



Chronological Bible Study

Week 26:

**Evil and Injustice Will Not Last
Forever**

Nahum: 1:1-3:19

2 Kings 23:28-37

2 Chronicles: 35:20-36:4

Jeremiah: 7:1-8:3, 11:1-12:17, 13:1-14;
15:10-21, 18:1-17, 22:10-17; 25:1-14,
26:1-24, 36:1-32, 45:1-5, 46:1-12,
47:1-7

Habbakuk: 1:1-3:19

Opening

[Video Link](#)





Introductions

Name one way in which you were blessed this past week.

Questions?

Comments?

Summary of This Week's Readings

- Book of Nahum
- Death of Josiah
- Book of Habakkuk
- Jeremiah's Temple Sermon
- The Battle of Carchemish
- Jeremiah's Scroll

Biblical Hope

[Video Link](#)

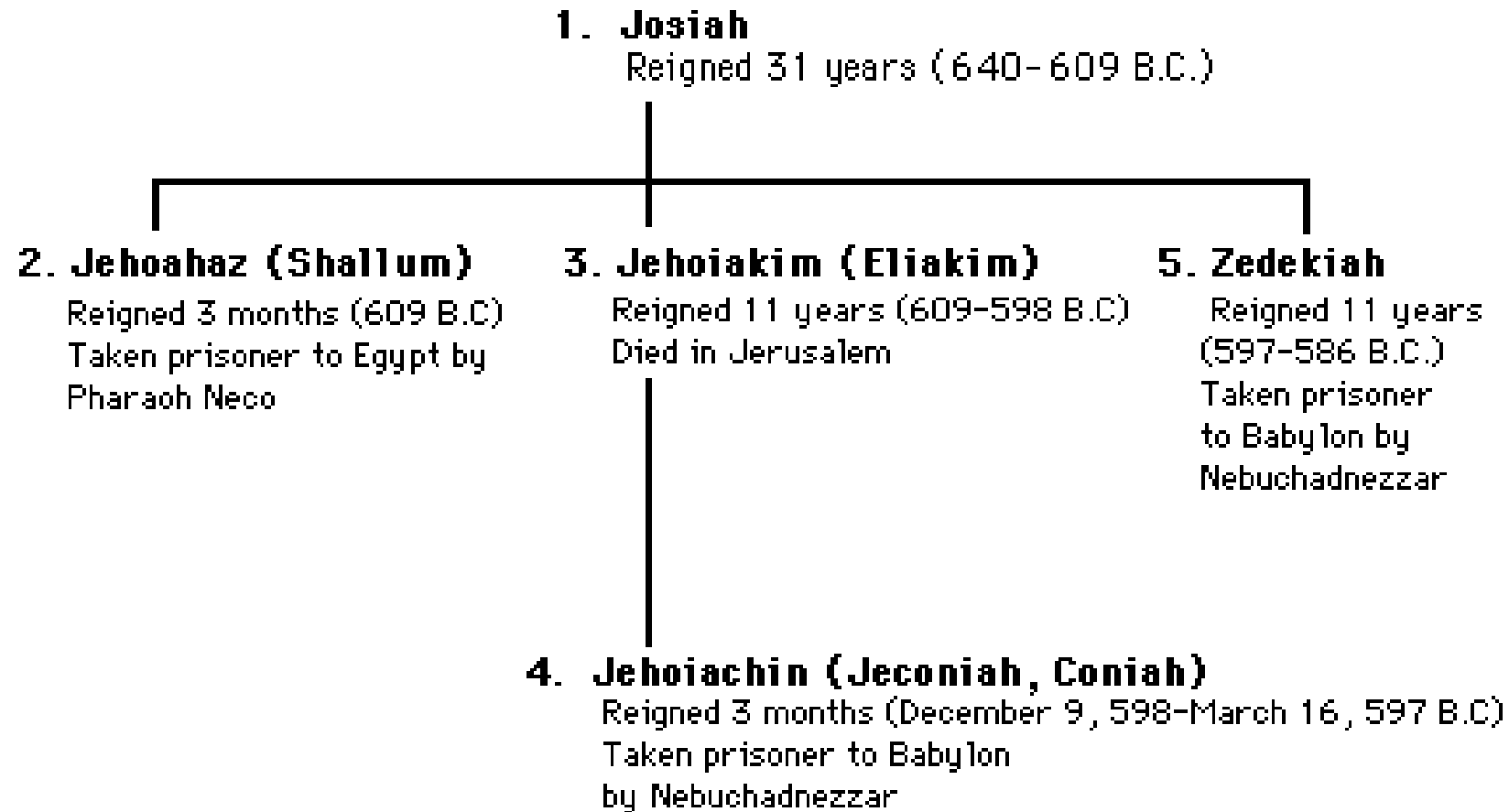




Discussion

Where are some places, other than God, that we place our hope today? What practices can help us wait for the hope God gives us?

