



# Other Events at the Rapture

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary • [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)

# The Rapture

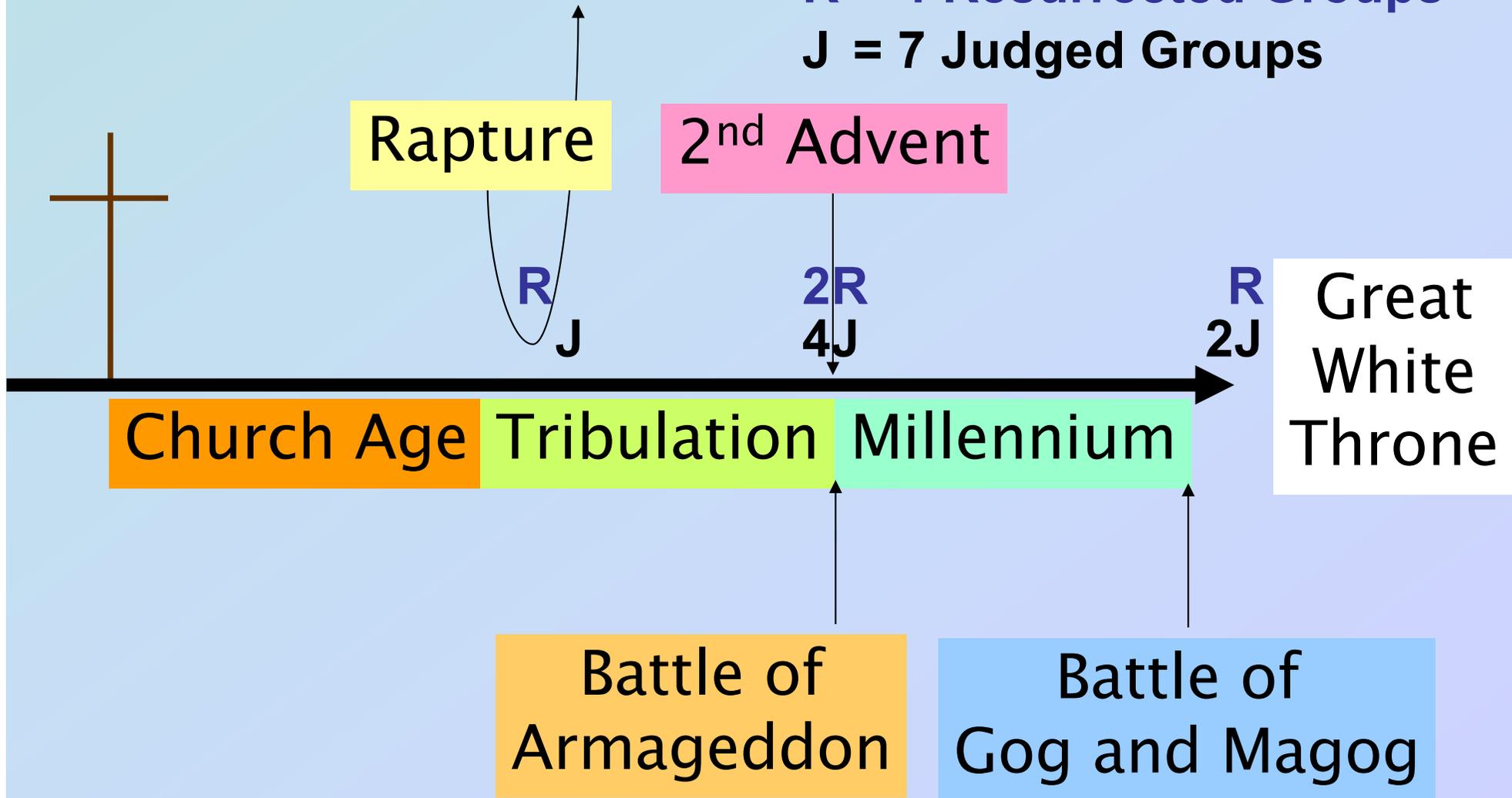


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# Resurrections & Judgments

R = 4 Resurrected Groups

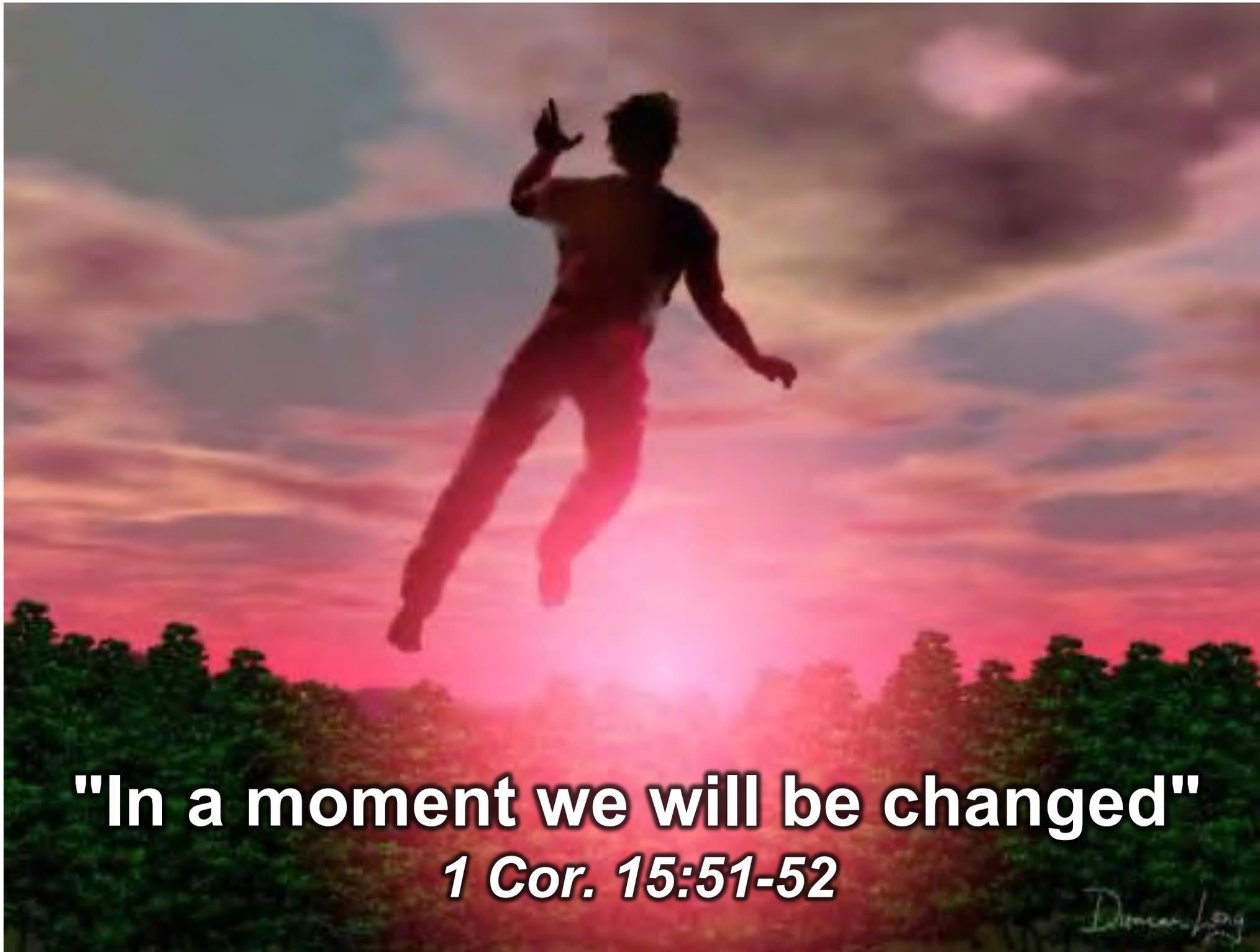
J = 7 Judged Groups



# Judgment Seat of Christ



- **Believers Rewarded by Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)**
- **At the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:17)**
- **Reward or loss of rewards (not salvation)**



**"In a moment we will be changed"**

***1 Cor. 15:51-52***

*Duncan Long*

A silhouette of a person with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or worship, set against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The person's arms are raised, with fingers pointing upwards. The background shows a horizon line with some distant trees or hills.

