



THE KINGDOM

**The Anti
Kingdom**

Recap

What does a Kingdom dweller look like?

“First come **share our life, then you will understand our doctrine” **Origen, 220 AD****

The Kingdom of God is both belief and behaviour, equal and connected. Imbalance takes place when one is overemphasized or forgotten



Recap

The Kingdom of God is First

A Kingdom dweller is focused

But **seek first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33**

If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—**such a person cannot be my disciple**. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26-27



Recap

The Kingdom of God Grows

A Kingdom dweller grows and multiplies

The kingdom of heaven is like **yeast** that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough. **Matthew 13:33**

What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a **mustard seed**, **Mark 4:30-32**

This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a **hundred, sixty** or **thirty** times what was sown. **Matthew 13:23**



Recap

The Kingdom of God is Generous

A Kingdom dweller uses their resources for God

One out of every seven verses in the first three gospels spoke on money

About **one-third** (16 of 38) parables are on money.

He spoke on money **twice as much as prayer** and faith combined.

The **Kingdom of God** is the only subject that Jesus gave more attention to than money.



Recap

The Kingdom of God is Generous

A Kingdom dweller uses their resources for God

Do not store up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **Matthew 6:19-20**

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and **the deceitfulness of wealth** choke the word, making it unfruitful. **Mathew 13:22**

Recap

The Kingdom of God is Life in the Spirit

A Kingdom dweller is Spirit led

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again.” **John 3:3****

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water **and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the **Spirit** gives birth to spirit.” **vs 5-6****

The Secular Church, The Examiner

The expression "**secular church**" may be a contradiction in terms, but it is what many sociologists say is **emerging** on the American religious scene.

This strategy (secularization of the sacred) has insured **short-term success**, but it also has meant that the church has undergone many fundamental changes. In its organization, for example, the church tends to **take on the characteristics and values of contemporary secular organizations** and institutions; it comes to resemble surrounding technological and bureaucratic organizations.



