

# The Book of Lamentations

A Funeral Dirge For Jerusalem

# Lamentations

- The Latin title (from the Greek) is 'Lamentia'
  - To lament, to mourn and weep
- The book is Jeremiah's lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem in c587 B.C. by the Babylonians
- The Hebrew title is 'eykah 'How?'
  - How has this happened to this place?
  - This was the City of David, the place of the Temple
  - This was the place God had said he would put His name there forever...

# The City of the Great King

<sup>1</sup> Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

<sup>2</sup> Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

**Psalm 48:1-2**

- A Psalm for the sons of Korah
- Written to commemorate the deliverance from combined assault of Moab, Ammon & Edom

# Solomon's Prayer

27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day:

**1 Kings 9:27-29**

# Solomon's Prayer

<sup>29</sup> That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

**2 Chronicles 7:15-18**

# The Lord's Promise

<sup>15</sup> Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

<sup>16</sup> For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

<sup>17</sup> And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;

**2 Chronicles 7:15-18**

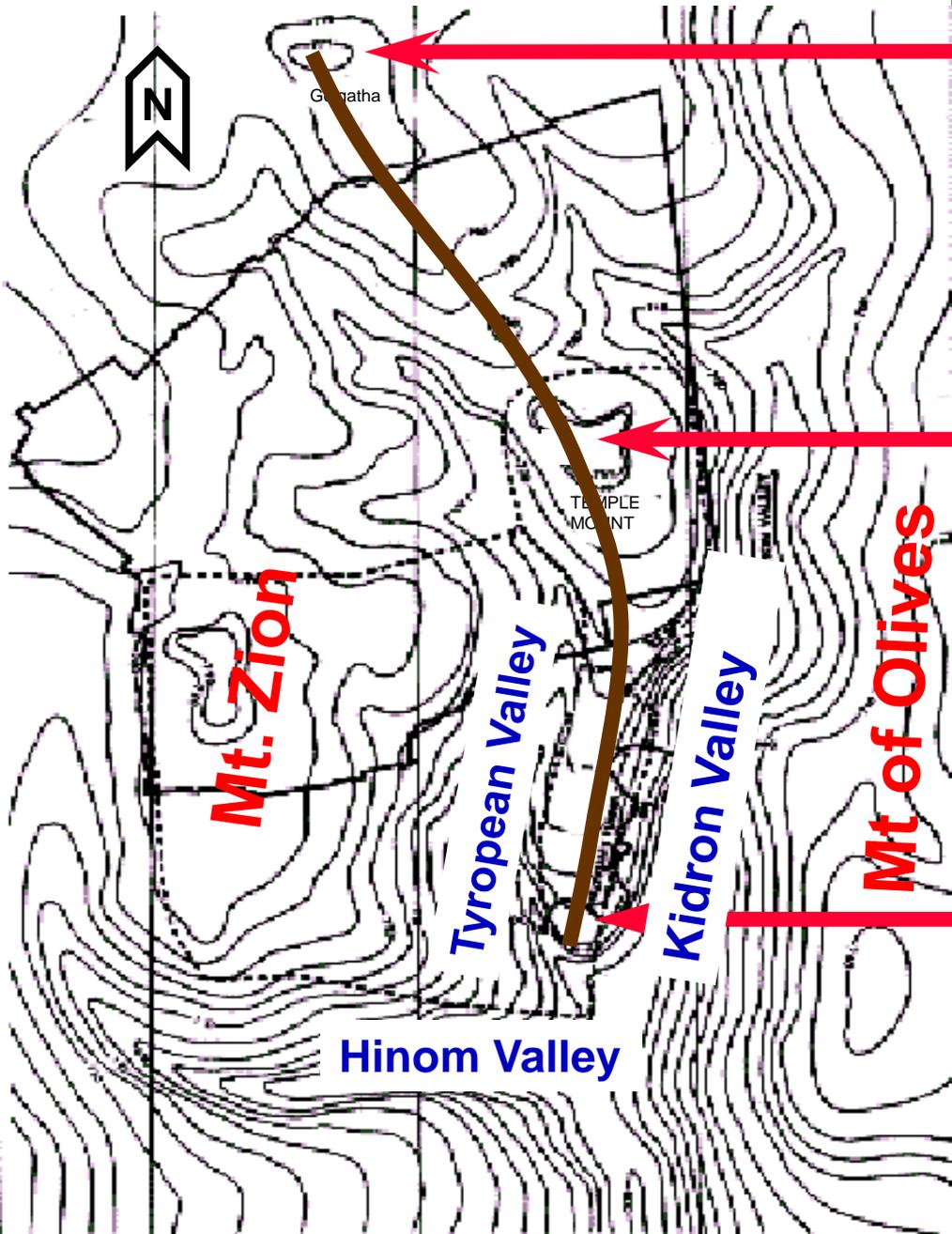
# The Lord's Promise

<sup>18</sup> Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel.

