

**TRUTH THAT LEADS TO
*GODLINESS***

Exploring the Biblical Essentials for Every Believer



Eschatology

The Study of the End Times

DISCUSSION QUESTION

When you think about the study of the end times, what comes to mind? (topics, emotions, responses...)

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come **like a thief in the night**. [3] While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them... [4] But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5] For you are all **children of light**, children of the day.

— *1 Thessalonians 5:1-5*

[8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the **hope of salvation**. [9] For God has not destined us for wrath, but **to obtain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us so that... we might live with him. [11] Therefore **encourage one another** and build one another up, just as you are doing.

— *1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*

“The Bible presents the glorious end to come as the source of ultimate hope and encouragement for the Christian.”

— John MacArthur

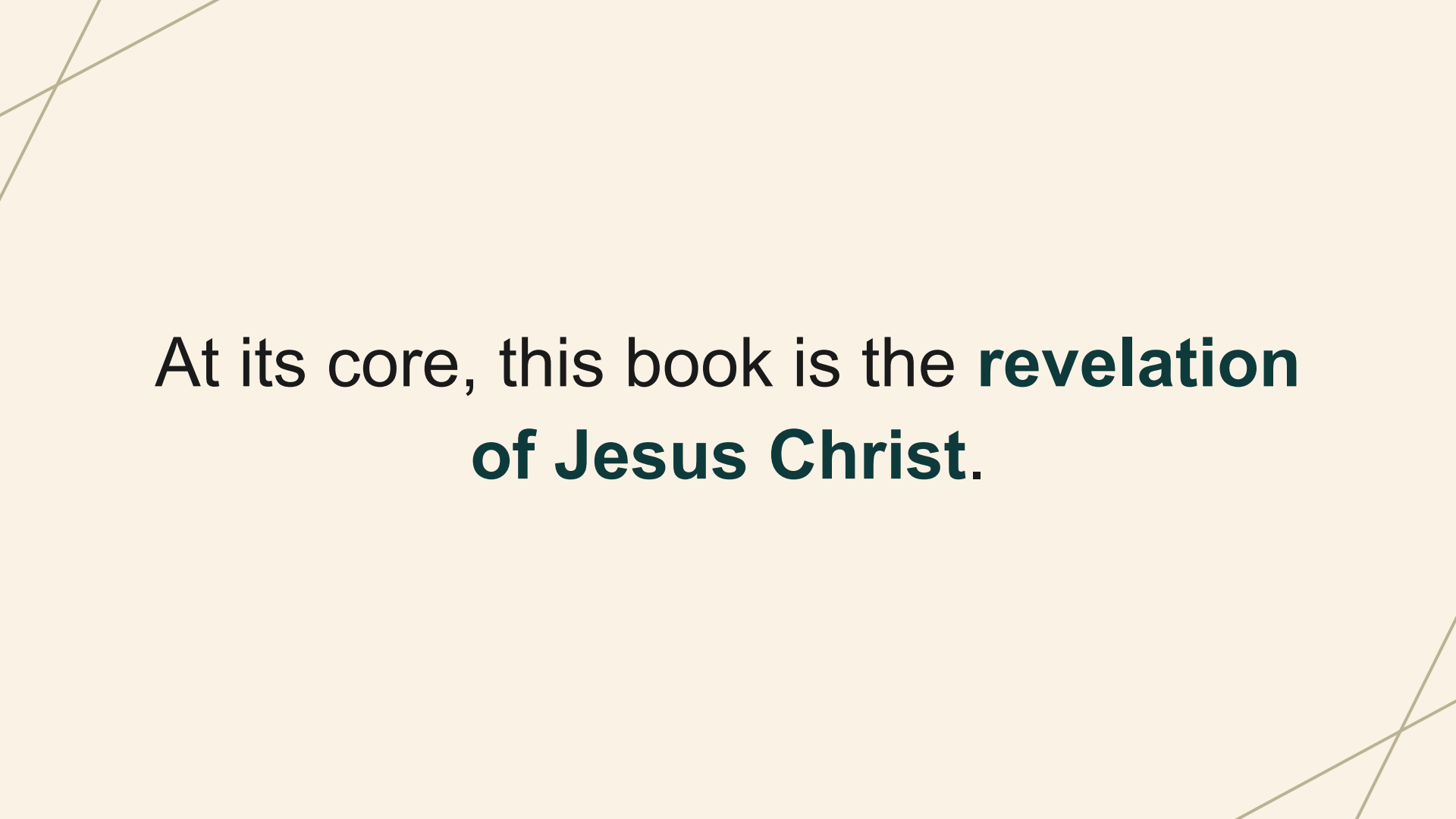
As Christians, what should predominate our feelings when we study the end-times is **hopefulness**.

REVELATION 1–22

A Tour Through Revelation

[1] The **revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave him to show to **his servants** the things that must **soon take place**...

— *Revelation 1:1*

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At its core, this book is the **revelation**
of Jesus Christ.

“Those who ignore Revelation deprive themselves of a rich treasure of divine truth.”

— John MacArthur

[1] The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must **soon take place**...

