

*Courage for a world that challenges our faith*

MEN'S MORNING STUDY

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**BRAVE**  
*by* **FAITH**

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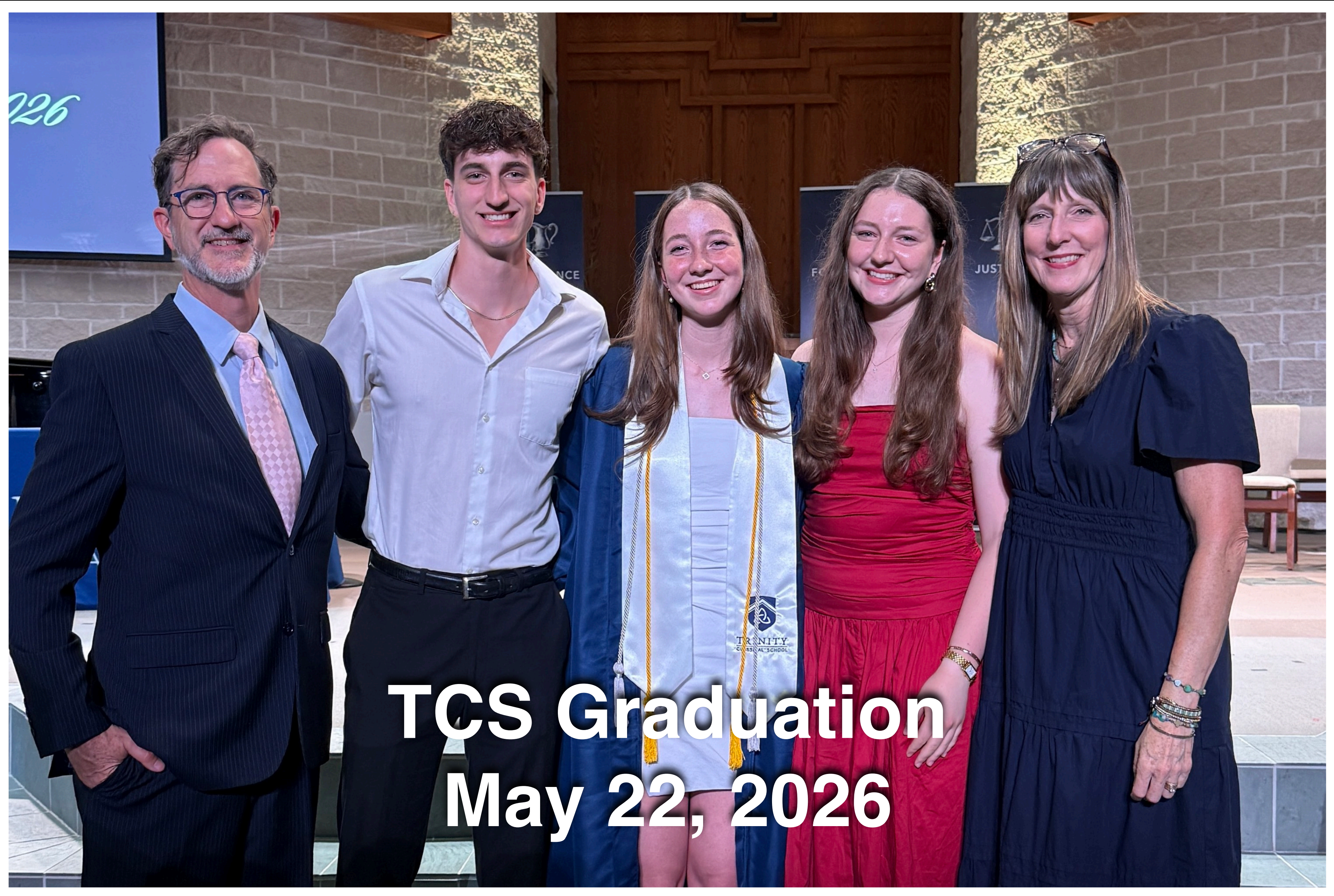
A STUDY OF DANIEL 1-7

THURSDAYS, JUNE 4-AUG 6 @ 6:30-7:30A  
THE LOOP CAMPUS (GARDEN RM)  
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**TCS Graduation  
May 22, 2026**