# ***Three Illustrations of Our New Bodies:***

- **Plant Life (15:36-38)**
- **Animal Life (15:39)**
- **Inanimate Objects (15:40-41)**

# The Resurrected Body



**We will join him in the clouds  
(1 Thess. 4:16)**



**We will put away  
"this present tent"  
(2 Cor. 5:1)**



# New bodies





# THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

*Is this a judgment to  
determine salvation?*

*Or is it to reward believers?*

# The Bema Still Exists





**Bema with Acrocorinth in Distance**

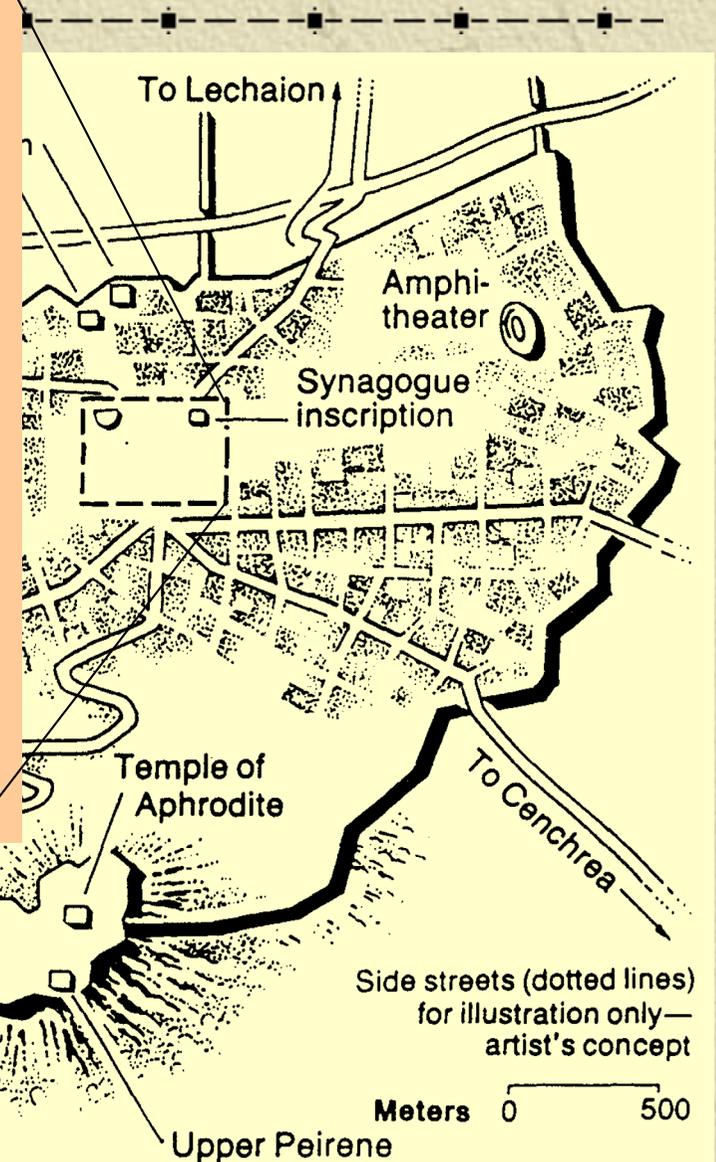
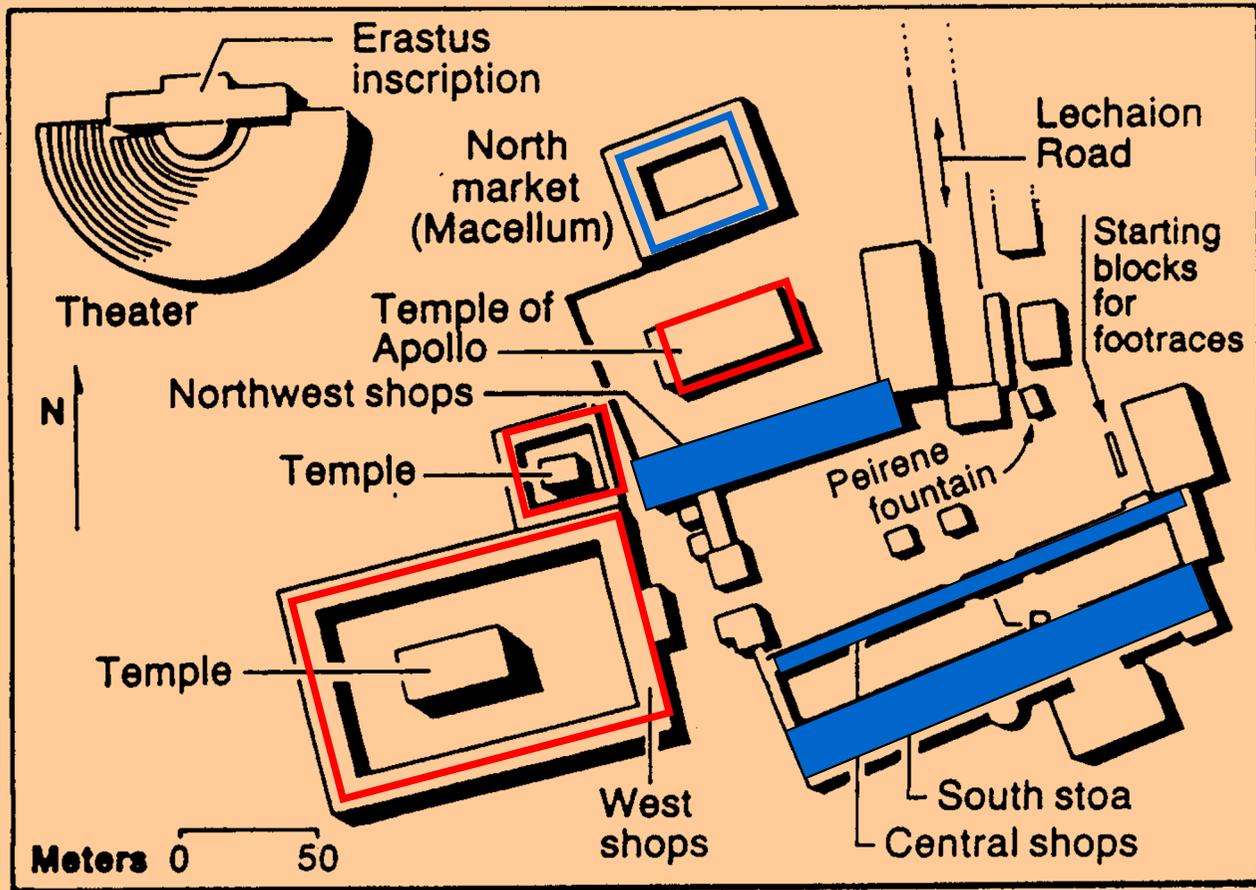
# View from Acrocorinth



