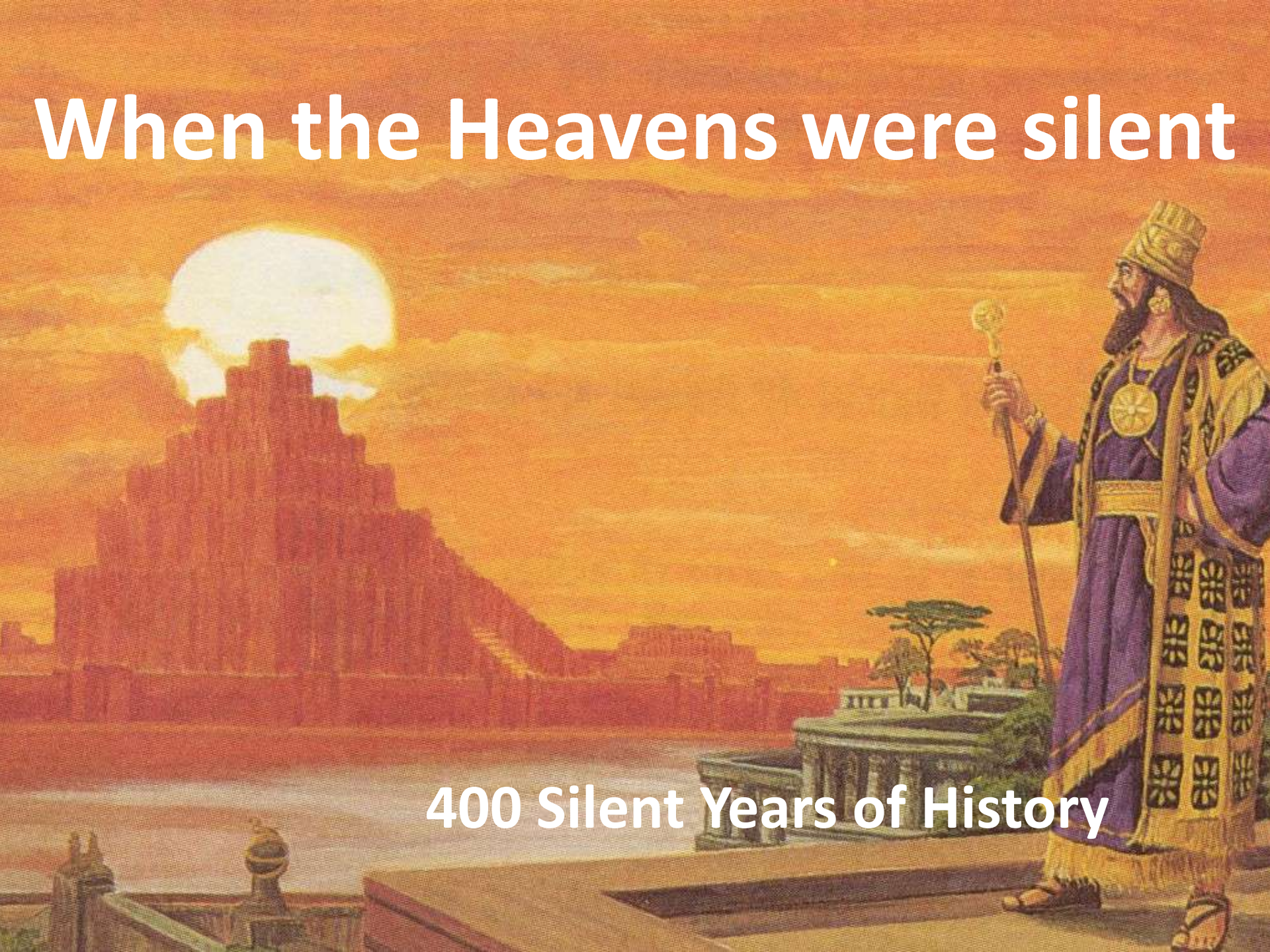


When the Heavens were silent

400 Silent Years of History



World Empires - Babylon

Four Major Kings

1. Nabopolassar (626-605 BC)

Rebelled against Assyria 626 BC

Joined forces with Medes to defeat Nineveh 614 BC

2. Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 BC)

