



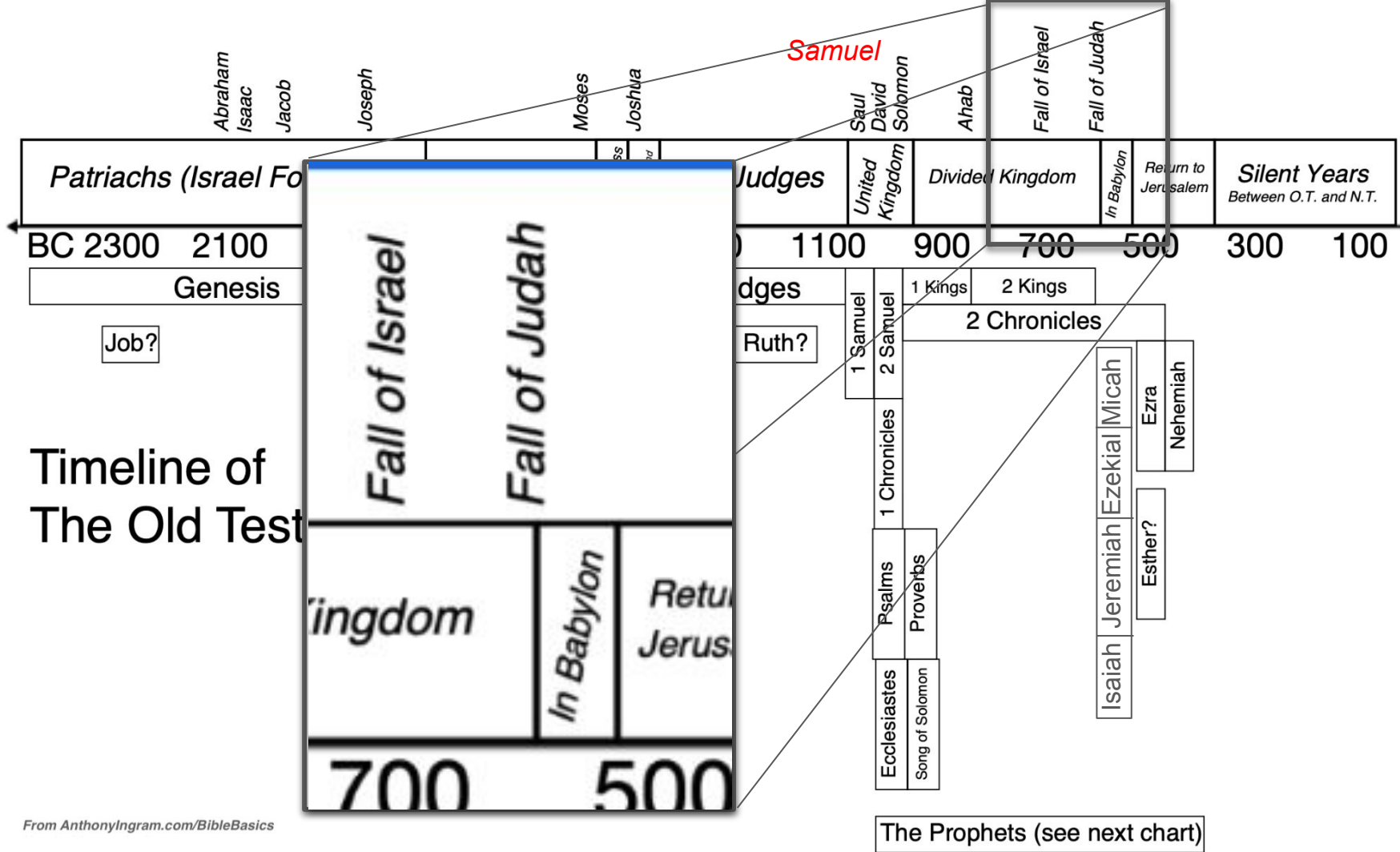
# BETWEEN TWO MOUNTAINS

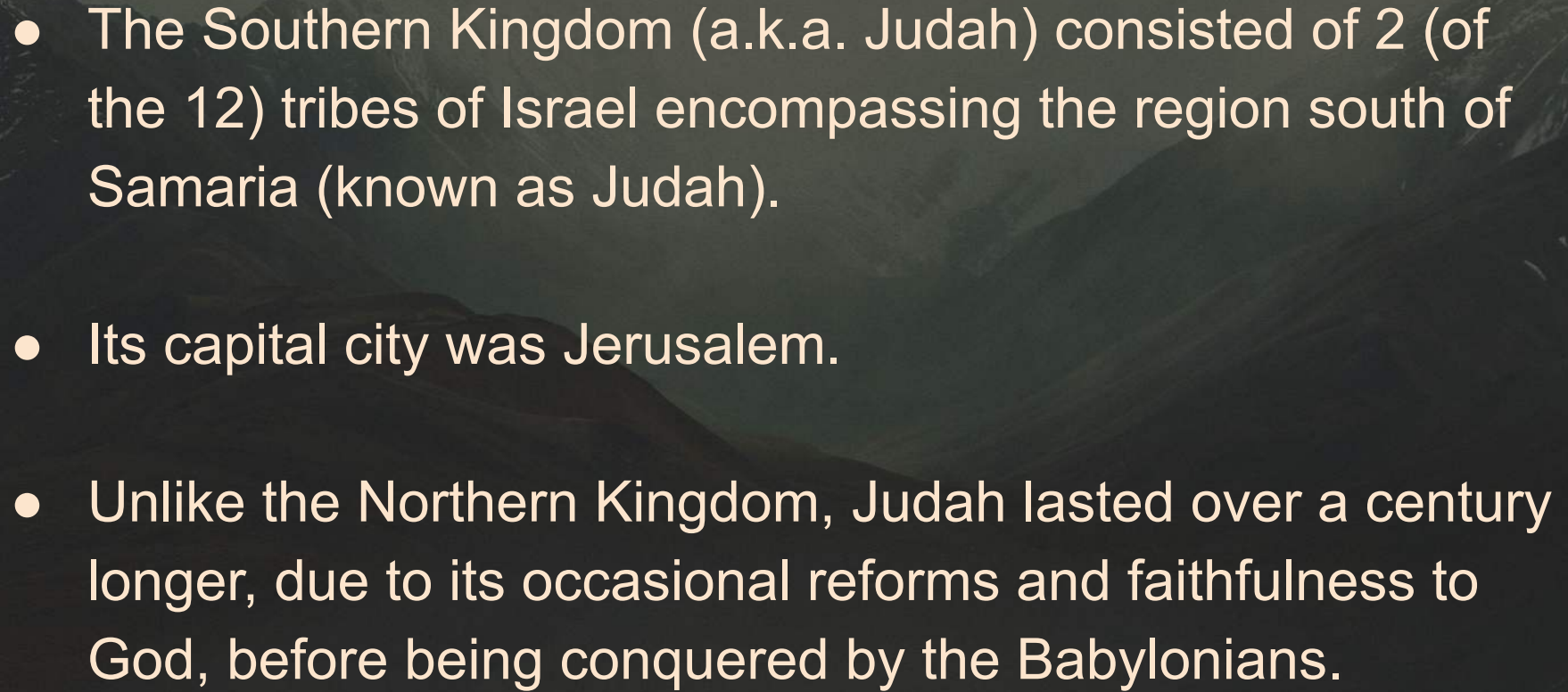
THE STORY OF ISRAEL AND THE  
BIRTH OF THE CHURCH



# Southern Prophets

Isaiah, Ezekiel, Micah, Jeremiah, Joel,  
Obadiah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah



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- The Southern Kingdom (a.k.a. Judah) consisted of 2 (of the 12) tribes of Israel encompassing the region south of Samaria (known as Judah).
  - Its capital city was Jerusalem.
  - Unlike the Northern Kingdom, Judah lasted over a century longer, due to its occasional reforms and faithfulness to God, before being conquered by the Babylonians.

Key Themes: Turn Away! Return to God! Repent!

