

ACTS

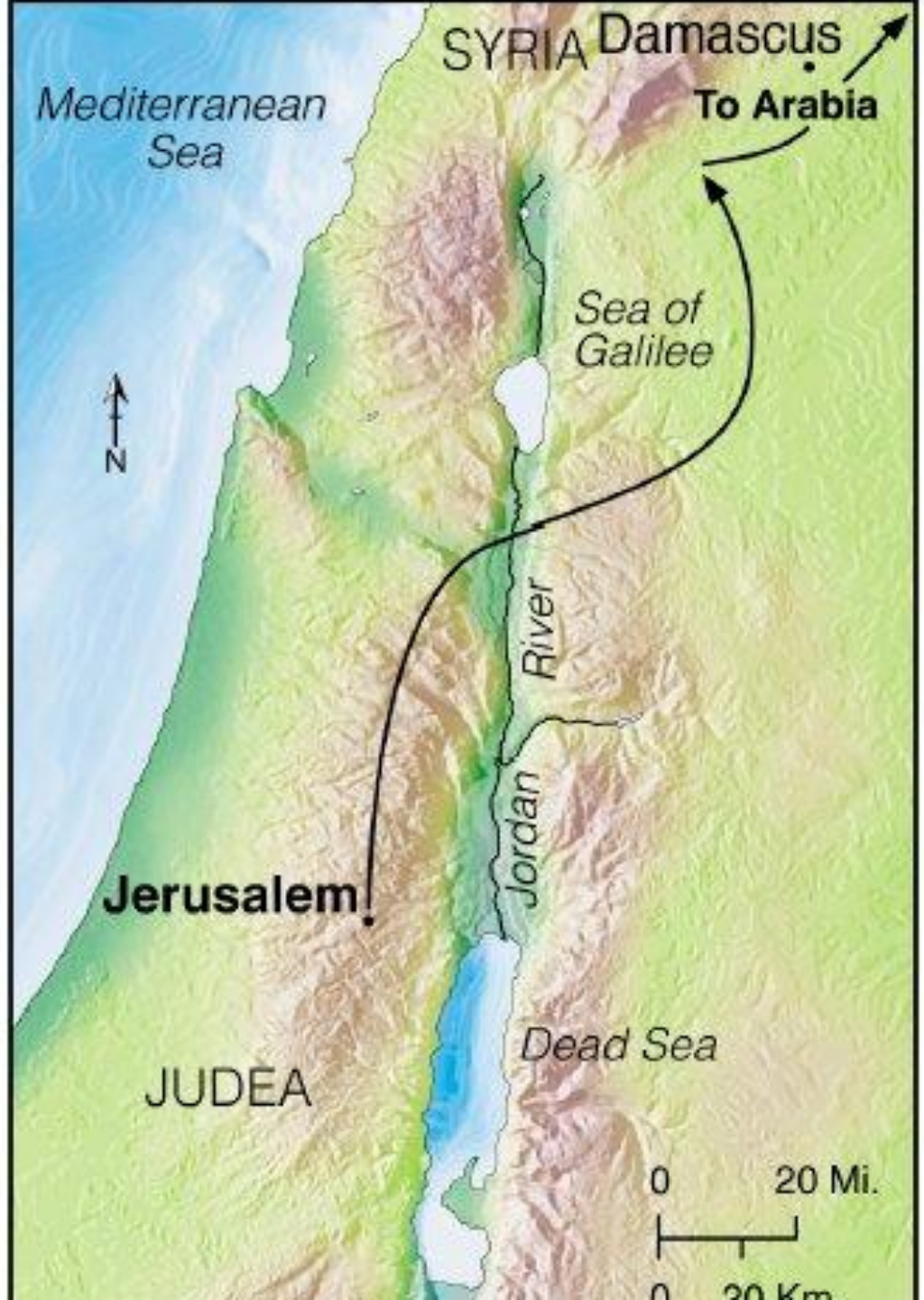
*THE GOSPEL
ON THE MOVE*



Study 9

The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9



IMPORTANCE OF SAUL'S CONVERSION

Acts 9

Acts 22

Acts 26

3 ELEMENTS OF CONVERSION

- Collision vv 1-5
- Darkness vv 7-9
- Embrace vv 17-19

SAUL THE PERSECUTOR

Acts 8:1-3 And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.

