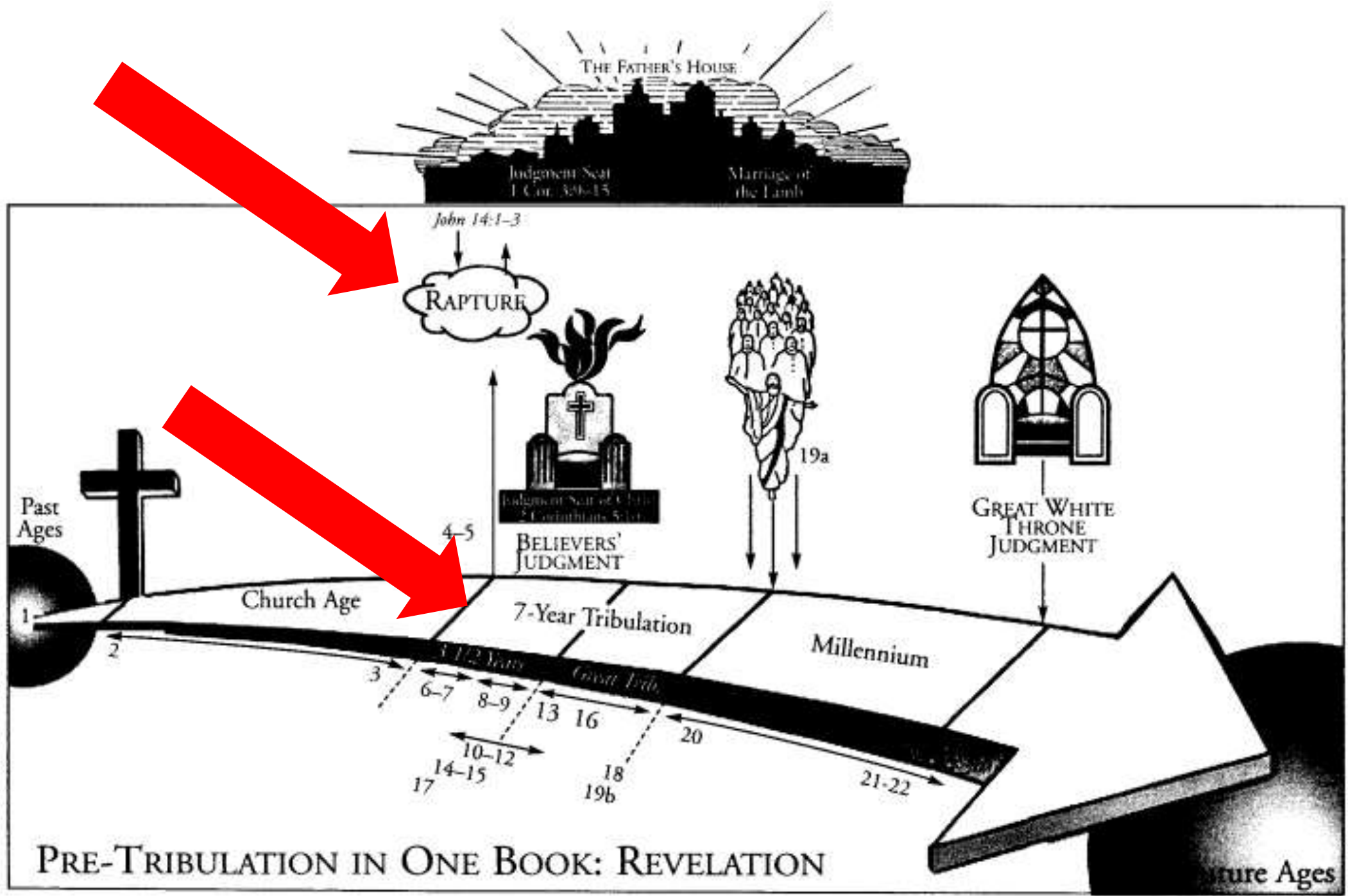
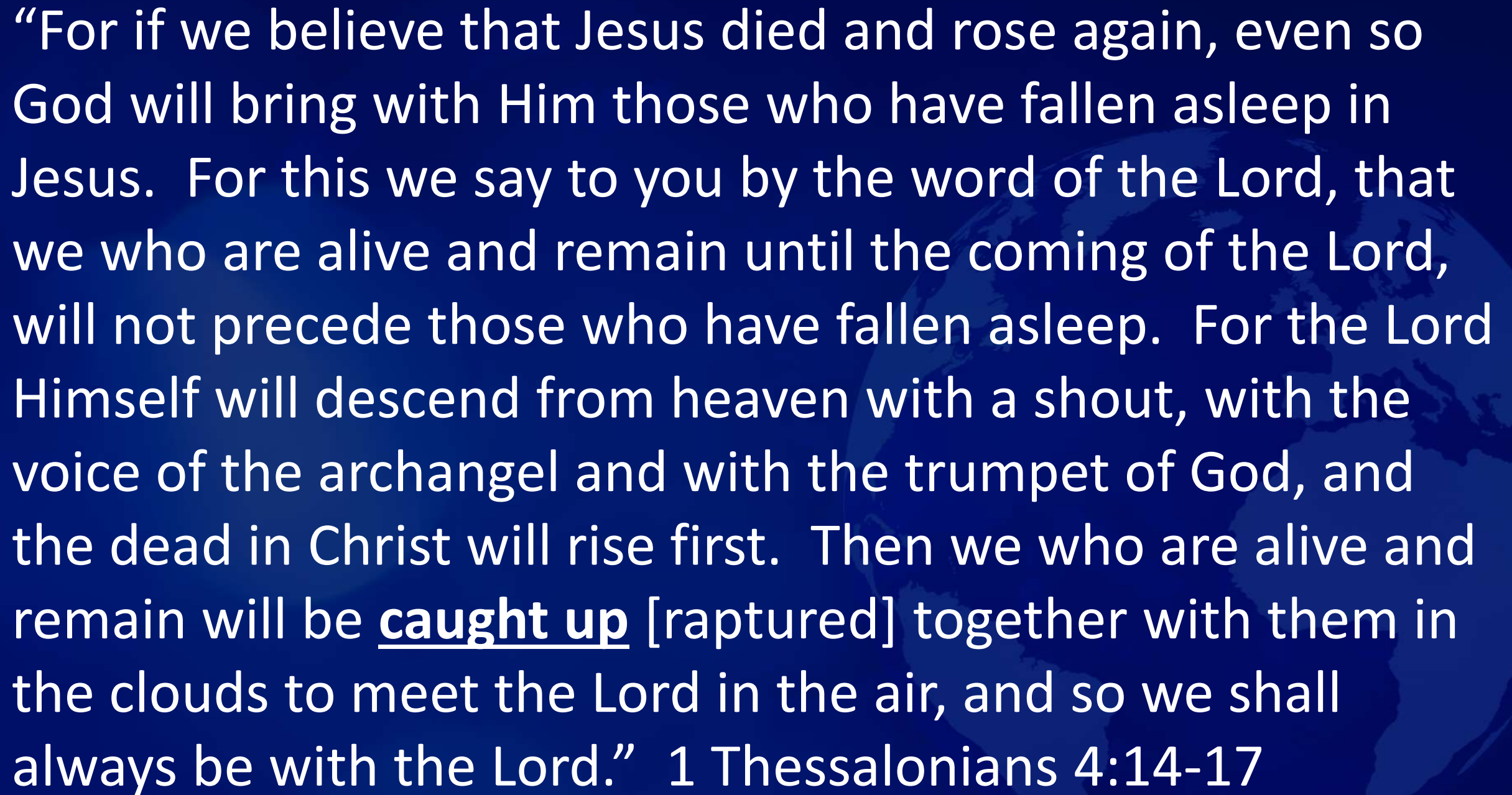


