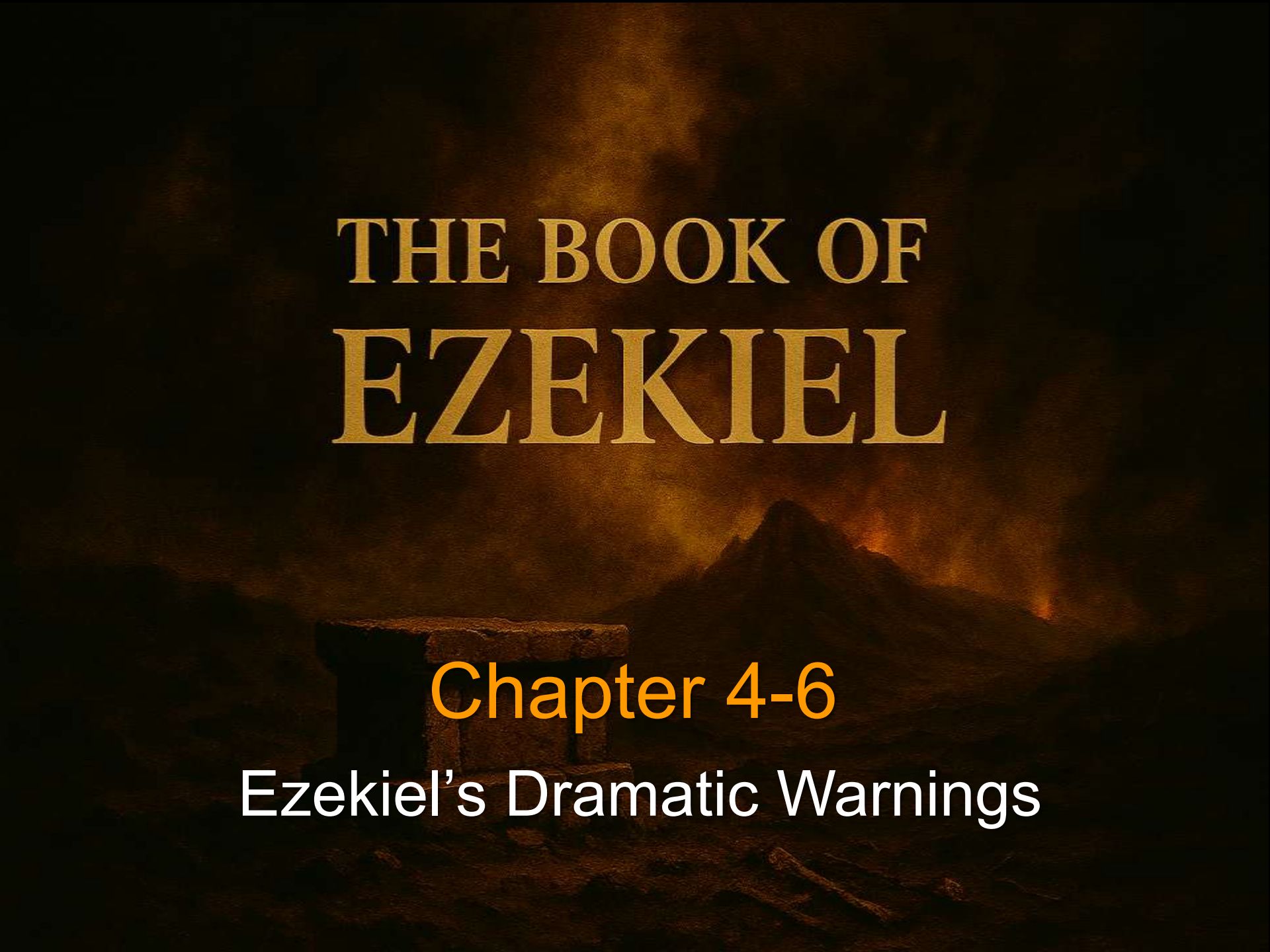


Chapter 4-6

Ezekiel’s Dramatic Warnings

Ezekiel The Priest

- Ezekiel & his fellow Jews settled next to the Chebar River
  - The Chebar was a canal off the Euphrates
- The book begins 5 years into his time in Babylon – as he turns thirty.
  - This would have been the age he normally would have begun his priestly service in the temple in Jerusalem (cf. Numbers 4:2-3).
- There was no chance of returning to Jerusalem now.
- Instead, God calls him to be a prophet to take his message to his people in Babylon

