

PART 7C: The church age – Ephesus & Smyrna

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

2026Aug23 Dan Fisher - Revelation pt 7

The things which are –
the churches

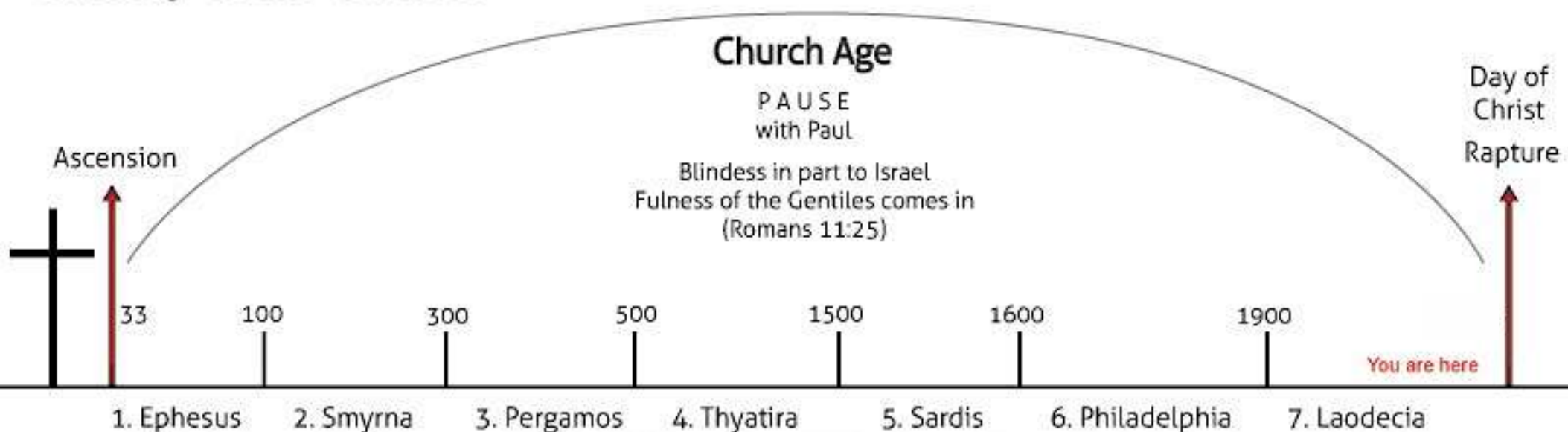


A map of the Aegean region in Asia Minor, showing the locations of the Seven Churches of Revelation. A light gray line connects the cities in a clockwise loop. The cities are labeled as follows: Pergamum (top left), Thyatira (top center), Sardis (top right), Philadelphia (center), Laodicea (bottom right), Ephesus (bottom left), and Smyrna (middle left).

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

Message to the Seven Churches

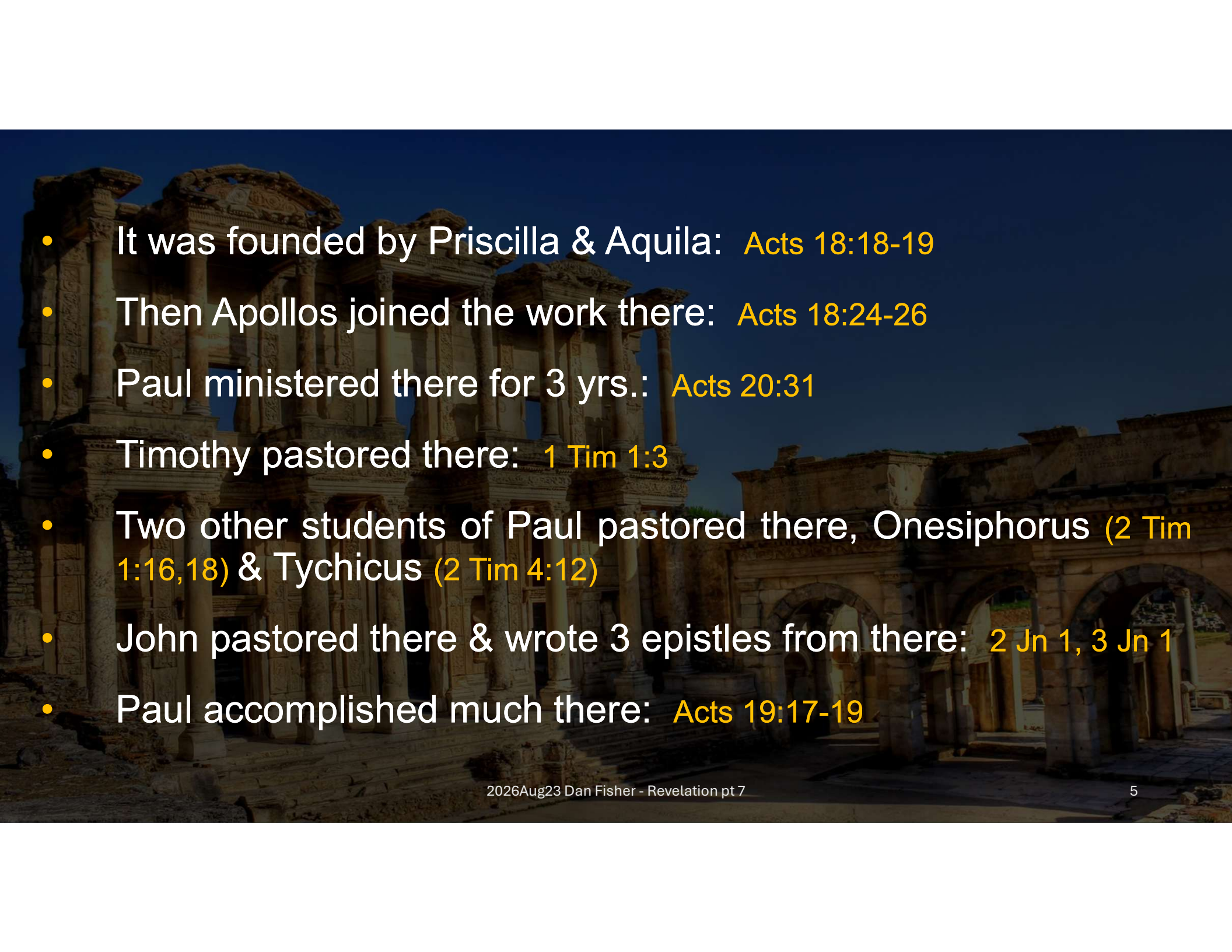
History of the Church

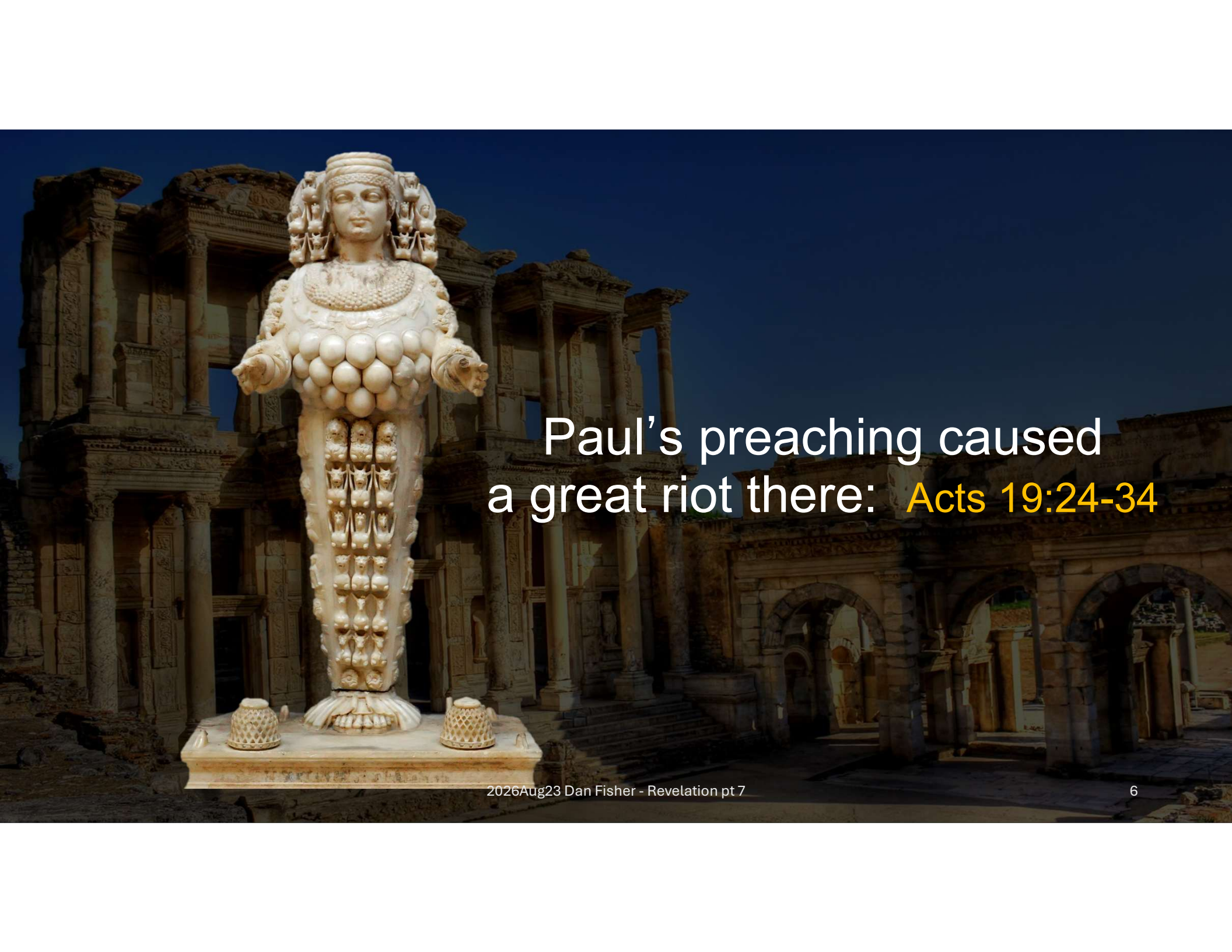




Church 1:

