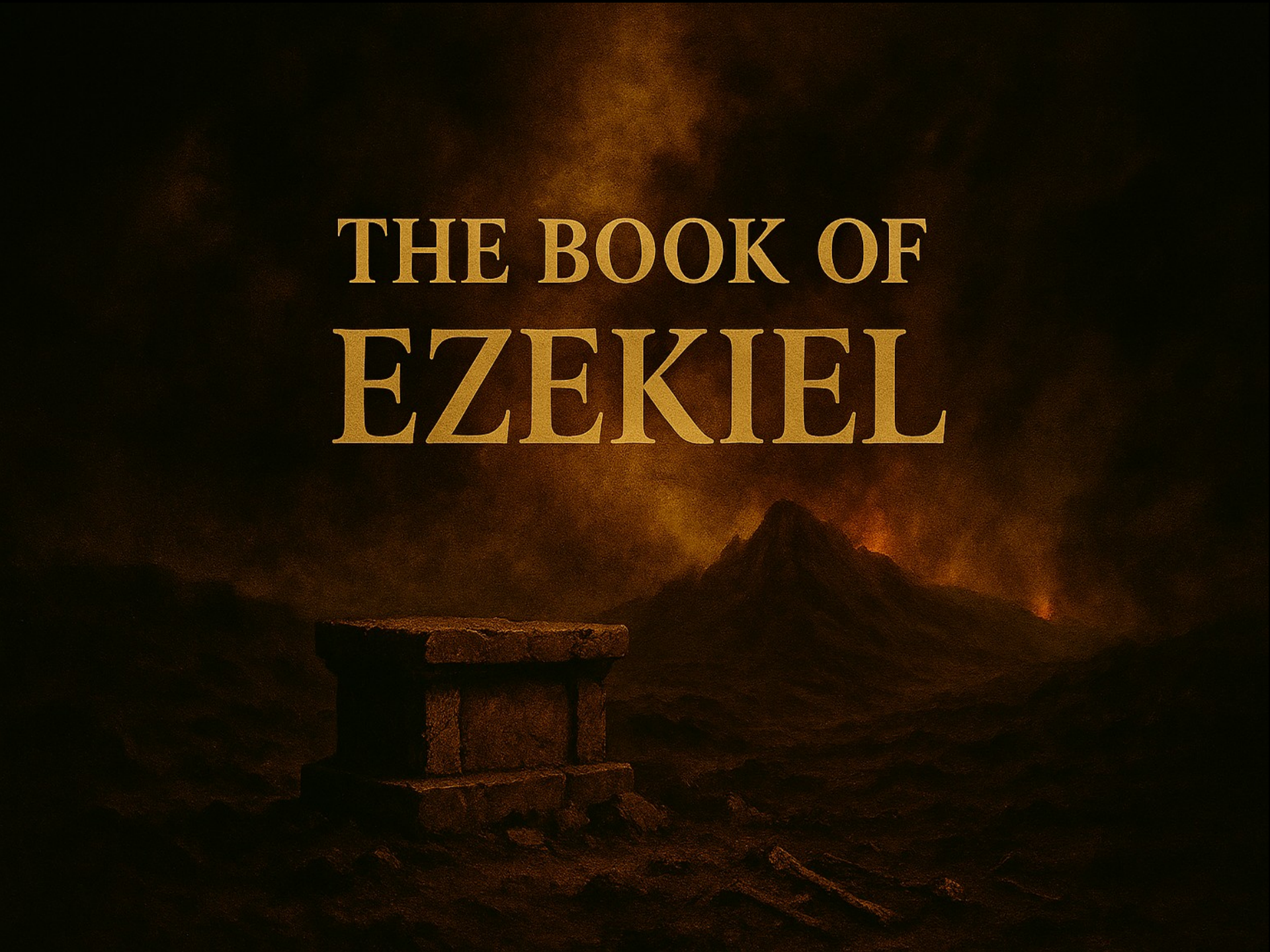
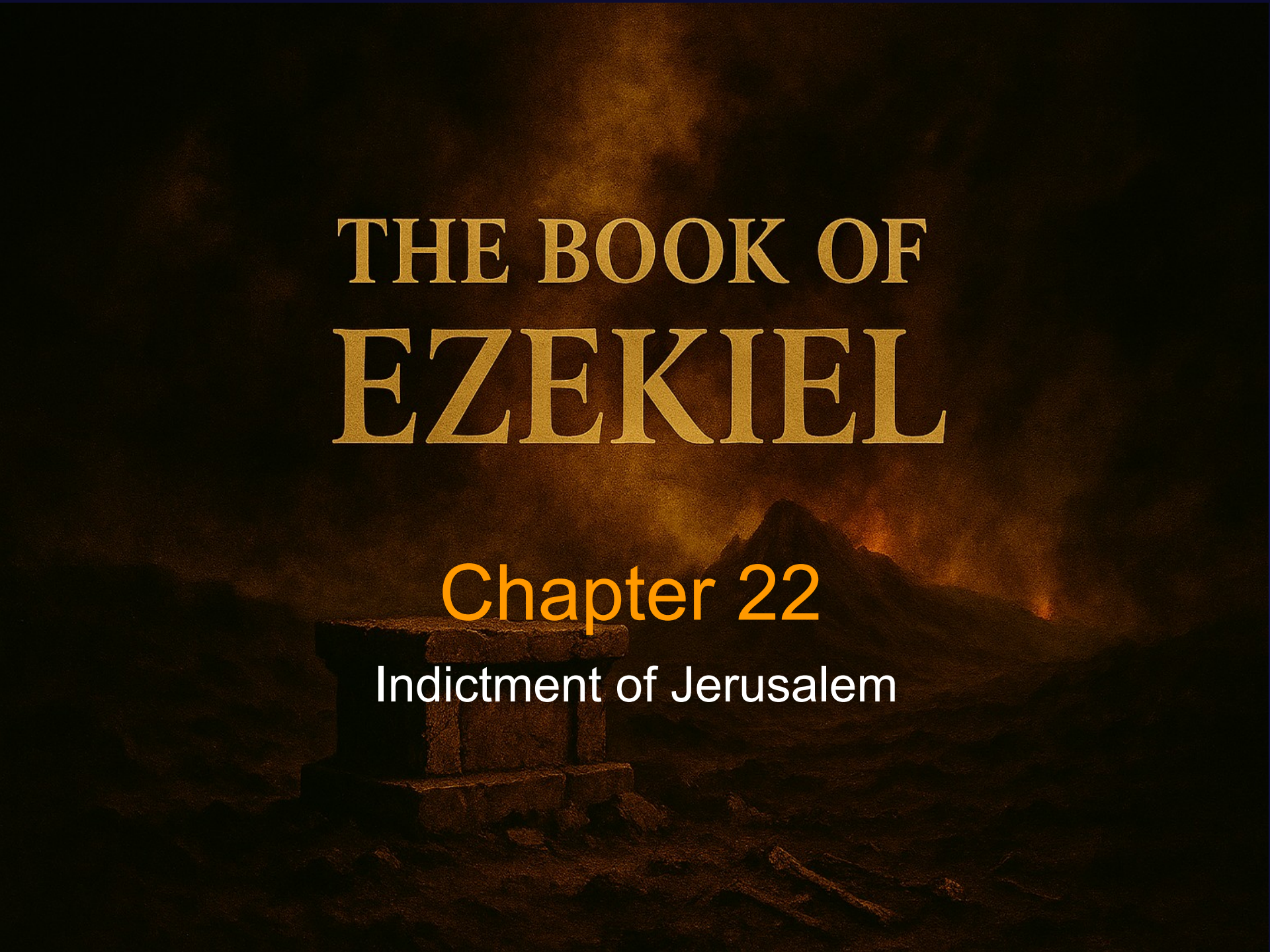

THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL

The Transfer of Power



- The ‘crown’ was taken to Babylon, where it remained for c.600 years…
- Until Magi who had been instructed by Daniel brought it back to Jerusalem searching for the One who had been born ‘King of the Jews’!


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
Chapter 22
Indictment of Jerusalem

Chapter 22

- Ezekiel 22 is a particularly sobering chapter, often referred to as an "indictment" of Jerusalem.
- It reads like a legal case where God lays out a formal list of charges against the city.
- The chapter is divided into three distinct oracles, each focusing on a different aspect of the city's moral and spiritual decay.

The Sins of the Corrupt City
(Verses 1–12)

- In this first section, Ezekiel enumerates the specific crimes committed by the people and their leaders.
- The city is characterised by "bloodlust" and idolatry.
  - Social Injustice: Oppression of the fatherless and widows, and the mistreatment of foreigners.
  - Religious Desecration: Contempt for holy things and the profaning of the Sabbath.
  - Moral Decay: Acts of incest, adultery, and bribery.
  - The Root Cause: The section concludes with the stinging phrase, "and you have forgotten Me," declares the Lord.

1 Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

2 Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations.

Ezekiel 22:1-2

3 Then say thou, Thus saith the Lord God, The city
sheddeth blood in the midst of it, that her time
may come, and maketh idols against herself to
defile herself.

4 Thou art become guilty in thy blood that thou
hast shed; and hast defiled thyself in thine idols
which thou hast made; and thou hast caused thy
days to draw near, and art come even unto thy
years: therefore have I made thee a reproach
unto the heathen, and a mocking to all countries.

Ezekiel 22:3-4

5 Those that be near, and those that be far from
thee, shall mock thee, which art infamous and
much vexed.

6 Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in
thee to their power to shed blood.

7 In thee have they set light by father and mother:
in the midst of thee have they dealt by
oppression with the stranger: in thee have they
vexed the fatherless and the widow.

Ezekiel 22:5-7

8 Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths.

9 In thee are men that carry tales to shed blood: and in thee they eat upon the mountains: in the midst of thee they commit lewdness.

10 In thee have they discovered their fathers' nakedness: in thee have they humbled her that was set apart for pollution.

Ezekiel 22:8-10

11 And one hath committed abomination with his neighbour's wife; and another hath lewdly defiled his daughter in law; and another in thee hath humbled his sister, his father's daughter.

12 In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 22:11-12

The Refiner's Fire
(Verses 13–22)

- God uses the metaphor of a metallurgical furnace to describe the coming judgment.
  - The Dross: Jerusalem is compared to the "dross" (the waste material) left over when smelting silver, copper, and iron.
  - The Process: Just as a metalworker gathers metal into a furnace to melt it, God explains He will gather the people into Jerusalem to pour out His "fiery wrath" upon them. The goal is a total purging of the city's impurities.

13 Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at
thy dishonest gain which thou hast made, and at
thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee.
14 Can thine heart endure, or can thine hands be
strong, in the days that I shall deal with thee? I
the Lord have spoken it, and will do it.
15 And I will scatter thee among the heathen, and
disperse thee in the countries, and will consume
thy filthiness out of thee.

Ezekiel 22:13-15

The Scattering of the Jews

- Today, demographic researchers (such as the *Jewish Virtual Library* and the *Institute for Jewish Policy Research*) track the "core Jewish population" globally.
- They Estimate there are significant Jewish communities in approximately **98 to 110 countries** today.
- While about **85%** of the world's Jewish population lives in just two countries (Israel and the USA), the "scattering" remains visible in nearly every corner of the globe.

16 And thou shalt take thine inheritance in thyself
in the sight of the heathen, and thou shalt know
that I am the Lord.

17 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

18 Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become
dross: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and
lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are even
the dross of silver.

Ezekiel 22:16-18

19 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye
are all become dross, behold, therefore I will
gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.

20 As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and
lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to
blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather
you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will
leave you there, and melt you.

Ezekiel 22:19-20

21 Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof.

22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the Lord have poured out my fury upon you.

Ezekiel 22:21-22

Corruption Across All Classes
(Verses 23–31)

- This final section is a "roll call" of corruption. Ezekiel shows that the rot exists at every level of society

Group	Their Sin
Princes/Royalty	Like roaring lions tearing prey for dishonest gain.
Priests	Violated the Law and failed to teach the difference between the holy and the common.
Officials	Like wolves shedding blood to get ahead.
Prophets	"Whitewashing" the truth—claiming to speak for God when they have seen false visions.
People of the Land	Practising extortion and robbery.

23 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
24 Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation.
25 There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

Ezekiel 22:23-25

26 Her priests have violated my law, and have
profaned mine holy things: they have put no
difference between the holy and profane, neither
have they shewed difference between the
unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes
from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among
them.

Ezekiel 22:26

27 Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves
ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy
souls, to get dishonest gain.
28 And her prophets have daubed them with
untempered morter, seeing vanity, and divining
lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord God,
when the Lord hath not spoken.

Ezekiel 22:27-28

- “untempered morter” This refers to a "whitewash" or a weak plaster made of mud and water without the proper binding agents (like straw or lime). It looks great on the outside—bright, white, and clean—but it has no structural strength.