The Book of Ezekiel

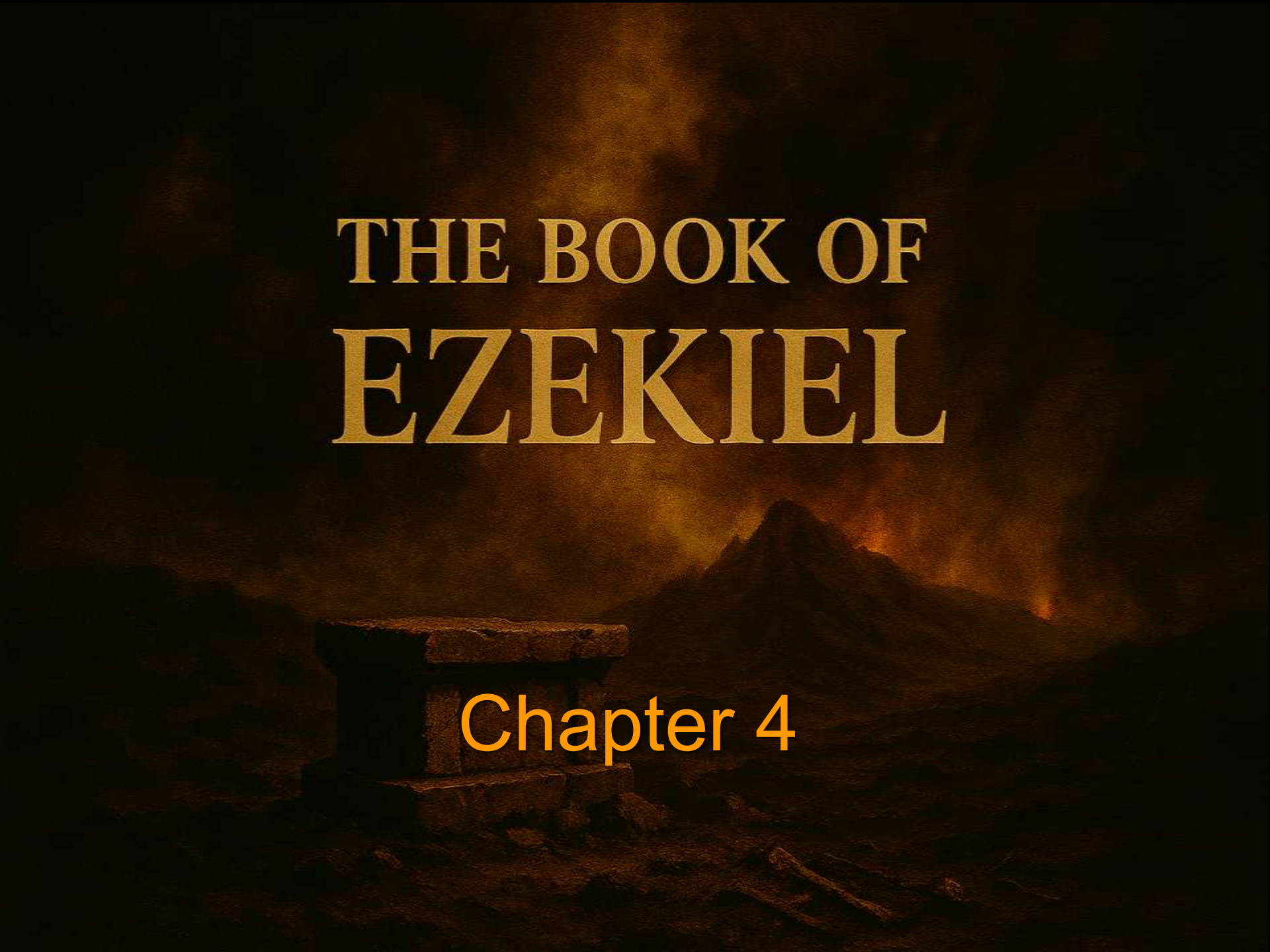
- "Ezekiel excels all former prophets in point of skill, beauty, and perfection of treatment" (Ewald):
- "The whole of Ezekiel's symbolism is derived from the Israelitish sanctuary, and is an outcome of Old Testament ideas and views" (Kiel).
- "With divine authority Ezekiel dispelled illusions, denounced false prophets, declared repentance, restoration and renewal" (H. Lockyer).

The Book of Ezekiel

- The rabbis argued that no one should study Ezekiel until he was at least 30 years of age.
- They said that he who understood the winged chariot knew all the mysteries of creation!

Overview

- Prophecies Against Judah Before the Fall of Jerusalem (Ch4 – Ch24)
- Messages of the fifth year, 592 B.C.
- Four acted prophecies (Ch4 - Ch5)
  - 1) A picture of the siege of Jerusalem (4:1-3):
  - 2) He lays on his left and then right side symbolically bearing the iniquity of Israel and Judah (4:4-8).
  - 3) The coming famine acted out (4:9-17).
  - 4) Slaughter of the siege described (5:1-4):
  - An exposition of the signs (5:5-17).
- Warning to the land itself (the physical mountains, hills, and valleys of Israel) as if it were a person or entity that could hear and understand him (6:1-14)


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
Chapter 4

1 Thou also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it
before thee, and pourtray upon it the city, even
Jerusalem:
2 And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it,
and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against
it, and set battering rams against it round about.
3 Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it
for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set
thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou
shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the
house of Israel.

Ezekiel 4:1-3



4 Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity.

5 For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel

Ezekiel 4:4-5

6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.

Ezekiel 4:6

- Iniquity of Israel: 390 years
- Iniquity of Judah: 40 years
- Combined period of Judgment on the Nation:
- 430 years

7 Therefore thou shalt set thy face toward the siege of Jerusalem, and thine arm shall be uncovered, and thou shalt prophesy against it.
8 And, behold, I will lay bands upon thee, and thou shalt not turn thee from one side to another, till thou hast ended the days of thy siege.

Ezekiel 4:7-8

9 Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentiles, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof, according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon thy side, three hundred and ninety days shalt thou eat thereof.

10 And thy meat which thou shalt eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day: from time to time shalt thou eat it.

Ezekiel 4:9-10

11 Thou shalt drink also water by measure, the sixth
part of an hin: from time to time shalt thou drink.
12 And thou shalt eat it as barley cakes, and thou shalt
bake it with dung that cometh out of man, in their
sight.
13 And the Lord said, Even thus shall the children of
Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles,
whither I will drive them.

Ezekiel 4:11-13

- The scope of this prophecy has to do with Israel (as a nation) being scattered among the nations

14 Then said I, Ah Lord God! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth.

15 Then he said unto me, Lo, I have given thee cow's dung for man's dung, and thou shalt prepare thy bread therewith.

Ezekiel 4:14-15

16 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, behold, I will break the staff of bread in Jerusalem: and they shall eat bread by weight, and with care; and they shall drink water by measure, and with astonishment:
17 That they may want bread and water, and be astonied one with another, and consume away for their iniquity.

Ezekiel 4:1-3

The Judgment on Israel

- Ezekiel prophecies a total of 430 years of judgment against Israel as a Nation
  - Throughout which time they would be scattered amongst the gentiles
- 70 years are accounted for in Babylon
- But we are left with 360 years of judgment seemingly unaccounted for.
- There is no specific period of 360 years in Israel's history that fits this prophecy.
- However…

… we are given a clue in Leviticus 26...

14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do
all these commandments;
15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul
abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my
commandments, but that ye break my covenant:
16 I also will do this unto you;...

