



PART 8: The church age – Pergamum & Thyatira

THE BOOK OF **REVELATION**
A STORY OF THE LAST DAYS

2026Sep20 Dan Fisher Rev 8D ppt

The things which are –
the churches

A map of the Eastern Mediterranean region, specifically the area around the Aegean Sea, showing the locations of the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation. The map is rendered in a sepia, aged style. A light-colored line connects the seven cities in a roughly circular path. The cities are labeled with white text and a black dot indicating their location: Pergamum (top left), Thyatira (top center), Sardis (top right), Philadelphia (center), Laodicea (bottom right), Ephesus (bottom left), and Smyrna (middle left).

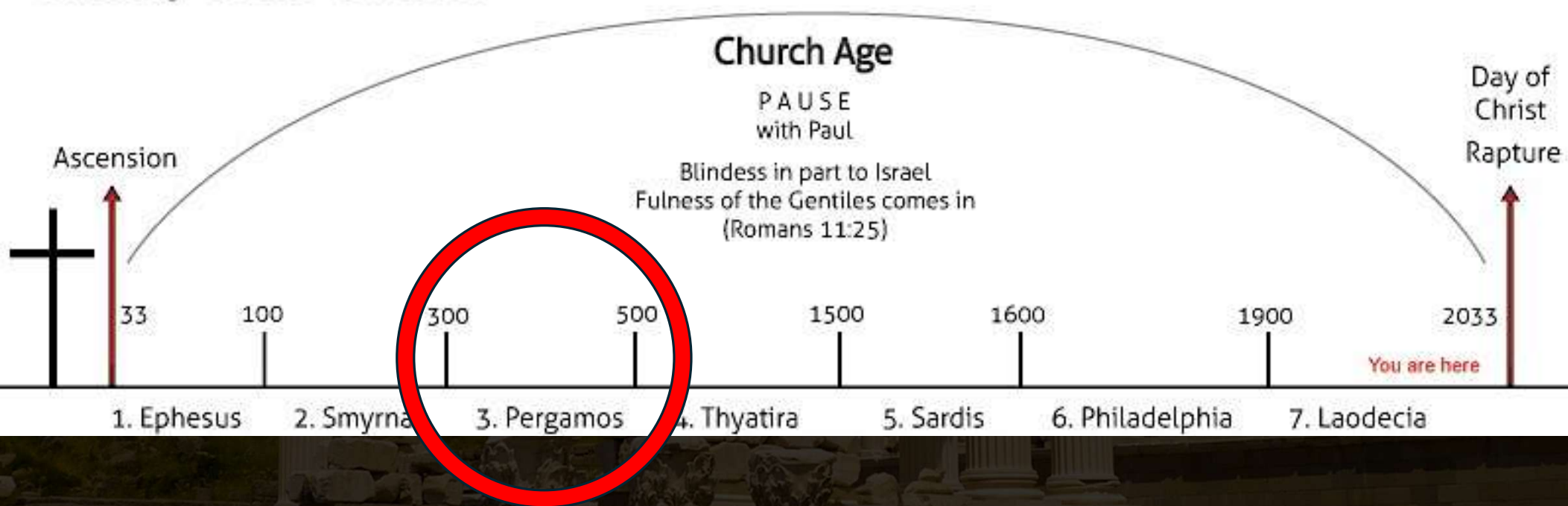
Pergamum • Thyatira • Sardis • Philadelphia • Laodicea • Ephesus • Smyrna