Conquered Judah and Egypt

Extended Babylonian influence over world



World Empires - Babylon

Four Major Kings

3. Nabonidus (555-539BC)

Not of royal descent

Thought to have married widow or daughter of Nebuchadnezzar

Usurped the throne

4. Belshazzar (552-539BC)

Son of Nabonidus

Co-regent of Kingdom

Saw “Handwriting on the Wall...”



World Empires - Babylon

Four Major Kings

What about “gap” between Nebuchadnezzar and Nabonidus?

1. Evil-Marodach reigns for one year (Jer 52:31)
2. Neriglissar reigns for three years
3. Labosoarchad reigns about a year.

Nabonidus was not a legitimate heir to the throne...

Some accounts say he was even of Assyrian descent...



World Empires - Babylon

Three Jewish Deportations

605 BC

- Daniel taken to Babylon

597 BC

- Ezekiel taken to Babylon

586 BC

- Jerusalem sacked
- Temple destroyed
- Remainder of Judah taken captive



World Empires - Babylon

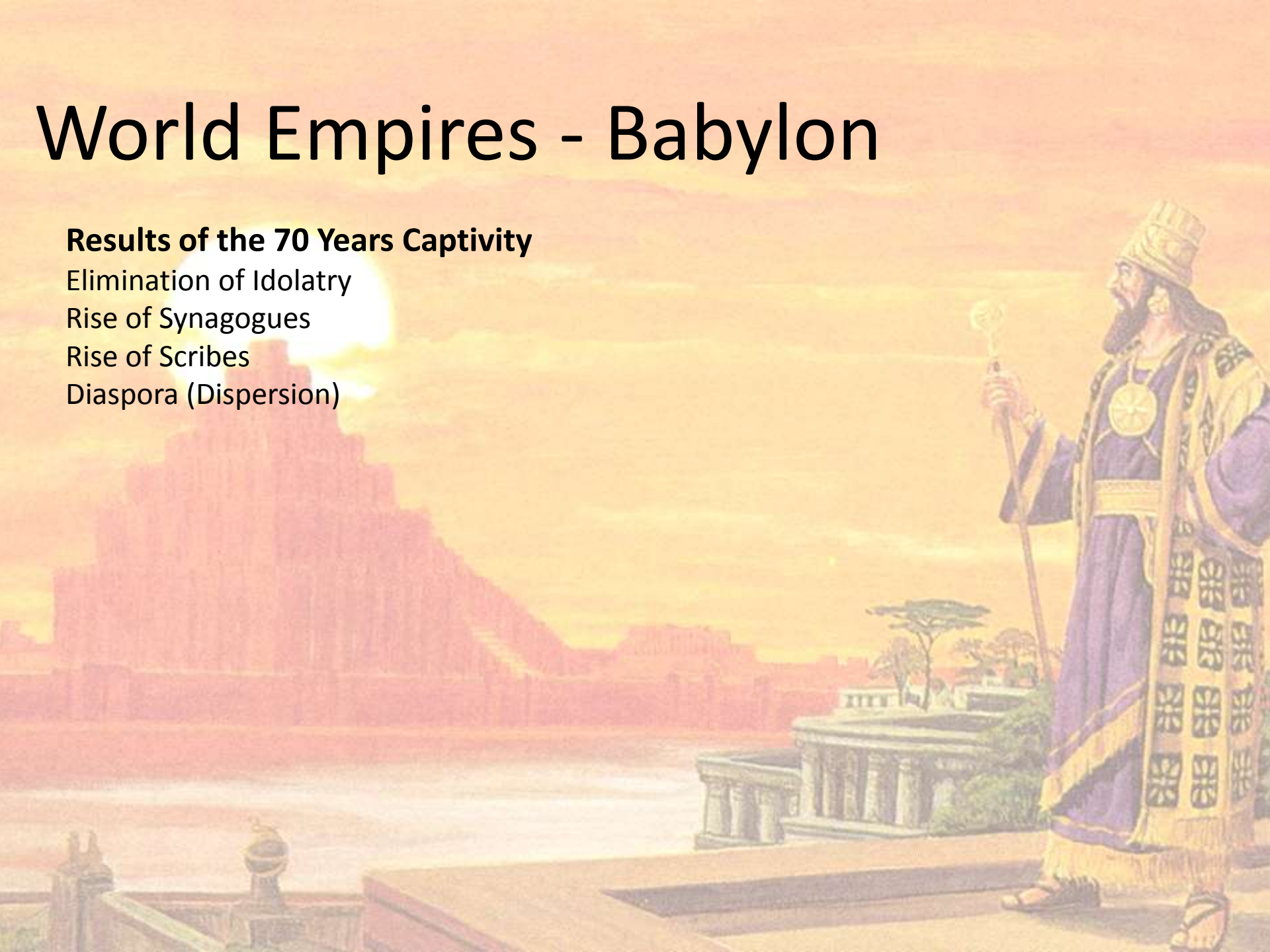
Results of the 70 Years Captivity

Elimination of Idolatry

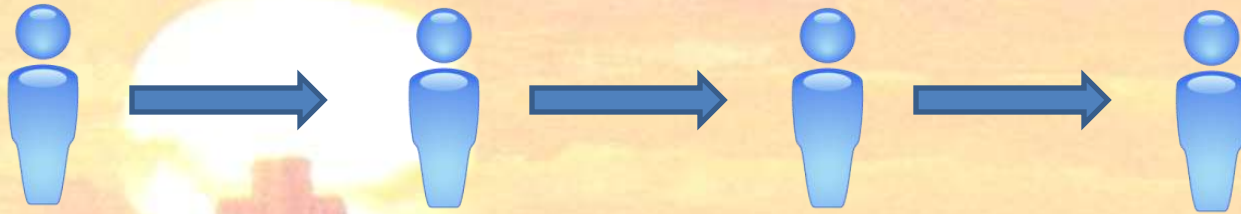
Rise of Synagogues

Rise of Scribes

Diaspora (Dispersion)



World Empires - Babylon



Nabopolasser
626 - 605 BC

Nebuchadnezzar
605 – 562 BC

Nabonidus
555– 539 BC

Belshazzar
552– 539 BC

3 Deportations

605

597

586

Destruction of
Jerusalem



World Empires – Medes & Persians

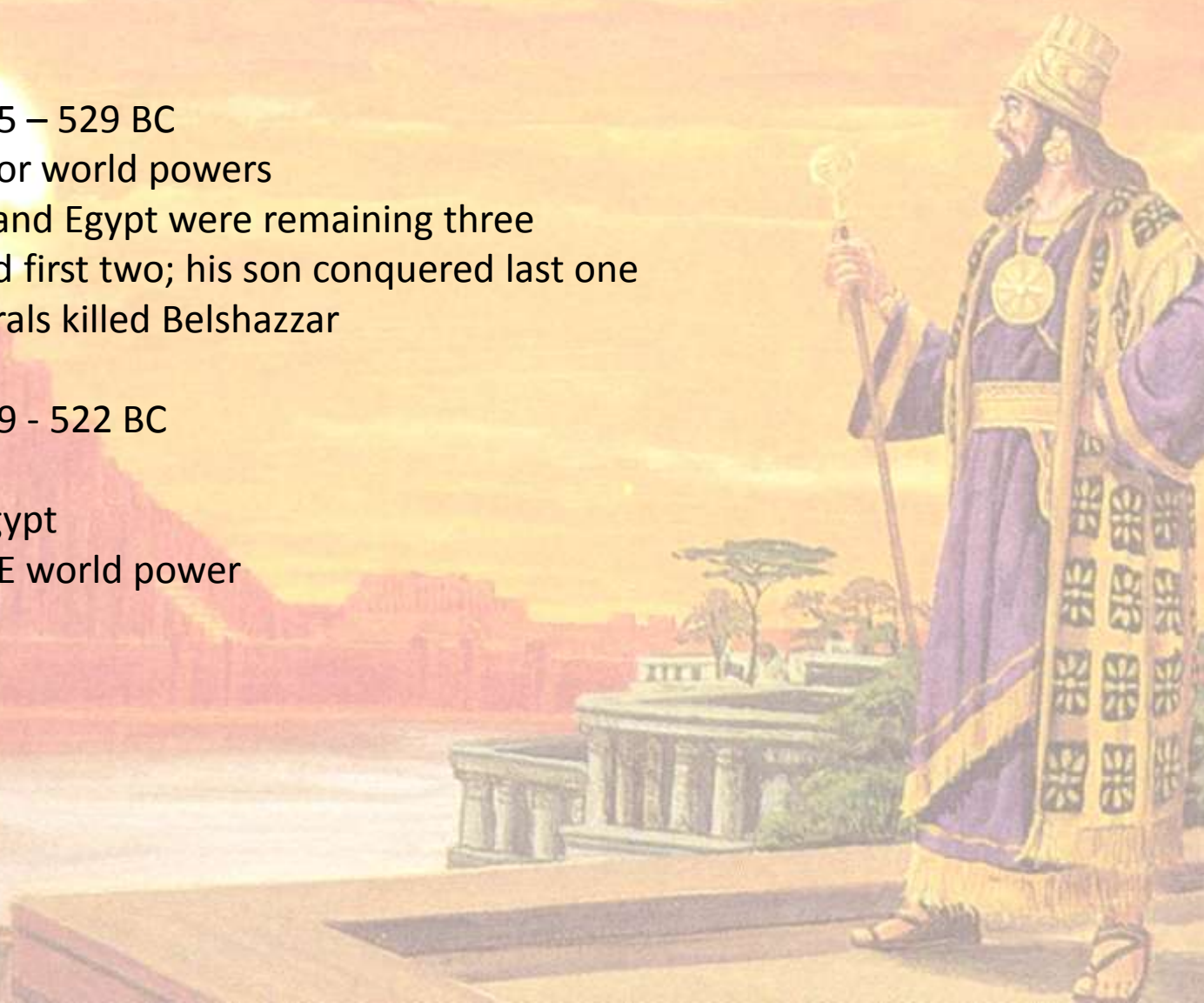
Five Major Kings

Cyrus the Great (II) 555 – 529 BC

- One of four major world powers
- Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt were remaining three
- Cyrus conquered first two; his son conquered last one
- One of his generals killed Belshazzar

Cambyses 529 - 522 BC

- Son of Cyrus
- Conqueror of Egypt
- At his death, THE world power



World Empires – Medes & Persians

Five Major Kings

Darius the Great (I) 522 – 486 BC

- Ruled for over 40 years
- Consolidated power and reorganized the empire
- Haggai and Zechariah are during his reign
- “Jump-started” the rebuilding of the temple
- Tried to conquer Greece, defeated at Athens

Xerxes (Ahasuerus) 464- 423 BC

- Continued fighting Greeks
- Defeated at Salamis
- Helped to create environment for Alexander the Great



World Empires – Medes & Persians

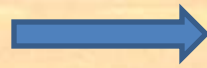
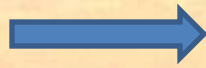
Five Major Kings

Artaxerxes 522 – 486 BC

- Return of Ezra and Nehemiah took place
- Made peace with Greece
- Persian Empire began to decline
- Nations began throwing Persian Yoke off



World Empires – Medo Persian



Cyrus the Great
555 – 529 BC

Cambyses
529 – 522 BC

Darius the Great
522 – 486 BC

Xerxes
(Ahasuerus)
486 – 464 BC



Artaxerxes
464 – 423 BC



World Empires – Greece

Two Major Rulers

Philip of Macedon 359 – 336 BC

- United all Greek city-states into a “country”
- Great military leader
- City of Philippi named in his honor

Alexander the Great 336 – 323 BC

- Perhaps greatest military leader ever
- His kingdom covered 2.2 million miles
- From Macedon to Egypt; From Persia to India
- Died at age 32 after conquering his known world



World Empires – Greece

Alexander's Achievements

Hellenization of conquered lands

Greek became the common language

Constructed major Alexandrian library

Brought East and West together in Science, Philosophy and Art



World Empires – Greece Divided

Alexander's Empire Divided – Daniel 8:8

Lysimachus	<i>Thrace, Asia Minor</i>
Seleucus	<i>Northern Syria, Babylon</i>
Ptolemy	<i>Syria, Egypt</i>
Cassander	<i>Macedonia</i>

NOTE: *The Ptolemies and Seleucids fought between themselves for Judah and Syria. (By this time, there was no Israel – lost in the Assyrian captivity...)*



World Empires – Greece Divided

Seleucids and Ptolemies

Ptolemaic Influence 323 – 198 BC

- Judah prospered under Ptolemies
- Ptolemy II Philadelphus responsible for LXX

Seleucid / Ptolemaic Wars 275 – 198 BC

- Prophesied in Daniel 11:5ff
- King of the South – Egypt (Ptolemy)
- King of the North – Syria (Seleucid)



World Empires – Greece Divided

Seleucids and Ptolemies

A Marriage

Daniel 11:5-6

Revenge

Daniel 11:7-8

Antiochus the Great

Daniel 11:9-10

- Antiochus was a Seleucid
- At his time, Judah was under the Ptolemies
- He marched through Palestine with an army of 75,000 men

Southern Retaliation

Daniel 11:11-12

- Ptolemy IV defeated Antiochus the Great
- Ptolemy's victory only served to anger Antiochus



World Empires – Greece Divided

Seleucids and Ptolemies

Return of the North

Daniel 11:13-20

- 13 years later, Antiochus the Great returned
- 199 BC, Antiochus routed the Southern (Egyptian) army

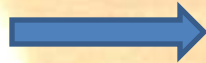
Antiochus Epiphanes

Daniel 11:21-35

- Obtained throne by deceit – 175 BC
- He soundly defeated the Egyptian boy-King, Ptolemy VI
- He plundered the Temple and sacked Jerusalem
- He attacked Egypt again, being humiliated by Roman intervention
- He took out his frustration on Judah
- His atrocities led to Maccabean revolt – 166 BC



World Empires – Greek Rulers



Philip of
Macedon
359 – 336 BC

Alexander the Great
336 – 323 BC



Lysimachus
*Thrace /
Asia Minor*



Seleucid
*Syria /
Babylon*



Ptolemy
*Syria /
Egypt*



Cassander
Macedonia



World Empires – Maccabean Wars

The Maccabees – The Context

Antiochus Epiphanes attempted to *hellenize* the Jews

He had slaughtered a pig in the Temple, 167 BC

To observe the Torah was a capital offense

Gymnasiums were built in which Jews were displayed humiliatingly

Sabbath was abandoned

Jewish names were exchanged for Greek names

Sacrifices to pagan deities were made public

Those who refused to participate were martyred



The Jewish priest Mattathias triggered rebellion against Antiochus Epiphanes when he violently resisted the king's enforced idolatry.



World Empires – Maccabean Wars

The Maccabees – A Cause

Mattathias, father of the Maccabean “clan” was a priest

He had served for a time at the Temple

Had moved outside of city

Antiochus’ soldier came to his city demanding he sacrifice to a god

He refused, then killed a fellow Jew who had stepped forward

While he destroyed the altar, his sons destroyed Greek officials

His words: “Let everyone who has zeal for the Torah and who stands by the covenant follow me...”



World Empires – Maccabean Wars

The Maccabees – A Cause

Mattathias died and leadership fell to his son, Judah

His “surname” was Maccabeus, or *the Hammer*

He led a guerrilla war against the Greeks

164 BC – Judah Maccabeus reinstated Ceremonial system in Jerusalem

At this time, Hanukkah was instituted

163 BC – Antiochus dies; Lysias and Judah make a treaty

This treaty restored Judaism making it the dominant religion

161 BC – Judah Maccabeus dies; brother Jonathan rules



World Empires – Maccabean Wars

The Maccabees – A Corruption

Jonathan “buys” himself the job of High Priest

He began process of Hellenizing the Jewish law to fit political atmosphere

143 BC – Jonathan dies; brother Simon leads

134 BC – Simon dies, his son John Hyrcanus leads the people

- During his reign, two political parties arose
- The conservative, Separatist group became the Pharisees
- The Hellenizers became the Sadducees
- He destroyed Samaritan Temple at Mt. Gerazim

104 BC – John Hyrcanus dies; son Alexander Jannaeus reigns



World Empires – Maccabean Wars

The Maccabees – A Corruption

76 BC – Alexander Jannaeus on deathbed transfers rule to his wife Salome Alexandra

67 BC – Alexandra dies, two brothers Aristobulus and Hyrcanus II fought for control

65 BC – Hyrcanus lays seige to Jerusalem aided by Antipater, father of Herod the Great

63 BC – Enter the Romans led by Pompey (b. 106 – 48 BC)



World Empires – Rome

Judea under Rome

63 BC – Pompey occupies Jerusalem

This is the end of independent rule for Judah until 1948

47 BC – Pompey murdered during conquest of Egypt

Antipater (Herod the Great's father) assisted Rome's conquest of Egypt

Julius Caesar made Antipater the Procurator of Judea in return

44 BC – Julius Caesar murdered by Brutus

Empire is ruled by Octavius and Marc Antony



World Empires – Rome

Judea under Rome

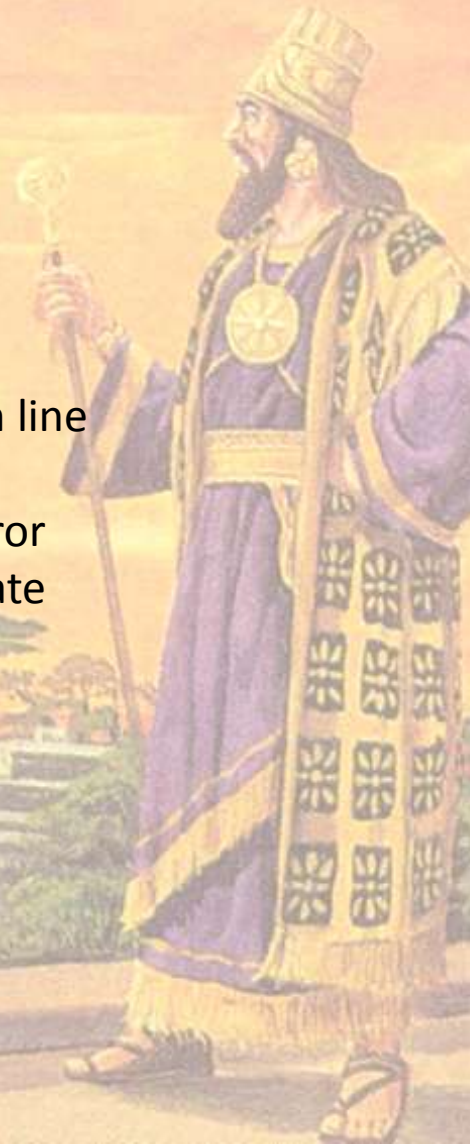
31 BC – Octavius defeats Brutus and Antony

He claims for himself the title *Augustus*

We are now in “New Testament times...”

Rome had two types of Provinces:

- Imperial – frontier areas needing strong army to keep people in line
- Senatorial – basically peaceful areas
 - Imperial Provinces ruled by Procurators selected by Emperor
 - Senatorial ruled by Proconsuls appointed annually by Senate



World Empires – the Caesars



Augustus
30 BC– 14 AD
Luke 2:1



Tiberius
14 – 37
Luke 3:1



Caligula
37 - 41



Claudius
41 – 54
Act 11:28; 18:2



Nero
54 – 68
Acts 25:10;
28:19



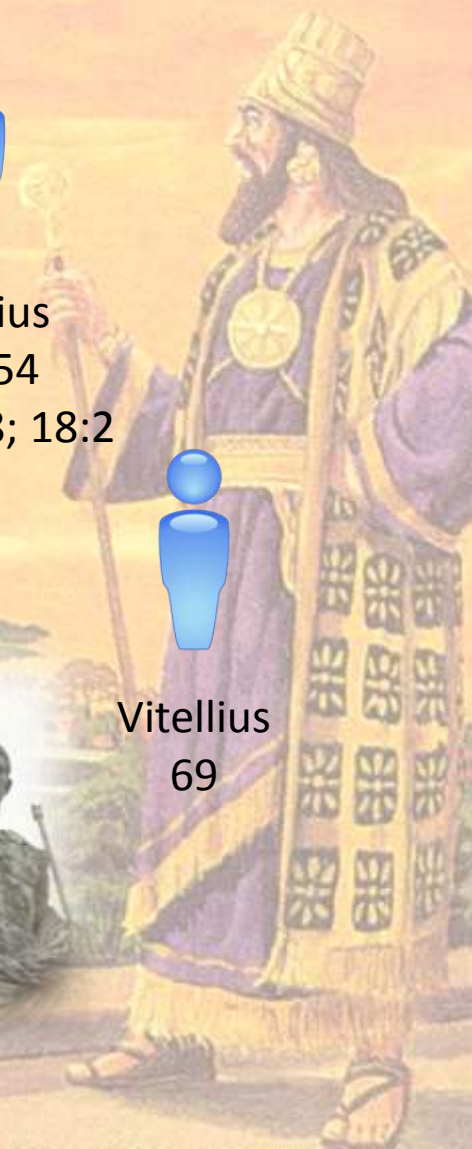
Galba
68



Otho
69



Vitellius
69



World Empires – the Caesars



Vespasian
69 - 79



Titus
79 - 81



Domitian
81 - 96



Nerva
96- 98



Trajan
98 – 117



World Empires – Rome

Roman Procurators in the New Testament

Coponius	6-10
Ambivius	10-13
Annius Rufus	13-15
Valerus Gratus	15-26
Pontius Pilate	26-36
Marcellus	36-38
Maryllus	38-41

Luke 3:1; 23:1



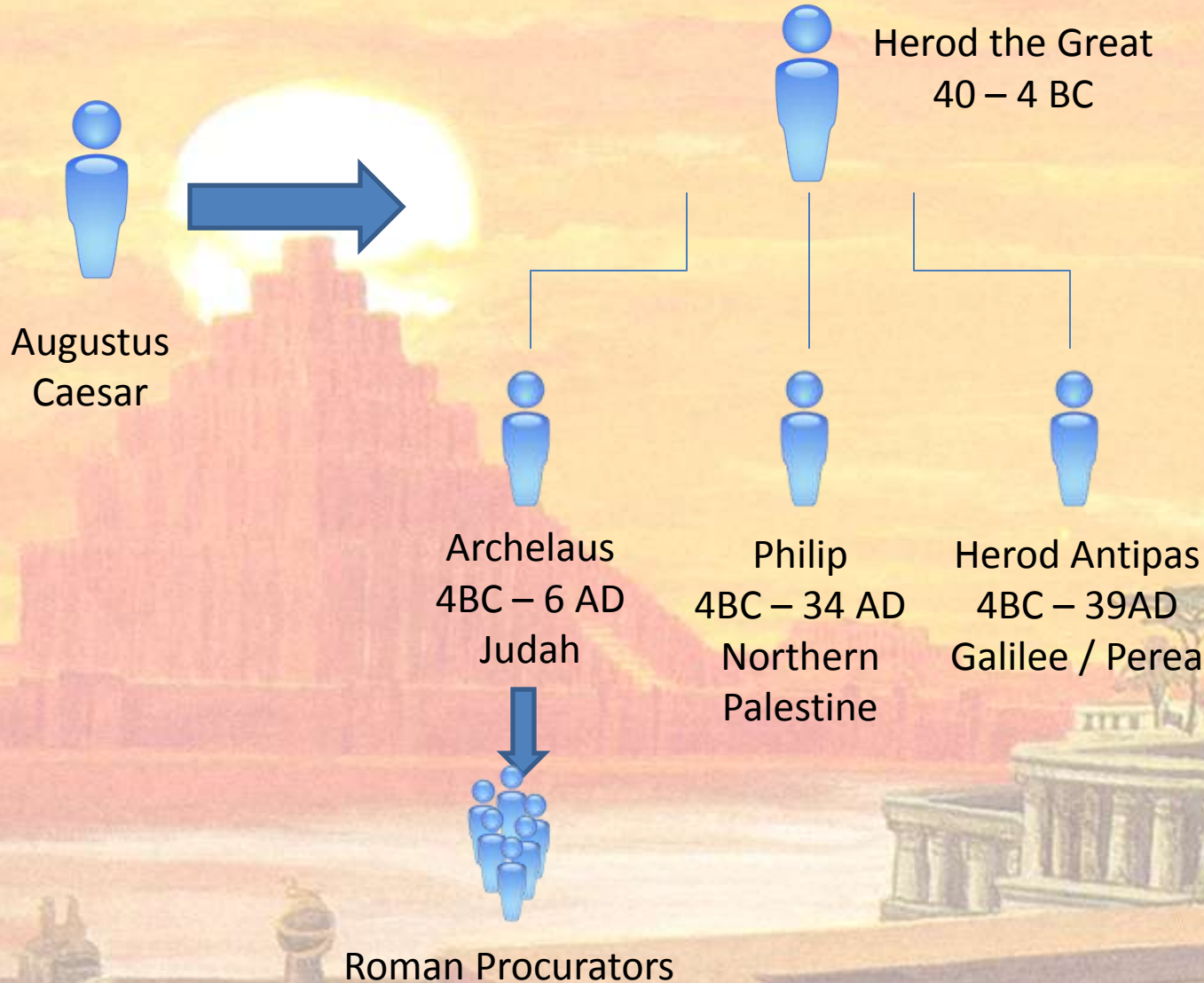
World Empires – Rome

Roman Procurators in the New Testament

Cuspius Fadus	44-46	
Tiberius Alexander	46-48	
Ventidius Cumanus	48-52	
Antonius Felix	52-59	Acts 23-24
Porcius Festus	59-61	Acts 24-27
Albinus	61-65	



Roman Empire in New Testament



Roman Empire in New Testament



Herod Agrippa I
37 – 44 AD

Herod was loved by the Jews

He tried to live according to their law

He was the brother of Herodias

- She was wife of Philip
- Later, wife of Antipas
- Granddaughter to Herod the Great

He killed James (Acts 12:1)

He died suddenly (Acts 12:20-23)



Roman Empire in New Testament



Herod Agrippa II
50 – 100 AD

Seventh and last King of the Herods

Had at least two sisters

- Drusilla, married to Felix
- Berenice, who Paul appeared before

He was “almost persuaded” to be a Christian
Jew by religion; Roman at heart

Fought with Titus against the Jews

Ultimately ended with destruction of Temple
Land renamed Palestine