Leviticus 26:14-16

- The spiritual law of sowing & reaping

The Law of Sowing & Reaping

7 For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind:

Hosea 8:7

16 I also will do this unto you...

Leviticus 26:16-17

16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

Leviticus 26:16-17

18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me,
then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Leviticus 26:18

- If after disobedience and the subsequent judgment…
- You still don't obey…
- Your punishment will be multiplied by 7
- Reiterated 4 x in this chapter (verse: 18,21,24,28)

The Judgment on Israel

- As prophesied, Israel were punished for their disobedience with 70 yrs in Babylon
  - Forced out of their land to live amongst the gentiles
- But that still leaves 360yrs unaccounted
- Although a remnant of Israel returned to the Land after the 70 years, they still did not ‘hearken unto Him’ and even rejected their Messiah!
- So, according to Leviticus 26 we need to multiply their (remaining) punishment by 7x

Mathematical Prophecy

- If we multiply the remaining 360 years x7
  = 2520 years
- But God is always precise!
- How many DAYS would this be?
  – In scripture prophetic years are always reckoned as 360 days

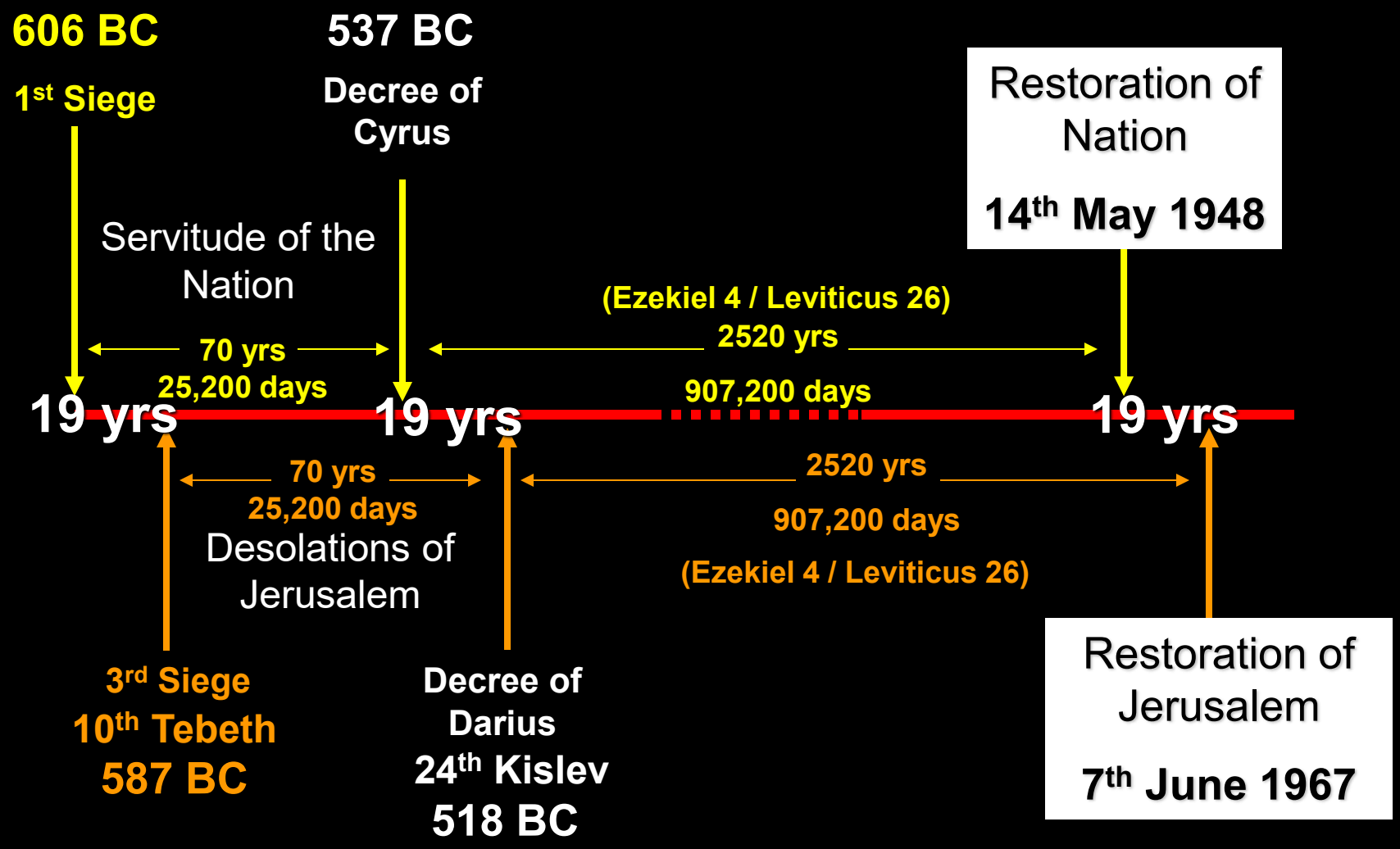
360-day Prophetic Years

- Gen 7:11, 8:4 cf Gen 7:24 5mts, 150d = 30 day months
- Dan 7:25, 12:7 inferred cf Rev 12:6, 12:14, 13:5-7 1260d
- Rev 11:2, 11:3, 13:5, 12:6 42 mts, 1260d
- Servitude of Nation, 606 B.C. – 537 B.C.
  70yrs @ 360d per yr
- Desolations of Jerusalem, 587 B.C. – 518 B.C.
  70yrs @ 360d per yr
- Ezekiel 4, 430yrs – 70 = 360yrs x 7 (cf Lev 28) = 2520yrs @ 360d
  Servitude: 537 B.C. – 14/5/1948
  Desolations: 518 B.C. – 7/06/1967
- Daniel 9:27, Jeremiah's Prophecies + Final week = 2520d
- Daniel 9:24-27, Exactly 360 letters in 4 verses (Hebrew)

