




REVELATION

WHAT WAS, WHAT IS, AND WHAT IS TO COME.





The First and Last! Smyrna - Suffering

Rev 2:8-11

“Alpha — Omega”

“Things...seen”

“Beginning — End”

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

Son of Man in Heaven

The 7 Churches

The Cosmic Crisis

(After removal of true church and before the coming of Christ to creation)

“I am he that liveth”

“I was dead”

“the things which thou hast seen”

“Behold, I am alive”
“the things which are”

“I have the keys of hell and of death”
“the things about to be after these things [*meta tauta*]”

**Revelation 1
Christ in Glory**



**Revelation 2, 3
Church in the World**

**Revelation 4 — 22
Crisis in the Future**



Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea



*“Faith is a redirecting of our sight,
a getting out of the focus of our own
vision and getting God into focus.”*

A.W. Tozer

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

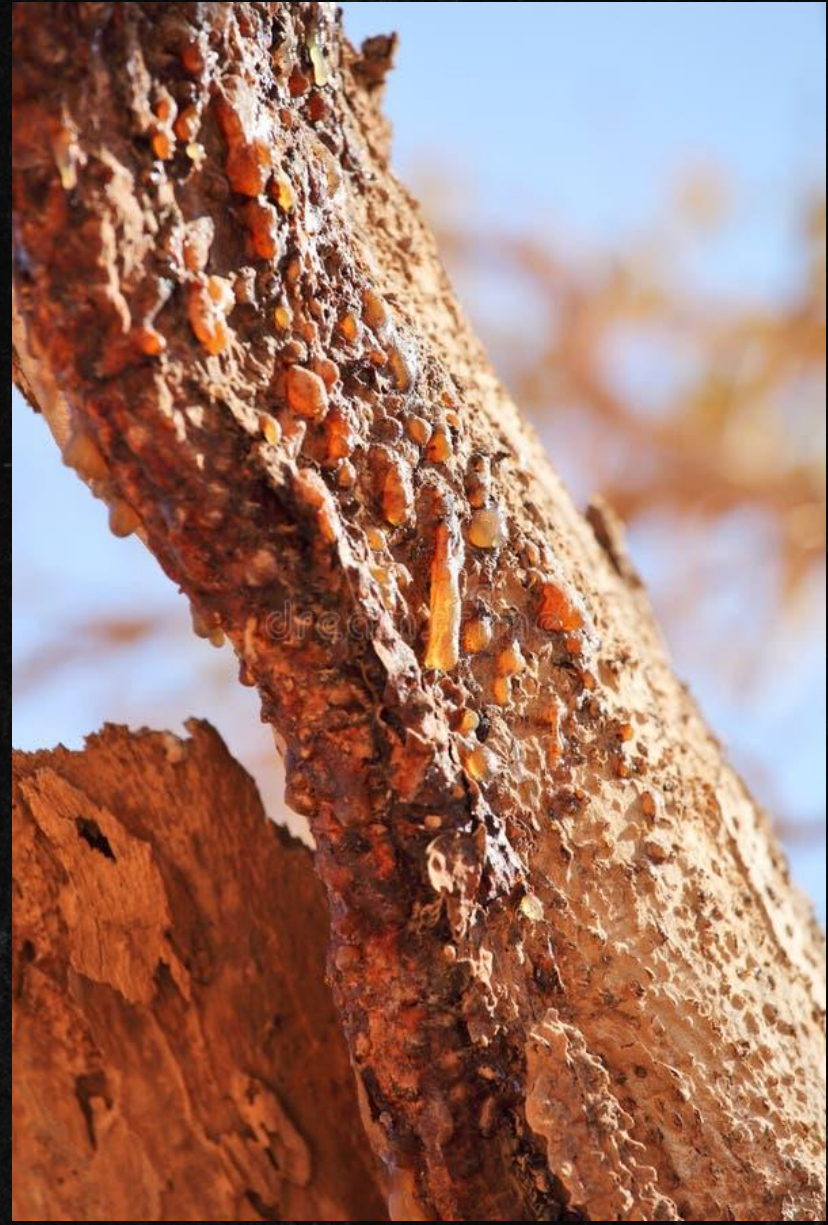
The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:



Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, & Oman

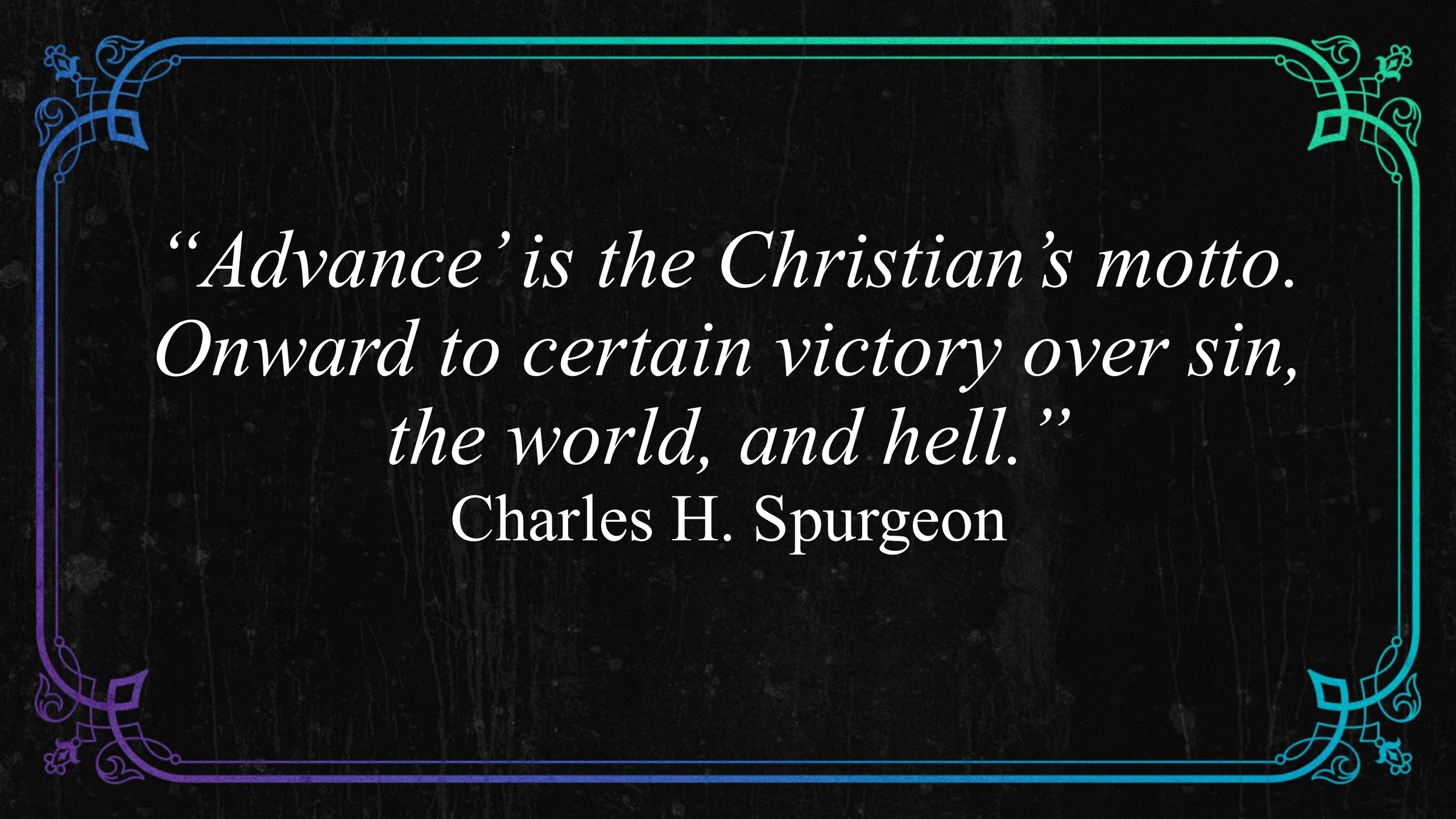
Bark is tapped or naturally cracks to release a golden - yellow resin that dries into yellowish-brown "tears"

MYRRH



Church – City 8

- Smyrna – city of myrrh
- Fragrance of memory in death
- Gift of the Magi - Nativity Account
- Burial of Jesus – Nicodemus



*“Advance’ is the Christian’s motto.
Onward to certain victory over sin,
the world, and hell.”*

