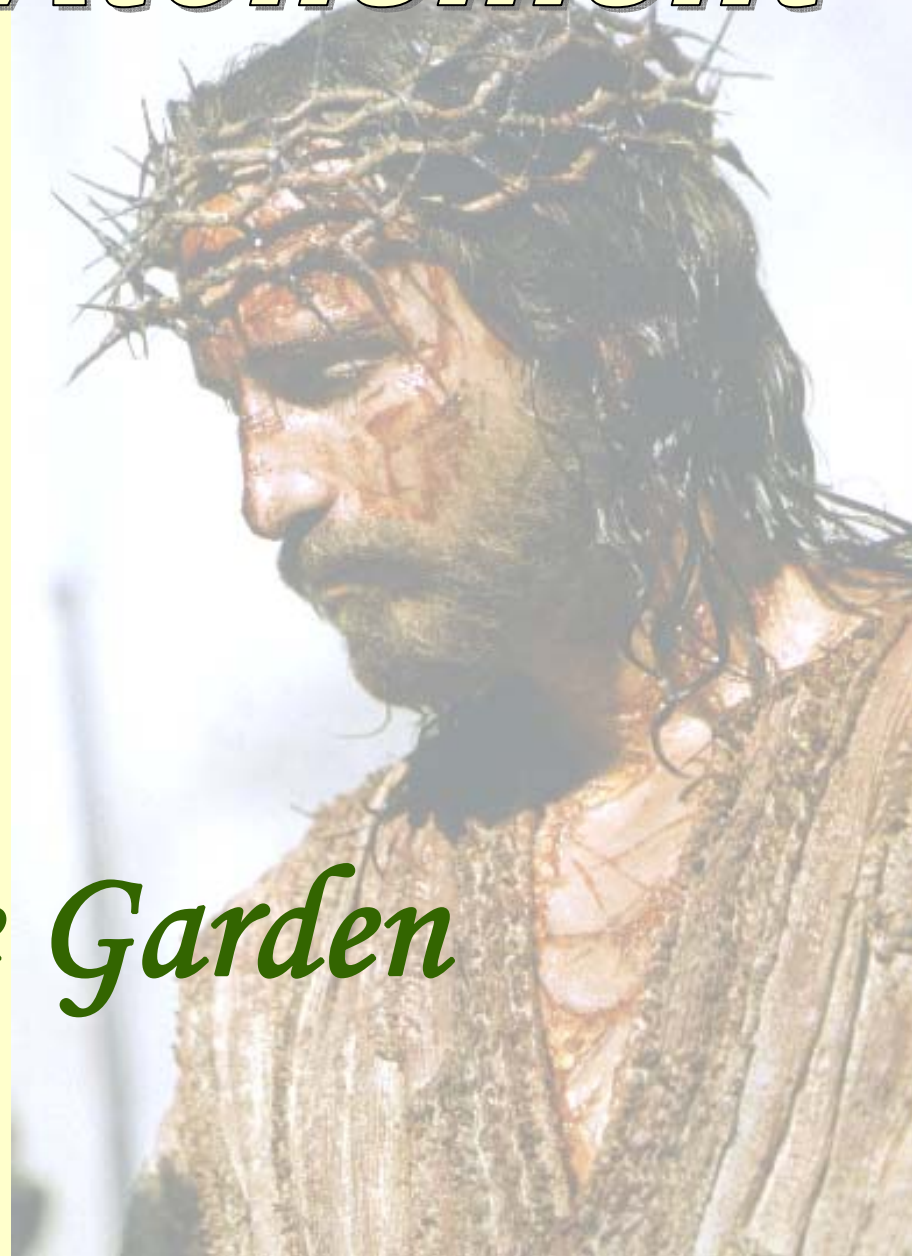


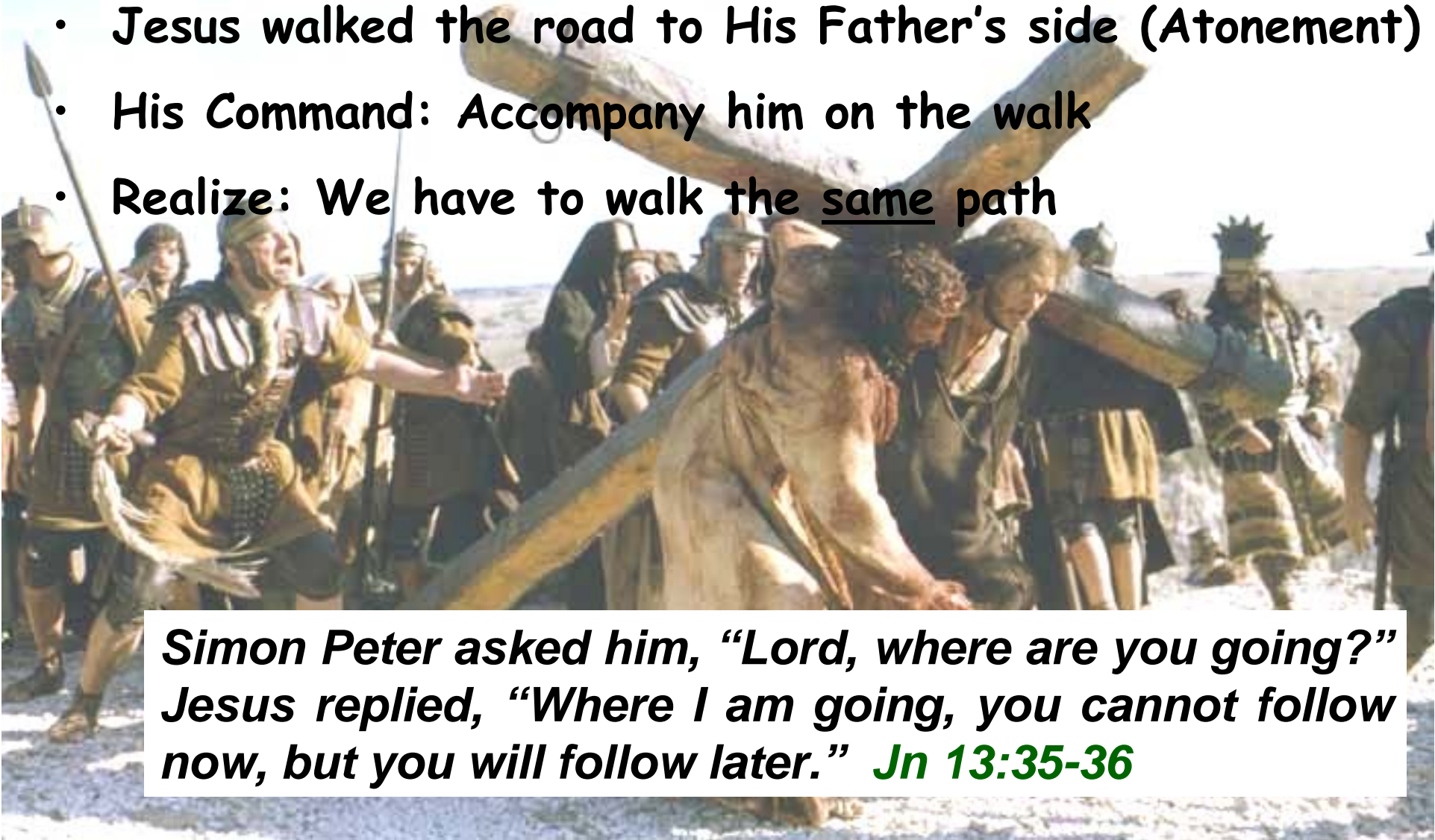
# *Road to Atonement*

## *1 Death in the Garden*



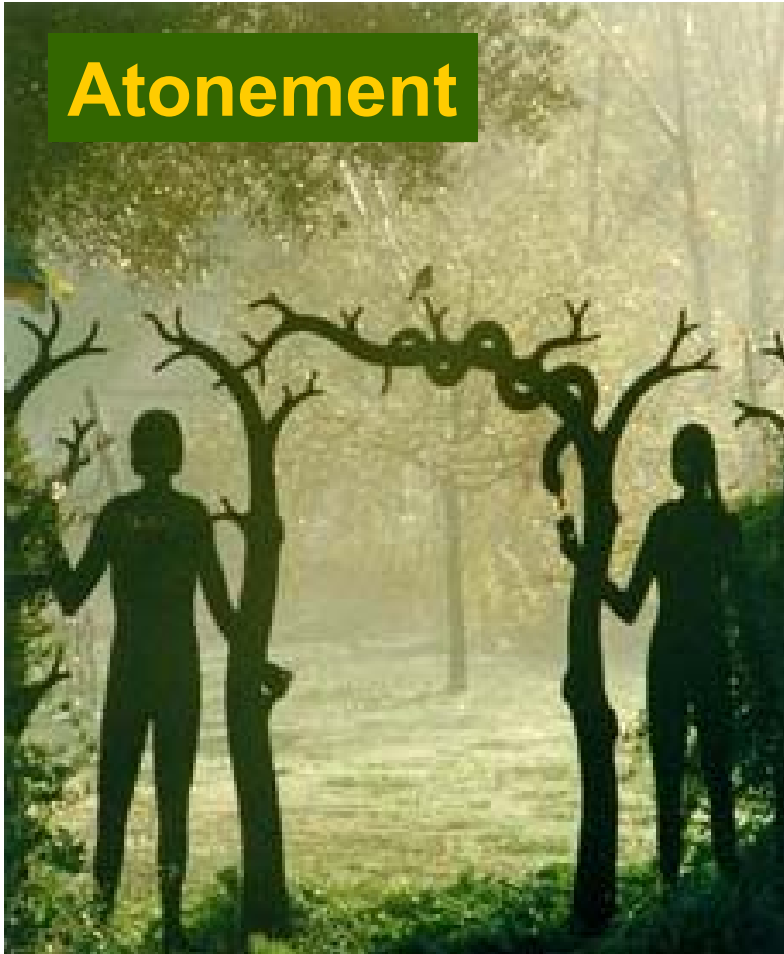
## Objective

- Study the last days of the mortal Christ
  - Jesus walked the road to His Father's side (Atonement)
  - His Command: Accompany him on the walk
  - Realize: We have to walk the same path



*Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?”  
Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow  
now, but you will follow later.” **Jn 13:35-36***

## Atonement



*The LORD God called to the man,  
"Where are you?"* **Gen 3:9**

**The LORD God is not  
searching for Adam**

**"Where are you?" =>  
"You are not with Me"**

**AT-ONE-MENT**

**Recognition of Divorce  
by the act of Sin / Death**





## The Nature of Atonement

*“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.” Jn 17:20-21*

**Becoming one with the Father = Perfect Atonement**

**=> So we must know what it is we are trying to become!**

*“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” Jn 17:3*

**Scientifically impossible statement**

**Thus: not a Father who is His own Son, but a Father who can unite with His sons who were different entities, even once ungodly**

**=> Trinity eliminates the assurance of atonement**



## Prayer and Intercession

*Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. **Lk 22:39***

*Early in the morning [Job] would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of [his children], thinking, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s regular custom. **Job 1:5***



*A man regularly dedicated to prayer and communion*

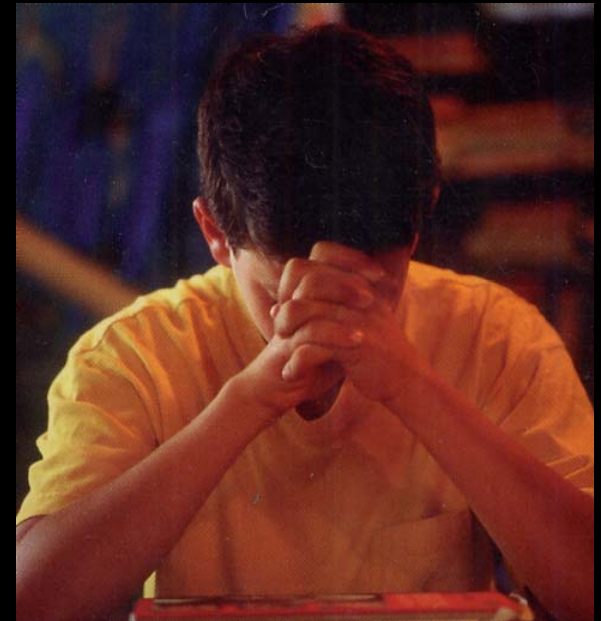
*A man God can use in the salvation of others*

***Am I that man?***

## Prayer

Key to praying for others is humility  
- but how to get there?

Are my personal prayers asking  
for gifts or development?



*“There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me...’”*

*When he came to his senses, he said... ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me...’” **Lk 15:11-17***

## Road to Atonement



*“I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.” Jn 17:9*

*“My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly”... So [they] did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer. After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again Job 42:8-10*

*My Road to Atonement focuses on the atonement of others  
Are others principal in my prayer life?*





## Swordplay in the Garden

Peter strikes!

*When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.*  
**Lk 22:49-51**

Peter could be forgiven for confusion here -  
had not his Lord requested swords?