— *Revelation 1:1*

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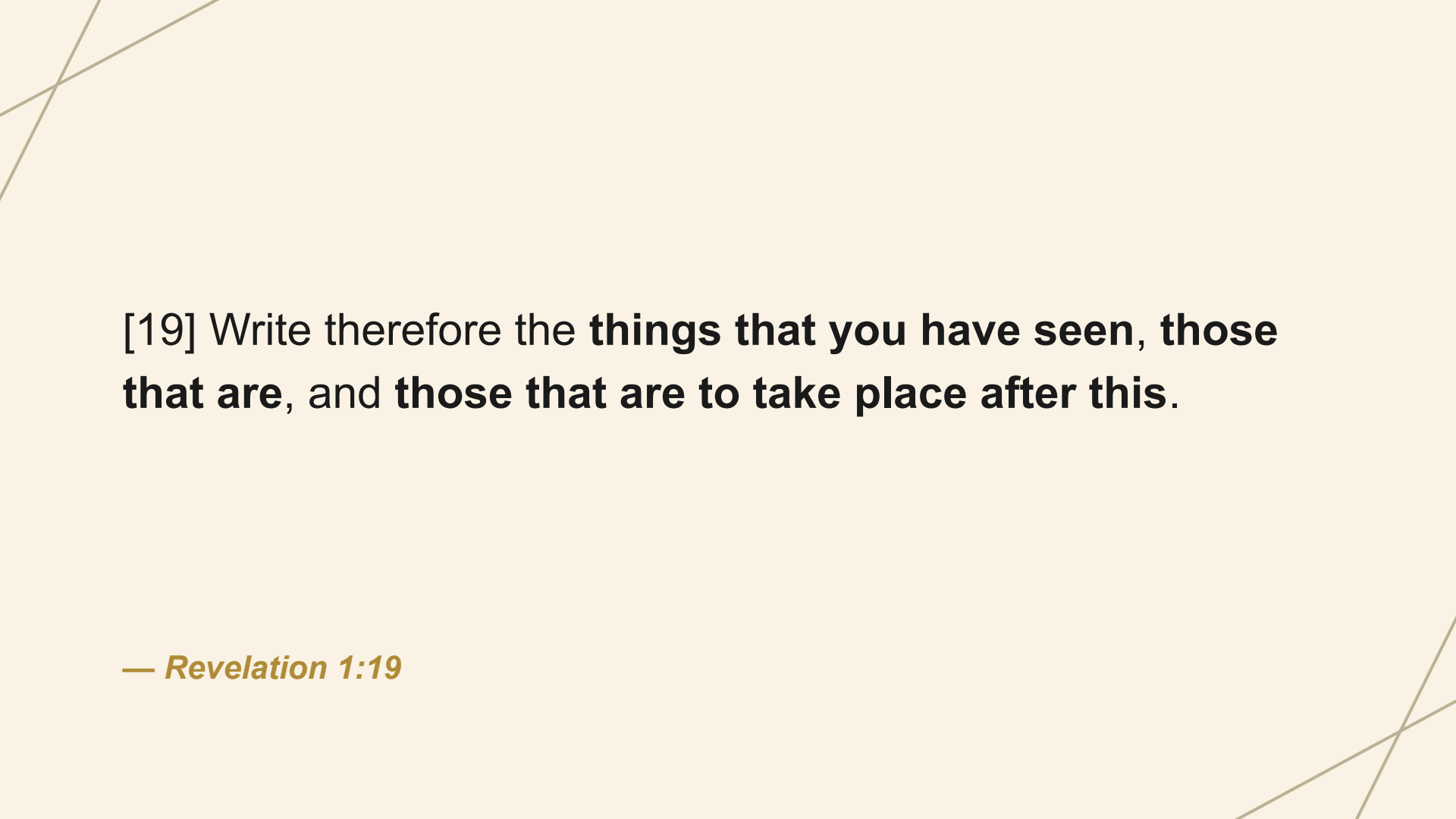
Three views of the millennium

Amillennialism — we are in the 1,000-year reign now; the events are symbolic.

Preterism — Revelation was fulfilled by AD 70; largely past history.

Premillennialism (Dispensationalism) — a literal, future 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth.

Our lens — today's teaching follows the premillennial, dispensational view.



[19] Write therefore the **things that you have seen, those that are, and those that are to take place after this.**

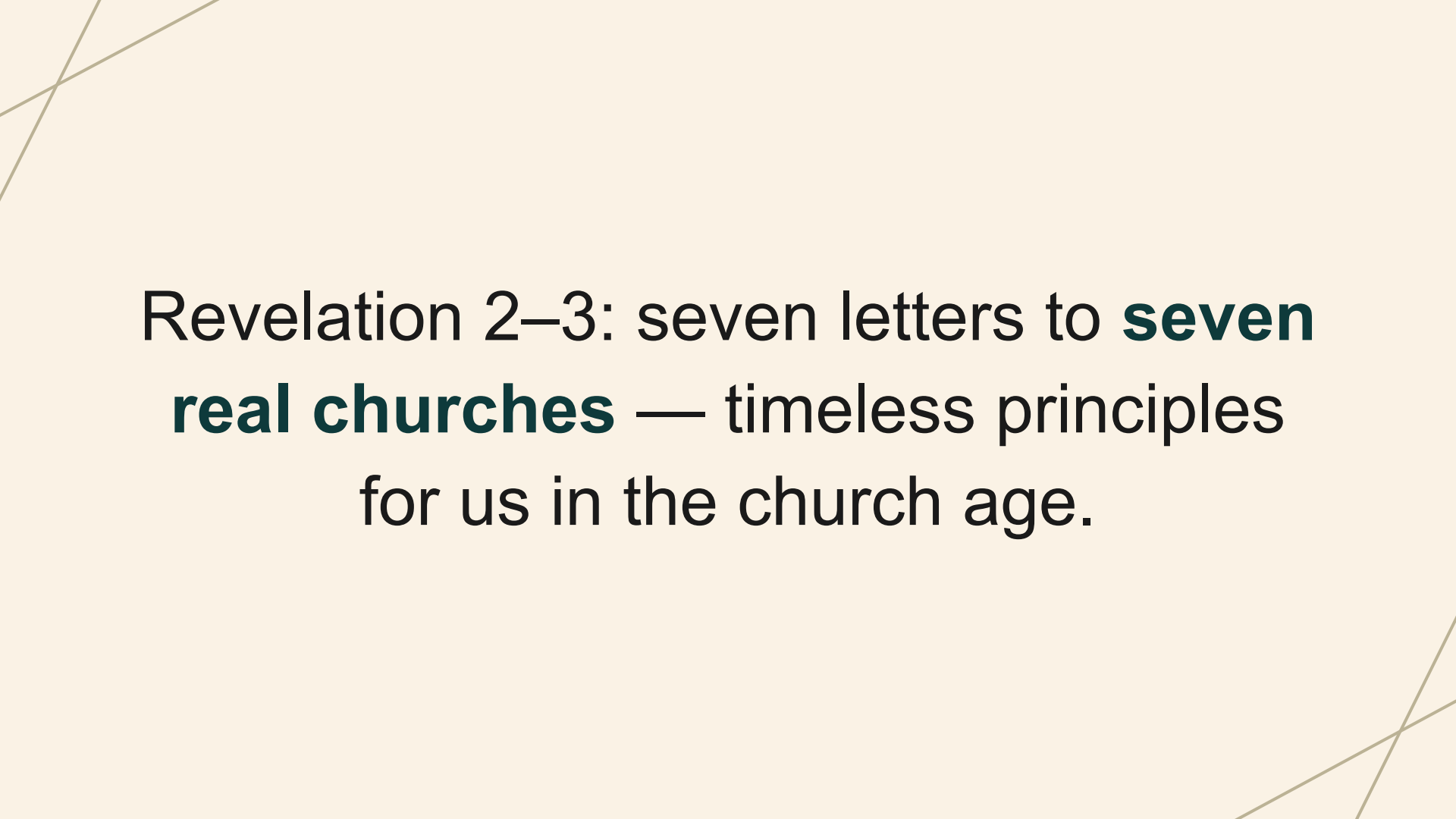
— *Revelation 1:19*

The outline of Revelation

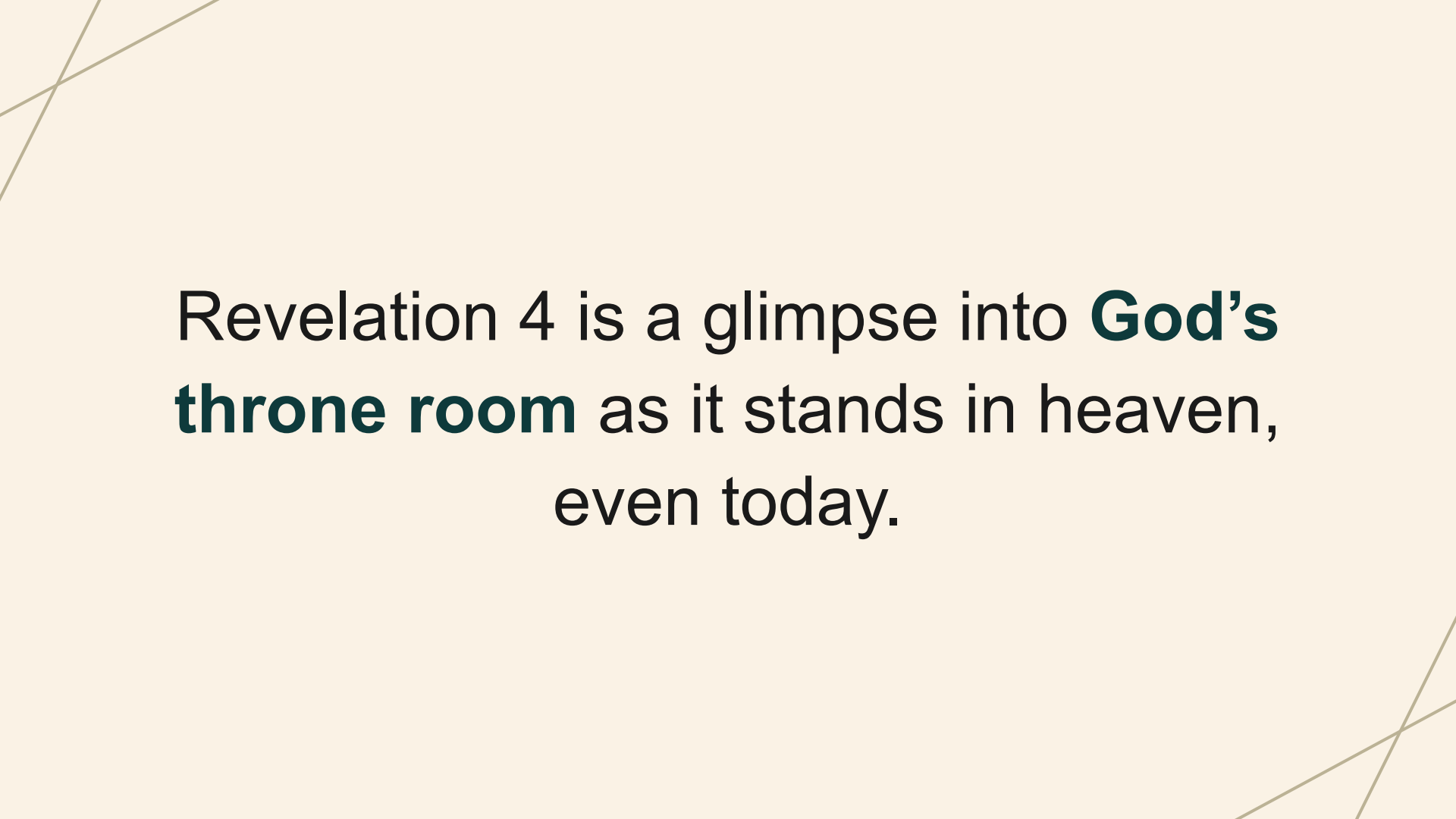
Chapter 1 — the things you have seen.