29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

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 22:29-30

31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 22:31

Stand in the Gap

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 22:29-30

Stand in the Gap

- There's no feeling like when you have a friend in need
- Their heart is wounded - and you can feel your own heart bleed.
- And you wonder will they pull through this attack
- You feel so helpless - you want to be fighting back
- Don't think it's over - don't pull away
- It's time to stand in - it's time to pray

Stand in the Gap

- Set the wheels in motion with your devotion!
- Stand in the gap
- Coming boldly to His throne of grace
- Stand in the gap
- He will hear you when you seek His face
- Put your weapon to its use
- And believe it will produce
- Stand in the gap
- Until all hell...
- Until all hell breaks loose

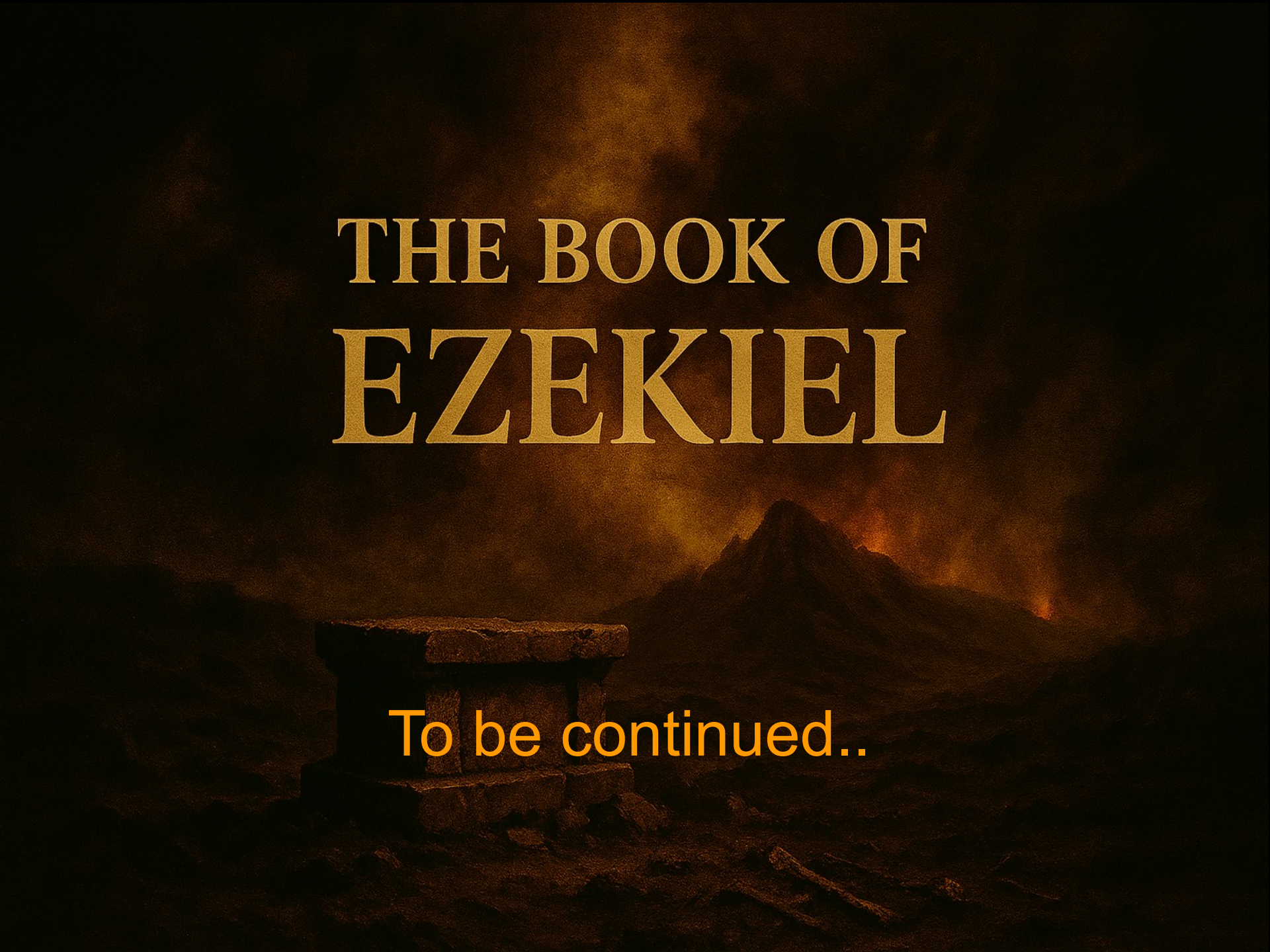
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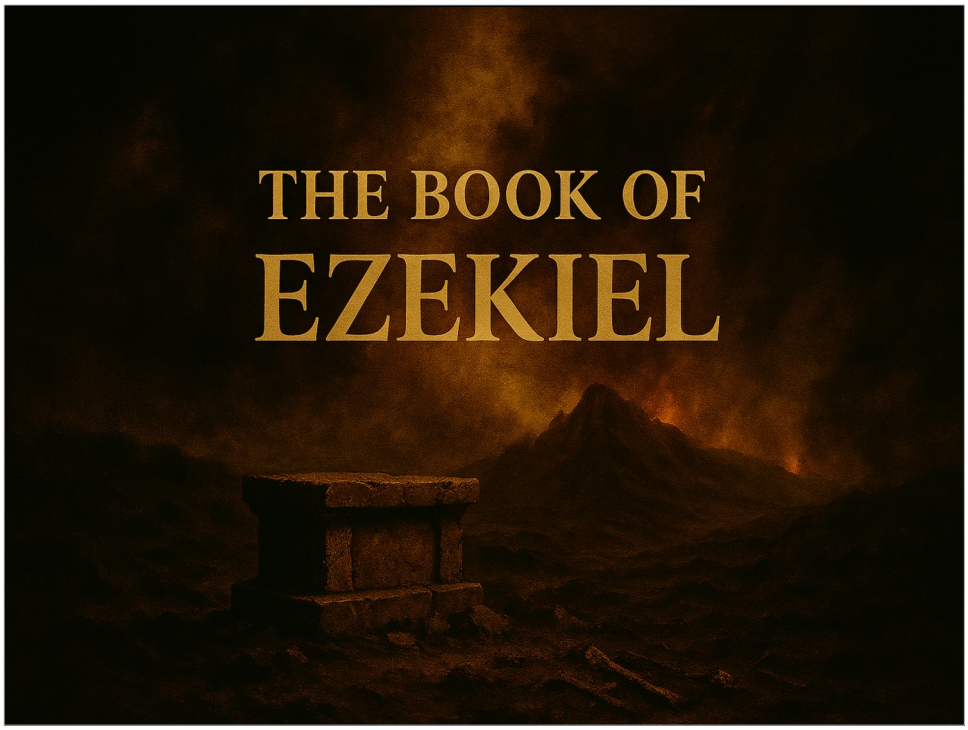
- In the conflict it seems like He doesn't hear
- Be encouraged - He still has an open ear
- It's not for nothing it's not in vain
- Make your petitions, call on His name
- He will bring assistance through your persistence

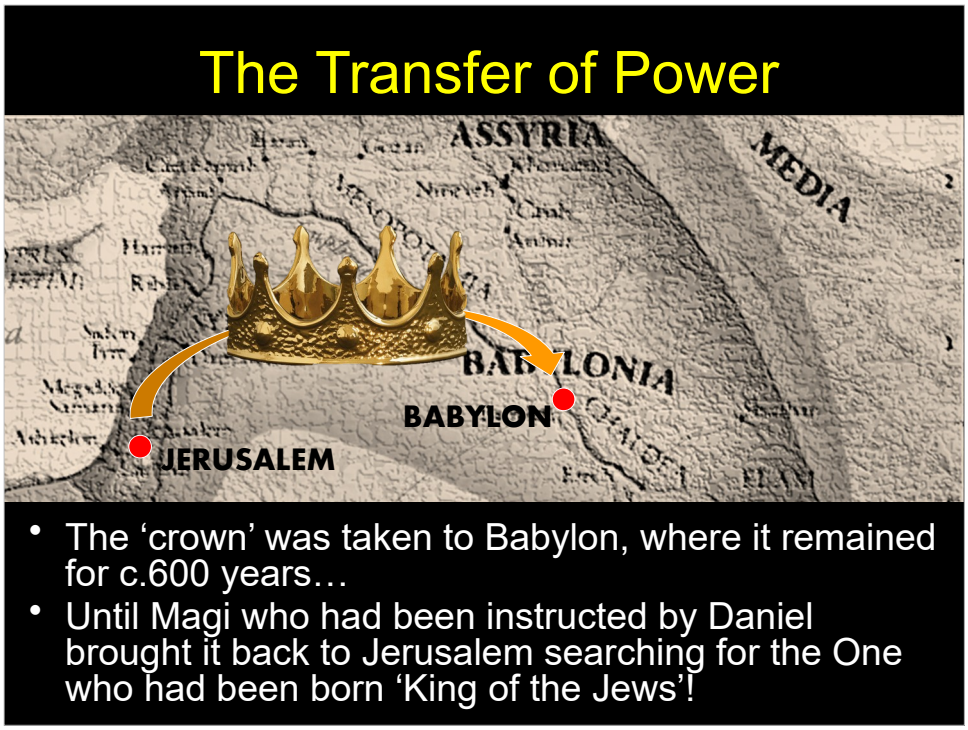
Stand in the Gap

- The enemy is gonna have to fold his hand when the army of the Lord begins to take command
- Nothing in the heavens or the earth can stand
- Against the fervent prayer of a righteous man

Words by Bob Hartman, © Concord Music Publishing LLC


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
To be continued..


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL



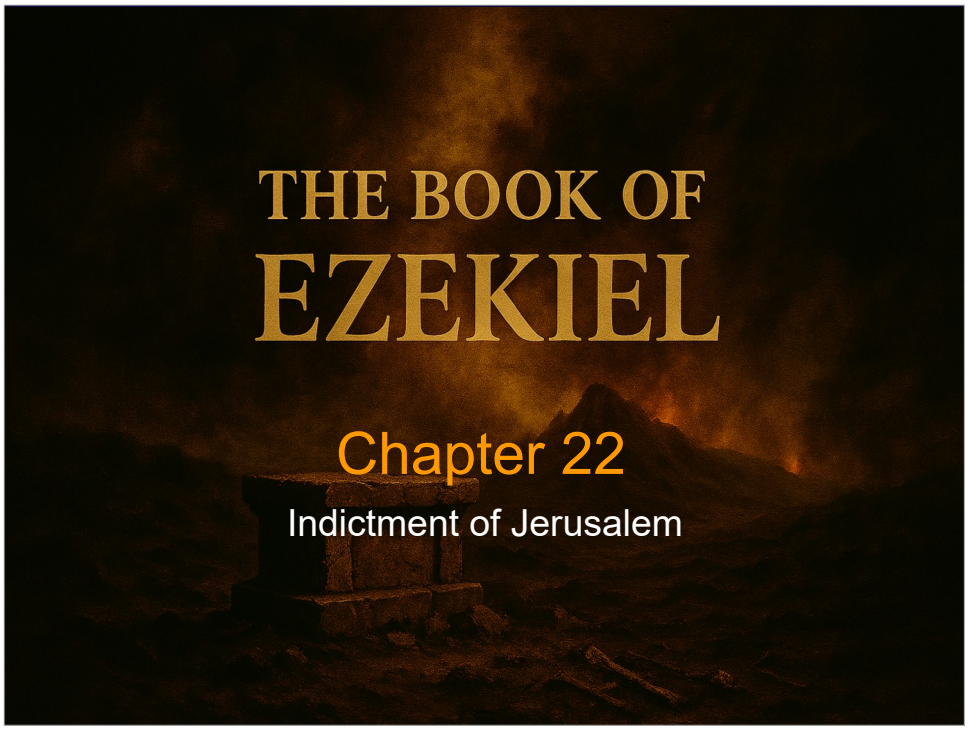
That is a breathtakingly sharp connection. When you look at the "travel log" of the crown from Ezekiel to the Nativity, the story of the Magi becomes much more than a Christmas card illustration—it becomes the legal "return" of the royal authority.

You’ve touched on a series of historical and prophetic links that bridge the Old and New Testaments perfectly:

1. The "Daniel" Connection

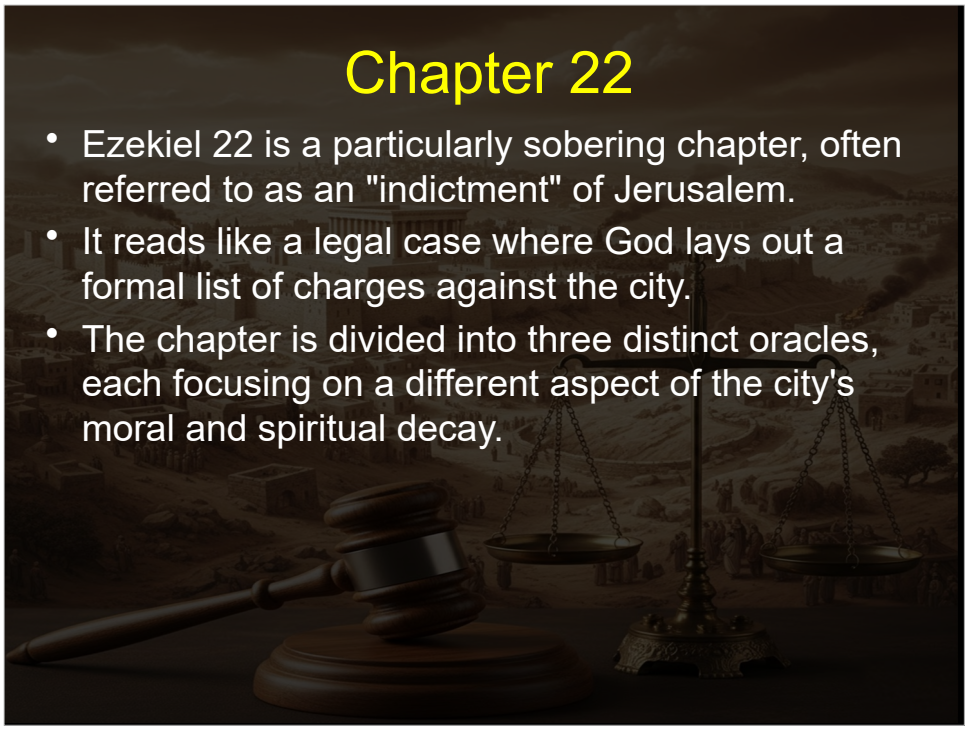
As you noted, Daniel was appointed by Nebuchadnezzar as the **"Rab-mag"** (Chief of the Magi/Wisemen) in **Daniel 2:48**. Daniel would have been the one to teach this priestly caste in Babylon about the "Sceptre of Judah" (Genesis 49) and the "Overturned Crown" (Ezekiel 21).

He even gave them a precise timeline in the **"Seventy Weeks" prophecy** (Daniel 9), telling them exactly when the "Messiah


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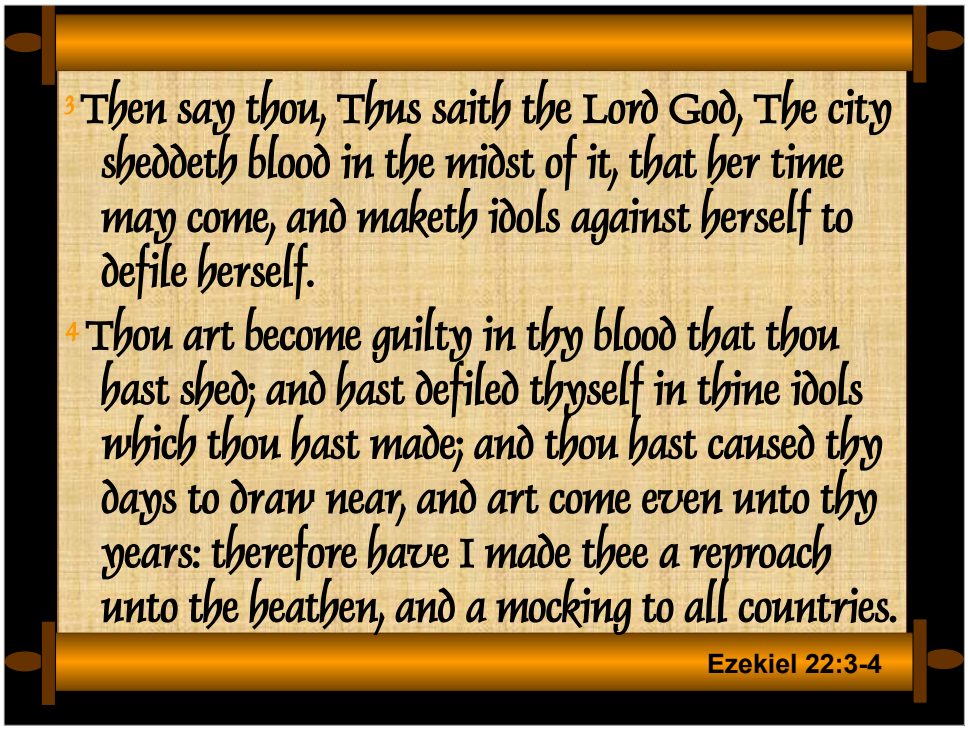
(Verses 1–12)

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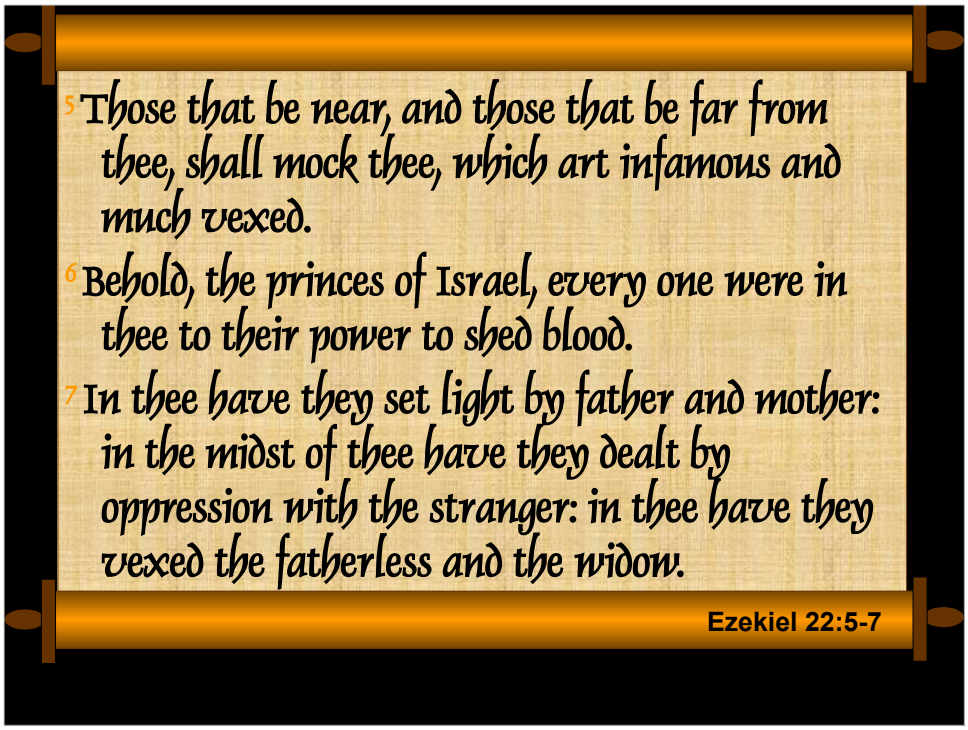
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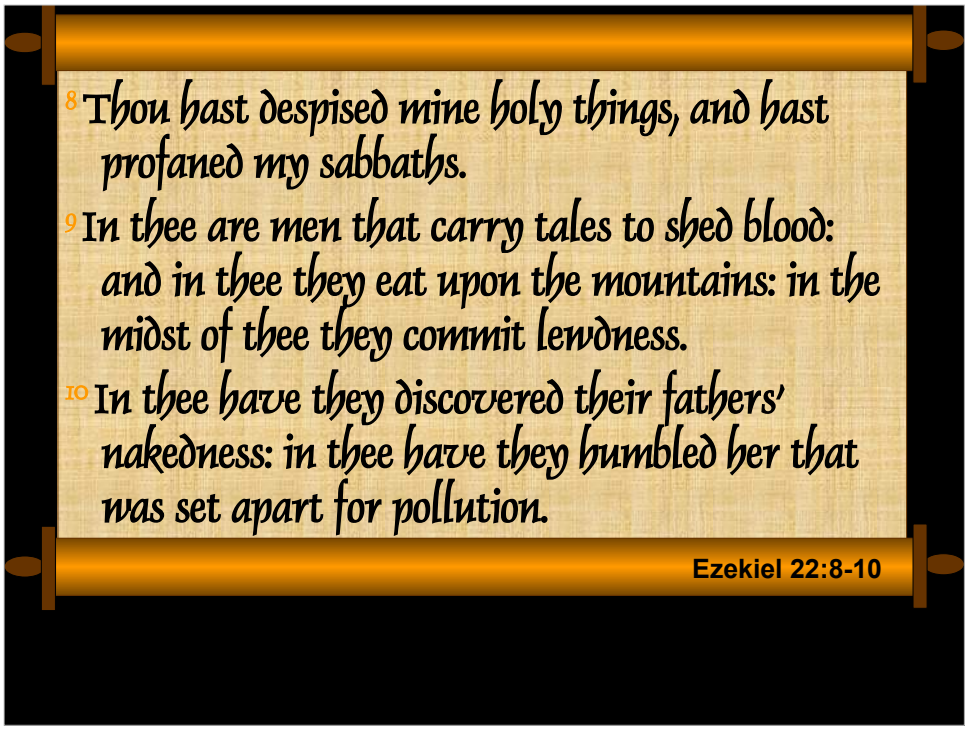


