



Book
— **By** —
Book

OUR GOAL

To encourage you to read at least one book of the Bible each month so that you may:

- 1) better understand who God is
- 2) where you fit into His story.

BIBLE STUDY METHOD

OBSERVATION

What does the text say?

INTERPRETATION

What does it mean?

APPLICATION

What did I learn that should affect my life?

WHAT IS OBSERVATION?

Observation is the process of collecting facts, like a detective at a crime scene.

It's about focusing only on what the text says.

Do not rush observation.



Interrogate the Text

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

How?

THE INTERROGATION

Who is involved, talking, or being mentioned?

What is the subject or topic being discussed?

When is the activity or discussion taking place?

THE INTERROGATION

Where is the activity or discussion taking place?

Why is the activity or discussion taking place?

How are the people involved responding?

LITERARY QUESTIONS

Ask literary questions to identify what is **most important**.

What are some **keywords**?

What is the atmosphere or **mood**?

EVERY QUESTION EVERY TIME?

Always keep these questions in mind, but don't be concerned if you can't find the answer to each question every time.

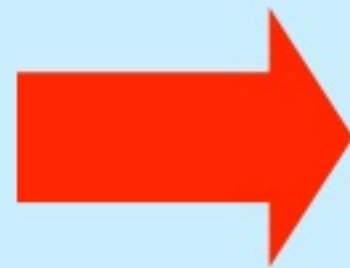
Not all the questions will apply, depending on the passage.

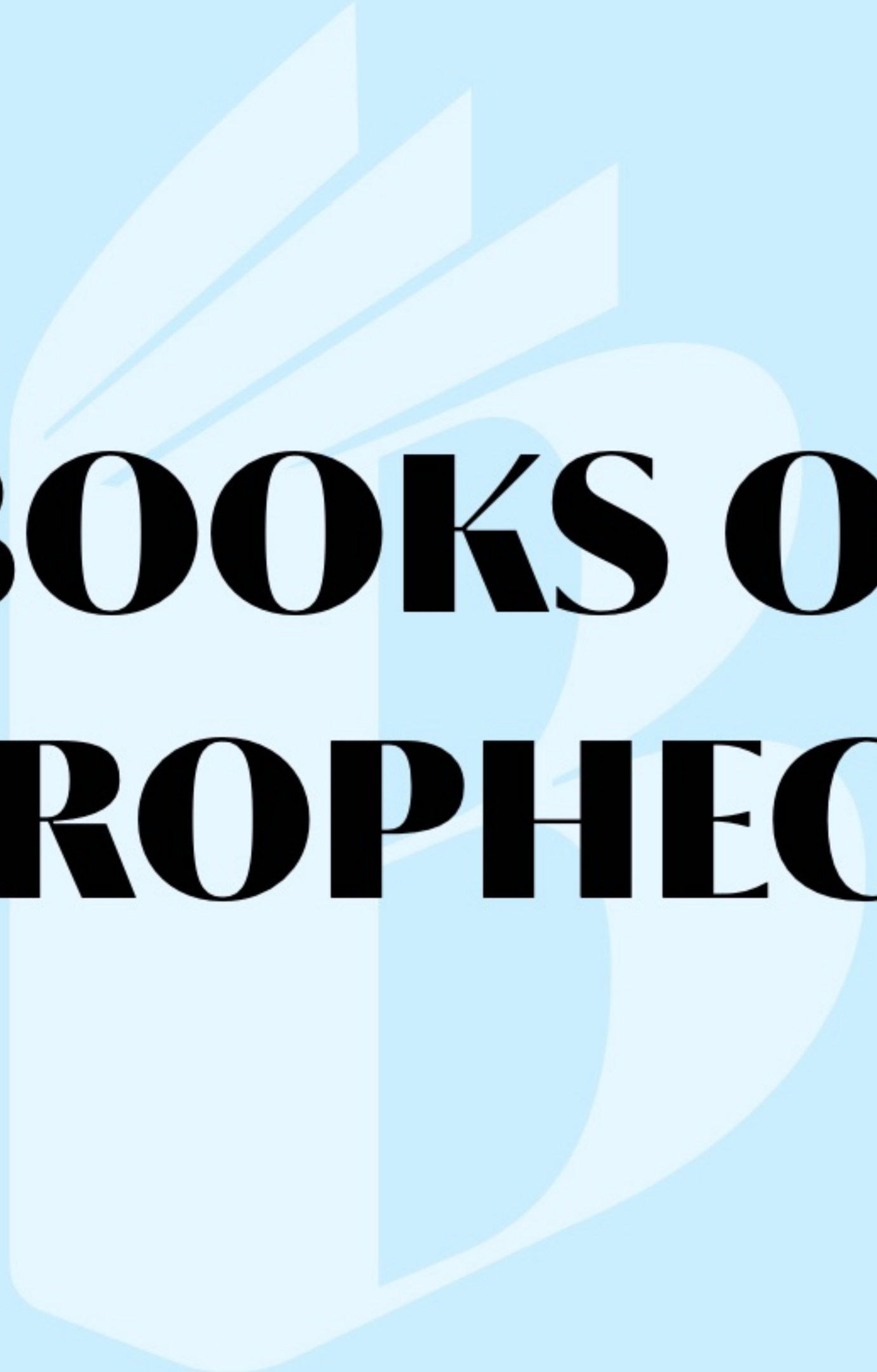
GROUP TALK

Let's give it a try!

