

# 2<sup>ND</sup> BOOK OF MACCABEES –PT 6

Judas – makes a league with the  
Romans?



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**Previously, in PT 5 – We learned that King Antiochus (who is Epiphanes) realized the error of his ways, went mad and died. Told Philip to be the king and take care of his son King Antiochus V Eupator. During that time there was a siege but the MACCs were successful; Lysias took Philip prisoner and killed him.**

**Then a new guy shows up, Demetrius who is related to Epiphanes who becomes king. There's a guy by the name of Alcimus who is in the line of Aaron, who wants to be a priest, but he's evil. The king uses him and a bunch of other friends to try and kill the Hebrews, through deception; pretending to be peaceable, they weren't, so in the end they get their clocks cleaned – MACCs win again.**



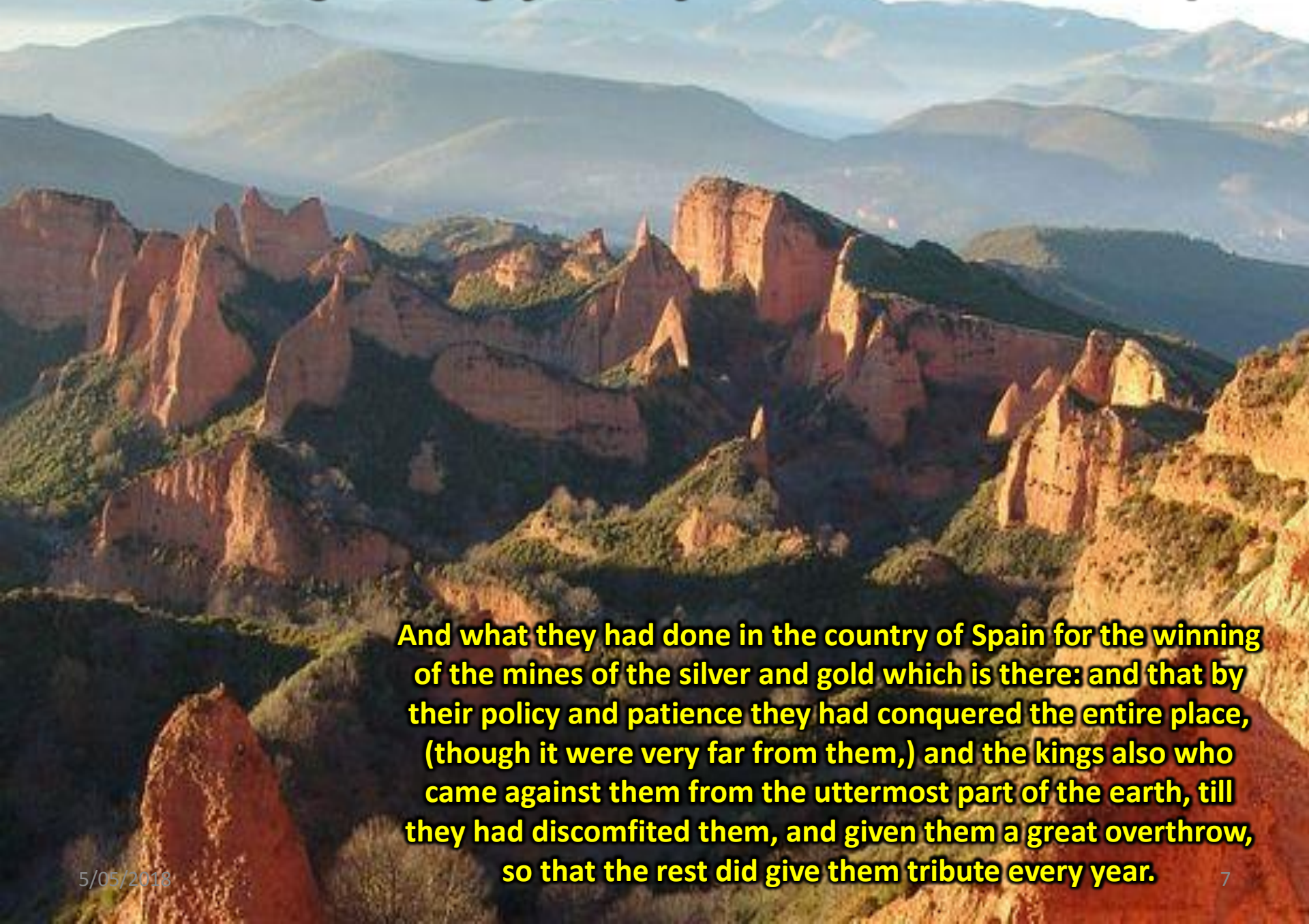


Now Judas had heard of the fame of the Romans; that they were mighty in power, and such as would lovingly accept all who joined themselves unto them, and make a league of amity with all who came unto them; and that they were men of great valour.



**It was told to him of their wars and noble acts which they had done among the Galatians (the Gauls of Asia who became allies of Antiochus the Great, incurring the wrath of the Romans defeated them twice), and how they had conquered them, and brought them under tribute.**

## Extensive Roman gold mining hydraulic system discovered in northwest Spain



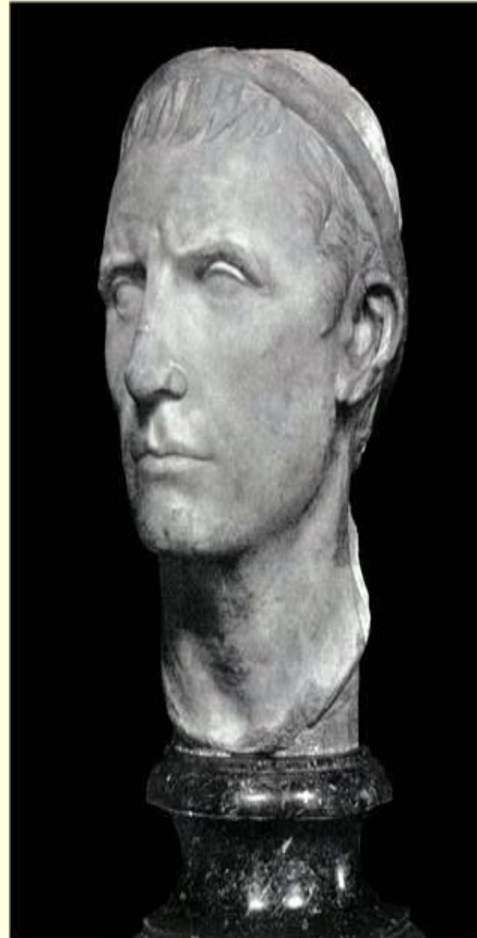
**And what they had done in the country of Spain for the winning of the mines of the silver and gold which is there: and that by their policy and patience they had conquered the entire place, (though it were very far from them,) and the kings also who came against them from the uttermost part of the earth, till they had discomfited them, and given them a great overthrow, so that the rest did give them tribute every year.**

**Besides this, how they (Romans) had discomfited in battle Philip, and Perseus king of the Citims (Macedonians; Philip was defeated in the first and Perseus in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Macedonic war; by subjugation and end was put to the Macedonian empire), with others who lifted up themselves against them, and had overcome them.**

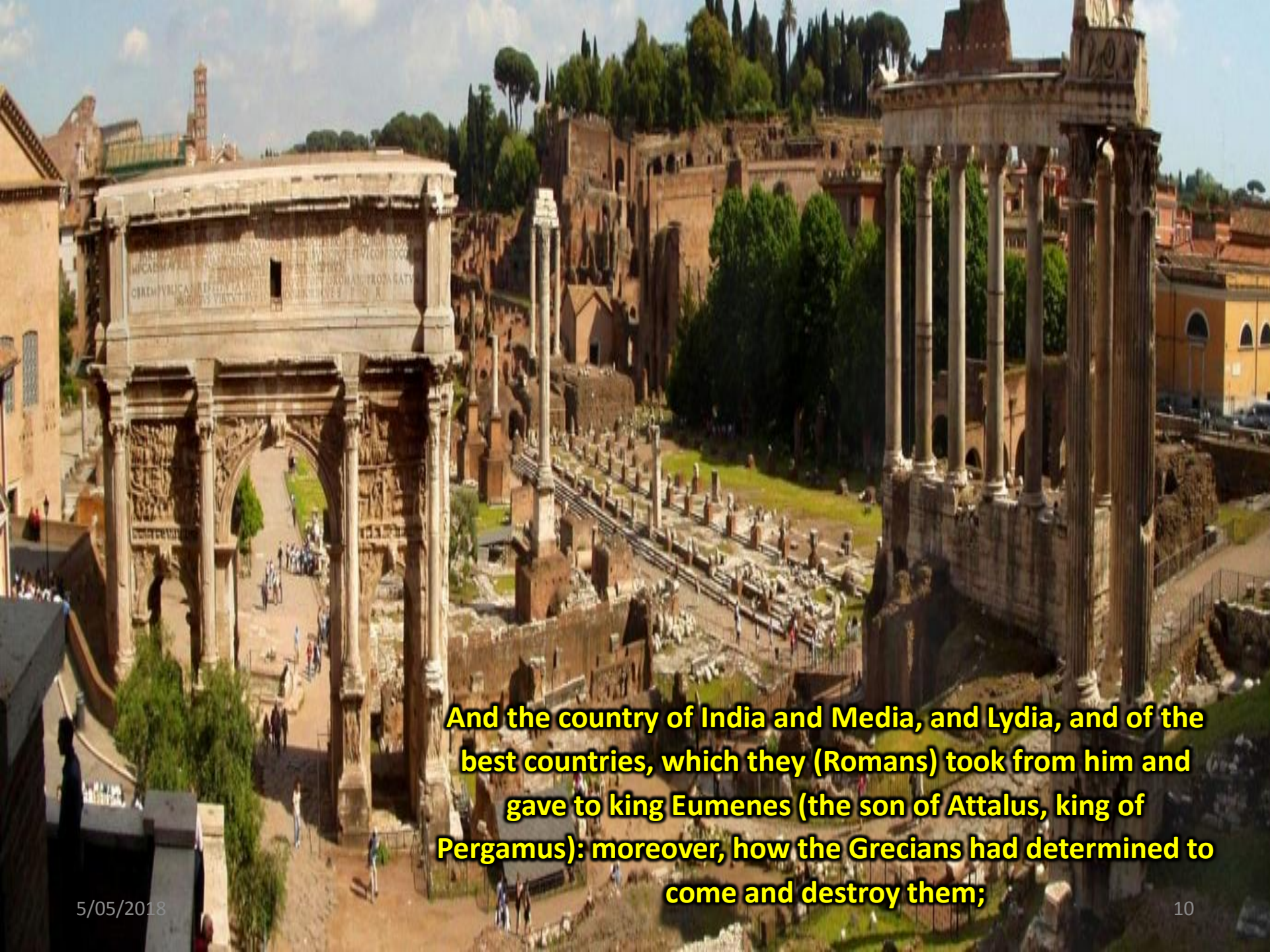




# Antiochus III the Great



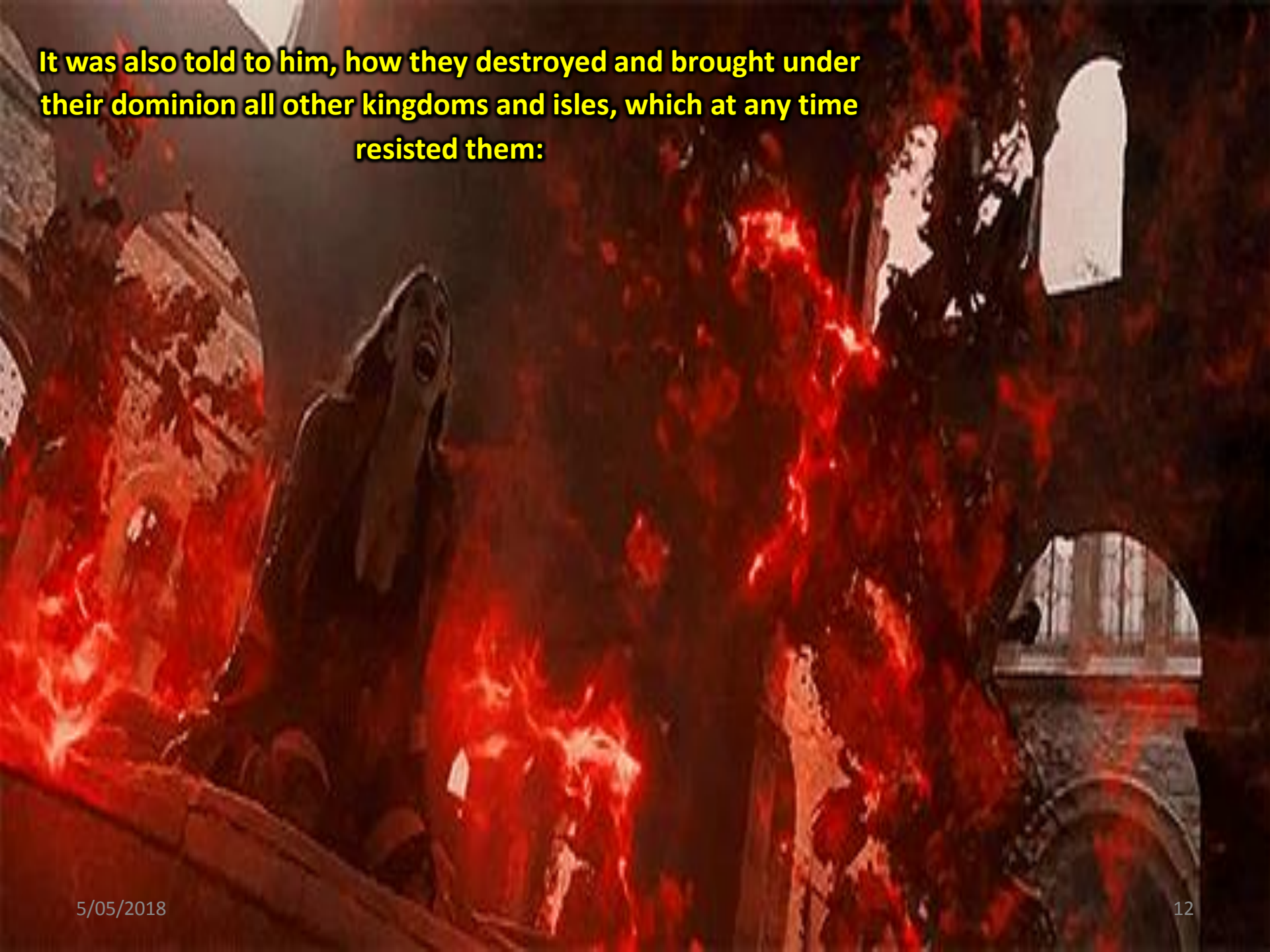
How also Antiochus the great king of Asia, who came against them in battle, having an hundred and twenty elephants, with horsemen and chariots, and a very great army, was discomfited by them; and how they took him alive, and covenanted that he, and such as reigned after him, should pay a great tribute, and give hostages, and an appointed sum (division of his territory).

