

2ND BOOK OF MACCABEES –PT 8

Renewals, Prisoners and Death



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Previously in Pt. 7, we learned about Alexander's death because Ptolemy didn't really like him, nor the fact that he gave him his daughter, so he tells Demetrius to help him get rid of Alexander and he will get his daughter. Guess that's what happens When children are property.



Jonathan becomes a high priest along with promises from the kings on things that they won't do anymore, like taxing them to death.



Jonathan beats Apollonius and destroys another Dagon temple. Though the people tell on Jonathan about that to King Ptolemy, he ignored their complaints. Though Ptolemy is successful in Alexander's death, he dies as well. Then Torahless Hebrews go tattle to King Demetrius that Jonathan has set siege to the tower in Jerusalem.





Then Jonathan takes the king gifts, so all is right with the world again, apparently tattling didn't work back then. Then Tryphon (sounds like a typhoon shows up) friend of Alexander, didn't like Demetrius and was going to set that straight. Demetrius calls on Jonathan for help which they answer the call and succeeded in running them off as well as by the sword. Though Jonathan help Demetrius, Demetrius didn't really thank him, since he still didn't like him. Tryphon brings back the Young Antiochus to reign, who also makes Jonathan high priest and gives the Hebrews all the stuff they had before but now it's forever, so they say. Then there's an ambush on Jonathan, who survives and still wins the day.

Now when Jonathan saw that the time served him, he chose certain men, and sent them to Rome, to confirm and renew the friendship which they had with them (the Romans).



He sent letters also to the Lacedaemonians (Spartans) and to other places for the same purpose. So they went to Rome, and entered into the senate-house, and said, "Jonathan the high priest, and the people of the Hebrews, sent us to you, to the end you should renew the friendship which you had with them, and league, as in former time."





The Spartans as Lacedaemonians.
The region of the Peloponnese which held the Spartan people was called Lacedaemon (now Laconia) and the Spartans were known as the Lacedaemonians from at least the fifth century B.C. By that time, Lacedaemon was used interchangeably with Sparta when referring to the political entity.

Sparta reached the height of its power in 404 B.C. after its victory against Athens in the second Peloponnesian war. When it was in its prime, Sparta had no city walls; its inhabitants, it seems, preferred to defend it with men rather than mortar. However, within a few decades, after a defeat against the Thebans at the Battle of Leuctra, the city found itself reduced to a "second-rate power," a status from which it never recovered.

The Stages of Roman Expansion

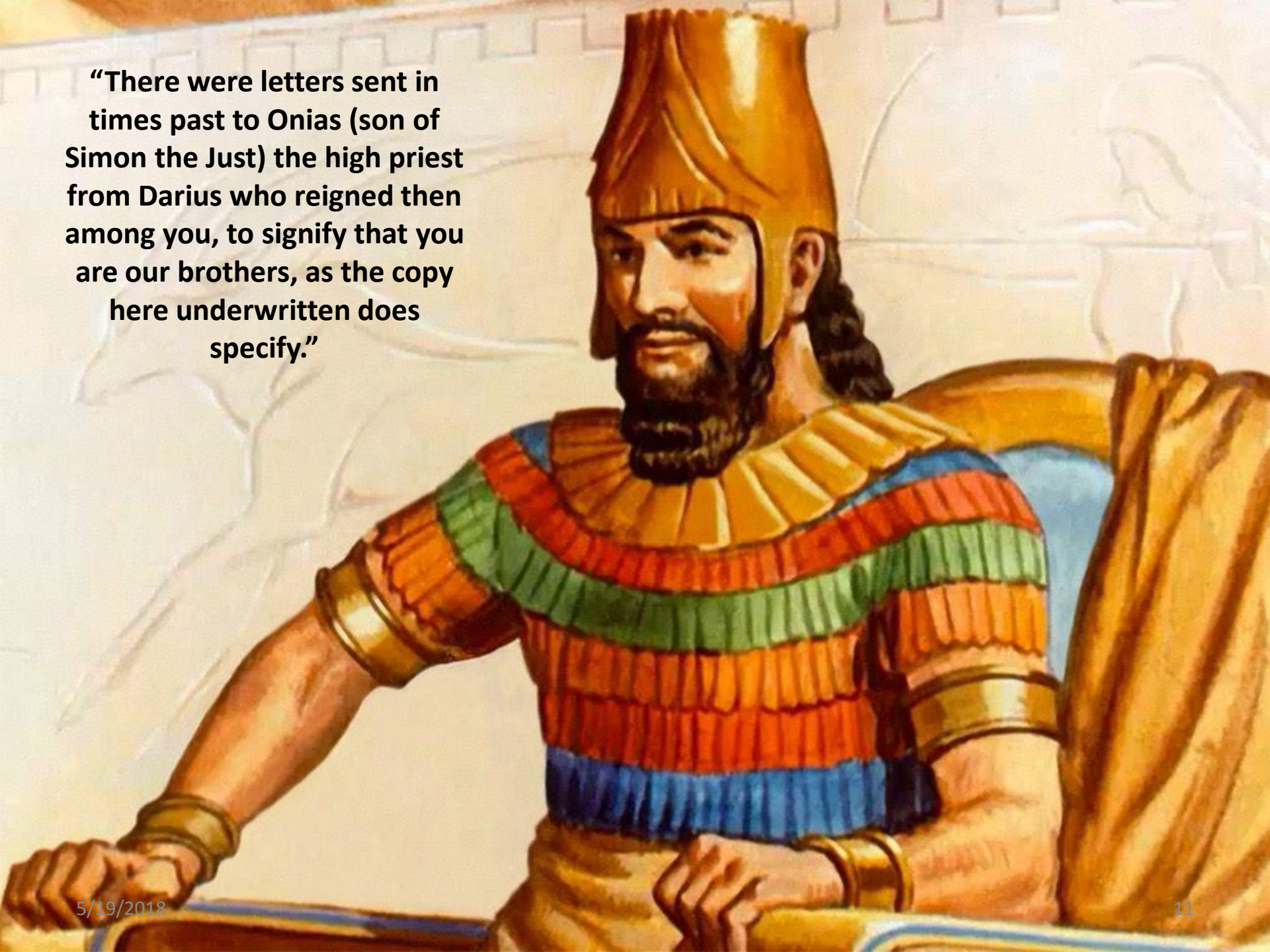


Upon this the Romans gave to them letters for the governors of every place, that they should bring them into the land of Judah in peace.



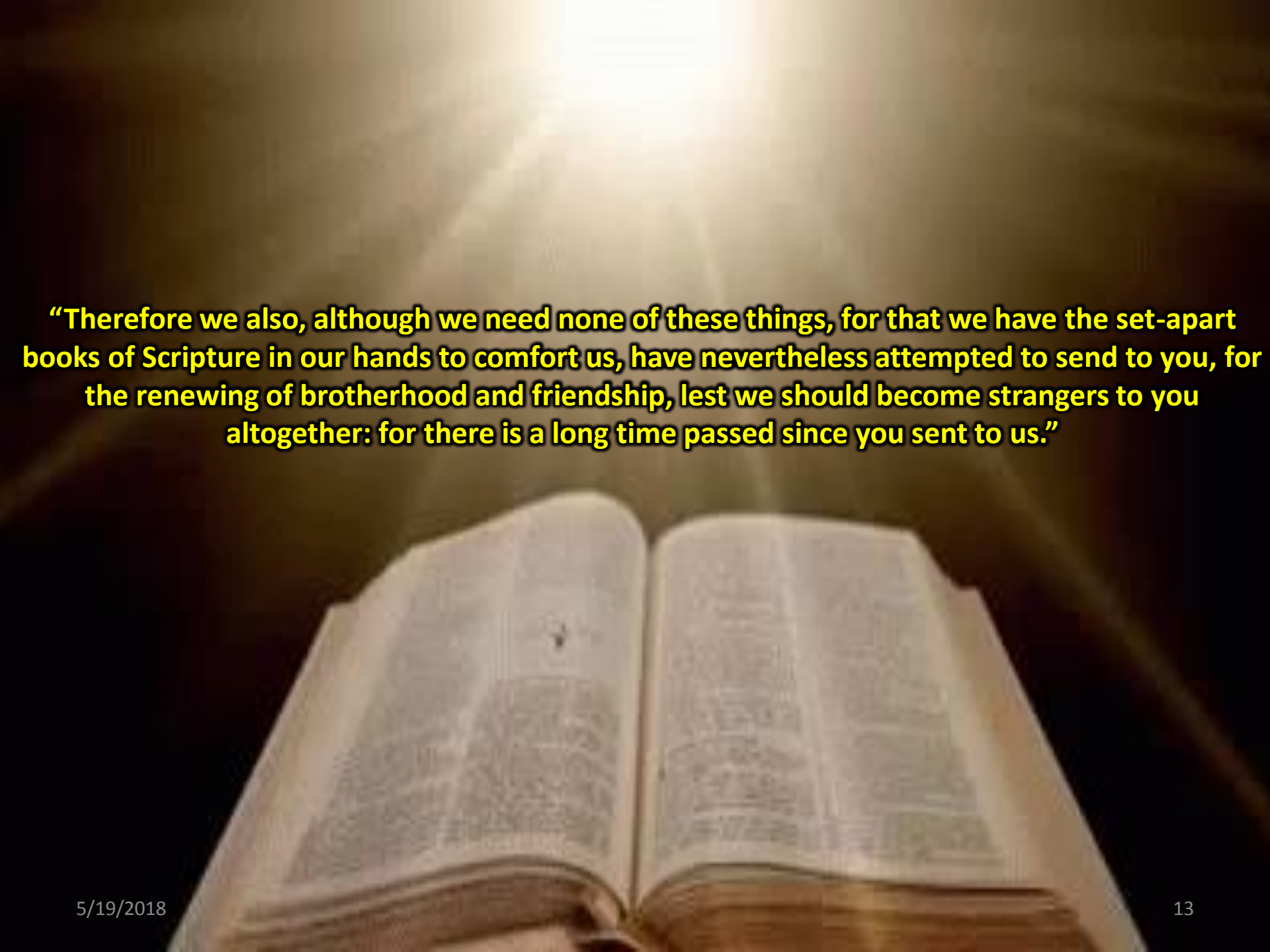
And this is the copy of the letters which Jonathan wrote unto the Lacedaemonians: "Jonathan the high priest, and the elders of the nation, and the priests, and the other people of the Hebrews, to the Lacedaemonians their brethren, send greetings:

“There were letters sent in times past to Onias (son of Simon the Just) the high priest from Darius who reigned then among you, to signify that you are our brothers, as the copy here underwritten does specify.”



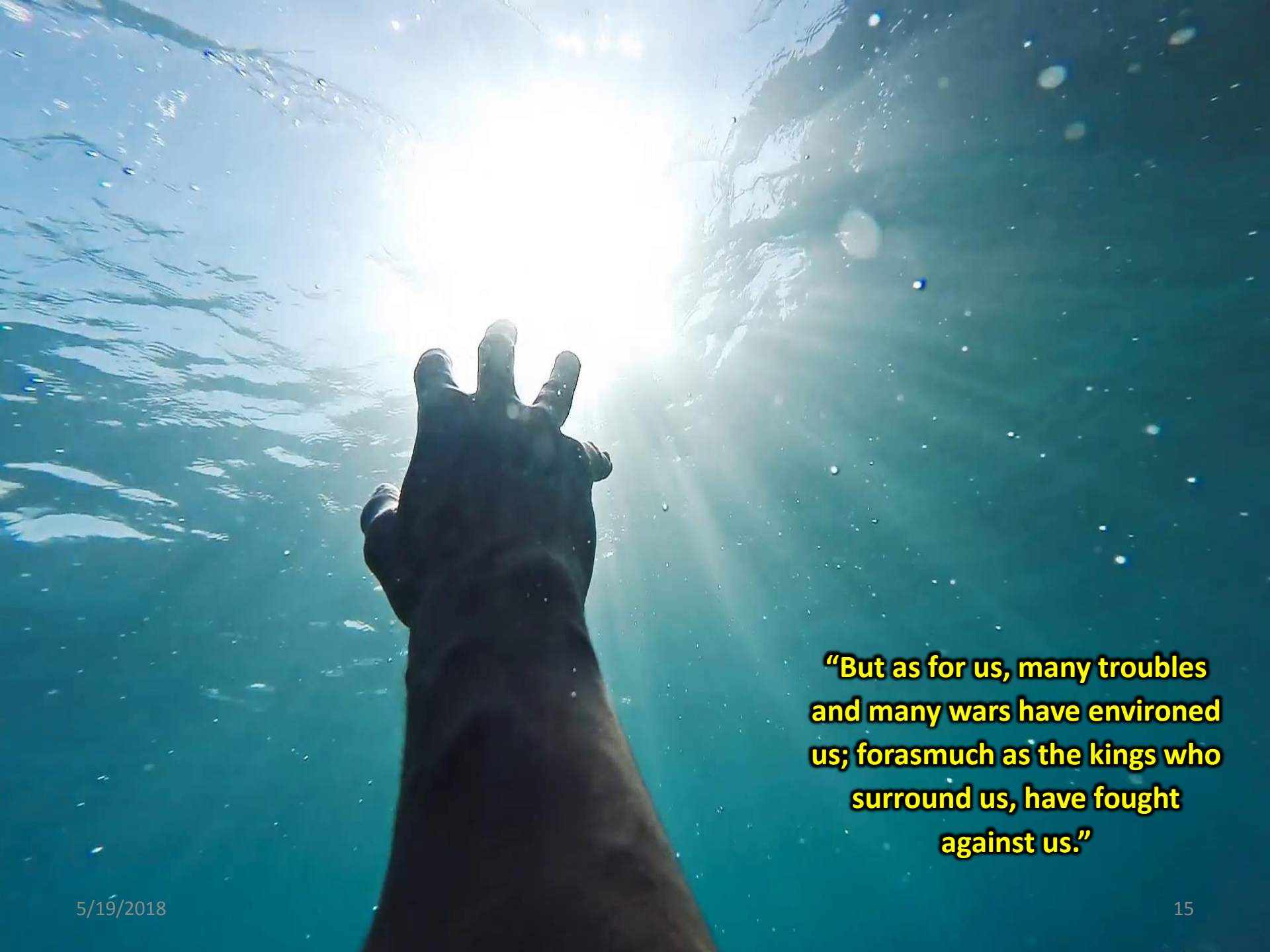
At which time Onias entreated honorably the ambassador who was sent, and received the letters, wherein declaration was made of the league and friendship.”



