

Acts 20–28



Key Word

56
39

Sovereignty II

Acts

Theme

23

**Universal Savior Proclaimed in
Sovereign Kingdom Progress**

Acts

Key Verse

56

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (1:8).

Acts

Summary Statement

The reason to witness everywhere is because **God has directed the progress of the kingdom message** to all people since early church history

Application

How is God extending his kingdom message through you?

How are you fitting into His overall purpose to spread the gospel throughout the entire earth?

Kingdom Statement

27b

The kingdom message expands from its reception by Jews in Jerusalem (1:1–6:7) to Judeans and Samaritans (6:8–8:40) to Gentiles in Rome (chaps. 9–28) in many “progress reports” (2:47; 6:7; 8:40; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31; also possibly 2:41; 4:31; 5:42; 8:25, etc.) to show believers that God will grow his church, not man.

Acts

Covenant

27b

Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to form the church (1:8; 2:14-18, 33, 38-39; 10:44-47), so believers should repent and be baptized to join this new covenant community called the church (2:21, 38; 3:19; 10:43, 47-48; 17:30; 26:20).

Acts

Redemption

27b

The universal appeal for salvation through the gospel is stressed (1:8; 28:30-31) in this book that records over 80 geographical locations—more than any other New Testament book.

Acts

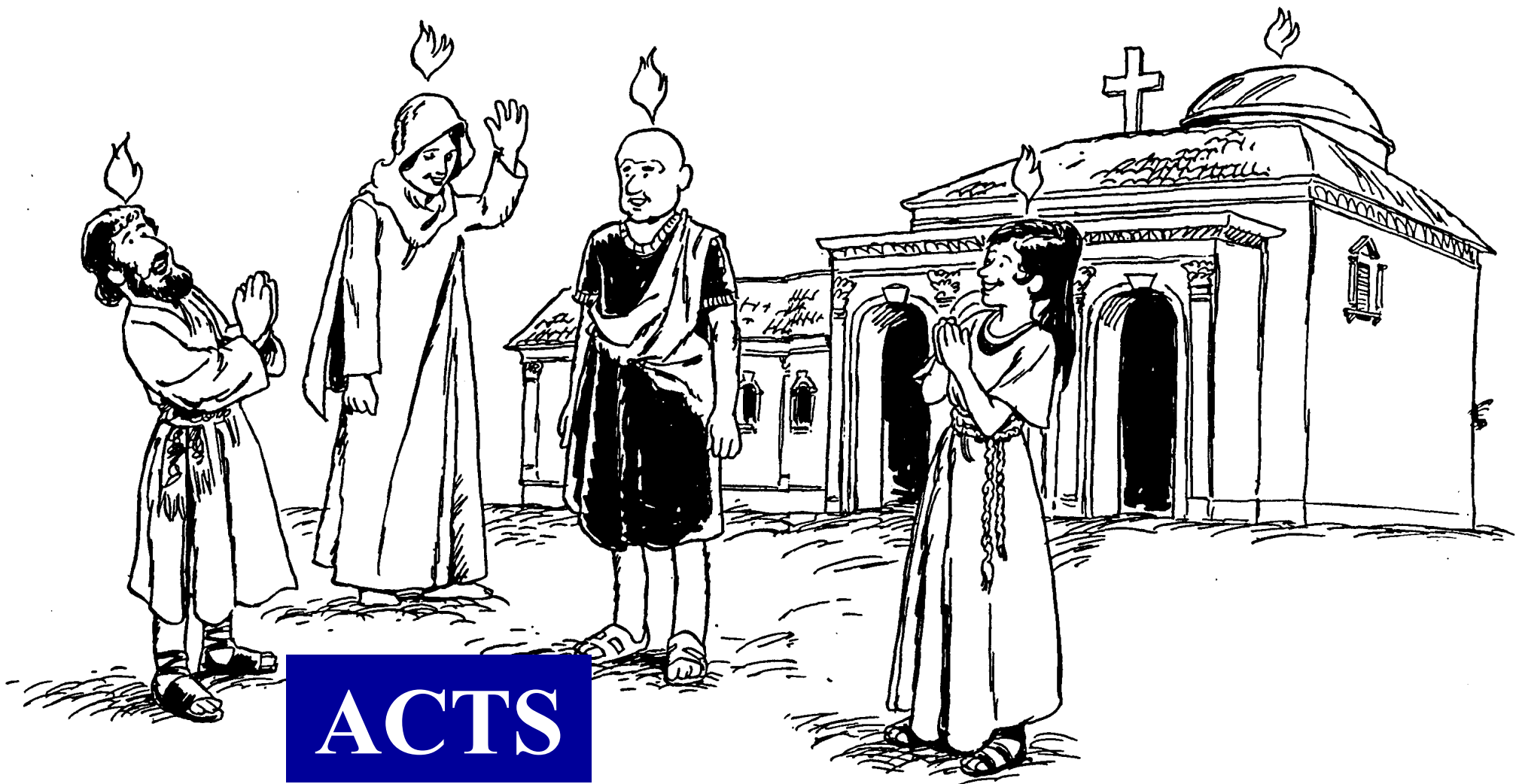
Prophecy (Lord, Deity)

Jesus fulfilled the OT prophecies (2:30; 3:19, 24; 10:43; 26:6-7, 22), especially in his miracles (2:22; 10:38), death according to God's purposes (2:23; 3:13-15, 18; 4:11; 10:39; 26:23), resurrection (2:24, 31-32; 3:15, 26; 10:40-41; 17:31; 26:23), and exaltation to God's throne as Lord (2:25-29, 33-36; 3:13; 10:36) until he returns (3:20-21; 10:42; 17:31; cf. NTS, 137).

Acts

Universal Savior Proclaimed in Sovereign Kingdom Progress

Jerusalem	Judea and Samaria	Uttermost Part
1:1–6:7	6:8–8:40	Chapters 9–28
Jews	Samaritans (mixed breeds)	Gentiles
AD 33-35 (2 years)	AD 35 (a few months)	AD 35-62 (27 years)



ACTS

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 H eavenly ascension of Christ | 11 W orship with Gentiles defended | 20 T ouching farewell from Ephesians |
| 2 O utpouring of Holy Spirit | 12 O utbreak from the prison | 21 H oly Spirit warns Paul |
| 3 L ame man is healed | 13 R elaying gospel to Antioch | 22 E ffect of Paul's testimony |
| 4 Y ield from public preaching | 14 K indness mixed with confusion | |
| | 15 I nvestigation by Jerusalem Council | |
| 5 S apphira and Ananias judged | 16 N eed for Timothy's circumcision | 23 C ouncil of the Sanhedrin |
| 6 P roviding deacons ends injustice | 17 G ospel presentation in Athens | 24 H earing held by Felix |
| 7 I ntensive defense by Stephen | | 25 U rgent appeal to Caesar |
| 8 R ising persecution scatters church | 18 I nterview with Aquila, Priscilla | 26 R easoning with King Agrippa |
| 9 I ntroducing Saul to gospel | 19 N ew believers in Ephesus | 27 C aesarea to Malta Island |
| 10 T aking gospel to Cornelius | | 28 H eralding gospel in chains |



A row of matches is shown against a dark red background. The match on the far left is lit, with a bright yellow and orange flame rising from its tip. The other matches are unlit and have red tips. The word "Be Witnessing" is written in large, white, bold letters with a black outline across the top of the image.

Be Witnessing

Acts

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The Witness Stand



Acts

Why should we be **witnessing?**

3 reasons

Acts



I. God has gone ahead of us so we can begin where we **are** (Acts 1:1–6:7).



II. God gets the glory when we witness outside our **comfort** zone (Acts 6:8–8:40).



III. God will use us to spread the kingdom to the last **unreached** place (Acts 9–28).



Main Idea of the Book

Be part of **God's plan** to
bring the kingdom message
to all people.


Acts

**What is your role in God's
plan that he started in
early church history?**

Acts



Acts 20



Elder Roles

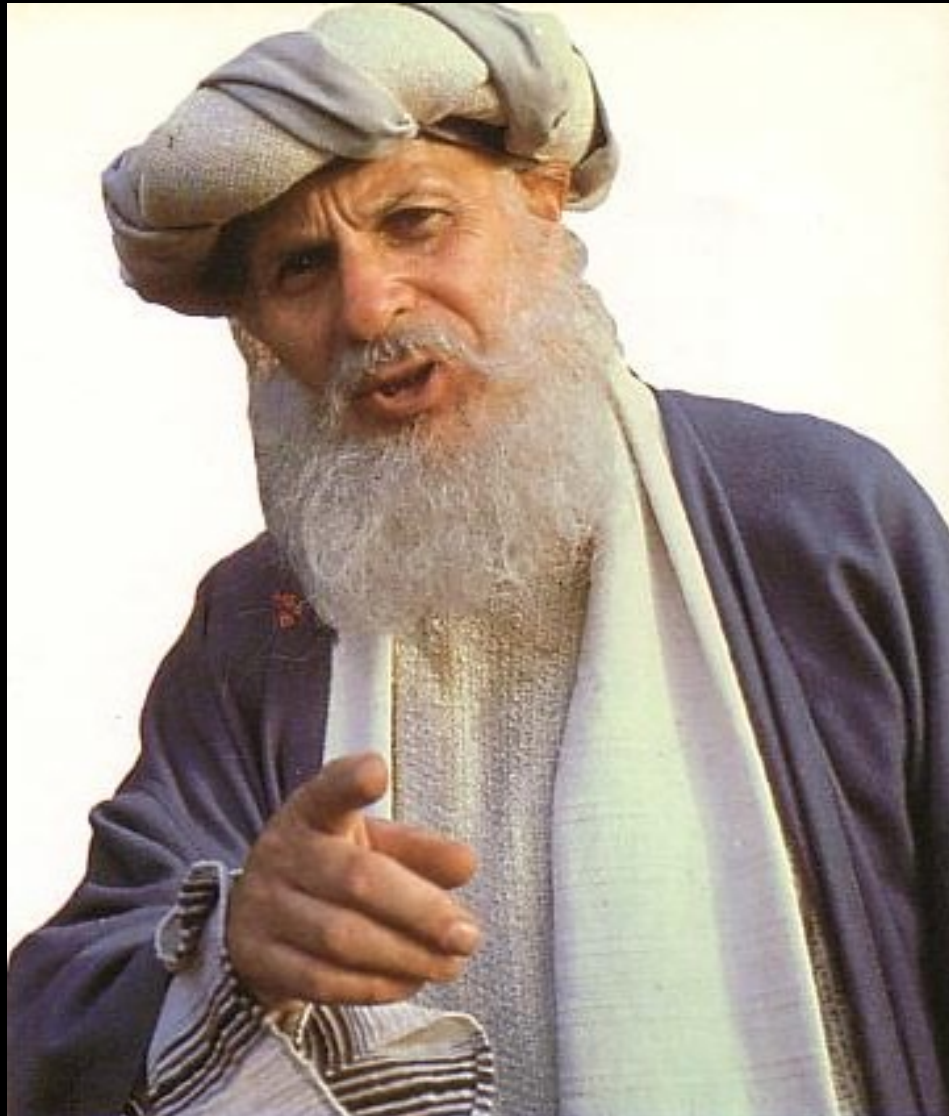
Acts 20

**Dr. Rick Griffith • Singapore Bible College • BibleStudyDownloads.org
• Crossroads International Church Singapore • CICFamily.com**

—Elders—



—Elders—





**What are elders
supposed to do?**

Our Church

Our elders & wives



Who are you older than?





Background

**What are elders
supposed to do?**

**The biblical pattern is
church leadership by
elders.**



Elders led from the time of Moses

**Elders
led with
Moses
1400 BC**

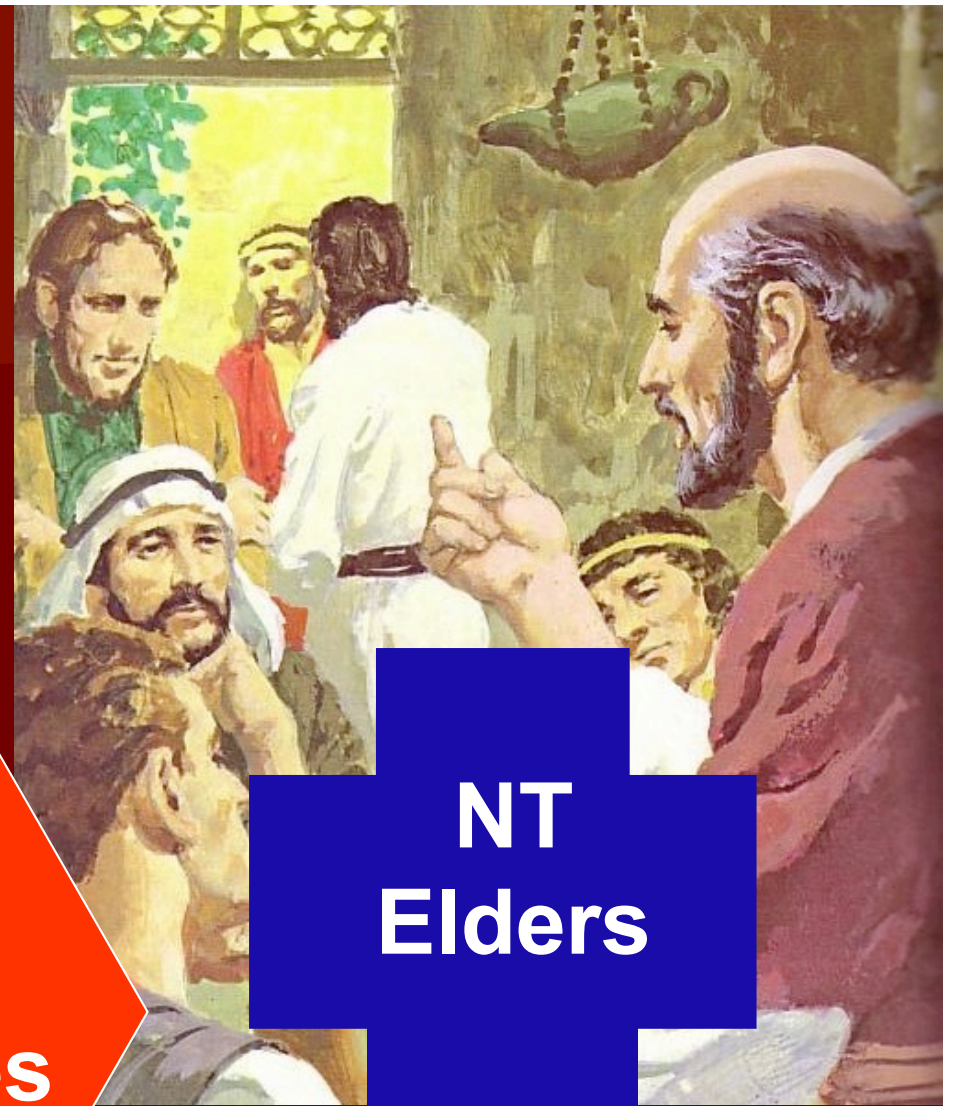
**“Go, assemble the
elders of Israel and
say to them...”
(Exod. 3:16)**

Who Led the Synagogue?

**Elders
led with
Moses
1400 BC**

**Elders
led
Synagogues
600 BC**

God has advocated group leadership through the ages



**Elders
led with
Moses
1400 BC**

**Elders
led
Synagogues
600 BC**

**NT
Elders**

elders = overseers = bishops = pastors

Places Mentioning Elders

Jerusalem (AD 47):

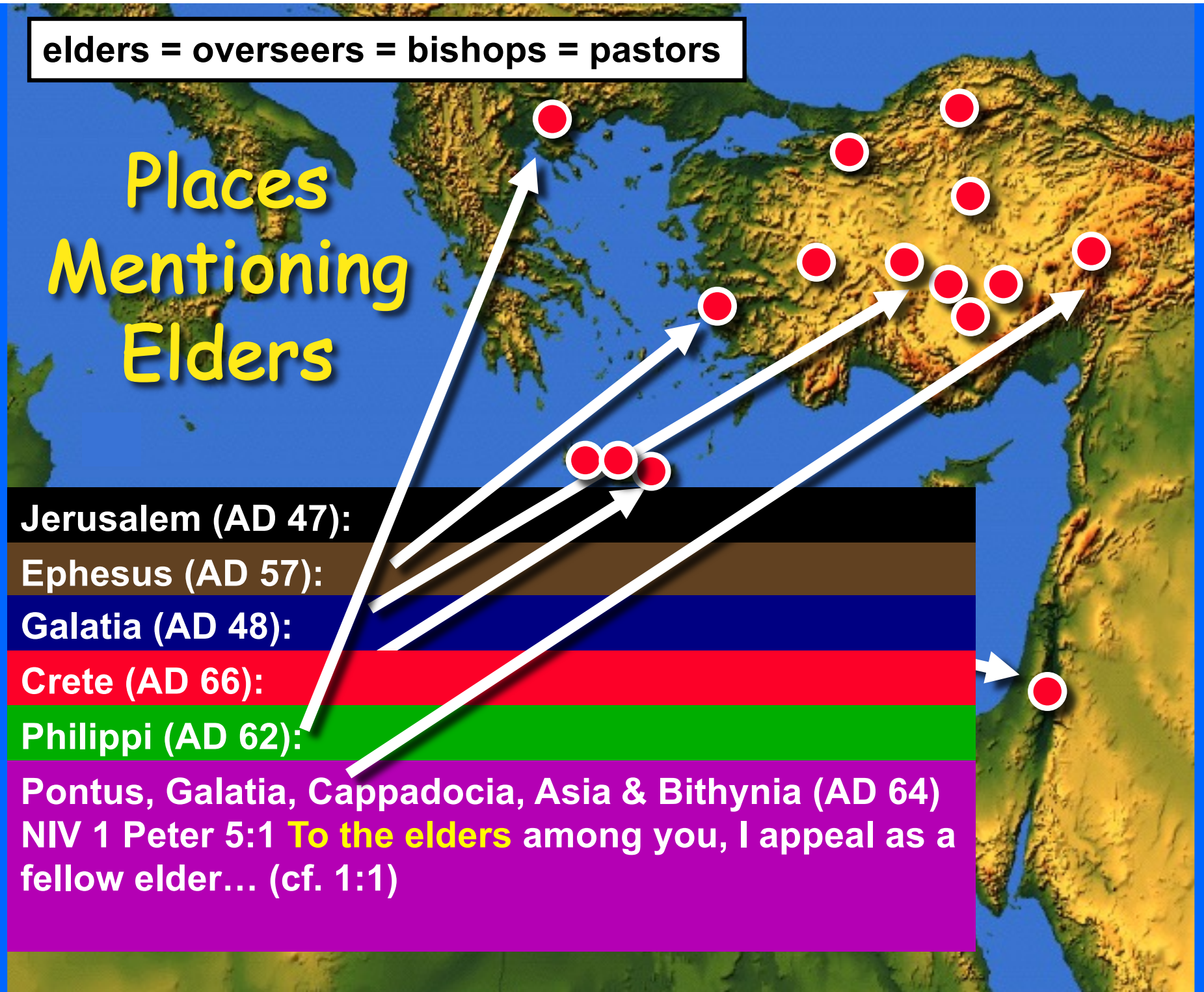
Ephesus (AD 57):

Galatia (AD 48):

Crete (AD 66):

Philippi (AD 62):

Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia (AD 64)
NIV 1 Peter 5:1 **To the elders** among you, I appeal as a fellow elder... (cf. 1:1)

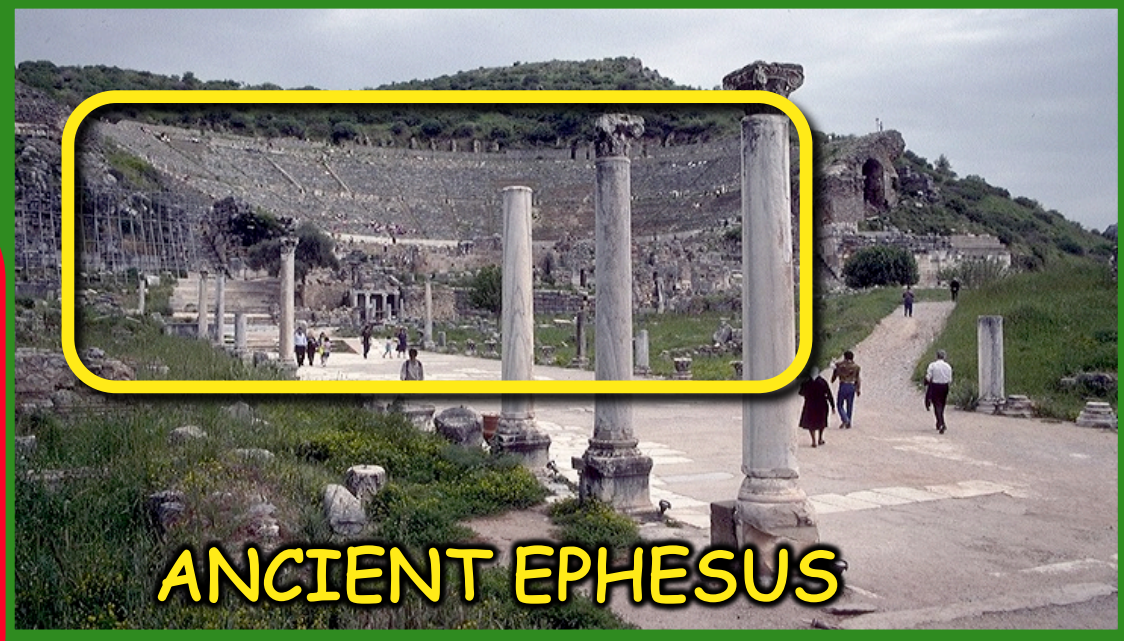


GOOD NEWS ⇒ ***WS***
ON THE MOVE ⇒ ***VE***

***God's work through the
early church in***

Acts

A.D.
53-57



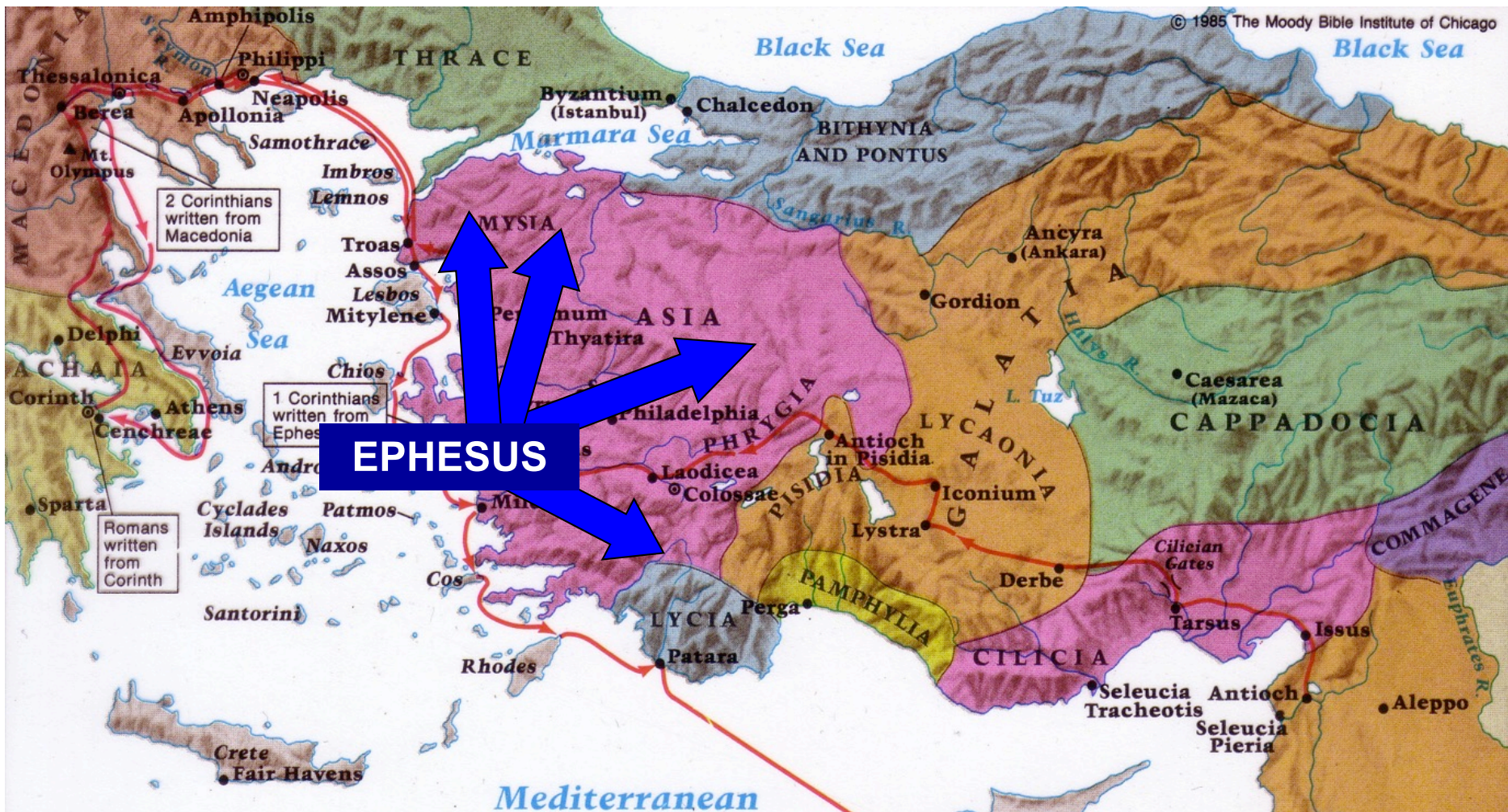
ANCIENT EPHESUS

Acts 18-21

3. The Asian Thrust"



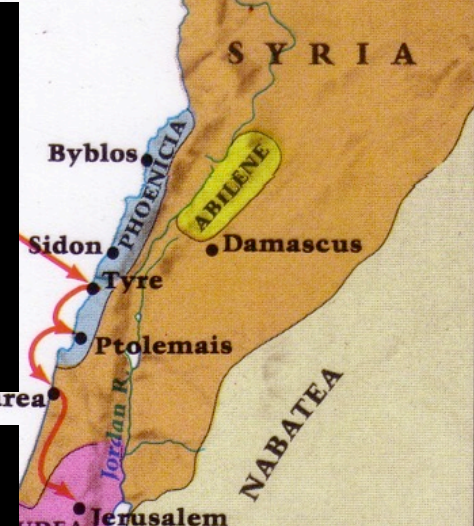
Significance: extended time at the church in Ephesus; young man raised from the dead; important letters written; riot with Ephesian artisans at amphitheatre.



