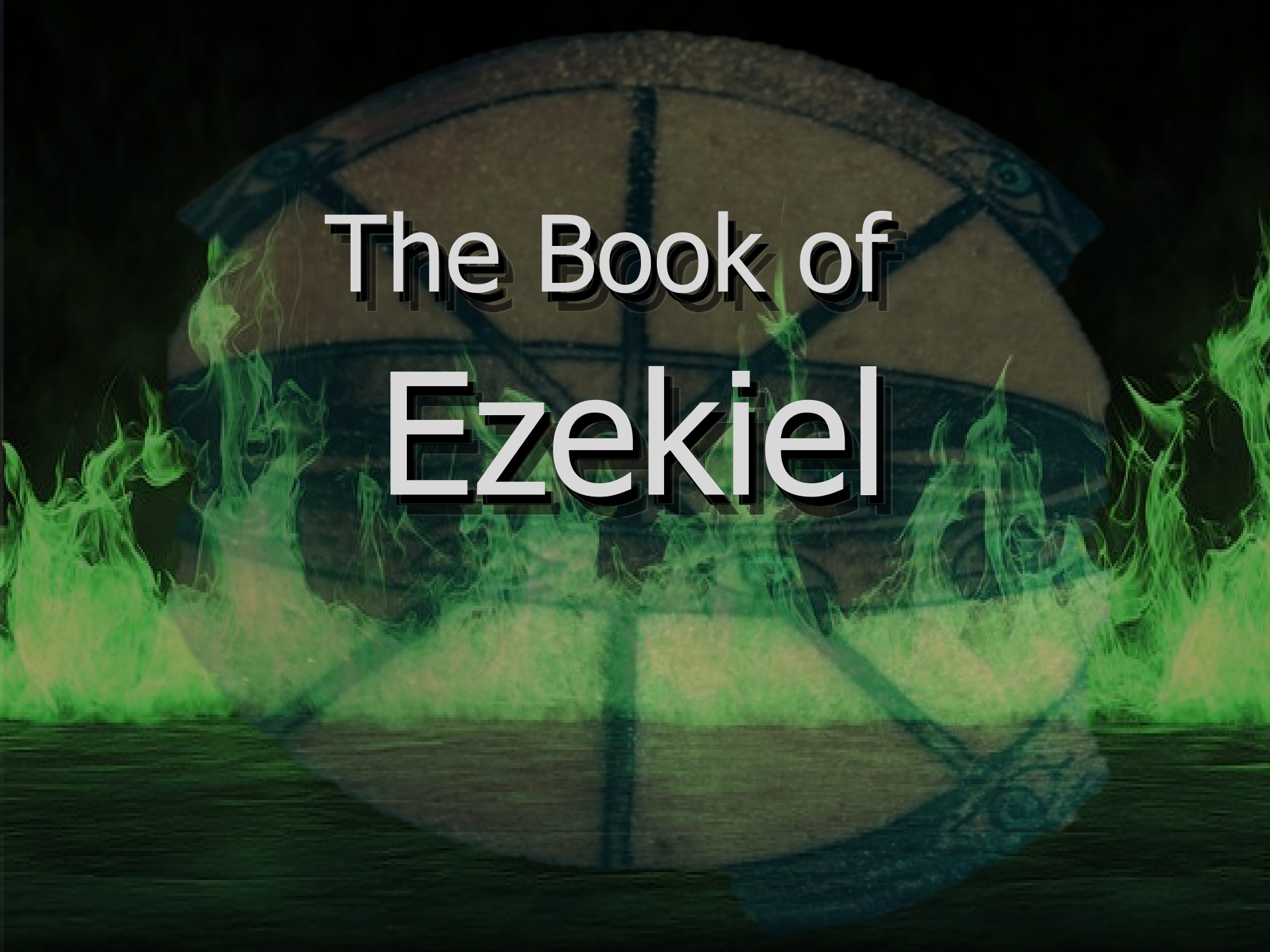

The Book of
Ezekiel

Ezekiel

"Probably no book of the Old Testament is as little read as his, and it may well be the least popular, as it is the least known of the Old Testament" John Paterson

Ezekiel

"His book is difficult, obscure and tantalizing...but man needs it just as much as the Hebrew exiles needed it.“

"There is no book of the Old Testament in which the theological views of the author shine out with greater clearness than they do in this" P. C. Plumptre

Ezekiel

"We best understand Ezekiel as we try to grasp what his own generation should have understood..." Ellison

Ezekiel

"Ezekiel adds something almost completely missing from modern thought…

…the element of hope" A. Blackwood

Ezekiel

"His mission was to justify God's dealings with Israel, and to keep alive in individual souls the faith which was ready to perish under the pressure of adversity"

James Hastings

Ezekiel

- Prophet to the exiles in Babylon
- Taken captive from Jerusalem in 597 B.C.
- Contemporary with Jeremiah & Daniel
  - Most likely very influenced by Jeremiah's preaching
- Taught & prophesied to his people for 22 years
- The most dramatic of all the prophets
  - Classed as one of the 'major prophets'

Ezekiel

- His name means ‘God will strengthen'.
- He was a priest (1:3). Of the line of Zadok, of the family of Eleazar, son of Aaron the Levite (compare 43:19 and 40:46).

Ezekiel

- Born around 622 B.C.
  - in the midst of Josiah's reformation.
  - Saw the iniquity of the 3 subsequent kings
- He was taken to Babylon at age 25 and began his work at age 30
- As with Isaiah and Jeremiah, His ministry started with a specific call of the LORD, to deliver a specific message
- Ezekiel was God’s man of the hour

Ezekiel

- He knew how to struggle
- His wife died (in fulfilment of prophecy) as the final siege on Jerusalem was taking place.
  - Before Joseph could govern justly he was treated unjustly
  - Before Moses could lead Israel through the wilderness he was led into the wilderness.
  - Before David became king he lived as an outcast.
  - Sometimes all we see is the struggle and miss the face that God is in the middle of building something that requires foundations that cannot be shaken.

Ezekiel

- He was Christ-like
  - Acquainted with grief
  - Had a shepherds heart (16x)
  - He wept over Jerusalem
  - Yet declared God's righteousness and faithfulness

Ezekiel

- He was a prophet and preacher:
- *“As a prophet, preacher, writer and watchman of souls, Ezekiel stands with the greatest of the Hebrews. He is at once one of the most mysterious, yet one of the most entrancing, of the Hebrew seers"* *J. P. Richter*

Ezekiel

- *"Ezekiel stands forth as the most powerful figure during the years of Jewish captivity in Babylonia...He kept alive in an alien land the faith which had made Israel"* E. Chase
- *“He deserves credit for leading the exiled nation safely through their ordeal”* John Waddey

Life in Babylon

- The Jews were treated well, not harshly as slaves.
- They were settled in communities, family ties were respected, and were able to remain separate from the other nations
- They were allowed to practice their religion; their elders were allowed to function.

