



**SHOCK
& AWE**





LEAD CLASS

Christianity & Politics

with Dr. Bruce Ashford
Oct 22 & 23 // Register Online



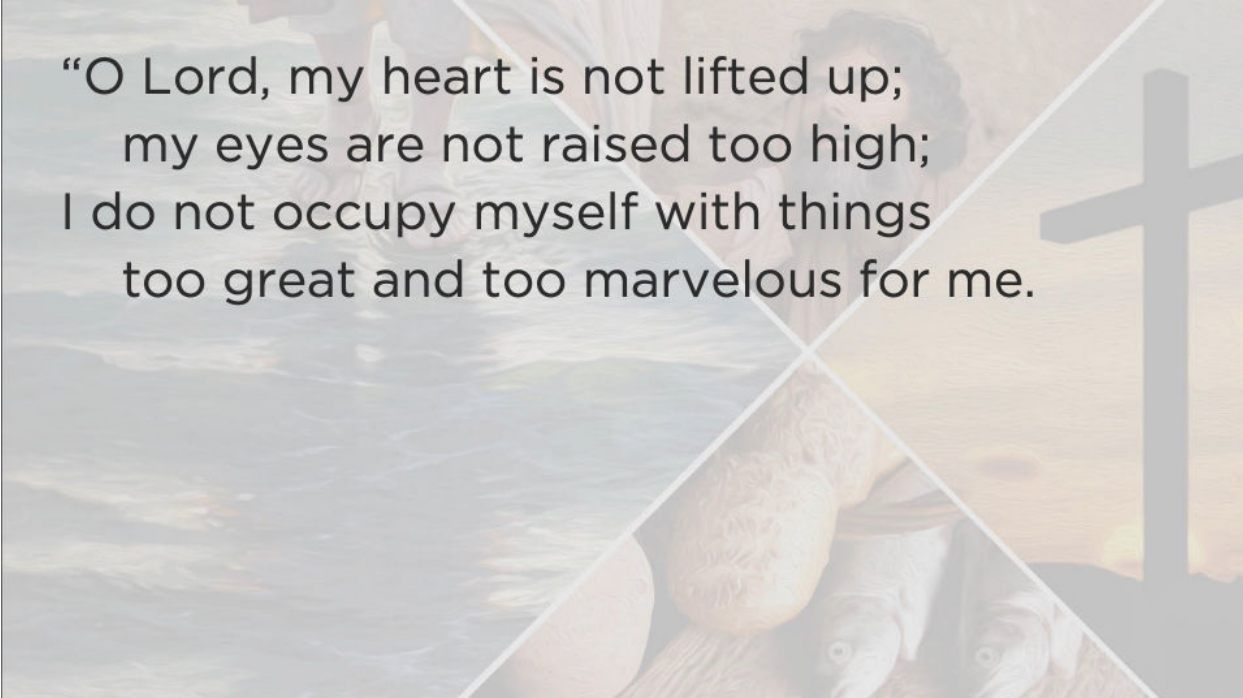
Bruce Ashford

LEAD CLASS

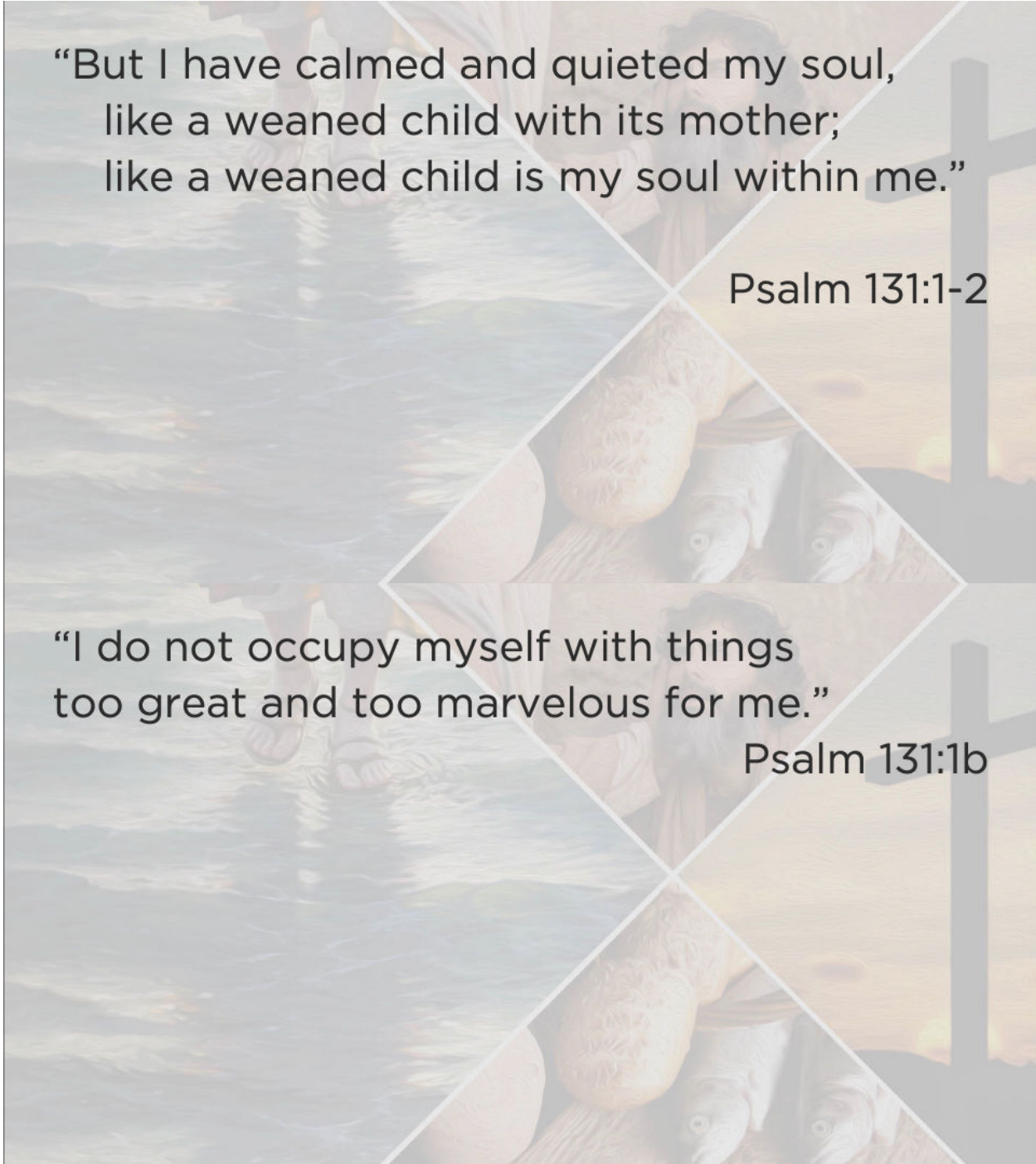
Christianity & Politics

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A composite image featuring a religious scene. On the left, a figure is shown in a boat on a body of water. On the right, a large cross is visible against a sunset or sunrise sky. In the foreground, several fish are shown, likely representing the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

“O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.

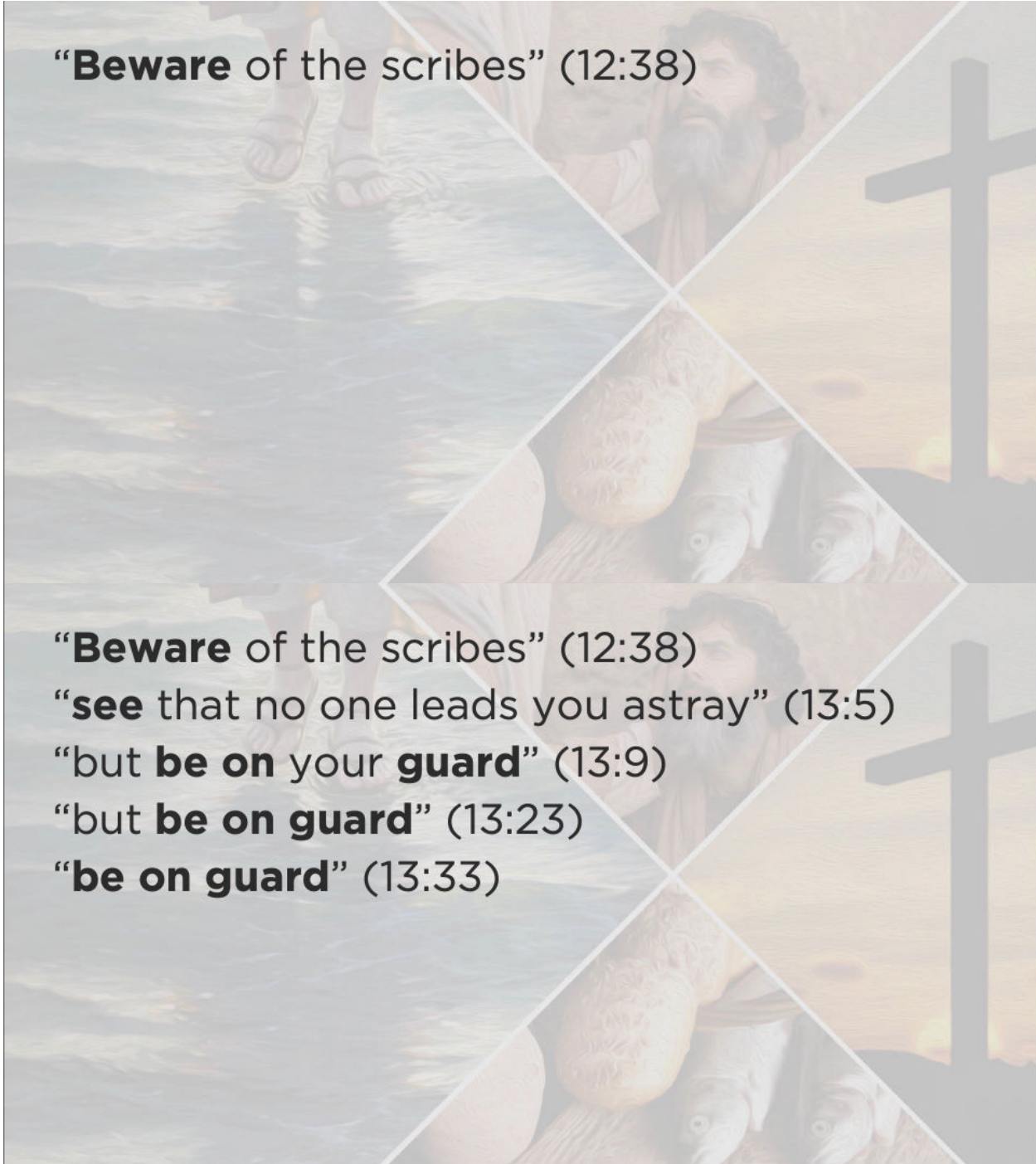


“But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.”

Psalm 131:1-2

“I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.”