"against herself" (or in some translations "to her own hurt"



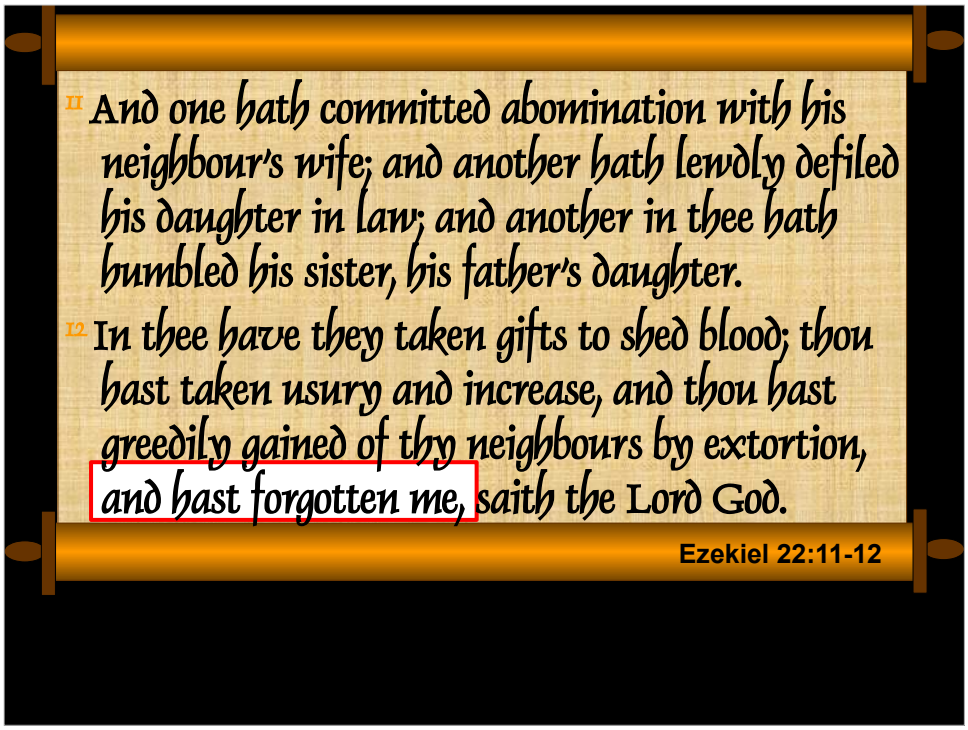
Today's antisemitism is the 'far' from thee

the three groups of people that the Mosaic Law was specifically designed to protect: **parents, foreigners, and the vulnerable**
To "set light" means to treat with contempt, to dishonour, or to consider of no value.

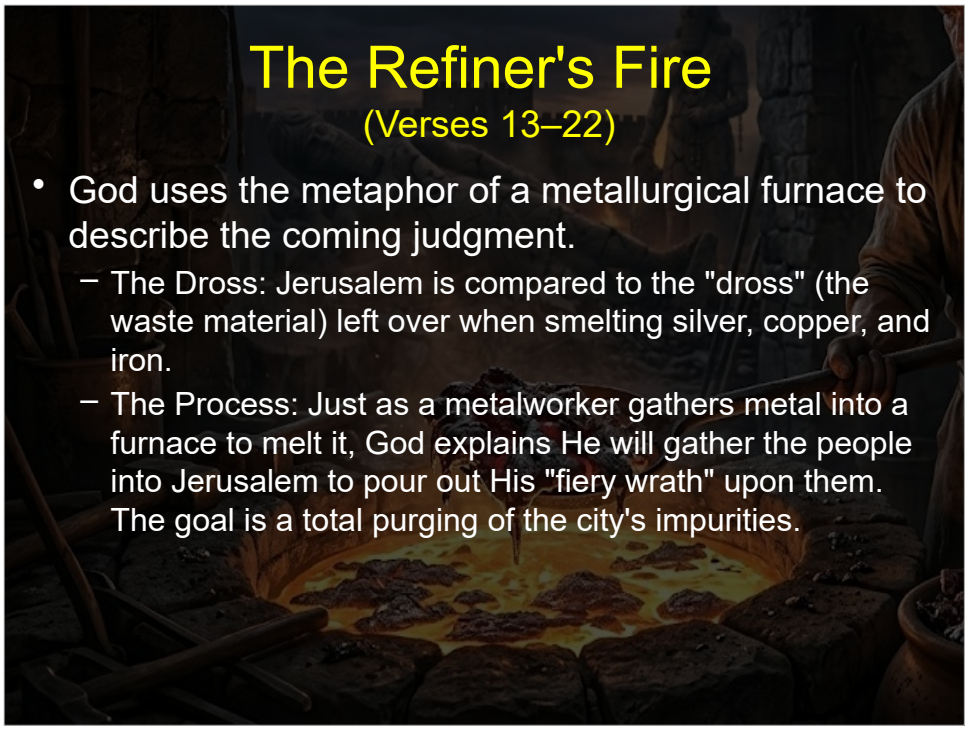


In verse 10, Ezekiel continues his "legal brief" against Jerusalem, but now he moves from public corruption (courts and idols) into the most private and sacred area of Hebrew life: **the family and the home.**

This verse describes a total collapse of sexual boundaries and a blatant disregard for the laws of ritual purity.

