



The Story of the Bible

Bible 101
New Life U
Pastor Tim LeCroy

Review - The Bible is a Story

- Some treat the Bible like a source for proof texting beliefs or practices
- Some treat the Bible as a source for spiritually significant insights
- These approaches atomize the Bible as if it were a collection of sayings
- But fundamentally the Bible is a story, THE story that defines our existence in this world



Review - The Greatest Story Ever Told

- Creation
- Primeval History
- Patriarchal History
- Exodus
- 40 Year Wandering
- Conquest
- Pre-Monarchy
- Monarchy
- Exile
- Empire
- Jesus
- Acts and Paul
- John



Review - The Greatest Story Ever Told

- Creation to Monarchy – Lesson One
 - Creation
 - Primeval History
 - Patriarchal History
 - Exodus
 - 40 Year Wandering
 - Conquest
 - Pre-Monarchy
- Monarchy – Lesson Two
- Exile to Jesus – Lesson Three
 - Exile
 - Empire
- Jesus – Lesson Four
- Apostolic Era – Lesson Five
 - Acts and Paul
 - John



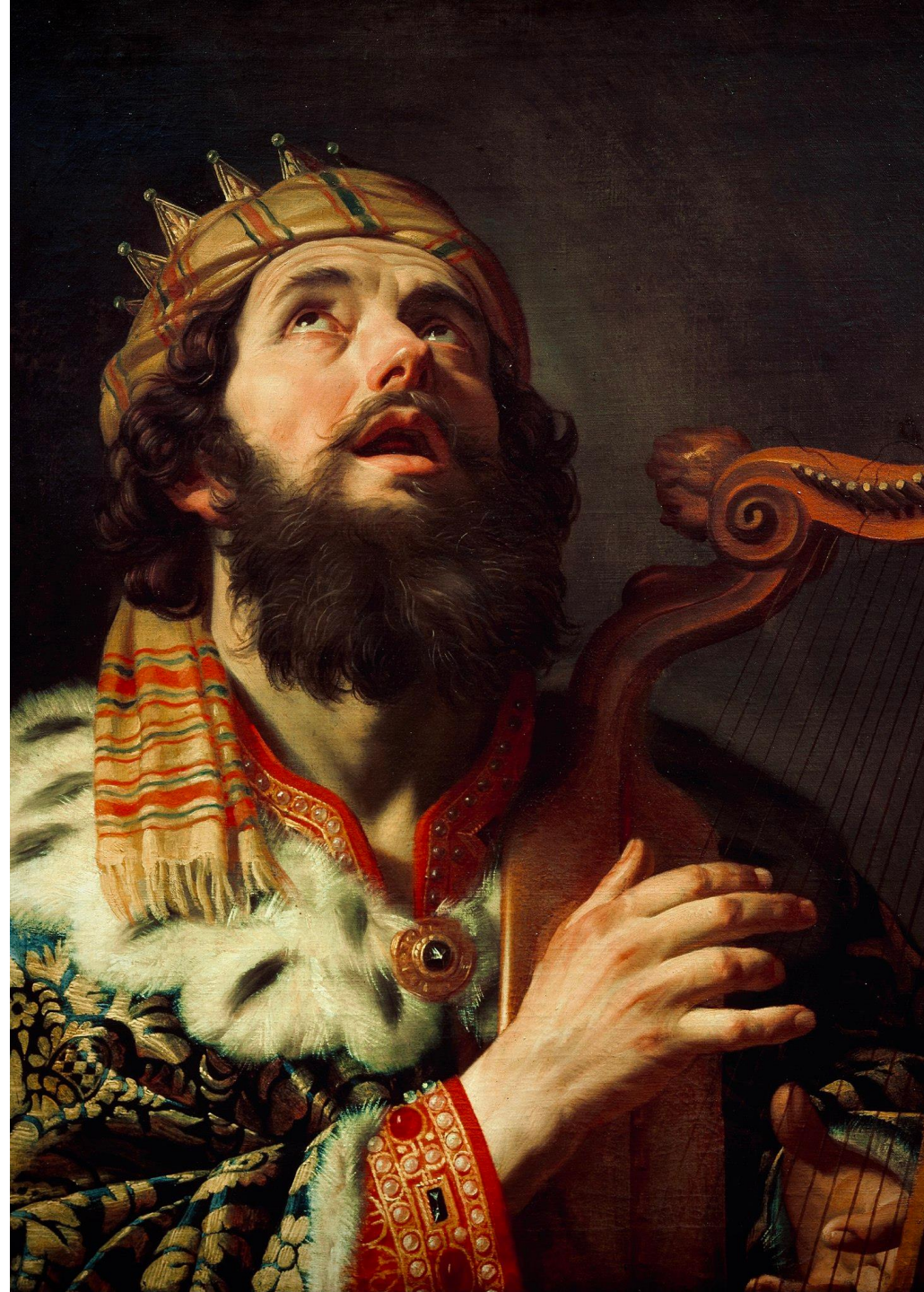
Review - Creation to Monarchy

- 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



Samuel - The Last Judge and First Prophet

- Eli, priest and Judge was the last of the era of judges.
 - His sons Hophni and Phinehas were abusive and immoral
- A Hebrew woman named Hannah prayed earnestly for a child when visiting the temple
 - Eli thought she was drunk, but when she explained herself, Eli blessed her
- Hannah became pregnant, named the boy Samuel, which means “Heard of God”, and dedicated Samuel for service in the Temple under Eli
- One night, the Lord speaks to Samuel and delivers a prophecy that the house of Eli will be judged and Eli and his sons will die
- The prophecy comes true. Samuel then becomes the leader of Israel as a Priest/Judge/Prophet



