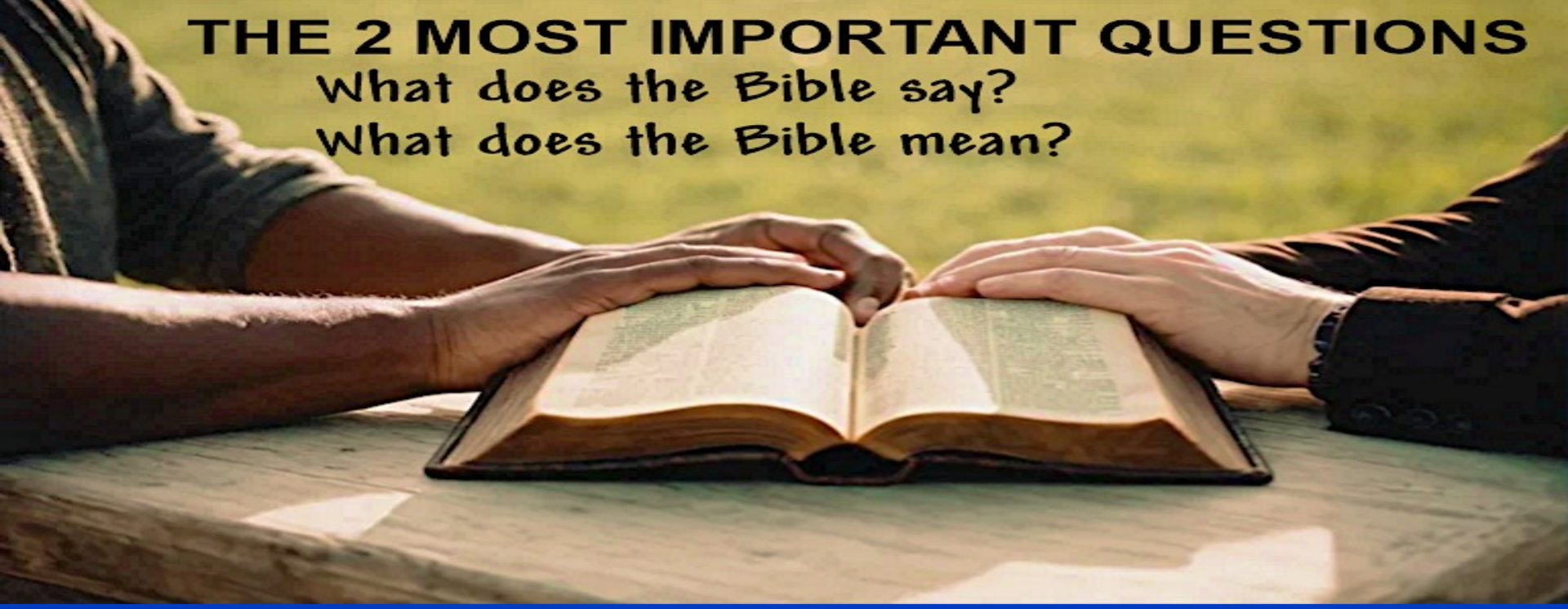
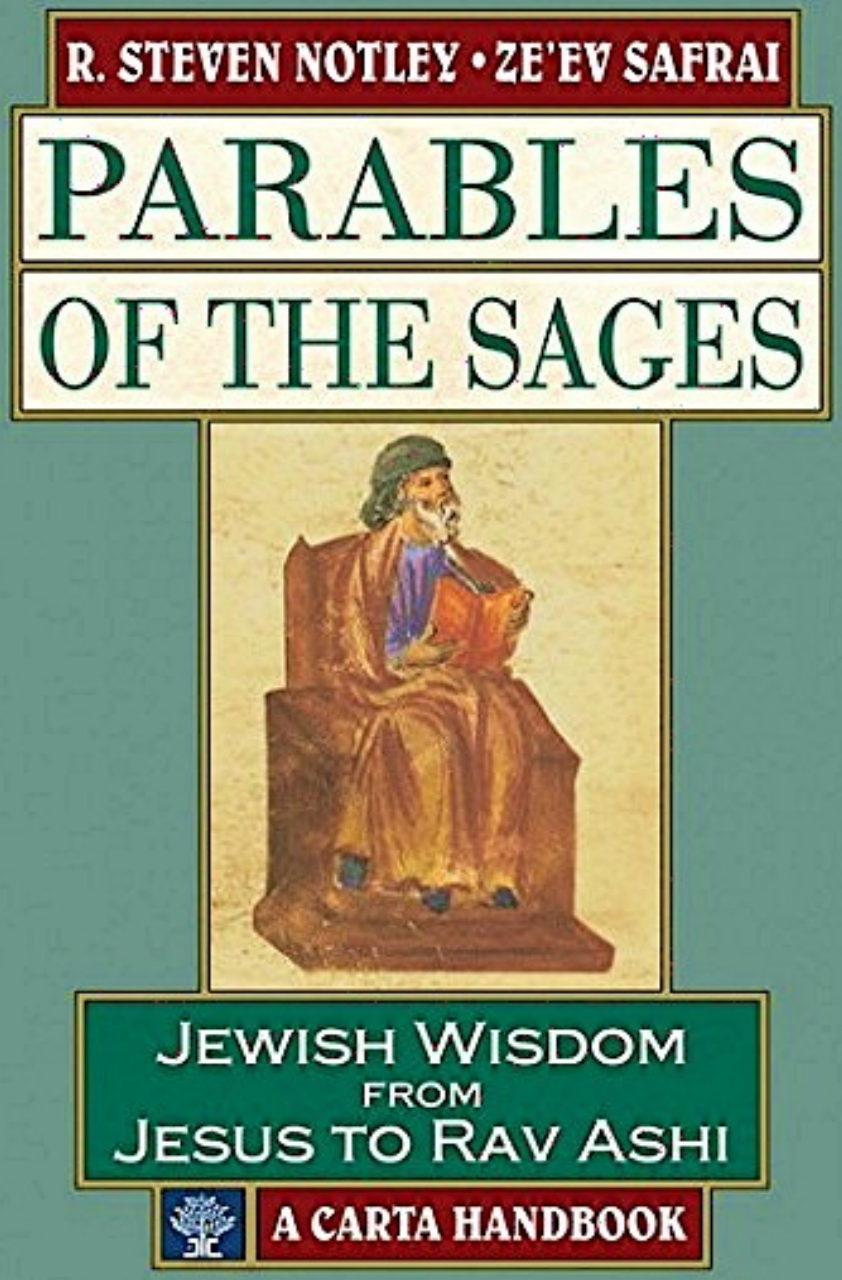
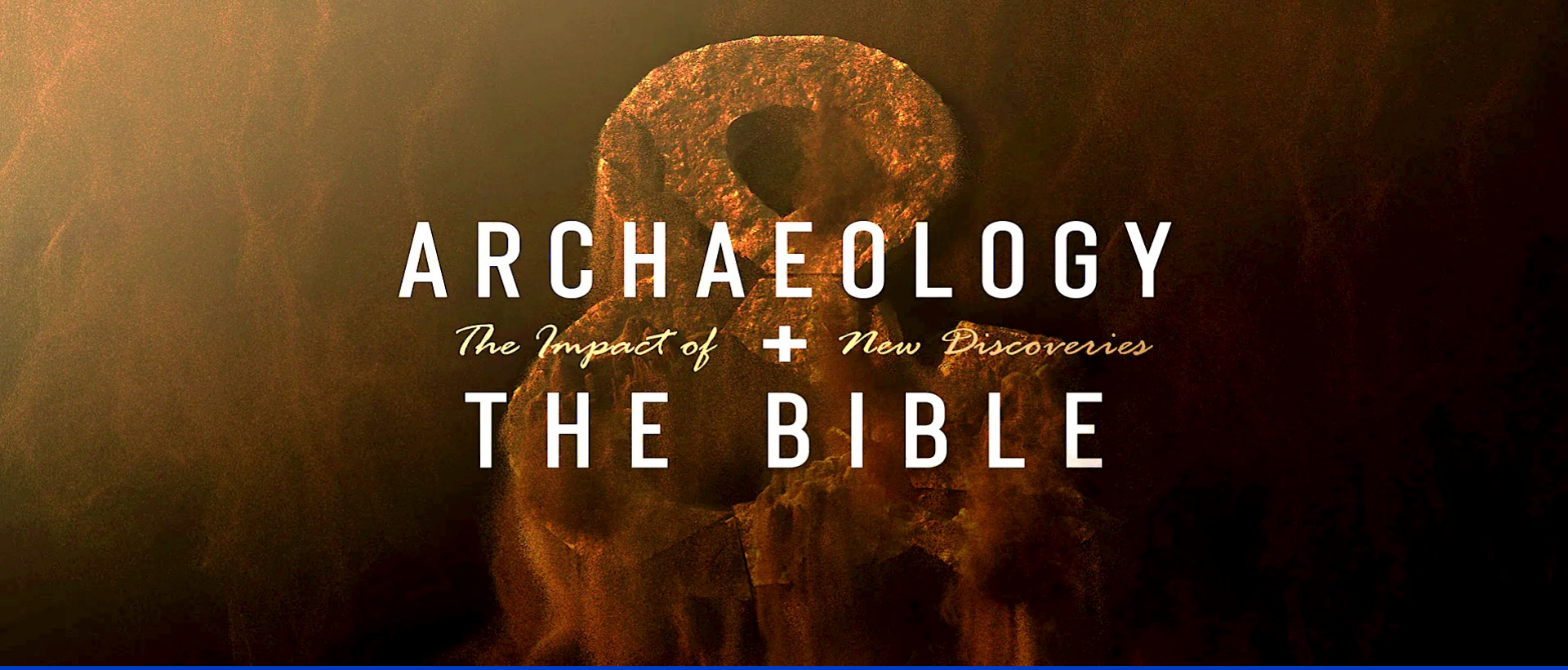