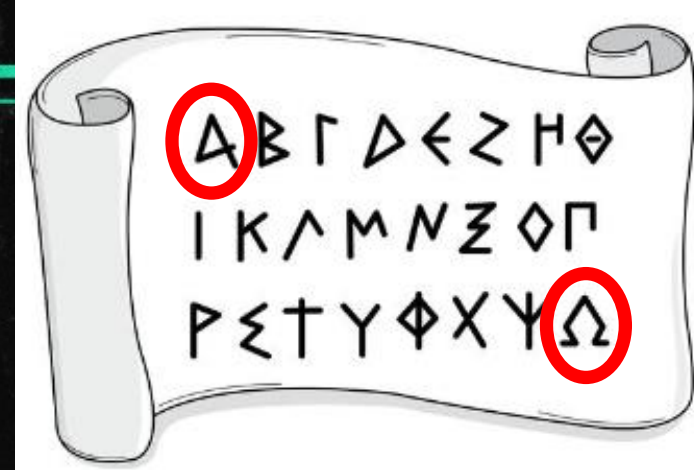
Charles H. Spurgeon



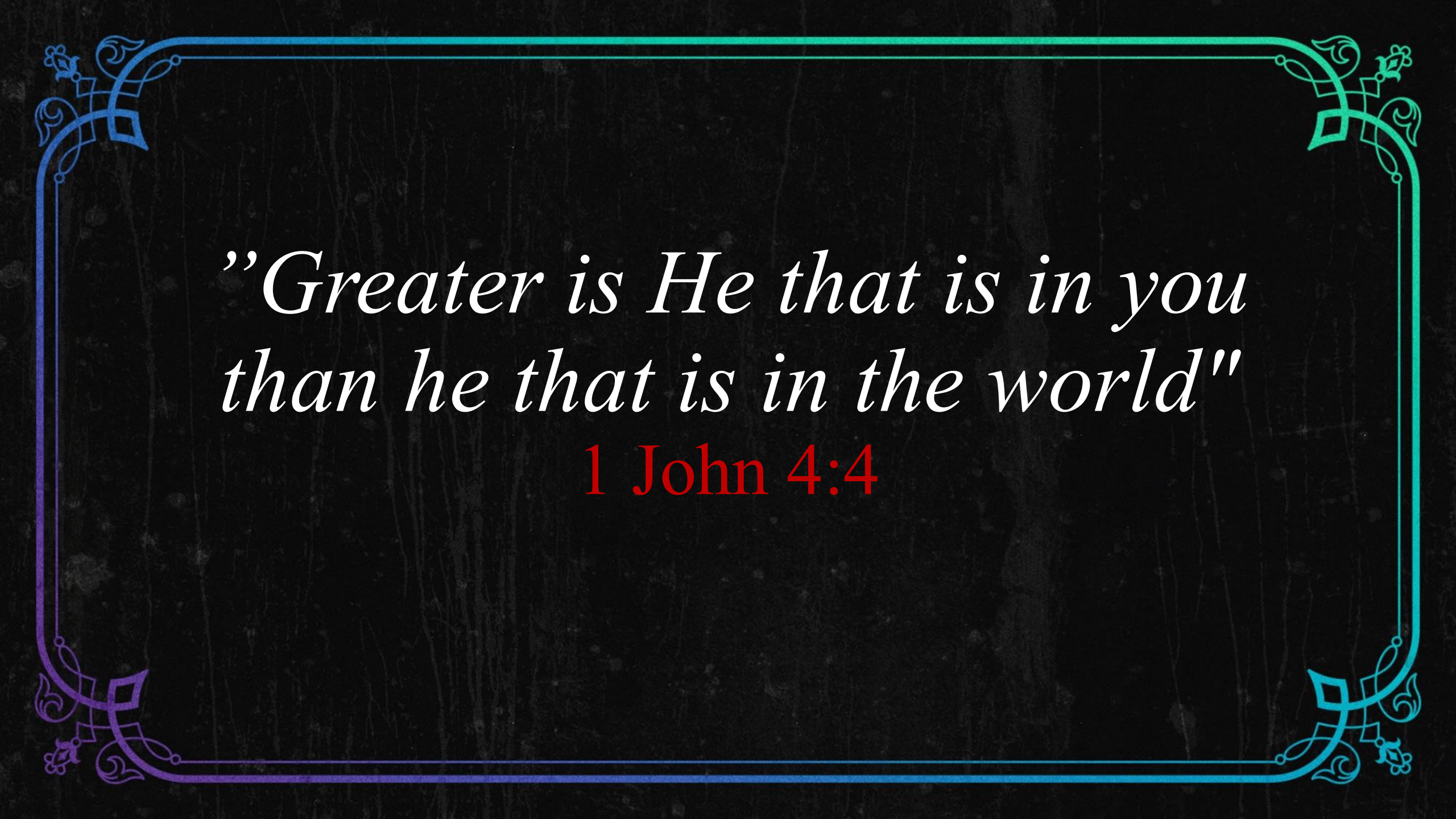
8 “And to the angel of the church in
Smyrna write:

**The first and the last, who was dead,
and has come to life, says this:**

Christ 8




- ‘first and the last’ – **A to Z**
- Rev 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega”
- Rev 1:18 “and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive”
- John 1:1 – “In the beginning was...”



