

The Lord Sets a Line

Amos 7:1-8:14

Wayne Braudrick

September 7, 2025

Life Change: We are secure in God alone

“You are here!”

Vision #1 – devouring locusts 7:1-3

Vision #2 – wildfire 7:4-6

Vision #3 – the plumb line 7:7-9

The reaction of censorship 7:10-13

Conclusion: trust in government leads to false security 7:14-17

Vision #4 – ripe fruit 8:1-6

Conclusion: trust in commerce leads to false security

Conclusion: trust in religiosity leads to false security. 8:7-14

Only God’s word sustains

The idea of a secular, technology-induced apocalypse is [also] corrosive because it imagines a terrifying, cataclysmic end with no [hope]...Nathan Pinkoski, a fellow with the Institute for Politics, Technology, and Philosophy said a secular apocalypse is like “a theological lab leak,” an extremely powerful narrative about the future that has escaped its proper context. Instead of offering hope that encourages believers to act, it brings anxiety and paralysis. – Les Sillars, “Visions of the Apocalypse”

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204RS

THE LORD

A STUDY OF AMOS

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy gearjunkie



courtesy US Forest Service

**YOU
ARE HERE**

2025 ANNUAL VISION

P

A

**“Be still,
and know
that I am
God.”**

S

E

PSALM 46:10

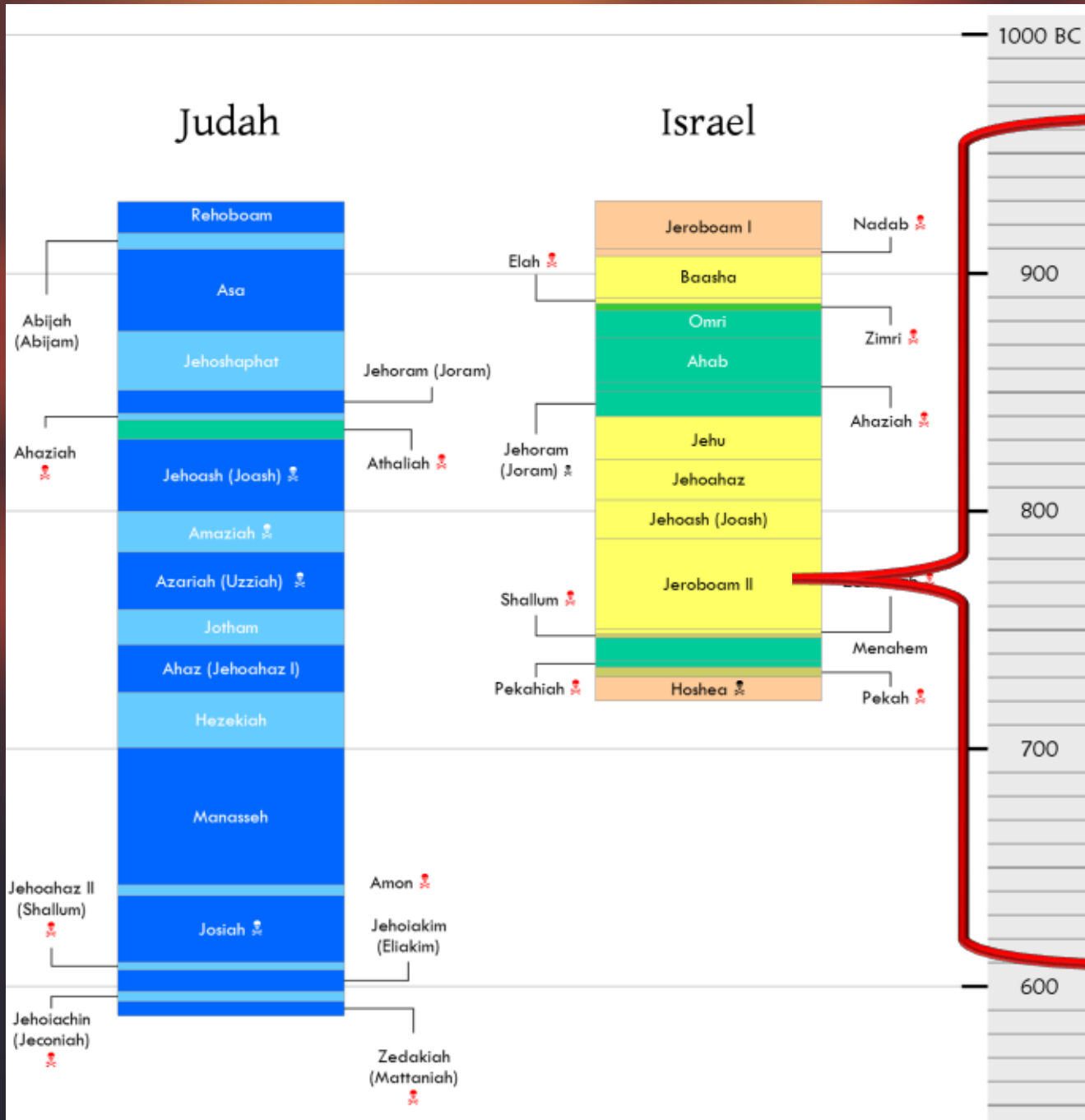


**YOU
ARE HERE**

Psalm 46:10 - Be still and know that I am God.

Amos reveals the holiness of God and the need for listening in stillness. “The Lord, the God of Armies, is his name...He has spoken. Silence!...The Lord your God has spoken.”

(5:27, 8:3, 9:15)



1:1-2

2 voices – the Lion and the prophet

1:3-2:5

7 oracles against the nations surrounding Israel

2:6-6:14

5 sermons that expose the evil in Israel

7:1-9:10

5 visions of judgment on Israel

9:11-15

1 promise of millennial restoration

**7:1 The Lord God showed me this: He was forming a swarm of locusts at the time the spring crop first began to sprout—after the cutting of the king’s hay. ² When the locusts finished eating the vegetation of the land, I said, “Lord God, please forgive! How will Jacob survive since he is so small?”
³ The Lord relented concerning this. “It will not happen,” he said.**

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He was forming a swarm of
locusts at the time the spring crop
first began to sprout—after the
cutting of the king's hay.