Chapters 2–3 — the things that are: seven letters to seven churches.

Chapters 4–22 — the things that are to take place after this.



Revelation 2–3: seven letters to **seven
real churches** — timeless principles
for us in the church age.



Revelation 4 is a glimpse into **God's throne room** as it stands in heaven, even today.

In chapter 5, a sealed scroll appears —
the title deed to the universe. Who is
worthy to open it?

[3] And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, [4] and I began to **weep loudly because no one was found worthy** to open the scroll or to look into it.

— *Revelation 5:3-4*

[5] And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” [6] And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. [7] And he went and **took the scroll** from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

— *Revelation 5:5-7*

REVELATION 6–18

The Great Tribulation

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture: before the judgments fall, **the living church is removed** from the earth.

[16] For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command... And **the dead in Christ will rise first.** [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will **always be with the Lord.**

— *1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*

End-times judgment is deadly, but the
Lord **preserves His people.**

The Seven Seals (Revelation 6)

White horse — false peace.

Red horse — war; peace is taken from the earth.

Black horse — famine, led by inflation.

Pale horse — death by sword, famine, disease, and beast.

Fifth seal — the martyrs slain for the Word of God.

Sixth seal — cosmic upheaval

[12] ...**the sun became black** as sackcloth, **the full moon became like blood**, [13] and the stars of the sky fell to the earth... [14] The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and **every mountain and island was removed** from its place.

