

# EZEKIEL





# EZEKIEL

**KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD**

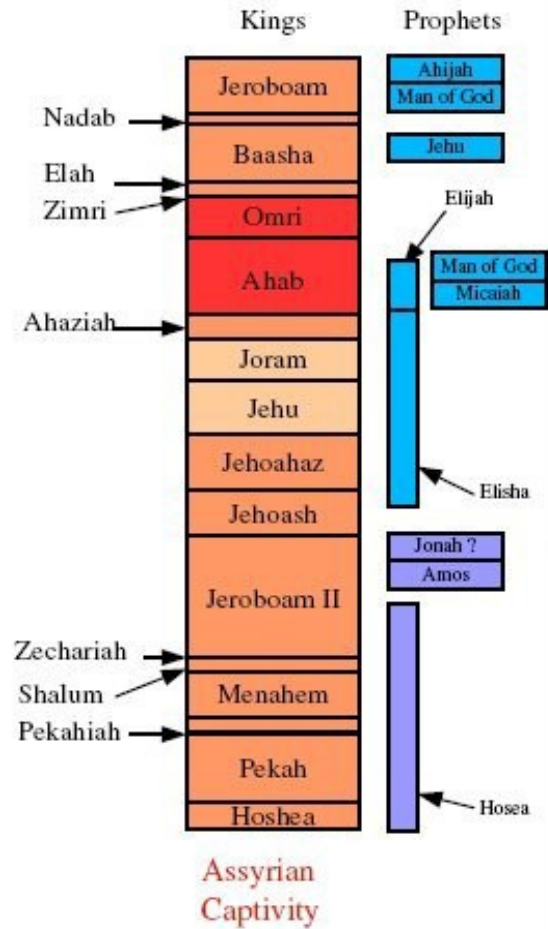
# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Historical context of Ezekiel

- Babylonian captivity
  - First prophecy in 5<sup>th</sup> year of Jehoiachin's exile (593 BC)
  - Last prophecy 571 BC
  - Spans 22 years