EPHESUS

Paul taught in Ephesus "for two years, so that all of Asia heard the word of the Lord" (Acts 19:10)


Paul's Third Missionary Journey





The Apostle Paul (Acts 20:18b-35)

**Paul modeled
shepherding
for the elders
(Acts 20:18b-27).**



Presence
—*where he*
was
(18b)

Elders should follow Paul's shepherding example (Acts 20:28-35).

Administration
(Serve, care for & testify)

1 Tim. 3:1, 4-5; 5:17;
Acts 20:28c

Episkopos =
Epi "over" +
skopos "look" =
"watch over"

Teaching

1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17;
Acts 20:28d

Pastor-Teacher

Eph. 4:11

Pastoring
(Protect & Lead)

1 Pet. 5:1-4
Acts 20:28a-b, 29, 35
1 Thess. 5:12

External False Teachers



Acts 20:29

Opposition

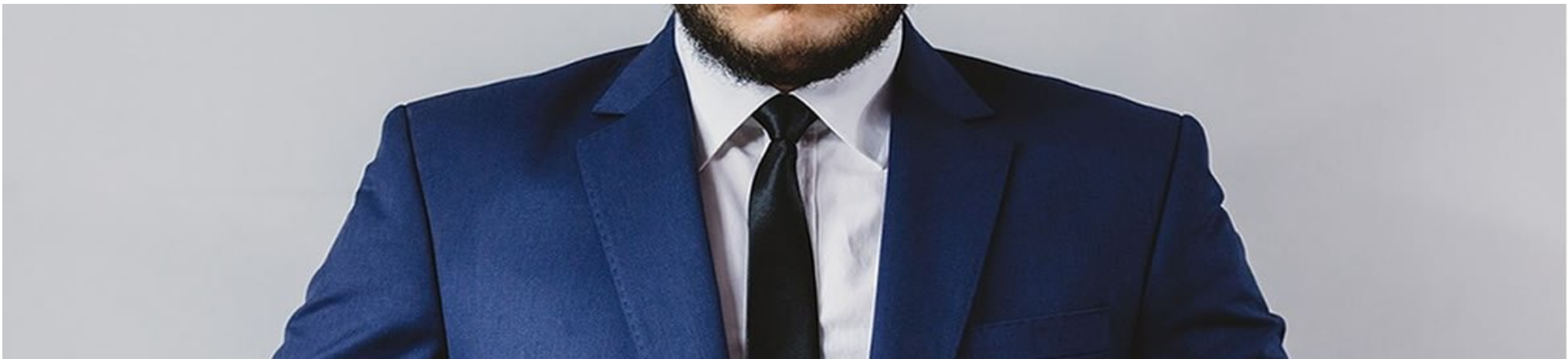
External



Internal False Teachers



Acts 20:30




Opposition

External



Internal





**Elders must serve
selflessly (Acts 20:32-35).**

- **Founded on God's grace and Word (32).**
- **Based on hard work instead of greed (33-35).**



**What are elders
supposed to do?**

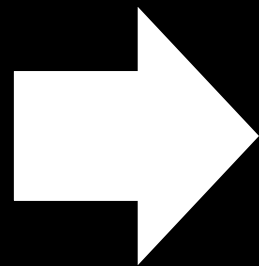
**Elders should be selfless
shepherds against false teachers**



**Main Idea
of Acts 20**



**Watch
Paul**




**Mimic
Paul**

What About You?

How can you better shepherd the flock under your care—whether the whole church as elders, or your family or friends?

**Paul modeled
shepherding
for the elders
(Acts 20:18b-27).**



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—*where he*
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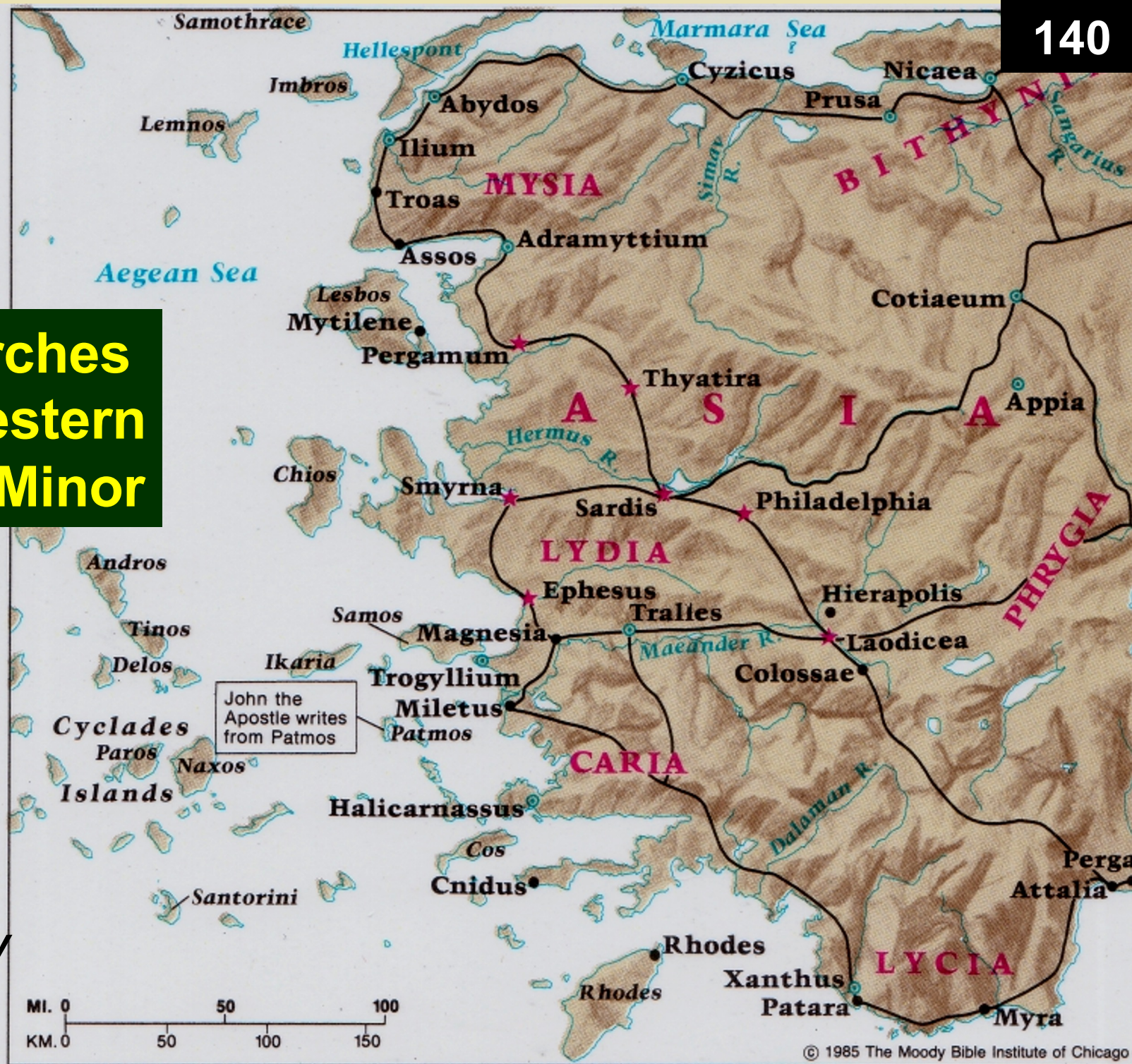
**Pastor-
Teacher**

Eph. 4:11

Pastoring
(Protect & Lead)

1 Pet. 5:1-4
Acts 20:28a-b, 29, 35
1 Thess. 5:12

Churches of Western Asia Minor



Beitzel, Moody
*Atlas of Bible
 Lands, 184*

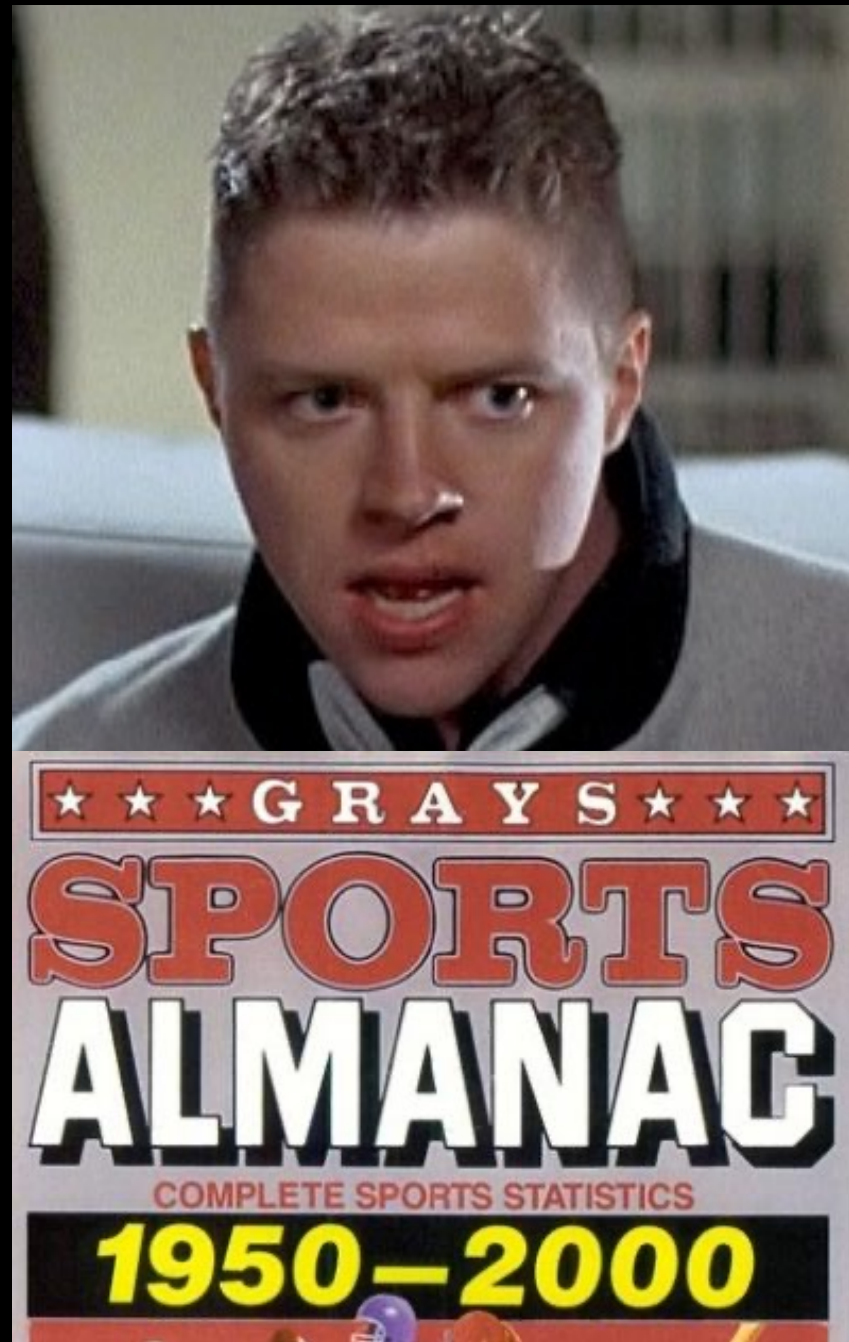
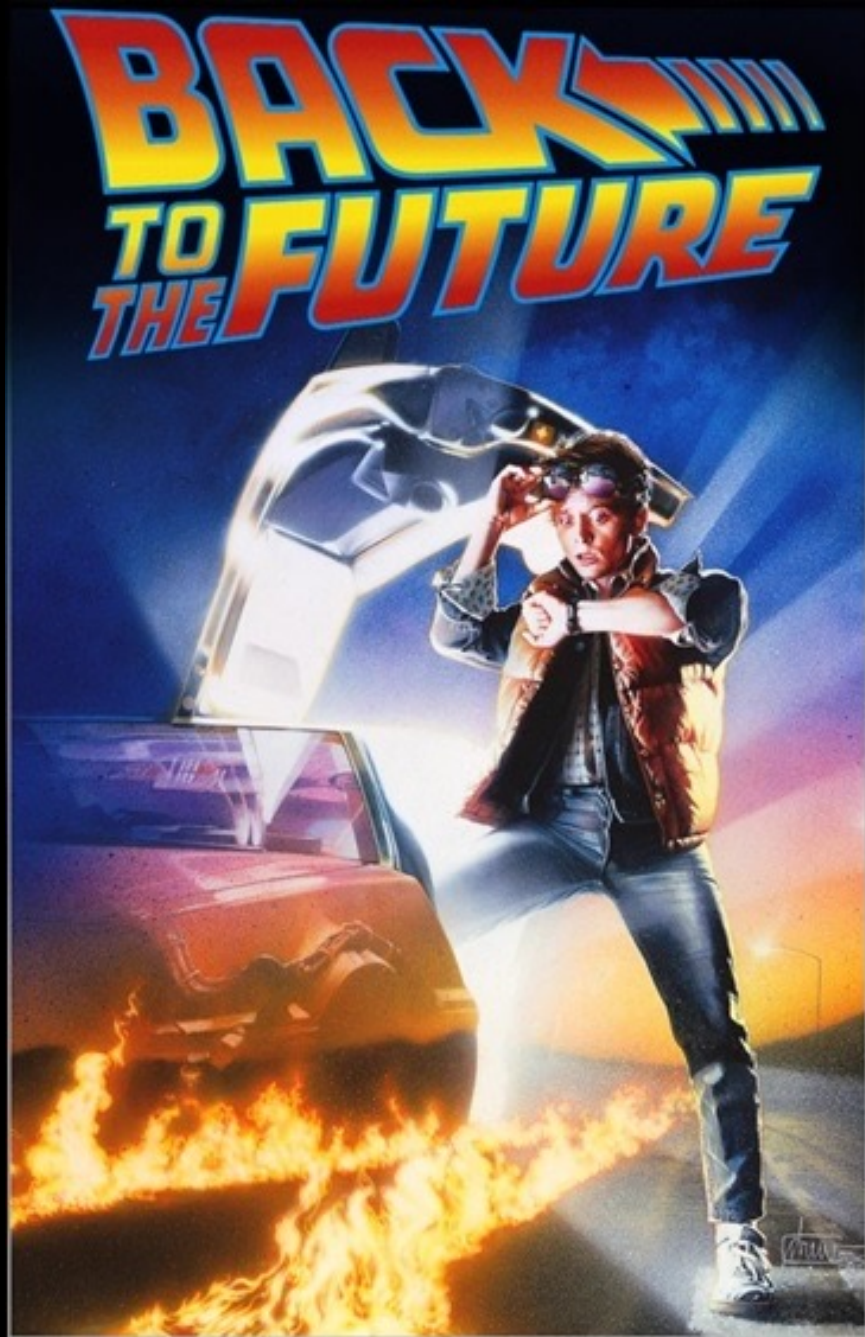
Acts 21



THE *NEED* FOR *PROPHECY*

Acts 21:1-16

Preached by Matthew Lyle
at Crossroads International Church Singapore • CICFamily.com
Uploaded by Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary
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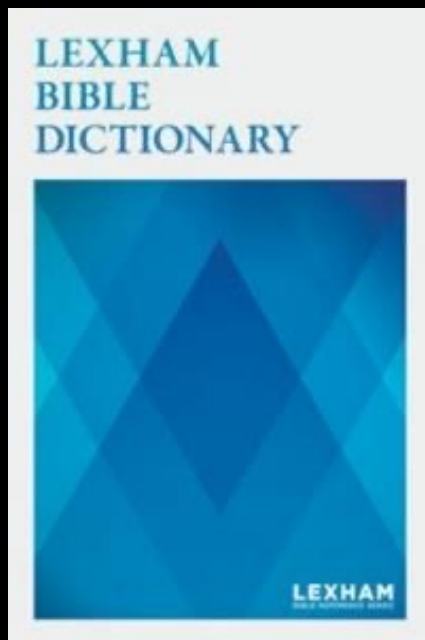
DELOREAN
TIME
MACHINE



Shopee

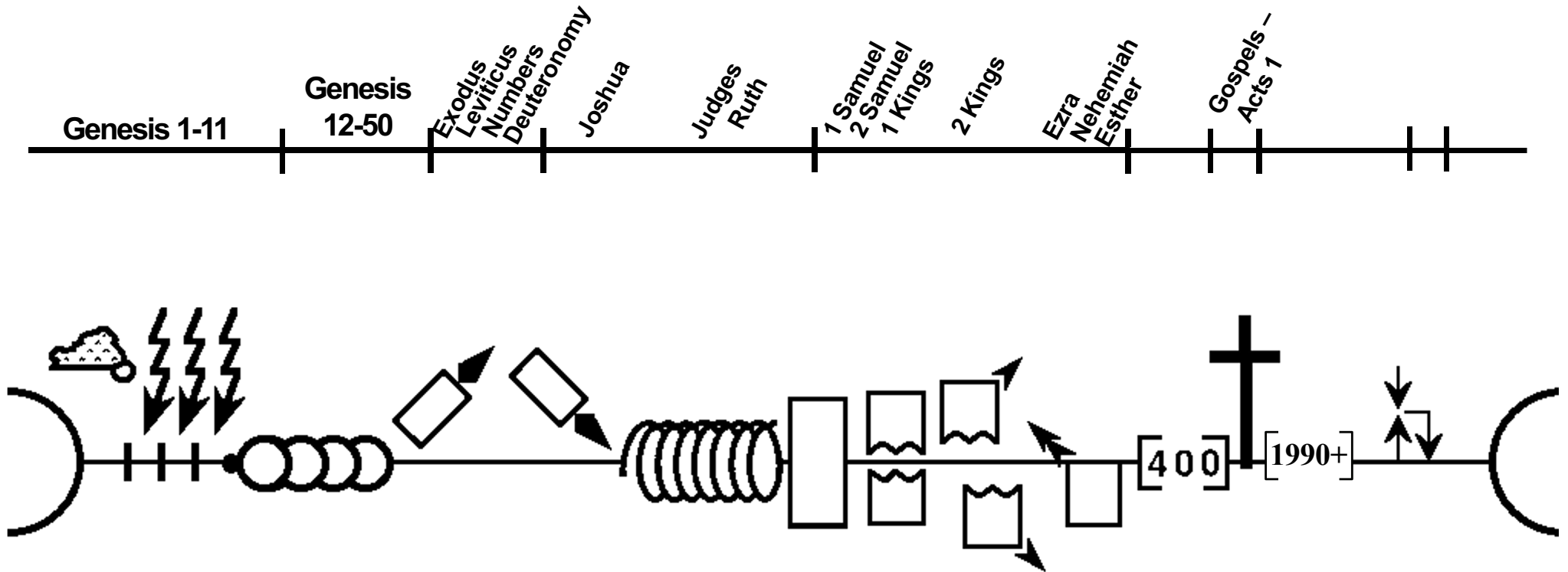
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PROPHECY

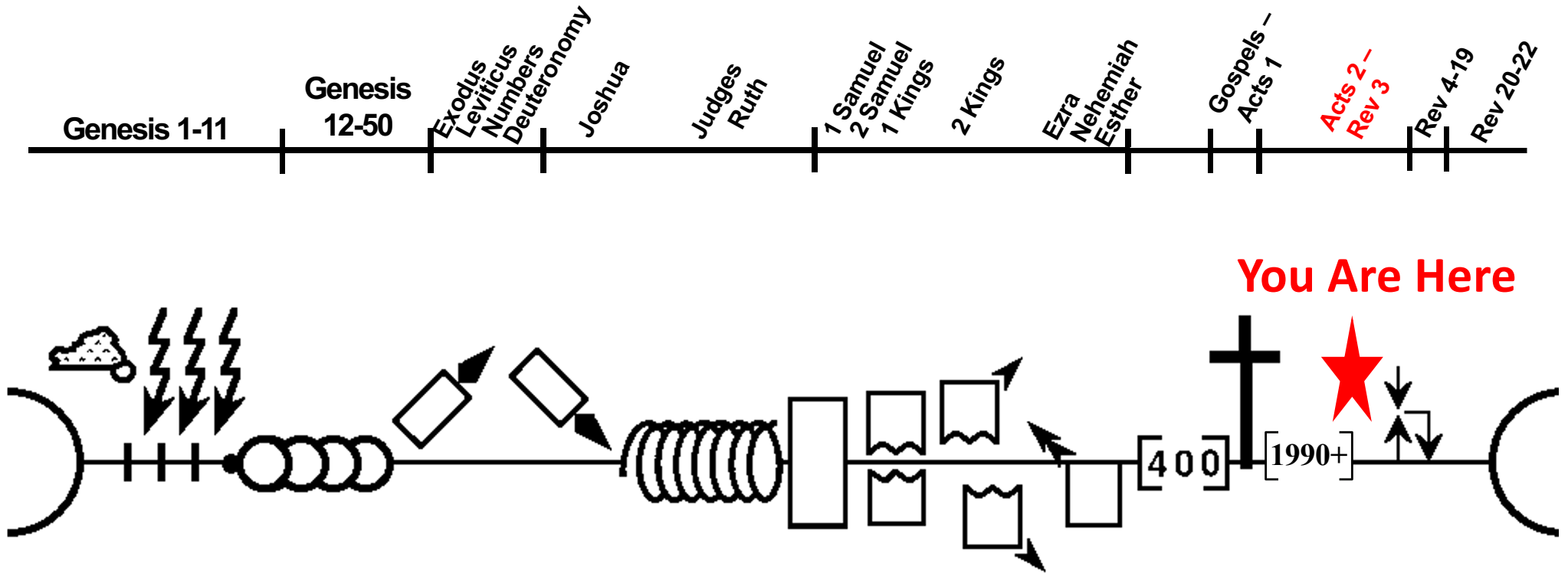


A divine message mediated through an individual that is directed at a person or people group and intended to elicit a specific response.

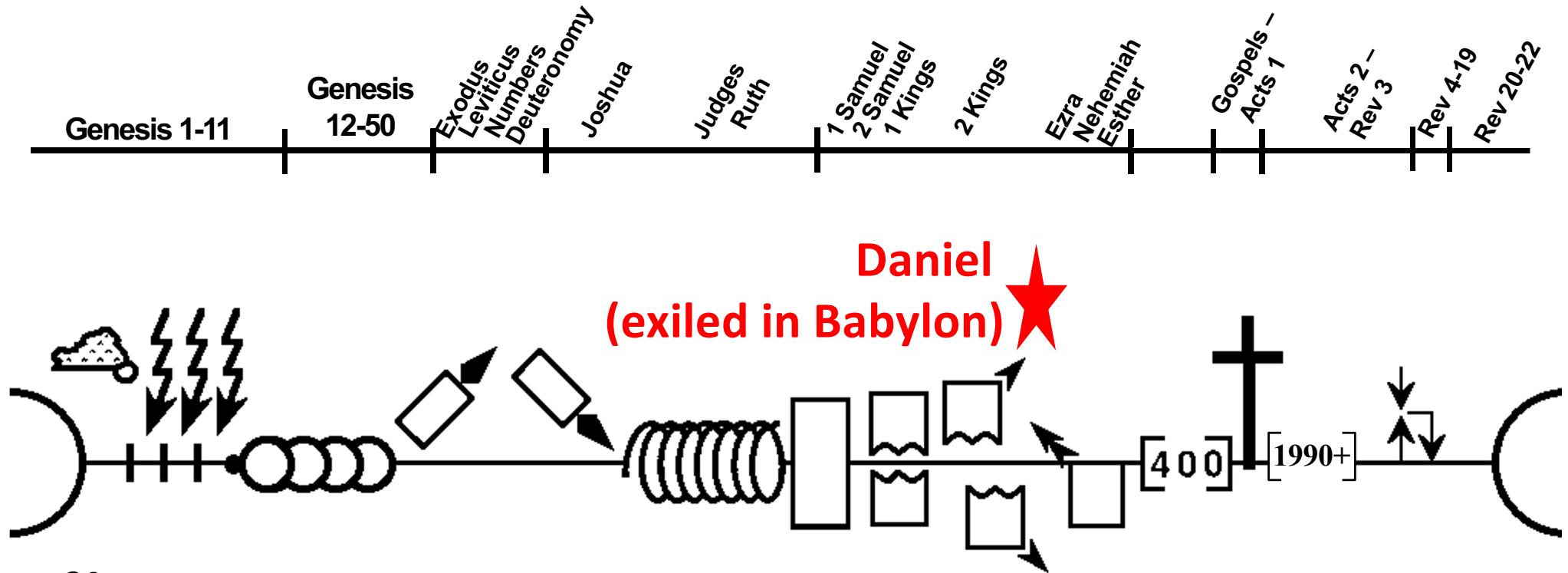
A “Divine” Message



A "Divine" Message



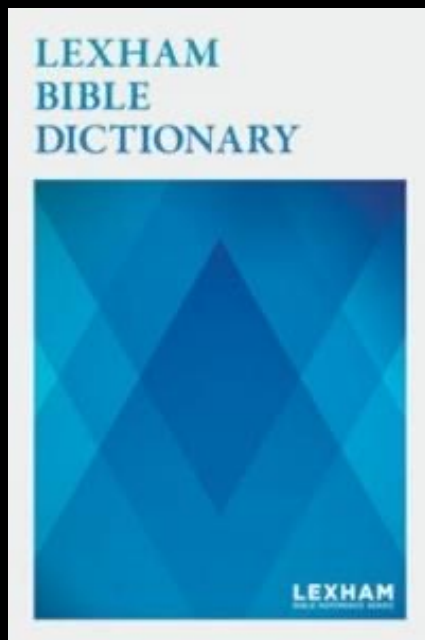
A "Divine" Message



²⁴ "A period of 70 sets of 7 has been decreed..."

