

THE **ACTS** OF FAITH



# PIONEERS

2020-21 SERMON SERIES



PIONEERS

WHATEVER  
WHENEVER  
HOWEVER



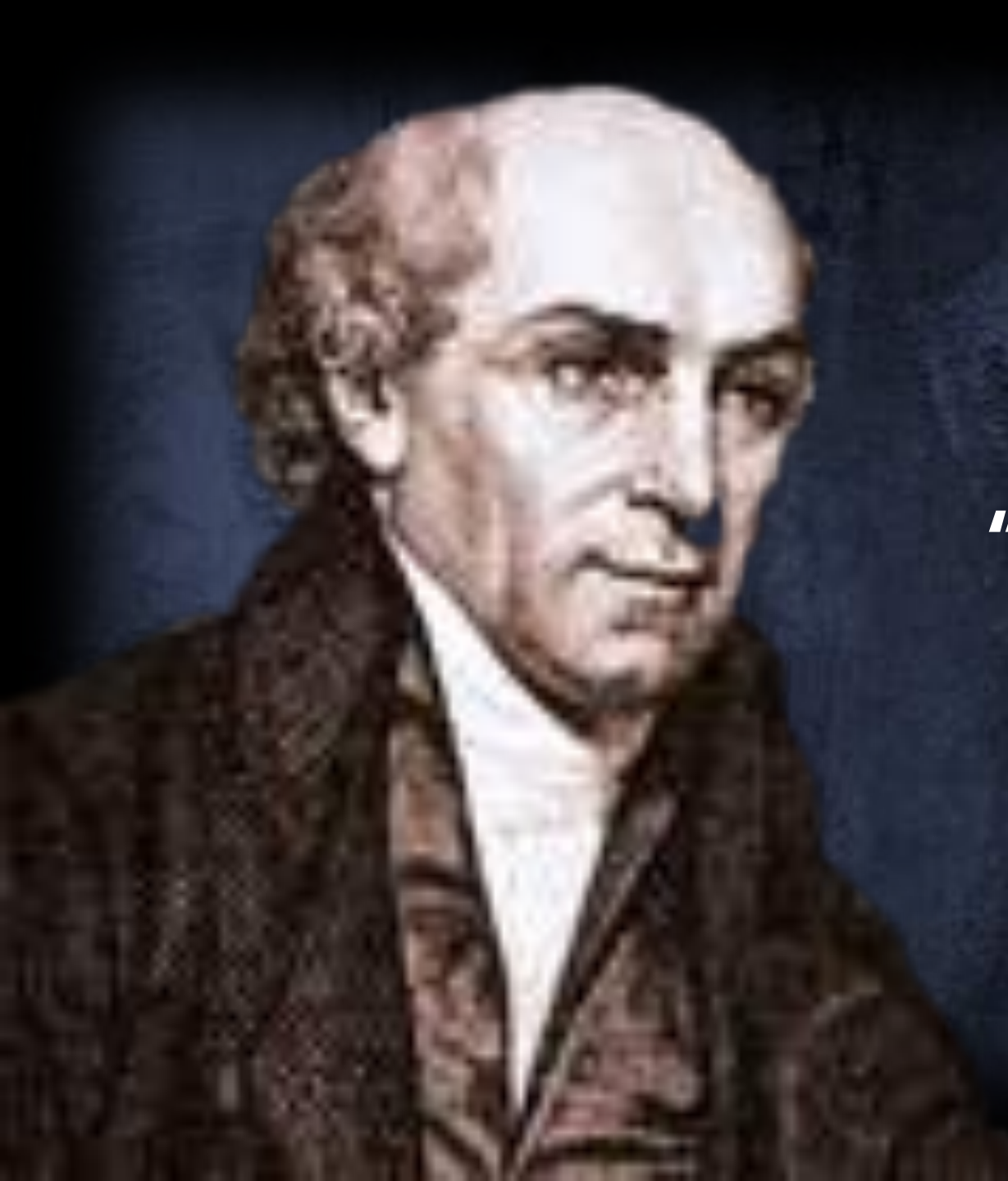


PIONEERS

5 WORDS THAT  
DESCRIBE  
YOU?

**"The Father of Missions"**

WILLIAM CAREY



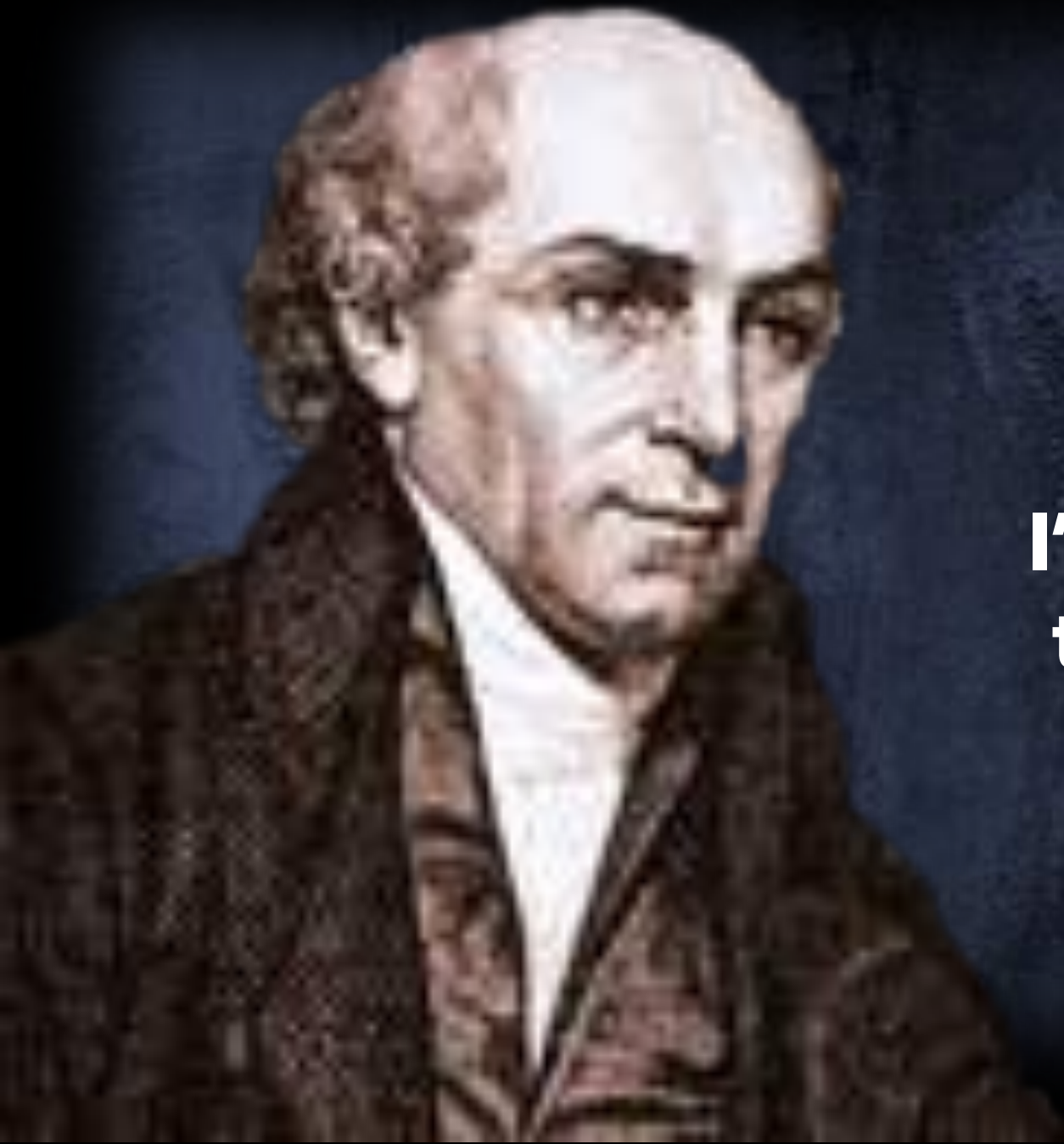
#1 DETERMINED

**"I can plod, I can persevere  
to any definite pursuit."**

WILLIAM CAREY







## #2 COURAGEOUS

**“I’m not afraid of failure,  
I’m afraid of succeeding at  
things that don’t matter.”**

WILLIAM CAREY





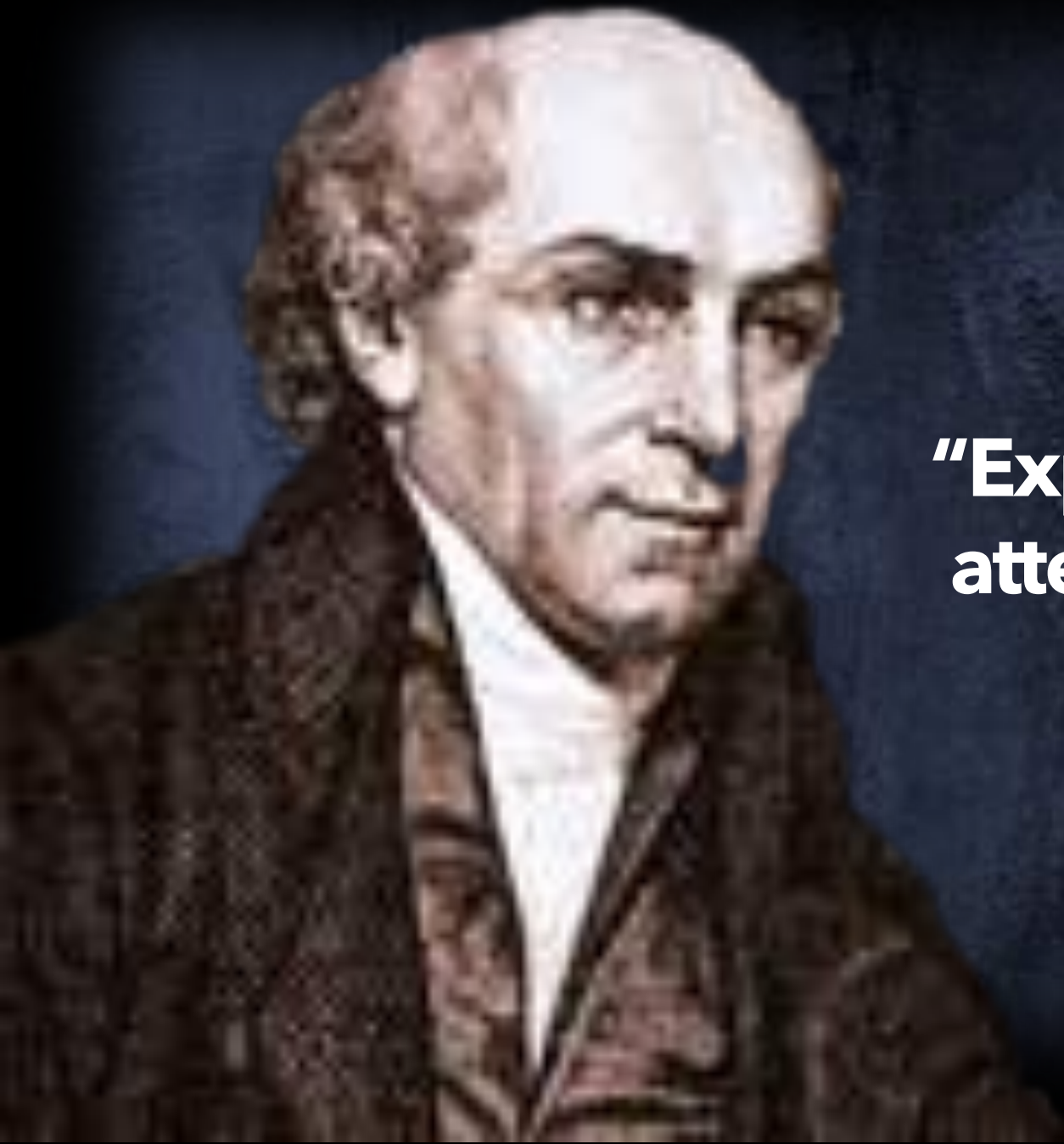
## #3 RESILIENT

**“I am in a strange land,  
no Christian friend,  
a large family, and nothing  
to supply their wants.”**

WILLIAM CAREY







## #4 OPTIMISTIC

**“Expect great things from God;  
attempt great things for God.”**

WILLIAM CAREY





## #5 SUBMISSIVE

**“To know the will of God,  
we need an open Bible and  
an open map.”**

WILLIAM CAREY







PLACED  
& STRATEGICALLY

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**





# PHILIP

“Philip went down to the city of **Samaria**  
and proclaimed to them the Christ.”

ACTS 8:5 **ESV**



Now an angel of the  
Lord said to Philip,  
"Rise and go toward the  
south to the road that  
goes down from  
Jerusalem to Gaza."  
**This is a desert place.**  
And he rose and went.

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**



A silhouette of a man wearing a top hat, looking towards a wall covered in various maps and documents. The scene is dimly lit, with a spotlight effect on the man's head and the wall behind him.