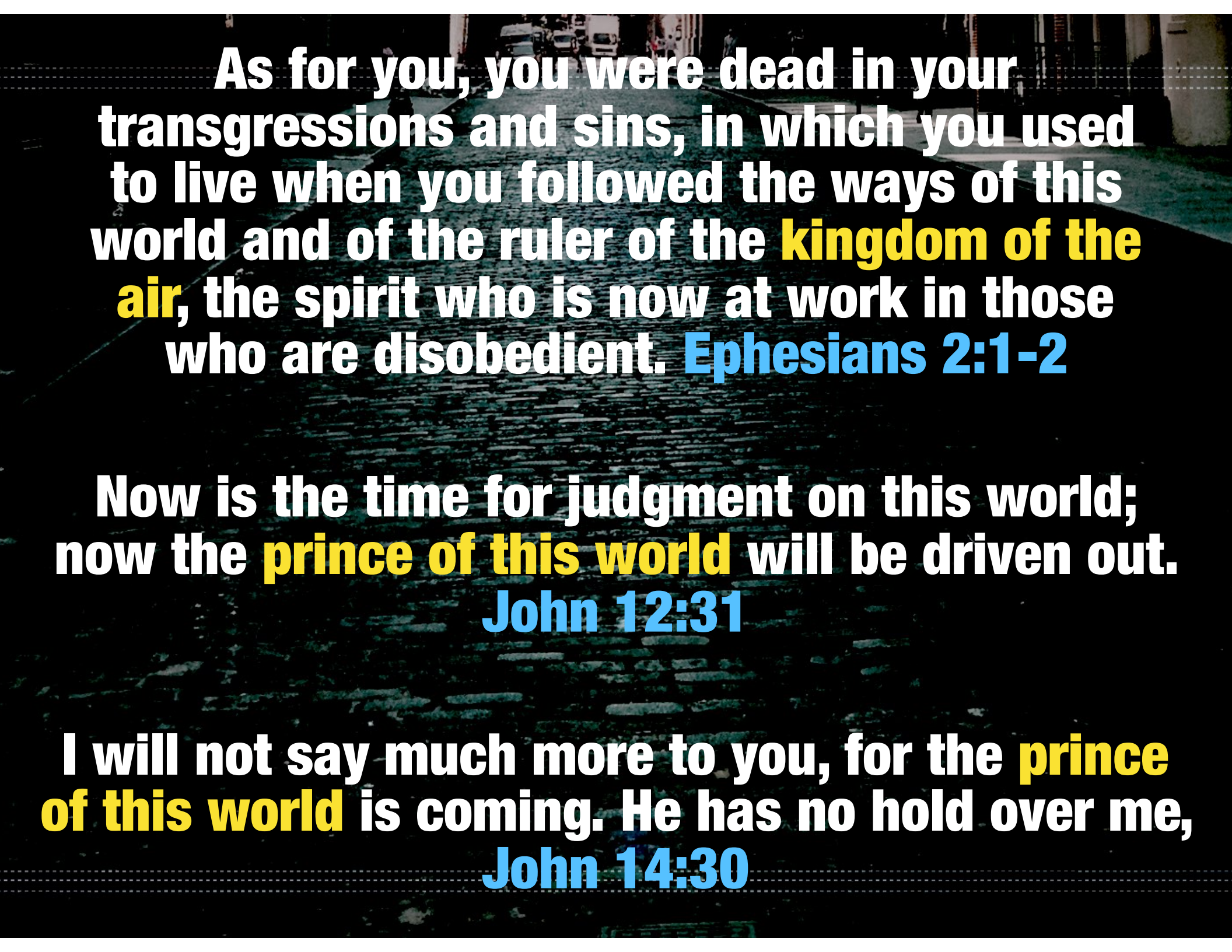
A Golden Age for Dystopian Fiction

Jill Lepore, New Yorker

A utopia is a paradise, **a dystopia a paradise lost**. Before utopias and dystopias became imagined futures, they were imagined pasts, or imagined places, like the Garden of Eden

“It’s a sad commentary on our age that we find dystopias a lot easier to believe in than utopias,” Margaret Atwood wrote in the nineteen-eighties. “Utopias we can only imagine; **dystopias we’ve already had.**”

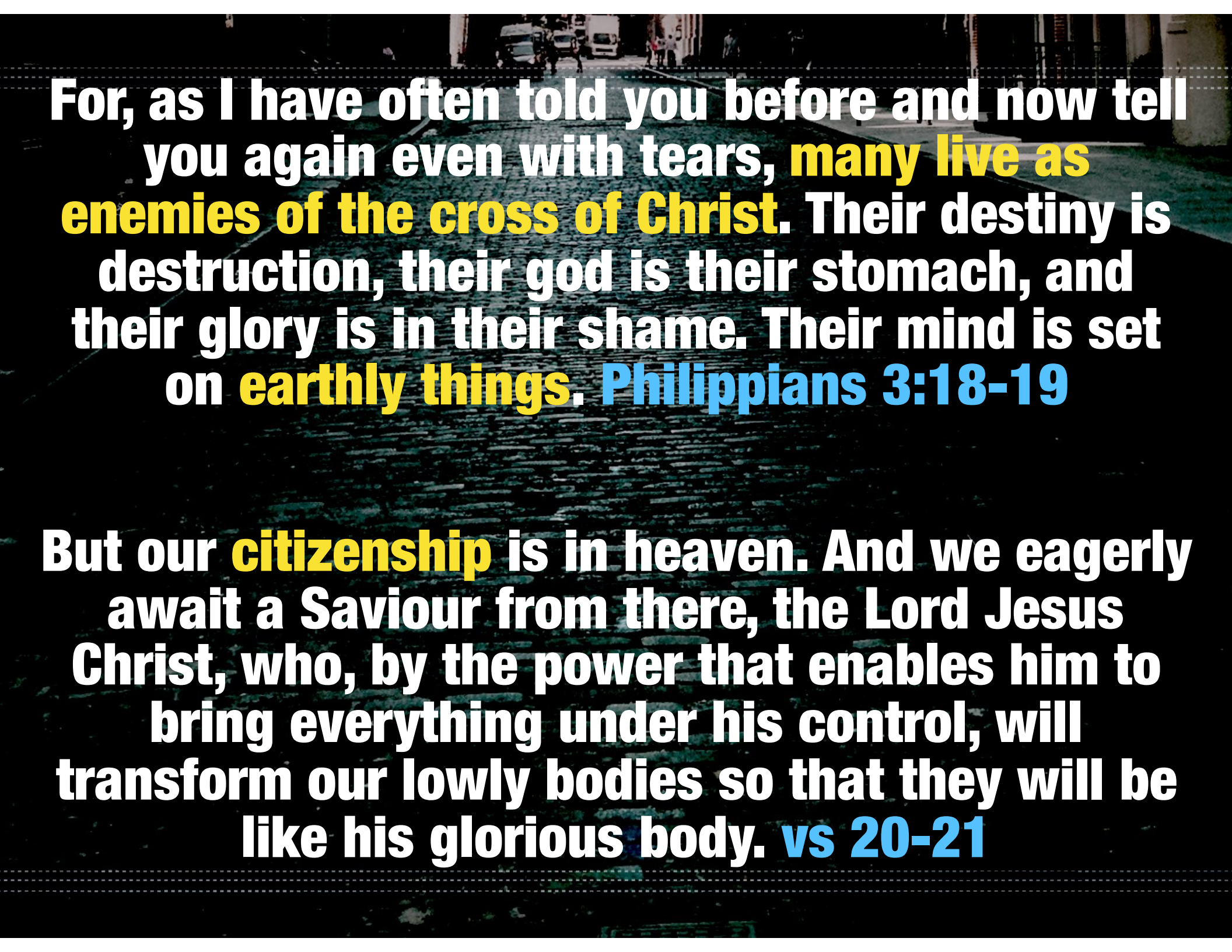




As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the **kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **Ephesians 2:1-2****