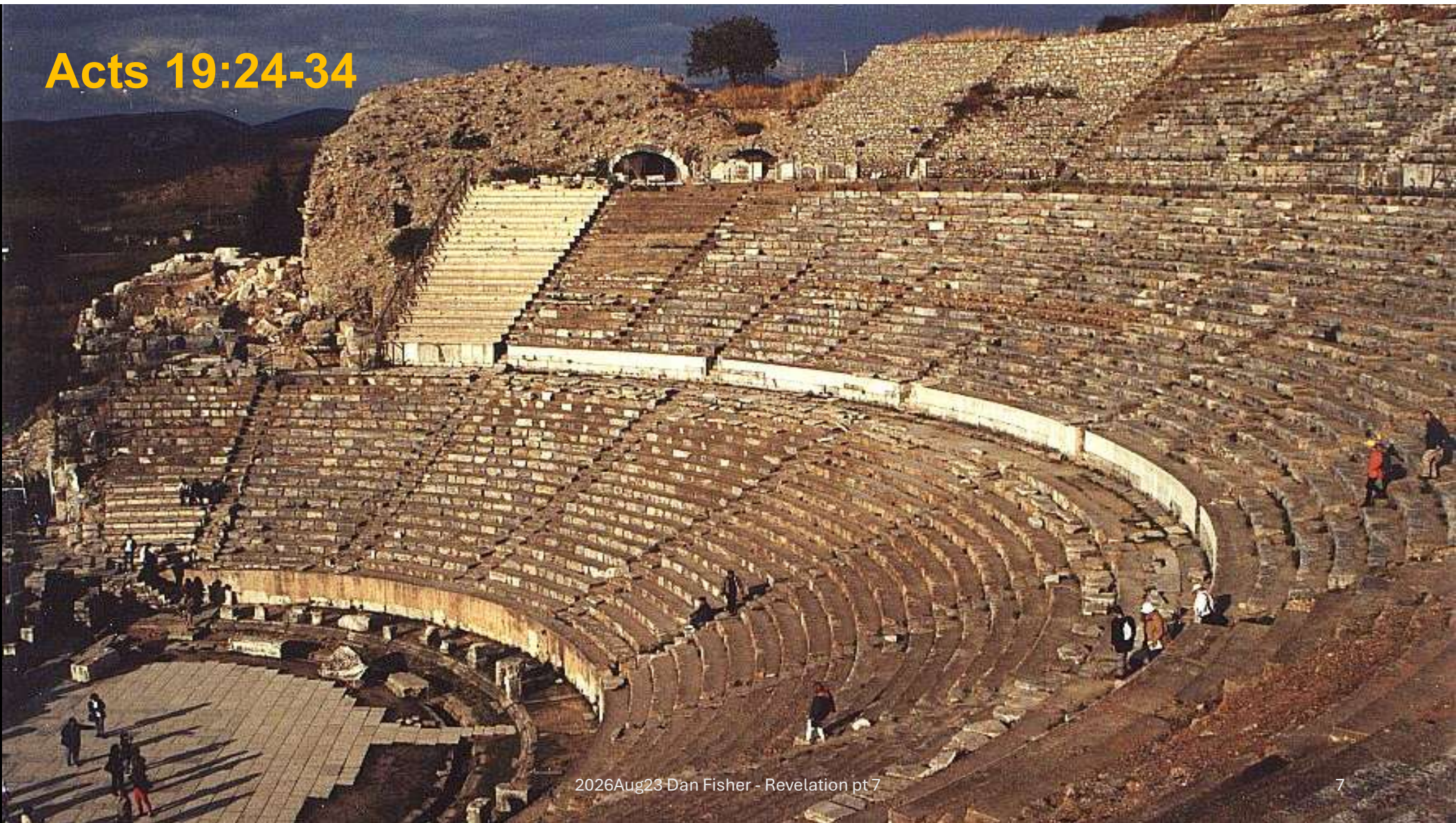
Ephesus – the church that lost its first love

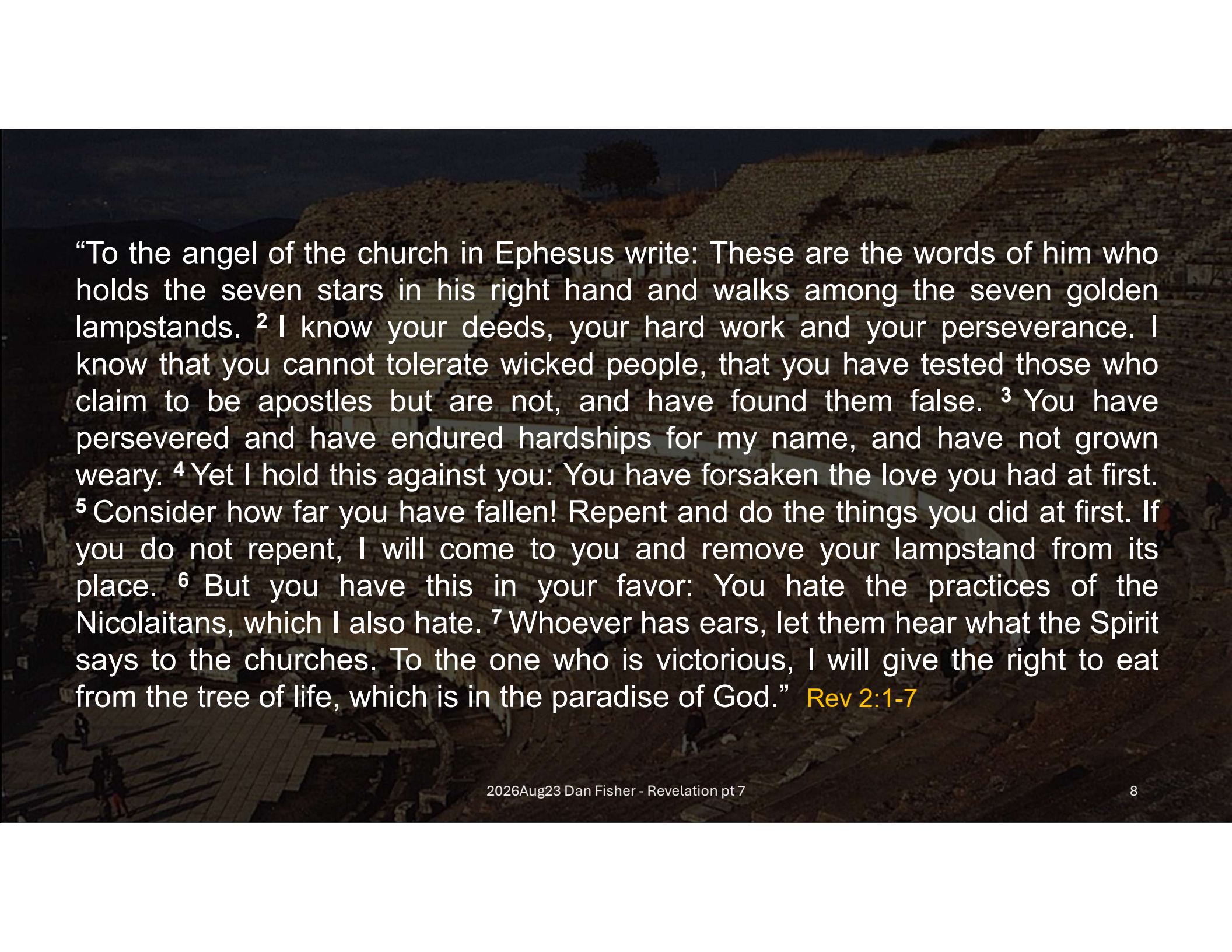
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- It was founded by Priscilla & Aquila: Acts 18:18-19
 - Then Apollos joined the work there: Acts 18:24-26
 - Paul ministered there for 3 yrs.: Acts 20:31
 - Timothy pastored there: 1 Tim 1:3
 - Two other students of Paul pastored there, Onesiphorus (2 Tim 1:16,18) & Tychicus (2 Tim 4:12)
 - John pastored there & wrote 3 epistles from there: 2 Jn 1, 3 Jn 1
 - Paul accomplished much there: Acts 19:17-19



Paul's preaching caused
a great riot there: **Acts 19:24-34**

Acts 19:24-34





“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” **Rev 2:1-7**



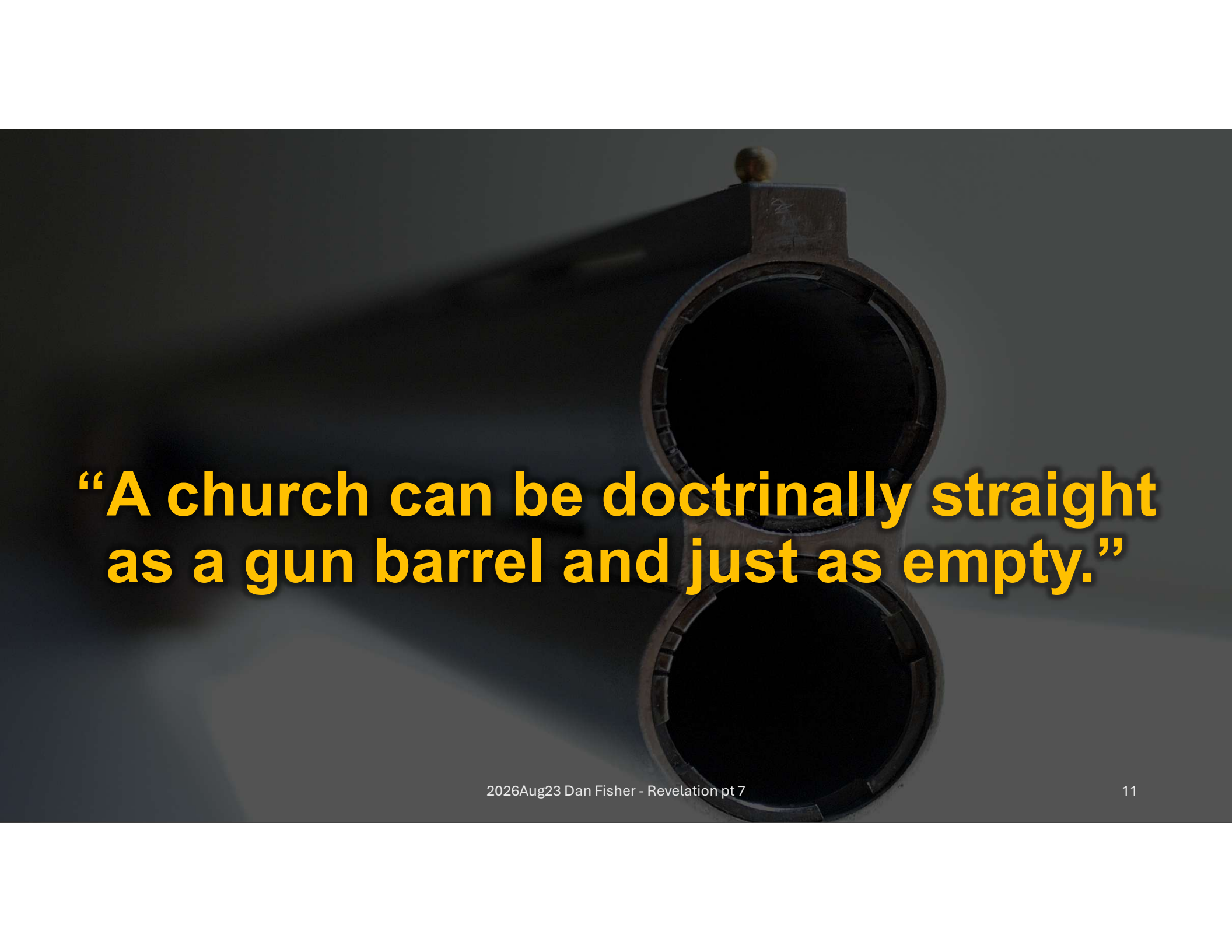
1. The full works of this church

- They were doing the task
- They were defending the truth
- They were defeating the test

