

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BIBLICAL PROPHECY

Week 7 – The Finale
Pastor Marty



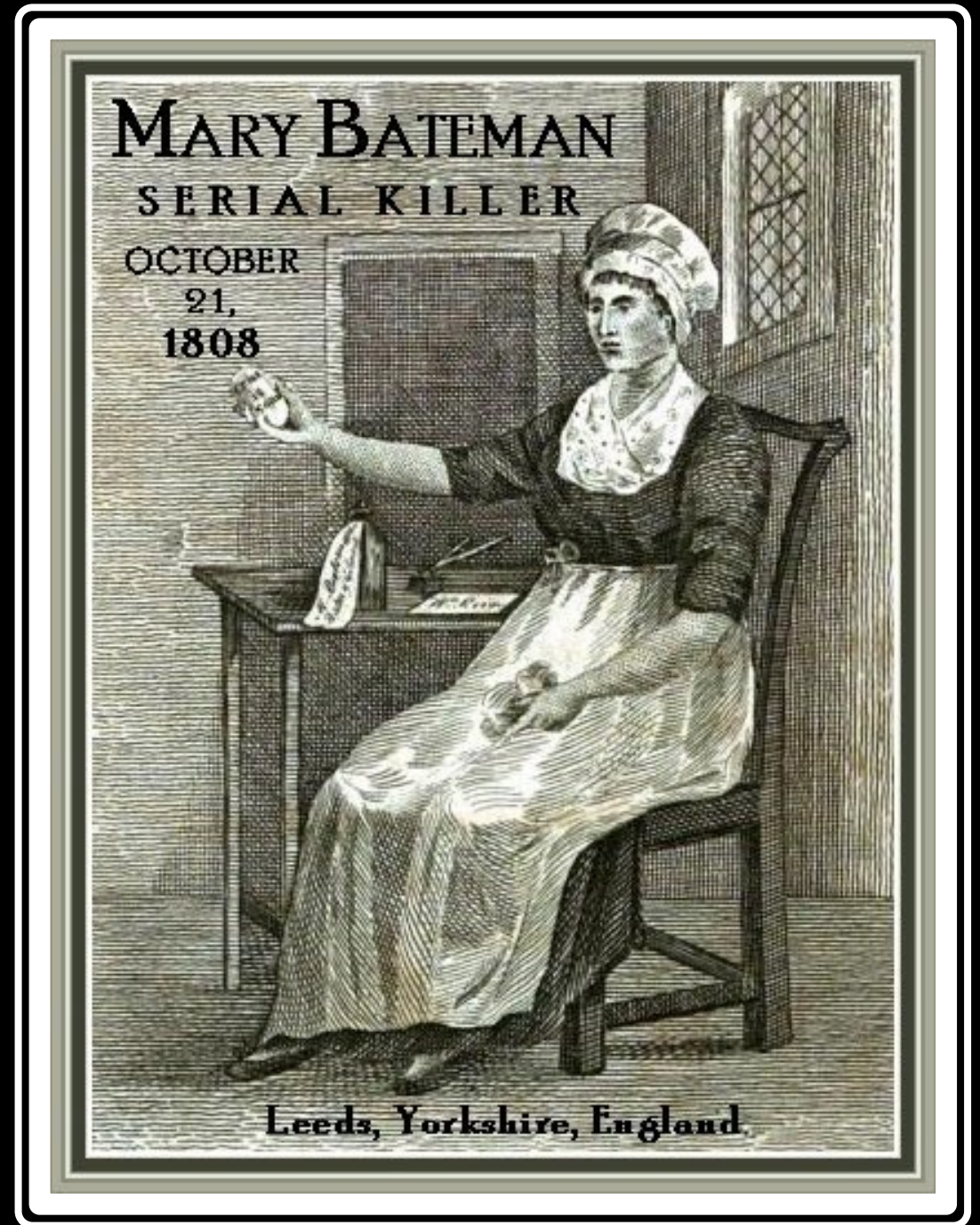
A man with dark hair, wearing a dark pinstripe suit, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie, is shown from the chest up. He has a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of surprise or shock, looking slightly upwards and to the right. His hands are raised, palms facing up, in a gesture of surprise or questioning.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

THINGS YOU'VE NEVER LEARNED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL



There's an
Infatuation
with End-
Times

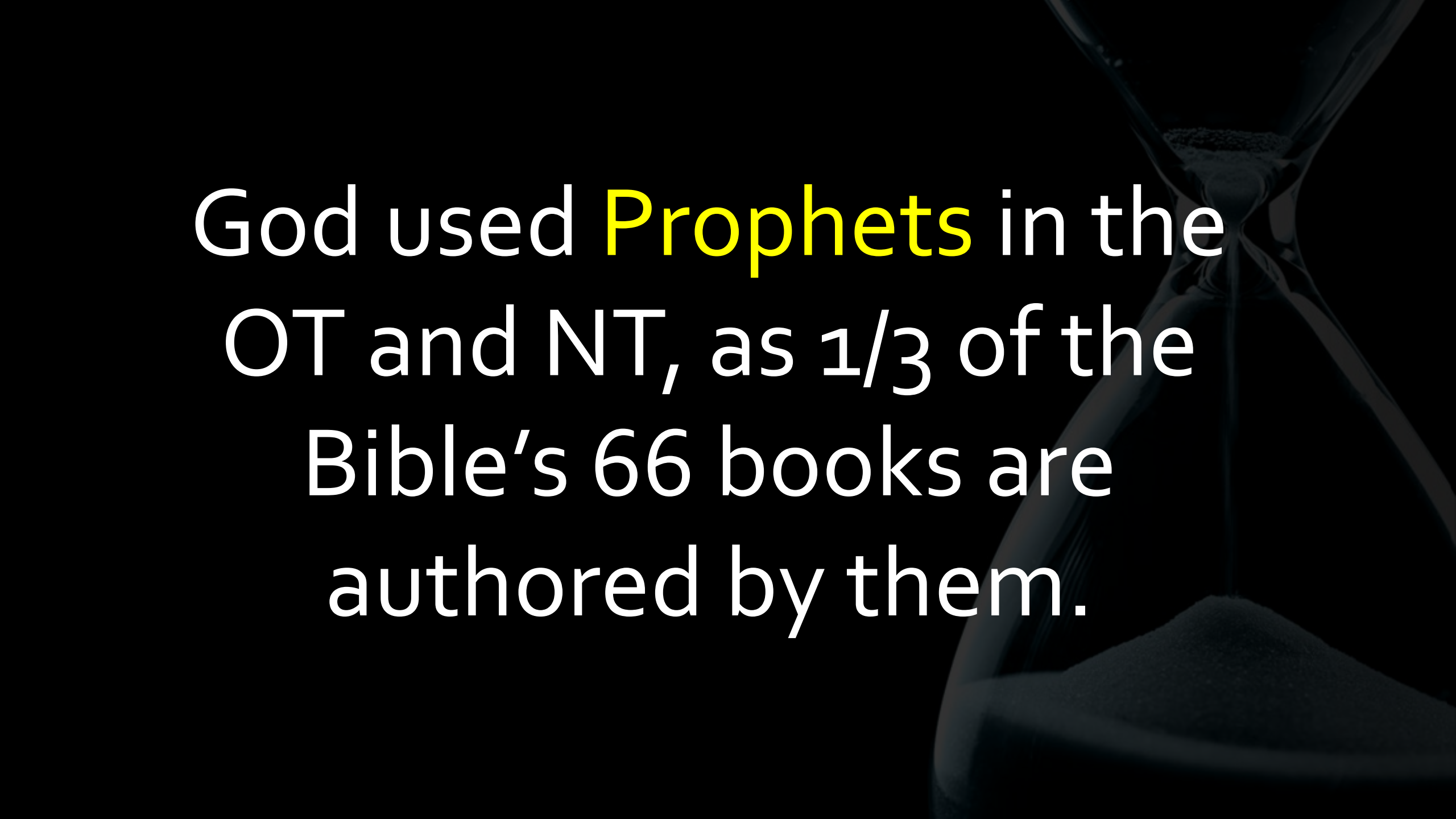
The Prophet Hen of Leeds



Prophecy...

Prophecy is the Proclamation of the Will of God, both present and future.



A dark, stylized hourglass is visible in the background, with sand falling from the top bulb into the bottom bulb. The hourglass is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its neck and bulbs extending towards the center.

God used **Prophets** in the
OT and NT, as 1/3 of the
Bible's 66 books are
authored by them.

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

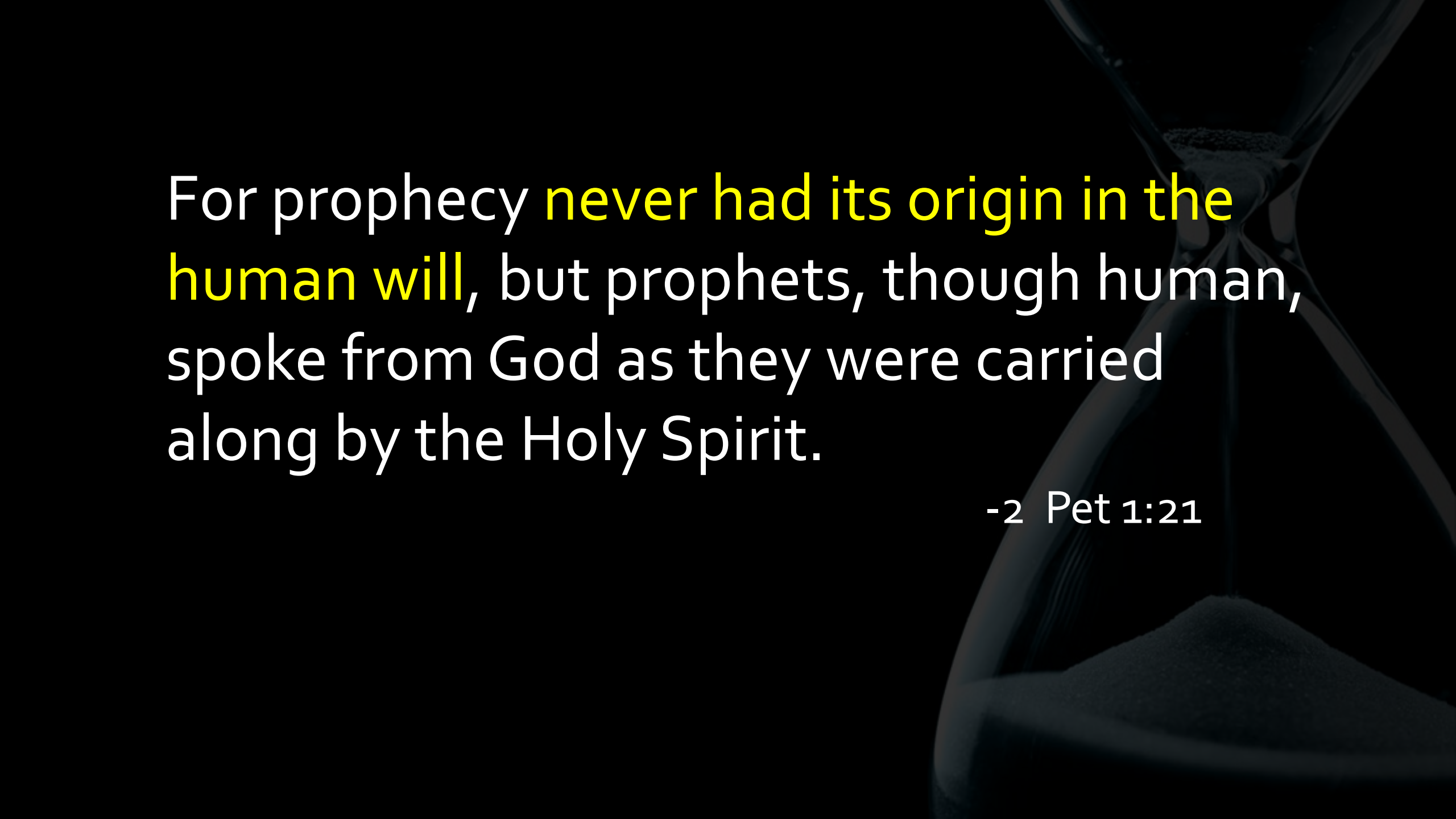


The Most Important Prophecies point to the Coming of Christ

- 120 were fulfilled with His First Coming!
- 300 Prophecies concerning Christ's Second Coming.

Prophecy comes only from
God... not People



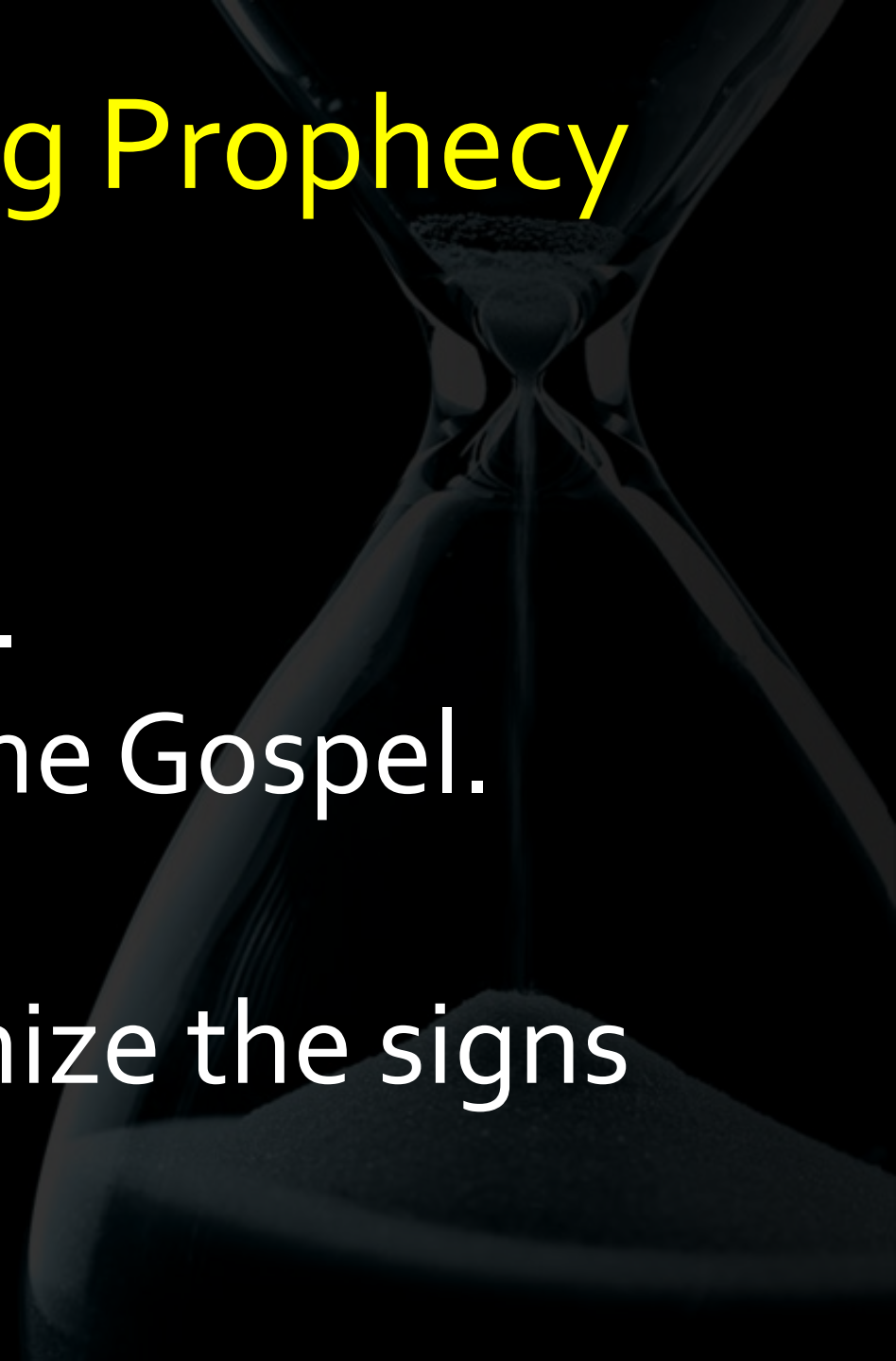
A large, dark, translucent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with its narrow neck pointing towards the center. The hourglass is filled with a dark, granular substance, and the light from the left creates a soft glow on its right side. The background is a solid dark color.

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

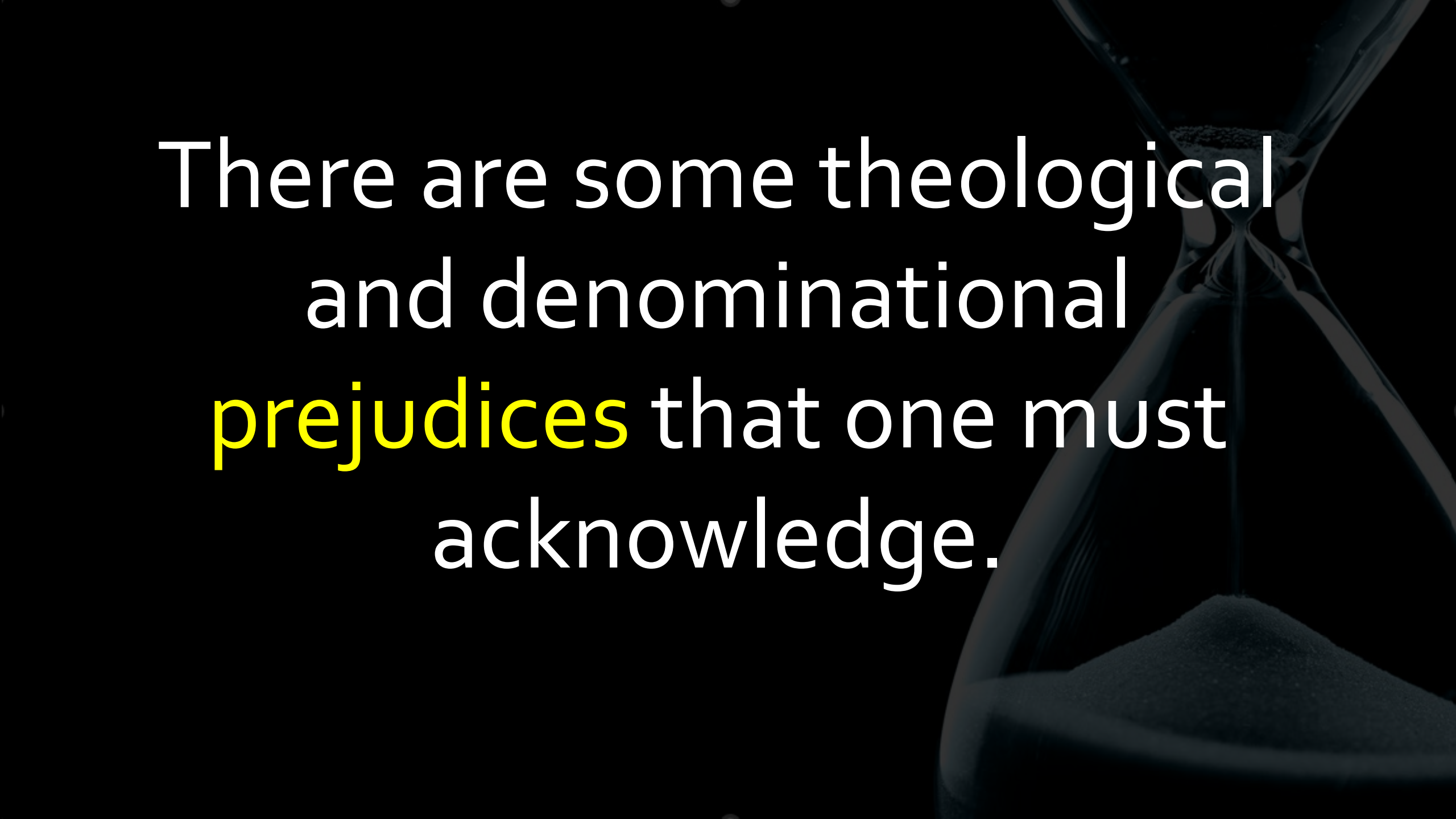
The Benefits of studying Prophecy

- 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

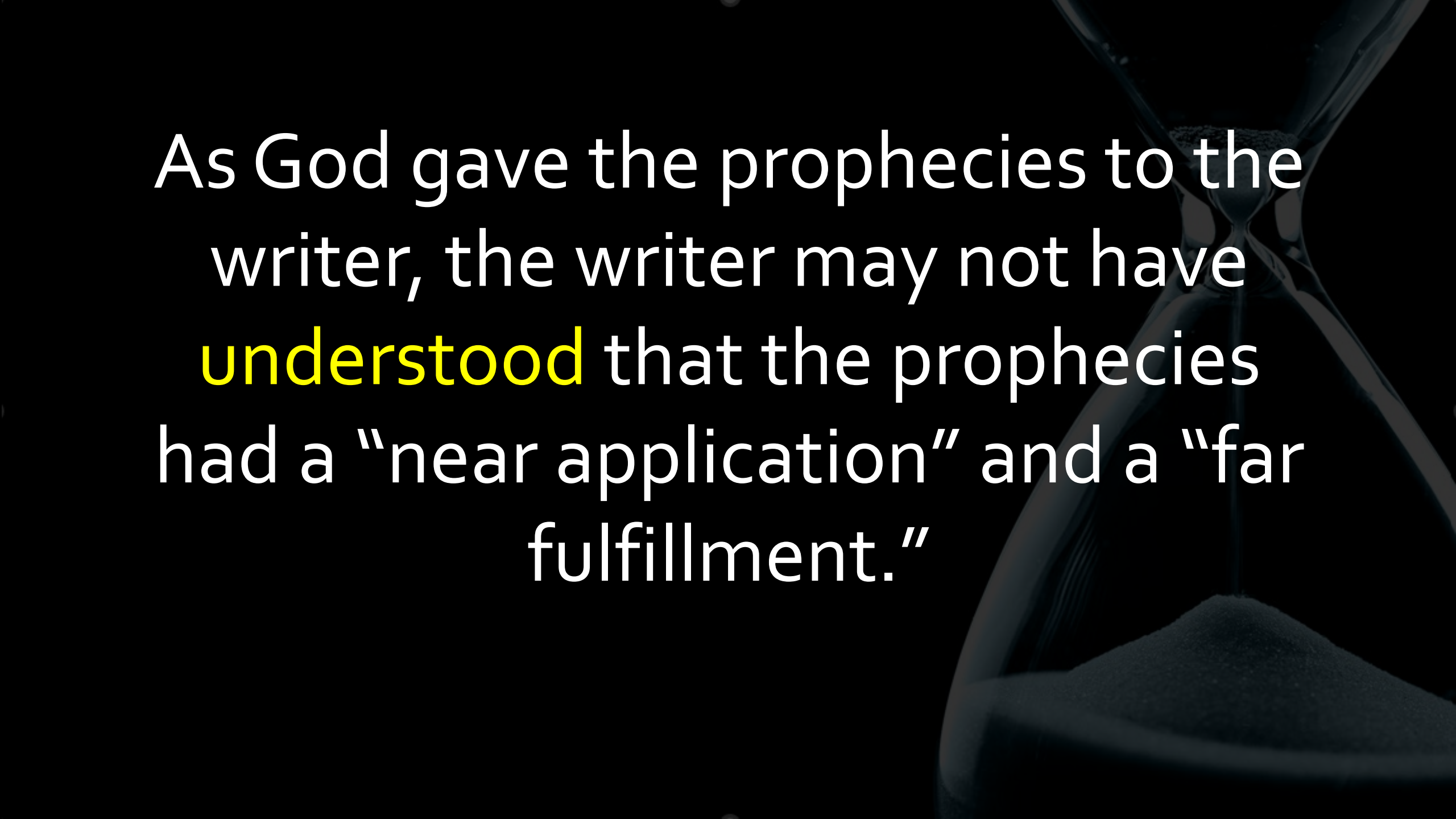


A dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, with sand falling from the top bulb to the bottom bulb. The background is a solid dark color.

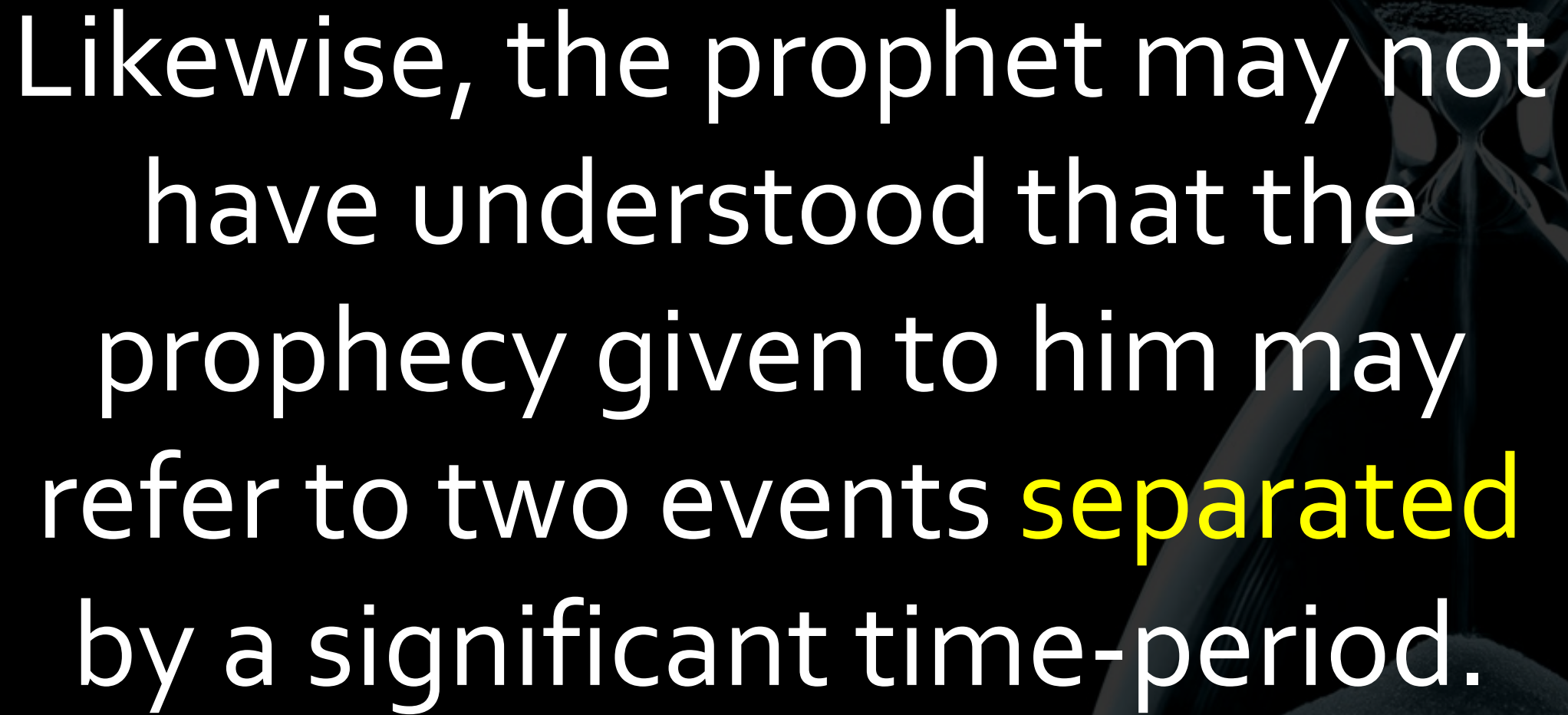
Prophetic Scripture is
difficult to understand.

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 frame.

There are some theological
and denominational
prejudices that one must
acknowledge.

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.

As God gave the prophecies to the
writer, the writer may not have
understood that the prophecies
had a “near application” and a “far
fulfillment.”

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

Likewise, the prophet may not
have understood that the
prophecy given to him may
refer to two events **separated**
by a significant time-period.

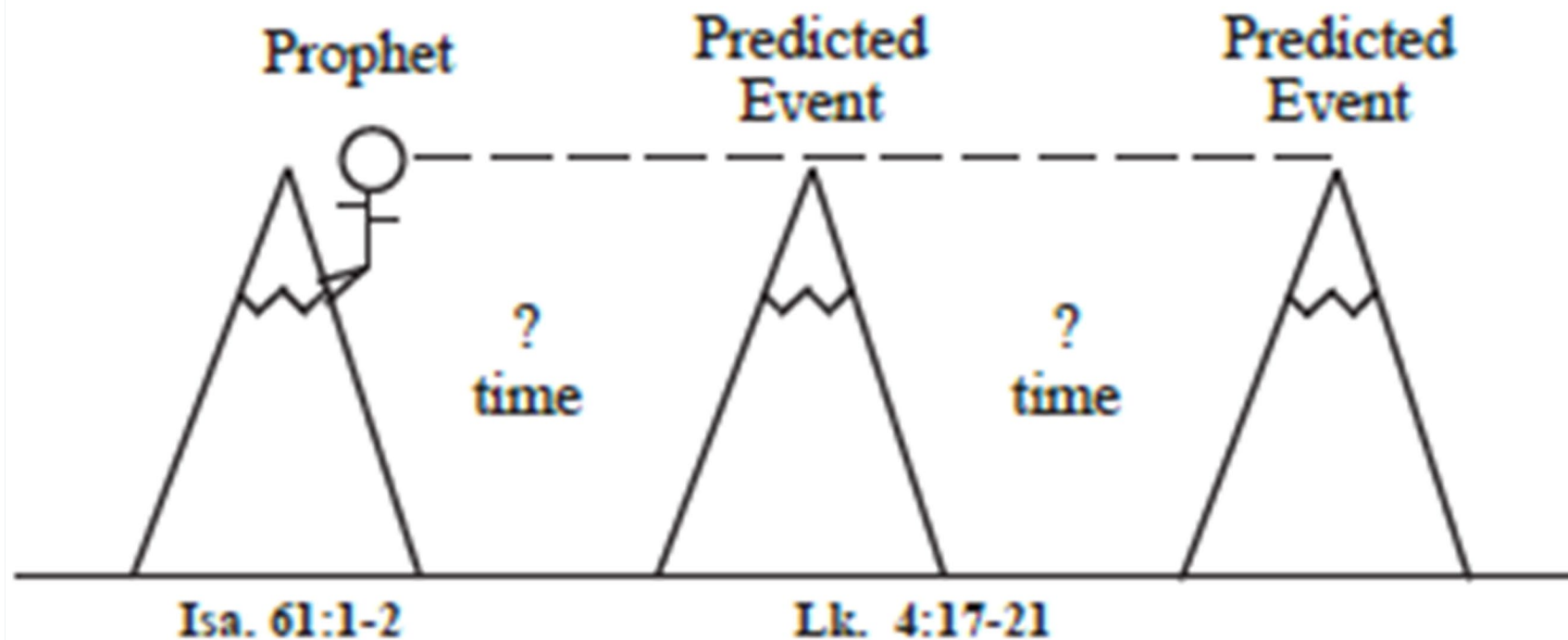
The Law of Double Reference

Both prophesied events blend into one picture, masking the intervening time period.

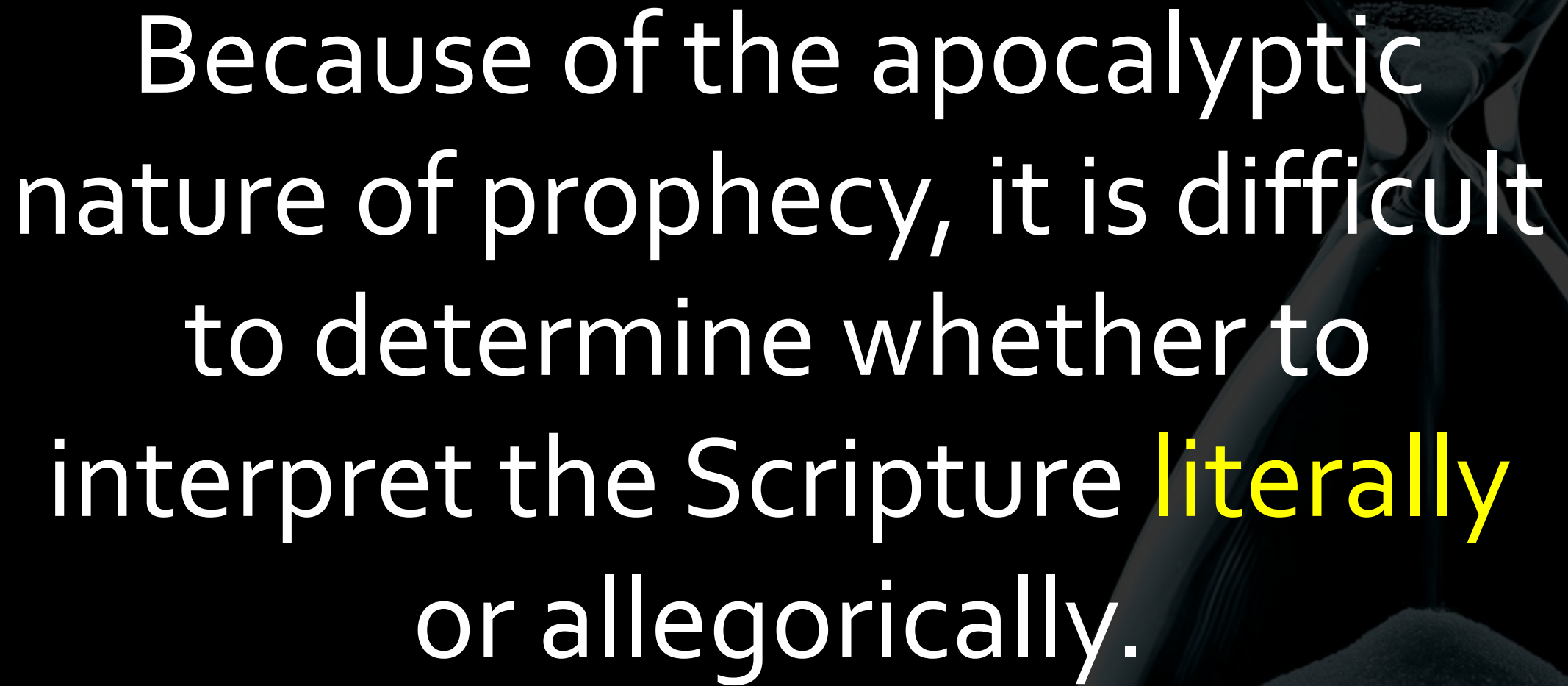


“Foreshortening”

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.

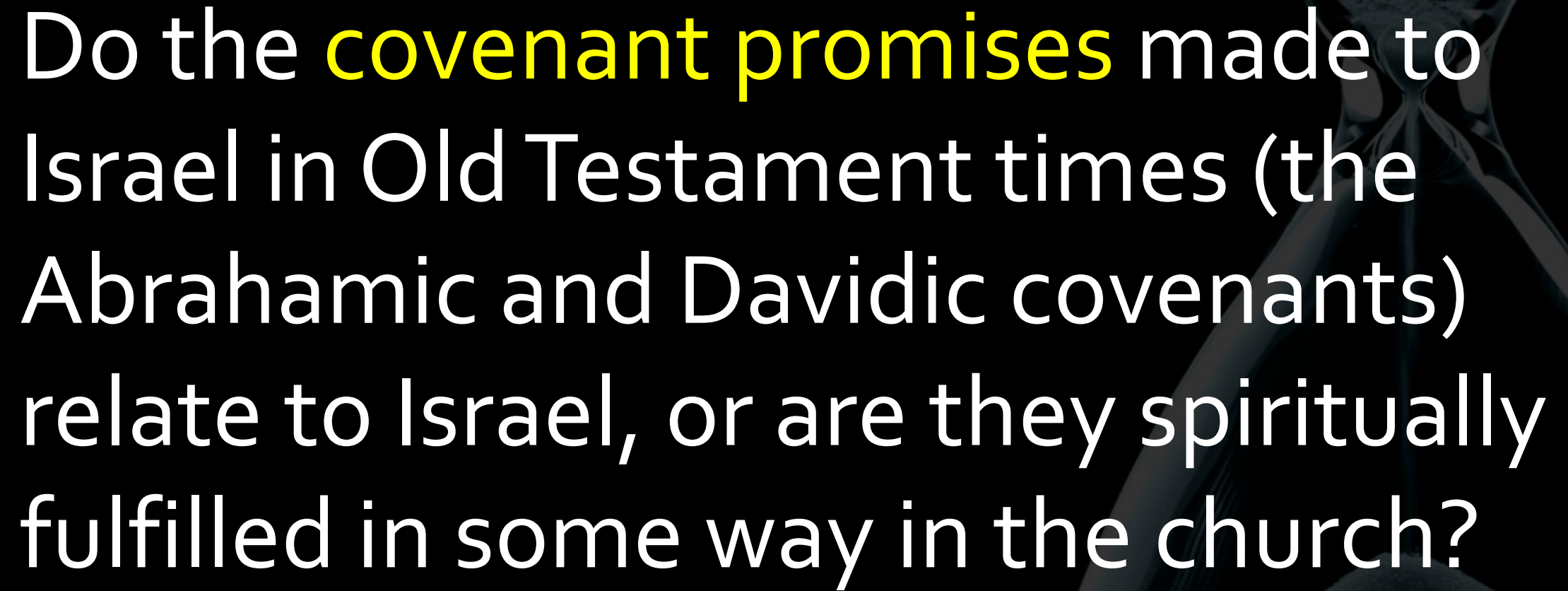
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Because of the apocalyptic nature of prophecy, it is difficult to determine whether to interpret the Scripture **literally** or allegorically.

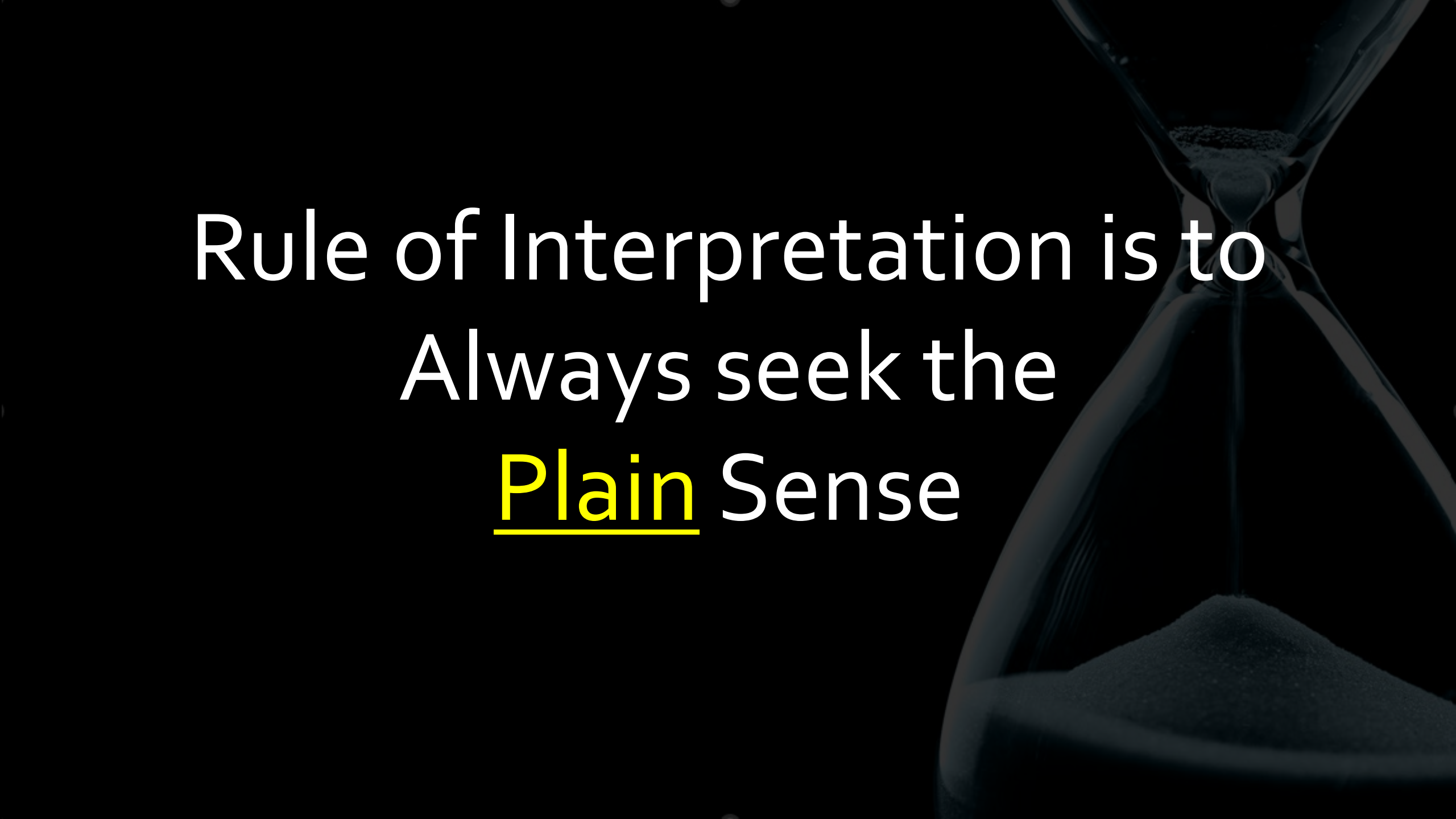
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For Example...

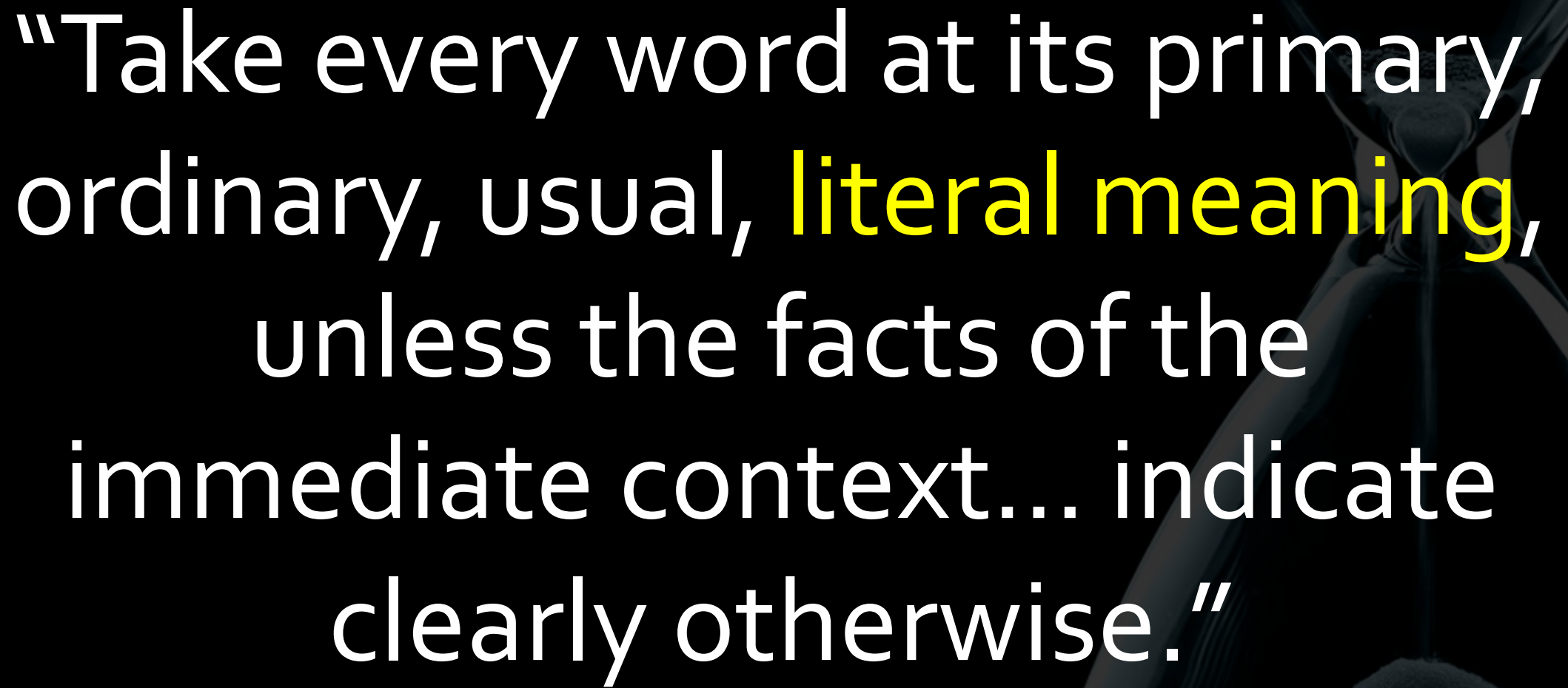
Will the **millennial kingdom** involve a literal thousand-year reign of Jesus on earth, or does it refer to Christ's present spiritual reign from heaven over the church?

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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?

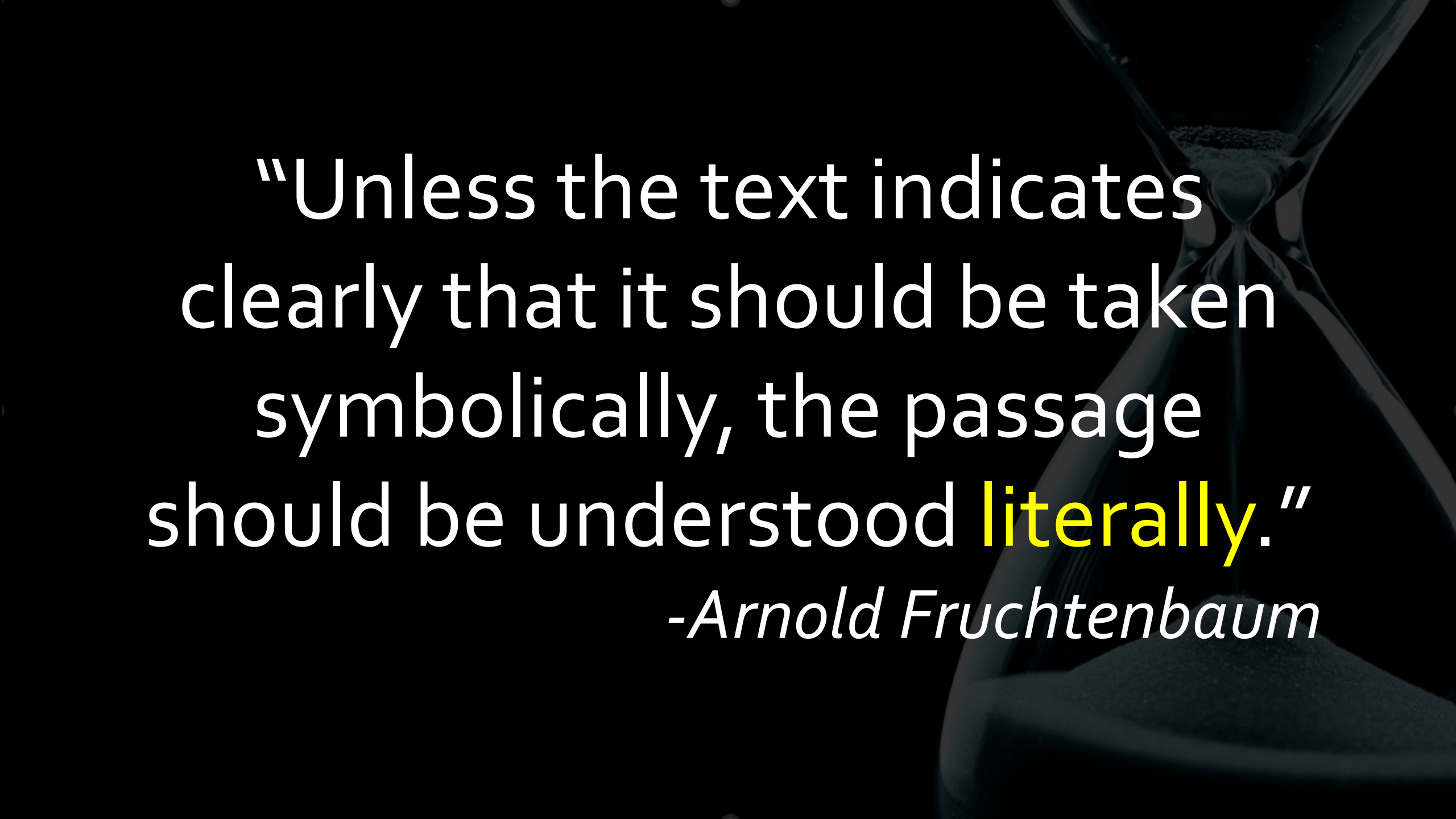
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Rule of Interpretation is to
Always seek the
Plain Sense

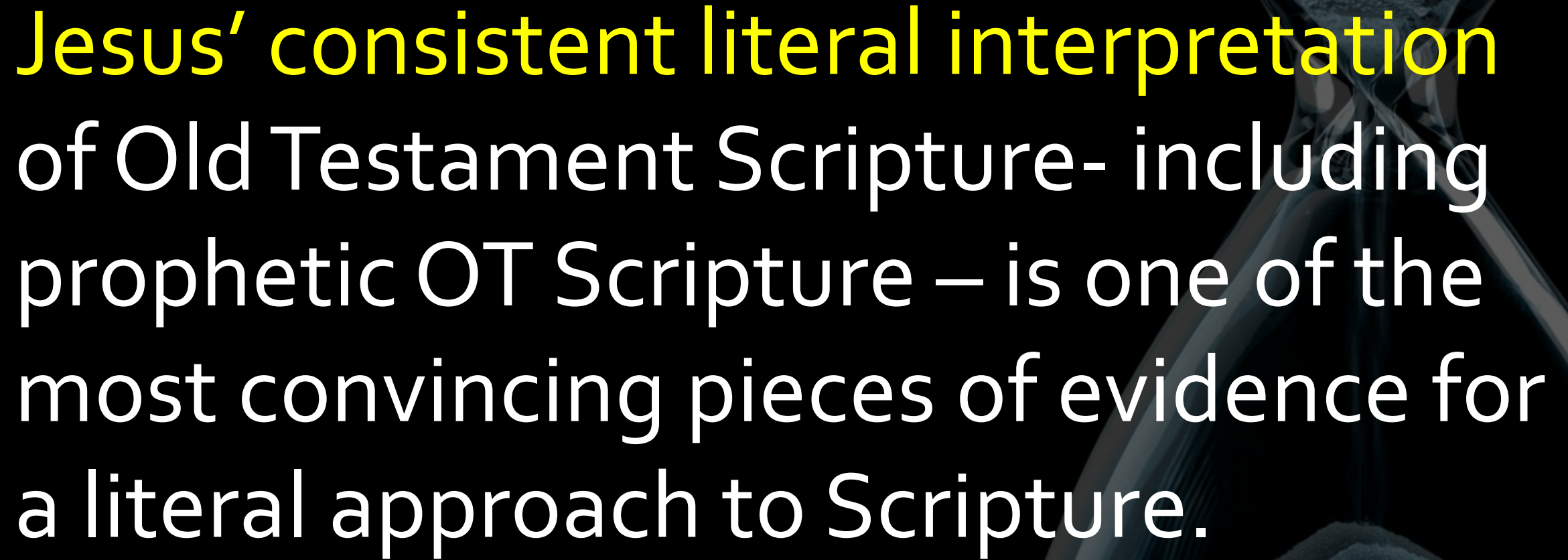
A faint, dark hourglass is visible in the background, with sand falling from the top bulb into the bottom bulb. The hourglass is centered vertically and horizontally.

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

-David Cooper

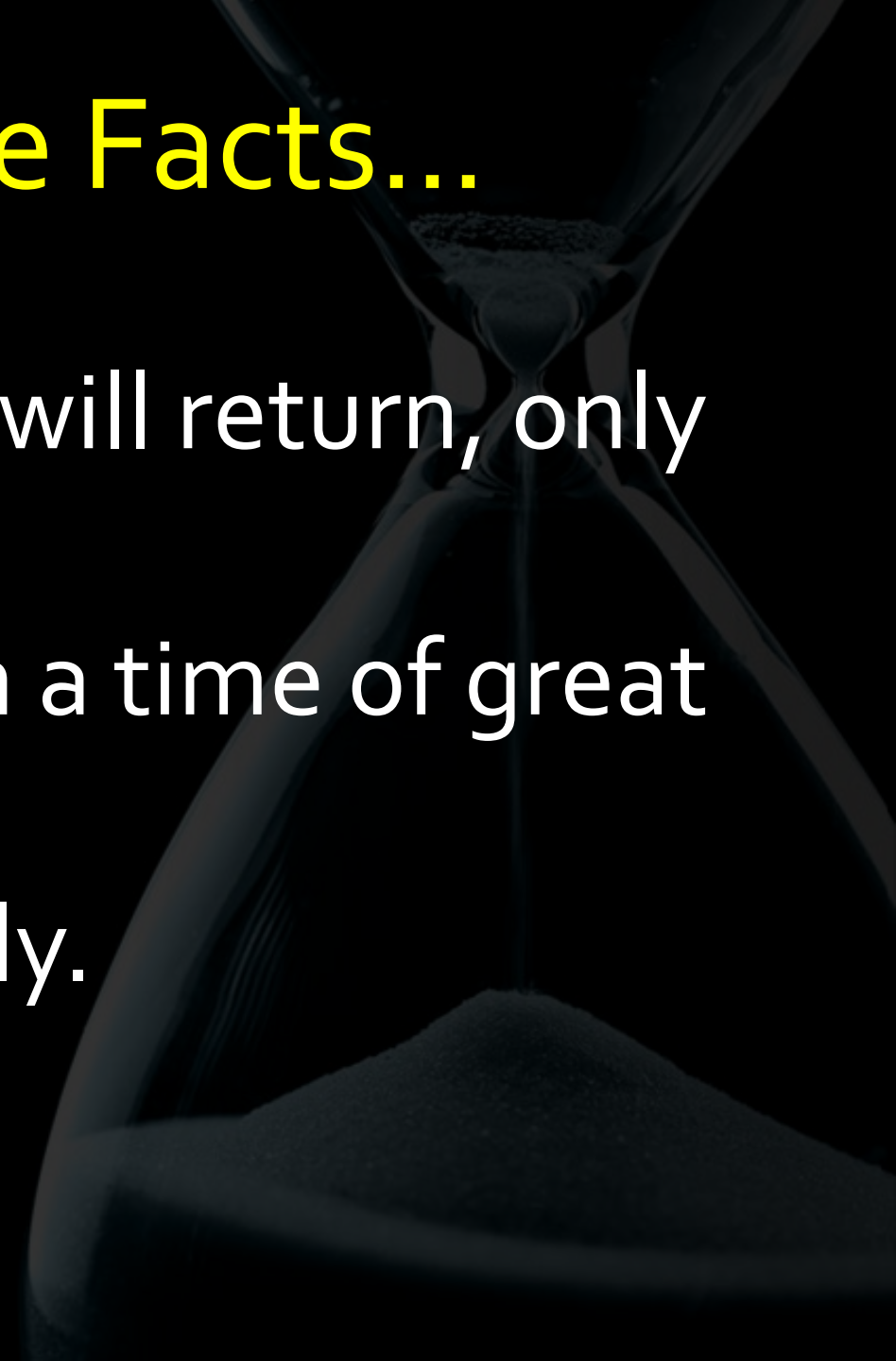
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“Unless the text indicates
clearly that it should be taken
symbolically, the passage
should be understood **literally**.”
-Arnold Fruchtenbaum

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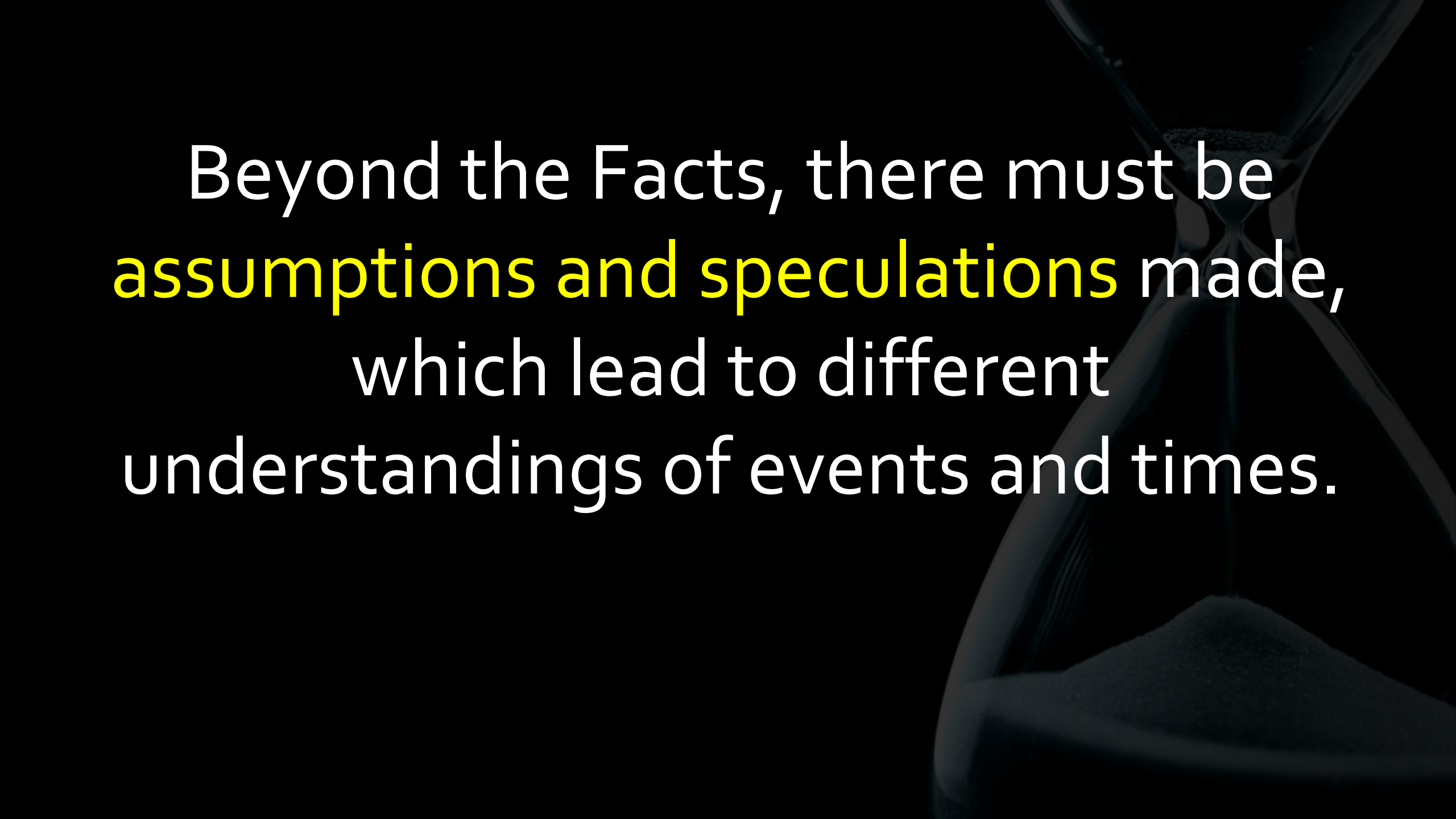
Jesus' consistent literal interpretation of Old Testament Scripture- including prophetic OT Scripture – is one of the most convincing pieces of evidence for a literal approach to Scripture.

We must agree to the Facts...

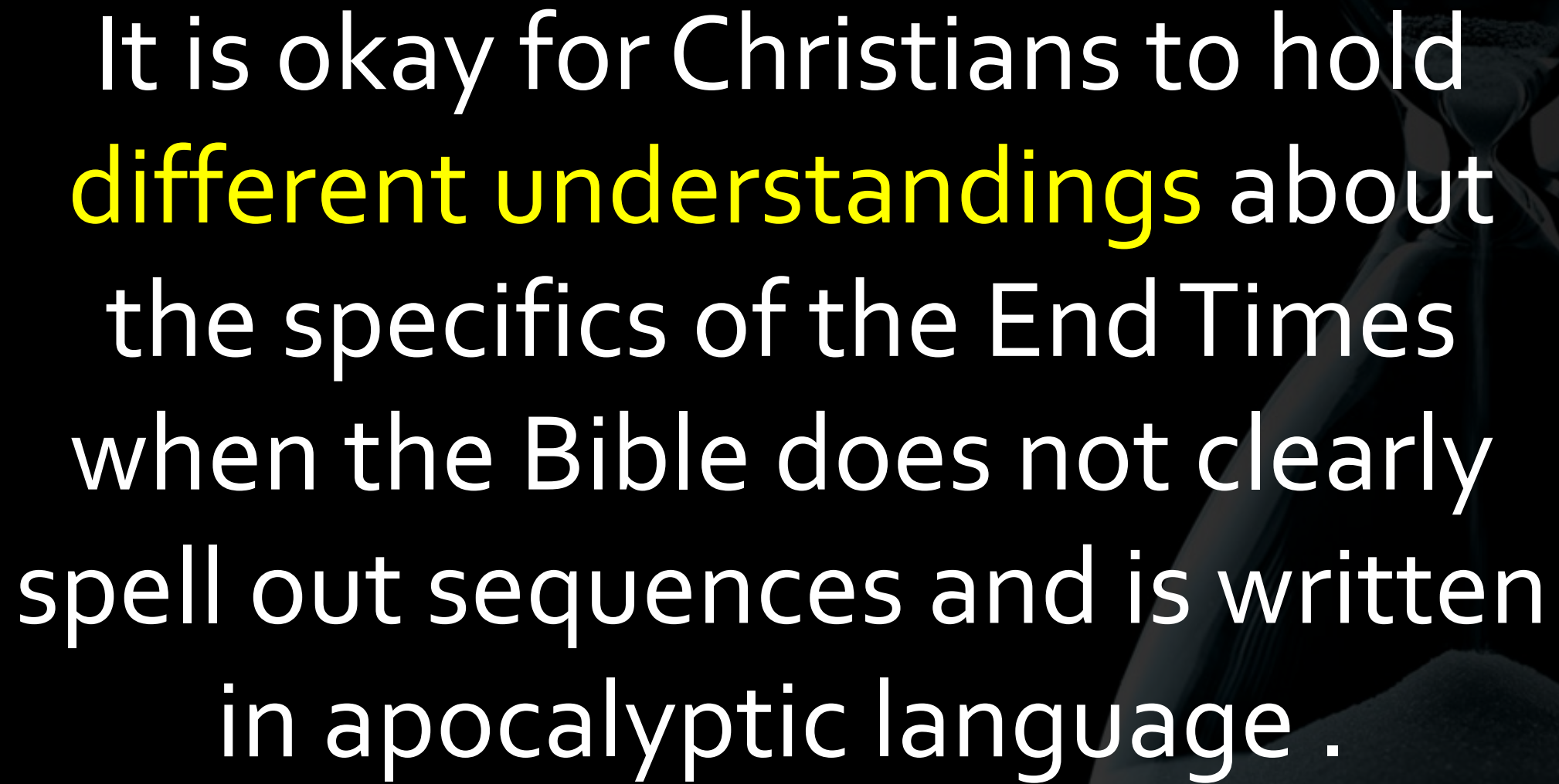
- **No one** knows when Christ will return, only God, the Father.
 - Sin will increase ushering in a time of great **trouble** on the earth.
 - Christ will **return** victoriously.
 - He will **judge** the World.
- 

We agree to the Facts...

- Satan, his angels, and those who are without Christ will be cast into the **Lake of Fire** forever.
- God will create a **New Heaven and a New Earth**, and Jesus will take his children to live there with them forever.

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

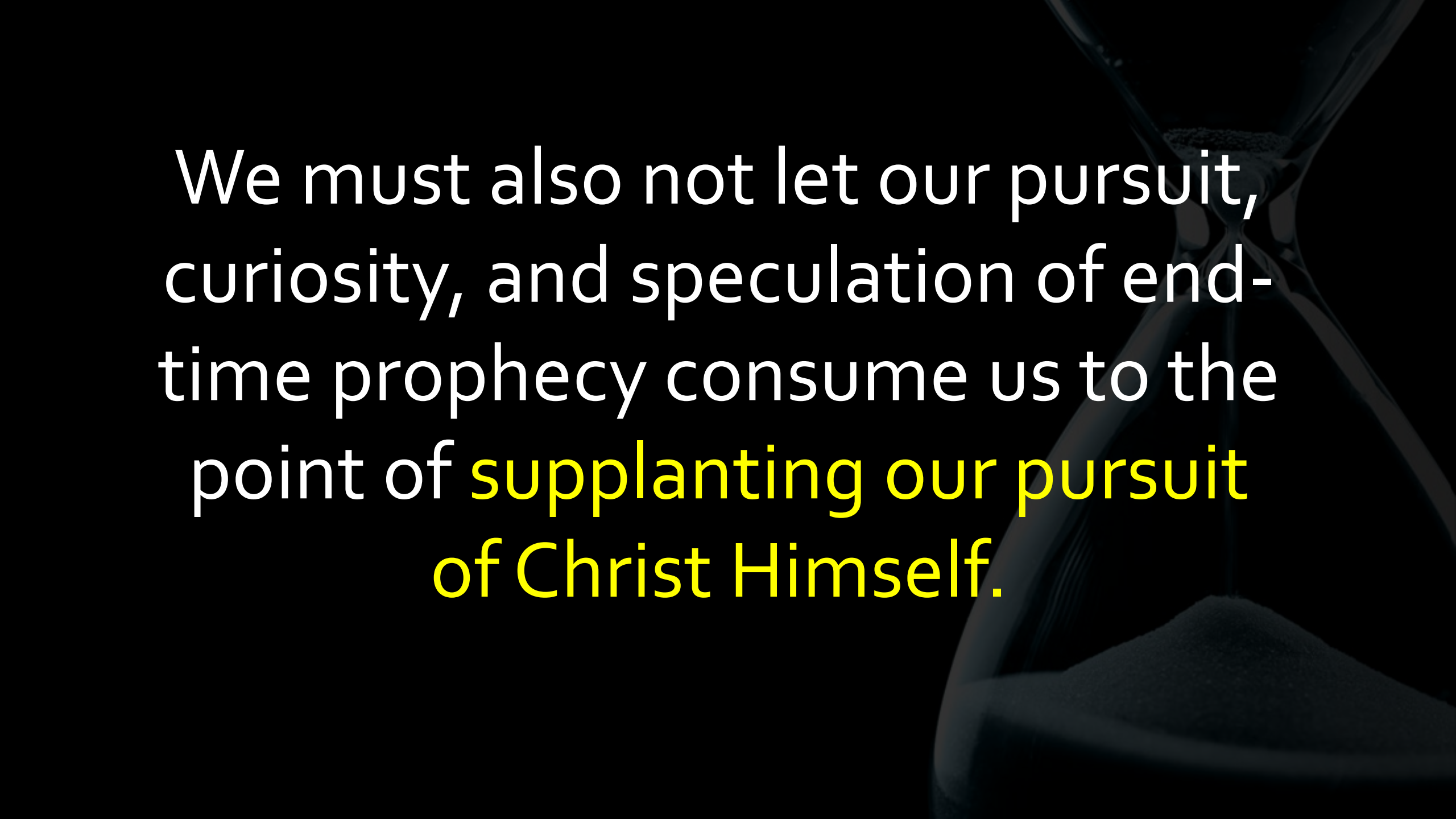
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It is okay for Christians to hold
different understandings about
the specifics of the End Times
when the Bible does not clearly
spell out sequences and is written
in apocalyptic language .

A large, dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the slide, serving as a background element. The top bulb of the hourglass is mostly empty, while the bottom bulb 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.

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.

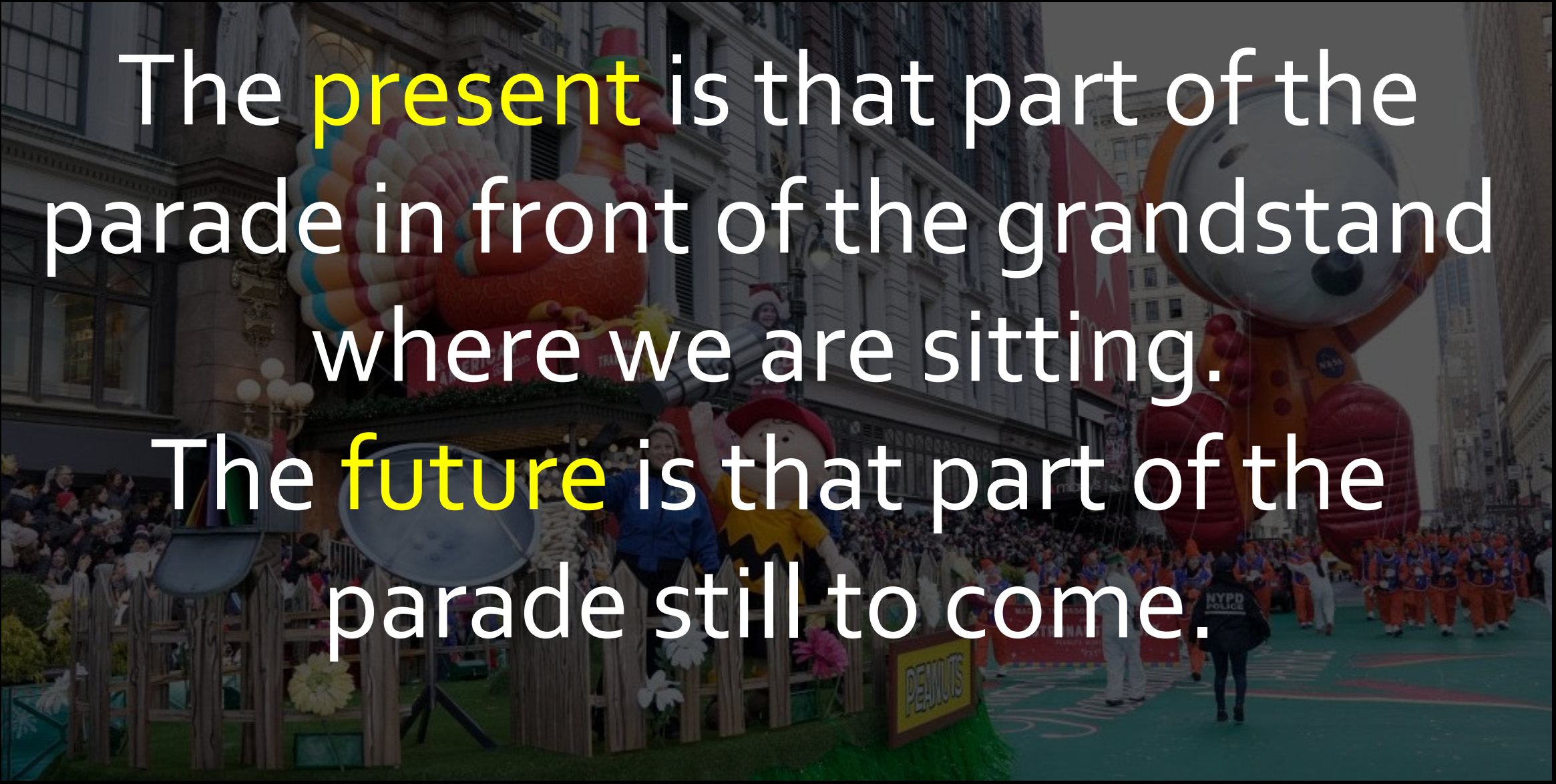
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We must also not let our pursuit,
curiosity, and speculation of end-
time prophecy consume us to the
point of **supplanting our pursuit
of Christ Himself.**

Let's stay focused on the
Big Picture







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.

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



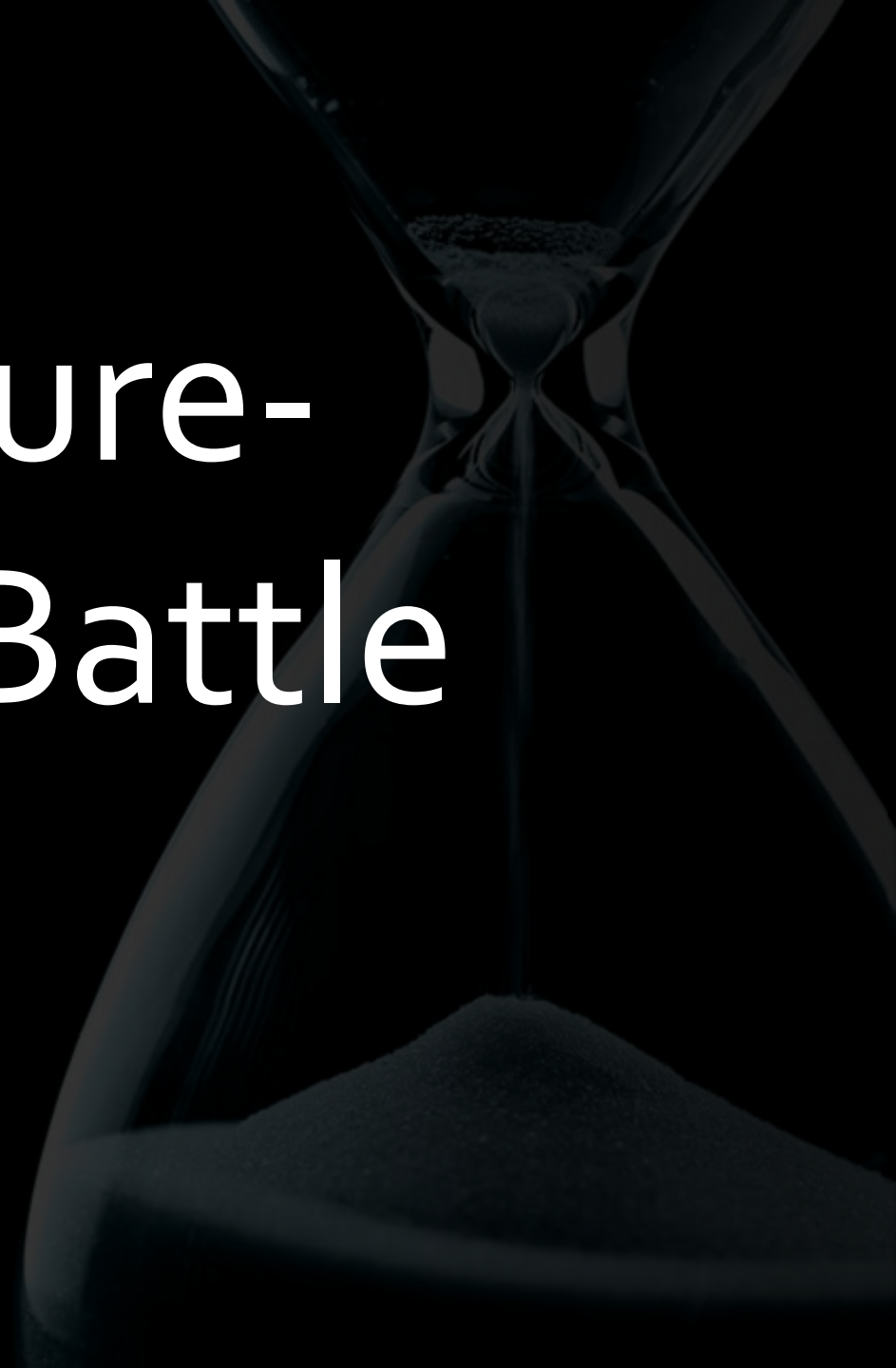


The future, therefore, is
no more of a mystery to
God than the past.



