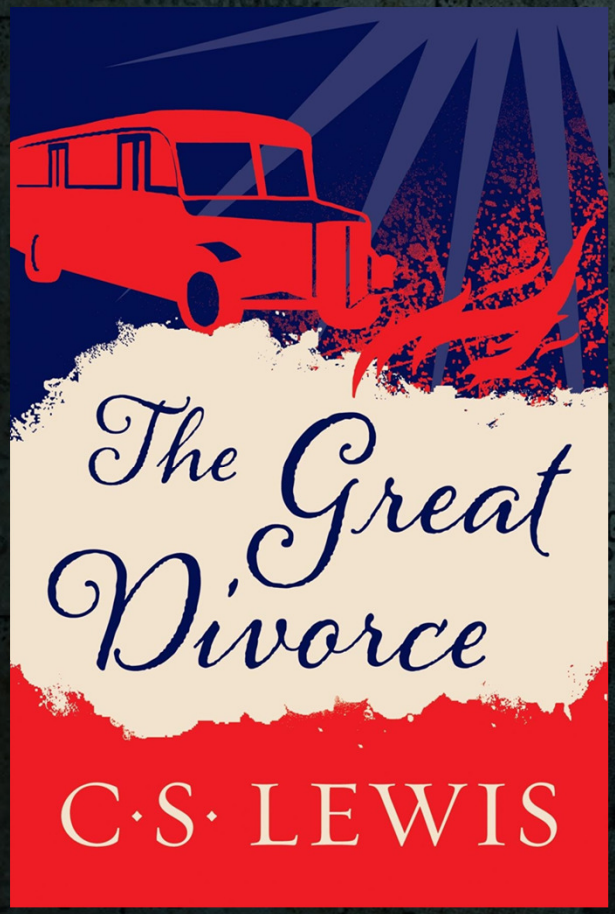


The Chains of Babylon

2 Kings 23-24


The Great Divorce
C·S· LEWIS




Accho
Cabul
Ashtaroth
GESHUR
Nobah
Beer-sheba
Kir-moab

2 Kings 23:31-37

31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to
reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's
name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 32
And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to
all that his fathers had done. 33 And Pharaoh Neco put him in
bonds at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign
in Jerusalem, and laid on the land a tribute of a hundred talents
of silver and a talent of gold. 34 And Pharaoh Neco made
Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the place of Josiah his father,
and changed his name to Jehoiakim. But he took Jehoahaz
away, and he came to Egypt and died there.



2 Kings 23:31-37

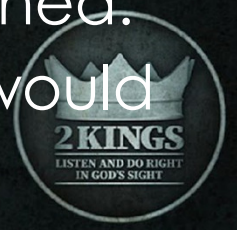
35 And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh, but he taxed the land to give the money according to the command of Pharaoh. He exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, from everyone according to his assessment, to give it to Pharaoh Neco.