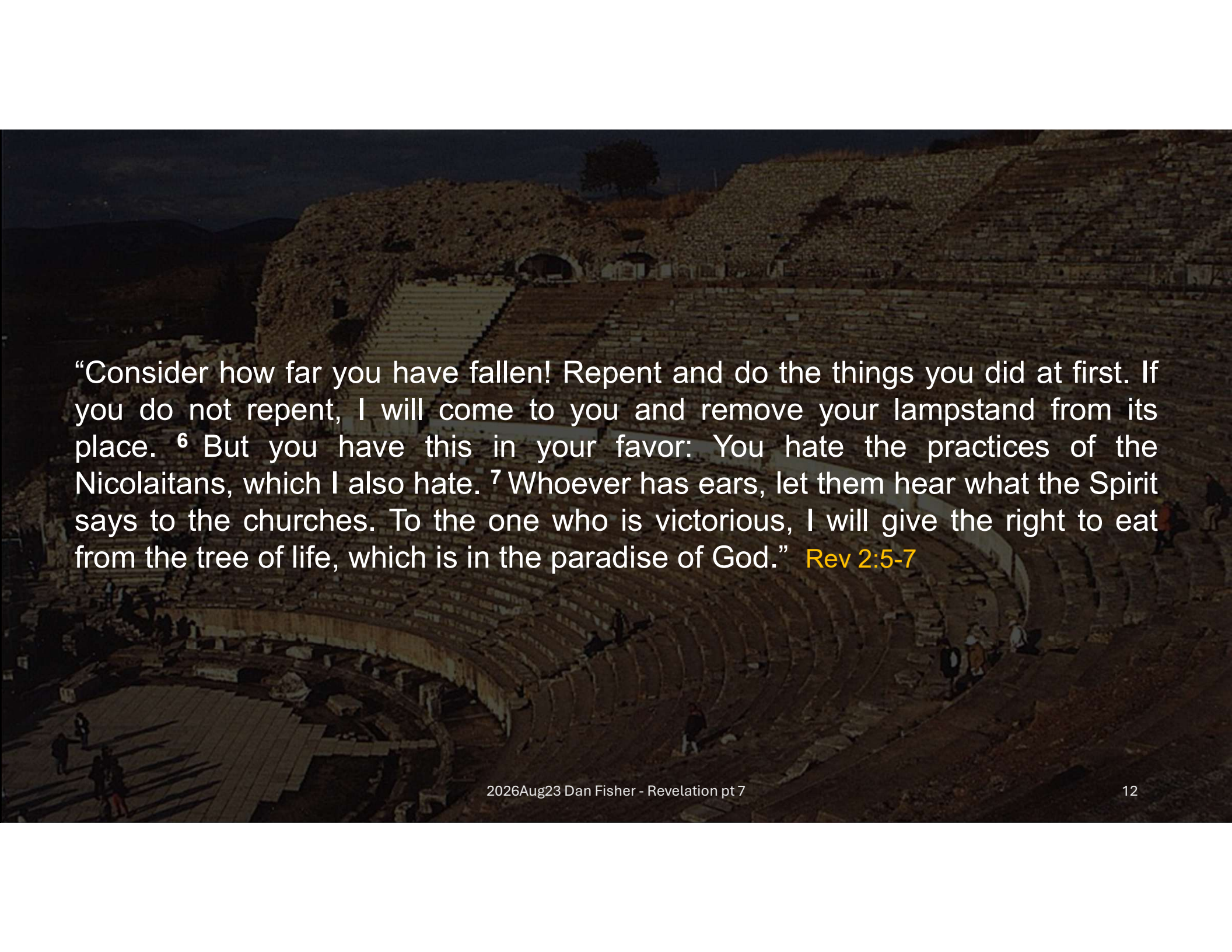


2. The fatal weakness of this church

- Their passion was gone (left first love)
- Their power was gone



**“A church can be doctrinally straight
as a gun barrel and just as empty.”**



“Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” **Rev 2:5-7**



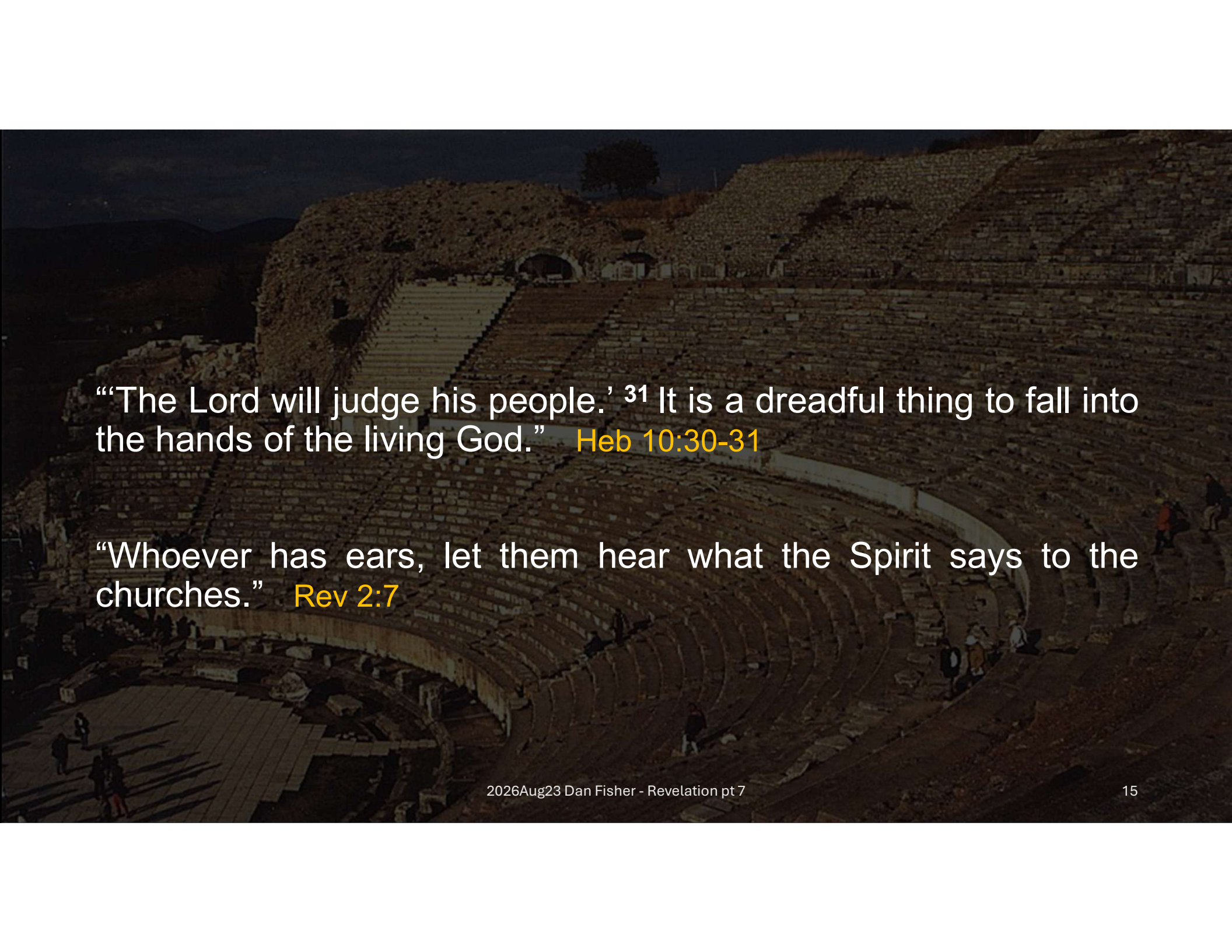
3. The faithful way for this church

- Remember
- Repent
- Repeat



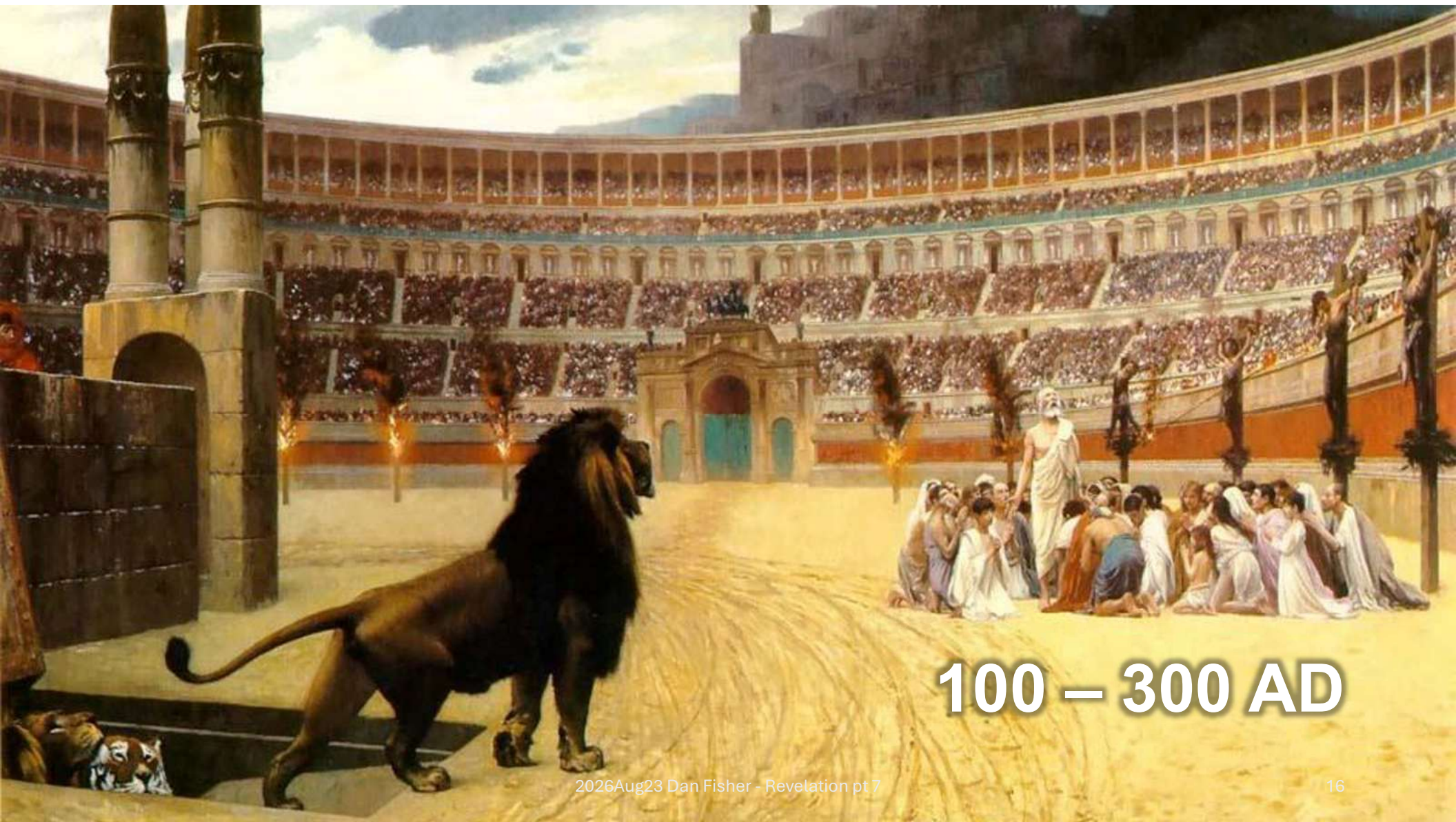
4. The forceful warning to this church

- Their judgment was imminent
- Their judgment would be intense



“The Lord will judge his people.’ ³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” **Heb 10:30-31**

