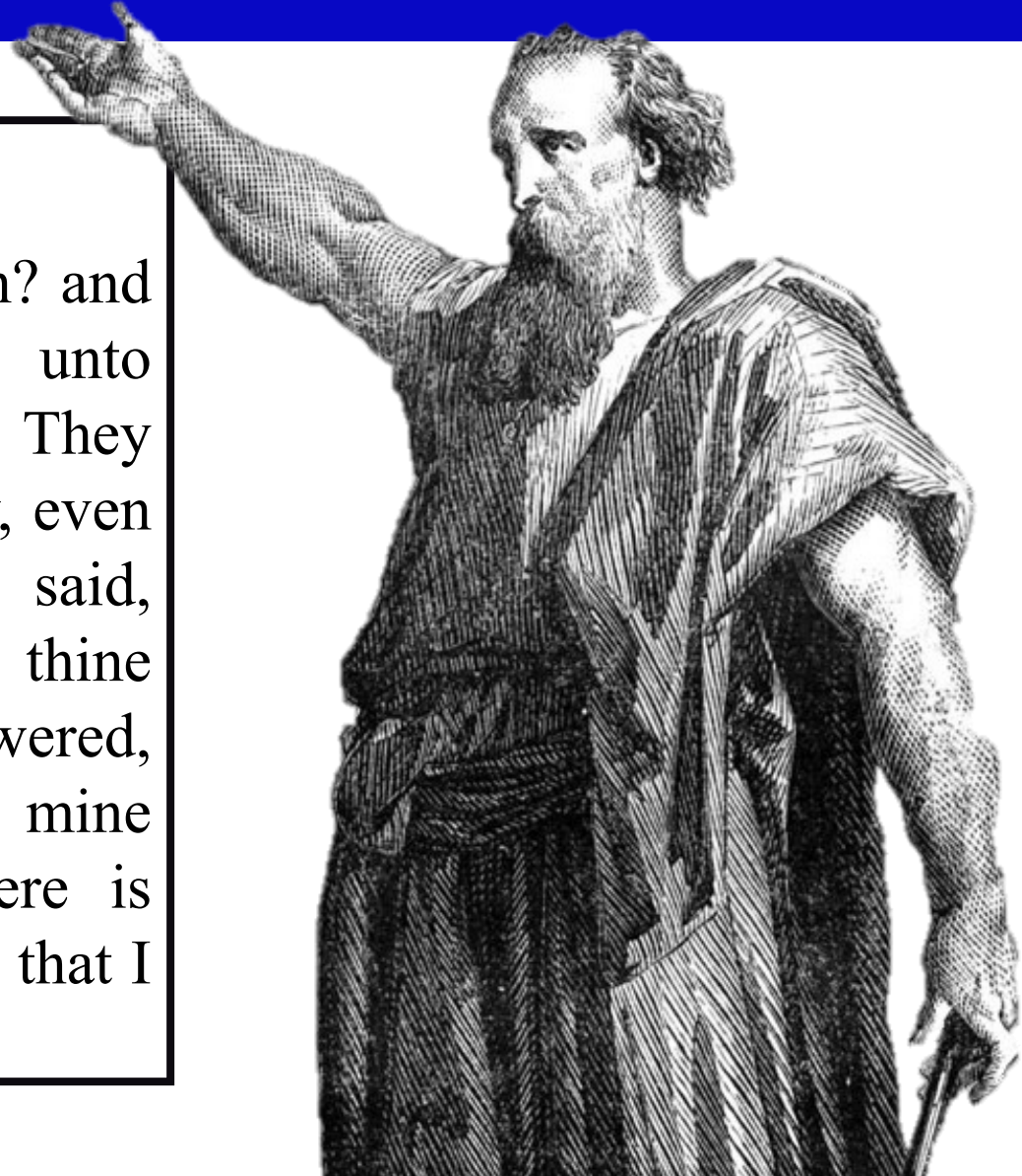
Hezekiah compromised by associating too closely with Merodach-baladan when he showed him the treasures of the people.



Isaiah reproved King Hezekiah

II Kings 20

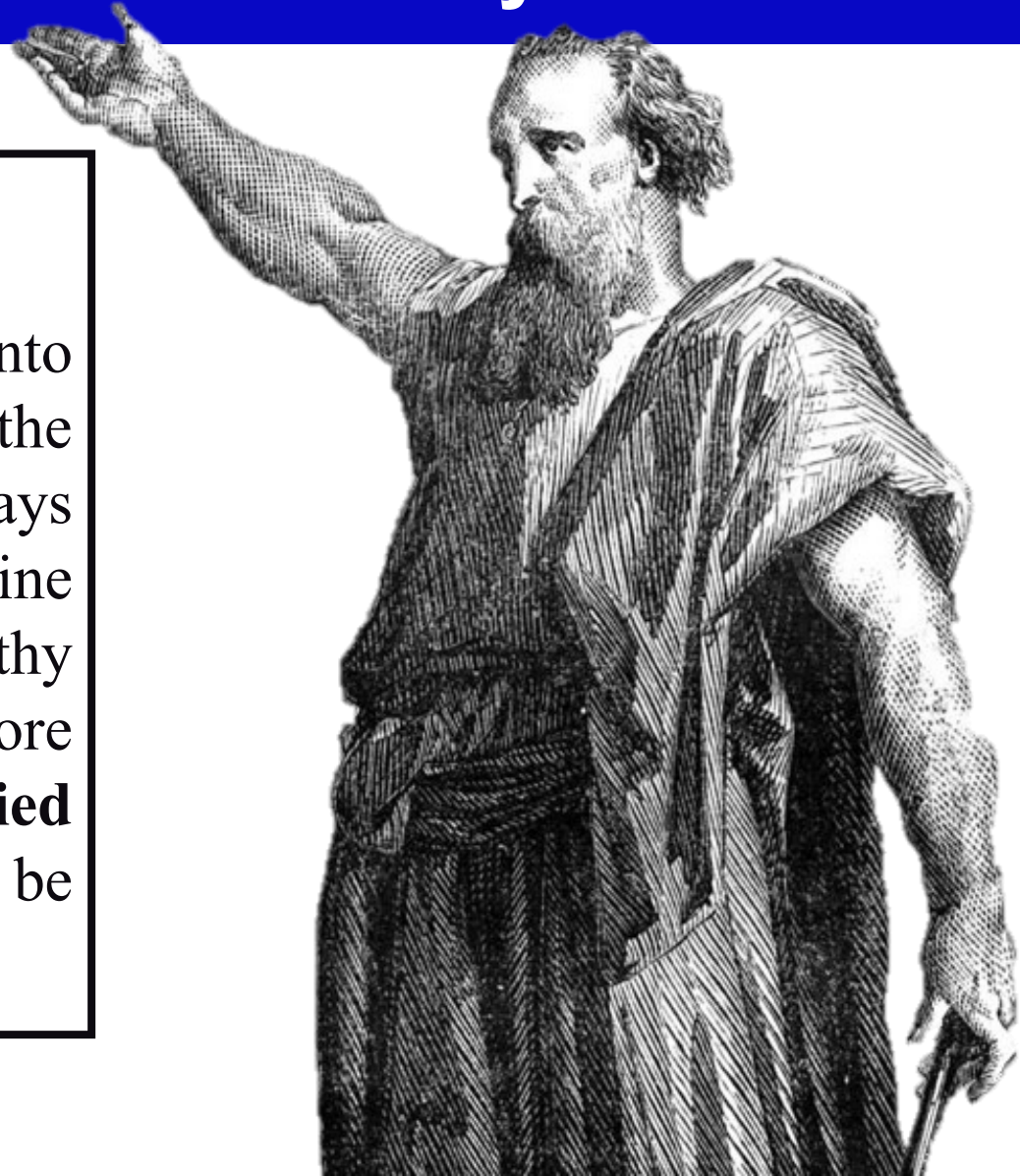
“¹⁴ . . . What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon. ¹⁵And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not showed them.”



Sentence was passed upon Hezekiah for his pride and vanity.

II Kings 20

“¹⁶And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD. ¹⁷Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, **shall be carried into Babylon**: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.”



The Death of Hezekiah King of Judah

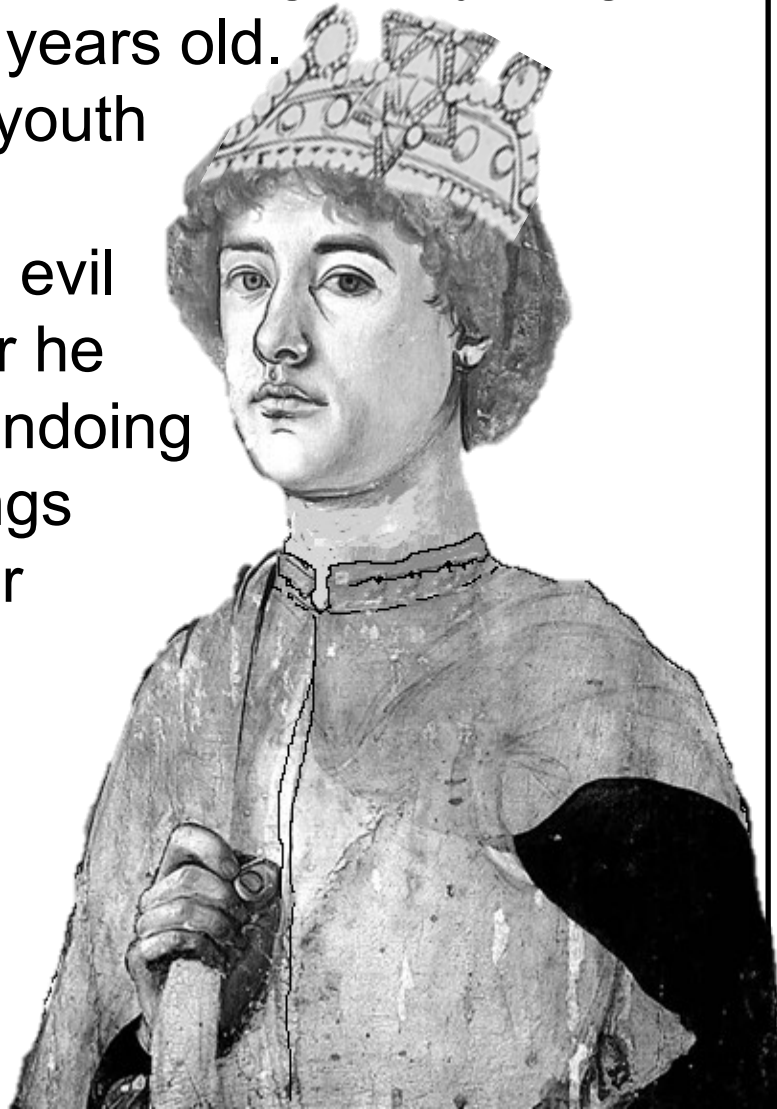
Hezekiah was spared the horror of God's judgment occurring during his lifetime.

He lived out the rest of his life in peace and died of natural causes.

His son Manasseh took the throne after him.



Notice seven kings follow Hezekiah beginning with his son, Manasseh. Manasseh became king at a young age—twelve years old. Possibly his youth made him vulnerable to evil influences for he went about undoing the good things that his father had done (II Kings 21).



KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam

Abijah

Asa

Jehoshaphat

Jehoram

Ahaziah

Athaliah

Joash

Amaziah

Uzziah

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

**Manasseh's sins brought the nation to ruin,
and he was carried captive to Babylon in fetters.**

While suffering as a captive he repented and called upon God.

The text does not indicate how it came about, but he was released in answer to his prayers, and God brought him back to Jerusalem where he resumed his reign as King of Judah (II Chronicles 33).



**After Manasseh regained the throne
his loyalty to God demonstrated he had truly repented.**

He took away the false gods, repaired the altar in the temple, built a wall to protect Jerusalem, put captains of war in all the fenced cities, and commanded the people to worship God.



Manasseh was King of Judah for 55 years (II Kings 21:1), and when he died his 22 year old son, **Amon**, took the throne.

Unfortunately, **Amon** was not impressed with his father's repentance for he was an evil king. The suffering his father had endured as a prisoner in Babylon should have been a warning to him, but he was so wicked that after only reigning for two years his servants conspired against him and slew him in his own house.

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Abijah

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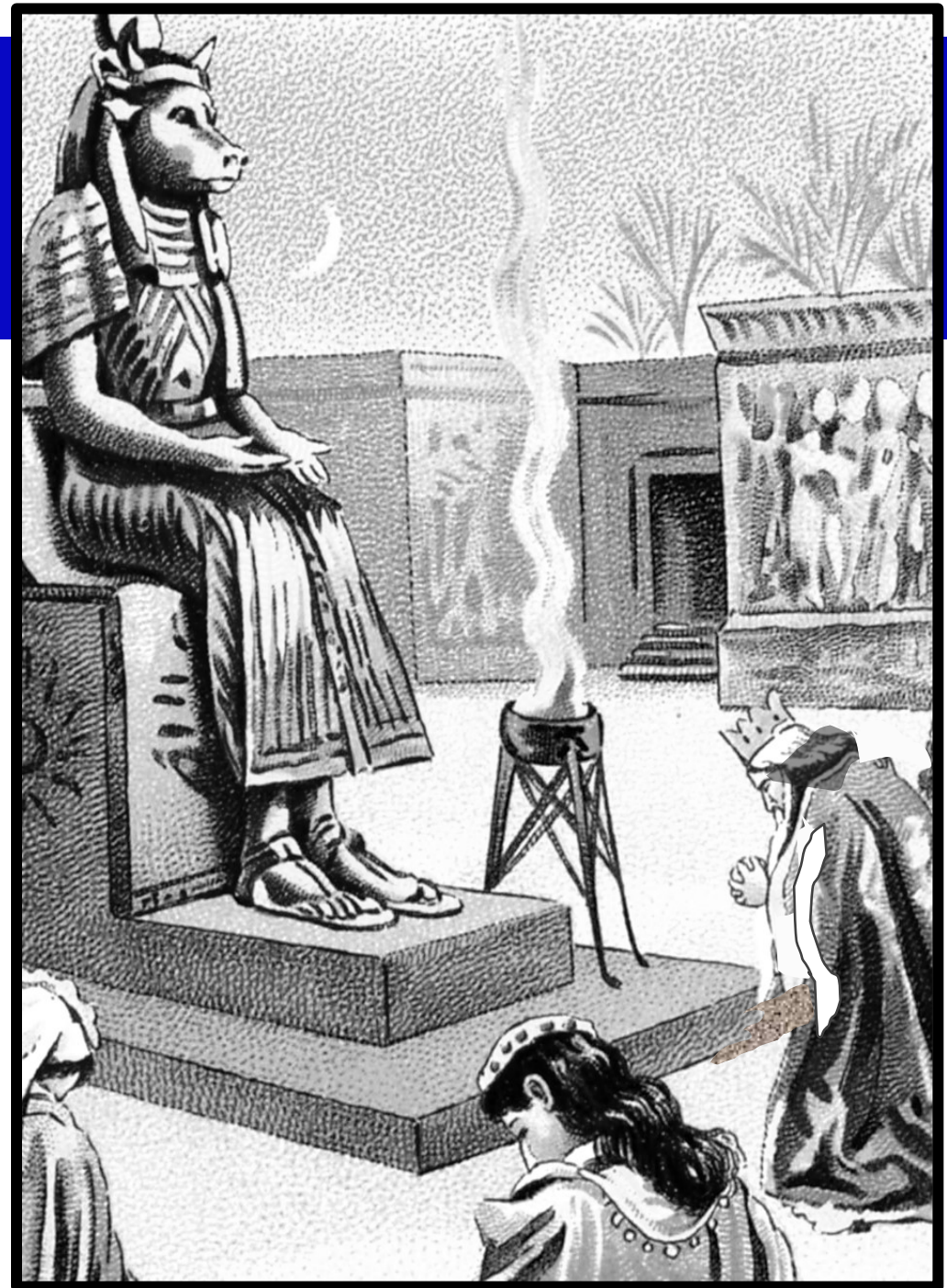
THE TEXT

For the story of Amon King of Judah

II Chronicles 33

“²¹ Amon was two and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned two years in Jerusalem.

²² But he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as did Manasseh his father: for Amon sacrificed unto all the carved images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them;”



II Chronicles 33

“²³ And humbled not himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

²⁴ And his servants conspired against him, and slew him in his own house.”



Amon was still young when he died, only 24 years old, and his son, **Josiah**, was only eight years old. This child would become one of *the* most faithful Kings of Judah (II Kings 22), for when he was sixteen years old he began to seek God.



KINGS OF JUDAH

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Zedekiah

Now, the people had not read God's law for many years which was a violation in itself, because Moses wrote instructions for Israel should they ever have a king to rule over them:

Deuteronomy 17:18-19

“¹⁸And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: ¹⁹And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them.”

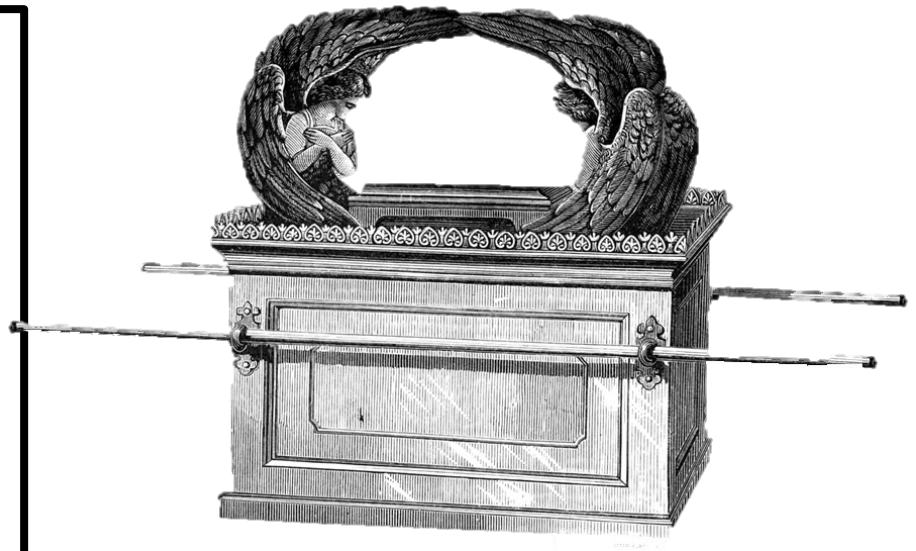


The “book of the law” or “law of Moses” had been completely forgotten by the time Josiah was king. Not only did the kings not read it but the priests did not even know where it was.