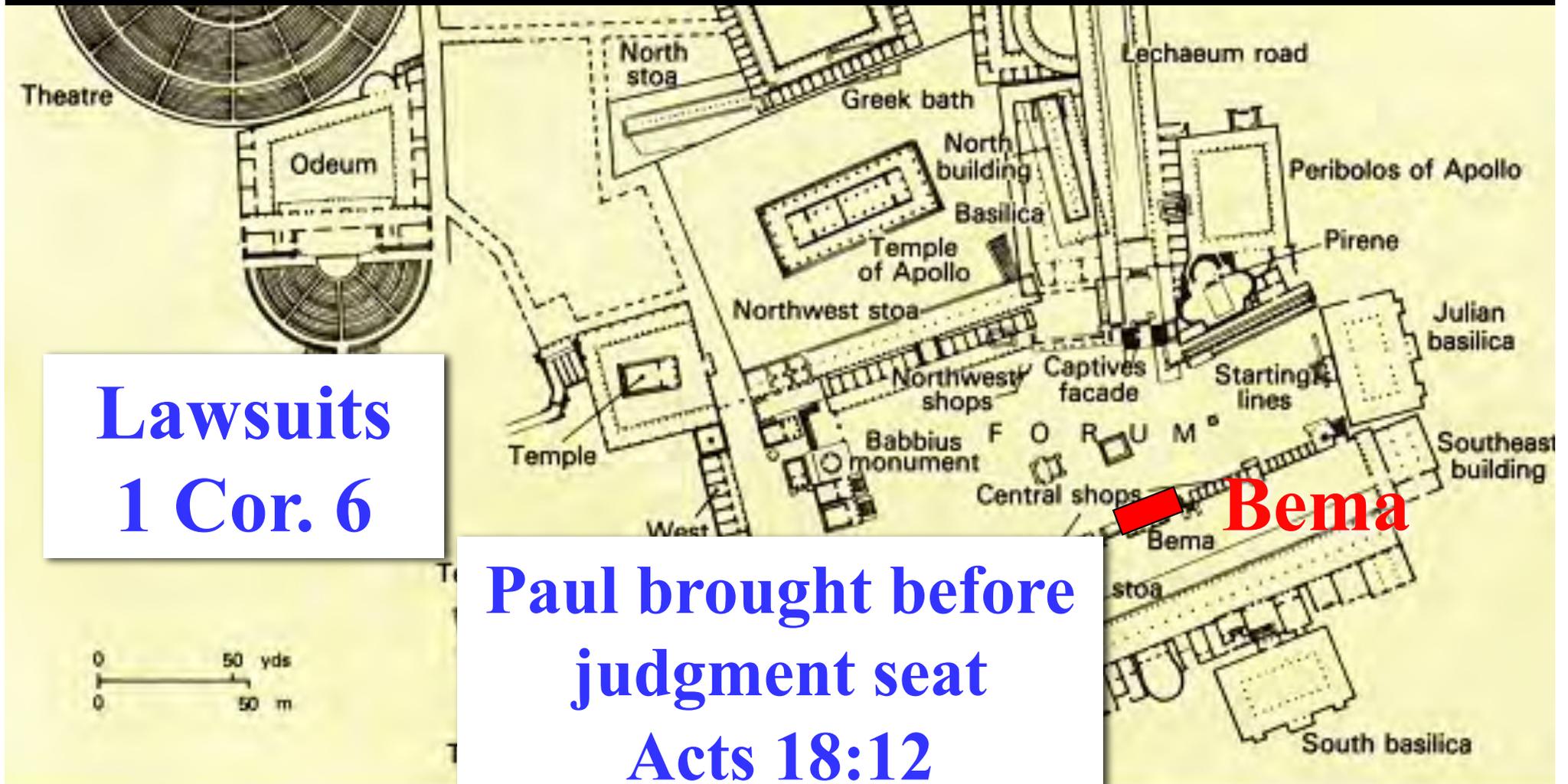
# The Main City Below



# The Corinthian Marketplace



"But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat [bema]" (Acts 18:12)

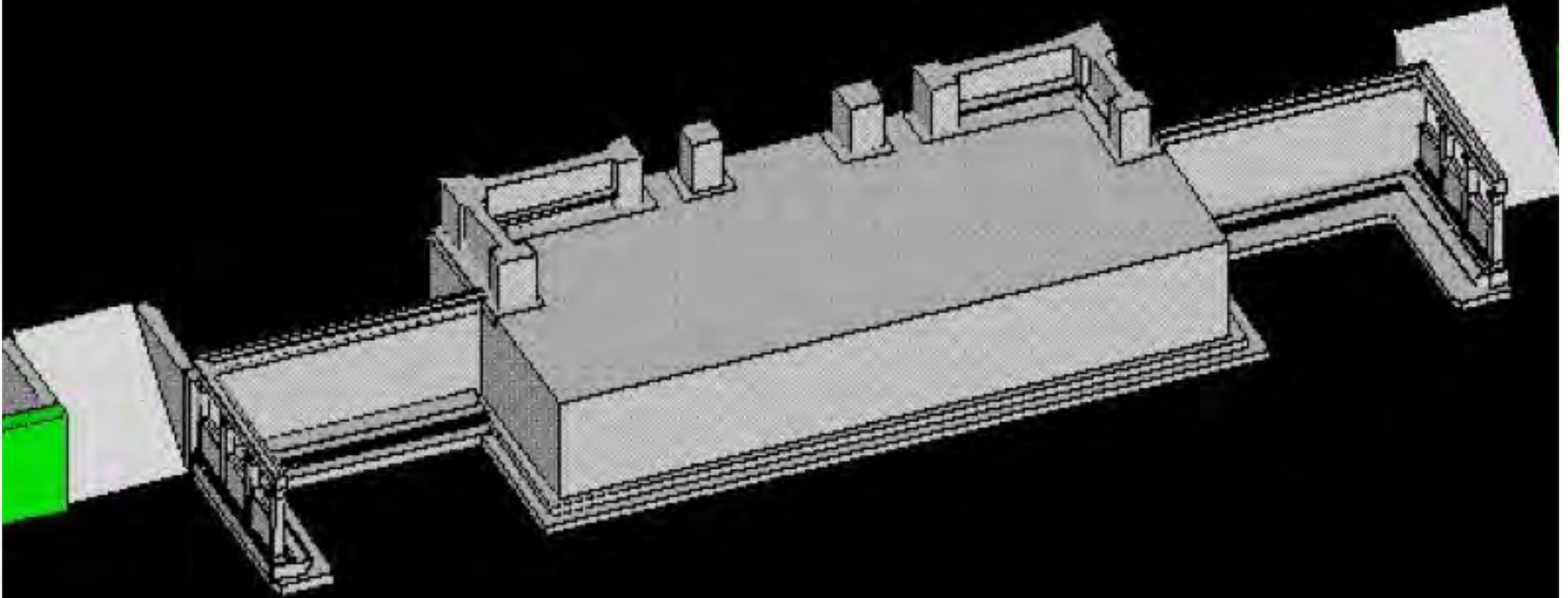


**Lawsuits**  
**1 Cor. 6**

**Paul brought before  
judgment seat  
Acts 18:12**

**The Bema at Corinth**

# Bema Close-up



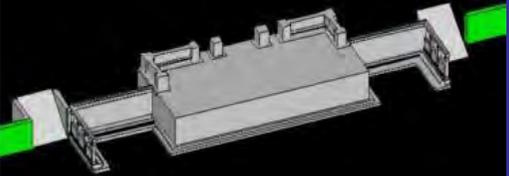
“So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. <sup>10</sup>For **we must all appear before the judgment seat [bema] of Christ**, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:9-10 NIV).