**And he rose and went.**

PIONEERS

5 WORDS THAT  
DESCRIBE  
YOU?



A dark silhouette of a man's head and shoulders is positioned in the center of the frame, facing left and looking upwards. The background is a textured, dark blue-grey color. The text is overlaid on the image, with the words "Ethiopian, a eunuch," and "in charge of all" highlighted in orange.

And there was an **Ethiopian, a eunuch,**  
a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians,  
who was **in charge of all** her treasure.


ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**



He had come to Jerusalem to worship  
and was returning, seated in his chariot,  
and he was **reading the prophet Isaiah.**

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**



A silhouette of a man's head and shoulders, facing left and looking upwards. The background is a dark blue, textured surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

And the Spirit said to Philip,  
**"Go over and join this chariot."**  
So Philip ran to him.

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**

A silhouette of a man in a top hat is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The background is a floor covered with numerous old, weathered maps. The scene is dimly lit, with a spotlight effect on the man's silhouette and the maps.

**So Philip ran to him.**

PIONEERS

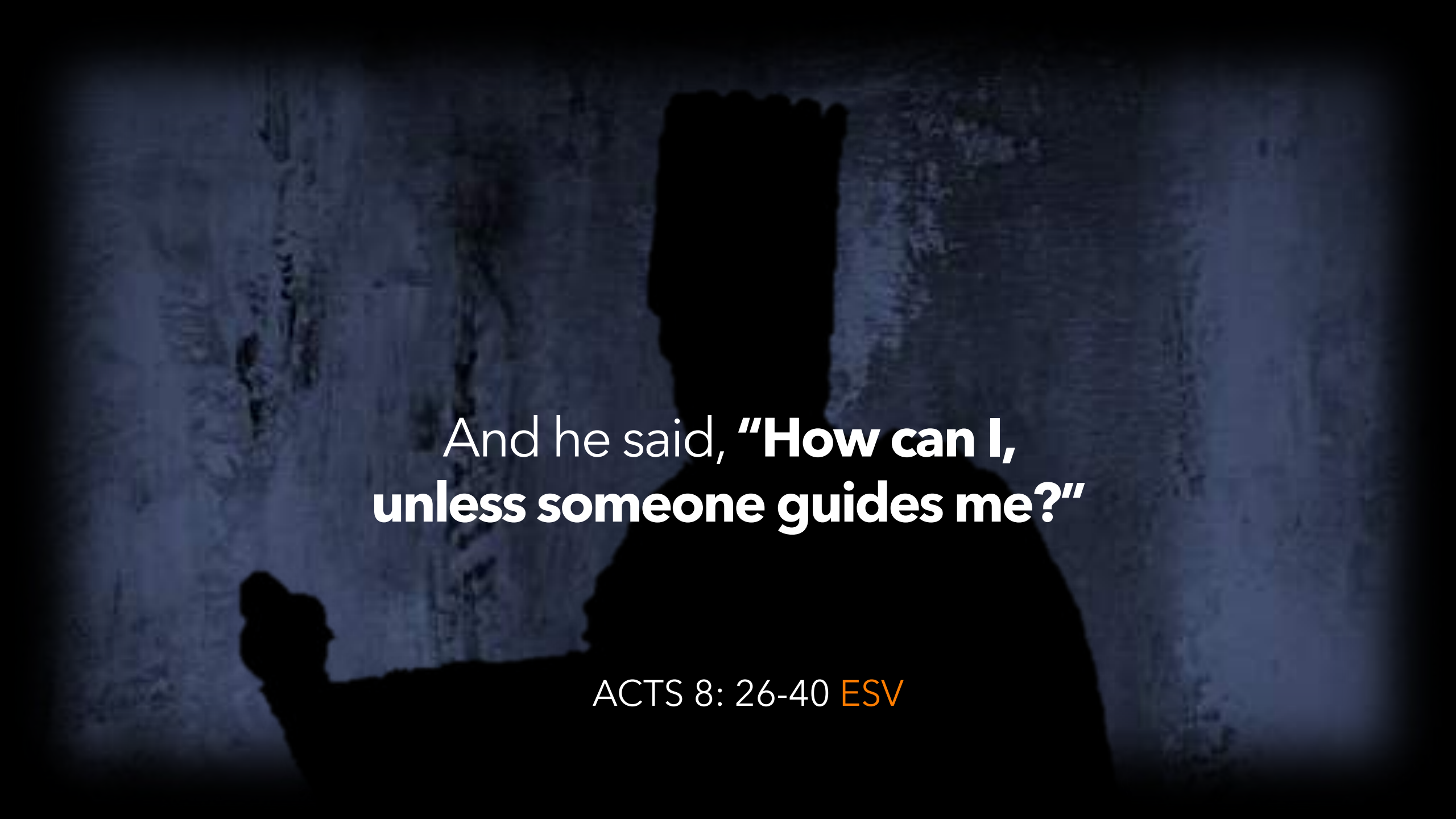
5 WORDS THAT  
DESCRIBE  
YOU?



A dark silhouette of a man's head and shoulders, facing left, against a dark blue background with a subtle, textured pattern. The man appears to be reading or looking at something off-camera.

**So Philip ran to him** and heard him reading  
Isaiah the prophet and asked,  
“Do you understand what you are reading?”

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**

The image features a dark blue, textured background. In the center, there are two black silhouettes of people. One silhouette is taller and stands upright, while the other is shorter and appears to be leaning or gesturing towards the taller figure. The overall mood is contemplative and dramatic.

And he said, **"How can I,  
unless someone guides me?"**

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**



PIONEERS

# HERMENEUTICS





**Observation.**  
Interpretation.  
Application.





# STEP 1: OBSERVATION

**Who?**  
**What?**  
**Why?**  
**When?**  
**Where?**  
**How?**

Key words? Commands? Promises?  
Repetitive Statements? Personal Questions?



Observation.  
**Interpretation.**  
Application.





# STEP 2: INTERPRETATION

## **Literal**

What is the clear and obvious meaning?

## **Historical**

How does culture impact meaning?

## **Grammatical**

How do we define key words?

# LITERAL INTERPRETATION

**"Jacob wrestled  
With God."**

Fig. **"Like Jacob, we all  
Have wrestled with God."**

Figurative Examples:

**"Owns a cattle on a  
thousand hills."**

**"But seventy times  
seven."**

**"This is my body,  
broken for you."**



# HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

**"Greet one another  
with a holy kiss."**

**Romans 16:16**

Culture aids context  
Culture aids application

## **Holy Kiss?**

[Cultural Equivalent:  
America's welcoming  
handshake.]

# GRAMMATICAL INTERPRETATION

**“Teach your children  
these things.”**

**Deut. 11:19**

Grammatical Tense:  
**“TEACH”**

[root: like sharpening a knife]

Grammatical Usage:  
**“BAPTIZE”**

[baptizo: transliteration  
of the Latin word  
meaning “immerse”]

Grammatical Meaning  
**“AMEN”** [to agree, to say ‘so be it’]



## BASIC: CONTEXT IS KING

**“There is no God.”**

**Psalm 14:1 ; 53:1**

Is the statement  
consistent  
with the **author**?

Is this statement  
consistent  
with **scripture**?

Is this statement  
consistent  
with its **context**?

# ADVANCED: CONSIDERING GENRE

**"There is nothing new under the sun." Ecclesiastes 1:9**

## Consider Genre

- Poetry: this is cynical language written in prose.

## Narrative

- Author writing style and specific goals

History	Poetry	Prophecy	Epistles
Genesis	Job	Isaiah	Romans
Exodus	Psalms	Jeremiah	1 Corinthians
Leviticus	Proverbs	Lamentations	2 Corinthians
Numbers	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Galatians
Deuteronomy	Song of Solomon	Daniel	Ephesians
Joshua		Hosea	Philippians
Judges		Joel	Colossians
Ruth		Amos	1 Thessalonians
1 Samuel		Obadiah	2 Thessalonians
2 Samuel		Jonah	1 Timothy
1 Kings		Micah	2 Timothy
2 Kings		Nahum	Titus
1 Chronicles		Habakkuk	Philemon
2 Chronicles		Zephaniah	Hebrews
Ezra		Haggai	James
Nehemiah		Zechariah	1 Peter
Esther		Malachi	2 Peter
Matthew		Revelation	1 John
Mark			2 John
Luke			3 John
John			Jude
Acts			





Observation.  
Interpretation.  
**Application.**



# STEP 3: APPLICATION

S  
P  
A  
C  
E  
P  
E  
T  
S



# STEP 3: APPLICATION

- S**in to confess?
- P**romise to claim?
- A**ttitude to change?
- C**ommand to obey?
- E**xample to follow?
- P**rayer to pray?
- E**rror to avoid?
- T**ruth to believe?
- S**ome reason for praise?



Observation.

WHAT DO WE SEE?

Interpretation.

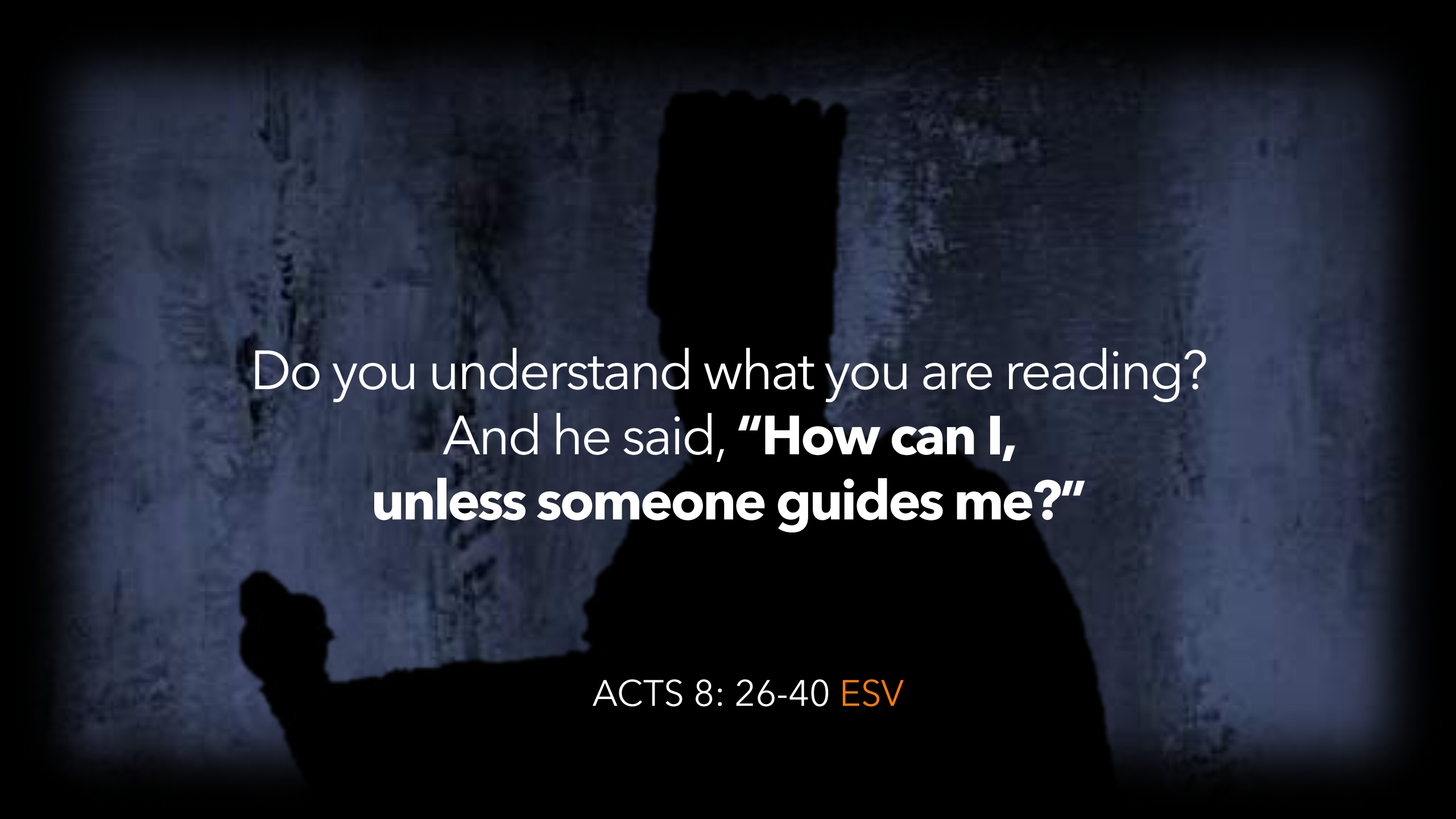
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Application.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

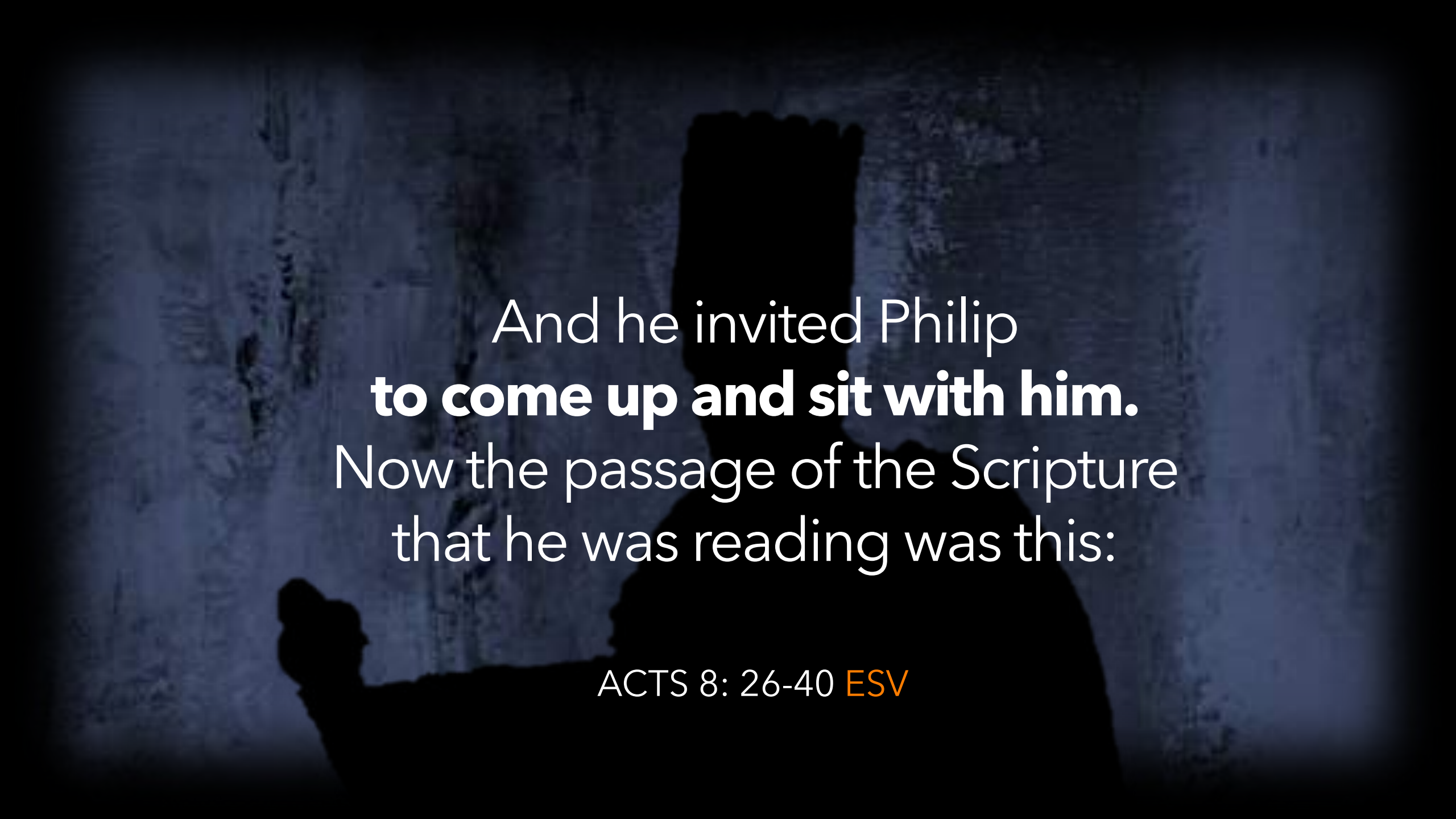




The background of the image shows the dark silhouettes of two people sitting together and reading a book. The person on the right is holding the book open, and the person on the left is looking at it. The scene is set against a dark blue, textured background.

Do you understand what you are reading?  
And he said, **"How can I,  
unless someone guides me?"**

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**

The background of the slide features a dark blue, textured surface. In the center, there are silhouettes of several people. One person in the foreground is holding a large, rolled-up scroll vertically. Other silhouettes are visible behind them, suggesting a group of people gathered around the scroll. The overall mood is solemn and focused.

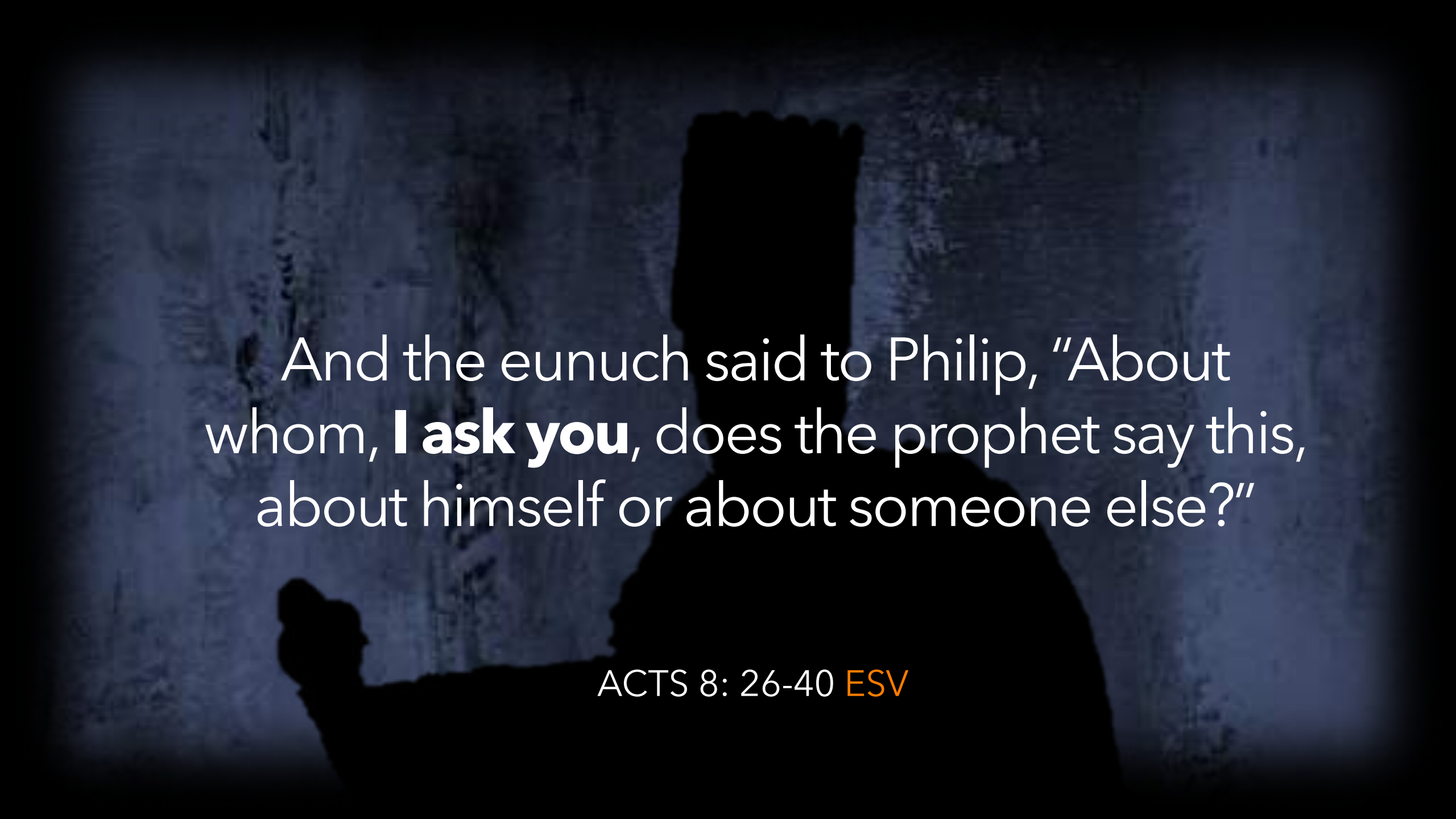
And he invited Philip  
**to come up and sit with him.**  
Now the passage of the Scripture  
that he was reading was this:

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**



## Scroll of Isaiah 53:7-8

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is  
silent, so he opens not his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied  
him. Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The background of the slide features a dark blue, textured surface. In the center, there is a large, dark silhouette of a person standing with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. To the left, a smaller silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is visible, also appearing to be part of the church scene. The overall atmosphere is solemn and spiritual.

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, **I ask you**, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**



The background of the slide features a dark blue, textured surface. In the center, there is a large, dark silhouette of a man with his right hand raised, palm facing forward. To the left and slightly below him is a smaller silhouette of a woman with her right hand raised, palm facing forward. The overall mood is solemn and focused.

Then Philip opened his mouth,  
and beginning with **this Scripture** he told  
him the good news about Jesus.

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**

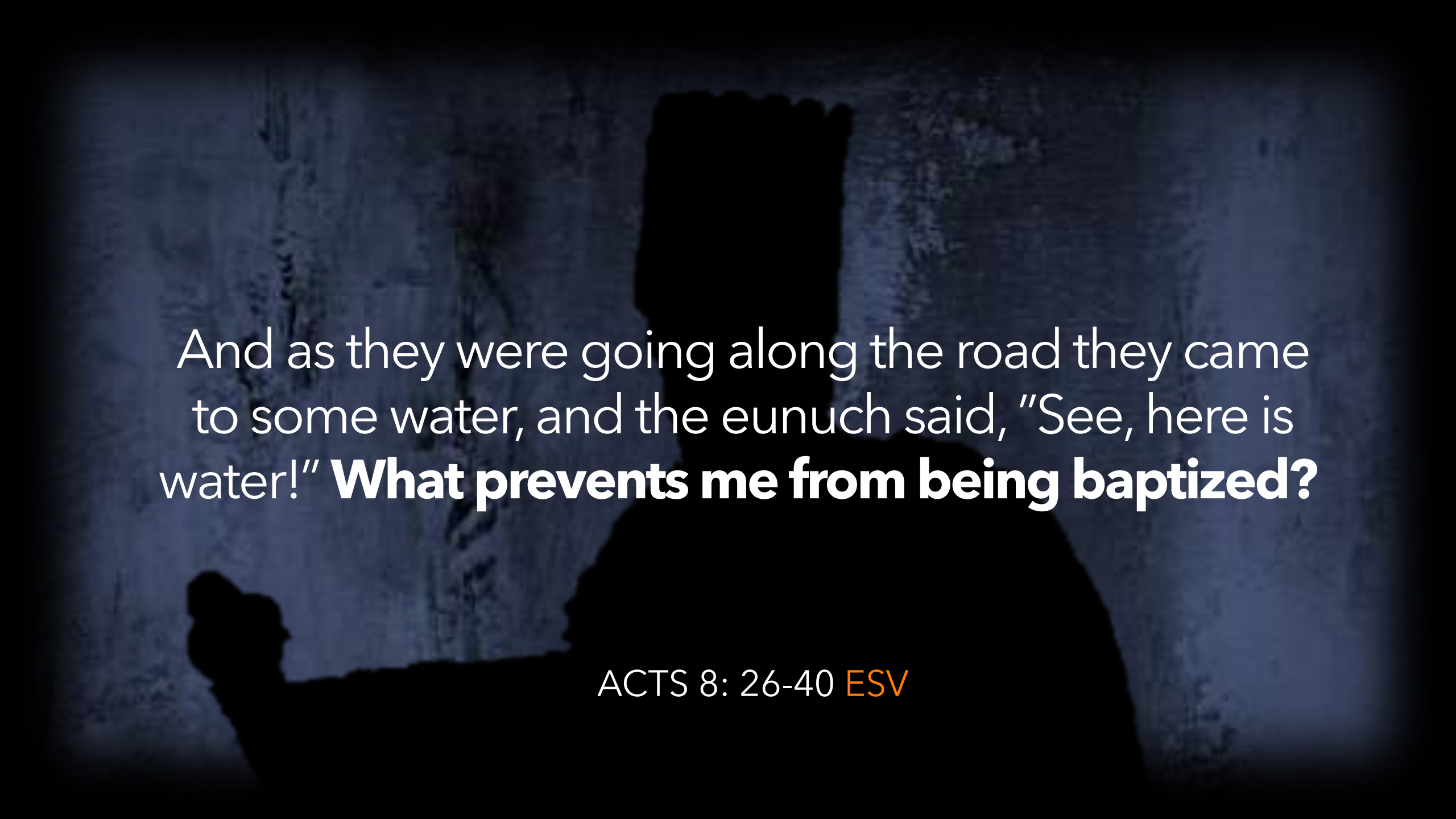


**Then Philip opened his mouth.**

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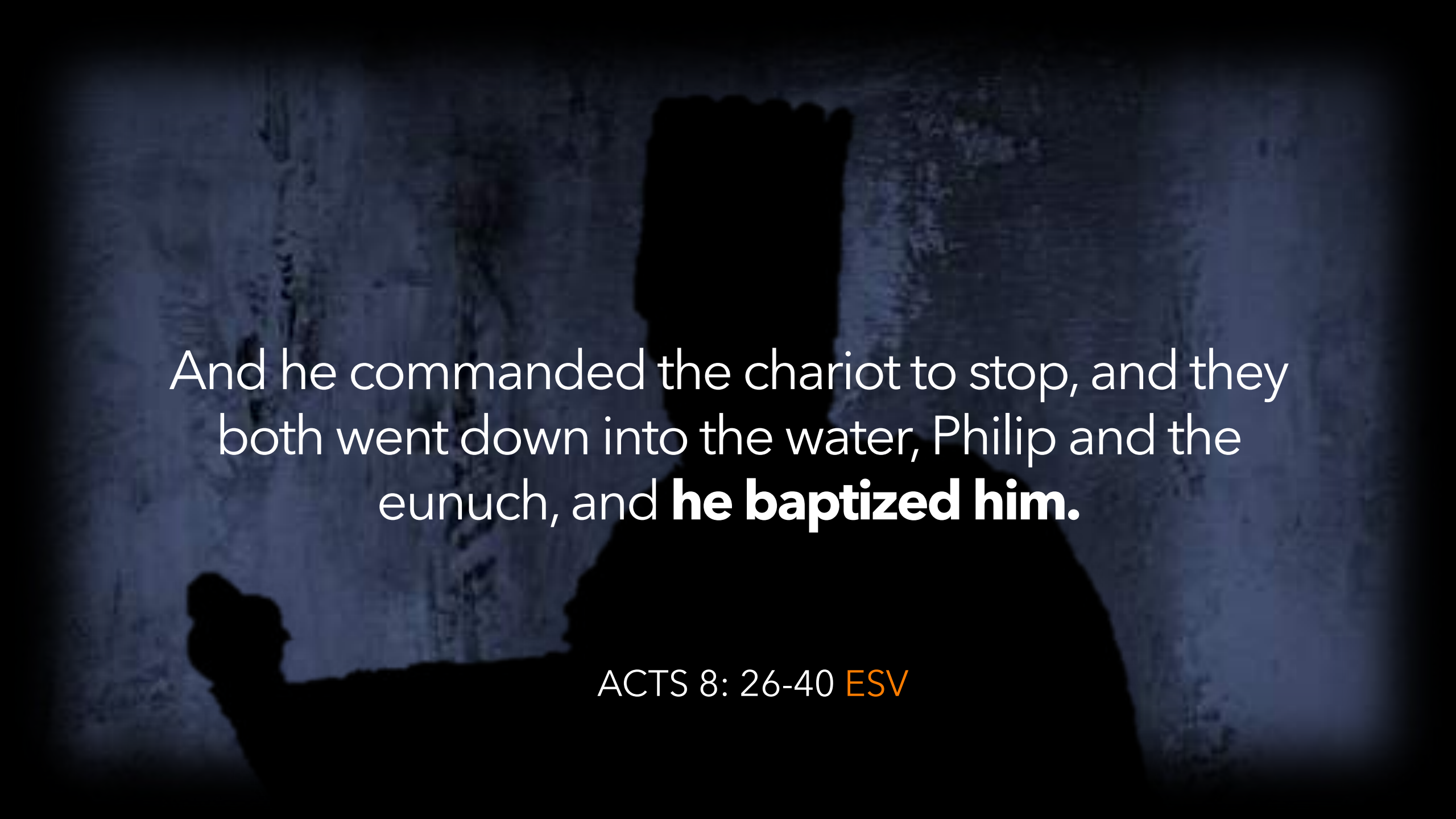
5 WORDS THAT  
DESCRIBE  
YOU?



The background of the image shows dark silhouettes of people walking along a road at night. One person in the center is walking away from the viewer, while another person is walking towards the viewer on the left. The scene is dimly lit, with a blueish-grey tone.

And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water!" **What prevents me from being baptized?**

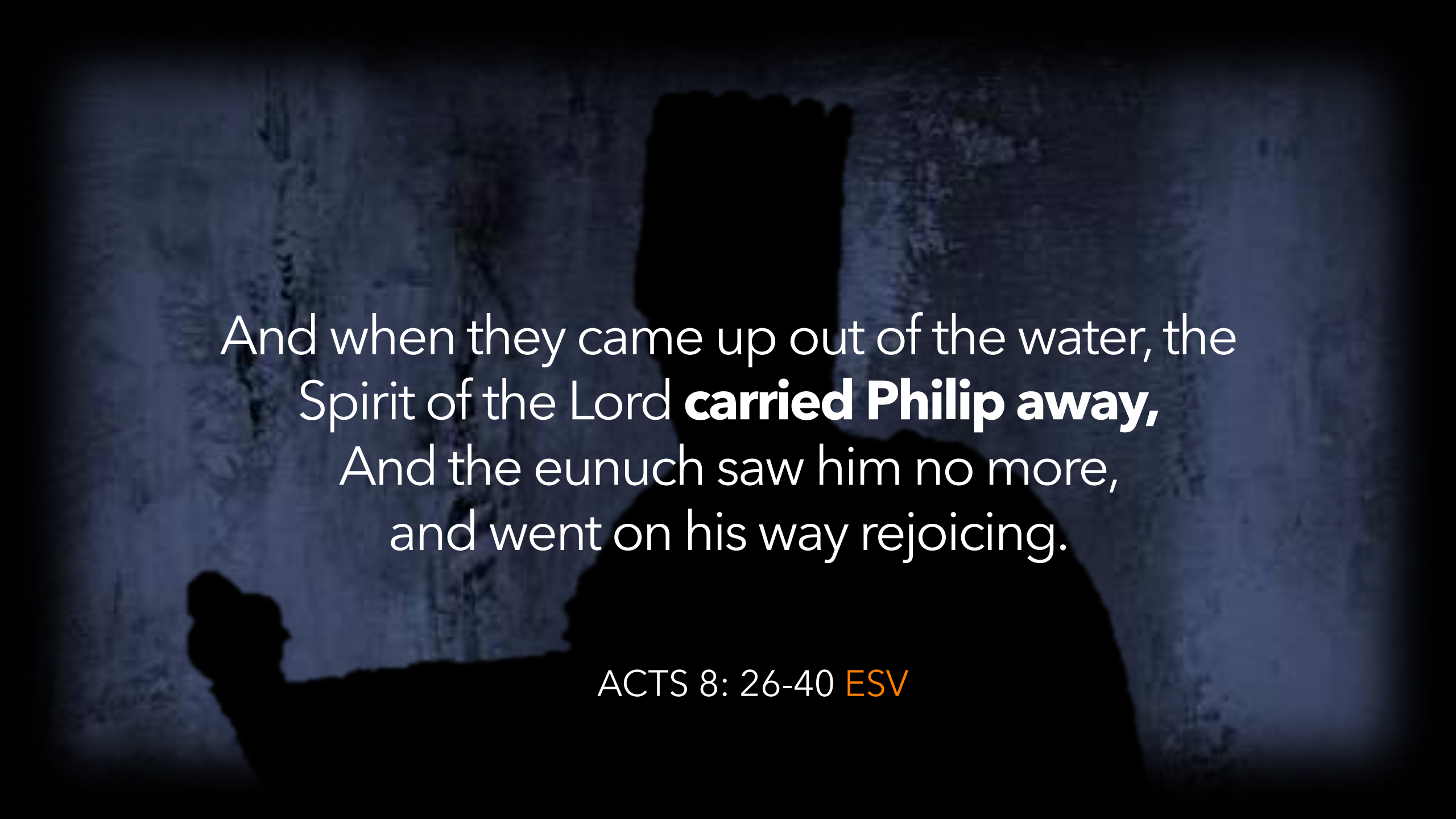
ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**

The background of the image is a dark, textured blue. In the center, there are two dark silhouettes of people. One silhouette is taller and stands upright, while the other is shorter and appears to be leaning or kneeling. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and **he baptized him.**

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**



The background of the image features dark silhouettes of several people in prayerful poses, set against a textured, blue-toned background. One person in the center has their hands clasped in prayer, while another to the left has their arms raised. The overall mood is solemn and spiritual.

And when they came up out of the water, the  
Spirit of the Lord **carried Philip away,**  
And the eunuch saw him no more,  
and went on his way rejoicing.

ACTS 8: 26-40 **ESV**



**And he rose and went.**

**FAITHFUL**

**So Philip ran to him.**

**OBEDIENT**

**Then Philip opened his mouth.**

**COURAGEOUS**

PIONEERS

**5 WORDS THAT  
DESCRIBE  
YOU?**







IN STEP WITH THE  
**SPIRIT**

GALATIANS 5:16-26





**Should I stay?  
OR Should I go?**



**PLACED**  
& STRATEGICALLY



DO NOT  
**QUIT**  
*Because...*

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

**You feel** like it's too difficult.

**You feel** under appreciated.

**You feel** it will satisfy resentment.

**You feel** under too much pressure.

**You feel** defeated and overwhelmed.

**You feel** like things will never change.





# Exit?

*But only after...*

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

**FIND** you have lost your passion.

**REALIZE** your excitement is elsewhere.

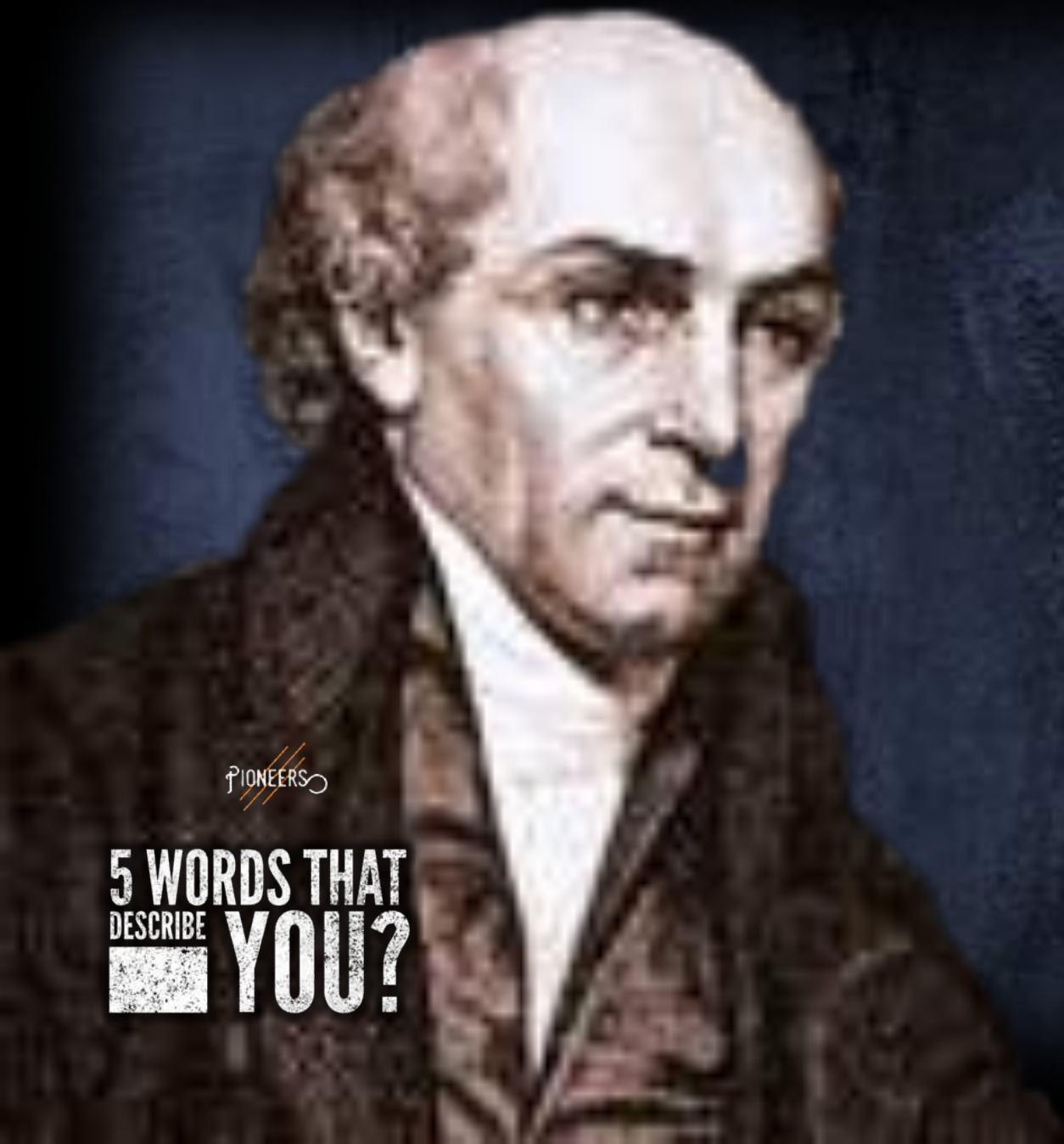
**VERIFY** a lack of a path forward.

**RECEIVE** affirmation from wise counsel.

**SEE** an obvious replacement exists.

**ENSURE** a respectful exit strategy.





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