Moses had instructed the priests to keep the book of the law which he had written (the first five books of the Bible) with the ark of the covenant as “a witness” against Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:26

“²⁶ Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.”



The Ark of the Covenant was often mistreated. It was stolen by the Philistines, used as a kind of talisman by King Saul, and transported unscripturally.

When Solomon's temple was dedicated and the ark was placed in the Holy of Holies the priests evidently looked inside of it for I Kings 8:9 says nothing was in the ark except for the tablets of the Ten Commandments.

The golden pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded were no longer inside, and Moses' books of the law are not mentioned. Sometime over the years Moses' books were separated from the ark.



WHEN WERE MOSES' BOOKS LOST?

The text does not say, but there were many kings who were wicked idolaters that neglected and abused the temple where it would have been kept.

Early on when **Rehoboam** was king of Judah the Egyptian King Shishak invaded and ransacked Solomon's temple.

There were Kings of Judah like **Joash**, **Hezekiah**, and **Manasseh** who made repairs to the temple, but Moses' books are not mentioned.

KINGS OF JUDAH

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Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

There had been so many evil kings including Josiah's father, but Josiah sought to please the Lord.

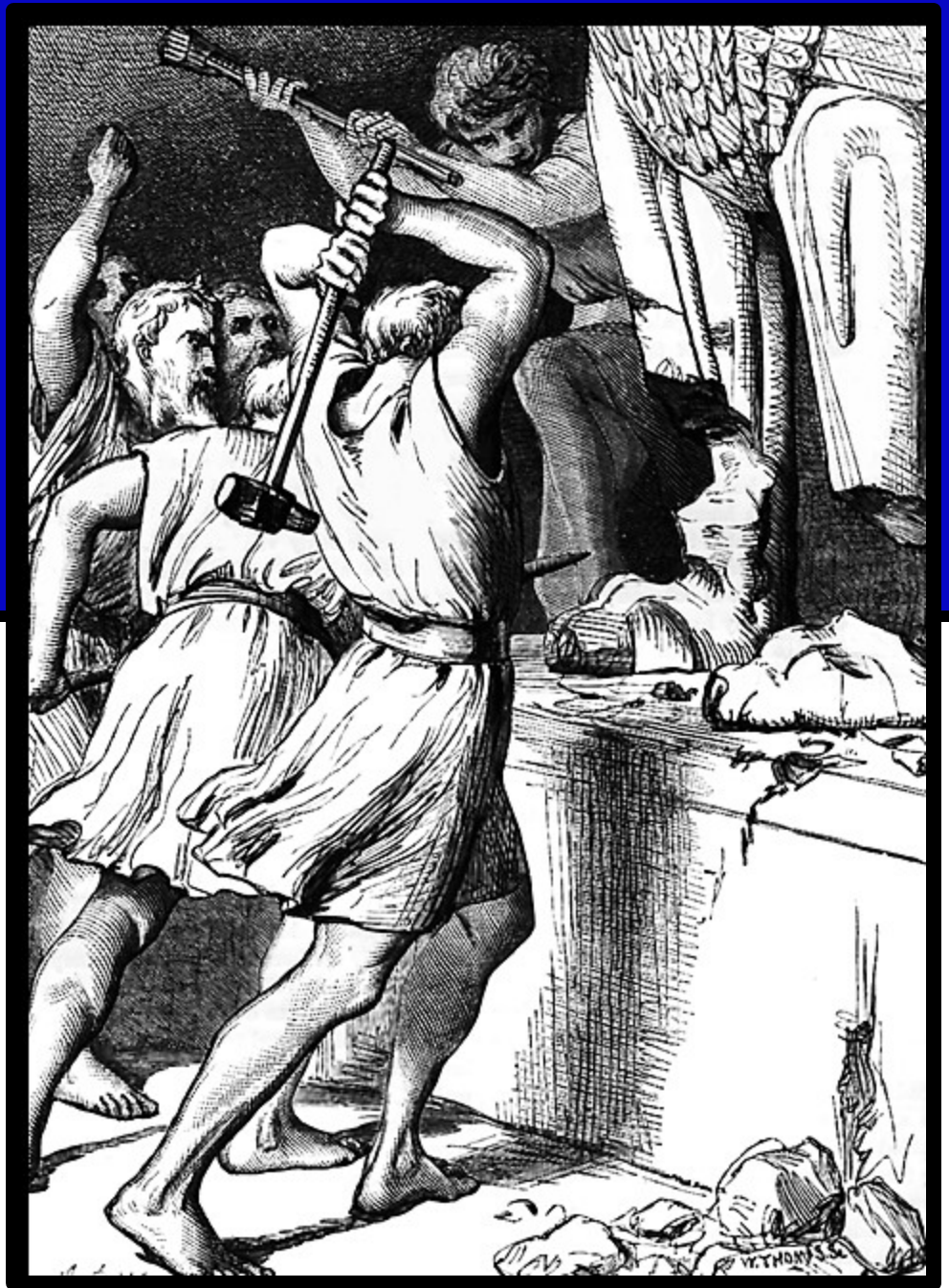
II Chronicles 34

“¹Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. ²And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.”



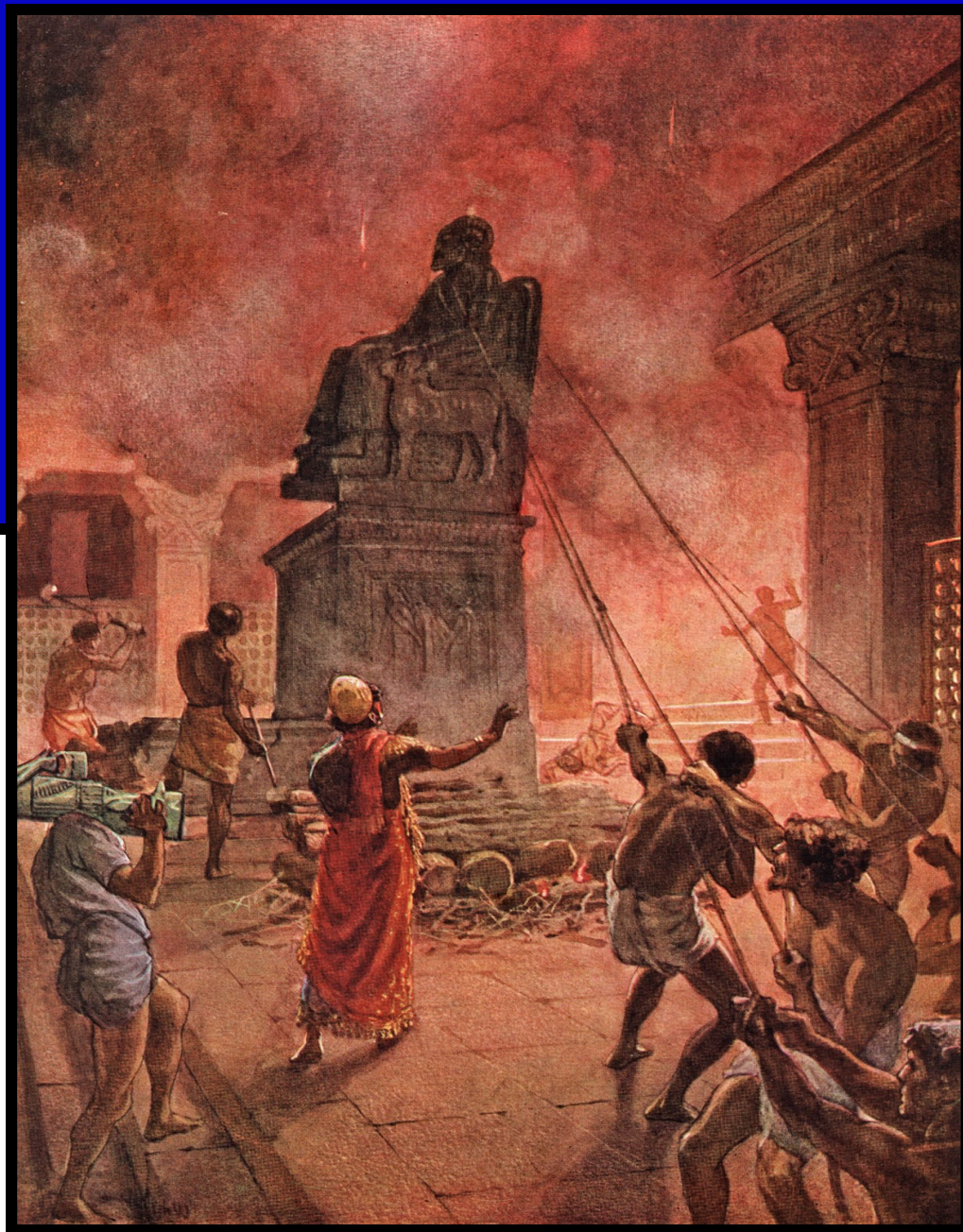
II Chronicles 34

“³For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.”



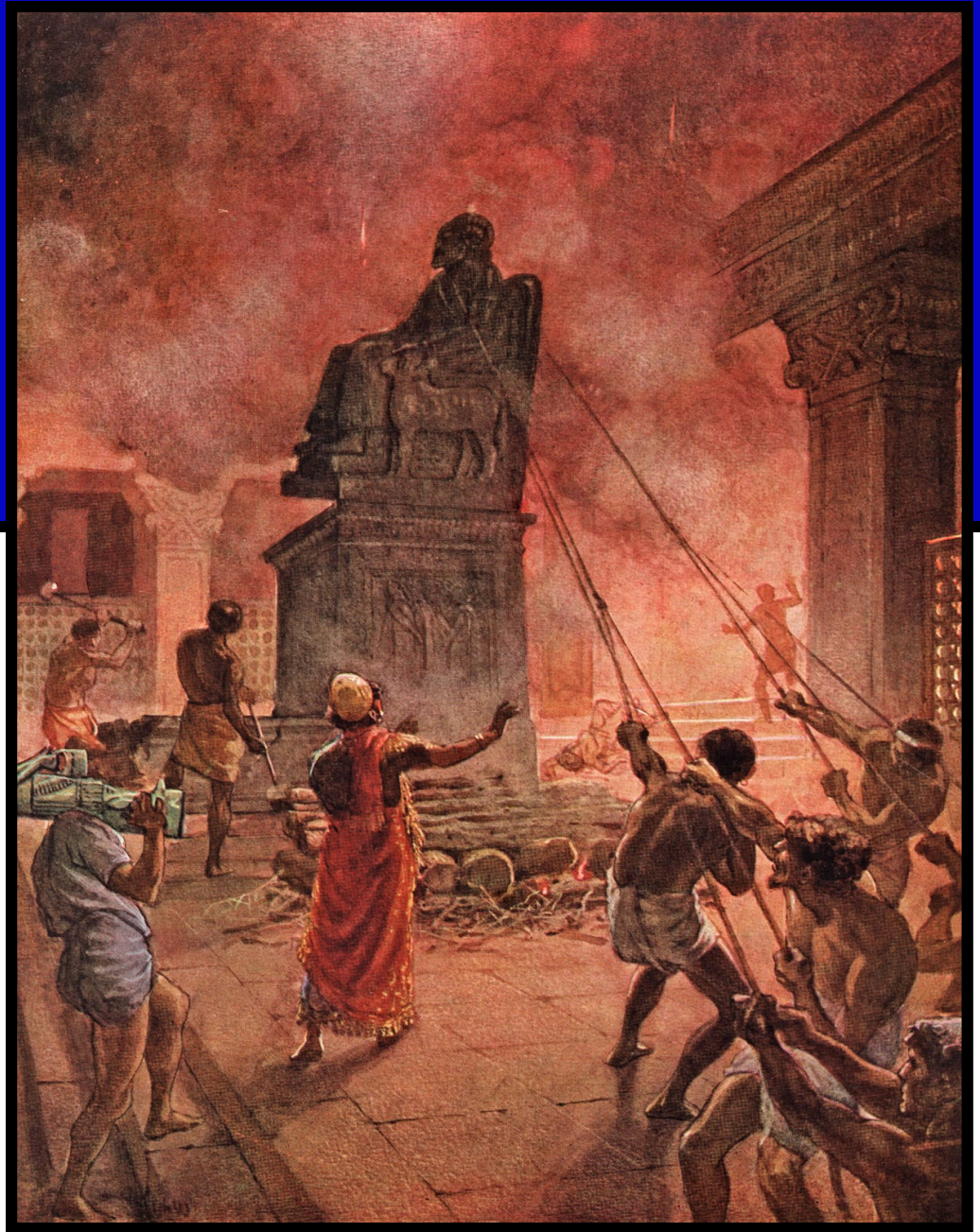
II Chronicles 34

“⁴And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.”



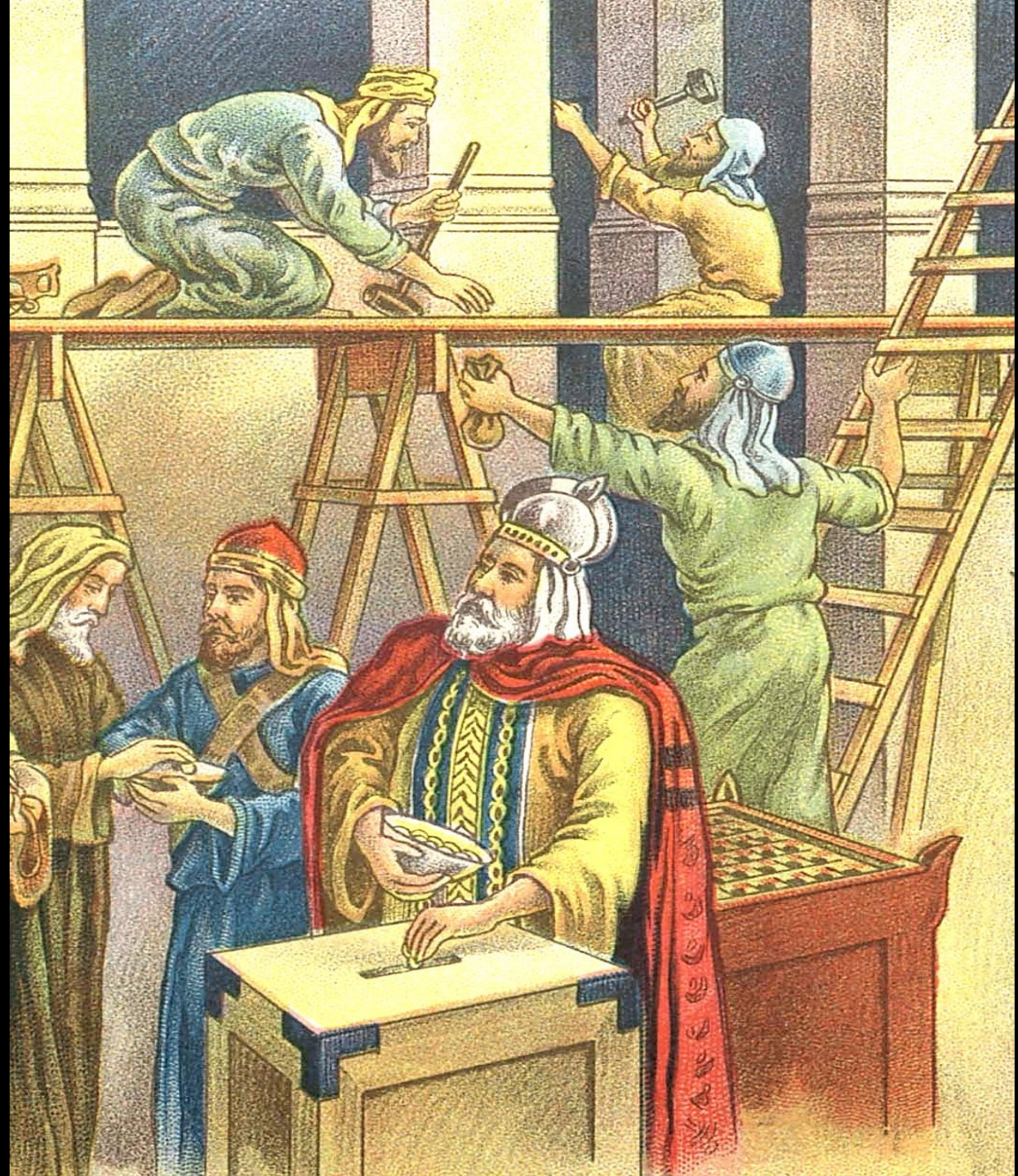
II Chronicles 34

“⁵And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. ⁶And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about.”



