

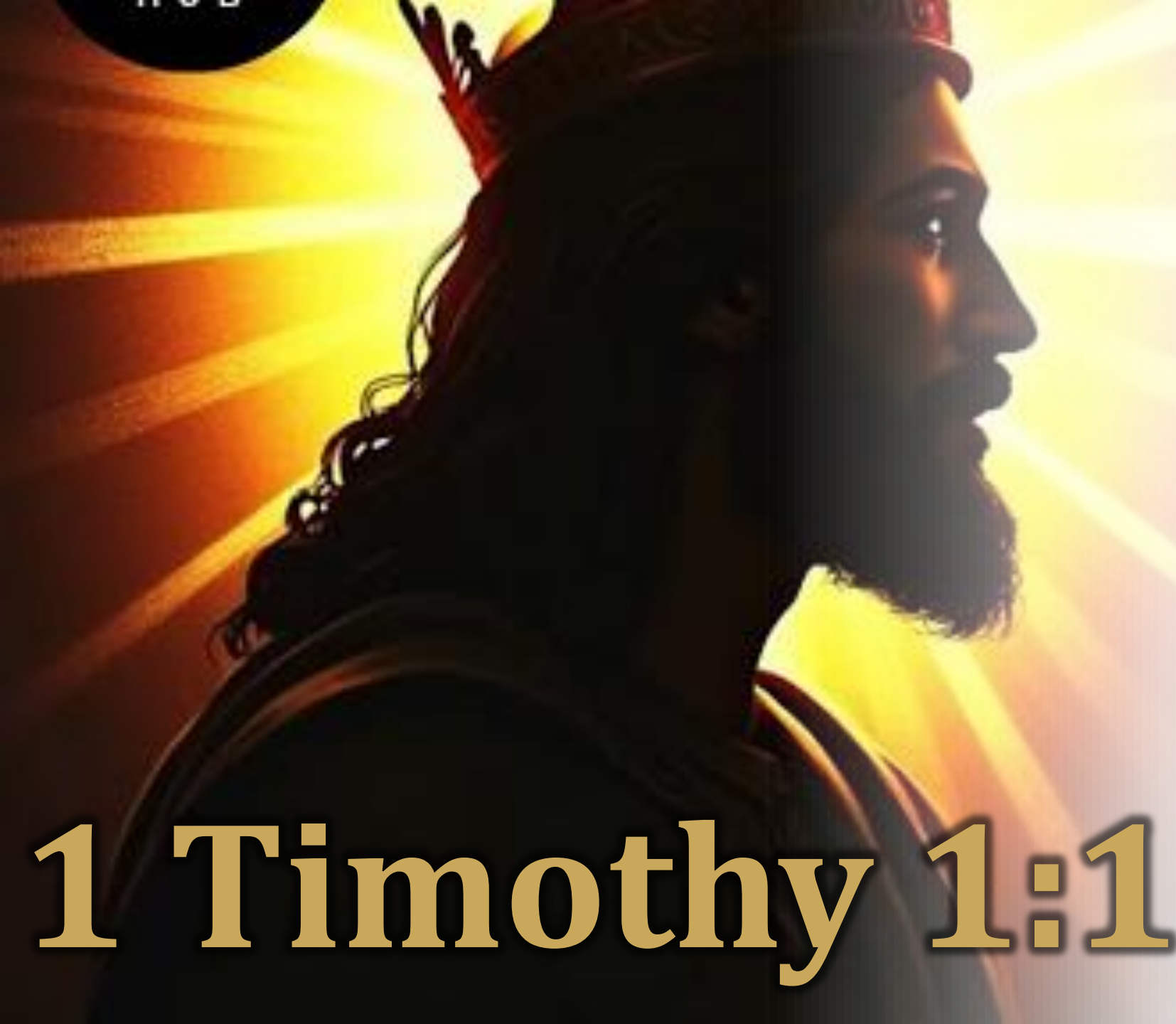
Faithful To The End

WORLD
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP





The Authority Behind the Message



*“Paul, an
apostle of Jesus
Christ, by the
commandment
of God our
Savior and the
Lord Jesus
Christ, our
hope.”*

1 Timothy 1:1



Crisis

The Crisis of Authority

INTRODUCTION

THE CRISIS OF AUTHORITY AND HUMANITY

The crisis is not
quantity but quality

The question that
confronted the
Pharisees still
confronts the church:
“By what authority?”

Matthew 21:23

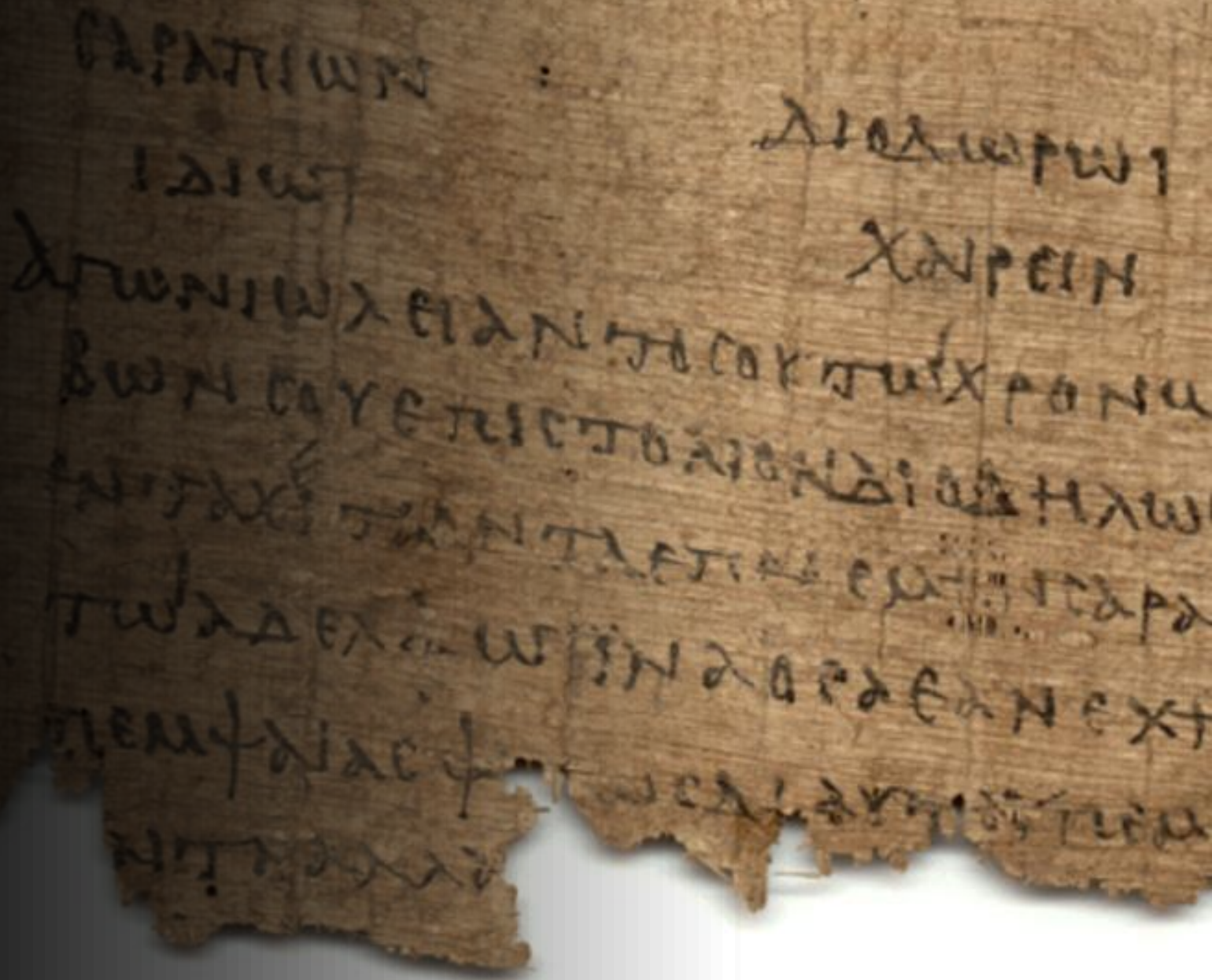


“Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?””