Ezek. 14:6 “Therefore, say to the house of Israel: This is what the Lord GOD says: Repent and turn away from your idols; turn your faces away from all your detestable things.

Jer. 4:1 If you return, Israel—this is the LORD’s declaration—you will return to Me, if you remove your detestable idols from My presence and do not waver,

Idols (Hebrew): Dung, droppings or filth. Implies worthless objects.

Idolatry: The act of replacing God with created things in thought, affection, or action.

Tim Keller: “An idol is anything more important to you than God... anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God... anything you seek to give you what only God can give.”

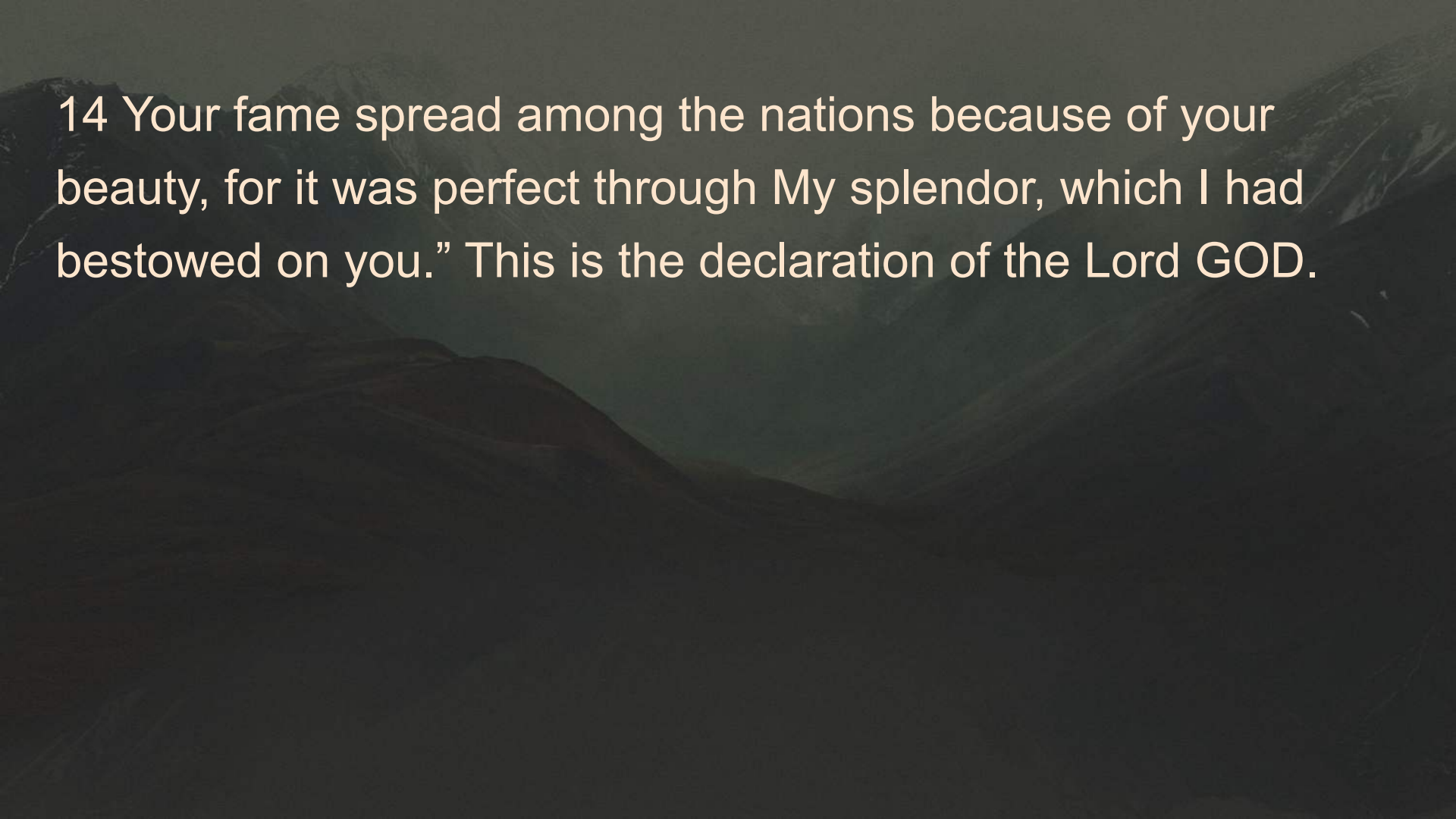


## Ezekiel 16: Idolatry is like Spiritual Adultery

Ezek. 16:1 The word of the LORD came to me again: 2 “Son of man, explain Jerusalem’s detestable practices to her. 3 You are to say: This is what the Lord GOD says to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth were in the land of the Canaanites. Your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. 4 As for your birth, your umbilical cord wasn’t cut on the day you were born, and you weren’t washed clean with water. You were not rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths.

Ezek. 16:8 “Then I passed by you and saw you, and you were indeed at the age for love. So I spread the edge of My garment over you and covered your nakedness. I pledged Myself to you, entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine.” This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. 9 “I washed you with water, rinsed off your blood, and anointed you with oil. 10 I clothed you in embroidered cloth and provided you with leather sandals. I also wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk.



The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features a deep valley with rolling hills and mountains in the distance. The lighting is dim, with a soft glow emanating from the center of the valley, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of grey, black, and muted green.

14 Your fame spread among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor, which I had bestowed on you.” This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