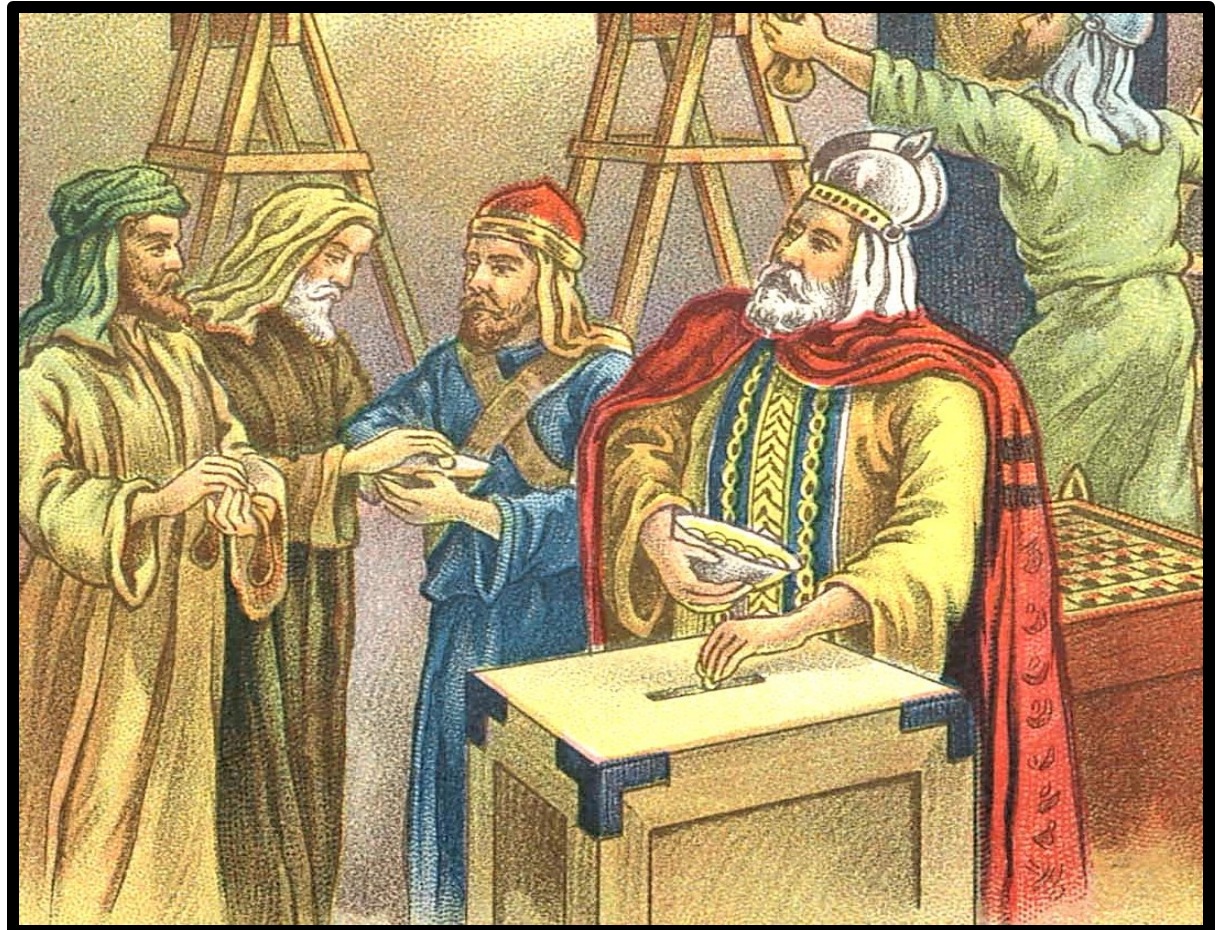
For 6 years Josiah purged the land.

Then in the 18th year of his reign, when he was 26 years old, Josiah employed Shaphan, a scribe, to help repair the temple.



II Chronicles 34

“⁸Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.”



II Chronicles 34

“⁹And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.”



II Chronicles 34

“¹⁰And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the LORD, to repair and amend the house:

¹¹Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.”



Hilkiah Found the Book of the Law; the books of Moses.

II Chronicles 34

“¹⁴And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD given by Moses.”



II Chronicles 34

“¹⁵And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan.”



II Chronicles 34

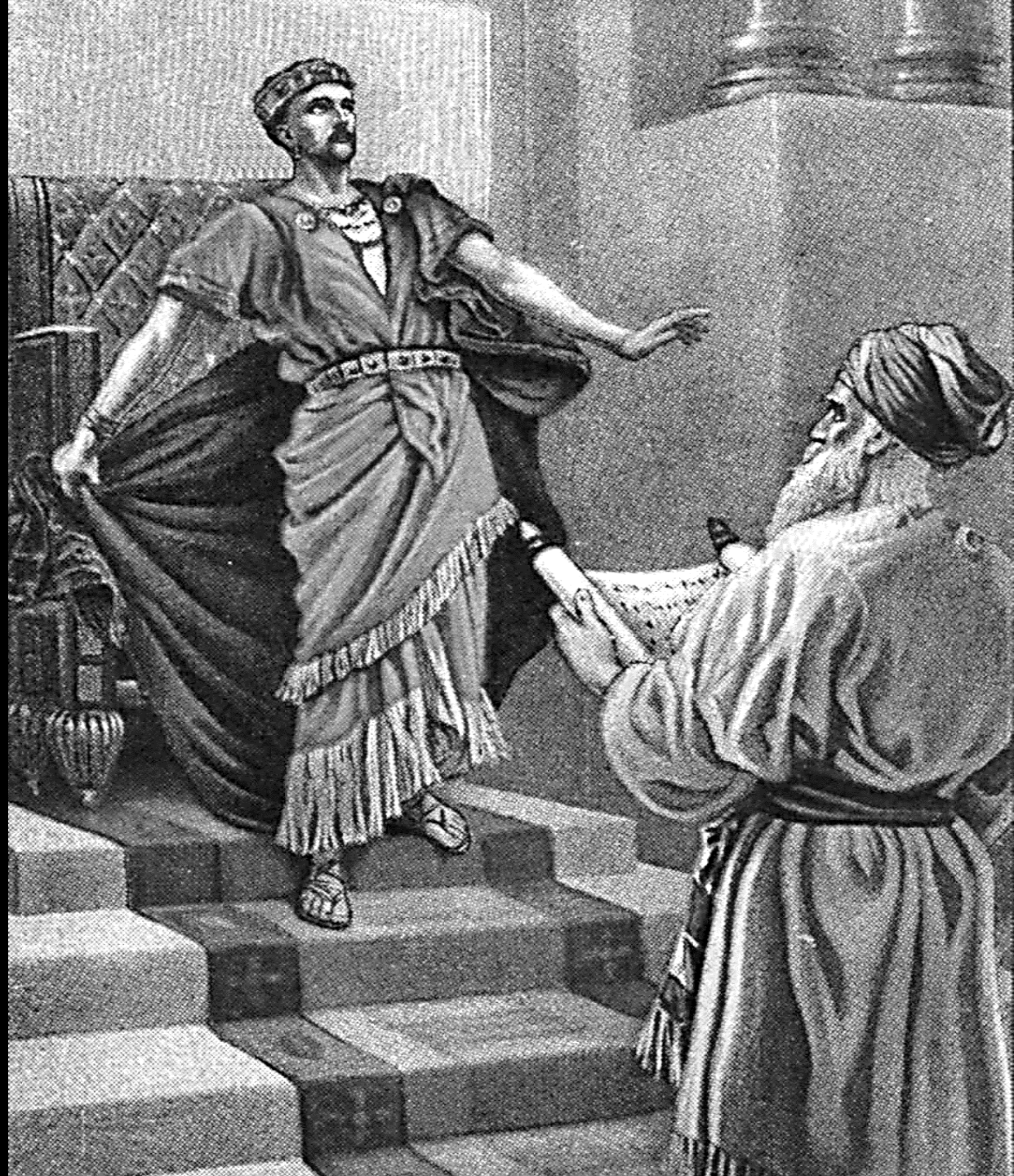
“¹⁶And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do it. ¹⁷And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen. ¹⁸Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.”



II Chronicles 34

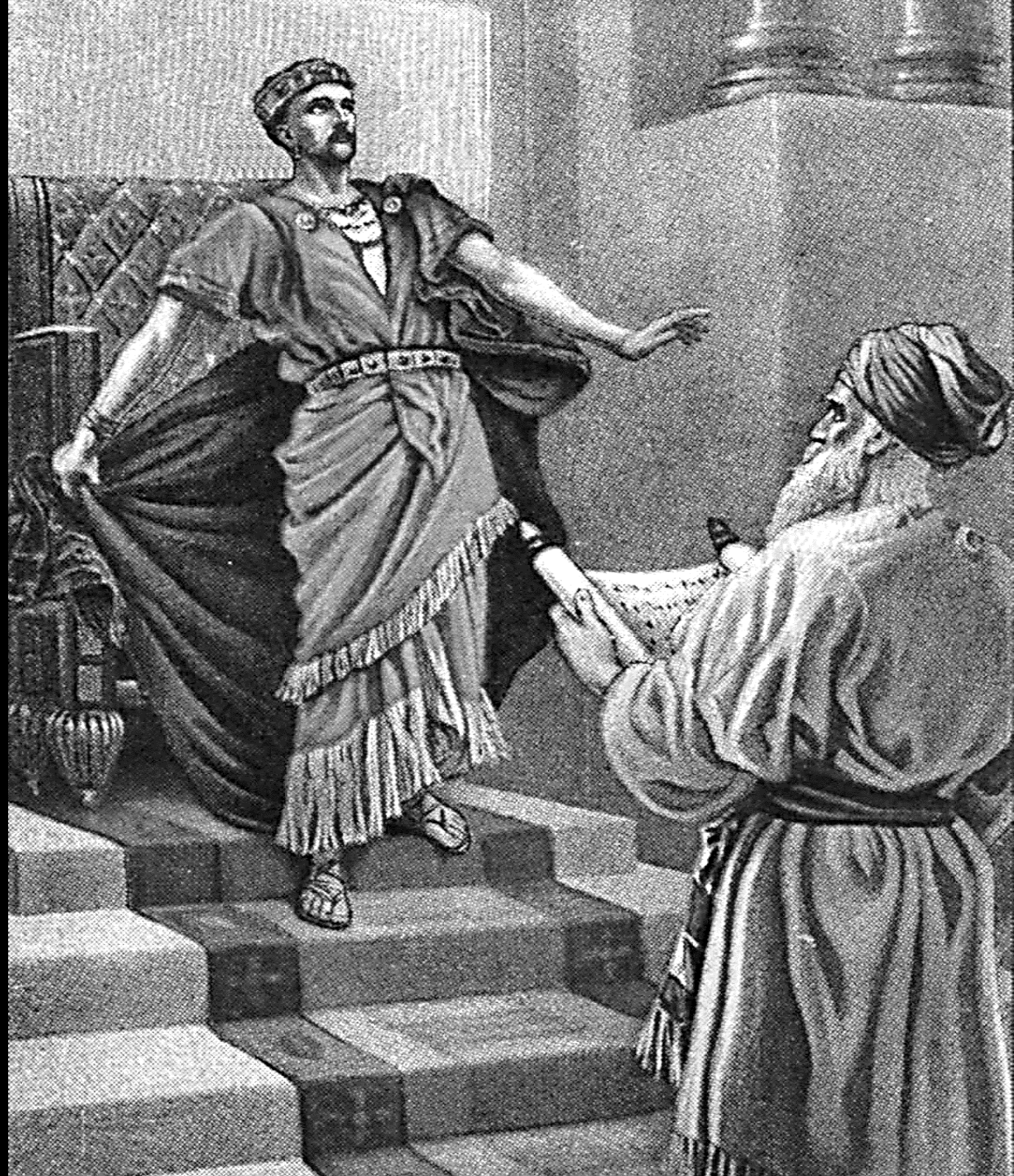
“¹⁹And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.

²⁰And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying,”

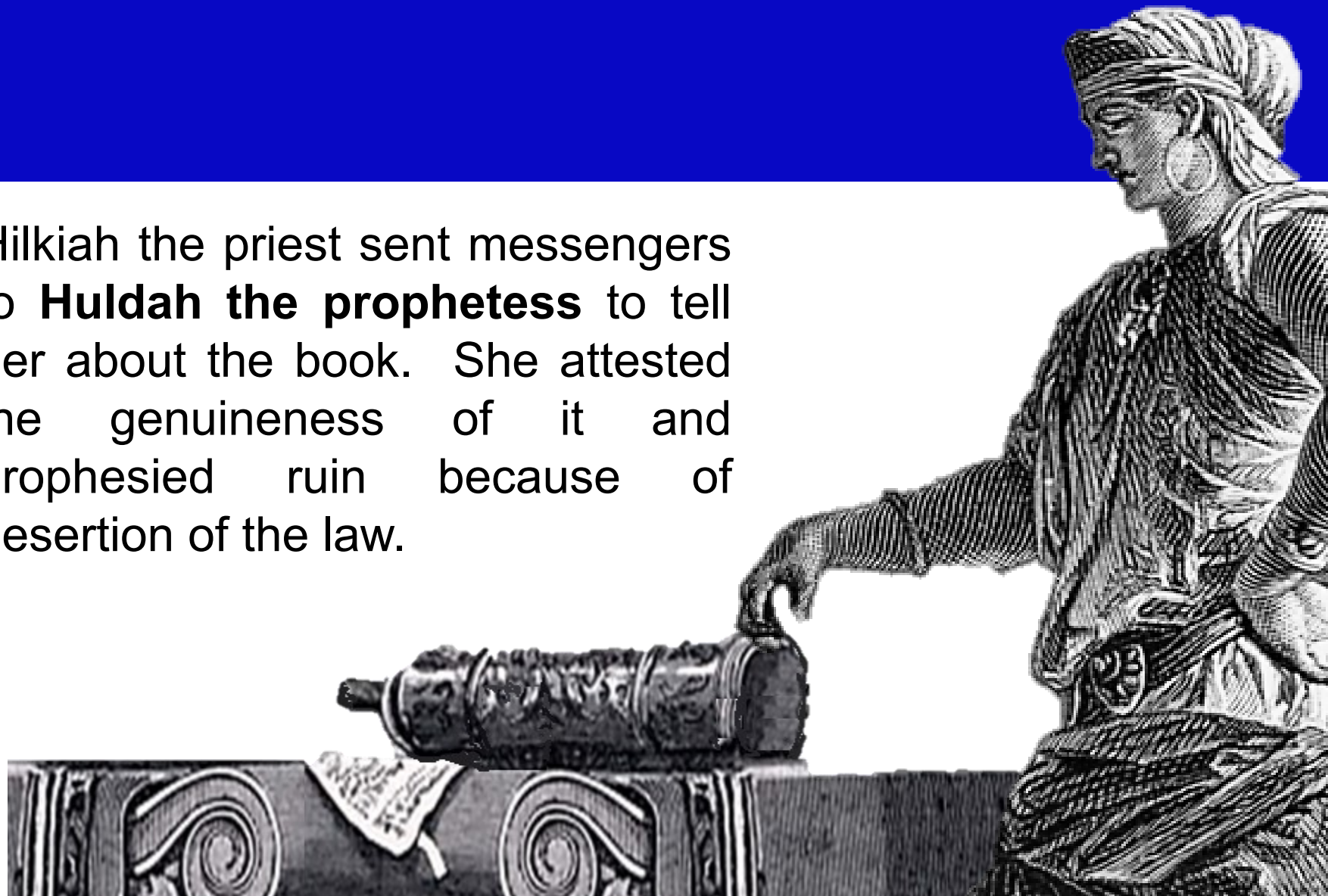


II Chronicles 34

“²¹Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.”

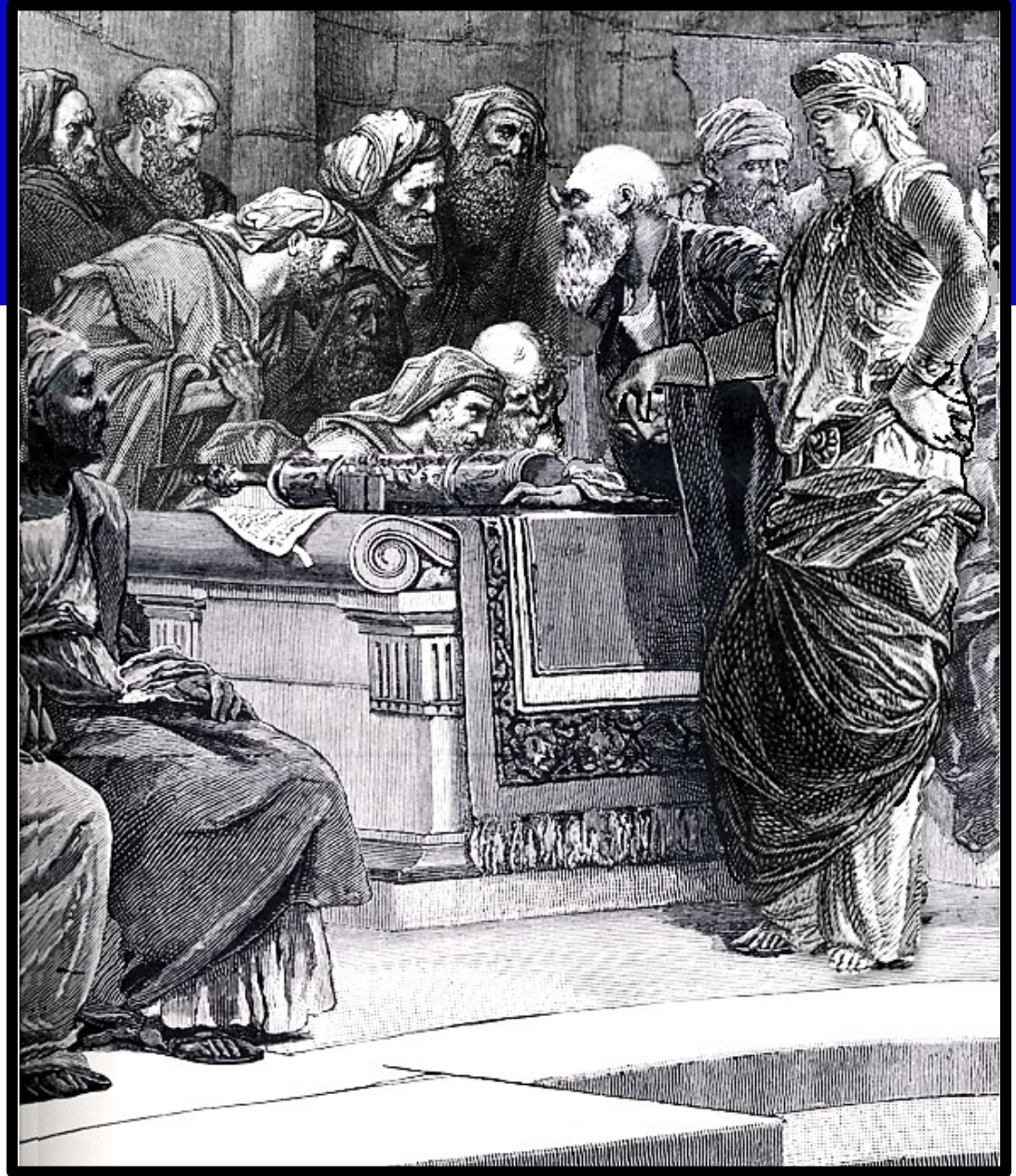


Hilkiah the priest sent messengers to **Huldah the prophetess** to tell her about the book. She attested the genuineness of it and prophesied ruin because of desertion of the law.