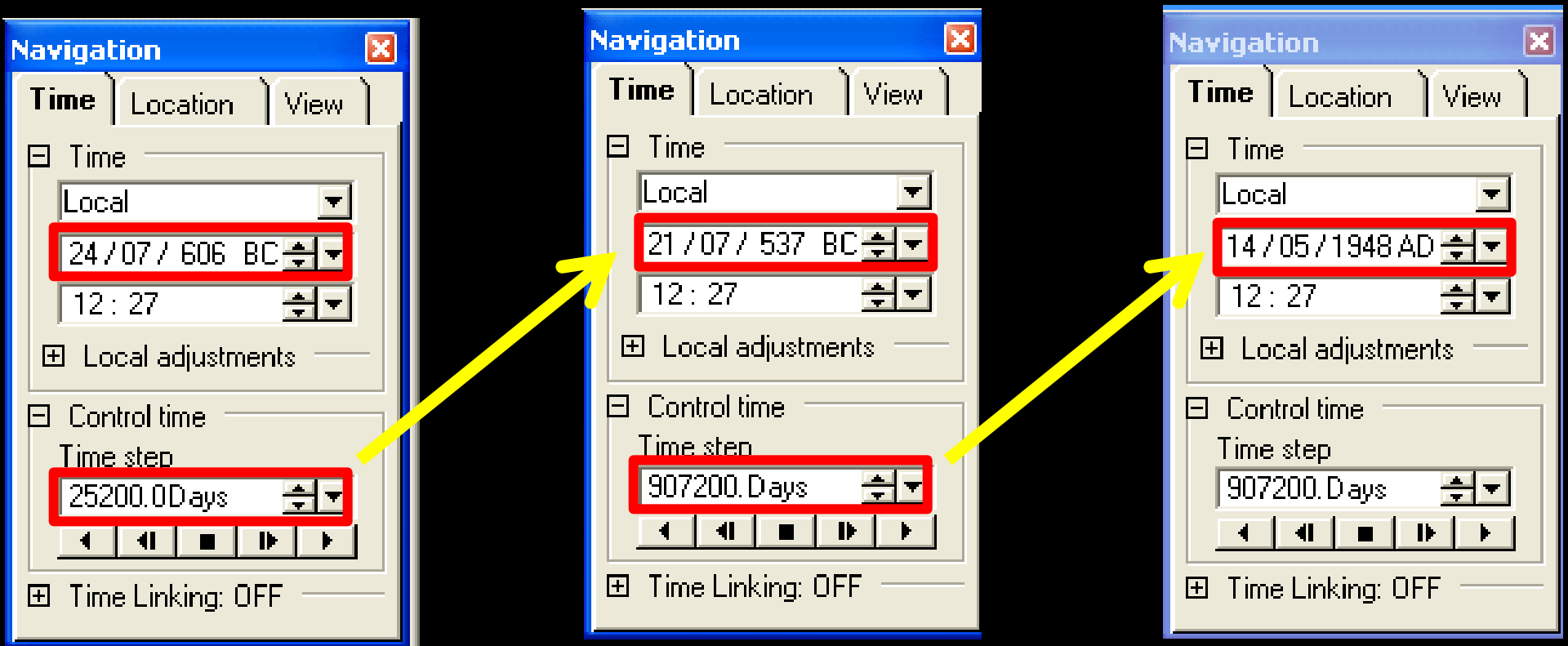
Mathematical Prophecy

- So, if we then multiply our 2,520 (years) by 360 (days)…
- We find a potential 907,200 days until Ezekiel's prophecy would be fulfilled.