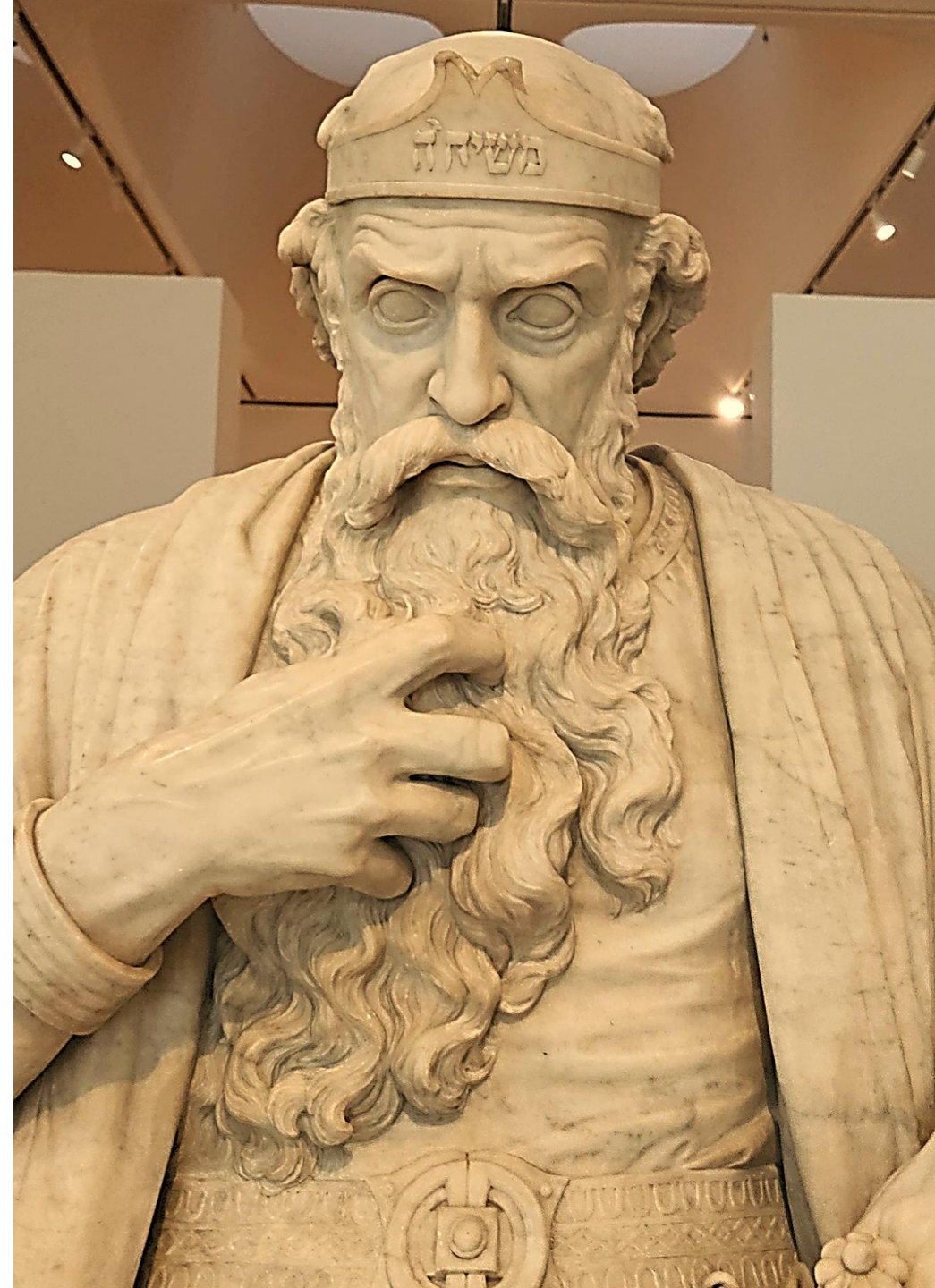
Saul - The King Israel Wanted

- Toward the end of Samuel's career leading Israel, he appointed his sons to succeed him.
 - But his sons were corrupt rulers and Israel soon turned on them.
 - Israel demanded a King like the other nations
 - Samuel warned them, but God agreed to give them what they wanted.
- Samuel was directed by God to anoint Saul, a man of the Tribe of Benjamin, as King.
- Saul was exactly what you would think a King should be: tall, strong, handsome, wealthy, and mighty in battle.



Saul - The King Israel Wanted

- Saul had a good beginning as King, but he soon began to disobey the Lord's direct commands and to offer illicit sacrifices.
- Saul was a strongman ruler, but he was not a devout follower of God.
- The Lord rejected Saul as King, and directed Samuel go to the house of Jesse of Bethlehem to anoint the next King.
- The remainder of Saul's reign was filled with murder, lies, and pagan practices.





David - the King God Wanted

- Before he died, the Lord directed Samuel to go to the house of Jesse to anoint the next king
- Jesse presented his sons in order from the oldest, who were all strong, handsome, and looked like king material.
- With each son, Samuel was sure that he was the one. But God said about each son, “He is not my chosen king.”
- “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” 1 Sam. 16:7

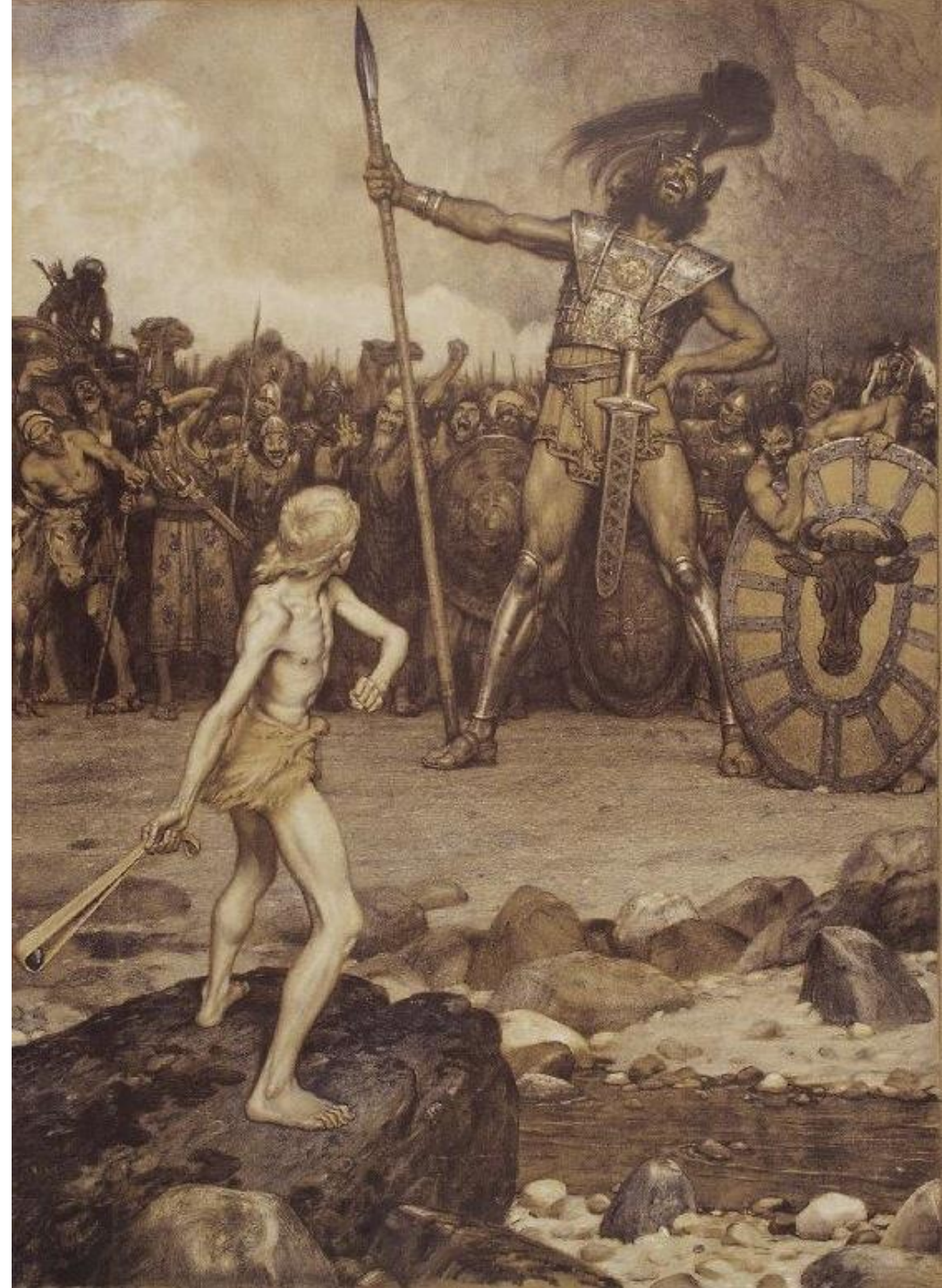


David - the King God Wanted

- After all the sons were presented, the Lord had not chosen any of them.
- Samuel asked Jesse, “Do you not have any more sons?”
- Jesse replied that he had one more, the youngest, who was watching the sheep.
- When the youngest, David, was brought before Samuel, the Lord said, “He is the one.”
- Samuel anointed David to be the next King of Israel.