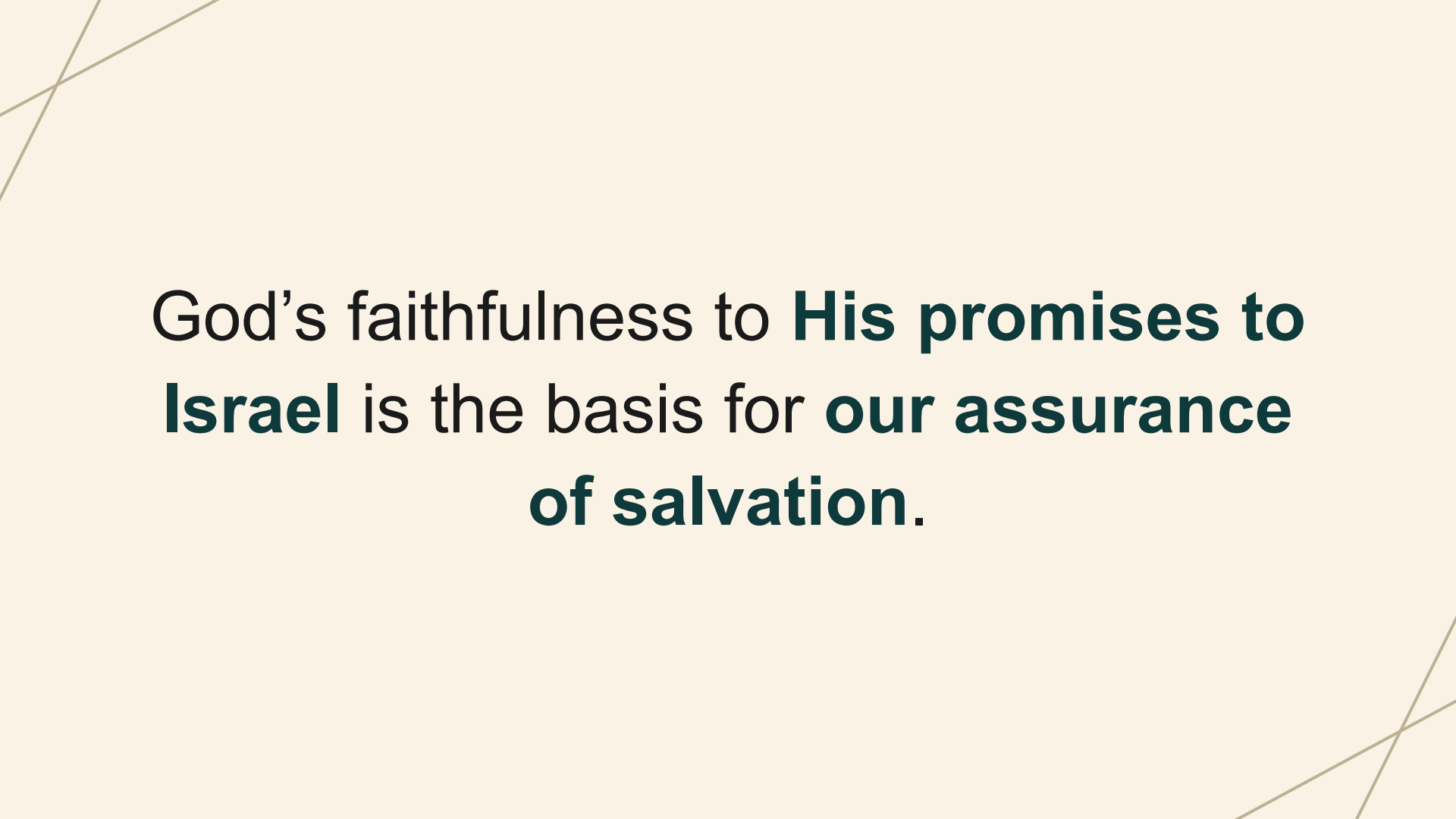
— *Revelation 6:12-14*

The interludes are moments of
comfort for God's people amid the
judgments. (Revelation 7; 10–11;
12–14)

[3] ...“Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, **until we have sealed the servants of our God** on their foreheads.”

[4] And I heard the number of the sealed, **144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.**

— *Revelation 7:3-4*

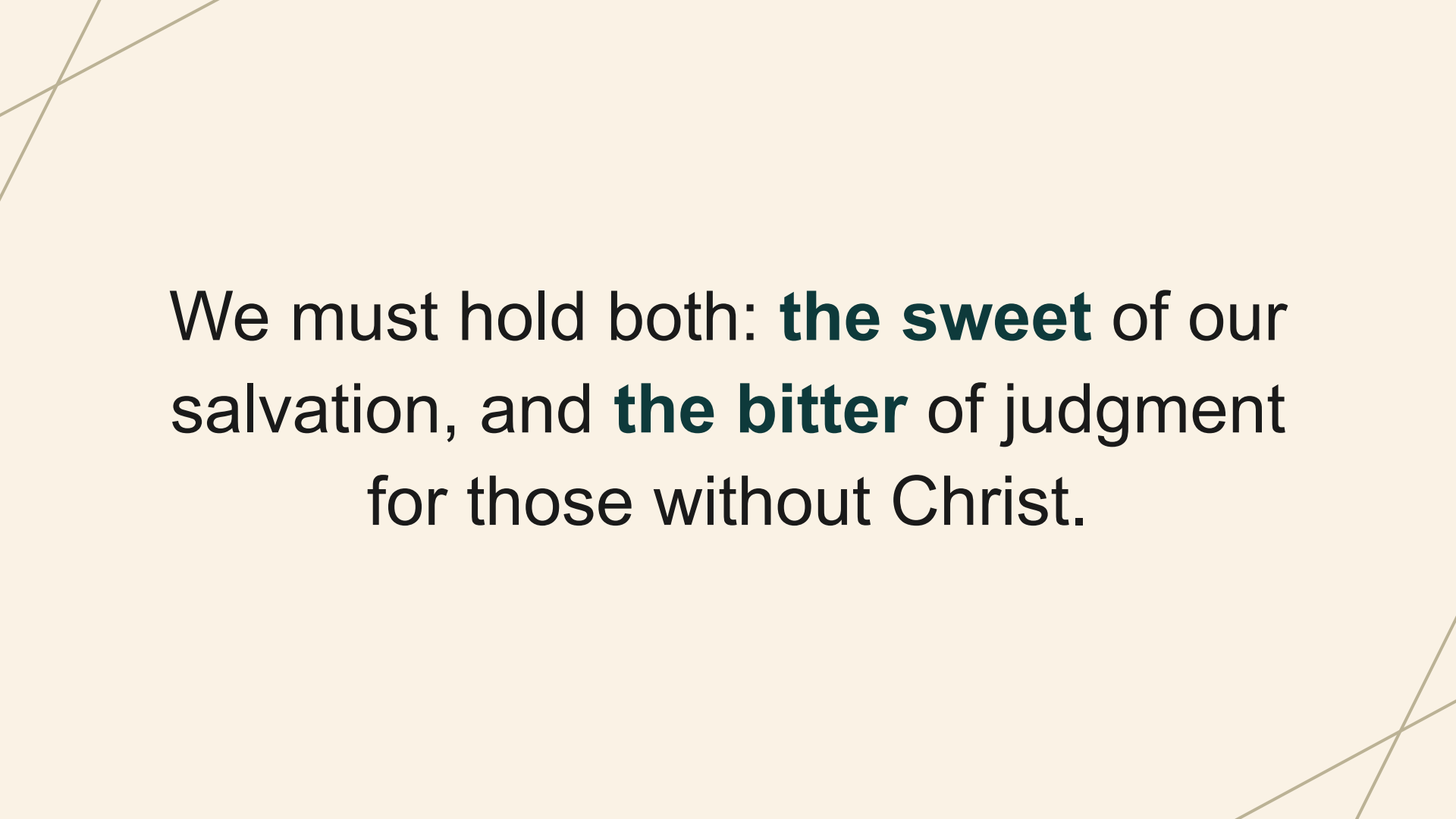


God's faithfulness to **His promises to Israel** is the basis for **our assurance of salvation.**

