



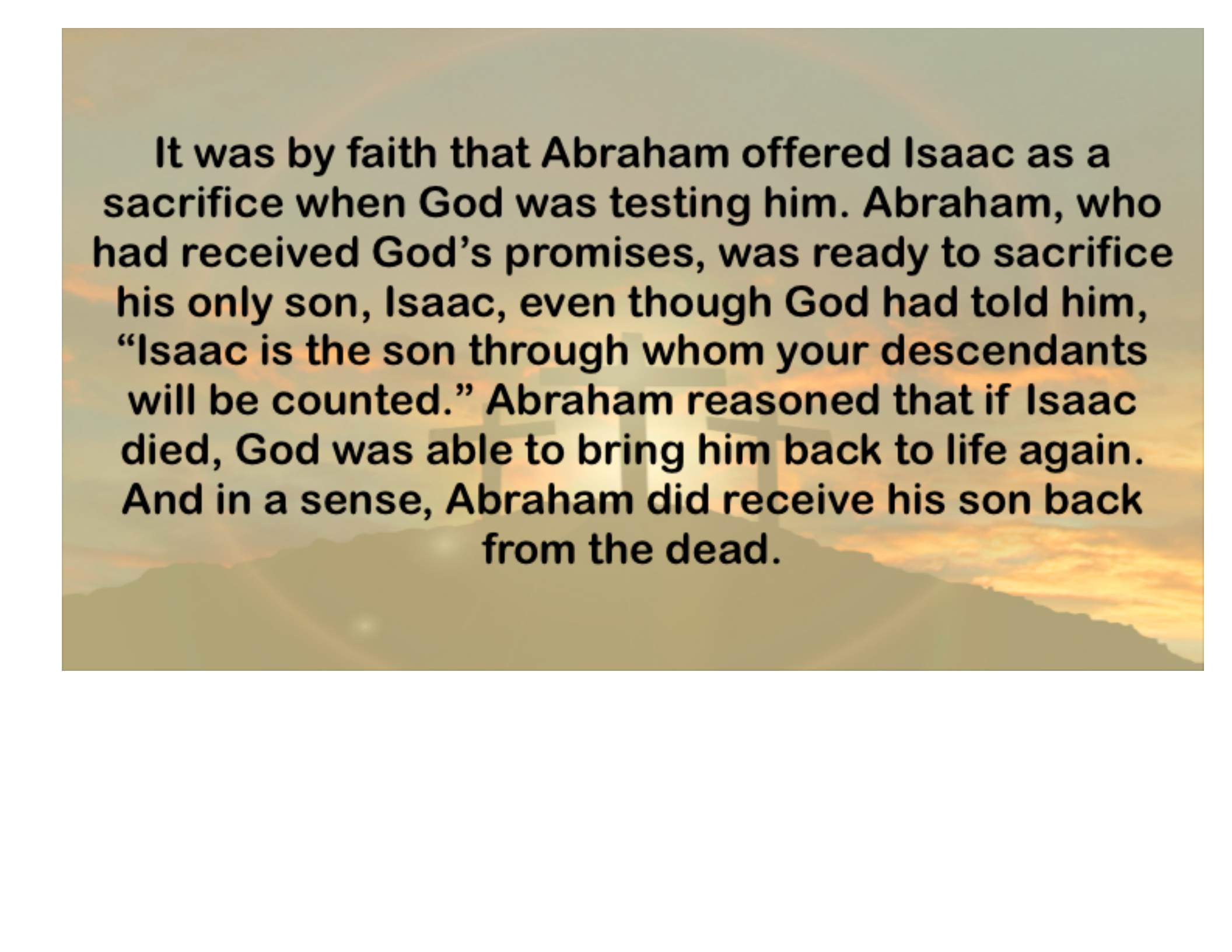
HIS
STORY

OUR HOPE

The background is a stylized illustration. On the left, three wooden crosses of varying heights stand on a rounded hill. The sky is a gradient of warm colors, from yellow and orange near the horizon to deep red and purple at the top. In the foreground, dark blue water is shown with a large, dark blue drop falling into it, creating ripples. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Looking to Jesus