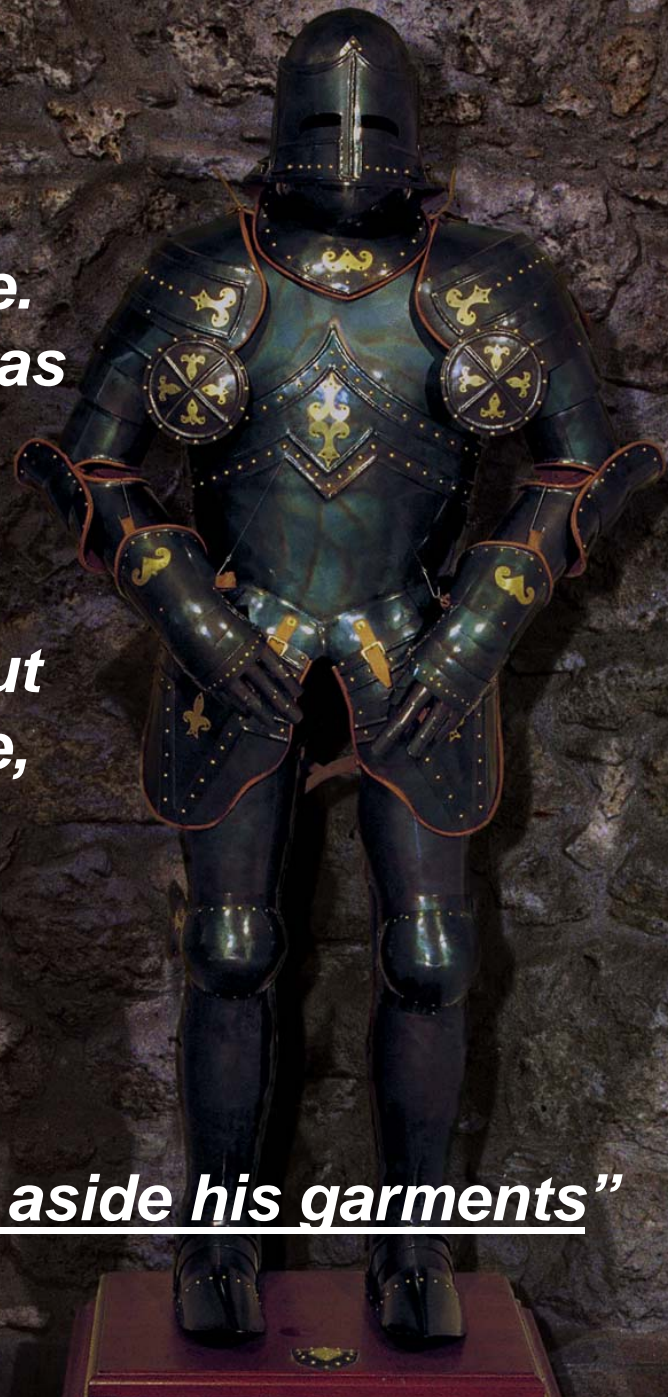
*[Jesus] said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one... The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords." "That is enough," he replied.*  
**Lk 22:36-38**

So what "swordplay" was Jesus looking for?

## Isaiah's Warrior

*The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene, so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. **Isa 59:15-17***

*“[Jesus] rose from supper and laid aside his garments”  
**Jn 13:4***





## The Spirit Word of God: The Divider

*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

**Eph 6:17-18**



*For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. **Heb 4:12***



## Correcting Peter's Swordplay

*And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.*

***Lk 22:50-51***



How do we use the Sword of the Spirit?

## Our Swordplay

*Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Eph 6:17*

*Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to **contend** for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 3-4*

επ—agonize—μαί

Suggestive of an internal and personal effort -

It does not consist of being contentious



## The Covenant of the Garden

### Garden of Gethsemane

*“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”* **Lk 22:42**

### Killing the Killer

### Garden of Eden

*“Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

**Gen 3:14-15**

*“for dust you are and to dust you will return.”* **Gen 3:19**

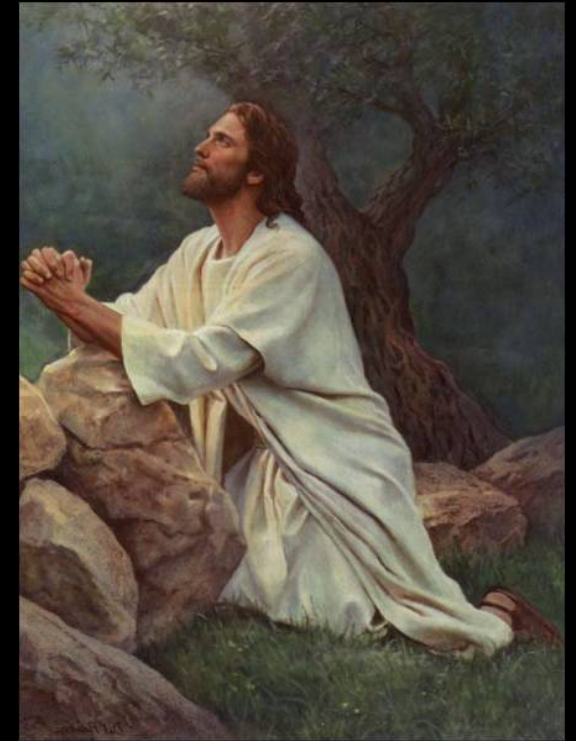




## Grasping Equality with God

### Garden of Gethsemane

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **Phil 2:5-7***



### Garden of Eden

*“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **Gen 3:4-5***



**Killing the Killer: submission to God working in you**



## Being 'In Very Nature God'

*He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished..." Ex 34:6-7*

**The Nature of God is a character - not a material type**



## The Very Nature of God

*Your attitude should be the same as... Jesus: who, being in very nature God, [took] the very nature of a servant...*

- “Nature” = attitude & consequent behaviour, not biology
- Argument is NOT contrasting God's nature with the servant => it's explaining God has always been a Servant!

*[God] is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. Acts 17:25*

- We are commended to the attitude of a servant because it is the attitude of God

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image” Gen 1:26*



## The Servant Ruler

***“The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.” Lk 22:25-36***

**Not because those who serve will rule later but because serving is the true way to rule**

***A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent... But women will be saved through childbearing 1 Tim 2:11-15***





## Son of Man: Broken-Hearted

Suggestion is that Jesus' heart ruptured in Gethsemane

### Evidence:

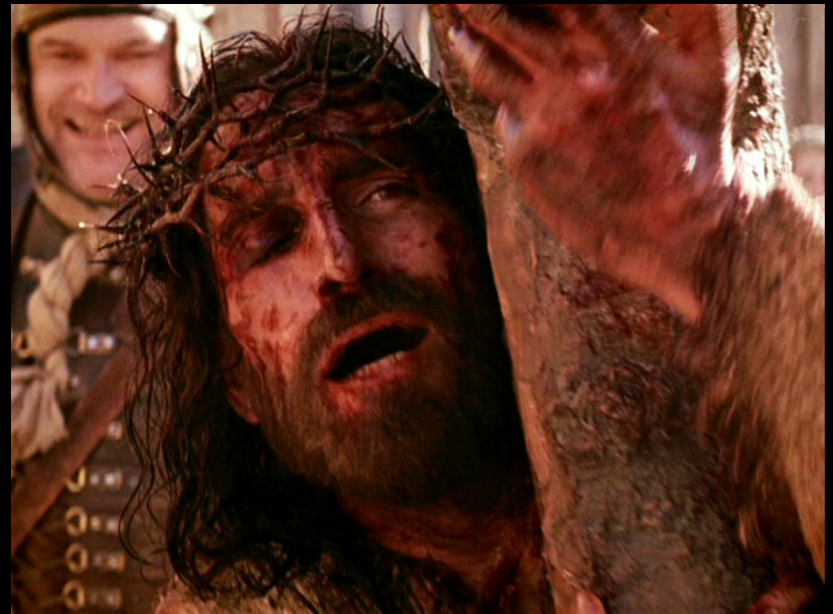
**1** *And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground* **Lk 22:44**

Chromidrosis (sweating blood) can follow from heart rupture, from severe emotional trauma

*C. A. Helgason, P. A. Wolf, American Heart Association scientific statement, 1997*

**2** *Couldn't carry cross*

**3** *...one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. Jn 19:33-34*  
- *Corpses don't usually bleed. (Unless heart had leaked)*



## Son of Man: Broken-Hearted

**4** Prophetic Psalm predicts broken heart; no comforters  
*“You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before you. Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none.” Ps 69:19-20*

**5** Prophecy of “no comforters” was literal

*Then [Jesus] returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” Matt 26:40*

**6** *“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death” Mk 14:34 - not dramatic posturing*



## Consequences of Heartbreak in the Garden

### The Garden was the fatal blow

- Jesus died on the cross, but the fatal blow was struck in Gethsemane: the scorn **Ps 69** and the sorrow **Mk 14**
- He died from our sins - not in committing them but in fully realizing the divorce it brought from life, God. (c.f. **Gen 6** - the pain that filled God's heart)
- God's Law doesn't kill. Sin kills
- Kill the Killer. Or die





# ***My Road to Atonement***

A lush garden scene with a path, trees, and various flowers. The garden is filled with greenery, including tall trees and various flowering plants in shades of purple, pink, and white. A path winds through the garden, and a small wooden bench is visible on the right side.

***Atonement is to become one with God***

***My Swordplay: Bible is for holiness not combat***

***Prayer in the Garden: must be as usual for me***

***My Garden: self-sacrifice; must feel the pain of sin***

***Fatal point: Kill the Killer – or die***

***Point of crisis is met alone***



# *Road to Atonement*

## *2 Trial of Faith*



## Betrayal

*But Satan had taken possession of Judah... who was of the number of the twelve **Lk 22:3, Lamsa***

**Betrayal by whom?**



*Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people... With one voice they **[Judah]** cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ...they **[Judah]** kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” ...with loud shouts they **[Judah]** insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their **[Judah’s]** shouts prevailed. **Lk 23:13-23***

**Not just one man!**

*He came to that which was his own **[Judah]**, but his own did not receive him. **Jn 1:11***



## The Obscurity of Treachery

*“I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.” They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely not I, Lord?”* **Mt 26:21-22**

**No-one knew Judas was the traitor**

**- treachery can be invisible**

*“Surely not I, Lord?”*

**They all knew they had the capacity to be the traitor!**



## The Lord on Trial

*“You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me”*

**Lk 22:28-29**



The Lord Jesus is still on trial

## The Lord on Trial

### The Rise of the False Prophet

*“God is only one God! Far be it from his glory that he should have a son!”* **Sura 4:169**



### The Rise of Intellectualism & Atheism



*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.* **Rom 1:22-23**



## The Lord on Trial

### The Rise of Cynicism

*[Jesus] said to them, “Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him. **Mk 5:39-40***

*When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered... **Acts 17:32***

**Draws the intellectually insecure**



### The Rise of 'Inclusivity'

- Why can't we break bread with anyone who professes a belief in and love for Jesus Christ?

## Peter's Early Trial



**Peter followed at a distance. But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. *Lk 22:54-55***

**“This man was with him.” But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him” *Lk 22:56-57***



**Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. *Psa 1:1***

## Paralysis / Catharsis

Judas betrays Jesus  
(intentionally)

*Mt 26:14-16*

Judas feels remorse

*Mt 27:3-4*

Judas' remorse  
is paralyzing

Judas kills himself

*Mt 27:5*



Peter betrays Jesus  
(blindly)

*Lk 22:54-60*

Peter feels remorse

*Lk 22:61-62*

Peter's remorse  
is energizing

Peter becomes a pillar  
of the early church

*Gal 2:9*

I betray Jesus... I feel remorse... what now?



## Our Trials

### Jesus' Preaching

*“Lord, teach us to pray...”  
He said to them, “When  
you pray, say: ‘Father...  
lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.’”*

**Lk 11:1-4**

### Jesus' Practice

*“Away from me, Satan!  
‘Worship the Lord your  
God, and serve him  
only.’”* **Mt 4:10**



**=> don't toy with sin**

## Our Trials

*Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature*

**Rom 13:14**



# Atonement: Paying the Price for Sin?



We are atoned through forgiveness



## Our Trial

***Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **Jam 1:2-3*****



Seems highly inappropriate... offensive?

Suggestion:

An element of Biblical "joy" ≈ "task from God"

Related to "happiness" only in the completion/at the end

## Joy as a “Task” - Evidence

*“The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.” Jn 3:29*

*“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” Jn 15:10-11*

*“Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”  
Jn 16:24*

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:2*

## Praetorium

*Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"* **Mt 26:67-68**

**Jesus' prophecy makes their question rhetorical:**

*"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him ...He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."*

**Jn 8:44-47**

**Everyone naturally reflects the image of their father. Our lives simply give evidence to which father we belong Thus: the devil's son hit Jesus - because he hit him**



## Guilt: The Declaration of Innocence



*“[Pilate] took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”* **Mt 27:24**

**Innocence by self-declaration?  
Before God's Son?**

*Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”* **Gen 4:9**

*The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse...”* **Gen 4:10-11**

**Guilty of the spilled blood**



## Innocence: The Declaration of Guilt



*“These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from? ...These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple.”*

**Rev 7:13-15**

### Contradiction of natural world:

- Pilate's hands made bloody by washing in water
- Saints robes made white by washing in blood

Present day temple is our body; so service to God must be held there



## Service in the Temple



=> What I do is what I believe





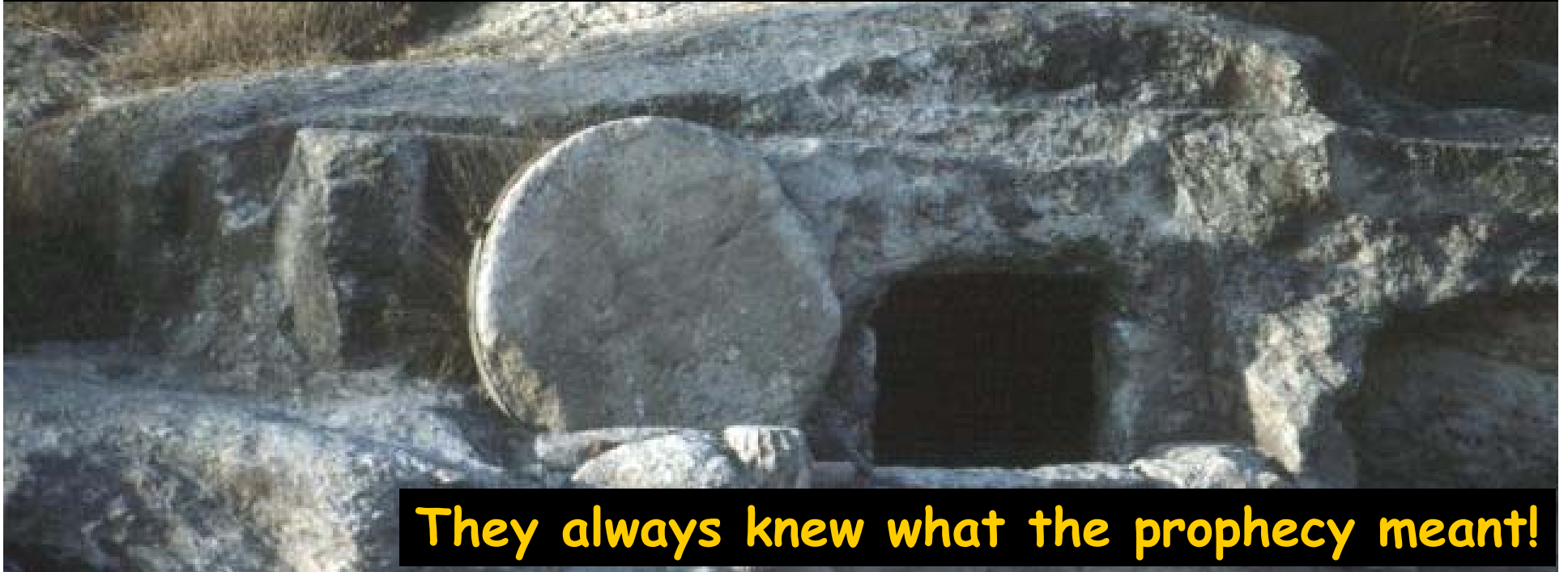
## True and False Witnesses at Trial

*Finally two came forward and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’” Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent. **Mt 26:60-63***

**Did they misunderstand Jesus' prophecy?**

## True and False Witnesses at Trial

*The next day... the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."* **Mt 27:62-64**



**They always knew what the prophecy meant!**

## The Spirit of Giving

*On coming to the house, [the wise men] saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Mt 2:11*

Gold Incense Myrrh



KING; PRIEST; CORPSE

*“Crucify him! ...Crucify him!  
...Let his blood be on us and  
on our children!”*

*Mt 27:22-25*



Crown

Robe

Cross

*“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning” Jn 8:44*



A photograph of a courtroom. In the foreground, there is a dark wooden bench with ornate metal railings. Behind the bench is a large wooden desk or counter. To the left of the desk, an American flag stands on a gold pole. The room features several white columns and a window in the background. The walls are a deep red color. The title "My Trial of Faith" is overlaid at the top in a stylized font.

