



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

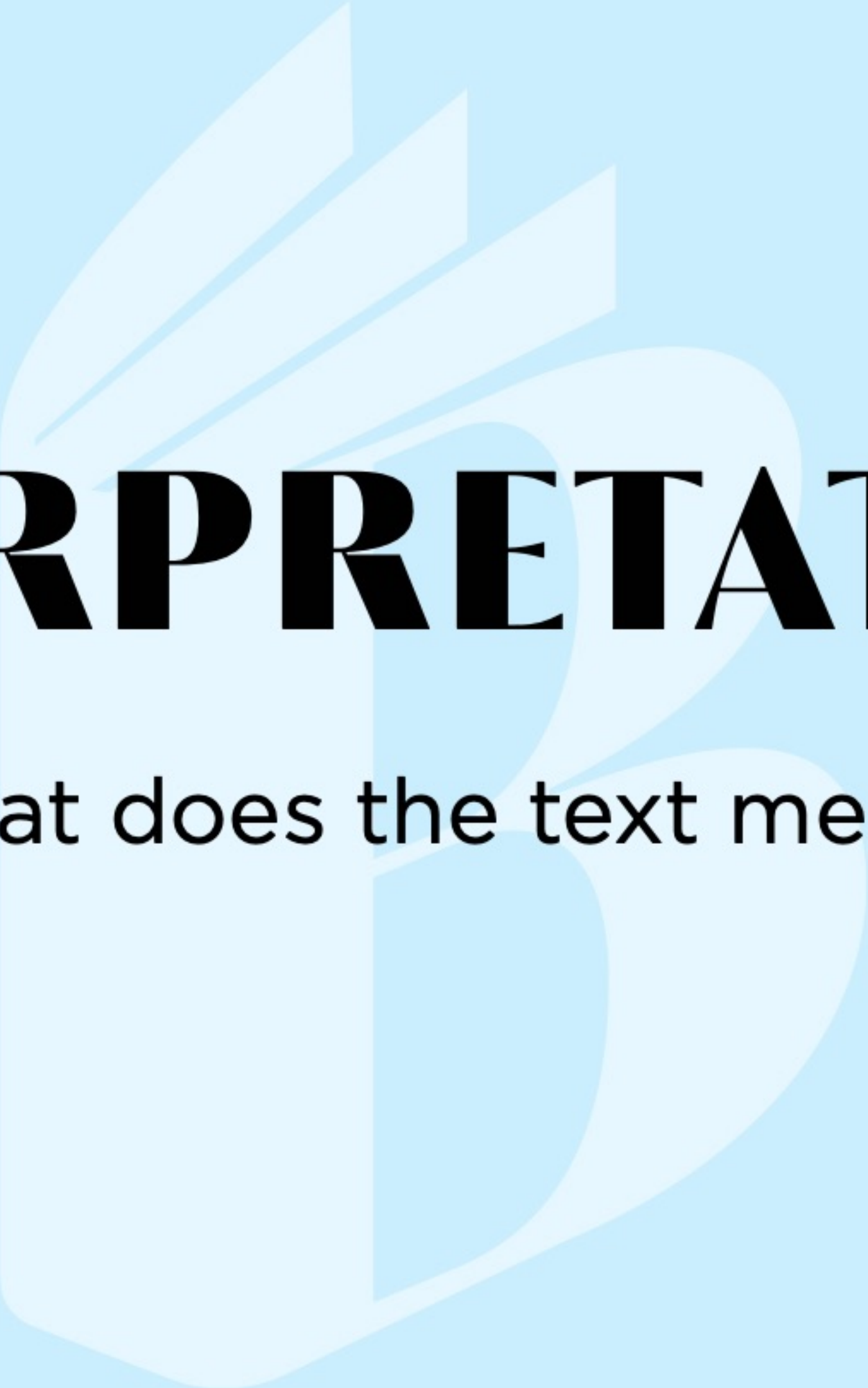
What does the text say?

INTERPRETATION

What does it mean?

APPLICATION

What did I learn that should affect my life?



INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?

CONTEXT

Pay attention to what comes before and after the text.

Consider the location, time and culture.

LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

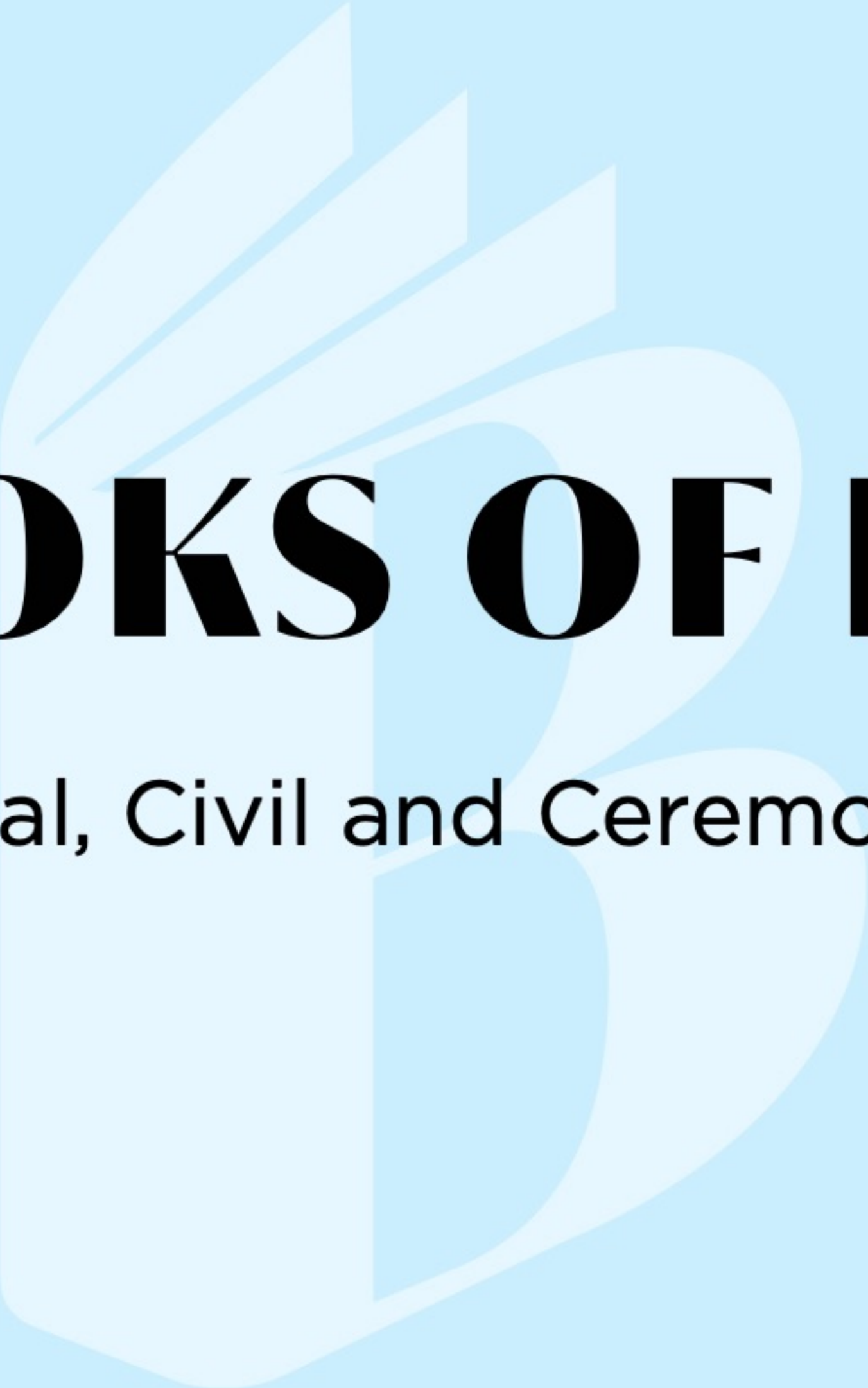
Compare keywords, phrases, and events that are mentioned in other parts of the Bible.