# Israel



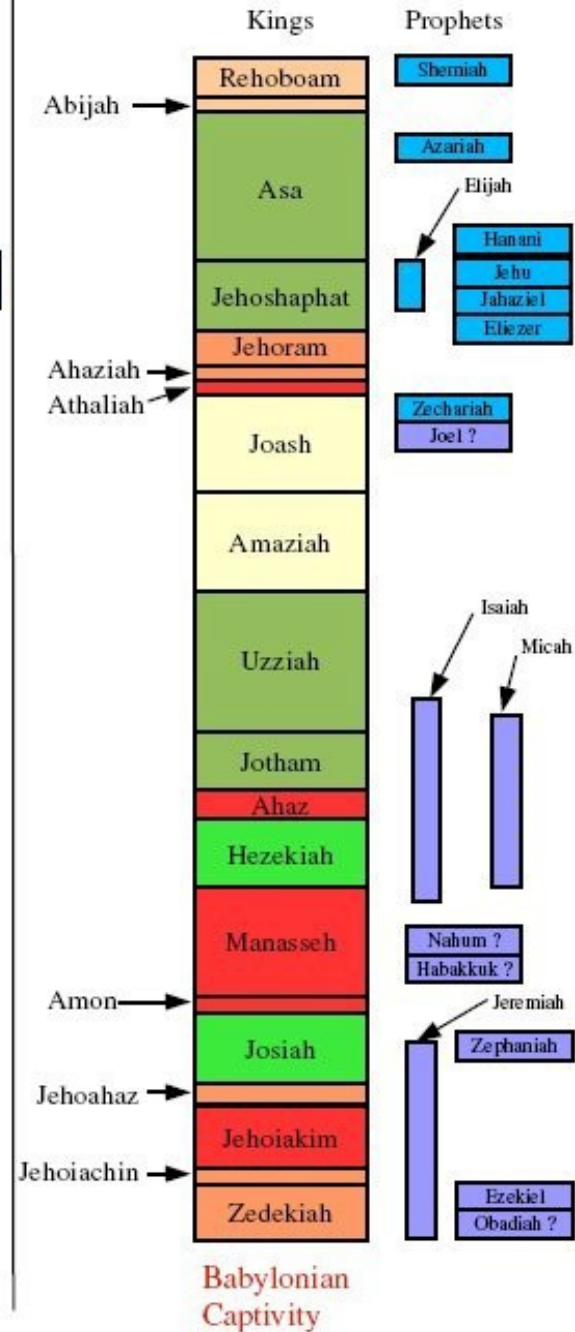
Prophet who did not write book

Prophet who wrote book of Bible

Kings

Good Evil

# Judah



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Purpose of the book

- Announce judgment on Judah
- Announce judgment on Gentiles
- Announce restoration
  - Reunification of Judah and Israel
  - As prophesied by Jeremiah 3:18

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Eze 6:10 And they will know that I am the LORD

Occurs 75x in Ezekiel!

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Eze 1:2** On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin—

**Eze 1:3** the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. There the hand of the LORD was upon him.

# **EZEKIEL**

## **KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD**

Fifth Year of the Exile of King Jehoiachin

Three stages to the fall of Judah

- 1) Nebuchadnezzar conquers Jerusalem during reign of Jehoiakim (2 Ki 24:1)
- 2) Nebuchadnezzar re-takes Jerusalem and takes Jehoiachin captive (2 Ki 24:8-17)
- 3) Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem after Zedekiah's revolt (2 Ki 25)

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Why did God send Nebuchadnezzar?