Life in Babylon

- Their only restriction seems to have been that they could not return to their homeland.
- Many became so comfortable that they chose to stay even after the exile had ended

Life in Babylon

- However, false prophets were filling the exiles with false hopes for a speedy return to Jerusalem (Jer. 28:1-4):
- They *"saw peace for Jerusalem when there was no peace...and caused the people to trust in lies"* (13:16, 19).
- Ezekiel lived in a time of great deception and was called to teach his people the truth

Life in Babylon

- While Jeremiah was declaring the imminent fall of Jerusalem from *within the city*…
- …Ezekiel was predicting the same from *the land of Babylon*.
- Daniel was by now elevated to a place of prominence in Nebuchadnezzar's government
- Daniel was God's prophet to the Babylonian rulers, Ezekiel to the captive Hebrews

Ezekiel

- Ezekiel's mission was to vindicate God for bringing judgment on Israel
- He also had to undo the teaching of the false prophets and to clear their minds of their delusions.
- He had to convince them to "unpack," to make their homes in Babylon and serve God, waiting for a future restoration

Miscellaneous

- In the land of Babylon the synagogue and the office of the scribe were born. They have stayed with the Jews to this day.
- Ezekiel often quotes from the TORAH
- For a history of the period, see:
  - 2 Kings chapters 21-25 and
  - 2 Chronicles chapters 33-36
- At least 25 references to the Holy Spirit are found in his book; more than in any other Old Testament book

Ezekiel

- Key Phrases:
  - "Son of man," used over 100 times. It stresses the humanity of Ezekiel in contrast to God.
  - "The word of the LORD came unto me" used 49 times.
  - "And ye shall know that I am Jehovah" used over 60 times (see 6:7, 10, 13, etc.).
  - "The glory of the Lord" used 12 times in the first 11 chapters.

Ezekiel

- Key Thought:
  - Ezekiel taught Israel that before they could ever return to their homeland, they must return to God.

God's Timepiece

"Ezekiel is for the Christian today. It is a book of the times, for God's time is always revealed by His dealing with the Jew"

Henrietta C Mears

Outline of Ezekiel

1–3	The Call of the Prophet
4–24	God's Judgment on Jerusalem
	Given before the siege of Jerusalem
25–32	God's Judgment on the Muslim Nations
	Given during the siege
33–48	The Restoration of the Jews
	Given after the siege
33–36	The return to their land
37	They experience new life and unity
38–39	They are protected from Gog and Magog
40–48	The Millennial Temple & Kingdom

Outline of Ezekiel

1–3 The Call of the Prophet

4–24 God's Judgment on Jerusalem

Given before the siege of Jerusalem

25–32 God's Judgment on the Muslim Nations

Given during the siege

33–48 The Restoration of the Jews

Given after the siege

33–36 The return to their land

37 They experience new life and unity

38–39 They are protected from Gog and Magog

40–48 The Millennial Temple & Kingdom

Chapters 1-3

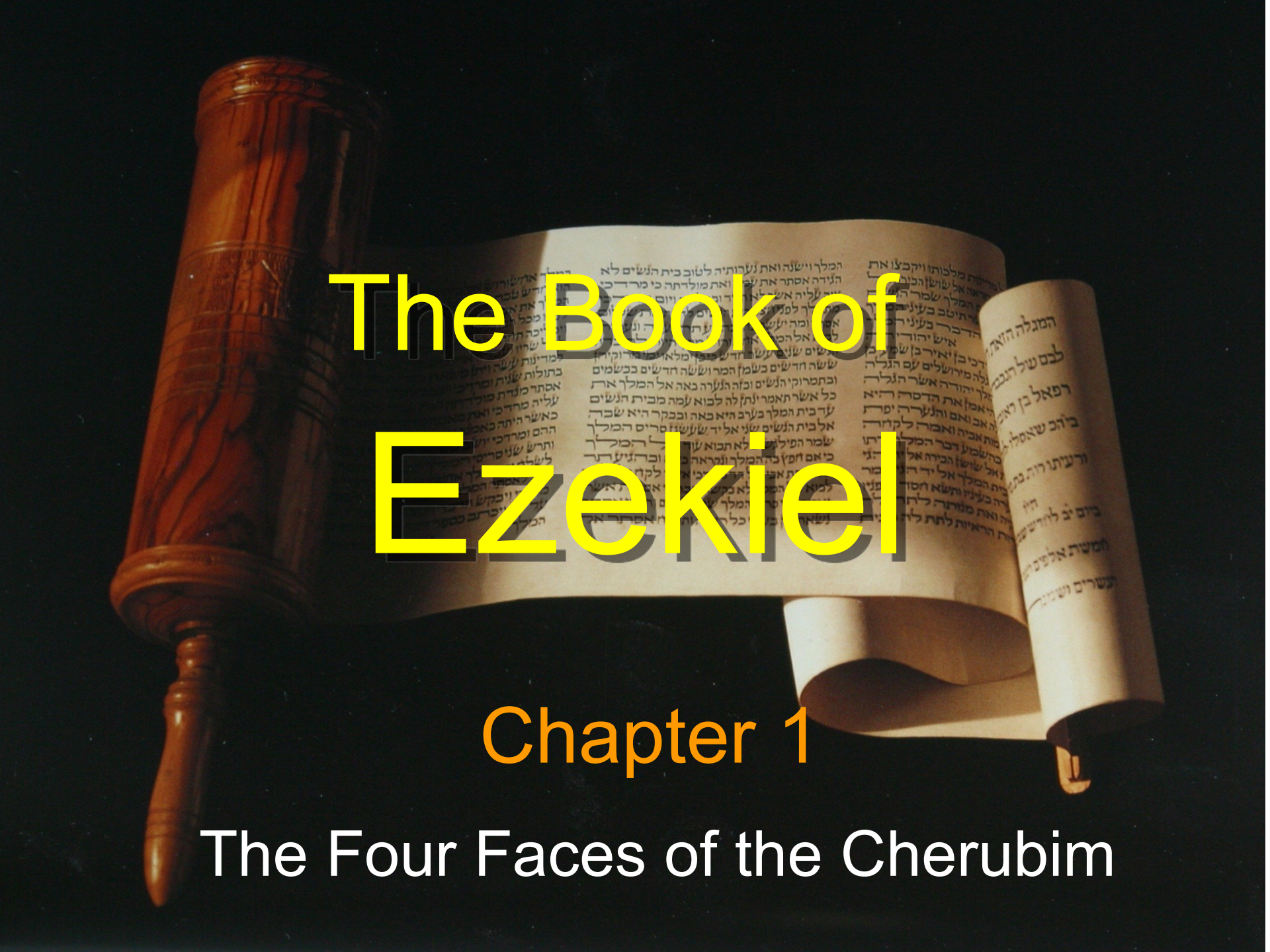
- The book opens with Ezekiel's call to the prophetic office (1:4-28)
  - He needed to know more about Jehovah, so God revealed Himself to him, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient.
  - His vision of stormy wind and fire (1:4).
  - The four cherubim (1:5-14):
  - The wheels (1:15-21),
  - The throne of the glory of Jehovah (1:22-28a).

