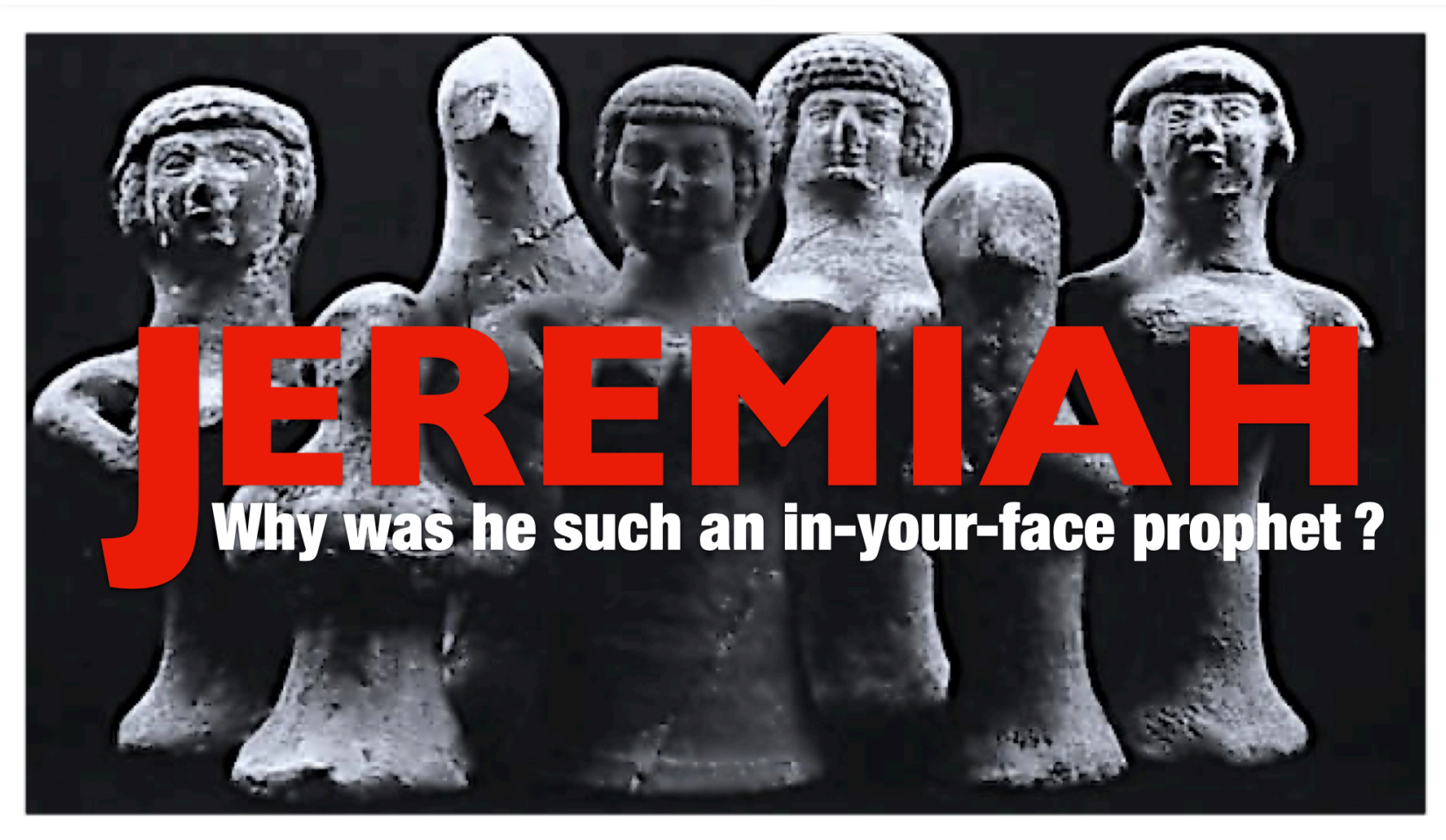




JEREMIAH

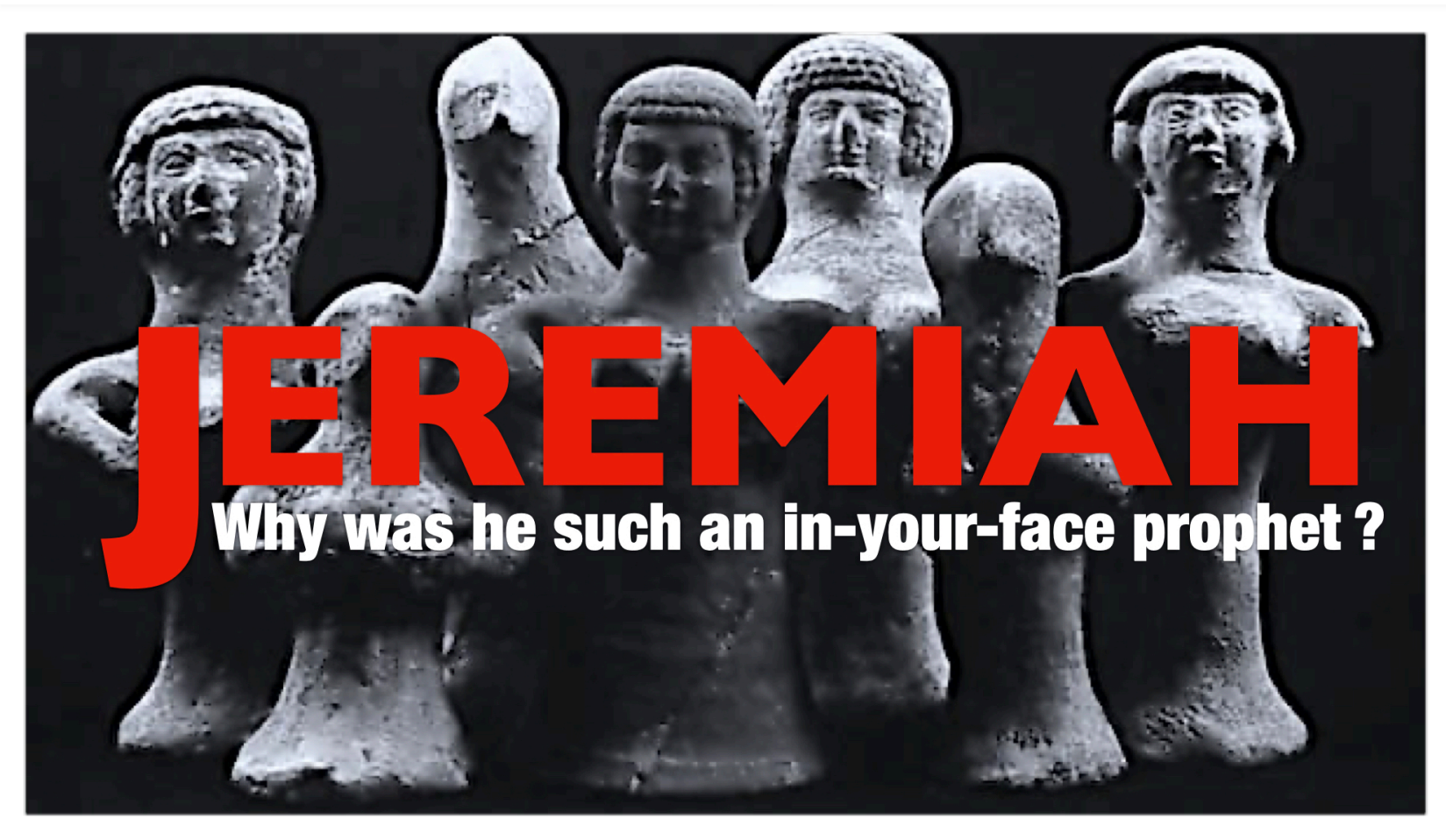
Why was he such an in-your-face prophet ?



Jeremiah • Overview

A simple way to follow what God, through Jeremiah, says to Judah ...

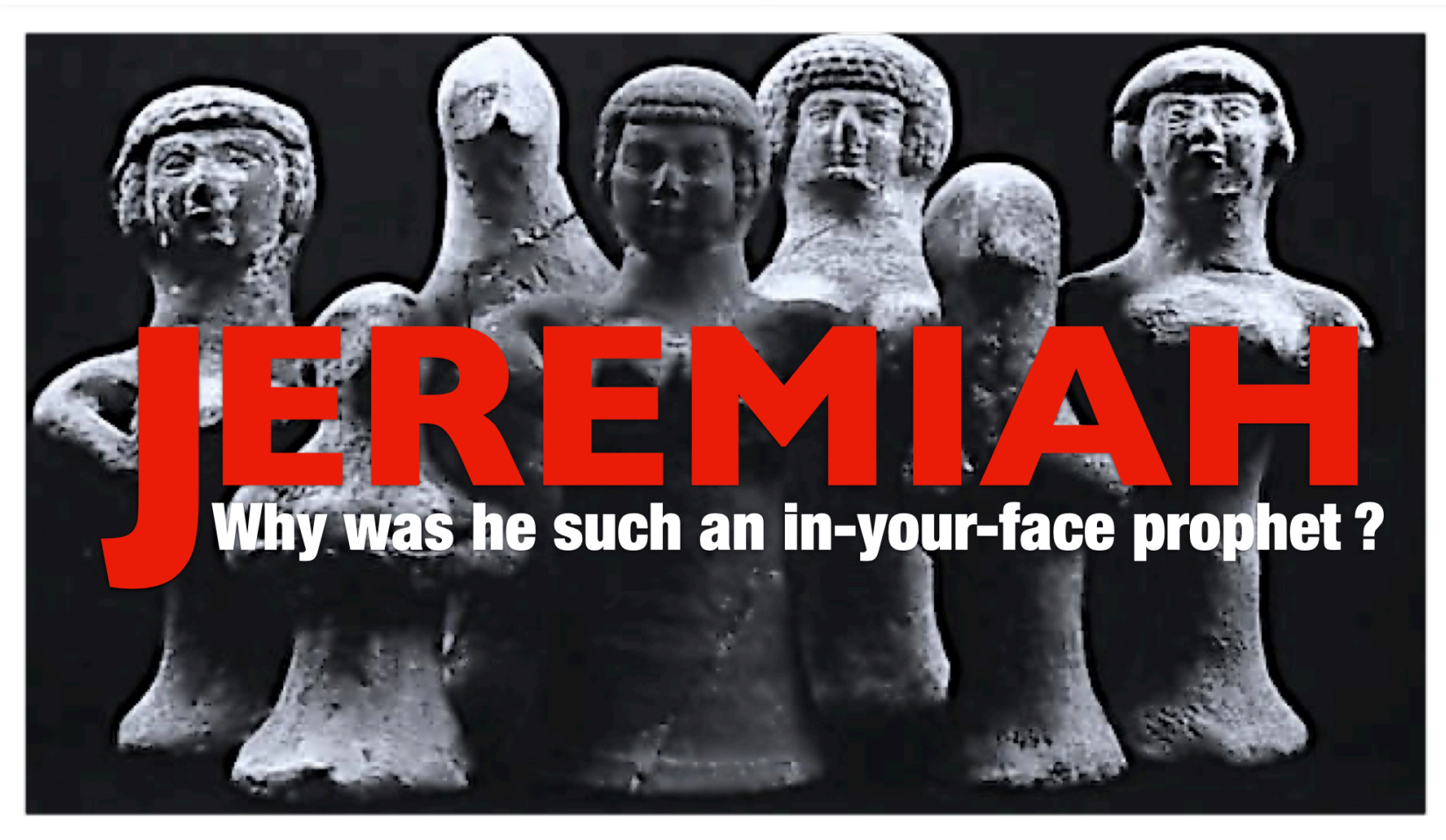
- I gave you *this* — **everything**
- You *ruined* what I gave you — **everything**
- Jeremiah, go preach *here* — **everywhere**
- Because you, Judah, have “gods” *there* — **everywhere**
- Therefore I, God, will judge you *there* — **everywhere**



This Is Why

I gave you *this* ... **EVERYTHING**

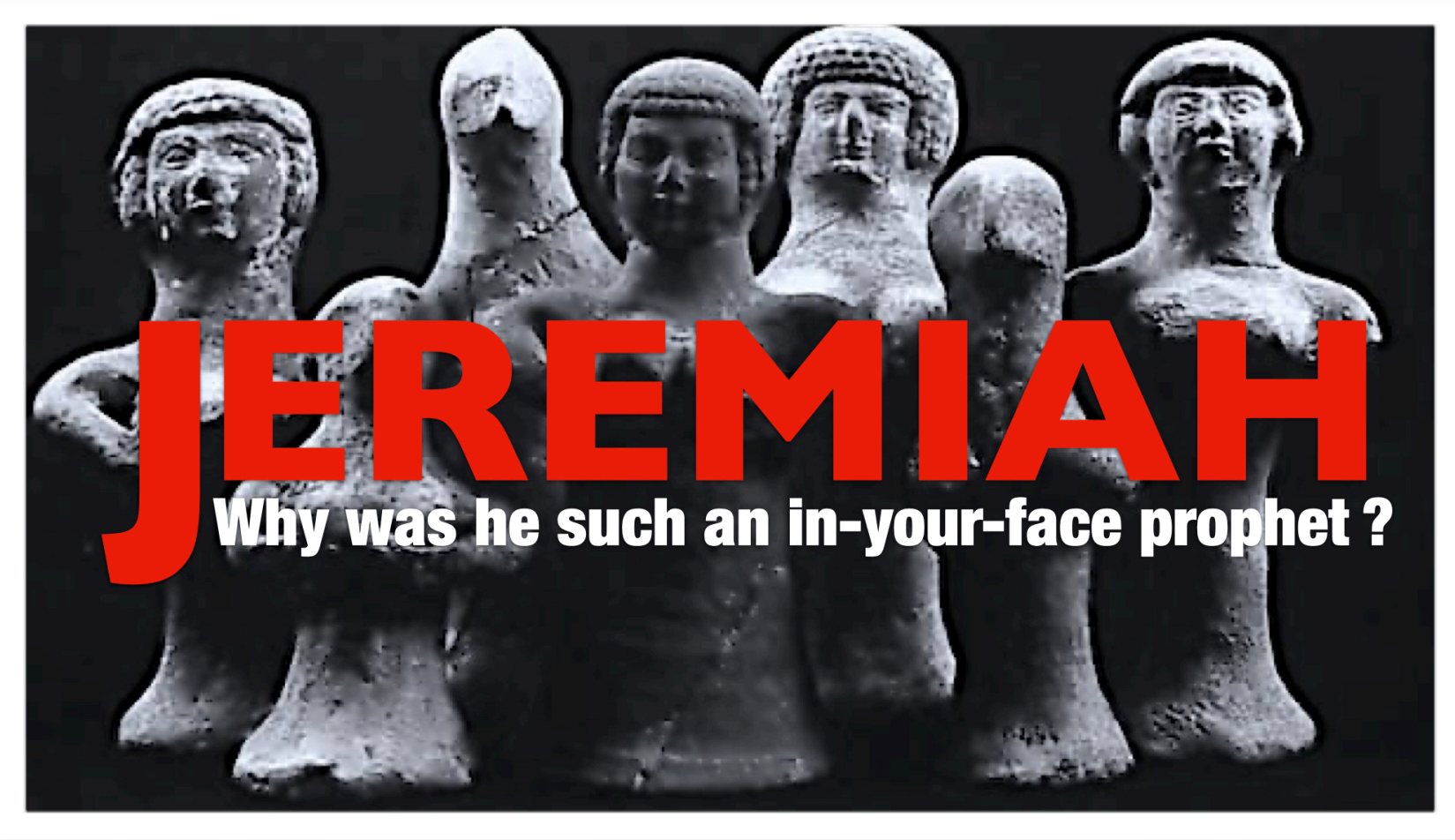
- For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread **without scarcity**, in which you will **lack nothing**; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and **are full**, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. **Deut 8.7-10**



This Is Why

I gave you *this* ... EVERYTHING

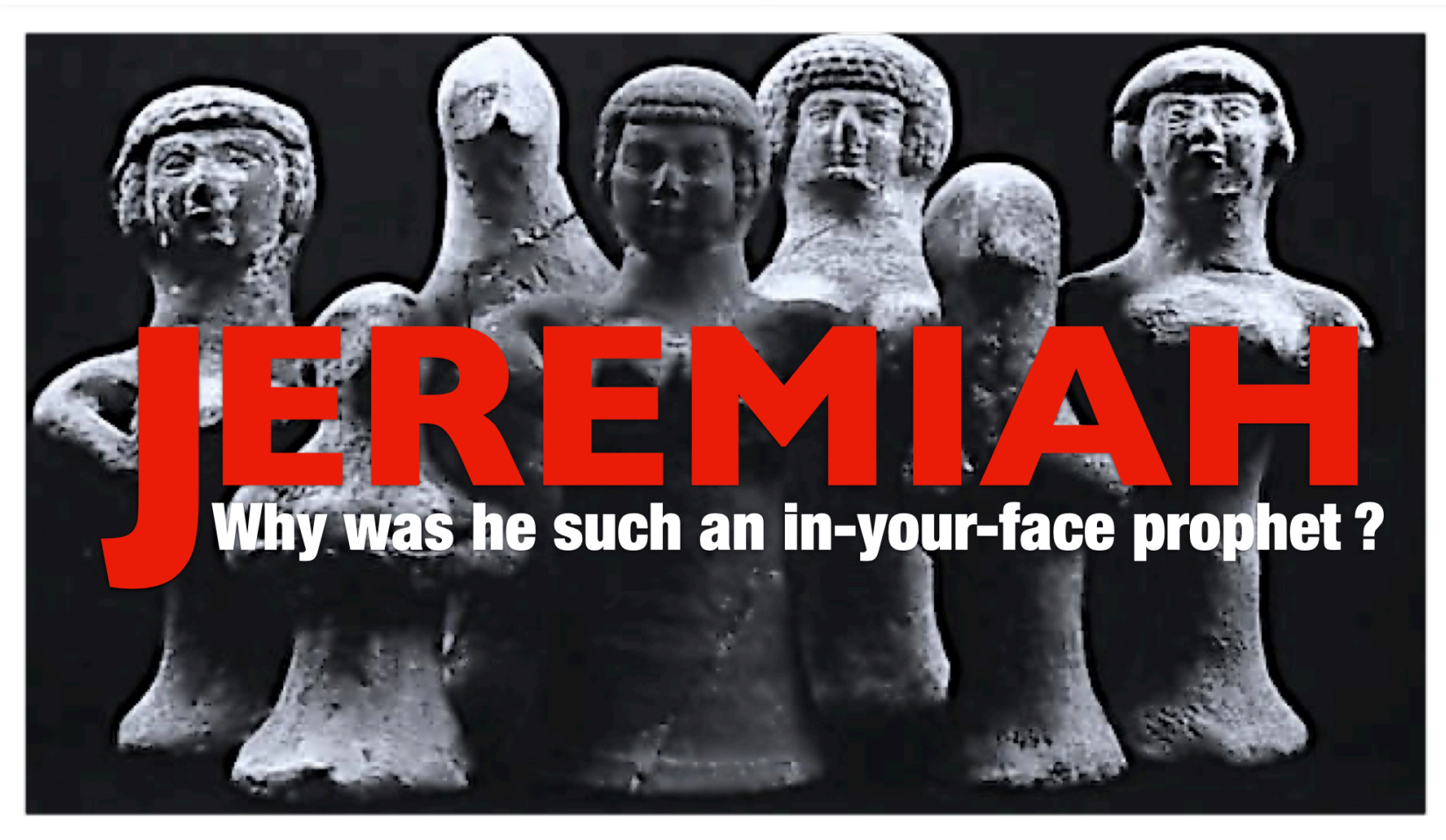
- God **always** gives the **best** • God **always** gives **everything**
- God does so because of his love • compassion • grace • mercy
- God “gives” **not** just what we need, but **more** than what we need
- “all sufficiency” • We **never** lack anything • We **always** have **everything**
- Jeremiah calls attention to this:
 - I brought you into a **bountiful** country, To eat its **fruit** and its **goodness**. **2.7**



This Is Why

You ruined what I gave you ... EVERYTHING

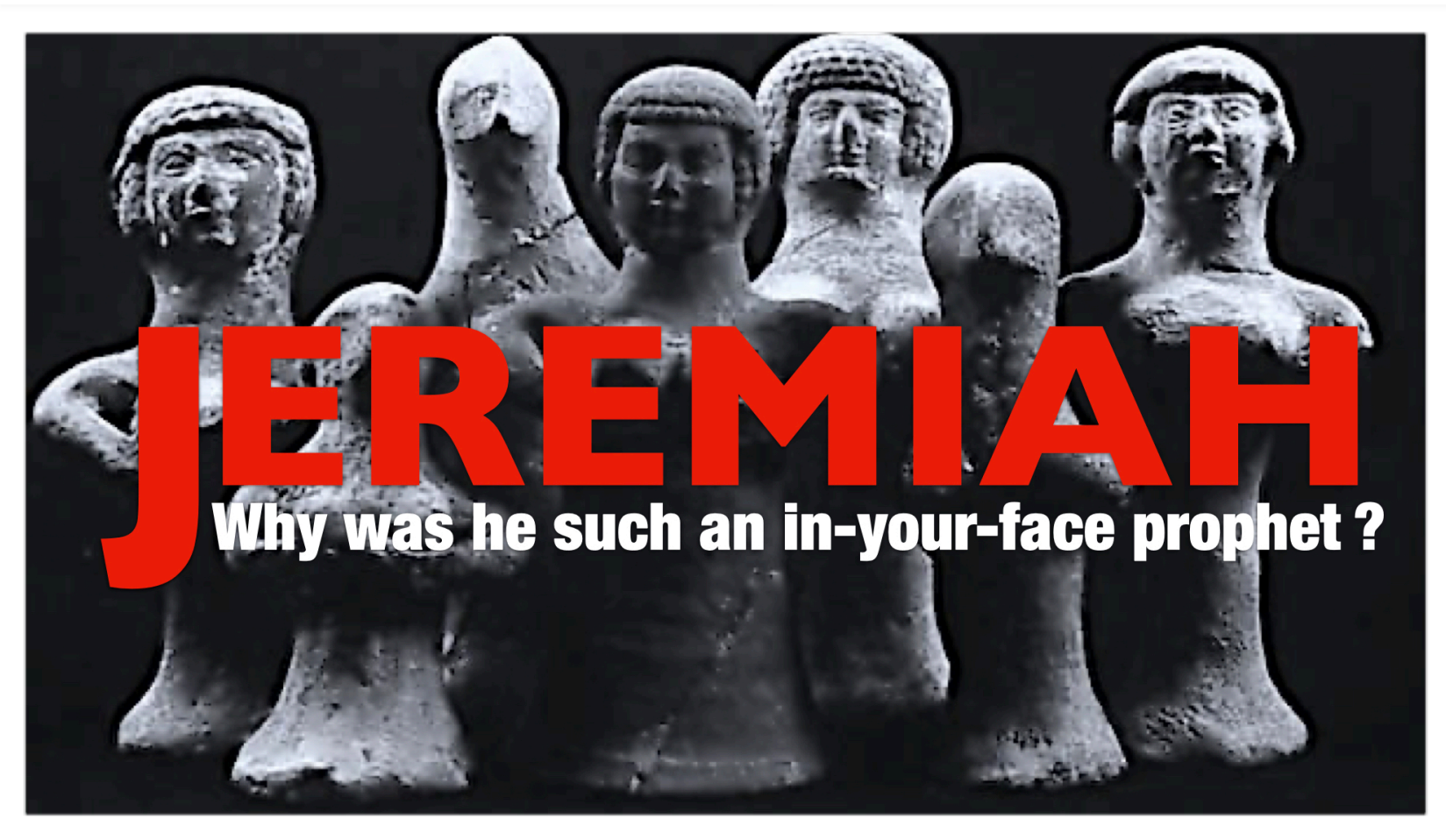
- I brought you into a bountiful country, To eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you **defiled My land** And made My heritage an **abomination. 2.7**
- One of the constant refrains of Scripture:
 - God gives **everything** that we need
 - We **ruin everything** that God has given to us
 - From the opening chapters of Genesis -> the closing chapters of Revelation ...
 - “Our” history has been one of **changing, corrupting and ruining** God’s gifts



This Is Why

You ruined what I gave you ... EVERYTHING

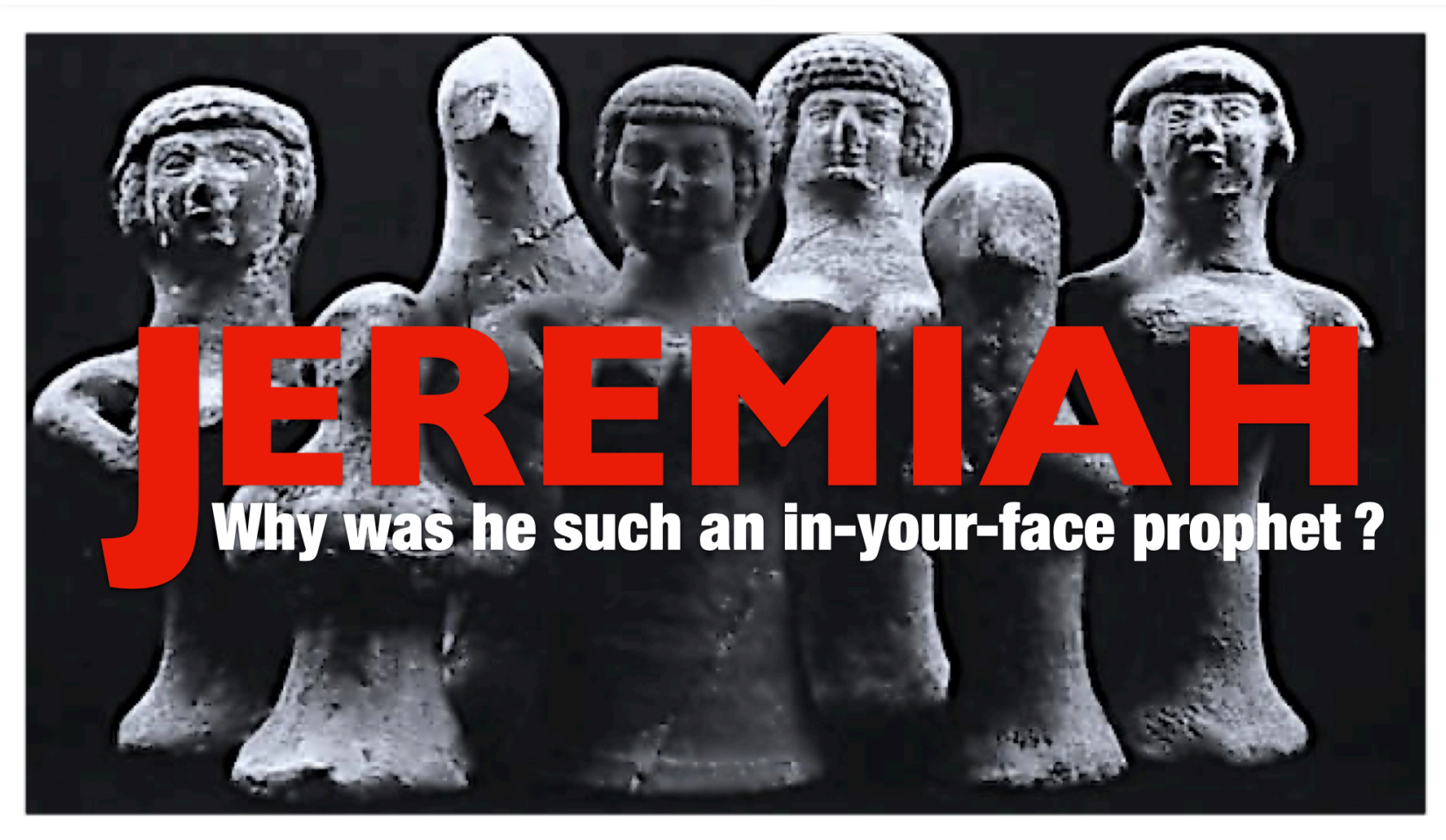
- A large part of Jeremiah emphasizes how far Judah had gone in ruining what God had given them ...
- “They say, ‘If a man divorces his wife, And she goes from him And becomes another man’s, May he return to her again?’ Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have **played the harlot with many lovers**; Yet return to Me,” says the LORD. “Lift up your eyes to the desolate heights and see: Where have you not lain with men? By the road you have sat for them Like an Arabian in the wilderness; And **you have polluted the land** With your harlotries and your wickedness.” **3.1-2**



This Is Why

You ruined what I gave you ... EVERYTHING

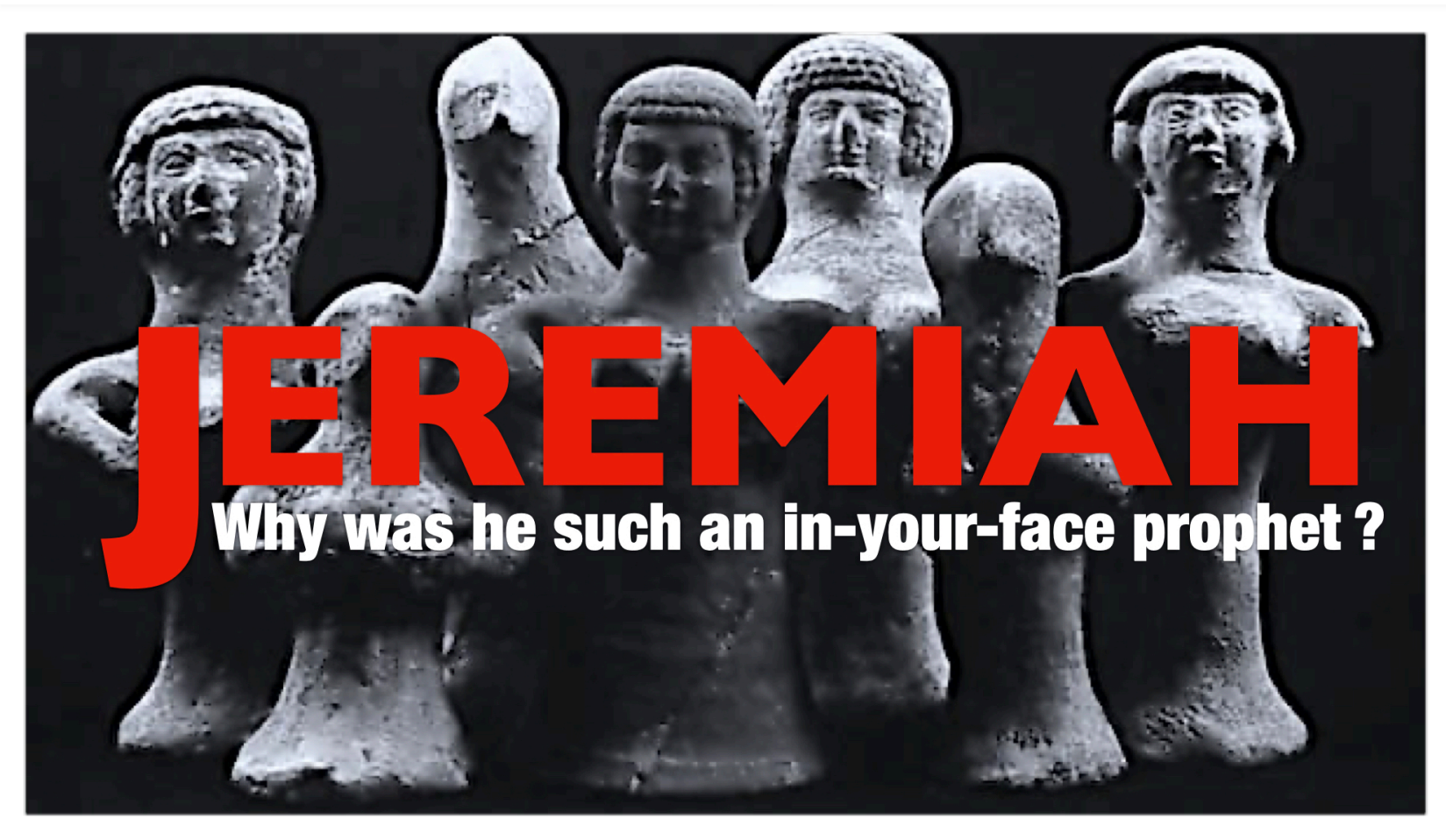
- A large part of Jeremiah emphasizes how far Judah had gone in ruining what God had given them ...
- So it came to pass, through her **casual harlotry**, that she **defiled the land** and **committed adultery with stones and trees. 3.9**
- Jeremiah calls attention to Judah's sin • He starts with their leaders ...
- “As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, So is the house of Israel ashamed; They and their **kings** and their **princes**, and their **priests** and their **prophets, 2.26**



This Is Why

You ruined what I gave you ... EVERYTHING

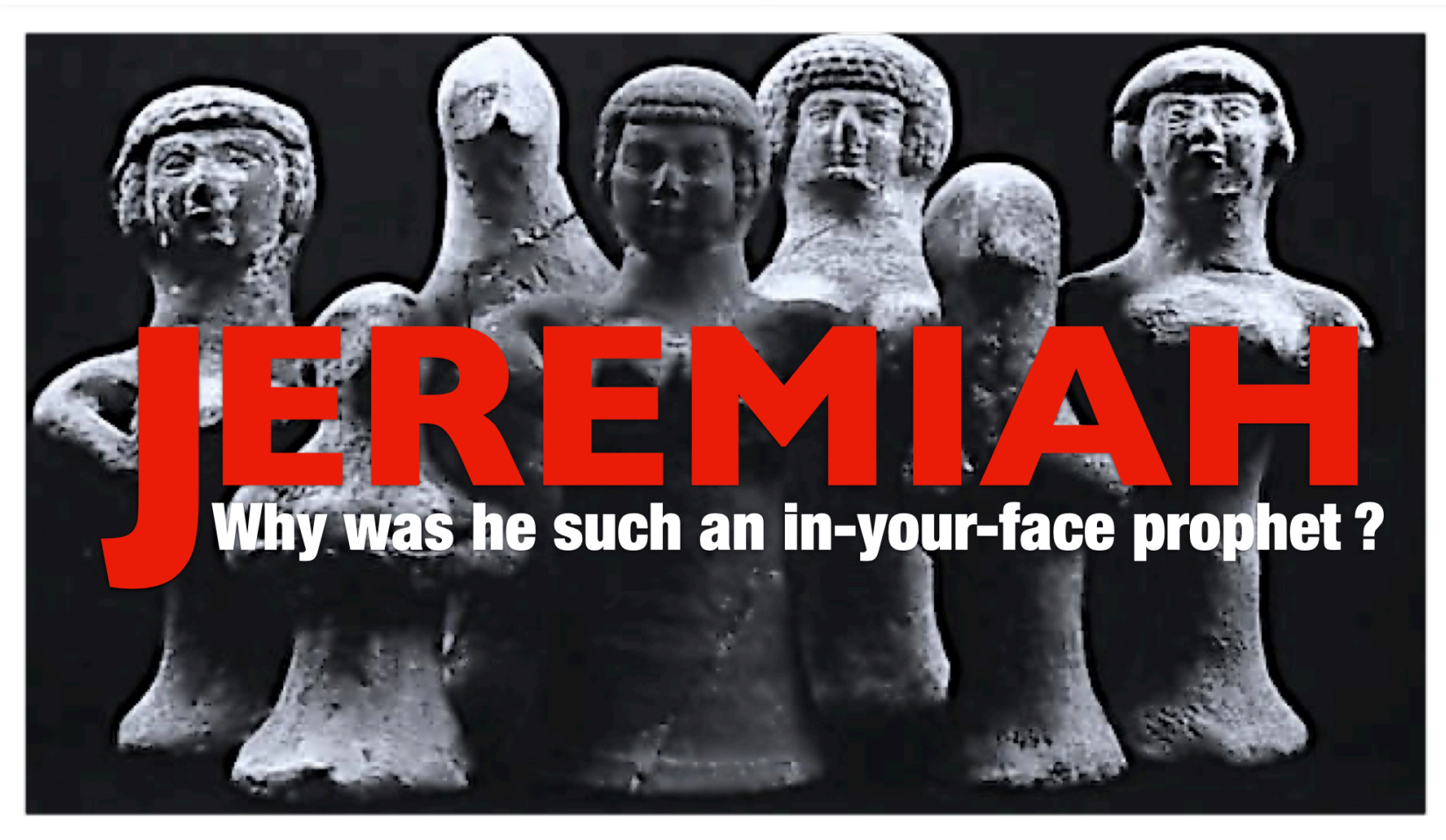
- Jeremiah calls attention to Judah's sin • He starts with their leaders ...
- “For both **prophet** and **priest** are profane; Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness,” says the LORD. **23.11**
- “And as for the **prophet** and the **priest** and the **people** who say, ‘The oracle of the LORD!’ I will even punish that man and his house. **23.24**
- Jerusalem and **the cities** of Judah, its **kings** and its **princes**, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, a hissing, and a curse, as it is this day; **25.18**



This Is Why

Jeremiah, go preach here ... EVERYWHERE

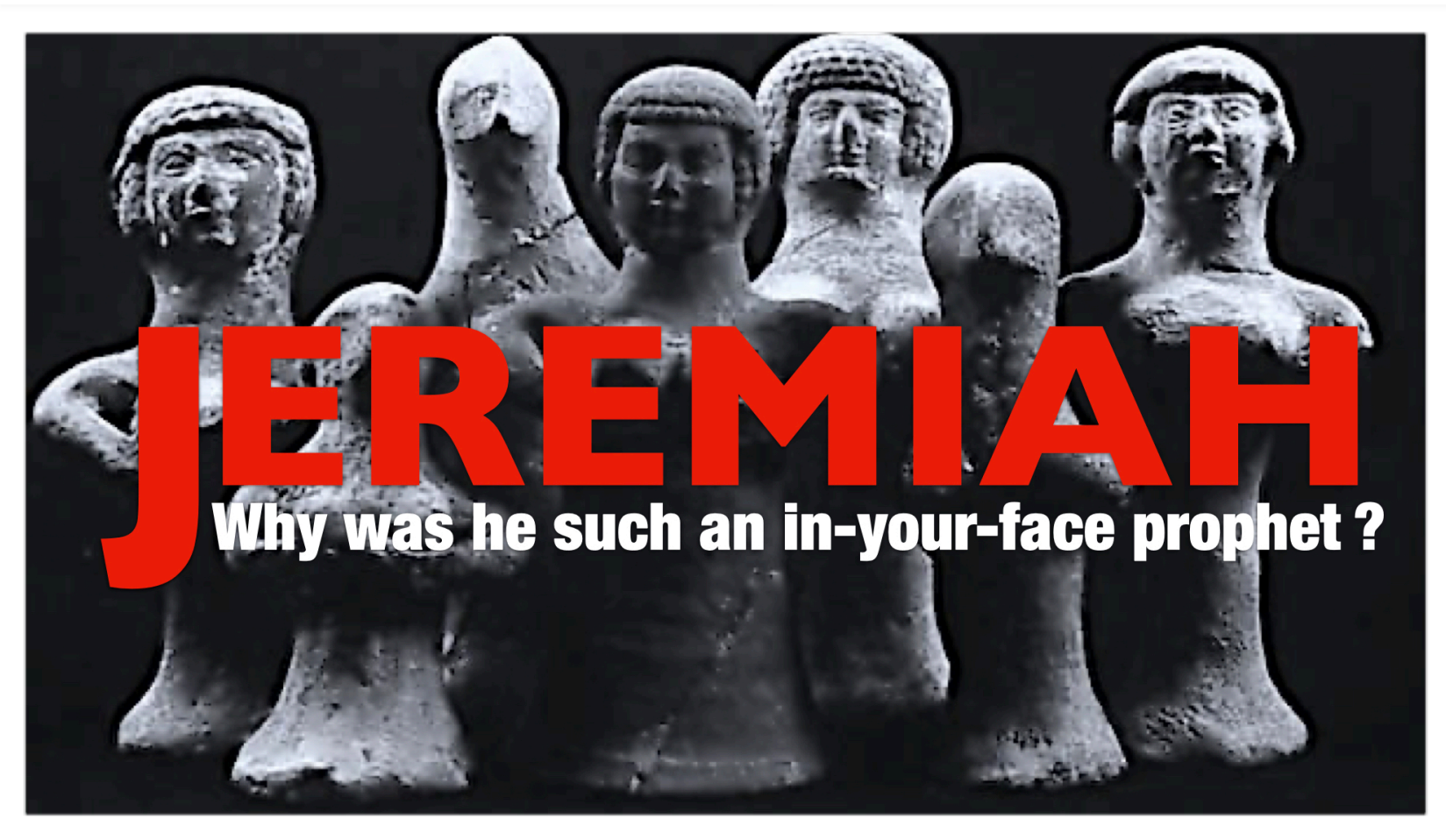
- **Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem**, saying, “Thus says the LORD: ‘I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown. Israel was holiness to the LORD, The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; Disaster will come upon them,’” says the LORD.’ ” **Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel. 2.2-4**



This Is Why

Jeremiah, go preach here ... EVERYWHERE

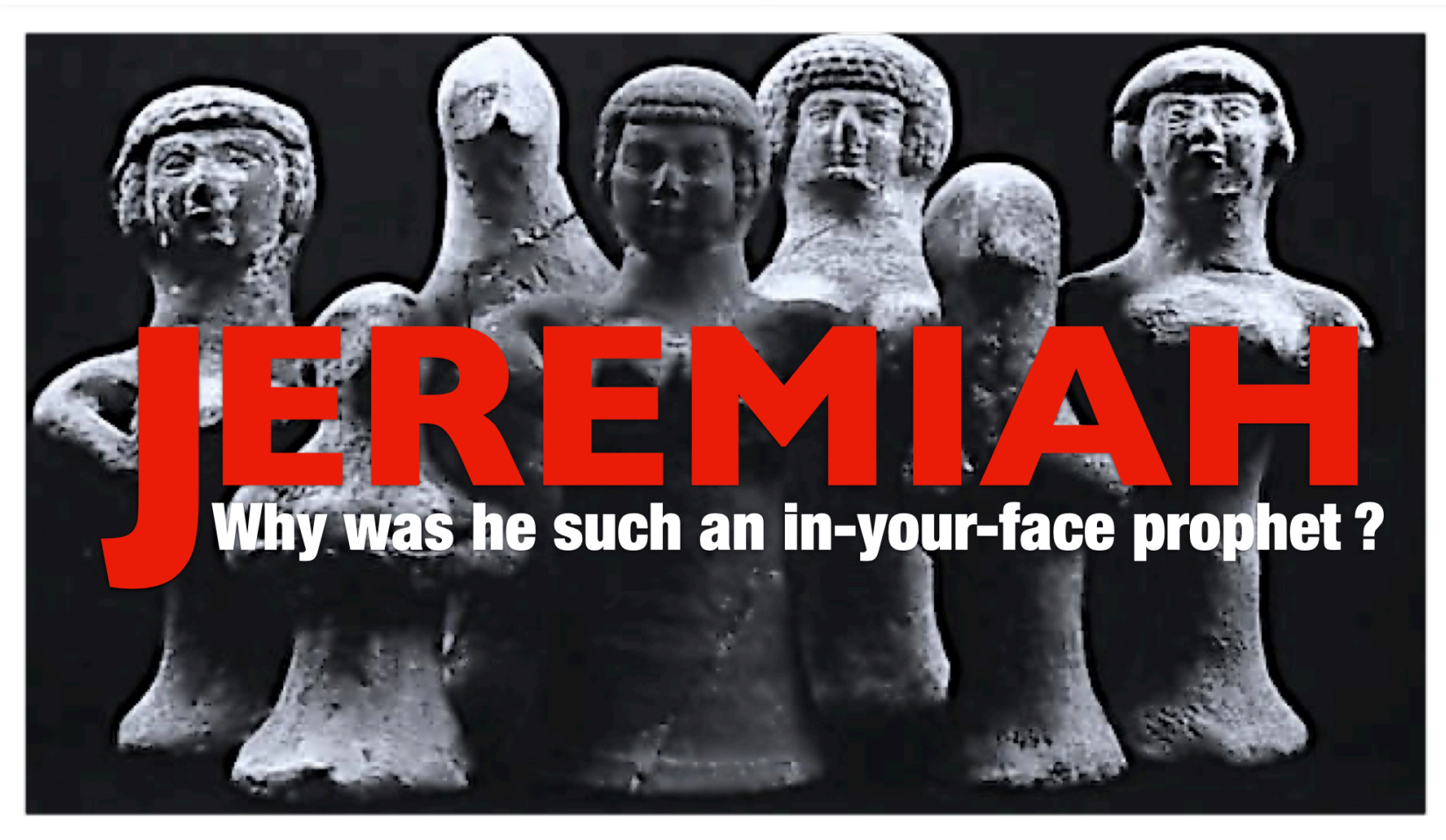
- The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, “**Stand in the gate** of the LORD’S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter in **at these gates** to worship the LORD!’ ” Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not trust in these lying words, saying, “The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.”” **7.1-4**



This Is Why

Jeremiah, go preach here ... EVERYWHERE

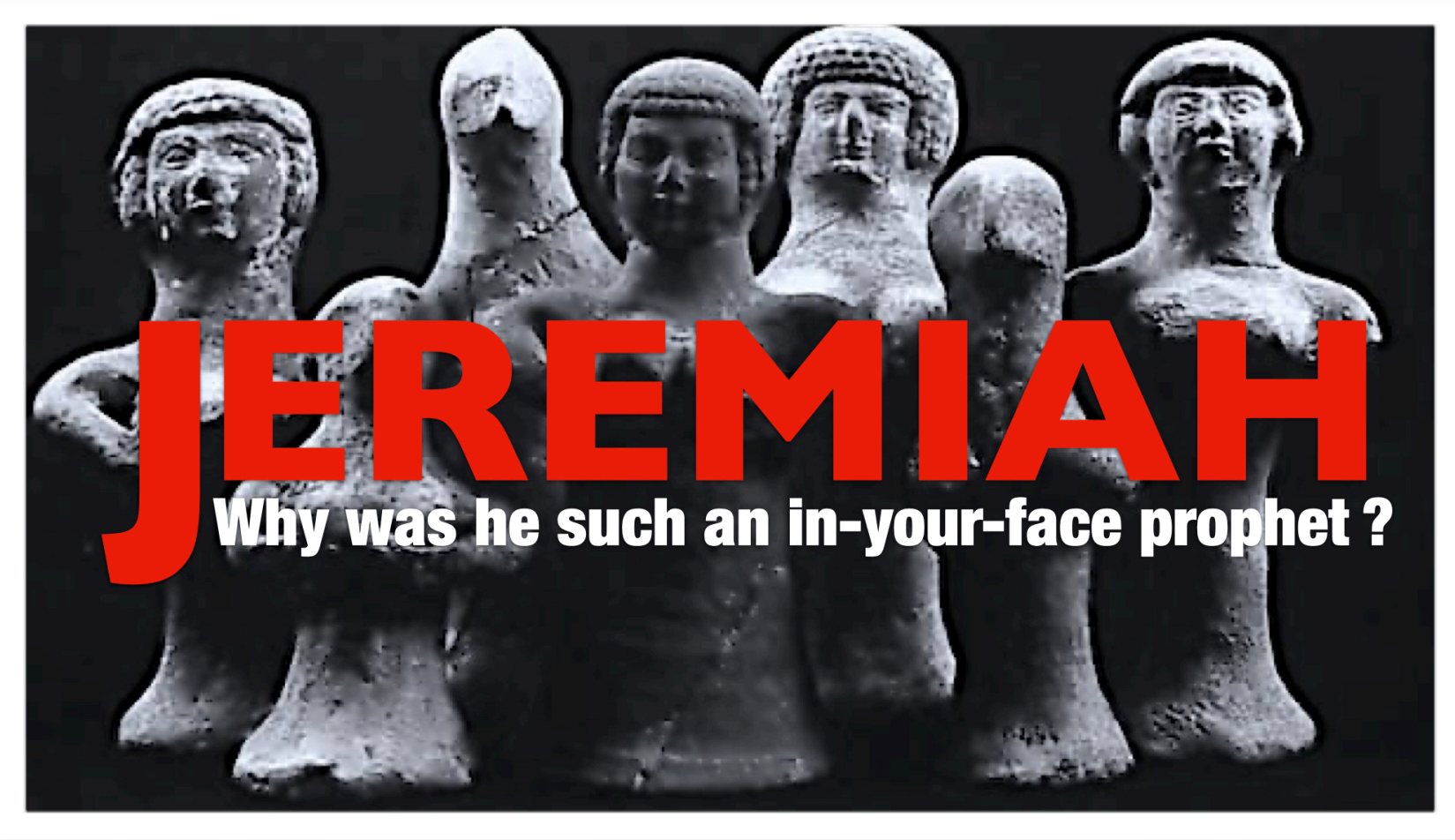
- Then the LORD said to me, “Proclaim all these words **in the cities** of Judah and **in the streets** of Jerusalem, saying: ‘Hear the words of this covenant and do them. **11.6**
- Thus the LORD said to me: “Go and stand **in the gate** of the children of the people, by which the kings of Judah **come in and by which they go out**, and **in all the gates** of Jerusalem; and say to them, “Hear the word of the LORD, you **kings** of Judah, and **all** Judah, and **all** the inhabitants of Jerusalem, who **enter by these gates**. **17.19-20**



The Big “Why”

Because you, Judah, have “gods” there ... EVERYWHERE

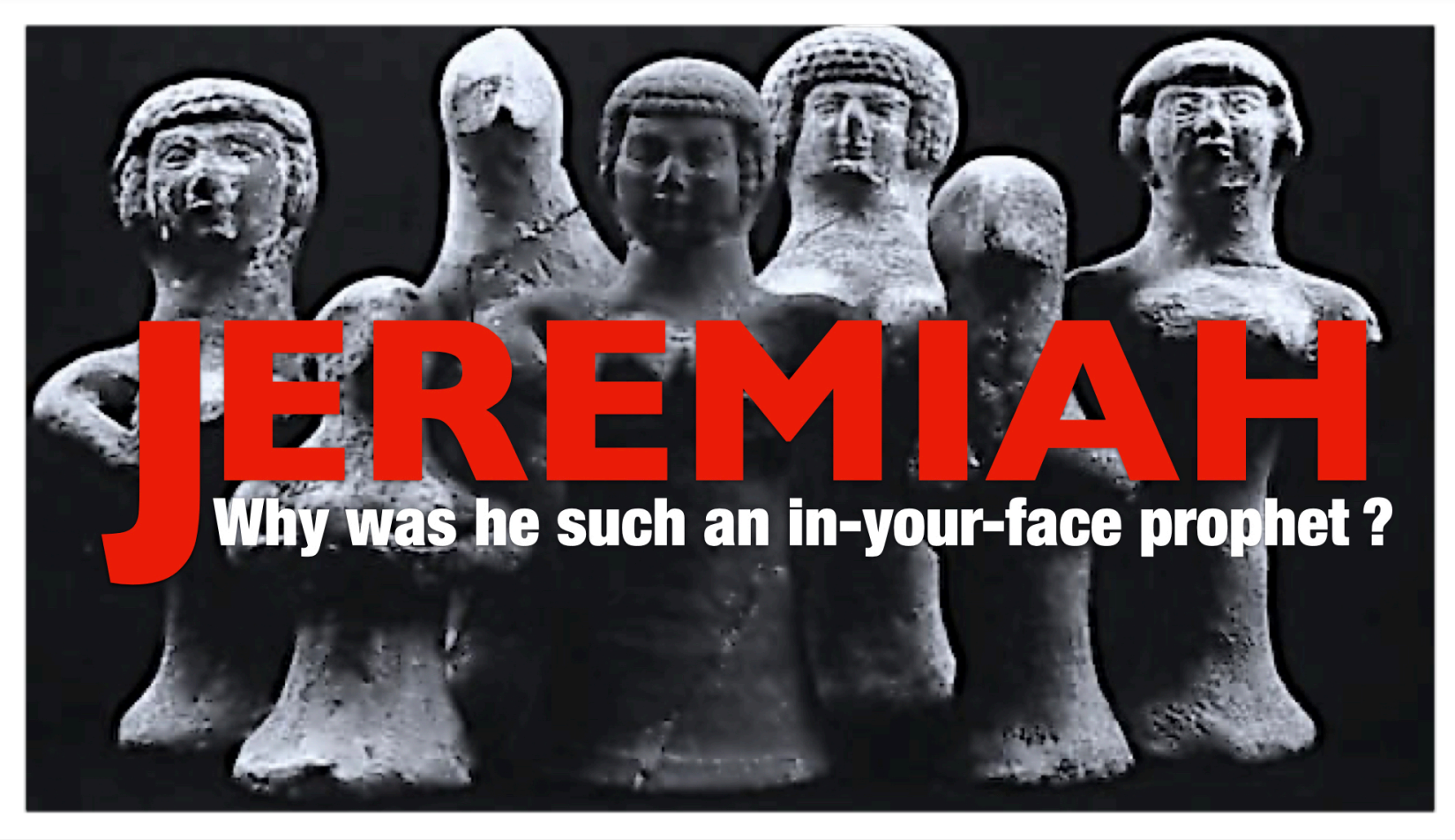
- But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, If they can save you in the time of your trouble; For **according to the number of your cities** Are your gods, O Judah. **2.28**
- Do you not see what they do **in the cities** of Judah and **in the streets** of Jerusalem? **7.17**



The Big “Why”

Because you, Judah, have “gods” there ... EVERYWHERE

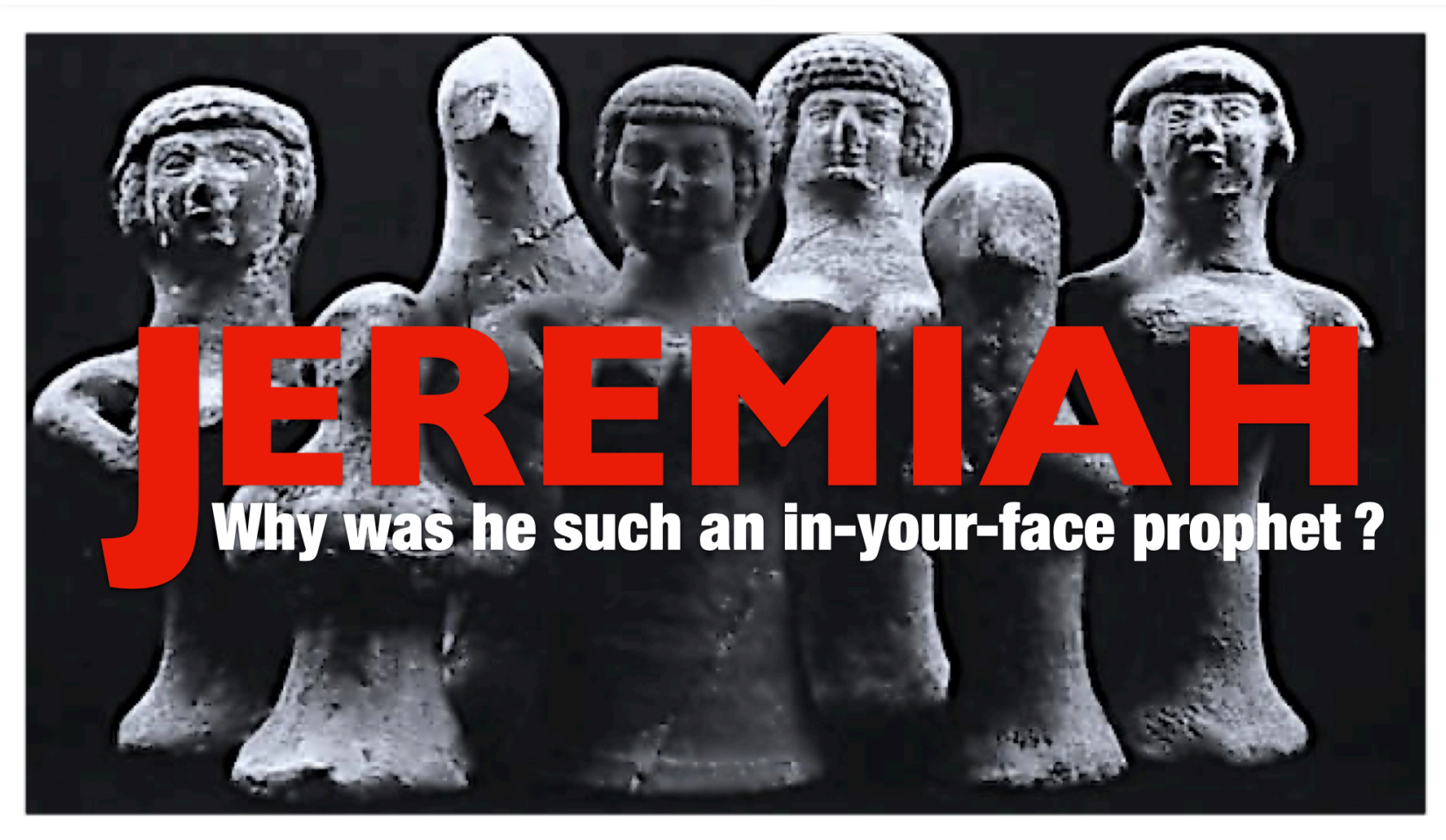
- Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they offer incense, but they will not save them at all in the time of their trouble. For **according to the number of your cities were your gods**, O Judah; and **according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem** you have set up altars to that shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal. **11.12-13**
- And the houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah shall be defiled like the place of Tophet, because of **all the houses on whose roofs** they have burned incense to all the host of heaven, and poured out drink offerings to other gods.” ’ ” **19.13**



The Big “Why”

Because you, Judah, have “gods” there ... EVERYWHERE

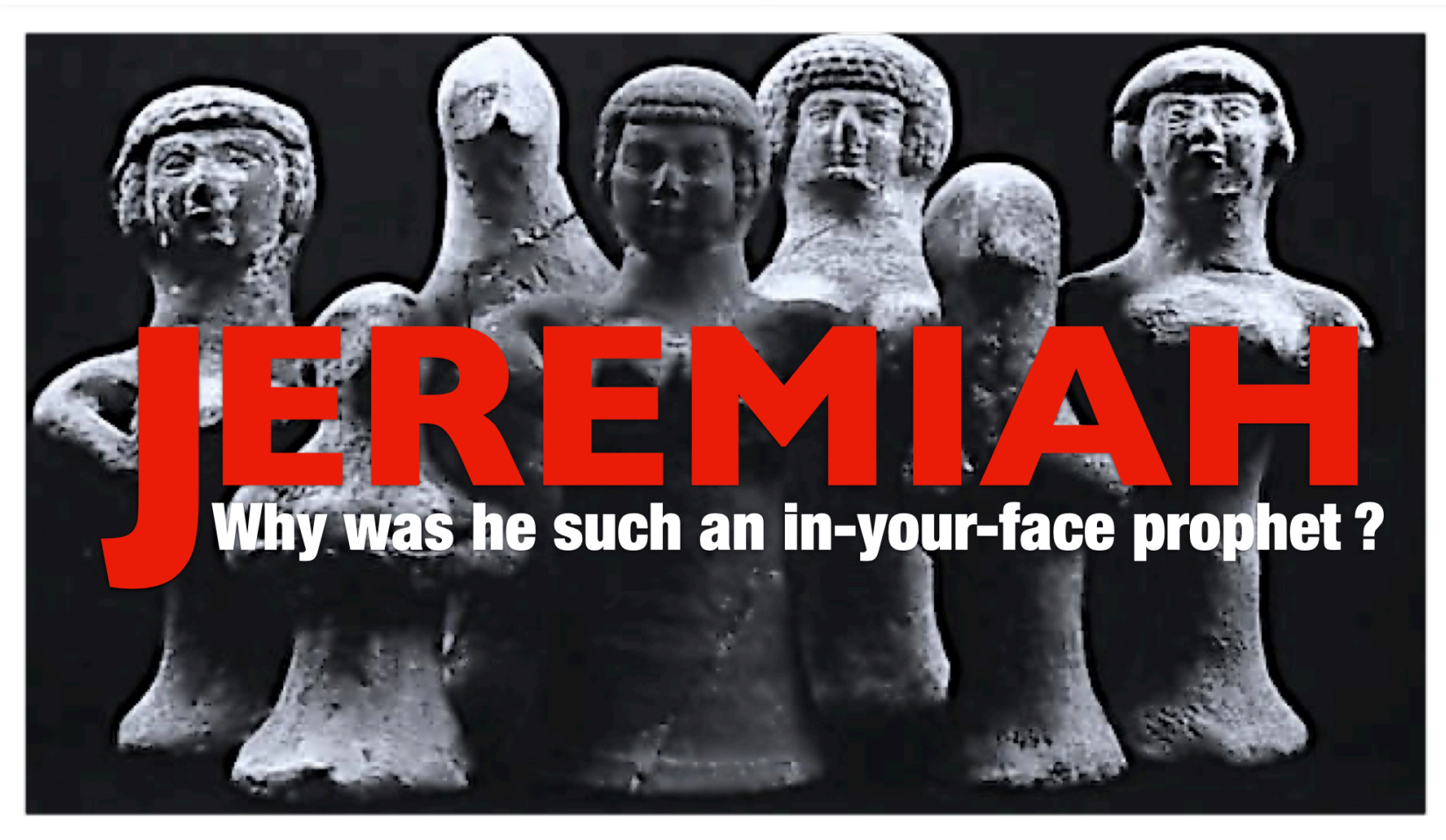
- So their **houses** are full of deceit. Therefore they have become great and grown rich. **5.27** • Do you not see what they do **in the cities** of Judah and **in the streets** of Jerusalem? **7.17** • For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight,” says the LORD. “They have set their abominations **in the house** which is called by My name, to pollute it. **7.30** • Then I will cause to cease from **the cities** of Judah and from **the streets** of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. For **the land** shall be desolate. **7.34**



The Big “Why”

Because you, Judah, have “gods” there ... EVERYWHERE

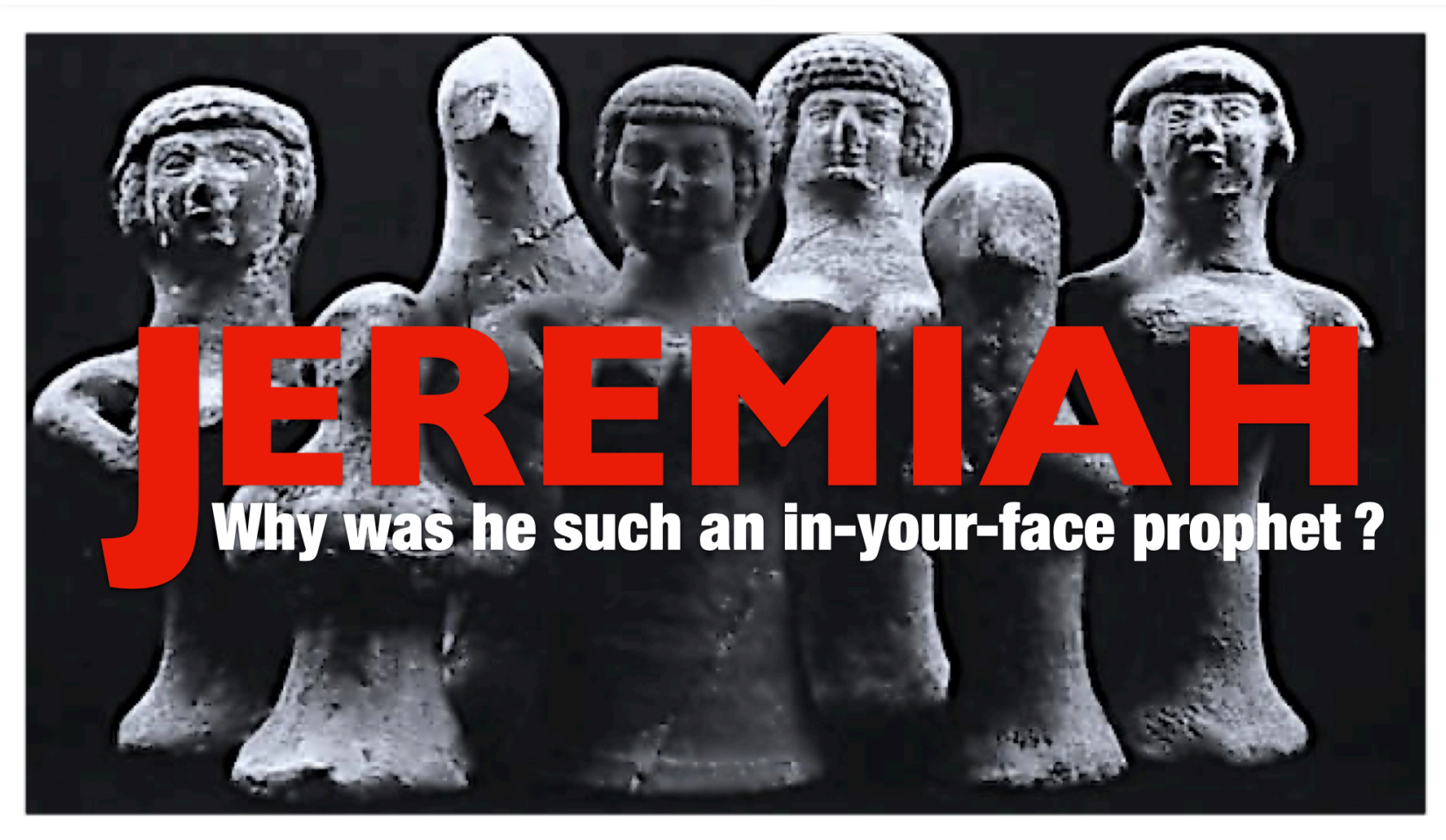
- These terra-cotta (clay) statuettes (average height, 5.5 inches) represent a female figure, nude from the waist up, in the act of displaying her breasts to the viewer. Such figurines are also found in Phoenicia, Philistia and Transjordan, but **they are the most common type** of religious object excavated in the territories of Israel (the northern kingdom) and **Judah** (the southern kingdom). They date from the **eighth to the sixth century B.C.E.** (Iron Age II). Most scholars believe these terra-cottas represent the fertility goddess Asherah.



The Big “Why”

Because you, Judah, have “gods” there ... EVERYWHERE

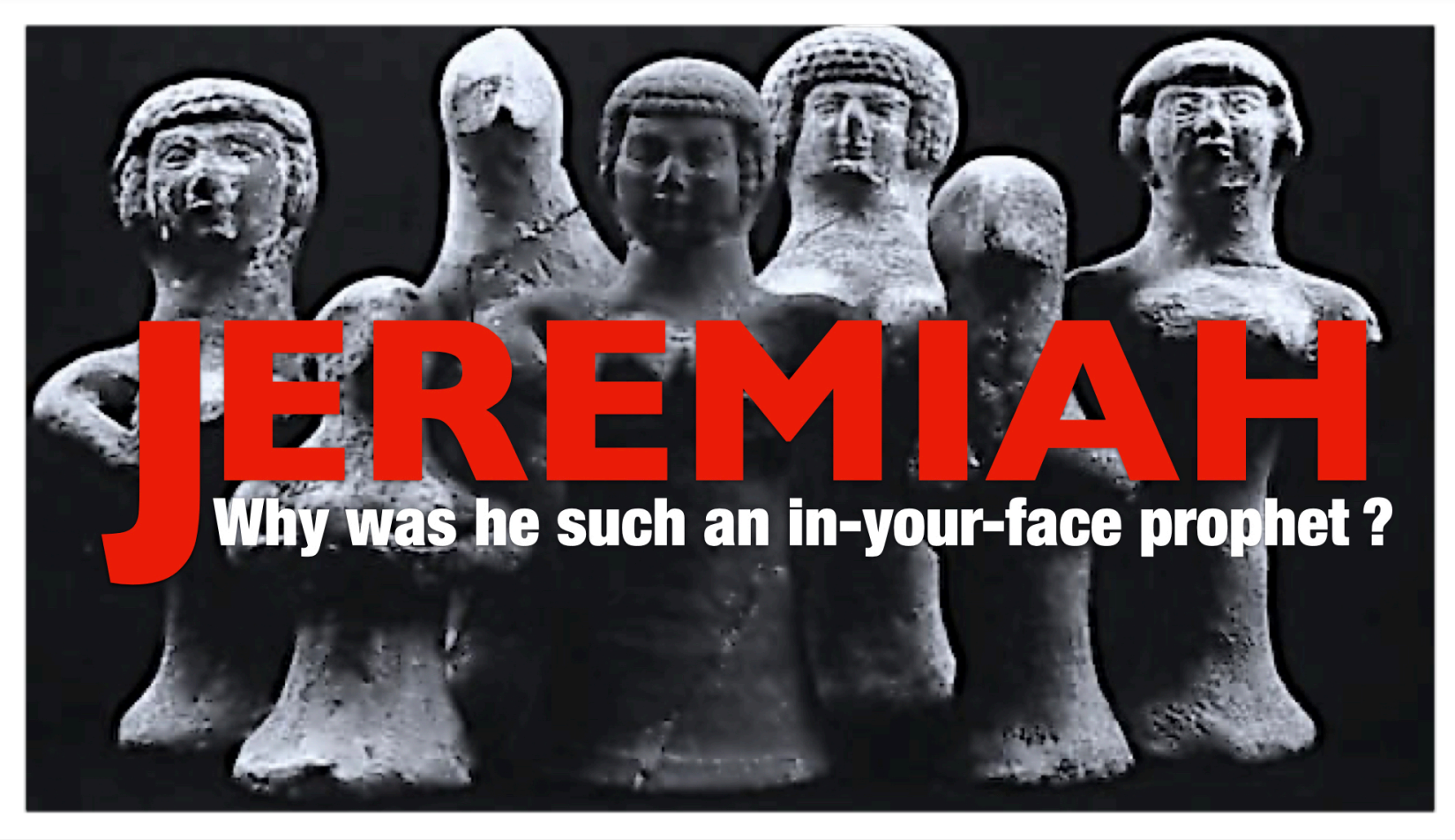
- Such figures were especially popular in **Judah** where some **3,000** have been found to date, **most often in private houses** but occasionally in tombs. **Jerusalem** has yielded the finest examples, but they are found **throughout Judah**, for example at Lachish, Beth-Shemesh, Tell Beit Mirsim and Beer-sheba. At Tell Beit Mirsim and Beer-sheba **individual private houses** contained no more than one pillar figurine; similarly, excavators have found only one such figure per burial.



The Big “Why”

Because you, Judah, have “gods” there ... EVERYWHERE

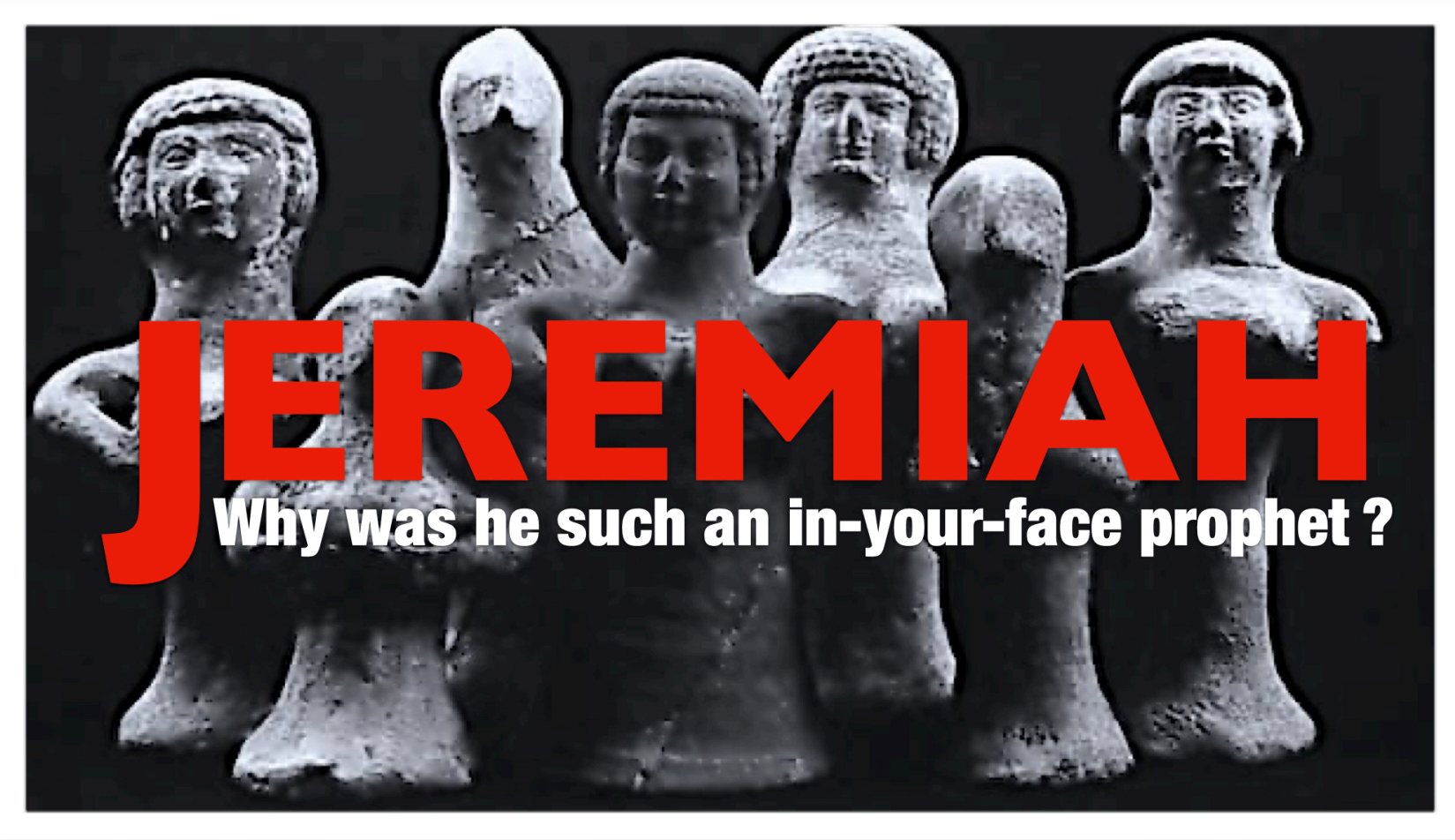
- Pillar figurines provide vivid evidence of **personal and family piety** in Iron Age II Israel and **Judah**. As products of popular religion, they supplement the Bible’s more **narrow portrayal** of **official religious belief** and practice. The **ubiquity** of these objects in Judah testifies to the **importance** of the goddess Asherah in the spiritual lives of **Judean women** and **men** of A classes. Archaeologists suggest that the figures functioned in **household rituals**, perhaps like the teraphim (New Revised Standard Versions “household god”) that Rachel steals from her father Laban when Jacob and his family leave Haran in Genesis 31:19, 30–35 ...



The Big “Why”

Because you, Judah, have “gods” there ... EVERYWHERE

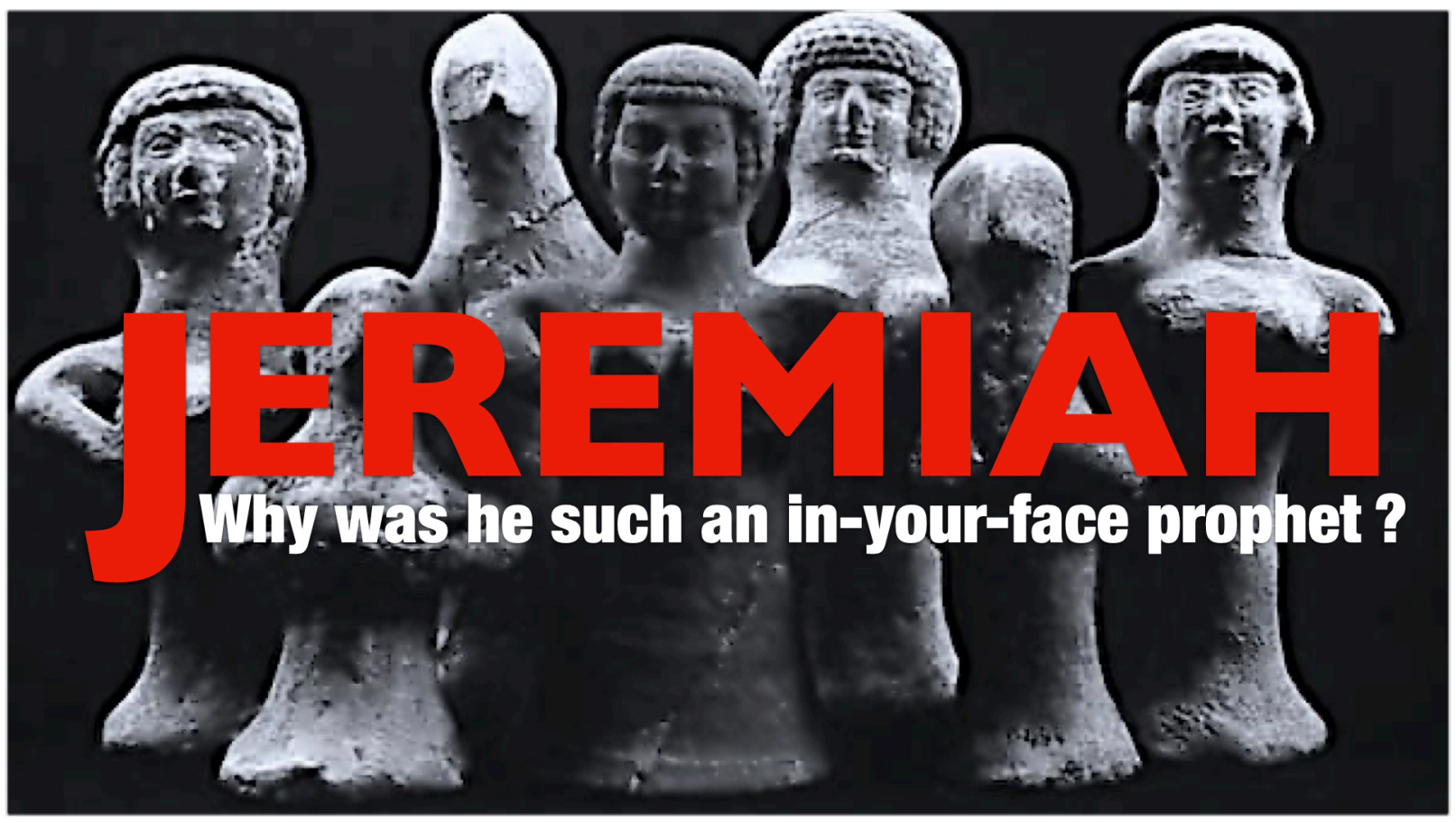
- However, at least **until King Josiah’s reforms** in the late seventh century B.C.E., many in **Judah** and Israel apparently understood **Asherah** to be the consort of the national deity, Yahweh. In 2 Kings 21:7 Manasseh, Josiah’s father, put a carved image of Asherah **in the Temple**. According to 2 Kings 23:4, vessels made for Asherah were kept **in the Temple**, and 2 Kings 23:7 reports that women wove garments for Asherah **in a special room in the Temple**.



The Big “Why”

Therefore I, God will judge you *there* ... EVERYWHERE

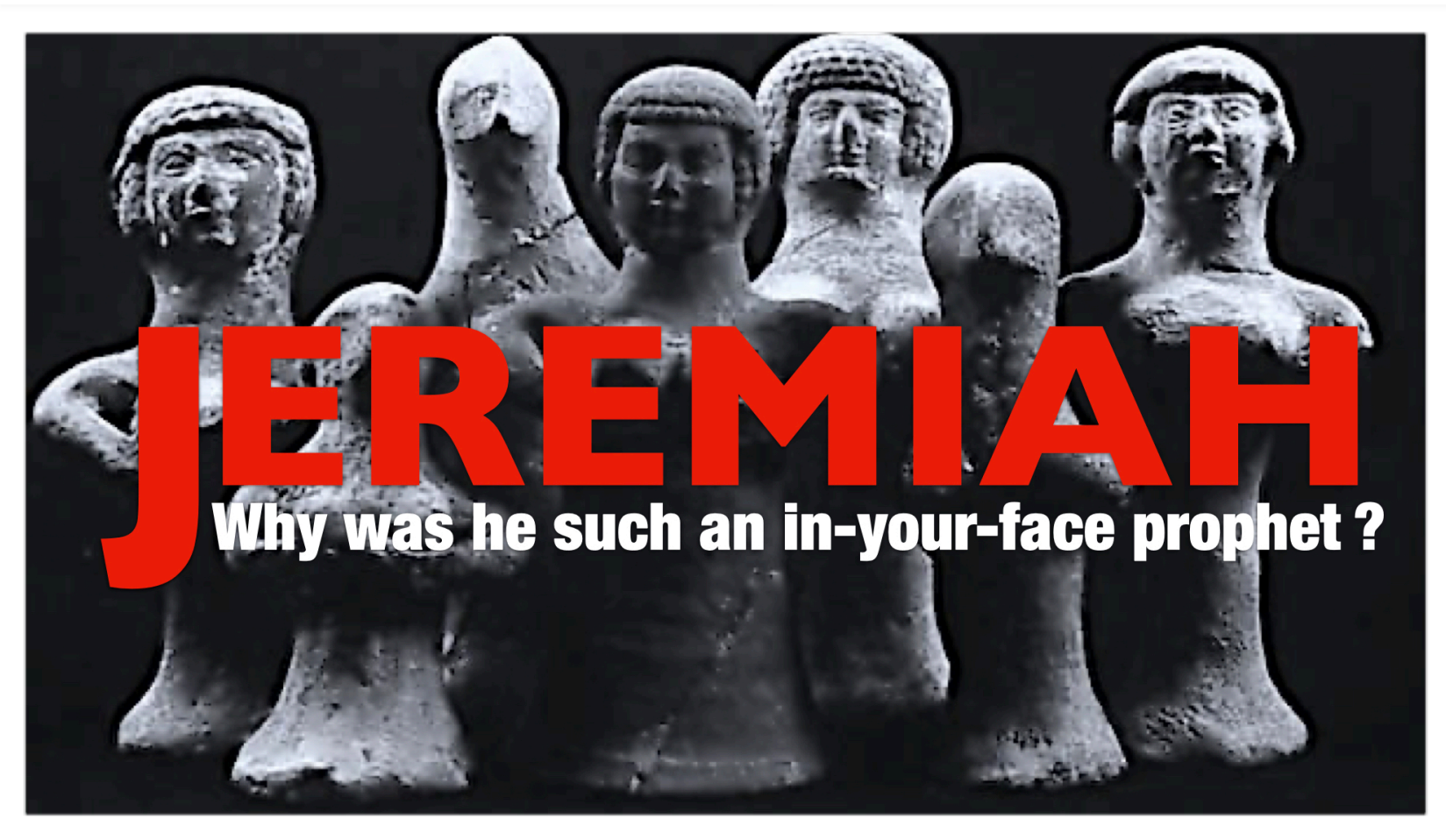
- I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, And **all its cities were broken down** At the presence of the LORD, By His fierce anger. **4.26** • Therefore a lion from the forest shall **slay them**, A wolf of the deserts shall **destroy them**; A leopard will watch **over their cities**. Because their transgressions are many; Their backslidings have increased. **5.6**



The Big “Why”

Therefore I, God will judge you *there* ... EVERYWHERE

- They shall **destroy your fortified cities**, In which you trust, with the sword. **5.17** • And their **houses** shall be turned over to others, Fields and wives together; For I will stretch out My hand **Against the inhabitants** of the land,” says the LORD. **6.12** • therefore I will do **to the house which is called by My name**, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, **as I have done to Shiloh. 7.14**



Jeremiah • Overview

A simple way to follow what God, through Jeremiah, says to Judah ...

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