

# Interlocked Series

Lesson #25.1

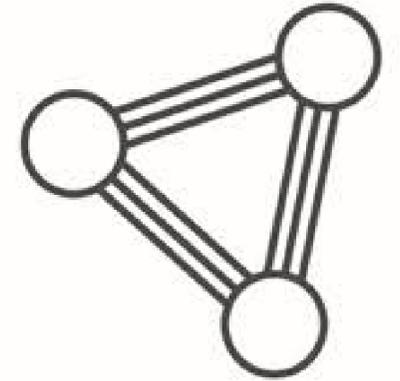
October 8, 2024

Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)

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# INTERLOCKED



## Lesson 25: Decline of the Kingdom

### Lesson 25A The Prophets

- The Prophets
- The Job of the Prophets
- The Message of the Prophets
- Curses
- The Different Parties in the “*Riv*” Lawsuit

# Kingdom of God

Based on GRACE  
God would save man

## Election



God chose Abraham



God saved Israel

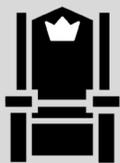


God built Israel:

- Law
- National anthem
- Temple worship
- Feasts & festivals



Conquest and Settlement  
in the Promised Land



Kings in Israel:

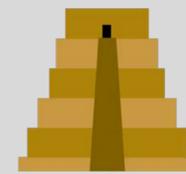
- **Unified kingdom**

Kings in Israel:

- Unified kingdom
- **Divided kingdom**



Israel and Judah turned against  
God: Paganized—unbelievers



**Brought in man's ideas**



**Made the king and  
state all-powerful**

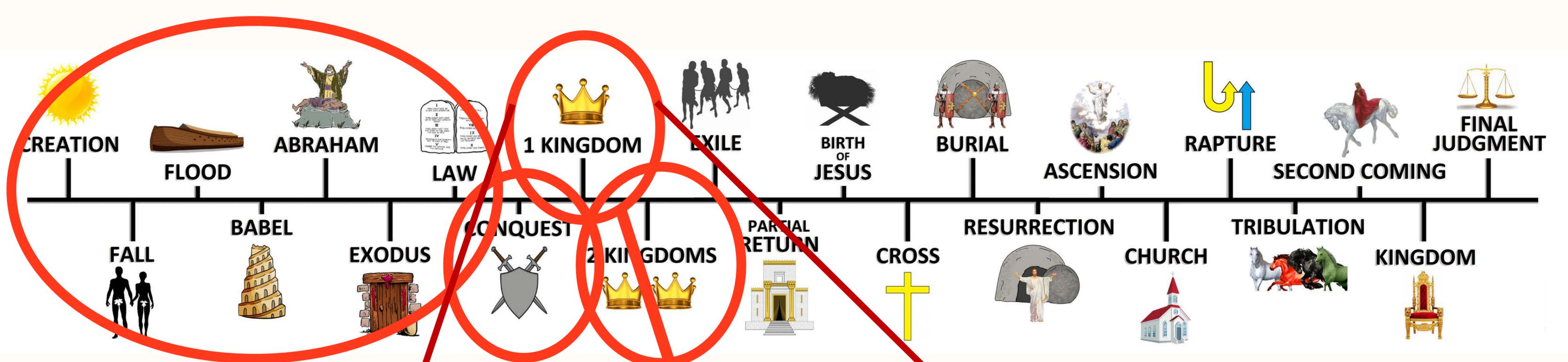


**Worshipped idols**



Few  
believers

Grey shows paganization



Torah  
Pentateuch

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth

1–2 Samuel  
1–2 Kings  
1–2 Chronicles

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

Kings  
FOR  
Israel

King  
David

King  
Solomon

Kingdom  
Divided

Decline of  
the Kingdom

**What Was Happening at this Time in History?**

**God's Discipline!**

**God's discipline**



<b>Blessings for Obedience</b>	<b>Cursings for Disobedience</b>
Leviticus 26:1–13 (Deut. 28:1–14)	Lev. 26:14–46; Deut. 28:15–68 “If you do not obey”
<b>Blessings Include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic prosperity, good weather, cooperative creation (v. 4–5)</li><li>• Military success and peace (v. 6–8)</li><li>• Population growth (v. 9)</li><li>• God’s continued presence with them (v. 11–12)</li></ul>	<b>5 Stages of Discipline (Cursing)</b> <p><b>Stage 1:</b> Disease and sickness (physical, psychological, military defeat, economic disaster (v. 14–17)</p> <p><b>Stage 2:</b> Famine (v. 18–20)</p> <p><b>Stage 3:</b> Death of children, livestock, population decrease (v. 21–22)</p> <p><b>Stage 4:</b> Starvation, epidemics, crushing military defeat (v. 23–26).</p> <p><b>Stage 5.</b> Cannibalism, death, enemy invasion, exile, terror and psychological problems, God’s presence removed from them (v. 27–39)</p>

# Correct Understanding of *YAHWEH*

## Creator-Creature Distinction

1<sup>st</sup> level  
CREATOR  
(*Yahweh*)