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

The Big Picture- The Spiritual Battle



Eden

God

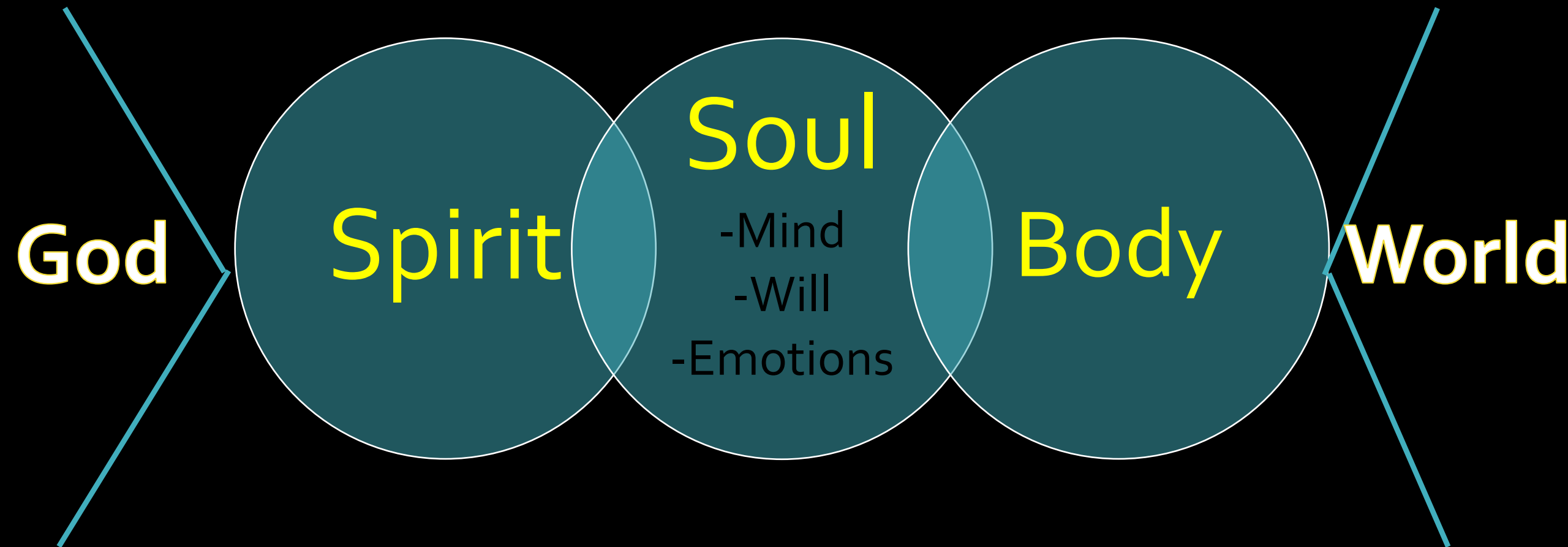
Spirit

Soul

- Mind
- Will
- Emotions

Body

World



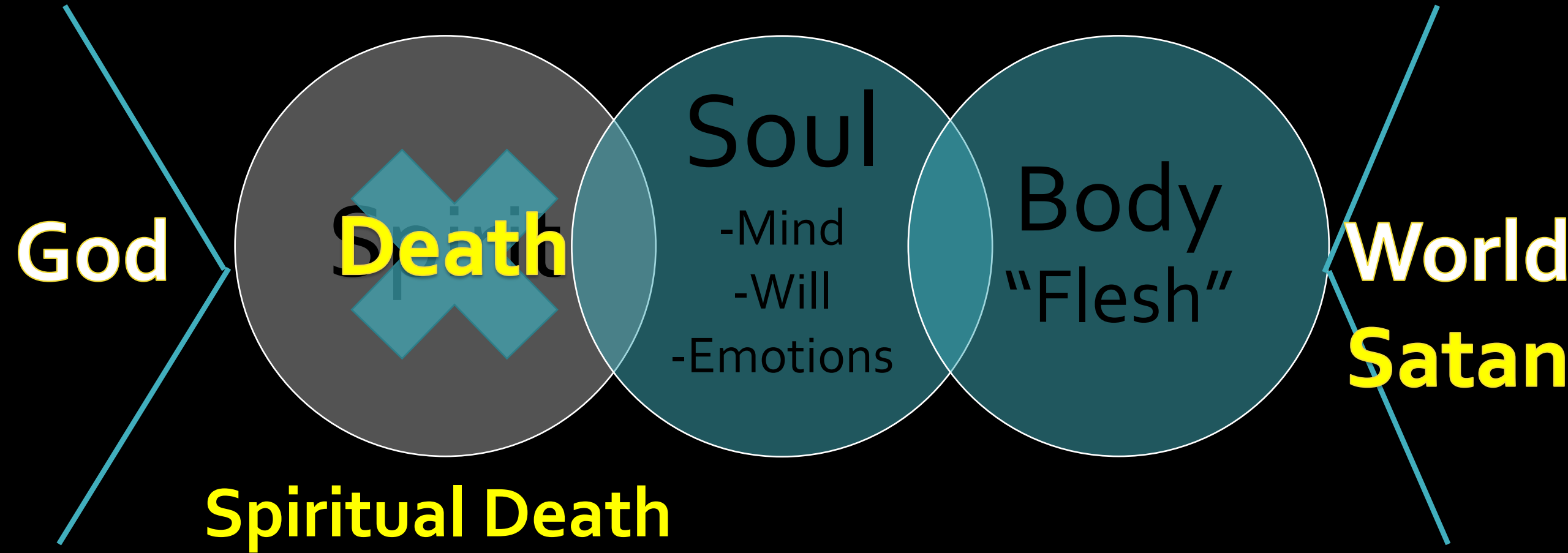


Creation →



- Fallen **Cherub**
- Wants to be worshipped and steal God's Glory
- Father of Lies & Prince of the Power of the Air

Lostness



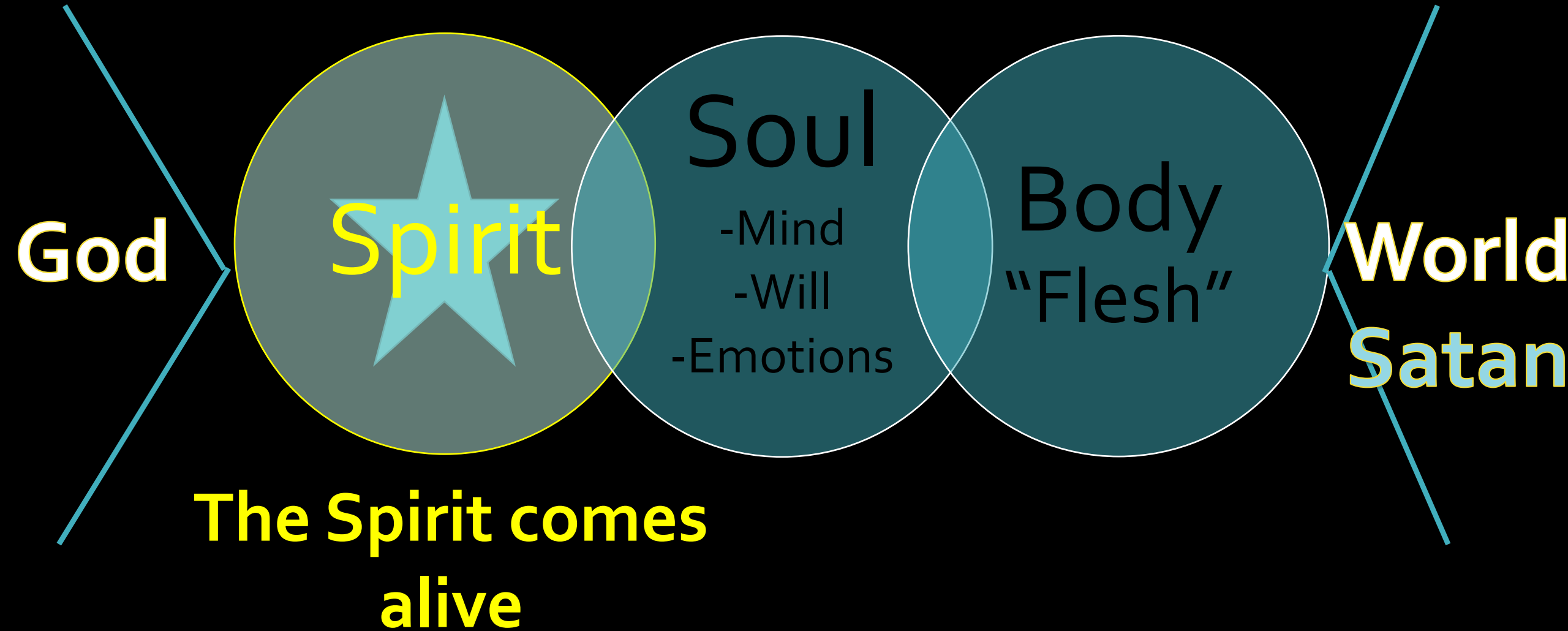
God's Plan of Redemption

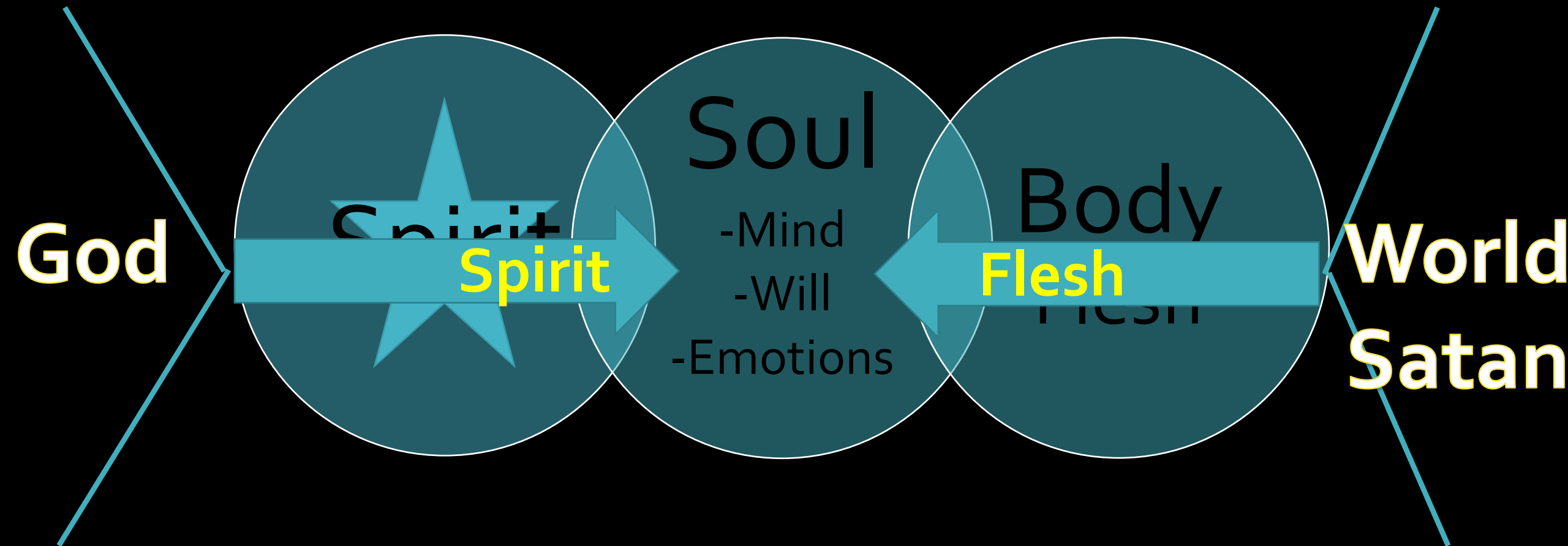


Creation → Covenant → Christ → Church →



Salvation







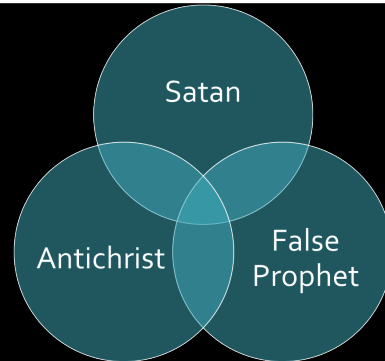
Creation → Covenant → Christ → Church →



- Make Christians ineffective to increase lostness
- Increase Chaos and unrest, so the world will be desperate & want to unify under the Antichrist



Creation → Covenant → Christ → Church →



Unify & Centralize the World's

- Religion
- Education
- Communications
- Economy
- Government



The Tribulation

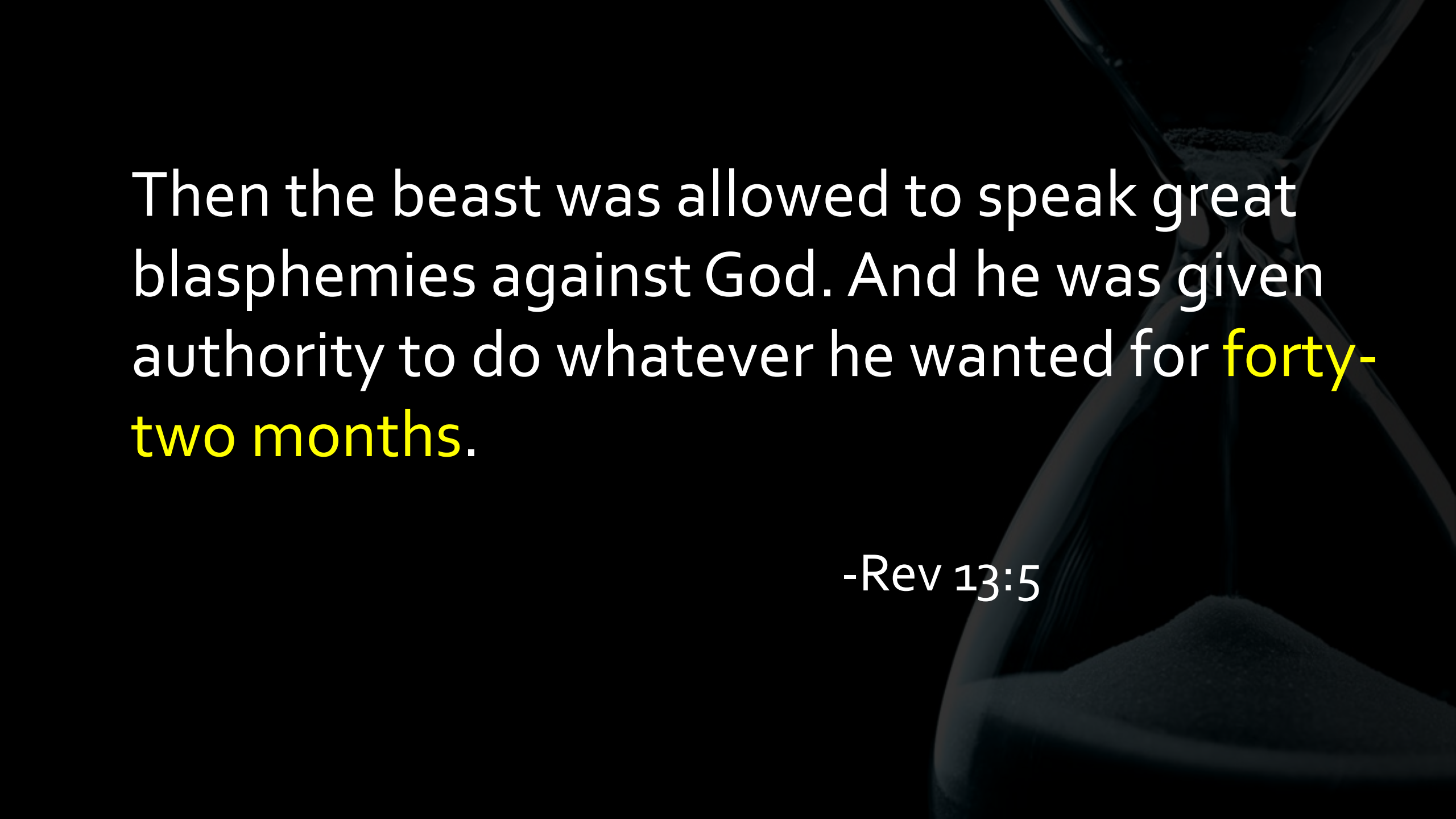




A Peace Treaty ushered in by the antichrist

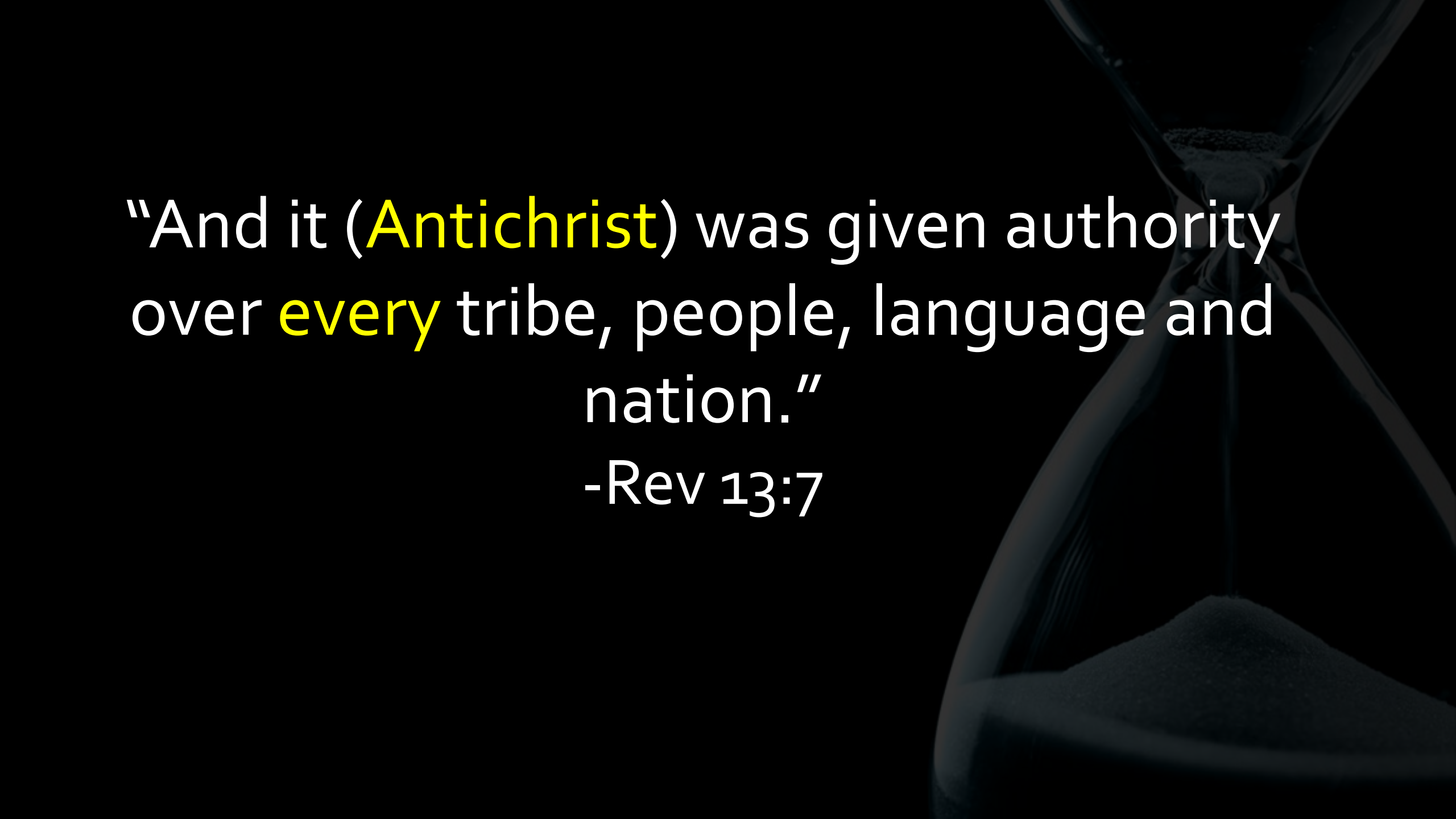
“The ruler will make a **treaty** with the people
for a period of one set of seven.”

-Daniel 9:27

A large, dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the image, serving as a background element. The hourglass is oriented vertically, with its narrow neck in the center. The top and bottom bulbs are wider, and the sand inside is visible as a dark, granular substance. The overall image has a dark, monochromatic aesthetic with the text providing the primary visual information.

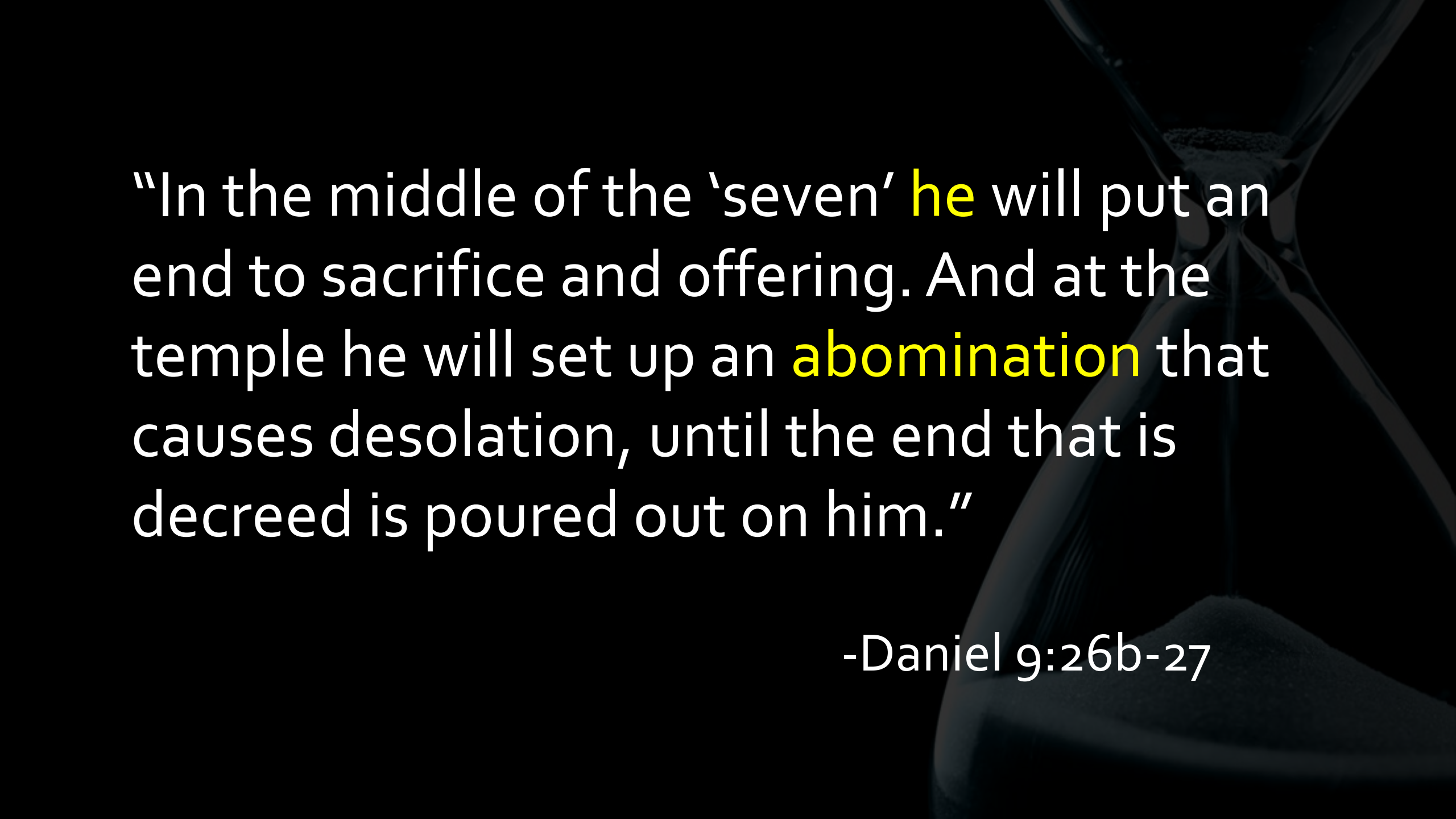
Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for **forty-two months**.

-Rev 13:5

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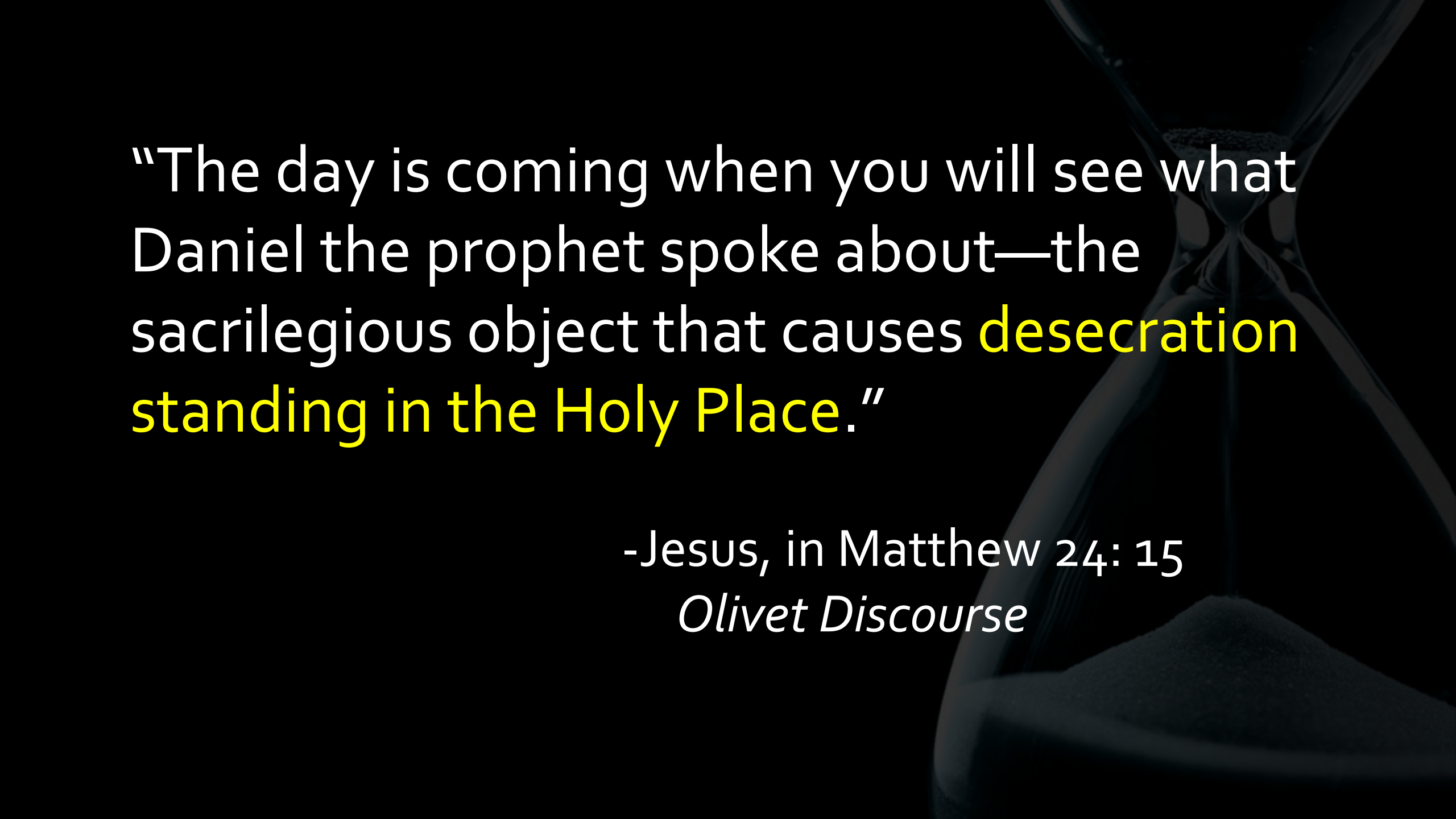
“And it (**Antichrist**) was given authority
over **every** tribe, people, language and
nation.”

-Rev 13:7

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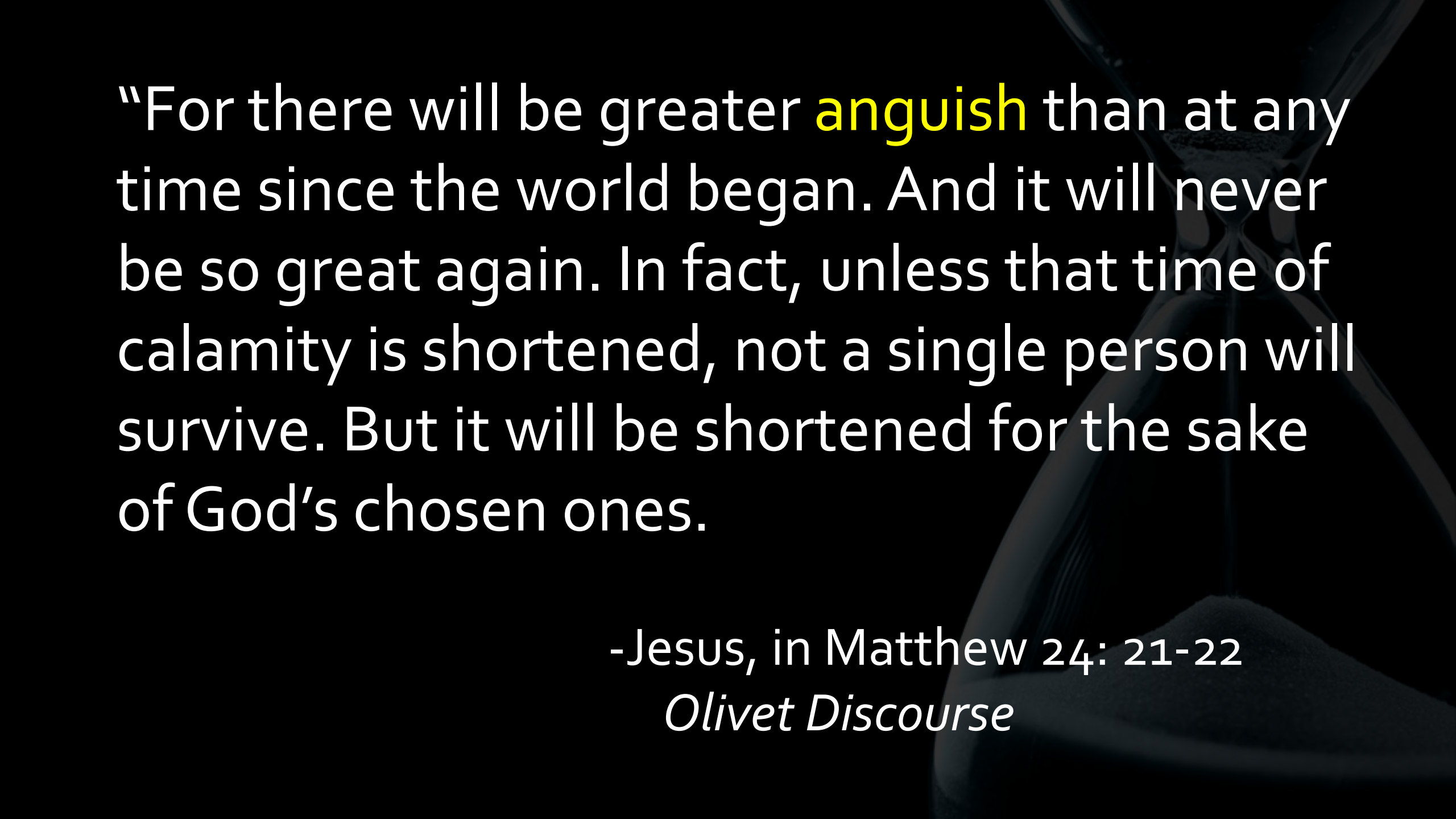
“In the middle of the ‘seven’ **he** will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an **abomination** that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

-Daniel 9:26b-27

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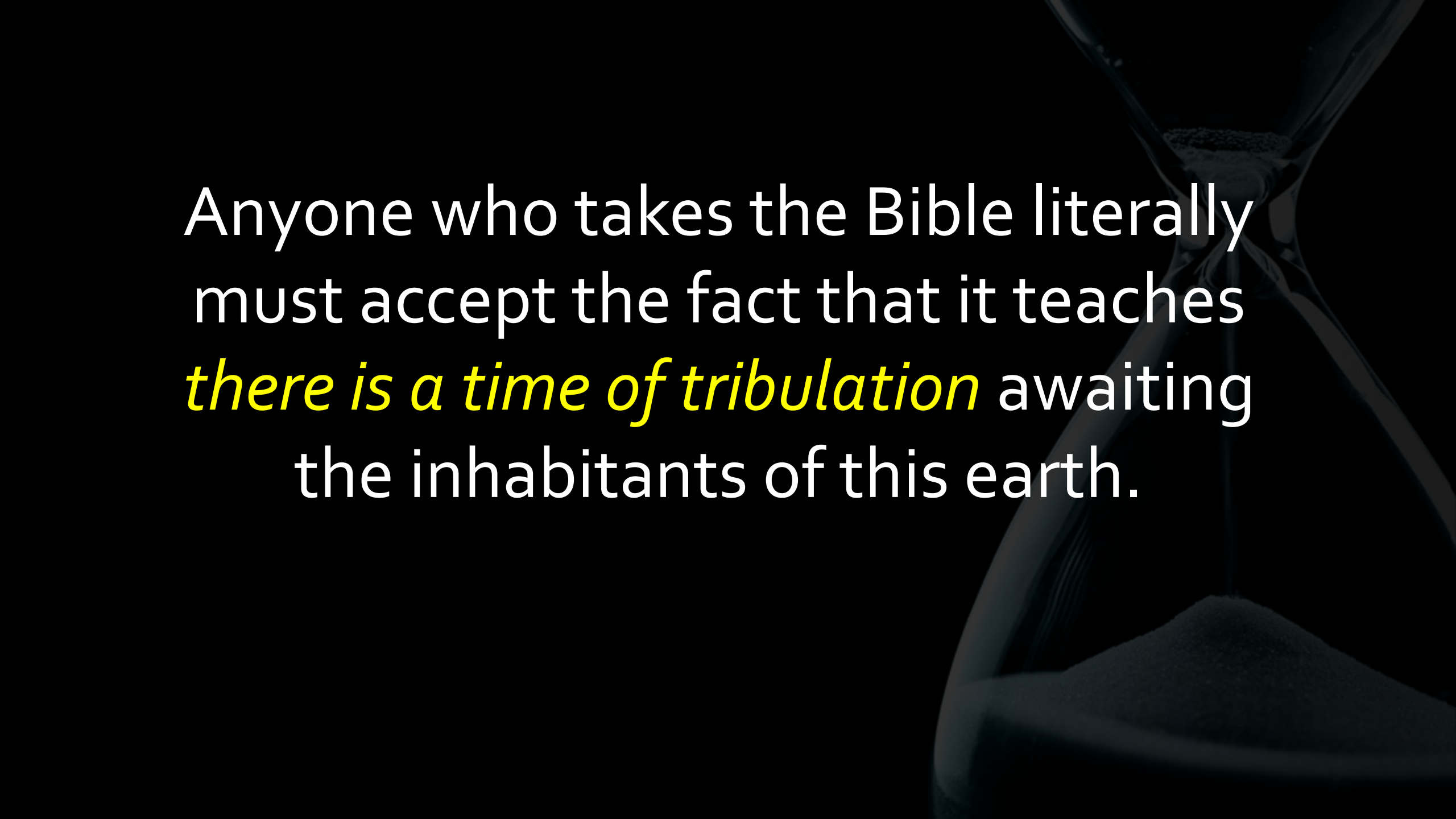
“The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes **deseccration** **standing in the Holy Place.**”

-Jesus, in Matthew 24: 15
Olivet Discourse

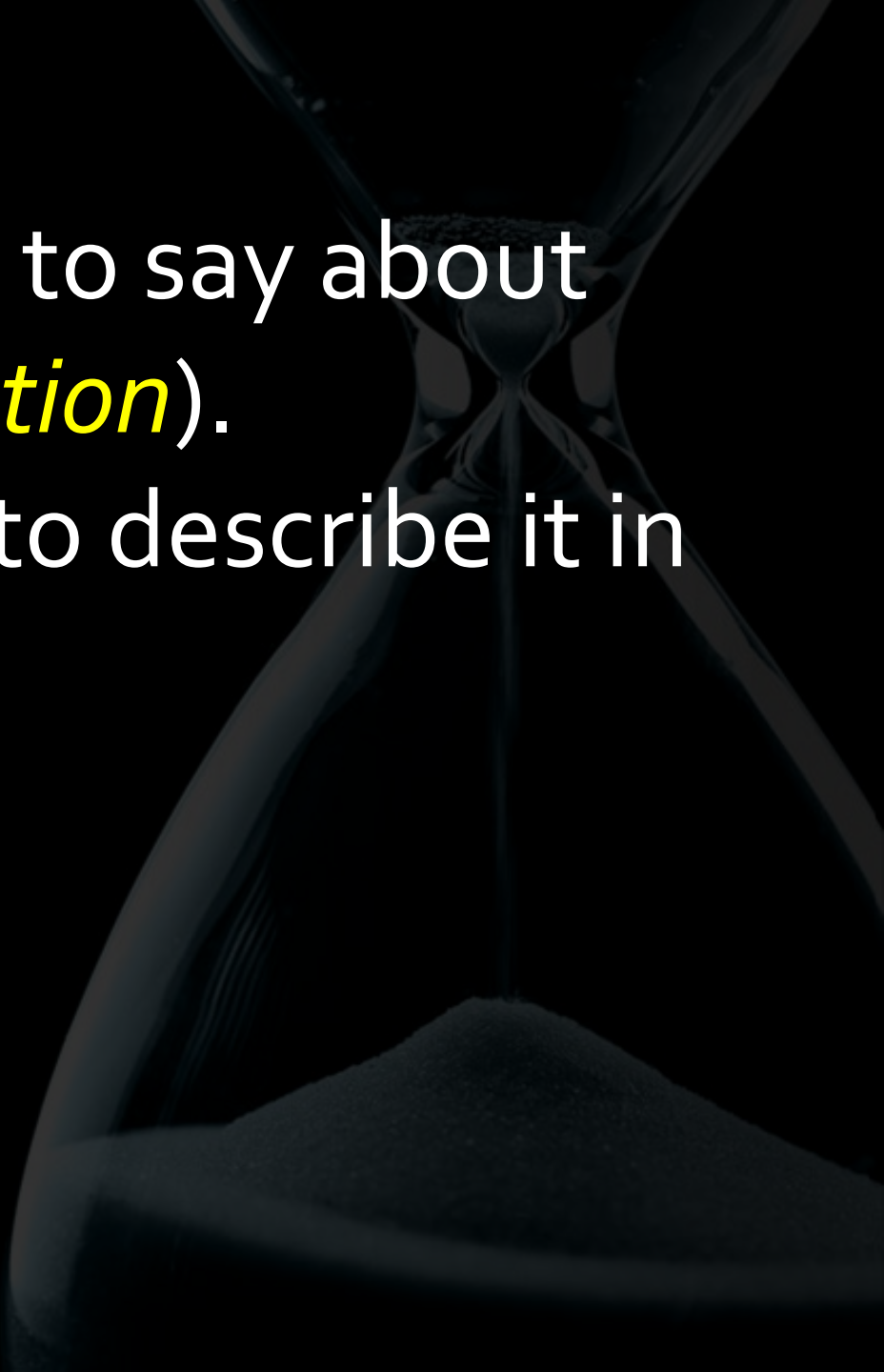
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“For there will be greater **anguish** than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones.

-Jesus, in Matthew 24: 21-22
Olivet Discourse

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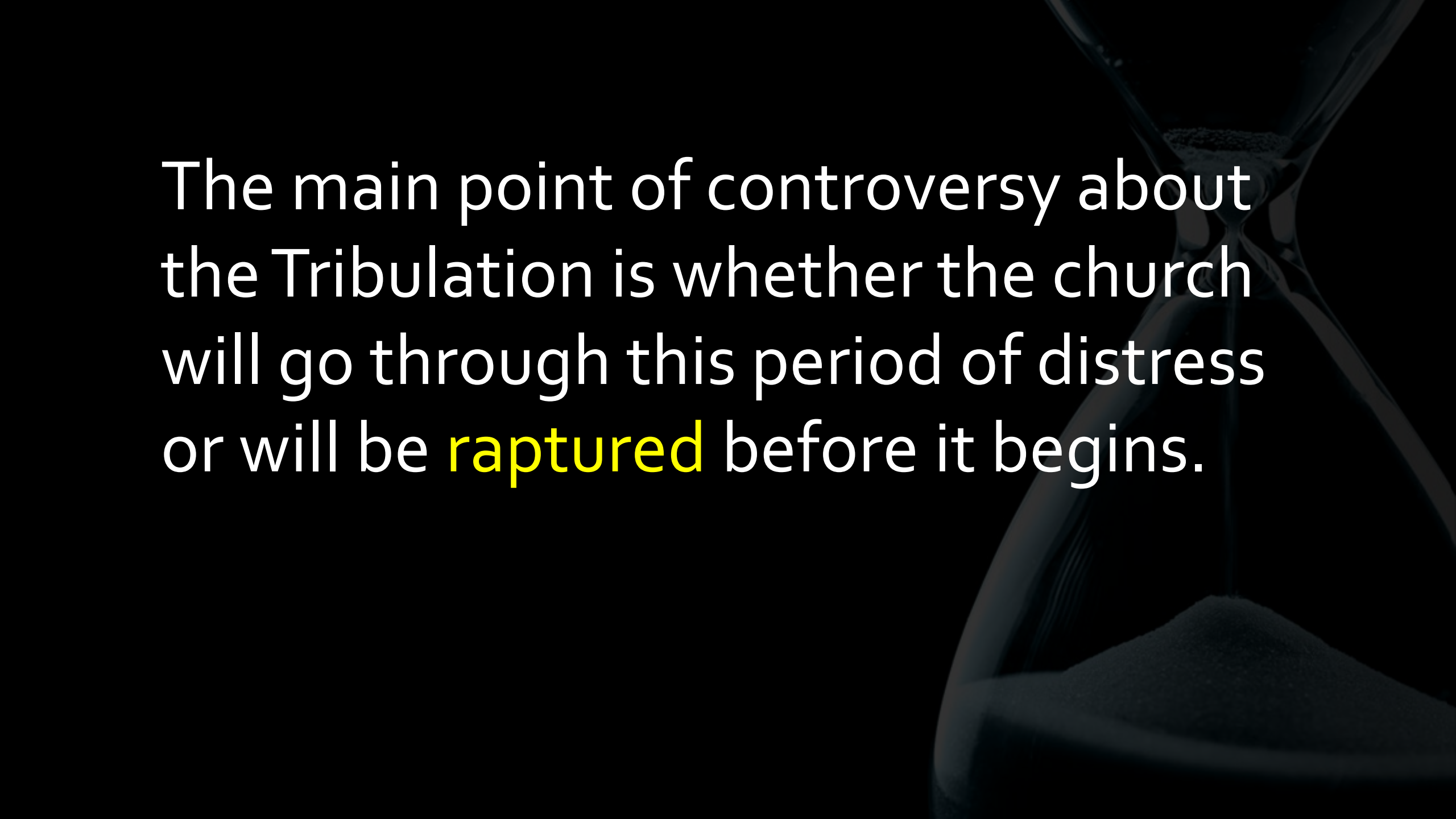
Anyone who takes the Bible literally
must accept the fact that it teaches
there is a time of tribulation awaiting
the inhabitants of this earth.

- 
- A large, dark, translucent hourglass is positioned on the right side of the slide, 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.
- The OT **prophets** had much to say about this time period (the *tribulation*).
 - Revelation has **13** chapters to describe it in detail.



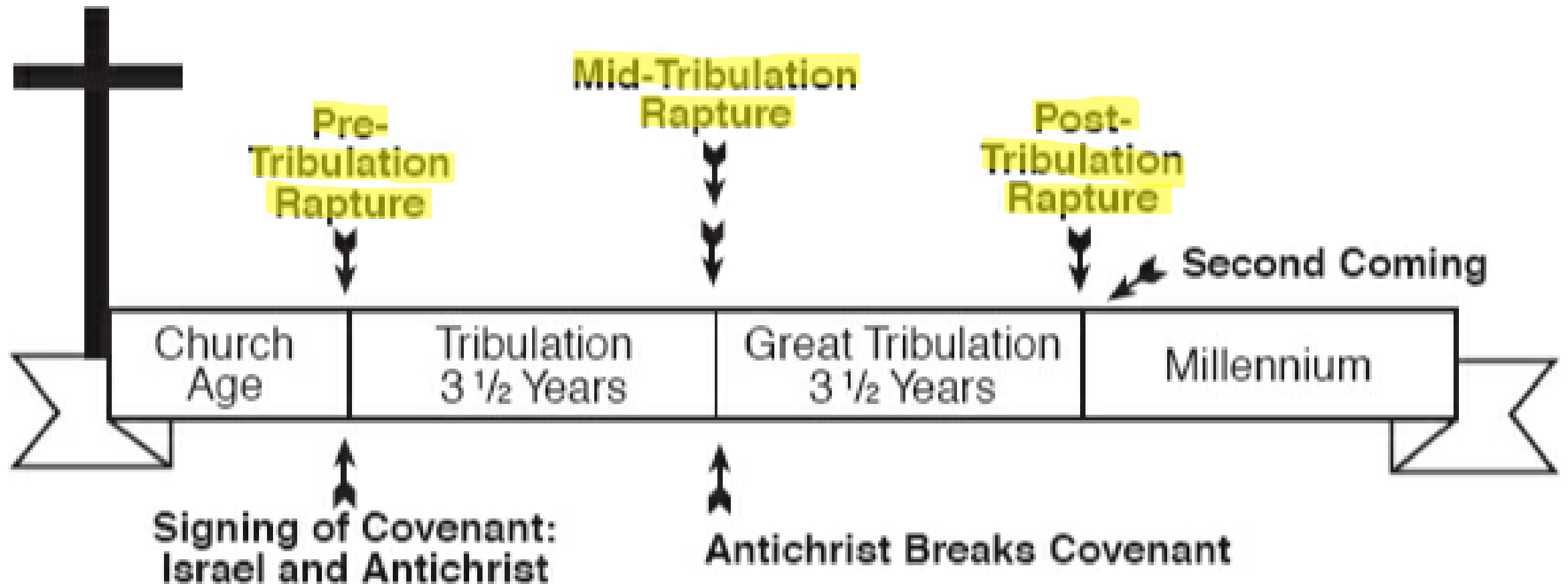
There is **more** Scripture related to the Tribulation than:

- The 1,000-year reign (Millennium)
- Heaven or Hell
- *Any subject except Salvation & the 2nd Coming*

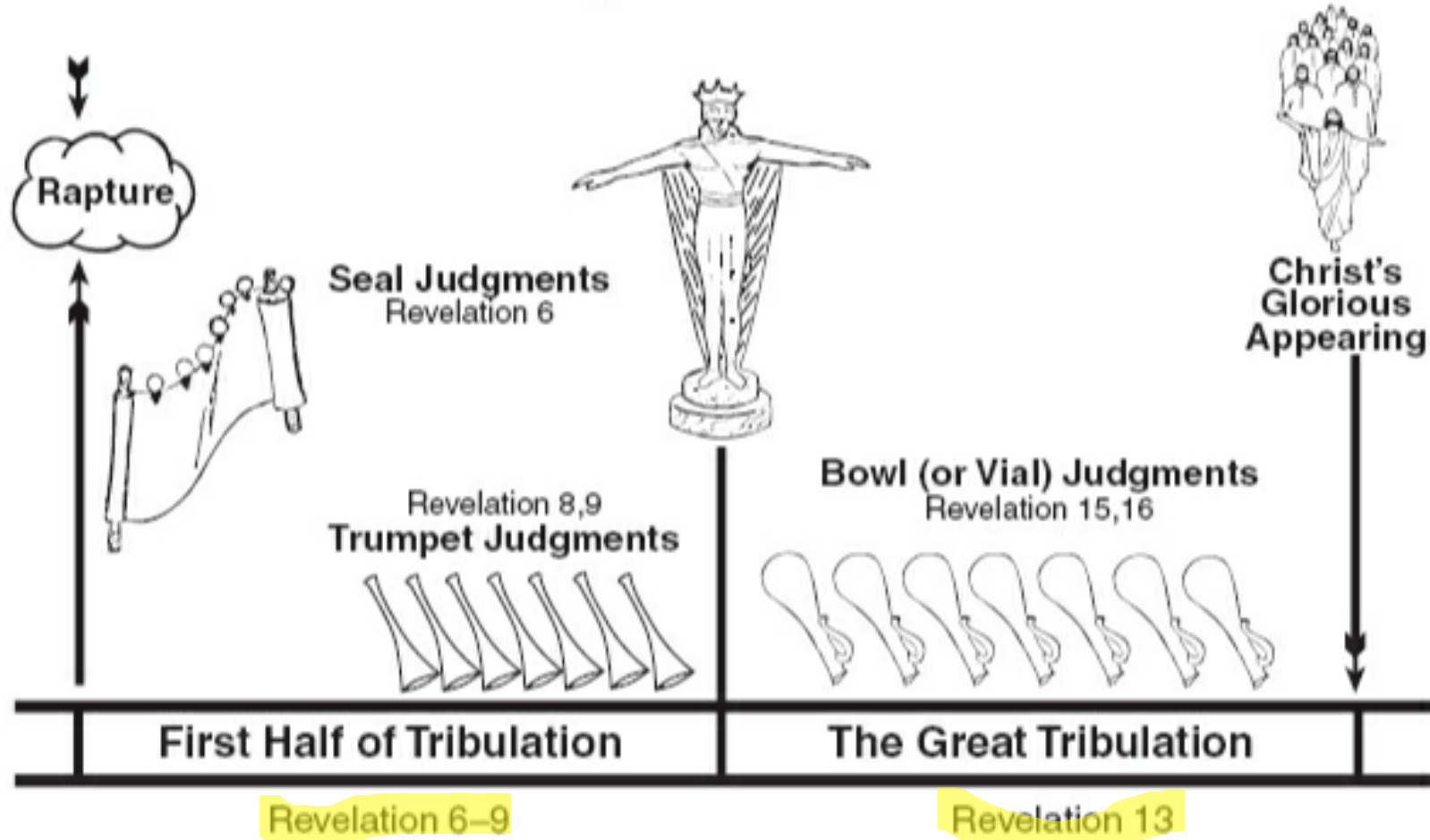
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The main point of controversy about the Tribulation is whether the church will go through this period of distress or will be **raptured** before it begins.

The Various Views of When the Rapture Occurs



The Judgments in Revelation



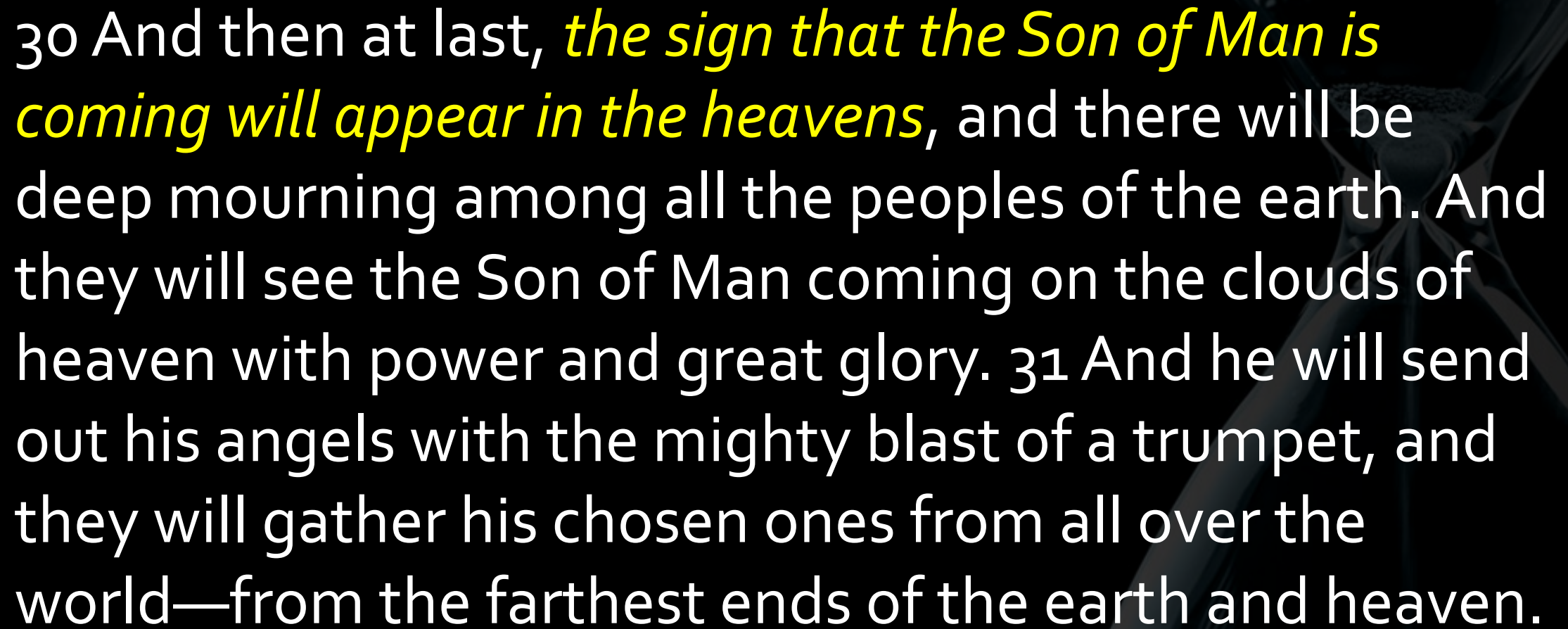
Scriptures that support Pre-Trib

1. The Lord promised to Deliver Us. (Rev 3:10)
2. It preserves Imminency (Matt 24:42)
3. The Church is to be delivered “from the wrath to come.” (1 Thess 1:10)
4. Christians are not appointed to Wrath. (1 Thess 5:9)
5. *The Church is Absent in Revelation 4-18.*

The Second Coming- The Glorious Appearing

For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, *so it will be when the Son of Man comes.*

-Jesus, in Matthew 24: 27-31
Olivet Discourse

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.

30 And then at last, *the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens*, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

-Jesus, in Matthew 24: 23-31
Olivet Discourse

A large, dark, semi-transparent hourglass is positioned in the background, with its narrow neck pointing downwards. The top bulb is partially filled with a dark, granular substance, and a small amount of it is visible falling into the bottom bulb. The overall image has a dark, moody aesthetic with a black background.

The Battle of Armageddon forming at the end of the Tribulation

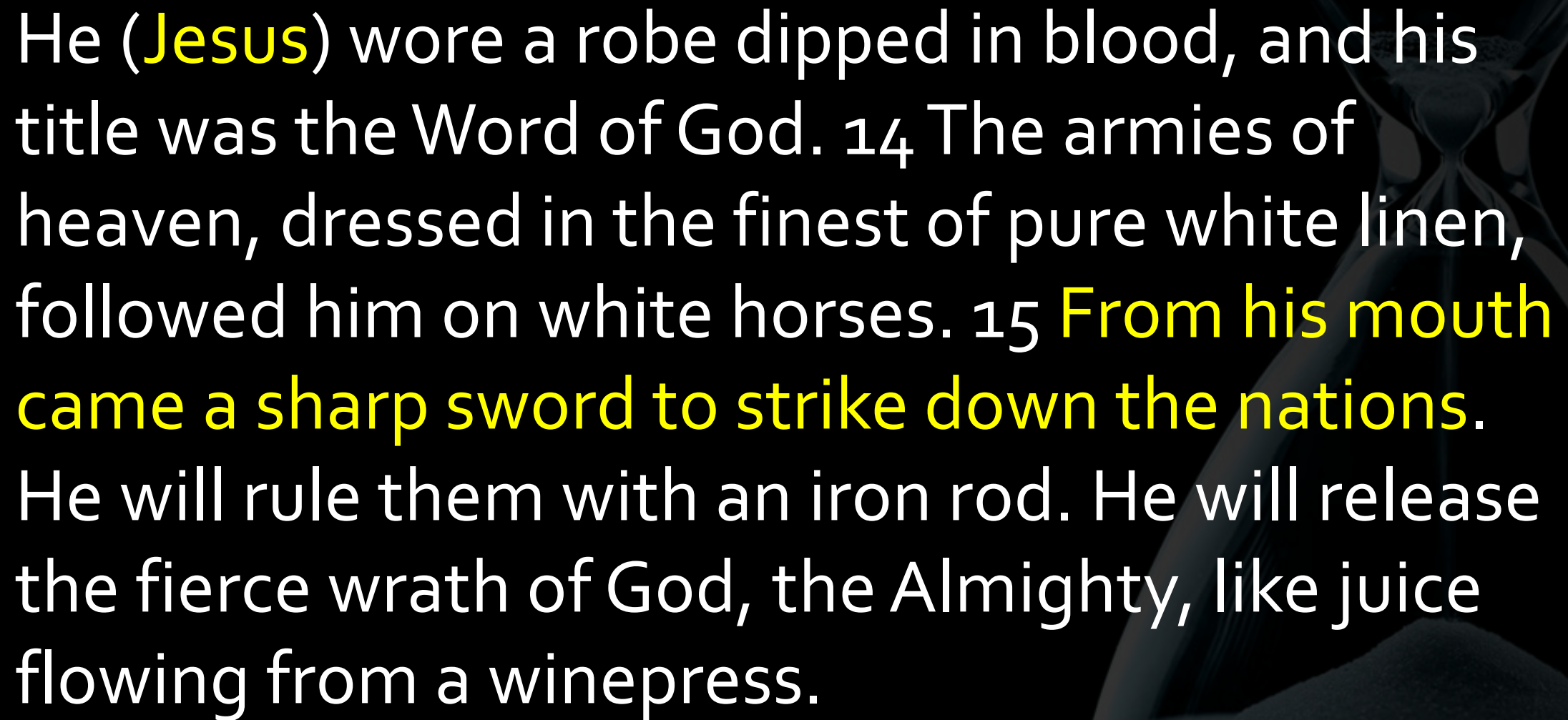
They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle **against the Lord** on that great judgment day of God the Almighty.

-Rev 16:14

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.

Rev 19:11-20

Then I saw heaven opened, and **a white horse** was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself.

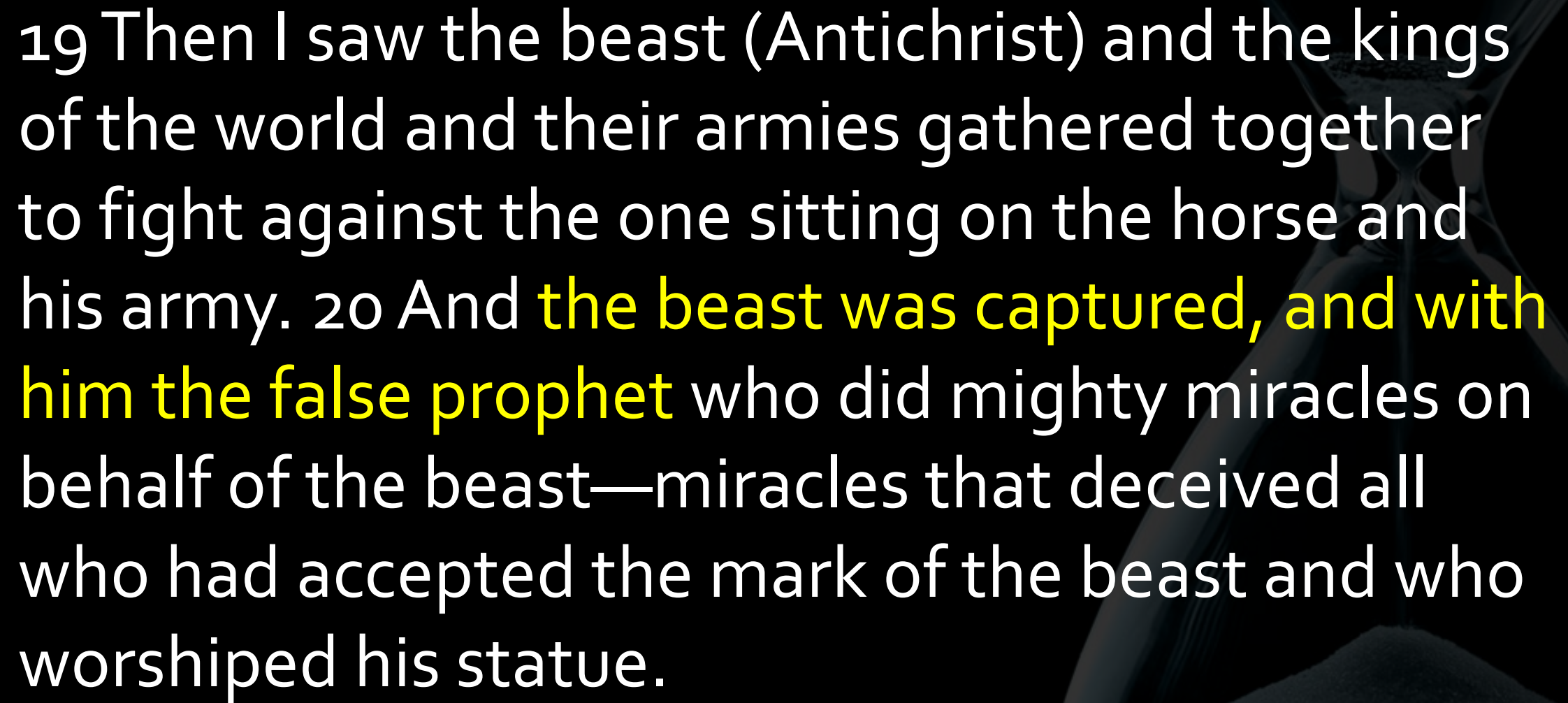
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He (**Jesus**) wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. 15 **From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations.** He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.

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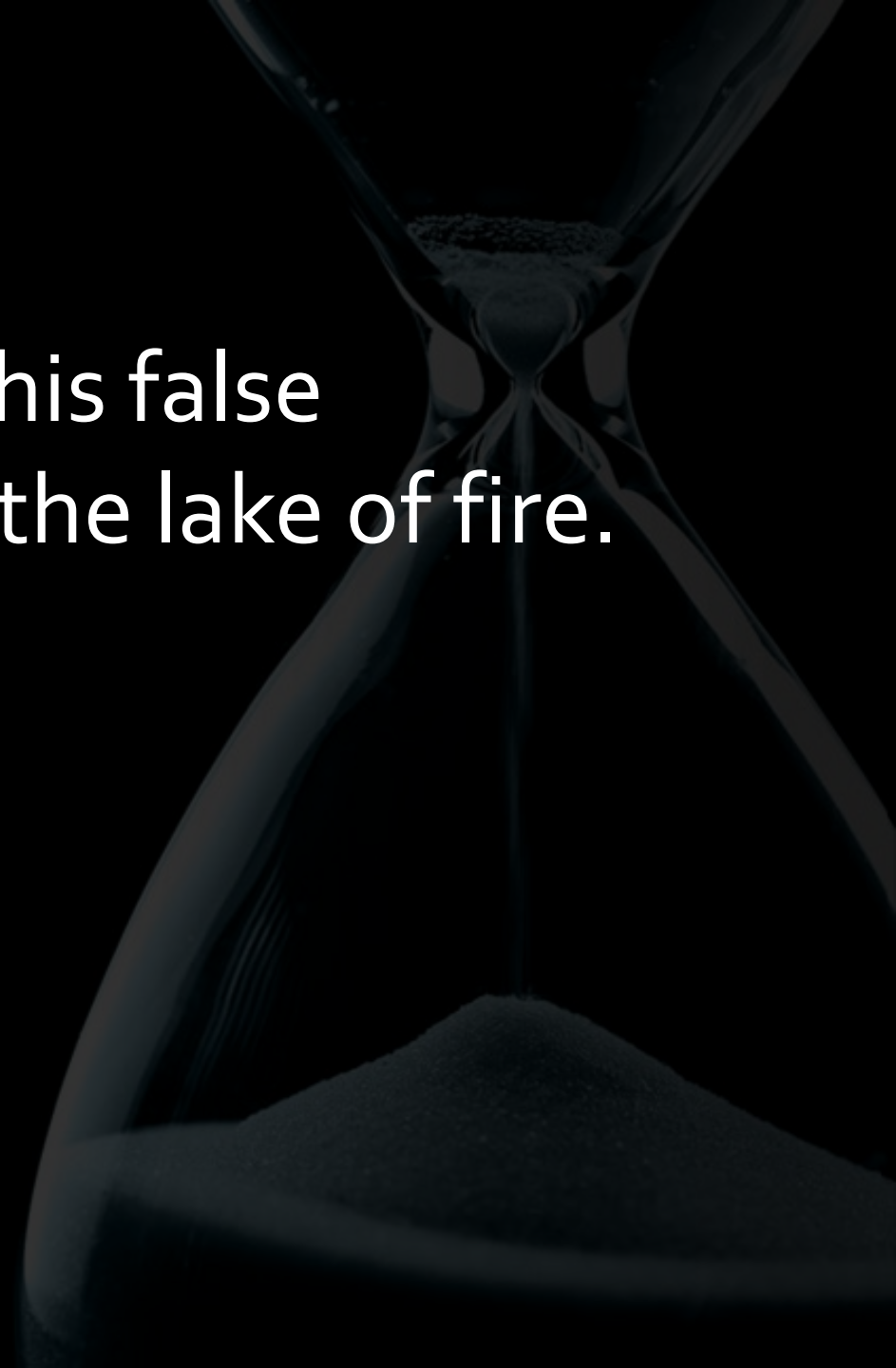
On his robe at his thigh was written this title: *King of all kings and Lord of all lords.*

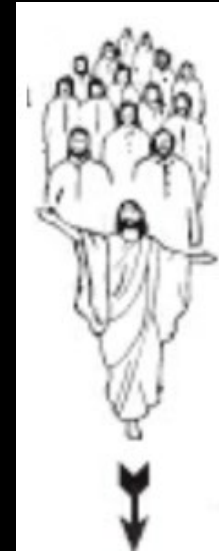
17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, shouting to the vultures flying high in the sky: "Come! Gather together for the great banquet God has prepared. 18 Come and eat the flesh of kings, generals, and strong warriors; of horses and their riders; and of all humanity, both free and slave, small and great."

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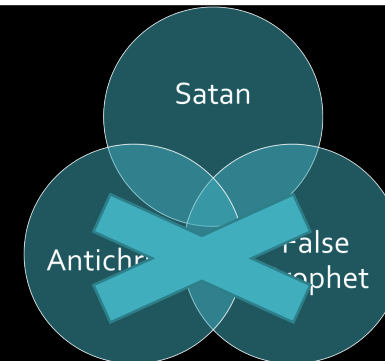
19 Then I saw the beast (Antichrist) and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. 20 And **the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet** who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue.

Both the beast (**Antichrist**) and his false prophet were thrown alive into the lake of fire.



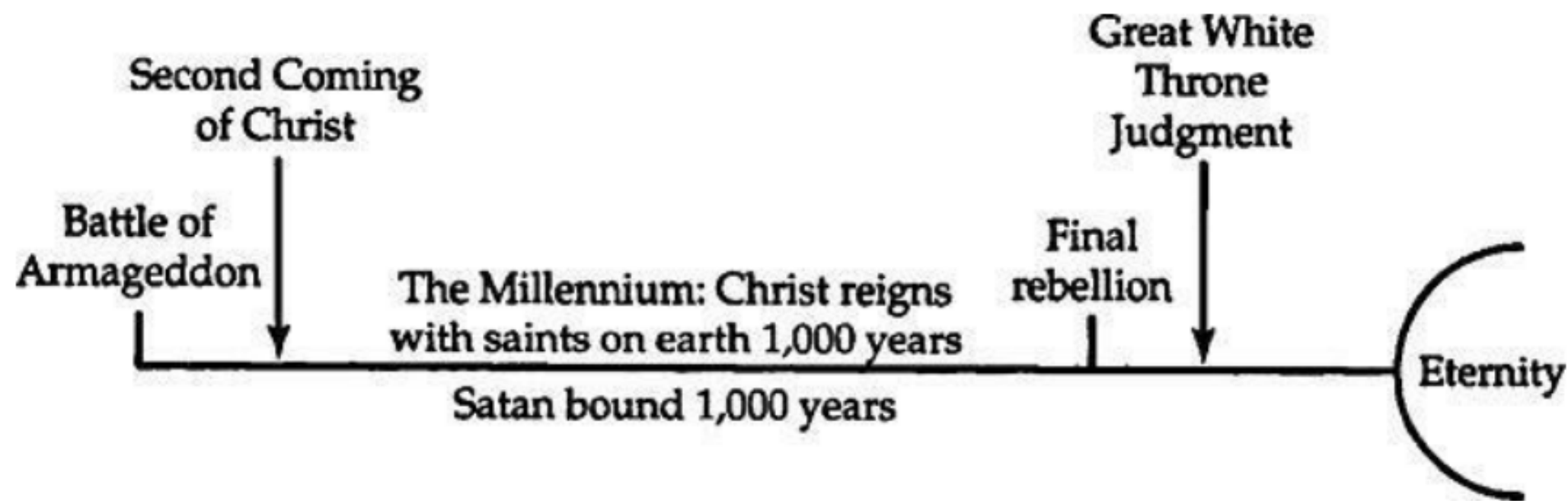


Creation → Covenant → Christ → Church →

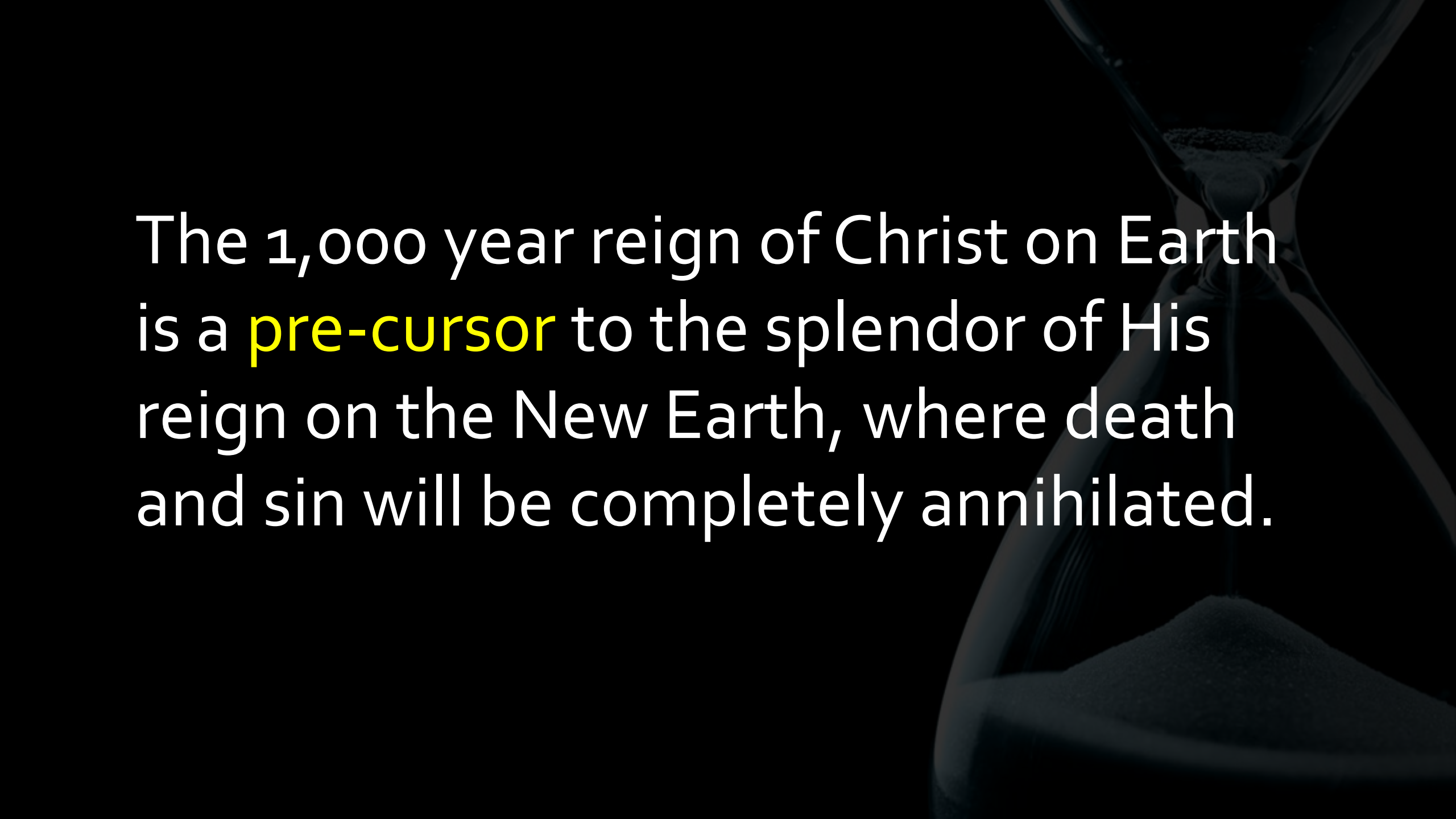


The Thousand Years

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit^[a] and a heavy chain in his hand. ² He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. ³ The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.



⁴ Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

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.

The 1,000 year reign of Christ on Earth
is a **pre-cursor** to the splendor of His
reign on the New Earth, where death
and sin will be completely annihilated.

The Defeat of Satan

⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The Final Judgment

11 And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. **12** I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. **13** The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave^[b] gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. **14** Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. **15** And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

The New Jerusalem

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.^[a] ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

22 I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23** And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. **24** The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. **25** Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. **26** And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. **27** Nothing evil^[f] will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

²⁰ He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!"

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

God's Plan of Redemption



Creation → Covenant → Christ → Church → Consummation

New Heavens & Earth