# *My Trial of Faith*

*The Lord is still on trial - I am a witness*

*Prosecutors include: Islam, Intellectualism  
Cynicism masquerading as intelligence*

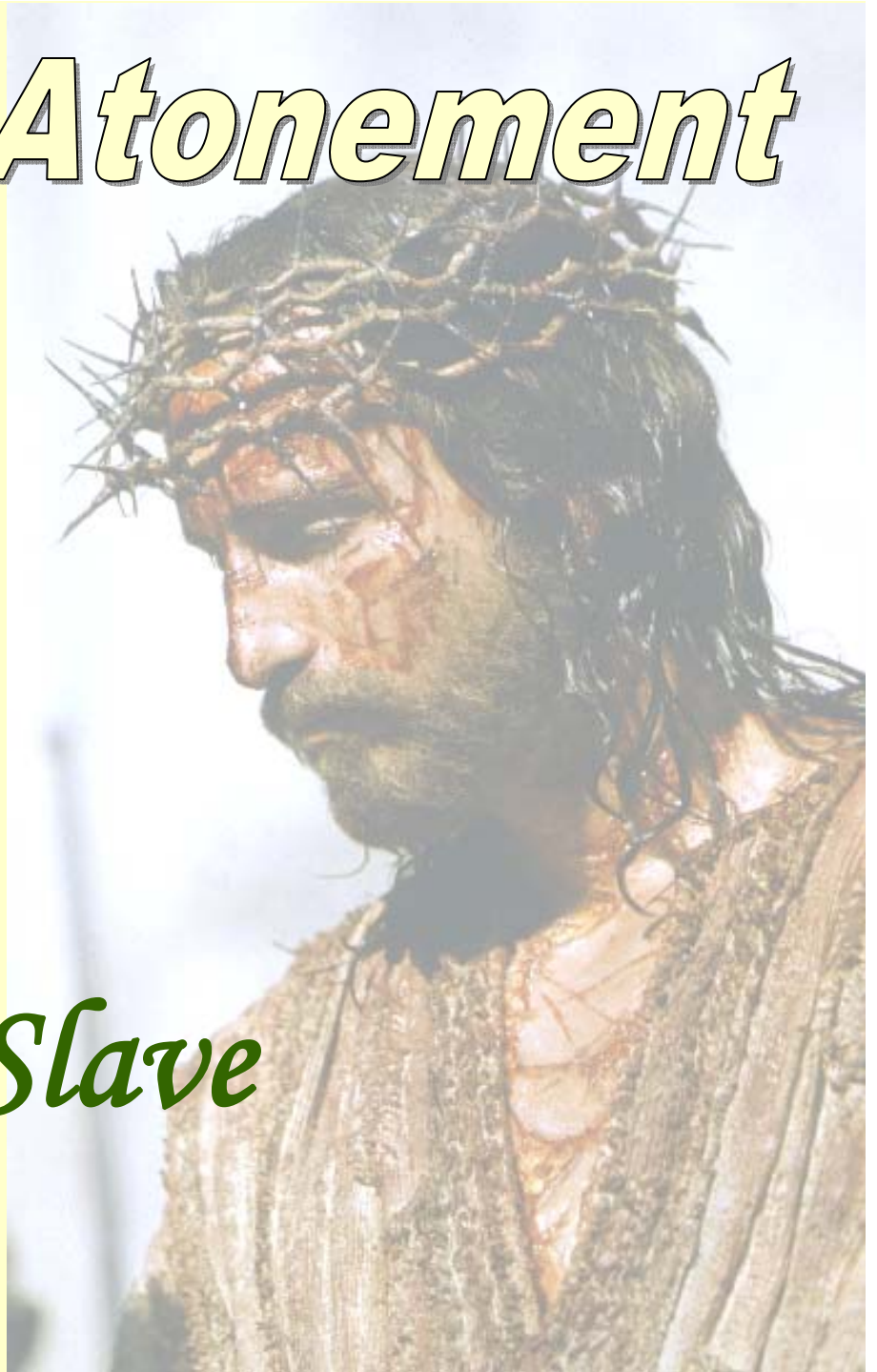
*Atonement thru forgiveness not payment*

*What I do is what I believe*

*I must respond to King / Priest / Corpse:  
I can only praise or scorn him*

# *Road to Atonement*

## *3 The Pierced Slave*





## Thief on the Cross

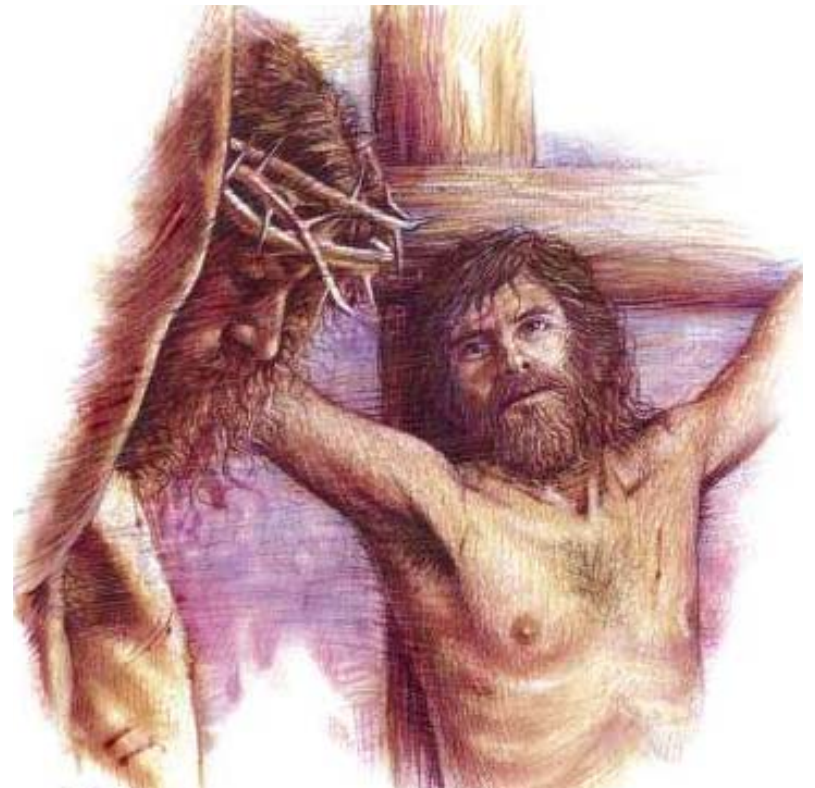
*Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” Lk 23:42-43*

*“I tell you the truth today”? Unlikely - Jesus says:  
“I tell you the truth...” 30 times - never with “today”*

### The Point

*Thief's confession is amazing:  
recognizes Jesus as King, the  
coming Kingdom, resurrection  
and GRACE all in one sentence!*

*=> Jesus comments that the  
thief has indeed accessed  
paradise with his confession on  
that very day*





## Zaccheus' Conversion

*Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house"*

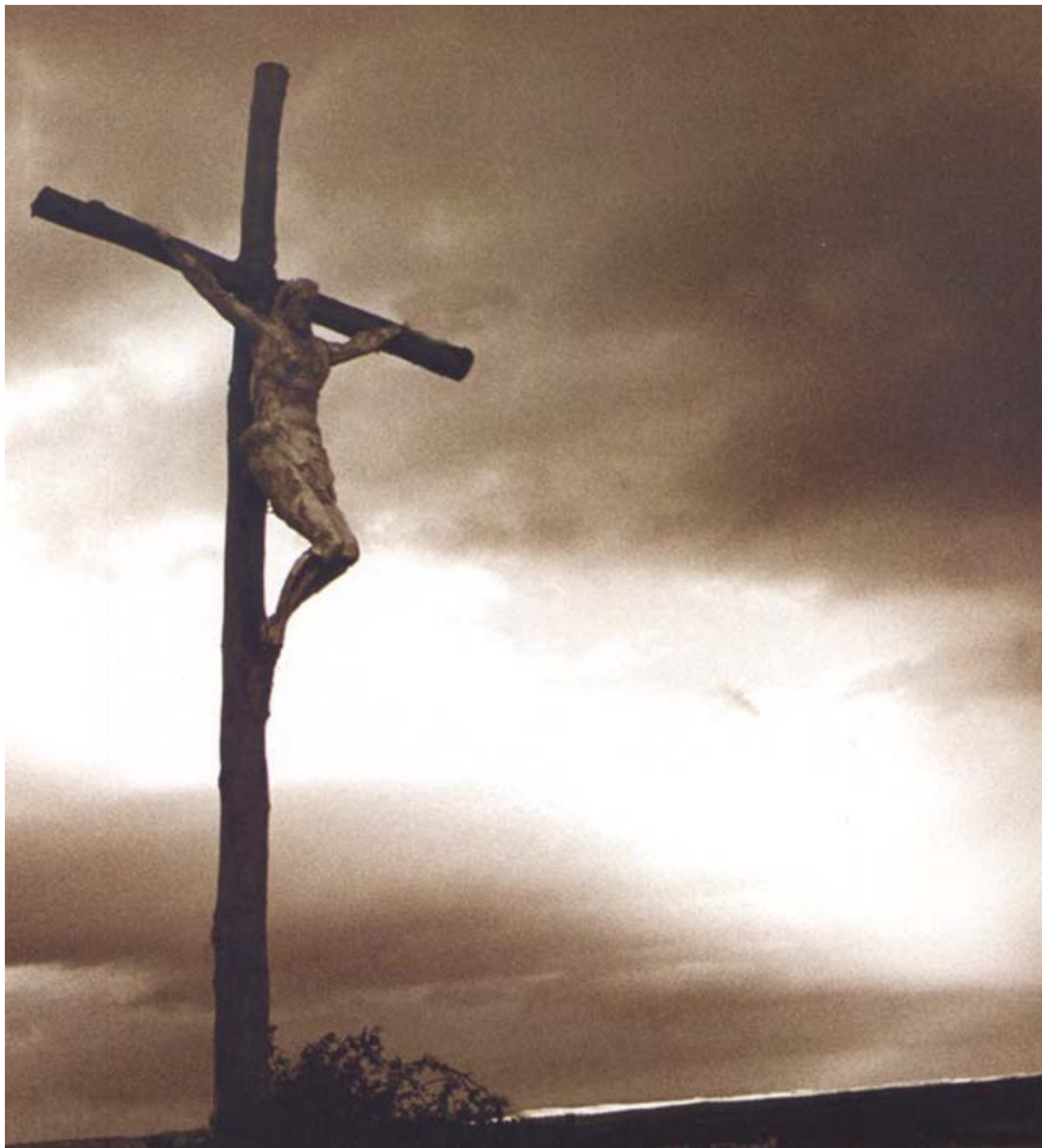
**Lk 19:8-9**



**Zaccheus received salvation while the stolen money was still in his possession**

**Would we make the same decision? (example of our trial)**





## Despair on the Cross?

*About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” -- which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* **Mt 27:45**  
**quoting Ps 22:1**



## The Hidden Context

*“You who fear the LORD,  
praise him! ...For he has  
not despised or disdained  
the suffering of the  
afflicted one; he has not  
hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry  
for help.” Ps 22:23-24*

**Hyperbole:** the Psalmist  
knows God does not overlook  
the cry of the afflicted

**So why does Jesus shout out  
the opening line of the Psalm?**





## Matthew 27

- *When they had crucified him*
- *they divided up his clothes by casting lots*
- *And sitting down they kept watch over him*
- *Those who blasphemed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads...  
“He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God!’ ”* **v35-43**

## Psalms 22

- *they have pierced my hands and my feet*
- *They divided my garments among them and cast lots*
- *A band of evil men has encircled me*
- *All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: “He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”* **v7-8,16-18**