Chapters 1-3

- Ezekiel's commission (2:1-3:27):
  - He needed to know more about his mission, so God reveals that in 2:1-7:
  - He needed to know about his message, so God gave him the scroll (2:8-3:3).
- God promises to equip him (3:4-11).
  - He is taken in the spirit to the camp of the captives in Babylon. He needed to know his audience, so he went to the exiles at Telabib (3:12-15):

Chapters 1-3

- Ezekiel the watchman
  - He needed to know his duties so they were given (3:16-21)
- The opening section ends with a second vision of God with a special commission to speak God's message to rebellious Judah (3:22-27)


The Book of
Ezekiel
Chapter 1
The Four Faces of the Cherubim

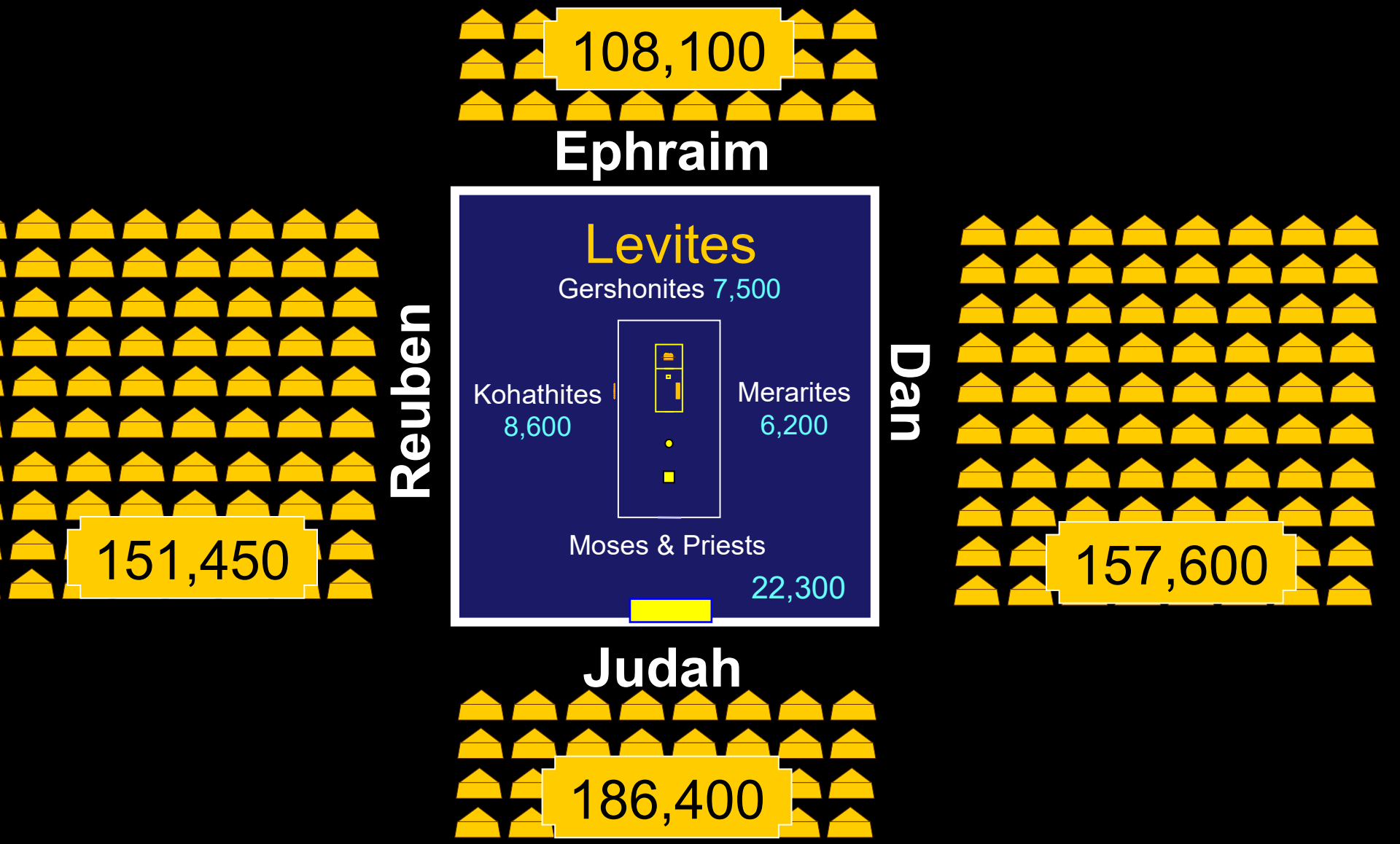
4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the
north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a
brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as
the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.
5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four
living creatures. And this was their appearance; they
had the likeness of a man.
6 And every one had four faces, and every one had
four wings.

