

The image features a stylized world map in shades of grey and light blue. Overlaid on the map is a network of grey lines connecting various nodes, some of which are highlighted with blue circles. The word "ACTS" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the map.

ACTS

CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



End of the Beginning!

Acts 28

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

*“Now this is not the end.
It is not even the beginning of the end.
But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”*
Winston Churchill (1942)

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



Paul preaches the Gospel for 2 yrs under house arrest as he awaits for his appeal to Caesar

Paul meets fellow believers and is encouraged

Paul bitten by a viper suffers no harm Many come to faith and are healed

Ship lost in storm All aboard swim safely to shore

Ship caught in storm 14 days tempest-tossed Hope to be saved given up Paul encourages all aboard saying only ship will be lost

Paul's warning about the dangers of the voyage ignored

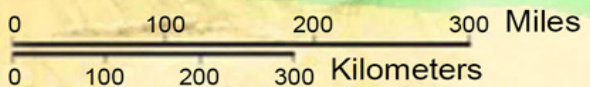
Change to a grain ship sailing to Italy

Paul boards a ship Sent to Rome to appeal to Caesar

MAP OF PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

Acts 27 & 28

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches"
- Paul's Itinerary

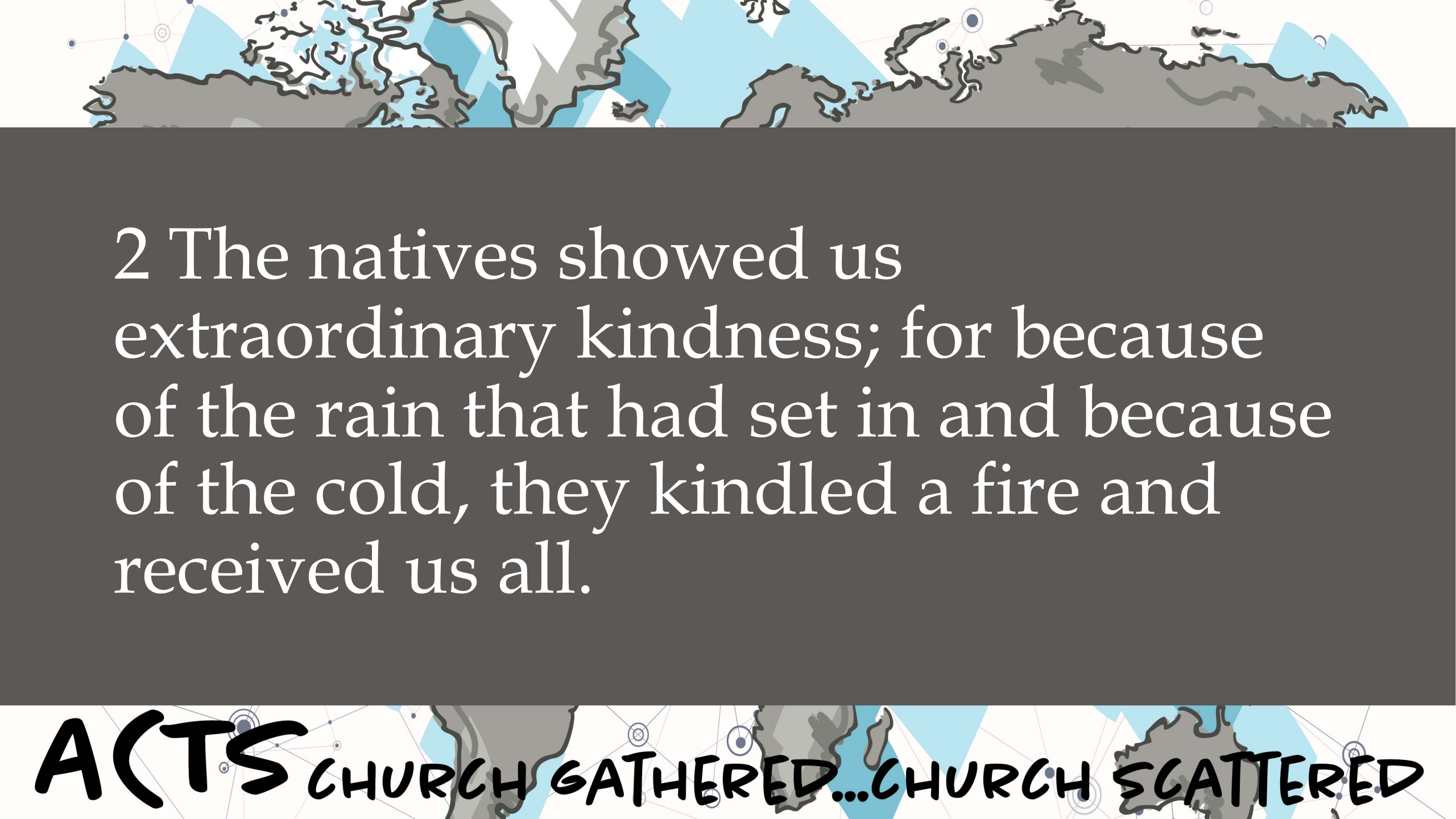




1 When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta.

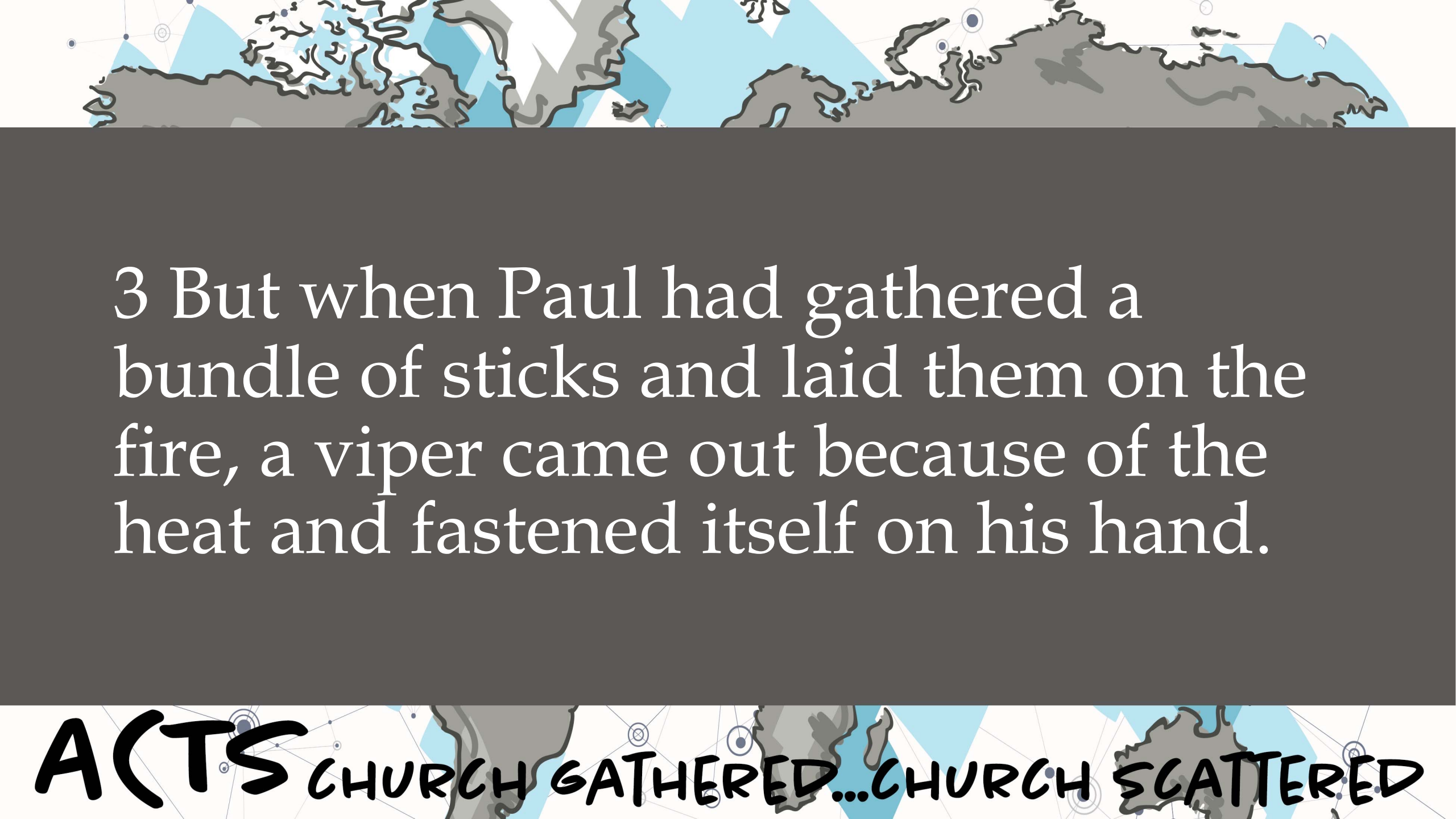
ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED





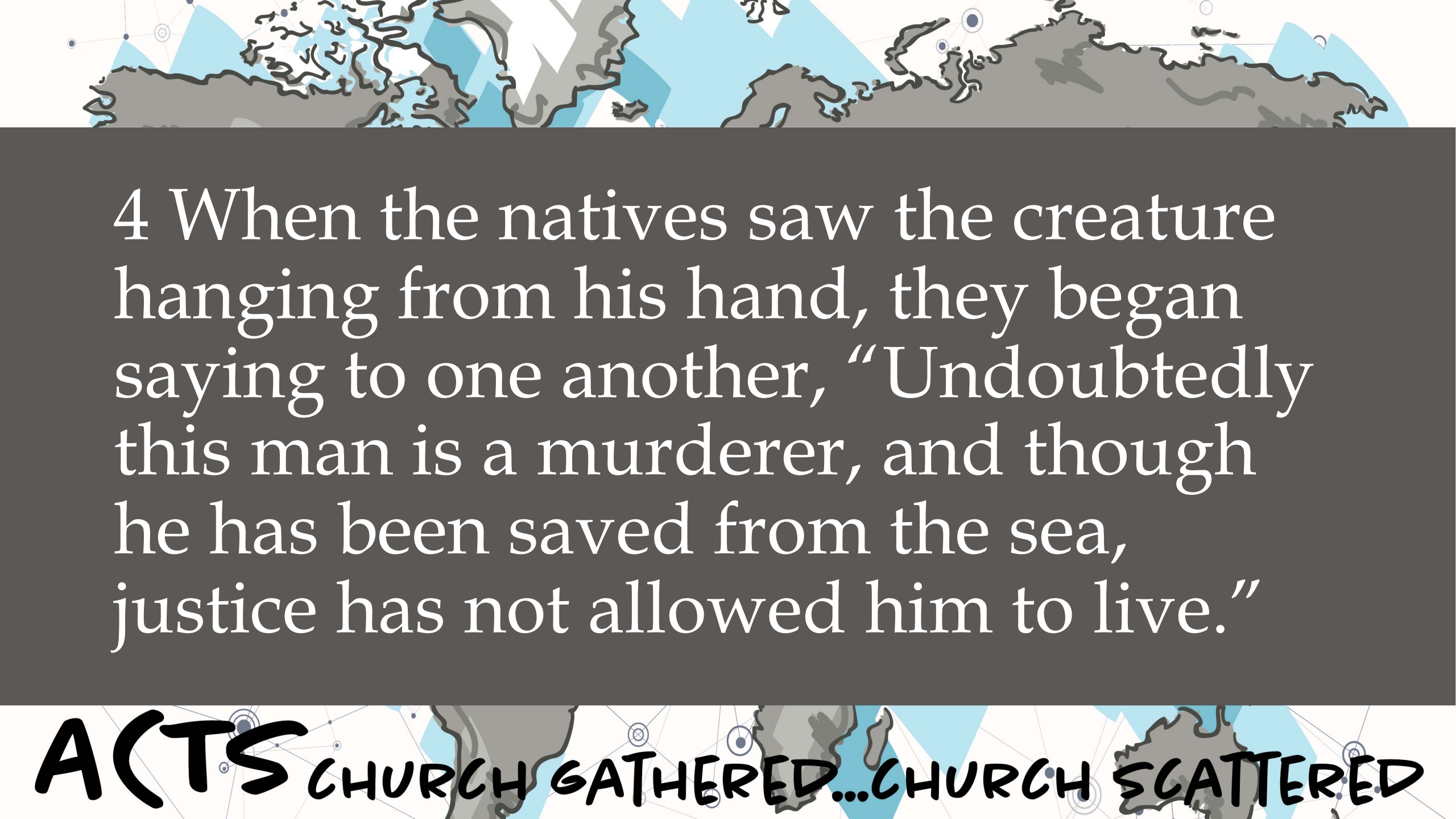
2 The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



4 When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, “Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live.”

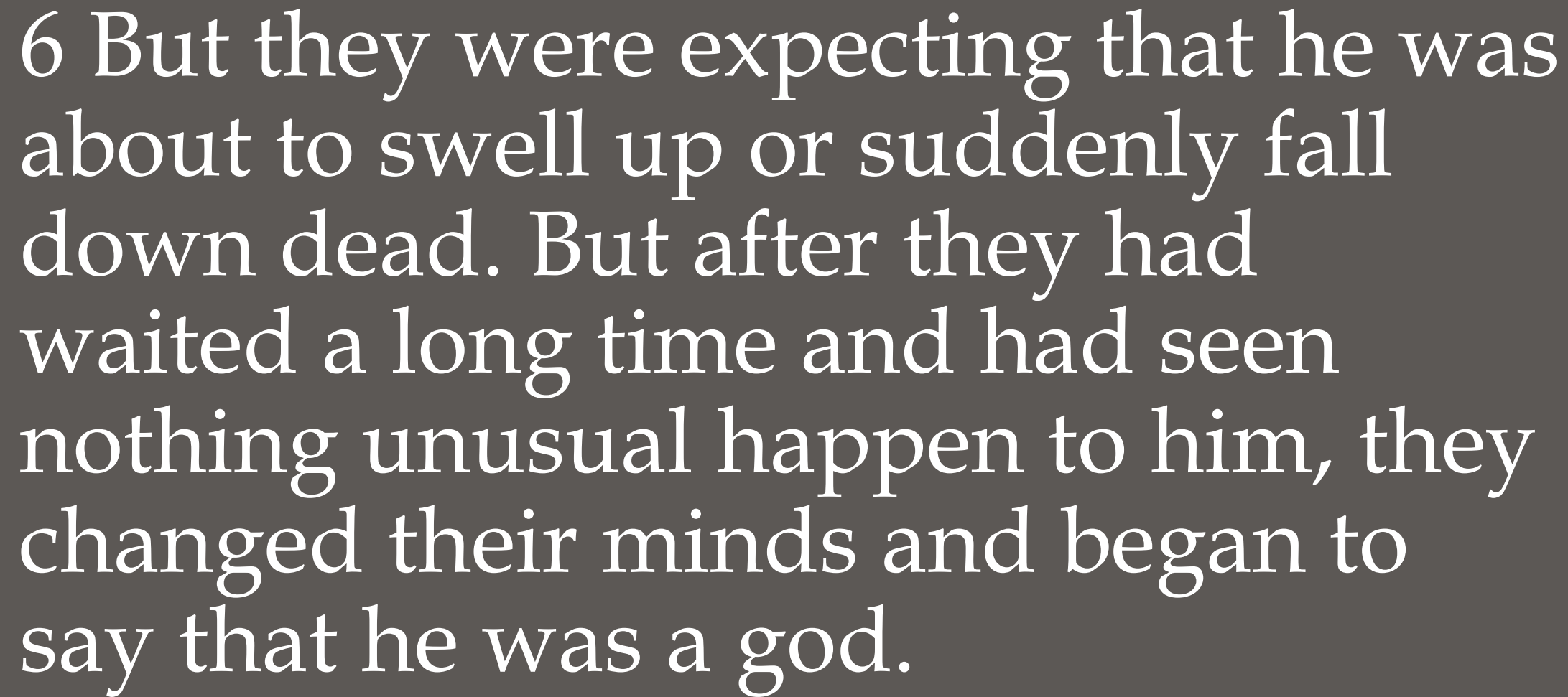
ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