לֶקֶשׁ leqes =
grain crop



August – Millet harvest [large portion taken in tax]



MILLET

April – Barley harvest [small portion taken in tax]



BARLEY

May – Oats harvest [? portion taken in tax]



OATS

May – Wheat harvest



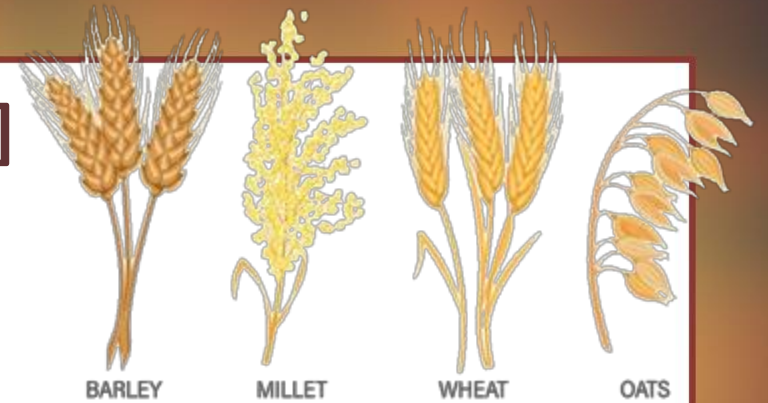
WHEAT

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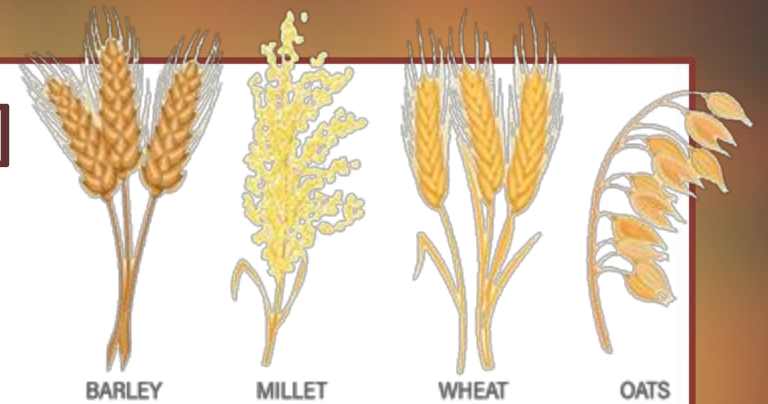
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A locust swarm was one of the most dreaded plagues of the ancient East. As a swarm made its ravenous way across the land, people despaired because it was an enemy against whom they were helpless. When the plague was past, suffering and death by famine followed. This misery was intensified in Israel, for locusts were recognized as God's instrument of punishment for covenant violations (Deut. 28:38, 42; cf. Amos 4:9; Joel 1:1–7). – Don Sunukjian, *Amos*

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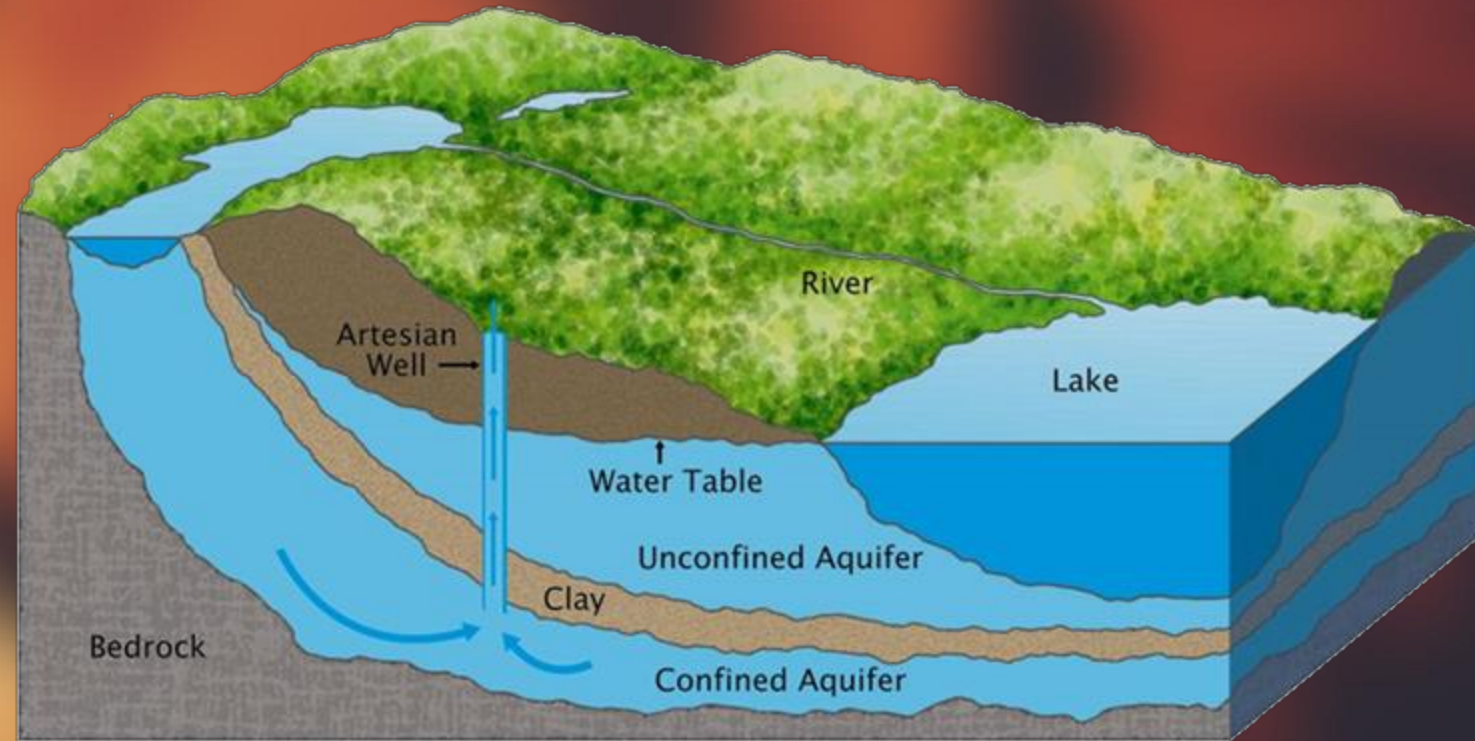
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Amos 7 CSB

Aquifers in Israel



Typical Aquifer



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Amos 7 CSB

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I replied, “A plumb line.”

Then the Lord said, “I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will no longer spare them:

⁹ Isaac’s high places will be deserted,
and Israel’s sanctuaries will be in ruins;
I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam
with a sword.”

