



Balm of Gilead

Jeremiah 8:22

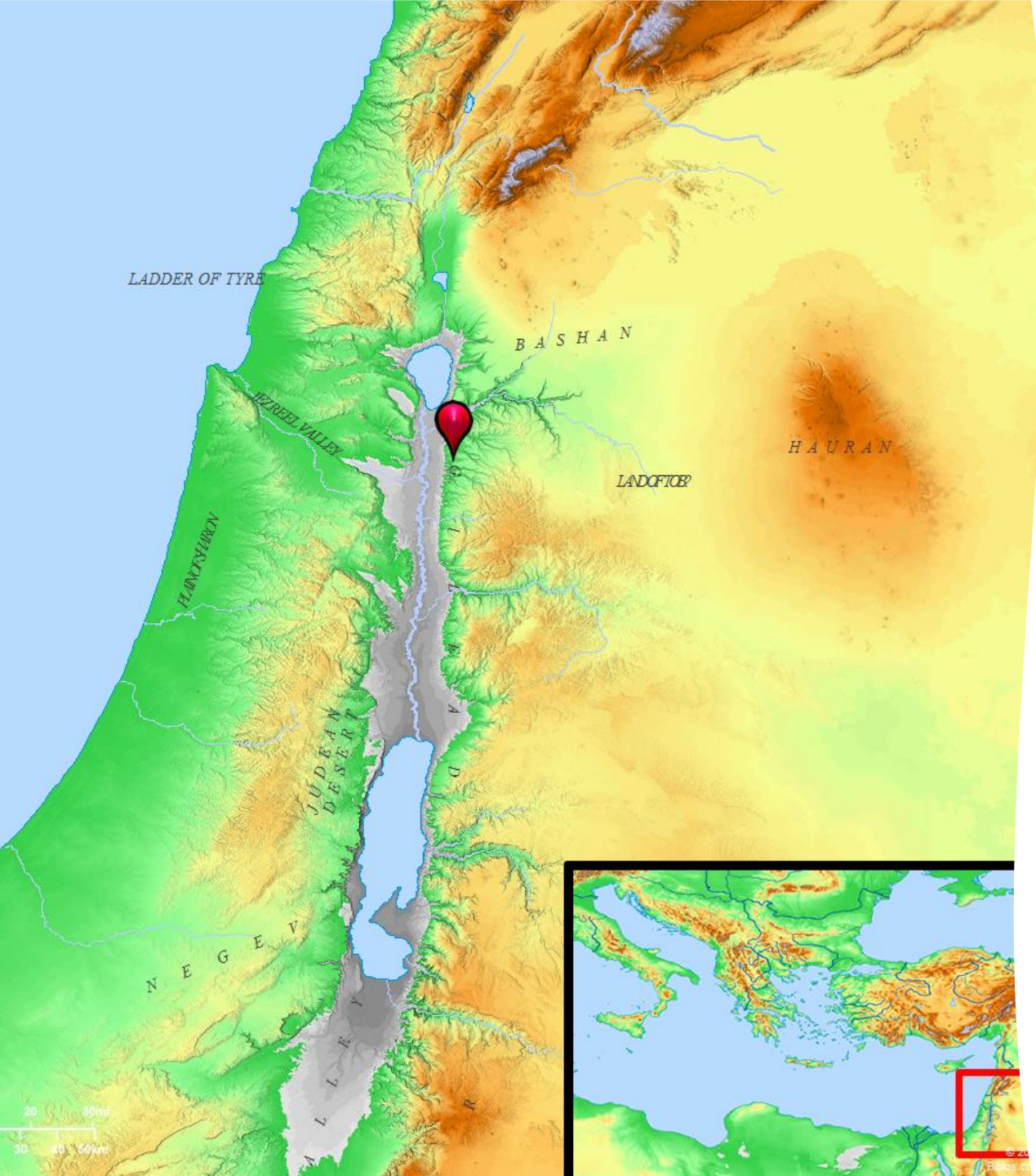


Jeremiah 8:22 (NIV)

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then is there no healing
for the wound of my people?



Balm of Gilead

- Gilead, a region known for its **healing herbs**, particularly a **balm**, was a **symbol of healing power**.
- In Jeremiah's time, this balm was **renowned**, yet he lamented its apparent ineffectiveness in healing Israel's spiritual wounds.
- This cry reflects a deeper problem, one beyond physical ailments - the problem of a **broken relationship with God**.

Balm of Gilead

The natural answer to these questions would have to be yes but the reality of the situation demands that Jeremiah answer **no**. The situation elicits **weeping** and **profound sorrow** from Jeremiah.

Peter C. Craigie, Jeremiah 1–25, vol. 26, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas, TX: Word, Incorporated, 1991), 140.





Jeremiah 8:15 (NIV)

We hoped for peace

but no good has come,
for a time of healing

but there is only terror.

Context

- These verses are written in the shadow of the Babylonian invasion.
- The people seem **unaware of the reason** for their punishment. They retreat to their fortified cities and weep over their losses (Jer. 8:14).
- They feel they **have trusted God to no avail**, for the sounds of defeat are closing in upon them (Jer.8:15–16).
- Jeremiah also **weeps** over the situation. He weeps not just because of the calamity coming upon the people but mainly because of their blindness (8:19–21).

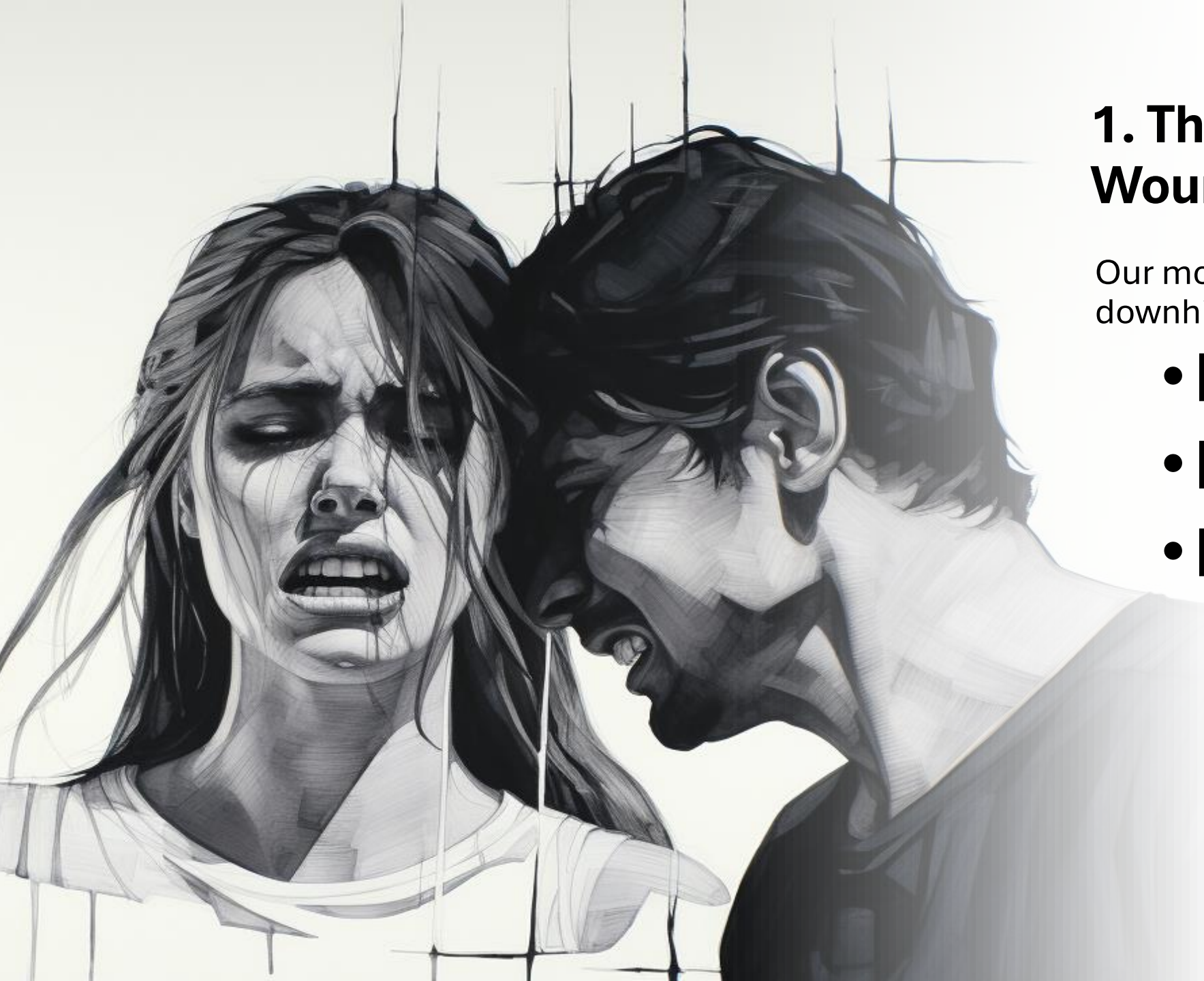
Luke 19:41–44 (NIV)

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he **wept** over it
42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what
would bring you **peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.**
43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an
embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every
side. 44 They will **dash you to the ground**, you and the children
within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because
you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”



Balm of Gilead

1. The Spiritual Wounds of Our Time.
2. Jesus Christ: The True Balm of Gilead.
3. Applying the Balm to Our Lives.
4. The Church's Role as Bearers of the Balm.



1. The Spiritual Wounds of Our Time

Our modern society is speeding downhill in a driverless car

- Blind
- Brokenness
- Burdened



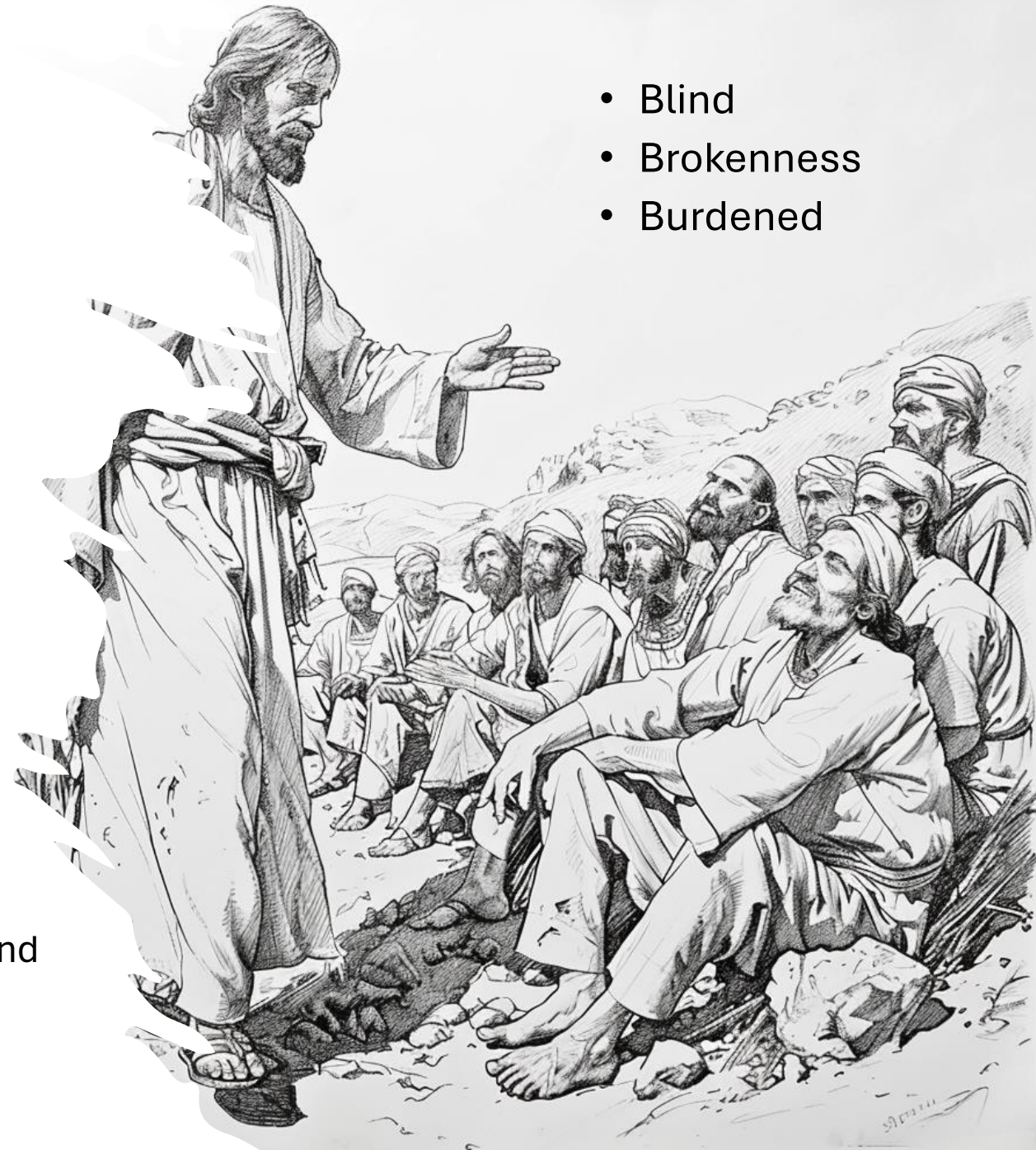
2. Jesus Christ: The True Balm of Gilead

- In Jesus Christ, we find the true Balm of Gilead.
- He heals not just our physical infirmities but our deepest spiritual wounds.
- He offers forgiveness, hope, and a new life.

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

- Blind
- Brokenness
- Burdened





3. Applying the Balm to Our Lives

- How do we apply this balm to our lives? It begins with **faith and a heartfelt repentance.**
- It's a personal journey of recognising our brokenness and **turning to Jesus for healing.**
- It's also about community – **bearing one another's burdens, praying** for each other, and offering the **love and hope of Christ.**
 - Blind
 - Brokenness
 - Burdened



4. The Church's Role as Bearers of the Balm

- We, as the Church, are called to **be carriers of this Balm** to a hurting world.
- This means being active in our outreach, compassionate in our communities, and reflective of **Christ's love in our actions.**
- We are called to be part of this **transformative missional work.**
 - Blind
 - Brokenness
 - Burdened



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