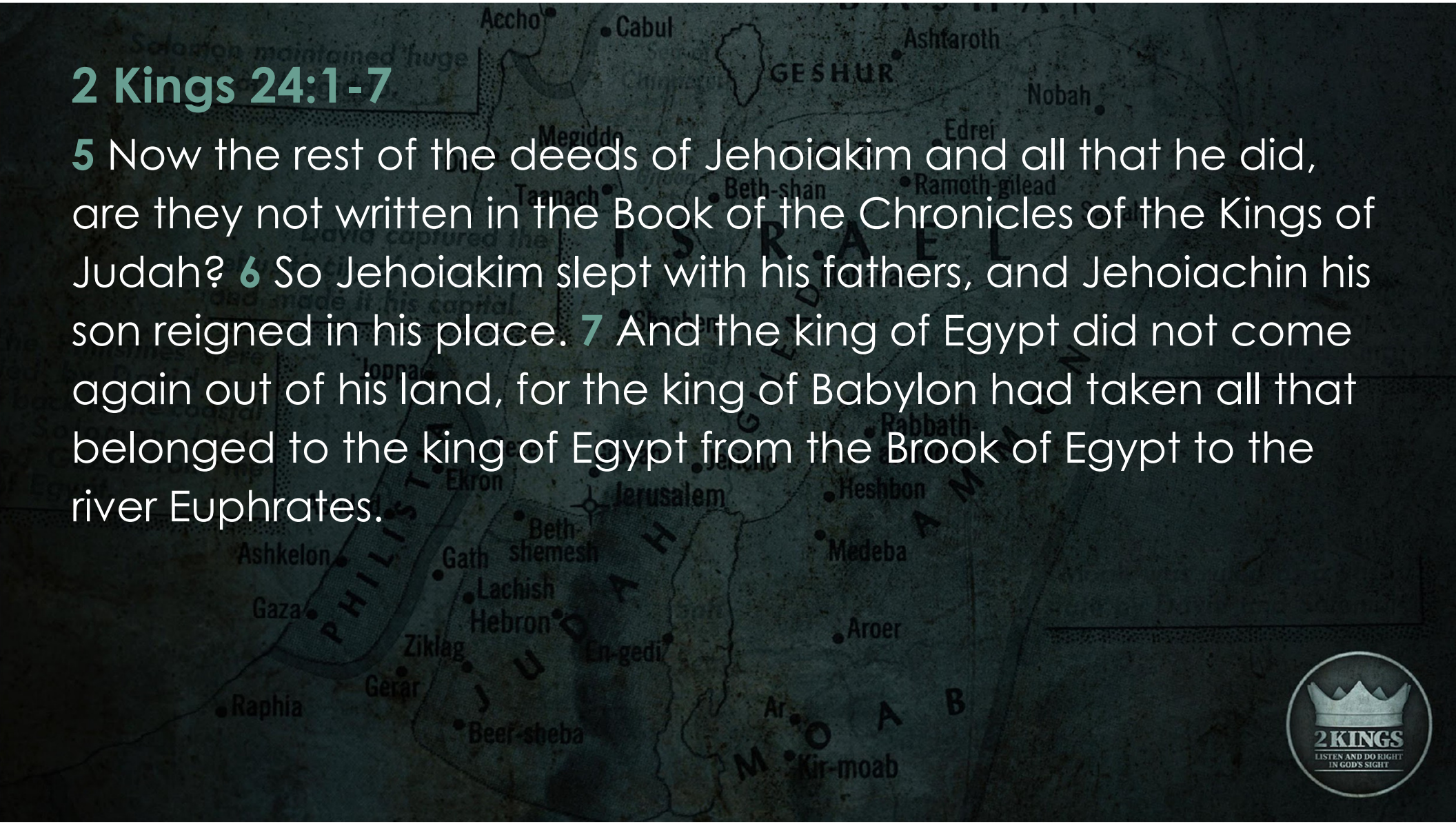
36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah. **37** And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.



2 Kings 24:1-7

1 In his days, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and
Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. Then he turned
and rebelled against him. 2 And the LORD sent against him
bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of
the Moabites and bands of the Ammonites, and sent them
against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD
that he spoke by his servants the prophets. 3 Surely this came
upon Judah at the command of the LORD, to remove them out
of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he
had done, 4 and also for the innocent blood that he had shed.
For he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD would
not pardon.





2 Kings 24:1-7

5 Now the rest of the deeds of Jehoiakim and all that he did,
are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of
Judah? 6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers, and Jehoiachin his
son reigned in his place. 7 And the king of Egypt did not come
again out of his land, for the king of Babylon had taken all that
belonged to the king of Egypt from the Brook of Egypt to the
river Euphrates.