PROPHECY in the NEWS

- ✓ A **world** facing troubles.
- ✓ A **people** needing answers.
- ✓ A **God** offering promises.



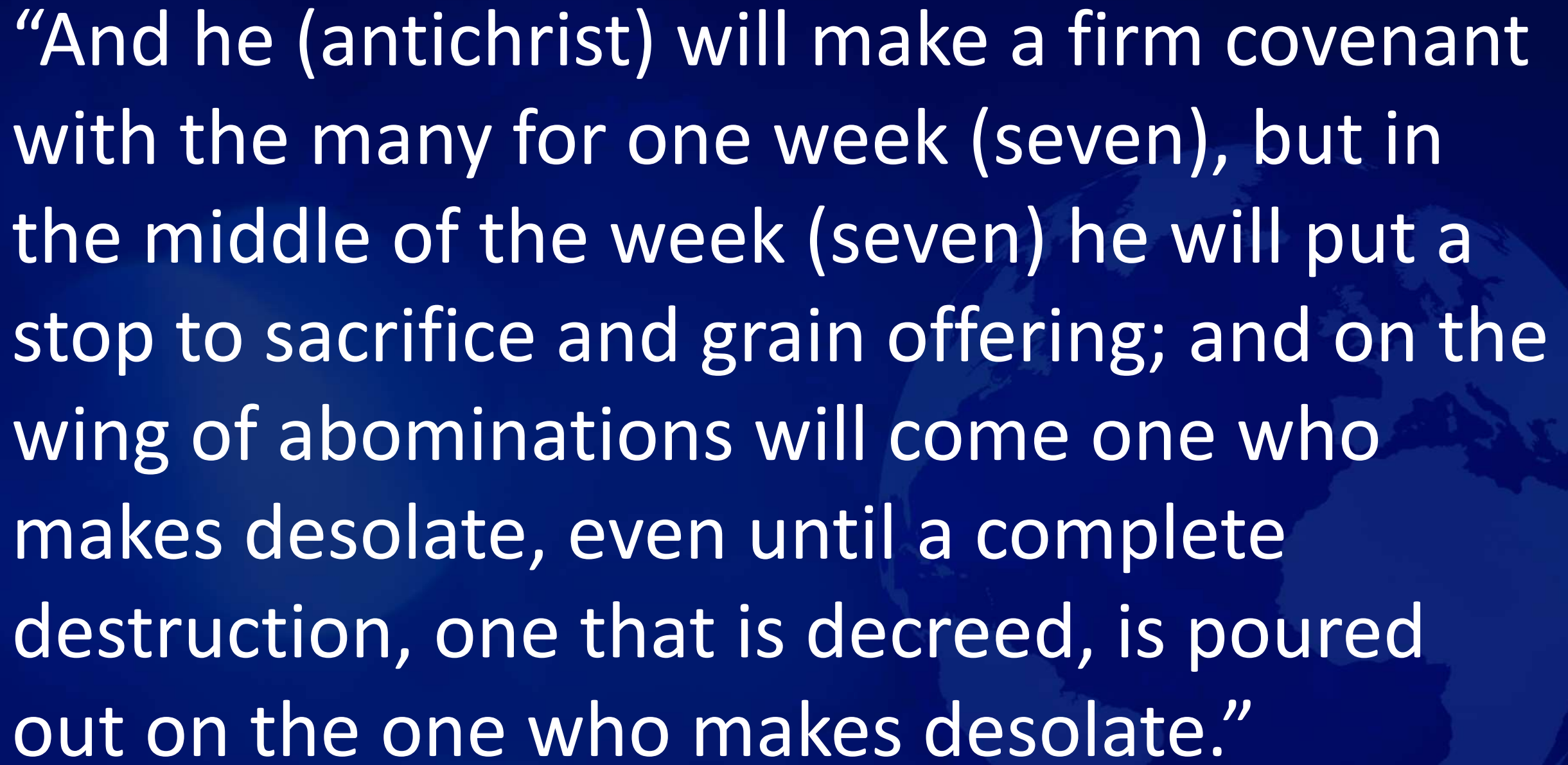
Future Ages



“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up [raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

Apostle John wrote, “Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.” 1 John 2:18

“Anti”=opposed to, against, in the place of, a substitute for; He will be both opposed to God and a substitute for God. This man will pretend to be the Messiah.