INFINITE SOVEREIGN *YAHWEH*

2<sup>nd</sup> level  
creature (man)

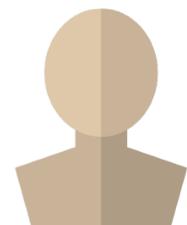
- finite limited man



Idol 1



Idol 2



Idol 3

# Incorrect Understanding of *YAHWEH*

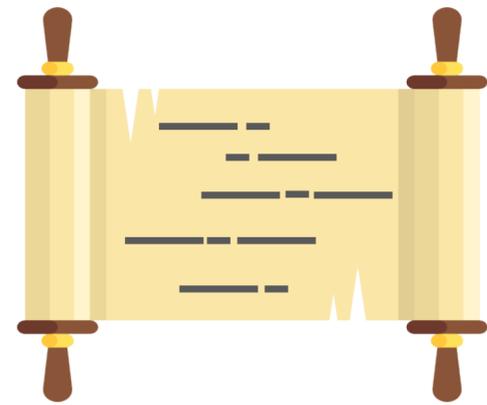
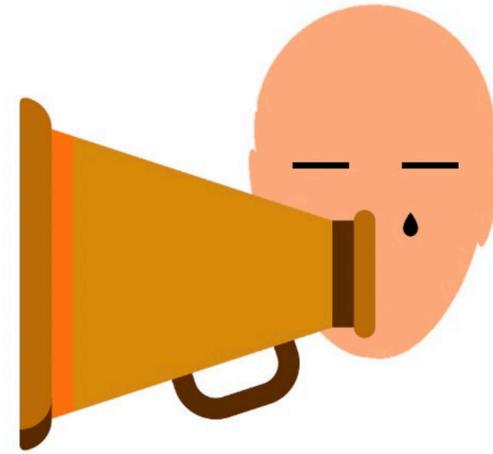
## The People's Main Sin

ONE level



***Yahweh* is no different from idols.  
*Yahweh* can be replaced with idols.**

# Job of the Old Testament Prophets



**A.**  
**God's**  
**historians**



**B.**  
**God's**  
**prosecuting attorneys**



**C.**  
**God's**  
**Scripture writers**

**There were 16 prophets who wrote the books of the prophets (see page 29.)**

- Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, are known as “major prophets” because they wrote a lot.**
- Daniel was also a prophet but did not hold that office in Israel. In the Hebrew Scriptures, his book is listed in the “Writings” [*kethuvim*] section.**
- The other 12 are known as “minor prophets” because they wrote less.**
- The books of the prophets make up 16 books in the Bible.**

## A. God's Historians

**The prophets as *Yahweh's* historians wrote the world's first analysis of the true meaning and purpose of history. God inspired them to interpret and record historical events from His all-knowing perspective. They explained what *Yahweh* was doing and why things were happening the way they were. God didn't want mankind to freely speculate on why history was turning out the way it did.**

**Amos 3:7, “Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”**



# Covenants

## Abrahamic



## Unconditional

- Land
  - Descendants
  - Worldwide blessing
- Genesis 12:1–3*

## Mosaic



## Conditional

- Blessings for obedience
  - Cursings for rebellion
- Deuteronomy 28:1–68*  
*Leviticus 26:1–46*

**Based on their records, the characters of the two parties would reveal that:**

- **God is ever faithful and sovereign while**
- **man is ever sinful.**

**A. God's Historians**

**B. God's Prosecuting Attorneys or Lawyers**

**C. God's Scripture Writers**

## **What the Prophets were not!**

- **They were not social reformers!**
- **They were not early-days revolutionaries!**
- **They did not create any new laws or social standards!**
- **They reacted to how Israel and others misbehaved!**

# The Message of the Prophets

1

## Curses



Tell people that they broke the **Mosaic Covenant** and God is sending curses against them.

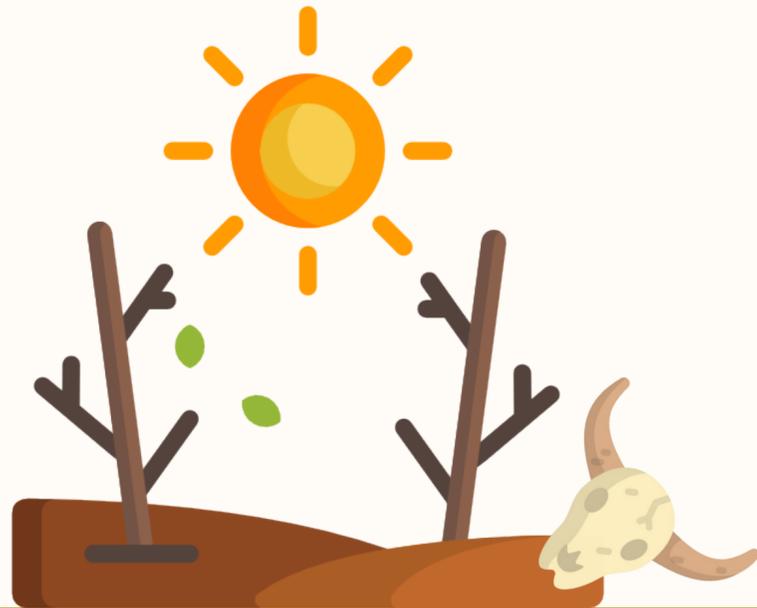
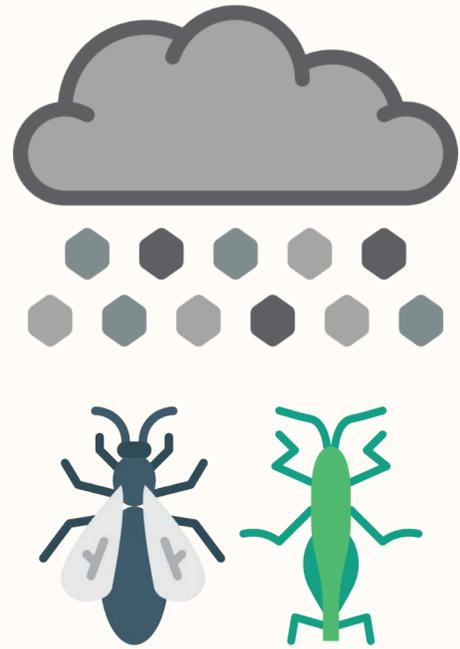
2