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the **prince of this world will be driven out. **John 12:31****

I will not say much more to you, for the **prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, **John 14:30****



For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, **many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.** Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on **earthly things.** **Philippians 3:18-19**

But our **citizenship** is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. **vs 20-21**



There are two kingdoms present right now

Pagan: one who lives as if no greater truth or reality is present. Someone who knows the truth yet behaves as if no truth exists

The Pagan Kingdom

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

Matthew 5:46-48

How we love displays who or what we love

Pagans seem to have self serving love, love that benefits them or their relationships

The Pagan Kingdom

And when you pray, **do not keep on babbling like pagans**, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. **Matthew 6:7**

A pagan is someone who believes that by their own effort they can be heard by God. They do not trust that God loves them wholly and completely because He created them

The Pagan Kingdom

For the **pagans run after all these things**,
and your heavenly Father knows that you
need them. **Matthew 6:32**

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall
we **eat?**' or 'What shall we **drink?**' or
'What shall we **wear?**' **vs 31**

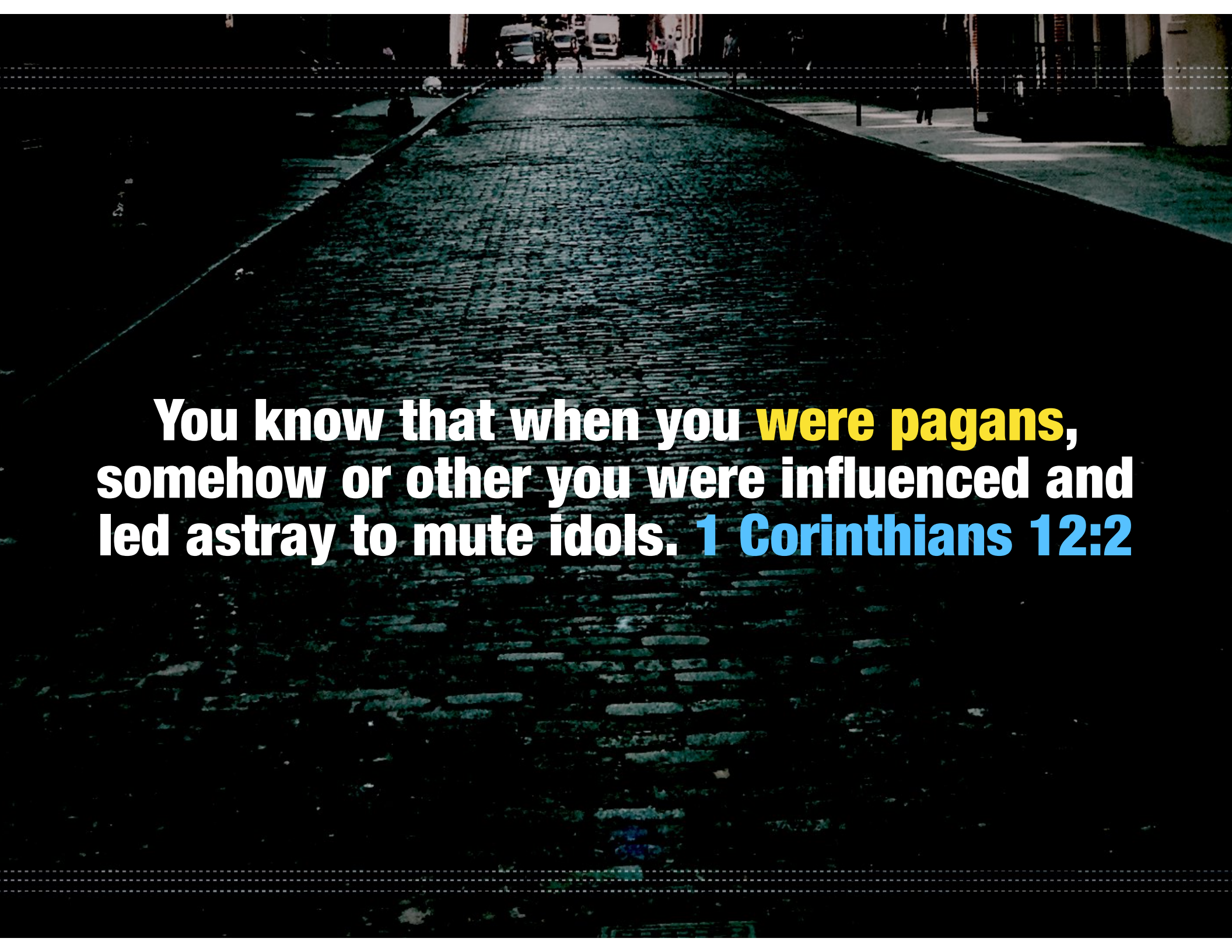
**Pagans are those who are focused
on the senses (sensual-ists)**