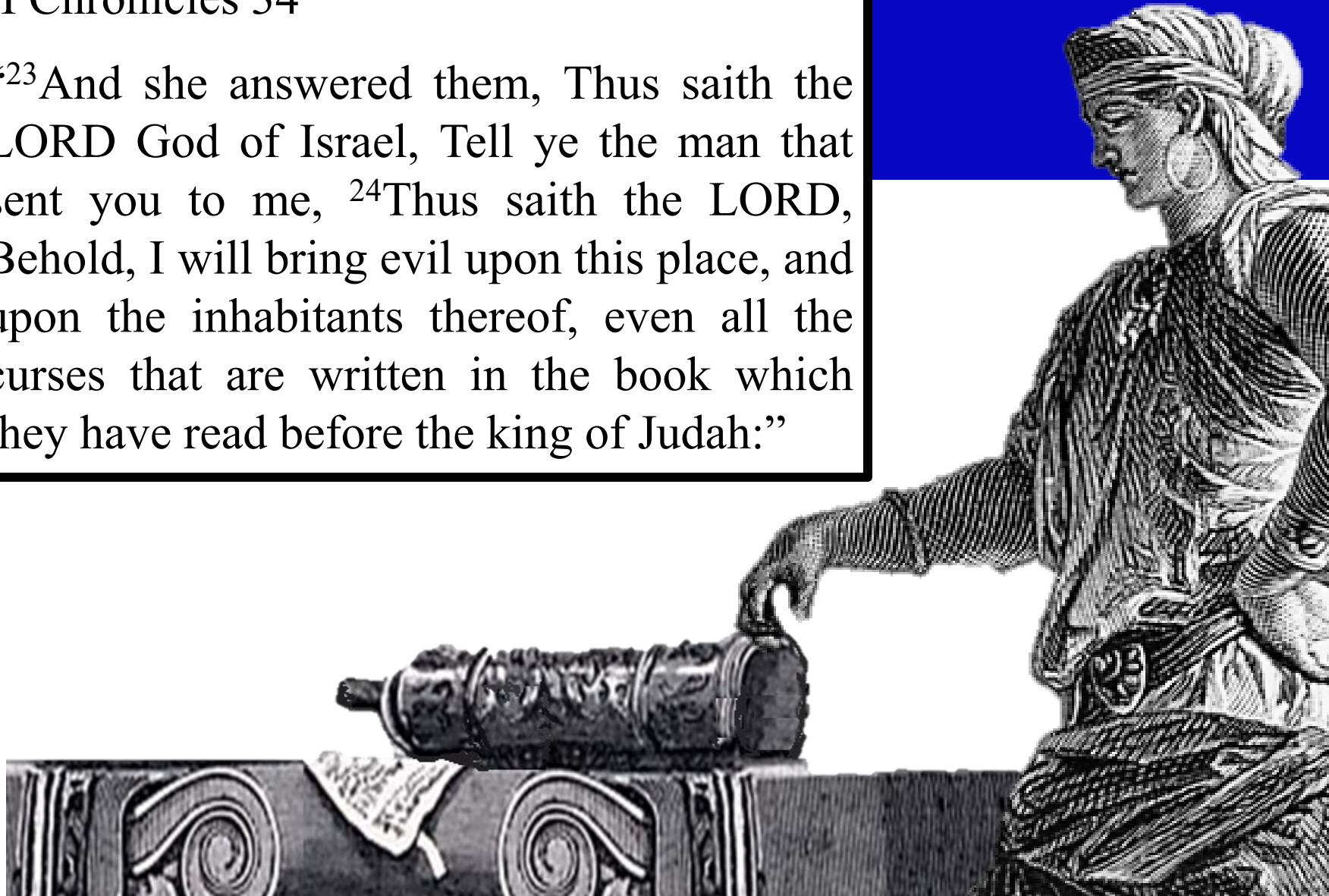
II Chronicles 34

“²²And Hilkiyah, and they that the king had appointed, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college:) and they spake to her to that effect.”



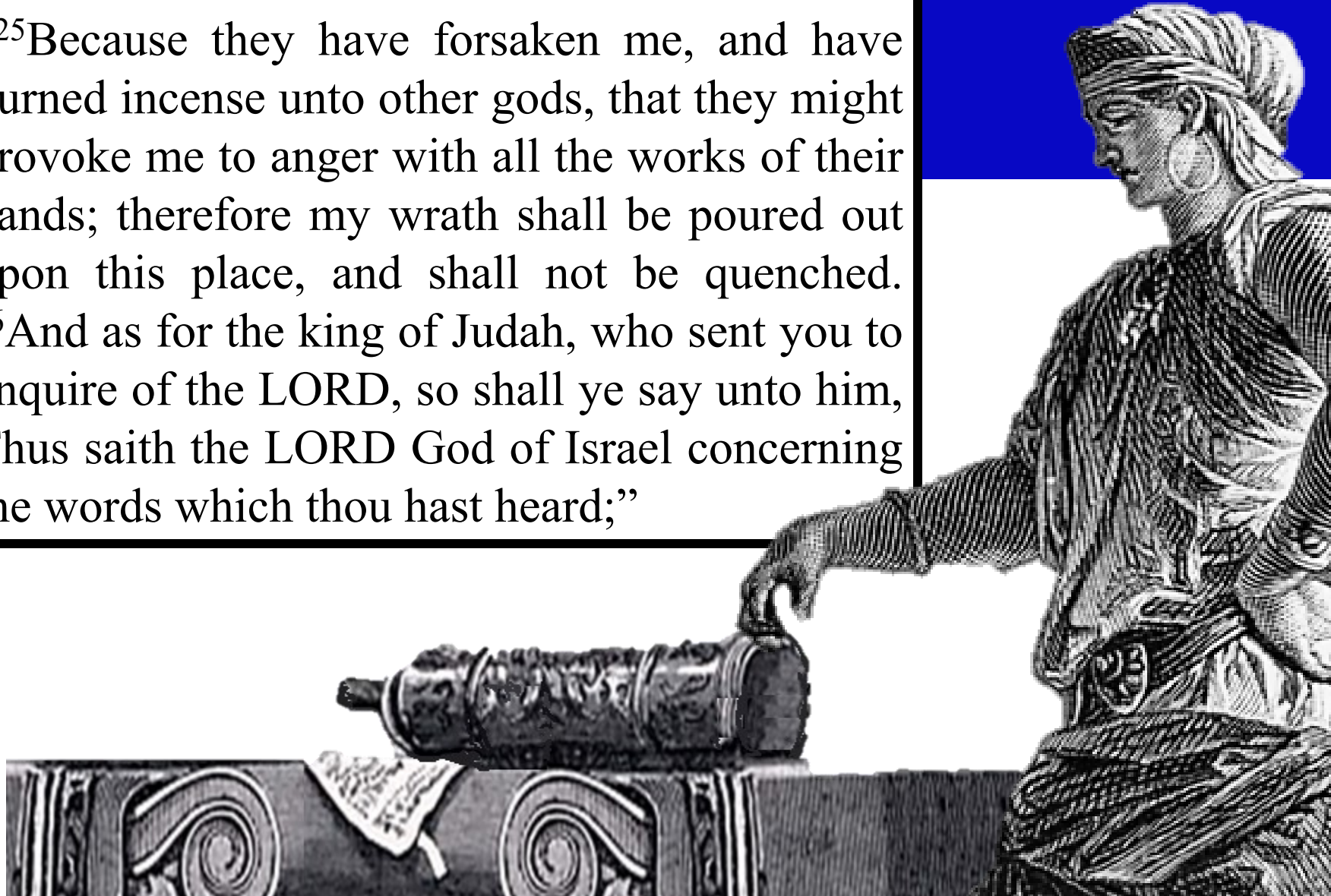
II Chronicles 34

“²³And she answered them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me, ²⁴Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah:”



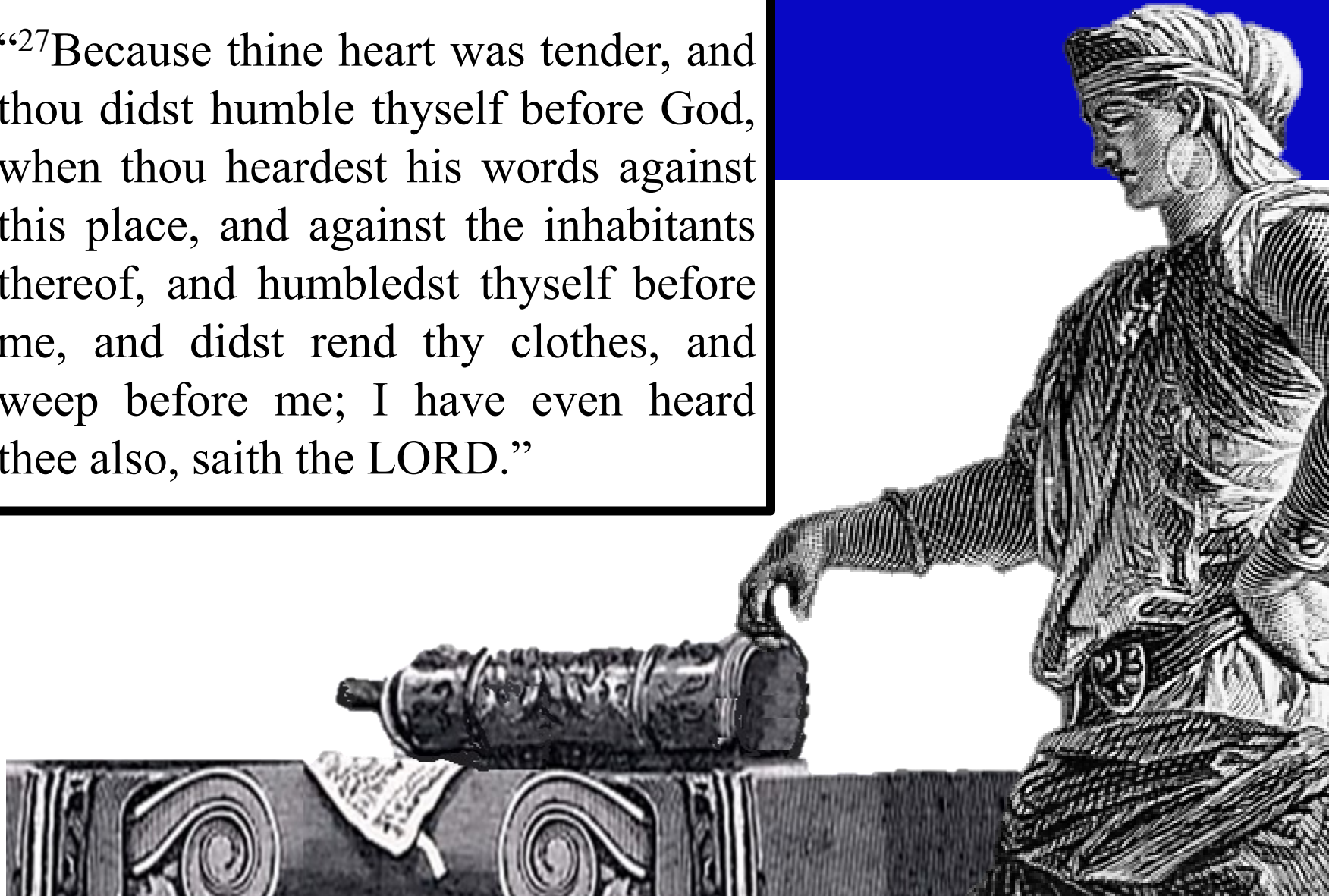
II Chronicles 34

“²⁵Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.
²⁶And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard;”



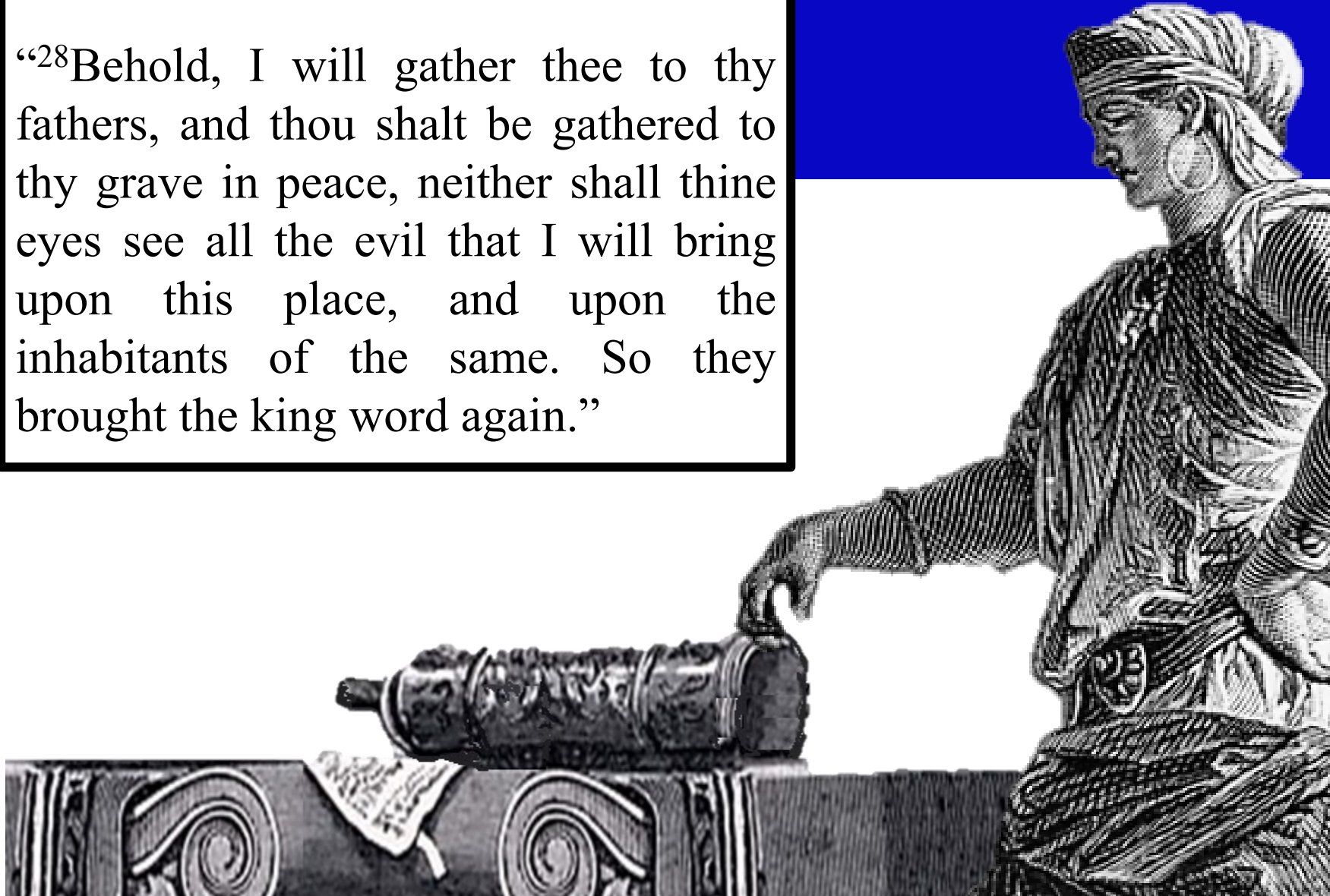
II Chronicles 34

“²⁷Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD.”



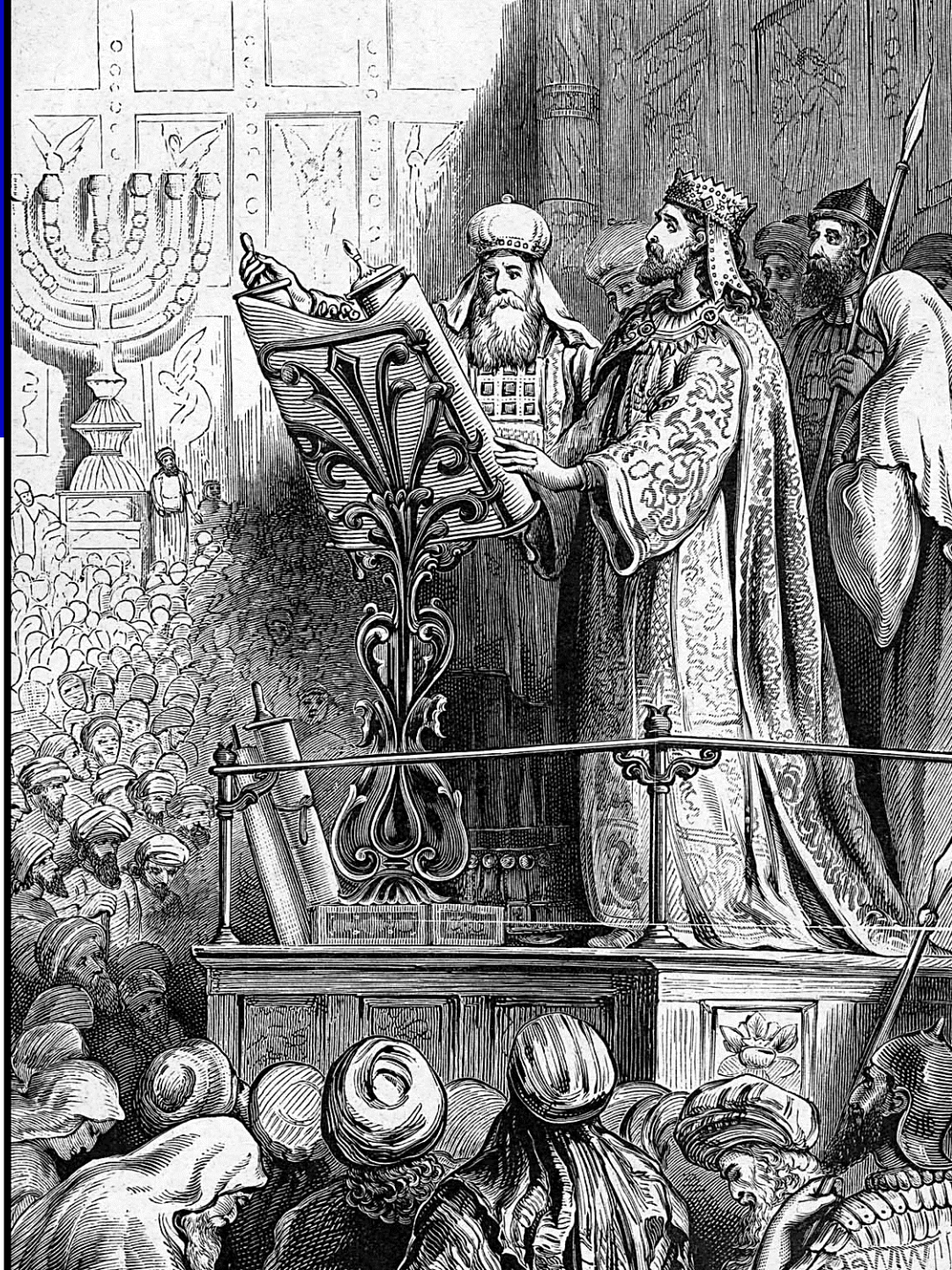
II Chronicles 34

“²⁸Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again.”



