



WHERE IS OUR CITIZENSHIP?



**Our stance on:
Military service & Politics**

MILITARY SERVICE

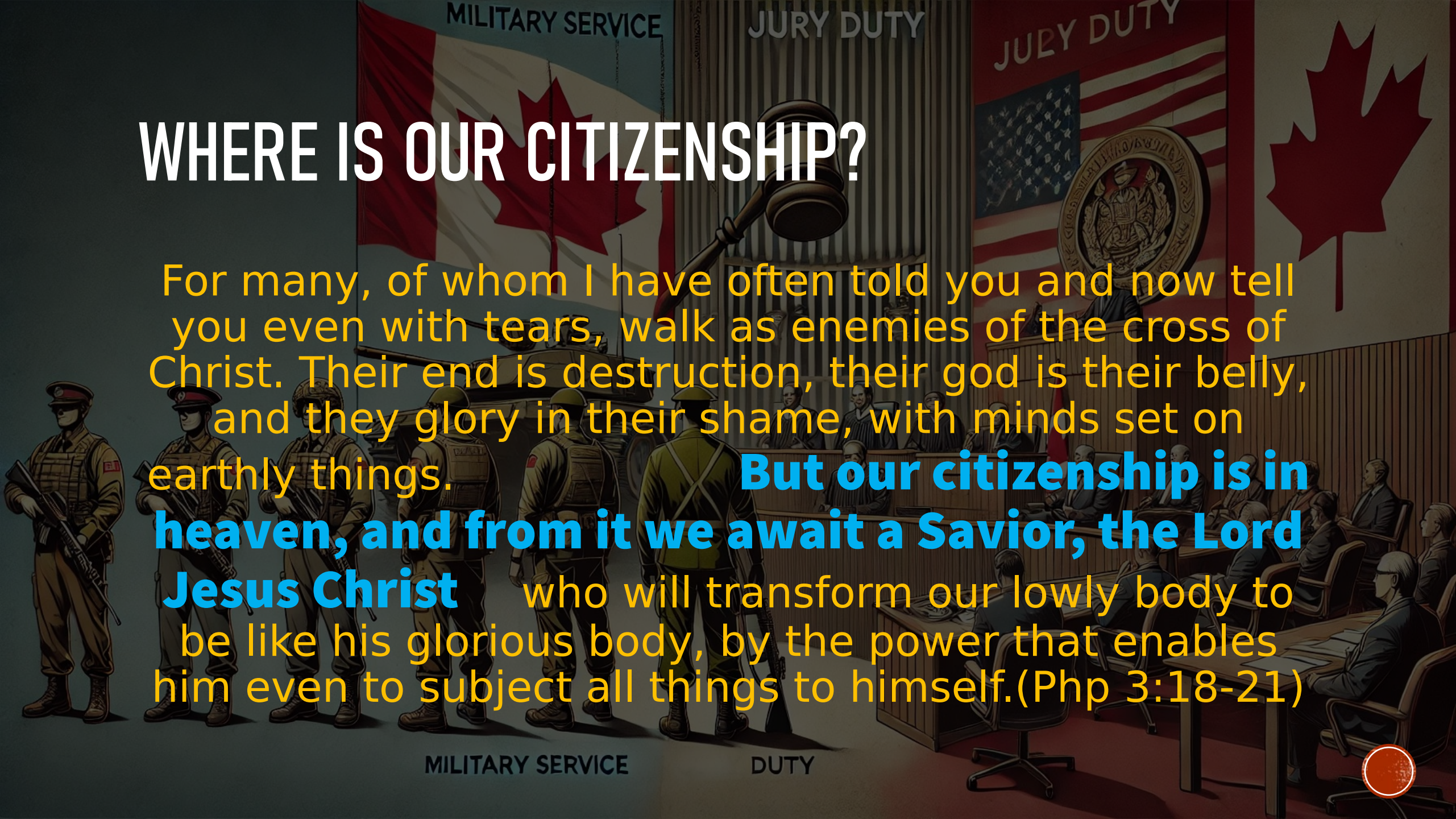
DUTY



WHERE IS OUR CITIZENSHIP?

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Php 3:18-21)