The Last Five Kings of Judah



Jehoiakim: A Vassal King

609 BC	Jehoiakim is appointed by Neco II and pays tribute to him
608 BC	Jehoiakim submits to Nabopolassar in 608 BC when he conquered Egypt
607 BC	Nabopolassar, king of Babylon is sick and unable to go to war.
606 BC	Jehoiakim (and Egypt) rebel in the Spring of 606 BC because of Nabopolassar's illness
606 BC	Habakkuk becomes frustrated with the reversal of reforms of Josiah under Jehoiakim and demands God take action for their sin!
605 BC	Jehoiakim again submits to Babylon under Prince Nebuchadnezzar in the summer of 605 BC
605 BC	Nabopolassar dies and after Nebuchadnezzar conquers Egypt and Jerusalem (without a battle) he returns to ascend to the throne of Babylon as her second dynastic king.
601 BC	After three years of submission, Jehoiakim rebels against Babylon: (2 Ki 24:1) Nebuchadnezzar lost a battle against Egypt and returned home. The following year he reorganized his troops after the loss: "In the fourth year [601 BC] the king of Akkad mustered his army and marched to the Hatti-land. In the Hatti-land they marched unopposed. In the month of Kislîmu he took the lead of his army and marched to Egypt. The king of Egypt [Pharaoh Neco II] heard it and mustered his army. In open battle they smote the breast of each other and inflicted great havoc on each other. The king of Akkad turned back with his troops and returned to Babylon. In the fifth year [600 BC] the king of Akkad stayed in his own land and gathered together his chariots and horses in great numbers. " (Babylonian Chronicles cuneiform tablet, reverse lines 5-8)
598 BC	Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem and deports Jehoiakim to Babylon on chains.

Nahum

[Video Link](#)



Locations in Nahum



Book of Nahum

- Not much known about the prophet
- His name means God comforts – but book is not very comforting
- Written between 663 and 612 BC
- In combination with other prophetic books, God's justice and mercy are shown
- Much poetry used in the book



Big Ideas in NAHUM

God brings judgment on those who fail to live up to their earlier repentance

God is a warrior who wages war against those who resist him

God punishes those who are violent, idolatrous, ruthless in business, materialistic and cruel

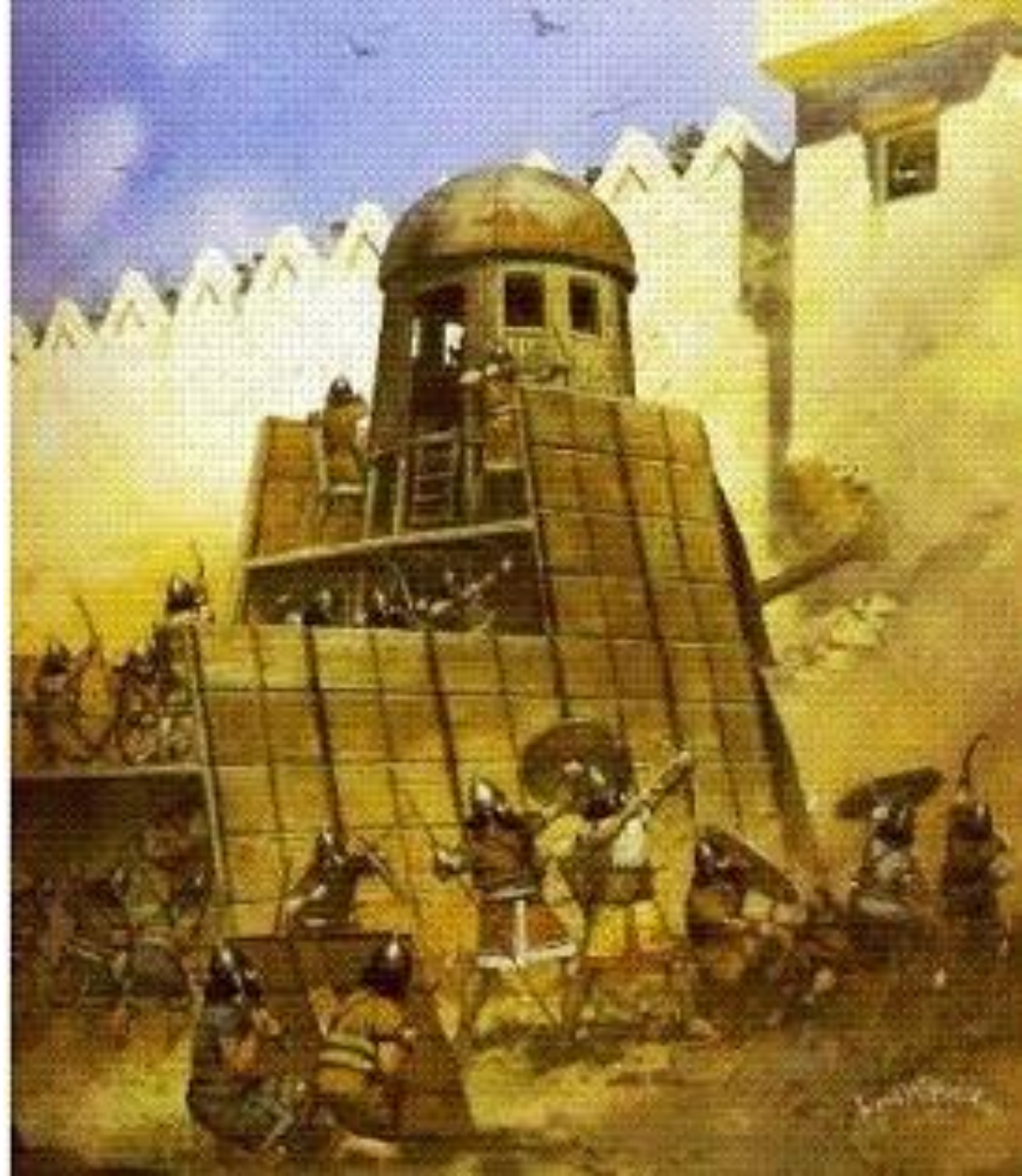
God will free his people from captivity and restore them

