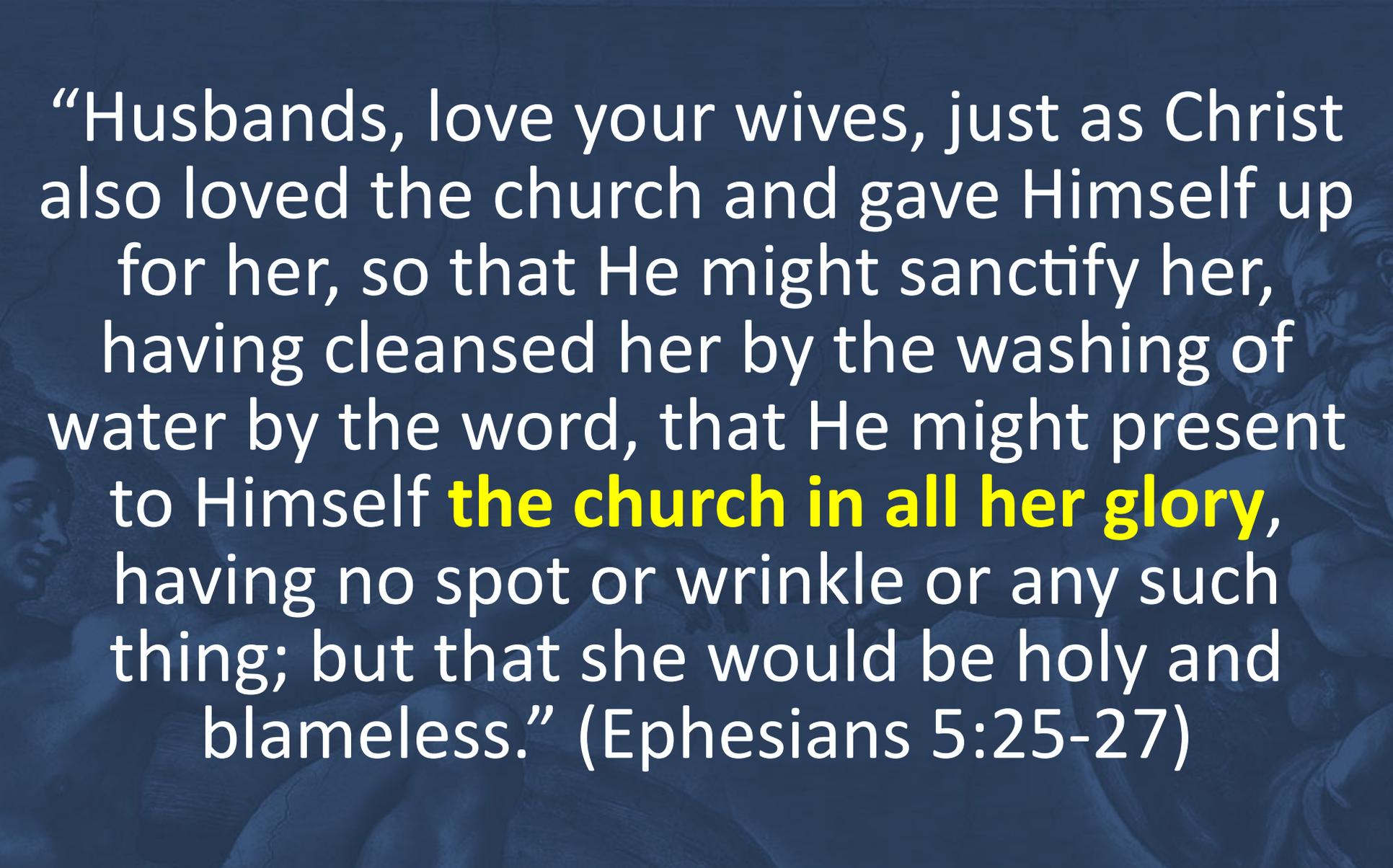


Going Out of the Temple

*Loving God by Being the Church
in All Her Glory!*

 **The Keystone Project**

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“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water by the word, that He might present to Himself **the church in all her glory**, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.” (Ephesians 5:25-27)

What is the Church?





Real Church Sign (Services and Times)

- Classic Service 8AM
- Contemporary 9AM
- Mid Century Modern 10AM
- Post Modern 11AM
- Boomer Service Noon
- Millennials 1PM
- Blended Service 2P
- Happy Hour Service 4P



Real Church Sign (Services and Times)

- Boomer Service
Noon
- Millennials **1PM**
- Blended Service **2PM**
- Happy Hour Service
4PM



We found it!!

Church name:

“The Perfect Church!”



**HALF WAY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 am

The Church and the World

John 17:11-18 shows that the Church's relationship to the world is:

- **In** the World
- Not **of** the World
- Sent **to** the World

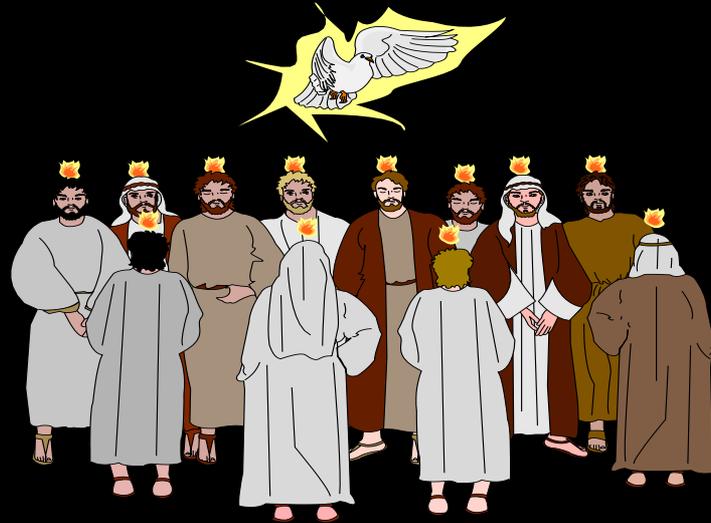
A Missionary Relationship!