5 However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED





6 But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

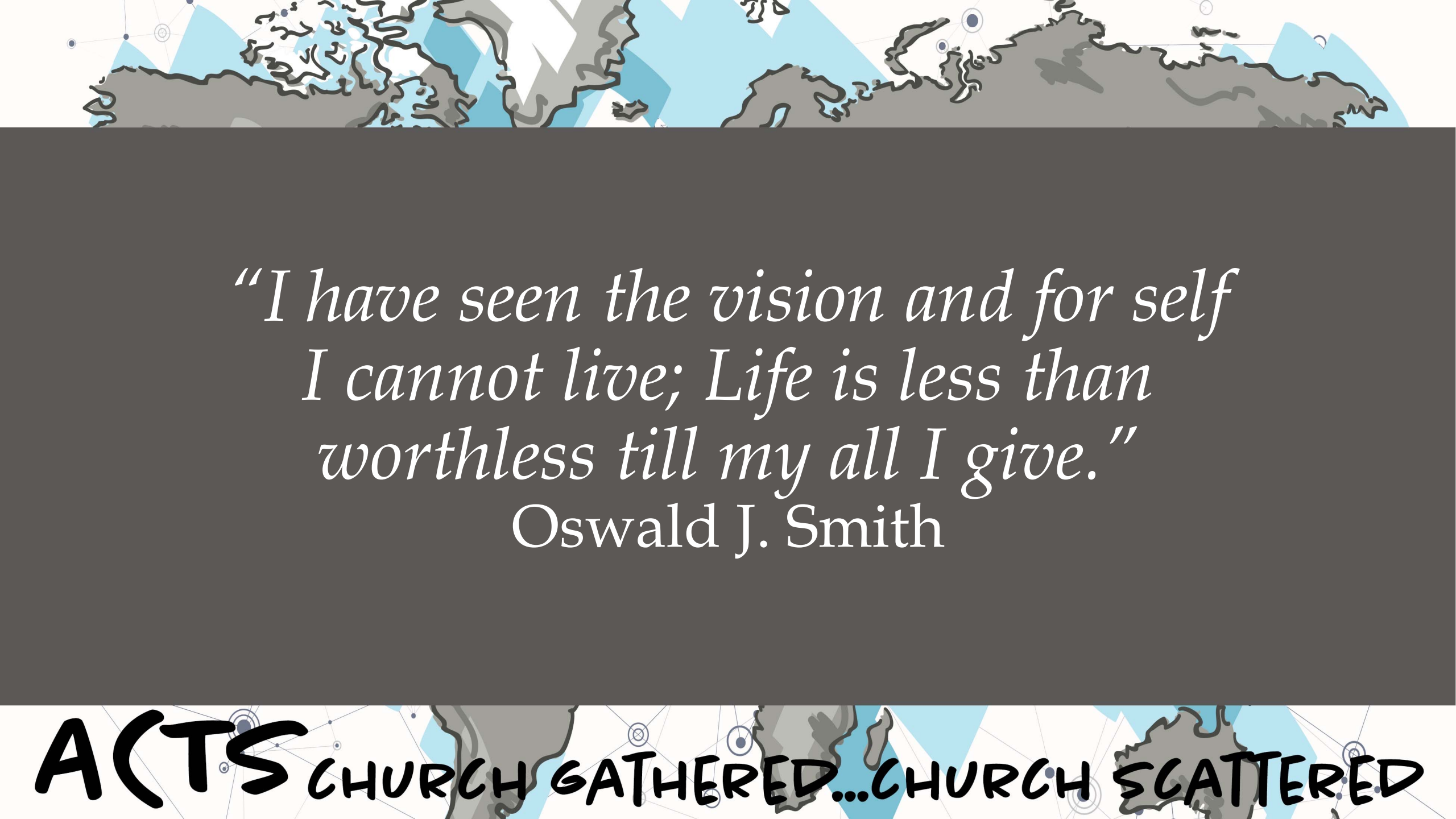


God's Ways 1-6

- God delivered from shipwreck to stranded
- Ordinary experience – start a fire
- ‘viper’ – ‘Justice’ – goddess of justice - δικη
- What he deserves – death or deity?

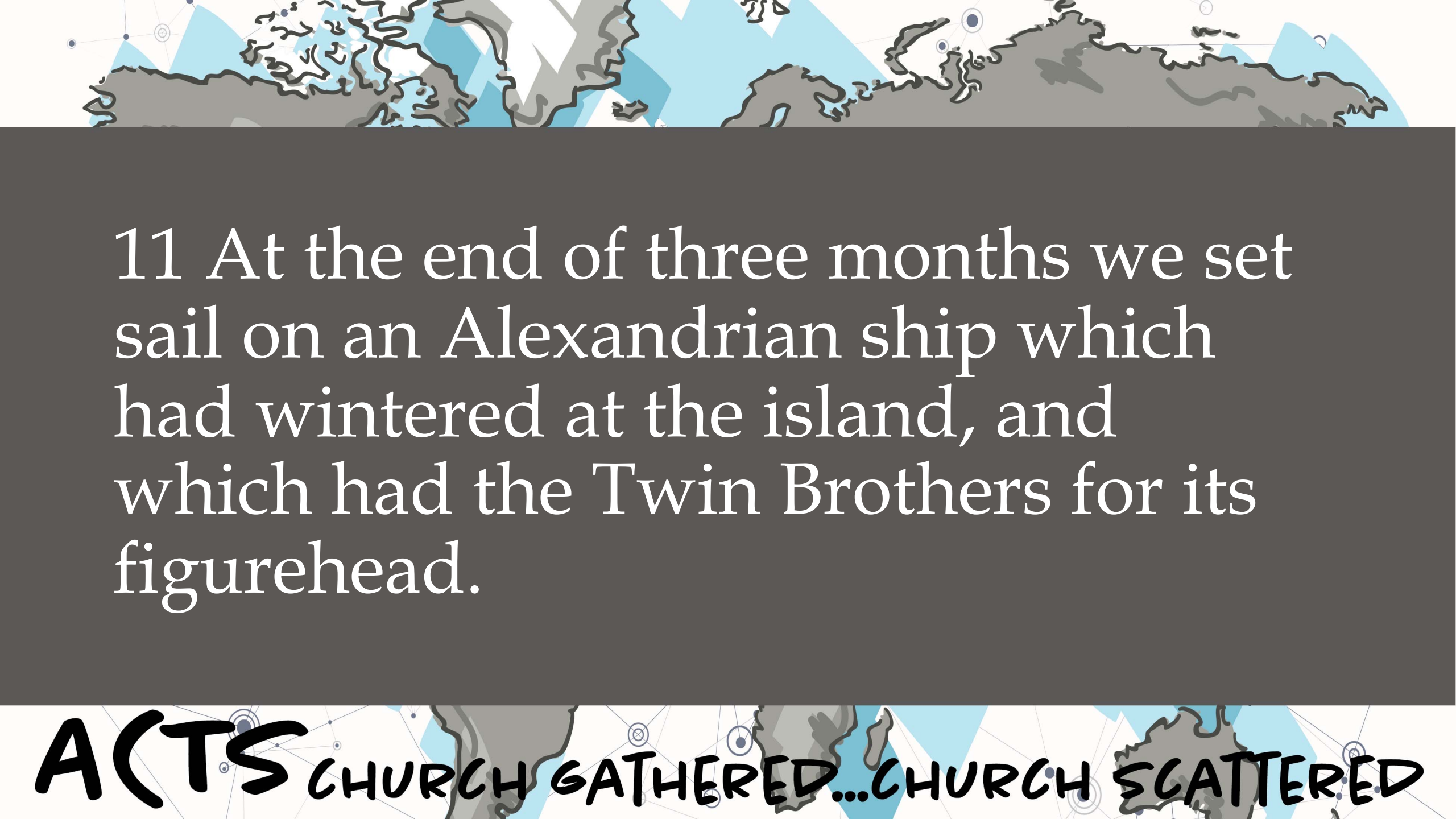


ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED




*“I have seen the vision and for self
I cannot live; Life is less than
worthless till my all I give.”*
Oswald J. Smith

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



11 At the end of three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead.

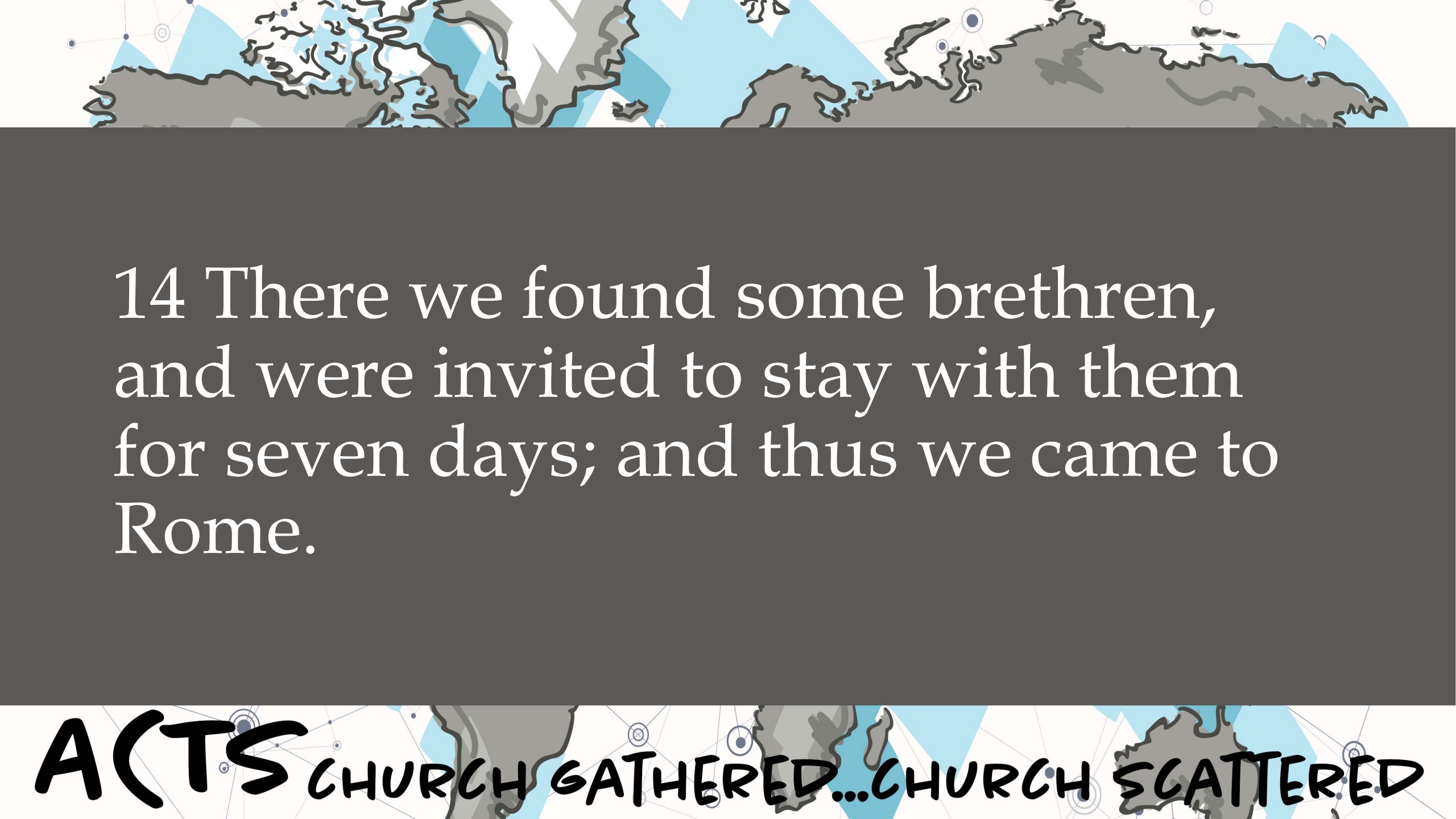
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12,13 After we put in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.