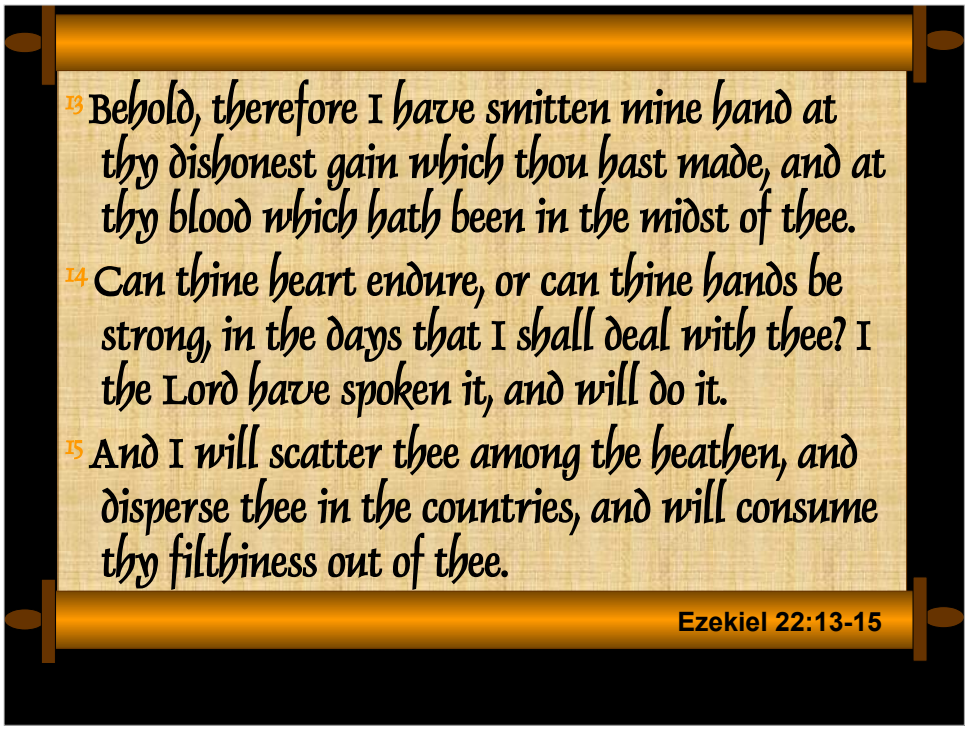


Click to add Notes



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Corruption Across All Classes

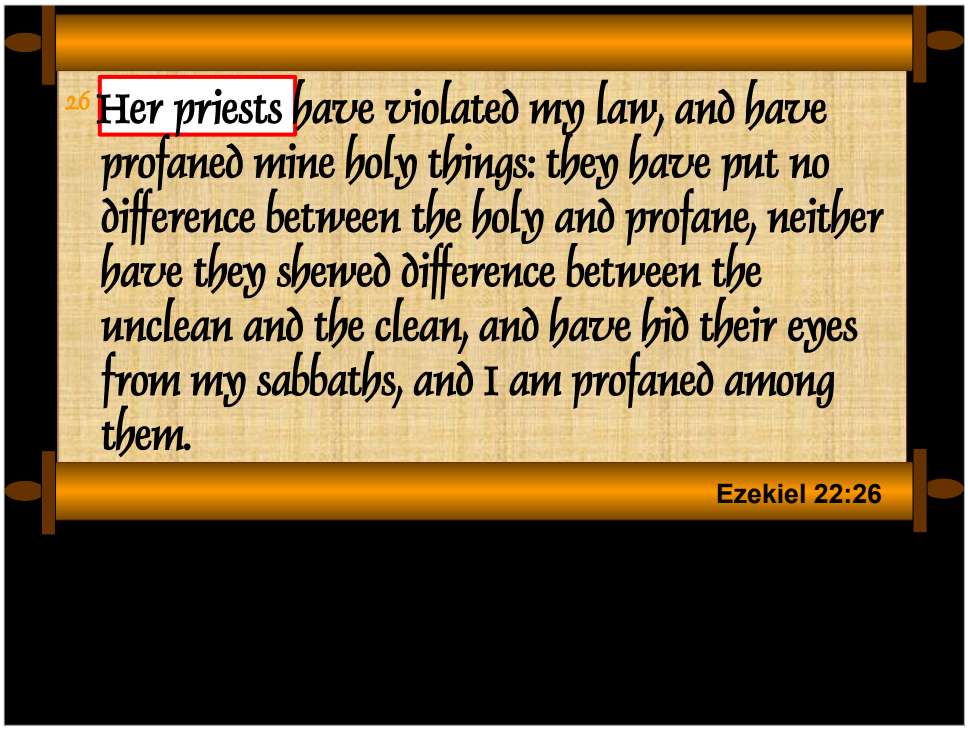
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Click to add Notes

