

A man in a blue shirt and dark shorts is running through a park with green trees. In the background, a city skyline with tall buildings is visible under a bright, hazy sky. The word "Perseverance" is overlaid in large white text with a black outline.

# Perseverance

*Soteriology: God's Rescue Program*

***Do all true Christians die in fellowship with the Lord?***



***In other words, does all believers persevere in faith or can they sometimes fall away (not consider themselves Christian, not trust in God anymore, etc.)?***

***What is the key issue here?***

**Some love running.**



**Some quit.**



# The Christian life is a race



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



# Some quit the Christian race



# "They used to be here."



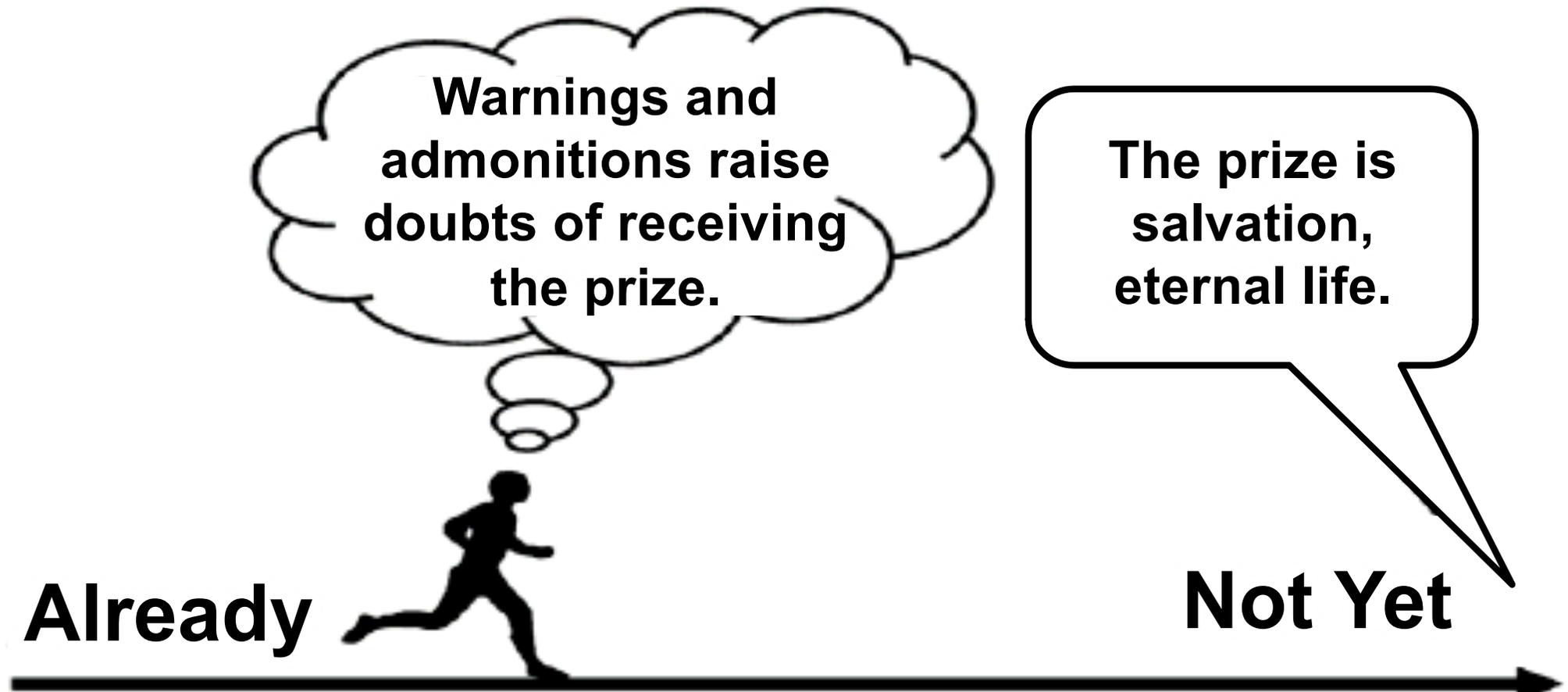
- **Divorce**
- **College doubts**
- **Living together**
- **Living apart**

How long will *you* run with  
Christ?



# 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.

# What is meant by “perseverance of the saints”?

**“I assert...that the perseverance by which we persevere in Christ even to the end is the gift of God”**

**“It is uncertain whether anyone has received this gift so long as he is still alive”  
—referring to the gift of being elect and finally persevering**

**Both quotes from Augustine, *Anti-Pelagian Works*, 15:172**

# The Synod of Dort (1619) supported perseverance

**“By such enormous sins, however, they very highly offend God, incur a deadly guilt, grieve the Holy Spirit, interrupt the exercise of faith, very grievously wound their consciences, and sometimes lose the sense of God’s favor, **for a time, until on their returning into the right way by serious repentance,** the light of God’s fatherly countenance again shines upon them.”**

# **The Westminster Confession (1646) supported perseverance**

**“They whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.”**

# Reformed Theologian John Gerstner supports perseverance

**“Theologically speaking, it refers to the fifth point of the Calvinistic doctrinal system that true Christians will continue in faith and holiness forever. Thus Jonathan Edwards finds the very definition of a Christian to be, according to John 8:31, one who continues in the Word of Christ.”**

John Gerstner, "Perseverance," in *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Everett F. Harrison (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1960), 403-4

