

# Be Discerning

A pair of hands holds a pair of black-rimmed glasses over an open book. The reflection in the lenses shows an offshore oil rig with several cranes on the ocean. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor scene.

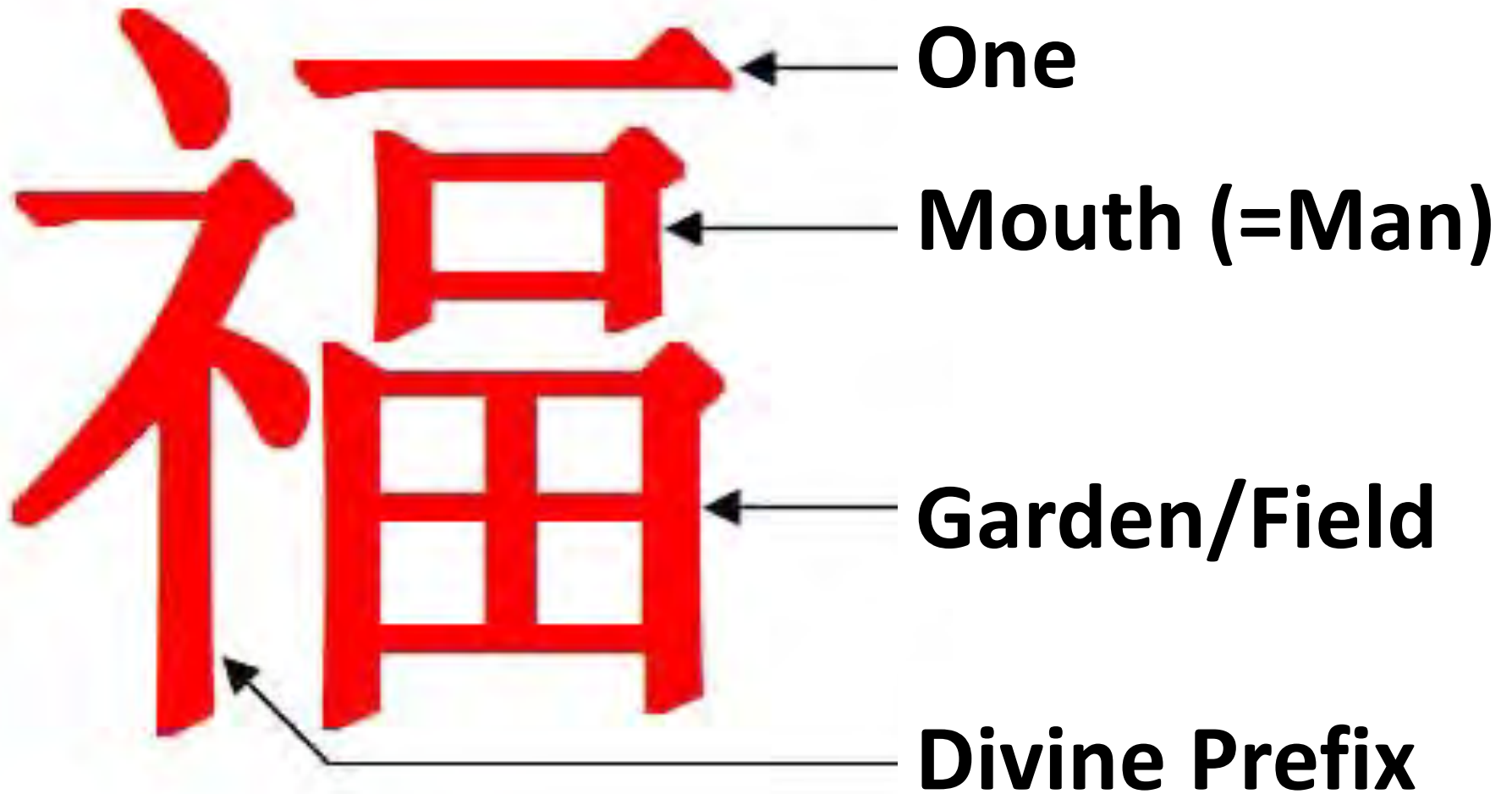
## *2 John*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore  
[BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)

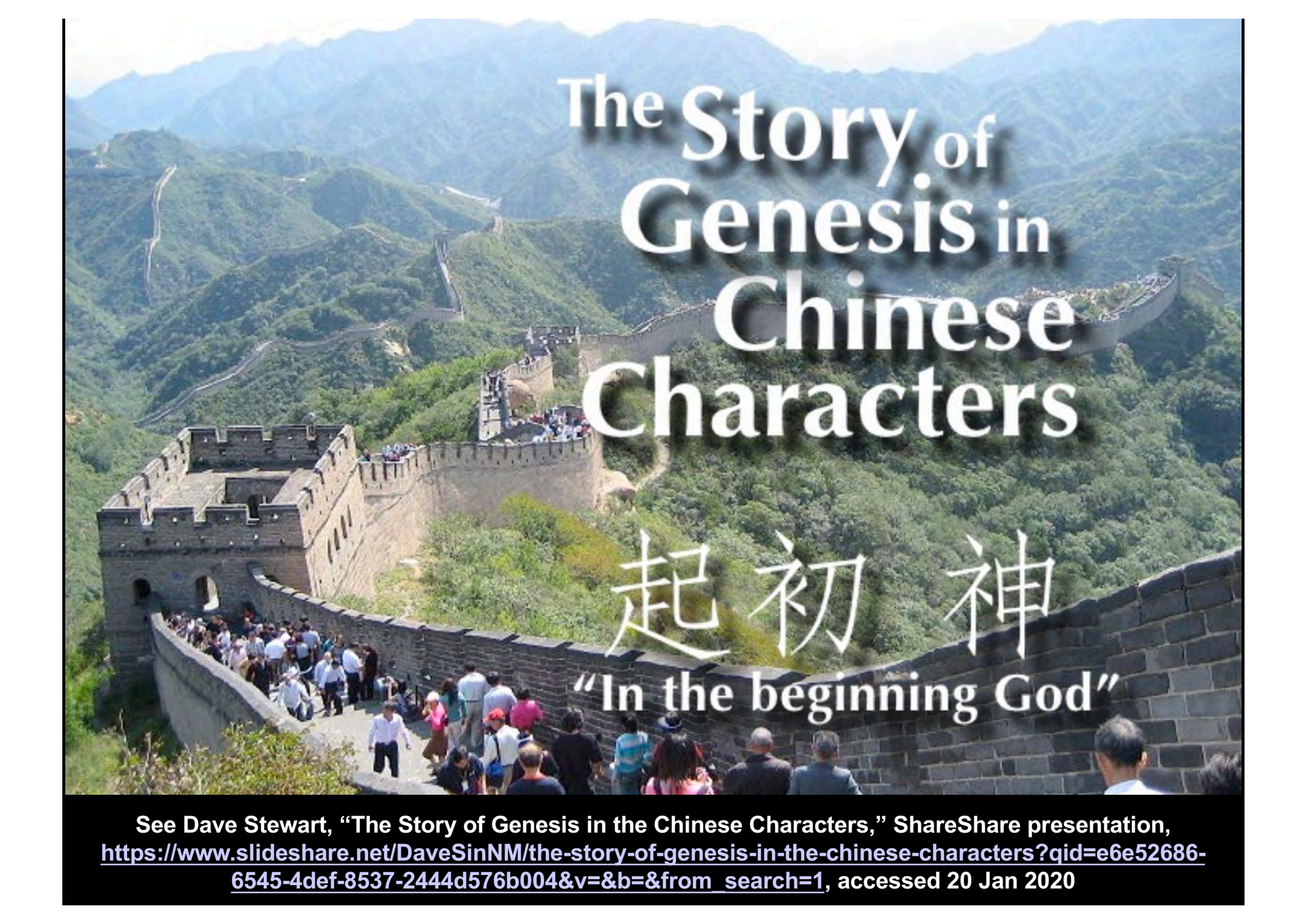


**Lunar New Year Blessing 2020**

# “Blessing”







# The Story of Genesis in Chinese Characters

起初神

“In the beginning God”

See Dave Stewart, “The Story of Genesis in the Chinese Characters,” ShareShare presentation,  
[https://www.slideshare.net/DaveSinNM/the-story-of-genesis-in-the-chinese-characters?qid=e6e52686-6545-4def-8537-2444d576b004&v=&b=&from\\_search=1](https://www.slideshare.net/DaveSinNM/the-story-of-genesis-in-the-chinese-characters?qid=e6e52686-6545-4def-8537-2444d576b004&v=&b=&from_search=1), accessed 20 Jan 2020



造

to create

“Create”

Create means to  
speak to dust to  
give life to a man  
so he can walk

告 土 丩 口 之

Speak = dust, life, man + walk/mud

# “Devil” & “Tempter”

© W. STEWART  
www.Bible.ca

鬼 = 厶 + 丿 + 儿 + 田

Devil

Secret

Life

Man

Garden

© W. STEWART  
www.Bible.ca

魔 = 鬼 + 广 + 林

Tempter

Devil

Cover

Forest/  
Two Trees



船

**Boat**

**“Boat”**

**The boat was a  
vessel of eight  
people**

舟 八 口

**Vessel + Eight + People**

Lamb

羊



義



我

“Righteousness”

I or Me



**Garden  
of Eden**

西

**West**



**One man in a garden = West**

一 + 儿 + 口 = 西

**One**

**Person**

**Enclosure,  
Garden**

**West**



# The Discovery of Genesis

How the Truths of Genesis  
Were Found Hidden  
in the Chinese Language



C.H. Kang and Ethel R. Nelson

C. H. Kang

上帝 Shang Di

Buddha

2500

1500

400

33

2000

BC

AD

Chinese  
Language  
First  
Written

First 5  
Books  
of Bible  
Written

B  
u  
d  
d  
h  
a

Death  
of Jesus





**“Lucky”?**  
**“Blessing”?**



# A Case Study...

- Suppose two Jehovah's Witnesses come to your door. Will you invite them inside your home? Why or why not?
- Please get into the right group...

Podium

Keep  
them  
out

It depends

Let  
them  
in



# Key Verse

297

**“Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your home or welcome him” (2 John 9-10).**

**2 John**





**What's the Gospel?**

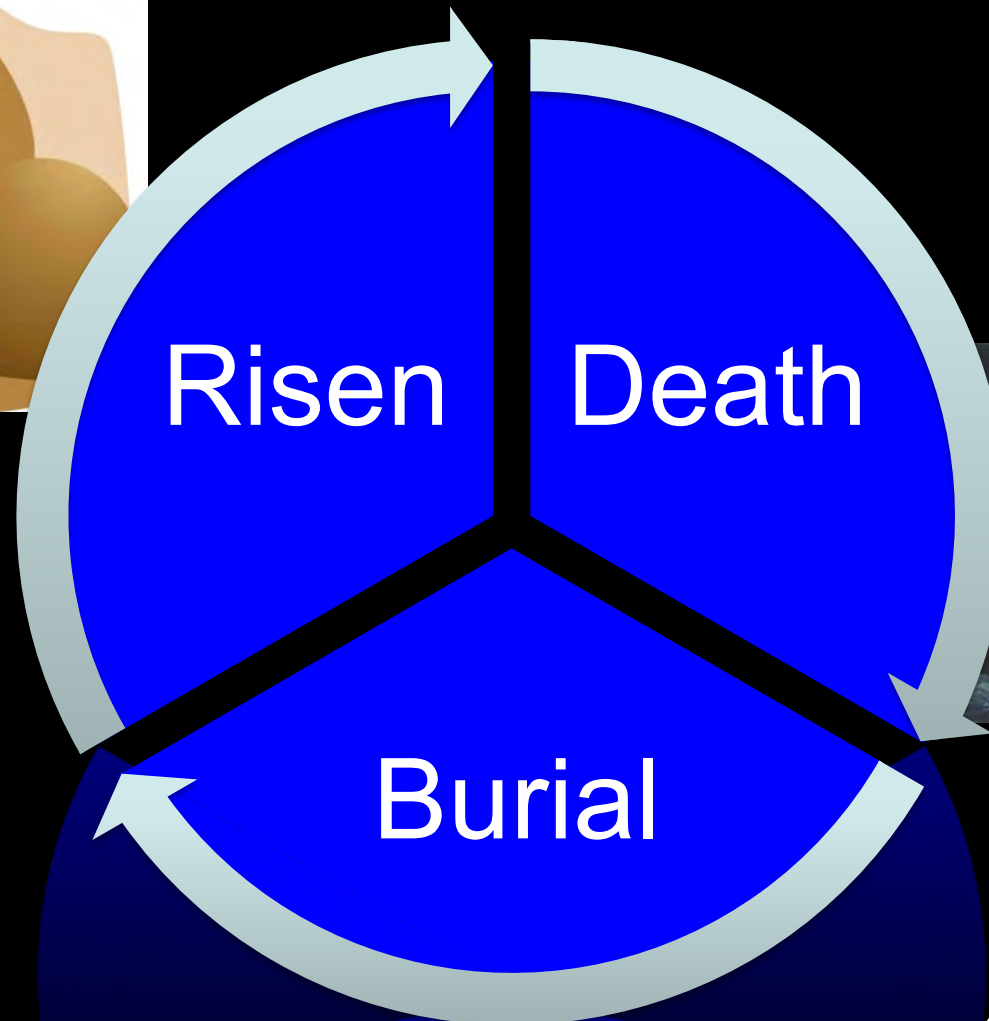
# The **Full** Gospel

68

"Let me now remind you... of the Good News [Gospel]  
I preached to you before..." (NLT)



"He was  
raised from  
the dead on  
the third  
day..."



"Christ  
died for our  
sins..."



"He was buried..."

1 Cor. 15:3-4

# The Gospel

A photograph of a sunset or sunrise with a large, bright, orange cloud in the center. In the foreground, the silhouettes of seven people are standing on a dark horizon, holding hands in a line. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

**Is it really  
changing our  
lives?**

**2 John**



How can you *live out* the  
gospel?



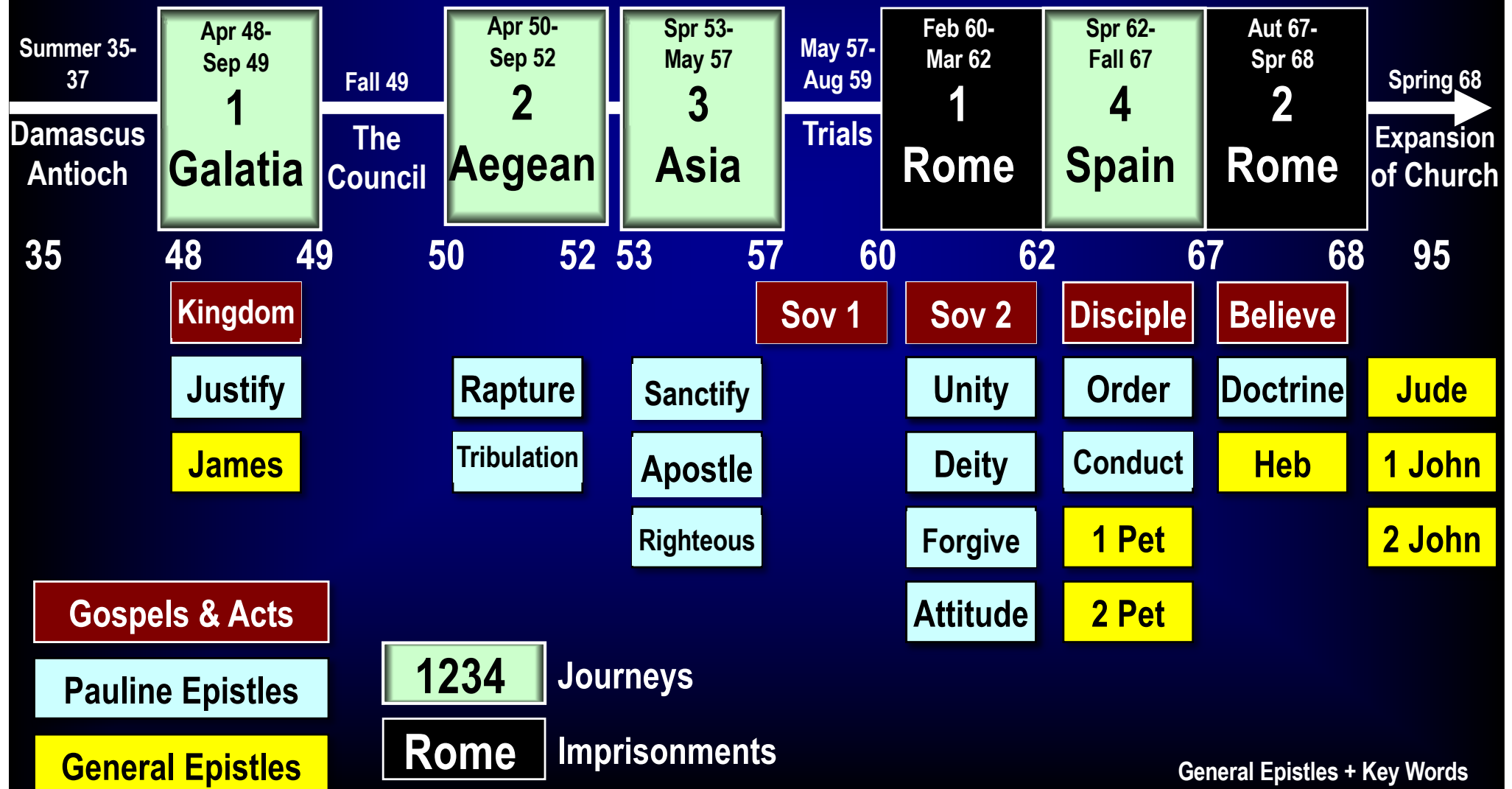


# NT Overview (General + Key Words)

38  
124  
39-41

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

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



# Chapters in NT Books



# Verses in NT Emails

25

20

15

10

5

0

PHILEMON

2 JOHN

3 JOHN

JUDE

Words

245

219

13

15



# Date of Writing

**Most scholars believe that John recorded this epistle about AD 90, although nothing in it excludes an earlier date.**

**Thus it was written in about AD 85-95.**



# Gnostics Taught a "Secret Knowledge"

## *Two Types Addressed in 1-3 John*

### **Docetic Gnosticism**

From *dokeo*, "to seem"  
(Christ only *seemed* to  
be a man)

**Matter is Evil**

**Depreciated Materialism**

**Denied Christ's Humanity**

**Touched Jesus (1:1)**

**Led to Asceticism**

**Immorality exalted**

### **Cerinthian Gnosticism**

From Cerinthus, founder in Asia  
(Christ only *seemed* to be  
God)

**Spirit is Good**

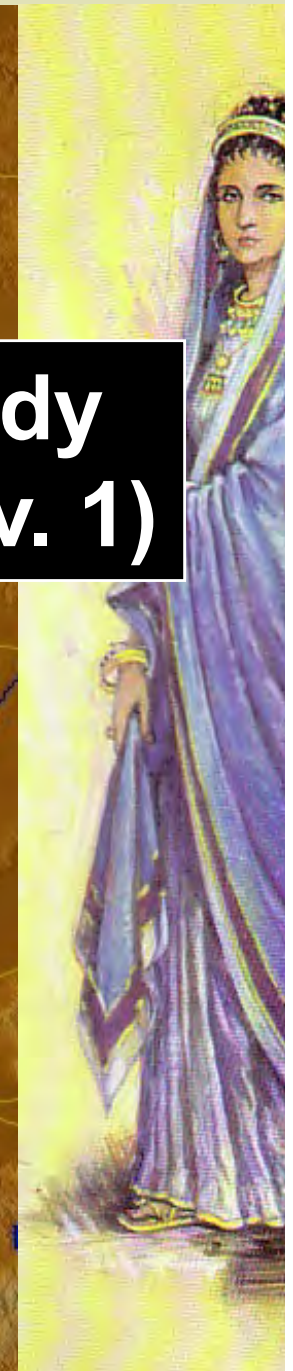
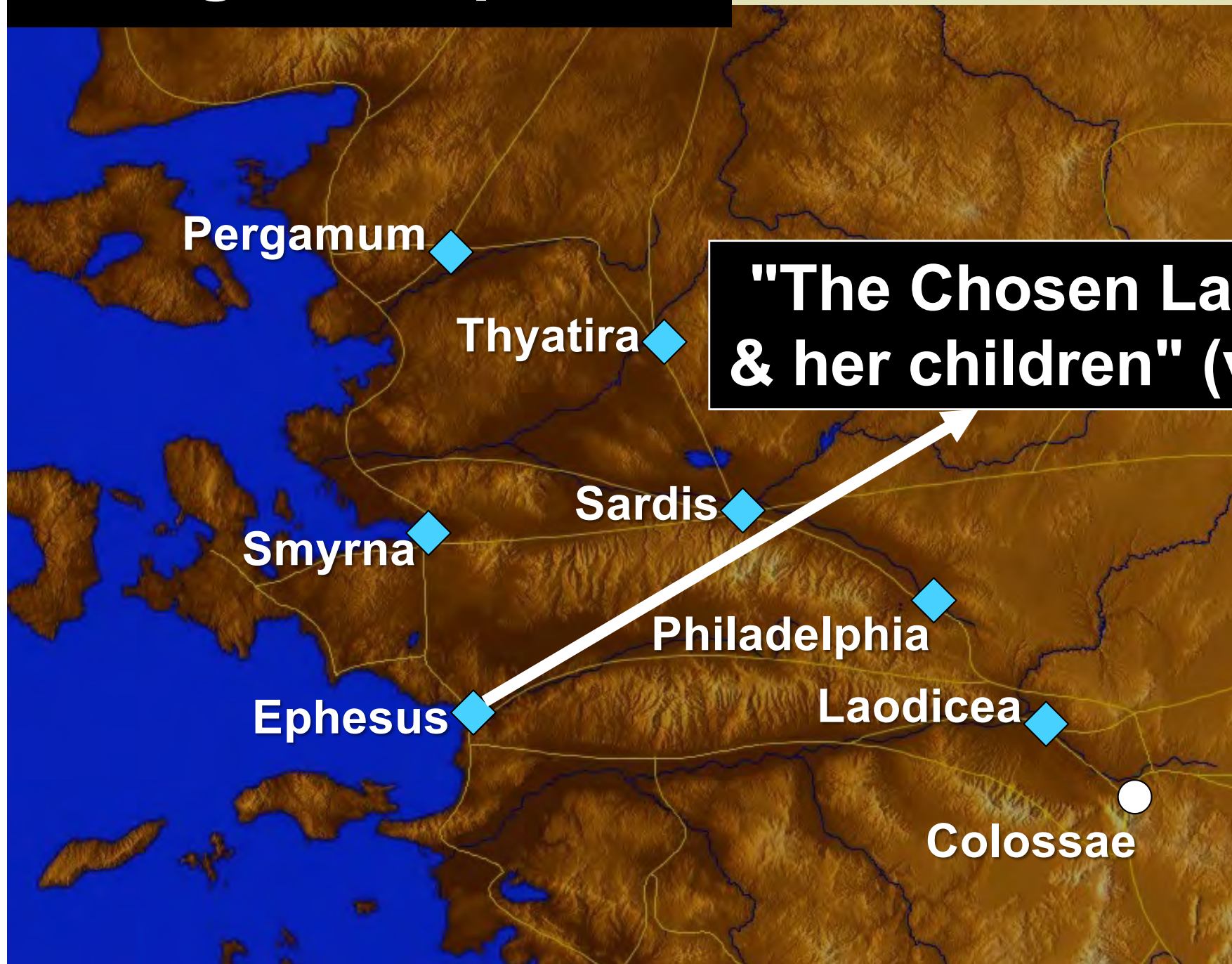
**Exalted Knowledge (*gnosis*)**

**Denied Christ's Deity**

**Water & Blood (5:6)**

**Led to Pride**

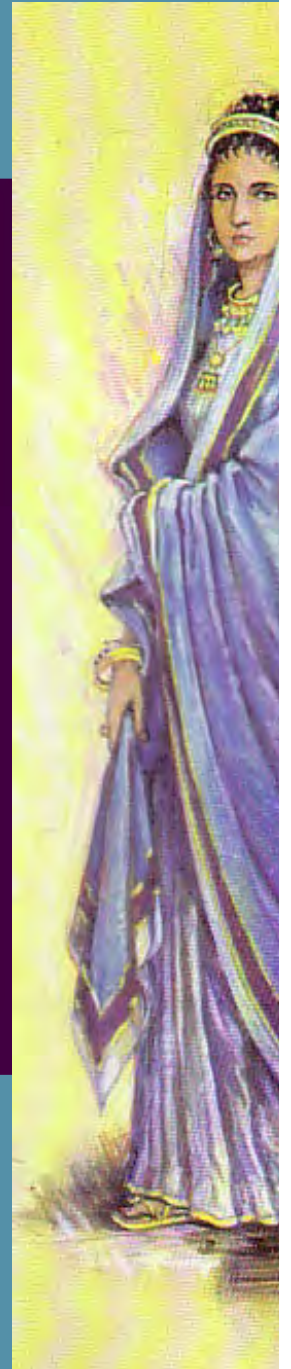
**Education exalted**





## Who is "the Chosen Lady & Her children"?

- A figure for a local **church**?
- The **Virgin Mary**?
- An anonymous **woman** & her children who opened their home for church services & housed traveling preachers



## Occasion



**Before the NT was completed and circulated among the early believers, churches relied on traveling preachers and teachers for truth.**

**Since inns were unsafe and few, these teachers stayed with Christians.**



## Occasion



**Many hosts wondered,  
"*Which* teachers should I  
welcome to my home?"**

**John commands a hospitable woman  
to "put limits on her love" by refusing  
to house false teachers or to  
encourage them in any way.**

How can you **live out** the  
gospel?

**Two ways...**



**2 John**



# I. Aid **true** teachers (1-6).



**2 John**

# Balancing Love and Truth



**"All you need is love..." (The Beatles)**  
*Do you agree? Why or why not?*



**Mushiness**  
**Love** **Truth**



**Harshness**  
**Love** **Truth**






**"This letter is from John, the elder. I am writing to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I love in the truth—as does everyone else who knows the truth—<sup>2</sup>because the truth lives in us and will be with us forever" (2 John 1-2 NLT).**

**"Grace, mercy, and peace, which come from God the Father and from Jesus Christ—the Son of the Father—will continue to be with us who live in **truth** and **love**. <sup>4</sup>How happy I was to meet some of your children and find them living according to the **truth**, just as the Father commanded" (2 John 3-4 NLT).**

**"I am writing to remind you, dear friends  
[Greek: "lady"], that we should love one  
another. This is not a new  
commandment, but one we have had  
from the beginning. <sup>6</sup>Love means doing  
what God has commanded us, and he  
has commanded us to love one another,  
just as you heard from the beginning"  
(2 John 5-6 NLT).**



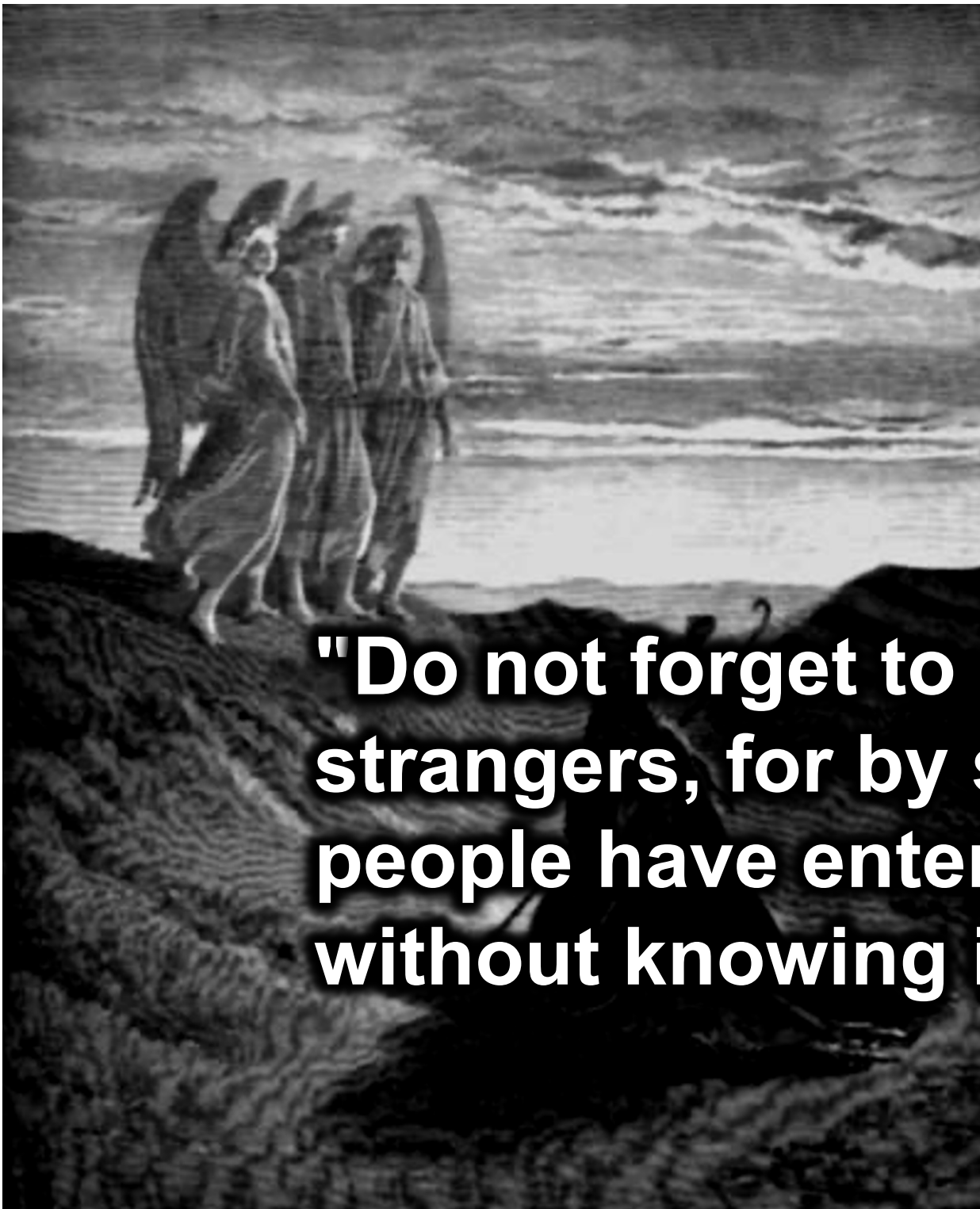
A painting depicting a group of people in a kitchen or dining area. In the foreground, a man in a light blue shirt is seated at a table with a red tablecloth, looking towards the right. A woman with blonde hair is seated next to him, smiling. In the background, a man in a purple shirt is standing and talking to another person. The scene is warm and intimate, with various kitchen items and dishes visible on the table and shelves.

**"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."**

**Romans 12:13 (NIV)**

**"Now the overseer must be . . . hospitable" 1 Timothy 3:2 (NIV)**

**"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." 1 Peter 4:9 (NIV)**



**"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."**

**Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)**





**"I hope to visit  
you while passing  
through and to  
have you assist  
me on my journey  
there [Spain], after  
I have enjoyed  
your company for  
a while."**

**Romans 15:24 (NIV)**



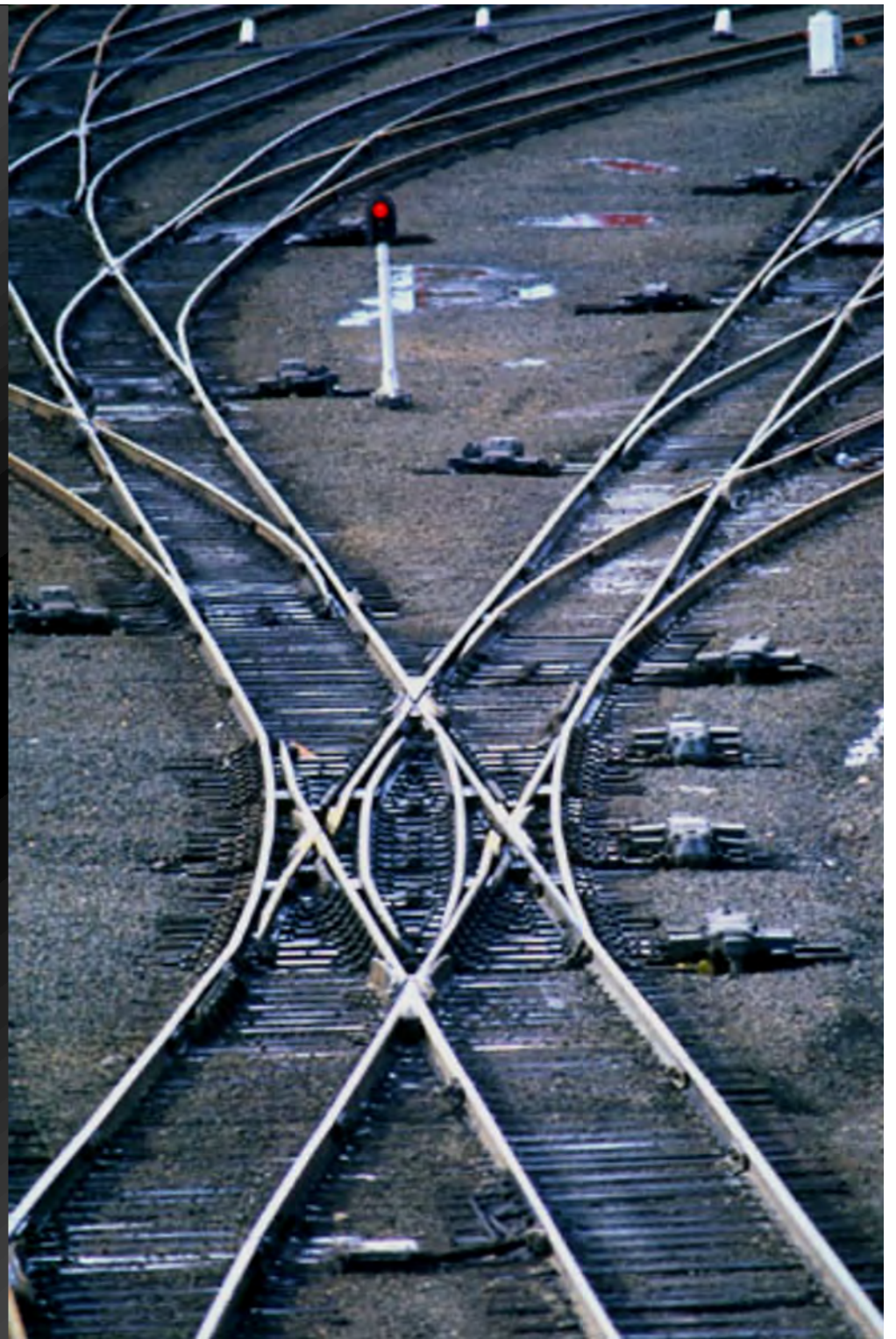


**"Perhaps I will  
stay with you  
awhile, or even  
spend the winter,  
so that you can  
help me on my  
journey, wherever  
I go."**

**1 Corinthians 16:6**

**"Do everything  
you can to help  
Zenas the lawyer  
and Apollos on  
their way and see  
that they have  
everything they  
need."**

**Titus 3:13 (NIV)**

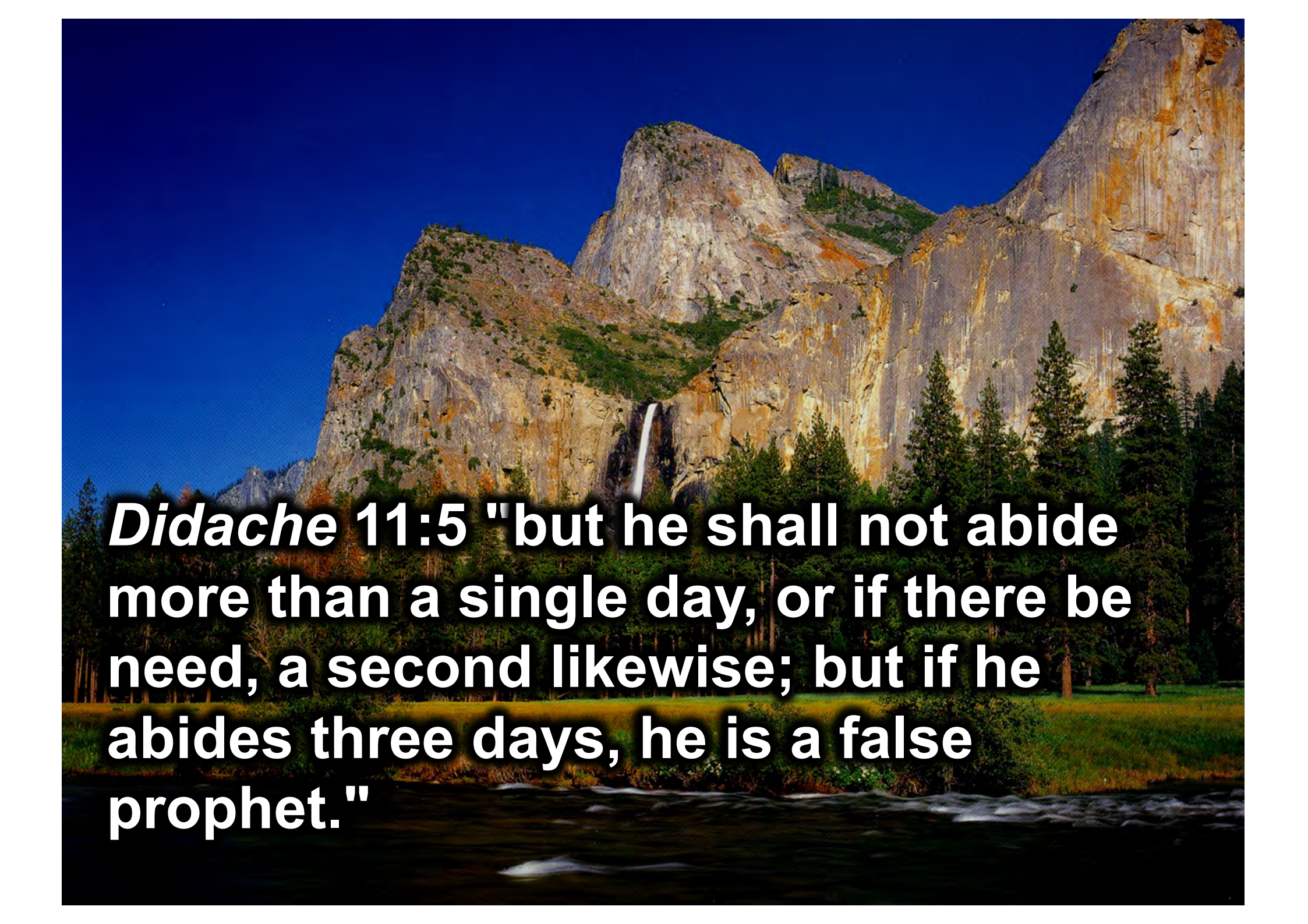






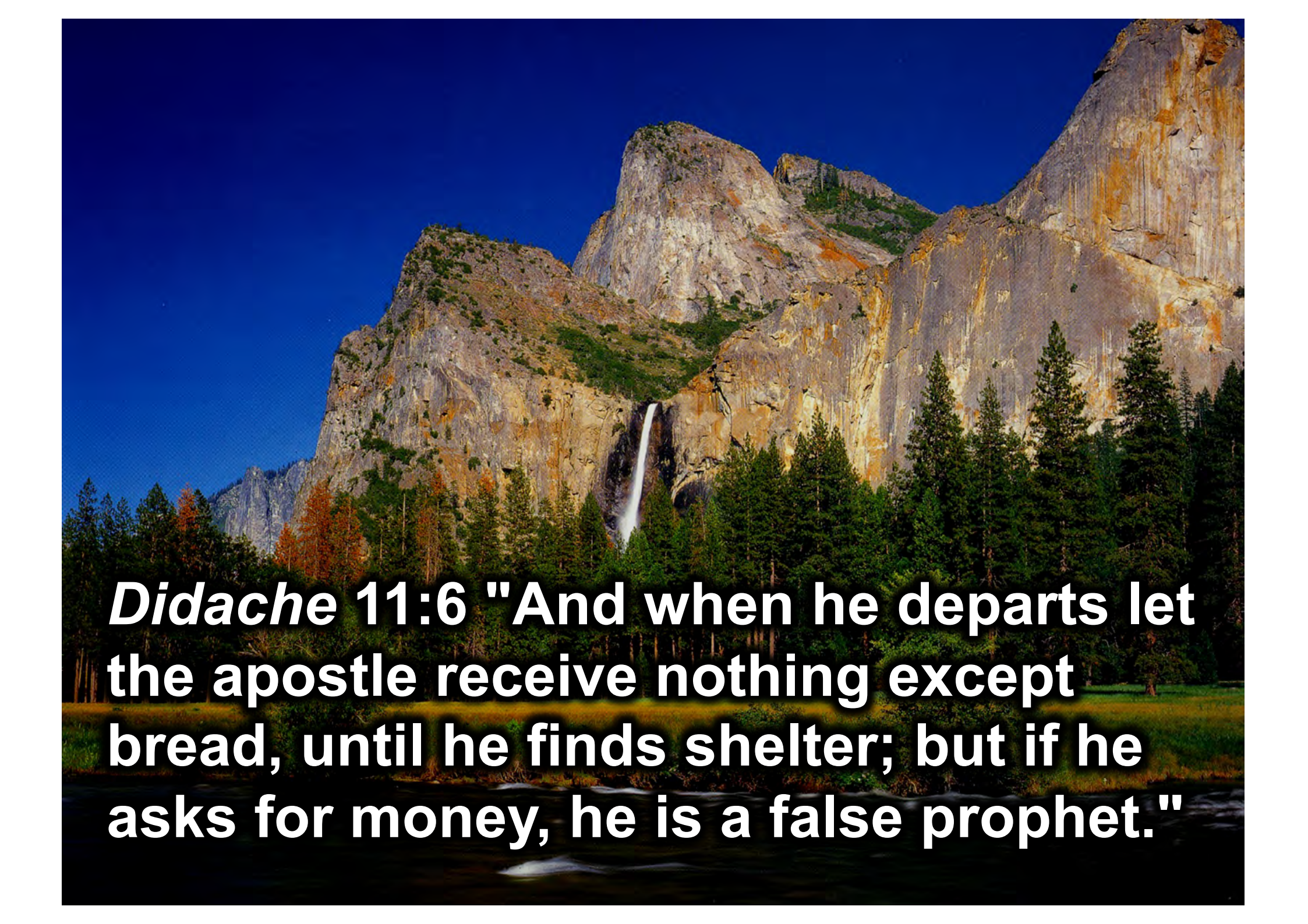
***Didache* 11:4 "Let every apostle,  
when he comes to you, be received  
as the Lord;"**





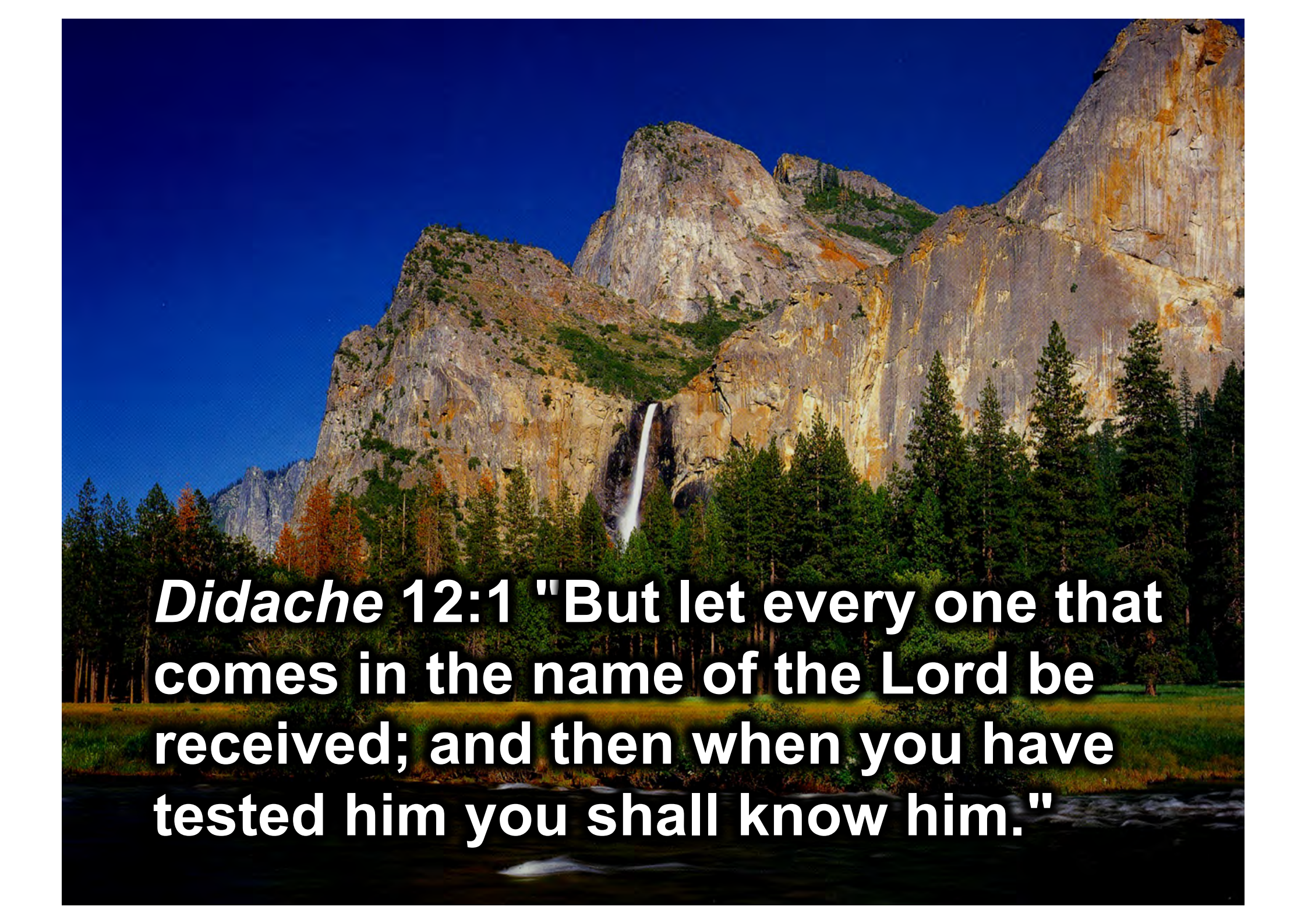
***Didache* 11:5 "but he shall not abide more than a single day, or if there be need, a second likewise; but if he abides three days, he is a false prophet."**



A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain range. In the foreground, a dense forest of evergreen trees is visible. A river flows through the lower part of the image. In the middle ground, a waterfall cascades down a rocky cliff face. The background features more rugged mountain peaks under a clear blue sky.

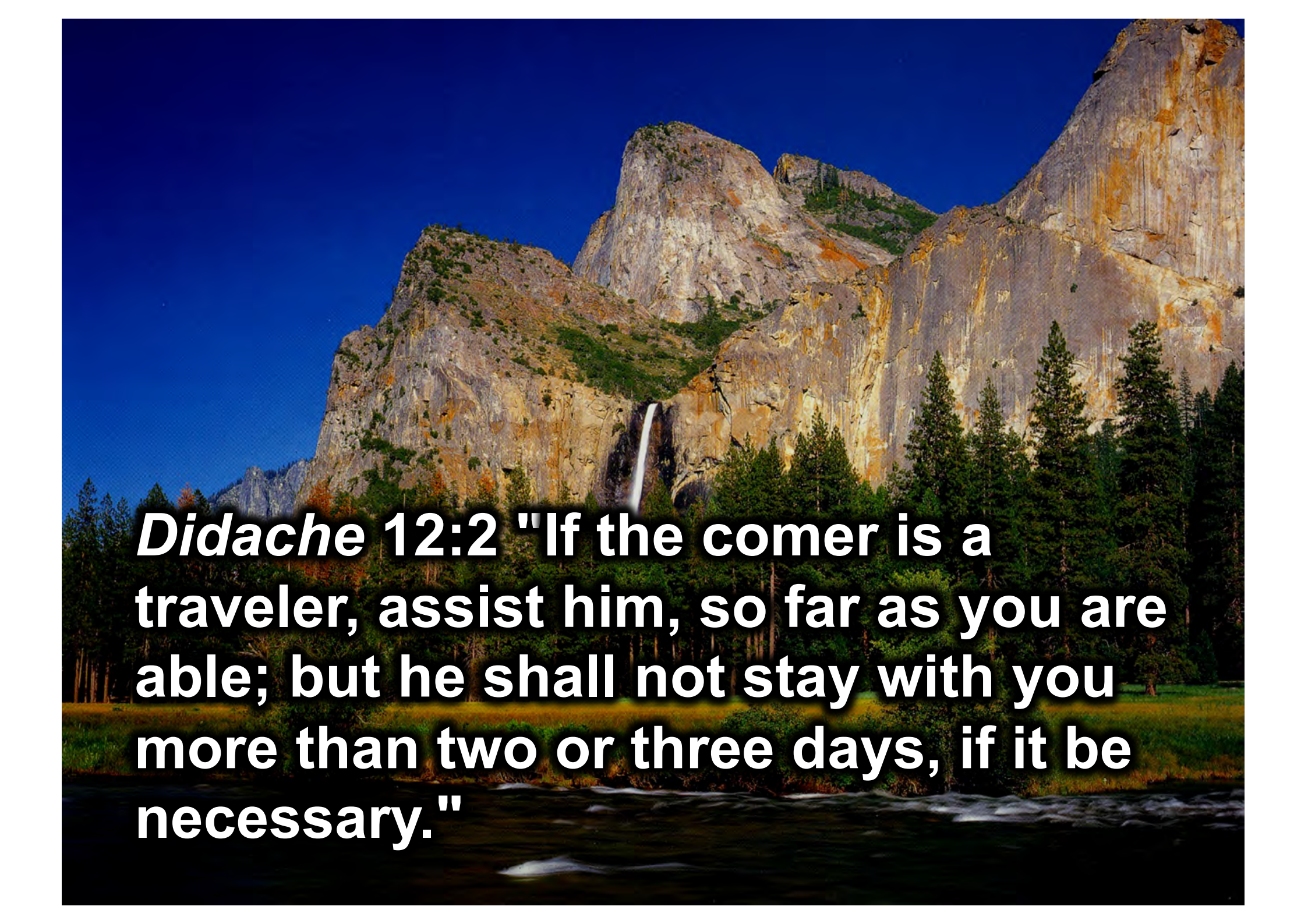
***Didache 11:6* "And when he departs let the apostle receive nothing except bread, until he finds shelter; but if he asks for money, he is a false prophet."**





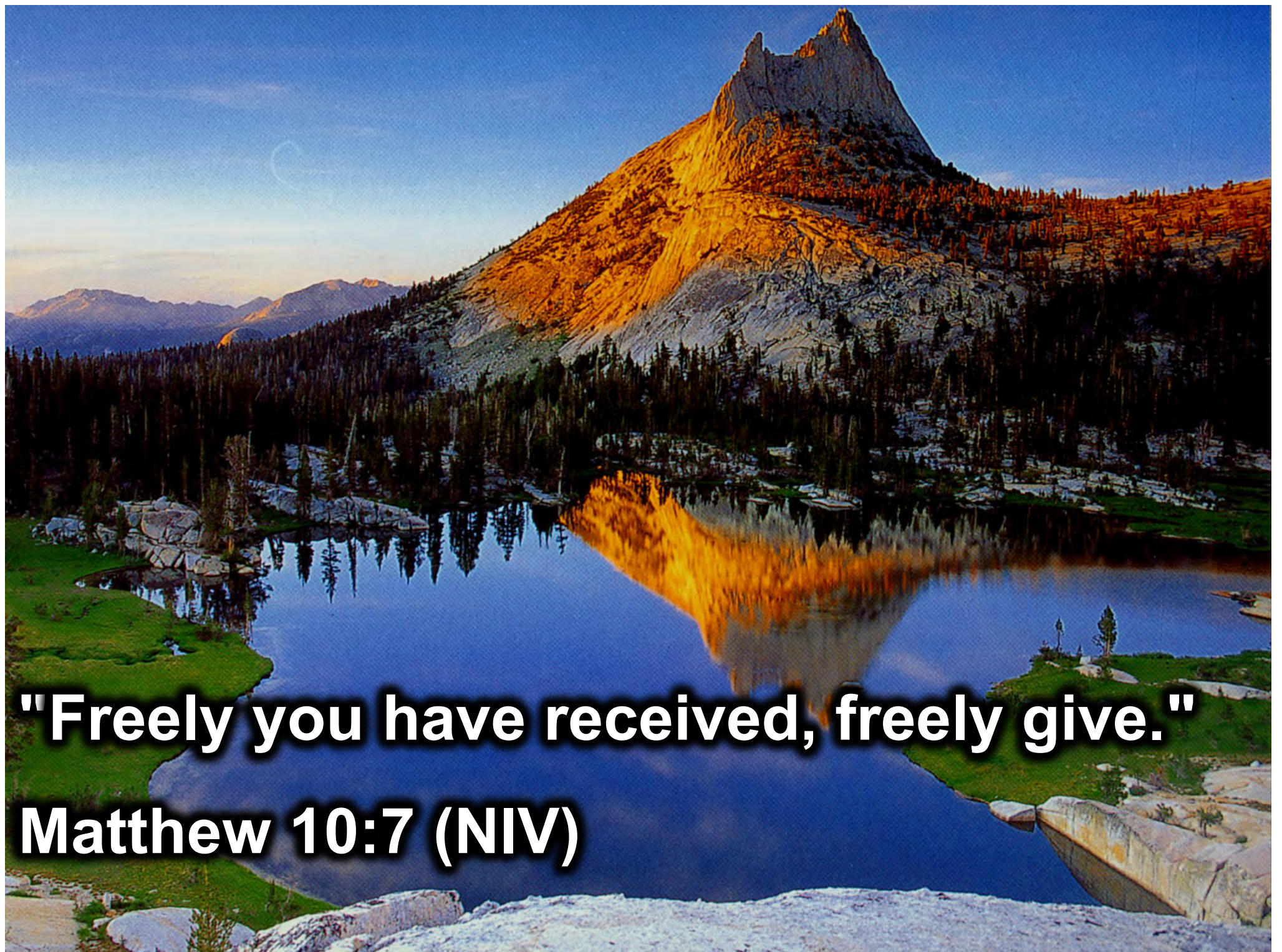
***Didache* 12:1 "But let every one that comes in the name of the Lord be received; and then when you have tested him you shall know him."**





***Didache 12:2* "If the comer is a traveler, assist him, so far as you are able; but he shall not stay with you more than two or three days, if it be necessary."**

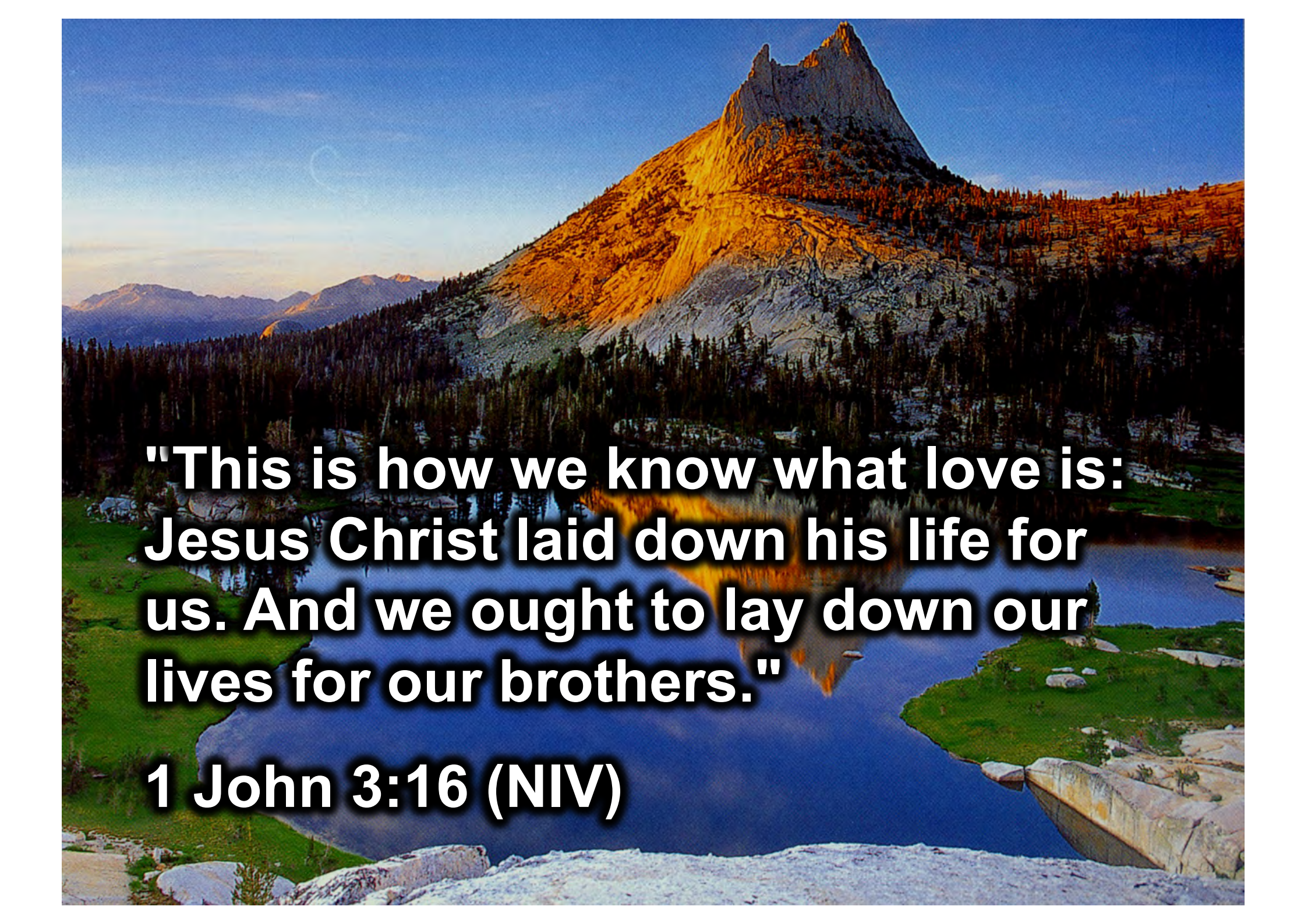




**"Freely you have received, freely give."**

**Matthew 10:7 (NIV)**





**"This is how we know what love is:  
Jesus Christ laid down his life for  
us. And we ought to lay down our  
lives for our brothers."**

**1 John 3:16 (NIV)**



How can you **live out** the  
gospel?

**Two ways...**



**2 John**



# I. Aid **true** teachers (1-6).



**2 John**



## II. Avoid **false** teachers (7-13).



2 John



**"I say this because many deceivers have gone out into the world. They deny that Jesus Christ came in a real body. Such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2 John 7 NLT).**



**"Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward. <sup>9</sup>Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son"**  
**(2 John 8-9 NLT).**



**"If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don't invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement.**

**<sup>11</sup>Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work"  
(2 John 10-11 NLT).**



# The Meaning of 2 John 10

## Summary of Differing Views

### Can False Teachers. . .

<u>View</u>	<u>Stay in Believers Homes?</u>	<u>Enter Believers' Homes?</u>	<u>Adherents</u>
1	Yes	Yes	John R. Stott F. F. Bruce
2	No	Yes	Stanley Toussaint
3	No	?	I. Howard Marshall B. F. Westcott Robert Weldon Wilson
4	No	No	Rick Griffith





## Keys

### Key Word Limits

### Key Verse

**"Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your home or welcome him" (2 John 9-10 NIV).**



**Too  
good  
to be  
true  
the-  
ology**





Joyce Meyers in her  
\$2 million jet, etc.



**Oprah Winfrey**



- No preaching on sin
- Led in prayer at gay "wedding"



Joel Osteen



# Motivational Speaking

**Magical prayers, feel good messages, have it your way theology; surely this is too awesome to be what Paul warned us about**





**CEO Richard Stearns**



**World Vision Controversy**

# Jacqueline Fuller



## World Vision Controversy



## 2 John – Summary Chart

### Limits to Love

Aid True Teachers			Avoid False Teachers	
Verses 1-6			Verses 7-13	
Walk in Commandments			Watch for Counterfeits	
Positive			Negative	
Demonstrate Truth			Defend Truth	
Greeting in Truth and Love (1-3)	Obedience Commended (4)	Exhortation to Love (5-6)	Prohibition to Help False Teachers (7-11)	Expected Visit & Greetings (12-13)
Ephesus				
AD 85-95				

# **Follow Up Relationally (12-13)**

**"I have much more to say to you, but I don't want to do it with paper and ink. For I hope to visit you soon and talk with you face to face. Then our joy will be complete. <sup>13</sup>Greetings from the children of your sister, chosen by God"  
(2 John 12-13 NLT).**



# How can you **live out** the gospel?



**2 John**

# Main Idea



Live the gospel  
by not aiding  
those who  
**hinder** the  
gospel

2 John



## Outline



I. John **encourages** a woman in both truth and love to prepare her for his later rebuke (1-6).

II. John **warns** the woman not to help false teachers to help her see love's limits (7-13).

# I. Aid **true** teachers (1-6).



**2 John**



**Well, Charles, when I  
baptize you...**



**Everything that goes  
under belongs to God.**







**"He who receives you receives  
me, and he who receives me  
receives the one who sent me"**

**Matthew 10:40 (NIV)**

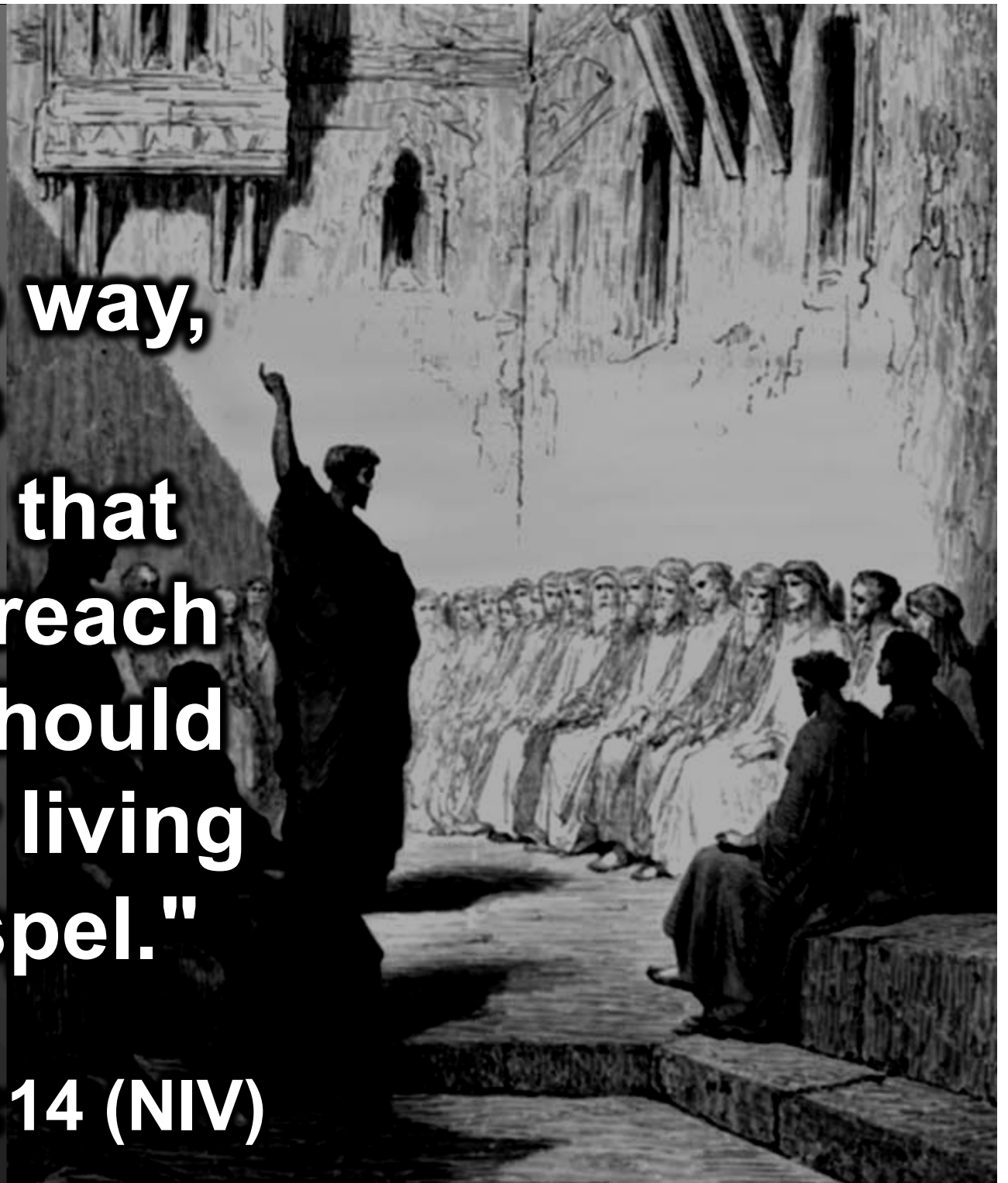
**"And if anyone gives even a cup  
of cold water to one of these little  
ones because he is my disciple,  
I tell you the truth, he will  
certainly not lose his reward"**

**Matthew 10:42 (NIV)**



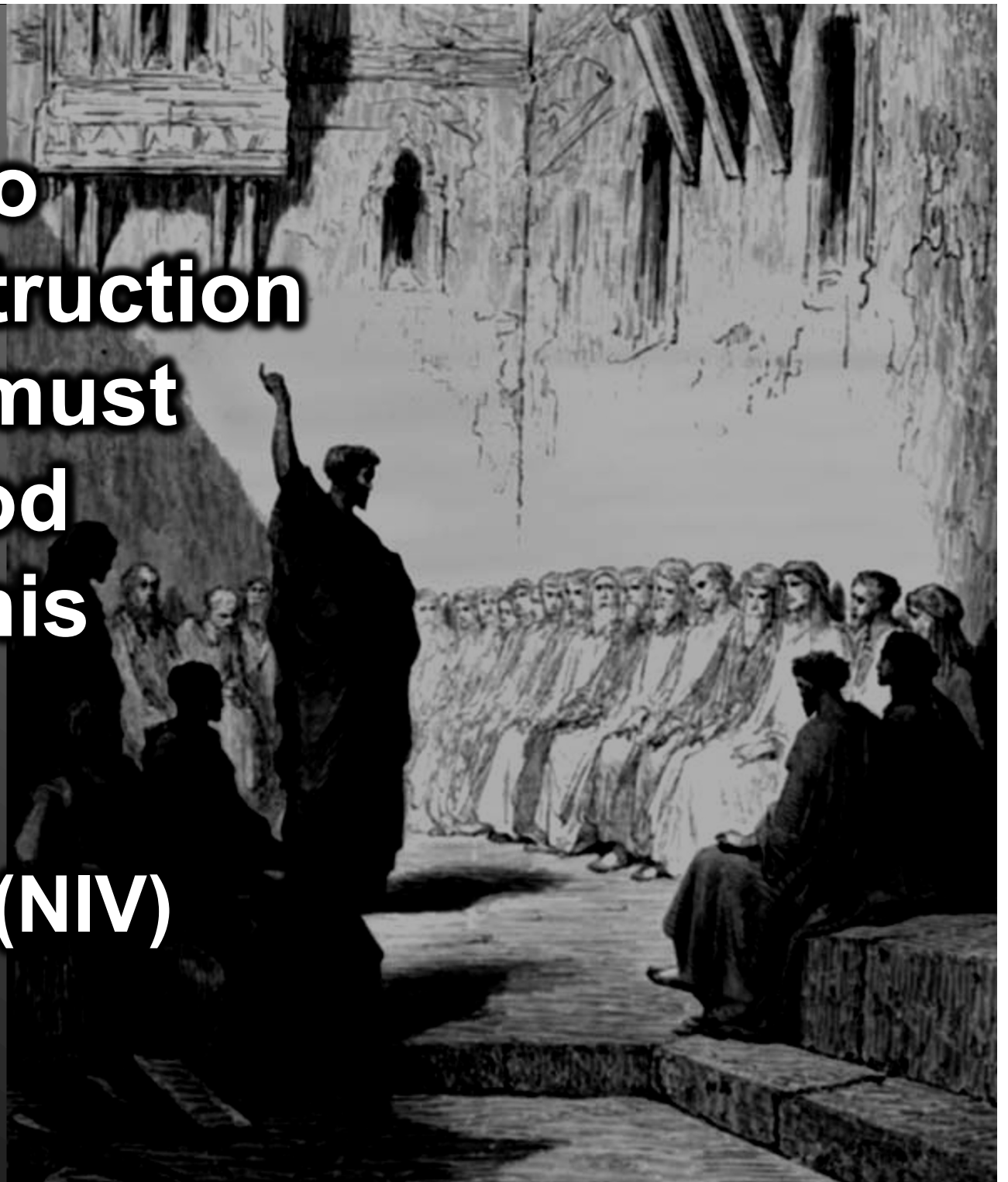
**"In the same way,  
the Lord has  
commanded that  
those who preach  
the gospel should  
receive their living  
from the gospel."**

**1 Corinthians 9:14 (NIV)**

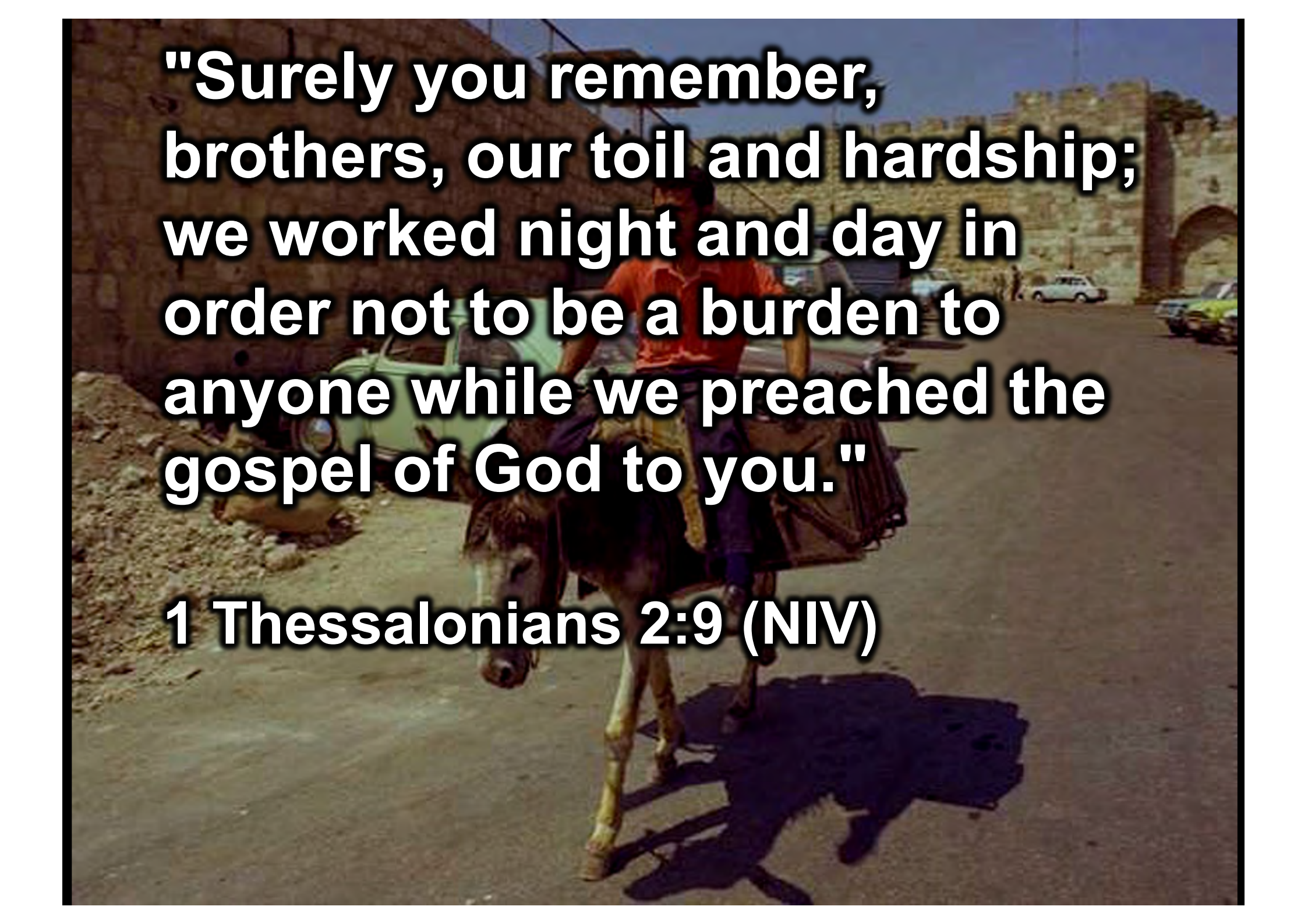


**"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor."**

**Galatians 6:6 (NIV)**





A photograph of a man in a red shirt riding a brown donkey down a dusty street. The donkey is carrying a large, dark, rectangular bundle on its back. In the background, there is a tall, light-colored stone wall with an arched opening. Several vintage cars are parked or driving in the distance. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

**"Surely you remember,  
brothers, our toil and hardship;  
we worked night and day in  
order not to be a burden to  
anyone while we preached the  
gospel of God to you."**

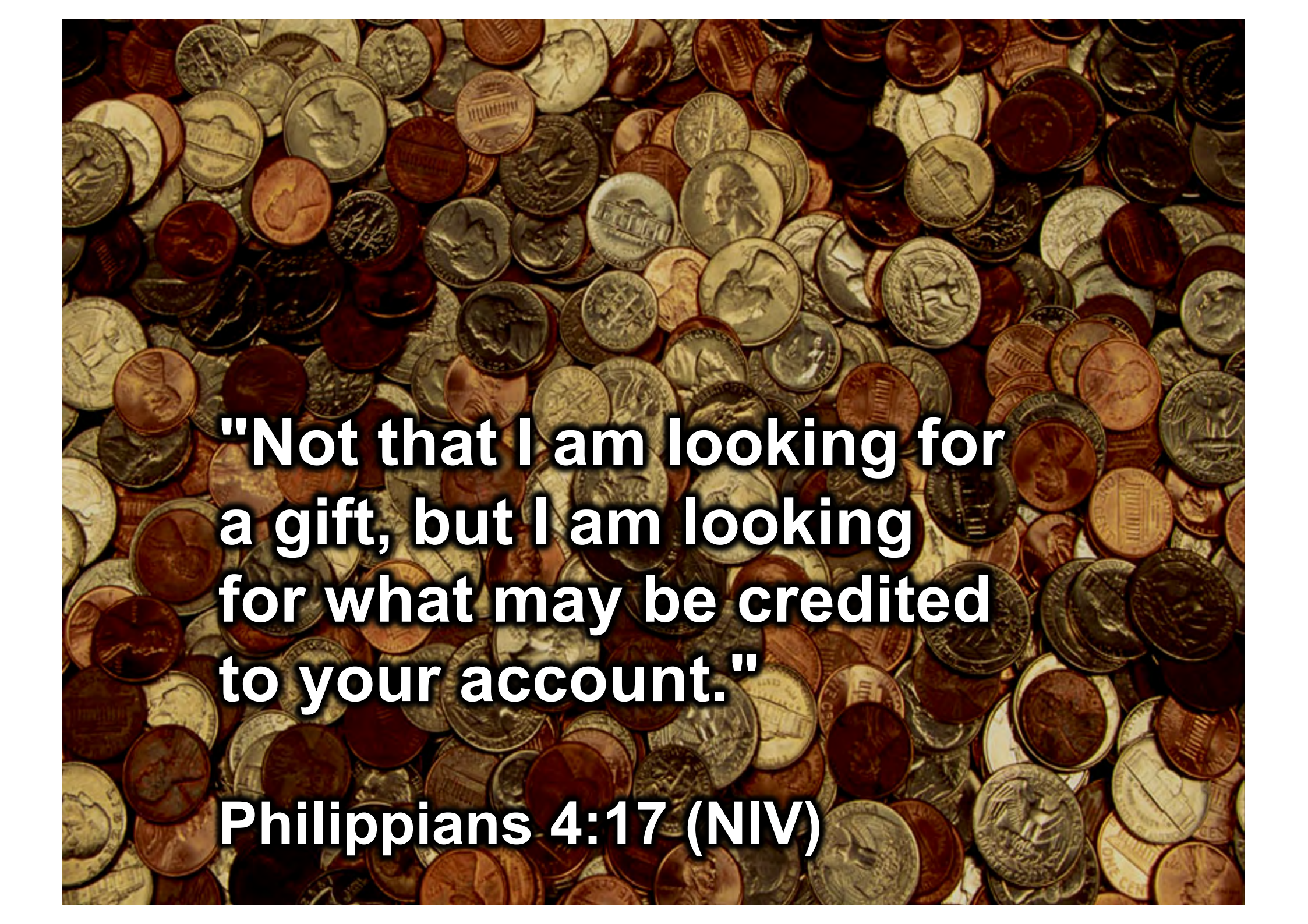
**1 Thessalonians 2:9 (NIV)**



**"The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike."**

**1 Samuel 30:24 (NIV)**

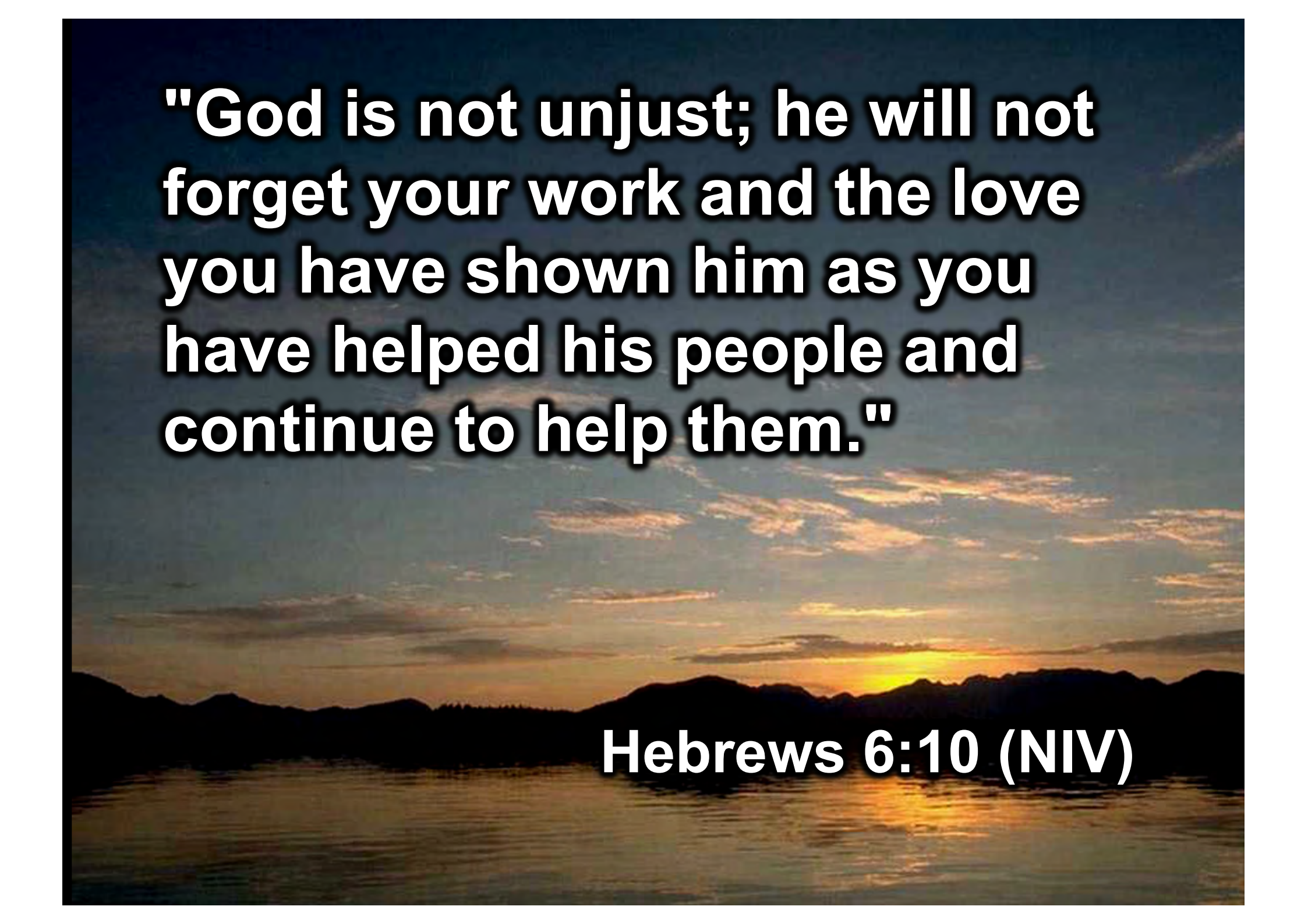




**"Not that I am looking for  
a gift, but I am looking  
for what may be credited  
to your account."**

**Philippians 4:17 (NIV)**





**"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."**

**Hebrews 6:10 (NIV)**



## II. Avoid **false** teachers (7-13).



2 John

## Key Word / Verse

### Key Word Limits

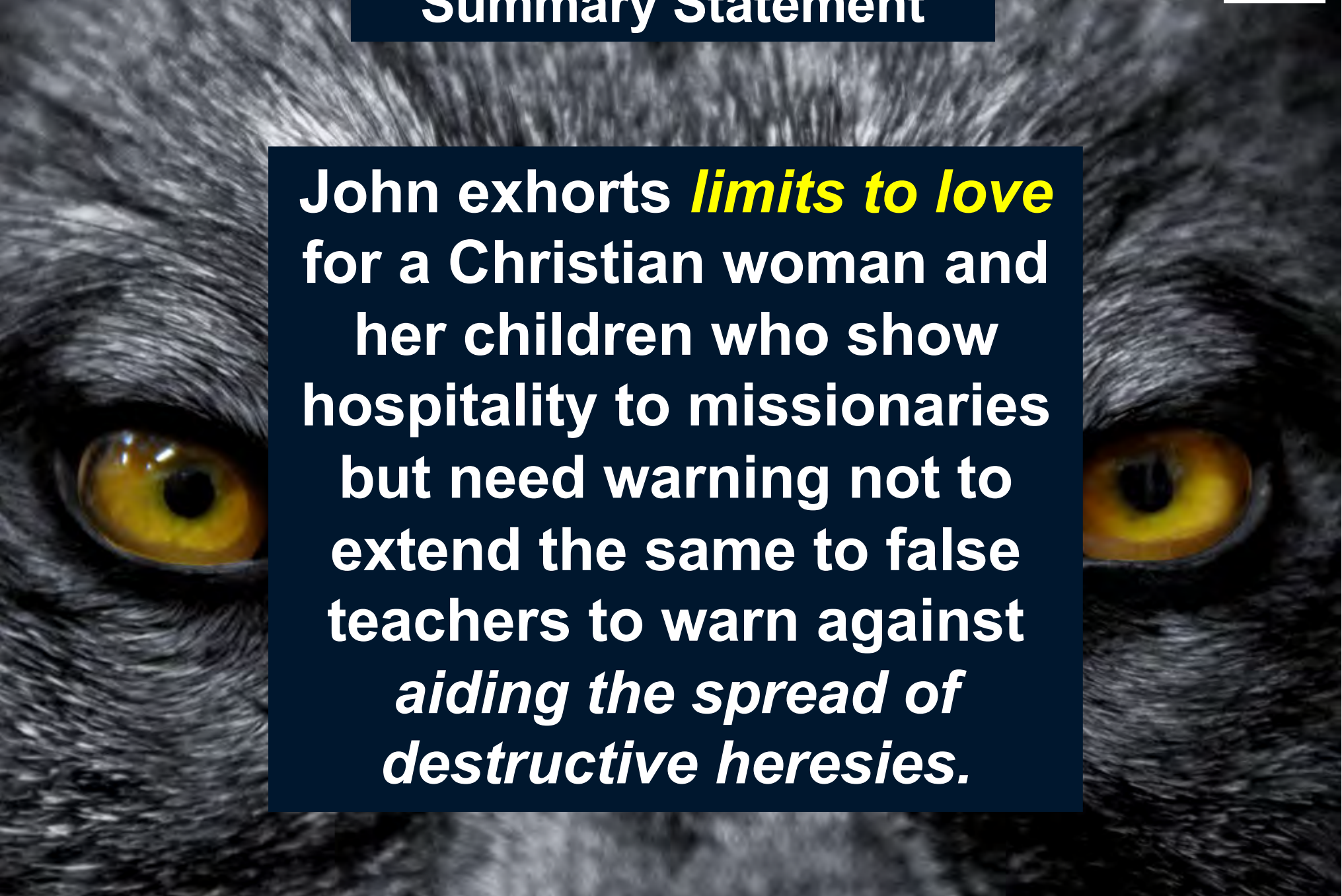


### Key Verse

**"Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your home or welcome him" (2 John 9-10 NIV).**



## Summary Statement

A close-up photograph of a greyhound's face, focusing on its eyes and fur. The fur is grey and textured. The eyes are a striking yellow color with black pupils. The image is used as a background for the text.

John exhorts ***limits to love*** for a Christian woman and her children who show hospitality to missionaries but need warning not to extend the same to false teachers to warn against ***aiding the spread of destructive heresies.***



RUSSELL CROWE  
**NOAH**





RUSSELL CROWE  
**NOAH**

**Thesis: The earth must be destroyed due to man not taking care of the environment!**





RUSSELL CROWE  
**NOAH**

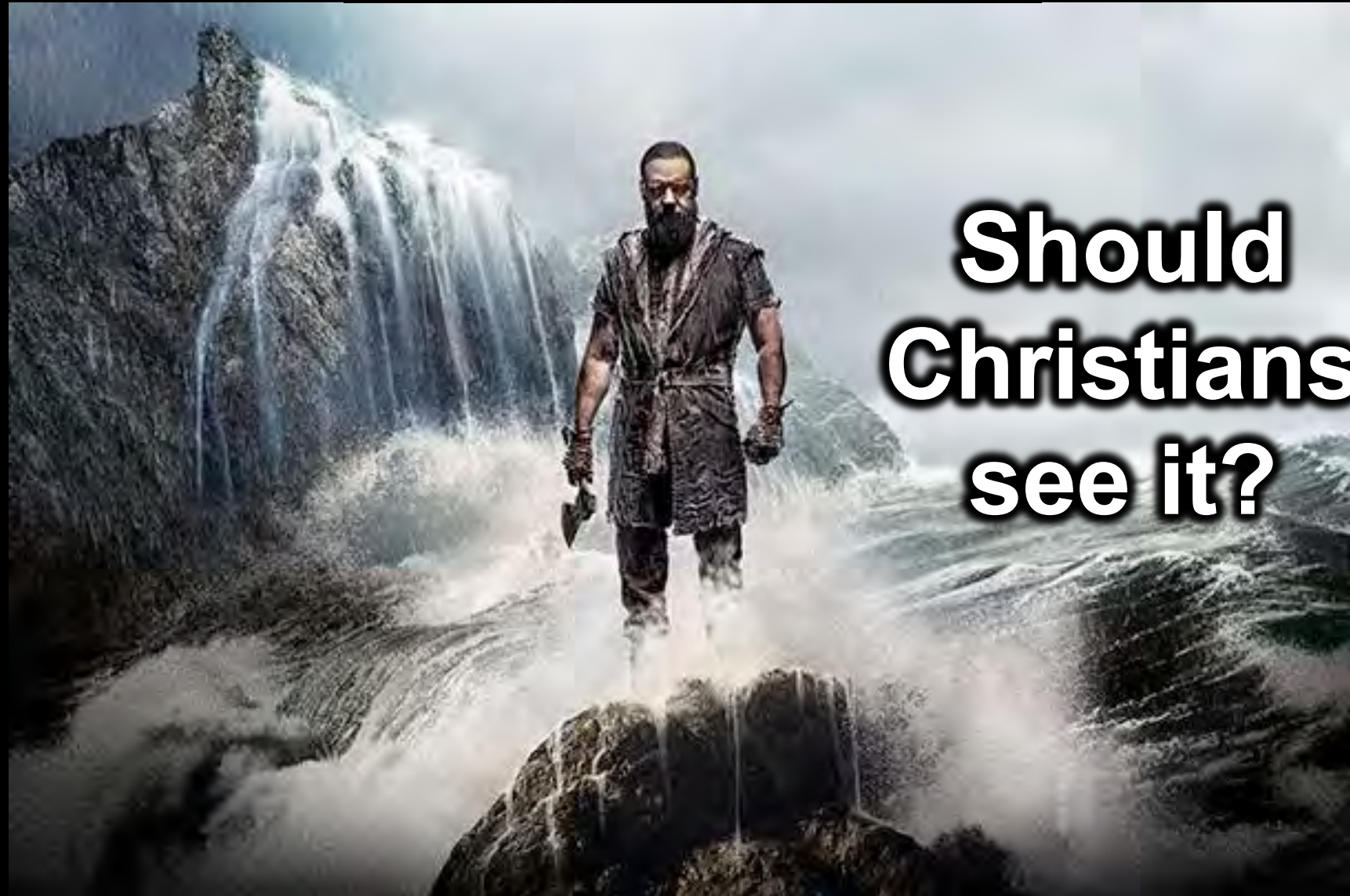
A portrait of Darren Aronofsky, a man with a beard and a patterned scarf, against a dramatic sky background.

**"least biblical  
biblical film  
ever made."**

**Atheist Producer Darren Aronofsky**



RUSSELL CROWE  
NOAH



**Should  
Christians  
see it?**

# Praise of "Noah"



**Focus on the Family** president Jim Daly stated that: "[Noah] is a creative interpretation of the scriptural account that allows us to **imagine the deep struggles Noah may have wrestled with** as he answered God's call on his life. This cinematic vision of Noah's story **gives Christians a great opportunity to engage our culture with the biblical Noah**, and to have conversations with friends and family about matters of eternal significance."



# Criticism of "Noah"

**Ken Ham (Answers in Genesis):**

**"Also, while the extreme wickedness of man was depicted, the real sin displayed in the film was the people's destruction of the earth. Lost within the film's extreme environmentalist message is that the actual sins of the preflood people were rebellion against God and man's inhumanity to man."**

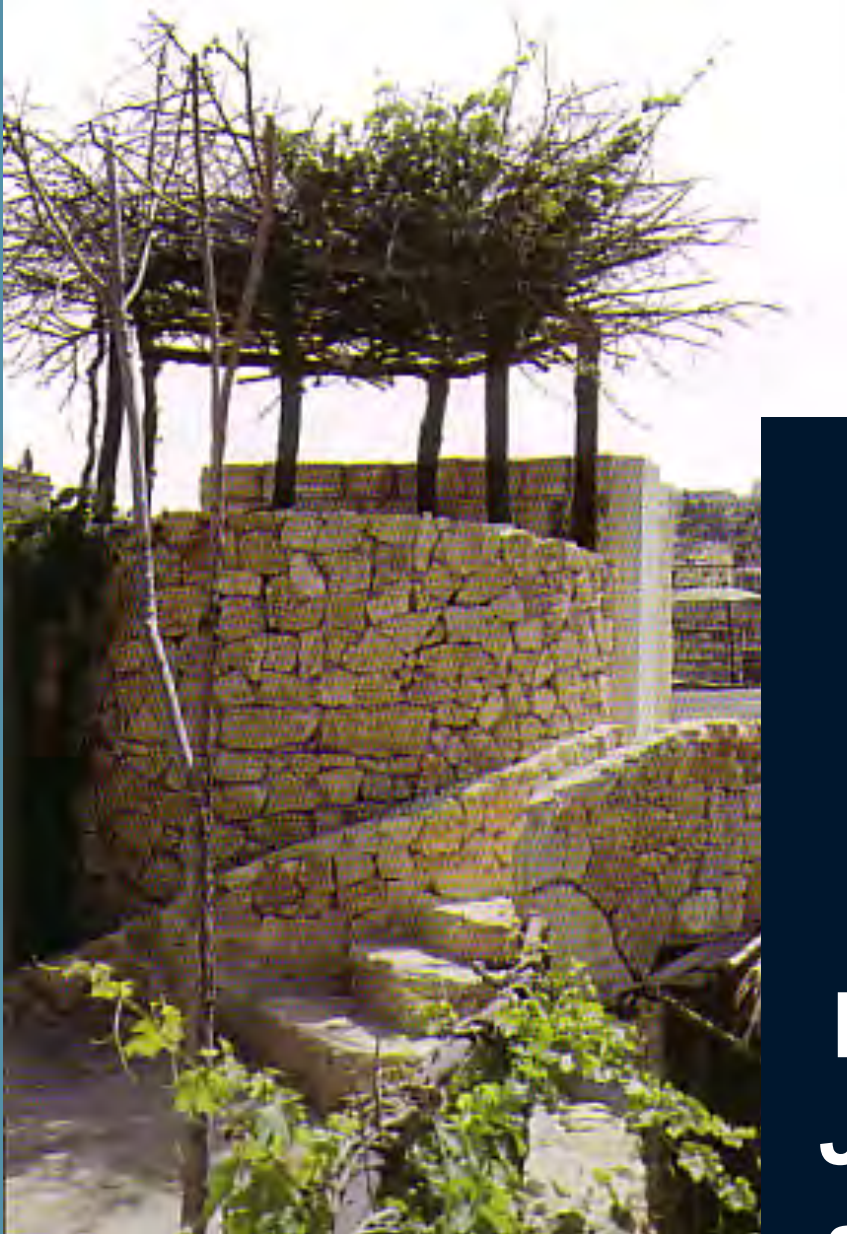


# How do Christians aid heresy?



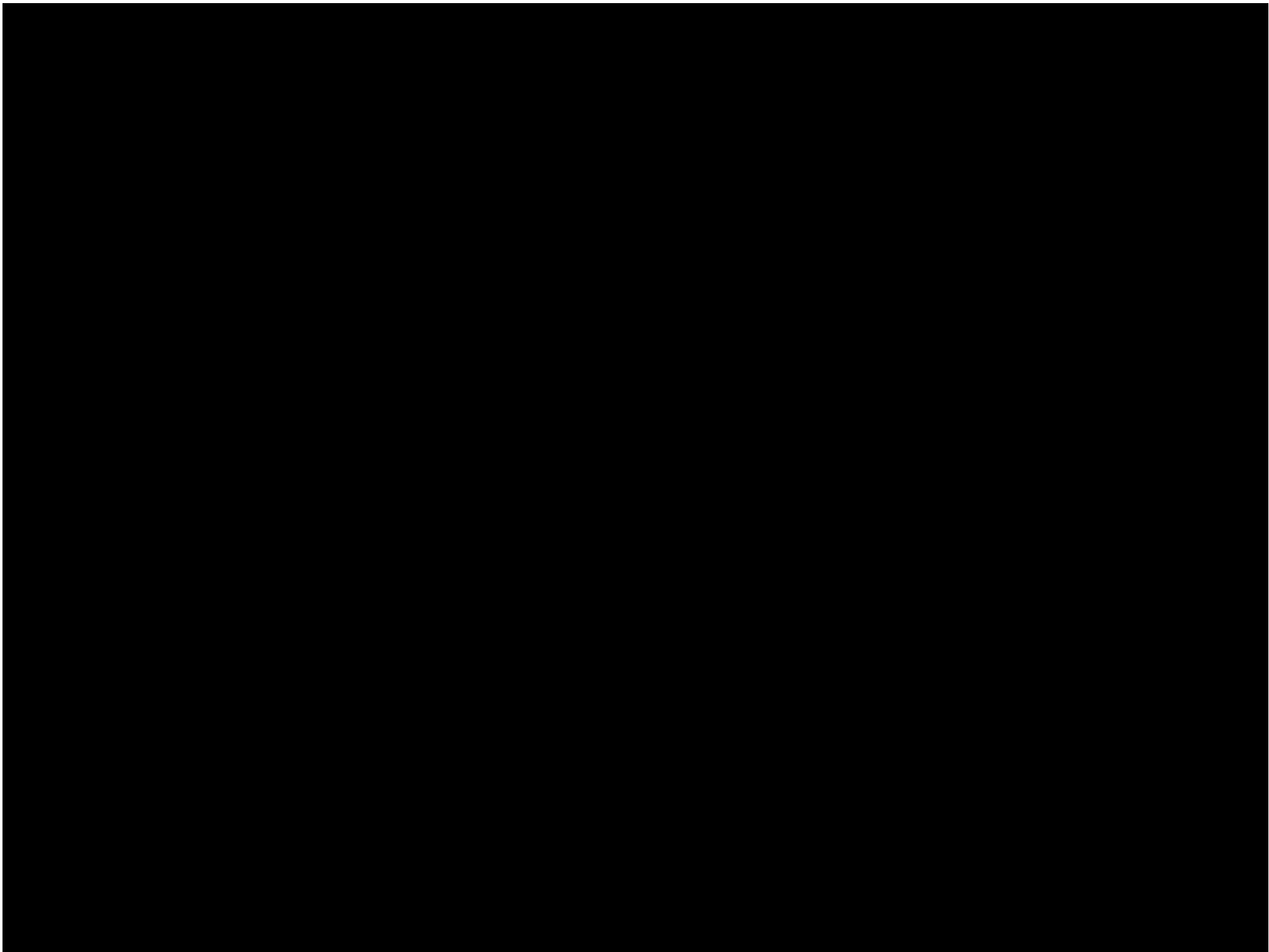
- Encouraging itinerate heretics
- Giving money to cults (YouTube preachers, etc.)
- Buying heretical books
- Attending movies that violate Scripture
- Accepting literature from false evangelists





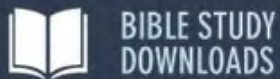
**You are a watchtower!**

**Don't contribute to or encourage in any way Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses or any other false religion.**





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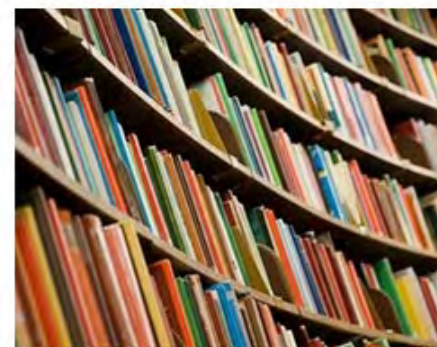
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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. The hands are weathered and the background is blurred.

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