# The Speaker or Judge Above



# The One Being Judged or Rewarded Stood Below





# Bema for Rewards

"In Grecian games in Athens, the old arena contained a raised platform on which the president or umpire of the arena sat. From here he rewarded all the contestants; and here he rewarded all winners. It was called the '*bema*' or '*reward seat*.' It was never used of a judicial bench."

L. Sale-Harrison, *Judgment Seat of* ...  
cited by Pentecost, *Things to Come*, 220

**REALITY?**

# **Bema is Used of Jesus Before Pilate**

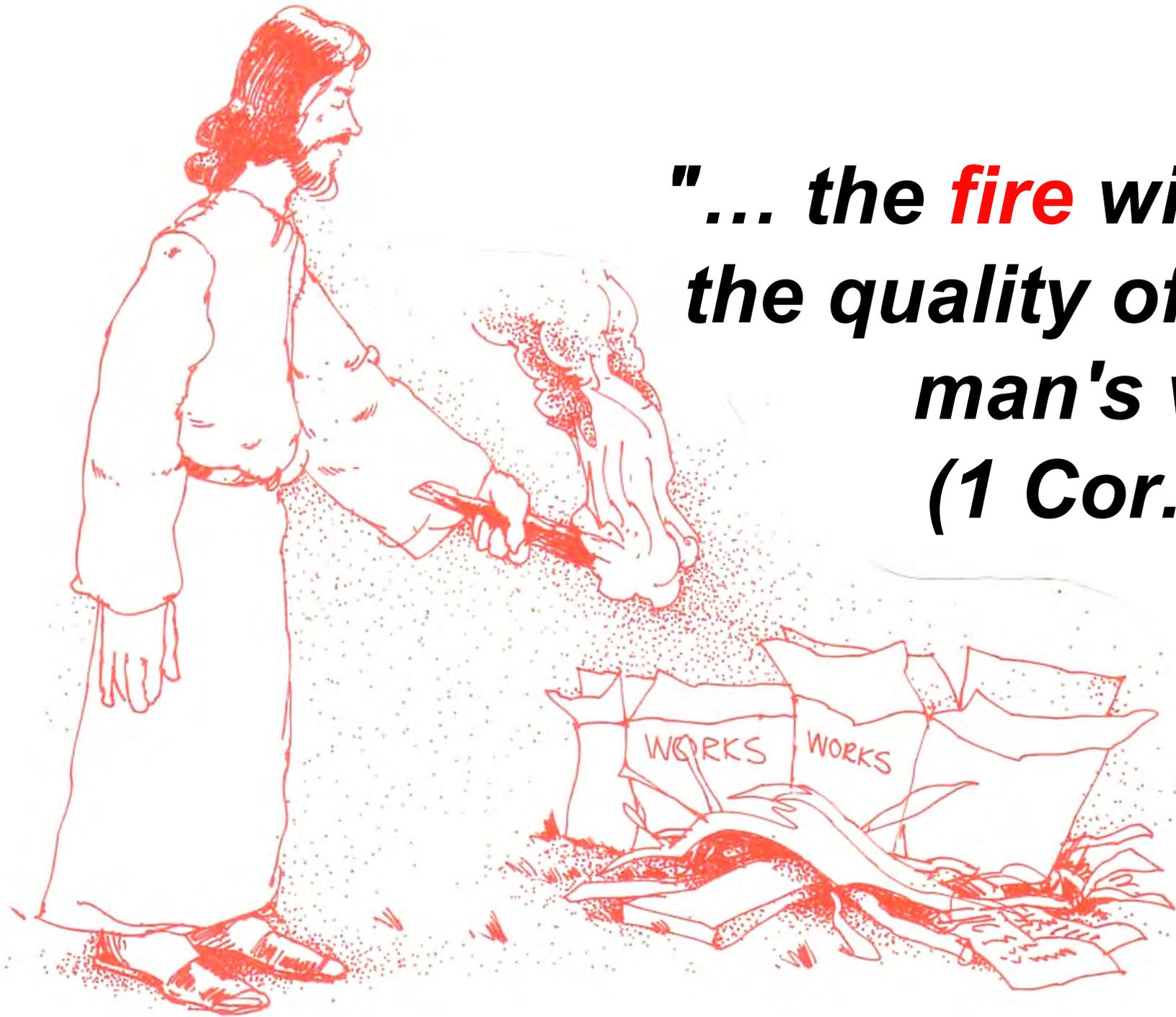




# The Bema is a Reward Seat



**"... the *fire* will test  
the quality of each  
man's work"  
(1 Cor. 3:13)**



**Some love running.**



**Some quit.**



# The Christian life is a race



**Some are running well but...**



# Some quit the Christian race



How long will *you* run with  
Christ?

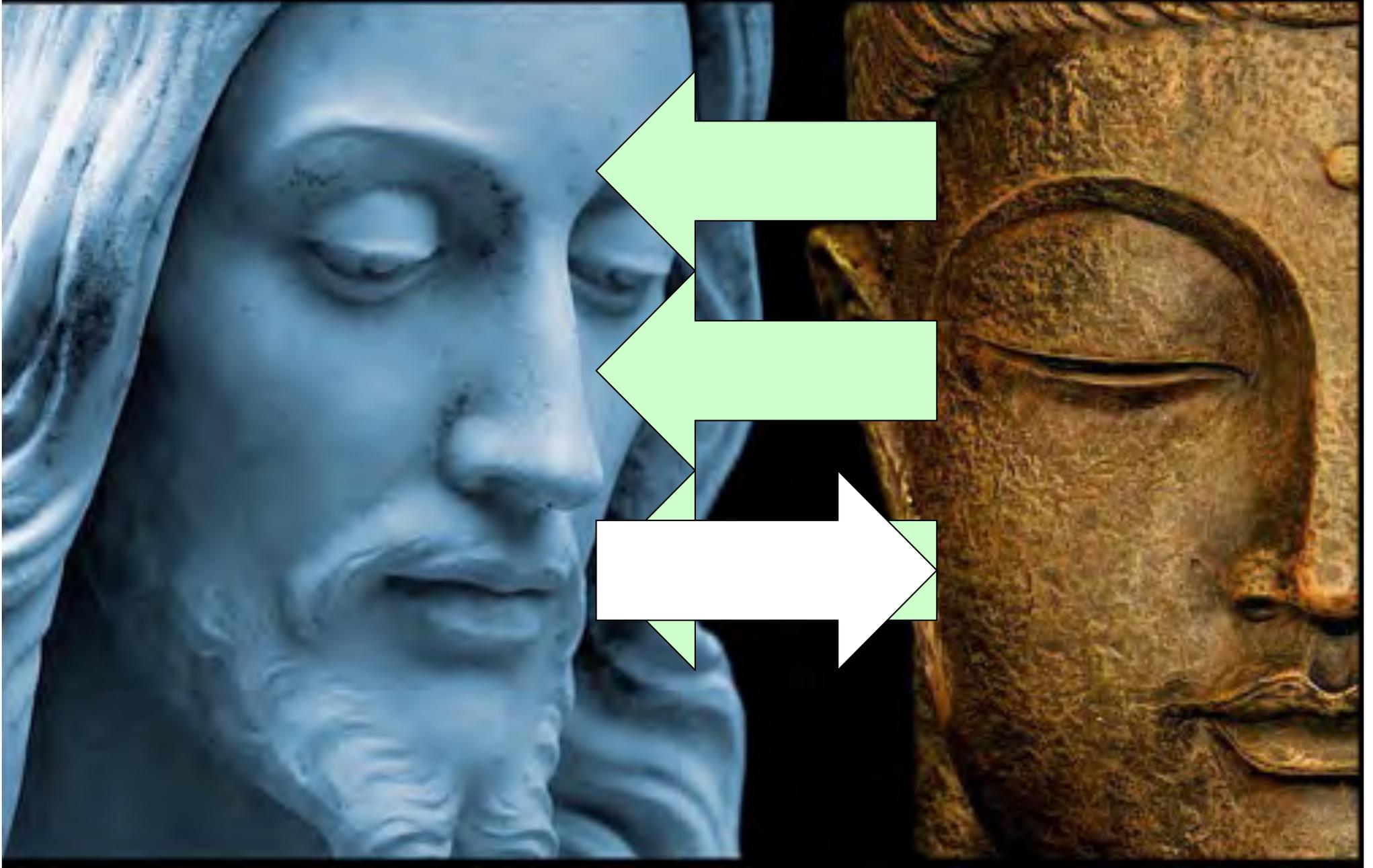


# "They used to be here."



- **Divorce**
- **College doubts**
- **Living together**
- **Living apart**

# Singaporean Returns



# What about you?

**1. What was your previous religion?**

**2. What tempts you to go back?**

- Atheist?
- Ancestor Worship?
- Buddhist?
- Free thinker?
- Hindu?
- Muslim?
- Taoism?
- Christian?
- Nominal Christian?

**"They used to be here."**



KEEP RUNNING





***Why keep running?***

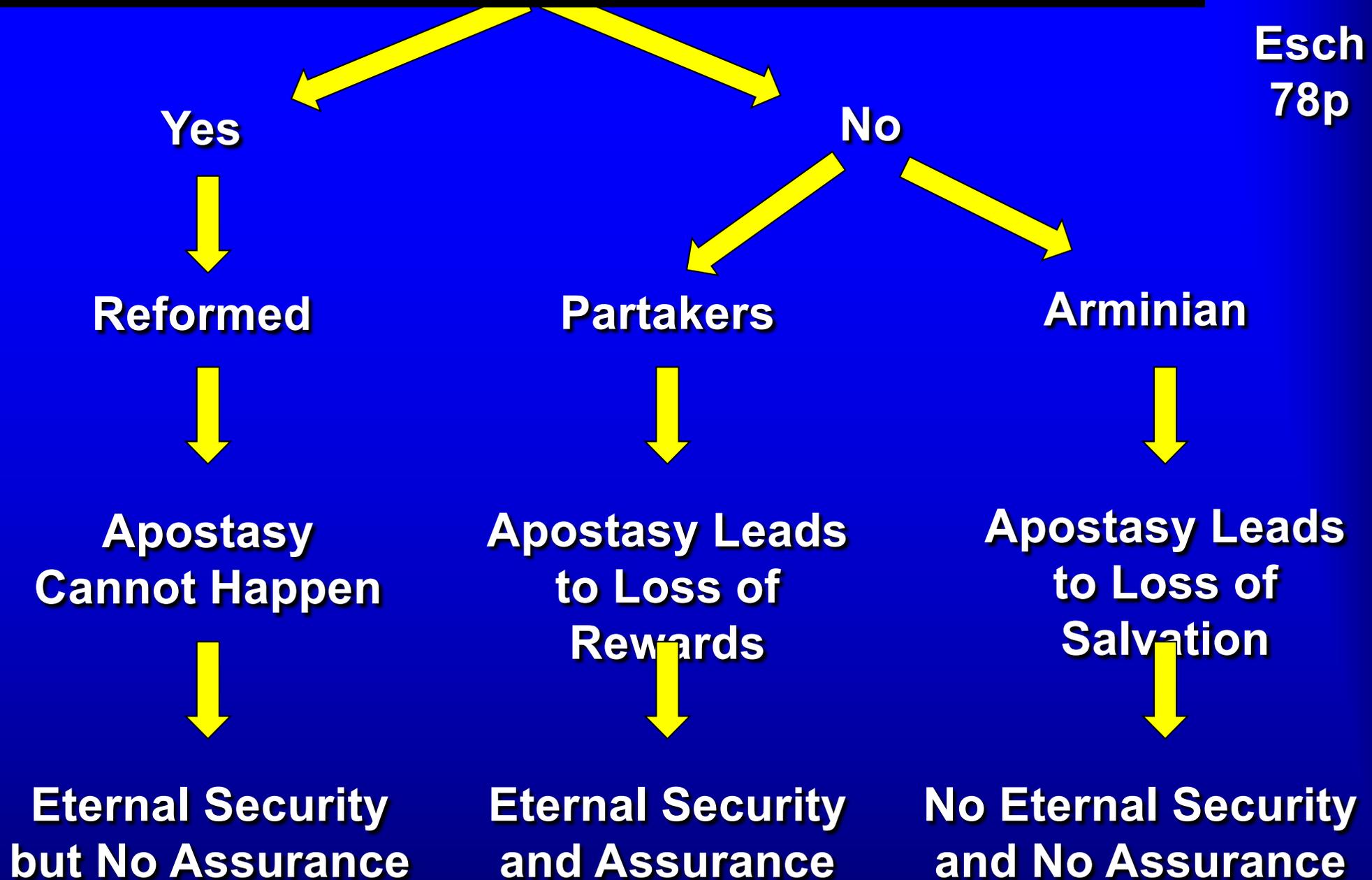
A man in a blue t-shirt and dark shorts is running on a grassy path in a park. The background shows a city skyline with tall buildings under a bright, hazy sky. The overall scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

***Why keep running?***

# Will each genuine Christian persevere in faithfulness at death?

NTS  
274i

Esch  
78p



**Eternal Security  
but No Assurance**

**Eternal Security  
and Assurance**

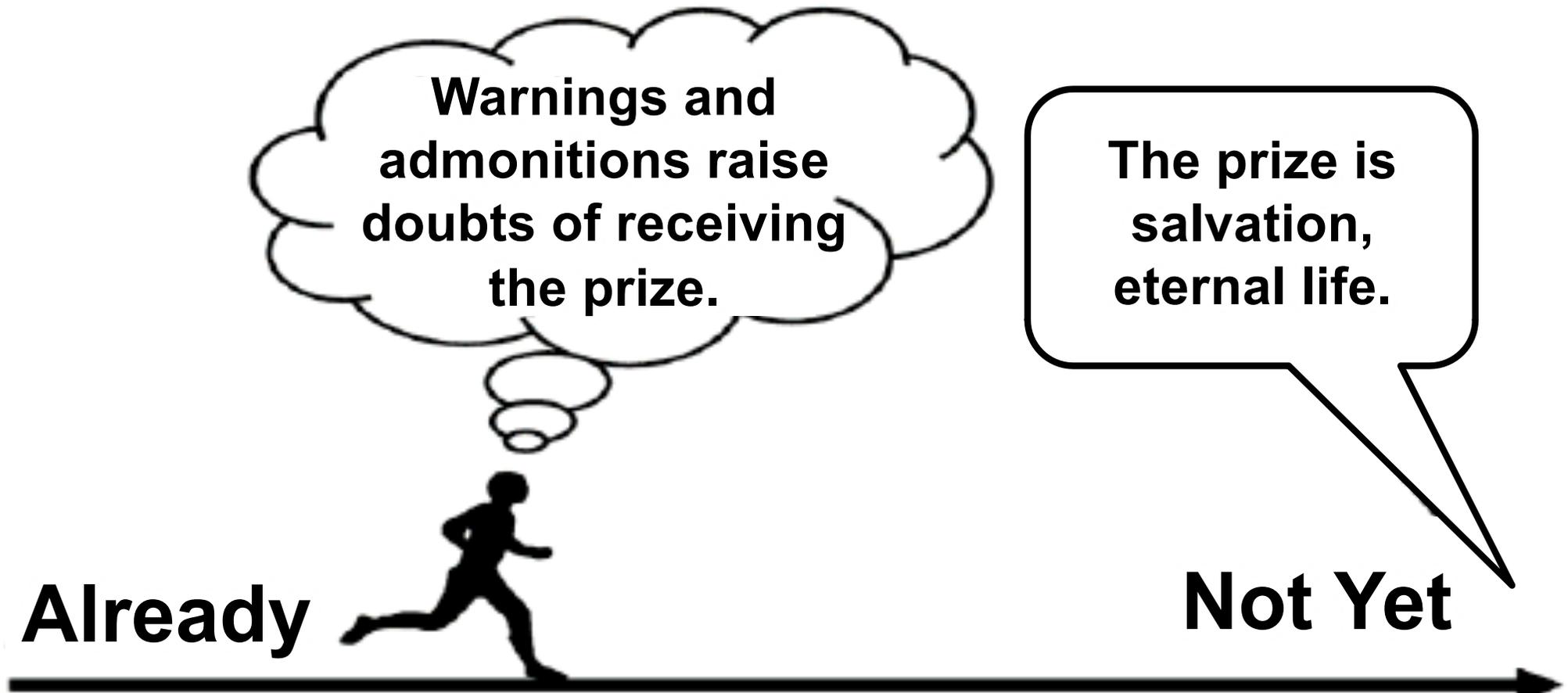
**No Eternal Security  
and No Assurance**

# **An Impossibility (Heb. 6:4-6 NLT)**

**For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— <sup>6</sup>and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.**

# The Arminian View of Hebrews 6:4-8

Bob Deffinbaugh, "13. Dairy Queen or Steak and Ale (Hebrews 6:4-8)"  
<https://bible.org/seriespage/13-dairy-queen-or-steak-and-ale-hebrews-64-8>



The race track represents salvation.

Christians may abandon the race and lose salvation.

# The Reformed (Calvinist) View

Warnings and admonitions call for retrospective and introspective self-examination to assess whether one is already saved.

The prize is salvation, eternal life.

**Already  
Saved**



The race represents salvation. To abandon the race proves one was never saved. Christians run with their back toward the goal to assess their progress on the track.

# The Hypothetical View

Warnings and admonitions only caution what would happen if one could fail to endure to the end.

The prize is salvation, eternal life.

**Already Saved**



The race represents salvation. One who is already saved cannot abandon the race.

# The Loss of Rewards View



Warnings and admonitions raise doubts of receiving the prize.

The prize is not salvation, but rewards.

**Already  
Saved**

**The race represents salvation.**

**Christians may abandon the race and lose rewards.**

# The Loss of Life View (held by Dr. Rick Griffith)



Warnings and admonitions exhort to press on with Christ or they may die physically.

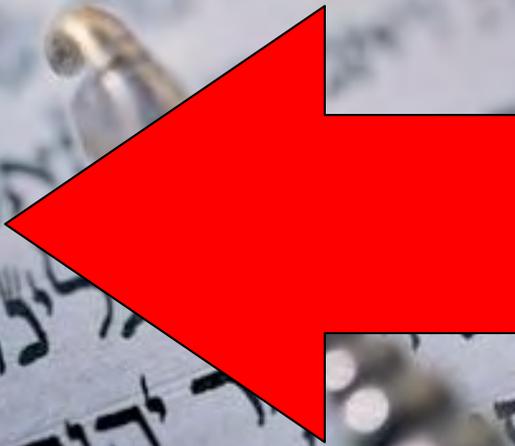
The prize is not salvation, but inheritance in the kingdom.

**Already  
Saved**

**The race represents salvation.  
Christians may abandon the race and lose their life.**



**Hebrews**

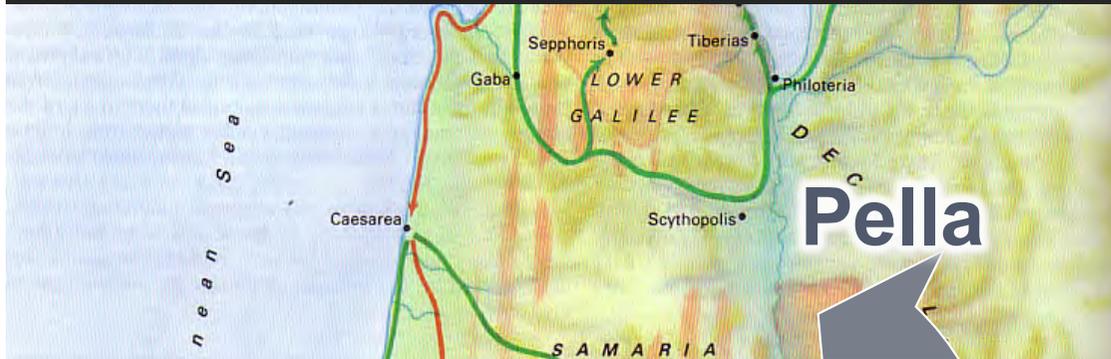


**"Should I  
go back?"**

**"So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it" (2:1 NLT).**



# What happened to the Christians in Jerusalem?



A revelation told them to find protection in Pella.





***Press On!***

***A Study of Hebrews***



## 5 Warnings in Hebrews

1. **Warning** of discipline (2:1-4)
2. **Warning** of disinheritance (3:7-19)
3. **Warning** of death (6:4-8)
4. **Warning** of death (10:26-31)
5. **Warning** of unconcern (12:14-29)

# The Fire

"Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. <sup>27</sup> There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies" (Hebrews 10:26-27 NLT).

**Hell fire?**

**No, Jerusalem fire!**

# Views on the Warning Passages



What group of Jews is being addressed ?

False Believer	Former Believer	Carnal Believer
People who are not really believers	Christians who sin by not seeing Christ's superiority	Christians who sin by not seeing Christ's superiority

# Views on the Warning Passages

What is the nature of their punishment ?



False Believer	Former Believer	Carnal Believer
Never had Salvation	Loss of Salvation	Loss of Reward

# Views on the Warning Passages

What is the result ?



False Believer	Former Believer	Carnal Believer
Hell	Hell	Divine Discipline

# Views on the Warning Passages

Which theological perspective holds to this view ?



False Believer	Former Believer	Carnal Believer
Reformed	Arminian	Partakers

# Views on the Warning Passages

Strengths



False Believer	Former Believer	Carnal Believer
Signifying Hell (sees the judgment as serious)	Signifying Hell (sees the judgment as serious)	Loss of rewards as a judgment (a concept often taught in the NT)

# Views on the Warning Passages

## Weaknesses



False Believer	Former Believer	Carnal Believer
Consistently speaks of the readers as genuine Christians	Temporal security goes against NT doctrine of justification by grace	10:27 refers to judging persons, not deeds

# The Problem with Labels

*Must we be one or the other...?*

**Reformed?**

...or...

**Arminian?**

**Many do  
Fall Away**

**Weaknesses**

**Loss of  
Salvation**

**Eternal  
Security**

**Strengths**

**Reality of  
Apostasy**

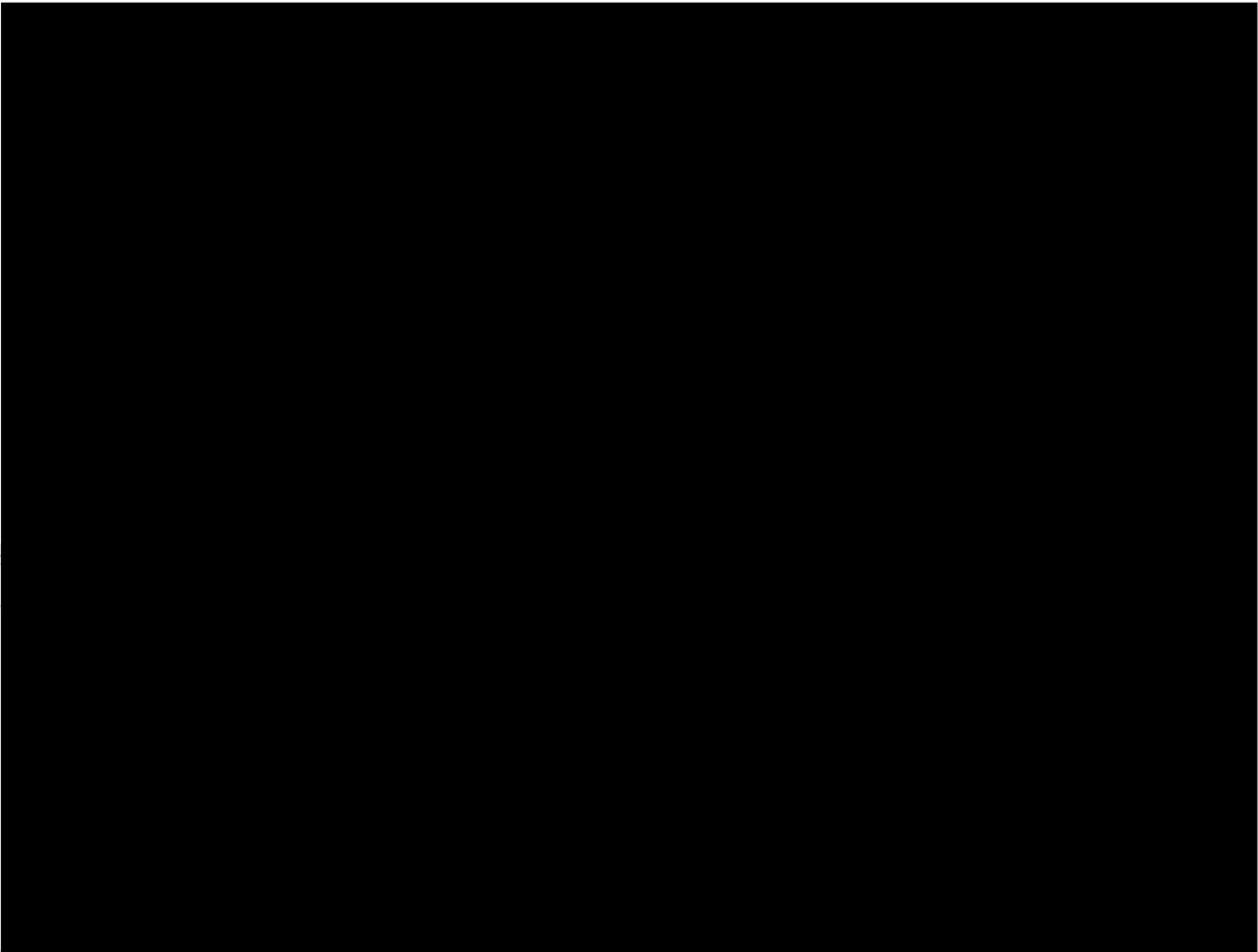
**Partakers View Has  
Both Strengths &  
Neither Weakness**

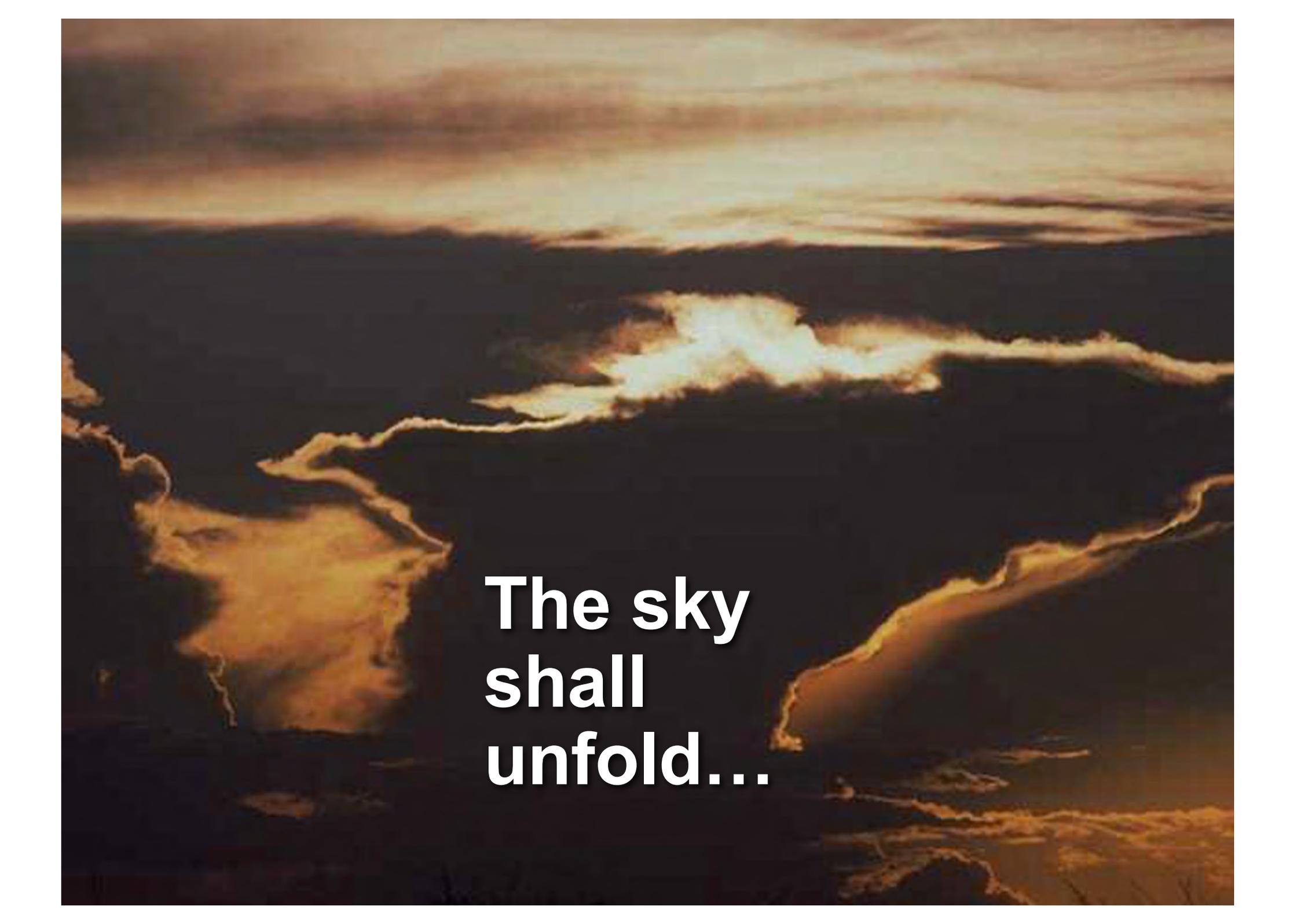
# Implications of the Rapture



**We will join him in the clouds**







**The sky  
shall  
unfold...**

**...preparing His entrance**





**The stars  
shall  
applaud Him  
with  
thunders of  
praise**

**The  
sweet  
light of  
His eyes  
shall  
enhance  
those  
awaiting**



**And we shall behold Him  
then face to face**





**We shall behold Him**  
**We shall behold Him**



**...face to face  
in all of His glory**



**We shall  
behold Him  
We shall  
behold Him**

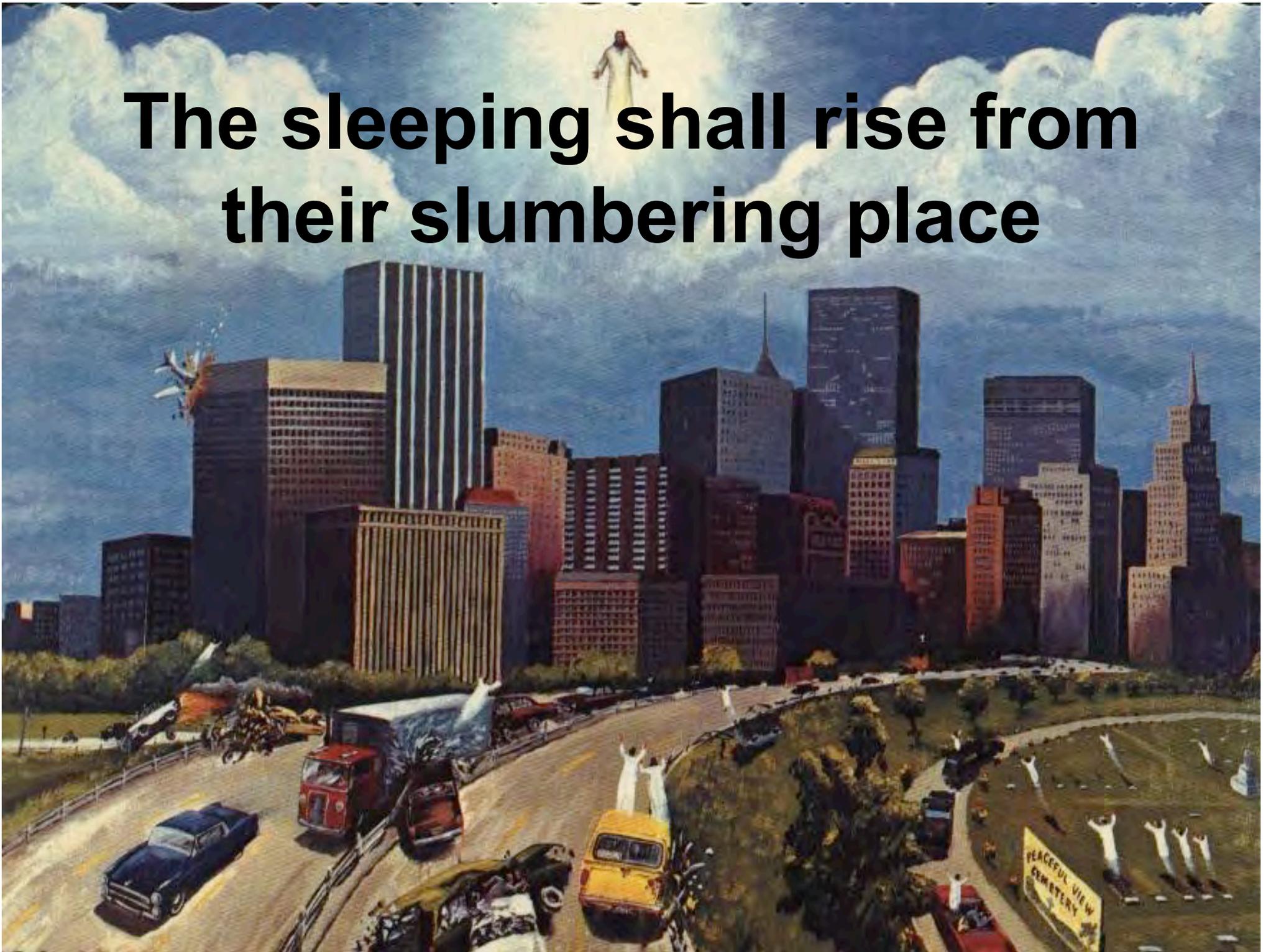
A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a dark, stormy sea. The sun is a bright, glowing orb partially obscured by dark, swirling clouds. The sky is a mix of deep orange, red, and black, with wispy clouds catching the light. The overall mood is intense and awe-inspiring.

**...face to face,  
our Savior and Lord**



**The angel shall sound the  
shout of His coming**

**The sleeping shall rise from  
their slumbering place**



**And those who remain shall  
be changed in a moment**



**And we shall behold Him  
then face to face**





**We shall behold Him  
We shall behold Him**

**...face to face  
in all of His glory**



**We shall behold Him  
We shall behold Him**



**...face to face,  
our Savior and Lord**





**We shall behold Him,  
our Savior and Lord**

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