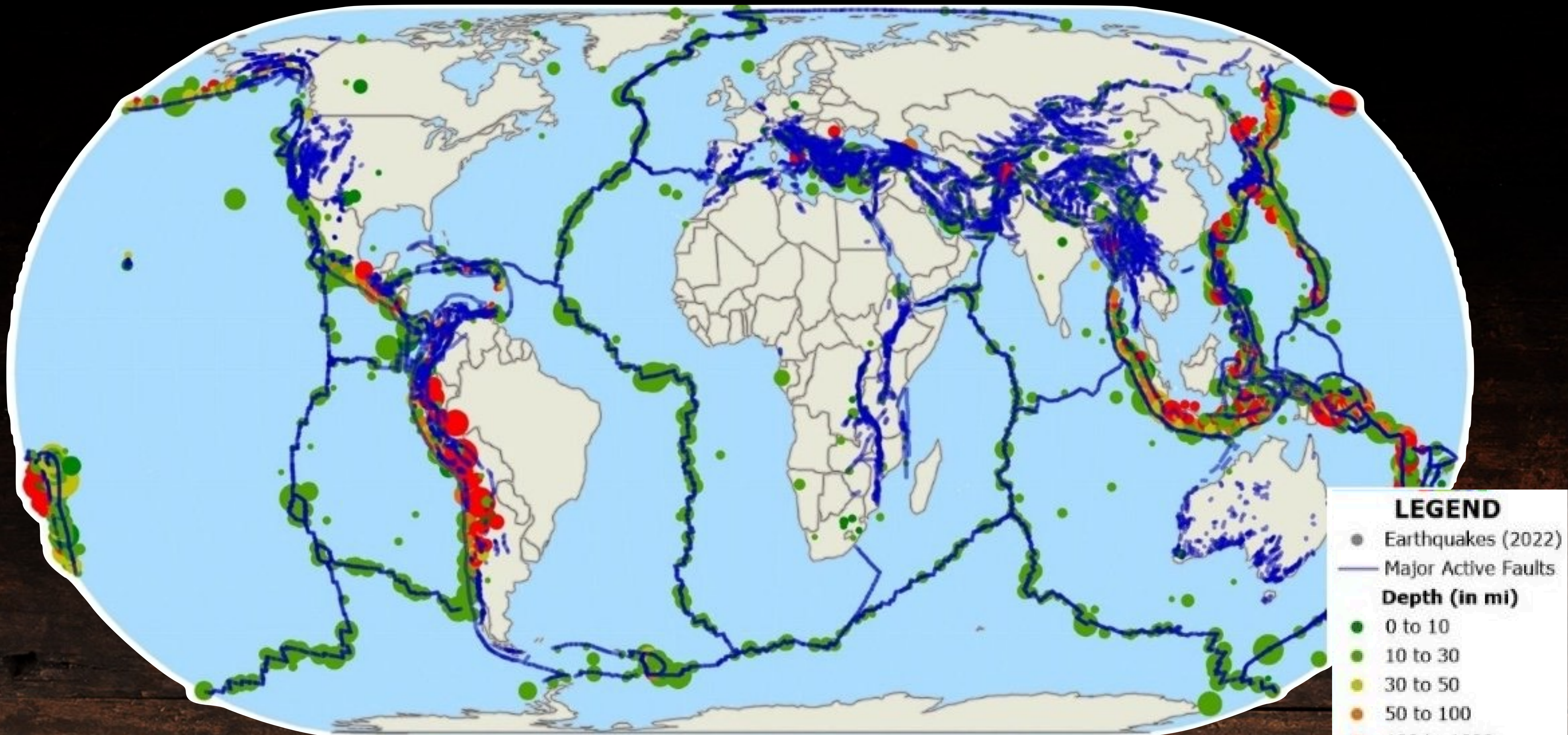
**Alex and Eric  
Circa 1968**



***Little Big Head***  
**Circa 1968**

# 1989 California





**LEGEND**

- Earthquakes (2022)
- Major Active Faults

**Depth (in mi)**

- 0 to 10
- 10 to 30
- 30 to 50
- 50 to 100
- 100 to 1000

**Magnitude**

- 10
- 8
- 5

0 1,500 3,000  
Miles

# Faultlines

**Faultlines?**



# Faultlines?

- Identity
- Sexuality
- Marriage
- Truth
- Authority
- What it means to be human

# Discussion

- 1. What has been your experience of this cultural shift?**
- 2. How have you responded?**
- 3. Do you tend to deal with the faultlines with hope or do you tend to get frustrated or angry or discouraged?**

**The Beginning?**

# The Story of the Bible



CREATION



FALL



REDEMPTION



RESTORATION

## Genesis 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD God said to the serpent:

*Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life.<sup>15</sup> I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.*

# Genesis 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram:

Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who treat you with contempt, and **all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**

# All the Nations Blessed

**Genesis 26:4** (to Isaac) – “... by your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.”

**Genesis 28:14** (to Jacob) – “... in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

## Exodus 19:4-6

<sup>4</sup> 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me.  
<sup>5</sup> Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine, <sup>6</sup> and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation.'

# A Light unto the Nations

Isaiah 42:6–7 – “I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind...”

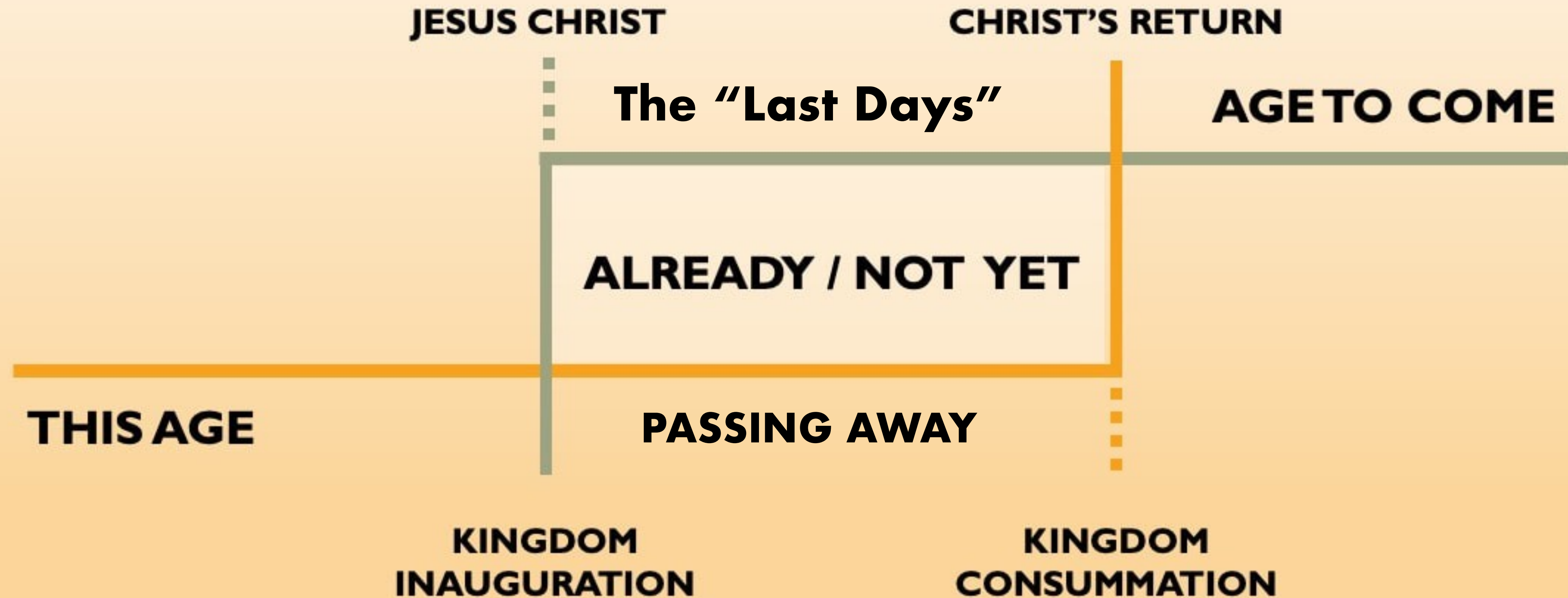
Isaiah 49:6 – “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob ... I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Isaiah 60:1–3 – “Arise, shine, for your light has come ... Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”



**So what are we to make of all these  
faultlines if Jesus Rules and Reigns?**

# The Already, but Not Yet nature of the Kingdom



# Some Identifiers for Christ's Followers

1. Sojourners (Acts 7:6 & Heb. 11:13)
2. Citizens of Heaven (Phil. 3:20)
3. Ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

**Is this world supposed to be our home?**



AMERICA





— LOST FOCUS —

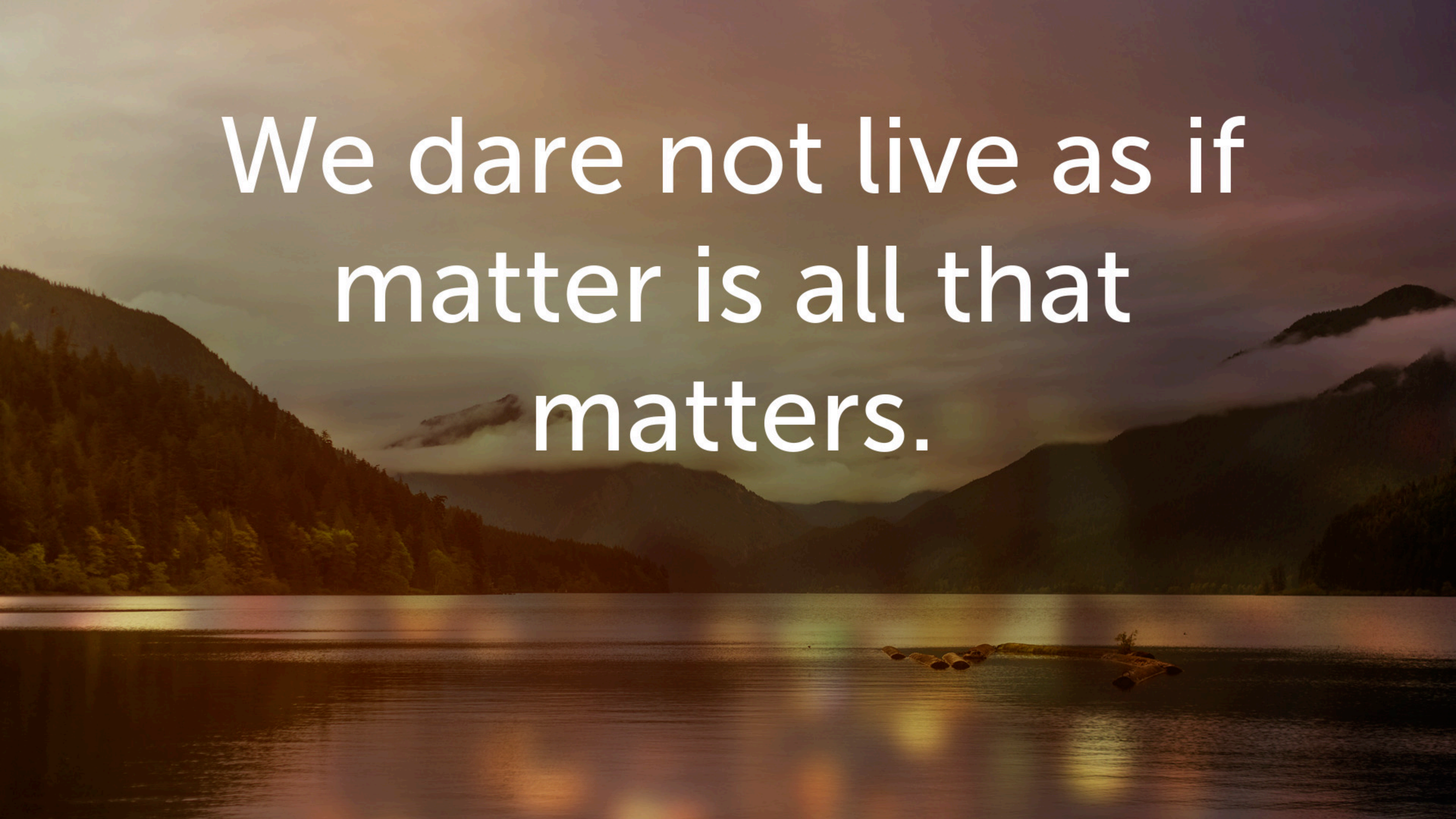
“We are entering a new era in which there is not only no social benefit to being Christian, but an actual social cost. In many places, culture is becoming increasingly hostile toward faith, and beliefs in God, truth, sin, and the afterlife are disappearing in more and more people. Now, culture is producing people for whom Christianity is not only offensive, but incomprehensible.”

?



**Daniel**

# The Way of Faith

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the warm, golden light of a sunset. The background is dominated by dark, forested mountains under a sky with soft, wispy clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

We dare not live as if  
matter is all that  
matters.

# **SURVIVING TO THRIVING**



Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

ROMANS 12:2



**Leslie Newbigin**  
**(1909-1998)**



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# Table Discussion

- 1. How might the cultural freedoms that believers have enjoyed in the Western world contribute to our confusion about the location of our true home?**
- 2. Our society's values have changed drastically, but the God of Daniel has never changed. How should God's constancy encourage us not to be overwhelmed by the changes that we see around us?**
- 3. While it's easy to try to escape life's challenges, this is not an option for faithful Christians. Where do we find the strength to face the trials we encounter?**