



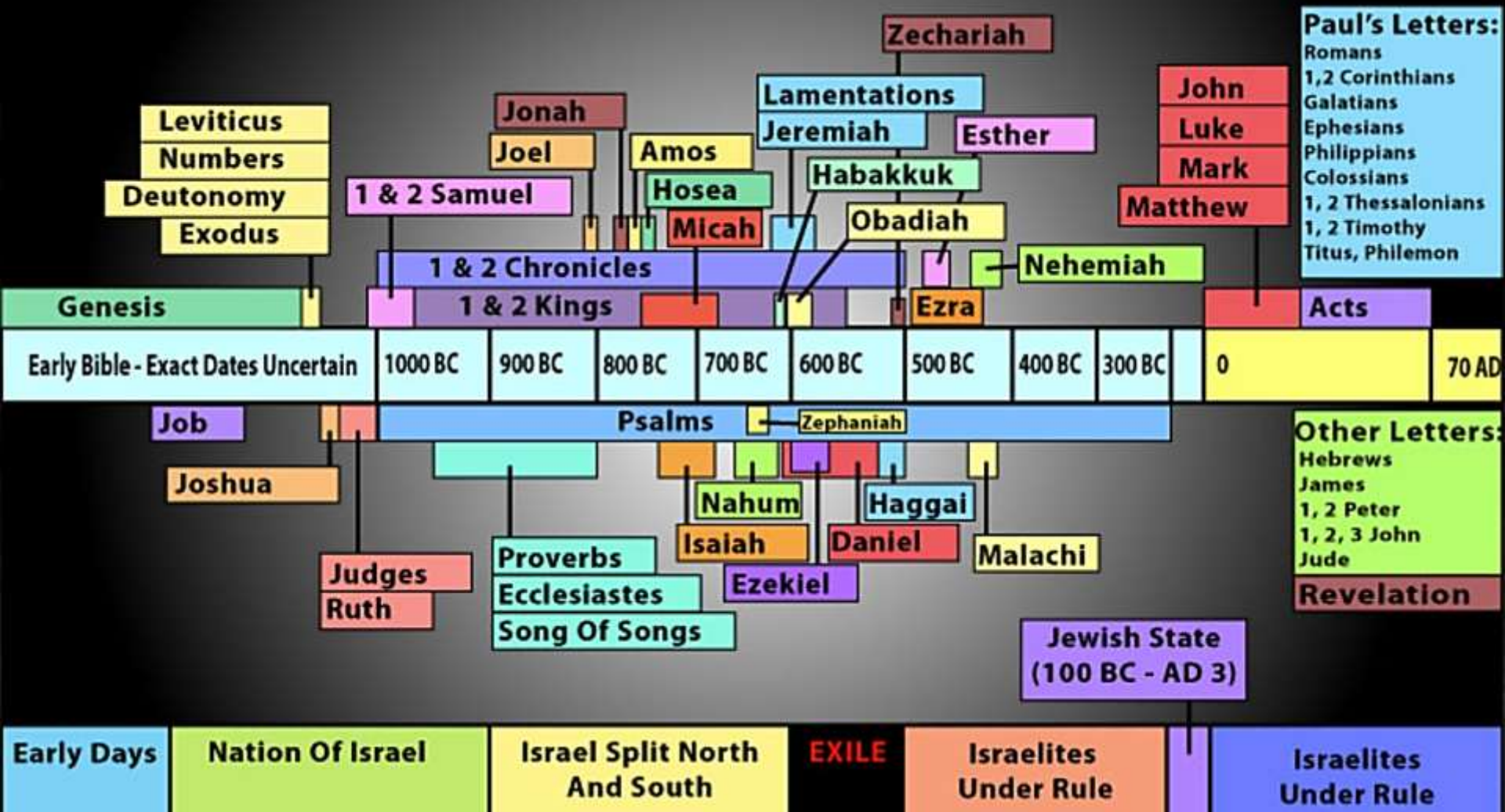
THE BOOK OF

Nahum

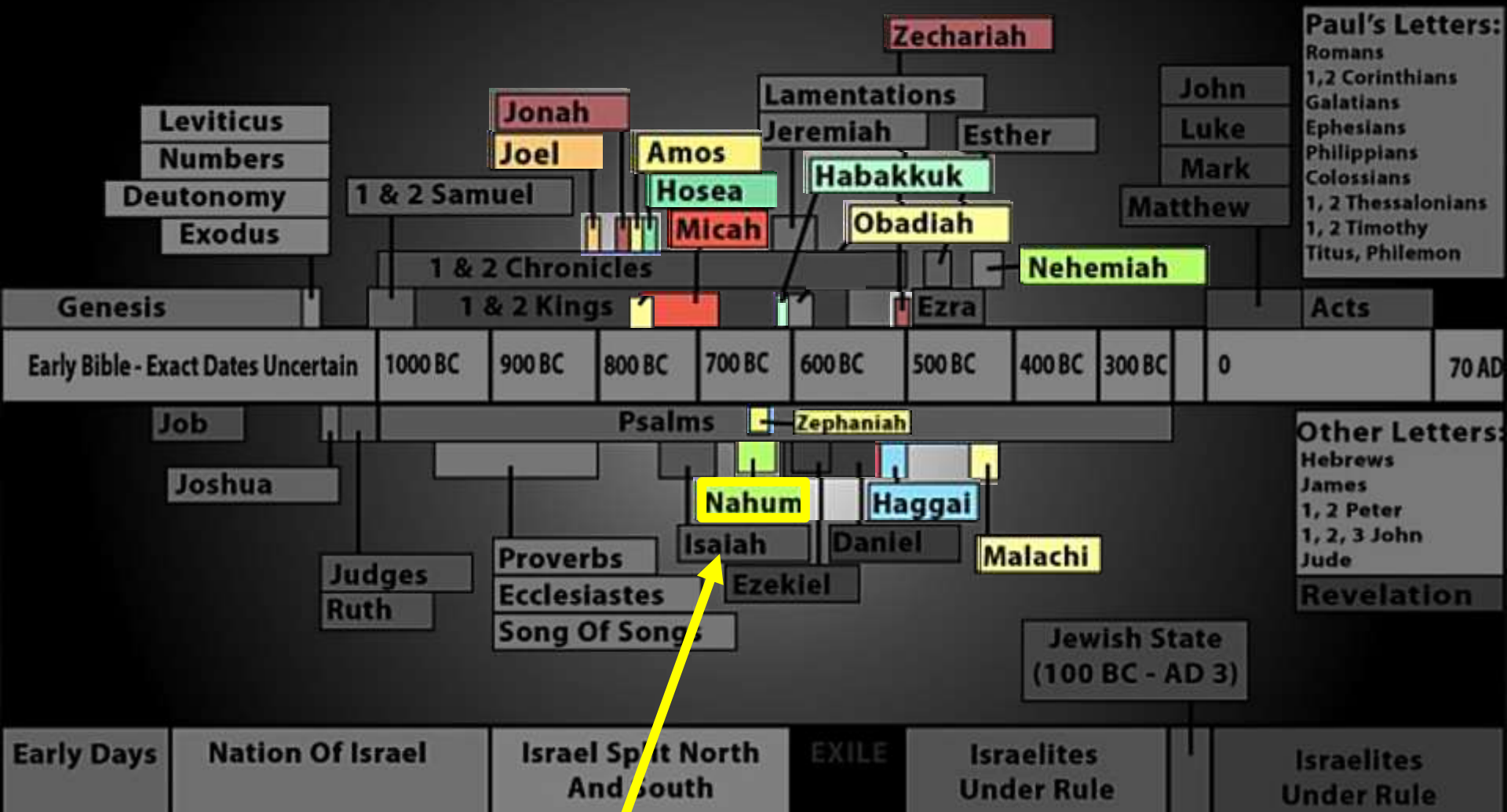


A verse by verse study

Chronology of the Bible Books



Ministry of the Minor Prophets

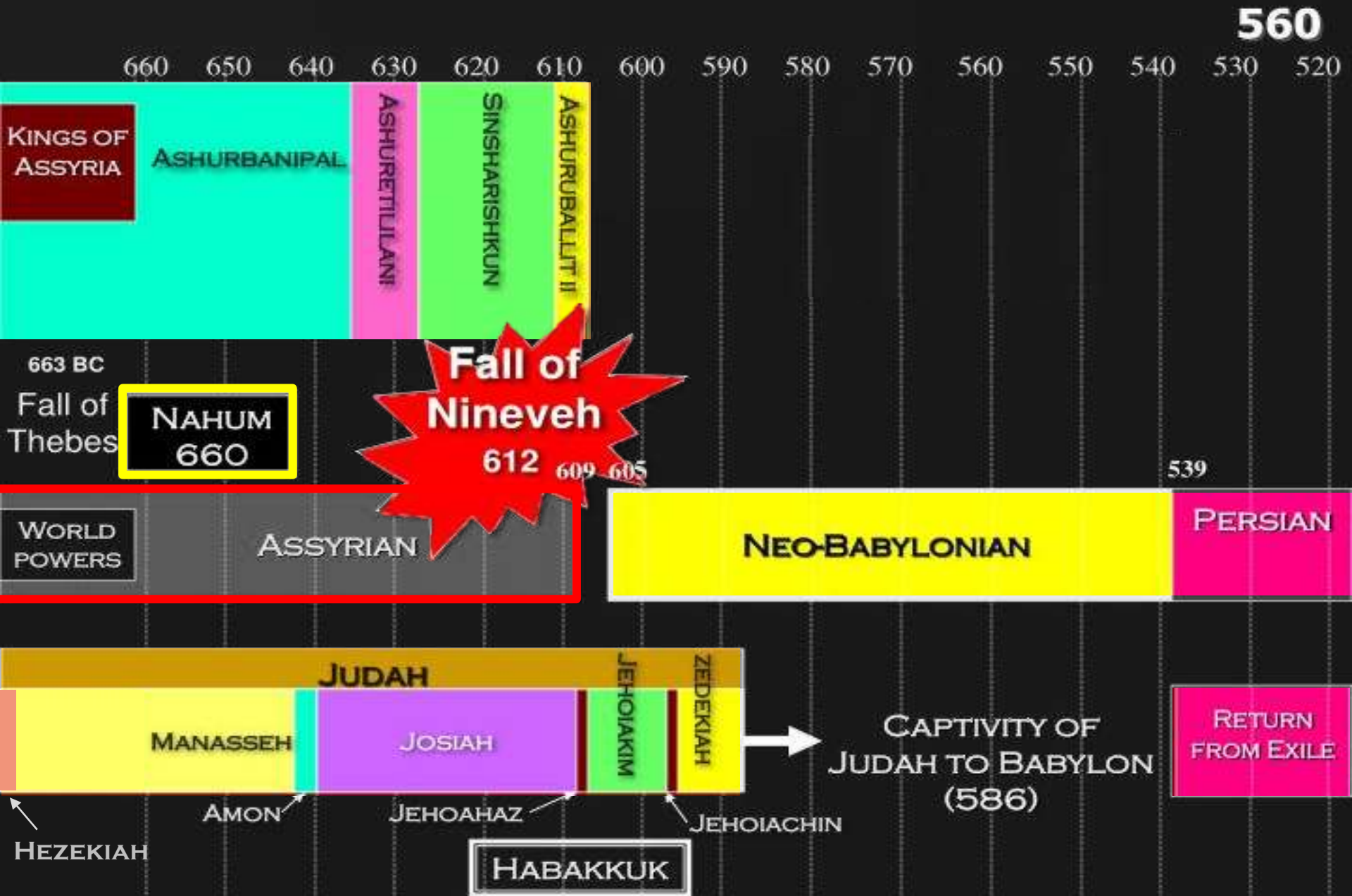


Nahum: c.663 B.C. (around 200 years after Jonah)

Nahum

- Nahum is called to prophesy to Nineveh
 - Capital of Assyria
- 200 years before, Jonah had preached, and they repented
- Now their cruelty toward Israel had provoked God's wrath
 - God was 'furious' with them
 - He calls them 'His enemies'
- The Lord had shown mercy, but will not acquit the wicked

Historical Timeline



Nahum

- Nahum means 'Comforted'
- His message was one of comfort to Israel knowing that God was going to judge their enemies.
- His contemporaries were Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Huldah, and Josiah of Judah.
- He is unique in that he had no condemnation for Israel
- Although Nahum is not mentioned in the NT, Paul partially quotes from him...

Good News!

¹⁵ How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

- This is a quote drawn from Isaiah 52:7 and Nahum 1:15

Nahum

- Nahum is called an 'Elkoshite'
- Some suspect this is a reference to Alkush
 - This is a village near Mosul on the Tigris river
- At the time of Nahum's prophecy, the northern kingdom had already been taken captive
- Assyria were known for relocating captives
- So, it is possible Nahum writes this in captivity
 - Which gives it a personal edge

Alkush (Mossul)





Israel

Judah

Lebanon

Syria

Iraq

Jordan

Egyptian

Sinai Peninsula

Jerusalem

Damascus

Tadmor

Anatho

Siepar

Babylon

Cuthah

Kish

Nippur

Erech

Ur

Al Khanafah Wildlife Sanctuary

Al-Tubaig Natural Reserve

Haifar Al Batin

Tabuk

Sharm El-Sheikh

Hail

Antalya

Alanya

Mersin

Tarsus

Carchemish

Arpad

Til Barsip

Haran

Gozan

Nisibis

Nineveh

Calah

Dur Sharrukina

Arbela

Harkar

Harmath

Arrapakha

Cyprus

Paphos

Beirut

Damascus

Opis

Baghdad

Siepar

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Tabuk

Sharm El-Sheikh

Hail



Nahum

- Nahum's hometown is believed to have been Capernaum in Galilee
 - Lit. 'the village of Nahum'

Nahum

Book concerning Nineveh. The book
of Nahum the Elkoshite.

Anger Against Nineveh

jealous and avenging God
is vengeance and is filled
with
vengeance on his day
in wrath against the
wicked

He makes all the rivers dry
Basan and Carmel wither
and the herbage of Carmel
and the herbage of Carmel
and the hills wither
The south withereth
the north withereth
the land withereth

Nineveh to Fall

As an attacker advances
Nineveh,
guard the fortress,
watch the road,
trace yourselves
around all your streets

Capernaum



- Peter's home and Jesus' 'base' during His ministry

No Prophet From Galilee?

52 Search and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee.”

John 7:52

- These ‘experts’ should have themselves searched!
- We know of five prophets who came out of the area of Galilee:
