

Romans





so what?

So what?



So what?

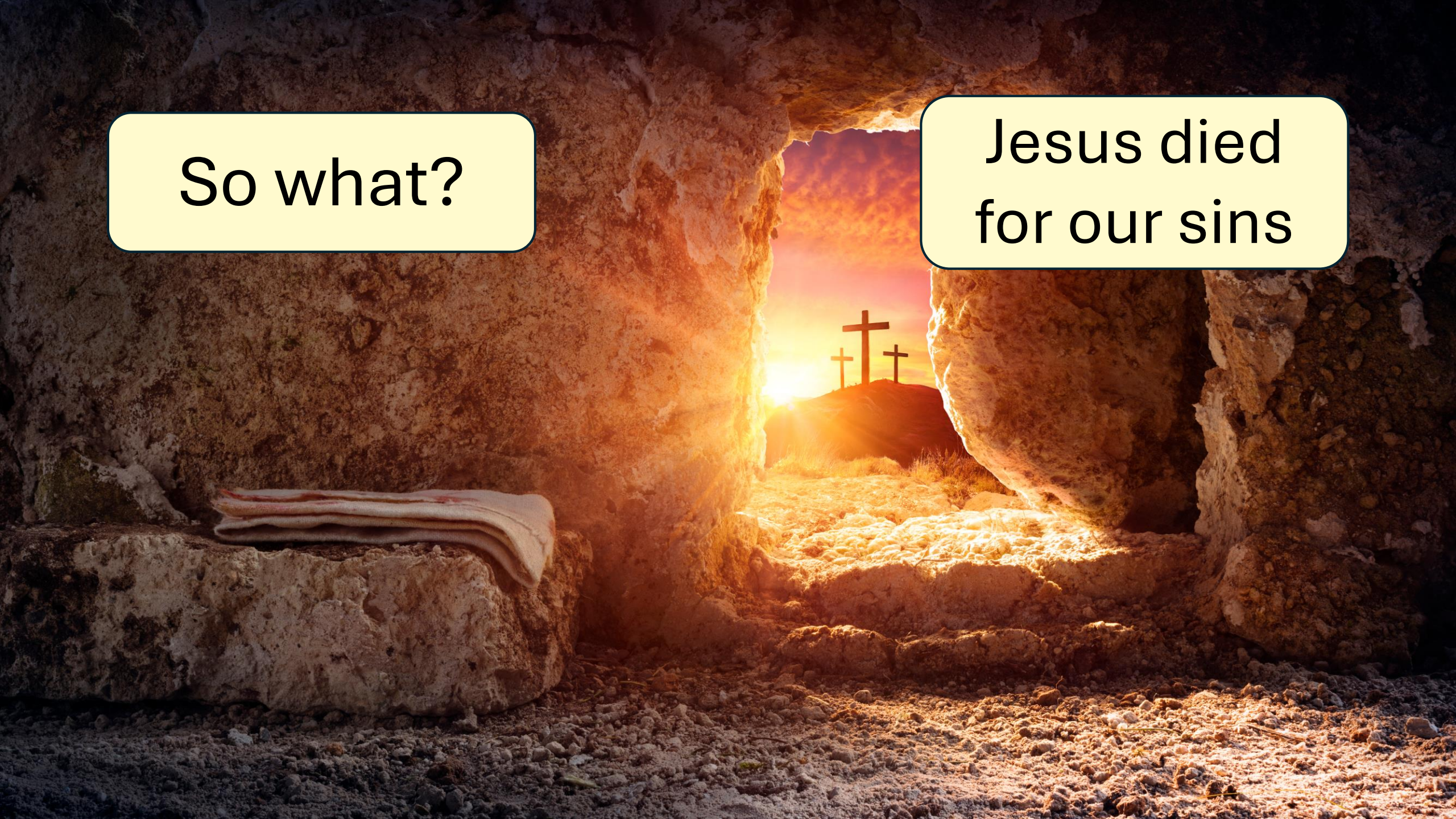


So what?



So what?

Jesus died
for our sins



So what?

I belong
to God

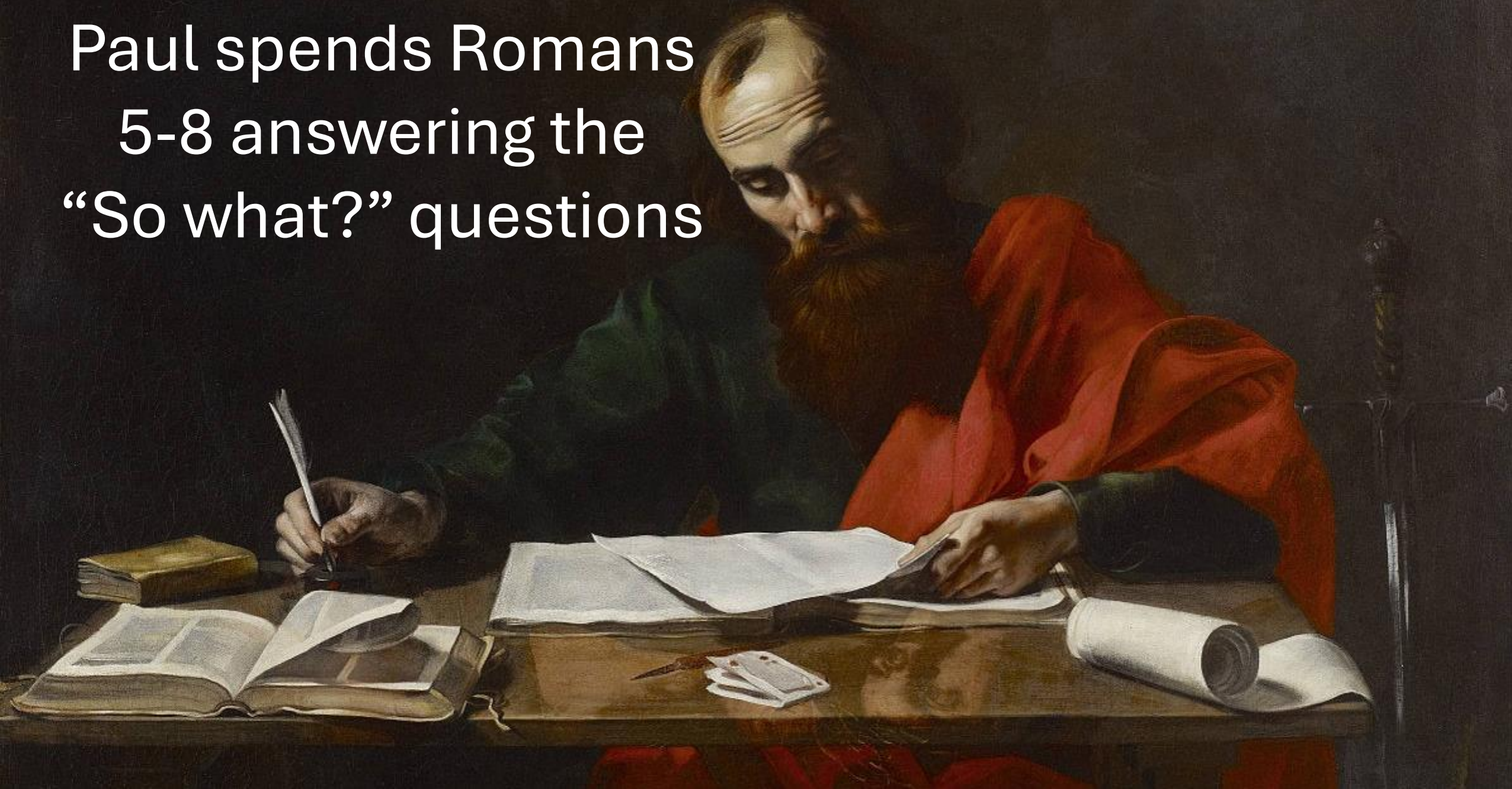


So what?

