



The Story of the Bible

Bible 101
New Life U
Pastor Tim LeCroy

Review – God Pursues His People

- The entire Bible is a story of God's people running away from him and God pursuing them.
- Time after time after time
- We sin, we run away
- God pursues, God restores



Review – God Pursues His People

- The entire Bible is a story of God's people running away from him and God pursuing them.
- Time after time after time
- Adam and Eve
- Noah
- Abraham-Isaac-Jacob
- Joseph-Sojourn
- Slavery and Exodus
- Spying, Wandering, Joshua



Review – God Pursues His People

- Judges
- Saul and David
- David
- Solomon
- Era of Kings
 - Good Kings and Bad Kings
 - The People and the Prophets
- Exile and Return
- The People and the Prophets again
- The ultimate pursuer - Jesus



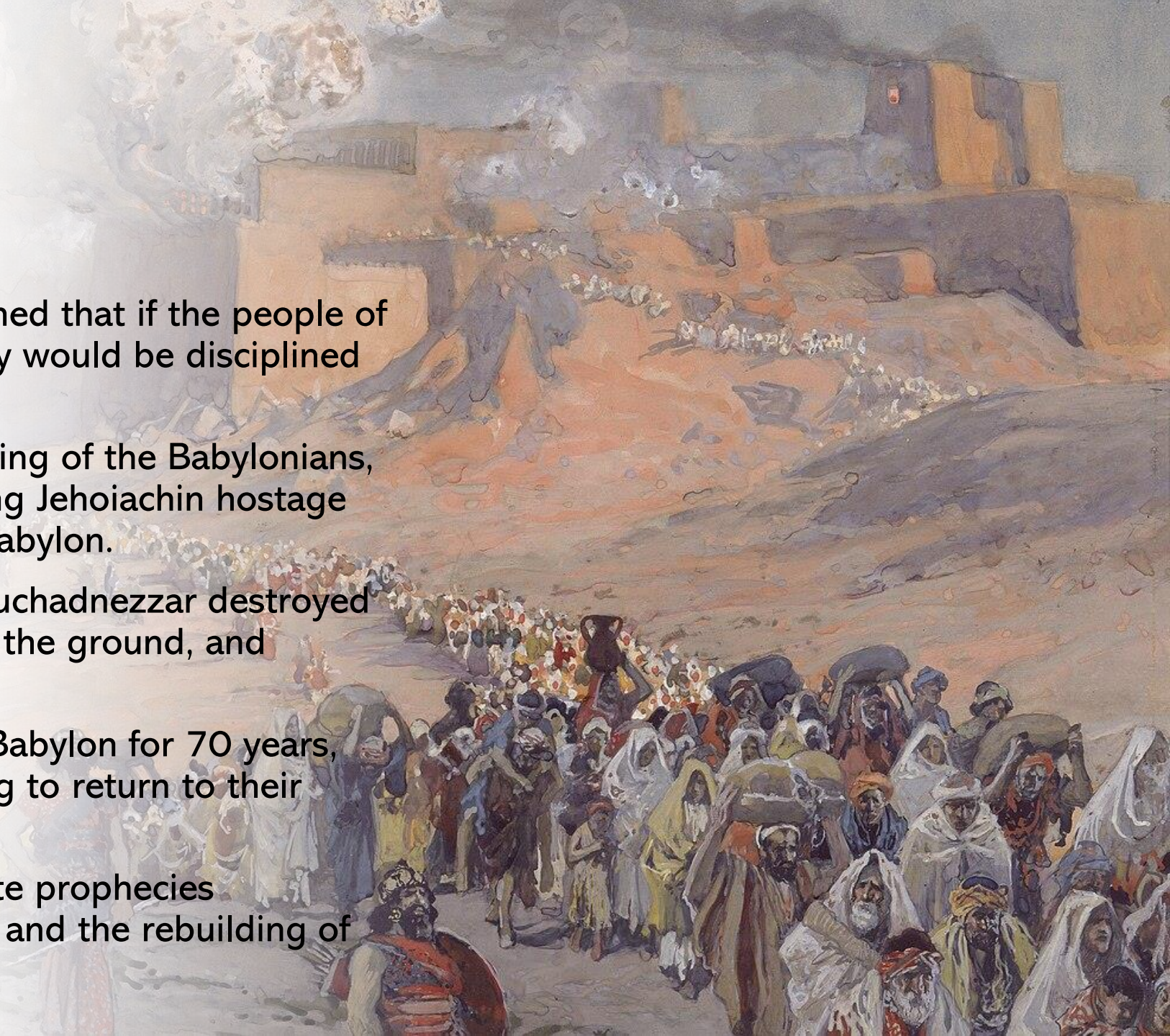
Review - The Greatest Story Ever Told

- This is why the Bible is the greatest story ever told!
- No other religion tells the story of a god pursuing his people like this.
 - Hosea and Gomer
- No other god became a human and gave his life to save humanity.
- No other god takes sinful and frail humanity and adopts them as members of his family.