“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” **Rev 2:7**



100 – 300 AD

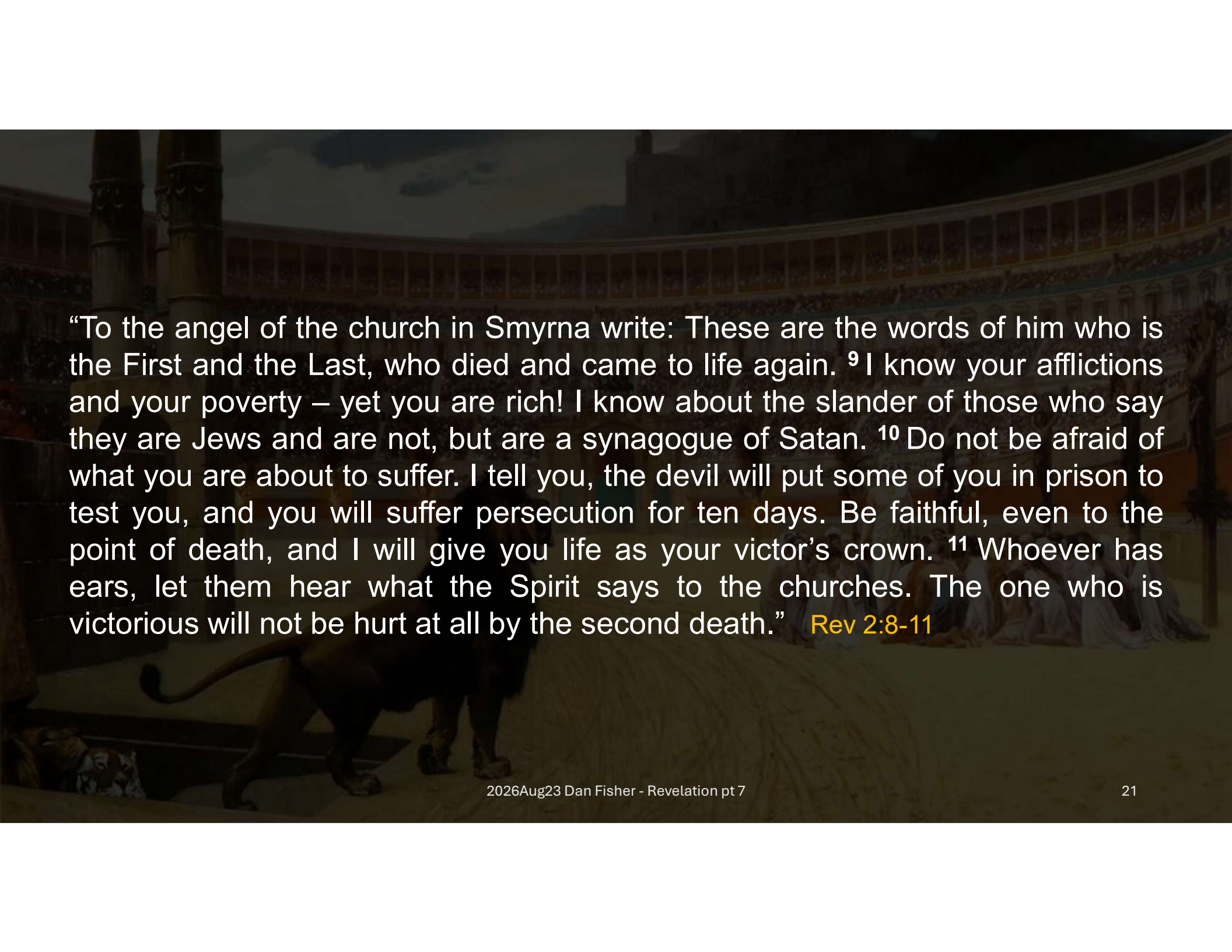


Church 2: Smyrna – the persecuted church









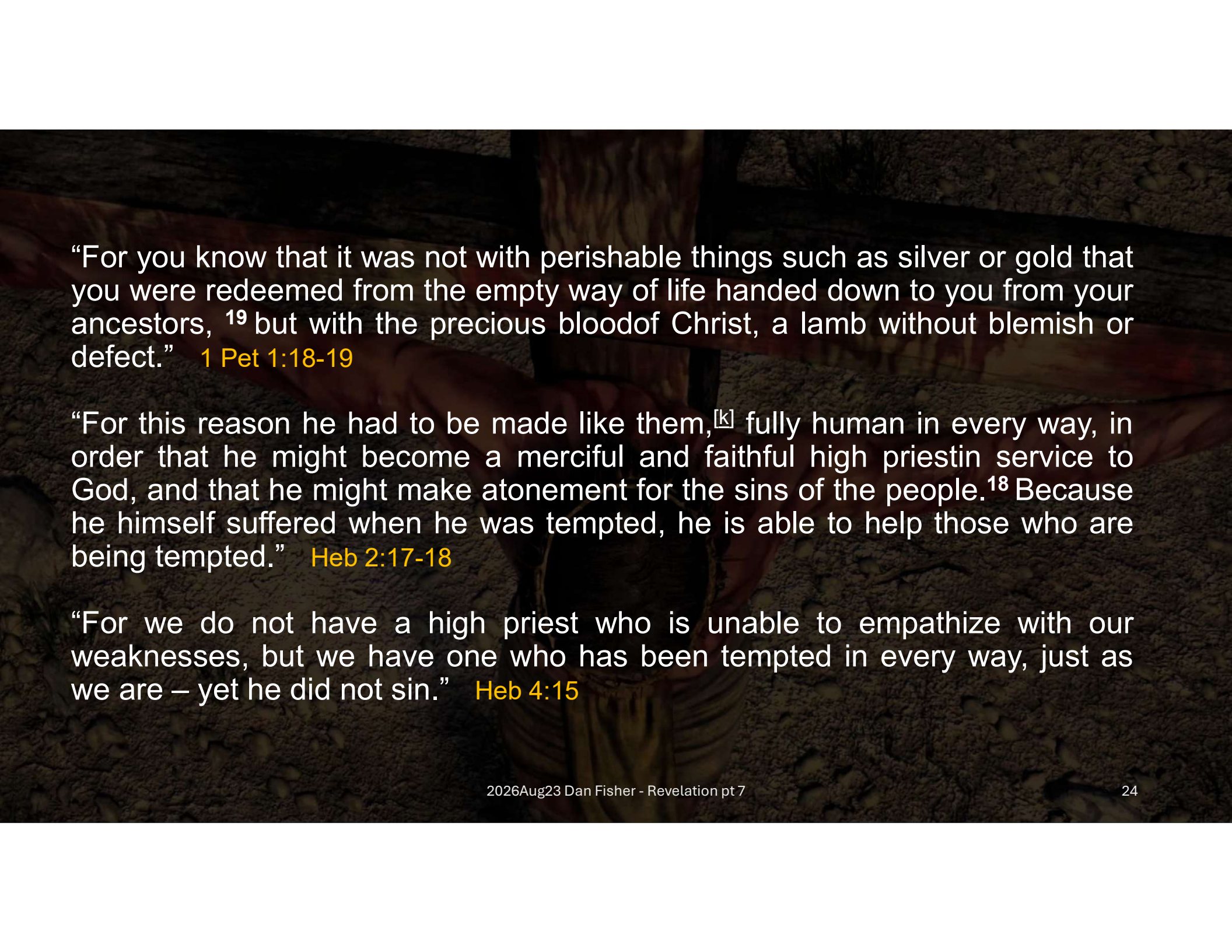
“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. ⁹ I know your afflictions and your poverty – yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. ¹¹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.” **Rev 2:8-11**

1. Smyrna comes from the root word “myrrh”

“And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” **Mt 2:11**

“And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.” **Jn 19:39**

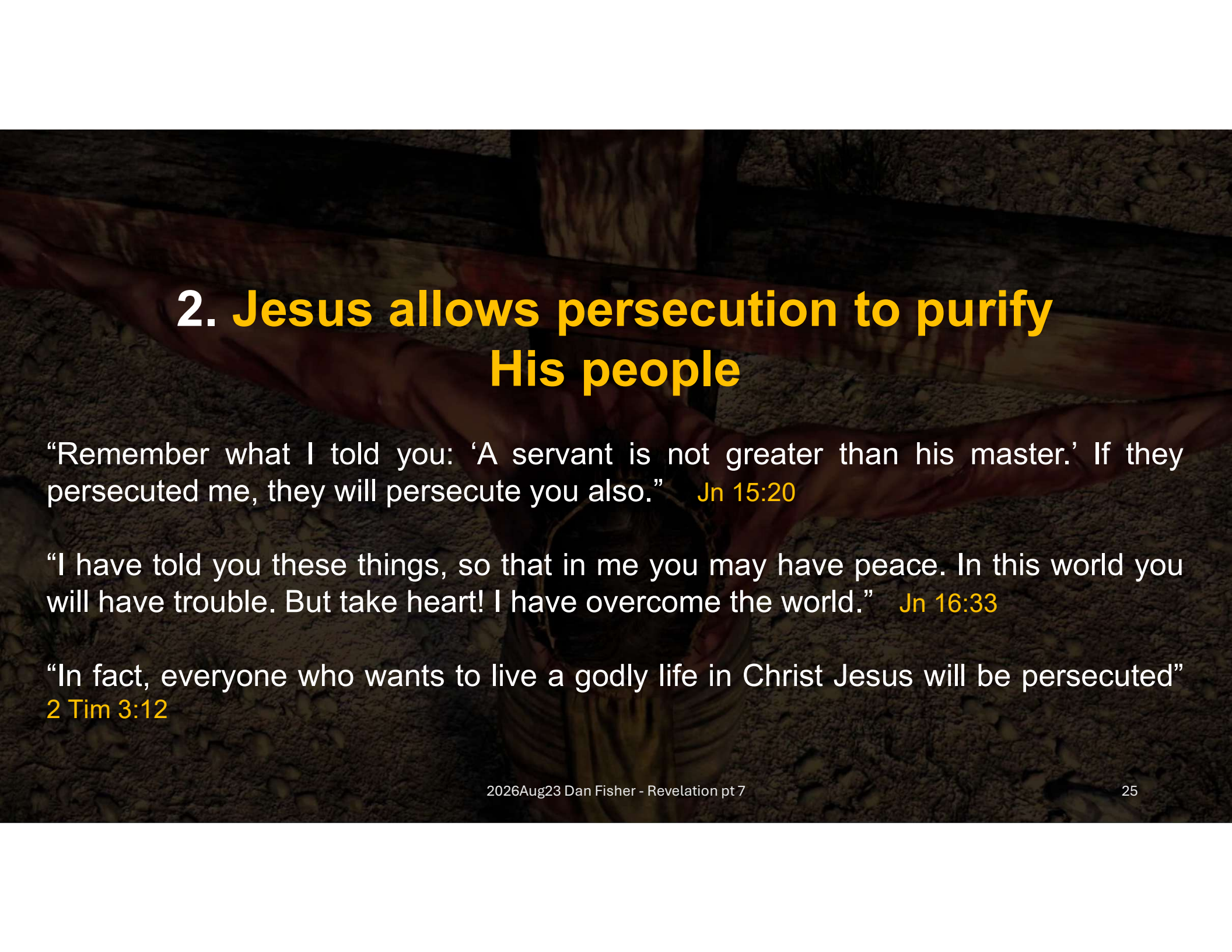




“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” **1 Pet 1:18-19**

“For this reason he had to be made like them,^[k] fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” **Heb 2:17-18**

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.” **Heb 4:15**

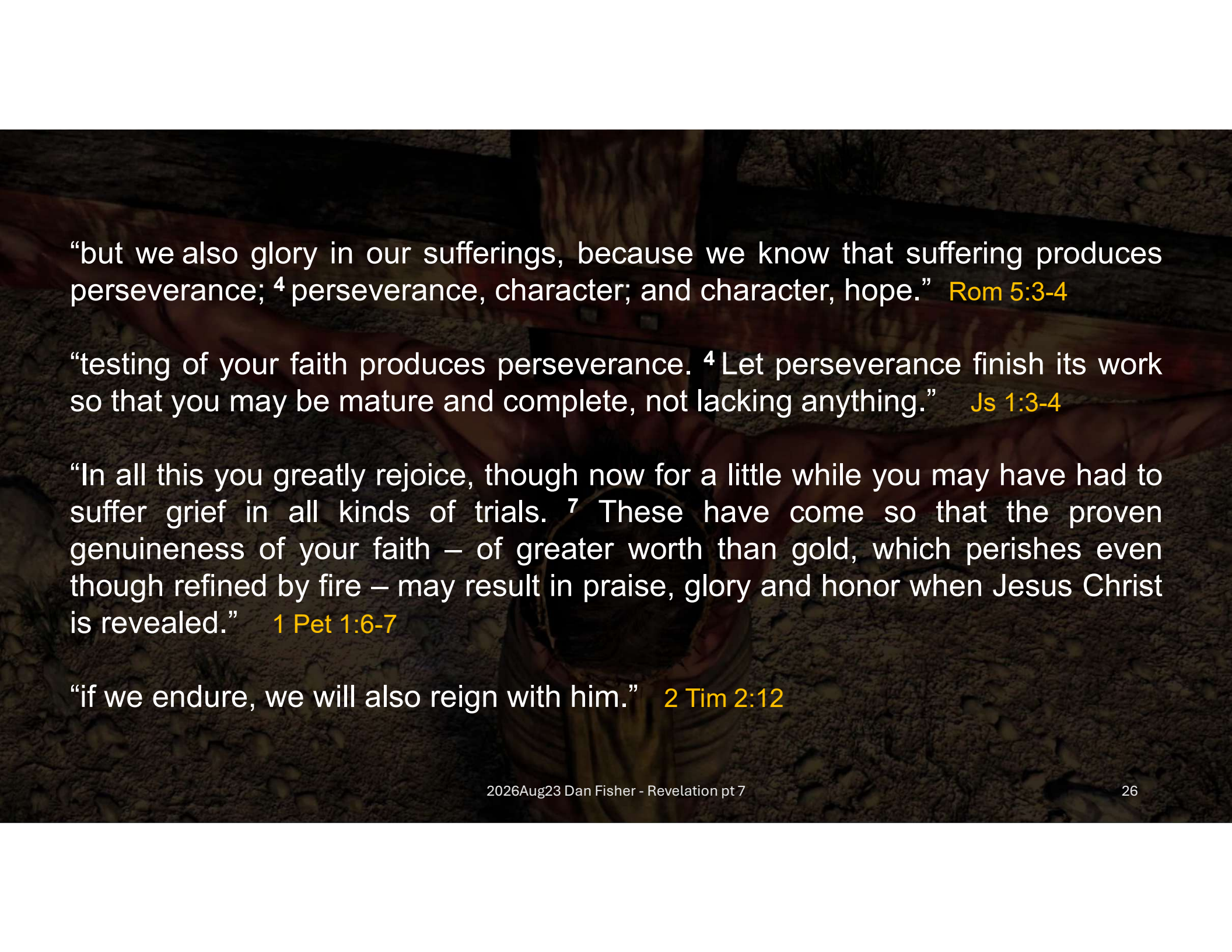


2. Jesus allows persecution to purify His people

“Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” Jn 15:20

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Jn 16:33

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”
2 Tim 3:12



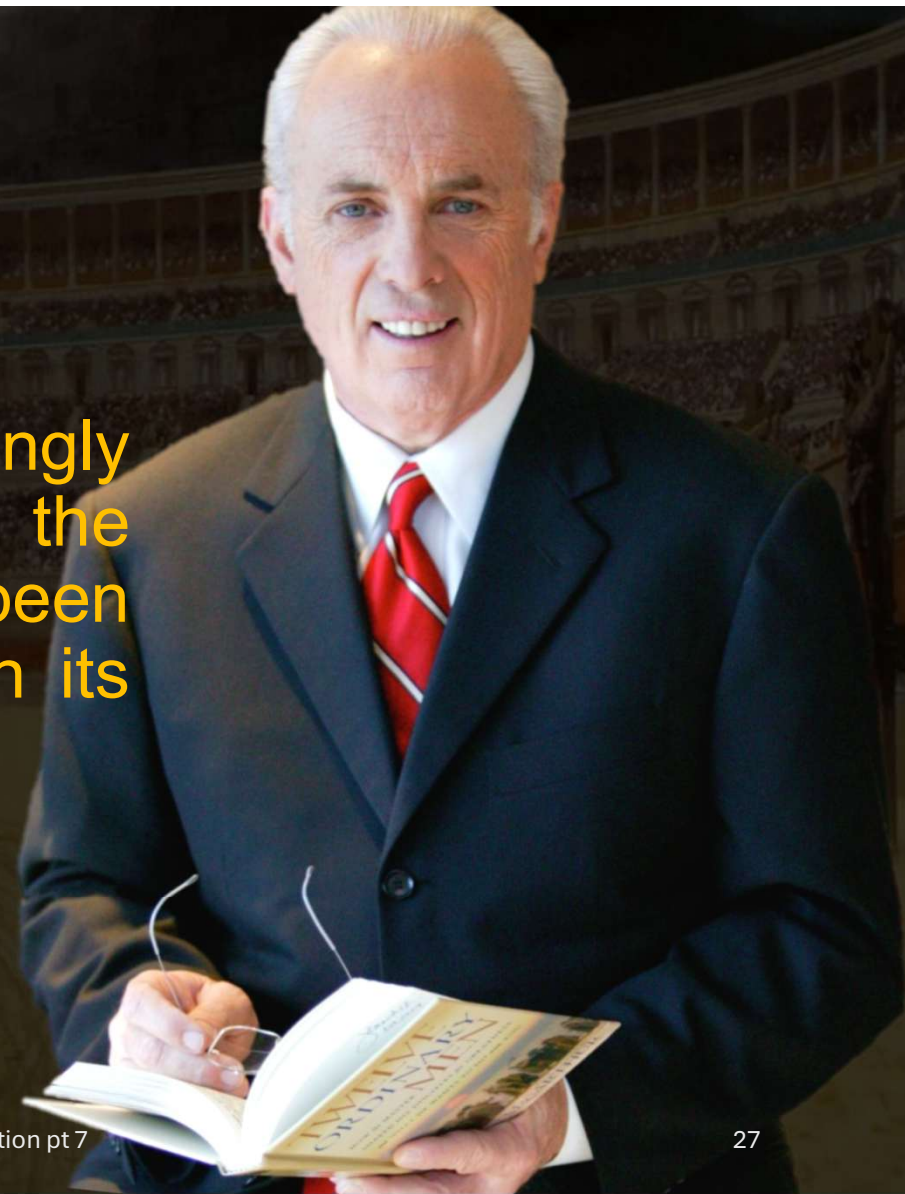
“but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.” **Rom 5:3-4**

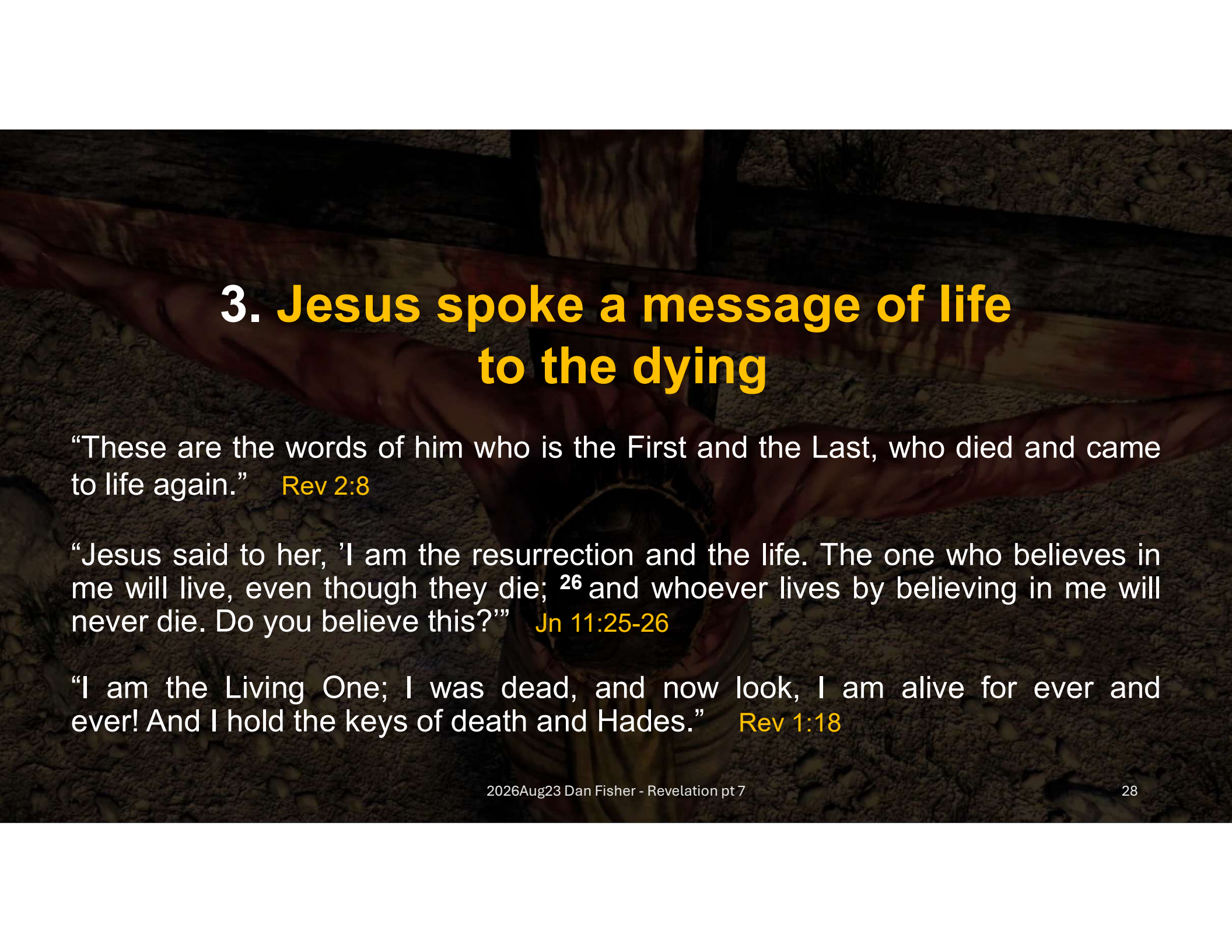
“testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” **Js 1:3-4**

“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” **1 Pet 1:6-7**

“if we endure, we will also reign with him.” **2 Tim 2:12**

“Throughout its history, the seemingly paradoxical truth has been that the more the church has been persecuted, the greater has been its purity and strength.” John MacArthur





3. Jesus spoke a message of life to the dying

“These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.” **Rev 2:8**

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?’” **Jn 11:25-26**

“I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” **Rev 1:18**

4. Jesus knew their condition

“I know your afflictions and your poverty – yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.” **Rev 2:9**

“For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.” **Mt 6:8**

“But Jesus knew their thoughts” **Mt 12:25**

“And they prayed and said, ‘You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all’” **Acts 1:24**

- **He knew their tribulation**

“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” **Acts 14:22**

“all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” **2 Tim 3:12**

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” **Js 1:2-4**

“But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.” **1 Pet 5:10**

- **He knew their poverty**

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” **2 Cor 8:9**

“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ... ¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” **1 Tim 6:9,18**

- **He knew about the false believers**

“and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.” **Rev 2:9**

“He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” **Mt 12:30**

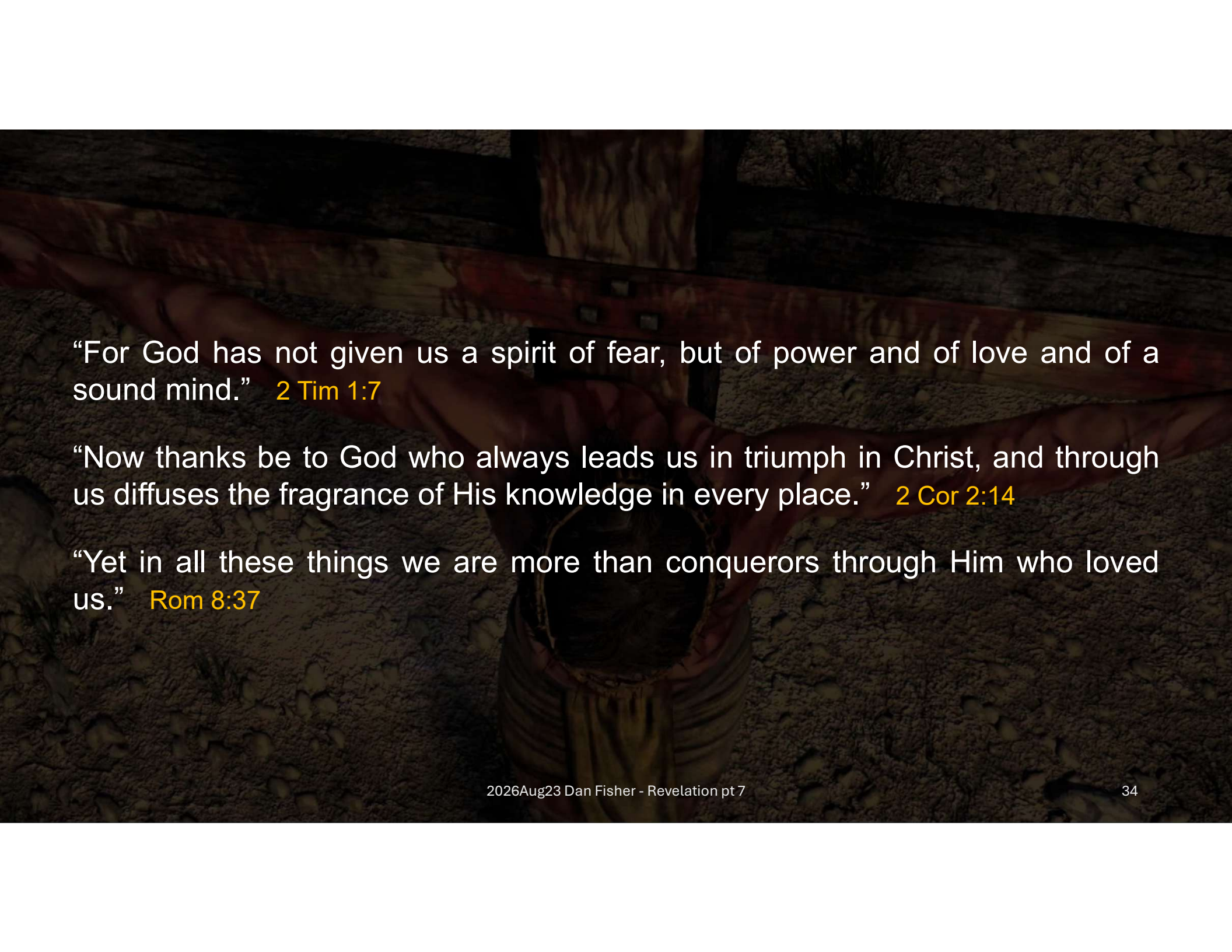
“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” **Jn 8:44**

5. He encouraged them to not be afraid

“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.” **Rev 2:10**

“In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” **Ps 56:11**

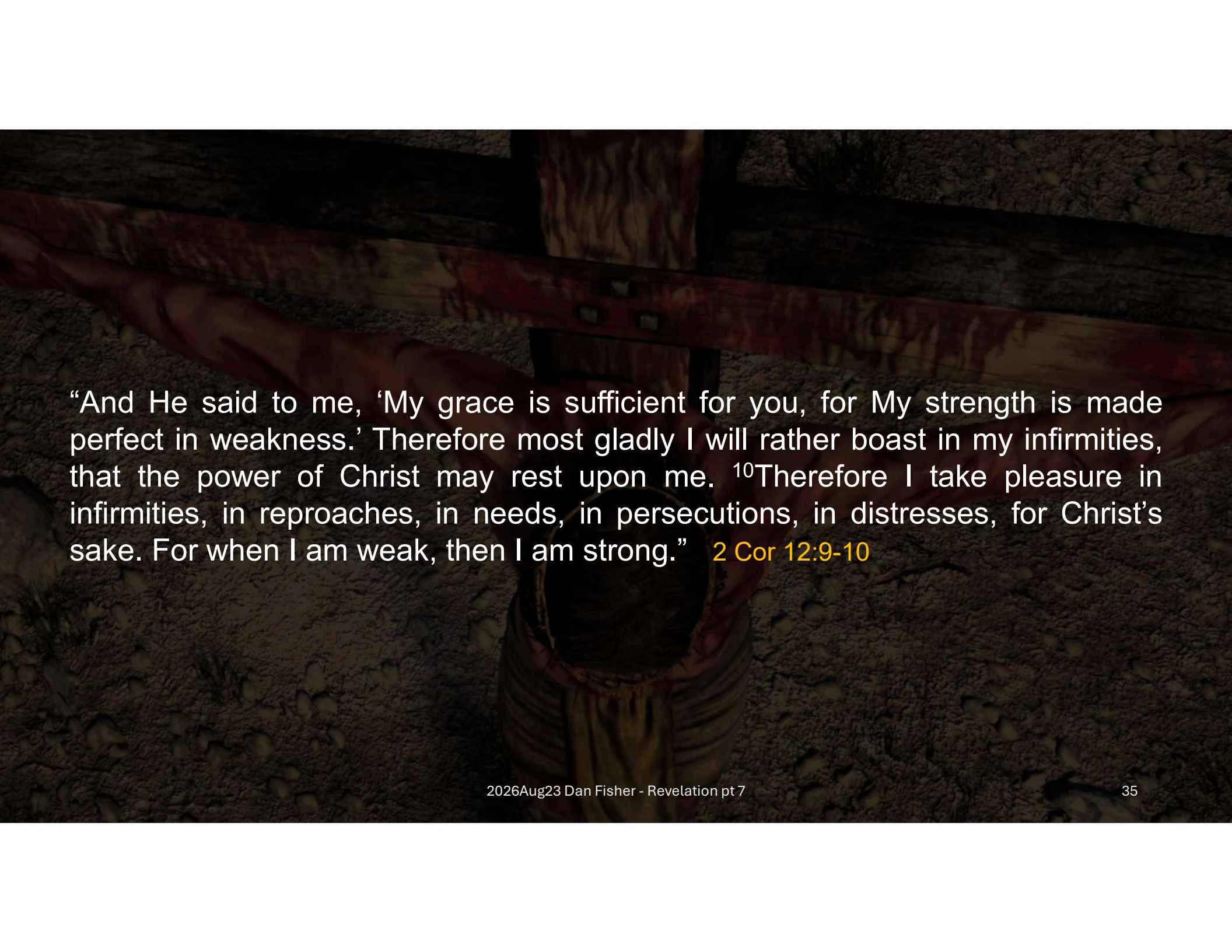
“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” **Jn 16:33**



