

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF

DANIEL

LIVING IN THE LION'S DEN

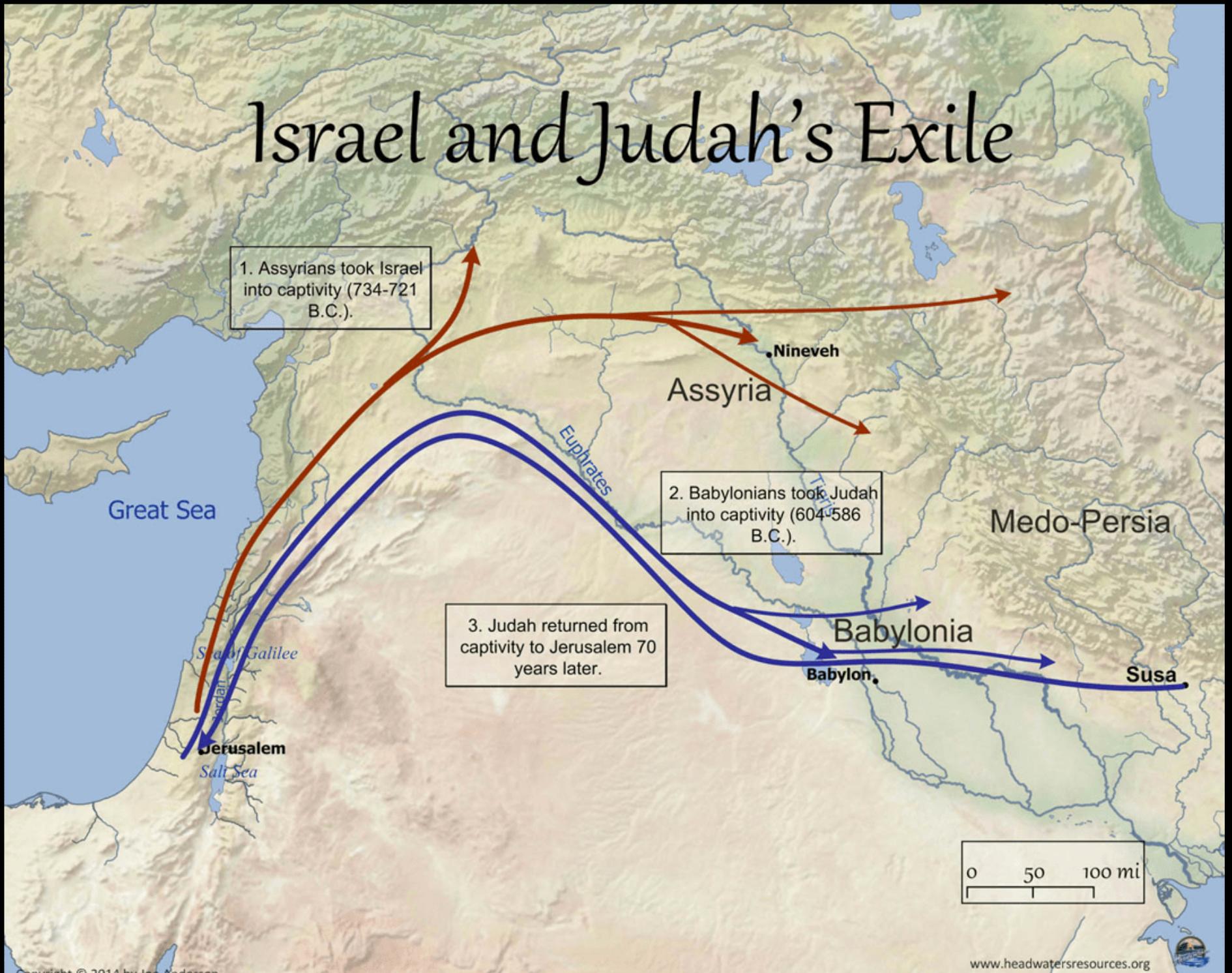


Israel and Judah's Exile

1. Assyrians took Israel into captivity (734-721 B.C.).

2. Babylonians took Judah into captivity (604-586 B.C.).

3. Judah returned from captivity to Jerusalem 70 years later.





The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?" ²⁷ Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these:

²⁹ As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen.

³⁰ As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

³¹ You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. ³² The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.

34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

44 In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy." ⁴⁶ Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him.



26 The king asked Daniel
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Daniel is Hebrew for "God is my Judge"
Belteshazzar is Babylonian for Bel is my god



"This is what the LORD [says to the exiles in Babylon]: **5** 'Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6** Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage ... Increase in number there; do not decrease. **7** Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper ... **Jeremiah 29:4-9**

1. It's part of God's plan that you lose your cultural power .

¹⁰ This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **Jeremiah 29:10,11**

2. It's not either I assimilate or I stay separate from Babylon power .

“Build houses. Settle down. Plant gardens. Eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters and seek the prosperity of the city. Increase in number there; do not decrease.”

Jeremiah 29:5,6

3. God is calling the people to be spiritually bicultural.

"Pray for the city. Seek the peace or the *shalom* of the city, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." **Jeremiah 29:7**



13 So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

Daniel 2:13

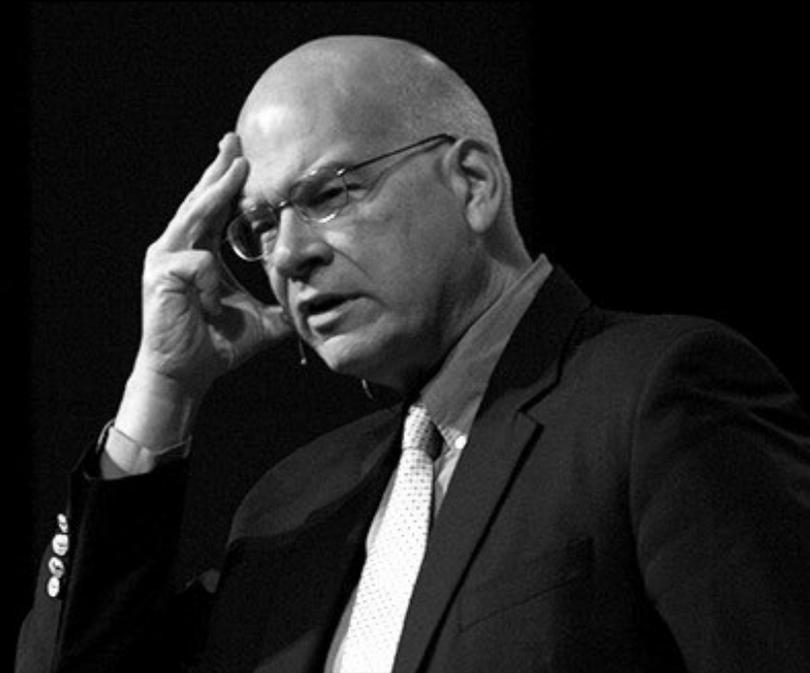


7 Also, seek the peace and
prosperity of the city to which
I have carried you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:7

Christianity is a religion of the cross, of suffering, humility and loss, and when we trade it for power it almost immediately goes to seed. We grow power hungry believers, and not suffering servants.

Tim Keller





C.S. Lewis

“There are no ordinary people.
You have never talked to a
mere mortal. Nations, cultures,
arts, civilizations - these are
mortal, and their life is to ours
as the life of a gnat.”



C.S. Lewis

“But it is immortals whom
we joke with, work with, marry,
snub and exploit - immortal
horrors or everlasting
splendors.”



C.S. Lewis

“This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption.”