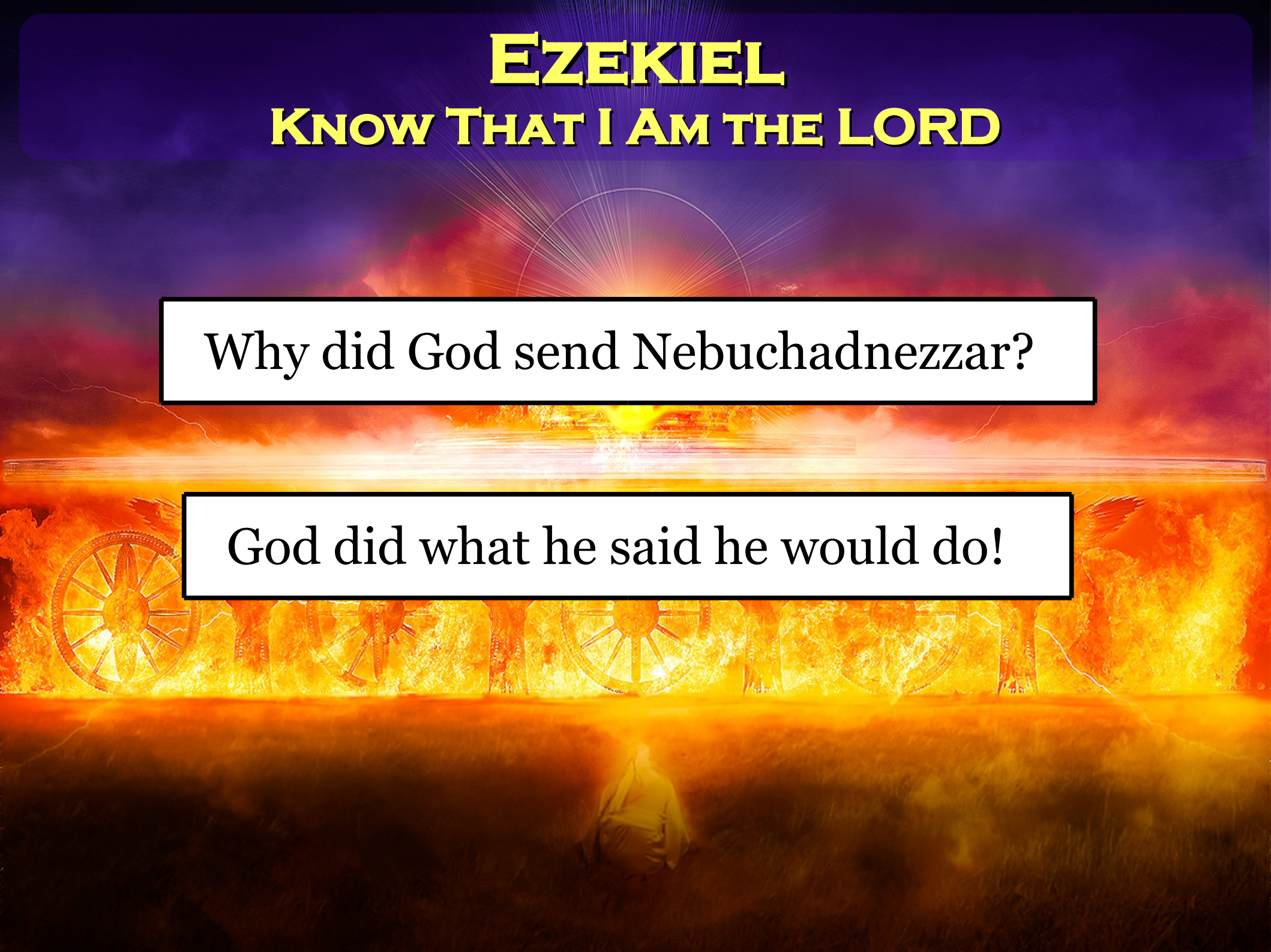


# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Why did God send Nebuchadnezzar?

God did what he said he would do!



# **EZEKIEL**

## **KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD**

Why did God send Nebuchadnezzar?

God did what he said he would do!

Predicted in Leviticus 900 years earlier!

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

The promise of blessings



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:3** "If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands,

**Lev 26:4** I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit.

**Lev 26:5** Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land.

**Lev 26:6** "I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:7** You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you.

**Lev 26:8** Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

**Lev 26:9** "I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you.

**Lev 26:10** You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:11** I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you.

**Lev 26:12** I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

**Lev 26:13** I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

The promise of curses



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

The promise of curses

Stage 1



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:14** "But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands,

**Lev 26:15** and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant,

**Lev 26:16** then I will do this to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and drain away your life. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it.

**Lev 26:17** I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no one is pursuing you.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

The promise of curses

Stage 2



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:18** "If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over.

**Lev 26:19** I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze.

**Lev 26:20** Your strength will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of the land yield their fruit.

**Lev 26:21** "If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over, as your sins deserve.

**Lev 26:22** I will send wild animals against you, and they will rob you of your children, destroy your cattle and make you so few in number that your roads will be deserted.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

The promise of curses

Stage 3



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:23** "If in spite of these things you do not accept my correction but continue to be hostile toward me,

**Lev 26:24** I myself will be hostile toward you and will afflict you for your sins seven times over.

**Lev 26:25** And I will bring the sword upon you to avenge the breaking of the covenant. When you withdraw into your cities, I will send a plague among you, and you will be given into enemy hands.

**Lev 26:26** When I cut off your supply of bread, ten women will be able to bake your bread in one oven, and they will dole out the bread by weight. You will eat, but you will not be satisfied.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

The promise of curses

Stage 4



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:27** "If in spite of this you still do not listen to me but continue to be hostile toward me,

**Lev 26:28** then in my anger I will be hostile toward you, and I myself will punish you for your sins seven times over.

**Lev 26:29** You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters.

**Lev 26:30** I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars and pile your dead bodies on the lifeless forms of your idols, and I will abhor you.

**Lev 26:31** I will turn your cities into ruins and lay waste your sanctuaries, and I will take no delight in the pleasing aroma of your offerings.

**Lev 26:32** I will lay waste the land, so that your enemies who live there will be appalled.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:33** I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins.

**Lev 26:34** Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths.

**Lev 26:35** All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived in it.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:36** "As for those of you who are left, I will make their hearts so fearful in the lands of their enemies that the sound of a windblown leaf will put them to flight. They will run as though fleeing from the sword, and they will fall, even though no one is pursuing them.

**Lev 26:37** They will stumble over one another as though fleeing from the sword, even though no one is pursuing them. So you will not be able to stand before your enemies.

**Lev 26:38** You will perish among the nations; the land of your enemies will devour you.

**Lev 26:39** Those of you who are left will waste away in the lands of their enemies because of their sins; also because of their fathers' sins they will waste away.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

The promise of restoration



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Lev 26:40** "But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their fathers—their treachery against me and their hostility toward me,

**Lev 26:41** which made me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies—then when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they pay for their sin,

**Lev 26:42** I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

**Lev 26:43** For the land will be deserted by them and will enjoy its sabbaths while it lies desolate without them. They will pay for their sins because they rejected my laws and abhorred my decrees.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

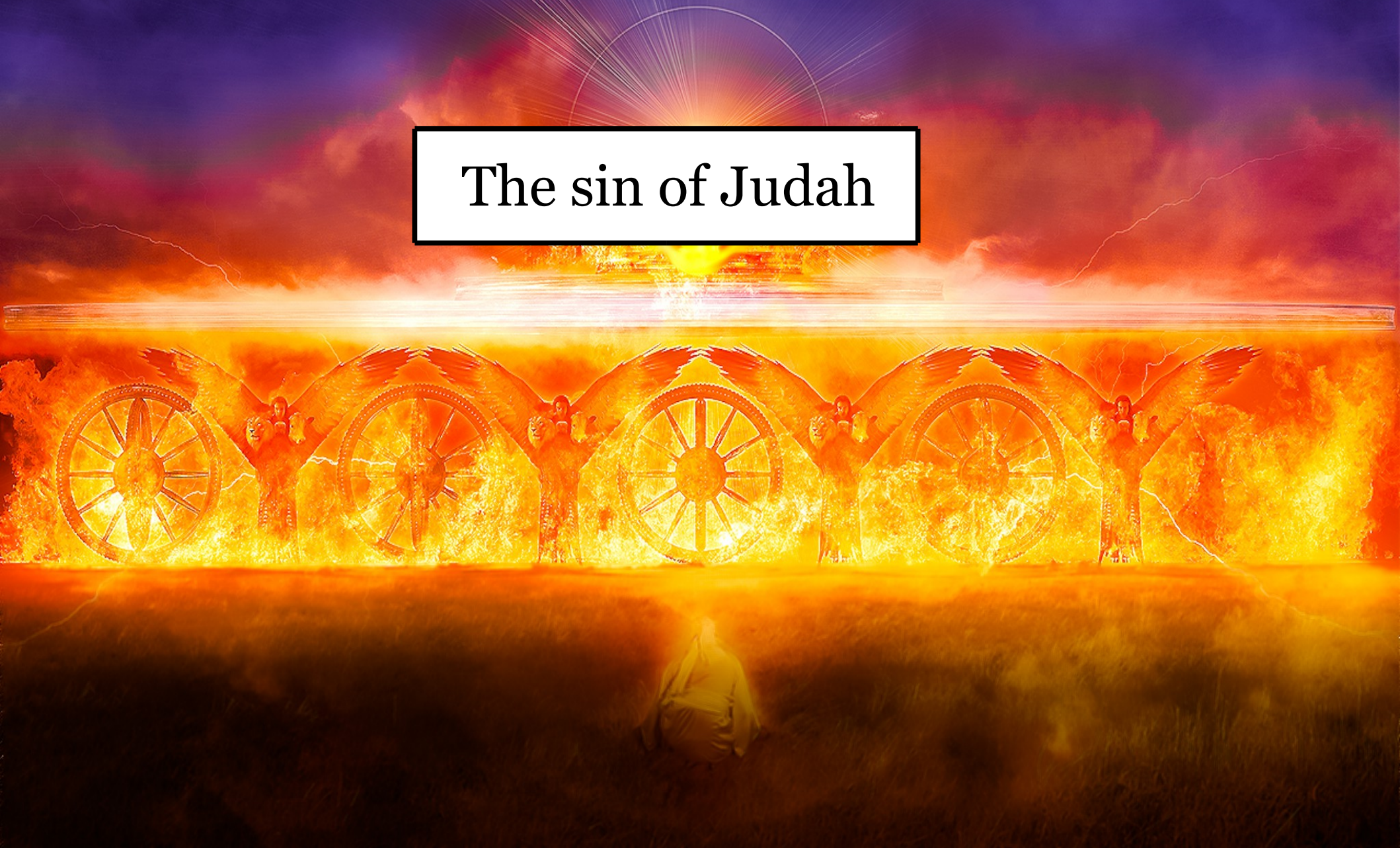
**Lev 26:44** Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the LORD their God.

**Lev 26:45** But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the LORD.'"

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

The sin of Judah



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

The sin of Judah

How bad did it get?



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

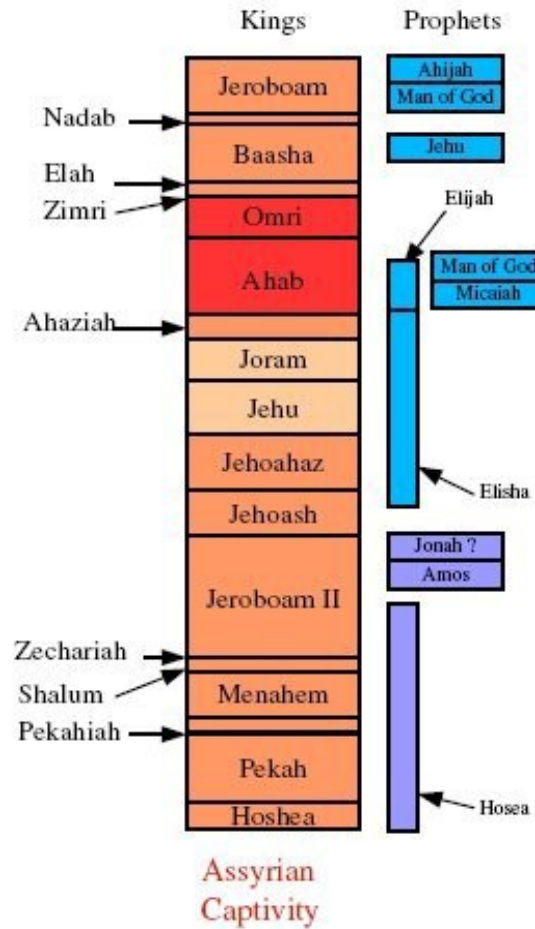
The sin of Judah


How bad did it get?


King Manasseh



## Israel



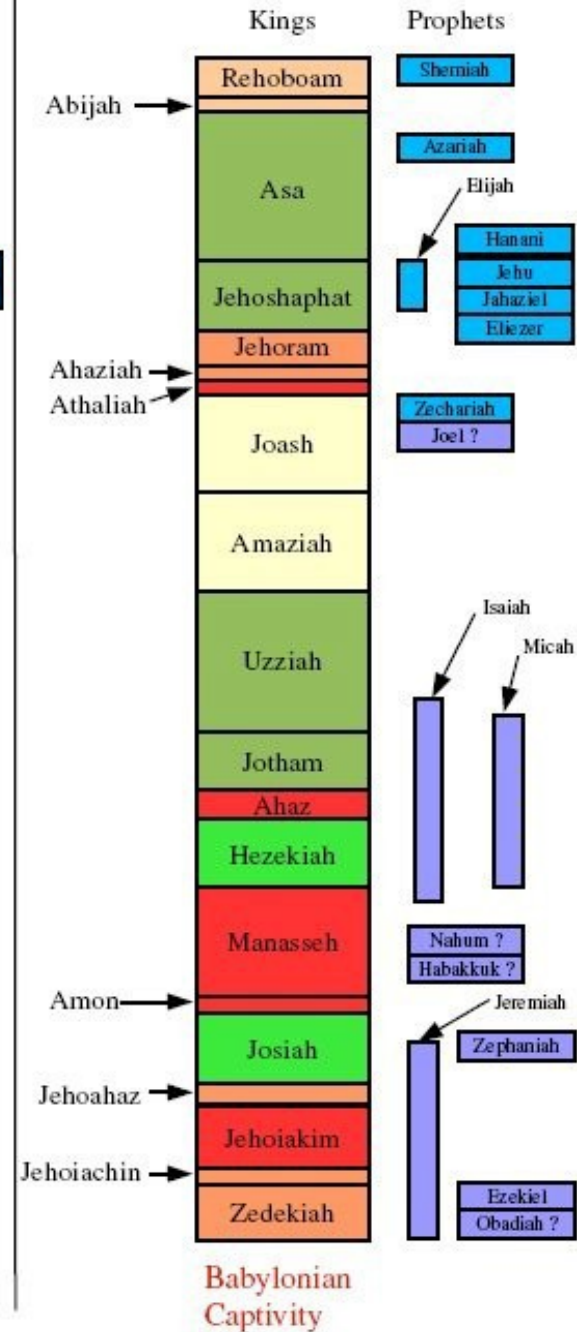
 Prophet who did not write book

 Prophet who wrote book of Bible

Kings

Good  Evil

## Judah



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**2Ki 21:1** Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother's name was Hephzibah.

**2Ki 21:2** He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.

**2Ki 21:3** He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**2Ki 21:4** He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my Name."

**2Ki 21:5** In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts.

**2Ki 21:6** He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**2Ki 21:7** He took the carved Asherah pole he had made and **put it in the temple**, of which the LORD had said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever.

**2Ki 21:8** I will not again make the feet of the Israelites wander from the land I gave their forefathers, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them and will keep the whole Law that my servant Moses gave them."

**2Ki 21:9** But the people did not listen. Manasseh led them astray, so that **they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.**

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

How did God feel about that?



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**2Ki 21:10** The LORD said through his servants the prophets:

**2Ki 21:11** "Manasseh king of Judah has committed these detestable sins. He has done more evil than the Amorites who preceded him and has led Judah into sin with his idols.

**2Ki 21:12** Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I am going to bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**2Ki 21:13** I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line used against Samaria and the plumb line used against the house of Ahab. I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

**2Ki 21:14** I will forsake the remnant of my inheritance and hand them over to their enemies. They will be looted and plundered by all their foes,

**2Ki 21:15** because they have done evil in my eyes and have provoked me to anger from the day their forefathers came out of Egypt until this day."

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Manasseh's sin: Idolatry



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Manasseh's sin: Idolatry

Violation of the first Commandment



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Idolatry: violation of the first Commandment

**Exo 34:14** Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Exo 20:2** "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

**Exo 20:3** "You shall have no other gods before me.

**Exo 20:4** "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

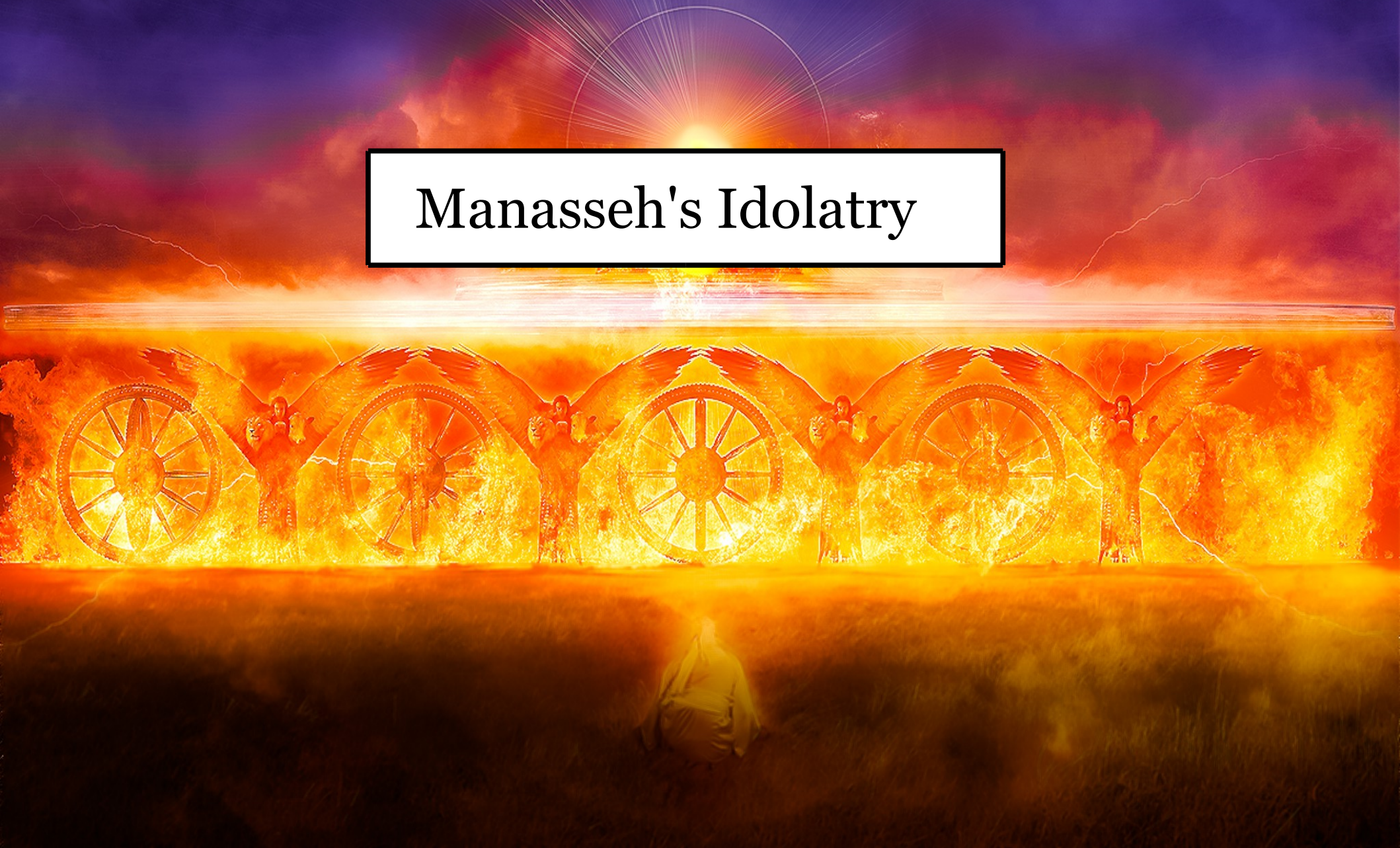
**Exo 20:5** You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

**Exo 20:6** but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Manasseh's Idolatry



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**2Ki 21:6** He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**2Ki 21:6** He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

**Eze 16:20** "'And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough?

**Eze 16:21** You slaughtered **my children** and sacrificed them to the idols.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

What kind of idolatry do we see today?



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

What kind of idolatry do we see today?

**Eph 5:5** For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

What kind of idolatry do we see today?

**Eph 5:5** For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Immorality, impurity, and greed!

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Does anyone sacrifice children to idols today?



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Does anyone sacrifice children to idols today?

**Eze 16:20** "And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough?

**Eze 16:21** You slaughtered **my children** and sacrificed them to the idols.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Does anyone sacrifice children to idols today?

**Eze 16:20** "And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough?

**Eze 16:21** You slaughtered **my children** and sacrificed them to the idols.

How often do people terminate a child's life for reasons of immorality, impurity, or greed?

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Jer 5:12** They have lied about the LORD; they said, "He will do nothing! No harm will come to us; we will never see sword or famine.



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

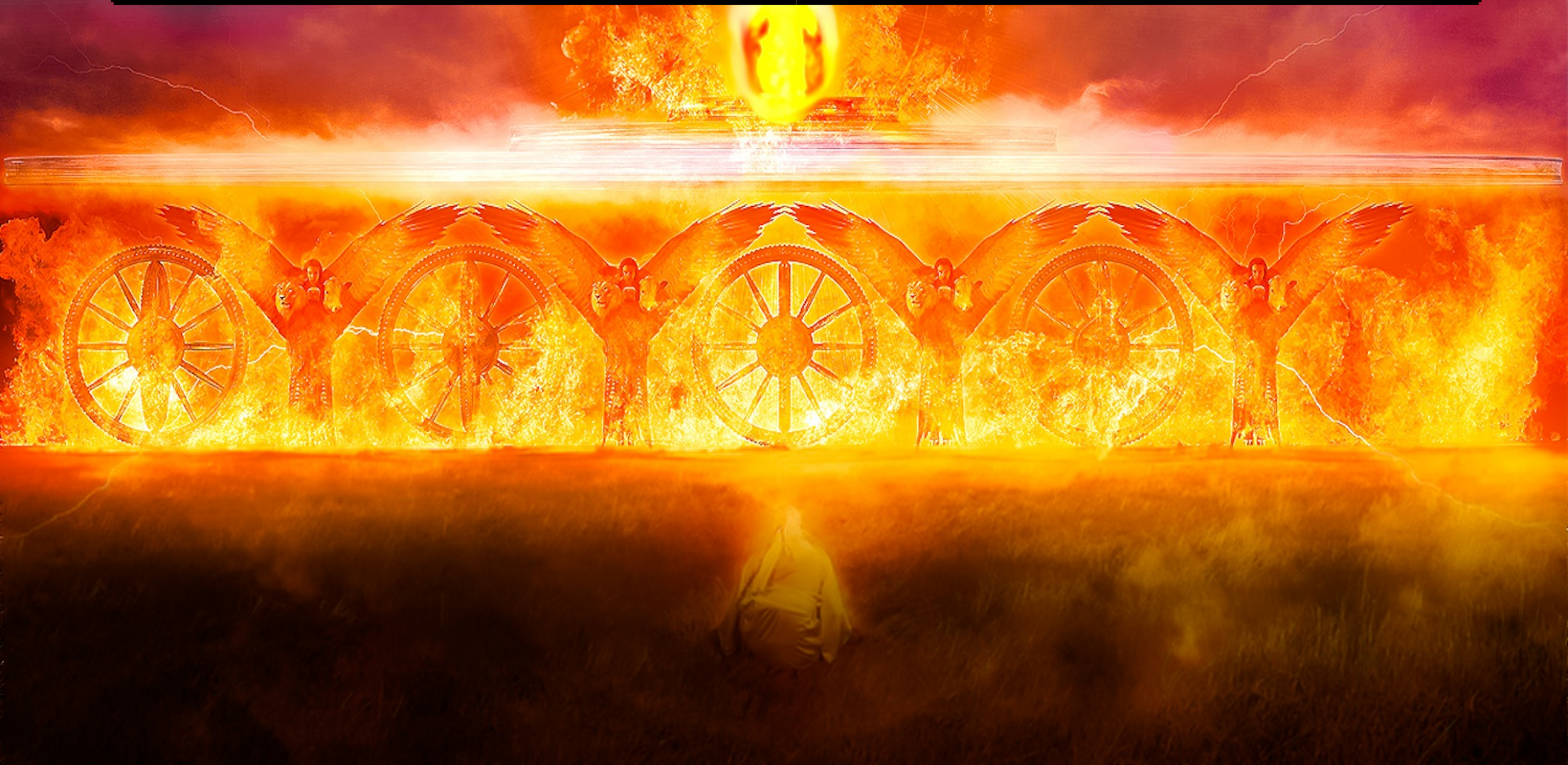
**Jer 5:12** They have lied about the LORD; they said, "He will do nothing! No harm will come to us; we will never see sword or famine.

God always does what he said he would do.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Do we doubt that God will do what he said?



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Do we doubt that God will do what he said?

**Gal 6:7** Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

**Gal 6:8** The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Isa 46:10** I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.



# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Isa 46:10** I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

God always does what he said he would do.

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Eze 7:4** I will not look on you with pity or spare you; I will surely repay you for your conduct and the detestable practices among you. **Then you will know that I am the LORD.**

The message of Ezekiel

# EZEKIEL

## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Next week: The Call of Ezekiel





# EZEKIEL

KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD