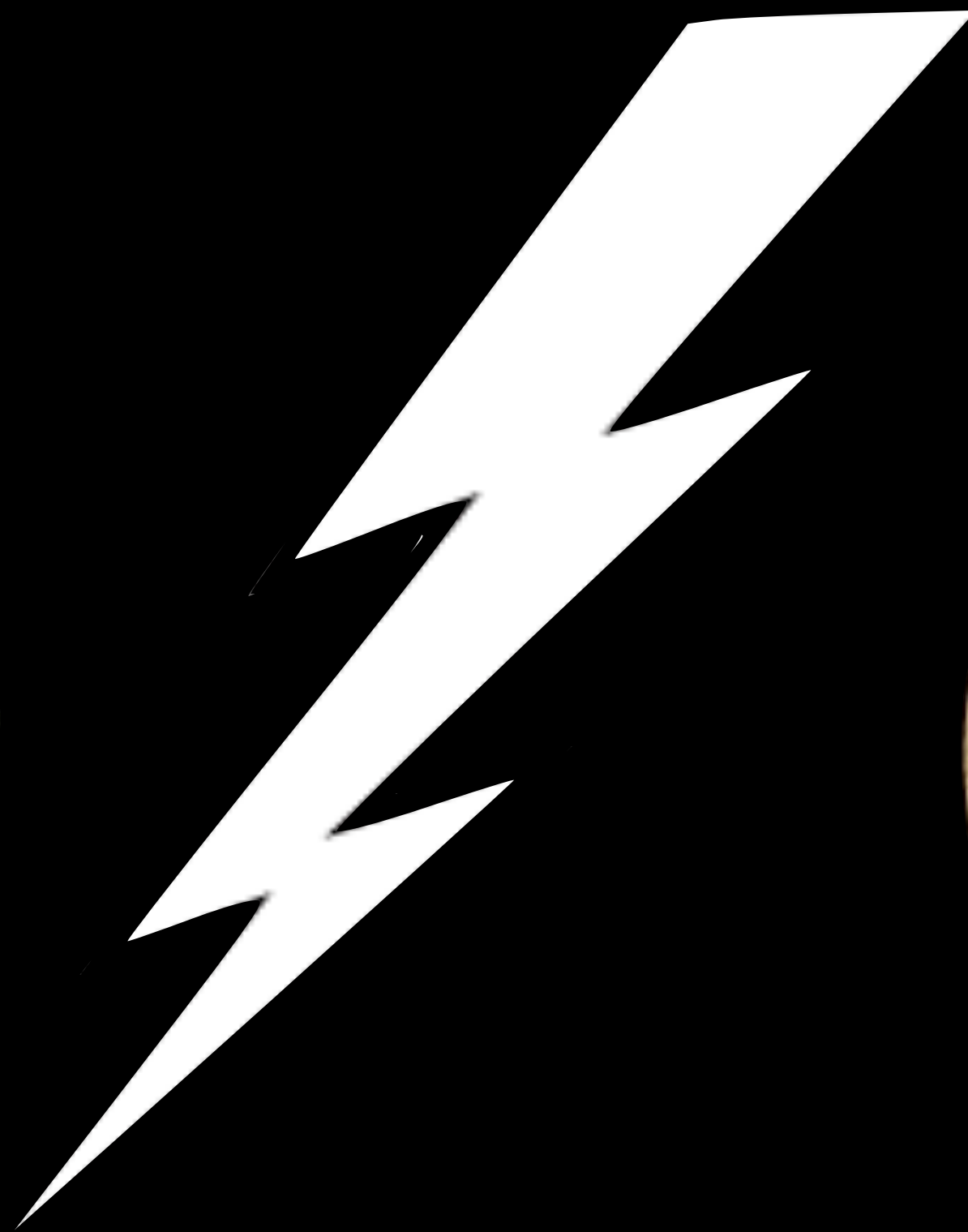


LIV



Super Bowl LIV (54)





THE STORY OF HOPE

A TALE OF
TWO STORIES

THE STORY OF FAITH

Upper Story

Lower Story

God is in Charge

Lower Story

God is in Charge

I Trust in Him!

God is in Charge

Daniel 1

I Trust in Him!

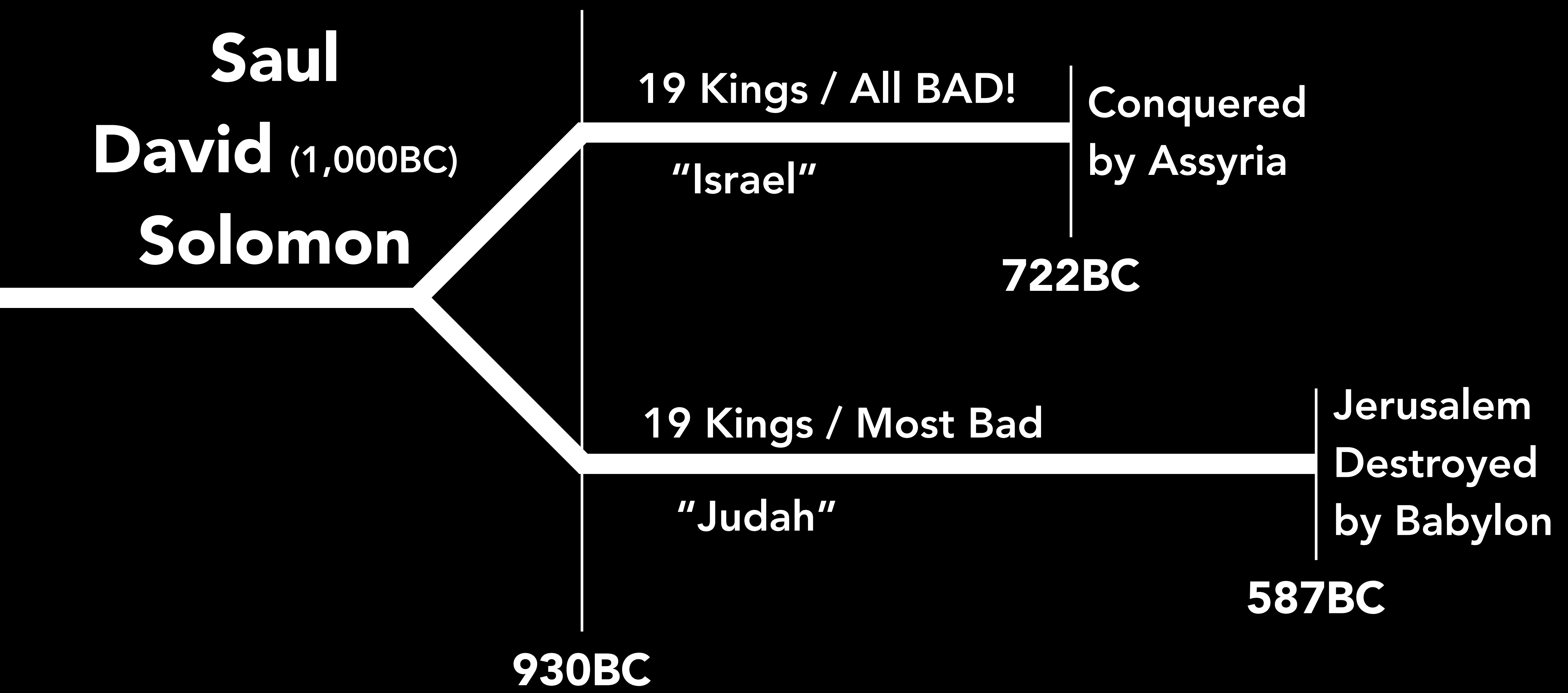
DANIEL 1

CHOICES

THE STORY OF FAITH

Daniel 1

¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.



Saul

David (1,000BC)

Solomon

19 Kings / All BAD!

"Israel"

**Conquered
by Assyria**

722BC

19 Kings / Most Bad

"Judah"

**Jerusalem
Destroyed
by Babylon**

587BC

930BC



Has Kim no chin, Zed?

Jehoahaz Jehoiakim Jehoiachin Zedekiah

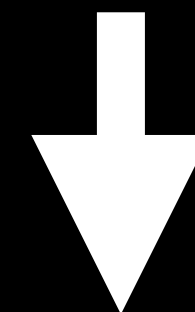
19 Kings / Most Bad

"Judah"

Jerusalem
Destroyed
by Babylon

605BC

587BC



Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah.
Daniel & Friends taken prisoner.



Has Kim no chin, Zed?

Jehoahaz Jehoiakim Jehoiachin Zedekiah

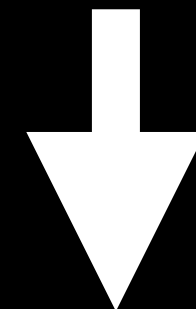
19 Kings / Most Bad

"Judah"

Jerusalem
Destroyed
by Babylon

605BC

587BC



They were probably about
15 years old.