Paul Answers Before He Says Anything Else



sender,
recipient,
and
greeting



ΠΑΡΑΠΙΣΤΗ
ΙΔΙΩΤΗ
ΔΙΟΛΩΡΩ
ΧΑΥΡΕΙΝ
ΔΙΩΝΙΩ ΧΕΙΛΑΝΤΟ ΣΟΚΤΥΧΡΟΝ
ΒΩΝ ΣΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗΝ ΔΙΔΑΝ ΗΛΩ
ΕΝΤΑΧΕ ΤΑΝΤΑ ΕΤΙ ΕΜΕΙ ΤΑΡΑ
ΤΩ ΔΕΛΕΩ ΤΩΝ ΔΑΡΕΑΝ ΕΧΤ
ΕΜΦΘΙΑΣ Φ... ΕΛΛΑΝΤΙΣΤΕΡΑ
ΝΙΤΡΑΝ

Paul — The Man Behind the Letter

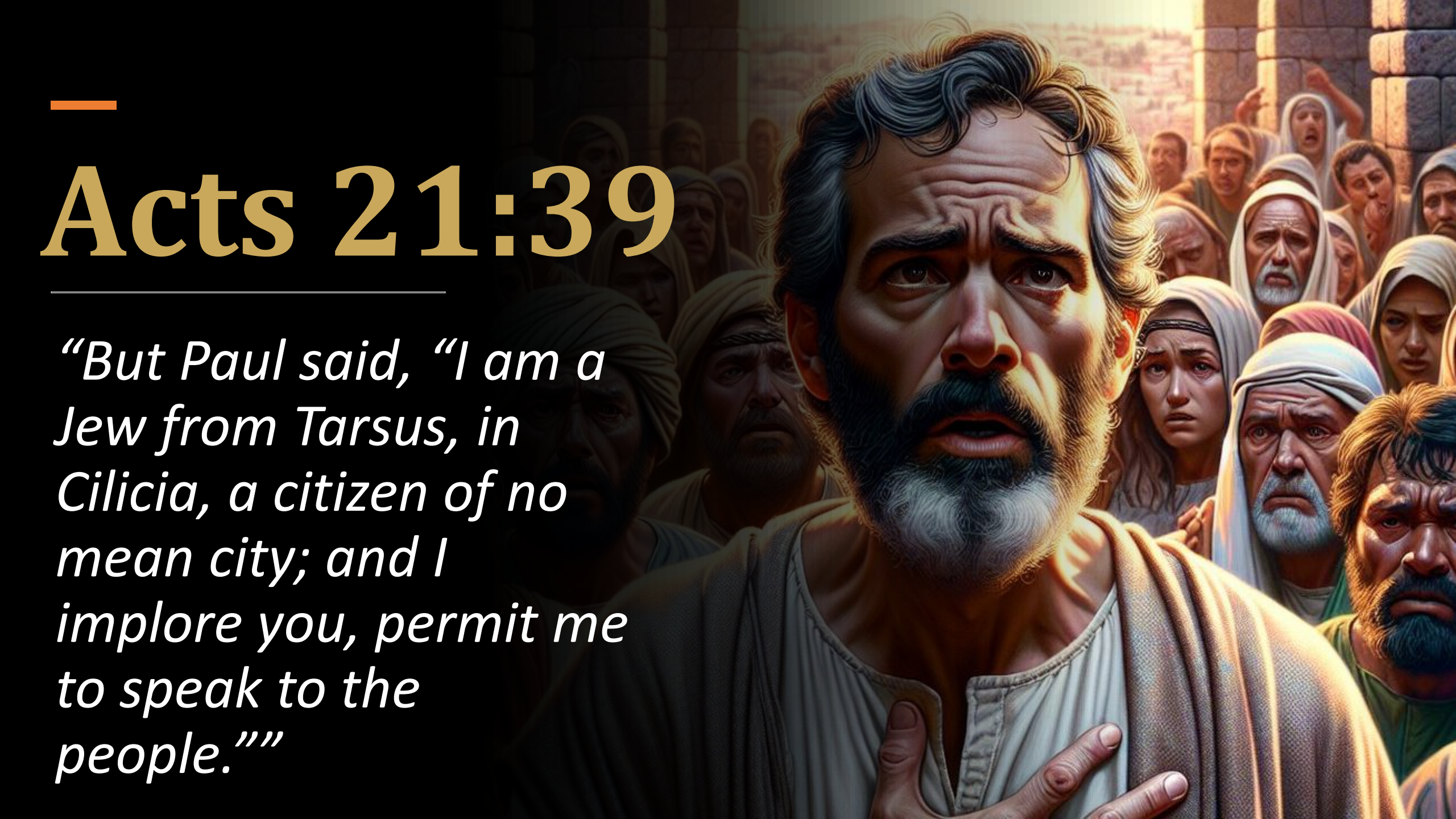




Saul of Tarsus

Born in Tarsus of
Cilicia — a
cosmopolitan city
where Greek, Roman,
and Jewish cultures
met





Acts 21:39

“But Paul said, “I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people.””

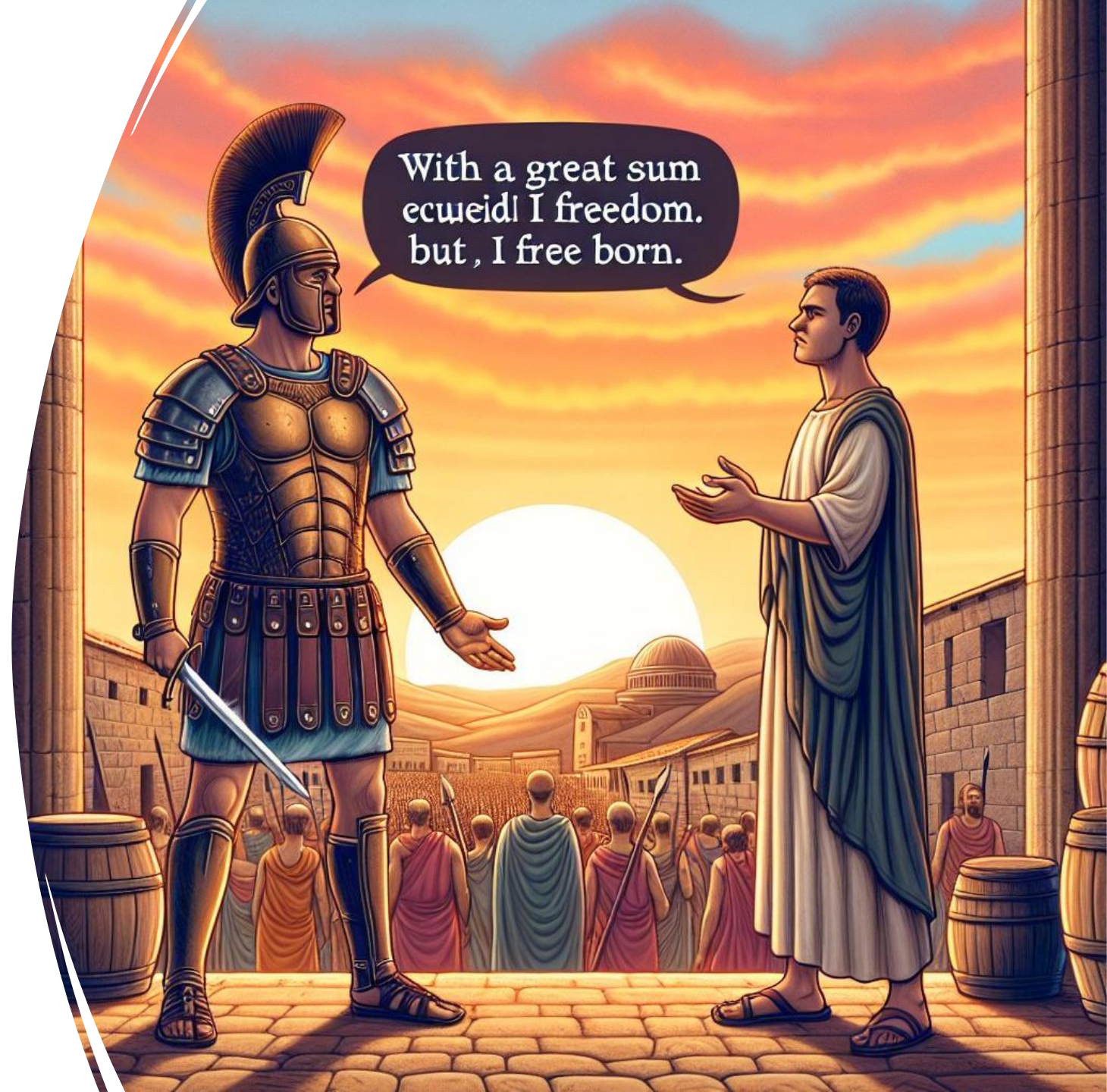


A Roman Citizen by Birth

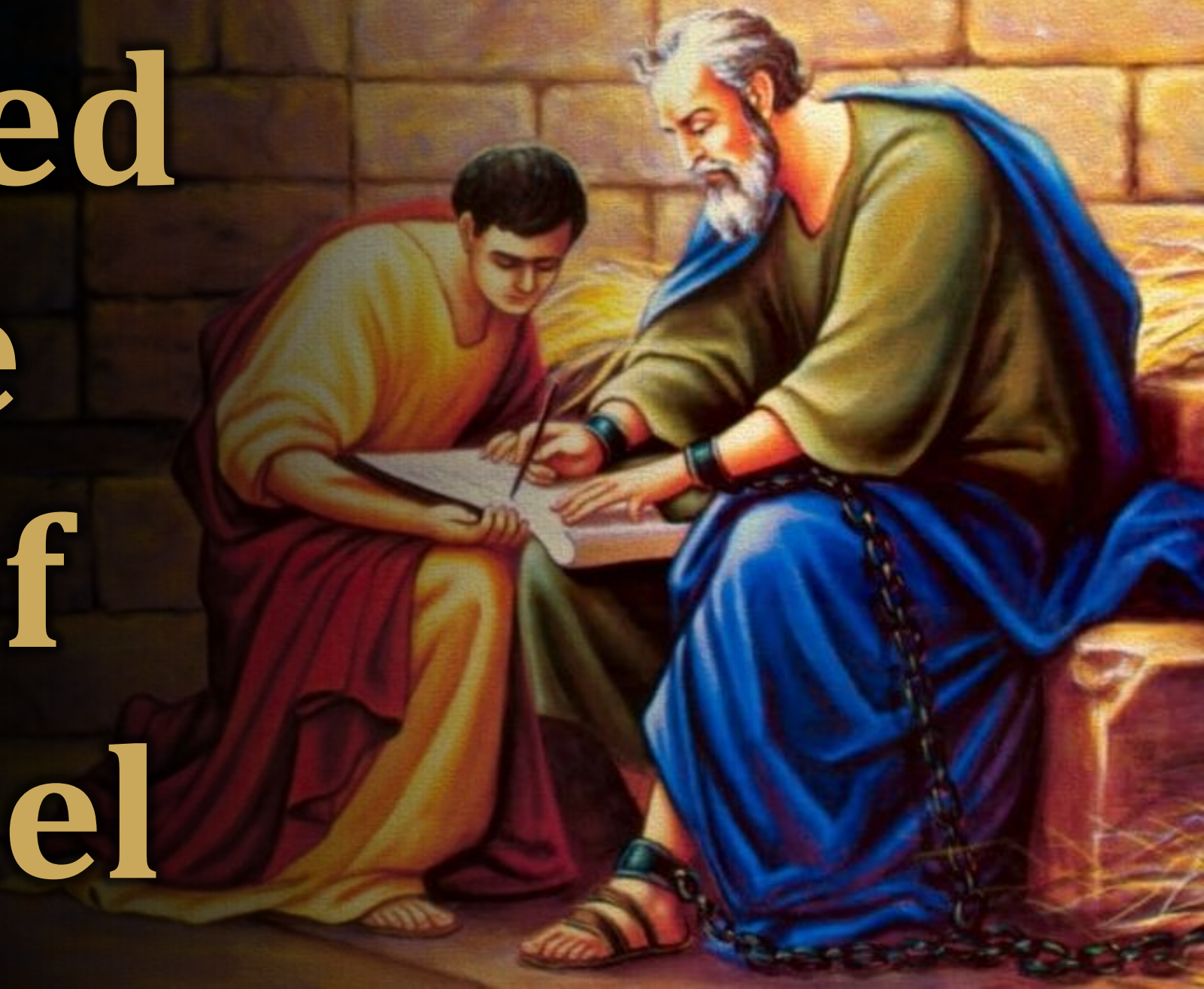
An extraordinary privilege — legal protections unavailable to most of the ancient world