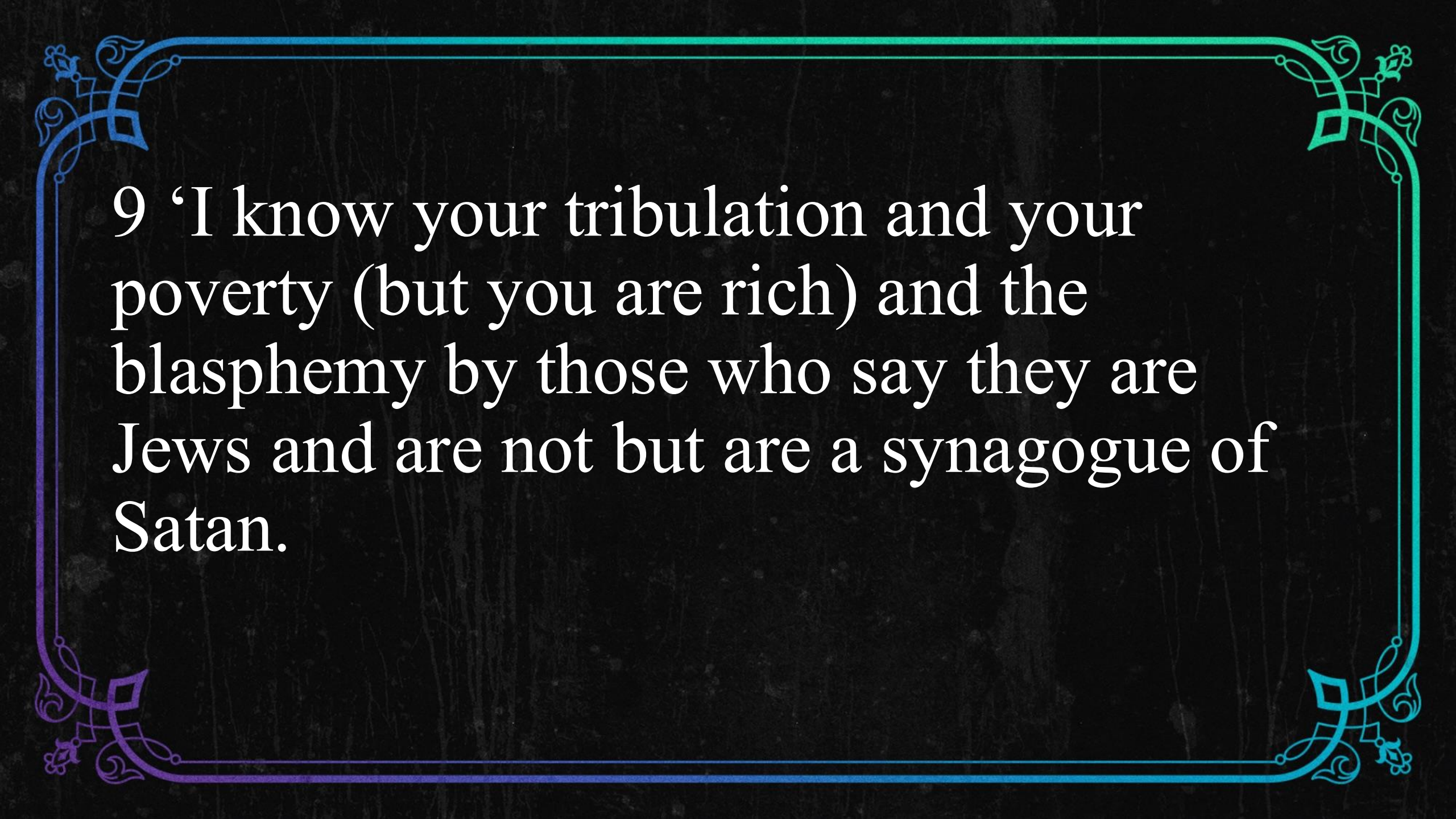
*"Greater is He that is in you
than he that is in the world"*

1 John 4:4

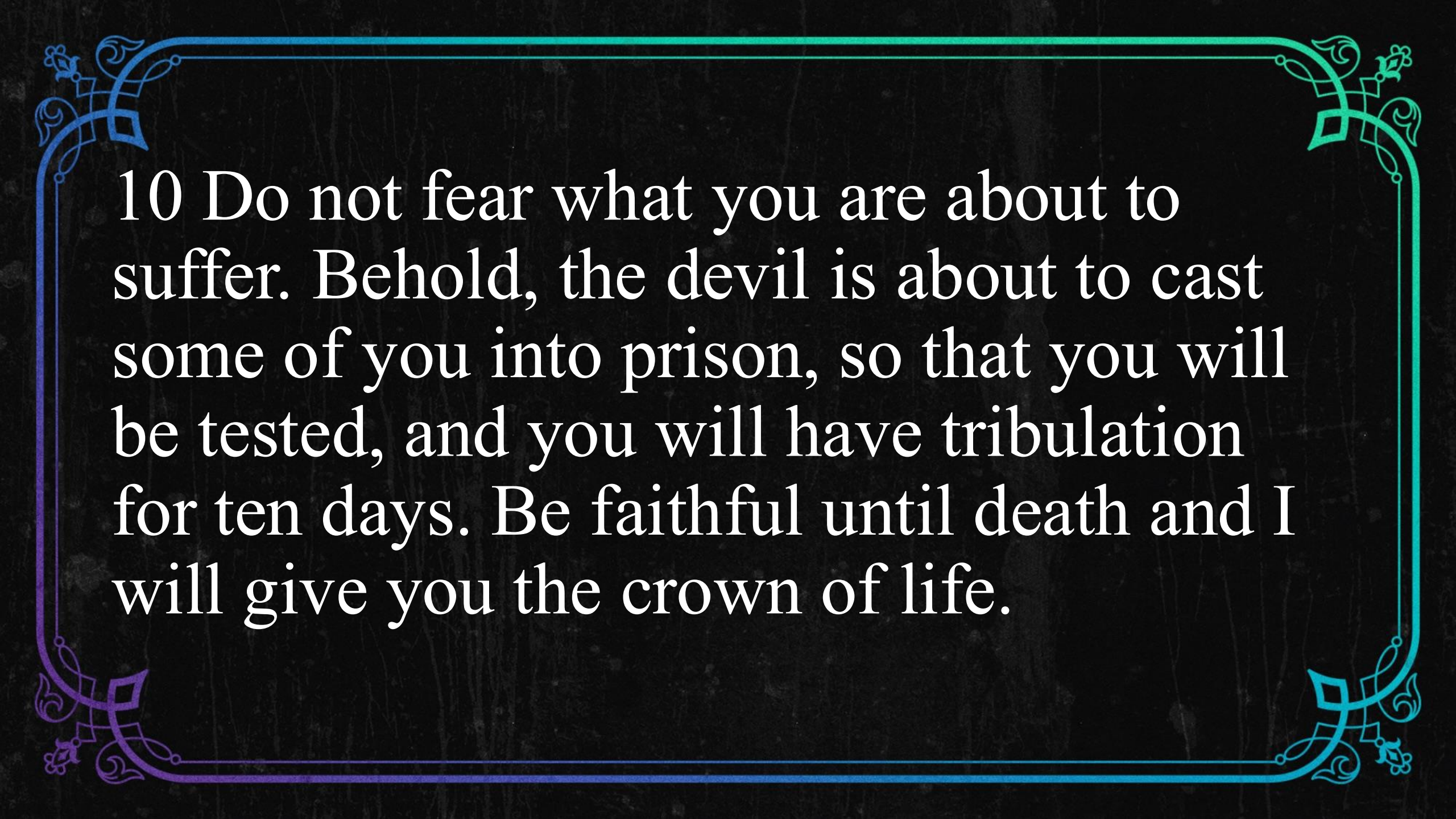


*“But thanks be to God,
who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 15:57



