


2ND BOOK OF MACCABEES –PT 5

Judas – called Maccabaeus, the son
takes over!



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In Pt 4 – we learned that once the Temple was rededicated all the heathens were unhappy, so the Macc attack had to go back out and fight some more, and with the help of Yahuah they beat the odds again. Of course we also learned the importance of doing what you're told such Joseph and Azarias who decided they wanted to make their fame and fortune only to be put to flight and getting many of their people killed!

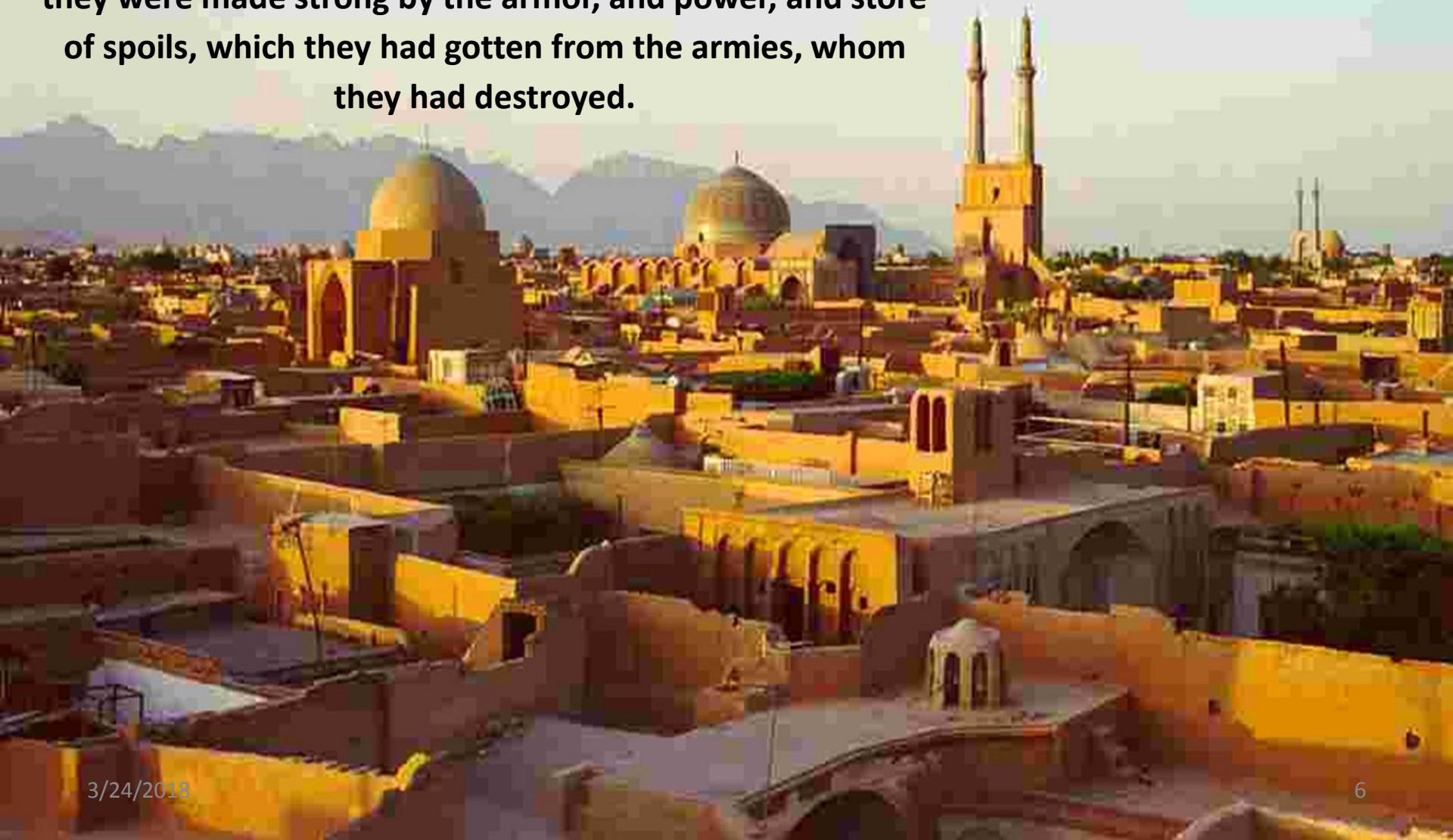
About that time, King Antiochus travelling through the high countries (on the Euphrates), heard say, that Elymais (or Persepolis) in the country of Persia, was a city greatly renowned for riches, silver and gold:

and that the temple (Venus or Diana, or Nannea or Nanea) which was in the city was very rich, there were coverings of gold, and breast-plates, and shields, which Alexander son of Philip the Macedonian King, who reigned first among the Grecians, had left there.

Wherefore he came and sought to take the city and to spoil it; but he was not able, because the design was made known to them of the city. And they rose up against him in battle: so he fled, and departed thence with great heaviness, to return to Babylon.

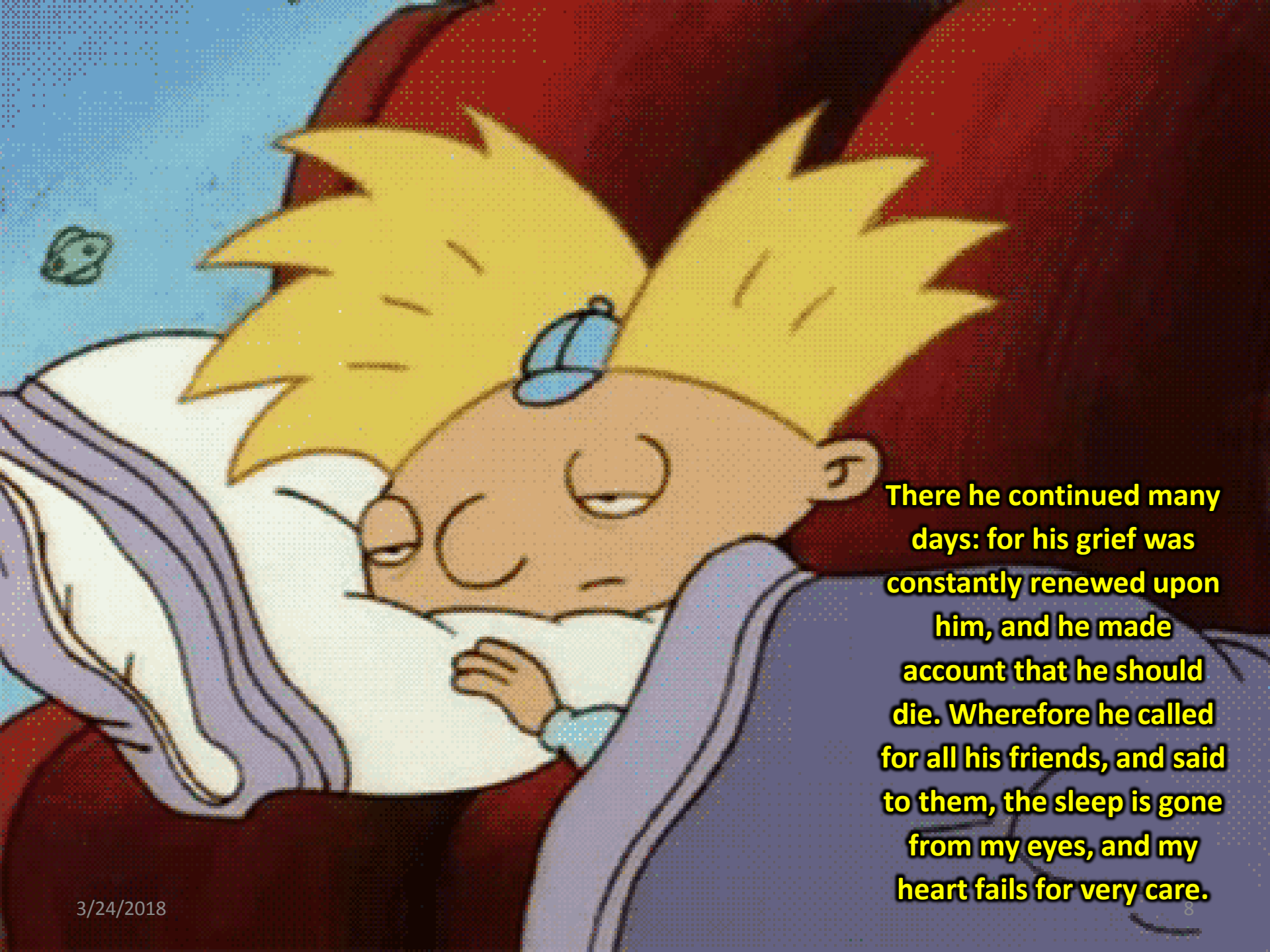


Moreover, there came one who brought him tidings into Persia, that the armies which went against the land of Judah were put to flight: and that Lysias, who went forth first with a great power, was driven away by the Hebrew; and that they were made strong by the armor, and power, and store of spoils, which they had gotten from the armies, whom they had destroyed.




Also that they had pulled down the abomination which he had set up upon the altar in Jerusalem, and that they had surrounded about the sanctuary with high walls as before, and his city Bethsura. Then it came to pass when the king heard these words, he was astonished, and afflicted: whereupon he lay down upon his bed, and fell sick from grief, because it had not befallen him as he looked for.





There he continued many days: for his grief was constantly renewed upon him, and he made account that he should die. Wherefore he called for all his friends, and said to them, the sleep is gone from my eyes, and my heart fails for very care.



Then I thought to myself, into what tribulation I have come, and how great a flood of misery is it that now I am in! For I was thought bountiful, and was beloved in my power:

but now I remember the evils which I did at Jerusalem, and that I took all the vessels of gold and silver which were therein, and sent to destroy the inhabitants of Judaea without a cause.

I perceive therefore that for this cause these troubles that are upon me, and behold, I perish through great grief in a strange land. Then he called for Philip, one of his friends, whom he made ruler over his entire realm.

And gave him the crown, and his robe, and his signet-ring, to the end he should bring up his son Antiochus, and nourish him up for the kingdom.





Antiochus V Eupator

So King Antiochus died there (Tabae, a town in Persia near Babylon. It is said that the King showed signs of madness shortly before he died) in the hundred forty and ninth year. Now when Lysias knew that the king was dead, he set up Antiochus his son (whom he had brought up, being young) to reign in his stead, and his name he called Eupator.

About this time they which were in the tower, were shutting up the Israelites round about the sanctuary, and seeking always their hurt, and the strengthening of the heathen.