Psalm 131:1b



“**Beware** of the scribes” (12:38)

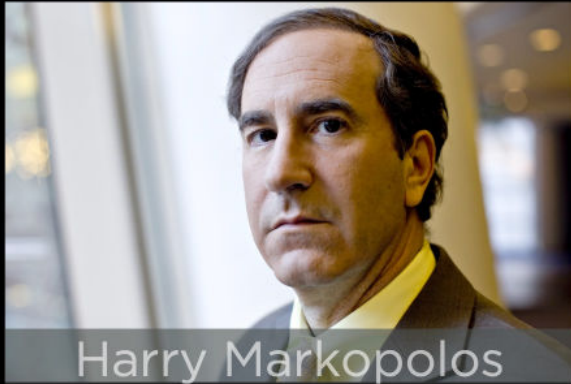
“**Beware** of the scribes” (12:38)

“**see** that no one leads you astray” (13:5)

“but **be on your guard**” (13:9)

“but **be on guard**” (13:23)

“**be on guard**” (13:33)

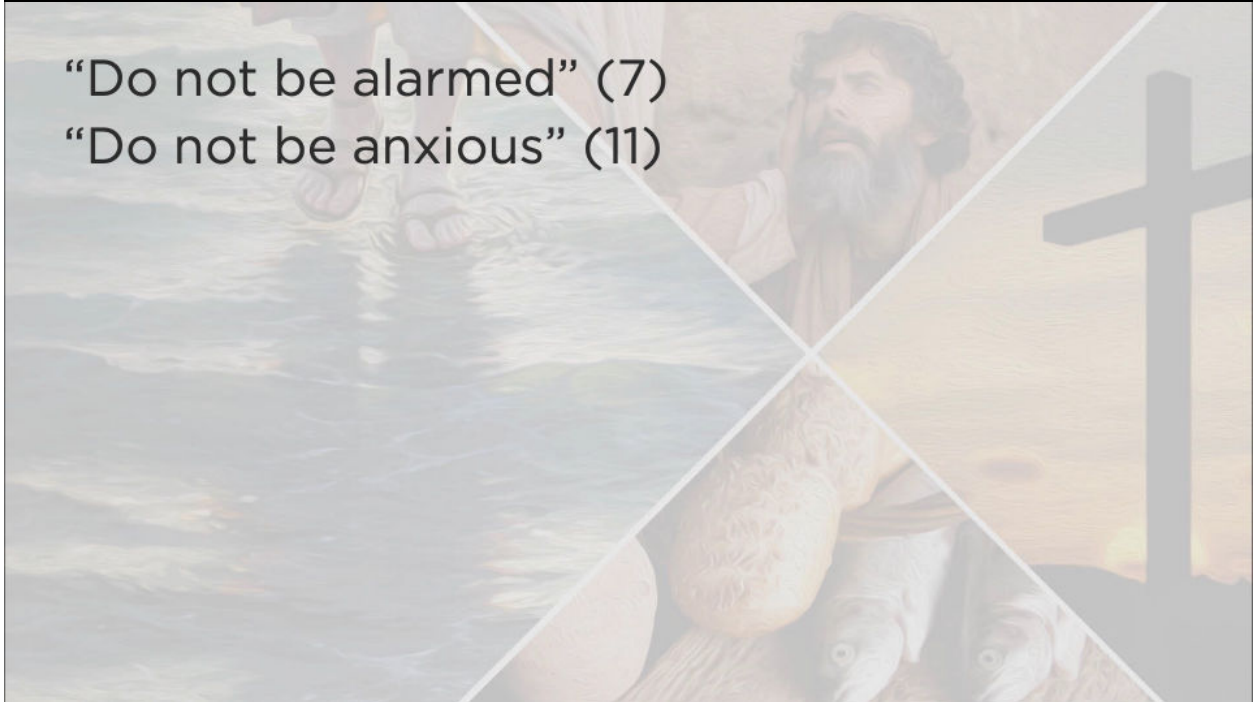


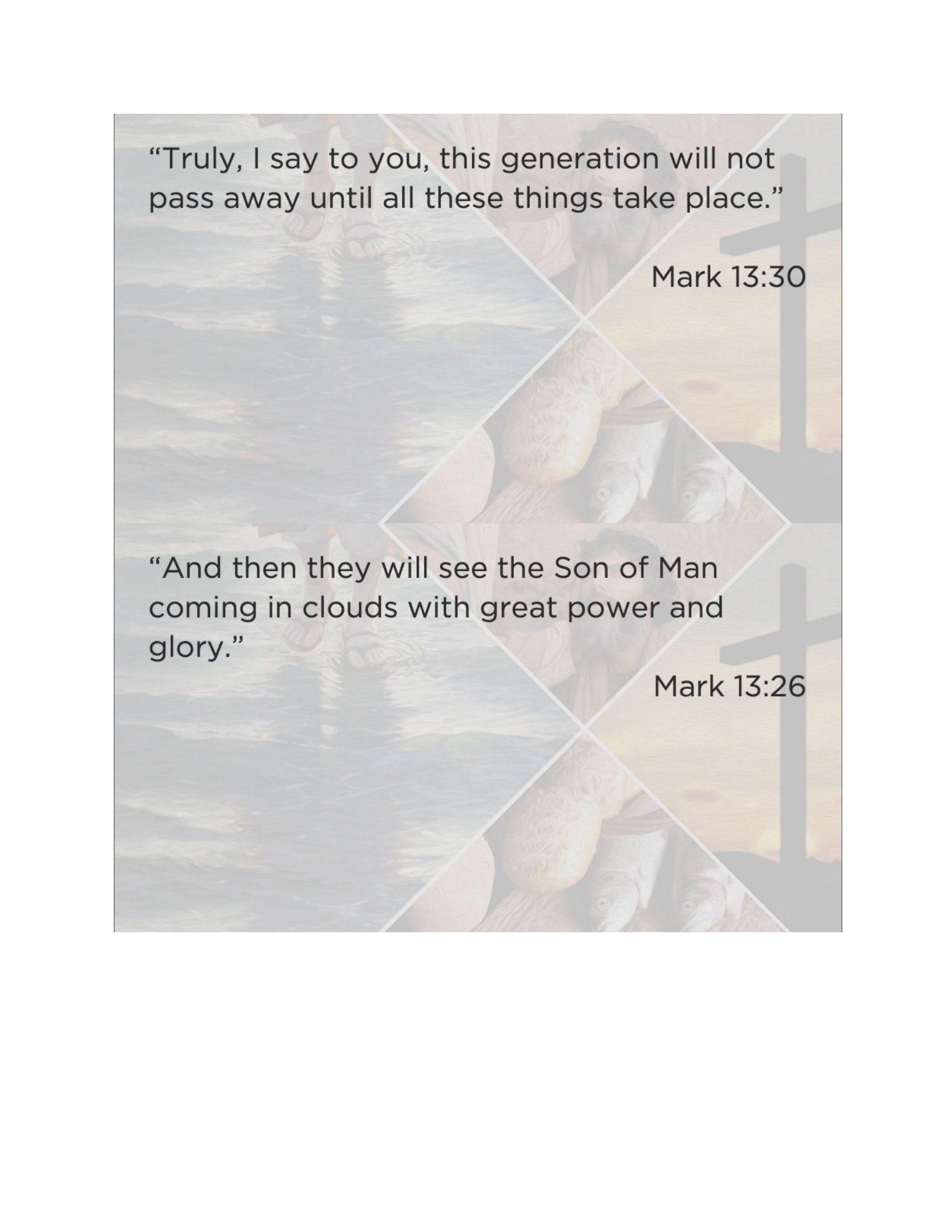
Harry Markopolos



Bernie Madoff

“Do not be alarmed” (7)
“Do not be anxious” (11)



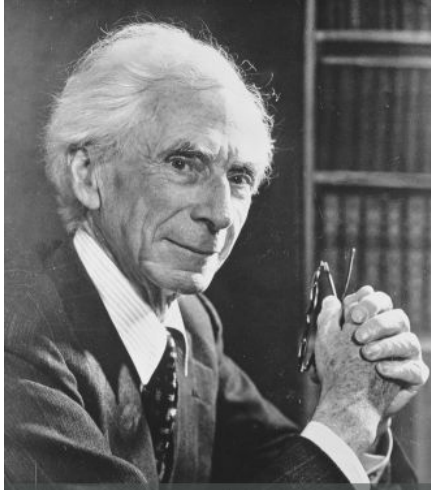
The background of the entire page is a composite image. On the left, there is a depiction of Jesus walking on water, with his feet visible above the surface. On the right, there is a silhouette of a cross against a sunset or sunrise sky. The two images are separated by a diagonal line that runs from the top-left to the bottom-right. The text is overlaid on this background.

“Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”

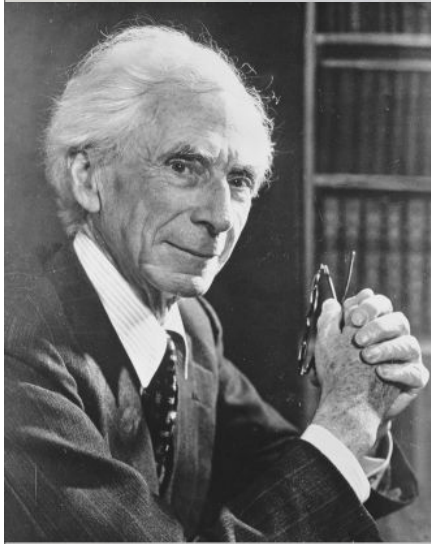
Mark 13:30

“And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.”