 - Jonah, Nahum, Hosea, Elijah, and Elisha.

Nahum

- Nahum is written as Hebrew poetry
- *"For sheer beauty, poetic imagery, dramatic description and vivid imagination, Nahum is unsurpassed..."* - K. Yates
- *"His language is strong and brilliant: His rhythm rumbles and rolls, leaps and flashes like the horsemen and chariots he describes."* - G. A. Smith
- *"It is a classic in all. It is marked by clearness, by its finished elegance, as well as by fire, richness and originality."* - DeWette.

Nineveh

- Nineveh was originally built by Nimrod (**Gen 10:11**)
- It rose to prominence in 903 B.C.
- Around 800 B.C. Jonah was sent to preach a message of repentance
- In 722 B.C. Assyria invaded and conquered Israel
- In 709. B.C Assyria led an ill-fated attempt to capture Jerusalem
 - **Hezekiah sought the LORD and 185,000 Assyrians died**
- c.663 B.C. Nahum prophesies Nineveh's destruction
- 612 B.C. Nineveh fell to the Meds & Babylonians who burnt the city

Nineveh

- There were 1500 towers 200ft tall around the city
- 15 gates
 - (of which 5 have now been uncovered).
- wide enough for 4 chariots to race abreast
- The moat outside the walls was 140 feet wide and 60 feet deep.
- Along with the military might, Assyria had extensive libraries, gardens and zoos
 - The Epic of Gilgamesh was discovered in the ruins of Nineveh in 1853



Nineveh

- Nahum highlights four national sins deserving special condemnation:
 - a. Ruthless military power (2:11-13).
 - b. Unscrupulous commercial practices (3:16).
 - c. Slavery.
 - d. Witchcraft (3:4-5).



Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 1) The Assyrian fortresses surrounding the city would be easily captured **Nahum 3:12**
 - In 614 B.C. Nabopolassar attacked and plundered Assur and other outlying cities
- 2) The besieged Ninevites would prepare bricks and mortar for emergency defense walls **Nahum 3:14**
 - *“To the south of the gate, the moat is still filled with fragments of stone and mud bricks from the walls, heaped up when they were breached.”*
 - A.T. Olmstead History of Assyria, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1951, p.637.
- 3) The city gates would be destroyed **Nahum 3:13**
 - *“The main attack was directed from the north-west and the brunt fell upon the Hatamti gate at this corner...within the gate are traces of the counter-wall raised by the inhabitants in their last extremity.”*
 - *ibid.*

Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 4) In the final hours of the attack the Ninevites would be drunk - **Nahum 1:10; 3:11**
 - *“The Assyrian king... distributed to his soldiers meats and liberal supplies of wine and provisions... while the whole army was thus acrousing, the friends of Arbakes learned from some deserters of the slackness and drunkenness which prevailed in the enemy’s camp and made an unexpected attack by night”*
 - Diodorus Siculus, Bibliotheca Historia 2.26.4.

Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 5) Nineveh would be destroyed by a flood
 - Nahum 1:8; 2:6, 8
 - *In the third year of the siege, heavy rains caused a nearby river to flood part of the city and break part of the Walls*
 - [Bibliotheca Historia 2.26.9; 2.27.13.]
 - Xenophon referred to terrifying thunder (presumably with a storm) associated with the city's capture
 - Xenophon Anabasis, 3.4.12.
 - Also the Khosr River, entering the city from the NW at the Ninlil Gate and running through the city in a SW direction may have flooded because of heavy rains, or the enemy may have destroyed the sluice gate

Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 6) Nineveh would be destroyed by fire
 - Nahum 1:10; 2:13; 3:15
 - Archeological excavations at Nineveh have revealed charred wood, charcoal, and ashes.
 - *“There was no question about the clear traces of burning of the temple (as also in the palace of Sennacherib), for a layer of ash about two inches thick lay clearly defined in places on the southeast side about the level of the Sargon pavement.”*
 - R. Campbell Thompson and R.V. Huchinson, A Century of Exploration at Nineveh, London 1929

Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 7) The city's capture would be attended by a great massacre of people - Nahum 3:3
 - *“In two battles fought on the plain before the city the rebels defeated the Assyrians... So great was the multitude of the slain that the flowing stream, mingled with their blood changed its color for a considerable distance.”*
 - Diodorus, Bibliotheca Historia, 2.26.6-7

Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 8) Plundering and pillaging would accompany the overthrow of the city - Nahum 2:9-10
 - According to the Babylonian Chronicle: *“Great quantities of the spoil from the city, beyond counting, they carried off. The city [they turned] into a mound and ruin heap”*
 - Luckenbill, Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia, 2.420.

Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 9) When Nineveh would be captured its people would try to escape
 - Nahum 2:8
 - *“Sardanapalus (another name for King Sin-shar-iskun) sent away his three sons and two daughters with much treasure into Paphlagonia, to the governor of Kattos, the most loyal of his subjects.”*
 - Diodorus, Bibliotheca Historia, 2.420

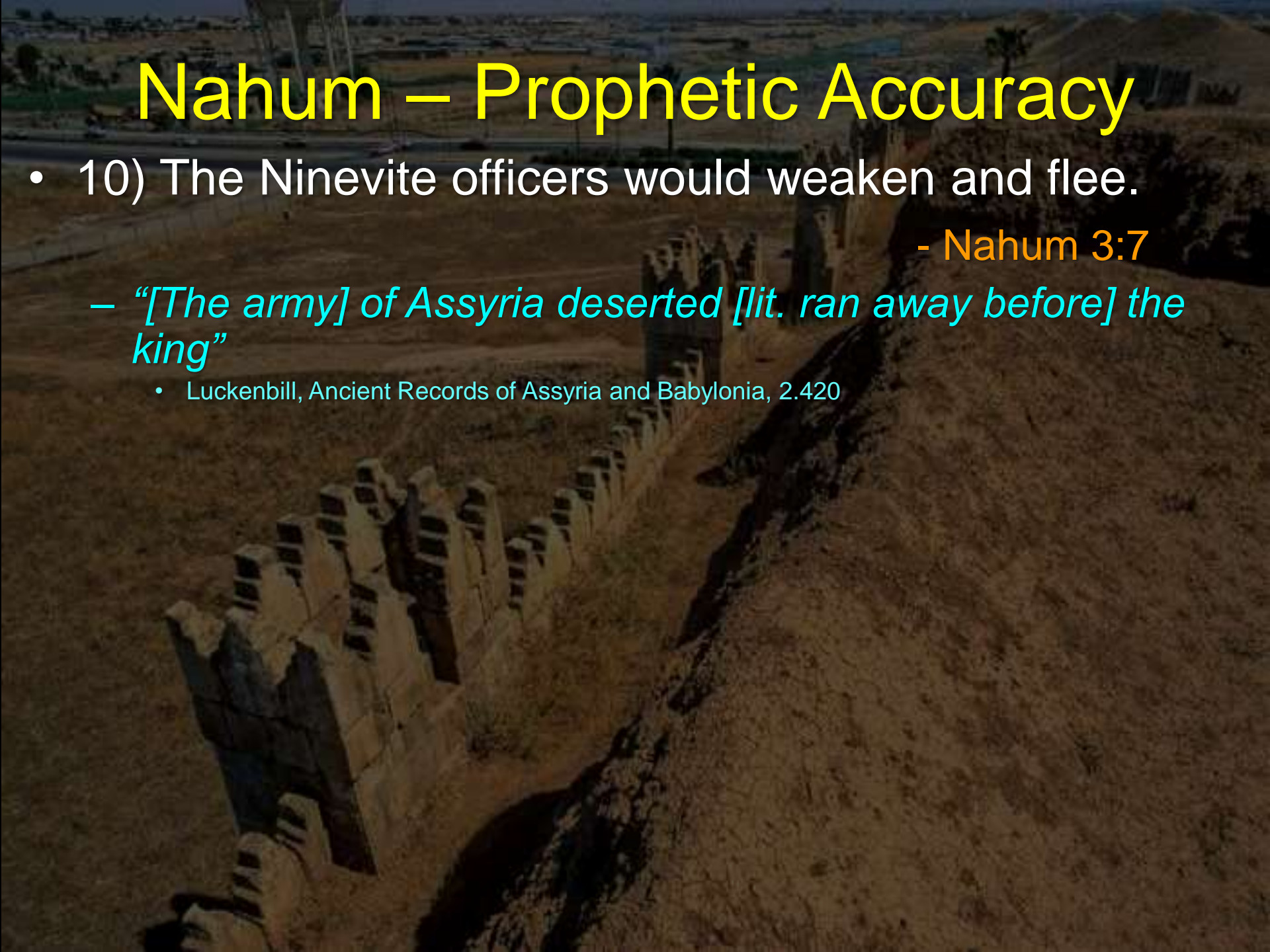
Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 10) The Ninevite officers would weaken and flee.

- Nahum 3:7

– “[The army] of Assyria deserted [lit. ran away before] the king”

- Luckenbill, Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia, 2.420



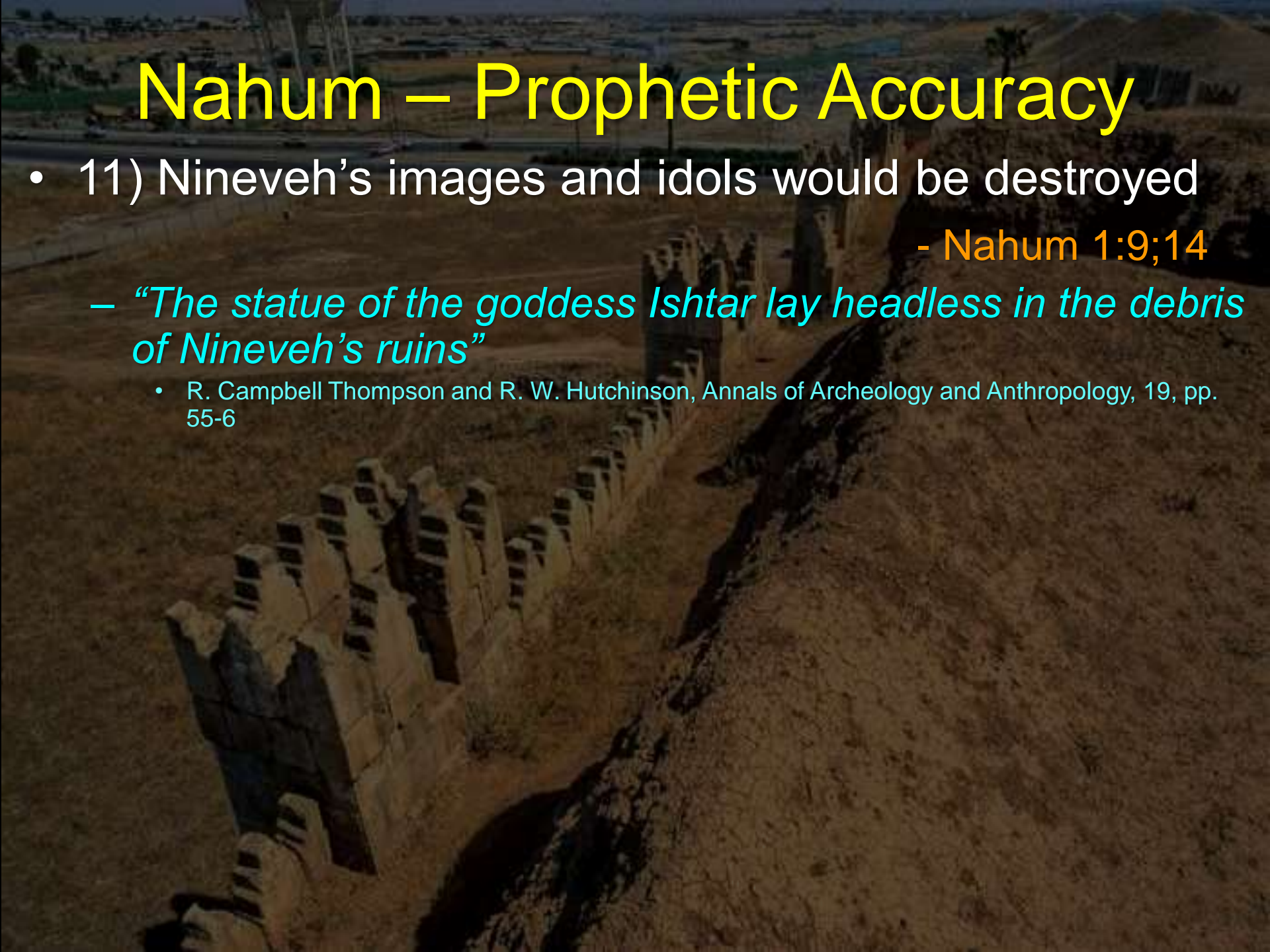
Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 11) Nineveh's images and idols would be destroyed