I'm justified
by faith!



Paul spends Romans
5-8 answering the
“So what?” questions



Paul bookends his
discussion with an
overriding truth:

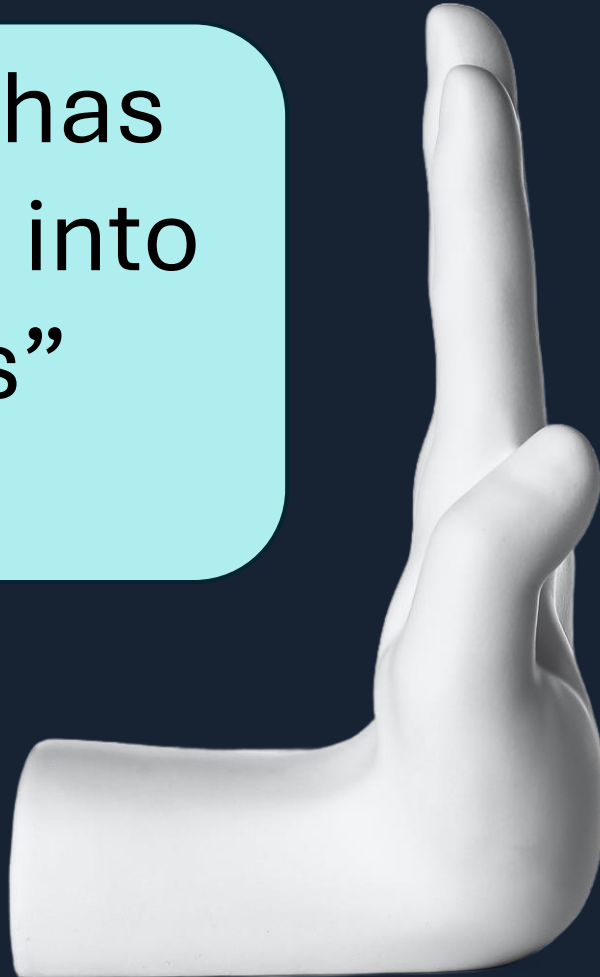
God loves
you!!!




“God’s love has
been poured into
our hearts”
(Rom. 5:5)

Paul bookends his
discussion with an
overriding truth:


God loves
you!!!



Paul bookends his
discussion with an
overriding truth:



God loves
you!!!



Nothing “will be
able to separate
us from the love
of God” (Rom. 8:39)

Paul bookends his
discussion with an
overriding truth:

God loves
you!!!



1



Historical
context

2



Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

4



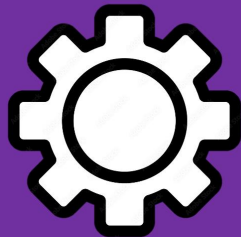
Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

7



Mix-in
others

8



Ongoing
reflection

1

So what?

Historical
context

2

Literary
context

3

Qualitative
analysis

4

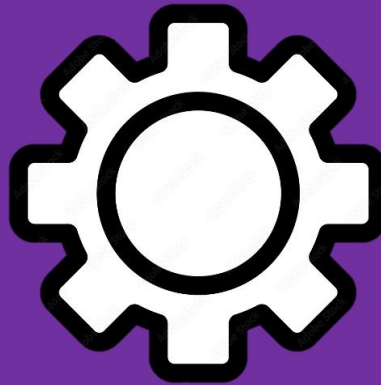
Phenomenology
and
ethnography

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

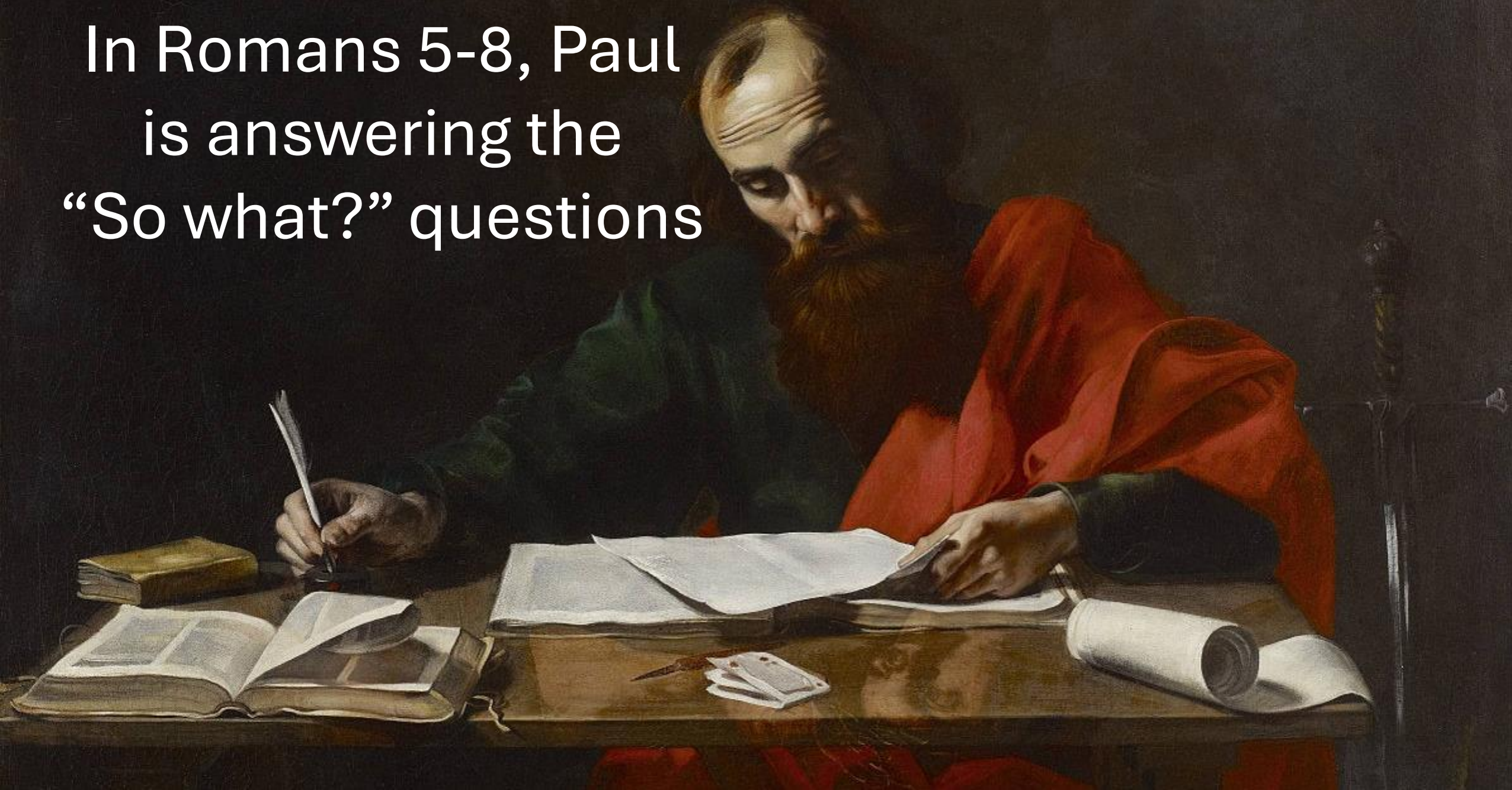
Mix-in
others

8



Ongoing
reflection

In Romans 5-8, Paul
is answering the
“So what?” questions



1



Historical
context

2



Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

4



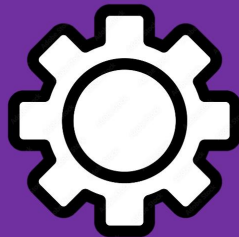
Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

7



Mix-in
others

8



Ongoing
reflection

1



Historical
context

2



Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

4



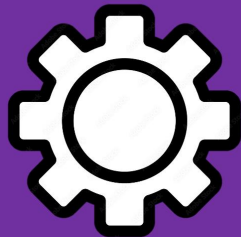
Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

7



Mix-in
others

8



Ongoing
reflection

1



Historical
context

2



Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

4



Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

7



Mix-in
others

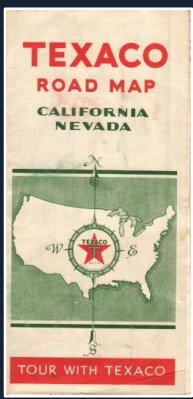
8



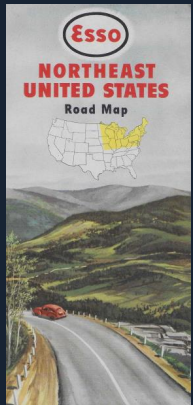
Ongoing
reflection

Romans

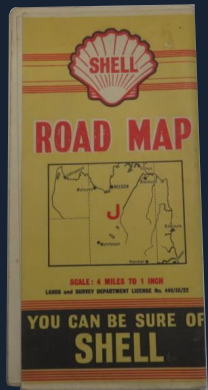
5:12-21



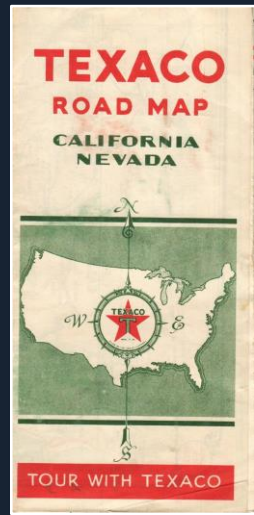
Reading through Ancient Honor-Shame Culture



Reading through Ancient Imperial Warfare Language



Reading through Ancient Jewish Chiastic Patterns



Reading through Ancient Honor-Shame Culture

In Paul's world "honor"
was the supreme
social currency

People lived to
accumulate "honor"
and avoid "shame"






It determined
social standing



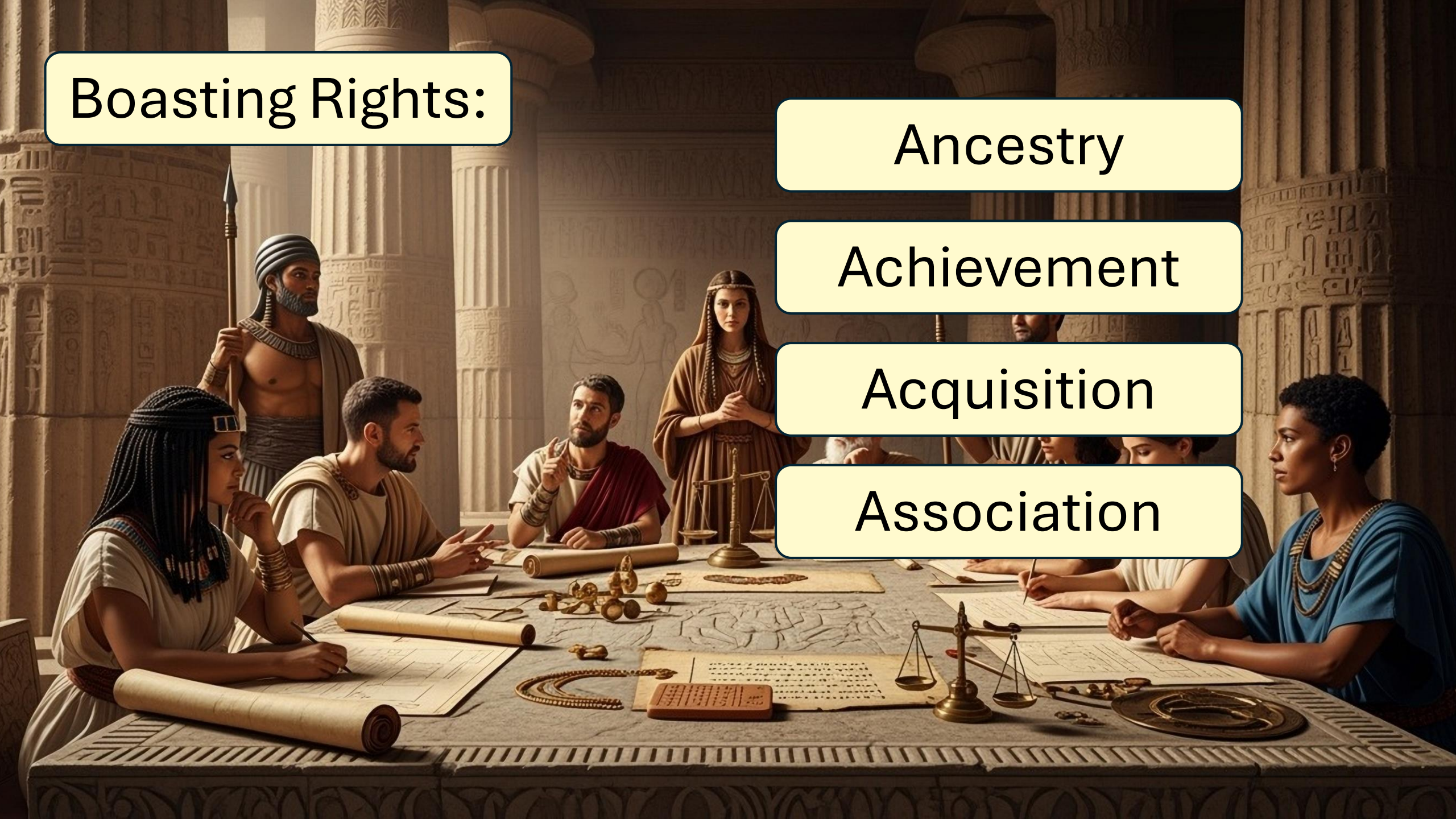
It determined economic opportunities



It determined
political influence



It determined
family reputation
for generations

A detailed illustration of an ancient Egyptian courtroom. In the center, a man in a red robe stands before a panel of judges. The judges, including a woman in a blue dress and a man in a white robe, are seated at a long table covered with papyrus scrolls. On the table are also golden scales of justice and various artifacts. In the background, a man in a blue turban stands guard. The walls are covered in hieroglyphs, and the room is lit by warm, golden light.