Consider the original language.

IS EACH PASSAGE TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS LITERAL?

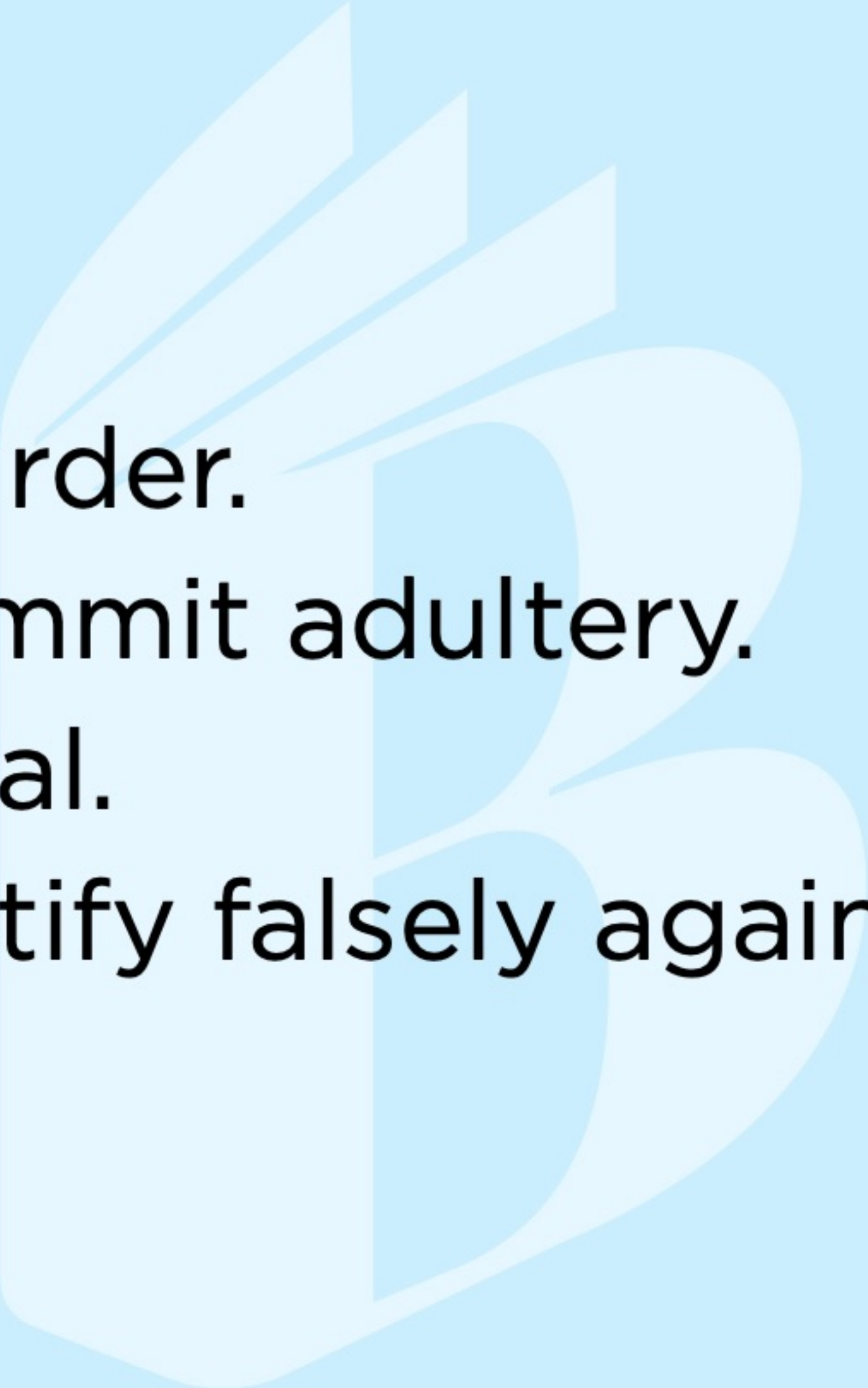
Know the type of literature you are reading.

Is it law, history, poetry, prophecy, an illustration or correspondence?



BOOKS OF LAW

Moral, Civil and Ceremonial



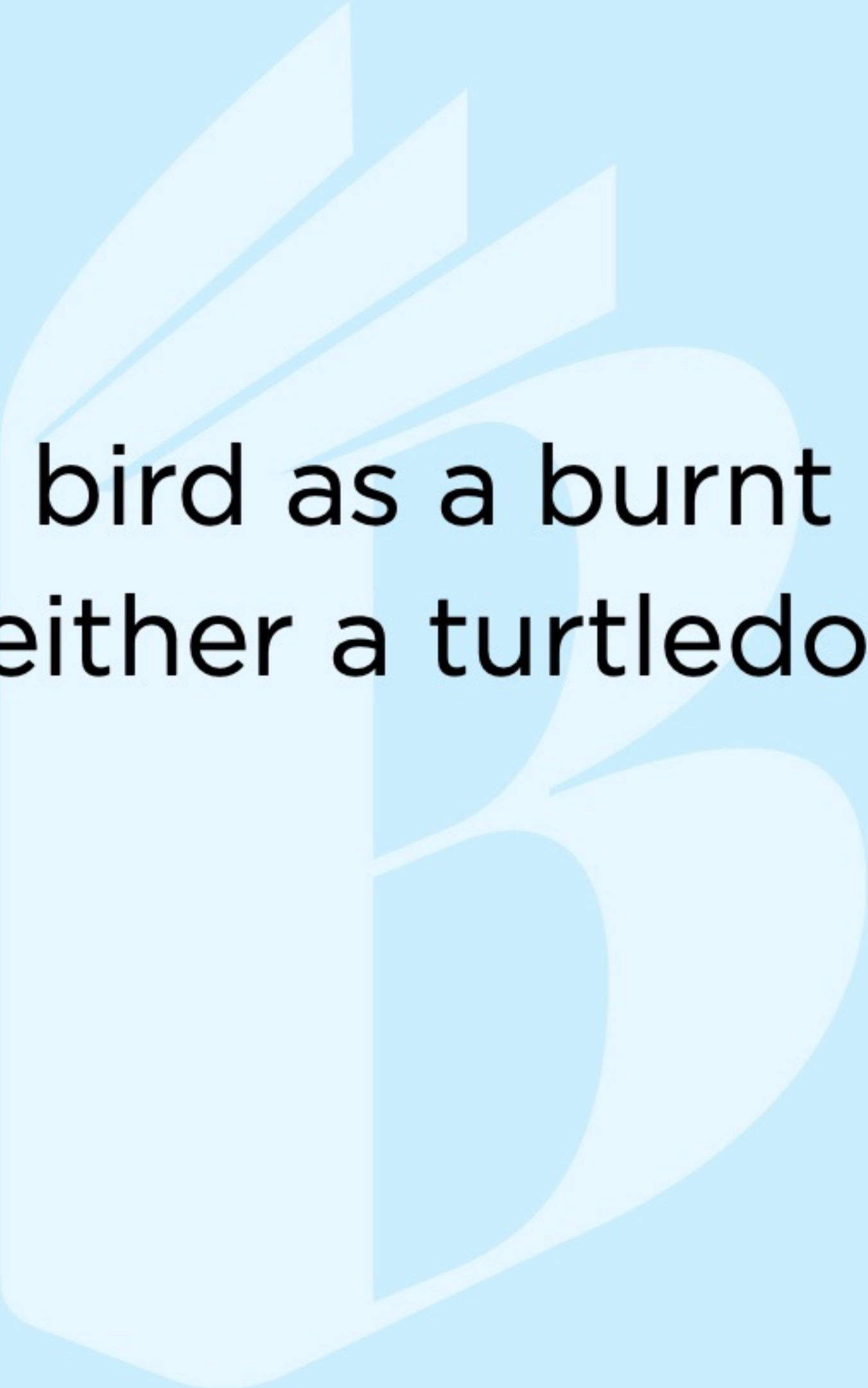
“You must not murder.

“You must not commit adultery.

“You must not steal.

“You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Exodus 20:13-16



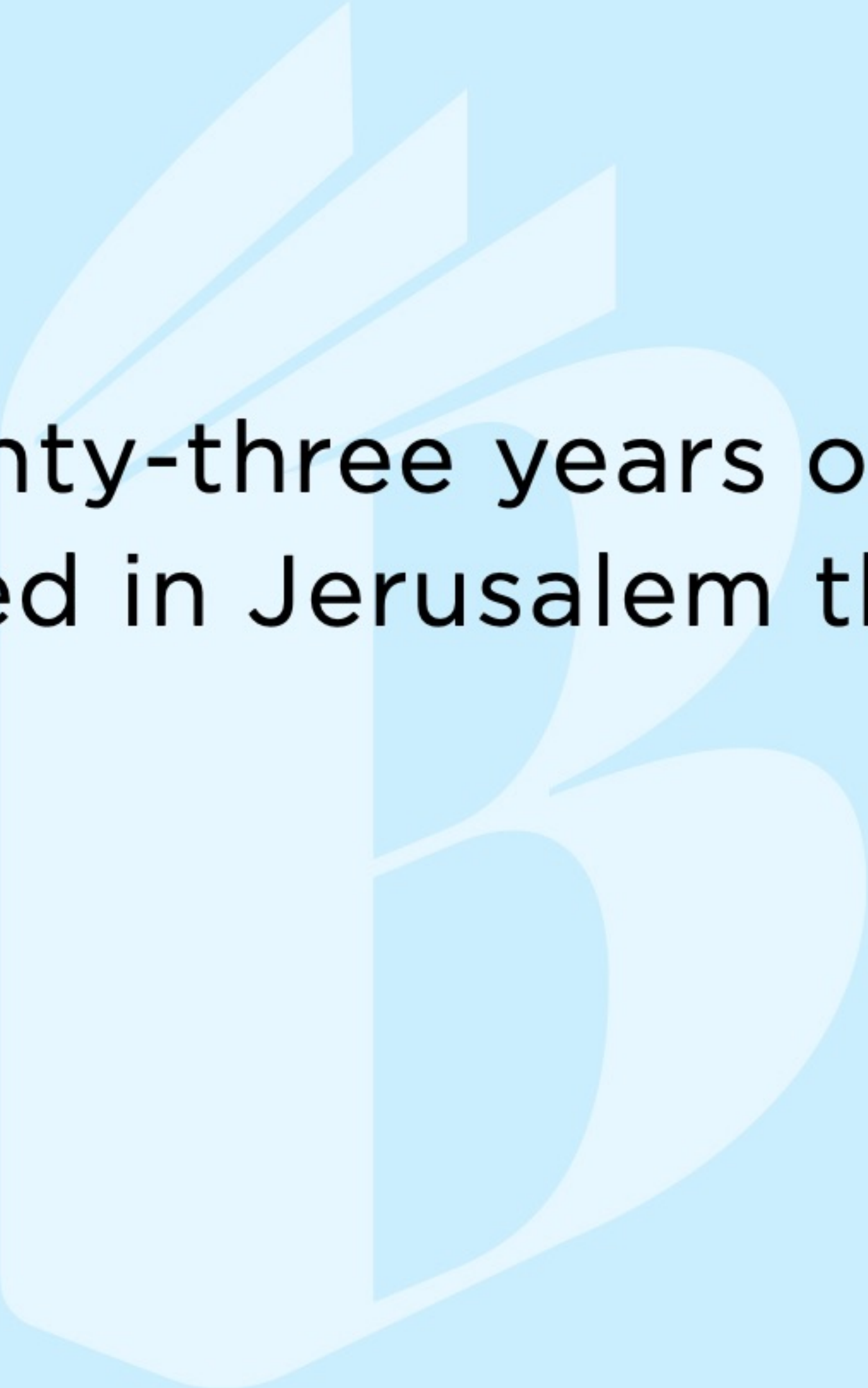
¹⁴ “If you present a bird as a burnt offering to the Lord, choose either a turtledove or a young pigeon.

Leviticus 1:14



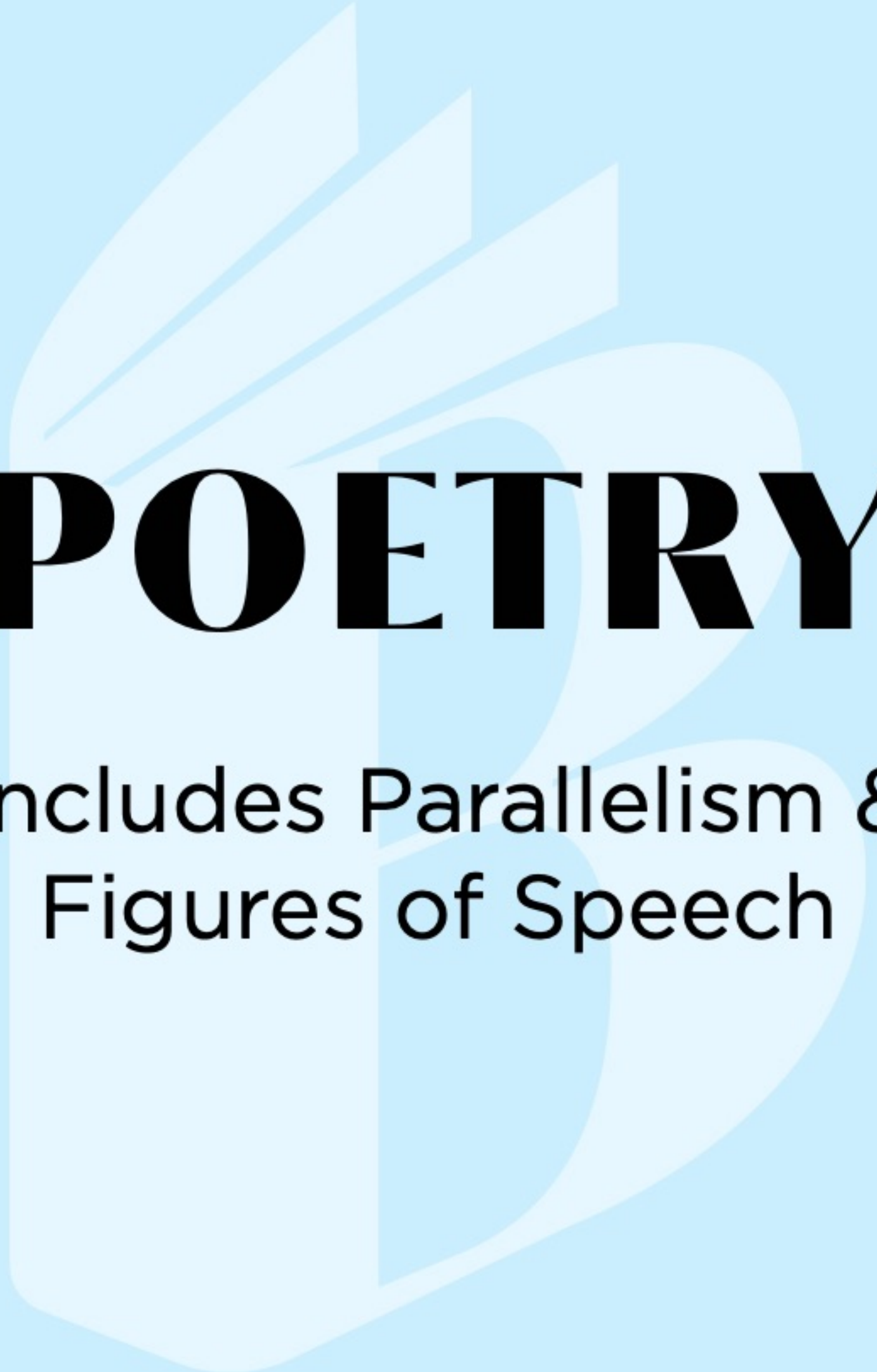
HISTORY

Names, Places, Dates, Events



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

2 Chronicles 36:2



POETRY

Includes Parallelism &
Figures of Speech

HEBREW POETRY

Rather than using rhyme and rhythm,
Hebrew poetry compares ideas.

PARALLELISM

Synonymous (repeats similar idea)

Show me the right path, O LORD;
point out the road for me to follow.

Psalms 25:4

PARALLELISM

Synthetic (clarifies and expands)

The LORD is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.

Psalms 23:1

PARALLELISM

Antithetic (contrast)

For the LORD watches over the path of the godly,
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

Psalms 1:6

PARALLELISM

Comparative [Emblematic] (uses illustration)

As the deer longs for streams of water,
so I long for you, O God.

Psalms 42:1

FIGURES OF SPEECH

Simile: a comparison between two unlike things

*But he led his own people like a flock of sheep.
guiding them safely through the wilderness.*

Psalms 78:52

FIGURES OF SPEECH

Hyperbole: deliberate overstatement for emphasis

*All night I flood my bed with weeping,
drenching it with my tears.*

Psalms 6:6

FIGURES OF SPEECH

Rhetorical question: asking a question for the purpose of making a statement

Who can list the glorious miracles of the Lord?

Who can ever praise him enough?

Psalms 106:2

FIGURES OF SPEECH

Personification: assigning characteristics of a human to lifeless objects

... the sun knows when to set.

Psalms 104:19b



PROPHECY

Often includes visions and symbols

IS IT LITERAL?

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 2:32-33

In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight.

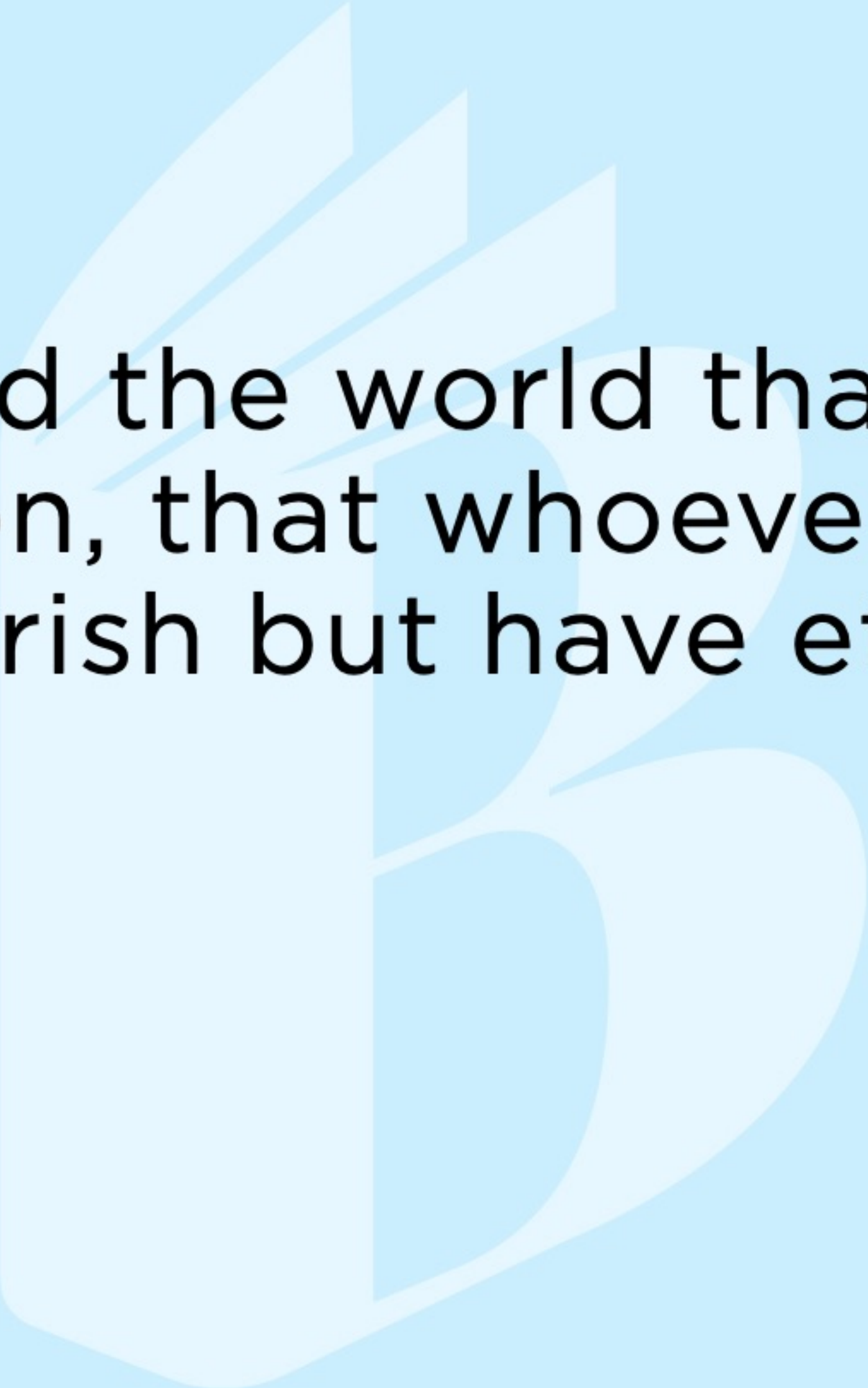
The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver its belly and thighs were bronze, its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay.

Daniel 2:31-33



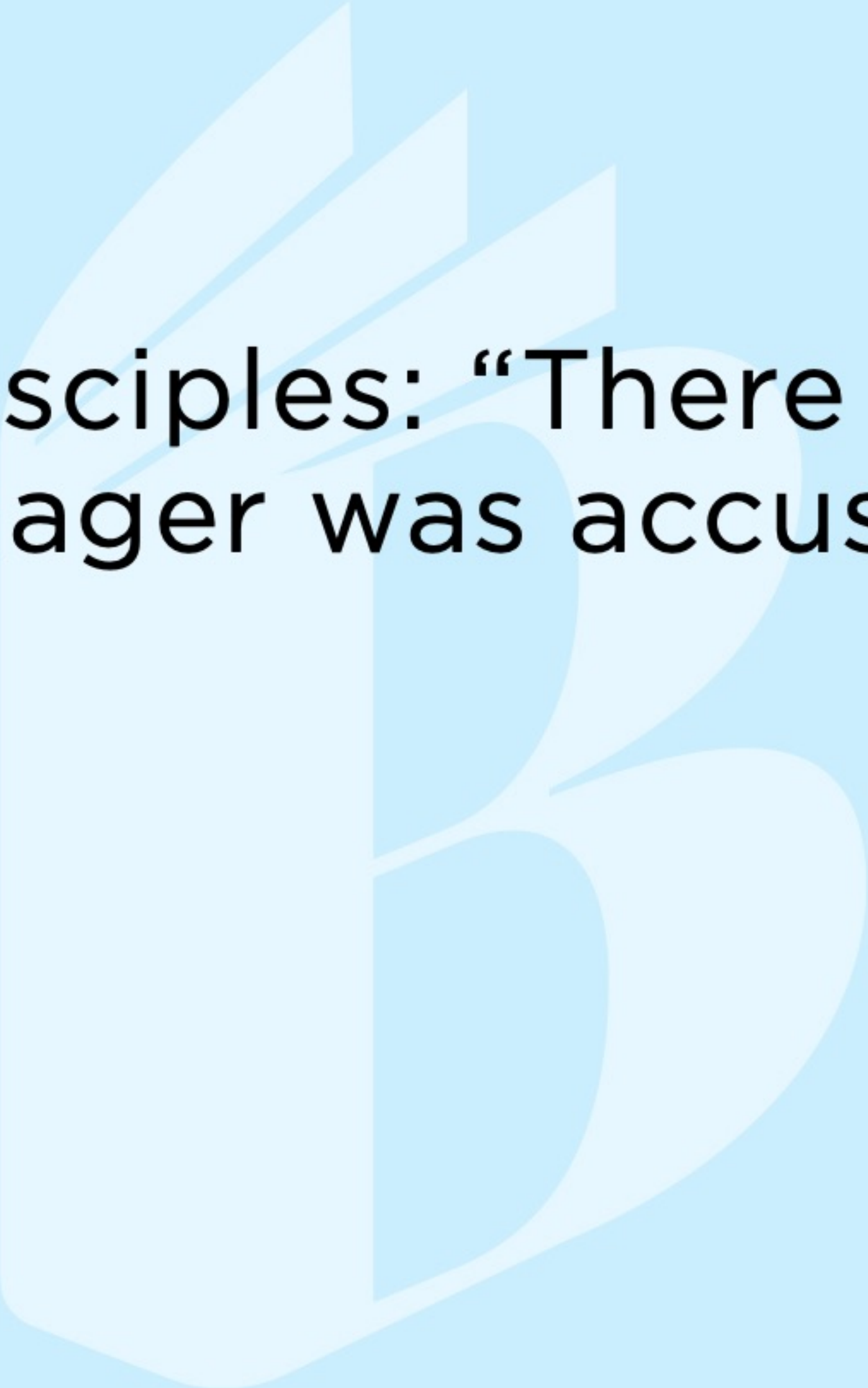
GOSPELS

The Life and Ministry of Jesus



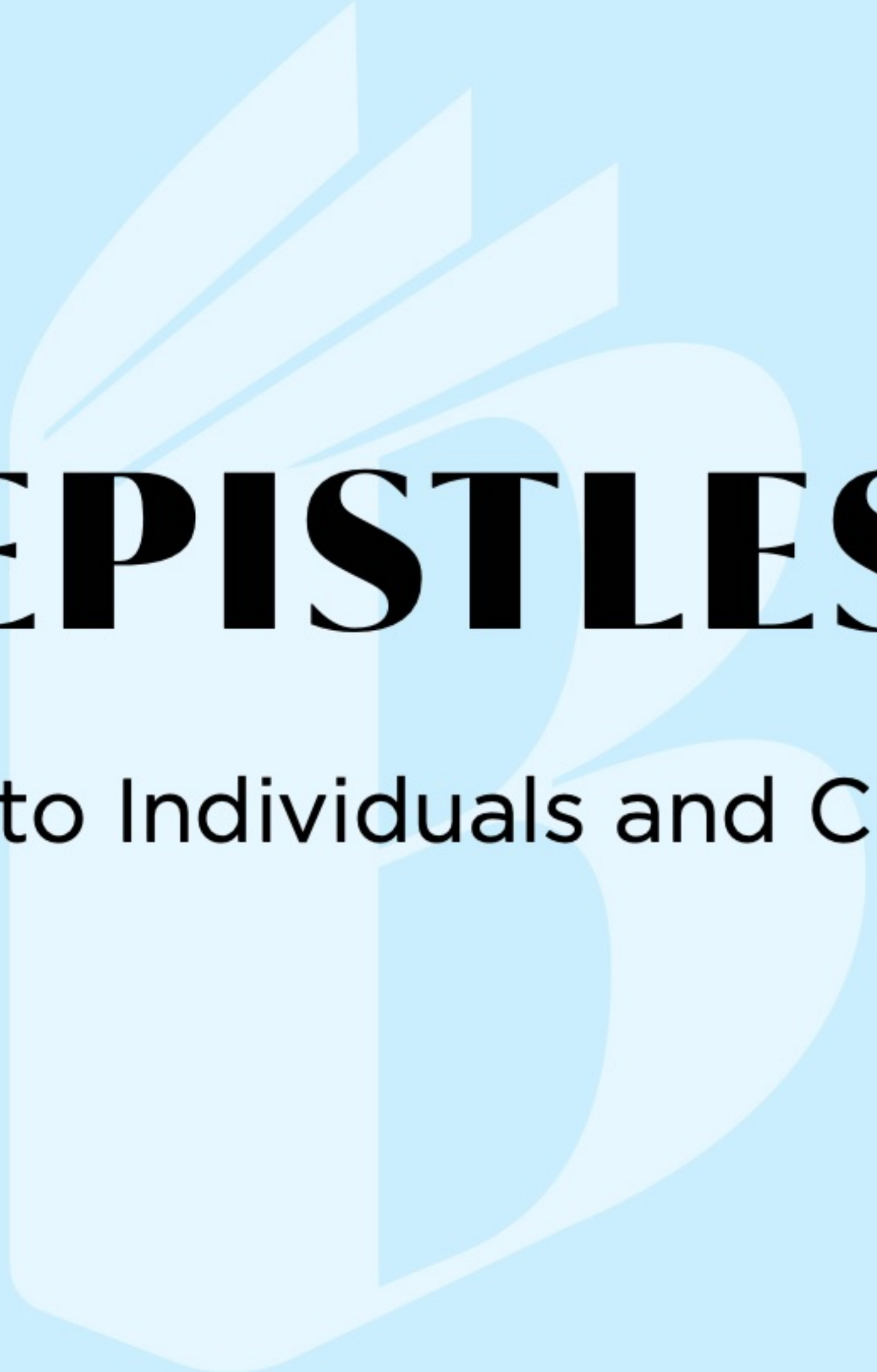
For God so loved the world that he gave his
one and only Son, that whoever believes in
him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



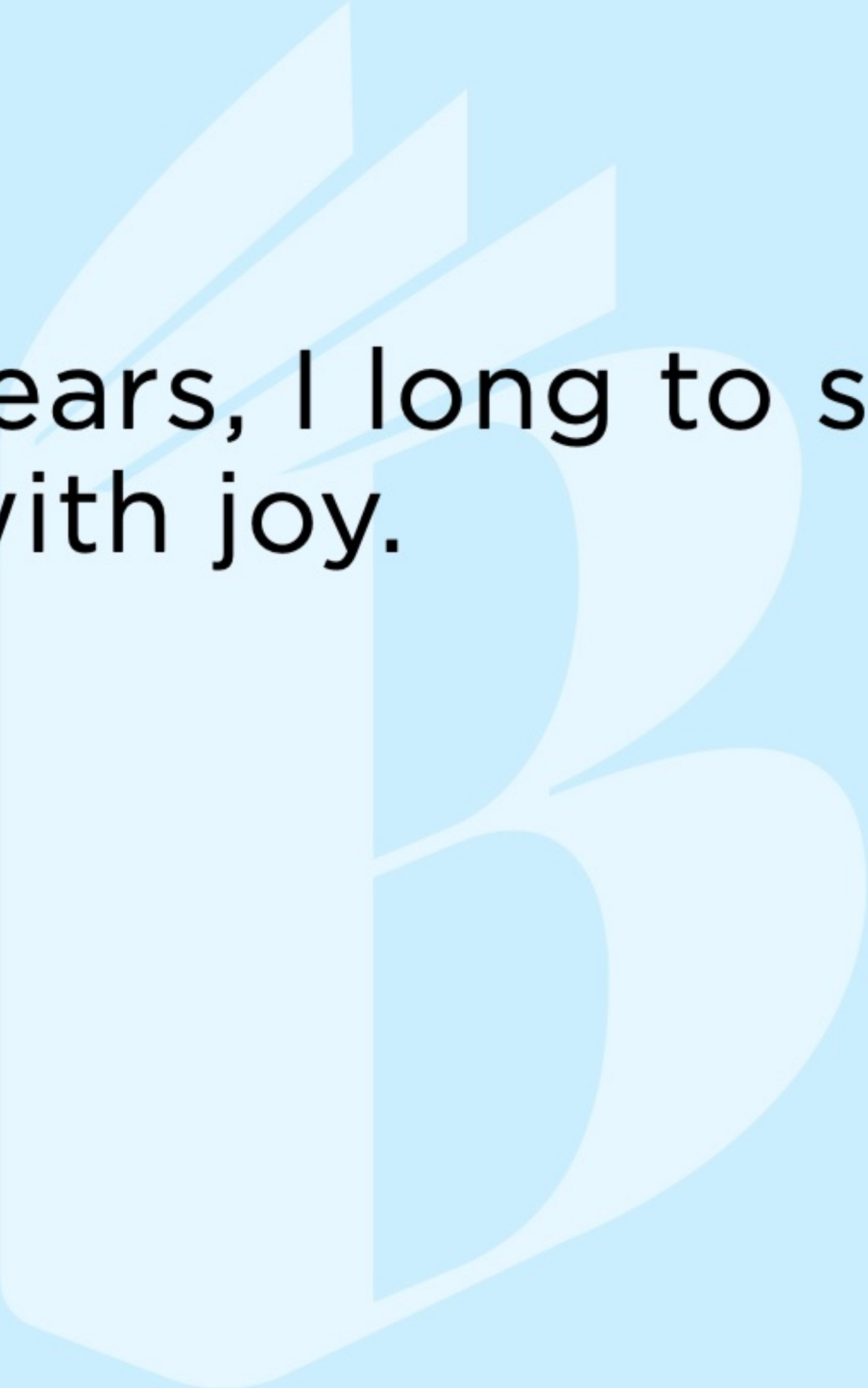
Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions.

Luke 16:1



EPISTLES

Letters to Individuals and Churches



Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that
I may be filled with joy.

2 Timothy 1:4

GROUP TALK

Describe the significance that determining the context of a passage may be helping you in your personal Bible study.



REVIEW



NAHUM

Nineveh, the Sequel

ABOUT NAHUM

His name means comforter or consoler.

He was an Elkoshite.

He prophesied during the reigns of Manasseh, Amon and Josiah.

Contemporary Prophets: Jeremiah, Zephaniah & Habakkuk



THE KINGS

MANASSEH

Manasseh also sacrificed his own sons in the fire in the valley of Ben-Hinnom. He practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft, and he consulted with mediums and psychics. He did much that was evil in the Lord's sight, arousing his anger.

2 Chronicles 33:6

MANASSEH

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they ignored all his warnings. ¹¹ So the Lord sent the commanders of the Assyrian armies, and they took Manasseh prisoner. They put a ring through his nose, bound him in bronze chains, and led him away to Babylon. ¹² But while in deep distress, Manasseh sought the Lord his God and sincerely humbled himself before the God of his ancestors.

MANASSEH

³ And when he prayed, the Lord listened to him and was moved by his request. So the Lord brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh finally realized that the Lord alone is God!

2 Chronicles 33:10-13

AMON

²¹ Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two years. ²² He did what was evil in the Lord's sight, just as his father, Manasseh, had done. He worshiped and sacrificed to all the idols his father had made. ²³ But unlike his father, he did not humble himself before the Lord. Instead, Amon sinned even more.

2 Chronicles 33:21-23

JOSIAH

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.² He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight and followed the example of his ancestor David. He did not turn away from doing what was right.

2 Chronicles 34:1-2

ABOUT NINEVEH & ASSYRIA

Nineveh was the capital of the ancient Assyrian Empire.

It was located near modern-day Mosul, Iraq

Assyria was known for ruthless military might and iron weapons.

ABOUT NINEVEH & ASSYRIA

Moved conquered populations across the empire to break local resistance and prevent rebellion.

Collected heavy wealth and resources from vassal states to fund grand building projects

Assyrians were polytheists — worshiped many pagan gods.

GOD DESCRIBES NINEVEH

A place where people walked freely and without fear.

A city of murder and lies.

A beautiful and faithless city.

Mistress of deadly charms.

Enticed the nations with her beauty.

Taught the nations all her magic.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEBES

In 663 BC King Ashurbanipal conquered and sacked the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes.

Many of the cruel tactics are listed in Nahum chapter 3, where God promises that they in turn, will suffer in the same way.

FAMOUS ASSYRIAN KINGS

Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 BC)

Sargon II (722-705 BC) conquered Israel (northern kingdom)

Sennacherib (705-681 BC) attacked Judah

Esarhaddon (681-669 BC) conquered Egypt

Ashurbanipal (669-631 BC) after he died, Assyria was
conquered by the Babylonians and Medes

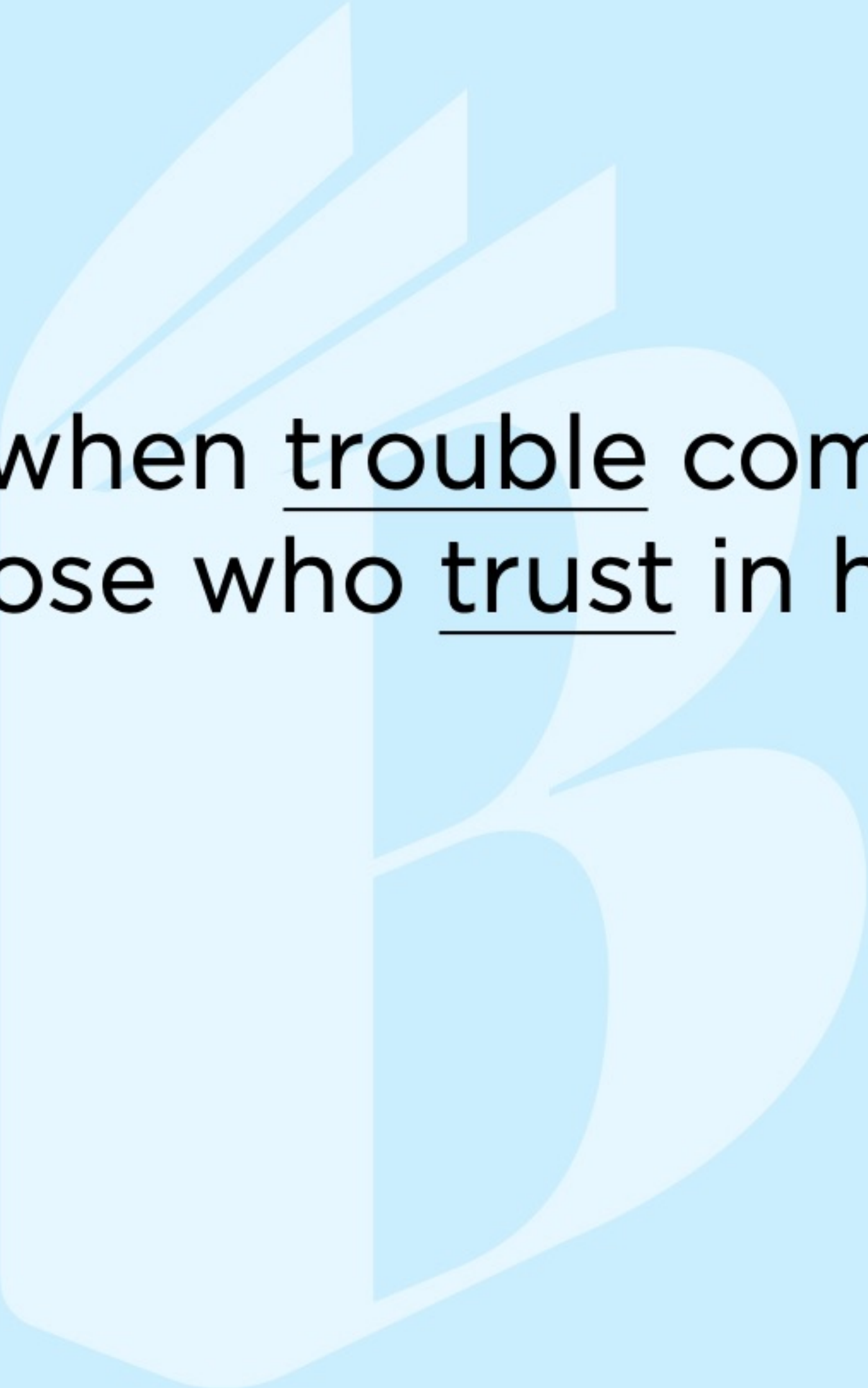
GOD'S ATTRIBUTES DESCRIBED (1:2-7)

² The Lord is a jealous God, filled with vengeance and rage. He takes revenge on all who oppose him and continues to rage against his enemies!

³ The Lord is slow to get angry, but his power is great, and he never lets the guilty go unpunished. He displays his power in the whirlwind and the storm. The billowing clouds are the dust beneath his feet.

⁴ At his command the oceans dry up, and the ivers disappear. The lush pastures of Bashan and Carmel fade, and the green forests of Lebanon wither.

⁵ In his presence the mountains quake, and the hills melt away; the earth trembles, and its people are destroyed. ⁶ Who can stand before his fierce anger? Who can survive his burning fury? His rage blazes forth like fire, and the mountains crumble to dust in his presence.



⁷ The Lord is good,
a strong refuge when trouble comes.
He is close to those who trust in him.

ABOUT GOD'S ENEMIES

God will sweep them away in a flood.

God will destroy them with one blow.

They will be burned up like dry stubble.

God will destroy all their idols.

They will be destroyed and disappear.

God is preparing a grave for them.

WHAT HAPPENED?

In 612 BC, the Medes and Babylonians united to attack Nineveh.

The Khoser River flowed through Nineveh, so the invaders dammed it up and then released the water so that it destroyed part of the wall and some of the buildings, making it easy to enter the city and take control.

ABOUT GOD'S ENEMIES

Nineveh was so thoroughly destroyed that it was hidden under rubble until the early 1800's when it was discovered and excavated.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR JUDAH

Look! A messenger is coming over the mountains with good news! He is bringing a message of peace. Celebrate your festivals, O people of Judah, and fulfill all your vows, for your wicked enemies will never invade your land again. They will be completely destroyed!

Nahum 1:15

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR JUDAH

Even though the destroyer has destroyed Judah, the Lord will restore its honor.

Israel's vine has been stripped of branches, but he will restore its splendor.

Nahum 2:2



HABAKKUK

A Shocking Answer to Prayer

ABOUT HABAKKUK

His name means “to embrace” or “to wrestle.”

He prophesied during the reigns of Josiah and Jehoiakim.

Contemporary Prophets: Nahum, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah.

HABAKKUK'S COMPLAINT (1:1-4)

² How long, O Lord, must I call for help? But you do not listen! "Violence is everywhere!" I cry, but you do not come to save. ³ Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence.

I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight.

⁴ The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted.

GOD'S ANSWER (1:5-6)

⁵ The Lord replied, “Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn’t believe even if someone told you about it.

⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians, a cruel and violent people. They will march across the world and conquer other lands.

HABAKKUK QUESTIONS GOD

Should you be silent while the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they? (1:13)

Will you let them get away with this forever?
Will they succeed forever in their heartless conquests? (1:17)

THE IMMEDIATE AND THE FUTURE

² Then the Lord said to me, “Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. ³ This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

Habakkuk 2:2-3

NOT JUST BABYLON

The proud trust in themselves and their lives are crooked.

The arrogant are greedy.

Thieves become rich by extortion.

The dishonest build big houses with dishonest gain and believe wealth will buy security.

NOT JUST BABYLON

Wealthy, unscrupulous nations build with money gained through murder and corruption.

Those who worship manmade creations trust in gods who are lifeless inside.

NOT YET, BUT SOON

¹⁴ For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord.

Habakkuk 2:14

HABAKKUK'S PRAYER OF PRAISE AND PROPHECY

(CHAPTER 3)

³ I see God moving across the deserts from Edom, the Holy One coming from Mount Paran. His brilliant splendor fills the heavens, and the earth is filled with his praise.

⁴ His coming is as brilliant as the sunrise. Rays of light flash from his hands, where his awesome power is hidden.

HABAKKUK'S PRAYER OF PRAISE AND PROPHECY

⁵ Pestilence marches before him; plague follows close behind.

⁶ When he stops, the earth shakes. When he looks, the nations tremble.
He shatters the everlasting mountains and levels the eternal hills.
He is the Eternal One!

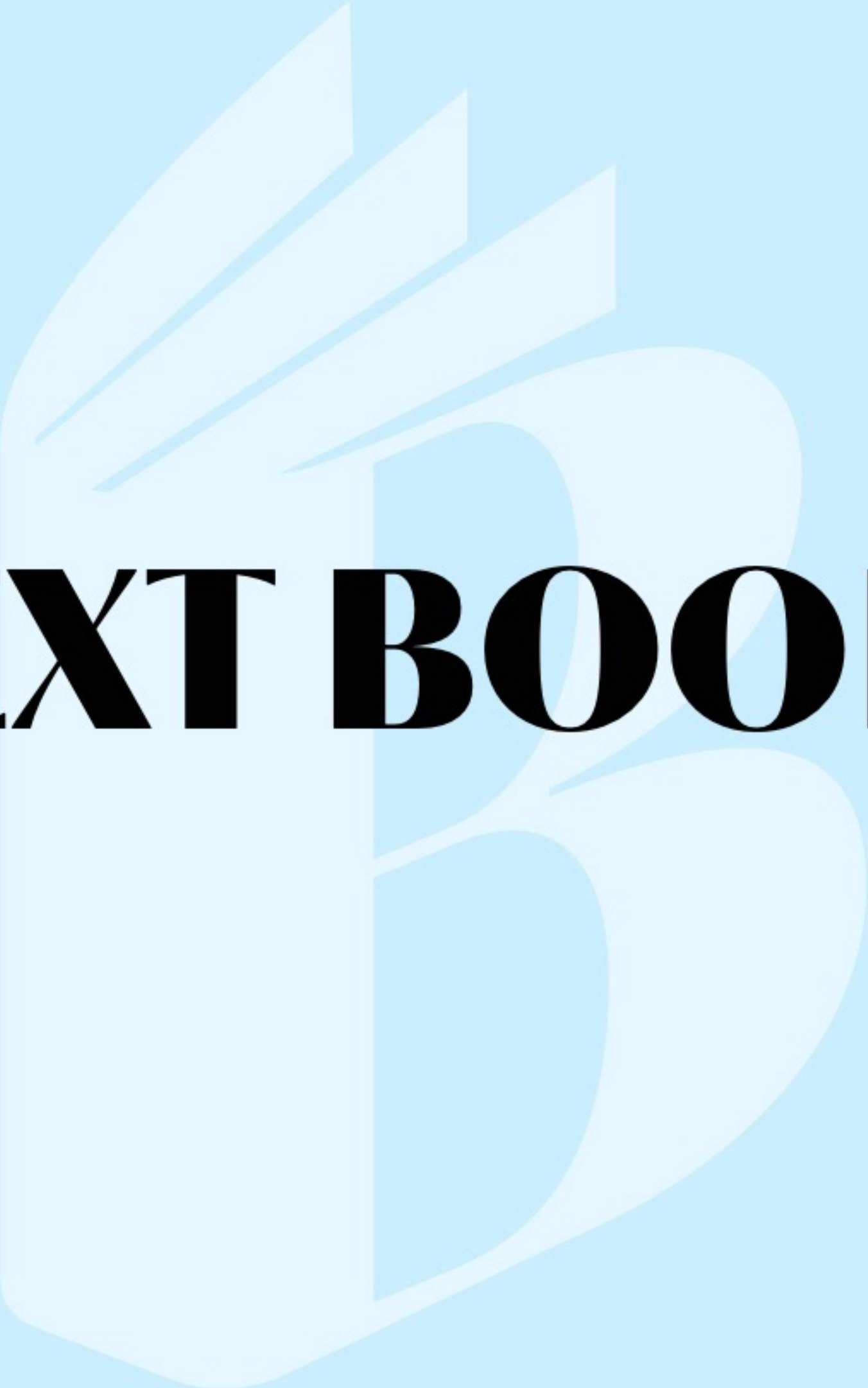
Habakkuk 3:3-6

VERSES TO MEMORIZE FOR TODAY

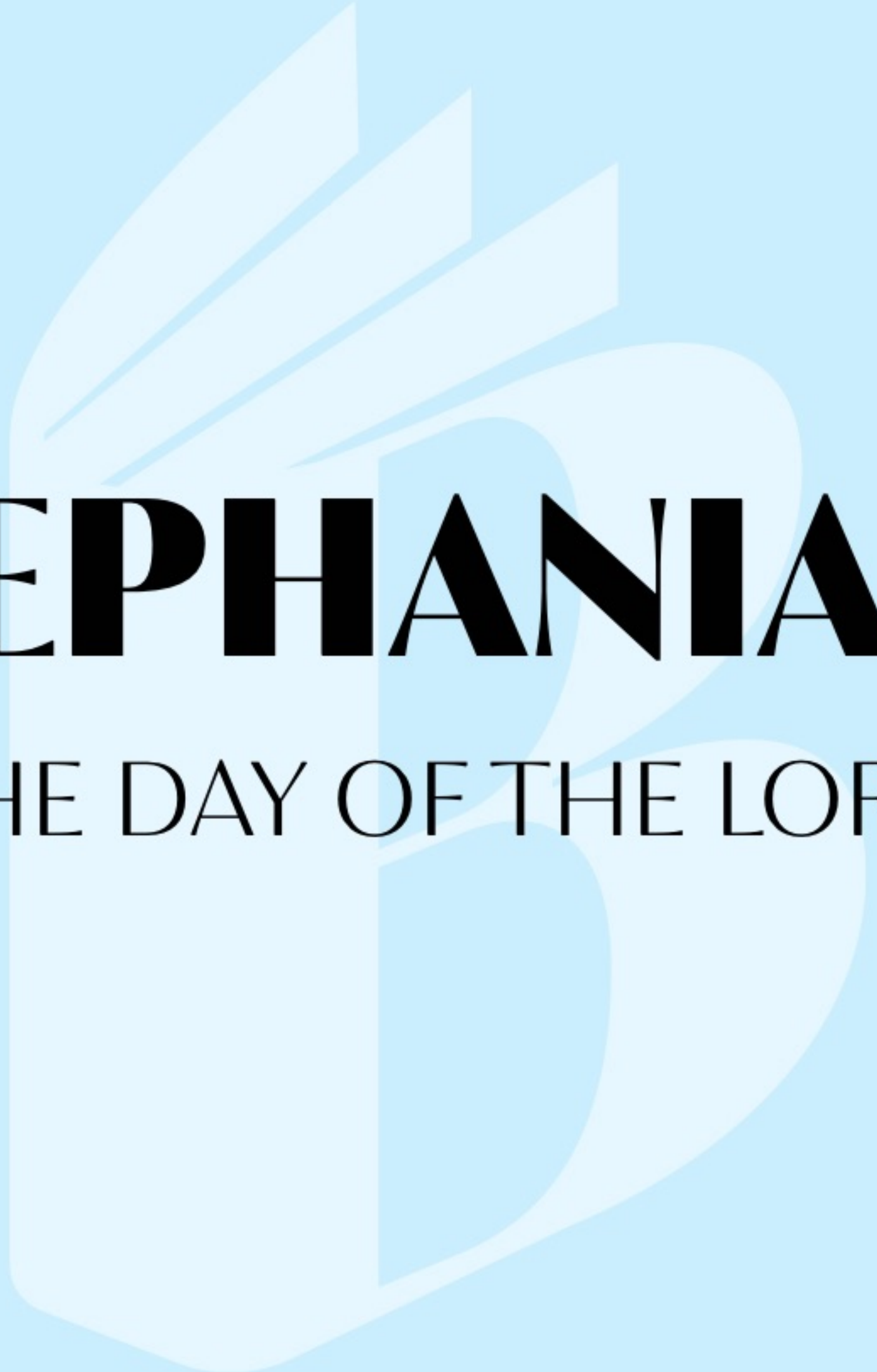
I have heard all about you, Lord. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy. Habakkuk 3:2

I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! Habakkuk 3:18

The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights. Habakkuk 3:19



NEXT BOOKS



ZEPHANIAH

THE DAY OF THE LORD



HAGGAI

GET BACK TO WORK!

GOAL FOR THIS MONTH

Read the books of Zephaniah & Haggai

(Total of 5 chapters.)

Also, re-read the book of Ezra and the passages in 2 Chronicles and 2 Kings as shown in your handout.

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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