

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BIBLICAL PROPHECY

Week 2 – Big Picture  
Pastor Marty



A man in a dark pinstriped suit, light blue shirt, and dark tie. He has a surprised expression with wide eyes and an open mouth. His hands are raised in a shrug gesture. The background is a plain, light gray.

# THINGS YOU'VE NEVER LEARNED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

**There is an  
infatuation with  
End-Times**





# Failed Predictions





2012  
Maya  
Apocalypse



# Harold Camping



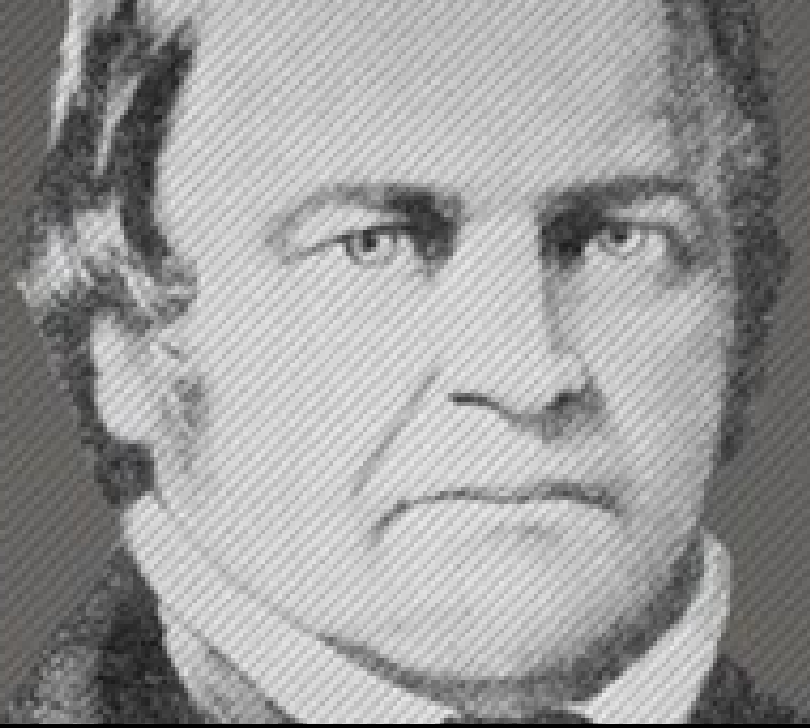
Chen Tao (“True Way”)





# Halley's Comet





WILLIAM MILLER

1782–1849

Millerism

# Joanna Southcott



# SATAN'S MISTRESS

The  
extraordinary  
story of the  
18th Century  
fanatic

**Joanna Southcott**

and her lifelong  
battle with  
the Devil

by  
Val Lewis



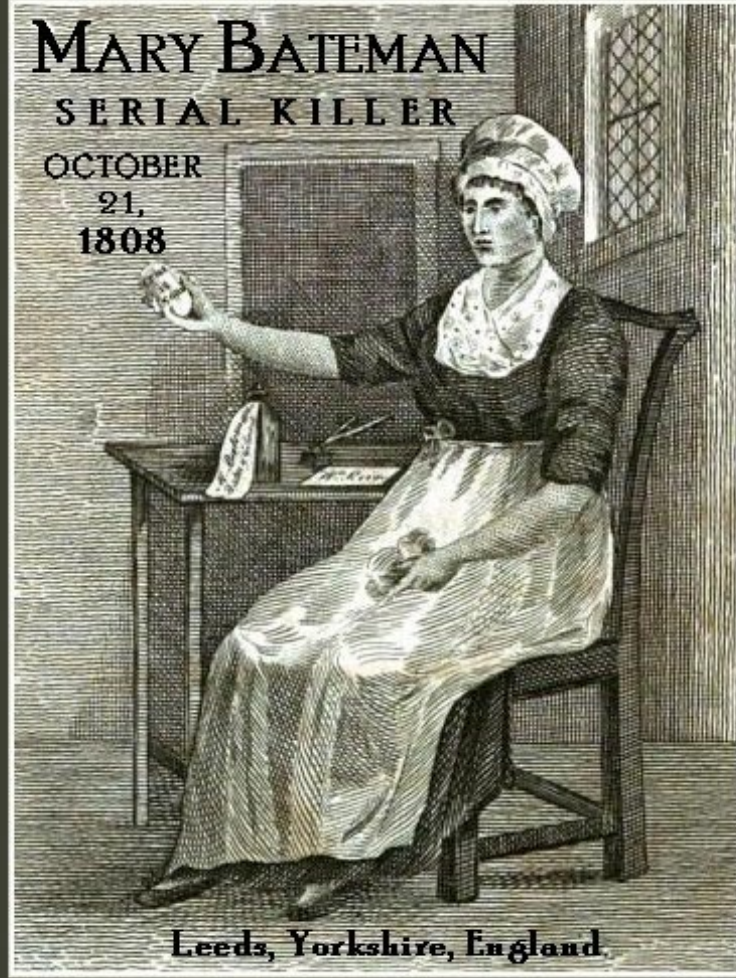


# The Prophet Hen of Leeds



**MARY BATEMAN**  
**SERIAL KILLER**

OCTOBER  
21,  
1808



**Leeds, Yorkshire, England.**

# The Great Fire of London





# The Great Flood



# Montanism



# What is Prophecy?



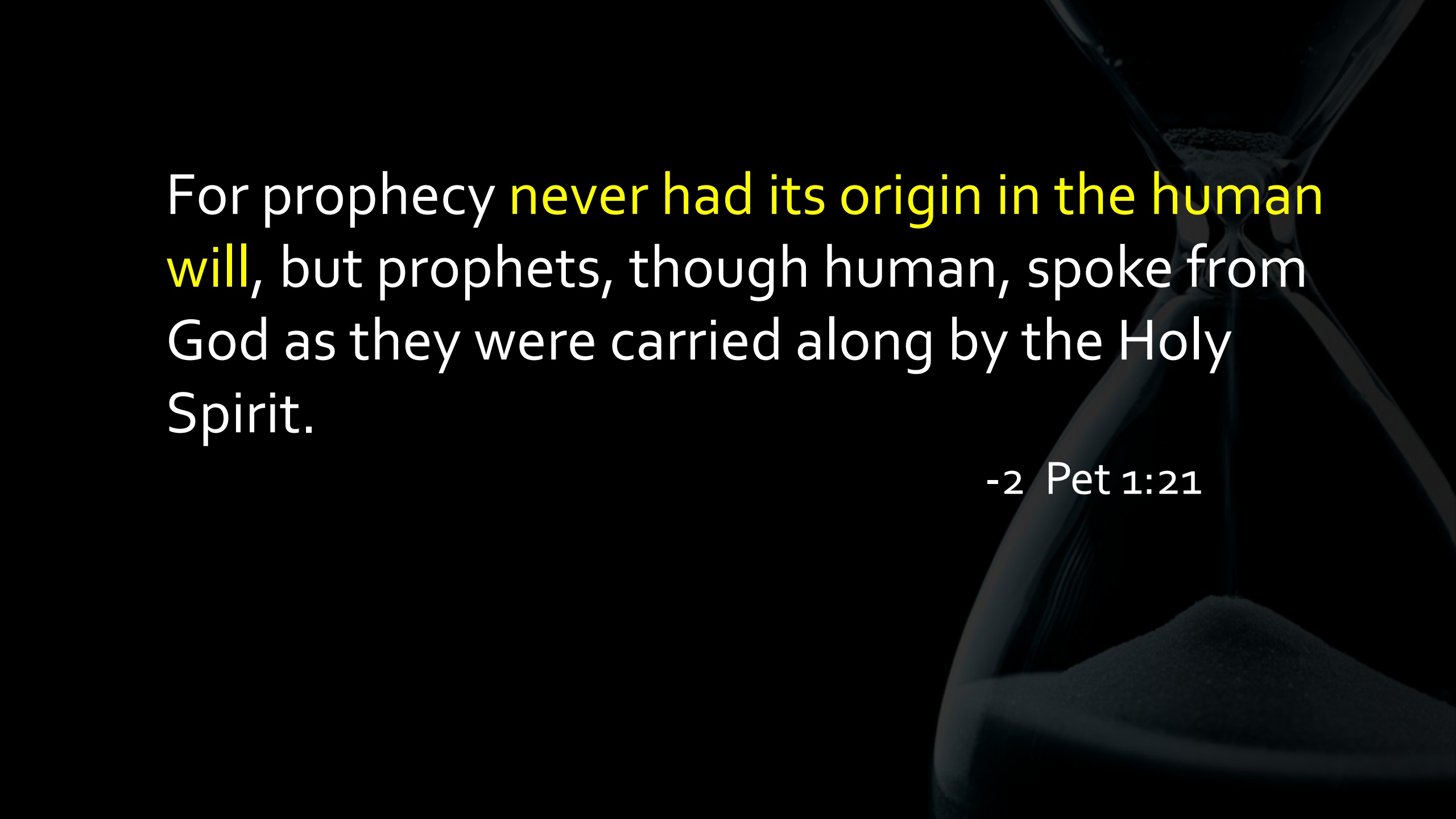
1. The Proclamation of the Will of God, both present and future.

A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The hourglass is filled with a dark, granular substance, likely sand, which is visible through the glass. The background is a solid black color.

God used **Prophets** in the  
OT and NT

A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The background is a solid black color. The text is centered on the left side of the image.

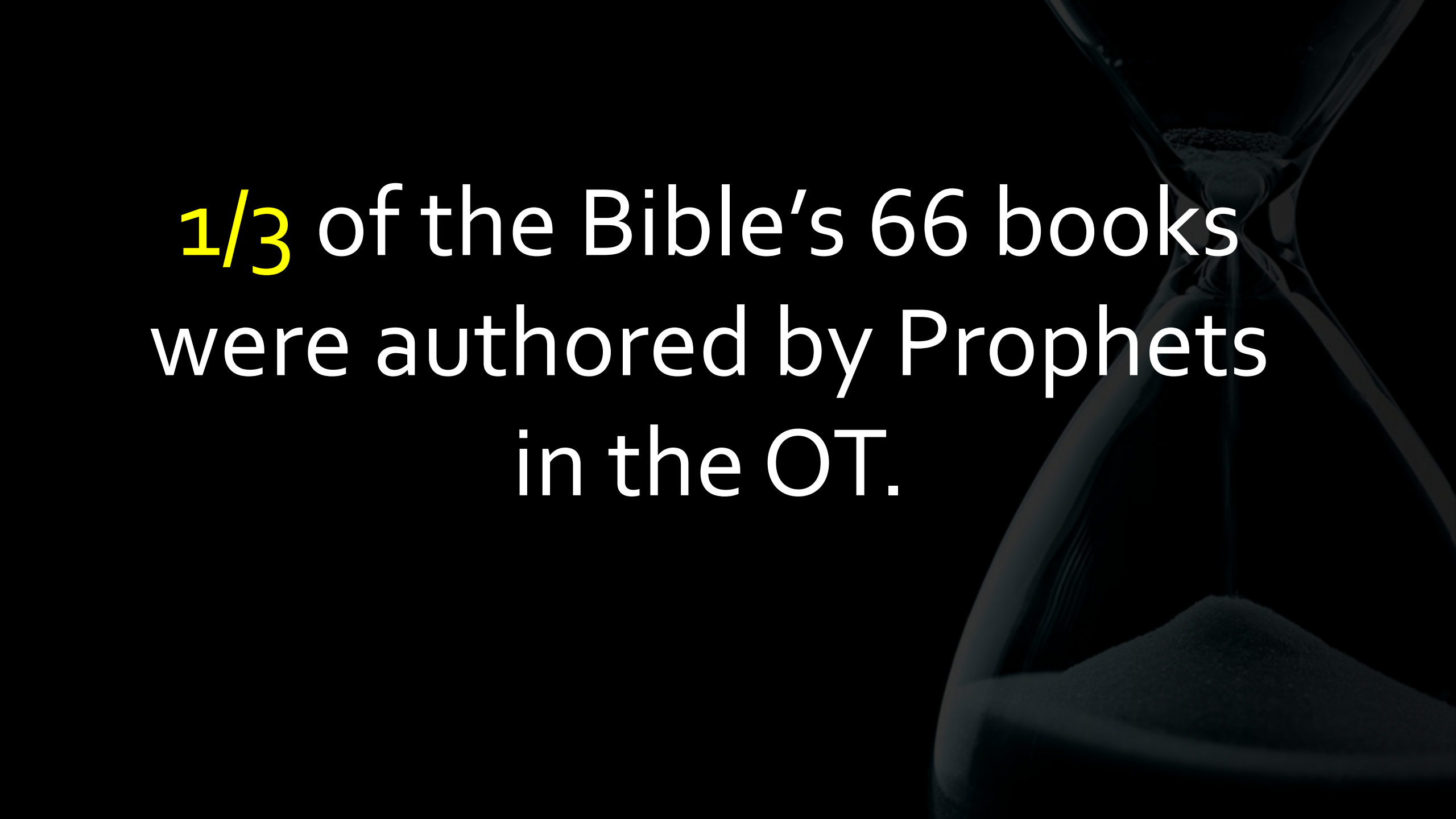
Prophecy comes only from  
**God**... not People

A large, dark, semi-transparent hourglass is centered in the background of the slide. The hourglass is oriented vertically, with the top bulb slightly larger than the bottom bulb. The sand inside is dark and appears to be flowing from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. The overall aesthetic is minimalist and contemplative.