Acts 22:28

“The commander answered, “With a large sum I obtained this citizenship.” And Paul said, “But I was born a citizen.””



Educated at the Feet of Gamaliel



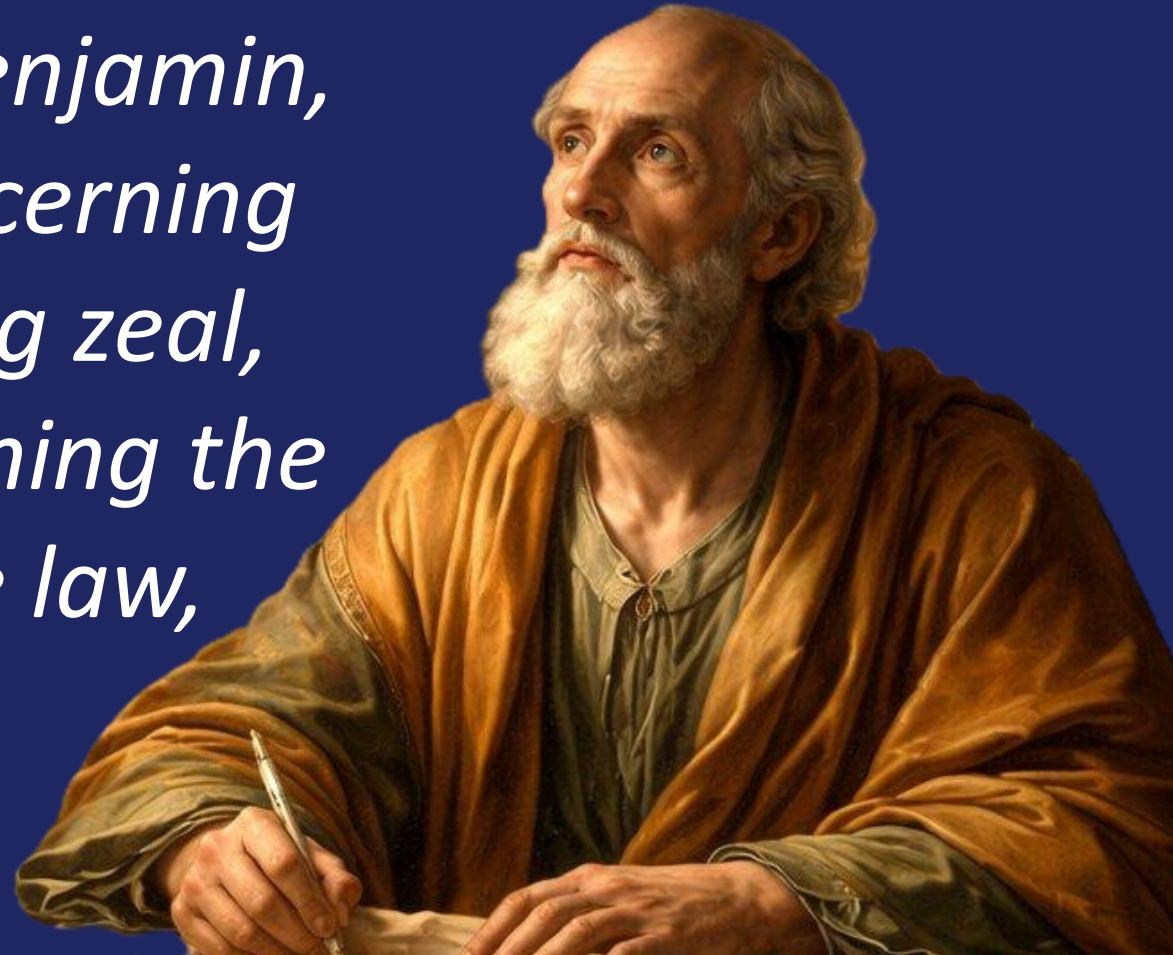
Acts 22:3

“I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.”



Philippians 3:5–6

“Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”



Acts 8:3

*“As for Saul, he made
havoc of the church,
entering every house, and
dragging off men and
women, committing them
to prison.”*



έλυμαίνετο — *elymaineto*

“made havoc”



— He
Voted
for
Their
Death



Acts

26:10–11

“This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to

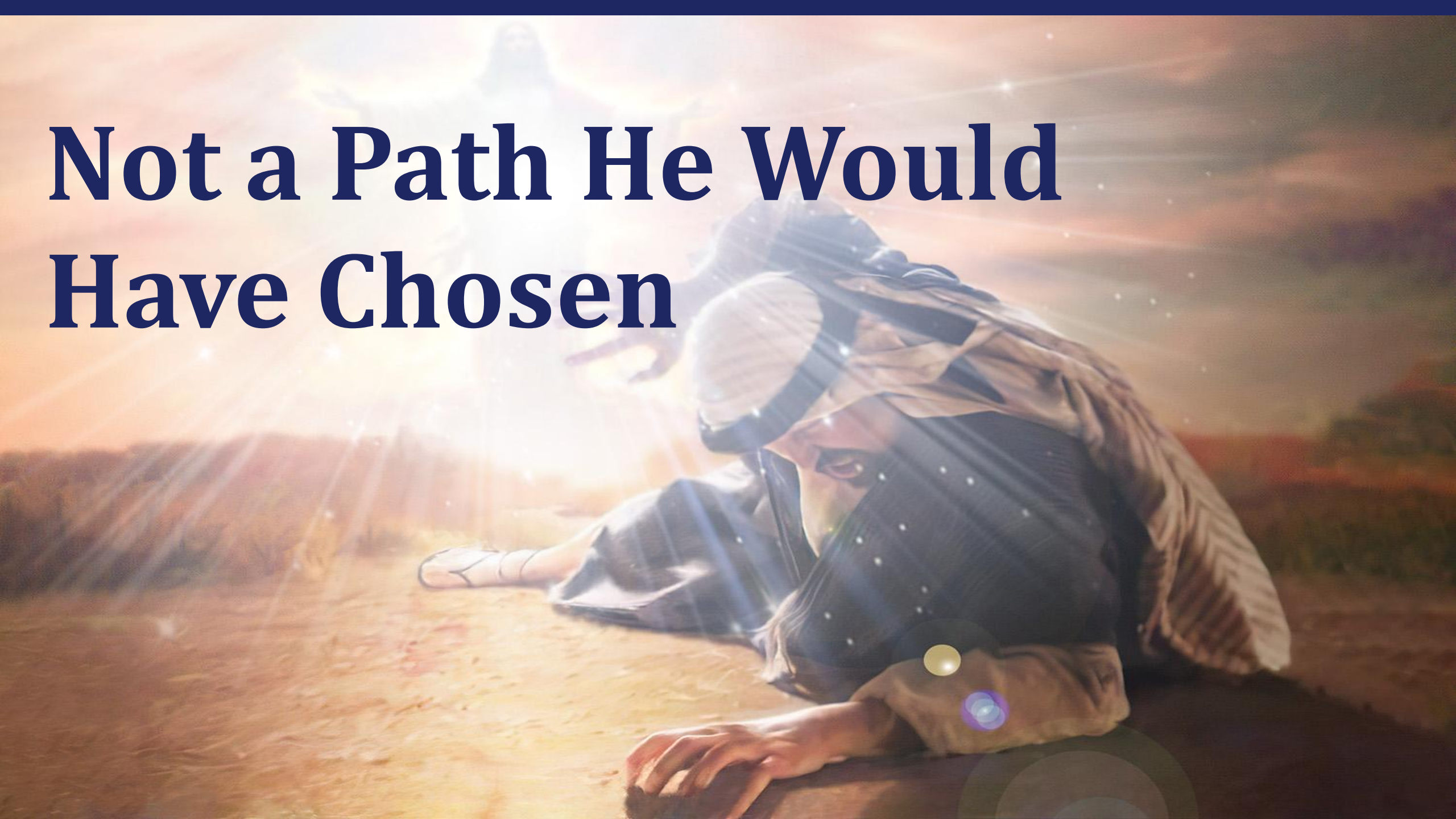


Acts 9:1

“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest.”



