

# Lesser-Known Bible Women











IRELAND  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Birmingham

London

FRANCE  
Paris

NETHERLANDS  
BELGIUM  
LUXEMBOURG

GERMANY

LIBCHTENSTEIN  
SWITZERLAND

Hamburg

Berlin

Milan

SLOVENIA

Venice

CZECH REP.

AUSTRIA

POLAND

SLOVAKIA

HUNGARY

CROATIA

RUSSIA  
SERBIA

Warsaw

LITHUANIA

LATVIA

BELARUS

Vilnius Minsk

UKRAINE

MOLDOVA

ROMANIA

BULGARIA

North Sea



# Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm





THE COMPLETE  
ILLUSTRATED WORKS  
of  
THE  
BROTHERS  
GRIMM

“And they lived  
happily ever after”





Real life isn't a Disney movie

A word cloud on a notepad. The word 'myth' is the largest, in a green, cursive font. The word 'reality' is the second largest, in a dark red, cursive font. Other words include 'fantasy', 'fabrication', 'fiction', 'hoax', 'fairy', 'false', 'legend', 'gossip', 'urban legend', 'news', 'story', 'data', 'true', 'logical', 'facts', 'authentic', 'knowledge', 'real thing', 'information', 'proof', 'science', 'objective', 'truth', and 'valid'. The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the two main words.

myth  
reality  
fantasy fabrication  
fiction hoax fairy false legend  
gossip urban legend news story  
data true logical facts authentic  
knowledge real thing information proof science objective truth  
valid data



# Witness: King David







The storyline



The contrast



The moral





# The storyline



# The Setting









# Israel is a confederation of twelve tribes





Israel is a confederation  
of twelve tribes



48

scattered  
cities





ט



בנימין



יהודה



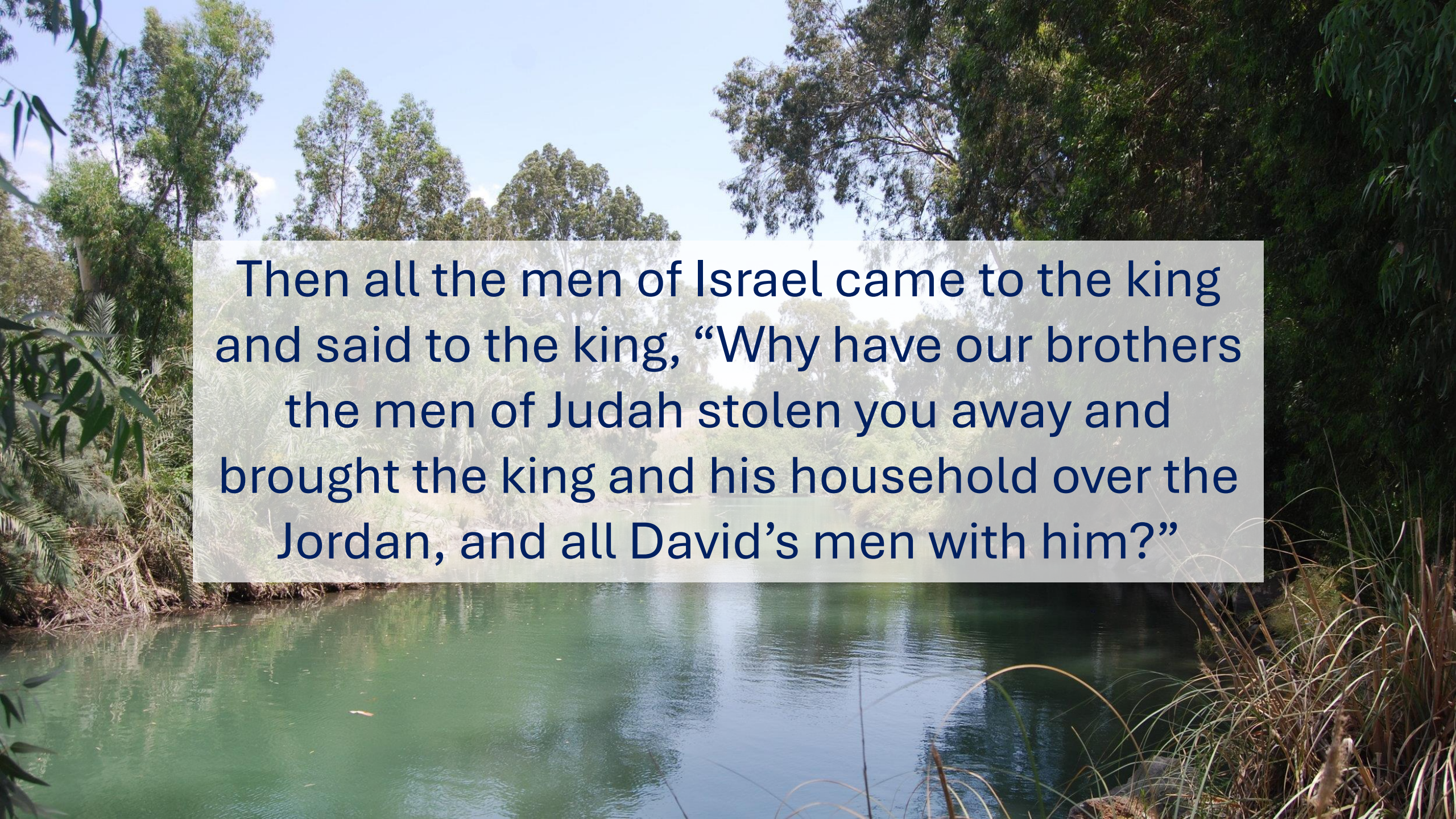
ראובן





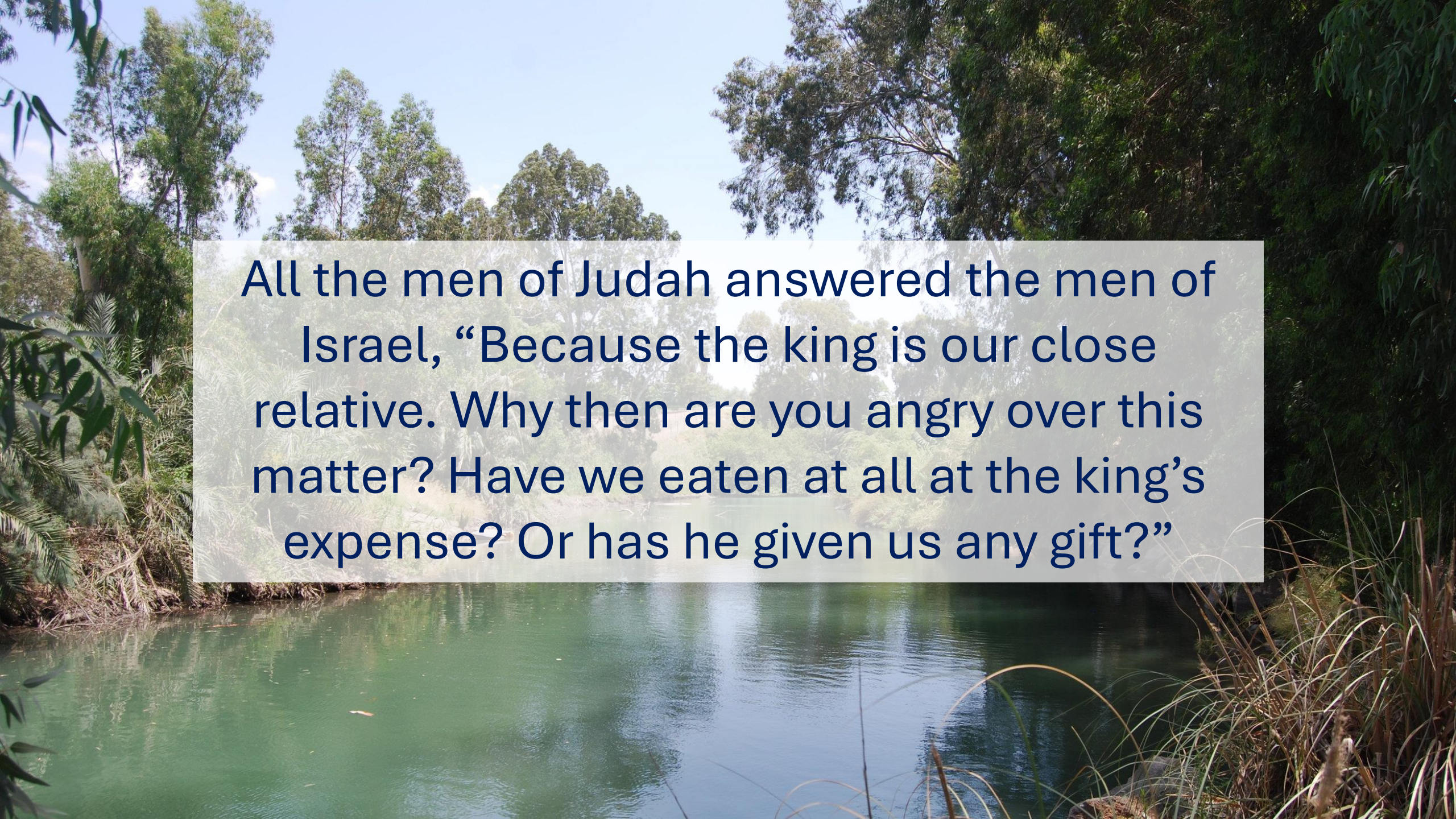






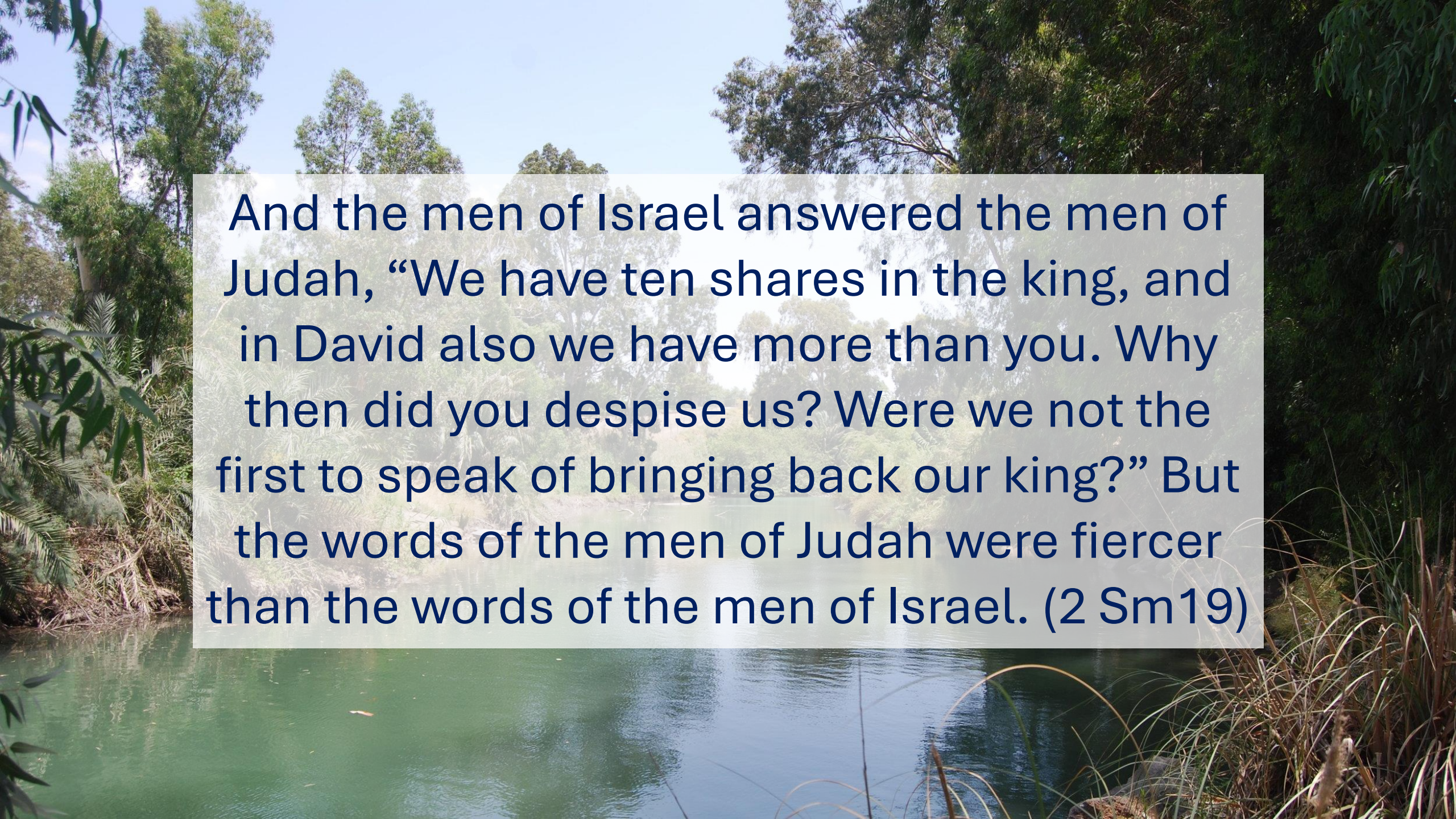
Then all the men of Israel came to the king and said to the king, “Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away and brought the king and his household over the Jordan, and all David’s men with him?”





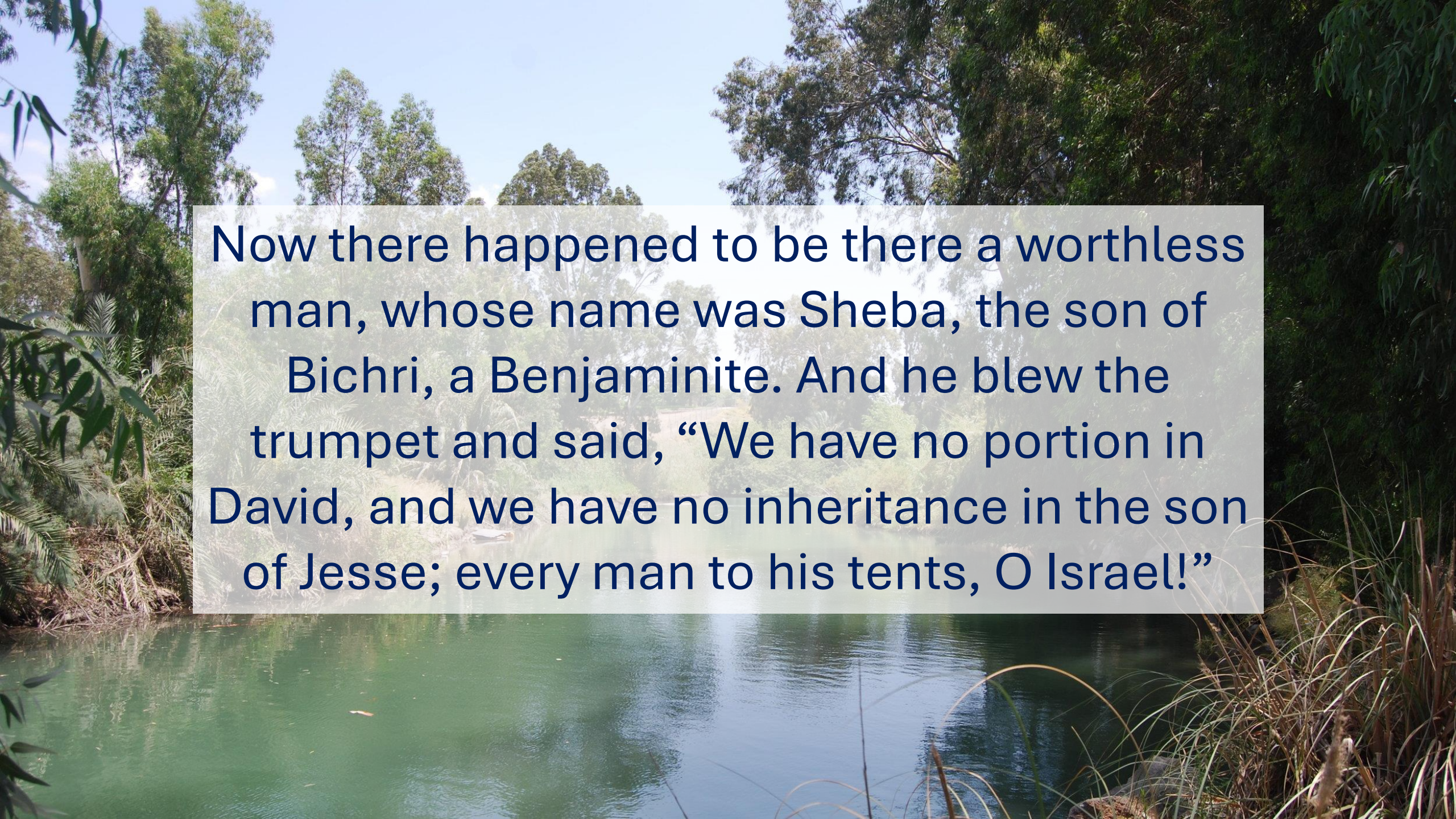
All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, “Because the king is our close relative. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king’s expense? Or has he given us any gift?”





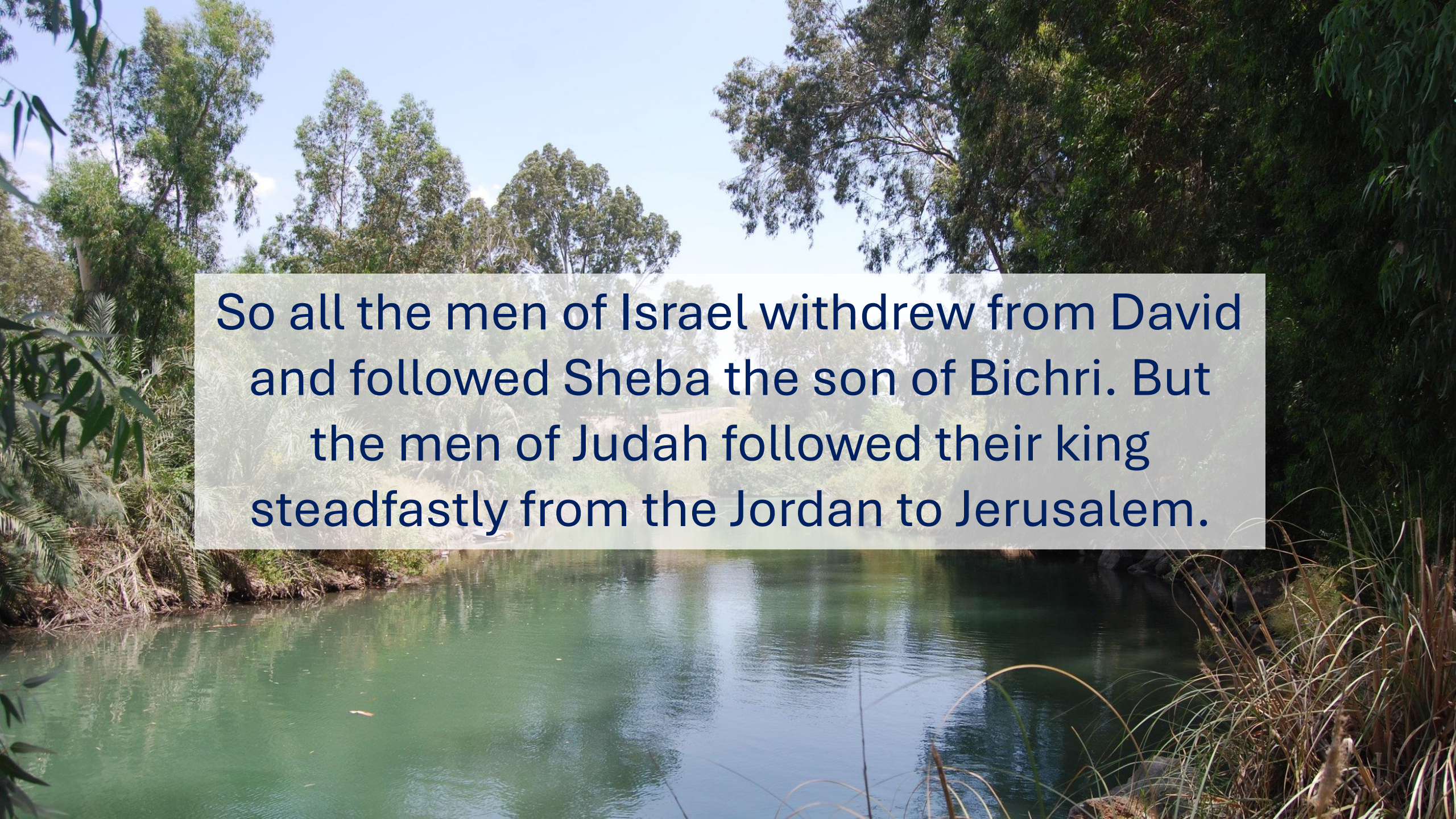
And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, “We have ten shares in the king, and in David also we have more than you. Why then did you despise us? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?” But the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel. (2 Sm19)





Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said, “We have no portion in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel!”

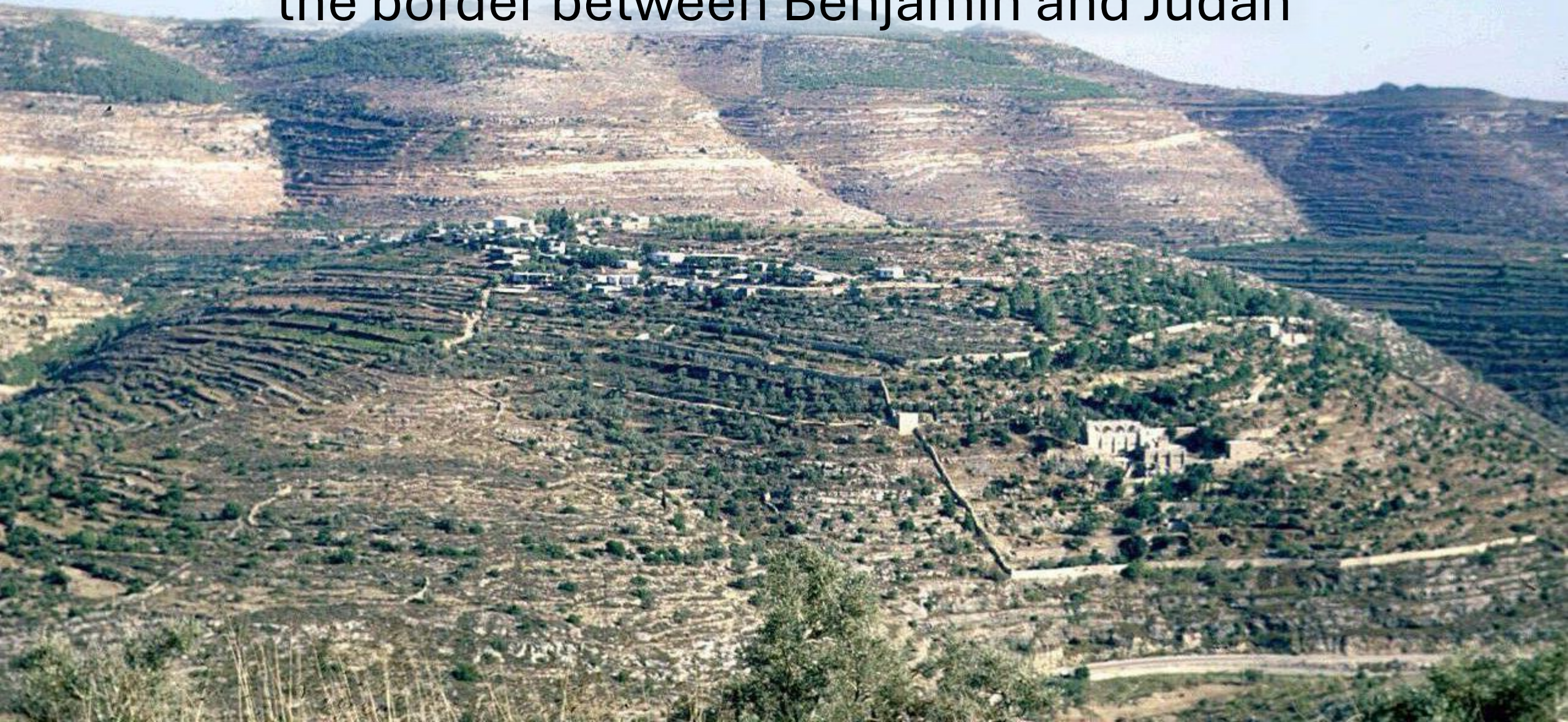




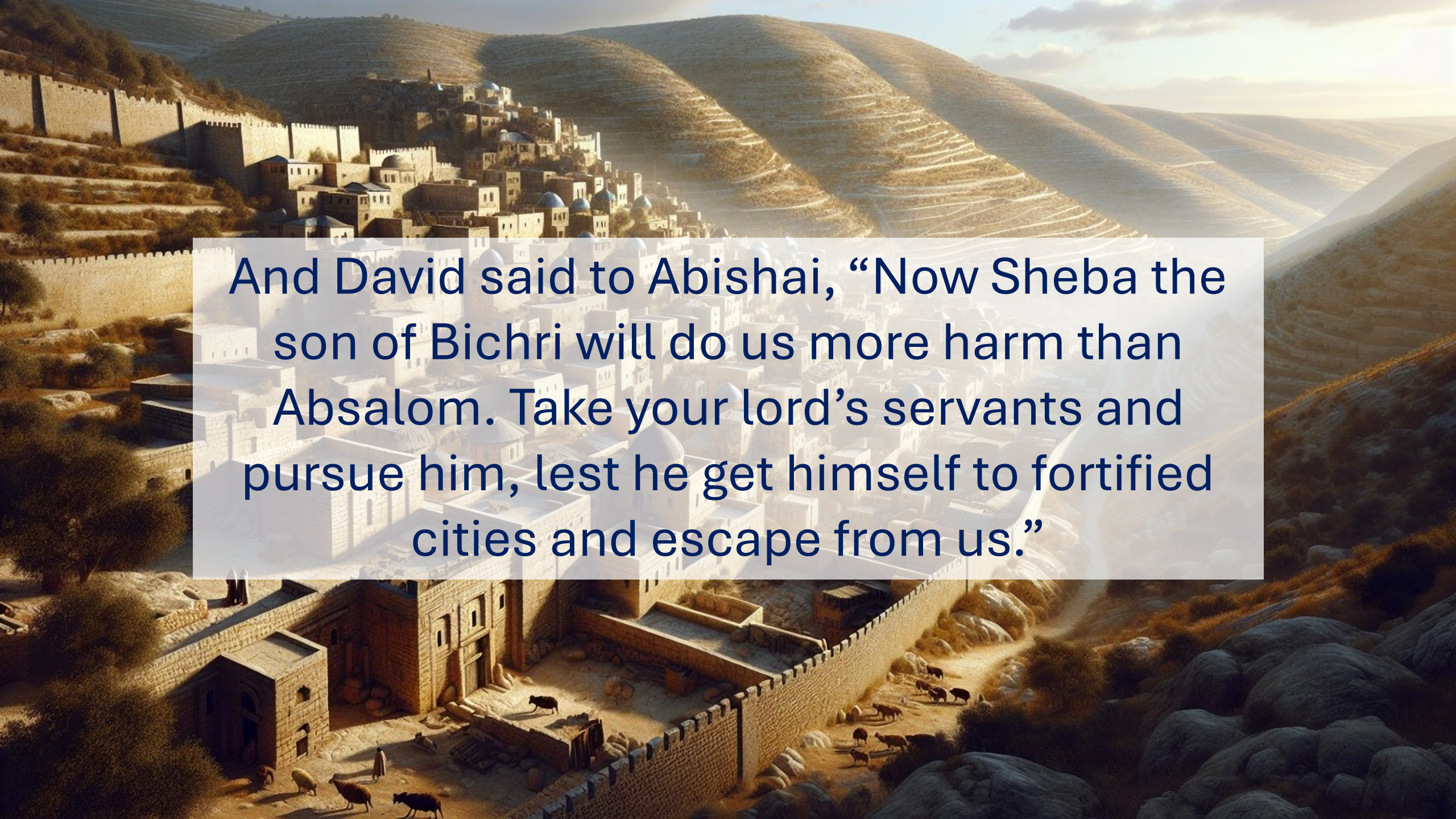
So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem.



The town of Kiriath-jearim:  
the border between Benjamin and Judah







And David said to Abishai, “Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord’s servants and pursue him, lest he get himself to fortified cities and escape from us.”




# The tel of Abel Beth-maacah





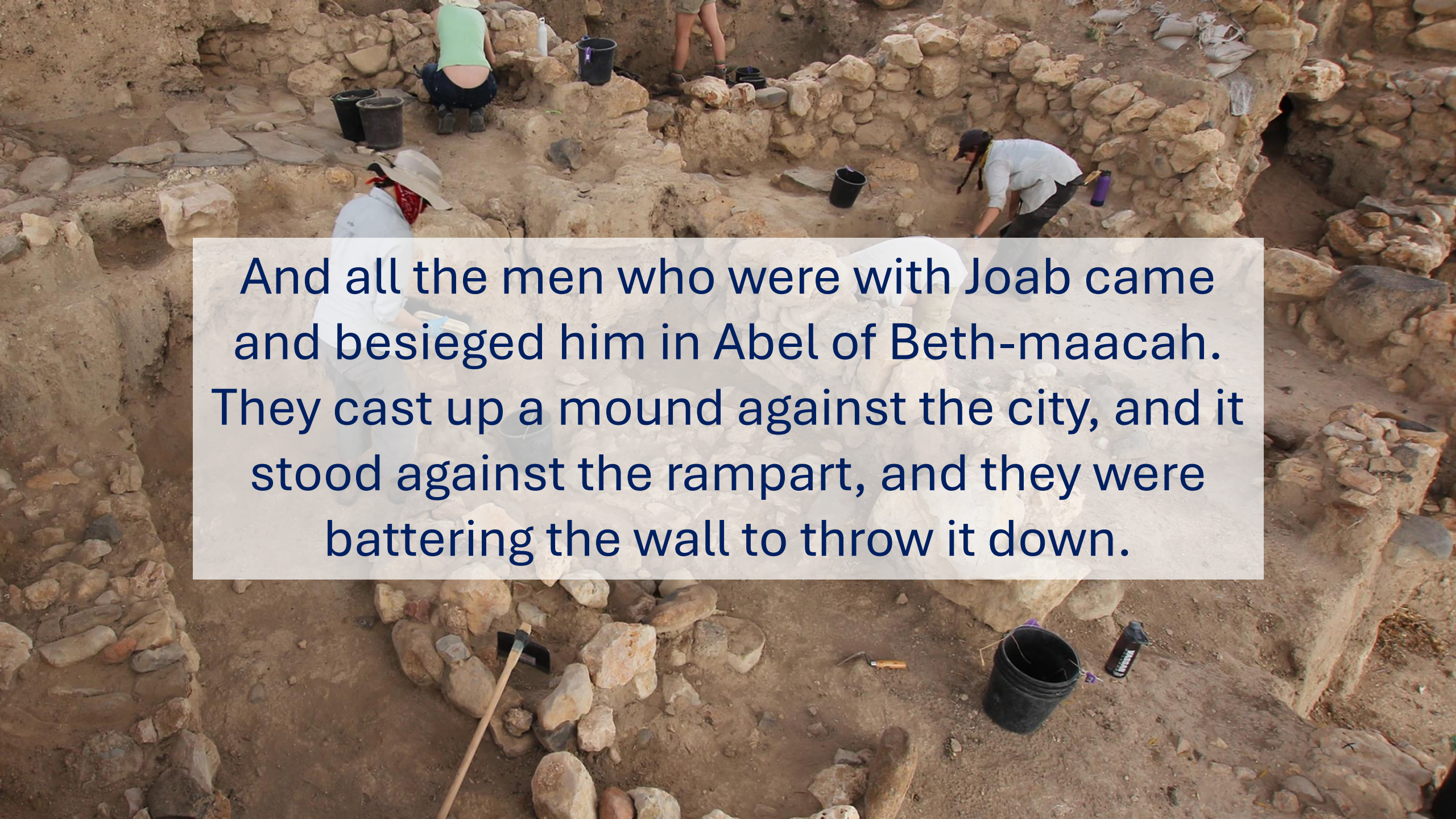




An aerial view of an archaeological excavation site. The ground is a mix of dirt and stone. Several workers are visible: one in a bright green shirt is kneeling on the left, another in a white shirt and dark pants is bent over on the right, and a third in a white shirt and a wide-brimmed hat is in the lower-left. The site features several stone walls and foundations made of irregular, light-colored rocks. Various pieces of equipment are scattered around, including black buckets, a purple water bottle, a shovel, and a pickaxe. The overall scene depicts an active archaeological dig in a dry, rocky environment.


And Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maacah, and all the Bichrites assembled and followed him in.



An aerial view of an archaeological excavation site. Several workers are visible, some wearing hard hats and work clothes. They are working around stone walls and foundations. There are various tools and equipment scattered around, including buckets, a shovel, and a hammer. The ground is dirt and sand, with some stone blocks and rubble. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the center of the image.

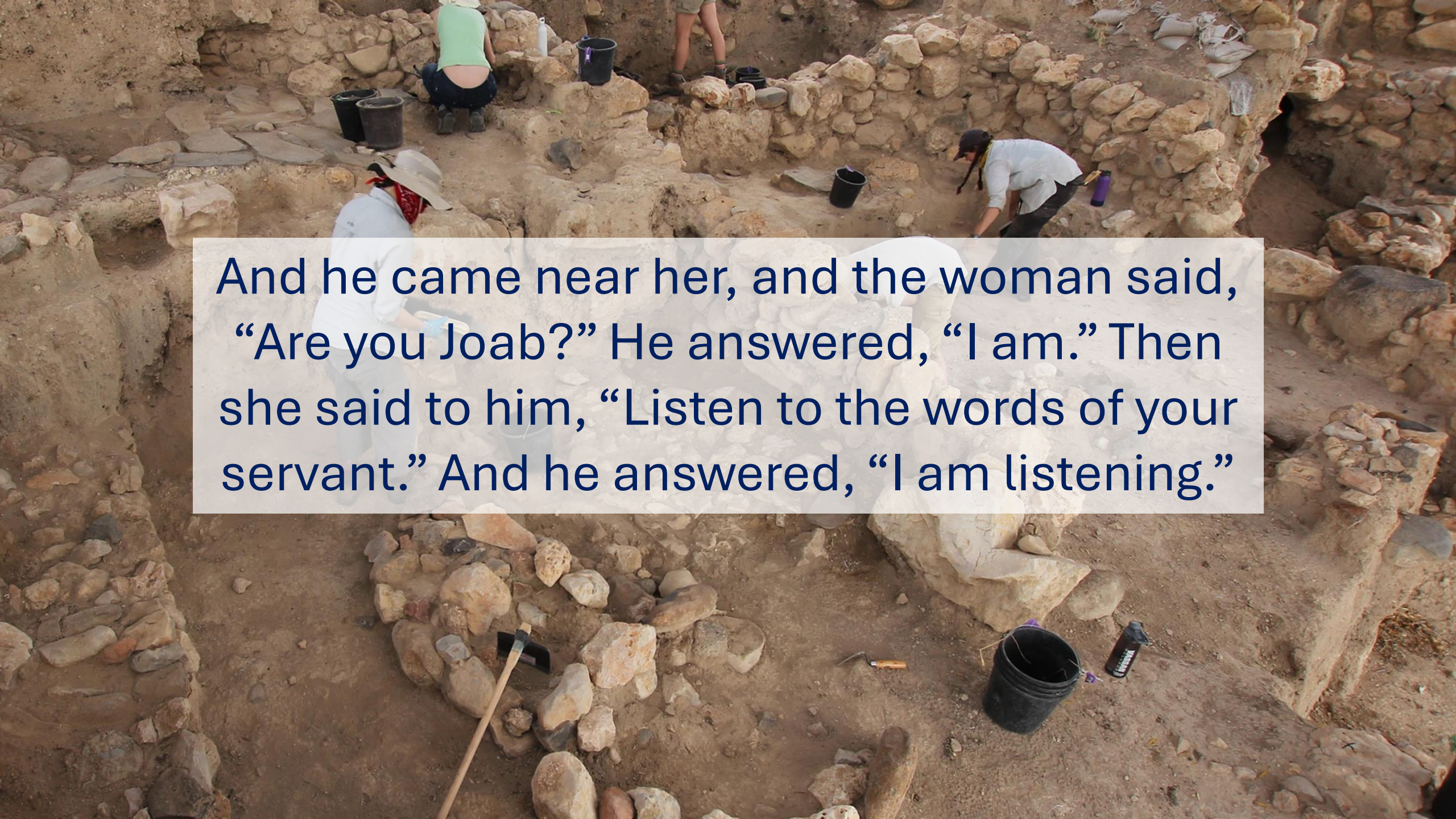
And all the men who were with Joab came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah. They cast up a mound against the city, and it stood against the rampart, and they were battering the wall to throw it down.



An aerial view of an archaeological excavation site. The ground is a mix of dirt and stone. Several workers are visible: one in a green shirt is kneeling near some black buckets; another in a white shirt and a wide-brimmed hat is standing; and a third in a white shirt is bent over, working on the ground. The site features several walls made of large, irregular stones. Various tools and equipment, including buckets, a shovel, and a water bottle, are scattered around the site.


Then a **wise woman** called from the city,  
“Listen! Listen! Tell Joab, ‘Come here, that I  
may speak to you.’”



An aerial view of an archaeological excavation site. The scene shows several workers in various clothing (a green shirt, a white shirt, and a white shirt with a red bandana) working on stone walls. The walls are constructed from large, irregular stones. There are several black buckets and tools scattered around the site. The ground is dirt and sand. A semi-transparent white box with blue text is overlaid on the center of the image.

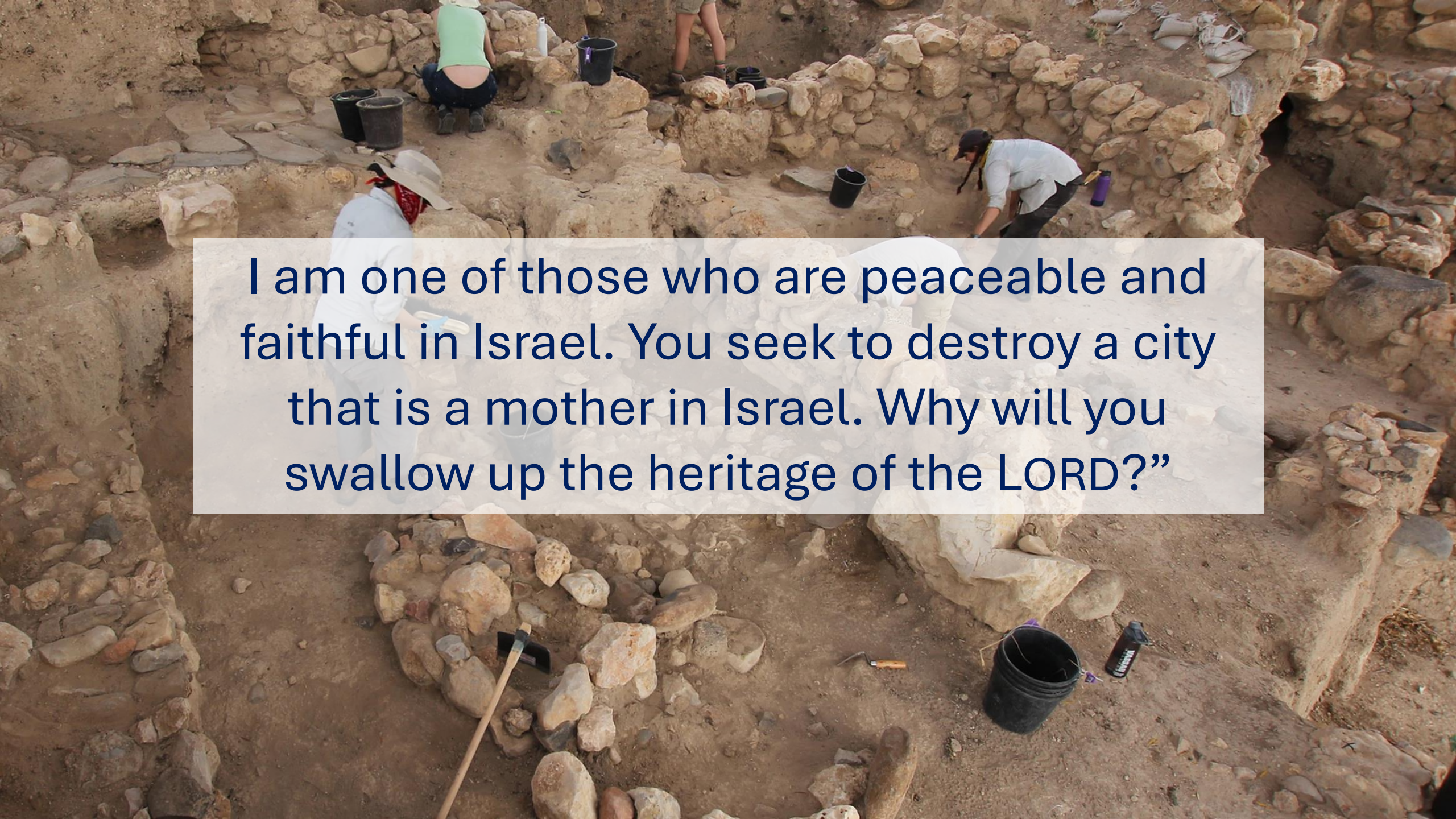
And he came near her, and the woman said, “Are you Joab?” He answered, “I am.” Then she said to him, “Listen to the words of your servant.” And he answered, “I am listening.”



An aerial view of an archaeological excavation site. The site features several stone walls and foundations made of large, irregularly shaped stones. Several workers are visible, engaged in various tasks. One worker in a light blue shirt and dark pants is kneeling on the ground, possibly cleaning or documenting a surface. Another worker in a green shirt is crouching nearby. A third worker in a white shirt and a wide-brimmed hat is standing and looking towards the site. Various pieces of equipment, including black buckets, a purple water bottle, and a shovel, are scattered around the site. The ground is a mix of dirt and stone, with some areas appearing to be paved with flat stones.

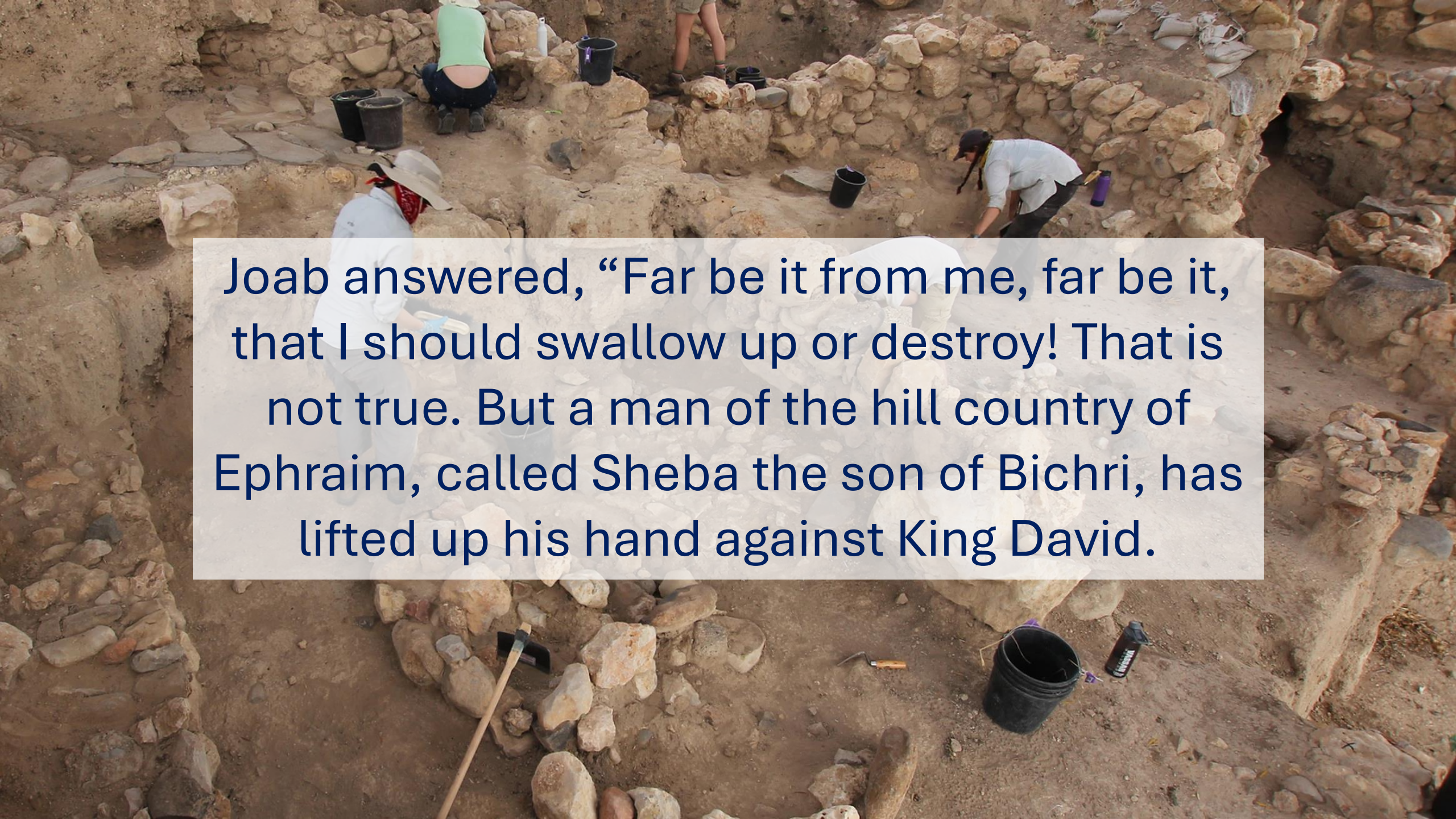
Then she said, “They used to say in former times, ‘Let them but ask counsel at Abel,’ and so they settled a matter.



An aerial view of an archaeological excavation site. Several workers are visible, some wearing white shirts and hats, others in green and black clothing. They are working around stone walls and foundations. Various tools like buckets, shovels, and a pickaxe are scattered on the ground. The site is filled with large, irregular stones and dirt.

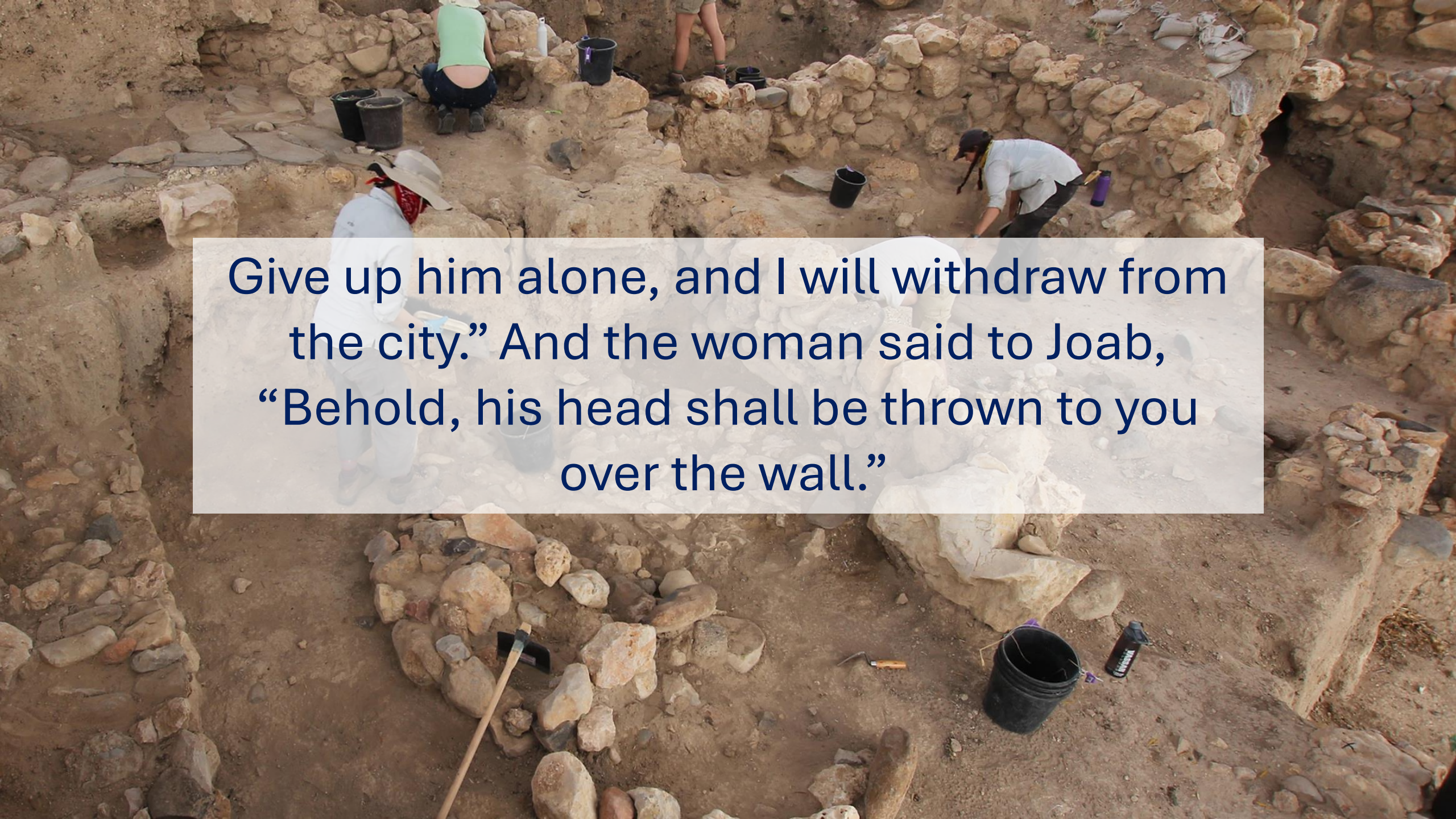
I am one of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the heritage of the LORD?”



An aerial view of an archaeological excavation site. Several workers are visible, some wearing hard hats and safety vests. The site features stone walls and foundations, with various tools and equipment scattered around. A large white text box is overlaid on the center of the image.

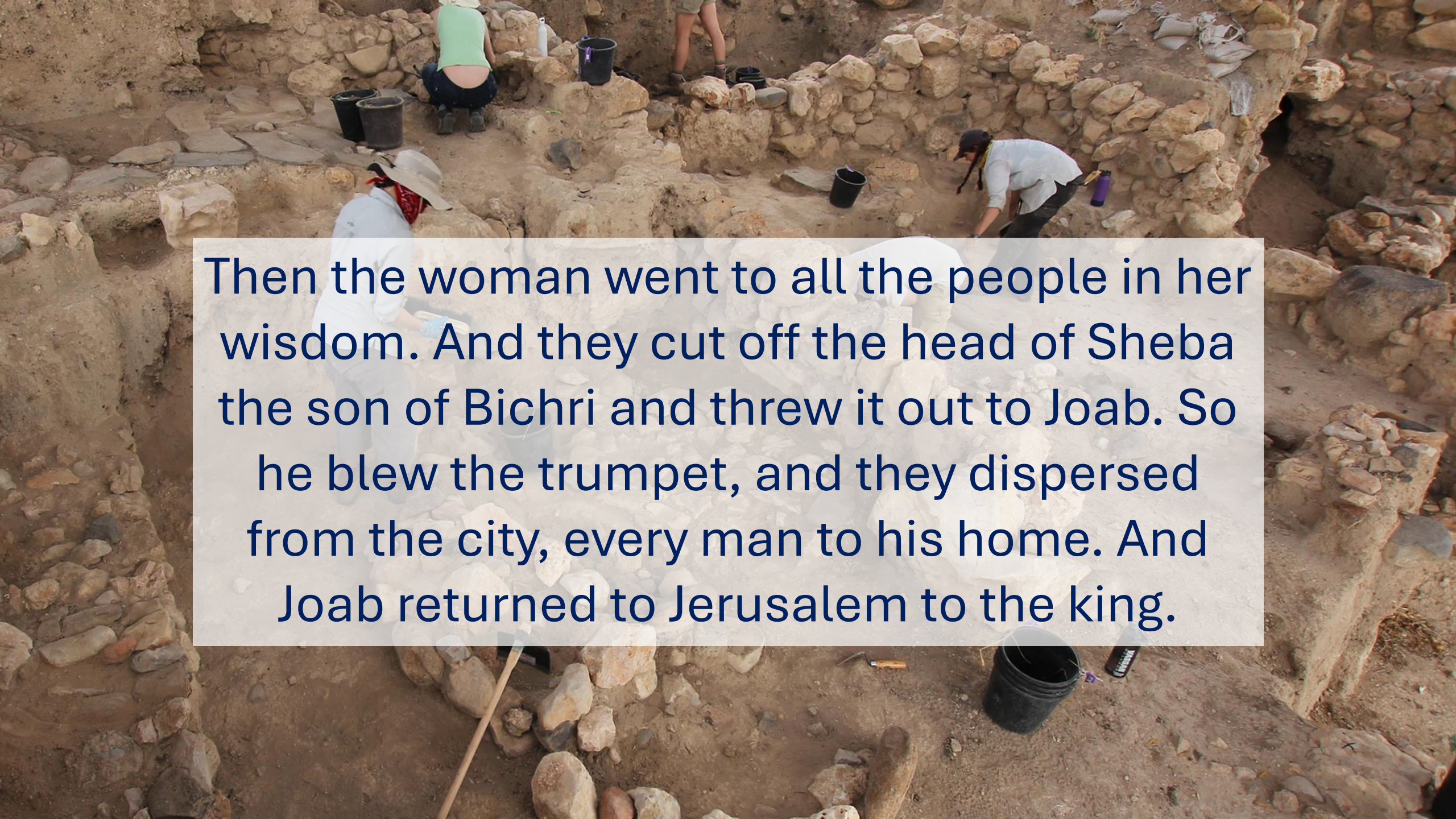
Joab answered, “Far be it from me, far be it, that I should swallow up or destroy! That is not true. But a man of the hill country of Ephraim, called Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted up his hand against King David.



An aerial view of an archaeological excavation site. The ground is a mix of dirt and stone. Several workers are visible: one in a bright green shirt is kneeling on the left, another in a white shirt and hat is in the center, and a third in a white shirt is bent over on the right. There are several black buckets and tools scattered around. The site features low stone walls and a paved area made of flat stones. A semi-transparent white box with blue text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Give up him alone, and I will withdraw from the city.” And the woman said to Joab, “Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall.”**



An aerial view of an archaeological excavation site. The scene shows several workers in a trench, surrounded by stone walls and various tools like buckets and shovels. The ground is sandy and uneven. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the center of the image.

Then the woman went to all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw it out to Joab. So he blew the trumpet, and they dispersed from the city, every man to his home. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.









The storyline



The contrast



2 Samuel 20:1

Now there happened to  
be there a worthless  
man, whose name was  
Sheba, the son of Bichri,  
a Benjaminite.

2 Samuel 20:1

וְנָשָׂא נִקְרָא אִישׁ בְּלִיעַל  
וְשֵׁמוֹ שִׁבְעַ בֶּן-בִּיחִרִי  
אִישׁ יְמִינִי



2 Samuel 20:1

Now there happened to be there a **worthless** man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite.

2 Samuel 20:1

וְנָשָׂא נִקְרָא אִישׁ בְּלִיעַל  
וְשֵׁמוֹ שִׁבְעַ בֶּן-בִּיחִי  
אִישׁ יְמִינִי

*beliyya'al* (בְּלִיעַל) = “worthless”  
the quality of being useless, good for nothing



*beliyya'al* (בְּלִיעַל) = “worthless”  
the quality of being useless, good for nothing

Judg. 20:13 Now therefore  
give up the men, the  
worthless fellows in Gibeah

1Sam. 2:12 Now the sons of  
Eli were worthless men.  
They did not know the LORD.

1Sam. 25:25 Let not my lord  
regard this worthless fellow,  
Nabal, for as his name is, so is he.

2Sam. 23:6 But worthless men are all  
like thorns that are thrown away,  
for they cannot be taken with the hand;



## 2 Samuel 20:16

Then a wise woman  
called from the city,  
“Listen! Listen! Tell Joab,  
‘Come here, that I may  
speak to you.’”

## 2 Samuel 20:16

וּתְקַרְא אִשָּׁה חֲכָמָה  
מִן־הָעִיר שְׁמָעוּ שְׁמָעוּ  
אִמְרוּ־נָא אֶל־יֹאָב  
קִרְב עַד־הִנֵּה וְאִדְבַּרְהָ  
אֵלַי:



2 Samuel 20:16

Then a **wise** woman  
called from the city,  
“Listen! Listen! Tell Joab,  
‘Come here, that I may  
speak to you.’”


2 Samuel 20:16

וּתְקַרְא אִשָּׁה חַכְמָה  
מִן־הָעִיר שְׁמָעוּ שְׁמָעוּ  
אִמְרוּ־נָא אֶל־יֹאָב  
קִרְב עַד־הִנֵּה וְאִדְבַּרְהָ  
אֵלַי:

*chakham* (חַכְמָם) = “wise” (adjective)



*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
skillful in technical work

A man with a grey beard, wearing a white turban and a light-colored robe, is seated at a table in a dimly lit room. He is focused on a task, possibly sewing or weaving, with his hands positioned over a piece of fabric. To his left, a glowing oil lamp provides the primary light source. On the table, there are various tools and materials, including a spool of thread and a wooden stand. In the background, a large spool of thread is visible, and the walls appear to be made of stone or mud-brick. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet concentration and craftsmanship.

Ex. 28:3 “You shall speak to all the **skillful**,  
whom I have filled with a spirit of **skill**, that  
they make Aaron’s garments...”

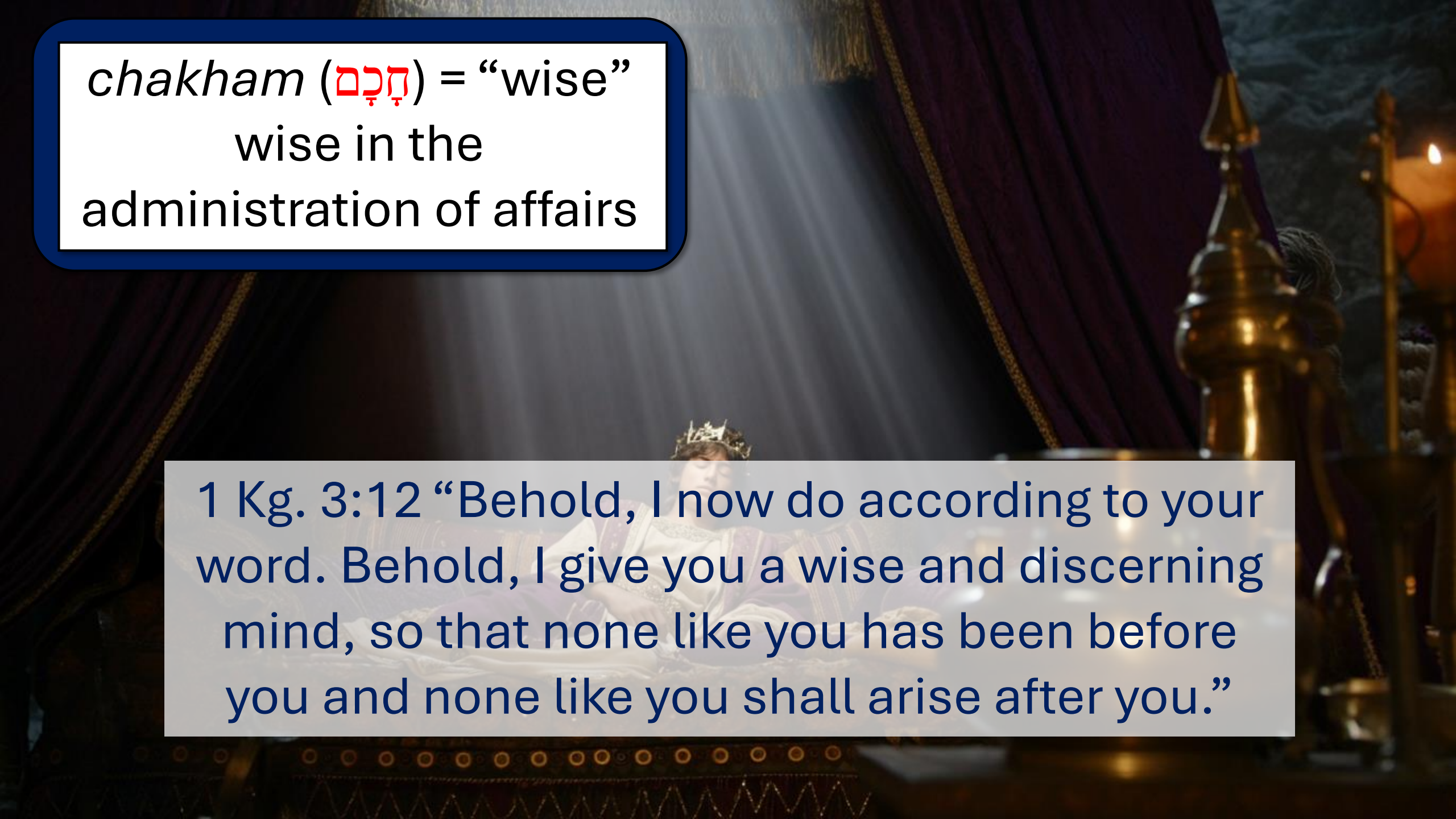


*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
wise in the  
administration of affairs



Gen. 41:33 Now therefore let Pharaoh  
select a discerning and **wise** man,  
and set him over the land of Egypt.





*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
wise in the  
administration of affairs

1 Kg. 3:12 “Behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.”

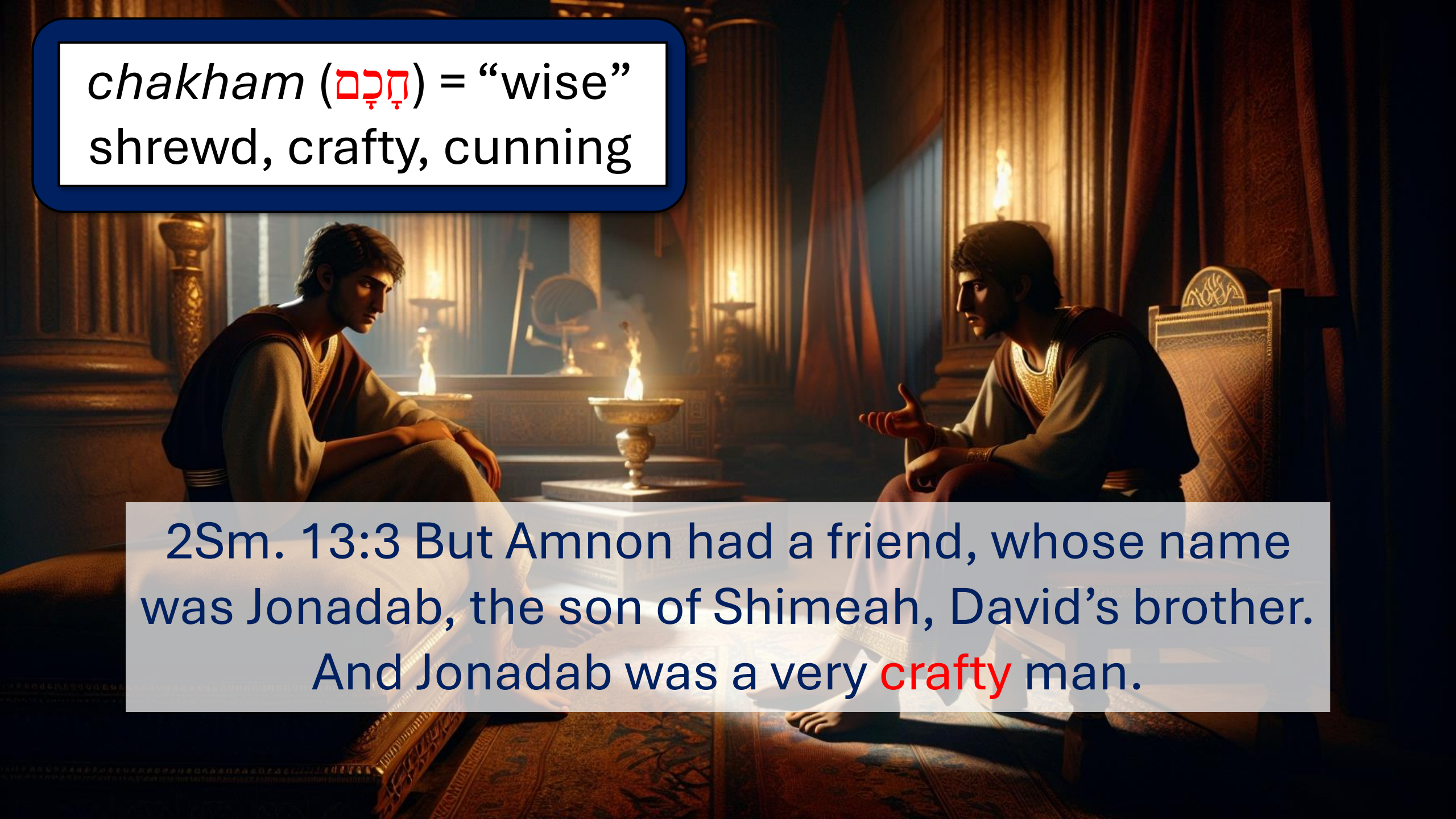


*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
wise in the  
administration of affairs

1 Kg. 3:9 “Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”



*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
shrewd, crafty, cunning

A scene from a film or television show depicting two men in a dimly lit, ornate room. The man on the left is seated on a low, patterned cushion, looking towards the man on the right. The man on the right is seated on a more ornate, high-backed chair, gesturing with his right hand as if speaking. Between them is a small table with a lit oil lamp. The room features heavy curtains, a large column, and various decorative items, creating a rich, historical atmosphere.

2Sm. 13:3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David’s brother. And Jonadab was a very **crafty** man.



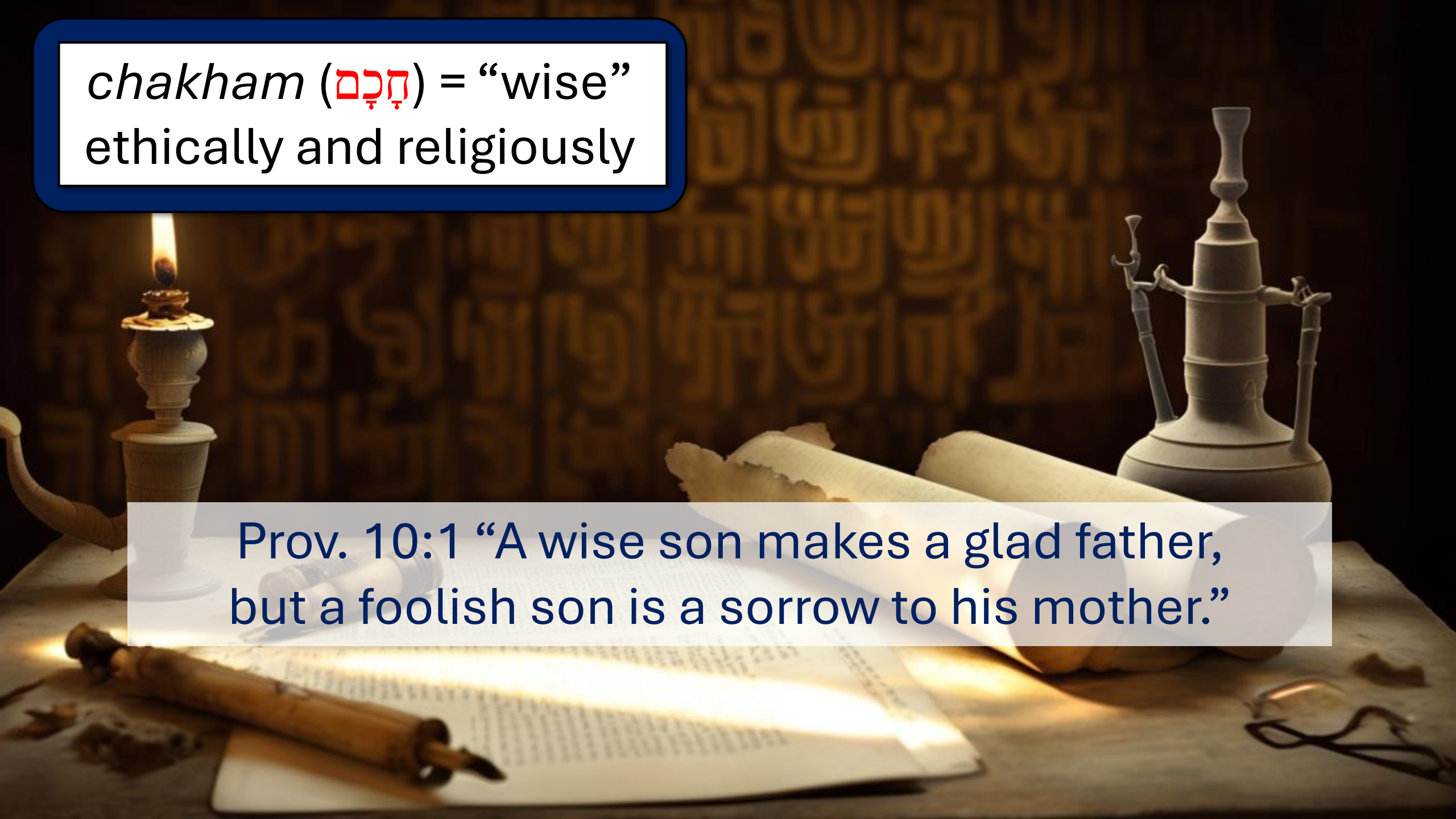
*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
shrewd, crafty, cunning

Job 5:13 He catches the **wise** in their own craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are brought to a quick end.



*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
ethically and religiously

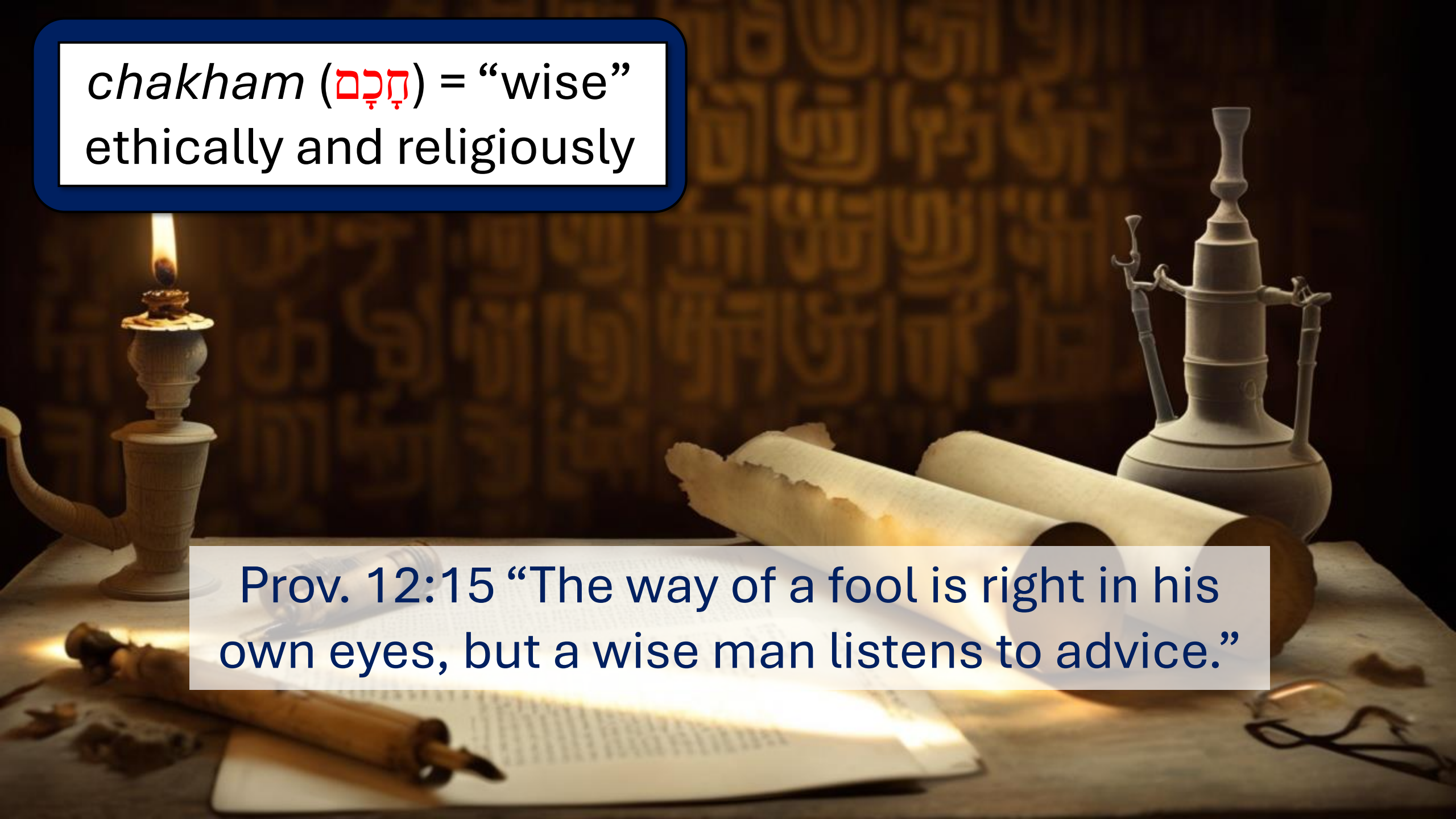
Prov. 10:1 “A wise son makes a glad father,  
but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.”





*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
ethically and religiously

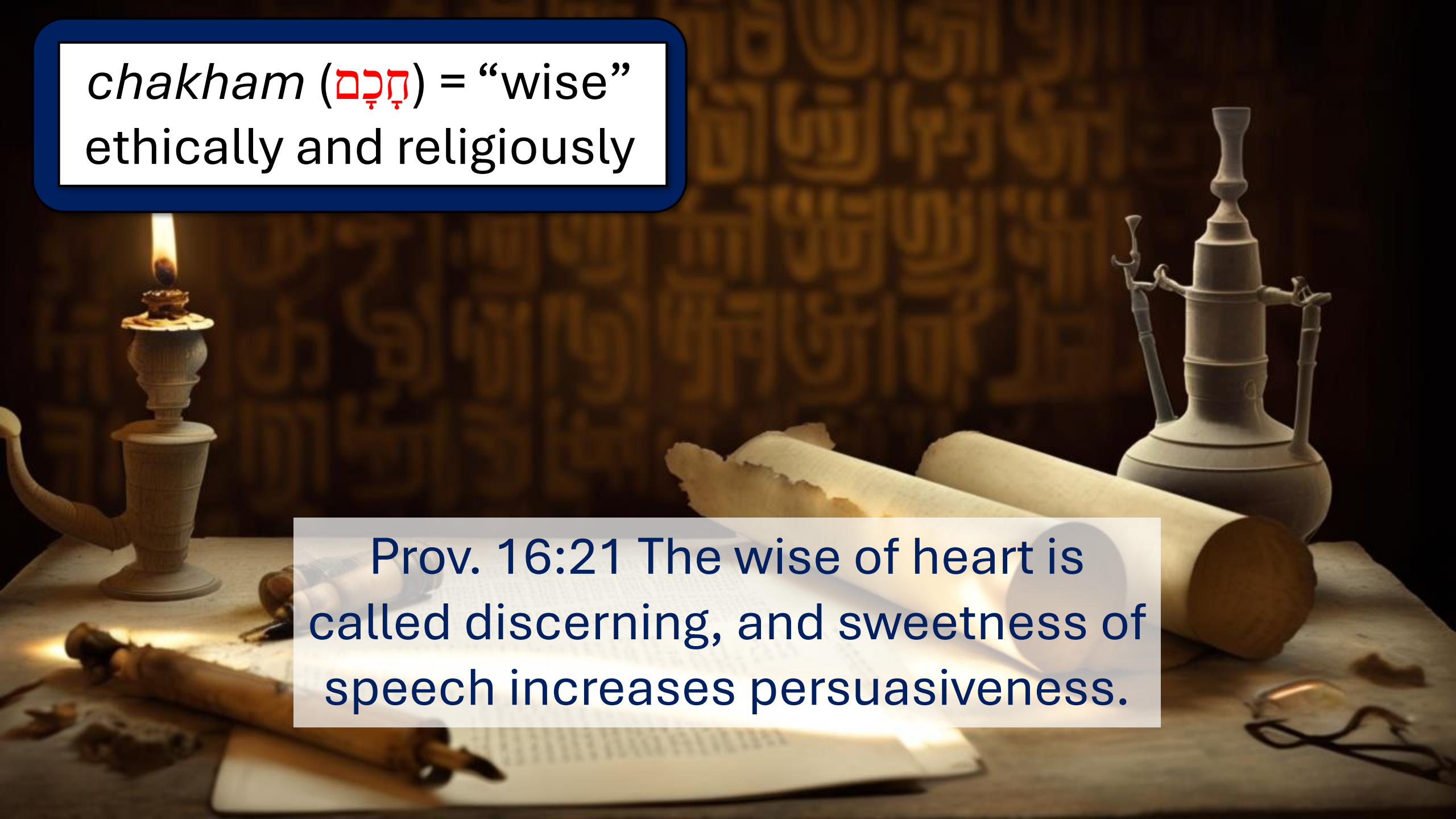
Prov. 12:15 “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.”





*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
ethically and religiously

Prov. 16:21 The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.





*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
skillful in technical work

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
shrewd, crafty, cunning

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
wise in the  
administration of affairs

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
ethically and religiously



2 Samuel 20:16

Then a **wise** woman  
called from the city,  
“Listen! Listen! Tell Joab,  
‘Come here, that I may  
speak to you.’”

2 Samuel 20:16

וּתְקַרְא אִשָּׁה חֲכָמָה  
מִן־הָעִיר שְׁמָעוּ שְׁמָעוּ  
אִמְרוּ־נָא אֶל־יֹאָב  
קִרְב עַד־הֵנָּה וְאִדְבַּרְהָ  
אֵלַי:

*chakham* (חֲכָמִים) = “wise” (adjective)



2 Samuel 20:17

And he came near her,  
and the woman said, “Are  
you Joab?” He answered,  
“I am.”

2 Samuel 20:17

וַיִּקְרַב אֵלֶיהָ וַתֹּאמֶר  
הַאִשָּׁה הַאֲתָה יוֹאָב  
וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise” (adjective)



2 Samuel 20:17

Then she said to him,  
“Listen to the words of  
your servant.” And he  
answered, “I am  
listening.”

2 Samuel 20:17

וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ שְׁמַע  
דְּבַרִי אֲמַתְךָ וַיֹּאמֶר  
שִׁמְעֵ אָנֹכִי

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise” (adjective)



2 Samuel 20:18

Then she said, “They used to say in former times, ‘Let them but ask counsel at Abel,’ and so they settled a matter.

2 Samuel 20:18

וַתֹּאמֶר לְאִמָּר דִּבֶּר  
!דְּבַרוּ בְּרֵאשִׁיטָה לְאִמָּר  
שָׁאֵל !שָׁאֵלוּ בְּאַבֶּל וְכֵן  
הִתְמַו:

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise” (adjective)



2 Samuel 20:19

I am one of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the heritage of the LORD?”

2 Samuel 20:19

אֲנֹכִי שְׁלָמִי אֶמּוּנִי  
יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתָּה מְבַקֵּשׁ  
לְהַמִּית עִיר וְאִם  
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לָמָּה תִּבְלַע  
נַחֲלַת יְהוָה:

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise” (adjective)



2 Samuel 20:20-21

Joab answered, “Far be it from me, far be it, that I should swallow up or destroy! That is not true.

2 Samuel 20:20-21

אִי־עֵן יוֹאָב וַיֹּאמֶר  
חֲלִילָה חֲלִילָה לִּי  
אִם־אֶבְלַע  
וְאִם־אֲשַׁחֲיִית: לֹא־יֵקֵן  
הַדָּבָר

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise” (adjective)



2 Samuel 20:21-22

And the woman said to Joab, “Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall.”

2 Samuel 20:21-22

וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה  
אֶל-יֹאבָב הַיָּנִי רֹאשׁוֹ  
מִשְׁלָךְ אֵלַיךְ בַּעַד  
הַחוֹמָה:

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise” (adjective)



2 Samuel 20:22

Then the woman went to all the people in her **wisdom**. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw it out to Joab.

2 Samuel 20:22

וַתָּבוֹא הָאִשָּׁה  
אֶל-כָּל-הָעָם  
בְּחָכְמָתָהּ וַיִּכְרְתוּ  
אֶת-רֹאשׁ שִׁבְעַ  
בֶּן-בִּיחִרִי וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ  
אֶל-יְוָיָה

*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise” (adjective)





The storyline



The contrast

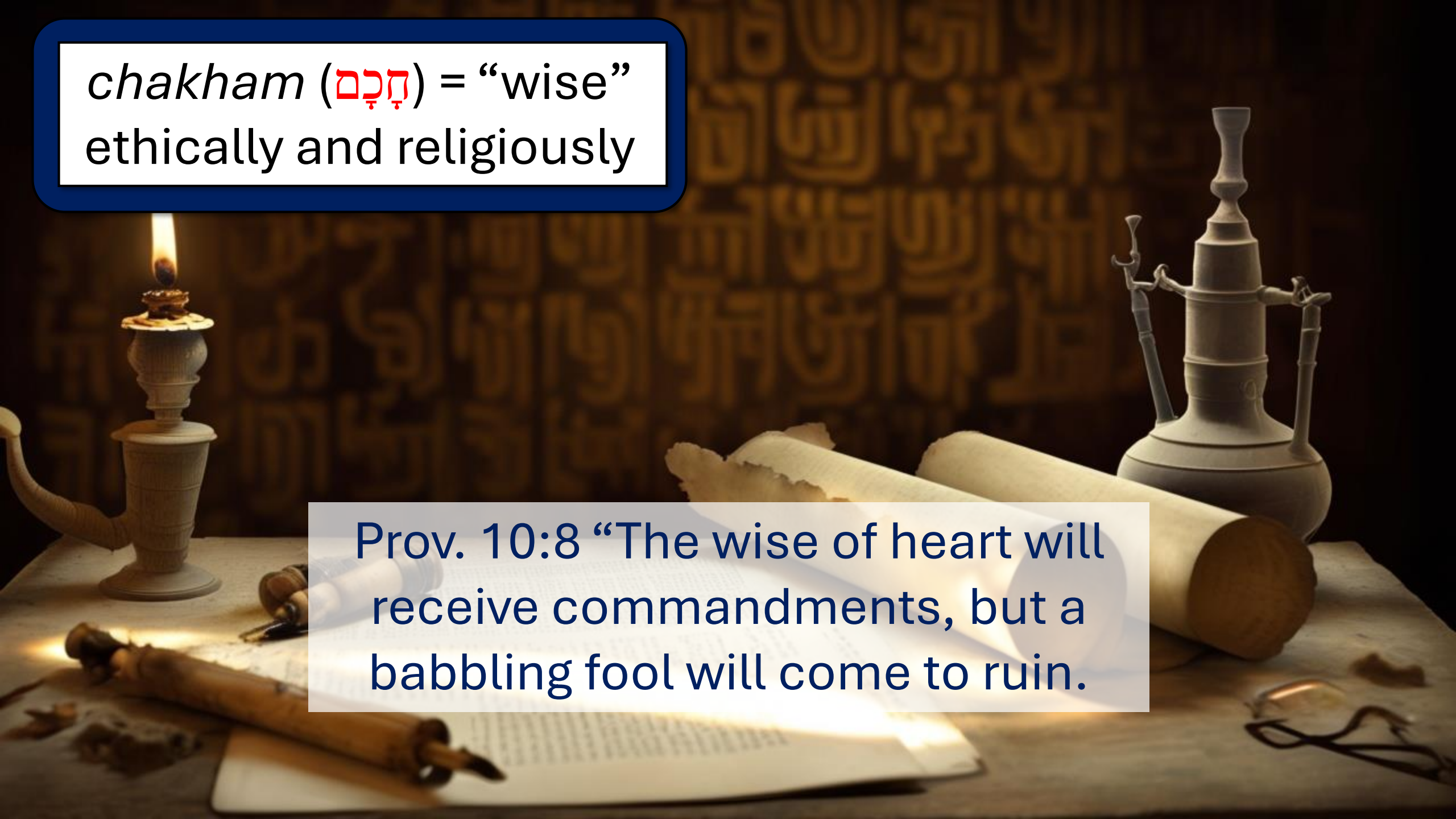


The moral



*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
ethically and religiously

Prov. 10:8 “The wise of heart will  
receive commandments, but a  
babbling fool will come to ruin.





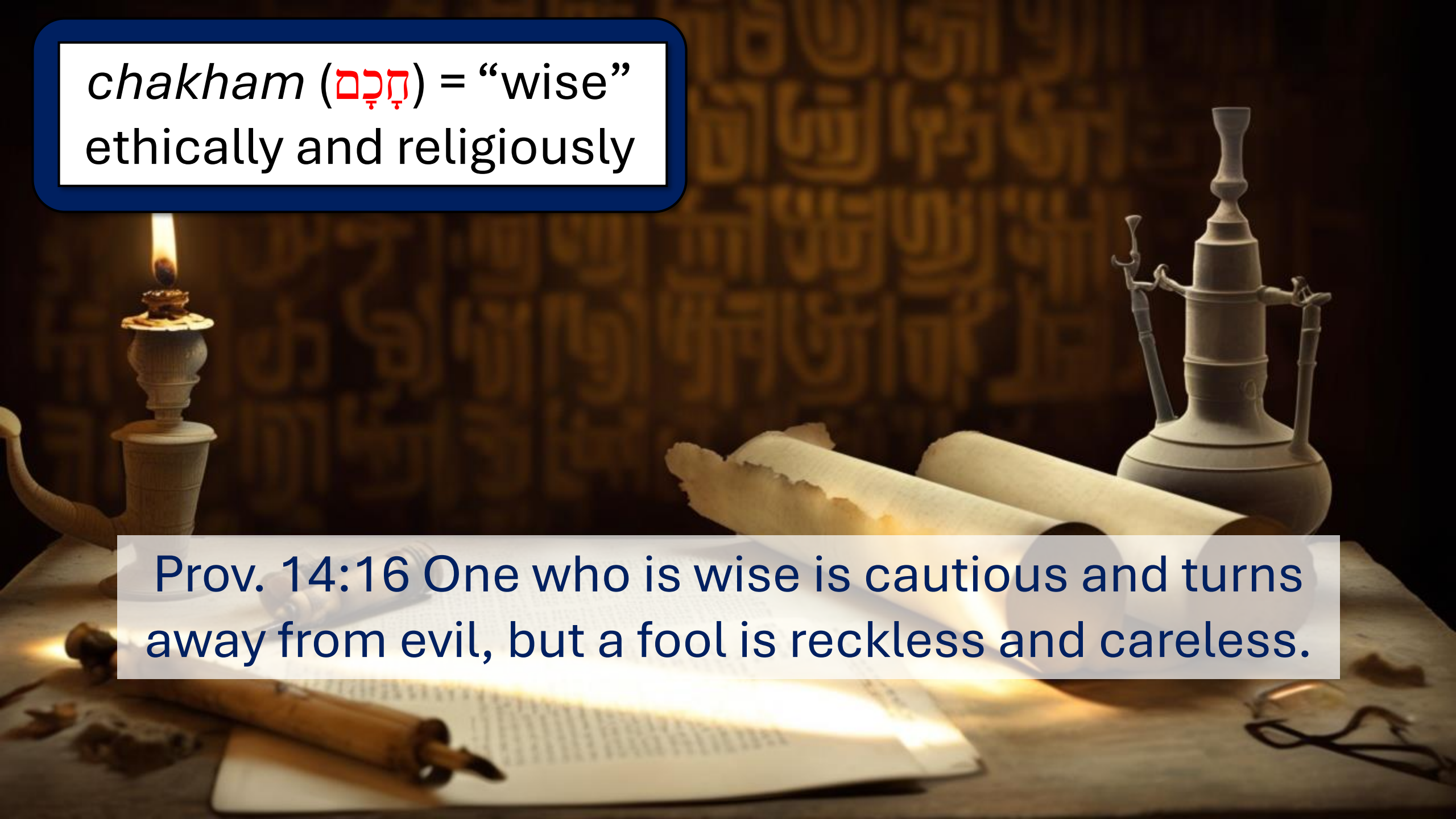
*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
ethically and religiously

Prov. 12:18 “There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”



*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
ethically and religiously

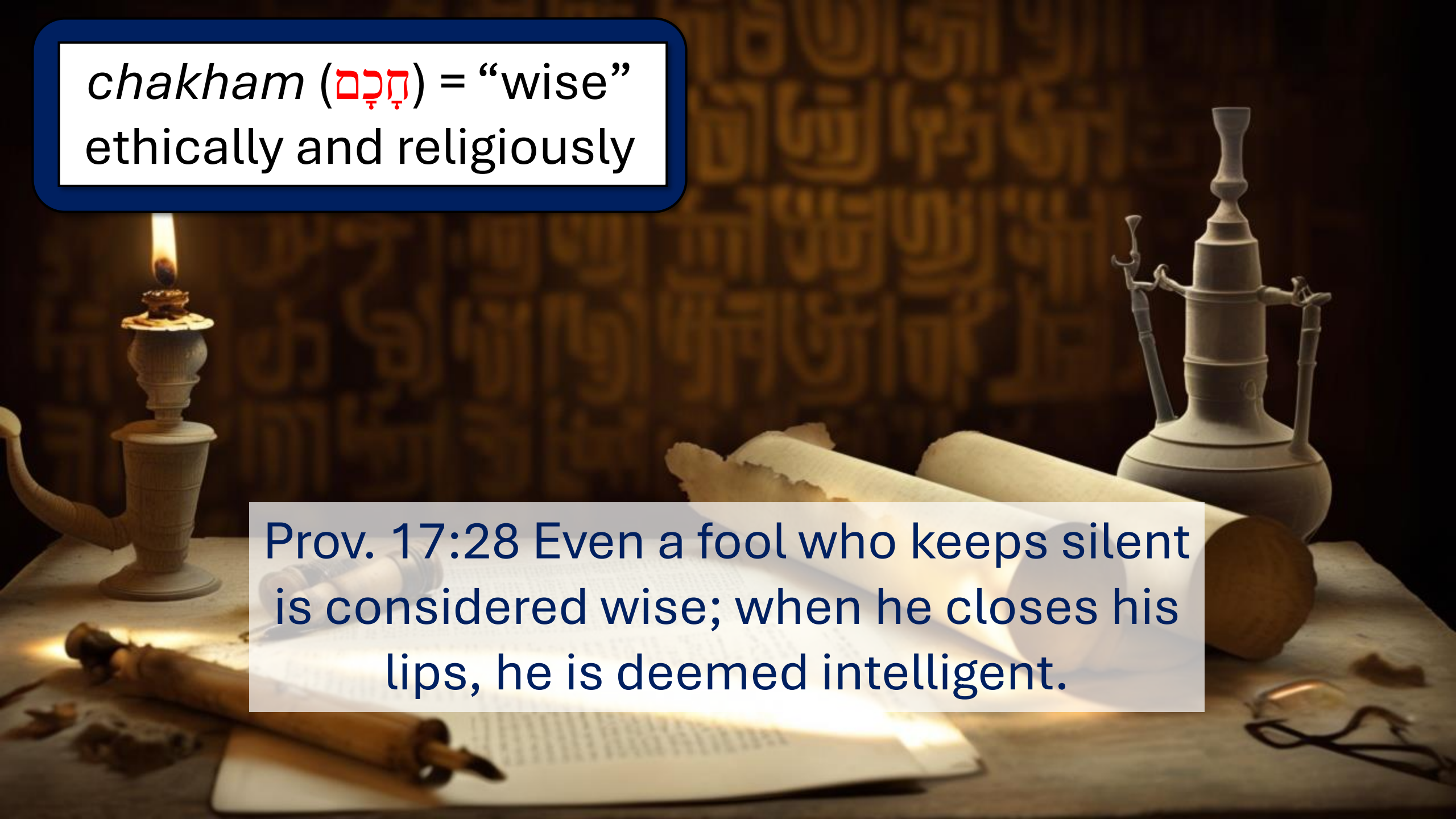
Prov. 14:16 One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.





*chakham* (חָכָם) = “wise”  
ethically and religiously

Prov. 17:28 Even a fool who keeps silent  
is considered wise; when he closes his  
lips, he is deemed intelligent.





# Lesser-Known Bible Women