²⁵ . . . 7 + 62 sets until the anointed one comes

PROPHECY



A divine message mediated through an individual that is directed at a person or people group and **intended to elicit a specific response.**



THE *NEED* FOR *PROPHECY*

Acts 21:1-16

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GOOD NEWS ⇒ WS
ON THE MOVE ⇒ VE

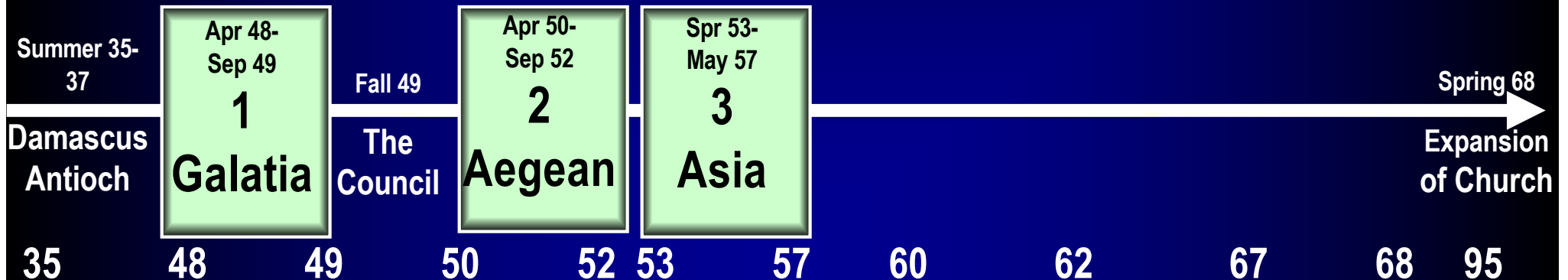
***God's work through the
early church in***

Acts

Timeline "Acts"

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

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Paul taught in Ephesus "for two years, so that all of Asia heard the word of the Lord" (Acts 19:10)

 Journeys

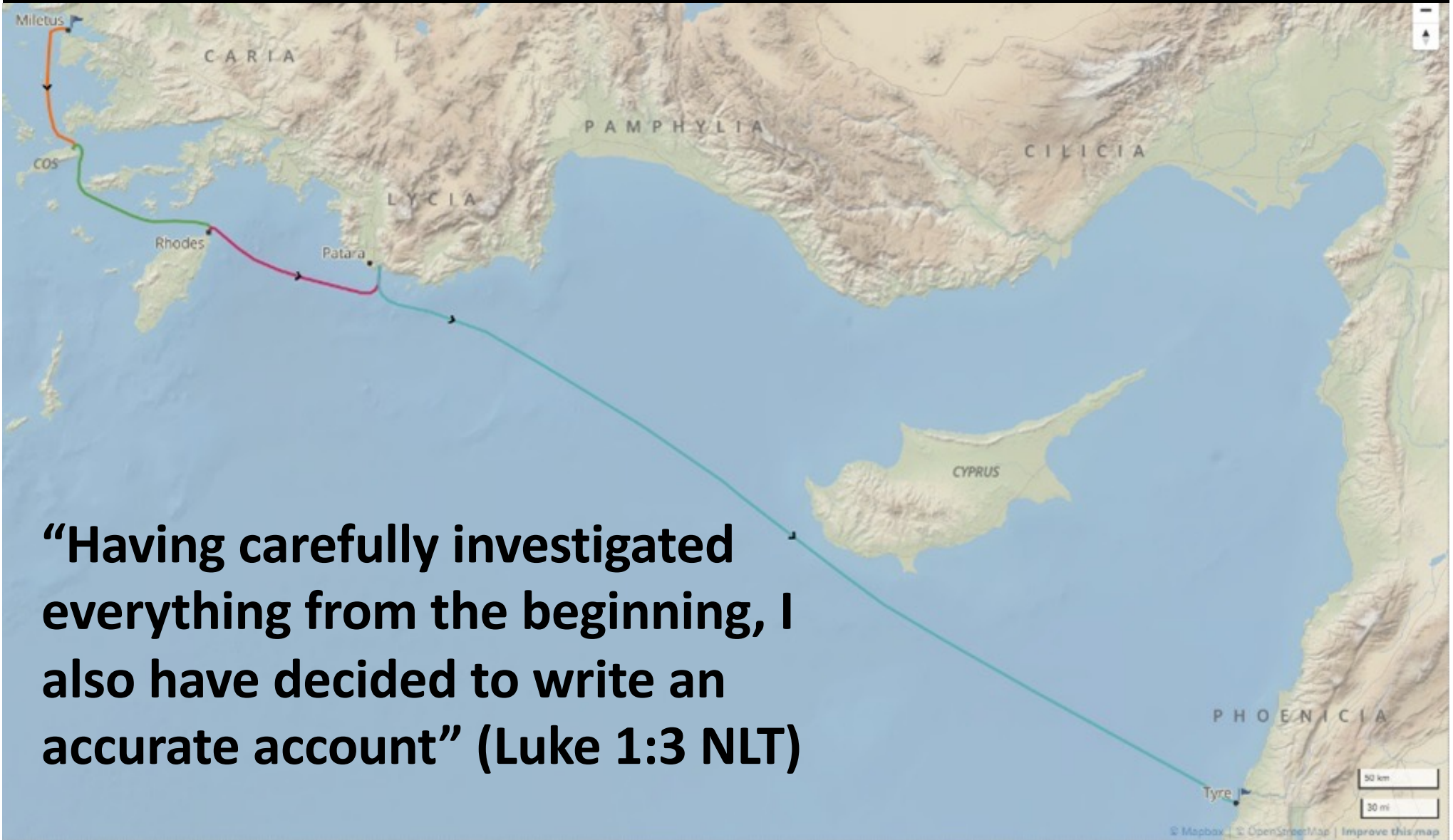
²² “And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don’t know what awaits me,

²³ except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead.

²⁴ But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God”

(Acts 20:22-24 NLT).

The Church at Tyre (Acts 21:1-3)



“Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account” (Luke 1:3 NLT)

The Church at Tyre (Acts 21:1-3)





Roman Provinces

WARNING

“These believers prophesied through the Holy Spirit that Paul should not go on to Jerusalem” (NLT).

“And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem” (NIV).

Acts 21:4b

Macedonia

Bithynia

Troas

Asia

Antioch



Acts 20 ²² “And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don’t know what awaits me, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead.”

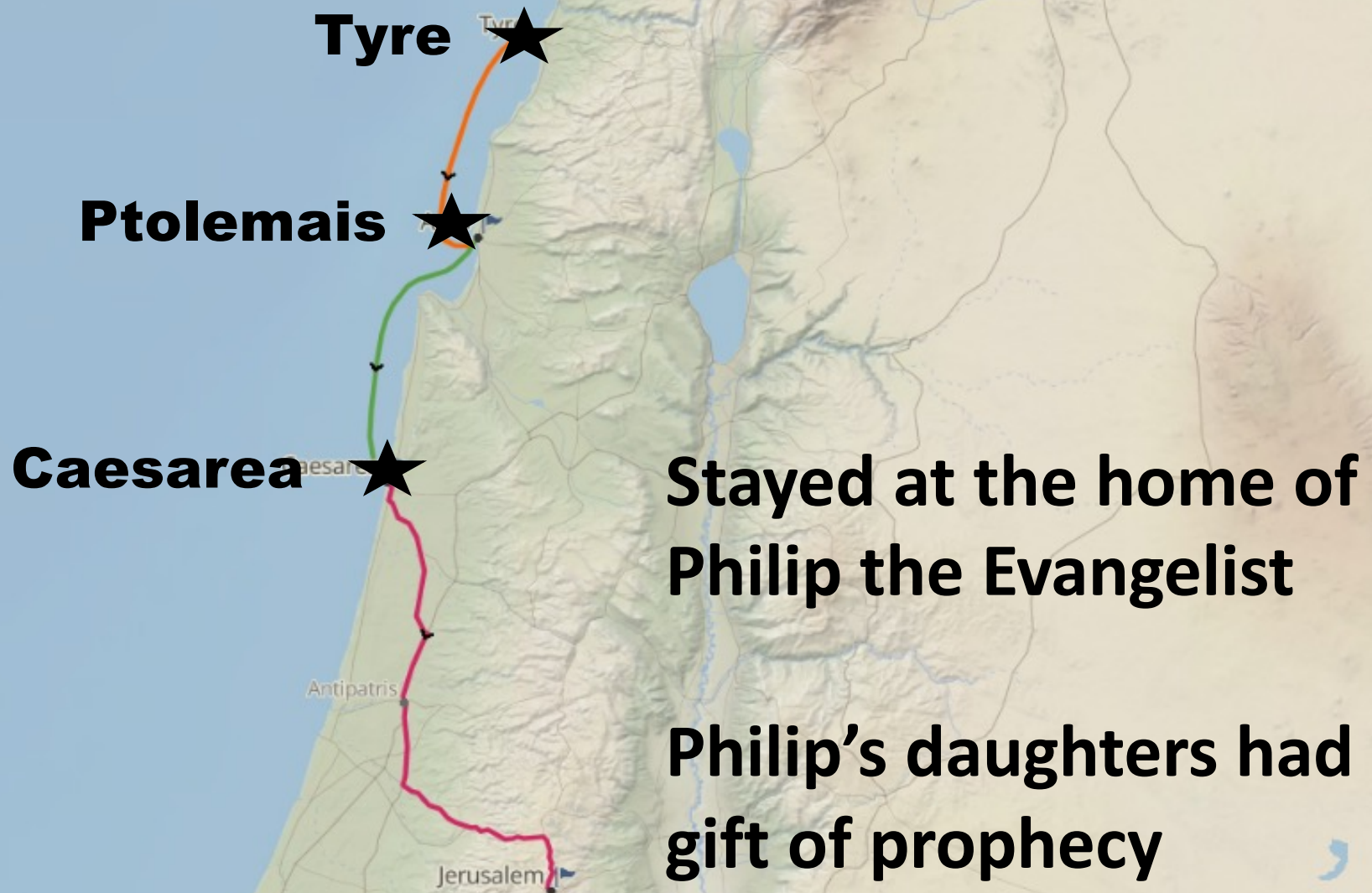
Acts 21 ⁴ “These believers prophesied through the Holy Spirit that Paul should not go on to Jerusalem.”

How Firm a Foundation

When through the deep waters He calls thee to go
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow
For He will be with thee in trouble to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie
My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply
The flames shall not hurt thee I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine

The Church at Caesarea (Acts 21:7-9)



Fill in the _____

“One who prophesies strengthens others,
encourages them, and comforts them. . . .
one who speaks a word of prophecy
strengthens the entire church.”

(1 Cor 14:3-4 NLT)

Old vs New Testament Prophecy

	OT	NT
Foretelling	✘	✘
Forthtelling	✘	✘

Is there prophecy today?

As for prophecies, they will pass away;
(1 Cor 13:8 NIV)

For **NOW** we see in a mirror dimly,
but **THEN** face to face
(1 Cor 13:12 NIV)

When Prophecies Cease

	Now	Then
we know in part and we prophesy in part	✘	
when the perfect comes		✘
now we see in a mirror dimly	✘	
then face to face		✘
All I know is partial, incomplete	✘	
then I will know everything completely		✘

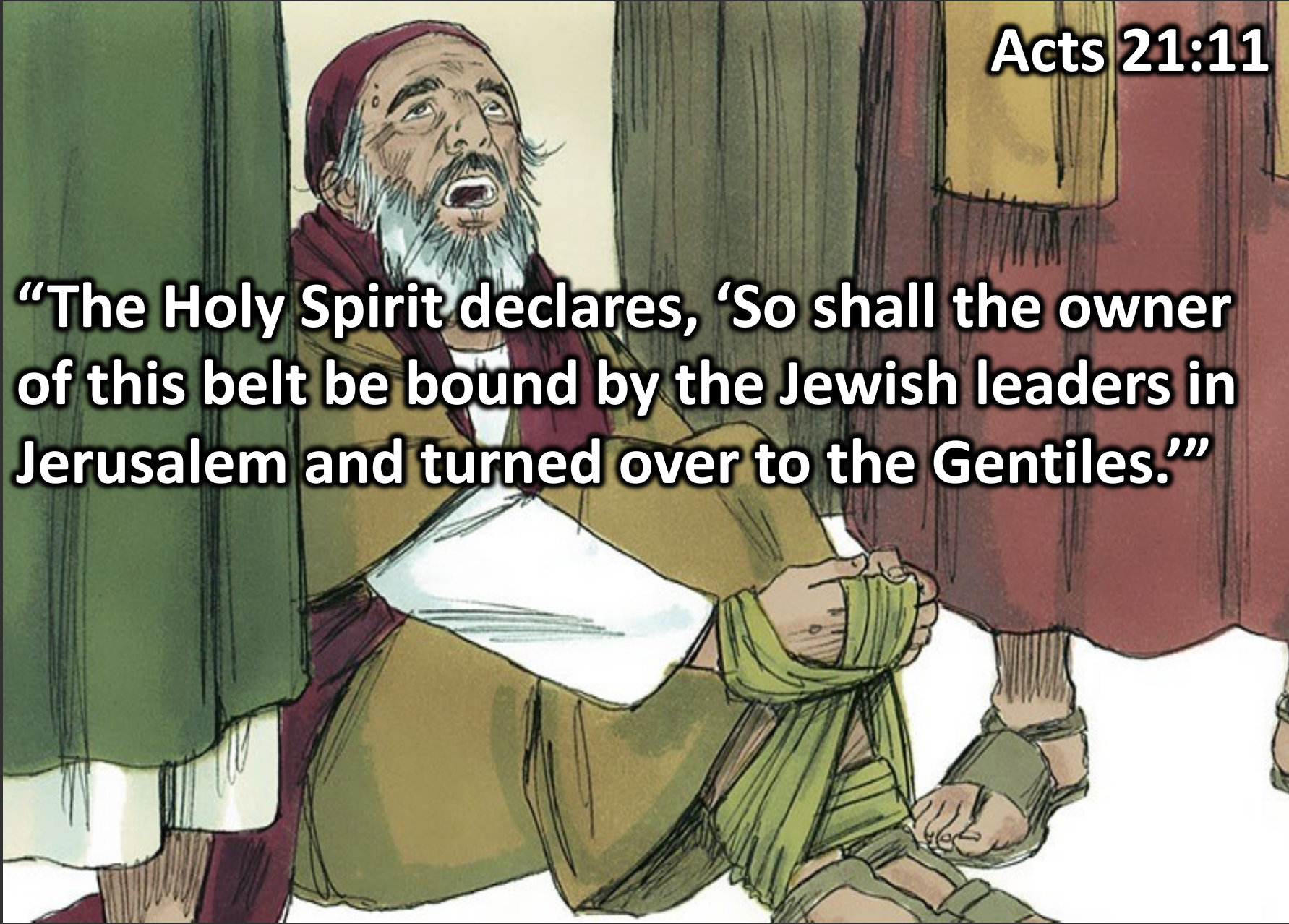
Agabus

Acts 11

²⁸ One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.)

Acts 21:11

“The Holy Spirit declares, ‘So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.’”



Ezekiel spent more than a year lying on his side to illustrate God's discipline of Israel

Ezekiel 4:5-6

Left Side

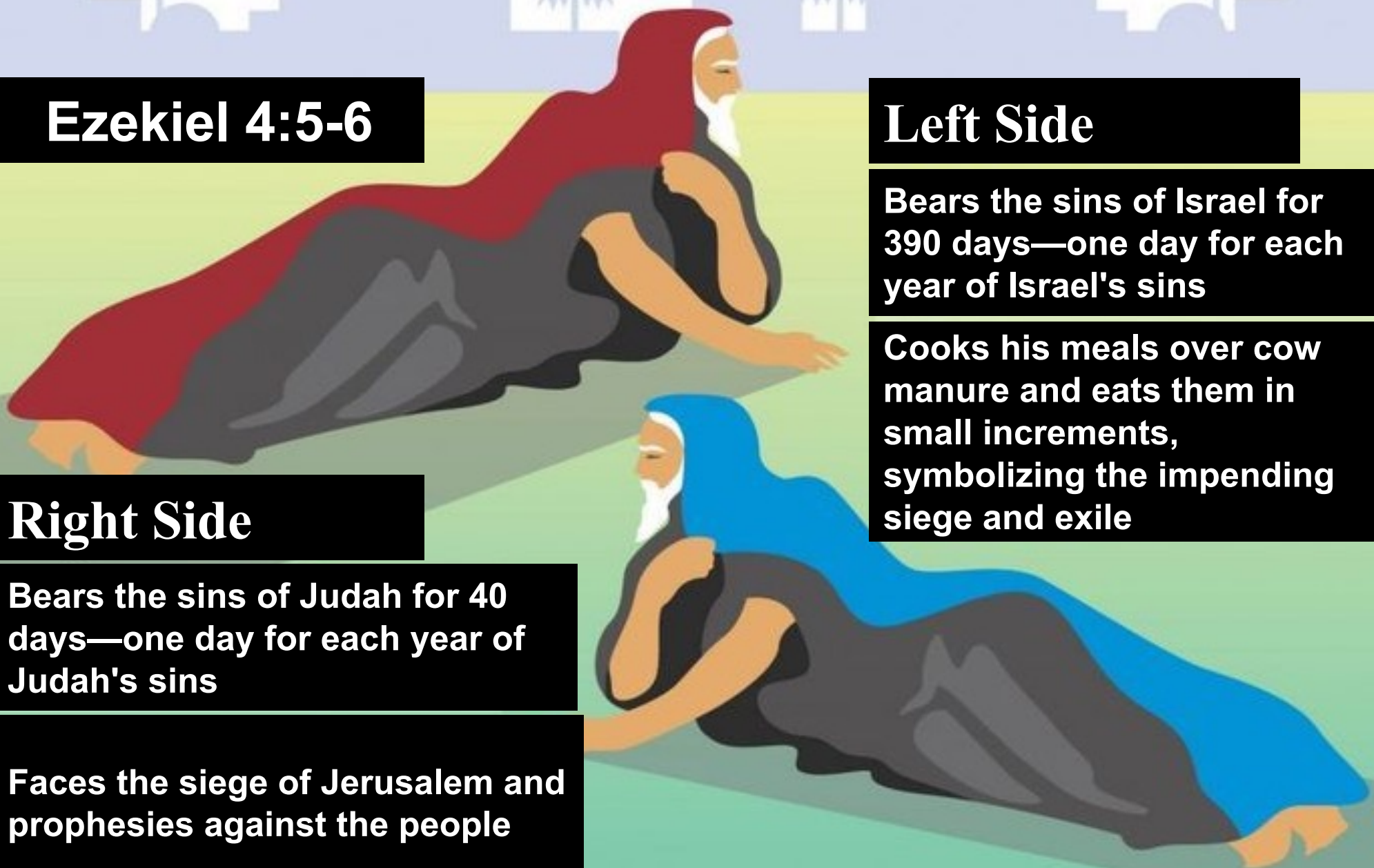
Bears the sins of Israel for 390 days—one day for each year of Israel's sins

Cooks his meals over cow manure and eats them in small increments, symbolizing the impending siege and exile

Right Side

Bears the sins of Judah for 40 days—one day for each year of Judah's sins

Faces the siege of Jerusalem and prophesies against the people





Micah



Jeremiah

Don't go to
Jerusalem!





Key Verse



**14 When it was clear that
we couldn't persuade him,
we gave up and said,**

“The Lord's will be done.”

Acts 21:14

Suffering

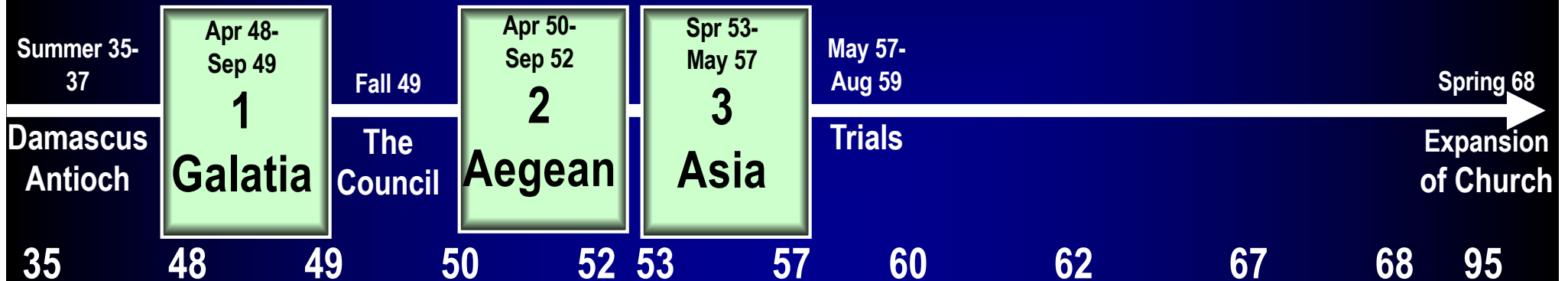
Romans 8:17

¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

NT Overview (Paul's Letters)

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

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Pauline Epistles

Journeys

Suffering

Colossians 1:24

²⁴ I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church.

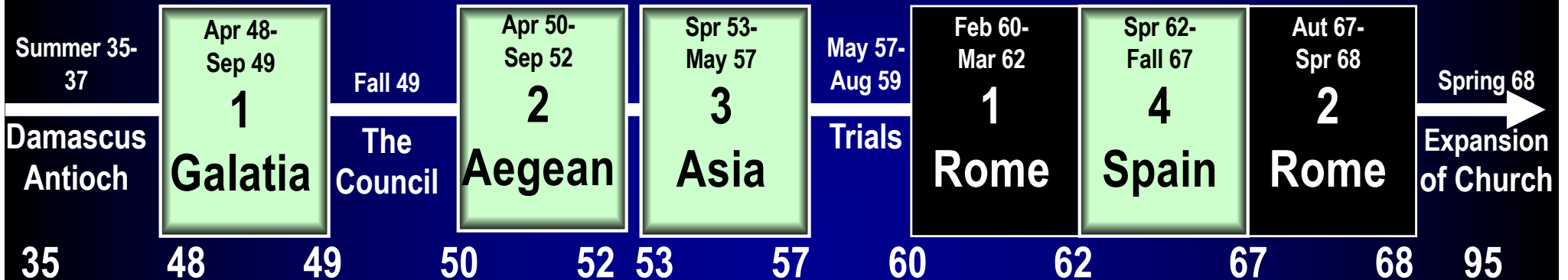
Philippians 1:29

²⁹ For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

NT Overview (Paul's Letters)

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

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Pauline Epistles

Journeys

Rome

Journeys

Imprisonments

Prison

Pastoral

Assurance

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Blessed Assurance

Fanny Jane Crosby | Phoebe Palmer Knapp

Performed by: Momo Kithan



CCLI Song #22324

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**Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood**

**This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

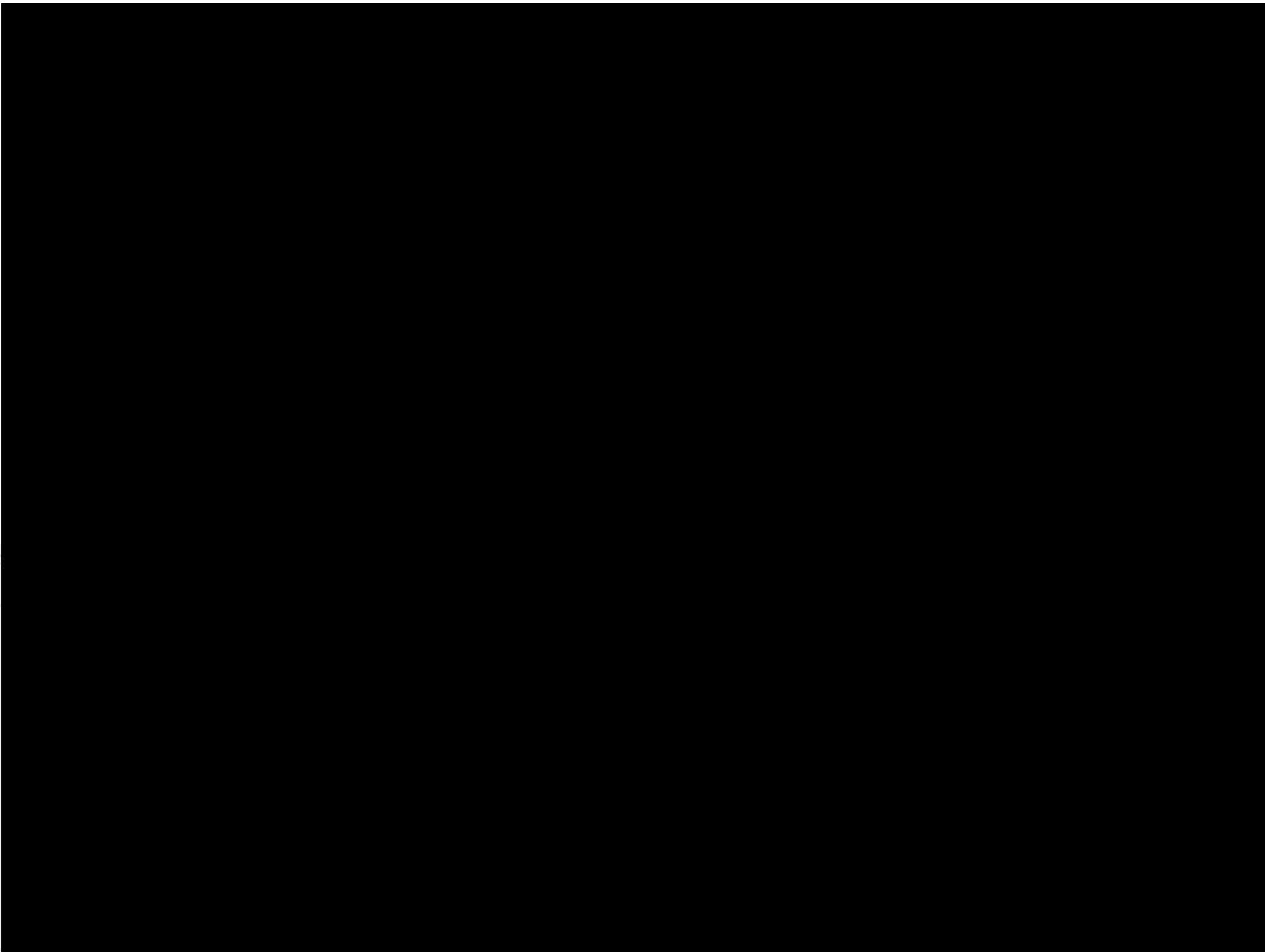
**Perfect submission perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy whispers of love**

**This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest
Watching and waiting looking above
Filled with His goodness lost in His love**

**This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

V3 (final)





WHEN TROUBLE COMES

ACTS 21:17–23:11

Manik Corea • 27 June 2021

at Crossroads International Church Singapore • CICFamily.com

Uploaded by Dr. Rick Griffith • Singapore Bible College

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What are you most afraid of?