Ezekiel 1:4-10

10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

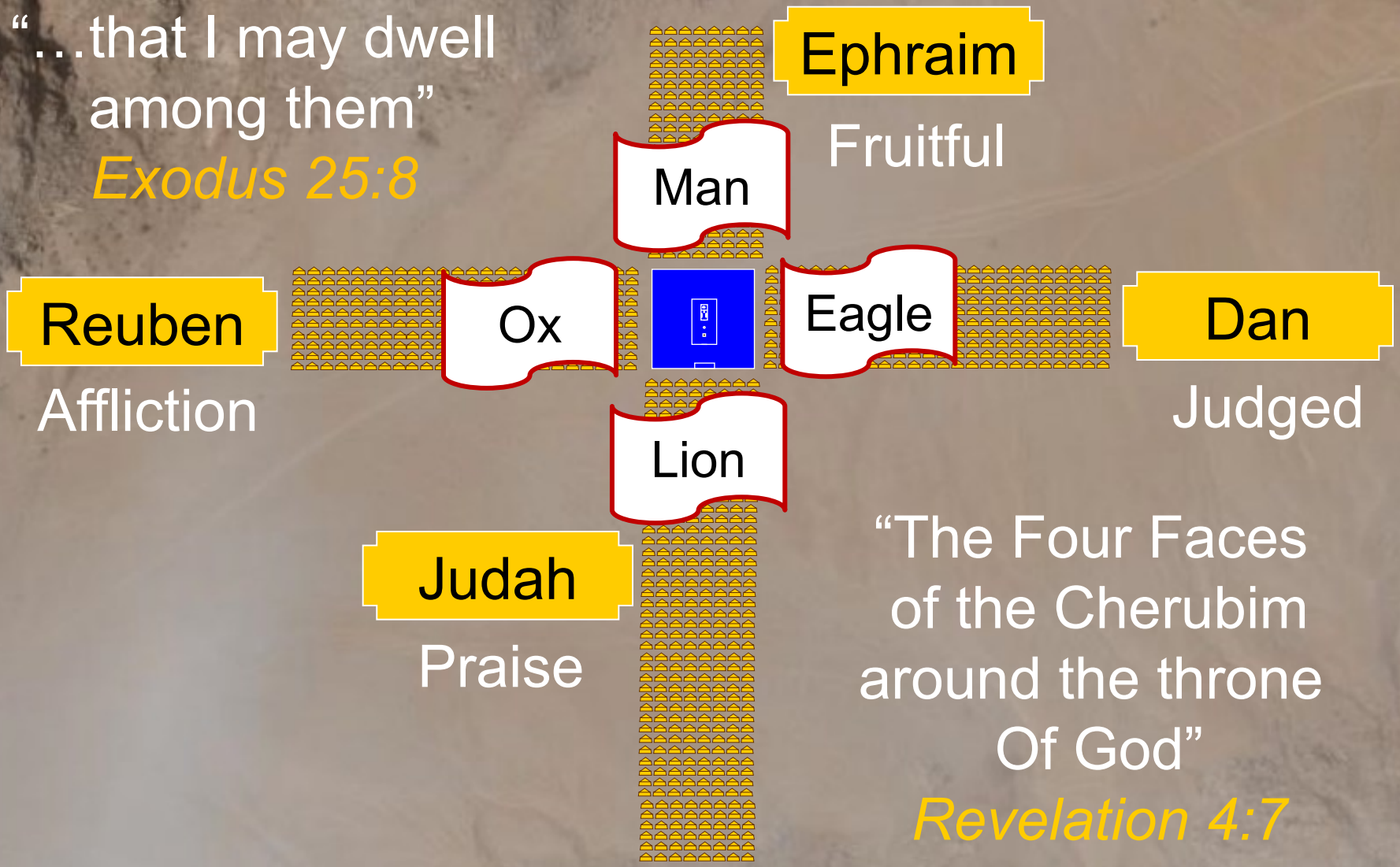
Ezekiel 1:4-10

The Camp of Israel



The Camp of Israel

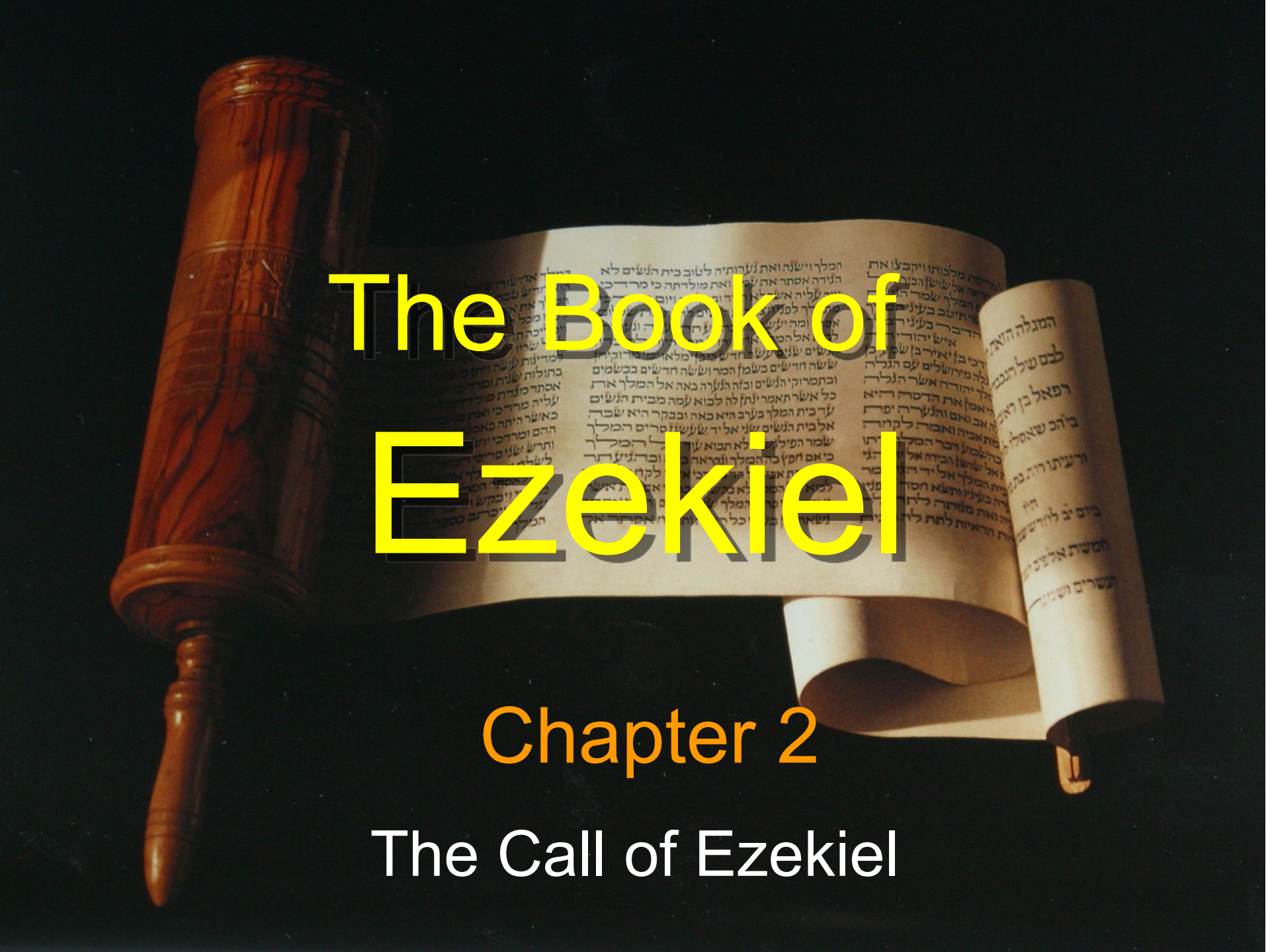
"…that I may dwell among them"
Exodus 25:8



"The Four Faces of the Cherubim around the throne Of God"
Revelation 4:7

The Design of the Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Presents as:	Messiah	Servant	Son of Man	Son of God
Genealogy:	Abraham (Legal)	--	Adam (Blood line)	Eternal (Preexistence)
What Jesus	Said	Did	Felt	Was
To the:	Jew	Roman	Greek	Church
1st Miracle:	Leper cleansed (Jew = sin)	Demon expelled	Demon expelled	Water to Wine
Ends with	Resurrection	Ascension	Promise of Spirit: Acts	Promise of Return: Revelation
Camp Side:	East	West	South	North
Ensign:	Judah	Ephraim	Reuben	Dan
Face:	**Lion**	**Ox**	**Man**	**Eagle**
Style:	Groupings	Snapshots	Narrative	Mystical



Chapter 2

The Call of Ezekiel

1 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet,
and I will speak unto thee.
2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto
me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that
spake unto me.
3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the
children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath
rebelled against me: they and their fathers have
transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

4 For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

- This phrase occurs 203x in the book!

4 For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

- A message for today?
- We are in a strange land
- Does our generation know that a servant of God as been among them?

7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.

Ezekiel 2:7

- As with Jeremiah, we are called to speak, even if they won't listen!

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season;
convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and
teaching.
3 For the time will come when they will not endure
sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap
to themselves teachers, having itching ears.
4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth,
and shall be turned unto fables.

2 Timothy 4:2-4

- In season, out of season.
- When it is convenient, and when it isn't!

17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the
house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth,
and give them warning from me.
18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die;
and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn
the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the
same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood
will I require at thine hand.

Ezekiel 3:17-21

19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.
20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Ezekiel 3:17-21

21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Ezekiel 3:17-21

11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live

Ezekiel 33:11

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some
men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward,
not willing that any should perish, but that all should
come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

Outline of Ezekiel

1–3	The Call of the Prophet
4–24	God's Judgment on Jerusalem
	Given before the siege of Jerusalem
25–32	God's Judgment on the Muslim Nations
	Given during the siege
33–48	The Restoration of the Jews
	Given after the siege
33–36	The return to their land
37	They experience new life and unity
38–39	They are protected from Gog and Magog
40–48	The Millennial Temple & Kingdom

Unexplained Prophecy?

Ezekiel gives us a mathematical prophecy concerning the judgment on the Nation:

Unexplained Prophecy?

- Ezekiel prophecies a total of 430 years of judgment against Israel as a Nation
- 70 years are accounted for in Babylon
- We are left with 360 years of judgment unaccounted for.
- However we are given a clue in Leviticus 26...

Unexplained Prophecy?

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; I will even appoint over
you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that
shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart:

Lev 26:14-18

Unexplained Prophecy?