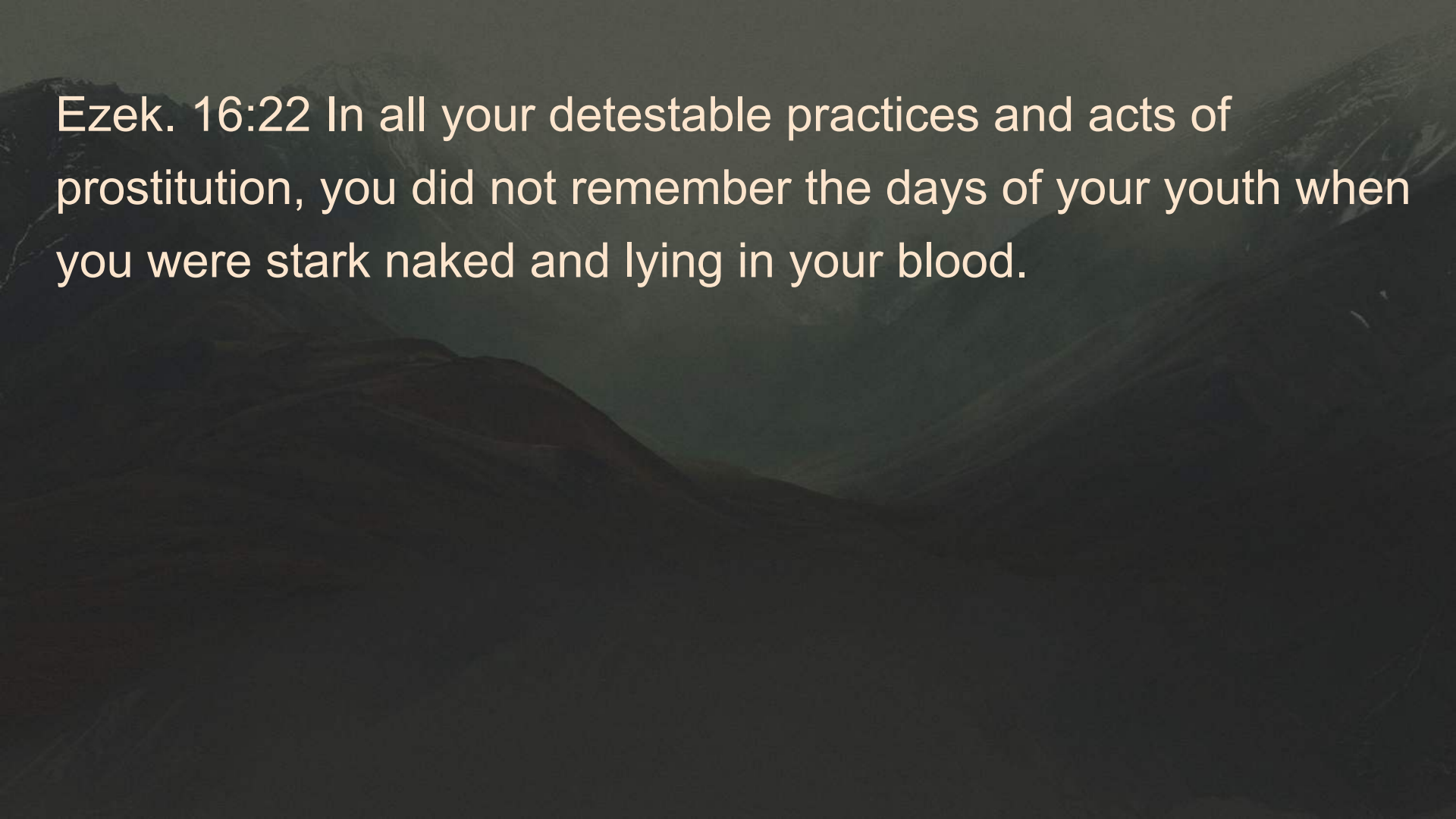
# The Process of Idolatry

1. God rescues and bestows blessings upon us.

Ezek. 16:15 “But you were confident in your beauty and acted like a prostitute because of your fame. You lavished your sexual favors on everyone who passed by. Your beauty became his. 16 You took some of your garments and made colorful high places for yourself, and you engaged in prostitution on them. These places should not have been built, and this should never have happened!