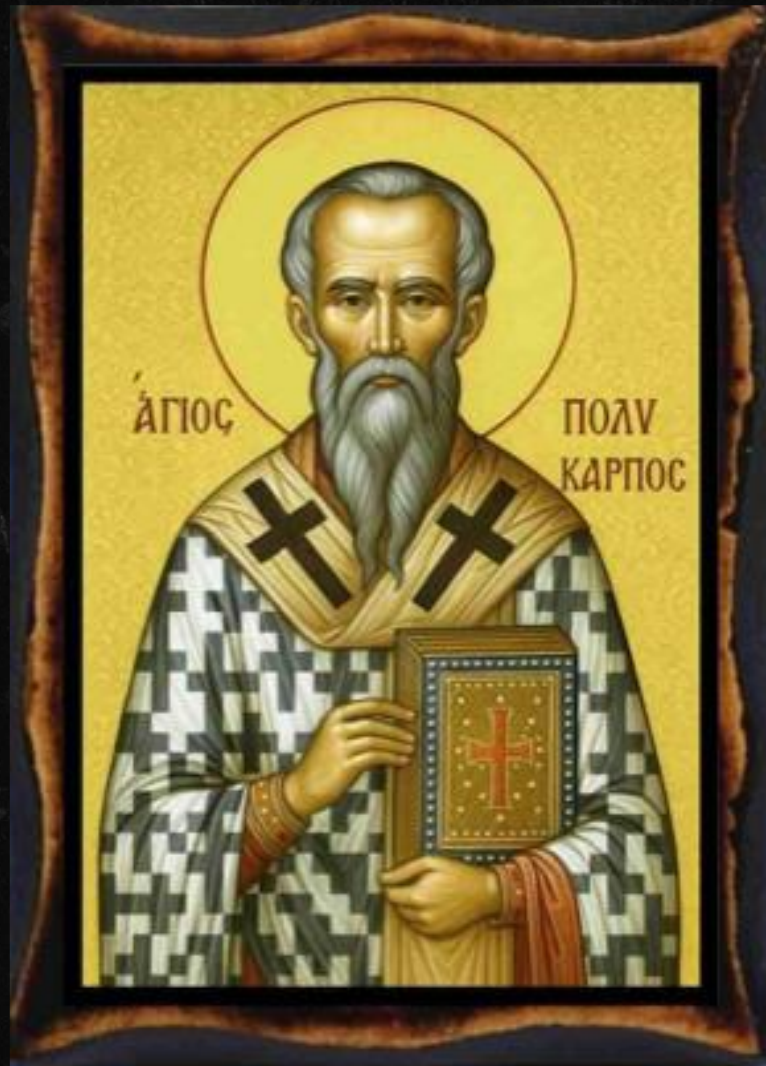
9 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan.



10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.

Commendations 9,10

- “I know your tribulations” - ‘pressed’
- “your poverty” - “(but you are rich!)”
- “the blasphemy” - “He came to His own...”
- “what you are about to suffer” - πάσχω
 - prison and death!

