



ELIJAH AND ELISHA

MESSENGERS IN WORD AND DEED

God is Sovereign

- God is sovereign over all
- 2 Kings 9:1-16
- After speaking to Elijah in the still, small whisper, God told him to anoint Hazael to be king over Syria and Jehu to be king over Israel, as well as Elisha to be prophet in his place (1 Kings 19:15-16).

God is Sovereign

- Hazael became king of Syria because he murdered his master, Ben-Hadad (8:7–15).
- In the next section, which we didn't read (8:16–29), Jehoram became king of Judah (S) and married a daughter of Ahab of Israel (N) and followed in Ahab and Jezebel's same sins of idolatry, even though he was a king of Judah (S).

The Two Kingdoms

Kingdom of Israel

Kingdom of Judah



God is Sovereign

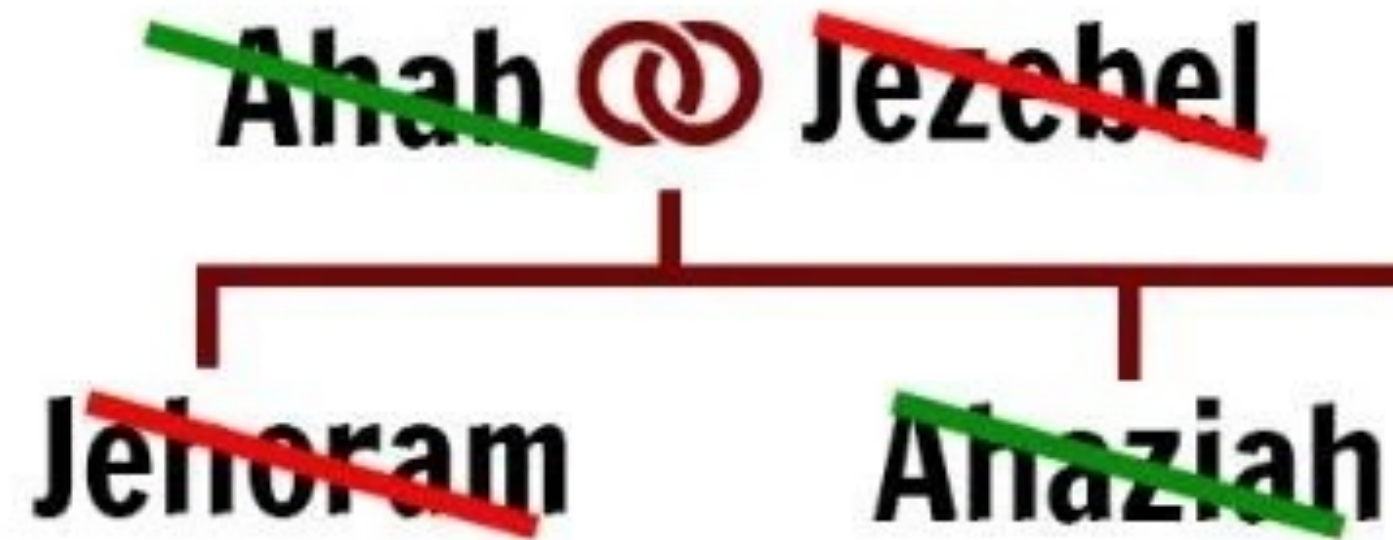
- His son Ahaziah became the next king of Judah (S) and also followed in Ahab and Jezebel's sins.
- Both halves of the nation were turning away from God at this point in history.
- Ahaziah of Judah (S) and Joram of Israel (N) went to war together against Hazael of Syria. Joram (N) was wounded and Ahaziah (S) went to see him.