Amos 7 CSB

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Altar at Dan courtesy Janna Braudrick

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courtesy christiansengaged

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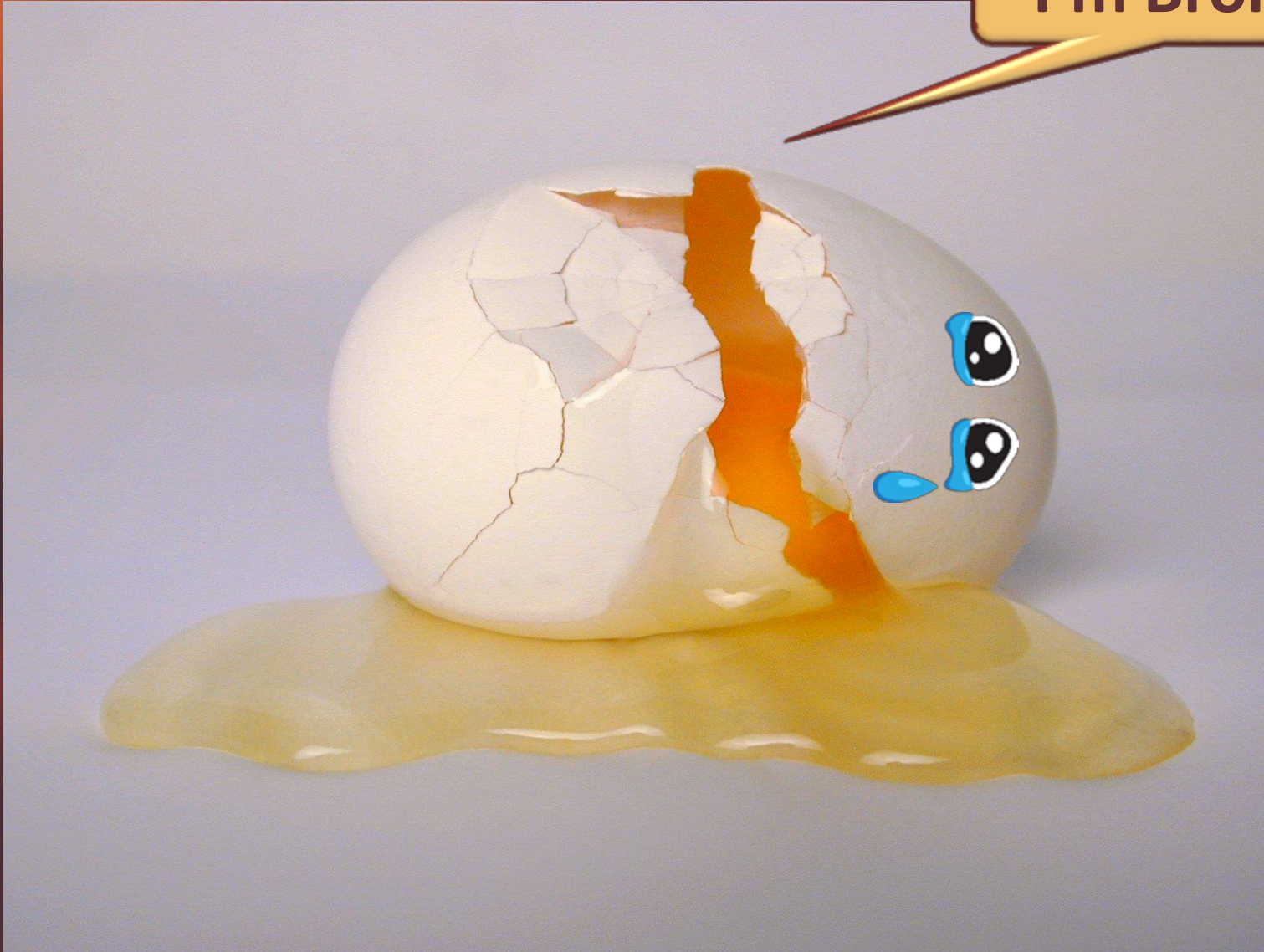
**⁹ Isaac’s high places will be deserted,
and Israel’s sanctuaries will be in ruins;
I will rise up against the house of
Jeroboam with a sword.”**





courtesy istock

I'm Broken!



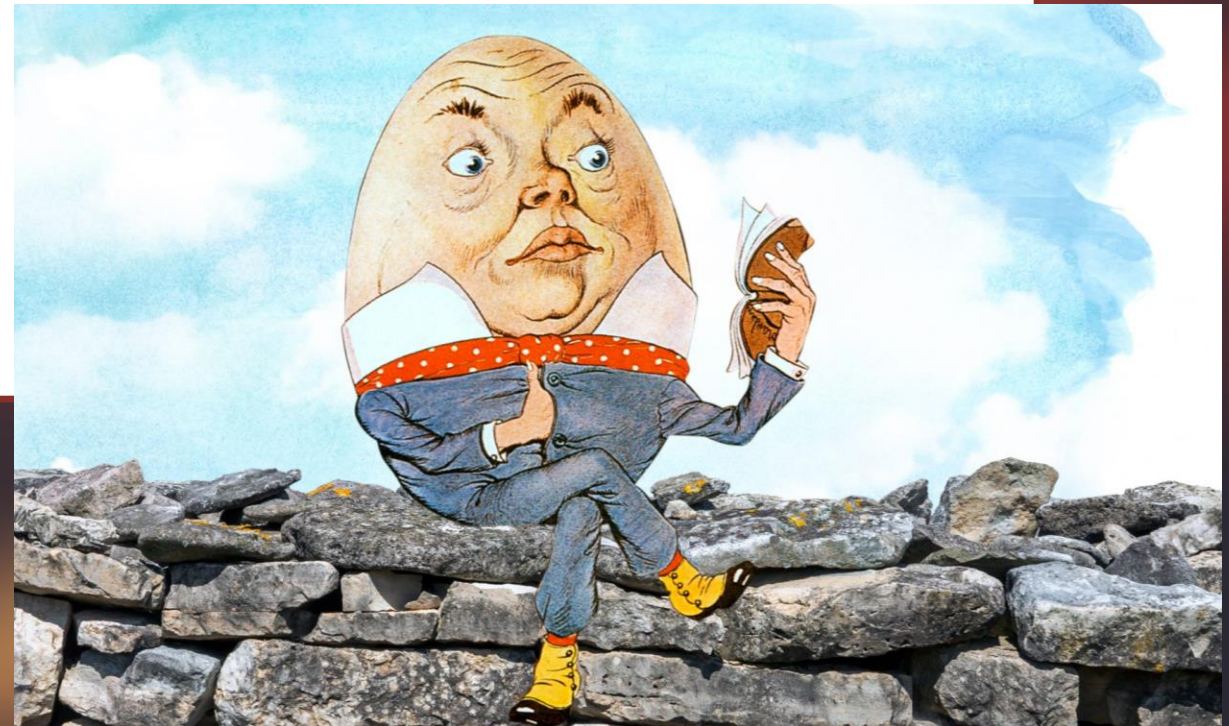
courtesy pinterest

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**18 The one who lives with integrity will be helped,
but one who distorts right and wrong
will suddenly fall.**