In the World
Not of the World
Sent to the World

The Life of the Early Church (Acts 2:37-47)

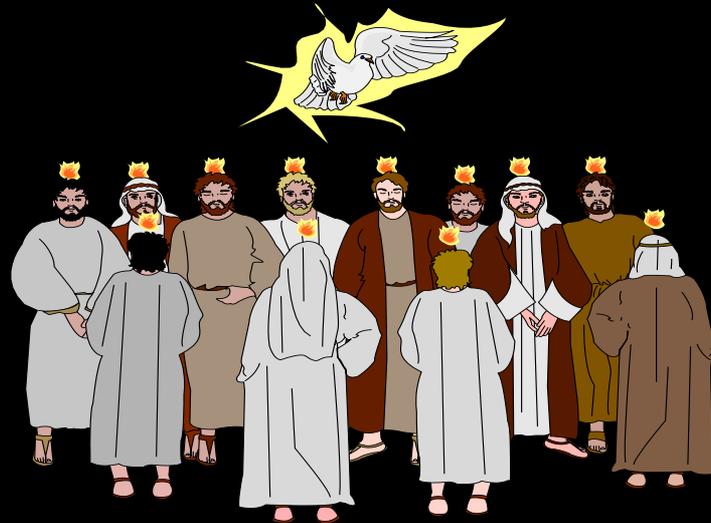
The early church was *Spirit-filled*.



The Life of the Early Church (Acts 2:37-47)

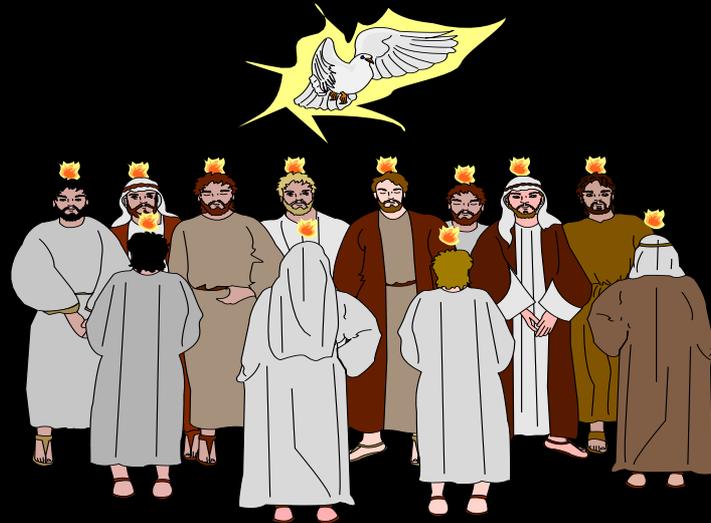
The early church was *Spirit-filled*.

The early church was *prophetic*.



The Life of the Early Church (Acts 2:37-47)

The early church was *missional*.



The Life of the Early Church (Acts 2:37-47)

The early church was *missional*.

The early church was a *redemptive community*.



What is a Redemptive Community?

A redemptive community is a group of disciples committed to fulfilling the



redemptive purposes of God in community with one another.

What is a Redemptive Community?



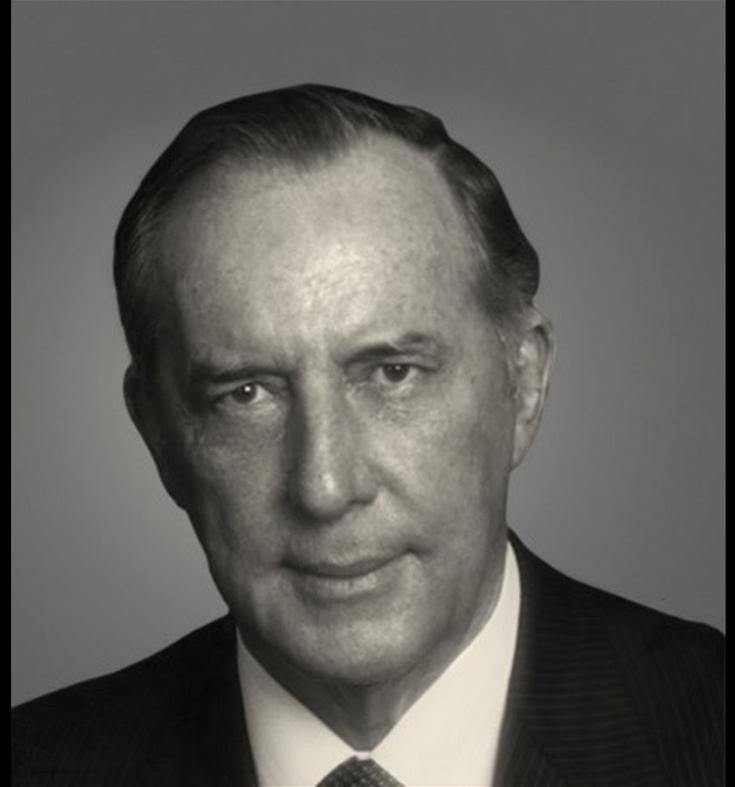
Jesus and His disciples were a redemptive community.

“My view of church history is that for about nineteen centuries men have tried to find a system that would work without the Holy Spirit and they never have come up with one.



There are plenty of people coming up with systems in our time but there is no system, no set of rules, that will work without the Holy Spirit.”