## Promises



Remind people that all of God's **Abrahamic Covenant** promises will come true in the future Kingdom of God.

# I. Curses



God used nature against  
His people

God directed enemies against  
His people

**Isa. 37:26, “Did you not hear long ago how I made it, from ancient times that I formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, that you should be for crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins.**

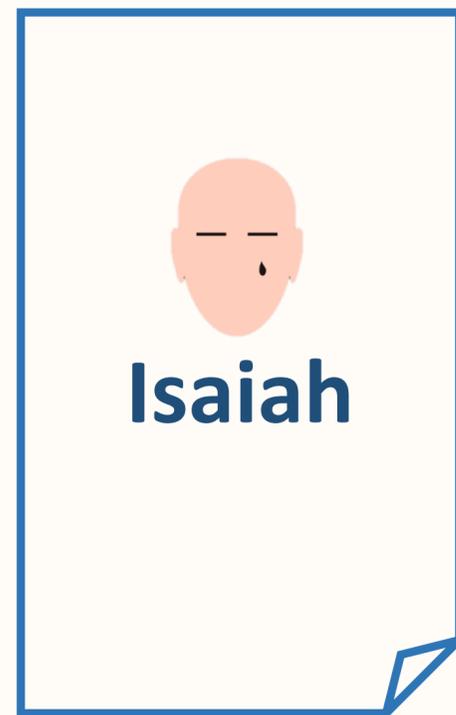
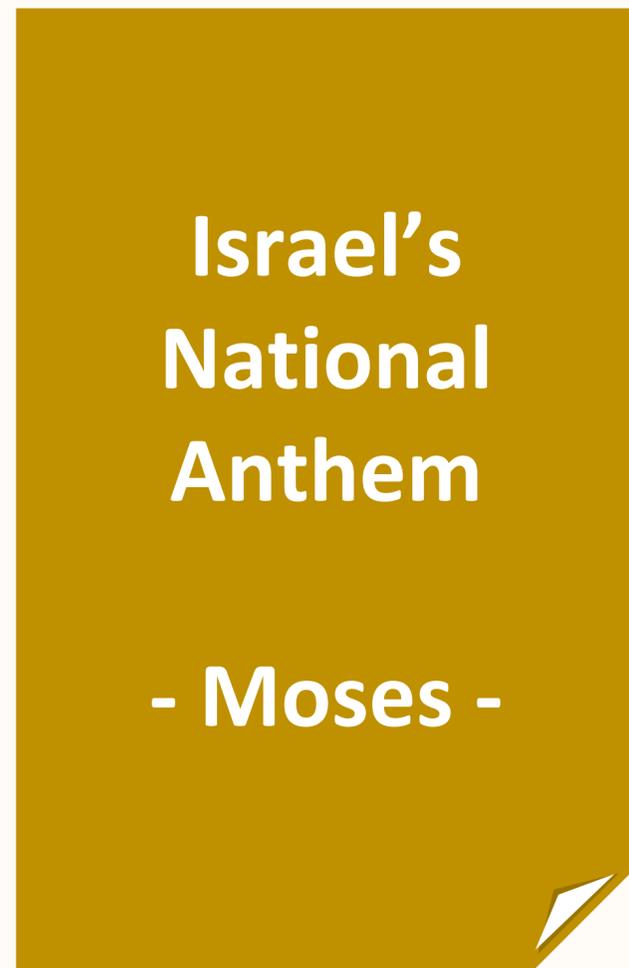
**Isa. 37:27, “Therefore their inhabitants had little power; They were dismayed and confounded; They were as the grass of the field and the green herb, as the grass on the housetops and grain blighted before it is grown.”**