**2 Chronicles 7:15-18**

- The throne and kingdom were to be eternal
- How then could Jerusalem ever be destroyed?
- This was the 'assumption' of the false prophets in Jeremiah's day who proclaimed 'peace, peace'

# Topology of Mount Moriah

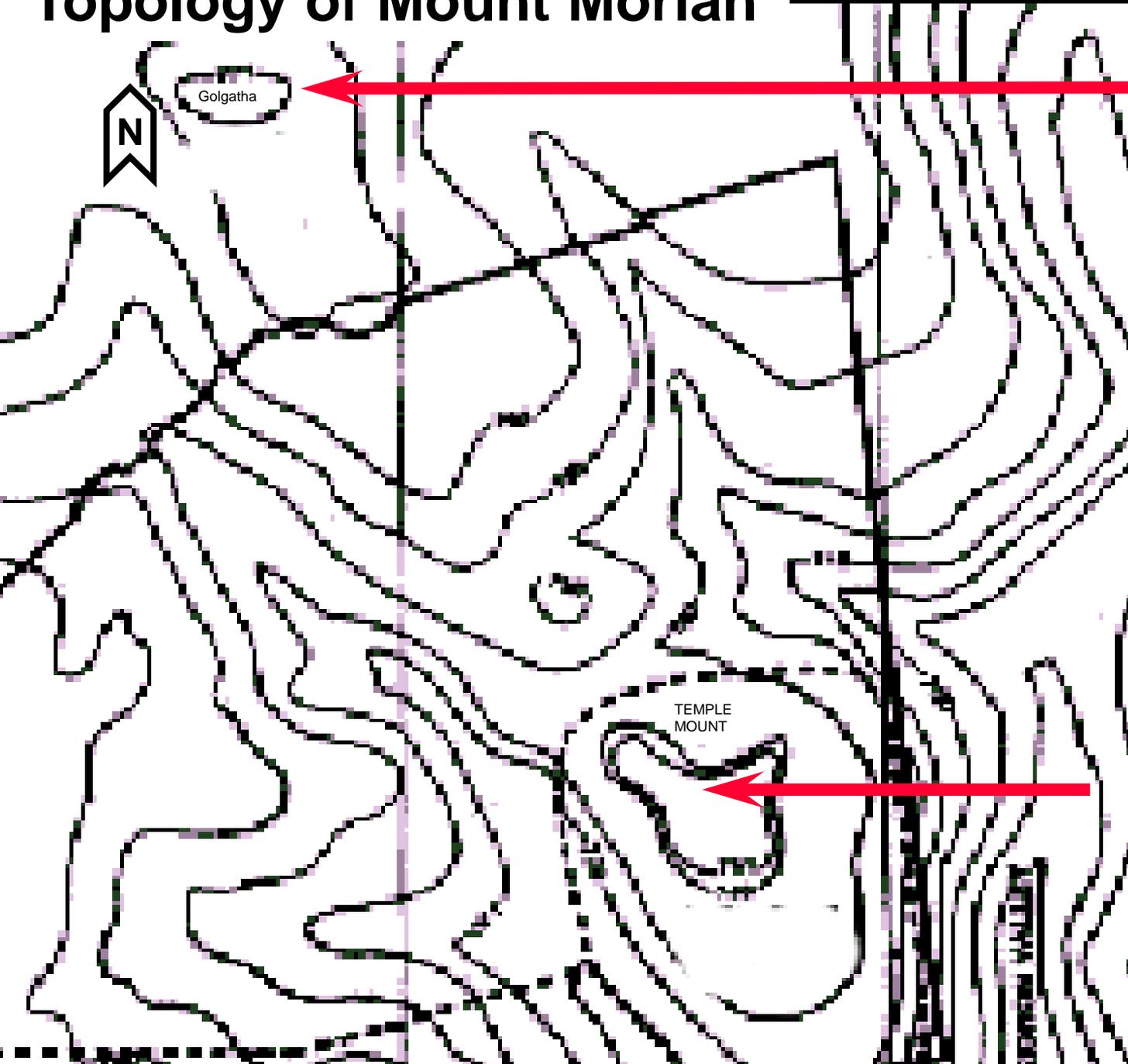


Peak: Akedah

Threshing Floor  
of Arunah

Salem (Ophel)

# Topology of Mount Moriah



**Peak:  
Akedah**

**Threshing  
Floor  
of Arunah**

# Topology of Mount Moriah

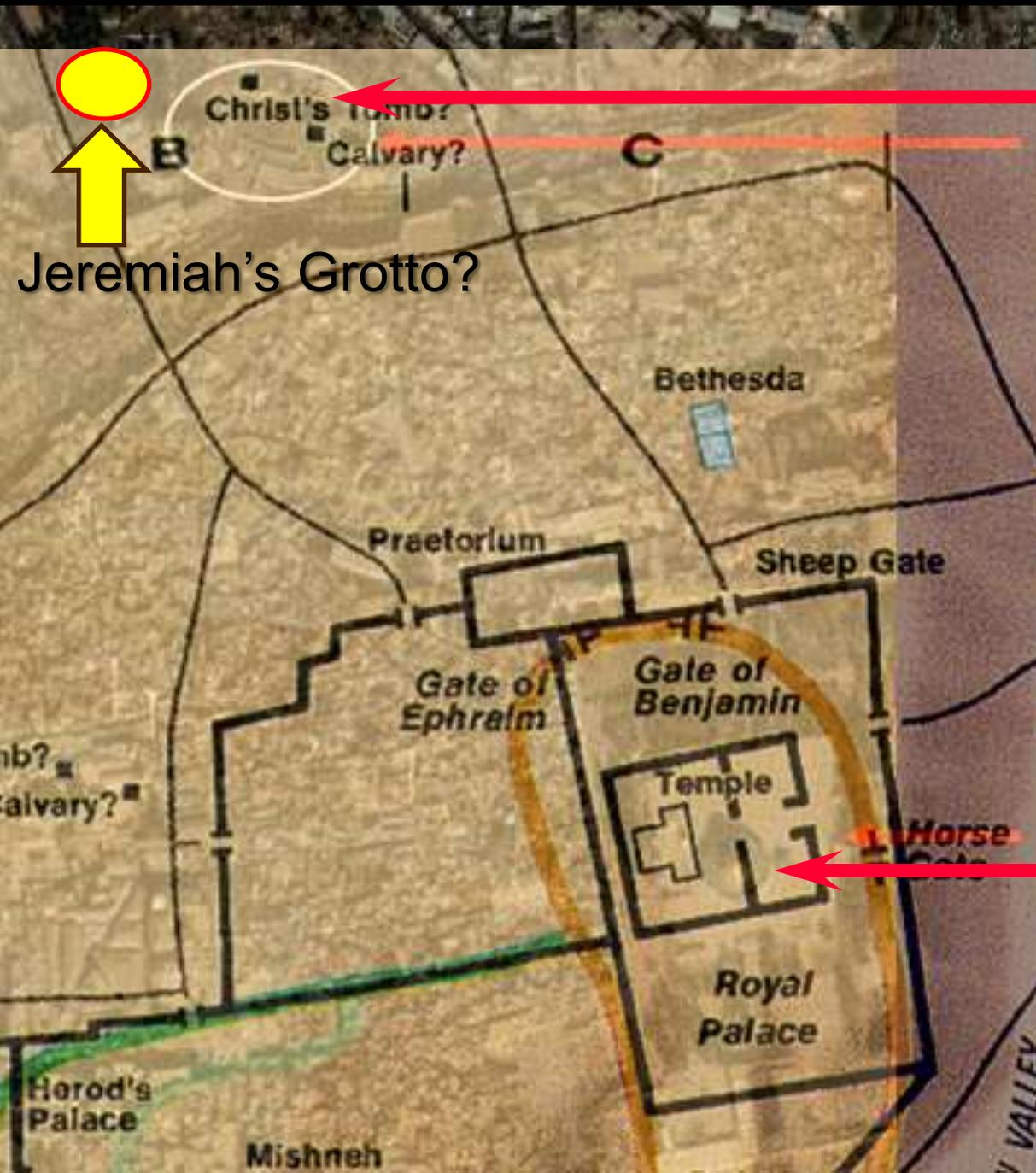


777  
Golgotha

Peak:  
Akedah

TEMPLE  
MOUNT

Threshing  
Floor  
of Arunah



**Akedah**

**Threshing  
Floor  
of Arunah**

# Jerusalem during Solomon's Time

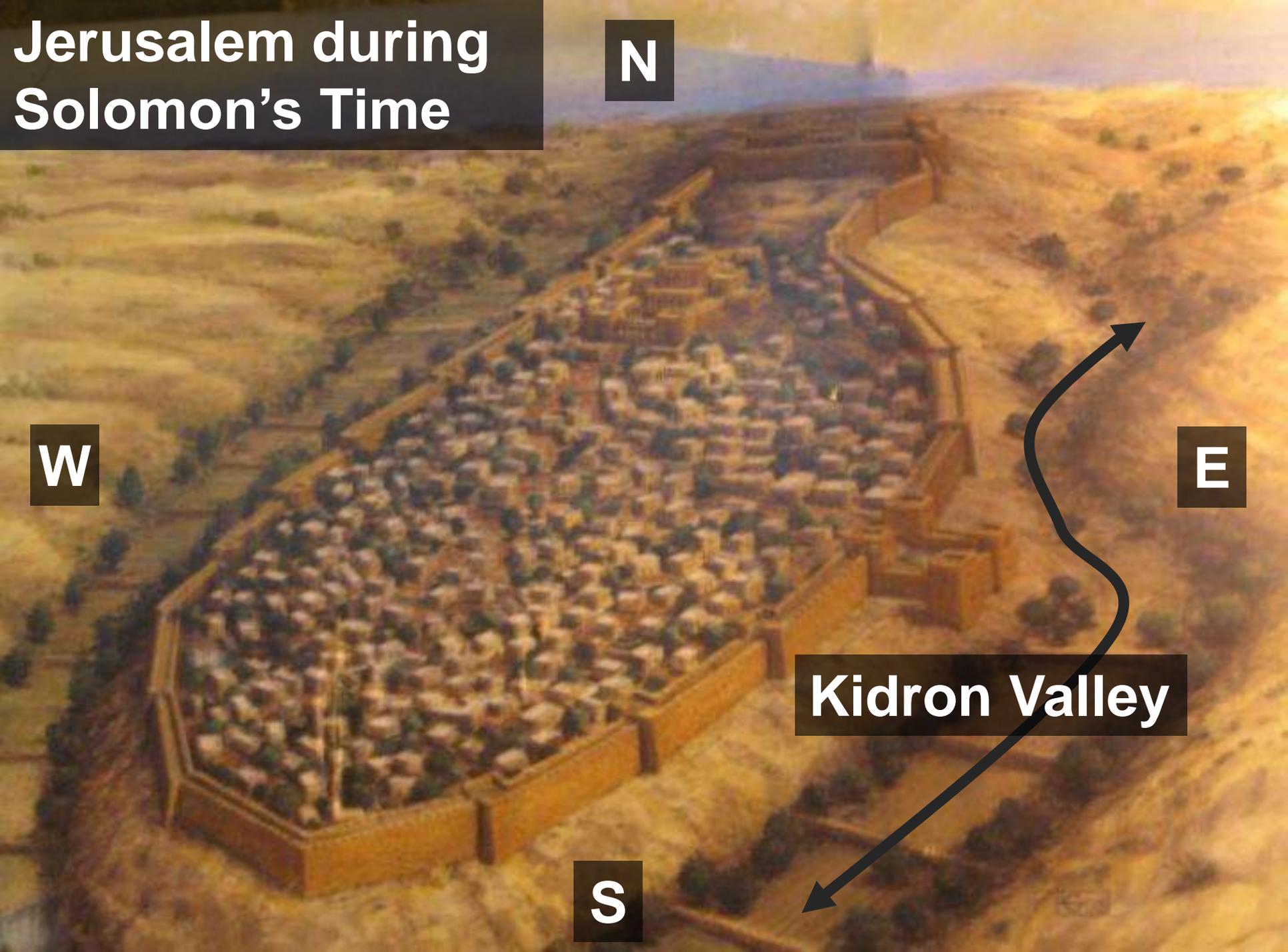
N

W

E

S

Kidron Valley



# Intorduction

- Jeremiah had spent 40 years prophesying the judgment on Jerusalem and her kings.
- Now that time had come...

# Jeremiah's Ministry

- <sup>1</sup> The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:
- <sup>2</sup> To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.
- <sup>3</sup> It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.

# The Final Kings of Judah

Josiah 31y

Died in battle against Pharaoh Necho

Jehoahaz 3 mts

Taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Necho

Jehoiakim 11y

Died aged 36

# The History of the Kings Judah

Rehoboam 17y

Abijam 3y

Asa 41y

Jehoshaphat 25y

Jehoram 8y

Ahaziah 1y

Q. Athaliah 6y

Jehoash 40y

Amaziah 29y

Isaiah (Uzziah) Azariah 52y

Hosea  
Amos

Micah  
Hosea  
Isaiah

Jotham 16y

Ahaz 16y

Hezekiah 29y  
(722 B.C.) Israel go into captivity

Manasseh 55y

Amon 2y

Zephaniah

Josiah 31y

Jehoahaz 3mts

(Eliakim) Jehoiakim 11y

Jehoiachin 3mts (606 B.C.)

Zedekiah 11y (587 B.C.)