Proverbs 28 CSB



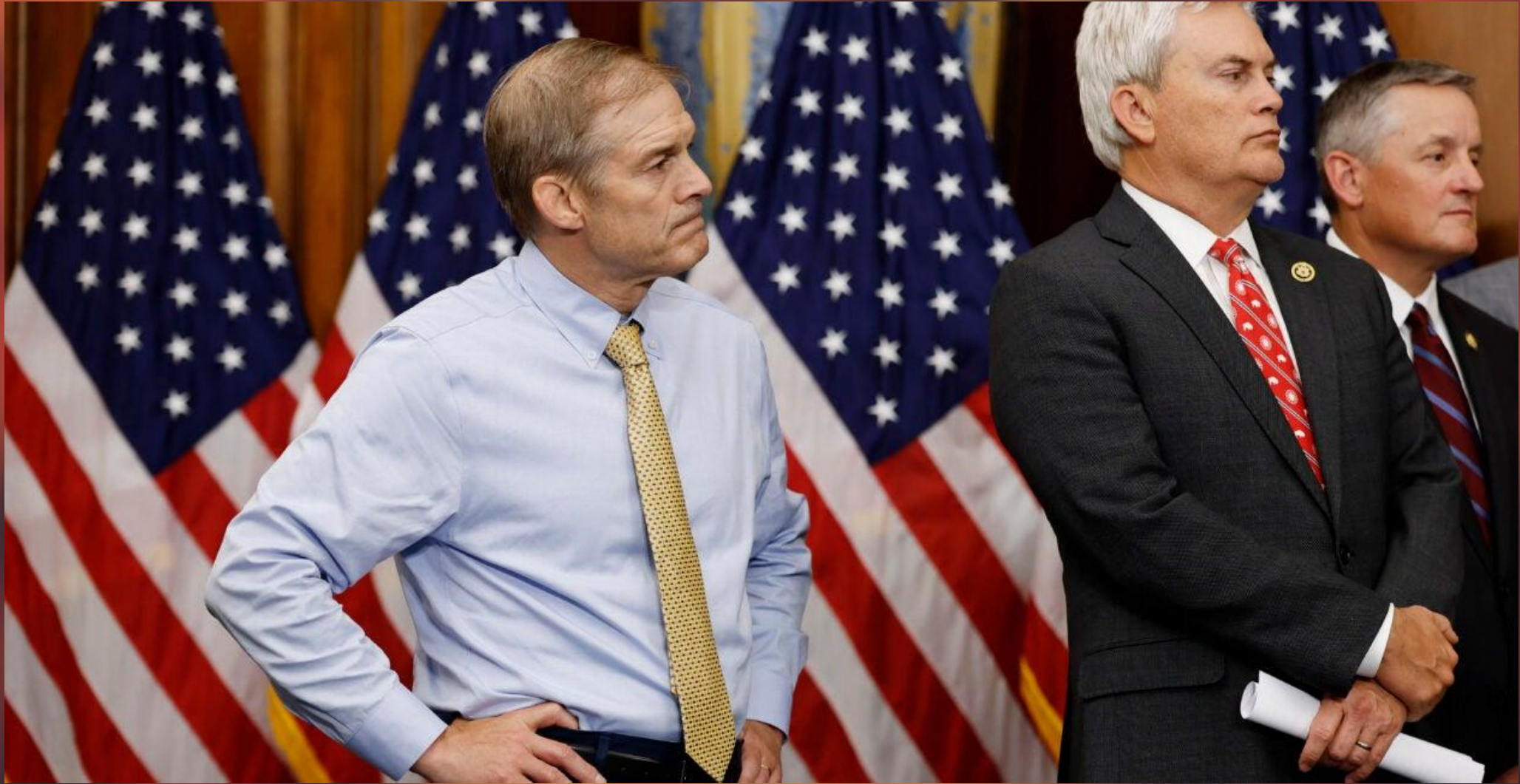
¹⁰ Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent word to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you right here in the house of Israel. The land cannot endure all his words, ¹¹ for Amos has said this: ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will certainly go into exile from its homeland.’”

¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Go away, you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. Earn your living and give your prophecies there, ¹³ but don’t ever prophesy at Bethel again, for it is the king’s sanctuary and a royal temple.”

Amos 7 CSB

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Amos 7 CSB



Courtesy Daily Signal

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Amos 7 CSB

¹⁴ So Amos answered Amaziah, “I was not a prophet or the son of a prophet; rather, I was a herdsman, and I took care of sycamore figs. ¹⁵ But the Lord took me from following the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

**¹⁶ Now hear the word of the Lord. You say:
Do not prophesy against Israel;
do not preach against the house of Isaac.**

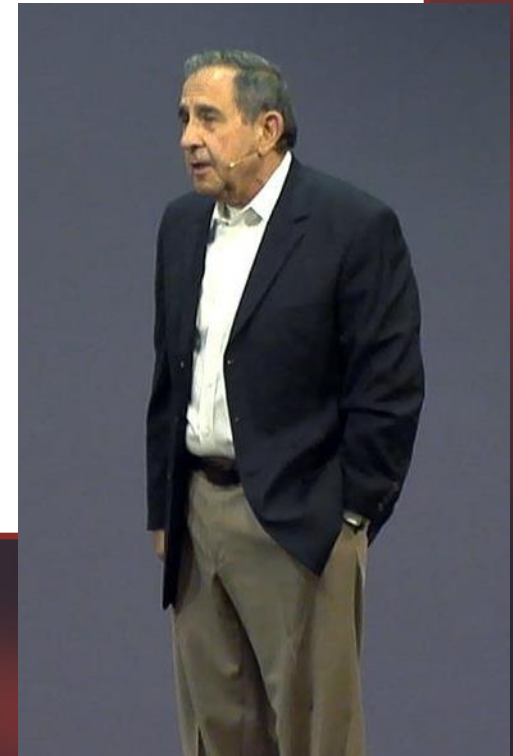
**17 Therefore, this is what the Lord says:
Your wife will be a prostitute in the city,
your sons and daughters will fall by the sword,
and your land will be divided up
with a measuring line.
You yourself will die on pagan soil,
and Israel will certainly go into exile
from its homeland.**

Amos 7 CSB

The Conclusion: trust in government leads to false security. From “cutting of the king’s hay” to “the house of Jeroboam” to “Bethel is the king’s sanctuary and a royal temple,” God is judging those who find security in human government.