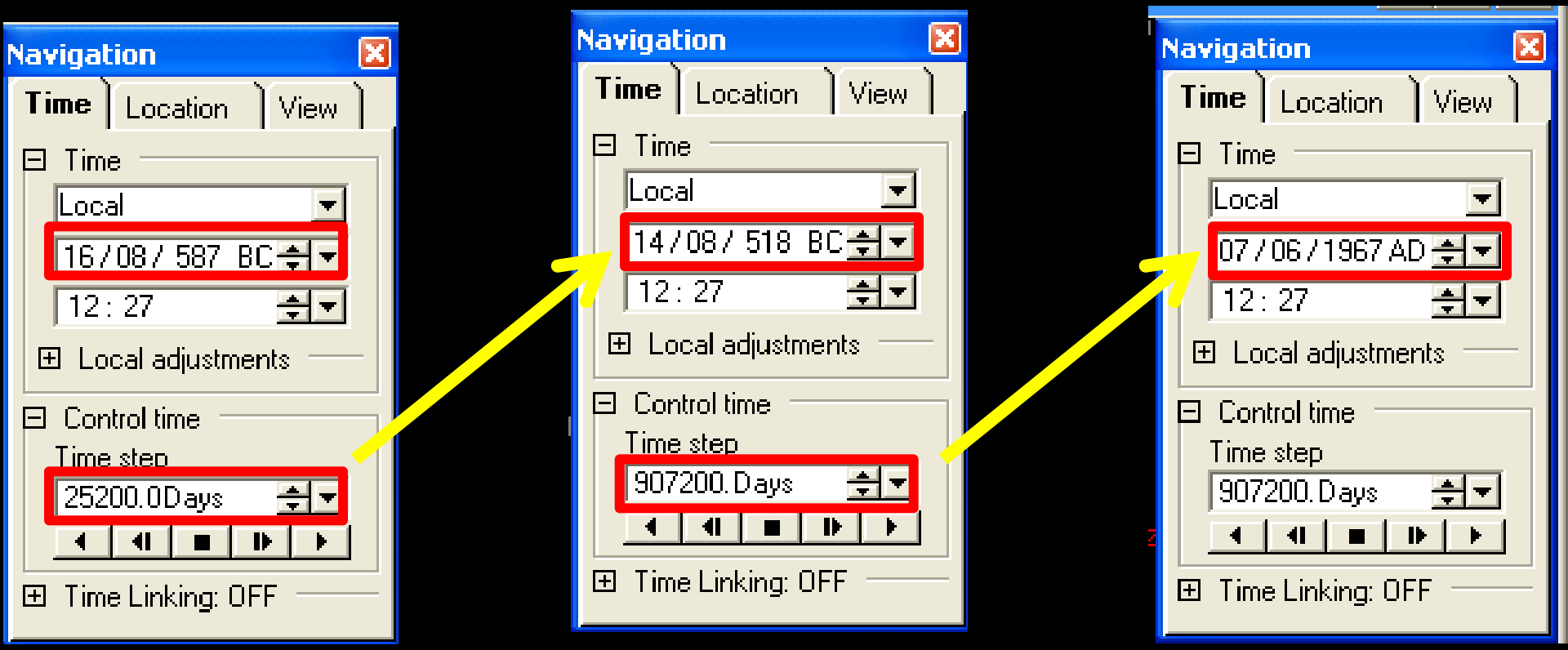
Precision of Prophecy

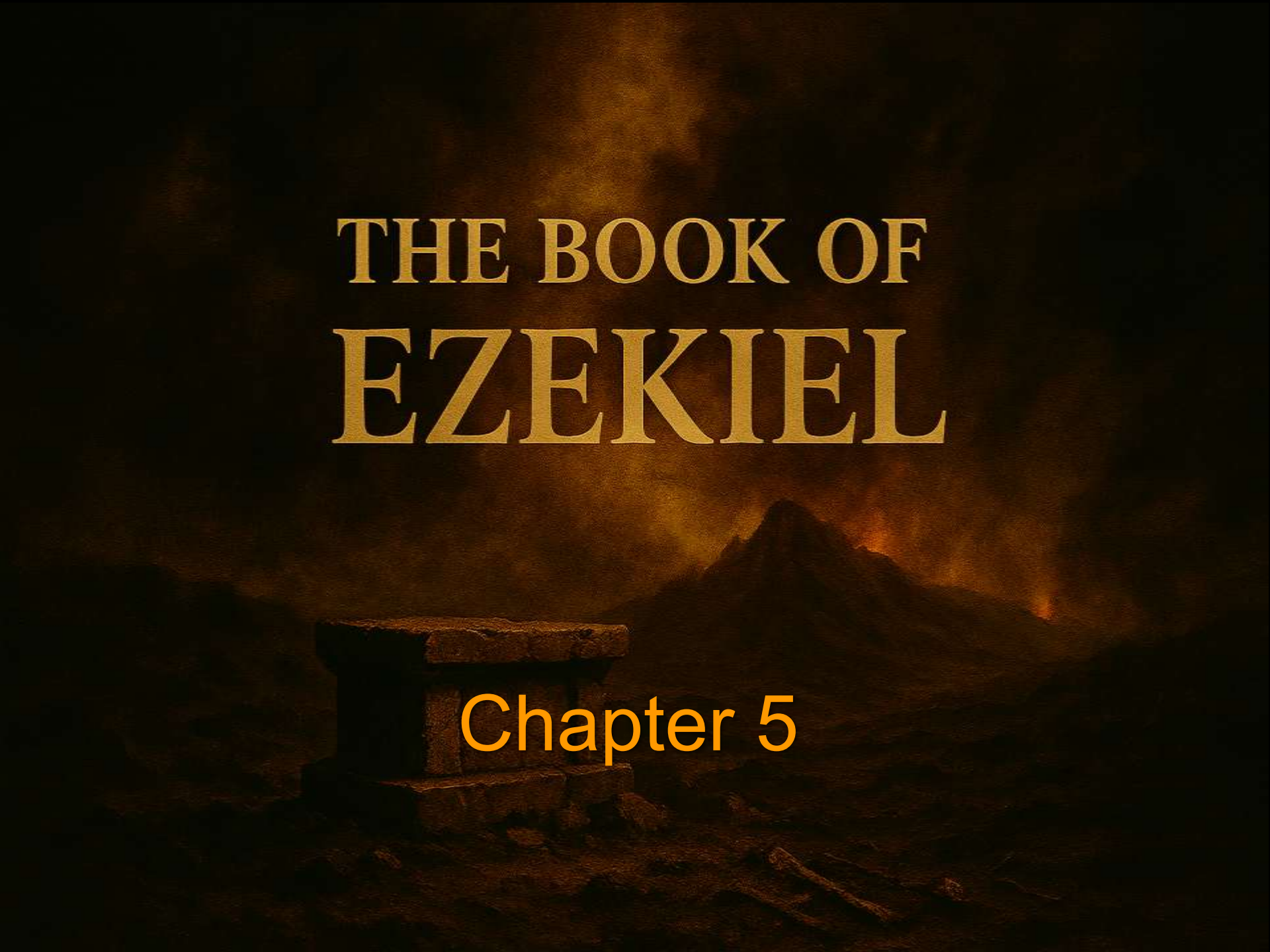


Servitude of the Nation



Desolation of Jerusalem




THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
Chapter 5

[1] And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair.

Ezekiel 5:1

- The Levitical Law forbade priests from shaving their heads or trimming their beards in certain ways.
- They were specifically commanded not to shave their head bald or shave off the edges/corners of their beards. Therefore, Levitical priests were not meant to be clean-shaven. (see Lev 21:5)
  - This was intended to be a shock and attract attention

[2] Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, and smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them.

Ezekiel 5:2

- All this was to symbolize the coming judgment
- *"The reaction of the exiled Jews observing Ezekiel would have been a mix of shock, horror, and profound understanding of an impending catastrophe"*.
- *"Ezekiel's symbolic act were a deliberate and vivid violation of cultural and religious norms to communicate a powerful message of divine judgement"*.

Clear Warning

- Loss of Dignity:
  - The beard, in particular, was a symbol of dignity and honour in the ancient Near East.
  - To have it forcibly removed was a great dishonour.
  - Ezekiel's self-inflicted shaving would have been seen as a profound public act of shame.
- Symbolic of Destruction:
  - The act itself, especially the command to use a "sharp sword" as a razor (Ezekiel 5:1), clearly foreshadowed the violent, military destruction and total severance of the people from their land.
  - The prophet was acting out the future catastrophe that God would bring upon them through the Babylonian forces.

3 Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts.
4 Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire; for thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel.
5 Thus saith the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.

Ezekiel 5:3-5

- Not cutting = to distinguish them from surrounding nations and to maintain ritual purity.
- Cutting = to show that they would be intermingled with the surrounding nations and they were now impure!

6 And she hath changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them.

7 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgments, neither have done according to the judgments of the nations that are round about you;

Ezekiel 5:6-7

Utterly Defiled!

- By following God's command, Ezekiel was publicly defiling himself
- This action symbolised the utter defilement and disgrace that was about to befall Jerusalem and the Jewish people.
- It indicated that even their sacred priesthood and covenant status were being (temporarily) annulled by God's judgement.