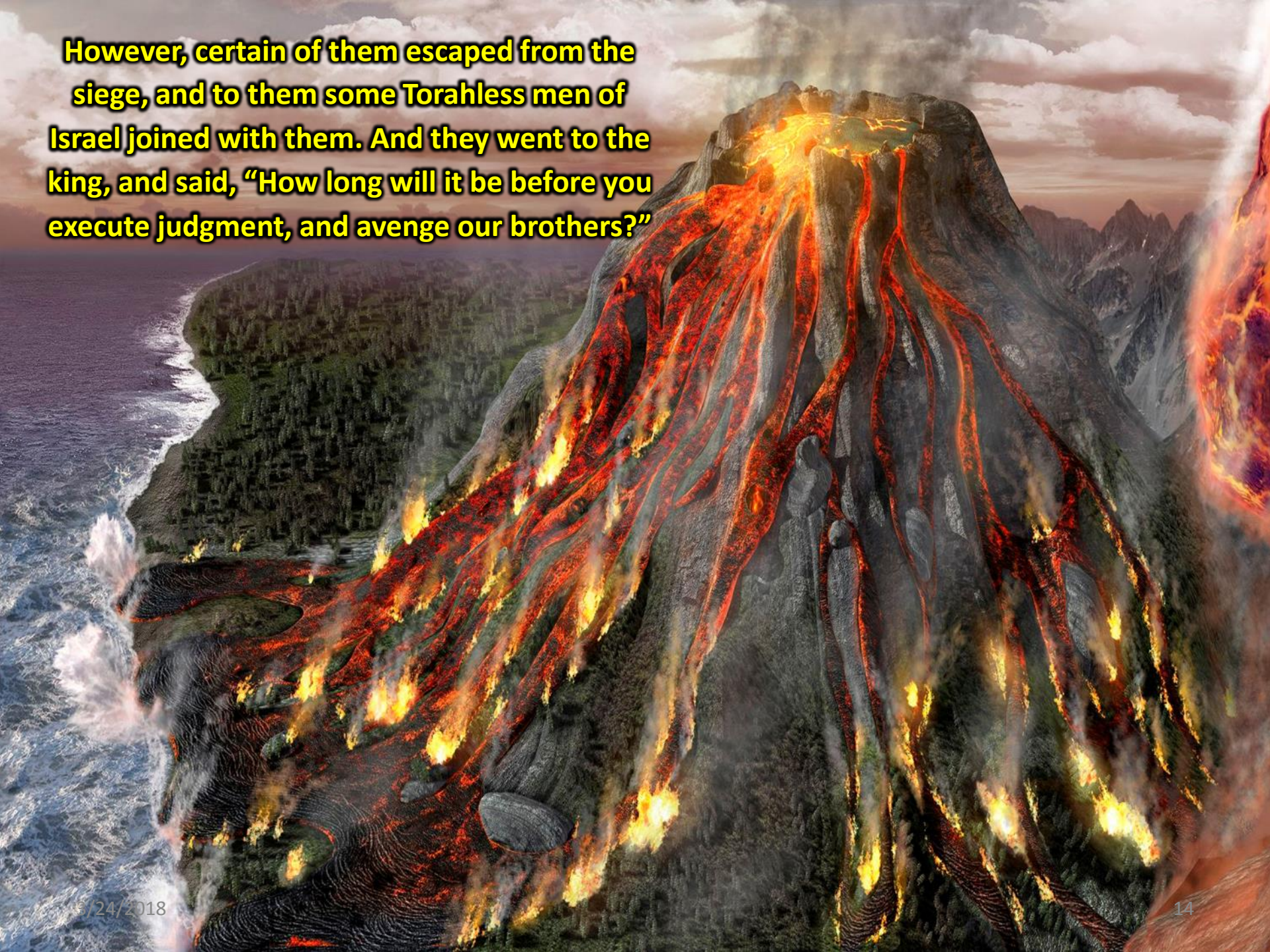


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Therefore Judas purposed to destroy them, and called all the people together, to besiege them. So they came together, and besieged them in the hundred and fiftieth year, and he made mounts for shot (catapults) against them, and other engines of war.



However, certain of them escaped from the siege, and to them some Torahless men of Israel joined with them. And they went to the king, and said, “How long will it be before you execute judgment, and avenge our brothers?”

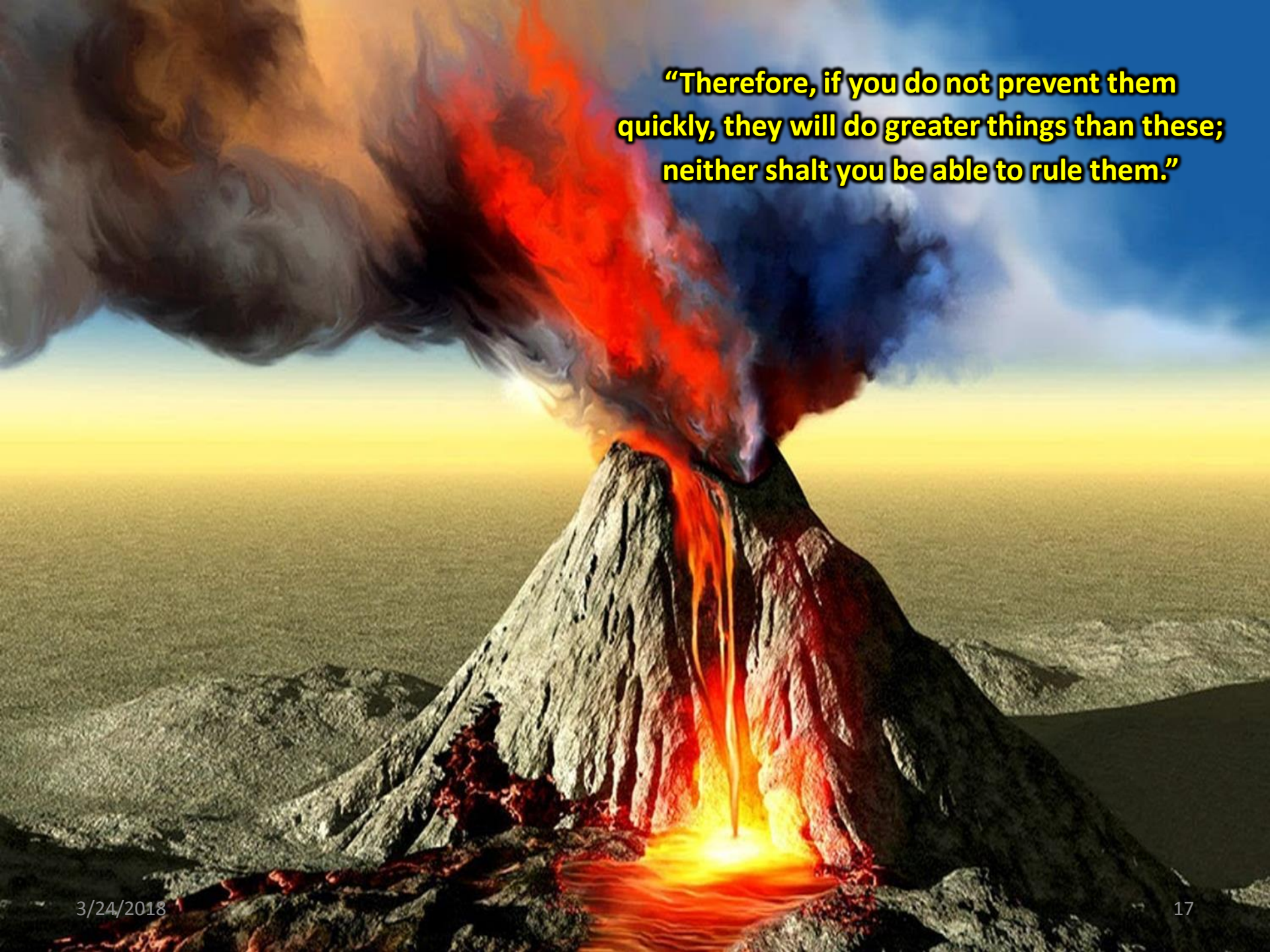


“We have been willing to serve your father, and to walk after his decrees, and to obey his commandments; for which cause they of our nation besiege the tower, and are alienated from us; moreover, as many of us as were found were put to death and our inheritances were plundered.”



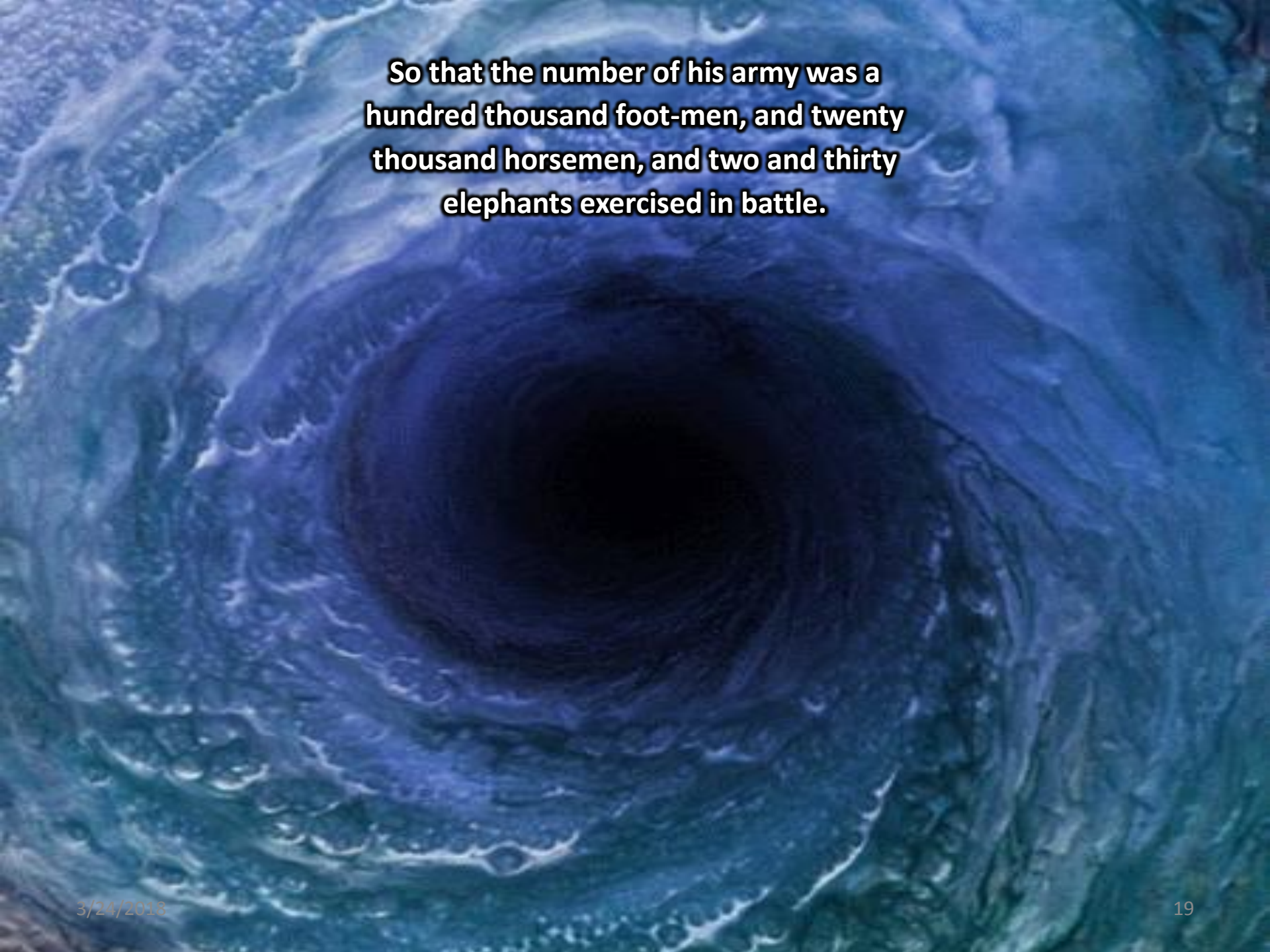
“Neither have they stretched out their hand against us only, but also against all their borders. And behold, this day are they besieging the tower at Jerusalem, to take it: the sanctuary also, and Bethsura have they fortified.”





“Therefore, if you do not prevent them quickly, they will do greater things than these; neither shalt you be able to rule them.”

Now when the king heard this, he was angry, and gathered together all his friends, and the captains of his army, and those who had charge of the horses. There came also unto him from other kingdoms, and from isles of the sea, bands of hired soldiers.



**So that the number of his army was a
hundred thousand foot-men, and twenty
thousand horsemen, and two and thirty
elephants exercised in battle.**

These went through Idumaea and pitched against Bethsura, which they assaulted many days, making engines of war; but they of Bethsura came out and burnt them with fire, and fought valiantly.

Ballista





Upon this Judas left the tower, and pitched in Bathzacharias (70 stadia from Bethsura), over against the king's camp; then the king rising very early marched fiercely with his host toward Bathzacharias, where his armies made them ready to battle, and sounded the trumpets.



And to the end they might provoke the elephants to fight, they showed them the blood of grapes and mulberries (liquid given to the elephants). Moreover they divided the beasts among the companies; and for every elephant they appointed a thousand men armed with coats of mail, with helmets of brass on their heads; and for every beast were ordained five hundred horsemen of the best.