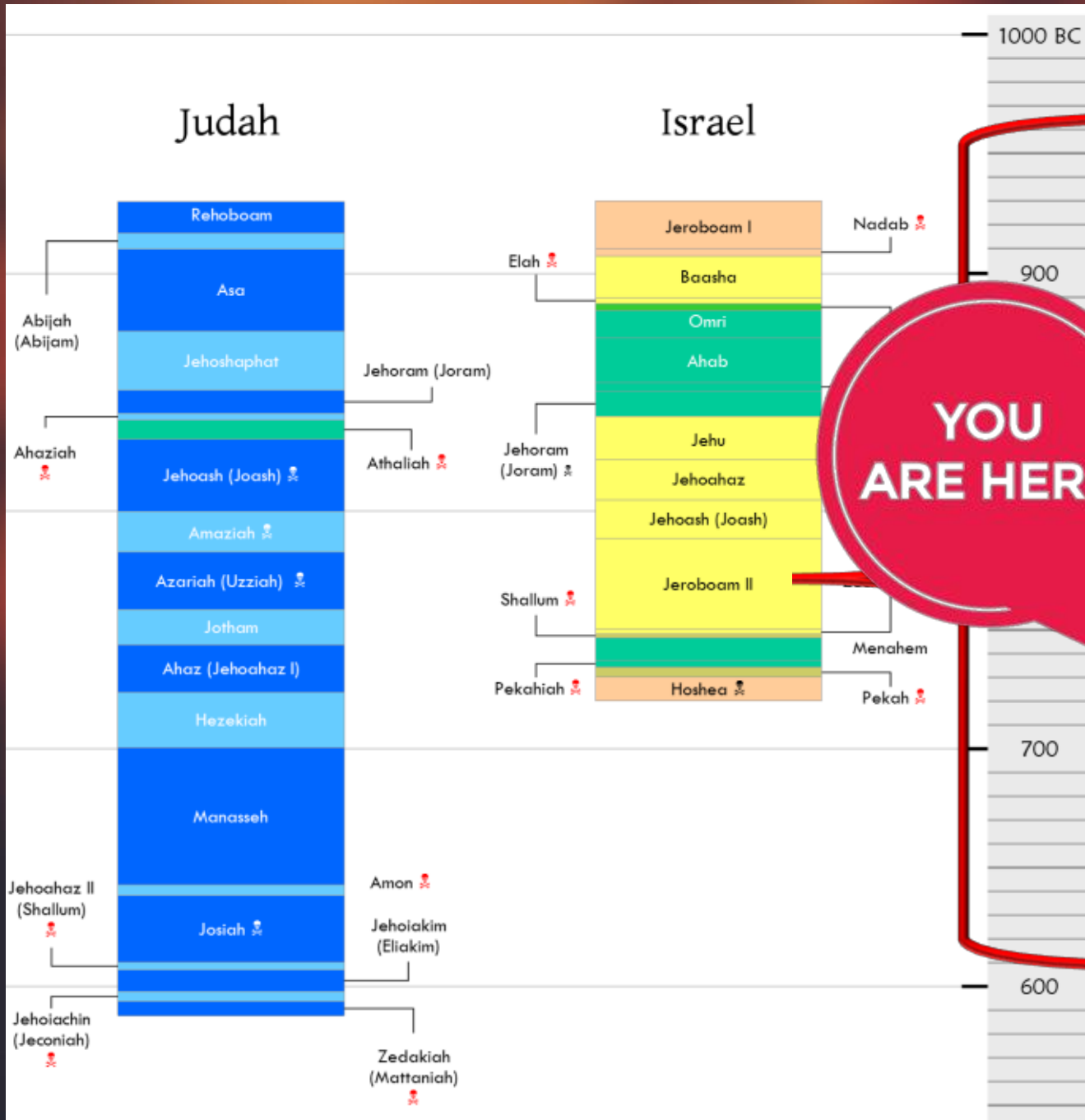
Had Amaziah responded differently, had he repented at Amos' word, he might have been spared (Amos 5:4–6, 14–15). But instead he chose to align with an earthly monarch, to embrace the national mood of pride and security, and to assert his authority against God's messenger. So the Lord quietly withdrew the plumb line. He would spare Amaziah no longer.

– Don Sunukjian, *Amos*



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**¹ The Lord God showed me this: a basket of summer fruit. ² He asked me, “What do you see, Amos?”
I replied, “A basket of summer fruit.”
The Lord said to me, “The end has come for my people Israel; I will no longer spare them. ³ In that day the temple songs will become wailing”—this is the Lord God’s declaration. “Many dead bodies, thrown everywhere! Silence!”
⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy and do away with the poor of the land,**

⁵ asking, “When will the New Moon be over
so we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so we may market wheat?

We can reduce the measure
while increasing the price
and cheat with dishonest scales.

⁶ We can buy the poor with silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and even sell the chaff!”

Amos 8 CSB

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Businesses exist to make profit, and scripture never calls that bad. Never. The problem is that these people have no moral guardrails in pursuit of money. People to them are not God's image-bearers. People are merely impediments to profit or steppingstones to success.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy
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A 2021 study from the University of Hong Kong analyzed 131 companies that had been convicted of financial fraud. Researchers compared the firms' CSR ["Corporate Social Responsibility"] scores during the period when they were committing fraud with the period before they committed the fraud. They also compared the scores with those of similar companies in the same industry.



The companies' CSR scores were higher on average during the period when fraud was committed than during the period before the fraud, and when compared with similar industries. While high CSR scores are supposed to indicate ethical companies, the reverse seemed to be true...In 2019 the Business Roundtable released a statement redefining the purpose of a business to include value for a broad set of stakeholders. Two academics from the



London School of Economics and Columbia Business School [Aneesh Raghunandan and Shiva Rajgopal] published findings showing that the companies that signed the statement were 16 percentage points more likely to have a federal compliance violation than nonmember firms.

– Noah Gould, “The Corporate Social Responsibility Mask”

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so we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so we may market wheat?