2KINGS
LISTEN AND DO RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT

The context of the fall of Judah



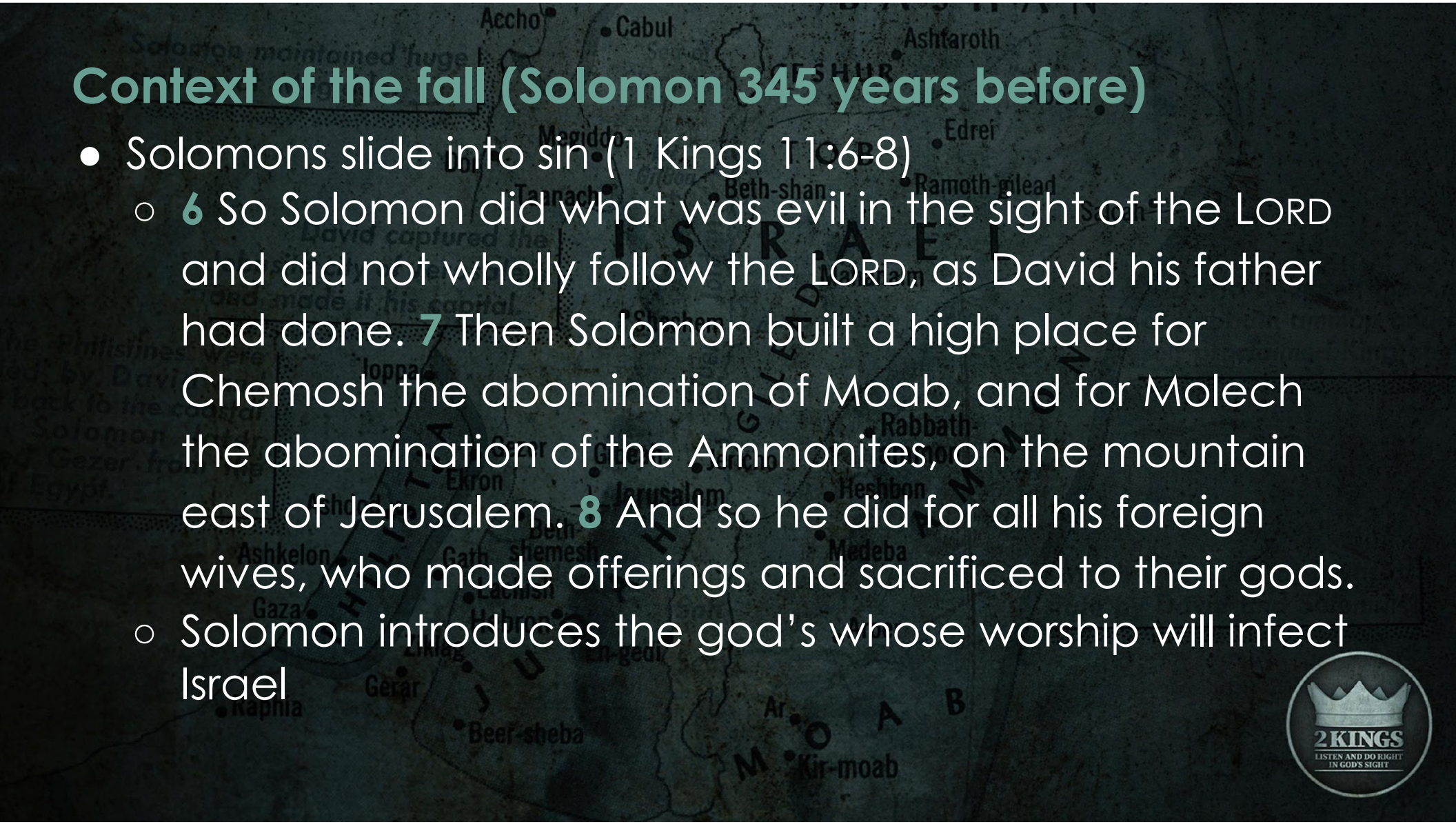
Context of the fall (Solomon 345 years before)

- Solomon's reign ends 345 years before the Babylonian captivity
- That is equivalent to 1678 AD compared to us.