GOOD NEWS ⇒ WS
ON THE MOVE ⇒ VE

***God's work through the
early church in***

Acts



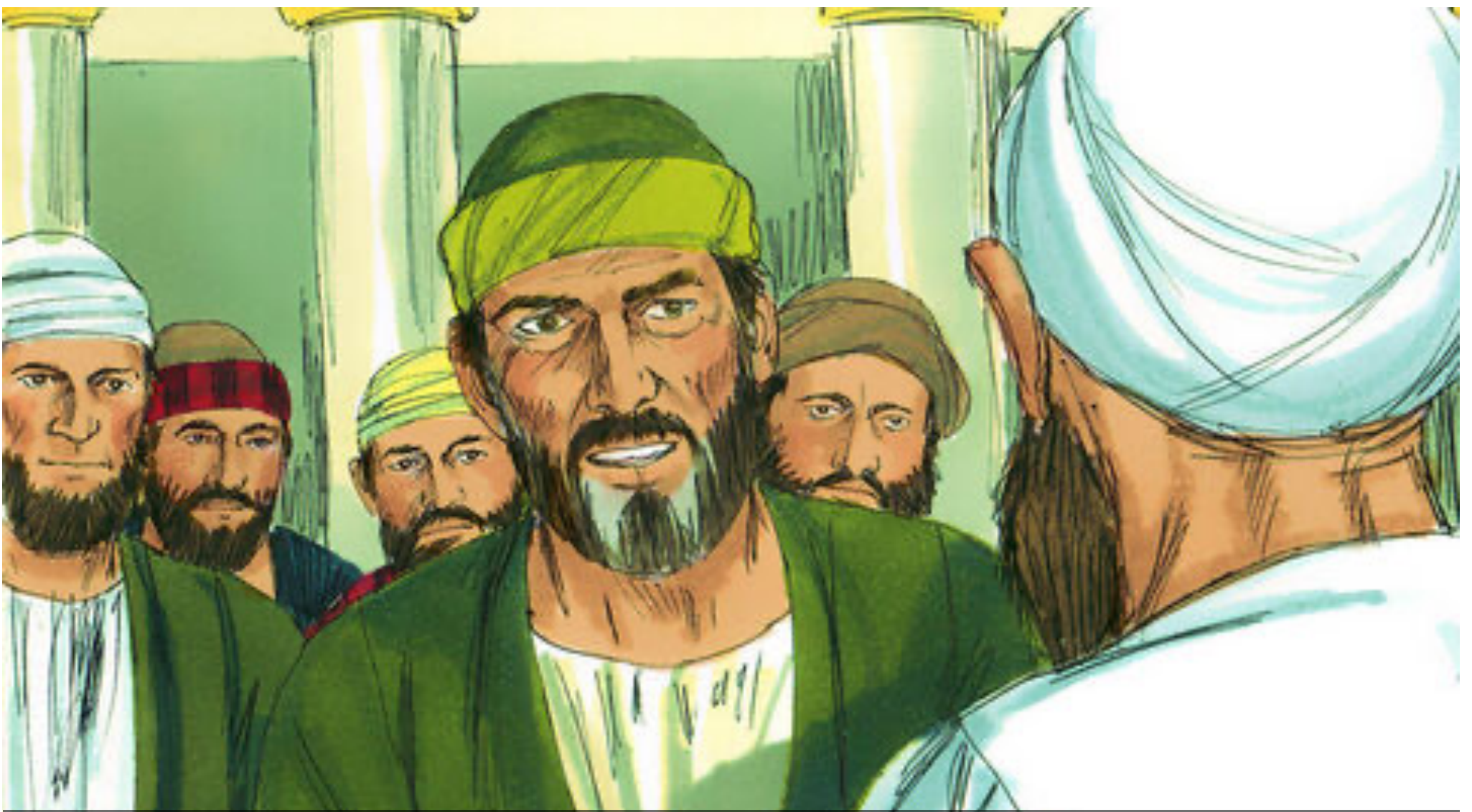


Acts 21:17-22

17 “When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. 18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. 19 After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20 And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, ‘You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law, 21 and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs. 22 What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.’”

Acts 21:23-26

23 “Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; 24 take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. 25 But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality.’ 26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.”



Nazirite Vow – a temporary vow to dedicate oneself to God by abstaining from meat and wine. Sacrifices are offered and one's hair is cut at the end of the vow (Numbers 6:1-21). Paul himself followed this vow in Acts 18:18.



Mobs are stirred by prejudice and exclusivism, not by reason and just charges. Religious fervor is as dangerous as political hatred.

**John L. Ogilvie, *The Preacher's Commentary: Acts*
(Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2010).**





Paul makes his defense before the Jewish mob - Acts 21:27-22:21

μάρτυς

martys

**a witness (literal [judicially]
or figurative [genitive]);
by analogy a “martyr”, martyr,
record, witness**



PERSECUTION & WITNESS

Mark 13:9 – “... they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues....and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, **to bear witness** to them.”

Paul witnesses boldly – Acts 22:-21 cf Acts 9:1-19 and Acts 26:12-23

Acts 22

Acts 22:1-5

“‘Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.’

² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

³ ‘I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.’”

Acts 22:6-11

⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.”

Acts 22:12-16

¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’”

Acts 22:17-21

17 “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ ¹⁹ And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’ ²¹ And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

Acts 22:22-25

²² “Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, ‘Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.’ ²³ And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴ the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. ²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, ‘Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?’”

Acts 22:26-29

²⁶ “When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, ‘What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.’ ²⁷ So the tribune came and said to him, ‘Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?’ And he said, ‘Yes.’ ²⁸ The tribune answered, ‘I bought this citizenship for a large sum.’ Paul said, ‘But I am a citizen by birth.’ ²⁹ So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.”



Paul reveals his Roman citizenship - Acts 22:22-29

Acts 22:30

³⁰ “But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.”

Acts 23

Acts 23:1-5

“And looking intently at the council, Paul said, ‘Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.’² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.³ Then Paul said to him, ‘God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?’⁴ Those who stood by said, ‘Would you revile God's high priest?’⁵ And Paul said, ‘I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, “You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.”””

Acts 23:6-10

⁶ “Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, ‘Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.’ ⁷ And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. ⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. ⁹ Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, ‘We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?’ ¹⁰ And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.”

TAKE COURAGE IN CHRIST

Acts 23:11 – The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”

Hebrews 13:5 – “...for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

THESE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU,

THAT IN ME

- YOU MAY HAVE -

PEACE.

**IN THE WORLD YOU
WILL HAVE TRIBULATION;
BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER,
I HAVE OVERCOME
THE WORLD.**

JOHN 16:33

Video testimony of John Monger

LET US PRAY



How Do I Defend Myself?

Standing strong in faith when persecuted for Christ

Acts 23:12–24:27



Preached by Dr. Jim Harmeling

at Crossroads International Church Singapore • CICFamily.com

Uploaded by Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary

Files in many languages for free download at BibleStudyDownloads.org

Recognize that you will receive unjust treatment because of your faith in Christ



Jesus

Prophecies that Jews will deliver him over to Gentiles when he enters Jerusalem

Enters temple to purify it

Priests seek to kill him

New party has plot to kill him (Judas)

Romans arrest him and try him

Jews accuse him of disrupting peace

Paul

Receives prophecy that Jews will deliver him over to Gentiles when he enters Jerusalem

Enters temple with vows of purity

Priests seek to kill him

New party has plot to kill him (40 vows)

Romans arrest him and try him

Jews accuse him of disrupting peace

Jesus

Romans find no guilt to priests' charges

Roman officials try to please Jews

Send Jesus to death

Paul

Romans find no guilt to priests' charges

Roman officials try to please Jews

Send Paul to Rome

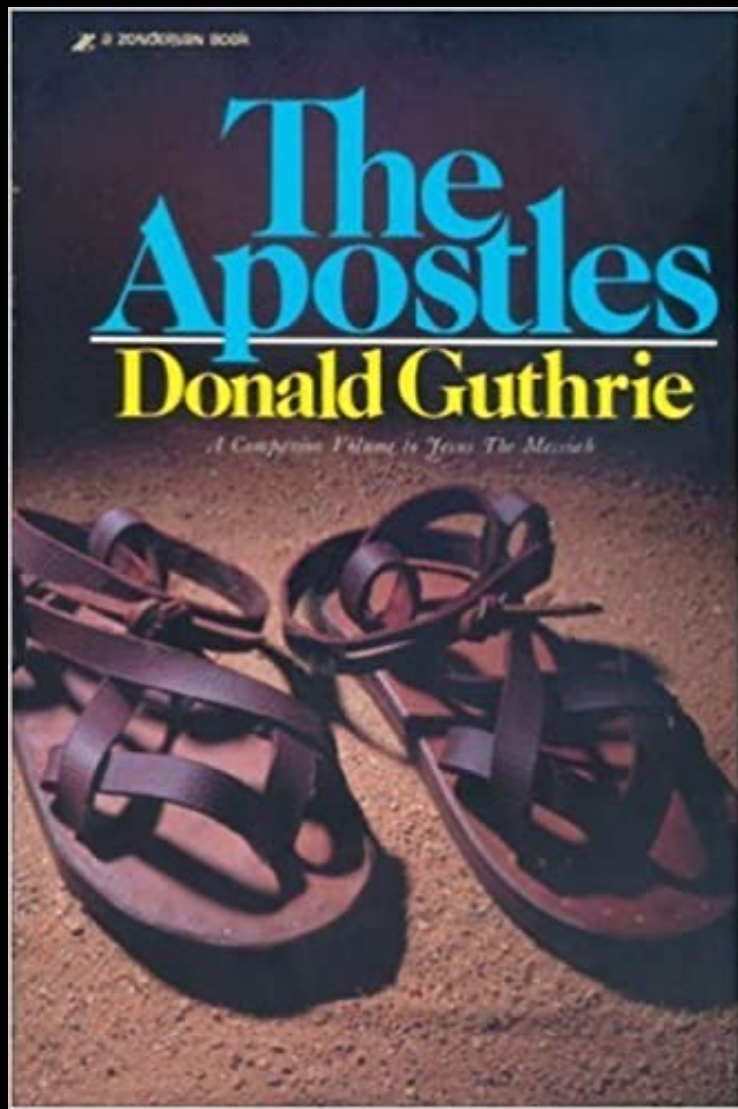
1 Peter 4:12

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”

Recognize that you will receive unjust treatment because of your faith in Christ

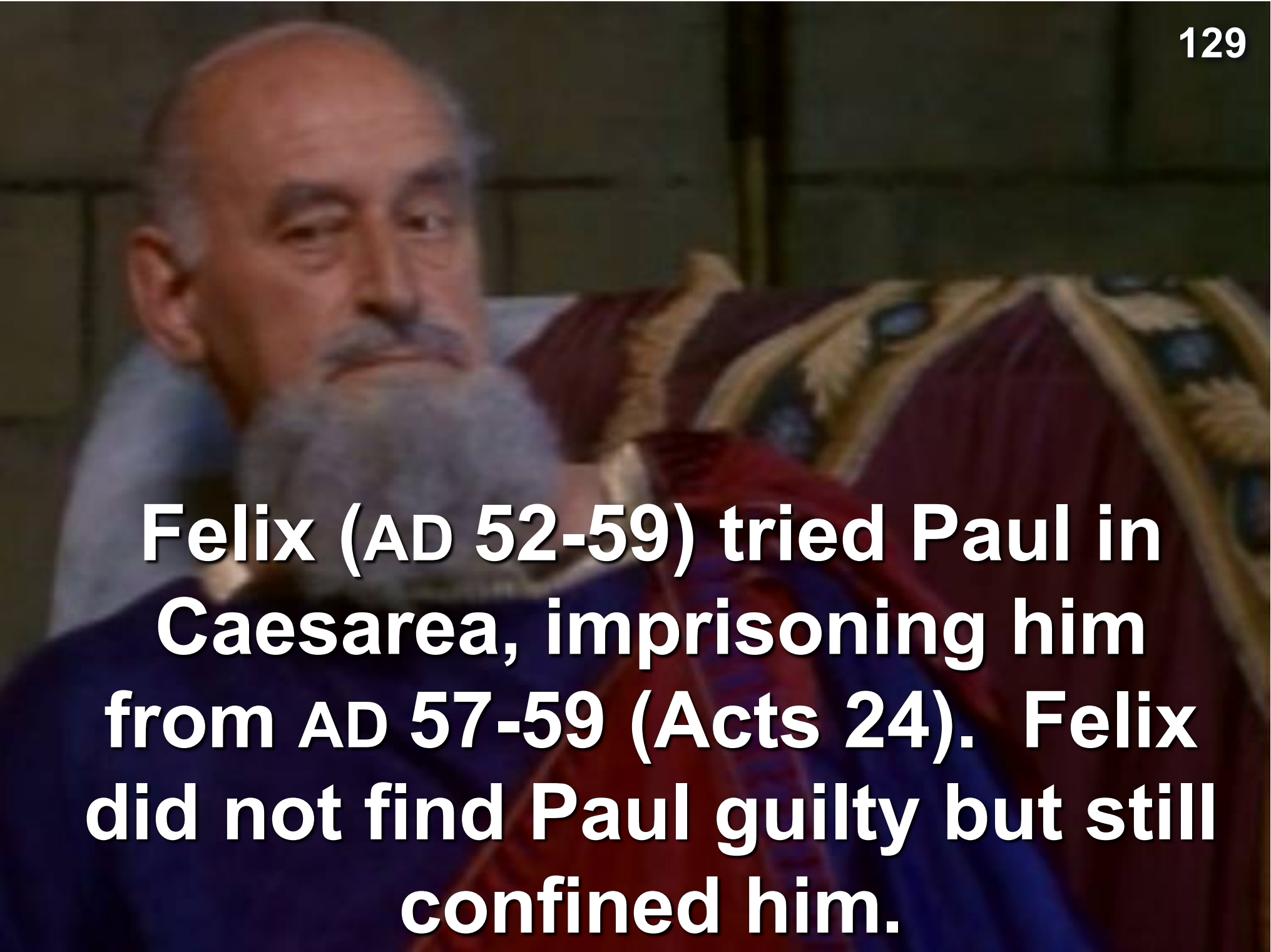
- Some opponents are emotionally convinced you are an enemy (23:12-14, 21)





“To make such an oath, they must have burned with intense hatred against the apostle, a hatred which must have been the accumulation of many years, in some cases probably going back to their reactions at the time of Paul’s conversion.”

Acts 24



Felix (AD 52-59) tried Paul in Caesarea, imprisoning him from AD 57-59 (Acts 24). Felix did not find Paul guilty but still confined him.

Recognize that you will receive unjust treatment because of your faith in Christ

- Some opponents are emotionally convinced you are an enemy (23:12-14, 21)
- Some opponents make intricate plans for your demise (23:15)
- Some opponents make false or exaggerated claims of your guilt (24:1-9)

Recognize that you will receive unjust treatment because of your faith in Christ

Rely on God to protect you

- He protects us with unexpected advocates (23:16-22)
- He protects us with government rules (23:23-30)
- He protects us with human political ploys (24:22-23, 27)



Recognize that you will receive unjust treatment because of your faith in Christ

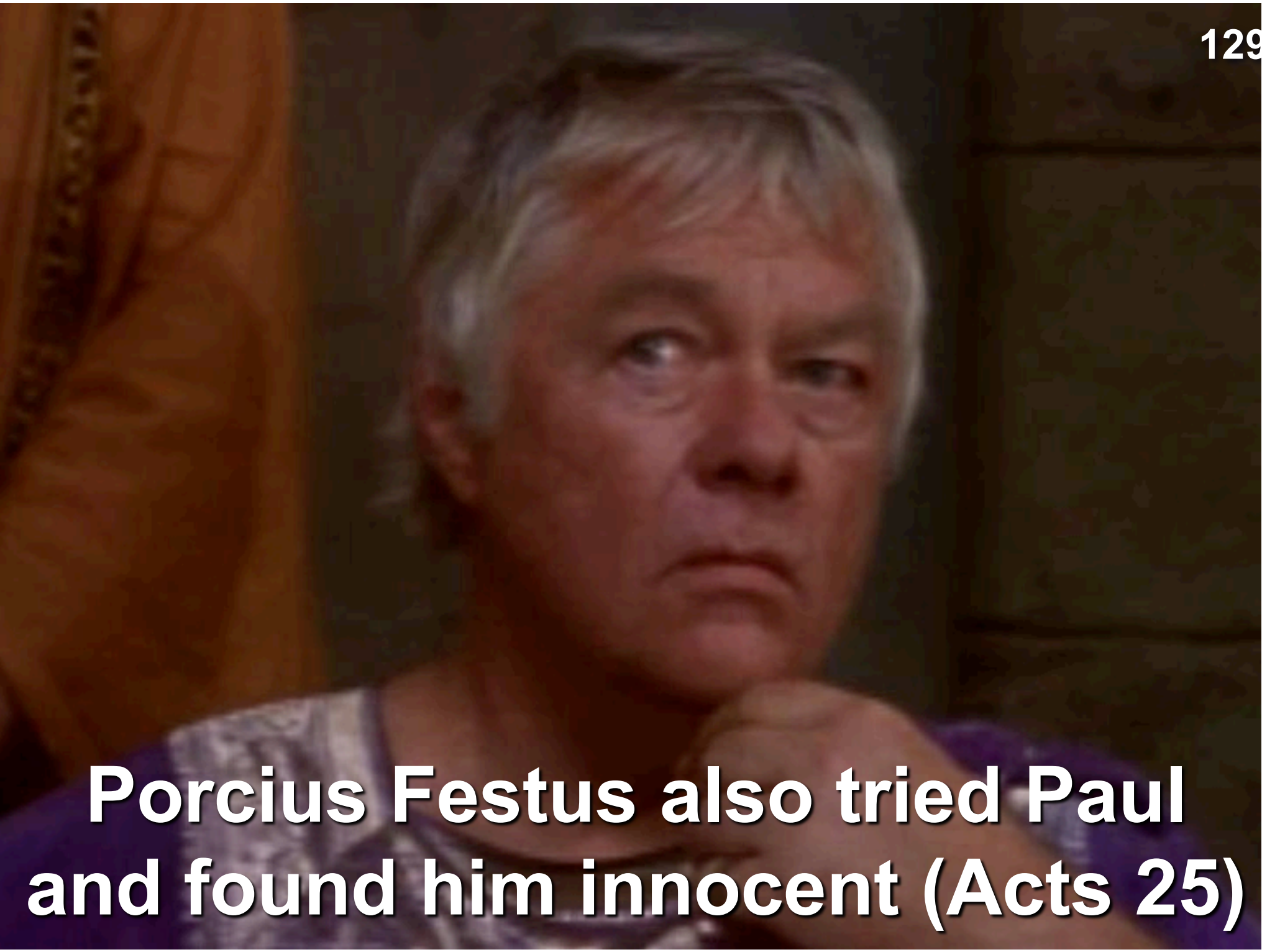
Rely on God to protect you

Ready yourself to explain your faith

- Expose what is false (24:10-13, 17-20)
- Explain what is true (24:14-16, 21, 24-26)



Acts 25



**Porcius Festus also tried Paul
and found him innocent (Acts 25)**

Following GOD Sets us FREE

Acts 25–26

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Waiting



GOOD NEWS ⇒ WS
ON THE MOVE ⇒ VE


***God's work through the
early church in***

Acts

Caesarea



Jerusalem



Paul Speaks:
to the crowd
to the High Council
to Governor Felix

Acts 24:27 After two years went by in this way, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jewish people, he left Paul in prison.

Following GOD Sets us FREE

Acts 25–26

**Matt Lyle • Crossroads International Church Singapore
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Changing of the Guard

Felix => Festus



Caesarea



Jerusalem




Not Guilty:

Jewish Laws

Temple

Roman Government



**Baseless
Charges**
Acts 24:5-6

- **Cause Riots**
- **Leader of Nazarenes**
- **Desecrating Temple**

Changing of the Guard

Festus Report



Appeal to Caesar



The Wait is Over



Acts 23:11

That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said, “Be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach the Good News in Rome as well.”

The Wait is Over



The World will not Understand

**King
Agrippa**

=

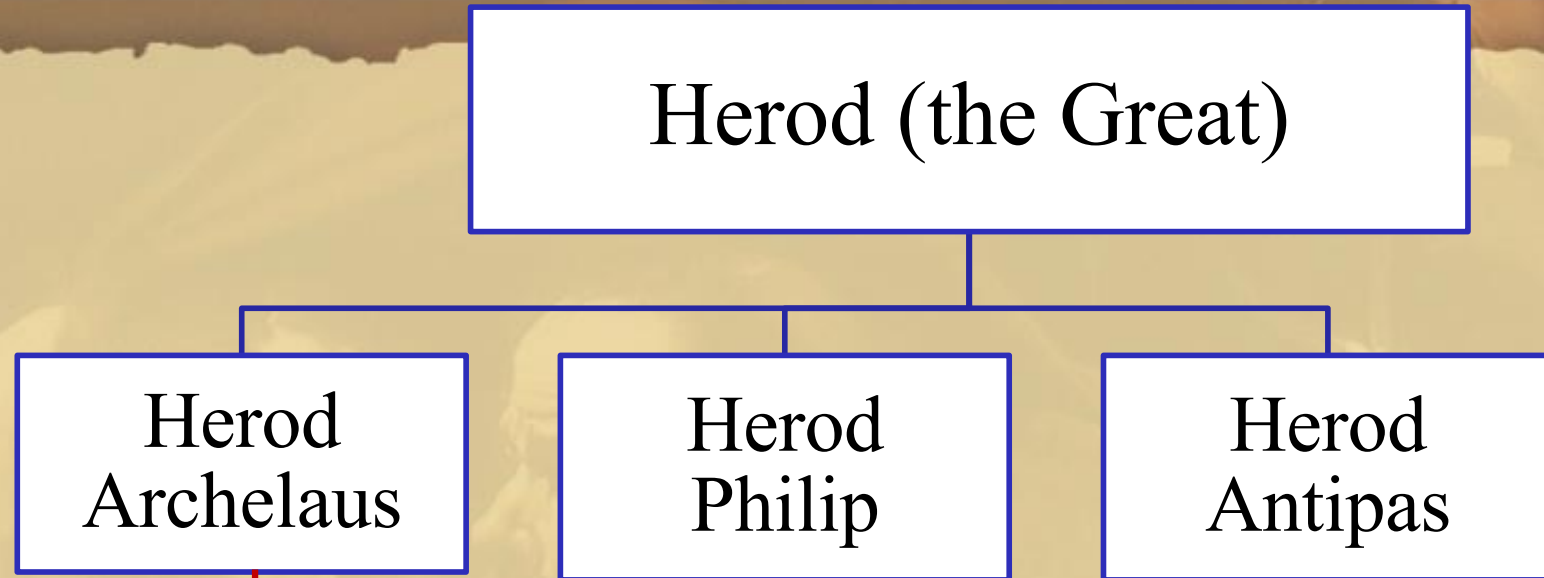
**King Herod
Agrippa II**

Herods of the Bible

Herod (the Great)

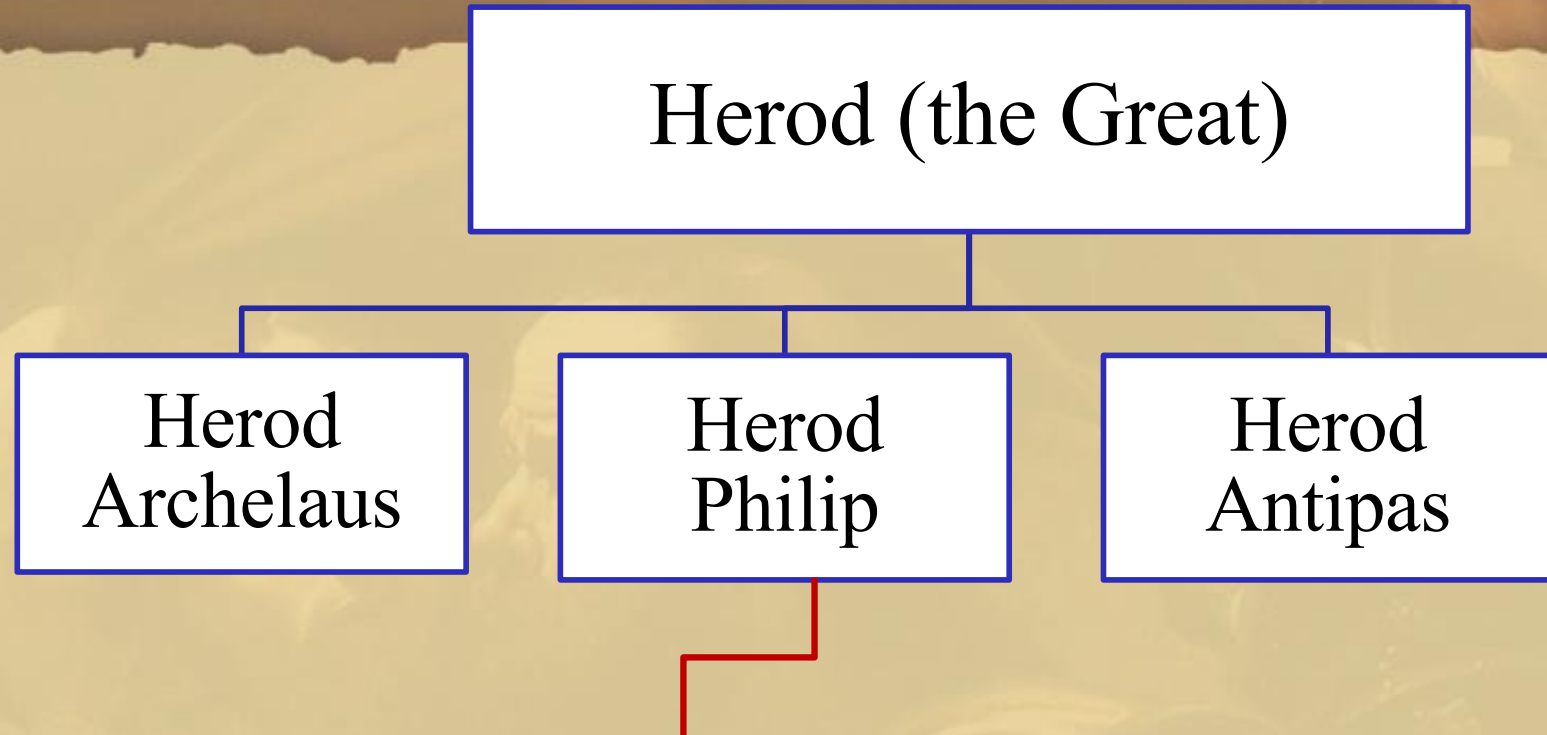
- **Met wise men**
- **Killed babies in Bethlehem**

Herods of the Bible



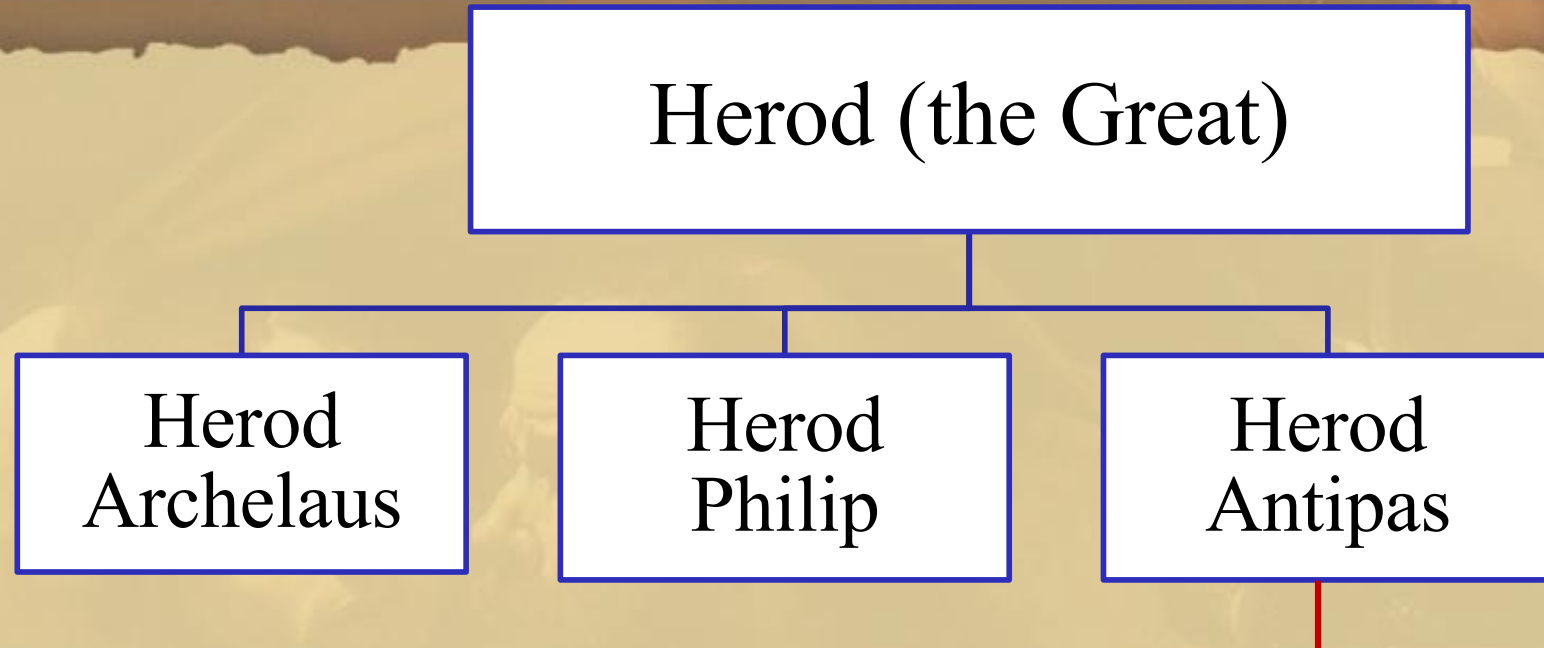
- **Caused Joseph to return to Nazareth (when returning from Egypt)**

Herods of the Bible



- **Wife, Herodias, left him for his brother Antipas**

Herods of the Bible



- Married his brother's wife, Herodias
- Executed John the Baptist
- Presided over Jesus' trial

Herods of the Bible

Herod (the Great)

Aristobulus
IV

Herod
Archelaus

Herod
Philip

Herod
Antipas

Herod
Agrippa I

- Persecuted Christians (in Acts 12)

Herods of the Bible

Herod (the Great)

Aristobulus
IV

Herod
Archelaus

Herod
Philip

Herod
Antipas

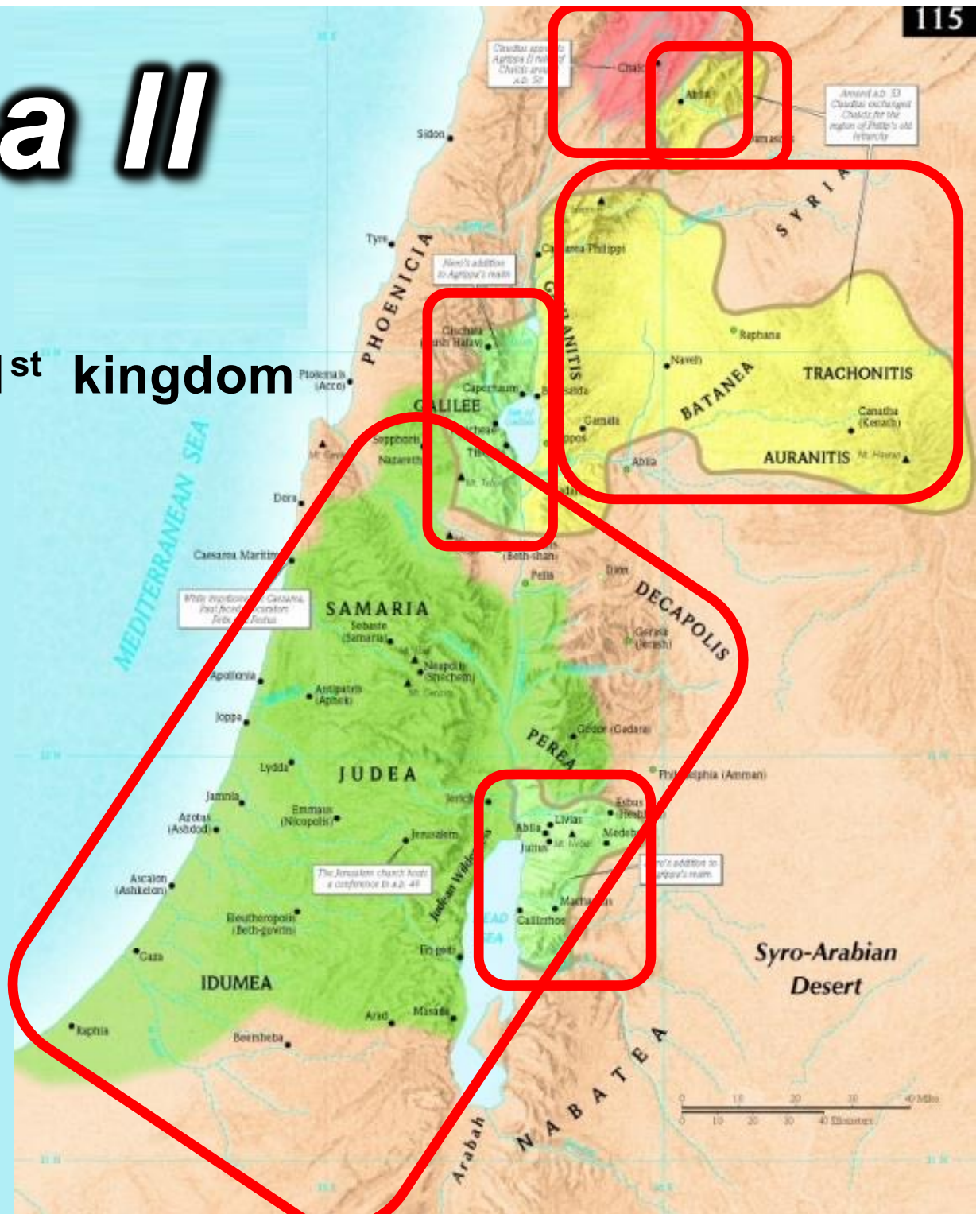
Herod
Agrippa I

Herod
Agrippa II

- **Listened to Paul's defense (Acts 25–26)**
- **Sisters Bernice and Drusilla (married to Felix)**

Agrippa II

- AD 48-53: Agrippa II 1st kingdom
- AD 53
- AD 61
- Roman governor (Felix / Festus)



***The World will not
Understand***





Key Truth



**...a dead man named
Jesus, who Paul
insists is alive.**

Acts 25:19b



Key Truth



⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.


1 Cor 15:5-7 NLT

***The World will not
Understand***





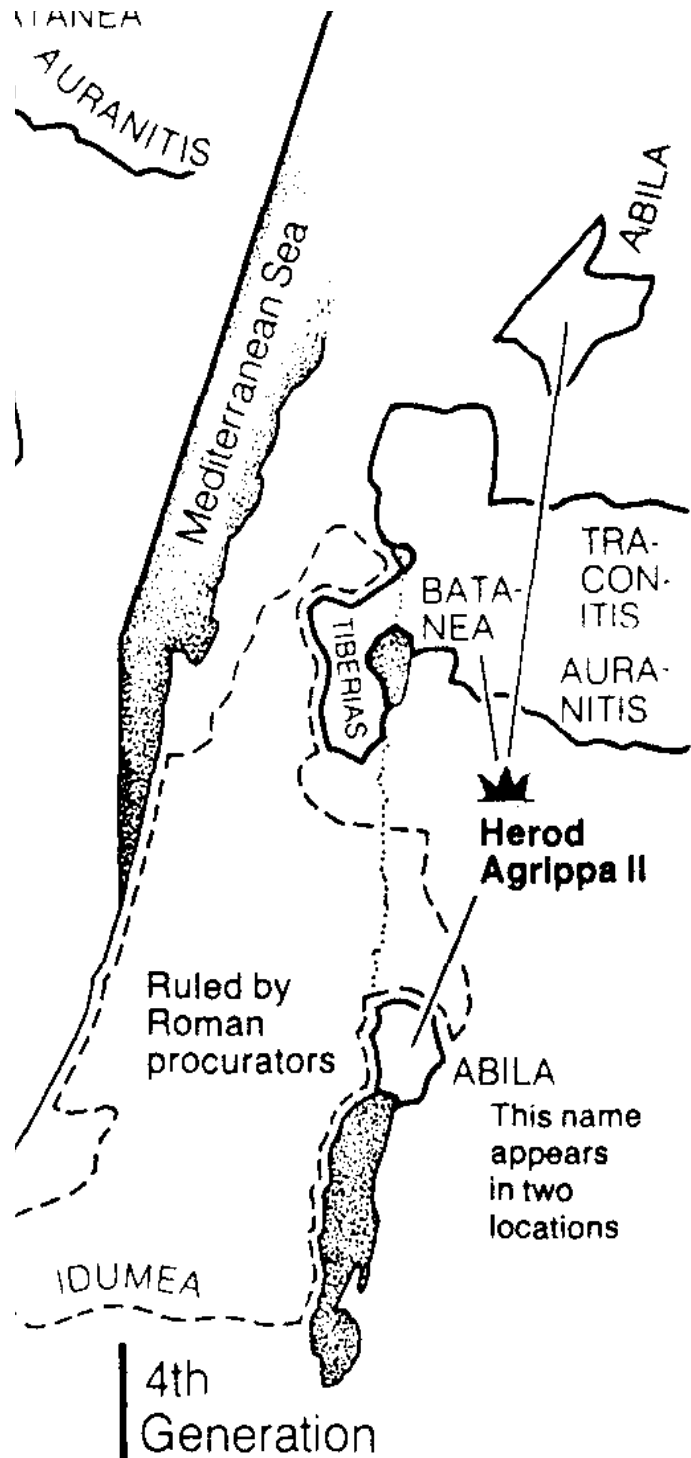
Paul Speaks:
to the crowd
to the High Council
to Governor Felix
to King Agrippa

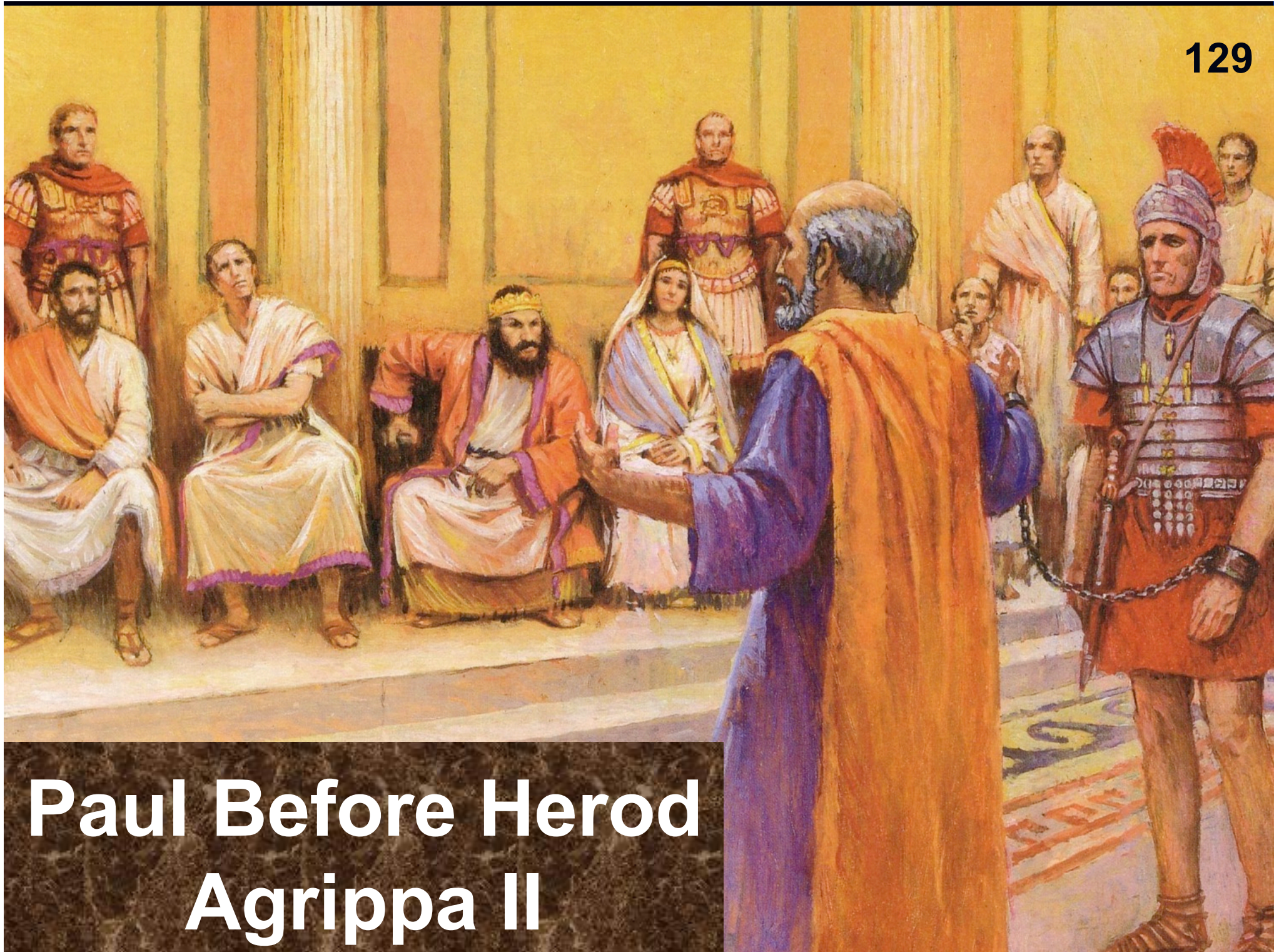
A man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a grey suit jacket over a white shirt and a watch on his left wrist, stands with his arms crossed. He is positioned in front of a large, abstract sculpture made of light-colored, textured material. The sculpture features various forms, including what appears to be a large, curved, shell-like structure. The background is a dark, solid color, possibly a wall or a large piece of art.

**Invisible
sculpture sold
for SGD24K**

Acts 26

Herod's Great Grandson, King Agrippa II, also found Paul innocent (Acts 26:31)





**Paul Before Herod
Agrippa II**



Acts 26

Paul before King Agrippa

Personal Testimony



Acts 26

Paul before King Agrippa

Introduction

vv. 1-3: acknowledges Agrippa as expert

vv. 4-5: mentions background as Pharisee

vv. 6-8: hope in fulfillment of God's promise



Acts 26

Paul before King Agrippa

Pre-Conversion Life

vv. 9-11: persecuted Christians



Acts 26

Paul before King Agrippa

Conversion

vv. 9-11: persecuted Christians

vv. 12-18: meeting Jesus



Acts 26

Paul before King Agrippa

Post-Conversion Life

vv. 9-11: persecuted Christians

vv. 12-18: meeting Jesus

vv. 19-23: positive results



Key Truth



**I preached first to those in
Damascus, then in Jerusalem and
throughout all Judea, and also to
the Gentiles,**

Acts 26:20



Key Truth



I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, **that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.**

Acts 26:20



Key Truth



Matt 3:2: “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Matt 4:17: From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Acts 2:38: Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”



Key Truth



I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, **that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.**

Acts 26:20



Acts 26

Paul before King Agrippa

Conclusion

vv. 9-11: persecuted Christians

vv. 12-18: meeting Jesus

vv. 19-23: positive results

v. 29: that everyone might believe



Acts 26

Paul before King Agrippa

Thesis

Hope in the resurrection is fulfilled in Jesus

***The World will not
Understand***



“Do you think you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

**“If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way”
(1 Peter 3:15-16 NLT).**

Be ready to explain . . .

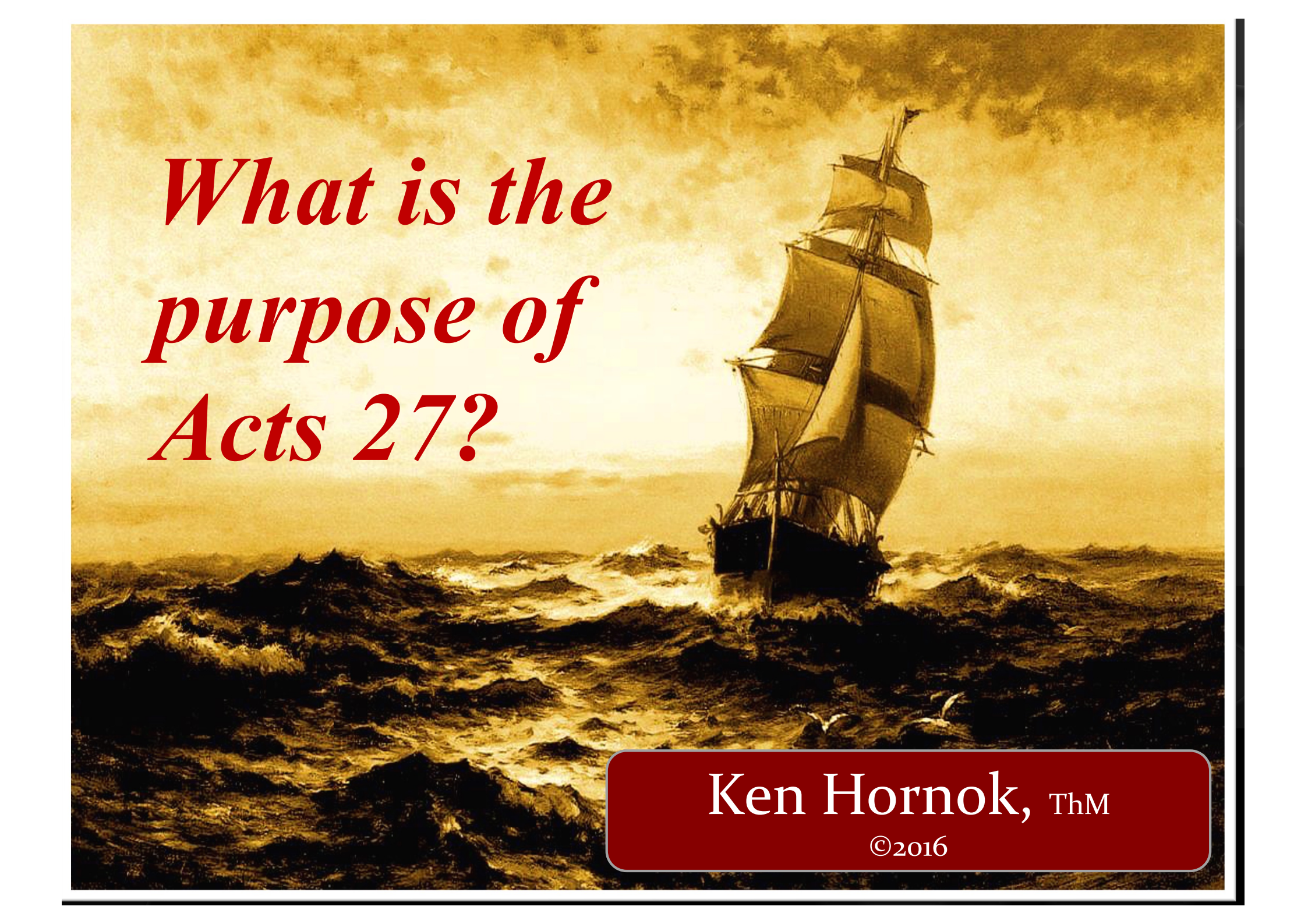
Download

**“02-How to Share Your Testimony”
at BibleStudyDownloads.org**

Acts 27

Paul's Journey to Rome (Acts 27–28)





*What is the
purpose of
Acts 27?*

Ken Hornok, ThM

©2016



This is one of the longest chapters in the book.

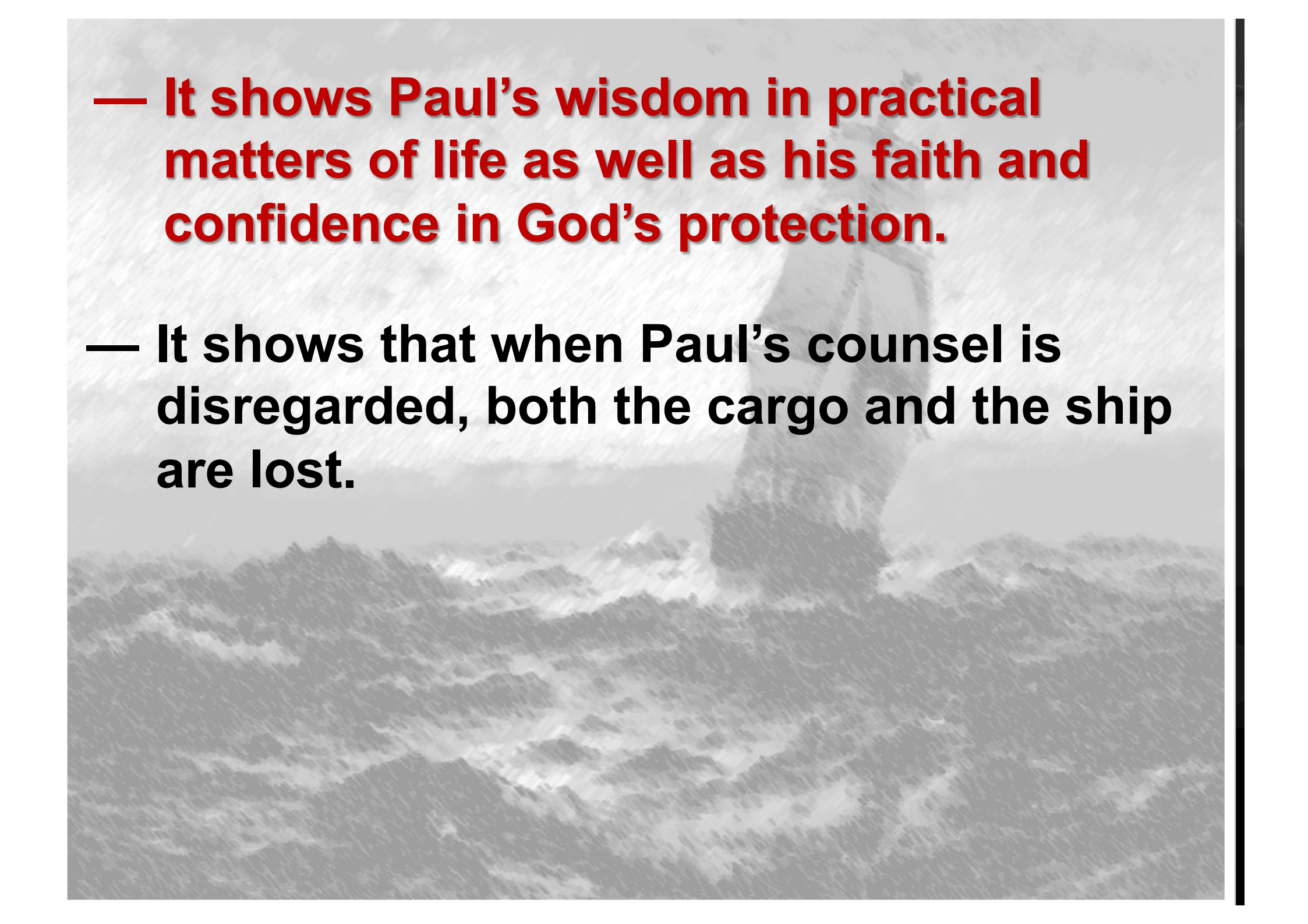
From start to finish this chapter is the story of a voyage gone bad; it has nothing to do with mission work or church planting, as previously mentioned.

What then is the purpose of this chapter?



— It shows that natural forces cannot prevent Paul from fulfilling God's will of testifying in Rome.

— It shows that God sovereignly protects His servants to complete their God-given tasks.

- 
- **It shows Paul's wisdom in practical matters of life as well as his faith and confidence in God's protection.**
 - **It shows that when Paul's counsel is disregarded, both the cargo and the ship are lost.**

- Paul is Luke's hero, and he presents Paul as an Apostle (like Peter) whom God is using and who can be trusted.

Luke's intended conclusion😊:

- One does well to follow Paul's example because he is Christ-like.
- One does well to heed and study Paul's letters because they are from God.



Of Storms & Shipwrecks

Acts 27:1–28:10

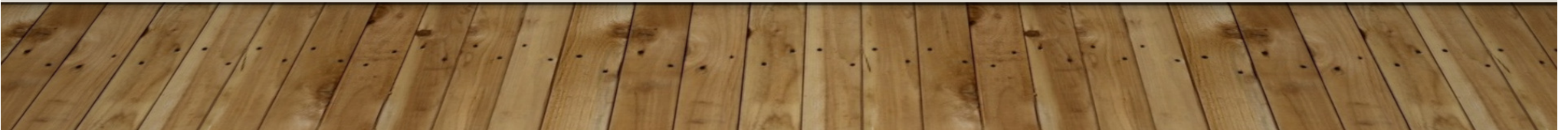
**Manik Corea • 18 July 2021
at Crossroads International Church Singapore • CICFamily.com
Uploaded by Dr. Rick Griffith • Singapore Bible College
Files in many languages for free download at BibleStudyDownloads.org**

OF STORMS & SHIPWRECKS



**SERMON AT CROSSROADS
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH**

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021



GOOD NEWS ⇒ WS
ON THE MOVE ⇒ VE

***God's work through the
early church in***

Acts

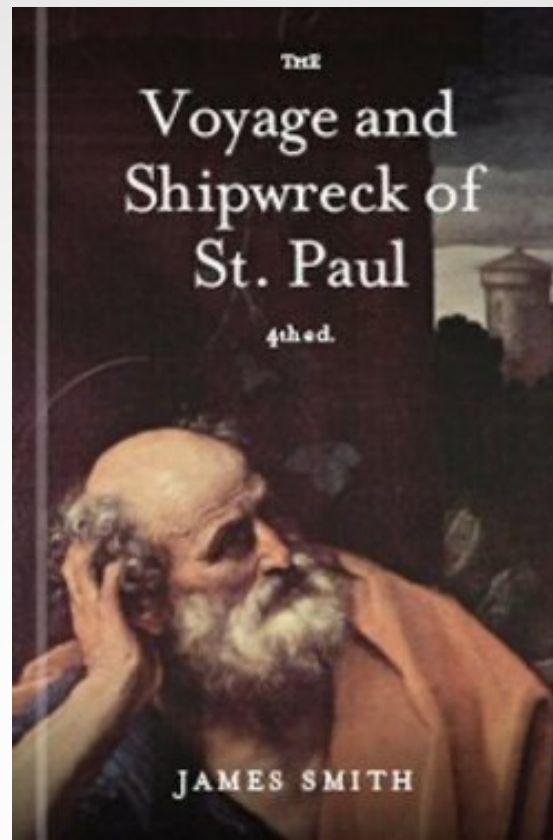
Life is a Journey
Not a Destination

ACTS 27:1–28:10

- **Luke devotes 3 times more space for the journey to Rome than what happens when they get there.**
- **God is faithful to bring Paul and his fellow-travellers safely to Rome.**

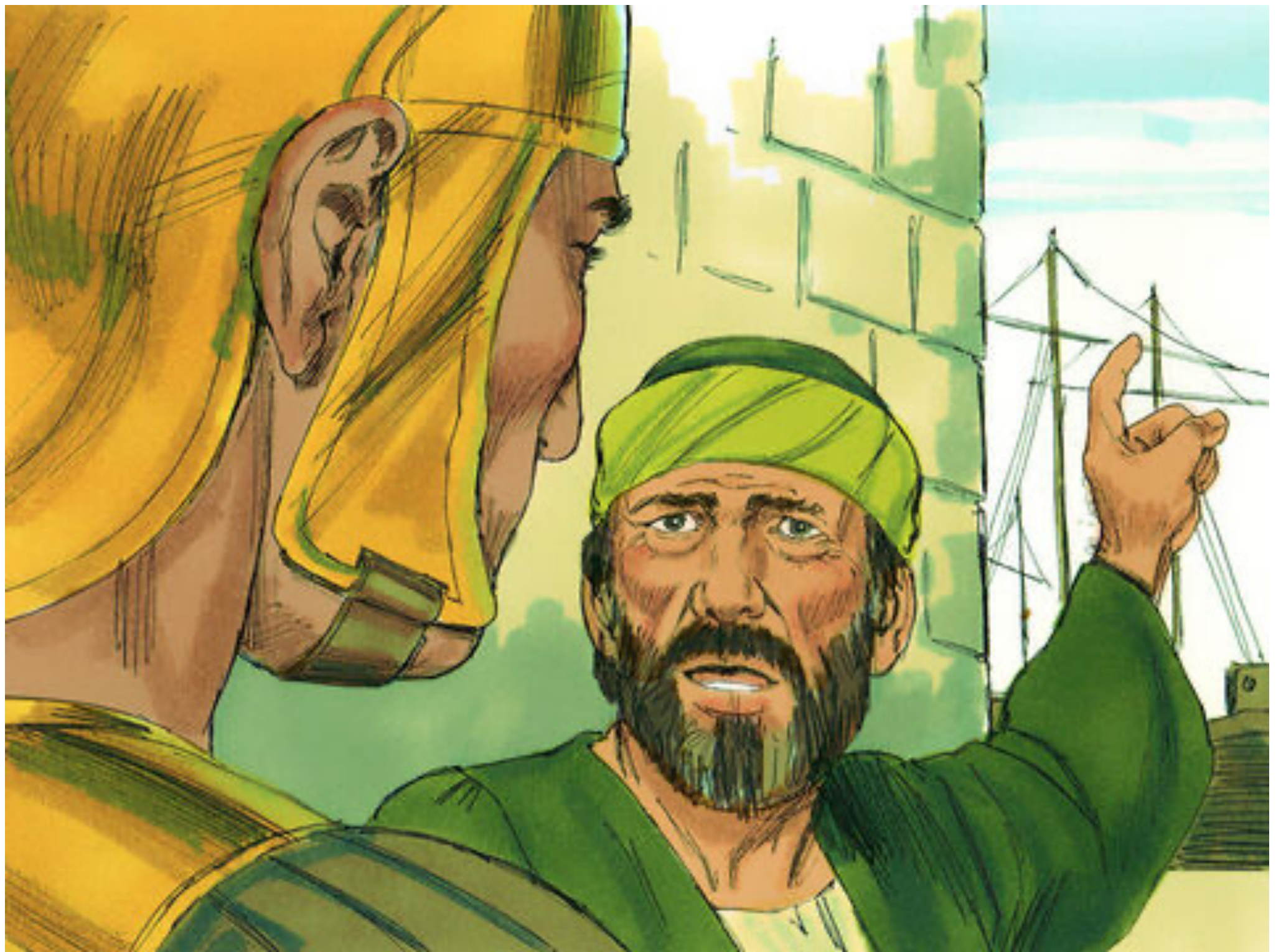
ACTS 27:1-38

- **Paul is not alone – Luke and Aristarchus from Thessalonica are with him, as well as other prisoners.**
- **Luke provides a detailed commentary on their journey.**



“...no man not a sailor could have written a narrative of a sea voyage so consistent in all its parts, unless from actual observation.”







ACTS 27:1-38

- **Paul warned them not to go. He knew the dangers of the oceans (verse 9 – see 2 Cor 11:25-26).**
- **Things soon took a turn for the worst (verses 14-20).**

Acts 27:20-22

²⁰ When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned. ²¹ Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²² Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.”

Acts 27:23-26

²³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴ and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ ²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ²⁶ But we must run aground on some island.’”





Acts 28

ACTS 27:39–28:10

- **God is sovereign.**

“...here we see vividly illustrated the mysterious providence of God as he works out his purposes amidst the apparent misfortunes encountered while living in this fallen world.”

**Ajith Fernando, *Acts*, NIV Application Commentary,
Zondervan Academic, 1988**

ACTS 27:39–28:10

- **God is sovereign.**
- **God's sovereignty is a sub-theme in Acts: 2:14-36; 3:12-26; 4:23-31; 12:5-18; 17:24-31; 28:16-31.**





ACTS 27:39–28:10

- **God is sovereign.**
- **God can use us, as he did Paul, in trying circumstances, to bring hope and healing to those who don't know him.**

LET US PRAY



Reaching Rome and then . . .



Acts 28:11-31

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GOOD NEWS ⇒ WS
ON THE MOVE ⇒ VE

***God's work through the
early church in***

Acts

Acts 1:8 NLT

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in **Jerusalem**, throughout **Judea**, in **Samaria**, and to the **ends of the earth**."



Progress Reports

Key Verse: 1:8

1. 2:47b
2. 6:7

1:1-6:7

And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved (Acts 2:47b)

So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too (Acts 6:7).



Opposition & Response

External



Internal



The church didn't follow God's Plan: so God caused Acts 8:1

Acts 1:8 NLT

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in **Jerusalem**, throughout **Judea**, in **Samaria**, and to the **ends of the earth**."

Acts 8:1 NLT

A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in **Jerusalem**; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of **Judea and Samaria**."

The church didn't follow God's Plan: so God caused Acts 8:1

Acts 1:8 NLT

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in **Jerusalem**, throughout **Judea**, in **Samaria**, and to the **ends of the earth**."

Acts 8:1 NLT

"**Saul** was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in **Jerusalem**; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of **Judea and Samaria**."

Progress Reports

Key Verse: 1:8

1. 2:47b

2. 6:7

3. 8:40

4. 9:31

1:1-6:7

6:8-12



Progress Reports

Key Verse: 1:8

1. 2:47b

2. 6:7

3. 8:40

4. 9:31

5. 12:24

6. 16:5

7. 19:20

1:1-6:7

6:8-12

Acts 13-28



Adapted from Stanley D. Toussaint, *BKC*; Jeremy Chew, *EAST*

Key Characteristics of Acts

A. Kingdom




Start

"So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and **restore our kingdom?**'"
(Acts 1:6 NLT)



End

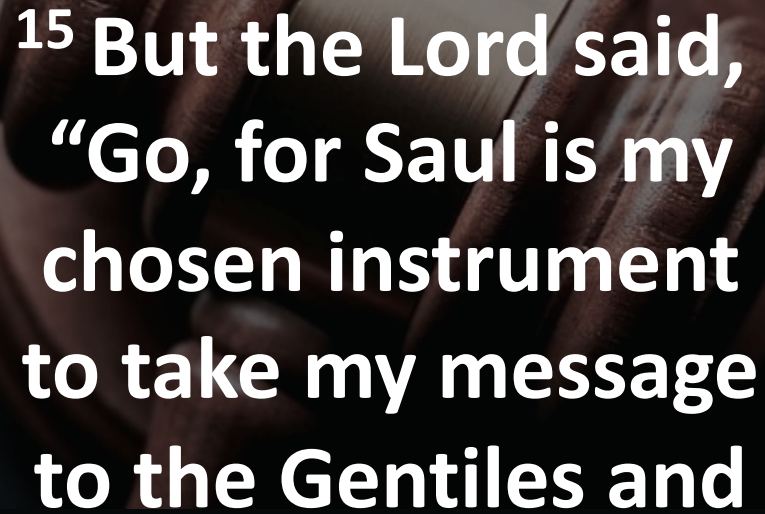
"For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, ³¹**boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God** and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him" (Acts 28:30-31 NLT).



¹⁰ One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. ¹¹ For I long to visit

you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. ¹² When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.

Romans 1:10-12 NLT



**15 But the Lord said,
“Go, for Saul is my
chosen instrument
to take my message
to the Gentiles and
to kings, as well as
to the people of
Israel.**

Acts 9:15 NLT

**Paul Speaks to:
the crowd
the High Council
Governor Felix
Governor Festus
King Agrippa**

Acts 20–26



That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said, “Be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach the Good News in Rome as well” (Acts 23:11).

PAUL'S TRIP TO ROME: 58-61 AD

Reaching Rome and then . . .



Acts 28:11-31

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Rome

Forum of Appius

Puteoli

ITALY

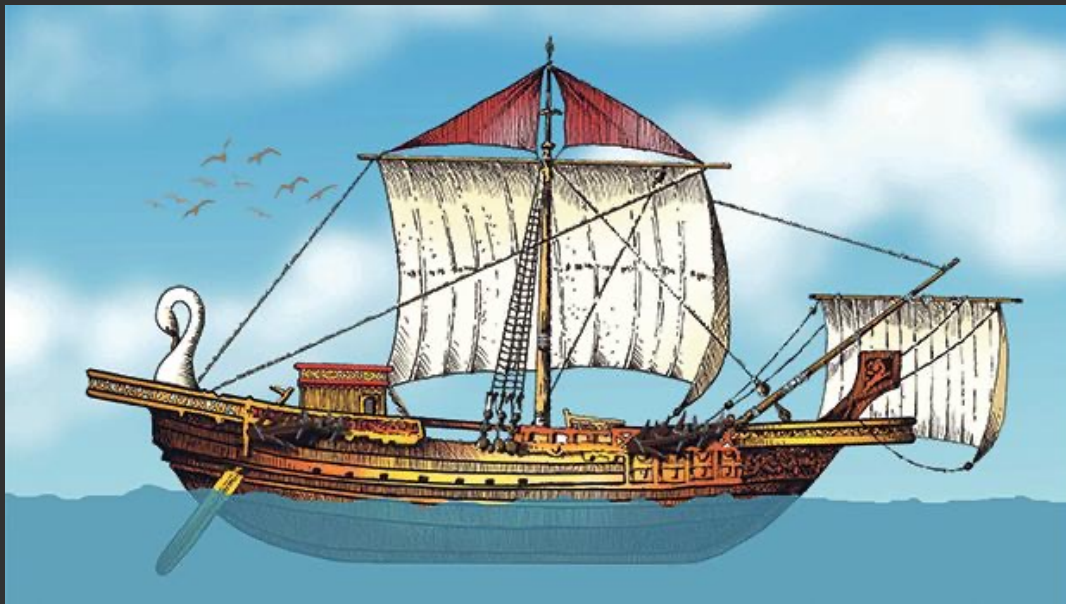
Rhegium

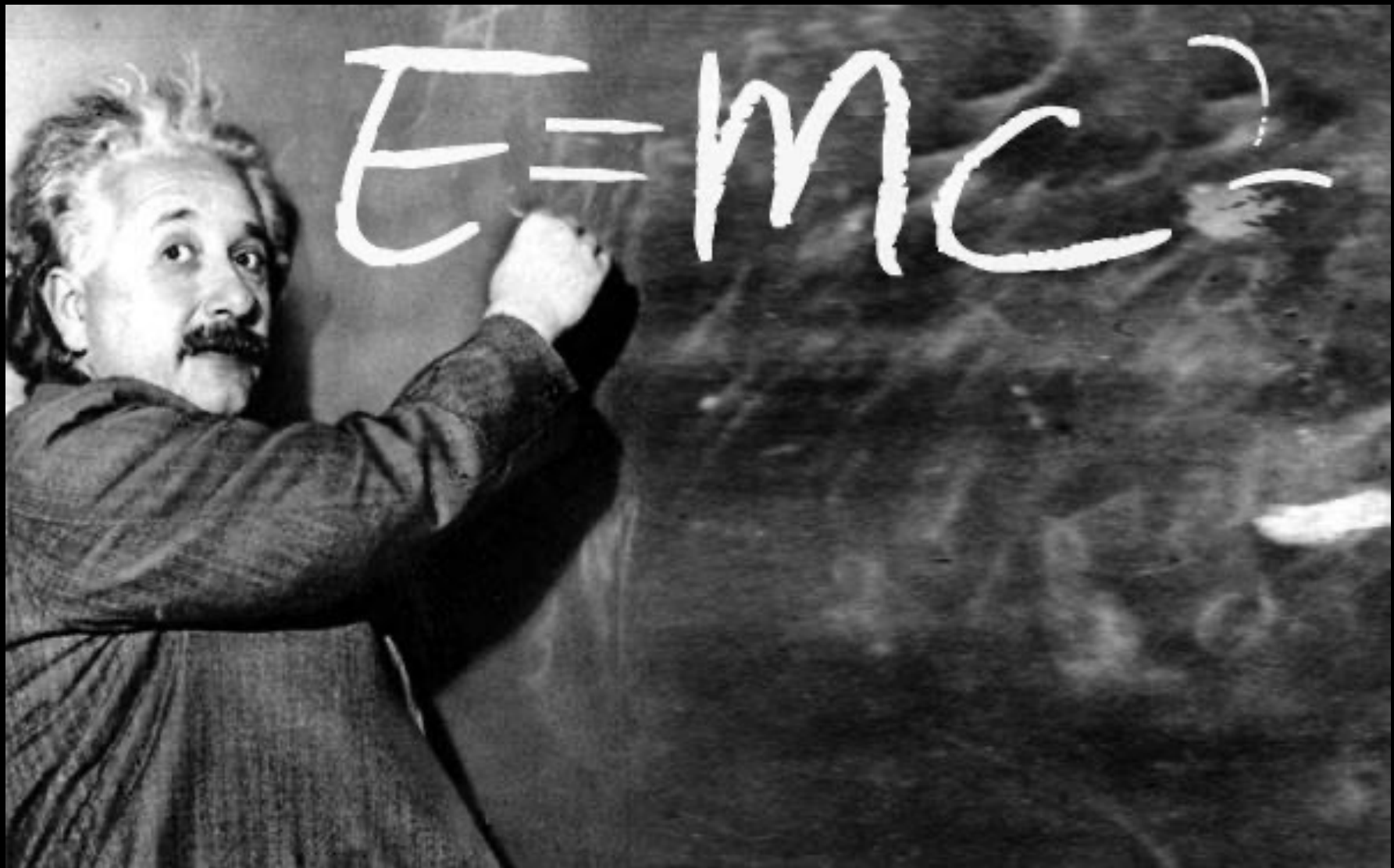
SICILY

Syracuse

MALTA

Castor & Pollux





MEMORANDUM

TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

REFERENCES: A) [REDACTED]
 B) [REDACTED]

REFERENCES: A) [REDACTED]
 B) [REDACTED]
1. [REDACTED]
ANALYTICAL GUIDANCE BY THE STAFF [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED]
ANALYTICAL GUIDANCE BY THE STAFF [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

First Roman Imprisonment (AD 60-62; Acts 28:15)

"The brothers and sisters in Rome had heard we were coming, and they came to meet us at the Forum on the Appian Way. Others joined us at The Three Taverns. When Paul saw them, he was encouraged and thanked God" (NLT).





Rome

Three Taverns

Forum

Puteoli



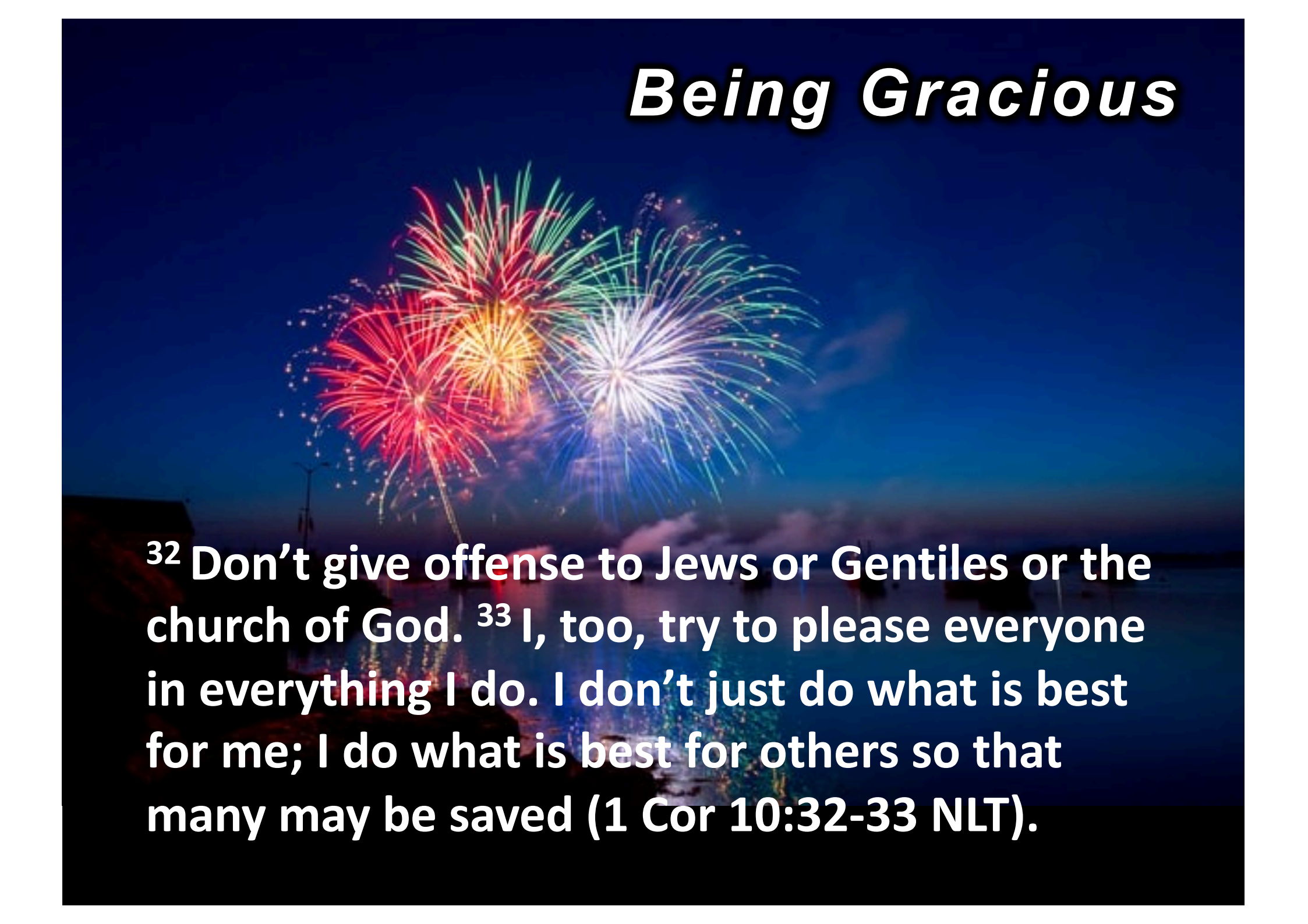
**So encourage each other and
build each other up, just as you
are already doing (1 Thes 5:11 NLT)**





Reaching Rome and then . . .

Being Gracious



³² Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God. ³³ I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved (1 Cor 10:32-33 NLT).



**The message of the cross is foolish to those
who are headed for destruction!
(1 Cor 1:18 NLT)!**



The Hope of Israel



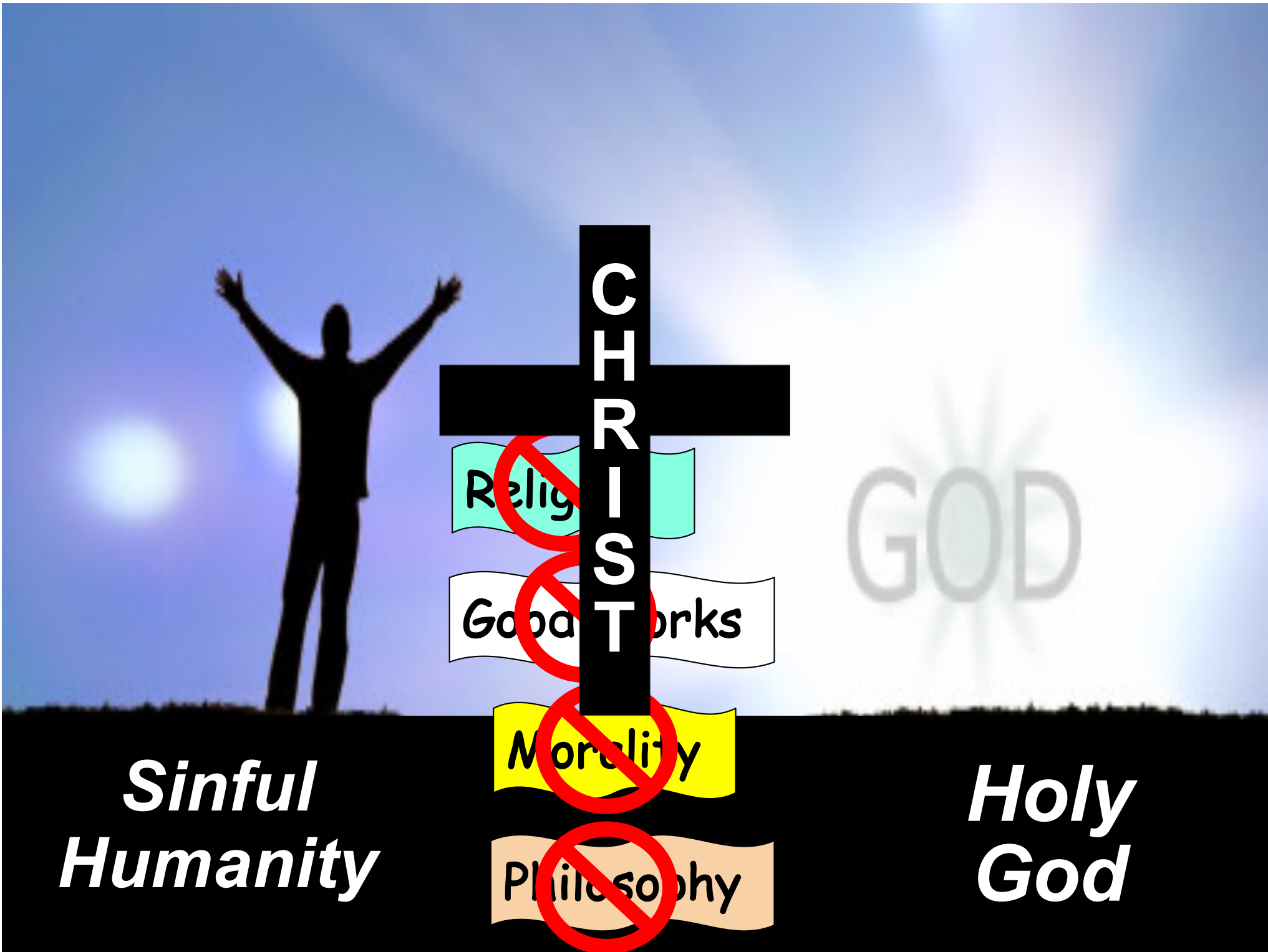
~~Religion~~

~~Good Works~~

GOD

***Sinful
Humanity***

***Holy
God***



CHRIST

Religion

Good Works

Morality

Philosophy

GOD

***Sinful
Humanity***

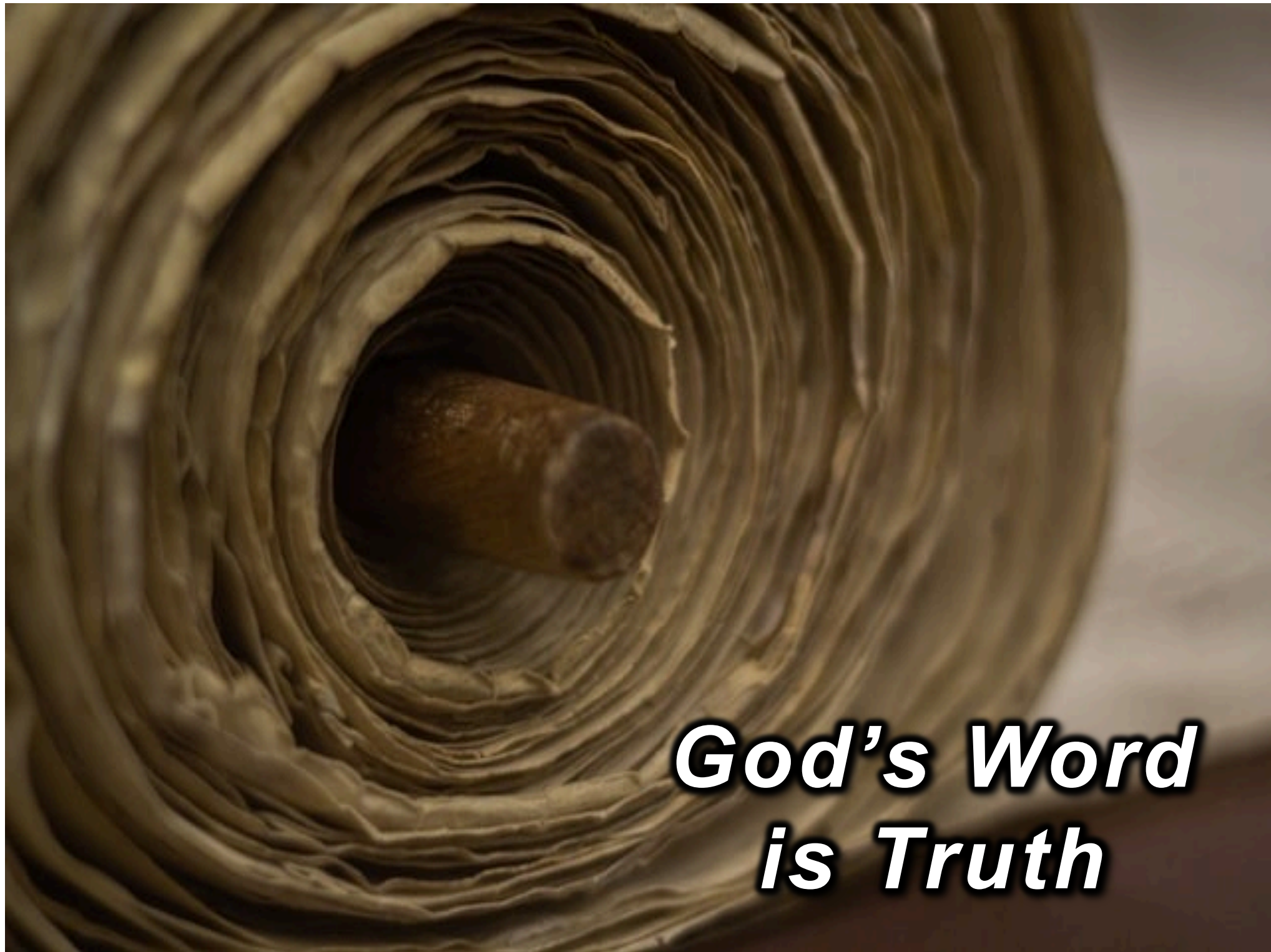
***Holy
God***

Sharing Hope



Choose a Path





***God's Word
is Truth***

**Boldly
Proclaiming
the Kingdom
of God**





Main Idea



**Our hope is in Jesus,
the Promised Messiah,
who brings victory
(over sin and death)
for Jews and Gentiles**

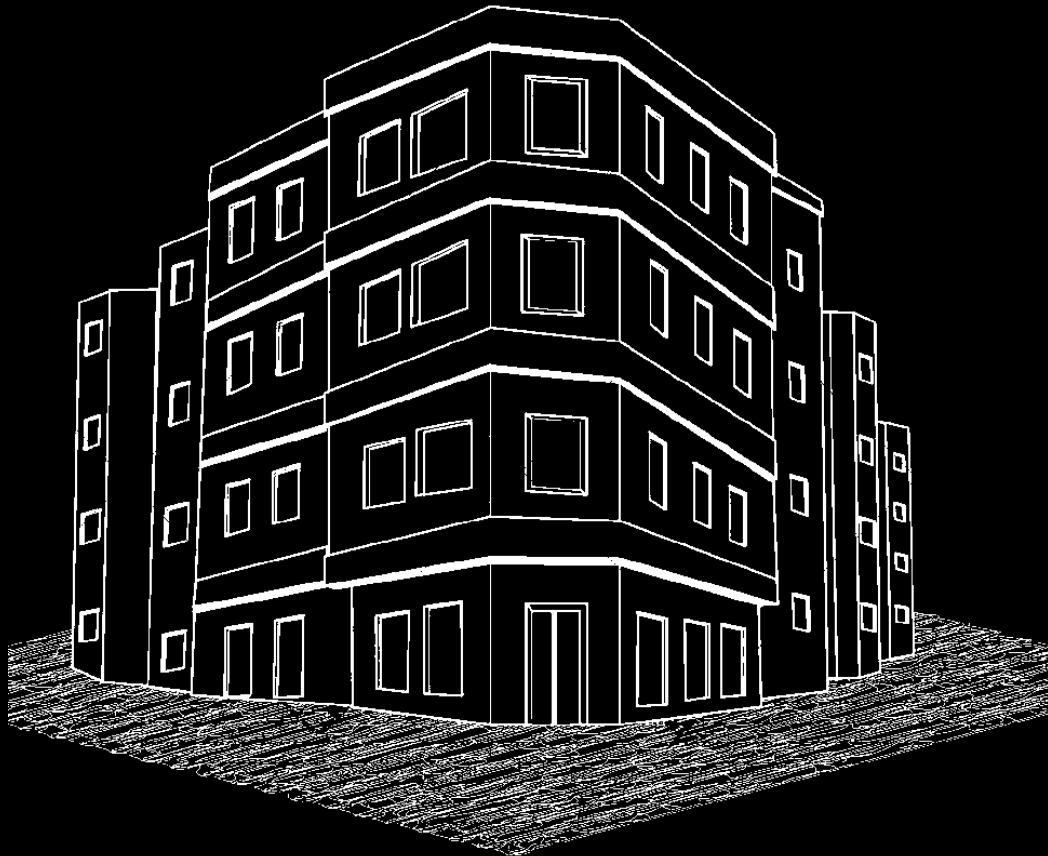
—in **Jerusalem**, **(family)**
throughout
Judea, in **Samaria**,
and to the
ends of the earth."



**“ends of
the earth”**



—in **Jerusalem**, **(family)**
throughout
Judea, in **Samaria**, **(work)**
and to the
ends of the earth."



**"ends of
the earth"**



—in **Jerusalem**,
throughout
Judea, in **Samaria**,
and to the
ends of the earth."

**"ends of
the earth"**



SIN to JFK

SIN to PNS



15,323 km

16,283 km



Progress Reports

Key Verse: 1:8

1. 2:47b
2. 6:7
3. 8:40
4. 9:31
5. 12:24
6. 16:5
7. 19:20
8. 28:30-31

1:1-6:7

6:8-8:40

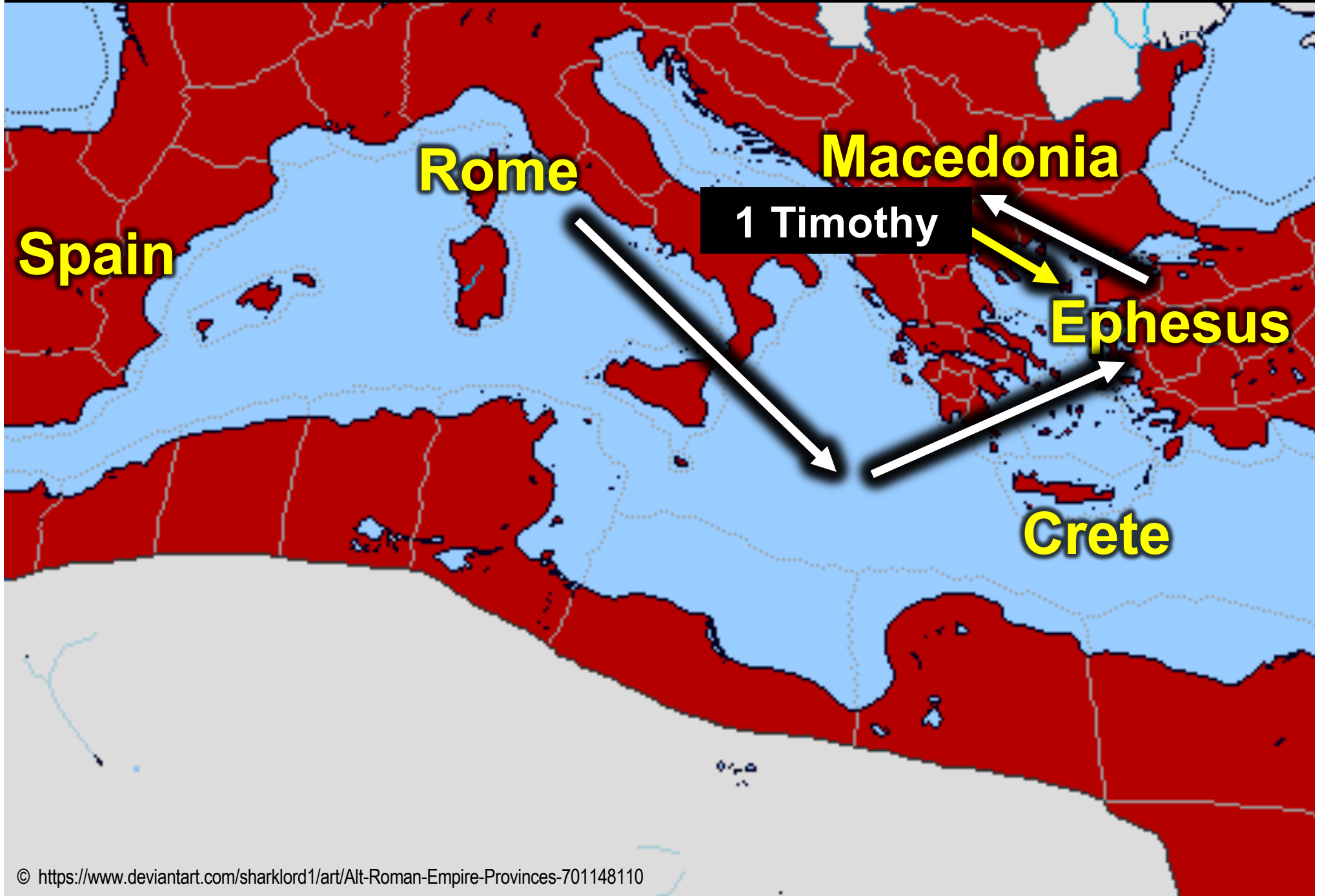
Acts 9-28



End of the
Earth

Paul's Post-Acts Journey

142



A.D.
59-62



ROME'S ANCIENT FORUM



4. "To Rome and GAIN!"

Significance: As a prisoner, sent to Rome; Christian influence in prison and the house of Caesar; important prison letters; "fought the good fight, kept the faith!"

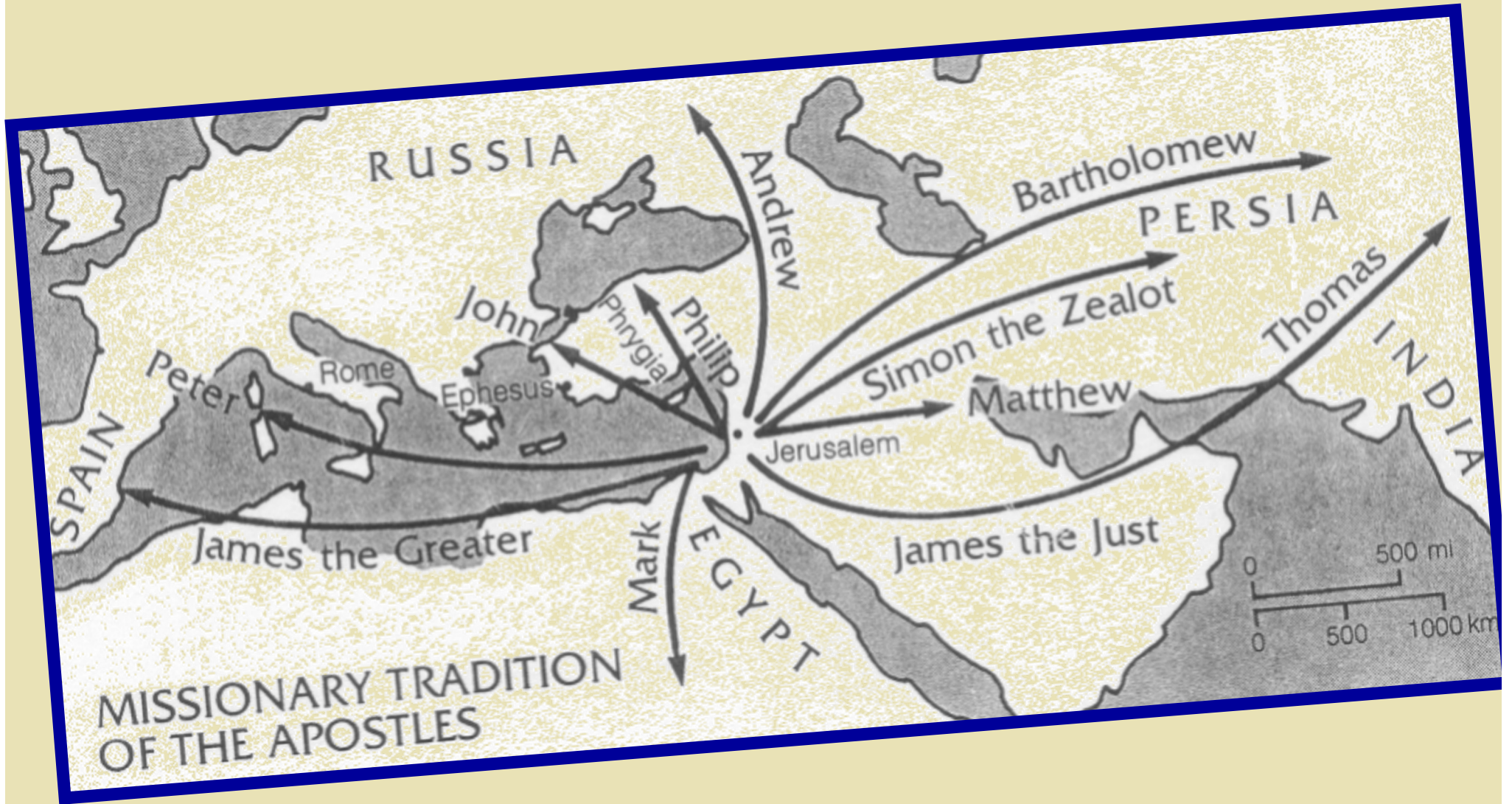
The progress of the gospel in Acts is seen by contrasting the beginning and the end:

	Acts 1	Acts 28
AD	33	62
Church	Non-existent	Thriving
Composition of believers	100% Jewish	Mostly Gentiles
Location	Jerusalem	Rome
Central Figure	Peter (narrow ministry)	Paul (broad ministry)



Fourth Missions Trip
1-2 Timothy & Titus After Acts
Spring 62 – Fall 67

And the story continued...



Spread of Early Christianity



Spread of Early Christianity



Our Vision



Love the Nations

Love the Church

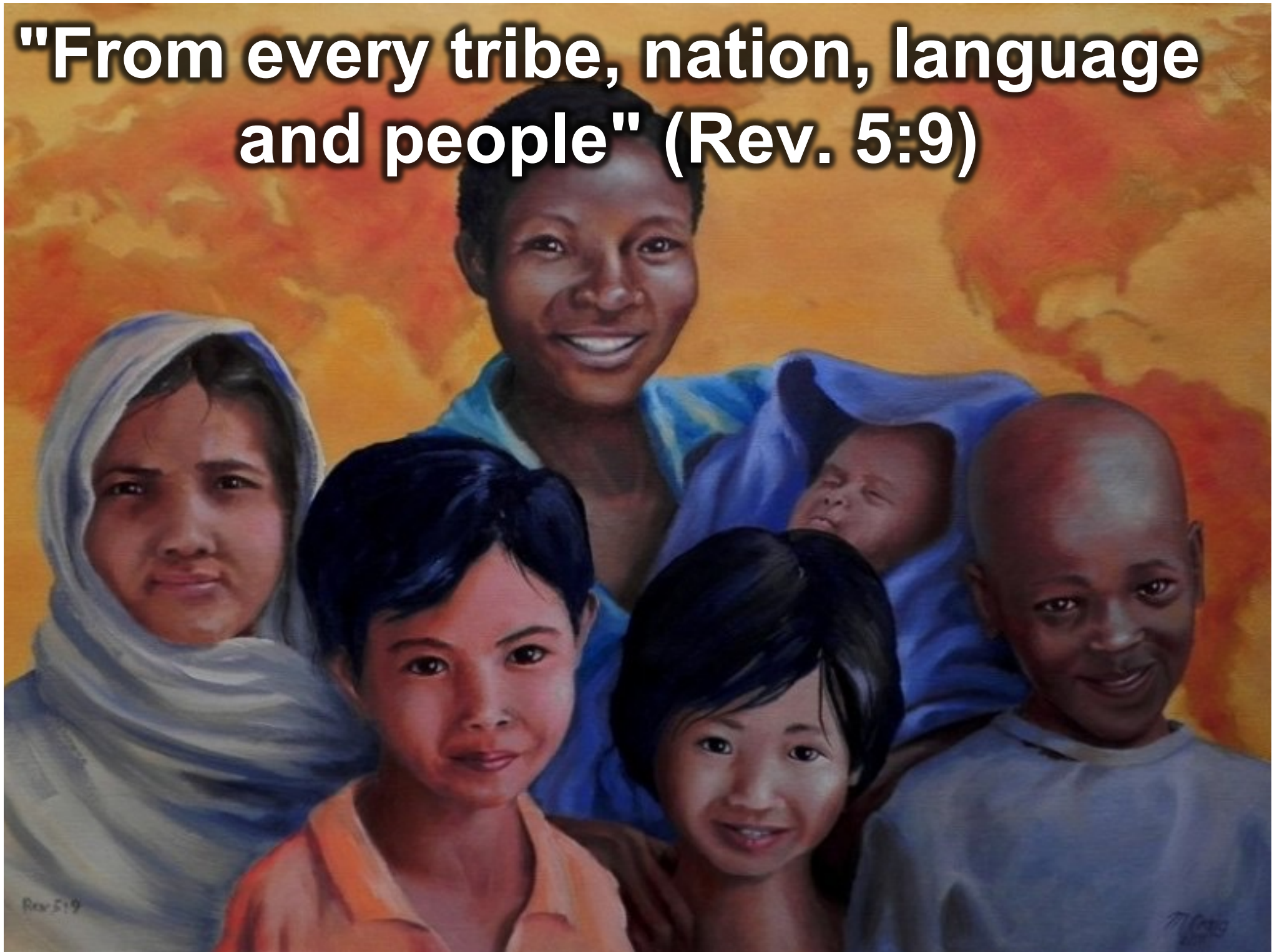
**Love
God**



**AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE
KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED IN
THE WHOLE WORLD AS A
TESTIMONY TO ALL NATIONS,
AND THEN THE END WILL COME**

MATTHEW 24:14

**"From every tribe, nation, language
and people" (Rev. 5:9)**



**Why should we be
witnessing?**

In order to...



Main Idea of the Book

Be part of **God's plan** to
bring the kingdom message
to all people.

Acts

I. God has gone ahead of us so
we can begin where we **are**
(1:1–6:7).



II. God gets the glory when we witness outside our **comfort** zone (6:8–8:40).



III. God will use us to spread the kingdom to the last **unreached** place (Acts 9–28).



Summary Statement

God's ***sovereignly directed progress of the kingdom message*** from Jerusalem Jews to Roman Gentiles in early church history proves ***God as responsible*** for His Church and exhorts believers to ***witness everywhere.***

Application

How is God extending his kingdom message through you?

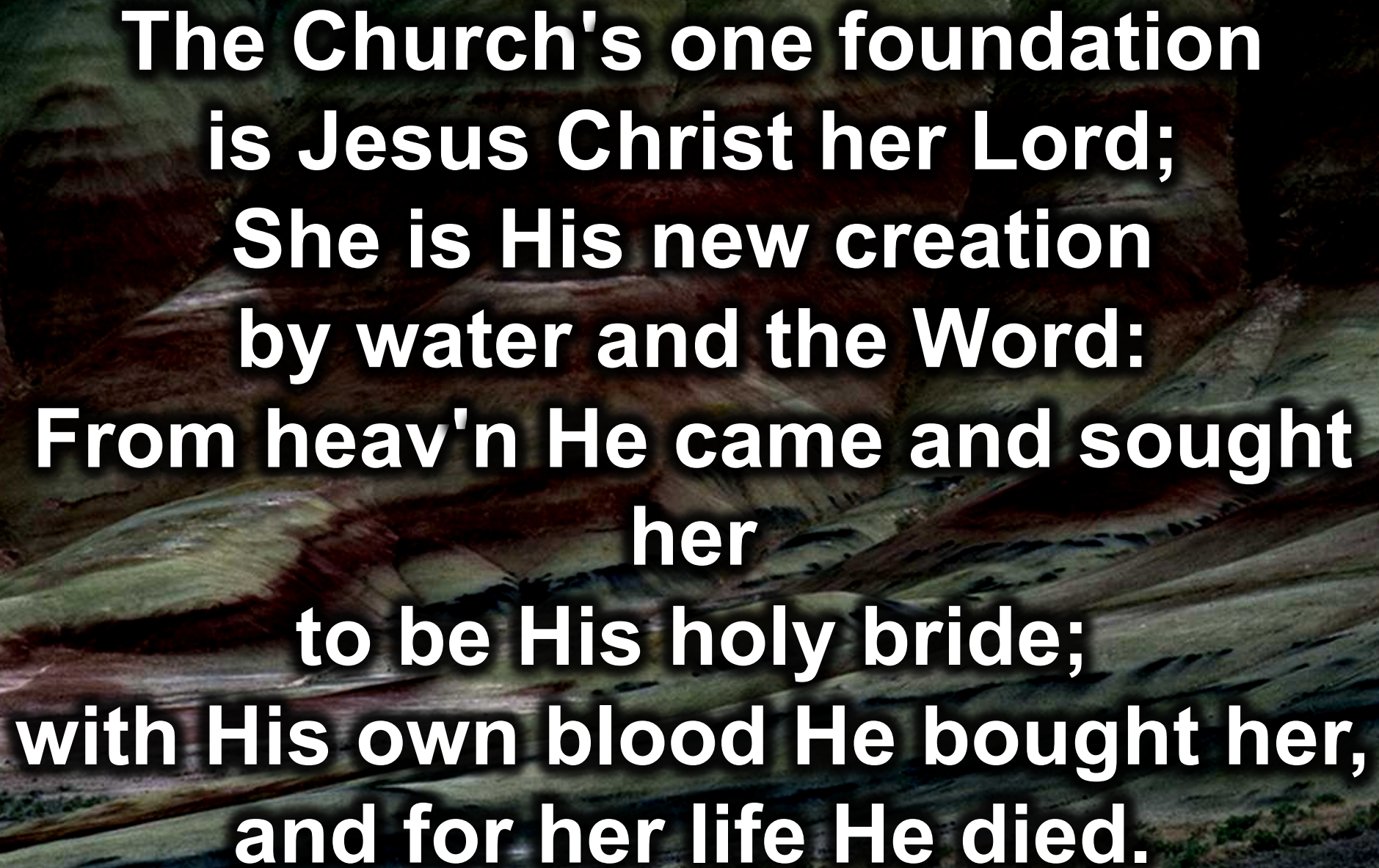
How are you fitting into His overall purpose to spread the gospel throughout the entire earth?

**What is your role in God's
plan that he started in
early church history?**

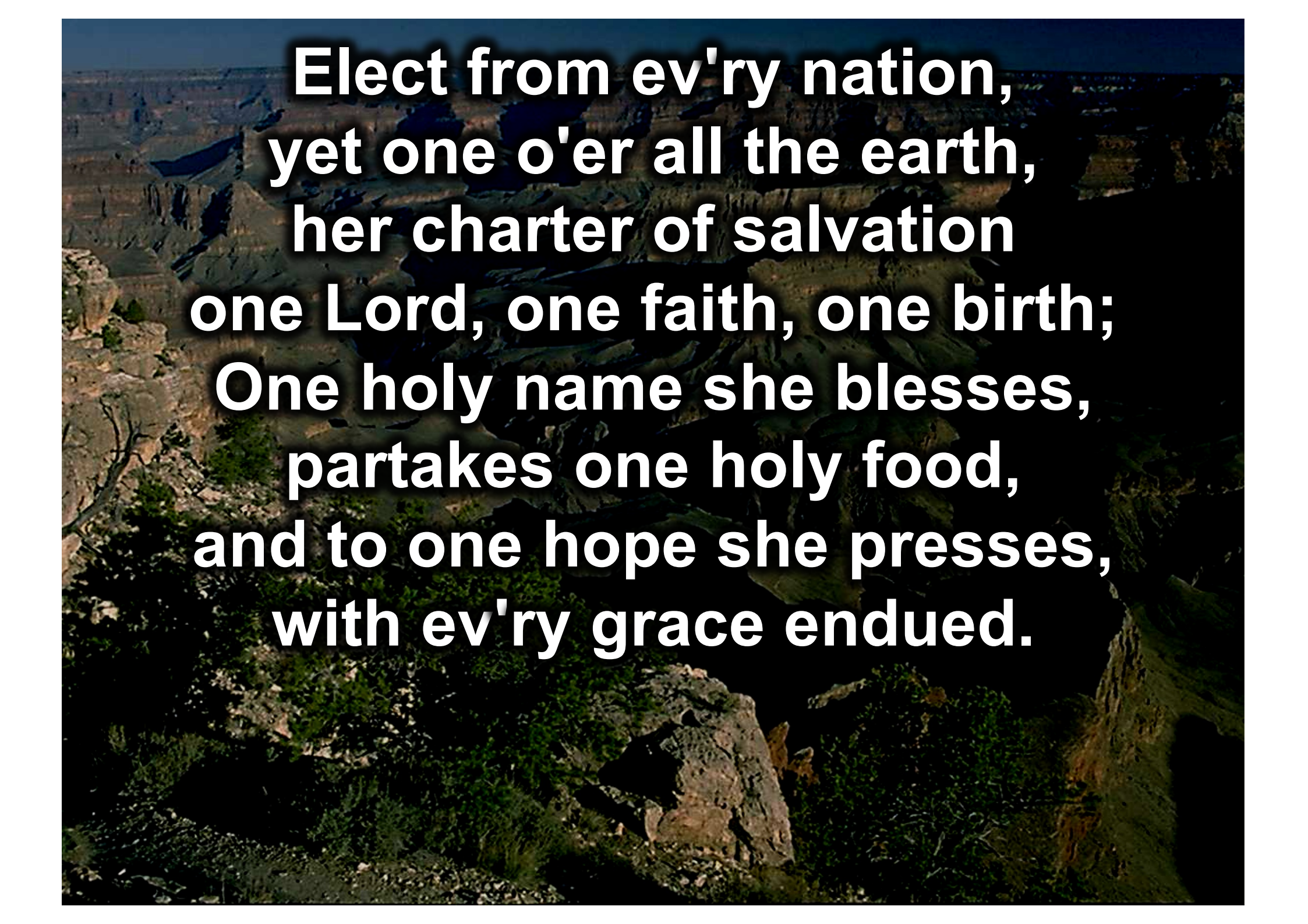
**Witness in your Jerusalem: inside
your comfort zone.**

**Witness in your Judea and
Samaria: outside your comfort
zone.**

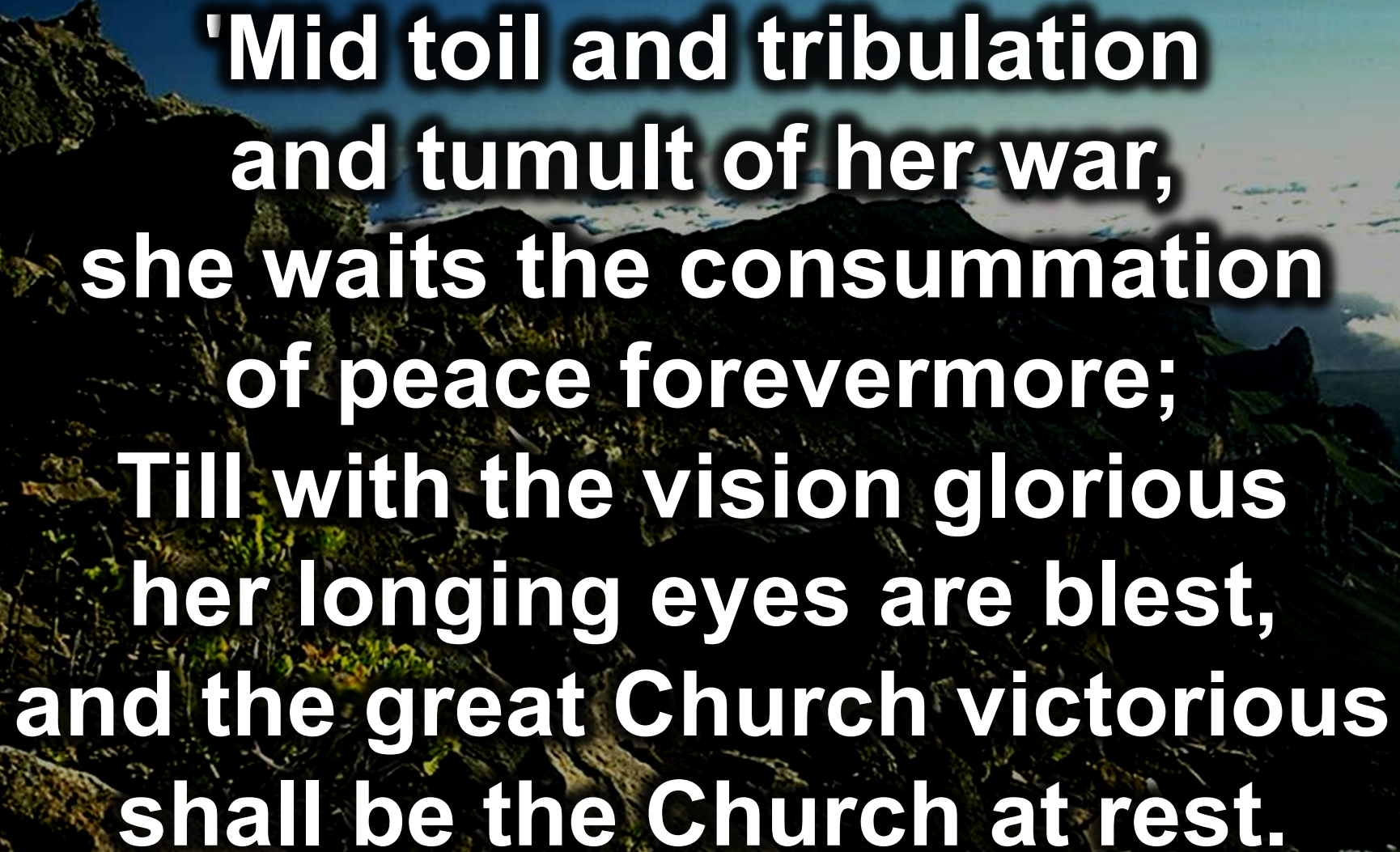
**Witness to all the world: share
until the uttermost part is reached.**



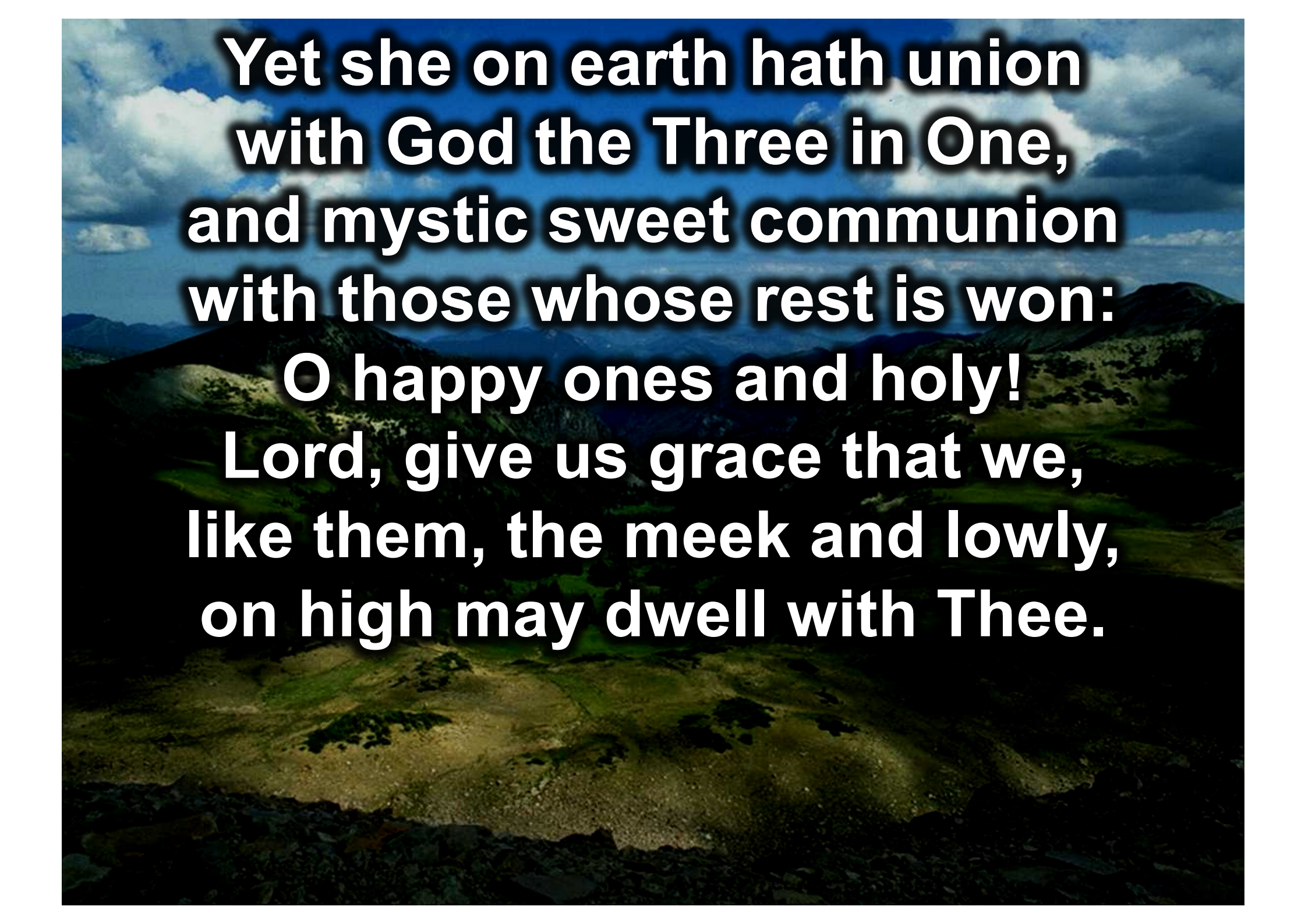
**The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
by water and the Word:
From heav'n He came and sought
her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.**



**Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.**

A dramatic landscape of dark, jagged mountains under a cloudy sky. The foreground shows rocky terrain with some green vegetation. The text is overlaid in white with a black outline, centered on the image.

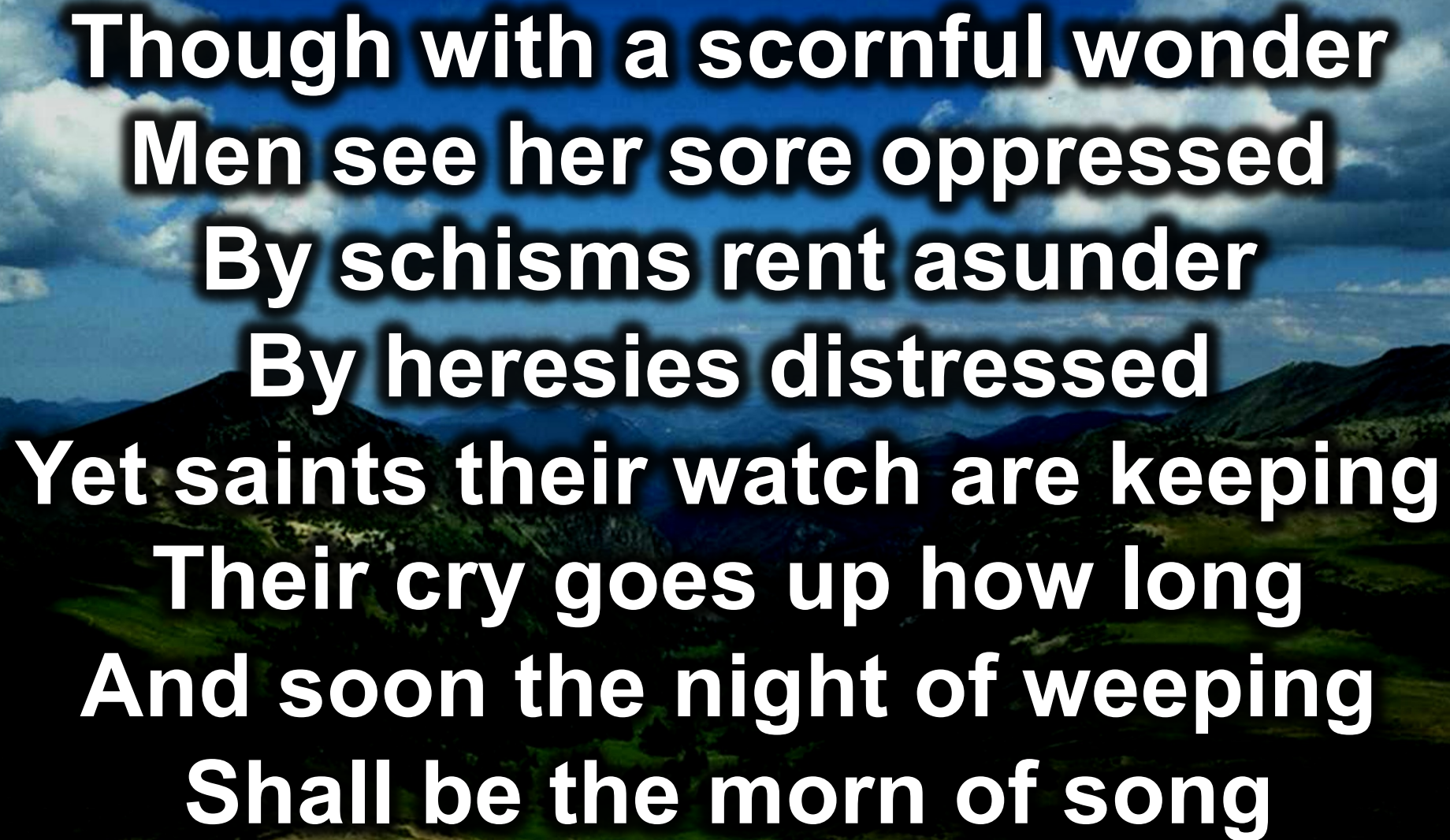
**'Mid toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.**



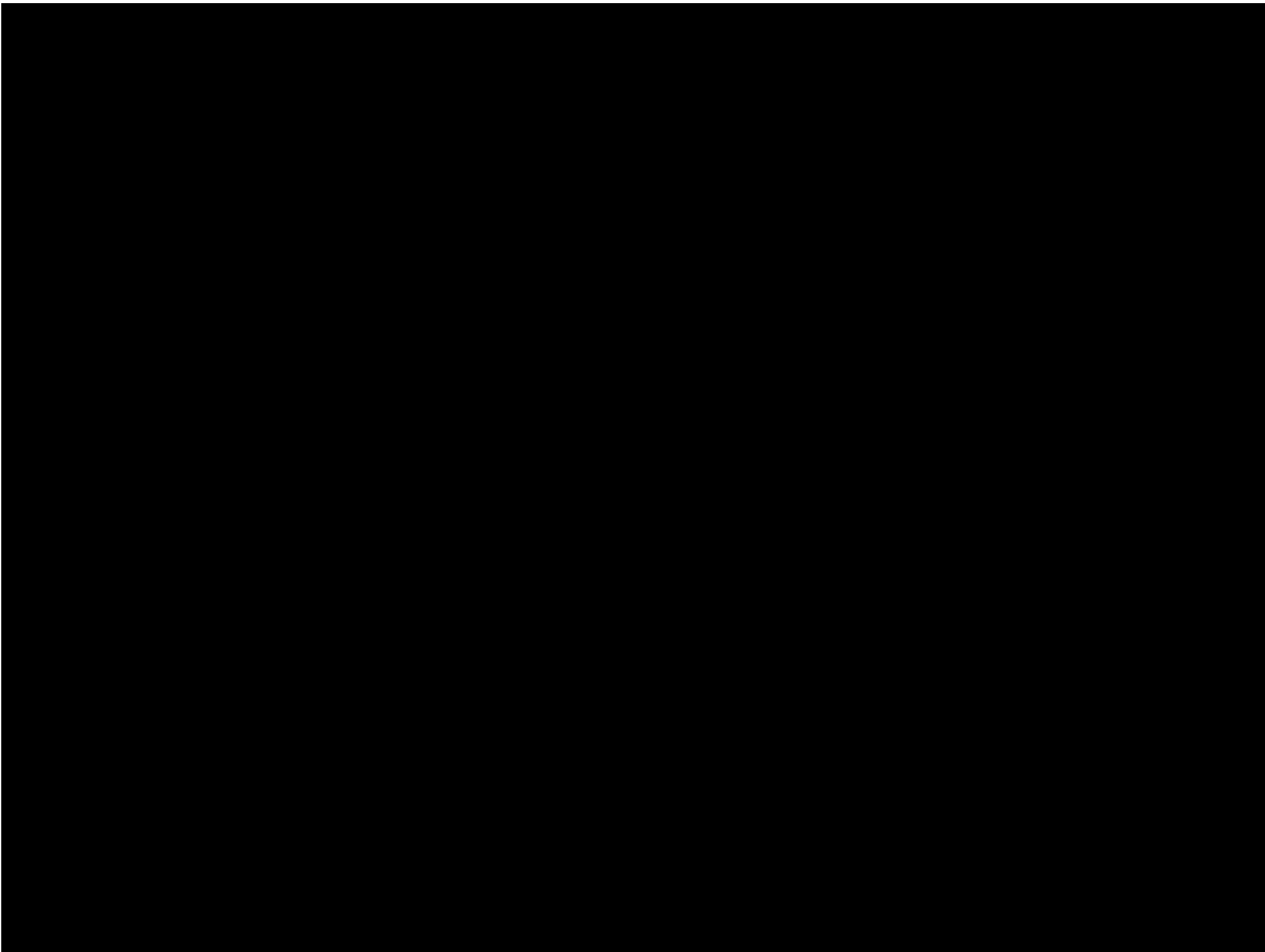
**Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:**

O happy ones and holy!

**Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.**



**Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed
By schisms rent asunder
By heresies distressed
Yet saints their watch are keeping
Their cry goes up how long
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song**



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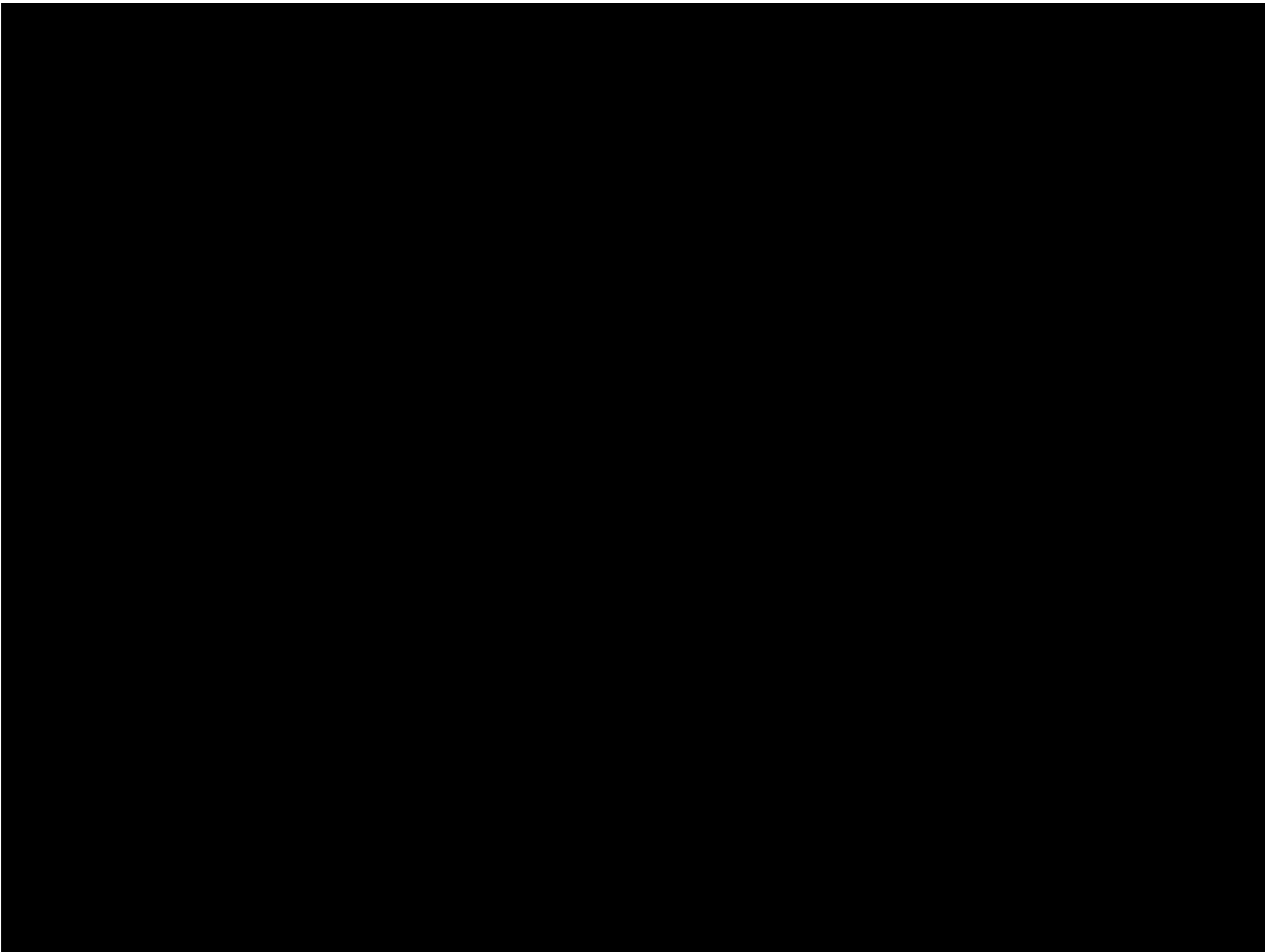
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