We can reduce the measure
while increasing the price
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Amos 8 CSB

Businessman sold his soul
To reach his goal
Working his way up the ladder
Success is the end and his lies are the means
No time to feel sorry for losers
A cat gets the mouse and the dog eats the dog
Oh, it's a rat race, Mr. Briefcase
Can you keep pace, Mr. Briefcase?
Hang on real tight to your briefcase
If you should lose it, you'll have to stand naked
from "Mr. Briefcase" by Lee Ritenour & Eric Tagg





That is neither good nor bad. Yet it is very bad if we base our happiness and well-being on any economic system.

**⁷ The Lord has sworn by the Pride of Jacob:
I will never forget all their deeds.**

**⁸ Because of this, won't the land quake
and all who dwell in it mourn?**

**All of it will rise like the Nile;
it will surge and then subside
like the Nile in Egypt.**

**⁹ And in that day—
this is the declaration of the Lord God—
I will make the sun go down at noon;
I will darken the land in the daytime.**

**¹⁰ I will turn your feasts into mourning
and all your songs into lamentation;
I will cause everyone to wear sackcloth
and every head to be shaved.**

**I will make that grief
like mourning for an only son
and its outcome like a bitter day.**

**¹¹ Look, the days are coming—
this is the declaration of the Lord God—
when I will send a famine through the land:
not a famine of bread or a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the Lord.**

12 People will stagger from sea to sea
and roam from north to east
seeking the word of the Lord,
but they will not find it.

13 In that day the beautiful young women,
the young men also, will faint from thirst.

14 Those who swear by the guilt of Samaria
and say, “As your god lives, Dan,”
or, “As the way of Beer-sheba lives” —
they will fall, never to rise again.

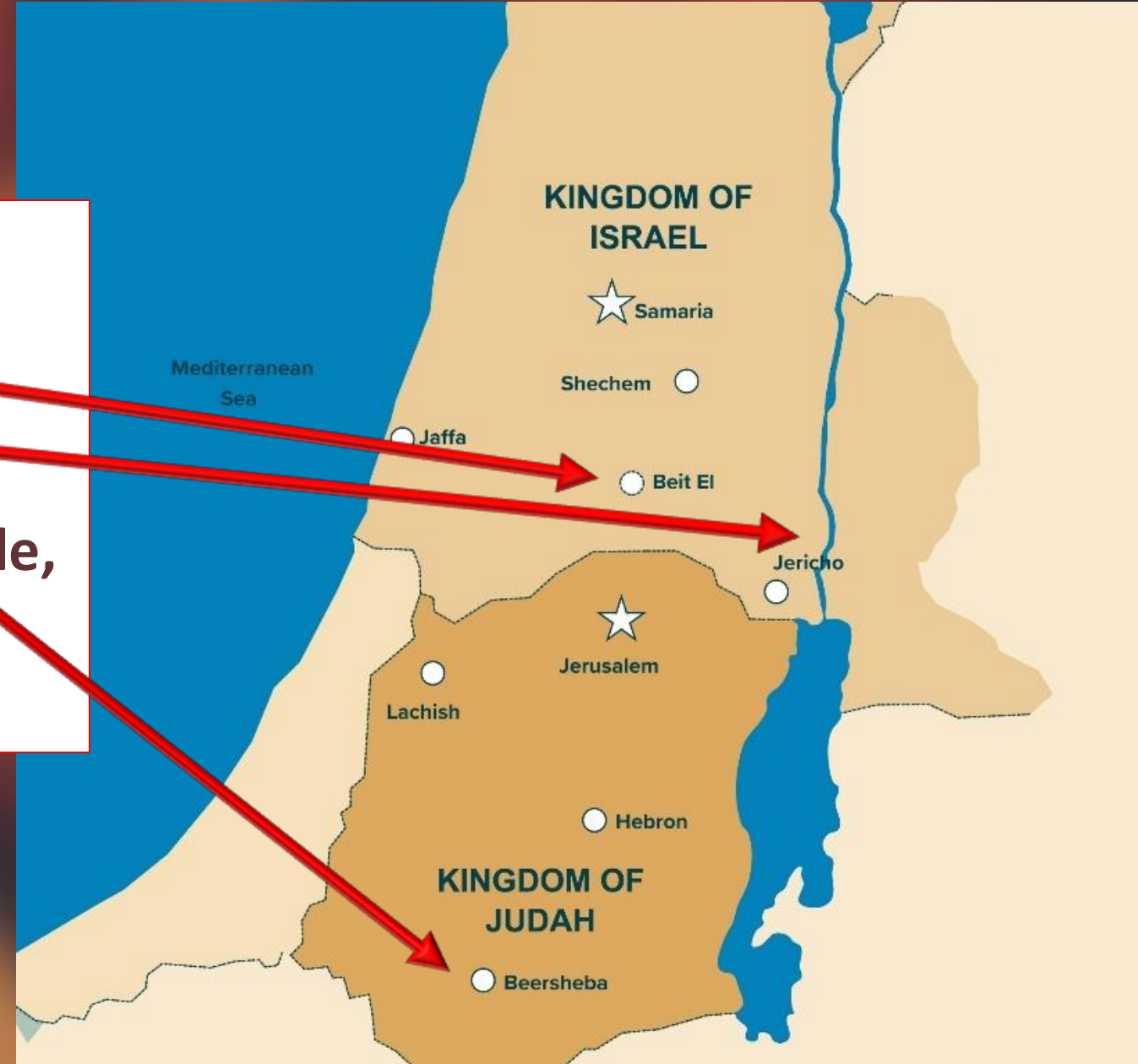
Amos 8 CSB

Amos 5:5 CSB

Seek me and live!

**Do not seek Bethel
or go to Gilgal
or journey to Beer-sheba,
for Gilgal will certainly go into exile,
and Bethel will come to nothing.
Seek the Lord and live**