“And he (antichrist) will make a firm covenant with the many for one week (seven), but in the middle of the week (seven) he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

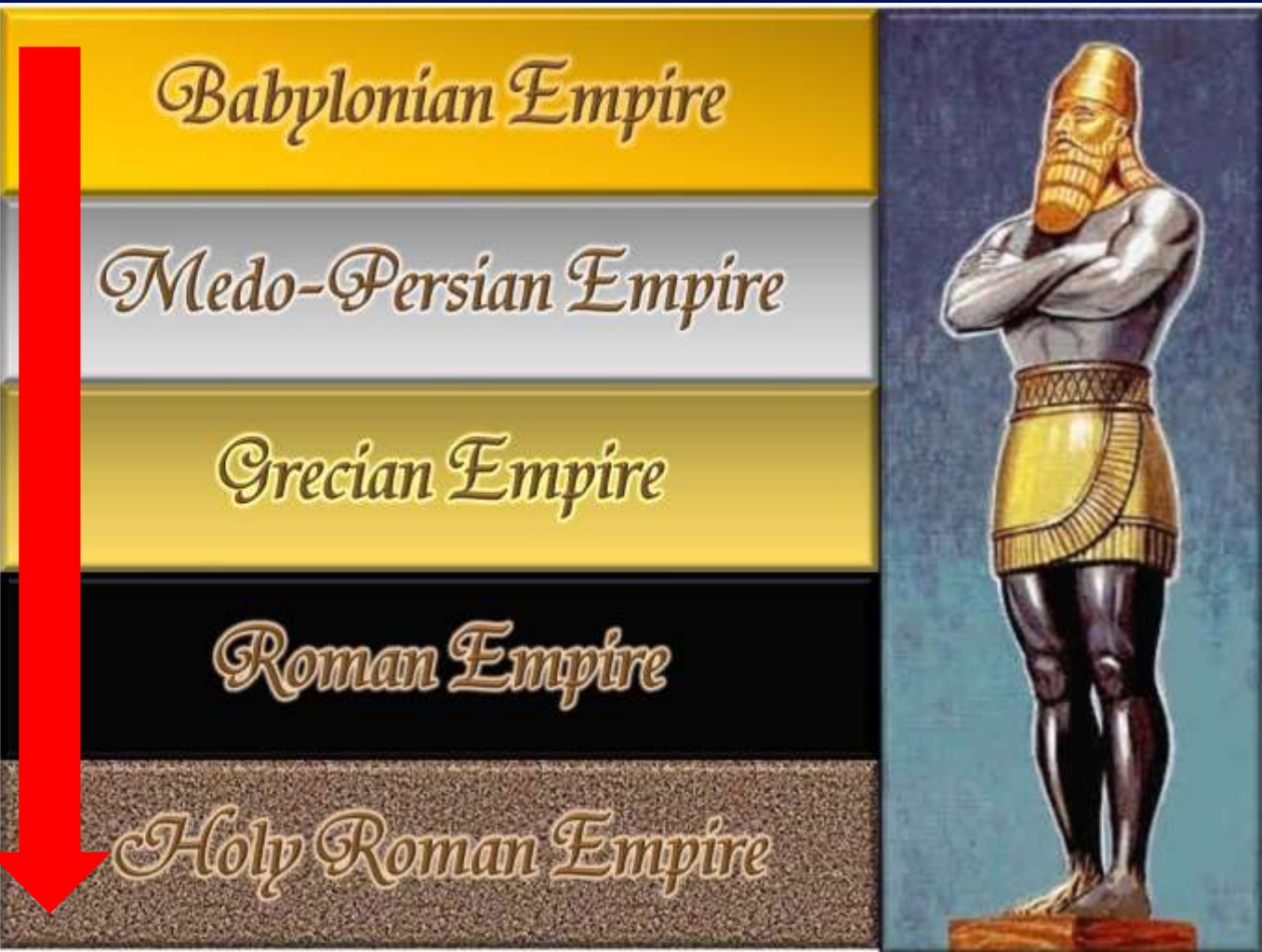
Daniel 9:27

“There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months (*3 ½ years*) was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.” Revelation 13:5-7

In the study of Bible prophecy, there are often instances of near-term fulfillment and long-term fulfillment.

That concept is true in the prophecies regarding the man who will be described as “antichrist.”

Around 600 BC, Daniel interprets the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar as described in Daniel chapter 2



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

Head of Gold ASSYRIO-BABYLONISH MONARCHY THE LION (Nebuchadnezzar - Belchassar) 671 - 538 B.C.
Breast and Arms of Silver MEDO - PERSIAN EMPIRE THE BEAR (Cyrus and Darius) 538 - 331 B.C.
Belly and Thighs of Brass GRECO - MACEDONIAN KINGDOM THE LEOPARD (Alexander the Great) 331 - 160 B.C.
Legs of Iron THE GREAT ROMAN EMPIRE THE DRAGON (under the Caesars) 160 B.C. - 395 A.D.
Feet and Toes - Part Iron and Part Clay KINGDOMS OF THE (10) TOES 1. Italy 496 6. Portugal 1138 2. France 752 7. Prussia 1139 3. England 803 8. Austria 1159 4. Belgium 806 9. Spain 1179 5. Holland 922 10. Greece 1829 496 - 1829 A.D.

Nebuchadnezzar was a warrior-king, often described as the greatest military leader of the Neo-Babylonian empire. He ruled from 605 – 562 BC in the area around the Tigris-Euphrates basin.



The Medo-Persian Empire was an ancient Iranian empire that was based in Western Asia and founded by Cyrus the Great in 550 BC. It reached its greatest extent under Xerxes I, who conquered most of northern and central ancient Greece.

