



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 and where you fit into his story
- 2) build a strong faith
- 3) face the future without fear

BIBLE STUDY METHOD

OBSERVATION

What does the text say?

INTERPRETATION

What does it mean?

APPLICATION

What did I learn that should affect my life?

INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

CONTEXT

Definition

Context is the set of circumstances, facts, or surrounding environment that helps explain the meaning, significance, or intent of an event, statement, or idea. **Without it, words or actions can easily be misunderstood or misinterpreted.**

CONTEXT

This includes:

Type of literature

Location

Time

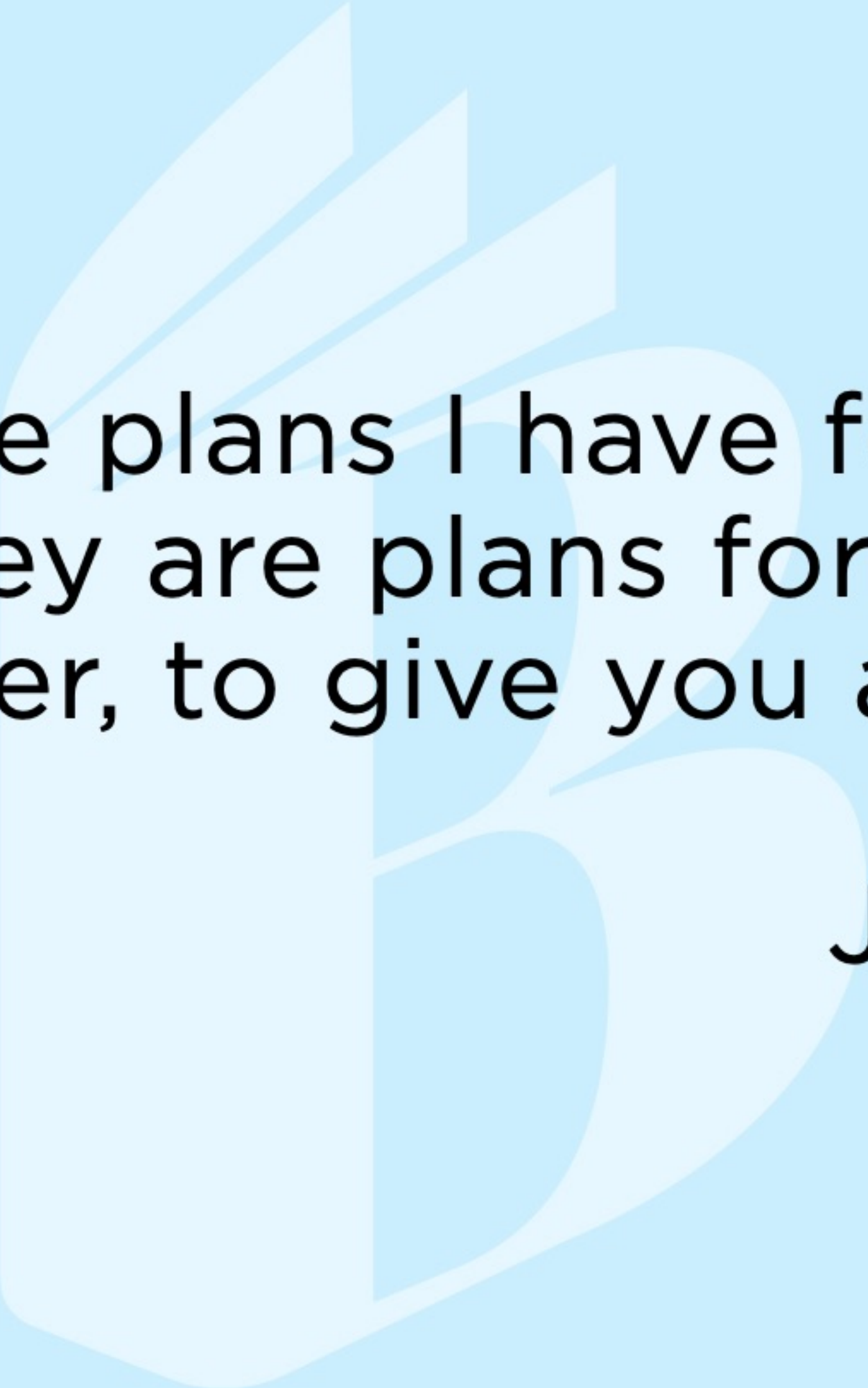
Culture



CONTEXT

Pay attention to what comes before and after the text.





For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

¹⁰ This is what the Lord says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” says the Lord. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.”

Jeremiah 29:10-14



“Be still, and know that I am God!”

Psalm 46:10

Come, see the glorious works of the Lord:
See how he brings destruction upon the world.
He causes wars to end throughout the earth.
He breaks the bow and snaps the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God!

I will be honored by every nation.

I will be honored throughout the world.”

Psalm 46:8-10

LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

Compare keywords, phrases, and events that are mentioned in other parts of the Bible.

Consider the original language.

Micah 5:2

A Ruler from **Bethlehem**

But you, O **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

BIBLE SEARCH RESULTS

Genesis 35:19

So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, **Bethlehem**).

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Genesis 48:7

"Long ago, as I was returning from Paddan-aram, Rachel died in the land of Canaan. We were still on the way, some distance from Ephrath (that is, **Bethlehem**). So with great sorrow I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath."

Old Testament (45)

Genesis (2)
Joshua (1)
Judges (9)
Ruth (7)
1 Samuel (8)
2 Samuel (6)
1 Chronicles (7)
2 Chronicles (1)
Ezra (1)
Nehemiah (1)
Jeremiah (1)
Micah (1)

New Testament (10)

Matthew (6)
Luke (3)
John (1)

436 Bible results for “pray” from New Living Translation. ▾ Results 1-25.

SUGGESTED RESULT

Helpful

Not Helpful

Matthew 26:41

Keep watch and **pray**, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

BIBLE SEARCH RESULTS

Genesis 20:7

Now return the woman to her husband, and he will **pray** for you, for he is a prophet. Then you will live. But if you don't return her to him, you can be sure that you and all your people will die."

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

25 ▾ results per page

FILTER BY

All (436)

Old Testament (259)

- Genesis (11)
- Exodus (4)
- Numbers (2)
- Deuteronomy (2)
- Joshua (2)
- Judges (4)
- 1 Samuel (12)
- 2 Samuel (4)
- 1 Kings (24)
- 2 Kings (10)
- 1 Chronicles (7)
- 2 Chronicles (29)
- Ezra (6)
- Nehemiah (8)
- Job (9)
- Psalms (62)
- Proverbs (3)
- Isaiah (16)
- Jeremiah (16)

Psalm 23 ▾ Amplified Bible, Classic Edition ▾

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

¹ The Lord is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack.

² He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] green pastures; He leads me beside the still *and* restful waters.

³ He refreshes *and* restores my life (my self); He leads me in the paths of righteousness [uprightness and right standing with Him—not for my earning it, but] for His name's sake.

⁴ Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear *or* dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with ^[a]oil; my [brimming] cup runs over.

⁶ Surely *or* only goodness, mercy, *and* unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and through the length of my days the house of the Lord [and His presence] shall be my dwelling place.

✓ יְנַהֵלֵנִי: y^enă·hălē'·nî

✓ יְנַהֵל y^enă·hălē' ...est in green meadows; **he leads** me beside peaceful str...

🔊 נהל nhl escort; transport; provide (food); move on further

verb, Pi“ēl, yiqtōl (imperfect), third person, masculine, singular |

Sense: **to lead (guide)** – to take or guide somewhere.



REVIEW



MICAH

Justice, Purification & Redemption

ABOUT MICAH

His name means “Who is like Jehovah?”

From the village of Moresbeth (southwest of Jerusalem)

He prophesied during the last half of the 8th century BC.
(during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah)

Contemporary Prophets: Isaiah, Amos & Hosea

His visions concerned both Samaria and Jerusalem.

Prophets

Judah

Israel

Nahum c. 640?

Isaiah c. 745 - c. 685

Micah c. 740 - c. 700

Amos c. 767 - 753

Amos c. 767 - 753

Hosea c. 755 - c. 725

Jonah c. 790?

Joel c. 620?

Obadiah c. 586

Daniel 603/602 - 536/535

Ezekiel 593/592 - c. 570

Jeremiah c. 627 - c. 580 (or 560)

Habakkuk c. 630?

Zephaniah c. 630?

Zechariah 520 - c. 518

Haggai 520(519?)

Malachi c. 425



THREE KINGS

JOTHAM

³⁴ Jotham did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight. He did everything his father, Uzziah, had done. ³⁵ But he did not destroy the pagan shrines, and the people still offered sacrifices and burned incense there. He rebuilt the upper gate of the Temple of the Lord. 2 Kings 15:34

⁶ King Jotham became powerful because he was careful to live in obedience to the Lord his God. 2 Chronicles 27:6

AHAZ

² Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. He did not do what was pleasing in the sight of the Lord his God, as his ancestor David had done. ³ Instead, he followed the example of the kings of Israel, even sacrificing his own son in the fire. In this way, he followed the detestable practices of the pagan nations the Lord had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites.

2 Kings 16:2-3

HEZEKIAH

Hezekiah son of Ahaz began to rule over Judah in the third year of King Hoshea's reign in Israel.⁵ Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before or after his time.⁶ He remained faithful to the Lord in everything, and he carefully obeyed all the commands the Lord had given Moses.⁷ So the Lord was with him, and Hezekiah was successful in everything he did. He revolted against the king of Assyria and refused to pay him tribute.

2 Kings 18:1,5-7

CHAPTERS 1–2

The Sovereign Lord comes to accuse both Israel and Judah.

They are both guilty of rebellion, idolatry, fraud and violence.

In response, God will...

- Make Samaria a heap of ruins (1:6)

- Send Judah's children to exile in distant lands (1:16)

- Confiscate the land and give it to their enemies. (2:34)

CHAPTERS 1–2

In response to this painful message, Micah mourns and laments.

He calls on the people to shave their heads in sorrow.

In response, the people demand he should stop preaching this message and declare that these things will never happen. (2:6)

CHAPTER 3

Micah calls out the leaders and false prophets.

CHAPTER 3

The Leaders:

Hate justice and twist all that is right.

Build on a foundation of murder and corruption.

Make decisions based on bribes.

CHAPTER 3

The False Prophets:

Promise peace to those who give them food.

Declare war on those who refuse.

Priests and Prophets teach and prophecy only for money.

CHAPTER 3

God Pronounces Judgment on them

God will not answer when they beg for help.

Darkness will put an end to their predictions.

CHAPTER 3

The Power and Strength to Proclaim God's Message

But as for me, I am filled with power—
with the Spirit of the Lord.

I am filled with justice and strength
to boldly declare Israel's sin and rebellion.

Micah 3:8

CHAPTER 4

What is the time frame for this chapter?

“In the last days,....” Micah 4:1

CHAPTER 4

The “Mountain of the Lord’s house...”

Will be the most important place on earth.

Will be raised above the other hills, the highest of all.

People from all over the world will stream there to worship.

There he [the Lord] will teach us his ways.

The Lord will rule from Jerusalem as king forever.

CHAPTER 4

Regarding Other Nations of the world:

The Lord will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away.

They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

CHAPTER 4

Regarding Other Nations of the world:

Nation will no longer fight against nations, nor train for war anymore.

Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear.

CHAPTER 4

Sealed with Certainty

The Lord of Heaven's Armies has made this promise.

Though the nations around us follow their idols, we
will follow the Lord our God forever and ever.

CHAPTER 5

The Coming Ruler

He will come from Bethlehem.

His origins are in the distant past [eternity].

He will come on God's behalf.

CHAPTER 5

When he comes:

He will lead with the Lord's strength, and in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

His people will live in their own land undisturbed.

He will be highly honored around the world.

He will be the source of peace.

CHAPTER 6

“O my people, what have I done to you?
What have I done to make you tired of me?
Answer me!

Micah 6:3

CHAPTER 6

God's Case Against His People

Remember....

I brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from slavery.

I sent Moses, Aaron and Miriam to help you.

I did everything I could to teach you about my faithfulness.

CHAPTER 6

And yet...

The homes of the wicked are filled with treasures gained by cheating.

Merchants use dishonest scales and weights.

The rich have become wealthy through extortion and violence.

Citizens are so used to lying that their tongues can no longer tell the truth.

CHAPTER 6

God Pronounces Judgment:

I will bring you to ruin for all your sins.

You will eat but never have enough.

You will plant crops but not harvest them.

You will be treated with contempt, mocked by all who see you.

CHAPTER 7

From Miserable Failure to Miraculous Future

The Misery:

The godly people have all disappeared; not one honest person is left on the earth.

They are all murderers, setting traps even for their own brothers.

CHAPTER 7

The Misery:

Officials and judges demand bribes.

People with influence get what they want, and together they scheme to twist justice.

CHAPTER 7

The Waiting:

I look to the Lord for help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me.

I will be patient as the Lord punishes me, for I have sinned against him.

Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.

CHAPTER 7

After the Punishment:

The Lord will take up my case and give me justice for all I have suffered from my enemies.

The Lord will bring me into the light, and I will see his righteousness.

My enemies will see that the Lord is on my side.

CHAPTER 7

Micah's Prayer

O Lord, protect your people with your shepherd's staff;
lead your flock, your special possession.

Though they live alone in a thicket
on the heights of Mount Carmel,
let them graze in the fertile pastures of Bashan and Gilead
as they did long ago.

CHAPTER 7

God's Answer

“Yes,” says the Lord,

“I will do mighty miracles for you,
like those I did when I rescued you
from slavery in Egypt.”

CHAPTER 7

The Nations Respond to God's Miracles

They will stand amazed at what the Lord will do for Israel.

They will be embarrassed at their feeble power.

They will cover their mouths in silent awe.

CHAPTER 7

The Nations Respond to God's Miracles

Like snakes crawling from their holes, they will come out to meet the Lord.

They will fear the Lord greatly, trembling in terror at his presence.

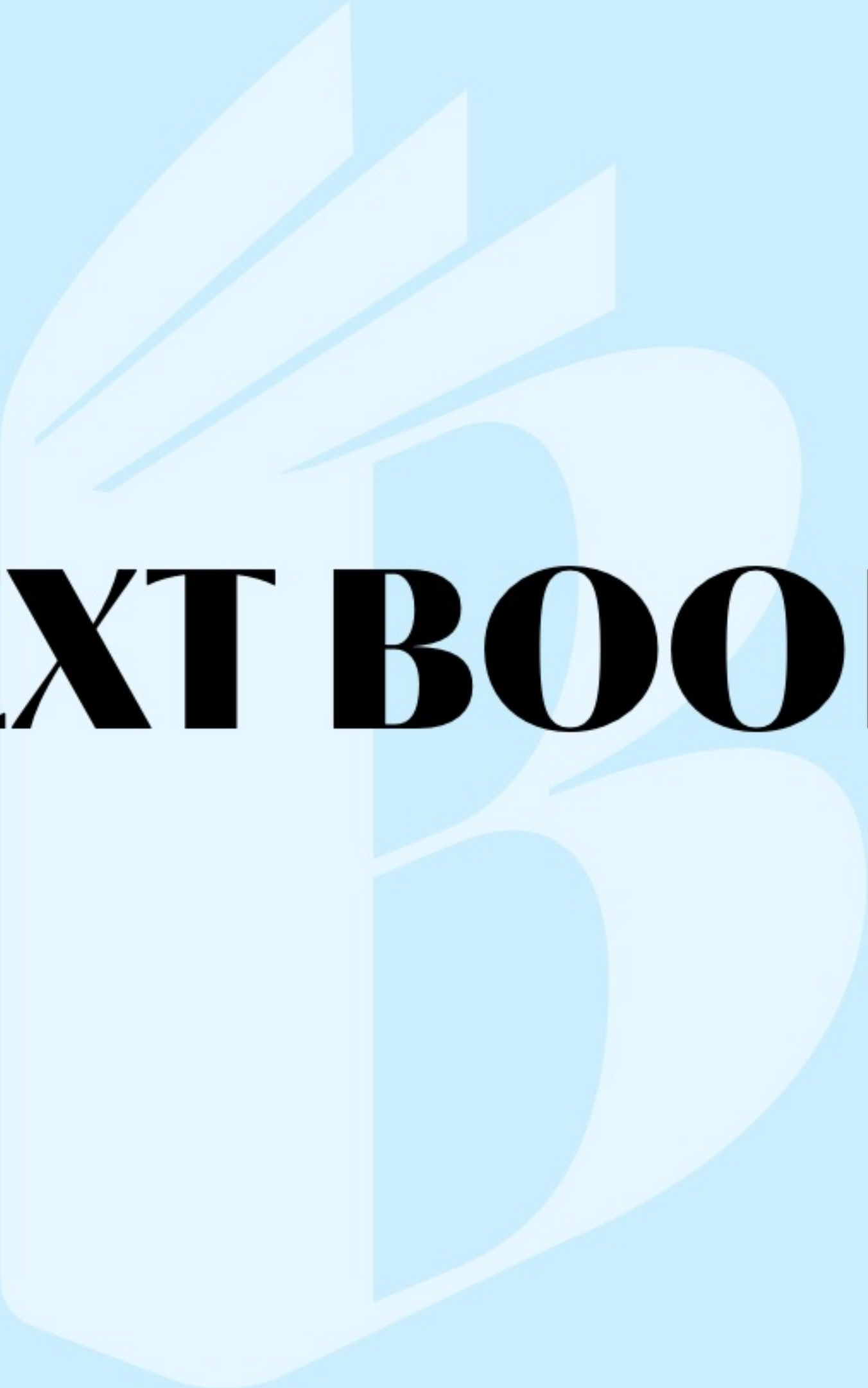
MICAH'S FINAL PROCLAMATION

¹⁸ Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people?

You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love.

¹⁹ Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

²⁰ You will show us your faithfulness and unfailing love as you promised to our ancestors Abraham and Jacob long ago.

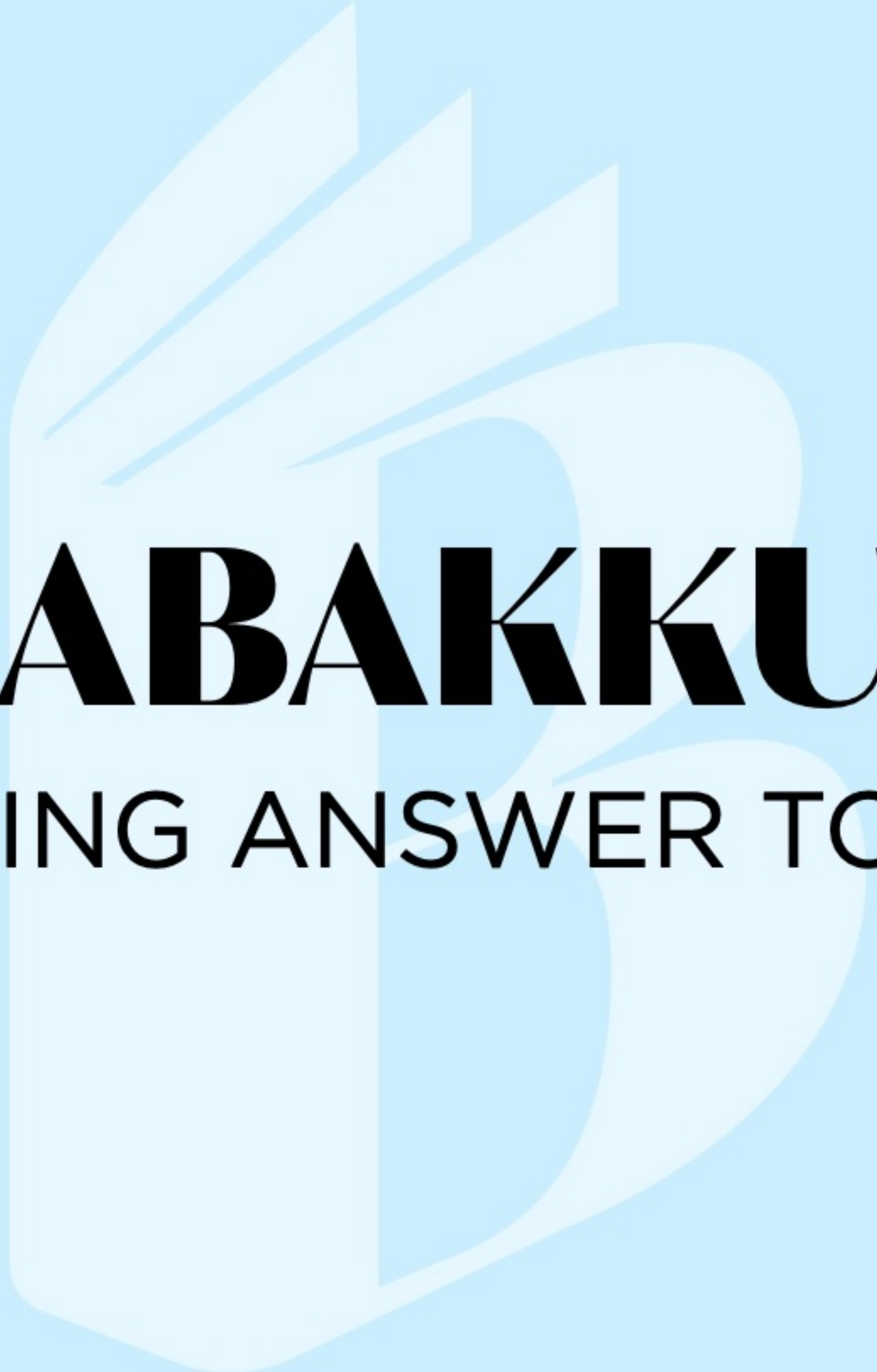


NEXT BOOKS



NAHUM

NINEVEH, THE SEQUEL



HABAKKUK

A SHOCKING ANSWER TO PRAYER

GOAL FOR THIS MONTH

Read the books of Nahum and Habakkuk
(Total of 6 chapters.)

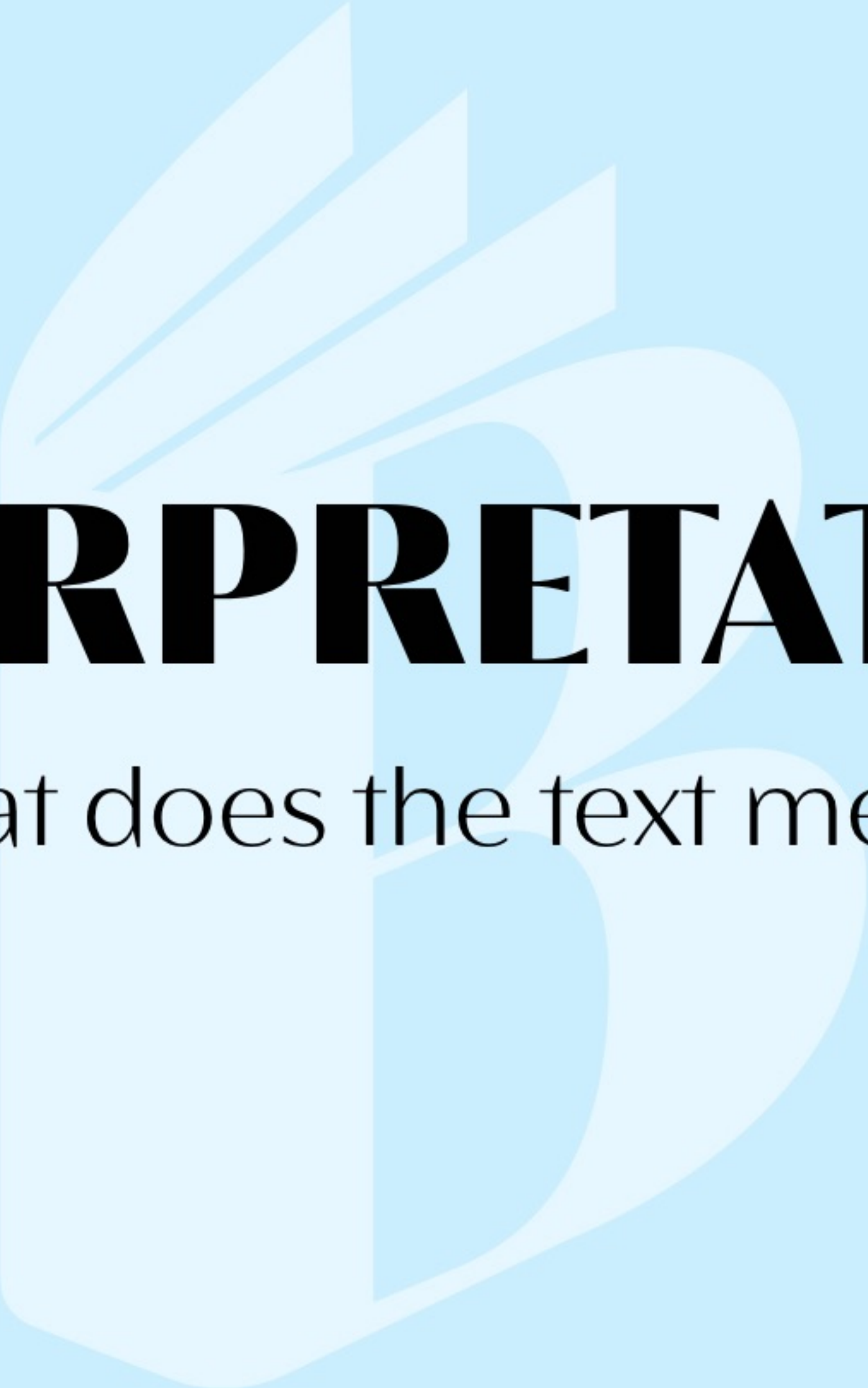
As you follow the handout, be sure to make notes of any insights you gain as you read and study along with any questions you encounter.

PREVIOUS NOTES

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Book
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Book



INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?



HOW TO INTERPRET THE PASSAGE

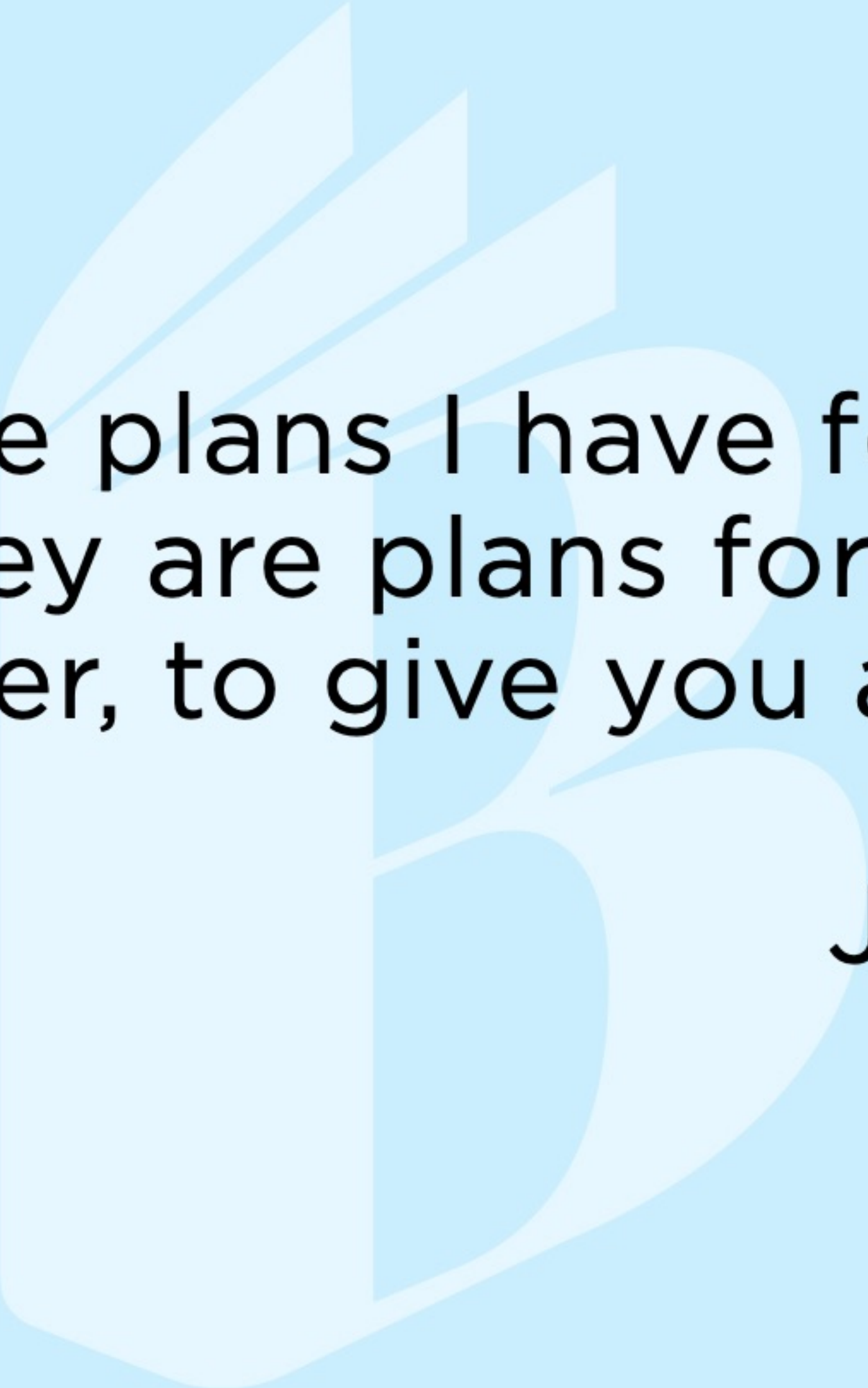
CONTEXT

The Rule of Context

DISCOVER THE WRITER'S ORIGINAL INTENT.

Context is the set of circumstances, facts, or surrounding environment that helps explain the meaning, significance, or intent of an event, statement, or idea. Without it, words or actions can easily be misunderstood or misinterpreted.

Pay Attention to What Comes Before and After the Text.



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Jeremiah 29:11

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Jeremiah 29:10-11



“Be still, and know that I am God!”

Psalm 46:10

He [the Lord] causes wars to end throughout the earth. He breaks the bow and snaps the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be honored by every nation. I will be
honored throughout the world.”

Psalm 46:9-10

OTHER SCRIPTURE

Compare keywords, phrases, and events that are mentioned in other parts of the Bible.

Consider the original language

CULTURE, HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Consider the culture at the time and place involved.

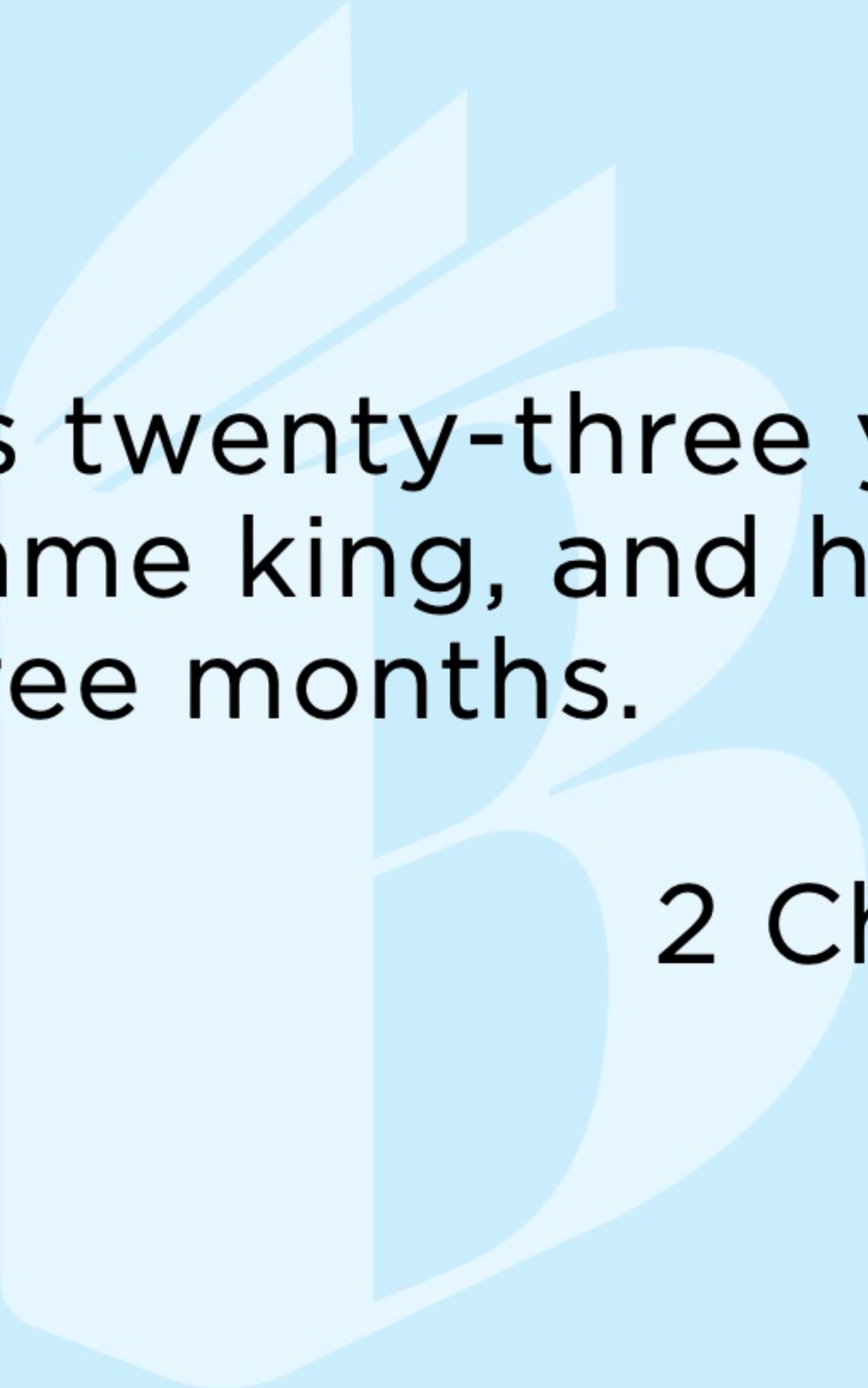
It's important to know when in history the writer is writing and what other events are happening that time.

What was this place like? What was the town or city known for?

IS IT LITERAL?

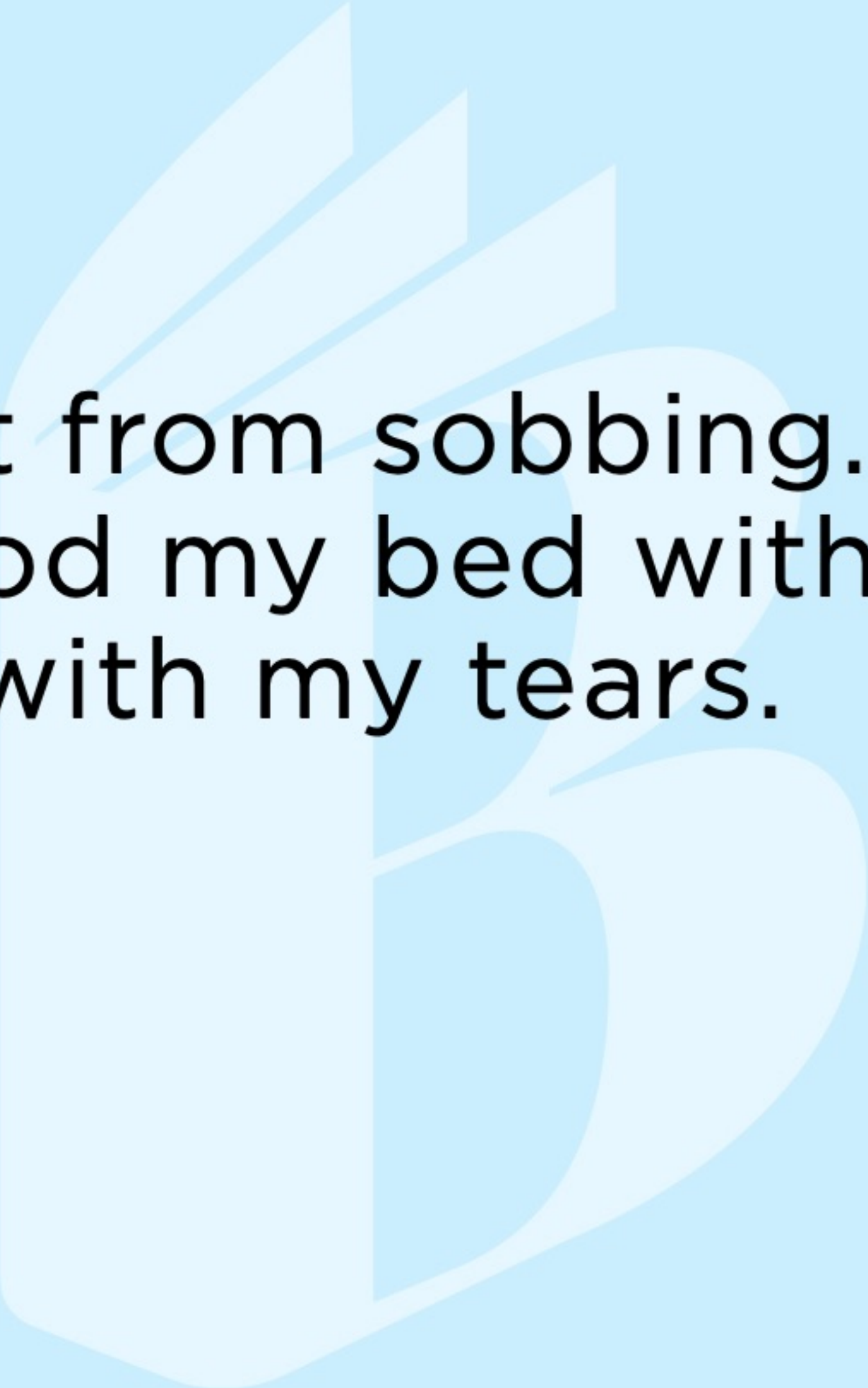
Don't look for hidden meanings.

Remember to pay attention to the kind of literature you are reading.



Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old
when he became king, and he reigned in
Jerusalem three months.

2 Chronicles 36:2



I am worn out from sobbing.
All night I flood my bed with weeping,
Drenching it with my tears.

Psalm 6:6

... you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight. The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver its belly and thighs were bronze, its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay.

Daniel 2:31-33

In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight. The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver its belly and thighs were bronze, its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay.

Daniel 2:31-33