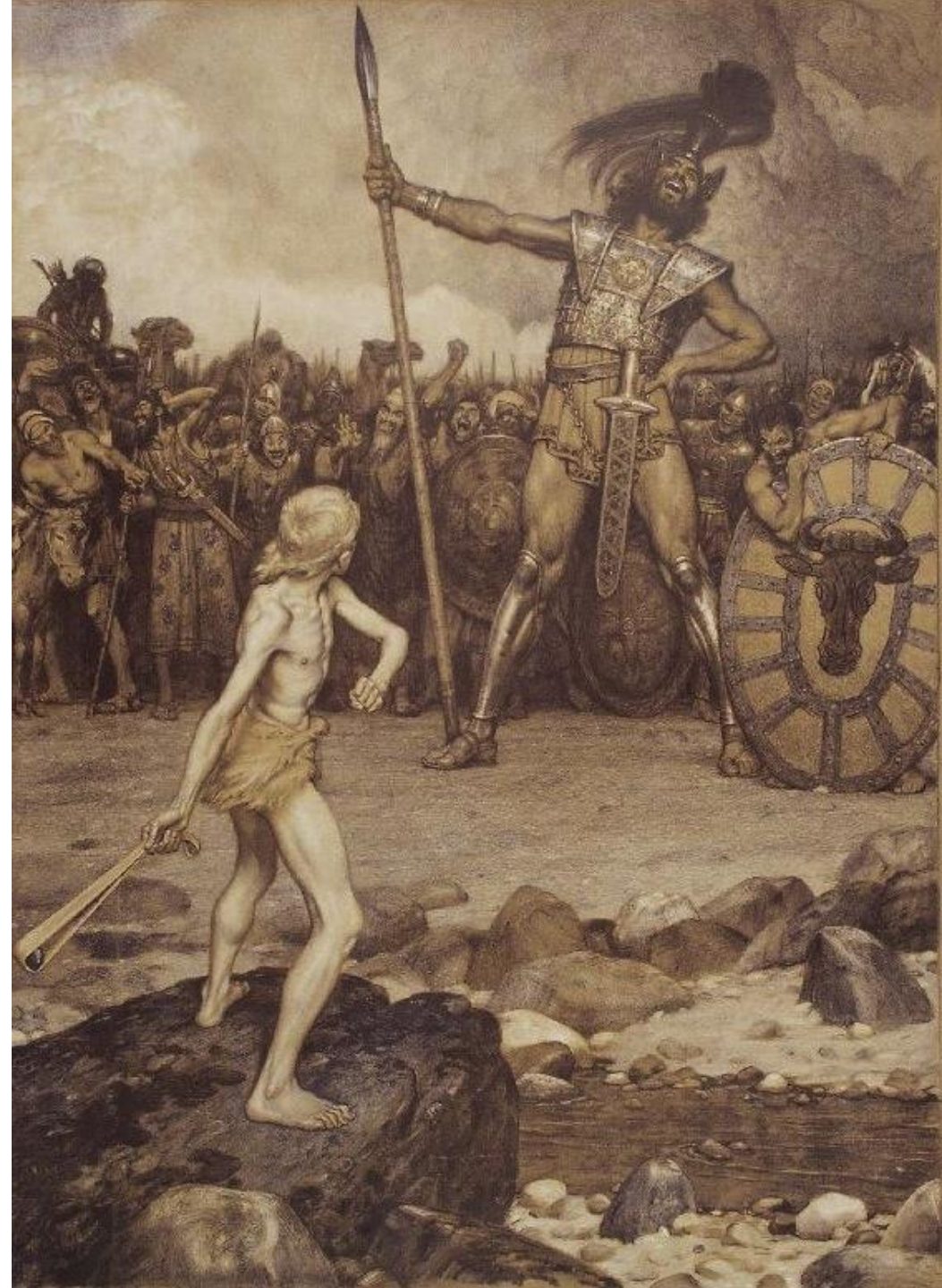
David and Goliath

- David did not become king for a number of years because he was still a boy and Saul was still alive and continued to reign.
- Saul and his son Jonathan were constantly at war with the Philistines.
- One Philistine, a giant named Goliath, challenged any man in Israel to one-on-one combat, but no one would answer the challenge.
- One day, David was visiting his older brothers on the front to bring them food.
- David heard the challenge from Goliath and was shocked that no one would answer it.



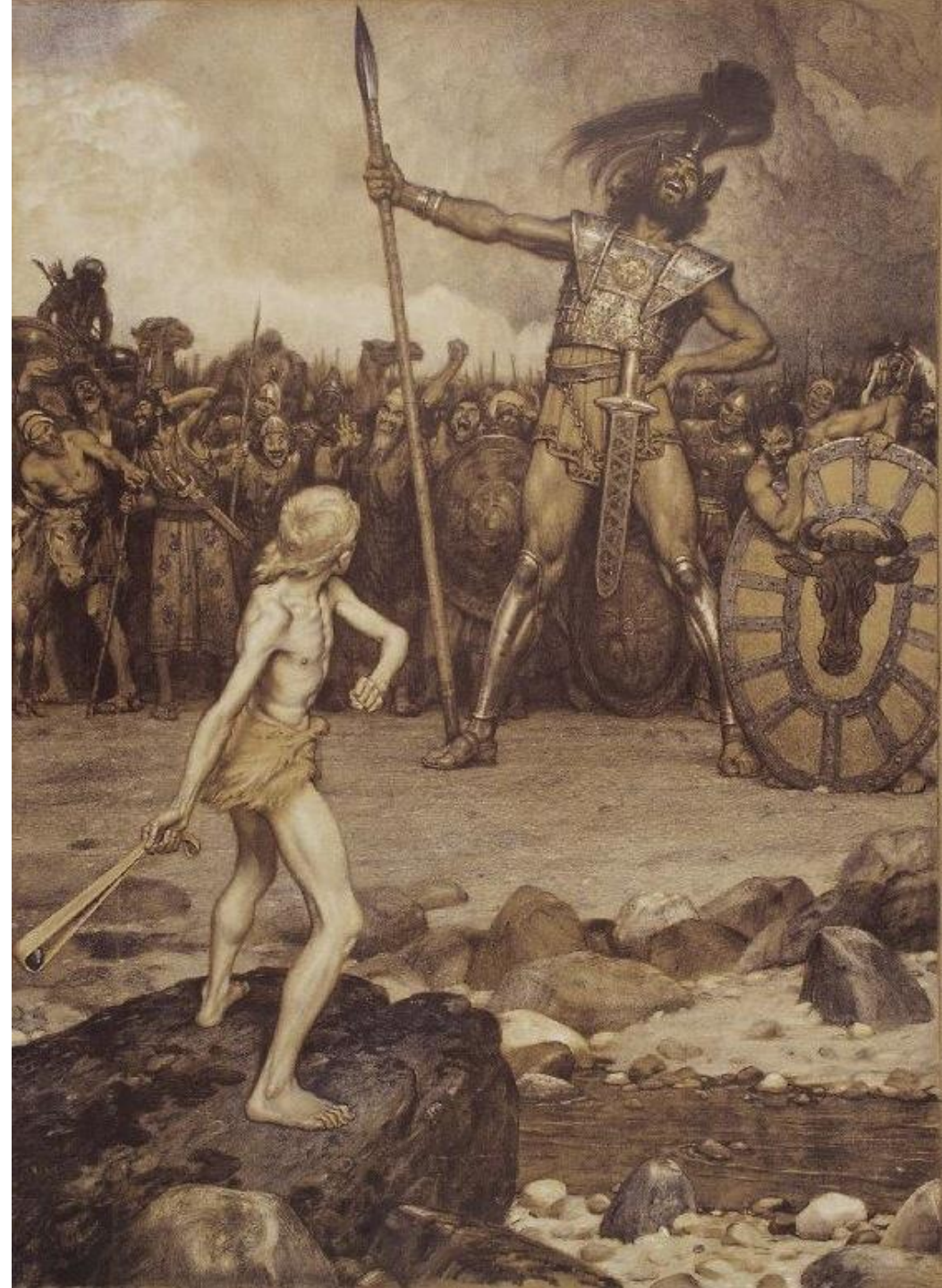
David and Goliath

- David believed if God was on his side, he could defeat the giant.
- David offered to fight Goliath himself. Many laughed, but Saul sent him out to fight the giant.
- David rejected conventional armor and weapons, instead opting for five smooth stones and his sling.
- When David went out to face the giant, Goliath mocked him and cursed him by his gods.
- David put one stone in his sling and hit the giant in the head, dazing him.



David and Goliath

- David then went up to the giant and used Goliath's own sword to kill and behead him.
- David took the head of Goliath and buried it in a hill outside of Jerusalem. That hill would be known as Golgotha, the place of the skull.
- David rode this victory into being a famed warrior on behalf of Israel. He was celebrated above Saul, and so Saul became jealous and began trying to kill David.
 - "Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands."
- David went on the run from Saul for several years



The Death of Saul

- Years later, Saul and Jonathan were fighting the Philistines near Mt. Gilboa
- Jonathan was killed in battle. Saul, seeing this, fell on his sword.
- When David heard this, he lamented both Saul and Jonathan's death, "O how the mighty have fallen!"
 - He punished those who celebrated the death of Saul



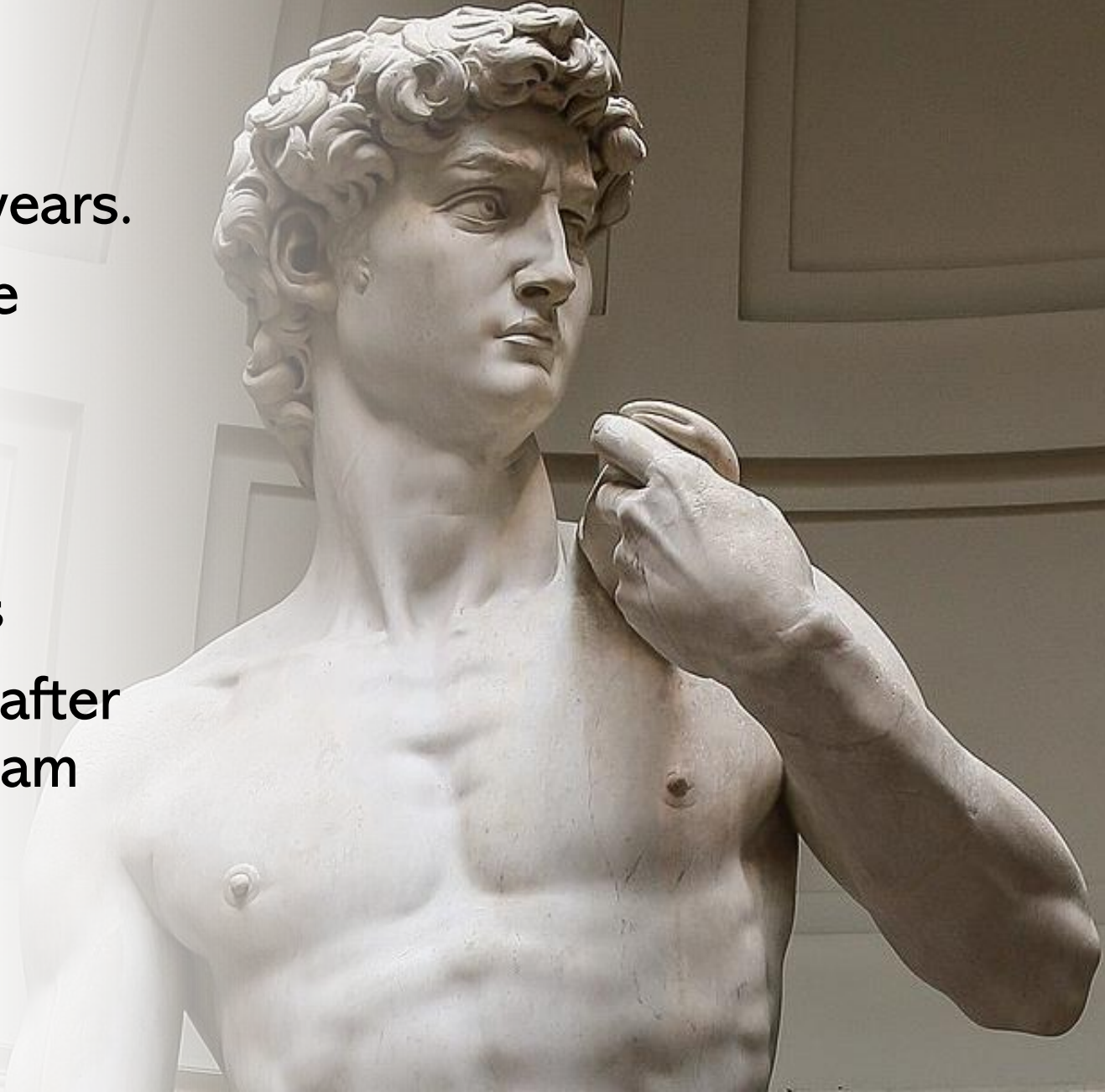
The Death of Saul

- David was made King of Judea, his own tribe and the largest tribe with the most land.
- Saul's son Ish-Bosheth was anointed King of the other tribes of Israel.
- Over time, David's position grew stronger while Ish-Bosheth's grew weaker.
- At the nadir of his power, two men assassinated Ish-Bosheth and David became King of All Israel.



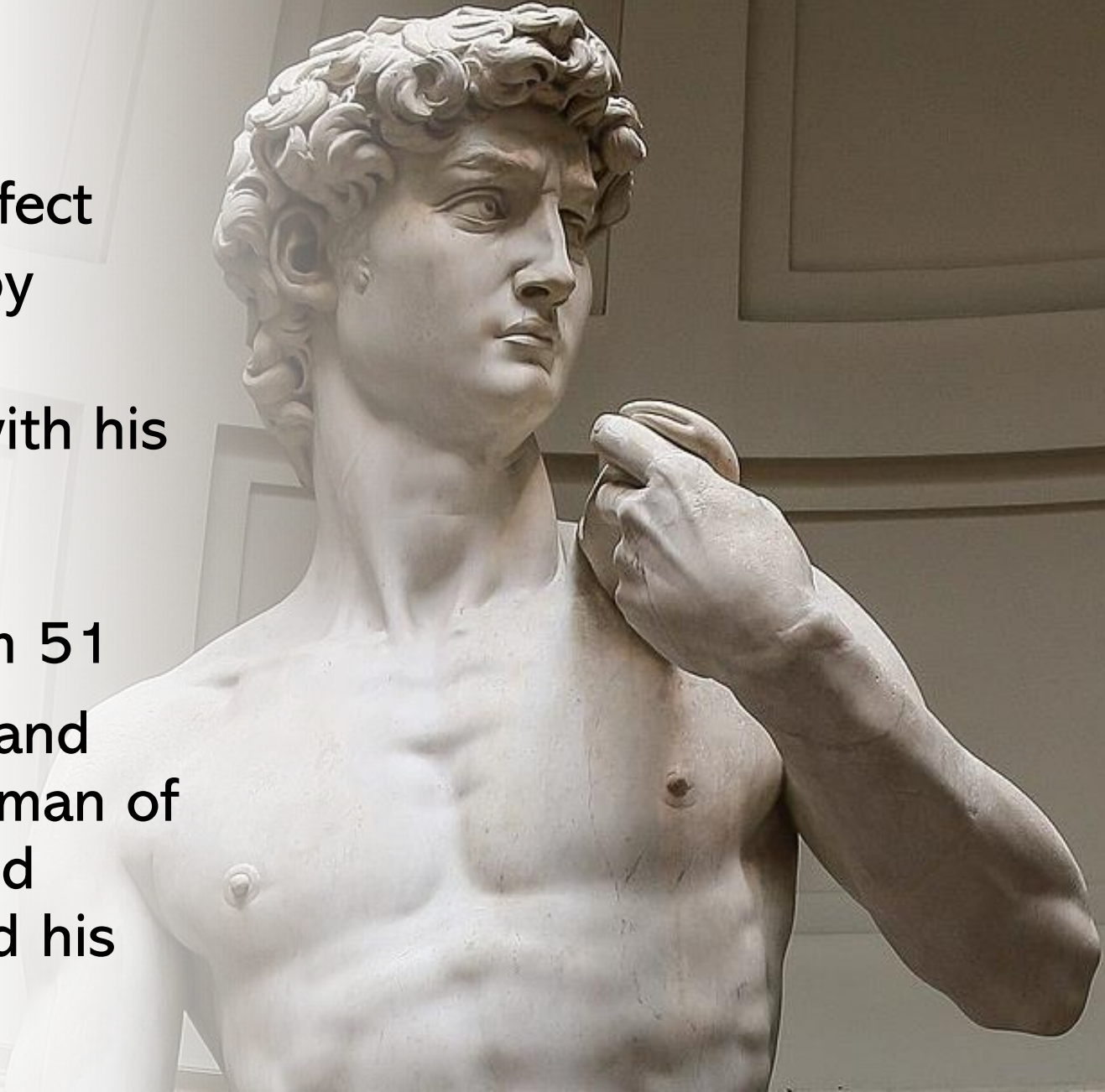
King David

- David reigned for 40 years.
- He made Jerusalem the capital
- He defeated all God's enemies in the Land
- He wrote many Psalms
- He was called "A man after God's own heart." (1 Sam 13:14, Acts 13:22)



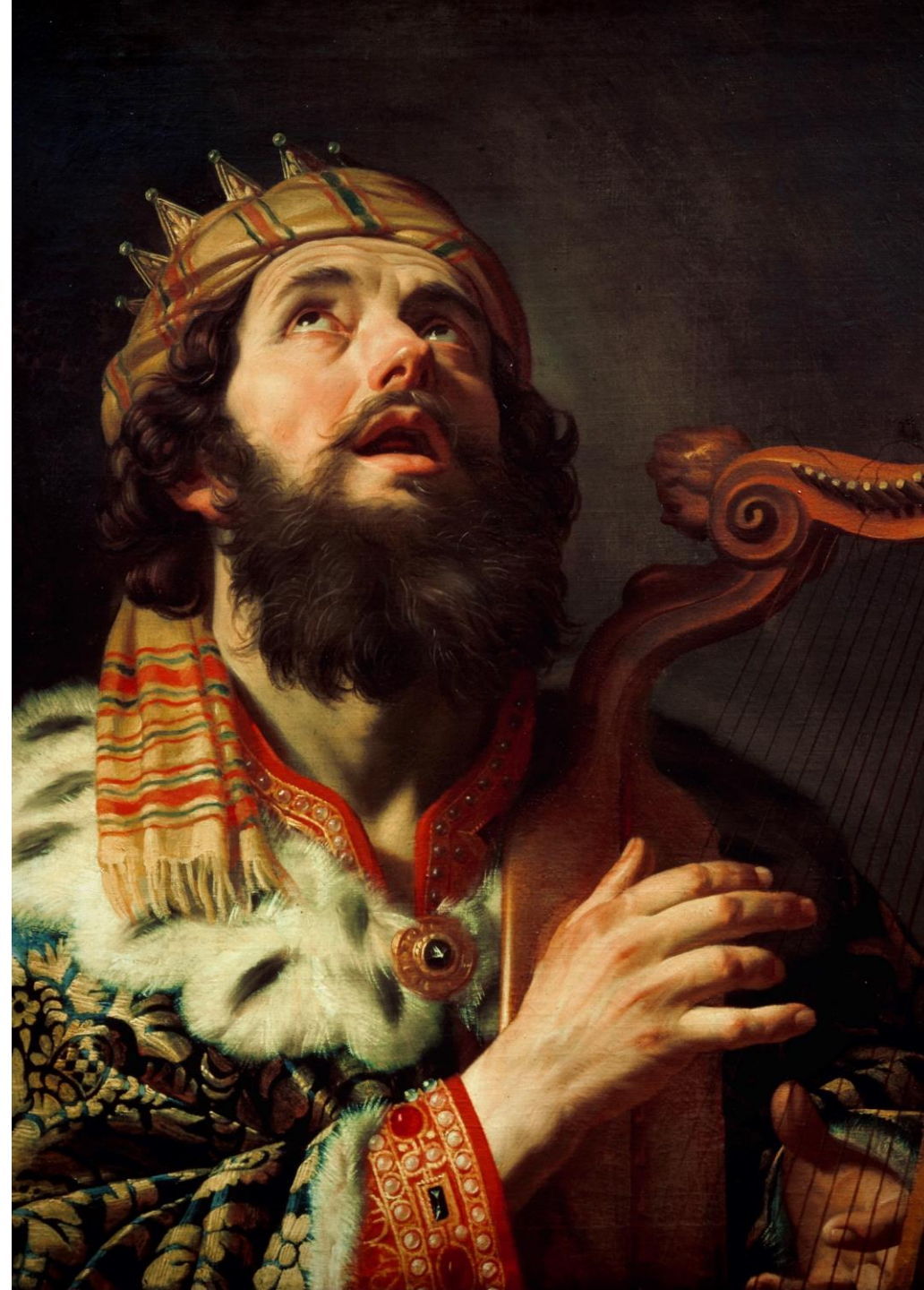
King David

- But David was not perfect
 - He was corrupted by power
 - He was indulgent with his children
 - He defined true repentance in Psalm 51
- Because of these sins and the fact that he was a man of war and not peace, God would not let him build his temple.