16b 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.
18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Lev 26:14-18

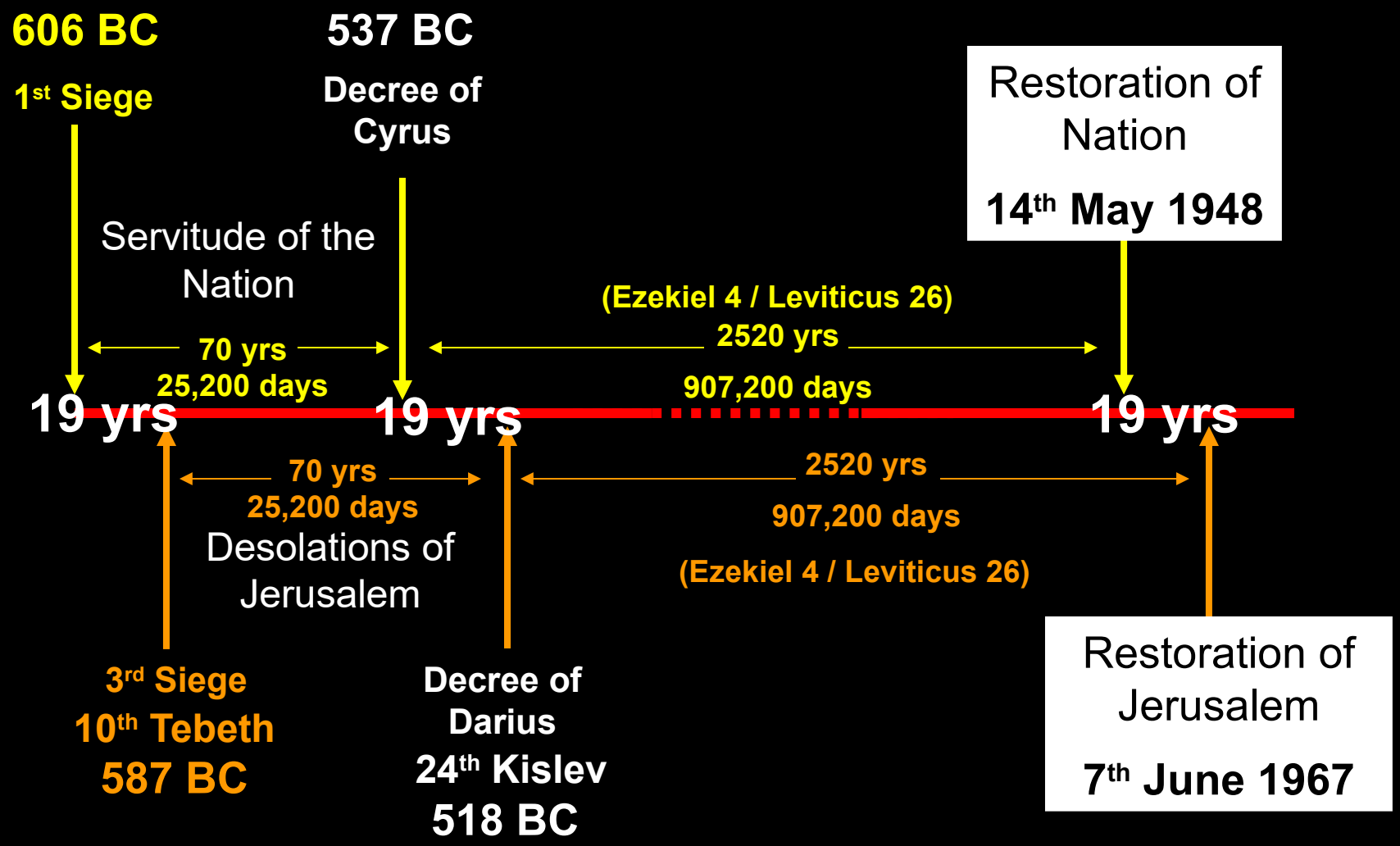
Unexplained Prophecy?

- This ‘seven time more’ is repeated four times in this one chapter (v18, 21,24,28)
- As prophesied, Israel were punished for their disobedience with 70 yrs in Babylon
- But that still leaves 360yrs unaccounted
- Israel still did not ‘hearken unto Him’
- So if we apply Leviticus 26 as indicated...

Unexplained Prophecy?

- If we multiply the remaining 360 years x7
- = 2520 years
- Multiply by 360 (days in a prophetic year)
- We find a potential 907,200 days until Ezekiel's prophecy would be fulfilled.

Precision of Prophecy



Chapters 4 - 11

- Ezekiel shows the necessity of Jerusalem's judgment because of her disobedience.
- He then dramatises the impending siege through a series of signs,
- Each sign is explained as is the reason for the siege through two messages and an extended vision.

Chapters 12 - 19

- However, the people were still not ready to accept the fact of Jerusalem's fall.
- Therefore Ezekiel gives a new series of signs and messages: Any optimism would be futile; Jerusalem's fate had been sealed.

The word of the LORD came again to me, saying,

Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it:

Ezekiel 14:12-13

The Four Sore Judgments

- The prophet declares that when the land sins, God sends one of his four judgments against it: cf. 5:16, 17
  - Famine vv.12-14
  - Hurtful beasts vv.15, 16
  - Sword and war vv.17, 18
  - Pestilence vv.19, 20

Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver *but* their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 14:14

- Daniel already noted in Babylon for his piety and obedience to his God

Symbols, Allegories, Parables

- He gives two symbolical representations of flight from the besieged city
  12:1-20
- Expostulates with false prophets
  12:21–14:23
- Pictures Israel as a useless vine
  Chapter 15
- Allegorically recalls Israel's long history of unfaithfulness to her bridegroom
  Chapter 16

Symbols, Allegories, Parables

- Returns to the metaphor of the vine to emphasize Zedekiah's disloyalty

  Chapter 17

- Answers objections to divine punishment by an analysis of individual responsibility

  Chapter 18

- Bursts forth into a dirge over the princes of Judah and over Judah itself

  Chapter 19

Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting

Ezekiel 16:60

"It is a continual source of encouragement to God's people to have the assurance from His Word that He remains faithful even when they themselves are unfaithful!"

Chuck Missler

30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Ezekiel 22:30

- God gives us a unique privilege to become involved in His programs
- God has chosen to do nothing except in answer to the prayers of the saints

Outline of Ezekiel

1–3 The Call of the Prophet

4–24 God's Judgment on Jerusalem

Given before the siege of Jerusalem

25–32 God's Judgment on the Surrounding Nations

Given during the siege

33–48 The Restoration of the Jews

Given after the siege

33–36 The return to their land

37 They experience new life and unity

38–39 They are protected from Gog and Magog

40–48 The Millennial Temple & Kingdom

Judgment of the Nations

- Ammonites 25:2-7
- Moab 25:8-11
- Edom 25:12-14
- Philistines 25:15-17
- Tyre 26:2-21
- Sidon 28:21-24
- Egypt 29:2-16
- Ethiopia /Libya/Lydia 30:1-9

Prophecy Against Tyre

- Ezekiel prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar would destroy Tyre
- Many nations would be against Tyre
- Dust scraped to become like bare rock
- Fishermen would spread their nets on the remains of Tyre
- Stones & timber thrown into the sea
- Tyre would never be rebuilt
- Tyre would never be found again

Prophecy Against Tyre

- Three years after this prophecy, Nebuchadnezzar came up against Tyre
- After a 13 year siege, Nebuchadnezzar finally broke the gates down, only to find the city almost deserted!
- The people had all fled to an island ½ mile off the cost
- This new Tyre was almost impenetrable