## The Process of Idolatry

1. God rescues and blesses.
2. We begin to believe the blessings were because of us, not God. Disobedience follows.

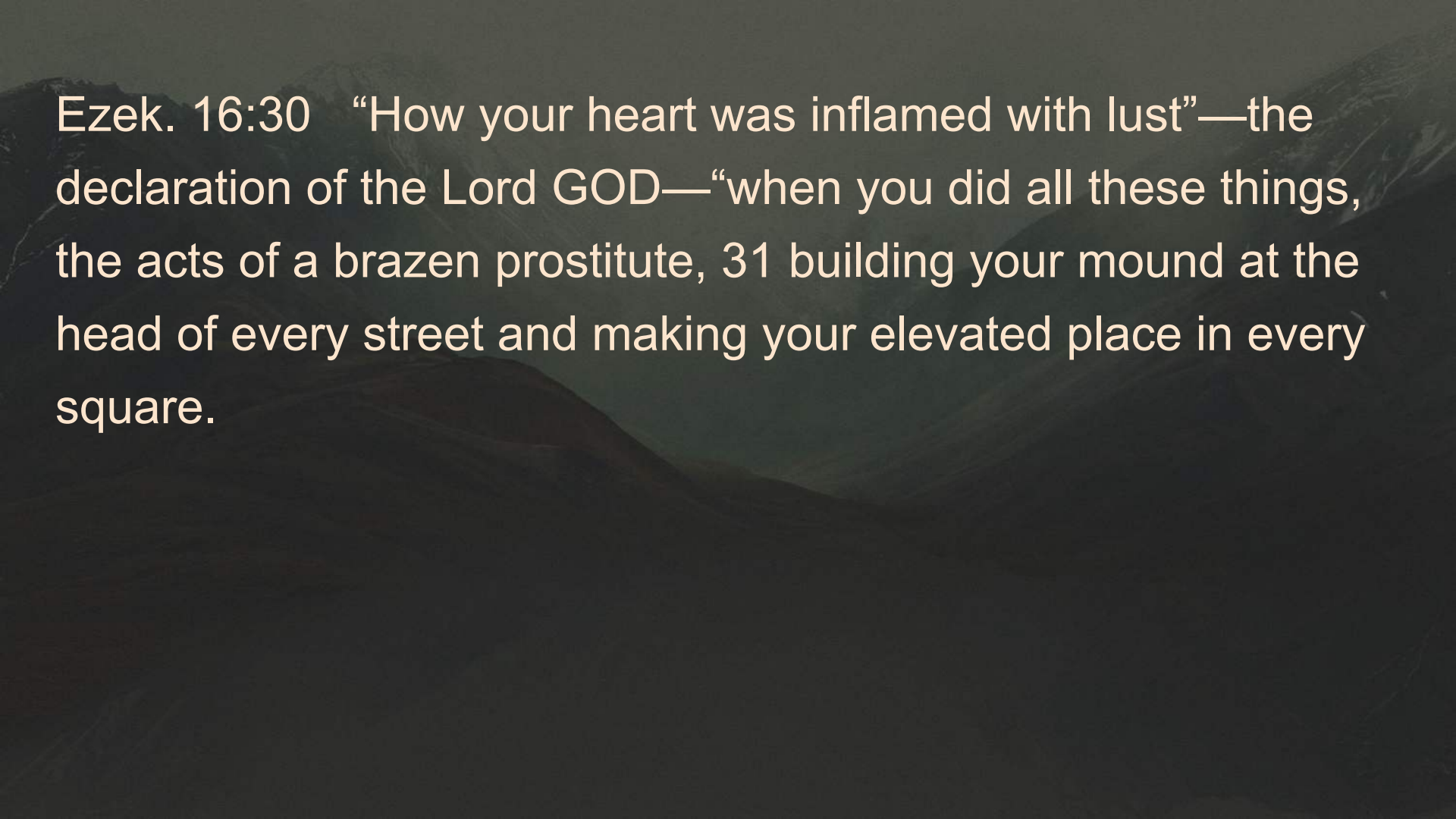


Ezek. 16:22 In all your detestable practices and acts of prostitution, you did not remember the days of your youth when you were stark naked and lying in your blood.

## The Process of Idolatry

1. God rescues and blesses us.
2. We begin to believe the blessings were because of us, not God. Disobedience follows.
3. We forget what God has done for us and where He found us.





Ezek. 16:30 “How your heart was inflamed with lust”—the declaration of the Lord GOD—“when you did all these things, the acts of a brazen prostitute, 31 building your mound at the head of every street and making your elevated place in every square.