Derek Prince



Going Out of the Temple

“Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, ‘Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down’”

(Matthew 24:1-2)

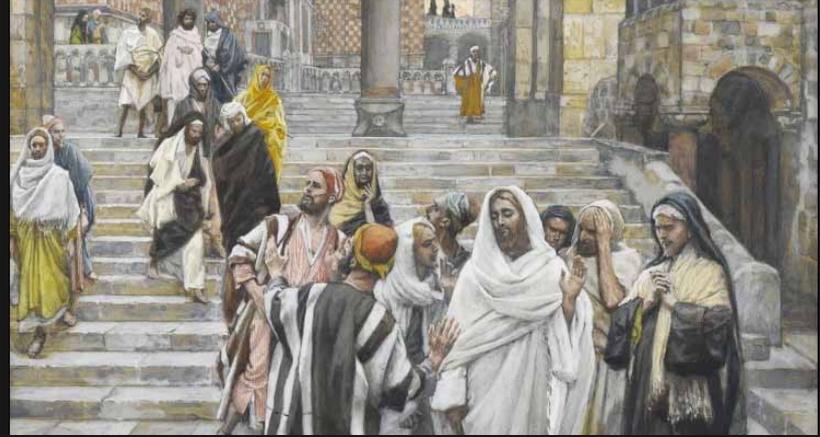
Going Out of the Temple

“As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down’”

(Mark 13:1-2)

What a sad moment for Jesus!

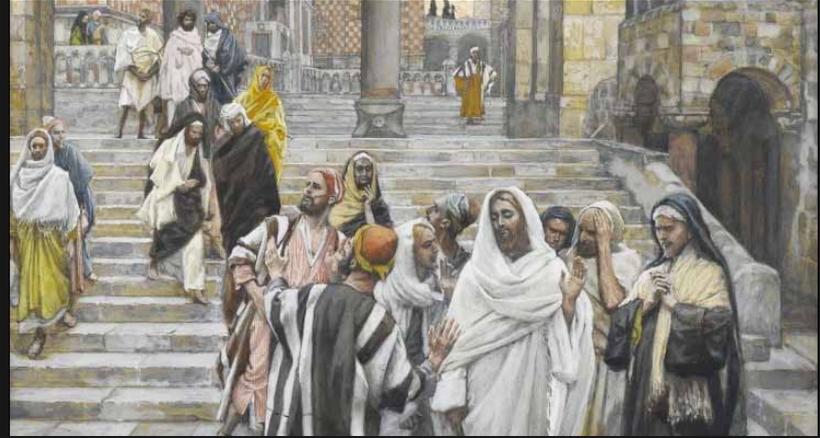
- The religious leaders and system had rejected Jesus.



“He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11)

What a sad moment for Jesus!

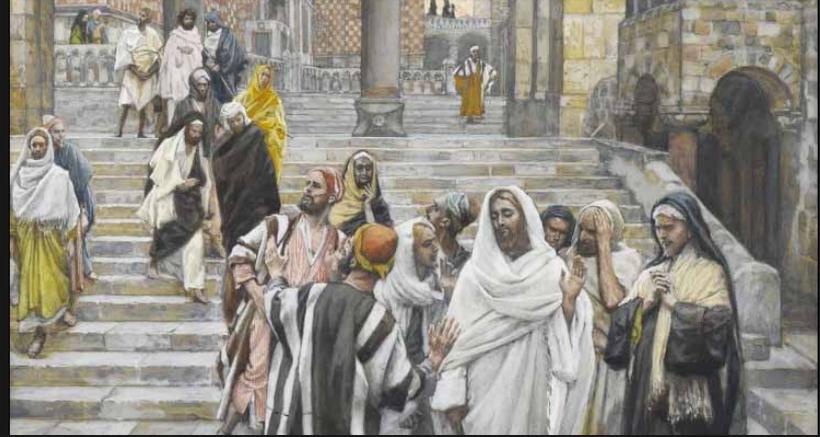
- The emphasis in the tense of the verb (“going out”) indicates that Jesus was leaving the temple never to return.



“He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11)

What a sad moment for Jesus!

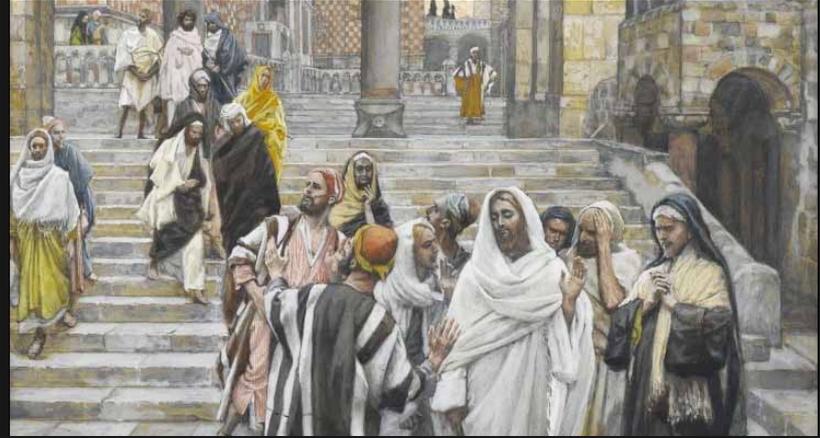
- Indeed, He never did return to it in His earthly ministry.