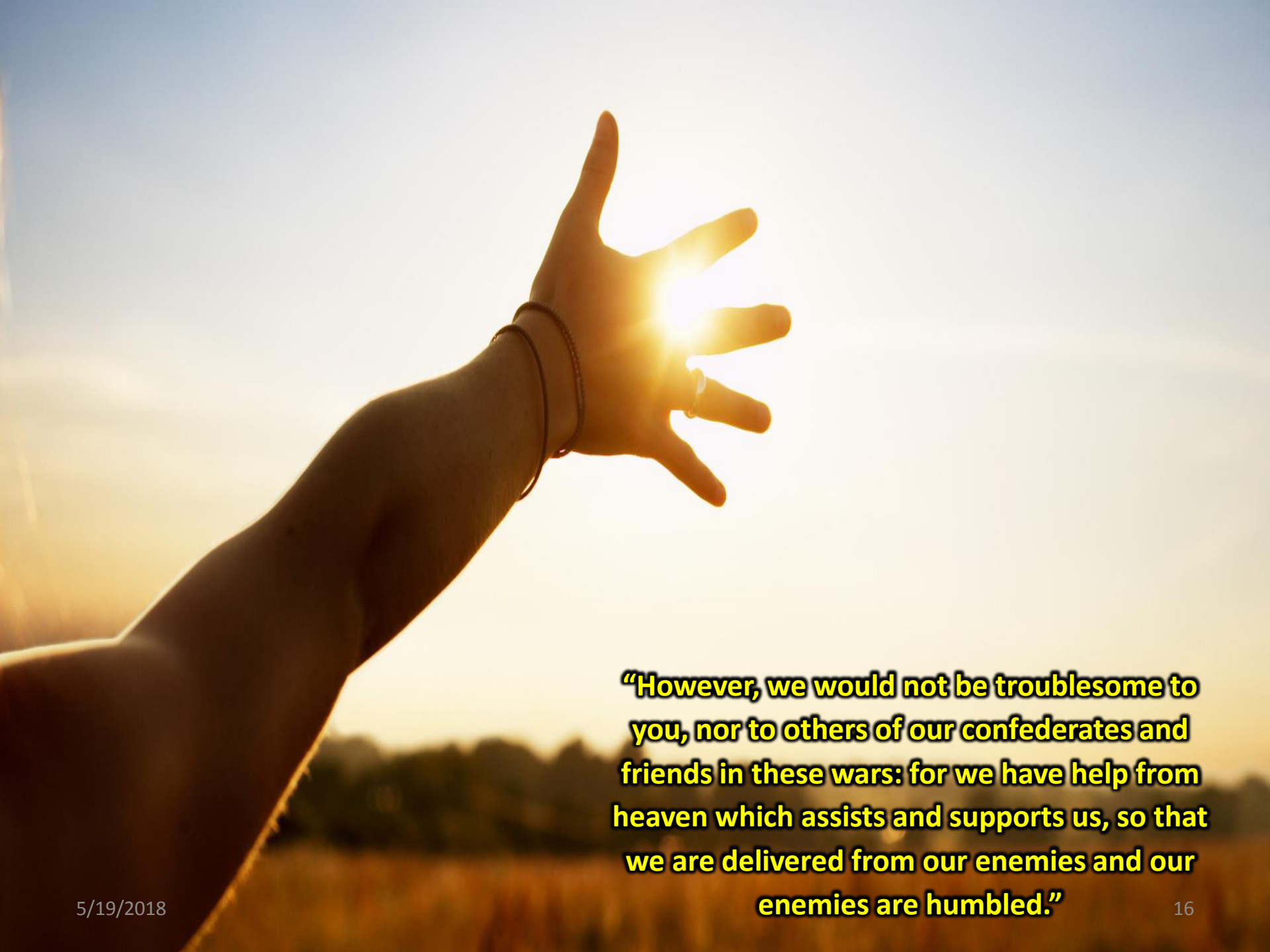
An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at it. A bright, circular light source is positioned directly above the book, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the pages. The background is dark, making the light and the book stand out. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

“Therefore we also, although we need none of these things, for that we have the set-apart books of Scripture in our hands to comfort us, have nevertheless attempted to send to you, for the renewing of brotherhood and friendship, lest we should become strangers to you altogether: for there is a long time passed since you sent to us.”

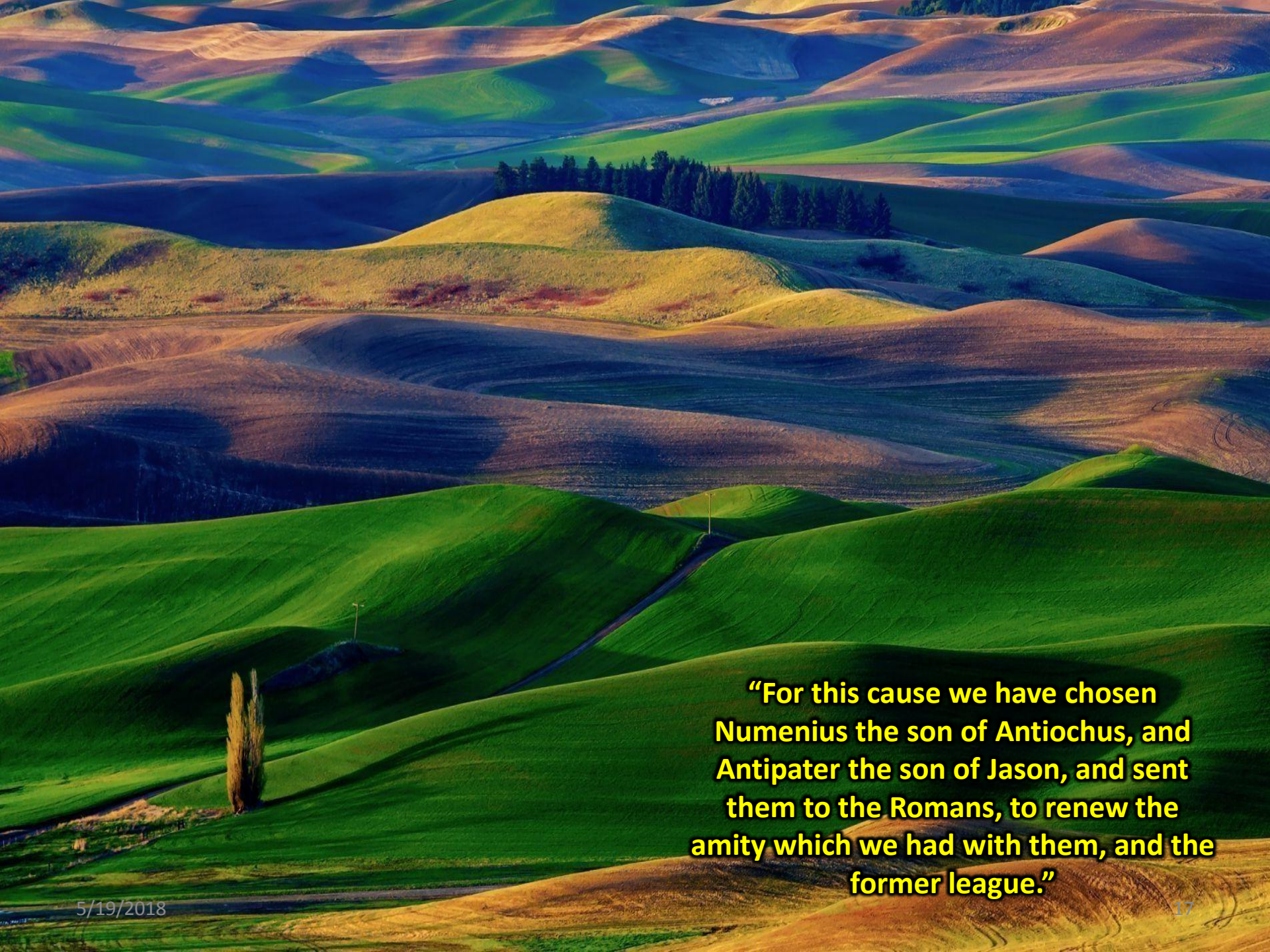
“We therefore, at all times, without ceasing, both in our feasts and other convenient days, do remember you in the sacrifices which we offer, and in our prayers; as is right, and as it become us to think upon our brothers: and we are right glad of your esteem.”



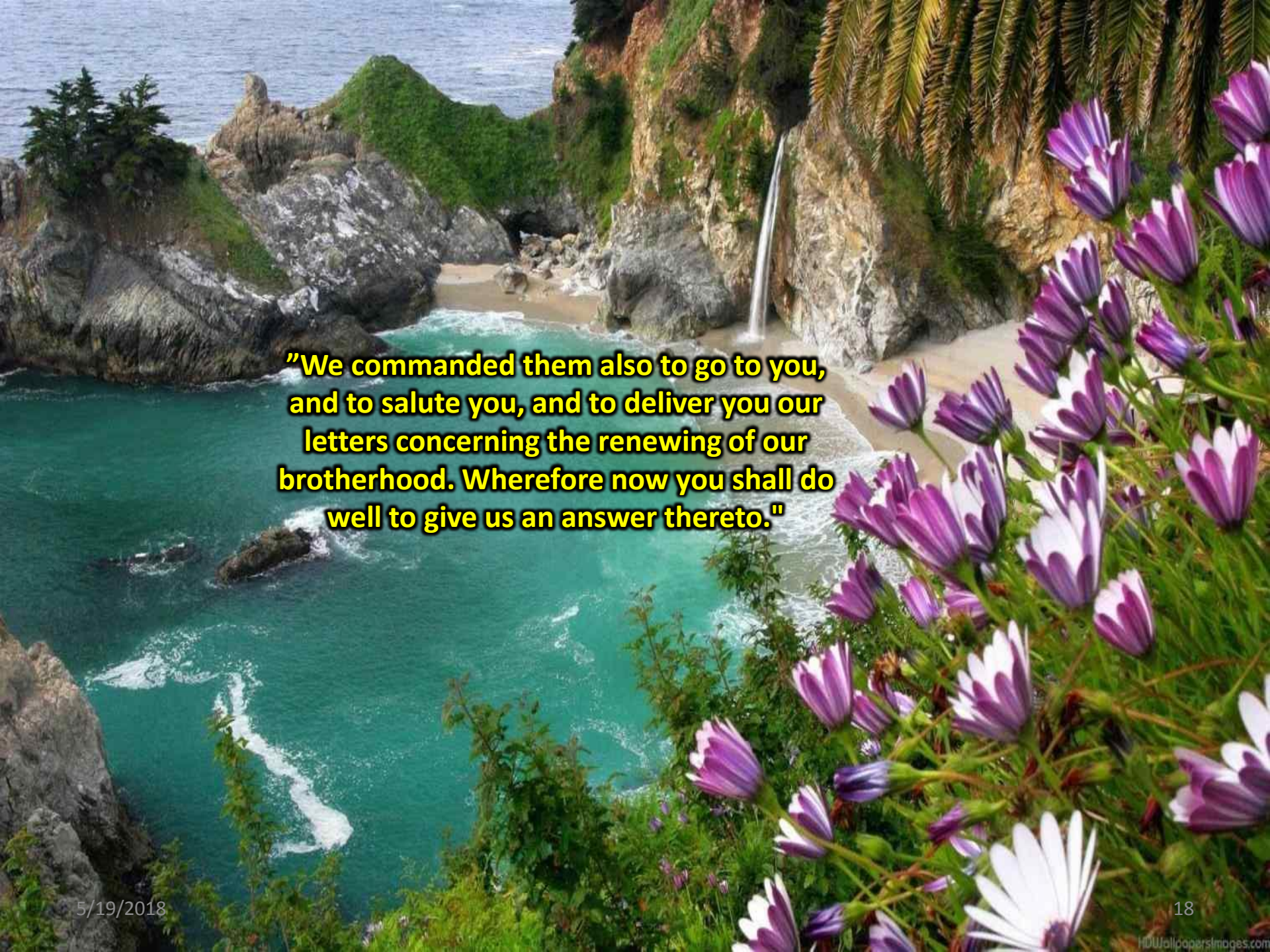
**“But as for us, many troubles
and many wars have environed
us; forasmuch as the kings who
surround us, have fought
against us.”**