“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Tim 1:7

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.” 2 Cor 2:14

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Rom 8:37



“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Cor 12:9-10

6. He promised a reward to the faithful

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.’” **Rev 2:10b-11**

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” **1 Cor 4:2**

“Fight the good fight of faith” **1 Tim 6:12**

“I have fought the good fight” **2 Tim 4:7**

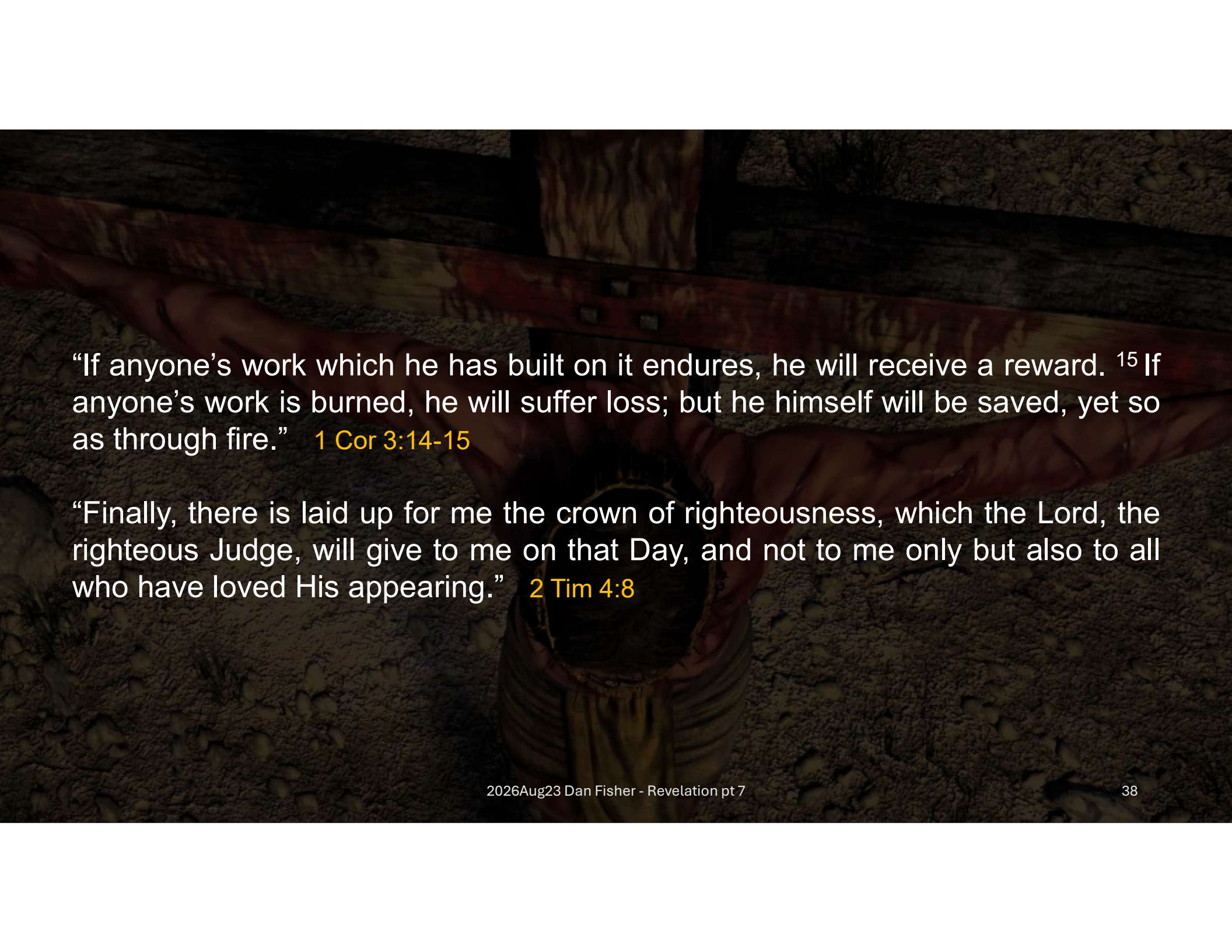
“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” **2 Tim 2:3**

- **Losing means winning**

“He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.” **Mt 10:39**

- **Born once, die twice; born twice, die once**

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’” **Jn 3:7**

A person is shown from behind, standing in a desert landscape with their arms outstretched horizontally. They are wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt and a dark, patterned skirt. The ground is sandy and covered with many footprints. In the background, there are some dark, rocky structures and a small, dark, tent-like structure. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn.

“If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” 1 Cor 3:14-15

“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” 2 Tim 4:8

PART 8: The church age – Pergamum & Thyatira

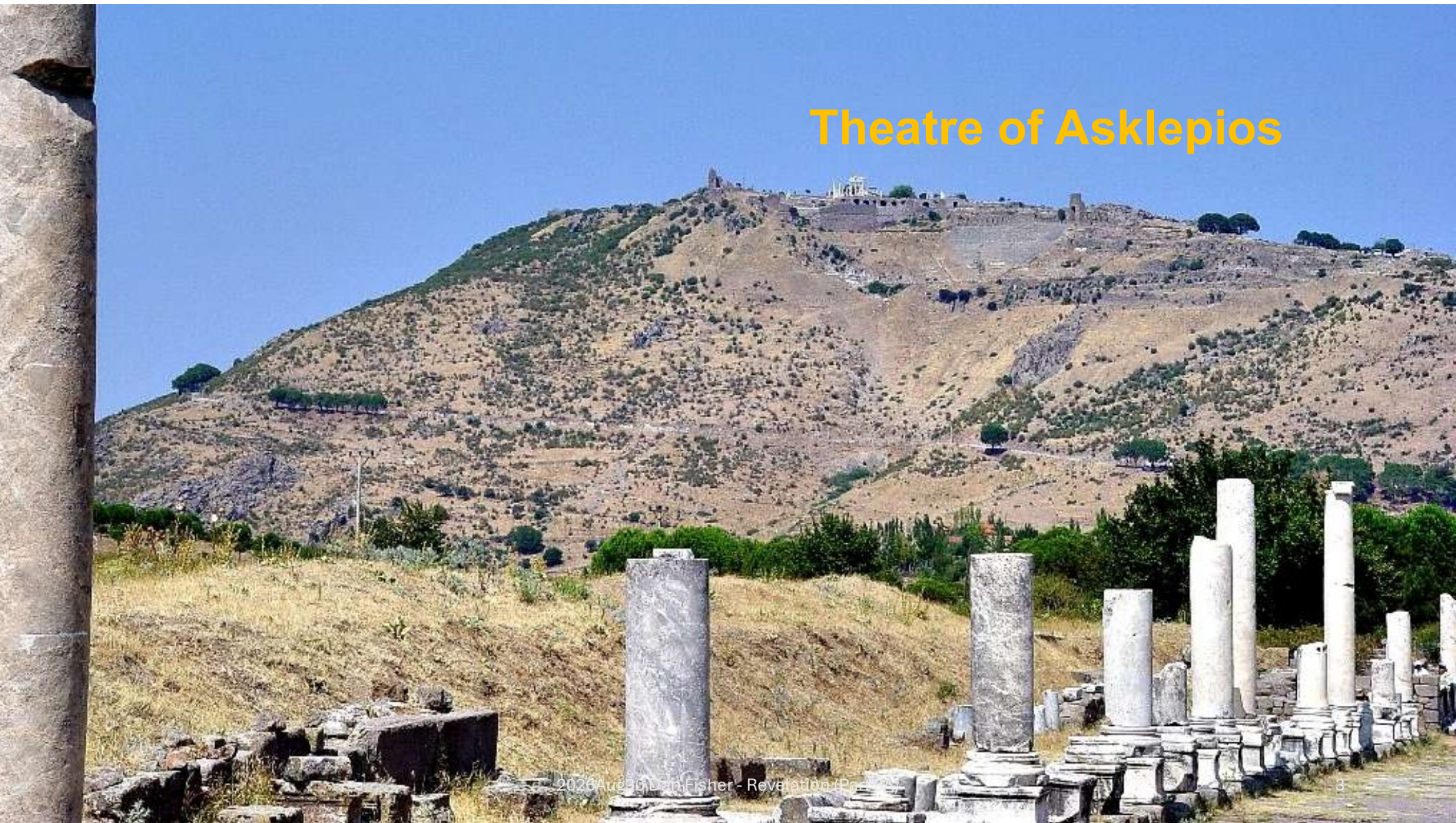
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A STORY OF THE LAST DAYS

