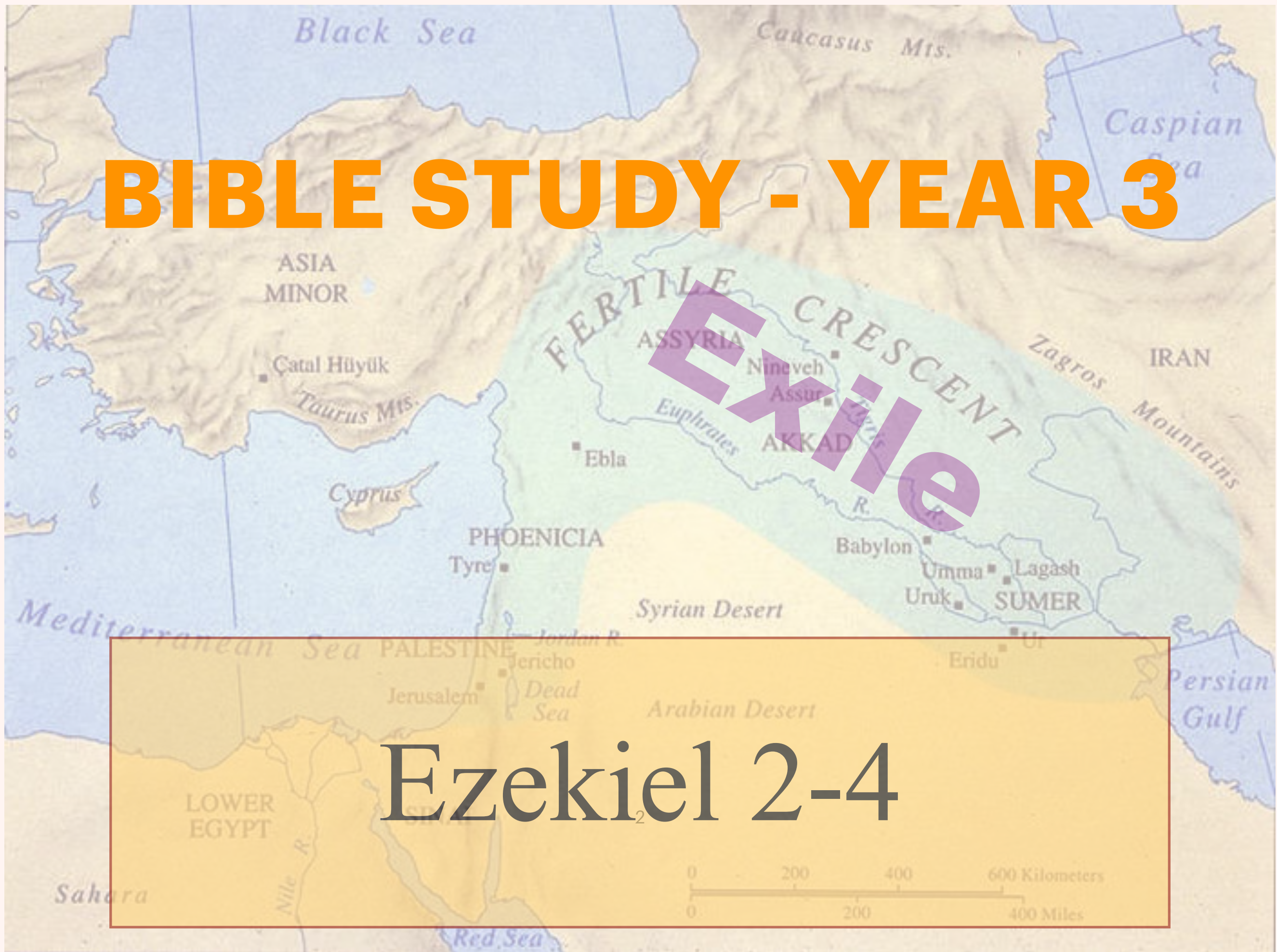




RECORDING THIS SESSION

BIBLE STUDY - YEAR 3

Ezekiel 2-4



Opening Prayer

St. Thomas Aquinas: Prayer before Study

creator of all things,
true Source of light and wisdom,
lofty origin of all being,
graciously let a ray of Your brilliance
penetrate into the darkness of my understanding
and take from me the double darkness
in which I have been born,
an obscurity of both sin and ignorance.
Give me a sharp sense of understanding,
a retentive memory,
and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally.
Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations,
and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm.
Point out the beginning,
direct the progress,
and help in completion;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

—St. Thomas Aquinas

High Holy Days?