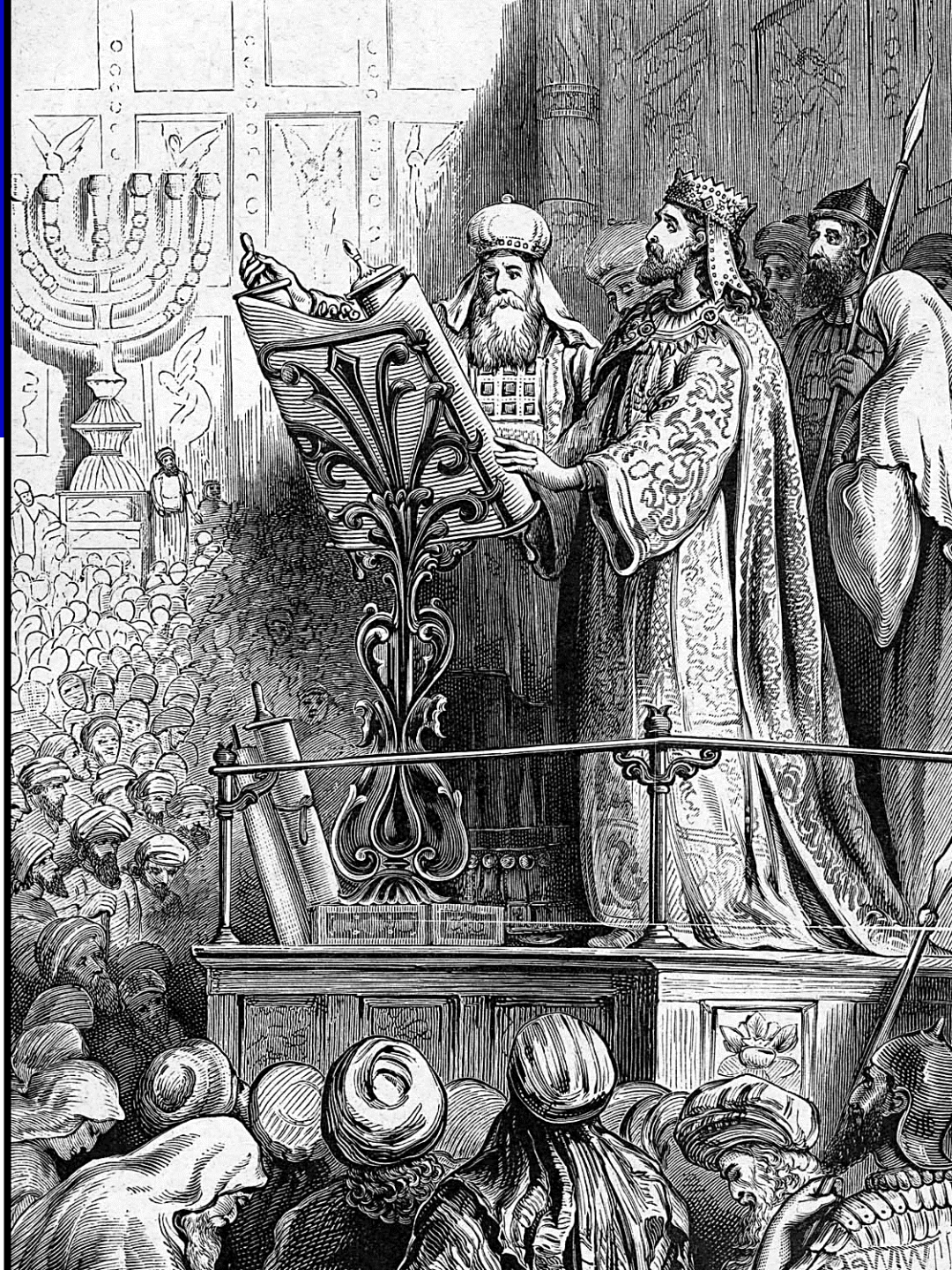
II Chronicles 34

“²⁹Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ³⁰And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.”



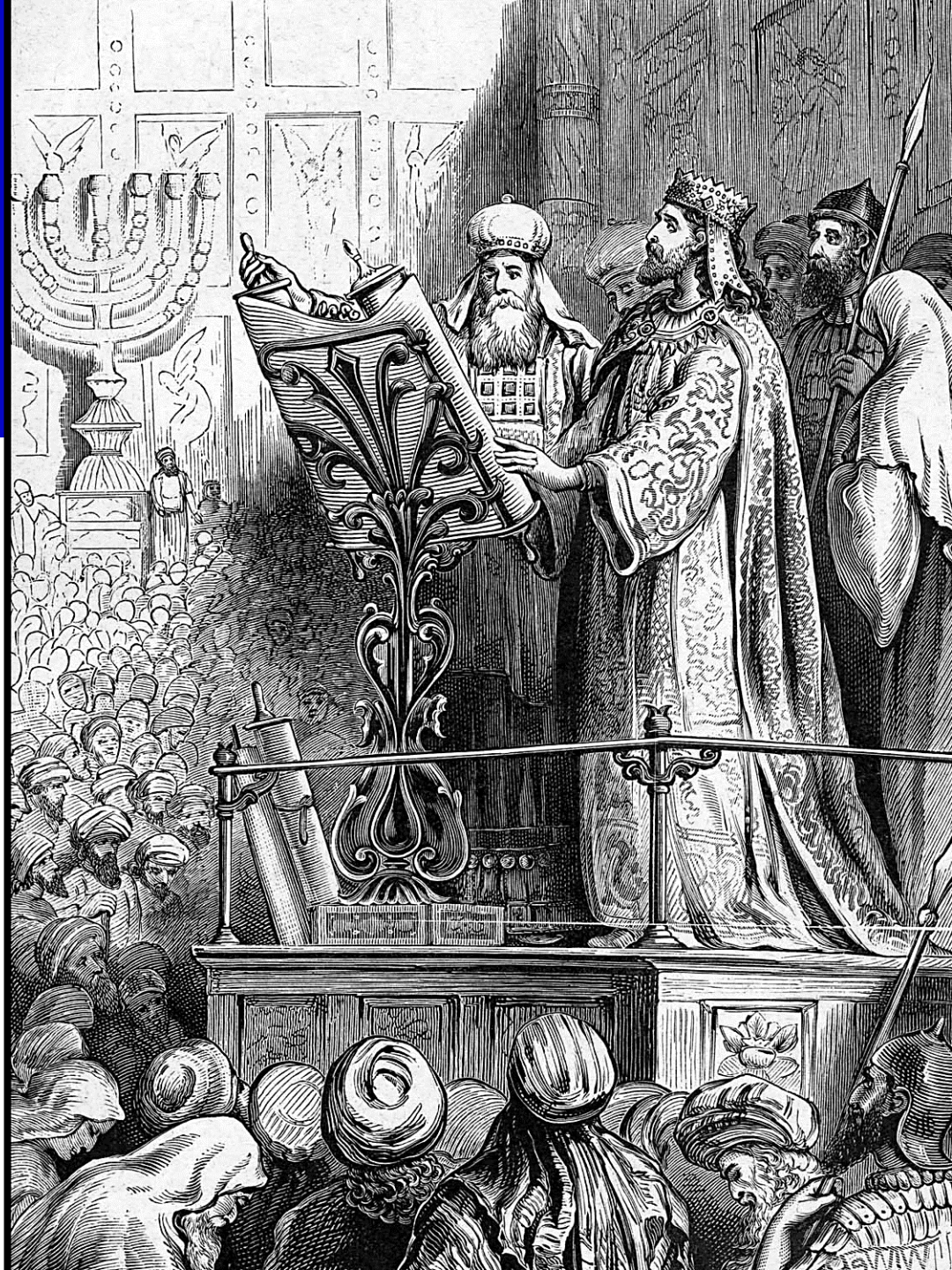
II Chronicles 34

“³¹And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.”



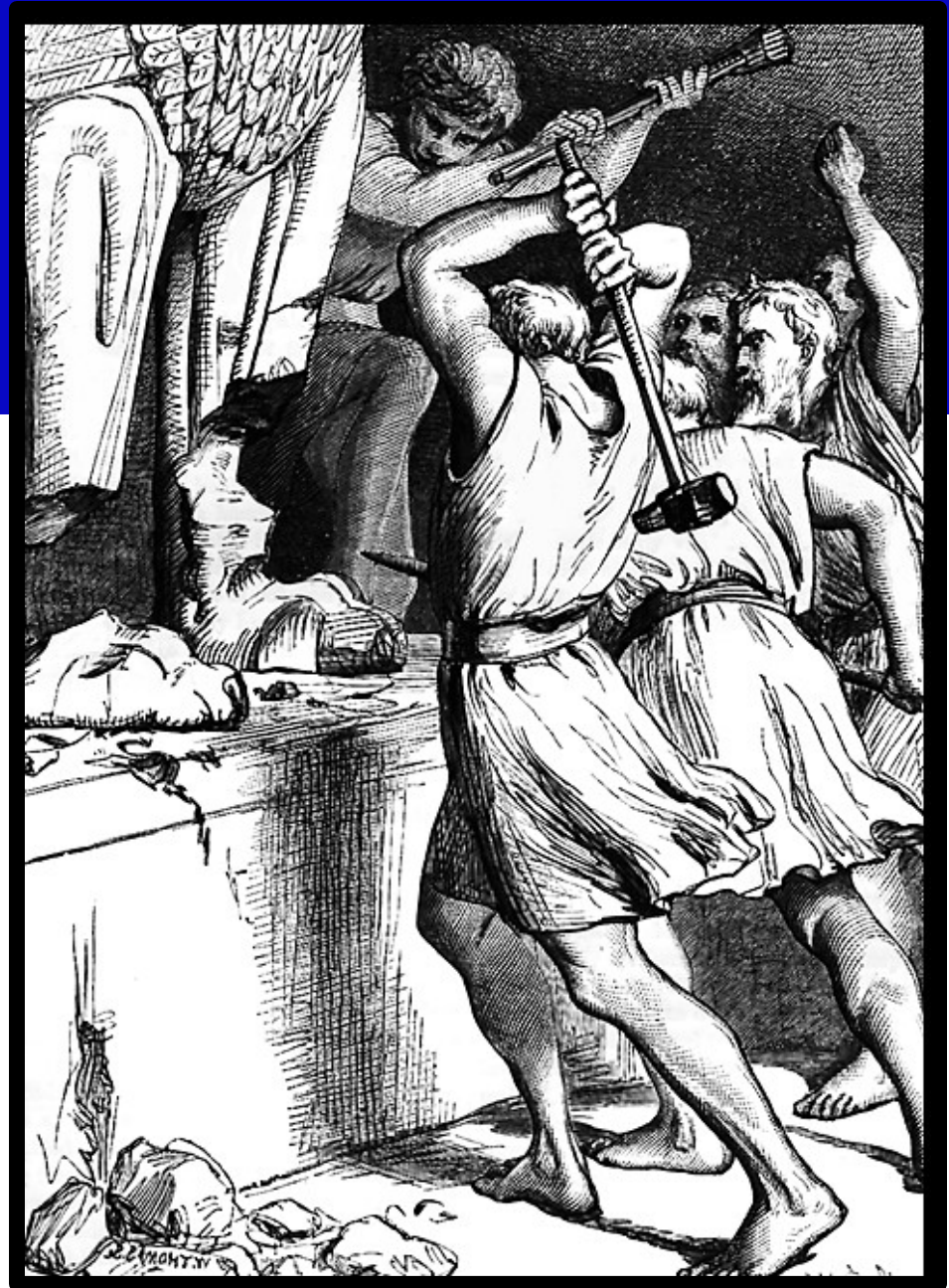
II Chronicles 34

“³²And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.”



II Chronicles 34

“³³And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.”



II Chronicles 35

“¹Moreover Josiah kept a passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. ²And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD, ³And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel.”



II Chronicles 35

“⁴And prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son.

⁵And stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the families of the fathers of your brethren the people, and after the division of the families of the Levites. ⁶So kill the passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.”



II Chronicles 35

SUMMARY OF THE NEXT FOUR VERSES: II Chronicles 35:7-10

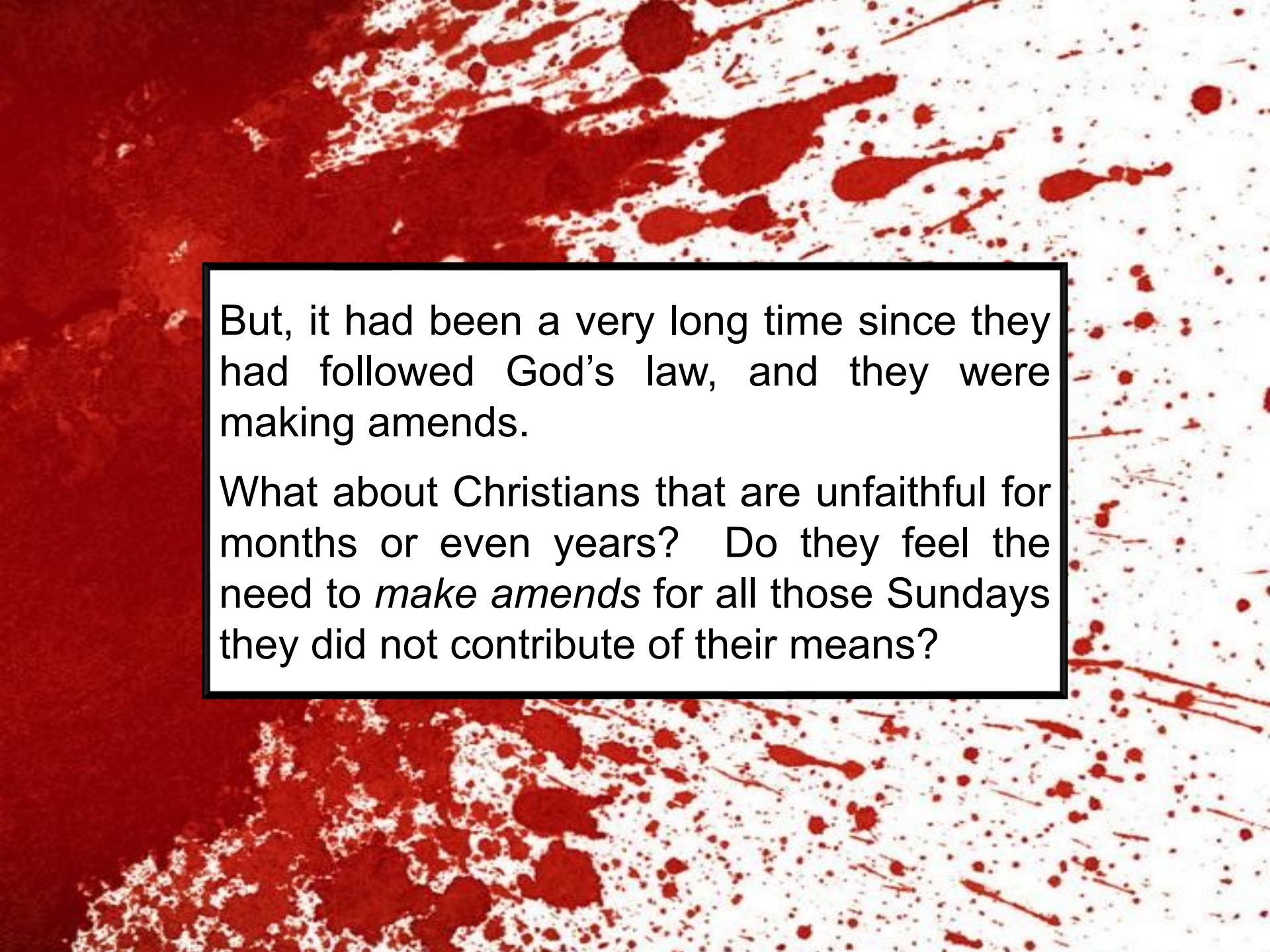
- King Josiah gave 30,000 lambs and kids and 3,000 bulls.
- The princes gave 2,600 calves and 300 oxen.
- The Levites gave 5,000 calves and 500 oxen.

That is a TOTAL of 41,400 sacrifices!

That is a lot of

BLOOD!

“⁷And Josiah gave to the people of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the passover offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand and three thousand bullocks: these were of the king’s substance: and his princes gave willingly unto the people to the priests, and the Levites: Pashur and Jehoniah and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave unto the priests for the passover offerings two thousand and six hundred small cattle, and three hundred oxen. ⁹Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethaneel, his brethren, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for passover offerings five thousand small cattle, and five hundred oxen. ¹⁰So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king’s commandment.”

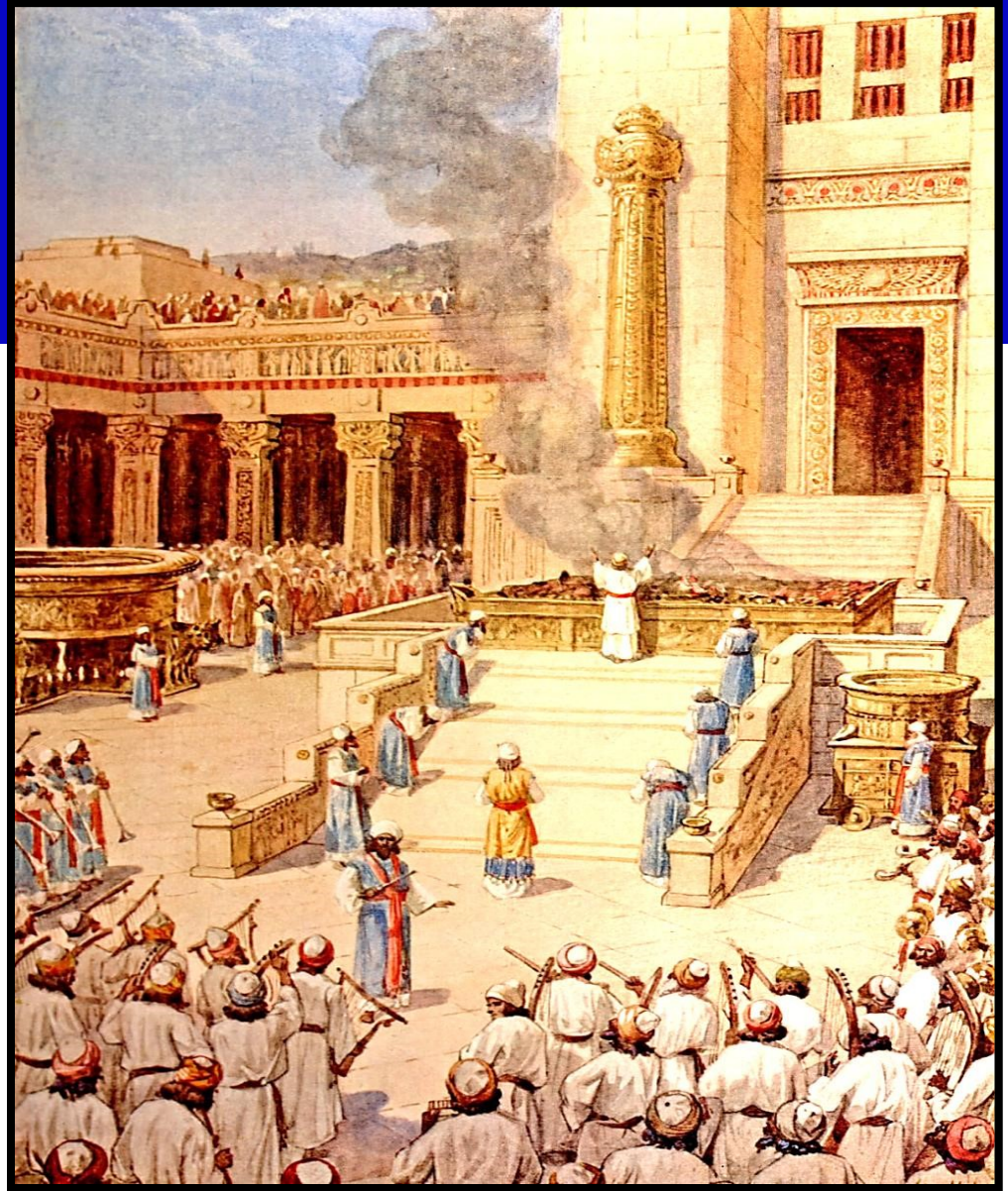
The background of the slide is a white surface covered in numerous red splatters and streaks of varying sizes and directions, creating a chaotic and somewhat somber visual effect.

But, it had been a very long time since they had followed God's law, and they were making amends.

What about Christians that are unfaithful for months or even years? Do they feel the need to *make amends* for all those Sundays they did not contribute of their means?

II Chronicles 35

“¹⁷And the children of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days. ¹⁸And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept.”





II Chronicles 35

“¹⁹In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this passover kept.

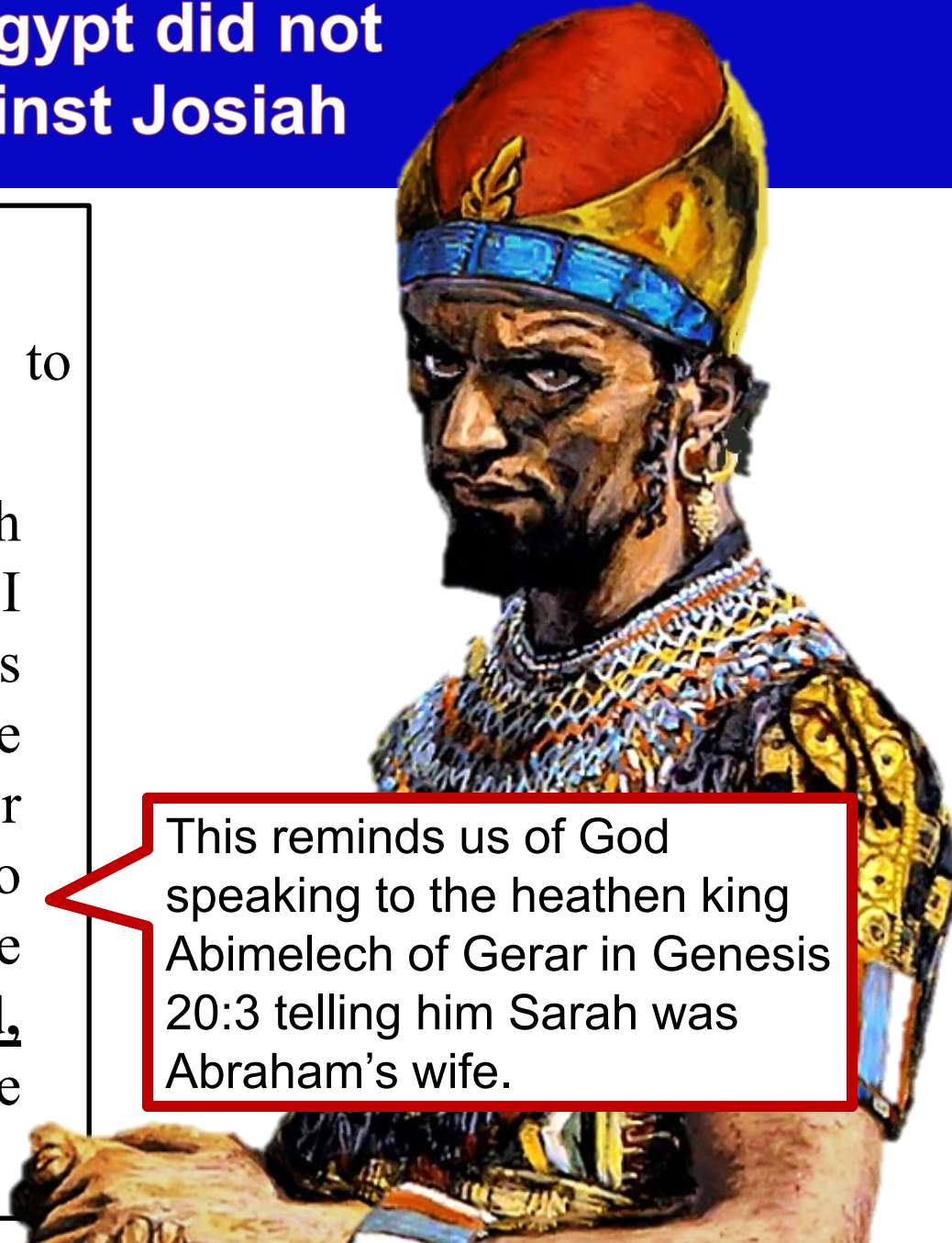
²⁰After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, **Necho king of Egypt** came up to fight against **Carchemish** by Euphrates: and **Josiah** went out against him.”

Necho, King of Egypt did not want to war against Josiah

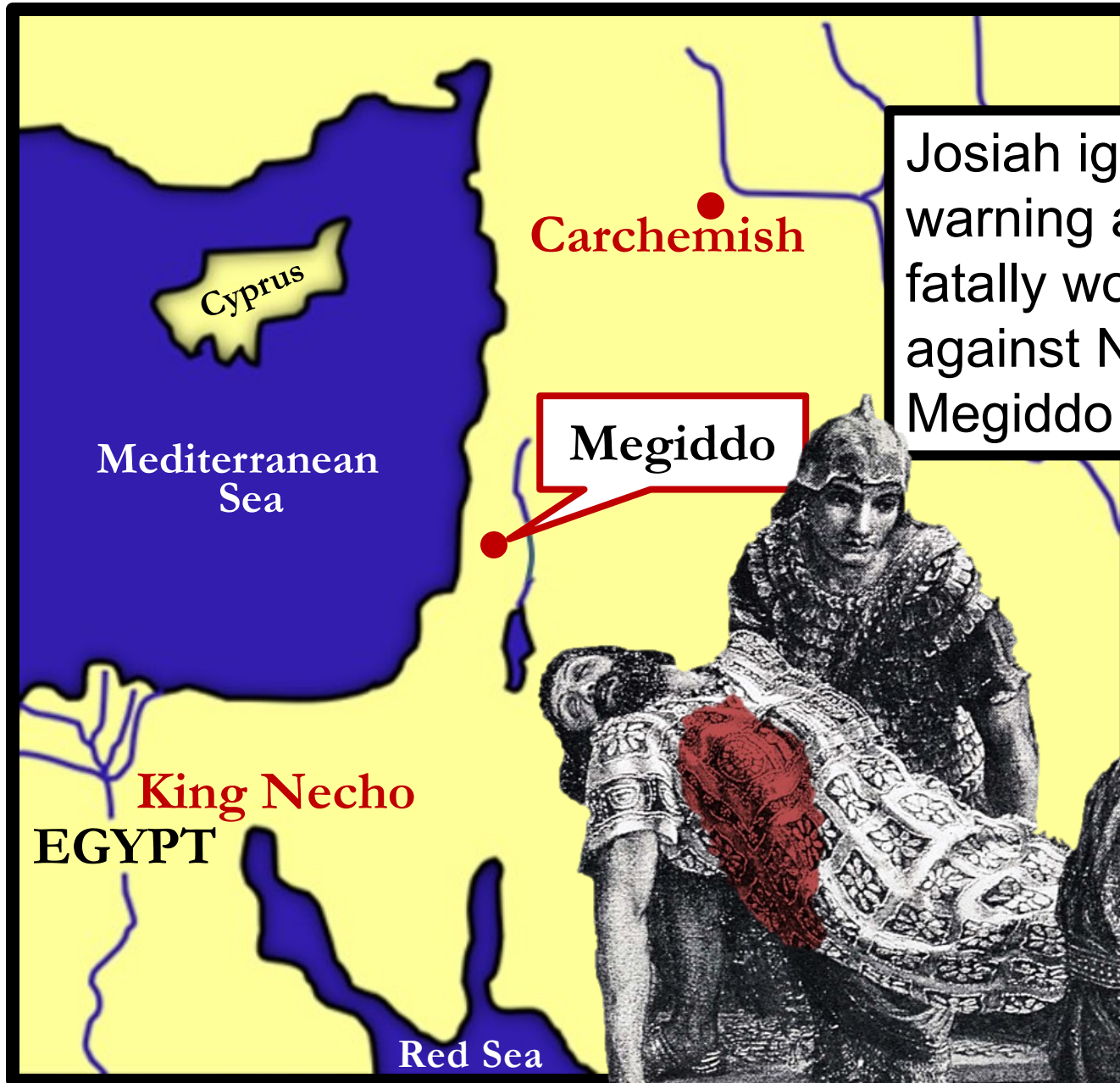
II Chronicles 35:21

“²¹[Necho] sent ambassadors to him [Josiah], saying,

What have I to do with thee thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for **God commanded me** to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with **God, who is with me**, that he destroy thee not.”



This reminds us of God speaking to the heathen king Abimelech of Gerar in Genesis 20:3 telling him Sarah was Abraham's wife.



Josiah ignored Necho's warning and he was fatally wounded in a battle against Necho at Megiddo in Samaria.



I Chronicles 35:25

All of Judah joined the prophet **Jeremiah** in lamenting for **Josiah**; yes, **Jeremiah**. This is when the famous lamenting prophet, **Jeremiah**, began his ministry. He was called in the thirteenth year of King **Josiah**, around 100 years after Israel had been taken into Assyrian captivity.

PROPHETS

Jonah
Joel
Amos
Hosea
Isaiah
Micah
Jeremiah
Zephaniah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Obadiah
Daniel
Ezekiel
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam
Abijah
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Jehoram
Ahaziah
Athaliah
Joash
Amaziah
Uzziah
Jotham
Ahaz
Hezekiah
Manasseh
Amon
Josiah
Jehoahaz
Jehoiakim
Jehoiachin
Zedekiah



KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam
Abijah
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Jehoram
Ahaziah
Athaliah
Joash
Amaziah
Uzziah
Jotham
Ahaz
Hezekiah
Manasseh
Amon
Josiah
Jehoahaz
Jehoiakim
Jehoiachin
Zedekiah

Josiah's son, **Jehoahaz**, reigned after him but for only three months for he was taken in chains to Egypt by **Pharaoh Necho** who had defeated Josiah.



Pharaoh Necho
KING OF EGYPT

JUDAH
King Jehoahaz



SYRIA

SAMARIA

Mediterranean
Sea

Red Sea

Jehoahaz's brother, **Jehoiakim** reigned next. He ruled for 11 years and was an evil king. It is said of him that "he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the Lord would not pardon" (II Kings 24:4). He was only *allowed* to reign by Pharoah Necho because of the tribute he paid to Egypt.



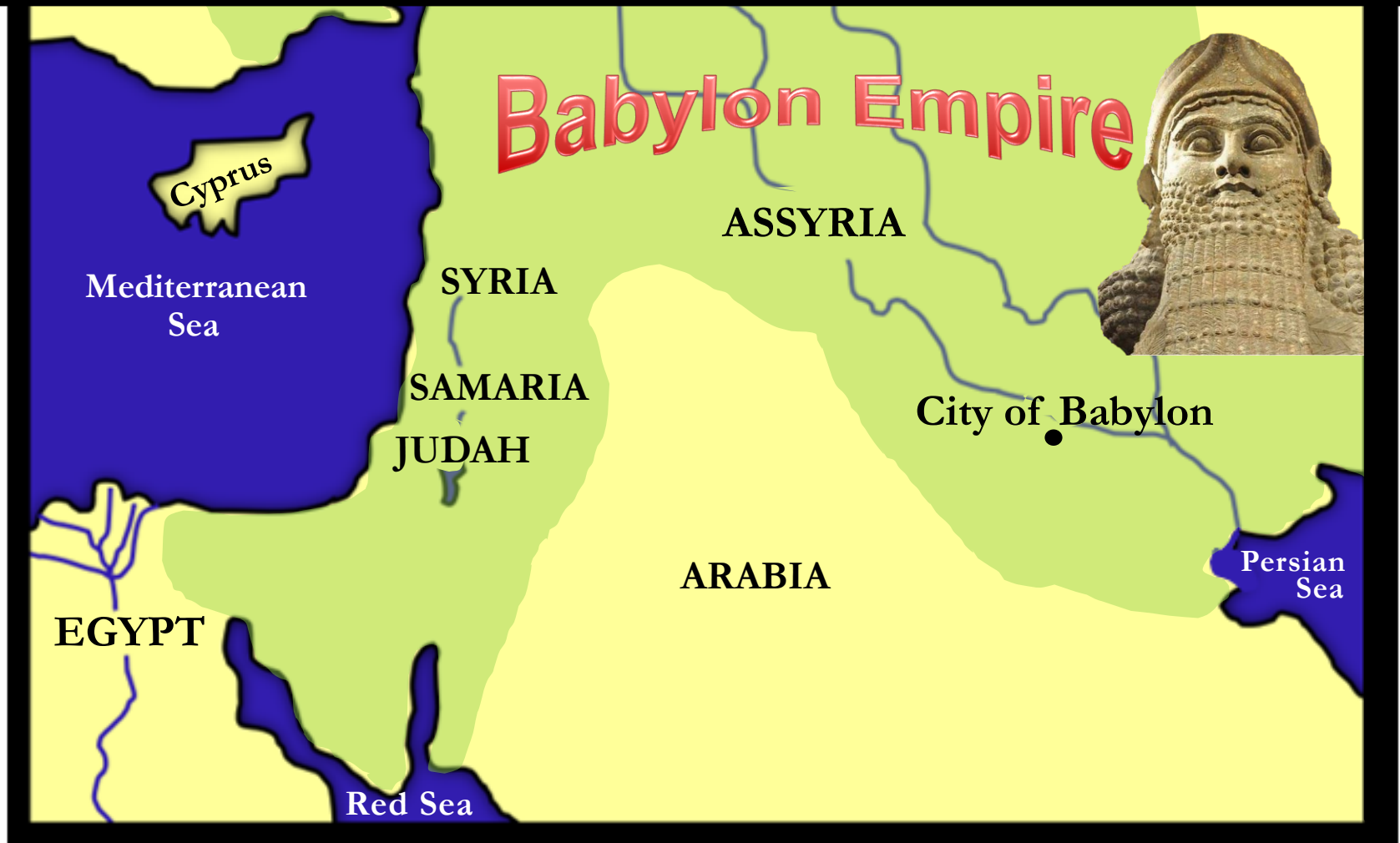
KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam
Abijah
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Jehoram
Ahaziah
Athaliah
Joash
Amaziah
Uzziah
Jotham
Ahaz
Hezekiah
Manasseh
Amon
Josiah
Jehoahaz
Jehoiakim
Jehoiachin
Zedekiah

Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon battled for world supremacy. Egypt was a world power for 1,000 years until it declined and Assyria dominated. Assyria ruled the world for 300 years.



Then Babylon won out when it broke the power of the Assyrians about 607 B.C. and crushed Egypt two years later. Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon ruled most of the then known world.



Babylon Empire



JUDAH
King Jehoiakim



SYRIA

SAMARIA

CHALDEA

City of Babylon ●

EGYPT

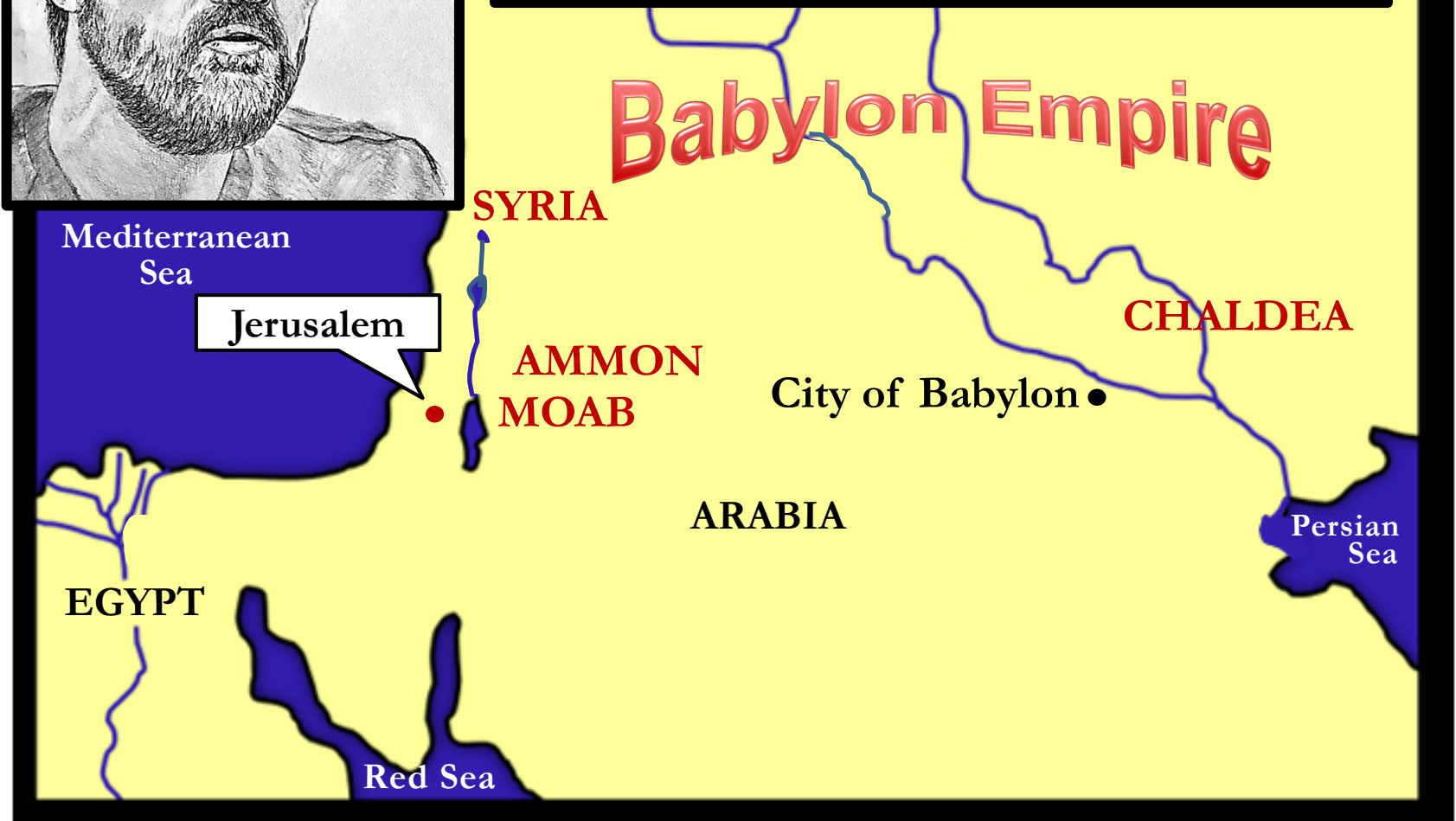
ARABIA

Persian
Sea

The first deportation of the Jews to Babylon occurred during the reign of **Jehoiakim**. The king himself was taken in fetters by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon, and the vessels of the temple were stolen. Later Jehoiakim was sent back to Judah when he promised to be faithful to Nebuchadnezzar.



After three years Jehoiakim rebelled, and not only did he have Nebuchadnezzar to contend with but also **Chaldea**, **Syria**, **Moab**, and **Ammon** (II Kings 24:1-2).



Jehoiakim's death was appropriate for such an evil man for he was buried with the "burial of an ass."

Jeremiah 22:19

"He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem."



Jehoiachin was the son and successor of Jehoiakim. After only ruling three months he was captured by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon.

BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

Nebuchadnezzar

JUDAH
King **Jehoiachin**



Cyprus

Mediterranean Sea

SYRIA

SAMARIA

Red Sea

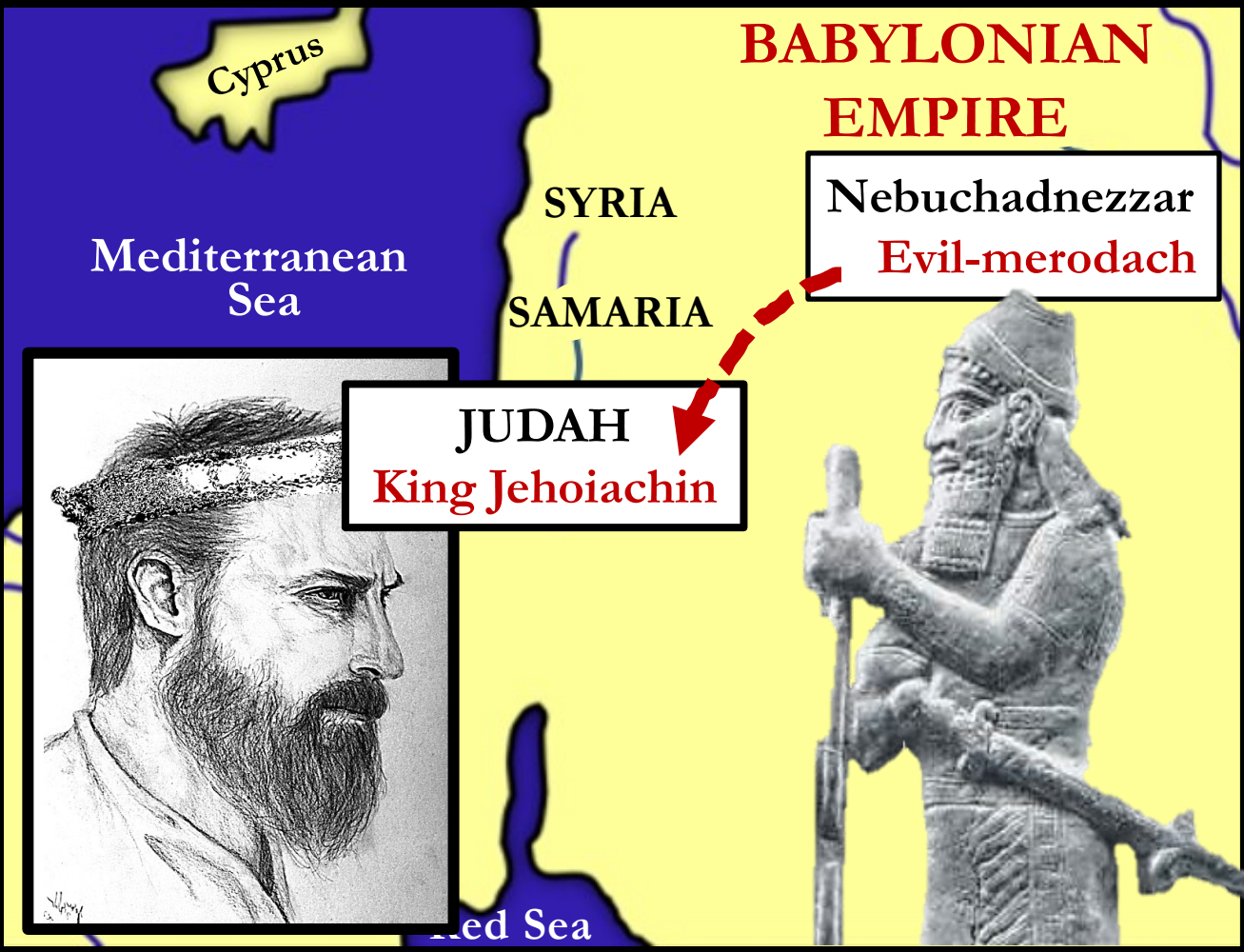
KINGS OF JUDAH

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Jehoiachin
Zedekiah

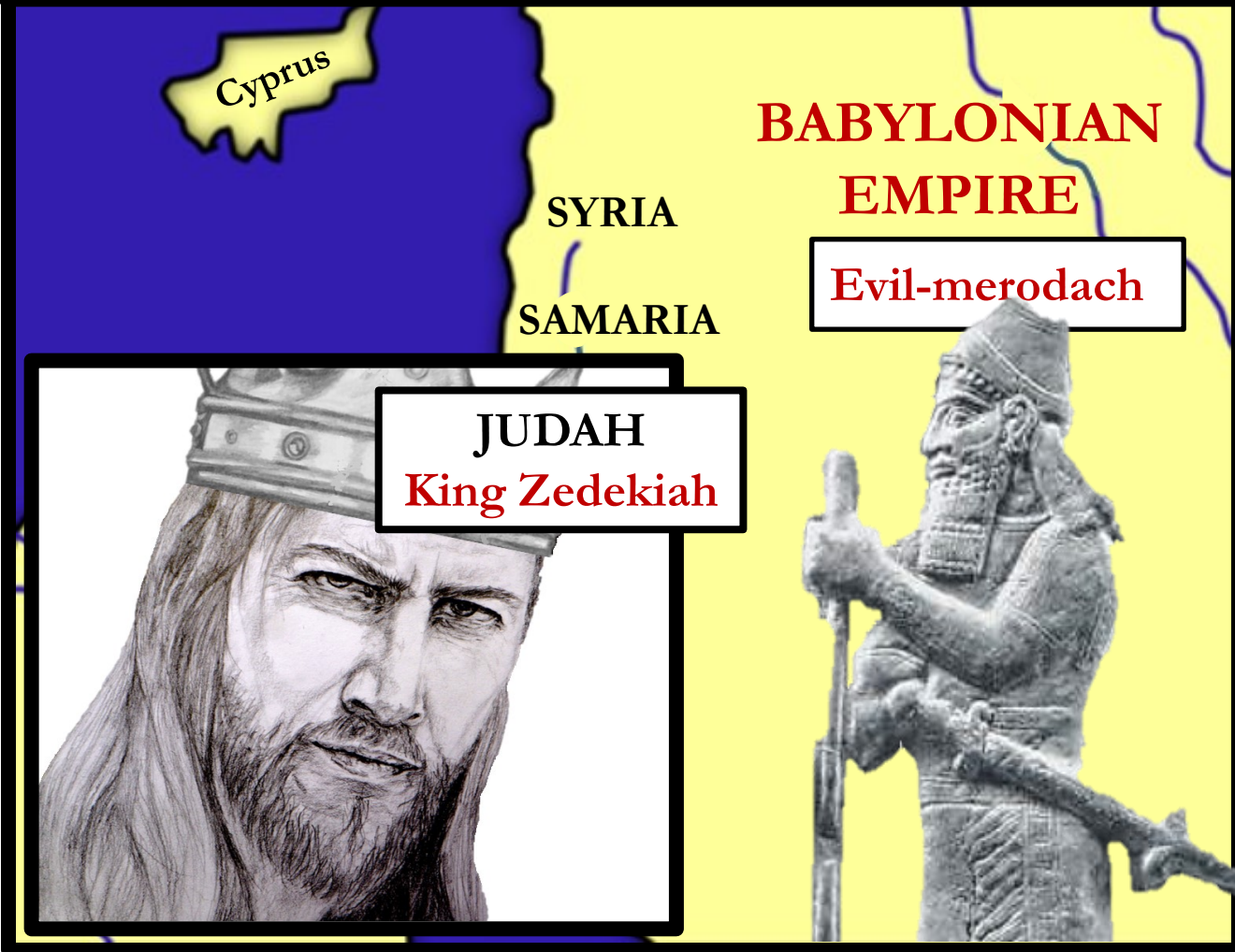
After 37 years of captivity **Jehoiachin** was released out of prison and treated well by King Evil-merodach who had inherited the throne from his father, Nebuchadnezzar (II Kings 25:27-30).

KINGS OF JUDAH

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Jehoshaphat
Jehoram
Ahaziah
Athaliah
Joash
Amaziah
Uzziah
Jotham
Ahaz
Hezekiah
Manasseh
Amon
Josiah
Jehoahaz
Jehoiakim
Jehoiachin
Zedekiah



The last King of Judah was Jehoiachin's uncle **Zedekiah**. He reigned 11 years. He was evil in the sight of God.



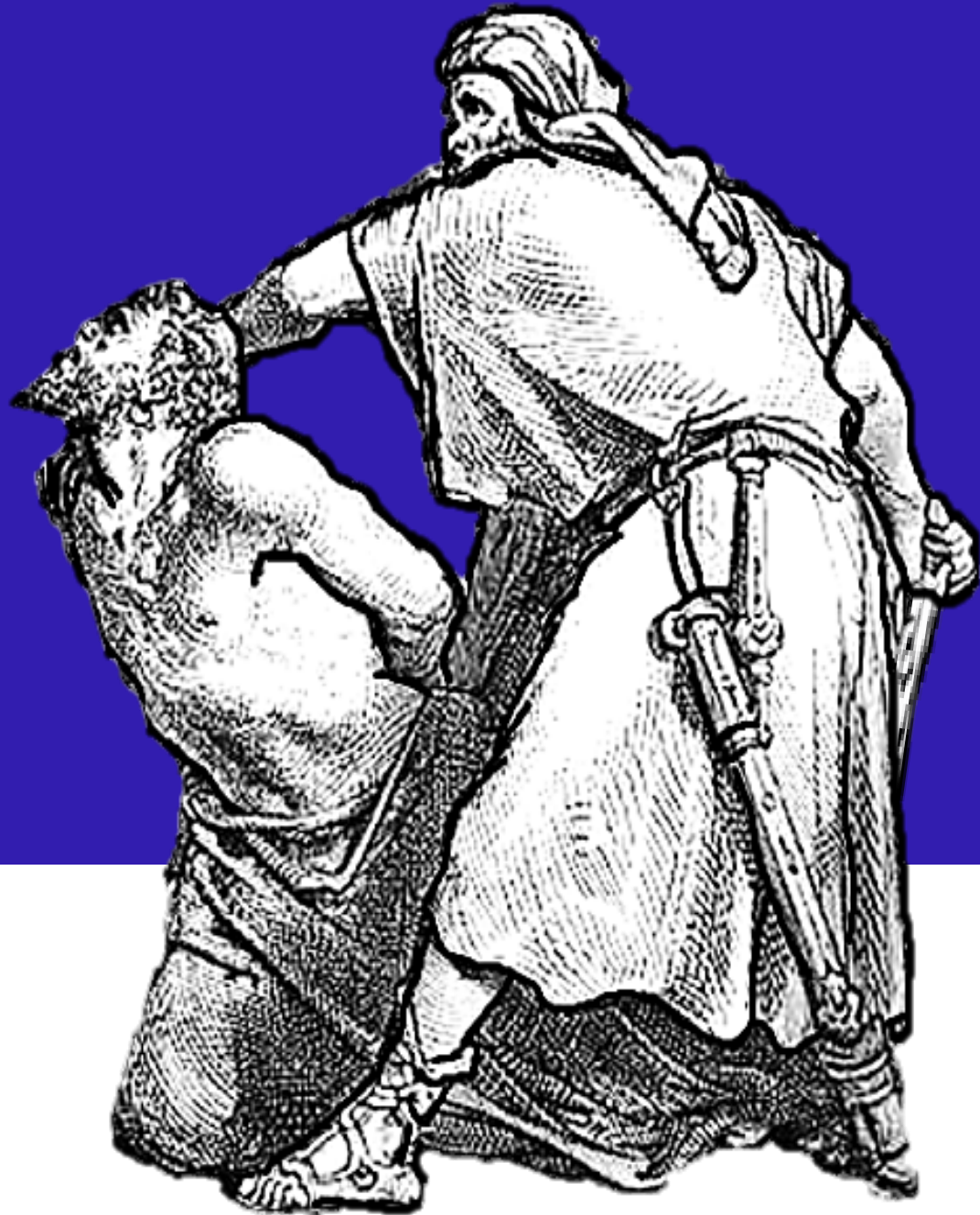
KINGS OF JUDAH

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Jehoiachin
Zedekiah

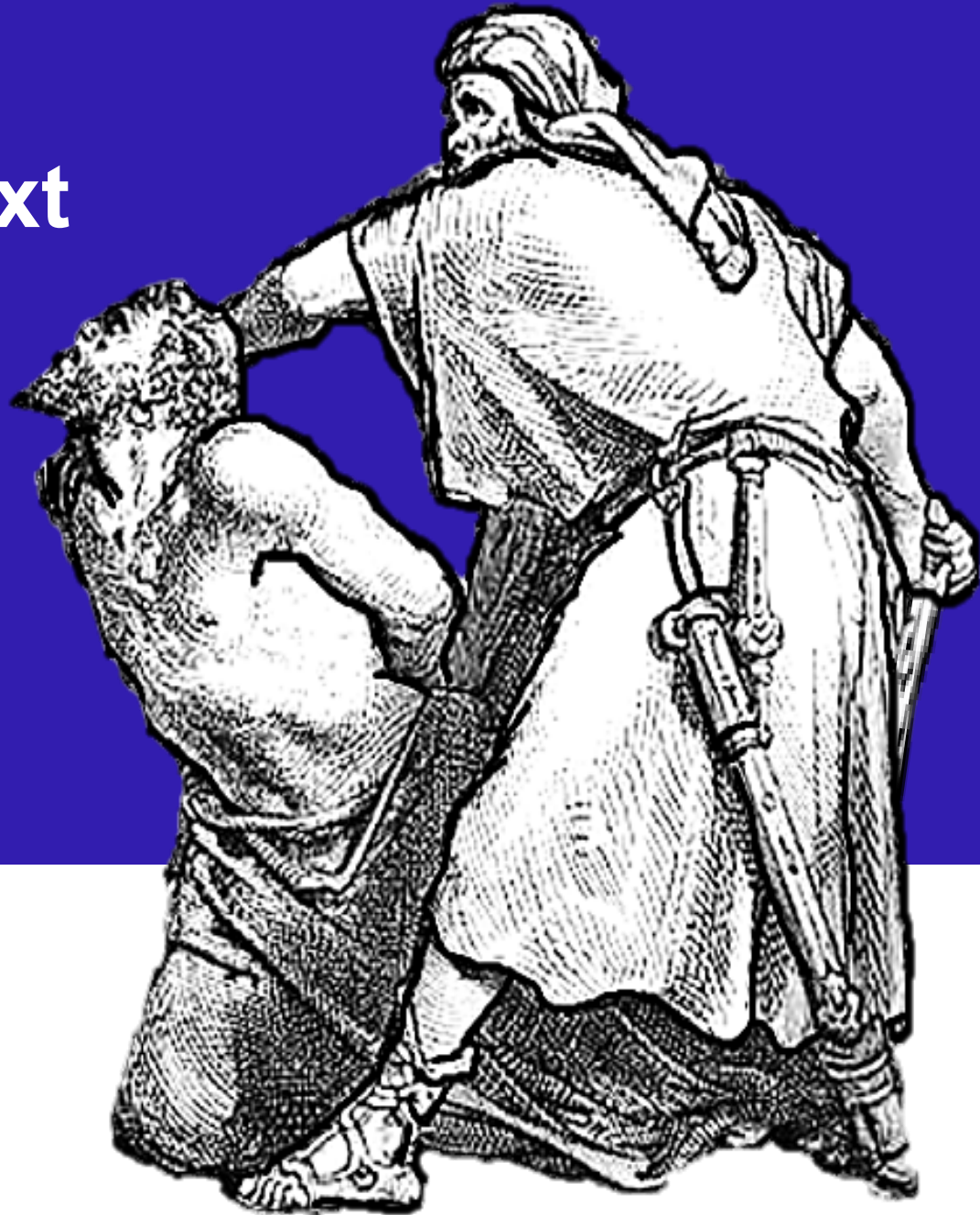
Jeremiah told King Zedekiah that God wanted him to surrender to Babylon for the destruction of Jerusalem was inevitable (Jeremiah 21:9).