**These were ready at every occasion:
wherever the beast was they were, and
wherever the beast went, they went
also; neither departed they from him.**






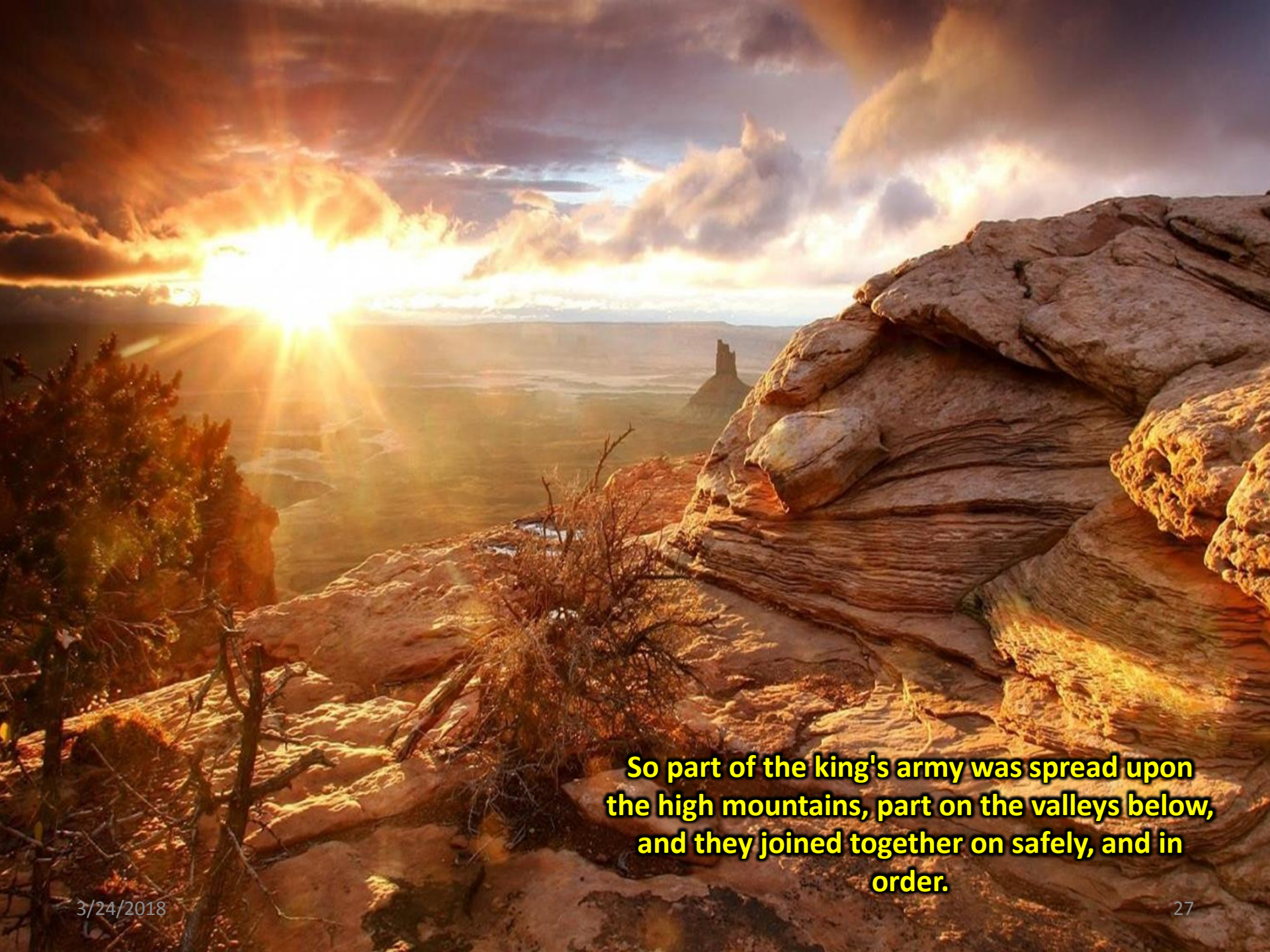
And upon the beasts there were strong towers of wood, which covered every one of them, and were girded fast to them with devices: there were also upon every one, two and thirty strong men who fought upon them, besides the Indian who ruled him.

As for the remnant of the horsemen, they set them on this side and that side, at the two parts of the host, stirring them up and covering their flanks with them.



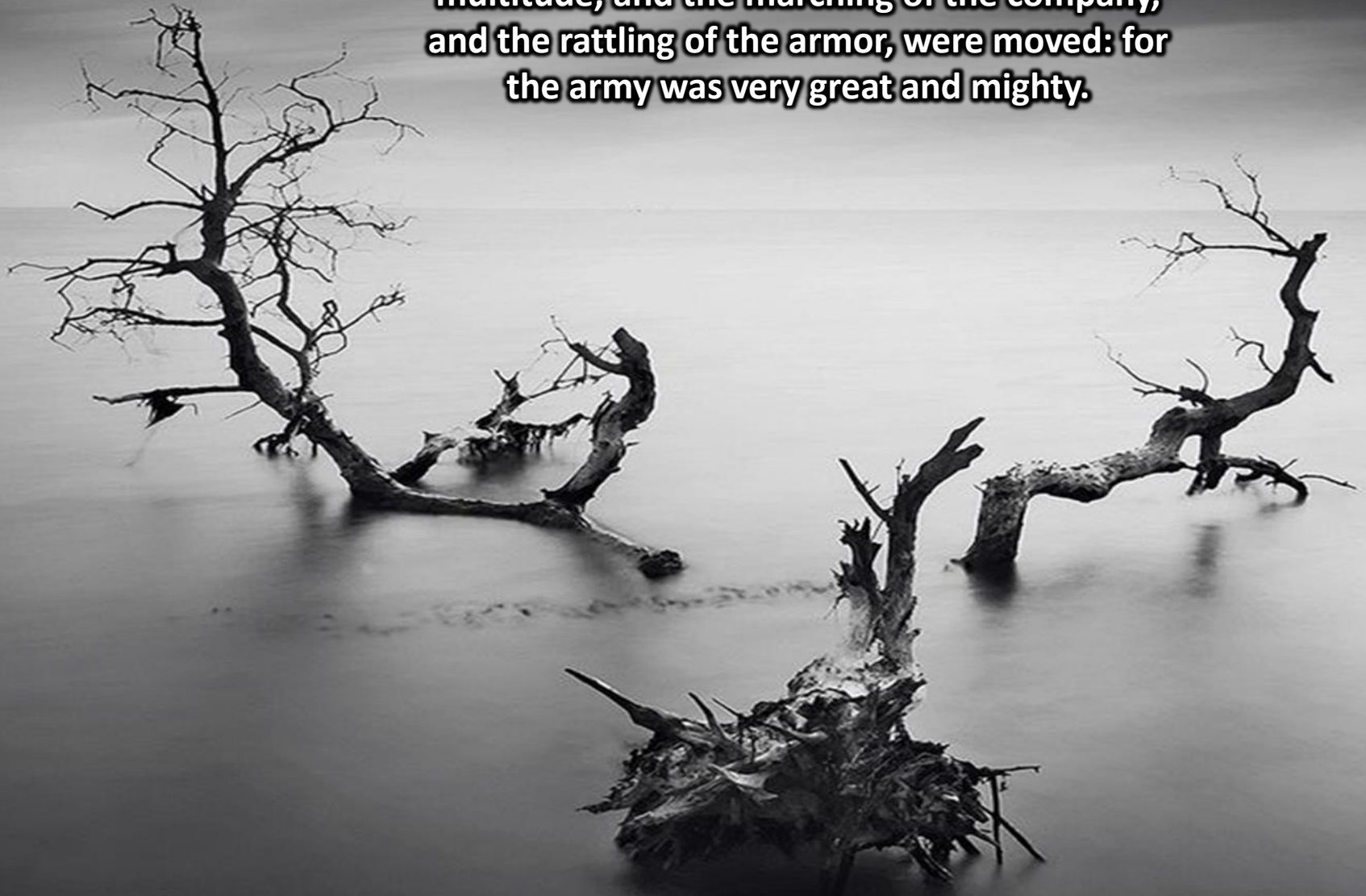


**Now when the sun shone upon the shields of
gold and brass, the mountains glittered and
shined like lamps of fire.**



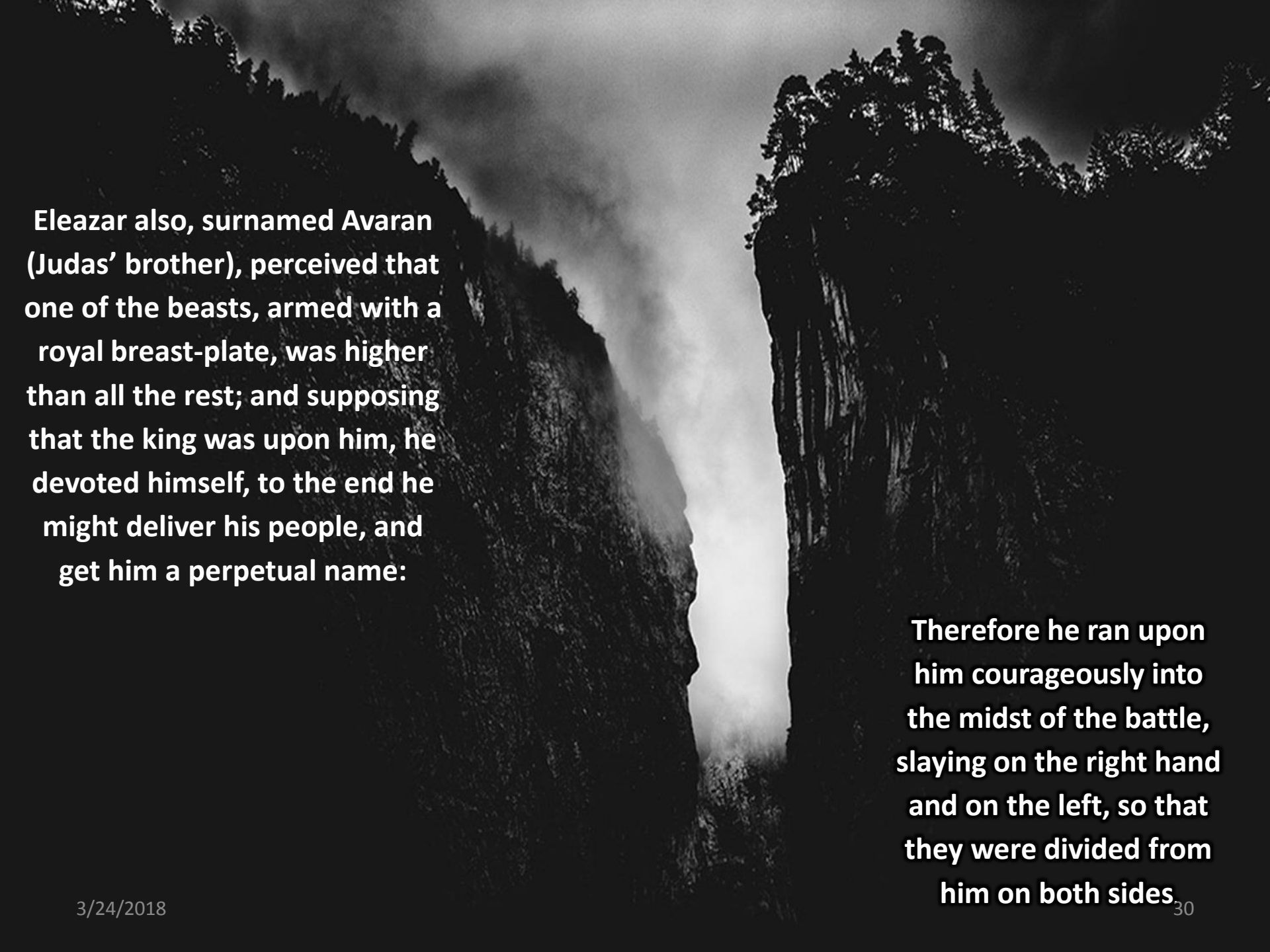
So part of the king's army was spread upon the high mountains, part on the valleys below, and they joined together on safely, and in order.

Wherefore all who heard the noise of their multitude, and the marching of the company, and the rattling of the armor, were moved: for the army was very great and mighty.



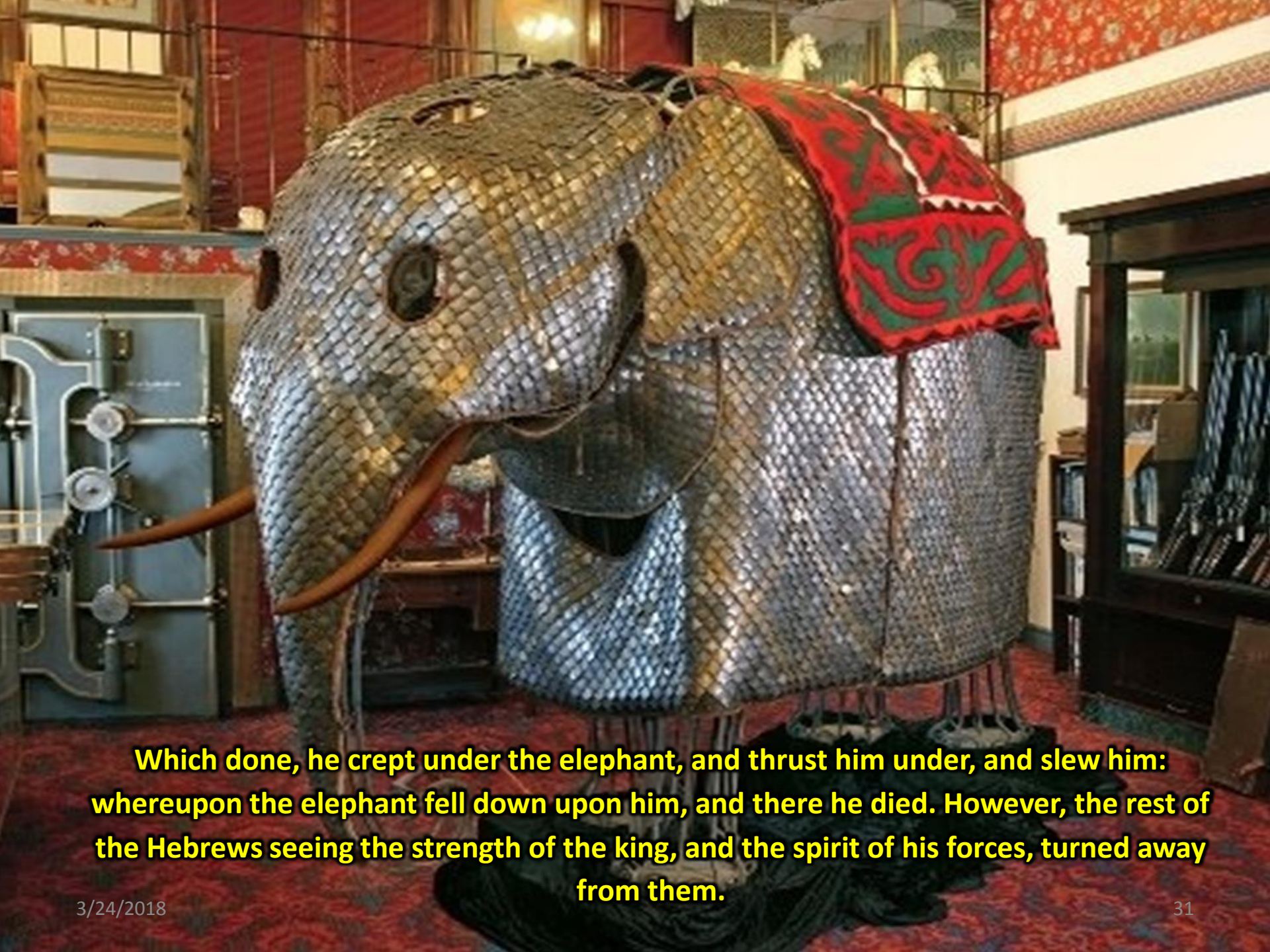
Then Judas and his host drew near, and entered into battle, and there were slain of the king's army six hundred men.





Eleazar also, surnamed Avaran (Judas' brother), perceived that one of the beasts, armed with a royal breast-plate, was higher than all the rest; and supposing that the king was upon him, he devoted himself, to the end he might deliver his people, and get him a perpetual name:

Therefore he ran upon him courageously into the midst of the battle, slaying on the right hand and on the left, so that they were divided from him on both sides

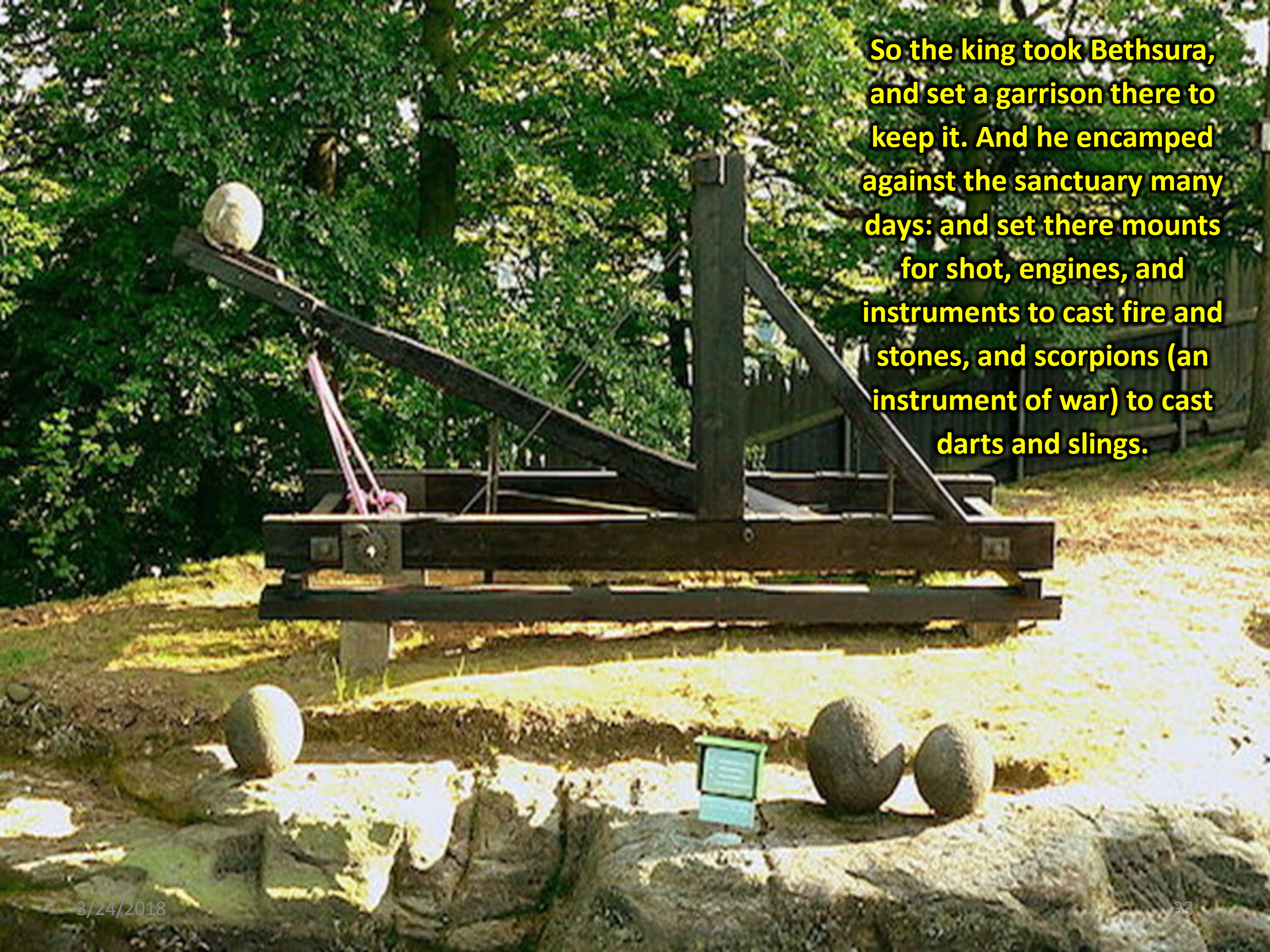


Which done, he crept under the elephant, and thrust him under, and slew him: whereupon the elephant fell down upon him, and there he died. However, the rest of the Hebrews seeing the strength of the king, and the spirit of his forces, turned away from them.

Then the king's army went up to Jerusalem to meet them, and the king pitched his tents against Judaea, and against mount Sion. But with them which were in Bethsura he made peace: and they came out of the city, because they had no victuals there to endure the siege, it being a year of rest to the land.




So the king took Bethsura, and set a garrison there to keep it. And he encamped against the sanctuary many days: and set there mounts for shot, engines, and instruments to cast fire and stones, and scorpions (an instrument of war) to cast darts and slings.




Catapult ammunition


Whereupon they also made engines against their engines, and held them battle a long season. But at the last there were no victuals in the vessels, because it was the seventh year, and those who fled from the Gentiles into Judaea to save themselves, had eaten up the residue of the store.

A photograph of a dry, brown field with sparse, withered plants under a clear blue sky. The plants are mostly dead and brown, with some green leaves still visible. The ground is dry and cracked. The text is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image.

**And there were but a
few left in the
sanctuary, because the
famine did so prevail
against them, that they
were scattered, every
man to his own place.**

A black cat with glowing white eyes is sitting on a ledge, looking directly at the camera. The background is dark and blurry.

At that time Lysias heard say, that Philip (whom Antiochus the king, while he lived, had appointed to bring up his son Antiochus, that he might be king) was returned out of Persia and Media, and the king's host also which went with him, and that he sought to take unto him the ruling of affairs.

A light brown puppy is sitting on a wooden deck. The puppy is looking slightly to the left of the camera. It has a metal bowl with a blue rim around its neck. The puppy is wearing a pink collar. The background is a wooden deck with horizontal planks.

**Wherefore he
went in all
haste, and said
to the king, and
the captains of
the host, and
the company,
“We decay daily,
and our victuals
are but small,
and the place
we lay siege
unto is strong,
and the affairs
of the kingdom
lie upon us.**

FAKE FRIENDS

Now therefore let us be friends with these men, and make peace with them and with all their nation; and covenant with them, that they shall live after their Torah, as they did before: for on account of their Torah which we abolished, they have been angered, and have done all these things.”

FAKE FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

**And the saying pleased the king and the
princes: therefore he sent to them to make
peace, and they accepted it.**

WARNING

**Also the king and the princes made an oath to
them: whereupon they went out of the
stronghold.**

Then the king entered into mount Sion: but when he saw the strength of the place, he broke his oath which he had made, and gave commandment to pull down the wall round about.

**Afterward Lysias departed in all haste,
and returned to Antiochia, where he
found Philip to be master of the city: so
he fought against him, and took the city
by force (Lysias took Philip prisoner and
put him to death).**





In the hundred and one and fiftieth year, Demetrius (the son of Seleueus, elder brother of Antiochus Epiphanes, the rightful owner of the kingdom) departed from Rome (where he had been held hostage but with some friends escaped), and came up with a few men unto a city (Tripolis) of the sea-coast, and reigned there. And as he entered into the palace (in Antioch) of his ancestors, so it was that his forces had taken Antiochus and Lysias to bring them unto him.

The city was founded by the Phoenicians and was a member of the Phoenician league. It was divided into 3 quarters by walls-hence, the name "triple city"-and these were occupied by settlers from Tyre, Sidon, and Aradus, respectively



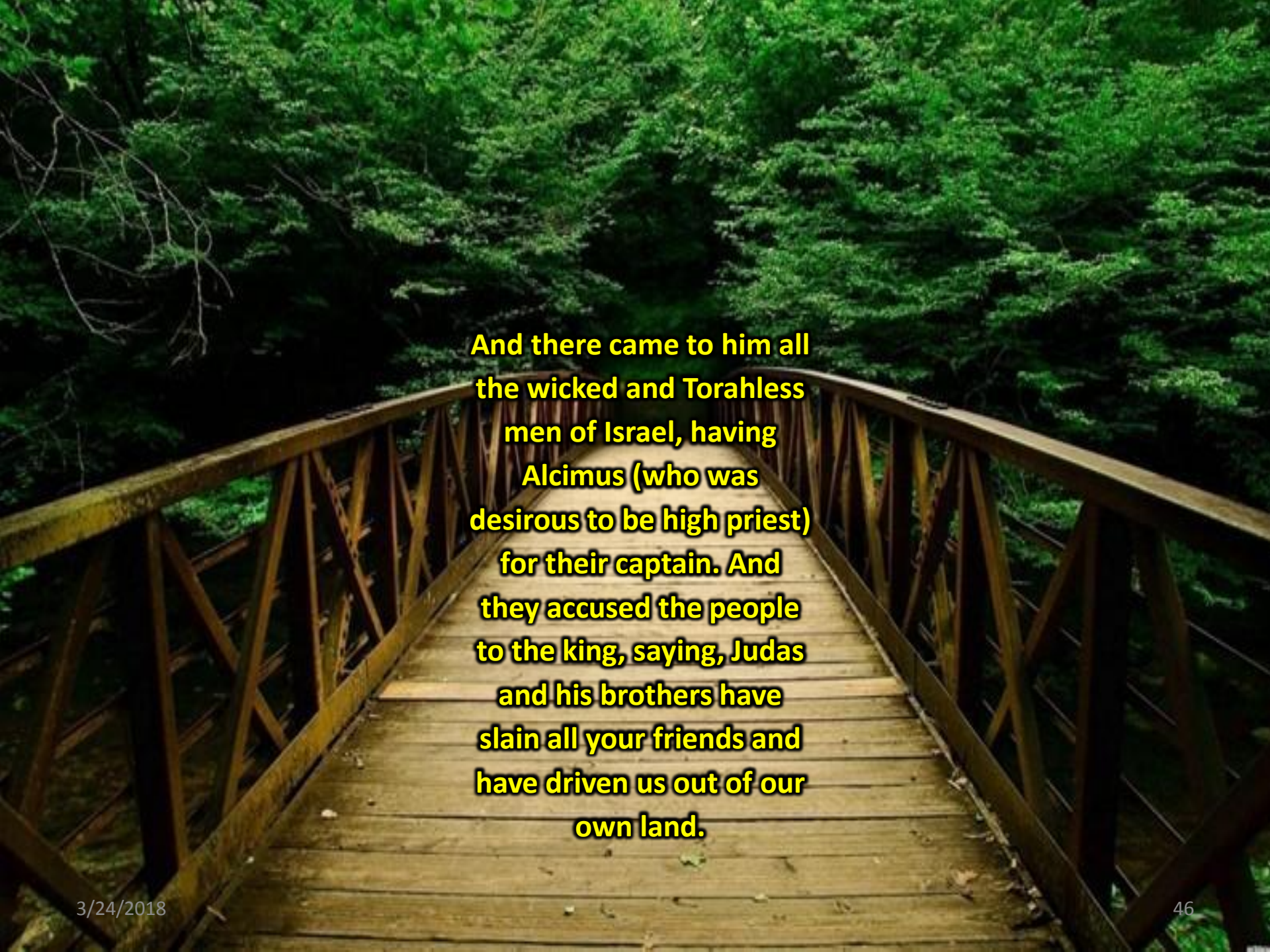
Ruins of ancient Tripolis

On the narrow strip of land, the Phoenicians had 25 cities of which the most important were Tyre, Sidon, Aradus, Byblus, Marathus, and Tripolis. Less important were Laodicea, Simyra, Arca, Aphaca, Berytus, Ecdippa, Akko, Dor, Joppa, Gabala, Betrys, and Sarepta.



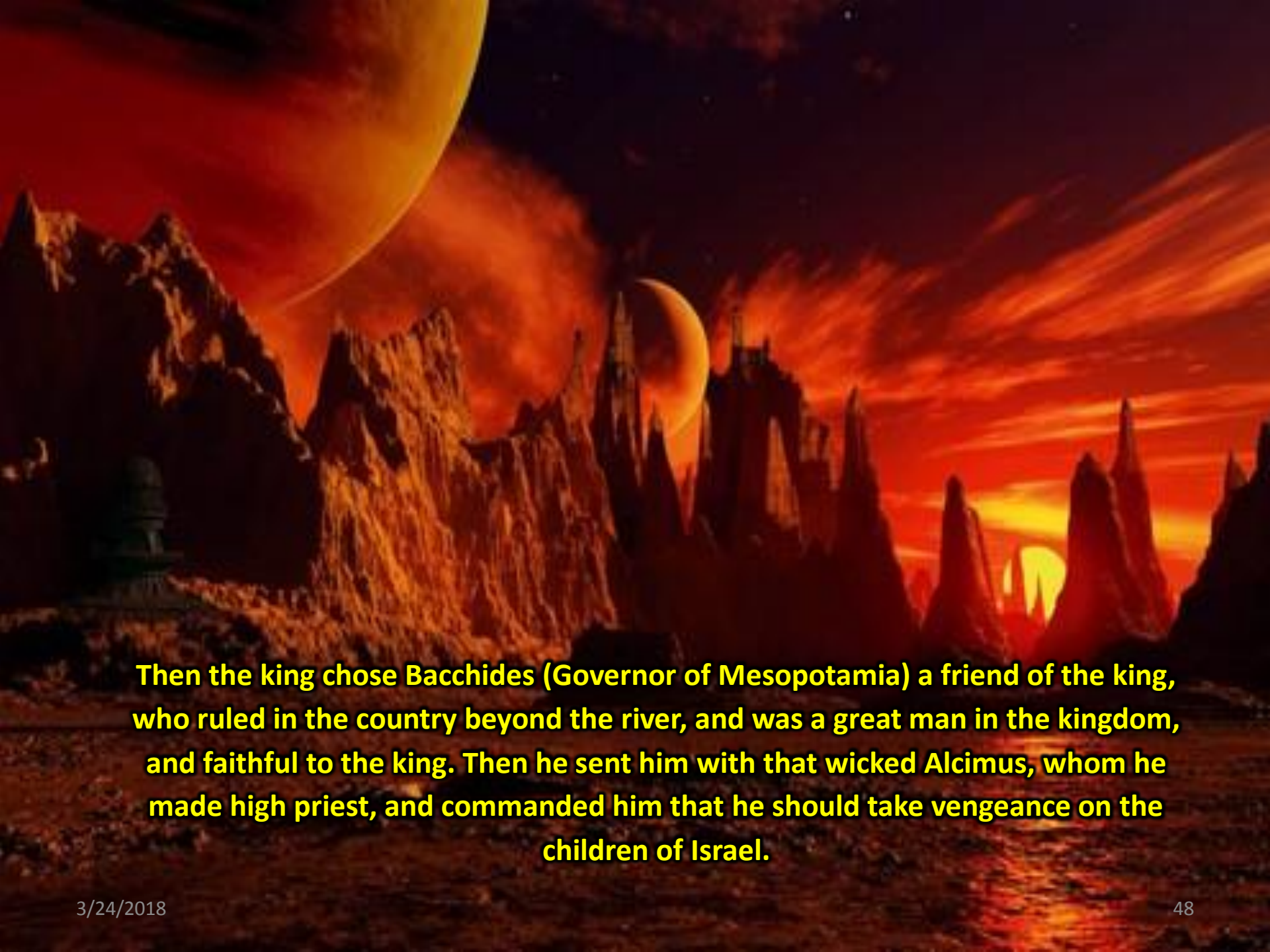
And the thing was made known to him, and he said, "Show me not their faces." So his host slew them: and Demetrius was set upon the throne of his kingdom.



A wooden bridge with a metal railing leads through a dense green forest. The bridge is made of wooden planks and has a metal railing with a crisscross pattern. The forest is lush and green, with many trees and bushes. The bridge is the central focus of the image, leading the viewer's eye into the forest.

**And there came to him all
the wicked and Torahless
men of Israel, having
Alcimus (who was
desirous to be high priest)
for their captain. And
they accused the people
to the king, saying, Judas
and his brothers have
slain all your friends and
have driven us out of our
own land.**

Now therefore send some man whom you trust, and let him go and see the entire destruction which he has made among us, and in the king's land, and let him punish them and all of them who aid them.

A dramatic, fiery landscape with jagged mountains and a large, glowing orb in the sky. The scene is bathed in a deep red and orange glow, suggesting a sunset or a volcanic eruption. The mountains are dark and jagged, with some peaks illuminated by the light. A large, glowing orb, possibly a moon or a planet, hangs in the sky, casting a soft light. The overall atmosphere is one of intense heat and mystery.

Then the king chose Bacchides (Governor of Mesopotamia) a friend of the king, who ruled in the country beyond the river, and was a great man in the kingdom, and faithful to the king. Then he sent him with that wicked Alcimus, whom he made high priest, and commanded him that he should take vengeance on the children of Israel.

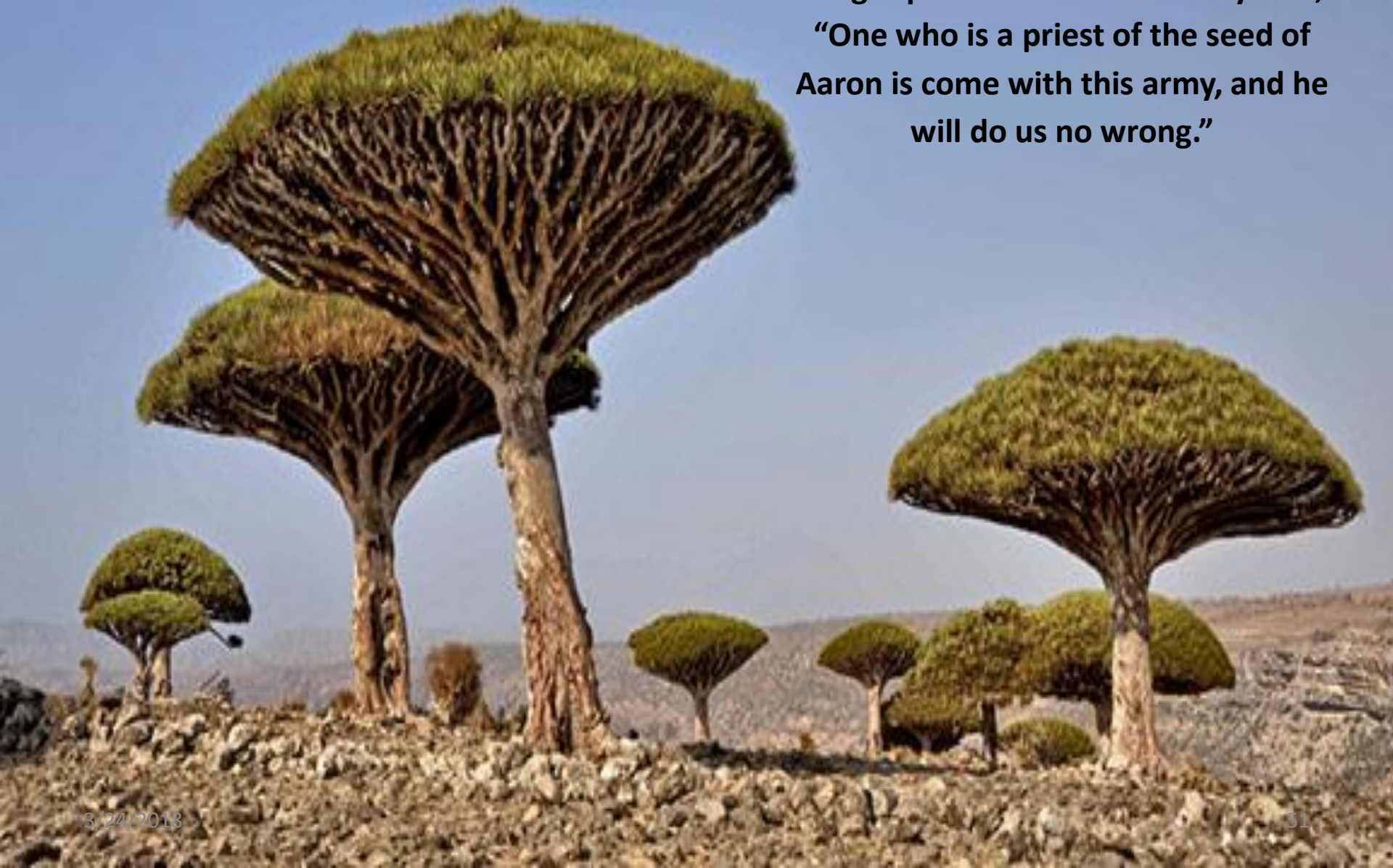
So they departed, and came with a great power into the land of Judah; and he sent messengers to Judas and his brothers peaceable words of deceit.



But they gave no heed to their words; for they saw that they were come with a great power. Then there came an assembly to Alcimus and Bacchides, a company of scribes to require justice.



Now the Assidseans were the first among the children of Israel who sought peace of them. For they said, "One who is a priest of the seed of Aaron is come with this army, and he will do us no wrong."



So he spoke to them peaceably, and swore to them, saying, "We will procure the harm neither of you nor your friends."

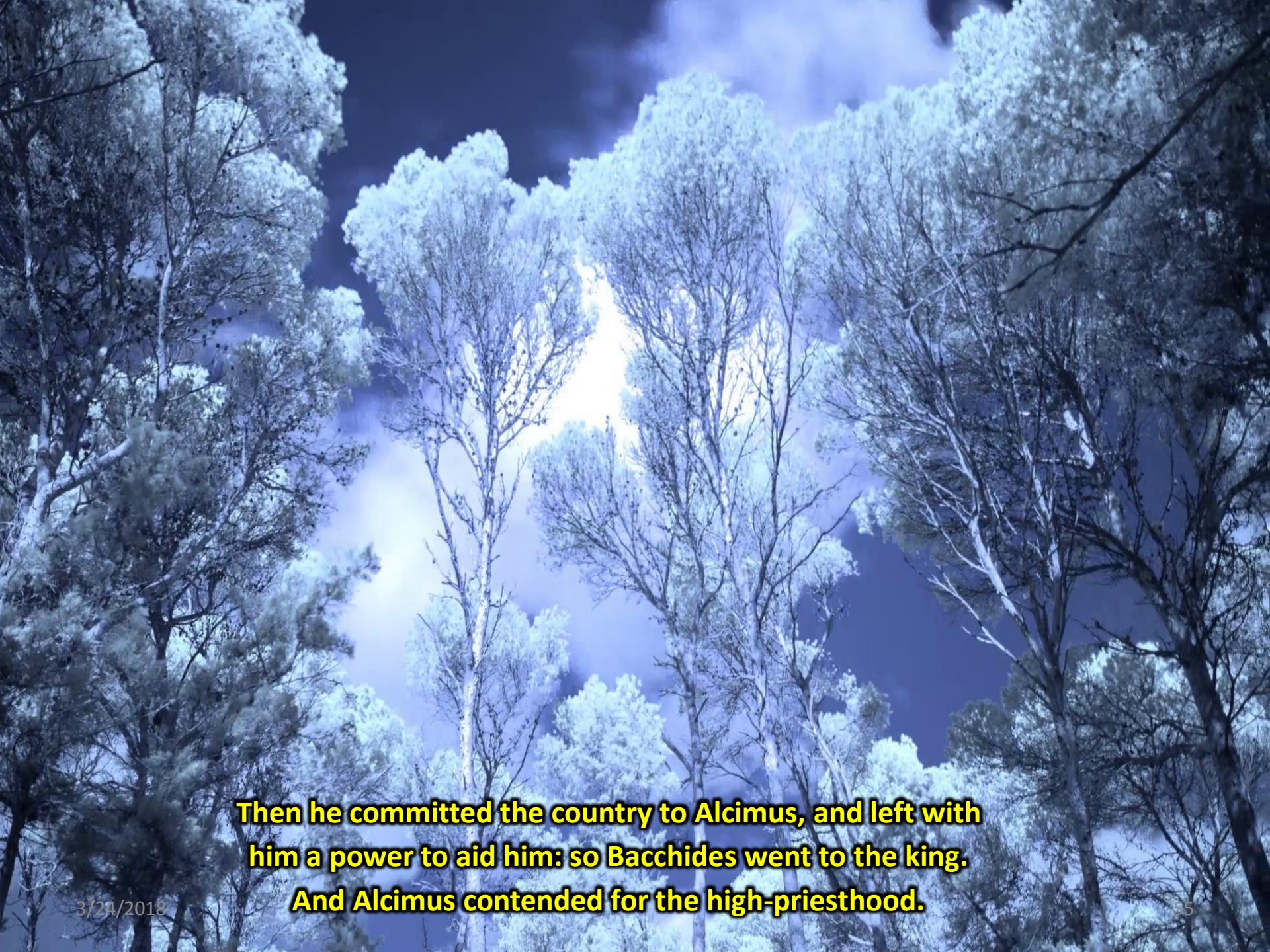
TRUST NO ONE

So they believed him: however, he took of them threescore men, and slew them in one day, according to the words which he wrote, "The flesh of your saints have they cast out, and their blood they shed round about Jerusalem, and there was none to bury them."

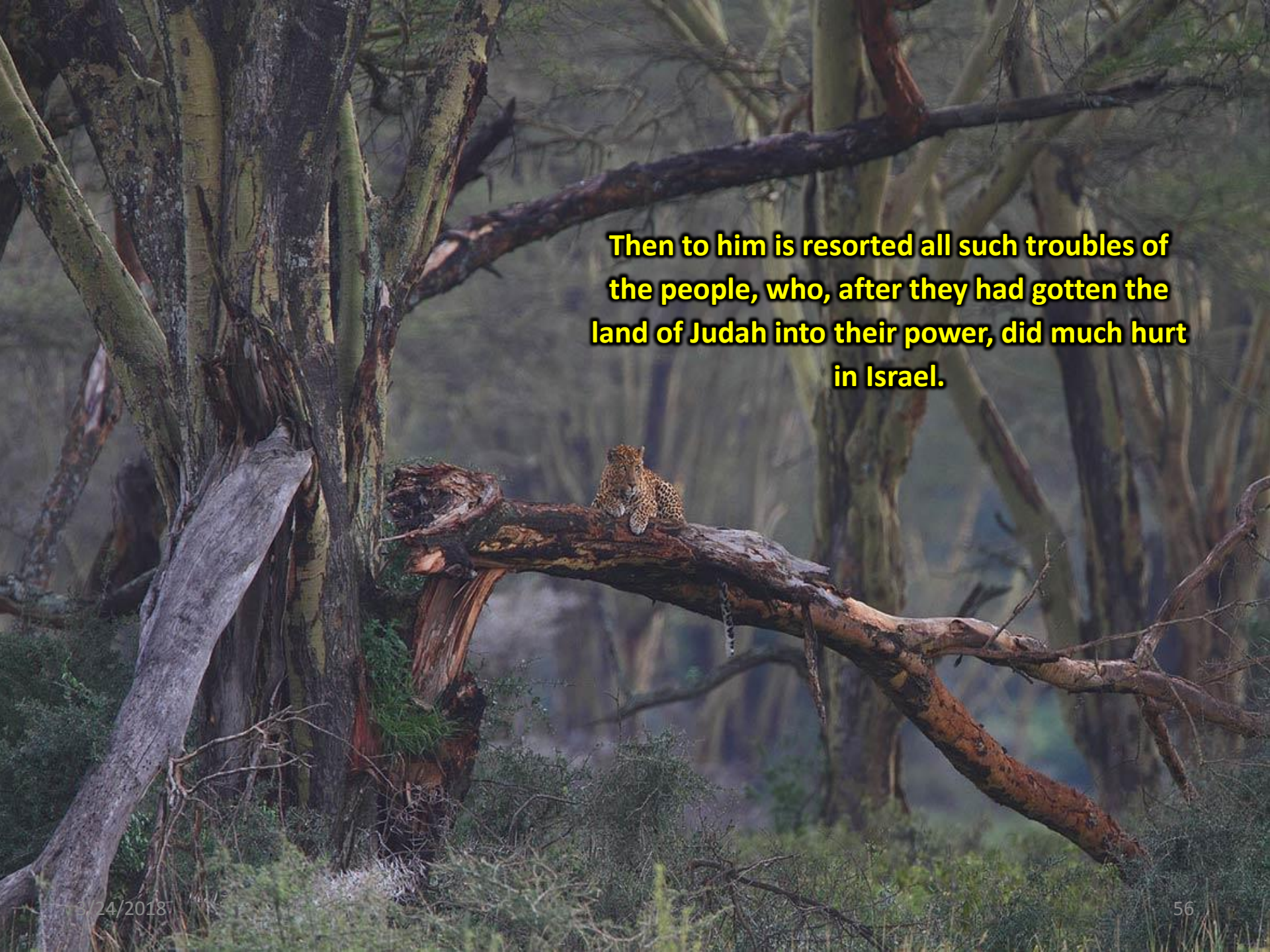


Wherefore the fear and dread of them fell upon all the people, who said, "There is neither truth nor justice in them; for they have broken the covenant and oath which they made."

After Bacchides left Jerusalem, and pitched his tents in Bezeth (a village), where he sent and took many of the men who had forsaken him, and certain of the people also; and when he had slain them, he cast them into the great pit.

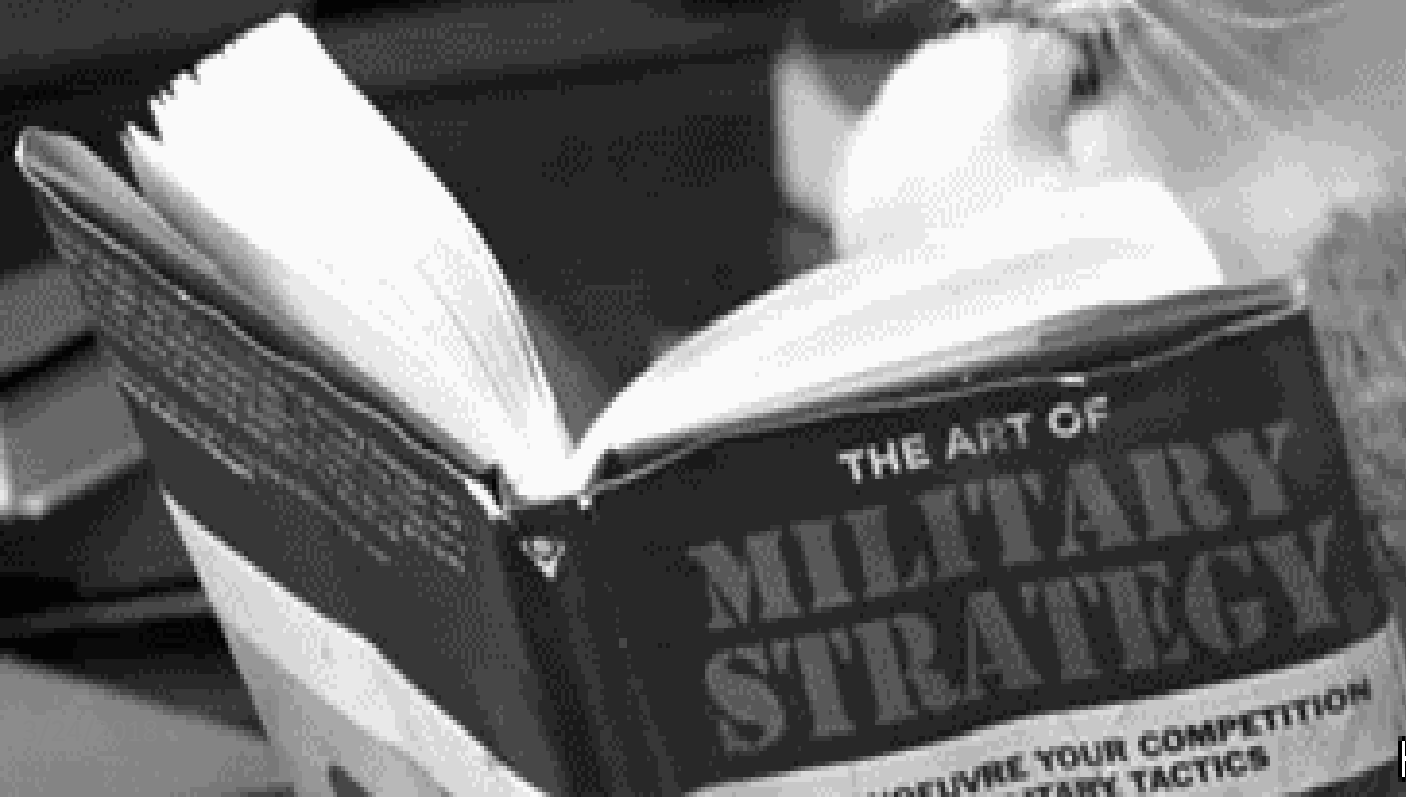


Then he committed the country to Alcimus, and left with him a power to aid him: so Bacchides went to the king. And Alcimus contended for the high-priesthood.

A leopard is perched on a thick, horizontal tree branch in a dense forest. The leopard's spotted coat is clearly visible against the dark wood of the branch. The surrounding trees have thick, textured bark, and the background is filled with more trees and foliage, creating a sense of a wild, natural habitat.

Then to him is resorted all such troubles of the people, who, after they had gotten the land of Judah into their power, did much hurt in Israel.

Now when Judas saw all the mischief that Alcimus and his company had done among the Israelites, even above the heathen; he went out into all the coasts of Judea round about, and took vengeance on those who had deserted from him, so that they were restrained from going forth into the country.



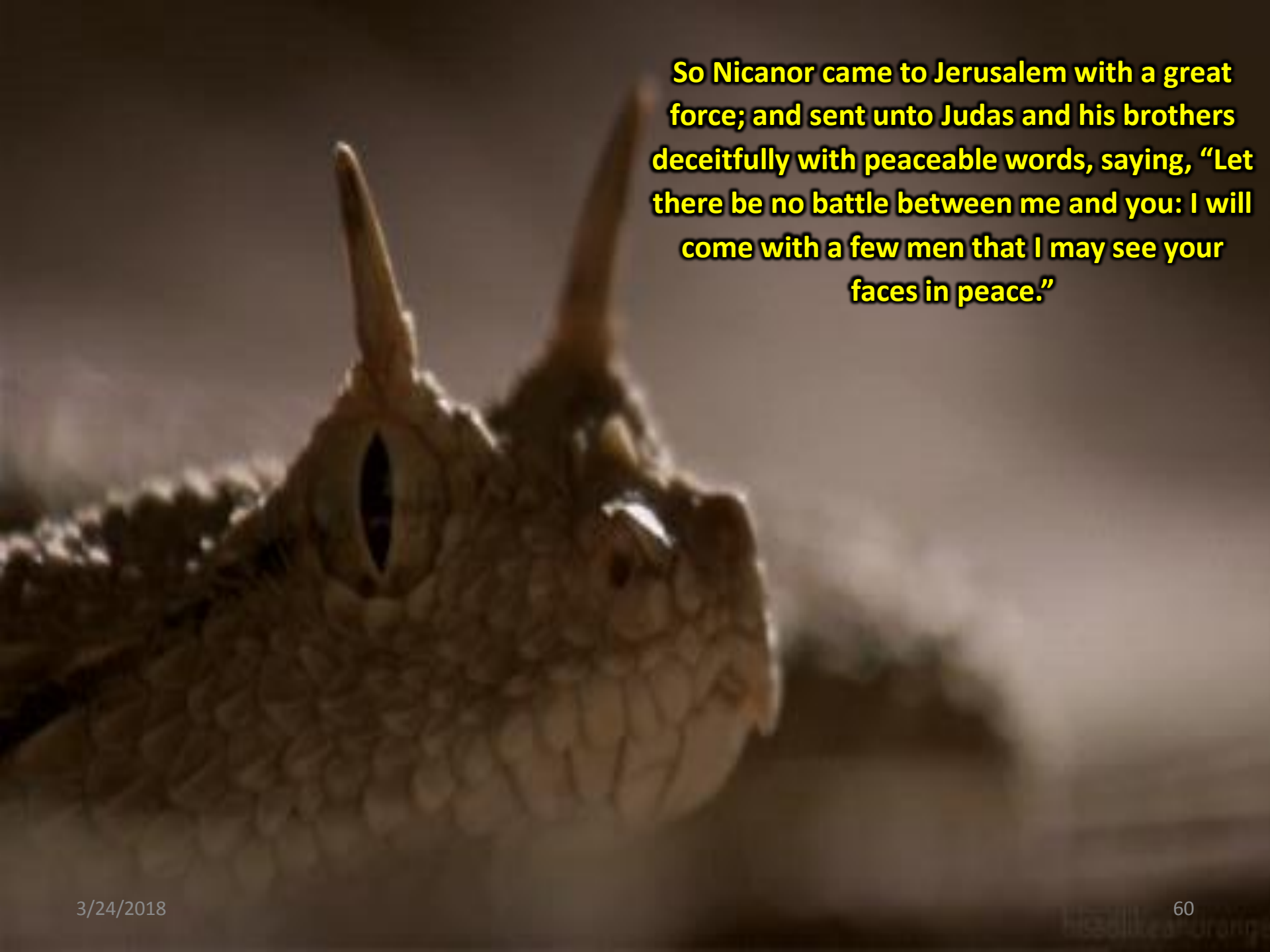
But when Alcimus saw that Judas and his company had grown strong, and knew that he was not able to withstand them, he went again to the king, and said all the evil of them that he could.



Then the king sent Nicanor (the king's most intimate and faithful friend who had escaped with him from Rome), one of his honorable princes, a man who bore deadly hate to Israel, with a commandment to destroy the people.



vengeance will be mine!

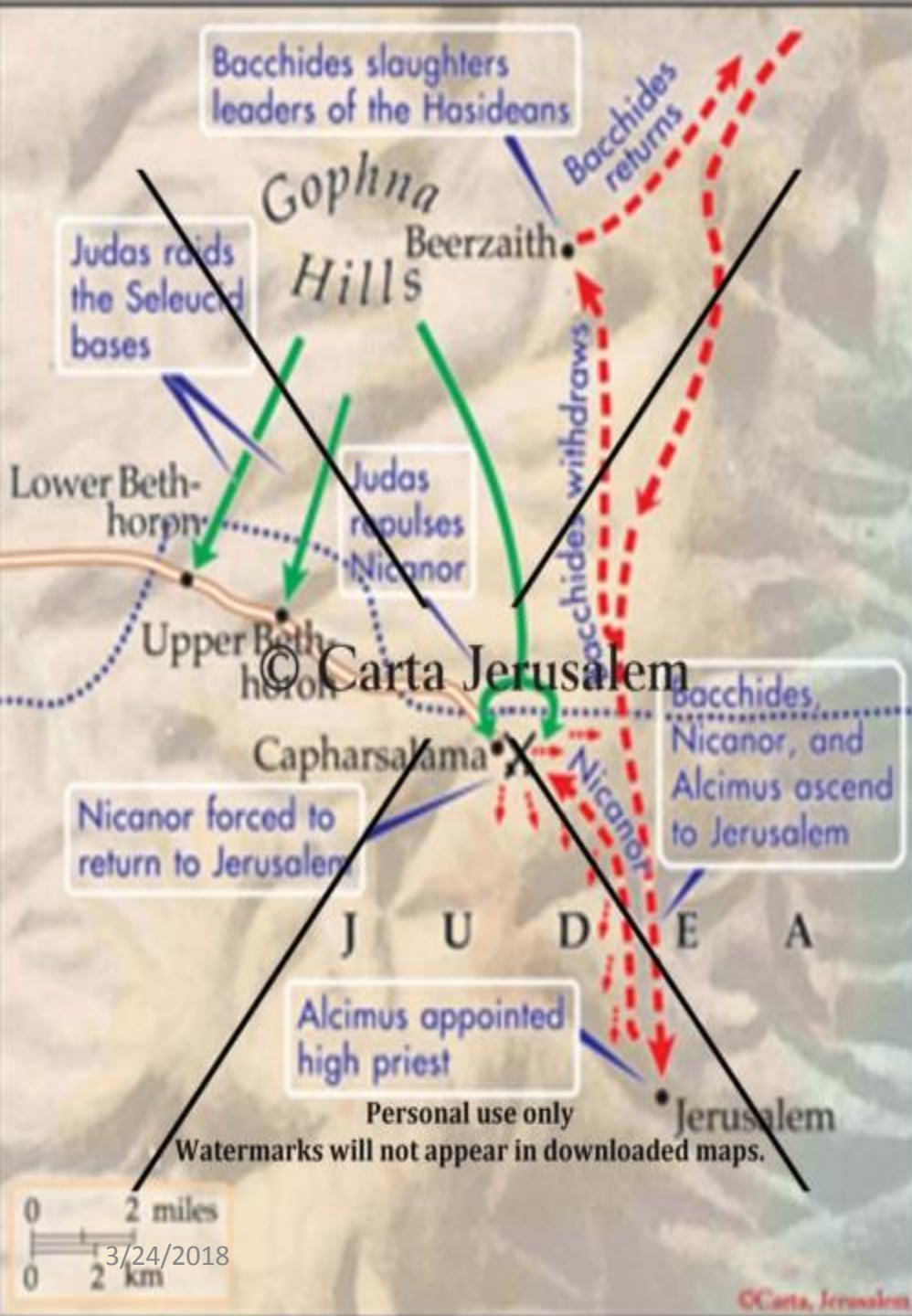
A close-up, low-angle shot of a dragon's head, showing its textured scales, a large eye, and two prominent horns. The dragon is looking towards the right of the frame. The background is a blurred, hazy landscape.

So Nicanor came to Jerusalem with a great force; and sent unto Judas and his brothers deceitfully with peaceable words, saying, "Let there be no battle between me and you: I will come with a few men that I may see your faces in peace."

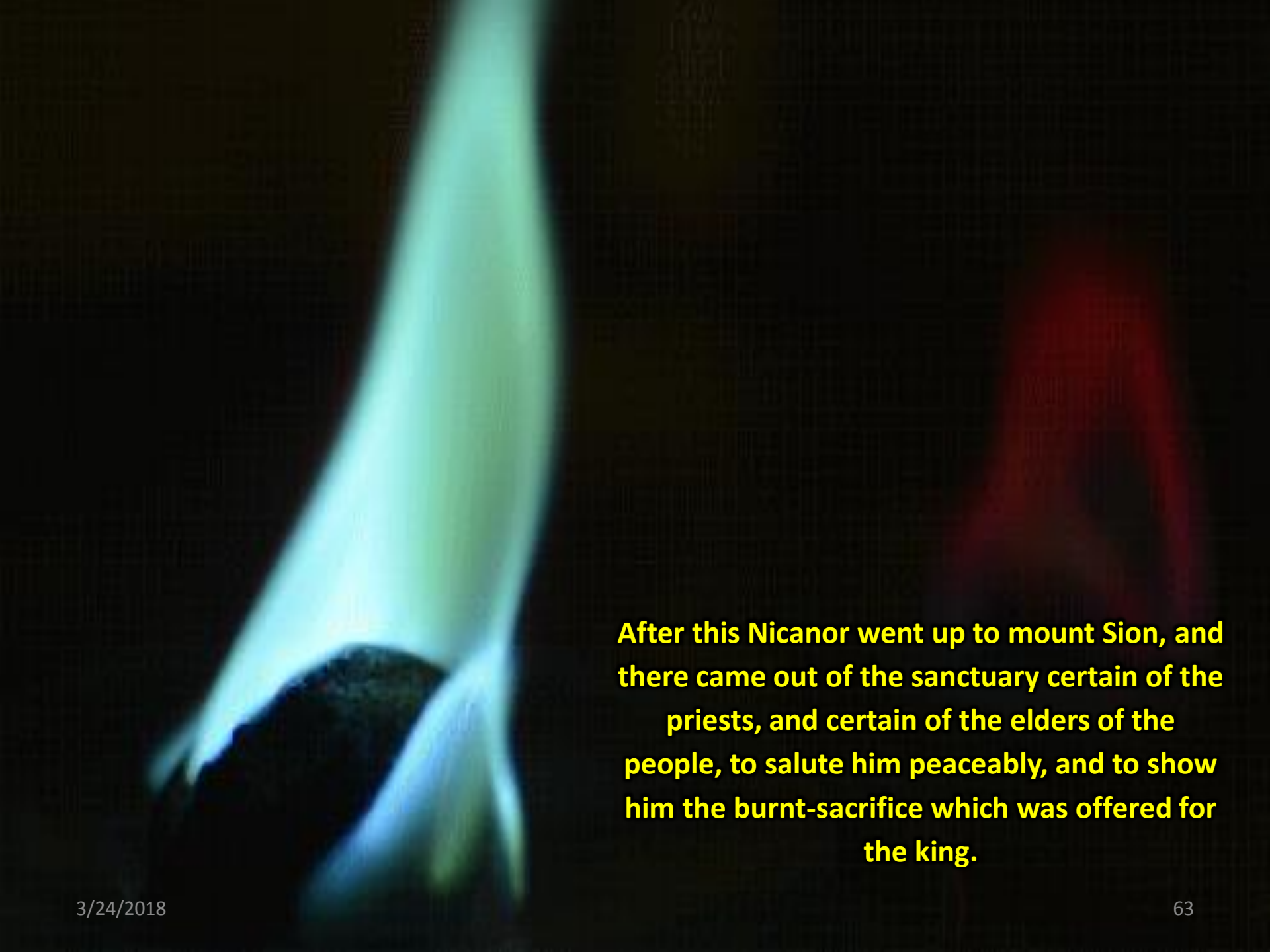
He came therefore to Judas, and they saluted one another peacefully. However, the enemies were prepared to take away Judas by violence.



Which thing, after it was known to Judas, that he came to him with deceit, he was very afraid of him, and would see his face no more.



Nicanor also, when he saw that his counsel (deceit) was discovered, went out to meet Judas in battle beside Capharsalama (a village in the neighborhood of Jerusalem): where there were slain of Nicanor's side about five thousand men, and the rest fled into the city of David.



After this Nicanor went up to mount Sion, and there came out of the sanctuary certain of the priests, and certain of the elders of the people, to salute him peaceably, and to show him the burnt-sacrifice which was offered for the king.

**But he mocked them, and laughed at them,
and abused them shamefully, and spoke
proudly: and swore in his wrath, saying,
“Unless Judas and his host are now delivered
into my hands, if ever I come again in peace, I
will burn up this house:” and with that he
went out in a great rage.**

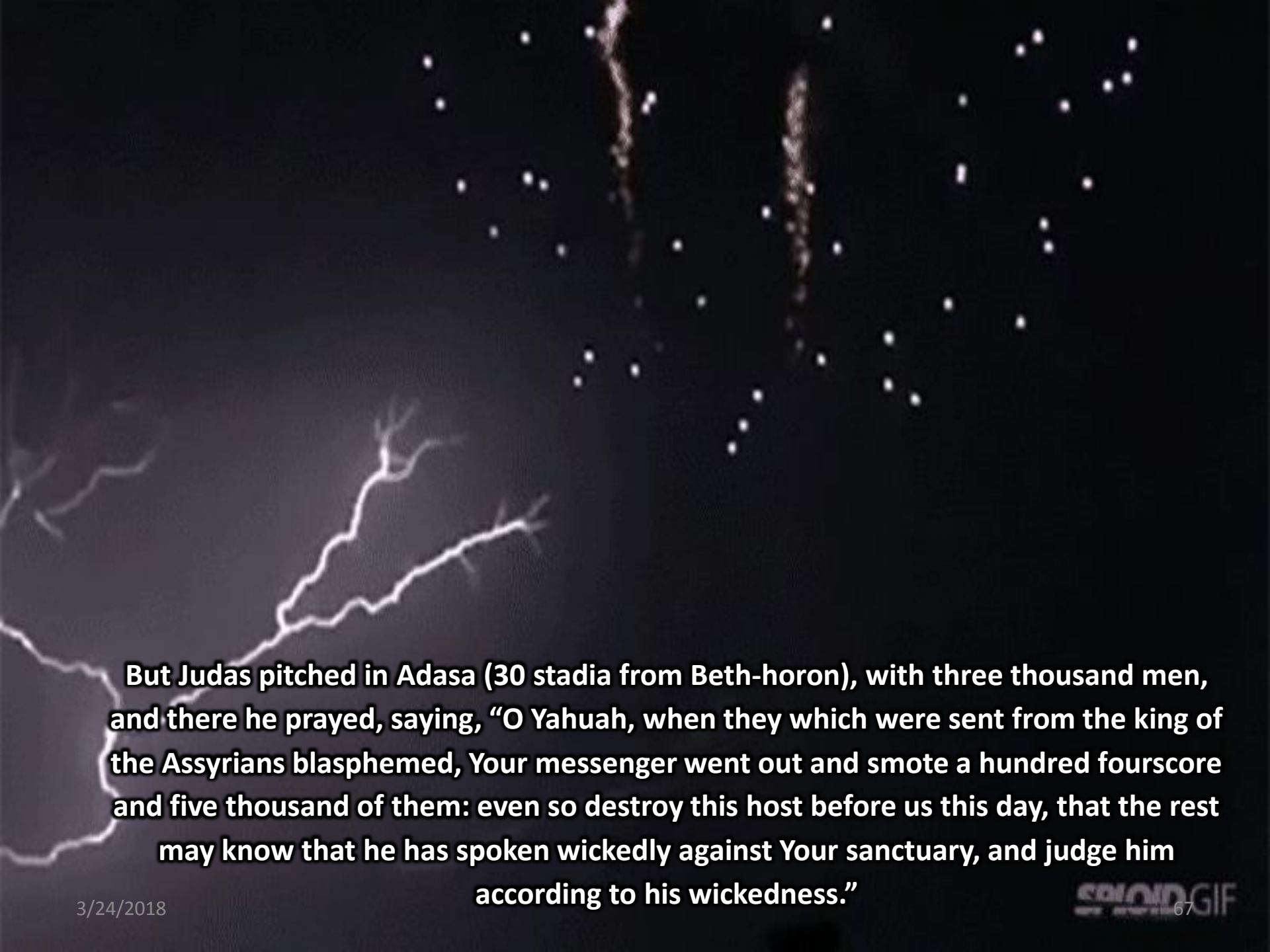




Then the priests entered in, and stood before the altar and the temple, weeping, and saying, “You, O Yahuah, did choose this house to be called by Your name, and to be a house of prayer and petition for Your people: be avenged on this man and his host, and let them fall by the sword: remember their blasphemies, and suffer them not to continue any longer.”

So Nicanor went out of Jerusalem, and pitched his tents in Beth-horon, where a host out of Syria met him.





But Judas pitched in Adasa (30 stadia from Beth-horon), with three thousand men, and there he prayed, saying, “O Yahuah, when they which were sent from the king of the Assyrians blasphemed, Your messenger went out and smote a hundred fourscore and five thousand of them: even so destroy this host before us this day, that the rest may know that he has spoken wickedly against Your sanctuary, and judge him according to his wickedness.”



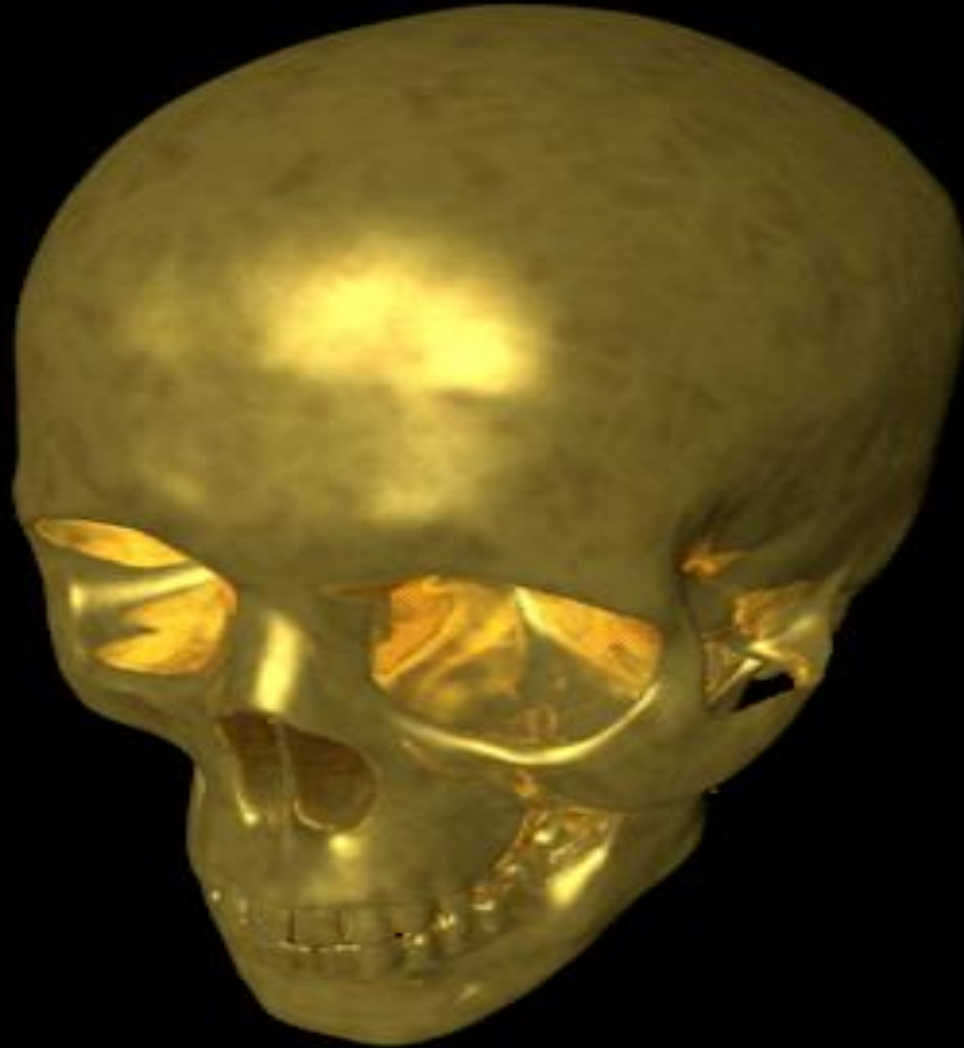
So the thirteenth day of the month Adari the host joined battle: and Nicanor's host was discomfited (very afraid, tremble, enough to run away), and he himself was first slain in the battle.



Now when Nicanor's host saw that he had been slain, they cast away their weapons, and fled. Then Judas and his men pursued after them a day's journey, from Adasa until they come to Gazera, sounding an alarm after them with their trumpets.

Whereupon, they came forth out of the towns of Judaea, round about, and outflanked them; so that they, turning back upon those who pursued them, were all slain with the sword, and not one of them was left.



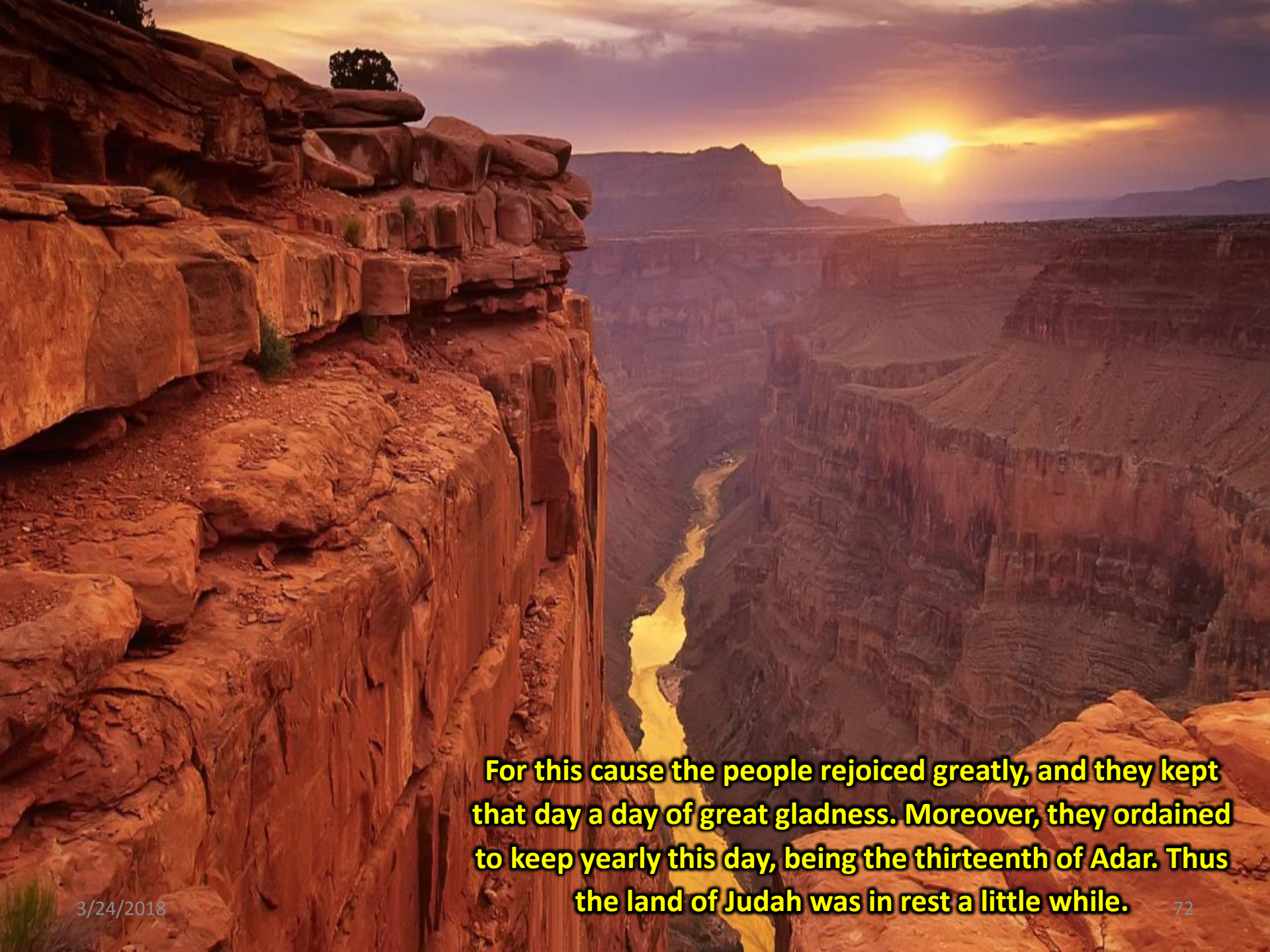


Afterwards Judas and his men took the spoils, and the prey, and smote off Nicanor's head, and his right hand, which he stretched out so proudly; and brought them away, and hanged them up towards Jerusalem.

3/24/2018

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PT-SI ICES



For this cause the people rejoiced greatly, and they kept that day a day of great gladness. Moreover, they ordained to keep yearly this day, being the thirteenth of Adar. Thus the land of Judah was in rest a little while.

**NEXT UP – PART 6 OF
THE 2ND BOOK OF
MACCABEES**



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