For prophecy **never had its origin in the human will**, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

-2 Pet 1:21



A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The background is a solid dark color.

**1/3** of the Bible's 66 books  
were authored by Prophets  
in the OT.

A large, dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the slide, serving as a background element. The hourglass is oriented vertically, with the top bulb slightly larger than the bottom bulb. The sand inside is dark and appears to be flowing from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. The overall aesthetic is minimalist and symbolic, likely representing the passage of time or the brevity of life.

**4** of the NT Books are  
primarily prophetic

Revelation

Jude

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The background is a solid dark color.

**27%** of the Bible includes  
Prophecy

# OT & NT Prophets spoke for God in 2 Ways...

- Forth-telling
- Fore-telling





# Most was “Forth-telling”

They were proclaiming the known Word and Will of God to His People, urging them to turn from their sin, and warning them what would happen if they did not repent.

# However, God chose to include the “Fore-Telling”

Prophecies regarding:


- The Human Race
- The Nation of Israel
- Future Events in General
- The Coming of Christ



A large, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the slide, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The background is dark, and the hourglass is rendered in a light, almost white color, creating a subtle watermark effect.

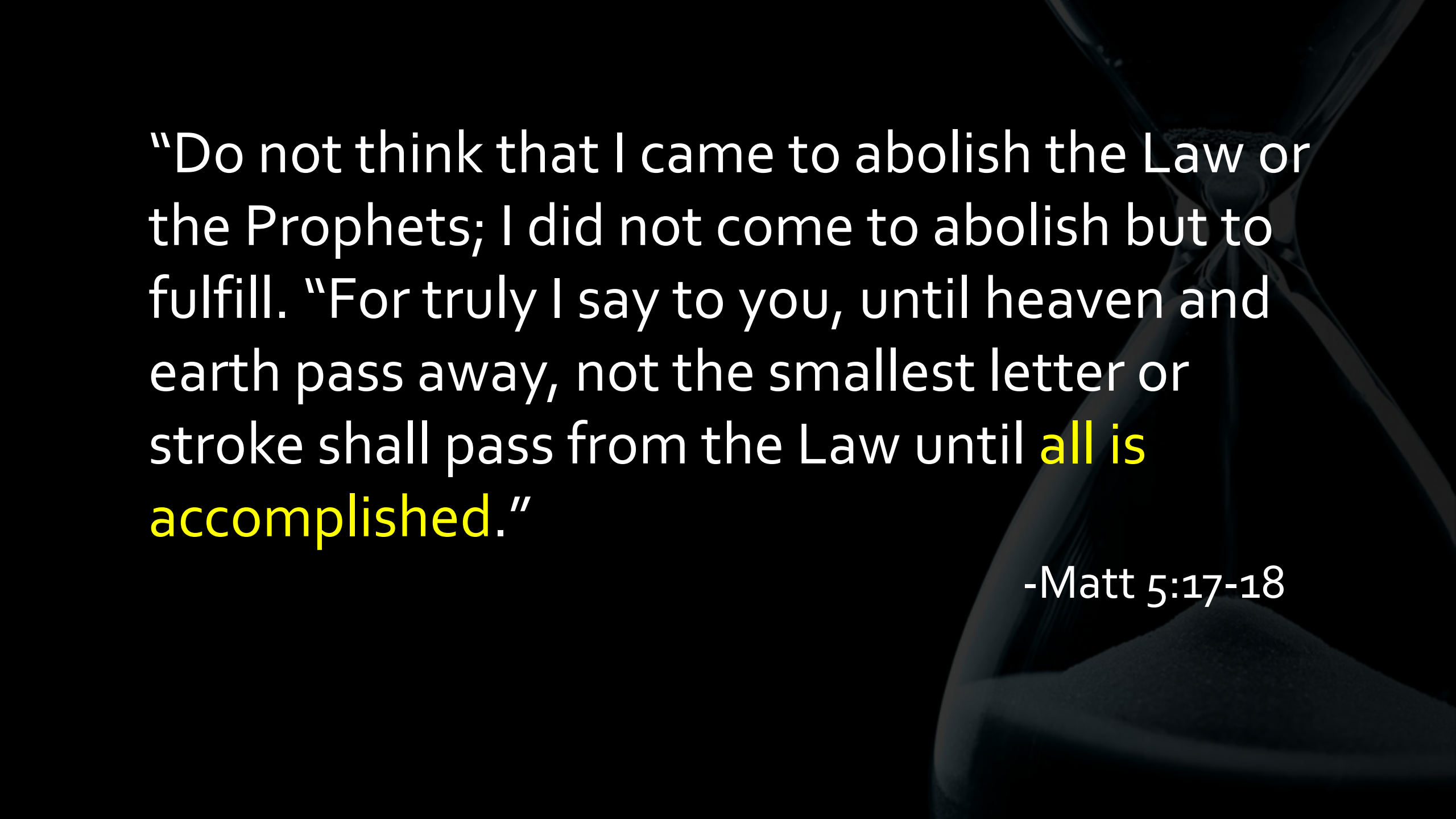
# The Most Important Prophecies point to the Coming of Christ

- **120** were fulfilled with His First Coming!

A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The background is a solid dark color, likely black or very dark grey. The text is centered on the left side of the image.

**300** Prophecies concern  
Christ's Second Coming!



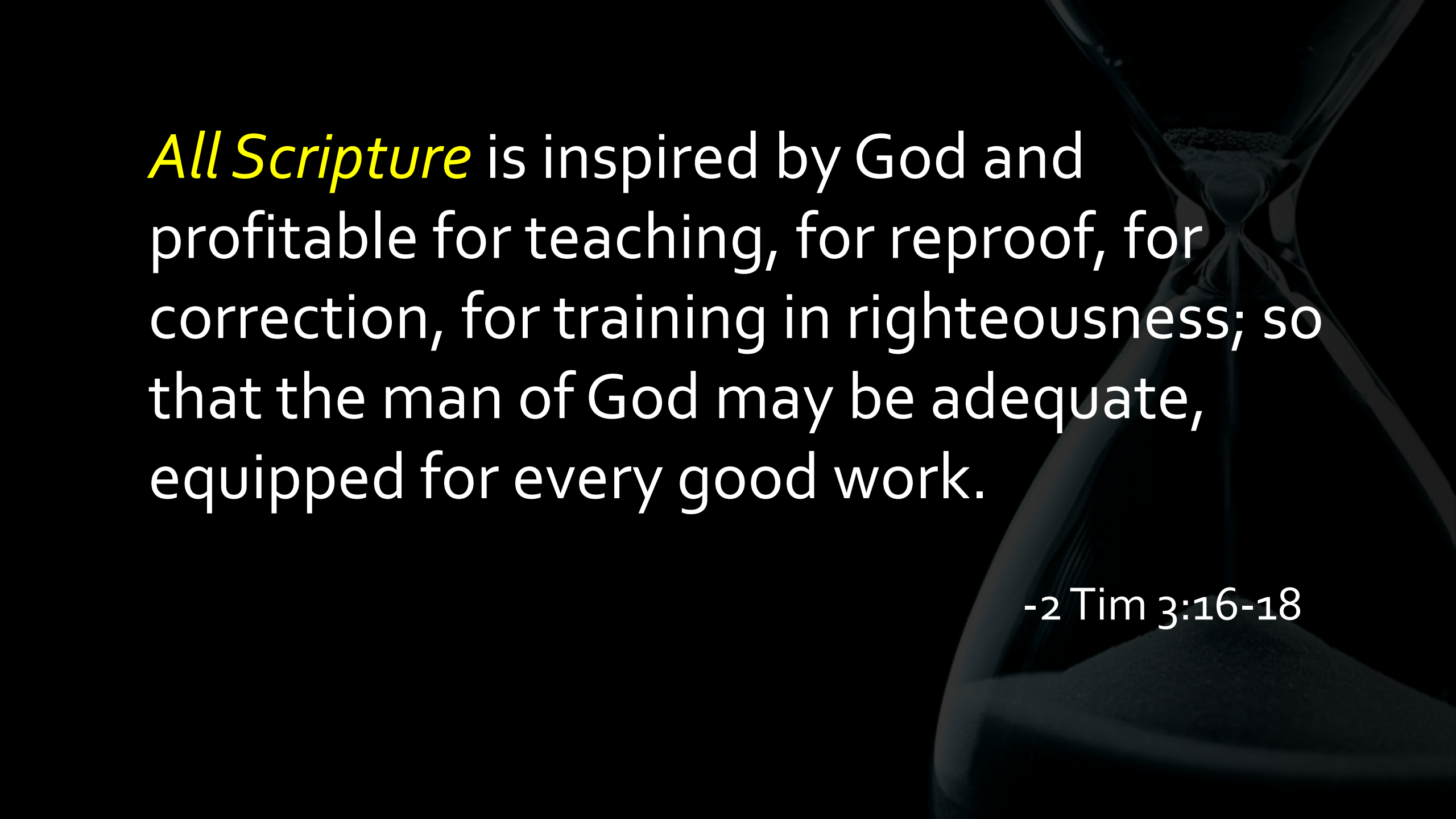
A faint, dark hourglass is visible in the background, centered vertically and slightly to the right. The sand is dark and the glass is a dark grey color. The text is overlaid on the left side of the hourglass.

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until **all is accomplished.**”

-Matt 5:17-18

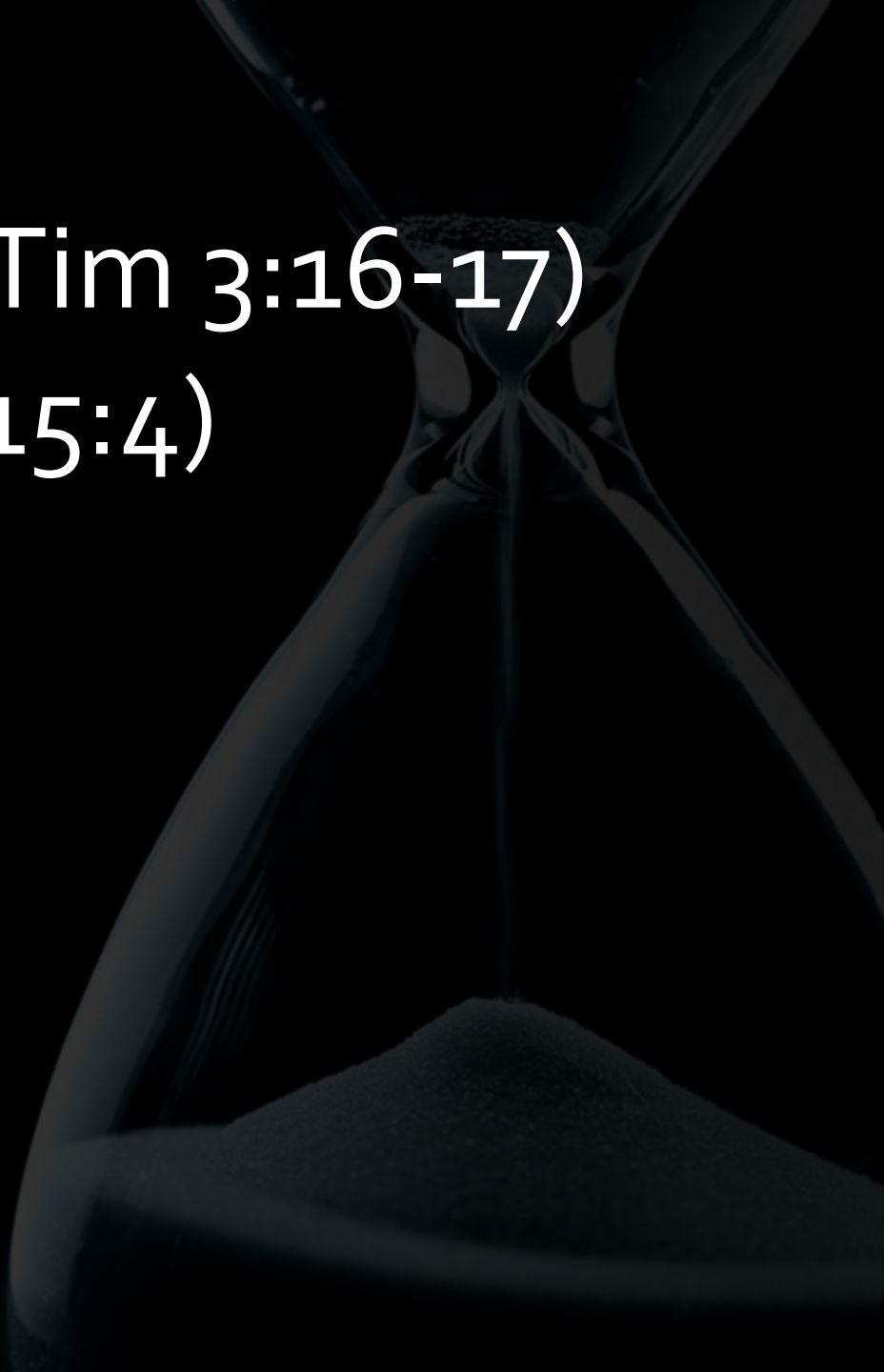
A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The background is a solid dark color, likely black or very dark blue. The text is centered on the left side of the image.

