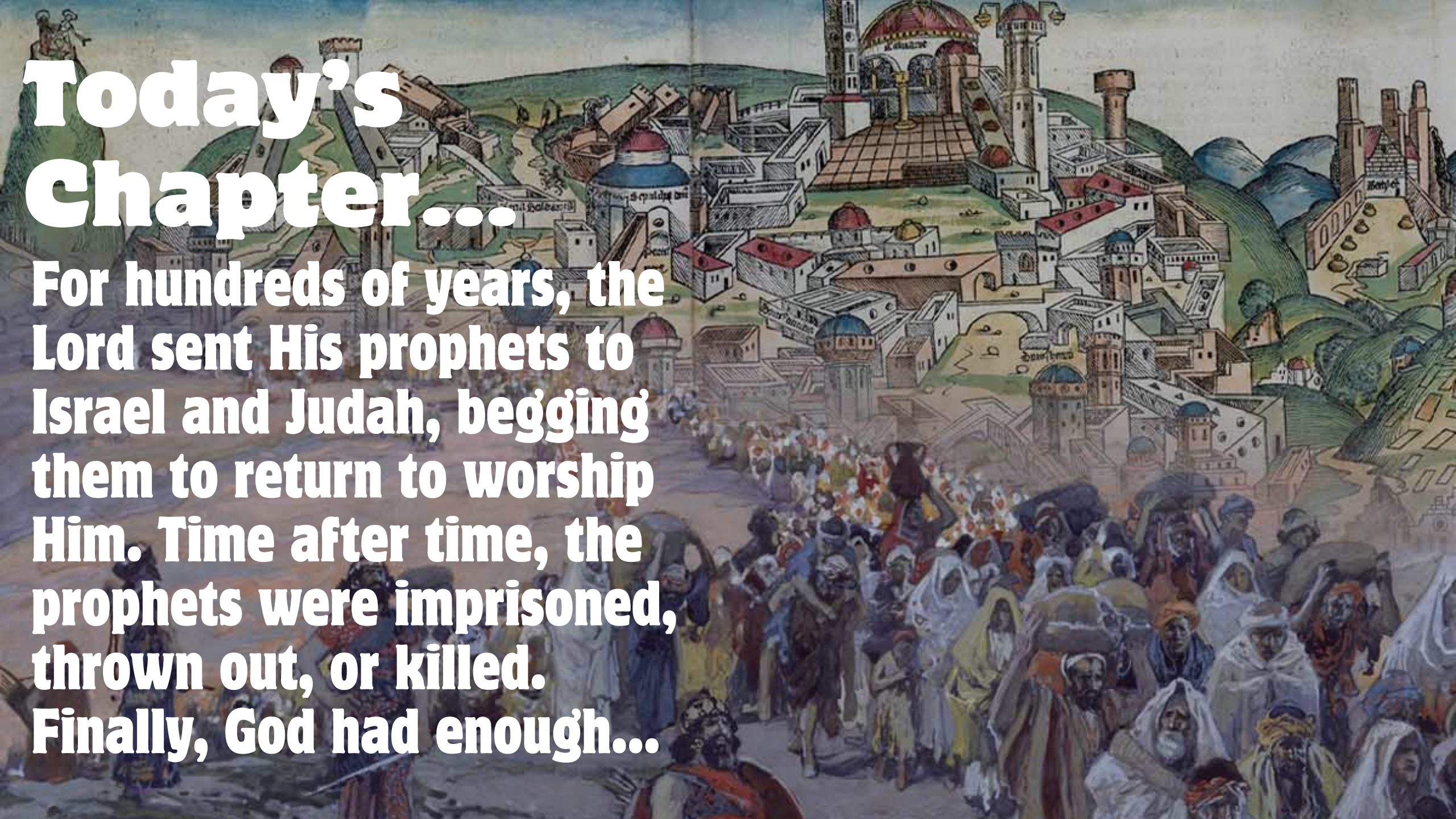




THE BIG STORY CHAPTER 16/25

The Exile:
God Disciplines His
People



Today's Chapter...

For hundreds of years, the Lord sent His prophets to Israel and Judah, begging them to return to worship Him. Time after time, the prophets were imprisoned, thrown out, or killed. Finally, God had enough...

Today's Scripture:

2 Kings 25:8-12

In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. And he burned the house of the LORD and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem. And the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile. But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen.



The Story: The Exile

- After giving Judah and Israel numerous chances to return to God, God had finally had enough.**
- He did exactly what He said He would do if the people refused to return to Him – He took away their land, and He forced them to live in a far-away land.**
- He didn't do this because He hated them; He did this because He loved them and had to discipline them.**
- During this time, they had done terrible things to other people, and God had to put a stop to it.**

Why it Matters in the Big Story

- God hates sin more than anything else in the entire universe.**
- When we sin and hurt ourselves or others, God's heart is broken. However, He loves us so much that He gives us tons of opportunities to turn away from our sin and go back to Him!**
- However, He does not allow anyone to go on sinning forever. After a time, He will discipline those He loves.**



GOD IS...

God is just. That means that God does not allow sin to go unpunished. When we accept Christ, all the punishment our sins deserves are transferred to Him on the cross, so that even when He forgives us, God is still just!

Reflection Questions

- 1. How did God discipline His people?**
He took their land and sent them into exile.
- 2. Why did God discipline His people?**
Because they refused to turn to Him.
- 3. What does it mean that God is just?**
It means that God does not allow sin to go unpunished.

Challenge Question: How will you ask God to forgive your sins this week?