Message to the Seven Churches

Part 8:
Pergamum – the church
that “married” the world

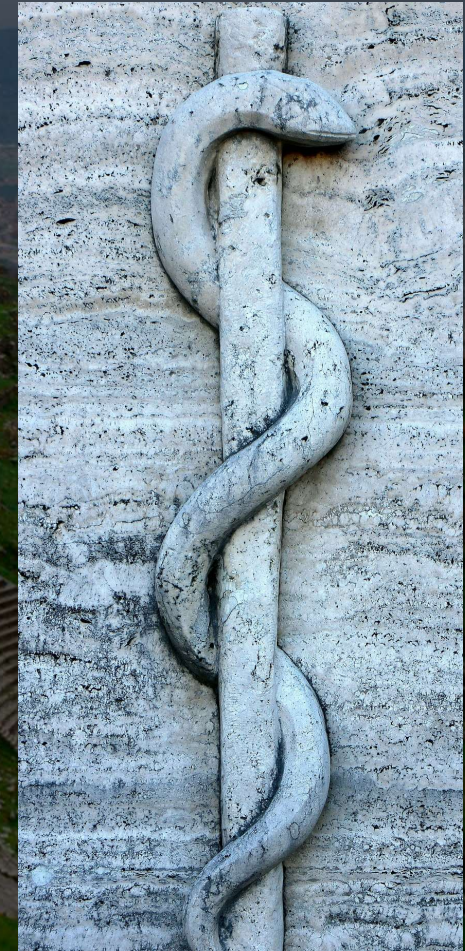


History of the Church



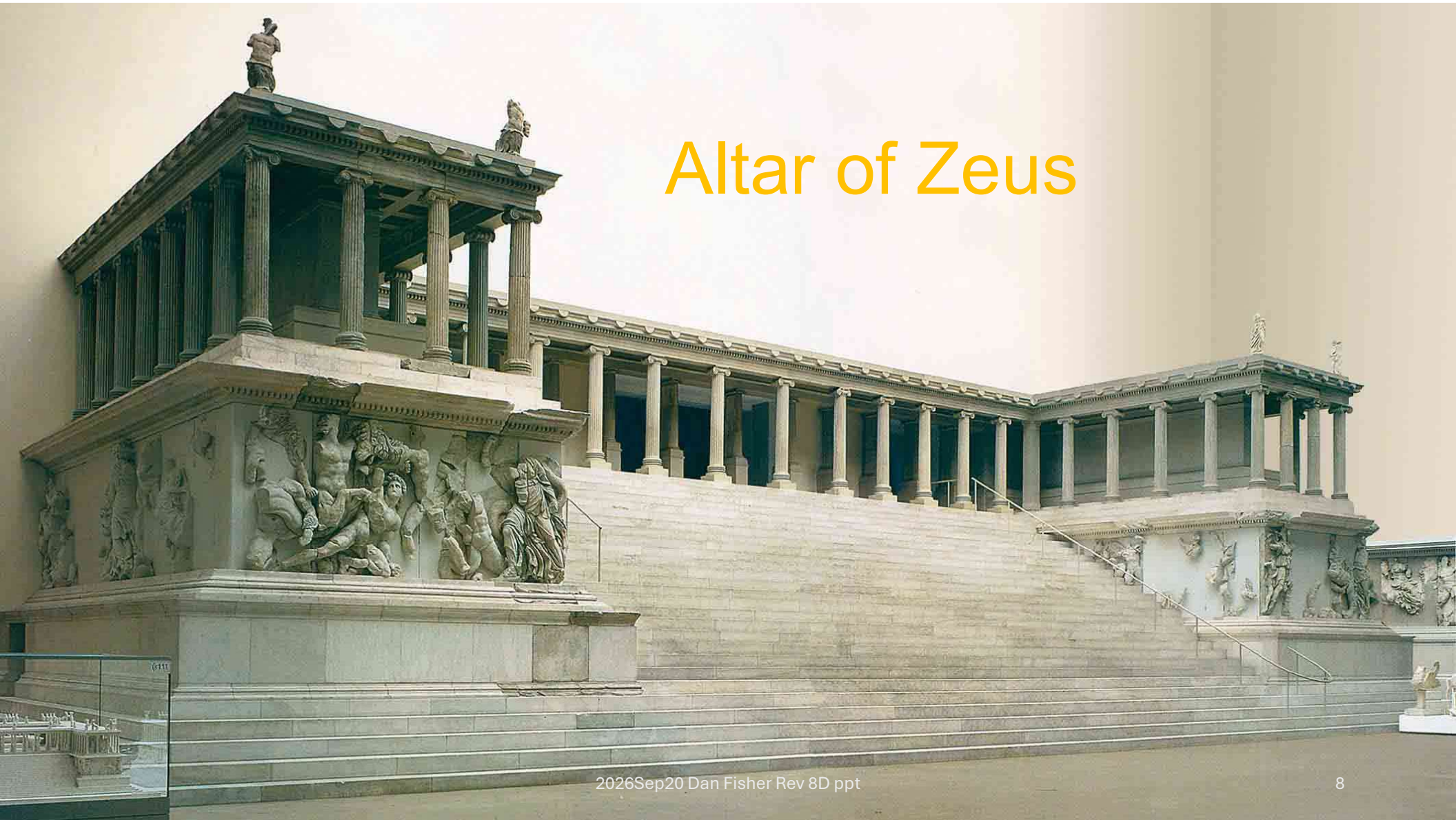
Theatre of Asklepios

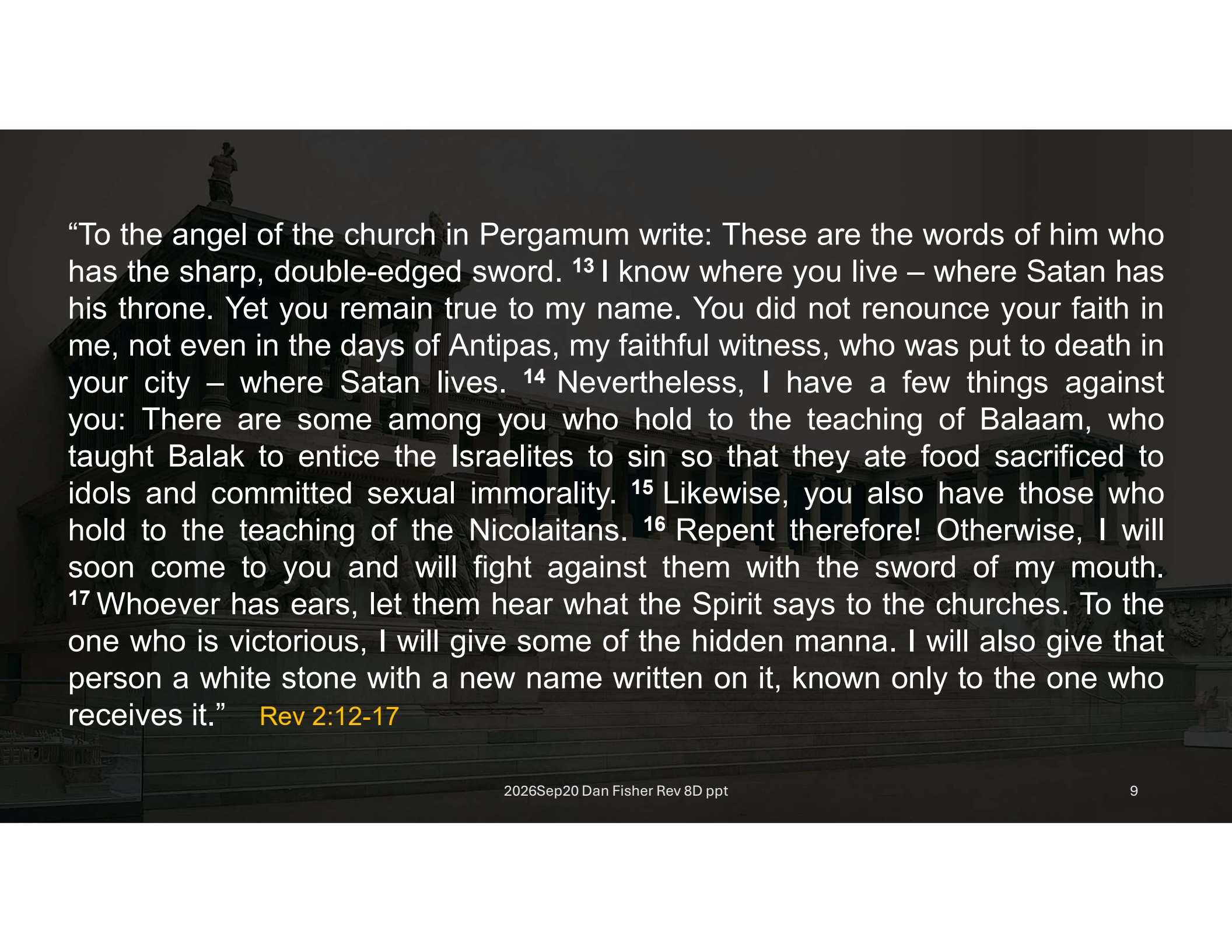




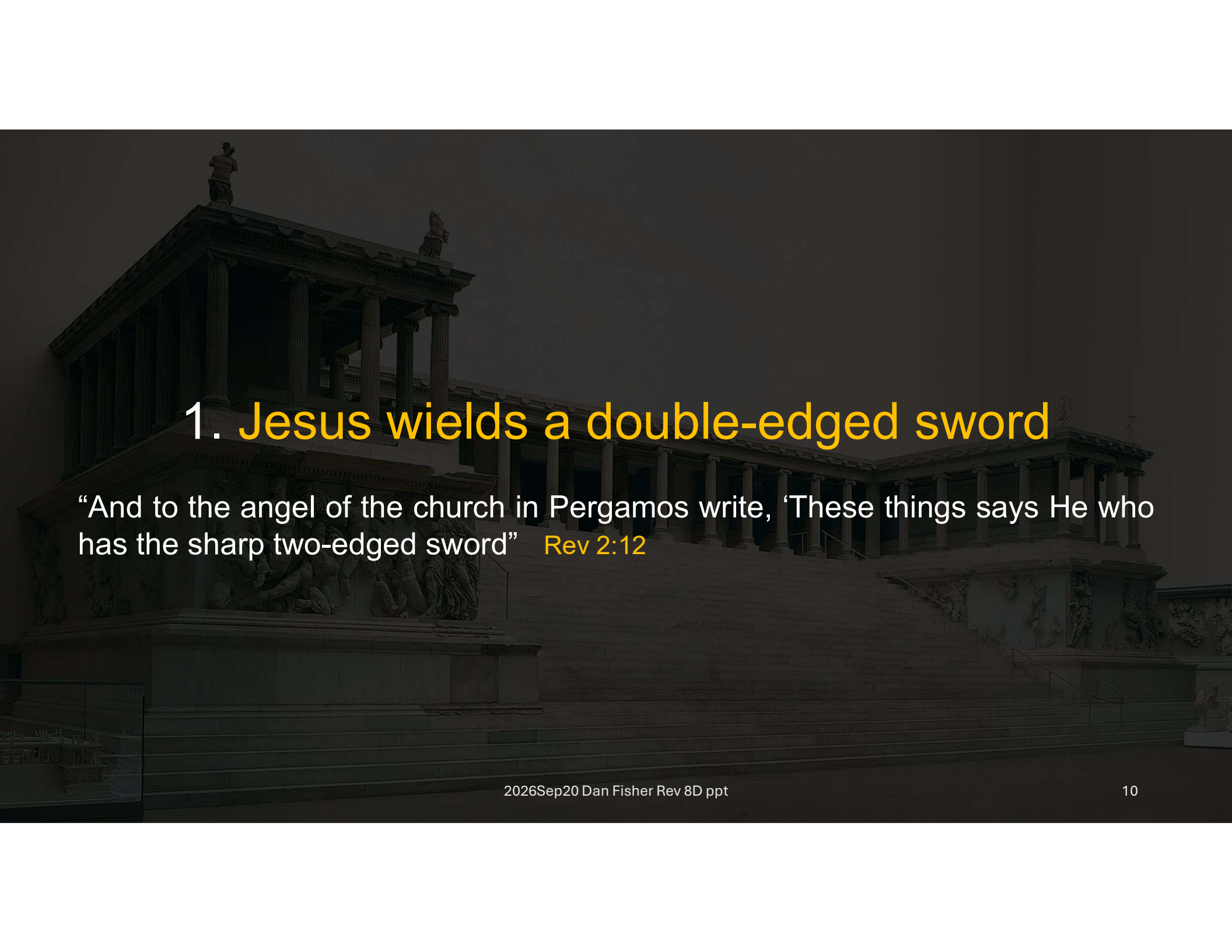


Altar of Zeus



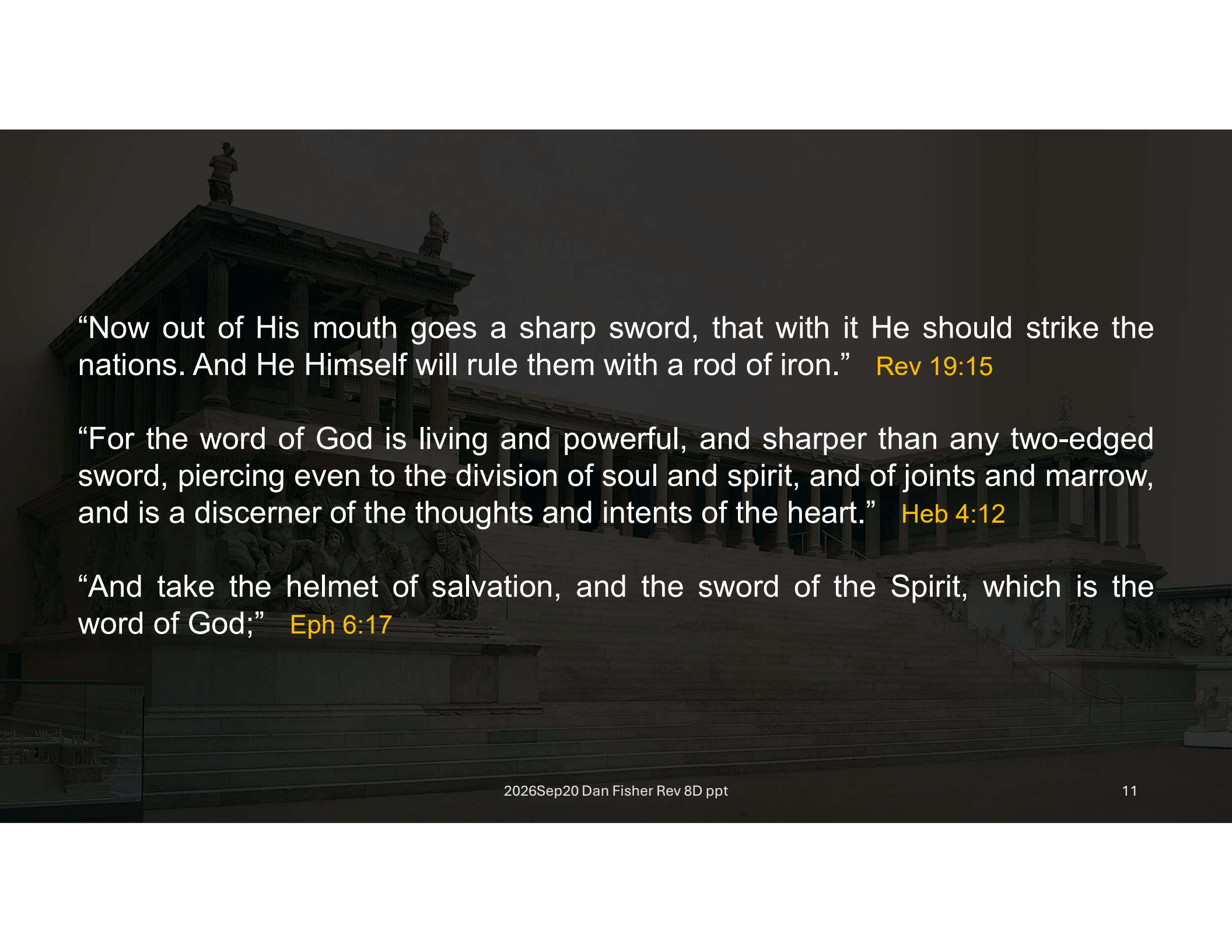


“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live – where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city – where Satan lives. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.” **Rev 2:12-17**



1. Jesus wields a double-edged sword

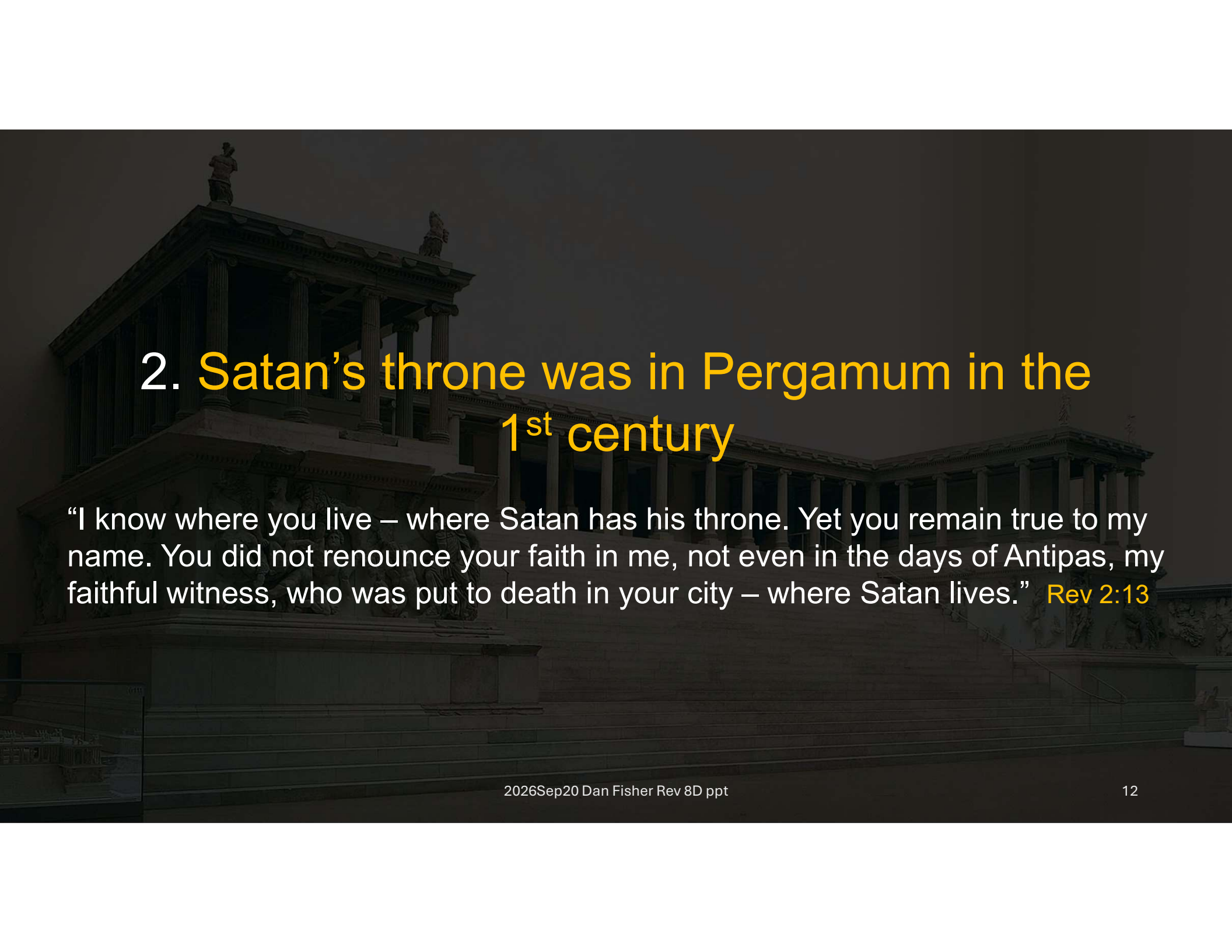
“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword’” **Rev 2:12**



“Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.” **Rev 19:15**

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **Heb 4:12**

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;” **Eph 6:17**



2. Satan's throne was in Pergamum in the 1st century

“I know where you live – where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city – where Satan lives.” **Rev 2:13**

- Satan has an earthly throne?

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;” **Is 14:13**

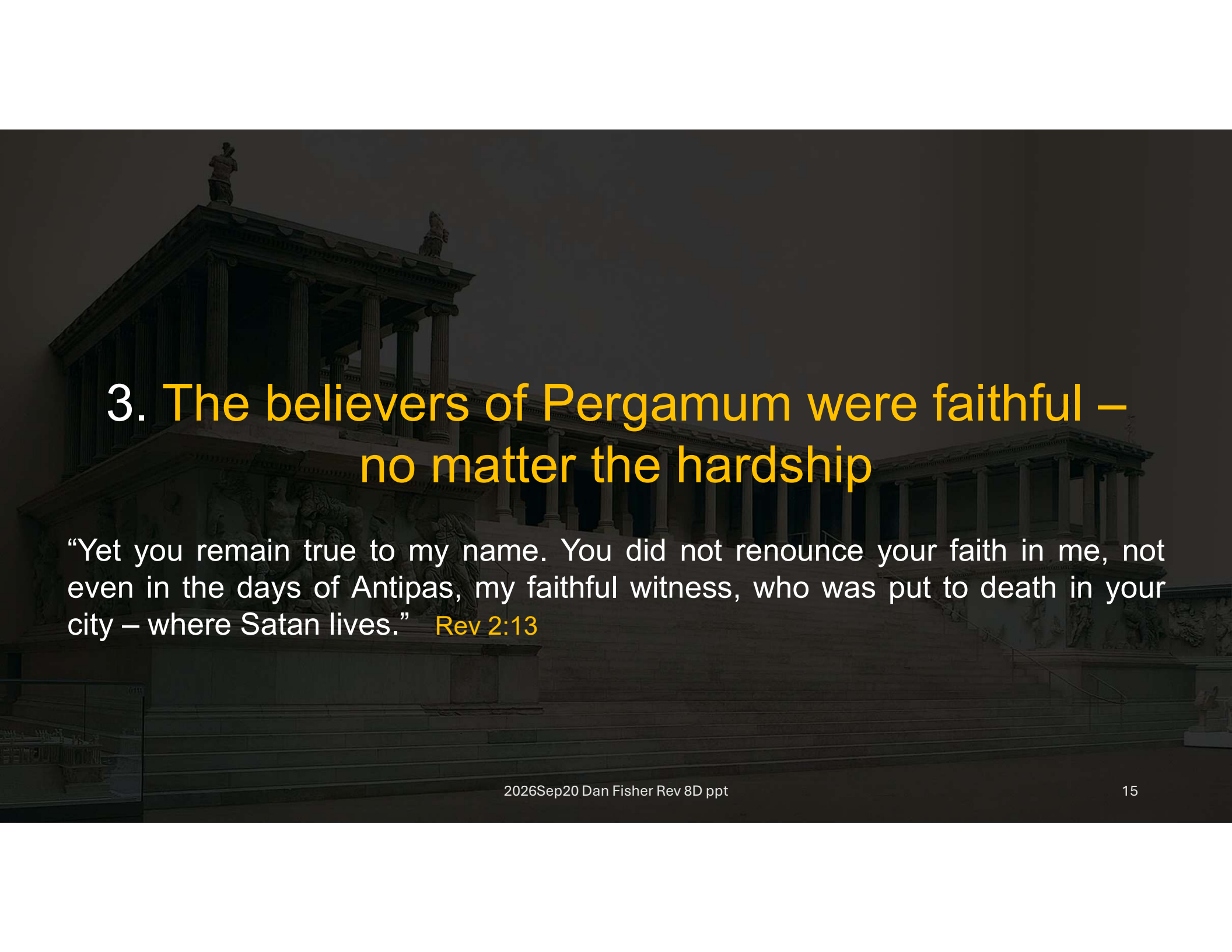
“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” **2 Cor 4:4**

“I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” **Mt 16:18**

- Does he have a throne today?

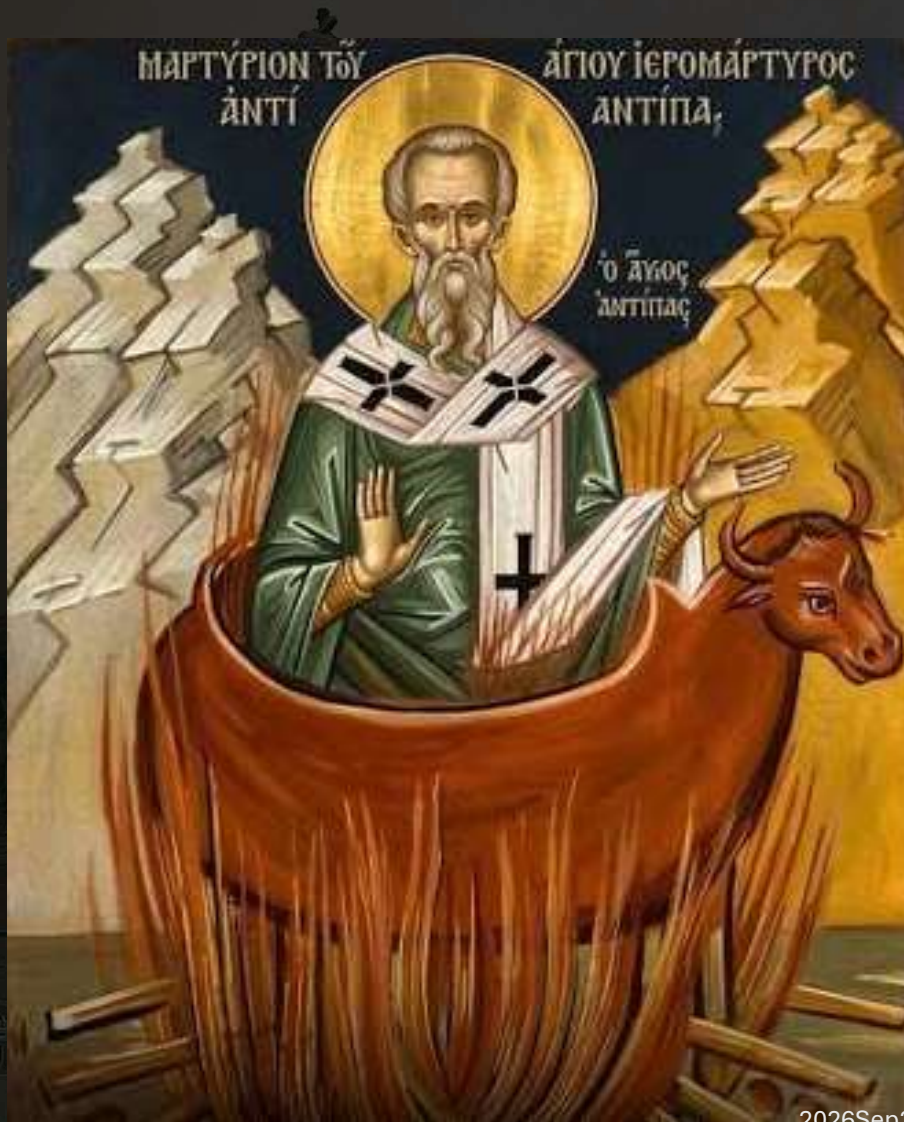
“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ... ²⁰ And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. ” **Dan 10:13,20**

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” **Eph 6:12**



3. The believers of Pergamum were faithful – no matter the hardship

“Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city – where Satan lives.” **Rev 2:13**



- Antipas was ordained by the Apostle John
- He became an early pastor of the church in Pergamum
- He was told: “Antipas, the whole world is against you!” He responded, “Then I am against the whole world!”



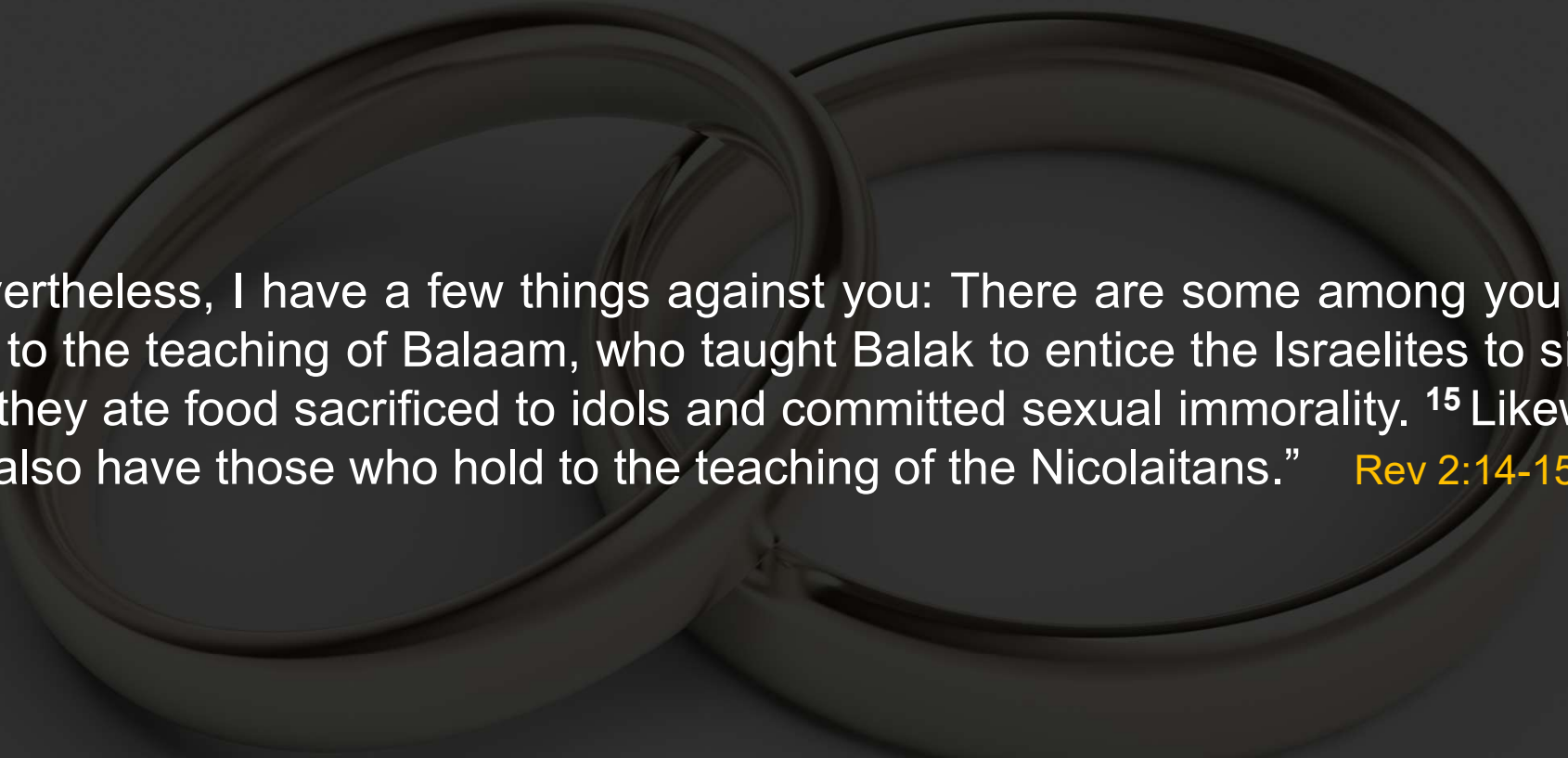
2026 Sep 23 P. 5 - Palmer Museum

4. The church at
Pergamum had “married”
the world

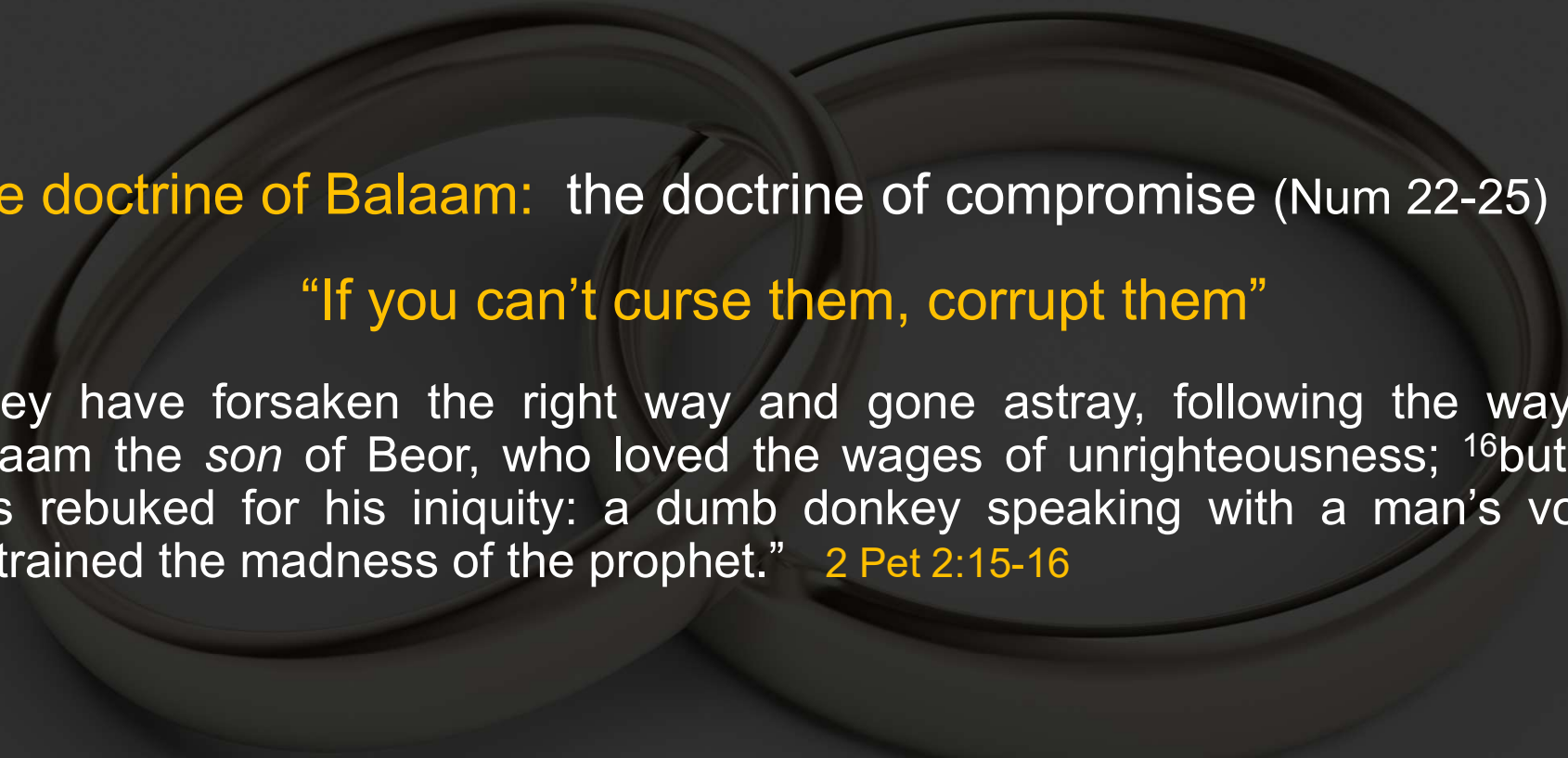


Pergamum/Pergamos = evil + marriage



Two interlocking rings, possibly wedding bands, are shown in a dark, shadowy environment. The rings are metallic and have a polished, reflective surface. They are positioned in the center of the slide, with one ring slightly overlapping the other.

“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.” **Rev 2:14-15**



The doctrine of Balaam: the doctrine of compromise (Num 22-25)

“If you can’t curse them, corrupt them”

“They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; ¹⁶but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained the madness of the prophet.” 2 Pet 2:15-16

Two interlocking dark rings, possibly representing the Gnostic symbols of the Nicolaitans, are positioned behind the text.

The doctrine of the Nicolaitans: libertinism or spiritual elitism

Nicolaitan = *nicao* (to conquer) + *laos* (the people)

“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” 1 Cor 5:6

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?
¹⁵And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.” 2 Cor 6:14-17

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Gal 5:13

“free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.” 1 Pet 2:16

Pergamum/Pergamos = evil + marriage





CONSTANTINE, BY THIS SIGN CONQUER

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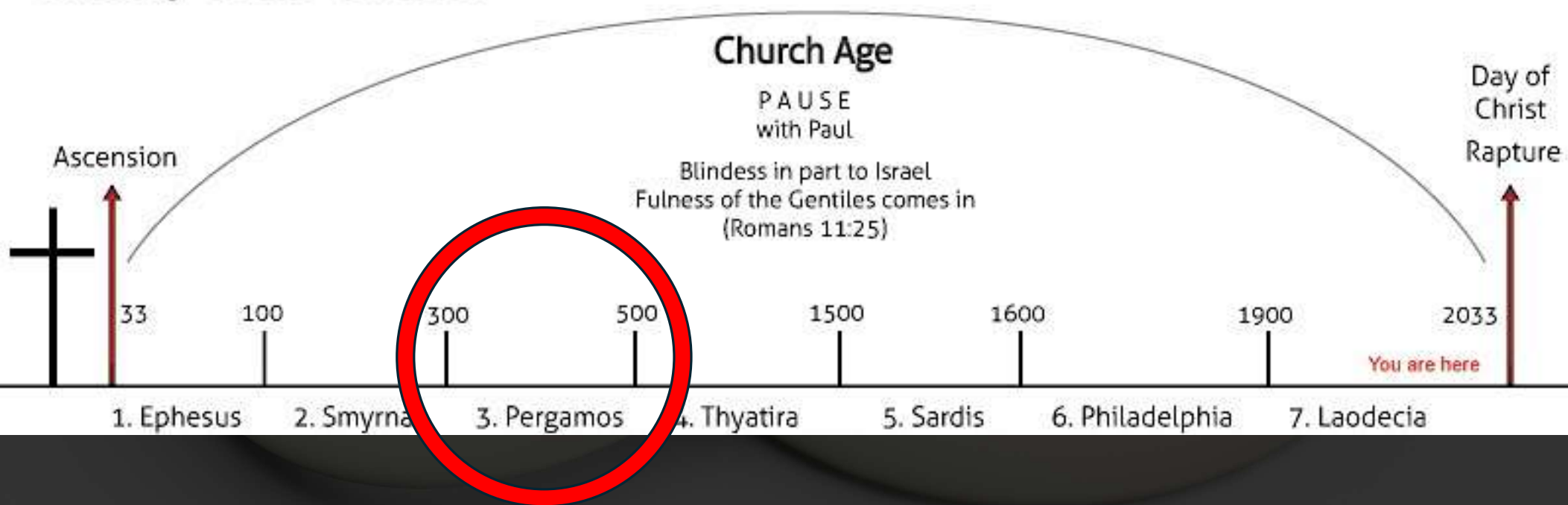


313 AD with the Edict of Milan

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26

History of the Church

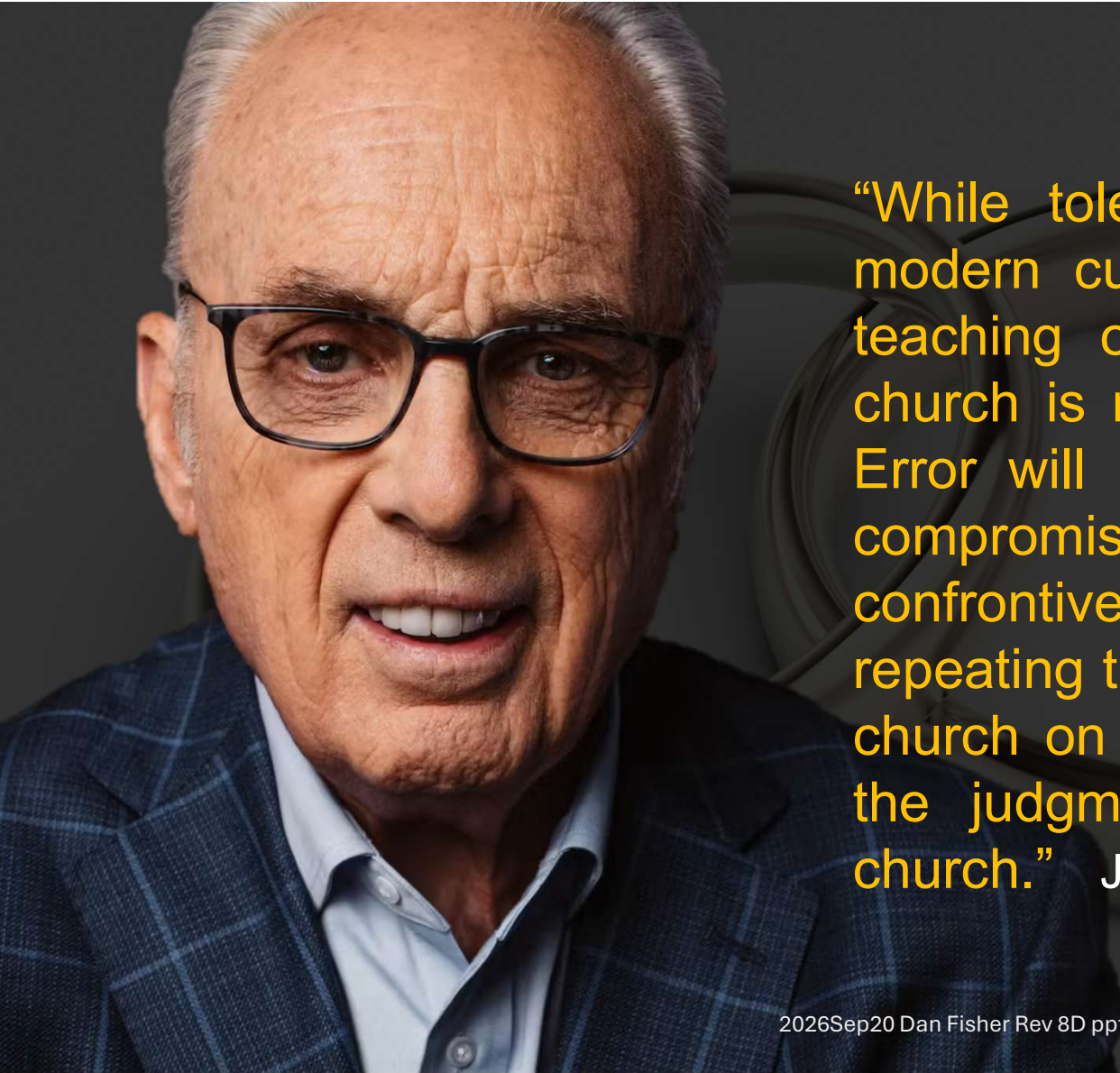


“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Rom 12:2

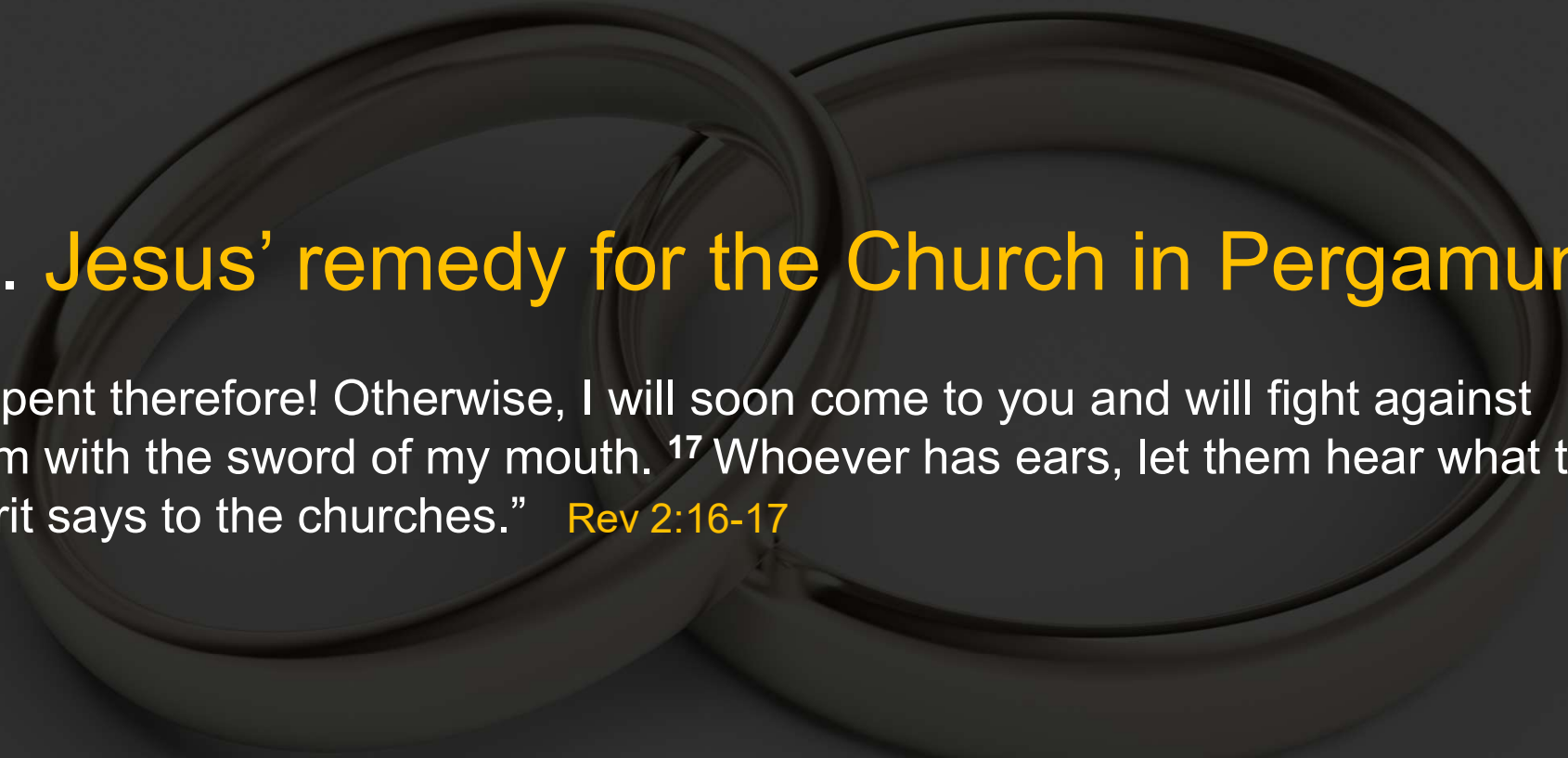
“teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” Titus 2:12

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this ... to keep oneself unspotted from the world. ... Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” Js 1:27; 4:4

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1 Jn 2:15-17

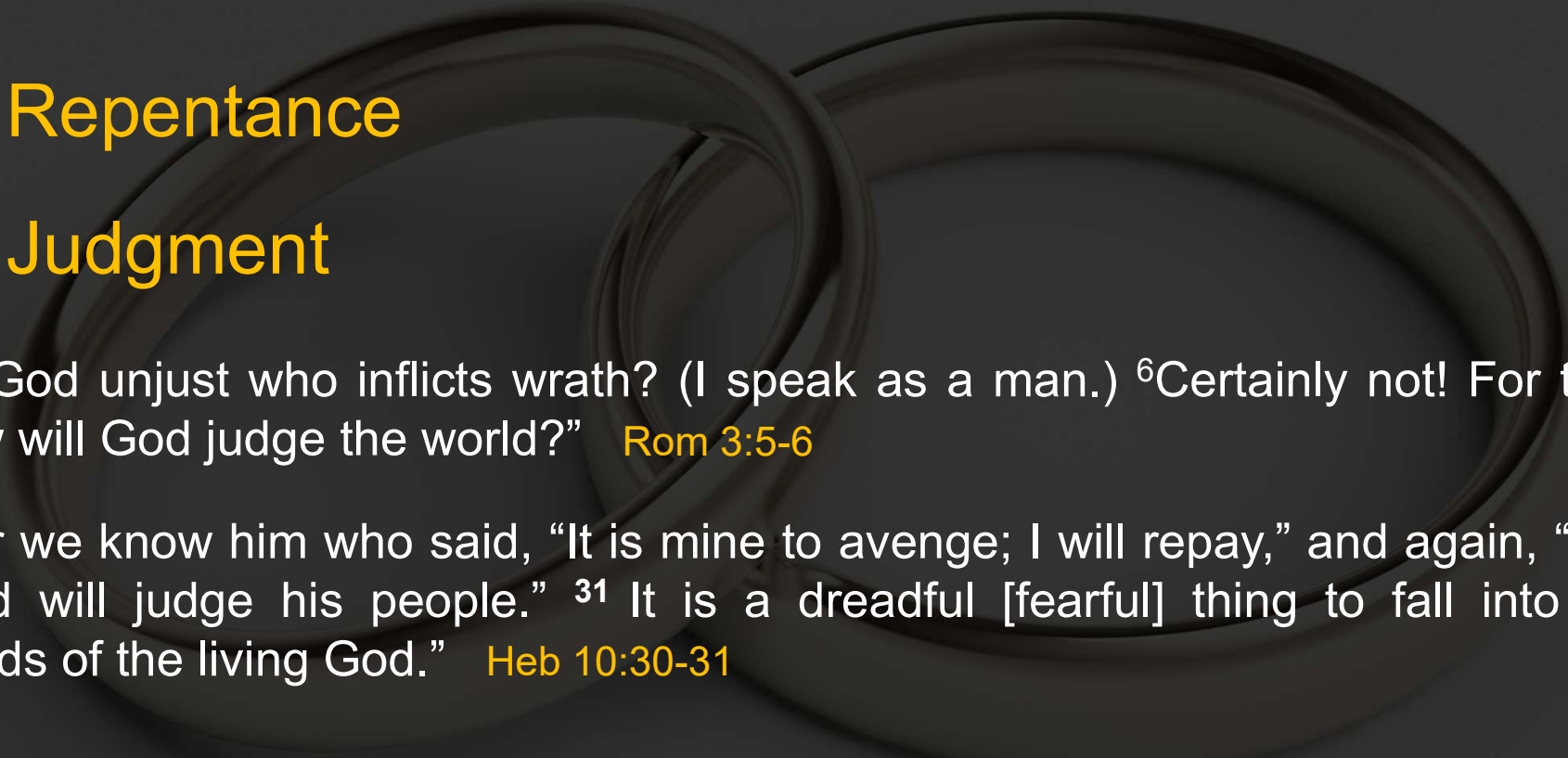


“While tolerance is lauded in our modern culture, tolerating heretical teaching or sinful behavior in the church is not a virtue but a sin. ... Error will never be suppressed by compromising with it. Today’s non-confrontive church is largely repeating the error of the Pergamum church on a grand scale and faces the judgment of the Lord of the church.” John MacArthur



5. Jesus' remedy for the Church in Pergamum

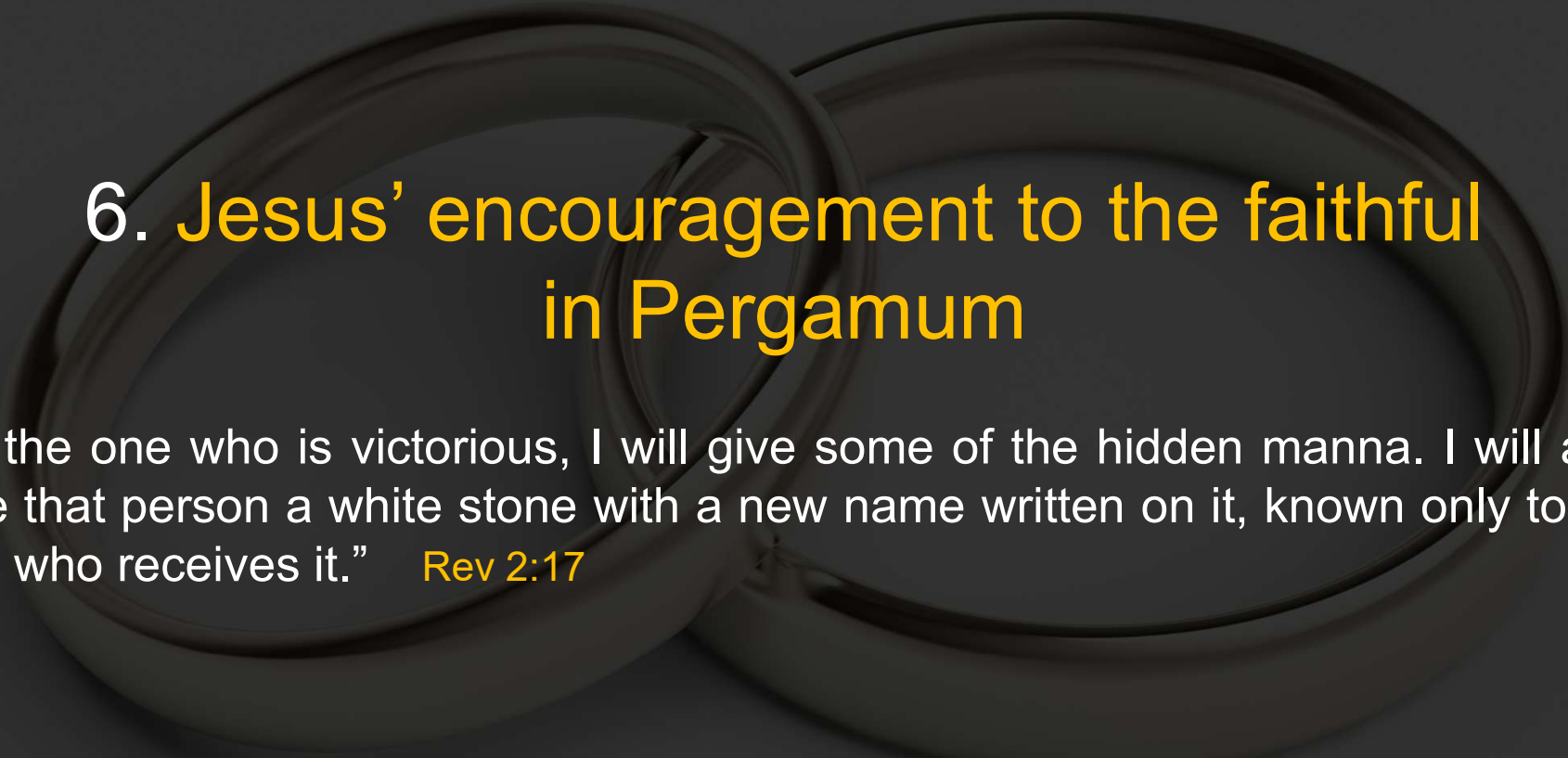
“Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Rev 2:16-17

- 
- Two interlocking rings, one slightly behind and to the right of the other, creating a sense of depth. They are dark and metallic, set against a dark gray background.
- Repentance
 - Judgment

“Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) ⁶Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?” **Rom 3:5-6**

“For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a dreadful [fearful] thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” **Heb 10:30-31**



The background of the slide features two large, dark, interlocking rings that resemble the rings of a wedding band. They are positioned diagonally, with one ring slightly behind and to the right of the other, creating a sense of depth and connection.

6. Jesus' encouragement to the faithful in Pergamum

“To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.” **Rev 2:17**

- The “hidden manna”

Ex 16

Some of the manna was hidden in the ark of the covenant

“But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you know nothing about.’” Jn 4:32

“Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’³² Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’” Jn 6:31-33

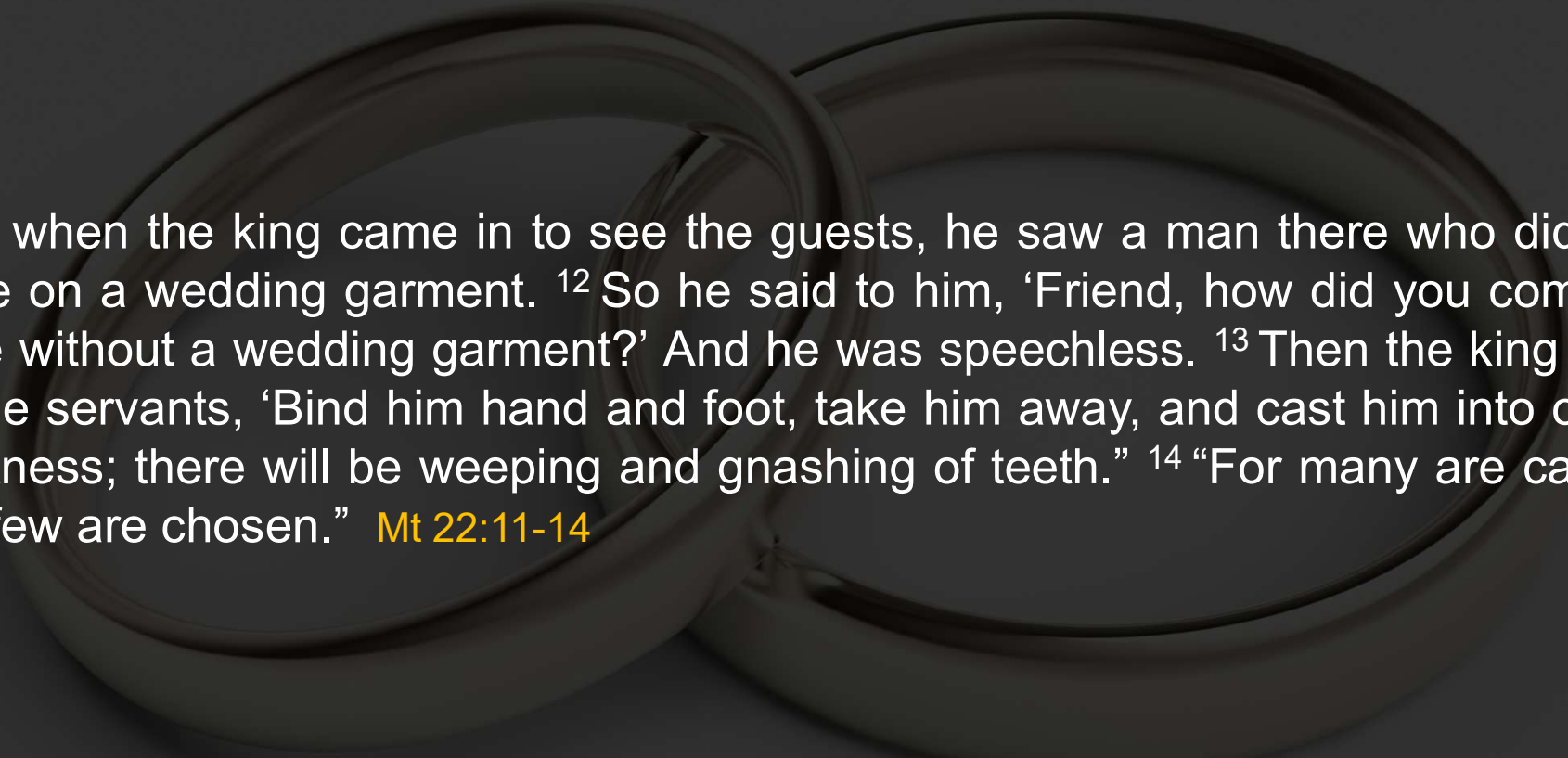
“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” Jn 6:35

- The “white stone”

Jurors in Greco-Roman world dropped white stone into a jar to vote not guilty. White stones were also used as tokens or tickets for entry into banquets, public festivals, or games.

“Urim and Thummim”

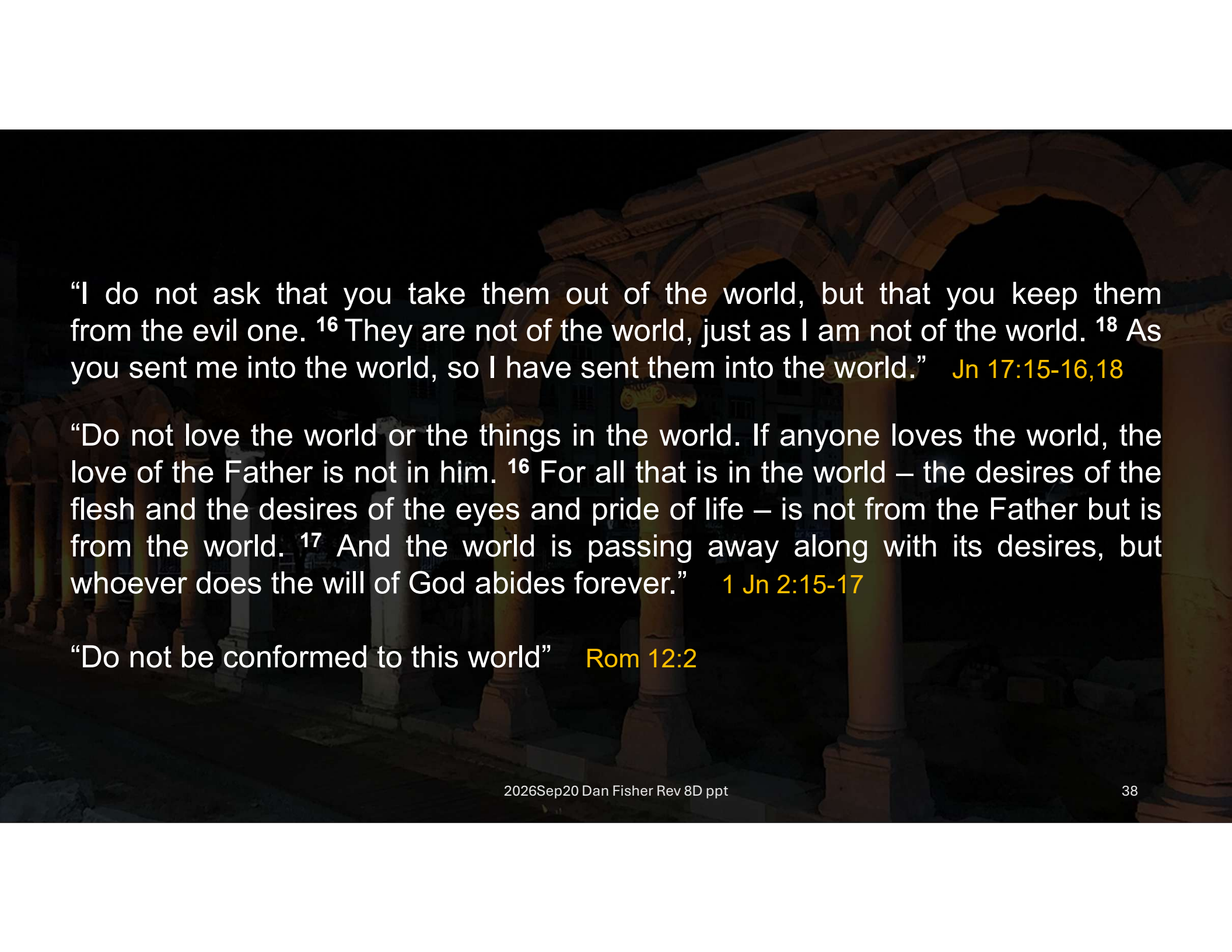
“As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’ ⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’ ⁸ and, ‘A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.” 1 Pet 2:4-5

Two interlocking wedding rings, one slightly behind and to the right of the other, set against a dark, textured background. The rings are metallic and have a polished finish.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹² So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ “For many are called, but few are chosen.” **Mt 22:11-14**

Thyatira – the church not
just in but of the world



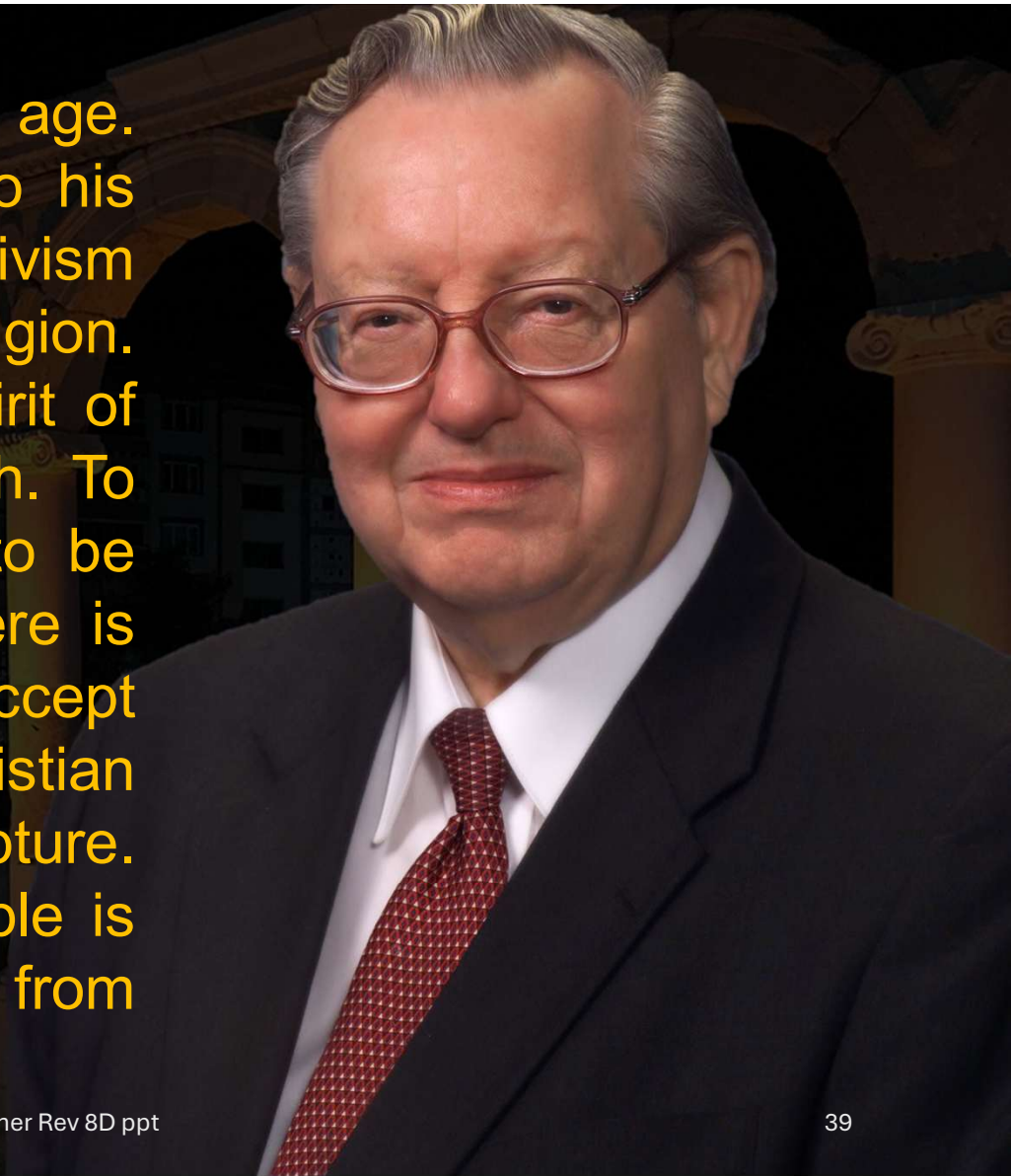


“I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” Jn 17:15-16,18

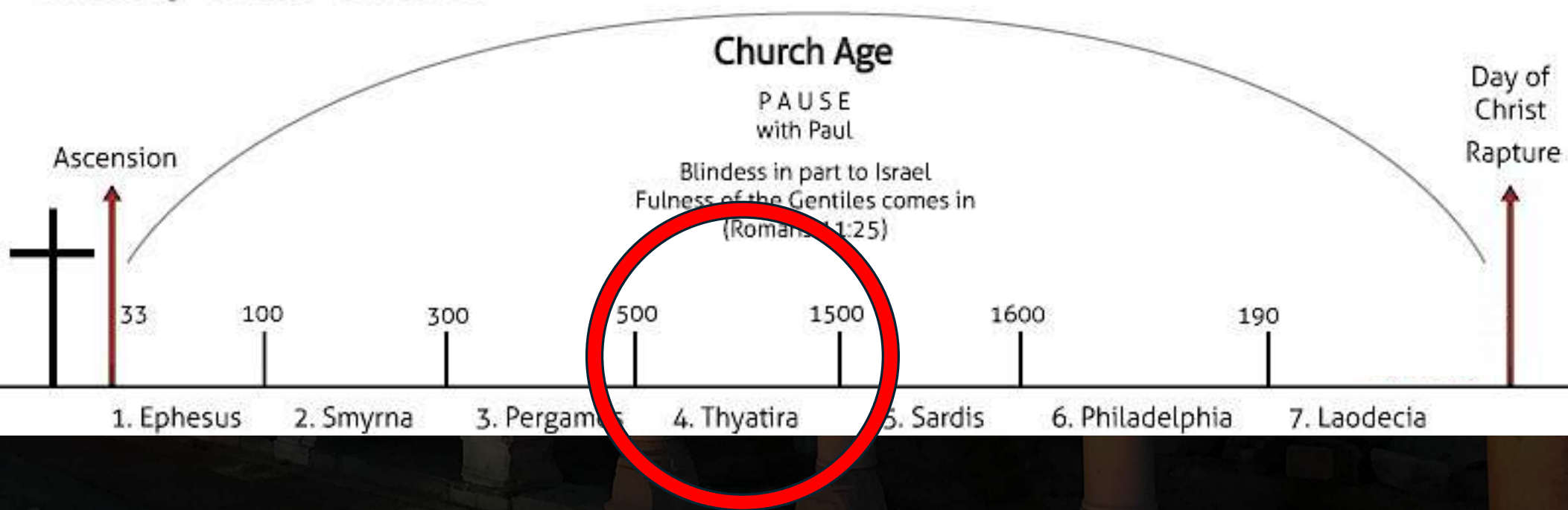
“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” 1 Jn 2:15-17

“Do not be conformed to this world” Rom 12:2

“We are living in a most tolerant age. Everyone must be allowed to ‘do his own thing.’ This is the age of relativism in morals and syncretism in religion. There are no absolutes. The spirit of the age has crept into the church. To denounce a belief as heresy is to be branded intolerant. Certainly, there is no room for bigotry, but to accept anything in the name of Christian charity is a spirit foreign to Scripture. The strongest language in the Bible is reserved for those who depart from revealed truth.” John Phillips

