

A stylized world map with a network overlay. The map is rendered in shades of gray and light blue, with a network of gray lines and nodes connecting various points across the globe. The word "ACTS" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the map.

# ACTS

CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



# The Unknown God RAISED!

Acts 17:16-34

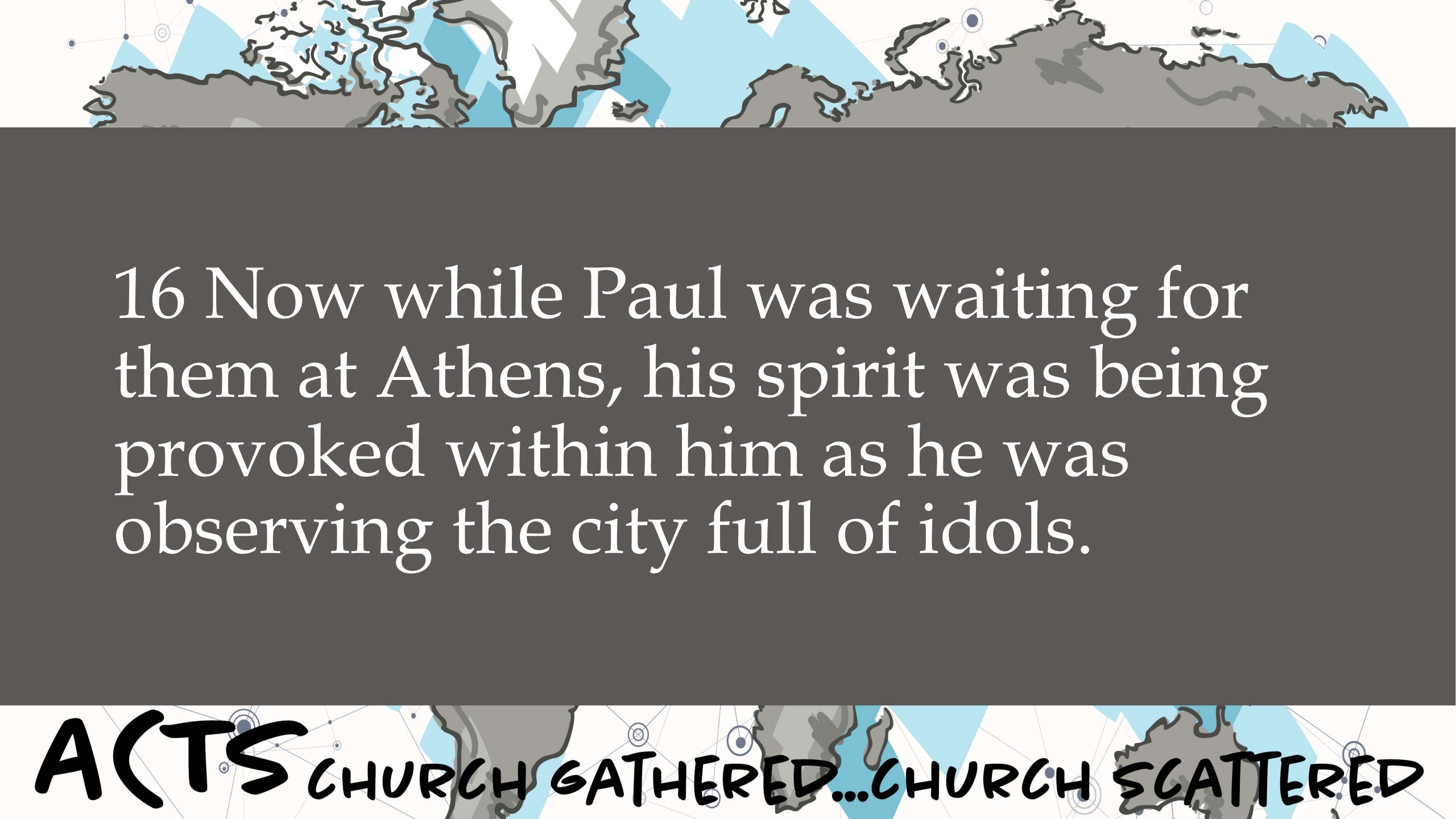
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*“The cross is the victory, the resurrection  
is the triumph...”*

*The resurrection is the public display of the  
victory, the triumph of the crucified one.”*

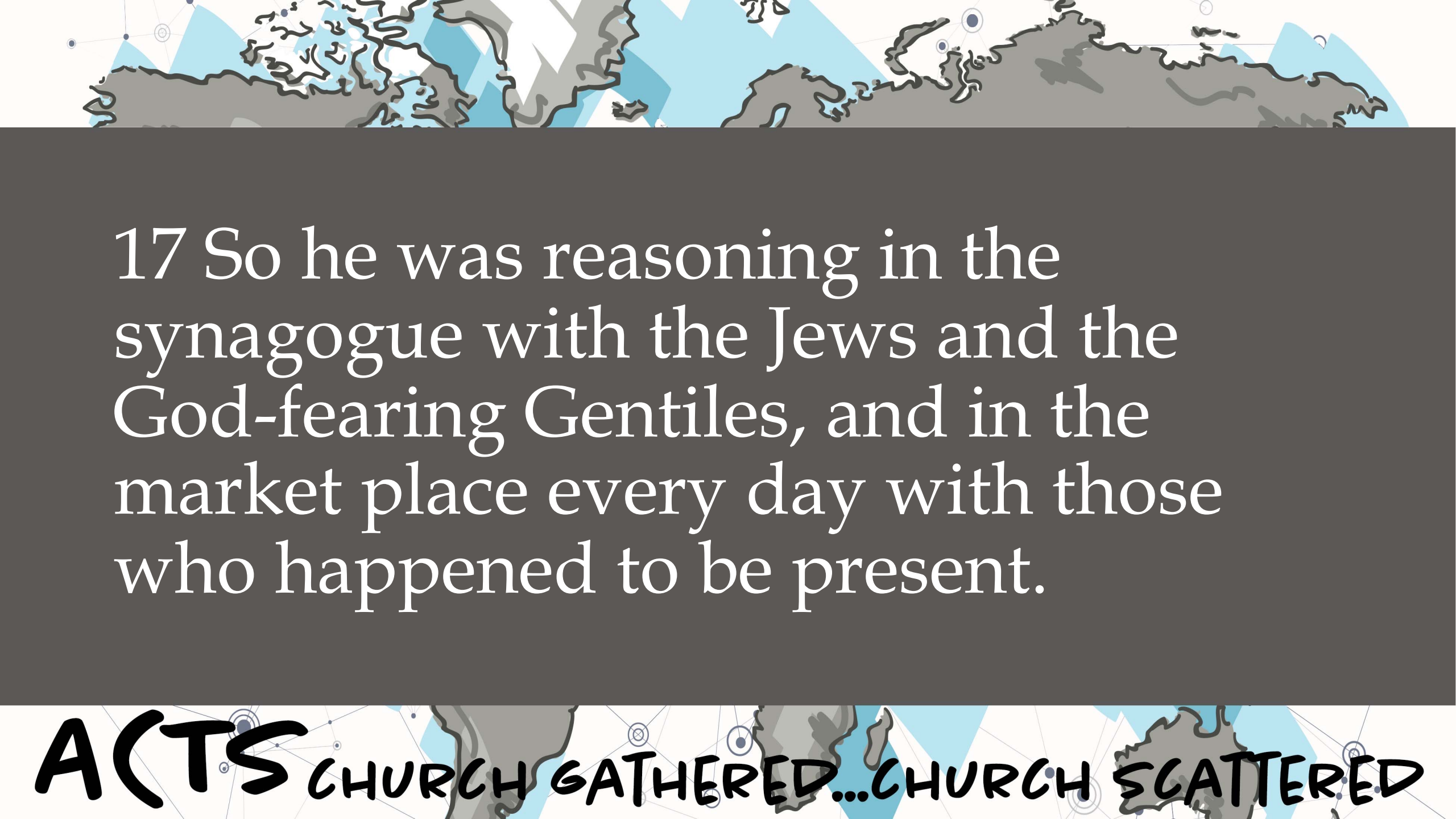
Leon Morris

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



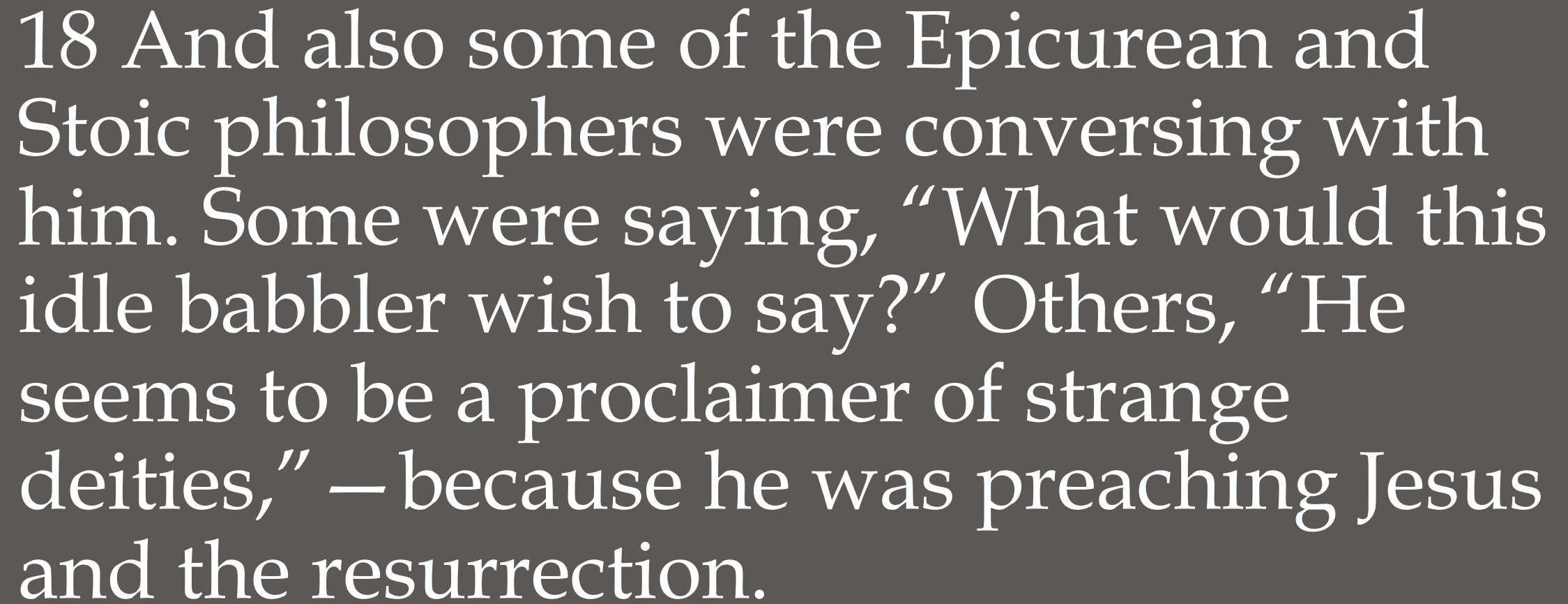
16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.

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17 So he was reasoning in the  
synagogue with the Jews and the  
God-fearing Gentiles, and in the  
market place every day with those  
who happened to be present.

