

CHRISTMAS B.C.

(NOT A CONTRADICTION)



DECEMBER 2019











“When you’re crossing the river and you’re out in the middle of it, it’s so quiet....All you really hear are the oars churning through the water. You almost get a sense of what it was like. Those moments always stay with me.”

(Ronald Rinaldi, as quoted in the article *Reenactor Ronald Rinaldi Stood at Washington’s Side – And in His Shoes* on washingtoncrossingpark.org, December 2, 2018)







“It hailed with great violence, [and] the Troops march’d with the most profound silence.”

(From Henry Knox’s letter to Lucy Knox, December 28, 1776).









Profound Silence

Malachi 3-4

December 8, 2019



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Profound Silence

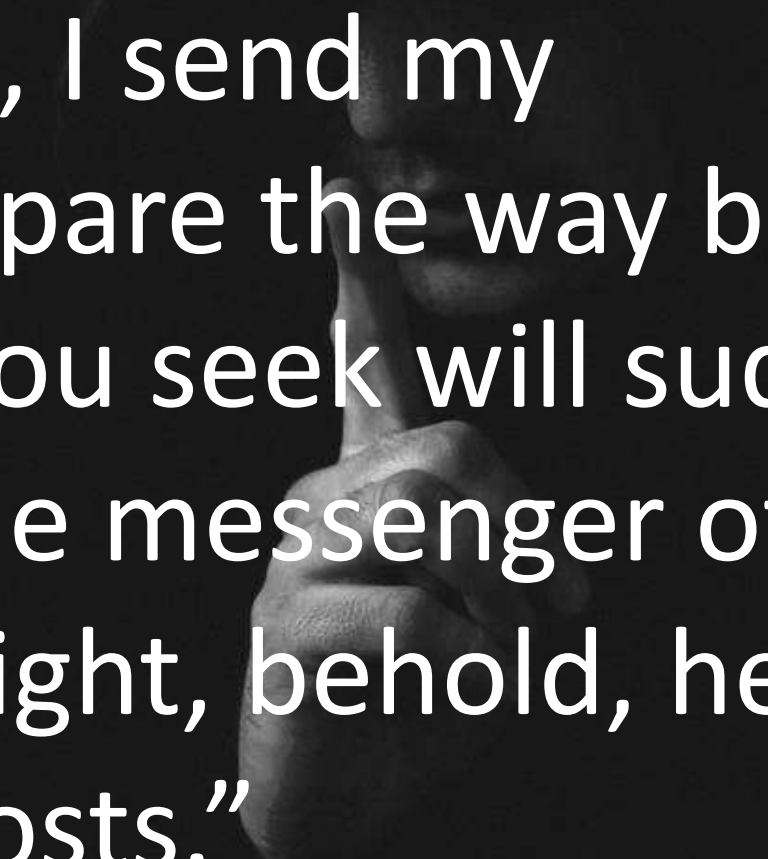
Malachi 3-4

December 8, 2019



Profound Silence

Malachi 3:1 (ESV): “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; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.”

A person is visible in the background, mostly in shadow. Their hand is raised towards their mouth, with fingers slightly curled, suggesting a gesture of silence or contemplation. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the person's face and hand against a dark background.

Profound Silence

Malachi 3:16-18 (ESV): “Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. **17** ‘They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. **18** Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.’”

Profound Silence

Malachi 4:5-6 (ESV): “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Profound Silence



Profound Silence

Malachi 2:7-9 (ESV): “For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. 8 But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, 9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

Profound Silence



Profound Silence



Profound Silence



Profound Silence

Luke 2:25-38 (ESV): “Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. **26** And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. **27** And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law...”

Profound Silence

“...**28** he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, **29** ‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; **30** for my eyes have you’re your salvation **31** that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.’ **33** And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him....”

Profound Silence

“...**34** And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed **35** (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.’ **36** And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher...”

Profound Silence

“...She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, **37** and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. **38** And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.”

Profound Silence



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Malachi 3-4

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Main Point

EVEN IN DEAD SILENCE,
GOD'S WORD LIVES.



Profound Silence



Profound Silence



Profound Silence



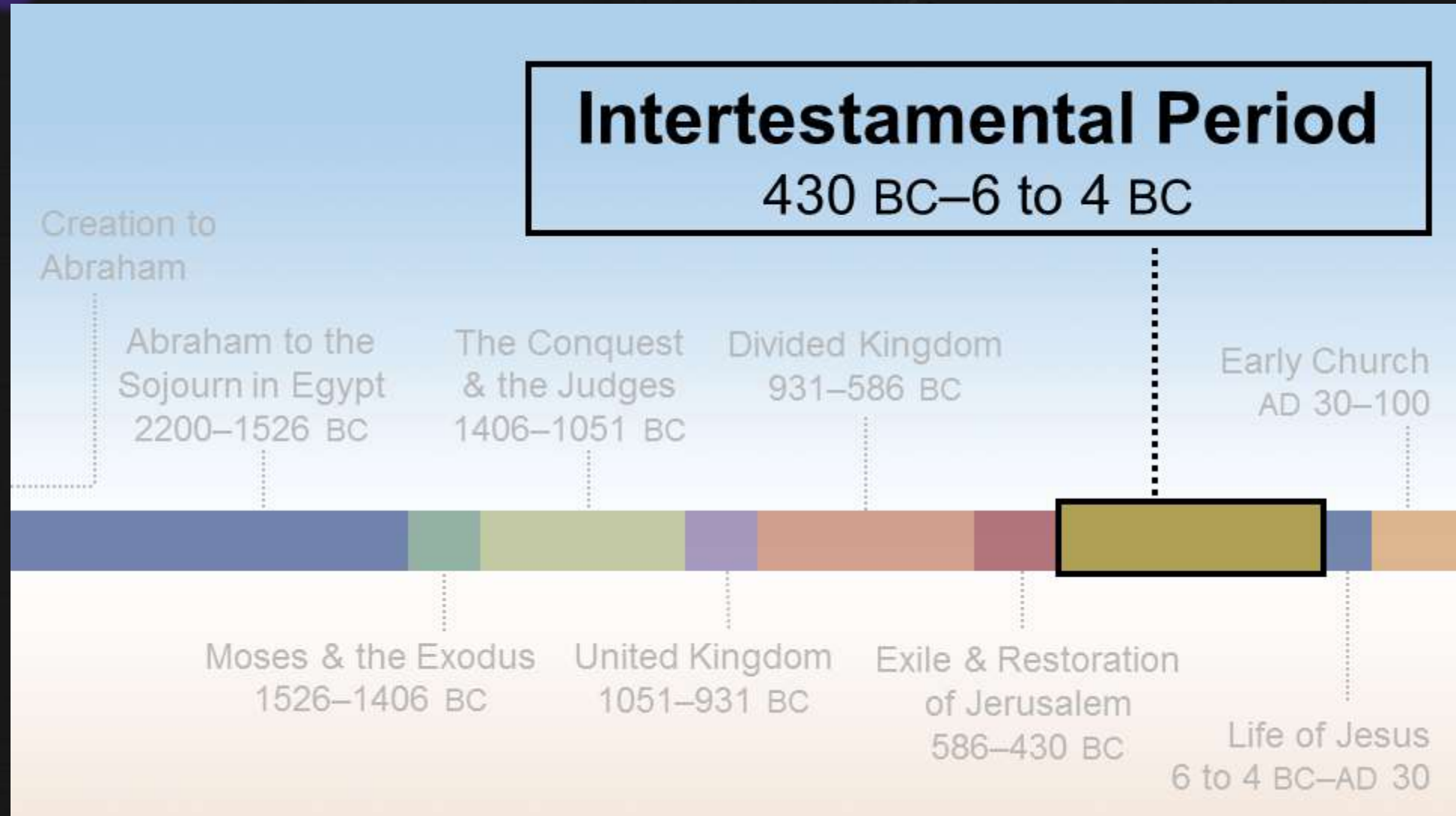
Profound Silence



Profound Silence

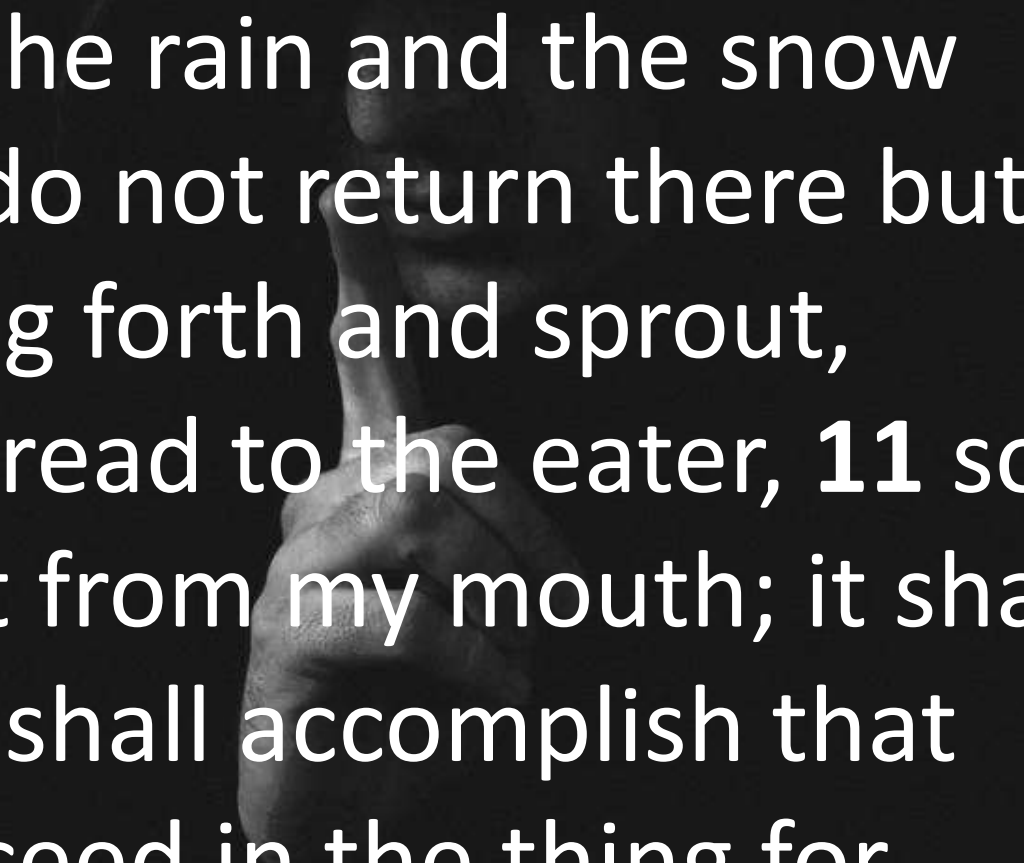


Profound Silence



Profound Silence

Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV): “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, **11** so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”



Profound Silence

1 Peter 1:24-25 (ESV): “The grass withers,
and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the
Lord remains forever.”



Profound Silence

Matthew 5:17-18 (ESV): “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

Profound Silence



Profound Silence

Malachi 3-4

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Application

HOLD

ON

TO

GOD'S PROMISE

EVEN WHEN

GOD'S PROMISE

IS

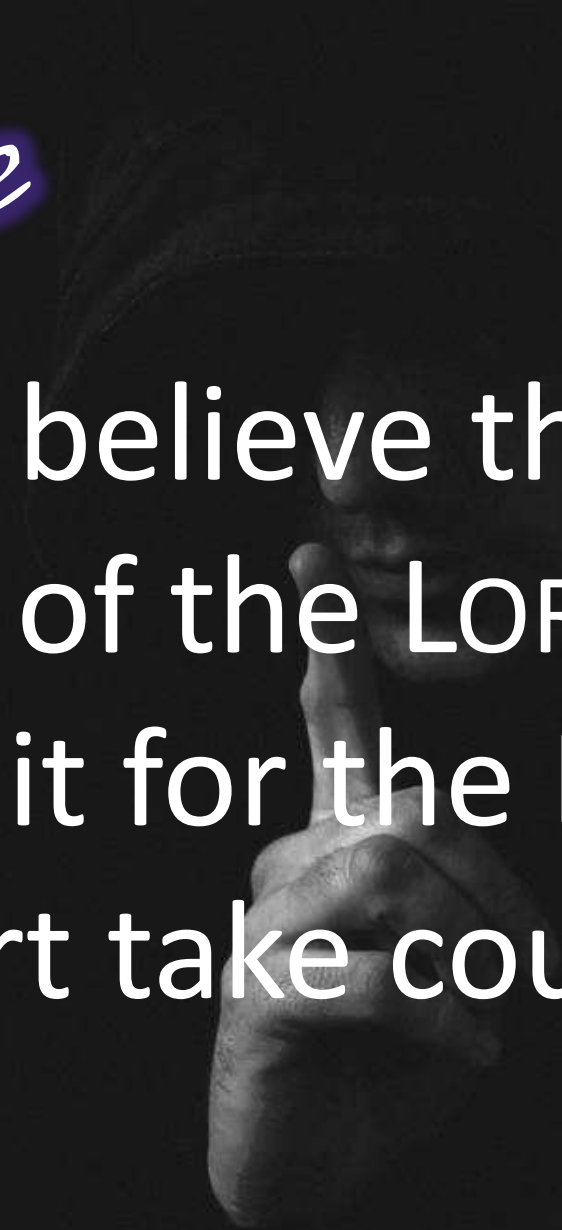
ON

HOLD.



Profound Silence

Psalm 27:13-14 (ESV): “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! **14** Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”



Profound Silence

2 Peter 3:4, 8-9 (ESV): “They will say, ‘Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.’...**8** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness.”

Profound Silence

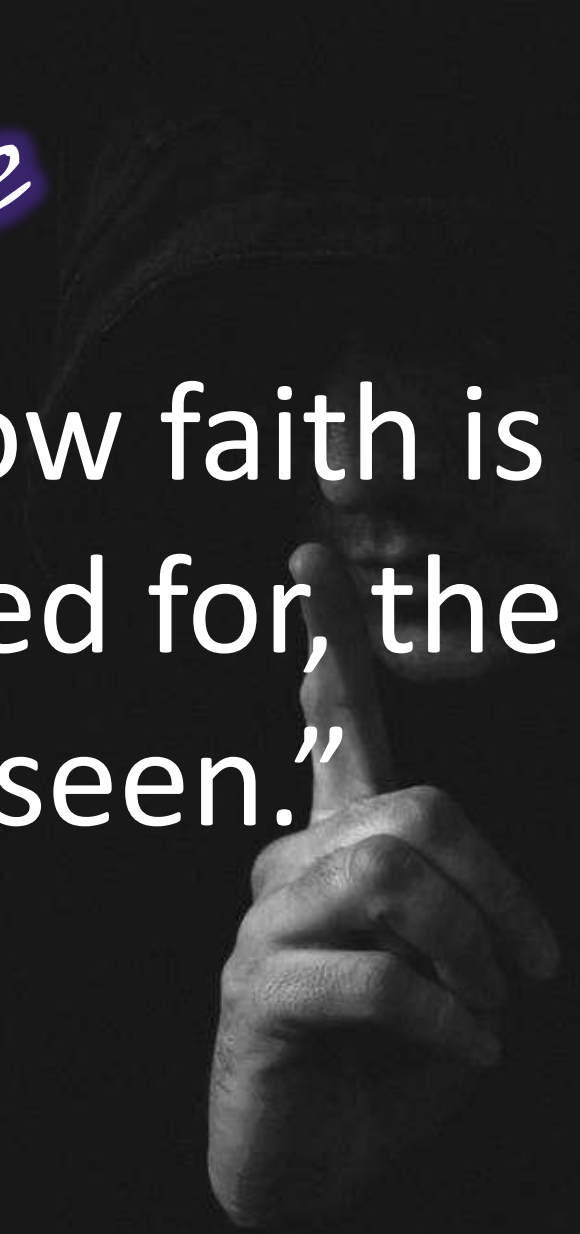


Profound Silence



Profound Silence

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV): “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

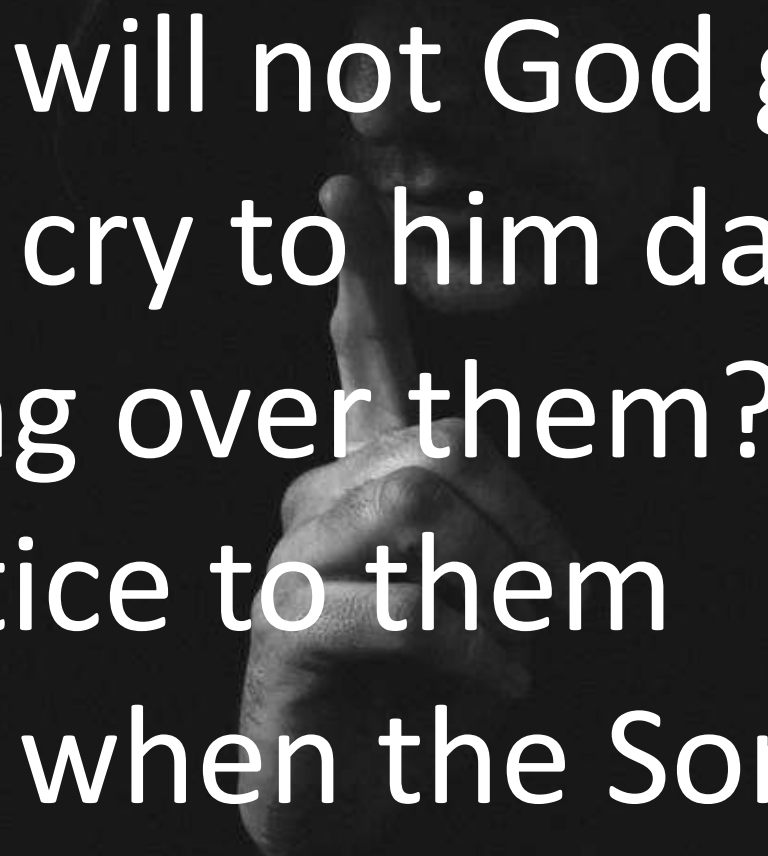


Profound Silence

Romans 8:24-25 (ESV): “For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

Profound Silence

Luke 18:7-8 (ESV): “And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”



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**NEXT WEEK:
DANIEL 8**

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