Mark 13:26

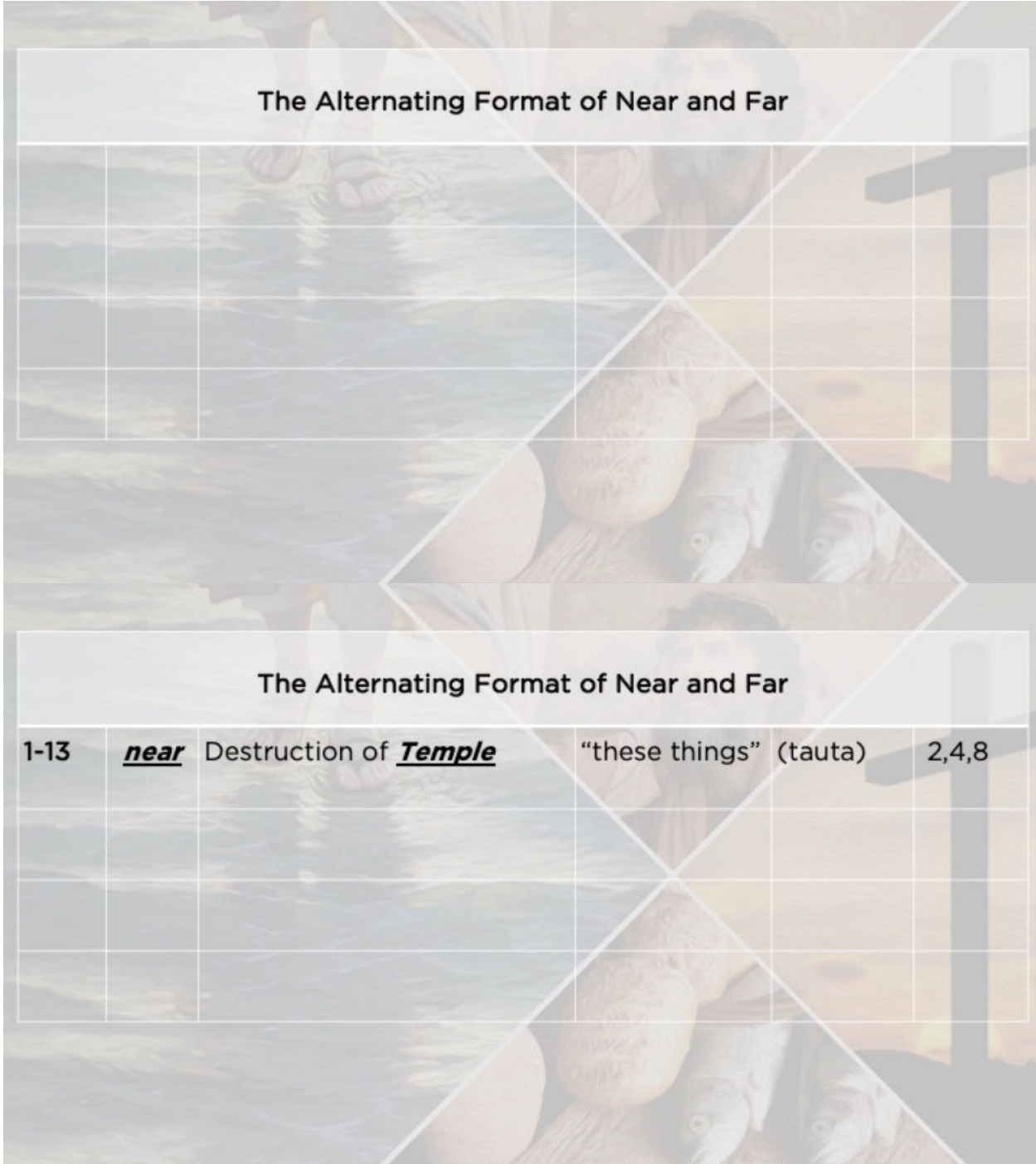


Bertrand Russell



“There are a lot of places where it is quite clear that he believed that his second coming would happen during the lifetime of many then living.”

Bertrand Russell

The background of the entire page is a faded, artistic image. It depicts Jesus Christ with a beard and long hair, wearing a brown robe. He is shown from the chest up, looking towards the viewer. To his right, a large, dark wooden cross is visible against a light, hazy sky. In the foreground, several fish are scattered on a wooden surface, likely a table or a boat's deck. The overall tone is somber and religious.

The Alternating Format of Near and Far

The Alternating Format of Near and Far

1-13	<u>near</u>	Destruction of <u>Temple</u>	“these things” (tauta)	2,4,8

The Alternating Format of Near and Far

1-13	<u>near</u>	Destruction of <u>Temple</u>	“these things” (tauta)	2,4,8
14-27	<u>far</u>	Tribulation + <u>2nd Coming</u>	“those days” (ekeinos)	17,19, 24,24

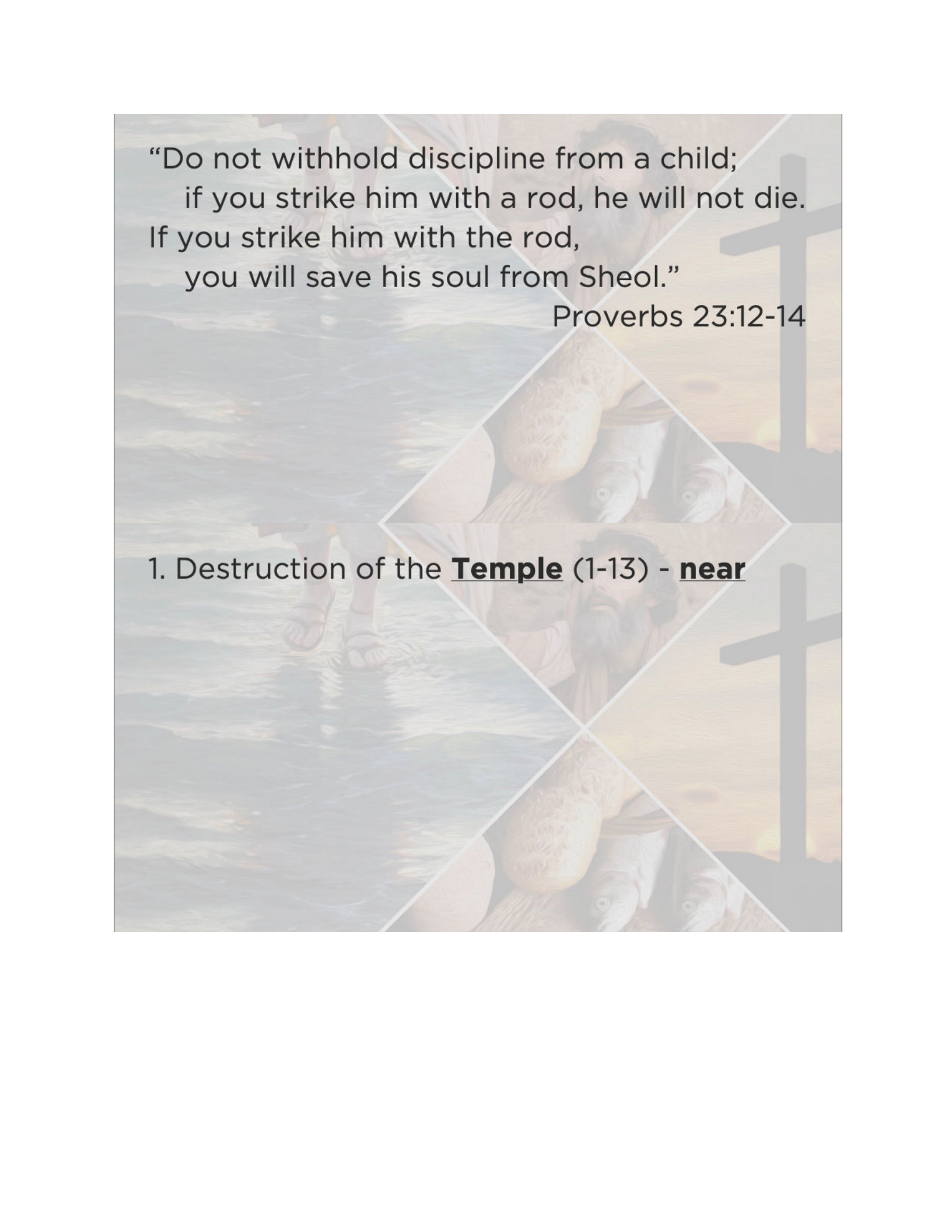
The Alternating Format of Near and Far

1-13	<u>near</u>	Destruction of <u>Temple</u>	“these things” (tauta)	2,4,8
14-27	<u>far</u>	Tribulation + <u>2nd Coming</u>	“those days” (ekeinos)	17,19, 24,24
28-31	<u>near</u>	Destruction of <u>Temple</u>	“these things” (tauta)	29,30, 30

The Alternating Format of Near and Far

1-13	<u>near</u>	Destruction of <u>Temple</u>	"these things" (tauta)	2,4,8
14-27	<u>far</u>	Tribulation + <u>2nd Coming</u>	"those days" (ekeinos)	17,19, 24,24
28-31	<u>near</u>	Destruction of <u>Temple</u>	"these things" (tauta)	29,30, 30
32-37	<u>far</u>	<u>Watchfulness</u> + 2 nd Coming	"that day" (ekeinos)	32

Why alternate?

The background features a collage of images. On the right side, there is a large, faint grey cross. In the center, there is a portrait of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a brown robe, looking upwards. The background also includes a depiction of a body of water with a boat and a person's legs visible. The overall tone is somber and religious.

“Do not withhold discipline from a child;
if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.
If you strike him with the rod,
you will save his soul from Sheol.”

