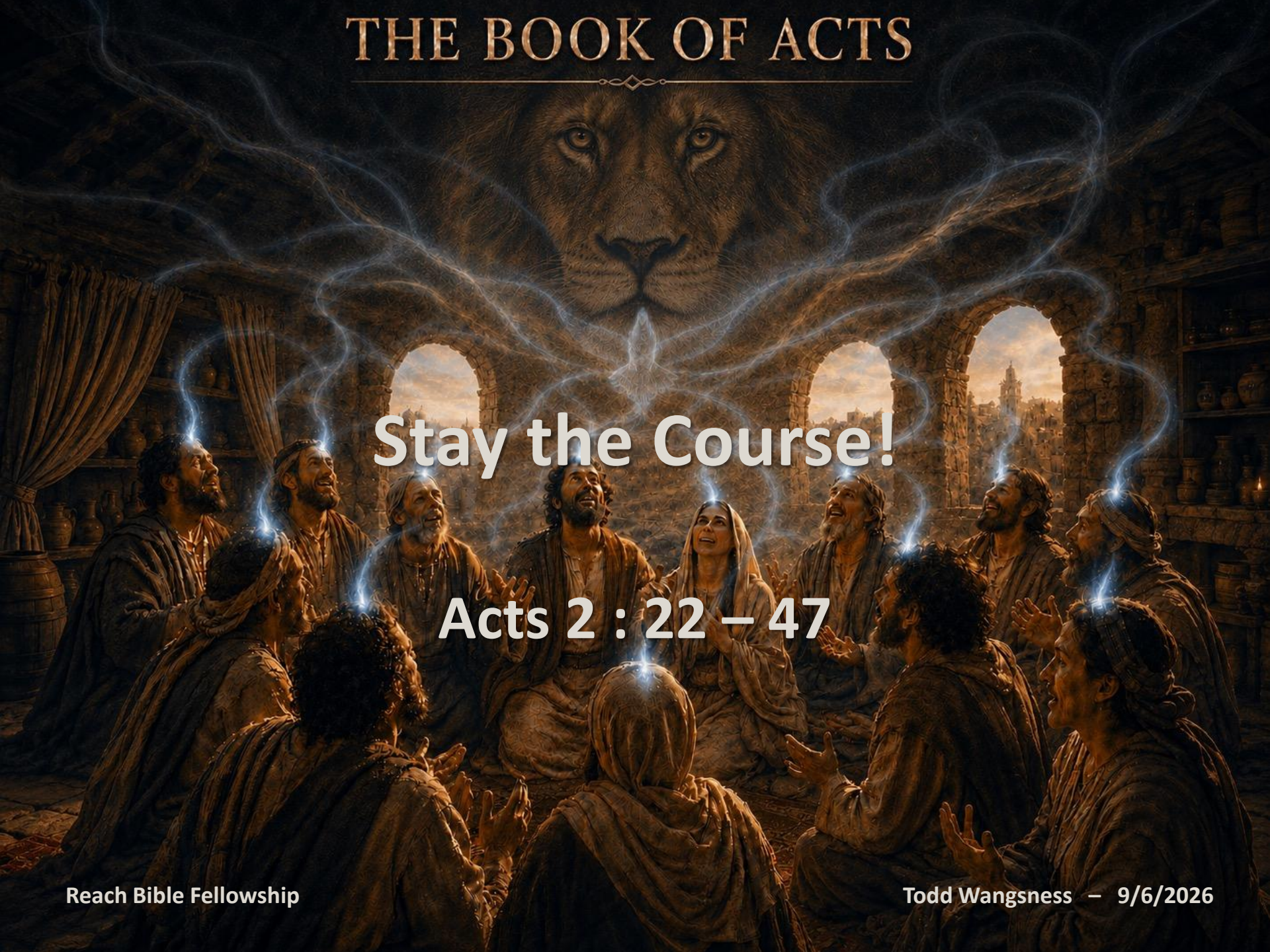


THE BOOK OF ACTS

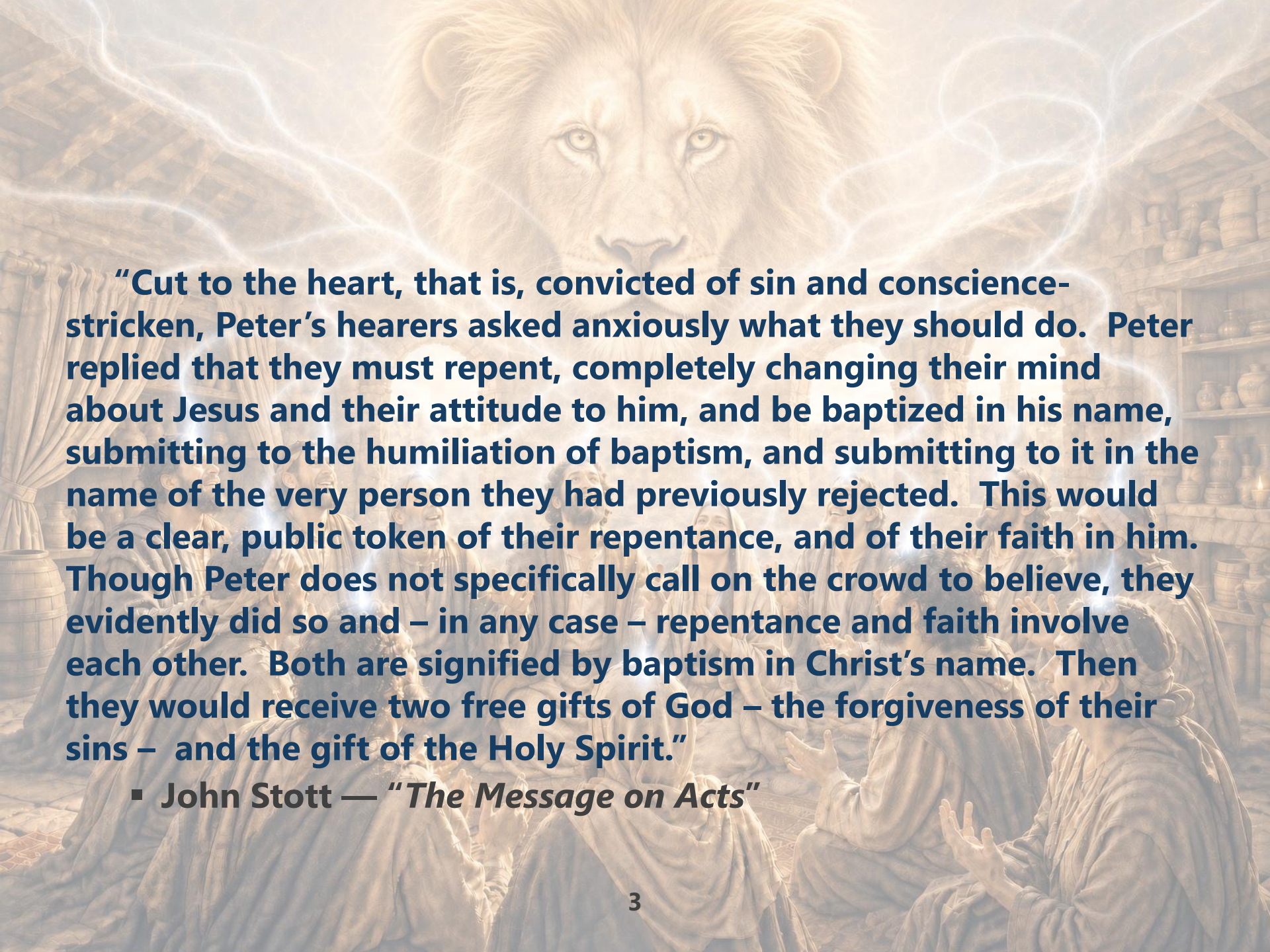


Stay the Course!