8 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations.
9 And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations.
10 Therefore the fathers shall eat the sons in the midst of thee, and the sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments in thee, and the whole remnant of thee will I scatter into all the winds

Ezekiel 5:8-10

11 Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord God; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.
12 A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

Ezekiel 5:11-12

11 Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord God; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.
12 A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

Ezekiel 5:11-12

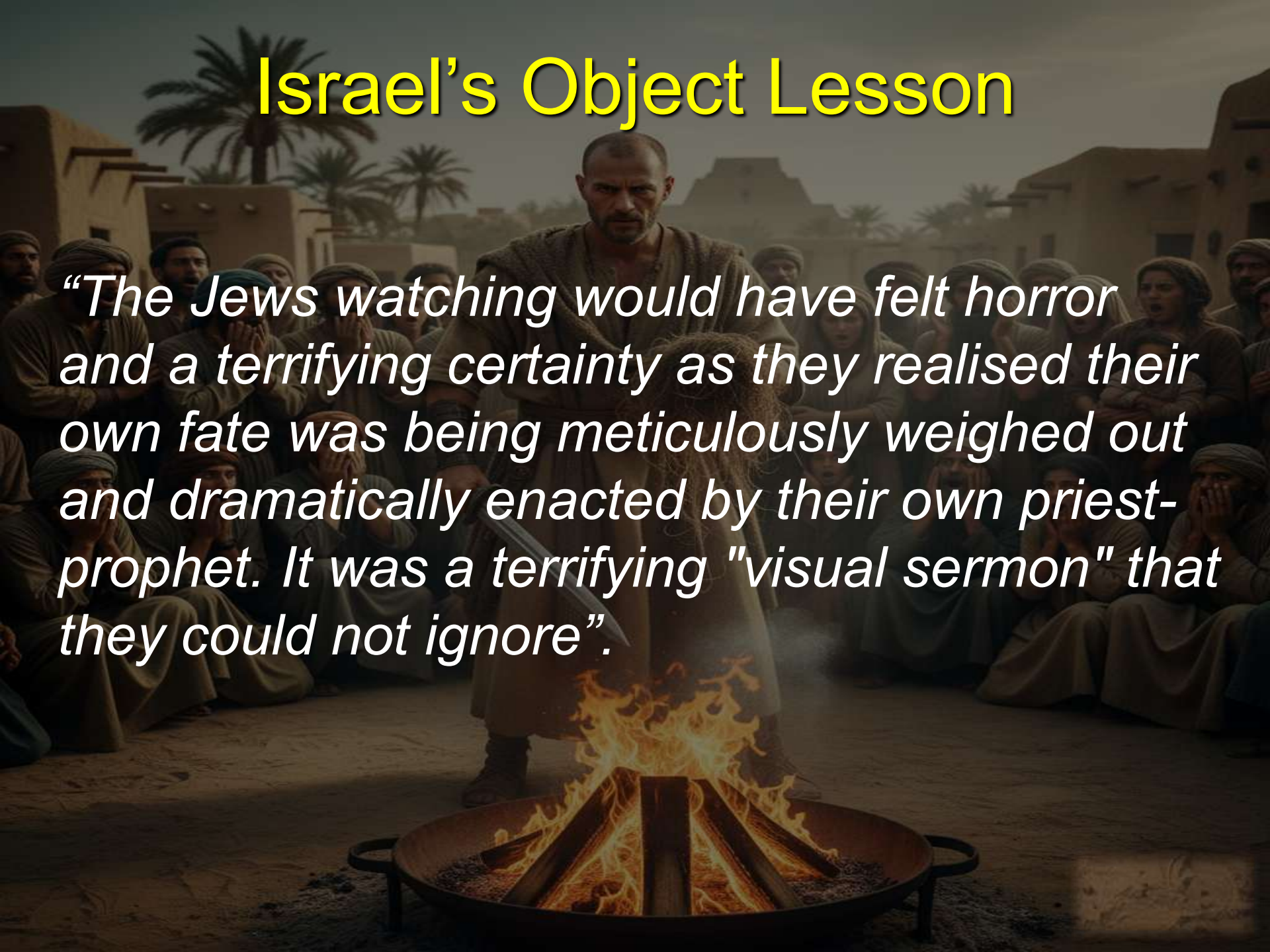
13 Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I wil5
cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be
comforted: and they shall know that I the Lord have
spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my
fury in them.
14 Moreover I will make thee waste, and a reproach
among the nations that are round about thee, in the
sight of all that pass by.

Ezekiel 5:13-14

Israel's Object Lesson

- The Hair Represents the People:
  - The hair symbolised the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah.
- The Division Represents Judgement:
  - The meticulous act of weighing and dividing the hair into three parts foreshadowed the exact judgement God would dispense:
    - One-third burned in the city (death by famine and pestilence during the siege).
    - One-third struck with the sword around the city (killed in battle).
    - One-third scattered to the wind (exile and dispersion).

Israel's Object Lesson



"The Jews watching would have felt horror and a terrifying certainty as they realised their own fate was being meticulously weighed out and dramatically enacted by their own priest-prophet. It was a terrifying "visual sermon" that they could not ignore".

15 So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment unto the nations that are round about thee, when I shall execute judgments in thee in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I the Lord have spoken it.