Proverbs 23:12-14

1. Destruction of the **Temple** (1-13) - **near**

1. Destruction of the Temple (1-13) - near
2. Tribulation and **2nd Coming** (14-27) - **far**



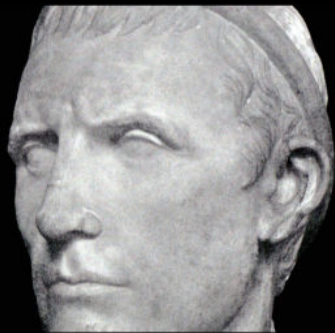
Antiochus IV
Epiphanes



Antiochus IV
Euphrosyne



Emperor
Caligula



Antiochus IV
Euphrosyne



Emperor
Caligula



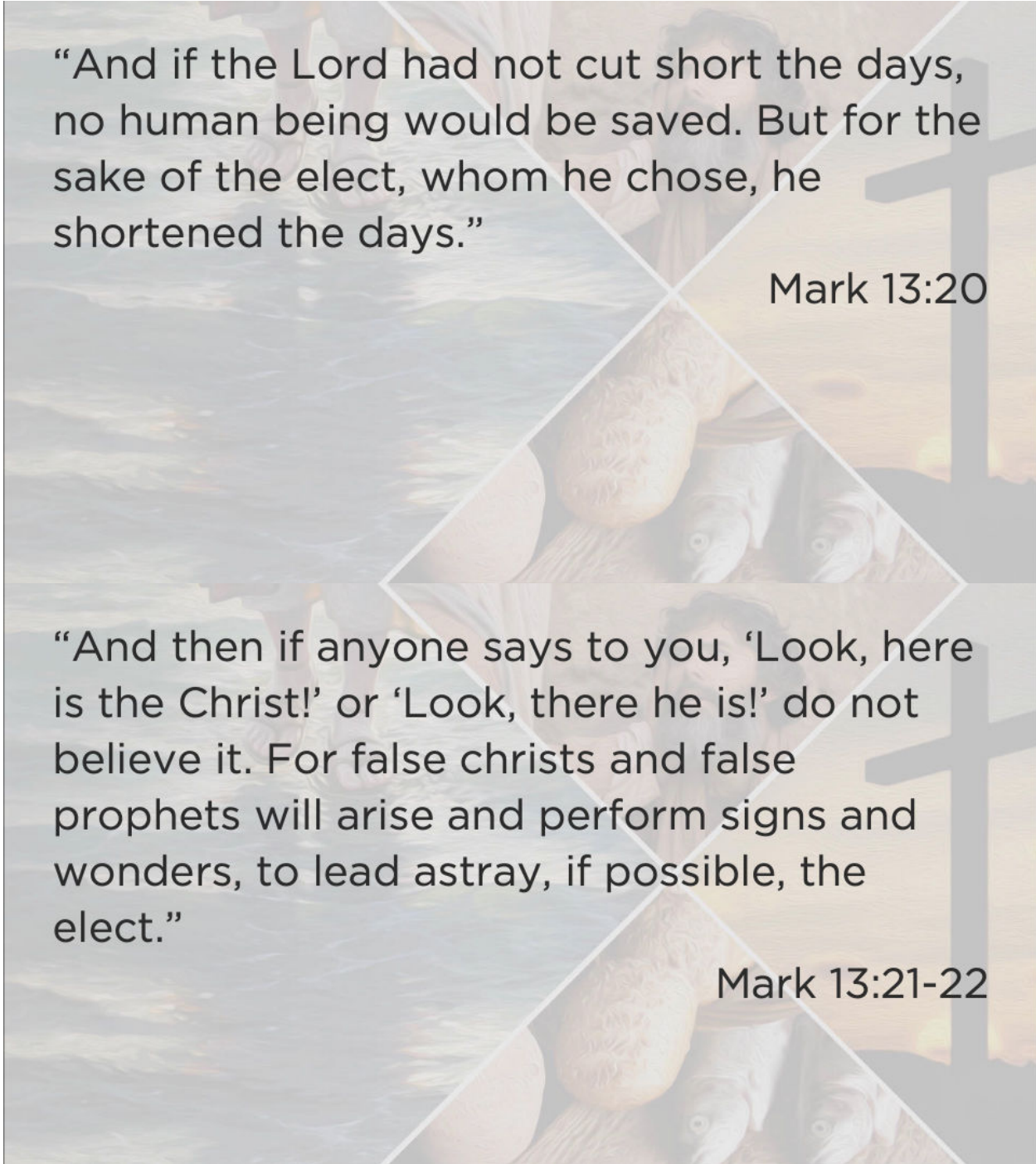
Titus



Siege of Jerusalem

“For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.”

Mark 13:19

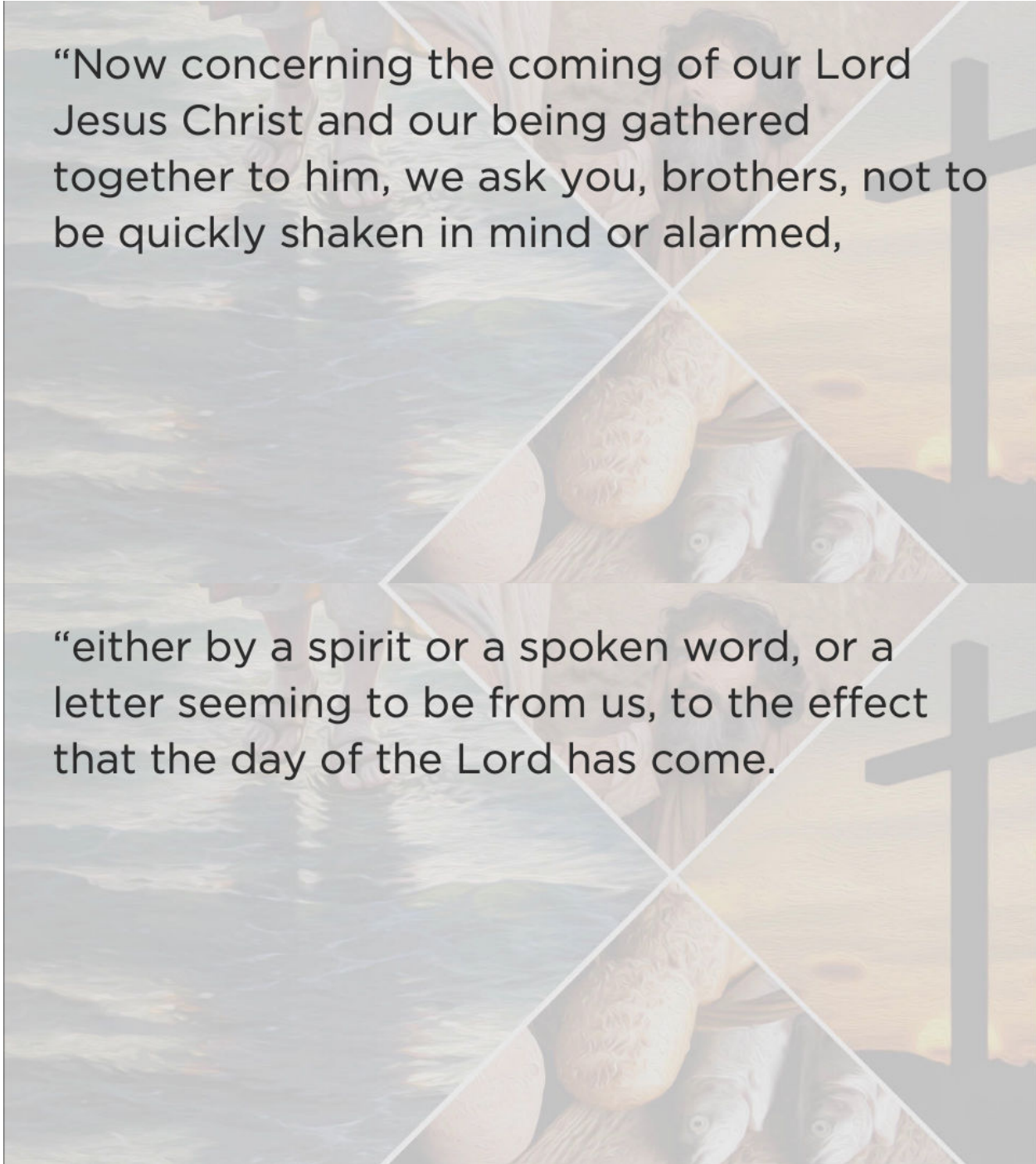
The background of the slide features a composite image. On the left, there is a depiction of a stormy sea with dark, turbulent waves. On the right, a large, faint cross is visible against a light, hazy background. In the center, there is a close-up of a fish, likely a carp, with its mouth open, as if being caught or held. The overall image has a soft, ethereal quality with a light color palette.

“And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.”

Mark 13:20

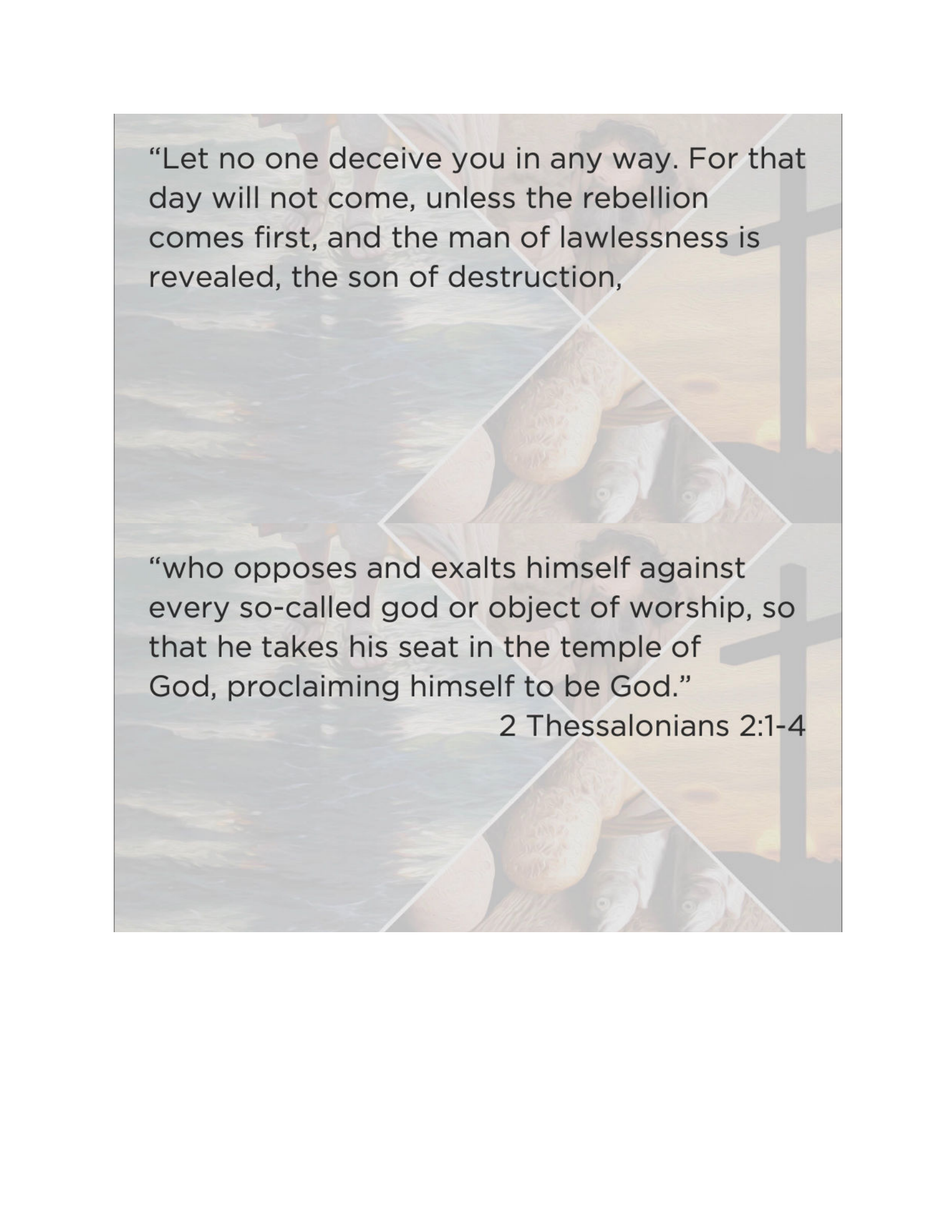
“And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.”