Acts 2 : 22 – 47

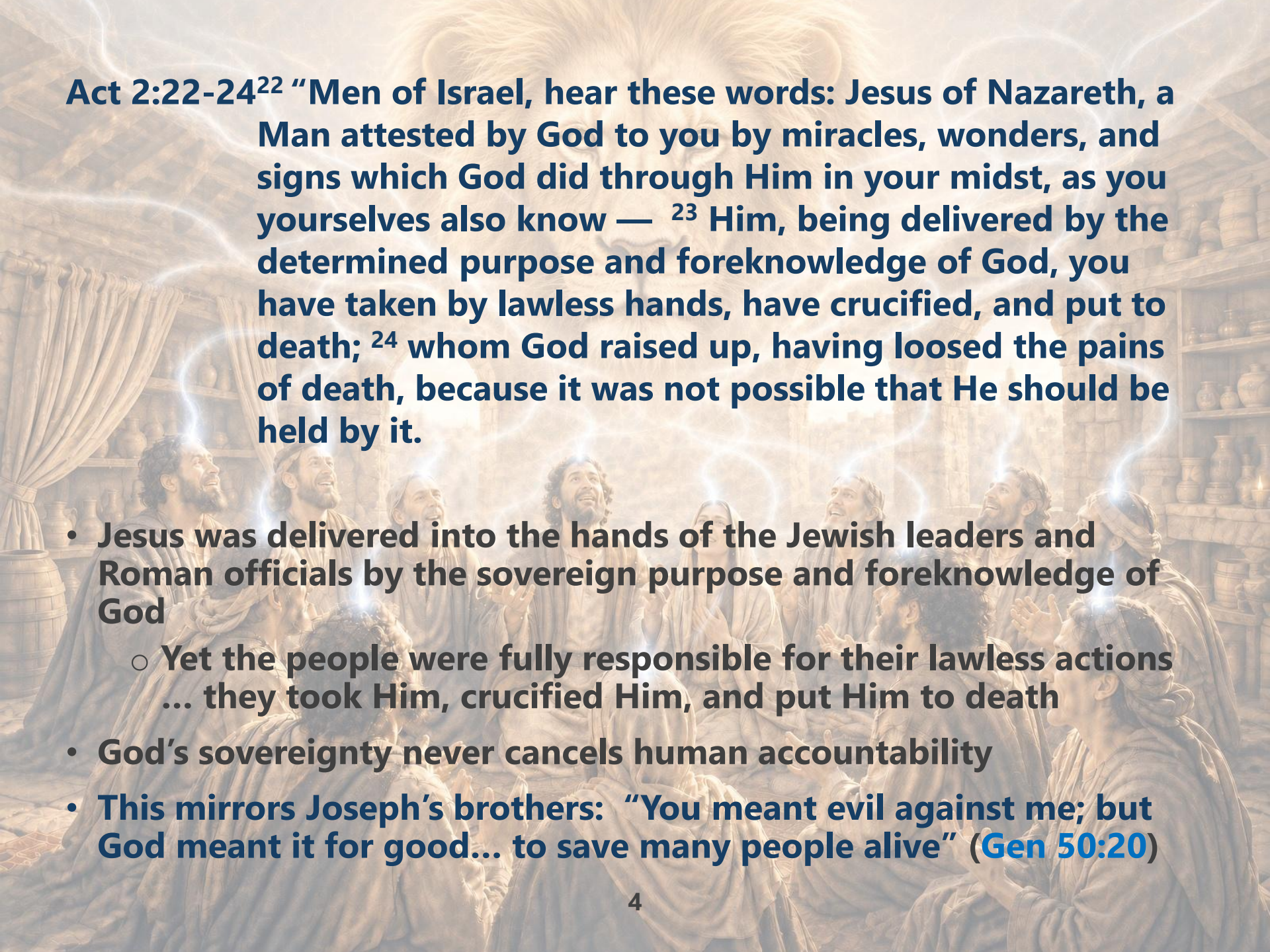
Peter's First Sermon

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- 1. Peter Accuses Jews of Crucifying Jesus Verses 22 – 24**
 - 2. Peter Quotes David in the Psalms Verses 25 – 28**
 - 3. Peter States Jesus was the Christ Verses 29 – 33**
 - 4. The Jews are “Cut to the Heart” Verses 34 – 37**
 - 5. “Repent and be Baptized” Verses 38 – 39**
 - 6. 3000 Souls Added ... Verses 40 – 47**
 - 7. Separate Ourselves from the World**
 - 8. Stay the Course!**
 - 9. An Eternal Weight of Glory!**



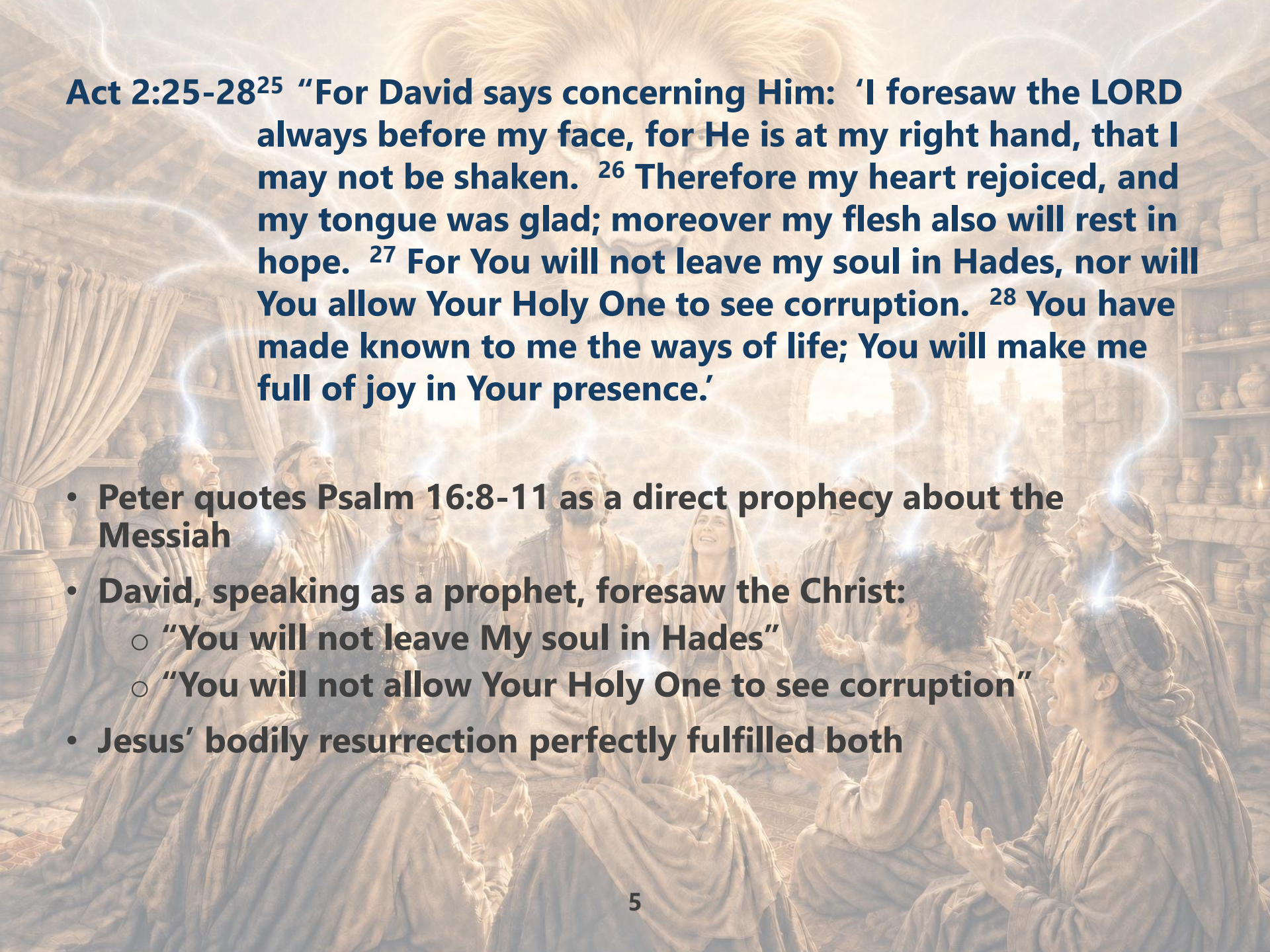
“Cut to the heart, that is, convicted of sin and conscience-stricken, Peter’s hearers asked anxiously what they should do. Peter replied that they must repent, completely changing their mind about Jesus and their attitude to him, and be baptized in his name, submitting to the humiliation of baptism, and submitting to it in the name of the very person they had previously rejected. This would be a clear, public token of their repentance, and of their faith in him. Though Peter does not specifically call on the crowd to believe, they evidently did so and – in any case – repentance and faith involve each other. Both are signified by baptism in Christ’s name. Then they would receive two free gifts of God – the forgiveness of their sins – and the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