Key Themes of Nahum

- God avenges his enemies
- God is good
- God is powerful and active
- God brings good news

Historical Context of Nahum

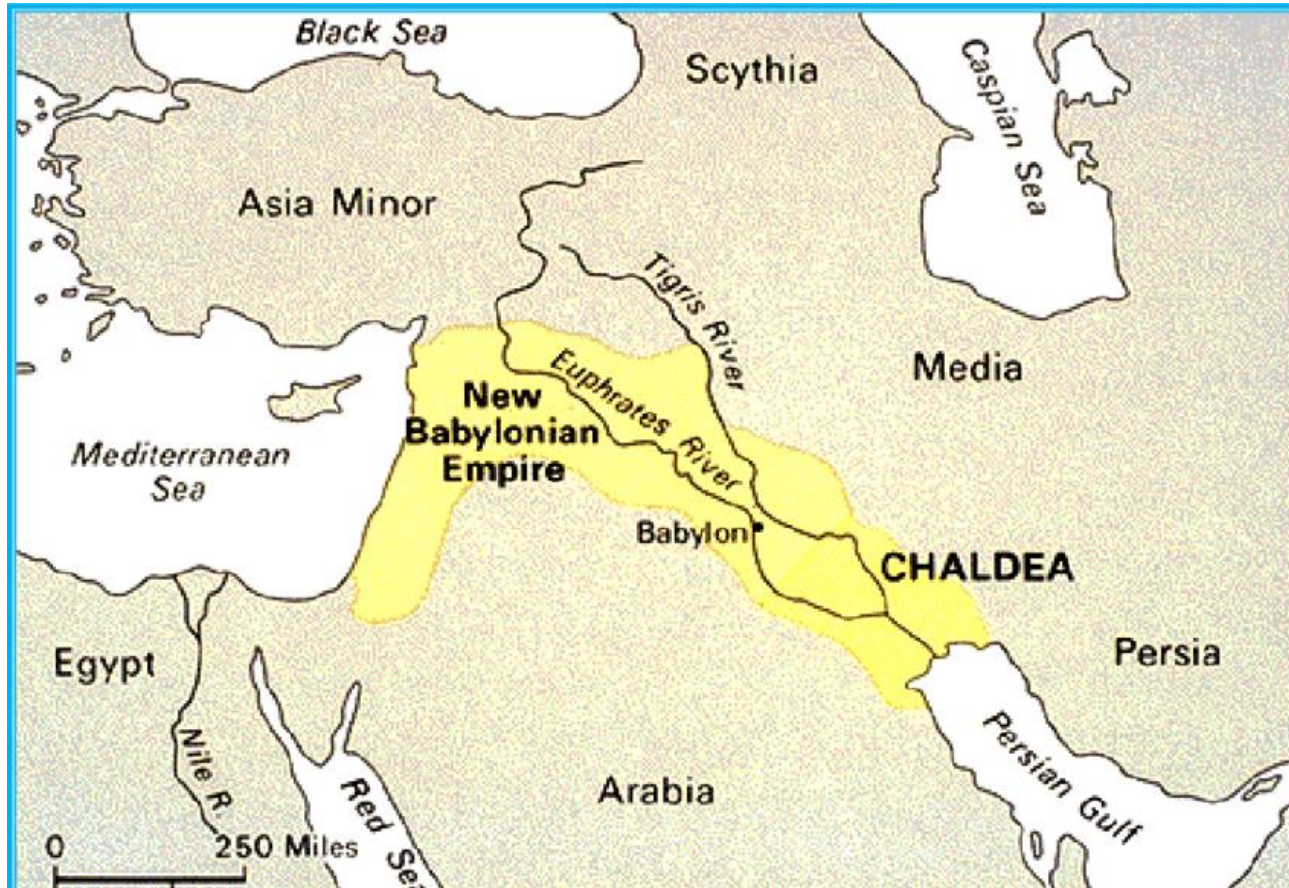
- Defeat of Thebes 663 BC by Ashurbanipal (king of Assyria 669-627 BC)
- Fall of Ninevah to the Medes and Babylonians in 612 BC anticipated by Nahum
- Assyria was considered by the world as cruel