Mark 13:21-22



“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed,

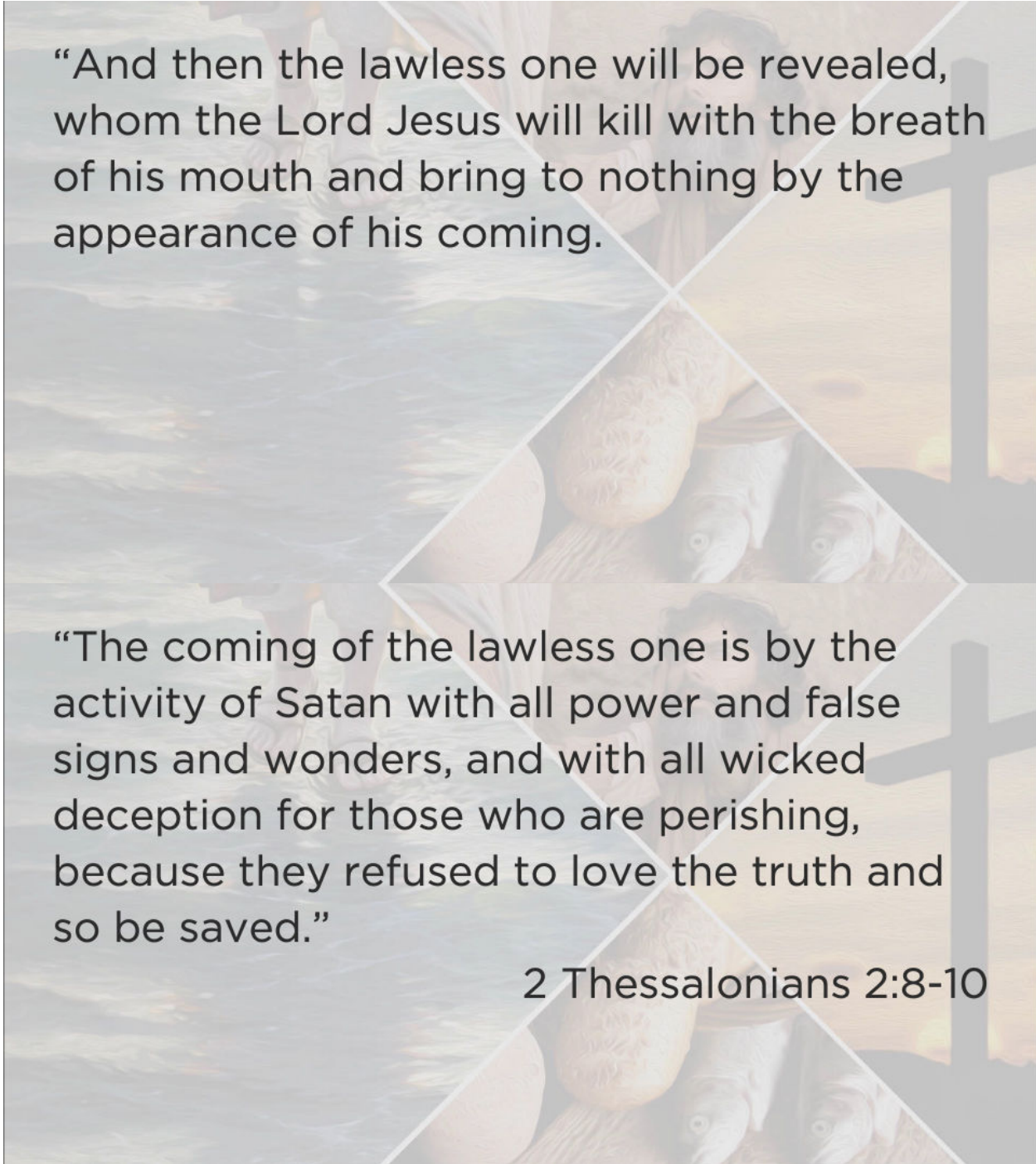
“either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.



“Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

“who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”

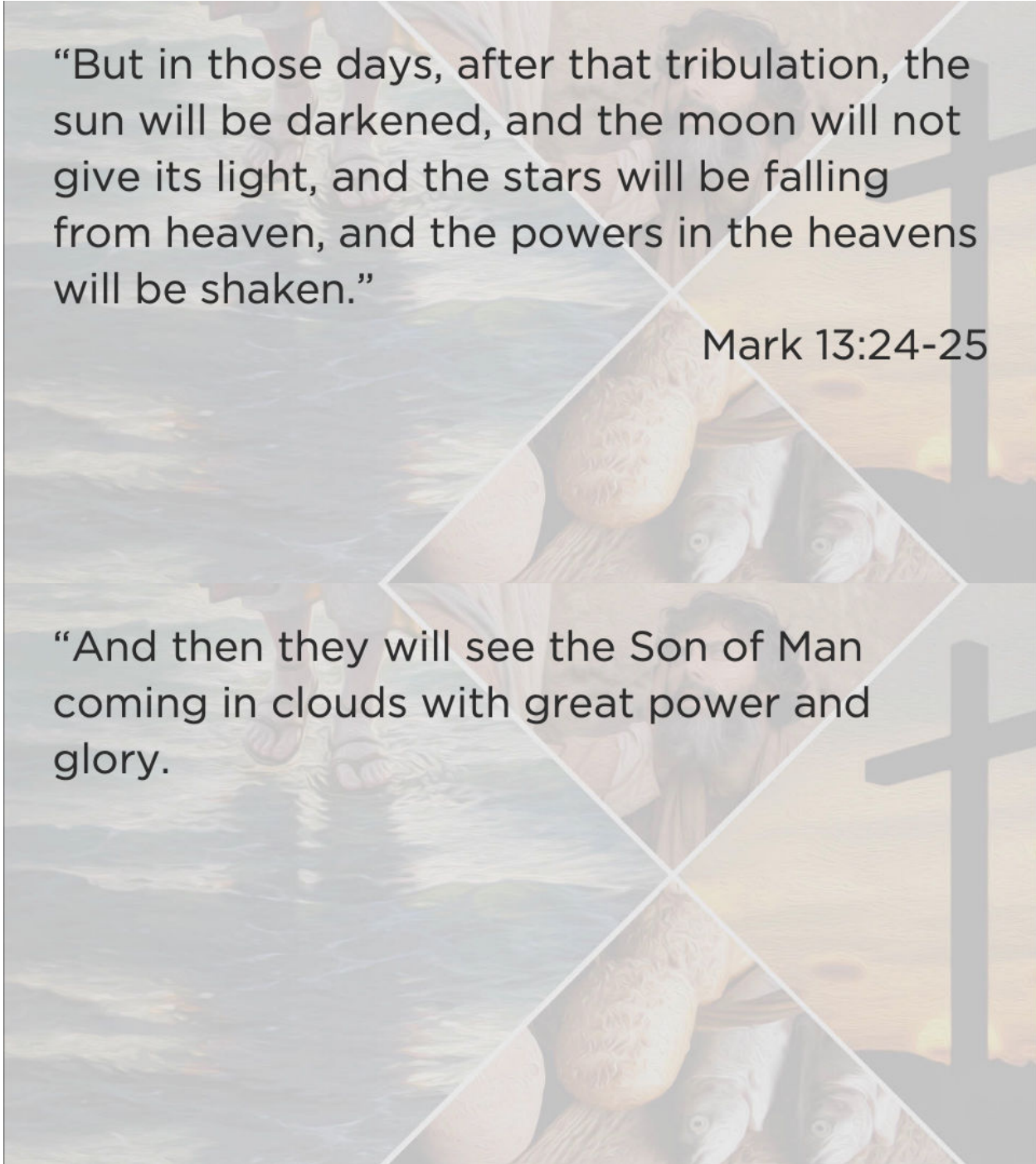
2 Thessalonians 2:1-4



“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

“The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”

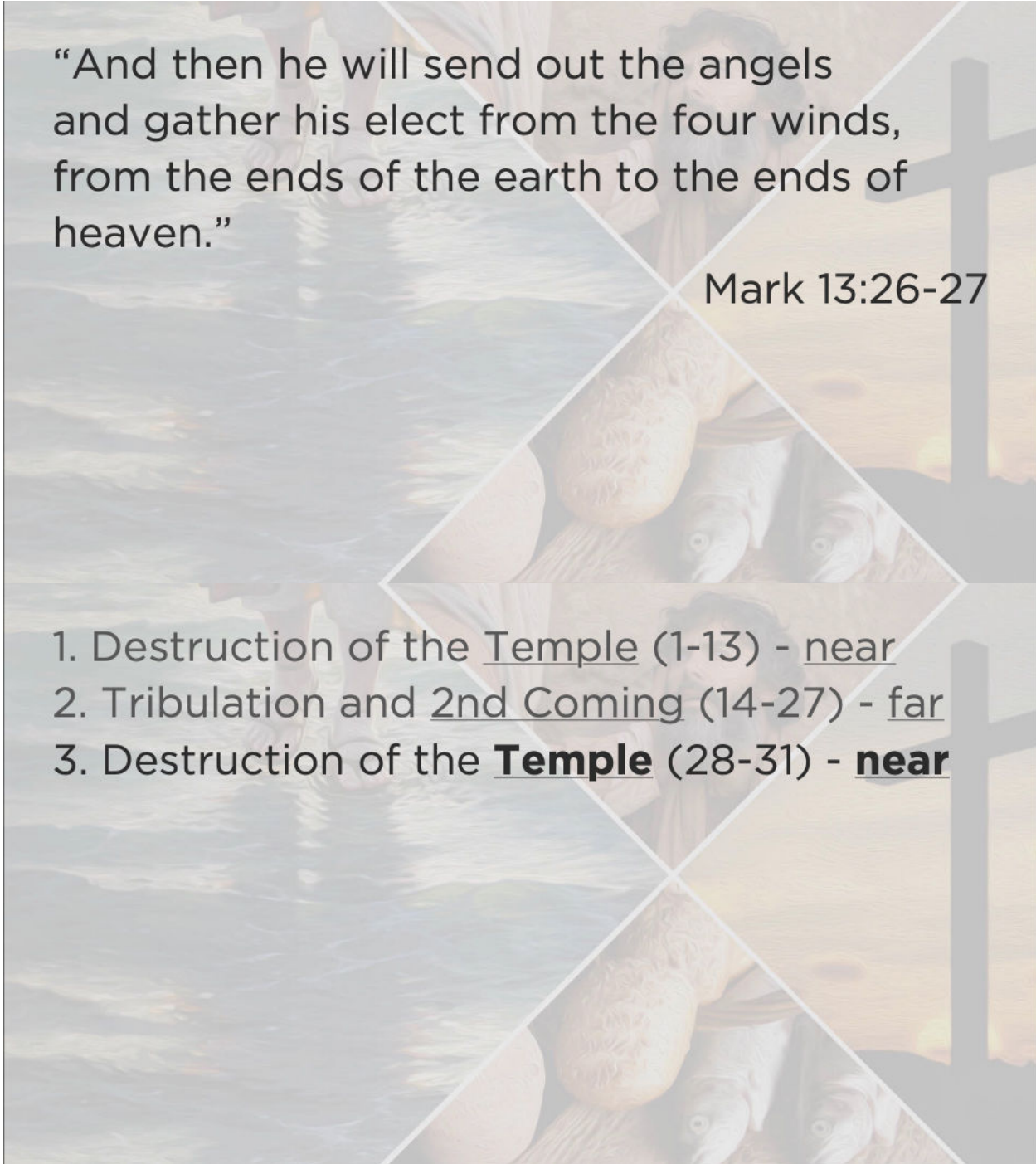
2 Thessalonians 2:8-10



“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.”

Mark 13:24-25

“And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

The background of the slide features a composite image. On the left, there are blue, wavy lines representing water. On the right, there is a depiction of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a brown robe, sitting in a boat. He is surrounded by several large, golden-brown fish. In the upper right corner, a large, dark cross is visible against a light, hazy background. The entire scene is overlaid with a faint, white diamond-shaped grid pattern.

“And then he will send out the angels
and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of
heaven.”