▪ **John Stott — *“The Message on Acts”***



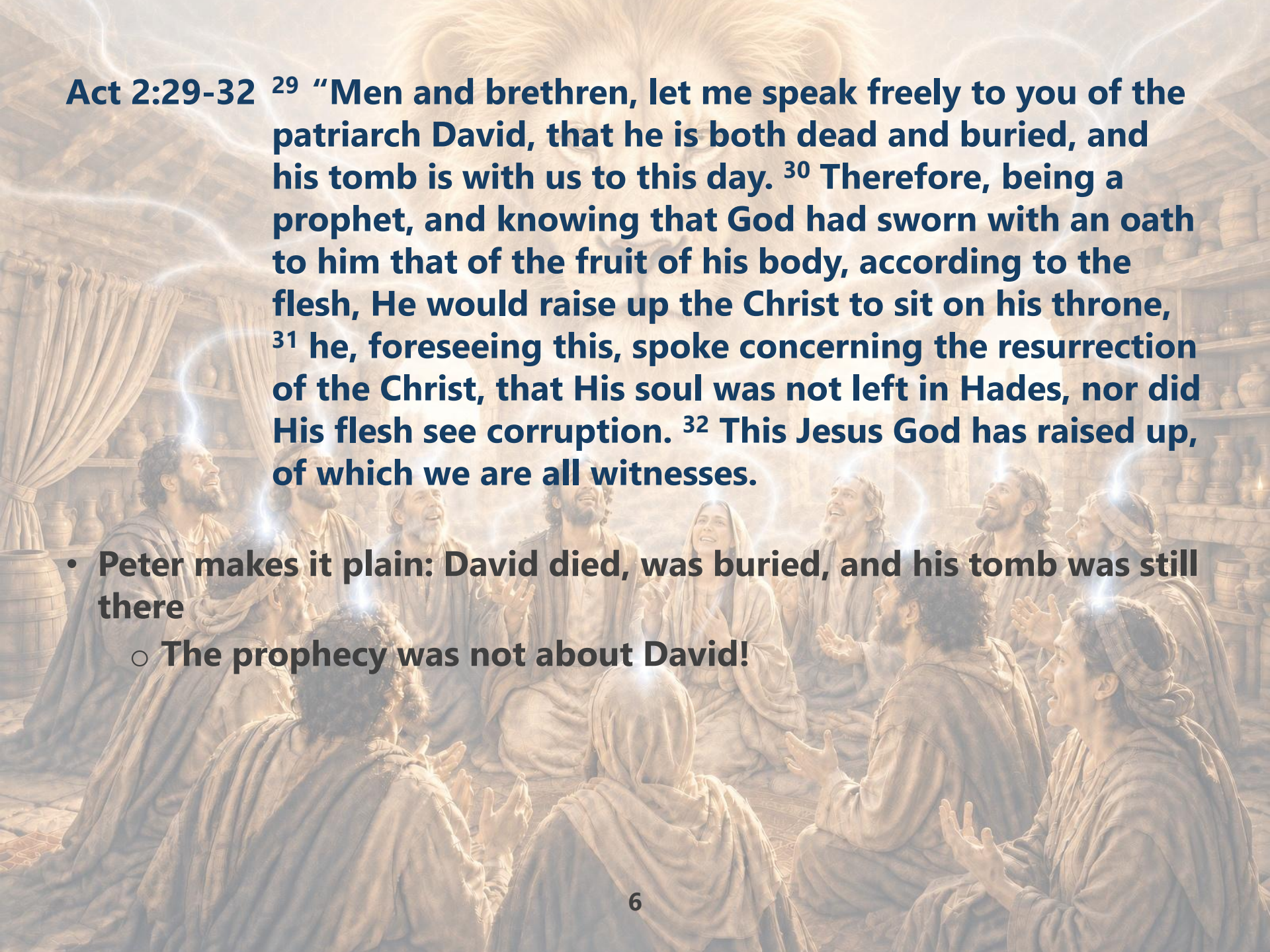
Act 2:22-24²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

- **Jesus was delivered into the hands of the Jewish leaders and Roman officials by the sovereign purpose and foreknowledge of God**
 - **Yet the people were fully responsible for their lawless actions ... they took Him, crucified Him, and put Him to death**
- **God’s sovereignty never cancels human accountability**
- **This mirrors Joseph’s brothers: “You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good... to save many people alive” ([Gen 50:20](#))**