**God is disciplining us.  
He is in control of  
all this.  
God still loves us.  
We are His people.**

**How did the prophets communicate the cursing message to the people?**

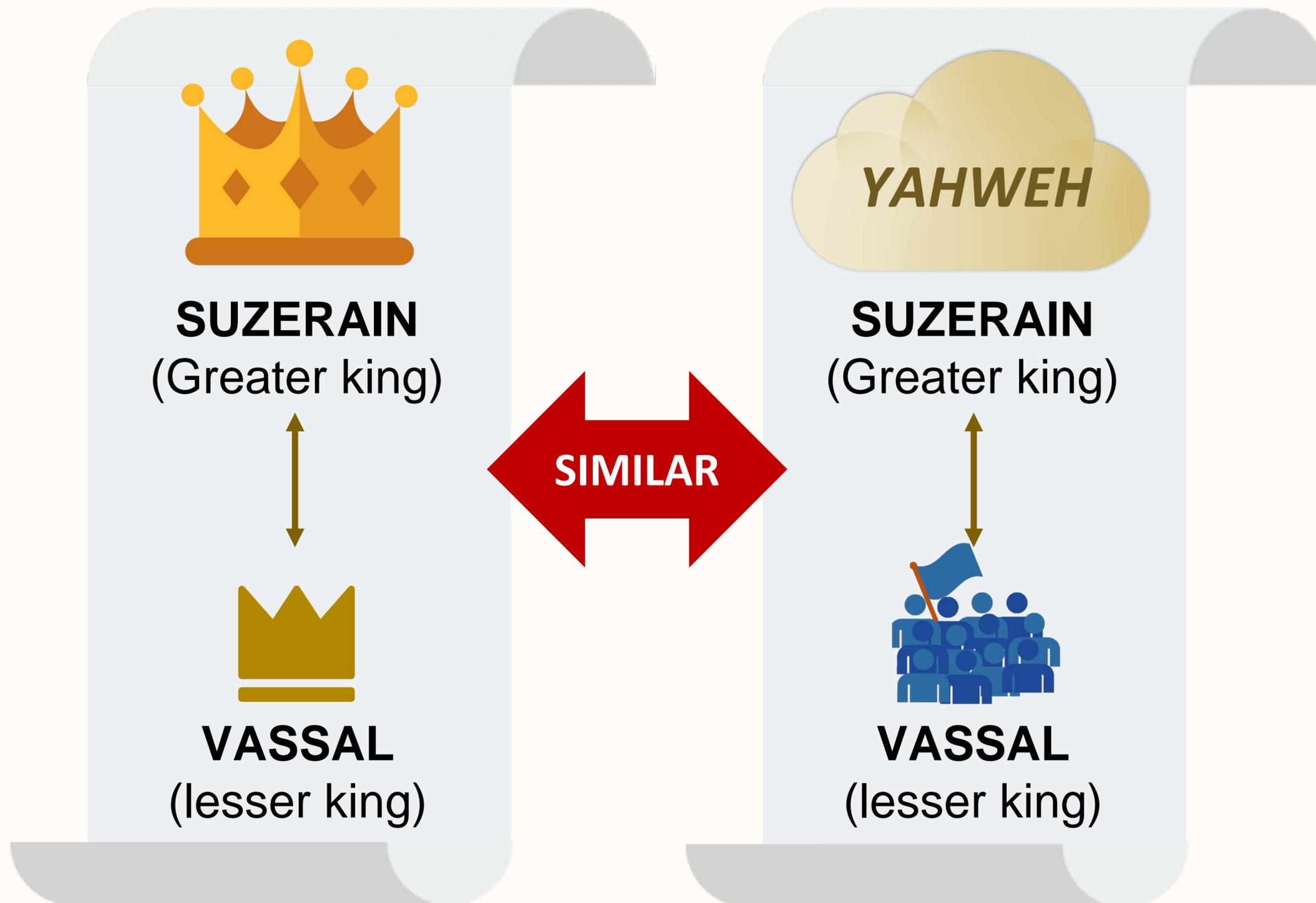
**What format did Moses use in writing the national anthem?**



← The prophets followed Moses' "*riv*" format

# SUZERAIN-VASSAL TREATY

Contract between a greater and lesser king



**Mic. 6:2, “Hear, O you mountains, the LORD’S complaint, and you strong foundations of the earth; For the LORD has a complaint against His people, and He will contend with Israel.”**

**Hos. 4:1, “Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel, for the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: ‘There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.’ ”**

**רִיב *riv* comm masc sing abs case, strife, dispute**

**“*Riv*”:**

**Lawsuit or Complaint used when  
Vassal breaks treaty with Suzerain**

**Israel's  
National  
Anthem**

**- Moses -**

# The Different Parties in the “*Riv*” Lawsuit

Lay out p. 31 [of the PDF] (Deut. 32:1–26) (blue) introduces the case and charge

**Blue:** The witnesses, Deut. 31:1

The case

Evidence of God’s behavior: faithful protection

Evidence of Israel’s unfaithfulness

**Red:** The indictment

**Green:** The judgment

**The charge:**  
Breaking the covenant

Israel and Judah

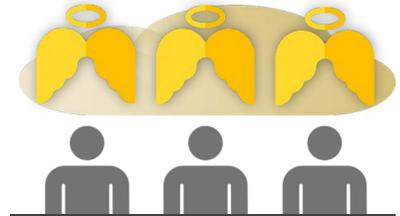


Accused



JUDGE

“Heaven and earth”



Witnesses



Prophets

Prosecuting Lawyers

“Heaven” the inhabitants of heaven = the angels and fallen angels;  
“earth” the inhabitants of the earth = mankind



Offended Party

**Introduces the case:** What *Yahweh* is accusing them of.  
**Evidence:** Show how faithful God has been and how unfaithful the people have been to the contract.