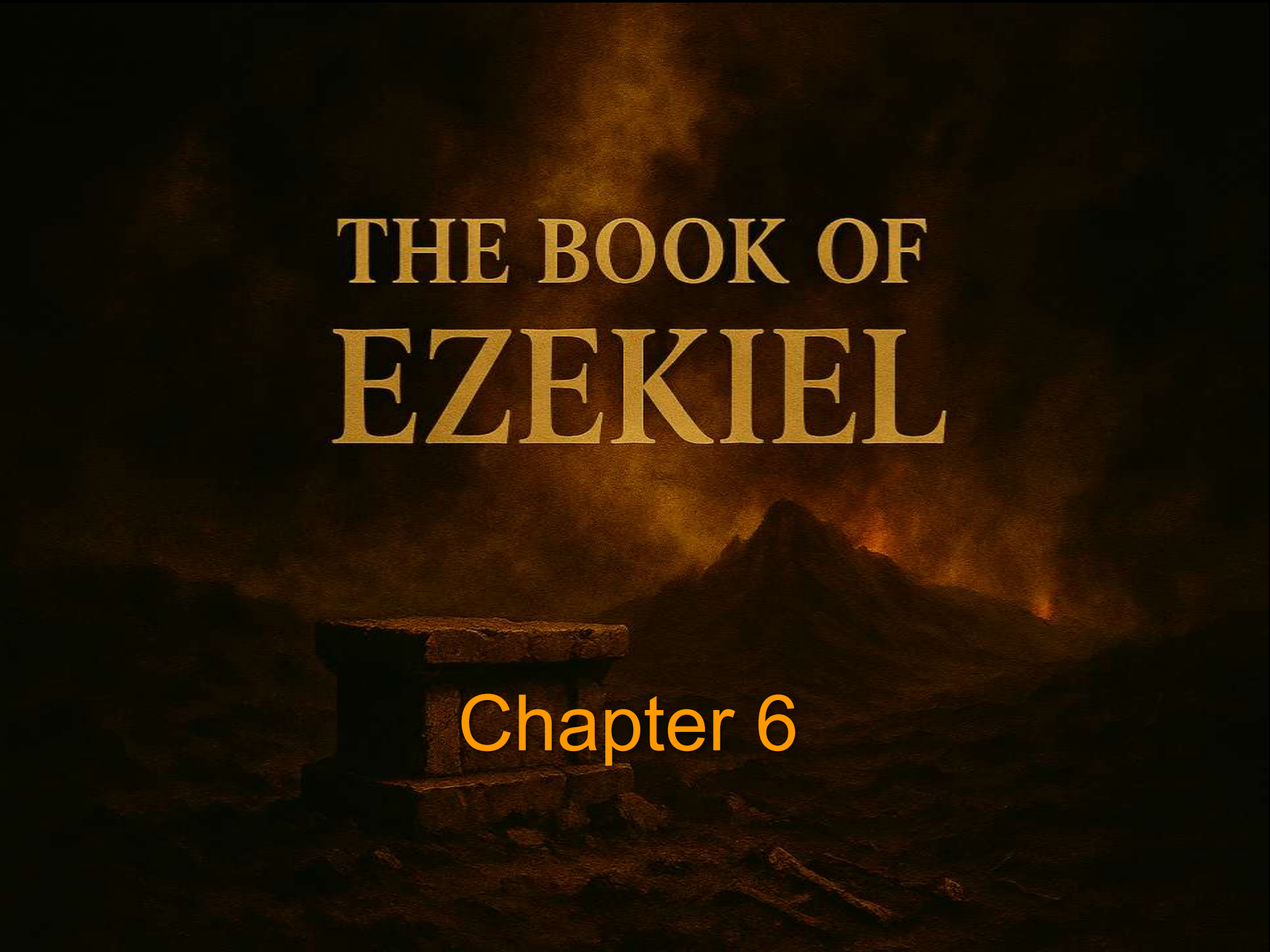
16 When I shall send upon them the evil arrows of famine, which shall be for their destruction, and which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the famine upon you, and will break your staff of bread:

Ezekiel 5:15-16

17 So will I send upon you famine and evil beasts, and they shall bereave thee; and pestilence and blood shall pass through thee; and I will bring the sword upon thee. I the Lord have spoken it.

Ezekiel 4:17

- Note the ways judgment will come:
  - War
  - Famine
  - Evil Beasts
  - Pestilence
  - Specific mention of the sword
- Note the parallel to the coming judgment on Earth described in Matt 24/Rev 6


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
Chapter 6

Overview

- Prophecies Against Judah Before the Fall of Jerusalem (Ch4 – Ch24)
- Messages of the fifth year, 592 B.C.
- Four acted prophecies (Ch4 - Ch5)
  - 1) A picture of the siege of Jerusalem (4:1-3):
  - 2) He lays on his left and then right side symbolically bearing the iniquity of Israel and Judah (4:4-8).
  - 3) The coming famine acted out (4:9-17).
  - 4) Slaughter of the siege described (5:1-4):
  - An exposition of the signs (5:5-17).
- Warning to the land itself (the physical mountains, hills, and valleys of Israel) as if it were a person or entity that could hear and understand him (6:1-14)

1 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
2 Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,
3 And say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord God; Thus saith the Lord God to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys; Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.

Ezekiel 6:1-3

4 And your altars shall be desolate, and your images
shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men
before your idols.
5 And I will lay the dead carcases of the children of
Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones
round about your altars.

Ezekiel 6:4-5

6 In all your dwellingplaces the cities shall be laid
waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that your
altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your
idols may be broken and cease, and your images may
be cut down, and your works may be abolished.
7 And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye
shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 6:6-7

8 Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some
that shall escape the sword among the nations, when
ye shall be scattered through the countries.
9 And they that escape of you shall remember me
among the nations whither they shall be carried
captives, because I am broken with their whorish
heart, which hath departed from me, and with their
eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they
shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have
committed in all their abominations.

Ezekiel 6:8-9

10 And they shall know that I am the Lord, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them.

Ezekiel 6:10

11 Thus saith the Lord God; Smite with thine hand, and
stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil
abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall
by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence.
12 He that is far off shall die of the pestilence; and he
that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that
remaineth and is besieged shall die by the famine: thus
will I accomplish my fury upon them.

Ezekiel 6:11-12

13 Then shall ye know that I am the Lord, when their slain men shall be among their idols round about their altars, upon every high hill, in all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, the place where they did offer sweet savour to all their idols.
14 So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitations: and they shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 6:13-14