Part 38
No Greater Love

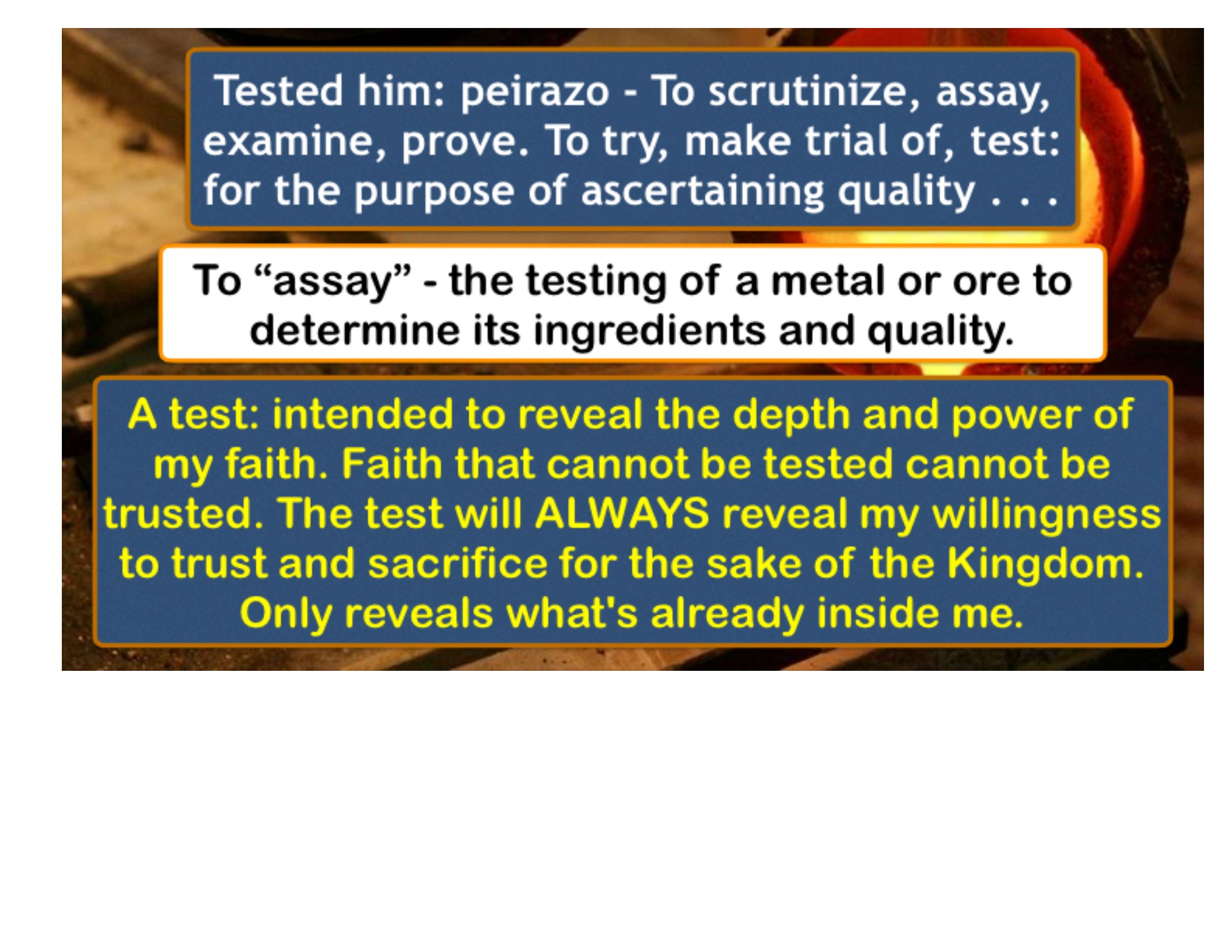


It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.

God provided a substitute - a “type” of Christ’s sacrifice. The final standard of faith, its real proof, is willingness to sacrifice.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”

Matthew 16:24, 25



Tested him: peirazo - To scrutinize, assay, examine, prove. To try, make trial of, test: for the purpose of ascertaining quality . . .

To “assay” - the testing of a metal or ore to determine its ingredients and quality.

A test: intended to reveal the depth and power of my faith. Faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted. The test will ALWAYS reveal my willingness to trust and sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom. Only reveals what's already inside me.

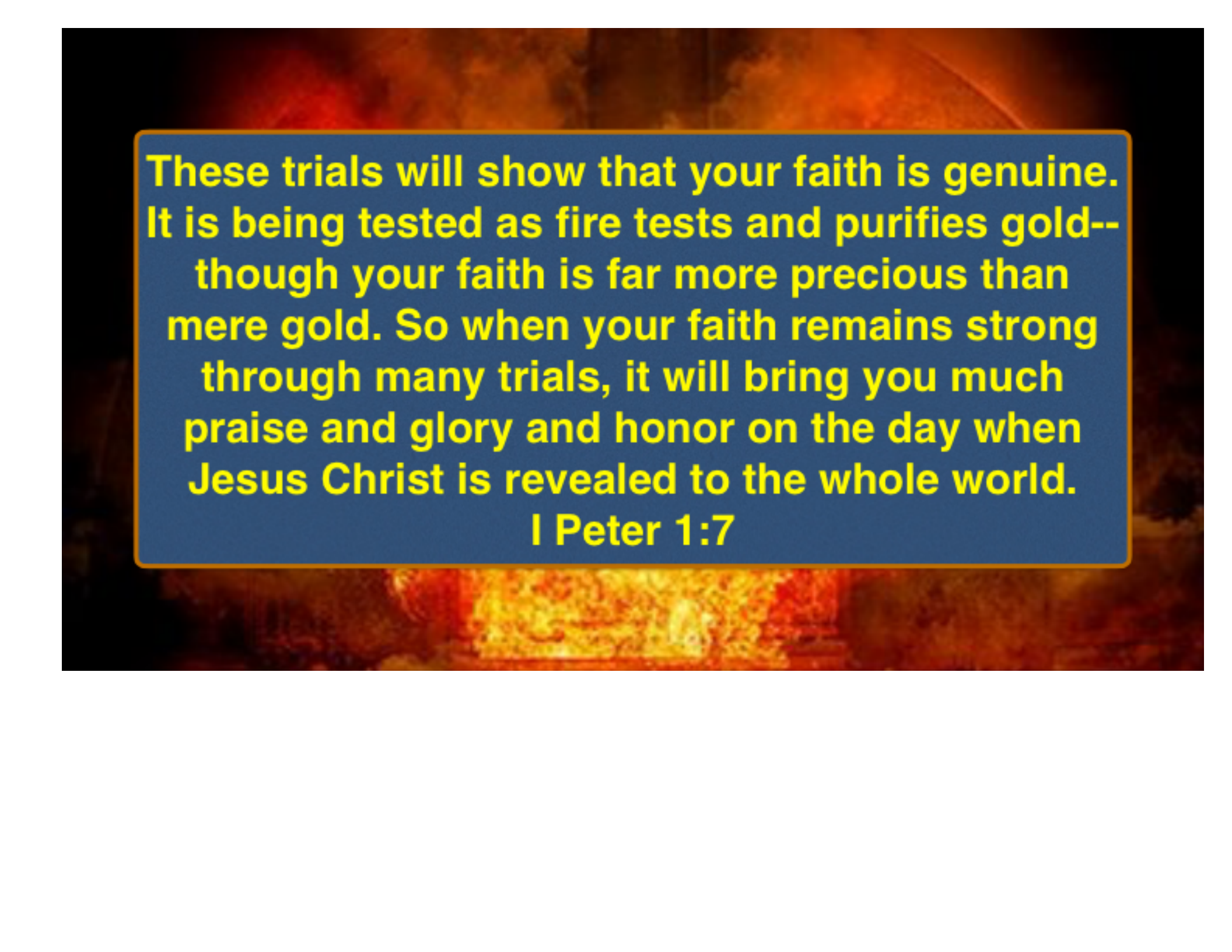
Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God.

James 2:21-23



"But even if He doesn't" faith.

Daniel 3:16-18



These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold-- though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

1 Peter 1:7