Review - The Babylonian Exile

- For many years the Prophets warned that if the people of Judah did not follow the Lord they would be disciplined by exile.
- In 597 B. C. Nebuchadnezzar II, King of the Babylonians, laid siege to Jerusalem, taking King Jehoiachin hostage and deporting 7,000 people to Babylon.
- Ten years later, in 587 B. C., Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, burning the Temple to the ground, and looting anything of value.
- The people would live in exile in Babylon for 70 years, repenting of their sins and longing to return to their homeland.
- Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel wrote prophecies promising the return of the Exiles and the rebuilding of the Temple.



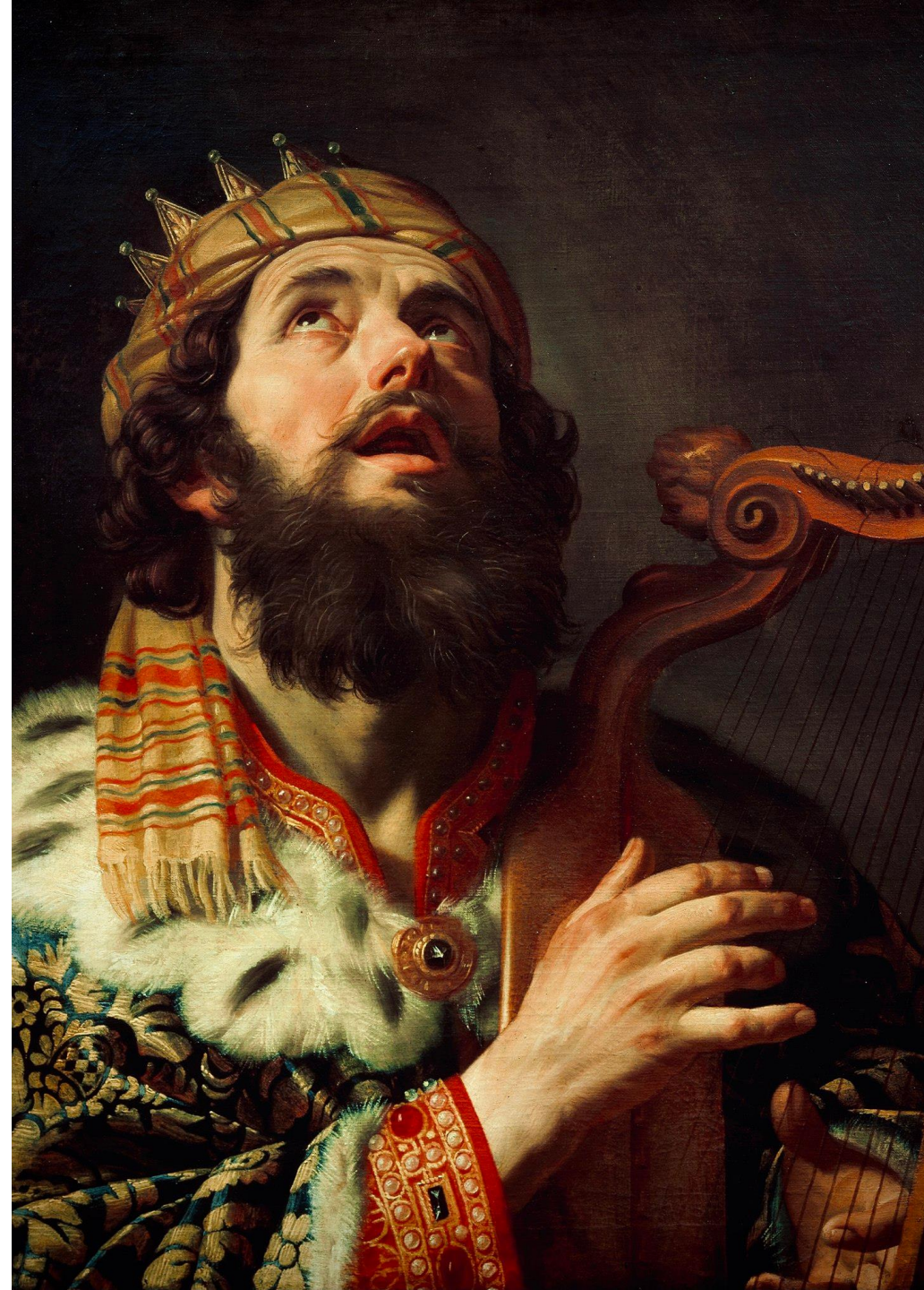
Review - Creation to Monarchy

- The Torah – Five Books of Moses
 - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth



Monarchy to Exile

- The Four books of Kings
 - 1 and 2 Samuel
 - 1 and 2 Kings
- The Chronicles
 - Books 1 and 2
- Psalms
 - Books 1 and 2 (Psalms 1-72)
- Writings of Solomon
 - Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
- Most of Isaiah
- First half of Jeremiah
- First 9 Minor Prophets



Lesson 3: Exile and Empire

- Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther
- Second half of Isaiah and Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Last three minor prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi



Lesson 3: Exile and Empire

- Destruction of the Babylonians
- Preparations for return
 - Building the wall
 - Building the temple
 - Reestablishing the Priests and Levites
- Return but not fully restored
 - No longer a kingdom, but under empire
 - The seed promise of Abraham remains
 - The True Davidic Line is underground



Lesson 3: Exile and Empire

- Post-Exilic Prophets continue to call the people to faithfulness
 - The last two prophets turn to predictions of the coming Messiah
- Intertestamental Period
 - Persian
 - Greek
 - Maccbean
 - Roman



The End of Exile

- Toward the end of the exile God brought judgment on the Neo-Babylonians by defeat at the hands of the Persians (Iran).
- King Belshazzar had a debauched party with his court.
 - They blasphemously drank from the holy vessels plundered from the Temple.
- In the height of their sacrilegious revelry, a disembodied hand appeared and wrote four words on the wall.
- The King called all his wise men, necromancers, and astrologers to see if anyone could read “the writing on the wall” and interpret its meaning, but none could (because it was in Hebrew).



The End of Exile

- Someone “remembered” Daniel and suggested bringing him to interpret the writing.
- Belshazzar promised many gifts and a promotion to ruler of the entire empire if Daniel would interpret the writing.
- Daniel said, “you can keep your gifts, but I will interpret the writing.”
- The words were, MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN
- Daniel interpreted these words to mean that Belshazzar would be overthrown that very night by the Persians.
- That night, Cyrus the Persian sacked the palace and established the Persian Empire



The End of Exile

- When Cyrus/Darius became King he started preparations for the rebuilding of the Temple and return of Exiles
- Darius/Cyrus is the near referent of Isaiah's prophecies in 40-50.
- He "prepared a way for the Lord" by sending some of the exiles back to begin building the Temple and the Wall
- The Temple was completed around 516 BC
- Exiles continued to return under the reigns of the next several Persian kings.



The Persian Empire

Cyrus the Great (550–530 BC)

- Cambyses II (530–522 BC)
- Bardiya (522 BC)

Darius the Great (522–486 BC)

Xerxes I (486–465 BC)

Artaxerxes I (465–424 BC)

- Xerxes II (424 BC, 45 days)
- Sogdianus (424–423 BC)

Darius II (423–404 BC)

Artaxerxes II (405/4–359/8 BC)

Artaxerxes III (359/8–338 BC)

- Arses (338–336 BC)
- Darius III (336–330 BC)

- These Kings ruled over the entire Levant and Egypt.
- They pursued a policy of overlordship and protection of Israel.
- Israel was vassal state and had “Kings” but not autonomy.
- The post-exilic books were written during the reign of the Persians.
- The writing of the OT comes to a close with the promise of Messiah (Malachi)



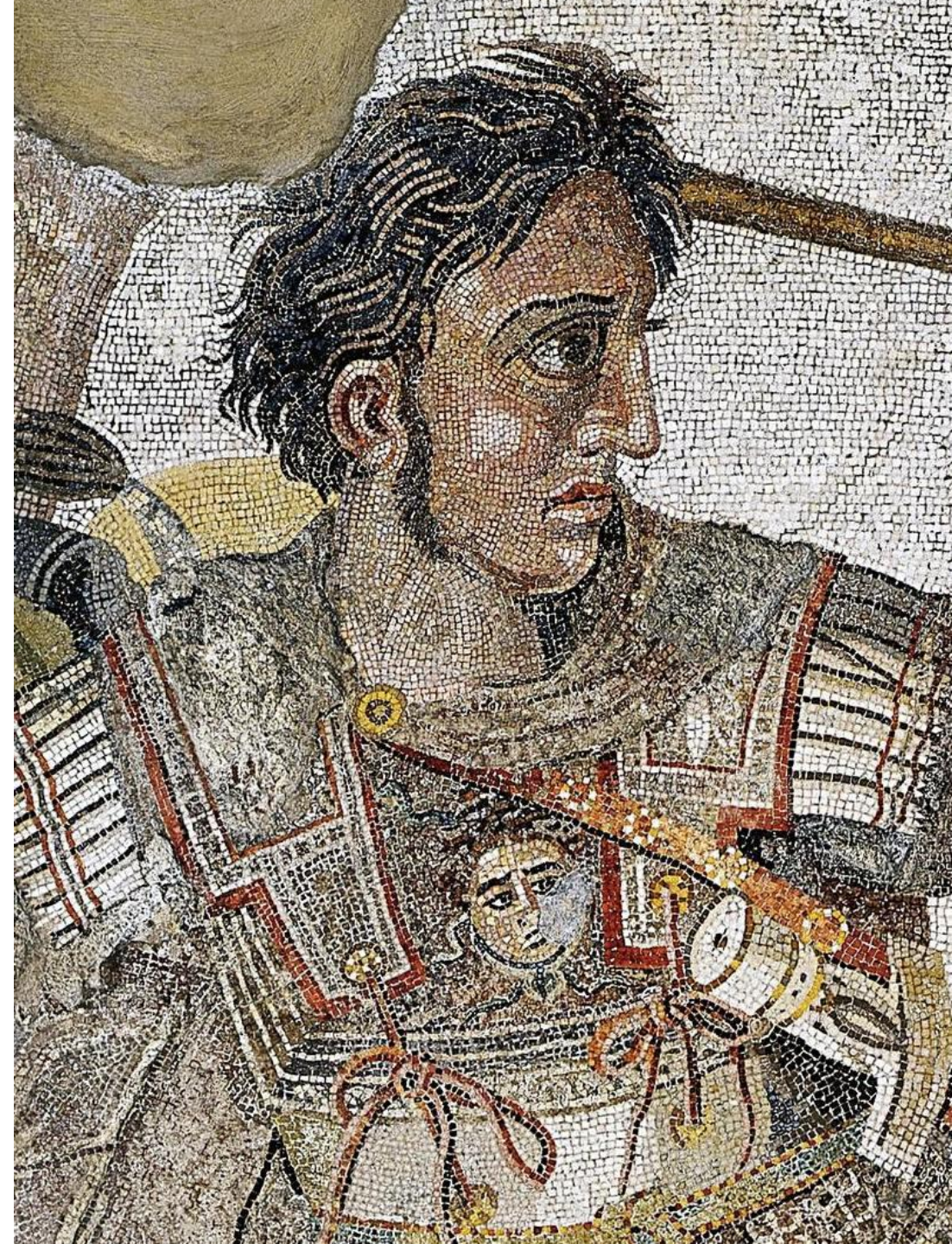
The Intertestamental Period

- Beginnings of the Jewish diaspora and Hellenistic Judaism
- Establishment of the first synagogues
- Change in common language from Biblical Hebrew to Aramaic and Hellenistic Greek
- Production of the Greek Septuagint, the first translation of the Hebrew scriptures into another language[2]
- Writing of the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Writing of the deuterocanonical books (biblical apocrypha) and pseudepigrapha
- When we come to the era of the Gospels we find a much different culture in Israel.



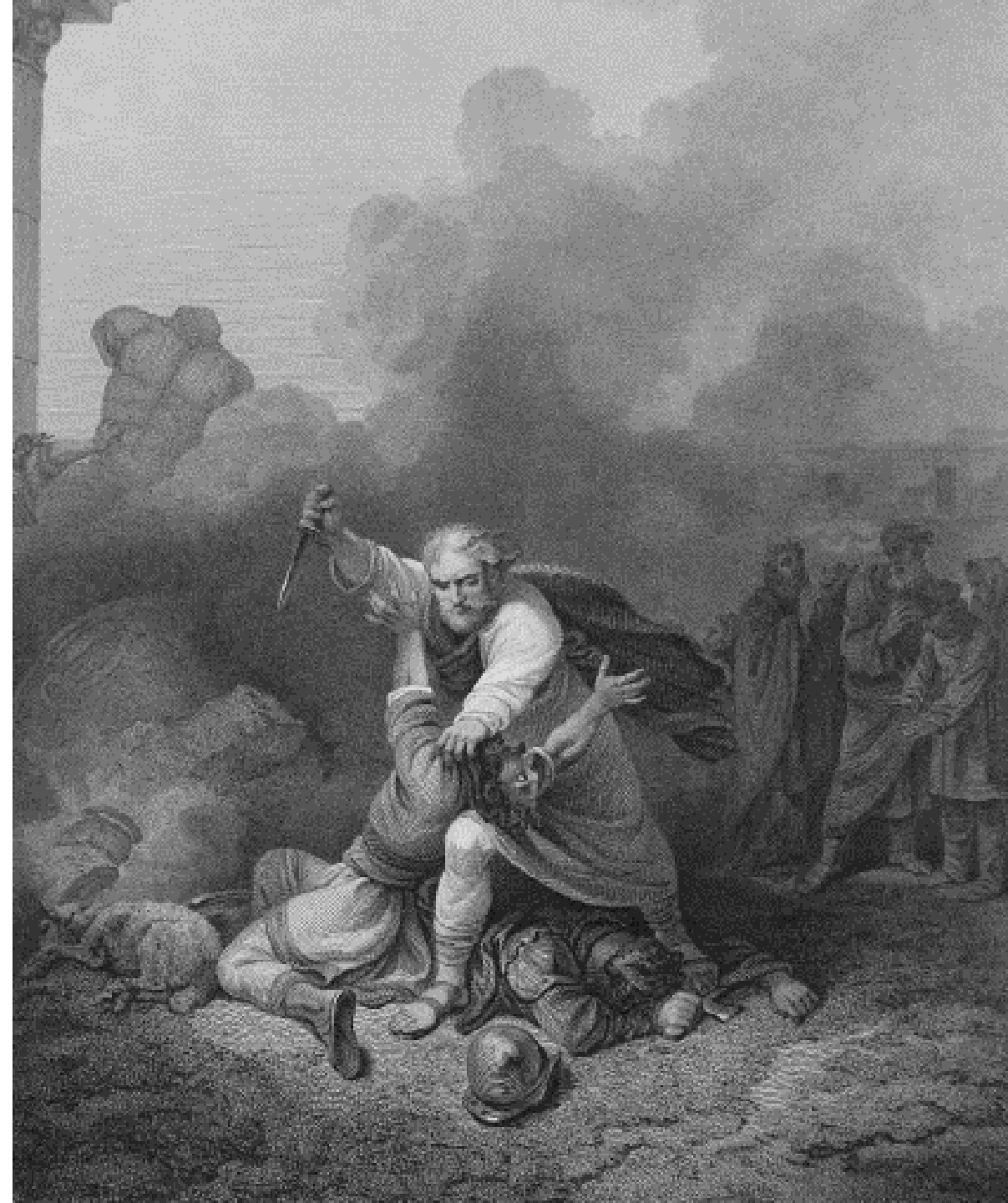
Alexander the Great and the Greeks

- Alexander III conquered the Persians in the Near East all the way down to Egypt in 332 BC.
 - According to Josephus he was honored by the Judean leaders and offered a sacrifice in the Temple at the direction of the High Priest.
 - Judea's capitulation spared them of any ramifications of the transition to Greek rule
 - Alexander died in 323BC and his son, Alexander IV, ruled the Near East until 309BC.
- The Ptolemies
 - Greek rulers of Egypt and the Near East until c. 200 BC
- The Seleucids
 - Greek rulers of Syria and the Near East from c. 200BC
 - Antiochus IV Epiphanies (175-164BC) was the last Seleucid to reign over Judea.