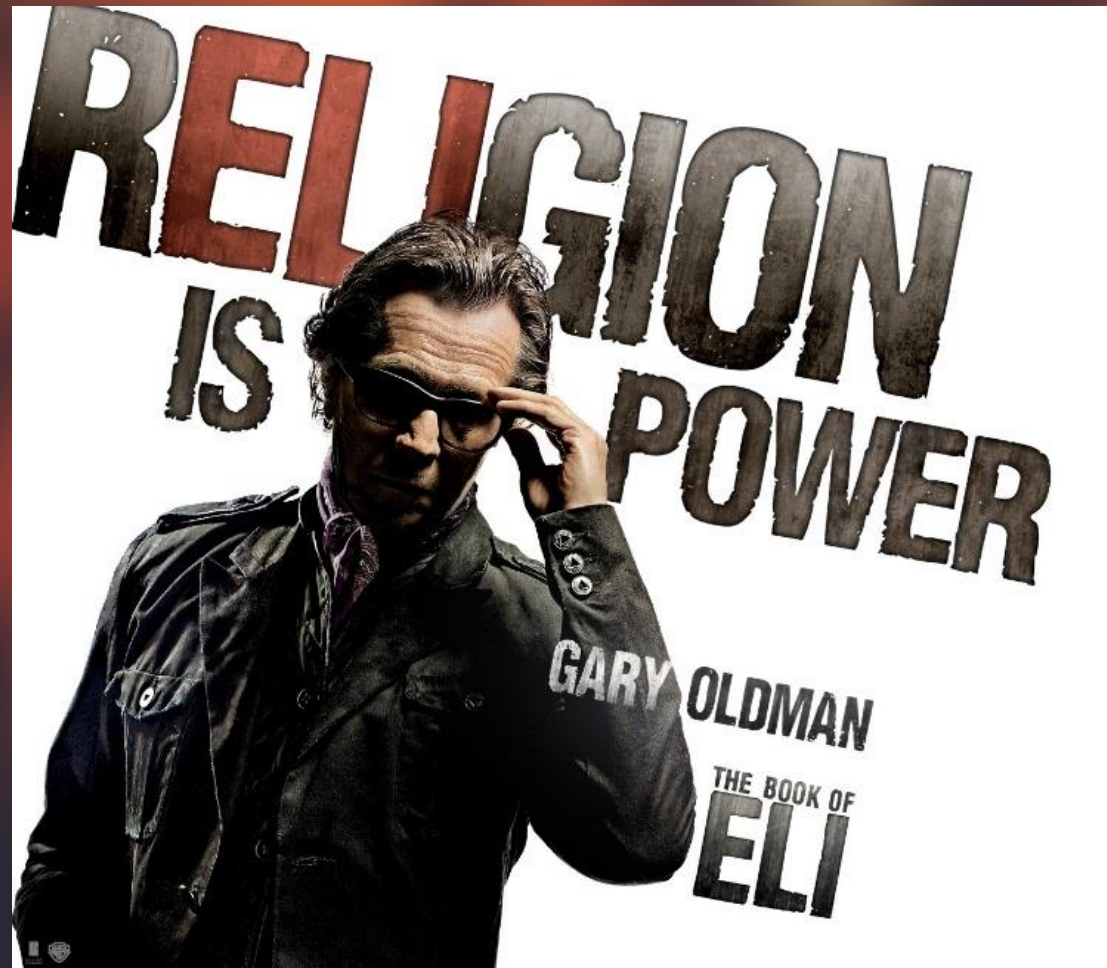
**Religiosity may feel ancient and
holy, but it is actually empty and
evil as it violates scripture.**



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this is the declaration of the Lord God—
when I will send a famine through the land:
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and roam from north to east
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but they will not find it.**

Amos 8 CSB



courtesy Warner Bros.



courtesy Warner Bros. Note: this is not a movie for children.

**⁹ And in that day—
this is the declaration of the
Lord God—
I will make the sun go down
at noon;
I will darken the land in the
daytime.**

Amos 7 CSB

“Ever since Jesus came, we’ve been in the last days,” said Dallas Theological Seminary professor Darrell Bock. He’s concerned that prophecy is too often a distraction, but emphasizes that an eschatological [last things] orientation offers true perspective. Many people have claimed to know the end times are right around the corner, Bock added. “And so far, their batting average is zero.” – Les Sillars, “Visions of the Apocalypse”

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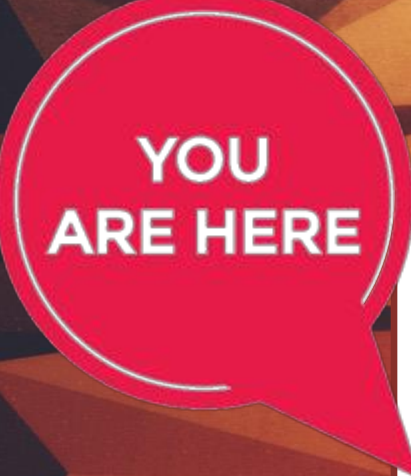


**Religiosity, whether secular
humanized or churchy, does
not grant hope.**



**By contrast, scripture
sustains.**





**YOU
ARE HERE**

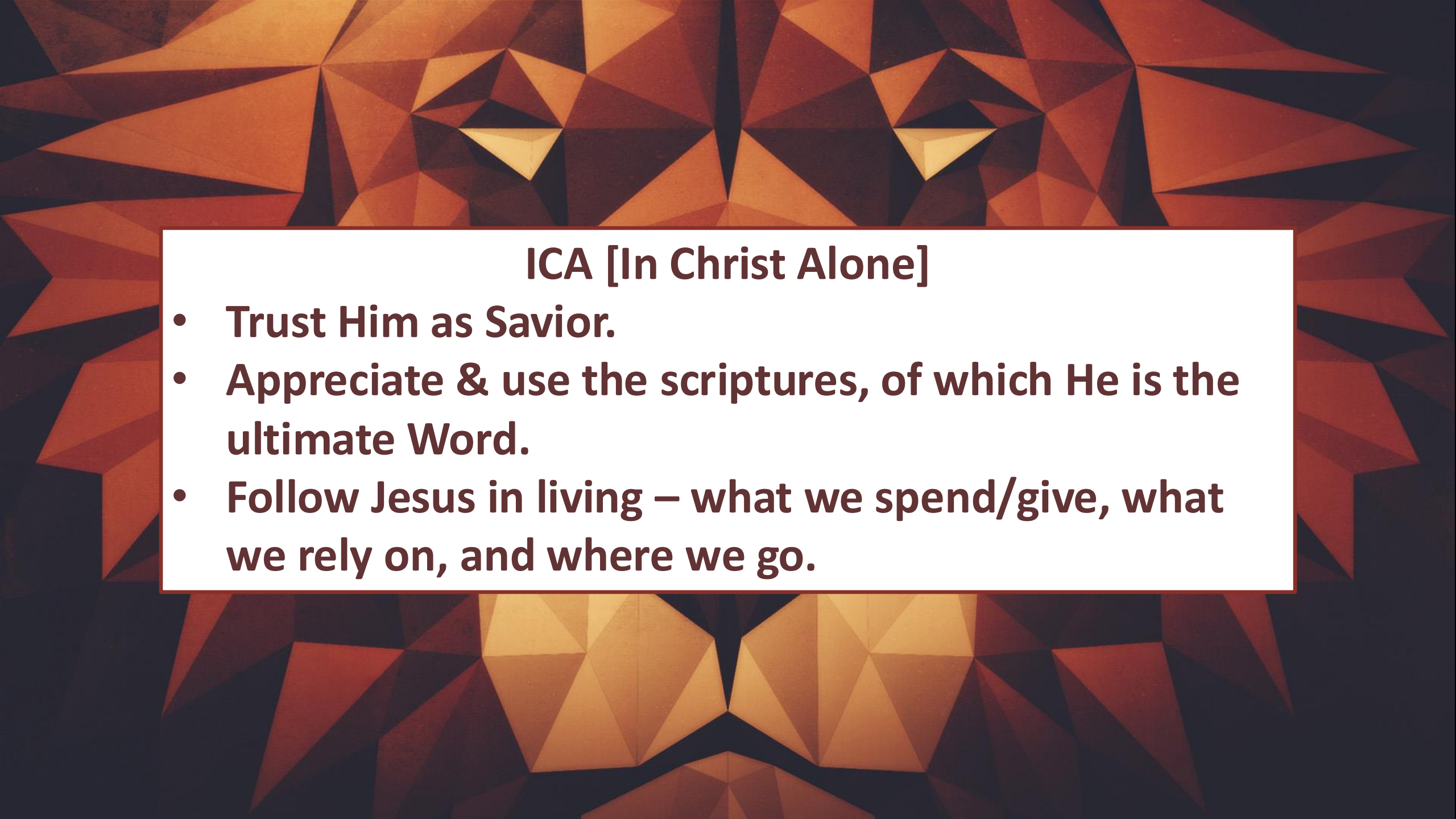
- **The locusts, fire, and plumbline visions + the censorship took us to the waterfall of God's conclusion: trust in government leads one to false security.**
- **The ripe fruit vision led us to God's conclusion: trust in commerce leads to false security.**
- **The discourse of judgement thunders God's conclusion: religiosity leads to false security.**
- **The only true sustenance & security is found in God and His word.**