Leviticus 23: - READ - 'this is your liturgical calendar'

- ♦ New Year's Day- *Rosh Hashanah* (Sept 15-17, 2023) - [5784]
 - ♦ 1st day of 7th month (Tishri)
 - ♦ Sabbath rest
- ♦ Day of Atonement - *Yom Kippur* (Sept 24-25, 2022)
 - ♦ 10th day of 7th month (Tishri)
 - ♦ Sabbath rest
- ♦ **Jews also include:**
 - ♦ The Ten Days of Remembrance *or* Days of Awe
 - ♦ = Rosh Hoshanah **through** Yom Kippur
 - ♦ Ask forgiveness from anyone they have wronged

SUKKOT

Feast of Booths

Feast of Tabernacles

Fri, Sep 29, 2023 – Fri, Oct 6, 2023

READ Leviticus 23:33-44

Sukkah



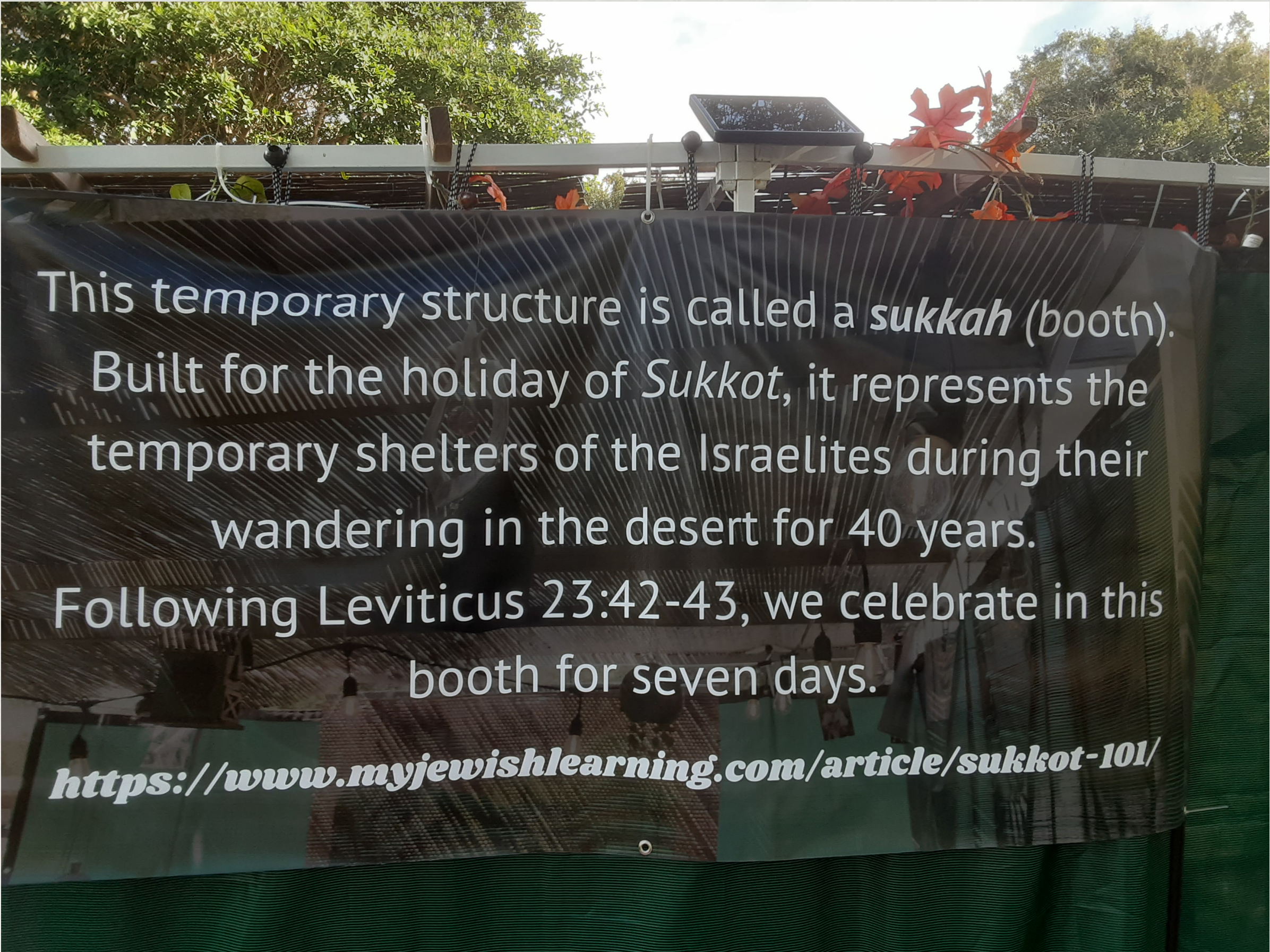
Courtesy of Kathy Lefferson

Rabbi Weintraub



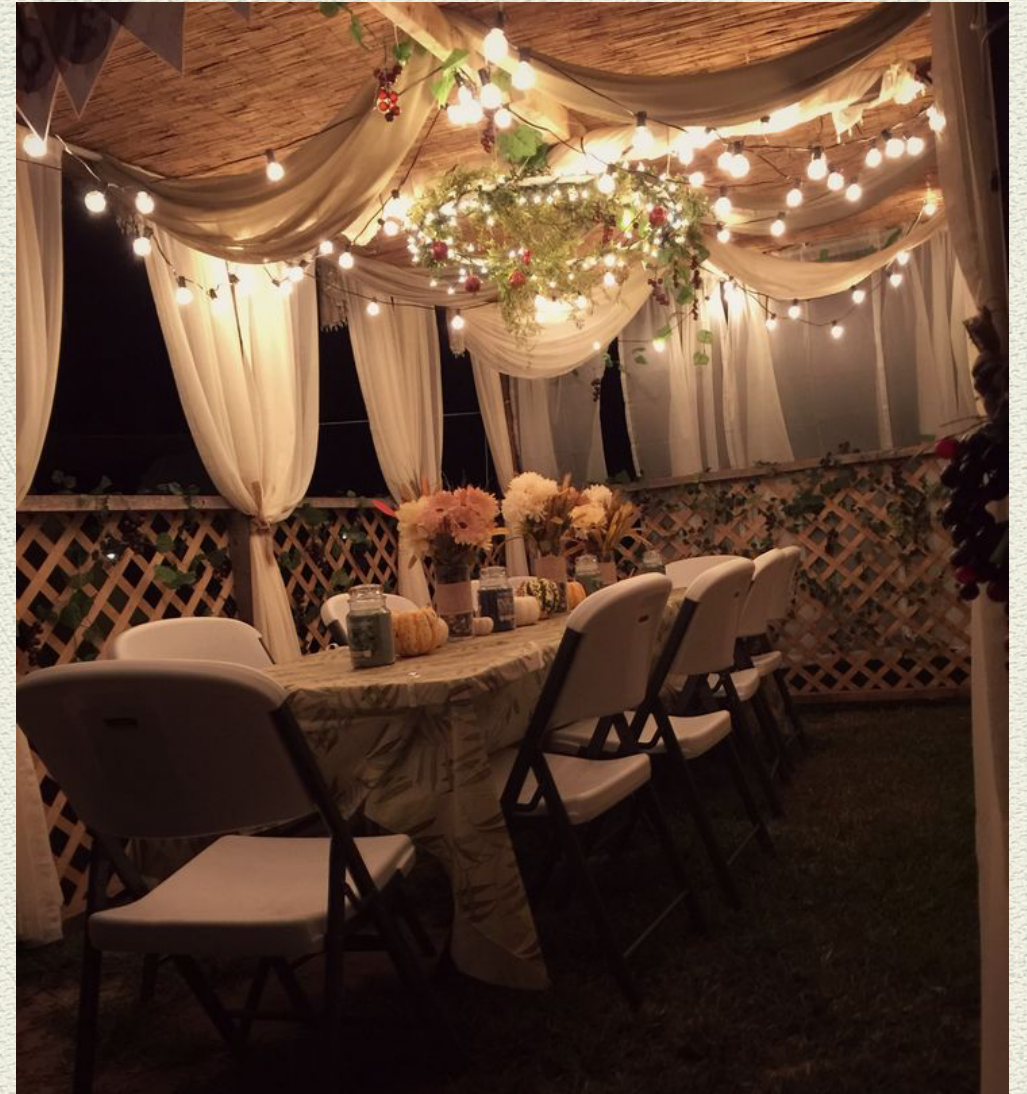