# Why we study Unfulfilled Prophecy

A large, faint hourglass is visible in the background, centered vertically and slightly to the right. The hourglass is dark and semi-transparent, with a fine texture of sand or grains. The background is a dark, solid color.

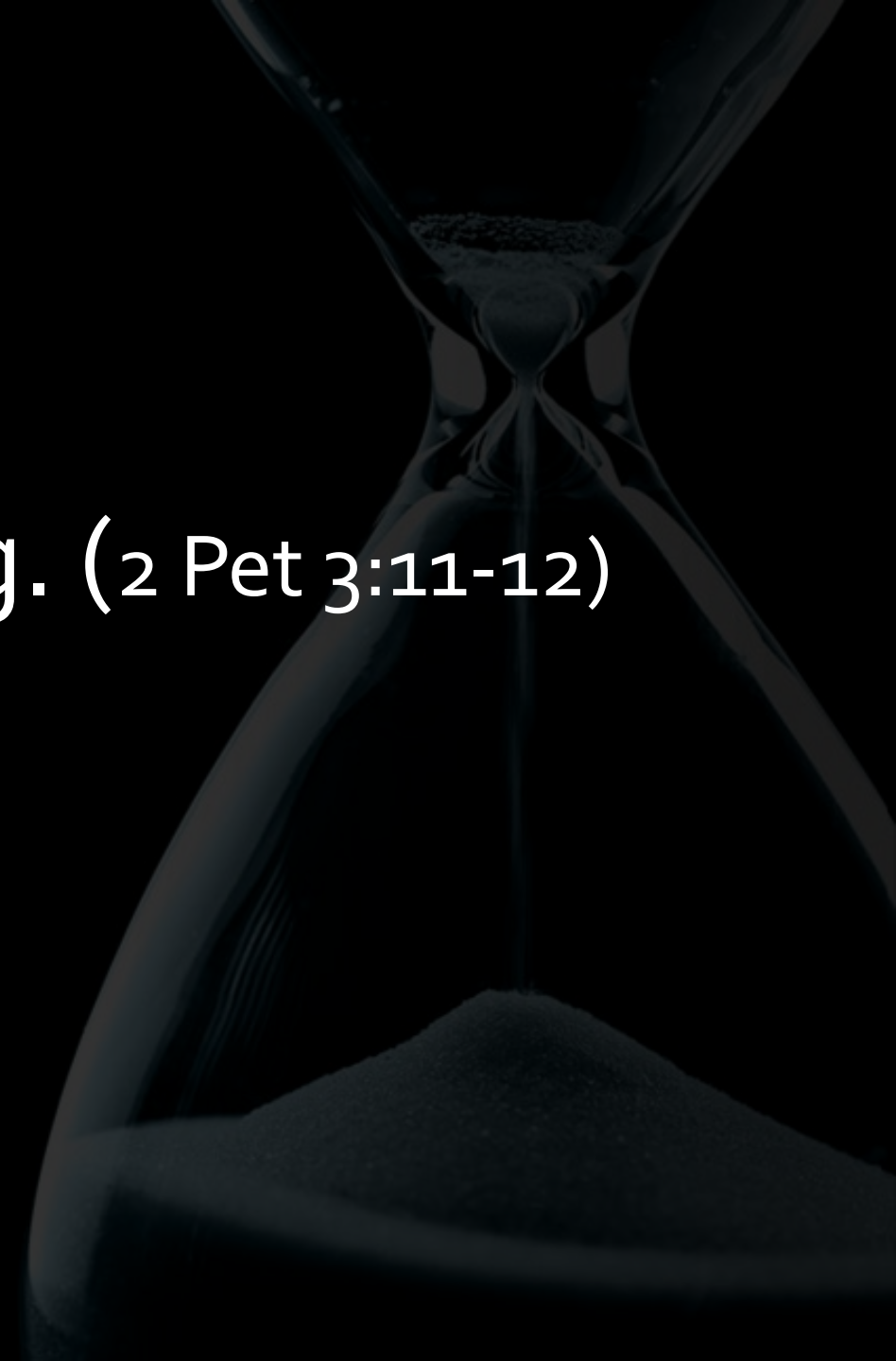
*All Scripture* is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

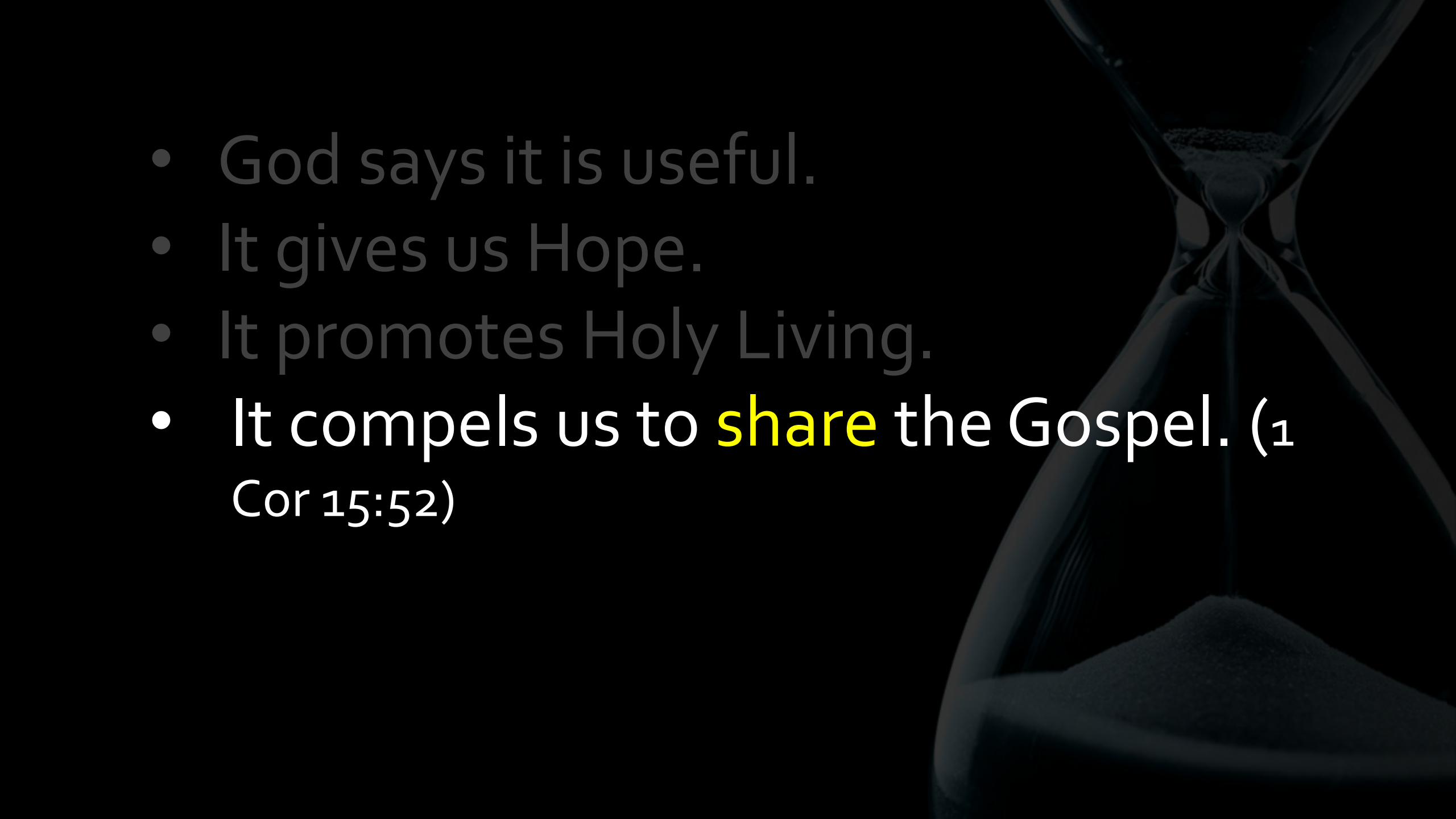
-2 Tim 3:16-18

- 
- God says it is **useful**. (2 Tim 3:16-17)
  - It gives us **Hope**. (Rom 15:4)