**Not a Path He Would
Have Chosen**



The Road to Damascus

Apostleship by Confrontation



Acts

9:15–16

“But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.””





**Chosen.
Commissioned. Sent.**

PART II

Apostle — The Title and Its Weight



ἀπόστολος — *apostolos*

“one sent out, a commissioned envoy”



ἀποστέλλειν — apostellein

“to send out, to send on a mission”



Galatians

1:11–12

“But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”



Why Paul Asserts His Apostleship in Every Letter

EVERY LETTER FROM PAUL



PART III

By the Commandment of God — The Source of Ministry Authority



Royal Decree

By decree of Queen Ayrenn, the Court Mage Sanessalmo is henceforth stripped of all titles, duties, and rights accorded to him by his position.

The outcast Sanessalmo is furthermore banished from the Summerset Isles for his crimes against the citizenry of the Dominion.

By the will of the queen, he has one week to remove himself from the heart of the Dominion, or face charges most

ἐπιταγή — *epitagē*

“a royal command, a
binding decree”

Esther

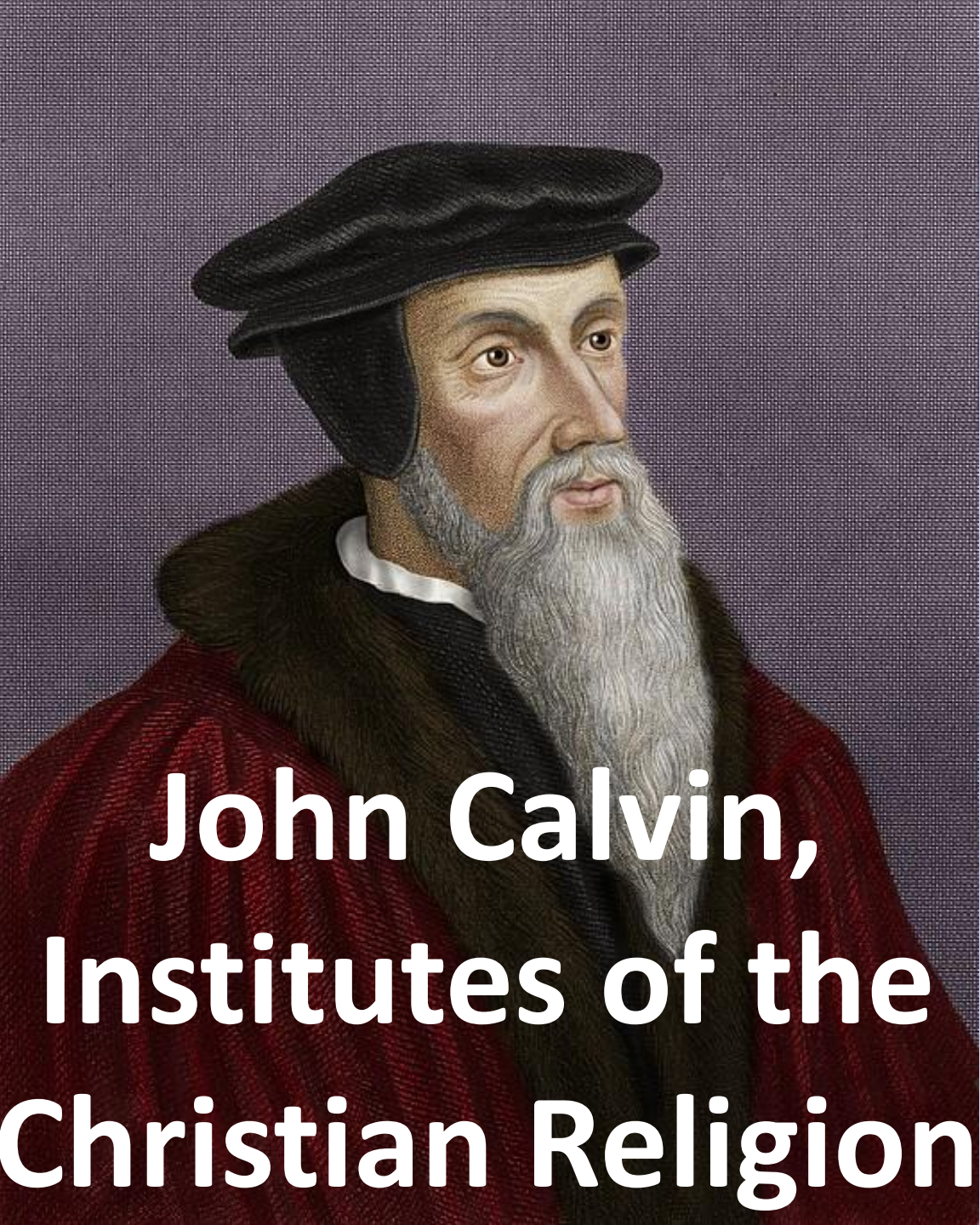
1:20

“When the king’s decree which he will make is proclaimed throughout all his empire (for it is great), all wives will honour their husbands, both great and small.”



A Royal Commandment, Not a Career Choice





**John Calvin,
Institutes of the
Christian Religion**

***“The call of God is not
an offer that may be
accepted or declined
according to human
preference. It is a royal
summons that
transforms the one it
reaches.”***

Psalm 106:21

*“They forgot God
their Savior, Who
had done great
things in Egypt.”*



Psalm 25:5

*“Lead me in Your truth
and teach me, For You
are the God of my
salvation; On You I
wait all the day.”*



Psalm

27:1

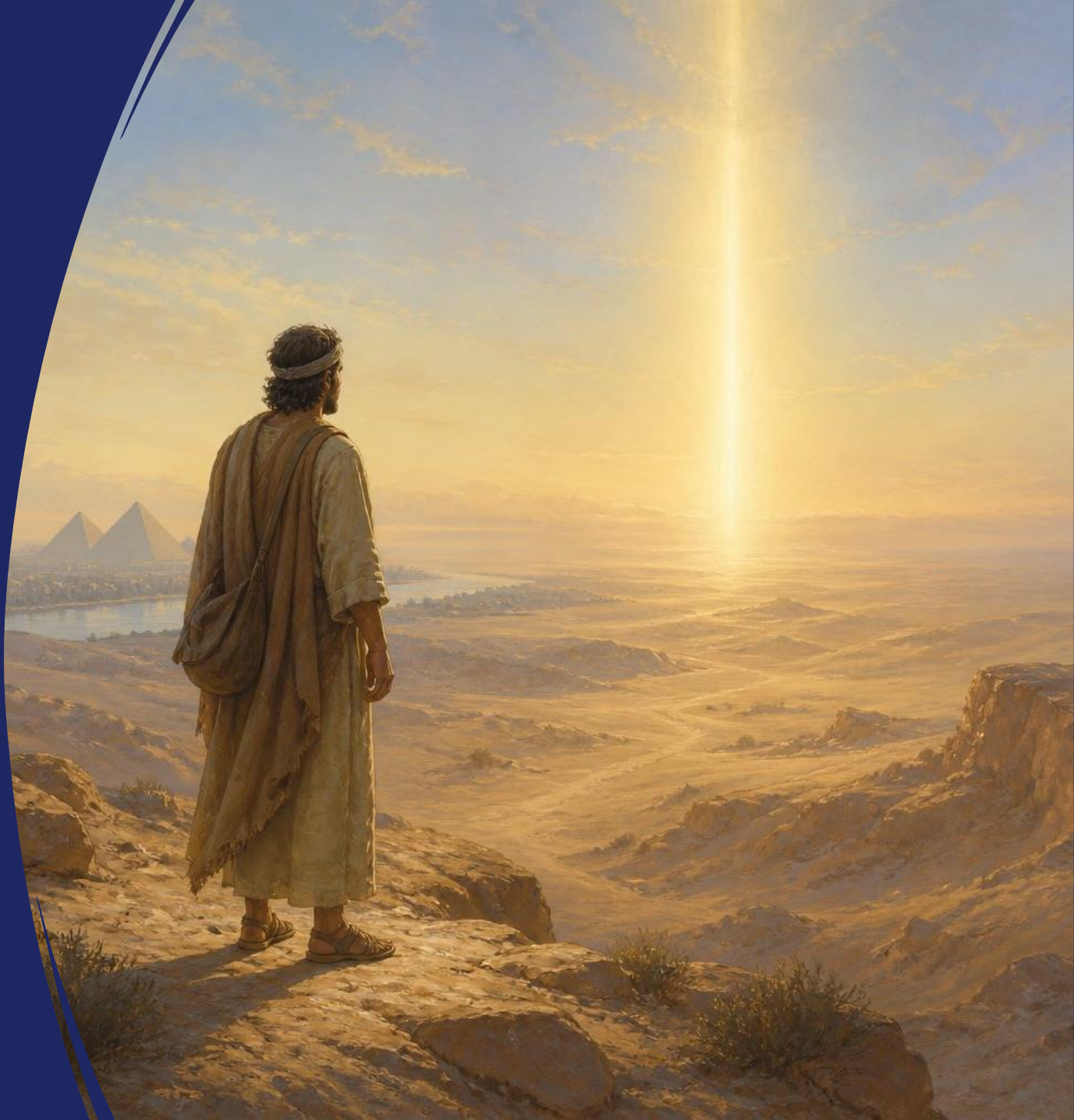
*“The Lord is my light
and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear? The
Lord is the strength of
my life; Of whom shall
I be afraid?”*



Hosea

13:4

*“Yet I am the Lord your
God Ever since the
land of Egypt, And you
shall know no God but
Me; For there is no
saviour besides Me.”*



Jonah 2:9

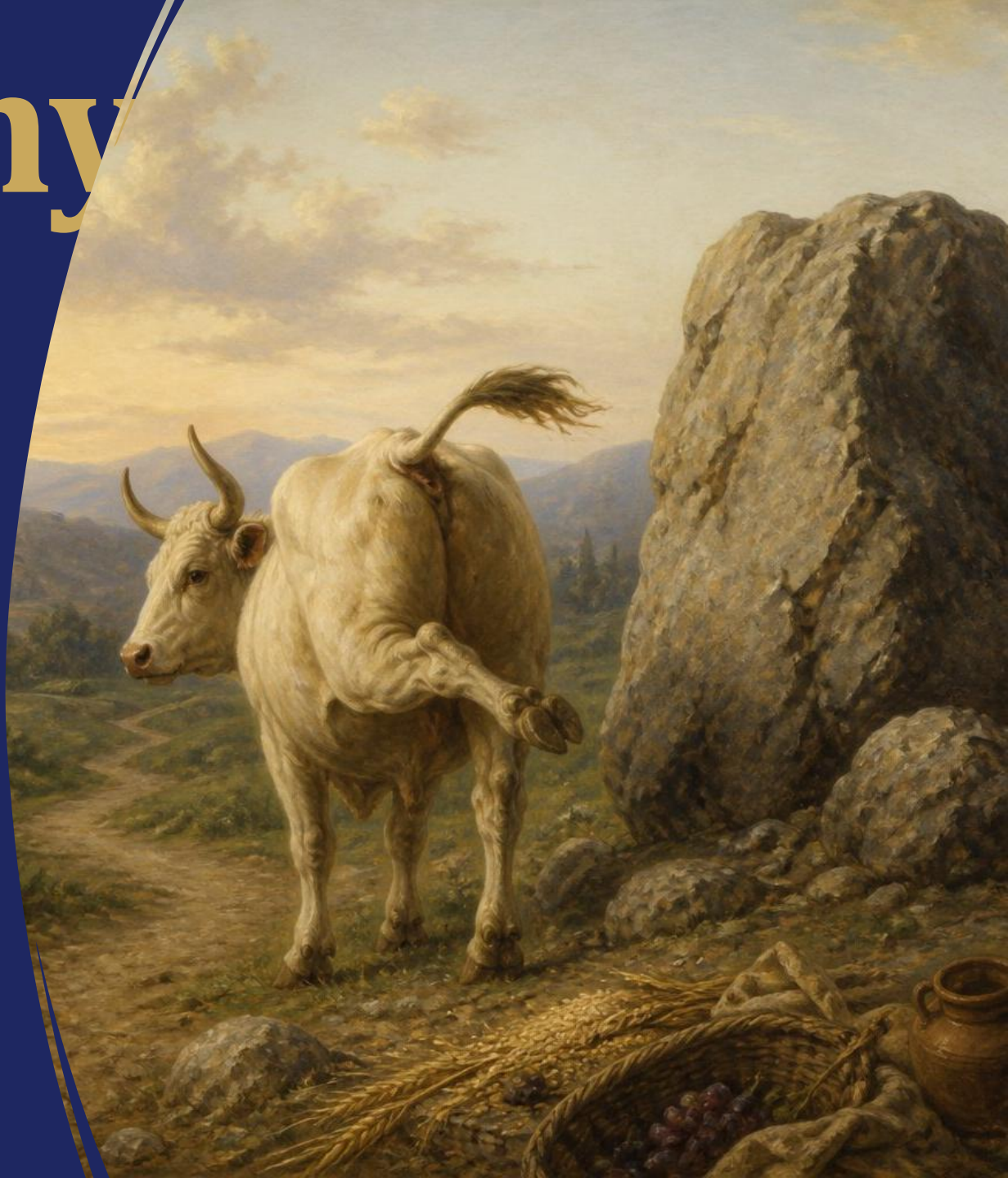
*“But I will sacrifice to
You With the voice of
thanksgiving; I will
pay what I have
vowed. Salvation is
of the Lord.”*



Deuteronomy

32:15

“But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.”



σωτήρ — *Sōtēr*



“*Saviour*”

Isaiah 43:3

*“For I am the Lord
your God, the Holy
One of Israel, your
Savior; I gave Egypt
for your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in
your place.”*



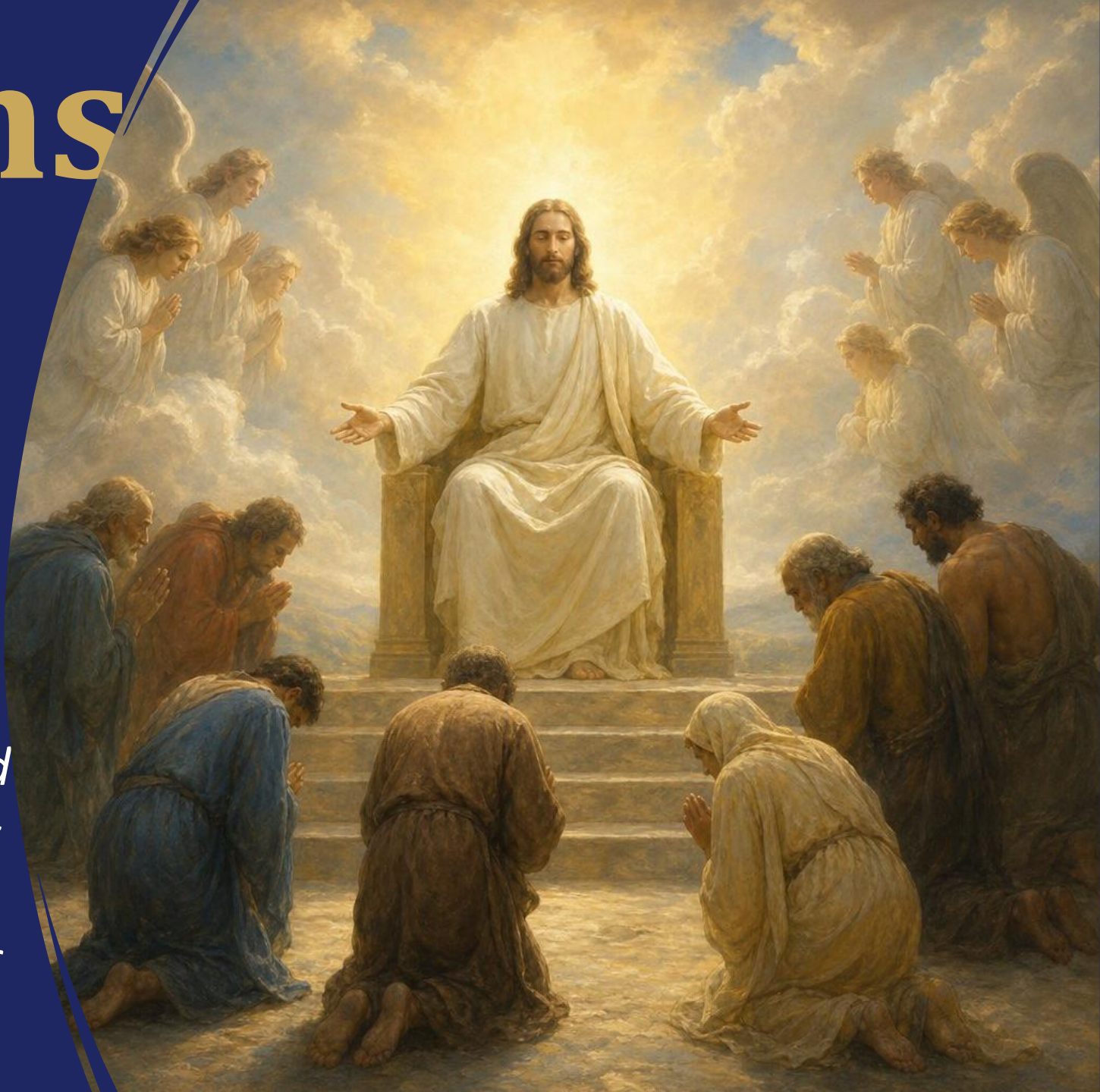
κύριος — Kyrios *“Lord”*



Philippians

2:9–11

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”



PART IV

Our Hope — The Christological Vision



A Confident, Joyful Expectation



έλπίς — *elpis*



“hope”

Hebrews

6:19

*“This hope we have
as an anchor of the
soul, both sure and
steadfast, and which
enters the Presence
behind the veil.”*



1 Thess

4:13–14

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”



Romans 5:5

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”



Romans 5:2

“Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”



Titus 2:13

*“Looking for the
blessed hope and
glorious appearing of
our great God and
Savior Jesus Christ.”*



Our Hope, Timothy's Lifeline



Colossians

1:27

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”



Acts 19:27

“So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”



Acts 19:26

“Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.”



The Three-Fold Structure of Verse 1

- “God our Saviour”
- “The Lord Jesus Christ”
- “Our hope”
- Salvation, sovereignty and second coming



PART V

Theological Implications for the Church Today



The Danger of Unauthorised Ministry



Called, Gifted, Tested, Recognised



The Non-Negotiability of the Gospel



Galatians

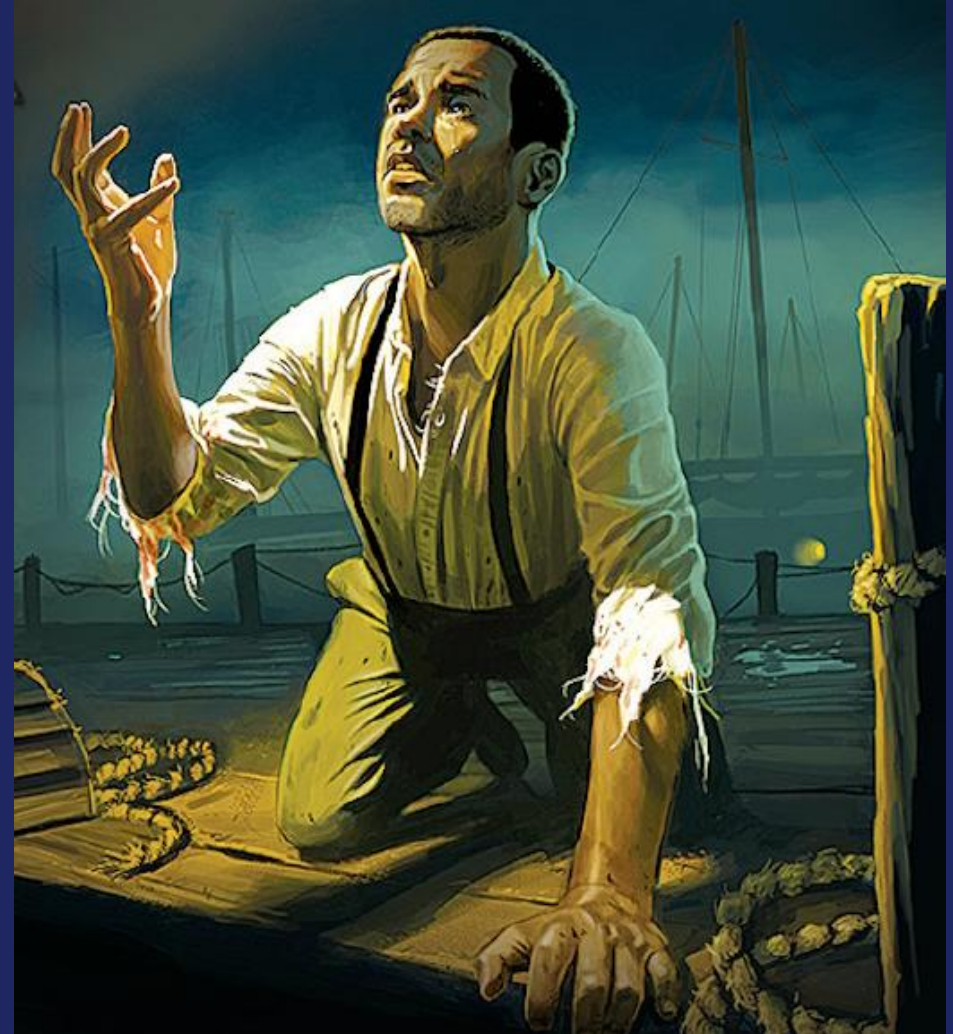
1:8–9

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”



ἀνάθεμα — *anathema*

“accursed”



2 Timothy

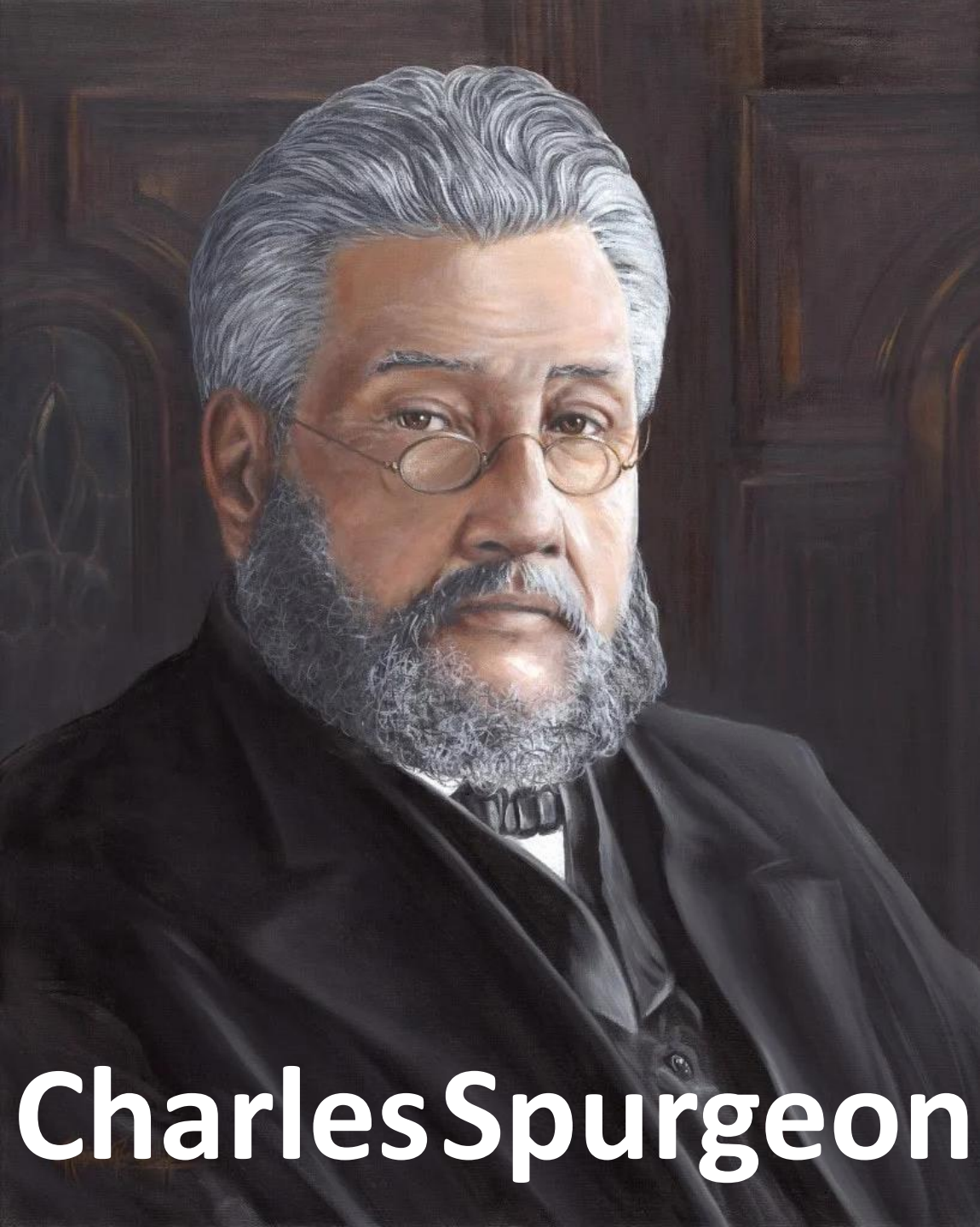
4:3–5

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.”



The Dignity and Gravity of the Called





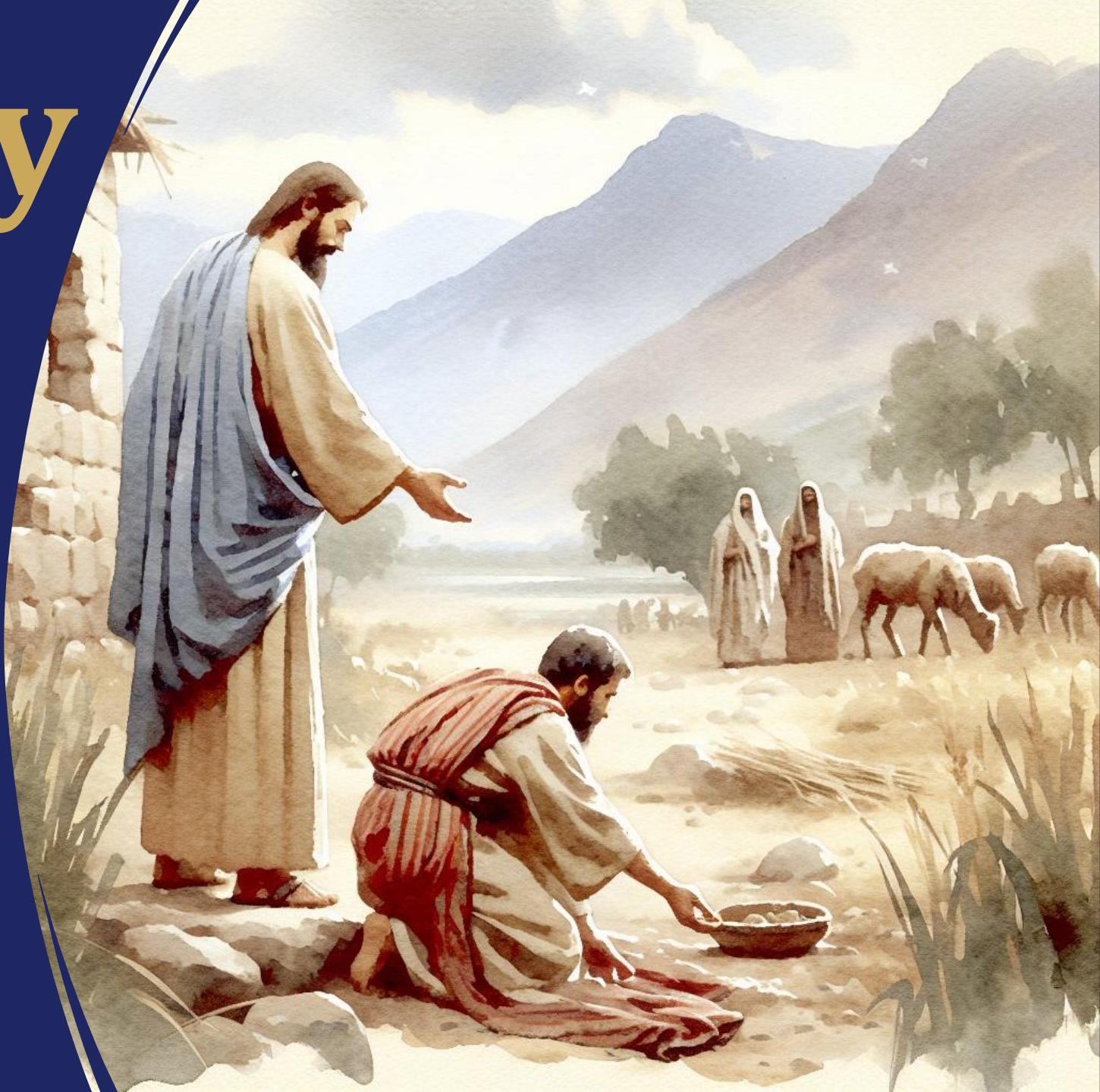
*“I have nothing
to say of myself. I
am only the
trumpet; Christ is
the breath that
makes it sound.”*

Charles Spurgeon

2 Timothy

1:7

*“God has not
given us a
spirit of fear.”*



Matthew

28:18–20

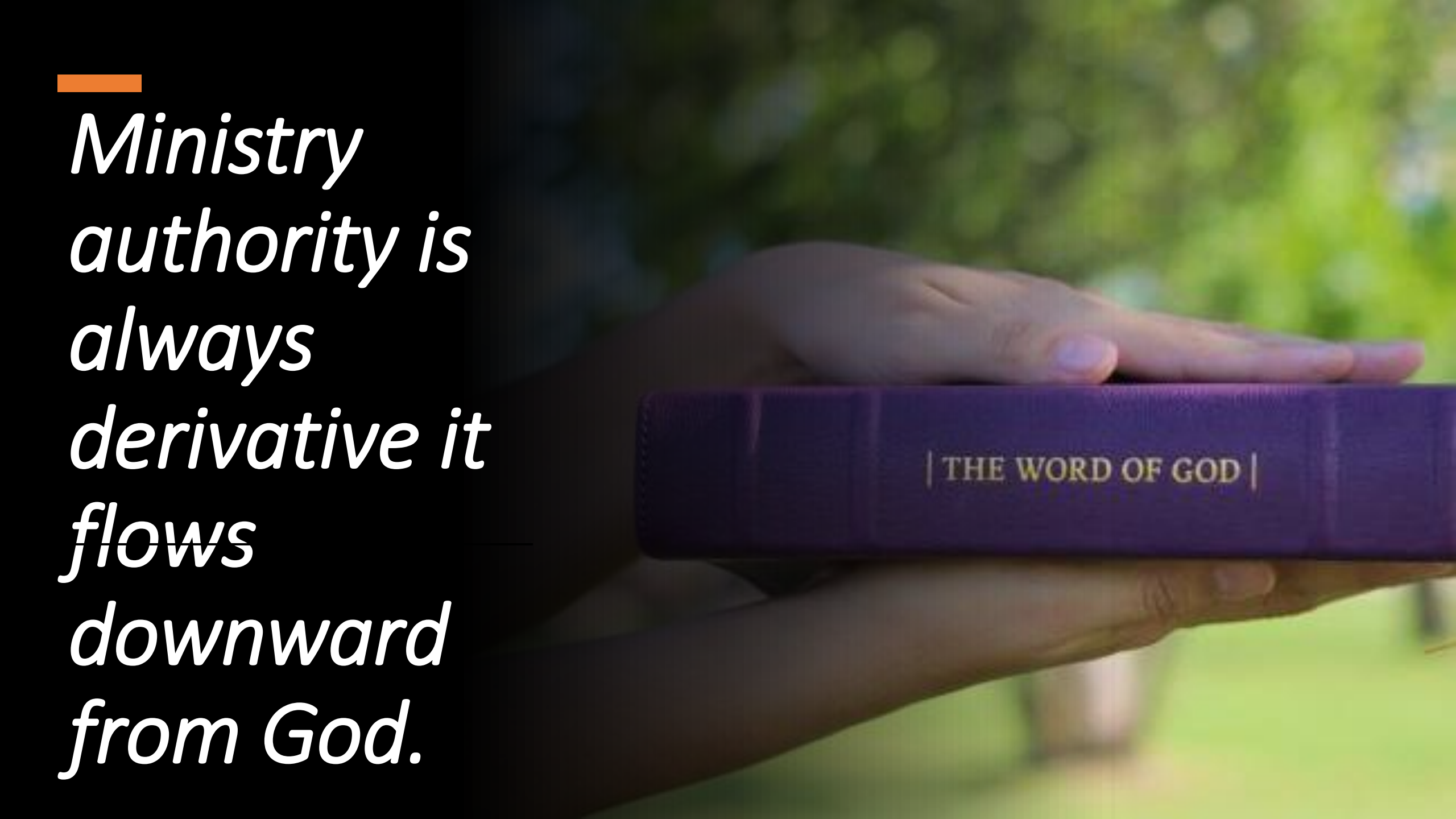
“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.””



John 20:21

*“As the Father
has sent Me, I
also send you.”*





*Ministry
authority is
always
derivative it
flows
downward
from God.*

| THE WORD OF GOD |

Romans

1:1

*“Paul, a
bondservant of
Jesus Christ, called
to be an apostle,
separated to the
gospel of God.”*



Ephesians

4:11–12

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”



The Spirit Calls, the Church Confirms

PRAYER
— AND —
FASTING



Acts 13:2-4

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.”



CONCLUSION

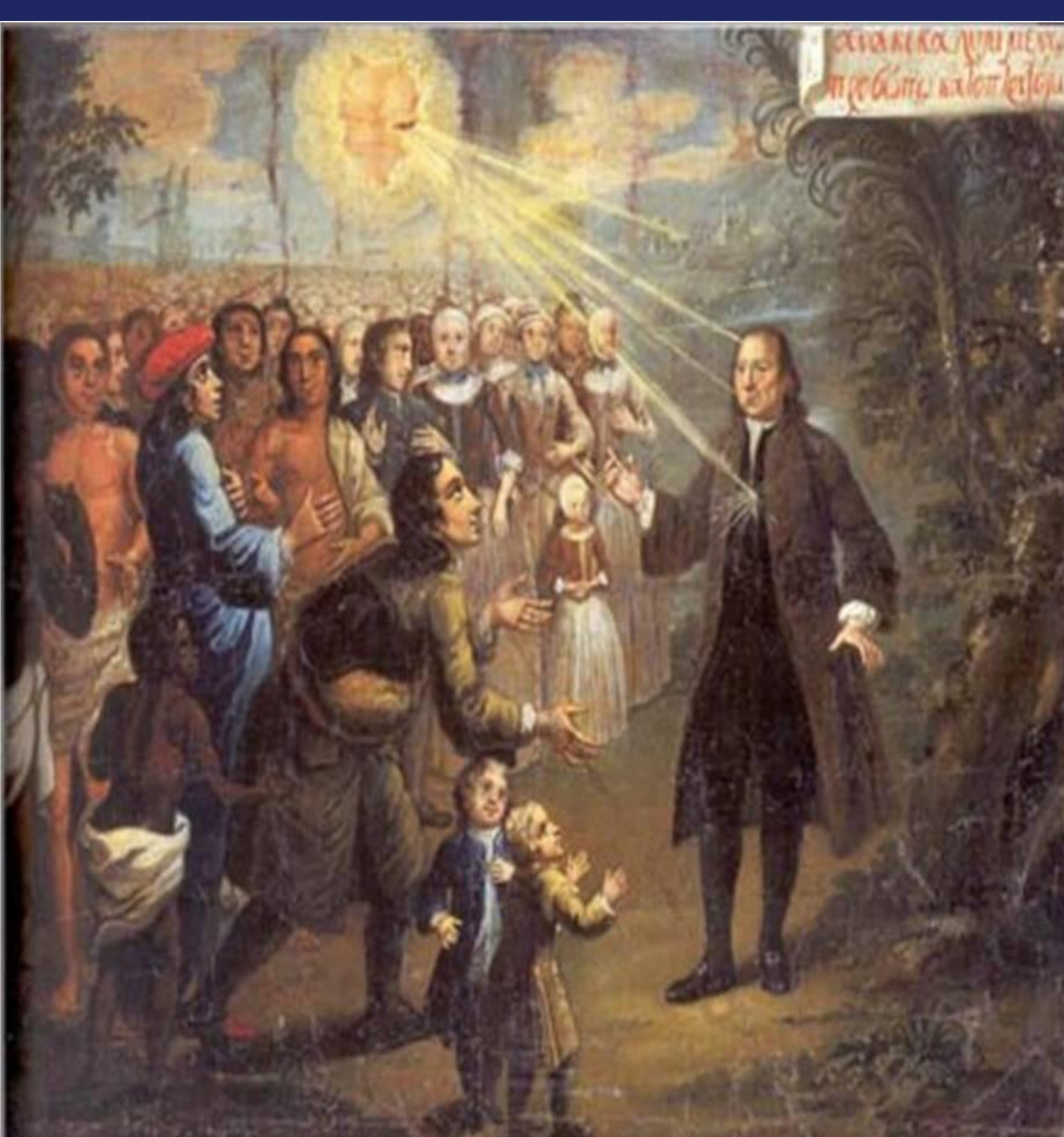
A Story for the Heart

- A young Moravian community in Saxony was in crisis
- Count Nikolaus von Zinzendorf had gathered hundreds of refugees — Lutherans, Calvinists, Anabaptists, Reformed
- All convinced they were right, all at each other's throats — visitors called it a religious disaster

HERRNHUT



Herrnhut, 1727



Hearts Strangely Warmed

- On August 13, 1727, during a communion service, something broke open — compared by eyewitnesses to Pentecost
- Zinzendorf: “We had a meeting of the whole community... we could not leave off. And we went home with our hearts strangely warmed.”
- From that day, a prayer meeting continued unbroken, 24 hours a day, for 100 years

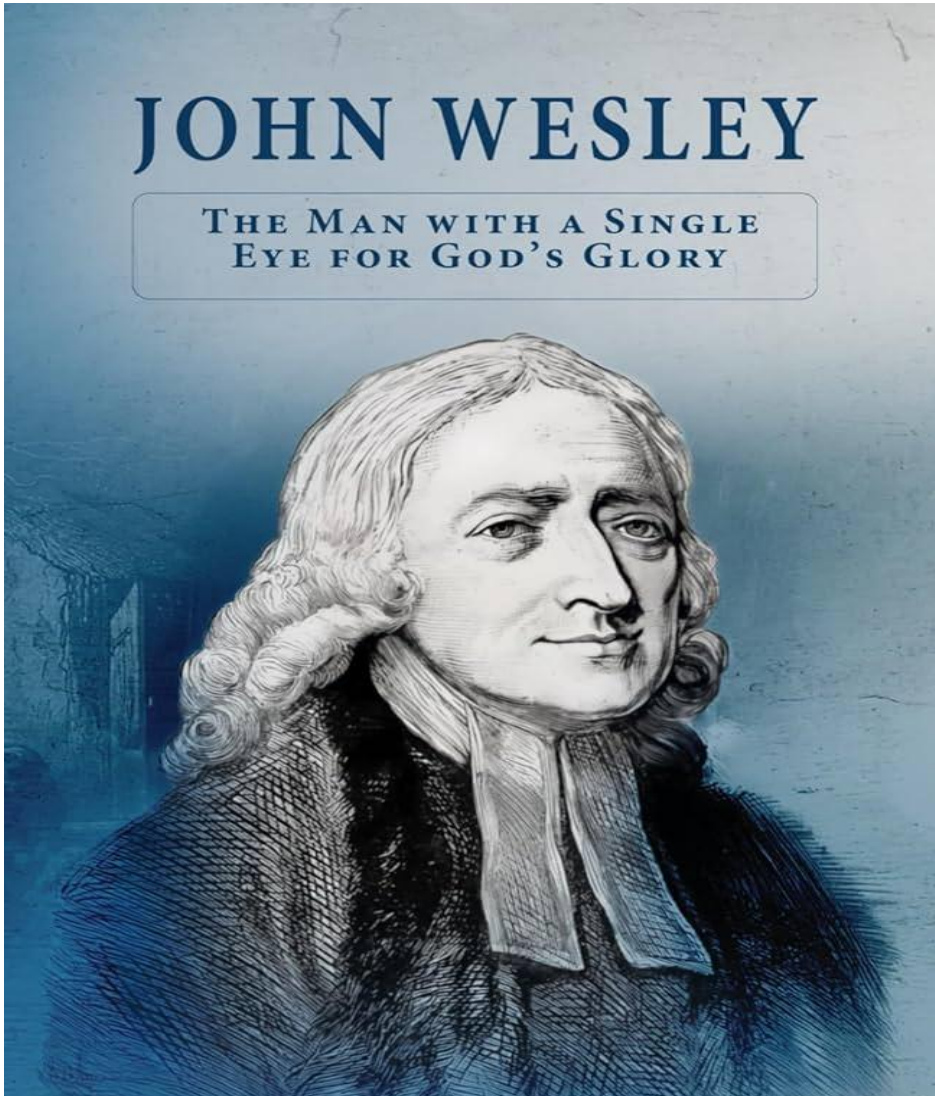
The Modern Missionary Movement



- Within 25 years, the Moravians sent missionaries to more of the world than the entire Protestant church had reached in the previous 200 years
- They went to the West Indies, Greenland, Lapland, Africa, and the Native Americans of North America
- Some sold themselves into slavery to reach those who would not otherwise hear

CONCLUSION

Wesley's Heart Strangely Warmed



- John Wesley, sailing back from a failed mission to Georgia, encountered Moravian missionaries on the ship
- Their calm in a violent Atlantic storm changed him: “I came to America to convert the Indians, but who shall convert me?”
- Three months later at Aldersgate Street, London, his heart was “strangely warmed” — sparking the Methodist revival

“We Received a Commission”



- Zinzendorf, asked late in life: “We did not plan this. We did not organise this. We received a commission. The Holy Spirit commanded, and we obeyed.”
- Authority matters. The source matters.
- You have been given the same commission — to stand, wherever you have been placed, and say with Paul:
- “I am here by the commandment of God our Saviour and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope. Let that be enough. It always has been.”

1

Why Are You a Christian? Who Sent You?



2

Examine Your Service



3

Read Galatians 1:1–12 Alongside 1 Timothy 1:1



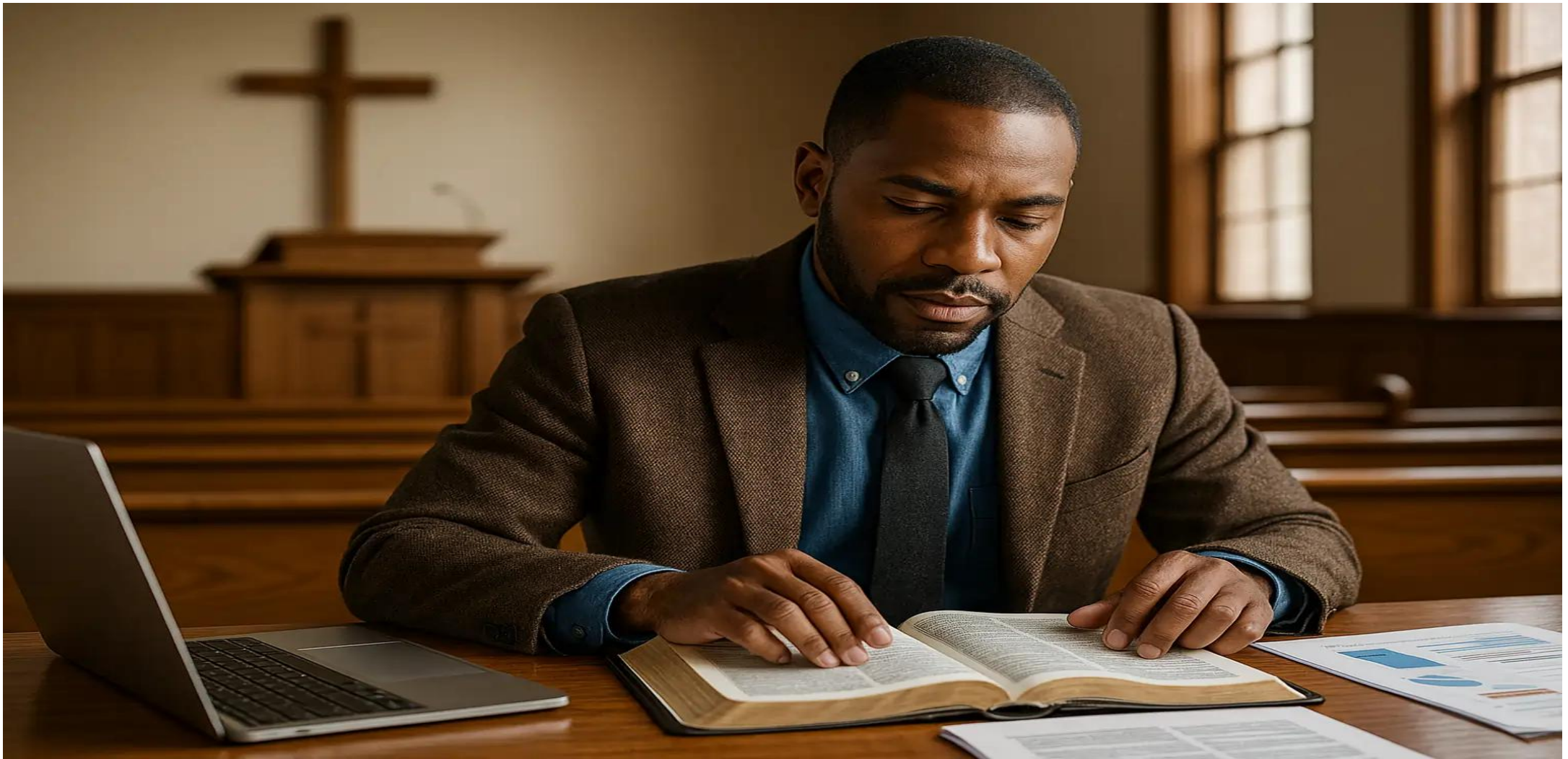
4

Pray for Your Church's Leaders



5

Where Have You Softened the Gospel?



6

Research a Missionary's Calling



7

Memorise 1 Timothy 1:1

**My faith rests not on
human opinion but on the
commandment of God
our Saviour and the Lord
Jesus Christ, my hope.**