ANEAN

Damascus

BABYLONIA

Babylon

Jerusalem

ELAM

Ur

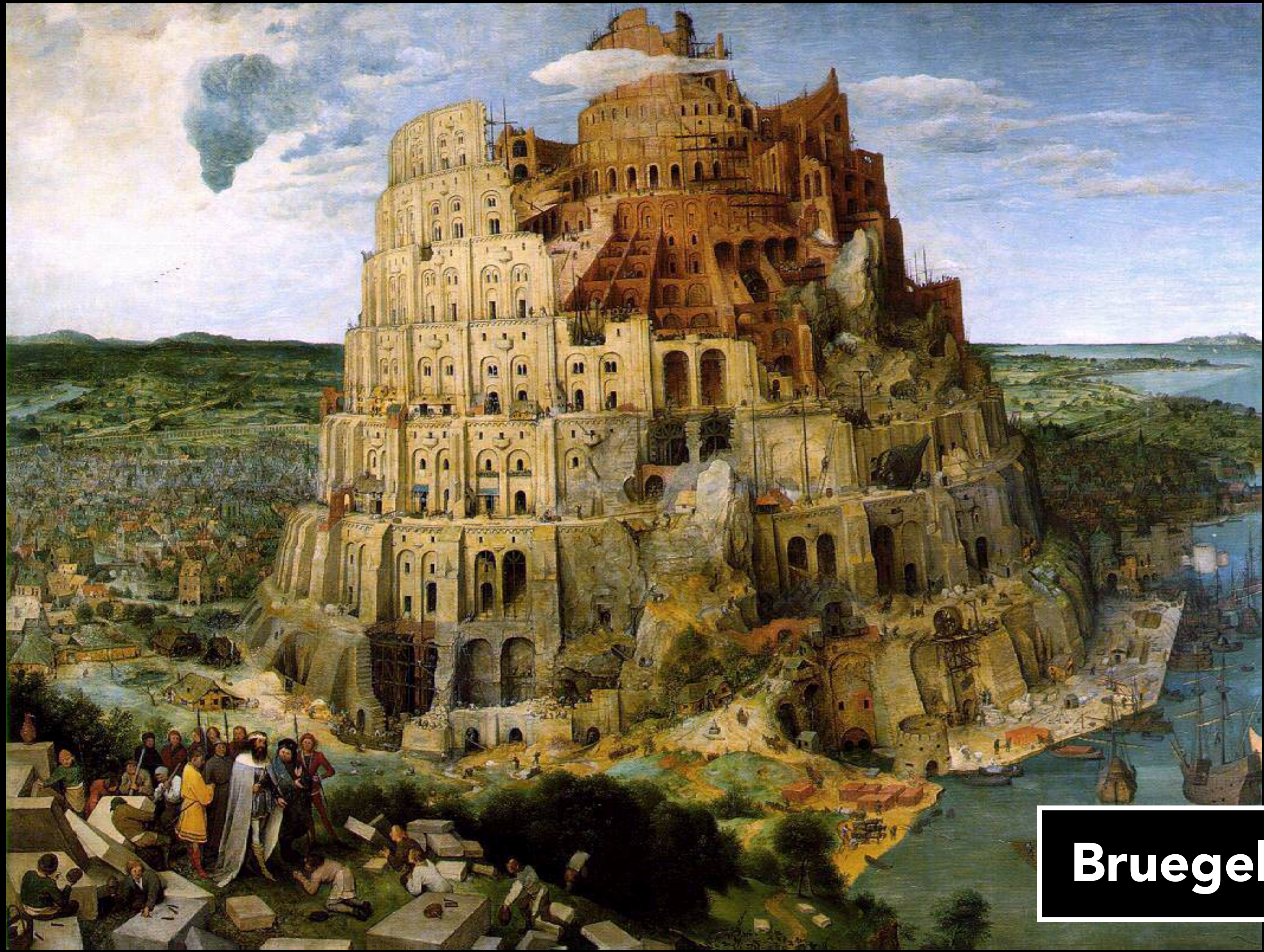
CHALDEA

Sinai

Mt. Sinai

*Syro-Arabian
Desert*





Bruegel; 1563

Daniel 1

³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—
⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.

Daniel 1

5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. 6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Daniel 1

8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. 9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, 10 but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

Daniel 1

¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Michael and Azariah, ¹² "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

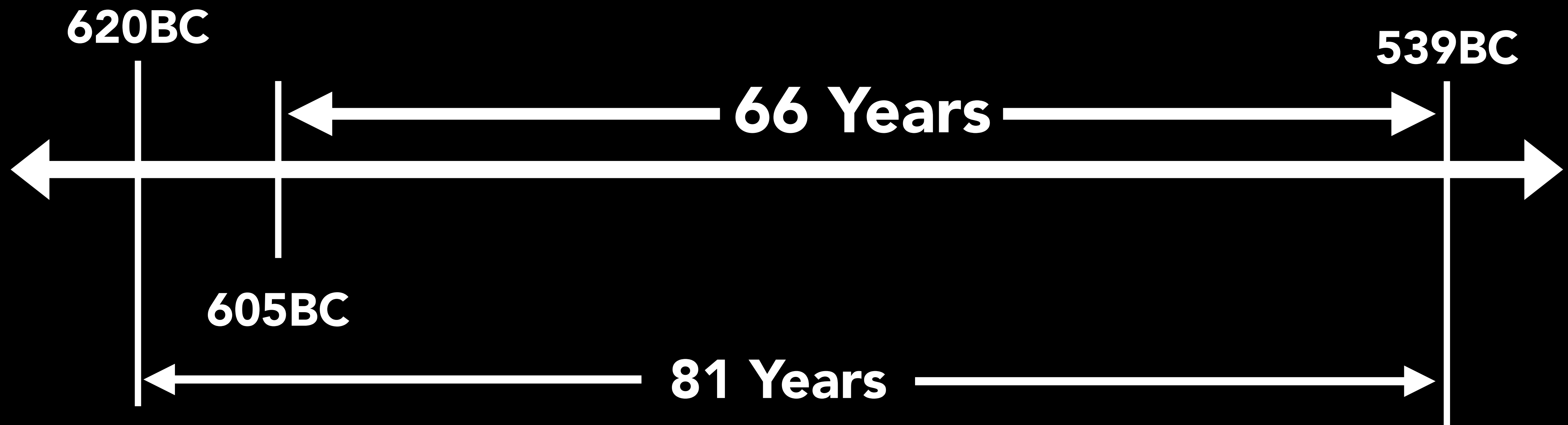
Daniel 1

¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.¹⁷ To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

Daniel 1

18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom. 21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

**And Daniel remained there until
the first year of King Cyrus.**



Daniel's life was spent in exile.

I would appreciate a series that challenges me and my brothers and sisters in Christ as to where I am right now. As in—do you have an awareness of what is going on around you and how the church must respond to it. Similar to the folks in Scripture who lived in exile. For them, they understood their alien nature—do we?

1. God may sovereignly send you to a difficult place to spread His name among the nations. *(verses 1-2)*

"₂ And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand..."

 **Deuteronomy 28:25; 64**

1. God may sovereignly send you to a difficult place to spread His name among the nations. *(verses 1-2)*

“Sometimes God may allow hardship to reach us because He wants His mercy to reach beyond us.”

Dave Davis

**2. Be prepared for the challenges
'the world' will throw at you to
lead you away from God. *(verses 3-7)***

*We live in the same "Babylon" that
Daniel & his friends found themselves in.*

● **Isaiah 47:8&10**

**2. Be prepared for the challenges
'the world' will throw at you to
lead you away from God. *(verses 3-7)***

- *Isolation (v. 3)*
- *Indoctrination (v. 4)*
- *Assimilation (v. 5)*
- *Confusion (vv. 6-7)*

**2. Be prepared for the challenges
'the world' will throw at you to
lead you away from God. *(verses 3-7)***

Daniel: "God is my Judge"

➤ *Belteshazar: "Bel will Protect"*

**2. Be prepared for the challenges
'the world' will throw at you to
lead you away from God. *(verses 3-7)***

Hananiah: "God has been Gracious"

➤ *Shadrach: "Inspired by Aku"*

**2. Be prepared for the challenges
'the world' will throw at you to
lead you away from God. *(verses 3-7)***

Michael: "Who Compares to God?"

➤ *Meshach: "Belonging to Aku"*

**2. Be prepared for the challenges
'the world' will throw at you to
lead you away from God. *(verses 3-7)***

Azariah: "God my Helper"

➤ *Abednego: "Servant of Nebo"*

**2. Be prepared for the challenges
'the world' will throw at you to
lead you away from God. *(verses 3-7)***

*Daniel, Hannah, Mishael, and Azariah
show us that the world can call us
what it wants, but it cannot
change who we really are.*

**3. Determine that you will NOT
compromise your convictions—
the earlier the better!** *(verses 8-13)*

8 But Daniel resolved.

**3. Determine that you will NOT
compromise your convictions—
the earlier the better!** *(verses 8-13)*

Godliness is never accidental.

Victory is never coincidental.

*Both happen through daily
resolve & consistency.*

**3. Determine that you will NOT
compromise your convictions—
the earlier the better!** *(verses 8-13)*

*Integrity not only calls us to
live inside-out, it keeps the
outside from coming in.*

4. Trust God to honor your devotion and faithfulness to Him.

(verses 14-21)

- *God blessed them physically (vv. 14-16)*
- *God blessed them mentally (vv. 17, 20)*
- *God blessed them spiritually (v. 17)*
- *God blessed them socially (vv. 18-21)*

4. Trust God to honor your devotion and faithfulness to Him.

(verses 14-21)

They become culturally relevant without becoming spiritually irrelevant. Against all odds, they retained a God-centered worldview so that ultimately the world could view their God.

Bonus:

**It is no small thing that they
had each other.**

*A lost world needs to
view our God.*

They need to see Jesus.

God is in Charge

I Trust in Him!