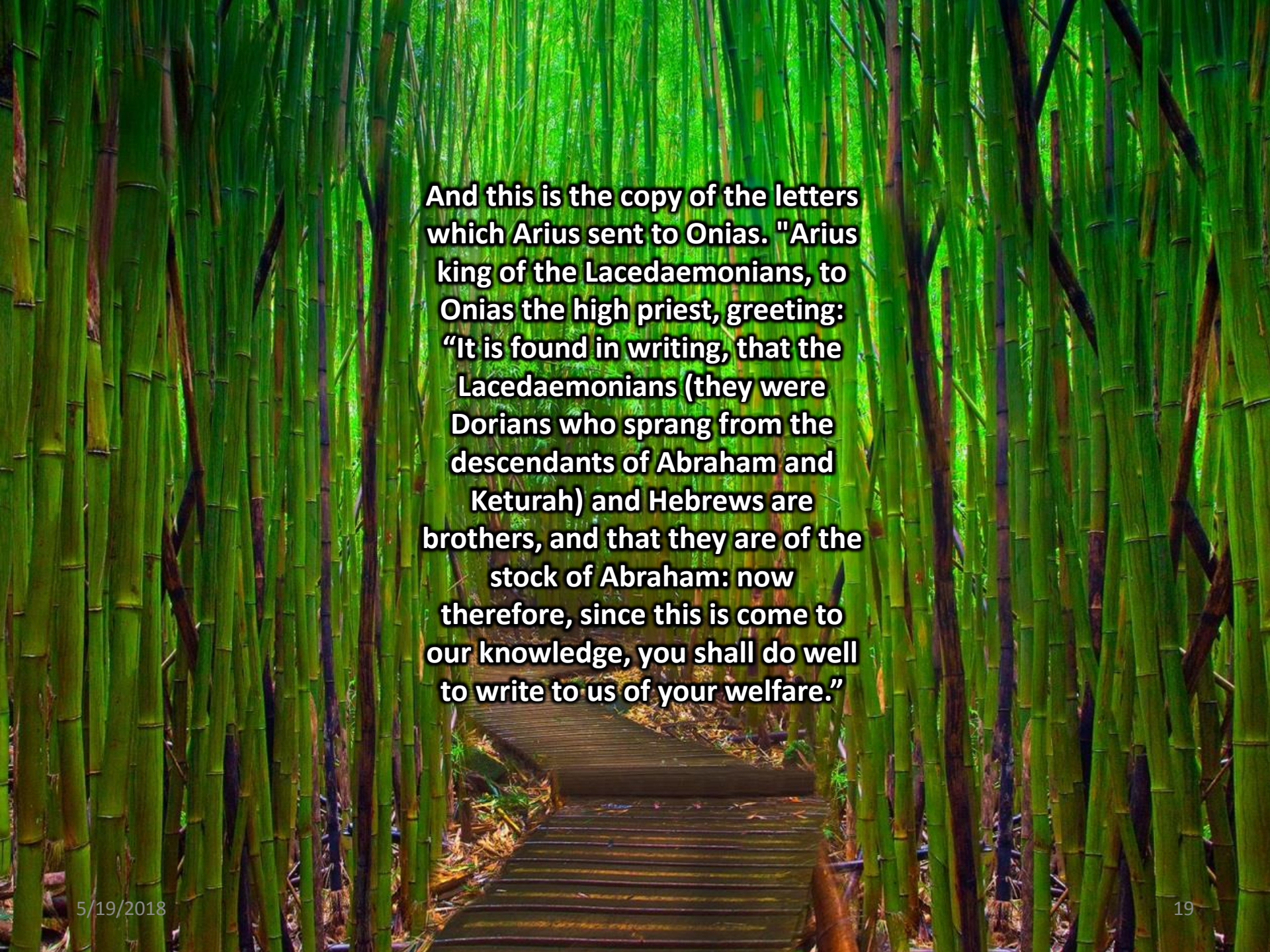
“However, we would not be troublesome to you, nor to others of our confederates and friends in these wars: for we have help from heaven which assists and supports us, so that we are delivered from our enemies and our enemies are humbled.”



“For this cause we have chosen Numenius the son of Antiochus, and Antipater the son of Jason, and sent them to the Romans, to renew the amity which we had with them, and the former league.”

A scenic view of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, there are numerous purple and white flowers. The middle ground shows a small waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff into a turquoise pool of water. The background features a rocky coastline with a small sandy beach and the ocean. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

"We commanded them also to go to you, and to salute you, and to deliver you our letters concerning the renewing of our brotherhood. Wherefore now you shall do well to give us an answer thereto."

A dense bamboo forest with a wooden path leading through it. The bamboo stalks are tall and green, creating a narrow, sun-dappled path. The path is made of wooden planks and leads into the distance, flanked by thick walls of bamboo. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, with light filtering through the canopy.

And this is the copy of the letters which Arius sent to Onias. "Arius king of the Lacedaemonians, to Onias the high priest, greeting: "It is found in writing, that the Lacedaemonians (they were Dorians who sprang from the descendants of Abraham and Keturah) and Hebrews are brothers, and that they are of the stock of Abraham: now therefore, since this is come to our knowledge, you shall do well to write to us of your welfare."



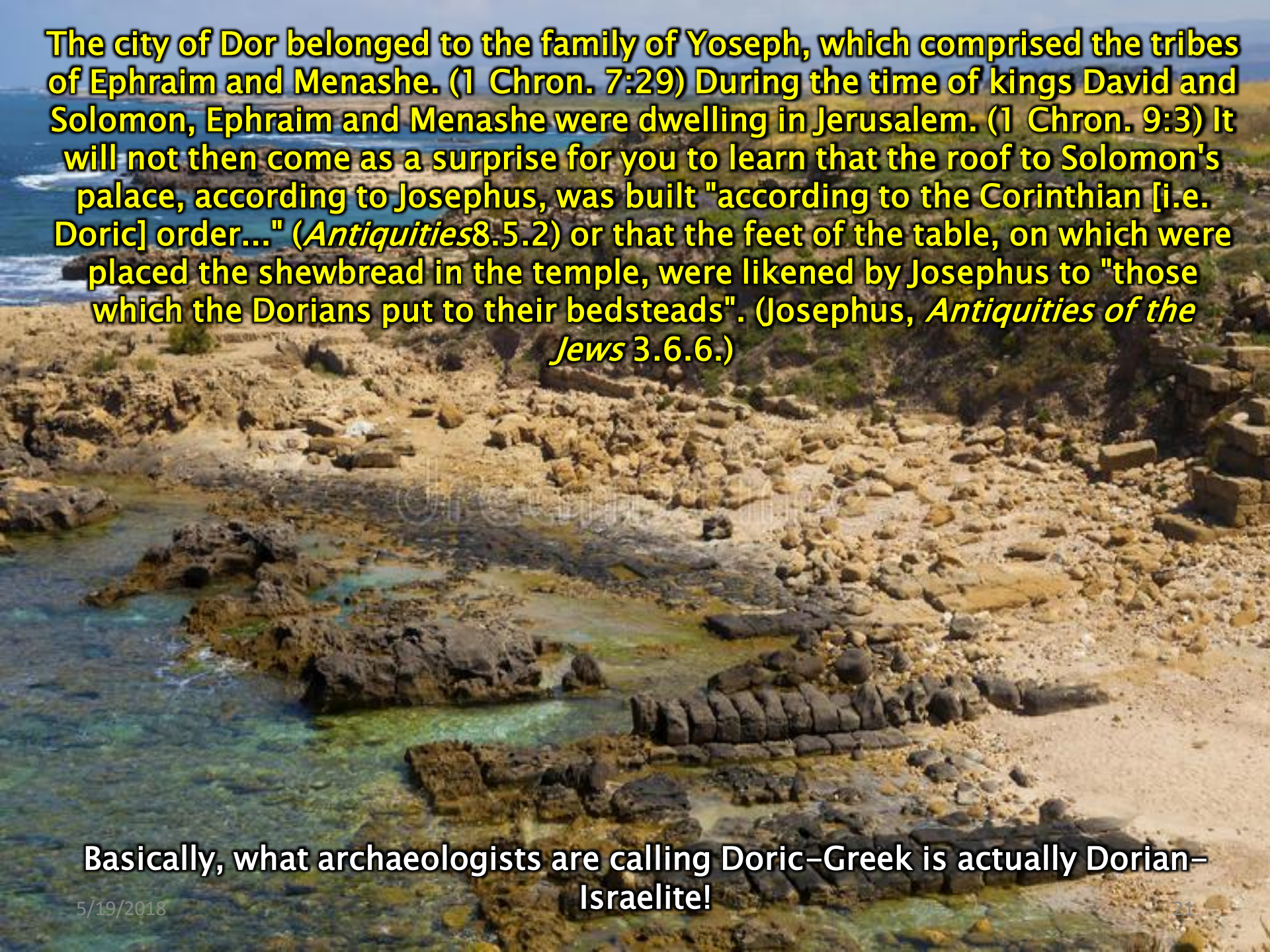
The Aeolians

The Ionians

The Dorians
(Sparta)



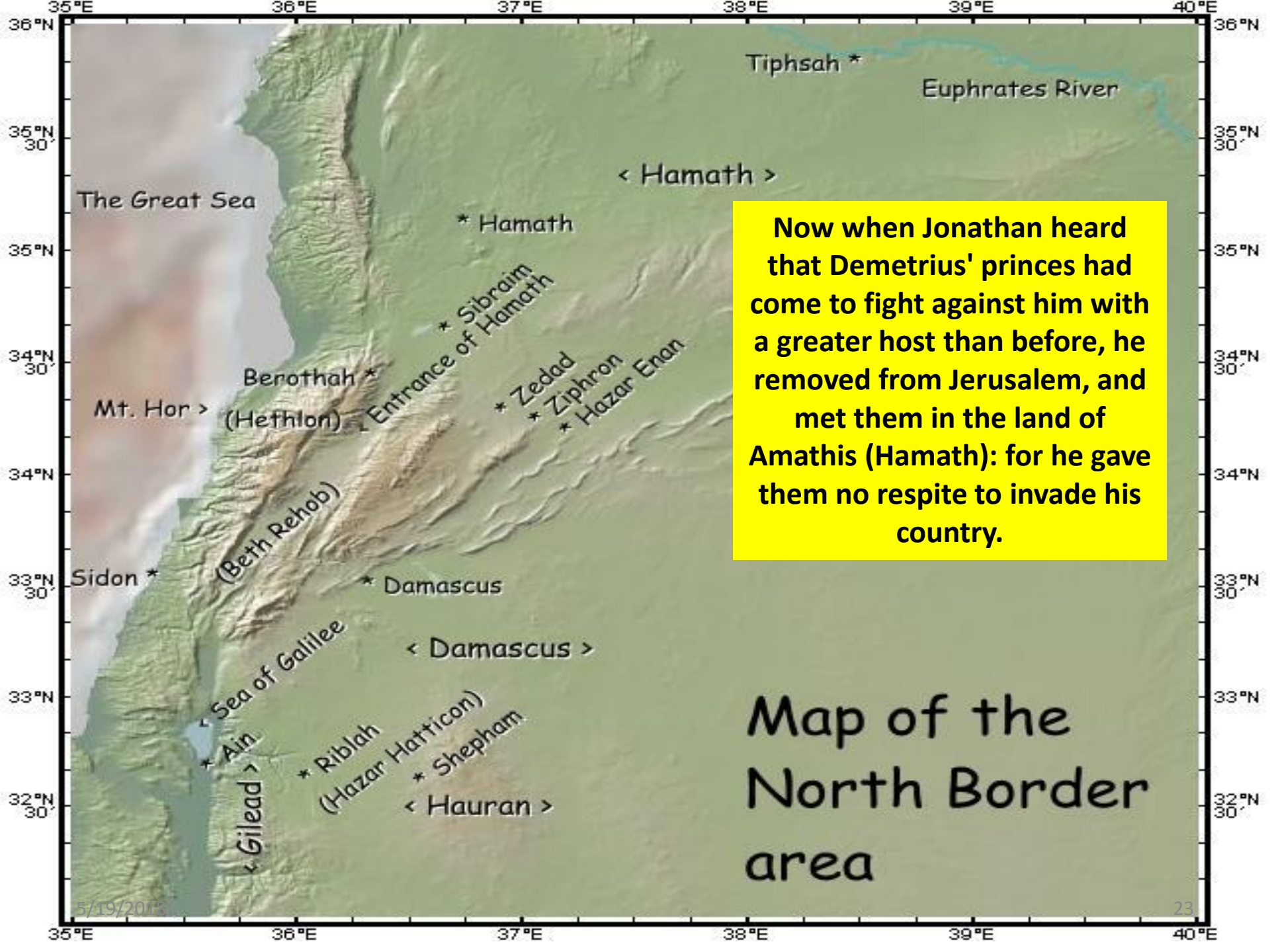
Arius, who wrote his letter to Onias the High Priest, is described as a Lacedaemonian. Herodotus informs us that these Lacedaemonians were Dorians. (Herod. 1.56) We should bear in mind that the Lacedaemonians received their name from Cadmus, who was NOT a Dorian. The Spartans themselves were likewise not Dorians. This statement that the Lacedaemonians were Dorians arises because the Dorians took control of Sparta. Note that Josephus informs us that Arius sealed his letter with an eagle with a dragon in its claws. That 'dragon' in its claws was the Spartan people over whom they were ruling. The eagle represents the tribe of Menashe (Manasseh).

A photograph of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, there is a small pool of water with a greenish tint, surrounded by dark, jagged rocks. The middle ground shows a large, sprawling area of light-colored, sandy soil and rubble, with many rectangular stone blocks scattered throughout. In the background, the ocean is visible under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

The city of Dor belonged to the family of Yoseph, which comprised the tribes of Ephraim and Menashe. (1 Chron. 7:29) During the time of kings David and Solomon, Ephraim and Menashe were dwelling in Jerusalem. (1 Chron. 9:3) It will not then come as a surprise for you to learn that the roof to Solomon's palace, according to Josephus, was built "according to the Corinthian [i.e. Doric] order..." (*Antiquities* 8.5.2) or that the feet of the table, on which were placed the shewbread in the temple, were likened by Josephus to "those which the Dorians put to their bedsteads". (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* 3.6.6.)

Basically, what archaeologists are calling Doric-Greek is actually Dorian-Israelite!

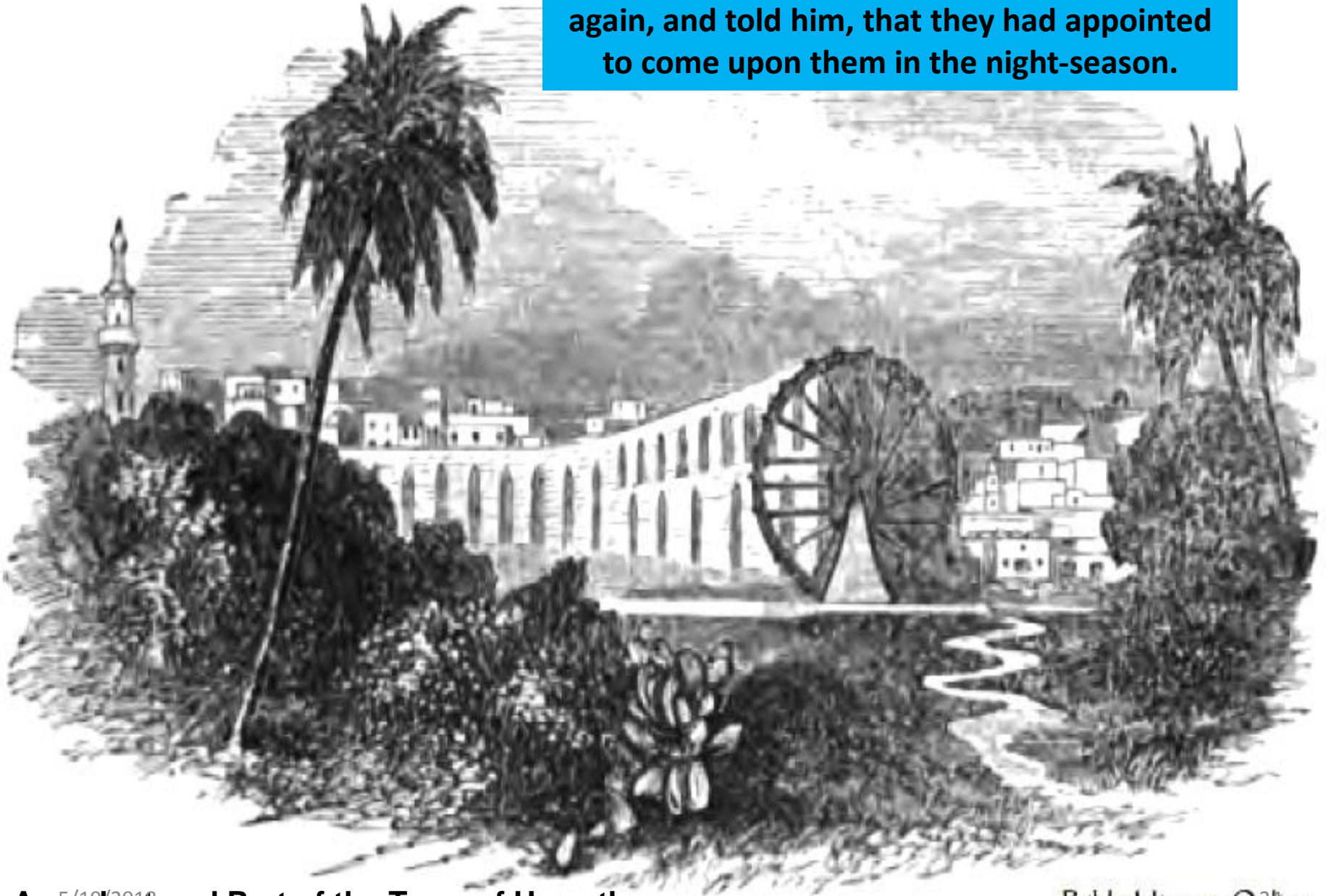
**“We do write back again to you, that your
cattle and goods are ours, and ours are yours.
We do command therefore our "ambassadors
to make report to you on this wise.”**

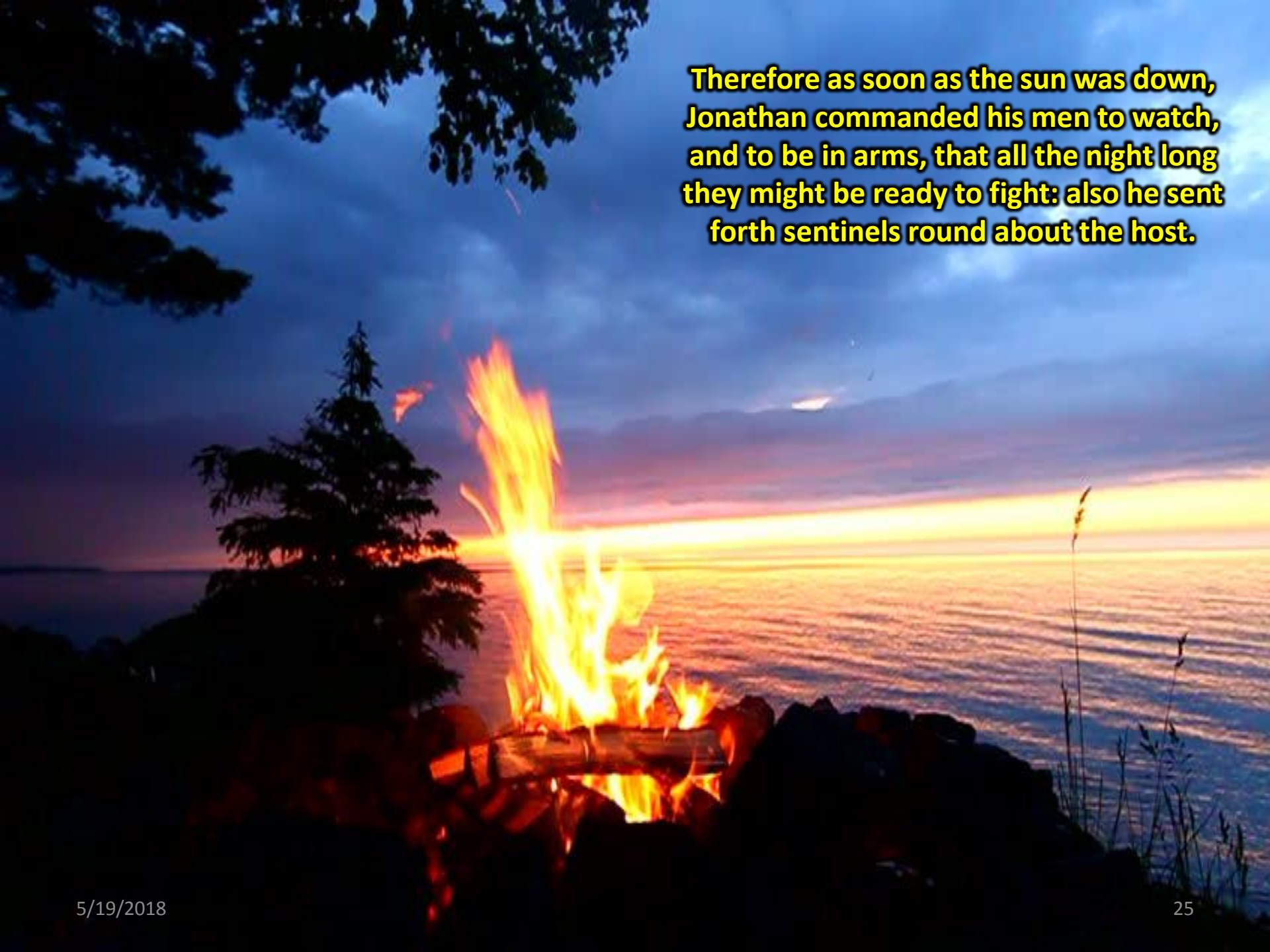


Now when Jonathan heard that Demetrius' princes had come to fight against him with a greater host than before, he removed from Jerusalem, and met them in the land of Amathis (Hamath): for he gave them no respite to invade his country.

Map of the North Border area

He sent spies also to their tents, who came again, and told him, that they had appointed to come upon them in the night-season.



A campfire burns brightly in the foreground, its flames reaching upwards. The fire is set on a bed of logs and rocks. In the background, a large body of water stretches to the horizon, reflecting the golden light of a setting sun. The sky is a mix of deep blue and orange, with some clouds. On the left side, the dark silhouette of a large tree is visible. The overall scene is peaceful and evocative of a night in the wilderness.

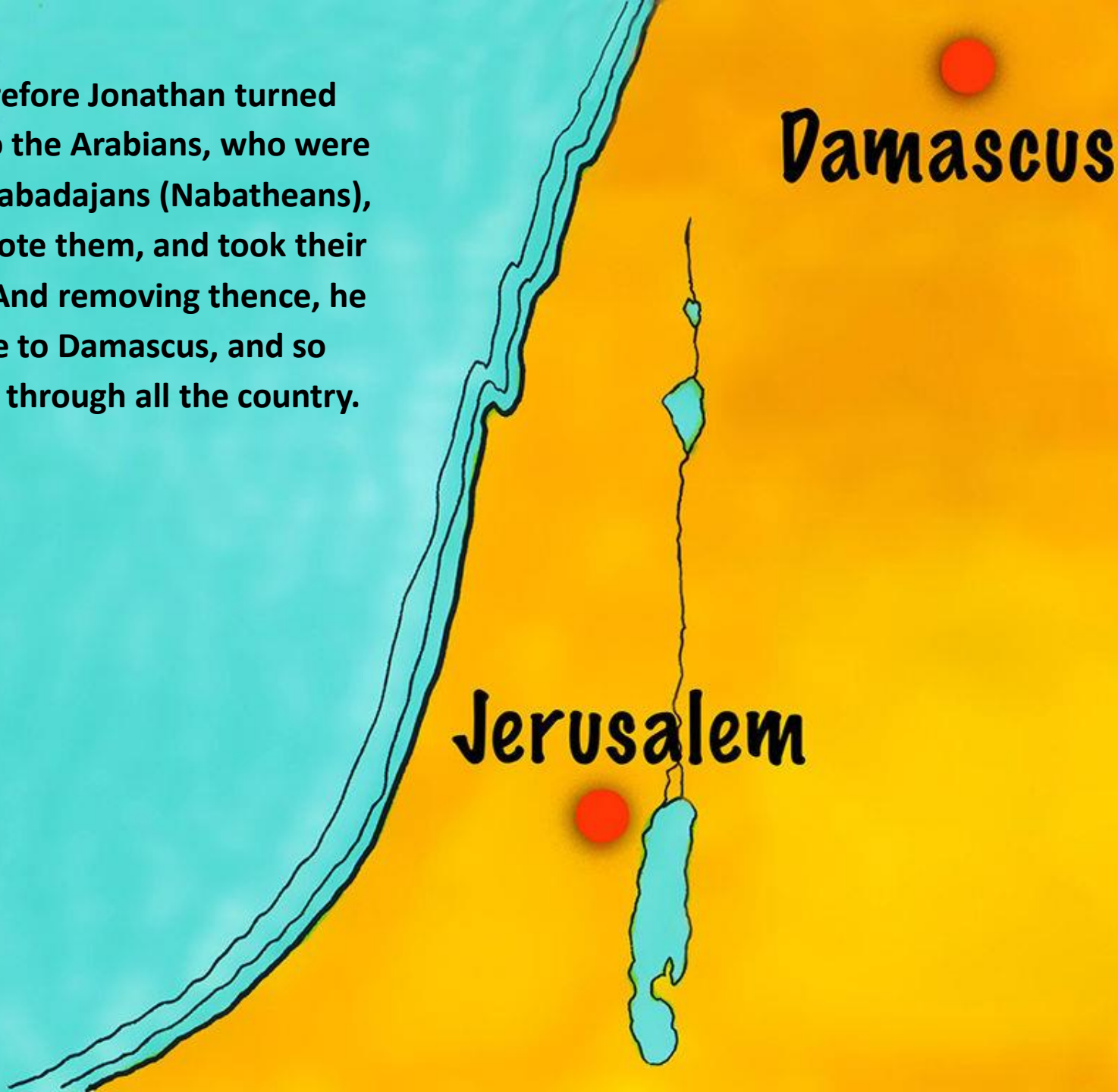
**Therefore as soon as the sun was down,
Jonathan commanded his men to watch,
and to be in arms, that all the night long
they might be ready to fight: also he sent
forth sentinels round about the host.**



But when the adversaries heard that Jonathan and his men were ready for battle, they feared and trembled in their hearts, and they kindled fires in their camp and fled.

However, Jonathan and his company knew it not till the morning: for they saw the lights burning. Then Jonathan pursued after them, but overtook them not: for they were gone over the river Eleutherus.

**Wherefore Jonathan turned
aside to the Arabians, who were
called Zabadajans (Nabatheans),
and smote them, and took their
spoils. And removing thence, he
came to Damascus, and so
passed through all the country.**





Simon also went forth, and passed through the country to Ascalon, and the strong holds there adjoining; from where he turned aside to Joppe, and won it.

For he had heard that they would deliver the fortress to them which took Demetrius' part: And for that reason he set a garrison there to keep it.



After this came Jonathan home again, and calling the elders of the people together, he consulted with them about building strong holds in Judaea; and making the walls of Jerusalem higher, and raising a great mount between the tower and the city, to separate it from the city, so it might be alone, that men might neither sell nor buy in it.

Upon this they came together, to build up the city; and part of the wall toward the brook on the east side was fallen down; and they repaired that which was called Caphenatha. Simon also set up Adida, in Sephela, and made it strong with gates and bars.





BULGARIA

Black Sea

GEORGIA

GREECE

Istanbul

Now Tryphon sought to get the kingdom of Asia, to put the crown on himself, and to stretch forth his hand (treachery) against Antiochus the king.

ARMENIA

Gallipoli

Iznik

Canakkale

Bursa

Ankara

ASIA MINOR

Troy

Pergamon

Thyatira

Cappadocia

Sardis

Philadelphia

Izmir (Smyrna)

Laodicea

Pamukkale

Konya

Ephesus

Kusadasi

Aphrodisias

Perge

Adana

IRAN

RHODES

Antalya

Aspendos

Tarsus

Antakya

IRAQ

Mediterranean Sea

SYRIA

CRETE

CYPRUS



However he was afraid that Jonathan would not suffer him, and that he would fight against him and for that reason he sought a way how to take Jonathan, that he might kill him.

So he removed, and came to Bethsan. Then Jonathan went out to meet him with forty thousand men chosen for the battle, and came to Bethsan.



Now when Tryphon saw that Jonathan came with so great a force, he didn't stretch his hand against him: but received him honorably, and commended him unto all his friends, and gave him gifts, and commanded his armies to be as obedient to him as to himself.



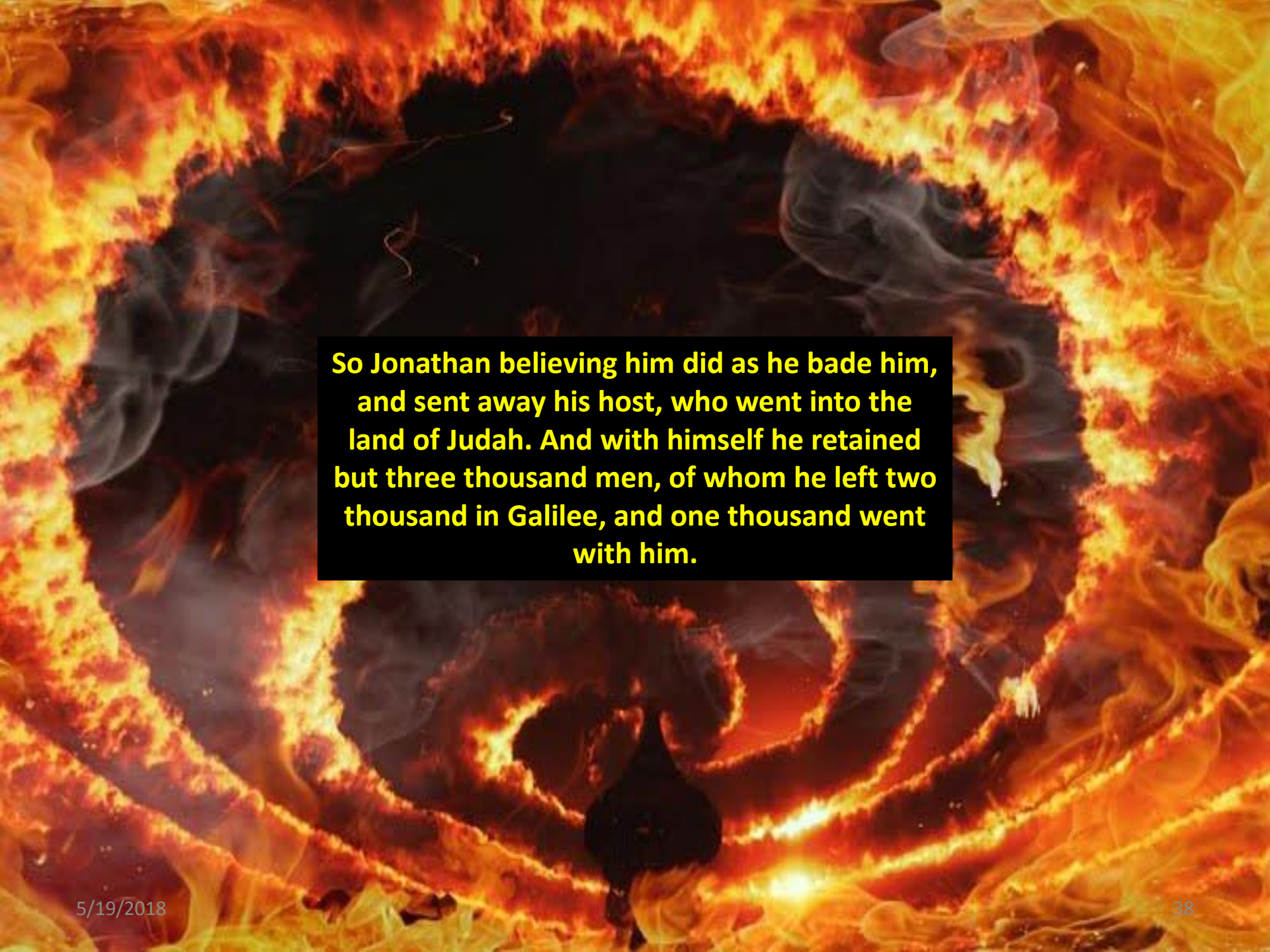
To Jonathan also he said, "Why have you put all these people to so great trouble, seeing there is no war between us?"



“Therefore send them now home again, and choose a few men to wait on you, and come you with me to Ptolemais, and I will give it to you, and the rest of the strongholds and forces, and all who have any charge: as for me, I will return and depart: for this is the cause of my coming.”



5/19/2018



**So Jonathan believing him did as he bade him,
and sent away his host, who went into the
land of Judah. And with himself he retained
but three thousand men, of whom he left two
thousand in Galilee, and one thousand went
with him.**

Now as soon as Jonathan entered into Ptolemais, they of Ptolemais shut the gates, and took him, and all them which came with him they slew with the sword.

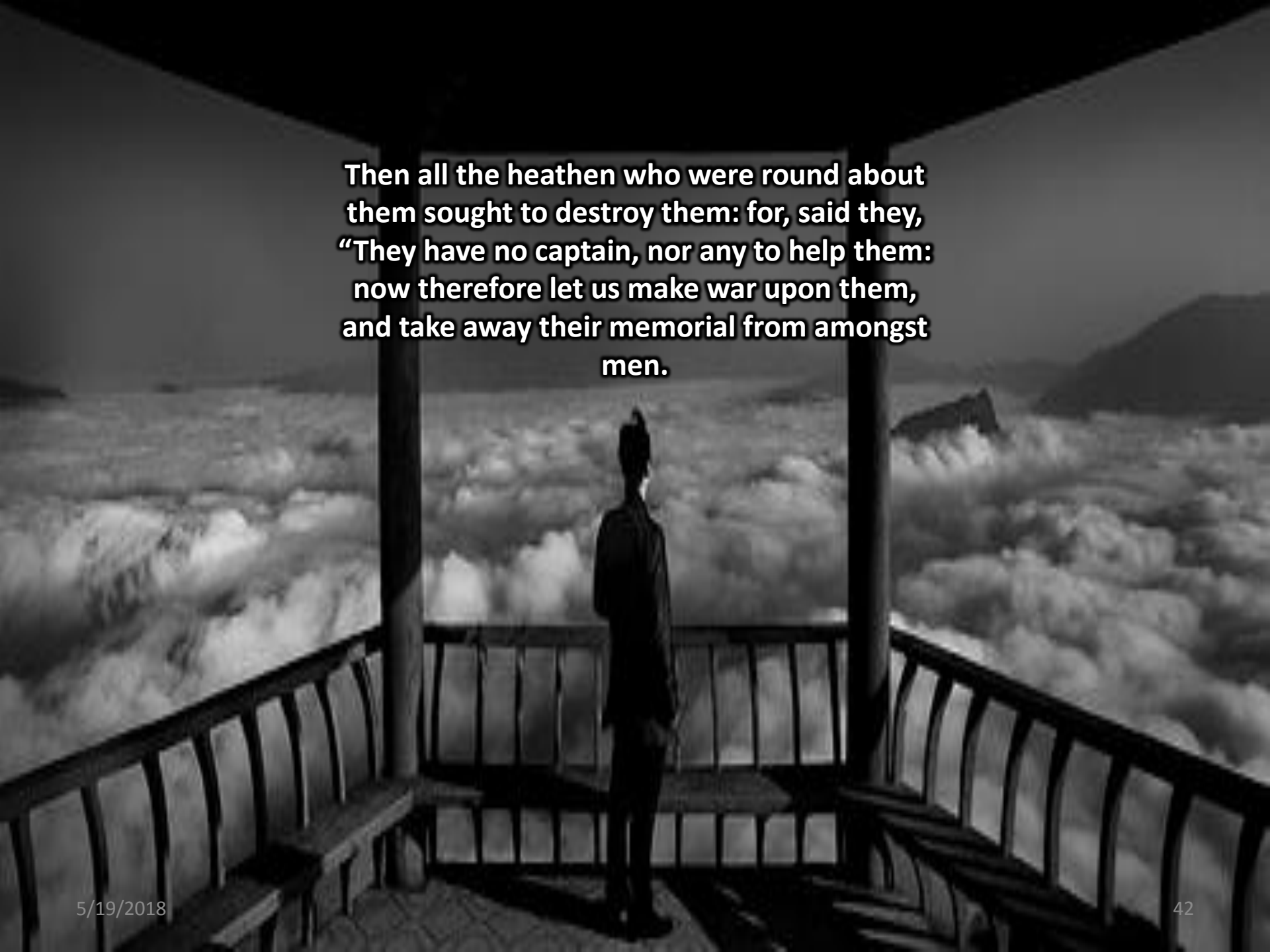
Then Tryphon sent a host of footmen and horsemen into Galilee, and into the great plain, to destroy all Jonathan's company.

**But when they knew that Jonathan and they
which were with him were taken and slain,
they encouraged one another, and went close
together prepared to fight.**

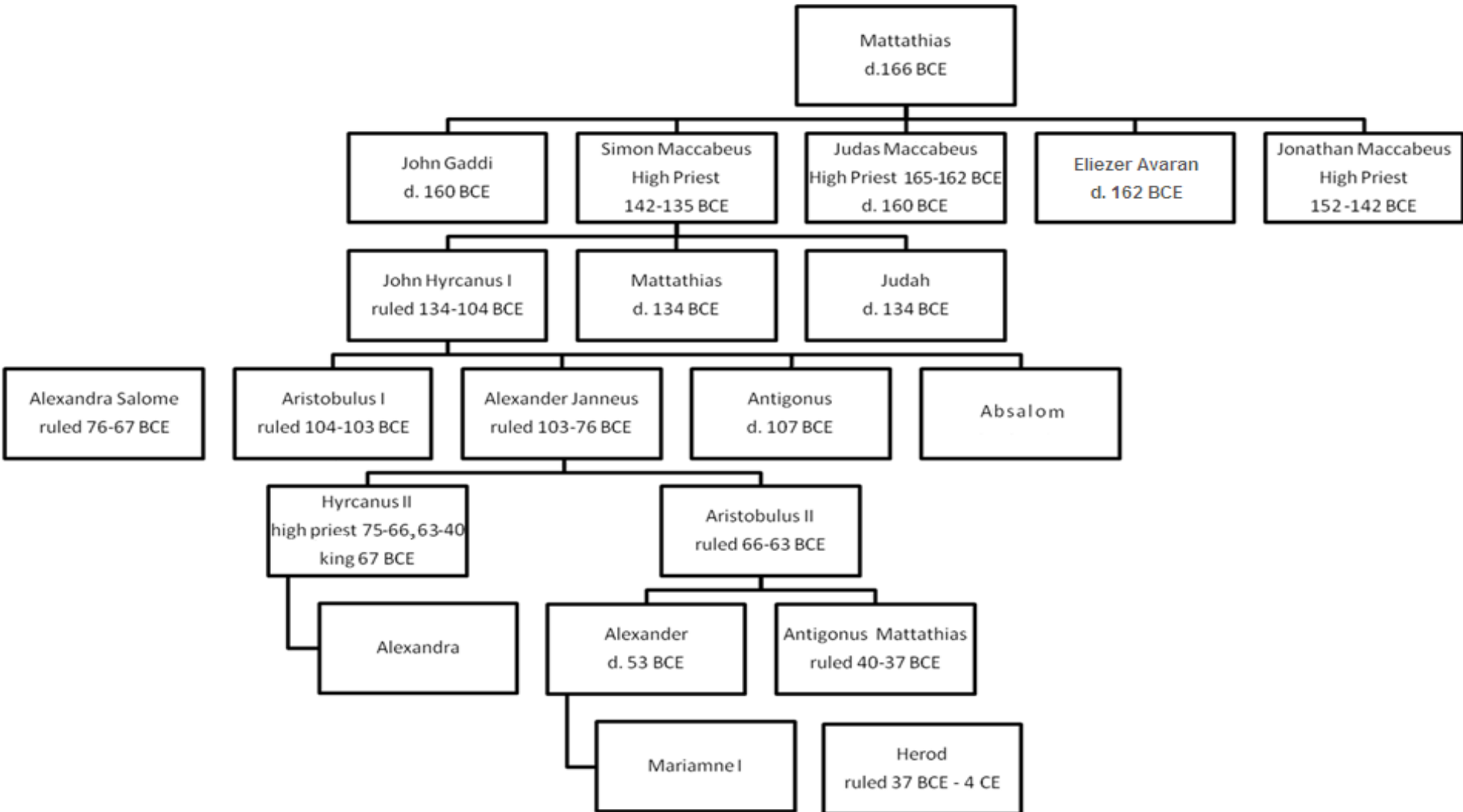
**They therefore which followed upon them,
perceiving that they were ready to fight for
their lives, turned back again.**

**Grief is the last act
of love we can give to
those we loved.**

**And for that reason they all came into the
land of Judah peaceably, and there they
bewailed Jonathan, and them which were
with him, and they were sore afraid; and for
this reason all Israel made great lamentation.**



Then all the heathen who were round about them sought to destroy them: for, said they, “They have no captain, nor any to help them: now therefore let us make war upon them, and take away their memorial from amongst men.



Now when Simon (2nd son of MattisYAHU, elder brother of Judas) heard that Tryphon had gathered together a great host, to invade the land of Judah and destroy it; and saw that the people were in great trembling and fear, he went up to Jerusalem, and gathered the people together; and gave them exhortation, saying, “You, yourselves know what great things I and my brothers, and my father's house, have done for the Torah and the sanctuary, the battles also and troubles which we have seen.”

By reason and for what cause all my brothers are slain for Israel's sake, and I am left alone. Now therefore be it far from me that I should spare mine own life in any time of trouble: for I am no better than my brothers. Doubtless I will avenge my nation and the sanctuary, and our wives and our children: for all the heathen are gathered to destroy us of very malice.”



**And he rekindled the spirit of the people, as soon as they heard these words.
And they answered with a loud voice, saying, “You are our leader instead of
Judas and Jonathan your brother.”**



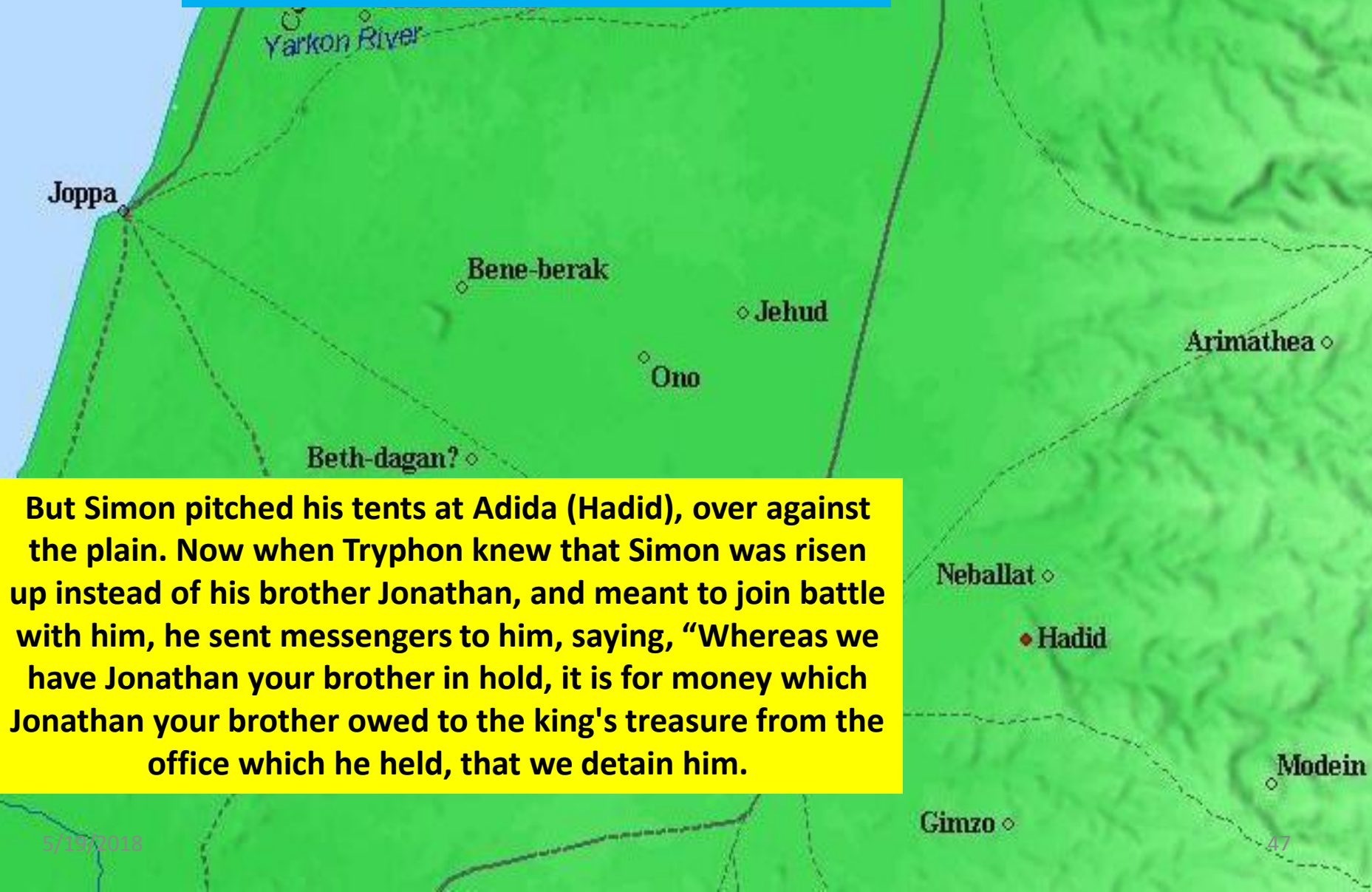
**Fight you our battles, and whatsoever you command us, that will we do.” So then
he gathered together all the men of war, and made haste to finish the walls of
Jerusalem, and he fortified it round about.**

Also he sent Jonathan the son of Absalom, and with him a great power, to Joppe: who casting out them which were therein, remained there in it.

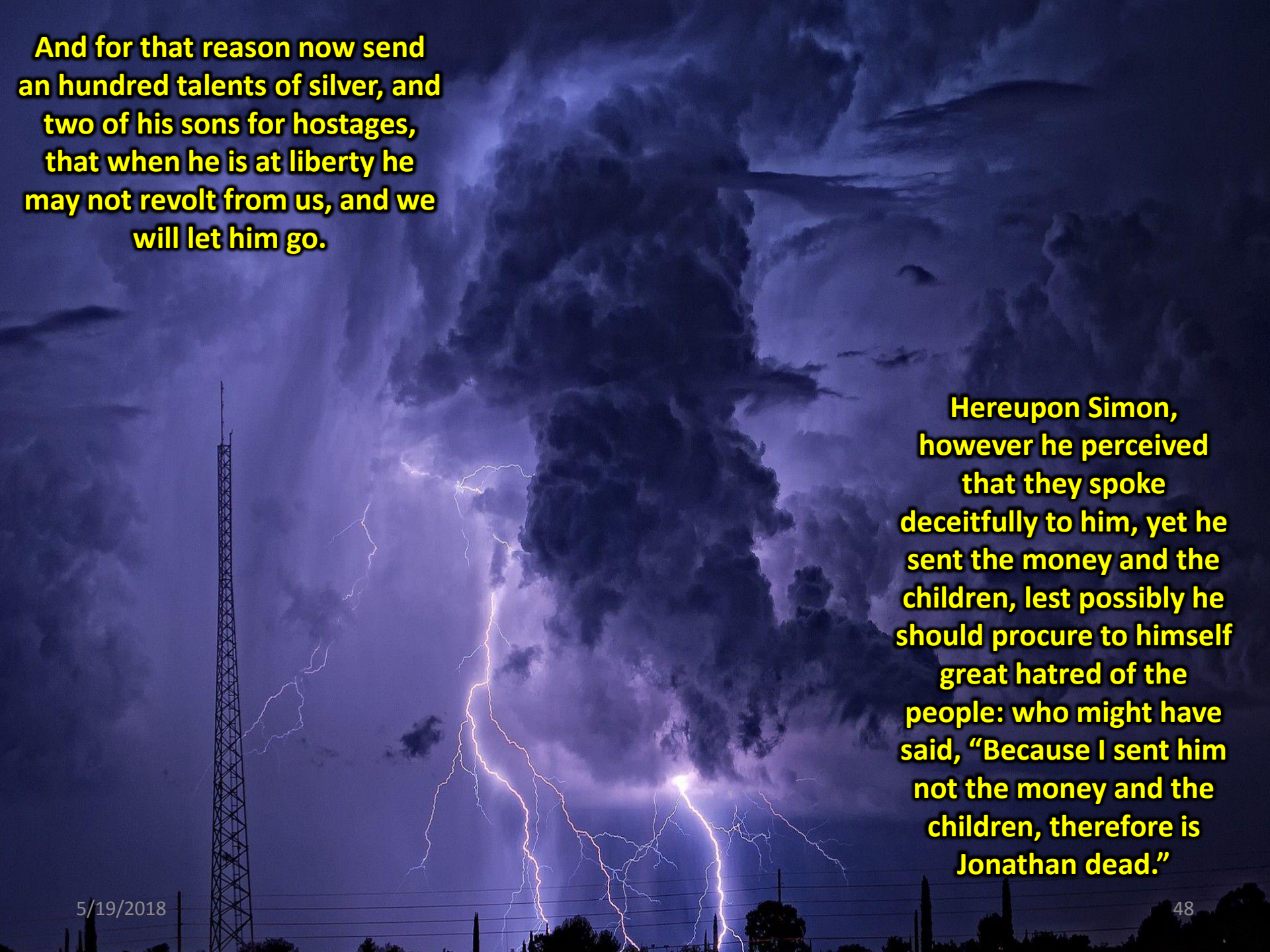


So Tryphon removed from Ptolemais with a great power to invade the land of Judah, and Jonathan was with him in ward.

Adida
a fortified town near Jerusalem,
probably the HADID of
Ezr 2:33 and referred to in 1Ma 12:38



But Simon pitched his tents at Adida (Hadid), over against the plain. Now when Tryphon knew that Simon was risen up instead of his brother Jonathan, and meant to join battle with him, he sent messengers to him, saying, "Whereas we have Jonathan your brother in hold, it is for money which Jonathan your brother owed to the king's treasure from the office which he held, that we detain him."




**And for that reason now send
an hundred talents of silver, and
two of his sons for hostages,
that when he is at liberty he
may not revolt from us, and we
will let him go.**

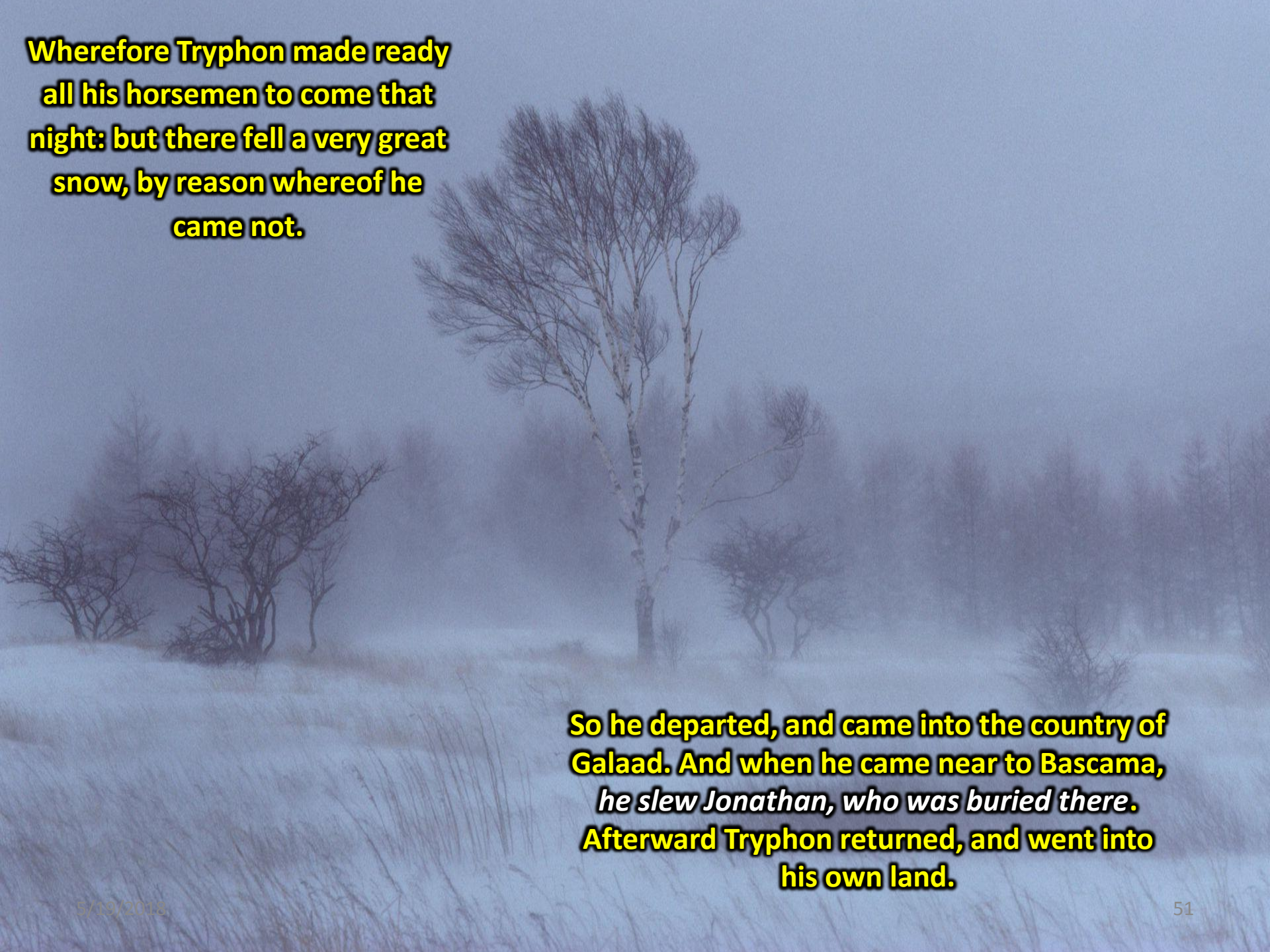
**Hereupon Simon,
however he perceived
that they spoke
deceitfully to him, yet he
sent the money and the
children, lest possibly he
should procure to himself
great hatred of the
people: who might have
said, "Because I sent him
not the money and the
children, therefore is
Jonathan dead."**

So he sent the children and the hundred talents: however Tryphon dissembled (being deceitful), neither would he let Jonathan go. And after this came Tryphon to invade the land, and destroy it, going round about by the way which leads to Adorac: but Simon and his host marched against him in every place wherever he went.



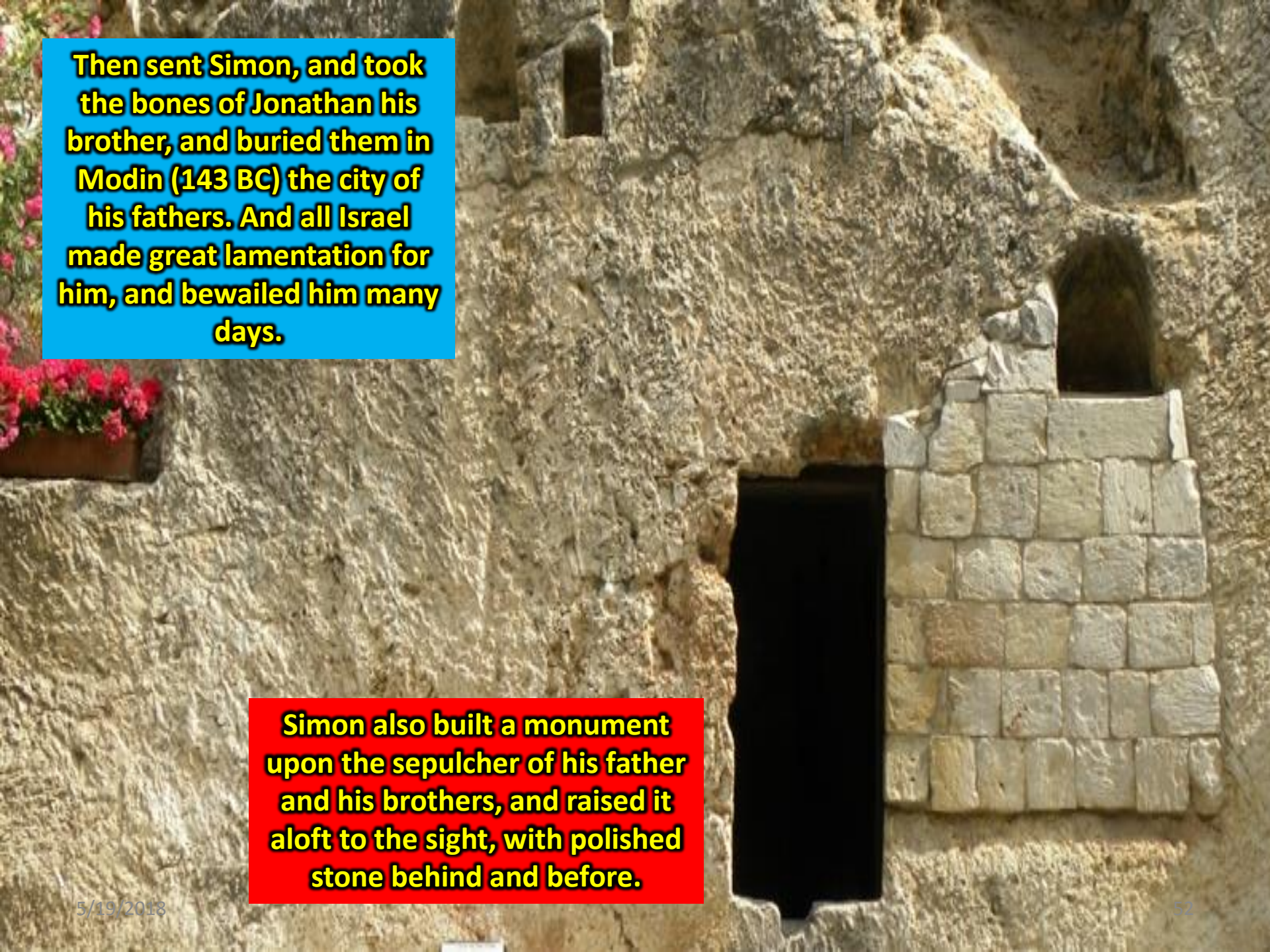


Now they which were in the tower, sent messengers to Tryphon, to the end that he should hasten his coming to them by the wilderness, and send them victuals.

A winter landscape with snow-covered ground and bare trees under a grey sky. The scene is misty and overcast, with a large, leafless tree in the center and several smaller trees to the left. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, and the sky is a uniform, dull grey.

**Wherefore Tryphon made ready
all his horsemen to come that
night: but there fell a very great
snow, by reason whereof he
came not.**

**So he departed, and came into the country of
Galaad. And when he came near to Bascama,
he slew Jonathan, who was buried there.
Afterward Tryphon returned, and went into
his own land.**



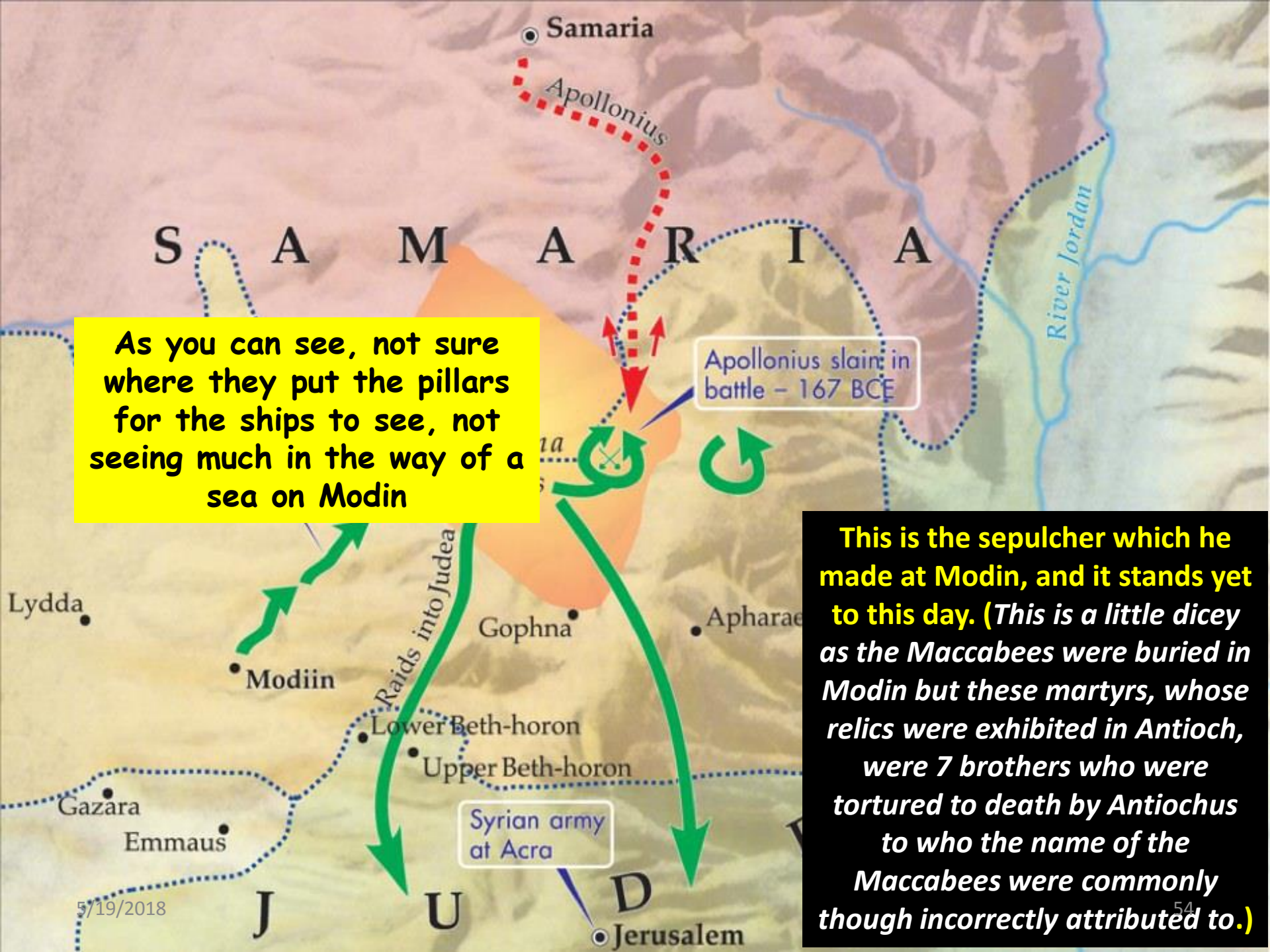
Then sent Simon, and took the bones of Jonathan his brother, and buried them in Modin (143 BC) the city of his fathers. And all Israel made great lamentation for him, and bewailed him many days.

Simon also built a monument upon the sepulcher of his father and his brothers, and raised it aloft to the sight, with polished stone behind and before.

Moreover, he set up seven pyramids one against another, for his father and his mother, and his four brothers.



And on these he made cunning devices, about that which he set great pillars, and upon the pillars he made all their armor for a perpetual memory, and by the armor ships carved, that they might be seen by all who sail on the sea.



As you can see, not sure where they put the pillars for the ships to see, not seeing much in the way of a sea on Modin


Apollonius slain in battle - 167 BCE

Syrian army at Acra

This is the sepulcher which he made at Modin, and it stands yet to this day. (This is a little dicey as the Maccabees were buried in Modin but these martyrs, whose relics were exhibited in Antioch, were 7 brothers who were tortured to death by Antiochus to who the name of the Maccabees were commonly though incorrectly attributed to.)



Now Tryphon dealt deceitfully with the young King Antiochus, and slew him. And he reigned in his stead, and crowned himself king of Asia, and brought a great calamity upon the land.




Then Simon built up the strong holds in Judaea; and fenced them about with high towers, and great walls, and gates, and bars; and laid up victuals in the strong holds.



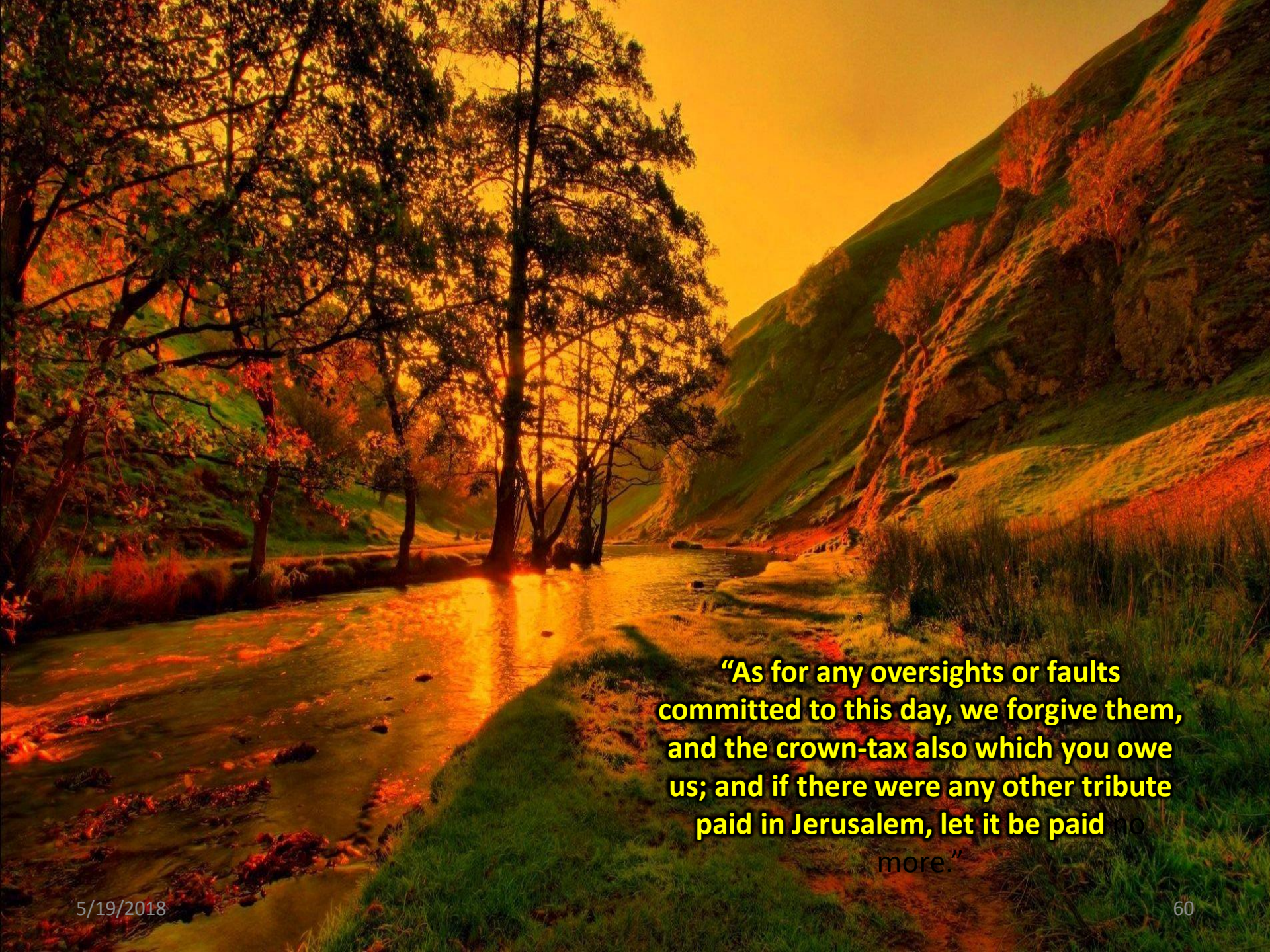
Moreover, Simon chose men, and sent to king Demetrius, to the end he should give the land immunity, because all which Tryphon did was to spoil and rob.

And king Demetrius sent to him according to these words: and answered him, and wrote him a letter, to this effect: "King Demetrius to Simon the high priest, and friend of kings, as also to the elders and nation of the Hebrew, sends greetings:






“The golden crown and the golden palm-branch, which you sent to us, we have received; and we are ready to make a steadfast peace with you; yea, and to write to our officers, to grant you immunities. And whatsoever covenants we have made with you, still stand; and the strongholds which you have built, let them be your own.”



“As for any oversights or faults committed to this day, we forgive them, and the crown-tax also which you owe us; and if there were any other tribute paid in Jerusalem, let it be paid no more.”

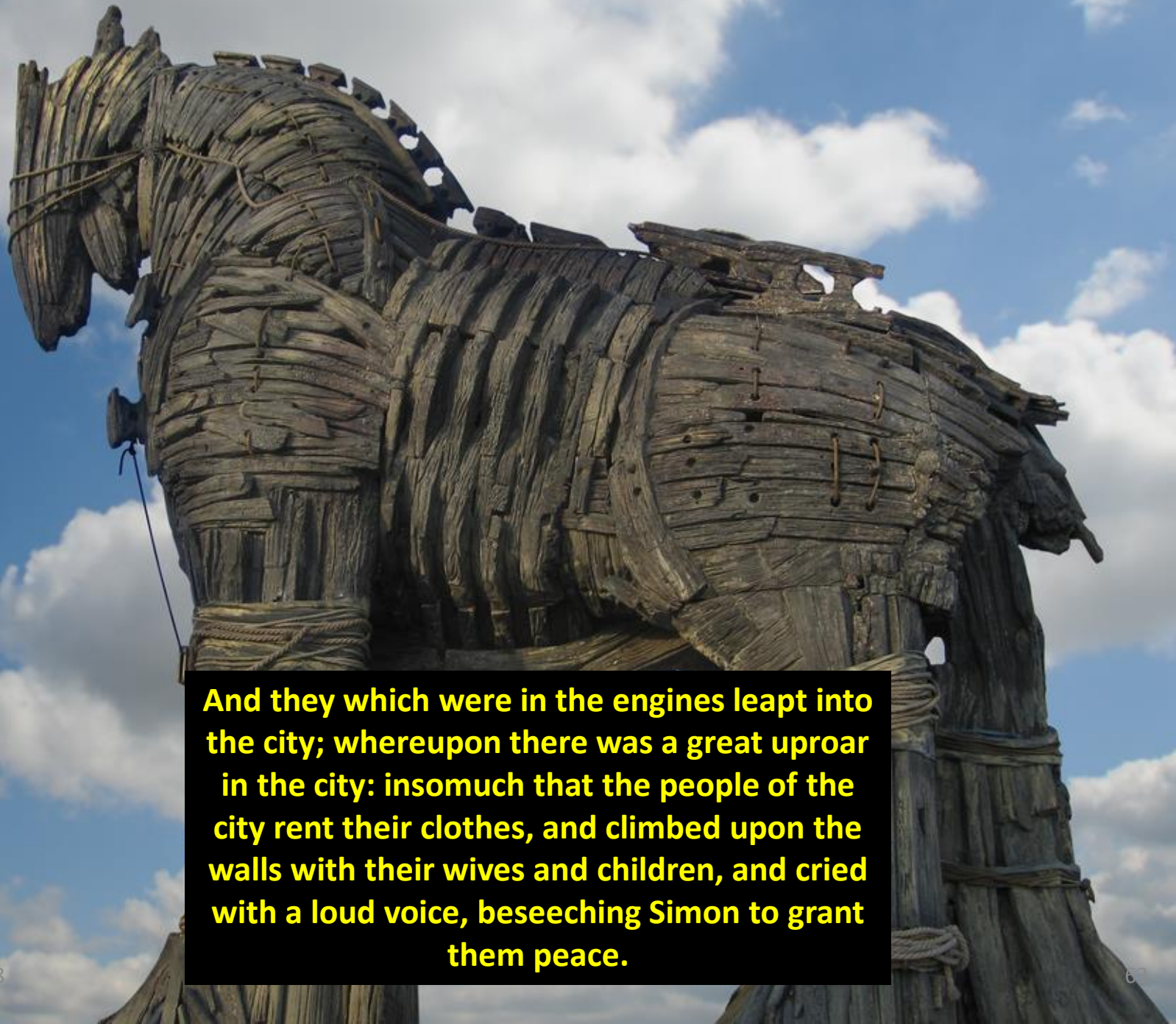
A photograph of a stone staircase in a forest during autumn. The steps are covered with fallen leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. A large, weathered log lies on the right side of the path. The background shows tall trees and more foliage, with sunlight filtering through the canopy.

"And if there be any among you meet to be enrolled in our court, let them be enrolled, and let there be peace between us." Thus the yoke of the heathen was taken away from Israel, in the hundred and seventieth year.



Then the people of Israel began to write in their instruments and contracts, "In the first year of Simon the great high priest, the governor and leader of the Hebrews."

In those days Simon camped against Gaza (Gazara), and besieged it round about; he made also engines of war (the helepolis appears to have been a machine of vast size and most formidable power), and set them by the city, and battered a certain tower, and took it.⁶²

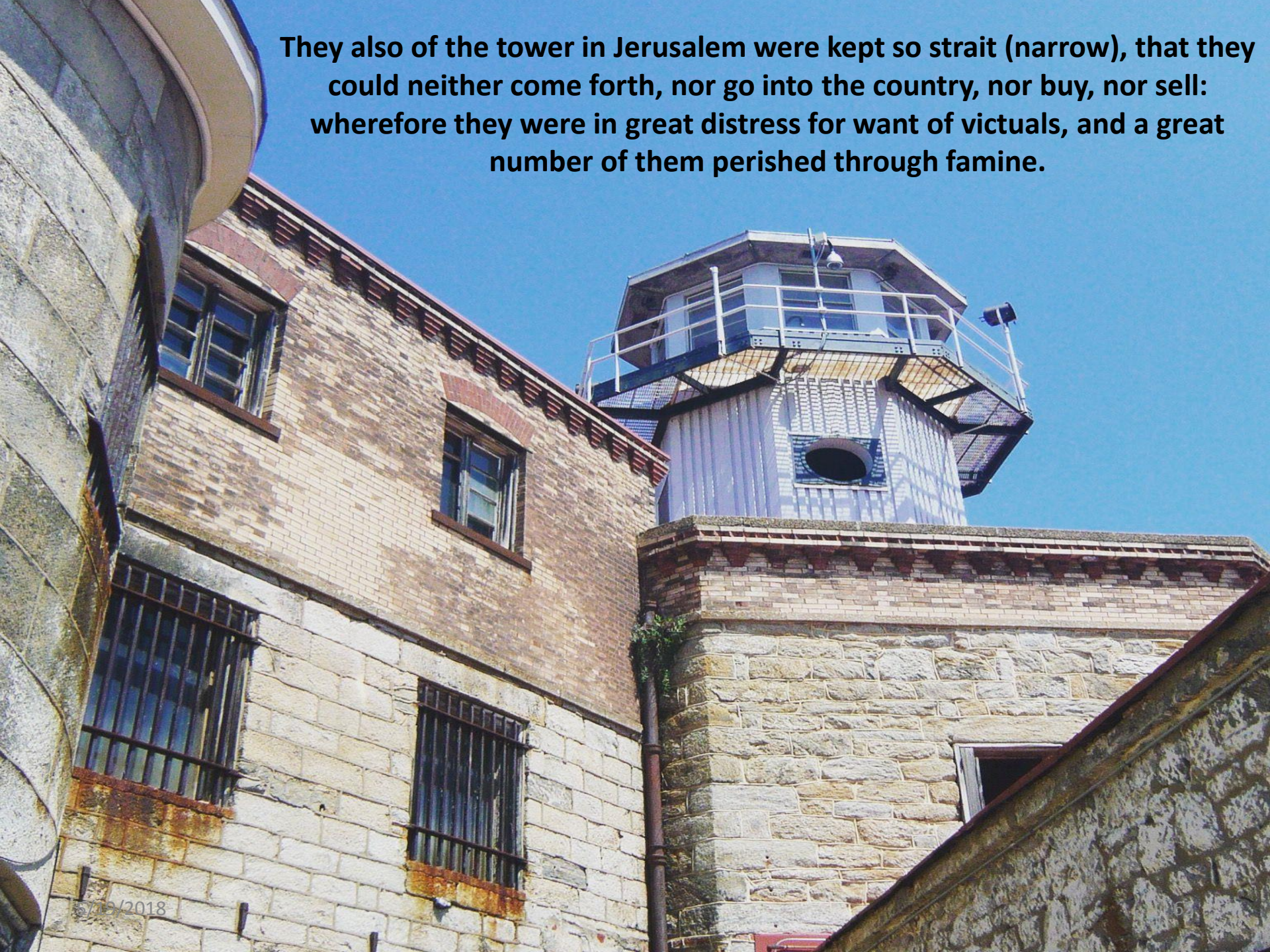


And they which were in the engines leapt into the city; whereupon there was a great uproar in the city: insomuch that the people of the city rent their clothes, and climbed upon the walls with their wives and children, and cried with a loud voice, beseeching Simon to grant them peace.



And they said, “Deal not with us according to our wickedness’s, but according to your mercy. So Simon was appeased towards them, and fought no more against them; but put them out of the city, and cleansed the houses wherein the idols were: and so entered into it with songs and thanksgivings. Yes, he put all uncleanness out of it, and placed such men there, as would keep the Torah; and made it stronger than it was before, and built therein a dwelling-place for himself.

They also of the tower in Jerusalem were kept so strait (narrow), that they could neither come forth, nor go into the country, nor buy, nor sell: wherefore they were in great distress for want of victuals, and a great number of them perished through famine.



Then cried they to Simon, beseeching him that they might have peace: which thing he granted them; and when he had put them out from there, he cleansed the tower from pollutions: and entered into it the three and twentieth day of the second month, in the hundred seventy and first year, with thanksgiving and branches of palm-trees, and with harps, and cymbals, and with viols, and hymns, and songs: because there was destroyed a great enemy (from the time the tower had been built by Antiochus Epiphanes, it had always been a snare and an evil adversary to Israel) out of Israel.



TOWER OF DAVID

He ordained also, that they should keep that day every year with gladness. Moreover, the hill of the temple, which was by the tower, he made stronger (by lowering the adjoining hill) than it was, and there he dwelt himself with his company. And when Simon saw that John his son was a valiant man, he made him captain of all the hosts; and he dwelt in Gazara.

**NEXT UP – PART 9 OF
THE 2ND BOOK OF
MACCABEES**



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