- 
- The background of the slide is a complex, abstract geometric pattern composed of numerous triangles in various shades of orange, red, and brown. The triangles are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some triangles pointing towards the center and others pointing outwards. The overall effect is a rich, textured background that frames the central text box.
- **Is my life so good that I feel little need for God?**
 - **Where am I attempting to find security?
Institutions? Money? Religion?**

How can one
find security?

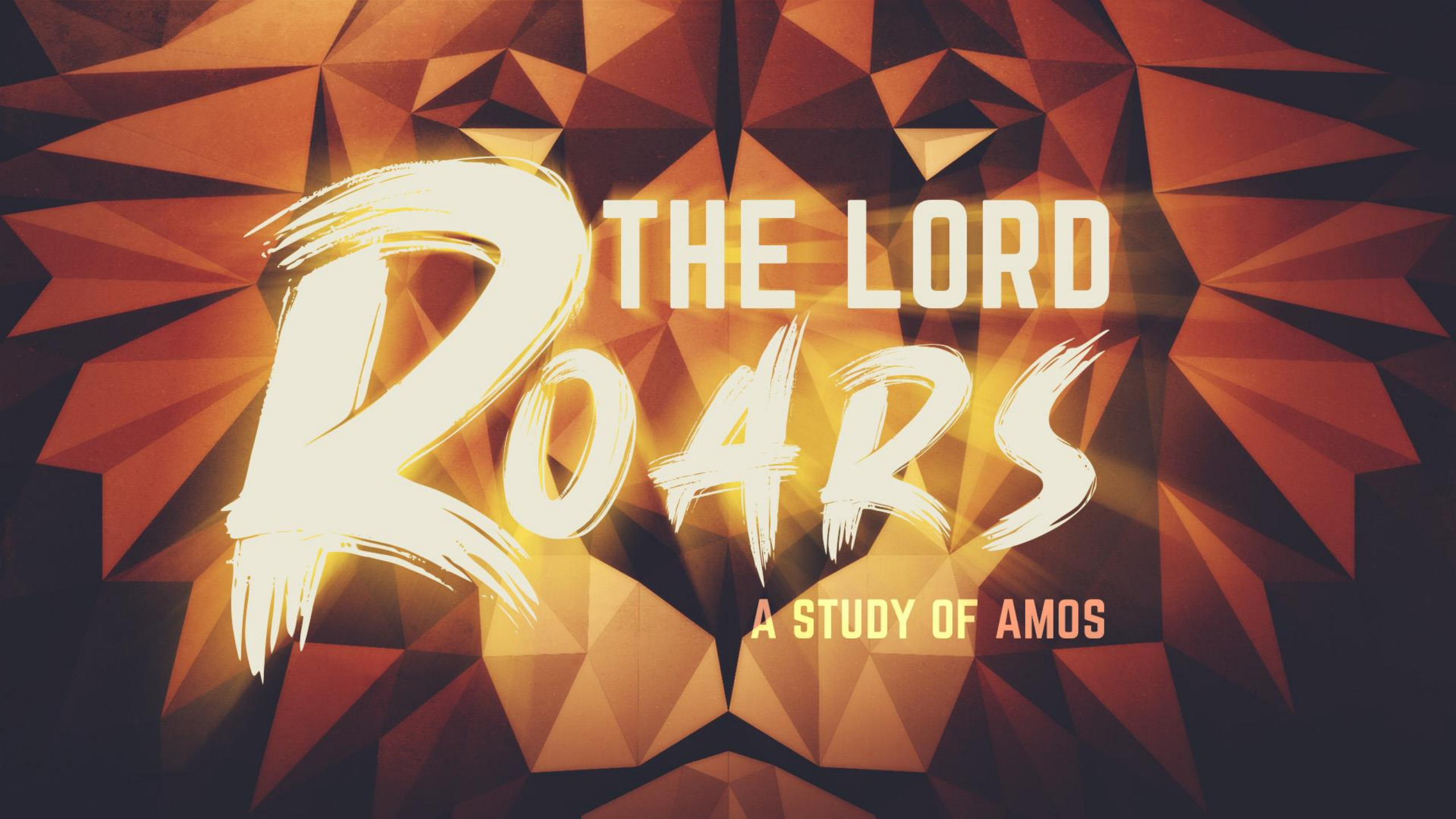


courtesy Warner Bros.



ICA [In Christ Alone]

- Trust Him as Savior.
- Appreciate & use the scriptures, of which He is the ultimate Word.
- Follow Jesus in living – what we spend/give, what we rely on, and where we go.



204RS THE LORD

A STUDY OF AMOS