The Pagan Kingdom

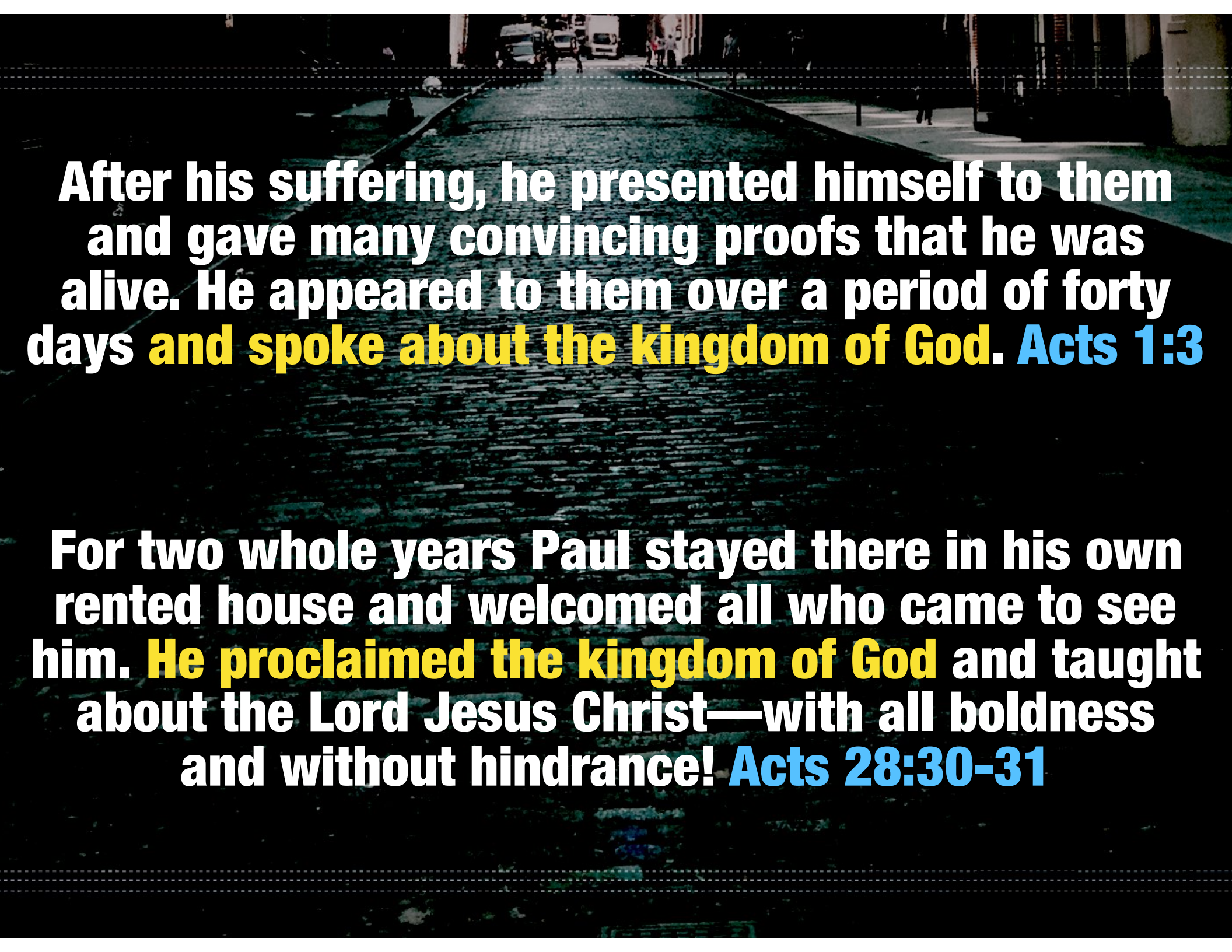
**If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church;
and if they refuse to listen even to the church,
treat them as you would a pagan or a tax
collector. Matthew 18:17**

**If your brother or sister sins, go and point out
their fault, just between the two of you. **If they
listen to you**, you have won them over. **vs 15****

**A pagan is one who refuses to listen,
who's pride has blinded them to sin**



You know that when you **were pagans,
somehow or other you were influenced and
led astray to mute idols. **1 Corinthians 12:2****



After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance! Acts 28:30-31