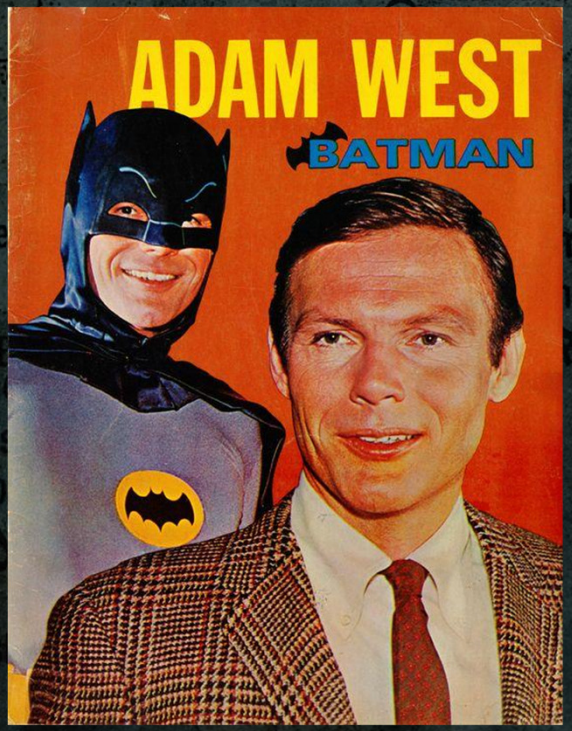
Context of the fall (Solomon 345 years before)

- Solomons slide into sin (1 Kings 11:6-8)
  - **6** So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. **7** Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. **8** And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.
  - Solomon introduces the god's whose worship will infect Israel



Context of the fall (Manasseh 57 years before)

- Manasseh's reign ends 57 years before the Babylonian captivity
- That is equivalent to 1966 AD compared to us.



2KINGS
LISTEN AND DO RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT

Context of the fall (Manasseh 57 years before)

- Manasseh embraces depravity (2 Kings 21:9)
  - **9** But they did not listen, and Manasseh led them astray to do more evil than the nations had done whom the LORD destroyed before the people of Israel.
  - Manasseh "Filled Jerusalem with innocent blood" (21:16), and led Israel into depths of sin that would have put the canaanites to shame.