God and Suffering

[Video Link](#)





The Chaldeans


- Strong military nation
- Revived the Babylonian empire
- Nebuchadnezzar II was Chaldean
- Chaldean came to refer to the Babylonians in general.
- Highly influential and educated group of people.

Habakkuk

- Ministered in Judah
- Lived toward the end of Josiah's reign (c640-609 BC) and the beginning of Jehoiakim's rule (c609-598 BC)
- The Book of Habakkuk written c612-605 BC



Big Ideas in HABAKKUK



God is holy and just; he is not indifferent regarding sin and injustice

God will punish the wicked at the right time

The righteous wait faithfully for God's purposes to be fulfilled

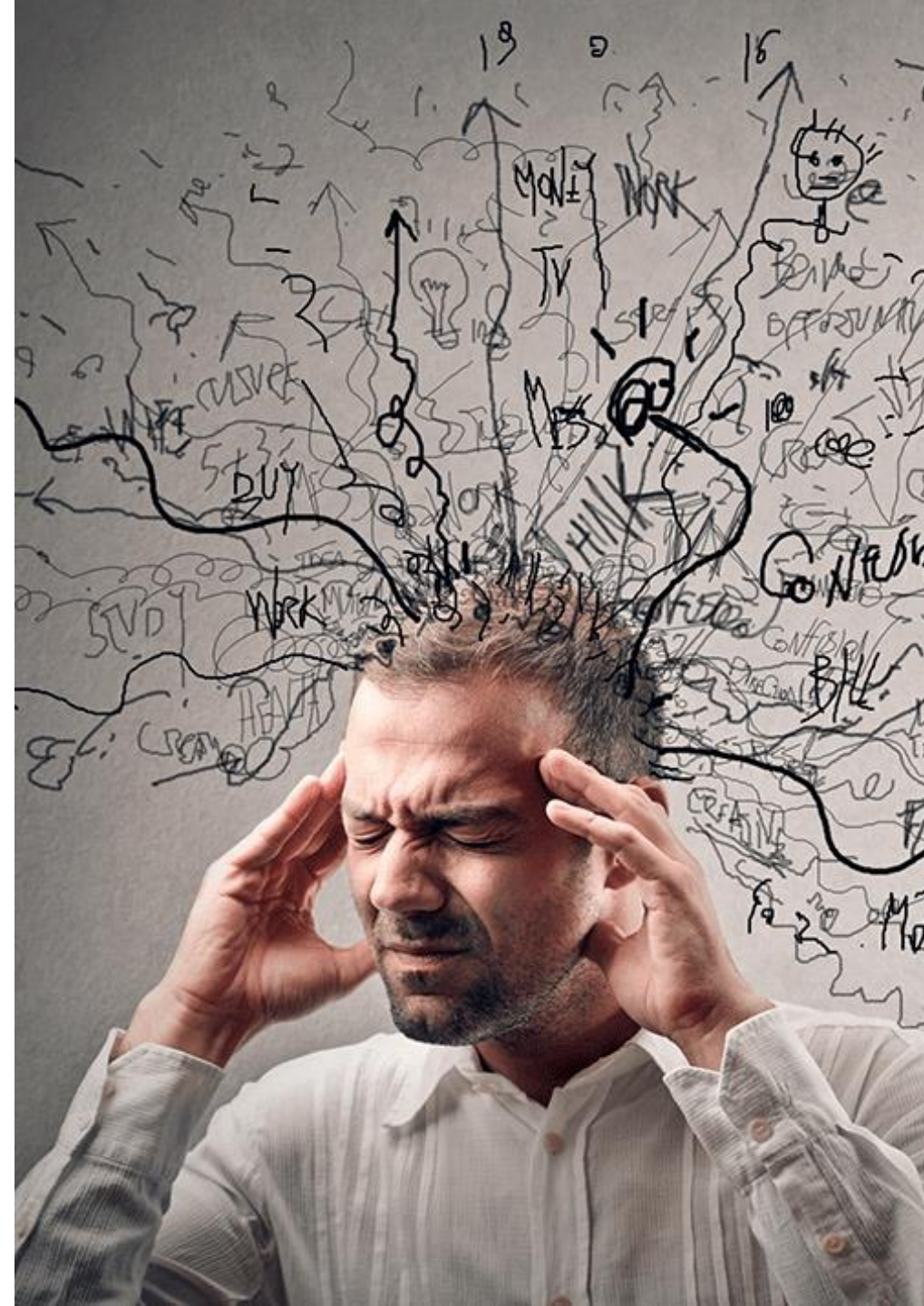
God's goodness can be seen even in the worst situations

Message and Themes

- God's response to evil
- Unrighteousness
- Spiritual struggle
- National consciousness
- God's ways in the world
- Trust
- Personal lament
- Cosmic victory

What is Biblical Lament?