But Zedekiah ignored Jeremiah's warning, and the city of Jerusalem was burned, Zedekiah's sons were killed in front of him, then his eyes were put out, and he was carried away into Babylon where he died.



**And now the text
for the fall of
Judah and
Jerusalem . . .**

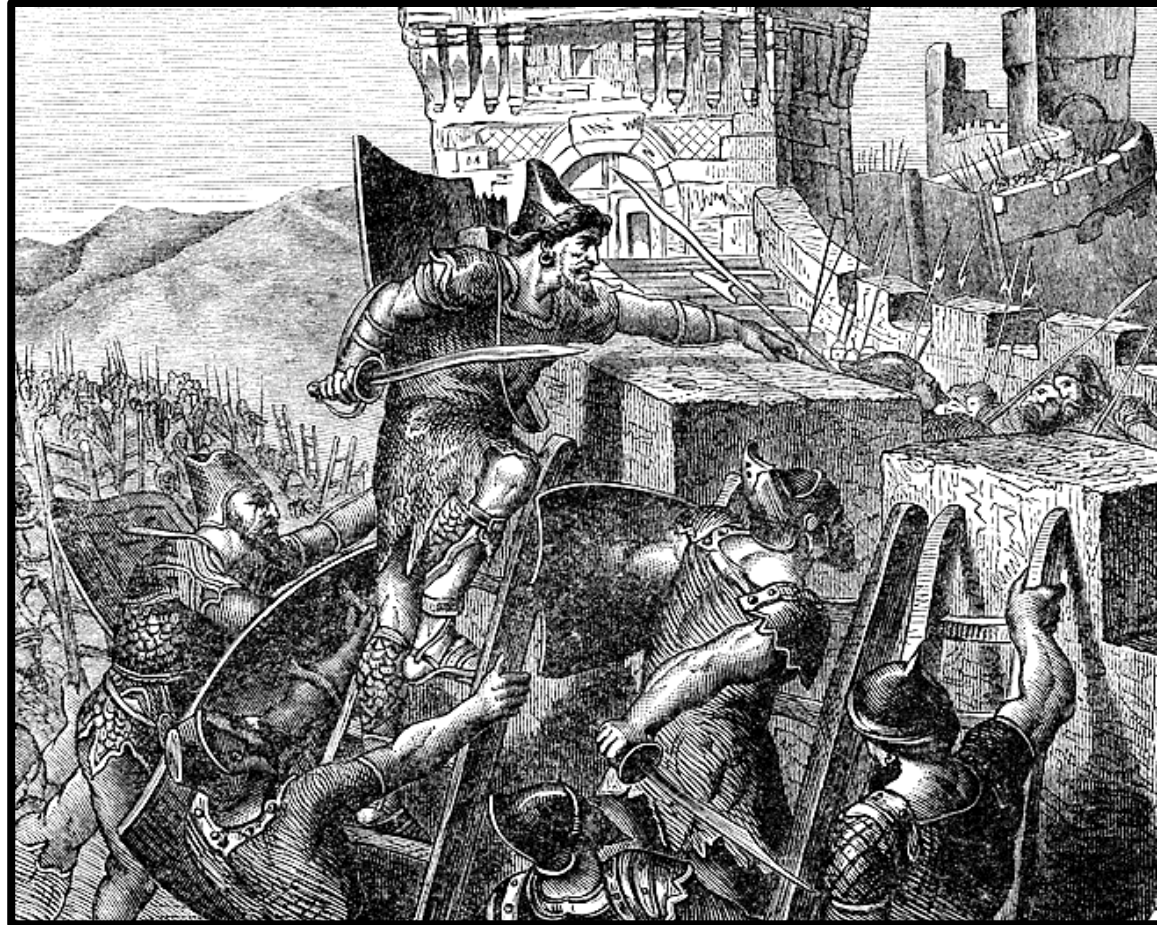


Jeremiah 39

¹ In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it.

² And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up.

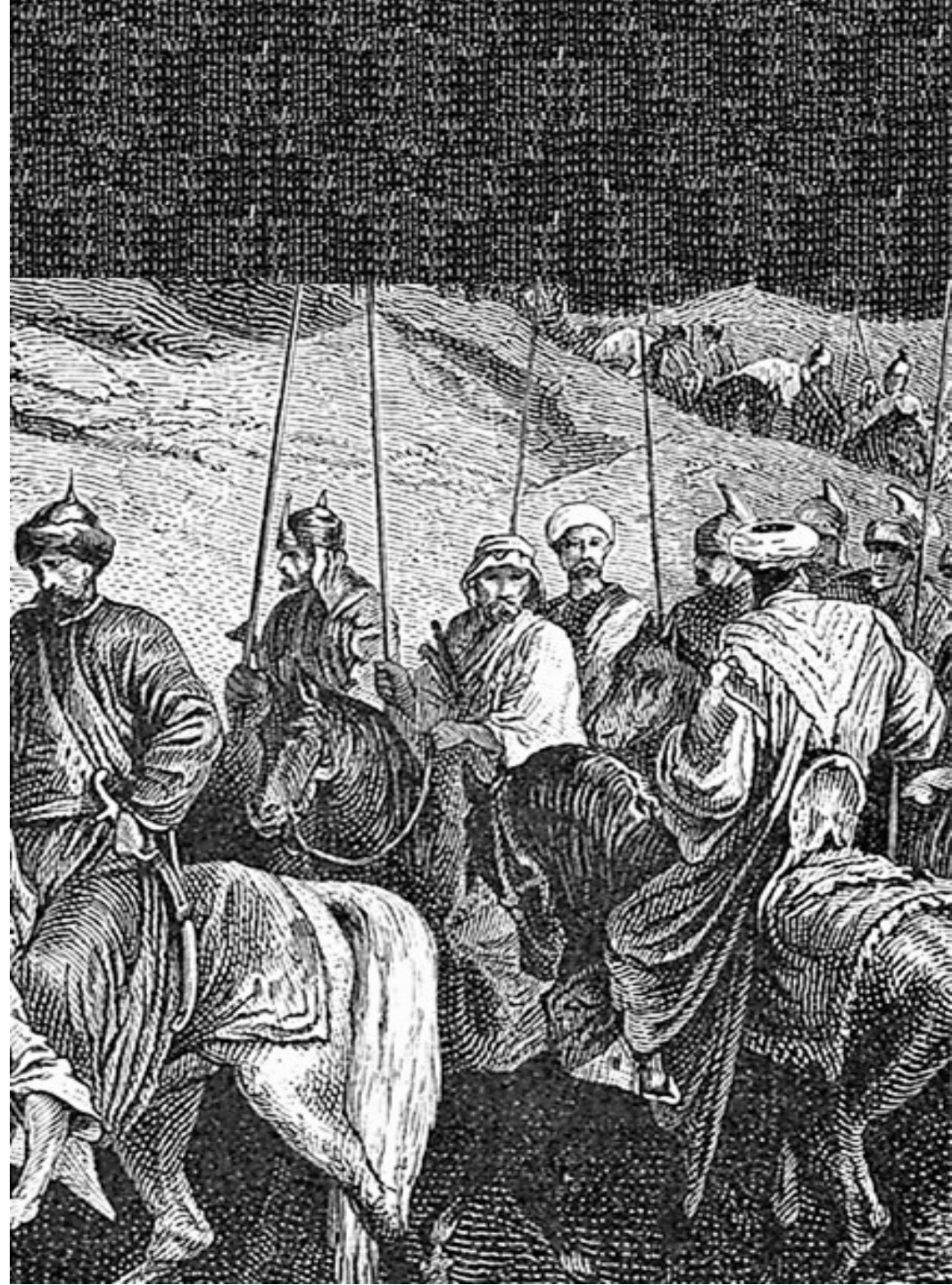
³ And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Nergalsharezer, Samgarnebo, Sarsechim, Rabsaris, Nergalsharezer, Rabmag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.”



Jeremiah 39

“⁴ And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king’s garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain.

⁵ But the Chaldeans’ army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him.”



Jeremiah 39

“⁶ Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.

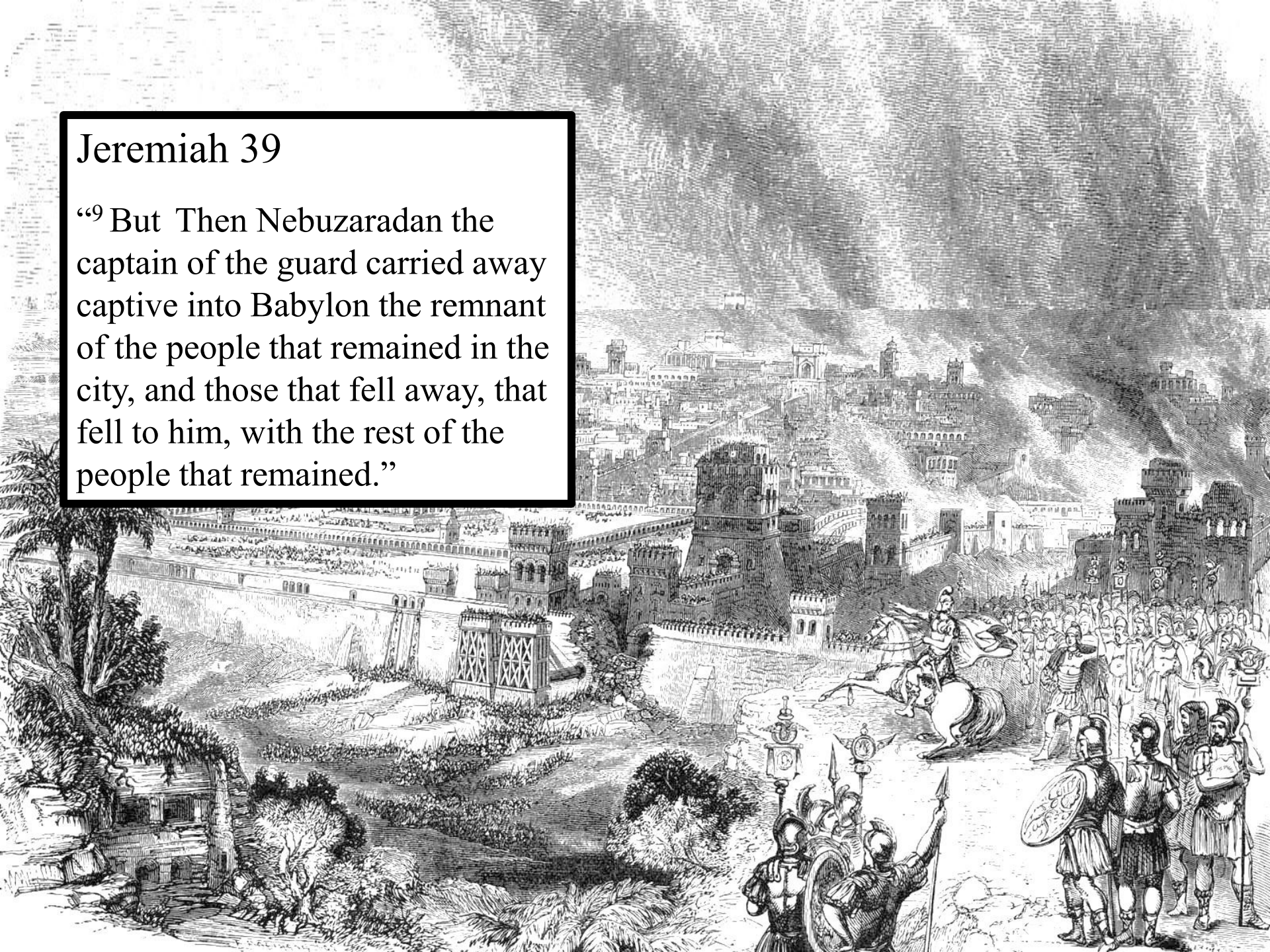
⁷ Moreover he put out Zedekiah’s eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

⁸ And the Chaldeans burned the king’s house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem.”



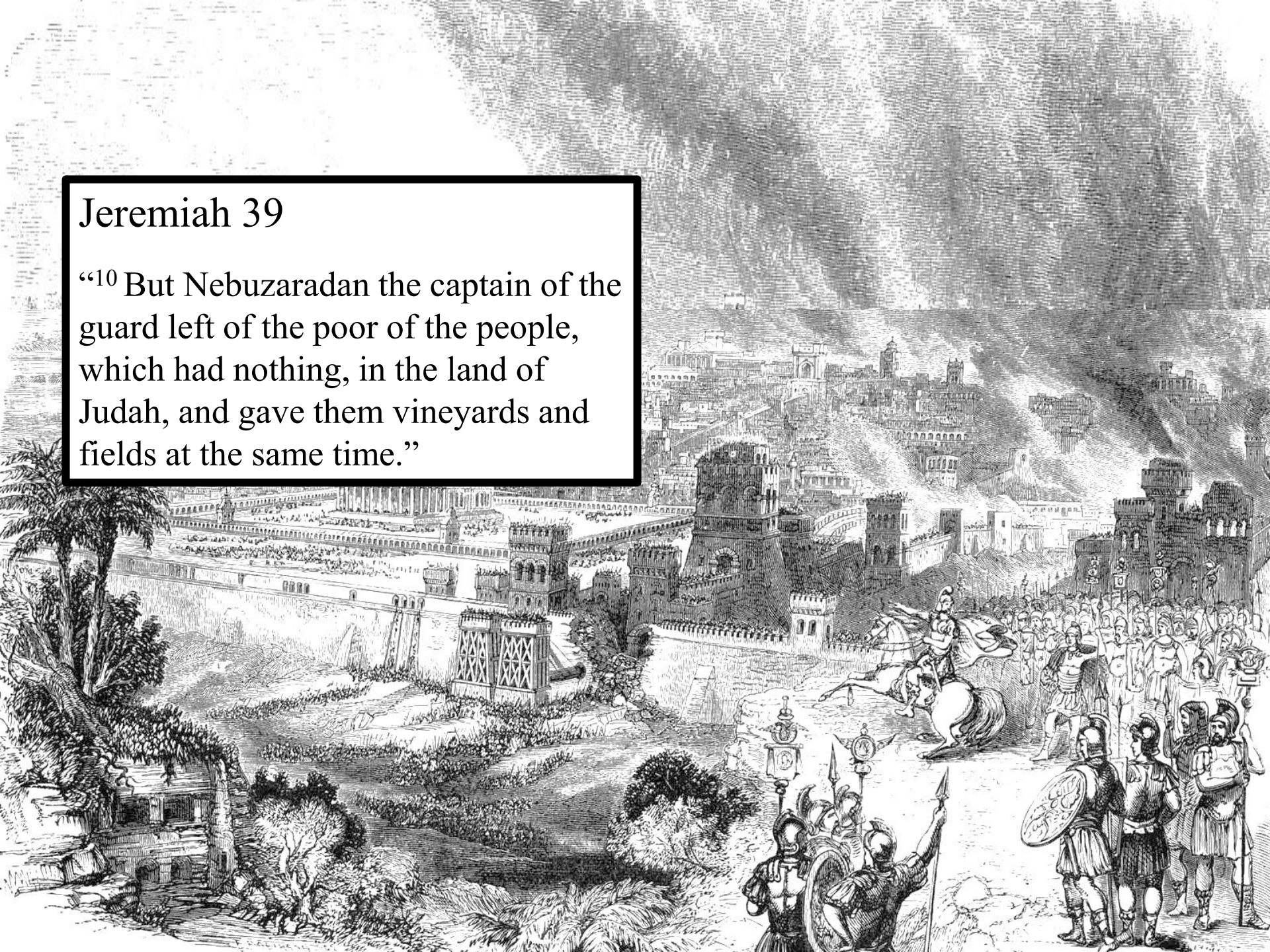
Jeremiah 39

“9 But Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.”



Jeremiah 39

“¹⁰ But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.”



Archeology And The Bible



Ernest Friedrich Weidner
1891 – 1976

Archaeologist & Assyriologist

The biblical records about Nebuchadnezzar's conquest of Jerusalem are clear and unequivocal, yet for a long time it was a puzzle that the numerous archeological records of Nebuchadnezzar were completely silent.

However, this situation completely changed when shortly before World War II Ernest Friedrich Weidner while studying cuneiform records from Nebuchadnezzar's palace compound was surprised to find the name of King Jehoiachin of Judah and his five sons as recipients of grain and oil. The date was five years after Jehoiachin's exile had begun.



Cuneiform—

Wedge-shaped characters used in the ancient writing systems of Mesopotamia and Persia surviving mainly impressed on clay tablets. When deciphered they reveal laws, history, songs, events and traditions.



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Archeology And The Bible



Donald Wiseman
1918 – 2010

Archaeologist & Assyriologist

**Professor of Assyriology at
University of London from
1961 to 1982**

In 1956 Donald Wiseman deciphered a text from a tablet owned by the British Museum. Its unusual value was in the discovery that it told of Nebuchadnezzar's capture of Jerusalem on the second day of the twelfth month of his seventh reigning year which translates to a Julian date of March 16, 597 B.C. **An exact date for a biblical event is a huge discovery.**

THE END