- Nahum 1:9;14

– *“The statue of the goddess Ishtar lay headless in the debris of Nineveh's ruins”*

- R. Campbell Thompson and R. W. Hutchinson, *Annals of Archeology and Anthropology*, 19, pp. 55-6

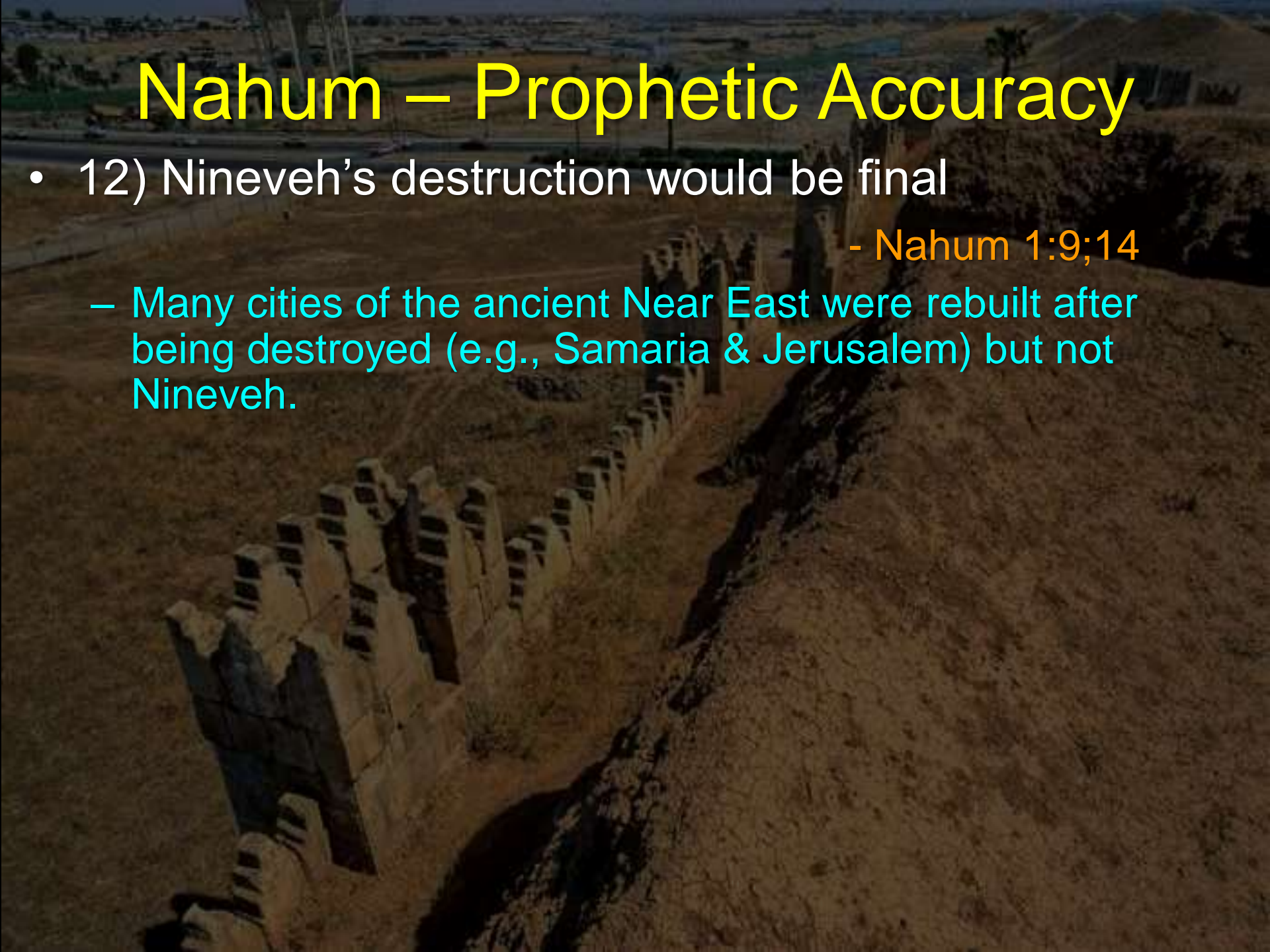


Nahum – Prophetic Accuracy

- 12) Nineveh's destruction would be final

- Nahum 1:9;14

- Many cities of the ancient Near East were rebuilt after being destroyed (e.g., Samaria & Jerusalem) but not Nineveh.



Warning to the World

- God will not sit idly by and allow wickedness and injustice to flourish
- The 'Empires' of today's world are also heading for judgment
- *"Assyria is "an object lesson to the empires of the modern world, teaching as an eternal principle of the divine government of the world, the absolute necessity for a nation's continued vitality, of that righteousness, personal, civic and national -- which alone exalteth a nation."* - Kennedy

Overview

- Nineveh's judgment decreed 1:1-15
- Nineveh's judgment described 2:1-13
- Nineveh's judgment defended 3:1-19



THE BOOK OF

Nahum



Chapter 1



Chapter 1:2-6

THE BOOK OF

Nahum

The avenging Jehovah will not leave her crimes unpunished

1 The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

2 God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth; the Lord revengeth, and is **furious**; the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