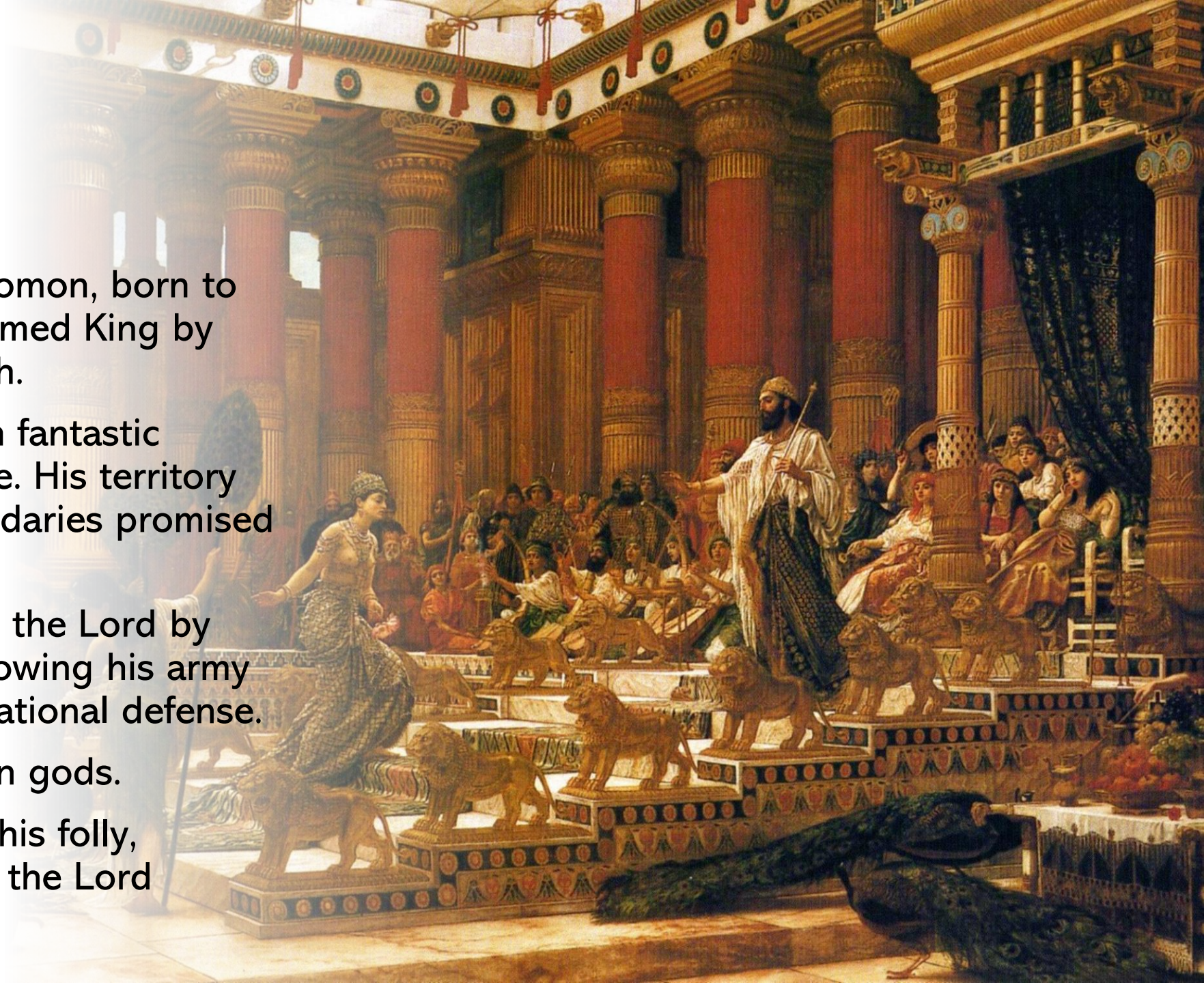
The Davidic Dynasty

- In 2 Samuel 7, God makes a promise to David that his son will build his temple, and that a descendent of David will reign forever.
- Several Messianic Psalms refer to this promise, not only as a dynastic one, but a salvific one, “The LORD said to my Lord,” Psalm 110, a prophecy of Jesus
- It was well known that Messiah would be a Son of David. This is why the genealogies in the Gospels establish Jesus of Nazareth’s Davidic bona fides.
- The Davidic Dynasty lasted until the Babylonian Exile (King Jehoiachin – the last Davidic King of Judah).