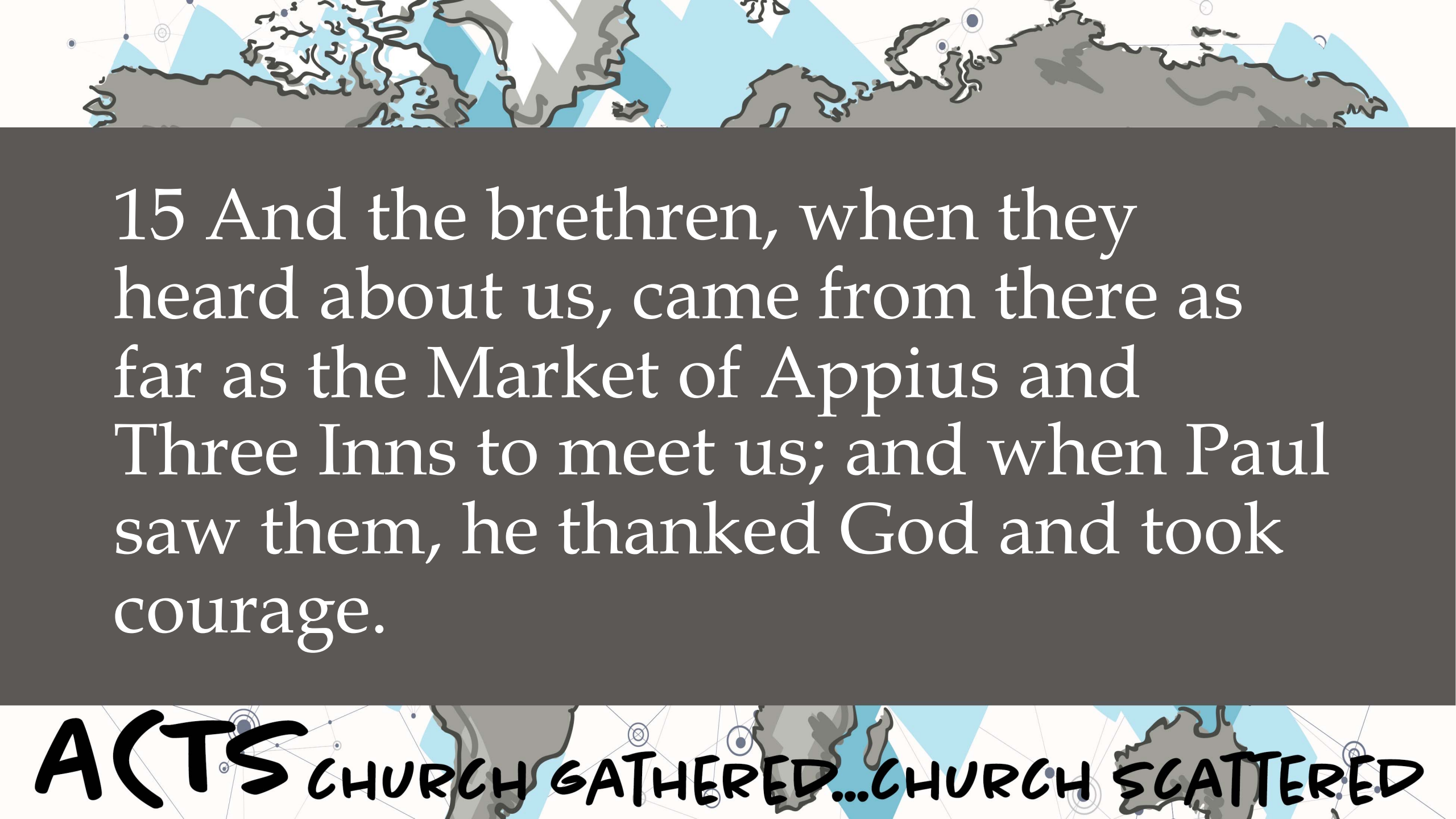


ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



14 There we found some brethren,
and were invited to stay with them
for seven days; and thus we came to
Rome.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



15 And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



16 When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



God's Witness 7-16

- God delivered from shipwreck to Rome
- God gives encouragements
- God gives opportunities



ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

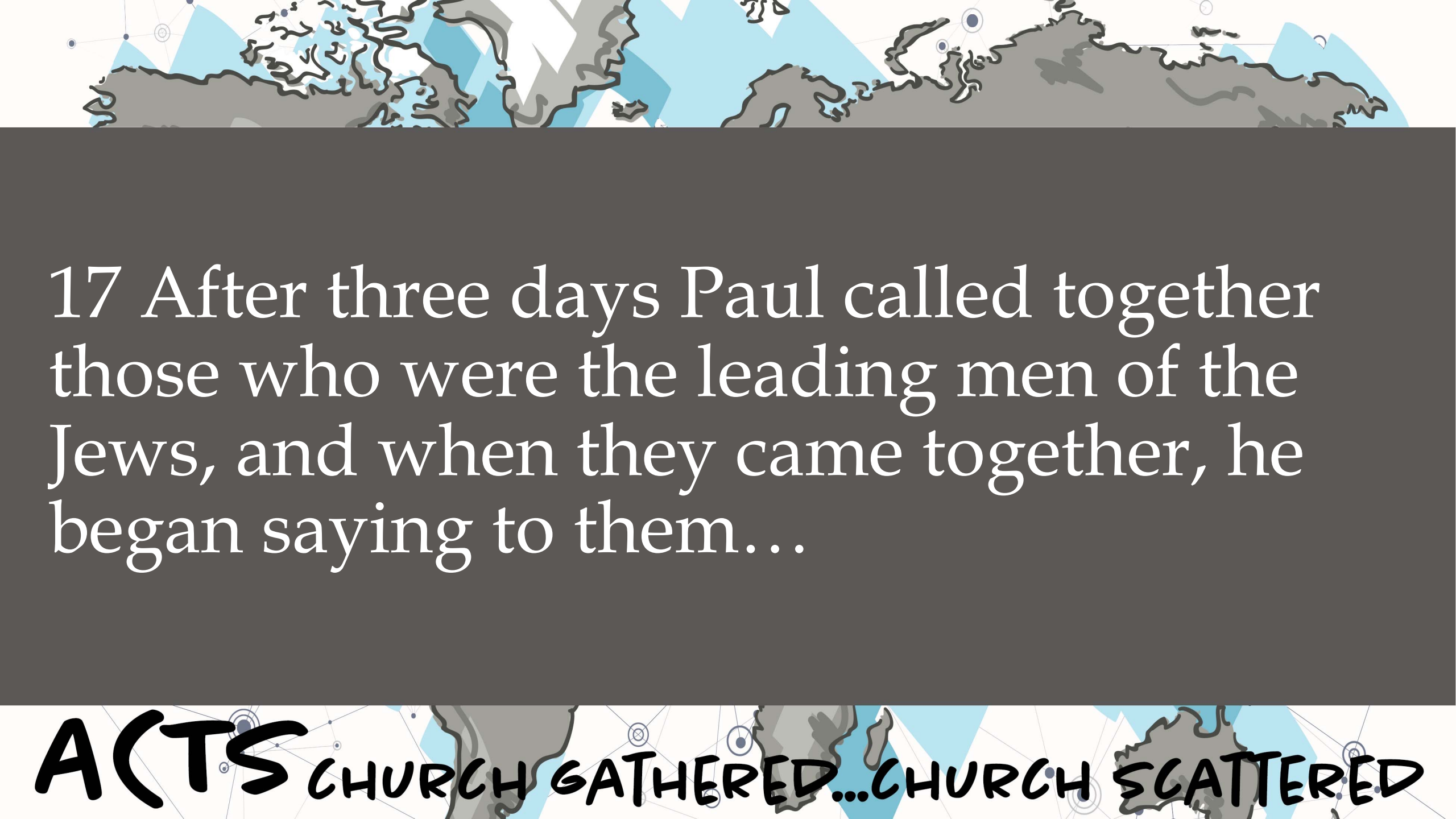


*“There can be no prevailing in prayer
without travailing in prayer.”*

Oswald J. Smith, *The Revival We Need*

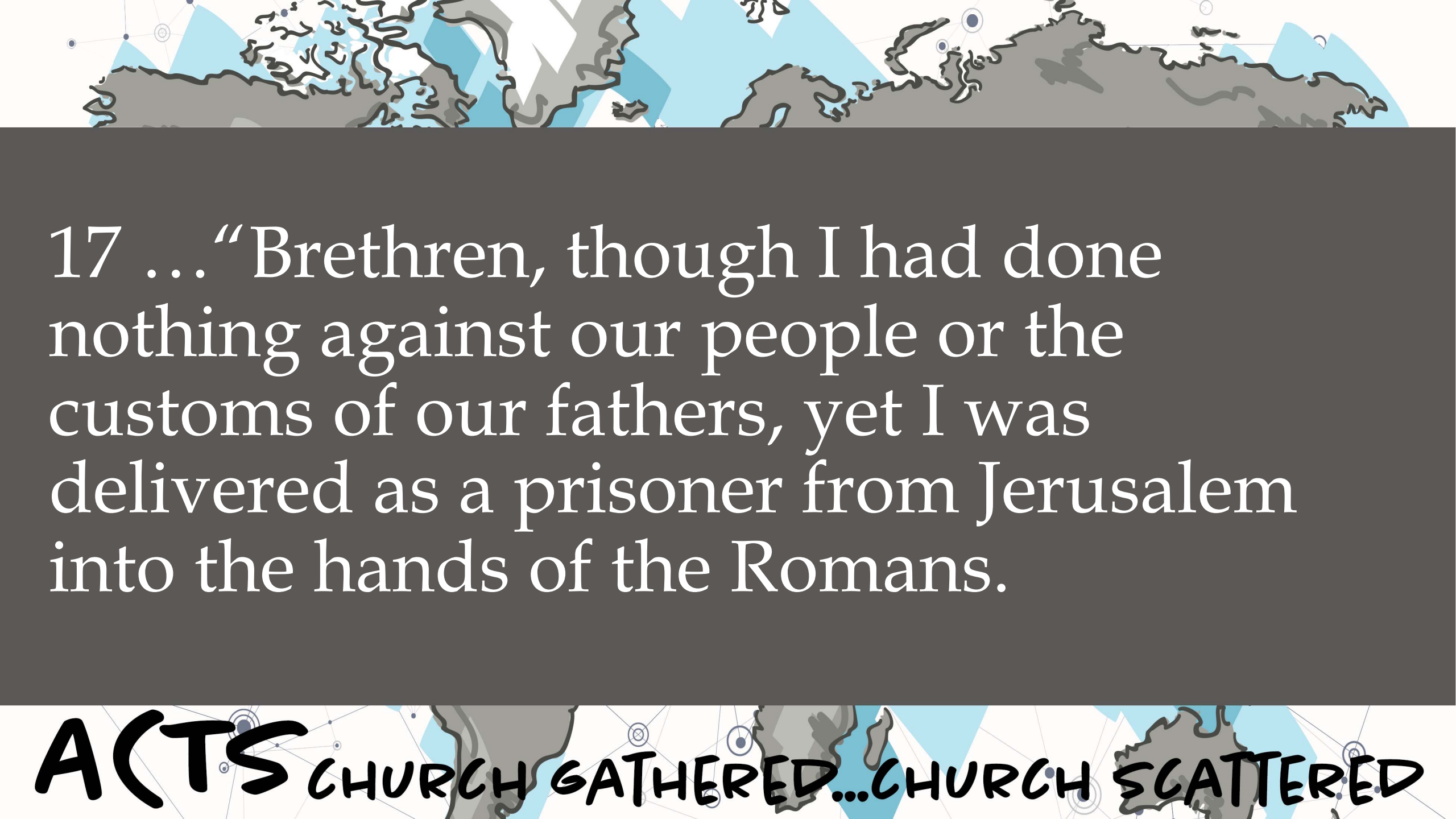


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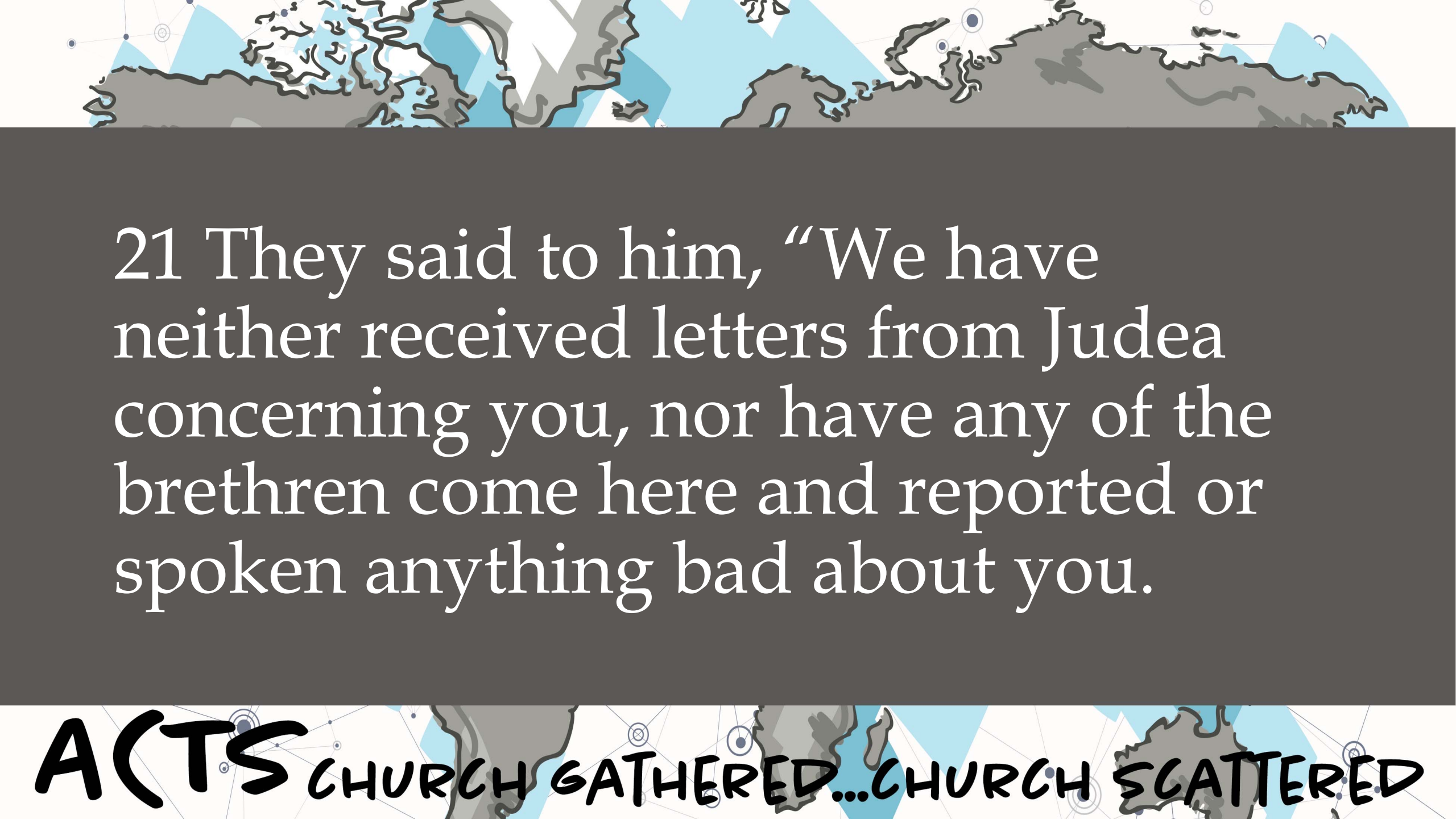
17 After three days Paul called together those who were the leading men of the Jews, and when they came together, he began saying to them...

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED




17 ...“Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



21 They said to him, “We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



22 But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.”

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



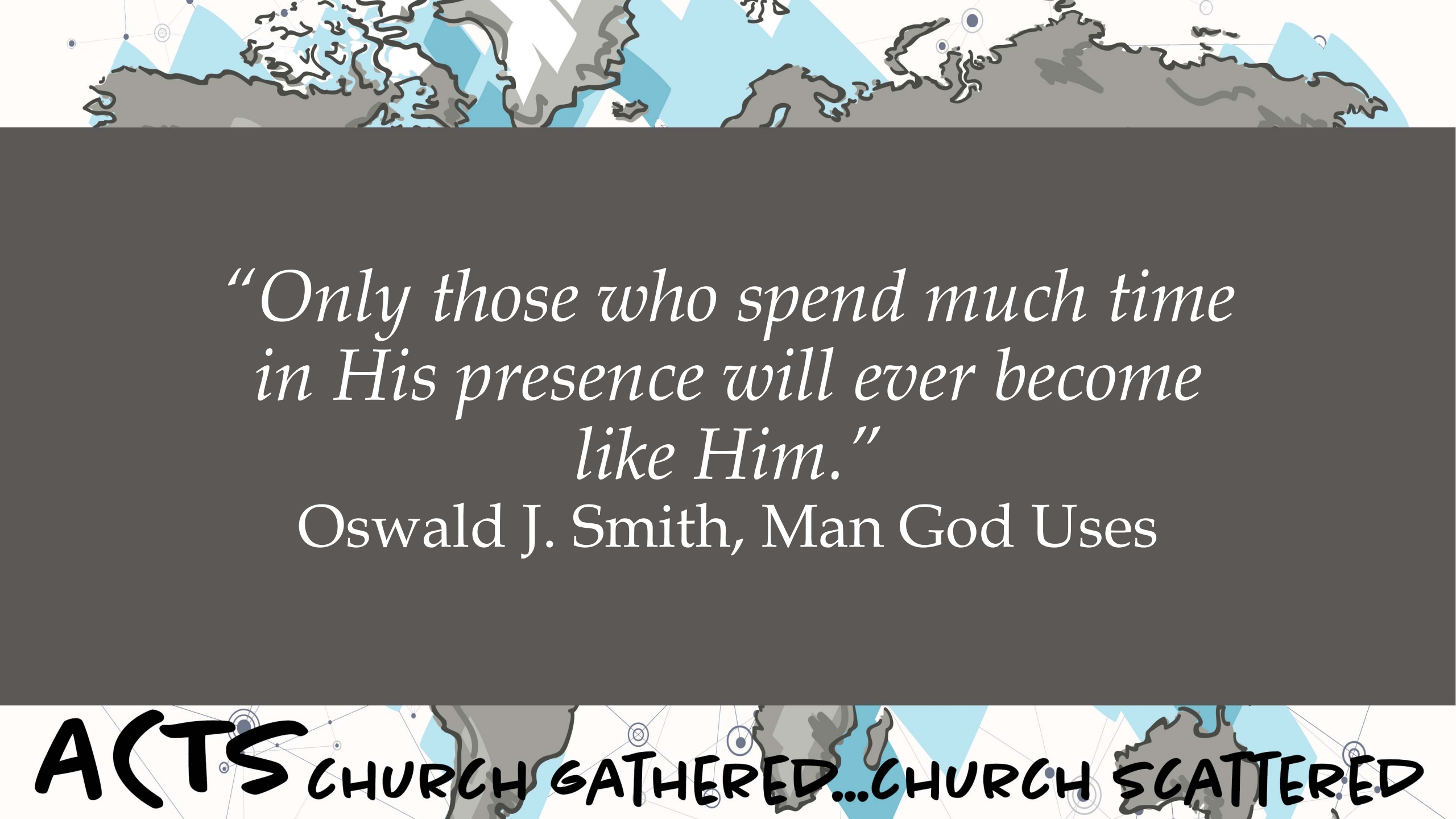


God's Work 17-22

- Paul's opportunity to share
- Jew's opportunity to hear
- Church's opportunity to grow



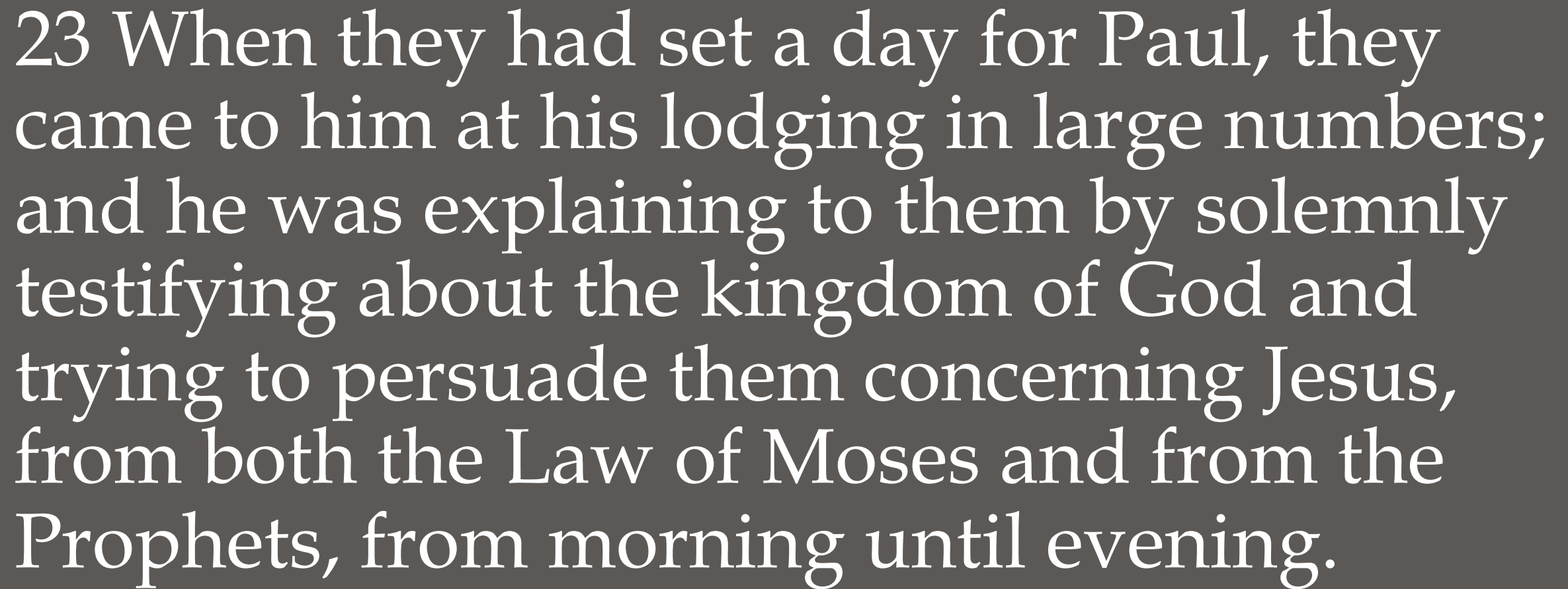
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*“Only those who spend much time
in His presence will ever become
like Him.”*


Oswald J. Smith, Man God Uses

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



23 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

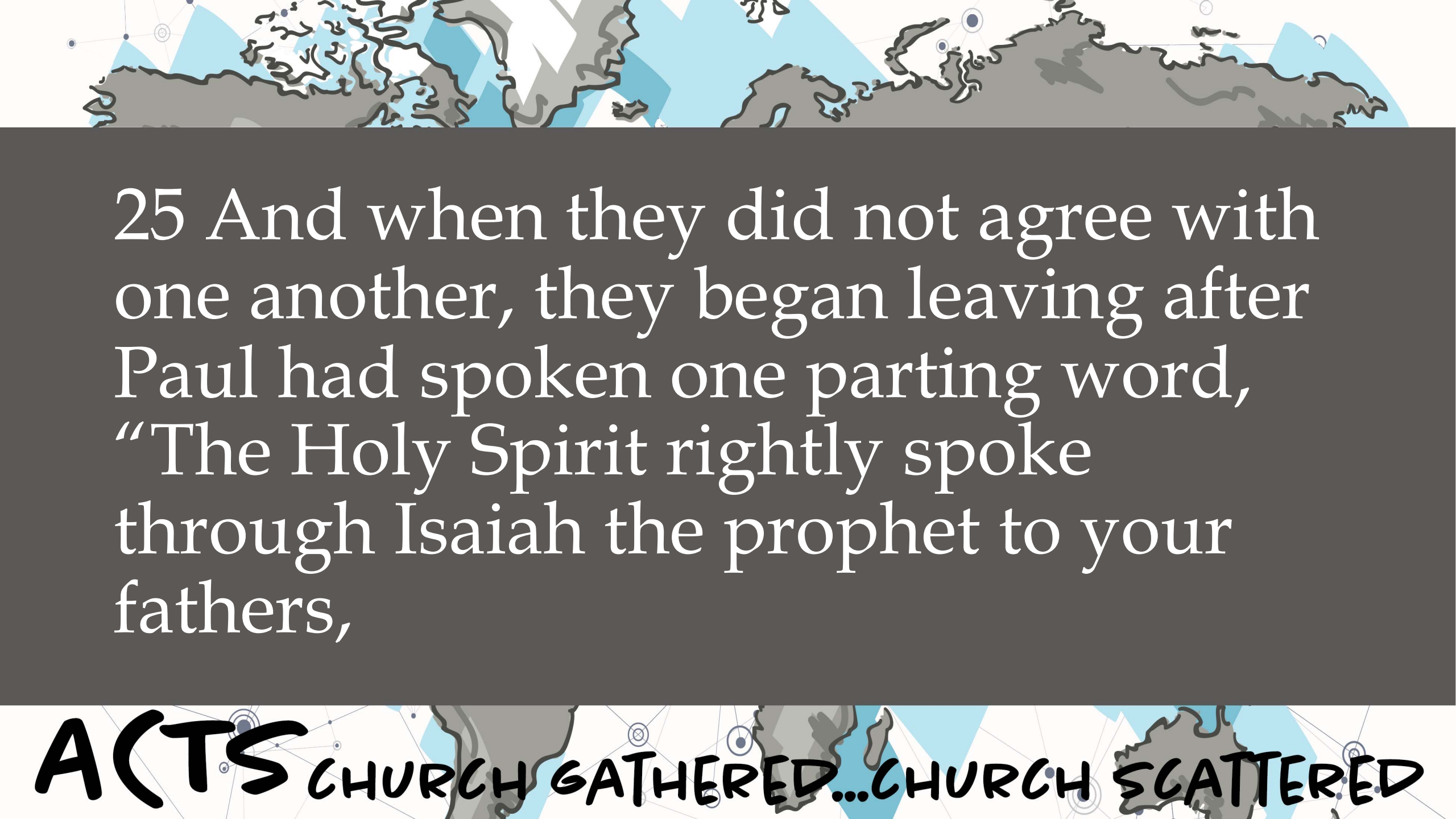
ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