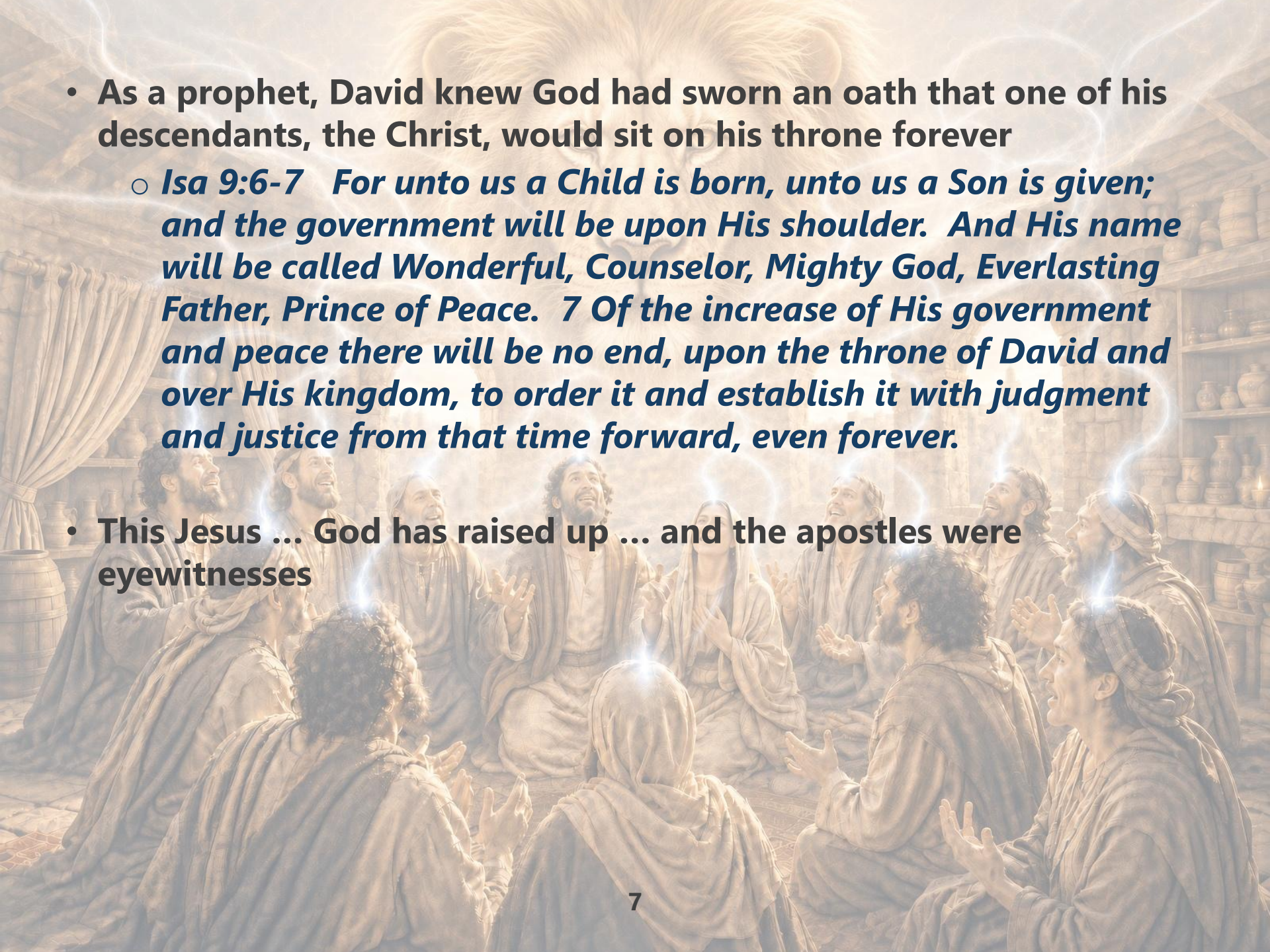
Act 2:25-28²⁵ “For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the LORD always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. ²⁷ For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’

- **Peter quotes Psalm 16:8-11 as a direct prophecy about the Messiah**
- **David, speaking as a prophet, foresaw the Christ:**
 - **“You will not leave My soul in Hades”**
 - **“You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption”**
- **Jesus’ bodily resurrection perfectly fulfilled both**



Act 2:29-32 ²⁹ “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

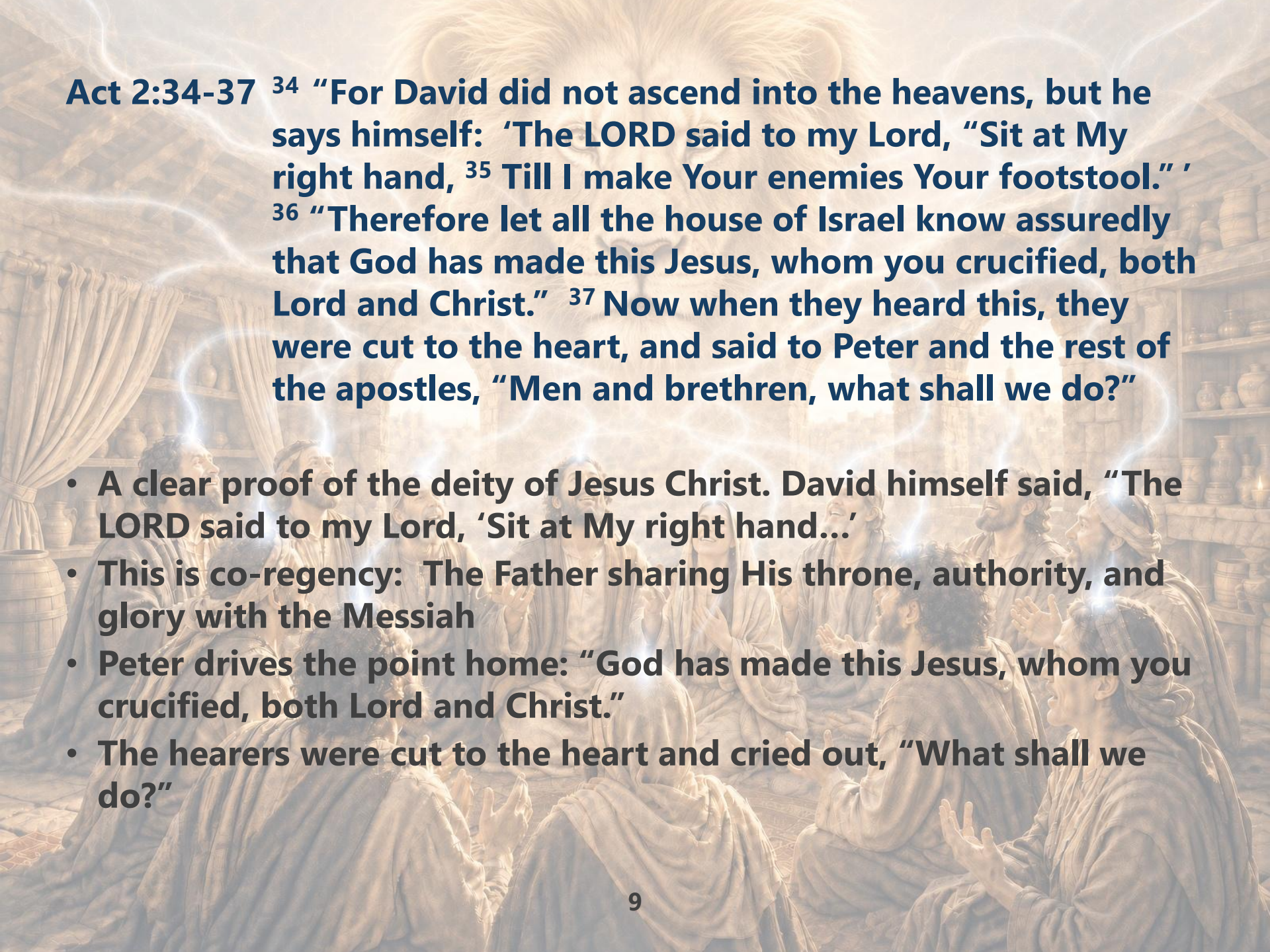
- **Peter makes it plain: David died, was buried, and his tomb was still there**
 - **The prophecy was not about David!**