Jeremiah

# The Final Kings of Judah

Josiah 31y

Died in battle against Pharaoh Necho

Jehoahaz 3 mts

Taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Necho

Jehoiakim 11y

609

2 Chron 36:4 Appointed by Pharaoh Necho

1 608

2 Chron 36:5 Reigned 11 years

2 607

Daniel 1:1 Nebuchadnezzar conquered in 3<sup>rd</sup> year

→ 3 606

2 Kings 24:1 Served for 3 years

4

5

6

7

8

2 Kings 24:1 Rebelled for 5 years

9

10

11

# The Final Kings of Judah

Josiah 31y

Died in battle against Pharaoh Necho

Jehoahaz 3 mts

Taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Necho

Jehoiakim 11y

Died aged 36

Jehoiachin

Reigned 3 months

Taken to Babylon

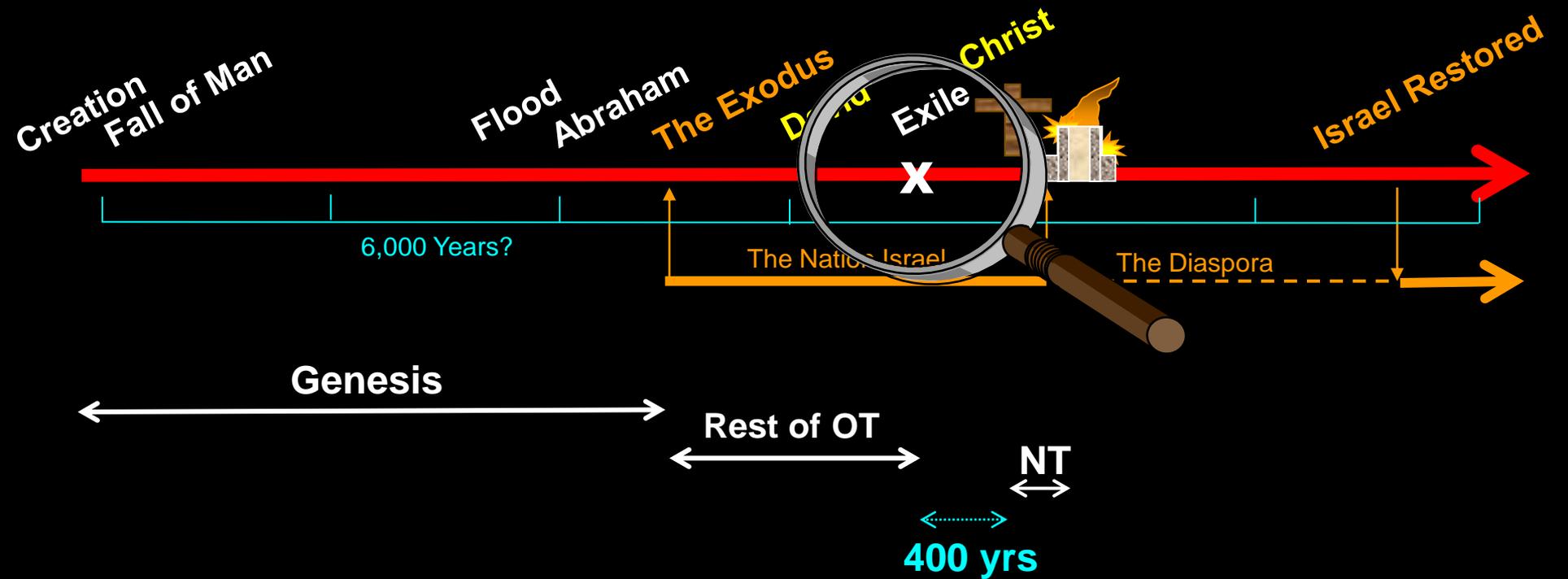
Zedekiah

Appointed by Nebuchadnezzar

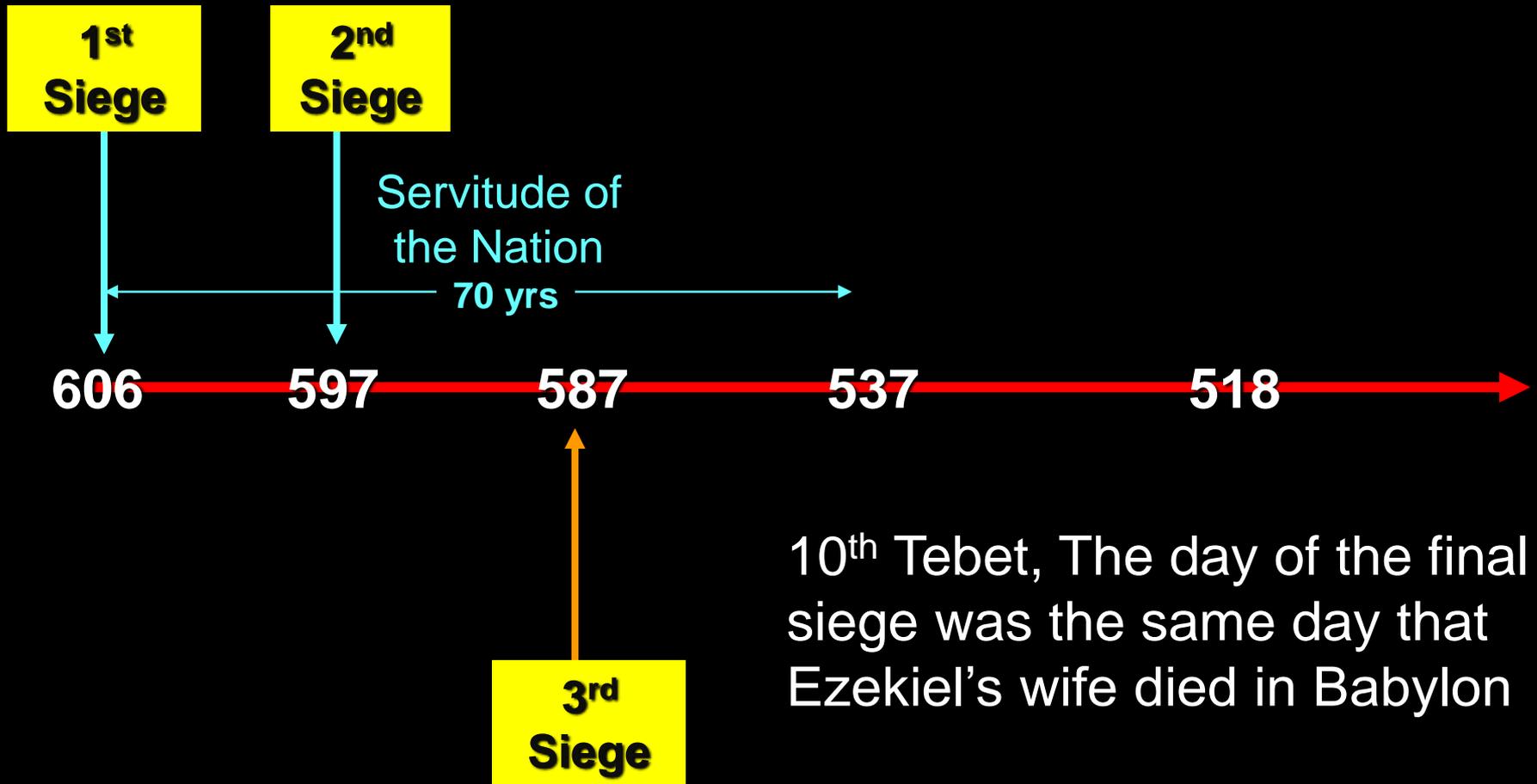
Reigned 11 years

Finally taken captive in final siege

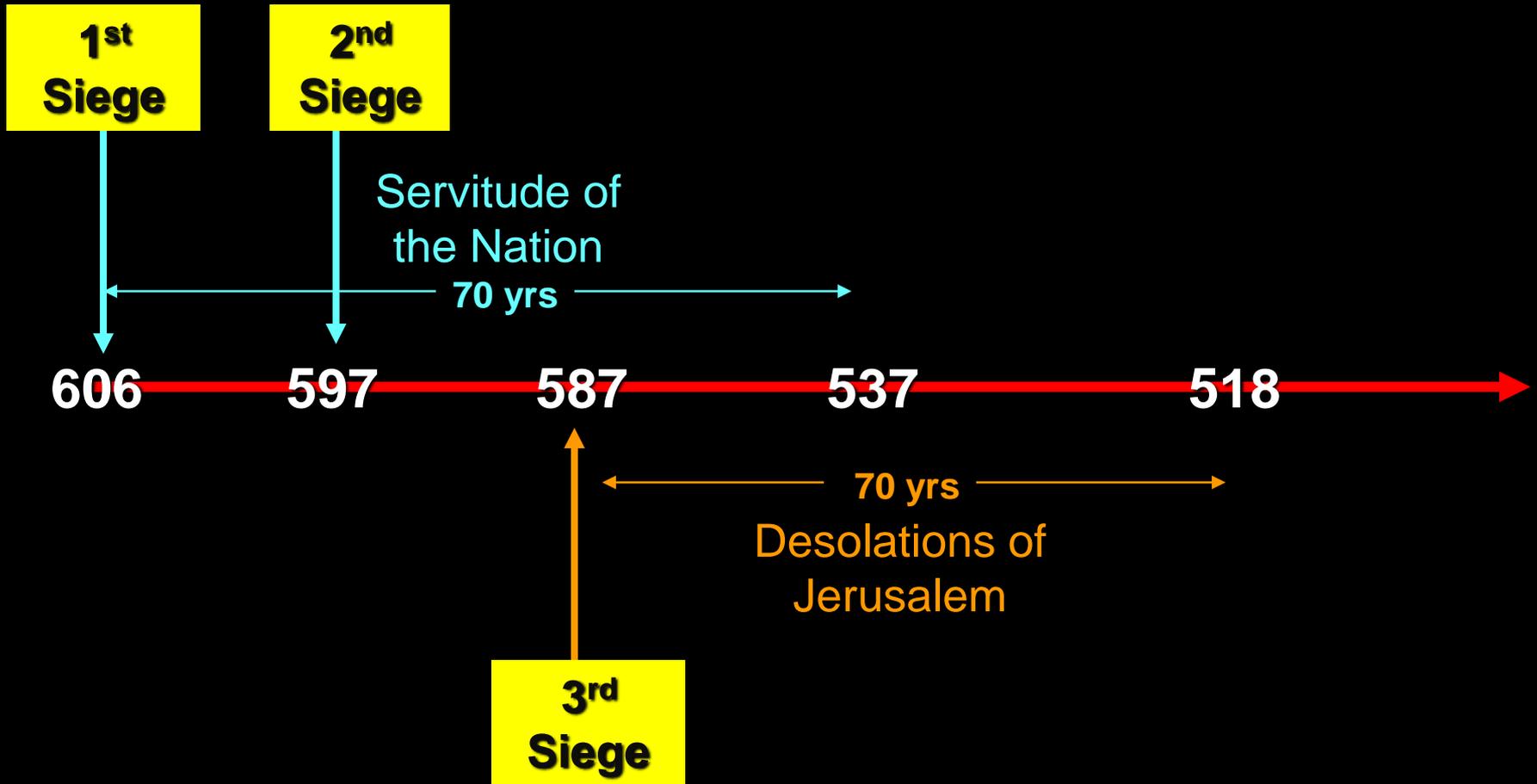
# The Panorama of History



# The Captivity



# The Captivity

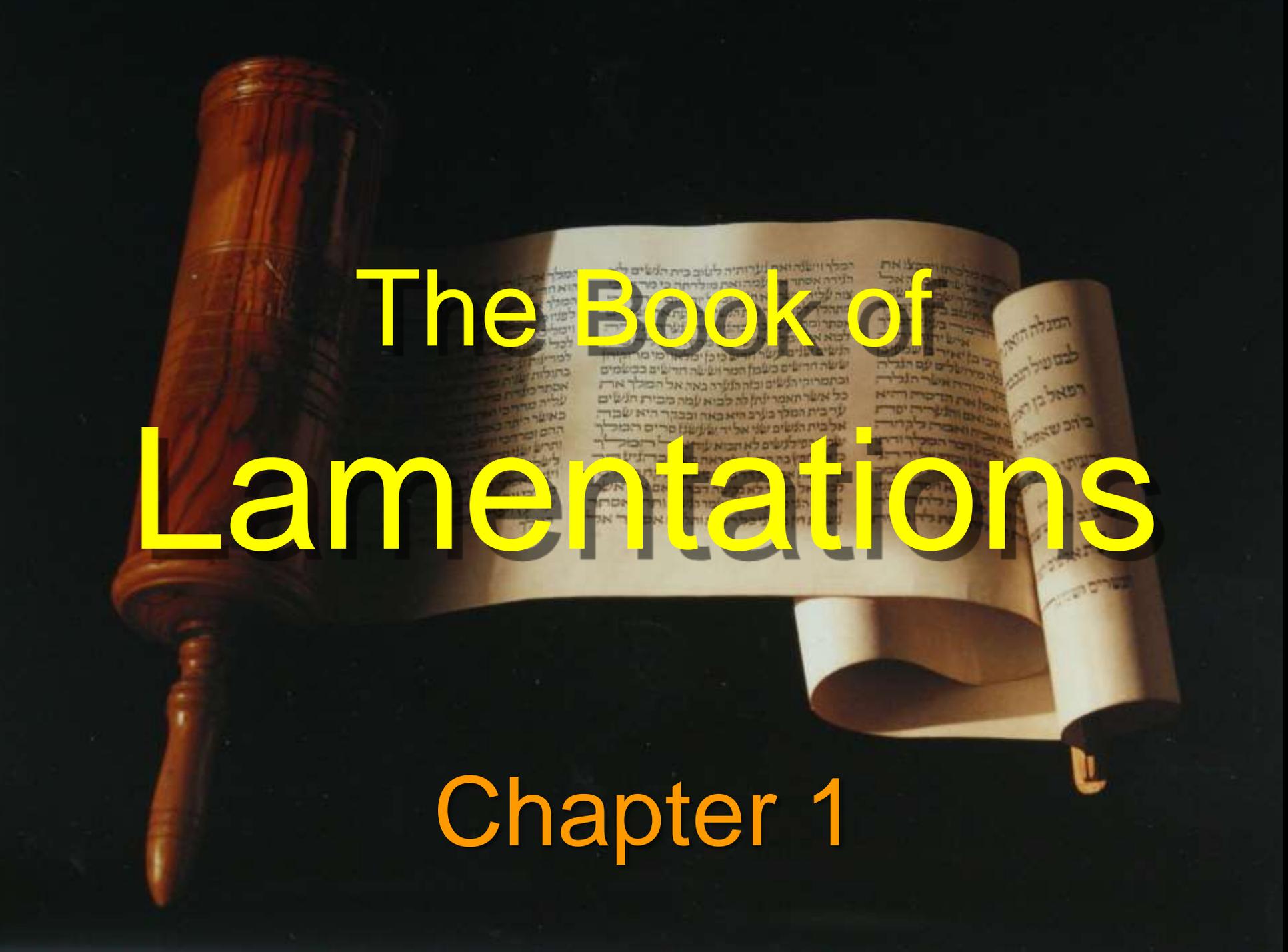


# Lamentations

- The book was to be memorised!
- It is written as an acrostic
- Chapter 1 has 22 verses
  - v1 = 'Aleph' (letter A)
  - v2 = 'Bet' (letter B)
- Chapter 2 also has 22 acrostic verses
- Ch 3 has 66 verse, every 3v written as acrostic
- Ch 4 is again acrostic
- Ch 5 is a prayer, not an acrostic

# Lamentations

- In the T'nach, it is listed among the "Five Rolls," called "Megilleth," to be read on special occasions.
  - Song of Solomon – read during Passover
  - Ruth – read during The Feast of Weeks (Harvest)
  - Ecclesiastes – read during The Feast of Tabernacles
  - Esther – During the Feast of Purim
  - Lamentations
    - read in synagogues annually on the ninth day of Av (about mid-July), to commemorate the destruction of the temple by Nebuchadnezzar.
- On Friday afternoon, pious Jews in Israel still gather at the "wailing wall," & read these verses & mourn

An open scroll of the Book of Lamentations, showing Hebrew text. The scroll is unrolled and rests on a wooden handle. The text is written in black ink on aged, yellowish paper. The scroll is set against a dark background.

# The Book of Lamentations

## Chapter 1

# Lamentations

- First Stanza:
- Jerusalem, Like a Weeping Widow Mourning in Solitude (1:1-22):
  - The desolation of Jerusalem (1:1-7).
  - Sin brings suffering (1:8-11).
  - Appeal to passers-by for sympathy (1:12-19):
  - Prayer to God for mercy and justice (1:20-22),

<sup>1</sup> How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people  
how is she become as a widow she that was was great  
among the nations, and princess among the provinces,  
how is she become tributary

<sup>2</sup> She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on  
her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to  
comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously  
with her, they are become her enemies.

## Lamentations 1:1-2

- Background reading:
  - Deuteronomy 28

<sup>3</sup> Judah is gone into captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude: she dwelleth among the heathen, she findeth no rest: all her persecutors overtook her between the straits.

<sup>4</sup> The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness.

### **Lamentations 1:3-4**

- 3x each year the people were to go to Jerusalem to celebrate their feasts...
- Now there are no pilgrims & no songs

<sup>5</sup> Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the LORD hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.

<sup>6</sup> And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed: her princes are become like harts that find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer.

## Lamentations 1:5-6

- Sin always leads to captivity
  - It never leads to greater freedom
  - “you’re not free until you’ve found the right master!”

<sup>7</sup> Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, and did mock at her sabbaths.

<sup>8</sup> Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward.

**Lamentations 1:7-8**

- She was to have been a witness unto God
  - She has become a reason to mock

<sup>9</sup> Her filthiness is in her skirts; she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter. O LORD, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified himself.

<sup>10</sup> The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen that the heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thy congregation.

### **Lamentations 1:9-10**

- She had become defiled
- She chooses not to remember what will be

<sup>11</sup> All her people sigh, they seek bread; they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul: see, O LORD, and consider; for I am become vile.

**Lamentations 1:11**

- Jerusalem herself now speaks...

<sup>12</sup> Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

**Lamentations 1:12**

<sup>13</sup> From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaileth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate and faint all the day.

<sup>14</sup> The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, and come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into their hands, from whom I am not able to rise up.

**Lamentations 1:13-14**

<sup>15</sup> The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty men in the midst of me: he hath called an assembly against me to crush my young men: the Lord hath trodden the virgin, the daughter of Judah, as in a winepress.

<sup>16</sup> For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

**Lamentations 1:15-16**

17 Zion spreadeth forth her hands, and there is none to comfort her: the LORD hath commanded concerning Jacob, that his adversaries should be round about him: Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them.

18 The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.

**Lamentations 1:17-18**

19 I called for my lovers, but they deceived me: my priests and mine elders gave up the ghost in the city, while they sought their meat to relieve their souls.

20 Behold, O LORD; for I am in distress: my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled: abroad the sword bereaveth, at home there is as death.

**Lamentations 1:19-20**

21 They have heard that I sigh: there is none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that thou hast done it: thou wilt bring the day that thou hast called, and they shall be like unto me.

22 Let all their wickedness come before thee; and do unto them, as thou hast done unto me for all my transgressions: for my sighs are many, and my heart is faint.

**Lamentations 1:21-22**



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chapel  
portsmouth

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