



Civil Injustice and Christ the King

Jeremiah 22:13-19 and 23:5-6

Jeremiah 22:13-14

Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness
And his upper rooms without justice,
Who uses his neighbor's services without pay
And does not give him his wages,
Who says, "I will build myself a roomy house
With spacious upper rooms,
And cut out its windows,
Paneling it with cedar and painting it bright red."

Jeremiah 22:15-17

“Do you become a king because you are competing in cedar?

Did not your father eat and drink
And do justice and righteousness?

Then it was well with him.

He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy;

Then it was well.

Is not that what it means to know Me?” Declares the LORD.

“But your eyes and your heart

Are intent only upon your own dishonest gain,

And on shedding innocent blood

And on practicing oppression and extortion.”

Jeremiah 22:18-19

Therefore thus says the LORD in regard to Jehoiakim
the son of Josiah, king of Judah,
“They will not lament for him:
‘Alas, my brother!’ or, ‘Alas, sister!’
They will not lament for him:
‘Alas for the master!’ or, ‘Alas for his splendor!’
He will be buried with a donkey’s burial,
Dragged off and thrown out beyond the gates of Jerusalem.”

Jeremiah 23:5-6

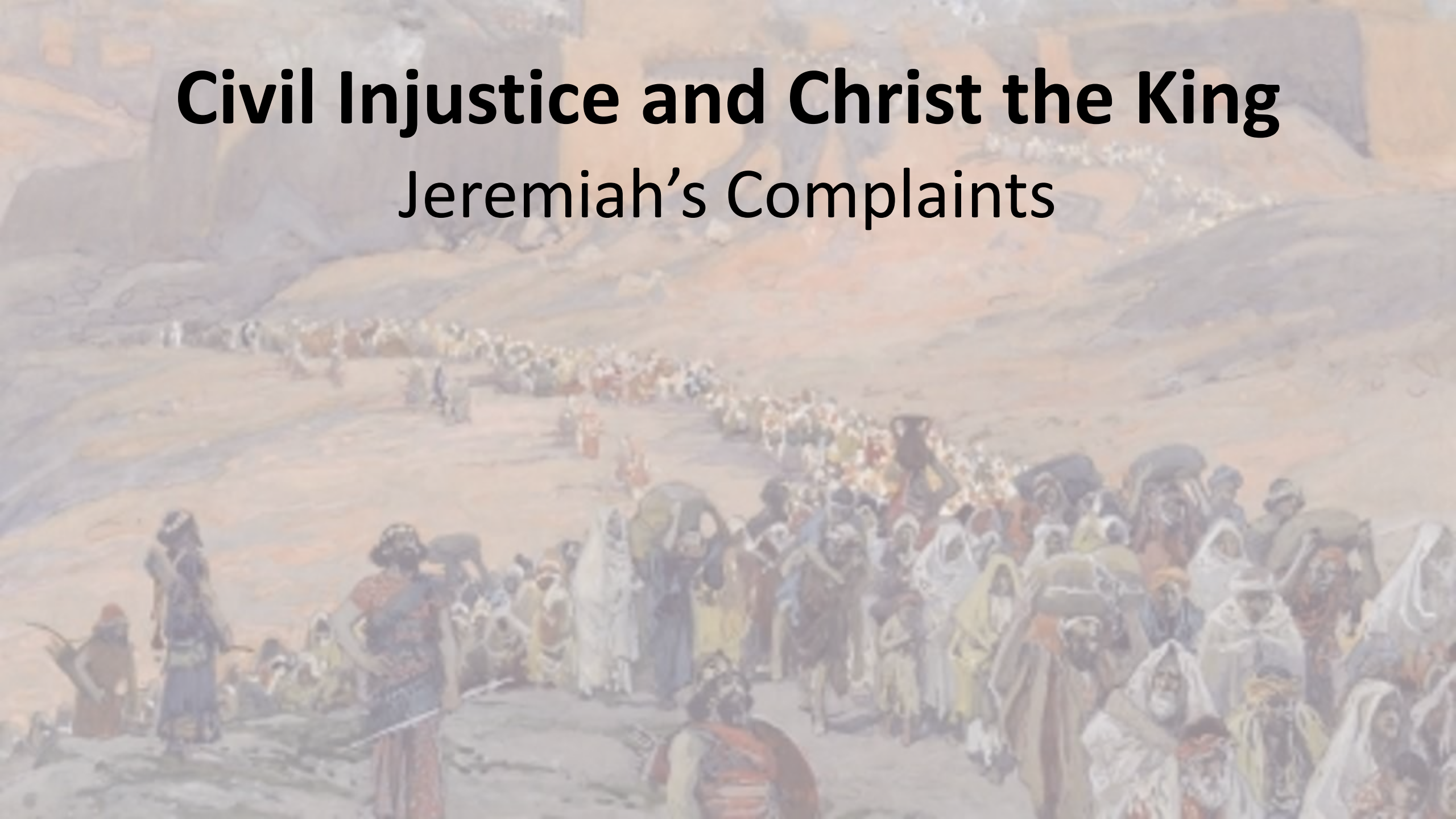
“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD,
When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch;
And He will reign as king and act wisely
And do justice and righteousness in the land.
In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell securely;
And this is His name by which He will be called,
‘The LORD our righteousness.’”

Main Point

The heart is inclined toward self-indulgence without regard for others, and this is especially true of despotic rulers; but this should shift our hope away from earthly kings to Christ the King.

Civil Injustice and Christ the King

Jeremiah's Complaints



Jeremiah 22:13-14

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And his upper rooms without justice,
Who uses his neighbor’s services without pay
And does not give him his wages,
Who says, ‘I will build myself a roomy house
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Paneling it with cedar and painting it bright red.’”

Jeremiah's Complaints

Jehoiakim was not building his house
in righteousness.



Jeremiah 22:13

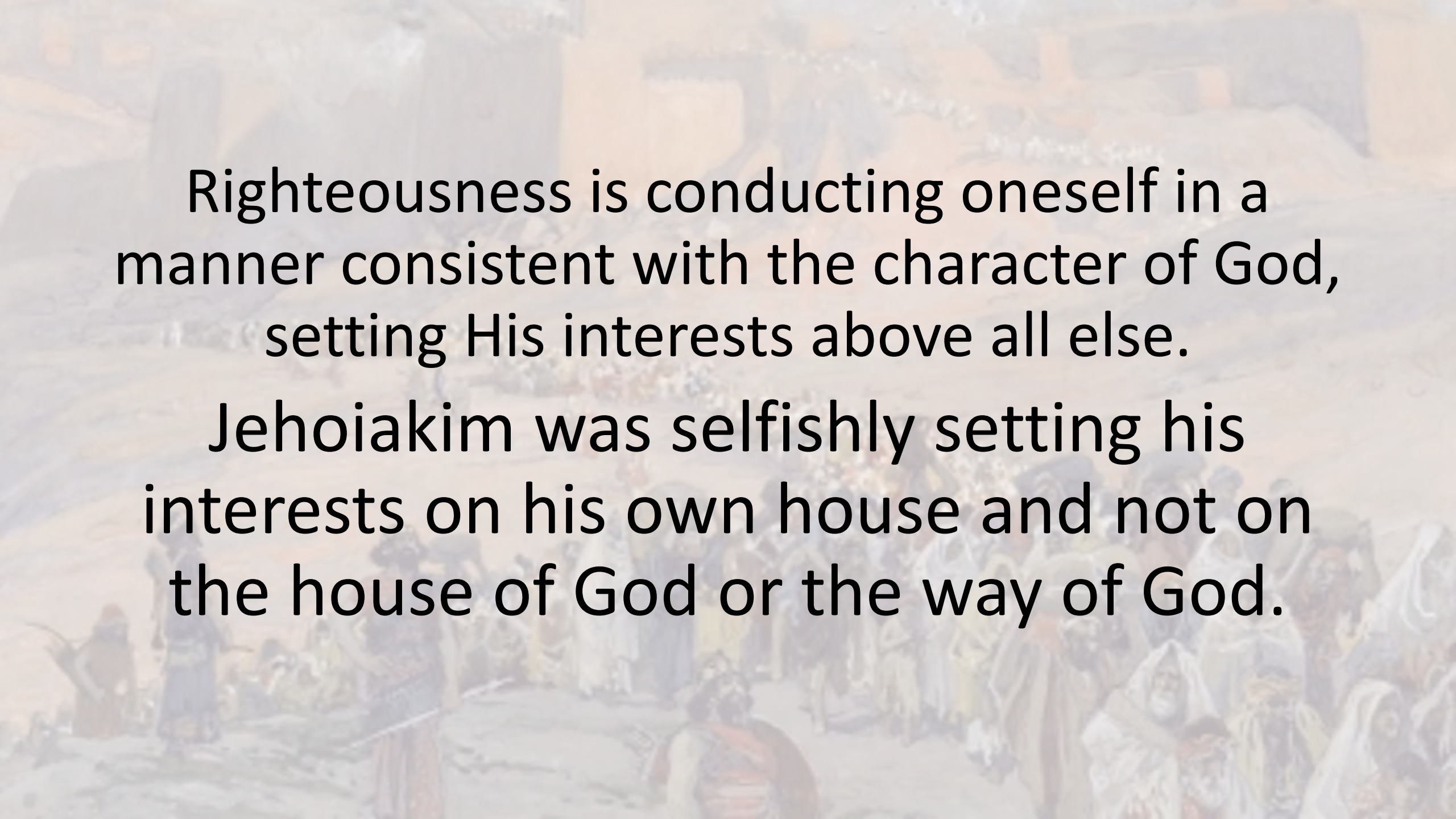
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Jeremiah 22:13

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Righteousness is conducting oneself in a manner consistent with the character of God, setting His interests above all else.

Jehoiakim was selfishly setting his interests on his own house and not on the house of God or the way of God.

Jeremiah's Complaints

Jehoiakim was not building his house in righteousness.

Jehoiakim was indulging himself
by injustice.

Jeremiah 22:13-14

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“Woe to him **who builds** his house without righteousness

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And cut out its windows,
Paneling it with cedar and painting it bright red.'”

Where was the self-indulgence?

Jeremiah 22:13-14

“Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness

And his **upper rooms** without justice,

Who uses his neighbor’s services without pay

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Where was the self-indulgence?

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“Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness
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And does not give him his wages,
Who says, ‘I will build myself a roomy house
With spacious upper rooms,

And ***expand*** its windows,
Paneling it with cedar and painting it bright red.”

Where was the self-indulgence?

Jeremiah 22:13-14

“Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness
And his upper rooms without justice,
Who uses his neighbor’s services without pay
And does not give him his wages,
Who says, ‘I will build myself a roomy house
With spacious upper rooms,

And ***expand*** its windows,
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Where was the injustice?

Jeremiah 22:13-14

“Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness
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**Who uses his neighbor’s services
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And does not give him his wages,**

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Where was the injustice?

What was the righteous and just way?

Deuteronomy 24:14-15

You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns.

You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he will not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you.

**This should be especially true
of those who govern!**



How do these things compare
to our cultural moment?

How should we respond
to these things?

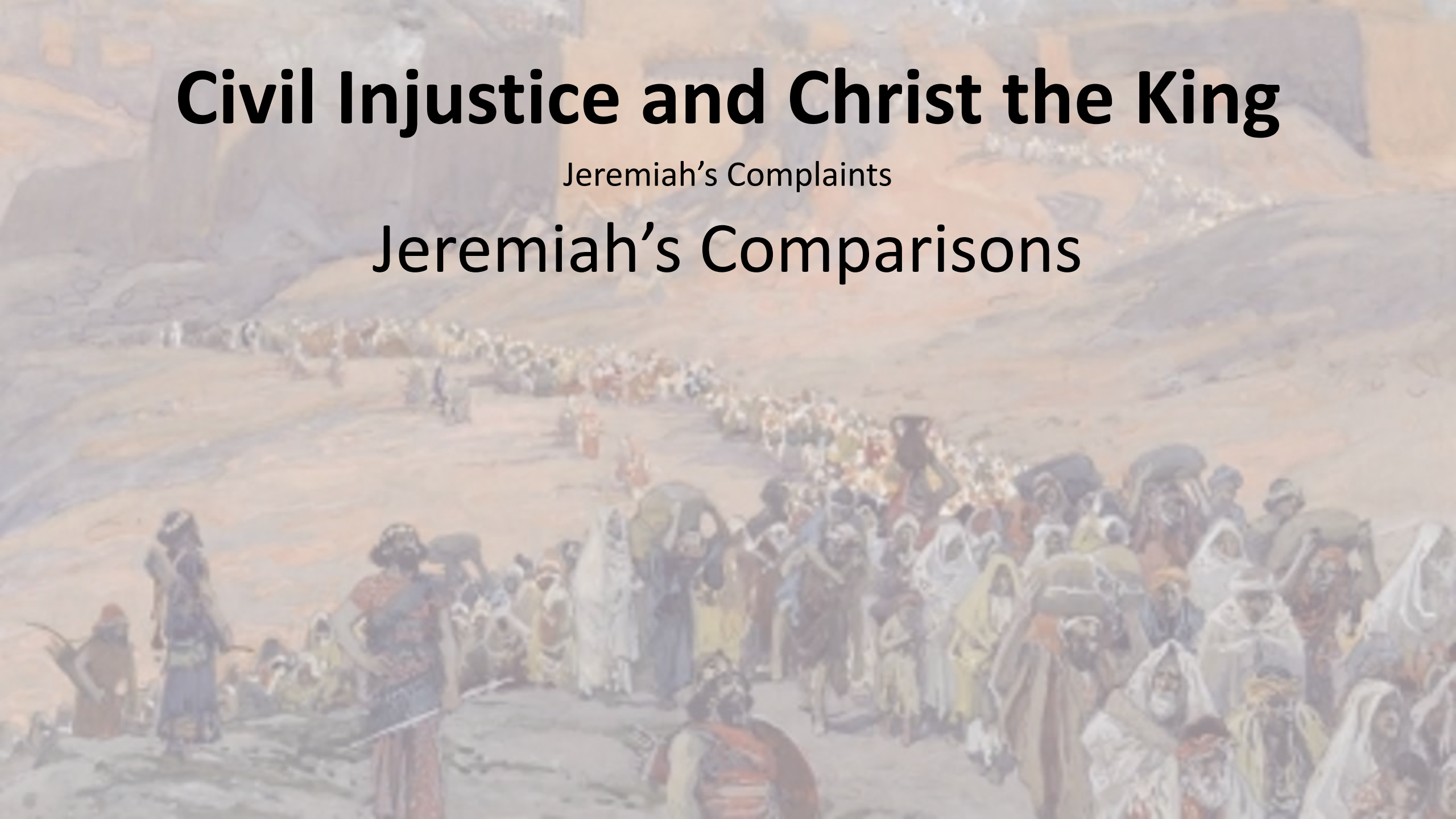
Psalm 131:3

O Israel, hope in the LORD
From this time forth and forever.

Civil Injustice and Christ the King

Jeremiah's Complaints

Jeremiah's Comparisons



Jeremiah 22:15-16

“Do you become a king because you are competing in cedar?

Did not your father eat and drink
And do justice and righteousness?

Then it was well with him.

He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy;

Then it was well.

Is not that what it means to know Me?”

Declares the LORD.

Jeremiah's Comparisons

Jeremiah compared Jehoiakim
to his father Josiah.



Jeremiah 22:15

“Did not your father eat and drink
And do justice and righteousness?”

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And do justice and righteousness?”

Jehoiakim was the second son of Josiah
who was a righteous king.

2 Kings 22:1-2

“Josiah was eight years old when he became king,
and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem...He did right
in the sight of the LORD and walked in all the way of his father
David, nor did he turn aside to the right or to the left.”

Jeremiah's Comparison

Jeremiah 22:15

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What were the comparisons?

Josiah ate and drank and lived well while also setting his heart on righteousness and justice.

Jehoiakim set his heart on himself and turned away from righteousness and justice.

What were the comparisons?

Josiah reinstated the Law and defended the oppressed and weak against the powerful.

Jehoiakim reversed his father's policies and selfishly used his power to oppress the weak and needy.

Jeremiah 22:2-3

“Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, who sits on David’s throne, you and your servants and your people who enter these gates.

Thus says the LORD, do justice and righteousness, and deliver the one who has been robbed from the power of his oppressor. Also do not mistreat or do violence to the stranger, the orphan, or the widow; and do not shed innocent blood in this place.”

What were the comparisons?

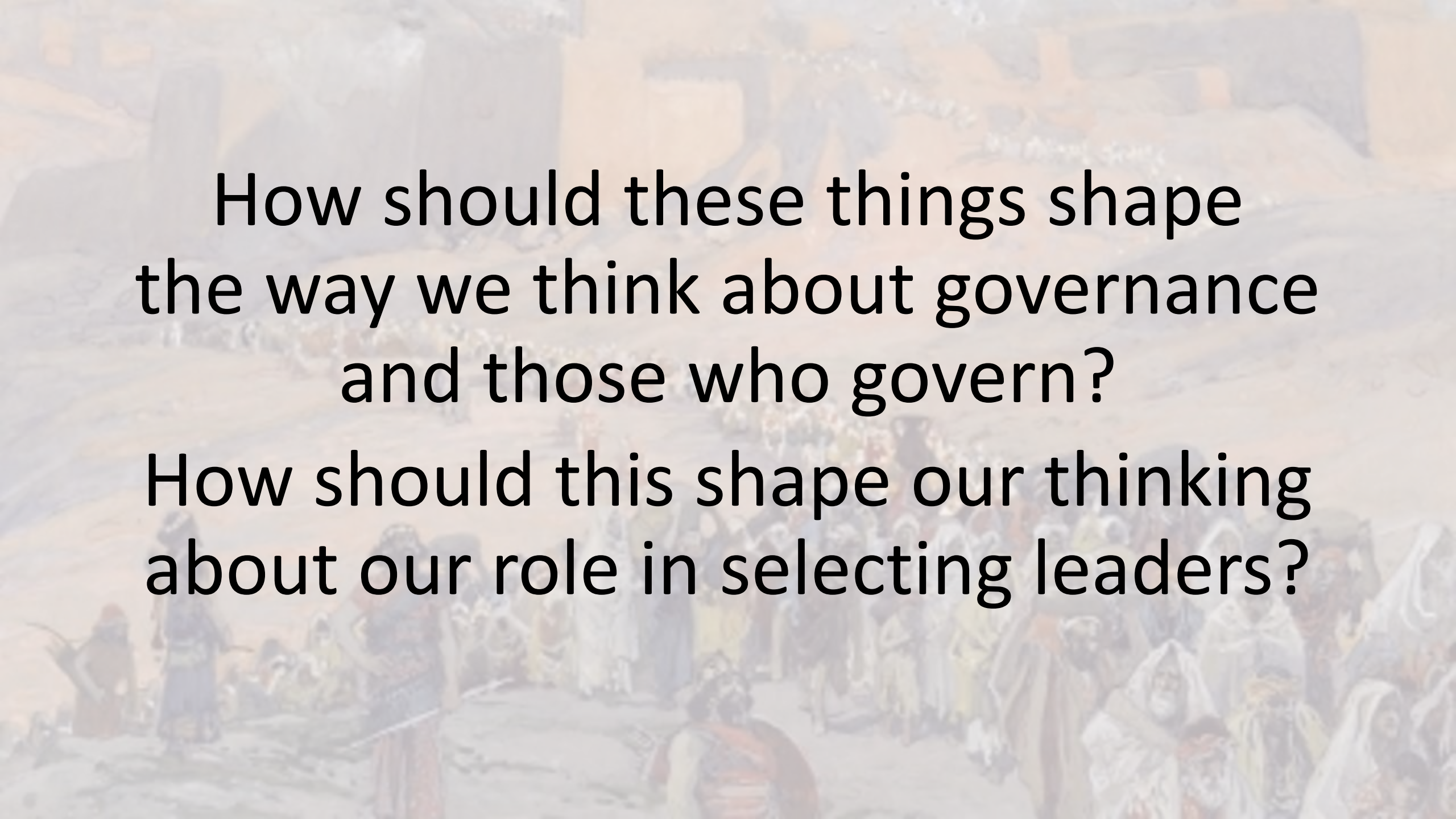
Josiah's reforms led to social rest and relative prosperity.

Jehoiakim's reign resulted in social upheaval and military defeat.

What were the comparisons?

Josiah knew the LORD.

Jehoiakim did not.



How should these things shape
the way we think about governance
and those who govern?

How should this shape our thinking
about our role in selecting leaders?

Jeremiah's Comparisons

Jeremiah compared Jehoiakim to his father Josiah.

Jeremiah compared all kings
to a promised righteous King.

Jeremiah 23:5

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch;
And He will reign as king and act wisely
And do justice and righteousness in the land.”

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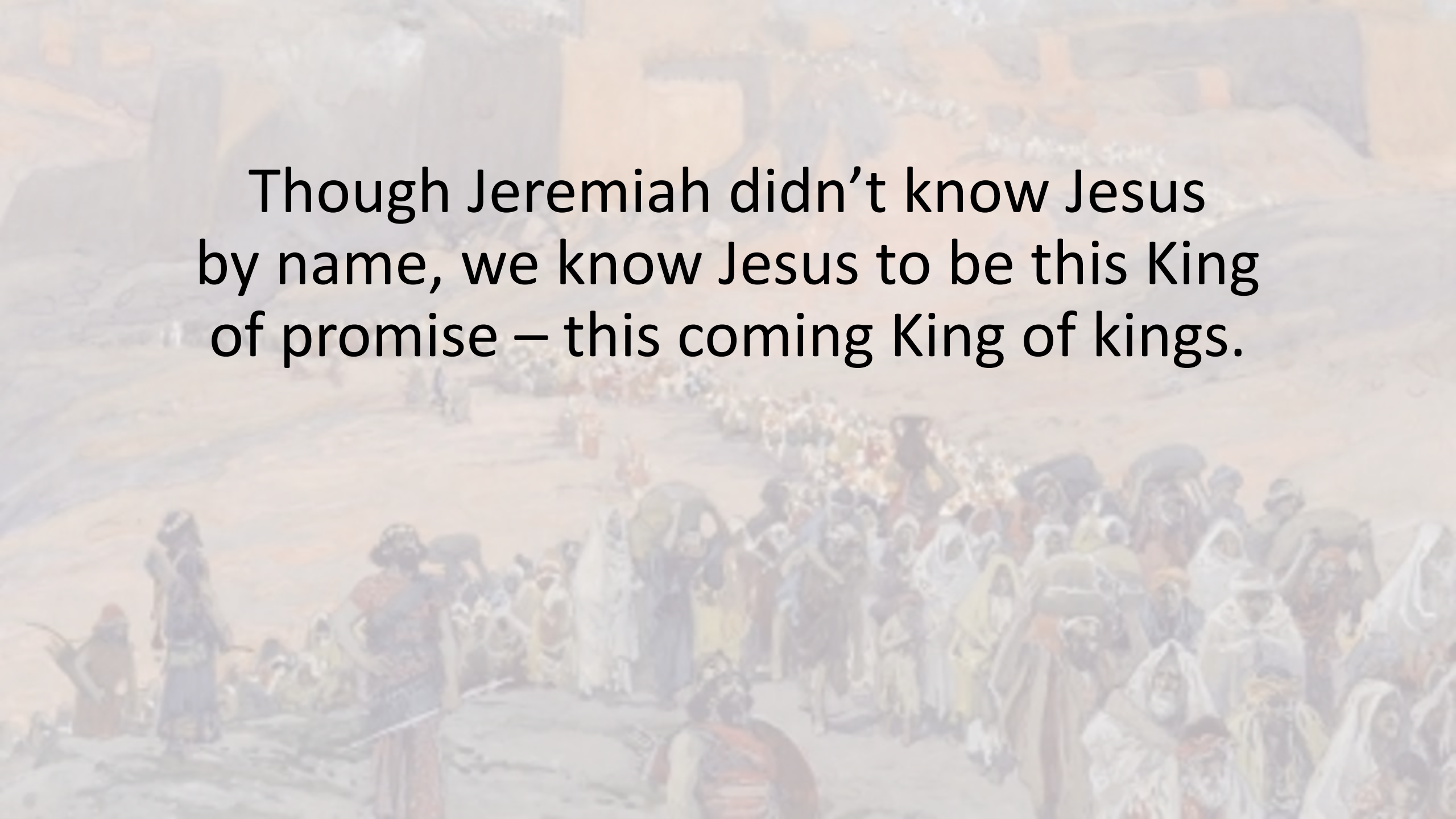
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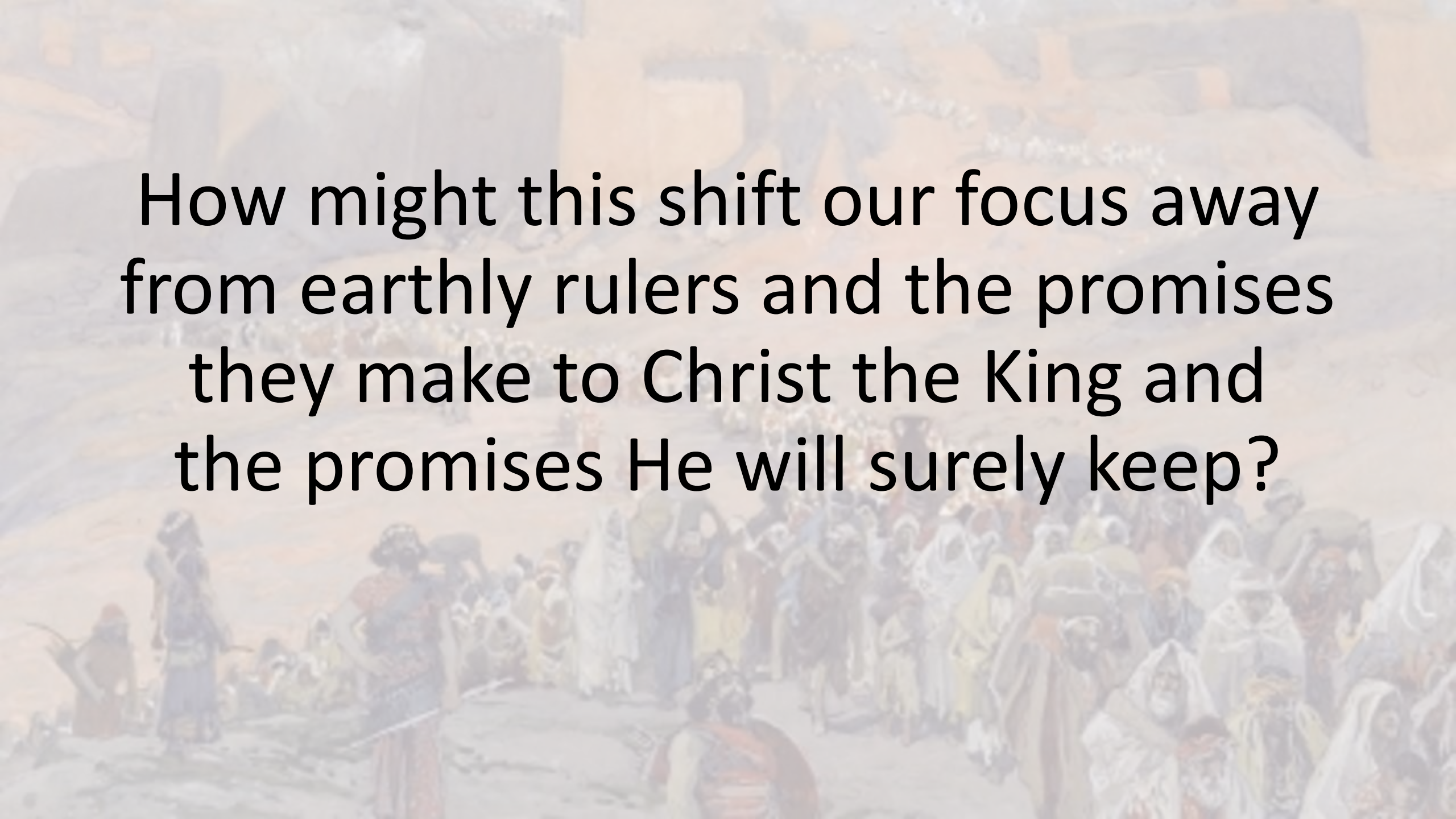
And **He will reign as king and act wisely**
And do justice and righteousness in the
land.”



Though Jeremiah didn't know Jesus by name, we know Jesus to be this King of promise – this coming King of kings.

Acts 13:22-23

“He raised up David to be their king...
From the descendants of this man, according to promise,
God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus.”



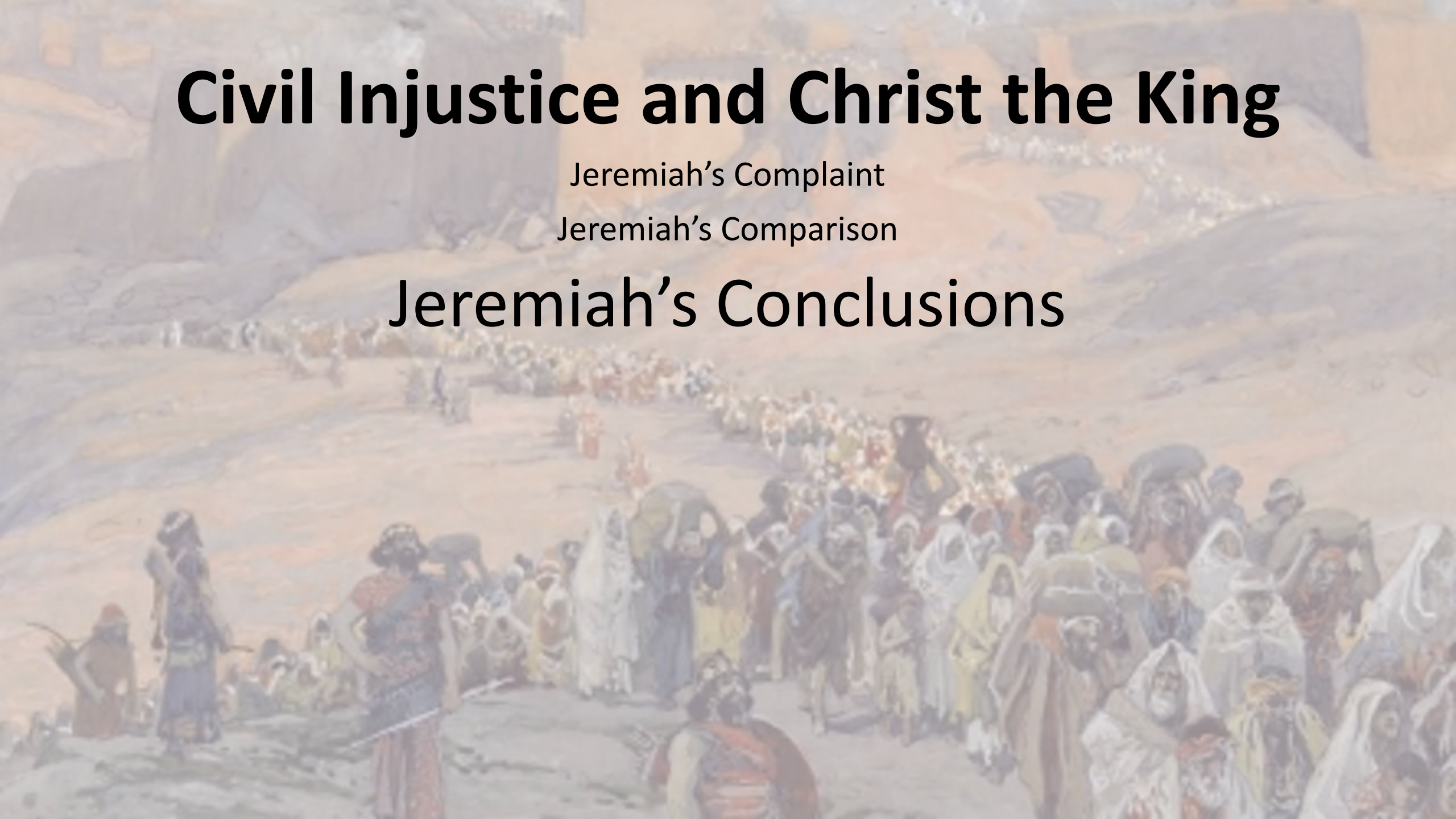
How might this shift our focus away from earthly rulers and the promises they make to Christ the King and the promises He will surely keep?

Civil Injustice and Christ the King

Jeremiah's Complaint

Jeremiah's Comparison

Jeremiah's Conclusions



Jeremiah's Conclusions

Jehoiakim would be condemned
to an ignoble death.

Jeremiah 22:18-19

Therefore thus says the LORD in regard to Jehoiakim
the son of Josiah, king of Judah,

“They will not lament for him:

‘Alas, my brother!’ or, ‘Alas, sister!’

They will not lament for him:

‘Alas for the master!’ or, ‘Alas for his splendor!’

He will be buried with a donkey’s burial,

Dragged off and thrown out beyond the gates of Jerusalem.”

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**He will be buried with a donkey’s burial,
Dragged off and thrown out beyond the
gates of Jerusalem.”**

2 Chronicles 36:5-6

Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king,
and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem;
and he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him and
bound him with bronze chains to take him to Babylon.

Jeremiah's Conclusions

Jehoiakim would be condemned to an ignoble death.

Judah would be saved by a righteous King.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

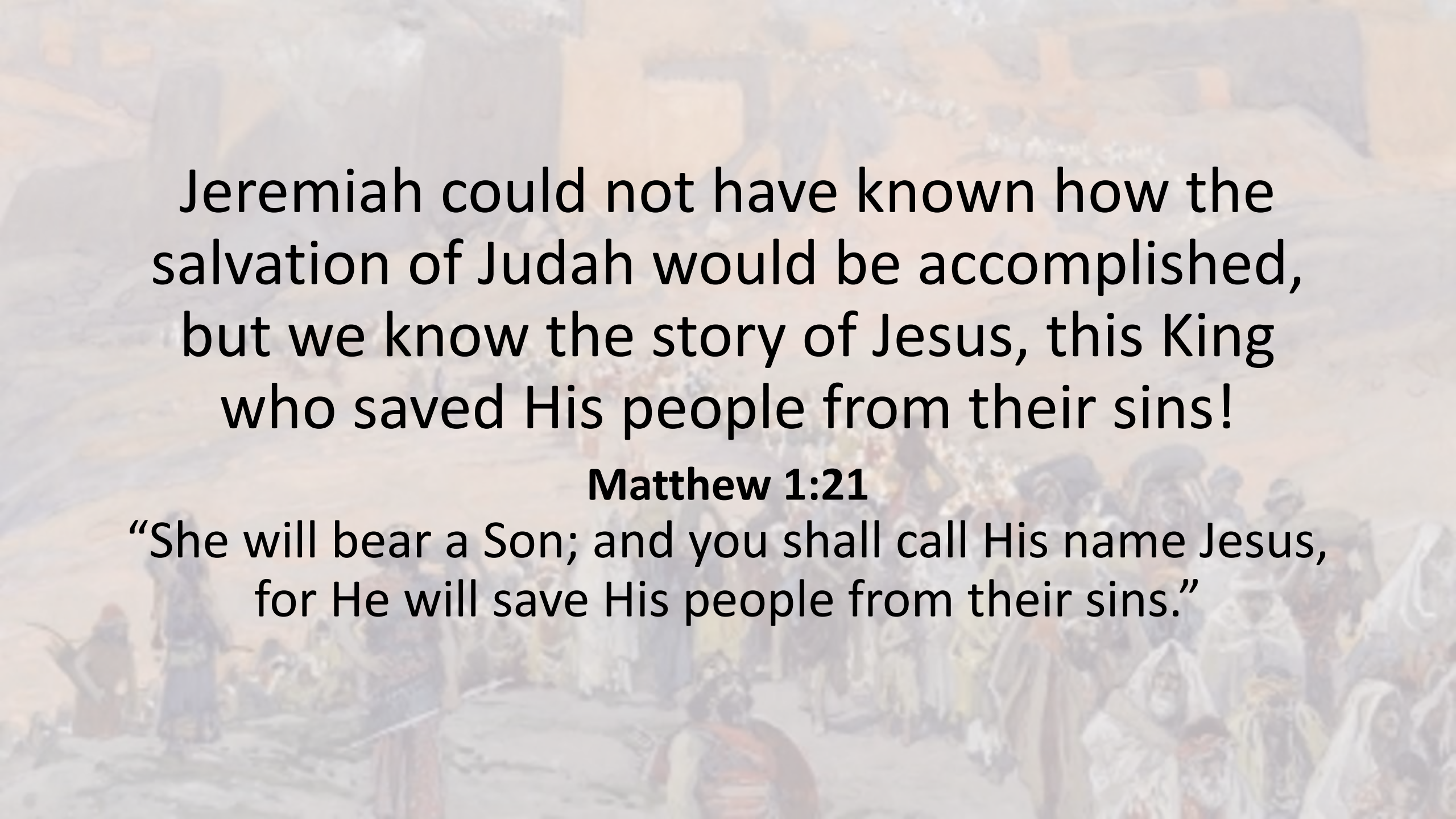
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Jeremiah could not have known how the salvation of Judah would be accomplished, but we know the story of Jesus, this King who saved His people from their sins!

Matthew 1:21

“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Jeremiah 23:6

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In His days Judah will be saved,

And Israel will dwell securely;

And this is His name by which He will be called,
‘The LORD our righteousness.’”

Then it will be well!

Revelation 21:5

And He who sits on the throne said,
“Behold, I am making all things new.”

Jeremiah 23:6

In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell securely;

And this is His name by which **He will be called,**
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Jeremiah 23:6

In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell securely;

And this is His name by which **He will be called,**
‘The LORD *OUR* righteousness.’”

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,
so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.



How then should we respond?

Psalm 131:3

O Israel, hope in the LORD
From this time forth and forever.

We can hope in the Lord because
He is the Savior King who always
keeps all His promises!

Concluding Questions:

Are you worried about election outcomes or are you hoping in the Sovereign King Jesus?

Are you planning to exercise your civic duty for the glory of Christ and the good of the city?

Is it well with your soul, and are you dwelling secure in the arms of Christ?