**He's Preaching! Trying to save those in mortal danger!**

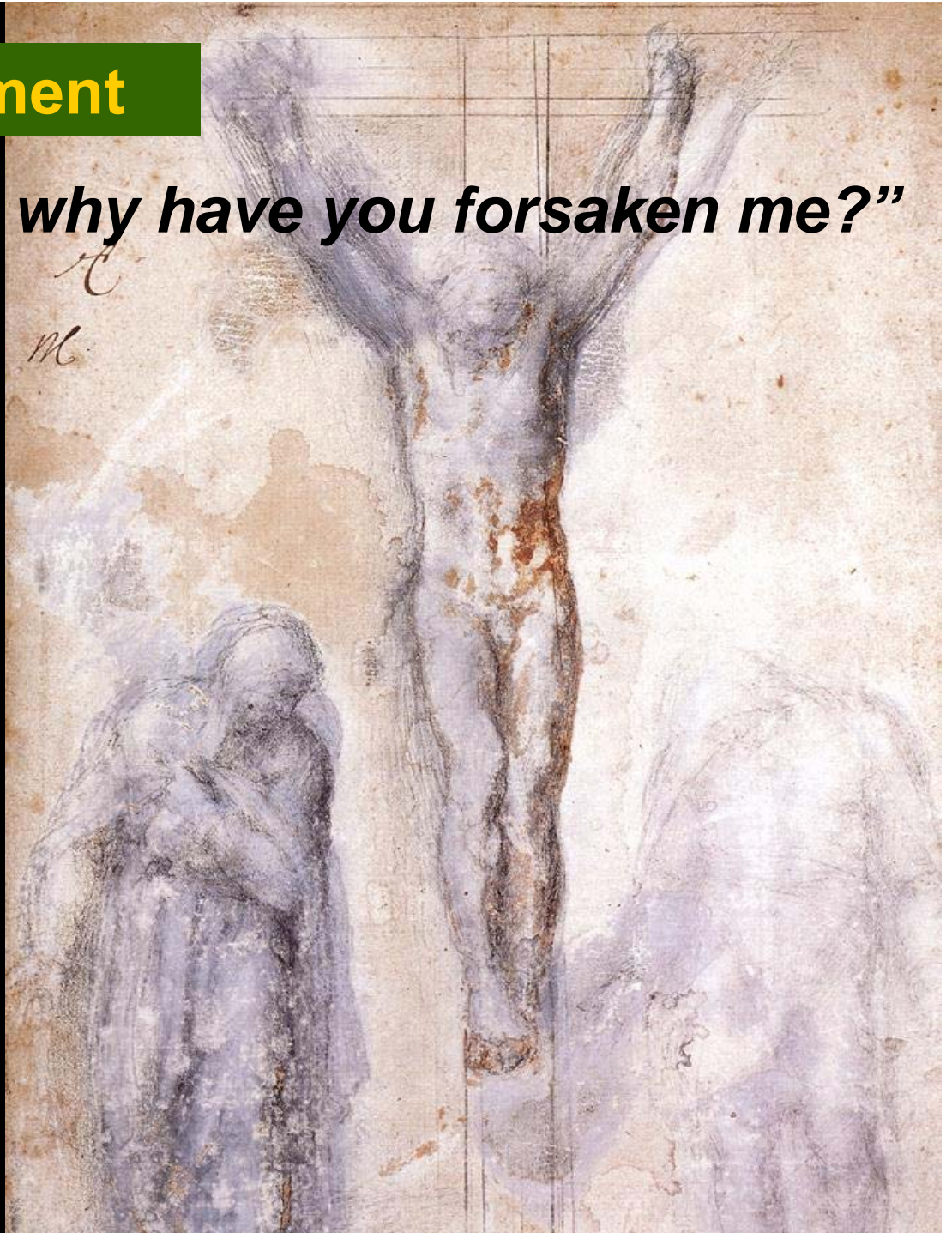
## Psalm 22: The Fulfillment

***“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”***  
***Mt 27:45 / Ps 22:1***

***When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.***  
***Jn 19:30***

***“It is fulfilled.” Lamsa***

***“Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.” Lk 22:37***



## Jesus' Declaration: the Misquoted Psalm?

**Jesus**

*“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, **but a body you prepared for me;** with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.’ ”*  
**Heb 10:5-7**

**David**

*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, **but my ears you have pierced;** burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said, “Here I am, I have come - it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, O my God” **Psa 40:6-8***



## **“My Ears You Have Pierced”**

**Psa 40:6**

***“But if the servant declares, ‘I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,’ then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and **pierce his ear with an awl**. Then he will be his servant for life.”***

**Ex 21:5-6**



## Servant for Life: From Choice

### David

*“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced” Psa 40*



### Christ

*“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me” Heb 10*



**Christ declares his desire to give his life in service to God**

## Doorway to the Master's House

*[The master] shall take [the slave] to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Ex 21:6*

- The slave was nailed to the doorway of his chosen Master's house - nothing else would suffice
  - Comparison of Psalm 40 and Hebrews 10 shows Christ performing this practice (substituting his whole body for the slave's ear)
- ⇒ Christ's body was nailed to the Doorway of his Chosen Master's House

**The Doorway to the House of God is the Cross of Jesus Christ**





## Price of the Pierced Slave: 30 Pieces of Silver

*“If a bull gores a man or a woman to death, the bull must be stoned to death, and its meat must not be eaten... If the bull gores a male or female slave, the owner must pay thirty shekels of silver to the master of the slave, and the bull must be stoned.”* **Ex 21:28-32**

*Then one of the Twelve--the one called Judas Iscariot--went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.* **Mt 26:14-16**

*“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”* **Mt 5:17**

## Fulfilling the Law

- 1 the [bull's] owner must pay thirty shekels of silver to the master of the slave
- 2 and the bull must die **Ex 21**

**1** *When Judas... saw that Jesus was condemned, he... returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. **Mt 27:3***



*So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. **Mt 27:5***



**The money went back to God - the law was fulfilled**

**2** *Then he went away and hanged himself. **Mt 27:5***

## **Death Sentence for the Bull's Owner**

*If, however, the bull has had the habit of goring and the owner has been warned but has not kept it penned up and it kills a man or woman, the bull must be stoned and the owner also must be put to death. However, if payment is demanded of him, he may redeem his life by paying whatever is demanded.*

**Ex 21:29-30**

*“I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.” **Mt 23:33-35***



## The Atonement of Jesus Christ

Atonement isn't about 'paying a penalty' for sin - else Christ would not have needed to do anything; it's about becoming one with God - which means 'Killing the Killer'

*So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me... What a wretched man I am!*

**Rom 7:21,24**



*Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him **Heb 5:8-9***

## An Eclipse and an Earthquake

*From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land... the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.*

*Mt 27:45,51-53*

**What was this miracle for?**

**Emphasized how even Christ's death brought life  
How much more then his presence? *Isa 65:17-25***

## An Eclipse and an Earthquake

*When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"* **Mt 27:54**

**Centurion convinced by earthquake & eclipse  
=> he was teetering on the brink of belief**

**Lessons for us:**

- Keep conversation spiritual for other 'teeterers'
- God's Creation is a witness for Him **Jer 8:7**
- We are God's Creation - do we witness Him clearly?
- Salvation came to centurion through Jesus' death
- Atonement is about salvation; not sacrifice



## The Centurion's Conversion

### Why was the earthquake pivotal?

*“Will not the land tremble for this, and all who live in it mourn?”*

*“...In that day,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your religious feasts into mourning and all your singing into weeping... I will make that time like mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.”* **Amos 8:8-10**

# ***My Road to Atonement***



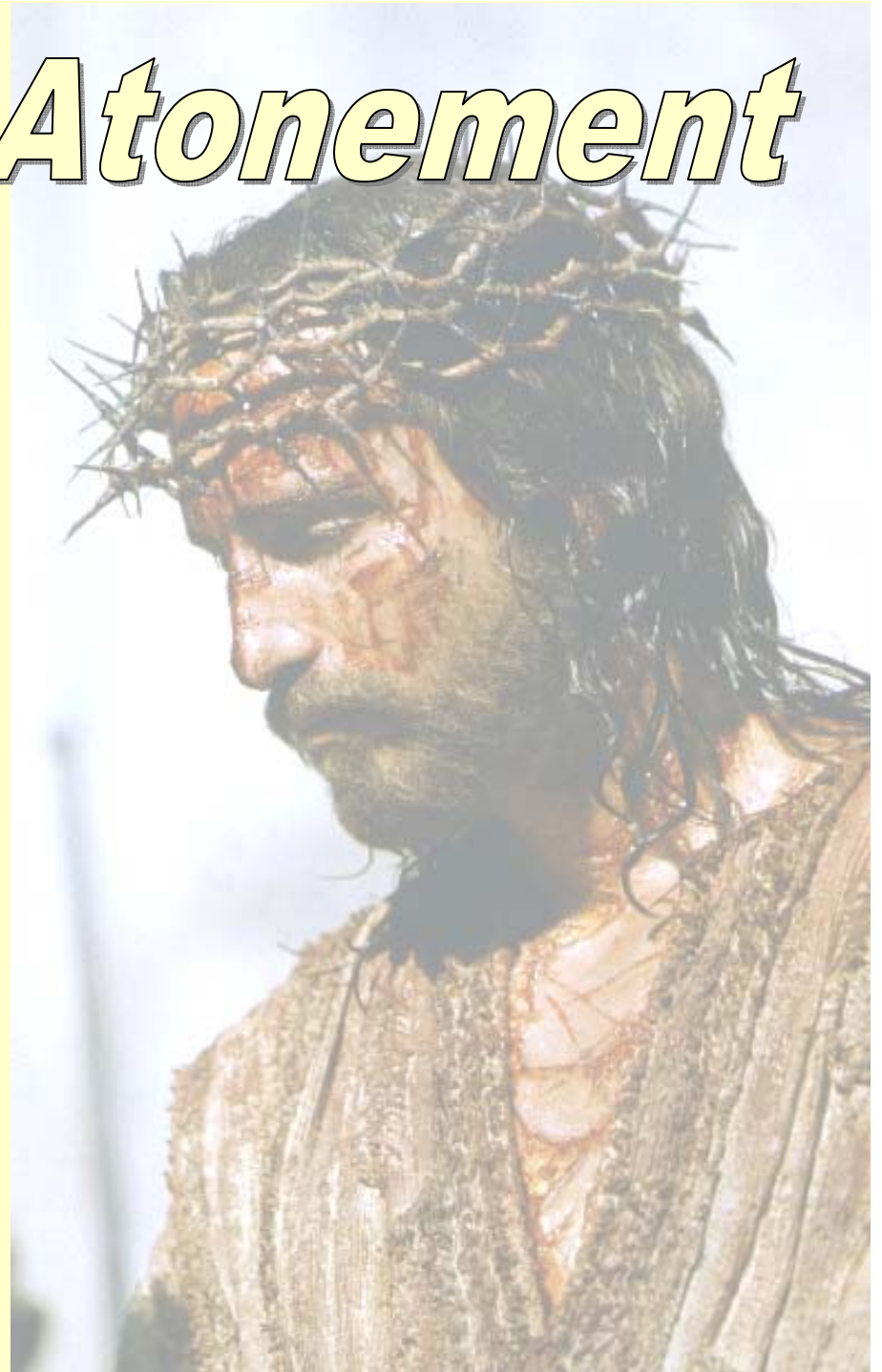
**Christ's Cross is the Doorway to God's House**

**Is My Cross a Doorway for others?**

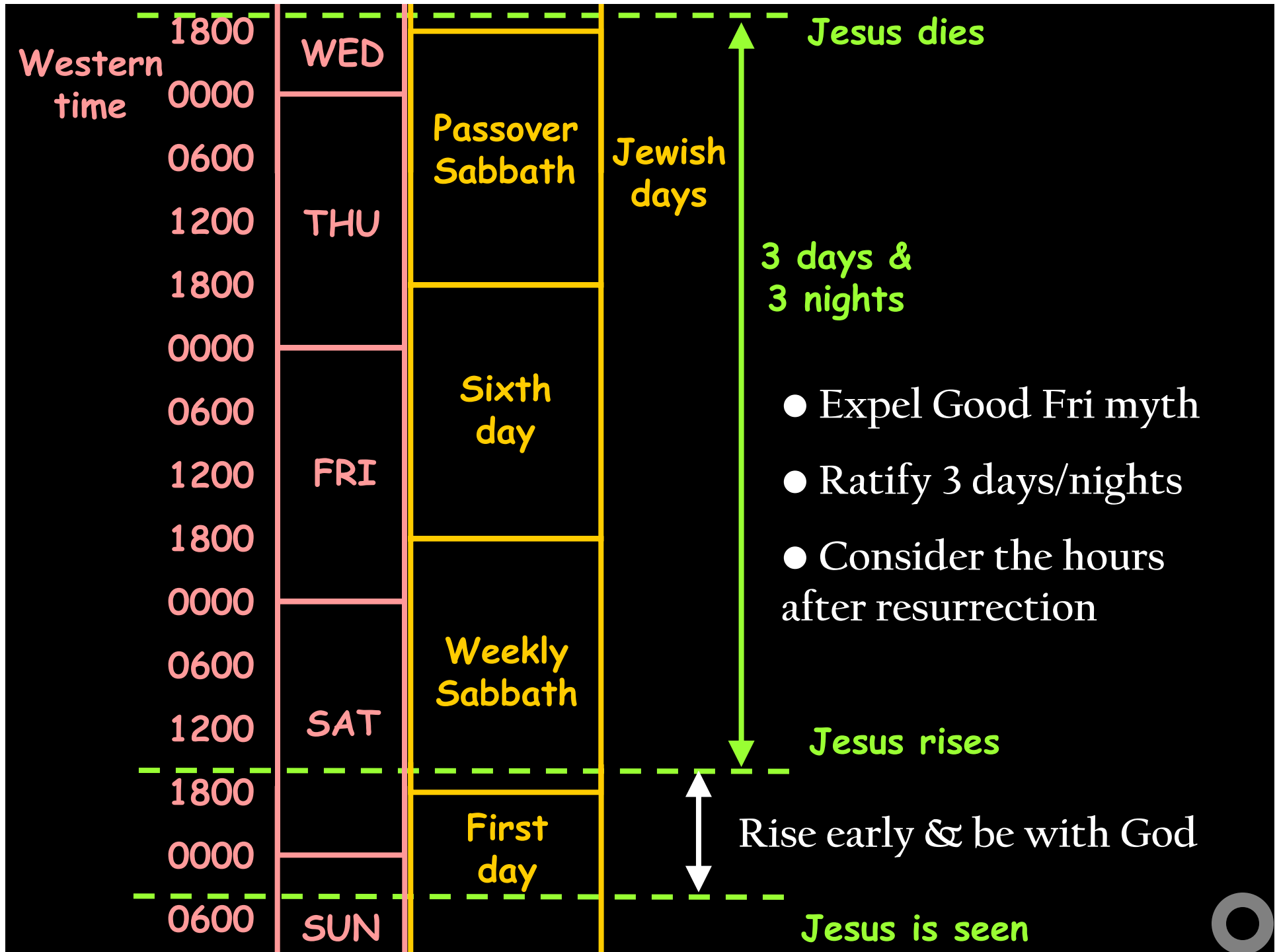
**Am I a constant witness for those who teeter?**

# *Road to Atonement*

## *4 Atonement*







## 3 Denials, 3 Reinstatements

- **Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” [agape]**  
**“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” [phileo]**  
**Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” [lambs]**
- **Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” [agape]**  
**He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” [phileo]**  
**Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” [ewes]**
- **The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” [phileo]**  
**Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” [phileo]**  
**Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” [rams] Jn 21:15-18**



## The Plagued House: The Israelite's House

• Inspected by Priest **Lev 14:36**

• If plagued: House scoured; unclean bricks disposed of **v 39-42**

• Period of waiting **v 43**

• Second inspection **v 44**

• If plagued, house is utterly destroyed

• If clean, house is atoned for

*“It must be torn down—its stones, timbers and all the plaster—and taken out of the town to an unclean place.” **v 45***

*“To purify the house he is to take two birds and some cedar wood, scarlet yarn and hyssop... In this way he will make atonement for the house, and it will be clean.” **vv 49,53***





## The Plagued House: Physical Temple of God

- Inspected by Priest
- If plagued: House scoured; unclean bricks disposed of

*Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there... “you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’”*

*Mt 21:12-13*

- Period of waiting
- Second inspection
- If plagued, house is utterly destroyed

*Jesus left the temple... “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”* *Mt 24:1-3*

- If clean, house is atoned for

*“it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited.”*

*Josephus, ‘Wars of the Jews,’ AD75; 7, 1, 1*

## The Plagued House: Spiritual Temple of God

- Inspected by Priest
- If plagued: House scoured; unclean bricks disposed of
- Period of waiting
- Second inspection
- If plagued, house is utterly destroyed
- If clean, house is atoned for

*All have sinned...*

**Rom 3:23**

*our old self was crucified... that the body of sin might be done away* **Rom 6:6**



*He has set a day when he will judge the world* **Acts 17:31**

*“He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”* **Mt 21:44**

*God presented [Jesus] as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.* **Rom 3:25**



## How Are We Atoned (Made One with God)?

### Why Did Jesus Die?

Killed by Sin (Sin Kills) *Gen 3:15*

To reveal our nature *Ps 22 / Mt 27*

To destroy the devil *Heb 2:14*

To open the Book of Life *Rev 5:2-5*

Because he loves us *Jn 10:11-15*

### How does Jesus' death save us?

It doesn't: we are saved by his resurrection *1 Cor 15:17*

### How does Jesus' resurrection save us? He is alive to:

Show God's character: Mercy; Punishing guilty *Ex 34:6-7*

Succour and counsel us; come to us *Jn 14:18*

Exercise his authority to forgive our sins *Mk 2:10*

Be the Judge appointed by God *Acts 17:31*

**We are atoned by forgiveness... ..because we are loved**



## Atonement: To Live in God's House

*... and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Ps 23:6*  
(c.f. Judas on Passover night)

First 3 stories in Luke are all in the temple...

- 1 Zechariah encounters Gabriel *Lk 1:8-80*
- 2 Jesus presented and blessed by Simeon *Lk 2:21-40*
- 3 Jesus stays to reason with the teachers *Lk 2:41-52*

...as is the final picture (Luke comes full circle)

*While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. *Lk 24:51-53**

But the ultimate House of God is Heaven...

# Understanding Heaven's Place

Now

*The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man. Psa 115:16*

astronomical  
heavens



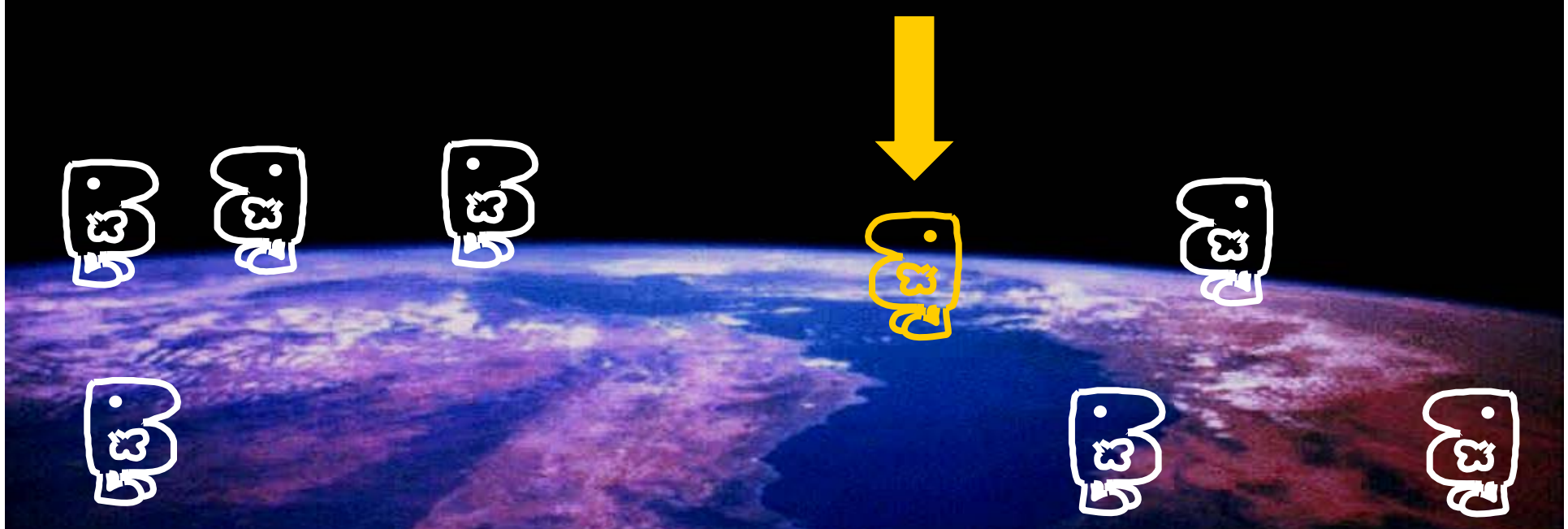
## Understanding Heaven's Place

### Kingdom's Coming

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God.*

*1 Thess 4:16*

### astronomical heavens



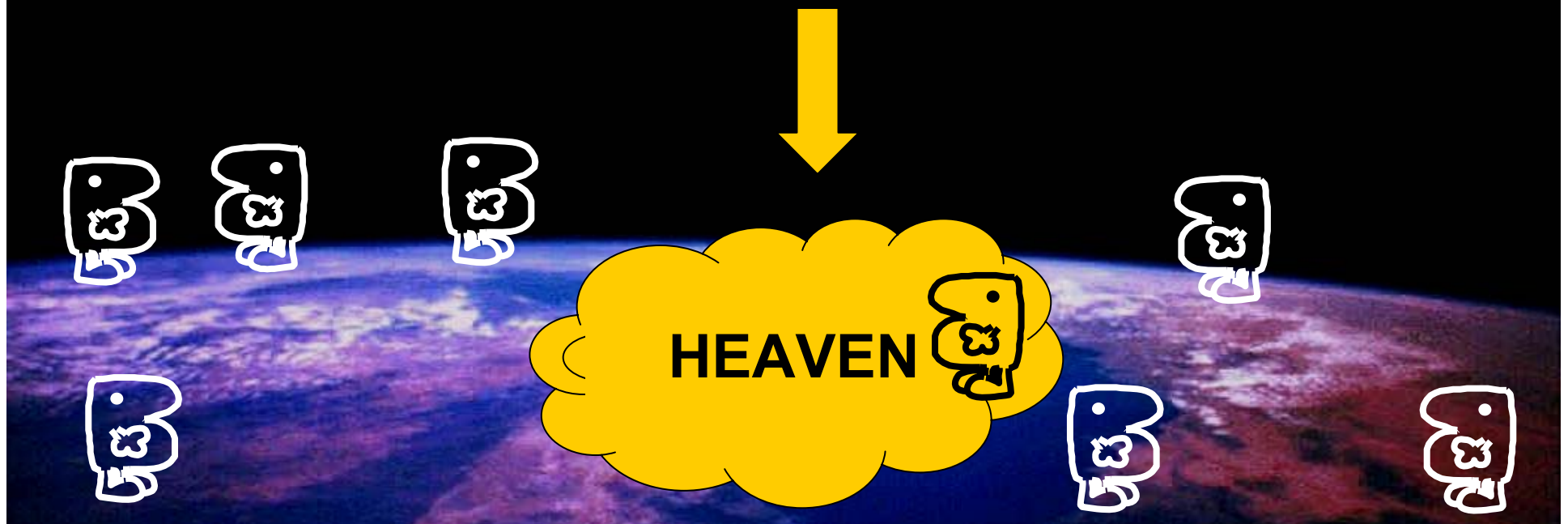


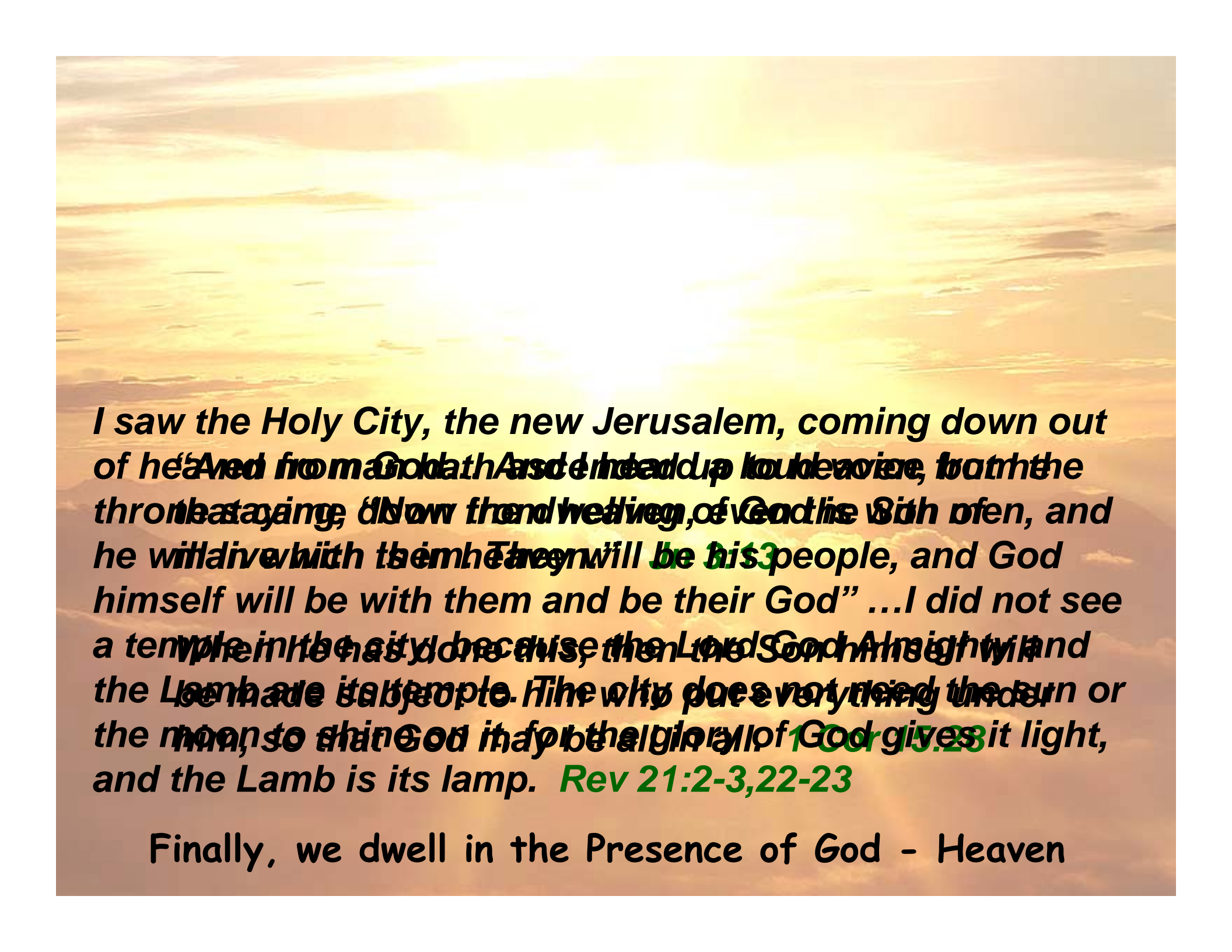
## Understanding Heaven's Place

**Kingdom's Completion** *"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God"*  
**Rev 21:3**

**astronomical  
heavens**

**"Heaven" is not an address,  
it is the Dwelling Place of God**



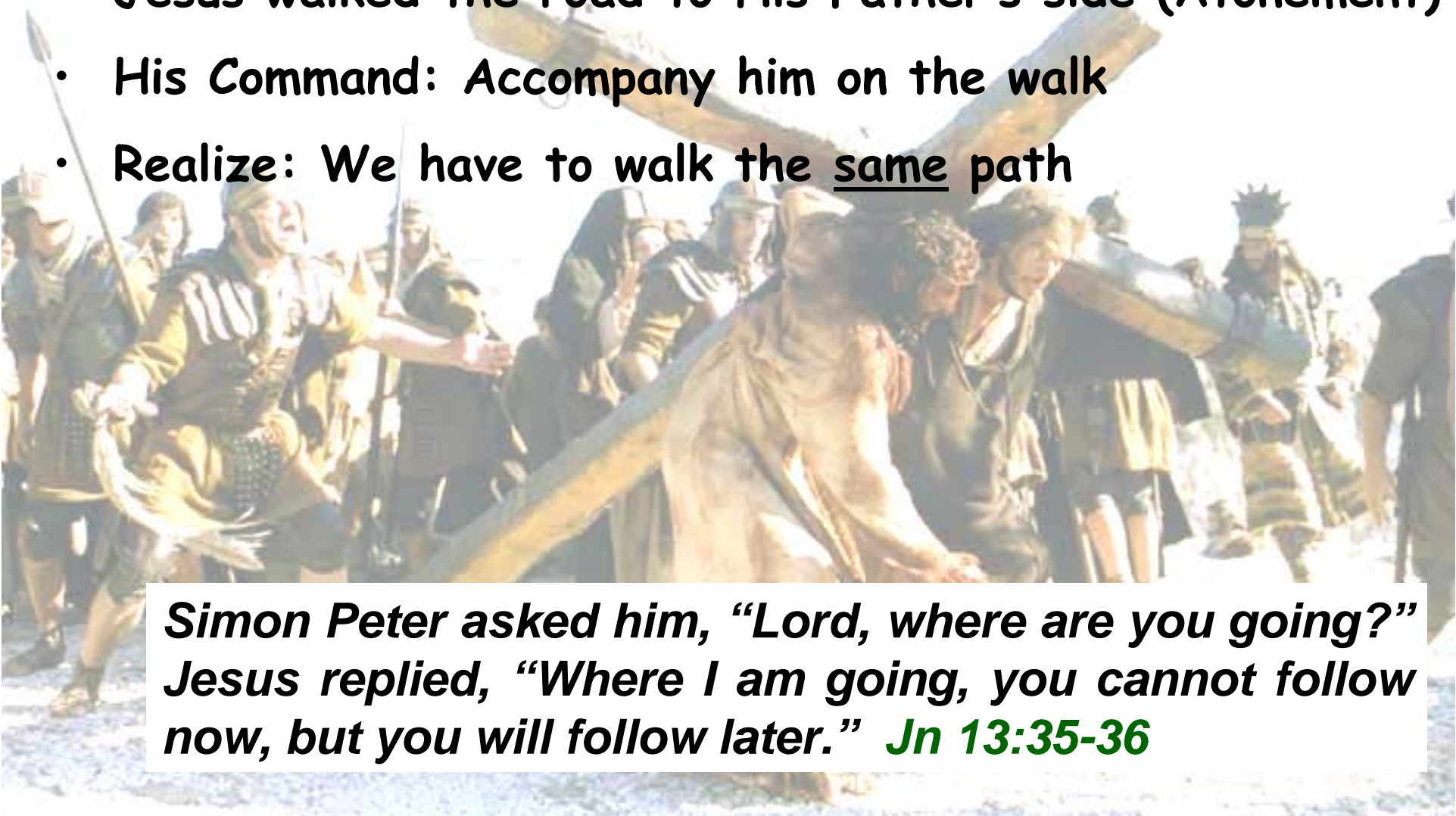


**I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, and seated upon a twelve-sided throne that says, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God' ...I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon, so that God may shine on it; for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. **Rev 21:2-3,22-23****

**Finally, we dwell in the Presence of God - Heaven**

## Objective

- Study the last days of the mortal Christ
  - Jesus walked the road to His Father's side (Atonement)
  - His Command: Accompany him on the walk
  - Realize: We have to walk the same path



*Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?”  
Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow  
now, but you will follow later.” Jn 13:35-36*



# ***My Road to Atonement***

A vibrant, detailed photograph of a garden. A stone path winds through the center, flanked by manicured hedges and a variety of colorful flowers, including purple and white blooms. Large, leafy trees frame the scene, creating a sense of depth and enclosure. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and well-maintained.

***My Swordplay: Bible is for holiness not combat***

***Prayer in the Garden: must be as usual for me***

***My Garden: self-sacrifice; must feel the pain of sin***

***Fatal point: Kill the Killer – or die***

***Point of crisis is met alone***



A photograph of a courtroom. In the foreground, there is a dark wooden bench with ornate metal railings. Behind the bench is a large wooden desk or counter. To the left of the desk, an American flag stands on a gold pole. The room features several tall, white, fluted columns and a large window in the background. The walls are a deep red color. The title "My Trial of Faith" is overlaid at the top in a stylized font.

# *My Trial of Faith*

*The Lord is still on trial - I am a witness*

*Prosecutors include: Islam, Intellectualism  
Cynicism masquerading as intelligence*

*Atonement thru forgiveness not payment*

*What I do is what I believe*

*I must respond to King / Priest / Corpse:  
I can only praise or scorn him*

# ***My Doorway to God***



***God's desire is a willing servant, not sacrifice***

***Is My Cross a Doorway for others?***

***Am I a constant witness for those who teeter?***



# ***My Atonement***

***Jesus comes to us to assist in 'cleaning house'  
The Leprous House is inspected a 2<sup>nd</sup> time  
We are atoned through forgiveness  
By grace, I finish in Heaven: Presence of GOD***

## Guest in Emmaus

*And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. **Lk 24:28-29***

**Jesus accepts invitations to come and reside**







# SIGNS OF THE END



Ramallah



Bethlehem



Jerusalem

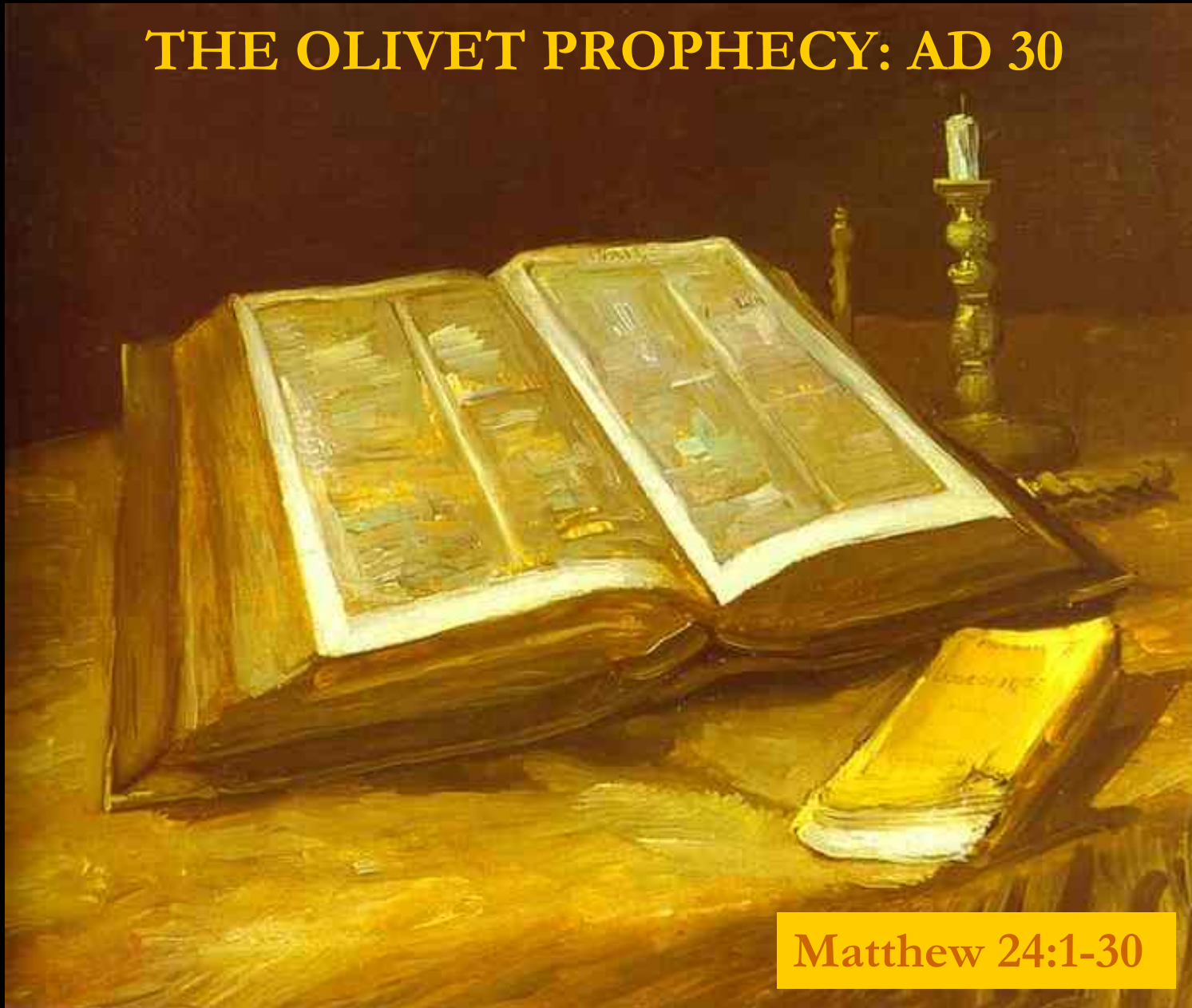
## OBJECTIVE:

- To learn what the signs of Christ's coming are, which ones are still to be fulfilled, and what they are likely to look like when they appear.
- To ensure we are alert and readily prepared to give answer to those who ask us what we believe God has planned for the future of this world.



# SIGNS OF THE END

## THE OLIVET PROPHECY: AD 30



Matthew 24:1-30



**586 BC**

**BABYLON ATTACKS**

**(#1)**

Jerusalem overrun, People exiled

**AD 70**

**ROME ATTACKS**

**(#2)**

Jerusalem overrun, People exiled

**x**

**ALL NATIONS ATTACK**

**(#3)**

Jerusalem overrun, 1/2 People exiled

**x + '1000'**

**GOG & MAGOG ATTACK**

**(#4)**

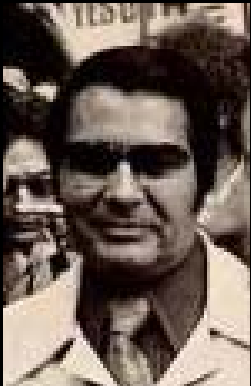
Jerusalem stands firm



# SIGNS OF THE END: 1

“I am Jesus Christ!”

*Matt 24:5,26-28*



1978  
Jim  
Jones

[3]



1981  
Mehmet  
Ali Agca

[4]



1993  
David  
Koresh

[5]



[3] Galanter M., “Cults: Faith, Healing and Coercion,” 1989, Oxford University Press, New York

[4] Purvis A., Time Magazine 2002, 159, No. 21

[5] “Dallas Morning News,” 1 March 1993, p 1,col A

# SIGNS OF THE END: 2

## Wars and Rumours of Wars

*Matt 24:6-8*

1948



1949



1967



1973



1993



29 Sep 2000: Al-Intifadha

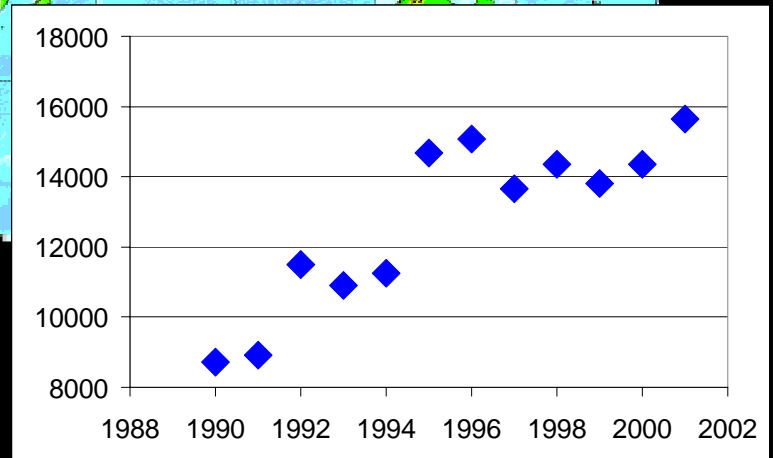
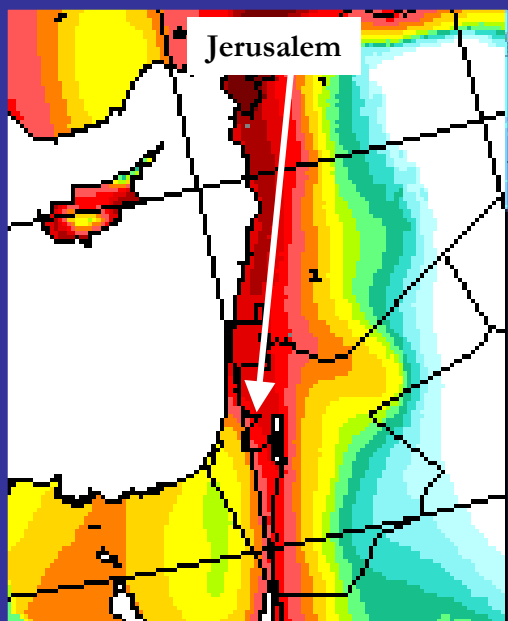
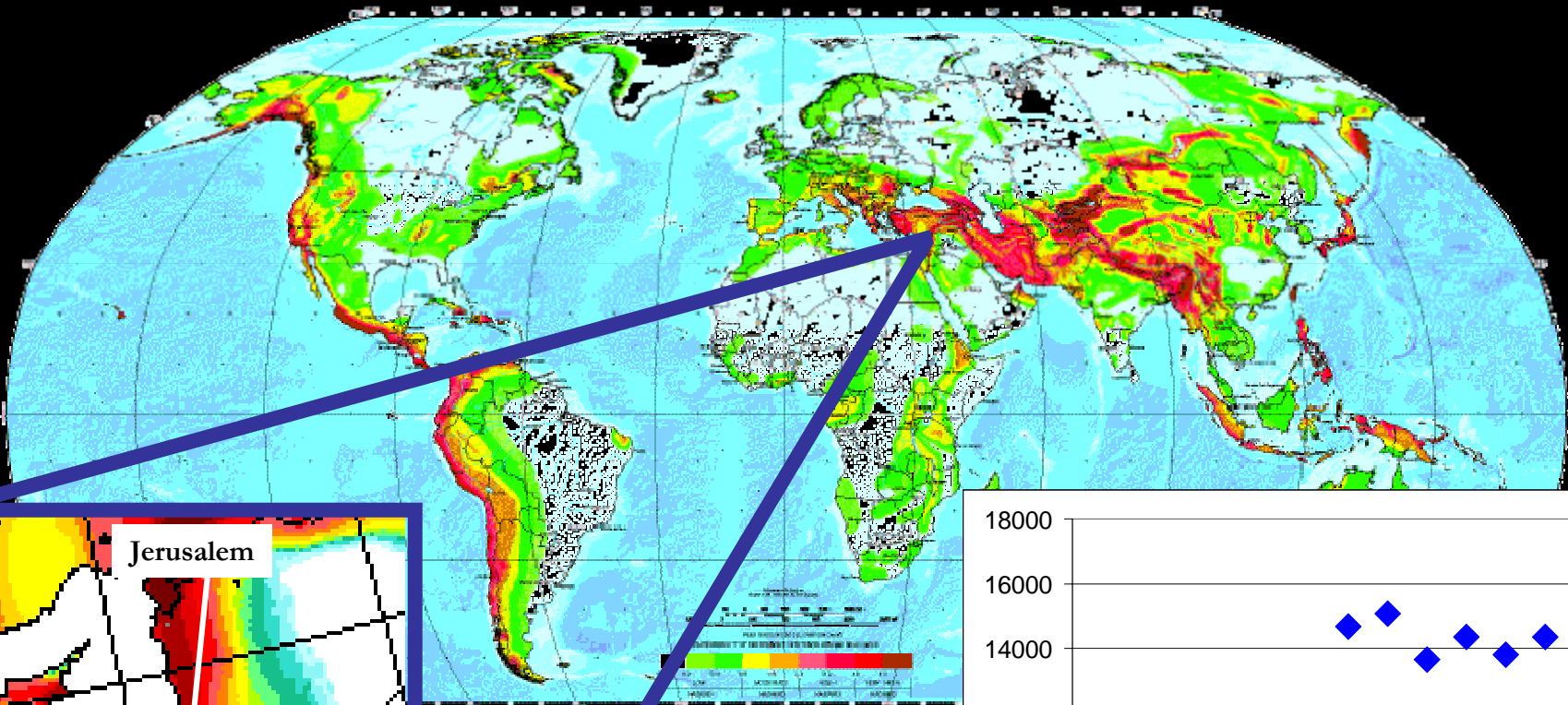
“Birth pains”



# SIGNS OF THE END: 3

## Earthquakes in Various Places

*Matt 24:7-8*

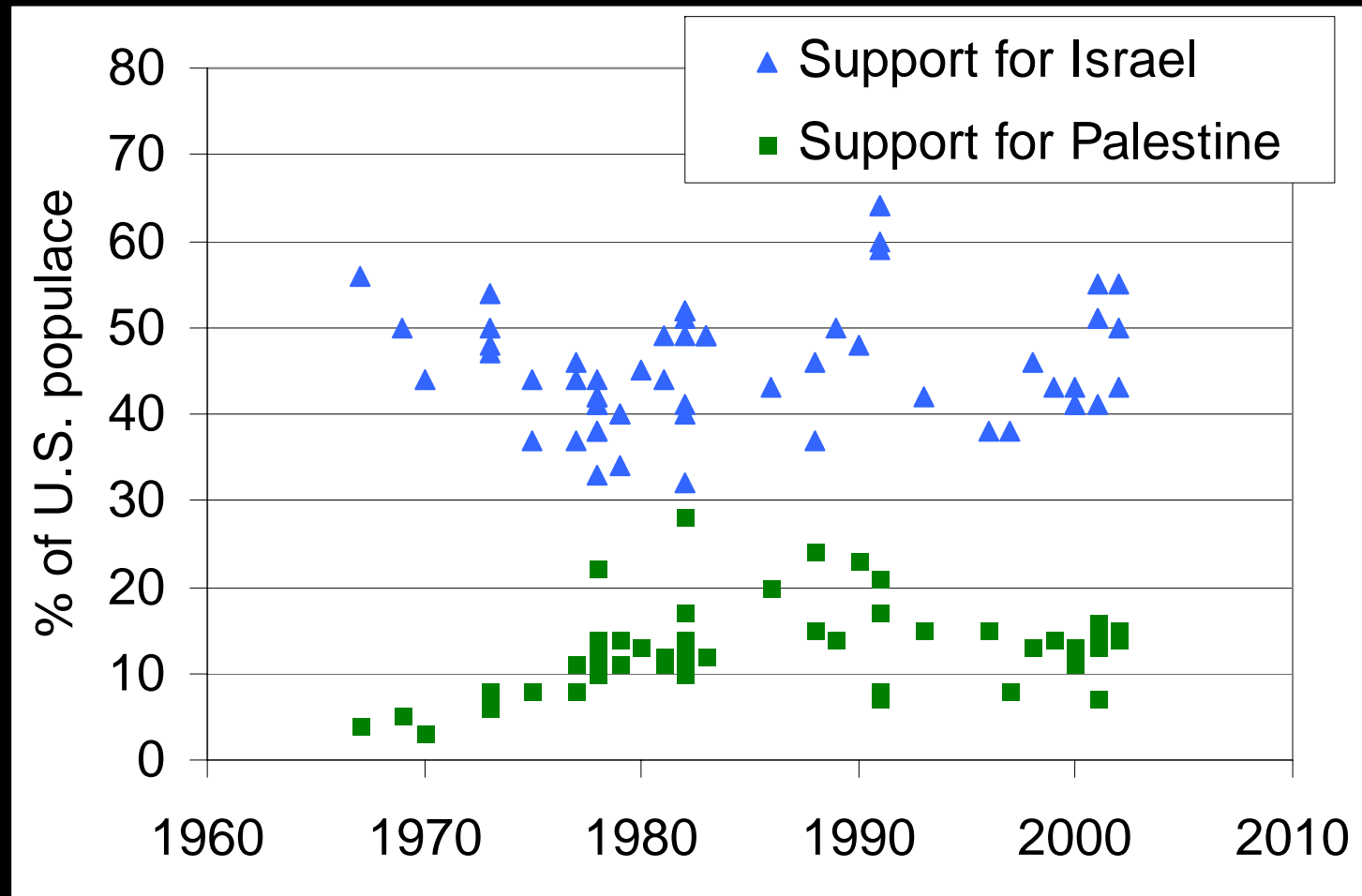


**“Birth pains”**

Source: National Earthquake Information Center,  
United States Geological Survey, Reston, VA

# SIGNS OF THE END: 4

Hated By All Nations for My Name's Sake *Matt 24:9-13*



Source: Gallup Polls, Gallup Organization,  
World HQ 901 F Street, NW Washington, DC



# Hated By All Nations for My Name's Sake





# SIGNS OF THE END: 5

## Gospel Preached in All the World *Matt 24:14*





**San Francisco Peninsula  
CHRISTADELPHIANS**

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**OUR BELIEFS**

**DAILY READINGS**

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John Benson.  
To meet members and discuss a preaching campaign in Copenhagen in 2007.

13-23 November  
**Sierra Leone**  
Bob Fox and Alan Briley.  
11 baptisms, Bible School and public address.

4-17 November  
**Malta**  
Mike Tanner and Derek Davies.

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- The return of Christ is only a metaphor.
- Jesus Christ is dead and will never return.
- Jesus will return to set up his Father's kingdom.
- Don't know.

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**MY LIFE:**  
IF GOD EXISTS WHY DOES HE ALLOW SUFFERING?



Figure 1: Mourning the loss of life in the Russian "Kursk" submarine disaster.

**The Search for Meaning**

It is difficult to measure the pain a person can feel at the loss of a loved one: both in terms of the sharp grief at their absence, and the ongoing emptiness and lethargy with which they might then view the remaining struggle of life ahead. A belief in God sometimes seems insufficient to console in such dark times. Worse still, for someone unconvinced of the existence of God, or unconvinced that God cares about the human condition, each successive blow of suffering, whether dealt directly to

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, dealing with "tricky" questions, and having and God's Word and Christ



We take a look around this website. It provides all the details to understand exactly what P2P is. When you think that P2P is for you, please [contact us](#), we'd love to have you join the first workshop.

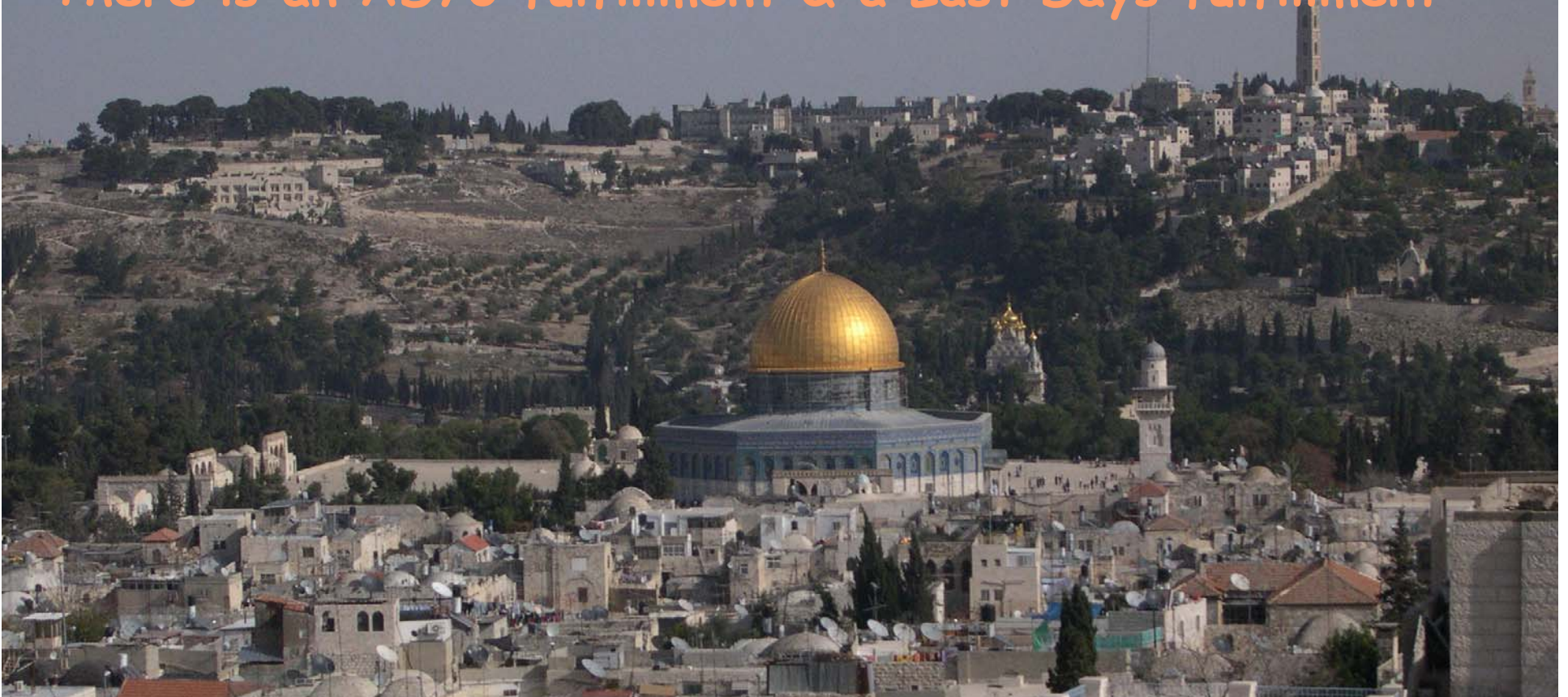
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## **Abomination of Desolation**    **SIGNS OF THE END: 6**

***“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” Mt 24:15***

**There is an AD70 fulfillment & a Last Days fulfillment**



## Abomination of Desolation

*“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” Mt 24:15*

Interpretations must satisfy the following requirements:

- Must be future to AD 30
- Happens “In the Holy Place”
- Is last chance to flee - this is the point!
- Sacrifice also ceases *Dan 12:10-12*
- Equates to “surrounding armies”

*“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” Lk 21:17-22*



## Theory 1: 168 BC - Antiochus Epiphanes

A Seleucid ruler who entered Jerusalem with little bloodshed, thus earning the nickname "Epiphanes." His armed forces rose up to desecrate the temple, abolished the daily sacrifices and erected pagan idols in order to show favor to Hellenism.

**Req 1: Must be future to AD 30**

## Theory 2: AD70 - General Titus' Monument

*NOW as soon as the army had no more people to slay or to plunder, because there remained none to be the objects of their fury, (for they would not have spared any, had there remained any other work to be done,)*



**Titus'  
monument**

*Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple... it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited. This was the end which Jerusalem came to by the madness of those that were for innovations; a city otherwise of great magnificence, and of mighty fame among all mankind.*

*Where is this city that was believed to have God himself inhabiting therein? ...I cannot but wish that we had all died before we had seen that holy city demolished by the hands of our enemies, or the foundations of our holy temple dug up after so profane a manner.*

*Josephus, AD 75, 'Wars of the Jews,' VII, I, I*

**Req 3: Is last chance to flee - this is the point!**

## The Holy Place, the Presence of God

***“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Ex 3:5, also Josh 5:15***

The Holy Place is where God is, not (just) the Temple

***Then the glory of the LORD departed from over the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim. While I watched, the cherubim spread their wings and rose from the ground, and as they went, the wheels went with them. They stopped at the entrance to the east gate of the LORD’s house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. Ezek 10:18-19***

In Ezekiel's day (~600 BC) God leaves the Temple



# The Holy Place, AD 30

West ↔ East

Glory of God departs  
East & up  
*Ezek 10*

Glory  
of  
God

Ascent  
Advent

Jerusalem

temple

Garden of  
Gethsemane

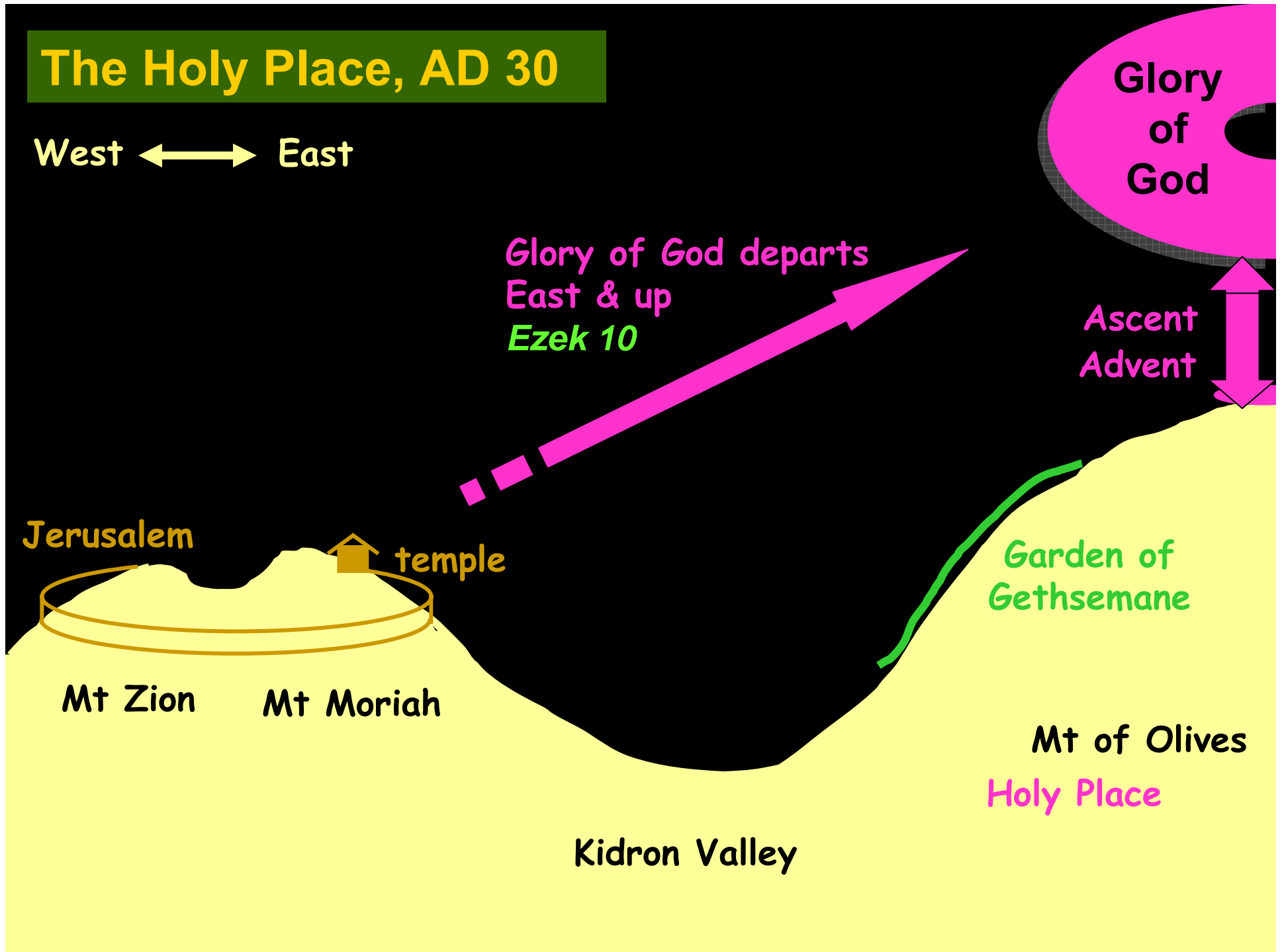
Mt Zion

Mt Moriah

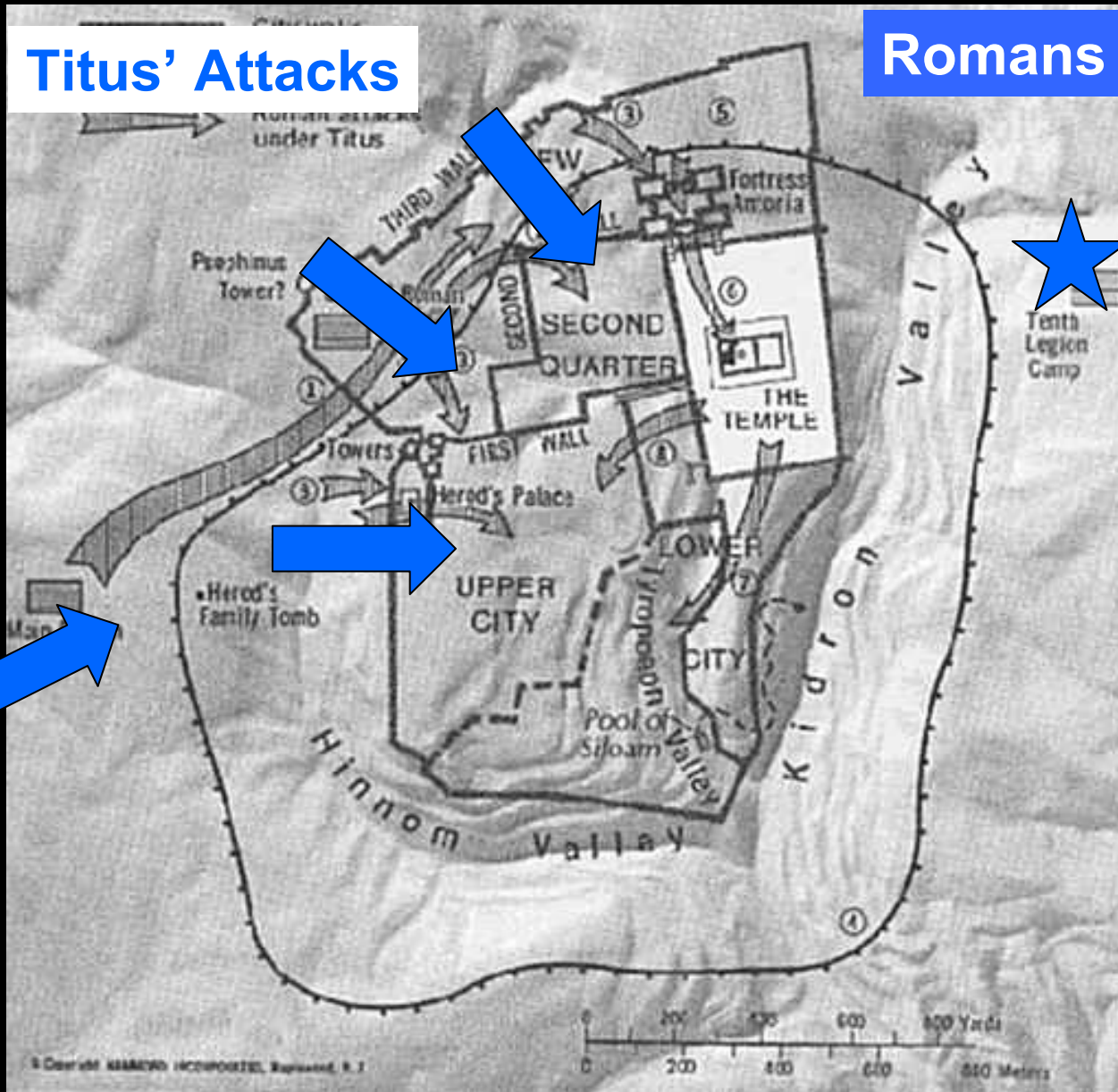
Mt of Olives

Holy Place

Kidron Valley



# Theory 3: AD70 - 10<sup>th</sup> Legion take the Mt of Olives



## Theory 3: AD70 - 10<sup>th</sup> Legion take the Mt of Olives

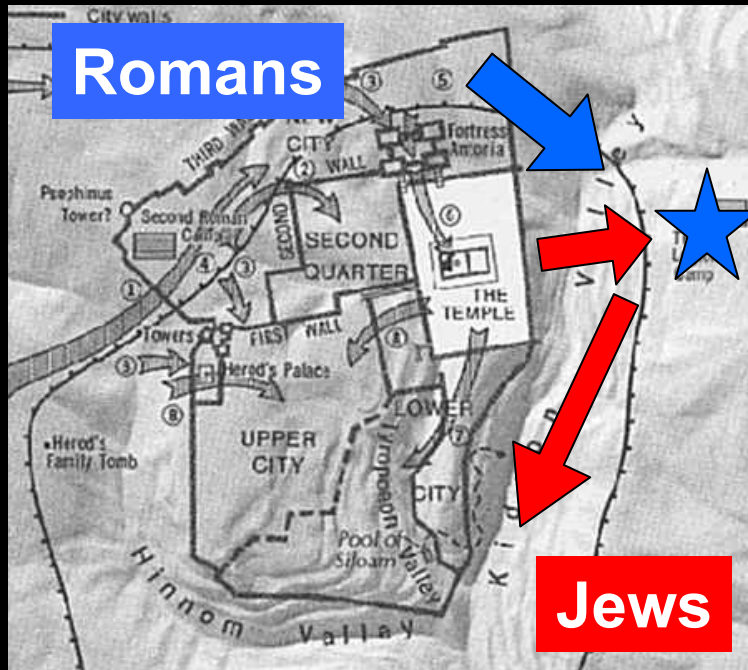


*Accordingly, this place, on the north quarter of the city, and joining thereto, was a plain, and very properly named Scopus, [the prospect,] and was no more than seven furlongs distant from it. And here it was that Titus ordered a camp to be fortified for two legions that were to be together; but ordered another camp to be fortified, at three furlongs*

*farther distance behind them, for the fifth legion; for he thought that, by marching in the night, they might be tired, and might deserve to be covered from the enemy, and with less fear might fortify themselves; and as these were now beginning to build, the tenth legion, who came through Jericho, was already come to the place, where a certain party of armed men had formerly lain, to guard that pass into the city, and had been taken before by Vespasian. These legions had orders to encamp at the distance of six furlongs from Jerusalem, at the mount called the Mount of Olives which lies over against the city on the east side, and is parted from it by a deep valley, interposed between them, which is named Cedron. Josephus, AD 75, 'Wars of the Jews,' V, II, III*



## The Last Escape



## SIGNS OF THE END: 6

*Thus did [the Jews] encourage one another when they were gotten together, and took their armor immediately, and ran out upon the tenth legion, and fell upon the Romans with great eagerness, and with a prodigious shout, as they were fortifying their camp. These Romans were caught in different parties, and this in order to perform their several works, and on that account had in great measure laid aside their arms...*

*Nay, things looked as though the entire legion would have been in danger, unless Titus had been informed of the case they were in, and had sent them succors immediately. So he reproached them for their cowardice, and brought those back that were running away, and fell himself upon the Jews on their flank, with those select troops that were with him, and slew a considerable number, and wounded more of them, and put them all to flight, and made them run away hastily down the valley. **Josephus, AD 75, 'Wars of the Jews,' V, II, IV***

## The “Abomination of Desolation”: AD70



General Titus occupied the Mt Olives with 10<sup>th</sup> Legion, leading to surrounding Jerusalem

Test this theory against known criteria:

- |                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| • Future to AD 30       | Yes          |
| • “In the Holy Place”   | Mt Olives    |
| • Last chance to flee   | Absolutely   |
| • Sacrifice also ceases | Ok           |
| • = “surrounding army”  | definitively |

## The “Abomination of Desolation”: Last Days

*“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”* **Mt 24:15**



**Army encamps on Mt Olives, surrounding Jerusalem. This will be the last chance for escape before the assault resulting in ransack and exile. Zech 14:2**



## SIGNS OF THE END: 7

### Sun and Moon Darkened

*Matt 24:29*

*God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. **Gen 1:16-18***

**Sun, Moon and Stars = GOVERNMENTS**

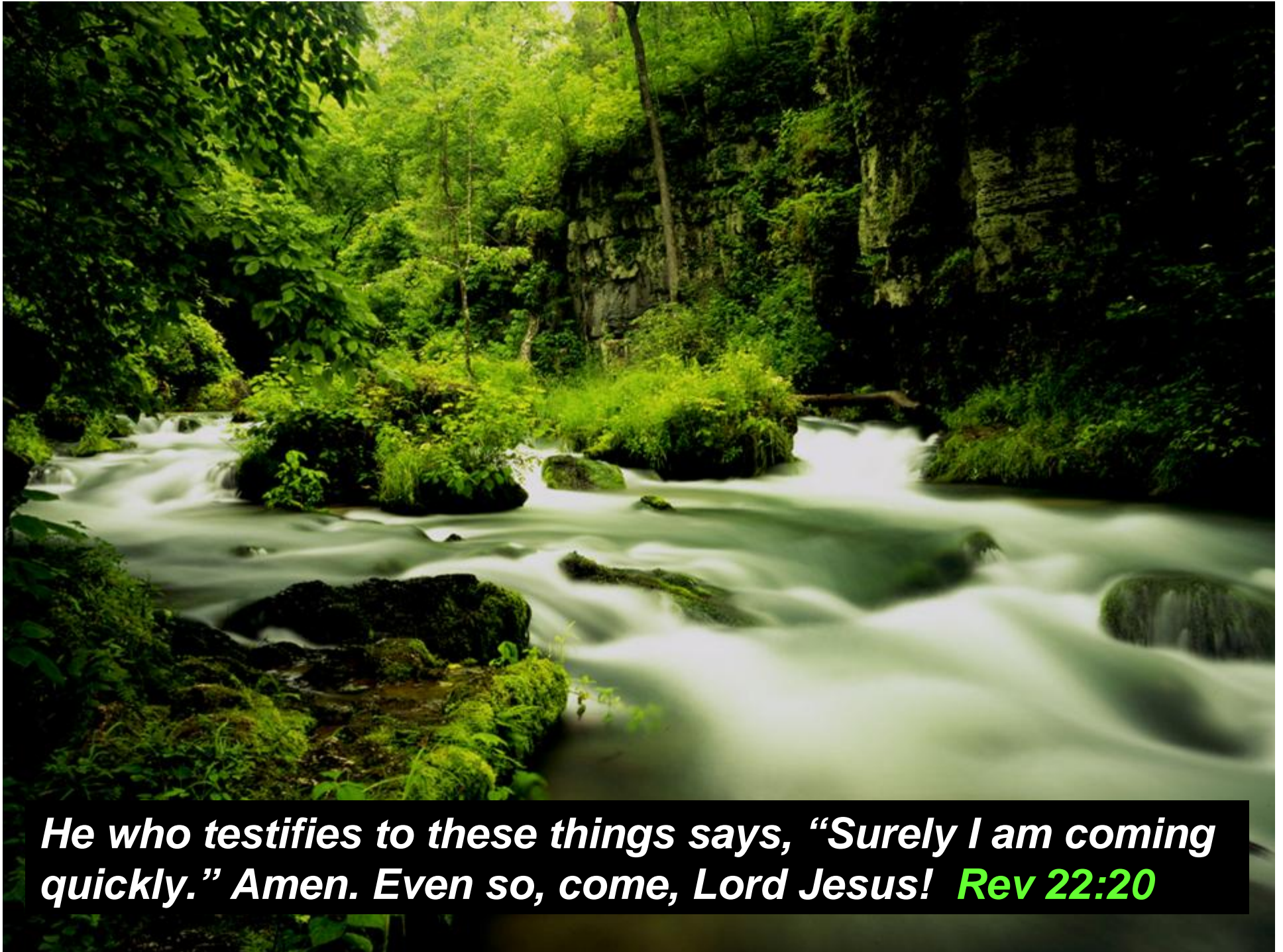
**Israel's Government will fall**

## SIGNS OF THE END

### Summary to Look For

Prophecy	Status	Look for
1 False Christs	Fulfilled	May still be more
2 Wars/Unrest	Fulfilling	Increased Palestinian unrest Israeli power wanes
3 Earthquakes	Fulfilled	Will Increase (Mt Olives)
4 Hated By All	Beginning	More Jewish alienation (UN?)
5 Gospel Sent Everywhere	Fulfilling	Increase in Brethren and Nations Our job!
6 Abomination of Desolation	Pending	Army camps on Mt Olives and surrounds Jerusalem
7 Heavenly Bodies Fall	Pending	Israeli Government Falls

**Israel is Invaded - Jesus Christ Arrives!!**



*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! **Rev 22:20***