The process of the fall of Judah



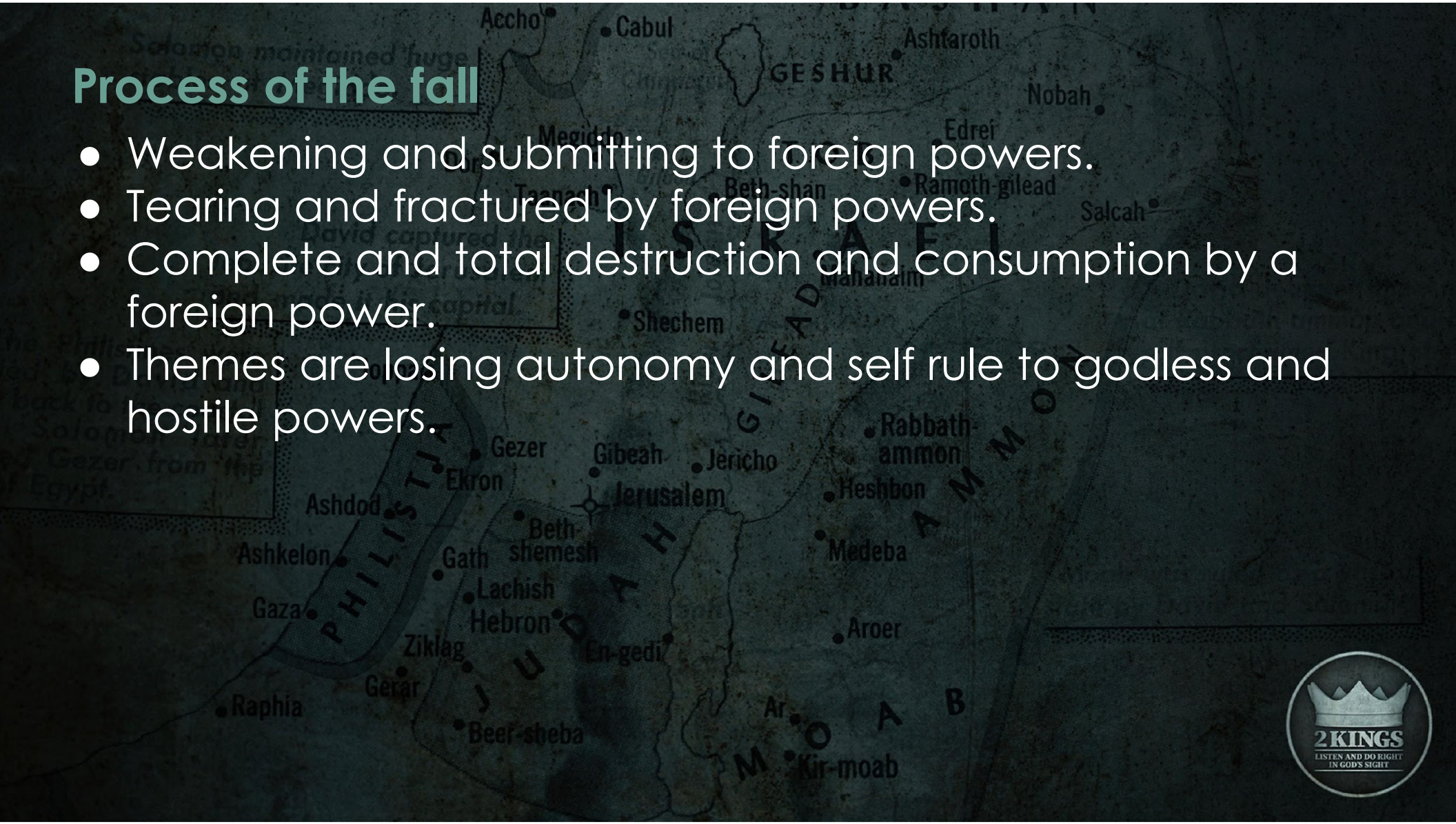
Process of the fall

- The nation of Israel has lost much of its glory over time, but now it also begins to lose it's autonomy.
  - Pharaoh Neco imposes tribute and deposes one king for another. Judah is unable to even resist.
- After Egypt is defeated by Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar "inherits" indirect rule over Jerusalem.
- When Jehoiakim tries to defend Pharaoh, Jerusalem is overrun by enemies (Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites).
- Babylon then comes and exiles Israel from their homeland, taken them into captivity over the next decade or so.