3 The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Nahum 1:1-3

- Hebrew: **בַּעַל** bah'al man / owner / husband

⁴ He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

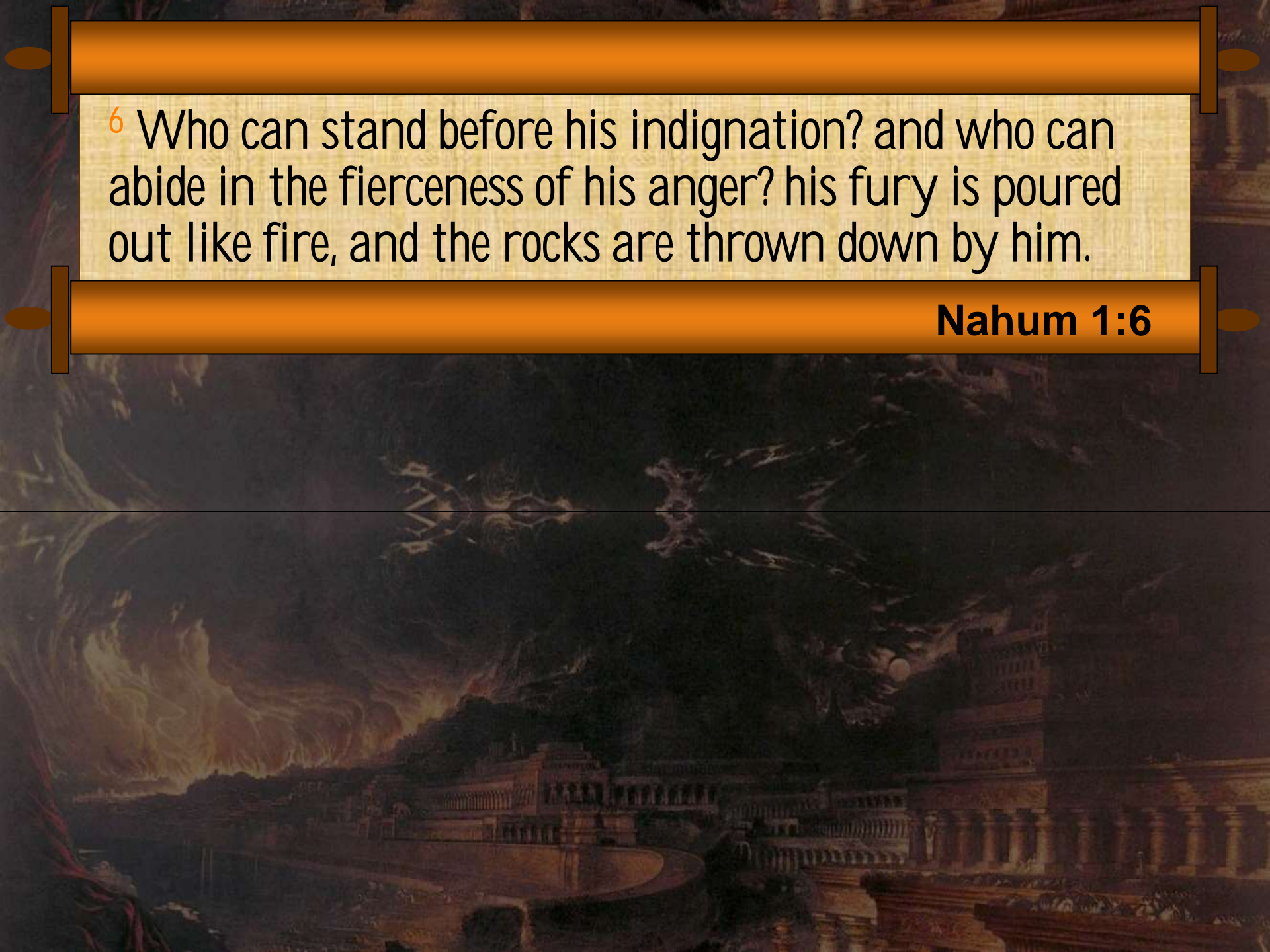
⁵ The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

Nahum 1:4-5

- *“But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!”* - **Matthew 8:27**
- Red sea / Jordan made dry for Israel to cross
- The hills melt? A metaphor or actual event?
- The Earth is burned? – **Exodus 19:18**

6 Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

Nahum 1:6





Chapter 1:7-12

THE BOOK OF

Nahum

To be faithful to his own people, Jehovah
must destroy Nineveh

7 The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble;
and he knoweth them that trust in him.

8 But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter
end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his
enemies.

Nahum 1:7-8

- One of the most important truths in scripture!
(also Psalm 119:68)
- In the case of Nineveh, it was both a
metaphorical and literal flood
- *‘Choose this day whom you will serve!’*
- Joshua 24:15

9 What do ye imagine against the Lord? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

10 For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

Nahum 1:9-10

- *“Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish”.* **Isaiah 41:11**

11 There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the Lord, a wicked counsellor.

Nahum 1:11

- *The Assyrian: one of the titles of Antichrist*
 - Isaiah 10:24
 - Isaiah 14:25
 - Isaiah 30:31
 - Isaiah 52:4 (reference the Pharoah of the Exodus)
 - Micah 5:5

The Man of Sin

- 34 Titles in the Old Testament:

Wicked Counsellor	Nahum 1:11
Adversary	Psa 74:8-10
Assyrian King	Isa 10:5,12
Belial	Nahum 1:15
Bloody and Deceitful Man	Psa 5:6
Branch of the Terrible Ones	Isa 25:5
Chief Prince	Ezek 38:2
Crooked Serpent	Job 26:13
Cruel One	Jer 30:14,23
Destroyer of the Nations	Jer 4:7
Enemy	Psa 55:3
Evil Man	Psa 140:1
Head Over Many Countries	Psa 110:6
Head of Northern Army	Joel 2:20
Idol Shepherd	Zech 11:16-17
King of Princes	Hos 8:10
King of Babylon	Isa 14:11-20

The Man of Sin

- 34 Titles in the Old Testament:

Little Horn	Dan 7:8-11,21-26;8:9-12,23-25
Man of the Earth	Psa 10:18
Cunning Canaanite	Hos 12:7
Mighty Man	Psa 52:1
The Peg	Isa 22:25
Prince That Shall Come	Dan 9:26
Prince of Tyre	Ezek 28:2-10
Profane Prince of Israel	Ezek 21:25-27
Proud Man	Hab 2:5
Rod of God's Anger	Isa 10:5
Seed of the Serpent	Gen 3:15
Son of the Morning	Isa 14:12
Spoiler, Destroyer	Isa 16:4,5
Vile Person	Dan 11:21
Violent Man	Psa 140:1,10,11
Wicked, Wicked One	Psa 9:17; 10:2,4; Isa 11:4; Nah1:15
Willful King	Dan 11:36

The Man of Sin

- 8 Titles in the New Testament:

Antichrist, (Pseudo-Christ)	1 John 2:18
Beast	Rev 13
Lawless One	2 Thess 2:8
Man of Sin	2 Thess 2:3
One Come in His Own Name	John 5:43
Son of Perdition	2 Thess 2:3
Unclean Spirit	Matt 12:43
Vine of the earth	Rev 14:18

- 42 titles (6 x 7 = man x complete)

12 Thus saith the Lord; Though they be quiet, and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down, when he shall pass through. Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more.

Nahum 1:12

- Long forgotten Assyrian legal formula,
 - discovered on Assyrian legal tablets:
- *“Even though your entire nation joins as one person to resist me, nevertheless I shall overcome you”* C.I. Schofield



Chapter 1:13-15

THE BOOK OF

Nahum



*Deliverance promised to Judah, but
judgment for Nineveh*

13 For now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder.

14 And the Lord hath given a commandment concerning thee, that no more of thy name be sown: out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile.