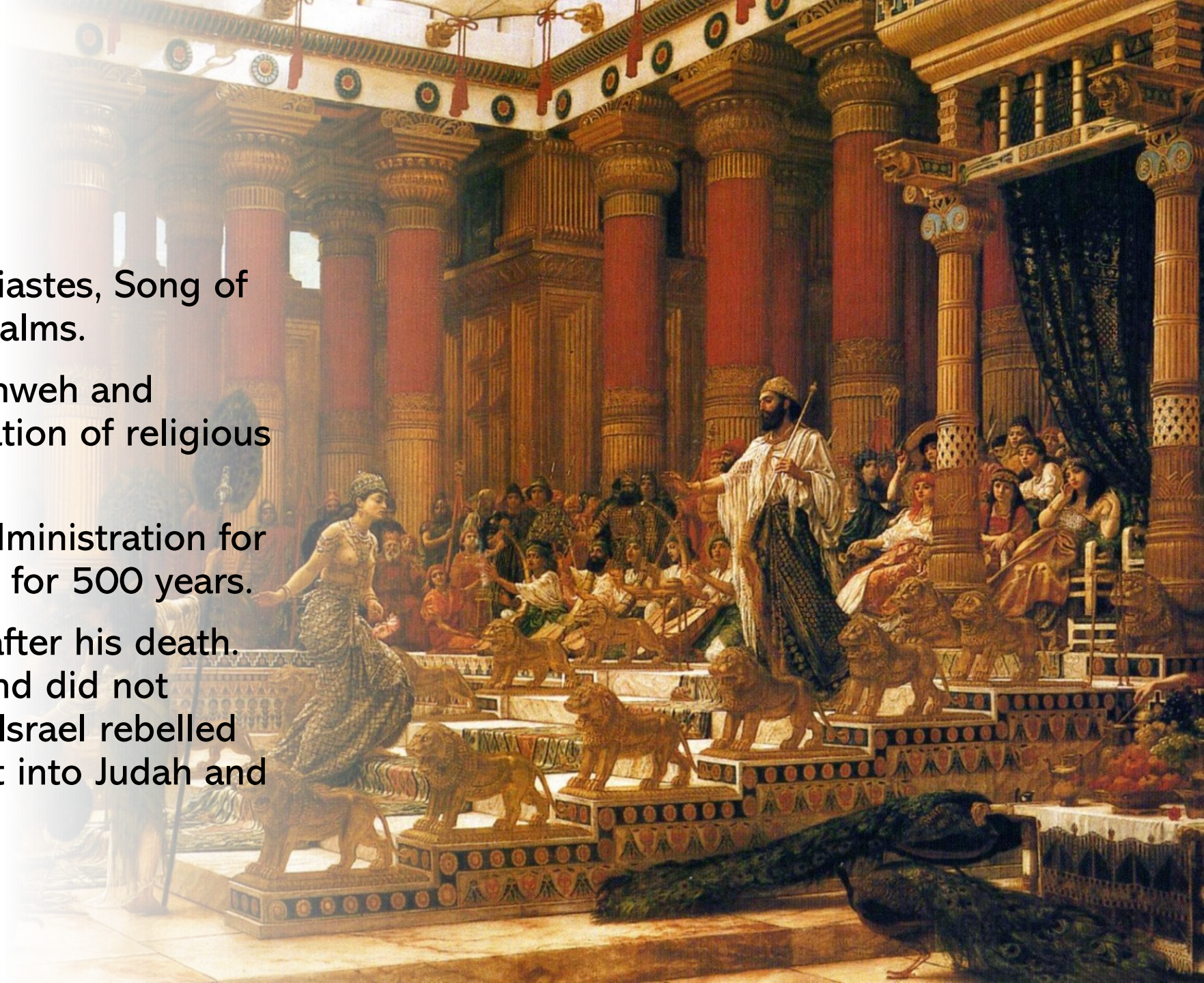
Solomon

- David's youngest son, Solomon, born to him by Bathsheba, was named King by David just before his death.
- Solomon was blessed with fantastic wealth, wisdom, and peace. His territory was extended to the boundaries promised to Abraham
- But Solomon strayed from the Lord by taking many wives and growing his army far beyond the needs of national defense.
- He started following pagan gods.
- But in his old age he saw his folly, repented, and returned to the Lord (Ecclesiastes)



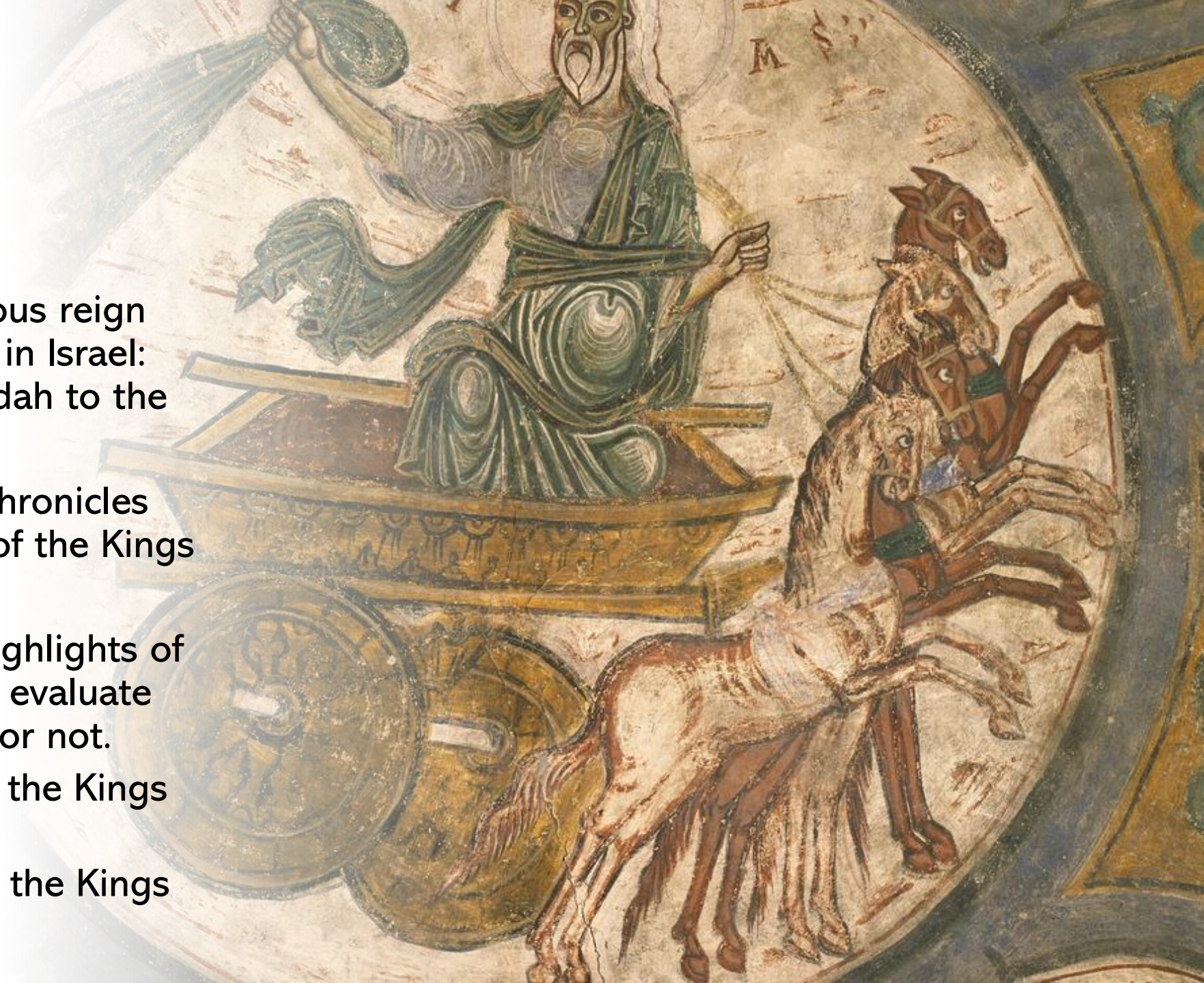
Solomon

- He wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, as well as some Psalms.
- He built the Temple of Yahweh and established the administration of religious services.
- He also established the administration for a kingdom that would last for 500 years.
- His son Rehoboam ruled after his death. Rehoboam was ruthless and did not follow the Lord. Northern Israel rebelled and the kingdom was split into Judah and Israel.



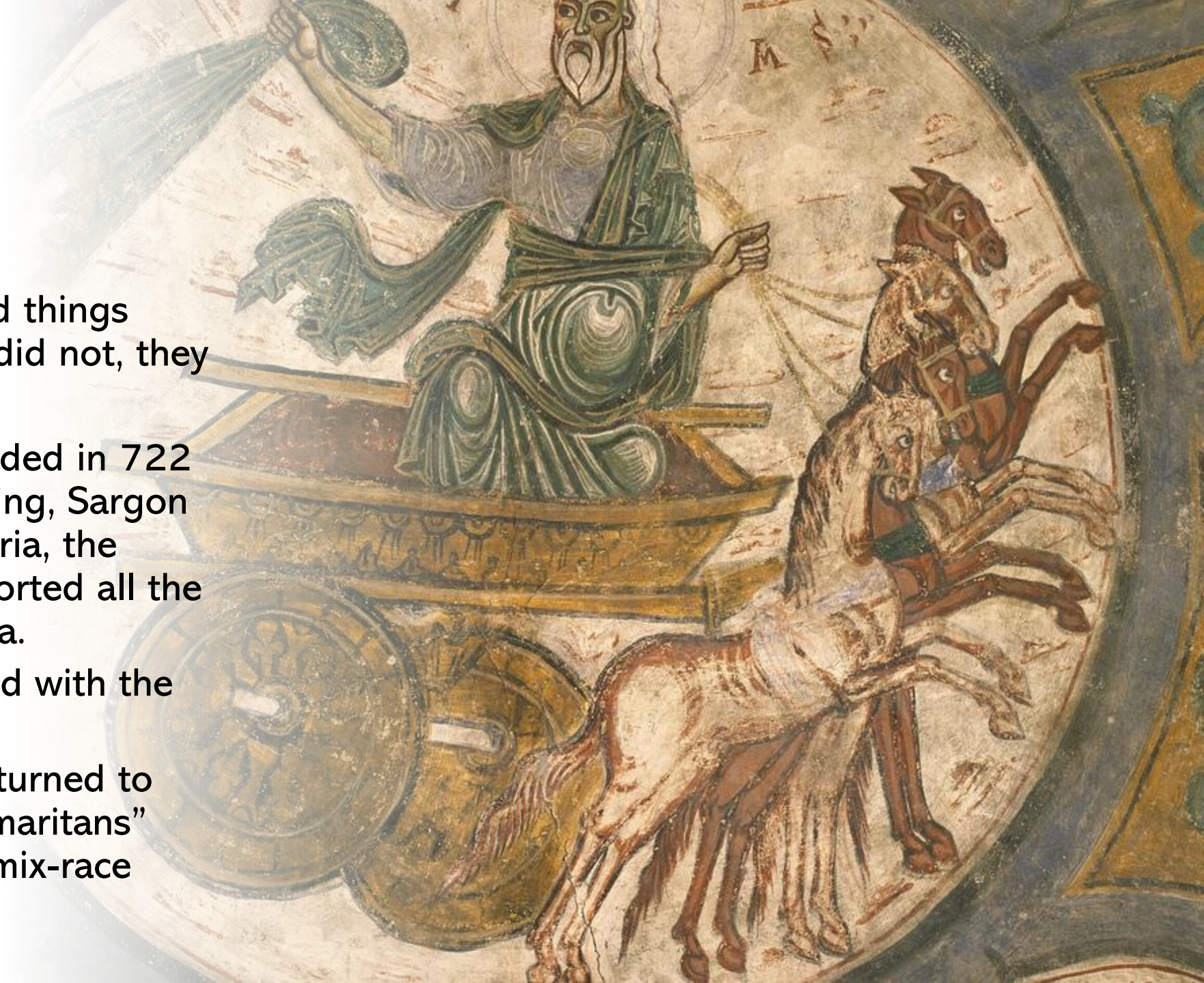
The Divided Kingdom

- After Rehoboam's disastrous reign there were two kingdoms in Israel: Israel to the North and Judah to the South.
- The books of Kings and Chronicles follow the various reigns of the Kings of the North and South.
- The annals will mention highlights of the King's reign, and then evaluate whether he followed God or not.
 - In the North, NONE of the Kings followed the Lord
 - In the South, SOME of the Kings followed the Lord



The Divided Kingdom

- If a King followed the Lord things generally went well. If he did not, they went badly.
- The Northern Kingdom ended in 722 B. C. when the Assyrian King, Sargon II, invaded and took Samaria, the Northern capital, and deported all the people into exile in Assyria.
 - There they intermarried with the Assyrians
 - The ones who later returned to Israel were called “Samaritans” and were a despised mix-race people.



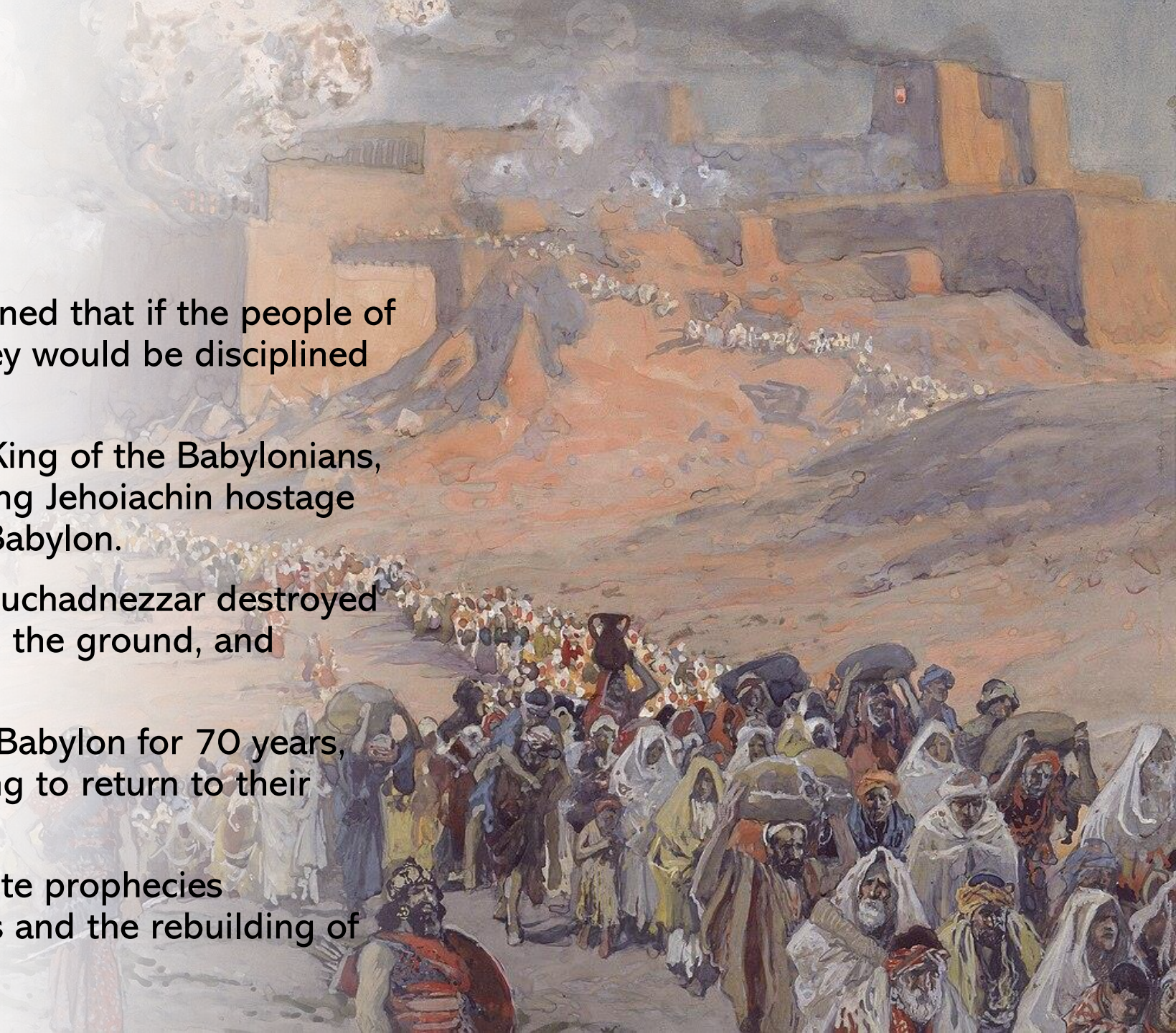
The Divided Kingdom

- During this time, the Prophets wrote, calling the people of both North and South to repentance and faithfulness.
- Notable Northern Kings: Ahab and Jehu
- Notable Southern (Judahite) Kings: Hezekiah and Josiah
- Notable Prophets: Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah



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.





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