Revelation 8–9: the seventh seal
opens **the Trumpet Judgments.**

And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was **sweet as honey in my mouth**, but when I had eaten it **my stomach was made bitter**.

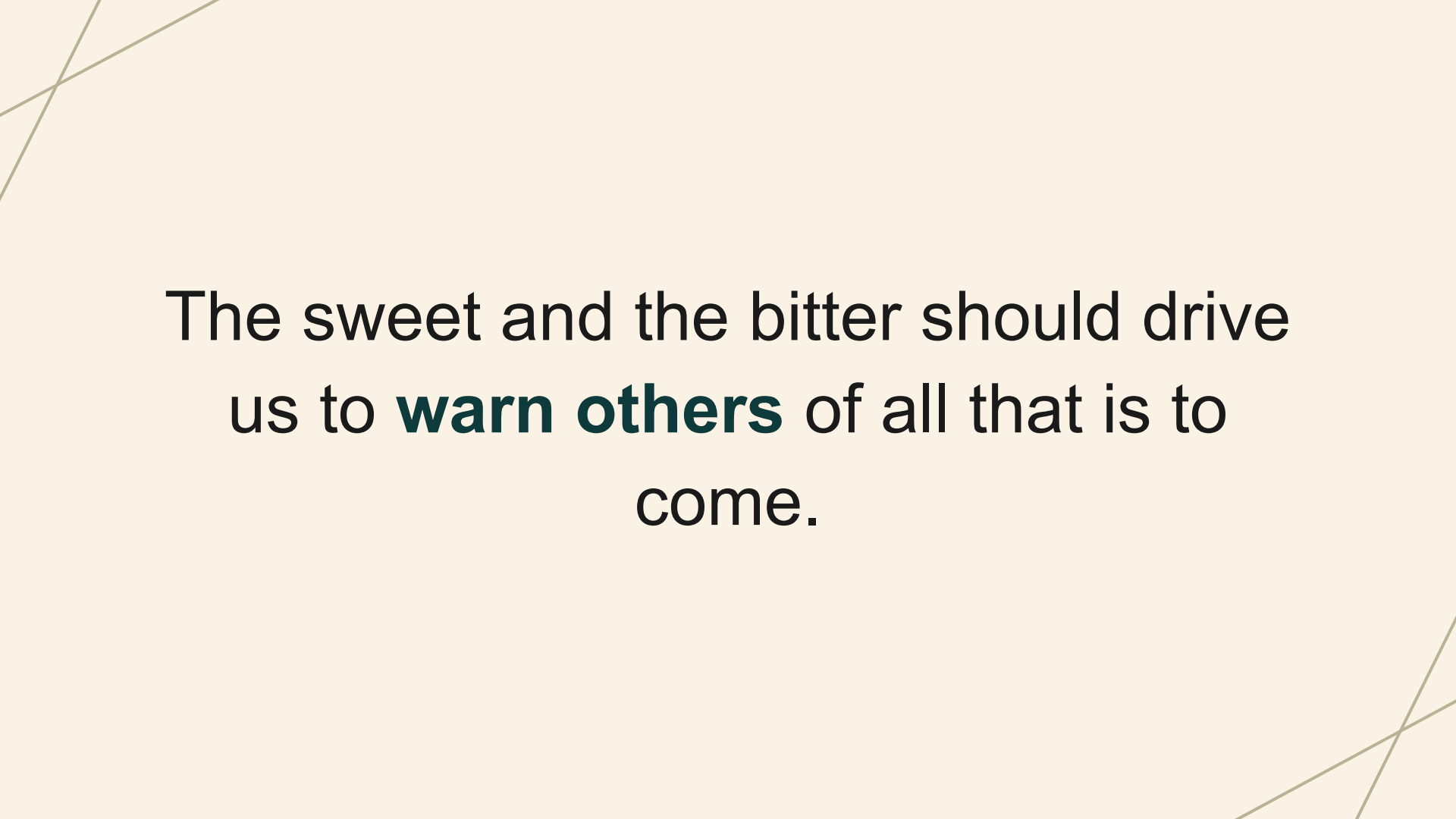
— *Revelation 10:10*



We must hold both: **the sweet** of our salvation, and **the bitter** of judgment for those without Christ.

[11] “**You must again prophesy** about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

— *Revelation 10:11*

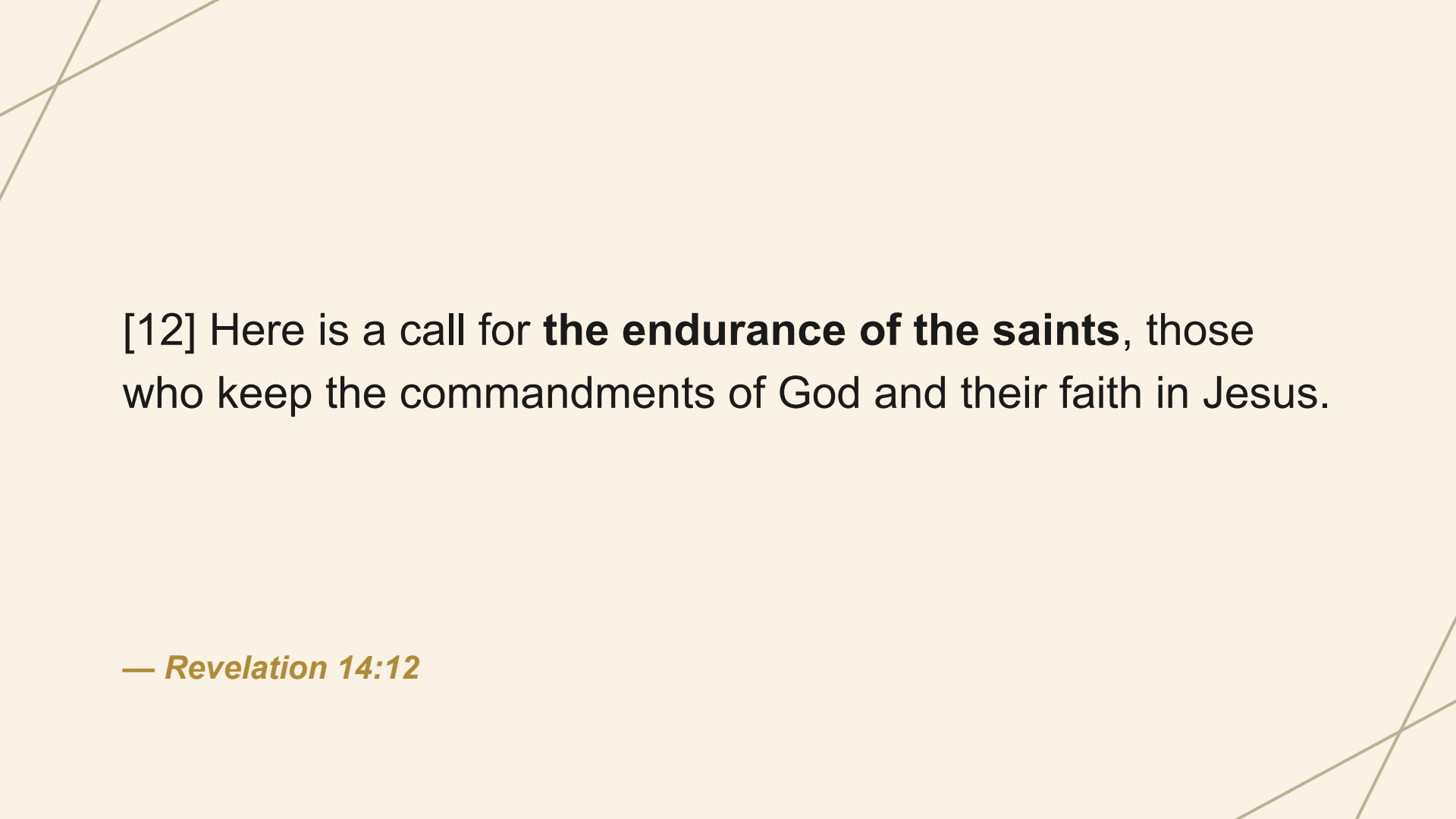


The sweet and the bitter should drive
us to **warn others** of all that is to
come.

The Two Beasts (Revelation 13)

The First Beast — a political figure, the Antichrist; a “mortal wound” that was healed.

The Second Beast — a religious figure who points the world to worship the first.

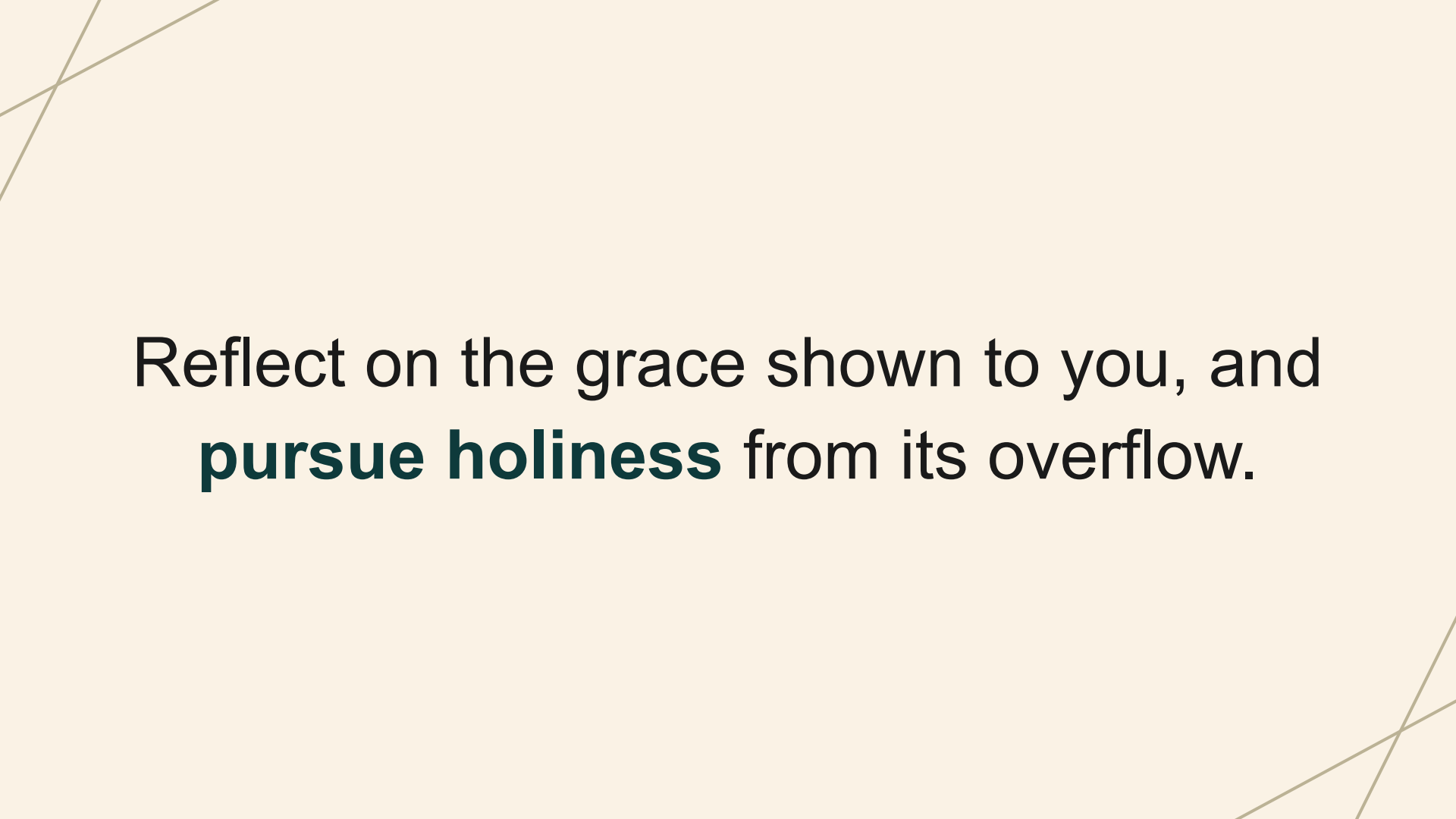


[12] Here is a call for **the endurance of the saints**, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

— *Revelation 14:12*

[12] Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body... [13] but present yourselves to God as those who have been **brought from death to life**... [14] For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but **under grace**.

— *Romans 6:12-14*



Reflect on the grace shown to you, and
pursue holiness from its overflow.

Revelation 15–18: **the final, total judgments** are poured out on the earth.

REVELATION 19:11–21

The Return of the King

REVELATION 20

The Millennial Kingdom

The 1,000-year reign

Satan is bound (Rev. 20:2-3)— no longer the ruler of this present age.

Christ rules the nations (Rev. 20:4)— the King of kings over a restored earth.

We reign with Him — co-heirs with Christ, given authority to judge.

[4] Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the **authority to judge** was committed Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus... They came to life and **reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

— *Revelation 20:4*

[21] The one who conquers, I will grant him to **sit with me on my throne**, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

— *Revelation 3:21*

[12] if we endure, **we will also reign with him...**

— *2 Timothy 2:12*

The earth will be made better with
Jesus as its King — but it will **not yet**
be perfect.

The Great White Throne (Revelation 20:12–15): the final judgment of the unbelieving dead.

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REVELATION 21–22

Eternity

[1] Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

— *Revelation 21:1*

[1] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
[2] In my Father’s house are many rooms... **I go to prepare a place for you.** [3] And... **I will come again and will take you to myself,** that where I am you may be also.”

— *John 14:1-3*



For all His children by faith, Christ is
preparing a place **exactly for you.**

[3] ...“Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man...** [4] He will **wipe away every tear** from their eyes, and **death shall be no more**, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore... [5] Behold, I am **making all things new.**”... these words are **trustworthy and true.**

— *Revelation 21:3-5*

[1] Then the angel showed me **the river of the water of life**... flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb [2] ...also... **the tree of life**... [3] No longer will there be anything accursed... [4] **They will see his face**... [5] And night will be no more... for the Lord God will be their light, and they will **reign forever and ever**.

— *Revelation 22:1-5*



Our Gospel is sweet because of **this
eternal reality** to come.

Revelation is not meant to scare you. It
is **the spring of hope** for your soul
through every trial.

[18] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not worth comparing with the glory** that is to be revealed to us.

— *Romans 8:18*

The pinnacle of eternity is **God Himself**. He is what makes heaven, heaven.

[16] So we do not lose heart... [17] For this **light momentary affliction** is preparing for us an **eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison, [18] as we look... to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but **the things that are unseen are eternal.**

— *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** Do the end times feel hopeful to you? If not, what are you struggling with? If so, what feels hopeful about it right now?
- 2.** How often do you think about eternity? How does it — or how can it — impact your decisions, actions, and feelings today?

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