24 Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED





25 And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, “The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

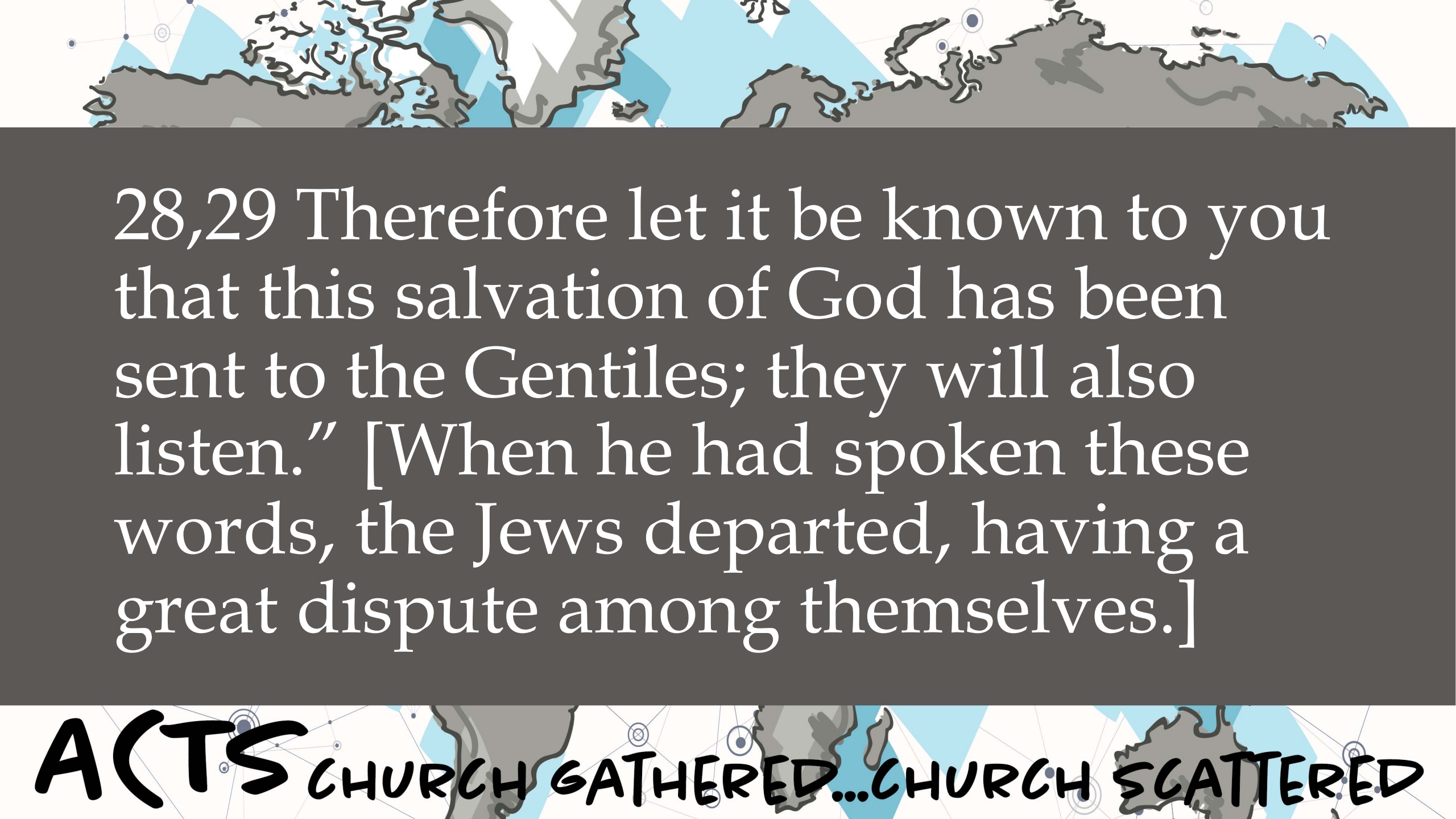
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Vss. 26-29

Isaiah 6:9-10 – they will not hear Me!

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28,29 Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.” [When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.]

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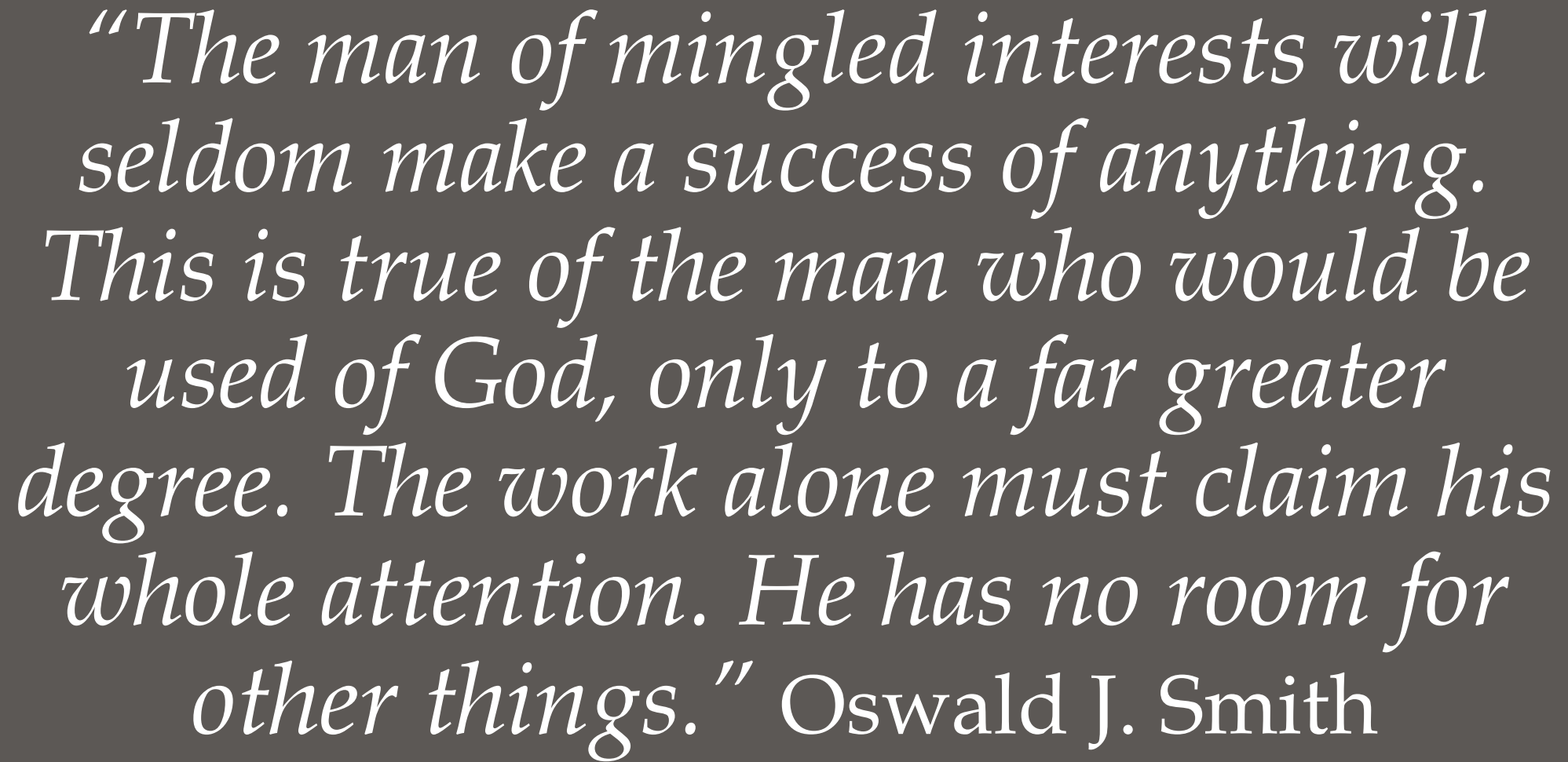


Paul's Witness 23-29

- Kingdom of God – His will on Earth
- Jesus – the Messiah
- Law of Moses – Prophets – TNK
- On to the Gentiles -

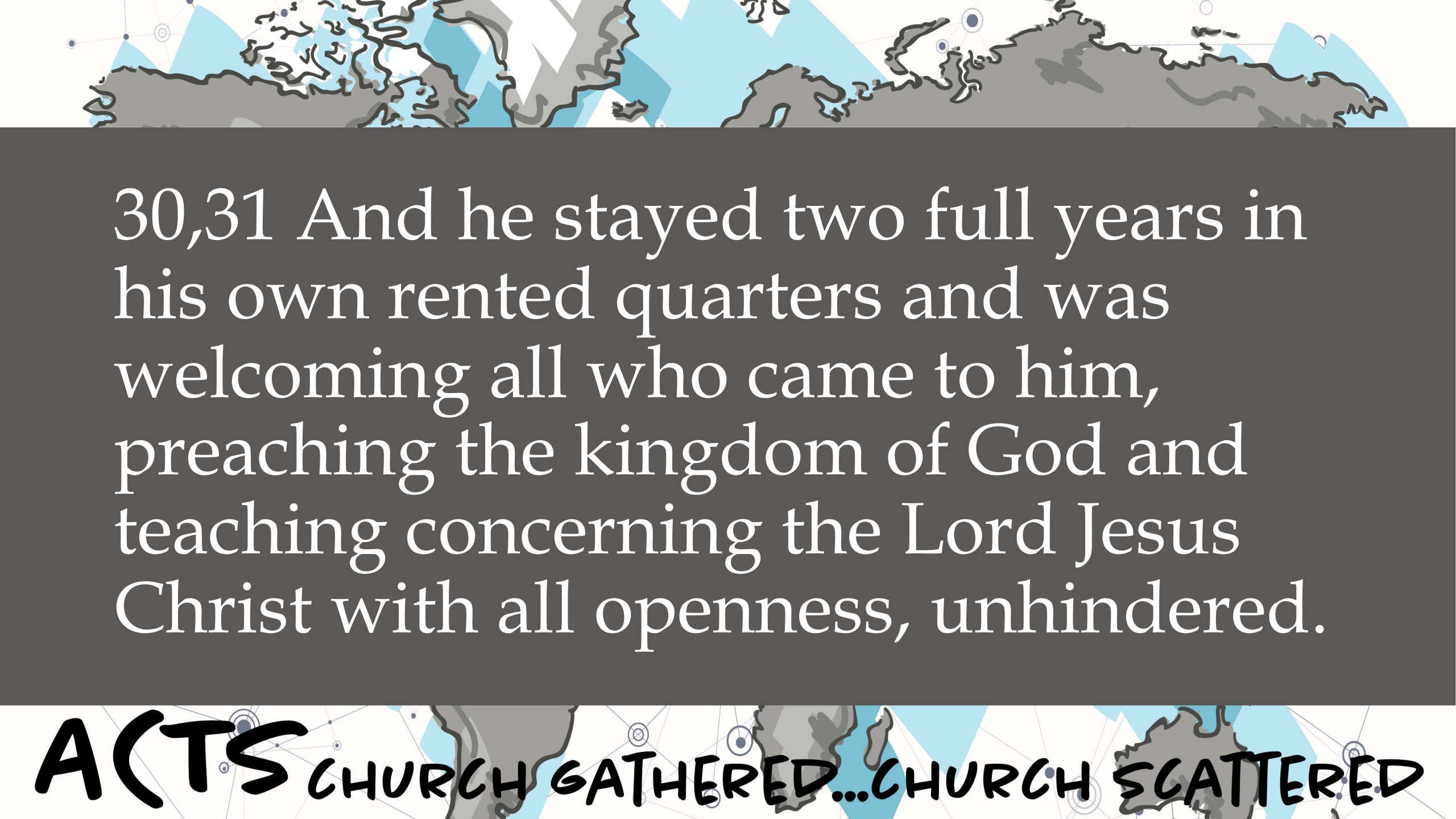


ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



“The man of mingled interests will seldom make a success of anything. This is true of the man who would be used of God, only to a far greater degree. The work alone must claim his whole attention. He has no room for other things.” Oswald J. Smith

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



30,31 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openess, unhindered.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

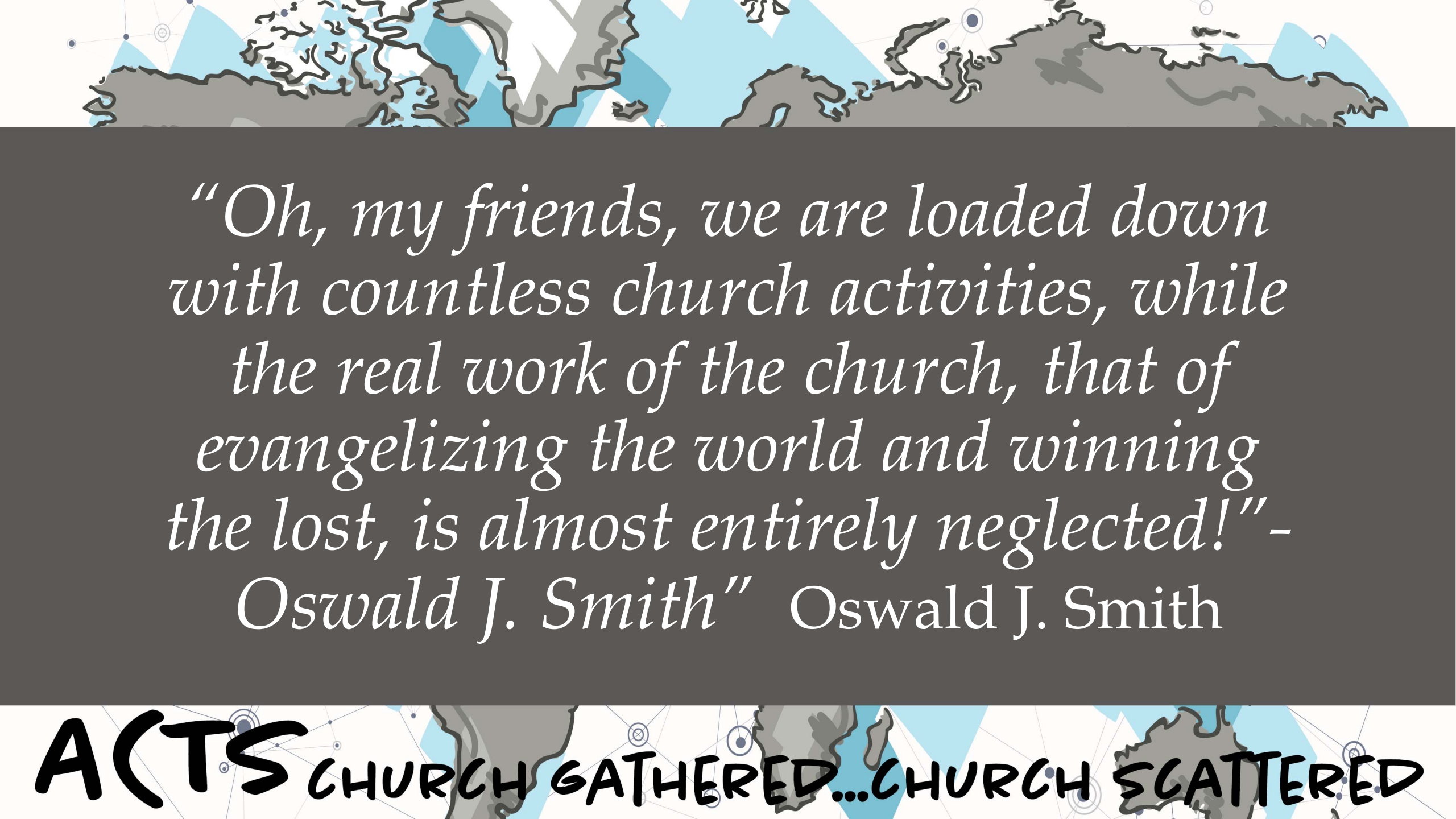


God's Will 30-31

- Prisoner
- Teacher - Preacher
- Writer
- 'unhindered' – no limitations!



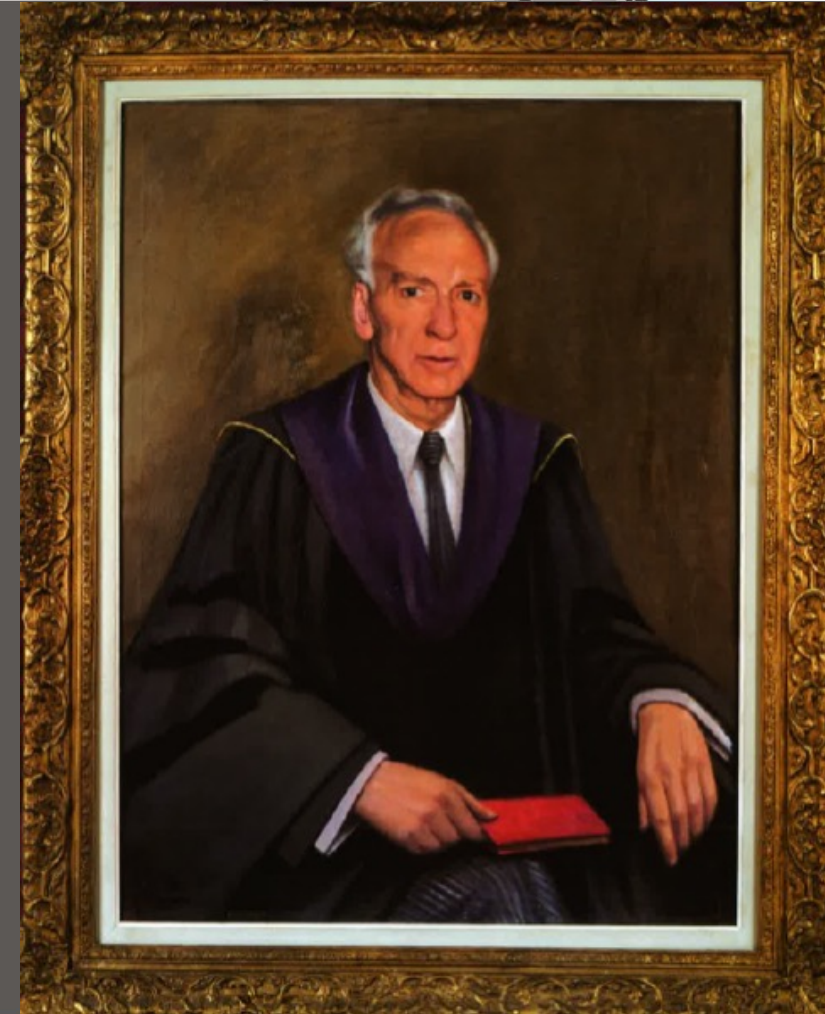
ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



“Oh, my friends, we are loaded down with countless church activities, while the real work of the church, that of evangelizing the world and winning the lost, is almost entirely neglected!” - Oswald J. Smith” Oswald J. Smith

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

Oswald J. Smith was born in Nov., 1889. In 1906, at sixteen years of age, Smith was converted in a service conducted by R. A. Torrey at Toronto's Massey Hall. Smith pursued a career in overseas missions. Several mission boards turned him down because they were concerned about his health. he received ministerial training at London Bible College (now Ontario Bible College in London, Ontario) and at the Presbyterian McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. In 1928, Smith returned to Toronto with a desire to start a church that would reach people for Christ and collect funds to support missionaries. Oswald J. Smith died in January 1986.



ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



“You must go or send a substitute.”
Oswald J. Smith

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED