

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BIBLICAL PROPHECY

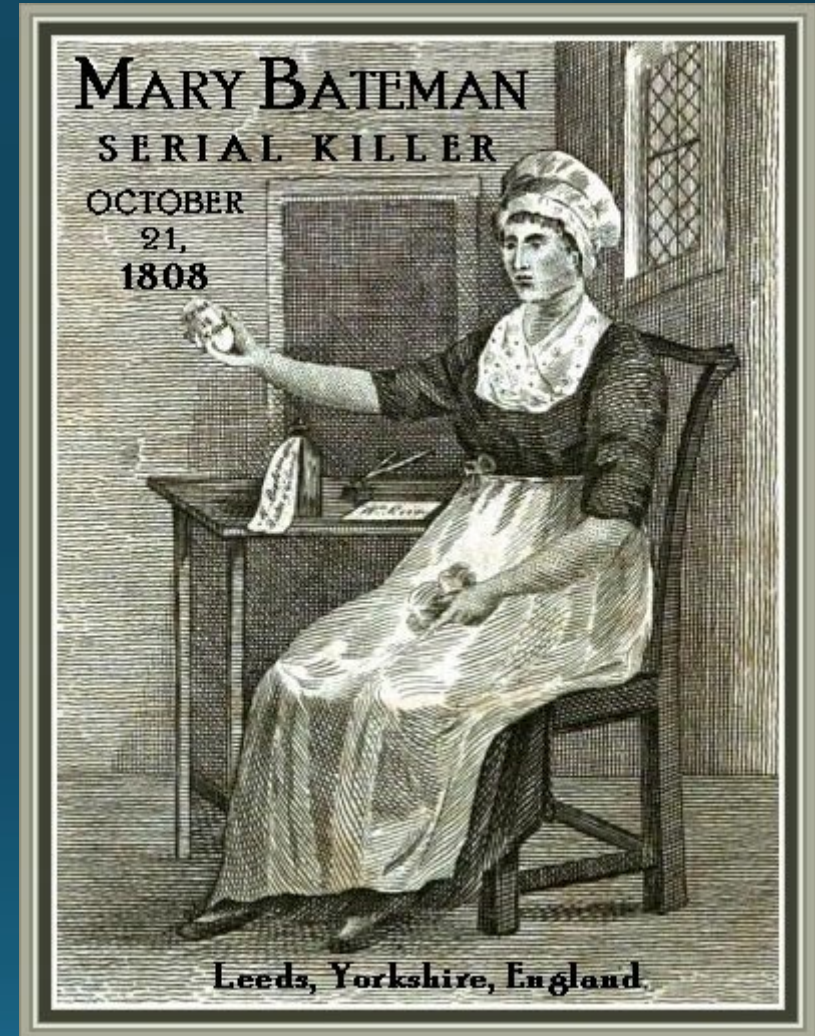
Week 3 – The Confusion
Pastor Marty

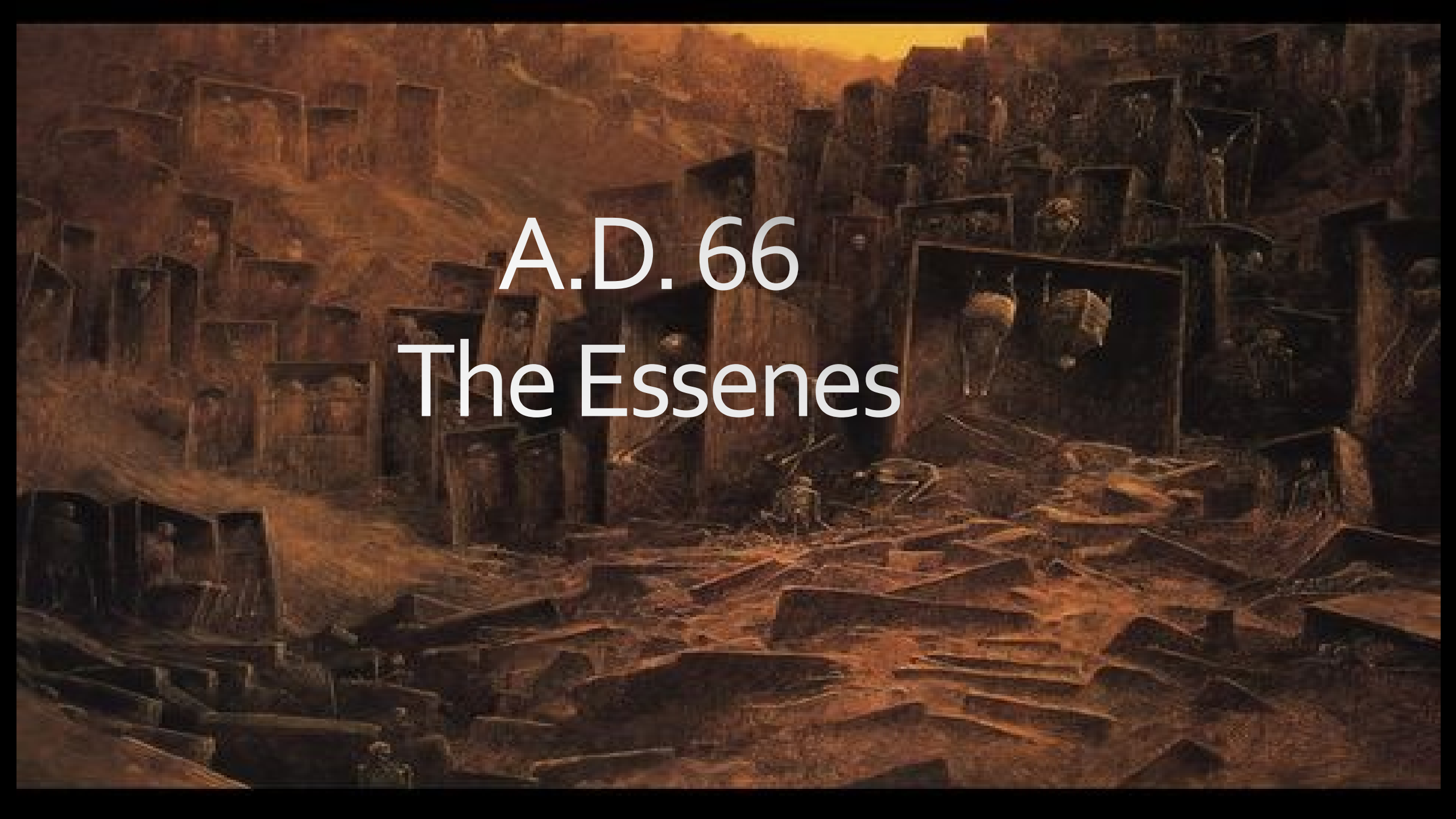


A man with dark hair, wearing a dark pinstripe suit, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie, is shown from the chest up. He has a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of surprise or awe, looking slightly upwards and to the right. His hands are raised, palms facing up, in a gesture of surprise or questioning. The background is a solid, dark gray.

THINGS YOU'VE NEVER LEARNED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Failed Doomsday Predictions



The background image is a cinematic, low-angle shot of a city in ruins. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a setting or rising sun, which creates a hazy, atmospheric effect. The architecture is ancient and heavily damaged, with many buildings reduced to skeletal remains of walls and columns. The perspective is from a low vantage point, looking up at the towering, crumbling structures, which emphasizes the scale and devastation of the scene. The overall mood is one of historical tragedy and mystery.

A.D. 66 The Essenes



January 1, 1000 Pope Sylvester II



AD1284

Pope Innocent III

POPE INNOCENT III

AND HIS TIMES

by Joseph Clayton

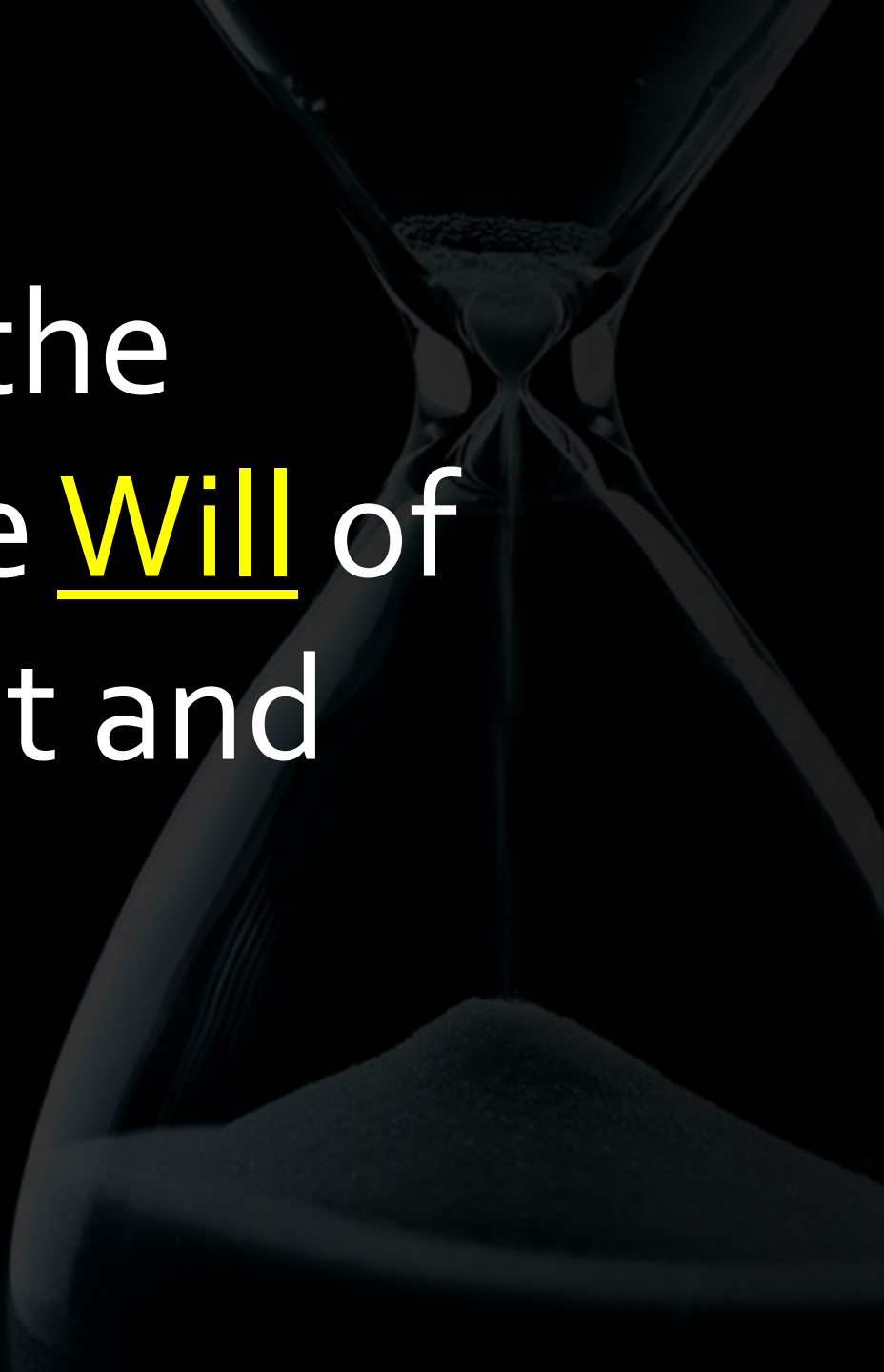


with a new Introduction by

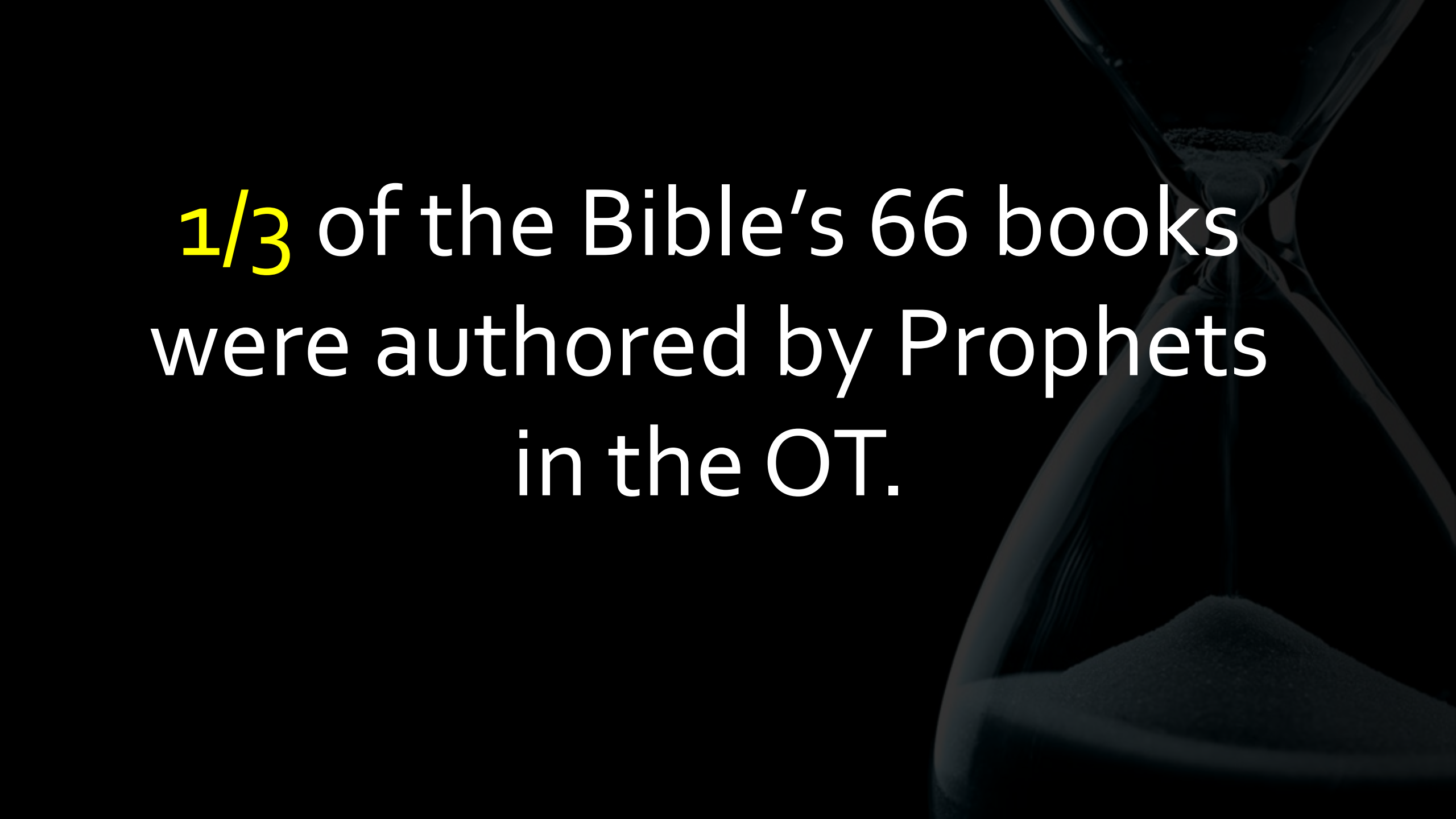
PHILLIP CAMPBELL



May 19, 1780
America

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 dark color.

1. Prophecy is 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 dark color, possibly black or very dark blue.

$\frac{1}{3}$ of the Bible's 66 books
were authored by Prophets
in the OT.

A large, dark, translucent 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, and the background is a solid dark color.

4 of the NT Books are
primarily prophetic

Revelation
Jude

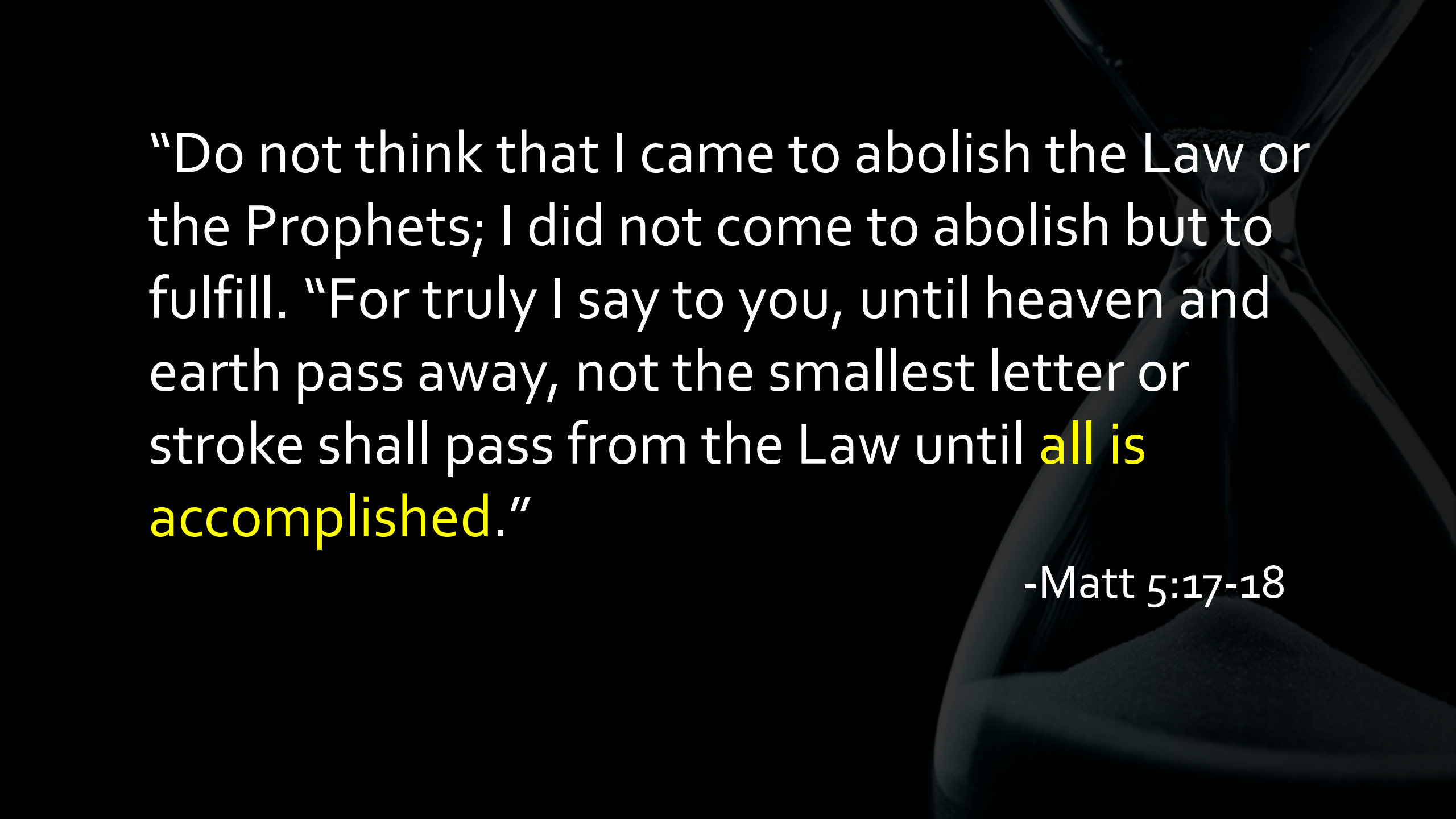
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians

27% of the Bible includes
Prophecy



The Most Important Prophecies point to the Coming of Christ

- 120 were fulfilled with His First Coming!
- 300 Yet to Come with Jesus' Second Coming!

A faint, dark hourglass is visible in the background, with sand falling from the top bulb into the bottom bulb. The hourglass is centered vertically and horizontally, with its narrow waist pointing towards the center of the image.

“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







God can see all history –
Past, Present, Future
Simultaneously

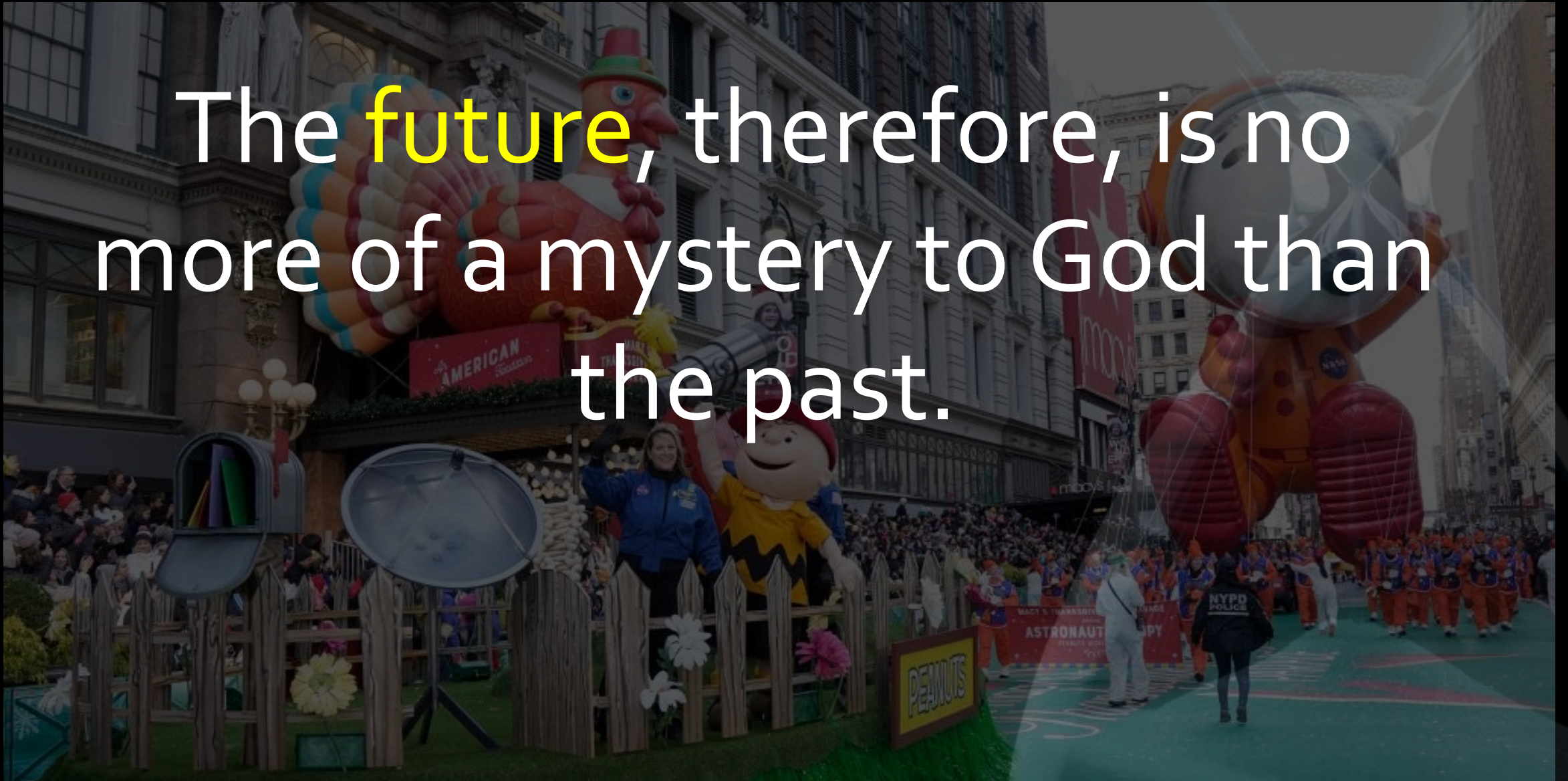


A photograph of a parade float during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The float is decorated with a large, colorful turkey and a large, orange and red Snoopy balloon. A crowd of people is visible on the street, and a police officer in a blue uniform is walking on the float. The background shows tall city buildings.

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

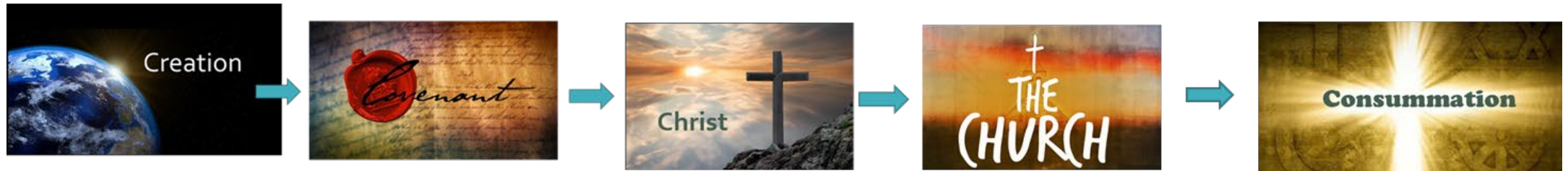
The **future** is that part of the parade still to come.

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



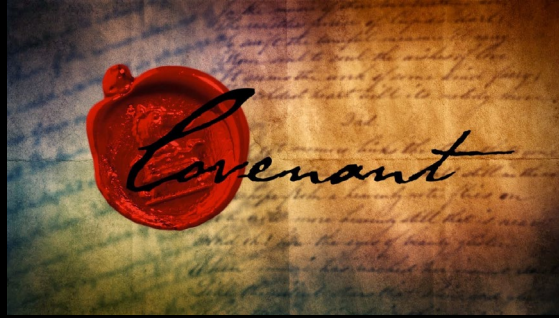
God's "parade of history," as it were, includes "five floats."







(1) God created a world in perfect harmony, but it was contaminated by sin.



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

(2) God initiated a Plan of Redemption.



-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.

(3) Christ ushered in the New Covenant.



Creation



Christ



-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.

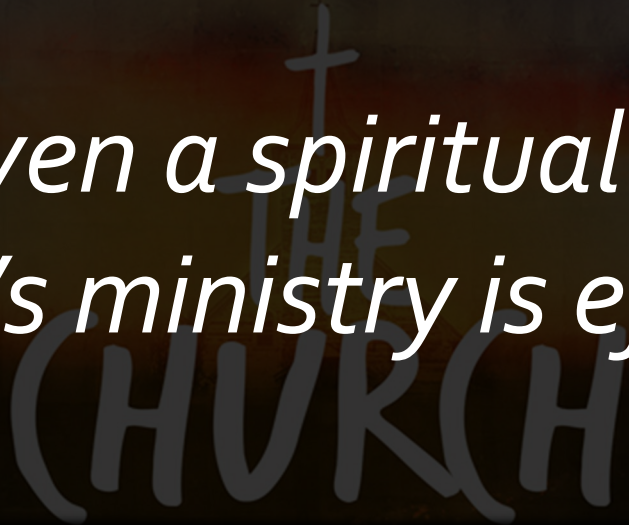
-Jesus' first coming partially fulfilled the OT prophecies, as He inaugurated the coming of the Kingdom of God.
-Jesus' second coming will completely fulfill the remaining prophecies.

(4) Christ transferred His message of redemption to the Church to take to the World.

Each member of the body:

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

*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:

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

*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



Christ



Consummation

-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."

(5) God will complete His Redemptive Plan through Christ's 2nd Coming.

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



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.”

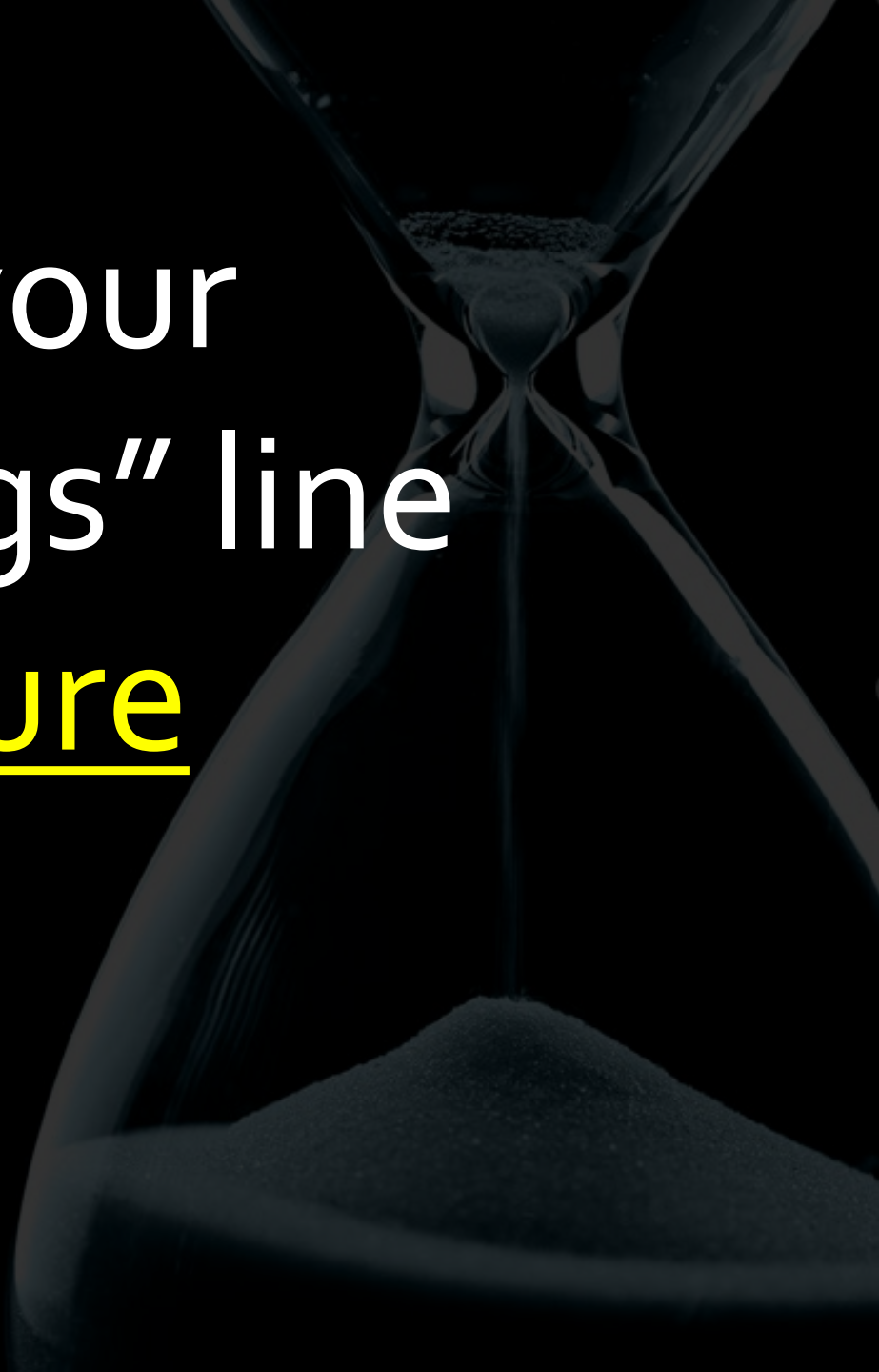
Why the **confusion**
of interpreting
prophecy?

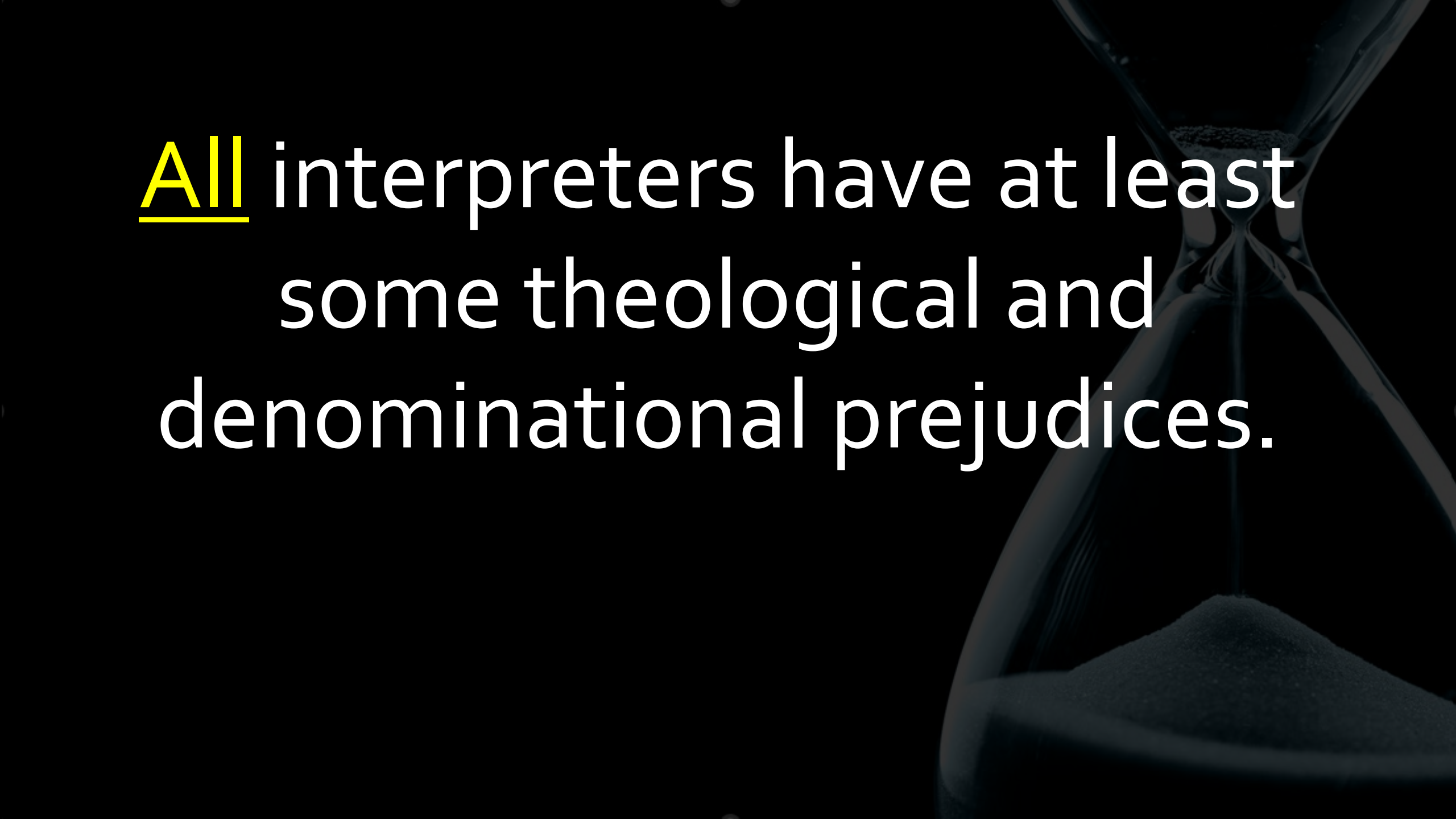


First, let's understand the
rules of interpreting
Prophetic Scripture



#1 Make sure your
“preunderstandings” line
up with Scripture

A large, dark, translucent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image. It is filled with a dark, granular substance, likely sand, which is visible through the glass. The hourglass is oriented vertically, with the narrow neck in the center. The background is a solid dark color, making the hourglass stand out.

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.

All interpreters have at least
some theological and
denominational prejudices.

#2 Pay close attention to
the Context

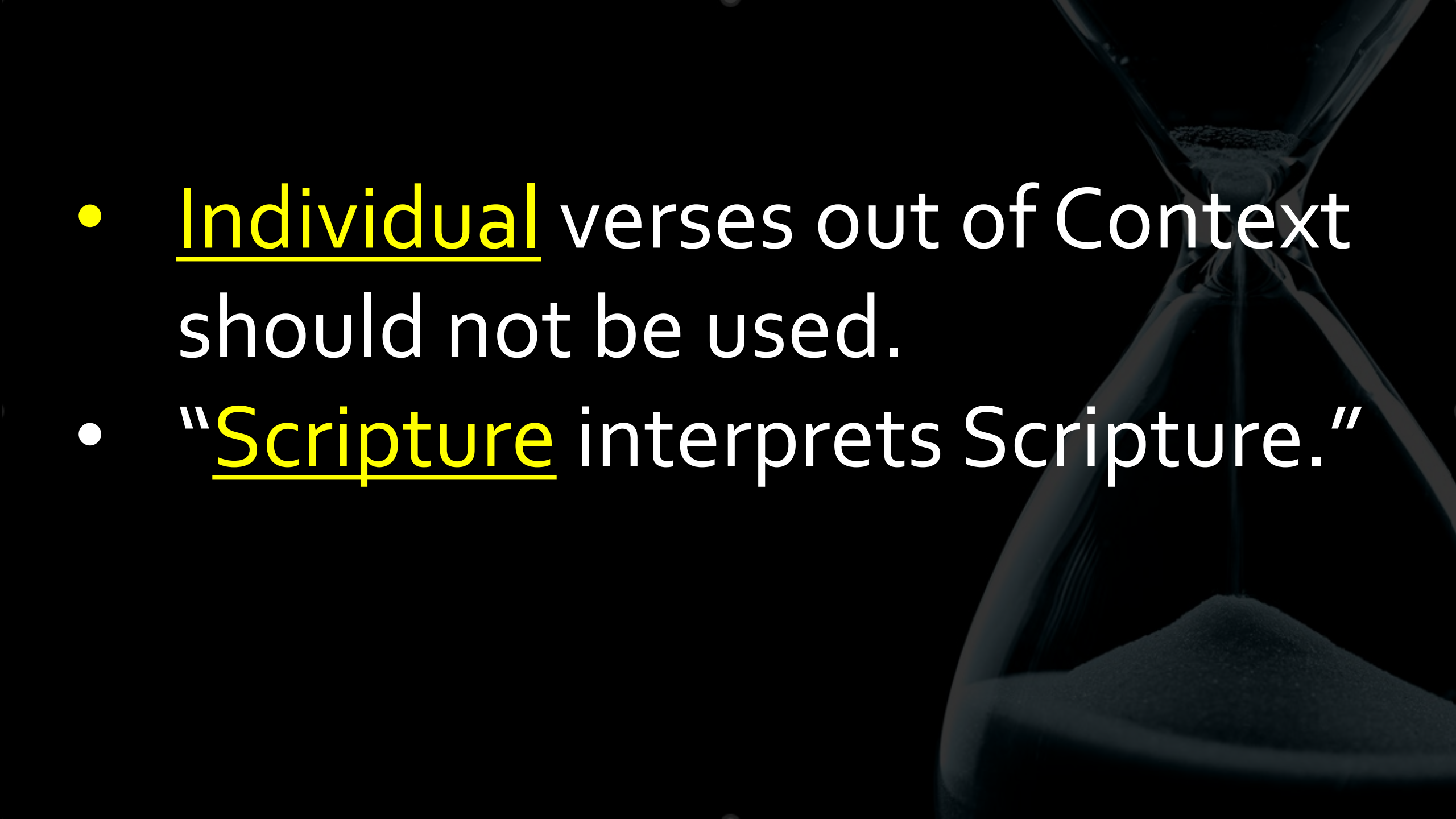


Every *word* in the Bible is part of a sentence.

Every *sentence* in the Bible is part of a paragraph.

Every *paragraph* in the Bible is part of a book.

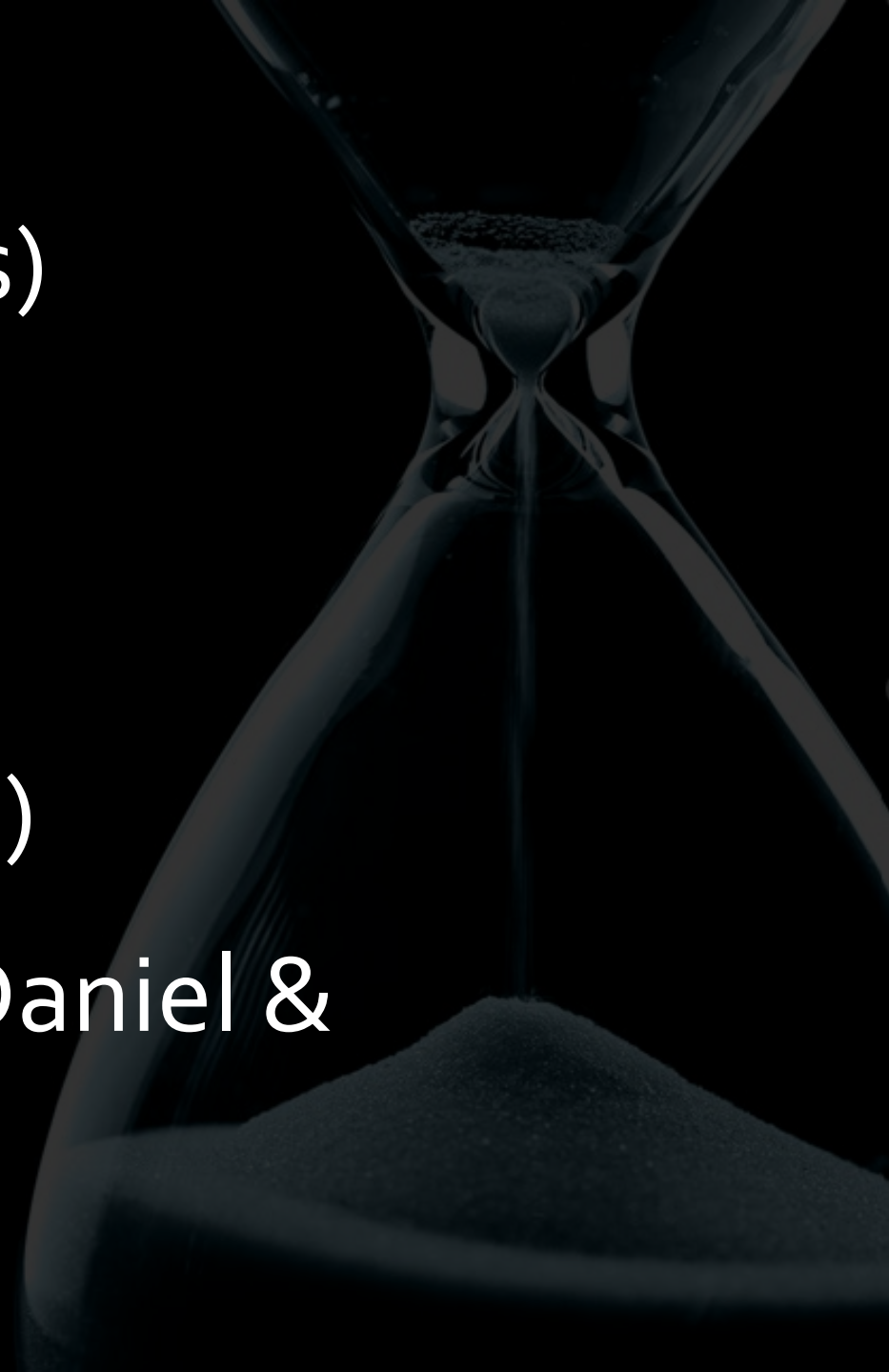
Every *book* in the Bible is part of the whole of Scripture.

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- A large, dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the slide, serving as a background element. The sand inside the hourglass is visible, and the overall image has a dark, moody aesthetic.
- Individual verses out of Context should not be used.
 - “Scripture interprets Scripture.”

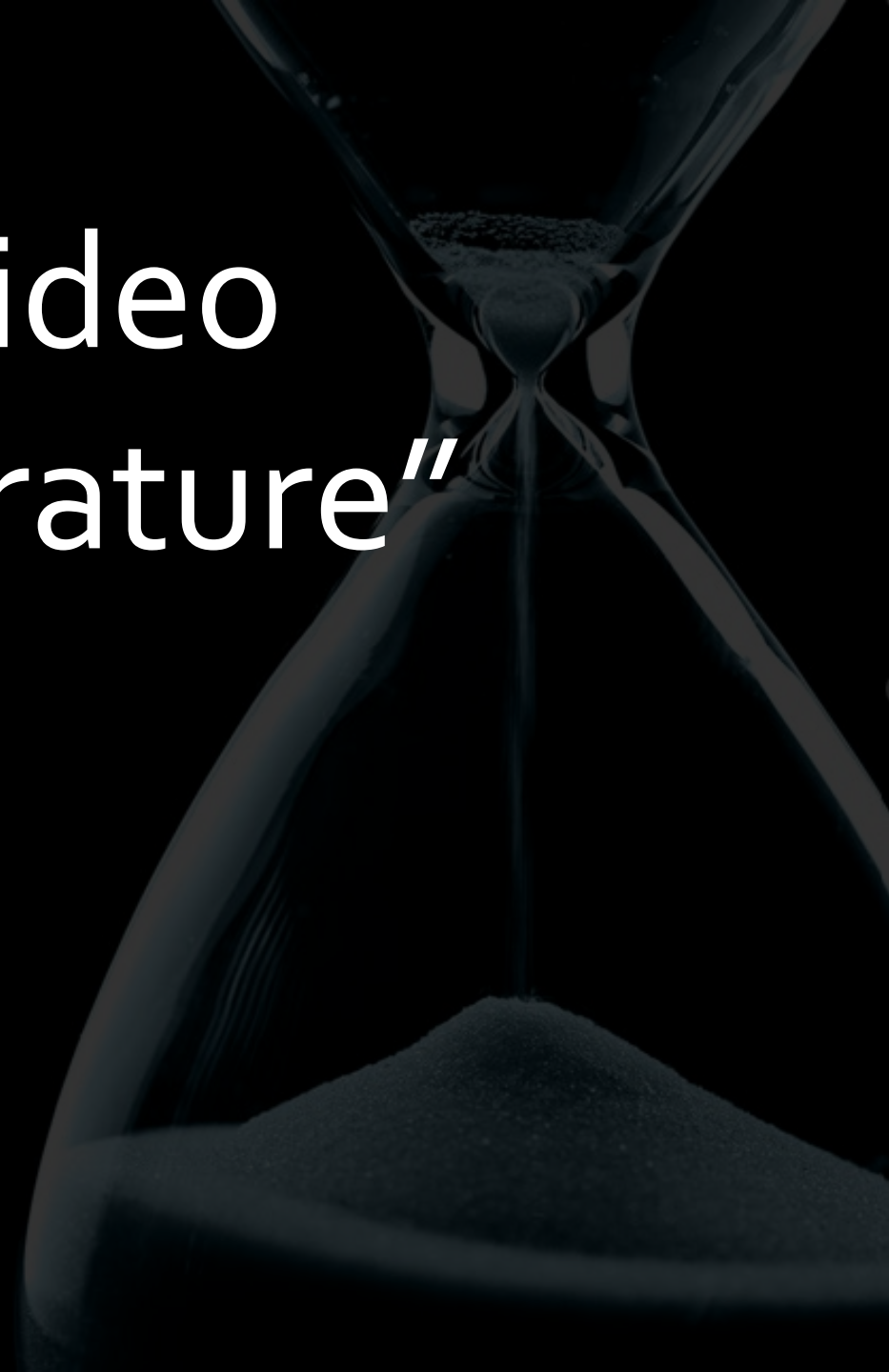
#3 Interpret in view of the Literary Form

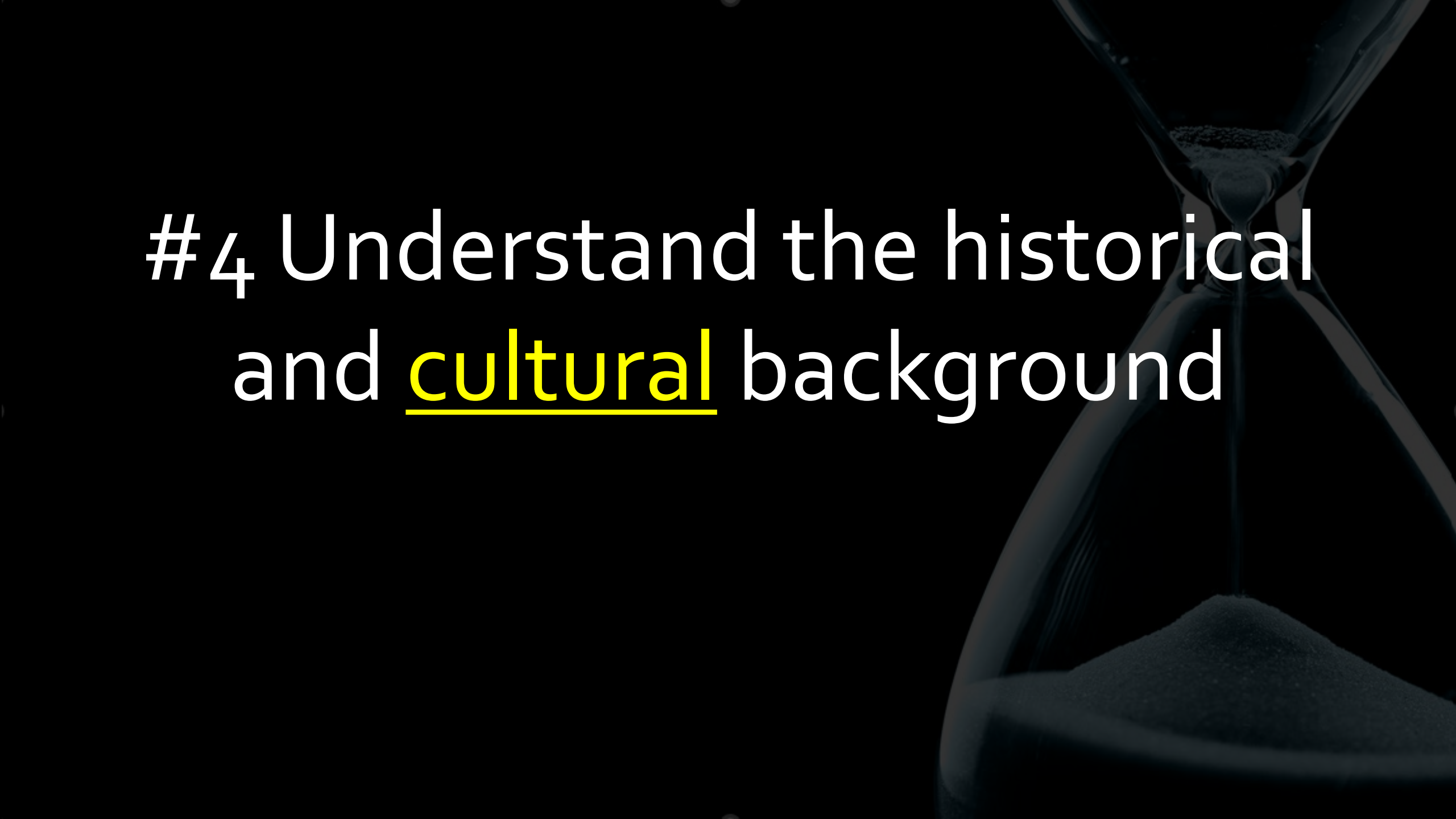


- Historical books (Acts)
- Dramatic epics (Job)
- Poetry (Psalms)
- Wise sayings (Proverbs)
- Apocalyptic books (Daniel & Revelation)



Bible Project Video “Apocalyptic Literature”



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

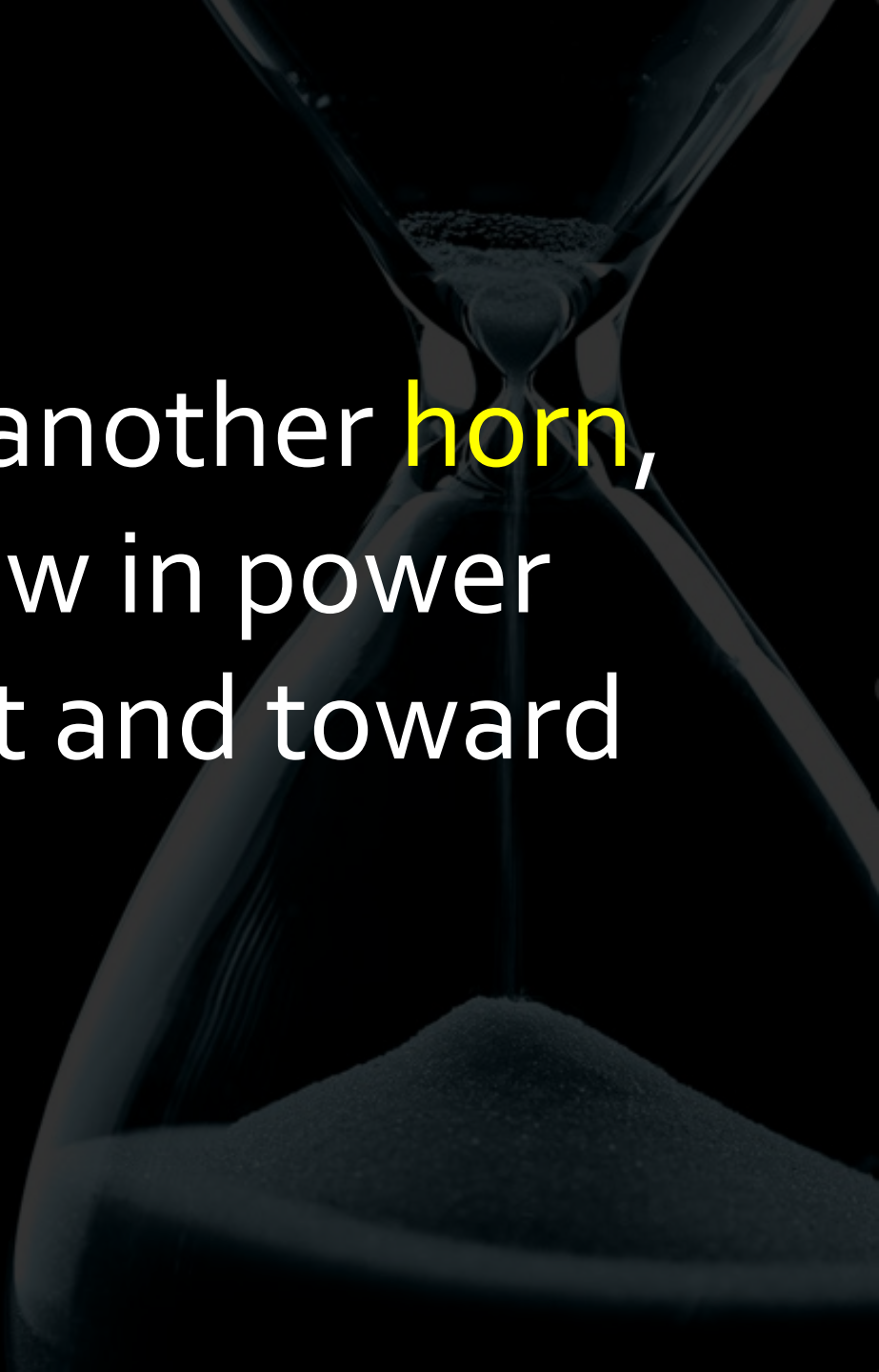
#4 Understand the historical
and cultural background

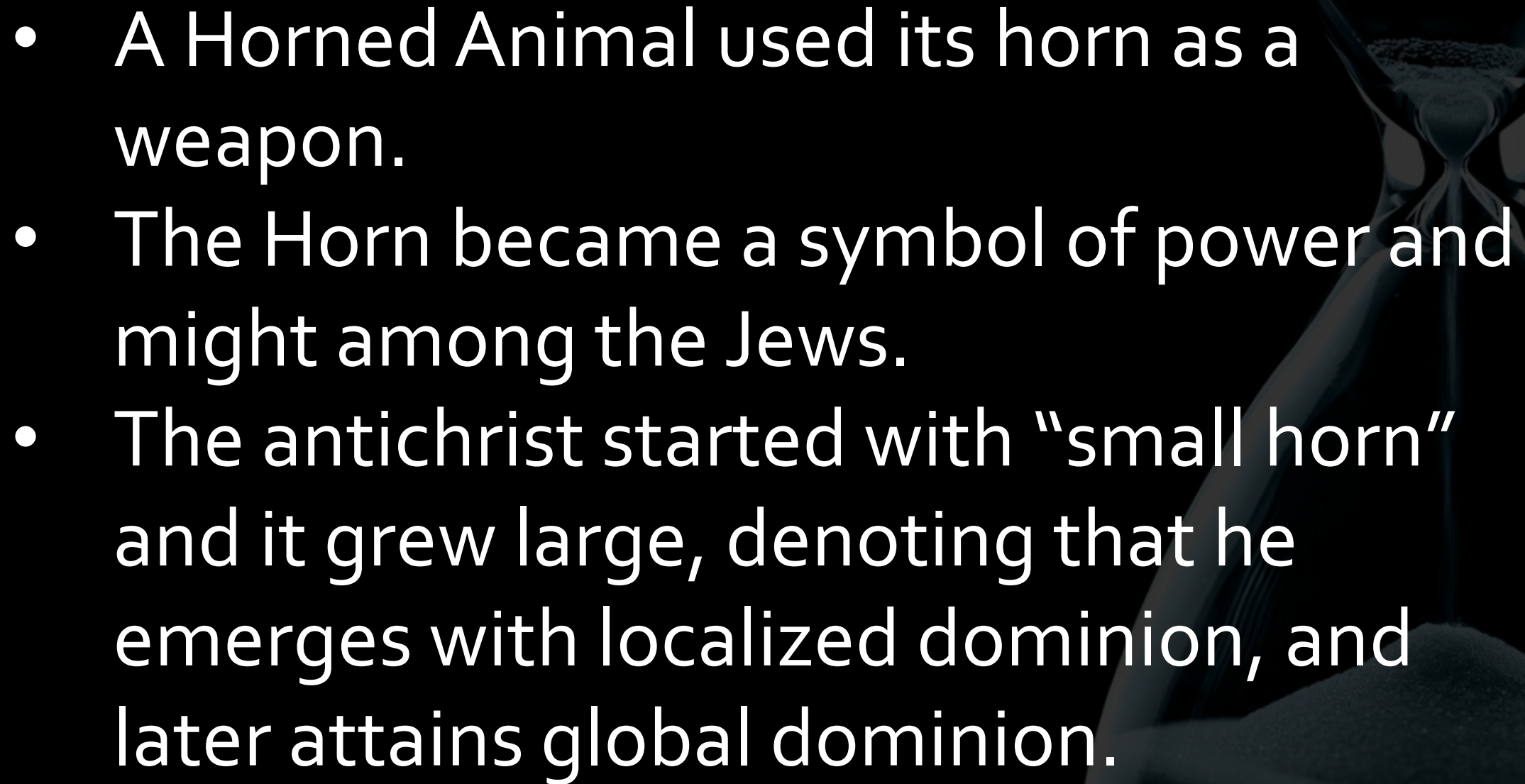
- Jewish marriage rites
- Burial rites
- Family practices
- Farm practices
- Business practices
- Monetary system



Daniel 8:9

“Out of one of them came another **horn**,
which started small but grew in power
to the south and to the east and toward
the Beautiful Land.”

A large, dark hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, serving as a background. The hourglass is made of a dark, reflective material, and the sand inside is a dark, granular substance. The top bulb of the hourglass is partially filled with sand, and a thin stream of sand is falling from the narrow neck into the bottom bulb. The bottom bulb is also partially filled with sand. The hourglass is set against a solid black background.

- 
- A Horned Animal used its horn as a weapon.
 - The Horn became a symbol of power and might among the Jews.
 - The antichrist started with “small horn” and it grew large, denoting that he emerges with localized dominion, and later attains global dominion.

A dark, translucent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The top bulb is partially filled with dark sand, and a small amount of sand is visible falling through the neck into the bottom bulb. The background is a solid dark color.

#5 Be mindful of the Law of Double Reference

The Law of Double Reference

A large, dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the slide, serving as a background element. The sand inside the hourglass is visible, and the overall image has a dark, moody aesthetic.

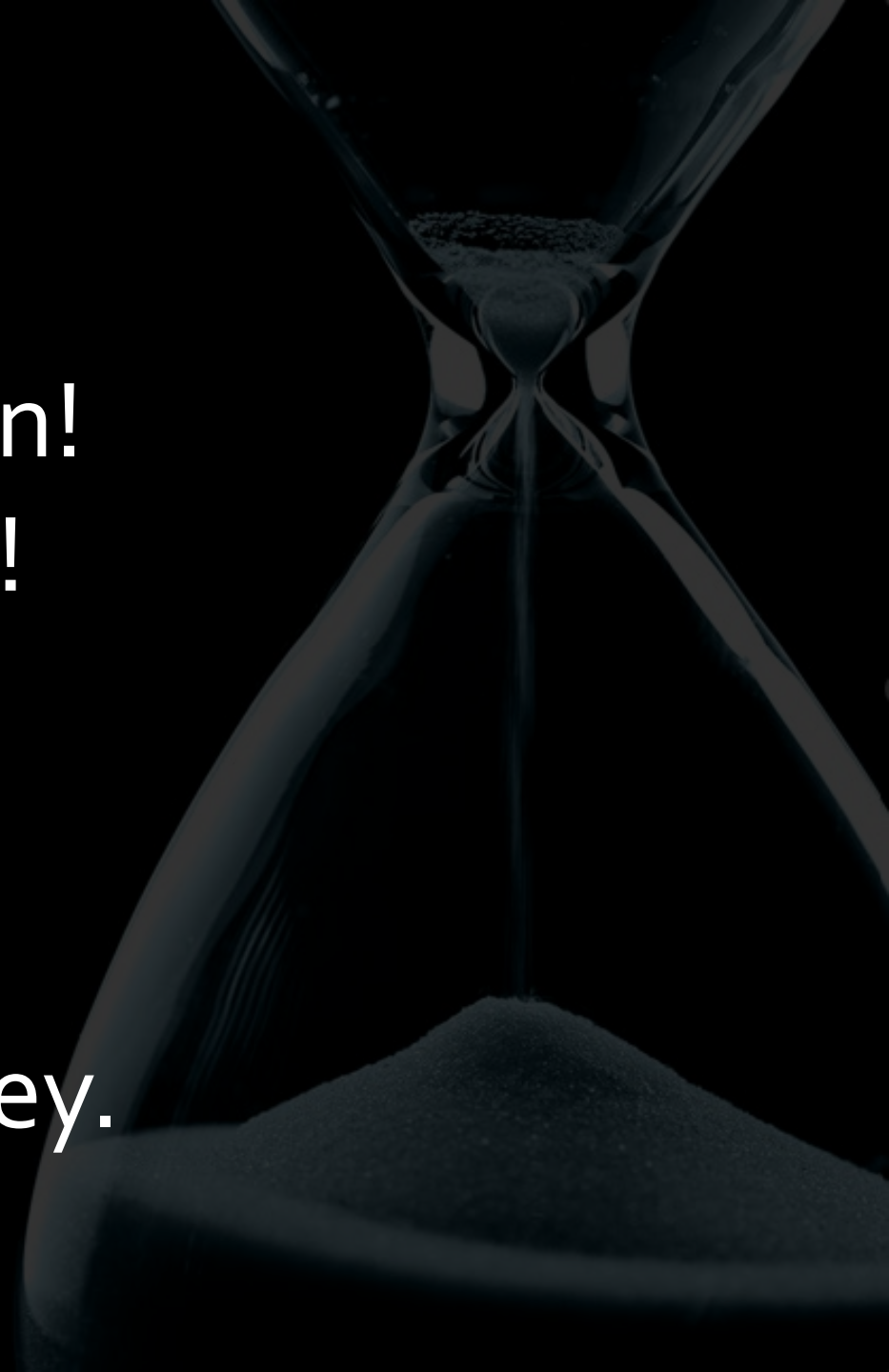
- A single passage of prophetic Scripture may refer to two events separated by a significant time period.
- Both prophesied events blend into one picture, masking the intervening time period.

Zechariah 9:9-10

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

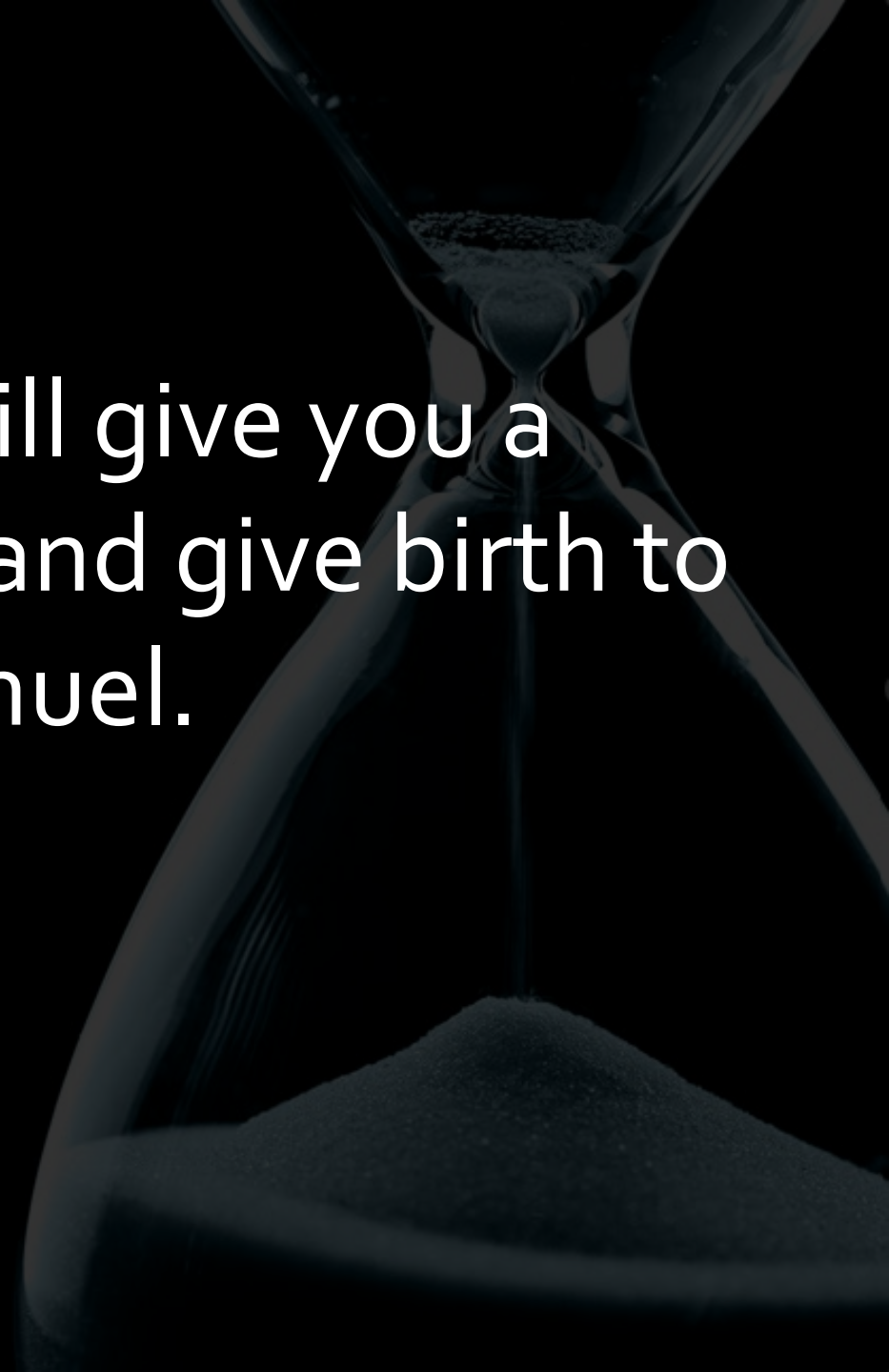


Zechariah 9:9-10

10 I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.
He will proclaim peace to the nations.
His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River[a] to the ends of the
earth.

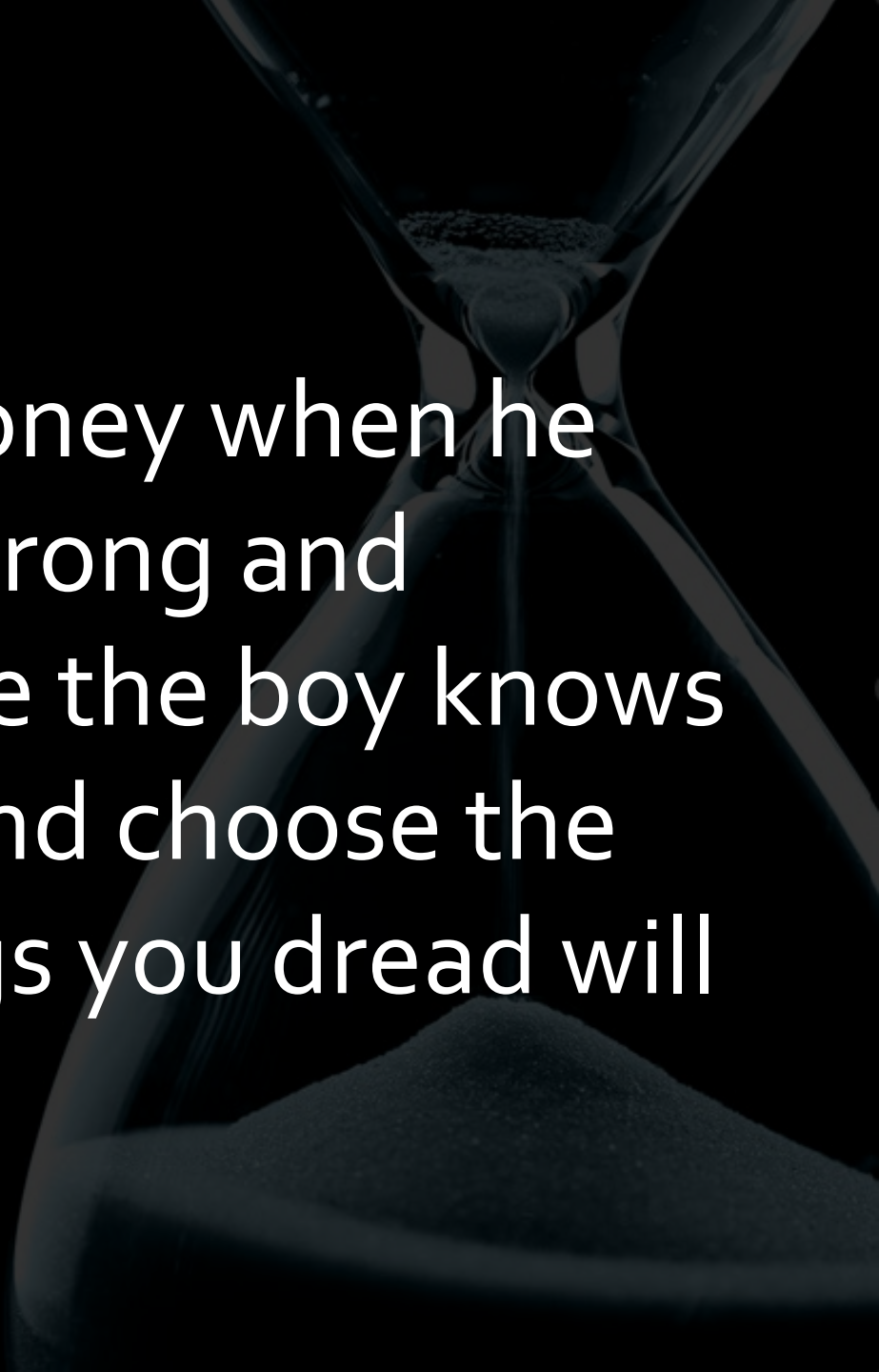
Isaiah 7:14

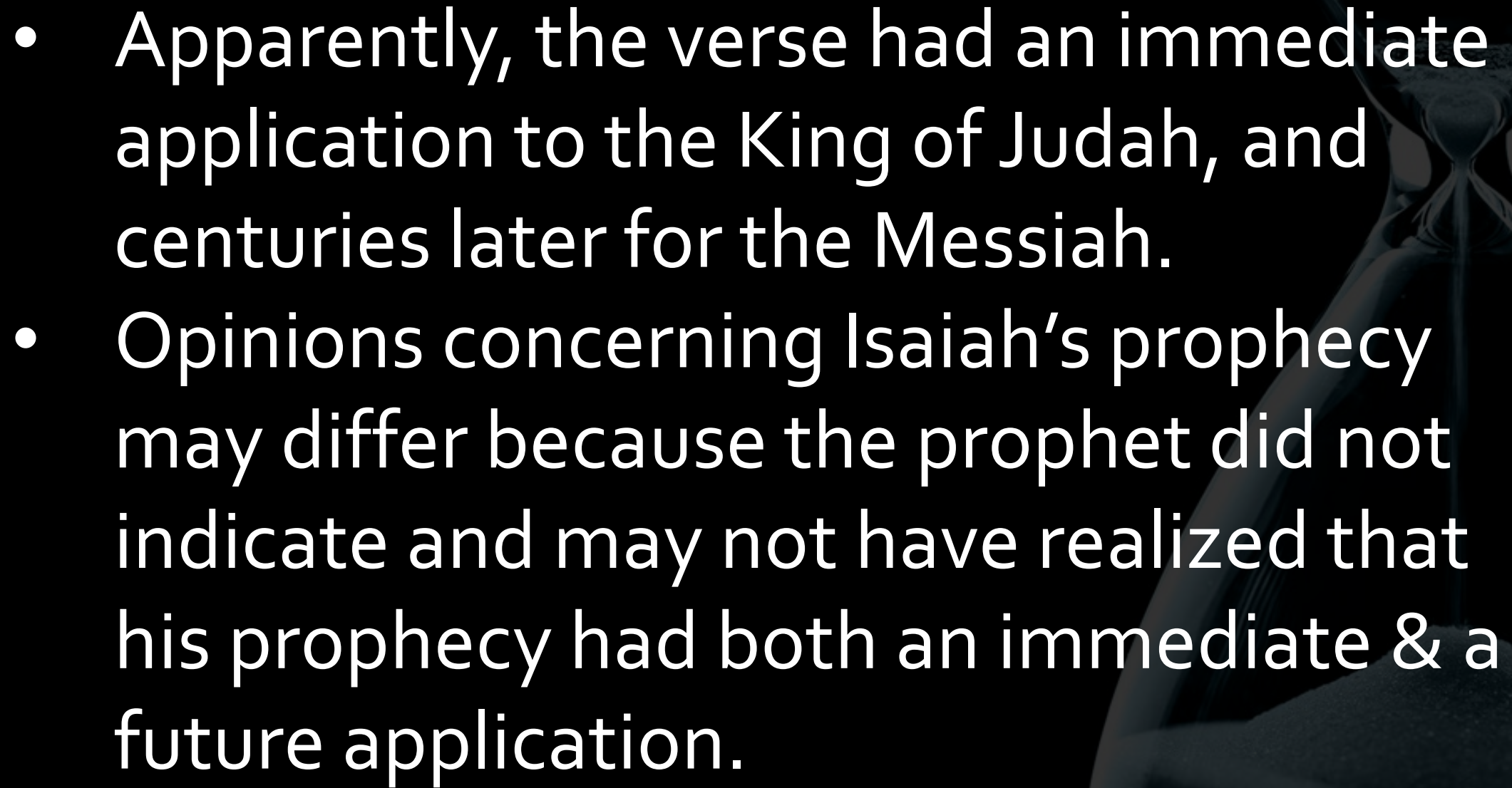
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

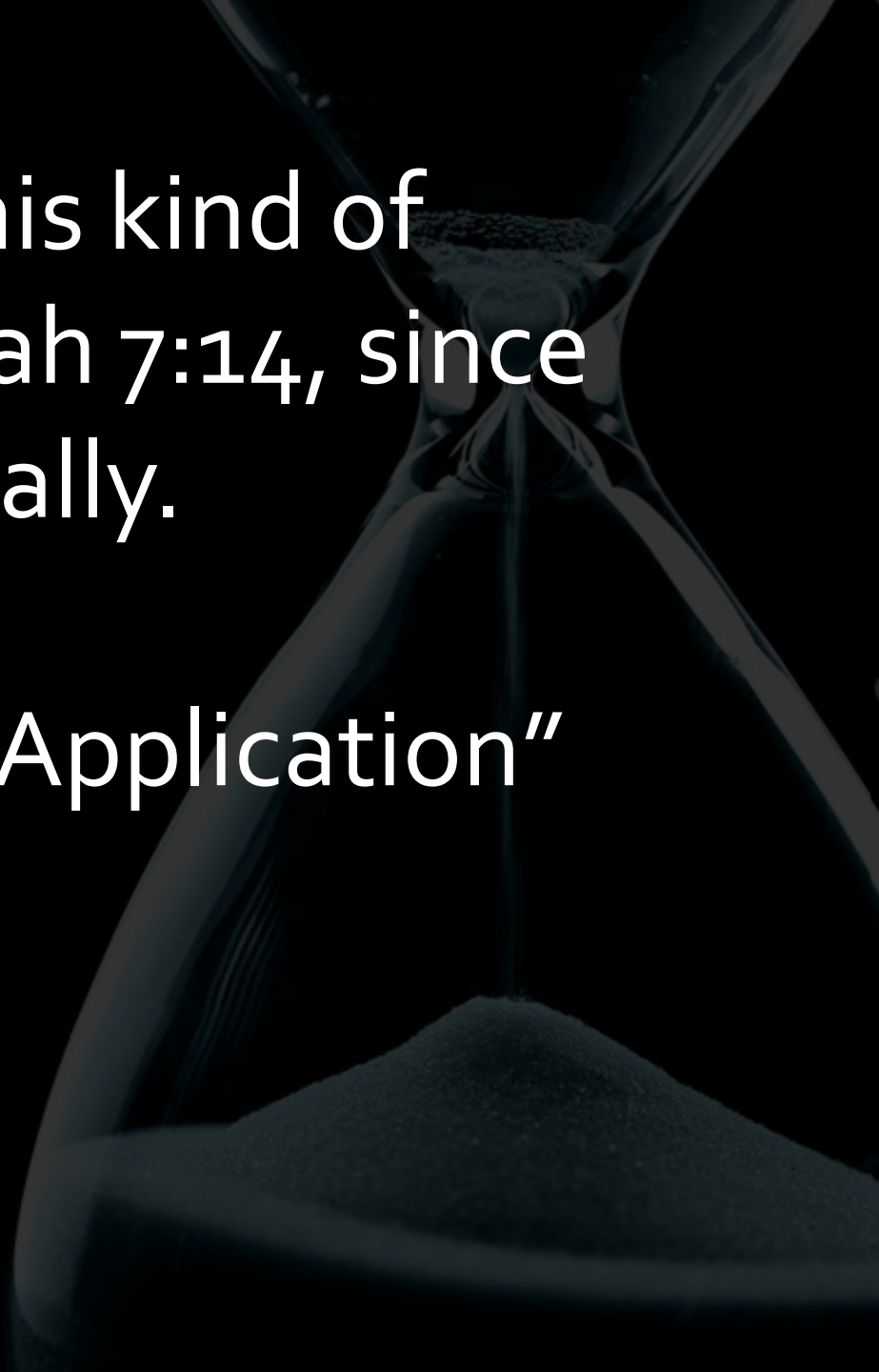


Isaiah 7:15-16

He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, 16 for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

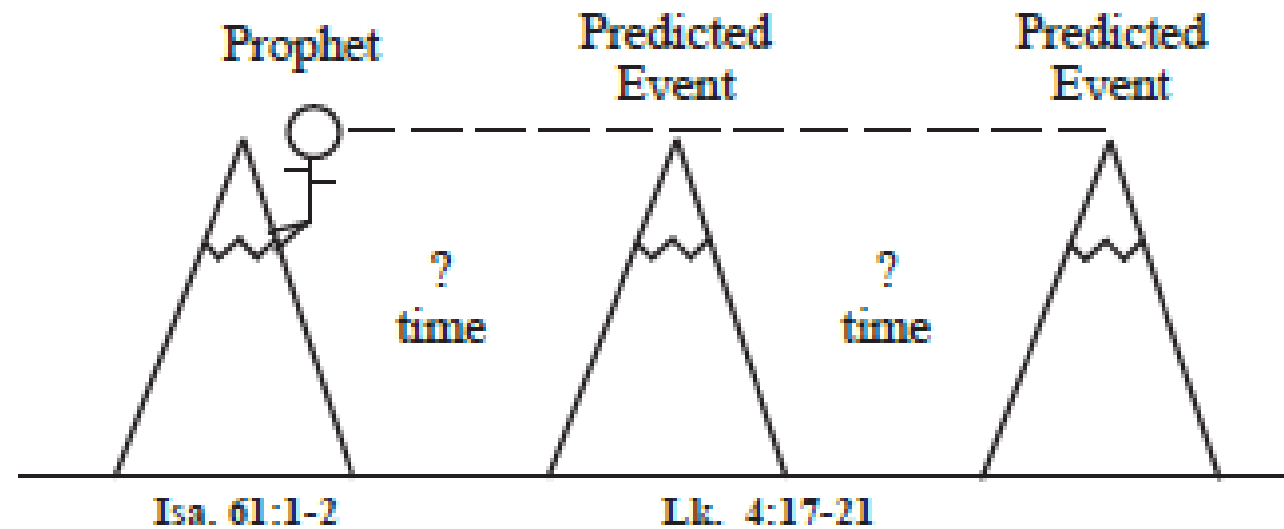
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- 
- A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The background is a solid dark color, and the text is white, creating a high-contrast effect.
- Apparently, the verse had an immediate application to the King of Judah, and centuries later for the Messiah.
 - Opinions concerning Isaiah's prophecy may differ because the prophet did not indicate and may not have realized that his prophecy had both an immediate & a future application.

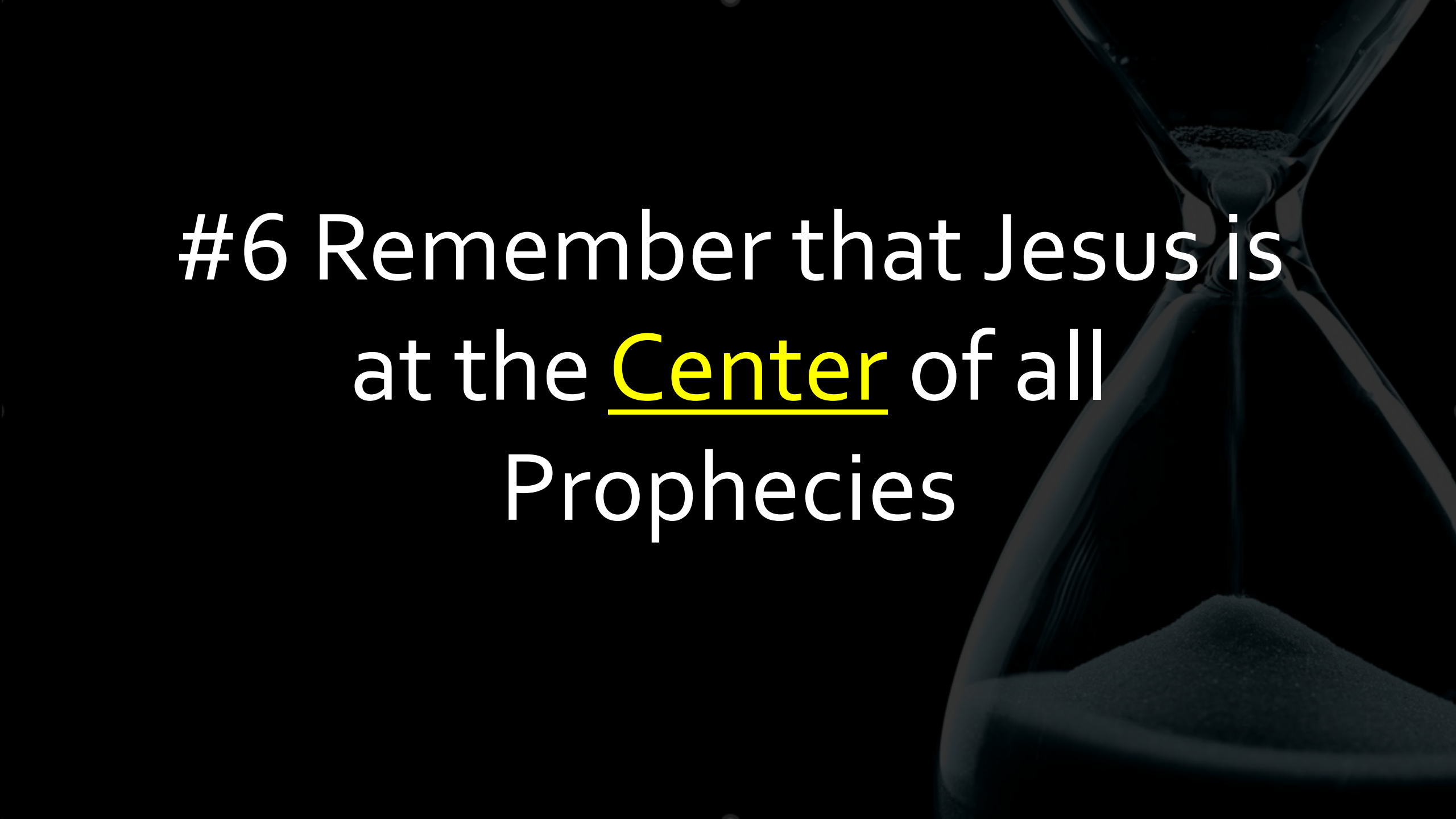
- 
- Not all of the examples of this kind of prophecy are as clear as Isaiah 7:14, since Matthew refers to it specifically.
 - Some prophecies are “Near Application” and “Far Fulfillment.”

“Foreshortening”

OT prophet or NT writer could not see that many years might separate two events (the valley between the mountain peaks)



The time of fulfillment of this prophecy hundreds of years in the future was unknown to the prophet.

A dark, high-contrast image of an hourglass. The hourglass is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The top bulb is mostly empty, while the bottom bulb is filled with dark sand. The background is a solid dark color, making the hourglass stand out.

#6 Remember that Jesus is
at the Center of all
Prophecies

THE CHRISTOCENTRIC NATURE OF BIBLE PROPHECY

Jesus is building a place for us to live in heaven: the New Jerusalem.	John 14:1-3; Revelation 21
Jesus will come for us at the rapture.	1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
Jesus will preside over the judgment of Christians in heaven.	2 Corinthians 5:10
Jesus will inflict judgments upon the people on earth during the tribulation period.	Revelation 6
Jesus will come again at the second coming.	Revelation 19:11-21
Jesus will judge the nations.	Matthew 25:31-46
Jesus will reign during His millennial kingdom.	Revelation 20:2-5
Jesus will preside over the judgment of the wicked dead.	Revelation 20:11-15

Jesus will preside over the judgment of the wicked dead

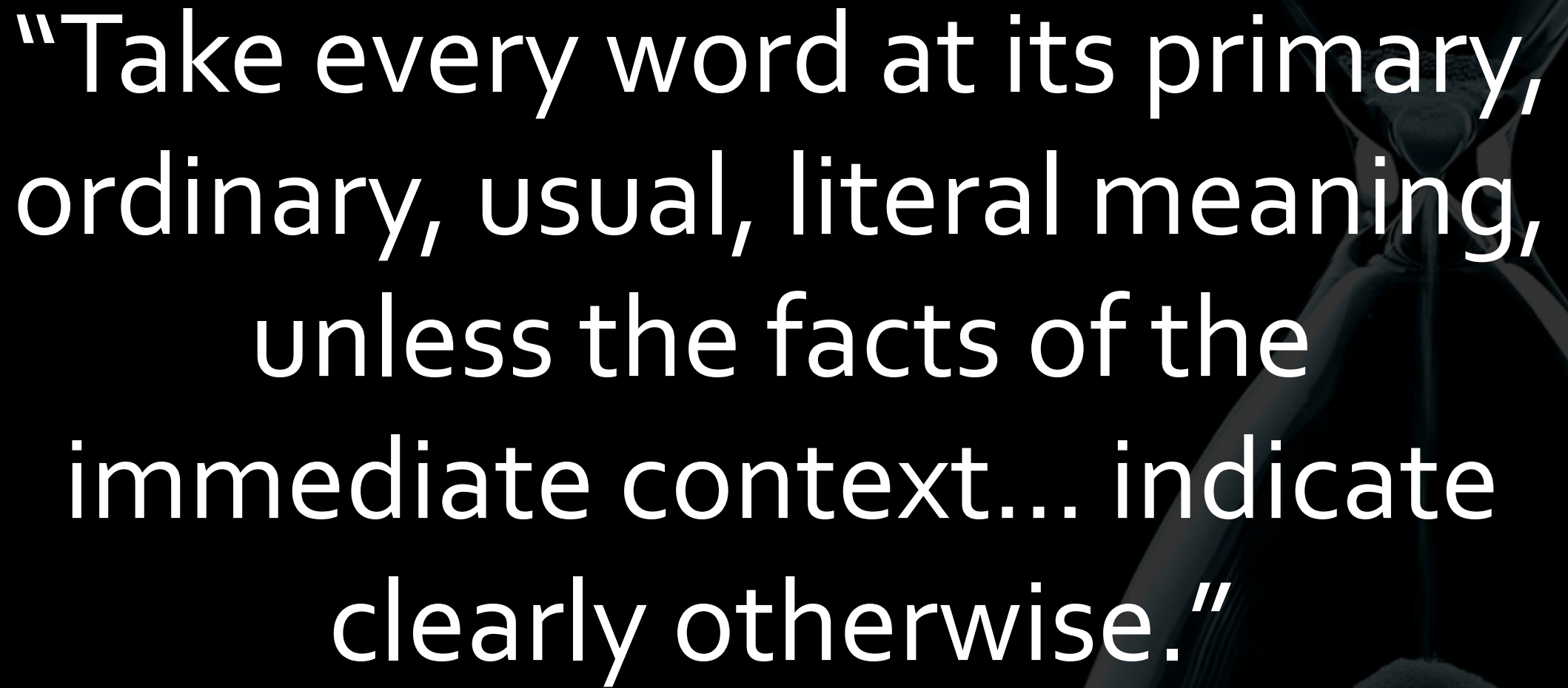
Revelation 20:11-15

Jesus will reign during His millennial kingdom

Revelation 20:5-6

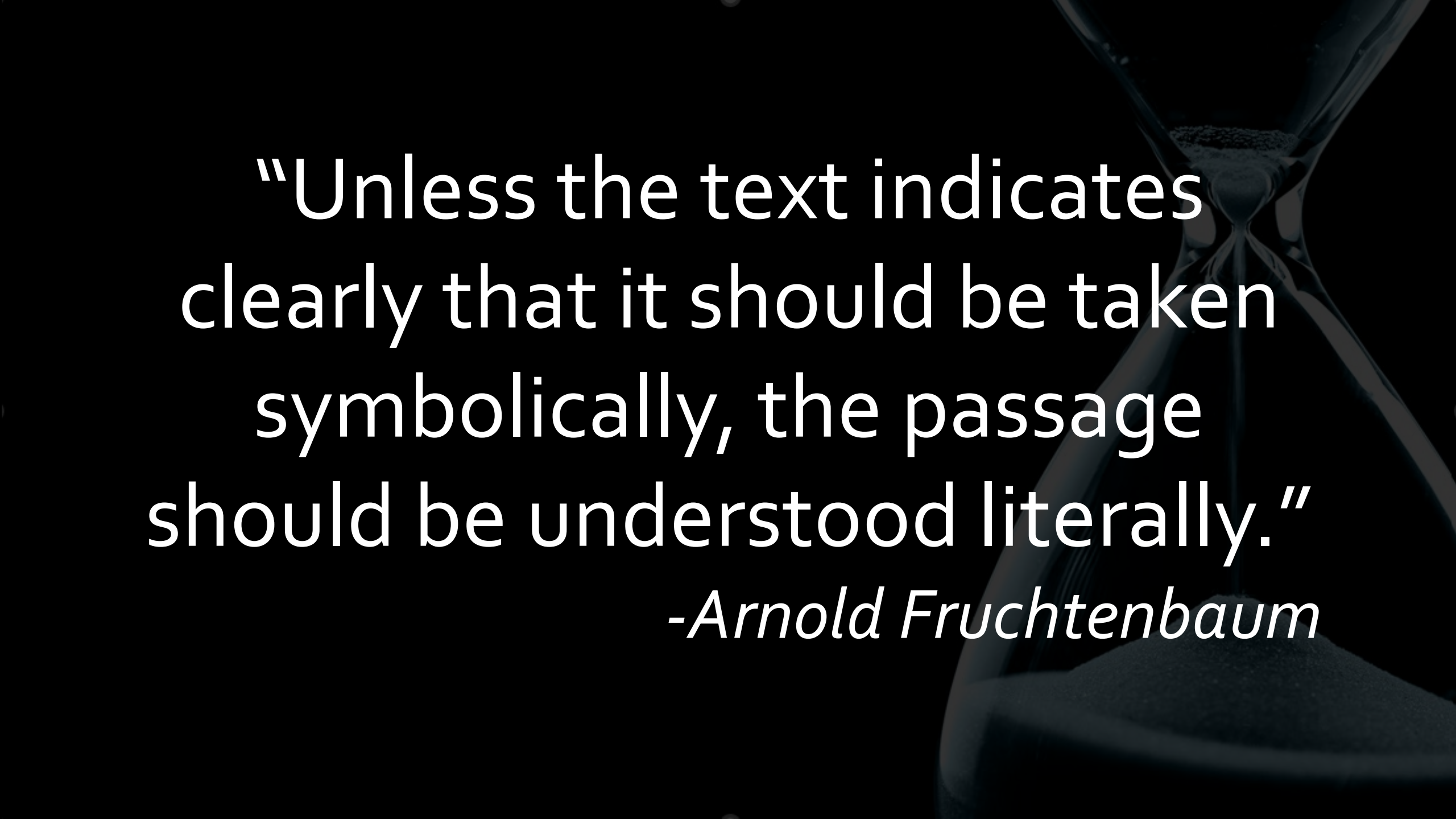
#7 Always seek the
Plain Sense



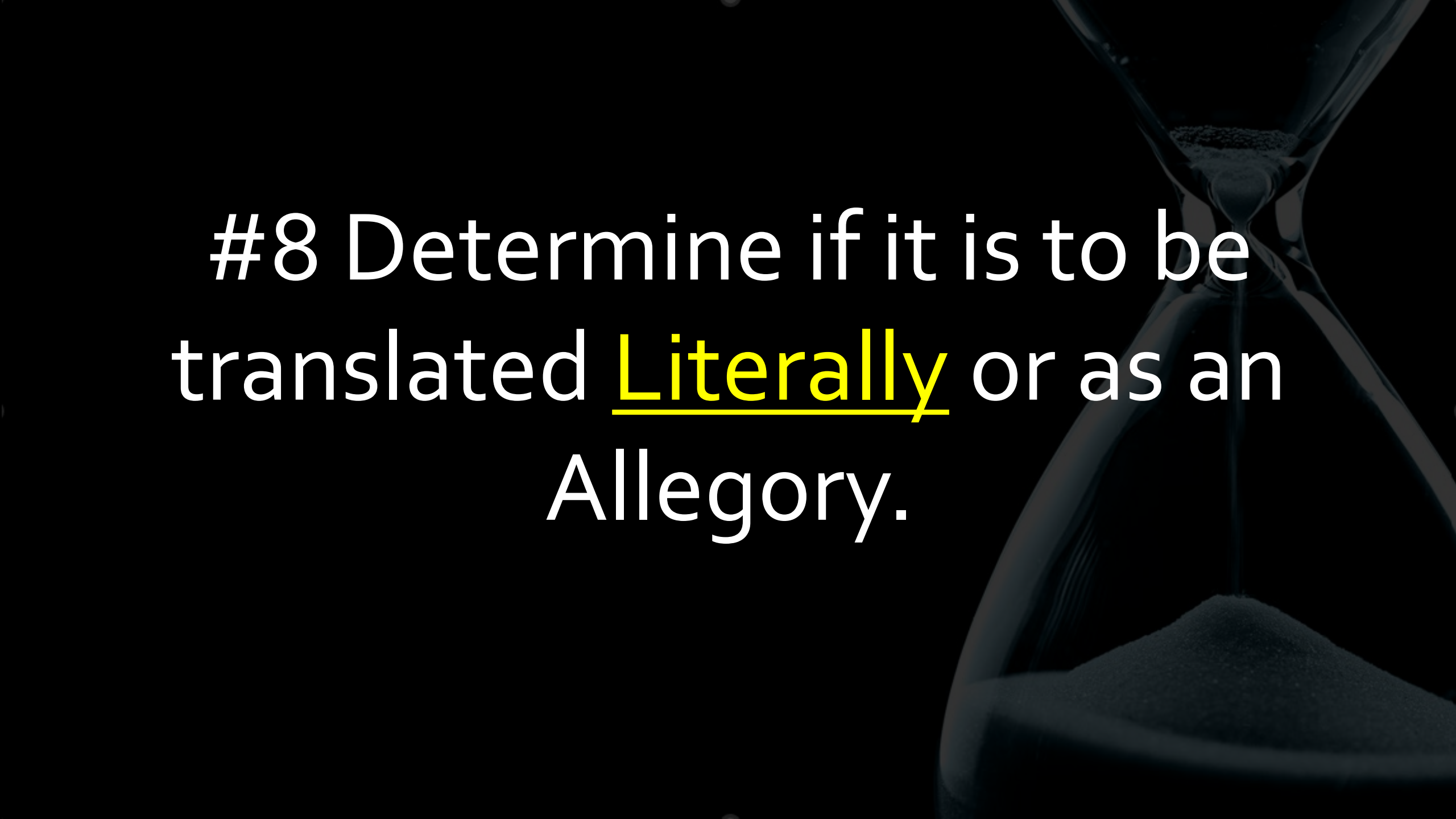
A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is visible in the background, with sand falling from the top bulb into the bottom bulb. The hourglass is centered vertically and horizontally.

“Take every word at its primary,
ordinary, usual, literal meaning,
unless the facts of the
immediate context... indicate
clearly otherwise.”

-David Cooper

A faint, dark hourglass is visible in the background, with sand falling from the top bulb into the bottom bulb. The hourglass is centered vertically and horizontally, with its narrow neck pointing towards the center of the image.

“Unless the text indicates
clearly that it should be taken
symbolically, the passage
should be understood literally.”
-Arnold Fruchtenbaum

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

#8 Determine if it is to be
translated Literally or as an
Allegory.

- “Yoga”
- “Second Coming”
- Adam & Eve



AD 190 – Alexandria, Egypt

Allegorical School of Interpretation



Augustine (400AD)

Interpreted all Scripture literally...
except Prophecy.



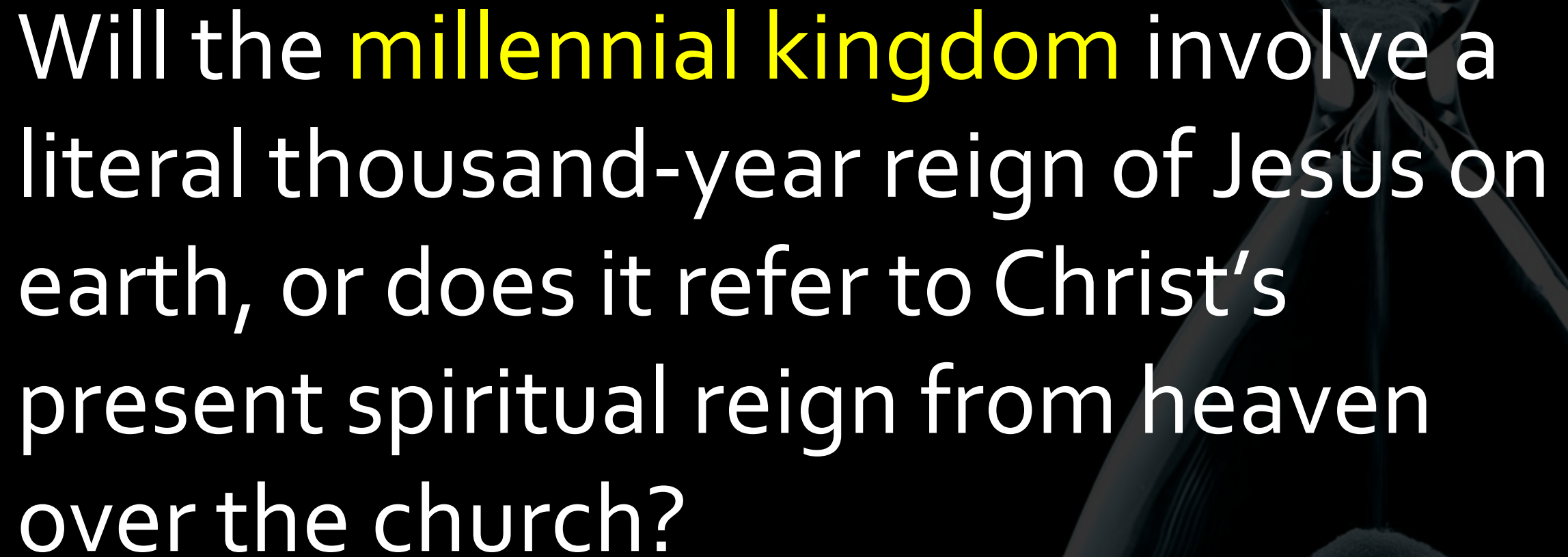
Augustine (400AD)

- *Literal* 2nd Coming of Christ
- *Literal* Heaven and Hell
- Millennial 1000 year reign- *allegorical*

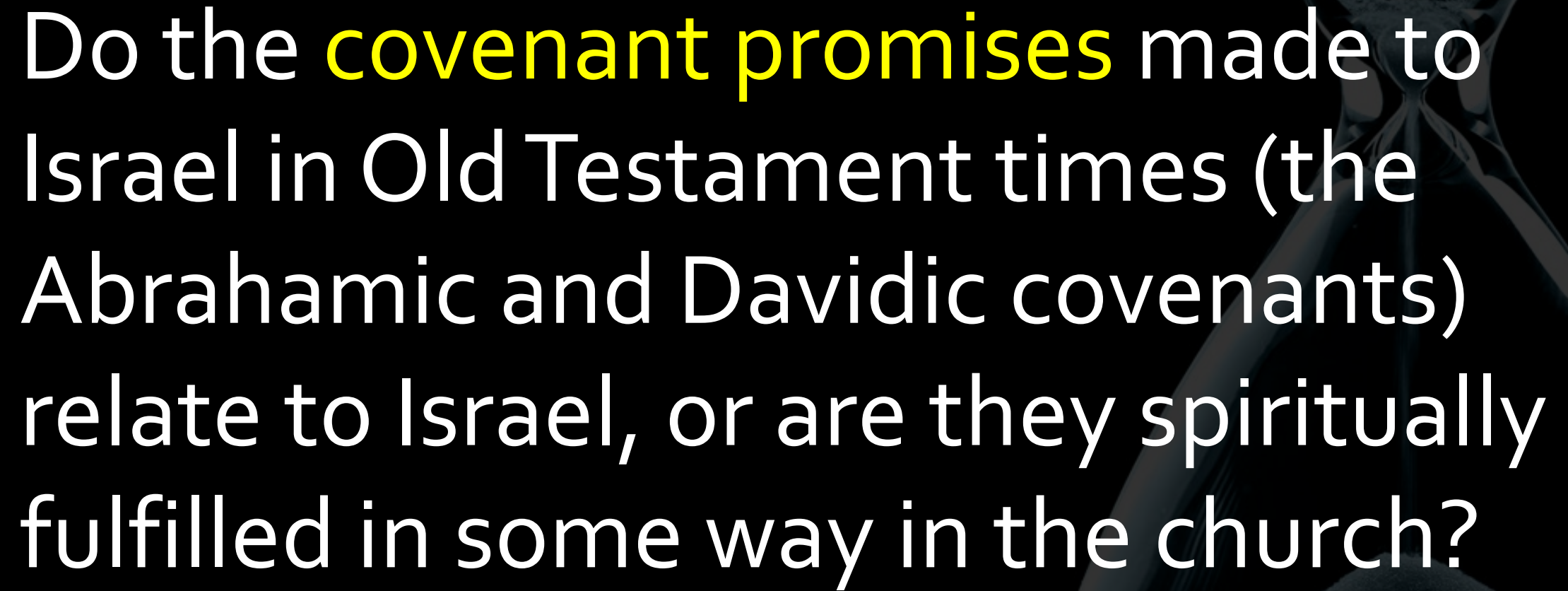
The church is already living in the millennium as part of the spiritual kingdom of God, with Christ reigning in the hearts of Christians.

Augustine (400AD)

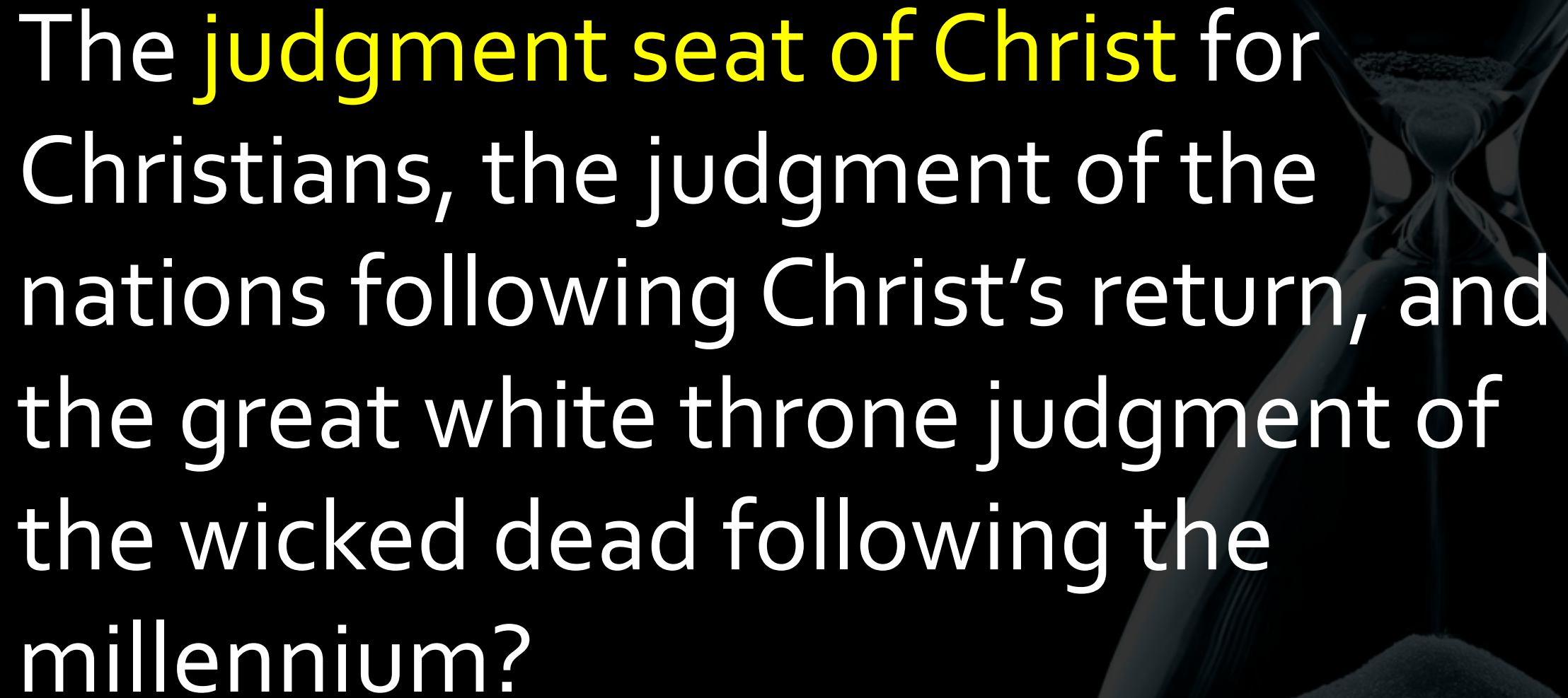
- *Augustine's allegorical view became the dominant view of the Roman Catholic Church.*
- *Also, key reformists like Martin Luther and John Calvin adopted his view.*
- *Continues to impact theologians and denominations today.*

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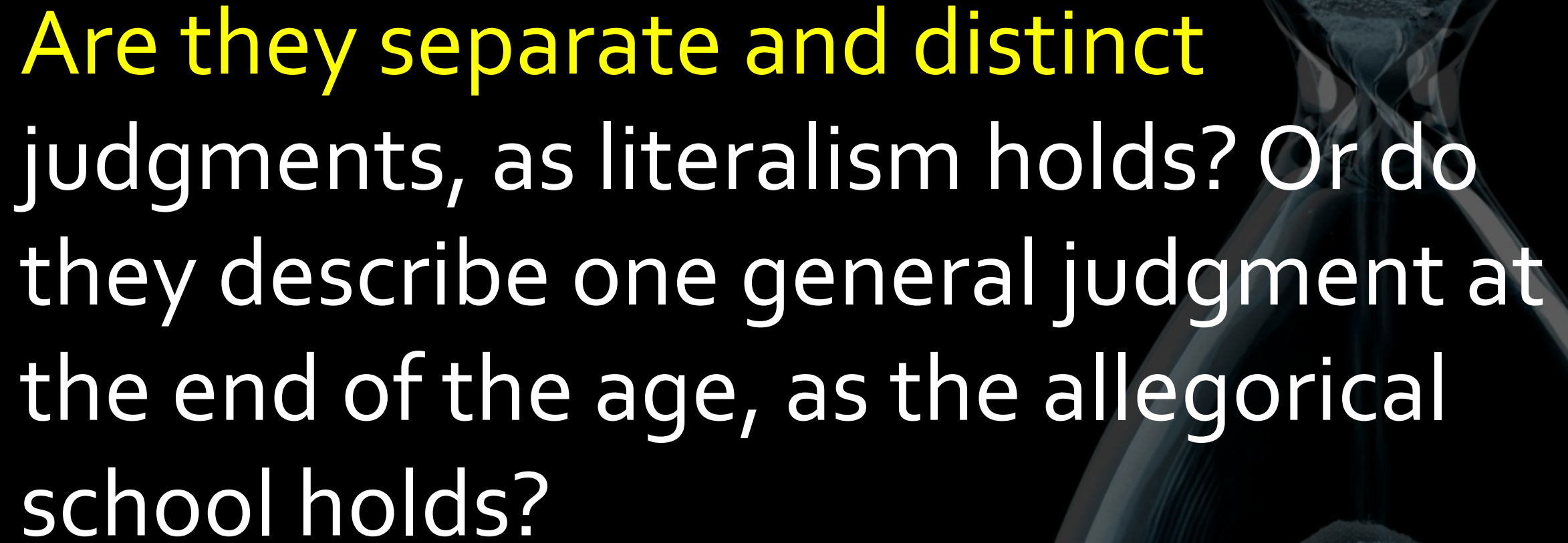
Will the **millennial kingdom** involve a literal thousand-year reign of Jesus on earth, or does it refer to Christ's present spiritual reign from heaven over the church?

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 blue or black. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

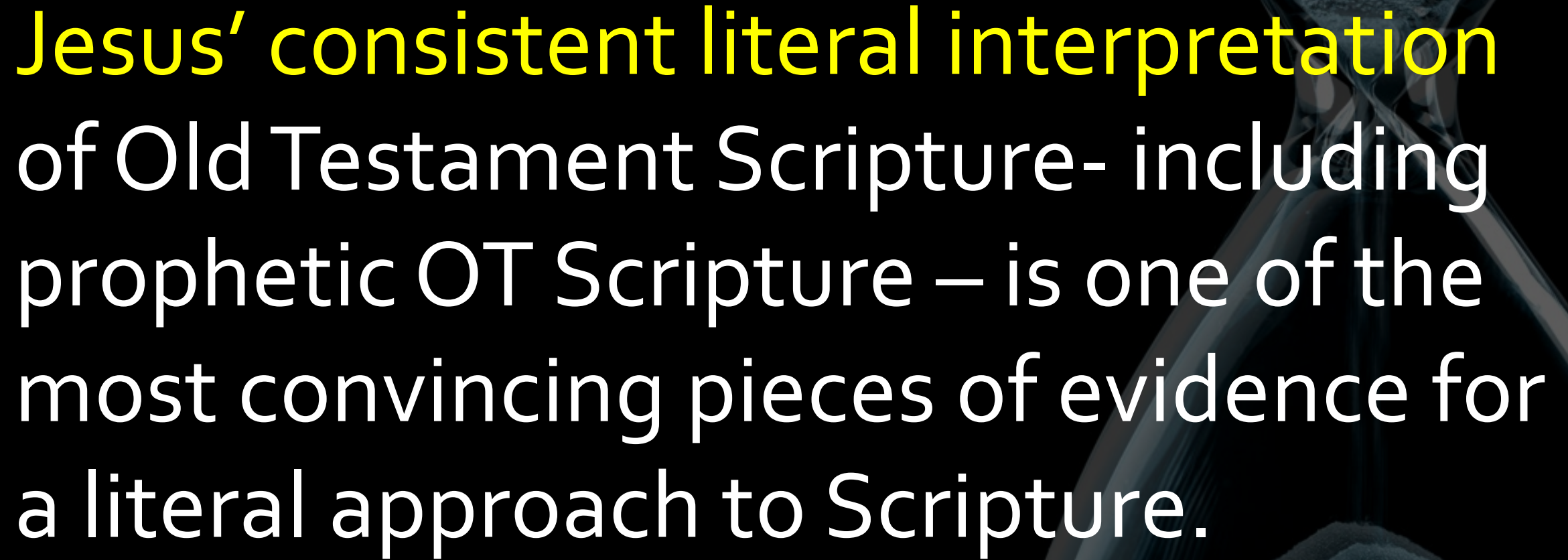
Do the **covenant promises** made to Israel in Old Testament times (the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants) relate to Israel, or are they spiritually fulfilled in some way in the church?

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The **judgment seat of Christ** for Christians, the judgment of the nations following Christ's return, and the great white throne judgment of the wicked dead following the millennium?

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Are they separate and distinct judgments, as literalism holds? Or do they describe one general judgment at the end of the age, as the allegorical school holds?

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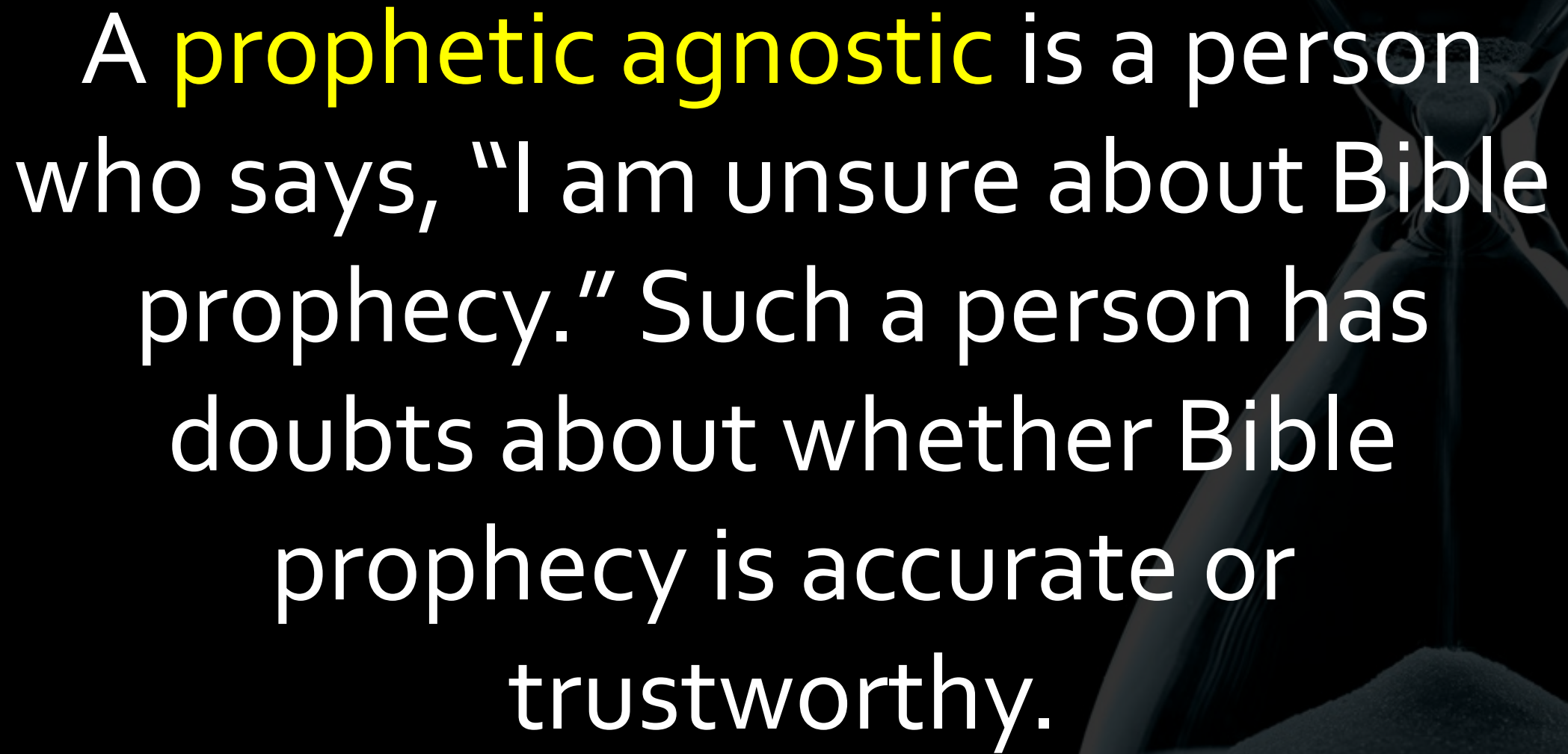
Jesus' consistent literal interpretation of Old Testament Scripture- including prophetic OT Scripture – is one of the most convincing pieces of evidence for a literal approach to Scripture.

How We can avoid Prophetic Imbalances



1. Avoid Prophetic Agnosticism

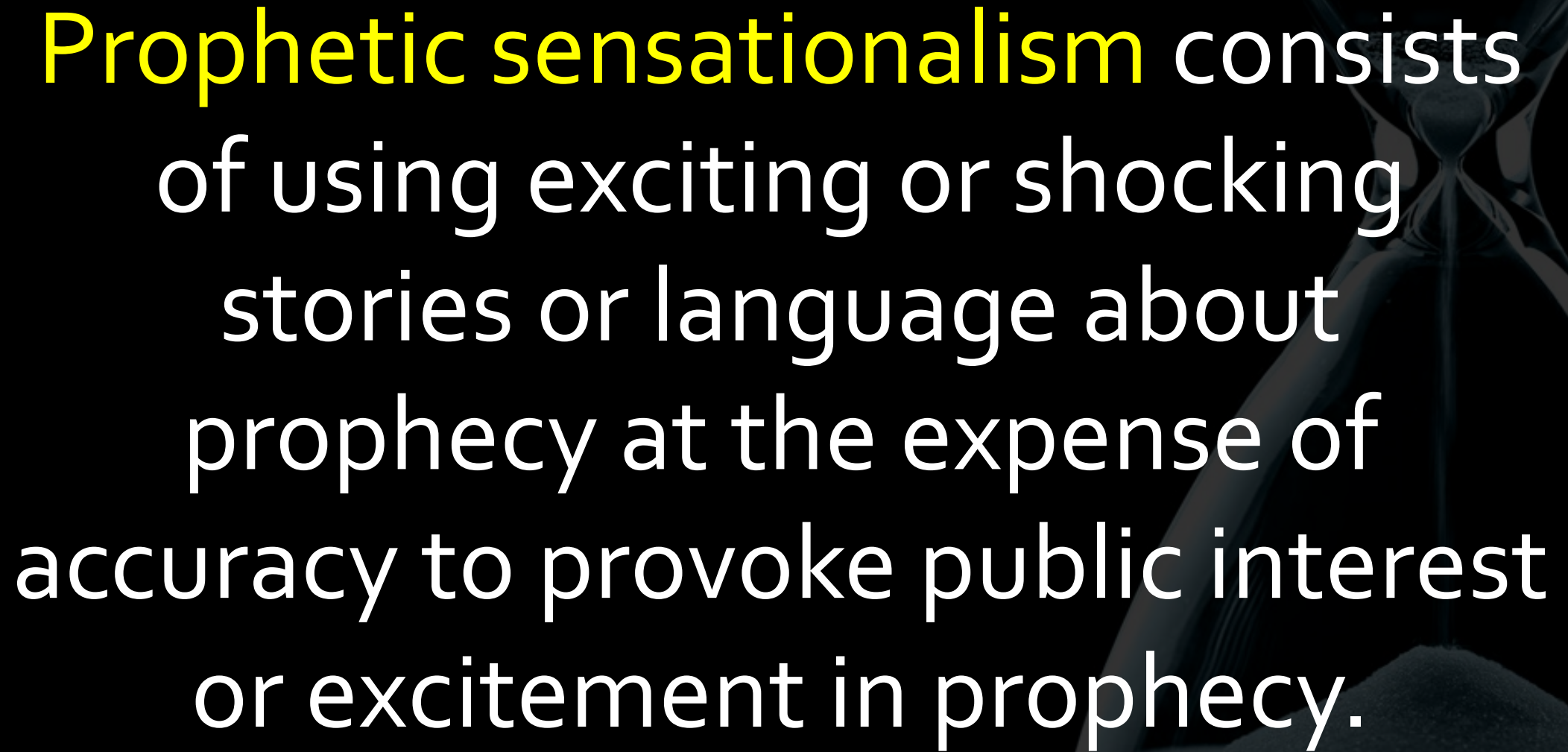


A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is visible in the background, with sand falling from the top bulb into the bottom bulb. The text is overlaid on this background.

A **prophetic agnostic** is a person who says, “I am unsure about Bible prophecy.” Such a person has doubts about whether Bible prophecy is accurate or trustworthy.

2. Avoid Prophetic Sensationalism

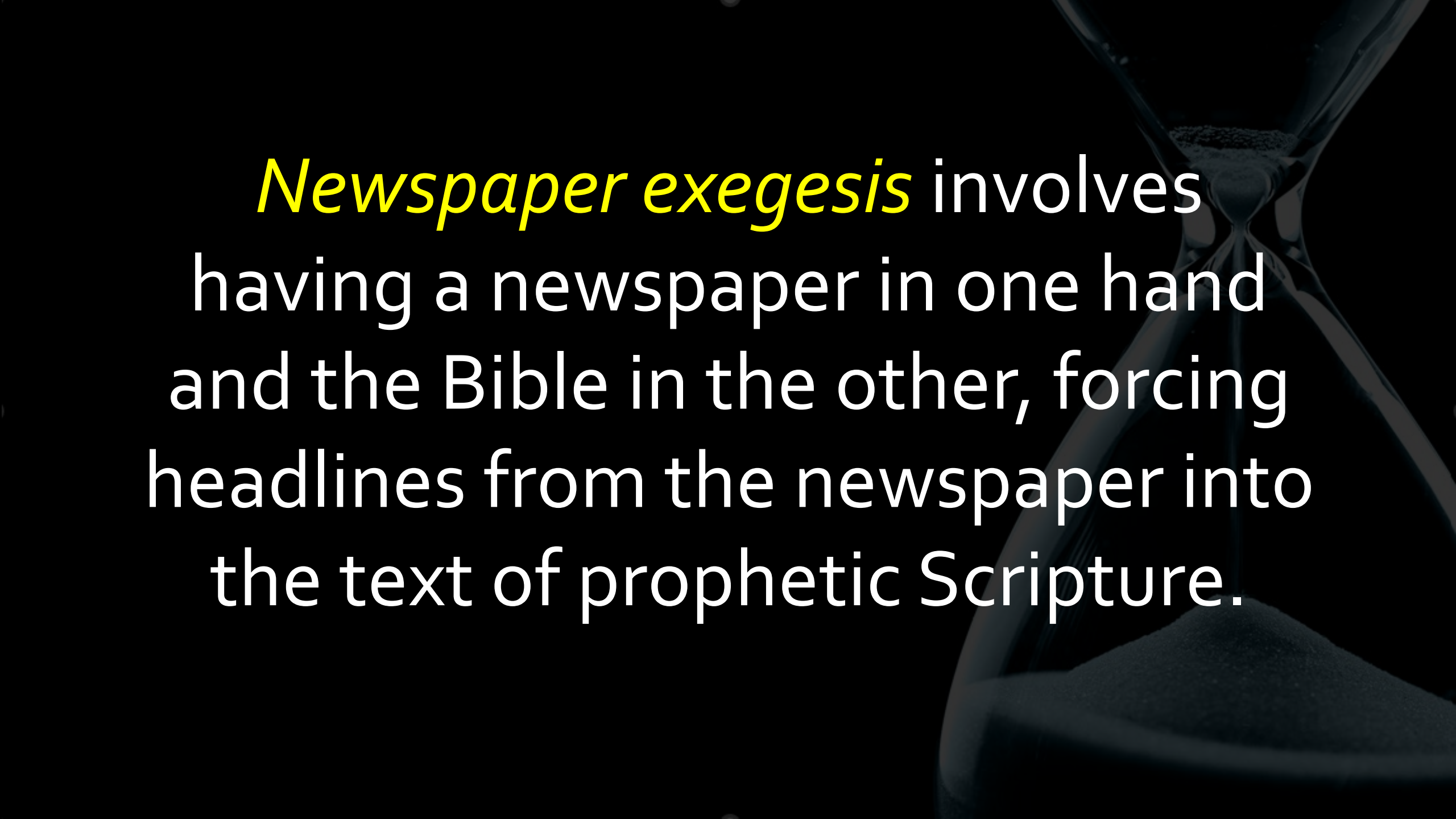


A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned in the background, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The hourglass is centered vertically and horizontally, with its top and bottom bulbs partially visible. The background is a solid dark color, possibly black or very dark blue.

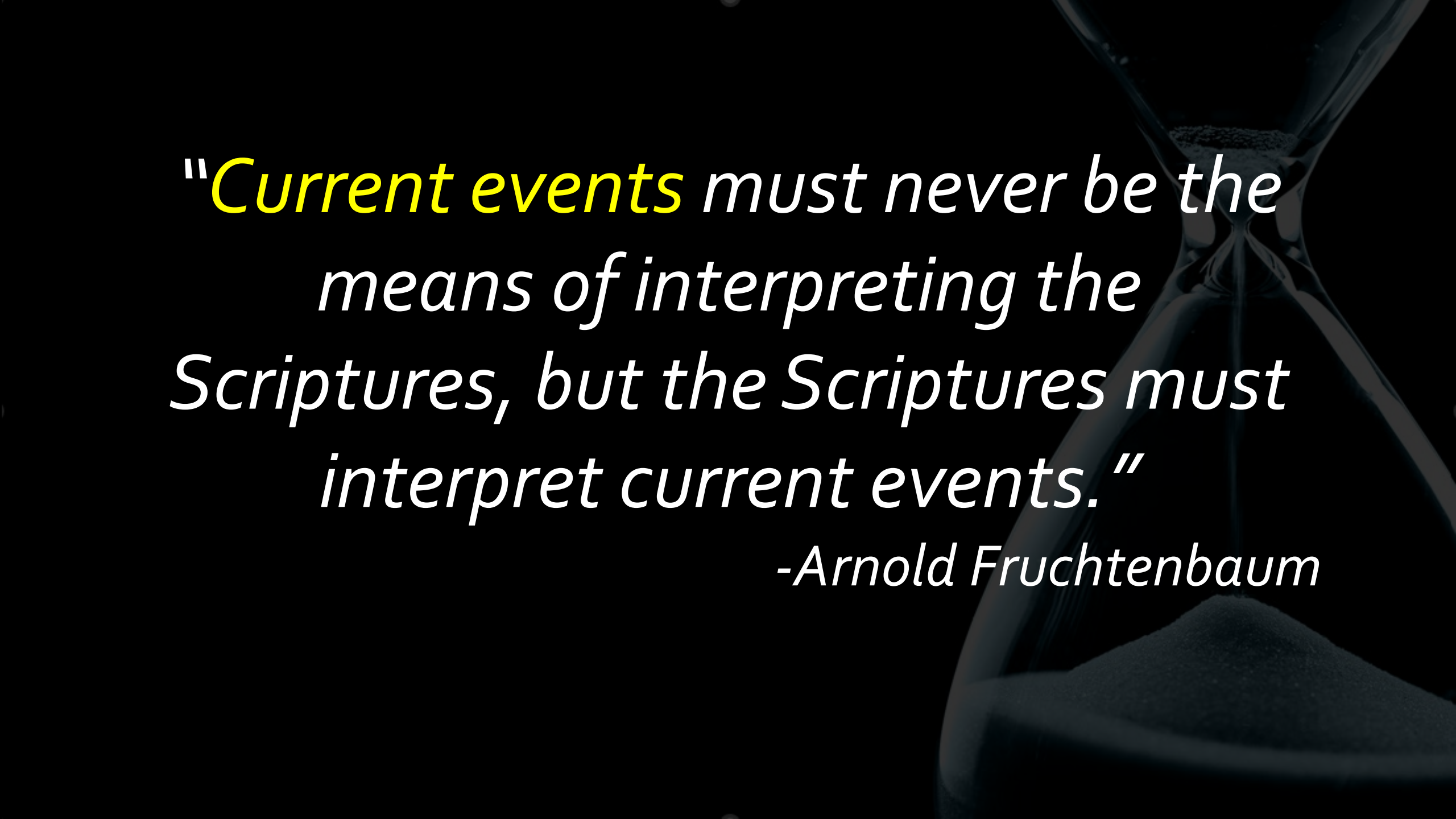
Prophetic sensationalism consists of using exciting or shocking stories or language about prophecy at the expense of accuracy to provoke public interest or excitement in prophecy.

3. Avoid Newspaper Exegesis



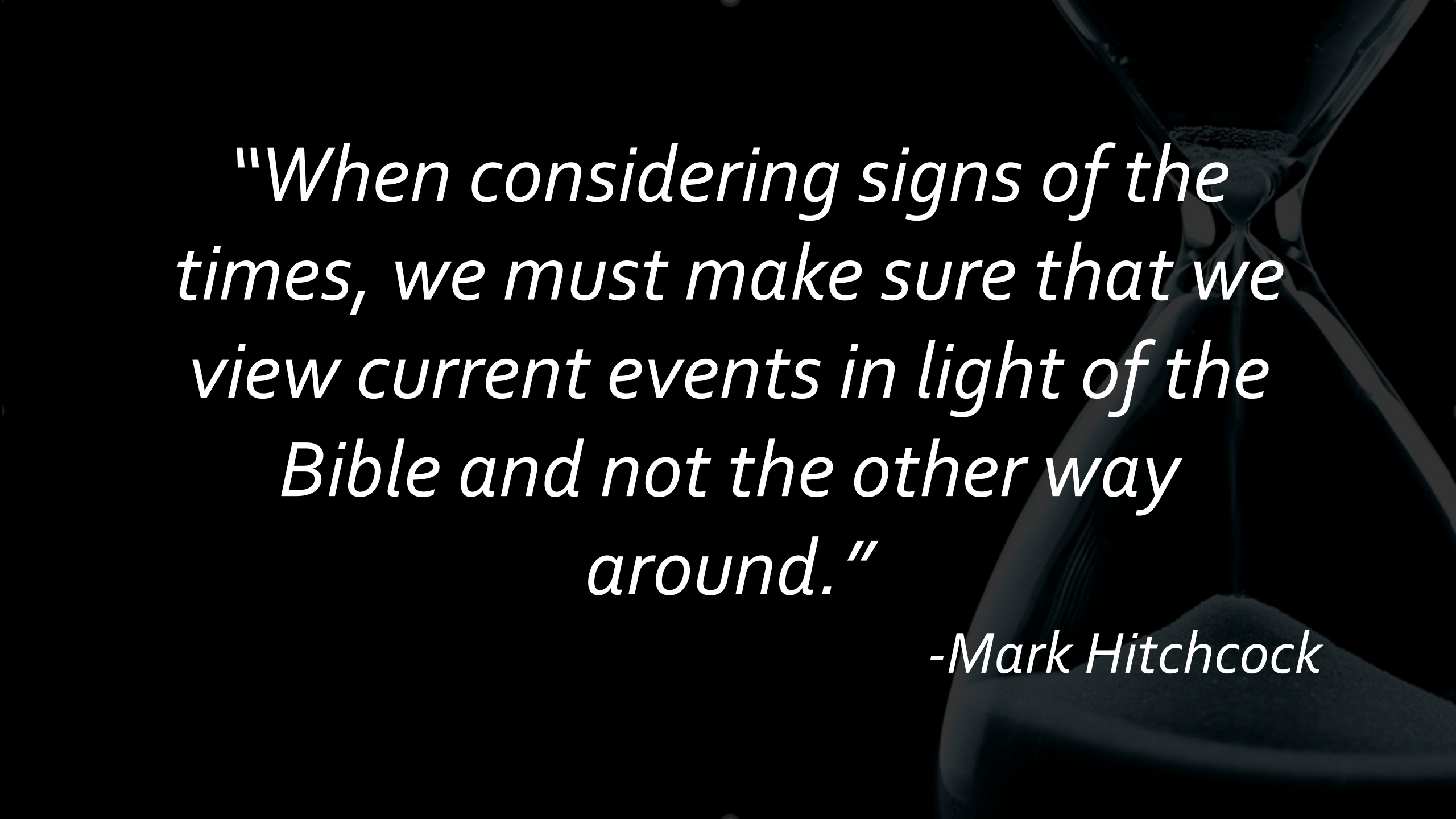
A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The background is a solid dark color.

Newspaper exegesis involves
having a newspaper in one hand
and the Bible in the other, forcing
headlines from the newspaper into
the text of prophetic Scripture.

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.

*"**Current events** must never be the
means of interpreting the
Scriptures, but the Scriptures must
interpret current events."*

-Arnold Fruchtenbaum


A faint, dark hourglass is visible in the background, with sand trickling from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. The hourglass is centered vertically and horizontally, serving as a subtle backdrop for the text.

"When considering signs of the times, we must make sure that we view current events in light of the Bible and not the other way around."

-Mark Hitchcock

A dark, close-up photograph of an hourglass, showing the sand flowing from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. The hourglass is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its narrow neck pointing towards the center. The background is a solid dark color.

4. Avoid Setting Dates for Prophetic Events

A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is visible in the background, with sand falling from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. The hourglass is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its narrow neck pointing towards the center.

*Let's live our lives as if the Lord
could come for us today but plan our
lives as if we'll be here our entire life
expectancy. That way, we are
prepared for time and eternity.*

5. Avoid Division with Other Christians



We hold to the Facts...

- 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.