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18 And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, “What would this idle babbler wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,” — because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

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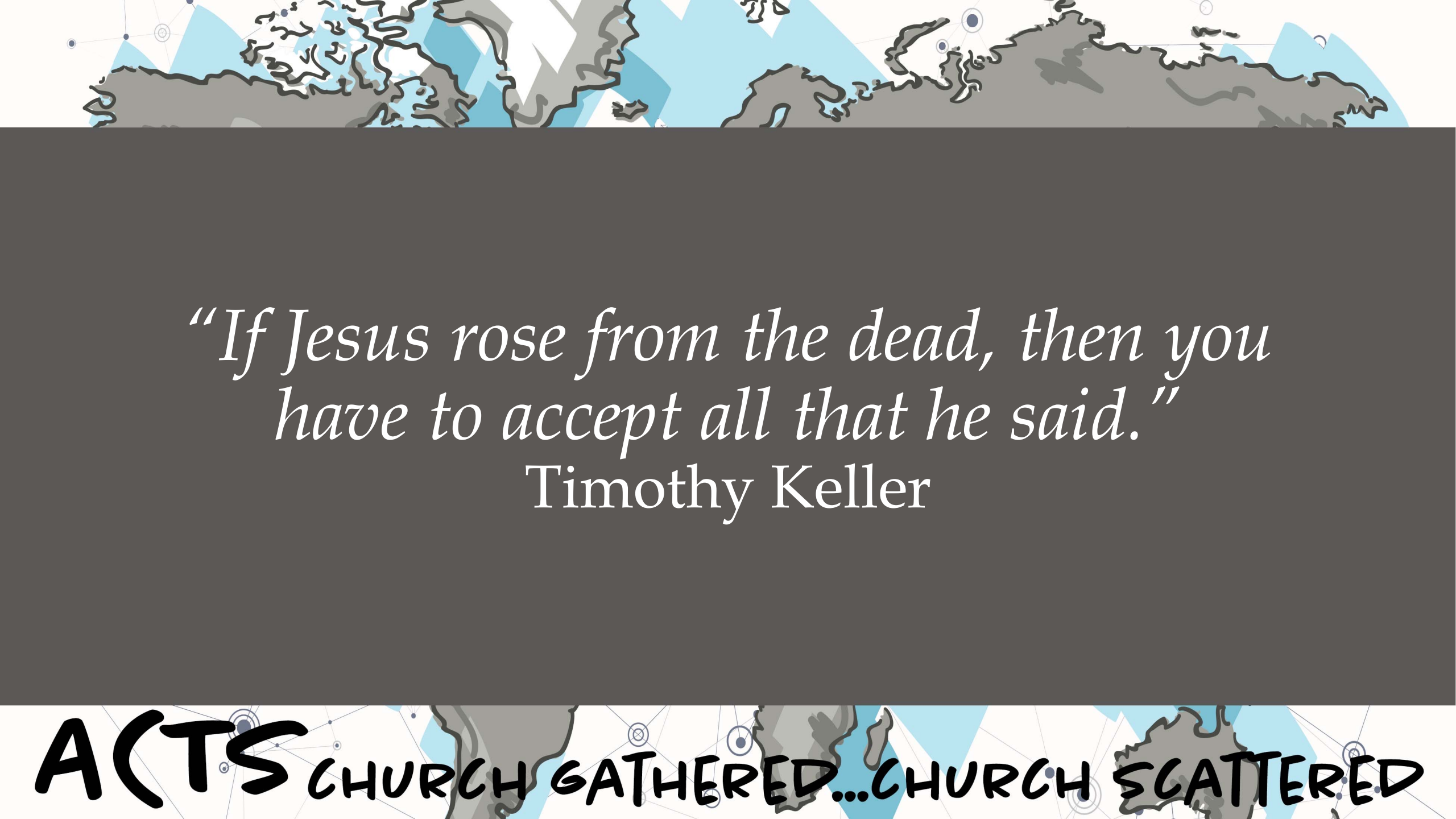


## Conversations 16-18

- Convicted of surrounding paganism
- 'reasoning' every day
- Epicurean and Stoic
- 'babbling' – Resurrection!



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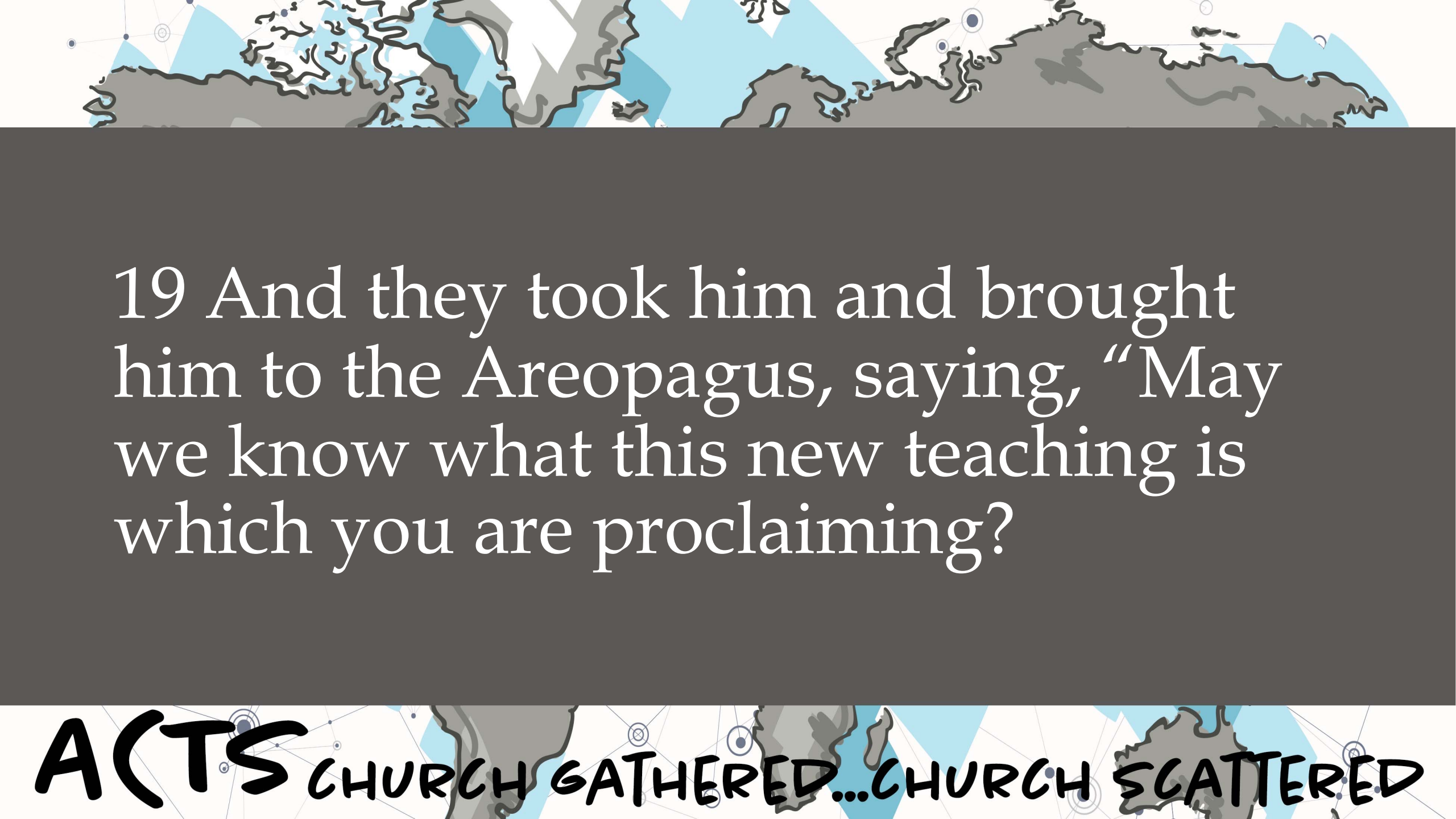


*“If Jesus rose from the dead, then you  
have to accept all that he said.”*

Timothy Keller

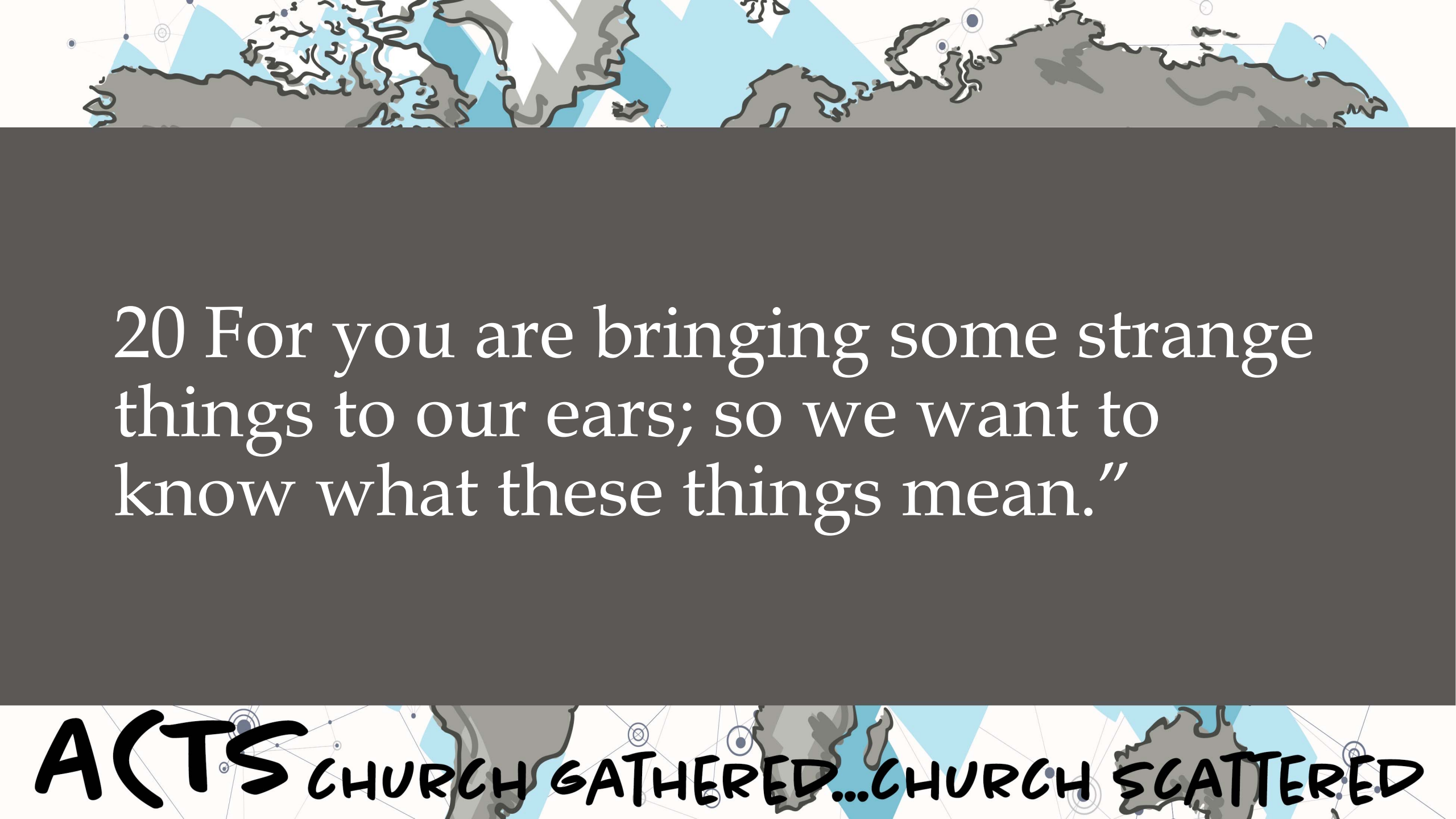
**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**





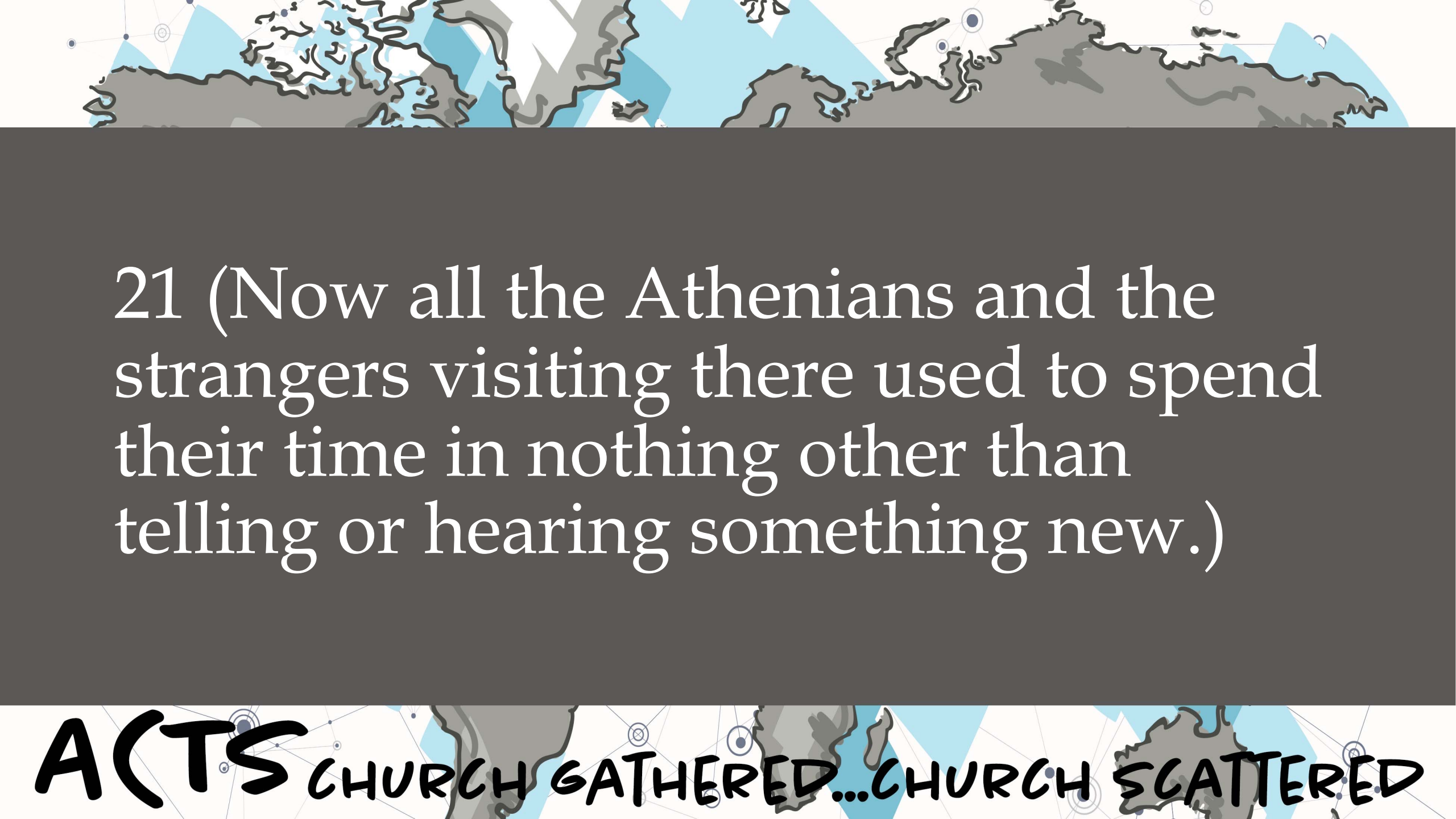
19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?"

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.”

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21 (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)

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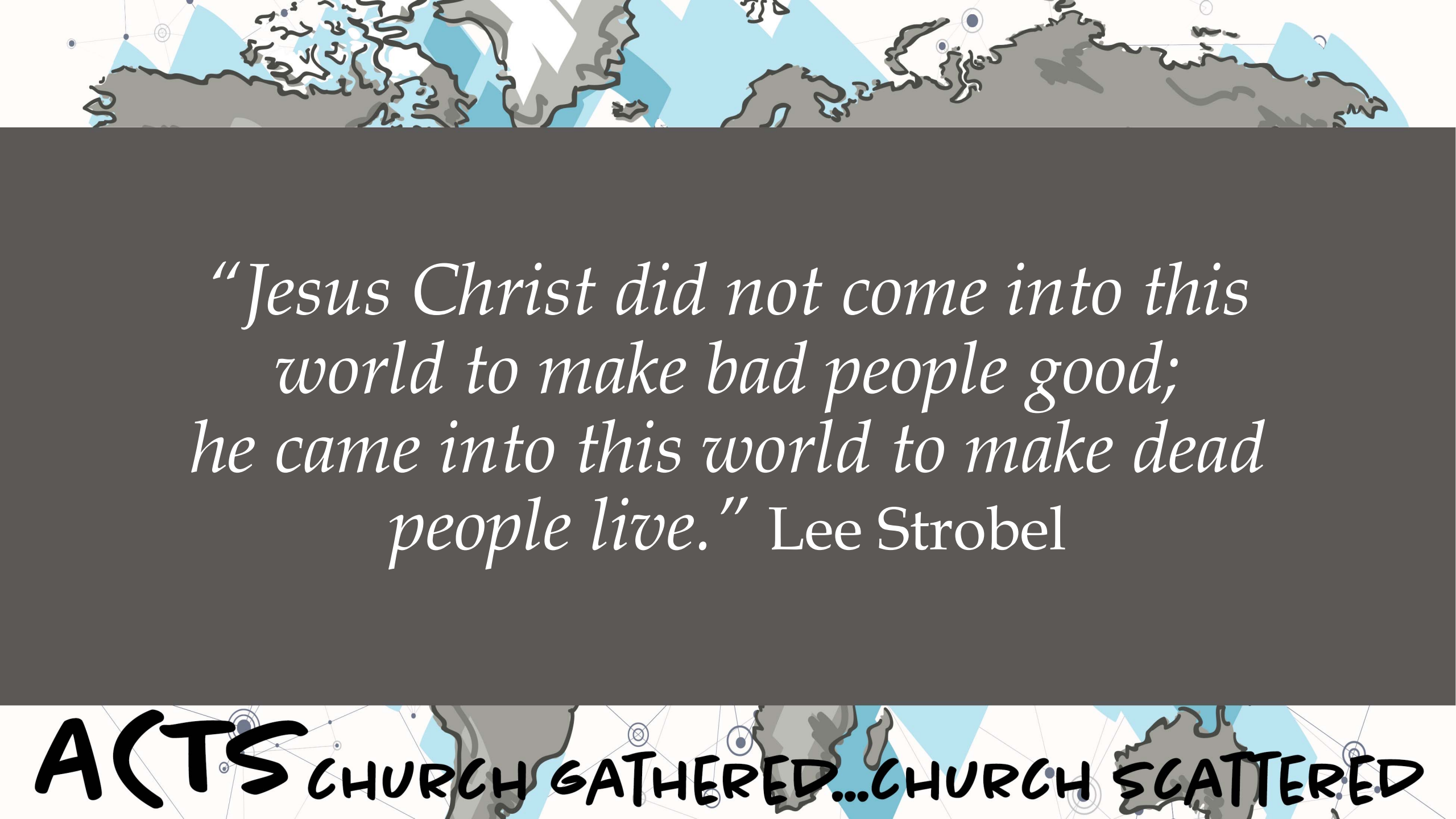


## Councils 19-21

- Areopagus – Acropolis
- Place of council and judgment
- Disputes and Philosophers