- Accurately understanding Nahum is complex
- When studying the Bible and especially the Prophets, the info is there but accessing its meaning is the key
- It boils down to transferring info from the past to the present
- Duane L. Christensen: it ***"demonstrates how apparent cryptic information was in the ancient texts and why…"***



- Others of the Minor Prophets were also affected by what we will discuss
- Jewish Parables must be read a certain way
- Parables require "eye discipline"
- The same issue applies to the Prophets especially to those just before and after Nahum
- We must also learn to see things that one would not normally notice

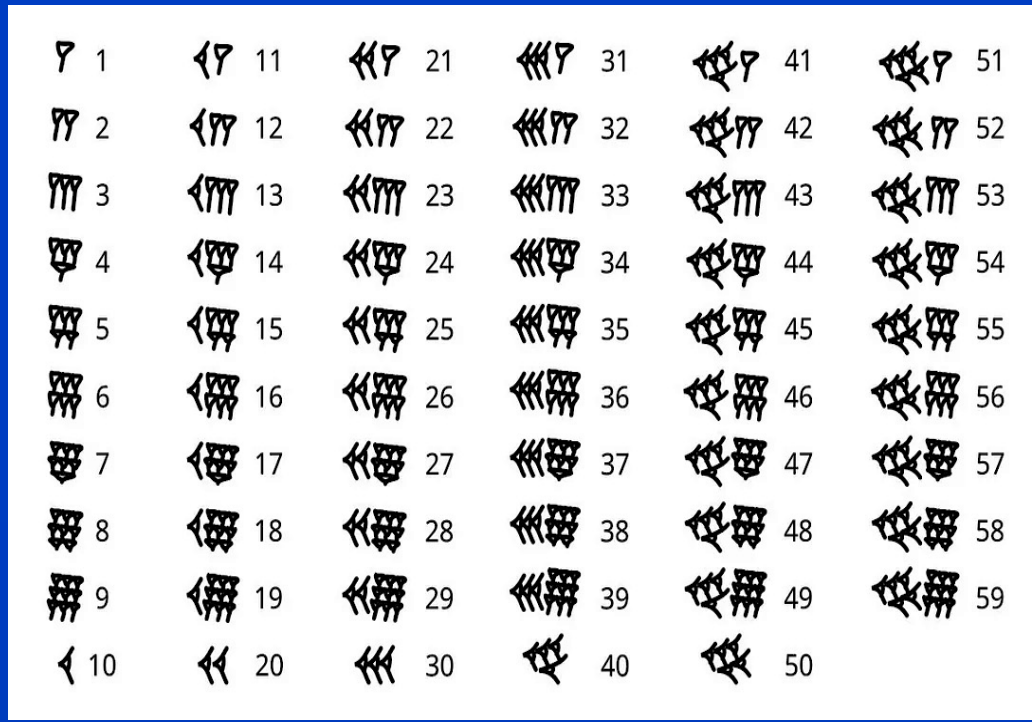


- Let's try to discover the ***why*** of what the ancients did and thought in order to best recover what they meant
- Why was poetry used? Why is Hebrew poetry different? Where did the literature styles come from?
- The Prophets tended to imbed clues sometimes unintentionally, sometimes intentionally

- Scientific Age began in the 1500's AD
- Study disciplines like math, theology, astronomy, history and medicine were fully intertwined in ancient days, unlike in modern times
- Babylonians and Sumerians advanced methodologies in discovering underpinnings of a synchronized harmony of the Universe

BASE-60 Math

- Numbers were thought to be signs & omens
- Babylonians developed the base-60 system
- In modern times, we use base-10, the decimal system
- Base-60 counts, multiplies and divides in units of 60
- Base-10 counts, multiplies and divides in units of 10
- Compasses, geometry, and time still use Base-60



MUSICA UNIVERSALIS

- Pythagoras blended math, geometry and music
- What the Babylonians and Greeks knew spread into the Hebrew world
- Most Hebrew Prophets used Scribes who were specially skilled in literature and writing

ACROSTIC

1 אֵיכָה | יָשְׁבָה בָדָד הָעִיר

2 בָּכוֹ תִבְכֶּה בַּלַּיְלָה וְדִמְעָ

3 גָּלְתָה יְהוּדָה מֵעֹנִי וּמֵרֹב

First letter of Hebrew alphabet

Second letter

Third letter

b. Hebrew Poetry: Nature and Structure

(1) Rhythm and Sound

*Alliteration (beginning sounds)

*Assonance (vowel sounds)

* Play on Words

* Rhythm (meter)

Hermeneutical Significance:

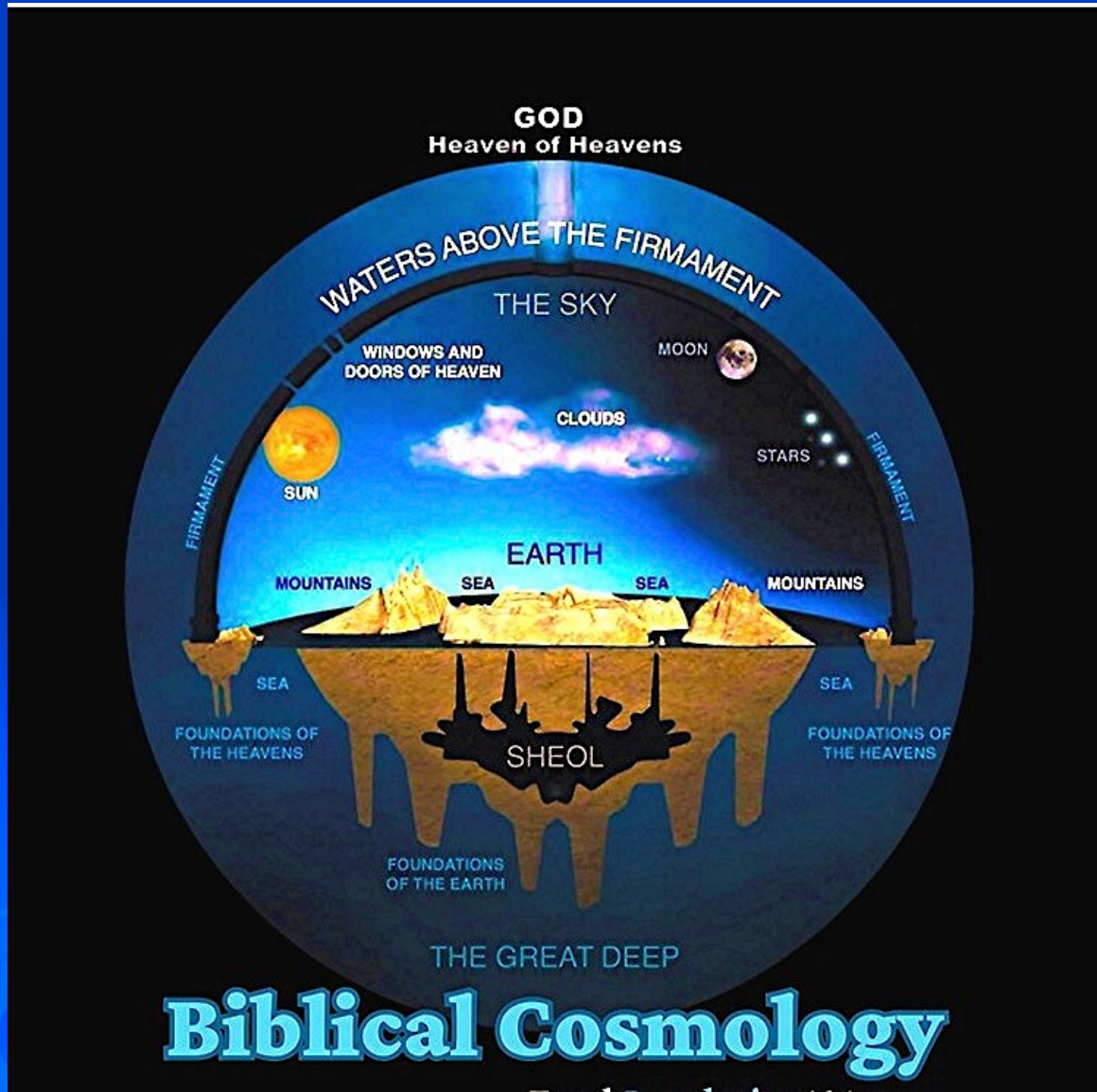
Relationship of word choice to form

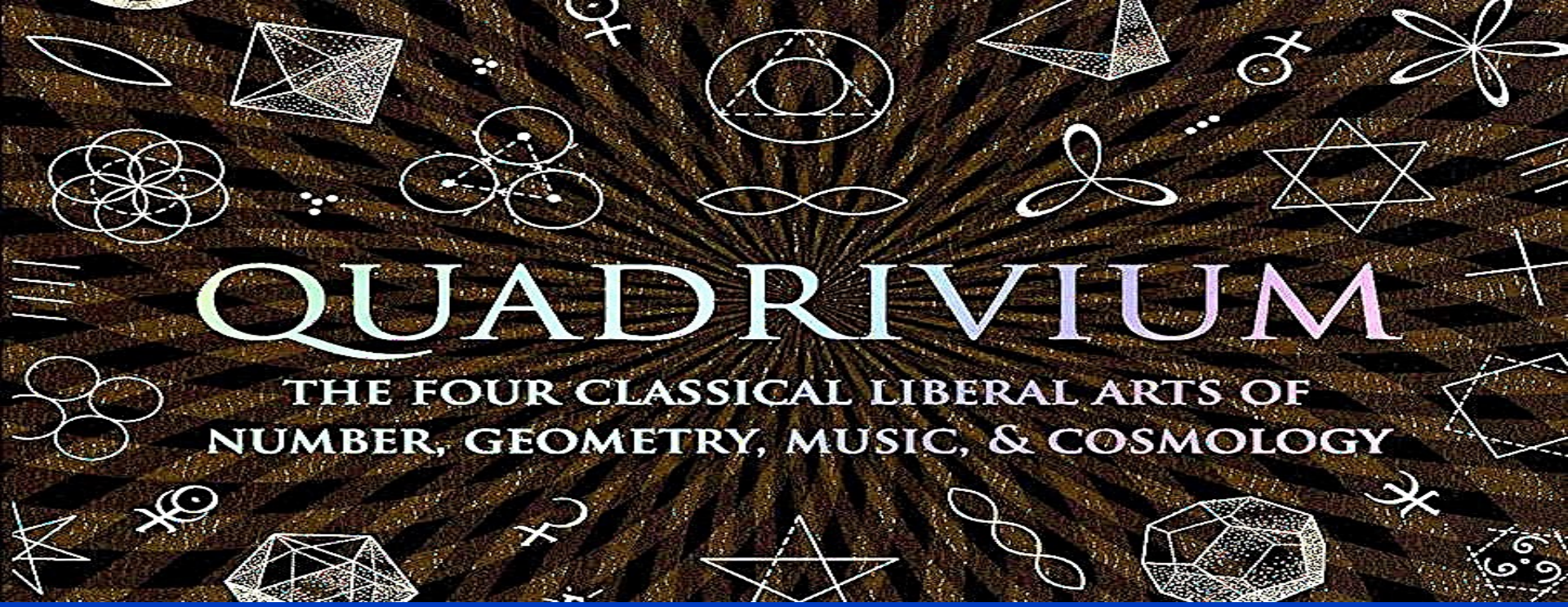
LITERARY TECHNIQUES

- Telestich like acrostic except uses the LAST letter in a word
- Western literature reflects our own cultural background
- The Magi came from Babylonia and used base-60 calculations of the sky to determine when and where they should go (not theology)

HOW ANCIENTS SAW THE WORLD

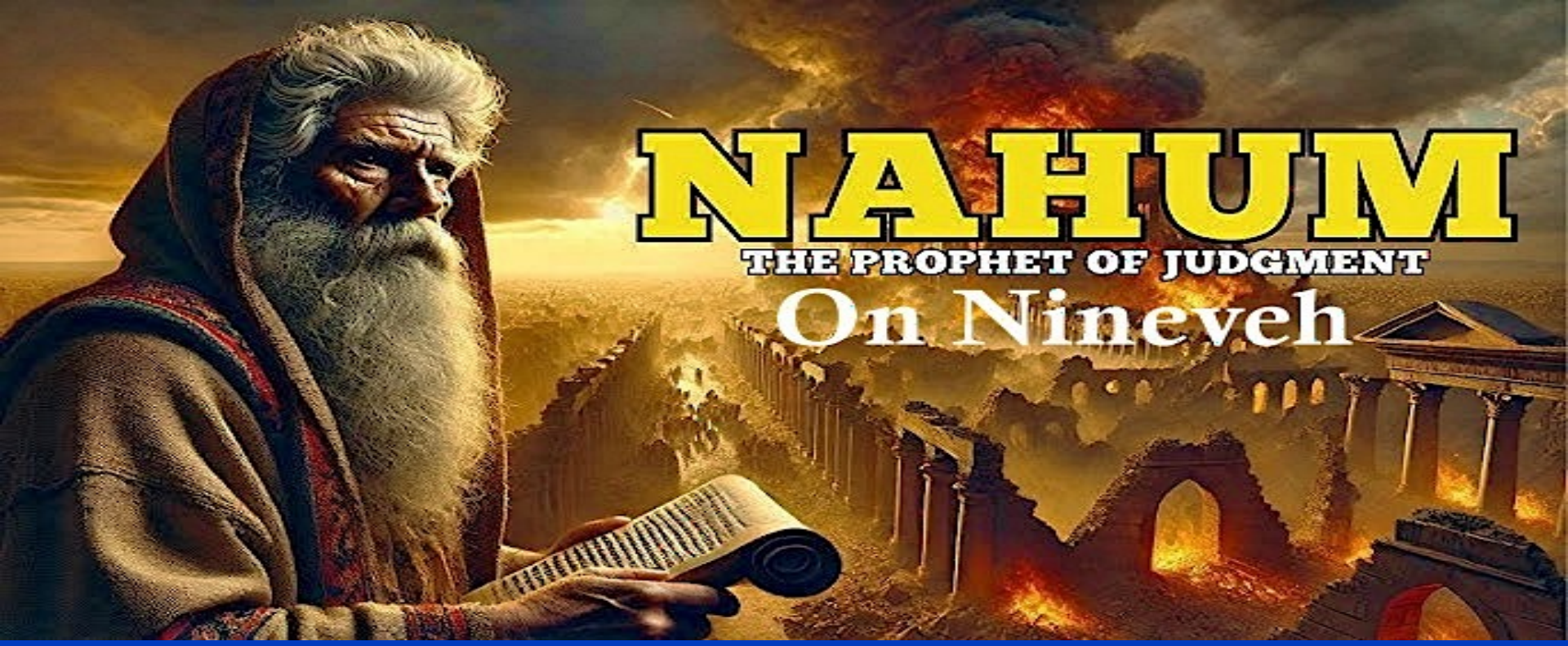
- A deep mysterious link between music, math, and celestial motion
- Much of this was wrapped in pagan god mythologies
- Music affects people
- Music is only vibrations of disrupted air flow
- But, music was woven into ancient belief systems



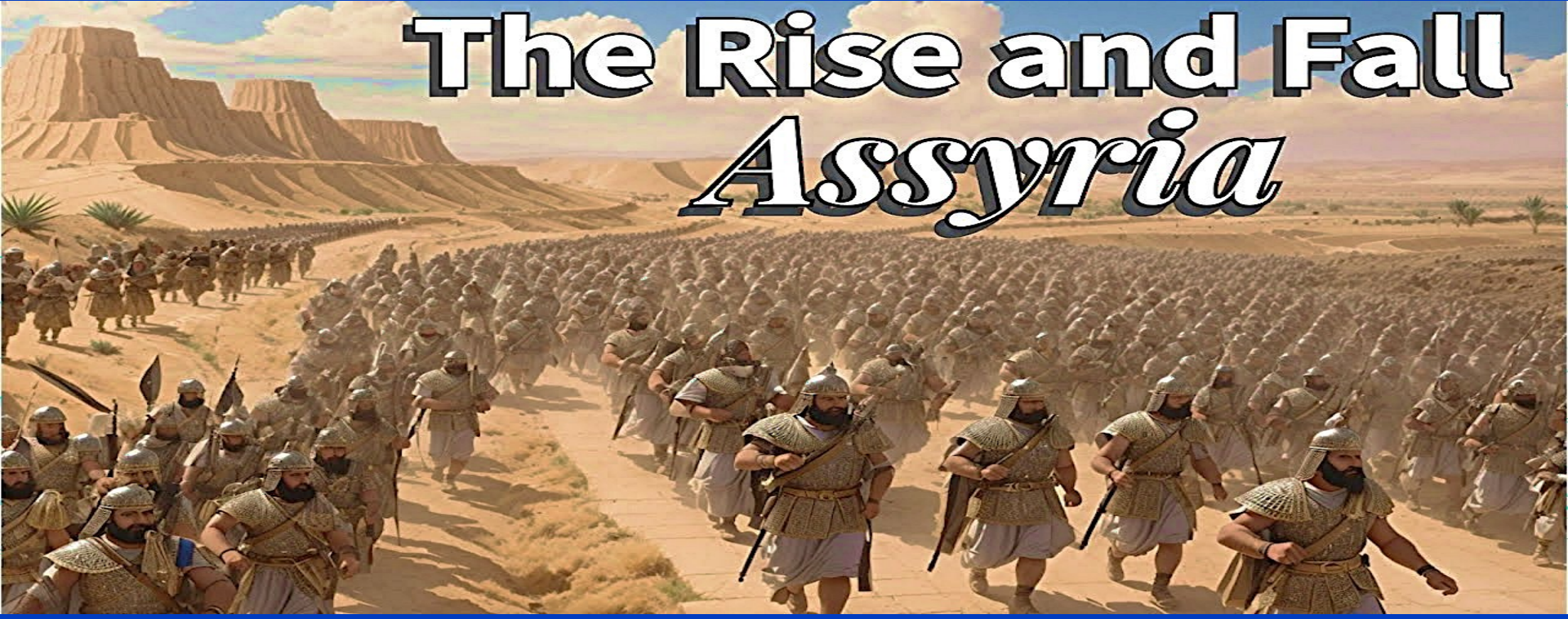


- Pythagoras discovered musical intervals corresponding to whole-number ratios: Octave 2:1 Perfect fifth 3:2 Fourth 4:3
- This was not only how music became structured, but also affected prose, poem and song
- Poetry reflects a definite mathematical, rhythmic and musical order

- These strange literary methods used in Psalms, Proverbs, Lamentations, and Prophets
- There was hidden meaning in the structure of how these books were written down
- God > Prophet > Scribe > Reader
- Nahum is the prime example of complexities of Hebrew literature



- No one knows who Nahum was
- During the 7th century B.C. Assyria dominated
- Nineveh the capital of Assyria, also called Asshur
- Nahum prophesied in the mid-600's B.C.
- Assyria was noted for its savagery, brutality, and cruelty



- Most scholars say Assyria fell on 612 B.C.
- Babylon and the Medes attacked Nineveh
- Invasions often took years since fighting was seasonal according to the weather
- Nations who defy God's basic morality through violence, atrocities, oppressions, and greed will face His wrath at some point