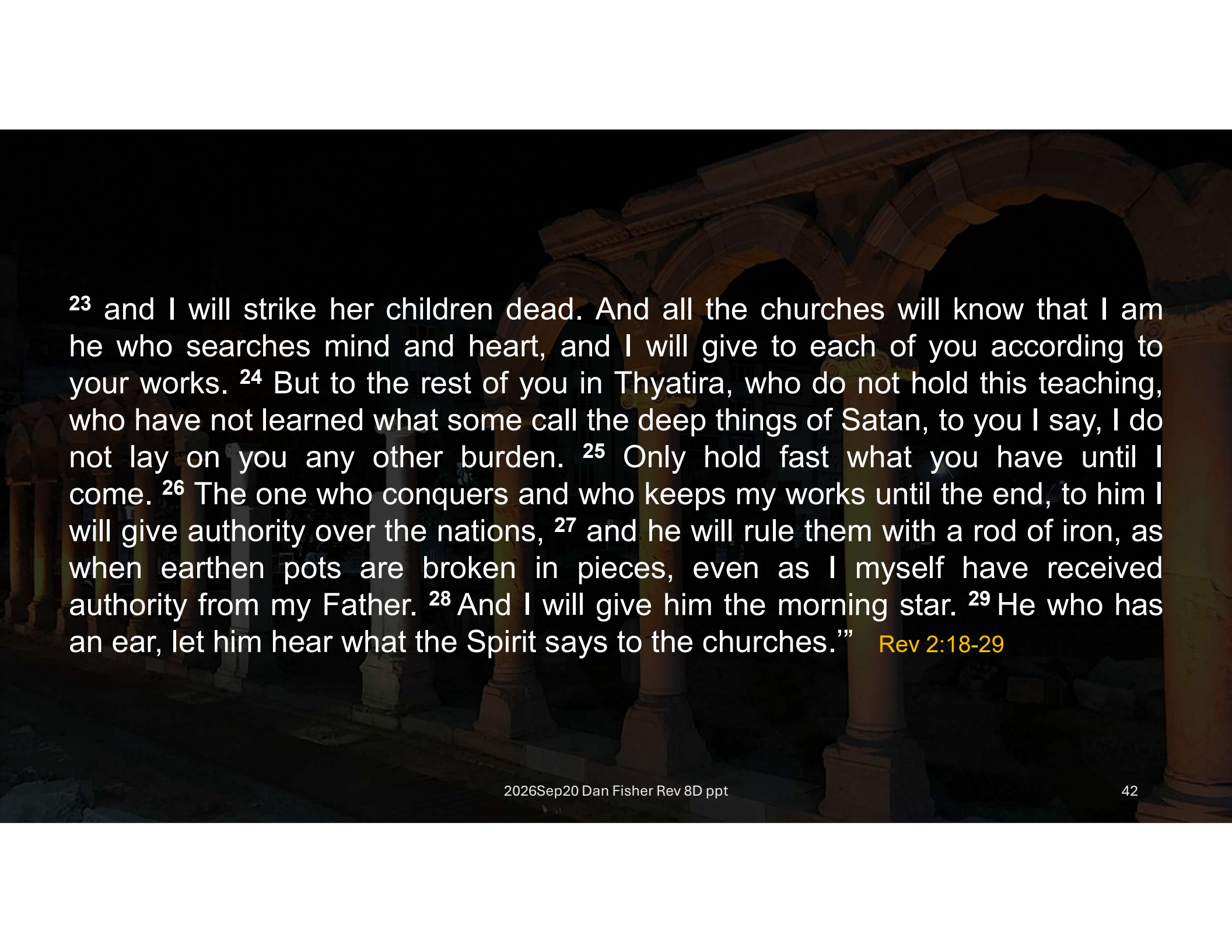


History of the Church

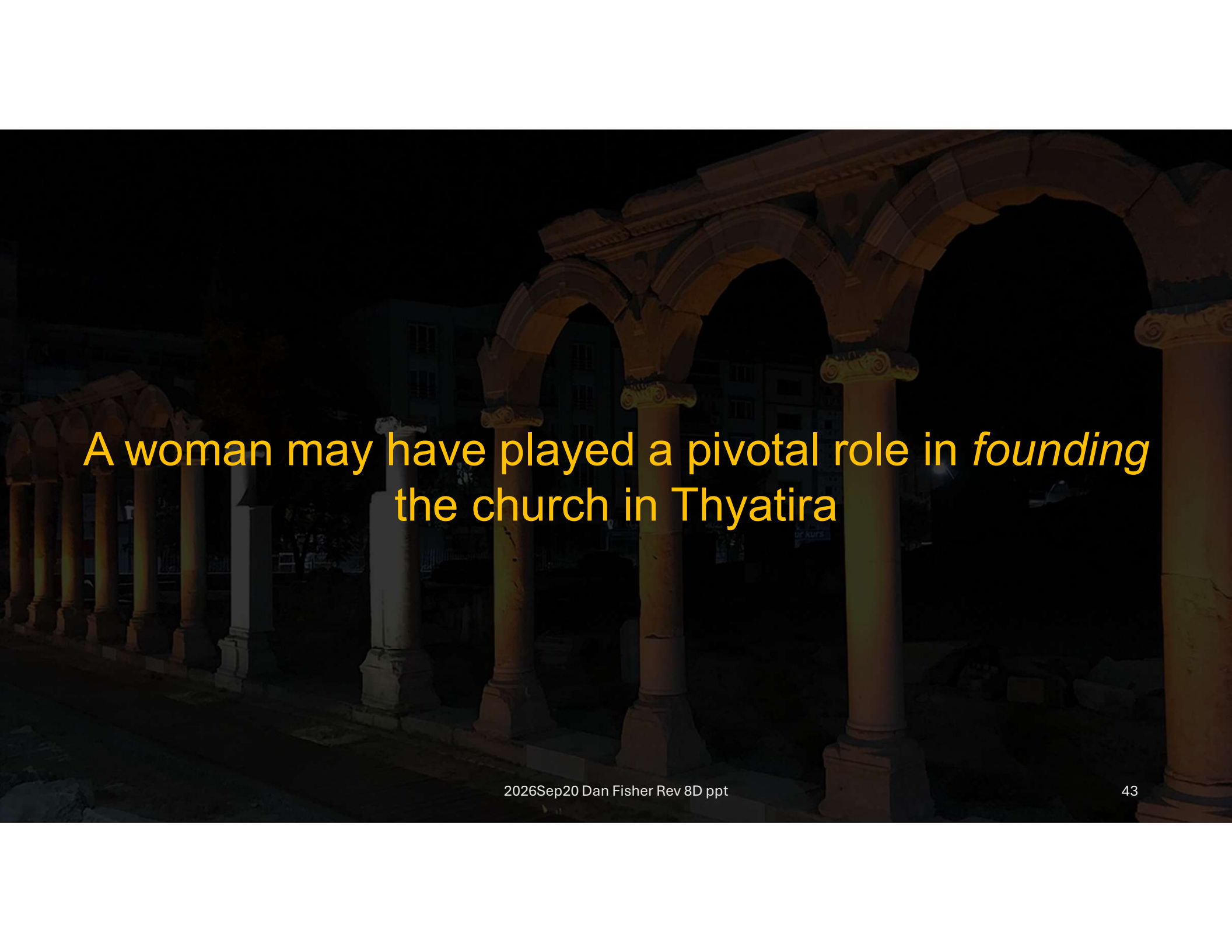


Jesus' message to the believers in Thyatira:

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ ‘I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,



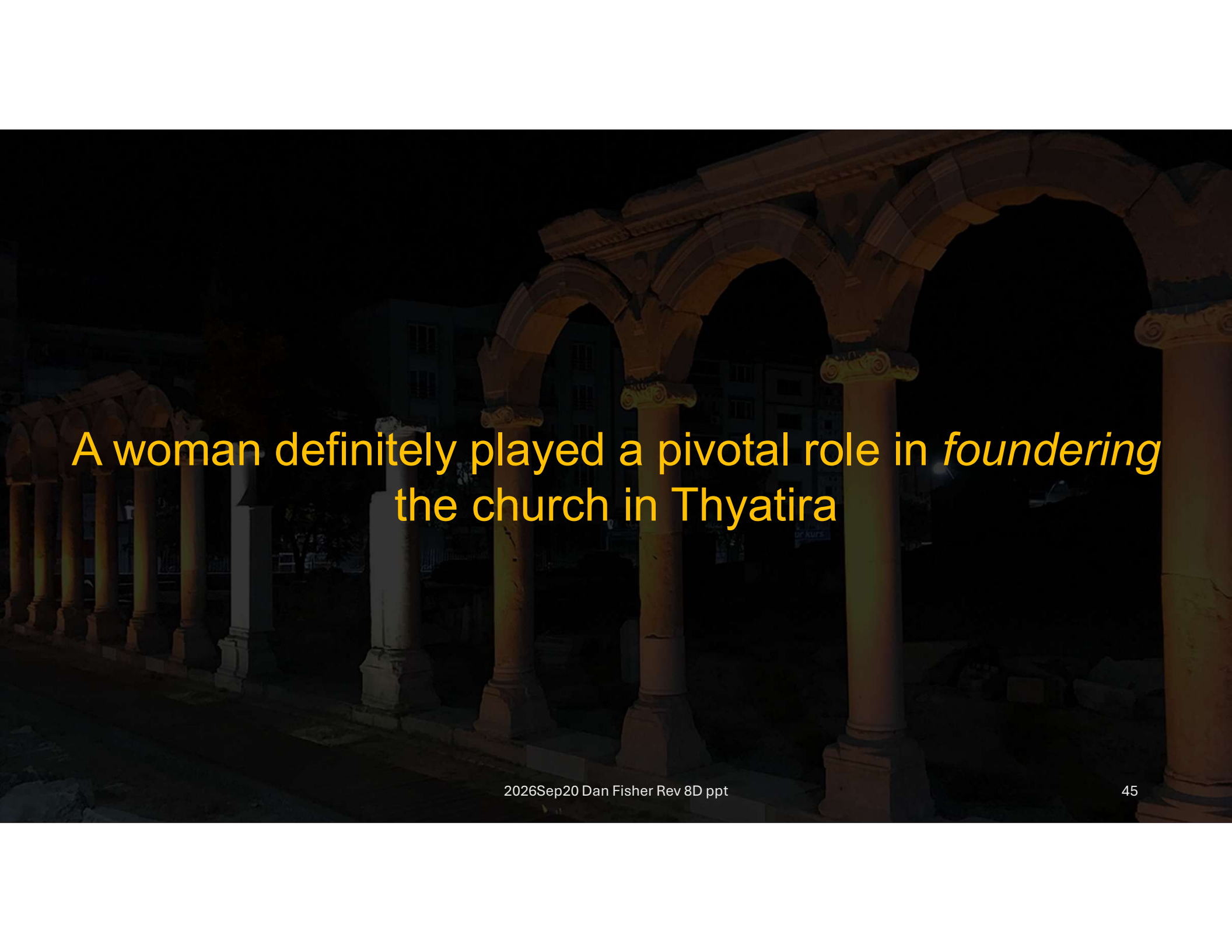
²³ and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” **Rev 2:18-29**



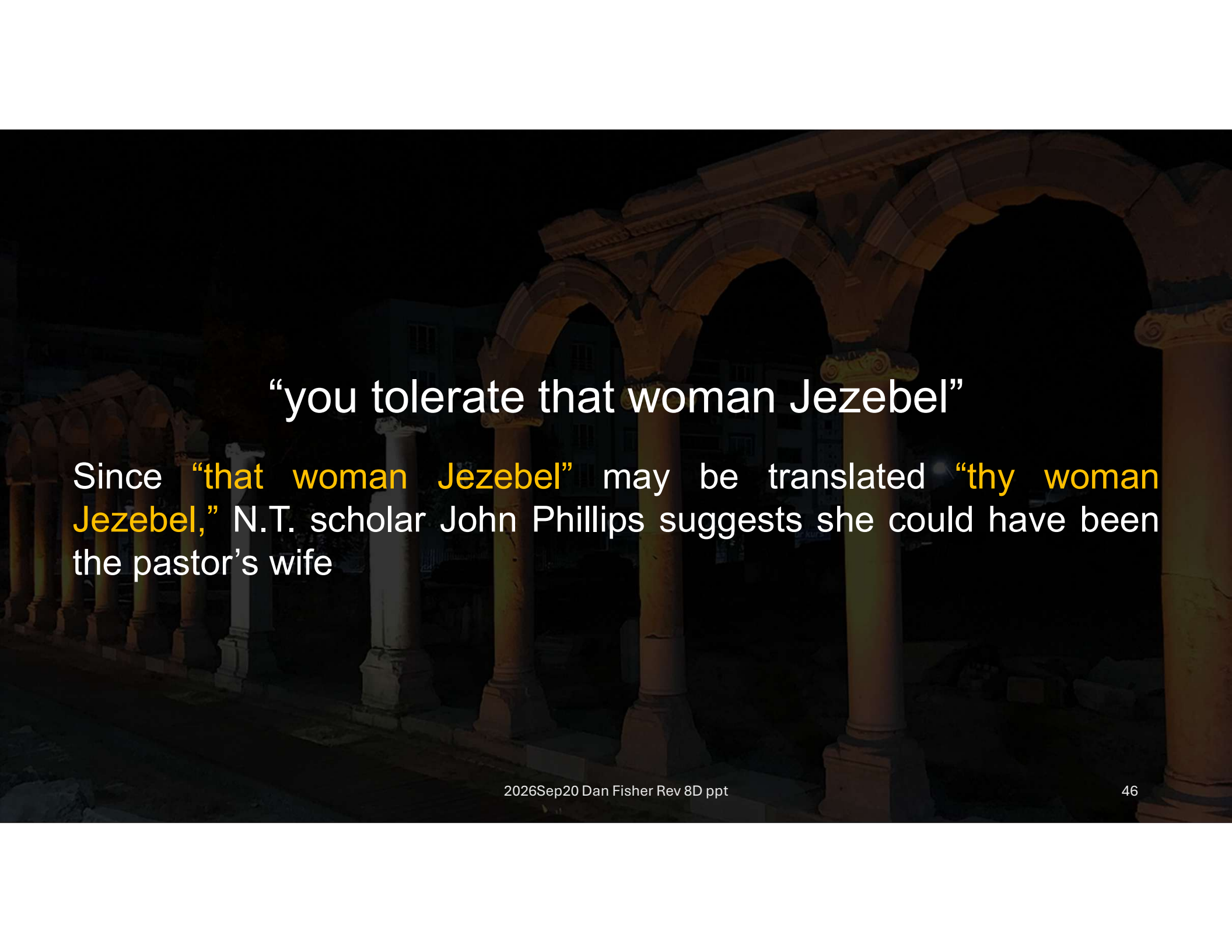
A woman may have played a pivotal role in *founding*
the church in Thyatira



“And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.” **Acts 16:13-15**

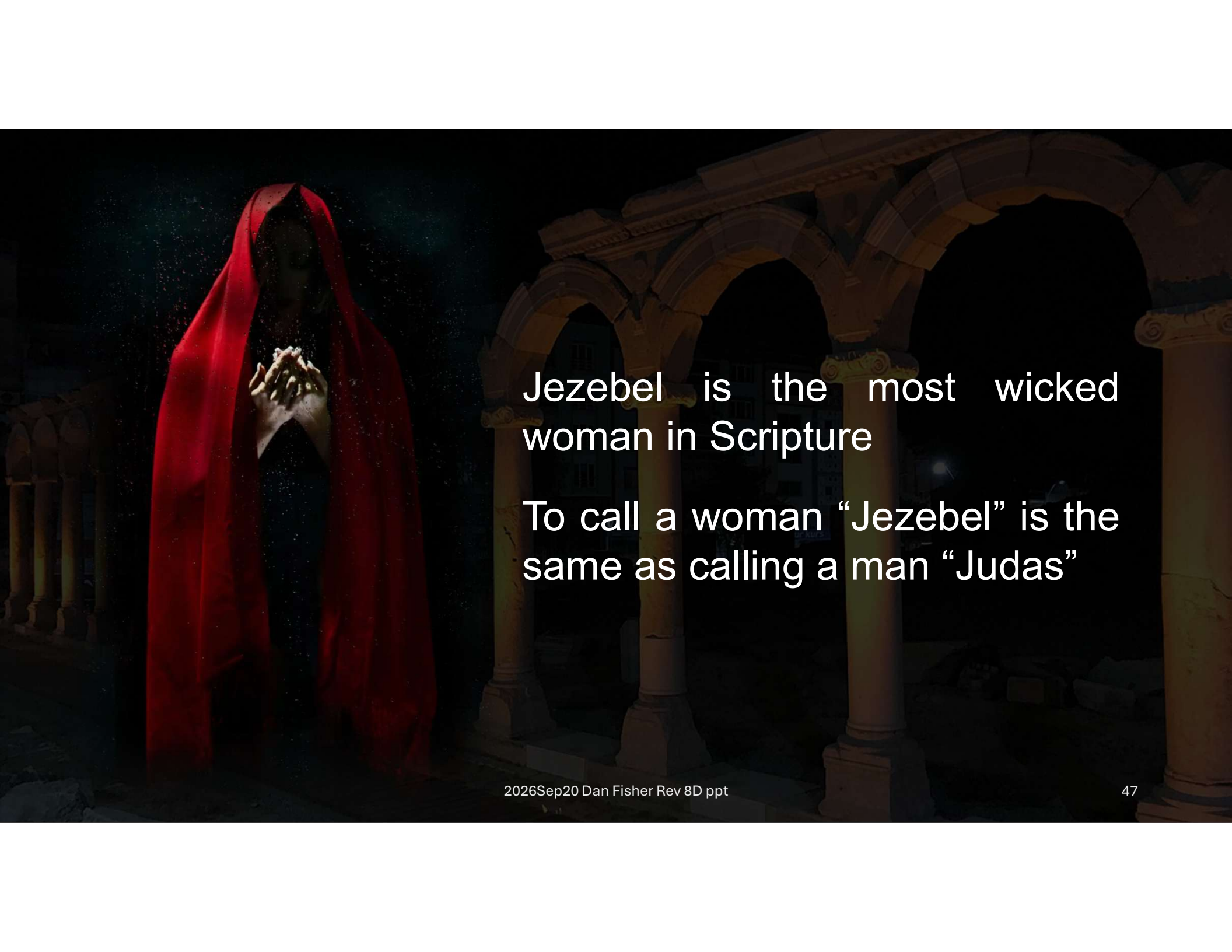
A photograph of the ruins of the Temple of Apollo in Thyatira, Turkey. The image shows a series of arches and columns, with a modern building visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

A woman definitely played a pivotal role in *foundering* the church in Thyatira



“you tolerate that woman Jezebel”

Since “that woman Jezebel” may be translated “thy woman Jezebel,” N.T. scholar John Phillips suggests she could have been the pastor’s wife



Jezebel is the most wicked woman in Scripture

To call a woman “Jezebel” is the same as calling a man “Judas”