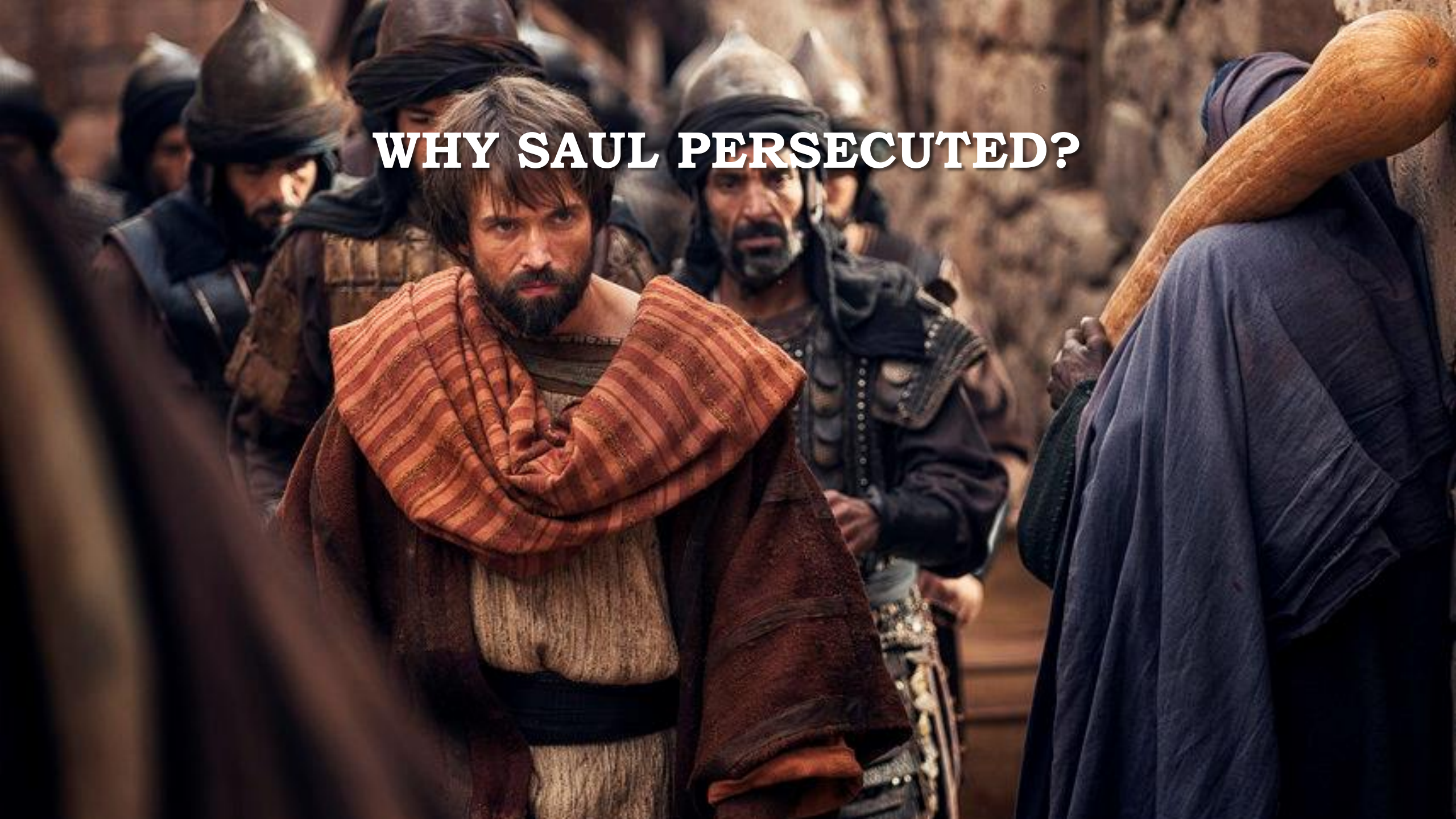
3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison

SAUL'S ATTITUDE



Acts 9:1-2 (ESV) But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

WHY SAUL PERSECUTED?



**ACTS 22:3-
EDUCATED BY
GAMALIEL**





SAUL

Philippians 3:4-6 (ESV) If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.



SIMON OF PEREA

4 AD after Herod the Great died there were several revolts against son Herod Archelaus

Simon was former slave ..tall and robust

Burnt royal palace at Jericho to the ground

Gratus cut off his head



- Anthrogenes ..Shepherd
- Judas the Galilean
- Theudas





Crucified Messiah

Hangs on tree is cursed

THE CHARGE AGAINST STEPHEN

- Acts 6:11, 13-14 Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God
- and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, 14 for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us

THE COLLISION

1 Corinthians 15:7-8 (ESV) Then he **appeared** to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Acts 9:3-5 (ESV) Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. 4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus Christ and his body is one and the same as or you are persecuting."

- In Old Testament theophanies, it is God who begins the conversation and her name...Solemnity and importance

IT HURTS

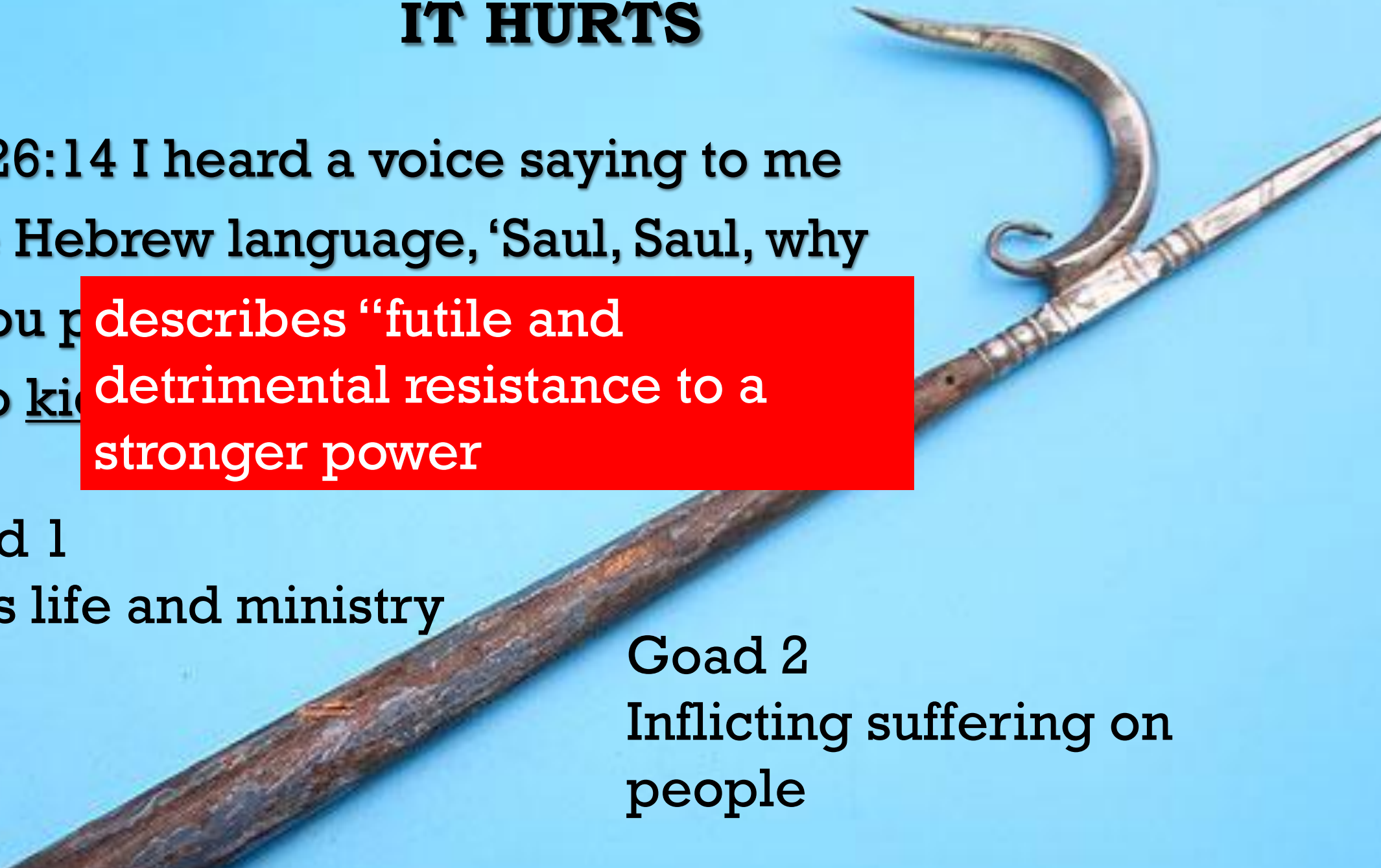
Acts 26:14 I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? You are beating me down, but you are not killing me. You are describing "futile and detrimental resistance to a stronger power"

Goad 1

Jesus life and ministry

Goad 2

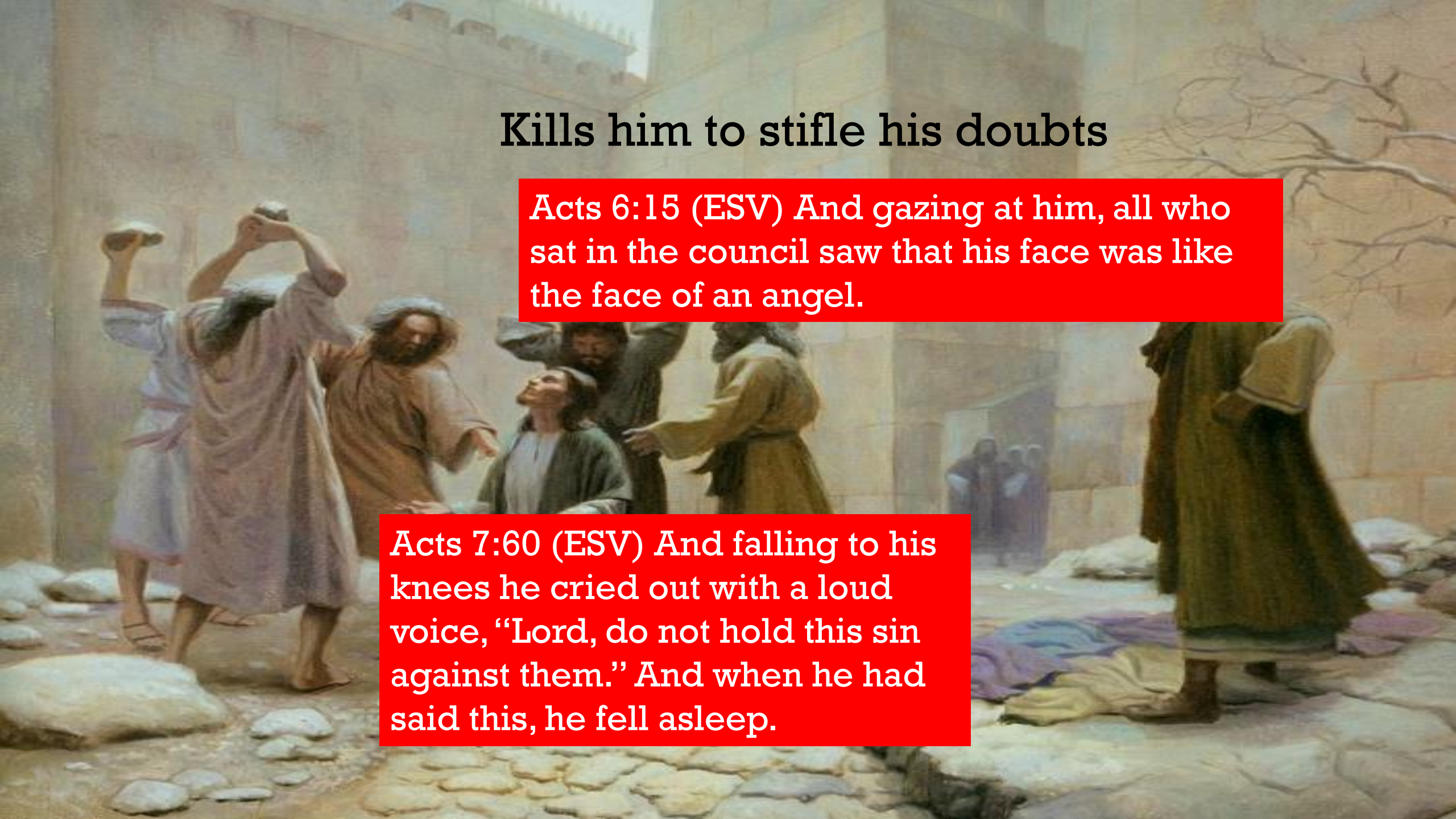
Inflicting suffering on people



Kills him to stifle his doubts

Acts 6:15 (ESV) And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Acts 7:60 (ESV) And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

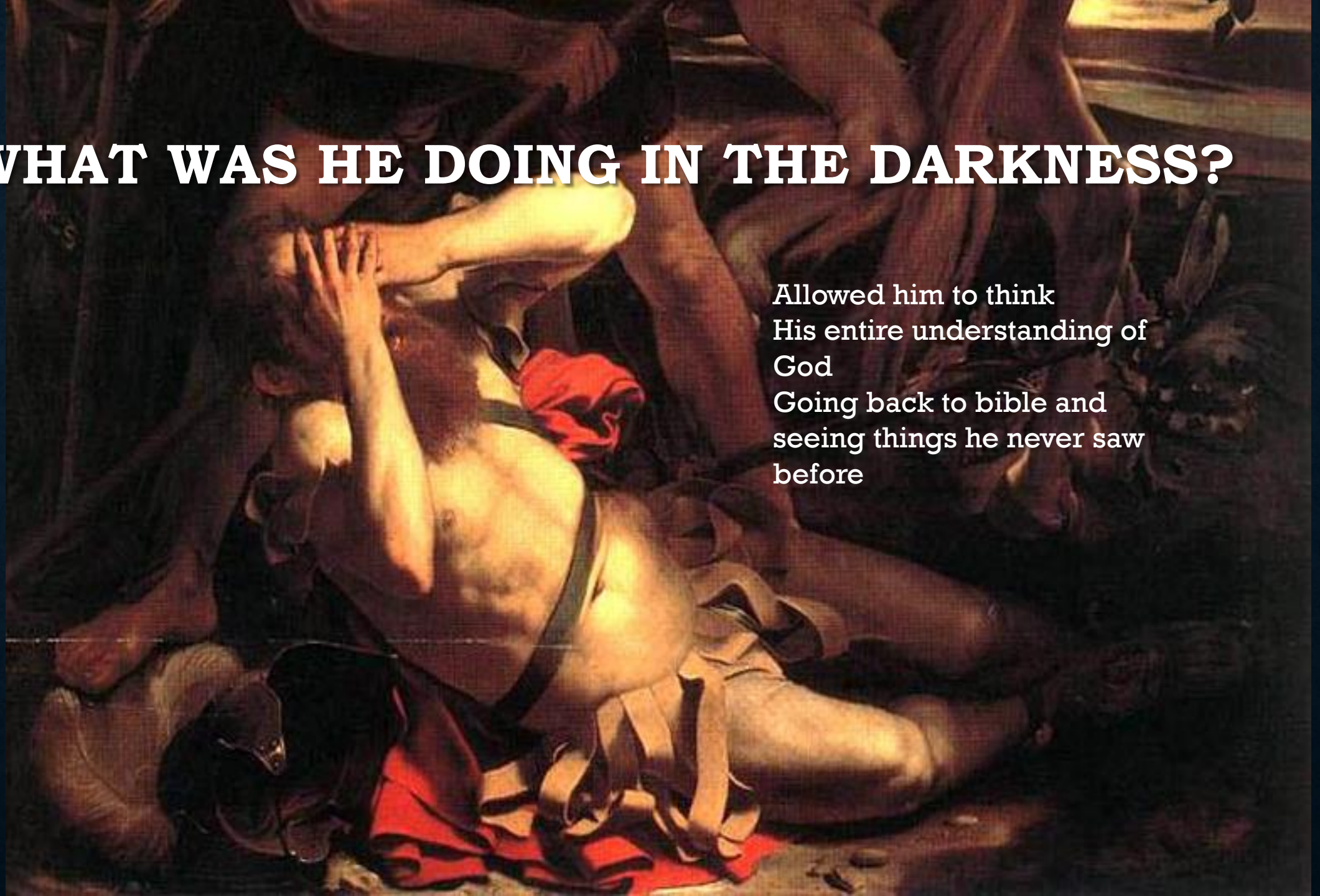


2. DARKNESS

Acts 9:5-9 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank

WHAT WAS HE DOING IN THE DARKNESS?

Allowed him to think
His entire understanding of
God
Going back to bible and
seeing things he never saw
before



WHAT WAS HE DOING IN THE DARKNESS?

Strong Messiah
....he shall strike the earth
with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his
lips he shall kill the wicked
(Isaiah 11:3-4 ESV)

Weak Messiah
He was despised and rejected
by men; a man of sorrows, and
acquainted with grief; and as
one from whom men hide their
faces
he was despised, and we
esteemed him not
(Isaiah 53:3 ESV)

**Blessed
Messiah**

**Cursed
Messiah**





Vision of risen exalted Christ

Means he did not die for his own sin`

3. EMBRACE

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight

3. EMBRACE

13 But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” 15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a

chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the **Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.**

16 For I will show him how much he must **suffer** for the sake of my name



THE GOSPEL WAY-CROSS

Matthew 16:24-25 (ESV). Then Jesus told his disciples,
God sends a weak Messiah for the sake of others,
“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself,
hence the sign is that his disciples does the same self
and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever
sacrifice like him
would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his
life for my sake will find it.



We too building our self esteem on achievements



SELF

*So from the highest to the lowest
This is not a law we can escape.
,self exists to be abdicated and by
What is outside the system of self
that abdication it becomes more
giving is simply and solely hell. That
truly self
fierce imprisonment in self.*

PAUL'S TESTIMONY

Philippians 3:4-8 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

META-NOIA REPENTANCE

Total change of mindset
..values

Persecutor to Propagator

3. EMBRACE

Acts 9:17-19 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “**Brother Saul**, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened

RESULTS OF PAUL'S CONVERSION

Acts 9:19-22 (ESV) For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

PAUL AND PERSECUTION

Acts 9:26-30 (ESV) And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

CHALLENGE

STEVEN FRY

I would say “Bone
cancer in children?
Suppose you wind up in
What’s that about?
front of pearly gates what
How dare you! How
would you say to God
dare you create a
world in which there is
such misery that is not
our fault. Its not right

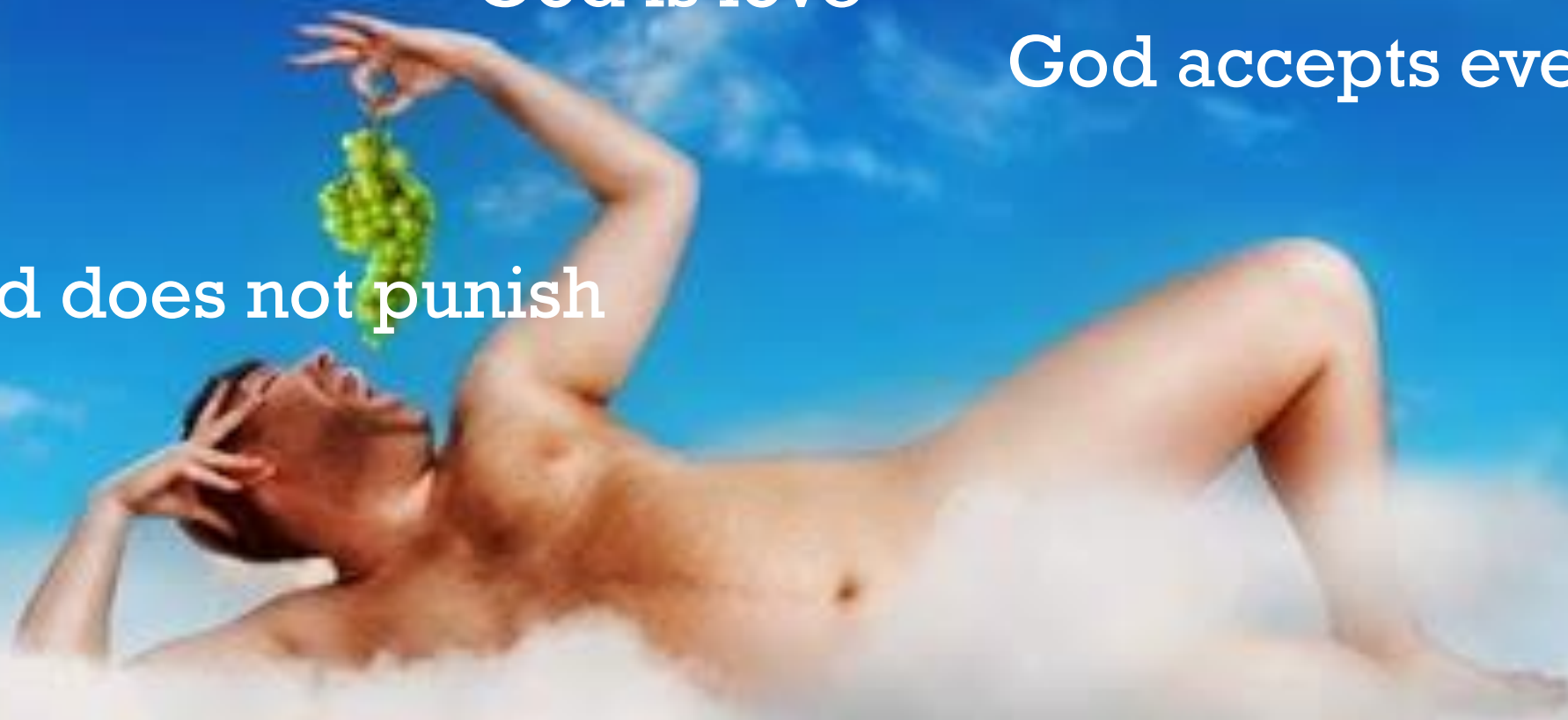


GOD IS PRODUCT OF YOUR NEEDS

God is love

God accepts everyone

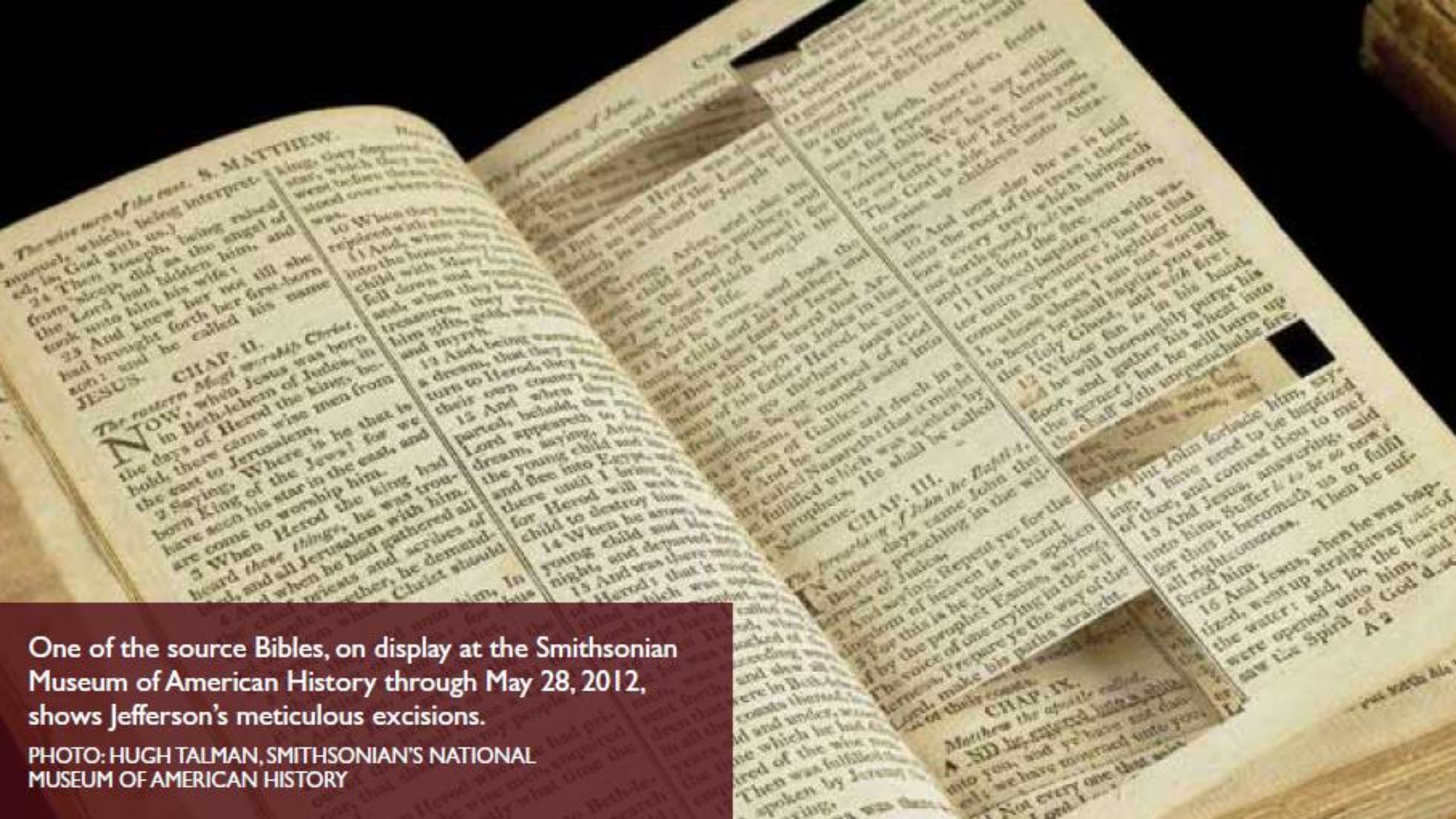
God does not punish



HE DOES NOT TALK BACK







8. MATTHEW.

CHAP. II.

NOW, when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him: and when he had gathered all the priests and scribes of the country together, he demanded of them, saying, Where is Christ that is born?

4 They said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

10 And thou Bethlehem, in Judaea, art not least among the cities of Judaea: for thus saith the Lord,

11 And thou shalt be exalted, because in this manner shall I make thee great: and thou shalt be praised of all men, because thus saith the Lord,

12 For thou shalt be a city of peace, because thus saith the Lord, thou shalt be a city of peace.

13 And thou shalt be a city of peace, because thus saith the Lord, thou shalt be a city of peace.

14 And thou shalt be a city of peace, because thus saith the Lord, thou shalt be a city of peace.

15 And thou shalt be a city of peace, because thus saith the Lord, thou shalt be a city of peace.

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23 And thou shalt be a city of peace, because thus saith the Lord, thou shalt be a city of peace.

24 And thou shalt be a city of peace, because thus saith the Lord, thou shalt be a city of peace.

One of the source Bibles, on display at the Smithsonian Museum of American History through May 28, 2012, shows Jefferson's meticulous excisions.

PHOTO: HUGH TALMAN, SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Church Shopping

**Finding the right
place to connect
to God**



IF JESUS IS LORD WHAT DO YOU DO?

Acts 9:31 (ESV) So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

NO ONE IS BEYOND THE GOSPEL

**THE POWER OF GOD
LIES IN WEAKNESS AND
SACRIFICE**





NEW YORK TIMES
22/7/2015



Is This the End of Christianity in the Middle East?

ISIS and other extremist movements across the region are enslaving, killing and uprooting Christians, with no aid in sight.

By ELIZA GRISWOLD JULY 22, 2015

MAO'S CHINA 1949-1953





MAO'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION 1966-1976

PERCENTAGE OF CHRISTIANS IN CHINA