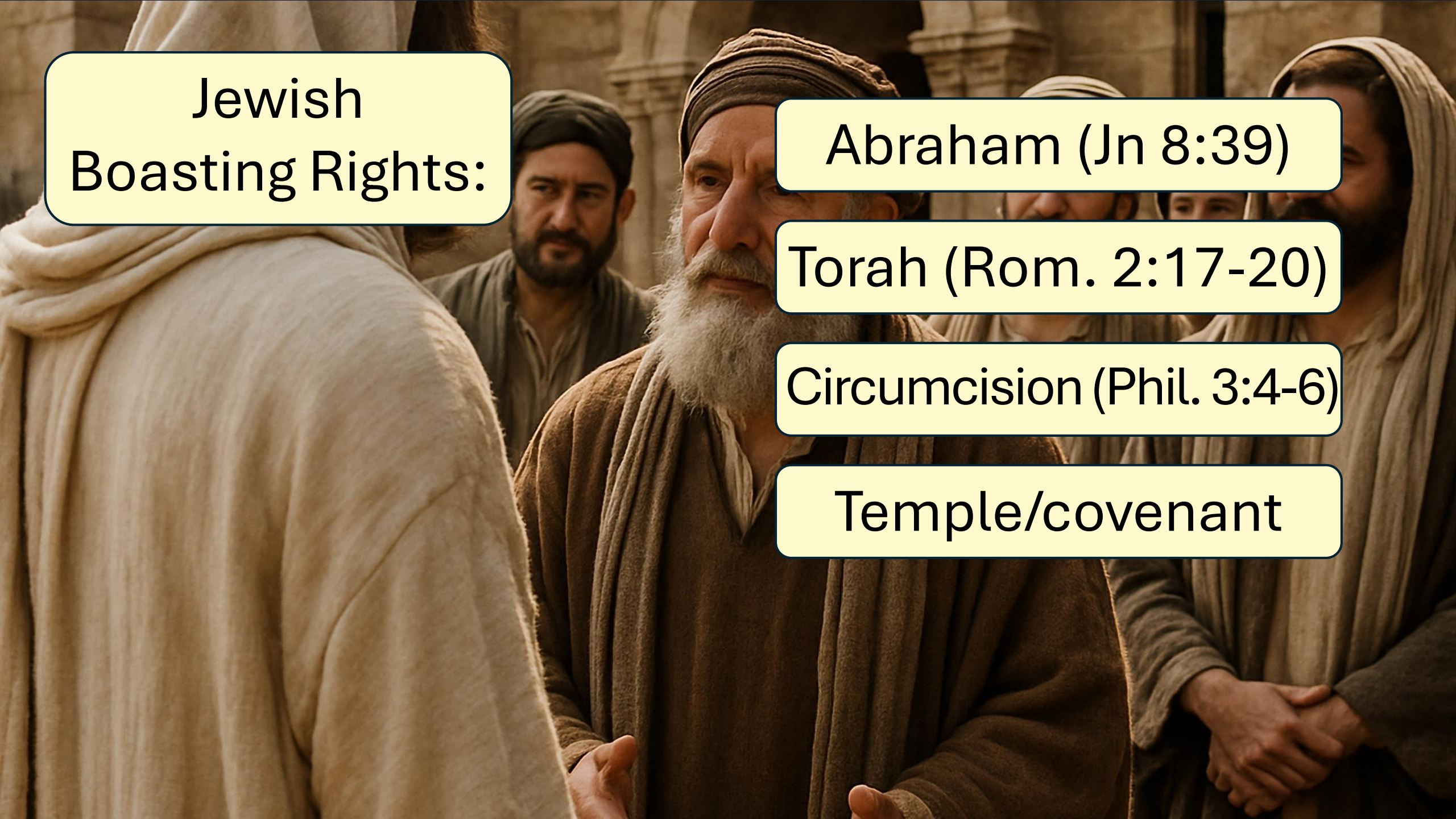
Boasting Rights:

Ancestry

Achievement

Acquisition

Association



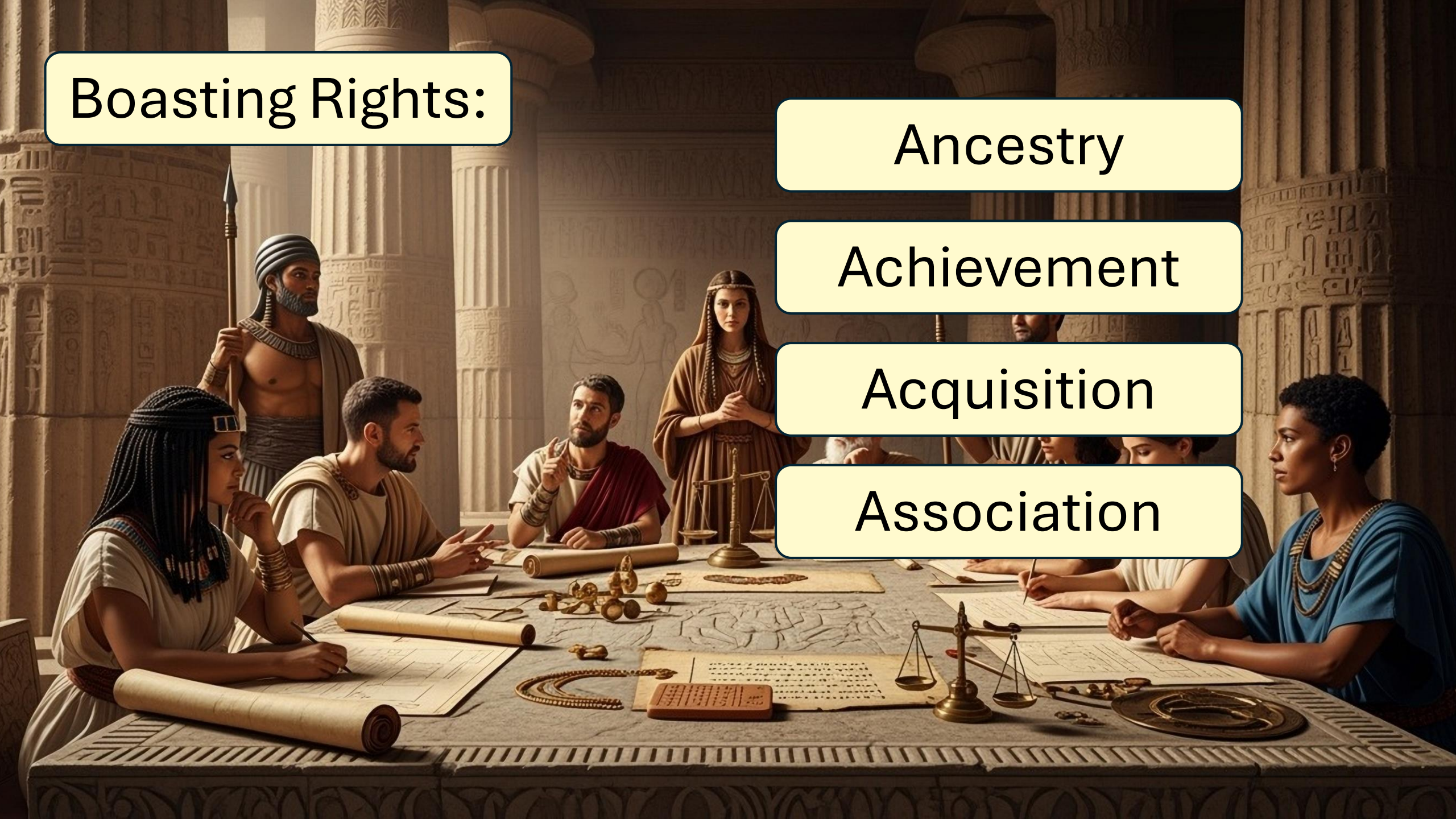
Jewish
Boasting Rights:

Abraham (Jn 8:39)

Torah (Rom. 2:17-20)

Circumcision (Phil. 3:4-6)

Temple/covenant

A detailed illustration of an ancient Egyptian courtroom. In the center, a man in a red robe stands before a panel of judges. The judges, including a woman in a blue dress and a man in a white robe, are seated at a long table covered with scrolls and documents. A man in a blue turban stands behind them. The background features large columns and hieroglyphs. The scene is lit with warm, golden light.

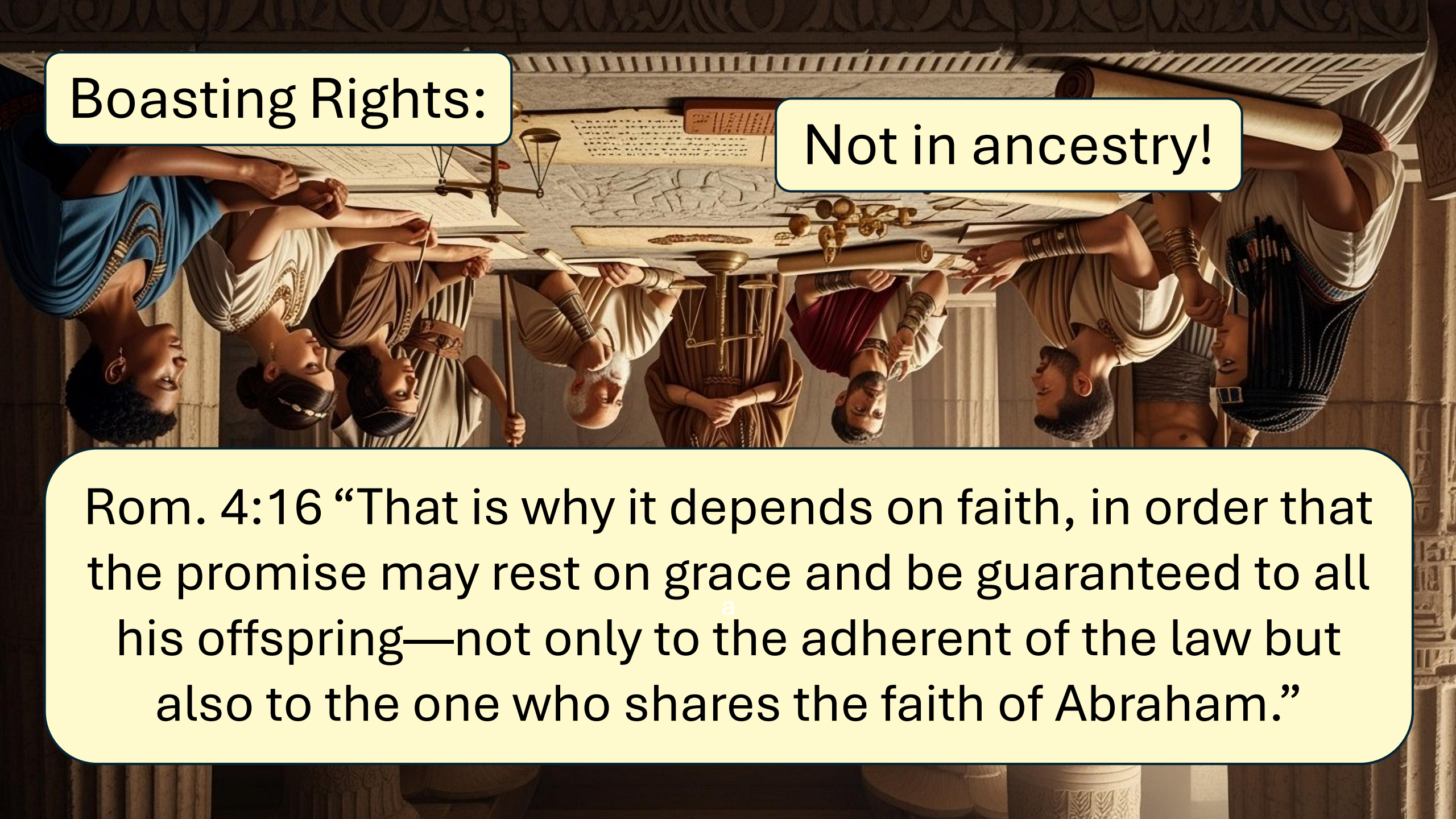
Boasting Rights:

Ancestry

Achievement

Acquisition

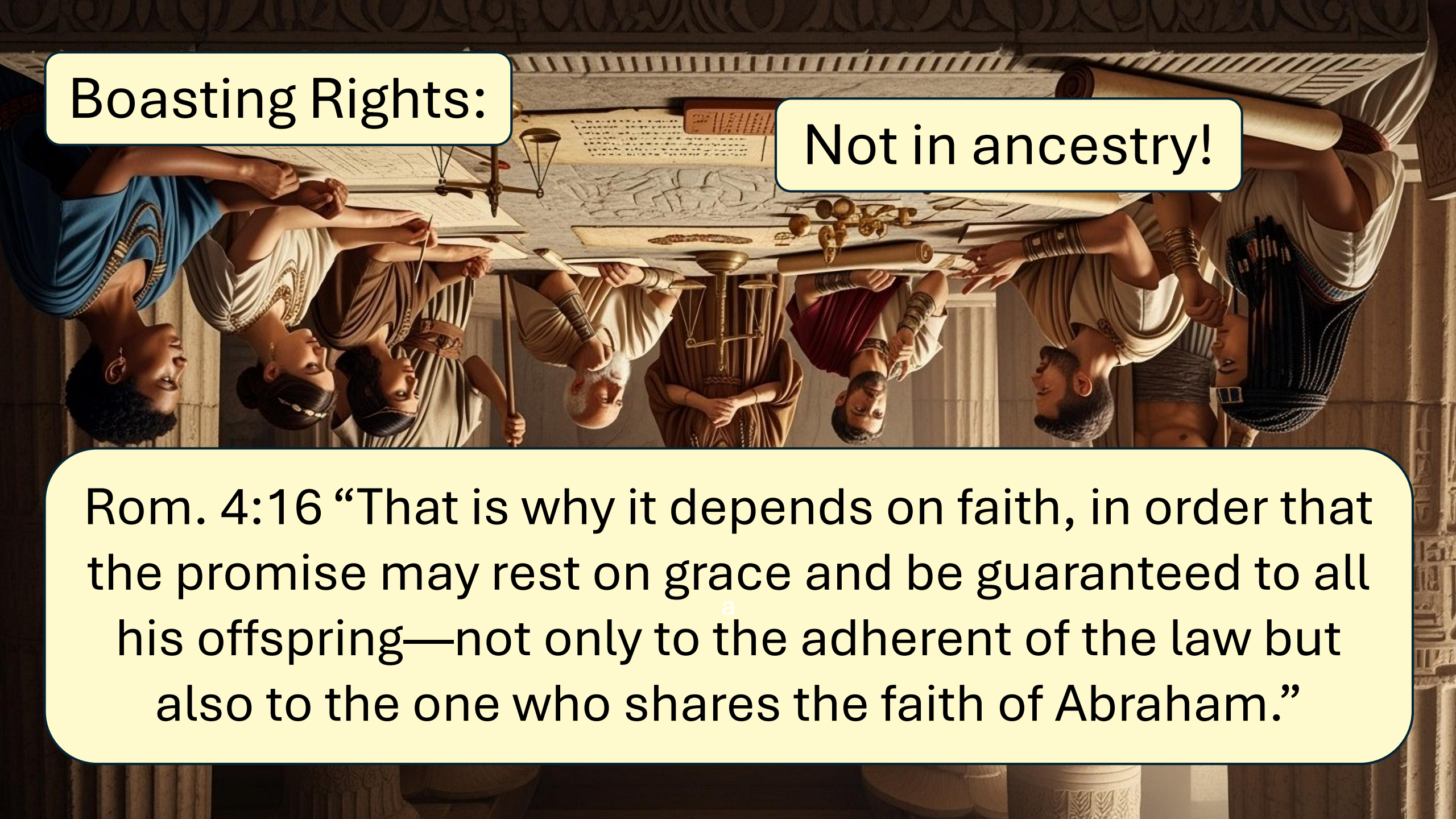
Association

A group of people in ancient Roman attire are gathered around a large table in a classical setting. The scene is lit with warm, golden light. Several text boxes are overlaid on the image. The background features classical architecture with columns and a large table with various items on it, including scrolls and a scale.

Boasting Rights:

Not in works!

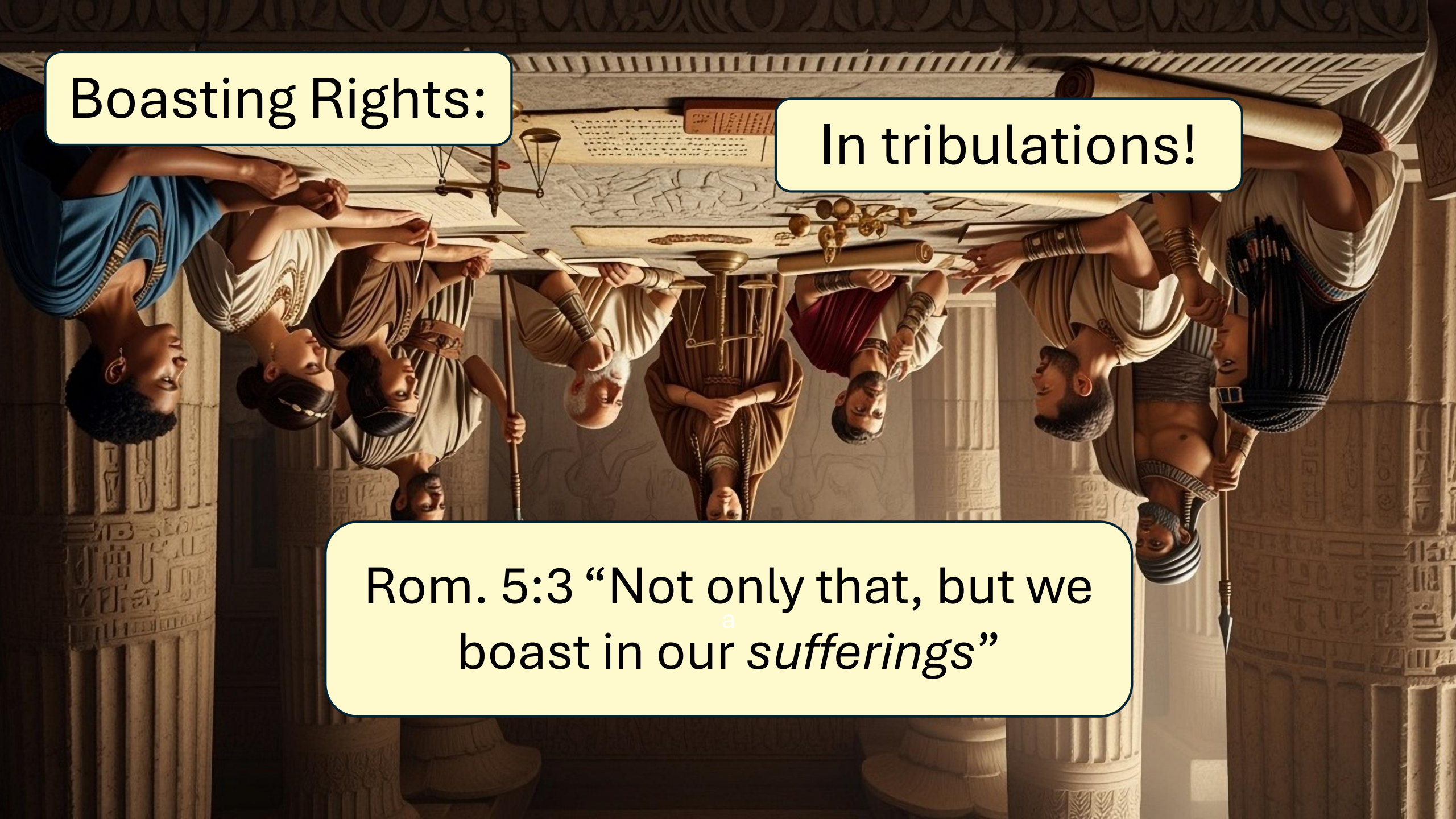
Rom. 3:27 “Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.”



Boasting Rights:

Not in ancestry!