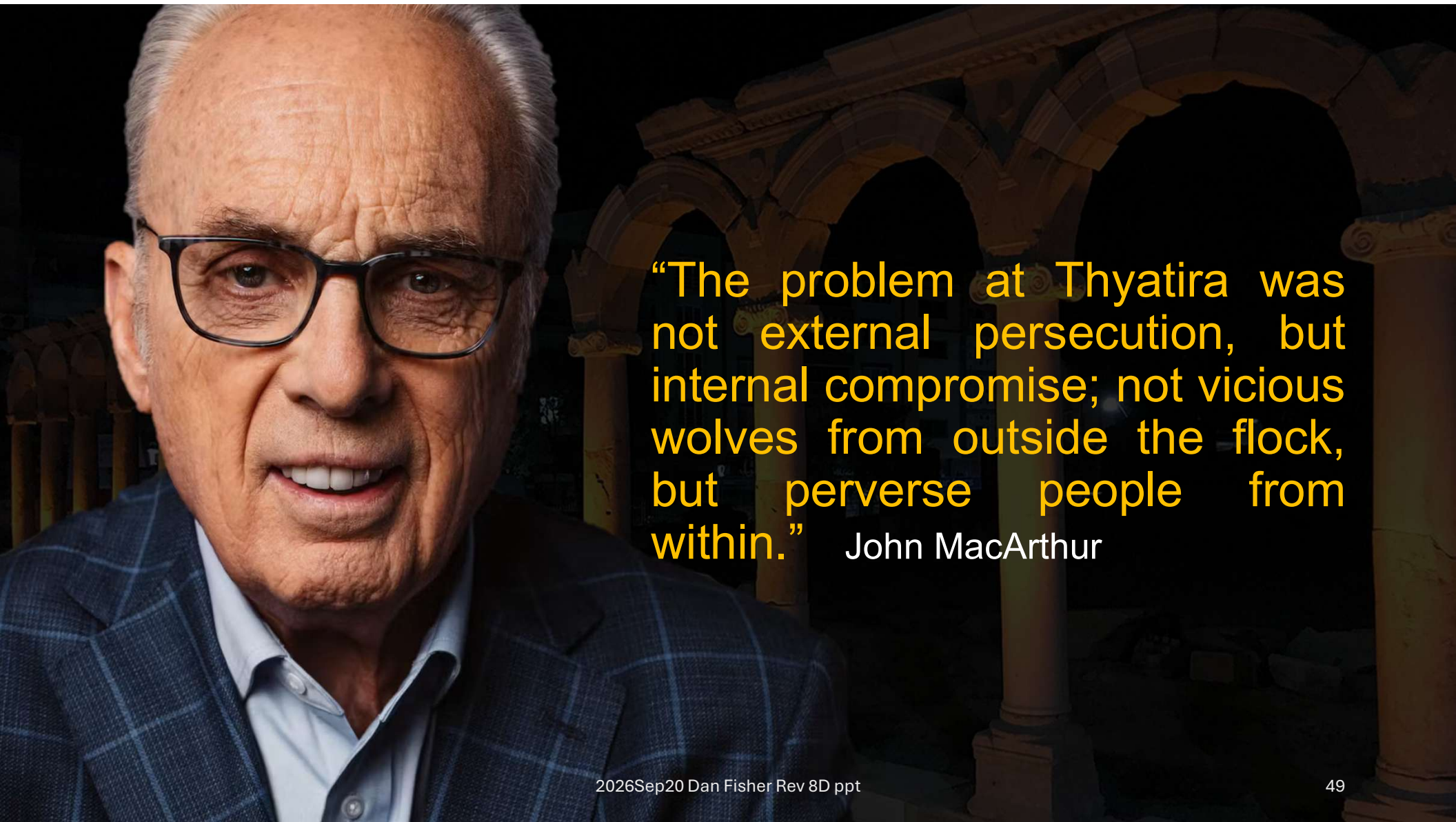
What Jesus expects from His church:

“just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” Eph 5:25-27

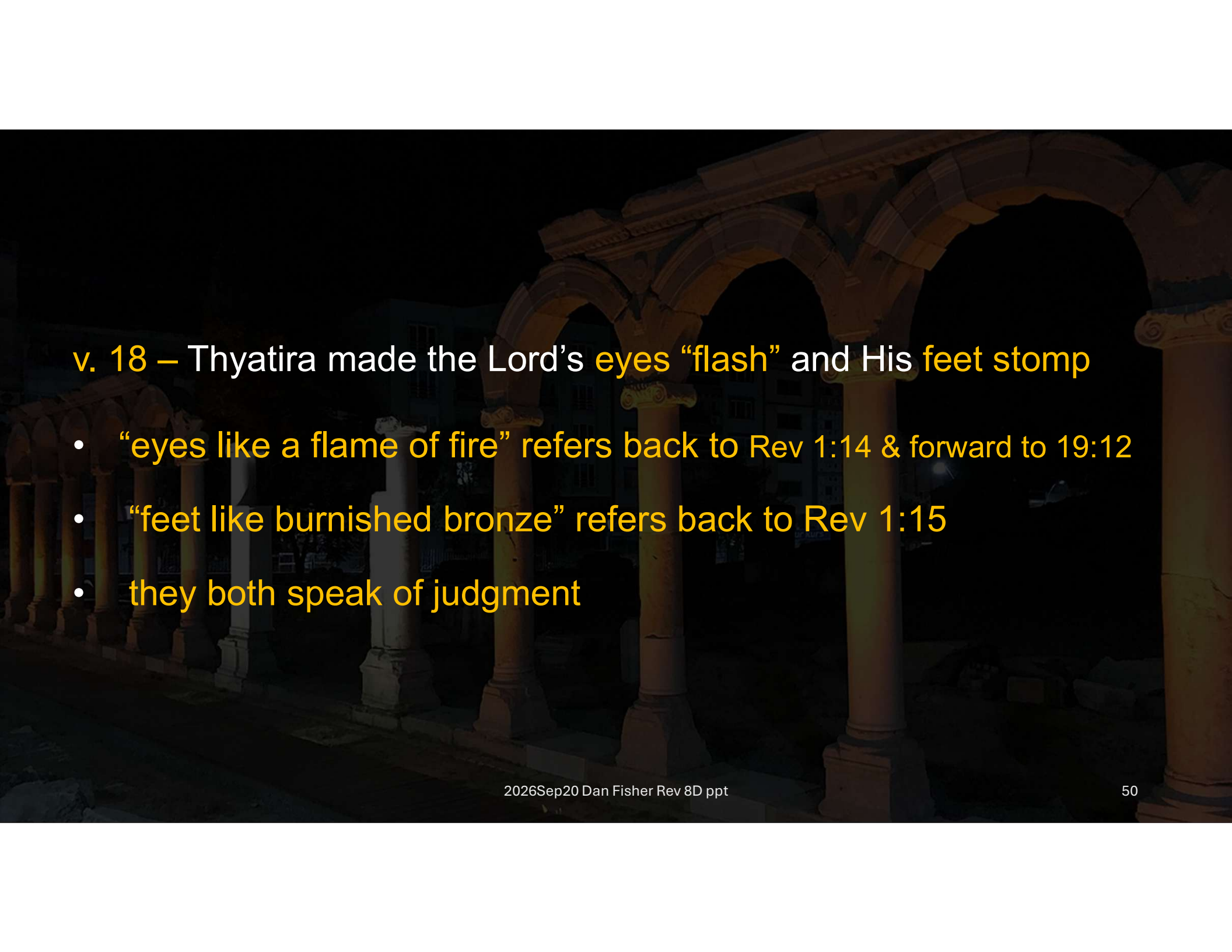
“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” 2 Cor 11:2

“that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life,” Phil 2:15-16

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” 1 Pet 2:9

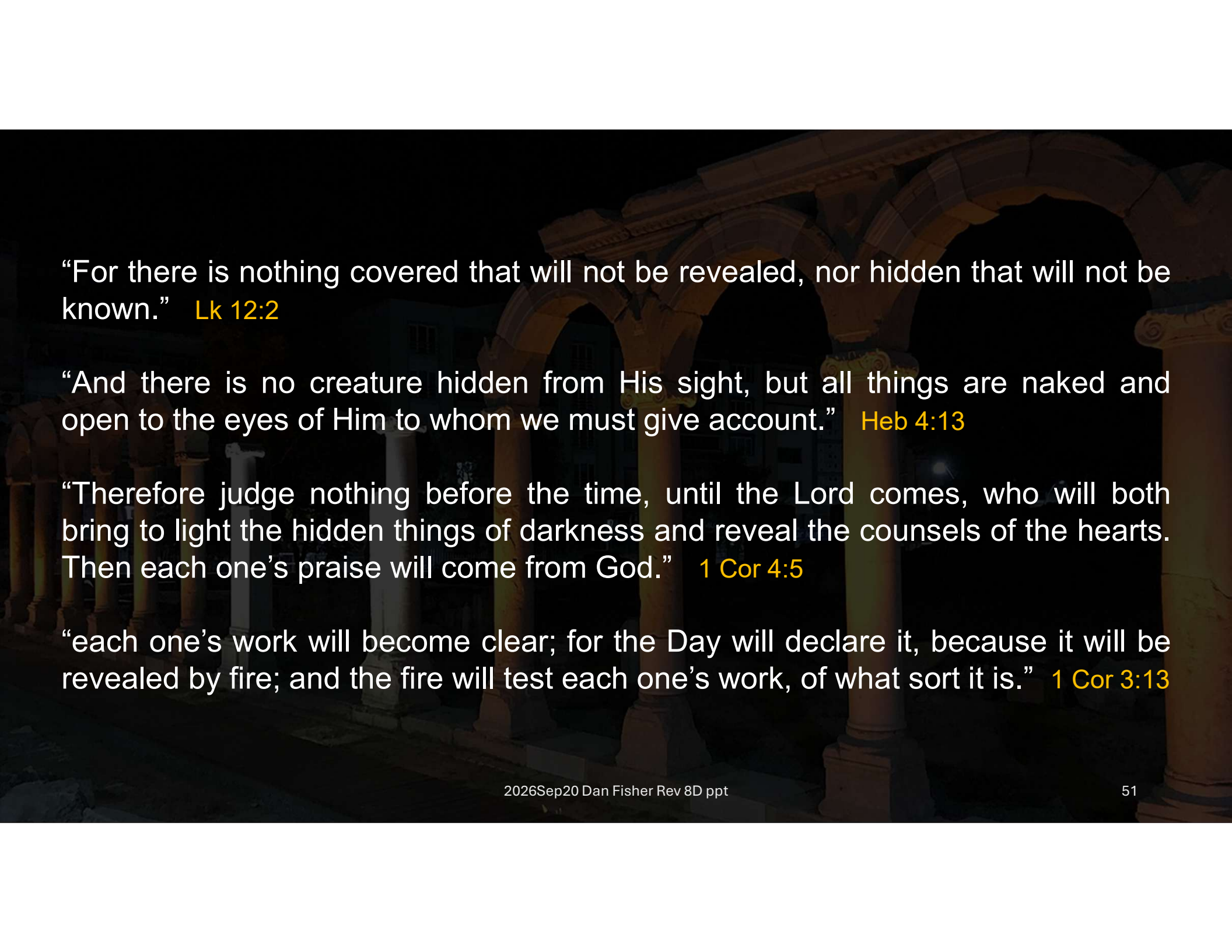


“The problem at Thyatira was not external persecution, but internal compromise; not vicious wolves from outside the flock, but perverse people from within.” John MacArthur



v. 18 – Thyatira made the Lord’s eyes “flash” and His feet stomp

- “eyes like a flame of fire” refers back to Rev 1:14 & forward to 19:12
- “feet like burnished bronze” refers back to Rev 1:15
- they both speak of judgment

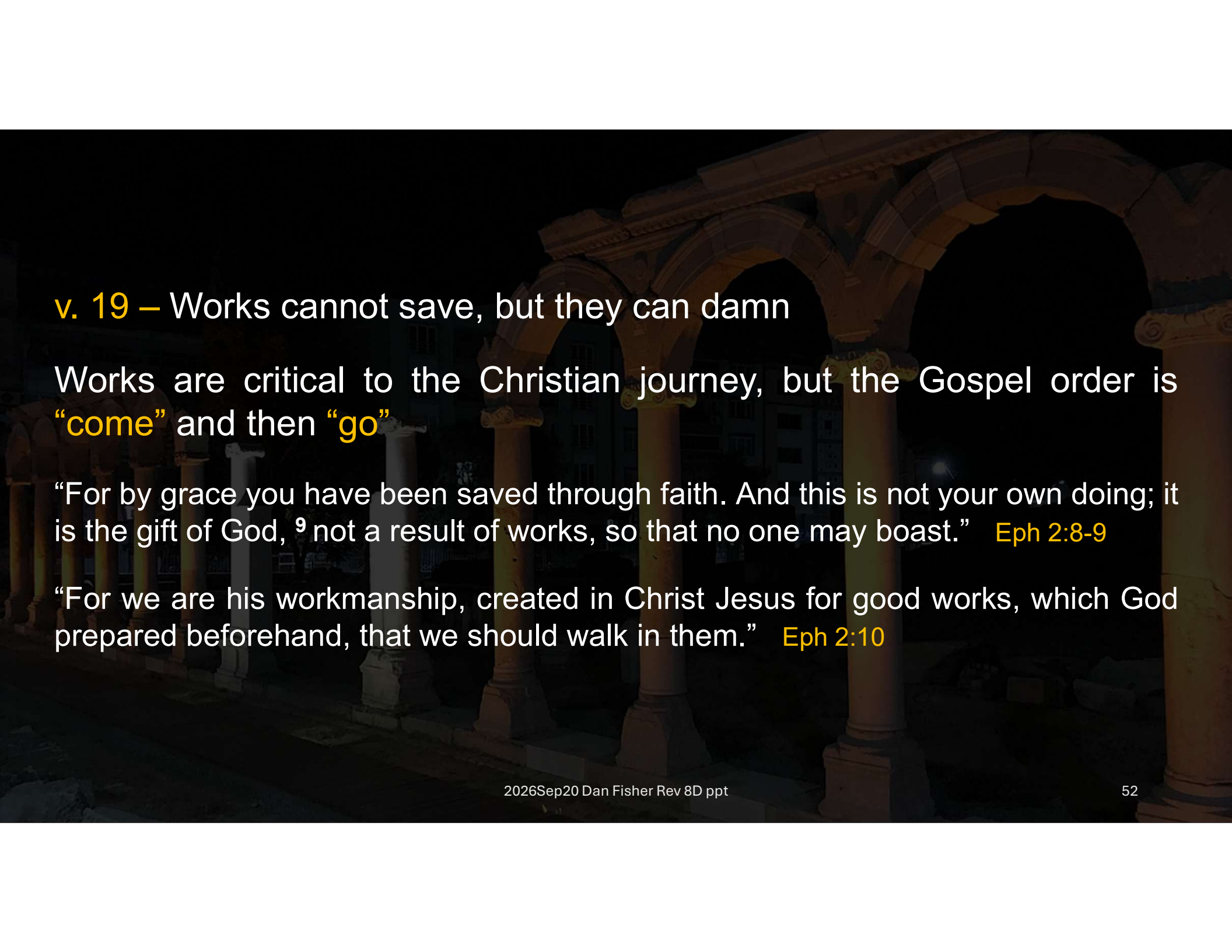


“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.” Lk 12:2

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Heb 4:13

“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.” 1 Cor 4:5

“each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.” 1 Cor 3:13



v. 19 – Works cannot save, but they can damn

Works are critical to the Christian journey, but the Gospel order is “come” and then “go”

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Eph 2:8-9

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Eph 2:10

v. 20 – Allowing sin is committing sin

“Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” 1 Cor 5:6,8

“Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’” 2 Cor 6:17

- **Allowing her to teach was a major sin**

“I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.” **1 Tim 2:12-14**

“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife ... ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)” **1 Tim 3:1-2,4-5**

- **Allowing her teaching to take root was a sin** — (sexual immorality & idolatry)

“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” **1 Cor 6:18-20**

“that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.” **Acts 15:29**

v. 21 – Grace rejected **hardens the heart** and **secures judgment**

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your ^[a]impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,” **Rom 2:4-5**

Pharoah

“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,’” **Heb 3:7-8**

O.T. prophets’ message to Israel – who hardened their hearts

v. 22-23 – Judgment is always works-based

“But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
⁶ He will render to each one according to his works.” Rom 2:5-6

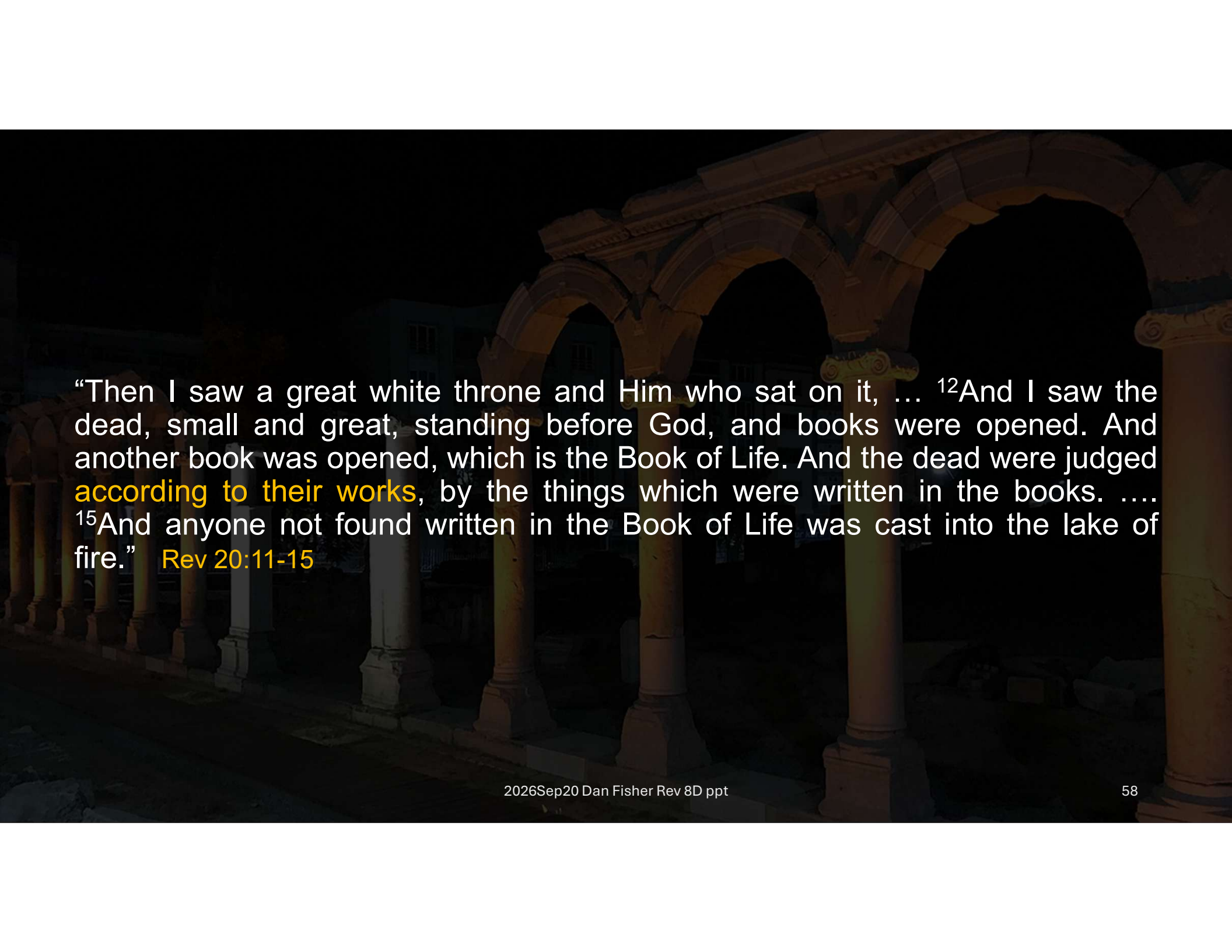
“Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.” 2 Tim 4:14

Rom 1:24-32

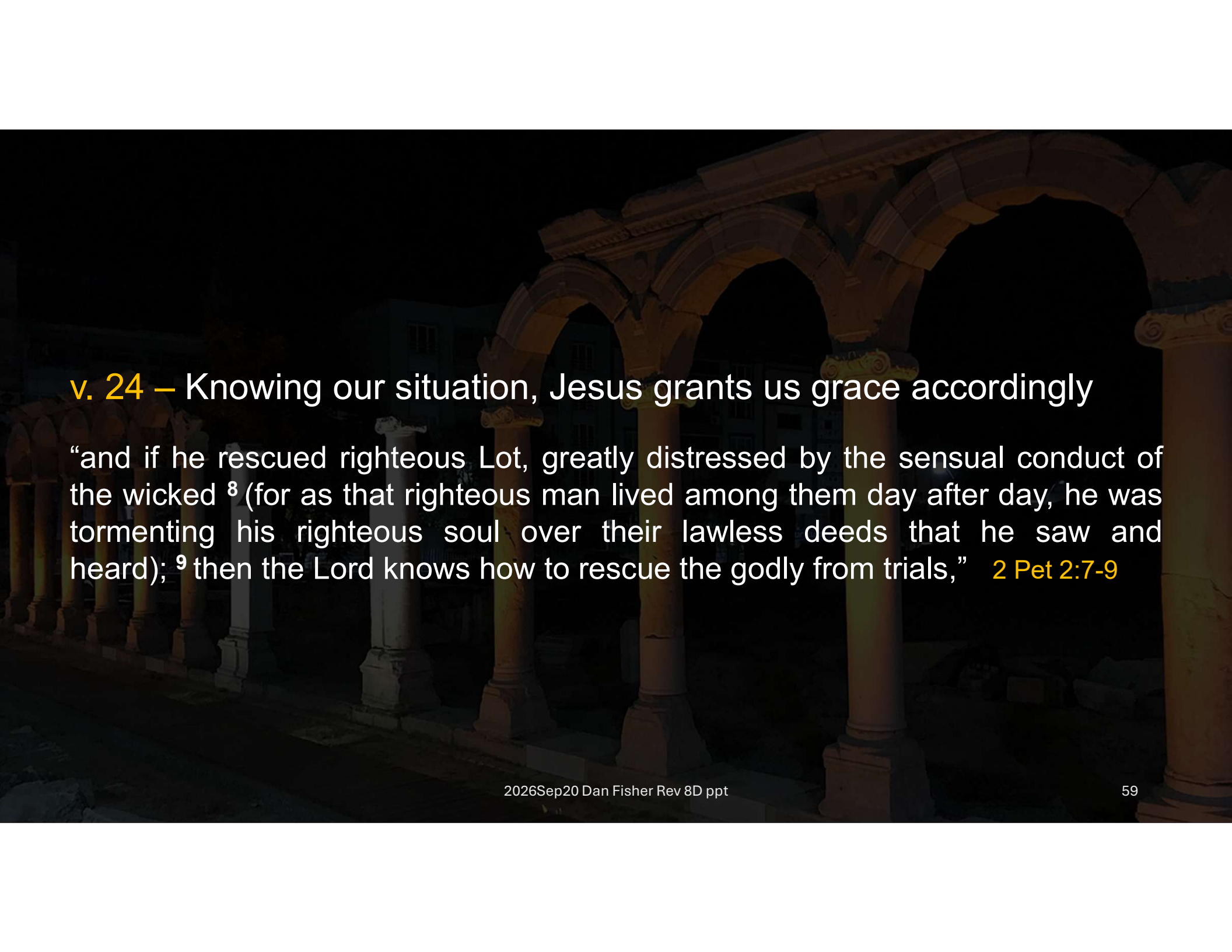
Judgment is not only disciplinary; it is also exemplary

Ananias & Sapphira: “So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.” Acts 5:11

“As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.” 1 Tim 5:20

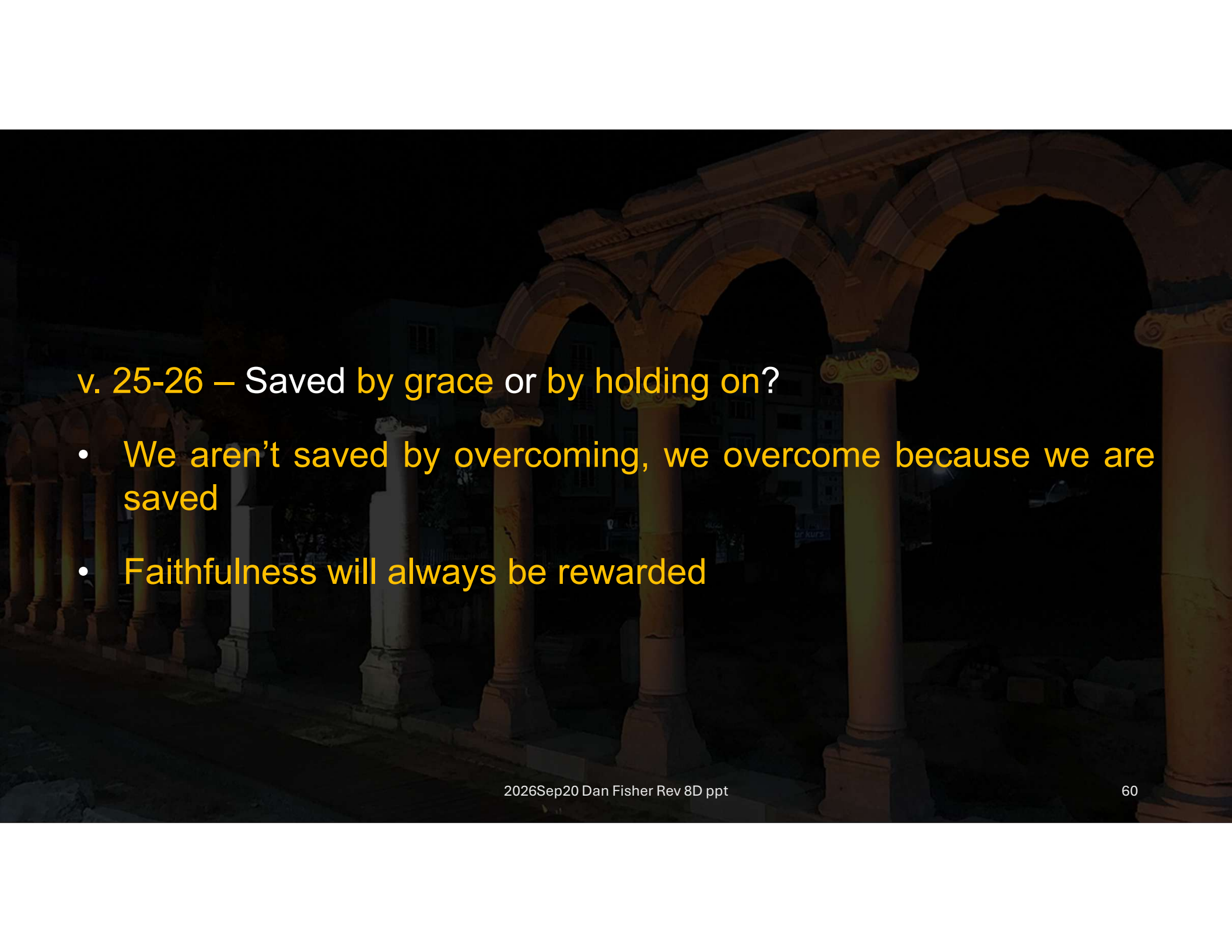


“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, ... ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged **according to their works**, by the things which were written in the books. ¹⁵And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” **Rev 20:11-15**



v. 24 – Knowing our situation, Jesus grants us grace accordingly

“and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials,” 2 Pet 2:7-9



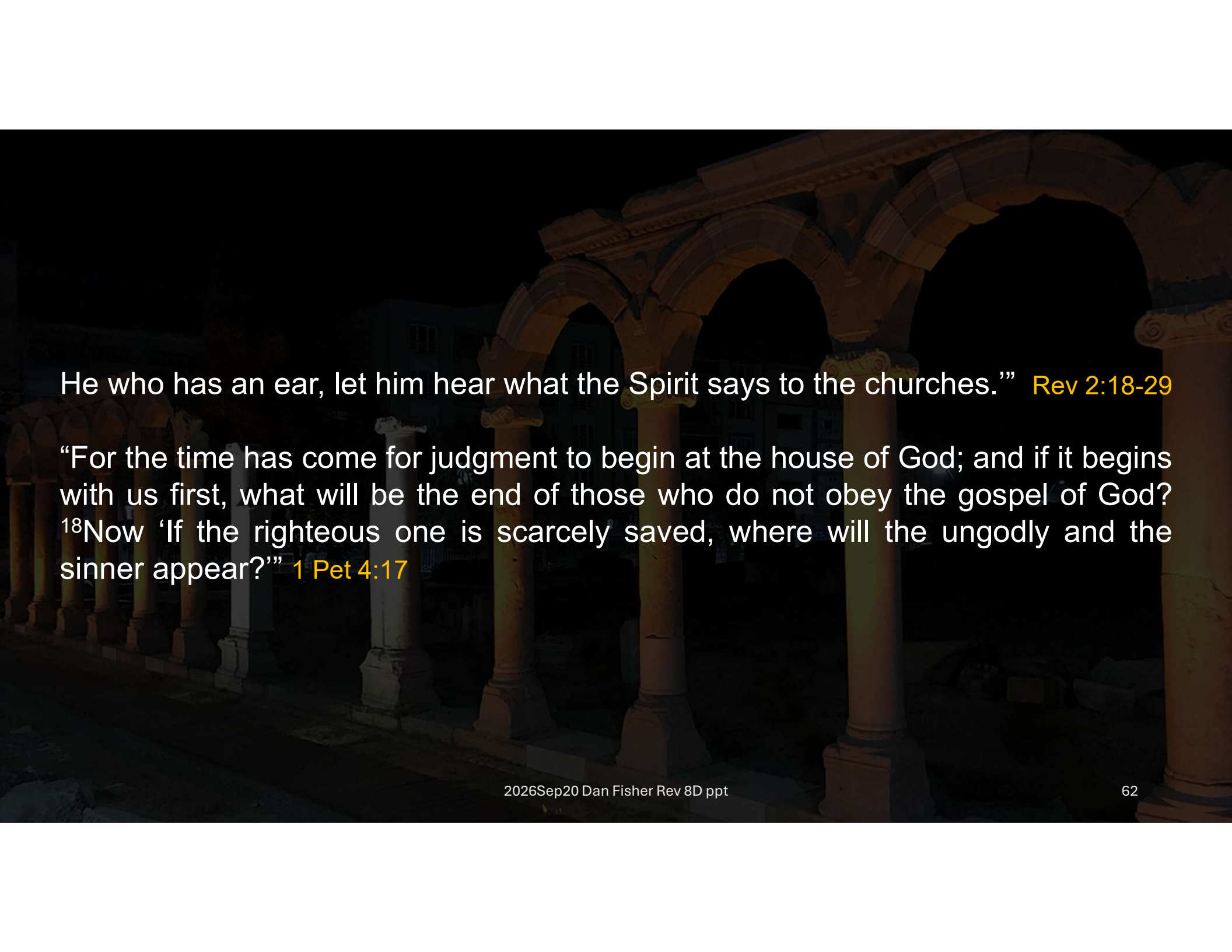
v. 25-26 – Saved by grace or by holding on?

- We aren't saved by overcoming, we overcome because we are saved
- Faithfulness will always be rewarded



v. 27 – Rewards are given for the millennium

v. 28 – Overcomers are given Jesus



He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” **Rev 2:18-29**

“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?
¹⁸Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’” **1 Pet 4:17**