The Protestant Reformation: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Session 6



Andy Woods, Th.M.., JD., PhD.
Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church
President Chafer Theological Seminary

Introduction

I. Oct 31, 1517

II. 500 years

III. Far reaching impact

IV. Partial restoration

V. Restoration of a hermeneutic

VI. Selectively applied

VII. Subsequent generations applied consistently

VIII. Preview





Overview



I. The early church
II. The Alexandrian eclipse
III. The Dark Ages
IV. The contribution of the Protestant Reformers
V. The Reformers' incomplete revolution
VI. Reformed Theology today
VII. Dispensationalism & the completed revolution
VIII. Looking back 500 years later



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SICILY
Syracuse
IONIAN SEA
MACEDONIA
THRACE
Danube River
BLACK SEA
Sinope
Heraclea
Byzantium
Philippi
Thessalonica
Berea
GREECE
AEGEAN SEA
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Adramyttium
Pergamum
Delphi
Athens
Corinth
Sparta
Smyrna
Ephesus
Miletus
Sardis
BITHYNIA
PONTUS
Ancyra
PHRYGIA
GALATIA
CAPPADOCIA
Antioch in Pisidia
Caesarea Mazaca
Iconium
Laodicea
Lystra
Derbe
COMMAGENE
Tios
PAMPHYLIA
Side
Tarsus
Antioch
Seleucia Pieria
Seleucia Tracheotis
Apamea
Salamis
Arvadus
CYPRUS
Paphos
Tripoli
Beirut
Sidon
Tyre
Damascus
Ptolemais
Caesarea
Joppa
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Leptis Magna
CYRENAICA
LIBYA


Asia
Ephesus
Antioch
Cyprus
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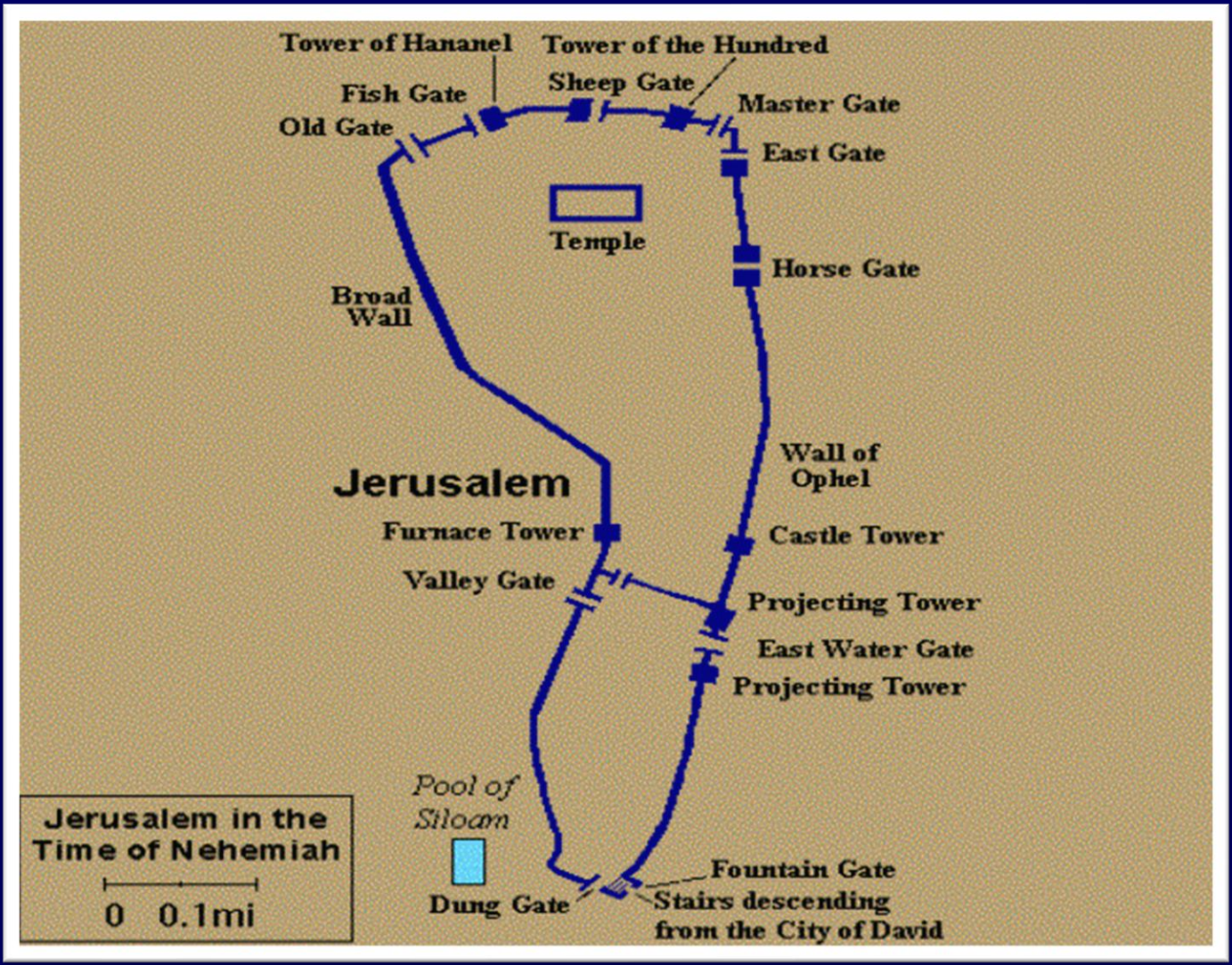

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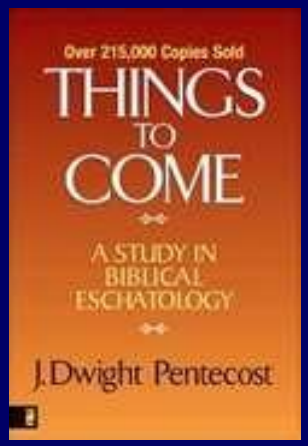
Dangers of Allegorization – Philo



Dangers of Allegorization
Gates of Nehemiah



Dangers of Allegorization



I. Text is not being interpreted
II. Authority is transferred from text to interpreter
III. There is no way to test the interpreter
IV. No mechanism for controlling the interpreter's imagination



Pentecost, *Things to Come*, pps. 4-5

What Caused the Shift Into Allegorism?

A. Need for immediate relevance

B. Incorporation of human philosophy into interpretation

C. Gnostic dualism (Gen. 1:31; 1 John 2:22; 4:2-3; Acts 17:32; 1 Cor. 15:12)

D. Decline of the church's Jewish population

E. Constantine’s Edict of Milan (A.D. 313)

F. AD 70 and Hadrian’s (A.D. 117–138)“Palestine”



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III. The Dark Ages (or the Middle Ages)

A. Lasted from the 4th to the 16th centuries
B. Obsolescence of prophetic studies
C. Domination of Augustinian Amillennialism
D. Only one church: Roman Catholicism
E. The Bible is removed from the people
    1. Allegorization
    2. Illiteracy
    3. Mass read in Latin
F. Sale of indulgences
G. Anti-Semitism
H. Church in need of rescue



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IV. Contribution of the Protestant Reformers



A. Preparation of the Reformers
B. Emphasis on literal interpretation
C. Denunciation of allegorization
D. Rejection of church tradition as a guide
E. Priesthood of all believers
    1. Bible translations
    2. Literacy
F. Basis for the American system of governance
G. Five *solas*
H. Rejection of celibacy of the priesthood
I. The ultimate sacrifice
J. Rejoice



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A. Preparation of the Reformers

1. Morning stars of the Reformation
2. God prepares His instruments
3. Legal background
4. Luther
    a. Consecration
    b. Monasticism
    c. Conversion
    d. Reformation



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William Tyndale

(A.D. 1494–1536)



"The Scripture hath but one sense, which is the literal sense."

William Tyndale, "Obedience of a Christian Man," in *Doctrinal Treatises and Introductions to Different Portions of the Holy Scriptures*, ed. Henry Walter (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1848), 304.

Martin Luther

Quoted by Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth* (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 1991), 45.



[The Scriptures] “are to be retained in their simplest meaning ever possible, and to be understood in their grammatical and literal sense unless the context plainly forbids”.

Martin Luther

Quoted in Frederic W. Farrar, *History of Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1961; reprint, 1886), 327.



"I have observed this, that all heresies and errors have originated, not from the simple words of Scripture, as is so universally asserted, but from *neglecting* the simple words of Scripture, and from the affection of purely subjective…tropes and inferences." "In the schools of theologians it is a well-known rule that Scripture is to be understood in four ways, literal, allegoric, moral, anagogic. But if we wish to handle Scripture aright, our one effort will be to obtain *unum, simplecum, germanum, et certum sensum literalem*." "Each passage has one clear, definite, and true sense of its own. All others are but doubtful and uncertain opinions."

Martin Luther

Quoted in George N. H. Peters, *The Theocratic Kingdom*, 3 vols. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1884; reprint, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1952), 1:47.



"Thus Luther (*Table Talk*, 'On God's Word,' 11) remarks: **'I have grounded my preaching upon the literal word; he that pleases may follow me, he that will not may stay.'"**

John Calvin

Quoted by Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth* (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 1991), 47.



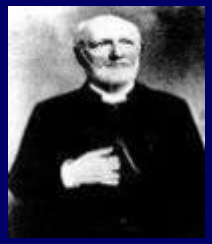
Calvin wrote in the preface of his commentary on Romans "it is the first business of an interpreter to let the author say what he does say, instead of attributing to him what we think he ought to say."

John Calvin

John Calvin, *Commentary on the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians*, p. 136; Quoted by Gerrit H. Hospers, *The Principle of Spiritualization in Hermeneutics* (E. Williamson, NY: Author, 1935), p. 11.