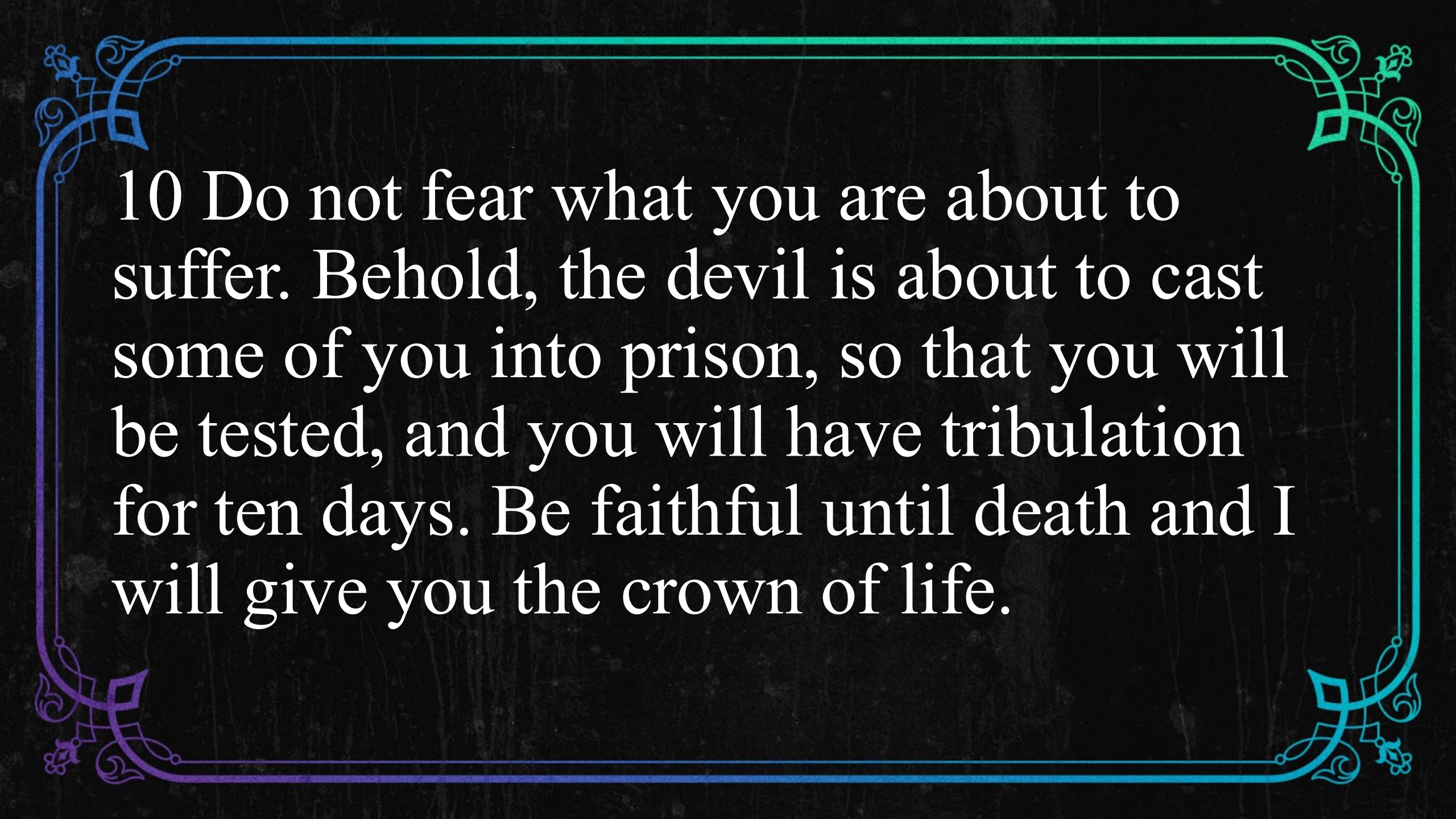


Polycarp 70-156

"Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any injury. How can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?"

"You threaten with fire which burns for a season and after a little while is quenched; for you are ignorant of the fire of everlasting punishment and that which is prepared for the wicked"

Bishop of Smyrna



10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.

Consequences 10

- ‘Crown of life’
- Crowns of the believer – Bema Seat
- What is a crown?

You know that many runners enter a race, and only one of them wins the prize. So run to win! Athletes work hard to win a crown that cannot last, but we do it for a crown that will last forever. I don't run without a goal. And I don't box by beating my fists in the air. I keep my body under control and make it my slave, so I won't lose out after telling the good news to others. **1Cor 9:24-27**

**In the Bible, a crown
(*stephanos*) generally
represents a victor's wreath
or a reward, while a diadem
(*diadema*) specifically
represents royal authority,
sovereignty, and kingship.**

διάδημα



στέφανος

Five Heavenly Crowns for Believers

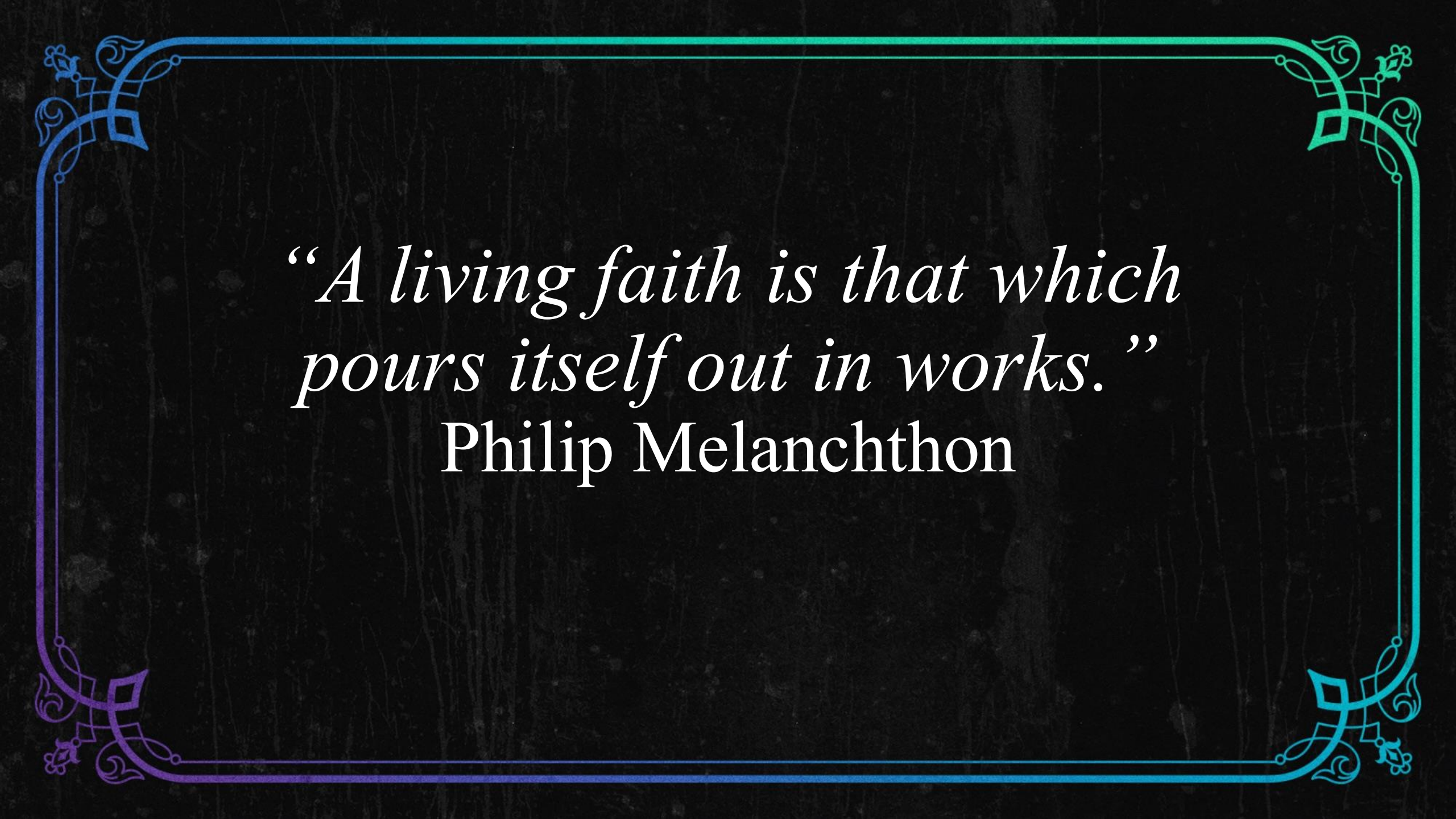
The Crown of Life (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10)

The Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)

The Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4)

The Imperishable Crown (1 Corinthians 9:25)

The Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)



*“A living faith is that which
pours itself out in works.”*

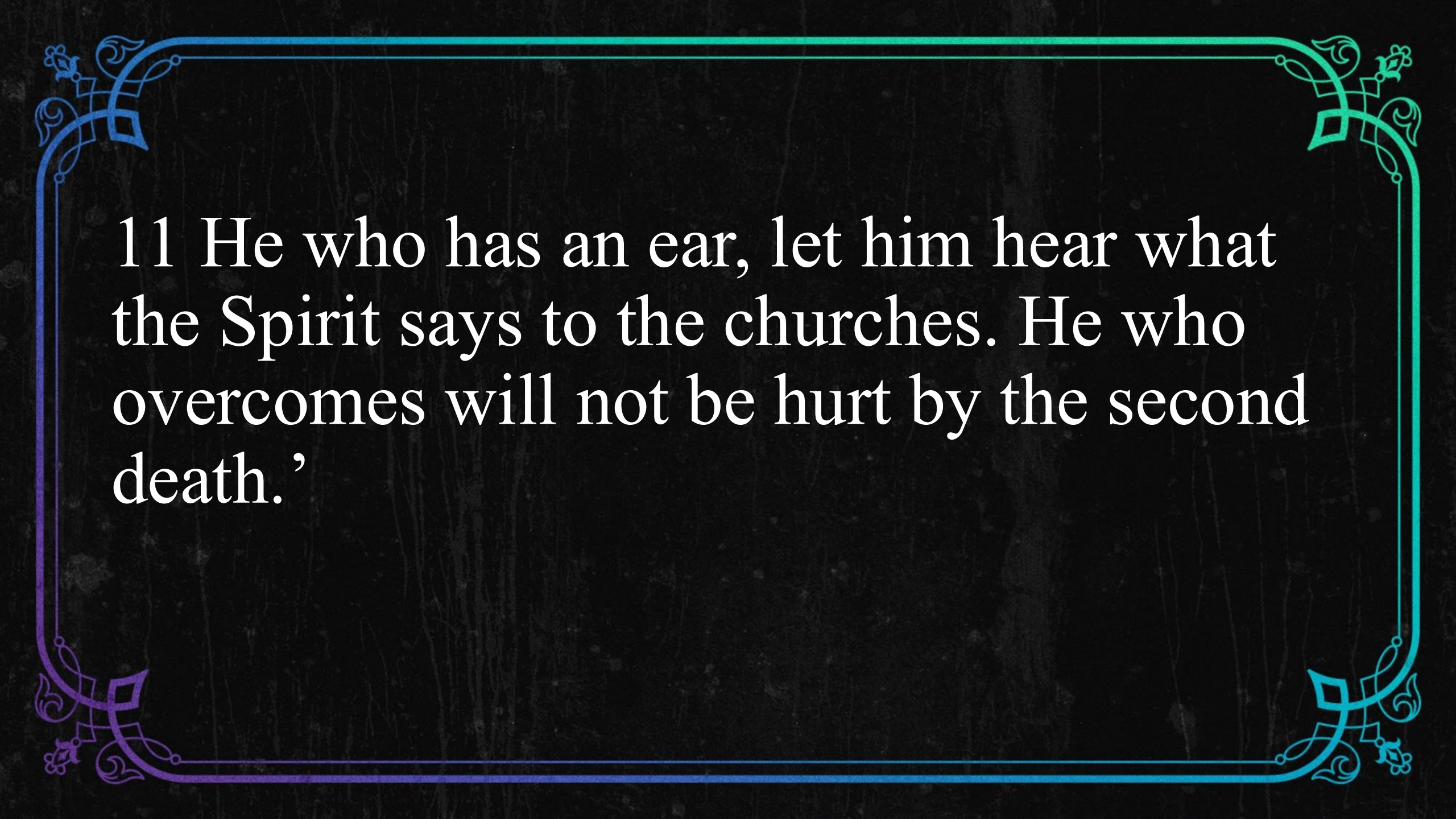
Philip Melancthon



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Criticisms

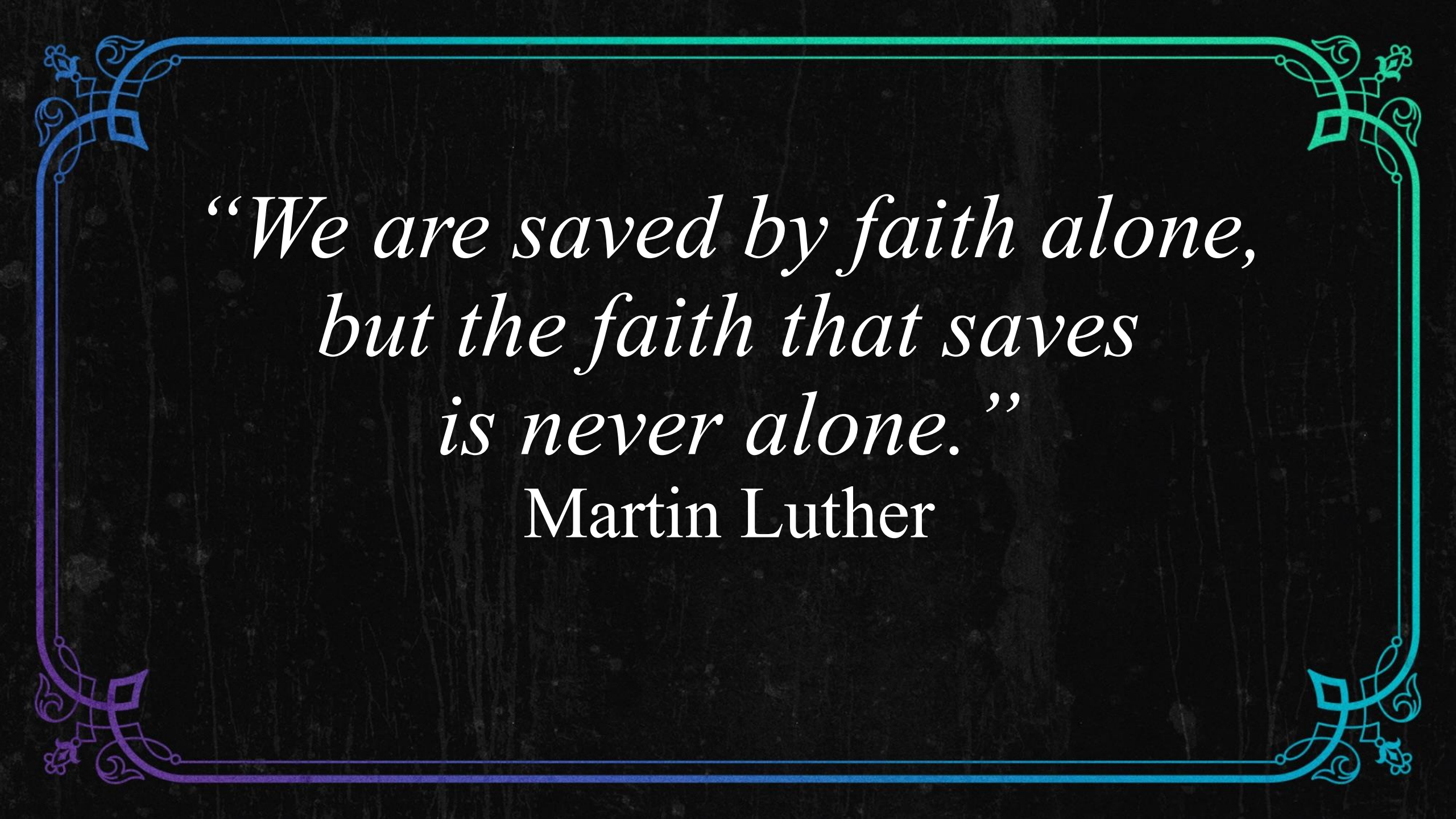
- Perfect Church?
- Faithful in the present
- Ready for the future!



11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'

Cure 11

- They may kill you but only once!
- Do not fear the 2nd Death (Isa 59:2)
- "Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**, the lake of fire." Revelation 20:14



*“We are saved by faith alone,
but the faith that saves
is never alone.”*

Martin Luther



*“True victory is between
submission and preparation”*

condition vs circumstance



REVELATION

WHAT WAS, WHAT IS, AND WHAT IS TO COME.

