

**WHEN THINGS
GET T  XIC
IN MY CITY**

Jeremiah 29:4-7

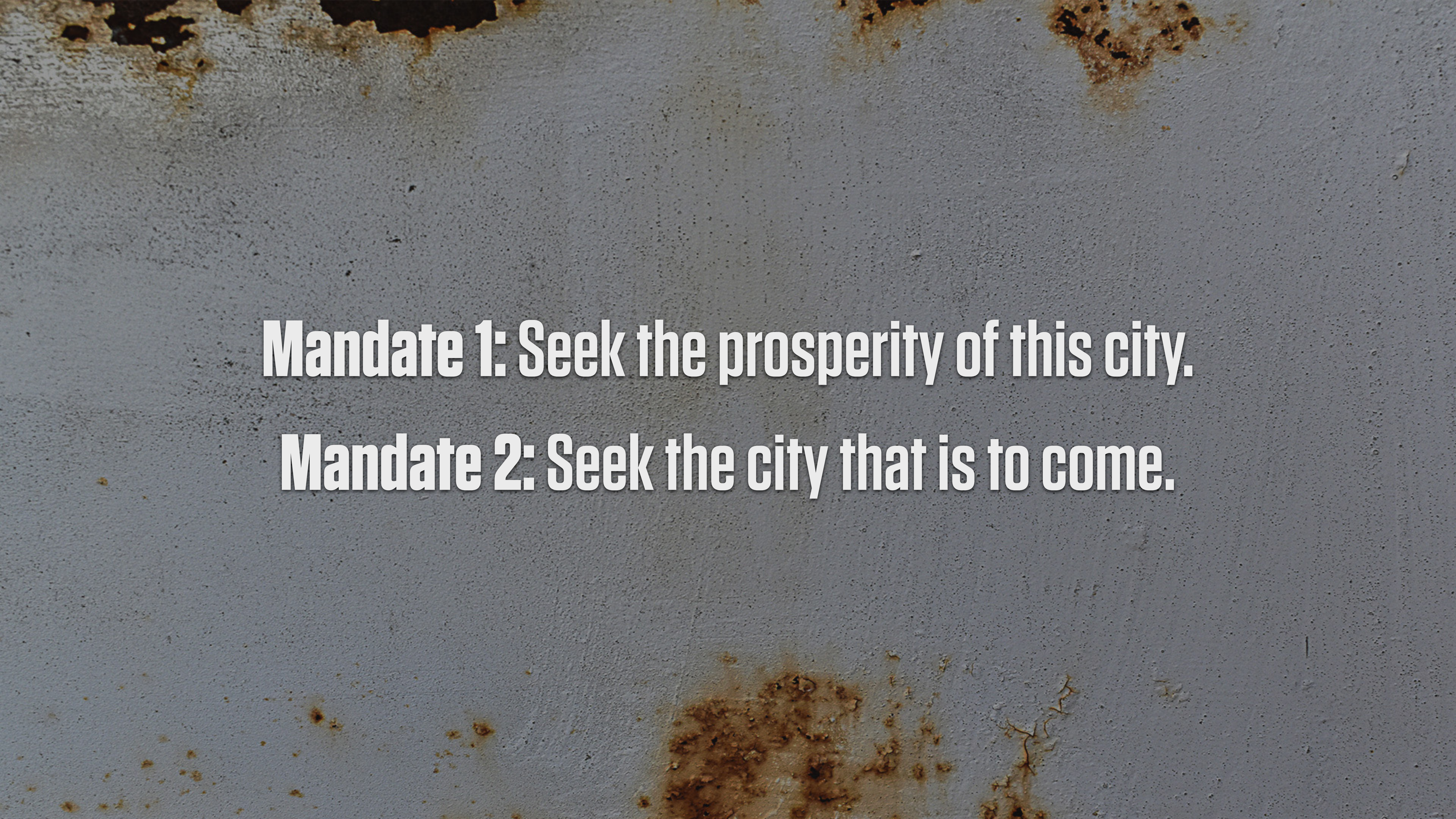
This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:
“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number

there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Hebrews 13:14-16

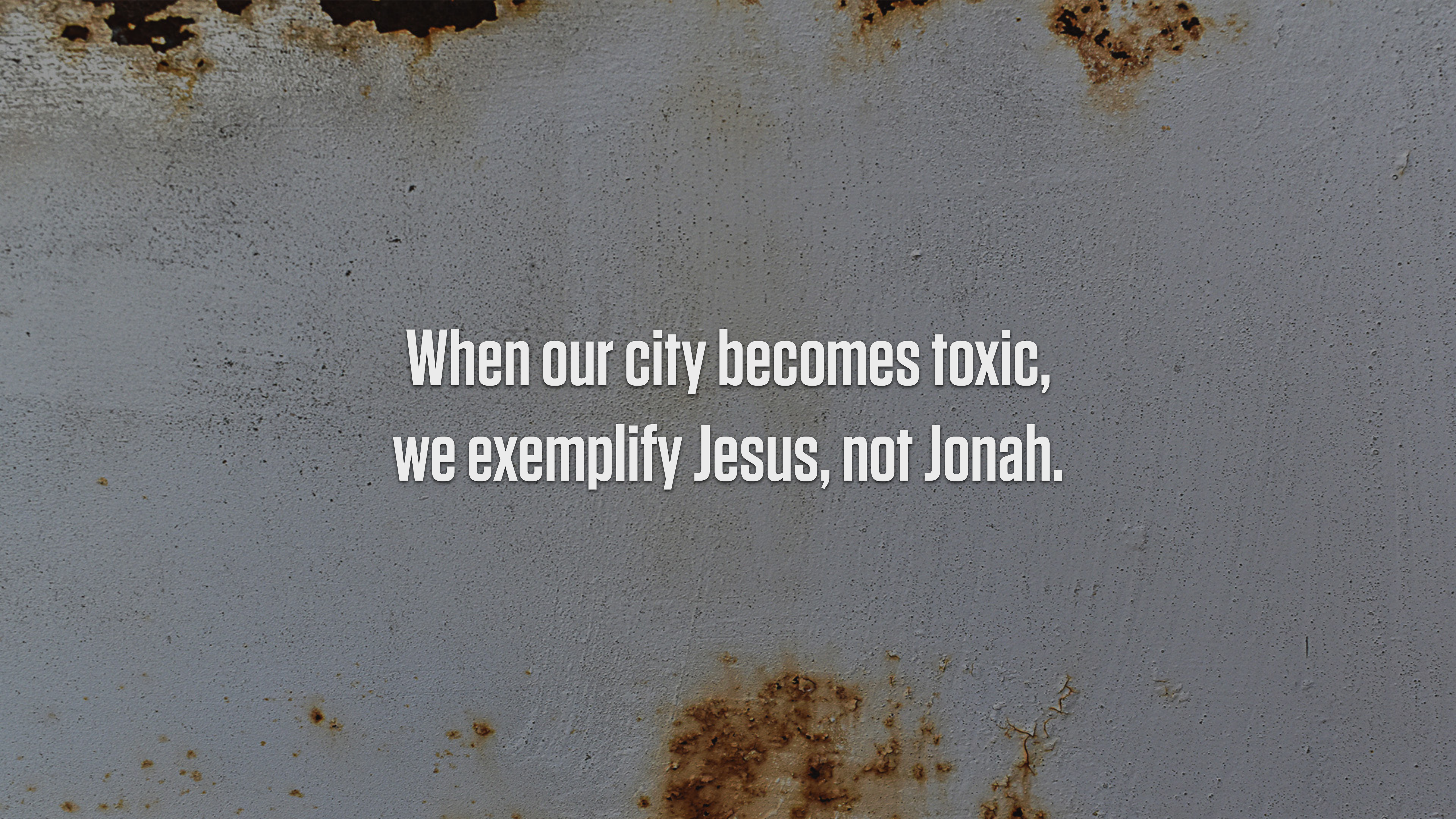
For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

The background is a close-up of a weathered, grey metal surface. It is heavily corroded with numerous brown and orange rust spots and patches. There are some larger, irregular holes and deep pits, particularly visible in the upper left and bottom right areas. The texture is rough and grainy.

Mandate 1: Seek the prosperity of this city.

Mandate 2: Seek the city that is to come.

If we seek the prosperity of this city because it's ours, we are motivated by self-interest. If we seek the prosperity of the city because it is His, we'll do good and sacrifice.

The background of the image is a close-up of a weathered, grey metal surface. It is heavily corroded, with numerous brown and orange rust spots and larger, irregular patches of rust, particularly concentrated along the top and bottom edges. The texture is rough and granular.

**When our city becomes toxic,
we exemplify Jesus, not Jonah.**

Contrasting Approaches:

Jonah hated Nineveh, wanting destruction to befall it and got angry when God spared it.

Jesus opposed what Jerusalem stood for, but loved the city enough to lay down his life for a new one.

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