Calvin wrote in his commentary on Galatians "Let us know then that the true meaning of Scripture is the natural and obvious meaning; and let us embrace and abide by it resolutely."



Schaff

Quoted by Gerrit H. Hospers, *The Principle of Spiritualization in Hermeneutics* (E. Williamson, NY: Author, 1935), p. 12.

"Calvin is the founder of grammatico–historical exegesis. He affirmed and carried out the sound hermeneutical principle the biblical writers, like all sensible writers, wished to convey to their reader's – one definite thought in words which they could understand. A passage may have a literal or figurative sense; but cannot have two senses at once. The Word of God is inexhaustible and applicable to all times, but there is a difference between explanation and application, and application must be consistent with explanation."

IV. Contribution of the Protestant Reformers



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Quoted in Frederic W. Farrar, *History of Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1961; reprint, 1886), 328.



Luther denounced the allegorical approach to Scripture in strong words. He said: “An interpreter…must as much as possible avoid allegory, that he may not wander in idle dreams.” “Allegories are empty speculations and as it were the scum of Holy Scripture.” “Origen’s allegories are not worth so much dirt.” “To allegorize is to juggle with Scripture.” “Allegory is sort of a beautiful harlot, who proves herself specially seductive to idle men.” “Allegorizing may degenerate into a mere monkey game.” “Allegories are awkward, absurd, inventive, obsolete, loose rags…mere spangles and pretty ornaments but nothing more."

John Calvin

Quoted by Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth* (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 1991), 47.



Calvin similarly rejected allegorical interpretations. He called them "frivolous games" and accused Origen and other allegorists of "torturing scripture, in every possible sense, from the true sense."

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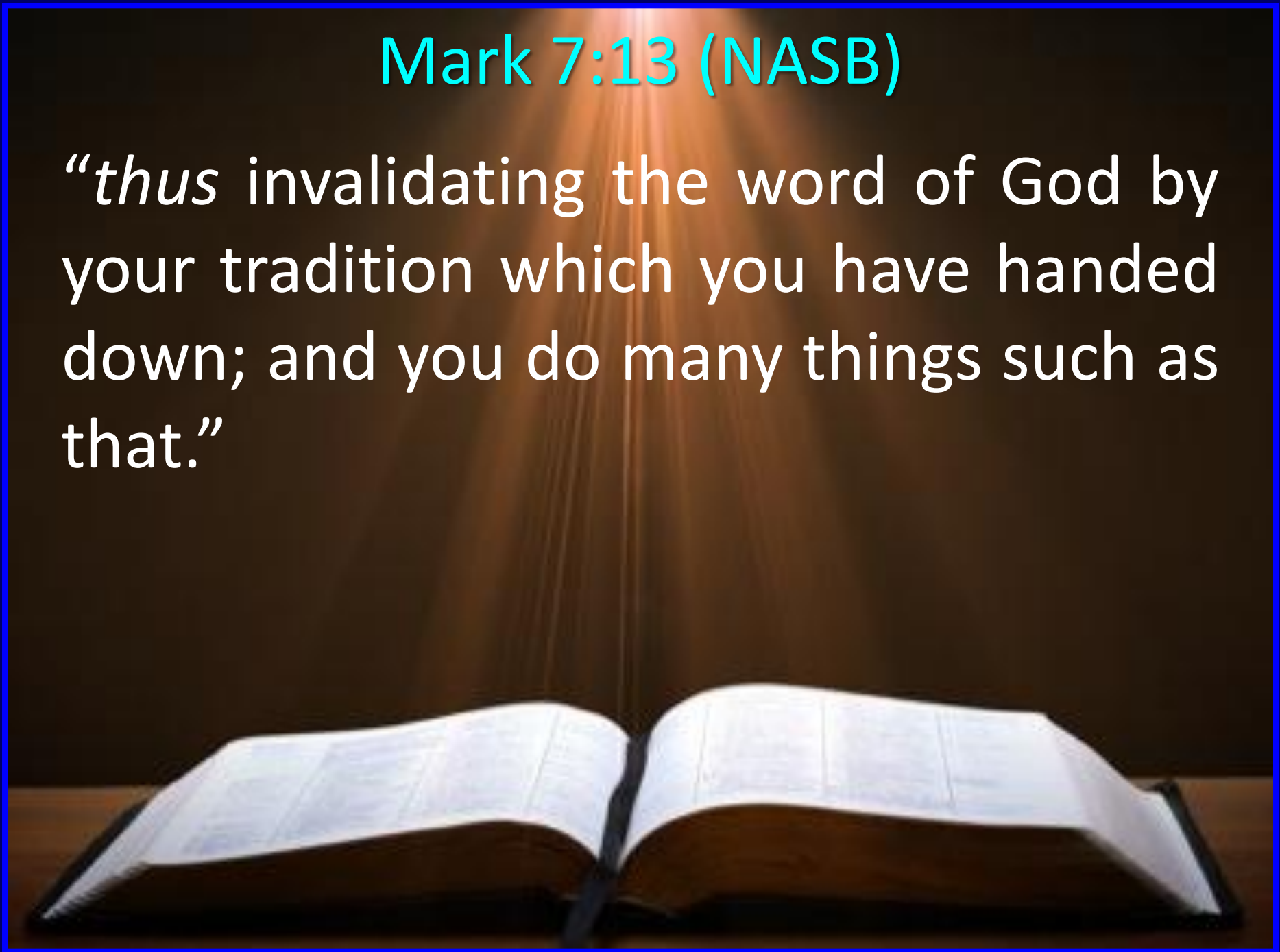


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Mark 7:13 (NASB)

"*thus* invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."



Martin Luther

Luther at the Imperial Diet of Worms (1521)



“Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen.”

Martin Luther

Quoted by F.W. Farrar, *History of interpretation* (NY: E.P. Dutton and Company, 1886), 327.



"I ask for the Scripture, and Eck offers me the Fathers. I ask for the sun, and he shows me his lanterns. I ask, 'where is your Scripture proof?' and he adduces Ambrose and Cyril…With all due respect to the Fathers, I prefer the authority of Scripture."

Matthew 16:18 (NASB)

"I also say to you that you are **Peter (*petros*, masculine, little stone)**, and upon **this rock (petra, feminine, large stone)** I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."



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Revelation 1:6 (NASB)

"and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."



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Martin Luther

Luther's Works: The Christian in Society, ed. James Atkinson, vol. 44 (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1966), 207.

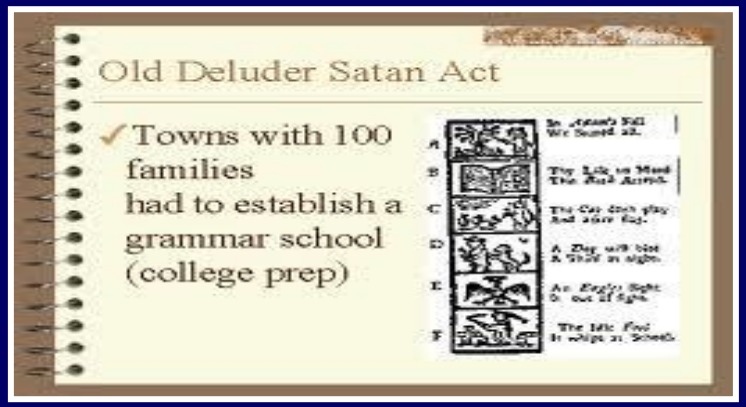


“I am afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them in the heart of the youth...I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not unceasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt."

Old Satan Deluder Law: 1642 Massachusetts

Church of the Holy Trinity v. U.S., 143 U.S. 457, 467 (1892)





"It being one chief project of that **old deluder, Satan**, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures, **as in former time**…It is therefore ordered…that after the Lord hath increased the settlement…they shall…appoint one within their town, to teach all such children to read…they shall set up a grammar school to instruct youths…"

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"Every tin horn dictator in the world today, every president for life, has a Bill of Rights,"..."That's not what makes us free; if it did, you would rather live in Zimbabwe. But you wouldn't want to live in most countries in the world that have a Bill of Rights. What has made us free is our Constitution. Think of the word 'constitution;' it means structure." "That's why America's framers debated not the Bill of Rights during the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia," he said, "but rather the structure of the federal government." "The genius of the American constitutional system is the dispersal of power," he said. "Once power is centralized in one person, or one part [of government], a Bill of Rights is just words on paper."..."A constitution is about setting structure; it is not about writing the preferences of special interest groups," he said."

Kevin Mooney, "Supreme Court Justice Scalia: Constitution, Not Bill of Rights, Makes Us Free," online: http://dailysignal.com/2015/05/11/supreme-court-justice-scalia-constitution-not-bill-of-rights-makes-us-free/, May 11 2015, accessed 20 January 2016.