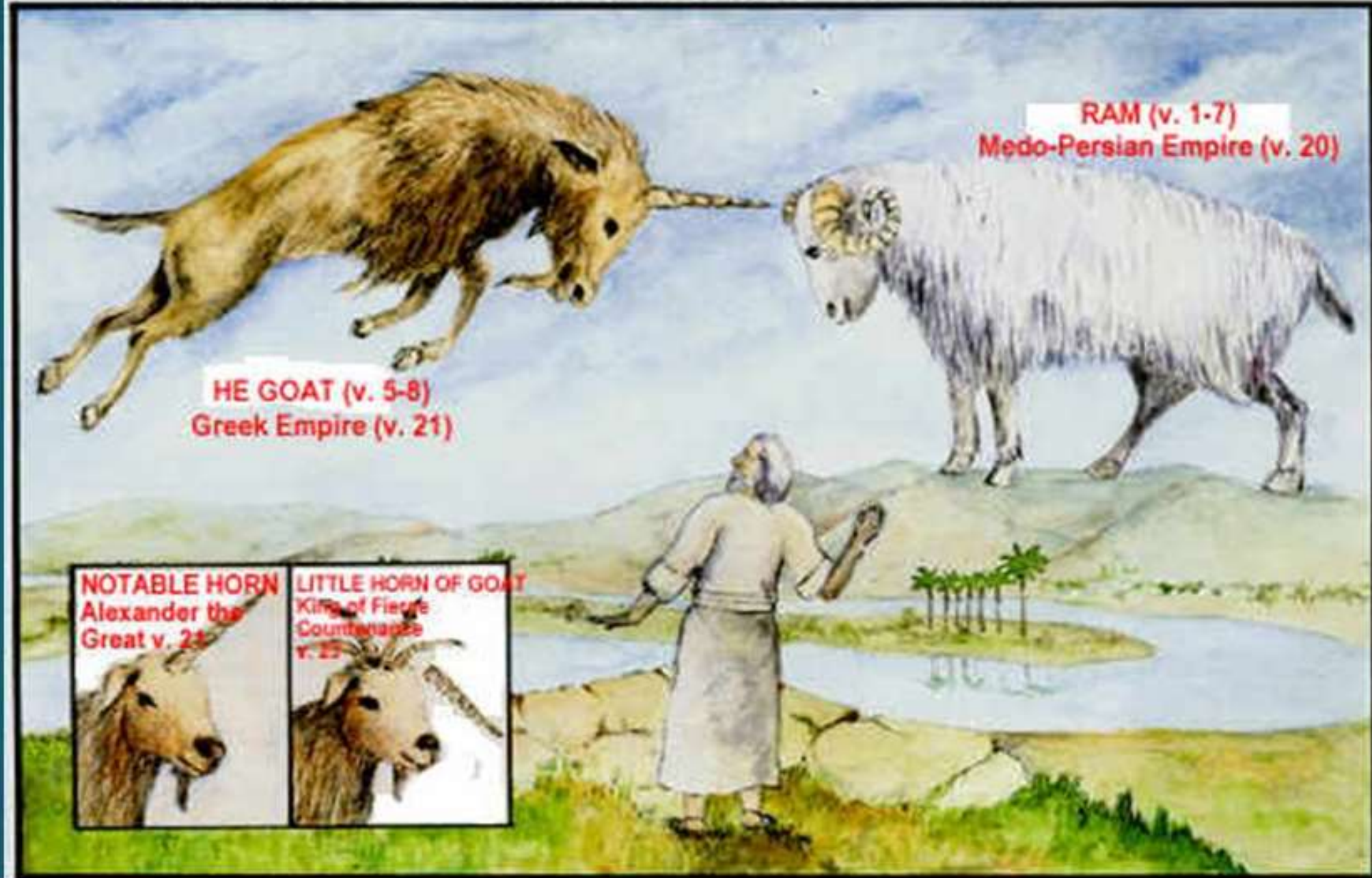
-wikipedia



In Daniel chapter 8, Daniel has a vision from God describing a goat with one horn (Greece) defeating the ram with two horns (Medes and Persians).

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LITTLE HORN OF THE GOAT

Daniel 8



Timeline of Writing of Bible Books

Genesis ca. 1446-1406 BC

Micah ca. 740-710 BC

Jeremiah ca. 585-580 BC

Isaiah ca. 700-680 BC

Hosea ca. 715 BC

Daniel ca. 600 BC

Mark ca. 50-70 AD

Luke ca. 59-63 AD

Colossians ca. 60-62 AD

Matthew ca. 70-80 AD

John ca. 80-95 AD

Intertestamental Period

**Birth of Jesus occurred
in approx. 4 BC**

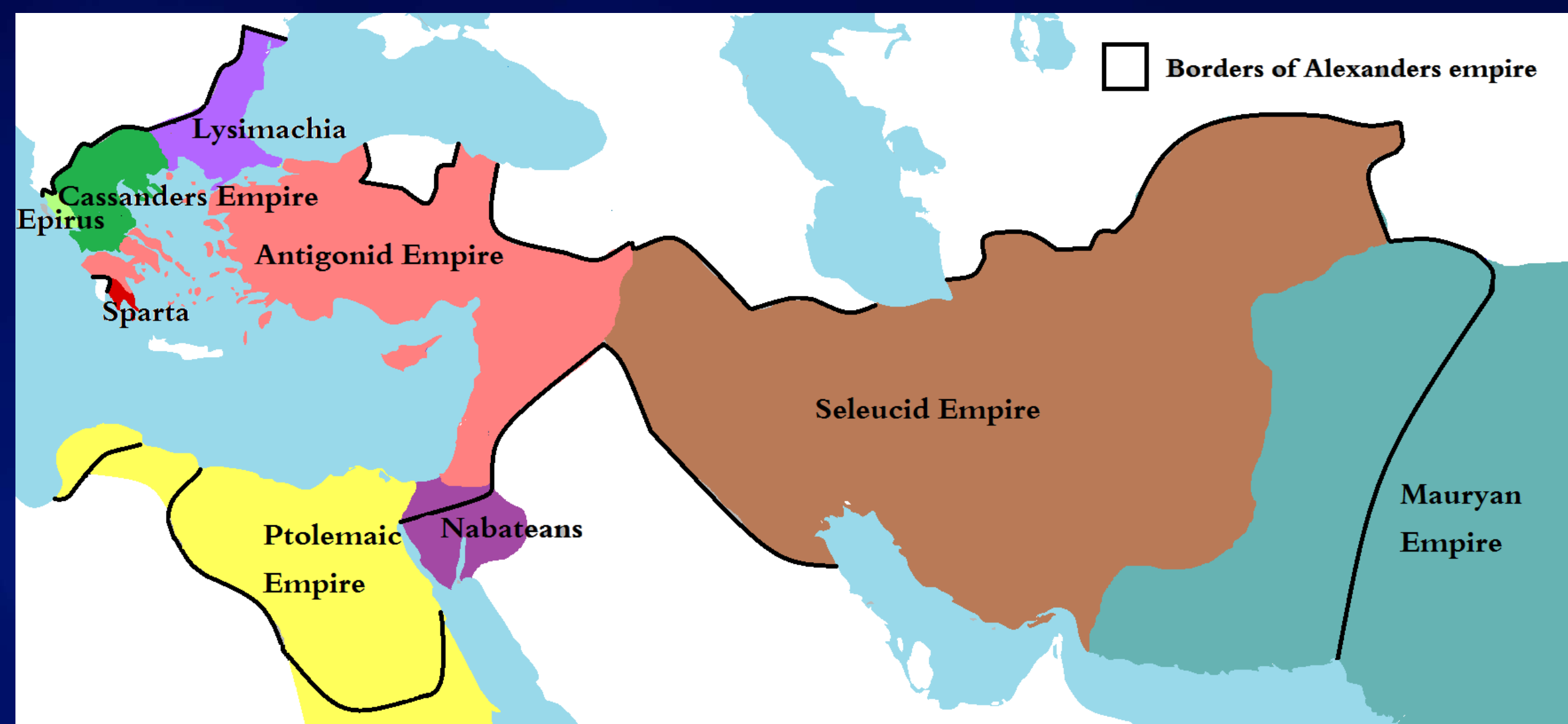




Empire of Alexander the Great (334-323 BC)

In 332 BC,
Alexander the
Great visits
Israel and the
Temple in
Jerusalem. He is
welcomed by
the Jewish High
Priest, Jeduah.





In Daniel chapter 11, Daniel has a vision from God describing the breakup of the Greek (Alexandrian) empire into four new empires.

“And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece. And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases. But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his own descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded, for his sovereignty will be uprooted and given to others besides them. Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with one of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain will be a great dominion indeed.”

Daniel 11:2-5

In 175-164 BC, a Seleucid (Greco-Syrian) emperor named Antiochus IV rose to power across the Middle East. As prophesied in portions of Daniel 7-12, he sought to rule the known world as one people.

Antiochus Epiphanes made it illegal to preach or teach the Word, on punishment of death. With widespread murderous tortures, he aimed to destroy the worship of Israel's God and biblical faith. The crisis reached its tipping point when Antiochus Epiphanes committed an abomination of desolation in the Holy Temple (see Daniel 9:27).



Antiochus attacked Jerusalem in 167 BC and killed 40,000 Jews and sold another 40,000 into slavery. He banned all Jewish traditions, feast days, dietary laws, customs, study of Torah, circumcision, and anything else held holy by the Jewish people upon penalty of death. He set up a statue of Zeus in the Holy Temple, the first abomination of desolation, and defiled the Temple by sacrificing swine and other pagan offerings on the altar. Antiochus committed horrendous actions against the children of Israel and God. These actions gave rise to the Maccabean revolt, which was led by the five sons of the priest Mattityahu, and especially his son Judah "the Hammer" Maccabee.



Once the Temple was restored, Maccabees declared an eight day feast of dedication, which is what the word Hanukkah means – to dedicate. According to the Talmud, pure olive oil was necessary for the Temple menorah. Since the seven-branch menorah represented the presence of God, it was required to always stay illuminated. However, according to tradition, there was only one flask available with enough oil to only burn one day, and the priests needed eight days to prepare a fresh supply of kosher oil. Miraculously, the one flask of oil kept burning for eight days. To commemorate this miracle, the Jewish sages established the eight-day festival of Hanukkah.



Why is the menorah important?

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Command the sons of Israel that they bring to you clear oil from beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually. Outside the veil of testimony in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the Lord continually; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations. He shall keep the lamps in order on the pure gold lampstand before the Lord continually.”

Leviticus 24:1-4

God staked His reputation on His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when He vowed to preserve and sustain their descendants forever. No wonder Satan has attempted to annihilate the Jews throughout history!

Antiochus was one of Satan's agents in his diabolical scheme to destroy the Jews and so make God a liar! In fact, the prophet Daniel predicted the wicked deeds of Antiochus (Daniel 8-11) and even depicted him as a type of the anti-Christ, the beast of Revelation 13.

John 10



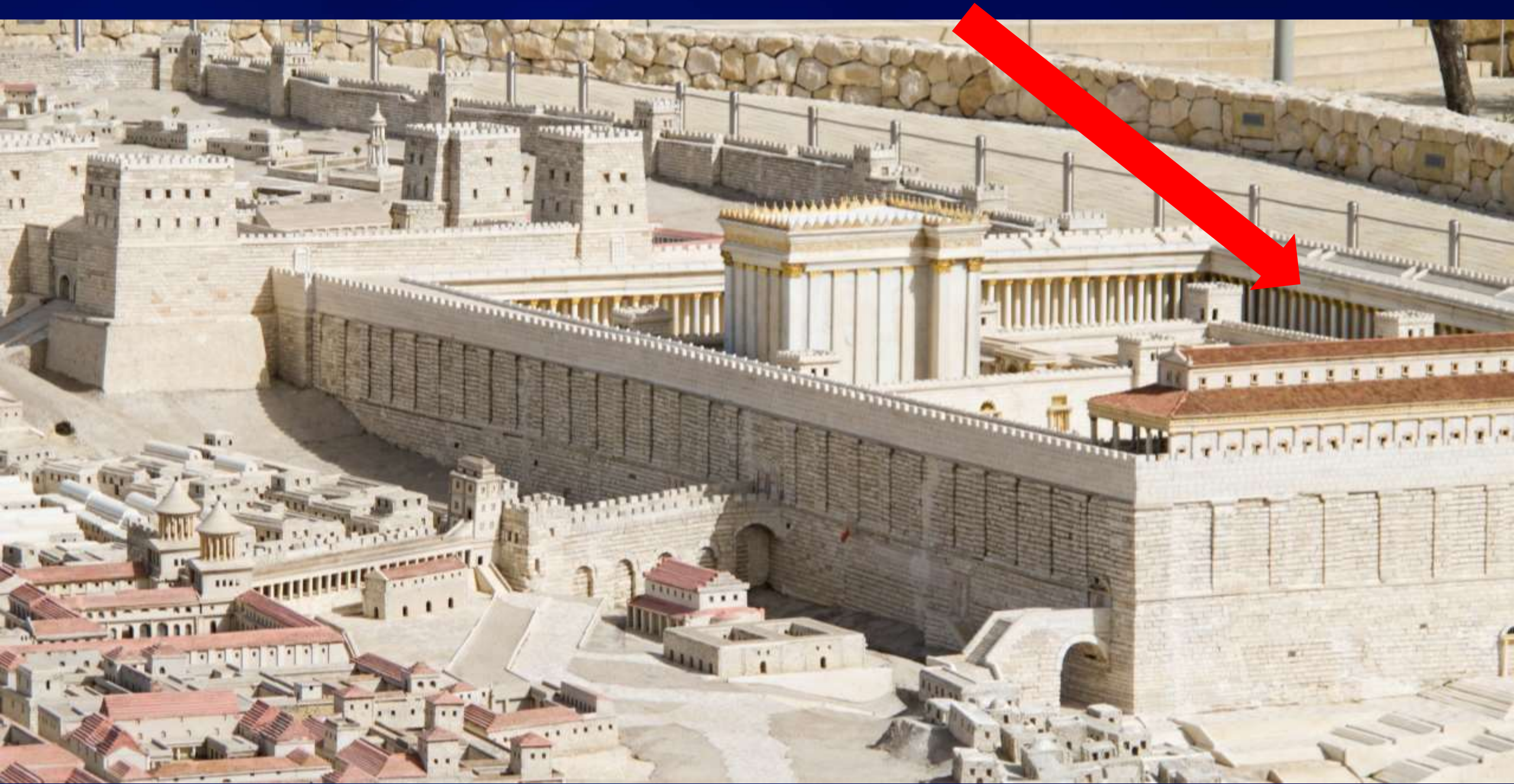
(Around 29 or 30 AD)

At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.

John 10:22-23

- “Dedication” in Greek is the word egkainia ἐγκαίνια; in Hebrew the word is hanukkah חַנּוּכָּה
- This holiday is mentioned specifically only in the New Testament in the context of the ministry of Jesus

Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. John 10:23



Now we know WHERE this conversation took place (Solomon's Portico in the Temple) and WHEN this conversation took place (during Celebration of Hanukkah)...

The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ [Messiah], tell us plainly." John 10:24

Jesus is being asked this question during Hannukah near the Eastern gate of the Temple Mount, the place where Ezekiel prophesied that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem.

- Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces the east; and it was shut. The Lord said to me, “This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.” Ezekiel 44:1-2 (written approx. 590 B.C.)
- In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. Zechariah 14:4

What did Jesus teach on Hanukkah?

Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me.” John 10:25

If Jesus really was the Messiah they reasoned, He had the power to preserve the Jewish people from the tyranny of the Romans, just as God had preserved them from evil Antiochus and the Greeks.

The popular picture of the Messiah in Jesus' time was that He would be a "super-Maccabee," a warrior who would destroy Israel's enemies and bring in everlasting peace. What better time than Hanukkah to ask Jesus to "come right out with it" if He were the Messiah, and to show it by His actions.

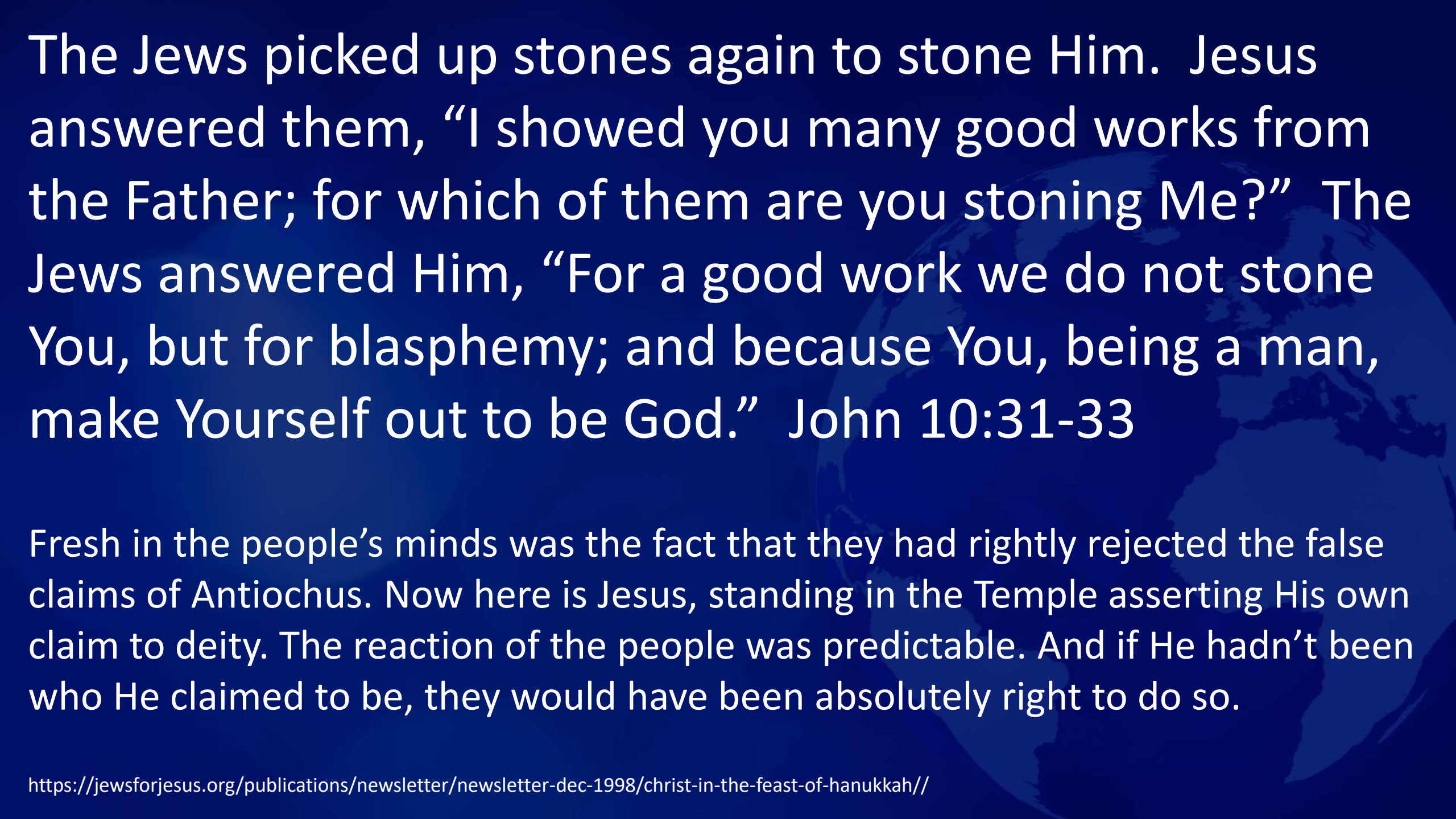
Jesus' response was that He already made it clear by His actions, which were not those of a super-Maccabee but of a healer and teacher. Jesus was the kind of Messiah who, rather than destroying Rome, went to His death to atone for our sins and subsequently rose from the dead.