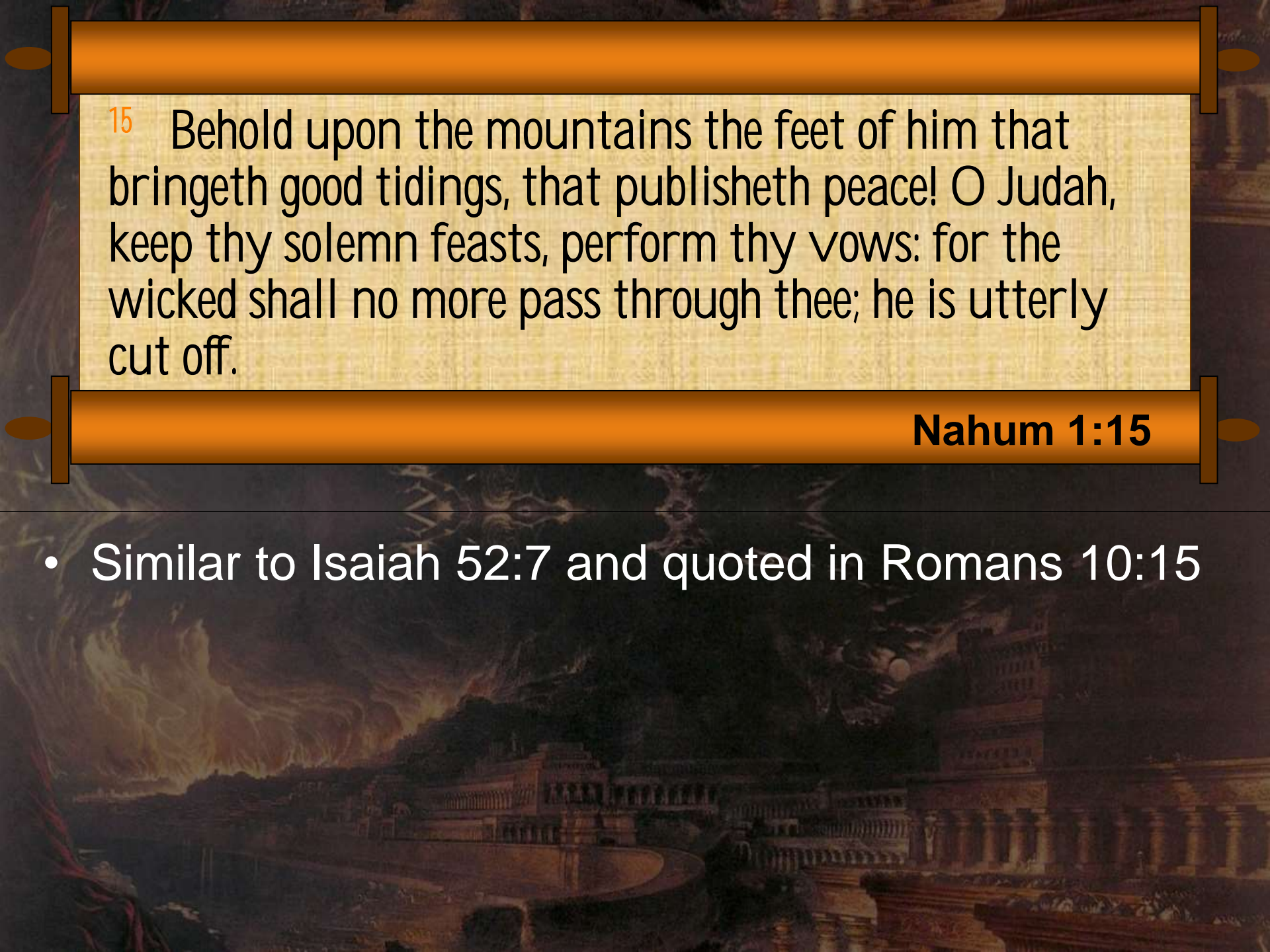
Nahum 1:13-14



15 Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

Nahum 1:15

- Similar to Isaiah 52:7 and quoted in Romans 10:15





Chapter 2:1-9

THE BOOK OF

Nahum



A vivid picture of the city's capture

¹ He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily.

² For the Lord hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches.

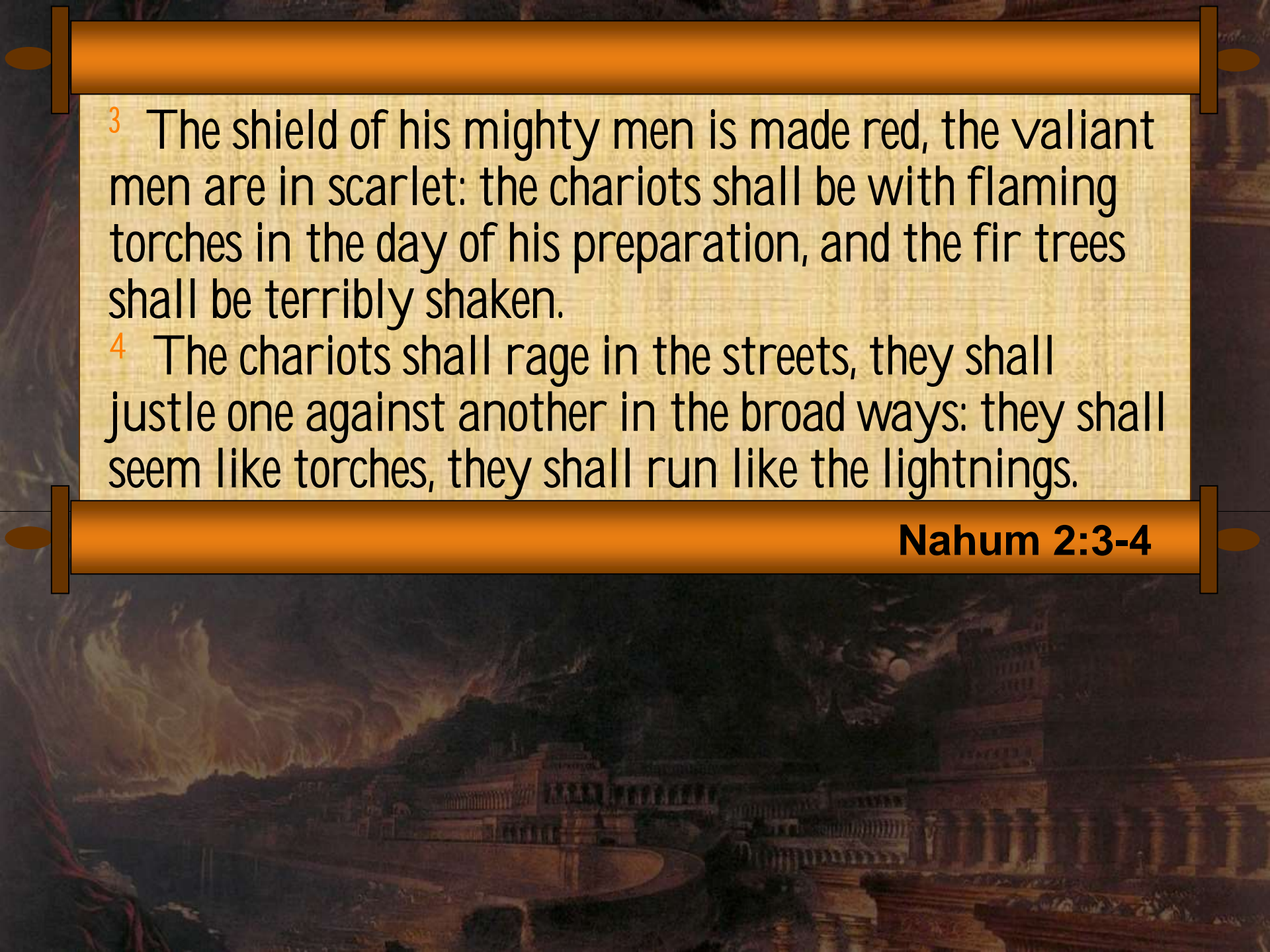
Nahum 2:1-2

- He...”: or, the disperser, or, hammer. Cyaxares and Nabopolassar: Medo and Babylonian forces destroy it in 612 B.C
- A title of Nimrod (who founded Nineveh)

3 The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken.

4 The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.

Nahum 2:3-4



5 He shall recount his worthies: they shall stumble in their walk; they shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defence shall be prepared.

6 The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved.

7 And Huzzab shall be led away captive, she shall be brought up, and her maids shall lead her as with the voice of doves, tabering upon their breasts.

Nahum 2:5-7

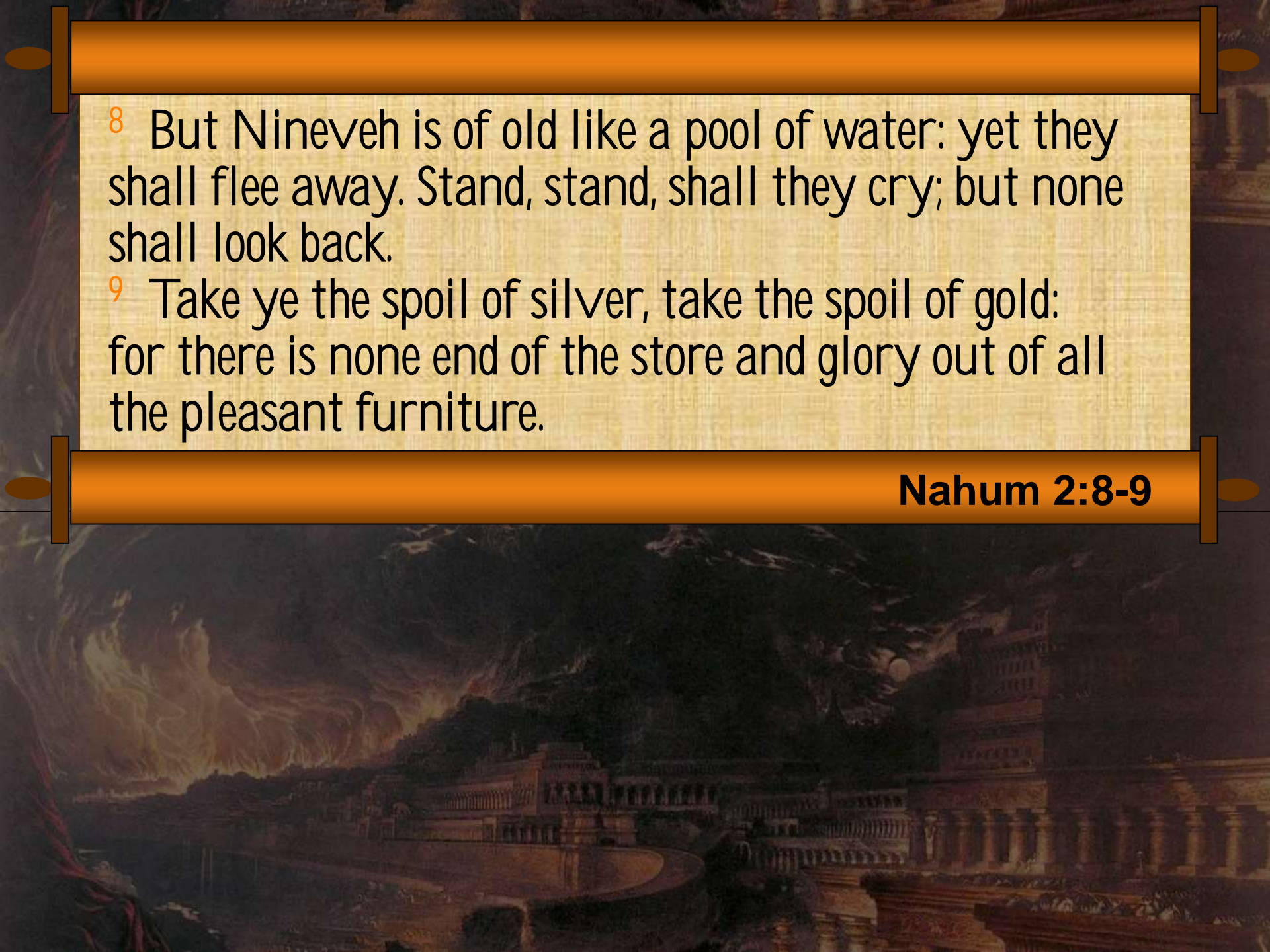
- *Perhaps Huzzab means the queen of Nineveh, who had escaped the burning mentioned above by Diodorus. As there is no account of the queen being burnt, but only of the king, the concubines, and the eunuchs, we may, therefore, naturally conclude that the queen escaped; and is represented here as brought up and delivered to the conqueror; her maids at the same time bewailing her lot. Some think Huzzab signifies Nineveh itself.*