- A prayer expressing sorrow, pain, or confusion.
- Lament should be the chief way Christians process grief in God's presence.
- The Psalms and the Book of Lamentations are concerned with lament. Habakkuk is also concerned with lament.
- Lament can shape us to God's image
- Four elements of lament
 - Keep turning to God
 - Bring your complaints
 - Ask boldly
 - Choose to trust



Habakkuk's Complaints and Prayer

- How long will societal injustice continue?
- But why the evil Babylonians?
- Habakkuk prays for God's intervention and stays rooted in his trust and joy in God.

The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.”

Questions and Answers

Habakkuk

Habakkuk's Questions

God, have you abandoned us?

1:1–4

The Babylonians?

God, how could you?

1:12–2:1

God, are you still there?

3:1–15

God's Answers

No, but Israel's wickedness has not gone unnoticed; I will send the Babylonians to punish my people

1:5–11

I know the Babylonians are not innocent; I promise to crush them as well

2:3,8

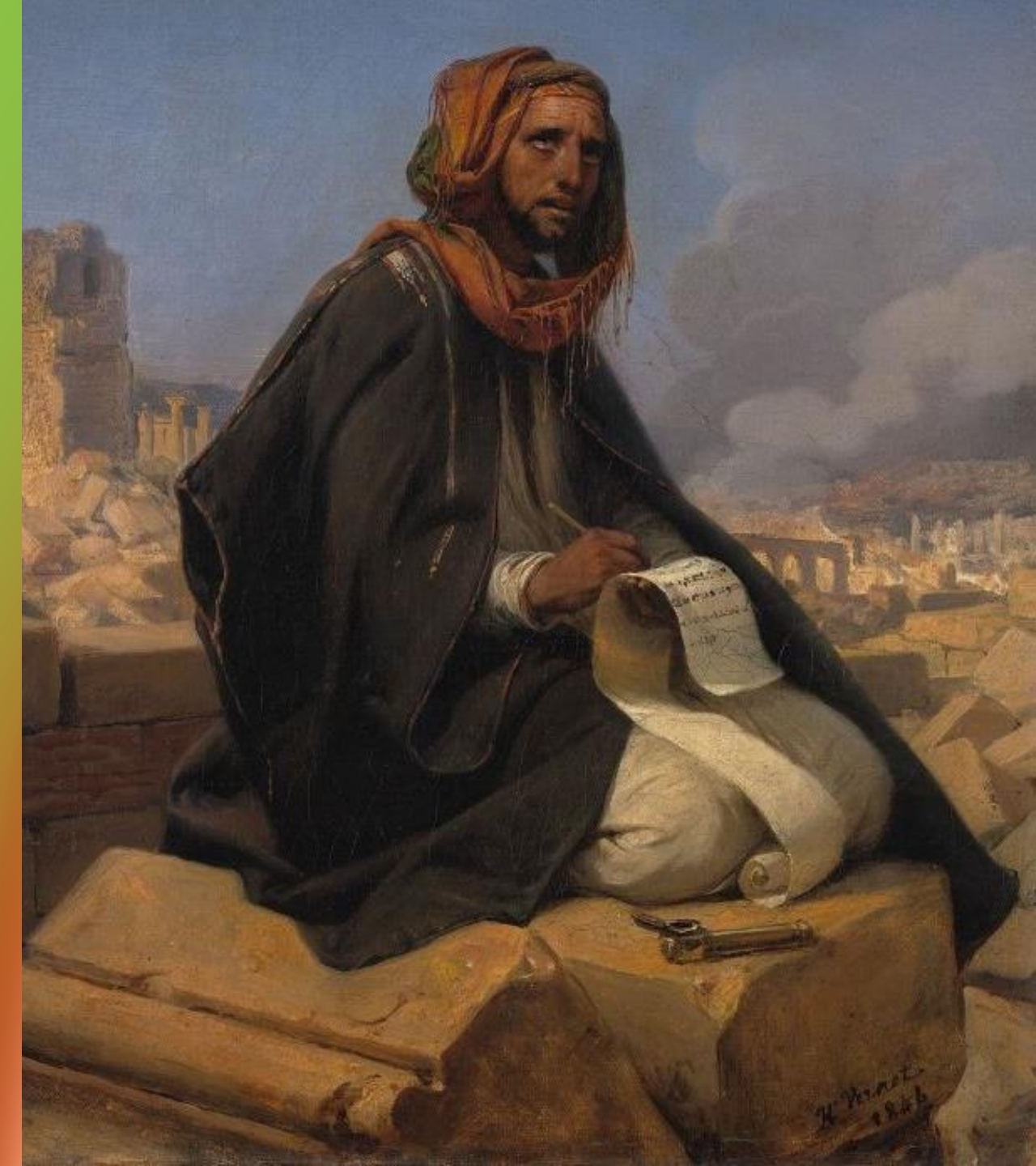
Yes, and I will strengthen my people even in difficult times

3:16–19

More on God and Suffering

[Video Link](#)

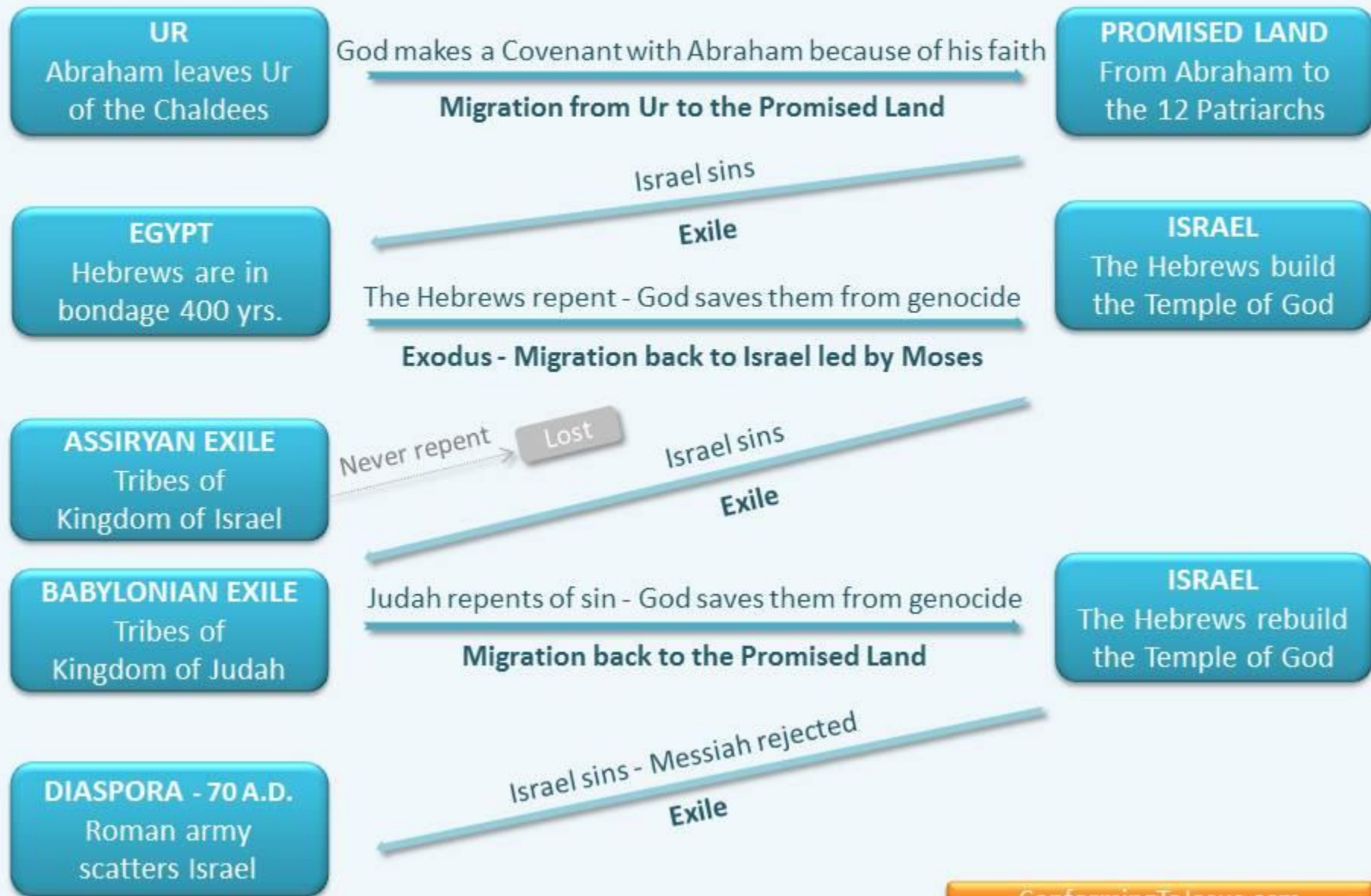




Jeremiah's Temple Sermon

- Judah was worshipping God in the temple, but their actions showed they needed reform ... they were going through the acts of worship without commitment to God.
- The people will not listen to God's message through Jeremiah.
- The people have broken covenant with God and there will be consequences.
- Disobedience can not nullify God's covenant – they will be brought back from exile.

Pattern of the History of Israel



Battle of Carchemish

[Video Link](#)



Jeremiah's Scroll

- Jehoiakim will not listen to Jeremiah and bans him from speaking
- Jeremiah asks his scribe Baruch to read a message for repentance to the people.
- Jehoiakim burns the scroll.
- God cautions Baruch not to seek great things for himself – his role is to serve God





Discussion

In today's world, how can we spread God's message effectively, knowing the possibility of rejection, as experienced by Jeremiah and Baruch?



Next Week

Readings For 4/16-22: Words of Warning Rejected

- Jeremiah 8:4-10:16; 13:15-27; 14:1-20:18; 22:18-30; 23:9-40; 24:1-17; 35:1-19
- 2 Kings 24:1-9
- 2 Chronicles 36:5-10

Closing Song: Habakkuk's Prayer

[Video Link](#)



Evil and Injustice Will Not Last Forever

APRIL 2-8, 2024

NA 1:1-3:19; 2 KI 23; JER 7-8, 11, 13, 15 17-18, 22, 25-26, 36, 45-47;
2 CH 35-36, HAB 1-3

Week 26

Nahum’s prophecy of judgment on Nineveh was intended to bring hope to the people of Judah, who had suffered Assyrian abuse for many years. God cares for his people and will punish those who abuse them. He will protect them, free them from oppression and restore them. But he will not tolerate business as usual when he has called for repentance. He is the ultimate power and authority and he calls upon his people to live life his way. God is at work in the lives of his people even when it seems evil has triumphed. Because God is sovereign, he will not let injustice continue forever. God’s ways may seem unfathomable, but He was in control.

Weekly Reading Plan (pg. 708-730)

Day 1: NA 1:1-3:19; 2 KI 23:28-34
Day 2: JER 22:10-17; 2 CH 35:20-36:4
Day 3: HAB 1:1-3:19; 2 KI 23:35-37
Day 4: JER 26:1-6; 7:1-8:3; 26:7-24;
11:1-12:17
Day 5: JER 47:1-7; 46:1-12; 13:1-14;
18:1-17
Day 6: JER 36:1-10; 25:1-14;
Day 7: JER 36:11-32; 45:1-5; 15:10-21

Outline

Nahum [Day 1]
The Death of Josiah [Day 1]
A Dirge for an Exiled King [Day 2]
Priestly Account: Josiah’s Last Years [Day 2]
Habakkuk [Day 3]
Prophetic Account: Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin [Day 3]
Jeremiah’s Temple Sermon [Day 4]
The Battle of Carchemish [Day 5]
Jeremiah’s Scroll [Day 6-7]

Key Characters

Nahum	Josiah
Jehoahaz	Necho
Jeremiah	Jehoiakim
Habakkuk	Baruch
Nebuchadnezzar	Micah

Key Locations

Nineveh	Judah
Jerusalem	Charchemish
Megiddo	Shiloh
Egypt	Perath
Babylon	

Key Terms

Judgment	Conflict
Dialogue	Providence
Rebellion	Injustice
Salvation	Sovereignty
Repentance	

Key Verses

The Lord is a jealous and avenging God: The LORD takes vengeance and is fierce in wrath. The LORD takes vengeance against his foes; he is furious with his enemies [NA 1:2]

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness. [NA 1:7-8]

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, through the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. [HAB 3:17-18]

As for all my wicked neighbors who seize the inheritance I gave my people Israel, I will uproot them from their lands and I will uproot the people of Judah from among them. But after I uproot them, I will again have compassion and will bring each of them back to their own inheritance [JER 12:15]

I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel [JER 15:21]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Na1: Against Nineveh: The LORD takes vengeance on his enemies. The LORD says, "I will break his yoke from you." Hold your feasts, O Judah!

Na2: The LORD is restoring Jacob. Chariots race through the streets. Nineveh is like a draining pool. "I am against you," declares the LORD.

Na3: Woe to the bloody city! "The nations will look at your shame." Draw water for the siege. Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria.

2Ki23: Josiah destroyed the altars and high places and held Passover. He was killed in battle. Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim ruled and did evil.

Jer26: The LORD said: Speak in the courts. The priests seized Jeremiah to kill him, but the officials refused. Uriah had been put to death.

Jer11: Both Israel and Judah have broken my covenant. I will bring disaster. Do not pray for them. I will punish those who seek your life.

Jer12: O LORD, why do the wicked prosper? I have left my house. Many shepherds have ruined my vineyard. I will uproot my evil neighbors.

Jer47: Of the Philistines: Waters are rising from the north. The LORD is destroying the Philistines. How can the sword of the LORD be quiet?

Jer46: Of Egypt: There is no healing for you. Prepare yourselves for exile. I will deliver Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar. But fear not, O Jacob!

Jer13: The LORD told me to hide a sash in the rocks. So I will ruin the pride of Judah, says the LORD. All Judah will be carried into exile.

Jer18: The LORD said: Go to the potter. You are clay in my hand, O Israel. My people have forgotten me. O LORD, they have dug a pit for me.

Jer36: Baruch read out Jeremiah's words at the temple. The king sent for the scroll and burned it. The LORD said: I will bring disaster.

Jer25: You did not listen, says the LORD. So I will summon Babylon. Make the nations drink my cup of wrath. The LORD will roar from on high.

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Week 26

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jer45: When Baruch wrote these words, the LORD said to him: I am going to break what I have built. Do not seek great things for yourself.

Jer15: Send these people away from my presence! Who will mourn for Jerusalem? O LORD, I suffer insult for you. I am with you, says the LORD.

Teachings About God

- God is supreme in the rise and fall of nations
- God's wrath against every affront to his holiness is shown clearly in Nahum.
- God's patience should not be understood as weakness.
- God does not recognize as great (or good) any person or nation that measures success apart from obedience to him.
- When God judges his own people for their sin he may use evil people or powers.
- God is majestic, righteous and sovereign; deserving of worship and faith.
- God reveals truth.

Teachings About Humanity

- It is important for God's people to recognize themselves as people under God's protection.
- Humans can achieve a great deal apart from God, but human cruelty and evil is an abomination to God.
- Humans should not doubt the seriousness of God's wrath against sin, despite delays in carrying out His justice.
- Human reasoning will never understand God's ways.
- Political leaders can fall into great evil.

Teachings About Salvation

- In Nahum, salvation is presented as God's final rescue of his people based on his sovereign care.
- Paul quoted Habakkuk twice as evidence of justification by faith. Steadfast, persevering trust in God for deliverance is key.

Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- Nahum told Judah to look for a messenger who would bring the good news of Assyria's downfall, proclaiming peace for the world (1:15). Jesus is the ultimate messenger.
- Habakkuk stood in awe at God's holiness and power, similar to John when the risen Christ appeared to him at Patmos (Rev 1:17).
- Jeremiah (7:11) foretold of the imminent destruction of the temple.

Literary Genres/Techniques

- Nahum written in Hebrew poetry. Nahum 12:8 is a psalm about God's awesome power.
- Habakkuk written in Hebrew poetry to honor God's name. It contains prophetic dialogue, woes, and prayer.
- Jeremiah contains historical narrative prose and poetry.

Author/Date of Writing/Audience

- Nahum written by the prophet c 650 BC during Manasseh's reign to the people of Nineveh. The message also applied to Judah
- Habakkuk written by the prophet c 610 BC to the kings and people in Judah before the Babylonian captivity, at the time Babylon was becoming a superpower and Josiah was king of Judah.

What did I learn about God?

- In Nahum, we see that God is good in his anger. How do you reconcile God's wrath with God's love? Is one primary and the other secondary? Are they flip sides of the same coin? Or do you find it difficult to see consistency in these two natures of God?
- In 2 KI 23 we read about the revival brought about by Josiah. Is revival dependent all and only on God? What role, if any, should we play in revival today?
- Habakkuk calls out to God asking why there is evil and injustice. How might God use terrorists, drug lords, human traffickers, police states, and scandals in our day?
- In JER 18 we see the image of God as a potter. Are God's plans set in "concrete" or "wet clay"? How much does he mold people and how much do people mold themselves? Read RO 9:19-21.

What did I learn about human nature?

- God declares to Nineveh in Nahum "I am against you." To what extent is our nation guilty of the sins of Nineveh, such as cruelty and warmongering? Is our nation's capital as liable as Nineveh for lies and making money at the expense of others? What personal responsibility, if any, do we have in giving warning to our nation today? Who do you think raises the voice of reform today?
- What fears do some people, including Christians, have about something or someone other than themselves being in control? In what ways does our culture encourage people to be in control in their lives, jobs, marriage, etc? What do our fears indicate about our willingness or ability to let God be in control? What are some ways we can daily relinquish our lives to God's sovereign control?
- What do wars accomplish? Are they acts of God's wrath or the results of man's folly? Explain.
- In JER 36 King Jehoiakim burns Jeremiah's scroll containing God's word. How do people today show disdain for God's word? How do they honor it?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Describe a time when God gave you hope through something amazing He did in the life of another person.
- Describe a time when, like Habakkuk, you were "awed" by God's creation.
- Jeremiah was calm facing death (JER 26:14-15). Does the fear of the Lord make you immune to the fear of men? Should it? How can you overcome what you fear the most?
- Do you think serving the Lord was a pleasant task for Jeremiah? Would you have liked his job? Do you ever feel unrewarded for your dedication? Unappreciated by God? By others? How does God equip you for the role you play?