T Total Depravity

U Unconditional Election

L Limited Atonement

I Irresistible Grace

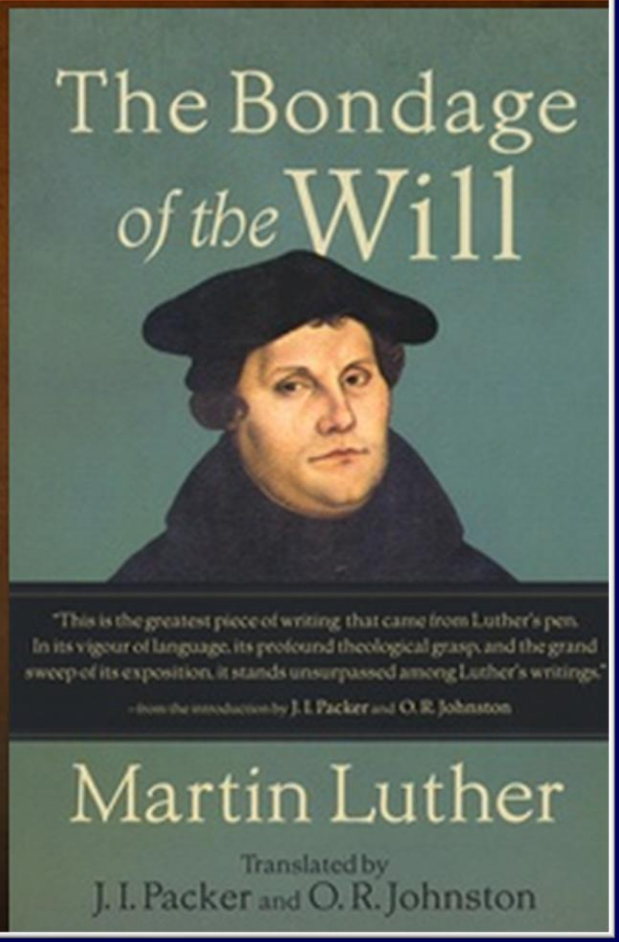
P Perseverance of the Saints

Martin Luther

The Bondage of the Will

MARTIN LUTHER ON FREE WILL

Martin Luther called his book "The Bondage of the Will" his most important work. In it he argues that humanity is in bondage to sin, freely choosing to sin by their own will, yet still a slave to sin and unable to choose God on their own.



Genesis 8:21

The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for **the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth**; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.[emphasis mine].



Lord Acton



"ALL POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY"

Federalist # 51



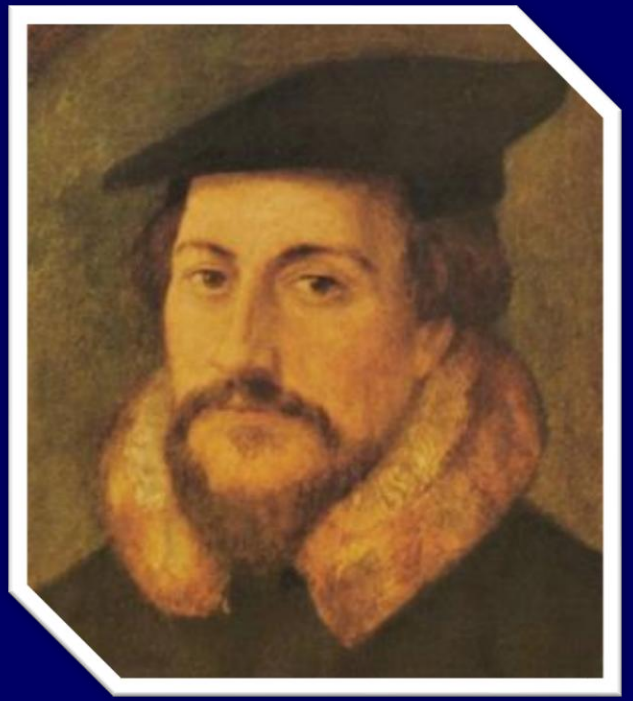
"But what is government but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself."

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, *The Federalist Papers*, trans. Clinton Rossiter (New York, NY: Penguin, 1961), 322.

John Calvin

Bancroft "…simply calls Calvin 'the father of America' and adds: 'He who will not honor the memory and respect the influence of Calvin knows but little of the origin of American liberty.'"

Loraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* (Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1932), 398-90.

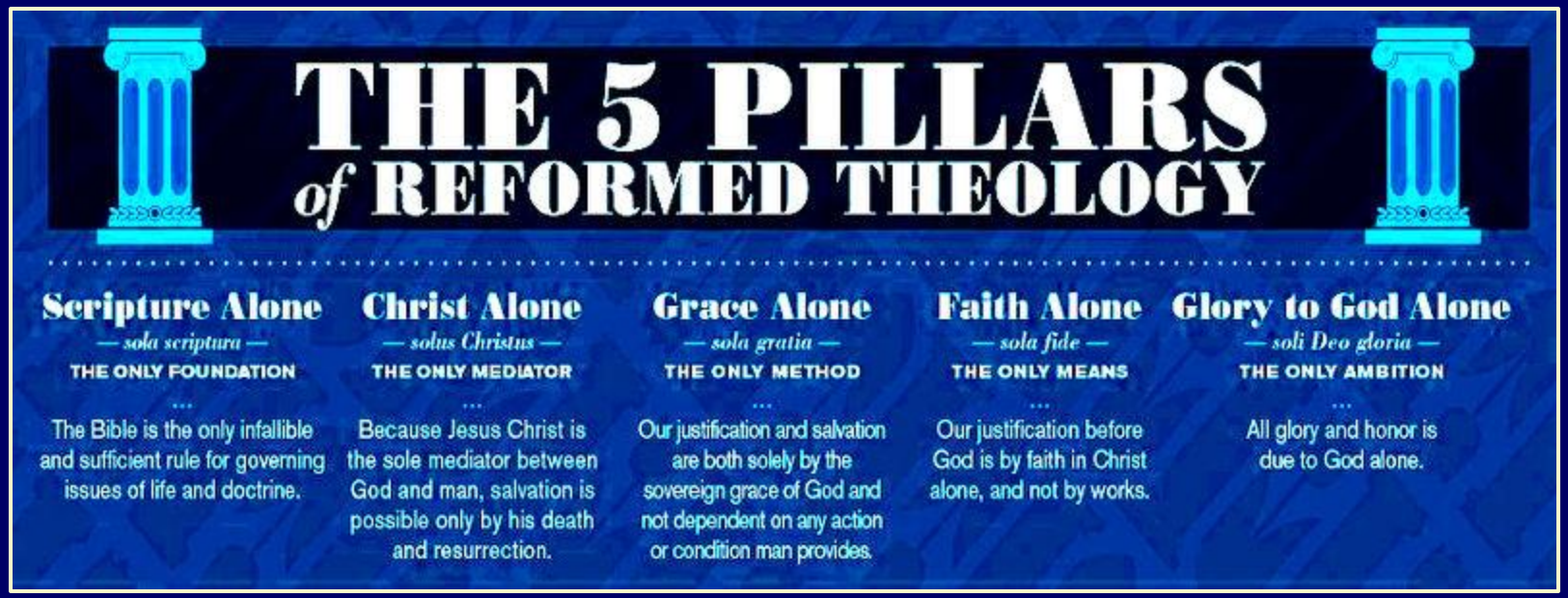


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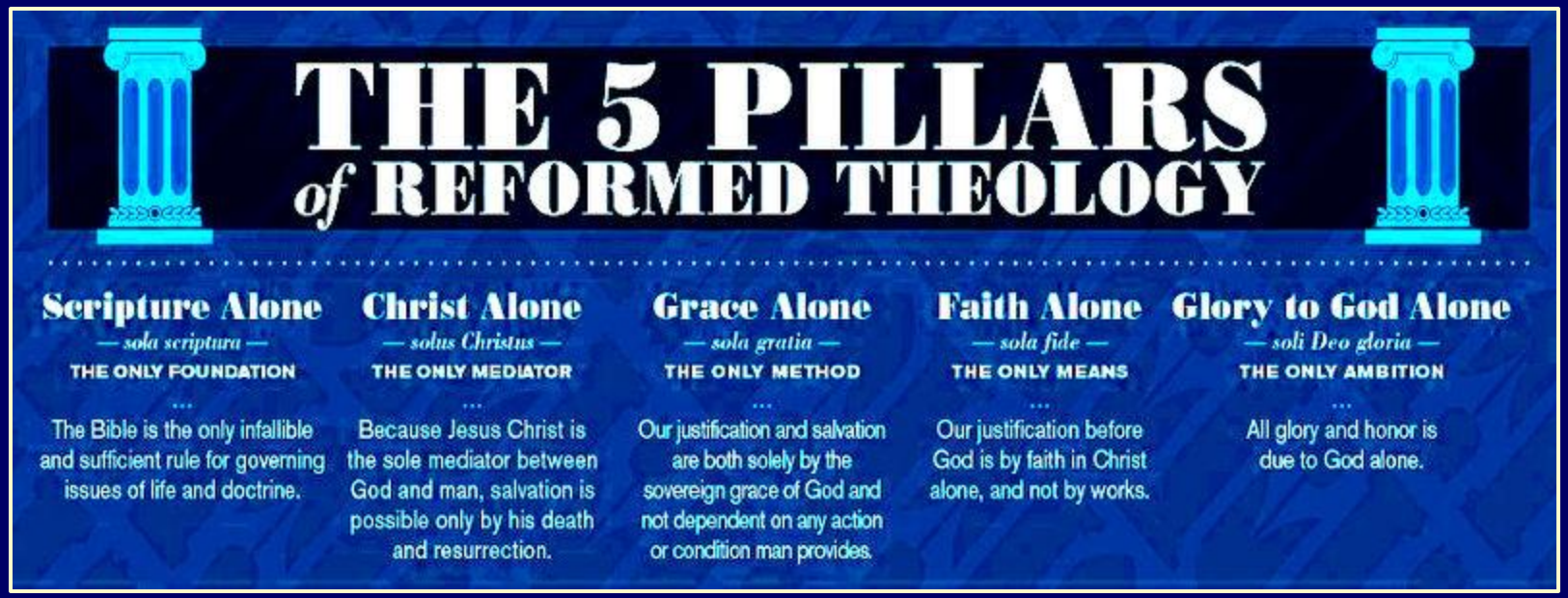


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Number	Latin	Meaning
1.	*Sola Scriptura*	Scripture Alone
2.	*Solus Christus*	Christ Alone
3.	*Sola Fide*	Faith Alone
4.	*Sola Graetia*	Grace Alone
5.	*Soli Deo Gloria*	To the Glory of God Alone



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Emergent Church & Biblical Authority



"Anglicans have demonstrated this both/and beautifully in relation to Scripture. ***Scripture is always a factor*** in Anglican thinking. In Anglicans' best moments, it is their primary factor, but ***it is never…the only factor***. Rather Scripture is always in dialogue with tradition, reason, and experience. ***None of them sola can be the ultimate source of authority***…" (Italics added).

Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, 210.

Biblical Authority

I. Tradition? (Mark 7:13; Col 2:8)

II. Reason? (Prov 3:5; 14:12; Isa 55:8-9)

III. Experience? (2 Thess 2:9)



Satanic/Demonic Miracles

I. Exod 7–8

II. Deut 13:1-3

III. Matt 7:21-23; 24:24

IV. Acts 8:9; 16:16

V. Gal 1:6-9

VI. 2 Thess 2:9

VII. Rev 13:3, 13; 16:13-14

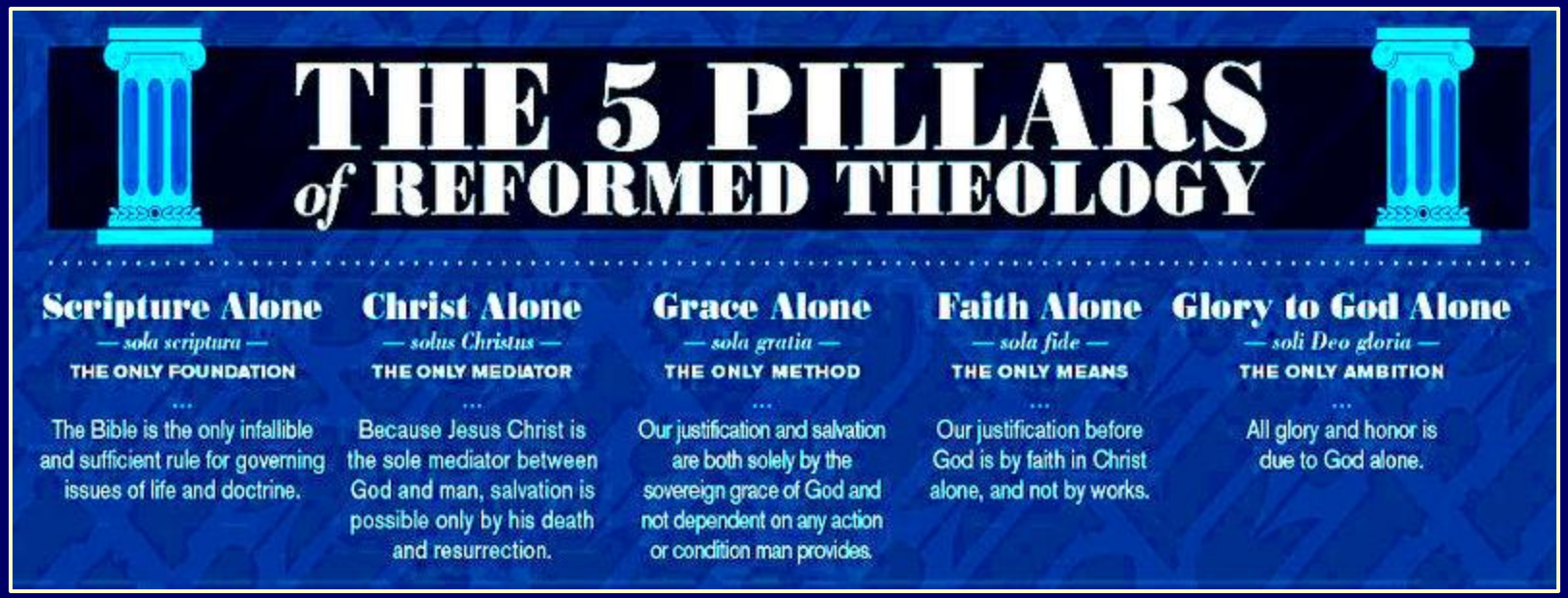


Biblical Authority

I. Where in Scripture are we told to dialogue with all four?

II. Magisterial vs. ministerial





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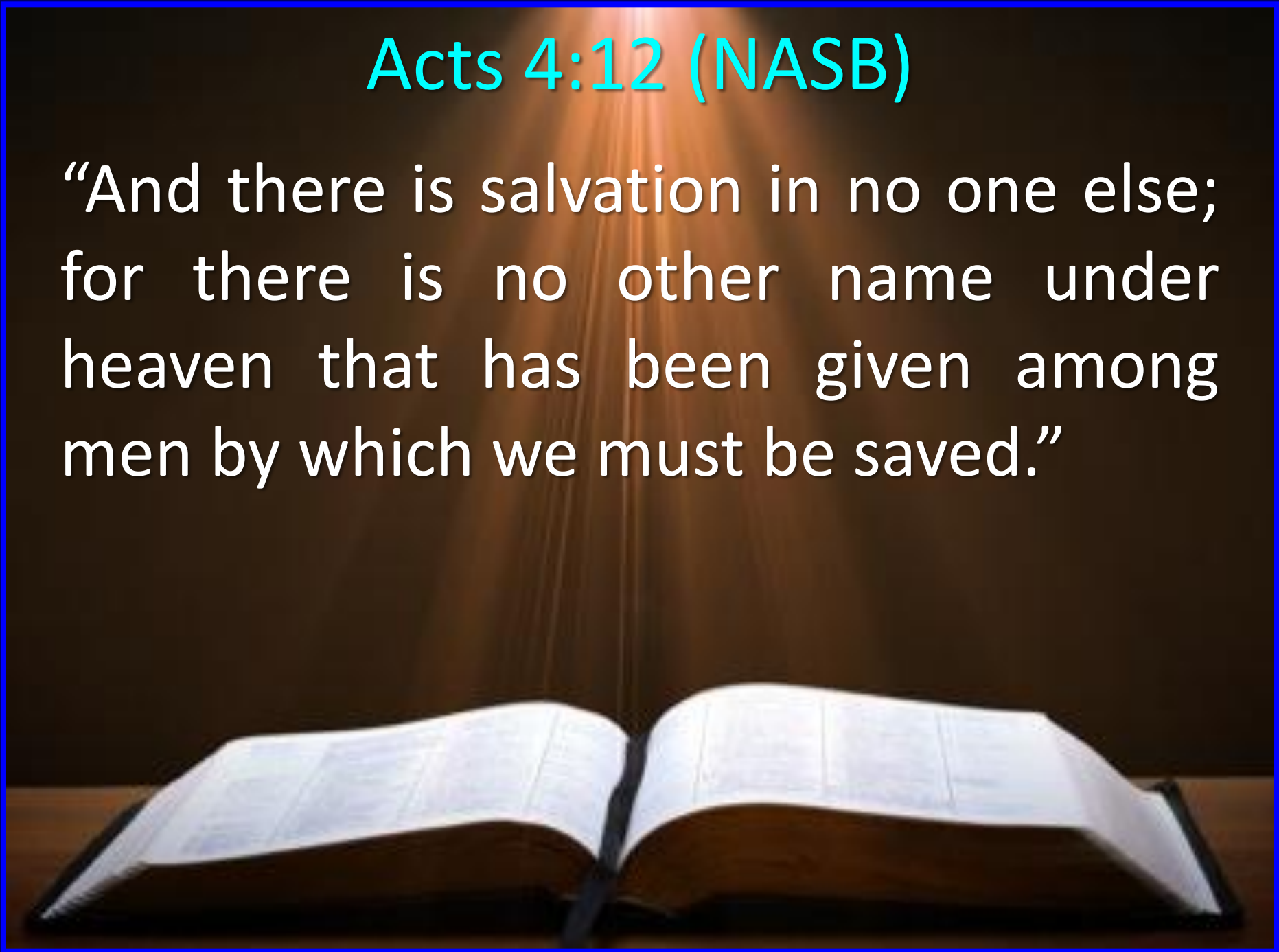
John 14:6 (NASB)

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”



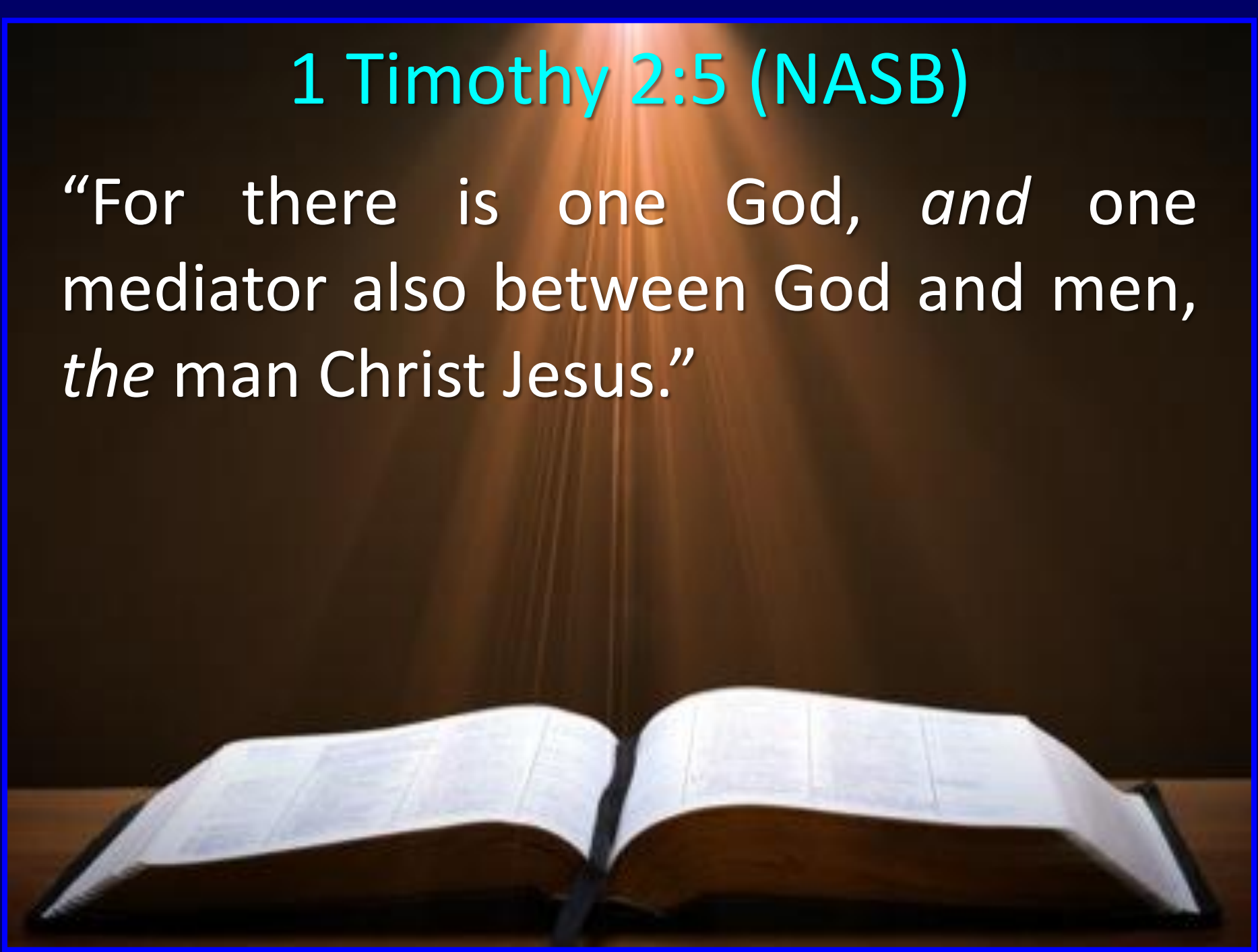
Acts 4:12 (NASB)

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”



1 Timothy 2:5 (NASB)

"For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus."



Matthew 13:55 (NASB)

“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?”



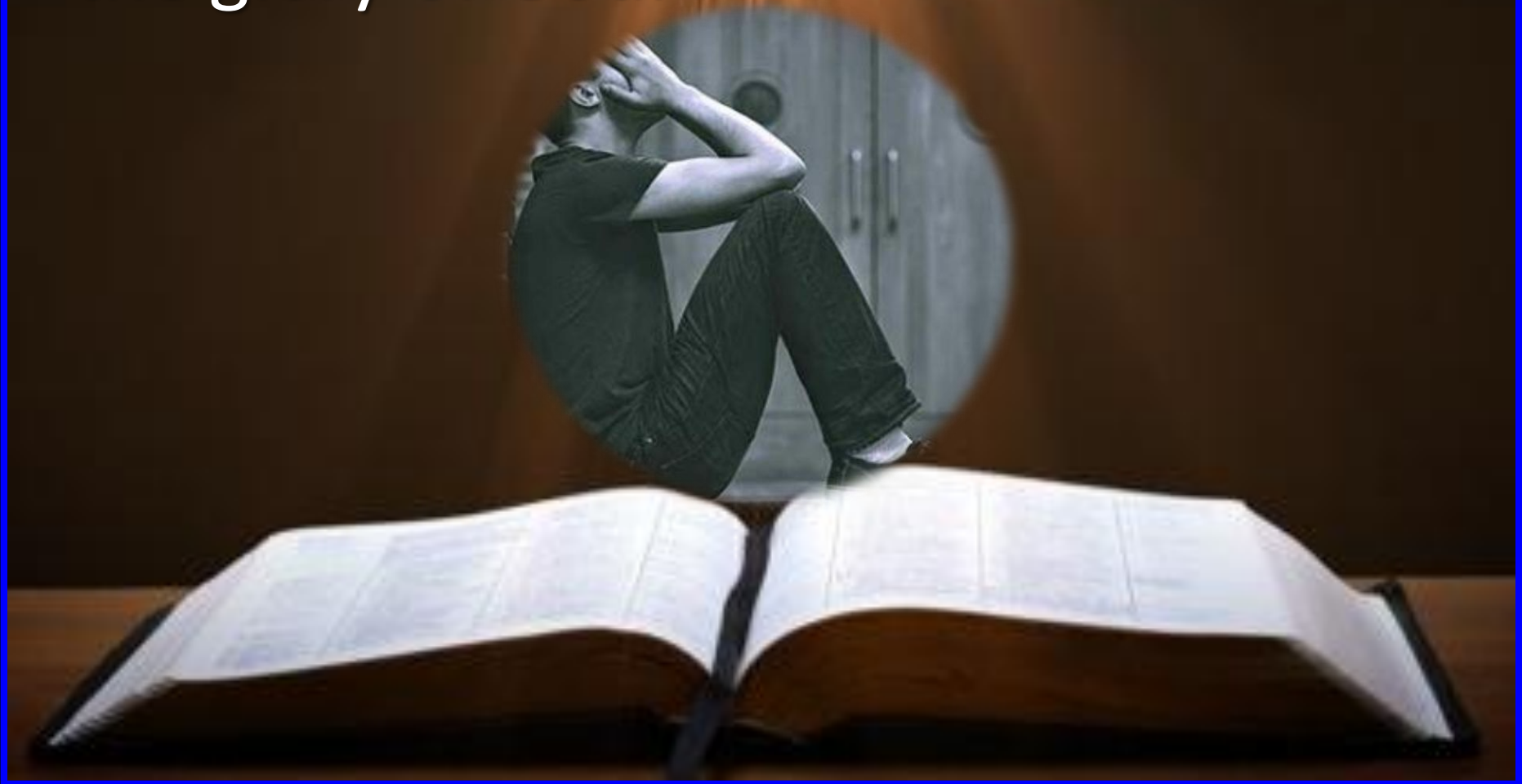
Luke 1:46-47 (NASB)

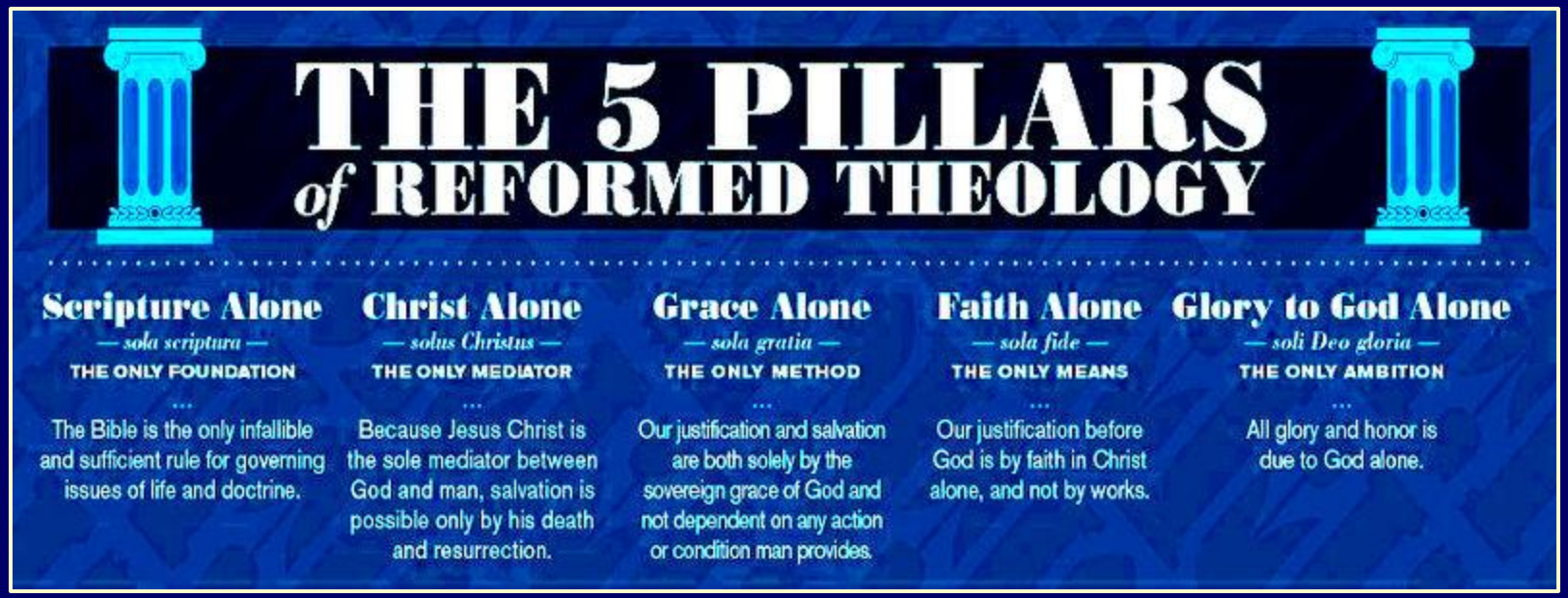
“And **Mary** said: ‘My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God **my Savior**.’”



Romans 3:23 (NASB)

“ for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”





Number	Latin	Meaning
1.	*Sola Scriptura*	Scripture Alone
2.	*Solus Christus*	Christ Alone
3.	***Sola Fide***	**Faith Alone**
4.	*Sola Graetia*	Grace Alone
5.	*Soli Deo Gloria*	To the Glory of God Alone

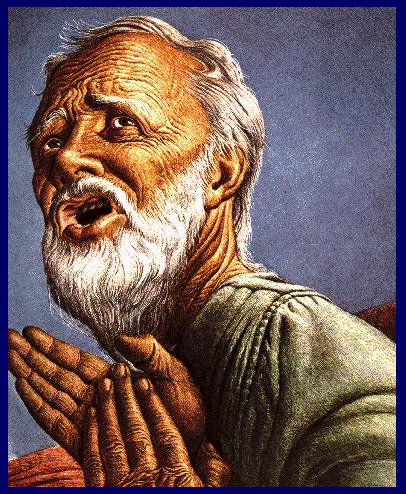
Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

Gen 15:6

Then he **believed** in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."

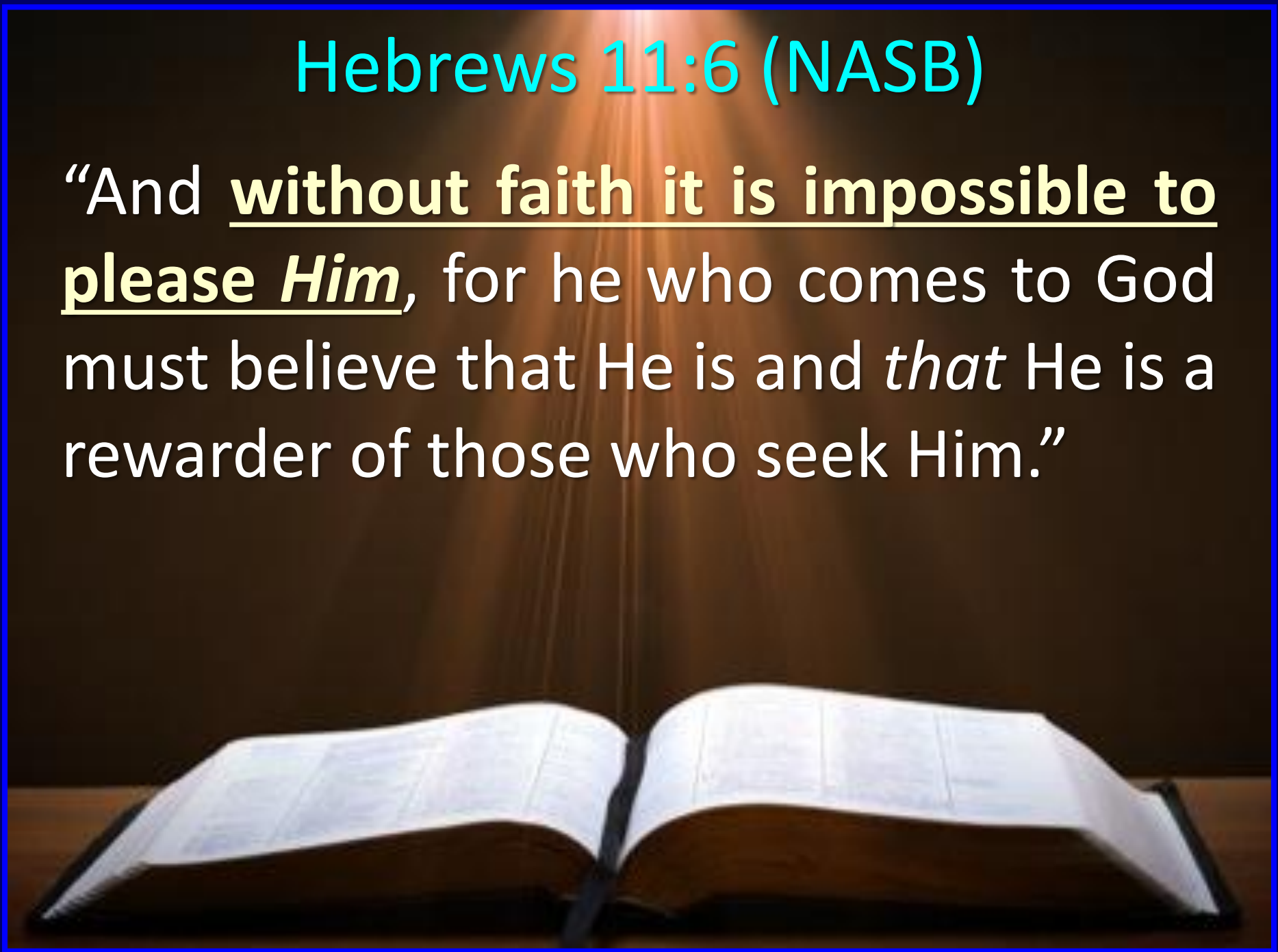
Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

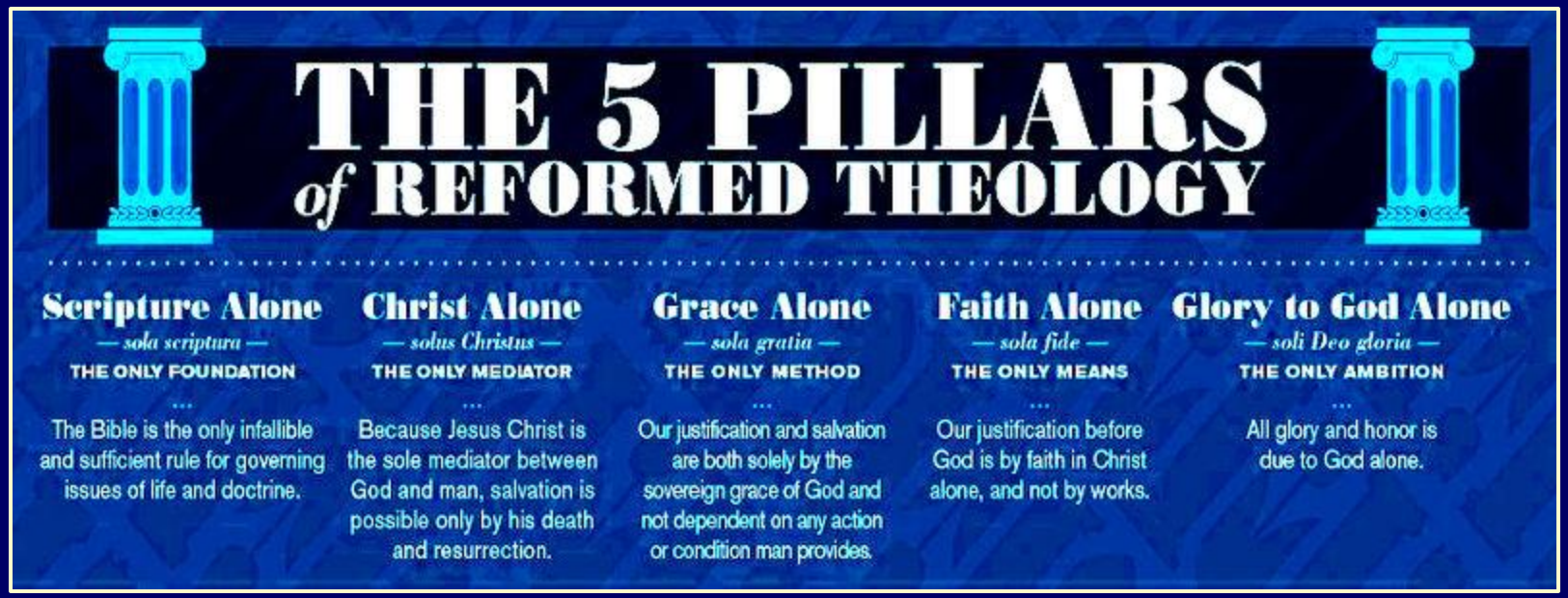
"For by grace you have been saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."



Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)

"And **without faith it is impossible to please *Him***, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."



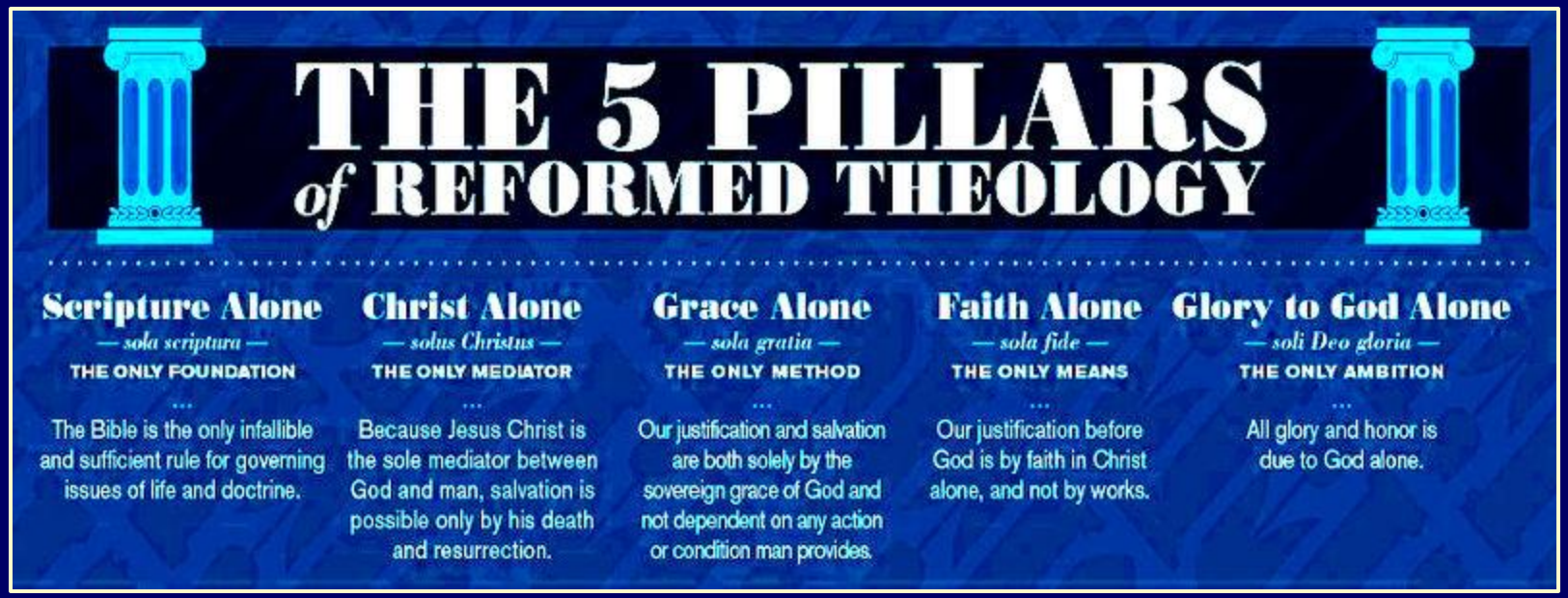


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Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, **so that no one may boast**."



Romans 3:27-28 (NASB)

"**Where then is boasting? It is excluded**. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. [28] For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."



IV. Contribution of the Protestant Reformers



A. Preparation of the Reformers
B. Emphasis on literal interpretation
C. Denunciation of allegorization
D. Rejection of church tradition as a guide
E. Priesthood of all believers
    1. Bible translations
    2. Literacy
F. Basis for the American system of governance
G. Five *solas*
H. <u>Rejection of celibacy of the priesthood</u>
I. The ultimate sacrifice
J. Rejoice



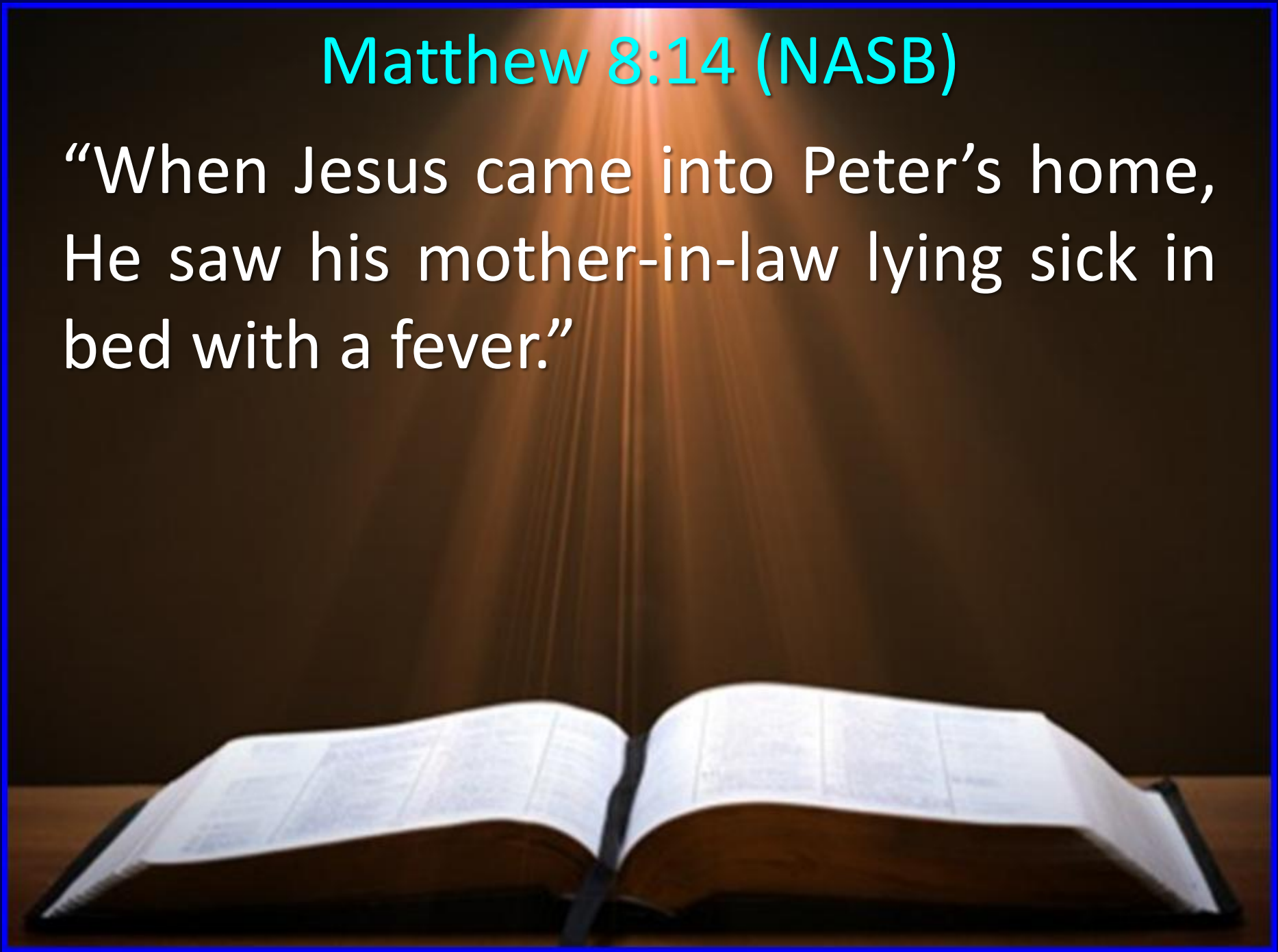
Matthew 16:18 (NASB)

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”



Matthew 8:14 (NASB)

“When Jesus came into Peter’s home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever.”



1 Corinthians 9:5 (NASB)

“Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?”



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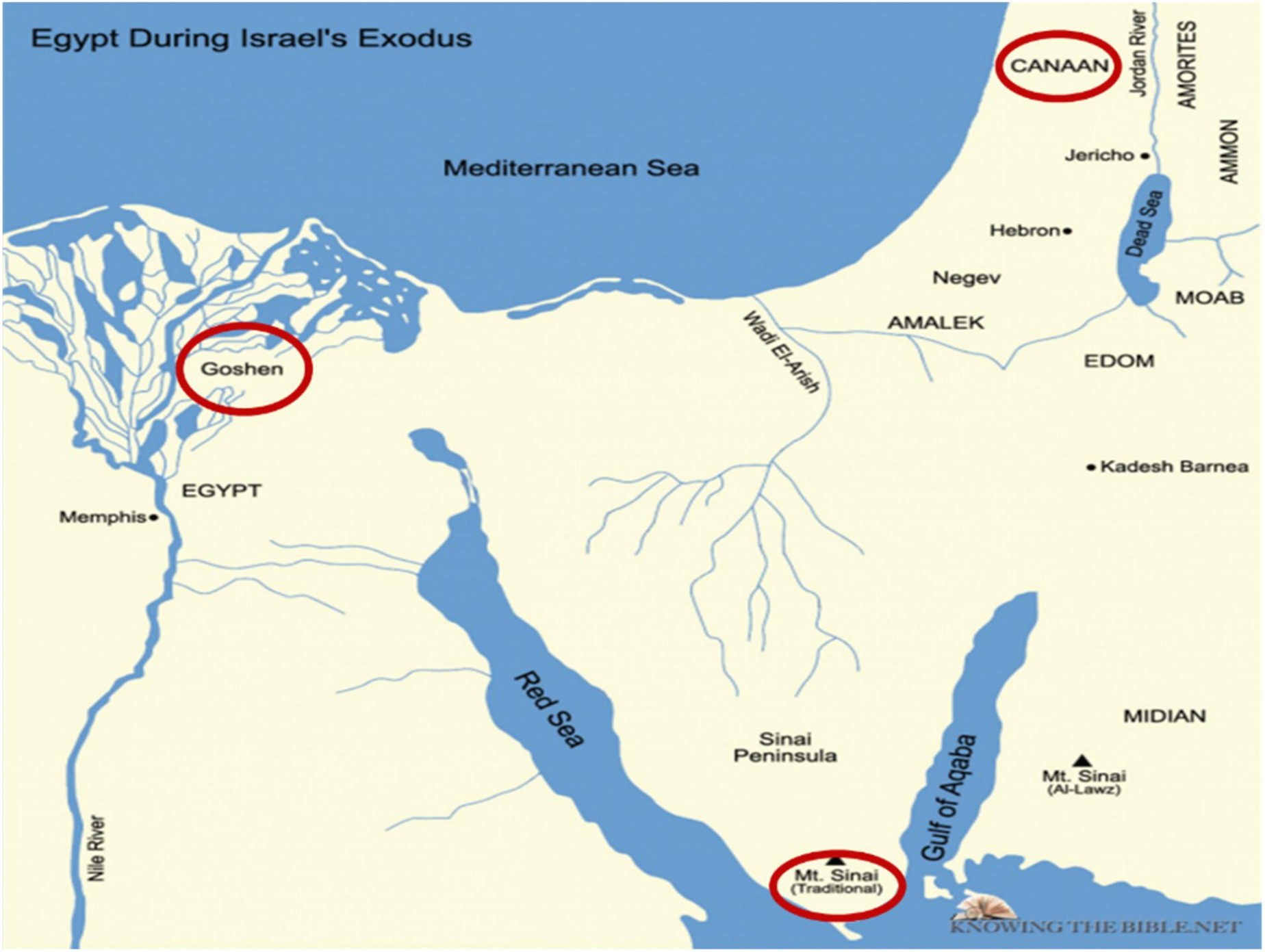
CONCLUSION

IV. Contribution of the Protestant Reformers



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Egypt During Israel's Exodus
Mediterranean Sea
CANAAN
Jordan River
AMORITES
AMMON
Jericho
Dead Sea
Hebron
Negev
MOAB
AMALEK
Wadi El-Arish
EDOM
Goshen
Kadesh Barnea
EGYPT
Memphis
Red Sea
Sinai
Peninsula
MIDIAN
Mt. Sinai
(Al-Lawz)
Gulf of Aqaba
Nile River
Mt. Sinai
(Traditional)
KNOWING THE BIBLE.NET

Numbers 21:9 (NASB)

"And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived."



John 3:14-15 (NASB)

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; [15] so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life."



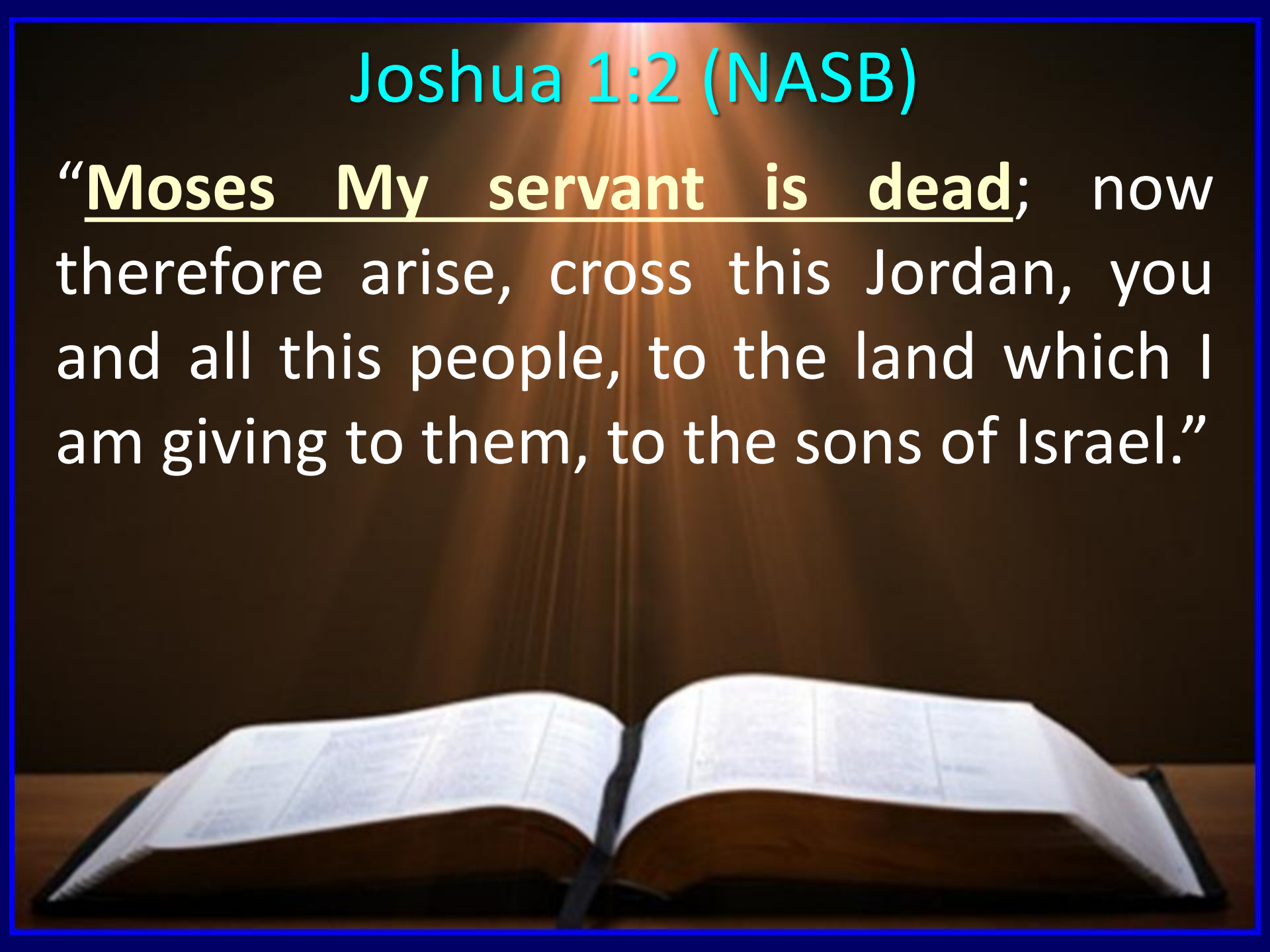
2 Kings 18:4 (NASB)

"He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan."



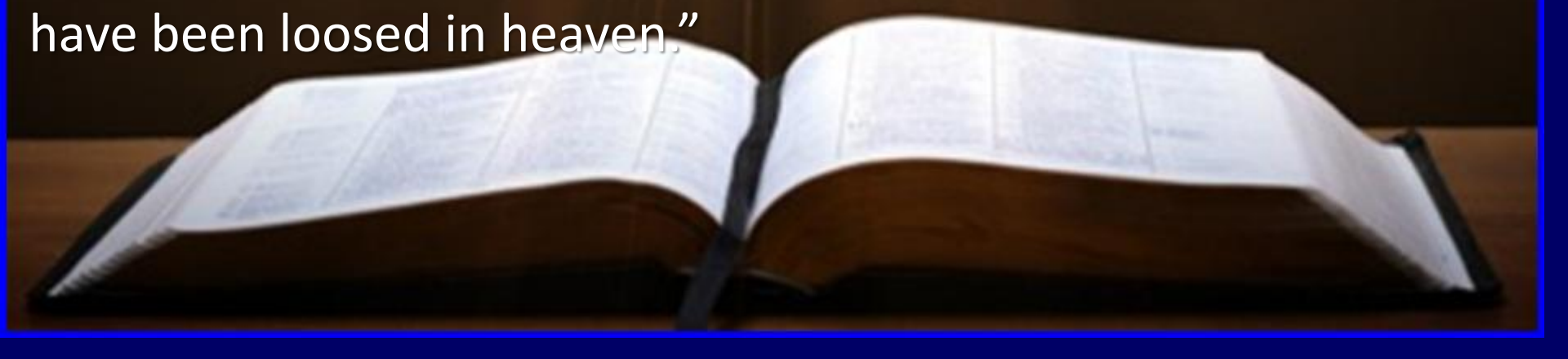
Joshua 1:2 (NASB)

"**Moses My servant is dead**; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel."



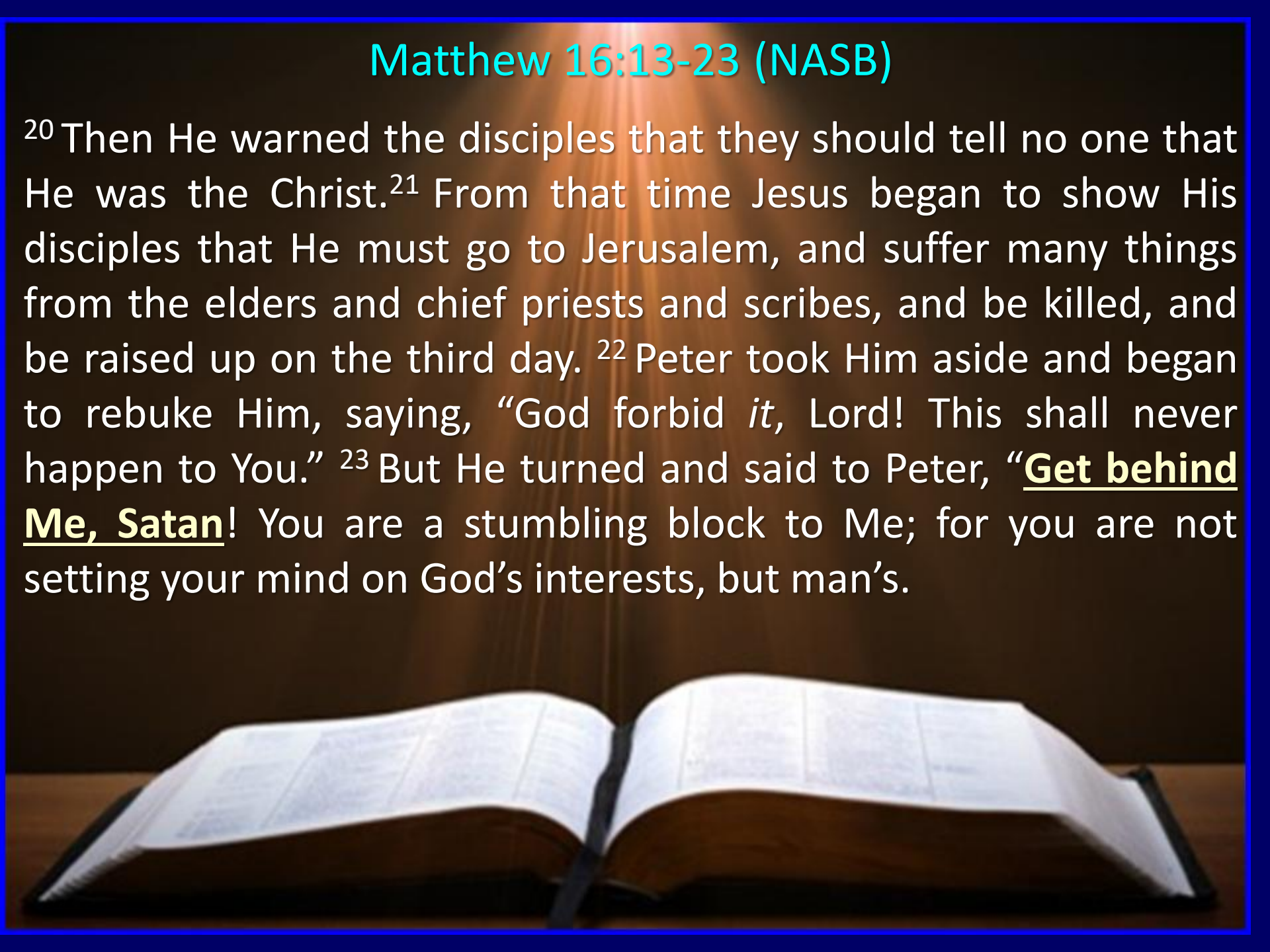
Matthew 16:13-23 (NASB)

16 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”…16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus said to him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Barjona**, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”



Matthew 16:13-23 (NASB)

[20] Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.[21] From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. [22] Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You." [23] But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan**! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.



NEXT WEEK



I. The early church
II. The Alexandrian eclipse
III. The Dark Ages
IV. The Contribution of the Protestant Reformers
V. <u>THE REFORMERS INCOMPLETE REVOLUTION</u>
VI. Reformed Theology today
VII. Dispensationalism & the completed revolution
VIII. Looking back 500 years later