## The Process of Idolatry

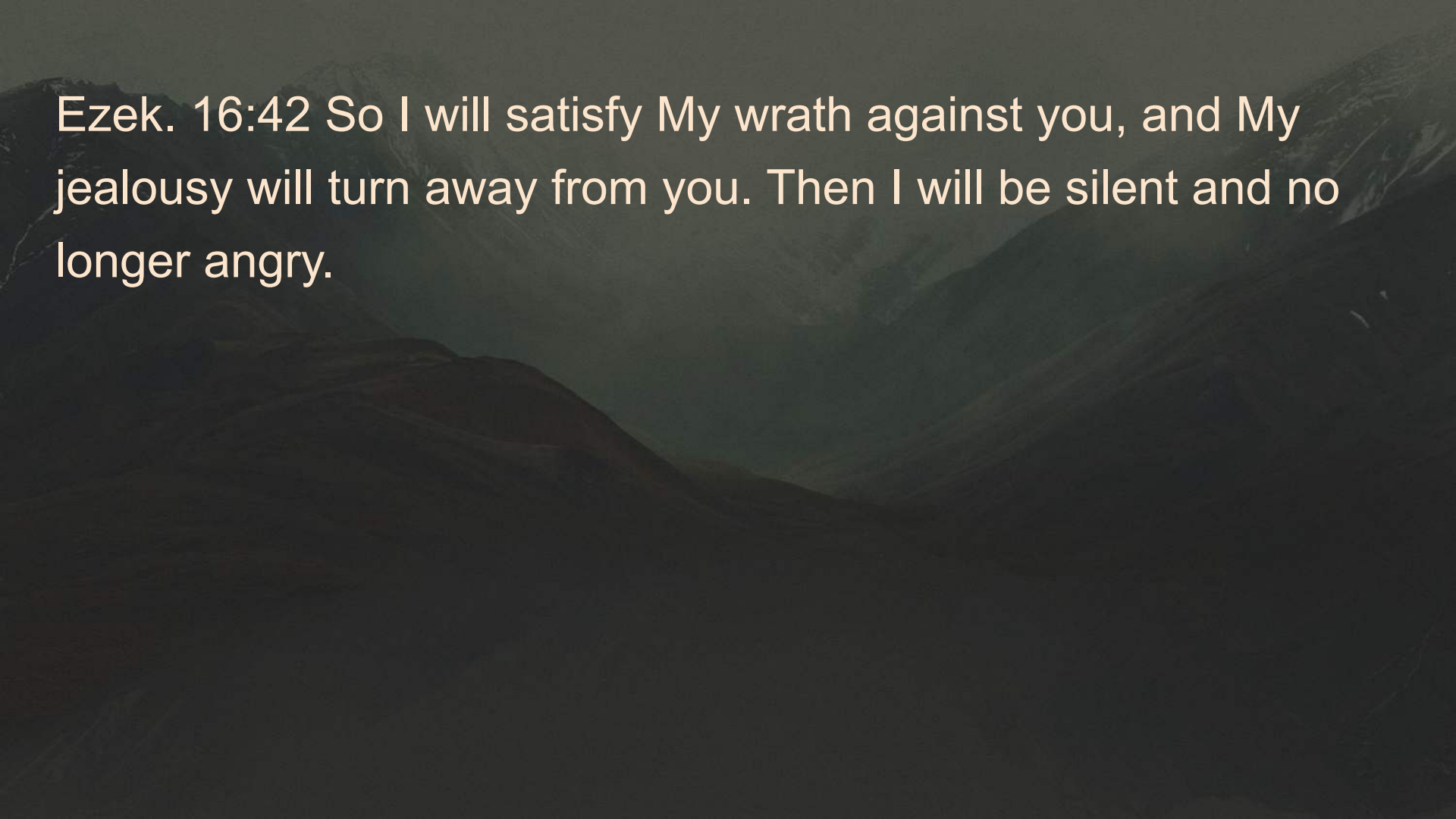
1. God rescues and blesses us.
2. We begin to believe the blessings were because of us, not God. Disobedience follows.
3. We forget what God has done for us and where He found us.
4. Our heart is consumed and we put all our effort into sustaining our sin.

## The Judgement

38 I will judge you the way adulteresses and those who shed blood are judged. Then I will bring about your bloodshed in wrath and jealousy. 39 I will hand you over to them (all your supposed lovers), and they will level your mounds and tear down your elevated places.

## The Process of Idolatry

1. God rescues and blesses us.
2. We begin to believe the blessings were because of us, not God. Disobedience follows.
3. We forget what God has done for us.
4. Our heart is consumed and we put all our effort into sustaining our sin.
5. The very thing we pursue ends up destroying us.

The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features a deep valley with rolling hills and mountains in the distance. The lighting is dim, with a soft glow emanating from the center of the valley, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The colors are muted, with shades of grey, blue, and brown dominating the scene.

Ezek. 16:42 So I will satisfy My wrath against you, and My jealousy will turn away from you. Then I will be silent and no longer angry.

Ezek. 16:60 ... I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. ... 62 I will establish My covenant with you, and you will know that I am Yahweh, 63 so that when I make atonement for all you have done, you will remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth again because of your disgrace.” This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.



## New Testament Version

Ezek. 16:60 ... I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. ... 62 I will establish My covenant with you, and you will know that I am Yahweh, 63 so that when I make atonement for all you have done **with the blood of my own Son**, you will remember and **NOT** be ashamed, **and won't stop opening** your mouth because of **His grace**." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

# Christ Dismantled the Cycle of Judgement

1. God established an everlasting covenant with us through Christ.
2. God made atonement for all you've done through Christ.  
(God's wrath for your disobedience was satisfied on the Cross.)
3. Instead of judgement and wrath, we are disciplined like a child from a loving Father.
4. We should give Him unstoppable praise and worship in humble gratitude for His everlasting mercy and grace.



# HW Sheet