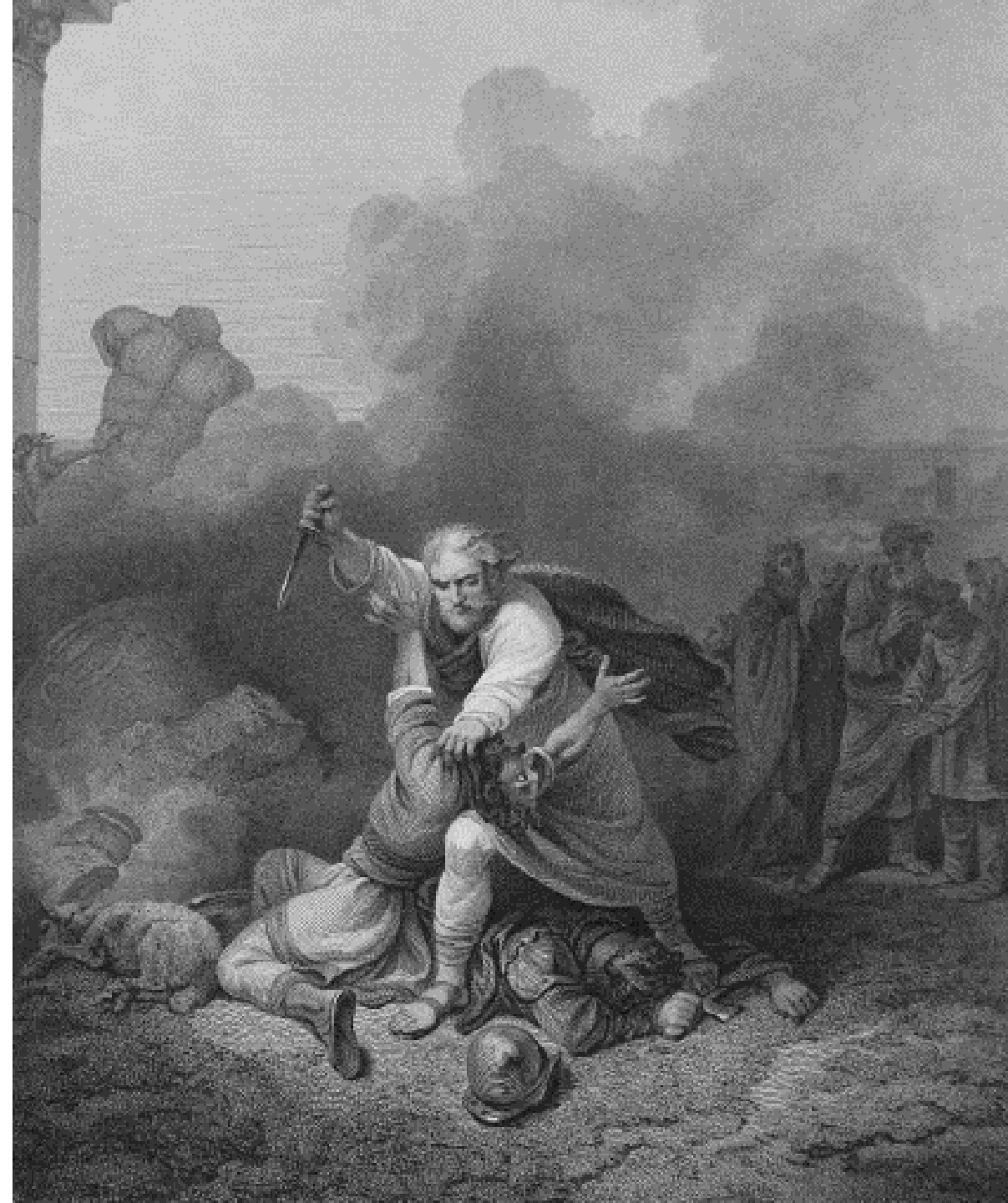
The Hasmonean Dynasty

- Antiochus ended the Seleucid policy of toleration in 171BC
 - He sacrificed a pig on the altar of God and sprinkled pigs' blood on the holy books.
 - He outlawed circumcision.
 - He forced the Jews to eat pork.
- The Hasmonean family revolted against this tyranny
 - Mattathias (a rural priest) sparked the revolt by refusing to sacrifice to other gods and killing another priest to attempted to do so.
- They ran for the hills and led a series of guerilla wars against the Seleucids.



The Hasmonean Dynasty

- They won battle after battle until Antiochus left the Western front due to uprising to his East in 164BC.
 - Antiochus died of some horrible disease while fighting in the East. Jewish tradition attributes it to a curse from Yahweh for his atrocities in Judea.
- After Antiochus' death, the Seleucid army retreated and the Maccabean entered Jerusalem victorious.
- They cleansed the Temple and reinstituted the proper priesthood and sacrifices.
 - The day they did this is the beginning of the feast of Hannukah.



The Romans

- The Hasmoneans ruled until 63BC when after a series of civil wars, the Judeans actually invited the Romans to take over.
- Pompey the Great conquered the Hasmoneans and entered Jerusalem, making Judea a vassal state to Rome.
- The Romans ruled Judea until the Rashidun Caliphate conquered the Romans in 635AD.
- Rome, by and large, had a policy of toleration, allowing the Judeans to practice their religion and customs.





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