

MAJOR & MINOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



+The Major Prophets are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

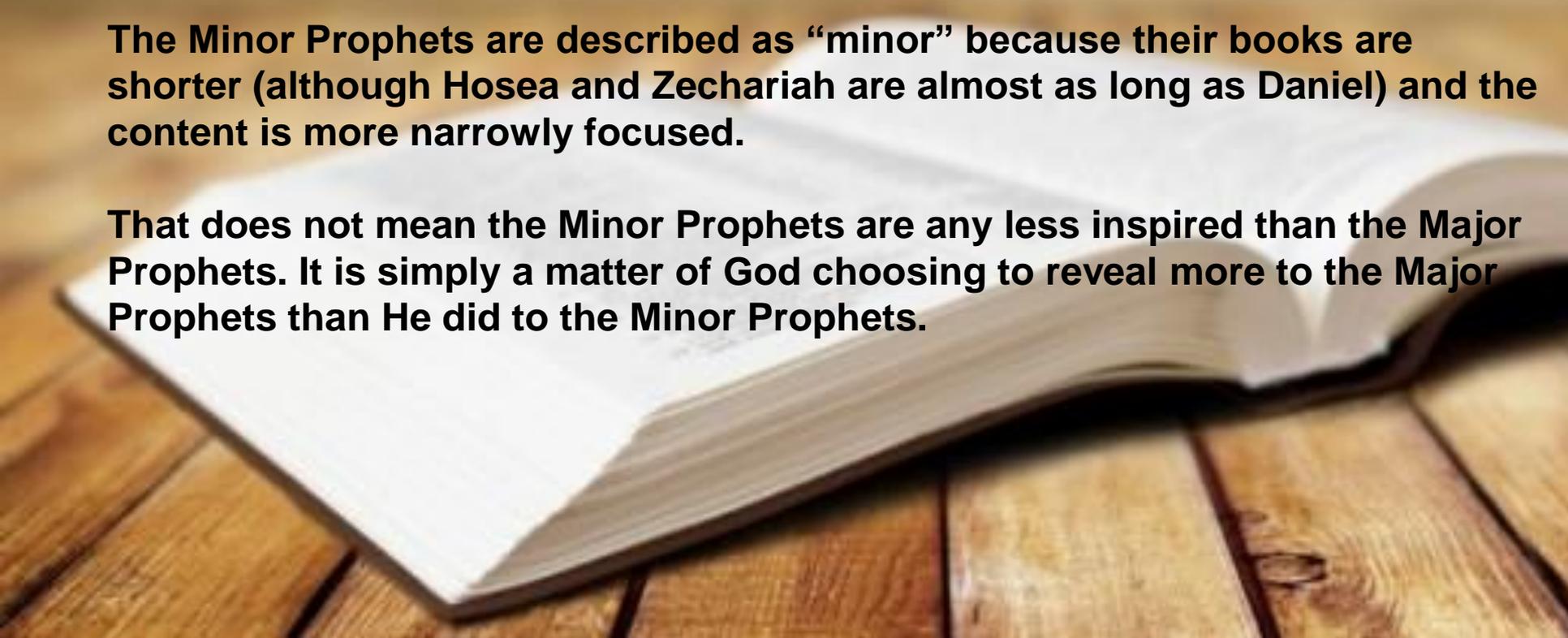
The Major Prophets are described as “major” because their books are longer and the content has broad, even global implications.

+The Minor Prophets are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

The Minor Prophets are also sometimes called The Twelve.

The Minor Prophets are described as “minor” because their books are shorter (although Hosea and Zechariah are almost as long as Daniel) and the content is more narrowly focused.

That does not mean the Minor Prophets are any less inspired than the Major Prophets. It is simply a matter of God choosing to reveal more to the Major Prophets than He did to the Minor Prophets.



Both the Major and Minor Prophets are usually among the least popular books of the Bible for Christians to read.

Often unusual prophetic language and the seemingly constant warnings and condemnations recorded in the prophecies.

Valuable content to be studied in the Major and Minor Prophets.

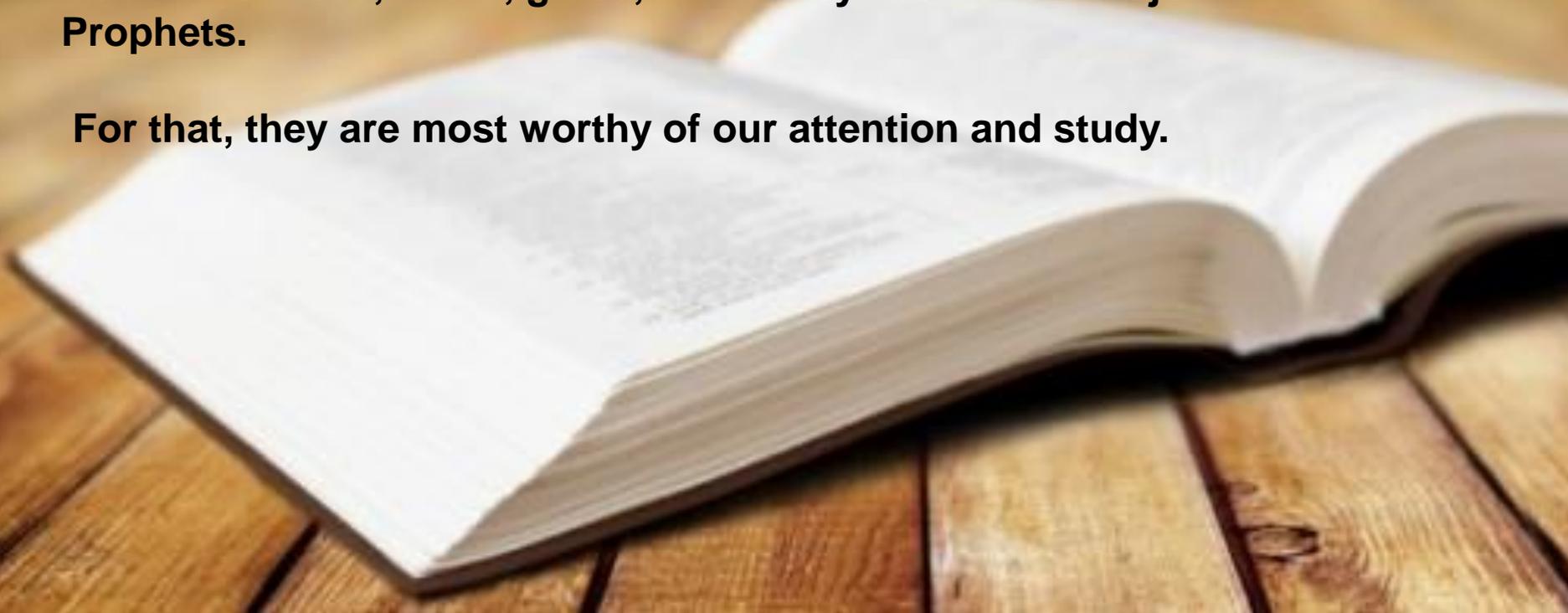
+Christ's birth in Isaiah and Micah.

+Christ's sacrifice in Isaiah.

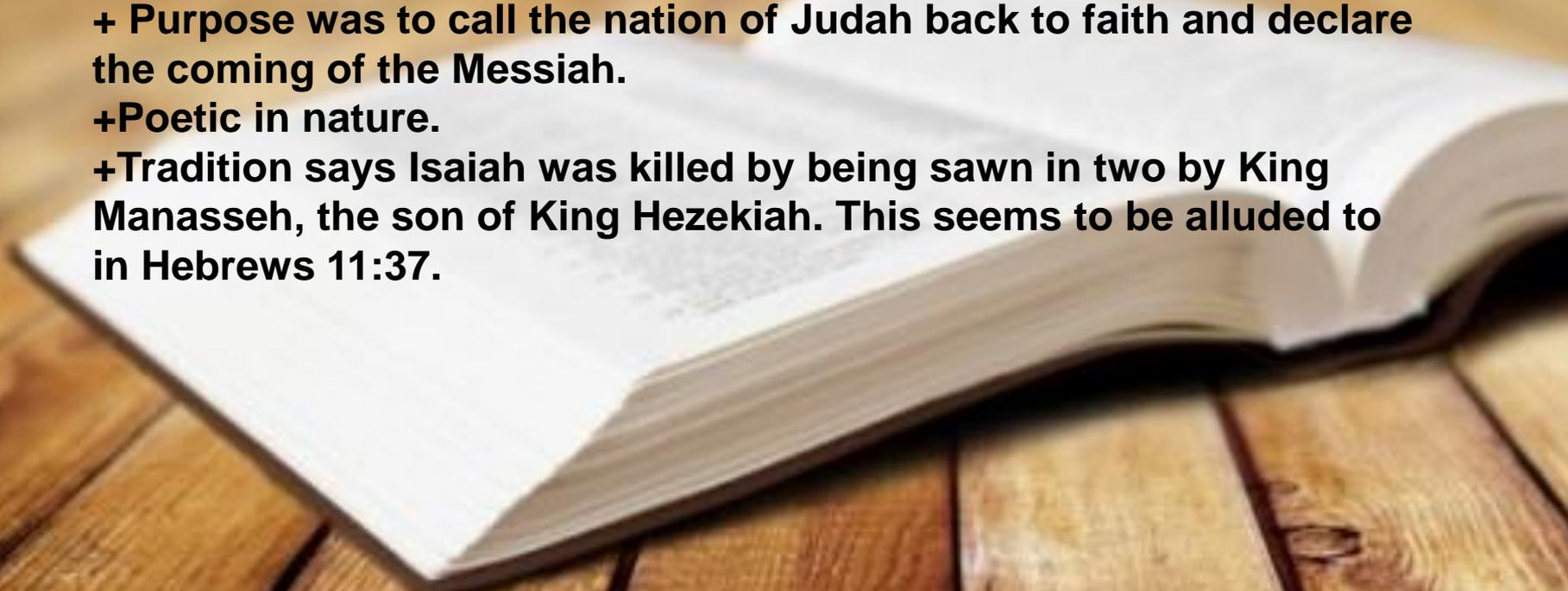
+Christ's return in Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah.

+God's holiness, wrath, grace, and mercy in all of the Major and Minor Prophets.

For that, they are most worthy of our attention and study.

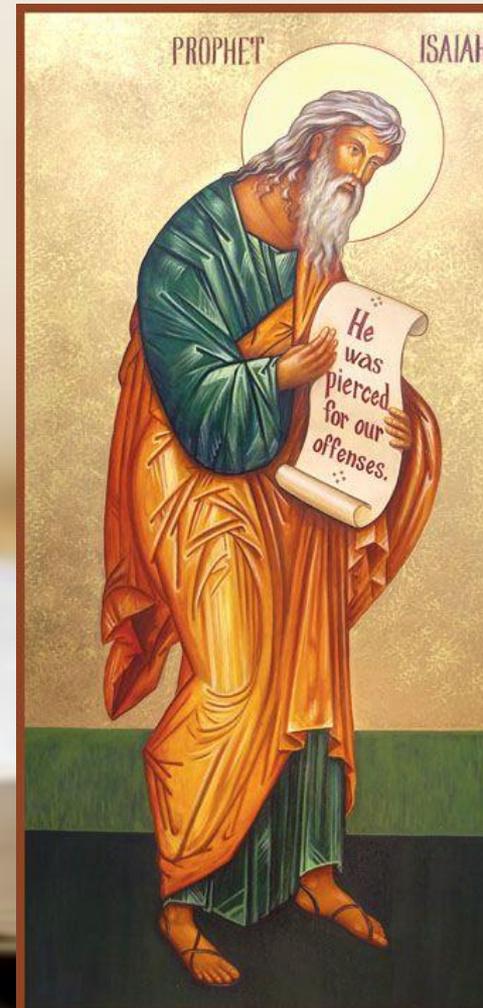


Isaiah:
(Major Prophet)

- + Written by Isaiah the prophet.
 - + Prophetic and narrative in nature.
 - + His name means “The LORD is salvation.
 - + The time covered is from the end of King Uzziah’s reign (Isaiah 6:1) to the Assyrian King Sennacherib’s siege of Jerusalem.
 - + It was at least a 40-year ministry during the last half of the eighth century B.C.
 - + It is the book Jesus quoted the most from the old testament.
 - + Contains incredible prophecies about the Messiah.
 - + Purpose was to call the nation of Judah back to faith and declare the coming of the Messiah.
 - + Poetic in nature.
 - + Tradition says Isaiah was killed by being sawn in two by King Manasseh, the son of King Hezekiah. This seems to be alluded to in Hebrews 11:37.
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Some of the prophecies:

- +Will be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
- +Will have a Galilean ministry (Isaiah 9:1,2)
- +Will be an heir to the throne of David (Isaiah 9:7; 11:1, 10)
- +Will be spat on and struck (Isaiah 50:6)
- +Will be widely rejected (Isaiah 53:1,3)
- +Will voluntarily accept our guilt and punishment for sin (Isaiah 53:7,8)
- +Will be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7)
- +Will die with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12)
- +Will be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9)



Jeremiah & Lamentations:

(Major Prophet)

- + Jeremiah is prophetic and narrative.**
- + Lamentations is a sorrowful poem.**
- + Both written by Jeremiah the prophet.**
- + The son of Hilkiyah, a Levitical priest.**
- + From the small village of Anathoth, northeast of Jerusalem in the territory of Benjamin.**
- + He was set for prophecy before he was born and called at a very young age in the days of King Josiah.**
- + Lived through 5 king; Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin & Zedekiah.**
- + His contemporary prophets were: Zaphaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Daniel and Ezekiel.**
- + Lived through the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians on the hand of Nebuchadnezzar which he warned the Jewish people about asking them to repent for many years preceding this event but them not believing him.**
- + His service time extended for over 40 years.**

+ He was placed in a mud pit to die but rescued.

+He was imprisoned but when Jerusalem finally fell, Jeremiah was released by the Babylonians and offered safe conduct to Babylonia. He preferred to remain with his own people. So he was entrusted to [Gedaliah](#), a Judaeen from a prominent family whom the Babylonians appointed as governor of the province of Judah.

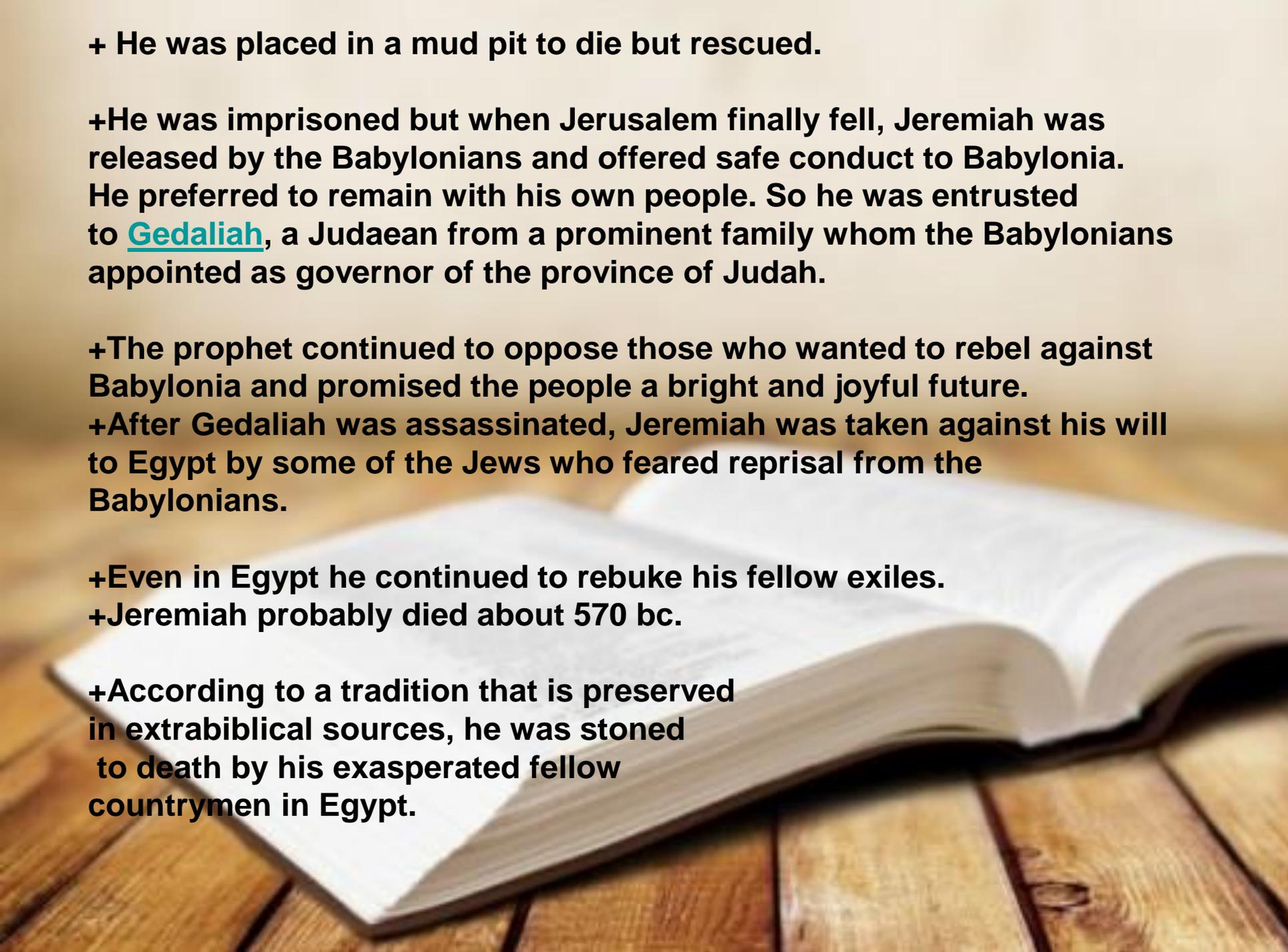
+The prophet continued to oppose those who wanted to rebel against Babylonia and promised the people a bright and joyful future.

+After Gedaliah was assassinated, Jeremiah was taken against his will to Egypt by some of the Jews who feared reprisal from the Babylonians.

+Even in Egypt he continued to rebuke his fellow exiles.

+Jeremiah probably died about 570 bc.

+According to a tradition that is preserved in extrabiblical sources, he was stoned to death by his exasperated fellow countrymen in Egypt.



+Jeremiah's most important [prophecy](#) concerning the future is one regarding the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31–34).

+He prophesied of a time when God would make a covenant with Israel, superseding the old Covenant.

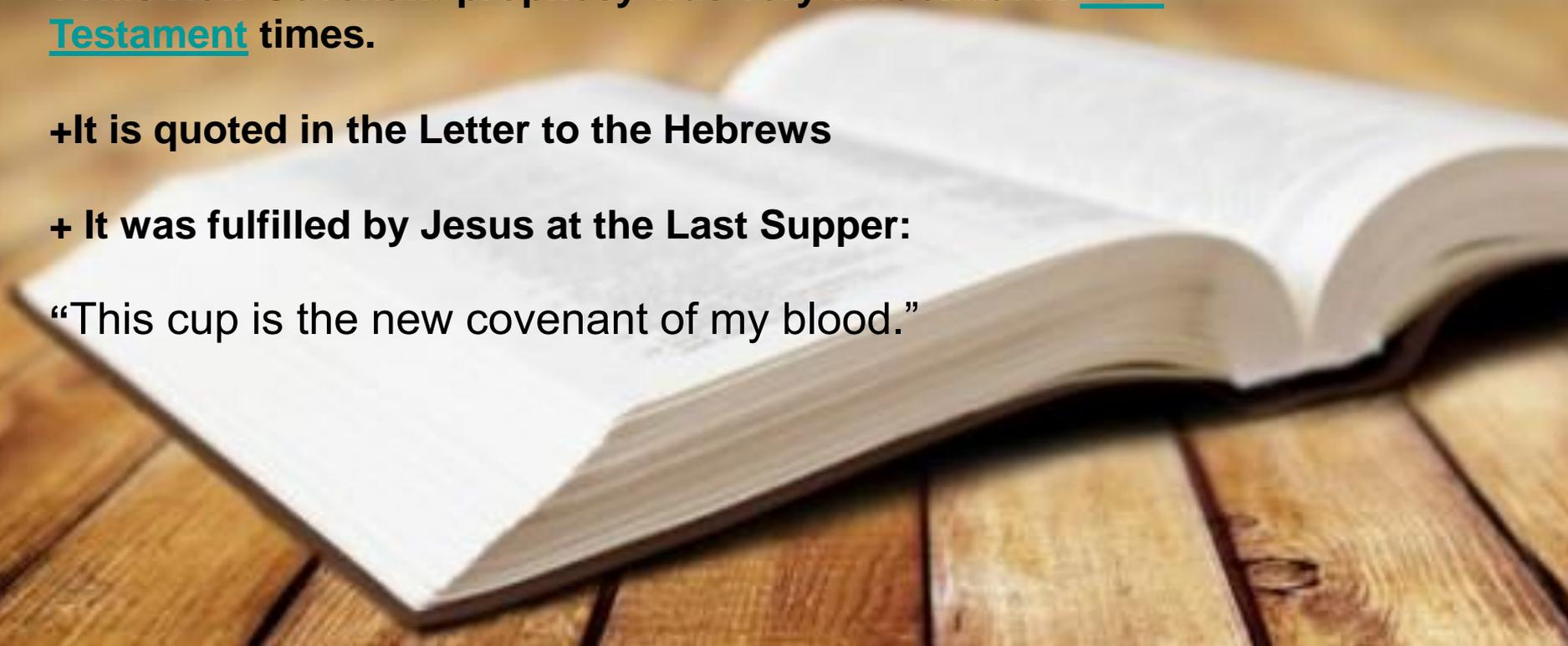
+God would write his law upon the hearts of men (rather than on tables of stone), and all would know God directly and receive his forgiveness.

+This New Covenant prophecy was very influential in [New Testament](#) times.

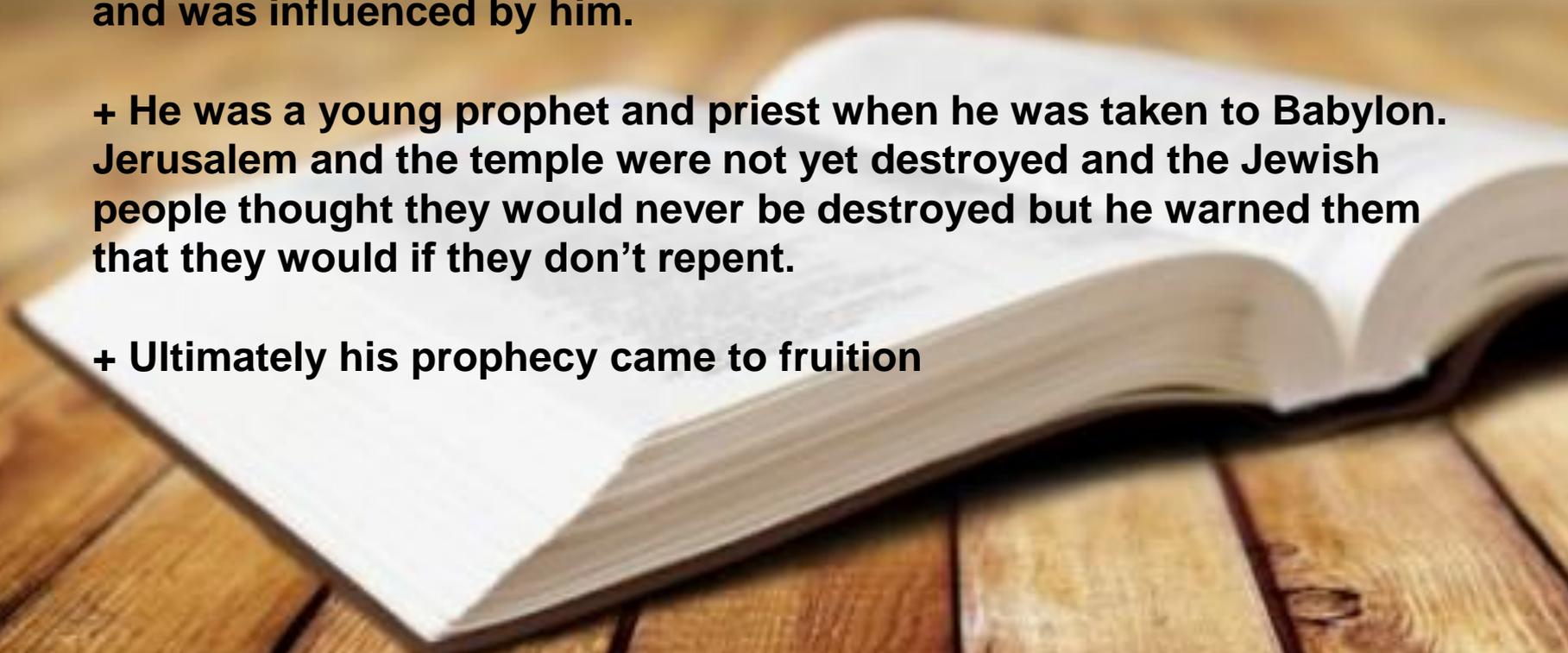
+It is quoted in the Letter to the Hebrews

+ It was fulfilled by Jesus at the Last Supper:

“This cup is the new covenant of my blood.”



Ezekiel:
(Major Prophet)

- + Prophetic, apocalyptic and narrative in nature.
 - + Written to announce judgment upon Judah and to give them a chance to repent.
 - + Written in Babylon, he lived during the latter part of Jeremiah's time and was influenced by him.
 - + He was a young prophet and priest when he was taken to Babylon. Jerusalem and the temple were not yet destroyed and the Jewish people thought they would never be destroyed but he warned them that they would if they don't repent.
 - + Ultimately his prophecy came to fruition
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Daniel:
(Major Prophet)



+ It means: God is my judge.

+ Prophetic, apocalyptic and narrative in nature.

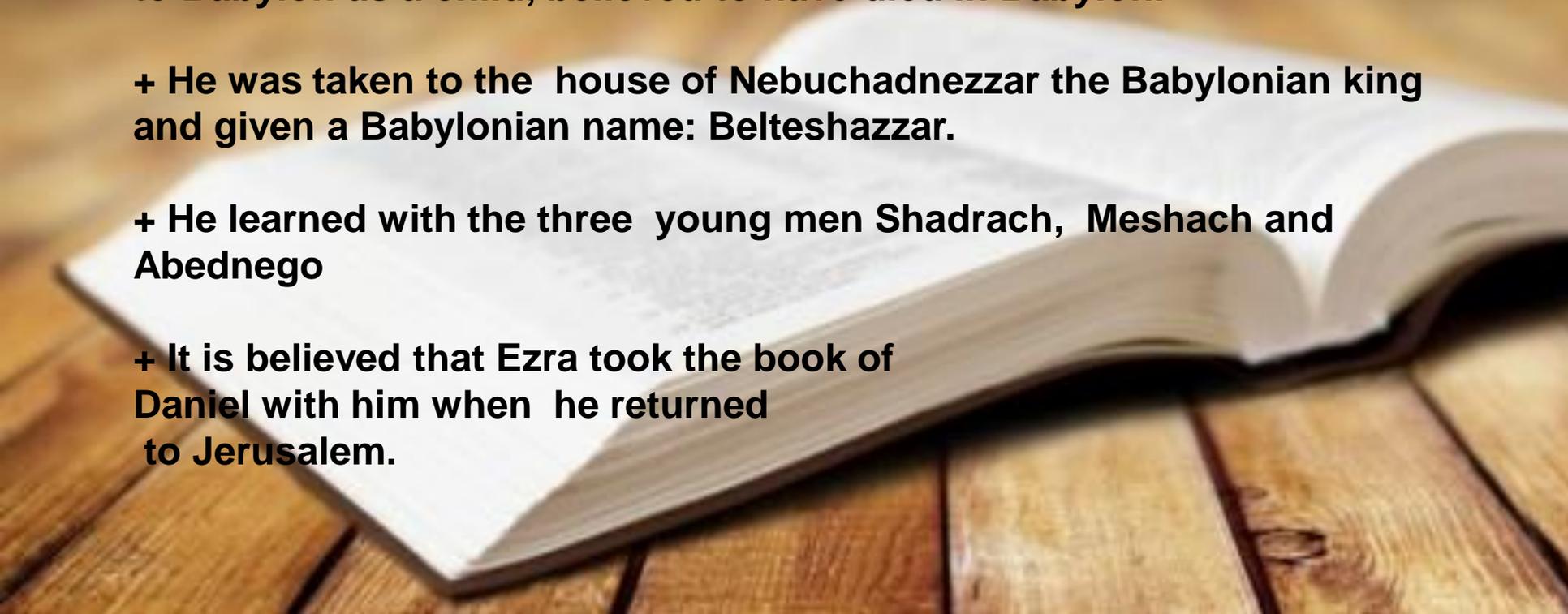
+ Written to announce judgment upon Judah and to give them a chance to repent.

+ Written in Babylon, he was most likely born in Jerusalem then taken to Babylon as a child, believed to have died in Babylon.

+ He was taken to the house of Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian king and given a Babylonian name: Belshazzar.

+ He learned with the three young men Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

+ It is believed that Ezra took the book of Daniel with him when he returned to Jerusalem.



Daniel:
(Major Prophet)

+ Known for interpreting dreams:

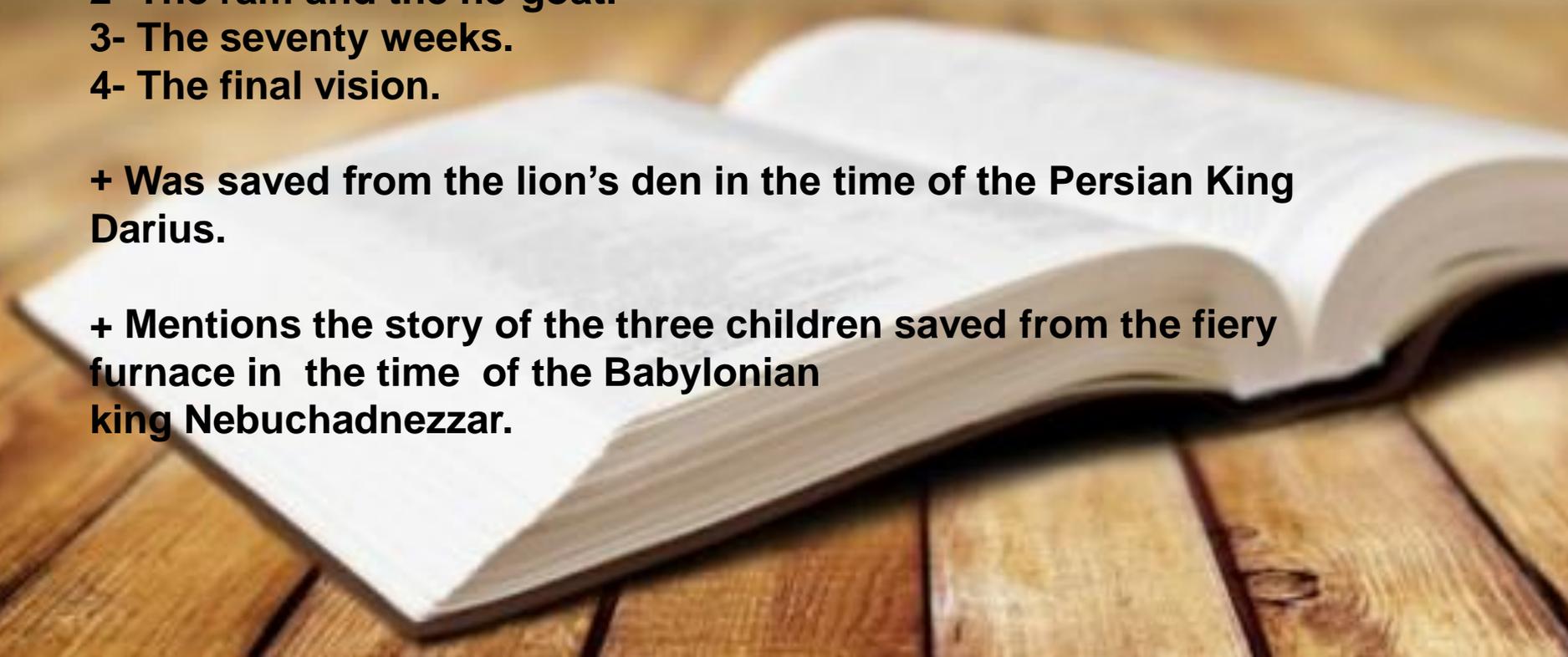
- 1- The hand writing on the wall of Belshazzar.
- 2- The dreams of Nebuchadnezzar.

Had many visions concerning the kingdom:

- 1- The four beasts.
- 2- The ram and the he-goat.
- 3- The seventy weeks.
- 4- The final vision.

+ Was saved from the lion's den in the time of the Persian King Darius.

+ Mentions the story of the three children saved from the fiery furnace in the time of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar.



Hosea:
(Minor Prophet)

- + = Johsua = God is savior.
- + From the Northern Kingdom (Israel).
- + Lived during the time of Isaiah, Amos and Micah.
- + Lived in Samaria and witnessed it's destruction.
- + Main idea: God's mercy and love to a sinful Israel.

1- Hosea is ordered by God to marry a prostitute, Gomar.
This symbolizes God and his people.

2- God being the husband and his people as the prostitute wife who has left him for other Gods.

3- Yet Hosea in his love to his wife, has bought her again after she sold herself a slave to another man.

4- God also in his mercy, love and forgiveness will accept the repentance of his people.

Joel:
(Minor Prophet)

+ = Yahweh is God .

+ Son of Penthuel =God opens (opens our hearts and vision).

+ Lived in the Southern Kingdom, most likely in Jerusalem since he makes a lot of references to it and to the Temple.

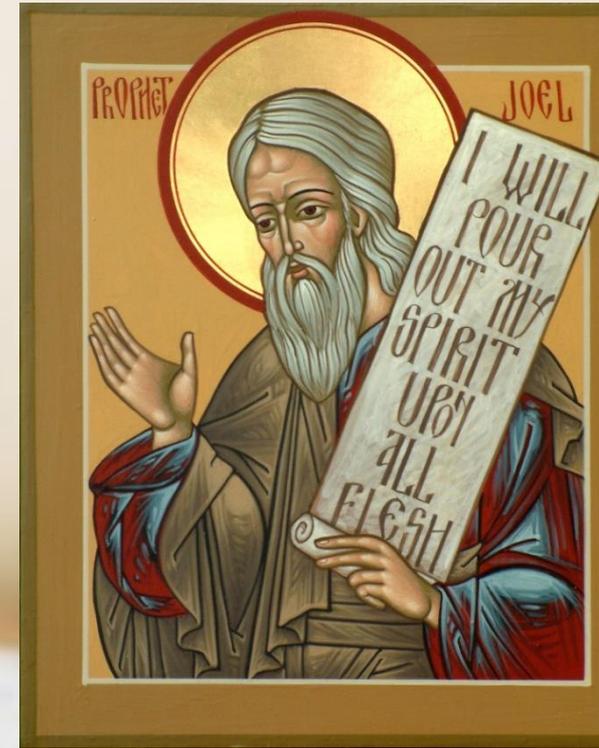
+ It is not exactly determined when he lived.
There are 3 theories;

1- During the time of Elijah and Elisha

2- Pre-exile: during the time of Isaiah.

3- Post –exile: after the return to Jerusalem.

+ Main idea: Witnessed 4 series of locust plagues, drought, fires and famine in the wake of the locust plagues.



Joel:
(Minor Prophet)

_+ Even though it is short, it is referenced multiple times in the New Testament:

1-In Acts 2:16 the apostle Peter states that the things the people were witnessing on the day of Pentecost had been spoken of by the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29).

2- In Romans 10:11-13 Paul refers back to Joel 2:26b and 2:32.

3- In Mark 4:29 Jesus makes use of Joel 3:13.

4- There seems to be some dependence on Joel 2:32 in Acts 2:39.

**5- There are several references back to Joel in the Book of Revelation
--- Rev. 6:12 (Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15) Rev. 6:17 (Joel 2:11) Rev
9:7-9 (Joel 1:6; 2:4-5) Rev. 14:15, 18 (Joel 3:13)**

Amos:
(Minor Prophet)

_+ Means burden.

+ Was a shepherd from Tekoa, a small town in Judah.

+ Although he was raised in Judah but he was sent to Israel.

+ Prophesied during the time of Uzziah The king of Judea and Jeroboam II King of Israel who ruled at the same time.

+ Contemporary to Hosea.

+ His time was a prosperous time from the Jewish people so his main focus was on:

1- The rich who used their sacrifice as means of getting close to God without any other efforts (as if they are buying God).

2- The discrepancy between the rich and the poor.

3- The Jewish people thought that God preferred them over other nations no matter what they did. Amos reminded them that God hates evil no matter who is doing it without distinction between Jewish and non- Jewish.

+ Predicted the great earthquake and the destruction 2 years prior.

Obadiah:
(Minor Prophet)

- + Means worshipper of God.
- + Shortest book in the Old Testament.
- + Lived in the Southern Kingdom.
- + Prophesied against Edomites, the descendants of Esau.
- + Edom means red in reference to the red color of blood or the Land Adam was brought from.
- + They were enemies of the Jews.
- 1- Edom refused Moses' request to allow the Israelites to pass through their land on their way to Canaan.
- 2- The Edomites opposed Saul but were subdued by David.
- 3- The Edomites fought against Jehoshaphat.
- 4- The Edomites rebelled against Jehoram.
- + Obadiah had many reference to the ongoing feud between the twins Esau and Jacob through the Edomites and The Jews.
- + Obadiah prophesied that:
 - 1- Edom would be “ cut forever”
 - 2- No survivor will remain from the house of Esau.

Jonah:
(Minor Prophet)

+ means “Dove”.

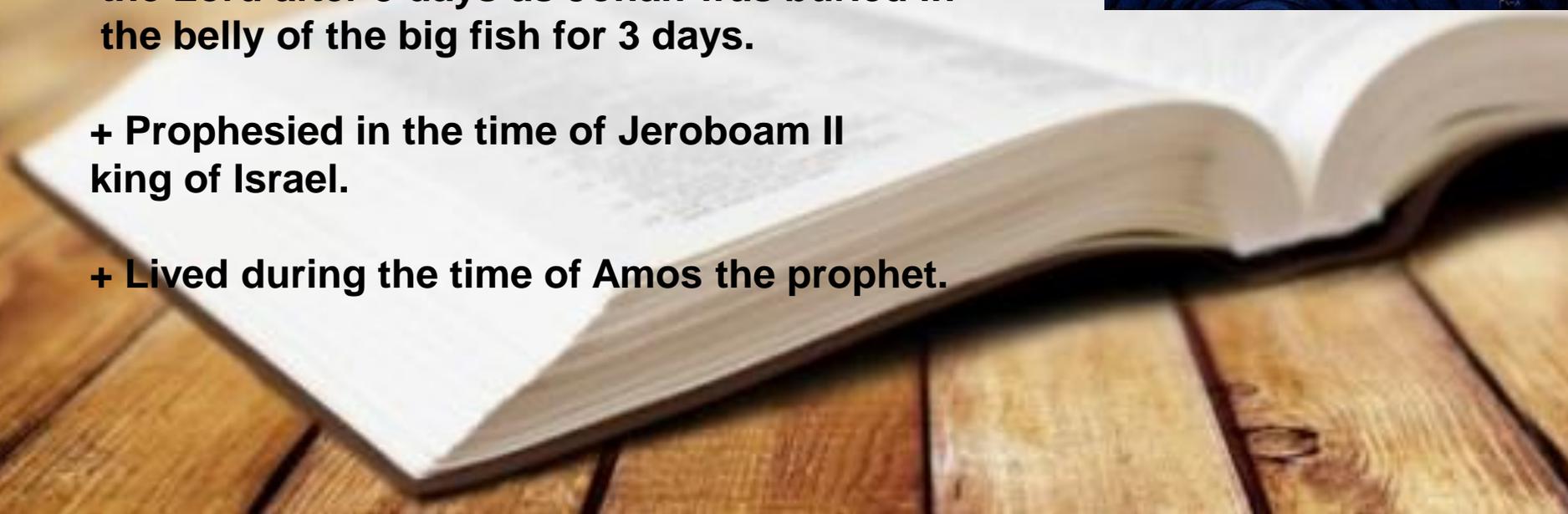
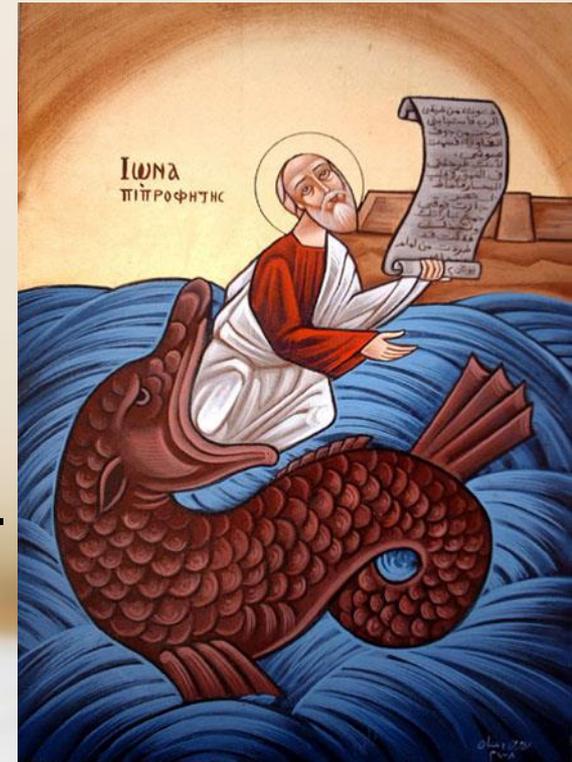
+ From the village of Gath Hopher, three miles north of Nazareth in Galilee.

+ Was sent to Nineveh in Assyria (modern day Iraq).

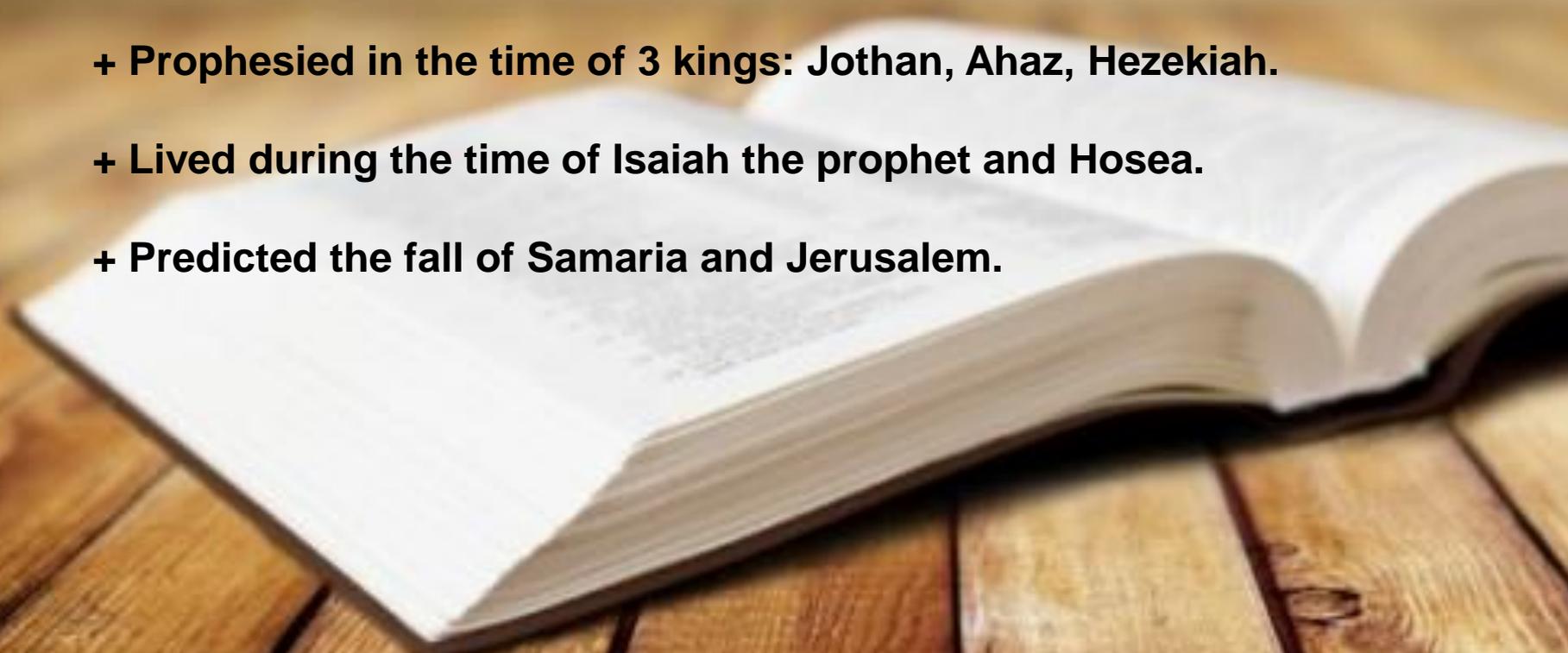
+ The only prophet that Jesus likened to himself, symbolizing the death and the resurrection of the Lord after 3 days as Jonah was buried in the belly of the big fish for 3 days.

+ Prophesied in the time of Jeroboam II king of Israel.

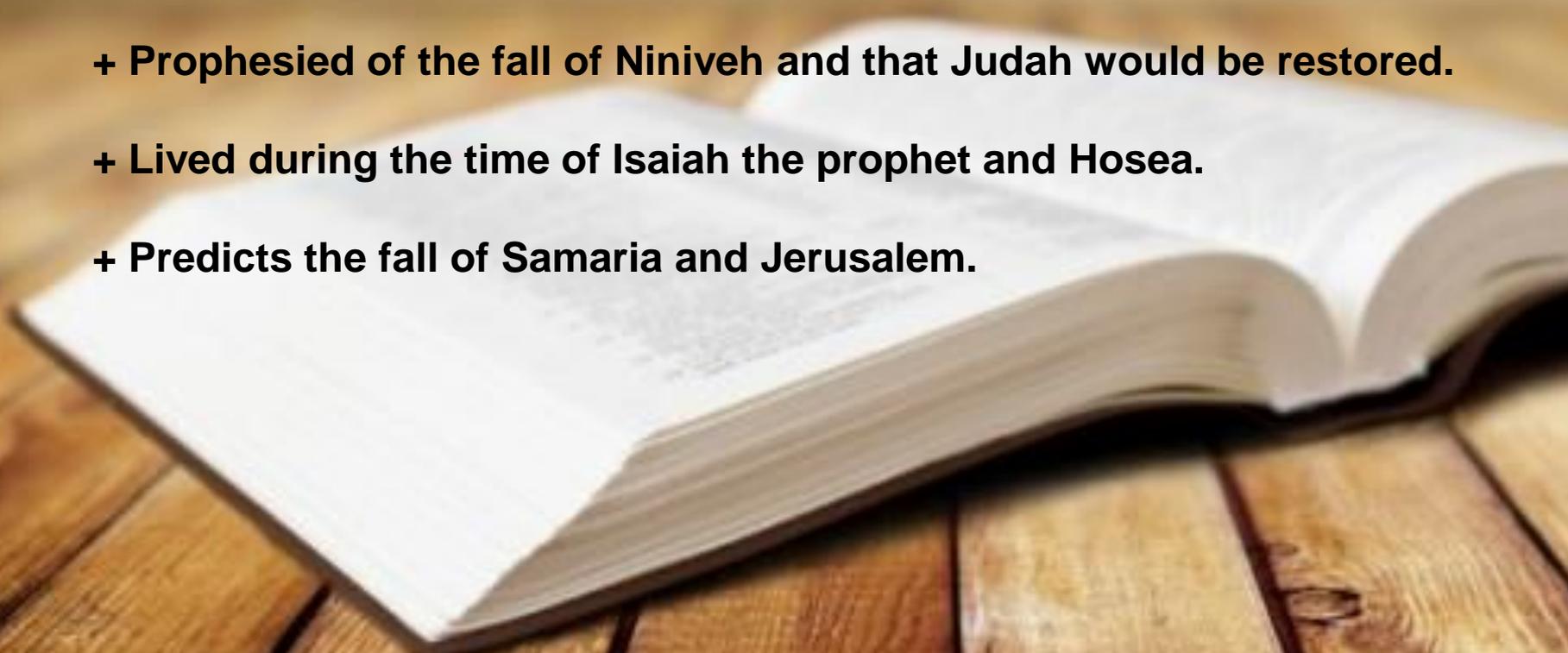
+ Lived during the time of Amos the prophet.



Micah:
(Minor Prophet)

- + means “Who is like God”.
 - + From the village of Moresheth Gath, southwest of Jerusalem.
 - + Prophesied in the time of 3 kings: Jothan, Ahaz, Hezekiah.
 - + Lived during the time of Isaiah the prophet and Hosea.
 - + Predicted the fall of Samaria and Jerusalem.
- 

Nahum:
(Minor Prophet)

- + means “comfort or consolation”.
 - + From the village of Elkosh of Galilee.
 - + Prophesied of the fall of Niniveh and that Judah would be restored.
 - + Lived during the time of Isaiah the prophet and Hosea.
 - + Predicts the fall of Samaria and Jerusalem.
- 
- An open book with text on the pages, resting on a wooden surface. The book is open to a page with text, and the pages are slightly aged. The background is a warm, blurred wooden surface.

Habakkuk:
(Minor Prophet)

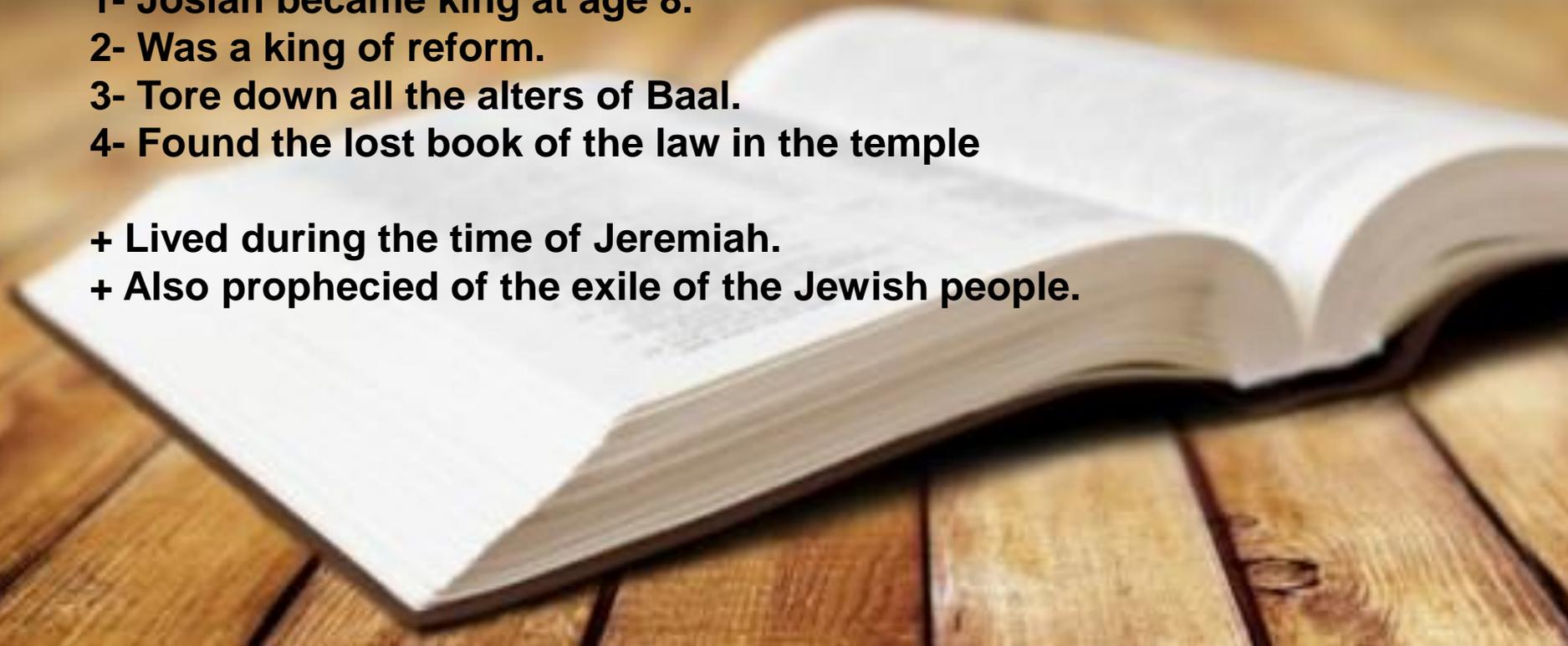
+ means “one who embraces”.

+ Was a levite.



Zaphaniah:
(Minor Prophet)

- + means “God hides(the sins)”.
- + Son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah.
- + Lived during the time of King Josiah of Judah.
 - 1- Josiah became king at age 8.
 - 2- Was a king of reform.
 - 3- Tore down all the alters of Baal.
 - 4- Found the lost book of the law in the temple
- + Lived during the time of Jeremiah.
- + Also prophecied of the exile of the Jewish people.



Haggai:
(Minor Prophet)

+ means “festive”.

+ Born in Babylon and returned to Judah amongst the remnant who returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel .

+ Lived in Jerusalem

+ Considered along with Zechariah, and Malachi to be the post-exile prophets.

+ Haggai prophesied for 3 months and 24 days while Zechariah who was contemporary to him prophesied for over 3 years.

+ Lived during the time of King Darius.

+ Calls for the rebuilding the Temple of God before the building of their own homes.

Haggai:
(Minor Prophet)

+ Chronology of the rebuilding of the Temple:

1- 536 B.C. - The work began.

2- 534 B.C. - After two year (534 B.C.) the work was discontinued for 14 years. • 520 B.C.

3- The work was resumed and completed four years later. • 516 B.C.

4- The work on the Temple was completed.

(Six years of actual work was done over a twenty-year period) .

Haggai:
(Minor Prophet)

+ In Haggai 2:23, Zerubbabel becomes the center of the Messianic line, like a signet ring sealing both branches together.

1- Zerubbabel

The genealogy of Christ:

Matthew 1:12 leading to Saint Joseph.

2- Zerubbabel

The genealogy of Christ:

Luke 3:27 leading to Saint Mary

Zechariah:
(Minor Prophet)

- + Means “ God remembers”
- + The son of Berechiah, a levite and therefore of priestly descent.
- + Born in Babylon and brought to Israel after the return with his Grandfather as it appears that his father died before the return.
- + Called to prophecy at a young age.
- + Was murdered “between the temple and altar” according to Matthew 23:35.
- + As with Haggai, he was commissioned by God to urge the Jewish people to rebuild the temple.
- + the second part of the book contains many prophecies about the Messiah.

Some of the prophecies:

The incarnation 2:10

Entering Jerusalem 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey

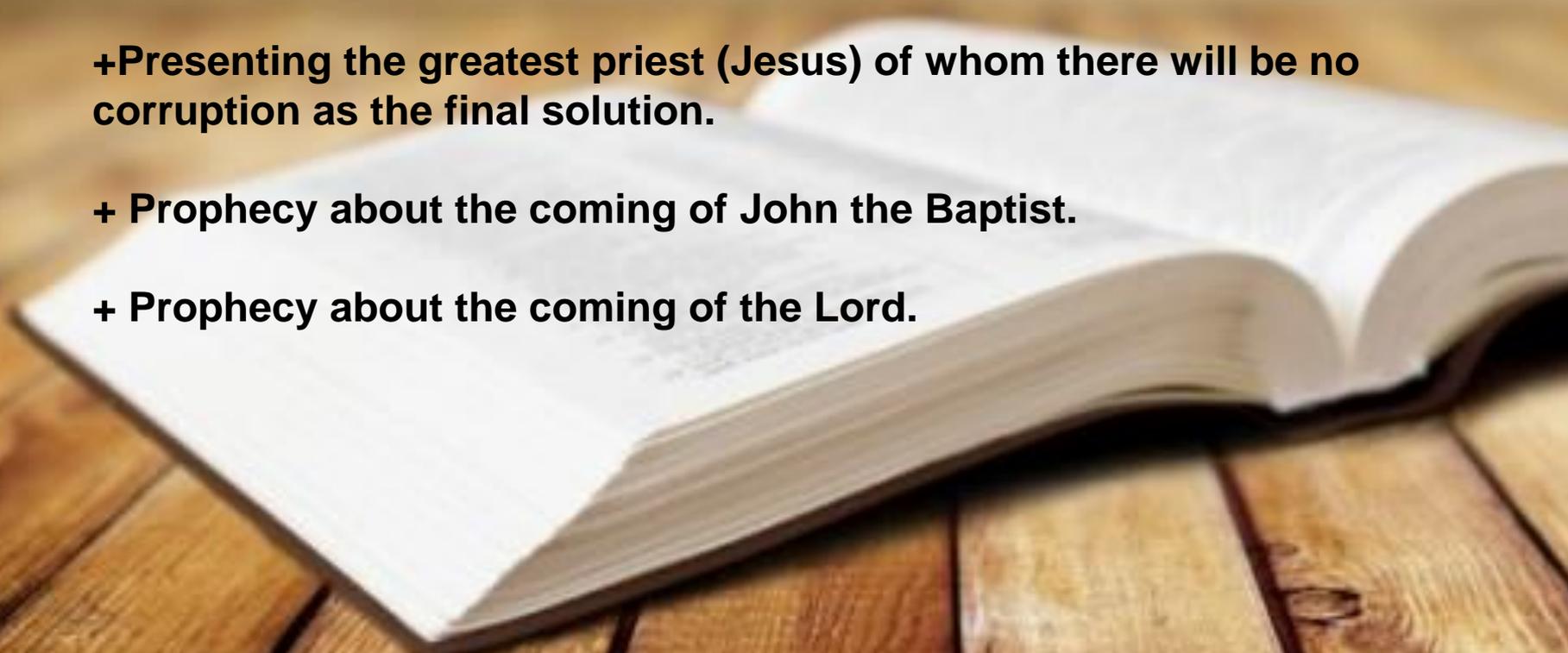
Brining in nations other than Israel 9:10

Sold for 30 pieces of silver 11:12

Mourning of the one they pierced 12:10



Malachi:
(Minor Prophet)

- + Means “ My angel or my messenger”
 - + Nothing is know about him except that he is a post-exile prophet.
 - +Main Idea: Corrupt people, corrupt priests, corrupt practices.
 - +Presenting the greatest priest (Jesus) of whom there will be no corruption as the final solution.
 - + Prophecy about the coming of John the Baptist.
 - + Prophecy about the coming of the Lord.
- 

Malachi:
(Minor Prophet)

+The Book of Malachi is a prelude to the 400 years of prophetic silence broken finally by the words of the next prophet, John the Baptist.

Malachi 3:1 - “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, “Says the LORD of hosts.”