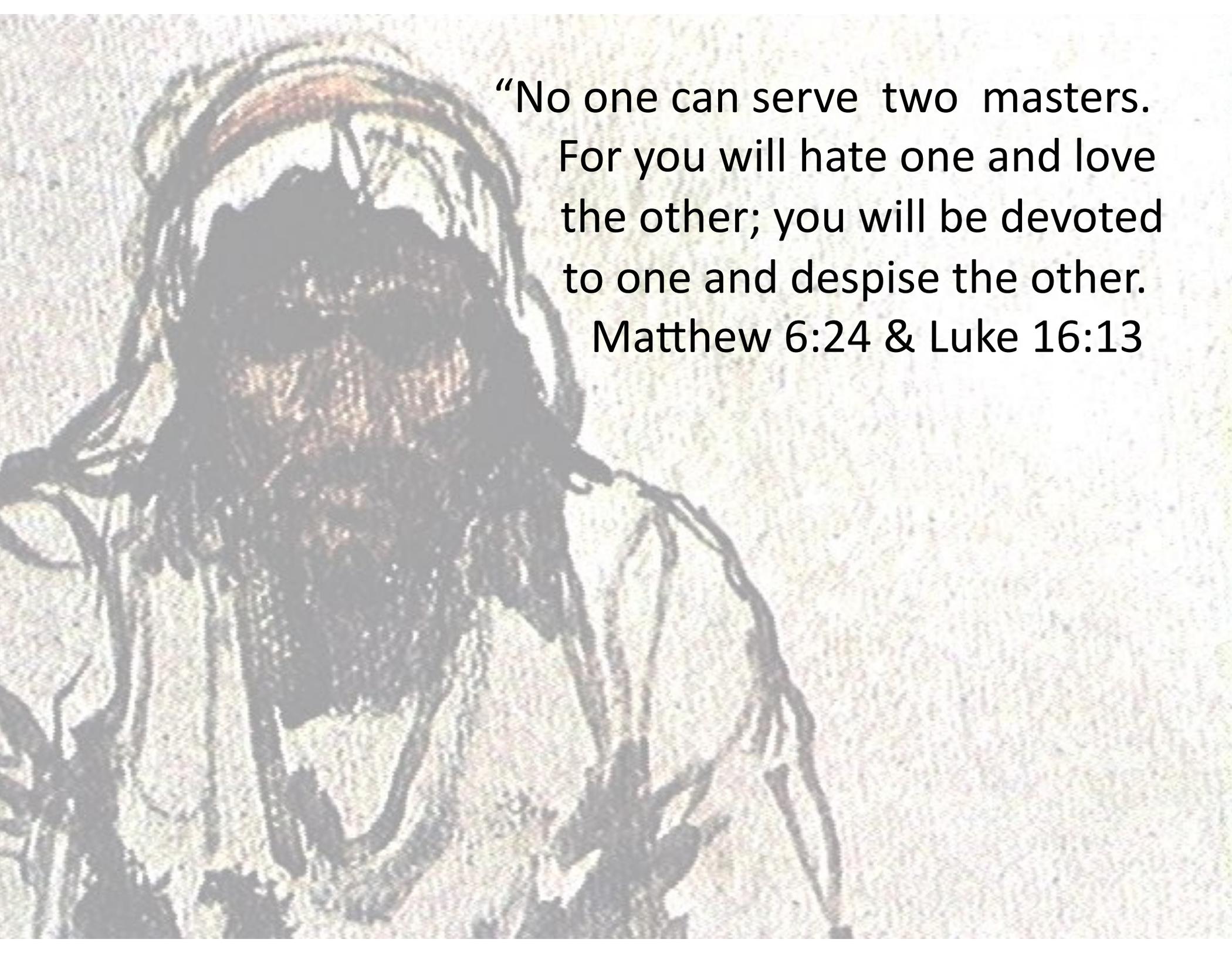


³⁷ Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; ³⁸ in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold. ³⁹ "After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. ⁴⁰ Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. [Daniel 2:37-40](#)

44 In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Daniel 2:44





“No one can serve two masters.
For you will hate one and love
the other; you will be devoted
to one and despise the other.
Matthew 6:24 & Luke 16:13

35 But the rock that struck the
statue became a huge mountain
and filled the whole earth.

34 ... a rock was cut out, but not
by human hands.

34 ... a rock was cut out, but not
by human hands.

1. The kingdom of God is a
completely supernatural thing.

35 But the rock ...became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

2. We learn the kingdom Grows



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