# 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**

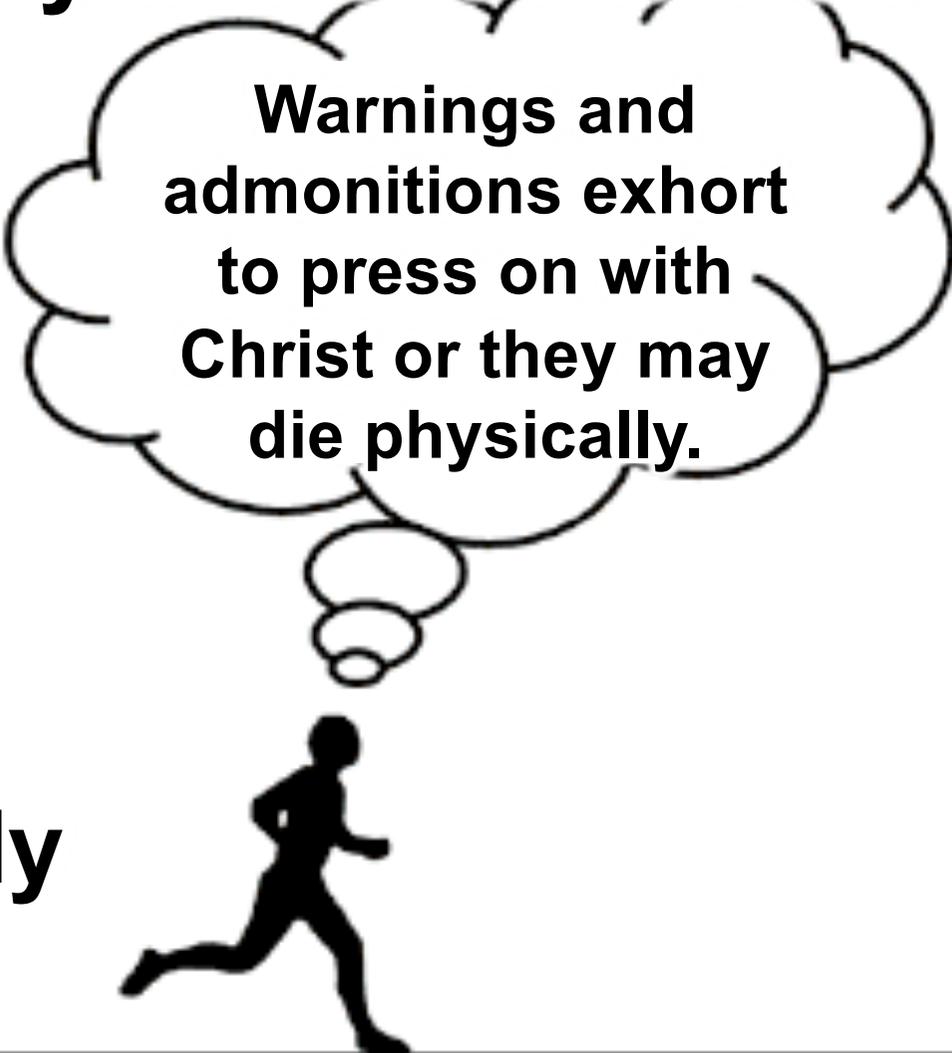
**The race represents salvation.**

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

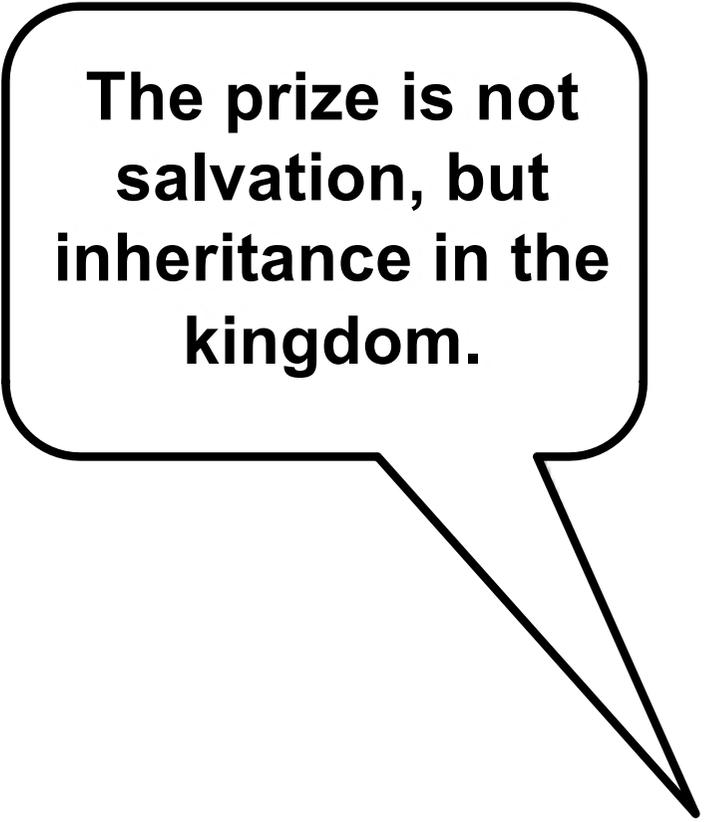
# The Loss of Life View

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(held by Randall Gleason & 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.

# The Apparent Contradiction Between Paul and James on Faith and Works

"For we maintain that a man is **justified by faith** apart from observing the law"  
(Romans 3:28)



"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not **accompanied by action**, is dead"  
(James 2:17)

"...a man is not justified by observing the law **but by faith** in Jesus Christ..."  
(Galatians 2:16)



"You see that a person is justified by what he does and **not by faith alone**"  
(James 2:24)

# Martin Luther and James



**James "contradicted" Paul**  
**James is "a right strawy epistle"**  
**James shouldn't be in the Bible**

# Two Proposed Ways to Reconcile Romans 3 and James 2

1. James wrote this to criticize Paul's teaching on faith
2. James wrote before Paul began his writing career.

\* Some scholars (Davids, Adamson, Hiebert, and Kristemaker) say James is an early book. James probably draws more from oral tradition than other NT books, so he reflects early church beliefs which accounts for the ethical, rather than theological focus. Still, other scholars suggest a later date and others even claim a two-stage development.

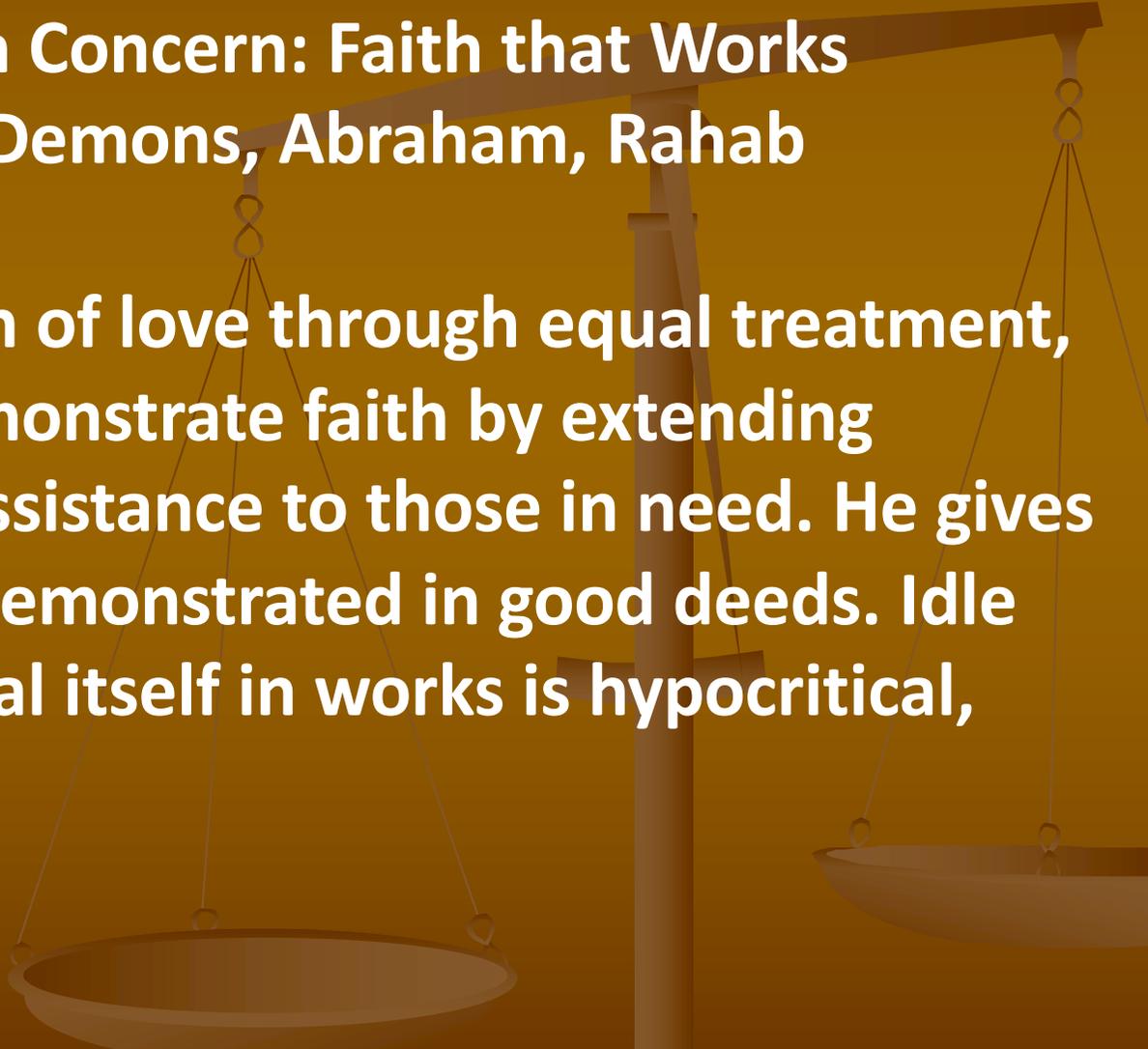
# Overview of 2:14-26

## 2:14-26 Faith and Deeds: Theological Unity

2:14-18 James's Main Concern: Faith that Works

2:19-26 3 Examples: Demons, Abraham, Rahab

From the demonstration of love through equal treatment, James calls them to demonstrate faith by extending practical and tangible assistance to those in need. He gives examples of true faith demonstrated in good deeds. Idle faith that does not reveal itself in works is hypocritical, unproductive and dead.



# The Lordship Salvation Debate

Accept Christ as...

Savior & Lord

Savior then Lord

Savior alone

What Does Jesus Mean  
When He Says,  
"Follow Me"?

**THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING  
TO JESUS**

*Revised & Expanded Edition*



**John F.  
MacArthur, Jr.**

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SALVATION**

What It Means  
to Believe  
In Jesus Christ

FOREWORD BY WARREN W. WIERSBE

**CHARLES C. RYRIE**

A Biblical Reply  
to Lordship Salvation

**ABSOLUTELY  
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**Zane C. Hodges**

# If we are justified by faith alone, then what is the role of works?

- Paul addresses one question:  
How is salvation experienced?
- James answers a different question:  
How is true and saving faith recognized?
- By faith alone  
(Romans 3:28)
- *By faith's fruits*  
(James 2:14-26)
- Simple belief
- *Belief simply shown through works*

# Romans Versus James

<b>Book</b>	<b>Romans</b>	<b>James</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>James</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>A.D. 56</b>	<b>A.D. 44-48</b>
<b>Justification is a</b>	<b>technical term</b>	<b>non-technical term</b>
<b>Justification is before</b>	<b>God (vertical)</b>	<b>Man (horizontal)</b>
<b>The faith is</b>	<b>at beginning of salvation</b>	<b>after salvation</b>
<b>Emphasis is upon</b>	<b>faith</b>	<b>works</b>

# James: Ways Faith is Seen...

## Faith is Revealed through Works Because Faith...

Rejoices in Difficulty	Obeys the Word	Avoids Favor- itism	Produces Works	Speaks Wisely	Produces Humility	Triumphs
1:1-18	1:19-27	2:1-13	2:14-26	3	4:1-5:6	5:7-20
Salutation Trials Temptations	Listening Anger Obedience Speech Compassion Purity	Discrimination Materialism Egalitarianism	Meeting Needs Validation	Influence Untamable Use Wisdom	Conflict Judging Presumption	Suffering Prayer Confrontation

Jerusalem

AD 44-47

# The Main Idea of James 2:14-26

**Others see  
genuine faith in  
works!**



## 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)



# Warning 1

**Abandoning Jesus  
brings discipline  
(2:1-4).**



# Warning 2

**Abandoning Jesus  
forfeits our future rule  
(3:7-19).**



# Warning 3

**Rejecting Christ can  
lead to **physical death**  
(6:4-8).**

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

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**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.**



# Warning 4

**Willful sin can lead to  
physical death  
(10:26-31).**

"...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  
terrible expectation of  
God's judgment and the  
raging fire that will  
consume his enemies"  
(10:26-27 NLT).

ARE THESE  
PEOPLE  
CHRISTIANS?

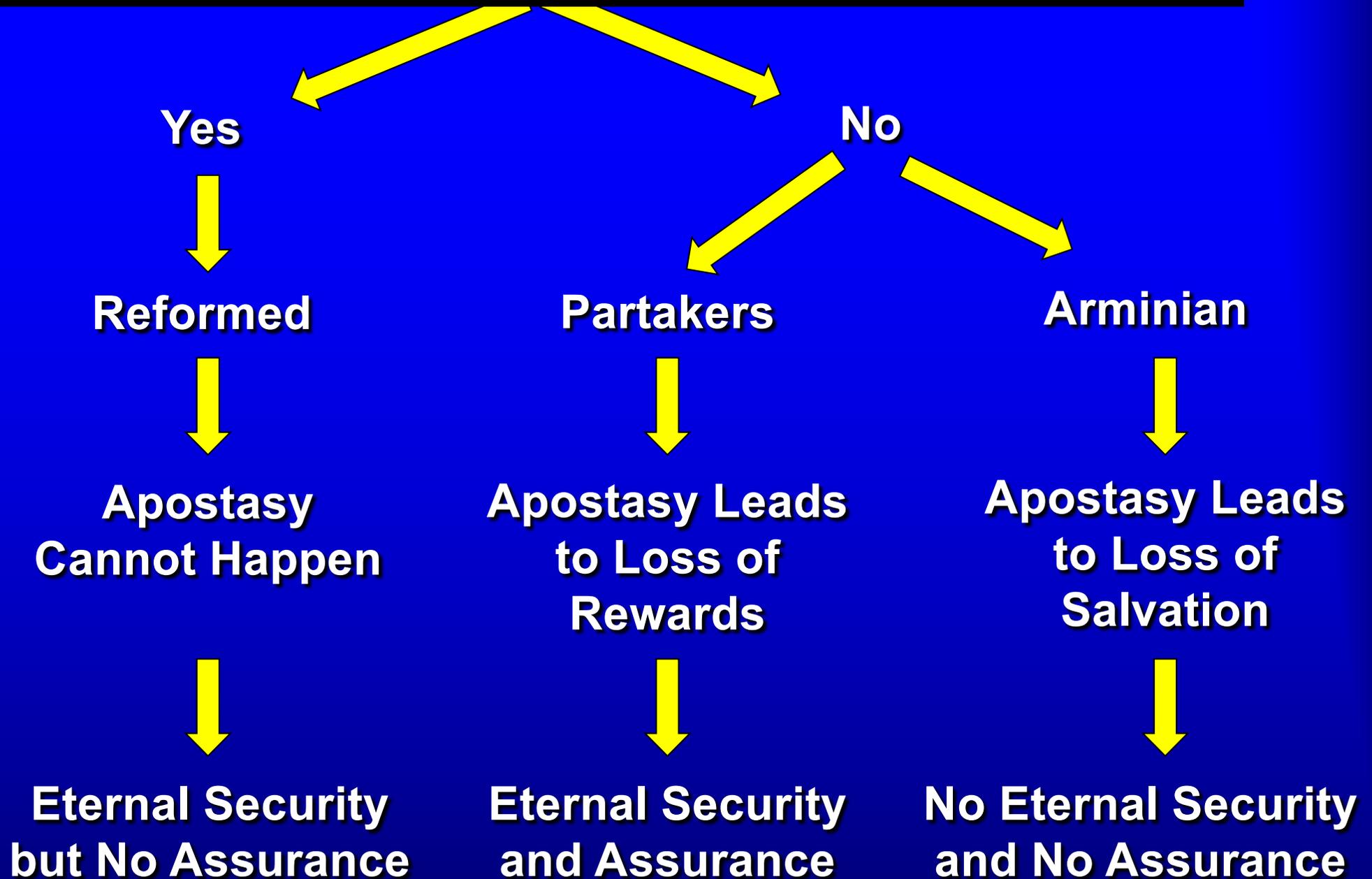
YES!

# Why believers?

**The letter repeatedly refers to the readers as believers.  
They had already professed this hope in Christ (10:23).  
They should build one another up in the faith (10:24-25).  
They had "received the knowledge of the truth" (10:26).  
The author was also could sin like this (10:26).  
They had been "sanctified" (10:29).  
They had faithfully suffered for Christ (10:32-34).  
They had confidence in the Lord (10:35).  
They needed only to persevere in that faith (10:36).  
They were deemed among "the righteous" (10:38).**

# Will each genuine Christian persevere in faithfulness at death?

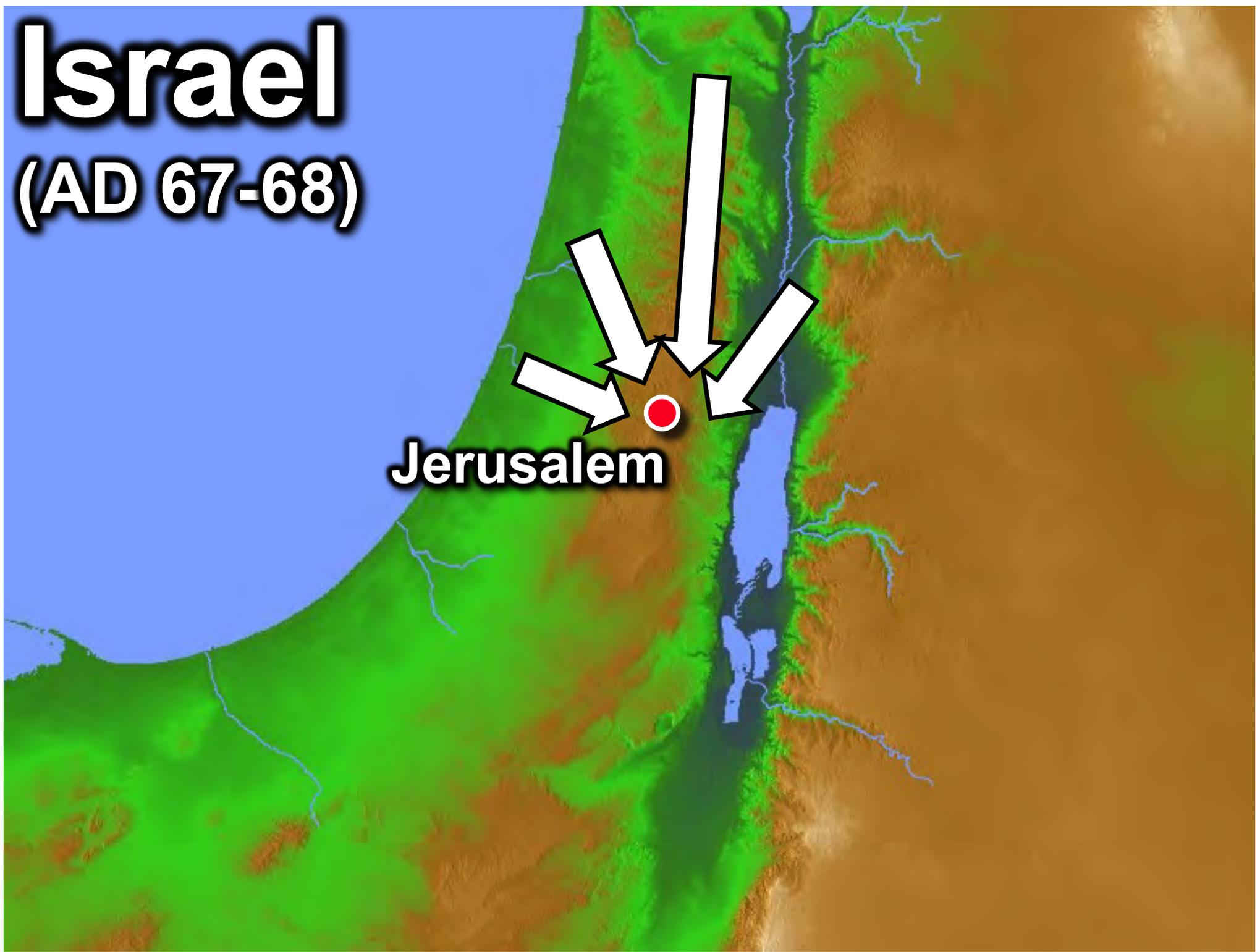
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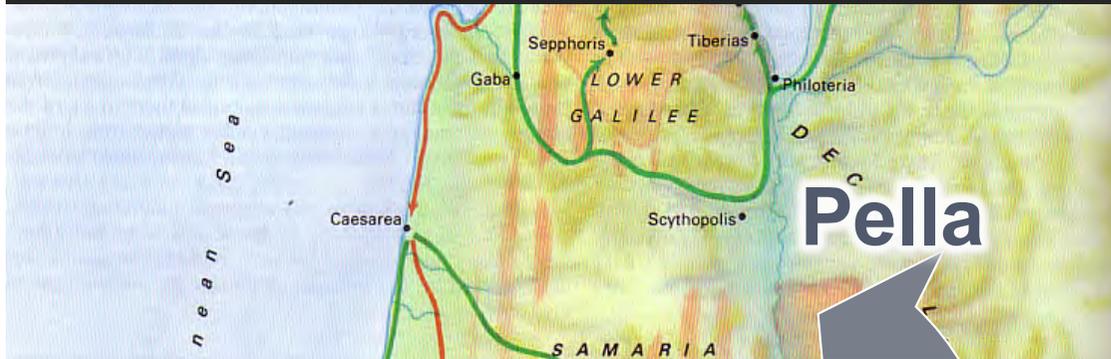
# Jerusalem Christians

# Israel (AD 67-68)



**Jerusalem**

# What happened to the Christians in Jerusalem?



A revelation told them to find protection in Pella.





**Jerusalem Christians left**

# First Century Jerusalem



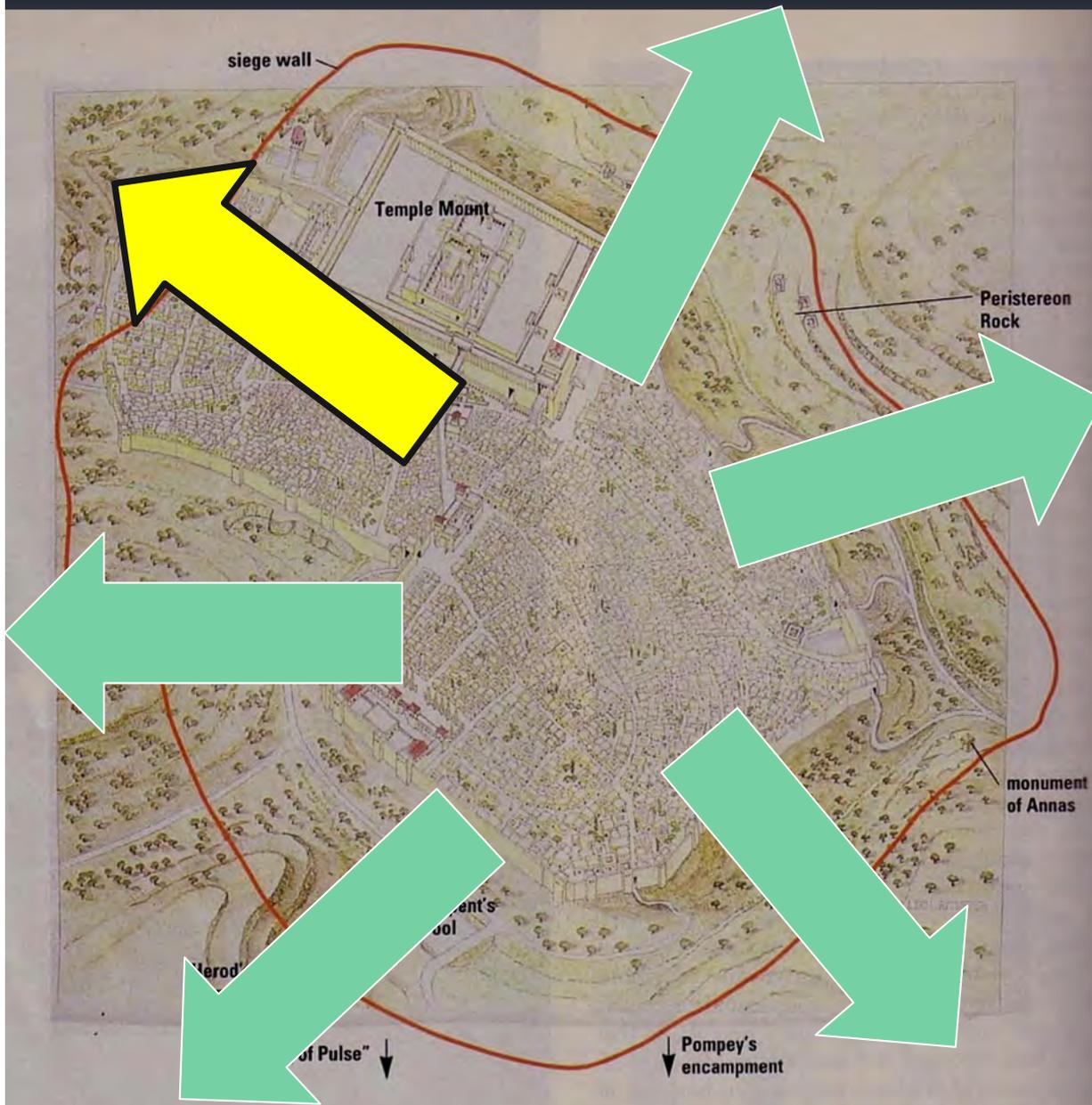
# The Fire

"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!**

# Application: "Leave Jerusalem"



"So also **Jesus** suffered and died **outside the city gates** to make his people holy by means of his own blood"

(Heb. 13:12 NLT)

<sup>13</sup> So let us go out to him, outside the camp, and bear the disgrace he bore"

(Heb. 13:13 NLT)

# Jeremiah's Application: "Leave Jerusalem"



Jeremiah 24 portrayed all the Jews as two types of figs during Babylon's siege:

**1. The "bad figs" who refused to submit to God's discipline by the Babylonians would disobey God by staying in the city and dying.**

**2. The "good figs" would spare their lives by leaving the city to surrender to the Babylonians outside!**

**Jeremiah 24 Figs**

**AD 70 was no different!**

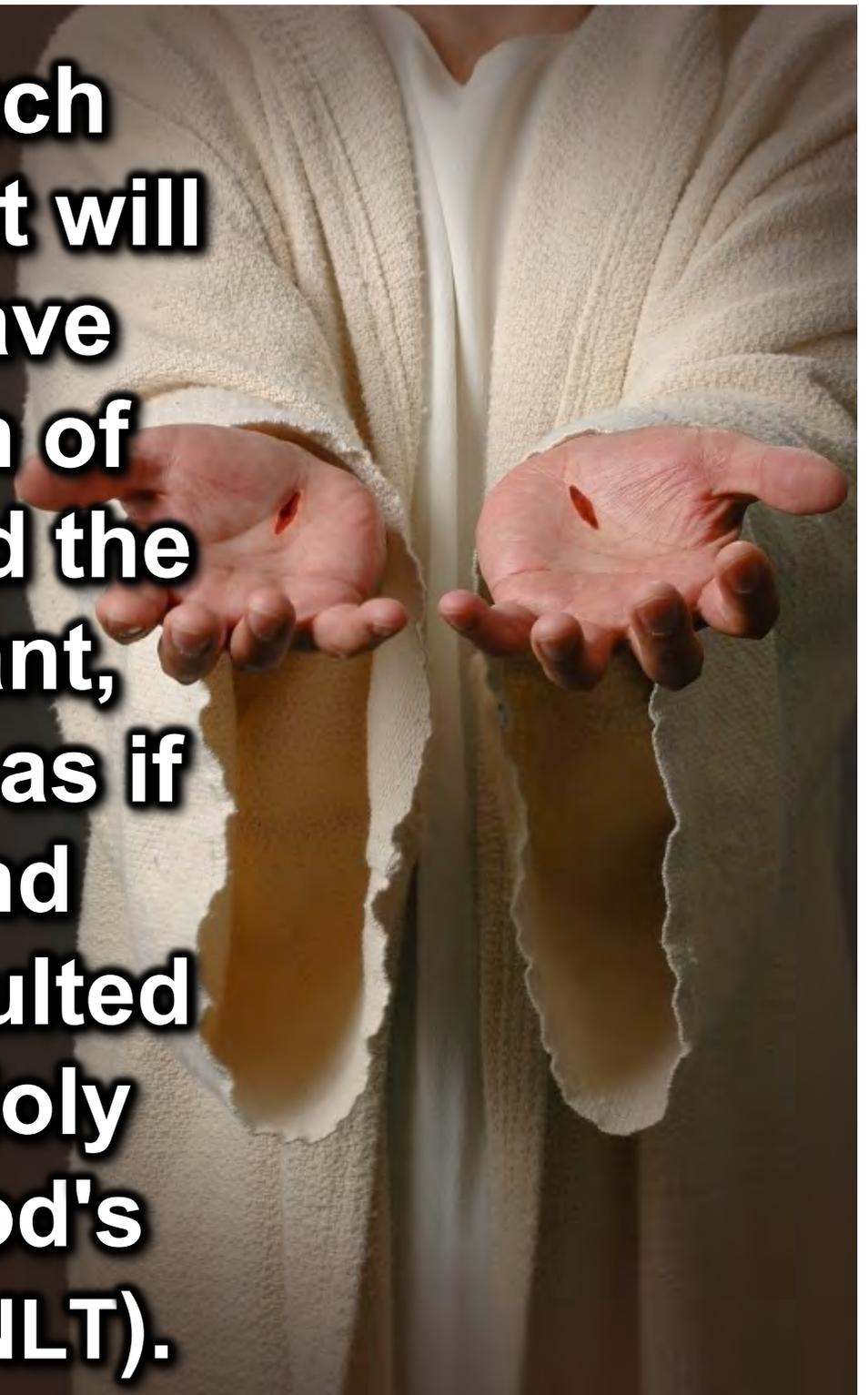
# OT Discipline



**"For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses" (10:28; cf. Num. 15:30-36 NLT).**



**"Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us" (10:29 NLT).**



# Worse Than Death?

**"This kind of spiritual rebellion clearly calls for a much worse punishment than the capital penalty that was inflicted under the Mosaic setup. But again the writer was not thinking of hell. Many forms of divine retribution can fall on a human life which are worse than immediate death. In fact, Jeremiah made just such a complaint about the punishment inflicted on Jerusalem (Lam. 4:6, 9). One might think also of King Saul, whose last days were burdened with such mental and emotional turmoil that death itself was a kind of release" (Zane C. Hodges, *BKC*, 2:806)**



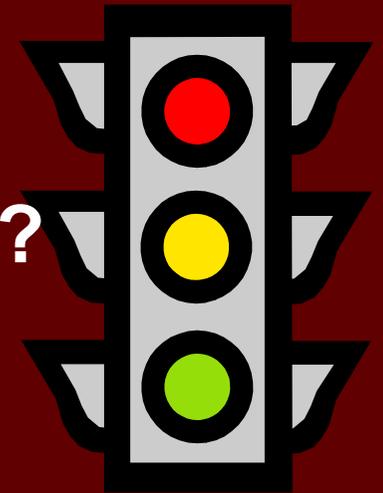
# Protection for Believers in the Resurrection

**"For we know the one who said,  
'I will take revenge.  
I will pay them back.'**

**He also said,  
'The LORD will judge his own people.'**

**<sup>31</sup>It is a terrible thing to fall into the  
hands of the living God" (10:30-31 NLT).**

# Views on the Warning Passages

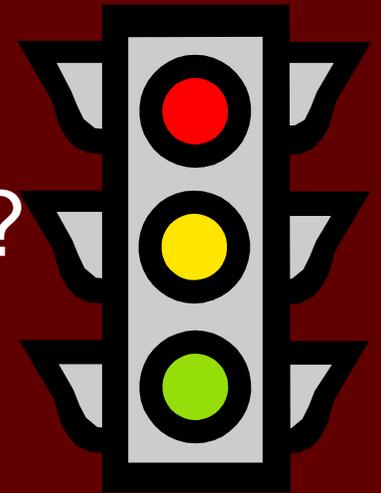


What group of Jews is being addressed ?

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

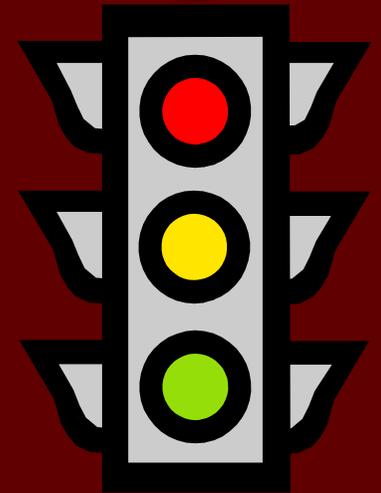
What is the nature of their punishment ?



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

# Views on the Warning Passages

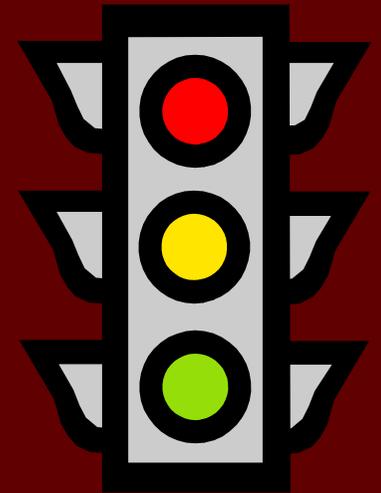
What is the result ?



False Believer	Former Believer	Carnal Believer
Hell	Hell	Divine Discipline

# Views on the Warning Passages

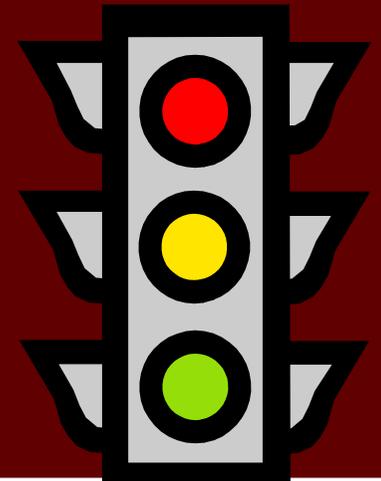
Which theological perspective holds to this view ?



False Believer	Former Believer	Carnal Believer
Reformed	Arminian	Partakers

# Views on the Warning Passages

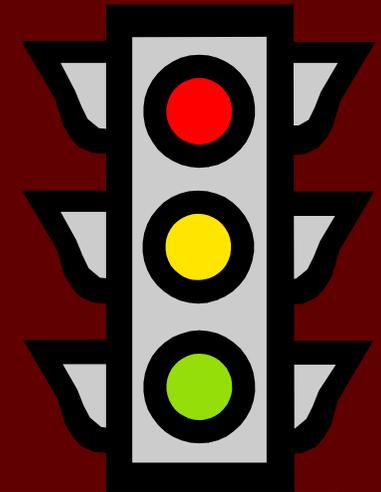
## Strengths



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 Jewish War (AD 66-73)



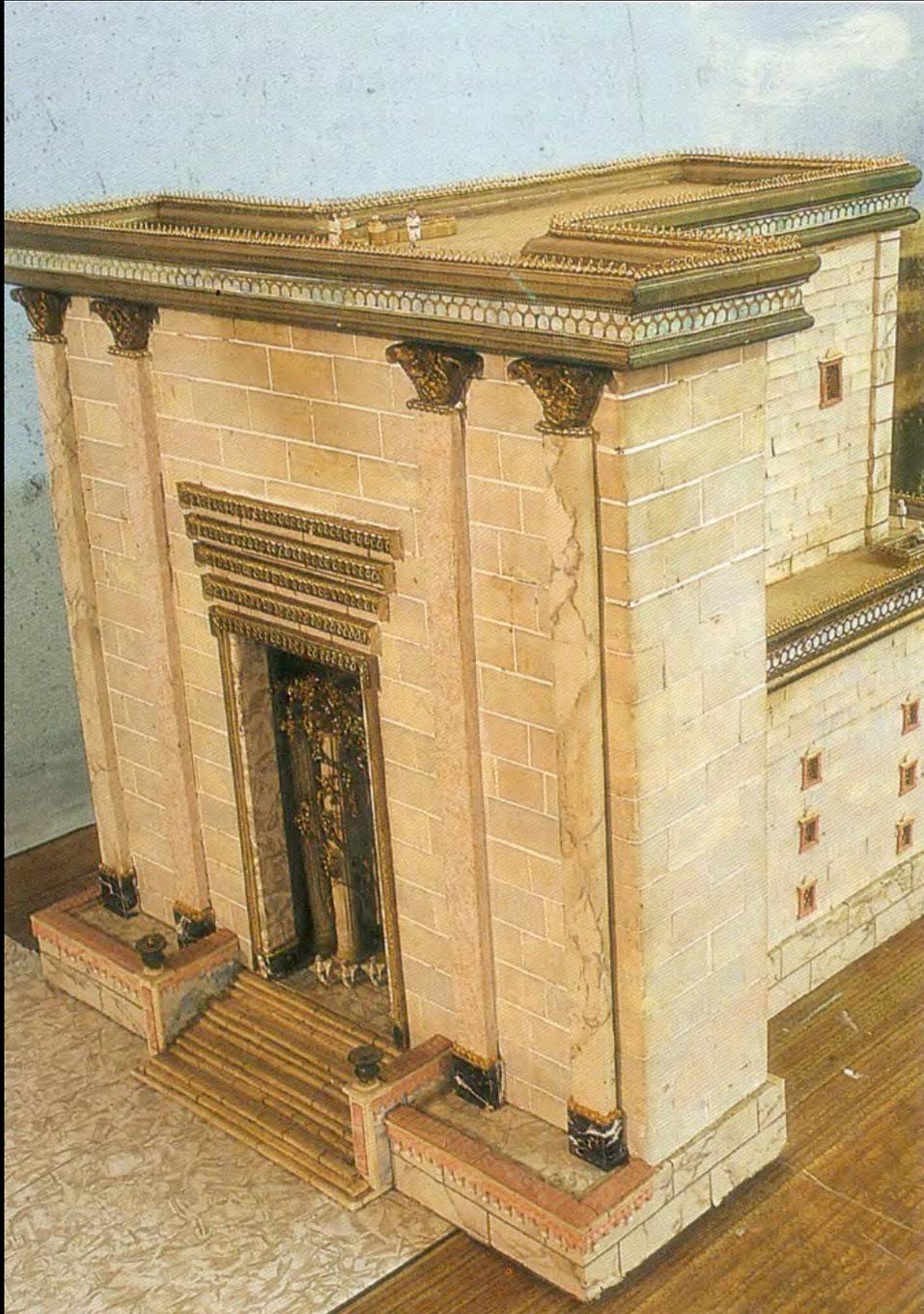
- Caesarea desecration
- Jerusalem revolt
- Temple sacrifice for Nero stopped
- Rome sent Vespasian
- Nero died
- Siege of Jerusalem by Titus (April-Sept. 70)



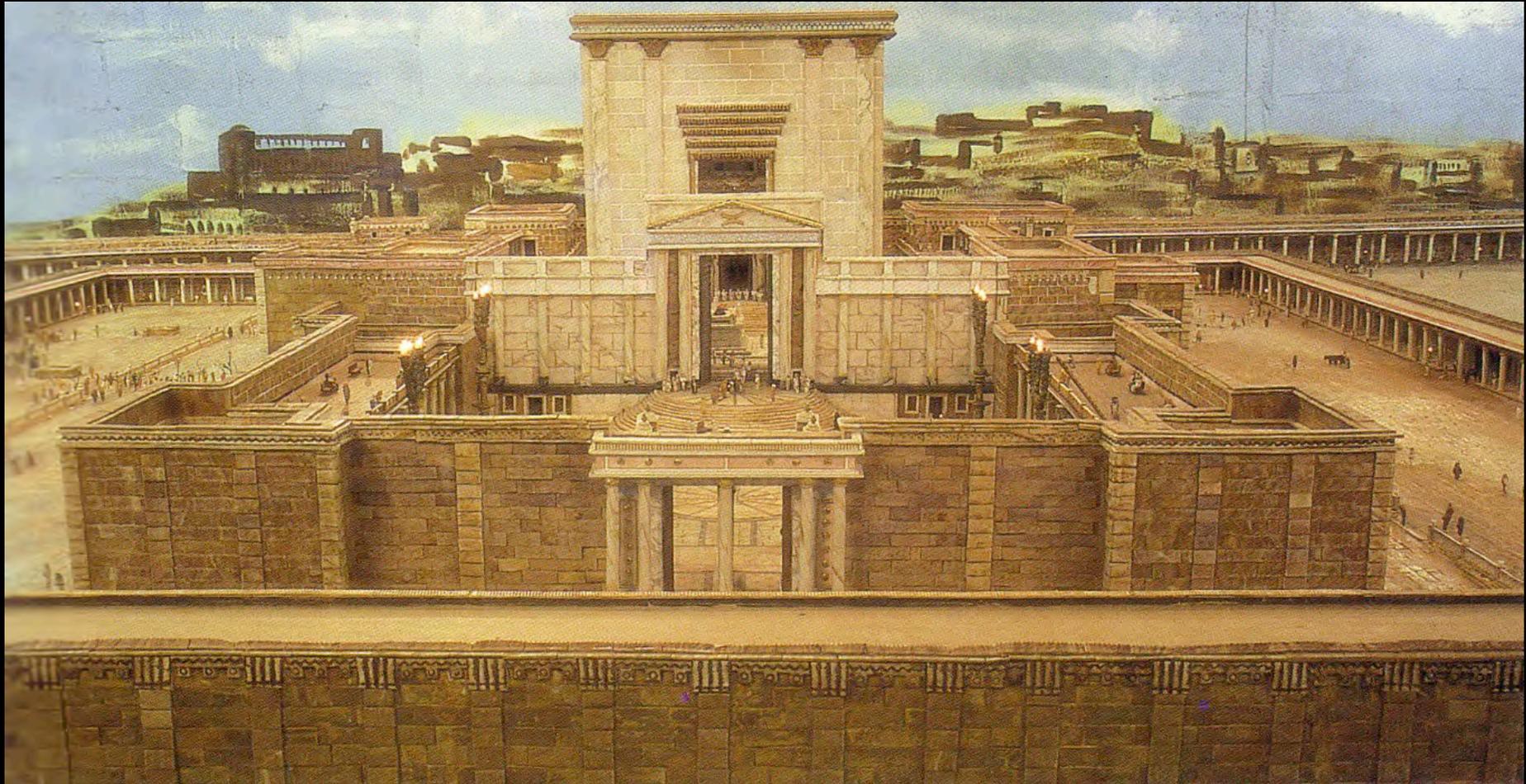
# Jerusalem Siege Wall (AD 70)



Josephus notes that a siege wall surrounded the entire city, including the tomb of Annas, located among the tombs of Akeldama. This lends support to these being a wealthy burial place (not Potter's Field).



# The Temple Sanctuary



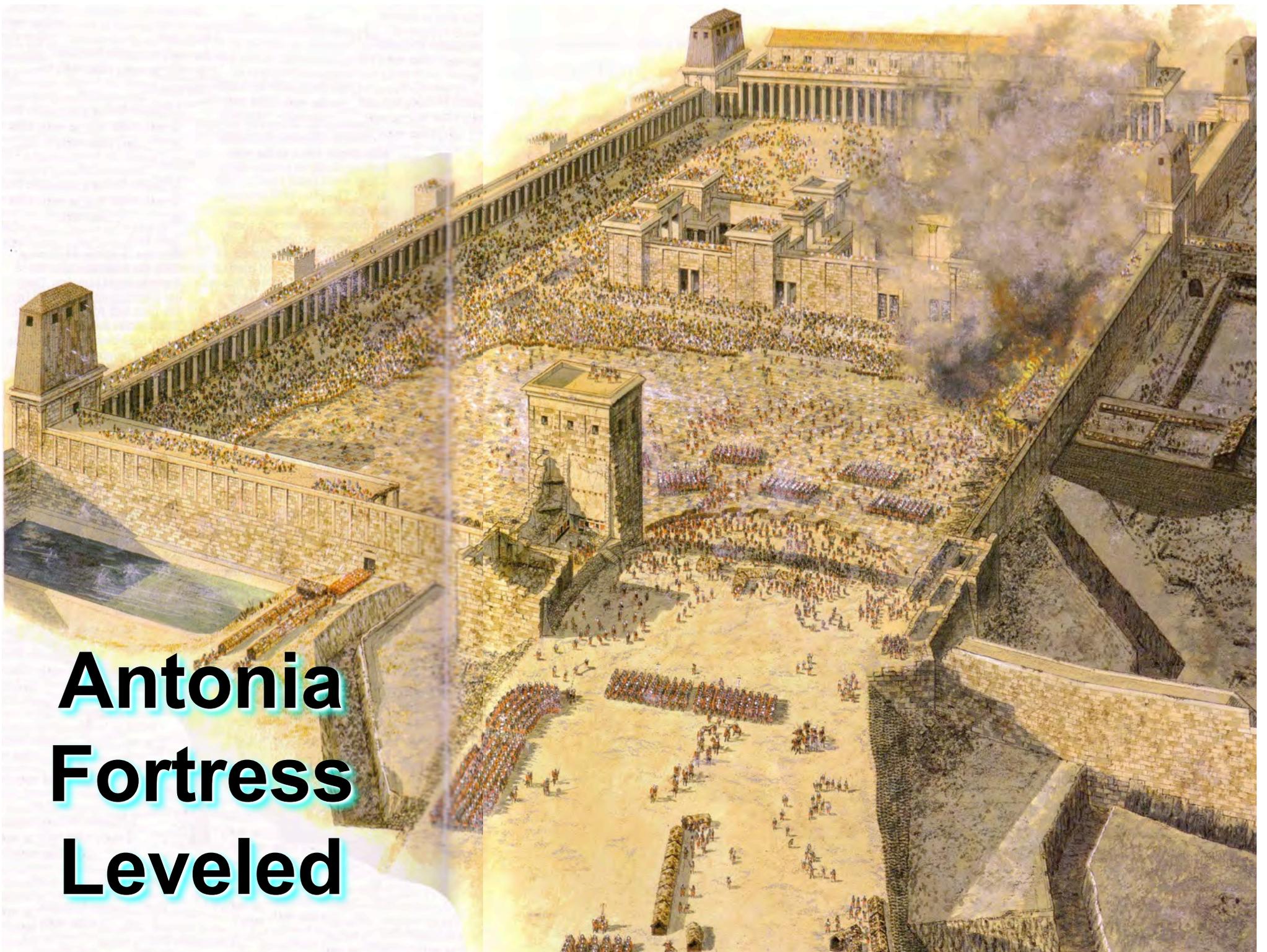
The Temple from the east

# Antonia Fortress



Struthion Pool



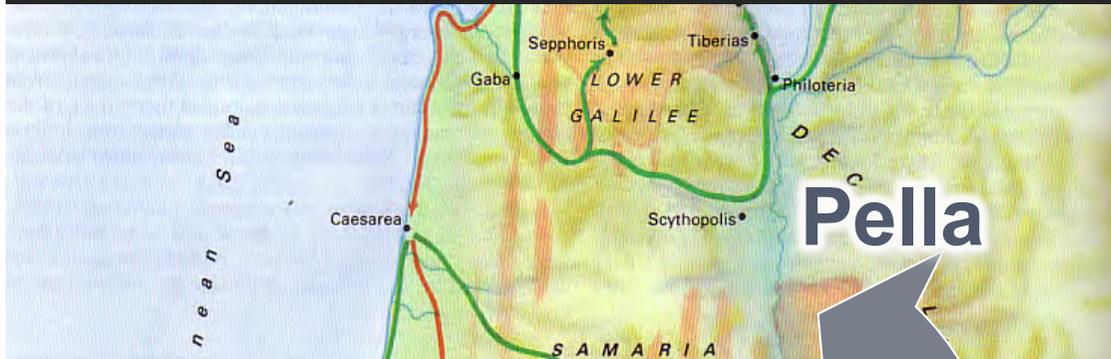


# Antonia Fortress Leveled

# The Temple Assault



# What happened to the Christians in Jerusalem?



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# 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!**

# Hebrews 8:13

*"By calling this covenant 'new,' he has made the first one **obsolete**; and what is obsolete and aging will soon **disappear**."*

**Obsolete**

**AD 33**

**Hebrews Written**

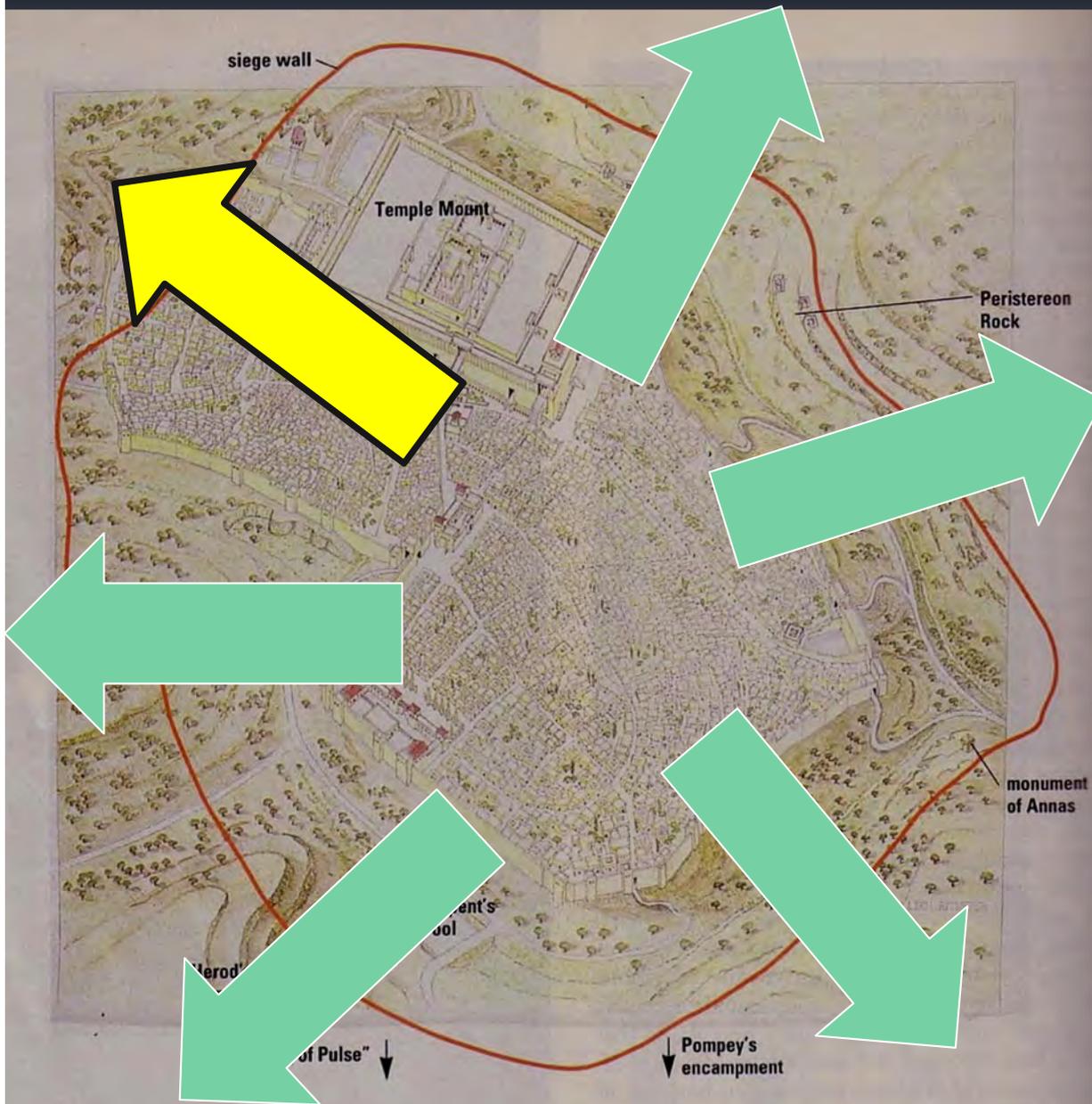
**AD 67-68**

**Disappeared**

**AD 70**



# Application: "Leave Jerusalem"



"So also **Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates** to make his people holy by means of his own blood"

(Heb. 13:12 NLT)

**13 So let us go out to him, outside the camp, and bear the disgrace he bore"**

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**AD 70 was no different!**

# The Problem with Labels

48

*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**

**Jody Dillow is the key author of the Partakers View**



# **Final Destiny**

*The Future Reign of the  
Servant Kings*

*Joseph Dillow*



# **Perseverance** versus **Free Grace**

**"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing..."  
(Matt 7:15)**

**Promises to Overcomers:  
"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown"  
(Rev 3:11 NLT).**

*What is the crown of life offered in James 1:12?  
What are the conditions which must be met in  
order to receive the crown of life?*

- **It is the prize at the end of the race (2 Tim. 4:8), especially as the reward of faithful endurance (Rev. 2:10).**
- **The conditions are:**
  - **love for God**
  - **perseverance under trials**
  - **enduring the tests of faith**

*Can you think of any situation where the reward at the end is worth the struggle? Does that help you persevere in trials?*

**Christ promises rewards for perseverance (Rev. 3:11b).**



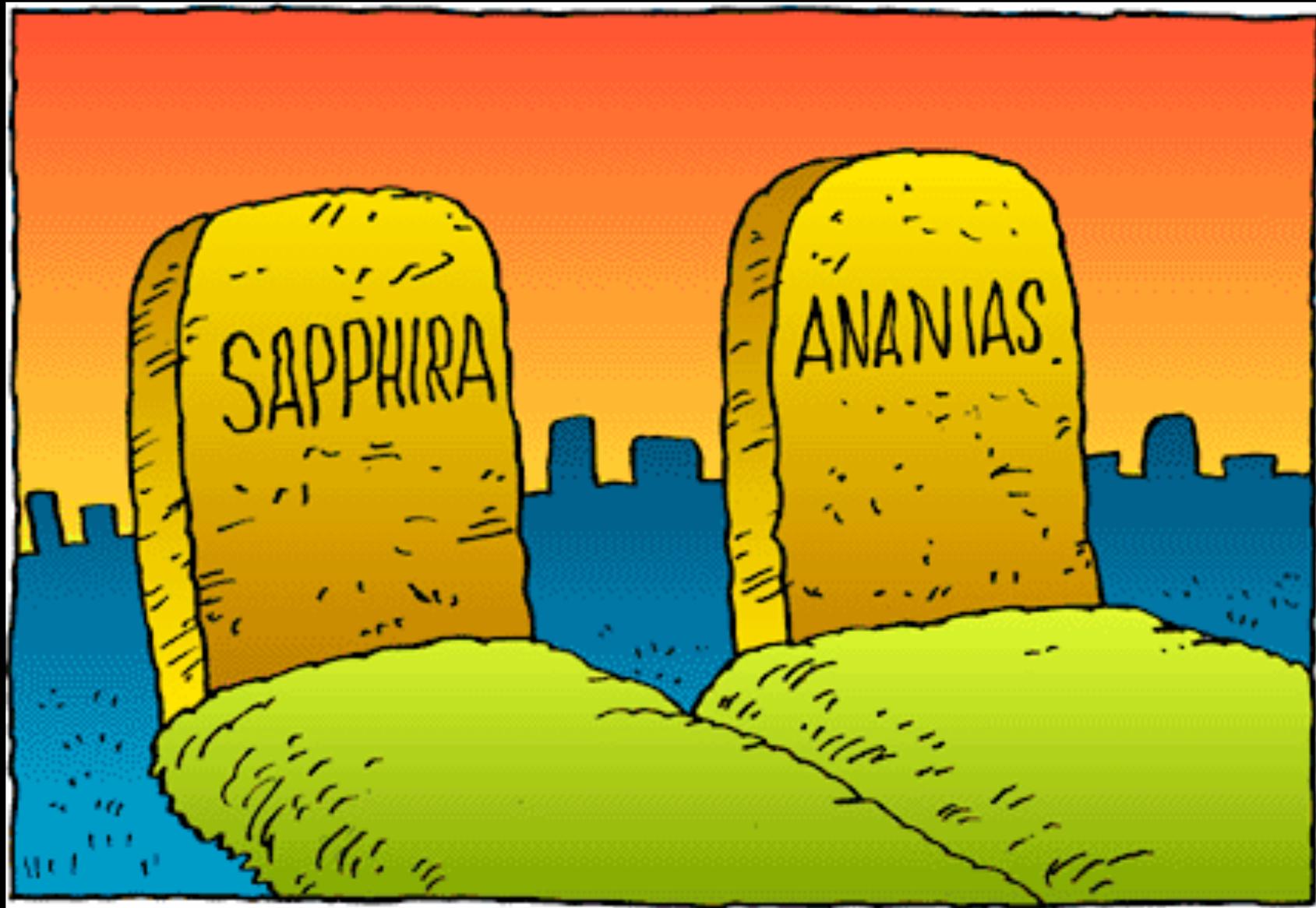
**"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown" (NLT).**

# Rewards can be lost!

**"Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward" (2 John 8 NLT)**



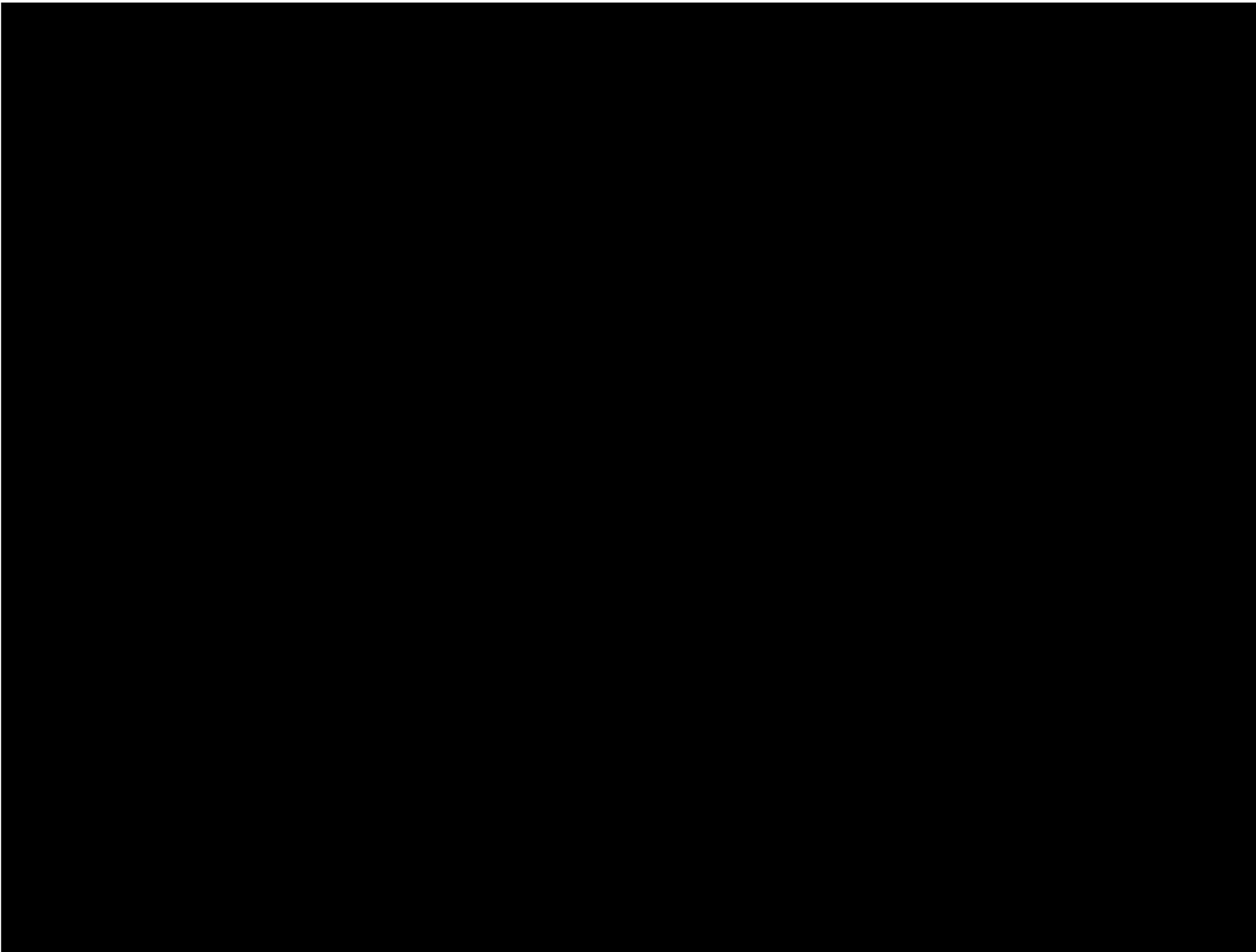
# Divine Discipline





***Press On!***

***The Main Idea of Hebrews***



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