God is Sovereign

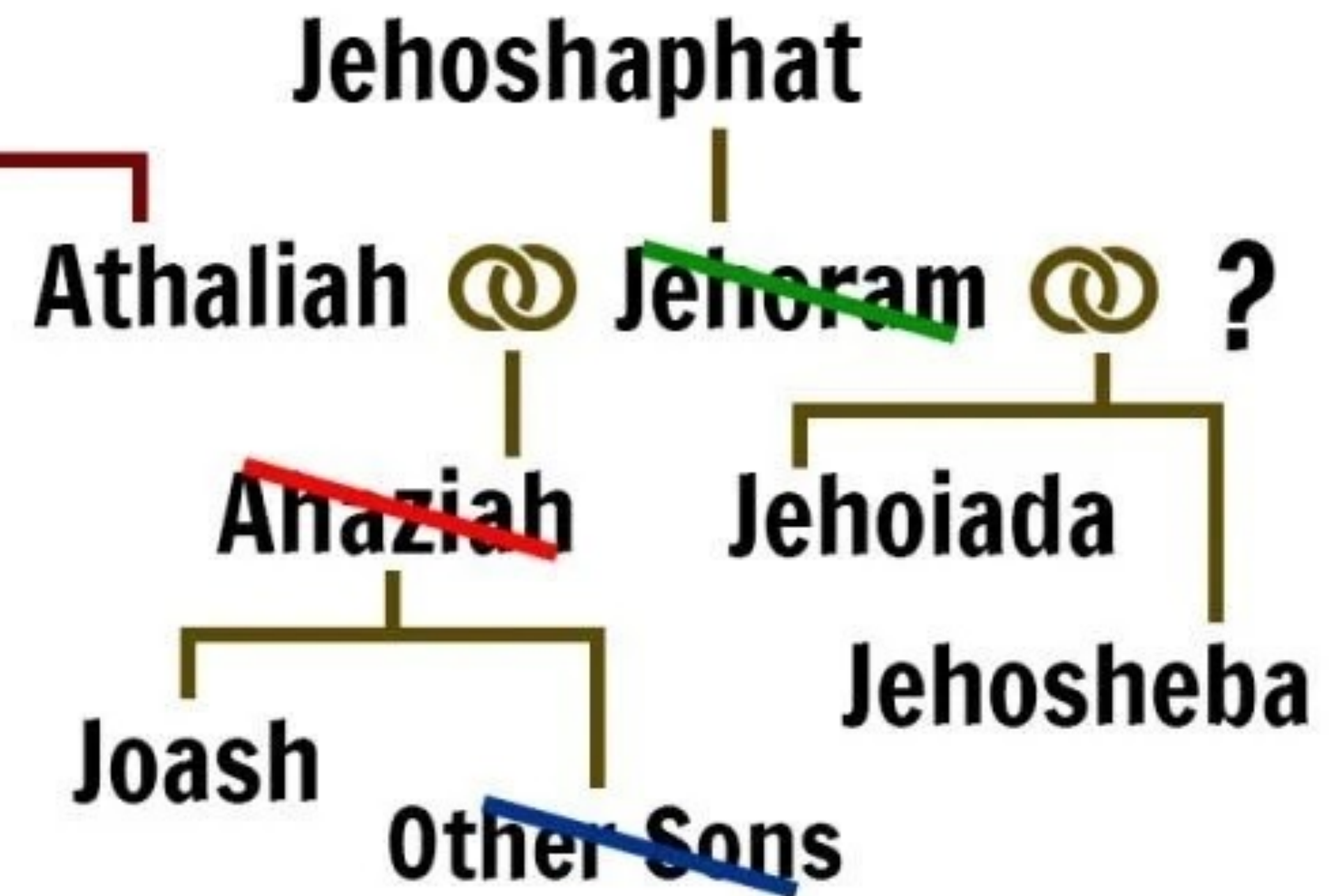
- Elisha told one of the sons of the prophets to go anoint Jehu as king of Israel (N),
- Jehu was the commander of Joram's army and was at the front lines of their battle with Syria at Ramoth-Gilead.
- Elisha told the prophet to pull him aside in private, anoint him king over Israel, and get away quickly.



Israel



Judah (Line of Christ)



God is Sovereign

- The young man (prophet) who anointed Jehu at Elisha's instruction prophesied that Jehu would avenge the blood of the prophets of Yahweh whom Jezebel had murdered (2 Kings 9:1–10) by cutting off the line of Ahab from the earth and allowing Jezebel to be eaten by dogs in the street instead of buried.
- This was a fulfillment of the prophecy by Elijah that Ahab's dynasty would end.

God is Sovereign

- After the young prophet left, the other commanders asked why he had come, calling him a “madman.”
- This was a common term used by those who didn’t believe the prophets were really sent by God; they believed they were insane (Jeremiah 29:26; Hosea 9:7).
- This happened to Jesus, too; the religious leaders said He was either demon-possessed or insane (John 10:19–20).

God is Sovereign

- This wasn't because the prophets behaved as if they were mentally ill but because their message was so radical that it sounded like madness to those who didn't understand what they heard.
- Paul wrote that the Gospel itself sounds like foolishness to those who don't believe (1 Corinthians 1:18–25). It's easier to call someone crazy than to listen to the hard truths they are preaching.

God is Sovereign

- When the men heard what he had said (that Jehu had been anointed king), they agreed and declared Jehu king.
- They didn't suddenly believe the prophet's words.
- Jehu called it their decision.
- They were making a political move to support Jehu over the king who had been wounded in battle.

God Executes Justice

- God executes justice in His timing; His timing is perfect
- 2 Kings 9:17-10:17
- Jehu went to Jezreel, where Joram, king of Israel (N) was trying to recover from his injuries, and Ahaziah, king of Judah (S) was visiting him.

God Executes Justice

- When the watchman saw Jehu coming, Joram assumed he was coming from the battlefield to bring news to him.
- Jehu was a commander of Joram's army. So Joram sent horsemen to meet Jehu, asking if there was peace.
- The rapid approach of a chariot like this could only mean two things –either they were fleeing the enemy (Syria) or coming with evil intent to their own king.

God Executes Justice

- Jehu answered the horsemen kind of cryptically:
- “What do you have to do with peace? Turn around and ride behind me.”
- This was an invitation to join his rebellion against Joram, though Joram himself didn't yet know what was happening.

God Executes Justice

- Jehu's statement about peace could also speak on a spiritual level: they would not find peace because the kings of Judah and Israel were worshipping other gods, not Yahweh alone.
- Jehu said this explicitly a few verses later when he asked the king how there could be peace when there is so much idolatry in Israel (2 Kings 9:22).

God Executes Justice

- Joram, king of Israel (N) and Ahaziah, king of Judah (S) went to meet Jehu, each in his own chariot.
- They met him at the property of Naboth, the vineyard owner Jezebel had killed so Ahab could take his vineyard.
- This had been the final straw for the Lord's judgment against Ahab, when Elijah pronounced the end of his dynasty (1 Kings 21).

God Executes Justice

- This wasn't necessarily the worst thing Ahab did, but it showed a sense of entitlement and a blatant disregard for God's laws about land ownership.
- Ahab behaved as if he could do whatever he wanted.
- Meeting at Naboth's property highlights the fact that Jehu would now carry out the judgment Elijah had prophesied.

God Executes Justice

- Joram himself now asked Jehu if there was peace, meaning peace between Israel/Judah and Syria.
- Again, Jehu answered in a way that focused on the spiritual health of Israel, not its military health
- There could be no peace in Israel because of Jezebel's atrocities against Yahweh.

God Executes Justice

- Though Ahab was dead and his sons had taken over his throne, Jezebel's influence was still strong. Joram immediately realized Jehu was revolting against his rule and fled to tell Ahaziah, king of Judah (S).
- But Jehu shot Joram and commanded his aide to throw his body on the vineyard of Naboth, to fulfill the prophecy Jehu had heard Elijah pronounce, that God would repay the blood of Naboth on this very plot of ground.

God Executes Justice

- When Jehu went to execute justice against Jezebel, her servants joined his side as well (9:33).
- Jehu sent them to collect her body and bury her as royalty.
- But when they said her flesh had been eaten, he confirmed the fulfillment of Elijah's prophecy.

Jehu: Joram, Ahaziah, and Jezebel



God Executes Justice

- Jehu also slaughtered all 70 sons of Ahab, all his noblemen, close friends and priests.
- This was fulfilling God's word that his whole house would be cut off.
- Jehu called this his "zeal for the Lord" because he was executing God's judgment on Ahab and Jezebel.

God Executes Justice

- This story can be a hard one to read, but it shows us that God takes idolatry very seriously.
- Though Jehu's actions were violent, he was executing divine judgment against the pervasive idolatry that had plagued Israel (N) for generations and was also infecting Judah (S)
- We can trust God to execute justice and make things right.

God Our Heart

- God wants a heart committed to Him alone, no other gods
- 2 Kings 10:18-33
- Jehu did show zeal for the Lord by ridding the land of all the prophets and pillars of Baal and the temple of Baal.
- He even made the house of Baal into a latrine, which desecrated it.

God Our Heart

- Jehu completely wiped Baal worship out of Israel (N).
- When he destroyed the house of Baal, Jehu double-checked to make sure there were no servants of Yahweh there, only Baal worshippers.
- This made it clear his actions were about cleansing the land of idolatry.

God Our Heart

- Yet Jehu fell short in following the law of the Lord with his whole heart.
- God said he did well in carrying out what God commanded regarding the house of Ahab
- He did not turn from the sins of Jeroboam, the king who originally split Israel (N) off from Judah (S) and created false worship of the golden calves at Dan and Bethel.

God Our Heart

- Jehu carried out the mission he was commanded to do, but he didn't completely turn Israel back to the worship of Yahweh alone.
- He did have zeal for the Lord, but he didn't follow God with his whole heart the way Caleb had in the first exodus generation (Numbers 14:24; Joshua 14:8).

God Our Heart

- He didn't walk in the ways of David; his heart was not wholly committed to Yahweh as David's had been.
- This is the recurring phrase Kings uses to evaluate each king's faithfulness (1 Kings 3:14; 15:3; 2 Kings 22:2).
- David was not perfect; he committed grave sins. But he worshipped Yahweh alone; this was the litmus test for all future kings of Israel or Judah.

God Our Heart

- God said He would allow Jehu's dynasty to continue for four generations, but not past that.
- God didn't take away the consequence He had promised; He just delayed it.
- During Jehu's reign, Hazael of Syria took over much of the territory of Israel (N). The Bible describes it as God "cutting off" parts of Israel.

God Our Heart

- Before Israel was destroyed by Assyria (722 BC) and their people assimilated into other people groups, God took away more and more of their land over time.
- Jehu's dynasty was the longest of the dynasties of Israel (N), but they fell deeper into idolatry, and they experienced political instability as a result.

God Our Heart

- Jehu's obedience led to generational blessing, but his idolatry was also passed down to future generations, and the idolatry grew worse over time.
- His story, like so many others, shows us that our lives have an impact on future generations of our family and even others around us, for better or for worse.

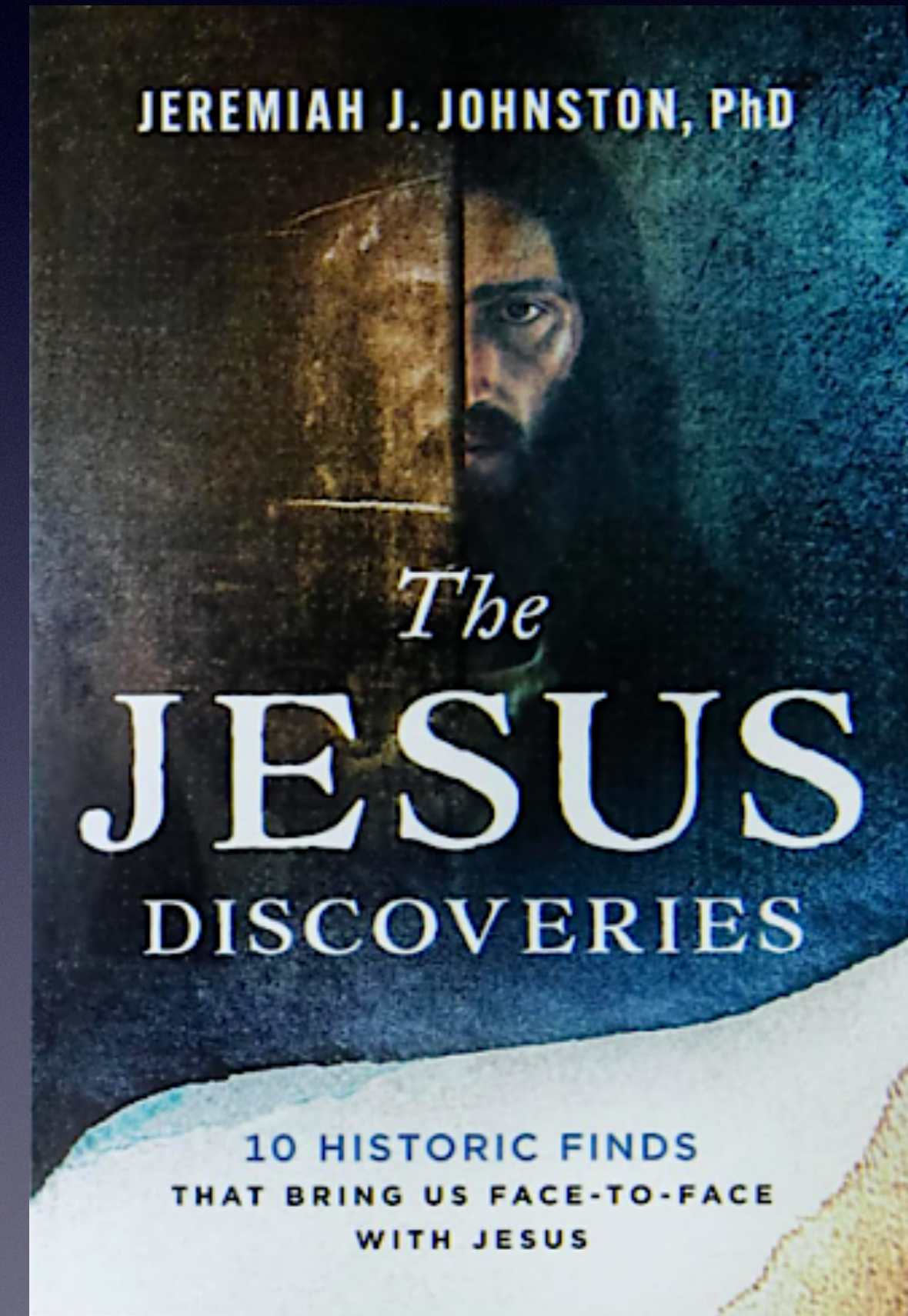
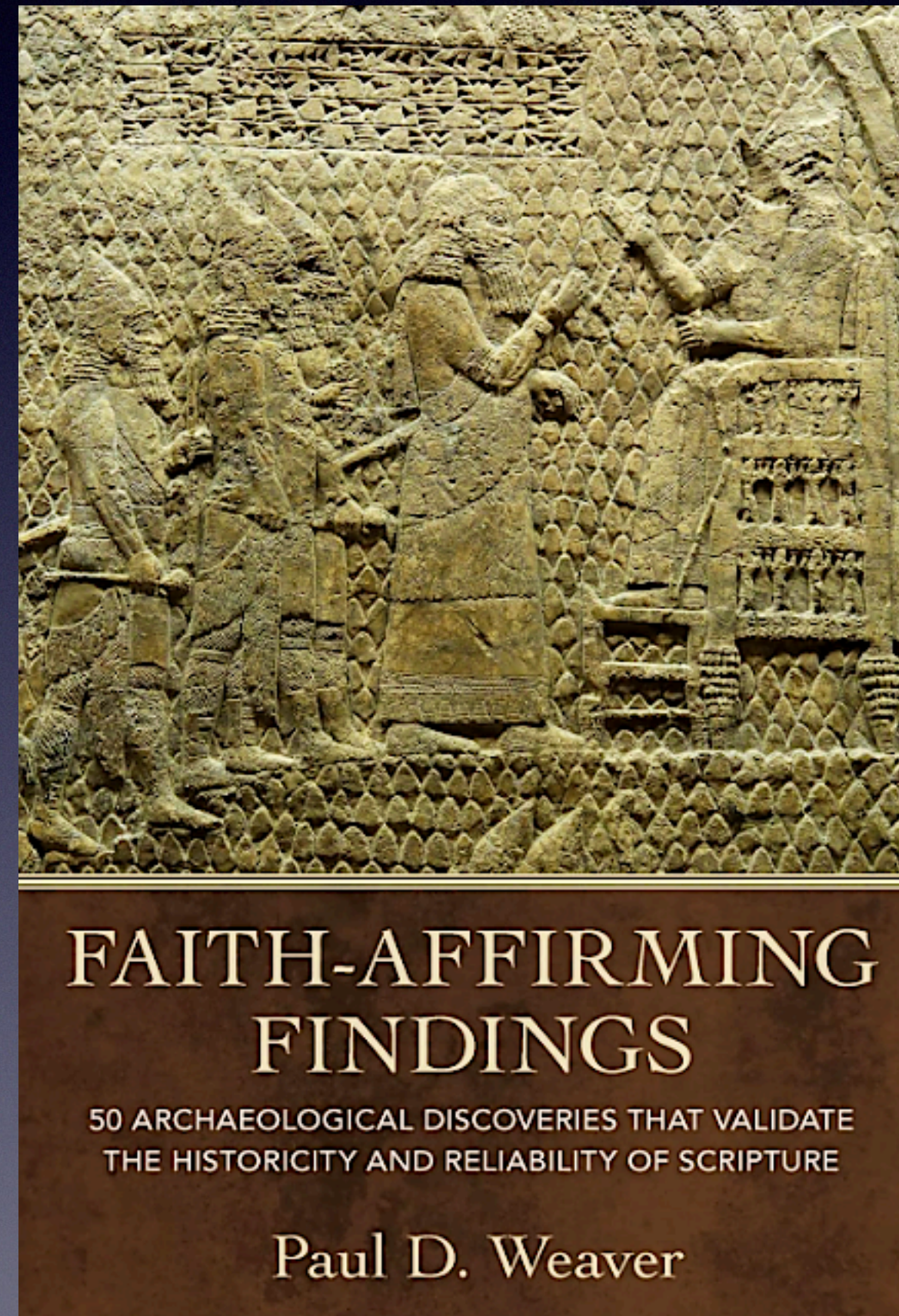
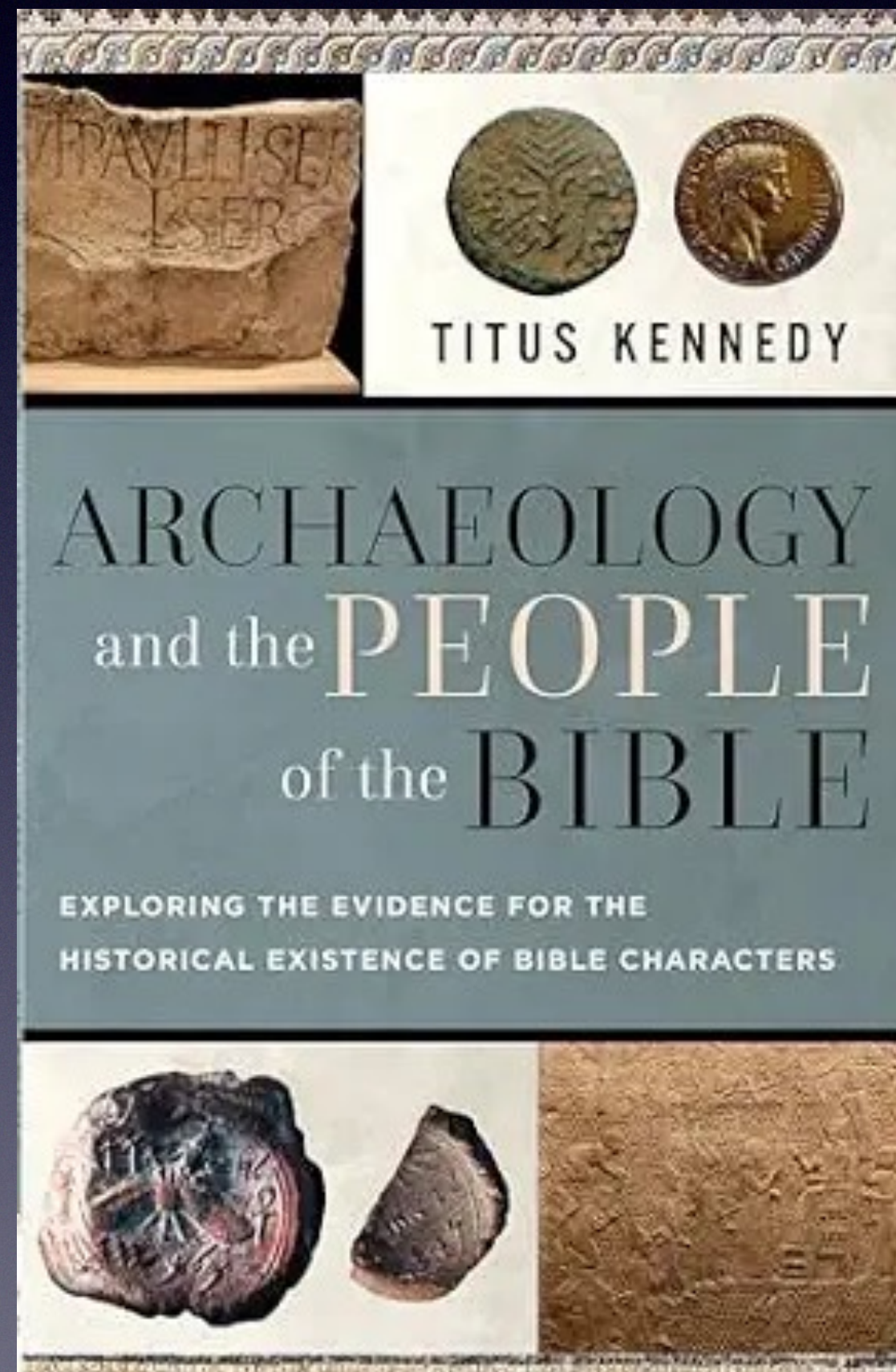
God Our Heart

- If we live in a way that honors God and sets a positive example for our children, it can impact their lives and the lives of their children and their children's children, for generations to come.
- When we sin, as David did, we need to confess and repent. It means living a life committed to worshipping God alone, doing our best to follow Jesus and love our neighbor as ourselves.

God Our Heart

- The call is to pursue wholehearted devotion. His story shows us that doing God's work is not always the same as following Him with our whole heart. His passion for doing what God had called him to do was real, but his heart was divided.
- The legacy we leave behind for generations to come will be shaped not just by the things we do for Jesus, but whether we truly give Him our whole heart.

Archaeological Confirmation



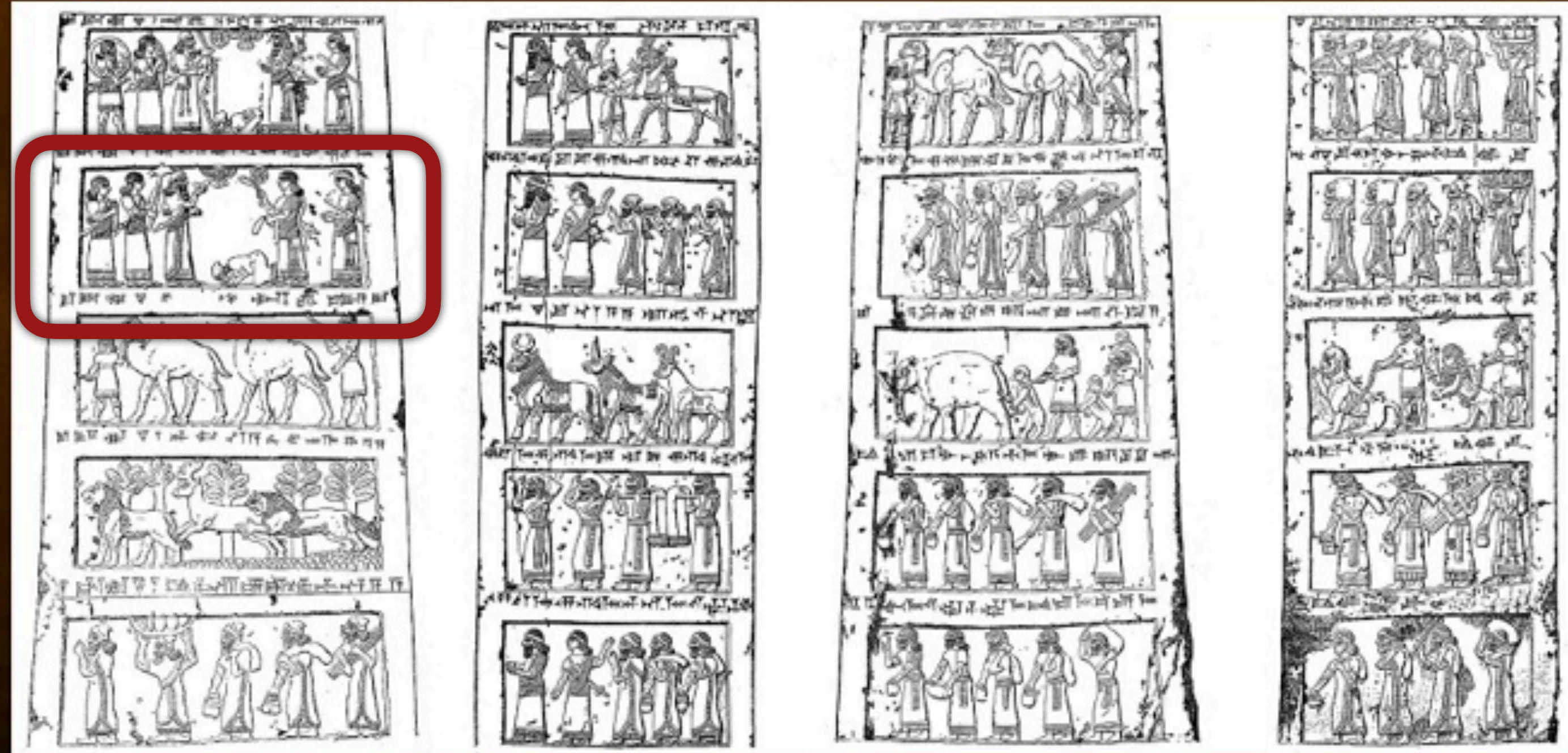
King Jehu

THE BLACK OBELISK



FAITH
AFFIRMING
FINDINGS
WITH DR. PAUL D. WEAVER

The Black Obelisk



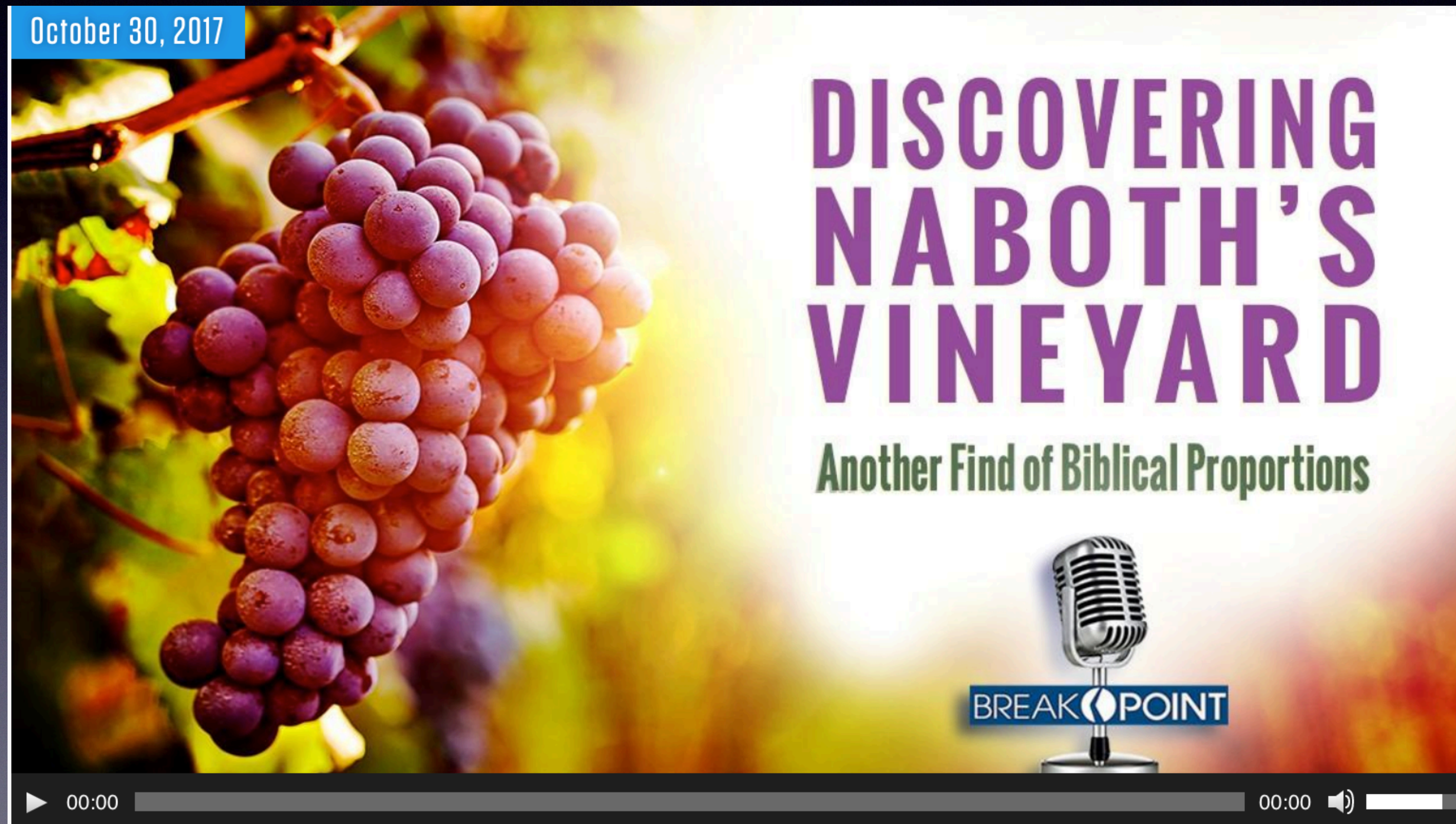
Shalmaneser



Jehu



Naboth's Vineyard



Naboth's Vineyard

- Norma Franklin (University of Haifa) and Jennie Ebeling (University of Evansville) led excavation in the Jezreel Valley and found wine presses and olive presses.
- According to *Biblical Archaeology Review*, they found Naboth's vineyard by using the details in 1 Kings 21 that provides an account of the plot by Jezebel to kill Naboth when King Ahab coveted his vineyard.

Temple → Latrine



Latrines at Tel Lachish

- Recent discoveries at Tel Lachish, including a temple and a toilet, provide further confirmation of the religious reform of King Hezekiah of Judah mentioned in 2 Kings 18:4-6 and 2 Chronicles chapters 29-31.
- It also provides further confirmation of 2 Kings 10:27 which mentions the destruction of the temple of Baal and how it was defiled by being turned into a “latrine.”

Resources