Repeating History

1 The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

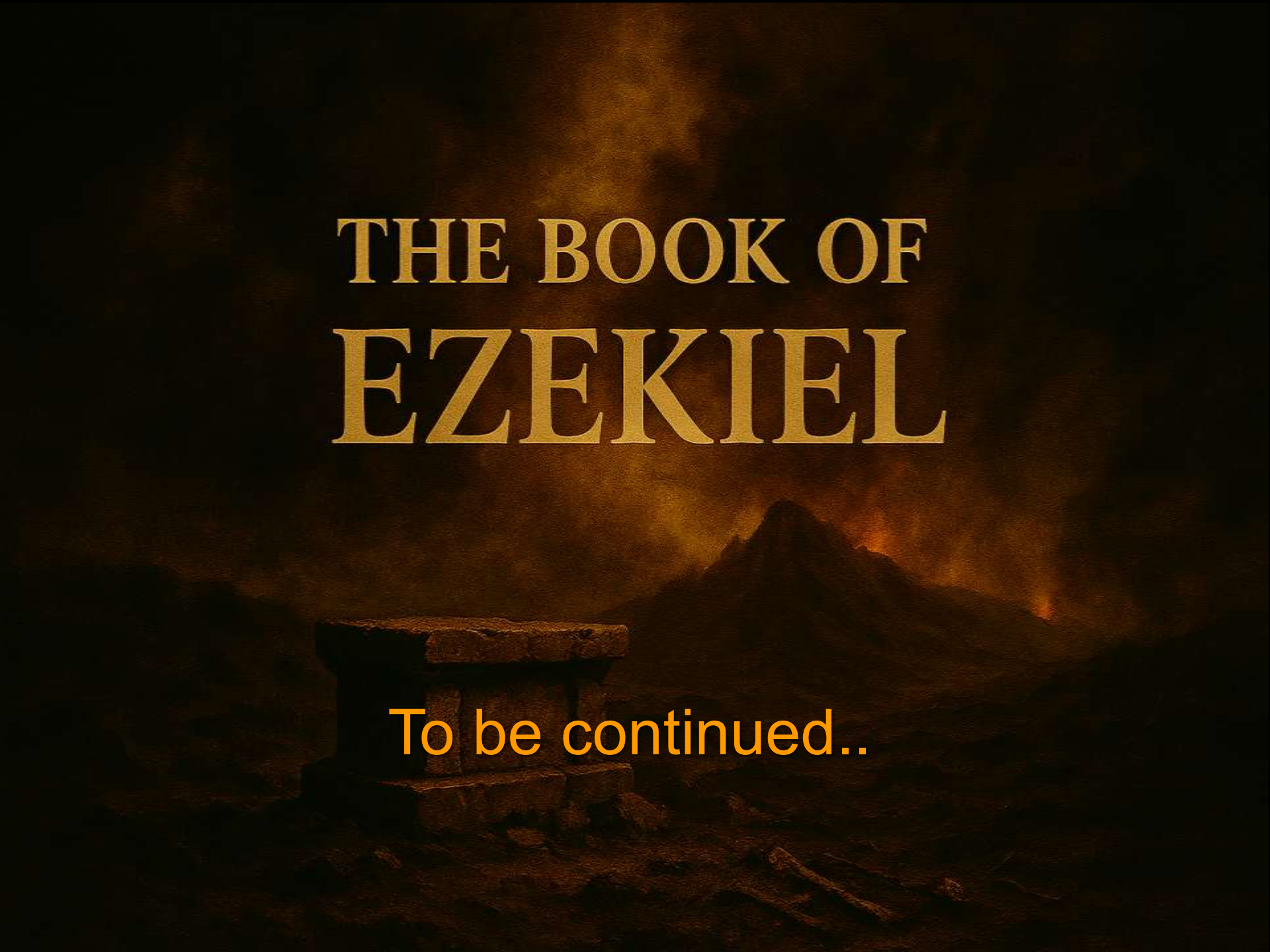
If there is one thing that history teaches us, it's that man learns nothing from history.

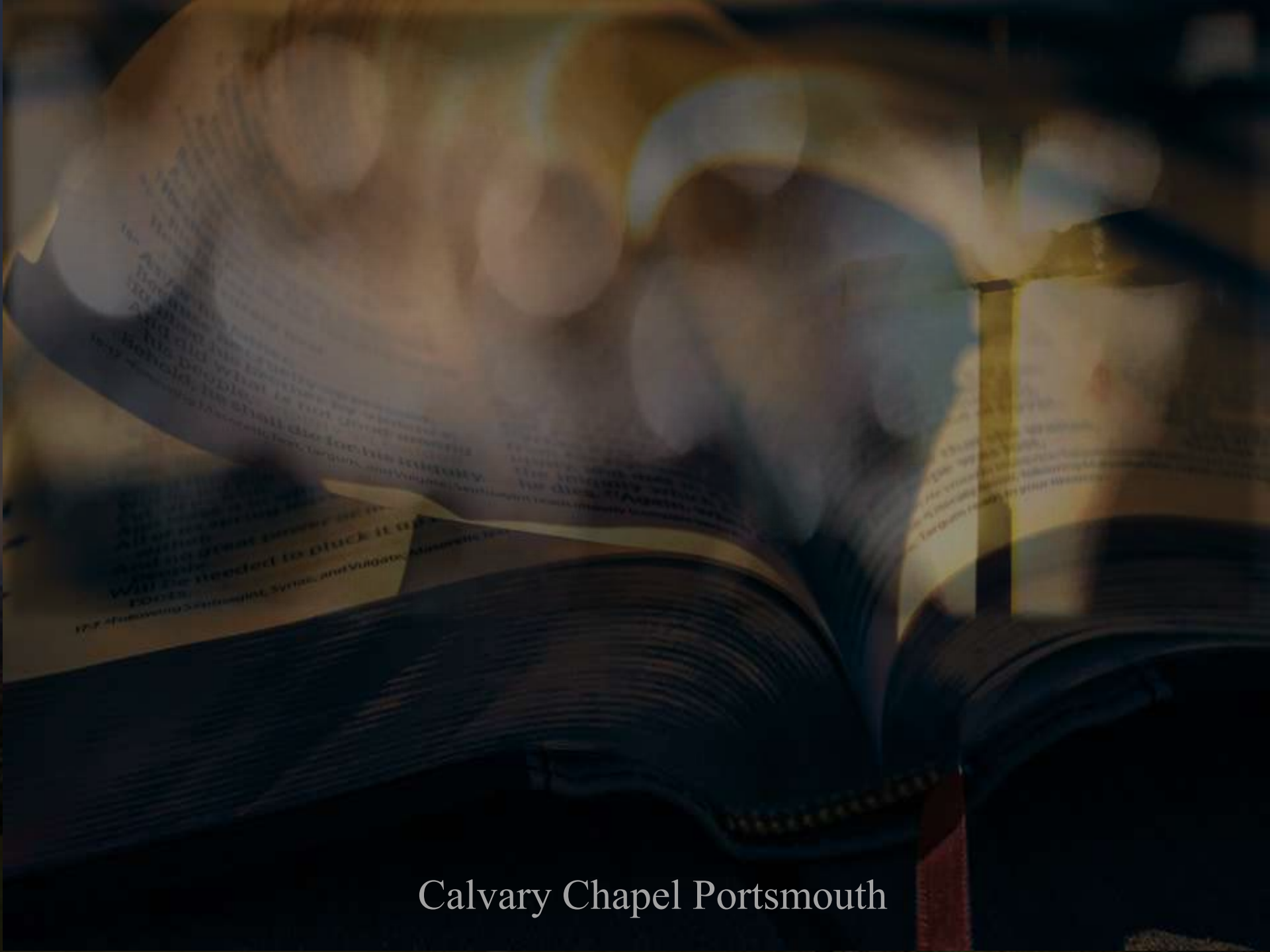
Hagel

Already Revealed

7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
To be continued..


Calvary Chapel Portsmouth