# The “*Riv*” Procedure (the Court Case)

A

**Introduce the  
Case and Charge**



**Prophets**

**Prosecuting  
Lawyers**

B

**Indictment:  
The Formal  
Accusation**



C

**The  
Announcement  
of the Judgment**



**JUDG**

# A. Introduce the Case and Charge

## Witnesses

Deut. 32:1, “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.”

## A. Introduce the Case and Charge

### Witnesses

Deut. 32:1, “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.”

Isa. 1:2, “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: ‘I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me;’ ”

Mic. 6:1, “Hear now what the LORD says: ‘Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.’ ”

**Deut. 32:1, “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.”**

**Deut. 32:2, “Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as raindrops on the tender herb, and as showers on the grass.**

**Deut. 32:3, “For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God.**

**Deut. 32:4, “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.**

**Deut. 32:5, “They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.”**

**Isa. 1:2, “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: ‘I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me;**

**Isa. 1:3, “ ‘The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.’**

**Isa. 1:4, “Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward.”**

**Hos. 4:1, “Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel, for the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: ‘There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.’ ”**

**Mic. 6:1, “Hear now what the LORD says: ‘Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.**

**Mic. 6:2, “ ‘Hear, O you mountains, the LORD’S complaint, and you strong foundations of the earth; For the LORD has a complaint against His people, and He will contend with Israel.**

**Mic. 6:3, “ ‘O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me.**

**Mic. 6:4, “ ‘For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.’ ”**

**Isa. 1:11, “ ‘To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?’ says the LORD. ‘I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats.**

**Isa. 1:12, “ ‘When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courts?**

**Isa. 1:13, “ ‘Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.**

**Isa. 1:14, “ ‘Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.’ ”**

**Hos. 4:2, “By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed.”**

**Mic. 6:10, “Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the short measure that is an abomination?”**

**Mic. 6:11, “Shall I count pure those with the wicked scales, and with the bag of deceitful weights?”**

**Mic. 6:12, “For her rich men are full of violence, her inhabitants have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.”**

## **C. The Announcement of the Judgment**

**Isa. 1:24, “Therefore the Lord says, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, ‘Ah, I will rid Myself of My adversaries, and take vengeance on My enemies.**

**Isa. 1:25, “ ‘I will turn My hand against you, and thoroughly purge away your dross, and take away all your alloy.**

**Isa. 1:26, “ ‘I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city.’**

**Isa. 1:27, “Zion shall be redeemed with justice, and her penitents with righteousness.”**

**Isa. 1:28, “The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall be together, and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed.**

**Isa. 1:29, “For they shall be ashamed of the terebinth trees which you have desired; And you shall be embarrassed because of the gardens which you have chosen.**

**Isa. 1:30, “For you shall be as a terebinth whose leaf fades, and as a garden that has no water.**

**Isa. 1:31, “The strong shall be as tinder, and the work of it as a spark; Both will burn together, and no one shall quench them.”**

**Hos. 4:3, “Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.”**

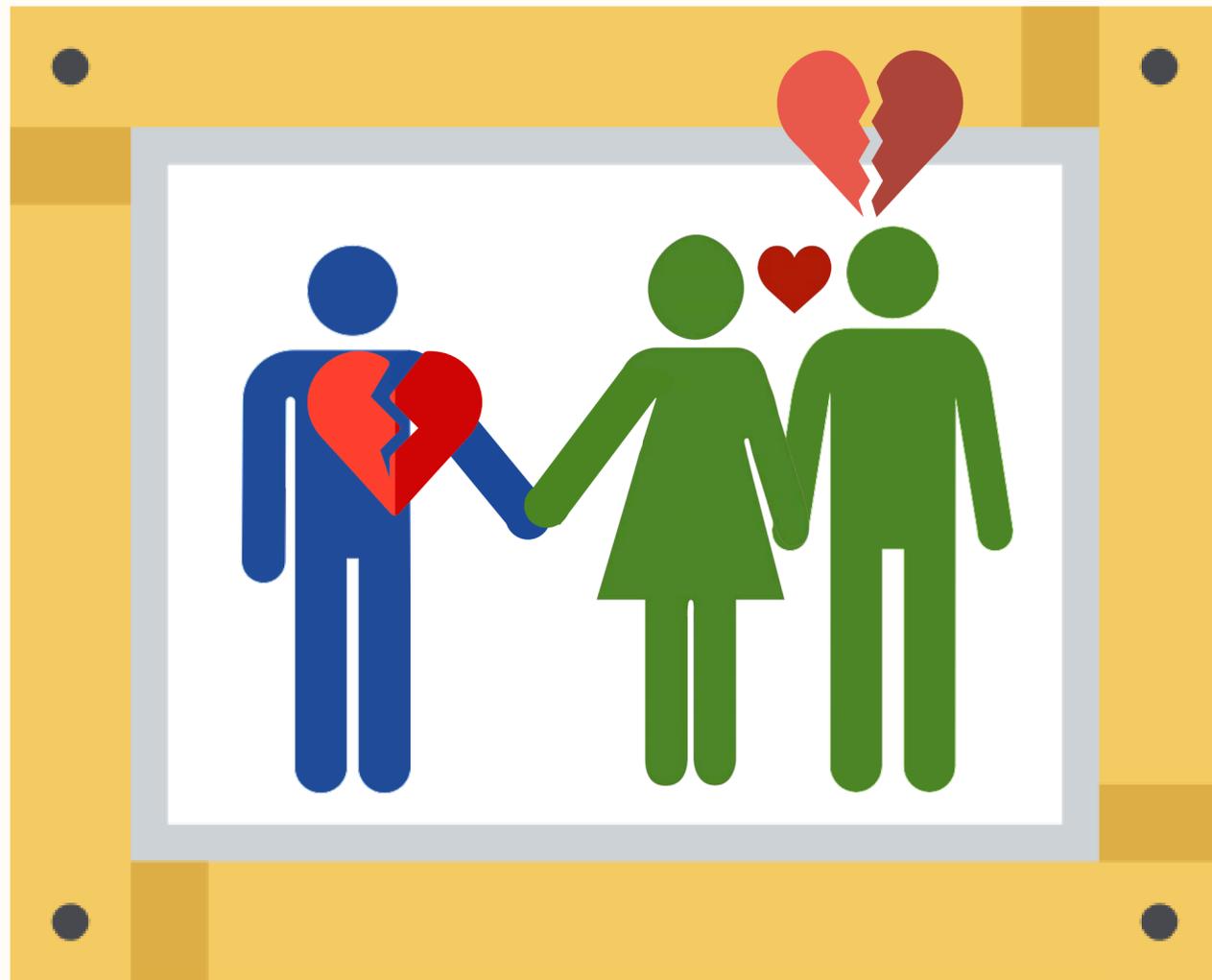
**Mic. 6:13, “Therefore I will also make you sick by striking you, by making you desolate because of your sins.**

**Mic. 6:14, “You shall eat, but not be satisfied; Hunger shall be in your midst. You may carry some away, but shall not save them; And what you do rescue I will give over to the sword.**

**Mic. 6:15, “You shall sow, but not reap; You shall tread the olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; And make sweet wine, but not drink wine.”**

# Symbolic actions and carefully designed personal trials

## Hosea



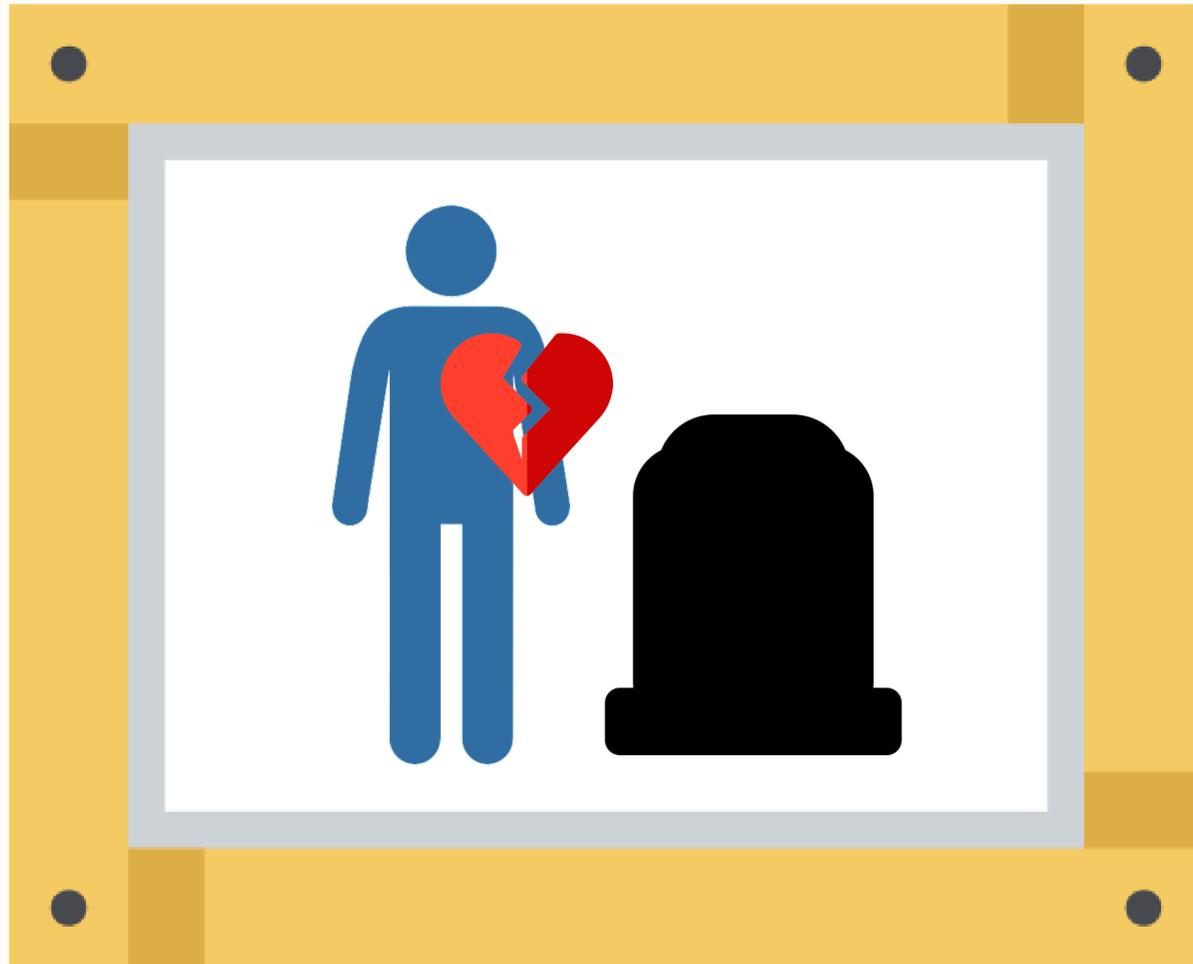
Hosea's adulterous wife ...