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- As a prophet, David knew God had sworn an oath that one of his descendants, the Christ, would sit on his throne forever
 - *Isa 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.*
 - This Jesus ... God has raised up ... and the apostles were eyewitnesses

Act 2:33

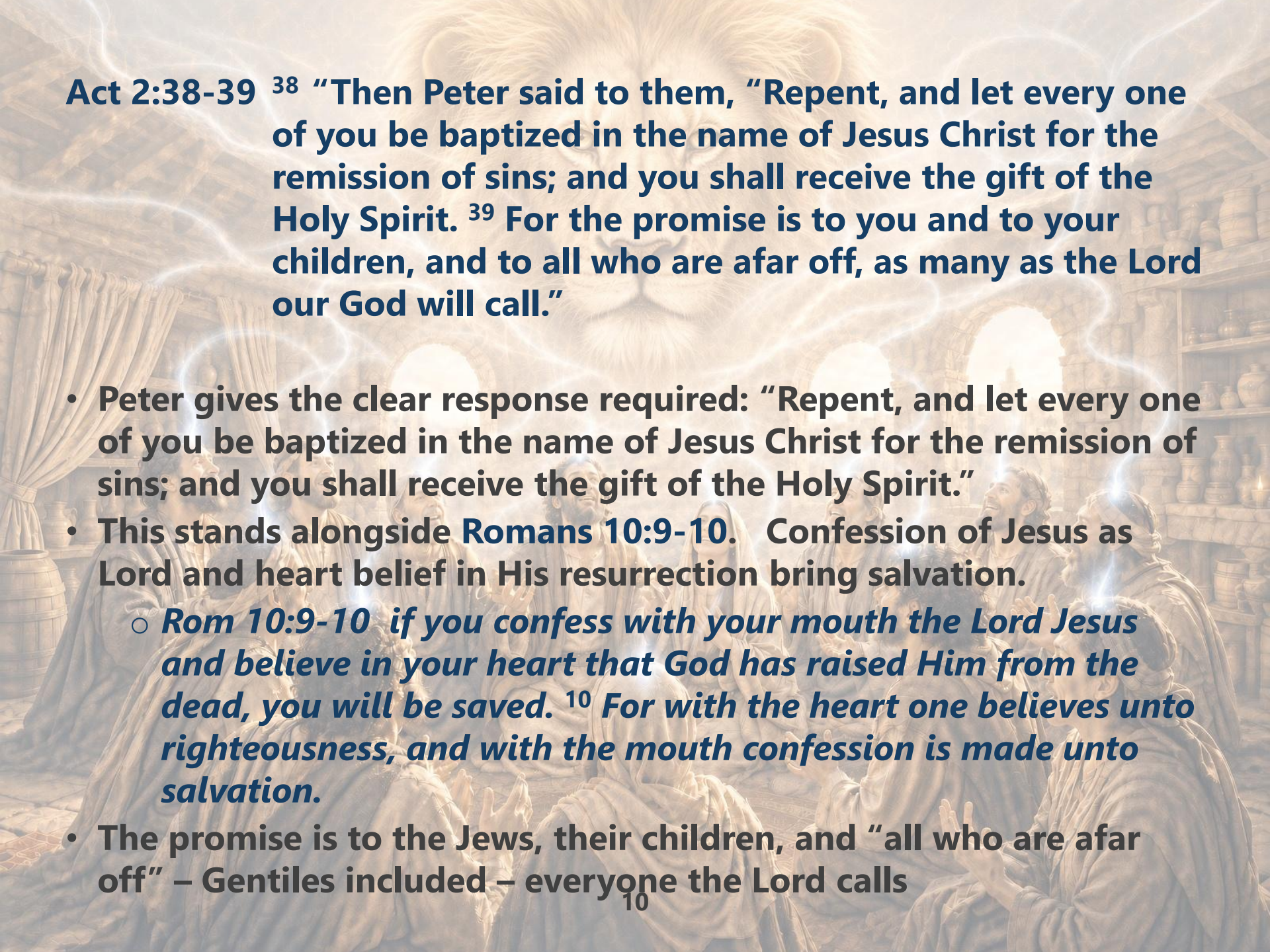
³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

- **Nothing can defeat God's sovereign plan of salvation for mankind!**
 - **G R A C E! God's Riches at Christ's Expense**
 - ***2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***
- **For the first time in history – He pours out His Holy Spirit to dwell within us!**
 - ***Col 1:26-27 The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***



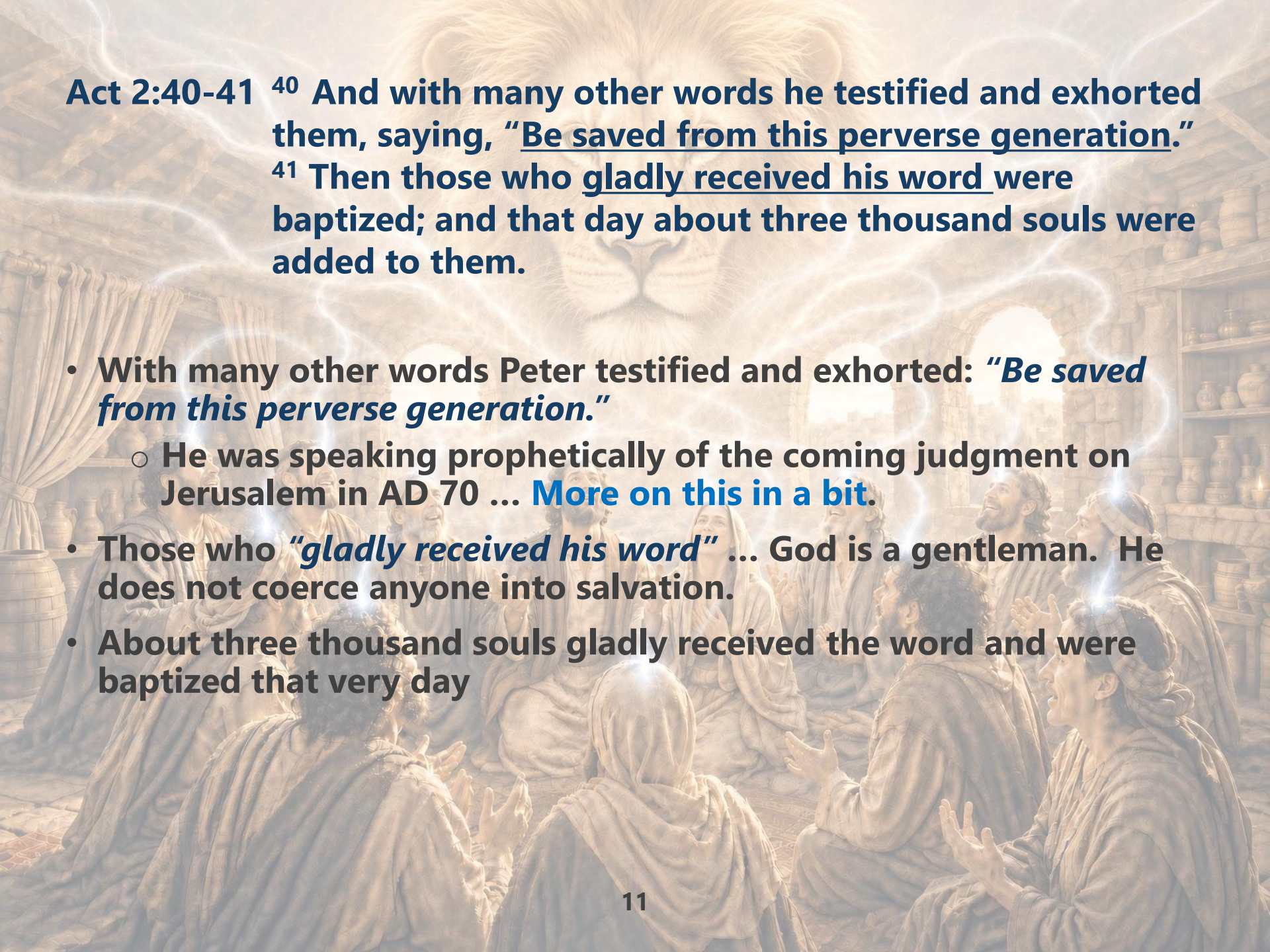
Act 2:34-37 ³⁴ “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’ ³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

- A clear proof of the deity of Jesus Christ. David himself said, “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand...’
- This is co-regency: The Father sharing His throne, authority, and glory with the Messiah
- Peter drives the point home: “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
- The hearers were cut to the heart and cried out, “What shall we do?”



Act 2:38-39 ³⁸ “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

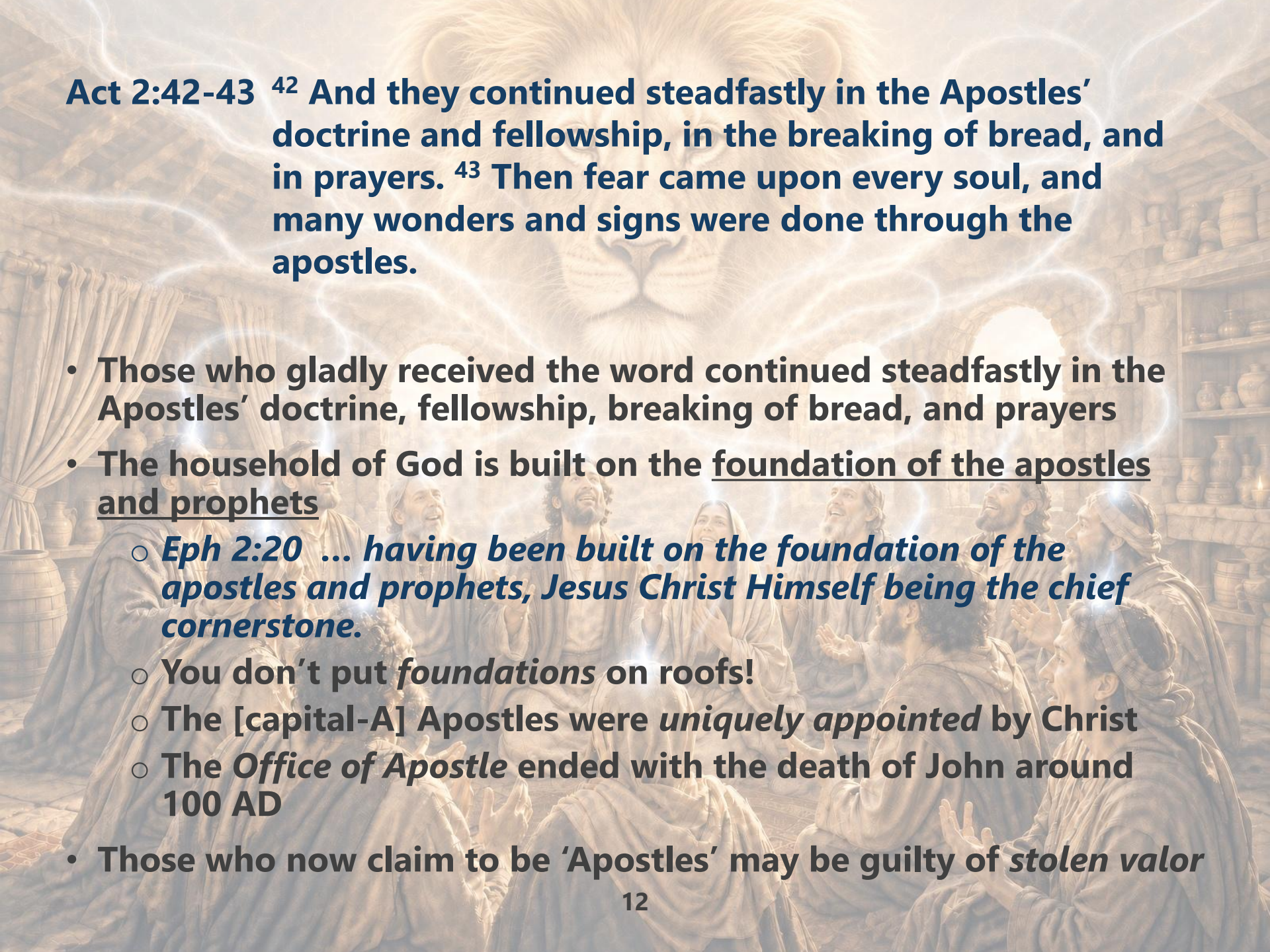
- Peter gives the clear response required: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- This stands alongside **Romans 10:9-10**. Confession of Jesus as Lord and heart belief in His resurrection bring salvation.
 - ***Rom 10:9-10 if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***
- The promise is to the Jews, their children, and “all who are afar off” – Gentiles included – everyone the Lord calls



Act 2:40-41 ⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, **“Be saved from this perverse generation.”**

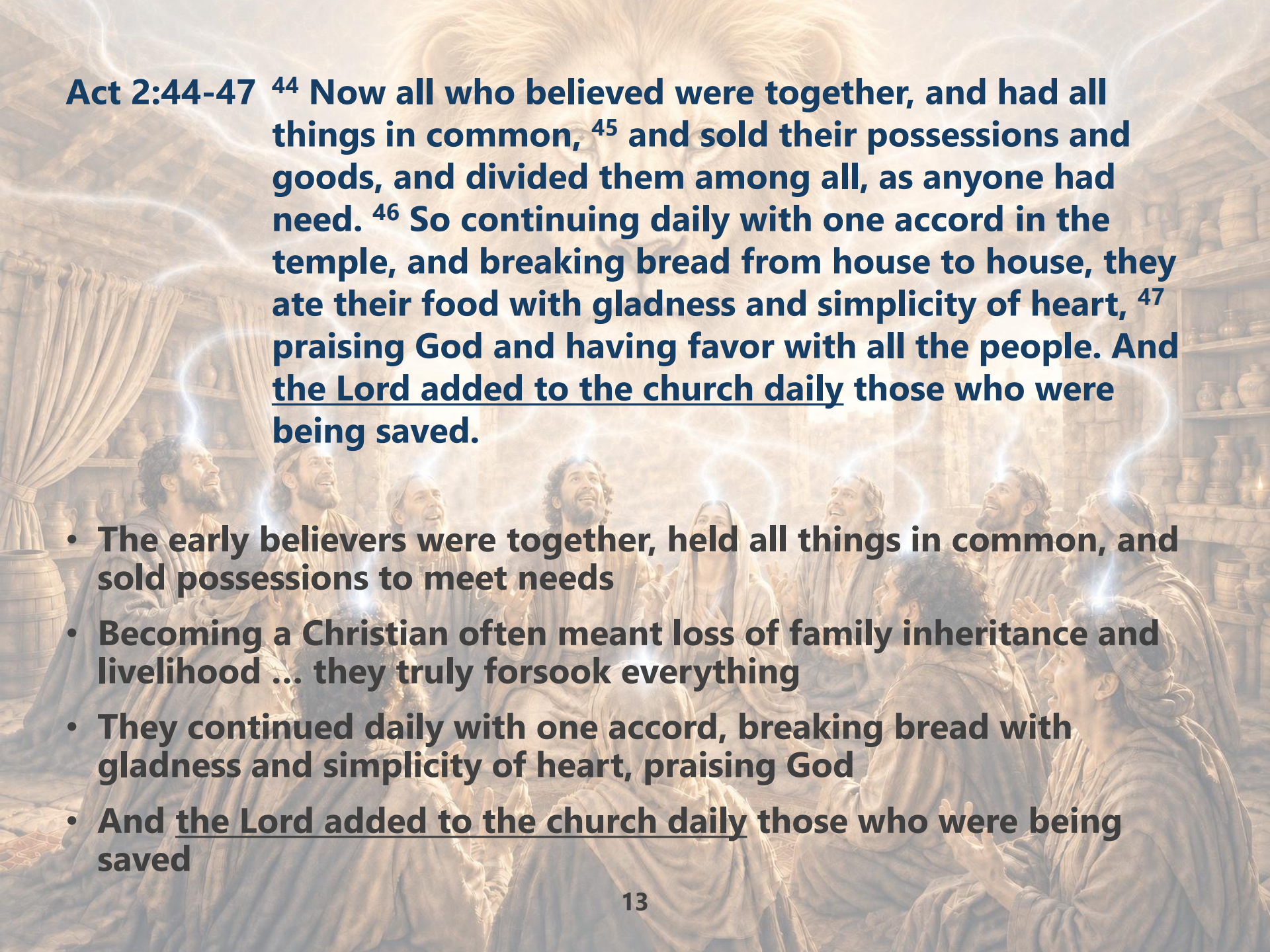
⁴¹ Then those who **gladly received his word** were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

- With many other words Peter testified and exhorted: ***“Be saved from this perverse generation.”***
 - He was speaking prophetically of the coming judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70 ... **More on this in a bit.**
- Those who ***“gladly received his word”*** ... God is a gentleman. He does not coerce anyone into salvation.
- About three thousand souls gladly received the word and were baptized that very day



Act 2:42-43 ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

- Those who gladly received the word continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers
- The household of God is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
 - *Eph 2:20 ... having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*
 - You don't put *foundations* on roofs!
 - The [capital-A] Apostles were *uniquely appointed* by Christ
 - The *Office of Apostle* ended with the death of John around 100 AD
- Those who now claim to be 'Apostles' may be guilty of *stolen valor*

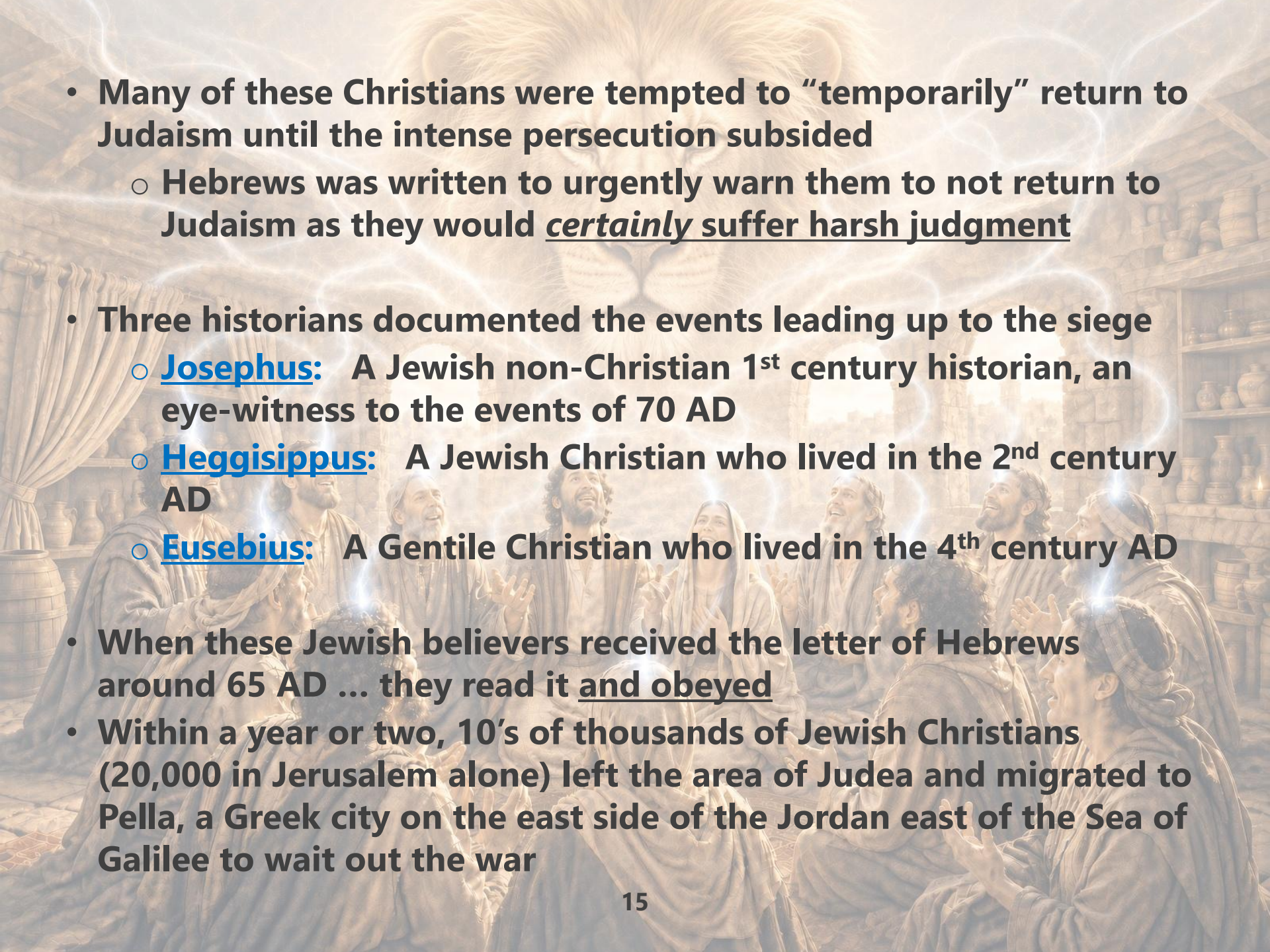
A group of early Christians, men and women, are gathered in a room, possibly a church or a large house. They are all looking upwards with expressions of joy and praise, their hands raised in the air. The room has wooden walls and shelves filled with various pottery and jars. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a sense of divine presence. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

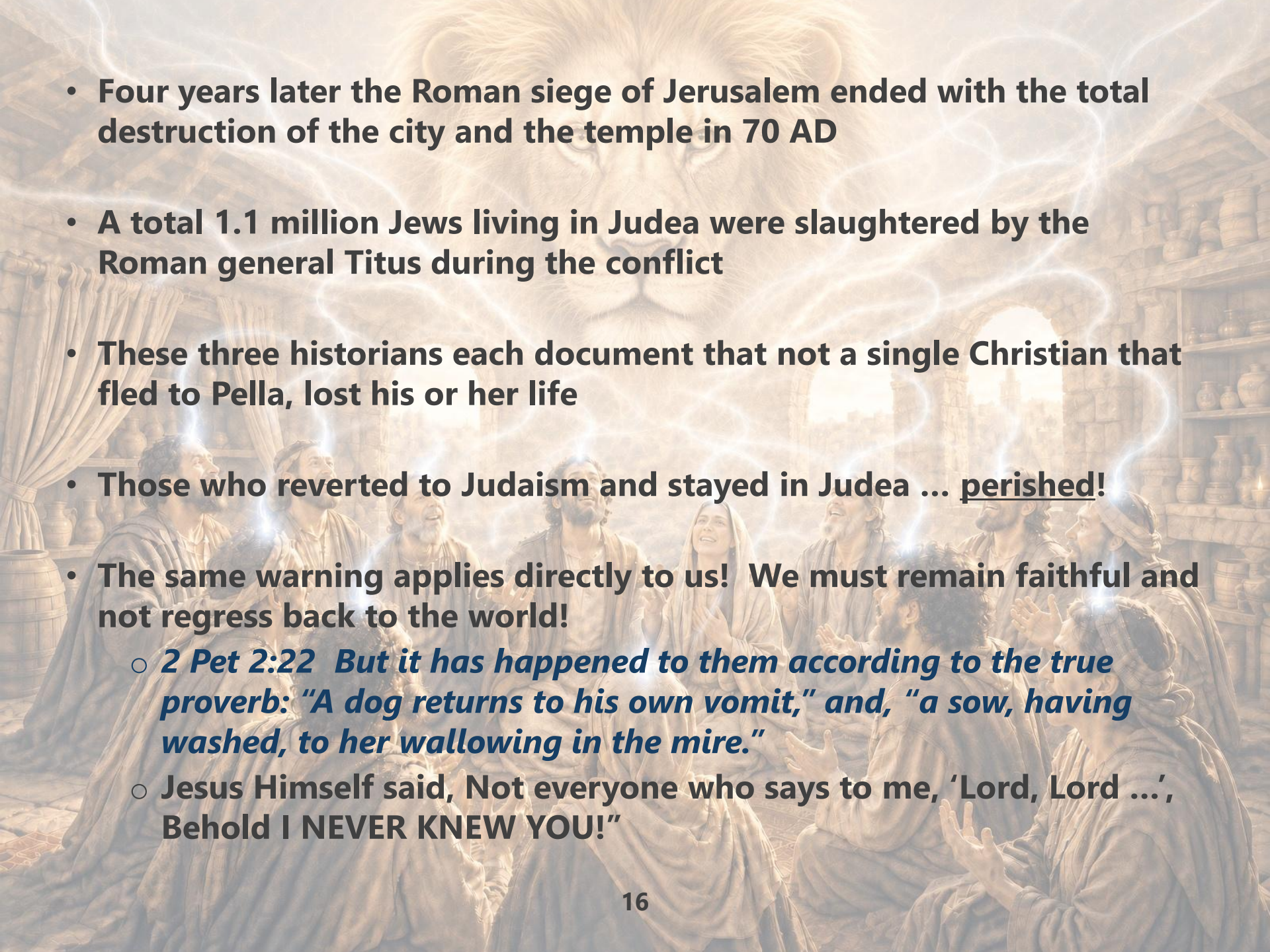
Act 2:44-47 ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- The early believers were together, held all things in common, and sold possessions to meet needs
- Becoming a Christian often meant loss of family inheritance and livelihood ... they truly forsook everything
- They continued daily with one accord, breaking bread with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God
- And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved

Separate Ourselves from the World

- Circling back to verse 40, ***"Be saved from this perverse generation."***
- As previously mentioned, Peter was very likely speaking prophetically
- Through Peter's words, the Holy Spirit was laying the groundwork to warn the Christians of an impending judgment coming upon the Jews living in Judea within 38 years
- Millions of Jews in that area would be slaughtered by the Romans at that time
- Jewish Christians were undergoing severe persecution by the Jews in the timeframe leading up to the Roman siege of Jerusalem
- The entire book of Hebrews is a dire warning to Christians living in the area of Judea

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- Many of these Christians were tempted to “temporarily” return to Judaism until the intense persecution subsided
 - Hebrews was written to urgently warn them to not return to Judaism as they would certainly suffer harsh judgment
 - Three historians documented the events leading up to the siege
 - Josephus: A Jewish non-Christian 1st century historian, an eye-witness to the events of 70 AD
 - Heggisippus: A Jewish Christian who lived in the 2nd century AD
 - Eusebius: A Gentile Christian who lived in the 4th century AD
 - When these Jewish believers received the letter of Hebrews around 65 AD ... they read it and obeyed
 - Within a year or two, 10’s of thousands of Jewish Christians (20,000 in Jerusalem alone) left the area of Judea and migrated to Pella, a Greek city on the east side of the Jordan east of the Sea of Galilee to wait out the war

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- Four years later the Roman siege of Jerusalem ended with the total destruction of the city and the temple in 70 AD
 - A total 1.1 million Jews living in Judea were slaughtered by the Roman general Titus during the conflict
 - These three historians each document that not a single Christian that fled to Pella, lost his or her life
 - Those who reverted to Judaism and stayed in Judea ... perished!
 - The same warning applies directly to us! We must remain faithful and not regress back to the world!
 - *2 Pet 2:22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."*
 - Jesus Himself said, Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord ...', Behold I NEVER KNEW YOU!"

Be Willing to Forsake Everything

- Jesus Himself said we must be willing to take up our cross
 - *Luk 9:23-24 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.*
- No quitting allowed! The only unforgivable sin is giving up and not staying the course! It proves we were never part of Jesus Christ!
 - *Luk 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*
 - *Heb 10:38-39 ³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*
- Everything of the world is tainted by the Fall
 - *1 John 2:15-16 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*

Stay the Course!

- Will we be strong in the Spirit to remain faithful?
- *Heb 12:12-13, 16 "Strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet... lest there be any... like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright"*
- Weariness and short-term gratification may cost you your spiritual inheritance!
- Where does our WILL to follow hard after God originate?
 - *Phil 2:12-13 ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*
- God supplies strength for weak hands and healing for lame feet through the indwelling POWER of the Holy Spirit – as we let Him!
- Stay the course ... He is faithful to finish what He started in you!
 - *Phil 1:6 ... being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

An Eternal Weight of Glory!

- **2 Cor 4:17-18** *"For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. [CSB]"*
- The same God who raised Jesus and poured out His Holy Spirit is preparing for you an eternal weight of glory!
 - No trial or difficulty we face in this present age can be compared!
- Keep your eyes on the unseen. Stay faithful. The best is yet to come!
- **1 Cor 2:9** *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*