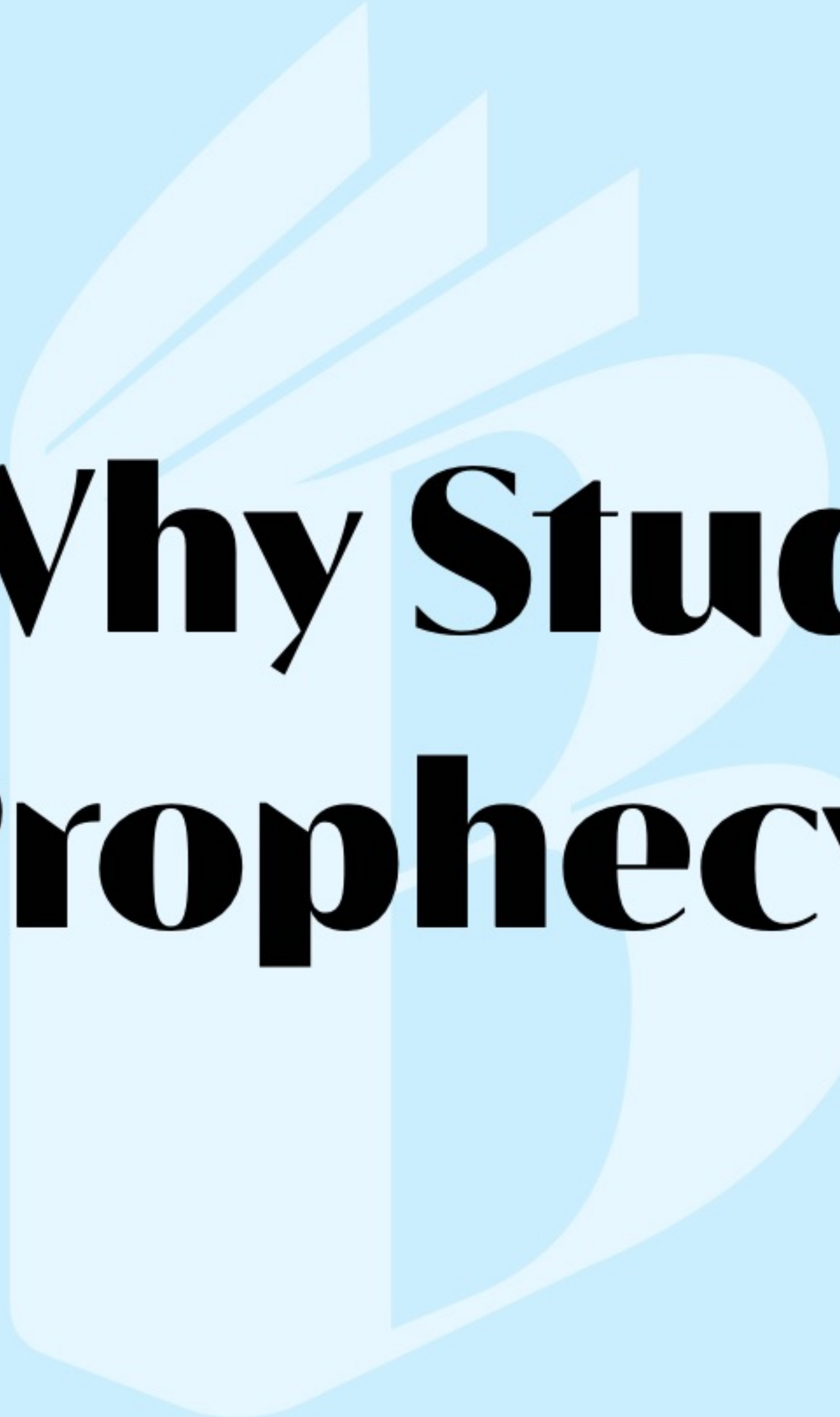
YOU ARE HERE

- Law (Genesis - Deuteronomy)
- History (Joshua - Esther)
- Poetry (Job - Song of Solomon)
- Major Prophets (Isaiah - Daniel)

 Minor Prophets (Hosea - Malachi)



BOOKS OF PROPHECY



Why Study Prophecy?

WHY PROPHECY?

1) A call to godly living

“Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.”

Isaiah 1:18

WHY PROPHECY?

2) To build faith and confidence in the God who miraculously foretold events.