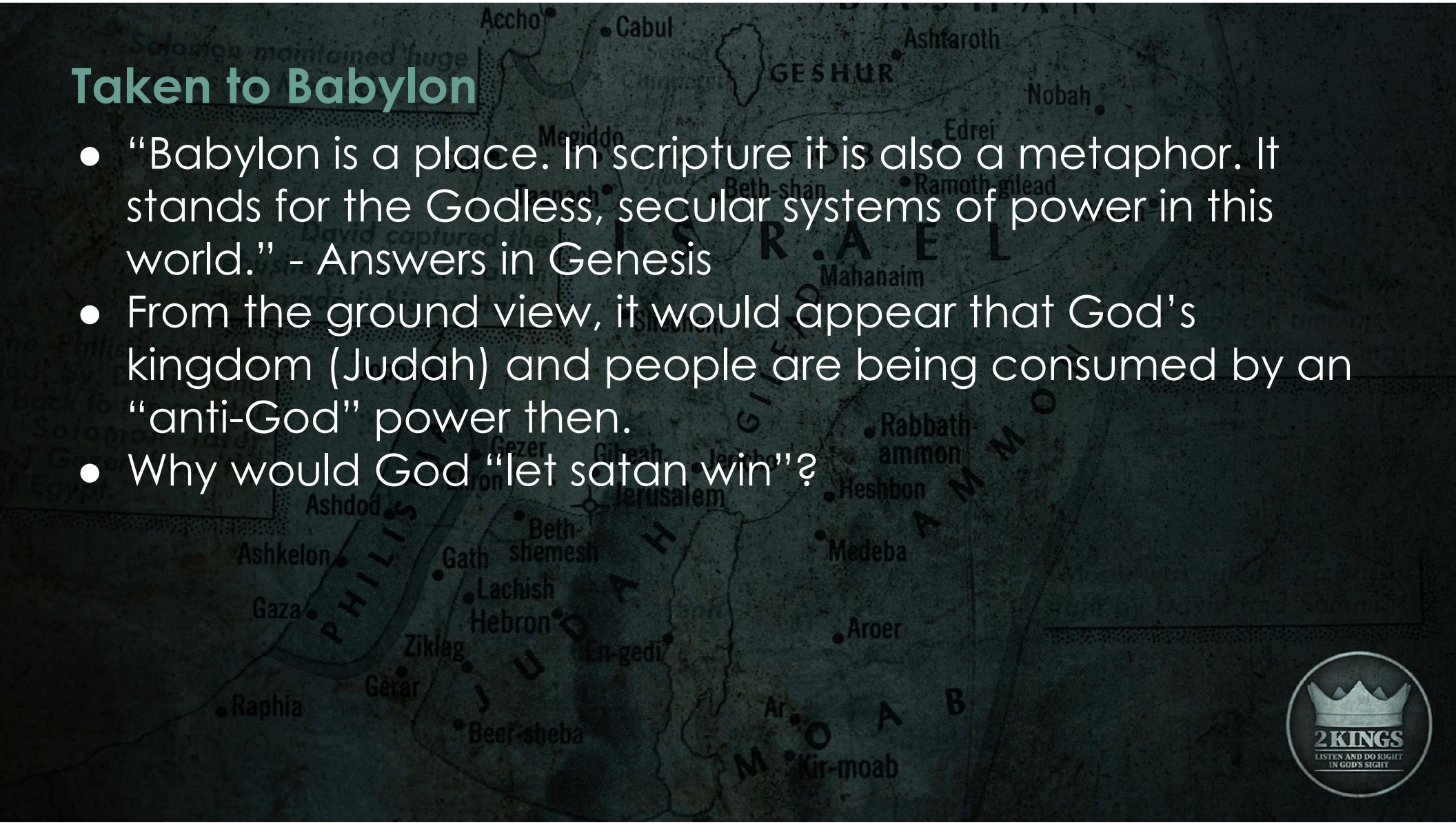
Process of the fall

- Weakening and submitting to foreign powers.
- Tearing and fractured by foreign powers.
- Complete and total destruction and consumption by a foreign power.
- Themes are losing autonomy and self rule to godless and hostile powers.



Taken to Babylon

- "Babylon is a place. In scripture it is also a metaphor. It stands for the Godless, secular systems of power in this world." - Answers in Genesis
- From the ground view, it would appear that God's kingdom (Judah) and people are being consumed by an "anti-God" power then.
- Why would God "let satan win"?





The purpose of the fall of Judah

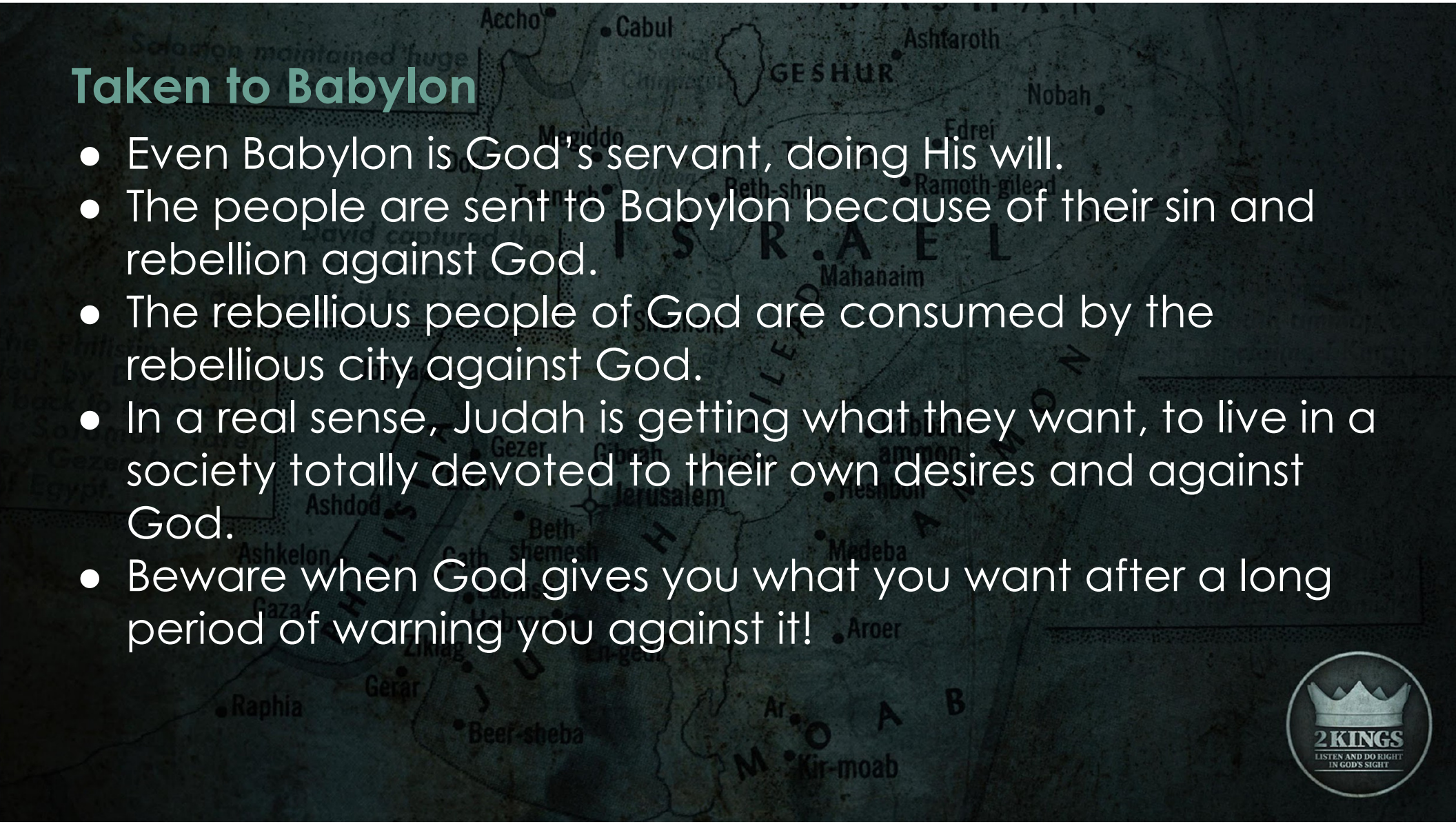
Taken to Babylon (Jeremiah 25:8-11)

- 8 “Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have
not obeyed my words, 9 behold, I will send for all the tribes of
the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the
king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this
land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding
nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a
horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. 10 Moreover,
I will banish from them the voice of mirth and the voice of
gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the
bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp.
11 This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and
these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.



Taken to Babylon

- Even Babylon is God's servant, doing His will.
- The people are sent to Babylon because of their sin and rebellion against God.
- The rebellious people of God are consumed by the rebellious city against God.
- In a real sense, Judah is getting what they want, to live in a society totally devoted to their own desires and against God.
- Beware when God gives you what you want after a long period of warning you against it!



The wrath of God (Romans 1:18-25)

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.



The wrath of God (Romans 1:18-25)

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