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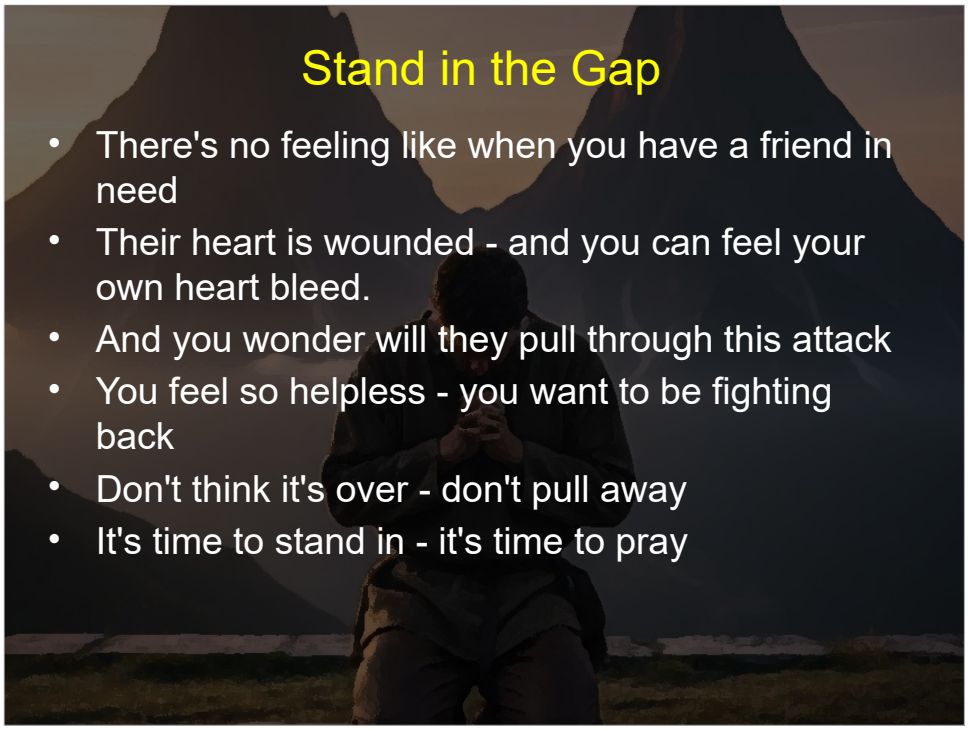
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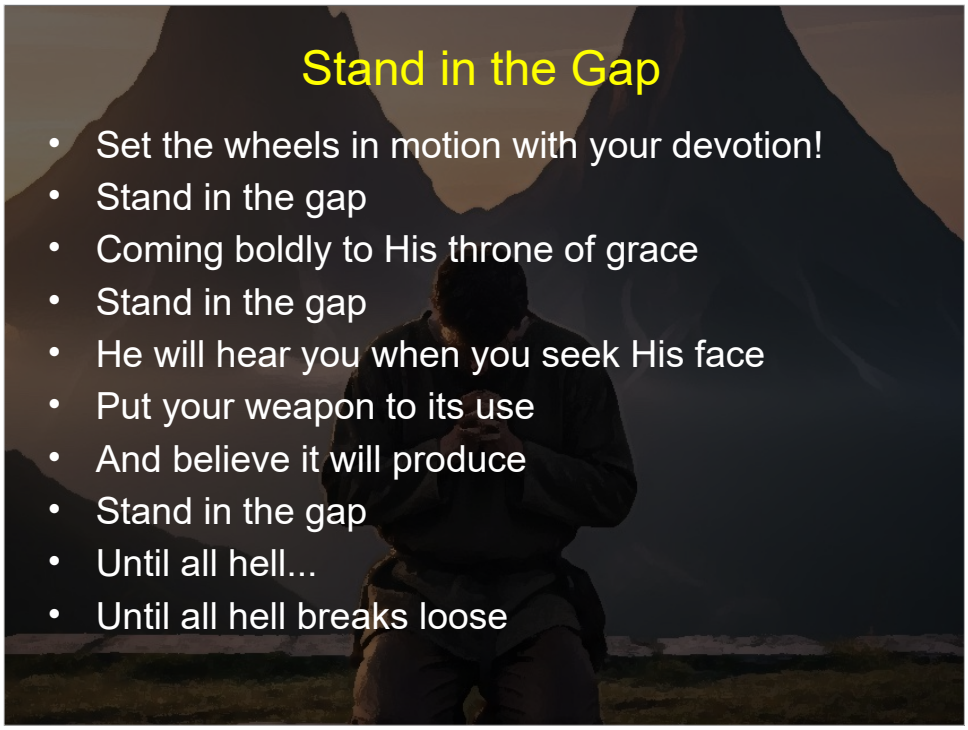
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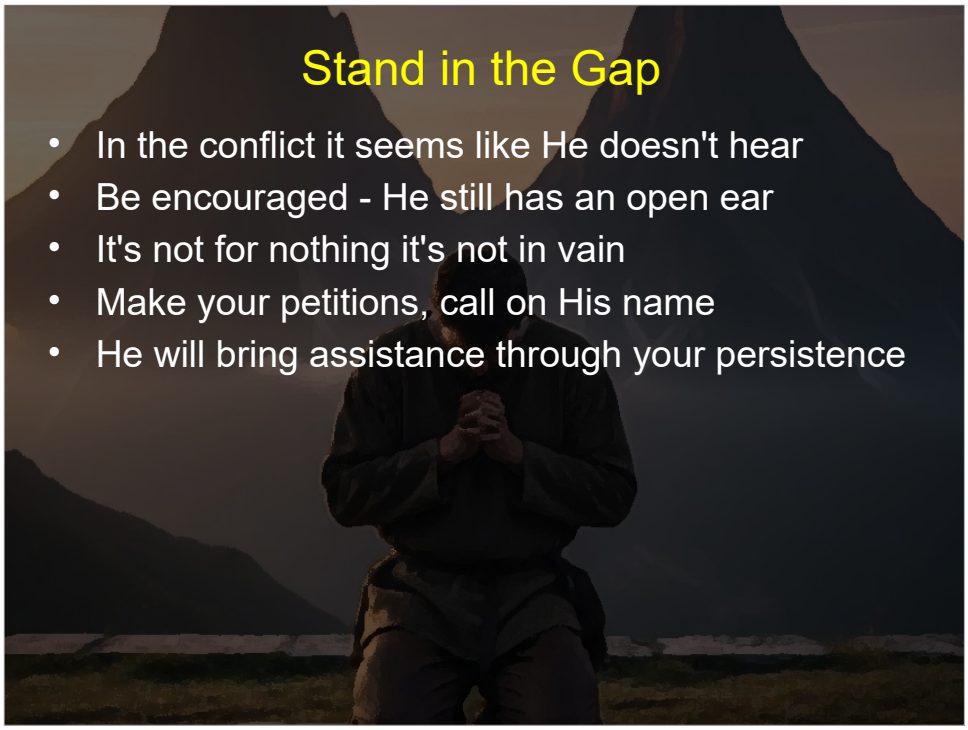
Stand in the Gap

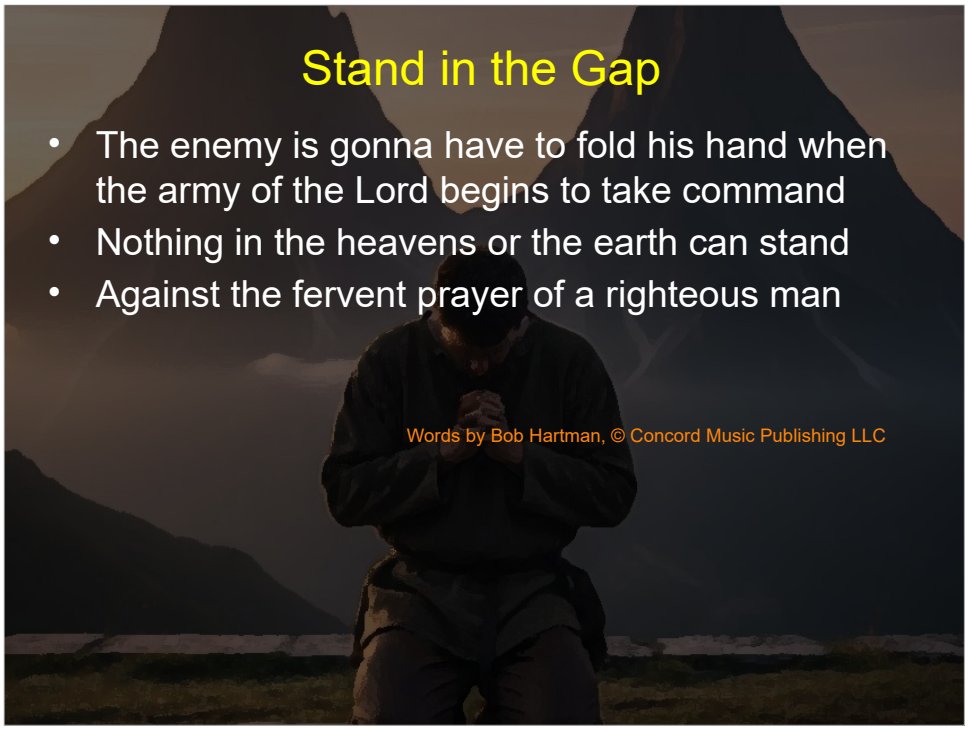
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