... is a picture of ...

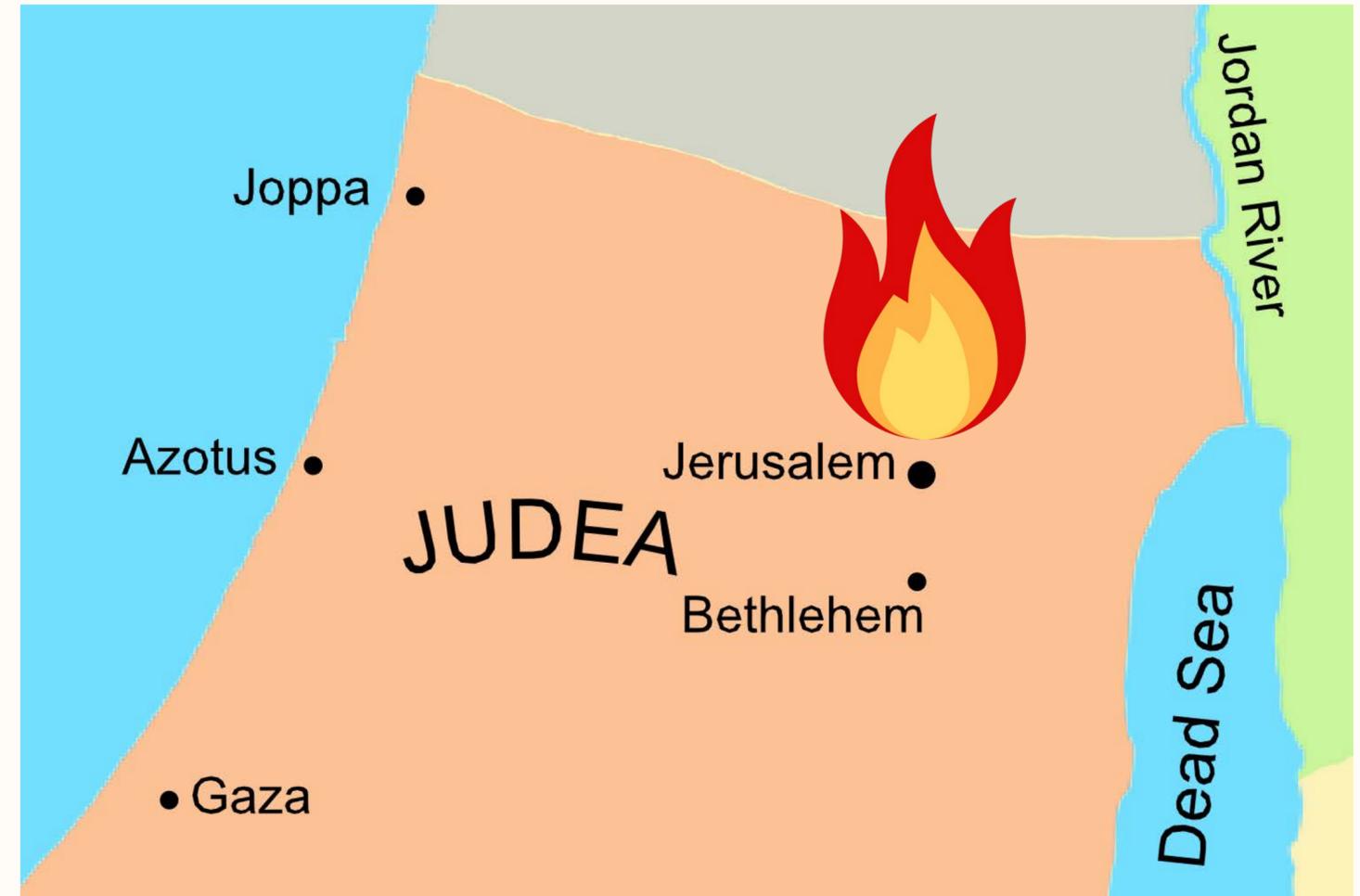


... adulterous Israel

# Ezekiel



**The death of Ezekiel's wife  
who was the delight of his  
eyes ...**



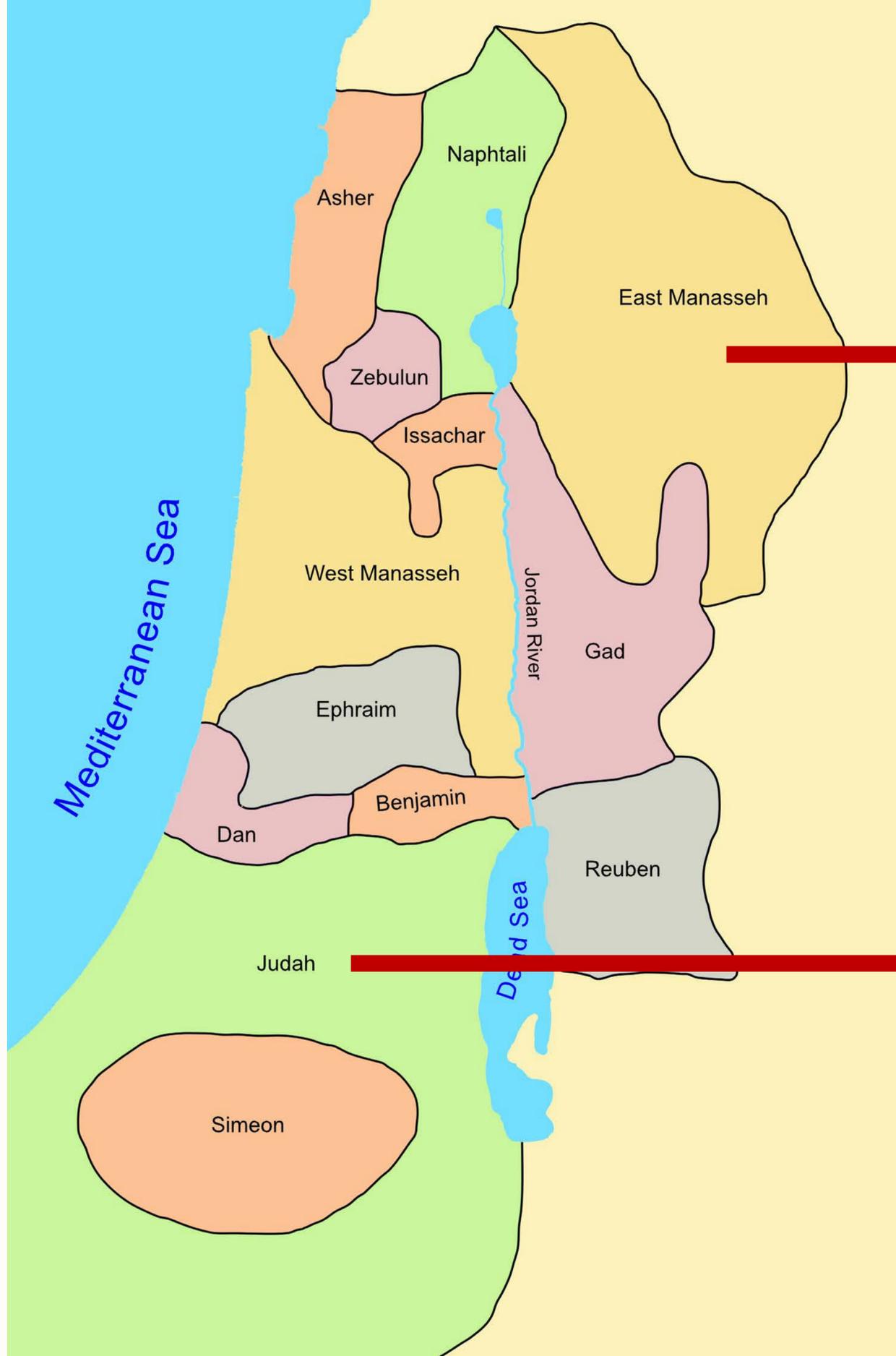
**... the destruction of Jerusalem,  
the delight of Israel's eyes**

**... is a picture of ...**

**How did the people of Israel and Judah respond to the prophets?**



**The consequences: God “divorced” His nation, Israel.**



**Northern Kingdom  
of Israel  
destroyed by  
**ASSYRIA**  
in 722 BC**

**Southern Kingdom  
of Judah  
destroyed by  
**BABYLON**  
in 586 BC**

# **The Bible's Commentary on the Mosaic Law and the Curses**