Courtesy of Kathy Lefferson



This temporary structure is called a *sukkah* (booth).
Built for the holiday of *Sukkot*, it represents the
temporary shelters of the Israelites during their
wandering in the desert for 40 years.
Following Leviticus 23:42-43, we celebrate in this
booth for seven days.

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/sukkot-101/>





Lev 23:40

hold and shake four species of plants:

- Lulav (palm fronds),
- myrtle,
- willow
- and ETROG = citron

**Jesus obediently traveled to Jerusalem
to celebrate Sukkot:**

John 7:1-2, 10





What is Sukkot? // How the Feast of Tabernacles Relates to Your Faith

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7okN0nGxAM4

Jewish holiday of Sukkot explained | CBS News

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zBS4M5C4R8



The Flight of the Prisoners (1896) by James Tissot; The exile of the Jews from Canaan to Babylon

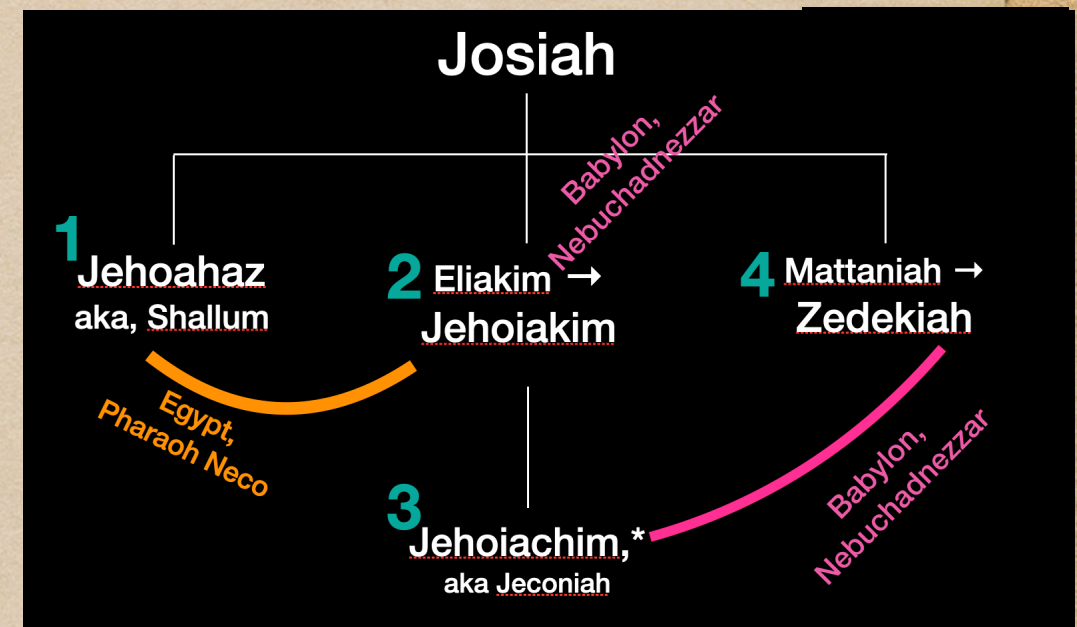


15

By the Waters of Babylon
Philip Hermogenes Calderon
1852

3 Deportations of Judah by Babylonians

- ♦ **Jeremiah 52:8-30**
- ♦ **First Deportation- 597BC**
 - ♦ 2 Kings 24:1-16
 - ♦ Incl: **Ezekiel**, Daniel
- ♦ **Second Deportation - 586 BC**
 - ♦ 2 Kings 24:20-25:21; Jer 39:1-10
 - ♦ Temple destroyed in 586 BC
- ♦ **Third Deportation - 581BC**
- ♦ ***Flight to Egypt (2 Kings 25:22-26; Jer 40-44).***



The Flight of the Prisoners (1896) by James Tissot;
The exile of the Jews from Canaan to Babylon





Enuma Elis

Epic on tablets

Enuma Elis

Chaos Monster and Sun God
Mesopotamia art

Mesopotamian god (with thunderbolts)
battles Gryphon ; often associated with
battle of Marduk vs Tiamat - story from
Enuma Elish





The Deluge tablet of the **Epic of *Gilgamesh*** in Akkadian



Gilgamesh and Enkidu slaying the Bull of Heaven. Neo-Assyrian, 8th/7th century BC. Source: bibleorigins.net

Book of Ezekiel



Ezekiel, as depicted by Michelangelo on the Sistine Chapel ceiling

Brief Introduction to APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

The 2 Apocalyptic Books of the Bible:

- Daniel
- Revelation - (*not plural*)

Their **source** material:

The Book of Ezekiel

Theophany

- ♦ An appearance of God
- ♦ Or a manifestation of the divine
 - ♦ Burning Bush
 - ♦ Thundering storm at giving of Ten Commandments
 - ♦ Cloud of smoke over Israel during the desert wanderings
 - ♦ The soft, gentle whisper Elijah heard while in the mountain cave

Anthropomorphism

- ♦ Way of describing God with human features
 - ♦ 3 Angels who met with Abraham
 - ♦ The angel with whom Jacob wrestled
 - ♦ Angels who spoke to Gideon and Samson's mom

Chapter 1

I. Call of the Prophet

- ♦ **The Vision: God on the Cherubim.**
- ♦ v1, “In the 30th year...” / v3 - priest
 - ♦ ??his age — office of priesthood
 - ♦ Ex, Num 4:23, 30 - Mosaic law
 - ♦ Luke 3:23 - Jesus
 - ♦ Parallel:
 - ♦ Ezekiel - heavens open
 - ♦ Jesus - heavens open
- ♦ While in Babylonian - **during exile**



Chebar River

Chapter 1

I. Call of the Prophet

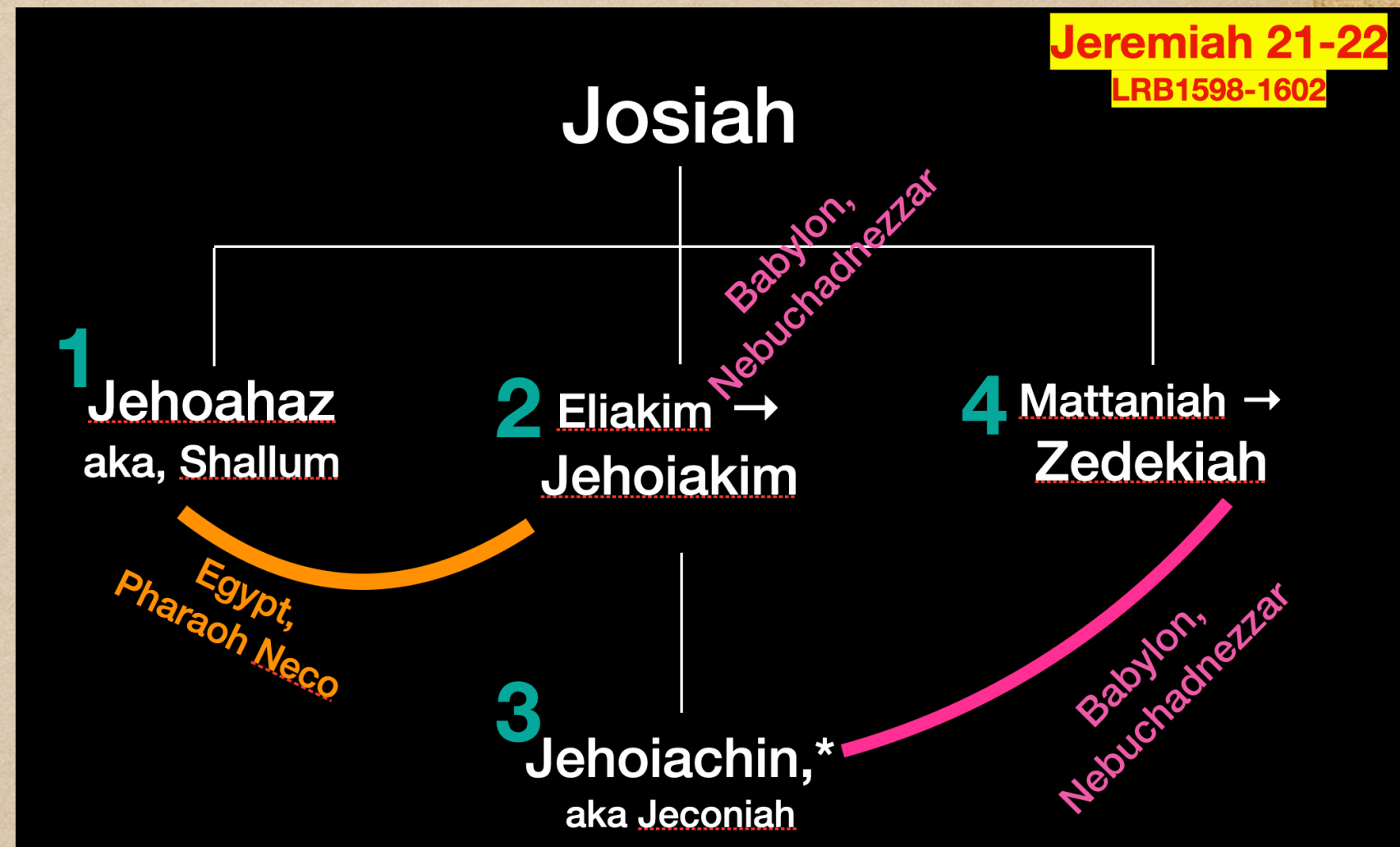
- ♦ **The Vision: God on the Cherubim.**

- ♦ Jehoiachin, 2nd to last king of Judah

- ♦ [Zedekiah was the last king]

- ♦ “Hand of the Lord” came to Ezekiel

- ♦ Elijah, 1 Kings 18:46



See (2 Kings 23 - 25)

2 Kings 24:1

2 Kings 24:8

2 Kings 24:18

Chapter 1

I. Call of the Prophet





- ♦ **The Vision: God on the Cherubim.**
- ♦ Theophany while near Chebar River
- ♦ Vision - storm/clouds/fire (like Exodus 19:16...) from North
- ♦ likeness of 4 creatures - human form, wings
 - ♦ v10, 4 faces on the head: human, lion, ox and eagle



TETRAMORPHS AND THE FOUR GOSPEL EVANGELISTS



A 13th-century ivory carving of Christ in Majesty surrounded by the creatures of the tetramorph, in the Musée de Cluny, Paris.

	Man	Lion	Calf	Eagle
Irenaeus (130–202) 	Matthew	John	Luke	Mark
Hippolytus of Rome (170–235)	Mark	Matthew	Luke	John
Victorinus of Pettau (d. 304)	Matthew	John	Luke	Mark ^[6]
Epiphanius (310–403)	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Chromatius of Aquileia (d. 407)	Matthew	John	Luke	Mark
Jerome (347–420) 	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Pseudo-Athanasius (c. 350)	Matthew	Luke	Mark	John
Ambrose (340–397)	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Augustine (354–430) 	Mark	Matthew	Luke	John
Primasius of Hadrumetum (d. 560)	Mark	Matthew	Luke	John
St Gregory the Great (540–604)	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Book of Kells (c. 800)	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Adam of St Victor (d. 1146)	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) 	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John

Tetramorphs in our Cathedral



ST. AMBROSE

Saw the Four Creatures as cardinal virtues:

- ♦ Prudence
- ♦ Justice
- ♦ Fortitude
- ♦ Temperance



The Tetramorph
of the Book of
Kells,
8th century.



Tetramorph



ALOE





Ezekiel's Vision (c. 1518)
painting by **Raphael** showing the
prophet Ezekiel's vision of God in
majesty.

Housed in the Palatine Gallery of
Palazzo Pitti, Florence.



Chapter 2

I. Call of the Prophet

- ♦ **Eating of the Scroll**
- ♦ v1, Voice: '**Son of man**' stand up, I wish to speak to you'

Son of Man

- ♦ In 2:1, simply, *man*
- ♦ 90 times in Ezekiel - stressing the smallness of man compared to the greatness of God
- ♦ Also - refers to all men - universally
- ♦ In Book of Daniel — will become a messianic title
- ♦ in Gospel of John - Jesus will use this expression often, speaking of His Incarnation - incorporating Isaiah's suffering servant into that title
- ♦ *More on 'Son of Man' later*

Chapter 2

I. Call of the Prophet

- ♦ **Eating of the Scroll**
- ♦ v1, Voice: 'Son of man' stand up, I want to speak to you
- ♦ v2, 'spirit entered into me...' [see FN]
 - ♦ ***God doesn't call the equipped; God equips the called.***
- ♦ v3, I am **sending you** to the Israelites — rebellious — stubborn (3:18, in Tel-Aviv)
- ♦ v6-7a, but don't fear them — speak what I tell you
- ♦ "Thus says the Lord..." - @130 times



Not Tel Aviv



Chapter 2

I. Call of the Prophet

- ♦ **Eating of the Scroll**
- ♦ v7b, Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you (cf. Jeremiah 15:16; John on Patmos, Rev 10:8-11 - **READ**)
 - ♦ Message becomes that of the prophet, just as food in the stomach is absorbed and becomes part of the human body
- ♦ v9, hand of God stretch out - *anthropomorphism*
- ♦ Handed him a scroll - unrolled it, writing on front and back:
 - ♦ - **'Lamentation, wailing, woe!'**



Chapter 3

I. Call of the Prophet

- ♦ **Eating of the Scroll**
- ♦ Told to 'eat the scroll,' then go to Israel at **Tel-abib**
 - ♦ Fill his belly with it
- ♦ so he did - sweet as honey (Rev 10:8-11)
- ♦ Israel ***should*** understand the words — they should know the covenant and the Law — but rebellious, stubborn
- ♦ READ v10 - 'into your heart'
- ♦ v11, speak — whether they decide to listen or refuse



Pope St. Gregory the Great



“The Holy Scriptures are food and drink to nourish us. The obscure pages, which cannot be understood unless further explanation be provided, are food, because everything must be explained in order to be properly understood, just as everything must be chewed in order to be swallowed. We do not chew what we drink: when the teaching is clear, we swallow it whole because we are in need of no further explanation. The prophet Ezekiel will hear difficult and obscure words, so he is told to eat the scroll, not to drink it, as if to say: ‘meditate on this teaching and understand it well.’” - (*Homiliae in Ezechielem prophets, 1, 10, 3*)

Chapter 3

I. Call of the Prophet

- ♦ **Eating of the Scroll**
- ♦ v12, then spirit lifted him, took him away
- ♦ v14, he was *angry and bitter* bc the hand of the Lord pressed hard on him (NRSV, "*bitterness in the heat of my spirit*")
 - ♦ *Has God ever nudged you so strongly?*
- ♦ Arrived in Tel-abib, near river Chebar
- ♦ Stayed with exiles x 7 days, *distraught*
- ♦ **At end of 7 days**, Lord spoke to Ez...



Chapter 3

I. Call of the Prophet

- ♦ **The Prophet as Sentinel**
- ♦ vv17-21, appointed a sentinel (soldier, guard that keeps watch)
 - ♦ When God speaks, Ez is to warn exiles
 - ♦ Note: to wicked: if you don't speak to them as I tell you, you will be responsible for their death
 - ♦ If the just turn from me, they will die. You will be responsible
 - ♦ If the just repent bc of your warning, you will save your own life
- ♦ Gist: **Prophet accountability**— he must be completely obedient to his call to be a prophet and do exactly what God tells him — else he bears the responsibility of the consequences the people face, and he himself may die
 - ♦ He is accountable to God, not the people (also, 33:9)
 - ♦ Cf, Matt 28:18-20, mission of all Christians

Sunday Mass Readings

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

September 10, 2023

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/091023.cfm>

Ezekiel 33:7-9
Matthew 18:15-20

Chapter 3

I. Call of the Prophet

- ♦ **Ezekiel Mute**
 - ♦ God places Ez in seclusion in his house
 - ♦ v25, informs Ez that he will be bound,
-
- ♦ **Literal:** The physical and vocal restraints are to reinforce that the prophet is to go and to speak — **only when God sends him and gives him what to say.**
 - ♦ **Non-literal:** muteness is a restraint placed on Ez
 - ♦ Speak only from his home
 - ♦ Speak only the words commanded by God

Recall the great Call Stories

- ♦ Abraham
- ♦ Moses
- ♦ Gideon
- ♦ Samson
- ♦ Samuel
(Hannah)
- ♦ Saul
- ♦ David
- ♦ Solomon
- ♦ Hosea
- ♦ Amos
- ♦ Isaiah
- ♦ Jeremiah
- ♦ Ezekiel

Chapter 4

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Acts Symbolic of Siege and Exile**
 - ♦ Remember, Ezekiel had been part of first deportation
- ♦ vv1-3, on brick - draw Jerusalem; set iron plate between you and brick
- ♦ Press against it
- ♦ Sign for Israel: under siege
- ♦ v4, Lie on left side 390 **days** ➡ 390 **years** of punishment for the guilt of Israel
- ♦ v6, Lie on right side 40 **days** ➡ 40 **years** of punishment for the guilt of Judah
- ♦ v7, Prophecy against Jerusalem!
- ♦ 8, Ez bound with cords - so he has to comply

Chapter 4

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ Acts Symbolic of Siege and Famine
- ♦ v9, READ - Make Ezekiel Bread

WAIT!!



Chapter 4

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

♦ **RECALL TORAH:**

- ♦ Leviticus 19:19
 - ♦ Deuteronomy 22:9-11
 - ♦ Deuteronomy 23:12-14
 - ♦ Leviticus 22:8, 7:18
- ♦ Exiles would be subject to unclean foods — and be in an unclean state — during the exile
- ♦ They had abandoned Torah (by choice) — now they had not choice but to live in an unholy fashion
 - ♦ Their hearts (by choice) had been separated from God
 - ♦ Now they are completely separated from his presence -they had to live like the pagans
 - ♦ The only way to reconcile to God: was to repent, wait for God's mercy (which he desires to offer to those with a contrite heart)



Chapter 4

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem



- ♦ **Acts Symbolic of Siege and Exile**
- ♦ Make Ezekiel bread - eat it while on left side, 390 days
 - ♦ God is giving them what they want - consuming physically what they have been consuming spiritually —
 - ♦ And they have to consume it bc of their state - starvation in exile
 - ♦ By eating this, they realize how much they have sinned
- ♦ v10-11, Food rationed (=famine): 20 shekels(@8 oz) /day, water 1/6 of hin (@2 pints) at specified times. (Prob very hot, thirsty)
- ♦ v12, Bake it on human dung/feces (as fuel) — meaning the people of Israel will live like the pagan Babylonians while in exile
- ♦ Ez objects! READ v14, — so God changes to cow dung.
- ♦ vv16-17, “Mortal...” the exiles will be limited in their food - and waste away- as punishment for their sins/guilt

Chapter 4

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ◆ **Historical context is important**



Next Week

- ♦ Ezekiel 5 - 12, Warnings for Jerusalem
- ♦ Watch Videos on Apocalyptic Literature - if have not yet watched

Closing Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who
trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Father,
you illumine the night
and bring the dawn to scatter
darkness.
Let us pass this night in safety,
free from Satan's power,
and rise when morning comes
to give you thanks and praise.
We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
— Amen.

Closing Prayer

May the Lord + bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.
— Amen.