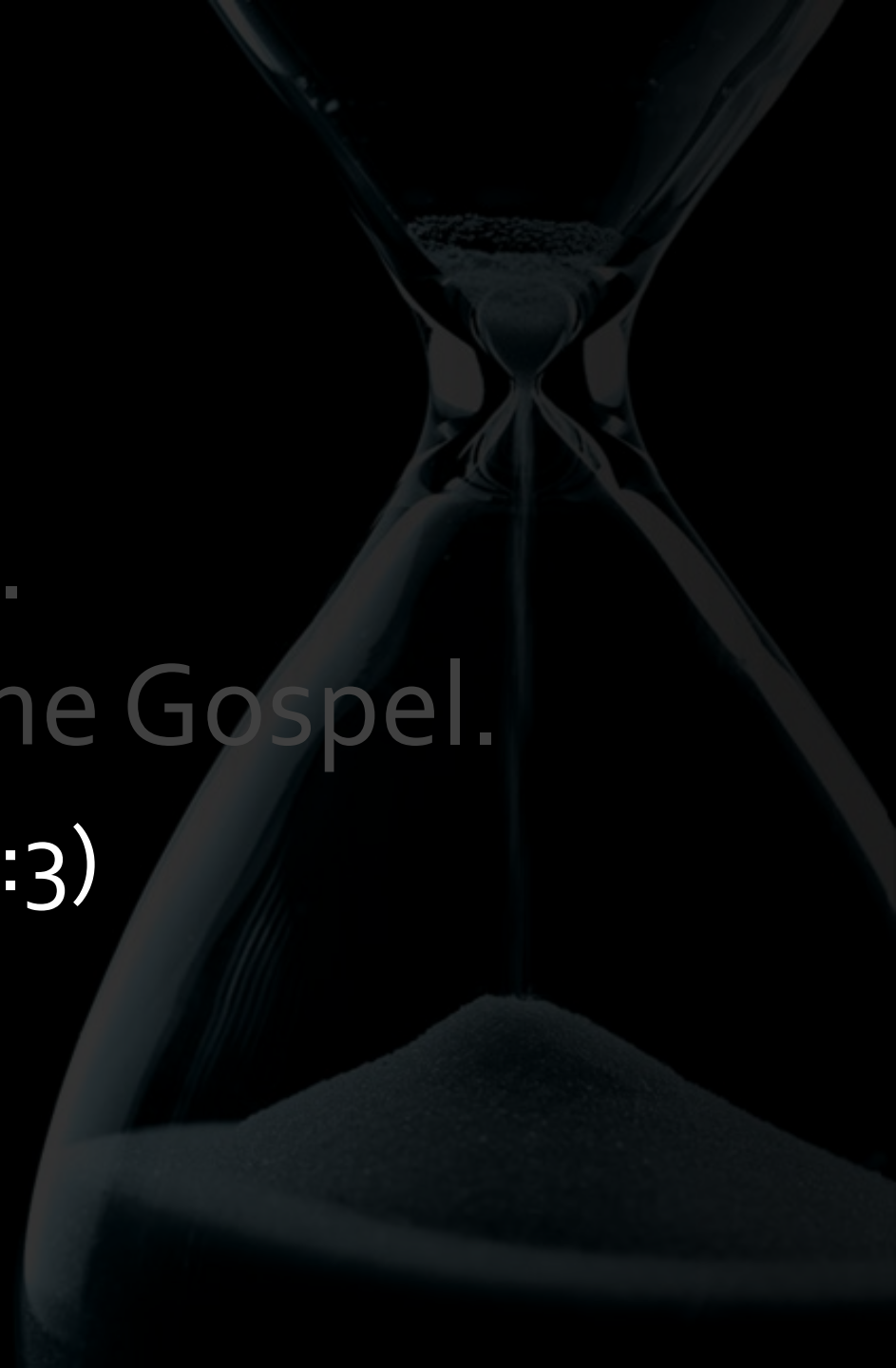


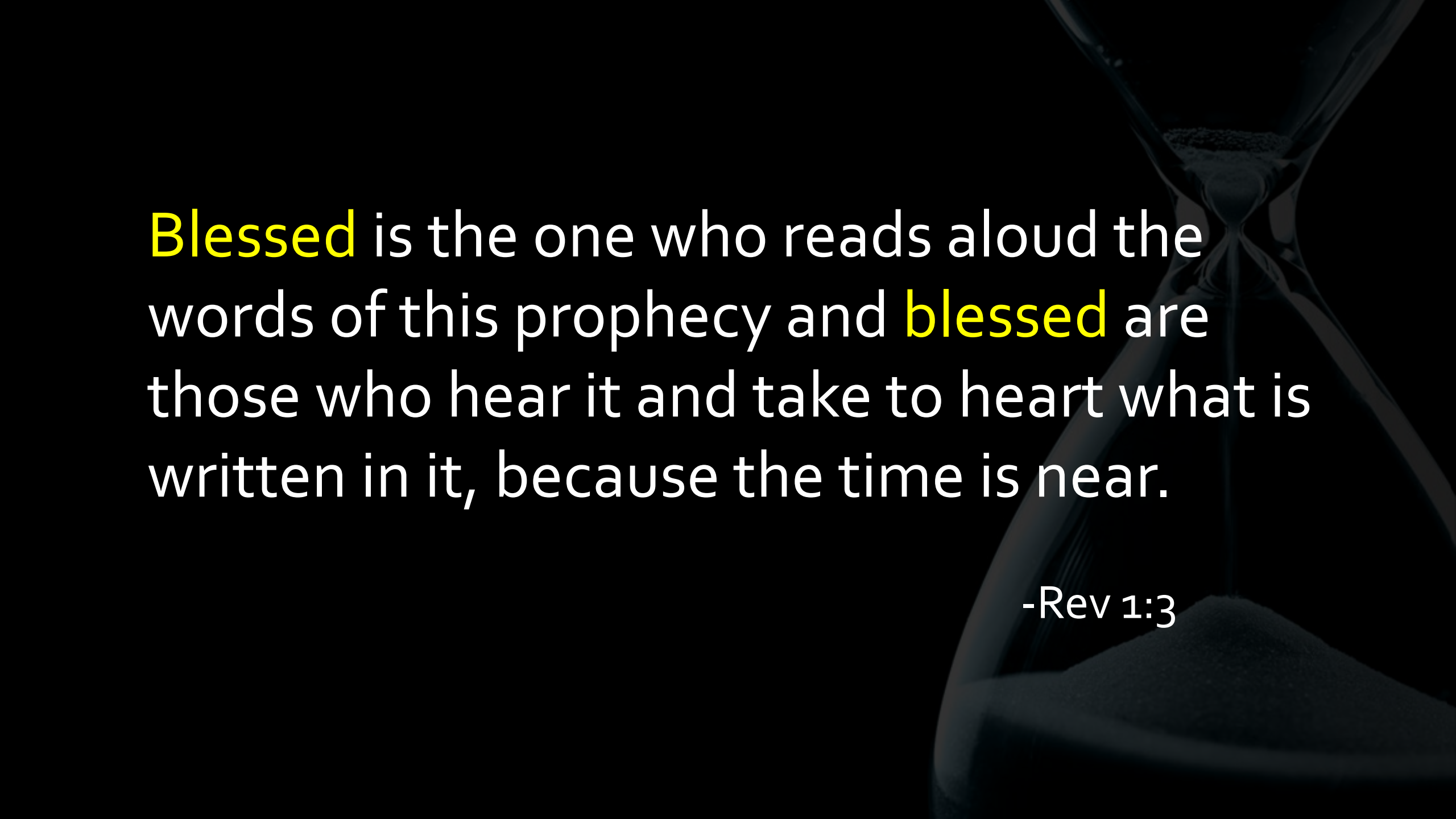
- God says it is useful.
- It gives us Hope.
- It promotes **Holy** Living. (2 Pet 3:11-12)



- 
- A large, dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the slide, serving as a background element. The hourglass is oriented vertically, with the top bulb slightly larger than the bottom bulb. The sand is visible as a dark, granular substance flowing from the top to the bottom. The overall aesthetic is minimalist and contemplative.
- God says it is useful.
  - It gives us Hope.
  - It promotes Holy Living.
  - It compels us to **share** the Gospel. (1 Cor 15:52)

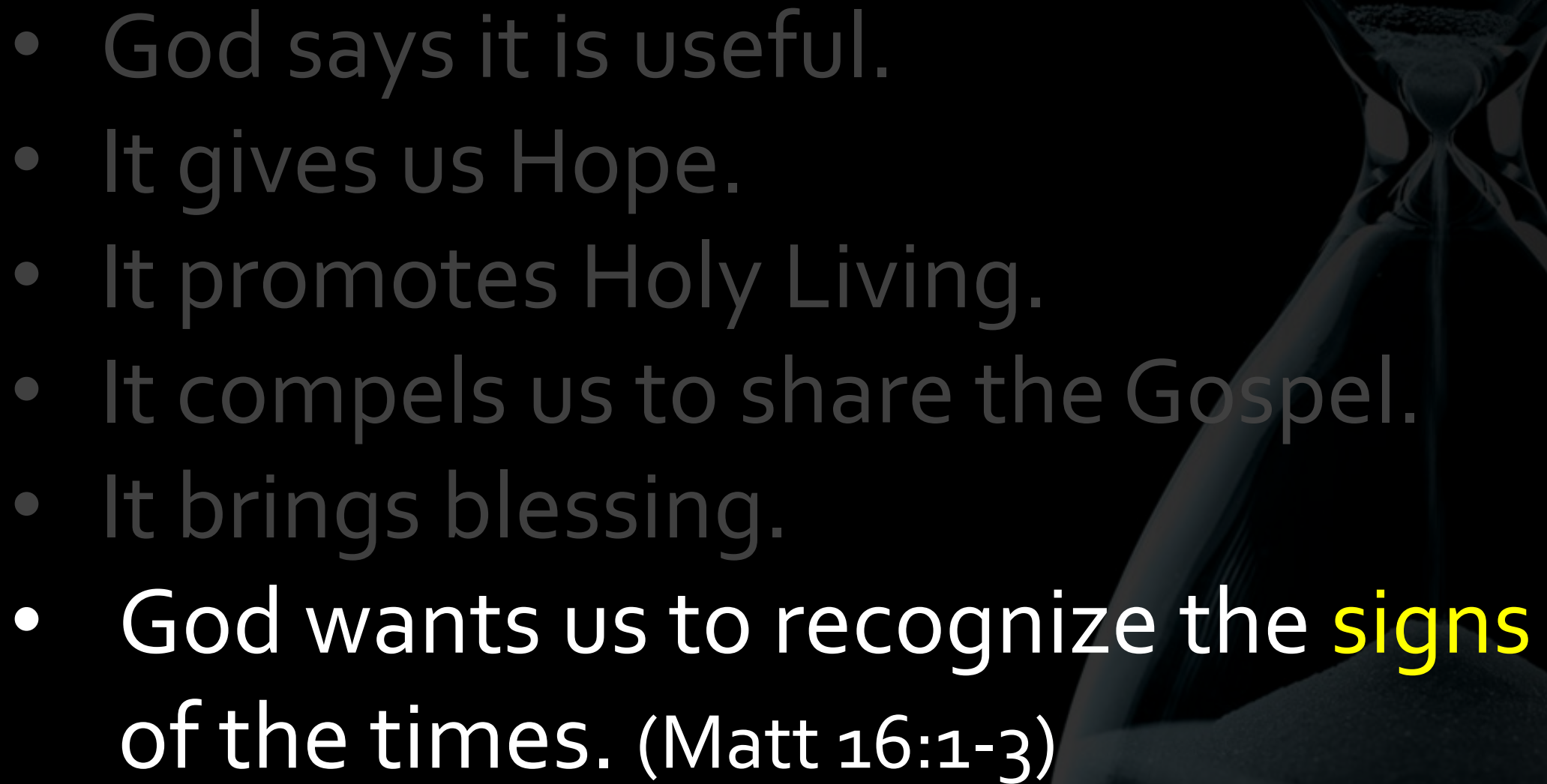
- God says it is useful.
- It gives us Hope.
- It promotes Holy Living.
- It compels us to share the Gospel.
- It brings **blessing**. (Rev 1:3)



A large, dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, serving as a background for the text. The hourglass is oriented vertically, with the top bulb slightly larger than the bottom bulb. The sand is visible in the top bulb, and the narrow neck is clearly defined. The overall aesthetic is dark and contemplative.

**Blessed** is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy and **blessed** are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

-Rev 1:3

- 
- A large, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the slide, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The background is dark, and the hourglass is rendered in a lighter, semi-transparent grey. The text is overlaid on the left side of the slide.
- God says it is useful.
  - It gives us Hope.
  - It promotes Holy Living.
  - It compels us to share the Gospel.
  - It brings blessing.
  - God wants us to recognize the **signs** of the times. (Matt 16:1-3)



A large, faint hourglass is visible in the background, centered vertically and horizontally. The hourglass is dark and appears to be made of glass or a similar material, with a narrow neck in the middle. The background is a dark, textured grey.

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

<sup>2</sup> He replied, “When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ <sup>3</sup> and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, **but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.**

-Matt 16:1-3

A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with sand falling from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. The background is a solid dark color.

Is it okay for Christians to  
hold different convictions  
about Prophecy?

Yes, but...



# We hold to the Facts...

A large, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the slide, serving as a background element. The hourglass is oriented vertically, with the top bulb slightly larger than the bottom bulb. The sand is visible in both bulbs, and the central neck is narrow. The overall image has a dark, monochromatic aesthetic.

- Christ will **return** for His own.
- **No one** knows when Christ will return, only God.
- He will **judge** the World.
- There will be a time of great **trouble** on the earth at the end of the ages.
- The final conflict will be **won** by Christ.

# We hold to the Facts...

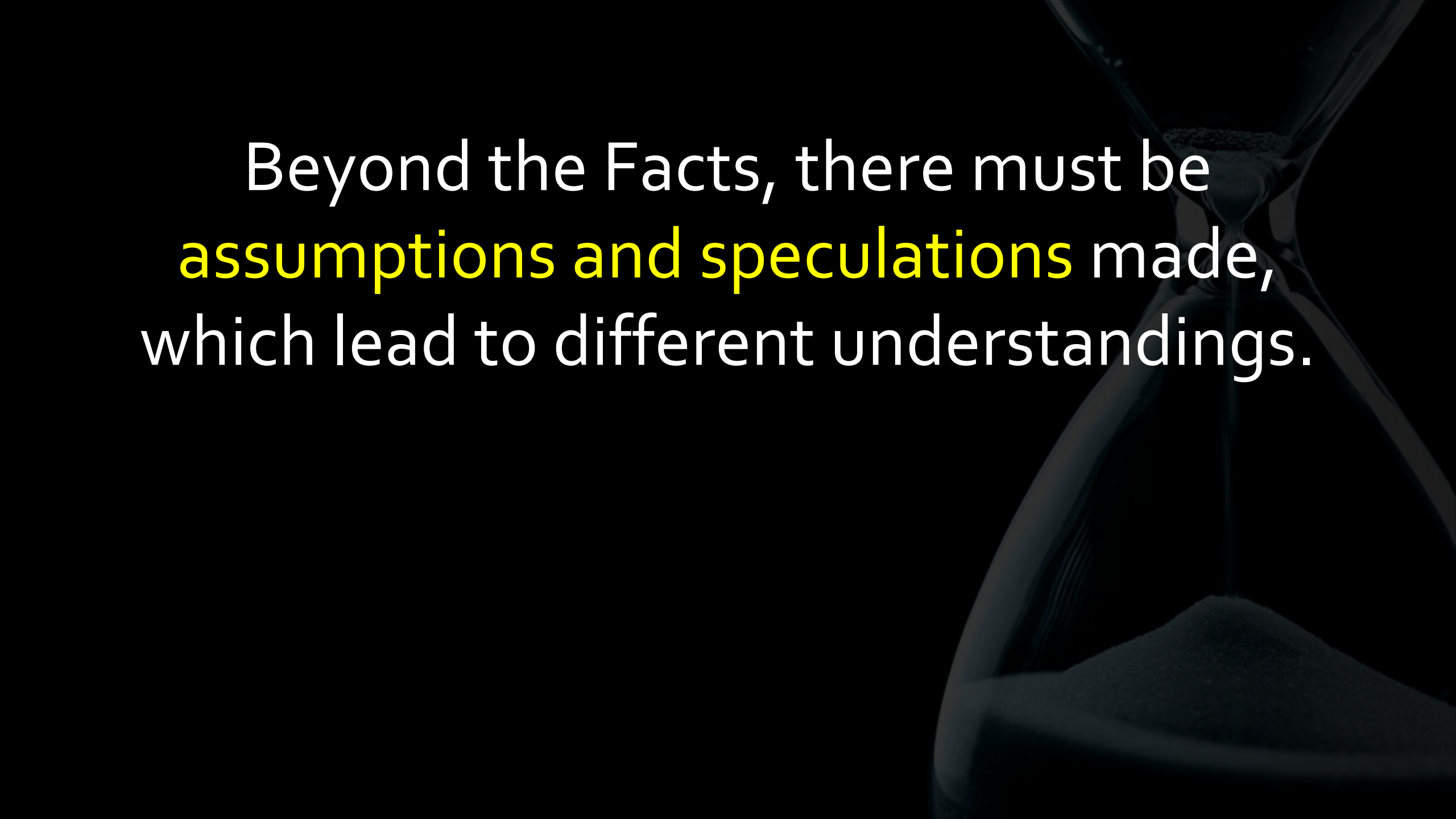
- Satan, his angels, and those who are without Christ will be cast into the **Lake of Fire** forever.
- Jesus will take his children to live on the **New Earth** with Him forever.



A faint, dark hourglass is visible in the background, symbolizing the passage of time. The text is overlaid on this background.

However, the facts only take us so far.

There is not enough prophetic information to let us say with absolute confidence that we know exactly what's going to happen in the future in exact minute detail.

A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is centered in the background of the slide. The top bulb is mostly empty, while the bottom bulb is filled with a mound of sand. The narrow neck of the hourglass is visible in the center.

Beyond the Facts, there must be  
**assumptions and speculations** made,  
which lead to different understandings.

# When Christians' convictions about Prophecy become a point of conflict between believers...

- We are **missing** the whole point of biblical prophecy.
- We are **missing** an opportunity to influence the World.



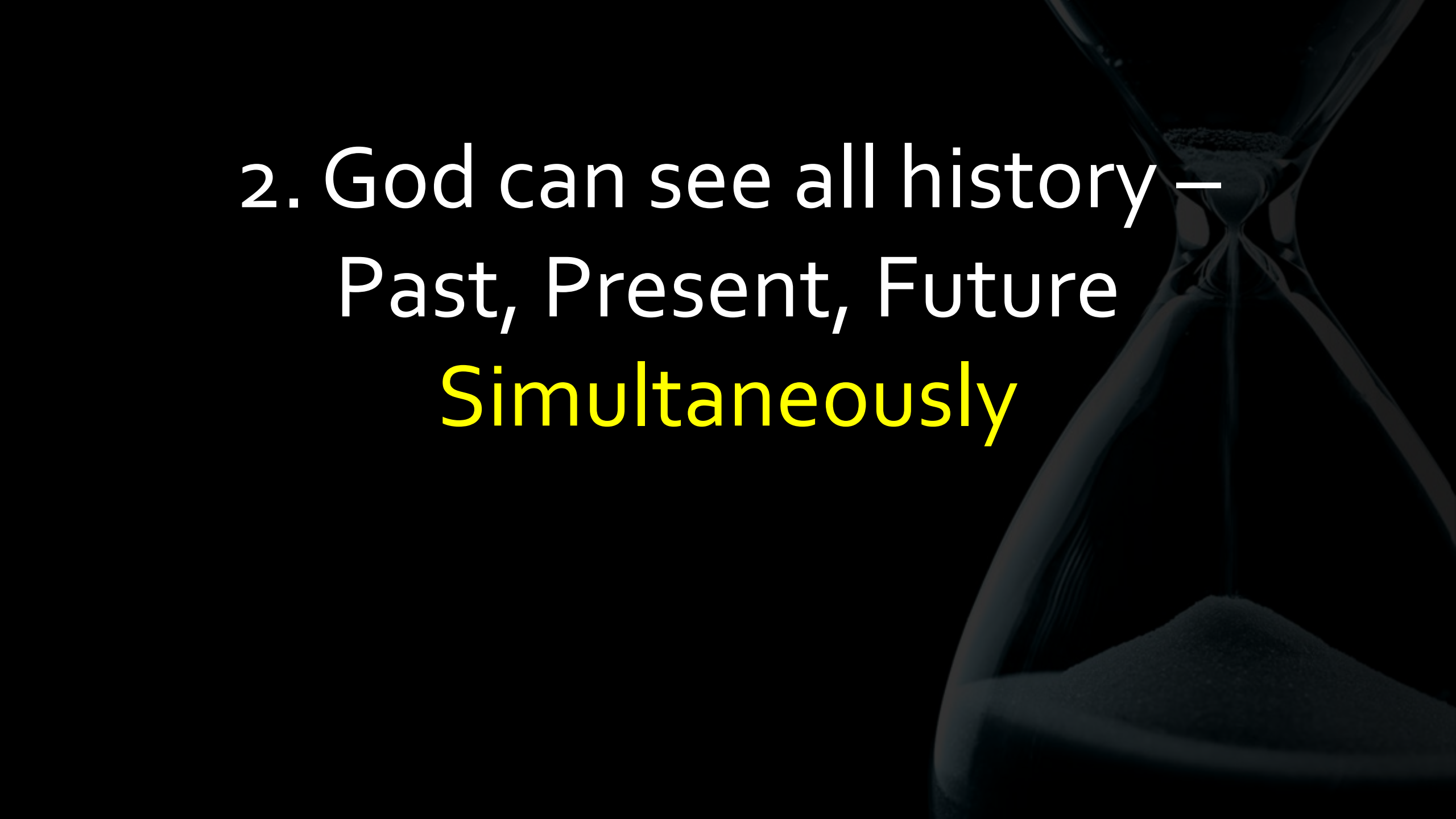










A faint, dark hourglass is visible in the background, with sand falling from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. The hourglass is centered vertically and horizontally, with its narrow neck pointing downwards.

2. God can see all history –  
Past, Present, Future  
**Simultaneously**

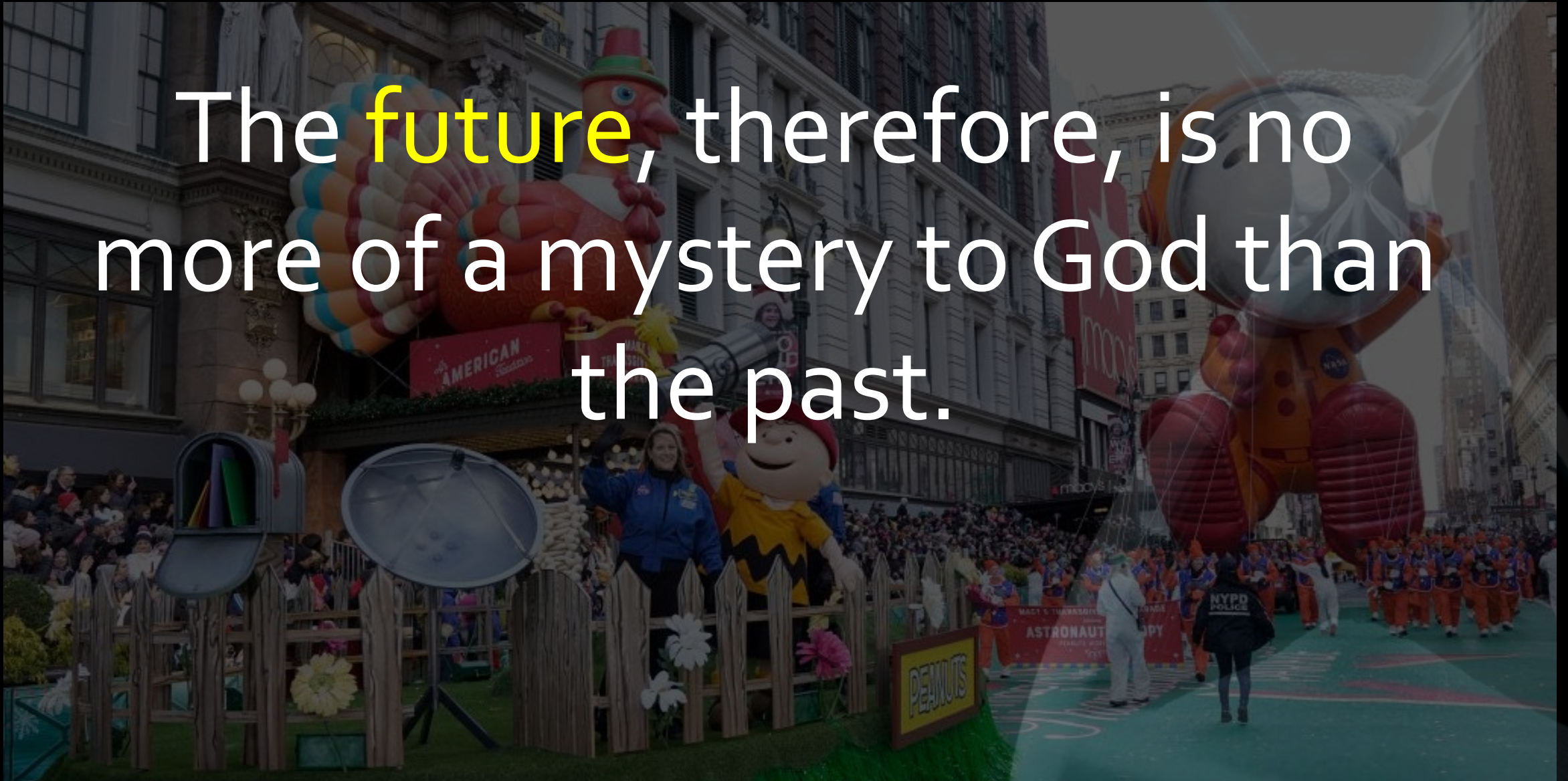
A photograph of a parade float on a city street. The float is decorated with a large, colorful turkey and a large, inflatable Snoopy character. A woman in a blue jacket is standing on the float. In the background, there are tall buildings and a crowd of people. A sign on the float says "PEANUTS".

3. The **present** is that part of the parade in front of the grandstand where we are sitting.

4. The **future** is that part of the parade still to come.



The **future**, therefore, is no more of a mystery to God than the past.





God's "parade of history," as it were, includes "five floats."



The image is a composite. The left side shows a view of Earth from space, with the blue atmosphere and the dark blue oceans of the Atlantic Ocean. The right side shows a view of the Moon's surface, characterized by a grey, cratered landscape. The word "Creation" is written in white, sans-serif font across the center of the image, overlapping both the Earth and the Moon.