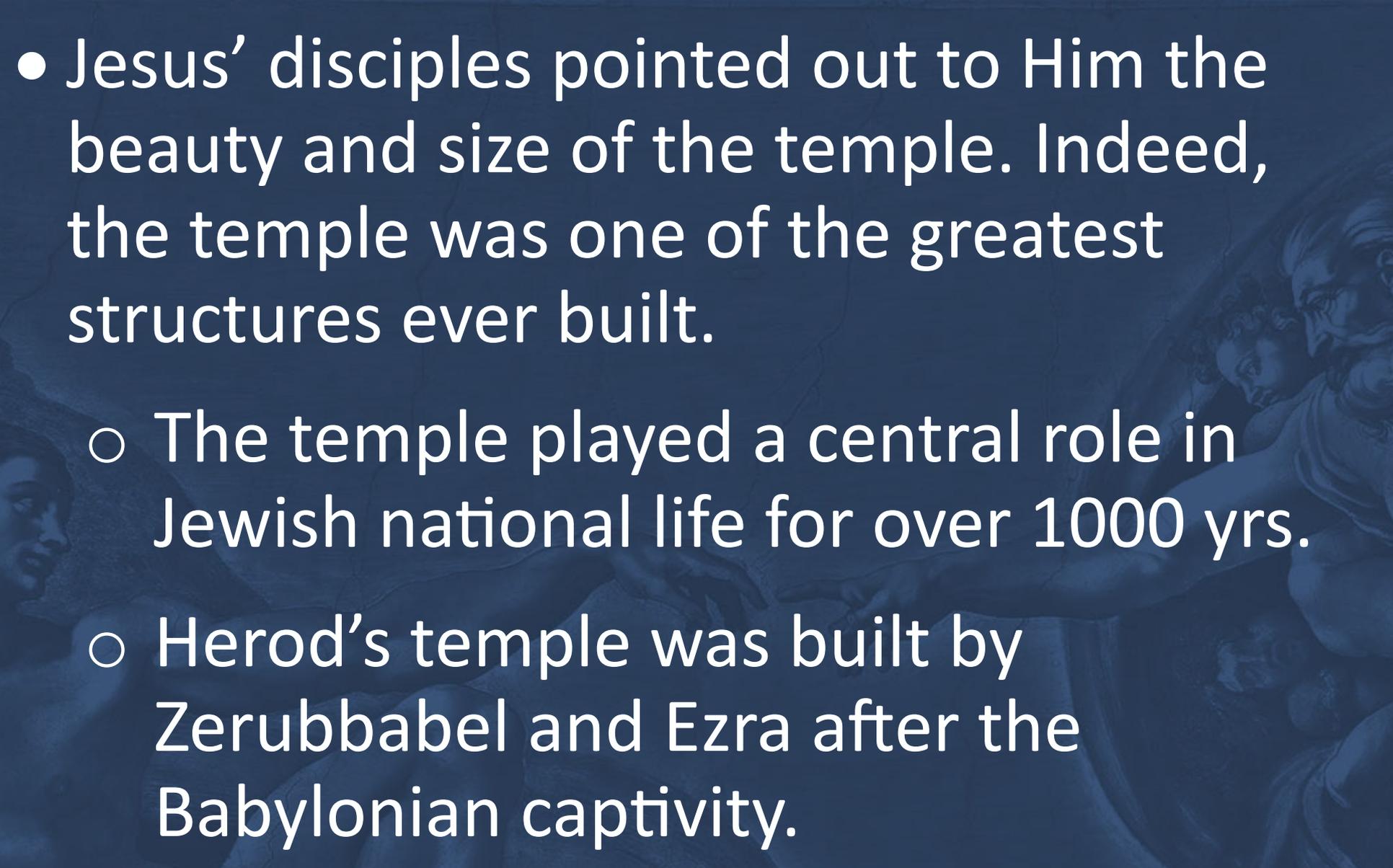
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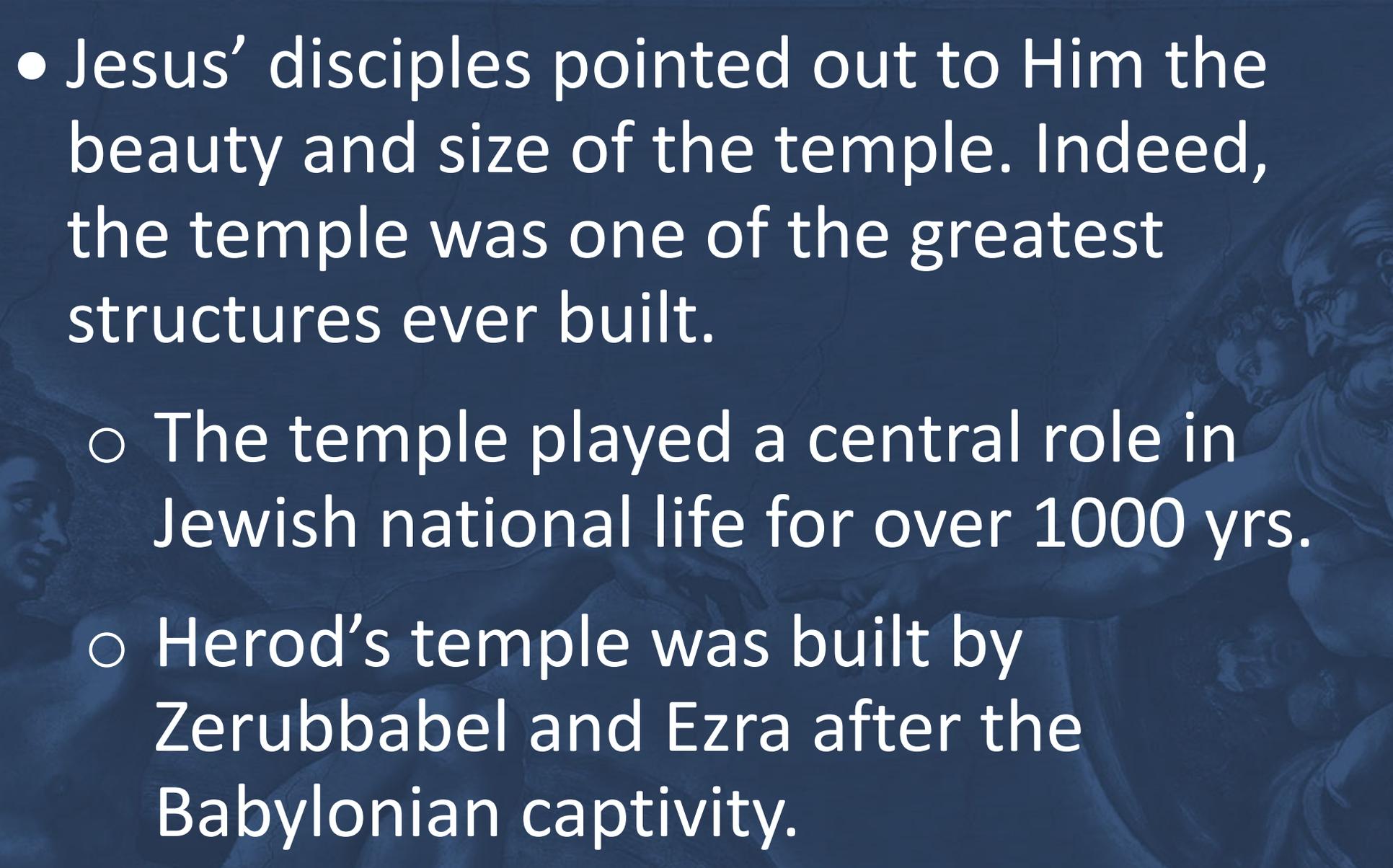
What a sad moment for Jesus!