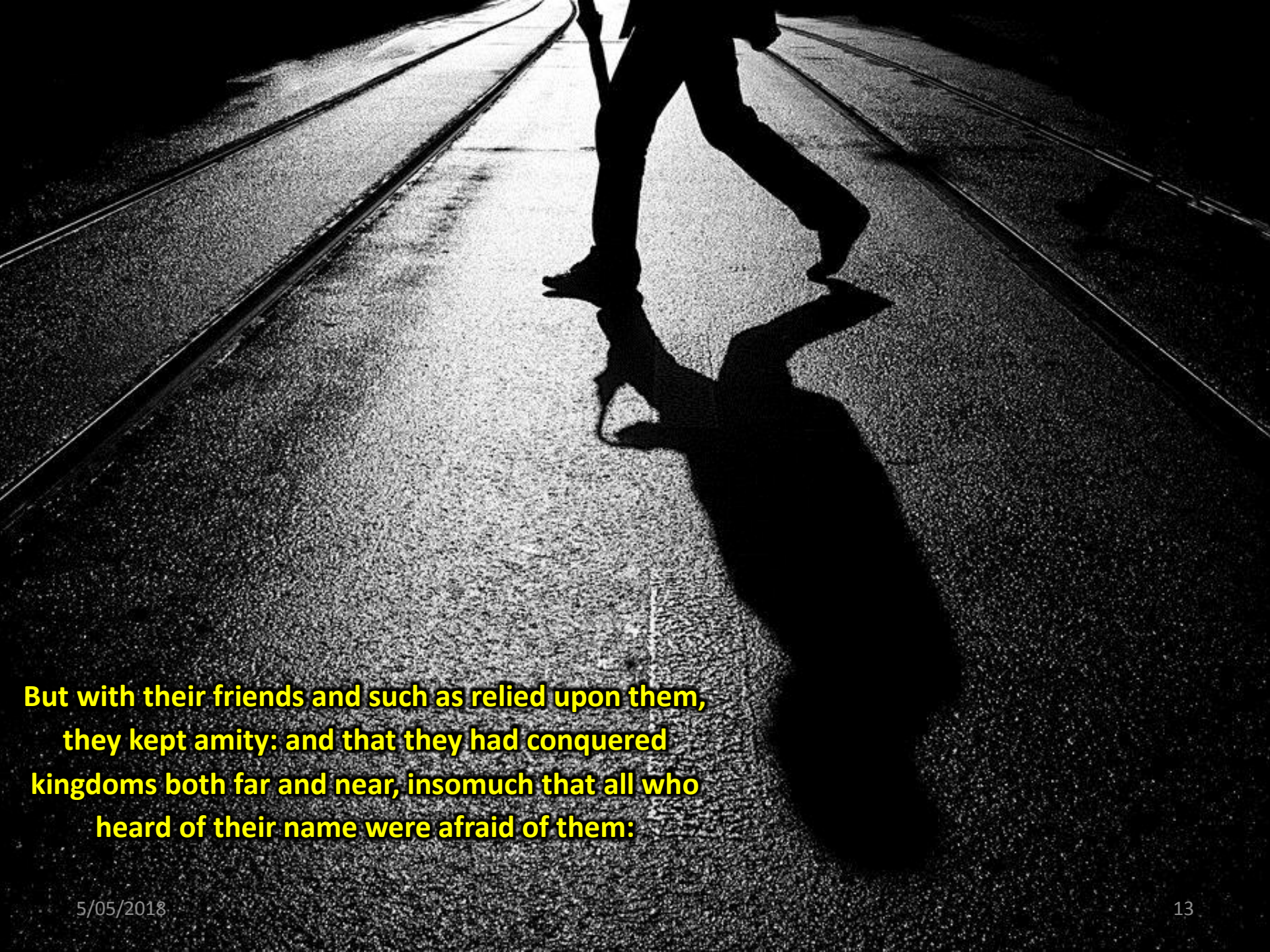


**And the country of India and Media, and Lydia, and of the best countries, which they (Romans) took from him and gave to king Eumenes (the son of Attalus, king of Pergamus): moreover, how the Grecians had determined to come and destroy them;**

**And that they, having knowledge of that, sent against them a certain captain, and fighting with them slew many of them, and carried away captives their wives and their children, and spoiled them, and took possession of their lands, and pulled down their strong holds, and brought them to be their servants unto this day.**

**It was also told to him, how they destroyed and brought under their dominion all other kingdoms and isles, which at any time resisted them:**





**But with their friends and such as relied upon them,  
they kept amity: and that they had conquered  
kingdoms both far and near, insomuch that all who  
heard of their name were afraid of them:**

**Also, that those they chose to help, that they should reign;  
and those they did not choose to help, they displaced; and  
that they were greatly exalted: yet for all this, none of  
them wore a crown, or were clothed in purple to walk  
proudly in it:**



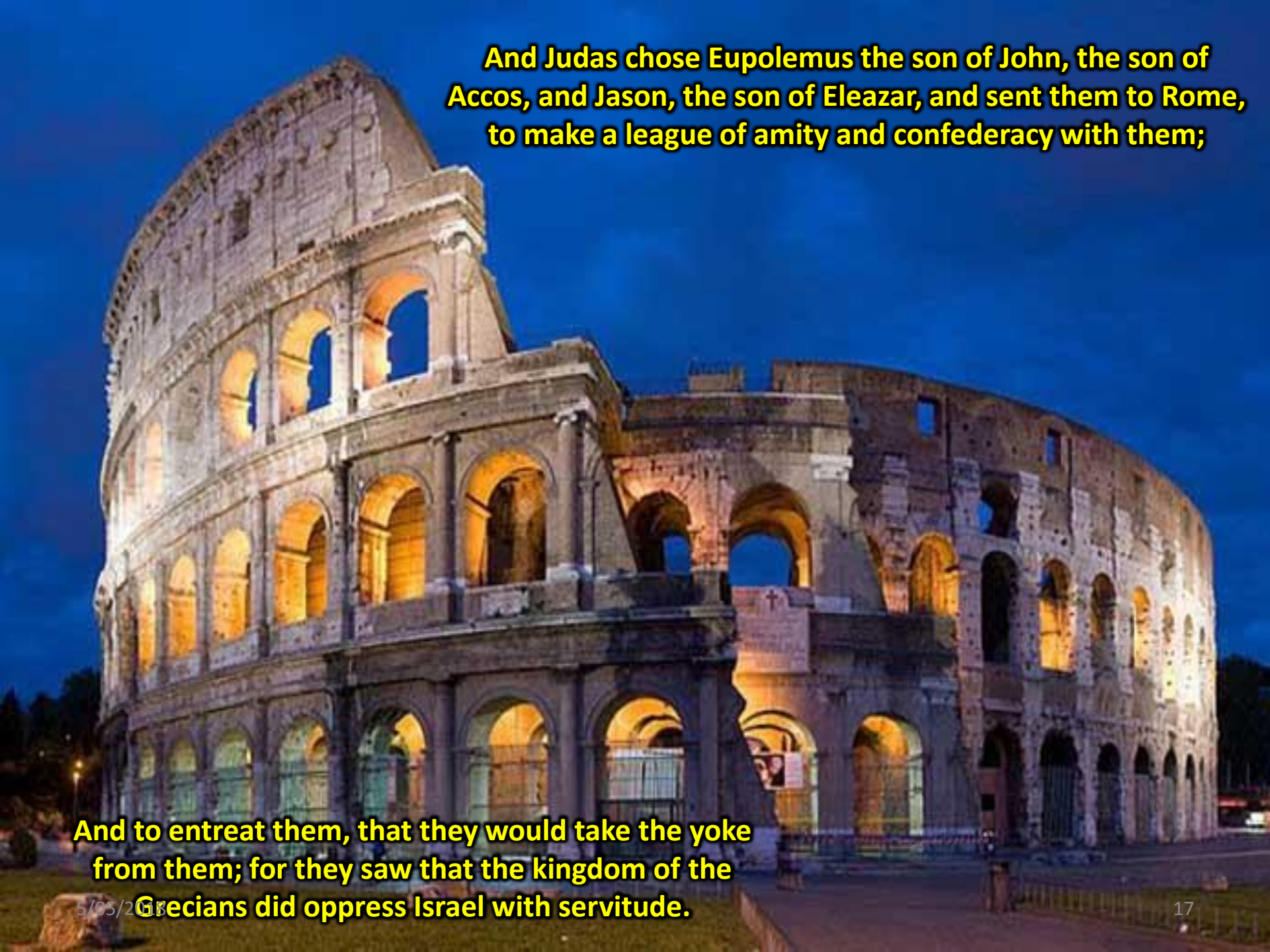
**Moreover, how they had made for themselves a senate-house, wherein three hundred and twenty men sat in council daily, consulting away for the people, to the end they might be well ordered:**



**And that they committed their government to one man every year, who ruled over all their country; and that all were obedient to that one and that there was neither envy nor emulation amongst them.**







**And Judas chose Eupolemus the son of John, the son of Accos, and Jason, the son of Eleazar, and sent them to Rome, to make a league of amity and confederacy with them;**

**And to entreat them, that they would take the yoke from them; for they saw that the kingdom of the Grecians did oppress Israel with servitude.**




Bible History Online

They went therefore to Rome, (which was a very great journey,) and came into the senate, where they spoke, and said, "Judas Maccabeus and his brothers and the people of the Hebrews have sent us to you, to make a confederacy and peace with you, and that we might be registered your confederates and friends."

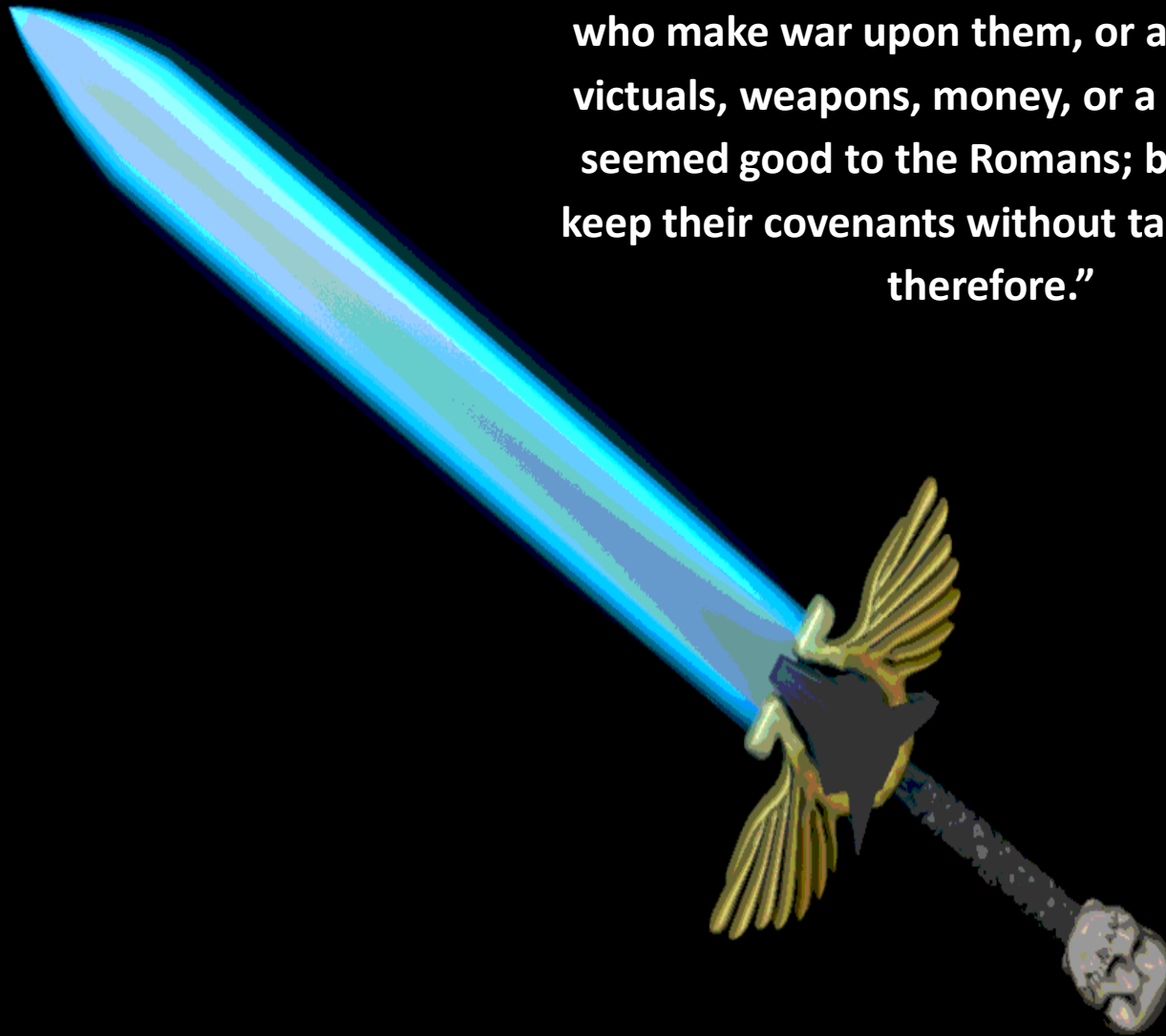
So that matter pleased the Romans well.

**And this is the copy of the epistle which the senate wrote back again, in tables of brass, and sent to Jerusalem, that there they might have by them a memorial of peace and confederacy: "Good success be to the Romans and to the people of the Hebrews, by sea and by land forever: the sword also and the enemy be far from them."**

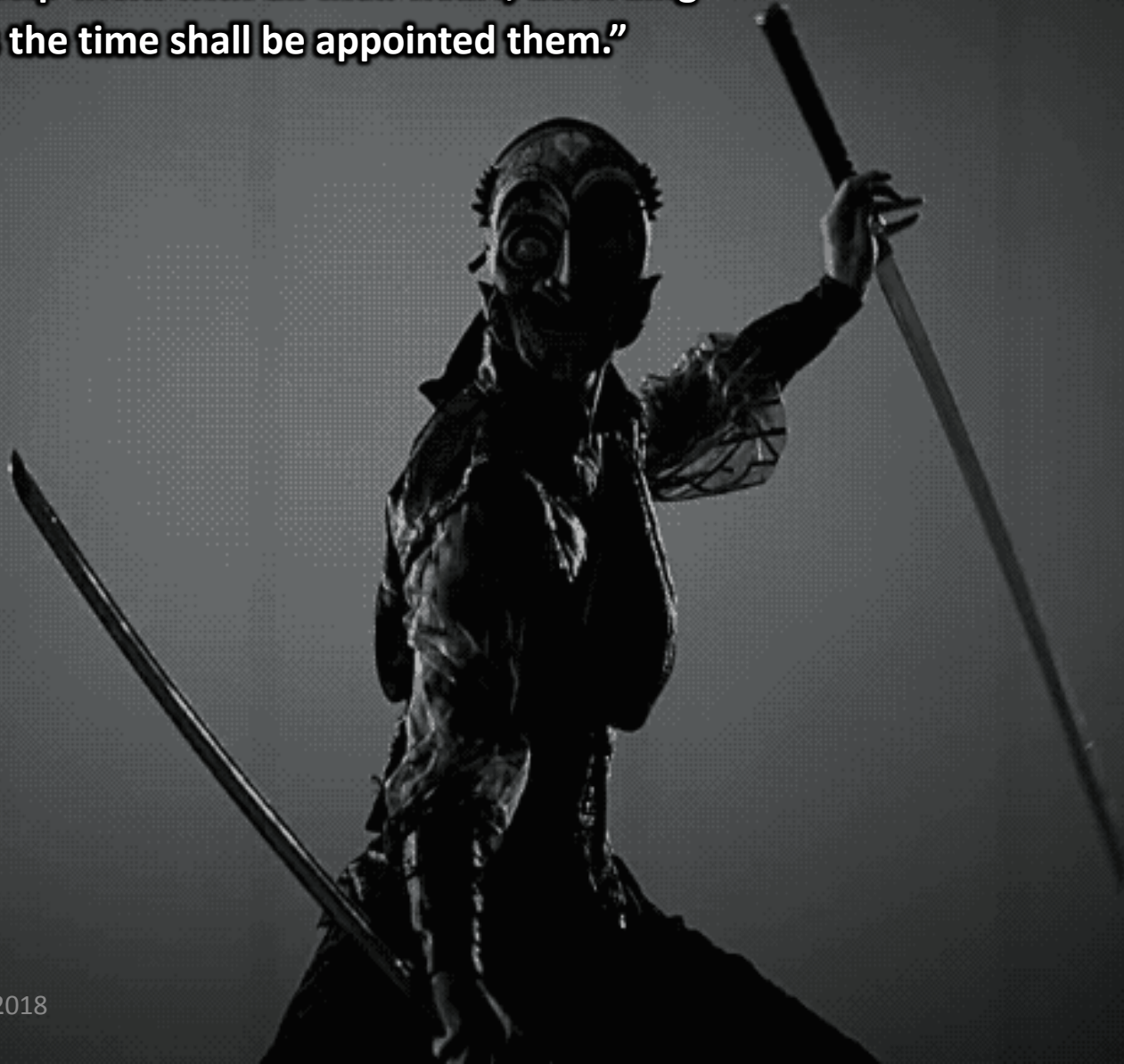


**If there come first any war upon the Romans  
or any of their confederates throughout all  
their dominion, the people of the Hebrews  
shall help them, as the time shall be  
appointed them, with all their heart.”**

**“Neither shall they give anything to those who make war upon them, or aid them with victuals, weapons, money, or a ship as it has seemed good to the Romans; but they shall keep their covenants without taking anything therefore.”**



**“In the same manner also if a war comes first upon the nation of the Hebrews, the Romans shall help them with all their heart, according as the time shall be appointed them.”**





**"Neither shall victuals be given to those who take part against them, or weapons, or money, or ships, as it has seemed good to the Romans: but they shall keep their covenants and that without deceit."**

**“According to these articles did the Romans  
make a covenant with the people of the  
Hebrews, however, if hereafter the one party  
or the other shall think to meet to add or  
diminish anything, they may do it at their  
pleasures; and whatsoever they shall add or  
take away, shall be ratified.”**





**“And as touching the evils which Demetrius does to the Hebrews, we have written unto him, saying; “Why have you made your yoke heavy upon our friends and confederates the Hebrews?”**



**"If therefore they complain any more against you, we will do them justice, and fight with you by sea and by land."**

## ANCIENT JERICHO & RUINS OF GILGAL



**Furthermore, when Demetrius heard that Nicanor and his host were slain in battle, he proceeded to send Bacchides and Alcimus into the land of Judah the second time, and with them the chief strength (bravest and most favorite) of his host: who went forth by the way which leads to Galgala (Gilgal or Galilee), and pitched their tents before Maseloth, which is in Arbela (Arbatta), and they won it, and slew many of the people.**

**Also in the first month of the hundred fifty and second year, they encamped before Jerusalem. From whence they moved and went to Bersea, with twenty thousand foot-men, and two thousand horse-men.**

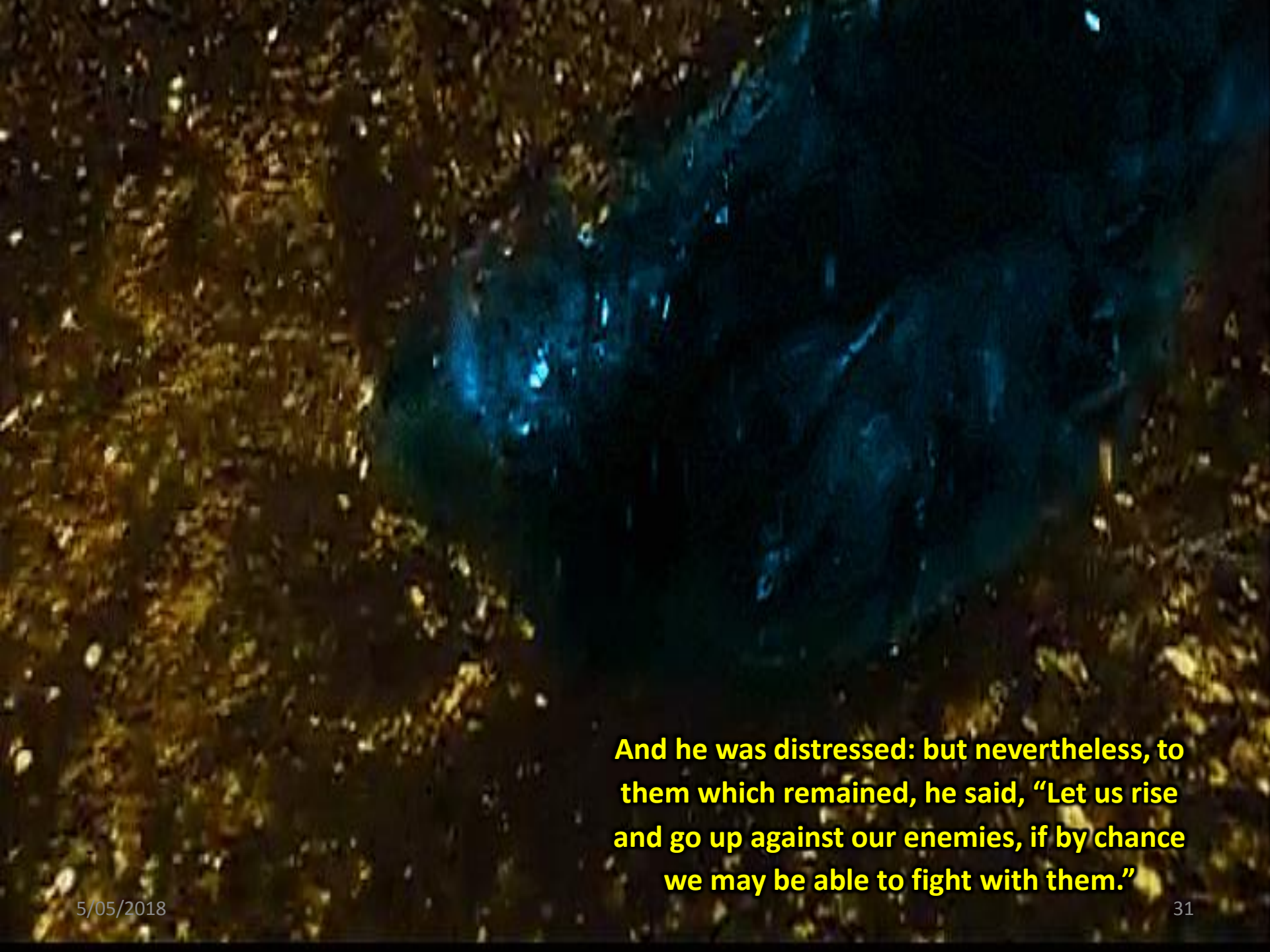




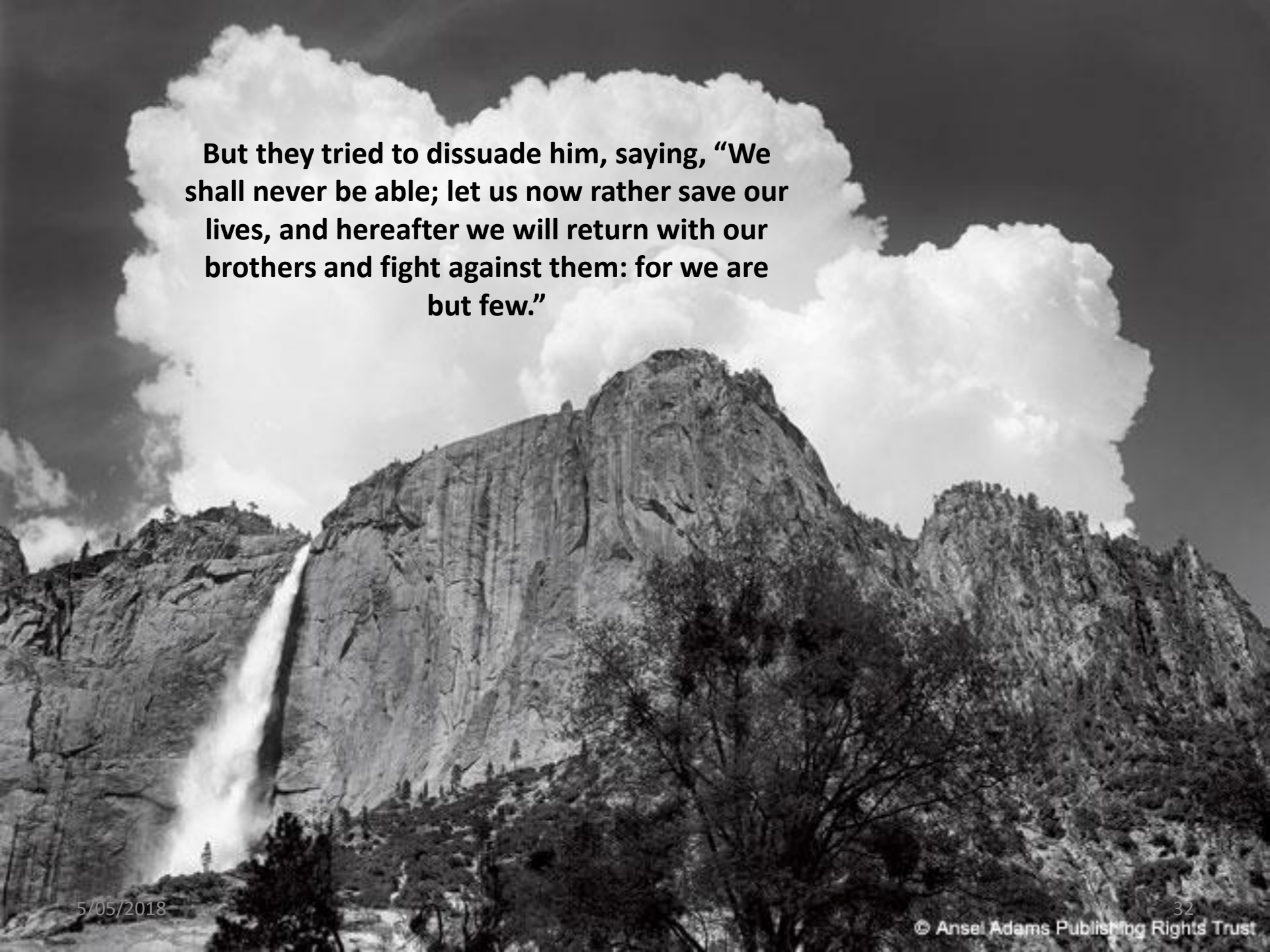
**Now Judas had pitched his tents at Eleasa, and three thousand chosen men with him: who seeing the multitude of the other army to be so great, were very afraid; whereupon many conveyed themselves out of the host, insomuch that there abode of them no more than eight hundred men.**

**When Judas therefore saw that his host had slipped away, and that the battle pressed upon him, he was very troubled in mind, for he had no time to gather them together**





**And he was distressed: but nevertheless, to them which remained, he said, "Let us rise and go up against our enemies, if by chance we may be able to fight with them."**



**But they tried to dissuade him, saying, “We shall never be able; let us now rather save our lives, and hereafter we will return with our brothers and fight against them: for we are but few.”**

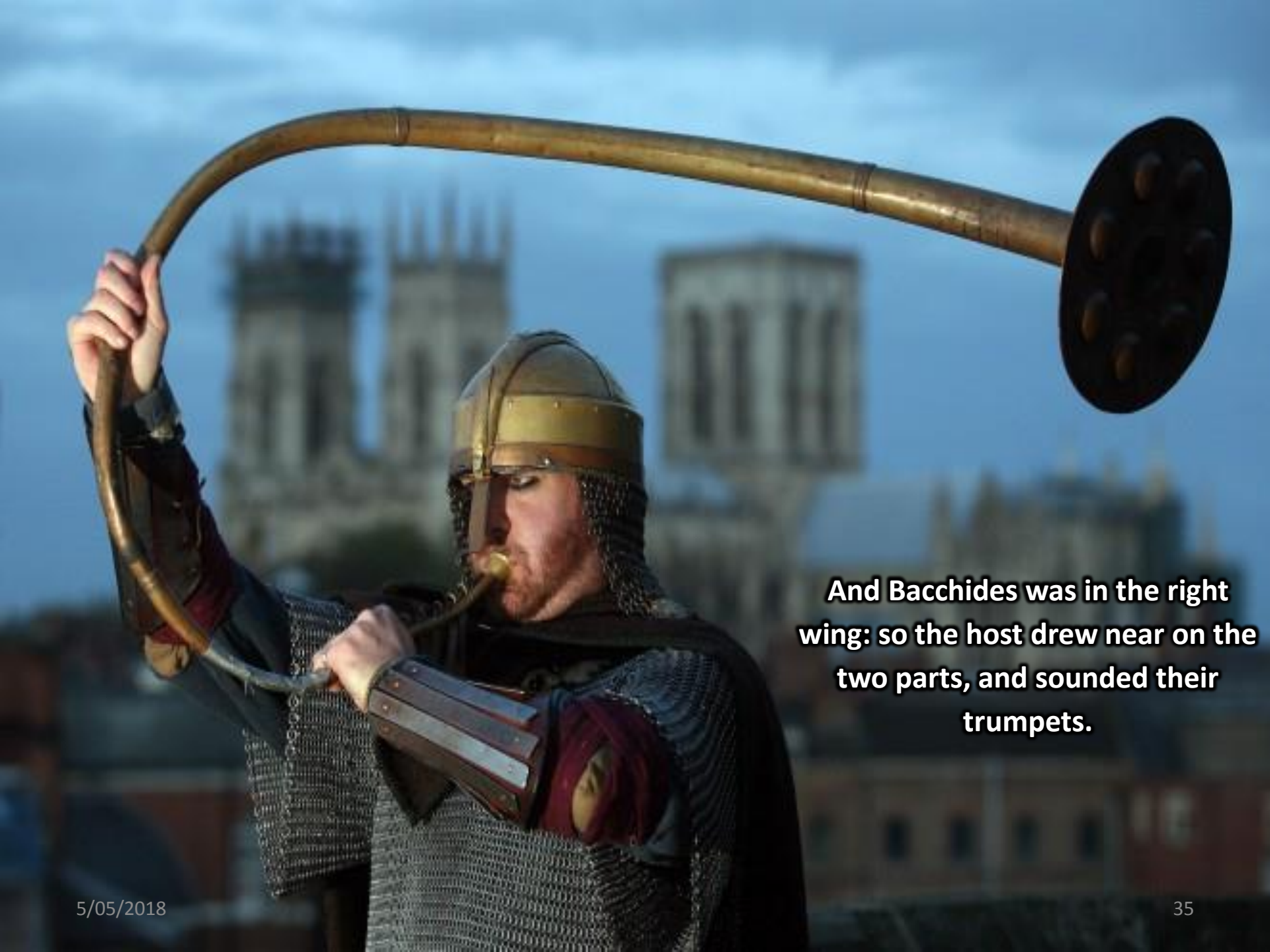


**Then Judas said, “YAH forbid, that I should do  
this thing, and flee away from them if our  
time be come, let us die manfully for our  
brothers, and let us not leave behind a stain  
upon our honor.”**

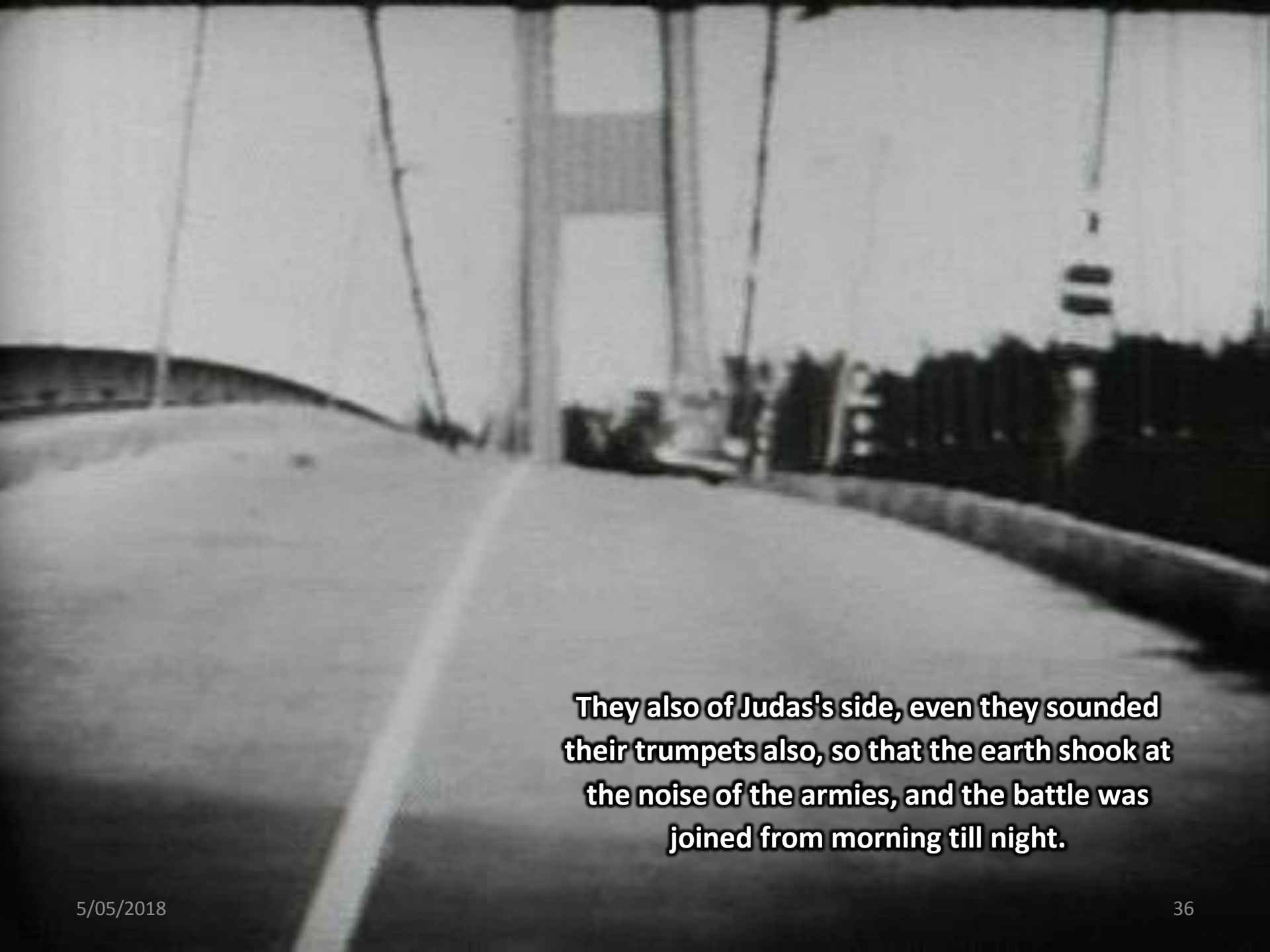





**With that the host of Bacchides moved out of their tents, and stood over against them, their horsemen being divided into two troops, and their slingers and archers going before the host, and they which marched in the forward were all mighty men.**



**And Bacchides was in the right wing: so the host drew near on the two parts, and sounded their trumpets.**

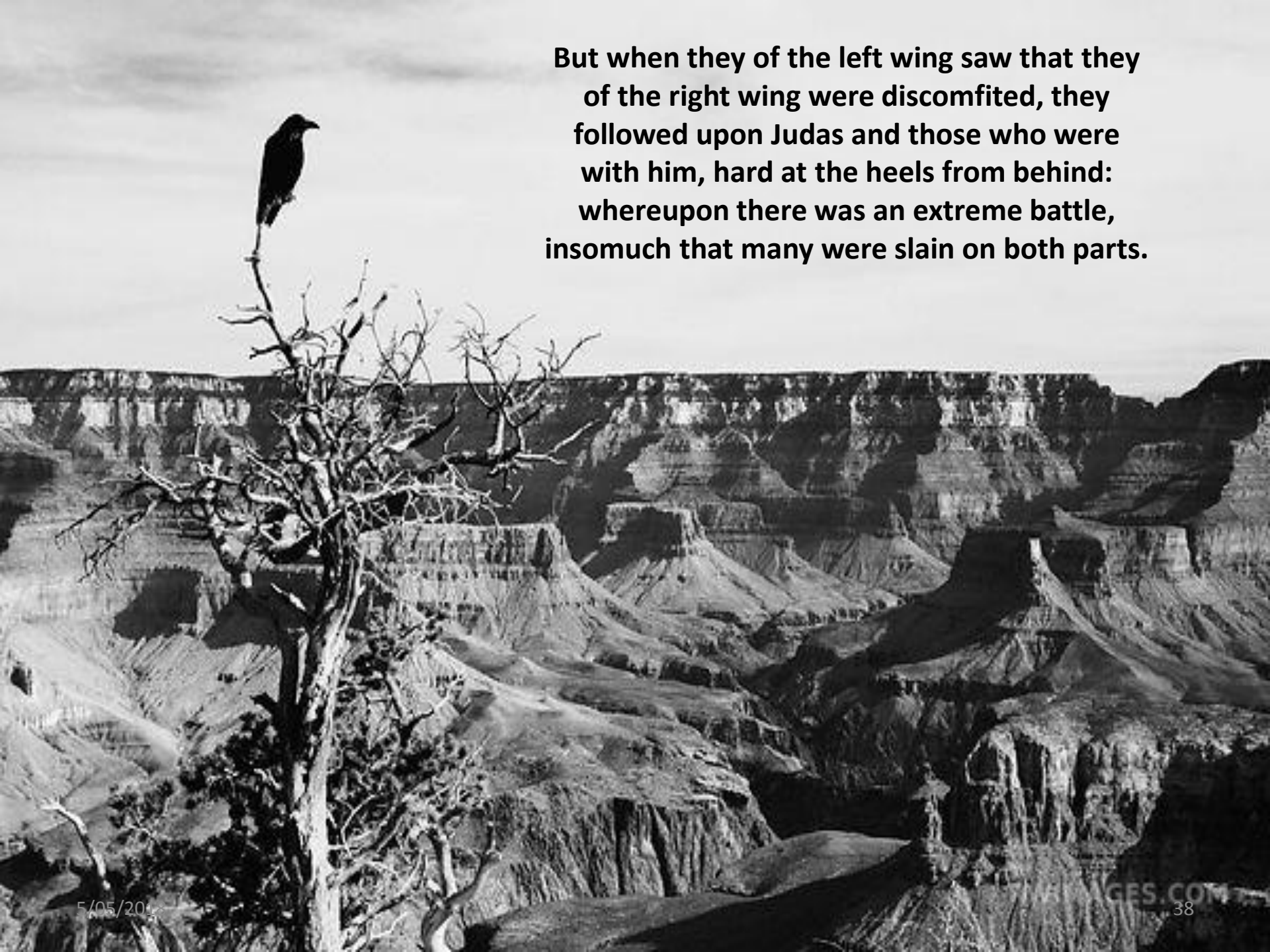
A black and white photograph of a bridge, likely the Golden Gate Bridge, with a large cross-shaped structure in the background. The bridge's cables and roadway are visible, leading towards the cross. The background shows a hazy sky and some dark silhouettes of trees or buildings.

**They also of Judas's side, even they sounded their trumpets also, so that the earth shook at the noise of the armies, and the battle was joined from morning till night.**

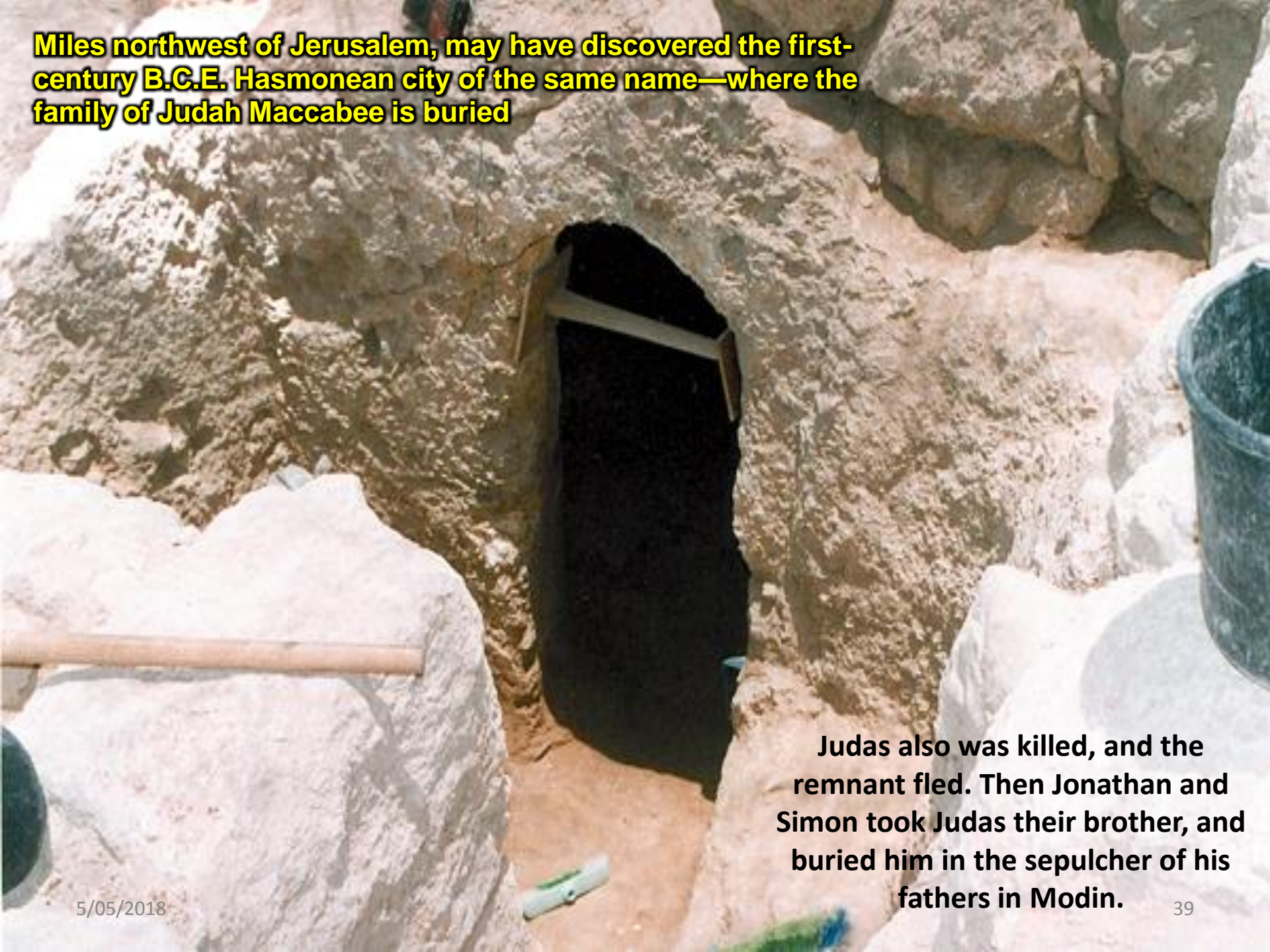


**And Judas perceived that Bacchides and the strength of his army were on the right-side; and all who were hardy in heart went with him: and the right wing was discomfited by them, and they pursued after them unto the mount Azotus.**

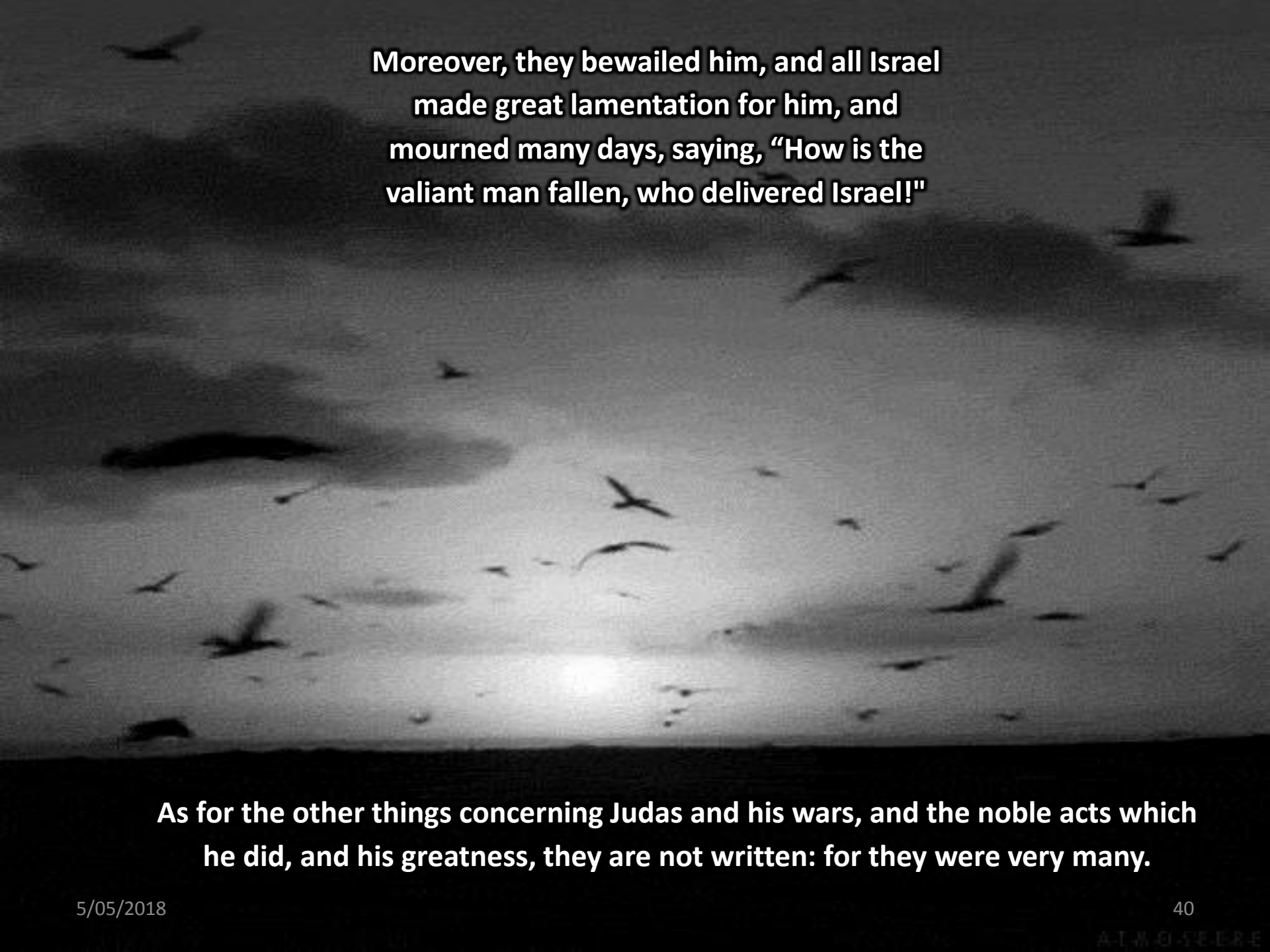
**But when they of the left wing saw that they of the right wing were discomfited, they followed upon Judas and those who were with him, hard at the heels from behind: whereupon there was an extreme battle, insomuch that many were slain on both parts.**



**Miles northwest of Jerusalem, may have discovered the first-century B.C.E. Hasmonean city of the same name—where the family of Judah Maccabee is buried**



**Judas also was killed, and the remnant fled. Then Jonathan and Simon took Judas their brother, and buried him in the sepulcher of his fathers in Modin.**



**Moreover, they bewailed him, and all Israel  
made great lamentation for him, and  
mourned many days, saying, "How is the  
valiant man fallen, who delivered Israel!"**

**As for the other things concerning Judas and his wars, and the noble acts which  
he did, and his greatness, they are not written: for they were very many.**





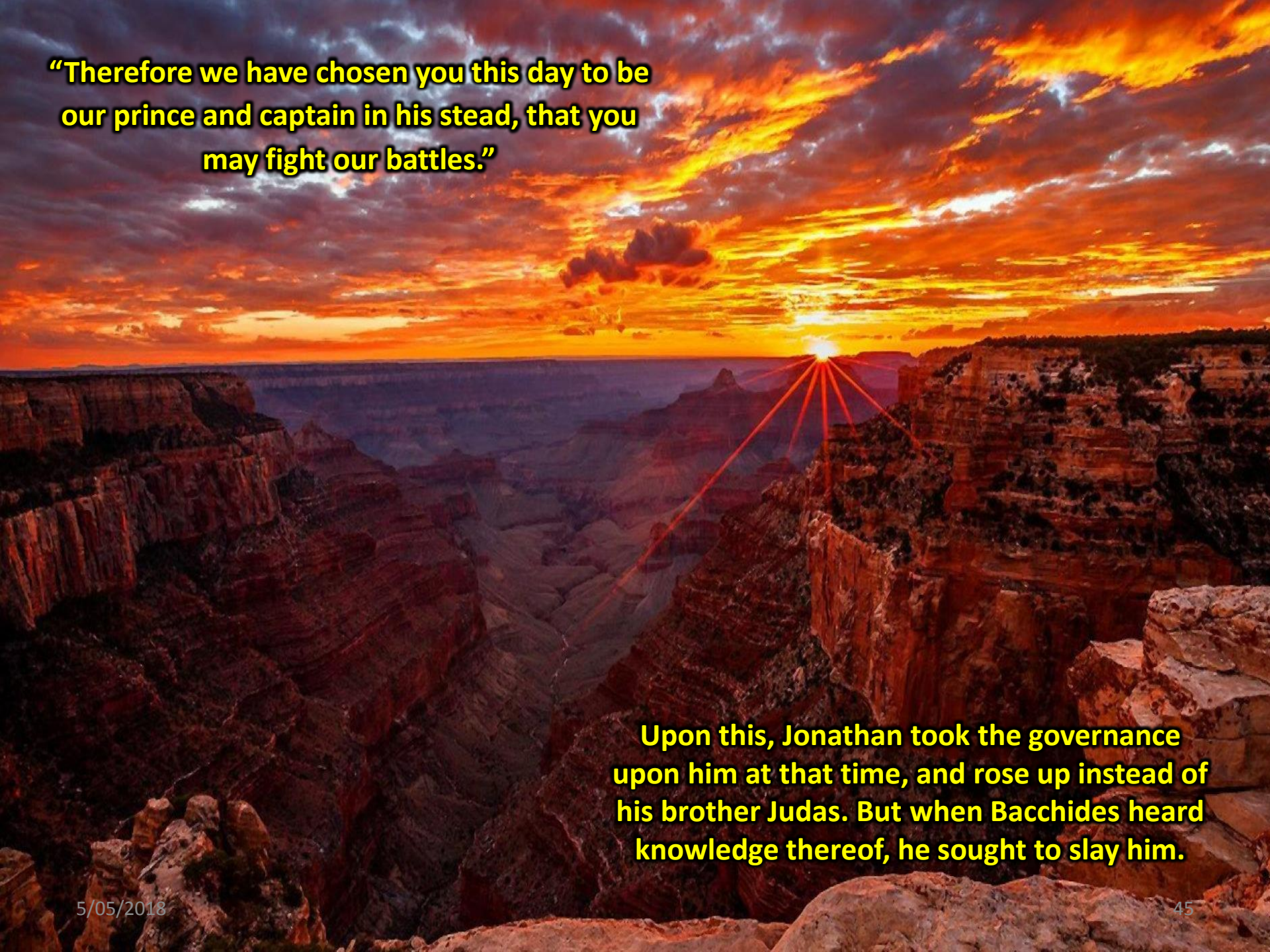
**Now after the death of Judas, the wicked began to lift up their heads in all the coasts of Israel, and there rose up all such as wrought iniquity.**

During the war of Antiochus against the Maccabees, the Greek general Bacchides drowned a great number of Jews in this pool.

**In those days also was there a very great famine, by reason whereof the country revolted, and went with them. Then Bacchides chose the wicked men, and made them lords of the country.**

**And they made inquiry and search for Judas's friends, and brought them to Bacchides, who took vengeance on them, and used them despitefully. So great was this affliction in Israel, the like which had not been seen since the time a prophet (since the death of Malachi about two hundred years before) was not seen among them.**

**For this cause all Judas's friends came together, and said unto Jonathan, "Since your brother Judas died, we have no man like him to go forth against our enemies and Bacchides, and against them of our nation, which are adversaries to us."**

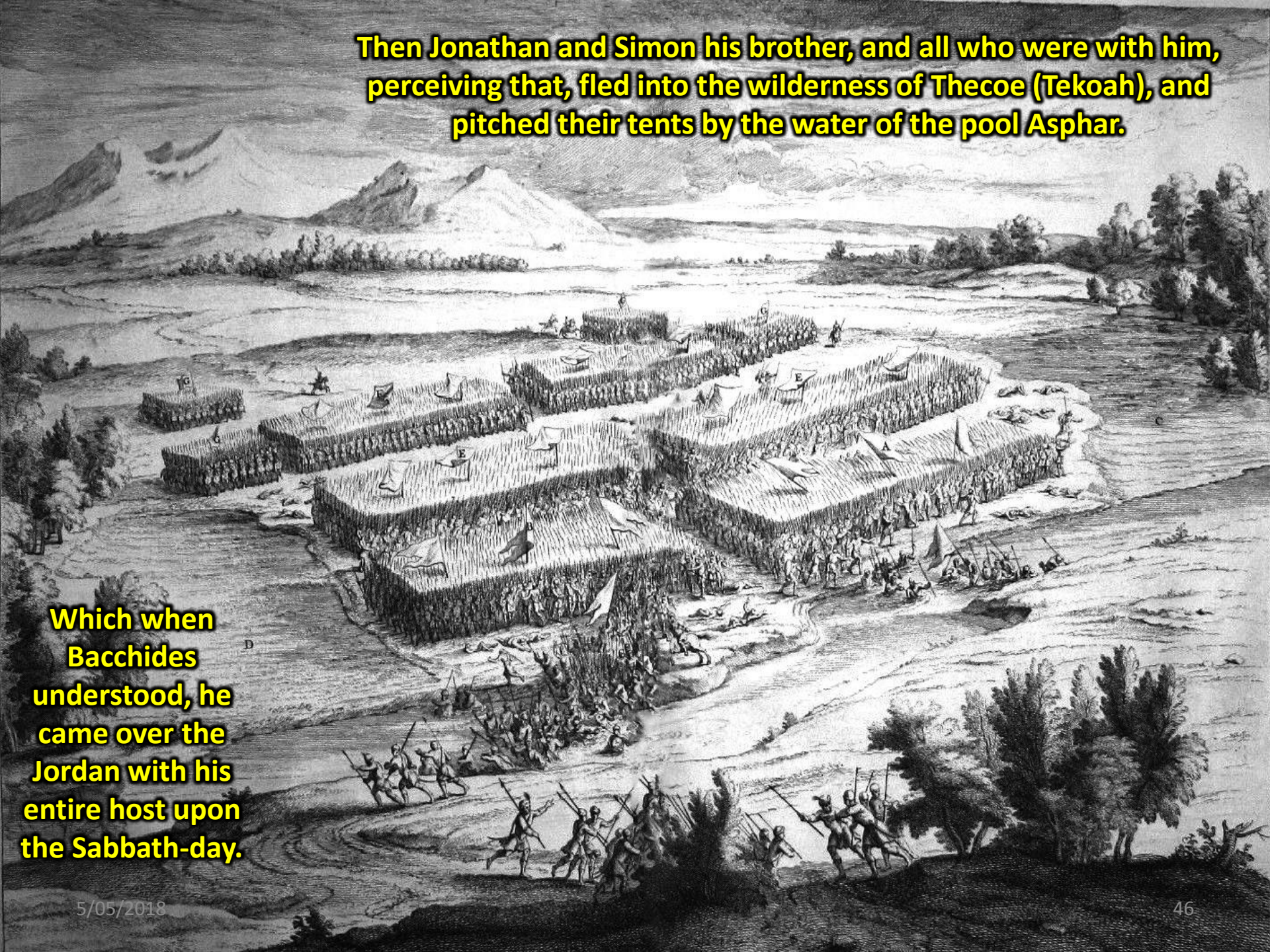


**“Therefore we have chosen you this day to be  
our prince and captain in his stead, that you  
may fight our battles.”**

**Upon this, Jonathan took the governance  
upon him at that time, and rose up instead of  
his brother Judas. But when Bacchides heard  
knowledge thereof, he sought to slay him.**

**Then Jonathan and Simon his brother, and all who were with him, perceiving that, fled into the wilderness of Thecoe (Tekoah), and pitched their tents by the water of the pool Asphar.**

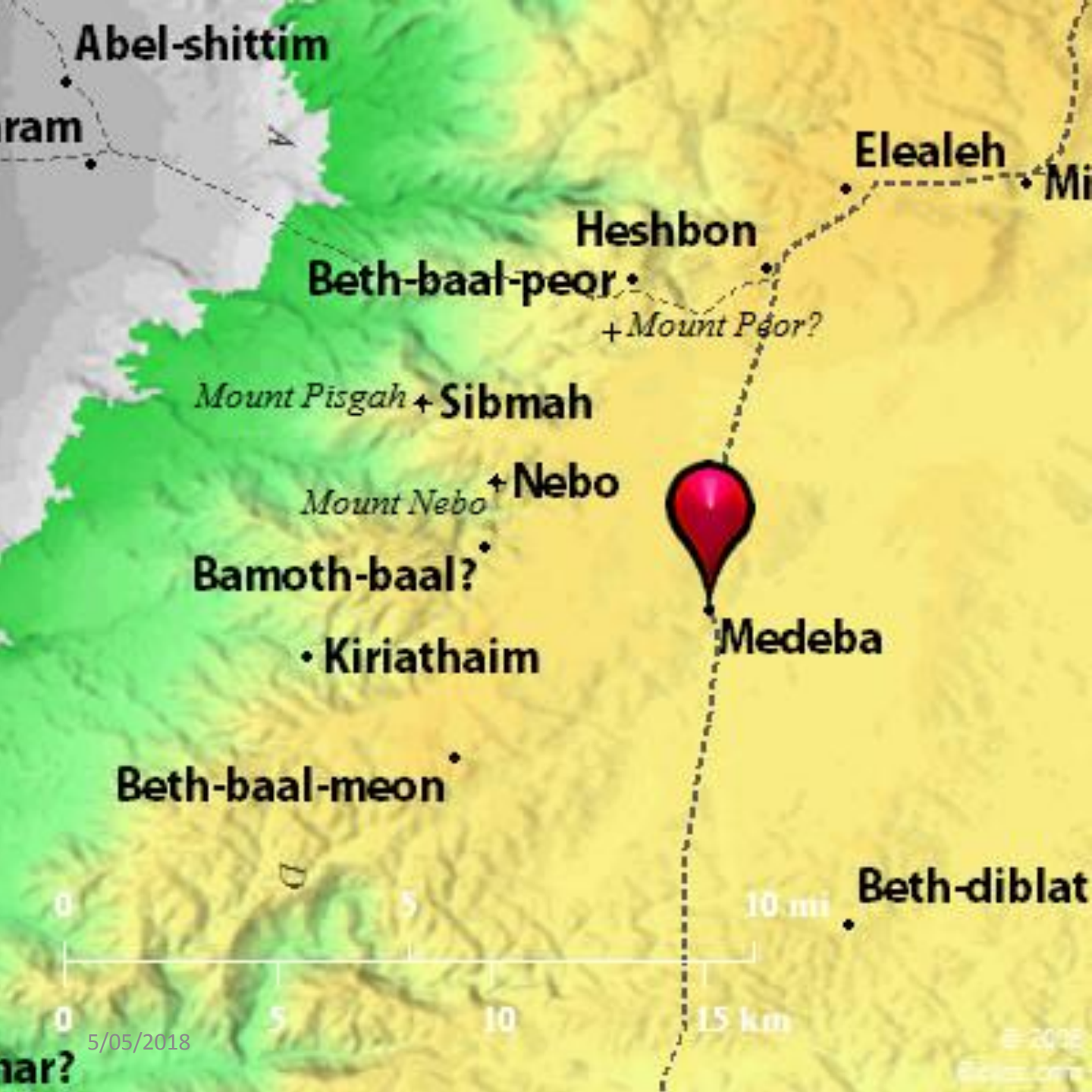
**Which when Bacchides understood, he came over the Jordan with his entire host upon the Sabbath-day.**





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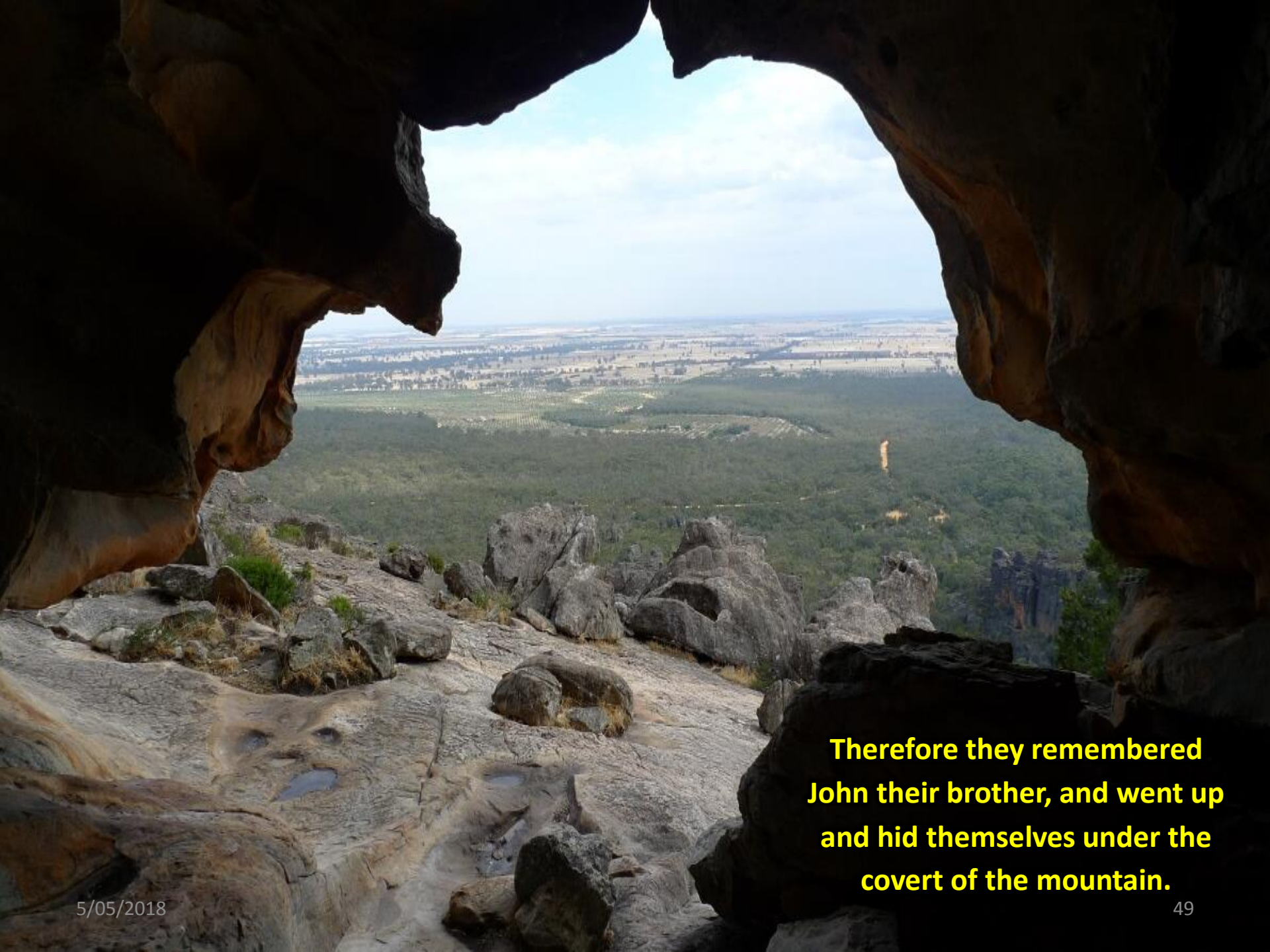
**Now Jonathan had sent his brother John, a captain of the people, to pray his friends the Nabathaeans, that they might leave with them their baggage, which was much.**



But the children of Jambri came out of Medaba, and took John (put him to death) and all which he had, and went their way with it.

After this came word to Jonathan and Simon his brother, that the children of Jambri were making a great marriage, and were bringing the bride from Nadabatha with a great train, as being the daughter of one of the great princes of Chanaan.<sup>48</sup>





**Therefore they remembered  
John their brother, and went up  
and hid themselves under the  
covert of the mountain.**



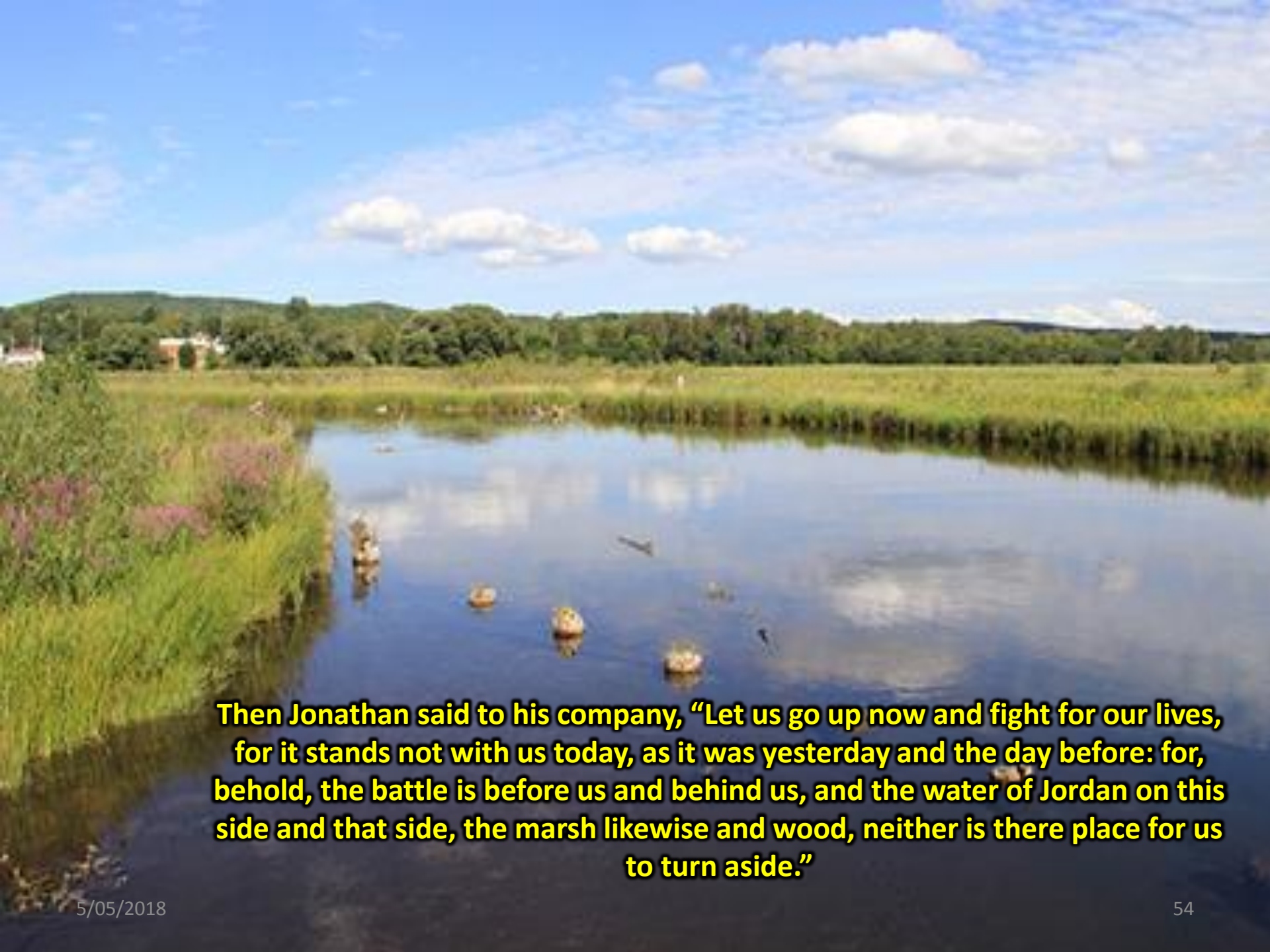
**Where they lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold, there was much ado, and great baggage: and the bridegroom came forth, and his friends and brethren, to meet them with drums and instruments of music, and many weapons.**



**Then Jonathan and those which were with him, rose up against them from the place where they lay in ambush, and made a slaughter of them in such sort, that many (Josephus says as many as 400) fell down dead, and the remnant fled into the mountain, and they took all their spoils.**

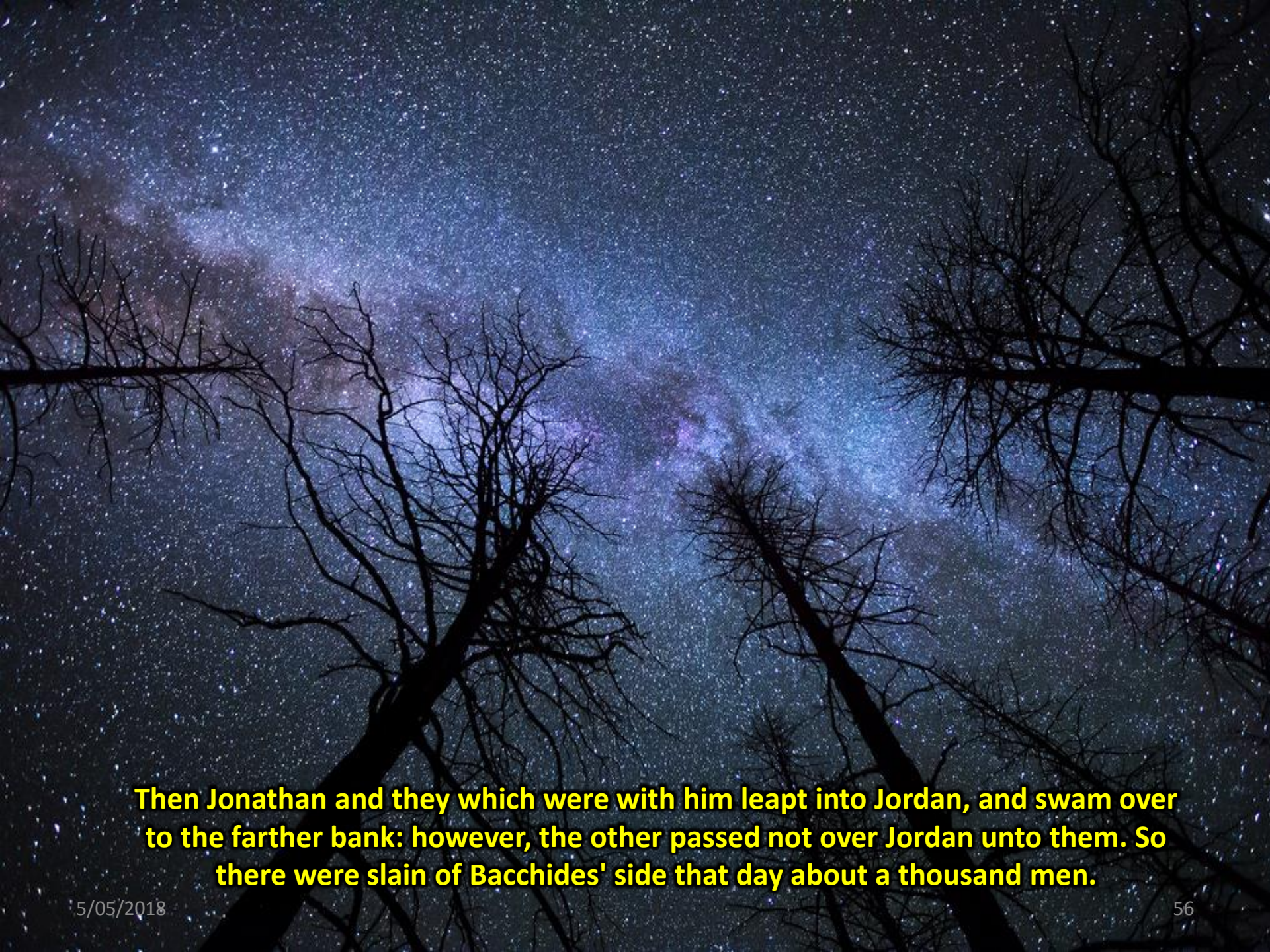
**Thus was the marriage turned into mourning, and the noise of their melody into lamentation. So when they had avenged fully the blood of their brother, they turned again to the marsh of Jordan.**

**Now when Bacchides heard about it, he came  
on the Sabbath-day to the banks of Jordan  
with a great power.**



**Then Jonathan said to his company, “Let us go up now and fight for our lives, for it stands not with us today, as it was yesterday and the day before: for, behold, the battle is before us and behind us, and the water of Jordan on this side and that side, the marsh likewise and wood, neither is there place for us to turn aside.”**

**“Wherefore cry you now unto heaven that you may be delivered from the hand of your enemies.” With that they joined battle; and Jonathan stretched forth his hand to smite Bacchides, but he turned back from him.**



**Then Jonathan and they which were with him leapt into Jordan, and swam over to the farther bank: however, the other passed not over Jordan unto them. So there were slain of Bacchides' side that day about a thousand men.**

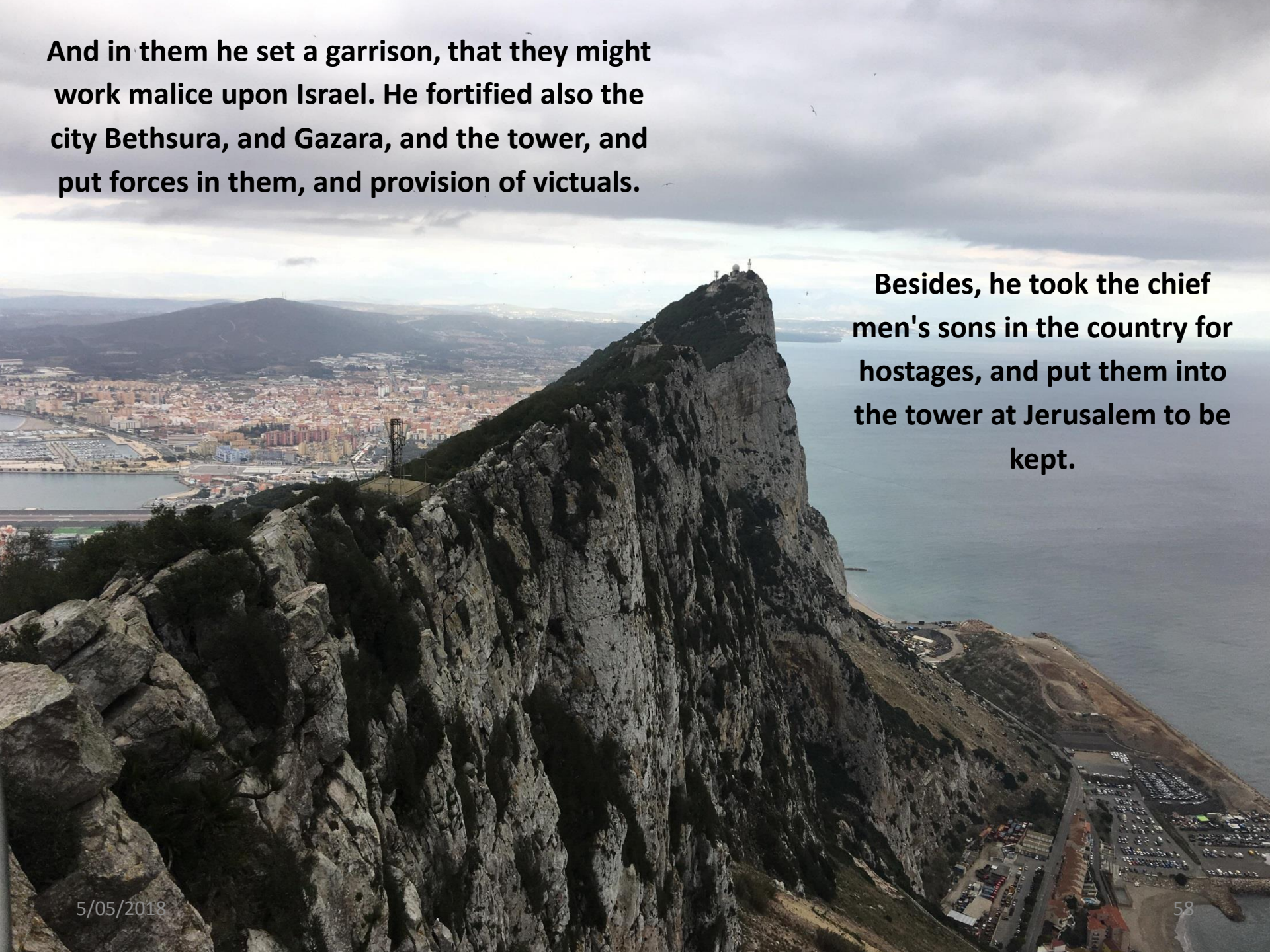


**Afterward Bacchides returned to Jerusalem, and repaired the strong cities in Judaea, the fort in Jericho, and Emmaus, and Beth-horon, and Beth-el, and Thamnatha Pharathoni, and Taphon, with high walls, with gates, and with bars.**



**And in them he set a garrison, that they might work malice upon Israel. He fortified also the city Bethsura, and Gazara, and the tower, and put forces in them, and provision of victuals.**

**Besides, he took the chief men's sons in the country for hostages, and put them into the tower at Jerusalem to be kept.**



**Moreover, in the hundred fifty and third year, in the second month, Alcimus, in the line of Aaron, commanded that the wall of the inner court of the sanctuary should be pulled down (so there was no distinction between Hebrew and Gentile); he pulled down also the works of the prophets.**



**And as he began to pull down, even at that time was Alcimus plagued, and his enterprises hindered: for his mouth was stopped, and he was taken with palsy, so that he could no more speak anything, nor give orders concerning his house. So Alcimus died at that time with great torment.**

**Now when Bacchides saw that Alcimus was dead, he returned to the king, whereupon the land of Judah was in rest two years.**

**Then all the Torahless men held a council, saying, “Behold, Jonathan and his company are at ease, and dwell without care: now therefore we will bring Bacchides here, who shall take them all in one night.**

**So they went and consulted with him. Then he left and came with a great host, and sent letters privately to his adherents in Judaea, that they should take Jonathan and those who were with him:**



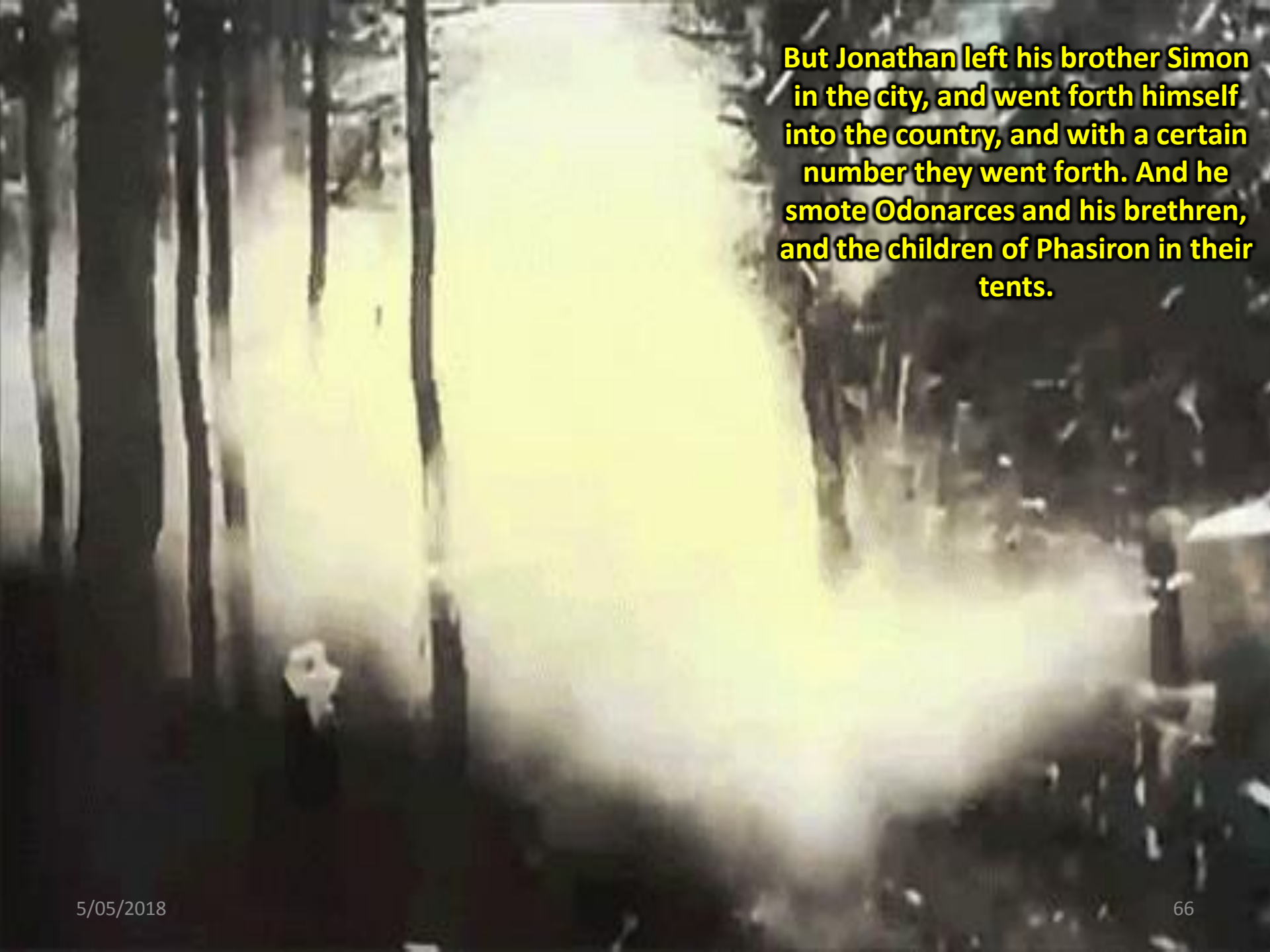
**However, they could not, because their counsel (deceit) was made known to Jonathan. Wherefore they took of the men of the country who were authors of that mischief, about fifty persons, and slew them.**



**Afterward Jonathan and Simon, and those which were with him, got away to Bethbasi which is in the wilderness, and they repaired the decays thereof, and made it strong.**



**Which thing when Bacchides found out, he gathered together all his host, and sent word to them which were in Judaea. Then he went and laid siege against Bethbasi; and they fought against it a long season, and made engines of war.**



**But Jonathan left his brother Simon in the city, and went forth himself into the country, and with a certain number they went forth. And he smote Odonarces and his brethren, and the children of Phasiron in their tents.**

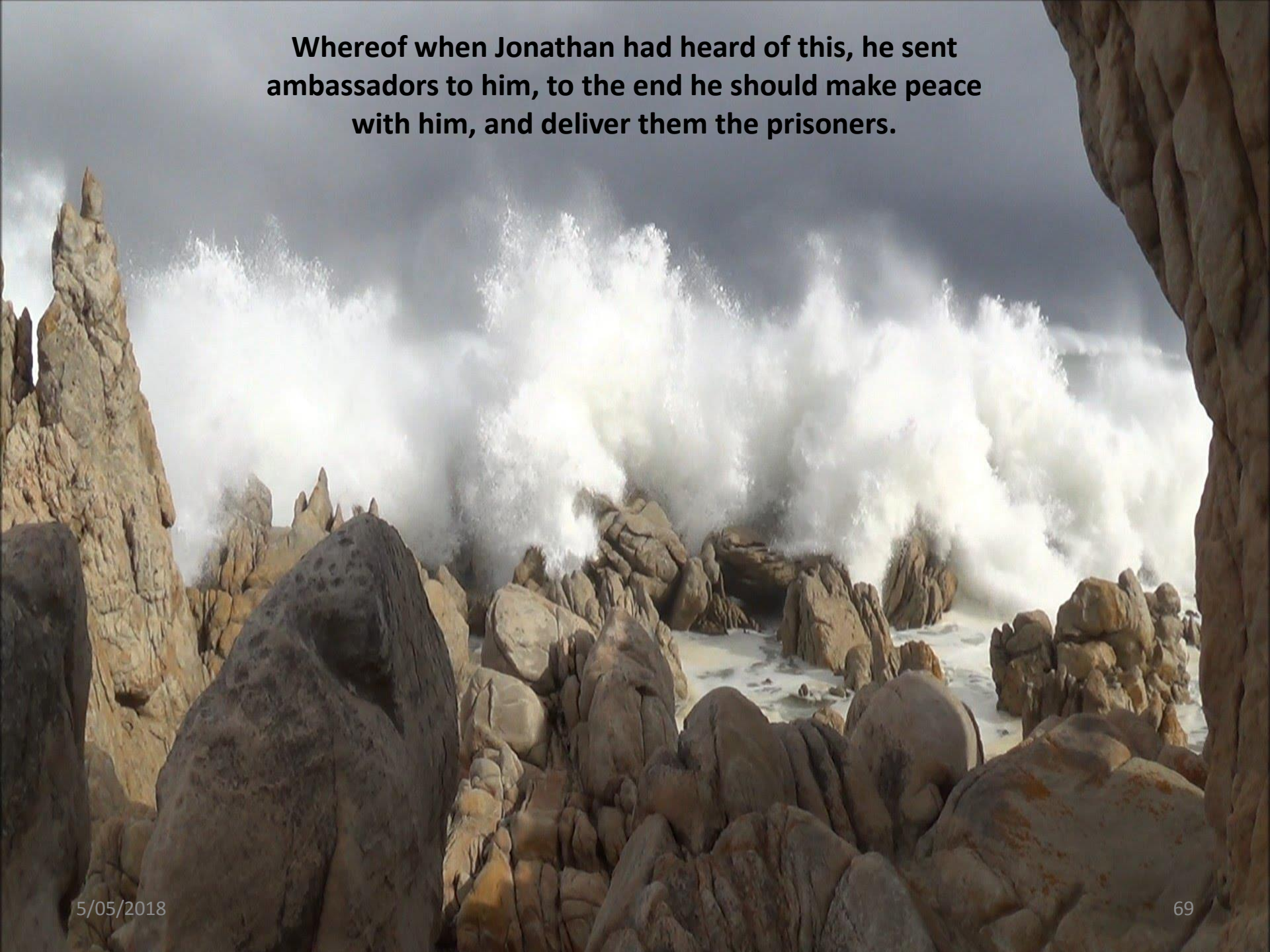
And when he began to smite them, and to advance with his forces, Simon and his company went out of the city, and burnt up the engines of war, and fought against Bacchides, who was discomfited by them, and they afflicted him with extreme: for his counsel and travail was in vain.





**Wherefore, he was very irate at the Torahless men who gave him counsel to come into the country, insomuch that he slew many of them, and purposed to return to his own country.**

**Whereof when Jonathan had heard of this, he sent ambassadors to him, to the end he should make peace with him, and deliver them the prisoners.**

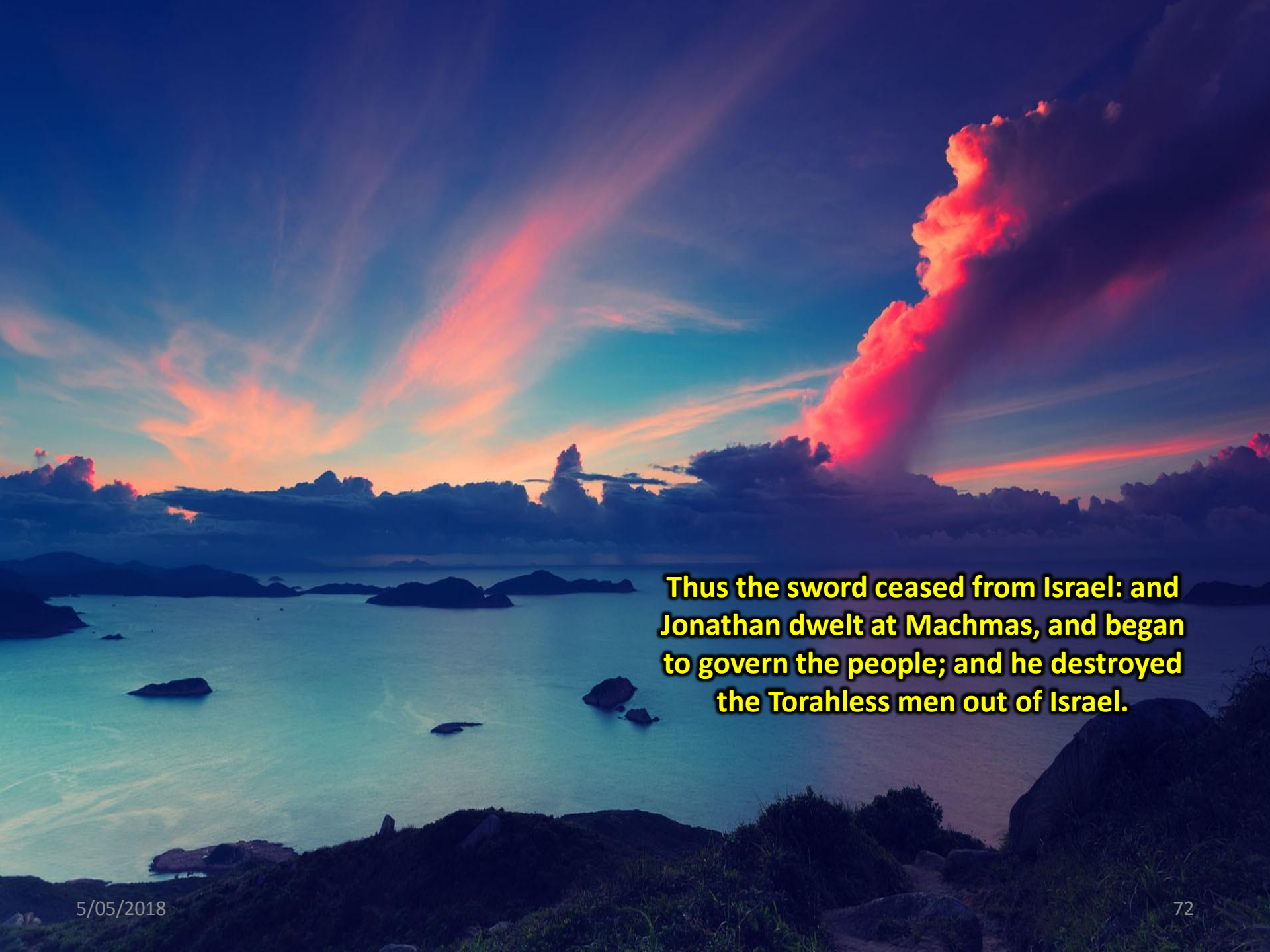


**Which thing Bacchides accepted and did according to Jonathan's demands, and swore to him, that he would never devise evil against Jonathan all the days of his life.**



**When therefore he had restored to Jonathan the prisoners whom he had taken aforetime out of the land of Judah, he returned and went his way into his own land, nor did he come any more into their borders.**





**Thus the sword ceased from Israel: and Jonathan dwelt at Machmas, and began to govern the people; and he destroyed the Torahless men out of Israel.**



**NEXT UP – PART 7 OF  
THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BOOK OF  
MACCABEES**



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