# Creation

# *What* did God create?

7. Since God is the only uncreated thing in the universe, we know that He created **everything** outside of Himself.





# *What* did God create?

8. God created **humanity** to exist on a level above anything else.



*How did God create?*

9. Out of **Nothing**

*“ex nihilo*

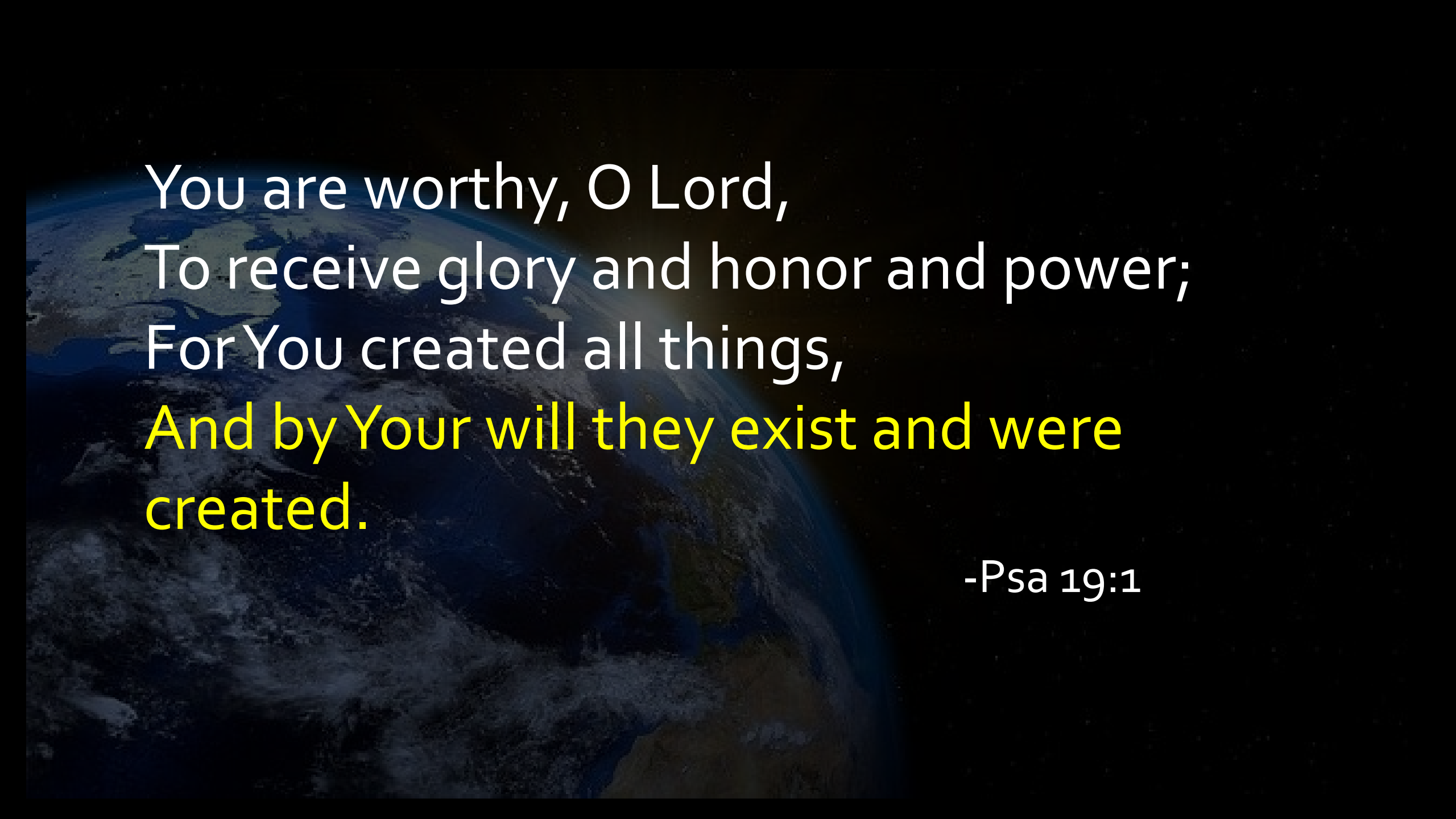
*”*



# *Why* did God create?

10. For His **glory** (Isa 43:6-7)





You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were  
created.

-Psa 19:1

# Why did God create?

11. Since humanity is created in God's image, and since it is clear that humanity delights in **creating**, then it also seems clear that the human desire to create might be part of the very nature and character of God.



# Why did God create?

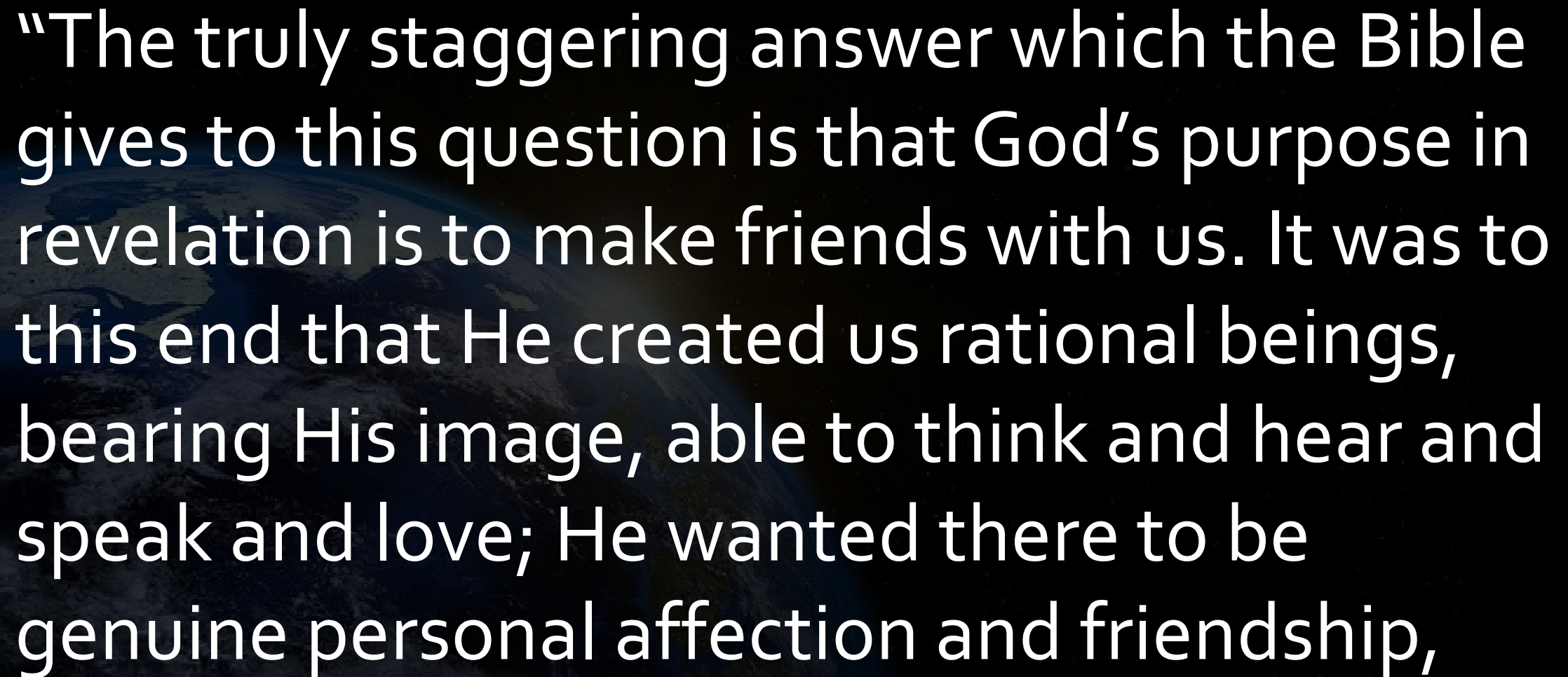
12. Since God is love, it is not difficult to imagine that God's **love** is so overflowing & abundant that He wanted to create people whom He could love & would choose to love Him in return.



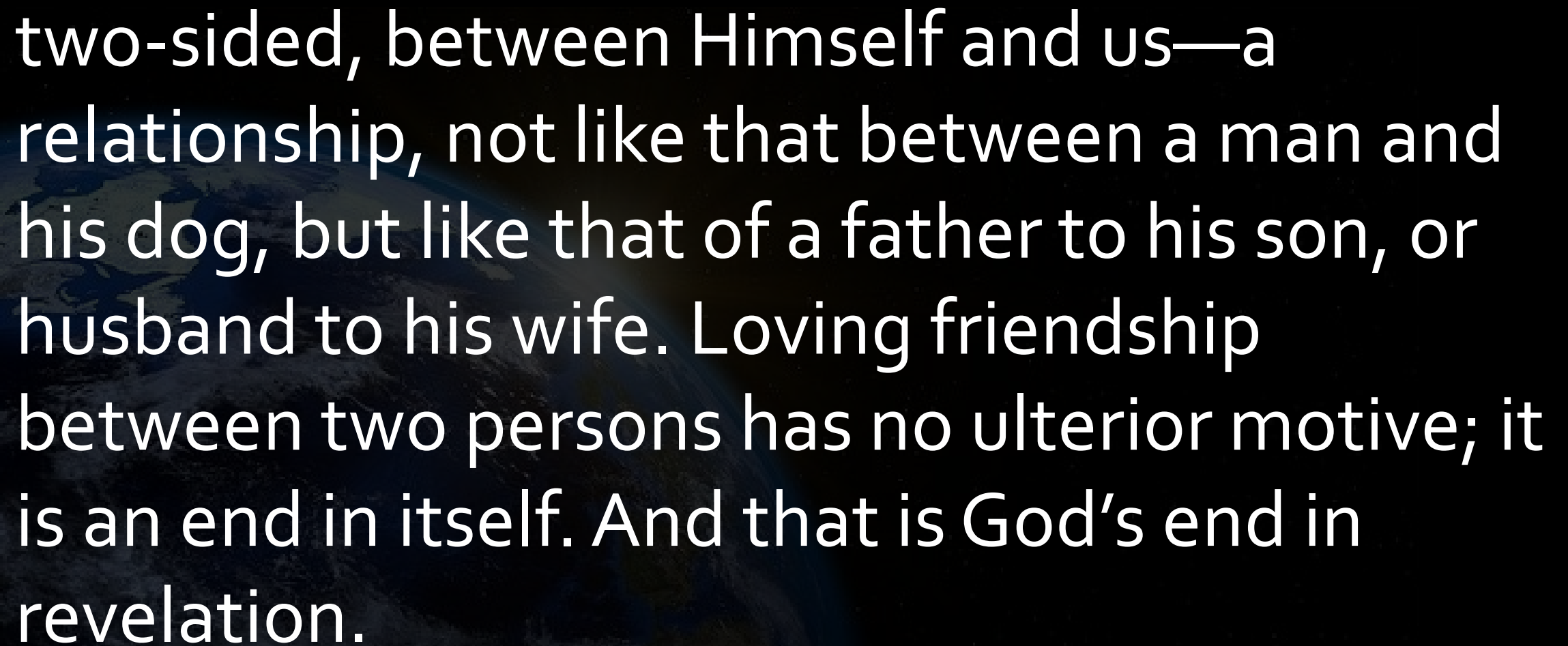




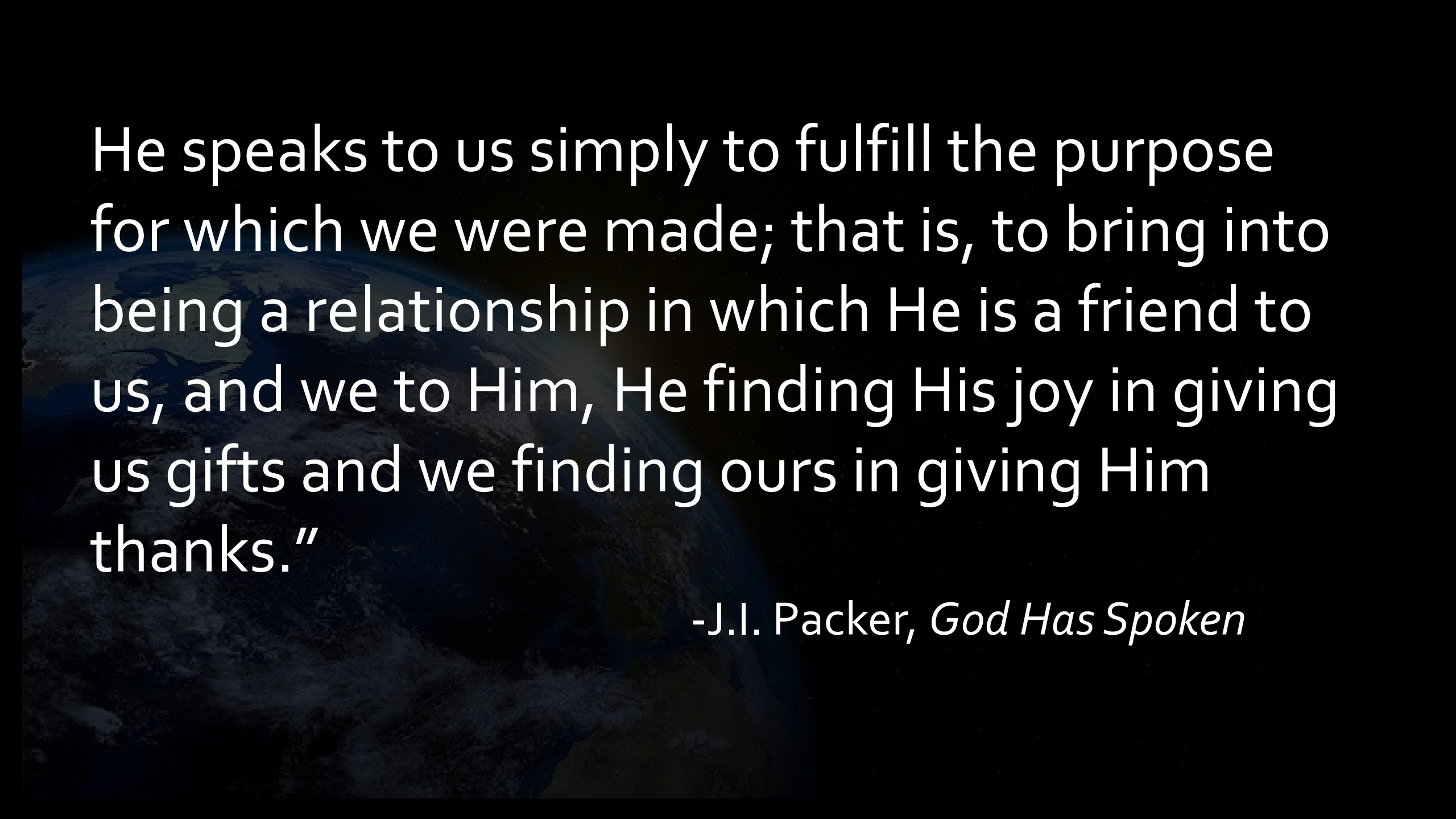
-J.I. Packer, *God Has Spoken*



“The truly staggering answer which the Bible gives to this question is that God’s purpose in revelation is to make friends with us. It was to this end that He created us rational beings, bearing His image, able to think and hear and speak and love; He wanted there to be genuine personal affection and friendship,

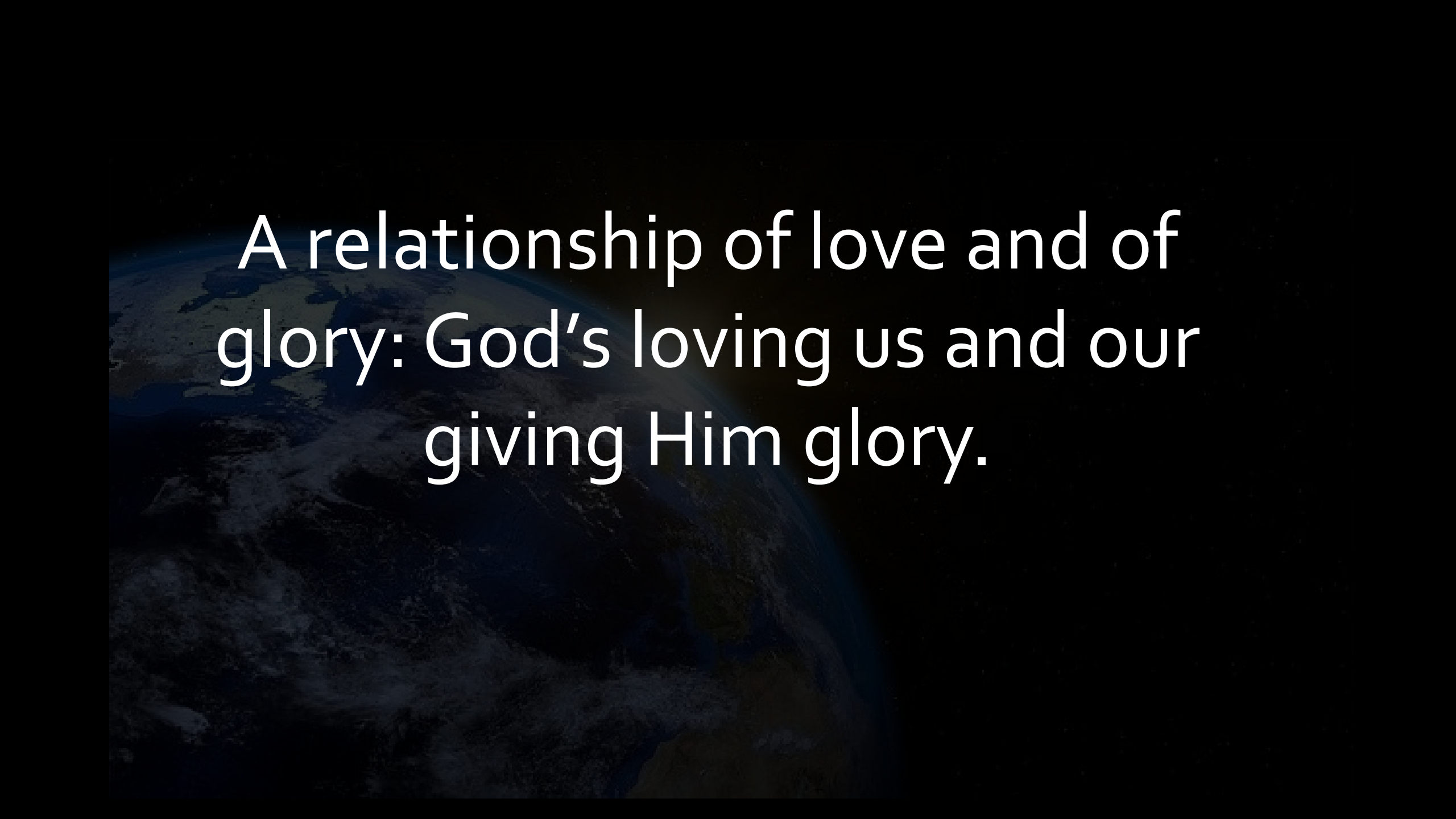


two-sided, between Himself and us—a relationship, not like that between a man and his dog, but like that of a father to his son, or husband to his wife. Loving friendship between two persons has no ulterior motive; it is an end in itself. And that is God's end in revelation.



He speaks to us simply to fulfill the purpose for which we were made; that is, to bring into being a relationship in which He is a friend to us, and we to Him, He finding His joy in giving us gifts and we finding ours in giving Him thanks."

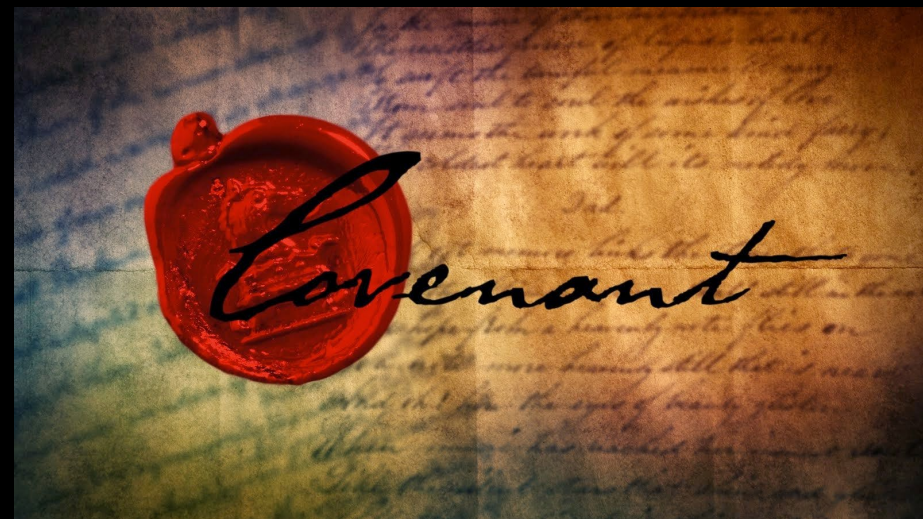
-J.I. Packer, *God Has Spoken*

A dark, atmospheric image of a landscape, possibly a forest or a field, with a bright light source creating a lens flare effect. The text is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

A relationship of love and of  
glory: God's loving us and our  
giving Him glory.



Creation





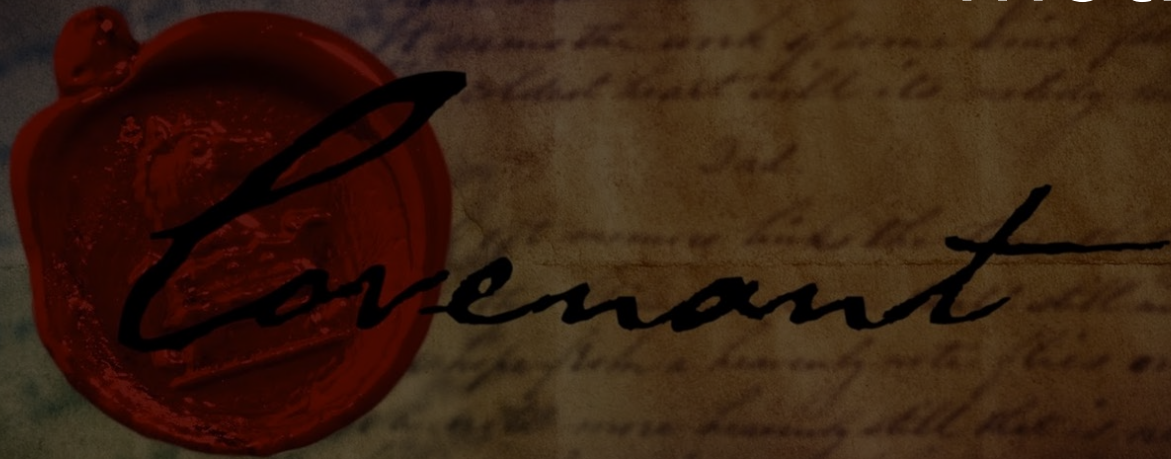
A covenant is a binding agreement between two individuals, and God has initiated a series of **covenants** with humanity.



*Covenant*

The same love that  
motivated God to create in  
the first place now  
motivates Him to **redeem**

US.





After the fall, God offered us a **covenant** that would bring about a partial restoration of His intention for us here on earth and a complete and full restoration of His intention for us in eternity.



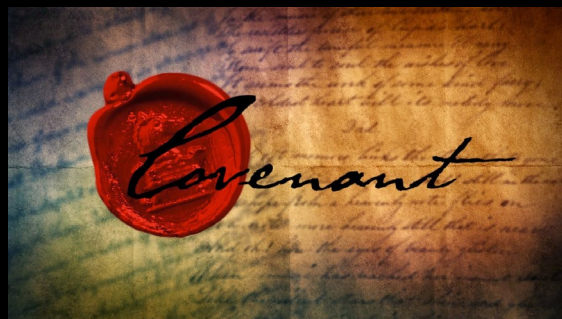
God promises to forgive and to redeem us  
if we will simply turn to Him in **faith** and  
ask Him to.



# THE BIG PICTURE



Creation



Christ was the **fulfillment** of God's OT Covenant promises for a Messiah to come to redeem humanity.

A large black cross stands on a dark, rocky outcrop in the foreground. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over a sea of white, fluffy clouds. The word "Christ" is written in a large, bold, green, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the clouds.

Christ



The picture of exactly who  
this **Messiah** would be,  
when He would come, and  
what He would do was not  
at all clear to Old Testament  
saints.



**Some** OT prophecies indicated that He would come as a lowly servant and that He would be humble and would suffer terribly.



**Other** prophecies indicated that the Messiah would come as a reigning King in great power and glory.



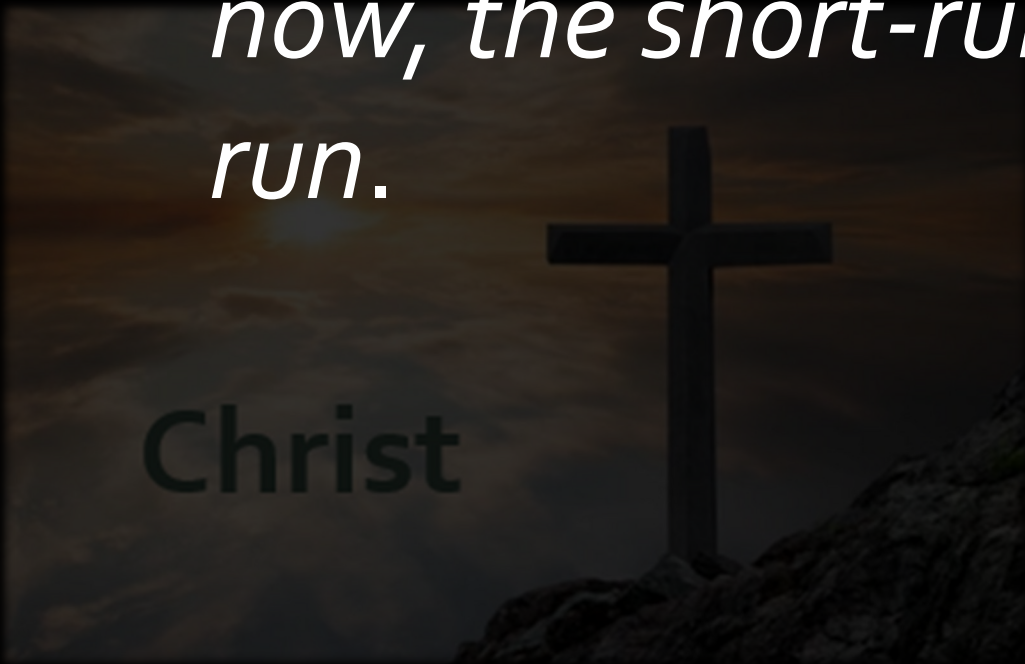
- It was difficult for OT saints & religious leaders to understand how to put the **two** pictures of the Messiah together.
- As the “parade of history” has unfolded, we now have a fuller understanding – that the Messiah would come **twice**.

Christ

# Principle for interpreting many prophecies & fulfillments in Scriptures:

- *Many prophecies are fulfilled **partially** in the now, the short-run, and then fully in the long-run.*

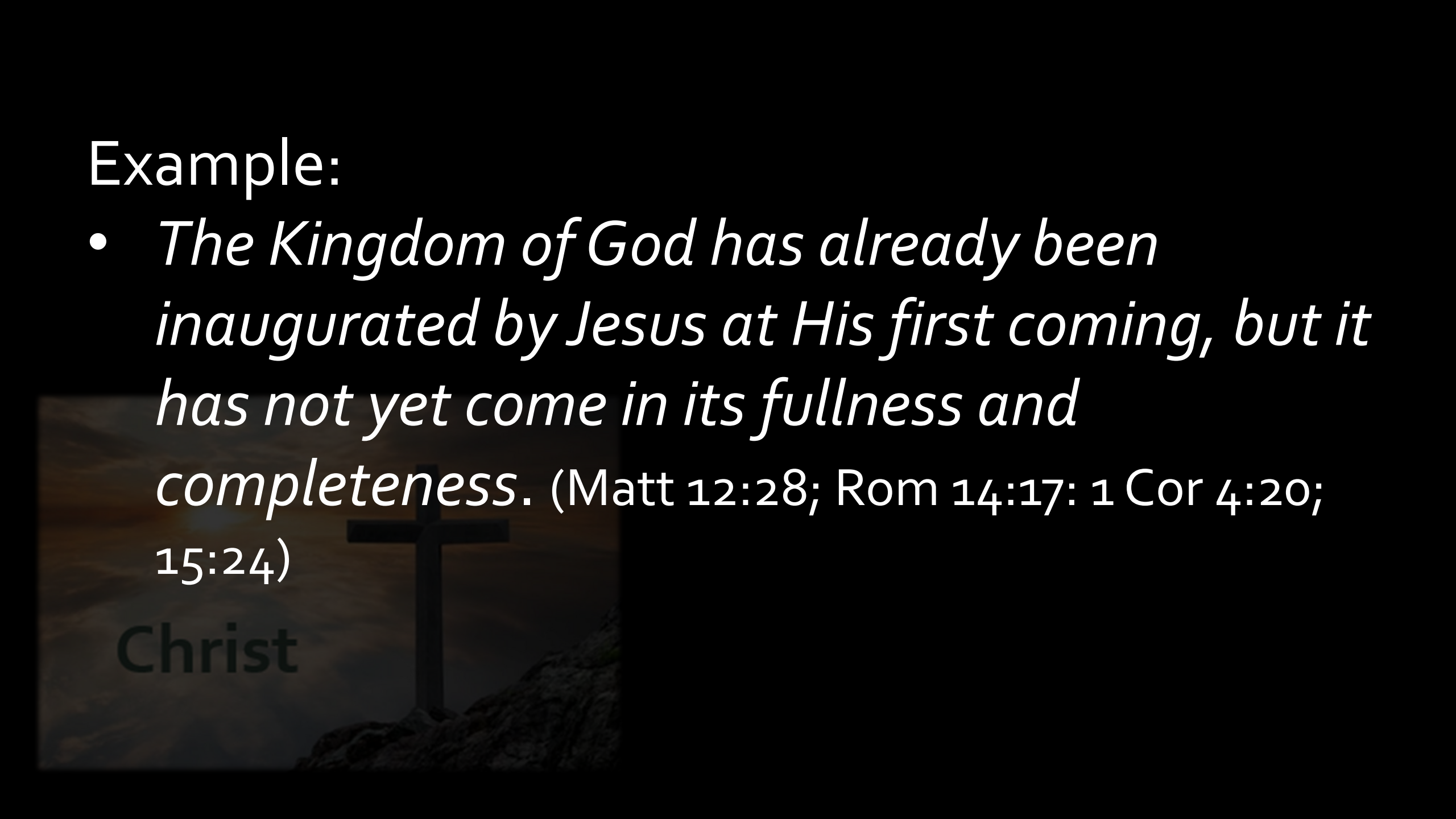
Christ



## Example:

- *The Kingdom of God has already been inaugurated by Jesus at His first coming, but it has not yet come in its fullness and completeness. (Matt 12:28; Rom 14:17; 1 Cor 4:20; 15:24)*

Christ



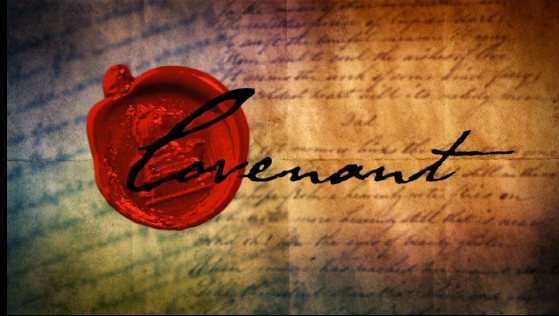




-God created a world in perfect harmony, in which He could love humanity & be loved by humanity, in the glory & joy of full righteousness.



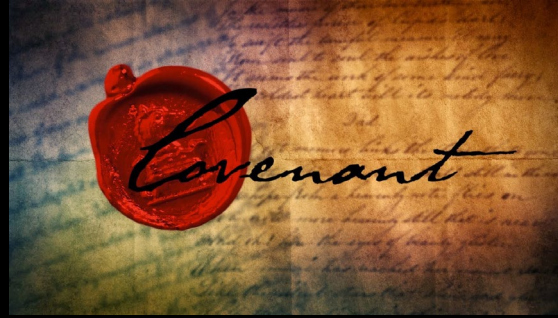
-It was contaminated by sin, and humanity was separated from God, and unable to correct the situation.



-It was contaminated by sin, and humanity was separated from God, and unable to correct the situation.

-God initiates a plan to restore us to His original purpose & intention..

-He agrees to redeem us by grace through faith in Him, asking us in return to live a life in alignment with Him.



-It was contaminated by sin, and humanity was separated from God, and unable to correct the situation.

-God initiates a plan to restore us to His original purpose & intention..

-He agrees to redeem us by grace through faith in Him, asking us in return to live a life in alignment with Him.

-Jesus came as the promised Messiah, so sins would no longer be "covered," but now "removed," fulfilling the prophets and establishing a new covenant.



-It was contaminated by sin, and humanity was separated from God, and unable to correct the situation.

-God initiates a plan to restore us to His original purpose & intention..

-He agrees to redeem us by grace through faith in Him, asking us in return to live a life in alignment with Him.

-Jesus' first coming partially fulfilled the OT prophecies, as He inaugurated the coming of the Kingdom of God.  
-Jesus' second coming will completely fulfill the remaining prophecies.





-It was contaminated by sin, and humanity was separated from God, and unable to correct the situation.

-God initiates a plan to restore us to His original purpose & intention..  
-He agrees to redeem us by grace through faith in Him, asking us in return to live a life in alignment with Him.

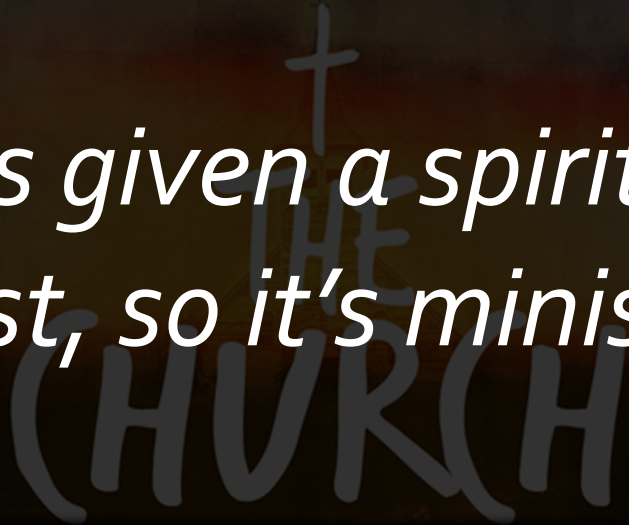
-Jesus' first coming partially fulfilled the OT prophecies, as He inaugurated the coming of the Kingdom of God.  
-Jesus' second coming will completely fulfill the remaining prophecies.

24. The message of grace through faith in Christ is now **transferred** to the Church, as it functions as the "Body of Christ."

Each member of the body:

25. Is given the **Holy Spirit** as a seal that guarantees his inheritance until the final day of redemption (Eph 4:30)

26. Is given a spiritual **gift** to use in the body of Christ, so it's ministry is effective (1 Cor 12; Rom 12)



Each member of the body:

27. Is **commissioned** by Christ to participate in the evangelism of the world, making disciples to build the church (Matt 28:19-20)

28. Is given the responsibility to worship the Lord, to observe baptism & the Lord's Supper, maintaining a **ready** spirit until Jesus comes again in the fulfillment of God's covenant promises.



Creation



-It was contaminated by sin, and humanity was separated from God, and unable to correct the situation.


-God initiates a plan to restore us to His original purpose & intention..  
-He agrees to redeem us by grace through faith in Him, asking us in return to live a life in alignment with Him.

-Jesus' first coming partially fulfilled the OT prophecies, as He inaugurated the coming of the Kingdom of God.  
-Jesus' second coming will completely fulfill the remaining prophecies.

The message of grace through faith in Christ is now transferred to the Church, as it functions as the "Body of Christ."

# 29. The completion of God's Redemptive Plan!

30. When we see all of history as one parade passing by the grandstand, we can better envision that the future is merely the will of God **already** determined, but which has yet to occur.



consummation



31. Properly seen, prophecy is just the **culmination** of the plan which God established before creation.

32. When the original plan was destroyed through the Fall, God instituted His recovery plan of **redemption** in 4 remaining stages...





33. The Consummation is an **already** accomplished fact in the mind of God, a “float” that has already been created, but which has yet to “pass the grandstand.”



34. We don't know **when** the consummation of history will occur.

35. It should spur our **evangelistic** efforts.

36. We should live like citizens of **Heaven**, while we are citizens of Earth.

37. We should know that the suffering of this world will be swallowed up into the **glory** of the age to come.





- “**How**” to study and understand Prophecy
- “**Who**” are the key characters
- “**What**” are the Key Events and Terminology
- “**When**” the Events might take place.
- “**Where**” will everything take place.