- Adam Clarke

8 But Nineveh is of old like a pool of water: yet they shall flee away. Stand, stand, shall they cry; but none shall look back.

9 Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for there is none end of the store and glory out of all the pleasant furniture.

Nahum 2:8-9





Chapter 2:10-13

THE BOOK OF

Nahum

The desolation of the defeated city

10 She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.

11 Where is the dwelling of the lions, and the feeding place of the young lions, where the lion, even the old lion, walked, and the lion's whelp, and none made them afraid?

Nahum 2:10-11

- Assyria is now depicted as a devouring lion
- Once they were the top of the food chain...
- No longer!

¹² The lion did tear in pieces enough for his whelps, and strangled for his lionesses, and filled his holes with prey, and his dens with ravin.

¹³ Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.

Nahum 2:12-13





Chapter 3:1-4

THE BOOK OF

Nahum

The sins of Nineveh recounted



1 Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not;

2 The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the pransing horses, and of the jumping chariots.

3 The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcasses; and there is none

Nahum 3:1-3

- Just like Assyria, our culture today is based on lies!
 - The foundation of our education system – Evolution!
 - Our concept of heaven & hell
 - The notion that morality is relative

4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

Nahum 3:4

- Assyria was full of everything God hates
 - Immorality
 - Idolatry
 - People traded as commodities
 - The devaluing of human life



Chapter 3:5-7

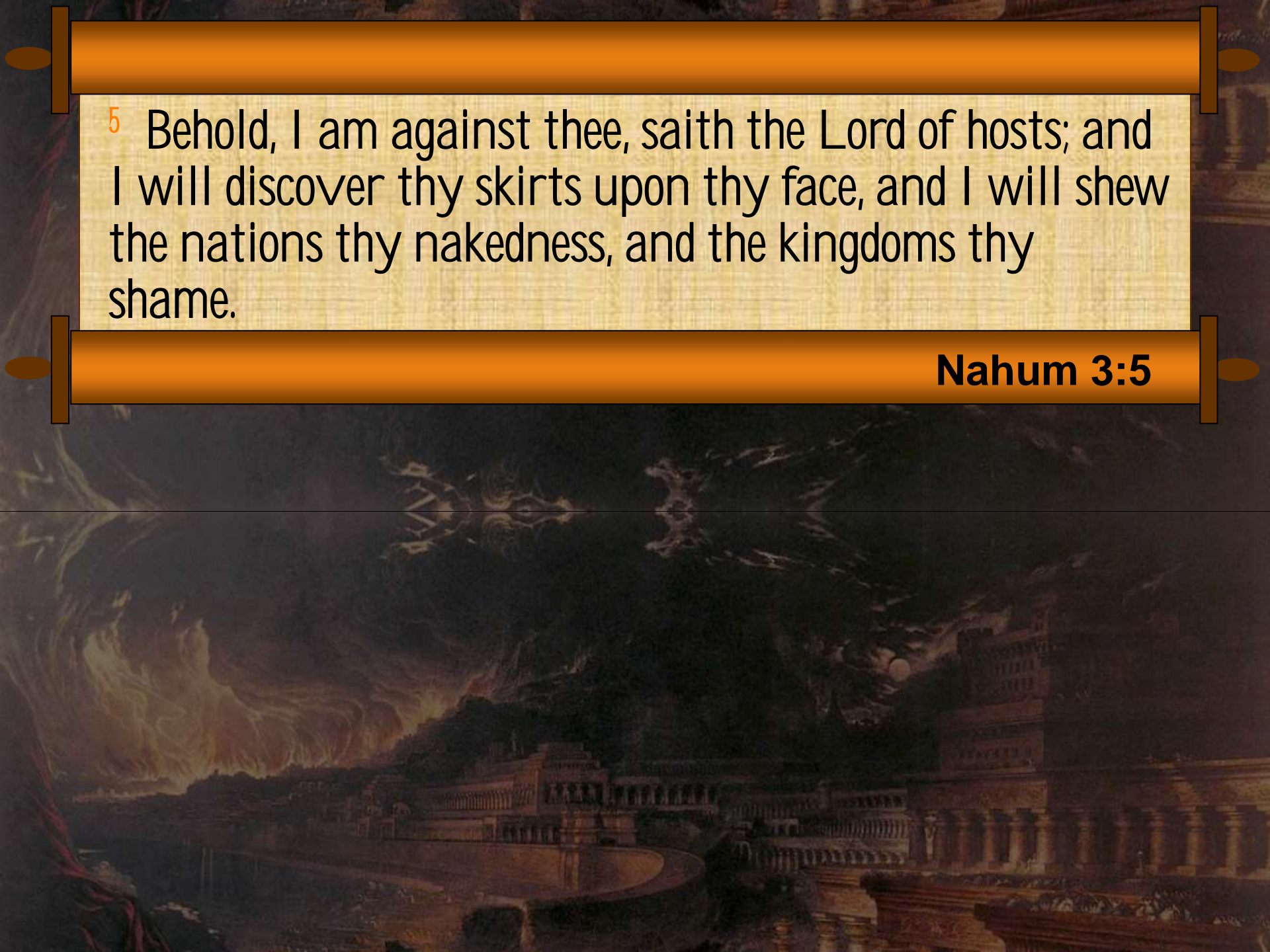
THE BOOK OF

Nahum

She will be humiliated by Jehovah

5 Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame.

Nahum 3:5



6 And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock.

7 And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? whence shall I seek comforters for thee?

Nahum 3:6-7





Chapter 3:8-13

THE BOOK OF

Nahum

As No-Amon (Thebes) had fallen, so must
Nineveh

8 Art thou better than populous No, that was situate among the rivers, that had the waters round about it, whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was from the sea?

9 Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite; Put and Lubim were thy helpers.

10 Yet was she carried away, she went into captivity: her young children also were dashed in pieces at the top of all the streets: and they cast lots for her honourable men, and all her great men were bound in chains.

Nahum 3:8-10

- No-Amon (Thebes in Egypt) was once a great city... destroyed in 663 B.C.
- Nineveh will be destroyed likewise

11 Thou also shalt be drunken: thou shalt be hid, thou also shalt seek strength because of the enemy.

12 All thy strong holds shall be like fig trees with the firstripe figs: if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater.

13 Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars.

Nahum 3:11-13





Chapter 3:14-19

THE BOOK OF

Nahum

Resistance will be vain, the city will fall

14 Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strong holds: go into clay, and tread the mortar, make strong the brickkiln.

15 There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts.

Nahum 3:14-15

- Try to defend yourself if you like...
- It will be futile!

16 Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and flieth away.

17 Thy crowned are as the locusts, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, but when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they are.

Nahum 3:16-17

- Ref. Isaiah 14:13
 - Assyria had been proud before God
- Nineveh was destroyed so completely that it was not discovered again for 2,432 years!

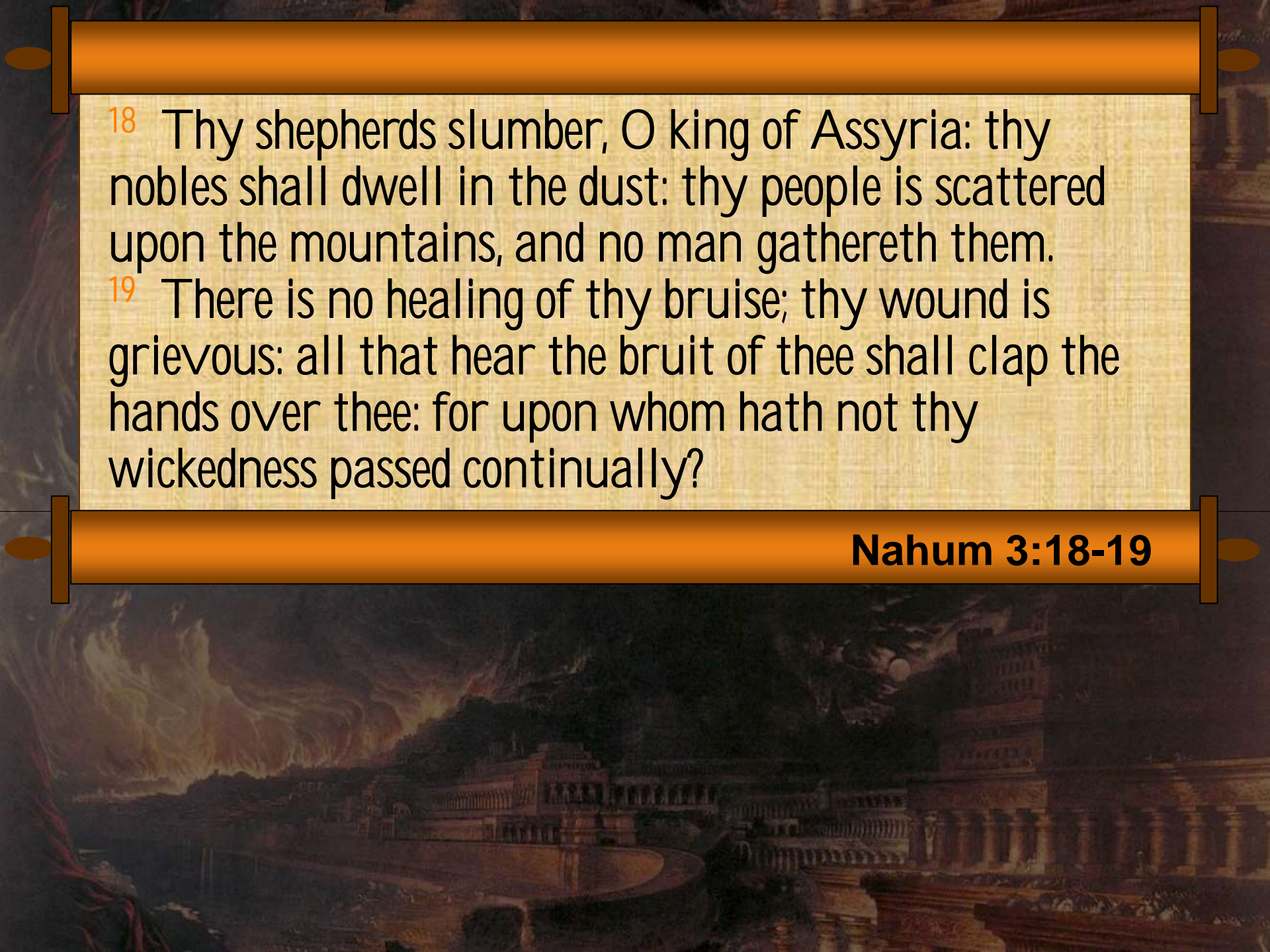
Nineveh

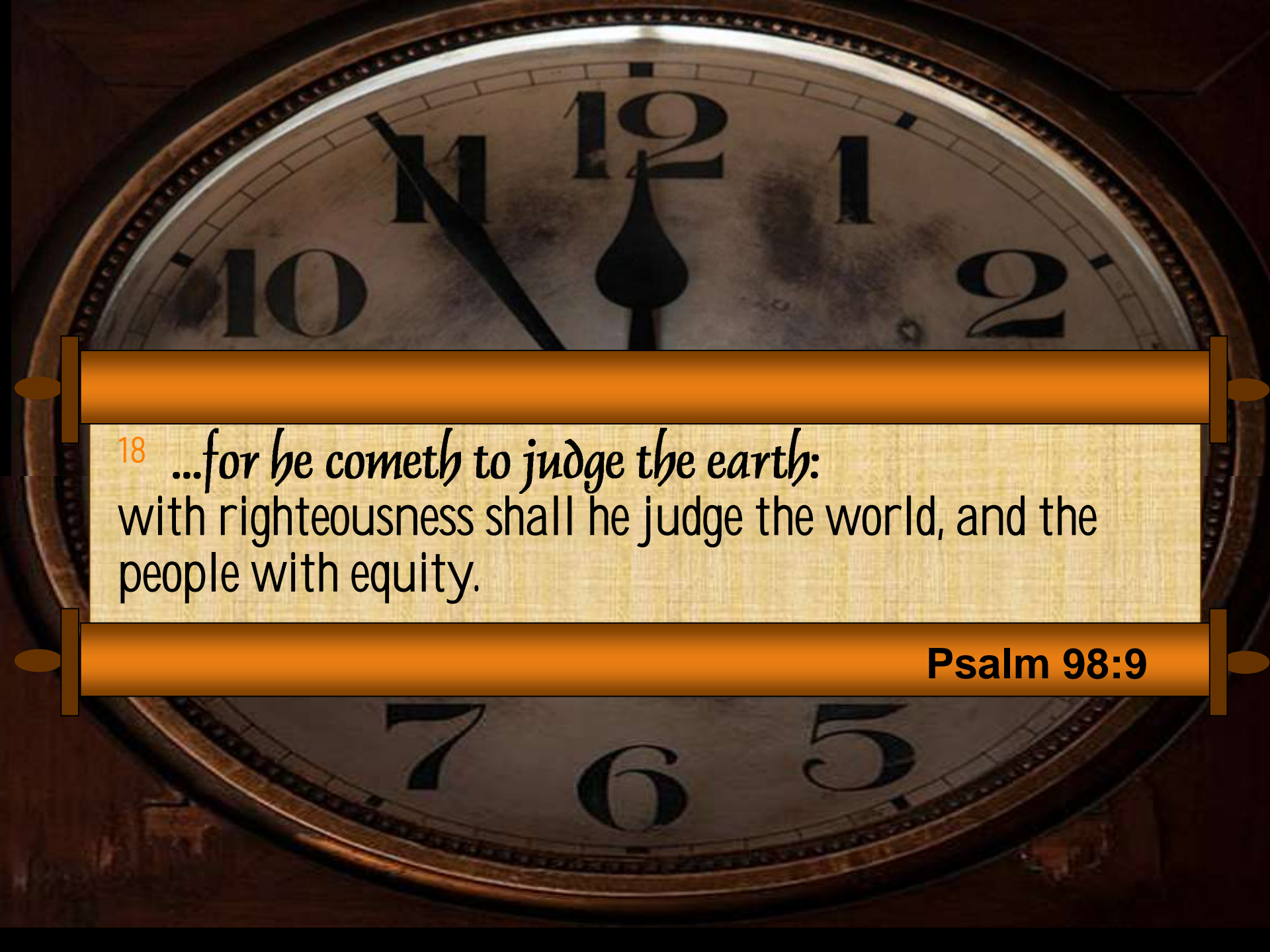
- Skeptics thought Nineveh was just a mythological city - like Atlantis
- However, in the 19th Century Arabs discovered some ancient ruins.
- 1820: Nineveh was mapped by the British archaeologist Claudius J. Rich.
- 1847 Sir Austen Henry Layard explored the ruins and found the lost palace of Sennacherib –
- Once again, the critics were silenced, and the historical accuracy of the Bible vindicated.

18 Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them.

19 There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

Nahum 3:18-19





¹⁸ ...for he cometh to judge the earth:
with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the
people with equity.

Psalm 98:9



calvary
chapel
portsmouth

www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk