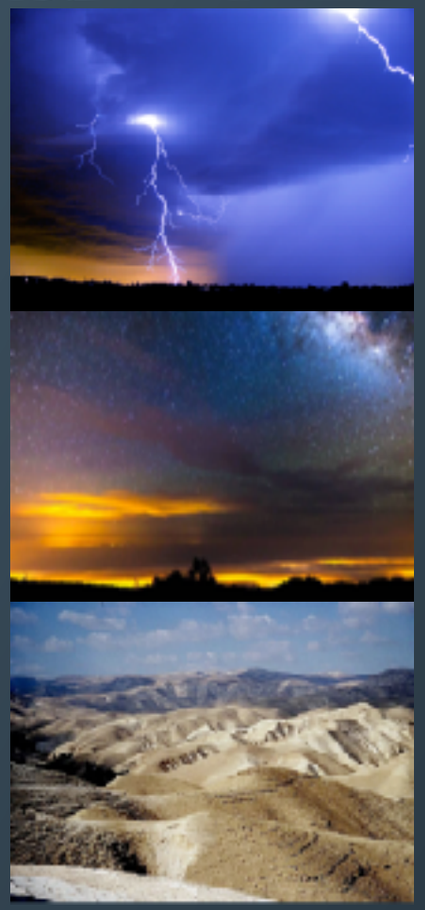
THE OLIVET PROPHECY

WITNESSING THE WAYS OF GOD



Session 2 - For Then Shall Be Great Tribulation

Reading - Matthew 24:15-22



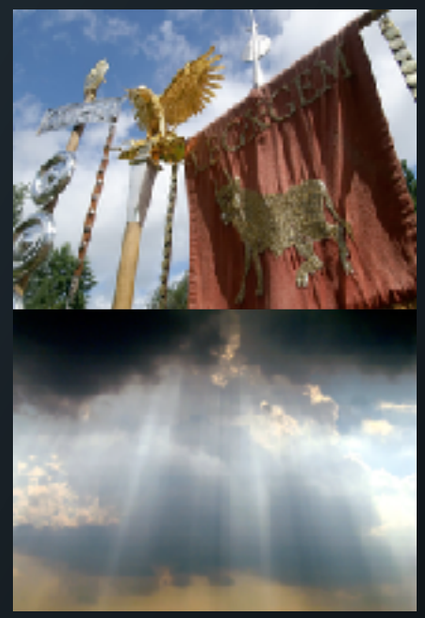
1 - From Abstract to Tangible

2 - For Then Shall Be Great Tribulation

3 - The Sun Shall Be Darkened

4 - The Coming of the Son of Man

5 - They Shall Gather Together His Elect



SERIES OUTLINE

Goal: to elucidate Christ's message in the signs of the Olivet prophecy, and to enhance our understanding of God's hand at work.

4 - For Then Shall Be Great Tribulation - A believer in Jerusalem

- Great tribulation

- A monumental event

Core: God can turn a day of terror into a day of salvation.

Why: would believers care about AD 70?

THROUGH THEIR EYES

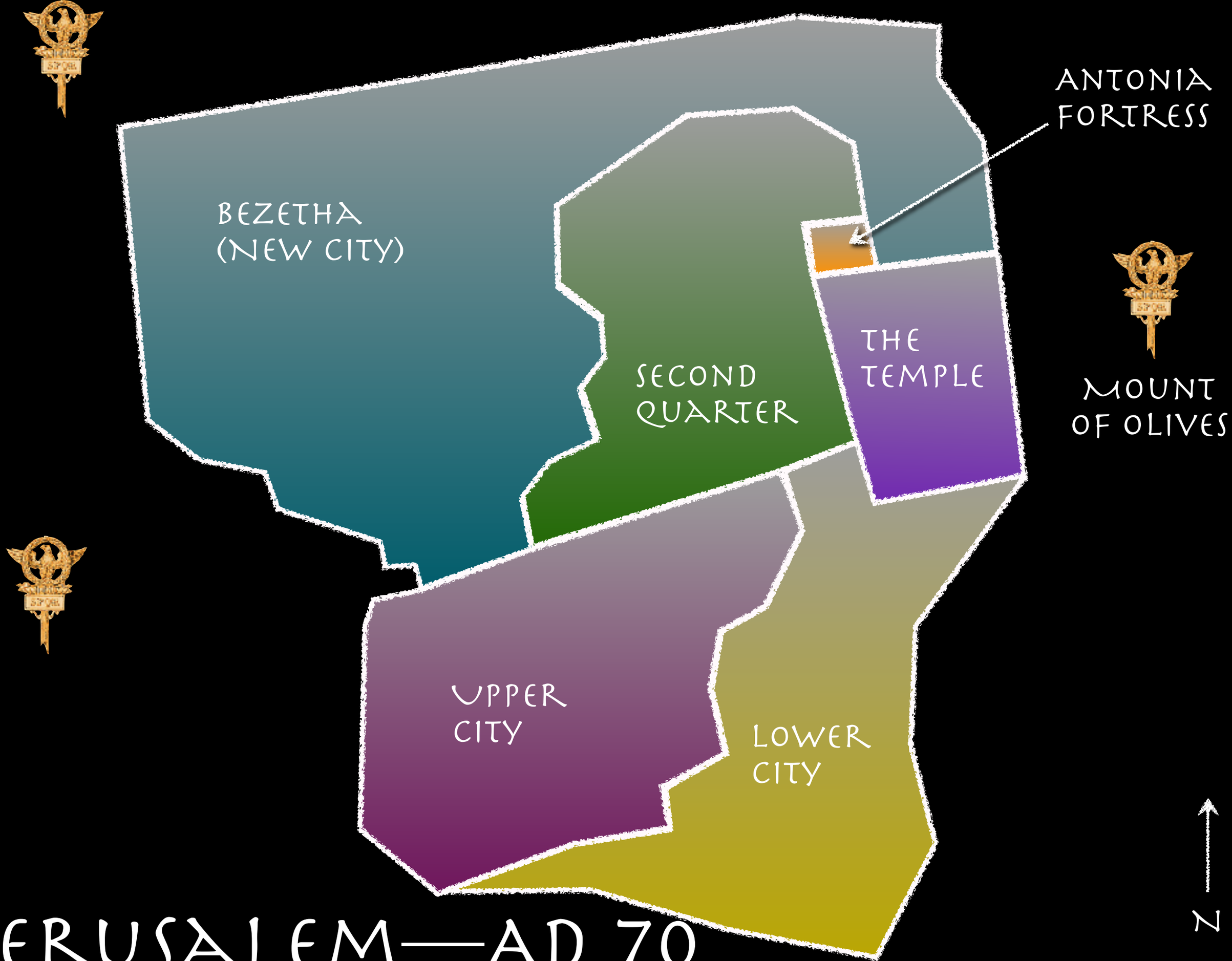
Try to picture yourself as an inhabitant of Jerusalem.

See it.

Experience it.

Know it.





JERUSALEM—AD 70

What could the Olivet Prophecy reveal?

- That there will be suffering

Matthew 24:22 → "except those days should be shortened…"

- When Jerusalem is surrounded by armies, it will be possible to flee

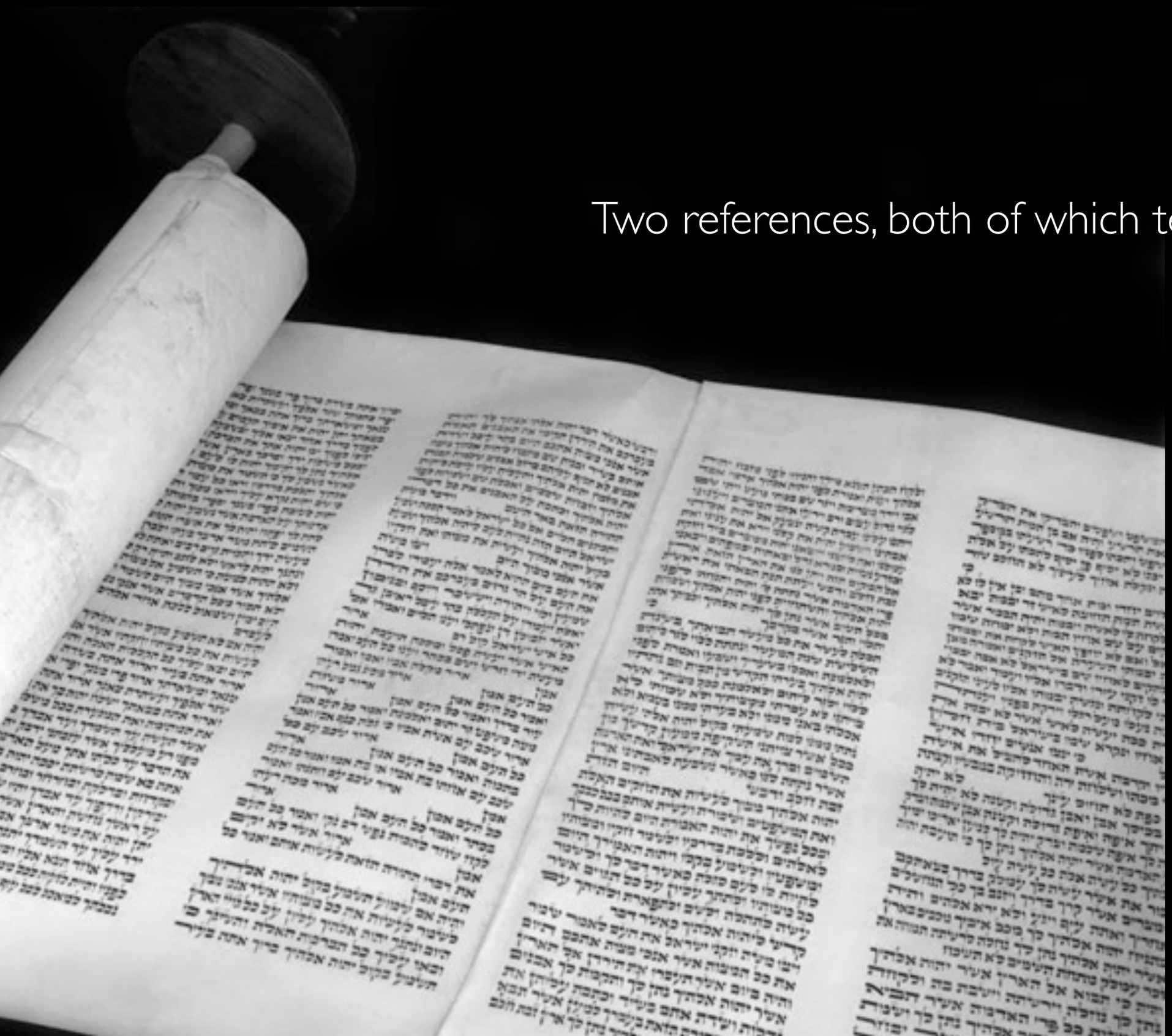
Luke 21:20-21 → "when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies…"

- When the Abomination of Desolation appears, it will be possible to flee

Matthew 24:15 → "When ye therefore shall see the abomination…"

BEFORE IT TAKES PLACE

SPOKEN OF BY DANIEL THE PROPHET



Two references, both of which teach the same thing.

Daniel 11:31

Daniel 12:11

Daniel 11:31 - "And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate."

Daniel 12:11 - "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days."

Thus, the abomination of desolation was connected to:

1 - The polluting of the temple

2 - The taking away of the daily sacrifice

Two other prophecies in Daniel mention similar ideas—and give further details.

Daniel 8:13 → "the transgression of desolation"

1 - v. 13 - "to give both the host and the sanctuary to be trodden underfoot"

2 - v 12 - "And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice"

A SIMILAR EXPRESSION

In fact, more than just this verse is based in Daniel 8.

1 - the "casting down" of the temple	Luke 21:5-7	Daniel 8:11
2 - the "transgression of desolation"	Matthew 24:15	Daniel 8:13
3 - "great tribulation"	Matthew 24:21-22	Daniel 8:24
4 - Jerusalem "trodden down" by Gentiles	Luke 21:24	Daniel 8:10
5 - "stars shall fall from the heavens"	Matthew 24:29	Daniel 8:13

AN OLD TESTAMENT BASIS

Therefore, it behooves us to learn a bit more about Daniel 8.

Christ's words are focused on a "little horn."

So where does this horn originate?

Daniel 8:3 → Daniel 8:20 Medes and Persians



A RAM WITH TWO HORNS

A GOAT WITH ONE HORN

The goat flew

= Alexander conquered Persia in 12 years

With great fury

= Alexander had been provoked by Persia



Daniel 8:5-7 → Daniel 8:21 The First King of the Greeks

"While Alexander was away fighting them, two of the major Greek city-states, Athens and Thebes, decided it would be a good time to shake off Macedonian rule. King Darius III of Persia made it even more tempting by offering them a bribe. They too rebelled." Skelton and Dell; *Empire of Alexander the Great;* pg. 20

A GOAT WITH ONE HORN

The goat flew

= Alexander conquered Persia in 12 years



With great fury

= Alexander had been provoked by Persia

Stamped upon the ram

= Alexander unrelentingly crushed Persia

Daniel 8:5-7 → Daniel 8:21 The First King of the Greeks

After Alexander captured Darius' family in 332 BC, Darius wrote to him, trying to get them back:

"In what may have been a grand bluff, and certainly smacks of his characteristic arrogance, Alexander wrote Darius back, beginning, cheekily, 'King Alexander to Darius.' He told him he would be willing to give Darius his family back if the Persian monarch came to him humbly enough. But as for a peace treaty: 'In the future, let any communication you wish to make with me be addressed to the King of all Asia. Do not write to me as an equal. Everything you possess is now mine; so, if you should want anything, let me know in the proper terms or I shall take steps to deal with you as a criminal. If, on the other hand, you wish to dispute the throne, stand and fight for it and do not run away. Wherever you may hide yourself, be sure I shall seek you out.'...Having read this, Darius understood that there would be no making peace with the young Macedonian." Joseph Cummins; *History's Greatest Wars: The Epic Conflicts that Shaped the Modern World;* pgs. 26-27

Daniel 8:8

At the point of its greatest strength, the goat's horn was broken.

BROKEN

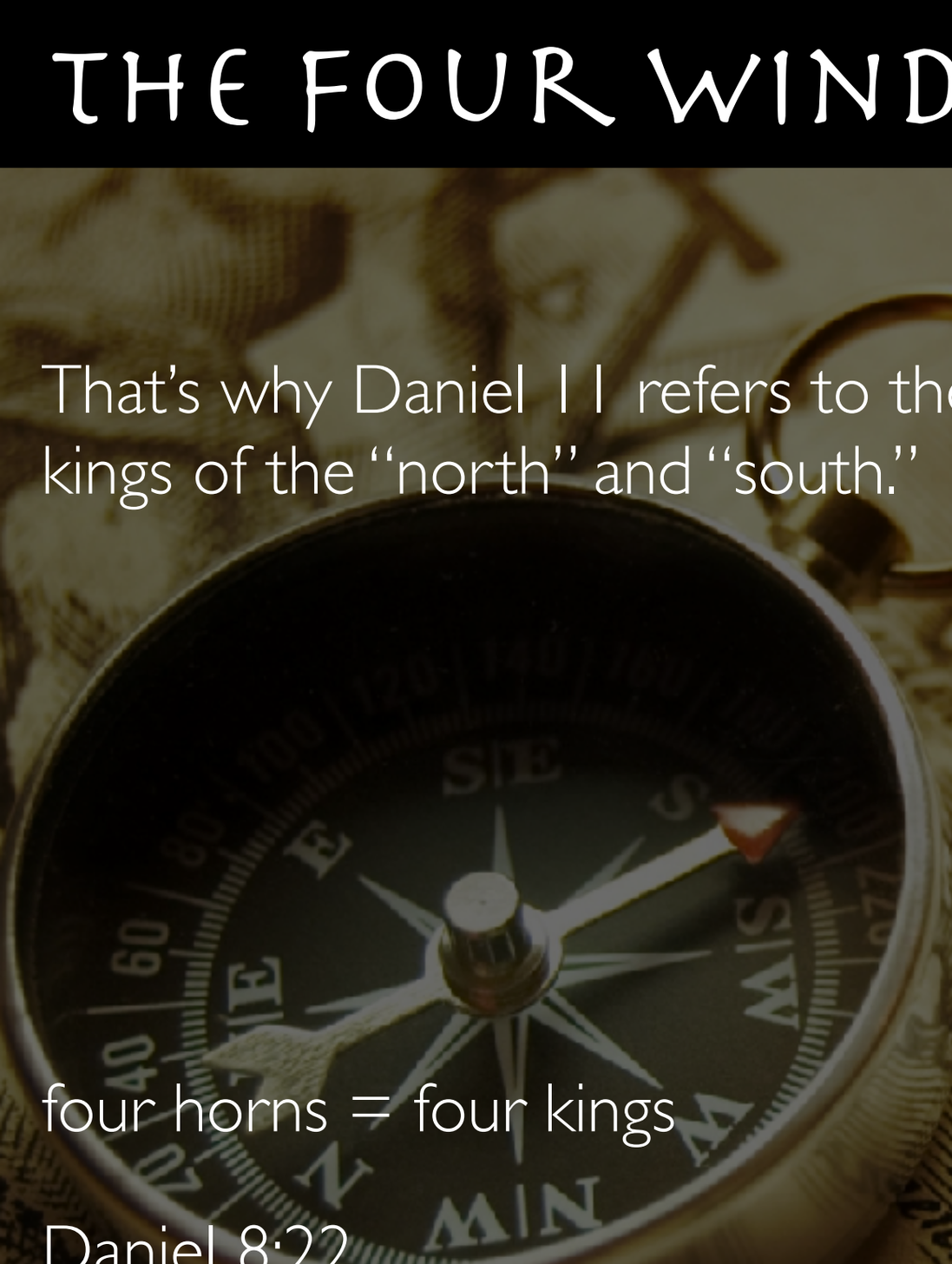
This is exactly what happened:

"The story of Alexander's conquests is known to many readers, but the dramatic and consequential sequel to that story is much less well-known. It is a tale of loss that begins with the greatest loss of all, the death of the king who gave the empire its center. 'He died just when men most longed for him,' writes Arrian, one of the ancient historians who dealt with this era, implying both that Alexander's talents were needed to keep the empire together and that the king had become an object of adoration, even worship, in the last years of his life.

…The era that followed came to be defined by the absence of one towering individual, just as the previous era had been defined by his presence. It was as though the sun had disappeared from the solar system; planets and moons began spinning crazily in new directions, often crashing into each other with terrifying force." James Romm; *Ghost on the Throne: the Death of Alexander the Great and the War for Crown and Empire;* Preface

THE FOUR WINDS

That's why Daniel 11 refers to the kings of the "north" and "south."



four horns = four kings

Daniel 8:22

Lysimachus

Cassander

Seleucus

Eventually, these four kings created four dynasties.

Ptolemy

Probably refers to all four directions. Jeremiah 49:36 Zechariah 2:6

THE LITTLE HORN

Daniel 8:9-13

v. 9 - It developed from part of Alexander's old empire

v. 9 - It would move toward the south, the east, and the holy land

v. 10 - It would cast some of the stars to the ground

v. 11 - It would magnify itself against the prince of the host

v. 12 - It would take away the daily sacrifice

v. 13 - It would tread down the host and the sanctuary

The first four characteristics had already been fulfilled by Rome!

Therefore, the abomination of desolation was connected to:

FOR THE BELIEVERS IN THOSE DAYS

1 - The polluting of the temple

2 - The taking away of the daily sacrifice

3 - Rome

SEVENTY WEEKS

Daniel 9:27 → "overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate"

1 - He shall make it desolate

2 - He shall cause sacrifice and oblation to cease

SEVENTY WEEKS

Artaxerxes commissions Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem

1 week = 7 days; 69 weeks = 483 days; day for a year = 483 years



AD 27

69 weeks

456 BC



Daniel 9:25 - "Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: and street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times."

These things would happen sometime after the 69th week:

Daniel 9:26 - "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."

Daniel 9:27 - "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

Therefore, the abomination of desolation was connected to:

FOR THE BELIEVERS IN THOSE DAYS

1 - The polluting of the temple

2 - The taking away of the daily sacrifice

3 - Rome

4 - The confirmation of the covenant

WHEN TO RUN

- When Jerusalem is surrounded by armies

- When the abomination of desolation stands in the holy place

ie. When Rome destroys the temple and stops the daily sacrifice



BEZETHA
(NEW CITY)

ANTONIA
FORTRESS

SECOND
QUARTER

THE
TEMPLE

UPPER
CITY

LOWER
CITY

JERUSALEM—AD 70

Note the arrogance:

"Accordingly the watchmen that sat upon the towers gave them notice when the engine was let go, and the stone came from it, and cried out aloud in their own country language, 'THE SON COMETH:' so those that were in its way stood off, and threw themselves down upon the ground; by which means, and by their thus guarding themselves, the stone fell down and did them no harm." Josephus; *The Wars of the Jews;* Book 5:6

They knew the prophecy!



"THE SON IS COMING"

BEZETHA
(NEW CITY)

AFTER 15 DAYS...

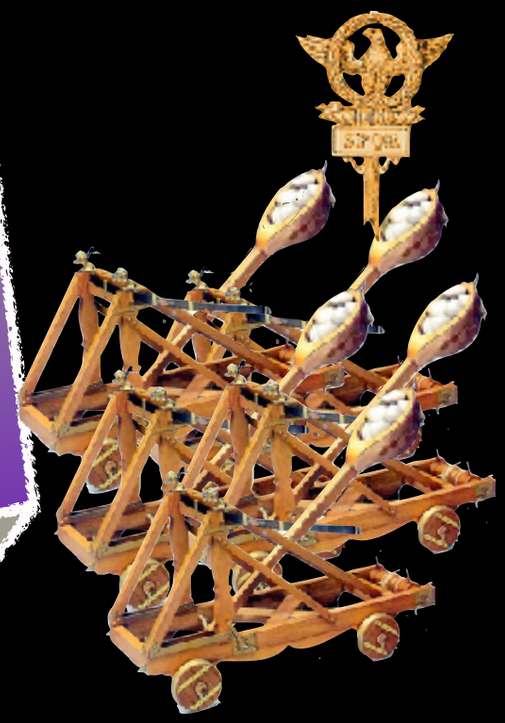
AFTER 9 DAYS...

ANTONIA
FORTRESS

SECOND
QUARTER

UPPER
CITY

LOWER
CITY



JERUSALEM—AD 70

PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE

"He gave orders that the commanders should put the army into battle array, in the face of the enemy, and then give every one of the soldiers their pay. So the soldiers, according to custom, opened the cases wherein their arms before lay covered, and marched with their breastplates on; as did the horsemen lead their horses in their fine trappings. Then did the places that were before the city shine very splendidly for a great way...the whole old wall and the north side of the temple were full of spectators, and one might see the houses fully of such as looked at them; nor was there any part of the city which was not covered over with their multitudes; nay, a very great consternation seized upon the hardiest of the Jews themselves." Josephus; *The Wars of the Jews;* Book 5:9

BEZETHA
(NEW CITY)

ANTONIA
FORTRESS

THE
TEMPLE

SECOND
QUARTER

UPPER
CITY

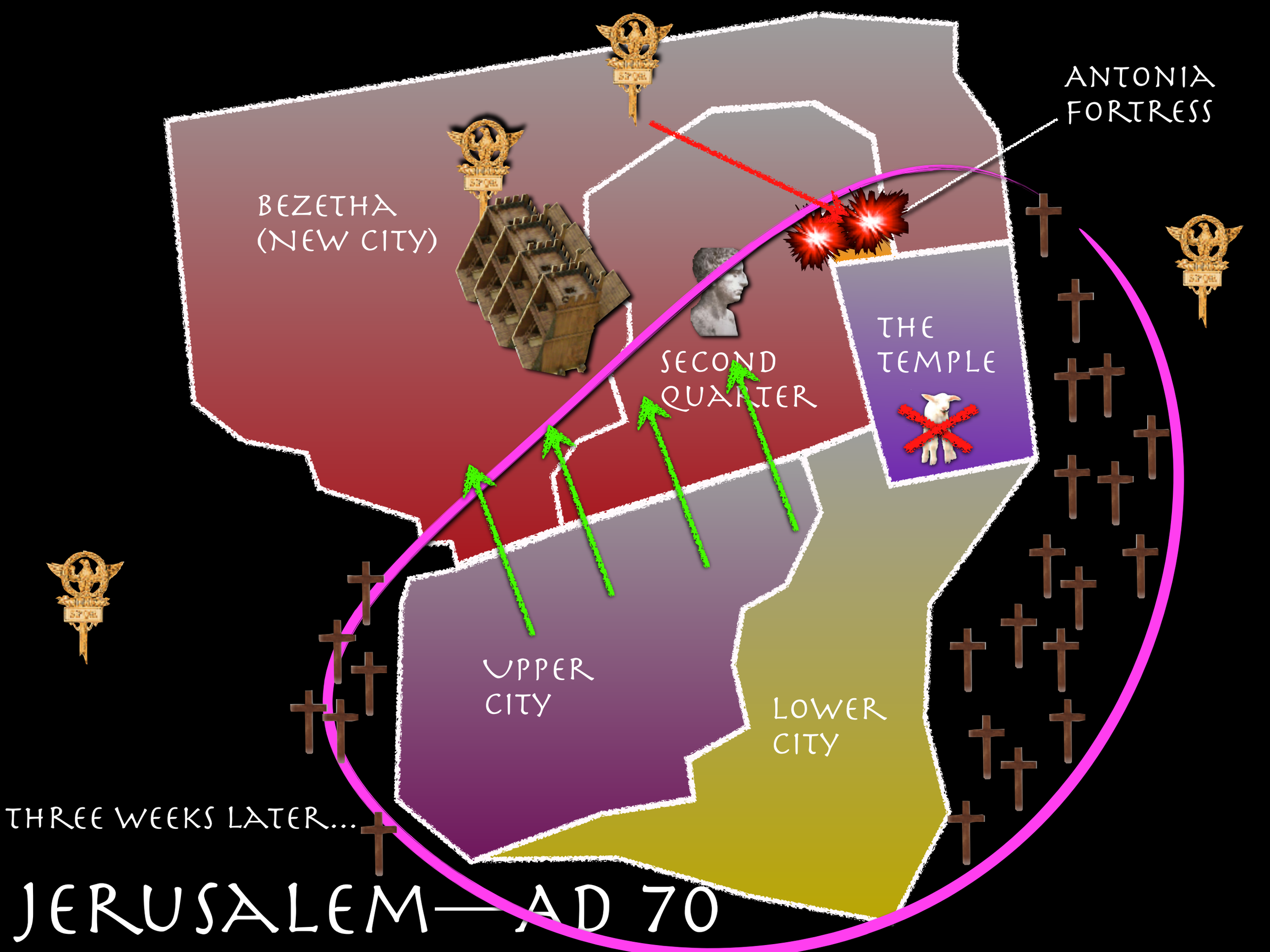
LOWER
CITY

JERUSALEM—AD 70

"As Josephus was speaking thus with a loud voice, the seditious would neither yield to what he said, nor did they deem it safe for them to alter their conduct; but as for the people, they had a great inclination to desert to the Romans; accordingly, some of them sold what they had, and even the most precious things that had been laid up as treasures by them, for a very small matter...and when they had escaped to the Romans...Titus let a great number of them go away into the country, whither they pleased." Josephus; *The Wars of the Jews;* Book 5:10

They knew the prophecy!

SURROUNDED BY ARMIES



THREE WEEKS LATER...

JERUSALEM—AD 70

THE DAILY SACRIFICE



"And now Titus gave orders to his soldiers that were with him to dig up the foundations of the tower of Antonia, and make him a ready passage for his army to come up; while he himself had Josephus brought to him (for he had been informed that on that very day, which was the seventeenth day of Panemus [Talmuz], the sacrifice called 'the Daily Sacrifice' had failed, and had not been offered to God for want of men to offer it, and that the people were grievously troubled at it." Josephus; *The Wars of the Jews;* Book 6:2

ANOTHER OF THREE MONTHS

ANTONIA FORTRESS

BEZETHA (NEW CITY)



SECOND QUARTER

THE TEMPLE



UPPER CITY



LOWER CITY

JERUSALEM—AD 70

They knew the prophecy!

Flee to the Mountains

"Some also there were who, watching for a proper opportunity when they might quietly get away, fled to the Romans…Now Caesar not only received these men very kindly in other respects, but, knowing they would not willingly live after the customs of other nations he sent them to Gophna, and desired them to remain there for the present, and told them, that when he was gotten clear of this war, he would restore each of them to their possessions again." Josephus; *The Wars of the Jews;* 6:2:1





"The houses of the village are concentrated on the slopes of a mountain and in a beautiful all year long green valley. It is situated at the intersection of two important ancient trade routes, the mountainous north-south route and the east-west route connecting the Jordan Valley with the coast."The Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange; "Jifna"

Matthew 24:21 → "such as was not since the beginning of the world"



This is the *worst destruction* that the Jewish world has ever seen.

"I shall therefore speak my mind here at once briefly:—That neither did any other city ever suffer such miseries, nor did any age ever breed a generation more fruitful in wickedness than this was, from the beginning of the world."
Josephus; *The Wars of the Jews;* Book 5:10

Consider the situation:

- Thousands carried into captivity

- Approximately 1.1 million killed

- Thousands of Jews crucified

- Parents brought to cannibalism from the intense famine

- The temple was burned to the ground (not one stone upon another)—never to be built again before the coming of the Lord

- The Jewish system of worship was totally obliterated

It was also a huge moment for the believers.

1 Peter 4:7 - "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."

A MONUMENTAL EVENT

1 Corinthians 10:11 Hebrews 1:2 Hebrews 9:26

As such, "end of days" terms were used to describe it:

Luke 21:22 - "For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

Luke 21:28 - "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

"these things" →	τούτων	G5130	used of the signs	Luke 21:12
	ταῦτα	G5023		Luke 21:9
			used of AD 70	Luke 21:6
				Luke 21:7 2x

"begin to come to pass" → this is about the beginning of the signs' fulfillment!

"draweth nigh" →	ἐγγίζω	G1448	Luke 21:8, 20

James 5:7-8 (dual application) - "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

"coming" → παρουσία G3952 Matthew 24:3

"draweth nigh" → ἐγγίζω G1448 Luke 21:8, 20, 28

For the brethren, it was:

- a day of vengeance
- their redemption
- something for which they waited patiently

WHY?

1 - They were freed from the yoke of their Jewish persecutors

2 - The covenant was confirmed. Daniel 9:27

Thus, God can turn a day of terror into a day of salvation.

The Exodus Hezekiah Esther