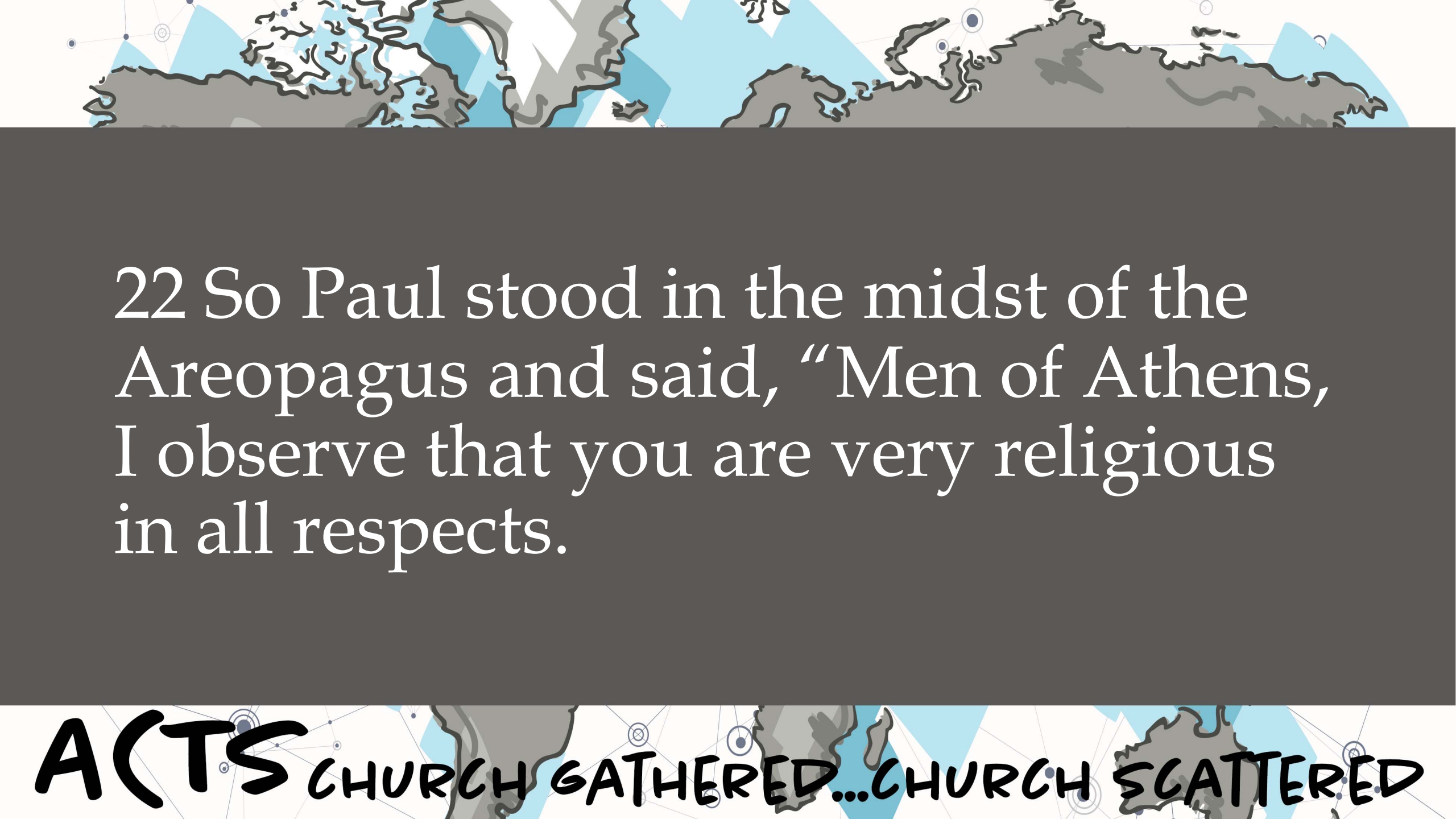


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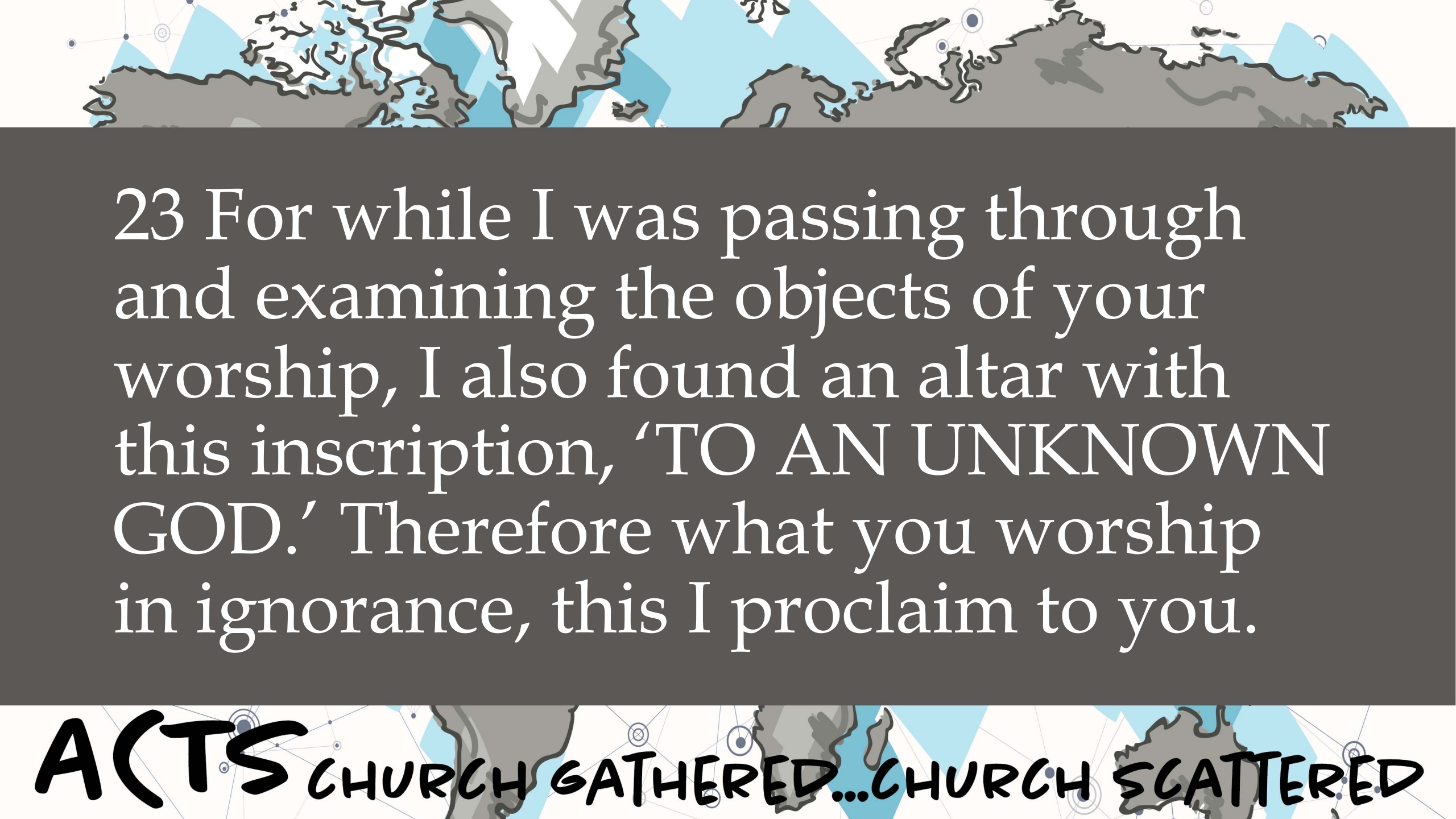
*“Jesus Christ did not come into this world to make bad people good; he came into this world to make dead people live.”* Lee Strobel

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22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.

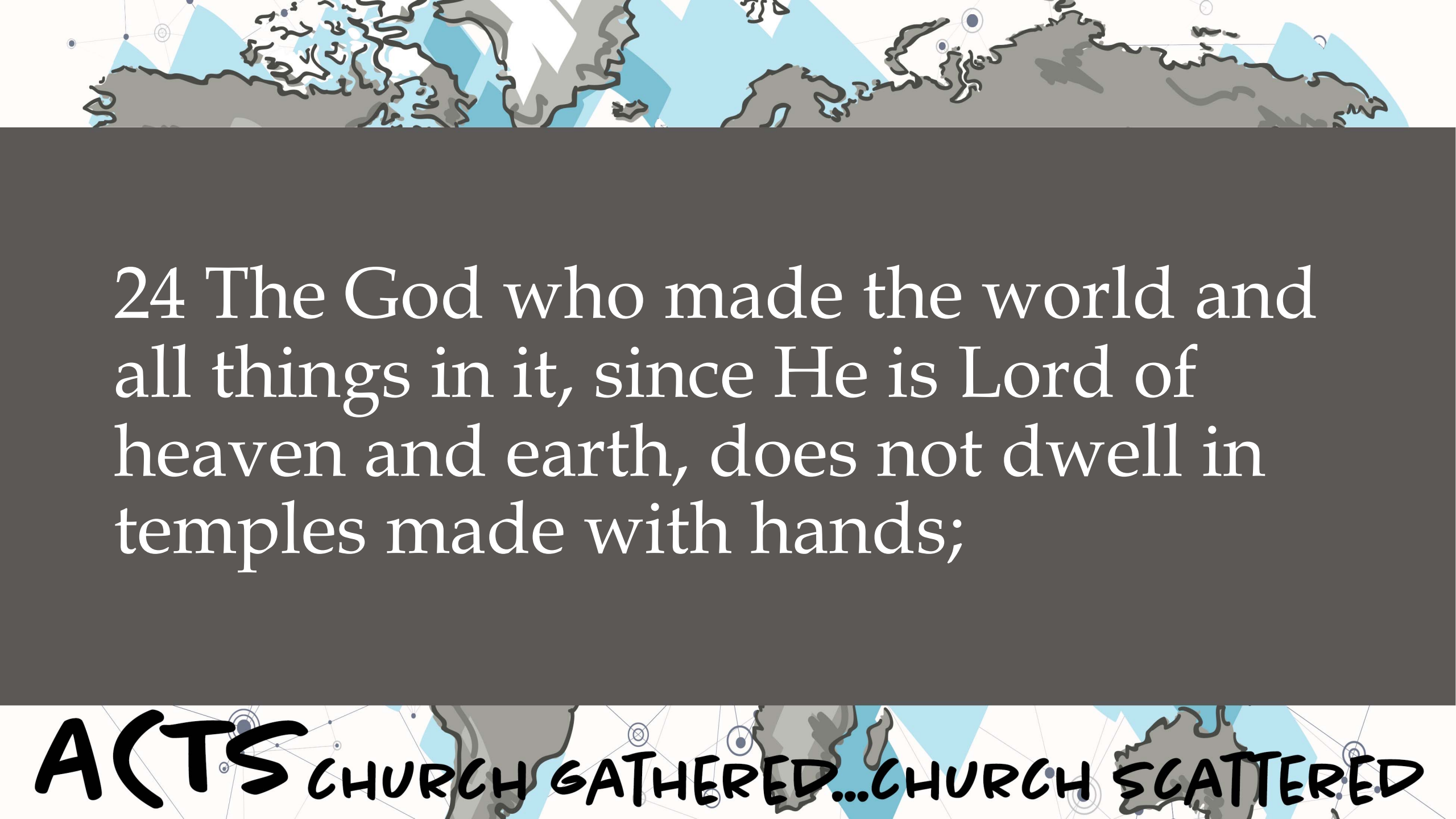
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23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

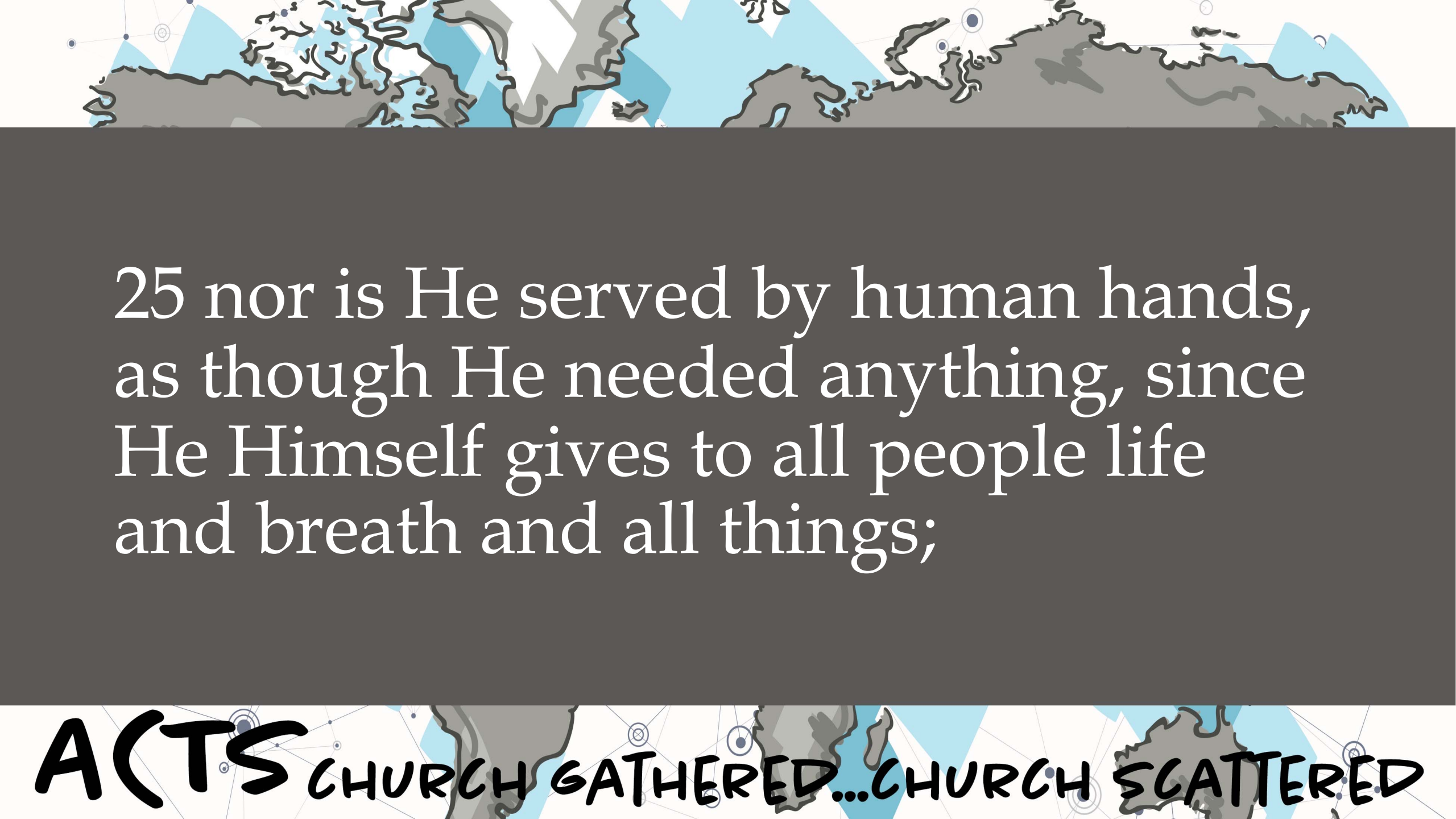
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED





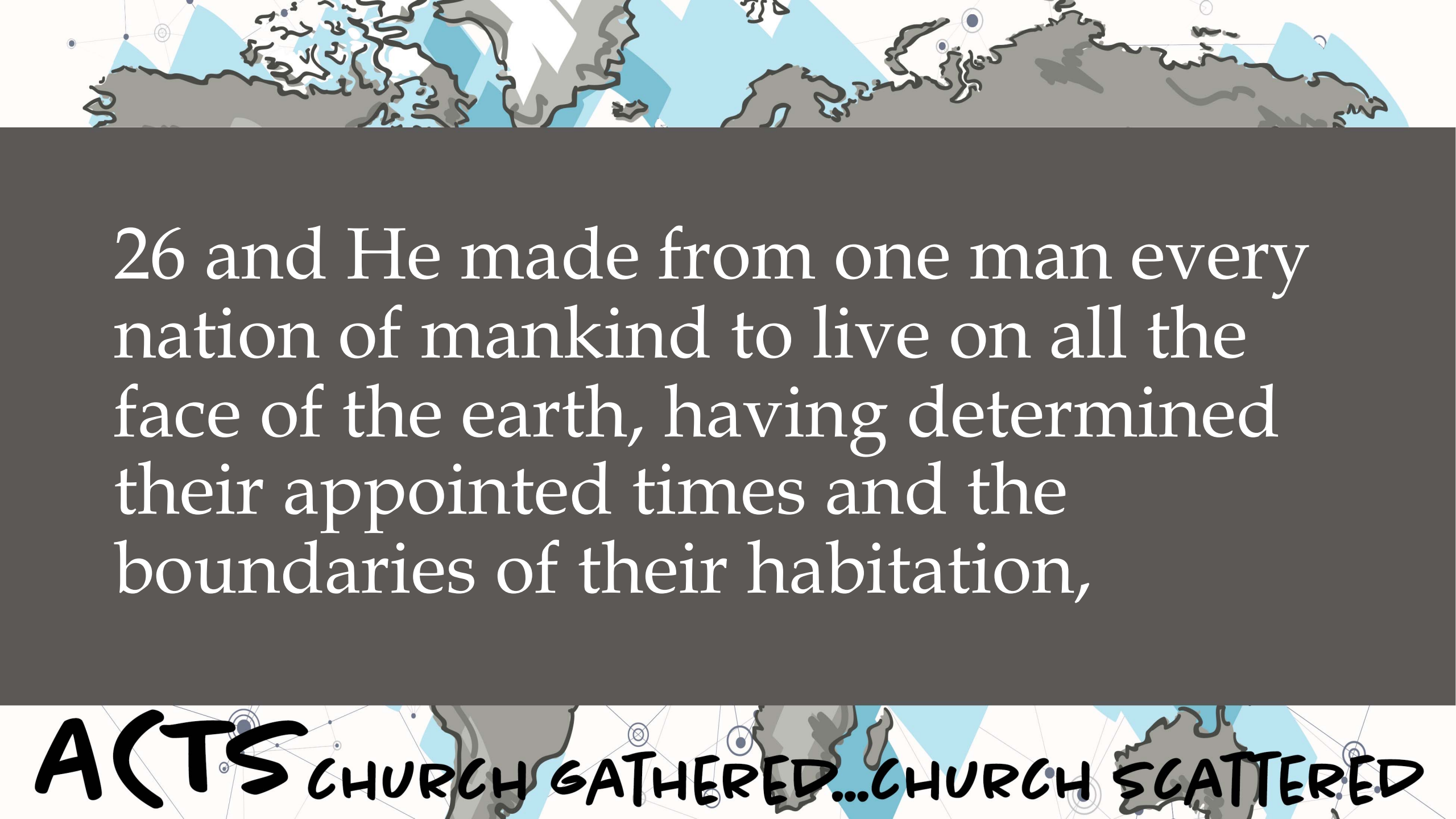
24 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

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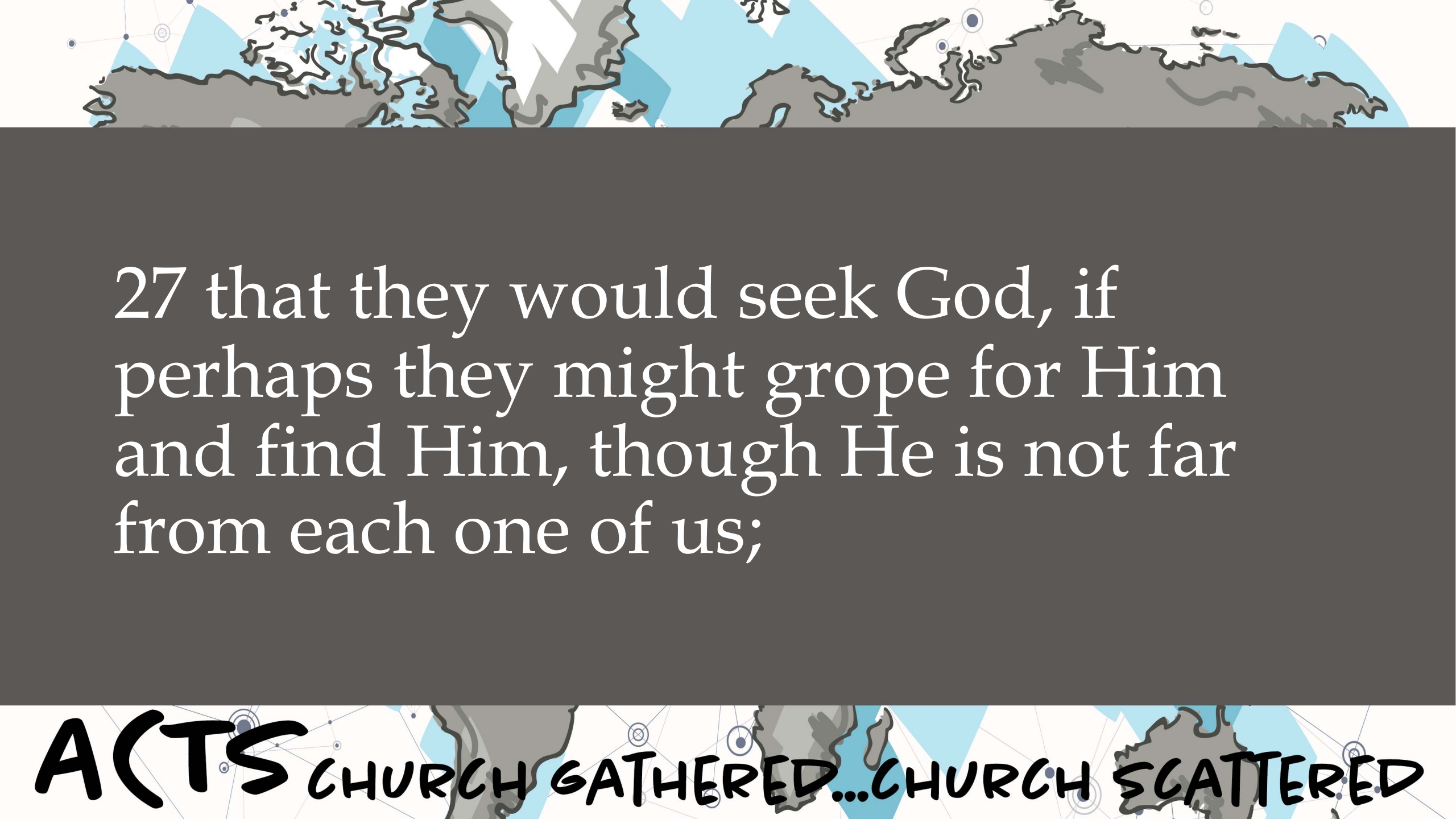
25 nor is He served by human hands,  
as though He needed anything, since  
He Himself gives to all people life  
and breath and all things;

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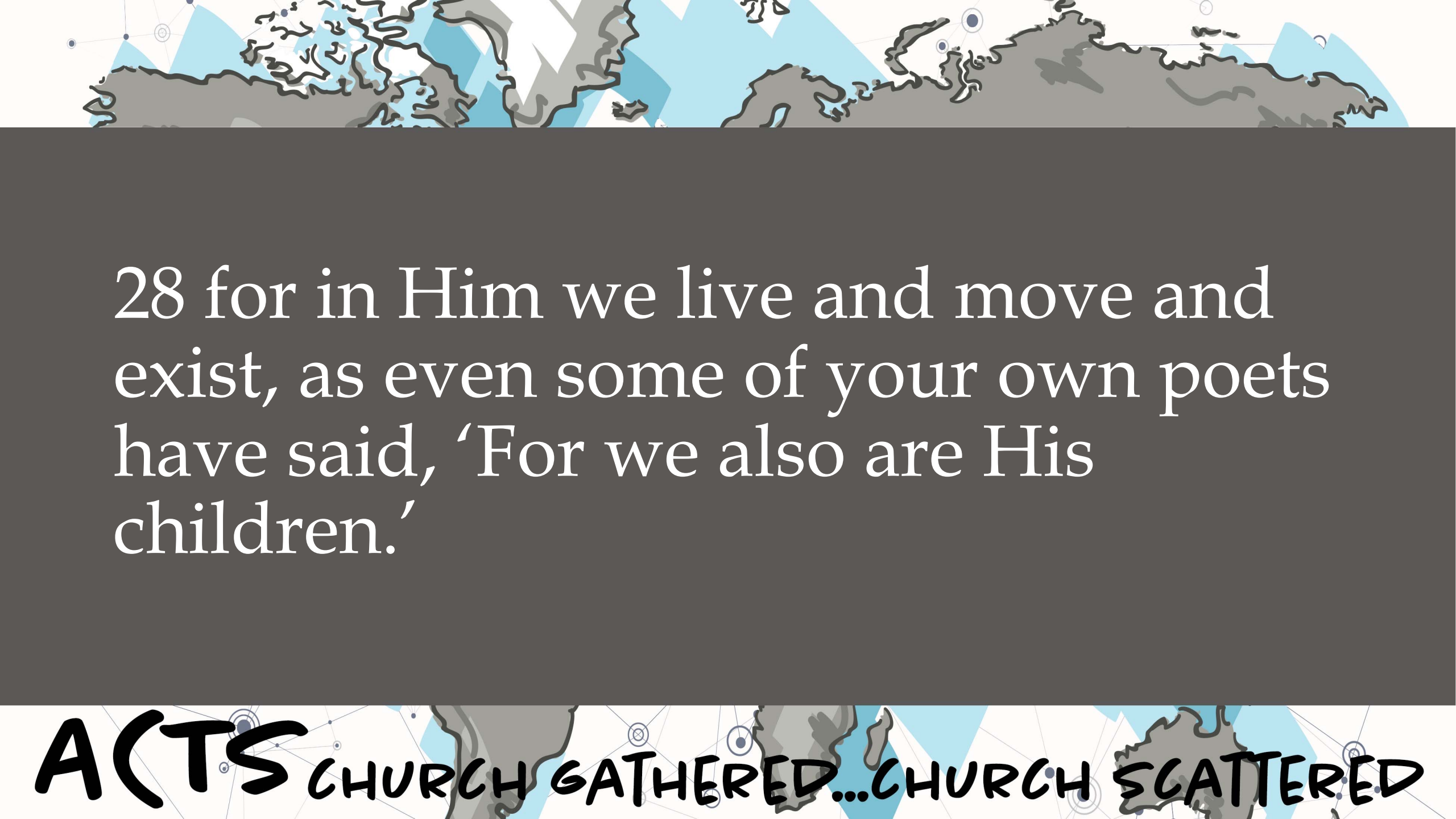
26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

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27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

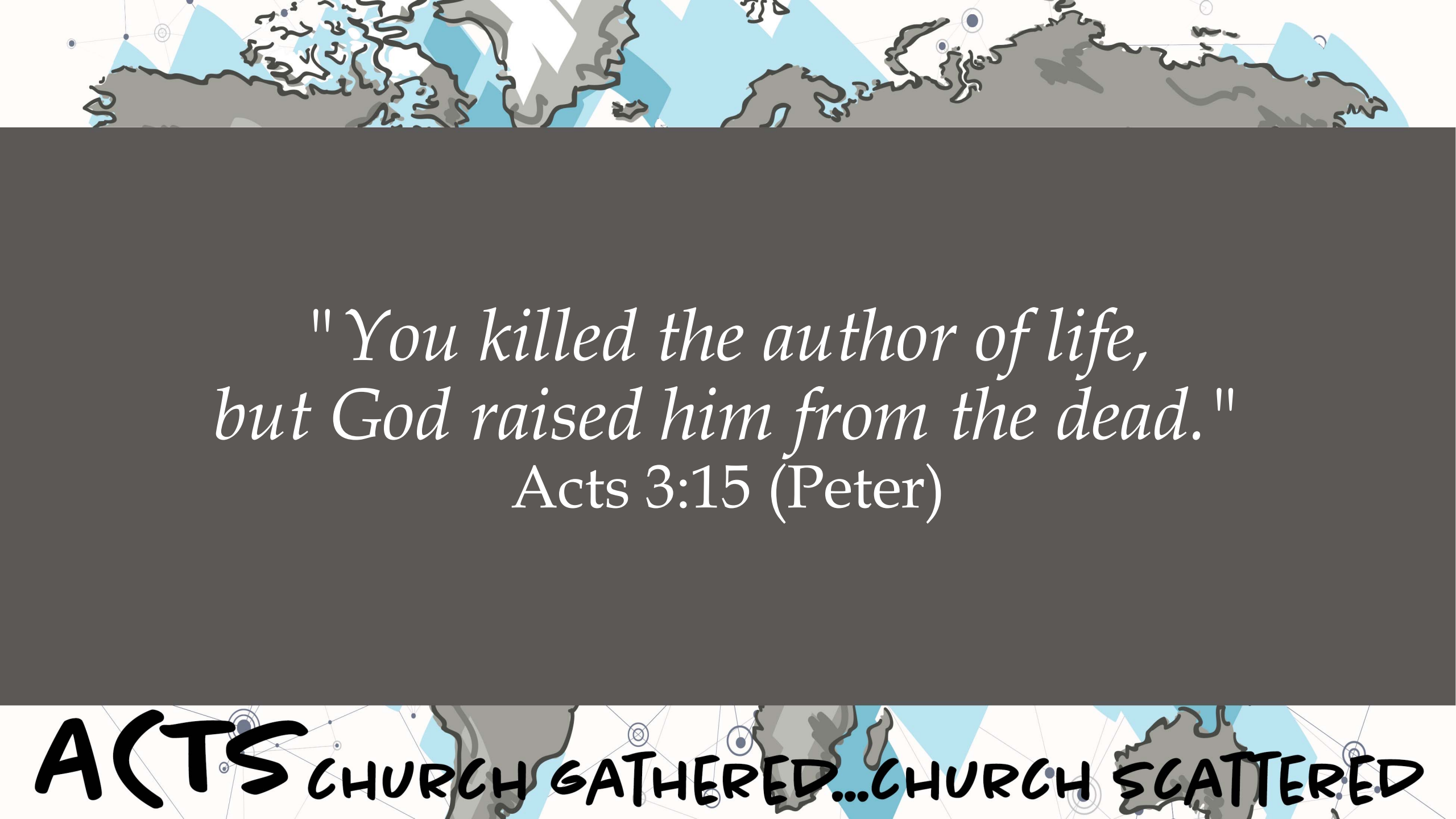


## Creator 22-28

- Religious without belief
- 'ignorance' – aginosko = without knowing
- Creator – not created!
- God of obscurity? God of proximity!
- God of Life

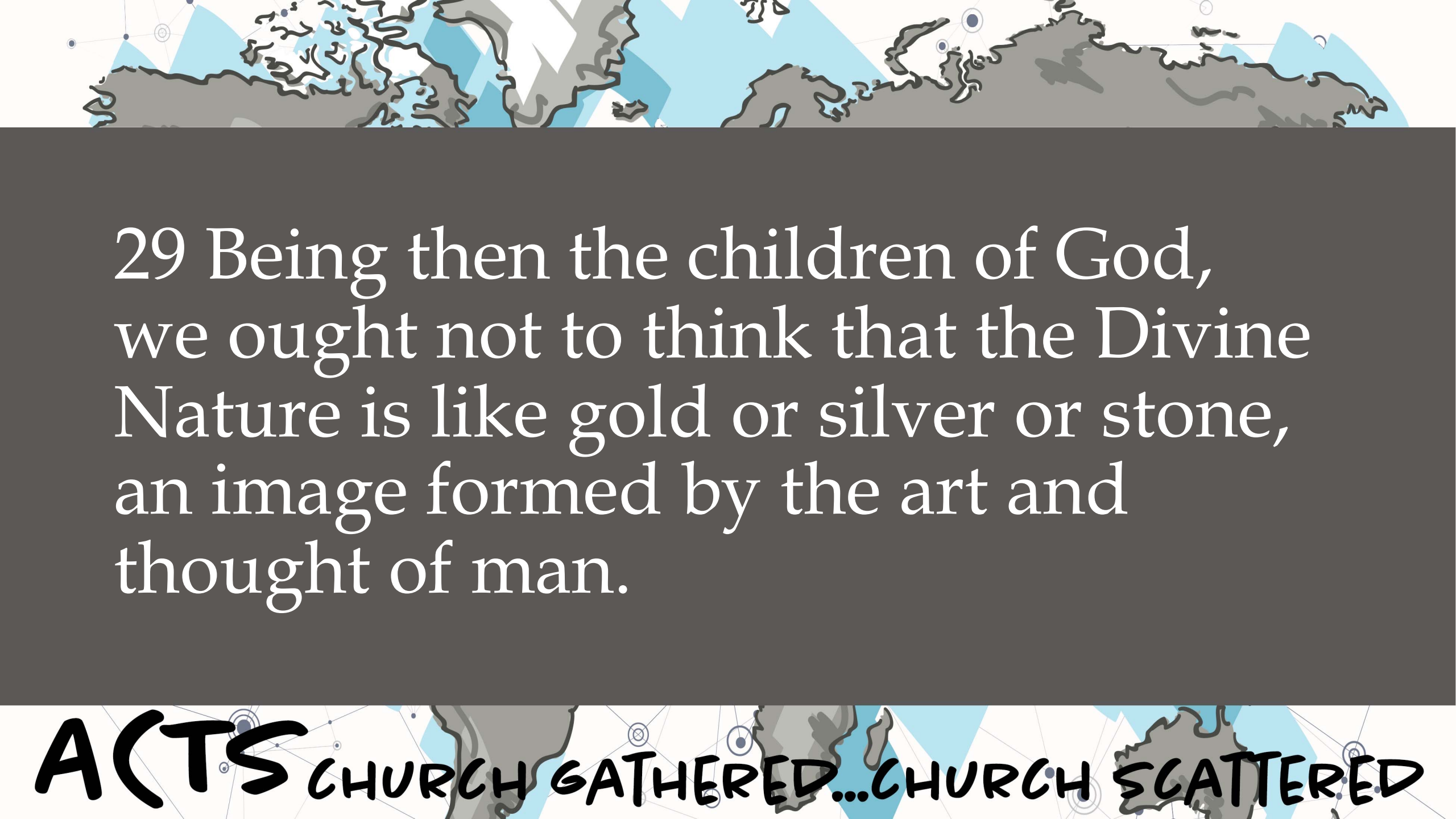


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*"You killed the author of life,  
but God raised him from the dead."  
Acts 3:15 (Peter)*

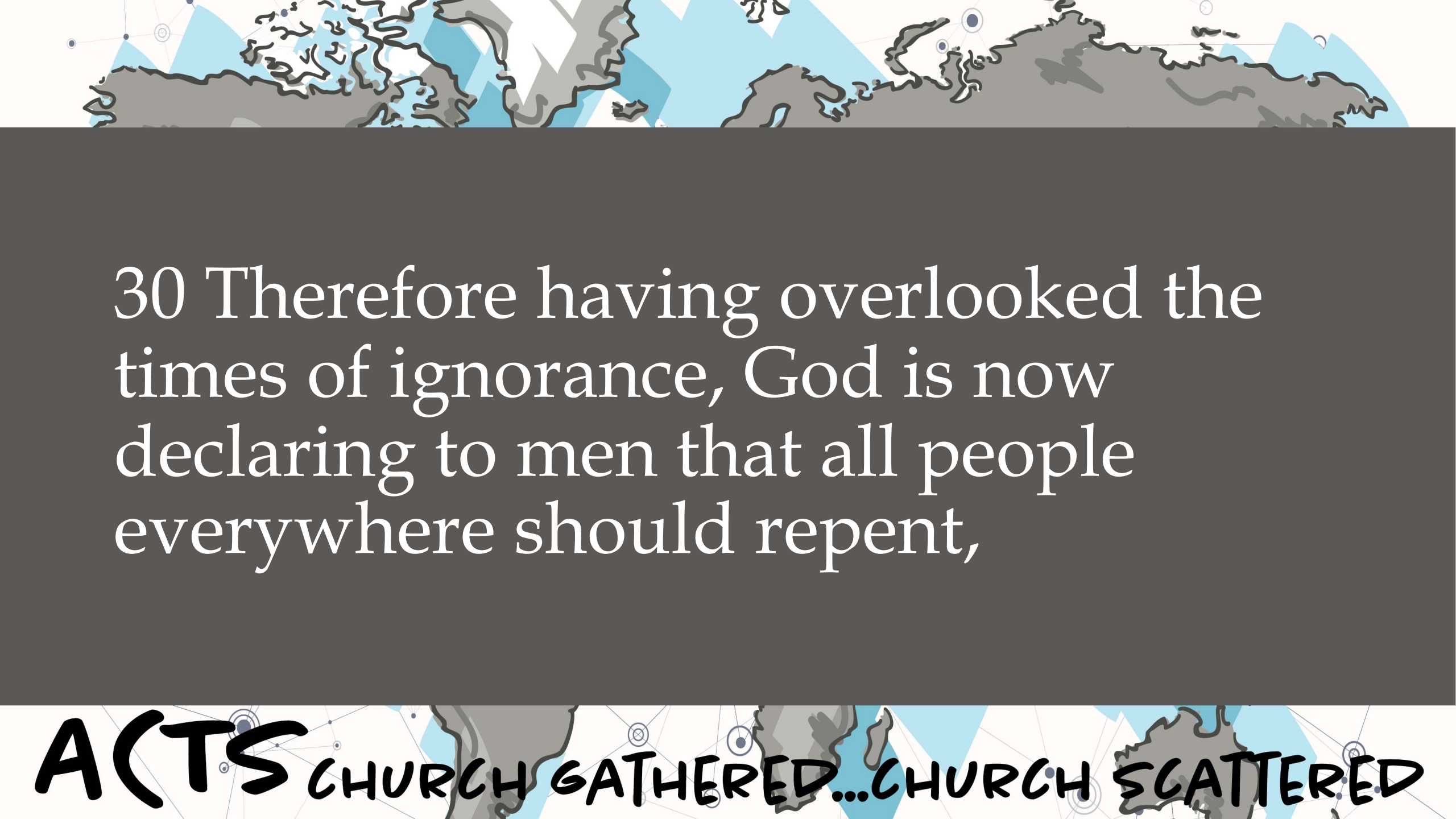
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29 Being then the children of God,  
we ought not to think that the Divine  
Nature is like gold or silver or stone,  
an image formed by the art and  
thought of man.

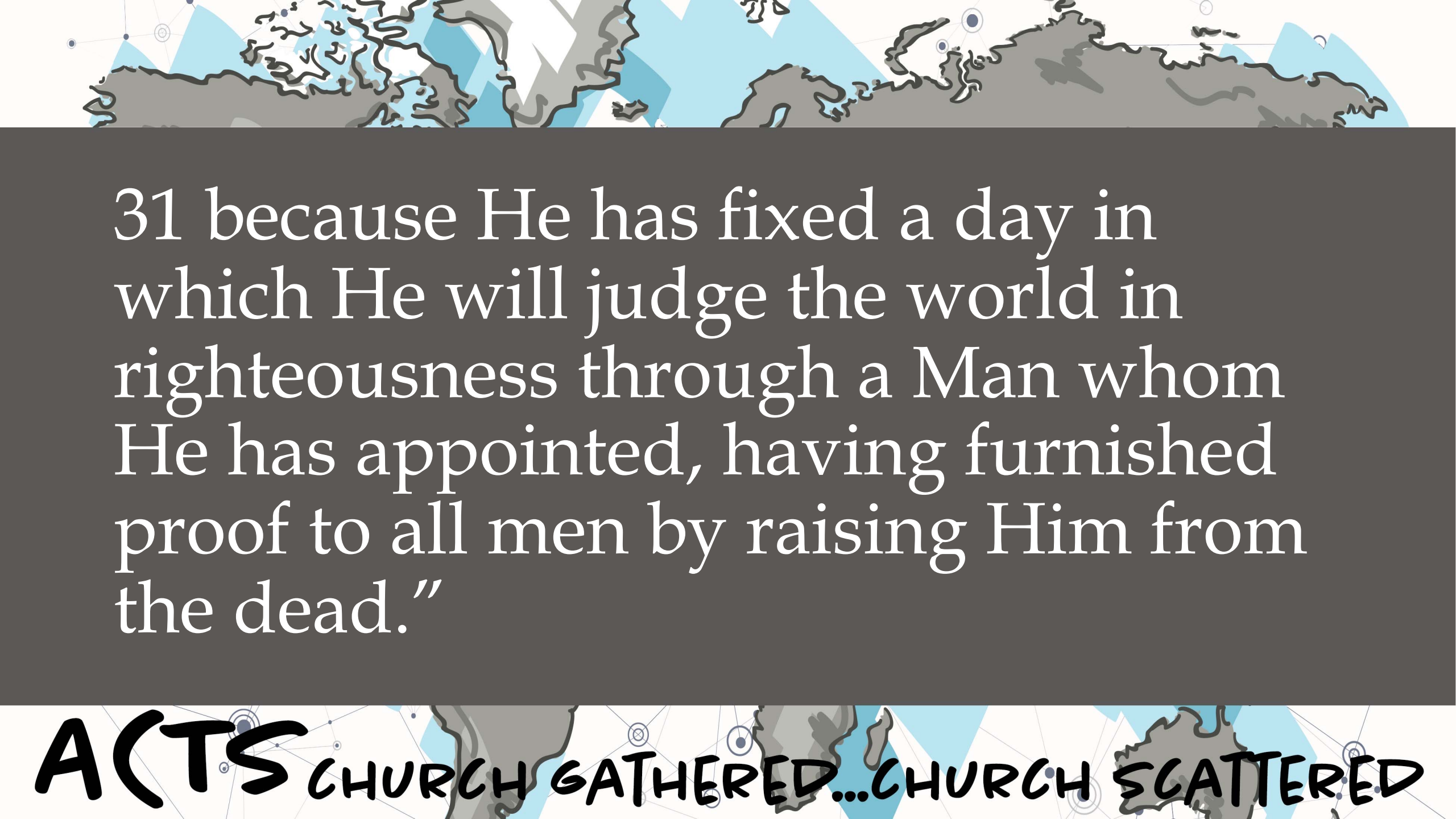
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED





30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**

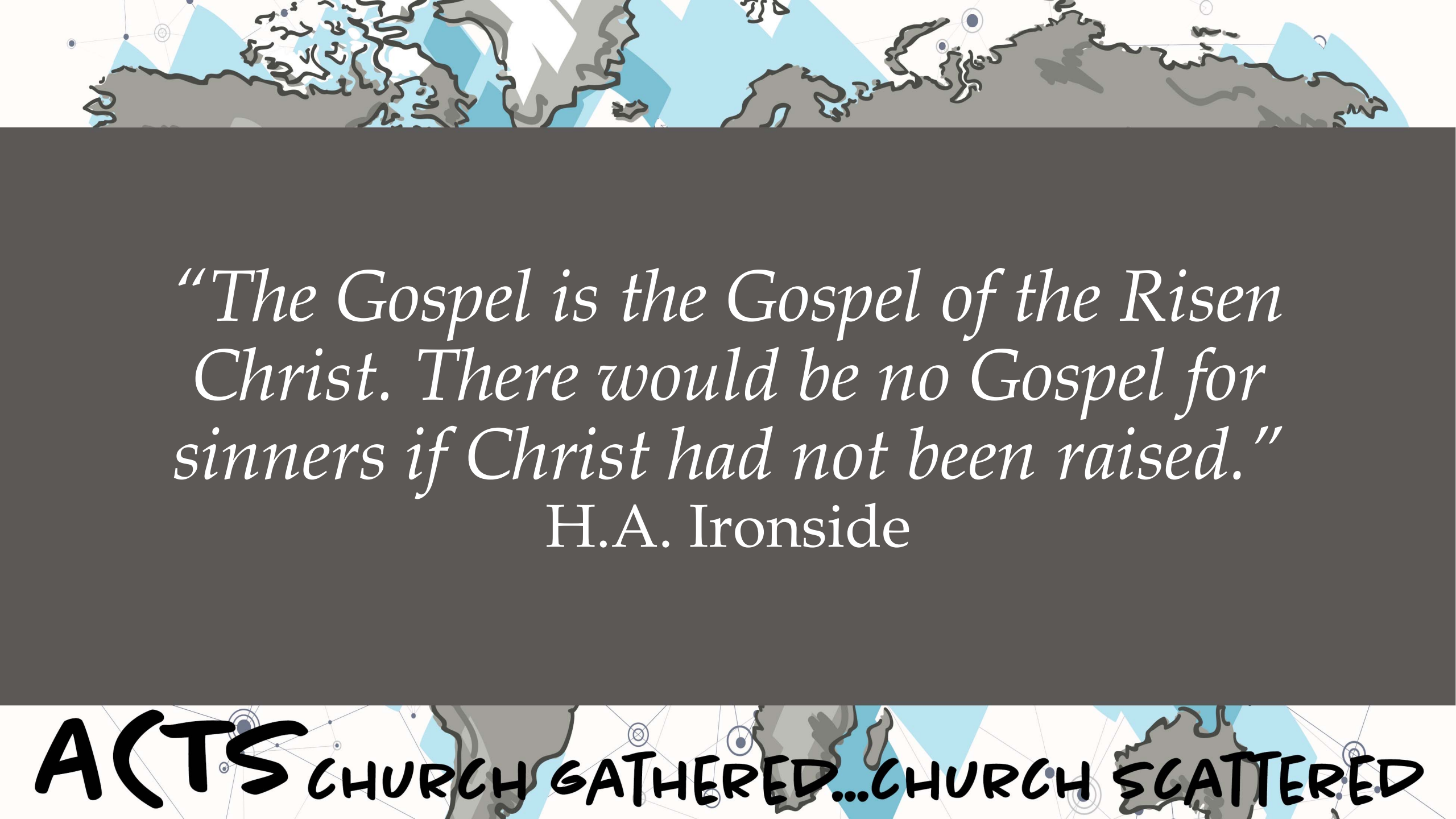


# Callings 29-31

- God is calling us
- 'He first loved us!'
- We may call upon Him

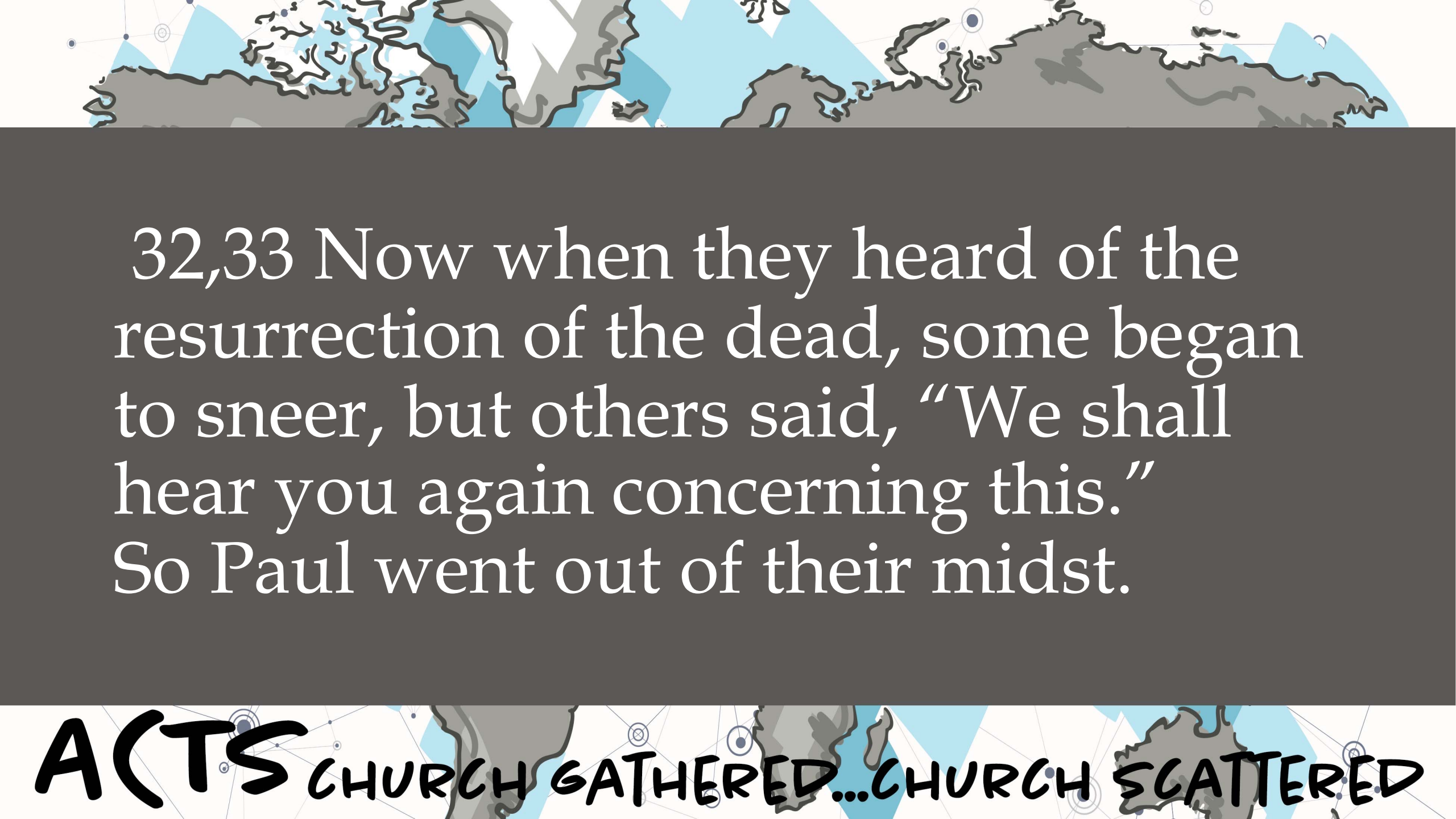


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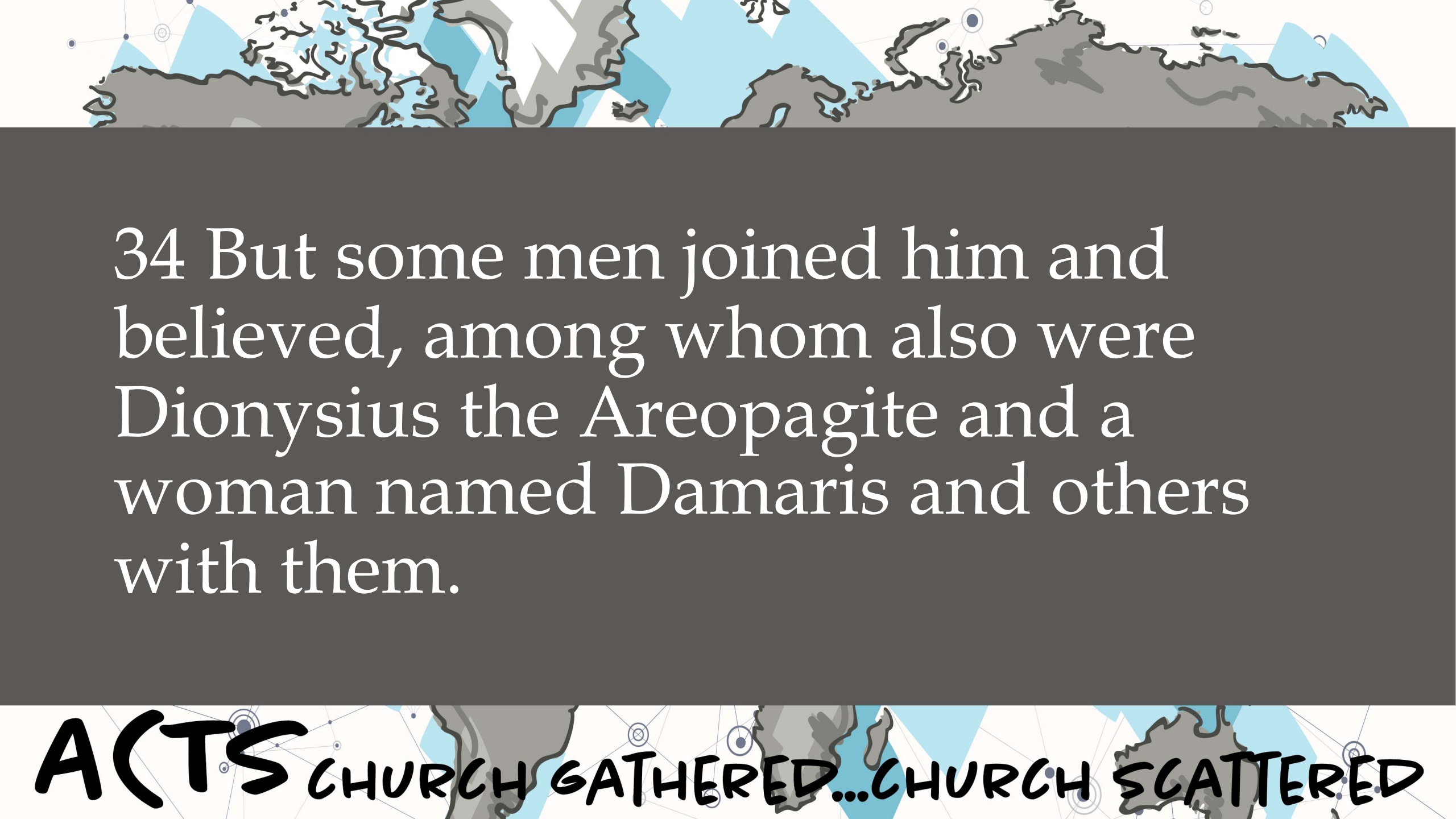
*“The Gospel is the Gospel of the Risen Christ. There would be no Gospel for sinners if Christ had not been raised.”*  
H.A. Ironside

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



32,33 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, “We shall hear you again concerning this.” So Paul went out of their midst.

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**

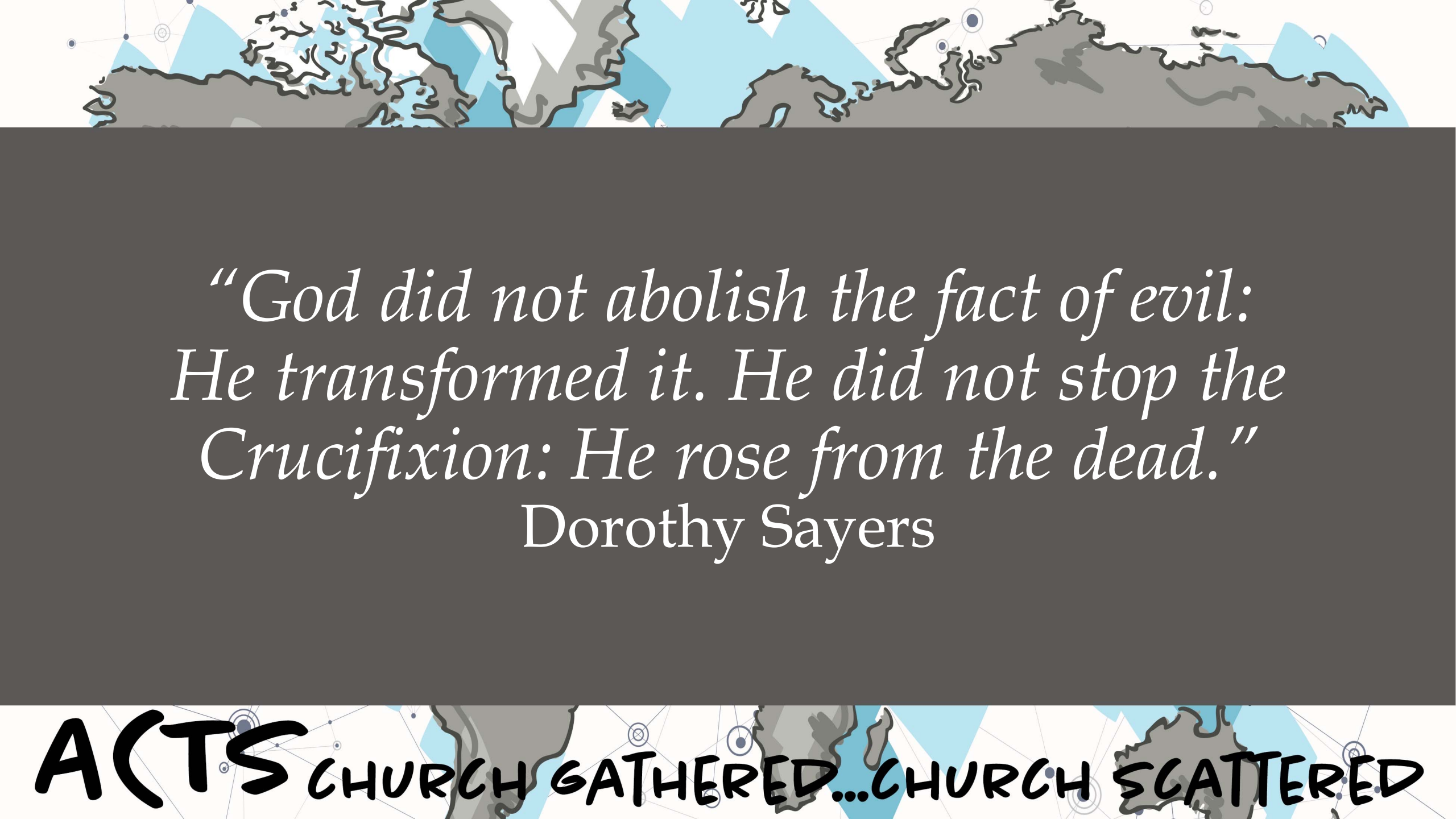


## Choices 32-34

- Some 'sneered'
- Some considered
- Some 'believed'



**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



*“God did not abolish the fact of evil:  
He transformed it. He did not stop the  
Crucifixion: He rose from the dead.”*  
Dorothy Sayers

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**





# Unknown God to Known Savior

- Life lived without fear of death
- Life lived to share hope
- Life lived transformed death is defeated



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*“Death has been swallowed up in  
victory.”*

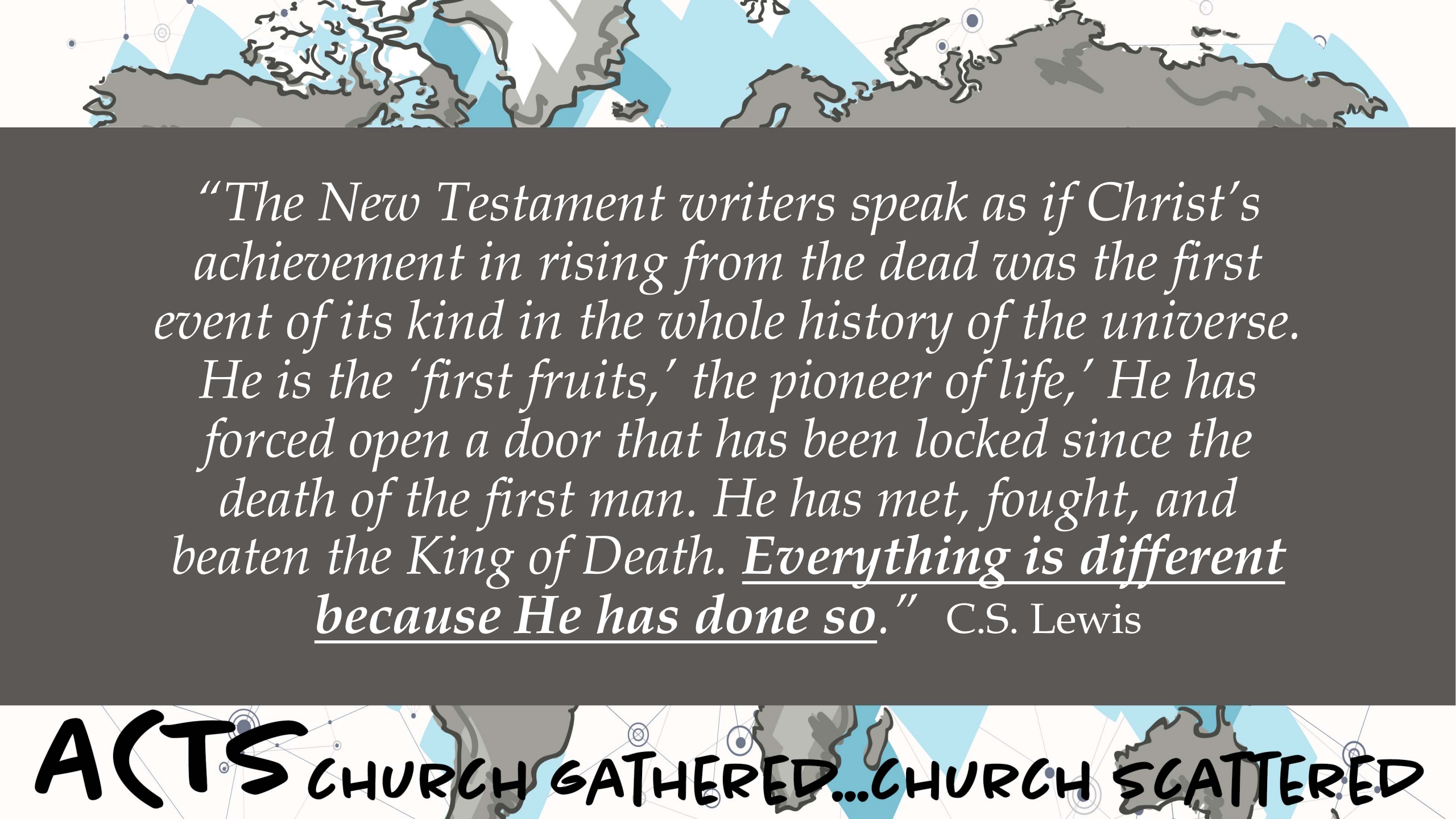
*“Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”*

*1 Cor 15:54,55*

*(Isa 25:8; Hos 13:14)*



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*“The New Testament writers speak as if Christ’s achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the ‘first fruits,’ the pioneer of life,’ He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so.” C.S. Lewis*

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