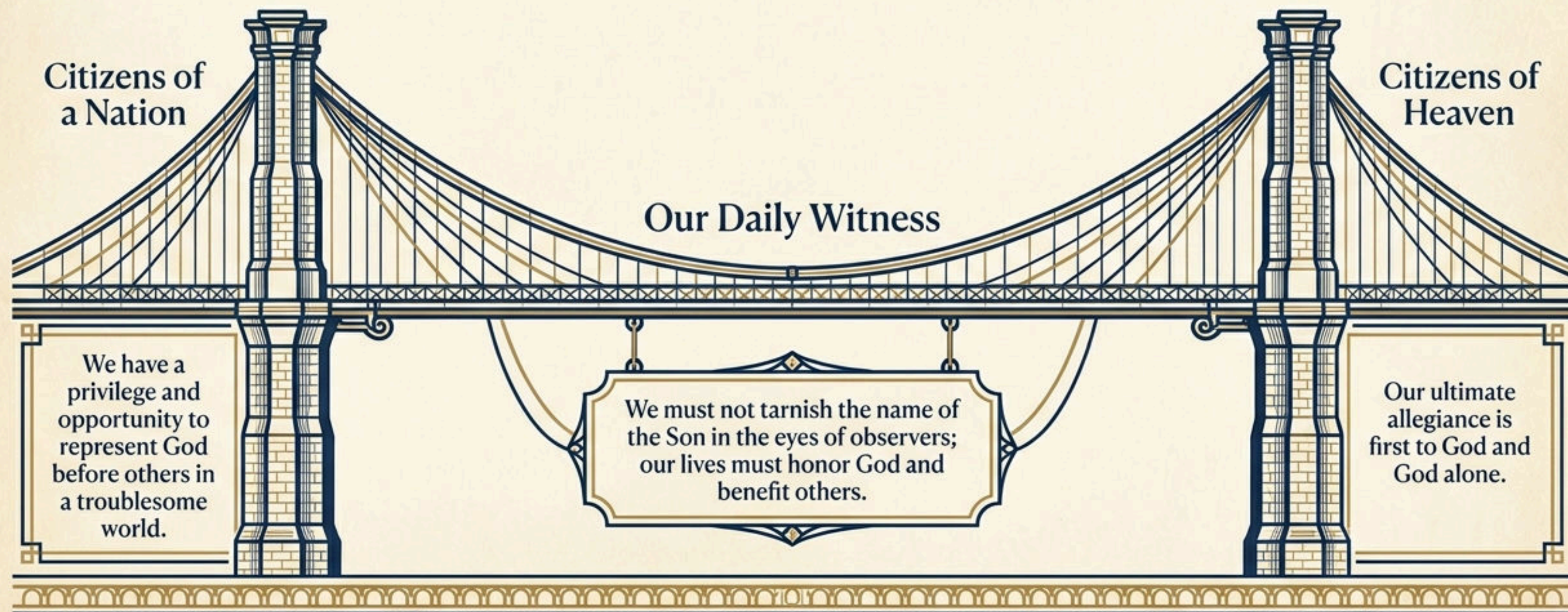


Providence and the Paradox of Earthly Power

An exploration of divine sovereignty, earthly leadership, and the stabilizing reality of our dual citizenship.

Navigating the tension of dual allegiance

As people gravitate toward political extremes, a nation divided breeds anxiety. The Christian response requires balancing two distinct realities.



A nation's best protection is respect and love for God

**“Blessed is the nation
whose God is the Lord.”**

— Psalm 33:12

Perfect Plans

God has had a purpose for this world from the beginning. A blessed (happy) nation bases its existence on God's design, not just human aspirations.

Perfect Knowledge

God rules from heaven and controls all things. He did not simply create the world and walk away; He actively uses both good and bad rulers to carry His plans forward.



True leadership bows to a greater power

During the brutal winter of 1777–1778, the fragile American army was freezing and lacking shoes. The nation was more a dream than a reality.

The Posture

George Washington is most powerful on his knees... bowing to a greater power who can fill his life with true leadership.

— Carlos Campo, Museum of the Bible

The Reality

Faithfulness to an omniscient God was not a lofty philosophy, but a living reality tested on a literal battlefield.

Divine protection beyond human probability

July 1755: The Battle of the Monongahela



Washington's age during the harrowing battle.

23



Number of horses shot and killed underneath him.

2

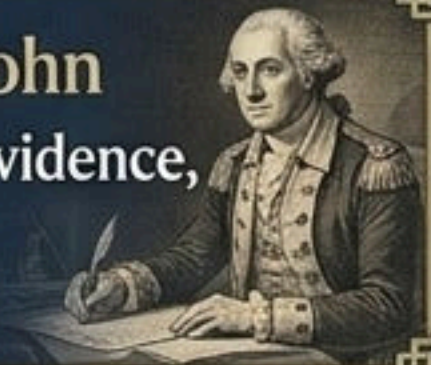


Number of bullets that passed directly through his coat.

4

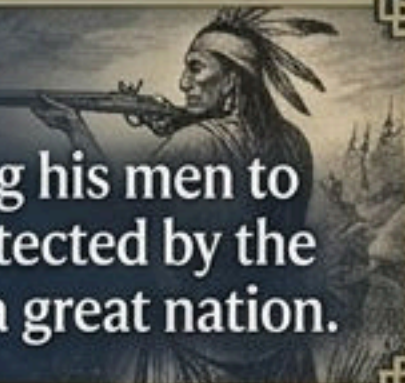
Washington's Letter to Brother John

"By the all powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability... yet I escaped unhurt."



The Enemy Marksman

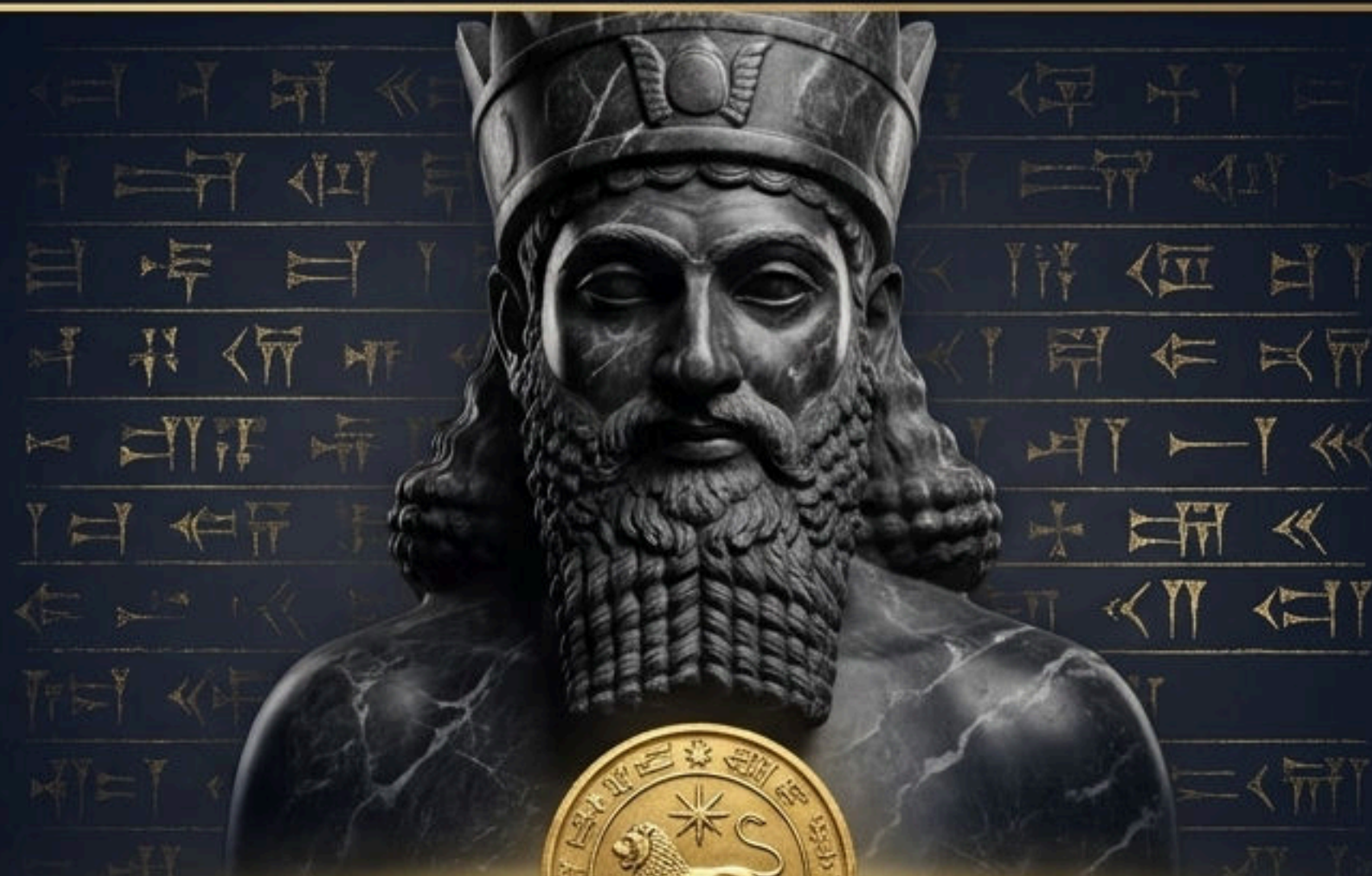
An Indian chief later confessed to ordering his men to stop firing, realizing Washington was 'protected by the great spirit above' and destined to father a great nation.



A profile in weaponized authority and mental decline

Executive Profile (Redacted)

- ✓ - Held public office for over four decades.
- ✓ - Weaponized power to arrest and imprison political enemies.
- ✓ - Abandoned legal advisers to their fate when they landed in trouble.
- ✓ - Exploited by a "deep state" inner circle signing documents blindly.
- ✓ - Suffered severe public mental decline: staring blankly, drooling, wandering aimlessly left to right.



**Identity Revealed:
King Nebuchadnezzar
of Babylon**

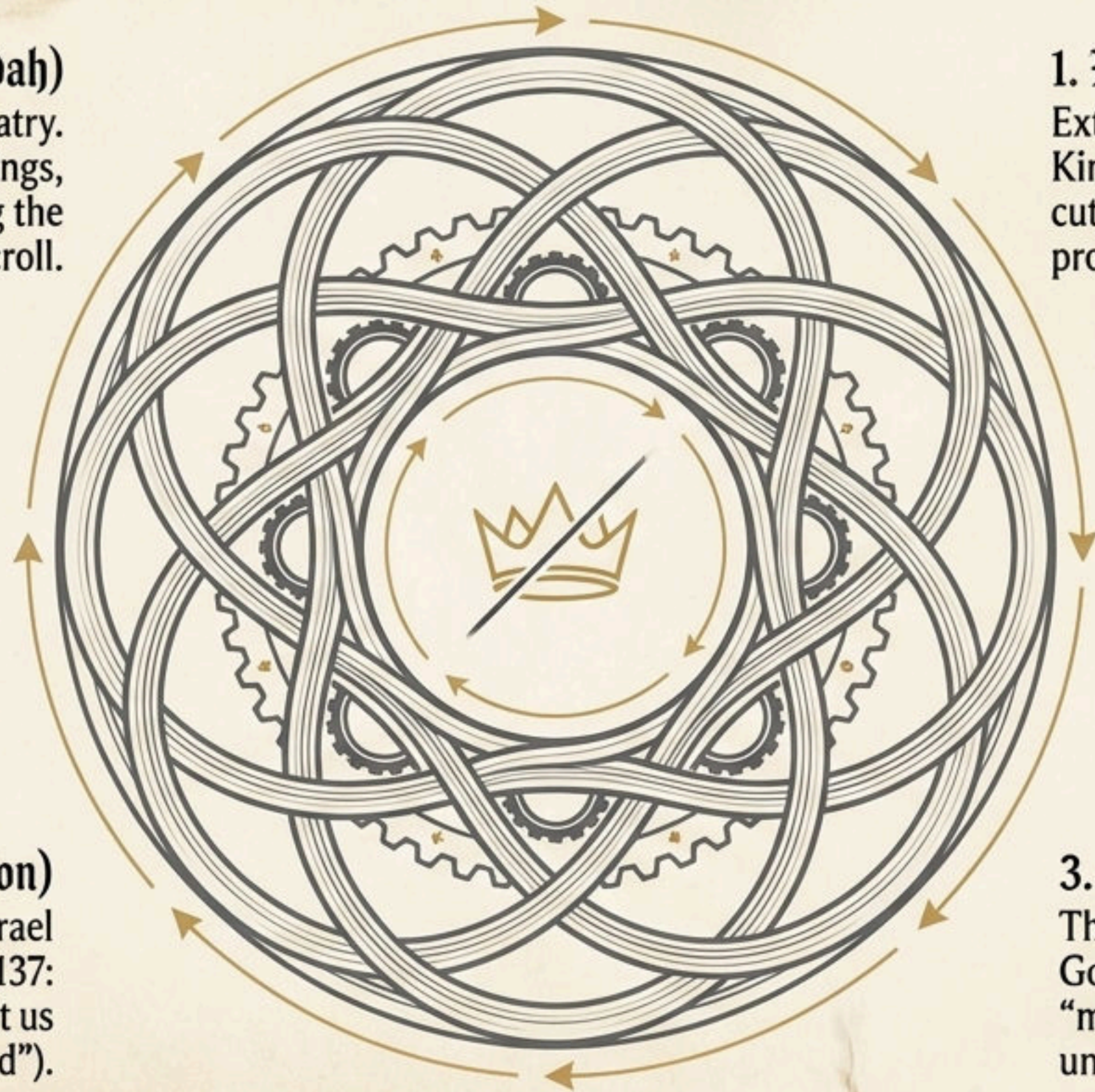
The cycle of discipline and spiritual restoration

1. Rebellion (Judah)

Extreme godless idolatry.
King Zedekiah ignores warnings,
cutting up and burning the
prophet Jeremiah's scroll.

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4. Repentance (Restoration)

Stripped of their homeland, Israel
finally recognizes their sin.
(Psalm 137: weeping by the
rivers of Babylon; Lamentations 3:
"Let us turn back to the Lord").

2. Judgment (597 BC)

Nebuchadnezzar invades.
Zedekiah is forced to watch his
sons slaughtered before being
blinded and shackled in bronze.

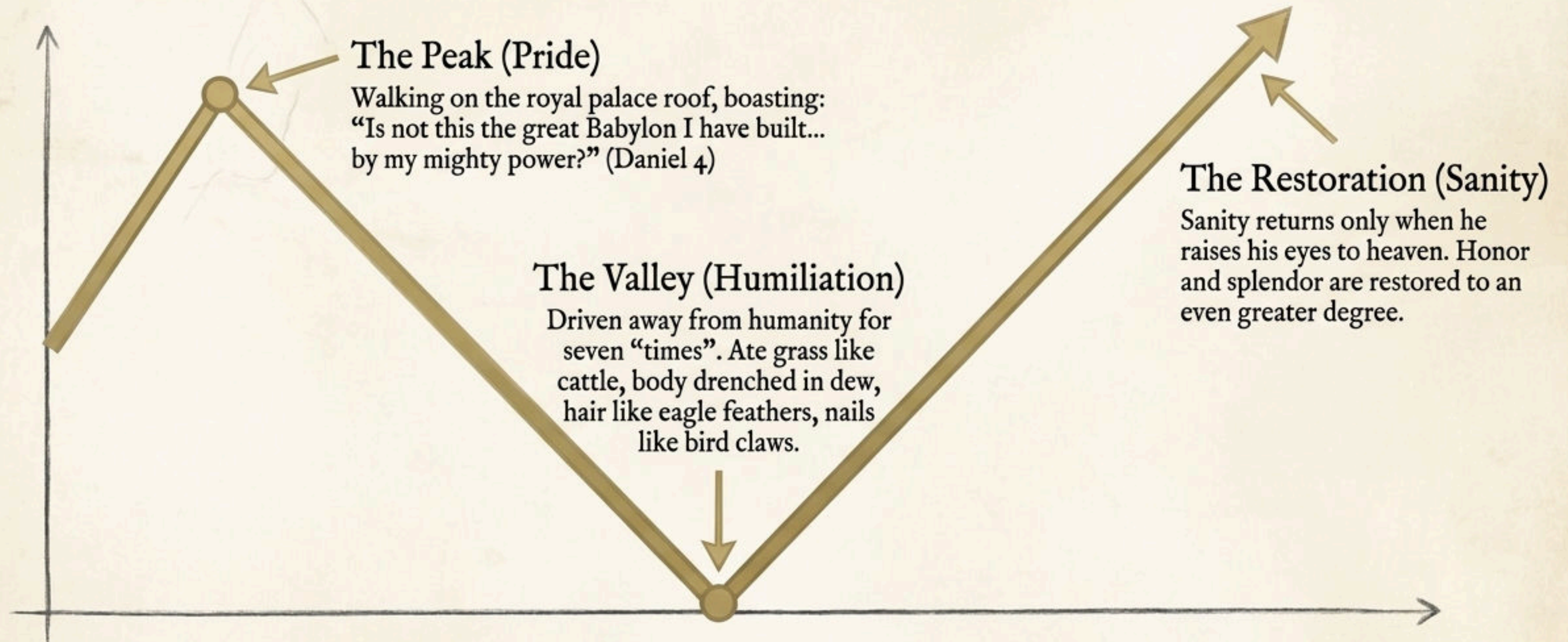
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Babylon; Lamentations 3: "Let us
turn back to the Lord").

3. Captivity (Babylon)

The Israelites are exiled for 70 years.
God explicitly calls Nebuchadnezzar
"my servant" (Jeremiah 25:9) as an
unwitting tool of discipline.

The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men



Takeaway: Nebuchadnezzar’s final conclusion: “Everything He does is right... and those who walk in pride He is able to humble.” Nebuchadnezzar was never truly in charge.

A profile in erratic dictatorship and public corruption

Executive Profile (Redacted)

- ✓ Booted political rivals out of government.
- ✓ Weaponized the justice system against enemies.
- ✓ Drained the national treasury to finance grandiose building projects and a lavish lifestyle.
- ✓ Exhibited behavior so erratic the Senate attempted to strip his authority.



Identity Revealed: Roman Emperor Nero

Came to power at age 16. Committed suicide at 30. Impacted the world for 14 years.

The Apostolic Protocol counteracts the human instinct to rebel

Context: Nero executed Christians by the tens of thousands. The human instinct would be to form militias, stage a coup, or complain bitterly.

The Human Instinct



Rebellion, violence, and political vengeance against a corrupt and deadly regime.



The Divine Instruction

The Apostle Paul (1 Timothy 2): “Pray for all people... pray for kings and all who are in authority so we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness.”

The Apostle Peter (1 Peter 2): “Place yourselves under the authority of human governments... Obey the emperor.”

The Core Rationale: How could they take this seemingly spineless position? Because Paul and Peter knew Nero was not actually in charge. God is.

The overarching constant across all earthly authority

The Leader	Earthly Character	God's Hidden Purpose	The Takeaway
Washington	Righteous / Humble	Birthing a nation	God grants victory
Nebuchadnezzar	Arrogant / Violent	Disciplining a rebellious people	God humbles the proud
Nero	Erratic / Corrupt	Demonstrating the endurance of the Church	God outlasts the wicked
Lincoln	Reflective / Repentant	Calling a nation back to its knees	God demands remembrance

The single constant variable in history: No leader on the face of the earth has ever truly been in charge.

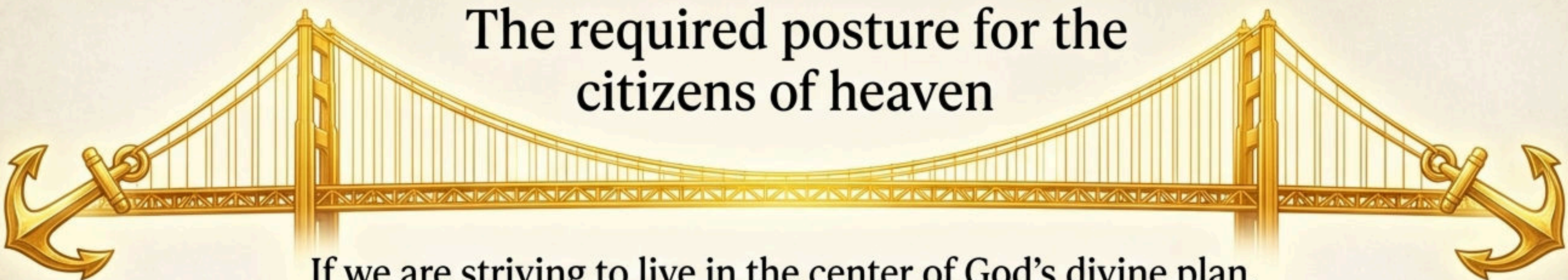
“The danger of becoming intoxicated with unbroken success

April 30, 1863: President Abraham Lincoln issues a proclamation for a national day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer.

The Blessing “We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven... grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown.”

The Failure “But we have forgotten God... we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.”

The Result “Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient... too proud to pray to God who made us.”



The required posture for the citizens of heaven

If we are striving to live in the center of God's divine plan, there is nothing to fear. God rules.

Humble Ourselves

Recognize the necessity of redeeming grace, echoing Lincoln's call to confess national sins.

Pray Without Ceasing

Adopt the Apostolic Protocol to pray for all leaders, seeking peaceful and quiet lives.

Trust the Sovereignty

Rest in the absolute certainty that no human leader can thwart the purposes of the Most High.

“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves... I will come and heal their land.”

— 2 Chronicles 7:14