Mark 13:26-27

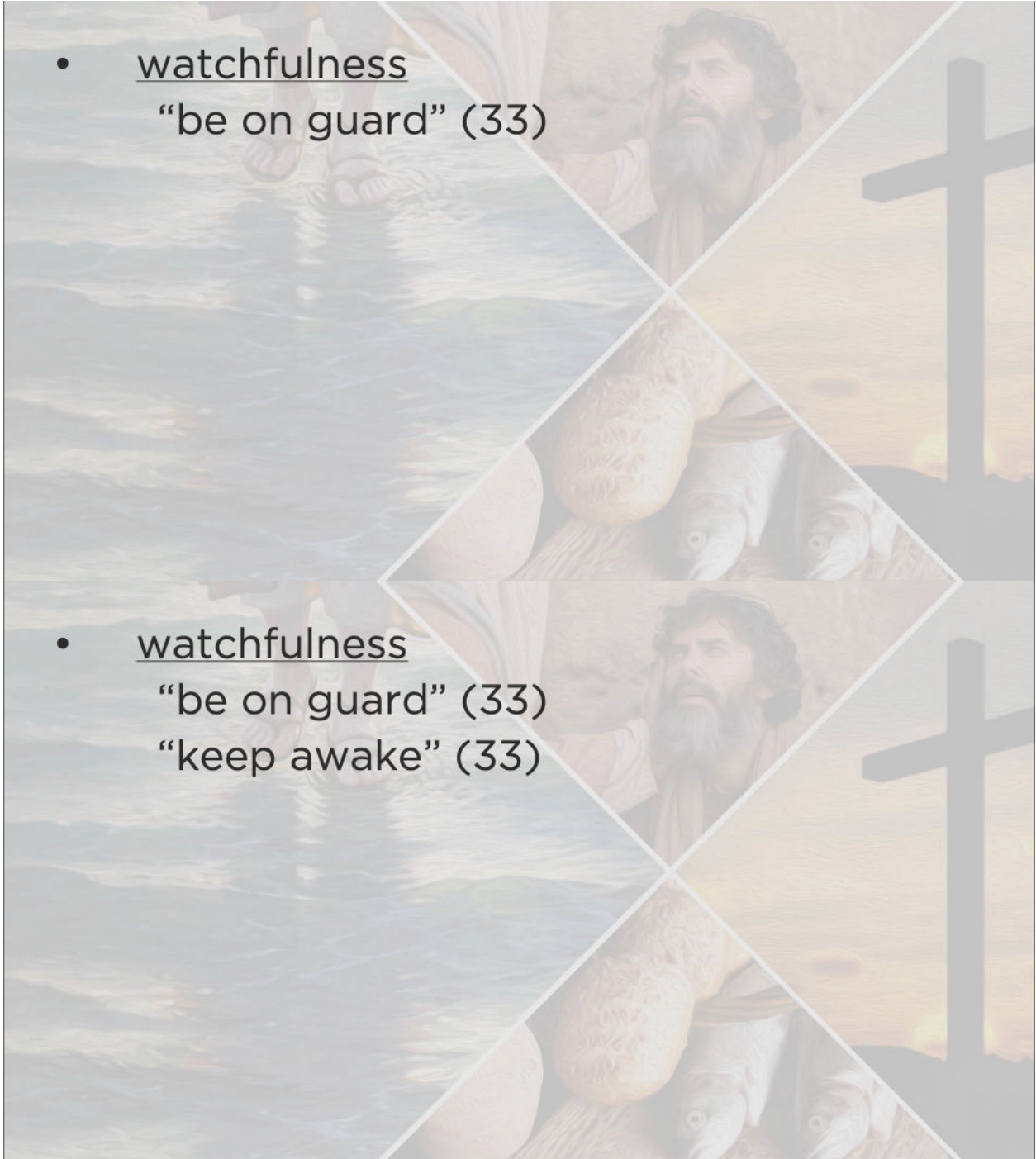
1. Destruction of the Temple (1-13) - near
2. Tribulation and 2nd Coming (14-27) - far
3. Destruction of the **Temple** (28-31) - **near**

1. Destruction of the Temple (1-13) - near
2. Tribulation and 2nd Coming (14-27) - far
3. Destruction of the Temple (28-31) - near
4. **Watchfulness** and 2nd Coming (32-37) - **far**

- **watchfulness**

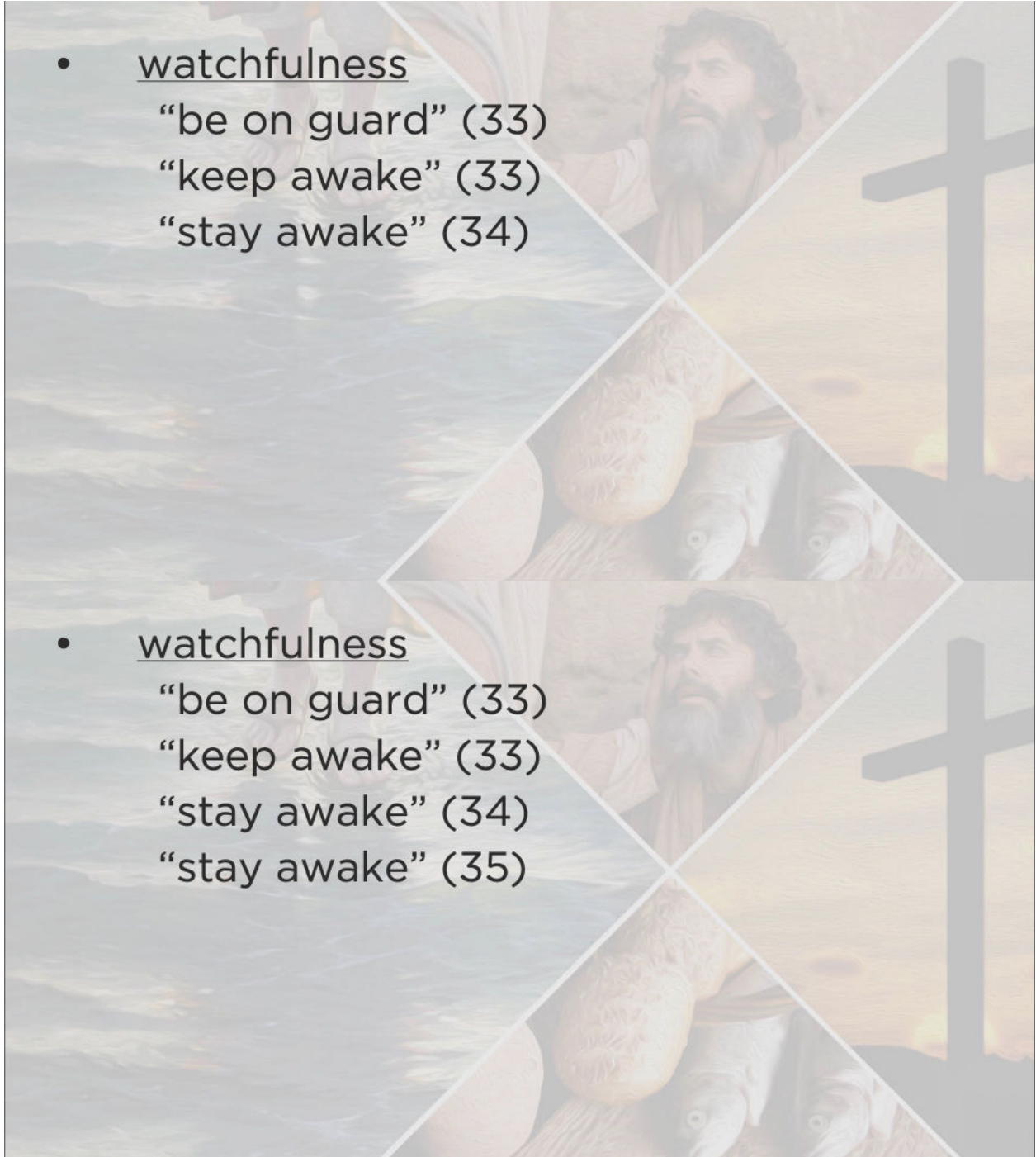
- watchfulness
“be on guard” (33)

- watchfulness
“be on guard” (33)
“keep awake” (33)



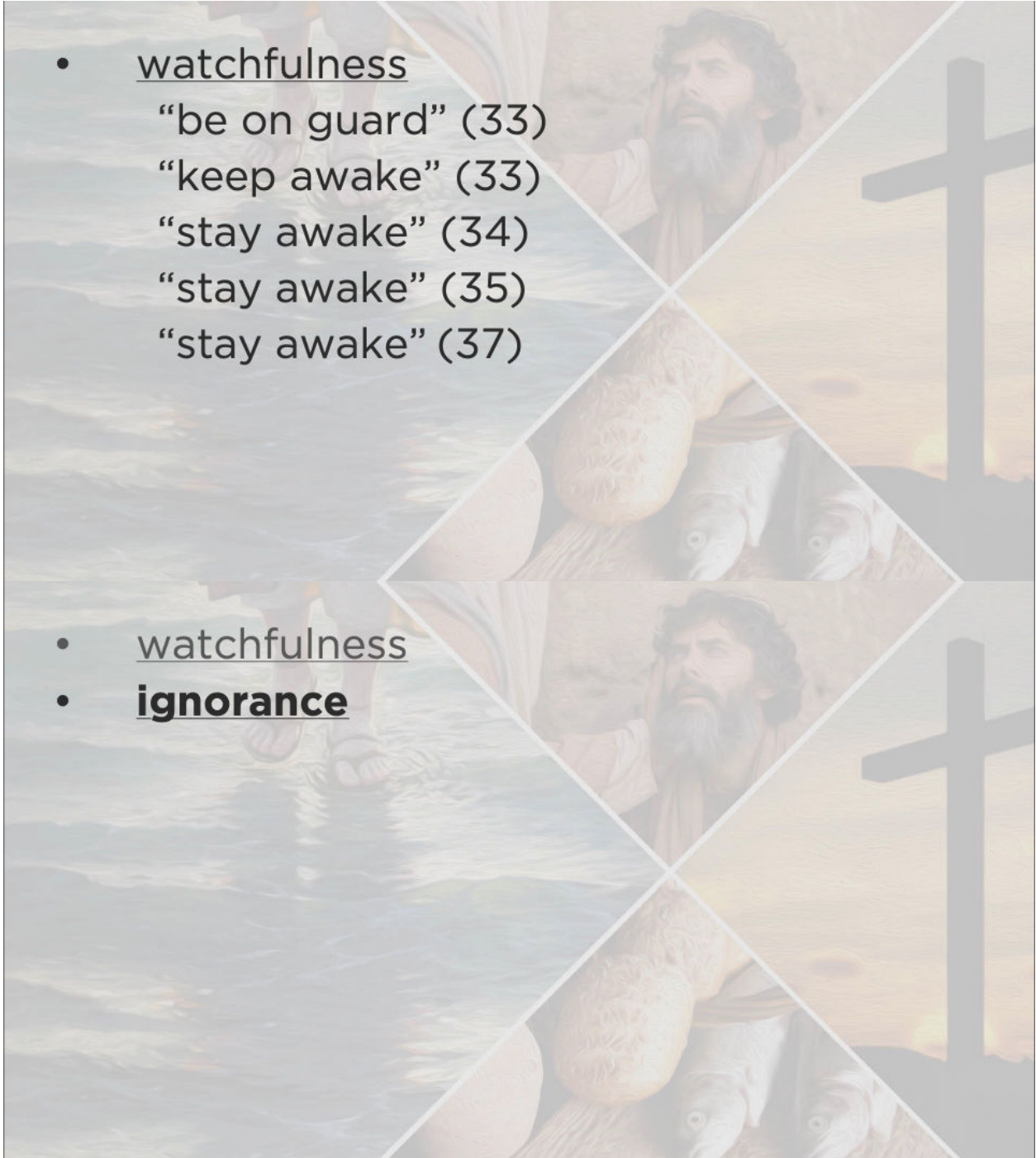
- watchfulness
“be on guard” (33)
“keep awake” (33)
“stay awake” (34)

- watchfulness
“be on guard” (33)
“keep awake” (33)
“stay awake” (34)
“stay awake” (35)



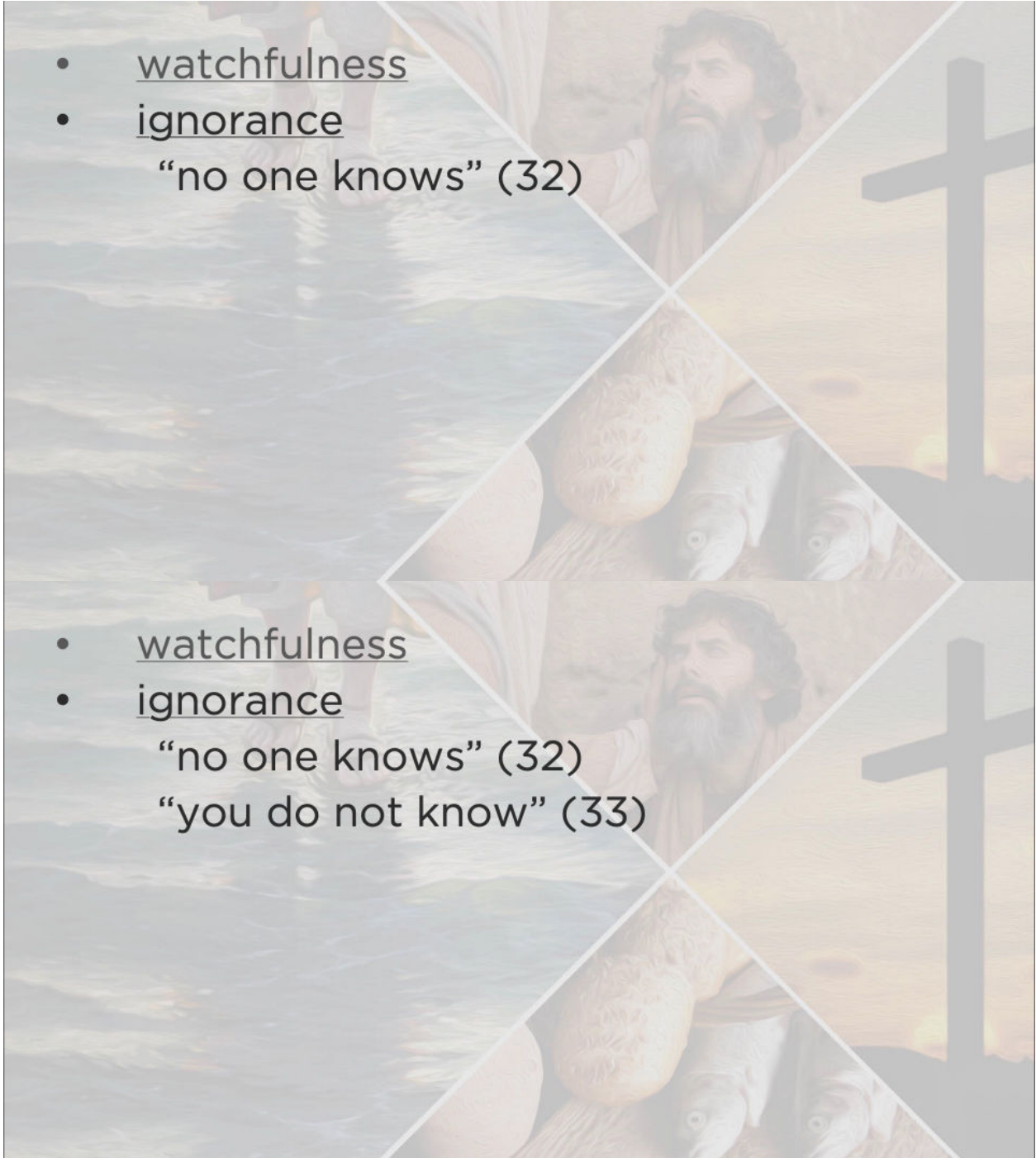
- watchfulness
 - “be on guard” (33)
 - “keep awake” (33)
 - “stay awake” (34)
 - “stay awake” (35)
 - “stay awake” (37)

- watchfulness
- **ignorance**



- watchfulness
- ignorance
“no one knows” (32)

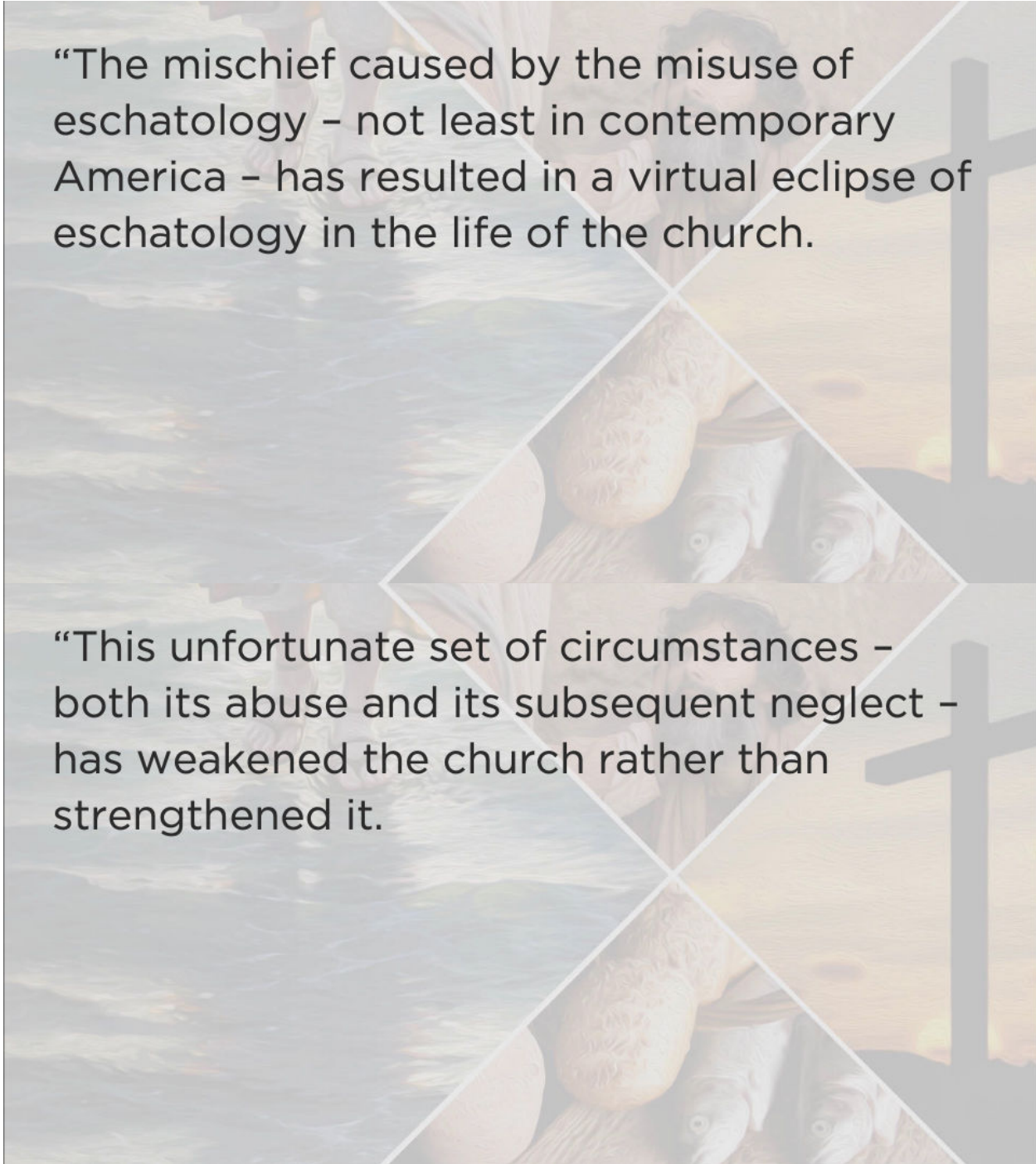
- watchfulness
- ignorance
“no one knows” (32)
“you do not know” (33)



- watchfulness
- ignorance
 - “no one knows” (32)
 - “you do not know” (33)
 - “you do not know” (35)