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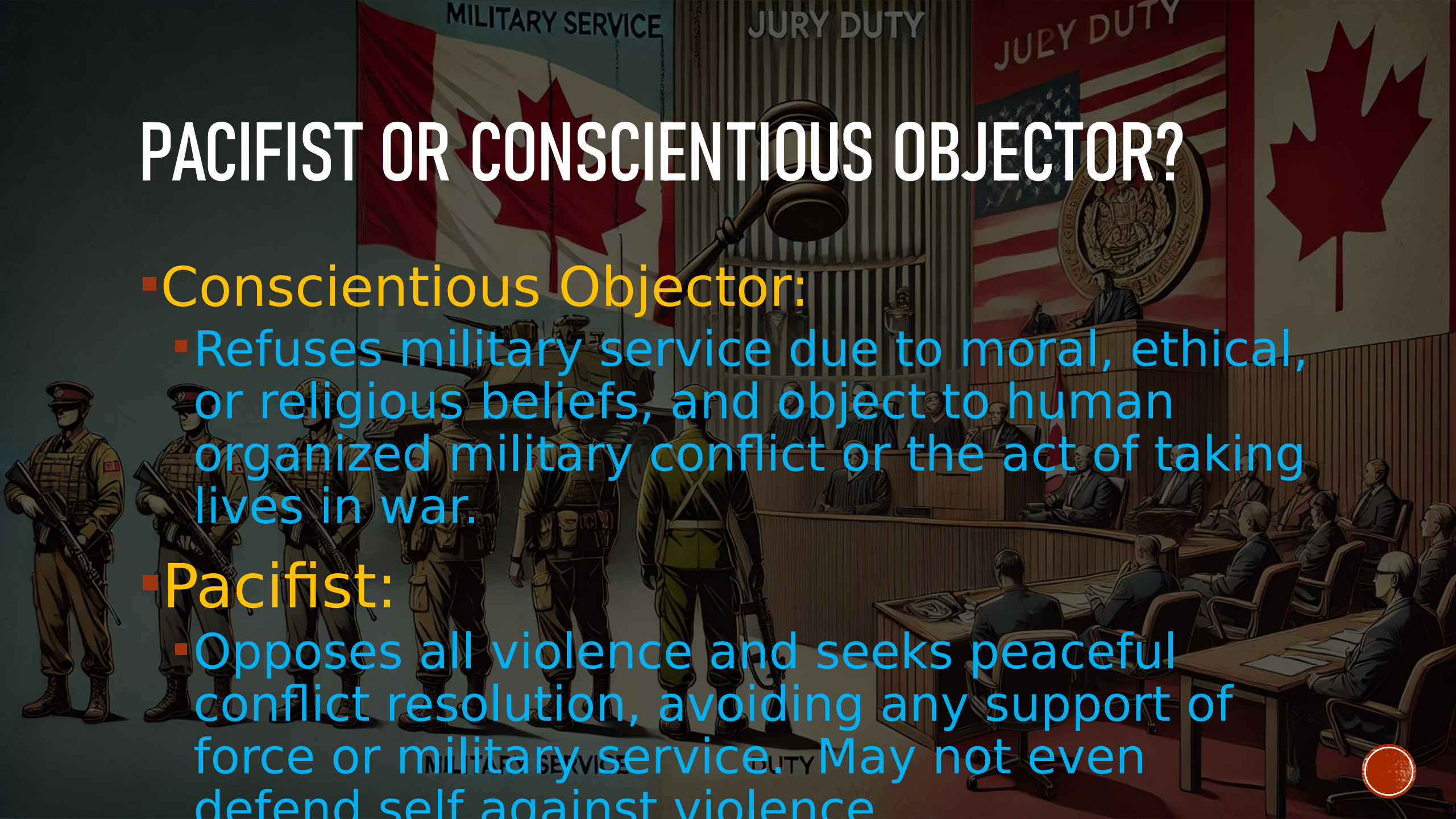
PACIFIST OR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR?

■ Conscientious Objector:

- Refuses military service due to moral, ethical, or religious beliefs, and object to human organized military conflict or the act of taking lives in war.

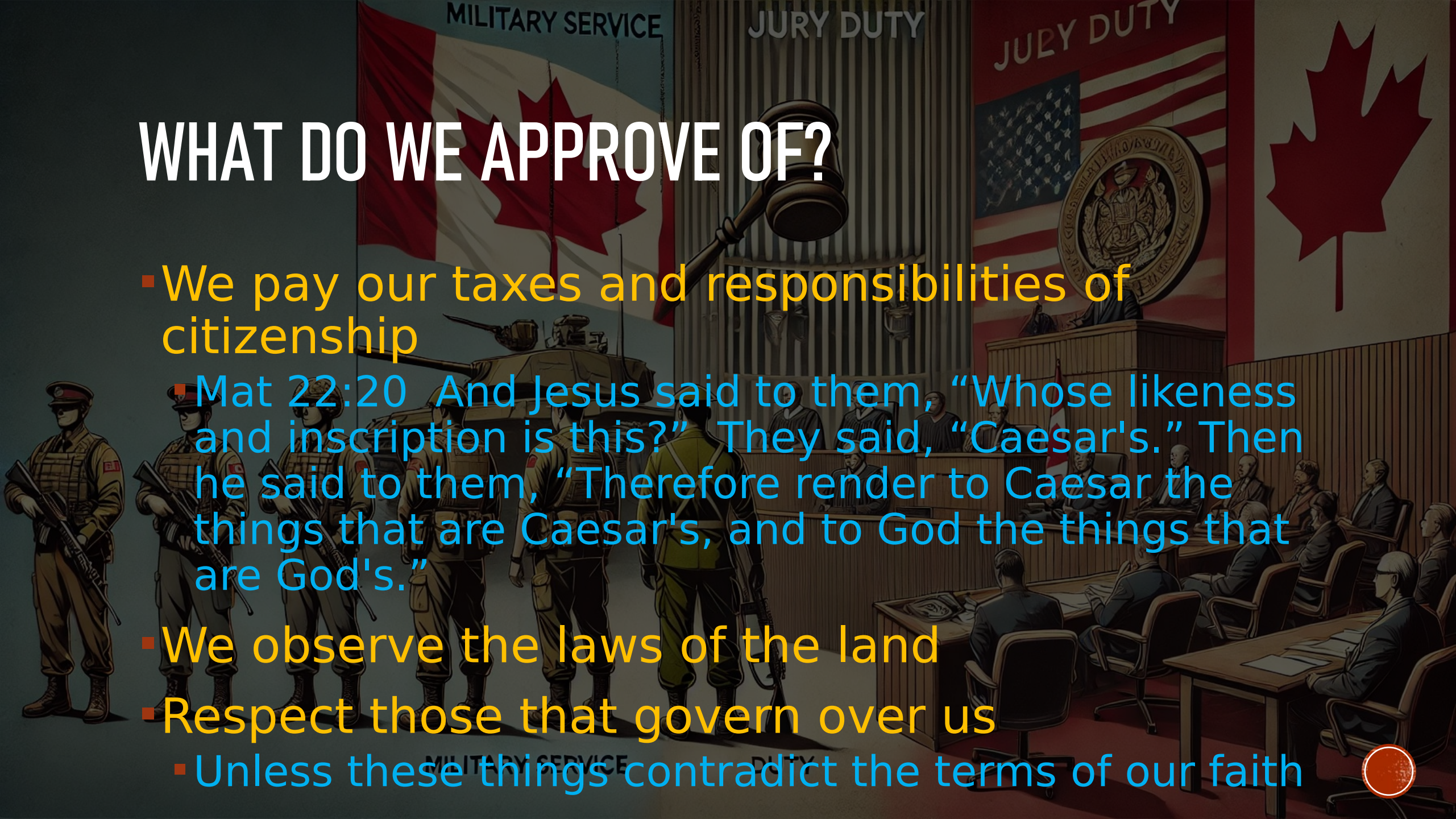
■ Pacifist:

- Opposes all violence and seeks peaceful conflict resolution, avoiding any support of force or military service. May not even defend self against violence



WHAT DO WE APPROVE OF?

- We pay our taxes and responsibilities of citizenship
 - Mat 22:20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
- We observe the laws of the land
- Respect those that govern over us
 - Unless these things contradict the terms of our faith



OUR GLOBAL POSITION AS A COMMUNITY

■ In regard to Military Service and Politics

■ Article 35 in the doctrines to be rejected:

■ We Reject: *“That we are at liberty to serve in the army, or as police constables, take part in politics, or recover debts by legal coercion.”*

■ This has been our position for almost 100 yrs

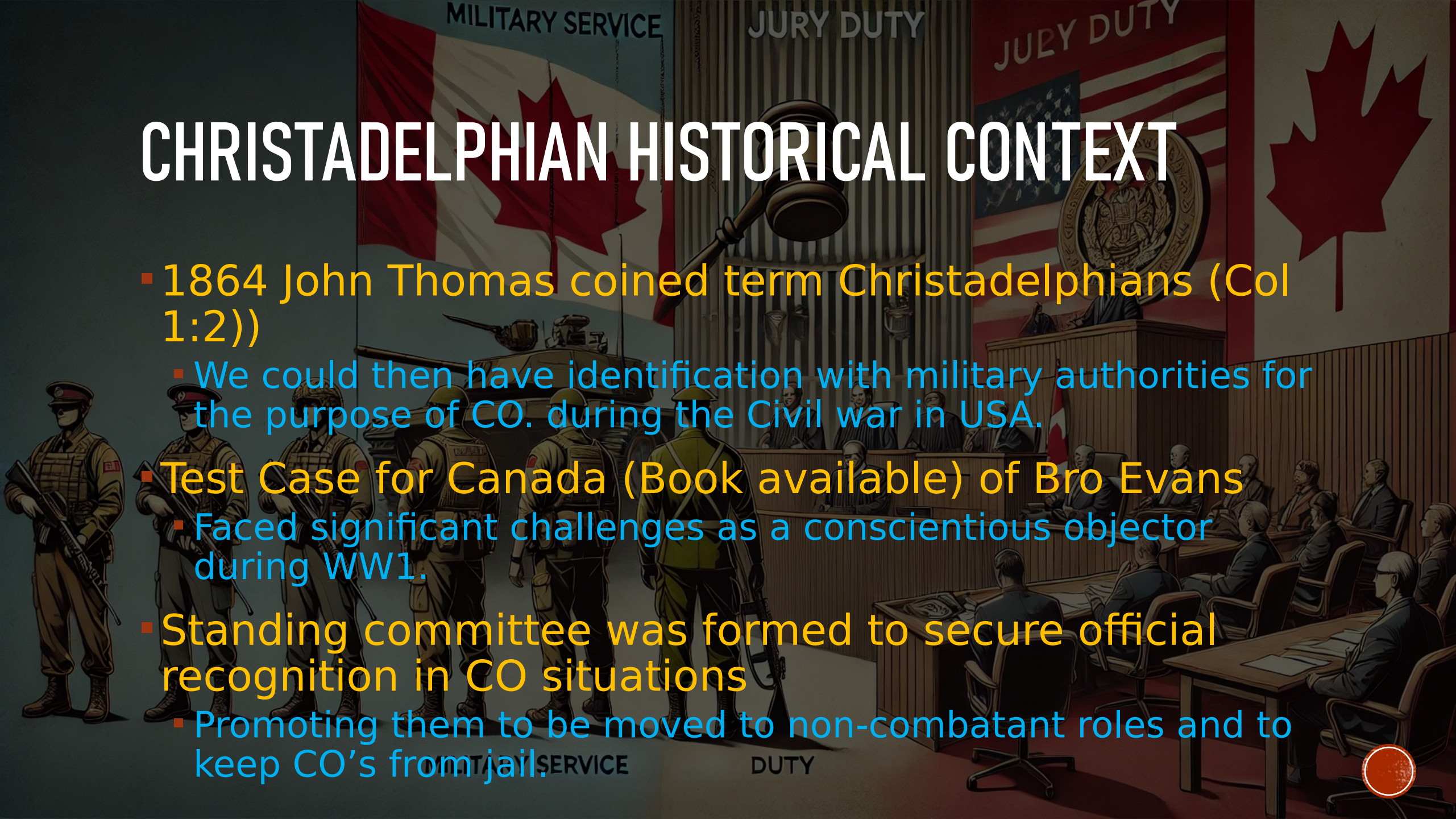
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CHRISTADELPHIAN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 1864 John Thomas coined term Christadelphians (Col 1:2))
 - We could then have identification with military authorities for the purpose of CO. during the Civil war in USA.
- Test Case for Canada (Book available) of Bro Evans
 - Faced significant challenges as a conscientious objector during WW1.
- Standing committee was formed to secure official recognition in CO situations
 - Promoting them to be moved to non-combatant roles and to keep CO's from jail.



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JURY DUTY

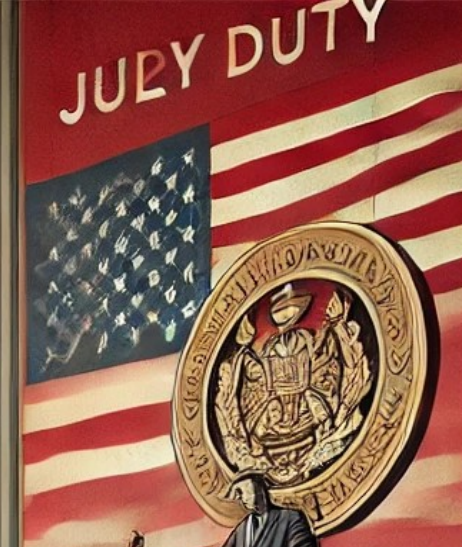
JURY DUTY

MILITARY service



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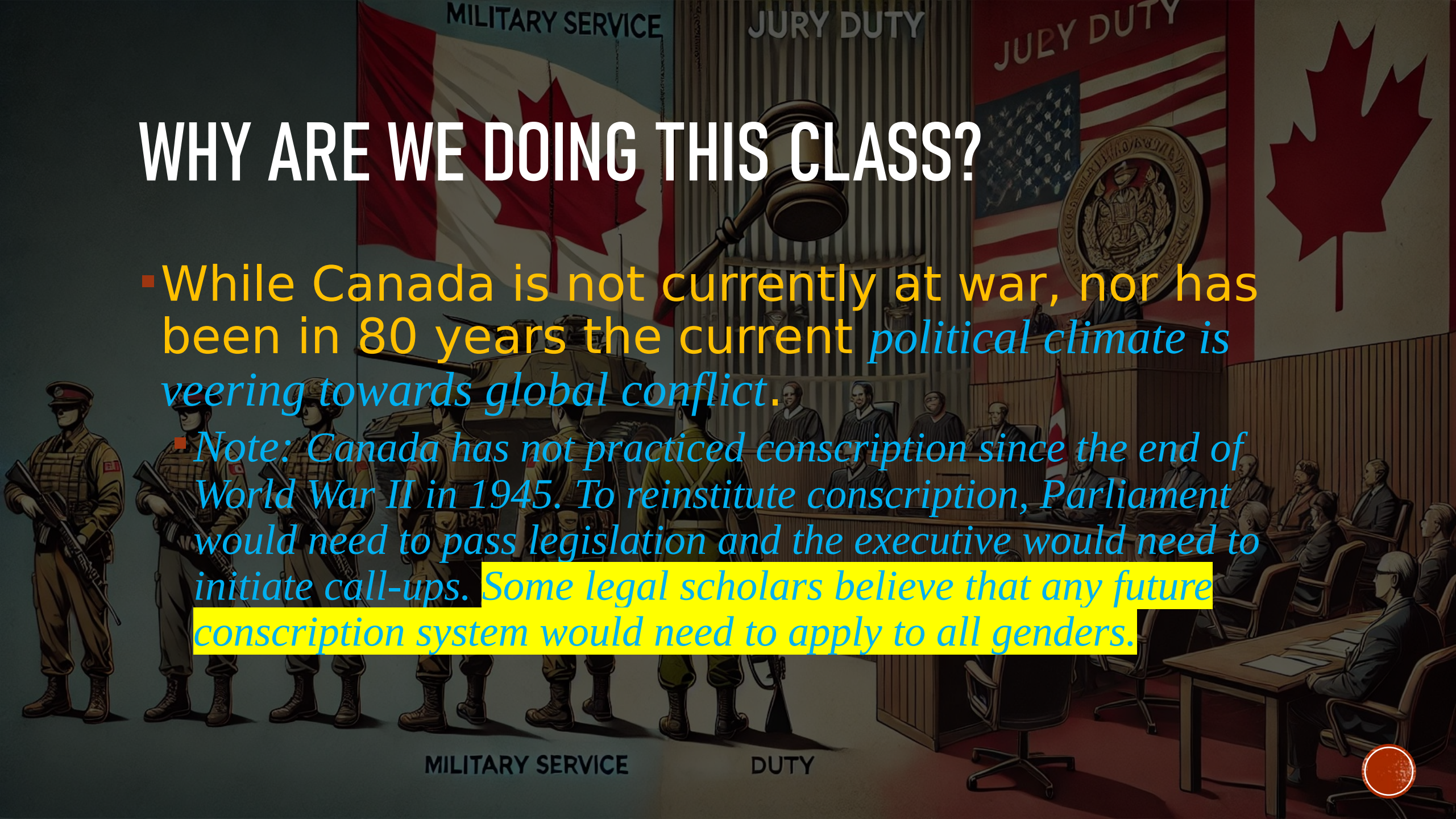
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WHY ARE WE DOING THIS CLASS?

- While Canada is not currently at war, nor has been in 80 years the current *political climate is veering towards global conflict.*

- Note: Canada has not practiced conscription since the end of World War II in 1945. To reinstitute conscription, Parliament would need to pass legislation and the executive would need to initiate call-ups. **Some legal scholars believe that any future conscription system would need to apply to all genders.**



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MILITARY CONSCRIPTION IN CANADA

- The Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) of WW1 fielded 650,000 Canadians for military service (Pop 8M)
- 1,100,000 Canadians would serve in uniform during WW2 from September 1939 to August 1945 (Pop 12m)
 - Call up age was typically 20-45
- NATO's concern for a new global conflict is that young men are not focused nationally, or are opposed to war and volunteer enlistment would be minimal
- *Most likely scenario would be conscription.*

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WHY DO WE REFUSE MILITARY SERVICE?

- We are told to love our enemies, to return good for evil, to not strive and to be gentle.
 - Matt 5:39-45 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.
- Vengeance is a divine prerogative, not a human right.
 - Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink

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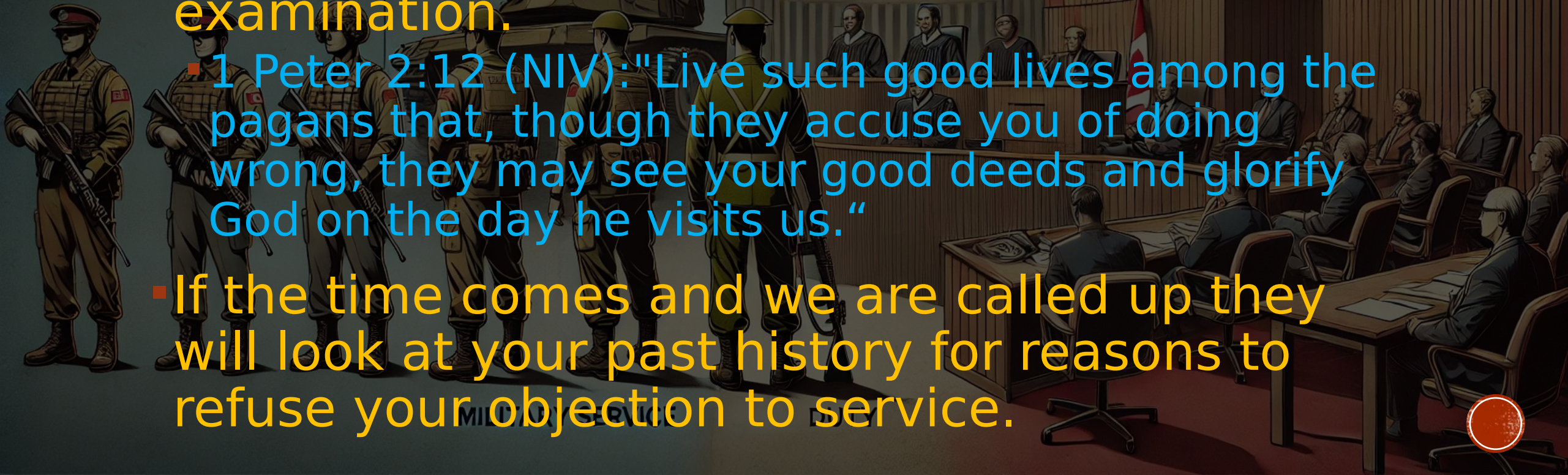
ONLY GOD CAN WAGE WAR

- We are not pacifists. We understand the validity of war.
 - Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two edged sword in their hand...To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.
- Christ did not instruct his disciples fight but to flee.
 - Luke 21:20-21 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.



FINAL POINT ON MILITARY SERVICE

- Your lifestyle is a reflection on you and your beliefs. Ensure they are representative by self examination.
- 1 Peter 2:12 (NIV): "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."
- If the time comes and we are called up they will look at your past history for reasons to refuse your objection to service.



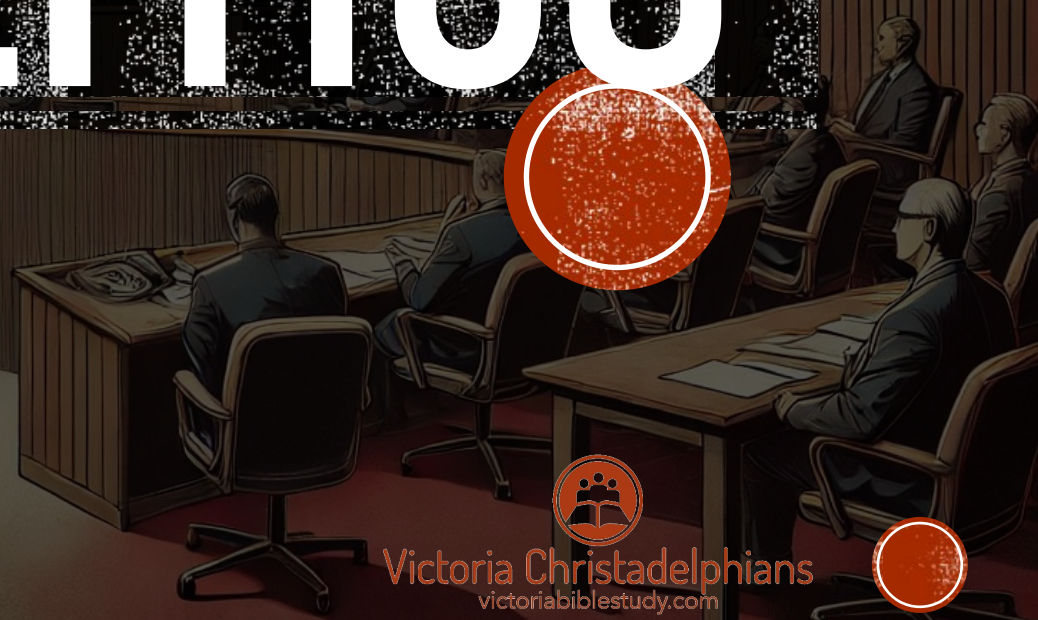


Should we be involved
in... **POLITICS**



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BEING INVOLVED IN POLITICS?

What does being 'involved' mean?

- Voting in elections
- Campaigning for a candidate
- Protesting to generate public awareness
- Donating to candidates/political action committees
- Petitioning for change
- ***Running for office of the land...***

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BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ABOUT POLITICS

3 Principles why we are **NOT** involved in Politics

1. God rules in the Kingdoms of Men

2. We Believe in Gods Outcomes

3. We Are Citizens of Heaven

4. ???



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1. THAT GOD RULES IN THE KINGDOMS OF MEN

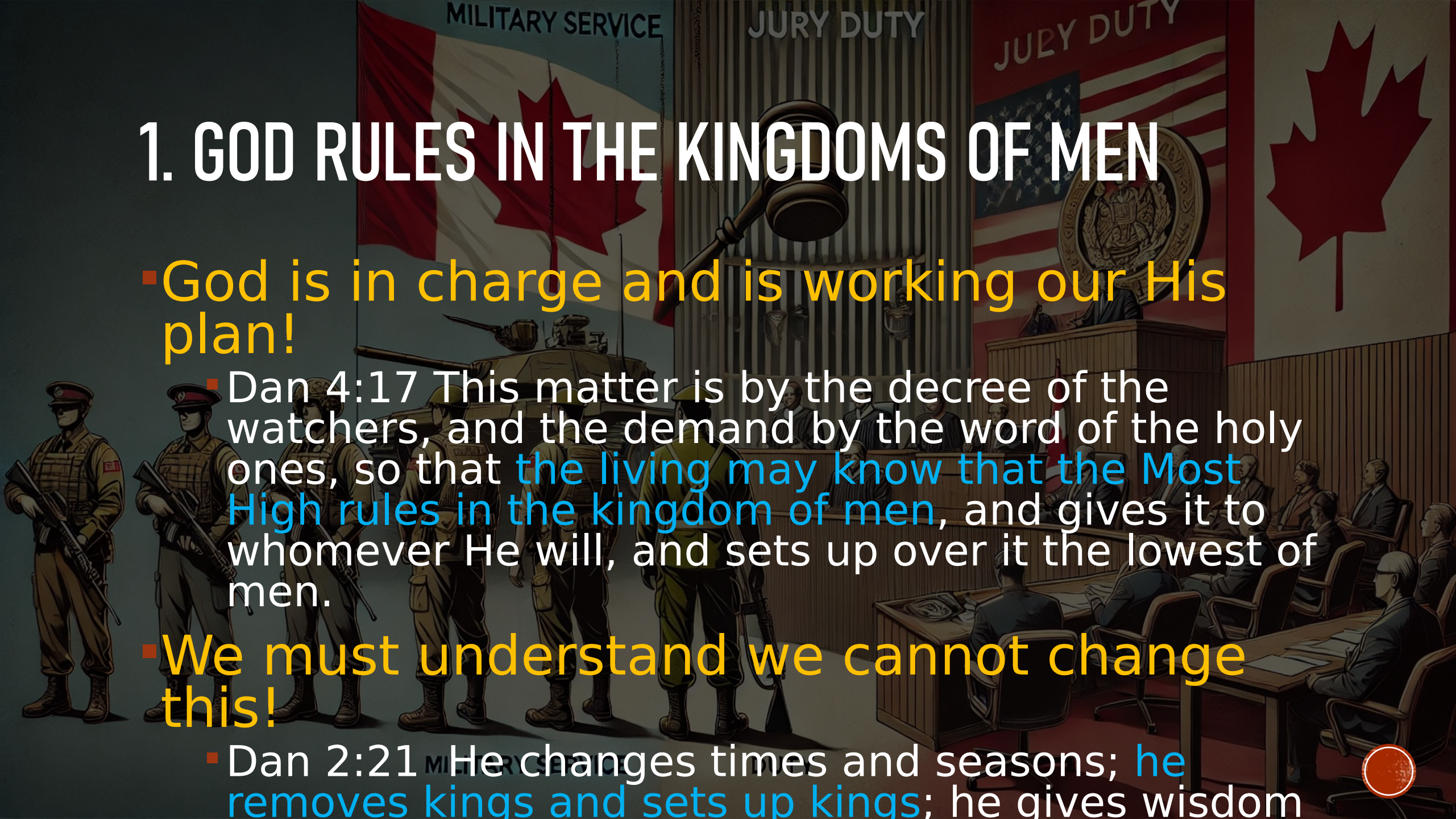
1. GOD RULES IN THE KINGDOMS OF MEN

- God is in charge and is working out His plan!

- Dan 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones, so that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will, and sets up over it the lowest of men.

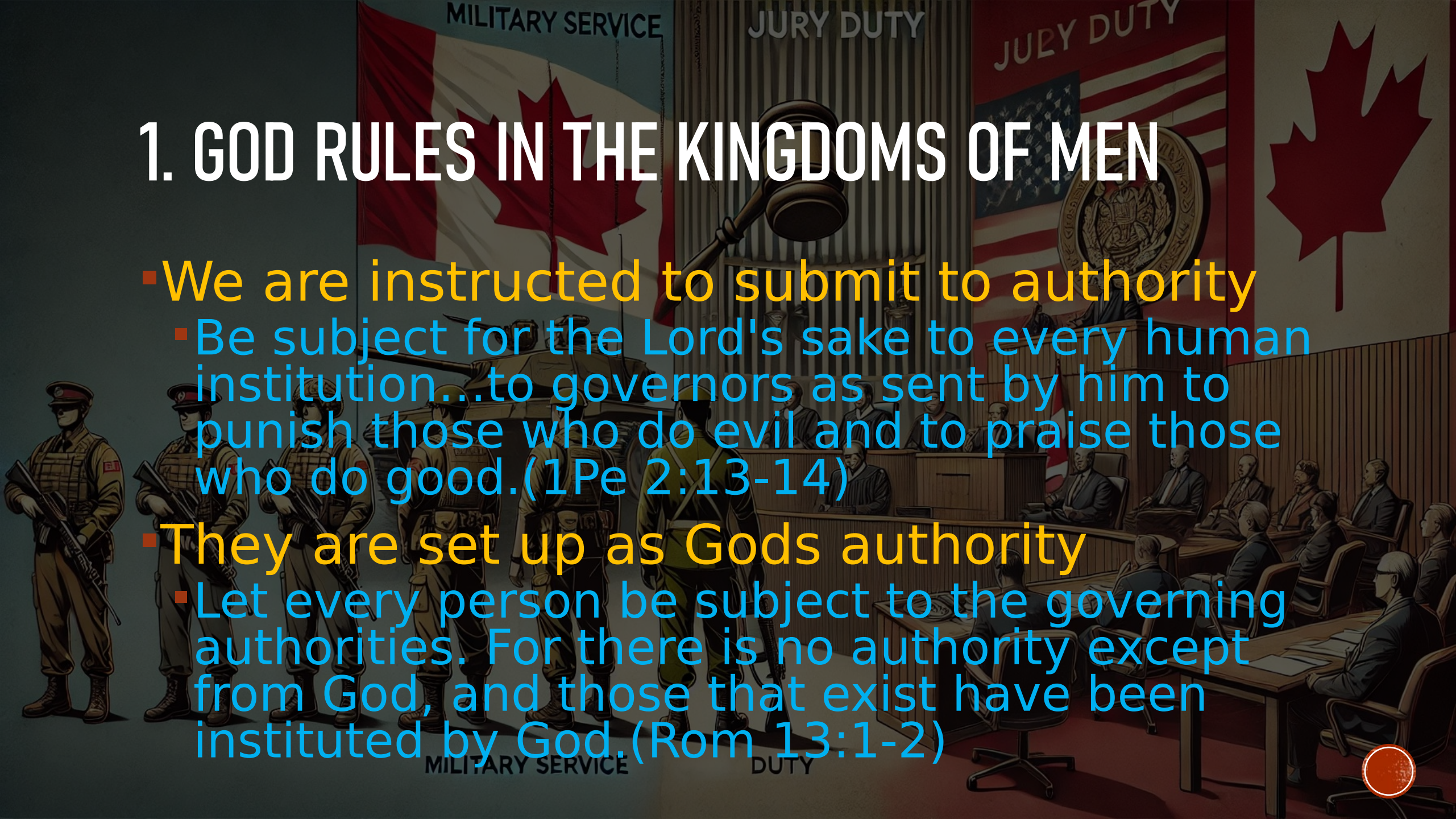
- We must understand we cannot change this!

- Dan 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom



1. GOD RULES IN THE KINGDOMS OF MEN

- We are instructed to submit to authority
 - Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution...to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. (1Pe 2:13-14)
- They are set up as Gods authority
 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. (Rom 13:1-2)



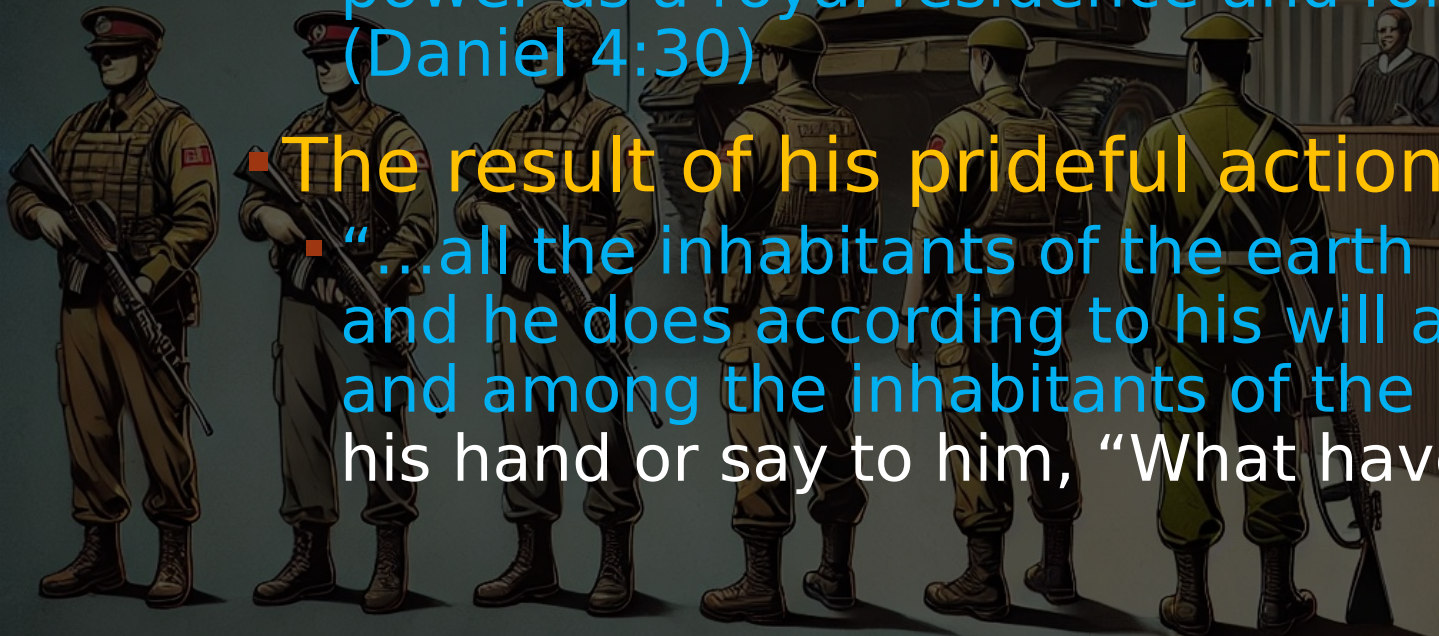
1. GOD RULES IN THE KINGDOMS OF MEN

- The example of King Nebuchadnezzar

- "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:30)

- The result of his prideful actions and correction

- "...all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" (Dan 4:34-35)



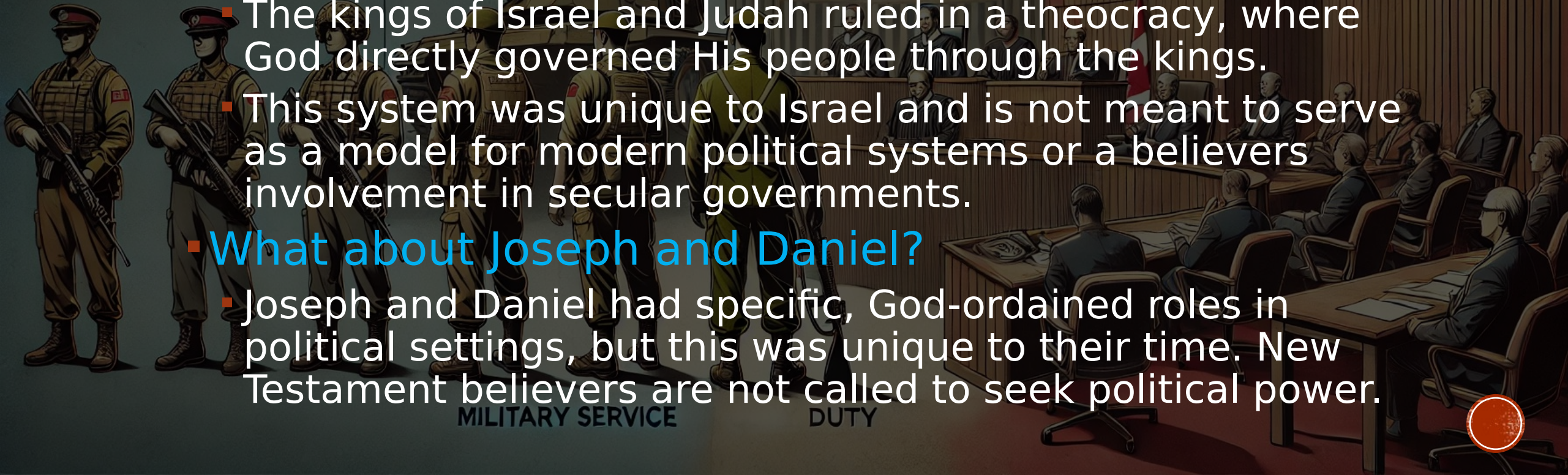
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1. GOD RULES IN THE KINGDOMS OF MEN

- Let's dispense with the obvious...
 - What about the political leaders of Israel and Judah?
 - The kings of Israel and Judah ruled in a theocracy, where God directly governed His people through the kings.
 - This system was unique to Israel and is not meant to serve as a model for modern political systems or a believers involvement in secular governments.
 - What about Joseph and Daniel?
 - Joseph and Daniel had specific, God-ordained roles in political settings, but this was unique to their time. New Testament believers are not called to seek political power.





2. THAT WE BELIEVE IN GODS OUTCOMES



2. THAT WE BELIEVE IN GODS OUTCOMES!

- If we believe in Gods outcome, then we accept it
 - Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV): "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."
- Supporting a candidate means you trust them to decide
 - Psa 146:3 Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.



2. THAT WE BELIEVE IN GODS OUTCOMES!

- How do we know what is Gods will?
 - Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV): "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.
- We must be prepared to accept what God has granted
 - Romans 8:28 (NIV): "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

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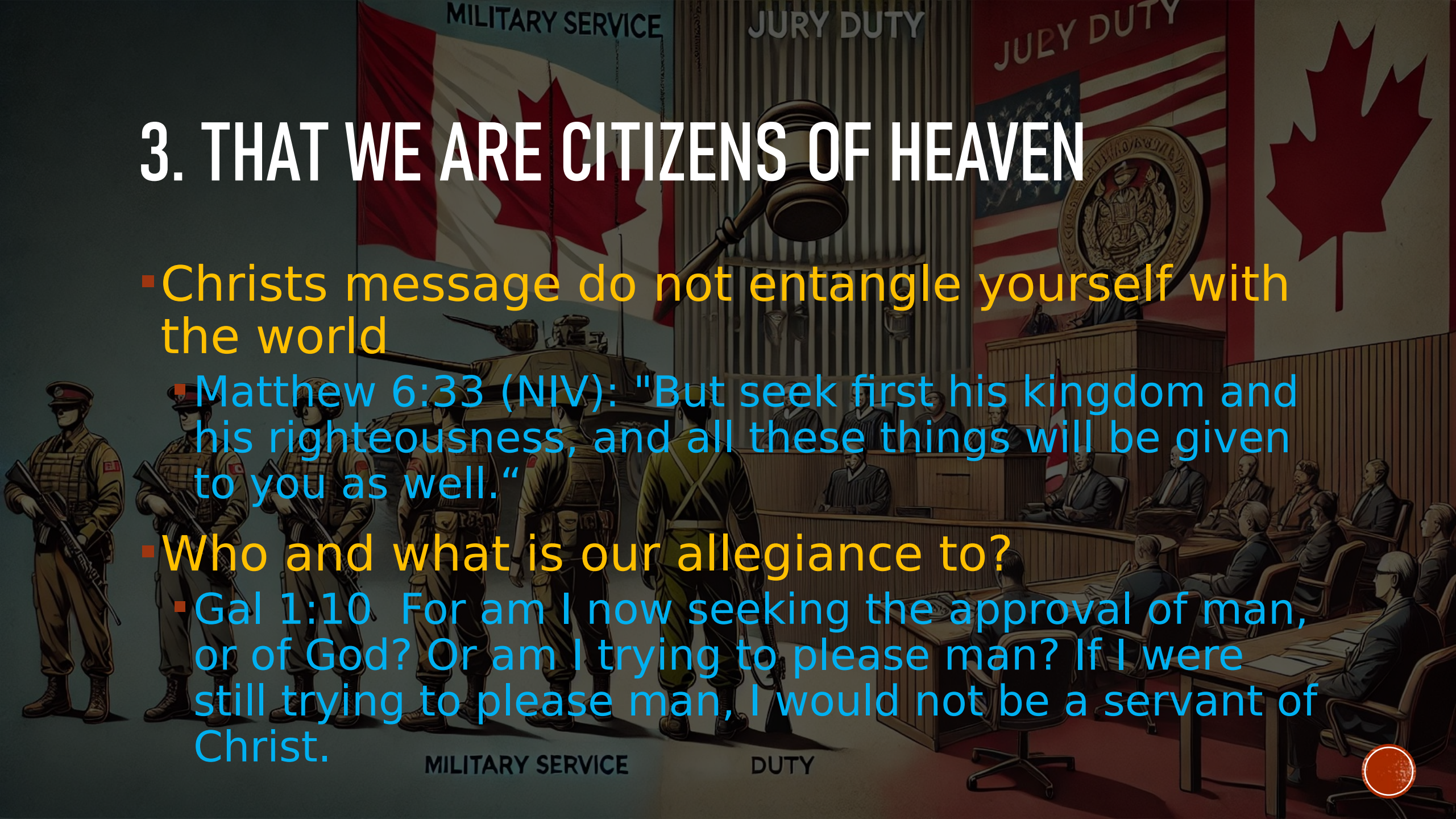


3. THAT WE ARE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN



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- Christ's message do not entangle yourself with the world
 - Matthew 6:33 (NIV): "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
- Who and what is our allegiance to?
 - Gal 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.



3. THAT WE ARE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

- There will be a time for us to stand up for our faith
 - "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight but my kingdom is not from the world (or, my kingdom is from another place)." (John 18:36, NIV)
- Christ also submitted to his fathers (political) will
 - Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?" (Joh 18:10-11)

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3. THAT WE ARE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

- We are strangers and pilgrims in this world
 - Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- It is in the end about our allegiance
 - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Php 3:20-21)

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WE WAIT FOR THAT GREAT DAY...

The mountains will bring news of peace to the people, and the hills will announce justice. He will defend the oppressed among the people; he will deliver the children of the poor and crush the oppressor. People will fear you as long as the sun and moon remain in the sky, for generation after generation. He will descend like rain on the mown grass, like showers that drench the earth. During his days the godly will flourish; peace will prevail as long as the moon remains in the sky (Psa 72:1-7)