Prophecy Against Tyre

- Alexander the Great was the next antagonist
- In order to take the new Tyre, he build a causeway out from the mainland
- He literally scrapped the remains on the old city into the sea, and left just bare rock
- Upon those rocks, fishermen to this day lay their nets
- Over the next 1600 years, many nations did attack and destroy Tyre, until her final destruction in 1291 during the Crusades

Prophecy Against Tyre

- Alexander's Causeway



Prophecy Against Tyre

- Floyd Hamilton in the *Battle for the Christian Faith* states:
- *"It is also written, 'thou shalt be built no more'. Other cities destroyed by enemies had been rebuilt; Jerusalem was destroyed many times, but always has risen again from the ruins; what reason was there for saying that Old Tyre might not be rebuilt? But twenty-five centuries ago a Jew in exile over in Babylonia looked into the future at the command of God and wrote the words, 'thou shalt be build no more!'*

Prophecy Against Tyre

- *The voice of God has spoken and Old Tyre today stands as it has for twenty-five centuries, a bare rock, uninhabited by man! Today anyone who wants to see the site of the old city, can have it pointed out to him along the shore, but there is not a ruin to mark the spot It has been scraped clean and has never been rebuilt!”*

Prophecy Against Tyre

- *"The great freshwater springs of Reselain are at the site of the mainland city of Tyre, and no doubt supplied the city with an abundance of fresh water. These springs are still there and still flow, but their water runs into the sea. The flow of these springs was measured by an engineer, and found to be about 10,000,000 gallons daily. It is still an excellent site for a city and would have fresh water enough for a large modern city, yet it has never been rebuilt. Thus [this prophecy] has stood true for more than 2500 years* Floyd Hamilton

Outline of Ezekiel

1–3 The Call of the Prophet

4–24 God's Judgment on Jerusalem

Given before the siege of Jerusalem

25–32 God's Judgment on the Muslim Nations

Given during the siege

33–48 The Restoration of the Jews

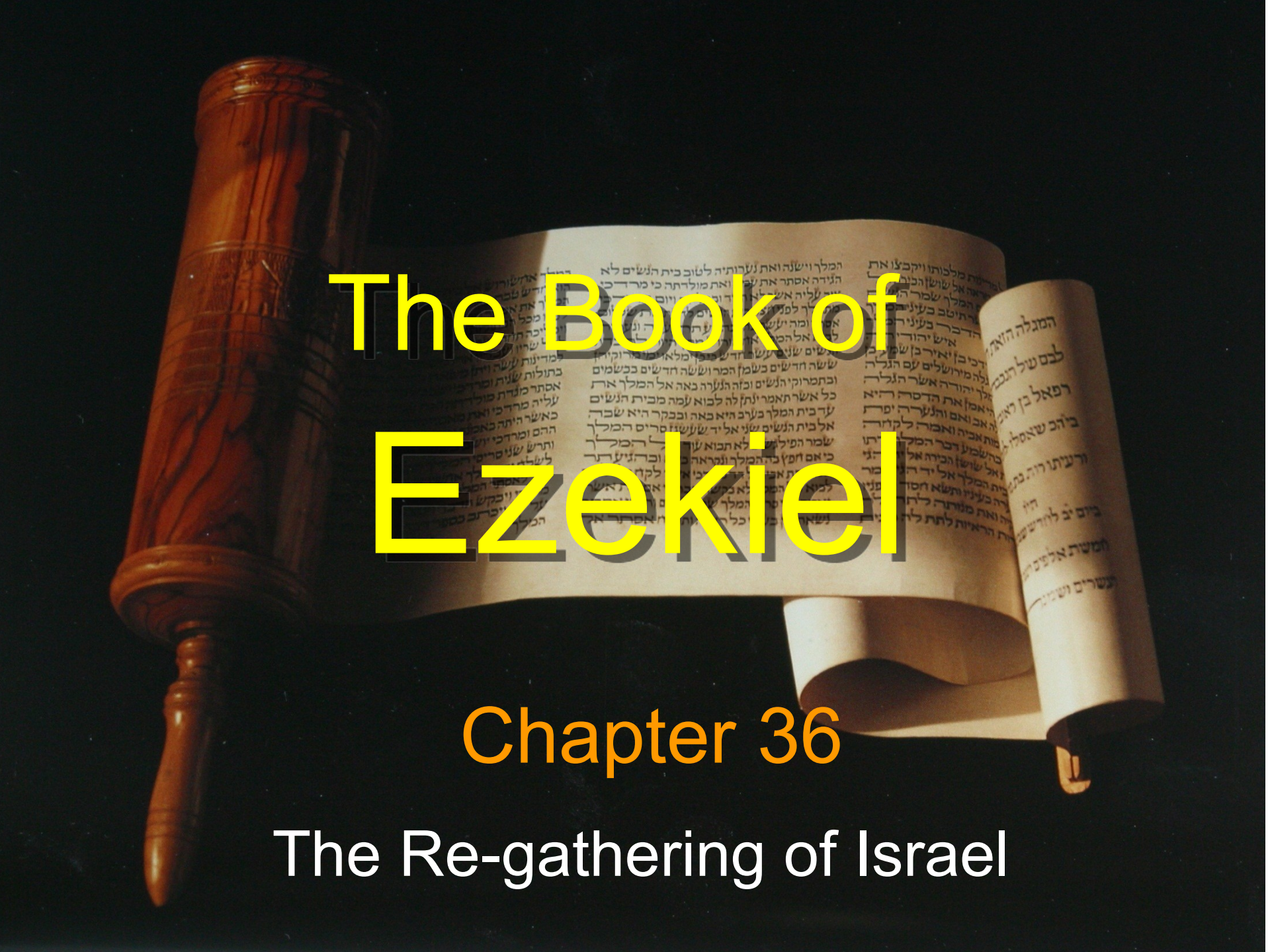
Given after the siege

33–36 The return to their land

37 They experience new life and unity

38–39 They are protected from Gog and Magog

40–48 The Millennial Temple & Kingdom



Chapter 36

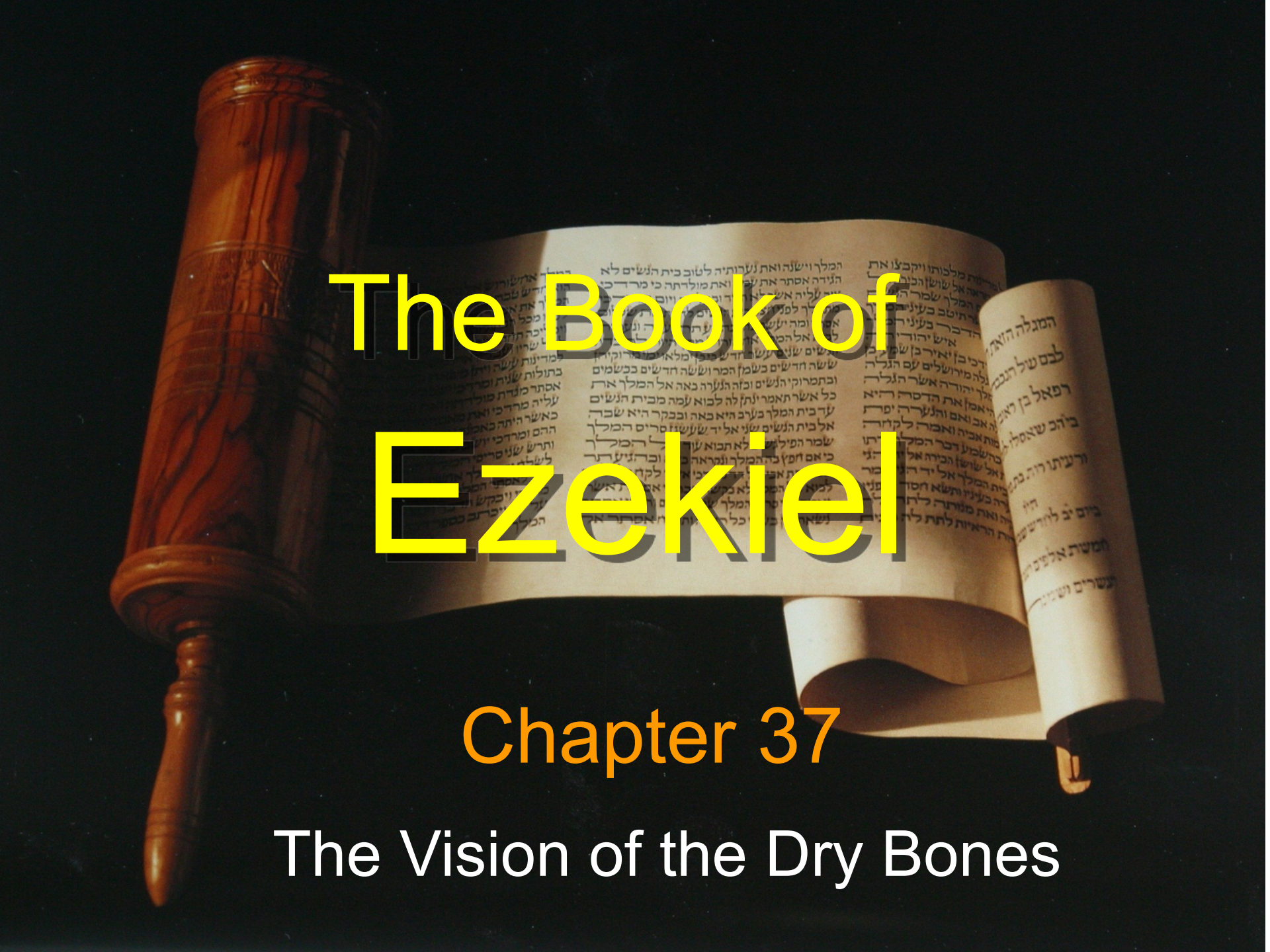
The Re-gathering of Israel

24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and
gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into
your own land.
25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye
shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all
your idols, will I cleanse you.
26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit
will I put within you: and I will take away the stony
heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of
flesh.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.
28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36:24-28


The Book of
Ezekiel
Chapter 37
The Vision of the Dry Bones

The Vision of Dry Bones

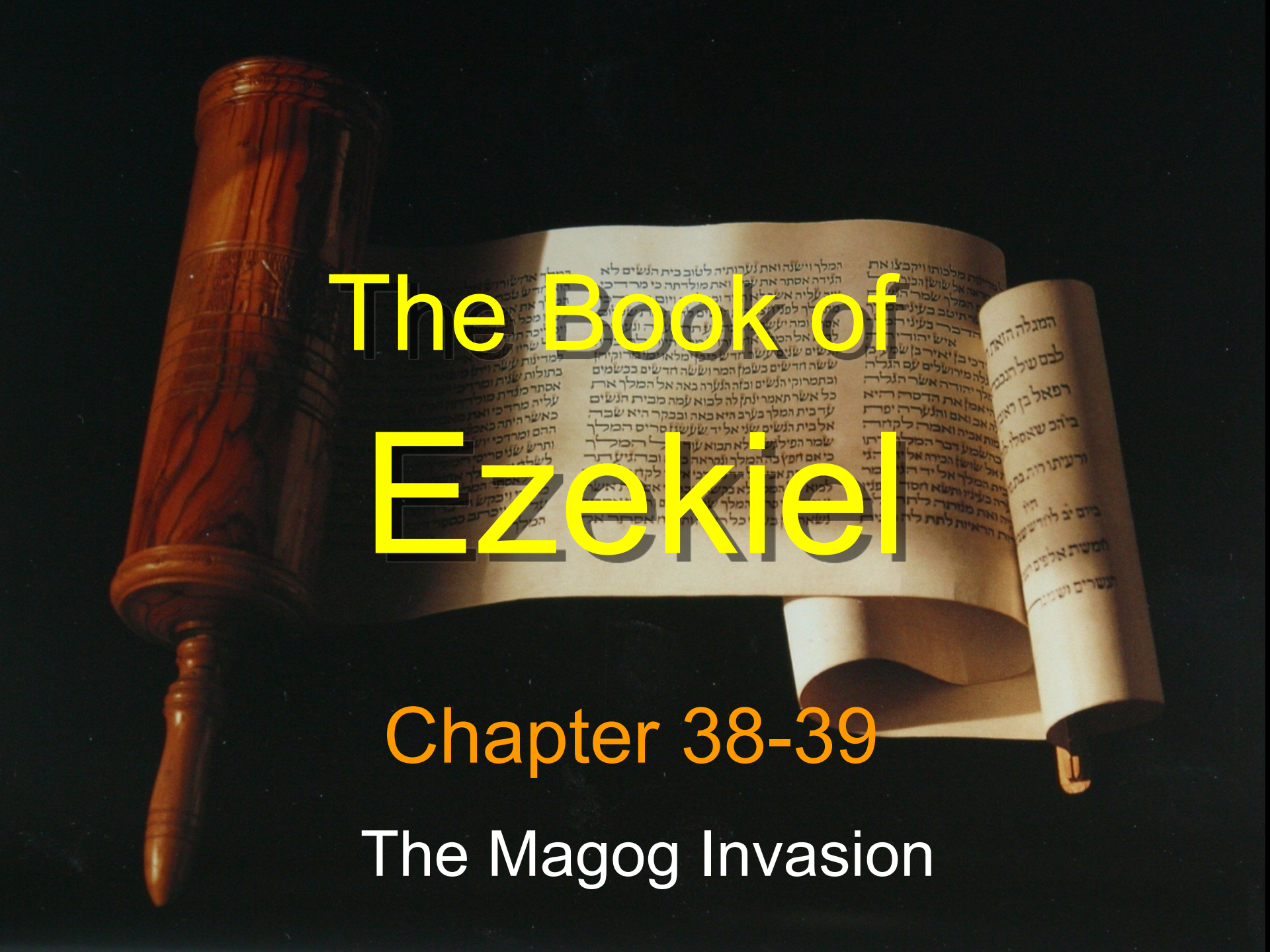
- A Vision of the Restoration of Israel
  - Brought back to life in the flesh
  - Later, breathed with the Spirit



- Part fulfilled in the 1st half of 20th century

The Vision of Dry Bones

- The Lord, through Ezekiel, proclaims to Israel the coming resurrection of her national life vv.1-14
  - That restoration has to do both with the *national* entity of Israel as well as the *spiritual* revival or restoration which the Lord announced in the preceding chapter.
- He foretells by the symbolic act of joining two sticks the future union of the two kingdoms under one head, David vv.15-28



Chapter 38-39

The Magog Invasion

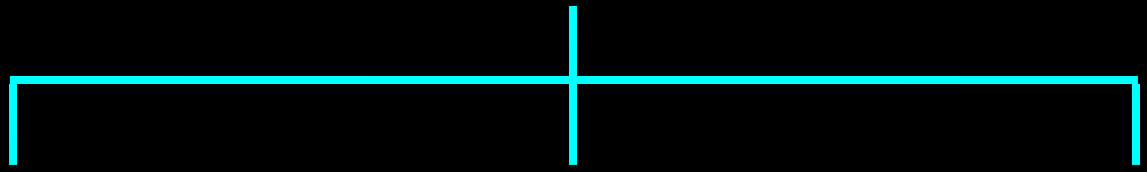
The Magog Invasion

Ezekiel 38 & 39

- The occasion in which God Himself intervenes to quell the ill-fated invasion of Israel by Magog and its allies
  - Persia, Cush, Phut, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah, Meshech, Tubal
- The passage appears to anticipate the use of nuclear weapons.

Noah

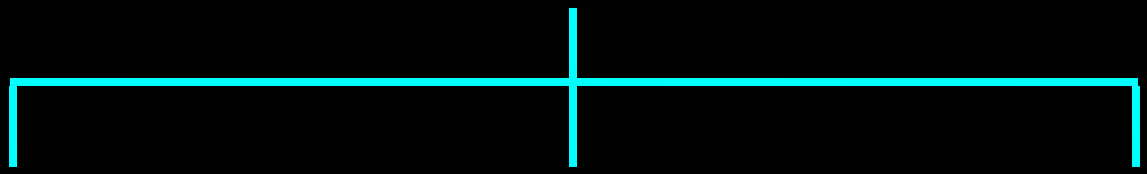
Gen. 10:2;
1 Chr 1:5



Shem	Ham	Japheth
Elam	Cush	Gomer
Asshur	Mizraim	Magog
Arphaxad	Put	Madai
Lud	Canaan	Javan
Aram		Tubal
		Meshech
		Tiras

Noah

Gen. 10:2;
1 Chr 1:5

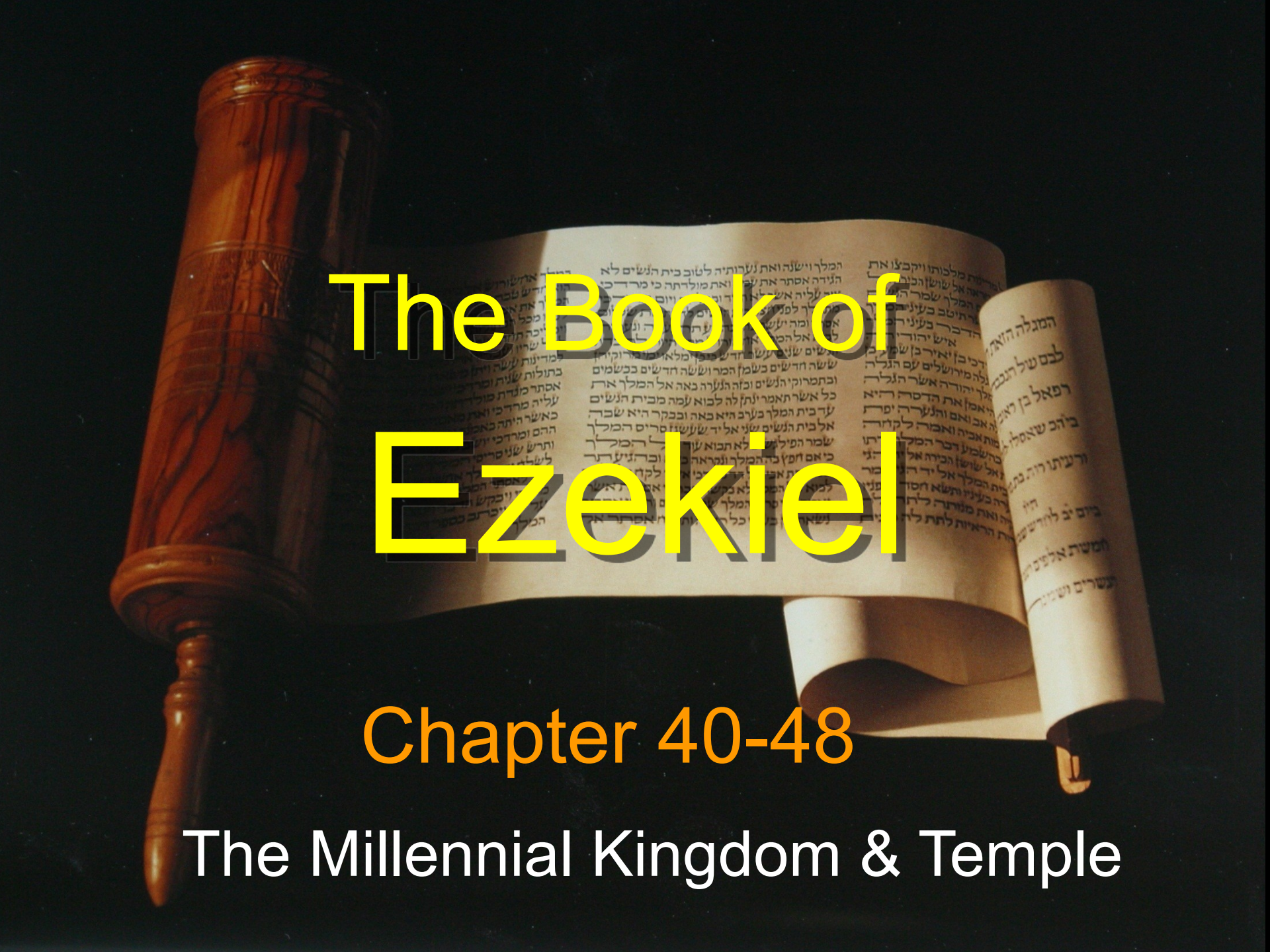


Shem	Ham	Japheth
Elam	Cush	Gomer
Asshur	Mizraim	Magog
Arphaxad	Phut	Madai
Lud	Canaan	Javan
Aram		Tubal
		Meshech
		Tiras


Magog
Gomer
Togarmah
Meshech
Tubal
Persia
Phut
Israel
Libya
Dedan?
Cush
Sheba?

Nuclear Weapons?

- Left-over weapons provide all the energy for the nation of Israel for 7 years
- Professionals hired to clear the battlefield
  - They wait 7 months; then clear for 7 months
  - Bury the dead east of the Dead Sea (downwind)
- If a traveler finds something the professionals have missed, he doesn't touch it: he marks the location and lets the professionals deal with it.



Chapter 40-48

The Millennial Kingdom & Temple

The Millennial Temple

Ezekiel 40 - 48

- Description of Millennial Temple
  - Highly detailed (not simply symbolic)
  - All nations to worship there
  - Offerings and sacrifices resumed
  - (Open only on the Sabbath Day and New Moons)

Ezekiel – Prophet of Hope

1–3	The Call of the Prophet
4–24	God's Judgment on Jerusalem Given before the siege of Jerusalem
25–32	God's Judgment on the Surrounding Nations Given during the siege
33–48	The Restoration of the Nation of Israel Given after the siege

- What began in oppression ended in liberty

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:5

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:5



calvary chapel portsmouth

www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk