

Be Attracting



Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

Suffering for Jesus



Are you suffering *unfairly* right now?



- School?
- Home?
- Work?
- Church?
- Friends?
- Government?

Why did Peter's readers need encouragement?

1 Pet. 4:12-13

Nero



"Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad-- because these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering, and afterward you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory when it is displayed to all the world."

Argument

"... I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the **true grace of God. Stand fast in it**" (5:12)

The Dual Themes:

"This is the true grace of God"

1 Pet. 1:1-12

Election

Sovereignty of God

Positional sanctification

Initiated by Godhead (1:2)

"Stand firm in it"

1 Pet. 1:13–5:14

Endurance

Responsibility of man

Practical sanctification

**Effected in Godly Living
(1:13ff)**

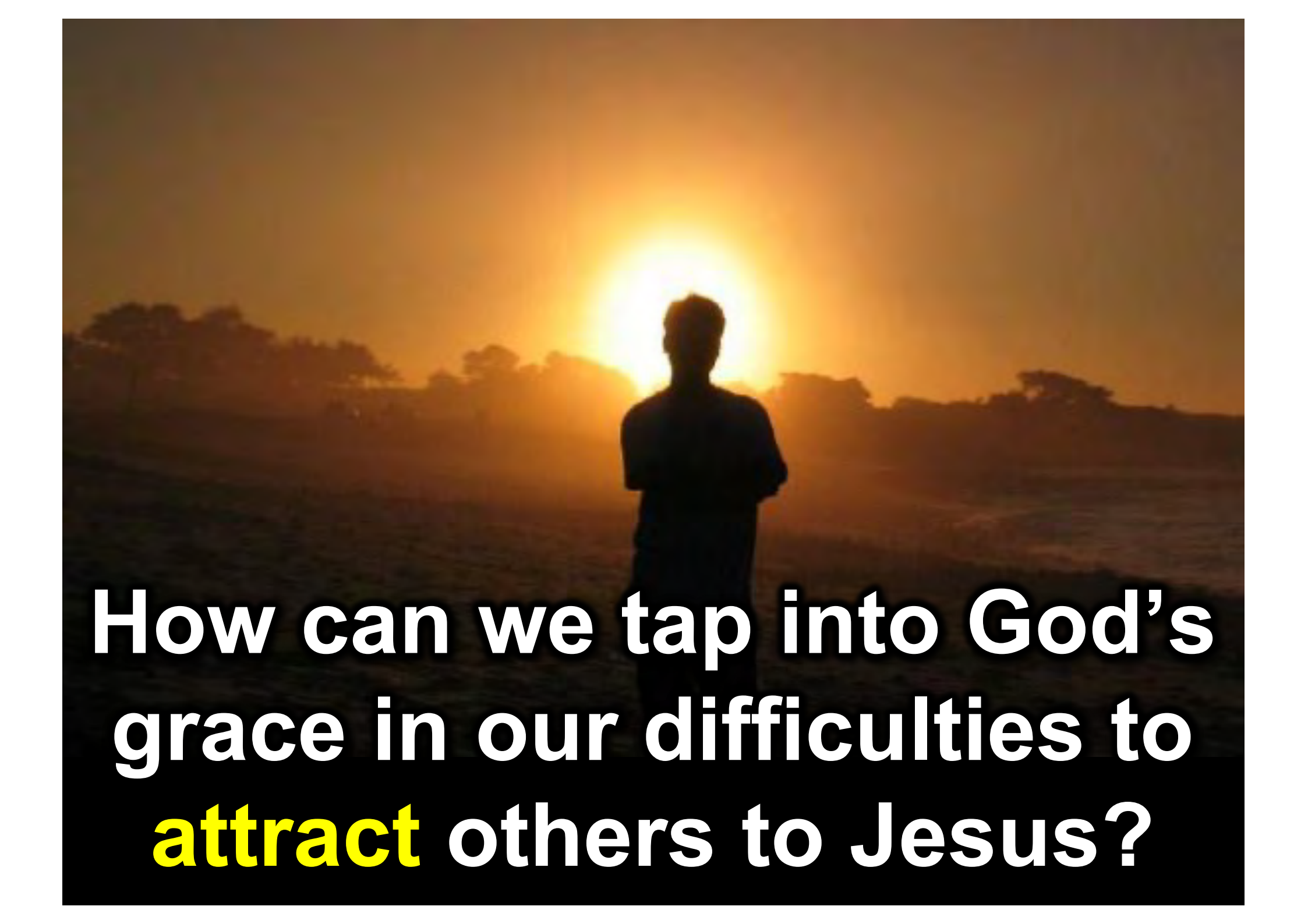
What is Grace?

"The power to do God's will"

***- Bill Gothard
(Institute in Basic Life Principles)***

**Too often we repel
unbelievers when we suffer**



A silhouette of a person stands with their back to the camera, looking out over a body of water towards a bright, low sun. The sun is a large, glowing orb in the center of the frame, casting a warm, orange light across the sky and water. The person's silhouette is dark against the bright background. The water in the foreground is dark and calm, reflecting the light from the sun. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, with some darker clouds visible on the horizon.

How can we tap into God's
grace in our difficulties to
attract others to Jesus?

Attract Others to Jesus



**Our churches should
attract the people Jesus
attracted and frustrate
the people Jesus
frustrated.**

—*Shane Claiborne*—

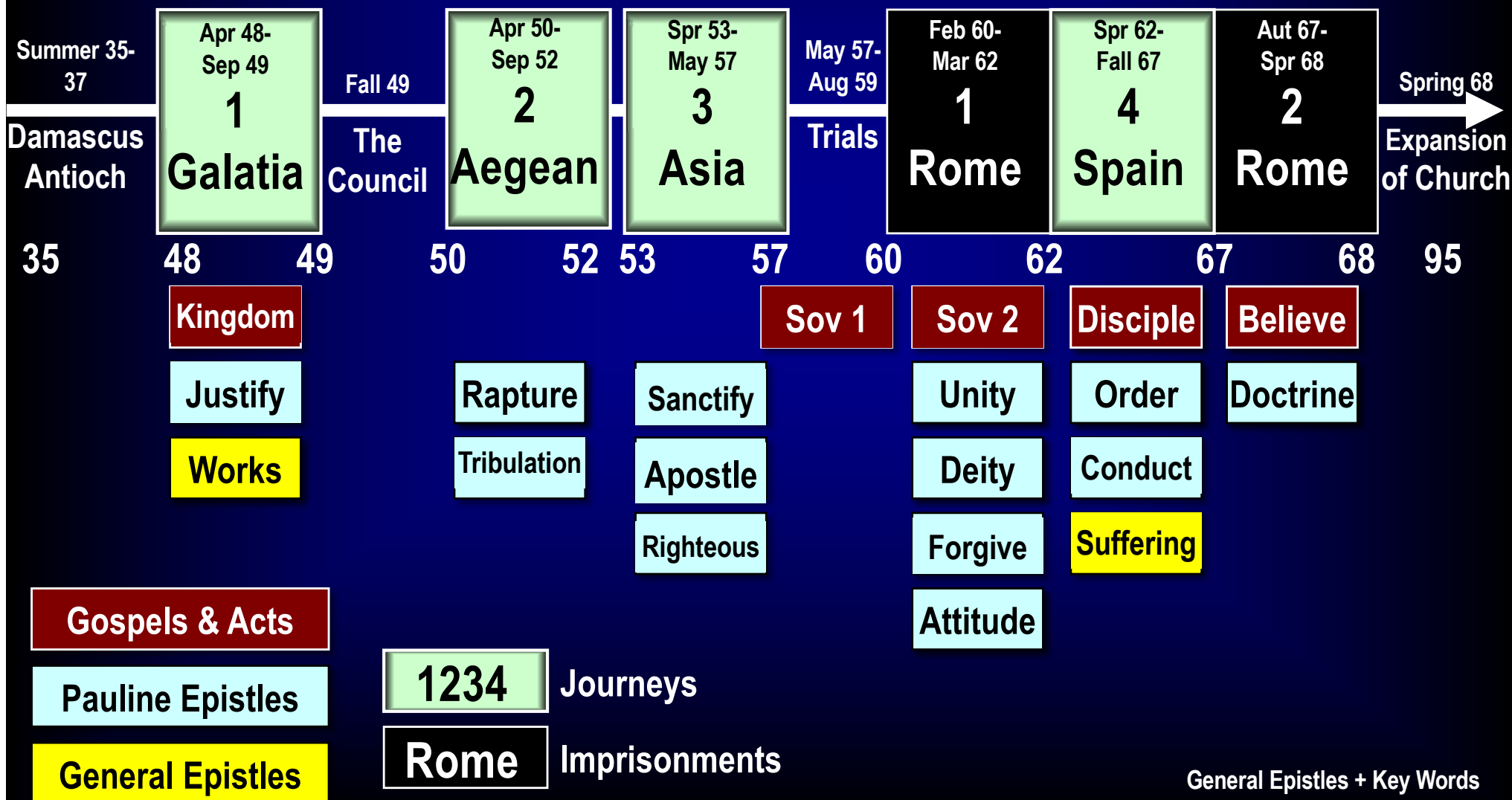
AZ QUOTES

NT Overview (General + Key Words)

38
124
39-41

"To the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

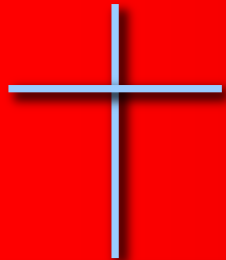
Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Common Responses to Persecution	Peter's Exhortation
"I'll get even"	<i>"Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called to inherit a blessing" (3:9; cf. 2:1)</i>
"I'm discouraged"	<i>"Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ...do not be ashamed..." (4:13, 16)</i>
"I'm afraid"	<i>"Do not fear what they [persecutors] fear; do not be frightened" (3:14b)</i>
"Forget Christianity. It's not worth it"	<i>"...by His wounds you have been healed" (2:24)</i>
"Why do they only persecute me?"	<i>"...your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings" (5:9)</i>
"Hey! I have my rights!"	<i>"Humble yourselves...under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time" (5:6)</i>

Persecution in the First Century

All Emperors Were Not Equal



Christ
Crucified
AD 33



Jerusalem
Destroyed
AD 70



Revelation
Written
AD 95

Tiberius
14-37

Caligula
37-41

Claudius
41-54

Nero
54-68

Vespasian
69-79

Titus
79-81

Domitian
81-96

Emperors in black caused Jews and/or Christians to suffer

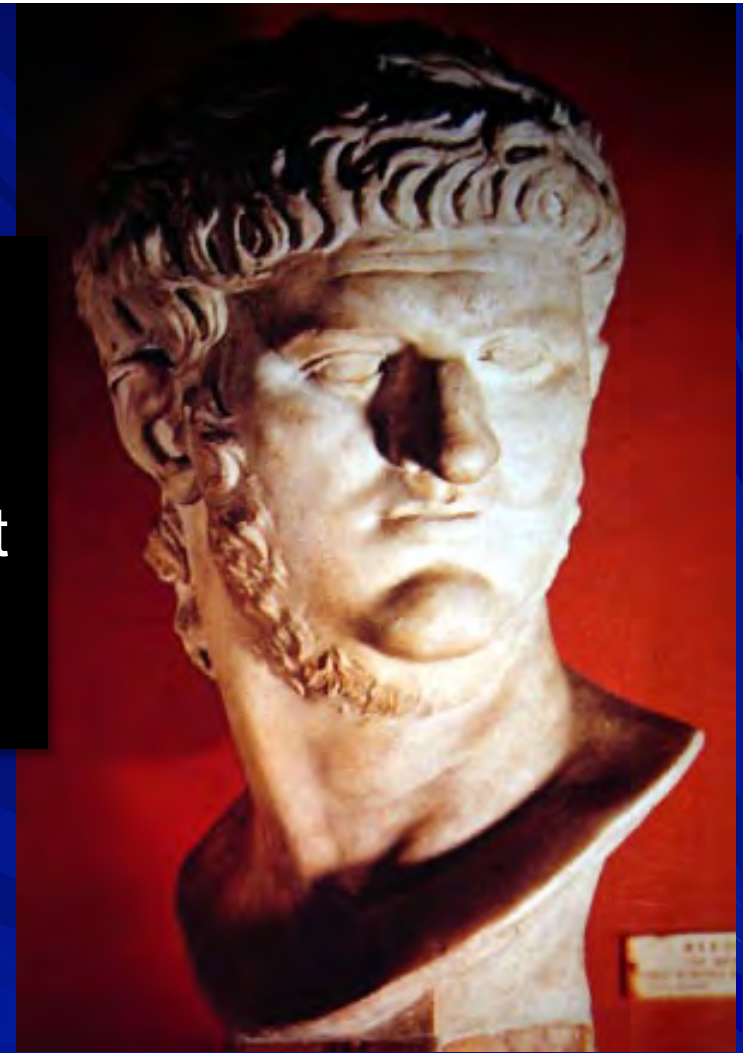
ROME

A.D. 64

Nero (AD 54-68)

"Favorite sayings: He played the lyre very badly but people told him he was brilliant.

The Greeks were particularly creepy about telling him he was good. 'Only the Greeks are worth my genius,' he would say.



When he knew he had to die all he could say was, 'What a loss I shall be to the art of music!'"

Theme

23

How to Attract Others During Righteous Suffering

1 Peter

1 Peter Outline

How to Attract Others During Righteous Suffering

Sanctification			Submission				Selflessness					
1:1–2:12			2:13–3:12				3:13–5:14					
Holiness			Humility				Honoring Others					
Salu- tation 1:1-2	Praise for hope 1:3- 12	Holy Life Exhort- ed 1:13– 2:12	Gov't 2:13- 17	Work Place 2:18- 25	Marri- age 3:1-7	Church & all of Life 3:8-12	Christ's triumph 3:13–4:6	Edify others 4:7-19	Elders 5:1-4	Young Men 5:5a	Humility & watch- fulness 5:5b-11	Purpose 5:12-14

Rome to Northern Asia

Early AD 64

How to attract others to Jesus...

I. Show **holiness** with hope
(1:1–2:12).



HOPE
IN THE DARKNESS



Show **holiness** with hope.

1 Peter 1

Recipients: Pilgrims in Dispersion

277
280a

"This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as **foreigners** in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia"

—1 Pet 1:1 NLT—



Do you feel like an alien?

"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who reside as aliens..."

—1 Pet 1:1 NAS—

What does an alien look like?

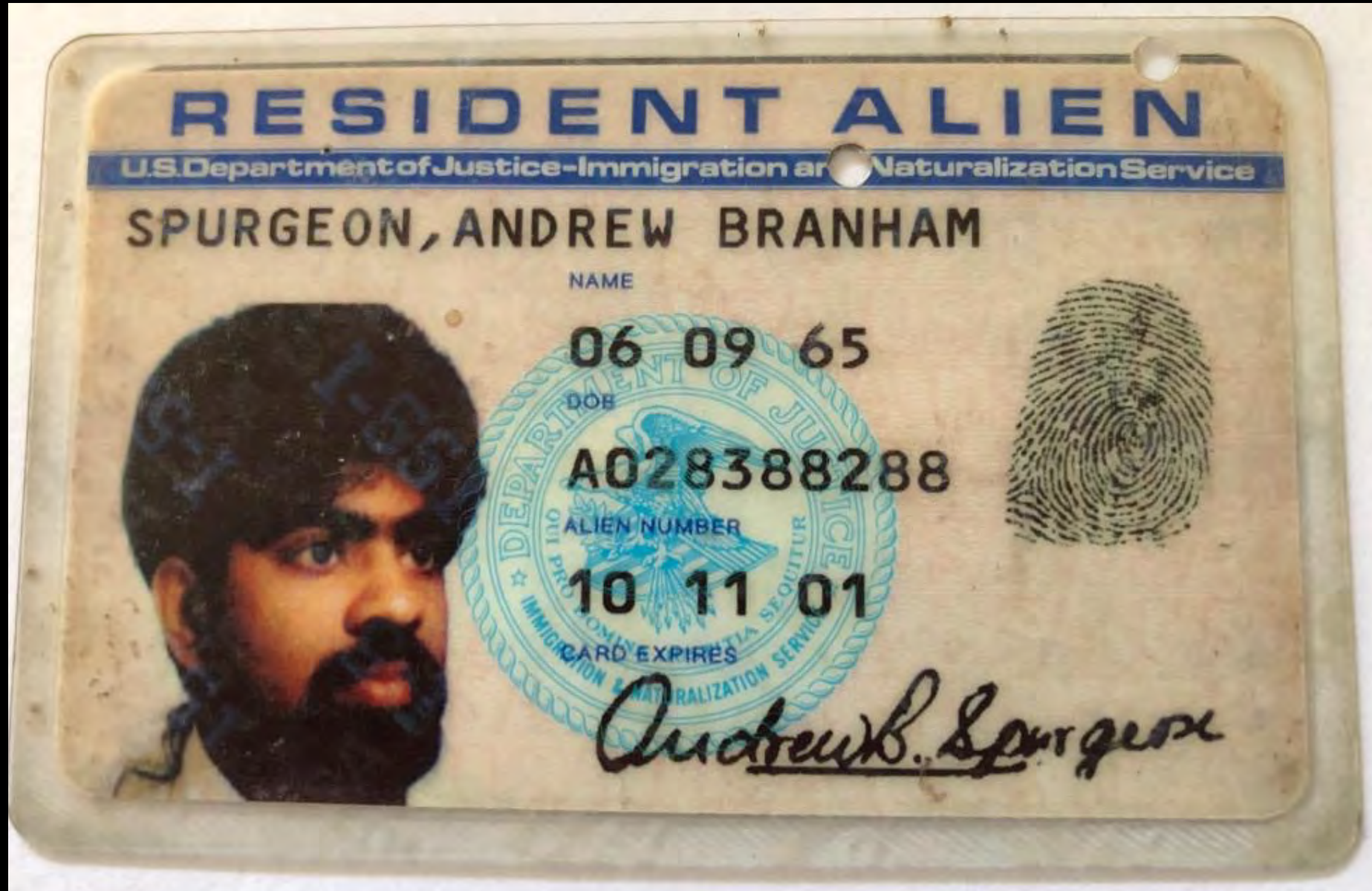
"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who reside as aliens..."

—1 Pet 1:1 NAS—



What does an alien look like?



What is an Alien?

1. *Reside in a foreign land*
2. *Citizenship is in another place (cf. Phil. 3:20)*
3. *Abode is temporary (not a P.R.)*
4. *Different values than the majority—sense of humor, dress, view of money, job, giving, etc.*
5. *Often persecuted for being different—laughed at, ridiculed, etc.*



"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

—1 Pet 1:3-5 NIV—



**"In this you greatly rejoice,
though now for a little while
you may have had to suffer
grief in all kinds of trials.
⁷These have come so that your
faith—of greater worth than
gold, which perishes even
though refined by fire—may be
proved genuine and may result
in praise, glory and honor
when Jesus Christ is revealed."**

—1 Pet 1:6-7 NIV—



"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

—1 Pet 1:8-9 NIV—



"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow."

—1 Pet 1:10-11 NIV—



"It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things."

—1 Pet 1:12 NIV—

Holiness:

What is it?

⊕ **Belonging to God**

⊕ ἅγιος ” set apart to or
by God, consecrated; holy,
morally pure, upright

⊕ **Set apart for special use**

How Holy are You?

How true are these statements of you?

- 1.** *My work (or school or neighborhood) friends know me as a believer in Jesus Christ.*
- 2.** *People are more like God because they know me well.*

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Rome to Northern Asia

Early AD 64



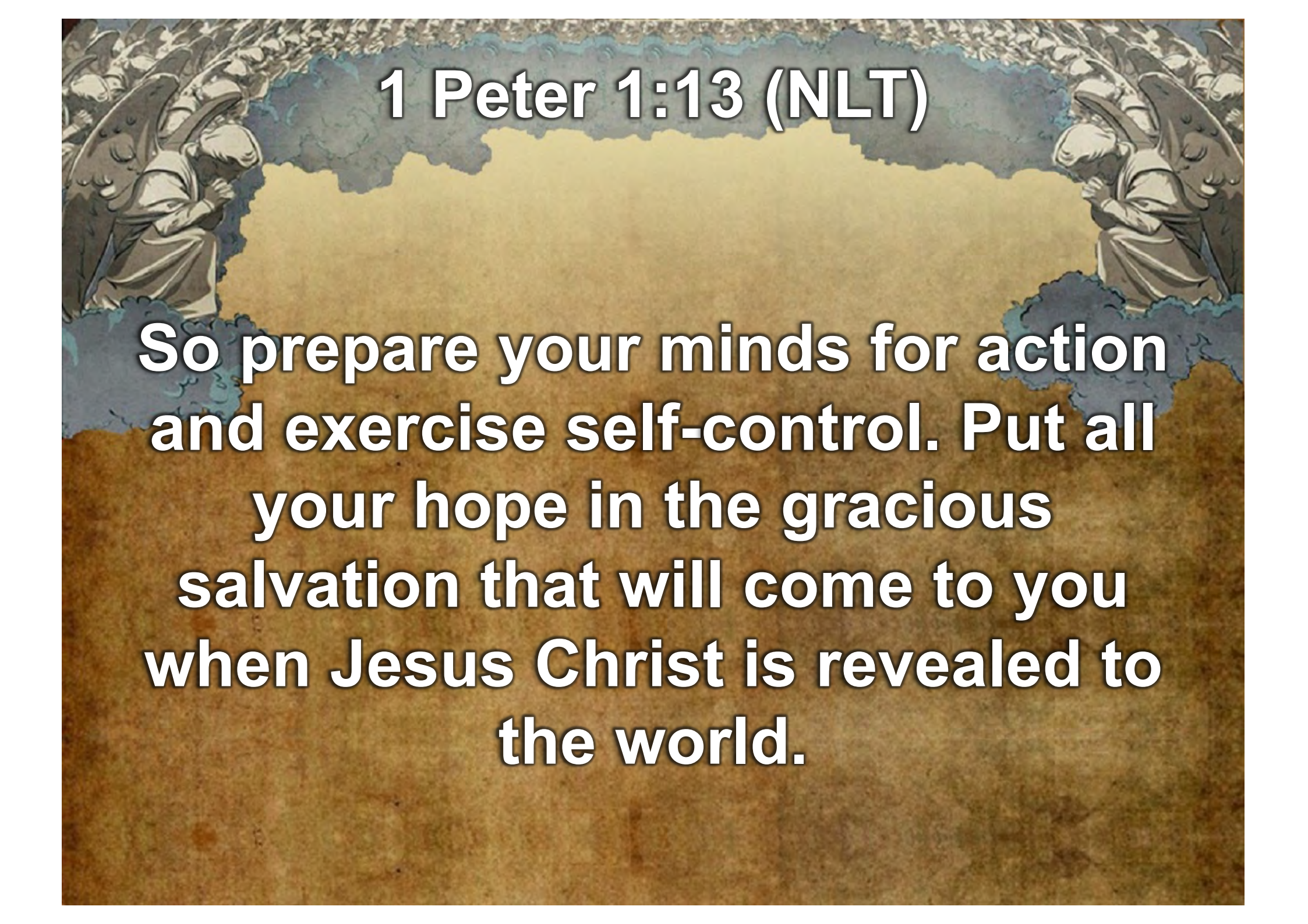
**Why replace the evil
desires of our former life
with moral purity now?**

a) God is Our Example (13-16)

Who can even
begin to
comprehend
God's holiness
at his throne
(Rev. 4-5)?

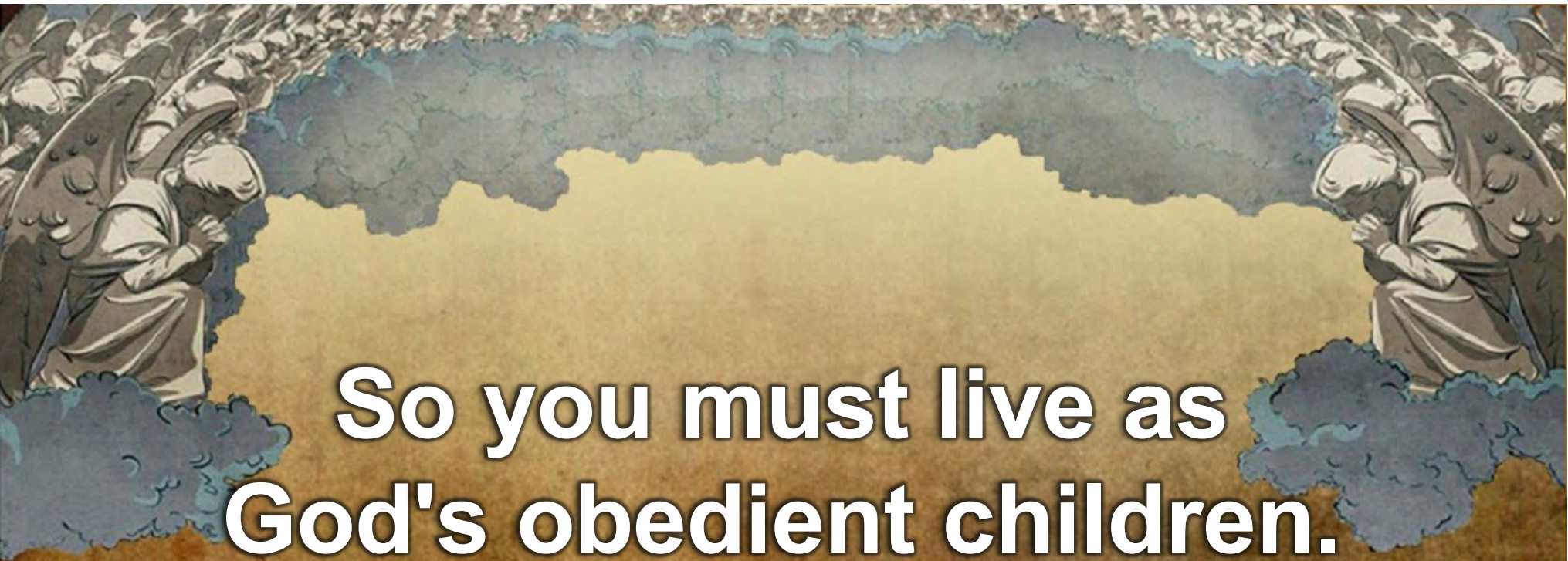


God our Example is holy (1:13-16)

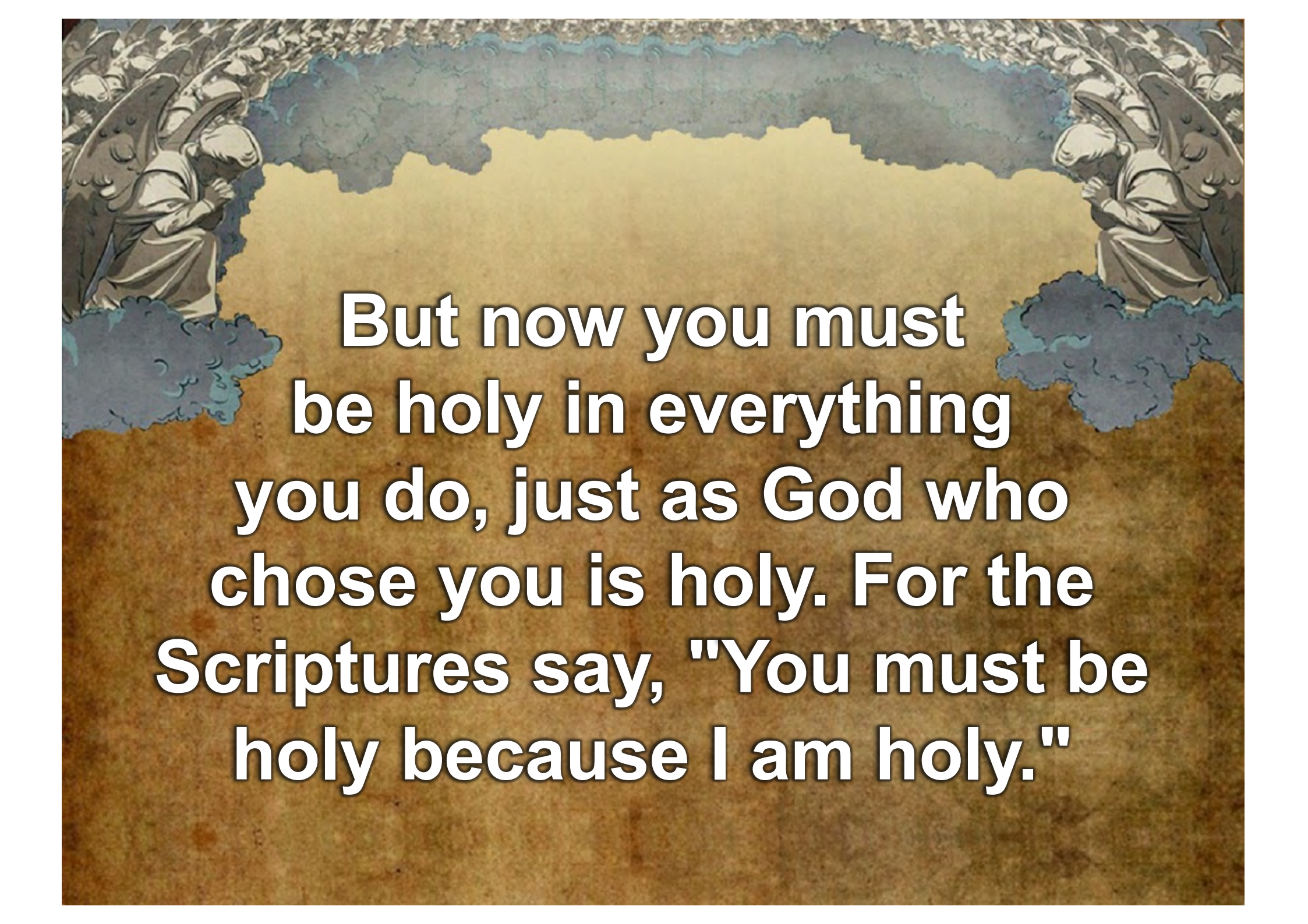
The background of the image features a textured, parchment-like surface in shades of brown and tan. At the top, there is a horizontal band of blue and grey, resembling a sky or a distant horizon. On the left and right sides of this band, there are two figures in traditional robes, depicted in a prayerful or contemplative pose, with their heads bowed and hands clasped. The overall style is reminiscent of a religious manuscript or a spiritual illustration.

1 Peter 1:13 (NLT)

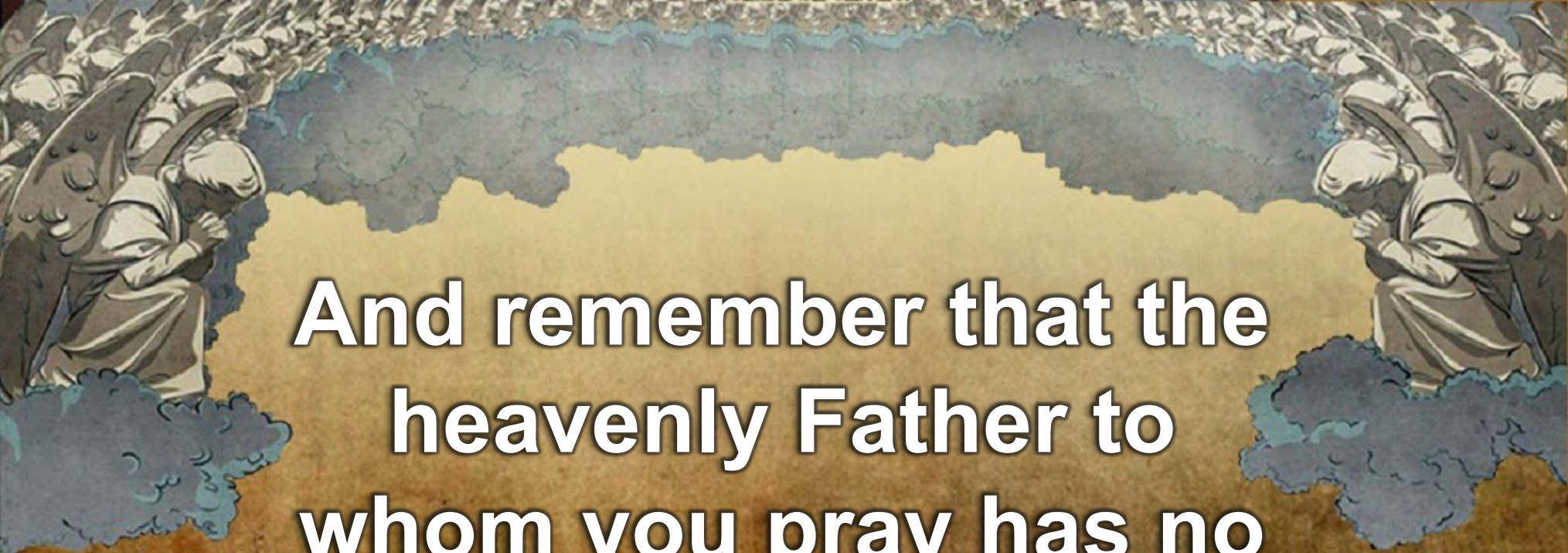
**So prepare your minds for action
and exercise self-control. Put all
your hope in the gracious
salvation that will come to you
when Jesus Christ is revealed to
the world.**



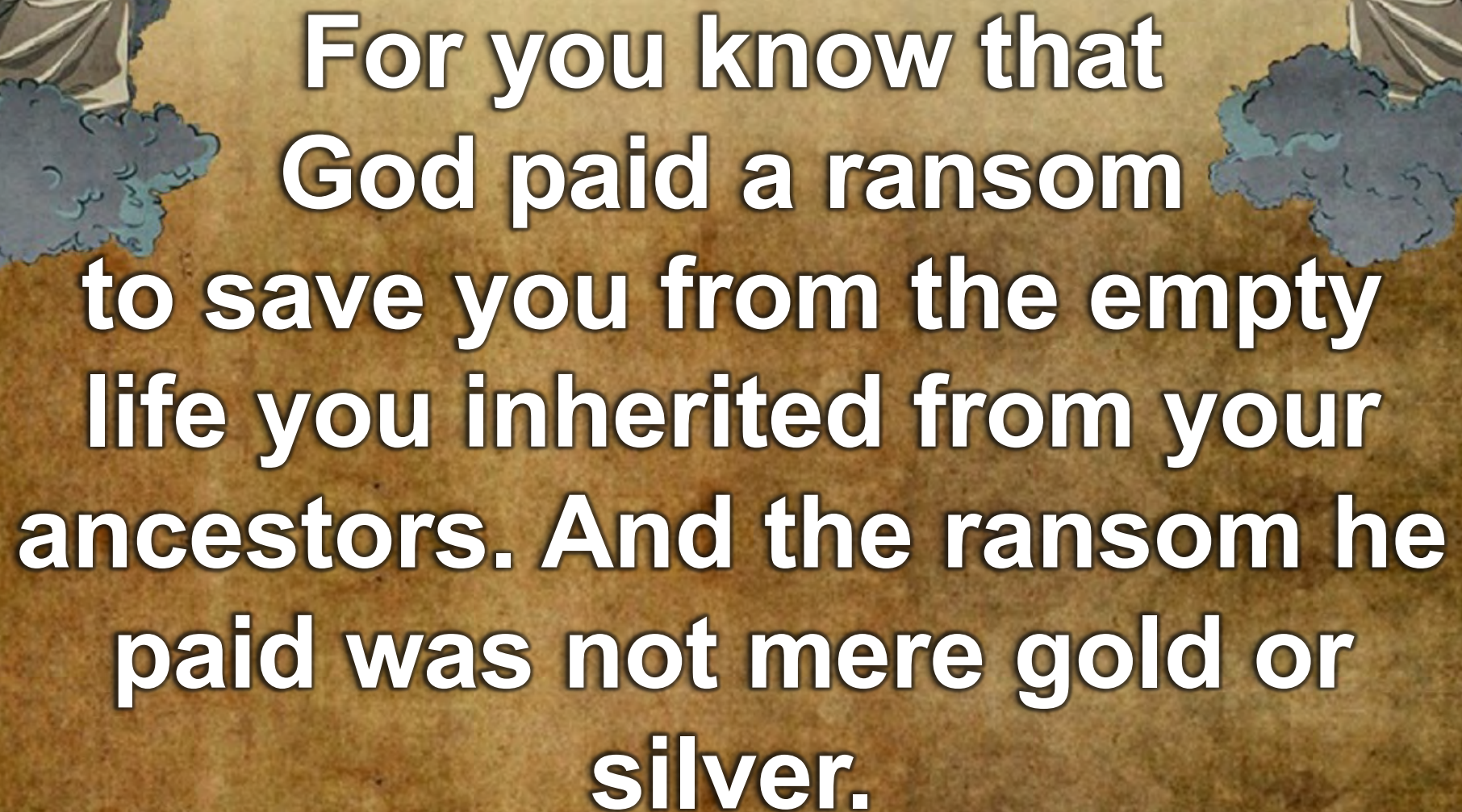
**So you must live as
God's obedient children.
Don't slip back into your old
ways of living to satisfy your
own desires. You didn't know
any better then.**



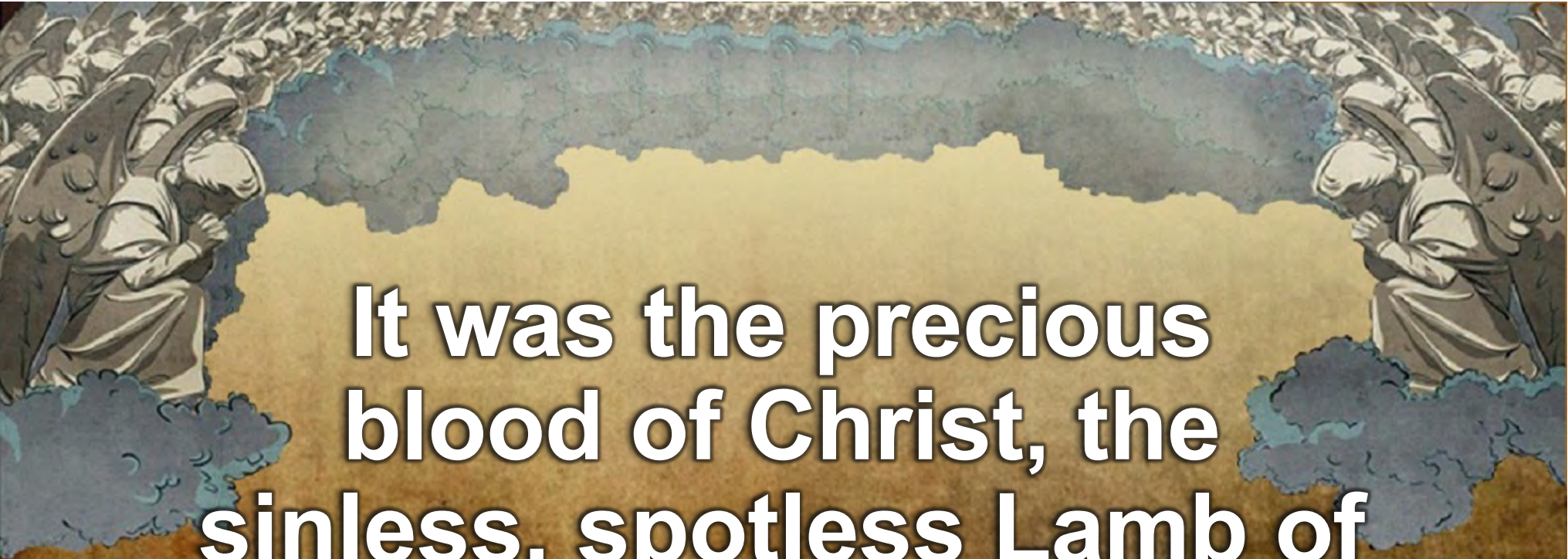
**But now you must
be holy in everything
you do, just as God who
chose you is holy. For the
Scriptures say, "You must be
holy because I am holy."**



And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as "foreigners in the land."

An illustration featuring two figures, possibly angels or saints, in prayerful poses on either side of a central text area. They are depicted in a classical, somewhat somber style, wearing robes and having their hands clasped in prayer. The background is a textured, brownish-gold surface, and the figures are set against a dark, rocky or cave-like backdrop. The central text is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline, making it stand out prominently.

**For you know that
God paid a ransom
to save you from the empty
life you inherited from your
ancestors. And the ransom he
paid was not mere gold or
silver.**



**It was the precious
blood of Christ, the
sinless, spotless Lamb of
God. God chose him as your
ransom long before the world
began, but he has now
revealed him to you in these
last days.**

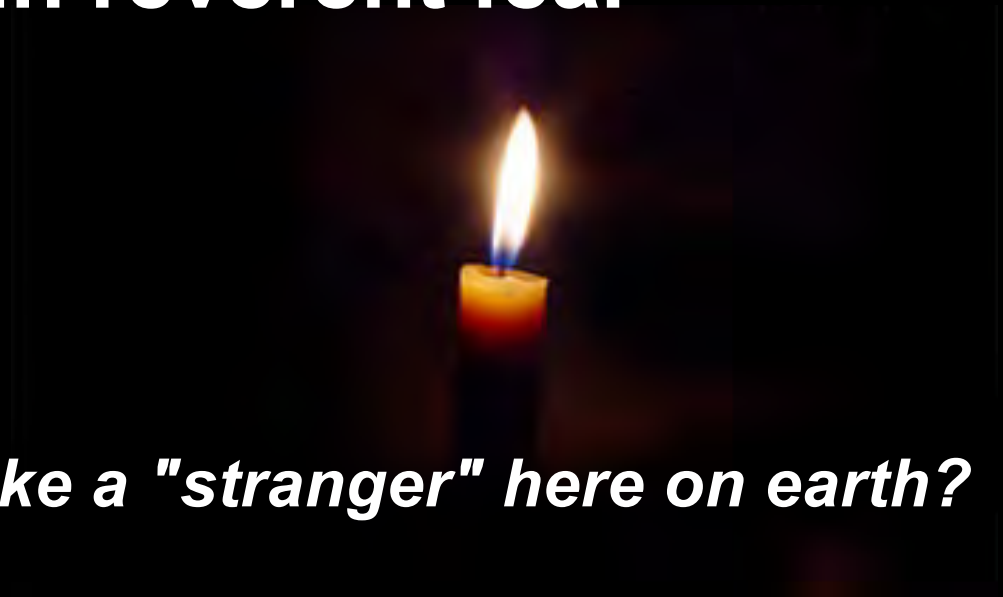


Why replace the evil desires of our former life with moral purity now?

- a) God is Our Example (13-16)**
- b) God is Our Judge (17)**

Be holy because God is Judge

**"Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear"
(1 Peter 1:17)**



In what way do you feel like a "stranger" here on earth?



Why replace the evil desires of our former life with moral purity now?

- a) God is Our Example (13-16)**
- b) God is Our Judge (17)**
- c) God is Our Redeemer (18-21)**



**Be holy
because
God is
Redeemer**

"...it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18-19)

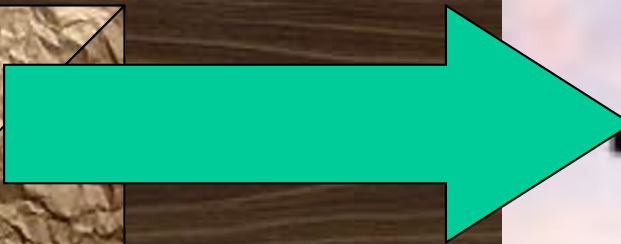
How was your former way of life as a non-Christian "empty"?

Redemption (Rom 3:24): "to pay a ransom" (Greek)

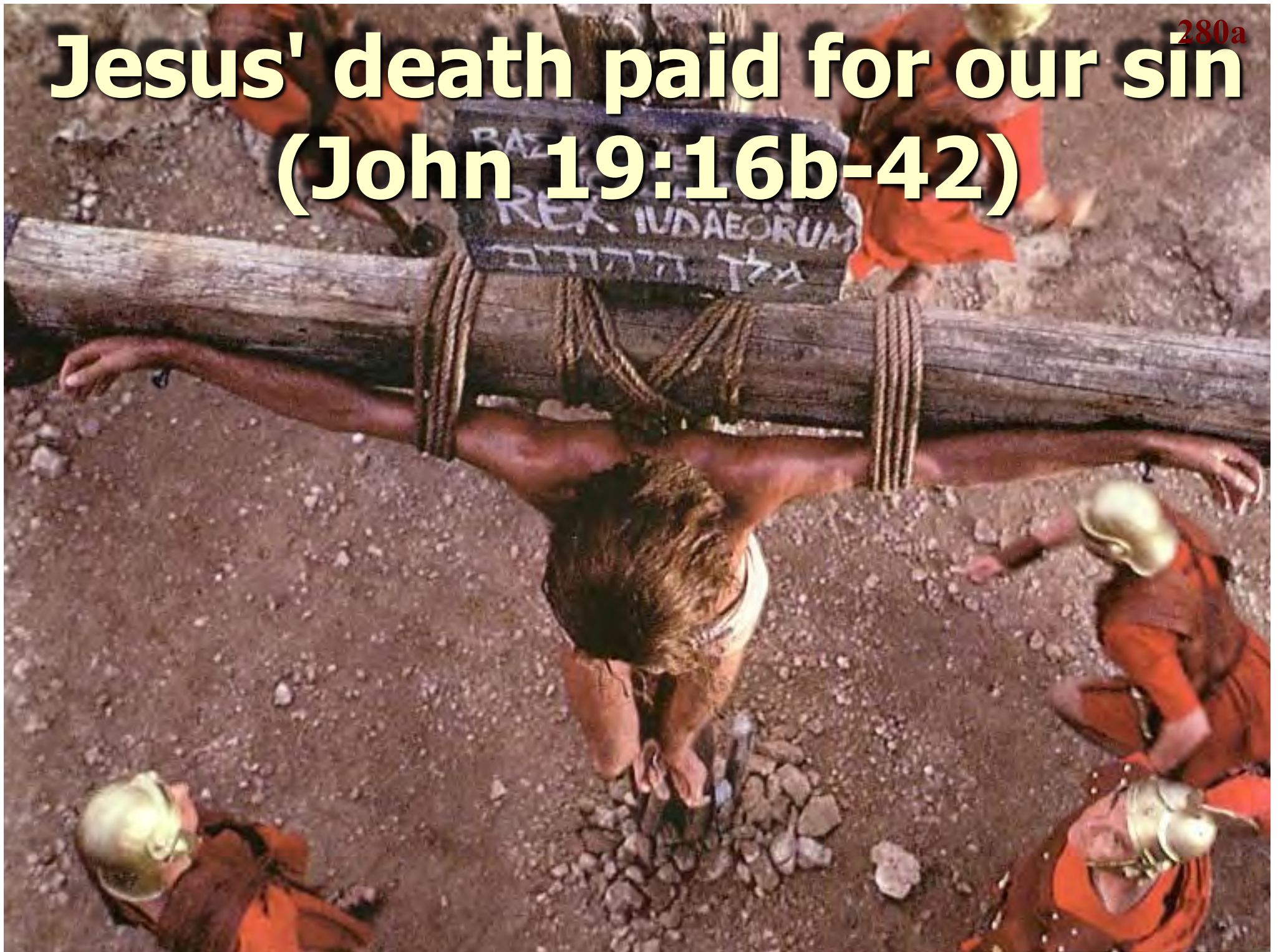
**Christ's blood paid our ransom
(1 Pet. 1:18)**



**Slave
Market
of Sin**



Jesus' death paid for our sin^{280a} (John 19:16b-42)



"It is finished"

Legal

paid

in Full





Why replace the evil desires of our former life with moral purity now?

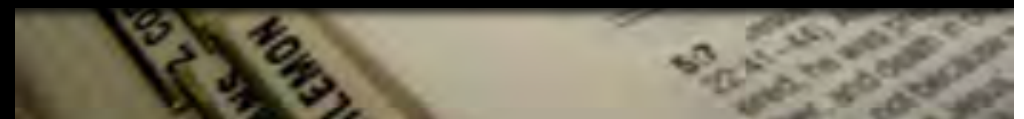
- a) God is Our Example (13-16)**
- b) God is Our Judge (17)**
- c) God is Our Redeemer (18-21)**
- d) God is Our Communicator (1:22–2:3)**

- "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth...
- ...living and enduring word of God...
- ...the word of the Lord stands forever...
- And this is the word that was preached to you
- ...crave pure spiritual milk..."

God as Communicator purifies us through his Word (1:22–2:3)



Which 2:1 sins are reduced in you by "the pure spiritual milk"?



1 Peter 2

Theme

23

How to Attract Others During Righteous Suffering

1 Peter

How to attract others to Jesus...

I. Show **holiness** with hope
(1:1–2:12).



HOPE
IN THE DARKNESS

How to attract others to Jesus...

II. Show **submission to both
God and people (2:13–3:12).**



Endurance in Suffering By God's Grace (is achieved by...)

280d

II. **Submission** 2:13–3:12 (Humility)



- A.** To Government 2:13-17
- B.** In Work Place 2:18-25
- C.** In Marriage 3:1-7
- D.** In Church & All of Life 3:8-12



**Submit
to Which
Country?**



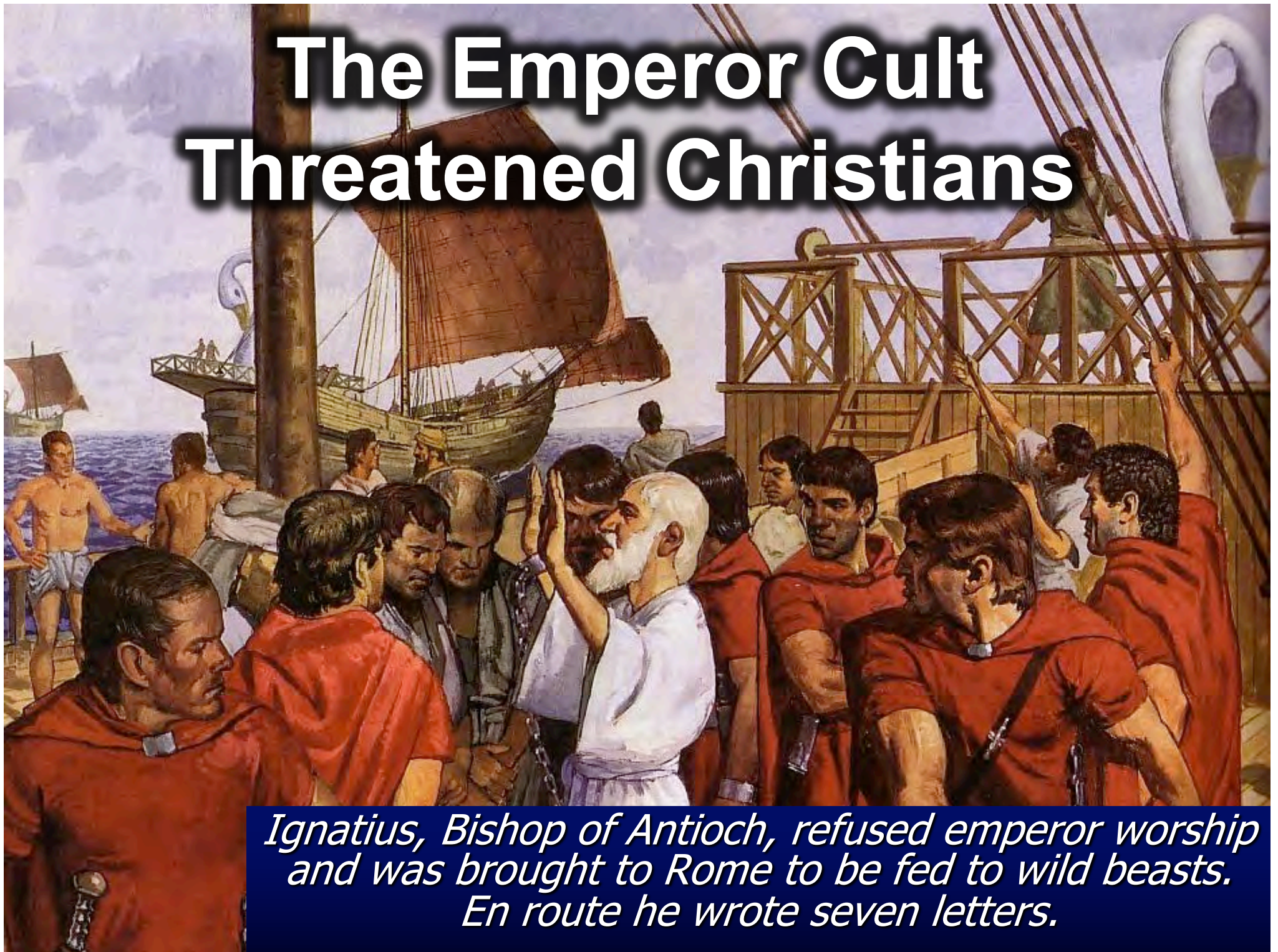
Submit to Government no matter what type...

- Socialism: You have two cows...
and you give one to your neighbor.
- Communism: You have two cows...
the government takes both of them
and *gives* you some milk.
- Fascism: You have two cows...
the government takes both of them
and *sells* you some milk.

Submit to Government no matter what type...

- Nazism: You have two cows...
the government takes both of them
and *shoots you*.
- Bureaucracy: You have two cows...
the government takes both of them,
shoots one, milks the other, and pours
the milk down the drain.
- Capitalism: You have two cows...
you sell one and buy a bull.

The Emperor Cult Threatened Christians



*Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, refused emperor worship
and was brought to Rome to be fed to wild beasts.
En route he wrote seven letters.*

Pliny the Younger (AD 111-113)

281b

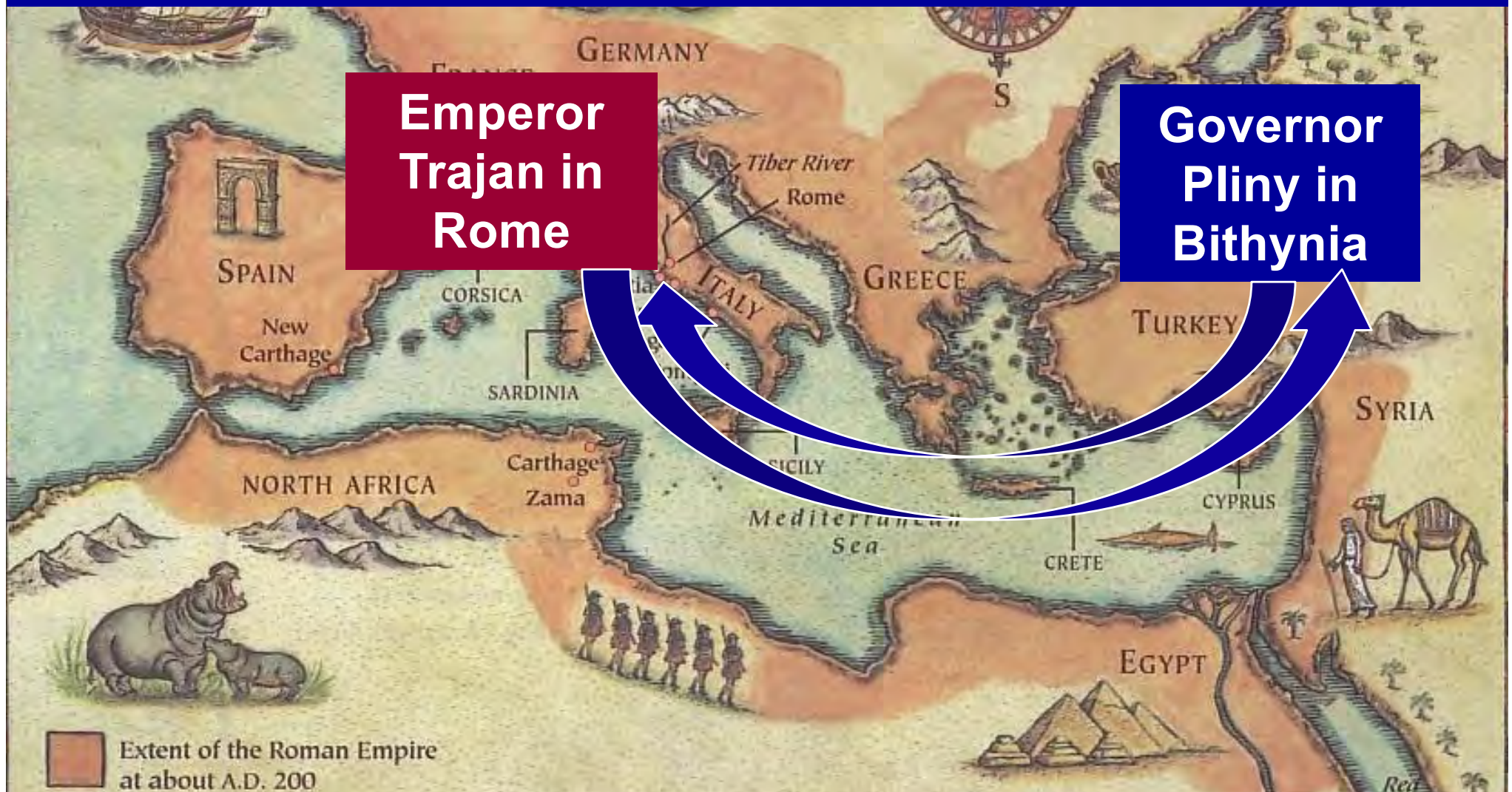
Plinius. Calvisio suo salutem
Nescio an ullum huc undiustitius
exceperim quam quoniam per lapidum
pinnam tuam deo quidem in meam
mae is sine ne tute signo dosene ser
re dnu mest x emul x p oclim nihil
est enim illouit x eene redistin
ctus sine autem morte certus si de rum
cursus ita x hominum distosia
delectat se nump x eertum nam
iuenes ad huc contus x quax d m
et quansiturbat x non inde eene se
nis placid x omni x et orn x con
uenient quibus induit x in se x tute
ambitio est hanc eculans purin
na constantis sine eculant quinet
pax x hanc eculans sine cotidie x ad
ordine quod x et uelut orb eculant
x pax x hanc eculant sine cotidie x ad
ordine quod x et uelut orb eculant



- He was the governor of Bithynia who wrote letters to the Emperor Trajan for counsel on various matters

MAP OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Helpful Correspondence (AD 111)



Early Church Suffering



Early Church Suffering

Governor Pliny to Emperor Trajan (AD 111):

**"I have observed the following procedure:
I interrogated these as to whether they were
Christians; those who confessed I interrogated
a second and a third time, threatening them
with punishment; those who persisted I
ordered executed..."**

Pliny, *Letters* 10.96

Early Church Suffering

Governor Pliny to Emperor Trajan (AD 111):

"Those who denied that they were or had been Christians, when they invoked the gods in words dictated by me, offered prayer with incense and wine to your image, which I had ordered to be brought for this purpose together with statues of the gods, and moreover cursed Christ—none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do—these I thought should be discharged."

Pliny, *Letters* 10.96

1 Peter 3

1 Peter Outline

How to Attract Others During Righteous Suffering

Sanctification			Submission				Selflessness					
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Rome to Northern Asia

Early AD 64

Submission as a Way of Life 280g

(2:13–3:12)

✧ ***"Submit... to the king" (2:13)***

✧ ***"Slaves, submit..." (2:18)***

✧ ***"Wives, in the same way, be submissive to your husbands..." (3:1)***

✧ ***"Husbands, in the same way be considerate..." (3:7)***

Submission in Marriage

**Wives
(3:1-6)**

How?

Quiet spirit

Why?

**Witness to husband
Please God**

**Husbands
(3:7)**

How?

Understand & Respect

Why?

Unhindered prayer

1 Peter Outline

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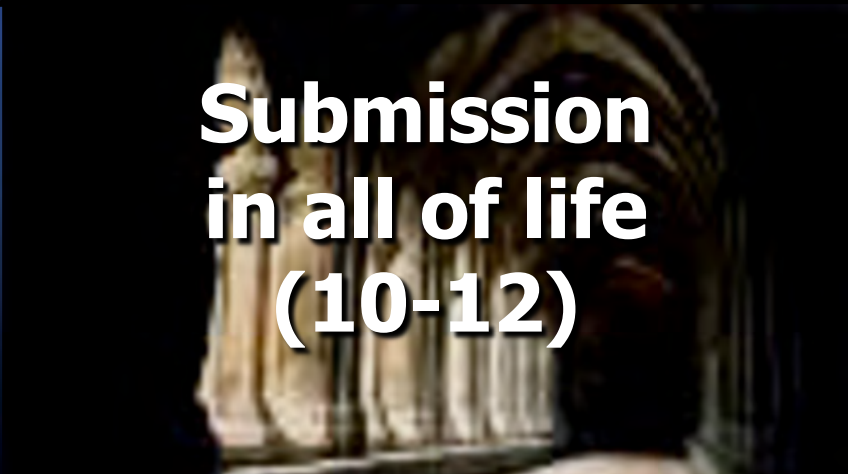
Rome to Northern Asia

Early AD 64

Our Final Section on Submission ^{280j} ***(3:8-12)***



**Submission
to attackers
(9)**



**Submission
in all of life
(10-12)**

Blessing, Not Retaliation (3:9)

Do not repay
evil with evil
or insult with insult but with blessing,

Why?

because to this you were called
so that you may inherit a blessing



Theme

23

How to Attract Others During Righteous Suffering

1 Peter

How to attract others to Jesus...

I. Show **holiness** with hope
(1:1–2:12).



HOPE
IN THE DARKNESS

How to attract others to Jesus...

II. Show **submission to both
God and people (2:13–3:12).**



How to attract others to Jesus...

III. Show **selfless** living like Jesus (3:13–5:14).



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE.

WALKING IN THE LOVE OF GOD

**You attract
people by the
qualities you
display. You
keep them by
the qualities you
possess.**

Endurance in Suffering By God's Grace (is achieved by...)

III. Selflessness 3:13–5:14 (Honoring Others)

- A.** Christ's triumph 3:13–4:6
- B.** Edify others 4:7-19
- C.** Elders 5:1-4
- D.** Young Men 5:5a
- E.** Humility/watchfulness 5:5b-11
- F.** Purpose 5:12-14



Who fears more?



Persecutors?

Persecutees?

"Do not fear **what they
[persecutors] **fear...**"
(1 Peter 3:14b)**

1 Peter 3:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

¹⁹ in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits *now* in prison,

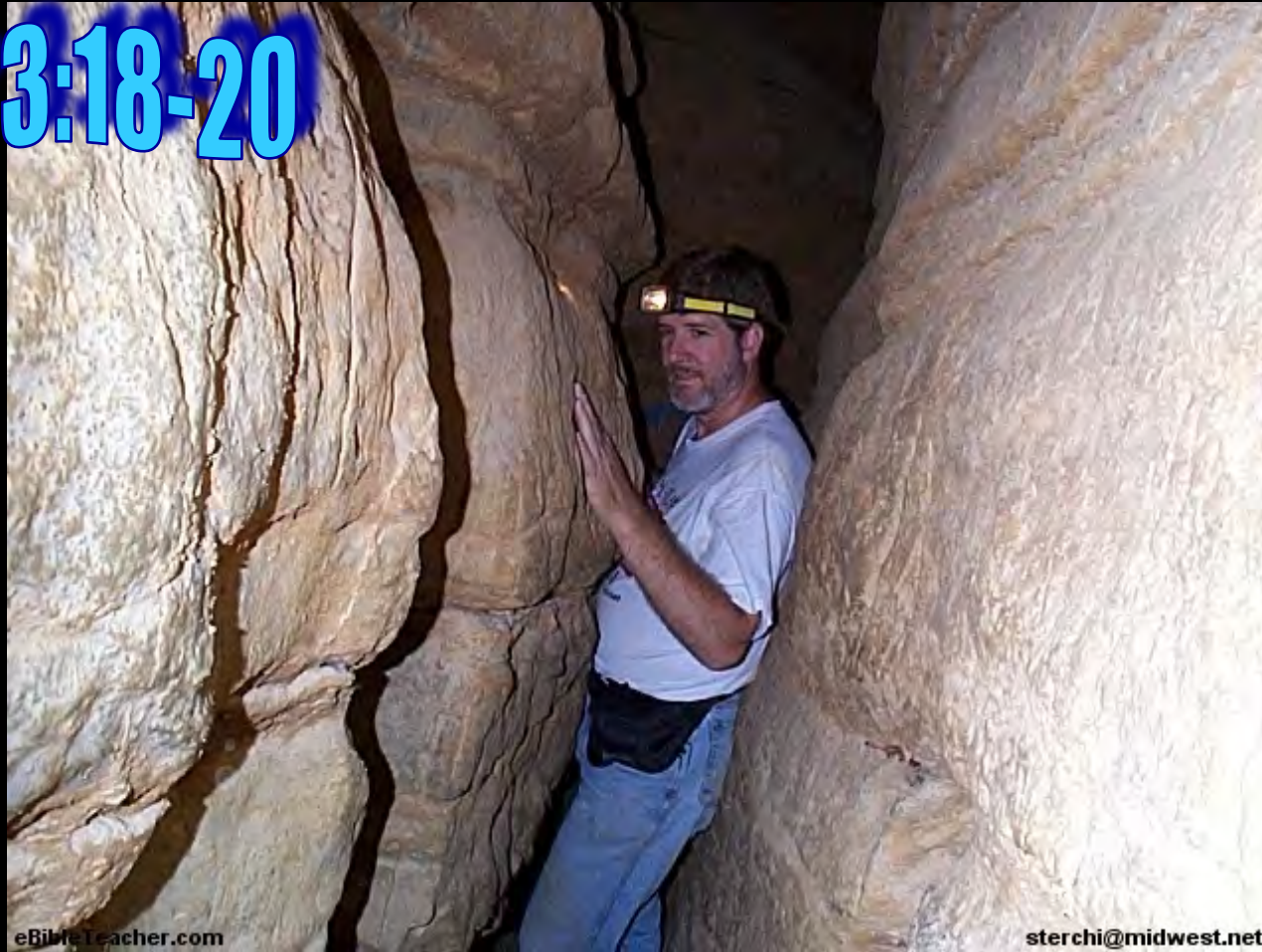
²⁰ who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the* water.

"A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament, so that I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means."

Martin Luther

Whatever your view...

1 Peter 3:18-20



**... you're between a rock
and a hard place!**

1 Peter 4

How to show selfless concern (4:7-11)

Clear-minded prayer (4:7)

Love (4:8)

Hospitality (4:9)

Use of gifts (4:10-11)

Get
words
from
God

Categories of Gifts (1 Peter 4:11)

Get
strength
from
God

Speaking

Teaching

Evangelism

Pastor-Teacher

Encouraging

Serving

Administering

Faith

Giving

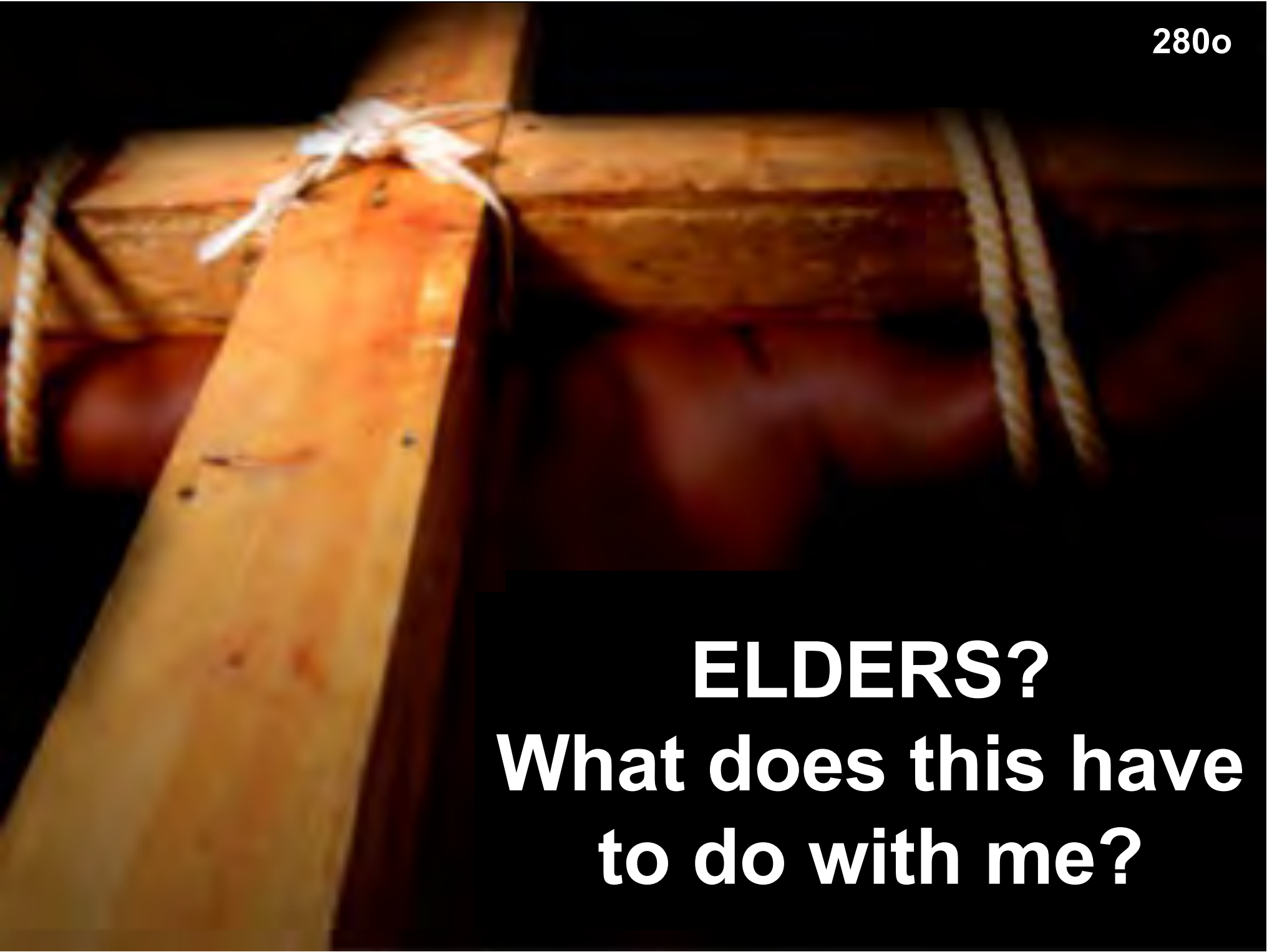
Service

Mercy

¹⁵ If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. ¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!





1 Peter 5



ELDERS?
**What does this have
to do with me?**

What *kind* of leader are you?

- 
1. *People seem to like having me as their leader*
 2. *When I lead, people follow*
 3. *I lead others because I want to do it*
 4. *I serve the people under my care rather than expecting them to serve me*
 5. *Others tell me that I am an example of integrity for them*



The danger of
"lording it
over"

What does this mean?

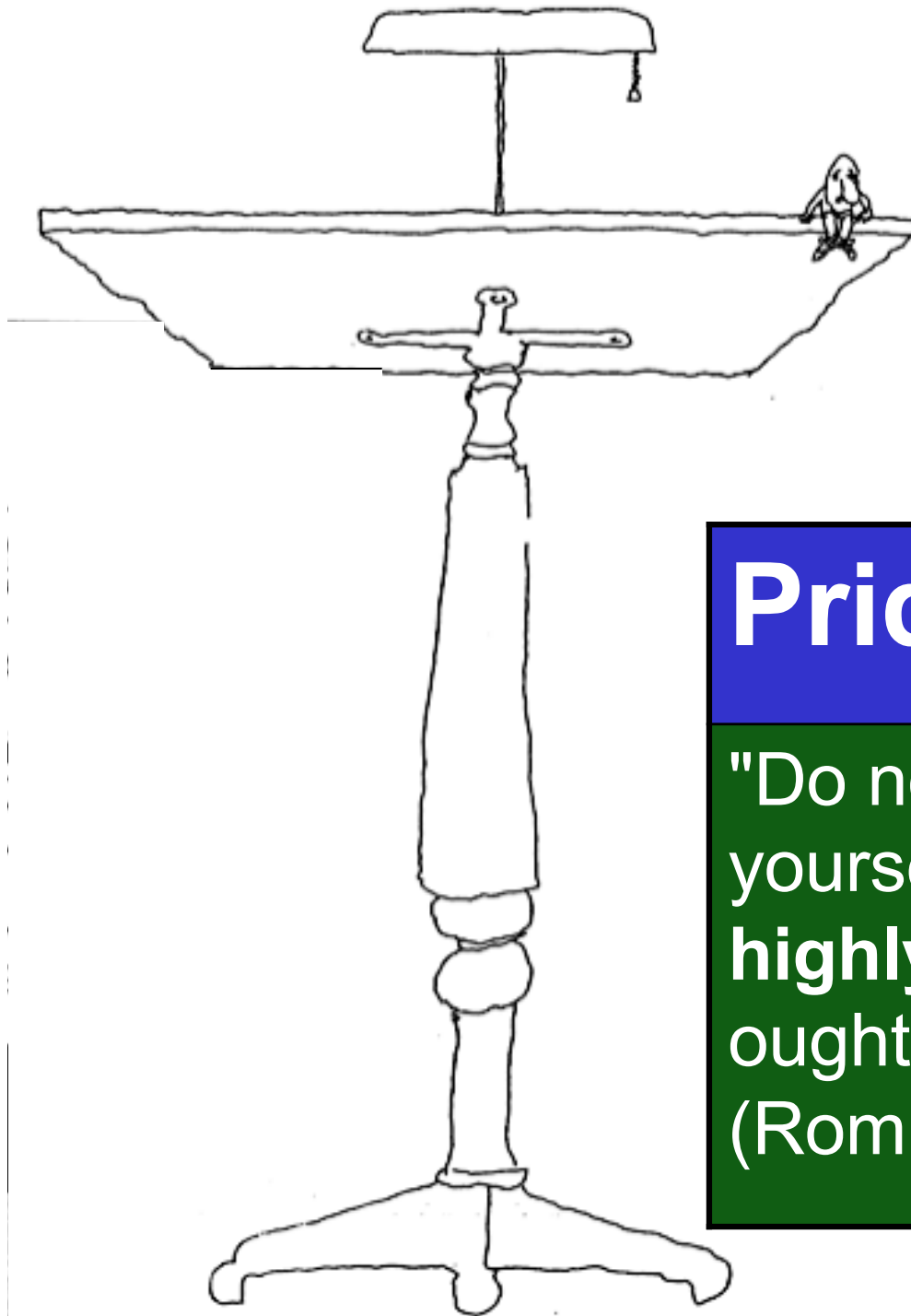
What is Humility?

Pride

"Do not think of
yourself **more
highly** than you
ought"
(Rom. 12:3a)

Humility

"...but rather
think of yourself
with **sober
judgment**"
(Rom. 12:3b)



How to triumph in suffering^{280q-r} (5:5b-9)



Humility (5b-7)

Watchfulness (8-9)

Why Be Watchful?

Satan is on the loose (1 Pet. 5:8)

⁸Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Others are succeeding over Satan (1 Pet. 5:9)

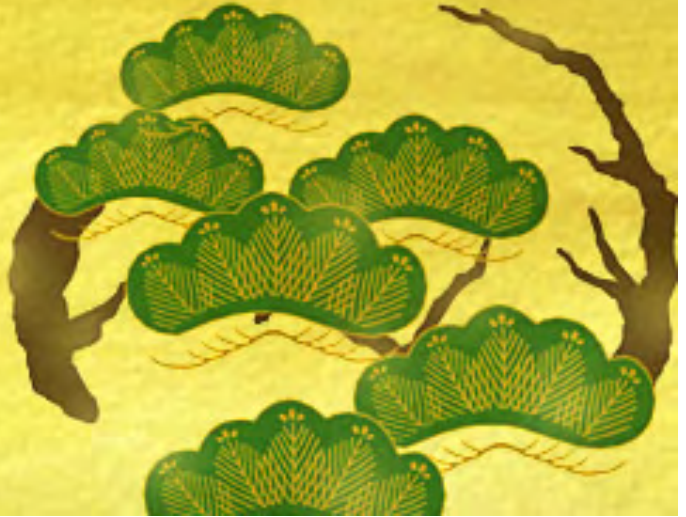
⁹Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.





God's Response to Humble Watchfulness (5:10-11)

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself **restore** you and make you **strong, firm** and **steadfast**.¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."



Argument

"... I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the **true grace of God. Stand fast in it**" (5:12)

The Dual Themes:

"This is the true grace of God"

1 Pet. 1:1-12

Election

Sovereignty of God

Positional sanctification

Initiated by Godhead (1:2)

"Stand firm in it"

1 Pet. 1:13–5:14

Endurance

Responsibility of man

Practical sanctification

**Effected in Godly Living
(1:13ff)**

Conclusion

**Woman?
Church?**

**Babylon?
Rome?**

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Summing Up 1 Peter

Peter encourages north Asia Minor believers *to suffer properly for Christ* as holy, submissive, and selfless witnesses motivated by Christ's example and the hope of future glory to help them be people who *attract others* to hear their message.

Your response to suffering for Christ will either draw unbelievers to Jesus or repel them. Do you suffer with integrity?

A Problem of Attitude...

**"When it is all over, you will not
regret having suffered;**

**rather you will regret having
suffered so little —**

and suffered that little so badly"

— *Sebastian Valfre (1629-1710)*—

How to attract others to Jesus...

**Show a holy humility
that honors others.**

Main Idea of 1 Peter

Which of these three qualities is the biggest challenge for you?

Holiness

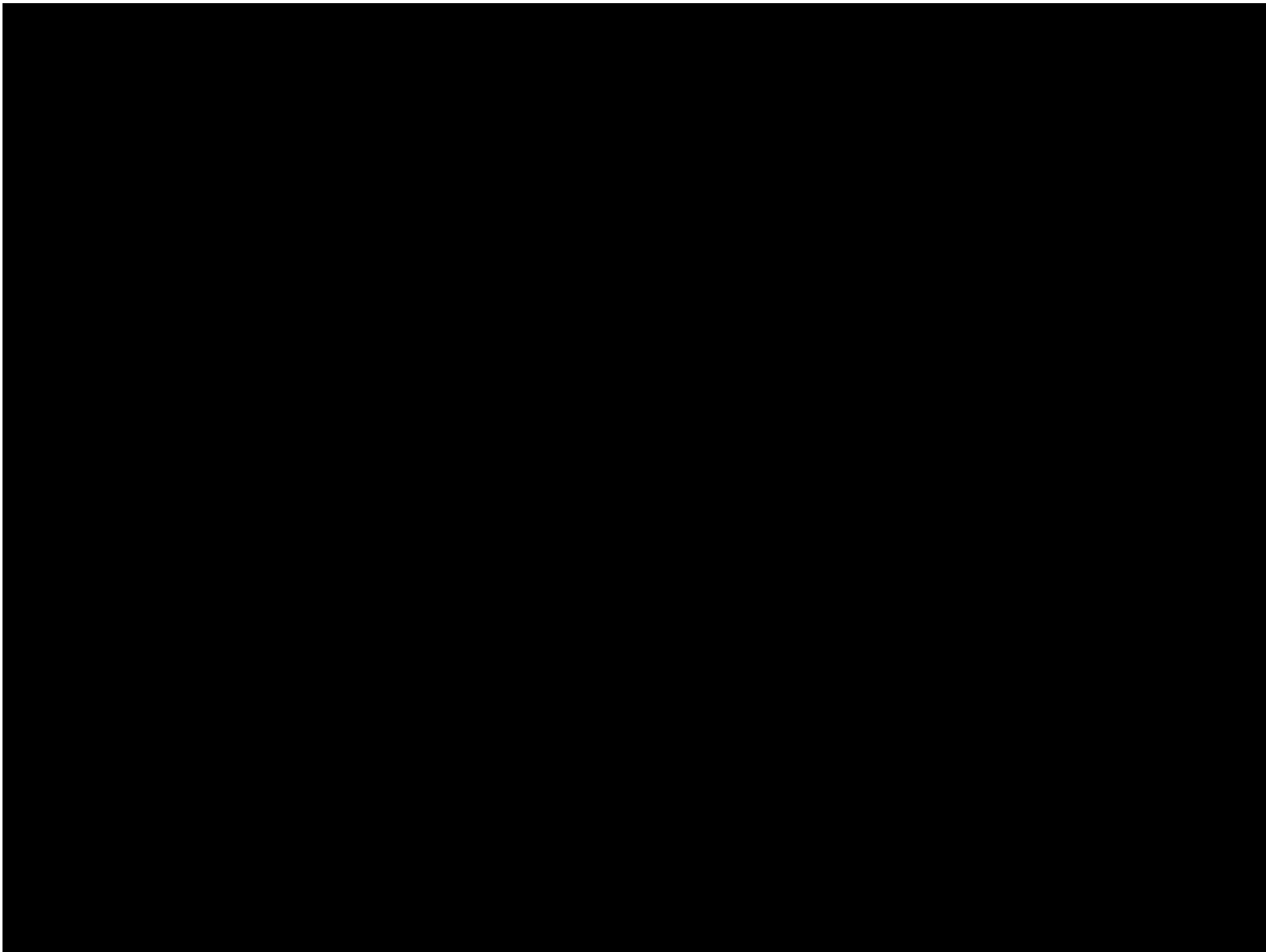
Where are your standards too low?

Submission

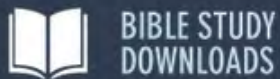
Where do you want to be boss but God wants you to yield?

Selflessness


What battle do you need to lose?



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A large background image for the main banner showing a close-up of a person's hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image.

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