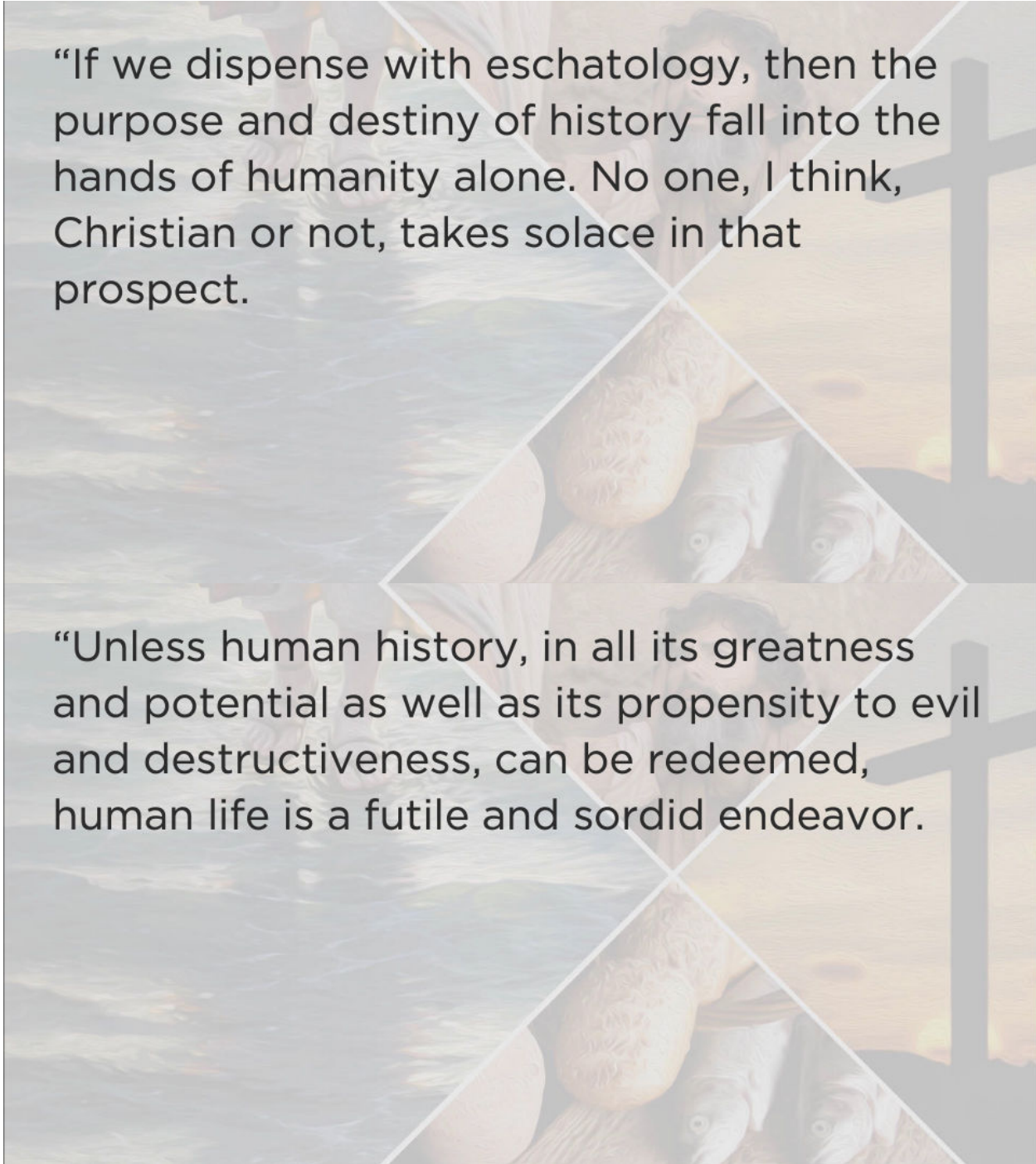
“I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.”

Psalm 131:1b



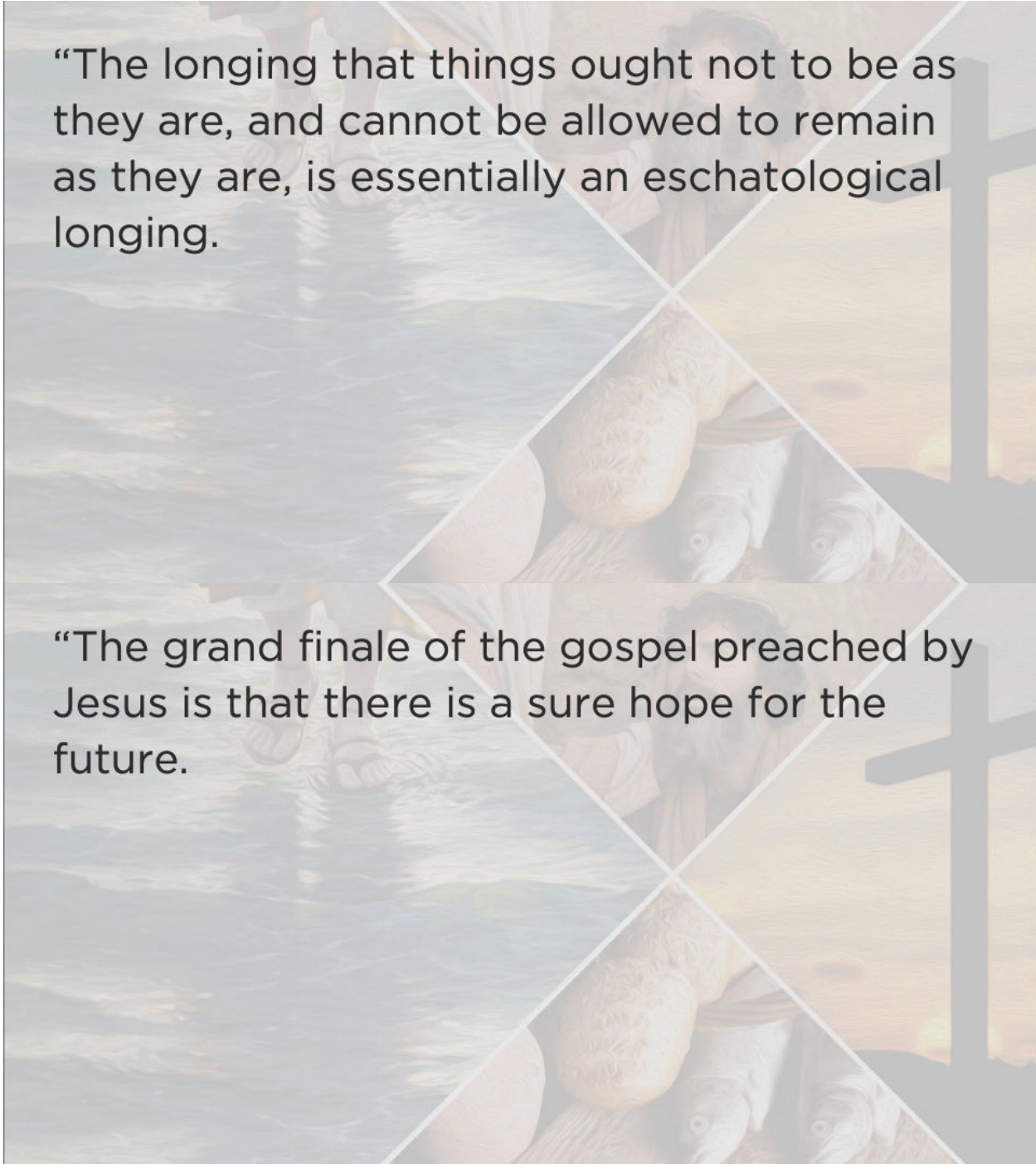
“The mischief caused by the misuse of eschatology – not least in contemporary America – has resulted in a virtual eclipse of eschatology in the life of the church.

“This unfortunate set of circumstances – both its abuse and its subsequent neglect – has weakened the church rather than strengthened it.

The background is a complex, layered image. It features a central, semi-transparent portrait of a man's face, likely Jesus, looking slightly to the right. Overlaid on this is a large, dark cross. In the lower portion, there are two fish, one white and one brown, swimming. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, browns, and soft blues, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere.

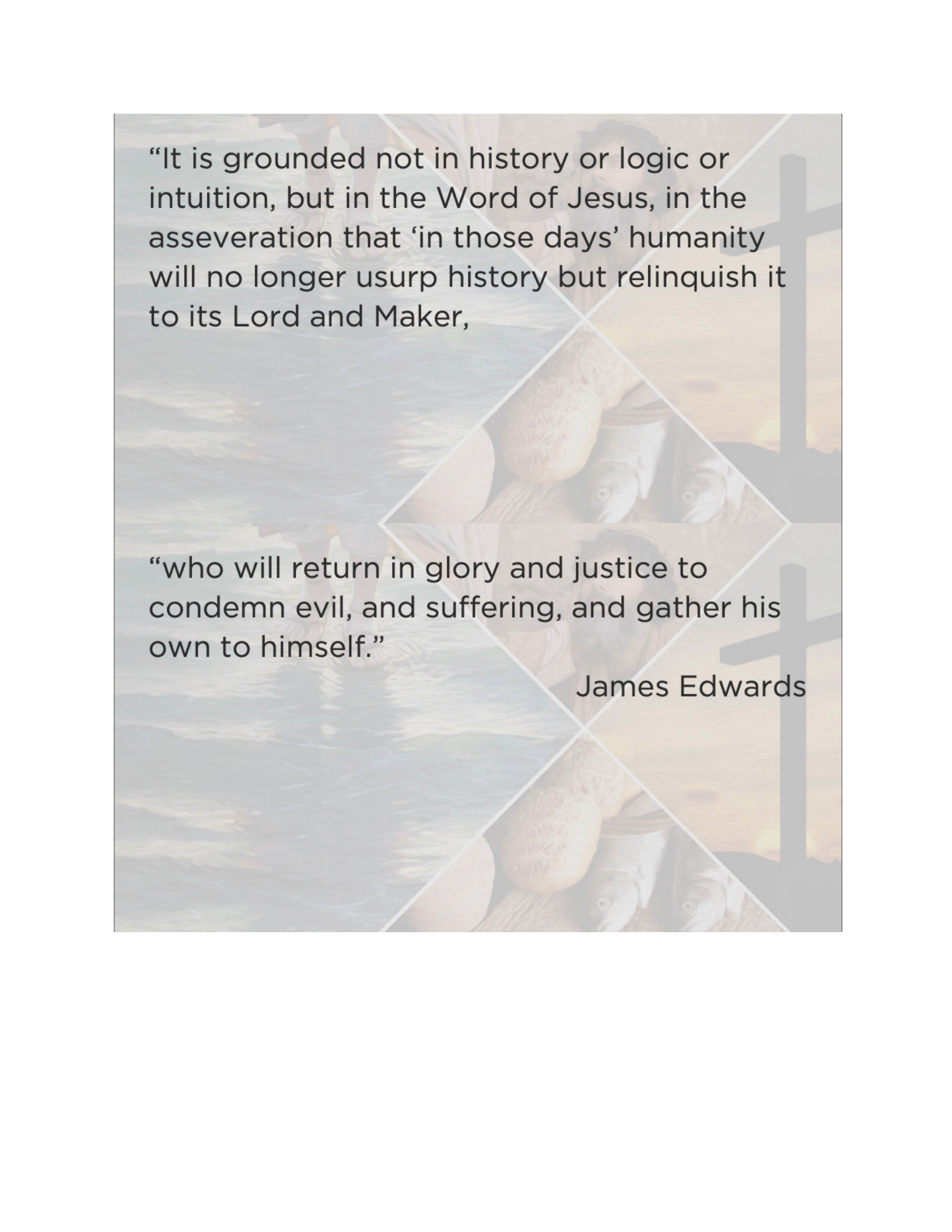
“If we dispense with eschatology, then the purpose and destiny of history fall into the hands of humanity alone. No one, I think, Christian or not, takes solace in that prospect.

“Unless human history, in all its greatness and potential as well as its propensity to evil and destructiveness, can be redeemed, human life is a futile and sordid endeavor.



“The longing that things ought not to be as they are, and cannot be allowed to remain as they are, is essentially an eschatological longing.

“The grand finale of the gospel preached by Jesus is that there is a sure hope for the future.



“It is grounded not in history or logic or intuition, but in the Word of Jesus, in the asseveration that ‘in those days’ humanity will no longer usurp history but relinquish it to its Lord and Maker,

“who will return in glory and justice to condemn evil, and suffering, and gather his own to himself.”

James Edwards

What do we know?