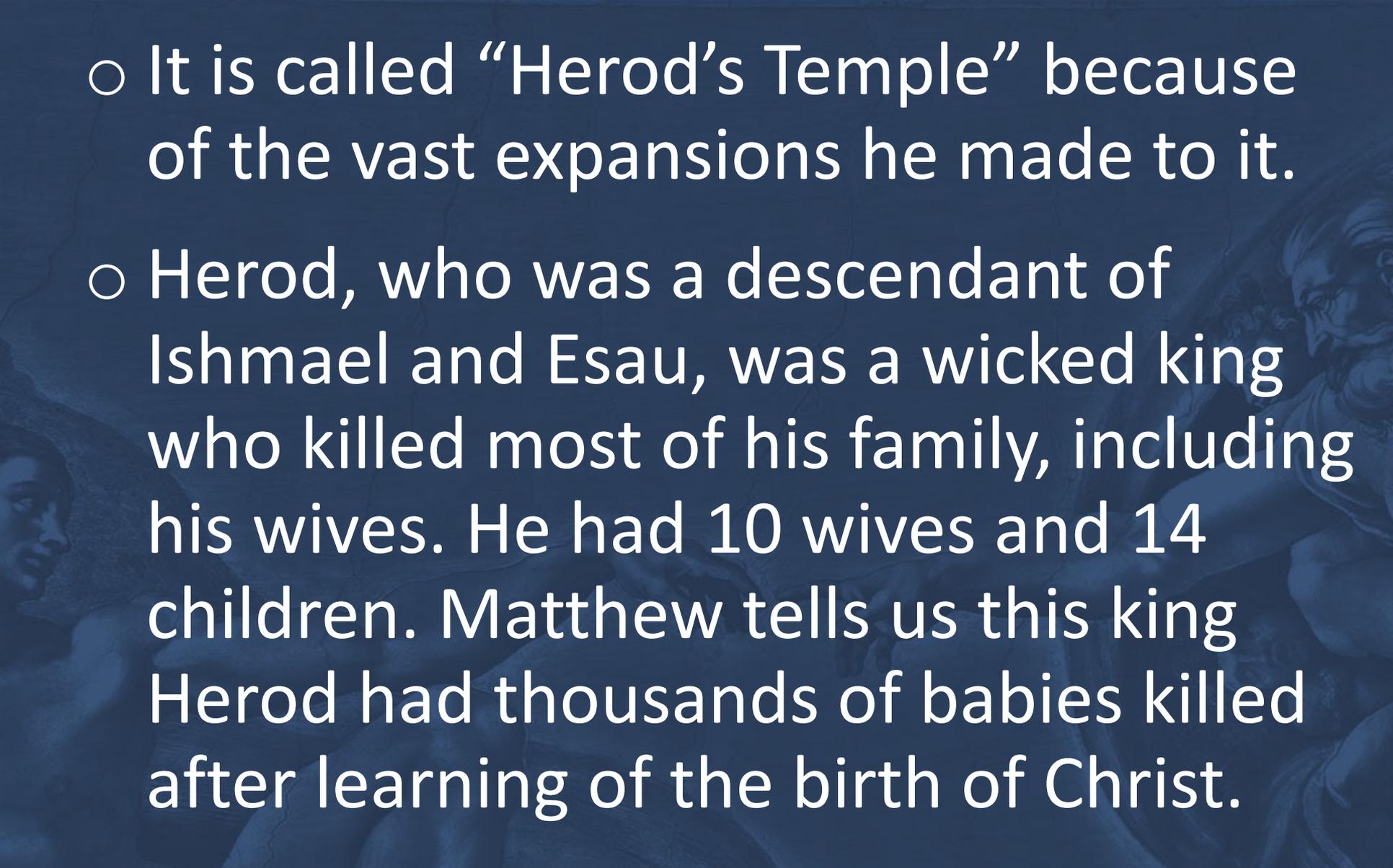
- In walking away from the temple, Jesus was leaving the Jews to the judgment of their rejection of Him.

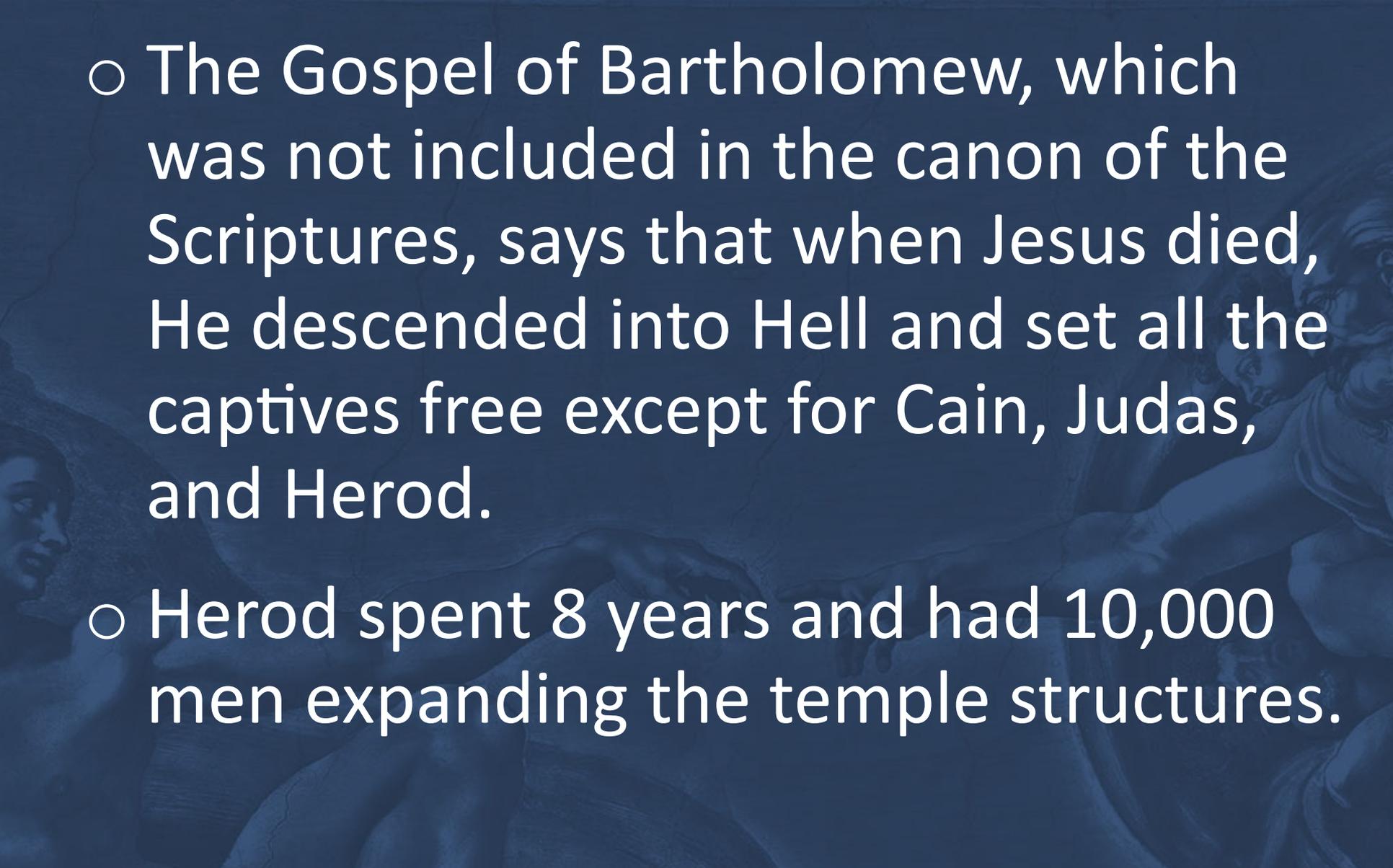


“He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11)

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- Jesus' disciples pointed out to Him the beauty and size of the temple. Indeed, the temple was one of the greatest structures ever built.
 - The temple played a central role in Jewish national life for over 1000 yrs.
 - Herod's temple was built by Zerubbabel and Ezra after the Babylonian captivity.

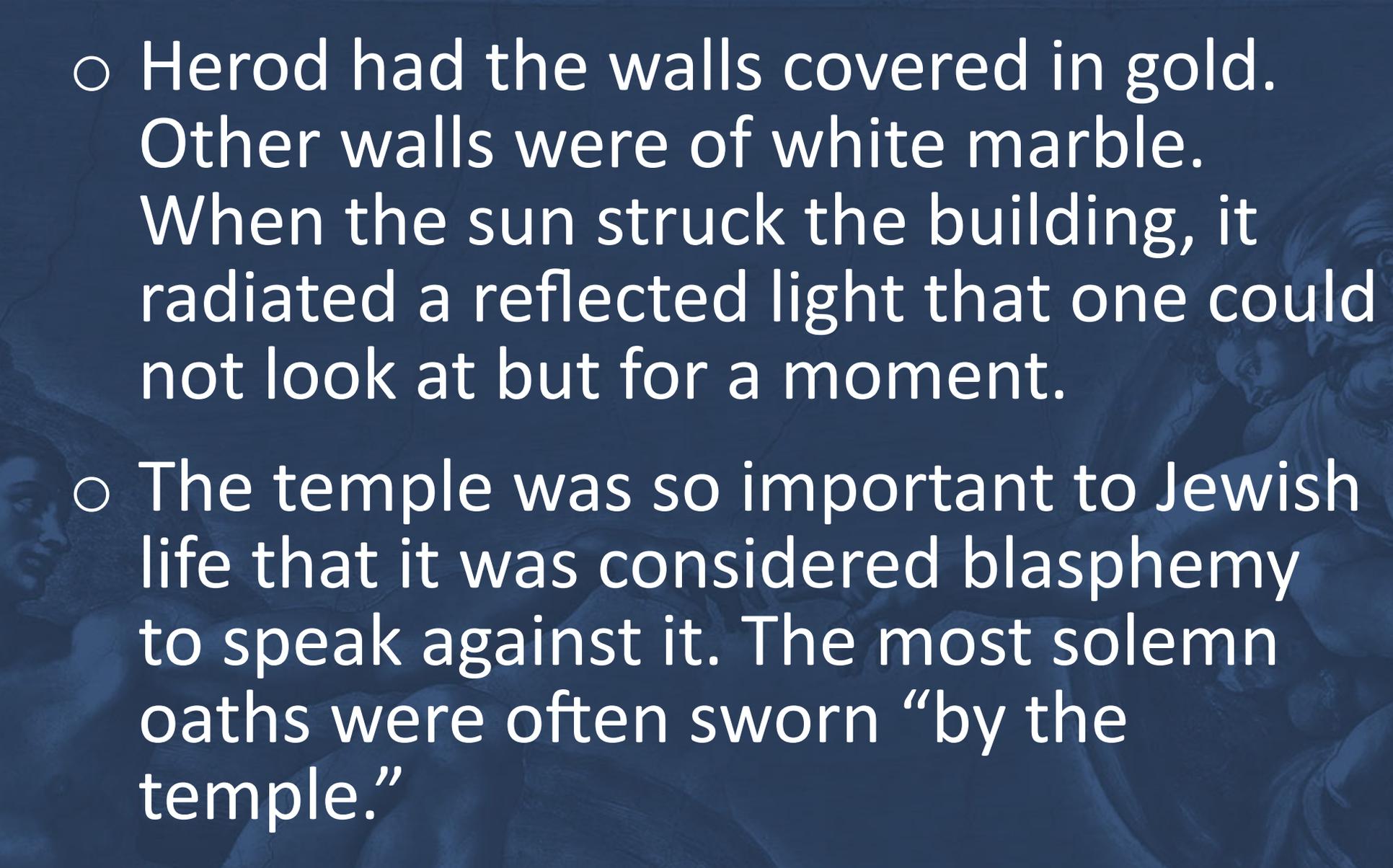
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- It is called “Herod’s Temple” because of the vast expansions he made to it.
 - Herod, who was a descendant of Ishmael and Esau, was a wicked king who killed most of his family, including his wives. He had 10 wives and 14 children. Matthew tells us this king Herod had thousands of babies killed after learning of the birth of Christ.

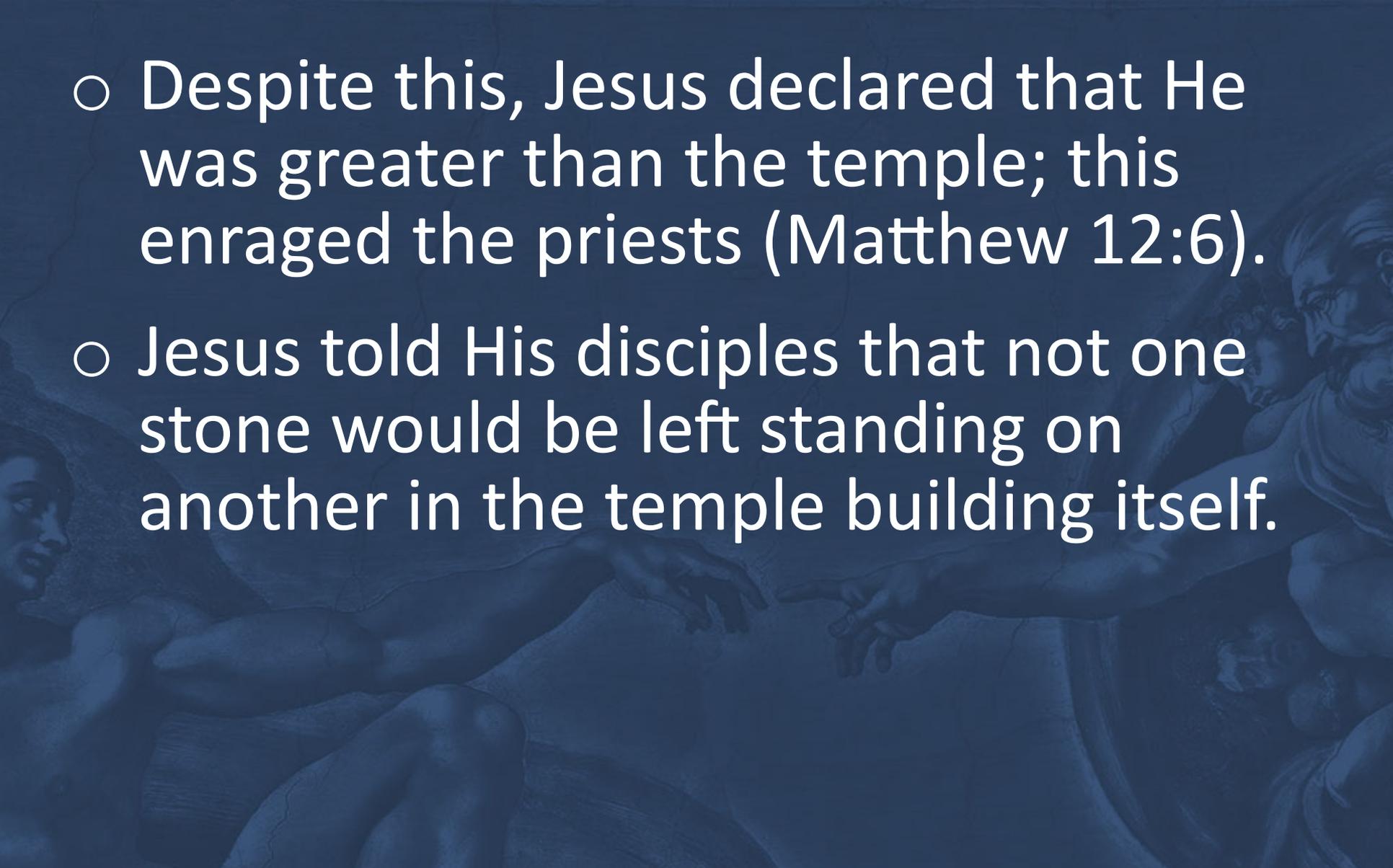
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- The Gospel of Bartholomew, which was not included in the canon of the Scriptures, says that when Jesus died, He descended into Hell and set all the captives free except for Cain, Judas, and Herod.
 - Herod spent 8 years and had 10,000 men expanding the temple structures.

- He began his work in 19BC and it was not completed until 63AD, many years after Herod's death.
- The temple was huge – 500 yards long and 400 yards wide on 35 acres. Some of the stones in it were 50 feet wide, 25 feet high, and 15 feet deep.
- The walls were more than 9 stories high.



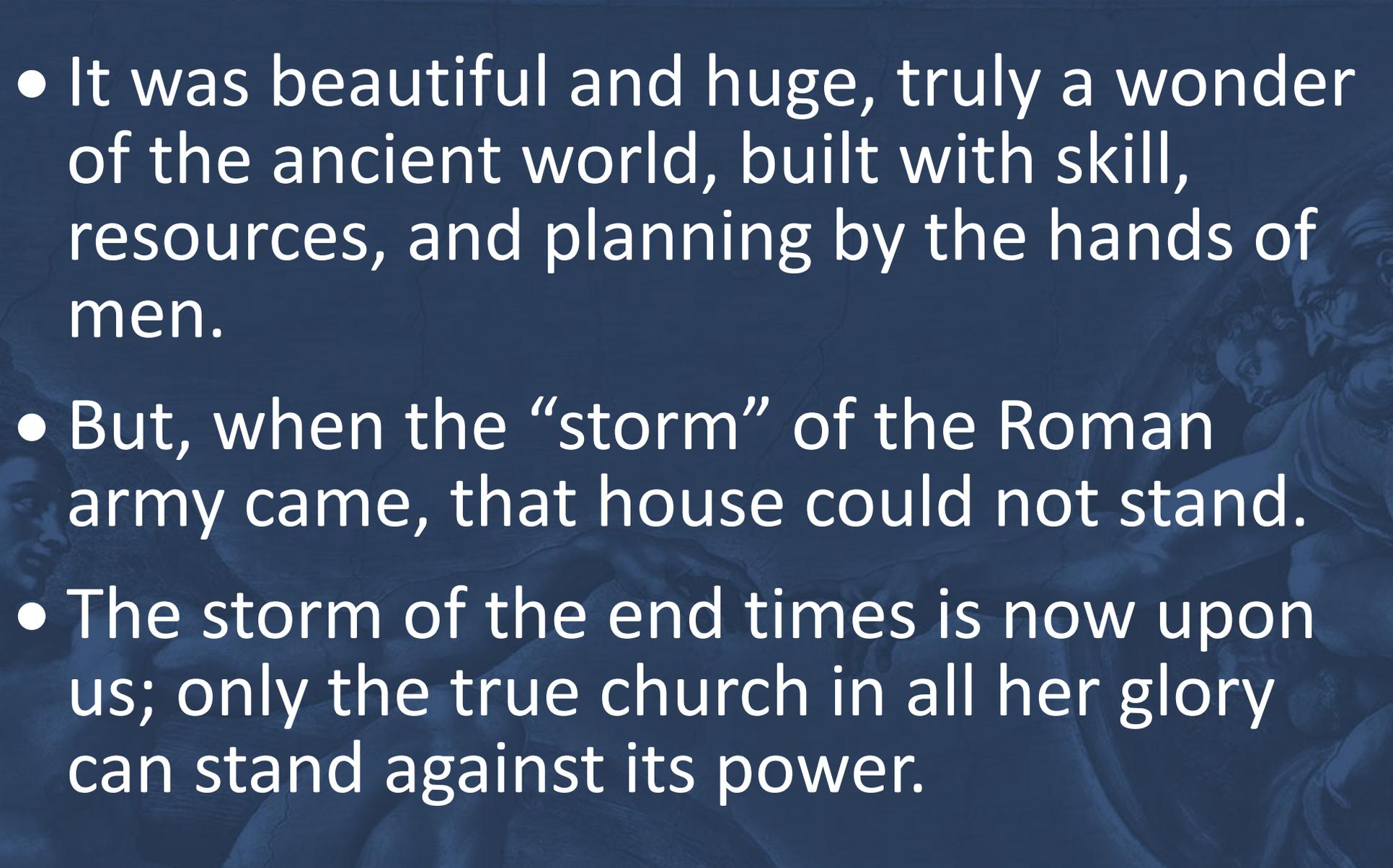
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- Herod had the walls covered in gold. Other walls were of white marble. When the sun struck the building, it radiated a reflected light that one could not look at but for a moment.
 - The temple was so important to Jewish life that it was considered blasphemy to speak against it. The most solemn oaths were often sworn “by the temple.”

- Despite this, Jesus declared that He was greater than the temple; this enraged the priests (Matthew 12:6).
- Jesus told His disciples that not one stone would be left standing on another in the temple building itself.



- To stop a Jewish rebellion against Rome, the Roman army led by Titus laid siege to the city of Jerusalem. The inhabitants of the city fled into the temple. The enraged Roman soldiers lit the building on fire and burned it to the ground, killing thousands. Many more were taken captive. The gold in the walls melted and the soldiers took the temple apart stone by stone to retrieve the gold.

- Here we have a sacred building, consecrated on a sacred site – the very place where Abraham offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice, dedicated to God’s glory, a place where set His name before His people and the nations, and which symbolized the Jewish people, which Jesus cleansed and called His Father’s house.

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- It was beautiful and huge, truly a wonder of the ancient world, built with skill, resources, and planning by the hands of men.
 - But, when the “storm” of the Roman army came, that house could not stand.
 - The storm of the end times is now upon us; only the true church in all her glory can stand against its power.

How can we be the church in all her glory?

- The church in all her glory is the church on the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples of all the nations.
- I am reminded that anything we build, no matter how religious, or noble, or strong, or beautiful, whether it is built in God's name or not, will fall if it is not built **on** Christ alone and **by** Christ alone!

How can we be the church in all her glory?

- I am motivated by these few words from the gospels to “walk away” from all that is not of Christ.
- I am also reminded of the words of that old hymn:
“On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.”

“And He put all things in subjection under His [Jesus’] feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:22-23)

We are the church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against us!

Let us be the church in all her glory!



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