Jesus answered them, “But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” John 10:26-28

They were looking for salvation from an earthly deliverer from earthly problems. Jesus spoke of eternal life. – Doug Hershey

Jesus said, “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” John 10:29-30

- “I and the Father are one”... this was the “plain answer” that the religious leaders had asked for.
- This does not suggest that the Father and the Son are identical persons. Rather, it means that they are one in essence: the Father is God and the Son is God, but the Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Father. He is speaking about unity, not identity.

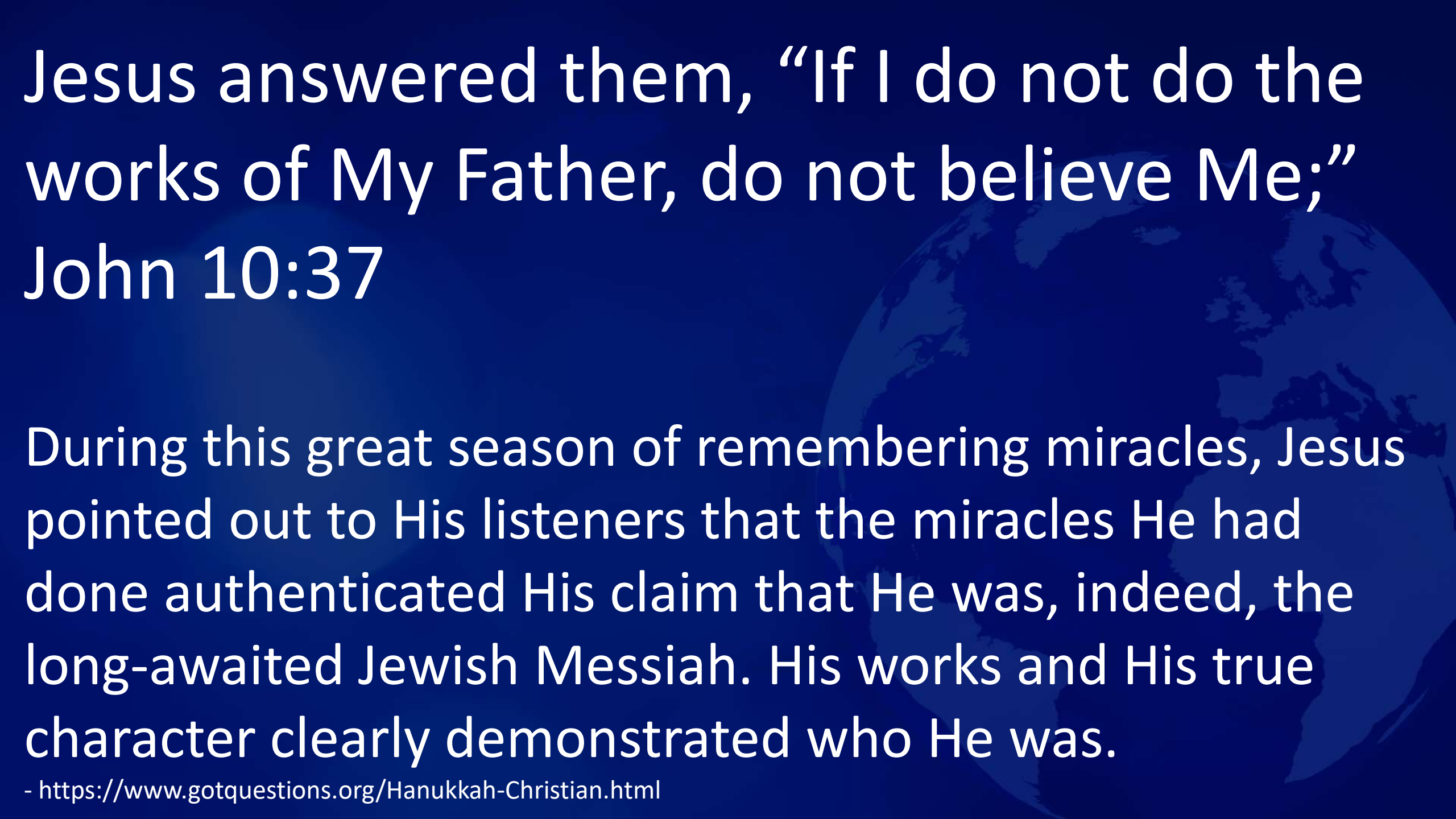


The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.” John 10:31-33

Fresh in the people’s minds was the fact that they had rightly rejected the false claims of Antiochus. Now here is Jesus, standing in the Temple asserting His own claim to deity. The reaction of the people was predictable. And if He hadn’t been who He claimed to be, they would have been absolutely right to do so.

Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in the Law, ‘I said, you are gods’ [see Psalm 82:6]? If he called them [human judges] gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?” John 10:34-36

Note regarding Psalm 82: The human judges under God’s indictment roam the earth without spiritual or intellectual understanding and in moral darkness so that the foundations of the earth are shaken, that is, law and order are undermined. God warned the wicked judges that they will perish. He had appointed them as “gods” and as sons of the Most High, His representatives on earth. But despite their exalted position, they were held accountable by God. - Bible Knowledge Commentary



Jesus answered them, “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;”
John 10:37

During this great season of remembering miracles, Jesus pointed out to His listeners that the miracles He had done authenticated His claim that He was, indeed, the long-awaited Jewish Messiah. His works and His true character clearly demonstrated who He was.

Jesus said, “but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” John 10:38

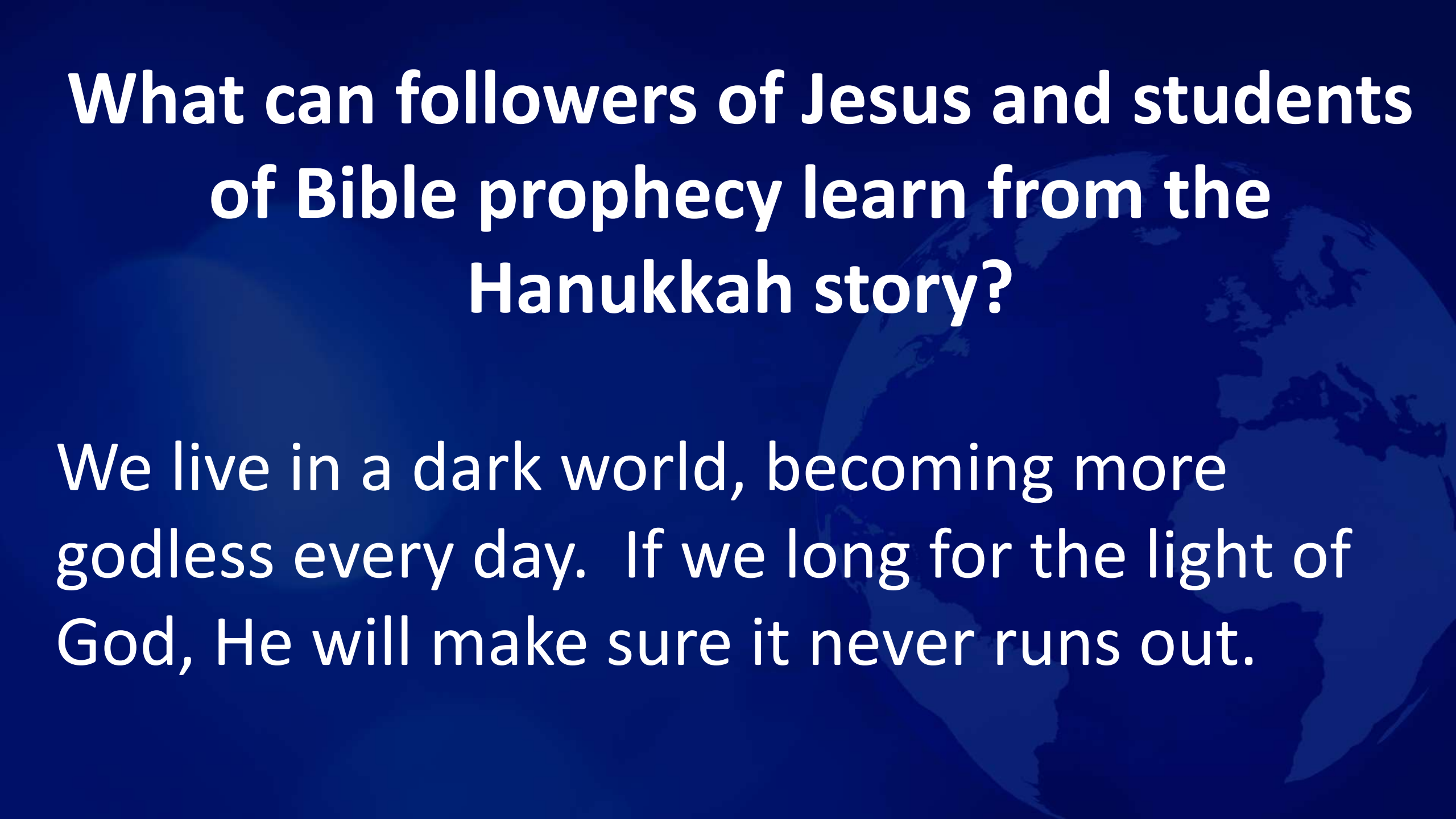
- God the Father sent God the Son to be the long-awaited Messiah.
- When did Jesus declare this truth? During Hannukah.

The Celebration of Hannukah

- Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication, begins on the 25th day of Kislev.
- On Hanukkah families light the *hanukkiah* each night at sunset and recite a blessing.
- On each successive night families light an additional candle, using a ninth candle, the *shammash* (“servant”, the center candle, mounted above the others) to light each one.
- The ideal location of the menorah is outside the house or next to the entrance from the street to the house in order to publicize the miracle in the public domain.
- The purpose of the Hanukkah candles is to illuminate the darkness.



Photo taken in 1931 in Kiel, Germany, a small town with a Jewish population of 500.



What can followers of Jesus and students of Bible prophecy learn from the Hanukkah story?

We live in a dark world, becoming more godless every day. If we long for the light of God, He will make sure it never runs out.

In today's culture, as Christmas approaches, as Hanukkah begins, the world needs the light of God.

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying...

“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” John 8:12



Do you know Jesus,
the Light of the world?