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



Theatre of Asklepios



Theatre of Asklepios



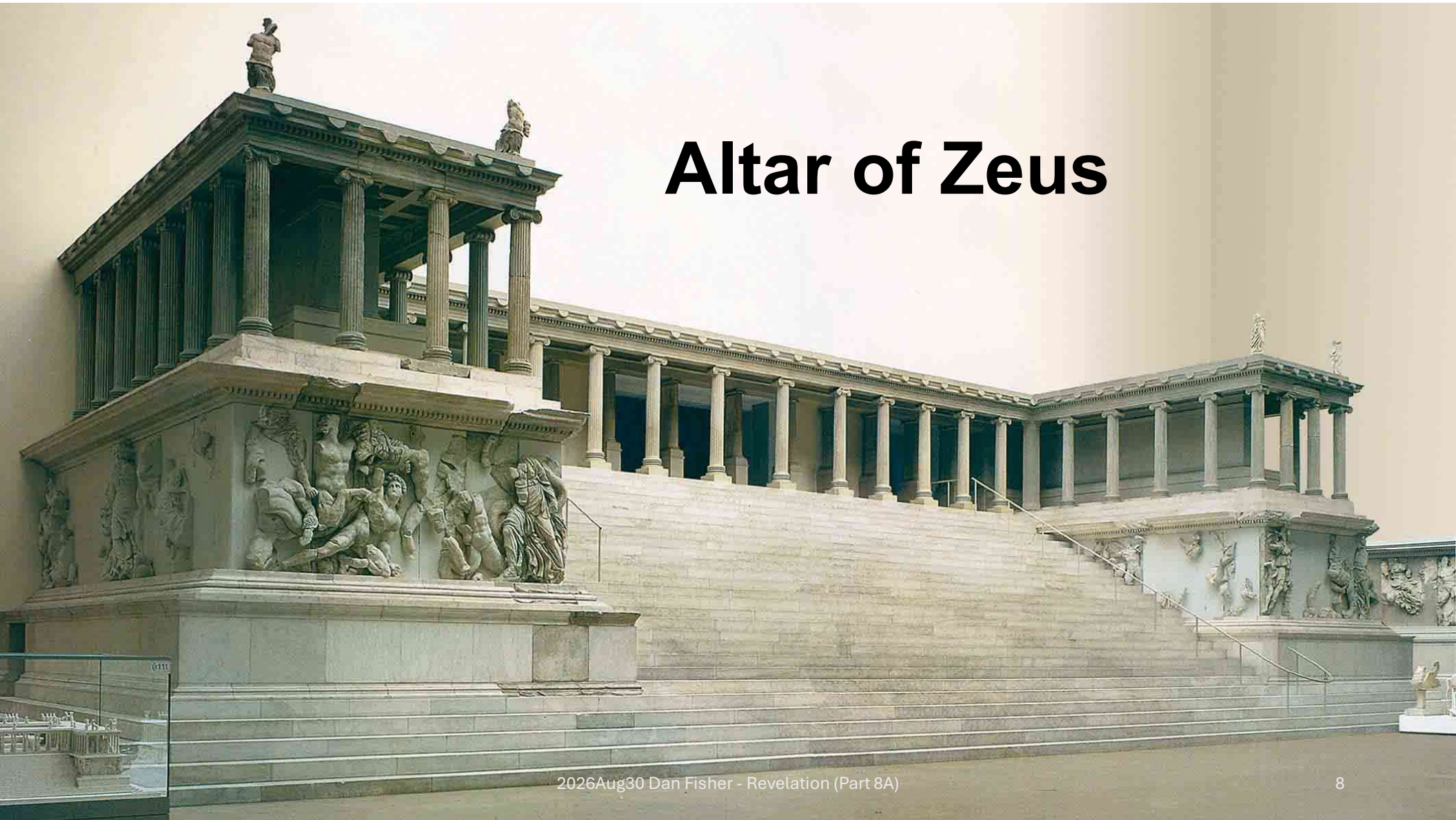
Theatre of Asklepios

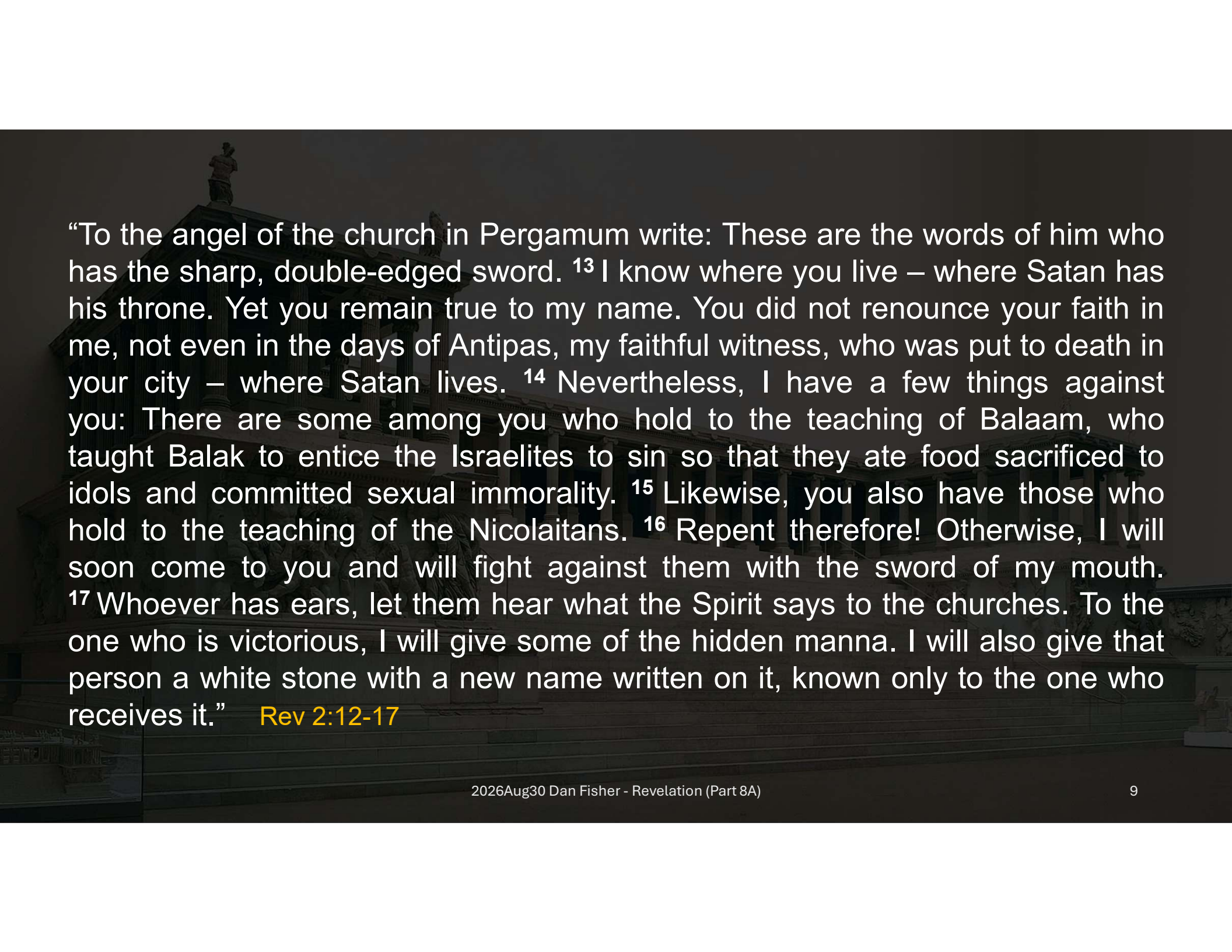
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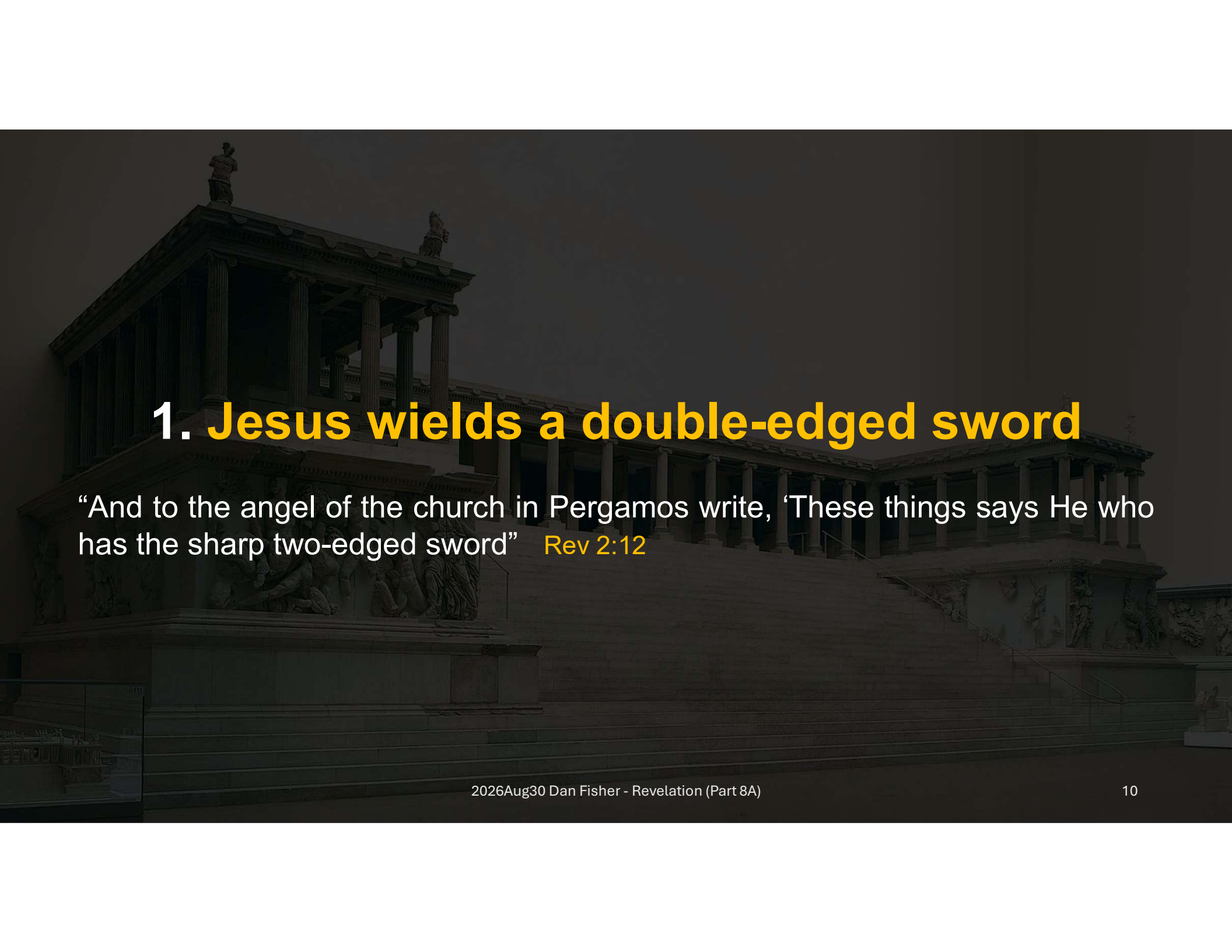


Altar of Zeus



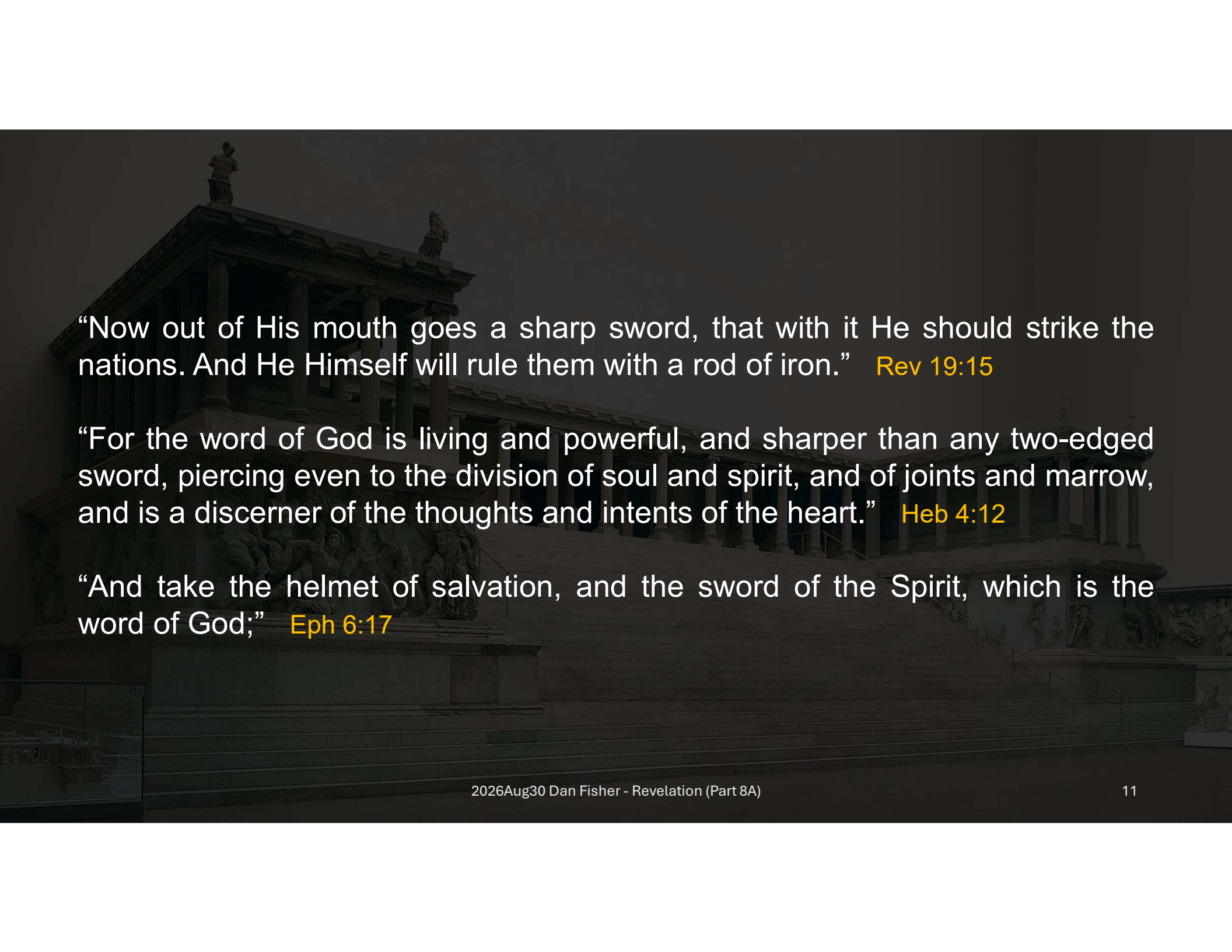


“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live – where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was 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**