I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe. John 14:29

OFFERS HOPE AND COMFORT

Prophecy provides assurance that evil will be defeated, the world will be restored, and God will fulfill His promises.

PROVIDES A PROPER PERSPECTIVE

It shifts focus from immediate, earthly struggles to an eternal perspective.

KEEP IN MIND

The prophets did not always indicate intervals of time between events nor did they always write in chronological order.

Always consider the historical context of that writing, remembering that God was delivering His prophecy to a particular people at a particular time.

KEEP IN MIND

The meaning of a specific prophecy could not always be understood by the prophet or by the people who heard the message.

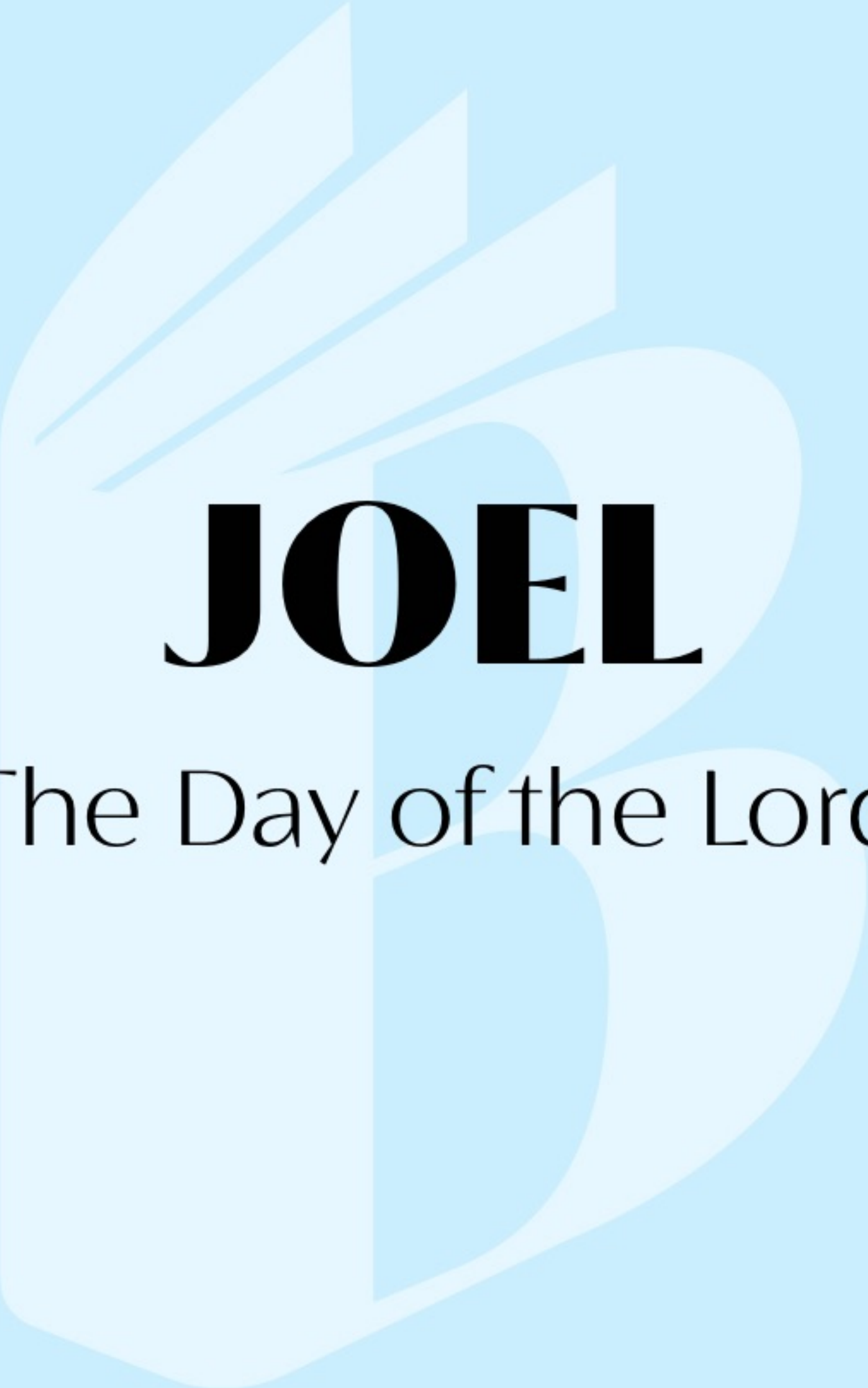
I heard what he said, but I did not understand what he meant. So I asked, “How will all this finally end, my lord?”

But he said, “Go now, Daniel, for what I have said is kept secret and sealed until the time of the end.

Daniel 12:8-9



REVIEW



JOEL

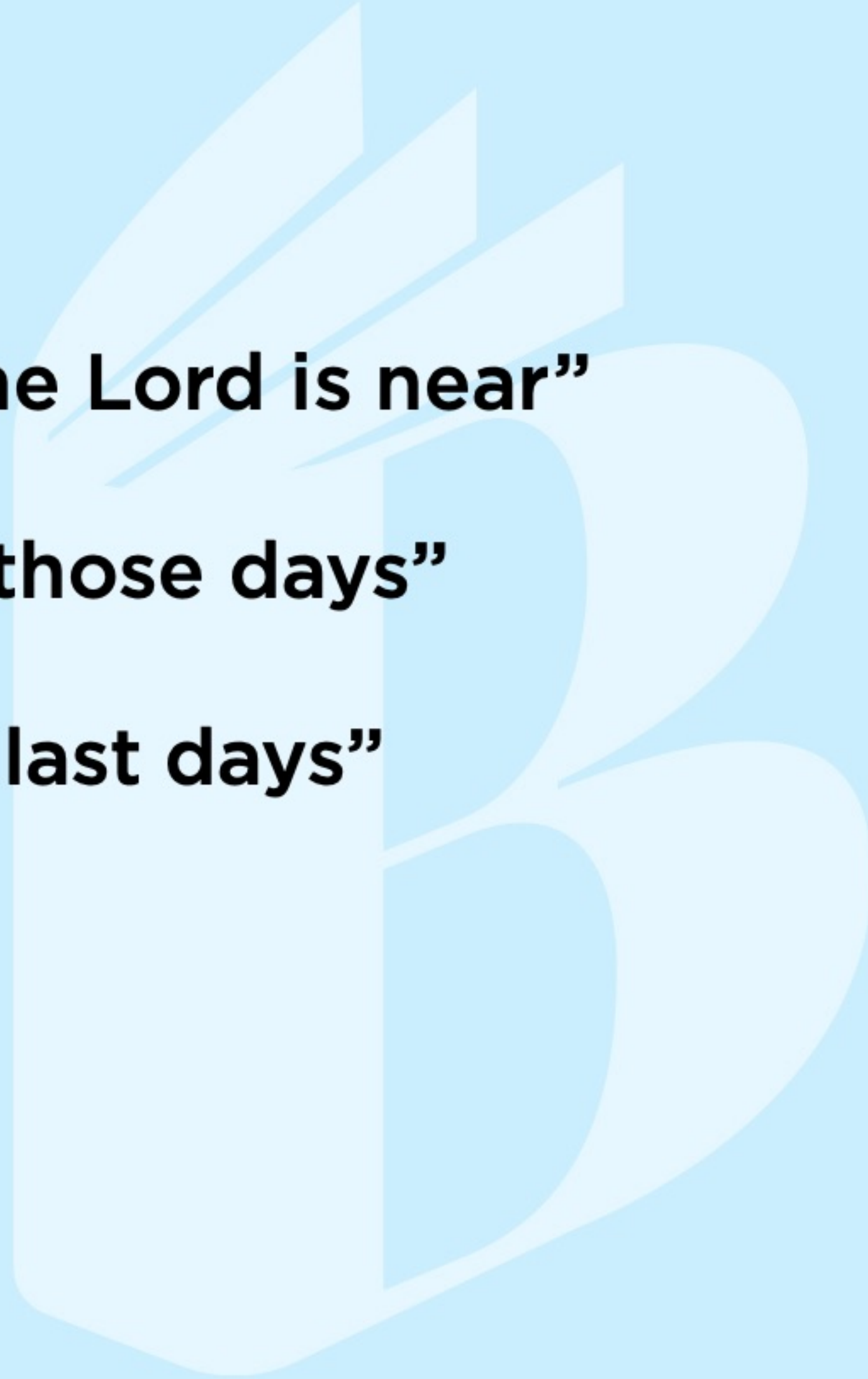
The Day of the Lord

PROPHECY

SOON “the day of the Lord is near”

IN THE FUTURE “In those days”

AT THE END “In the last days”



PAINFUL EVENTS

Locusts (1:4)

Drought (1:17)

Fire (1:20)

Invasion (1:6)



CALLS TO ACTION

Hear this, you leaders of the people. Listen, all who live in the land.
Joel 1:2

Tell your children about it in the years to come, and let your children tell their children. Pass the story down from generation to generation. Joel 1:3

CALLS TO ACTION

Wake up, you drunkards, and weep! Joel 1:5

Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Bring the leaders and all the people of the land into the Temple of the Lord your God, and cry out to him there. Joel 1:14

EXPECTATION OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

Sound the trumpet in Jerusalem! Raise the alarm on my holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the Lord is upon us. Joel 2:1

The Lord is at the head of the column. He leads them with a shout. This is his mighty army, and they follow his orders. The day of the Lord is an awesome, terrible thing. Who can possibly survive? Joel 2:11

CALLS TO ACTION. Joel 2:12-13

Turn to me now, while there is time.

Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

CALLS TO ACTION

Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.

WORTH REPEATING

I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.
Exodus 34:6

The Lord is slow to anger and filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. Numbers 14:18

WORTH REPEATING

But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. Psalm 103:8

WORTH REPEATING

I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

Jonah 4:2

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. John 1:14

For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:17

RESTORATION

The Lord will pity his people and jealously guard the honor of his land. (2:18)

He will satisfy your needs. (2:19)

Israel will no longer be an object of mockery among the surrounding nations. (2:19)

He will drive away these armies. (2:20)

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

The Lord says, “I will give you back what you lost to the swarming locusts, the hopping locusts, the stripping locusts, and the cutting locusts. It was I who sent this great destroying army against you. Once again you will have all the food you want, and you will praise the Lord your God, who does these miracles for you. Never again will my people be disgraced. Then you will know that I am among my people Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other. Never again will my people be disgraced. Joel 2:25-27

AFTER THIS...

I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth.

The sun will become dark.

The moon will turn blood red.

THE ENEMIES

“At the time of those events,” says the Lord, “when I restore the prosperity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather the armies of the world into the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will judge them for harming my people, my special possession, for scattering my people among the nations, and for dividing up my land.

Joel 3:1-2

THE BATTLE

Say to the nations far and wide: “Get ready for war! Call out your best warriors. Let all your fighting men advance for the attack. Hammer your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Train even your weaklings to be warriors. Come quickly, all you nations everywhere. Gather together in the valley.” “Let the nations be called to arms. Let them march to the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I, the Lord, will sit to pronounce judgment on them all. Joel 3:9-12

BLESSINGS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, live in Zion, my holy mountain.

Jerusalem will be holy forever.

Foreign armies will never conquer her again.

Judah will be filled with people forever.

BLESSINGS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Jerusalem will endure through all generations.

God will pardon his people's crimes.

The Lord will make his home in Jerusalem with his people.

JOEL QUOTED IN NEW TESTAMENT

No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: “In the last days,” God says, “I will pour out my spirit upon all people.”
Acts 2:16-17 (Joel 2:28)

JOEL QUOTED IN NEW TESTAMENT

Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Matthew 24:29
(Joel 2:10)

JOEL QUOTED IN NEW TESTAMENT

For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
Romans 10:13 (Joel 2:32)



AMOS

Repent before Judgment Comes

ABOUT AMOS

A shepherd who took care of sycamore-fig trees (7:14)

From Tekoa (In Judah, 5 miles south of Bethlehem)

Was sent by God to prophecy to the Northern Kingdom

His visions came during the reigns of Uzziah (Judah) and Jeroboam II (Israel)

NATIONS FACING JUDGMENT

Damascus (capital of Syria)

Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon & Ekron (Philistines)

Tyre (north of Jerusalem on Mediterranean)

Edom (southern Jordan)

Ammon (east of Israel, north of Moab)

Moab (east of Judah)

JUDAH (SOUTHERN KINGDOM)

Rejected the instruction of the Lord, refusing to obey his decrees.

Have been led astray by the same lies that deceived their ancestors.

God will send down fire destroying all the fortresses.

ISRAEL (NORTHERN KINGDOM)

They sell honorable people for silver and poor people for a pair of sandals.

They trample helpless people in the dust and shove the oppressed out of the way.

Both father and son sleep with the same woman.

ISRAEL (NORTHERN KINGDOM)

They lounge in clothing their debtors put up as security at the religious festivals.

In the house of their gods, they drink wine bought with unjust fines.

They caused the Nazirites to sin by making them drink wine, and commanded the prophets, "Shut up!"

ISRAEL (NORTHERN KINGDOM)

God will make the groan like a wagon loaded down with sheaves of grain.

Your fastest runners will not get away. The strongest among you will become weak. Even mighty warriors will be unable to save themselves.

The most courageous of your fighting men will drop their weapons and run for their lives.

GOD'S PEOPLE

“My people have forgotten how to do right,” says the Lord. “Their fortresses are filled with wealth taken by theft and violence. Therefore,” says the Sovereign Lord, “an enemy is coming! He will surround them and shatter their defenses. Then he will plunder all their fortresses.”

Amos 3:10-11

CAN I GET YOUR ATTENTION?

God sent:

Hunger and famine

Drought

Blight and mildew

Plagues

War

Fire

THEIR RESPONSE:

Yet you have not returned to Me, declares the Lord.
(4:6,8,9,10,11)

HOW GOD DESCRIBES HIMSELF

(CHAPTER 4)

The one who shaped the mountains.

The one who stirs up the wind.

The one who reveals his thoughts to mankind.

The one who turns the light of dawn into darkness.

The one who treads on the heights of the earth.

The Lord God of Heaven's Armies is his name!

GOD'S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIS PEOPLE

(CHAPTER 5)

You twist justice, making it a bitter pill for the oppressed.

You treat the righteous like dirt.

You hate honest judges.

You despise people who tell the truth.

You trample the poor.

You oppress good people by taking bribes.

You deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

GOD'S PLEA FOR REPENTANCE

(CHAPTER 5)

Come back to me and live!

Come back to the Lord and live!

Do what is good and run from evil so that you may live!

Hate evil and love what is good.

Turn your courts into true halls of justice.

GOD'S CALLING CARD

It is the Lord who created the stars, the Pleiades and Orion. He turns darkness into morning and day into night. He draws up water from the oceans and pours it down as rain on the land.

The Lord is his name!

Amos 5:8

A COSTLY MISUNDERSTANDING

What sorrow awaits you who say, “If only the day of the Lord were here!”
You have no idea what you are wishing for. That day will bring darkness,
not light.

Amos 5:18

THE PARTY'S OVER

You push away every thought of coming disaster, but your actions only bring the day of judgment closer. How terrible for you who sprawl on ivory beds and lounge on your couches, eating the meat of tender lambs from the flock and of choice calves fattened in the stall. You sing trivial songs to the sound of the harp and fancy yourselves to be great musicians like David. You drink wine by the bowlful and perfume yourselves with fragrant lotions. You care nothing about the ruin of your nation. Therefore, you will be the first to be led away as captives. Suddenly, all your parties will end.

Amos 6:3-7

WHEN GOD RELENTS (CHAPTER 7)

In my vision the locusts ate every green plant in sight. Then I said, “O Sovereign Lord, please forgive us or we will not survive, for Israel is so small.”
So the Lord relented from this plan. “I will not do it,” he said.

Joel 7:2-3

WHEN GOD RELENTS (CHAPTER 7)

Then the Sovereign Lord showed me another vision. I saw him preparing to punish his people with a great fire. The fire had burned up the depths of the sea and was devouring the entire land. Then I said, “O Sovereign Lord, please stop or we will not survive, for Israel is so small.”

Then **the Lord relented from this plan, too.** “I will not do that either,” said the Sovereign Lord.

Amos 7:4-6

THE WORST FAMINE

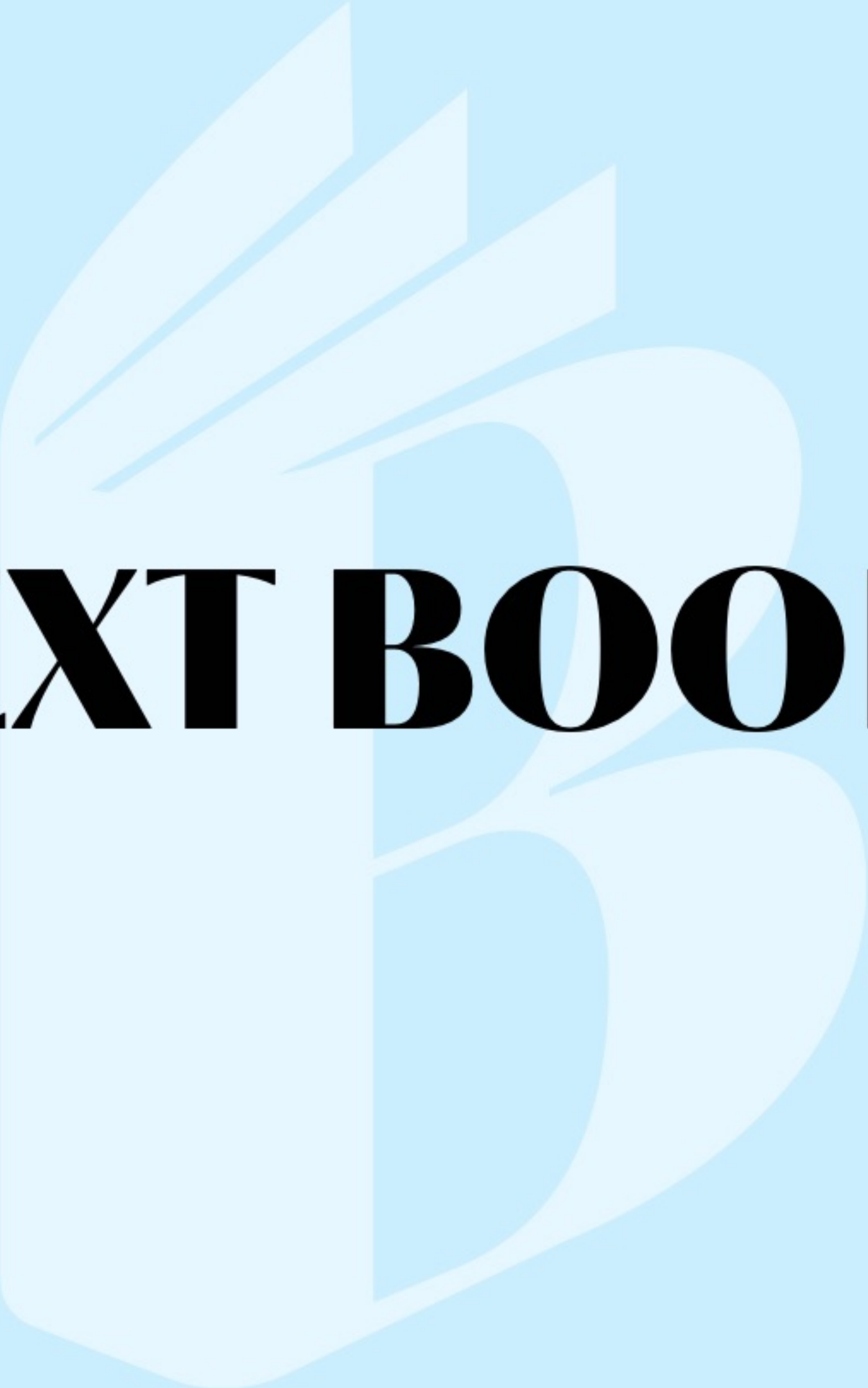
“The time is surely coming,” says the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread or water but of **hearing the words of the Lord**. People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from border to border searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it. Beautiful girls and strong young men will grow faint in that day, **thirsting for the Lord’s word**.”

Amos 8:11-13

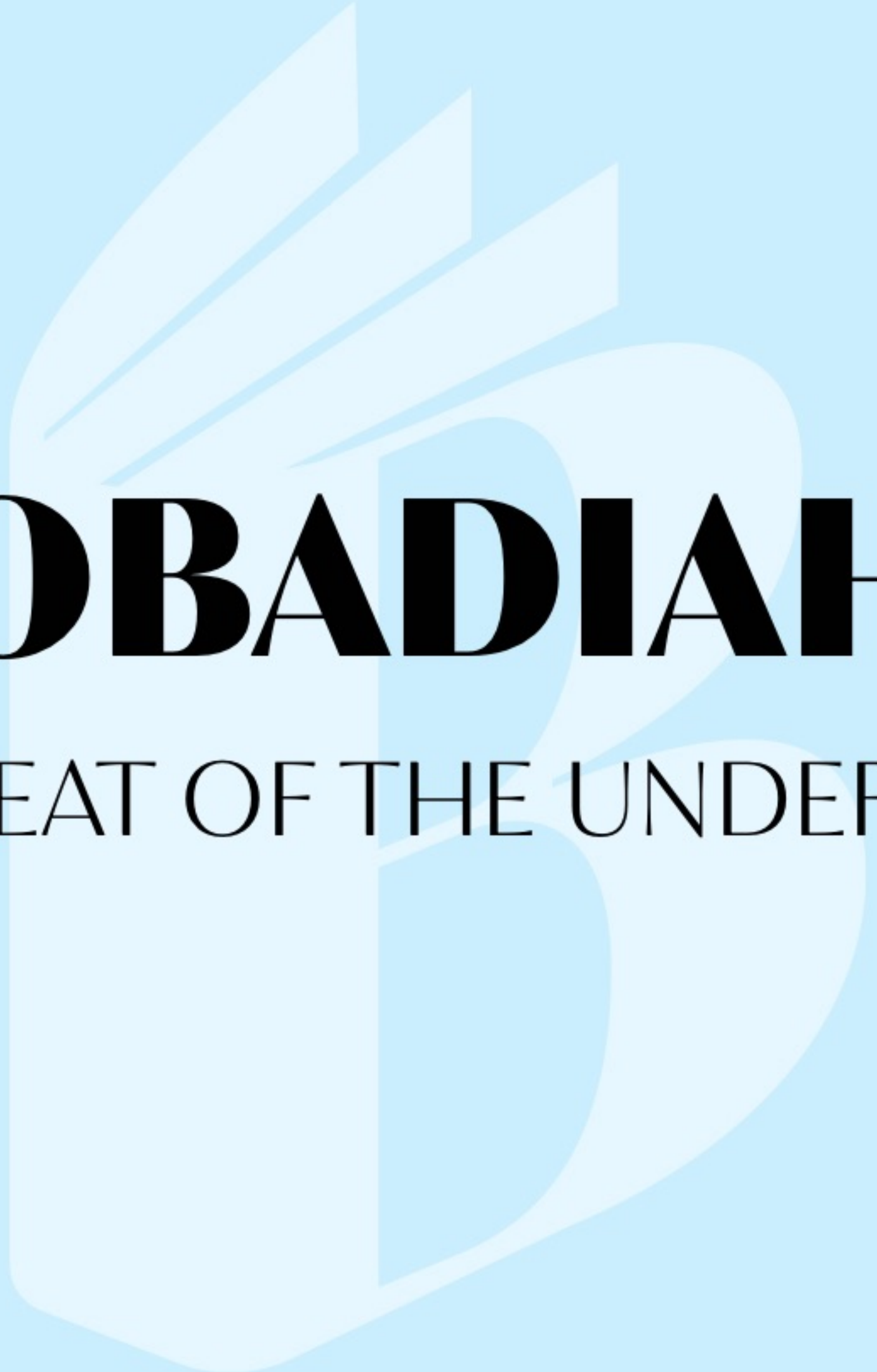
A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

I will bring my exiled people of Israel back from distant lands, and they will rebuild their ruined cities and live in them again. They will plant vineyards and gardens; they will eat their crops and drink their wine. I will firmly plant them there in their own land. They will **never again** be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.

Amos 9:14-15

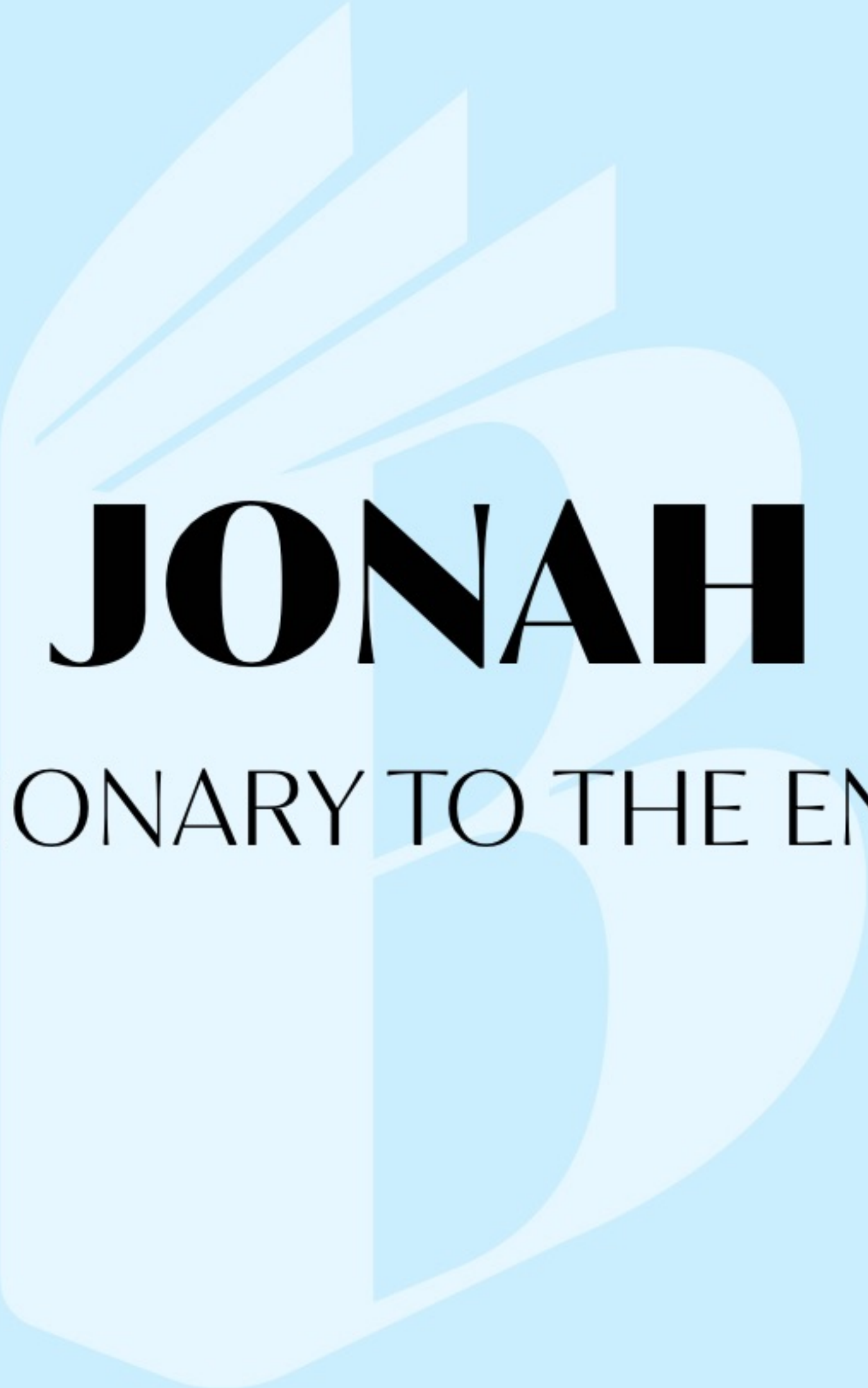


NEXT BOOKS



OBADIAH

THE DEFEAT OF THE UNDEFEATABLE



JONAH

MISSIONARY TO THE ENEMY

GOAL FOR THIS MONTH

Read the books of Obadiah and Jonah
(Total of 5 chapters.)

As you follow the handout, be sure to make notes of any insights you gain as you read and study along with any questions you encounter.

PREVIOUS NOTES

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