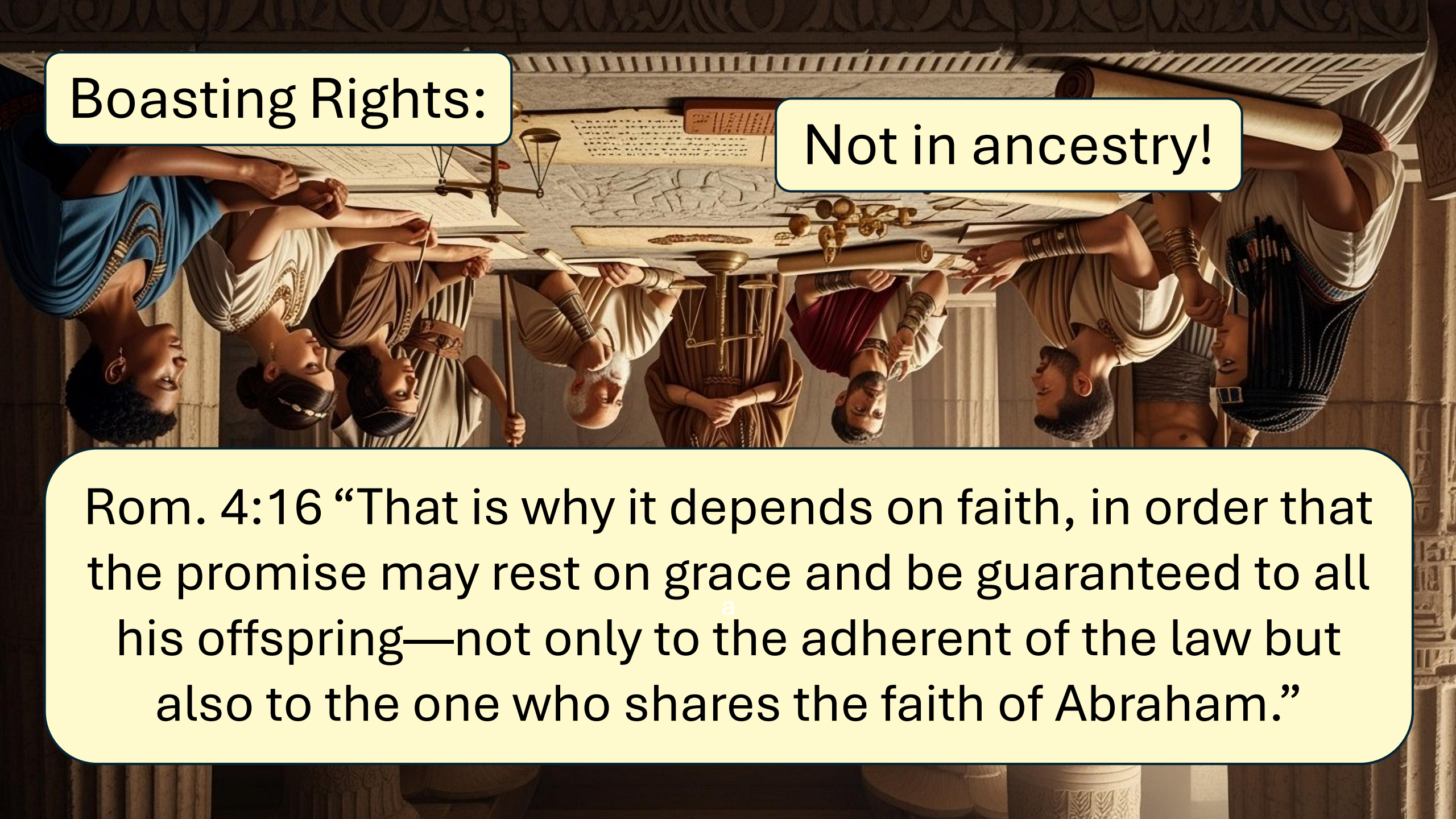
Rom. 4:16 “That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham.”

A group of people in ancient Roman attire are gathered around a large table in a grand hall with high ceilings and columns. The scene is lit with warm, golden light. The people are engaged in various activities: some are writing on scrolls, some are looking at each other, and one man is holding a scroll. The background features large columns and a high ceiling with intricate carvings. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy, important meeting or study session.

Boasting Rights:

In tribulations!

Rom. 5:3 “Not only that, but we
boast in our *sufferings*”

A group of people in ancient Roman attire are gathered around a large scroll. The scene is set in a classical environment with stone columns and a large scroll. The people are dressed in various Roman garments, including togas and tunics. Some are holding the scroll, while others are looking at it. The lighting is warm, suggesting an indoor setting with a fire or lamp. The overall atmosphere is one of a formal gathering or a significant event.

Boasting Rights:

In God through
Christ!

Rom. 5:11 “More than that, we also boast in
God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through
whom we have now received reconciliation.”

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Romans 5:12

Διὰ τοῦτο ὥσπερ δι' ἐνὸς ἀνθρώπου ἡ ἁμαρτία εἰς τὸν κόσμον εἰσῆλθεν καὶ διὰ τῆς ἁμαρτίας ὁ θάνατος, καὶ οὕτως εἰς πάντας ἀνθρώπους ὁ θάνατος διῆλθεν, ἐφ' ᾧ πάντες ἥμαρτον·

Romans 5:13

for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

Romans 5:13

ἄχρι γὰρ νόμου ἁμαρτία ἦν ἐν κόσμῳ, ἁμαρτία δὲ οὐκ ἐλλογεῖται μὴ ὄντος νόμου,

Romans 5:14

Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

Romans 5:14

ἀλλ' ἐβασίλευσεν ὁ
θάνατος ἀπὸ Ἀδὰμ μέχρι
Μωϋσέως καὶ ἐπὶ τοὺς
μὴ ἁμαρτήσαντας ἐπὶ τῷ
ὁμοιώματι τῆς
παραβάσεως Ἀδὰμ ὅς
ἐστιν τύπος τοῦ
μέλλοντος.

Romans 5:15

But the **free gift** is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the **grace** of God and the **free gift** by the **grace** of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

Romans 5:15

Ἀλλ' οὐχ ὡς τὸ παράπτωμα, οὕτως καὶ τὸ **χάρισμα**· εἰ γὰρ τῷ τοῦ ἑνὸς παραπτώματι οἱ πολλοὶ ἀπέθανον, πολλῷ μᾶλλον ἢ **χάρις** τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ ἡ **δωρεὰ** ἐν **χάριτι** τῇ τοῦ ἐνὸς ἀνθρώπου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ εἰς τοὺς πολλοὺς ἐπερίσσευσεν.

Romans 5:16

And the **free gift** is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

Romans 5:16

καὶ οὐχ ὥς δι' ἑνὸς ἁμαρτήσαντος τὸ **δῶρημα**· τὸ μὲν γὰρ κρίμα ἐξ ἑνὸς εἰς κατάκριμα, τὸ δὲ **χάρισμα** ἐκ πολλῶν παραπτωμάτων εἰς δικαίωμα.

Romans 5:17

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who **receive** the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17

εἰ γὰρ τῷ τοῦ ἑνὸς
παραπτώματι ὁ θάνατος
ἐβασίλευσεν διὰ τοῦ ἑνός,
πολλῷ μᾶλλον οἱ τὴν
περισσεῖαν τῆς χάριτος
καὶ τῆς δωρεᾶς τῆς
δικαιοσύνης **λαμβάνοντες**
ἐν ζωῇ βασιλεύσουσιν διὰ
τοῦ ἑνὸς Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

Romans 5:18

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

Romans 5:18

Ἄρα οὖν ὥς δι' ἑνὸς
παραπτώματος εἰς
πάντας ἀνθρώπους εἰς
κατάκριμα, οὕτως καὶ δι'
ἑνὸς δικαιώματος εἰς
πάντας ἀνθρώπους εἰς
δικαίωσιν ζωῆς·

Romans 5:19

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:19

ὥσπερ γὰρ διὰ τῆς παρακοῆς τοῦ ἑνὸς ἀνθρώπου ἁμαρτωλοὶ κατεστάθησαν οἱ πολλοί, οὕτως καὶ διὰ τῆς ὑπακοῆς τοῦ ἑνὸς δίκαιοι κατασταθήσονται οἱ πολλοί.

Romans 5:20

Now the law came in to
increase the trespass,
but where sin
increased, grace
abounded all the more,

Romans 5:20

νόμος δὲ παρεισῆλθεν,
ἵνα πλεονάσῃ τὸ
παράπτωμα· οὐ δὲ
ἐπλεόνασεν ἡ ἁμαρτία,
ὑπερεπερίσσευσεν ἡ
χάρις,

Romans 5:21

so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:21

ἵνα ὥσπερ ἐβασίλευσεν ἡ ἁμαρτία ἐν τῷ θανάτῳ, οὕτως καὶ ἡ χάρις βασιλεύσῃ διὰ δικαιοσύνης εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν.



so what?

We have a new
reigning ruler!



OLD: Death reigned –
slavery to futility,
mortality, spiritual
separation

NEW: Life reigns –
peace, purpose,
eternity, adoption

Romans 5:14

Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

Romans 5:14

ἀλλ' ἐβασίλευσεν ὁ θάνατος ἀπὸ Ἀδὰμ μέχρι Μωϋσέως καὶ ἐπὶ τοὺς μὴ ἁμαρτήσαντας ἐπὶ τῷ ὁμοιώματι τῆς παραβάσεως Ἀδὰμ ὃς ἐστὶν τύπος τοῦ μέλλοντος.

Romans 5:17

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who **receive** the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17

εἰ γὰρ τῷ τοῦ ἑνὸς
παραπτώματι ὁ θάνατος
ἐβασίλευσεν διὰ τοῦ ἑνός,
πολλῷ μᾶλλον οἱ τὴν
περισσεῖαν τῆς χάριτος
καὶ τῆς δωρεᾶς τῆς
δικαιοσύνης **λαμβάνοντες**
ἐν ζωῇ βασιλεύουσιν διὰ
τοῦ ἑνὸς Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

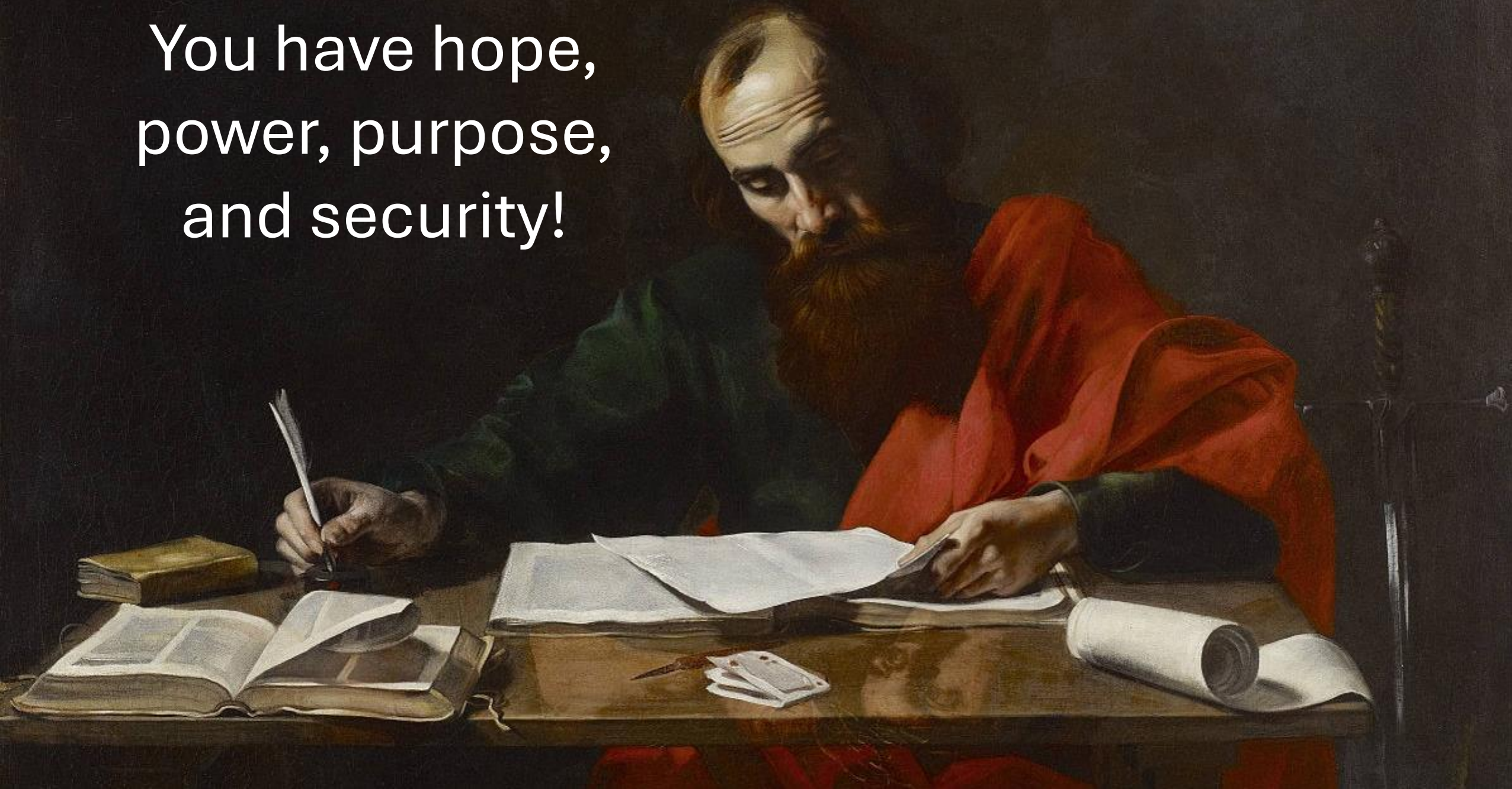
Romans 5:21

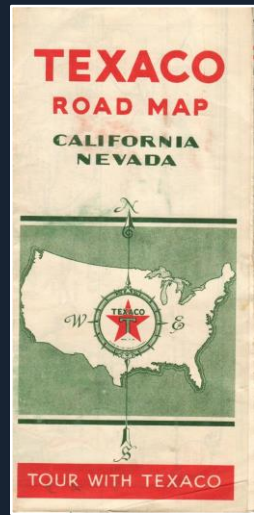
so that, as sin reigned
in death, grace also
might reign through
righteousness leading
to eternal life through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:21

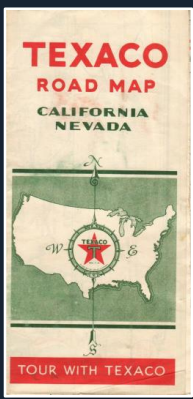
ἵνα ὥσπερ ἐβασίλευσεν
ἡ ἁμαρτία ἐν τῷ θανάτῳ,
οὕτως καὶ ἡ χάρις
βασιλεύσῃ διὰ
δικαιοσύνης εἰς ζωὴν
αἰώνιον διὰ Ἰησοῦ
Χριστοῦ τοῦ κυρίου
ἡμῶν.

You have hope,
power, purpose,
and security!

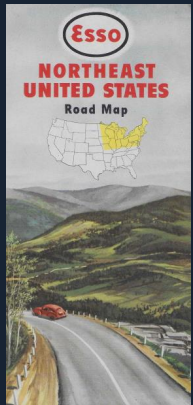




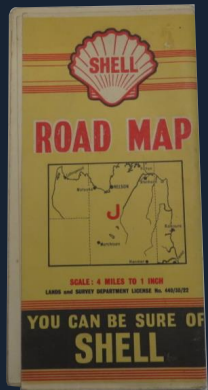
Reading through Ancient Honor-Shame Culture



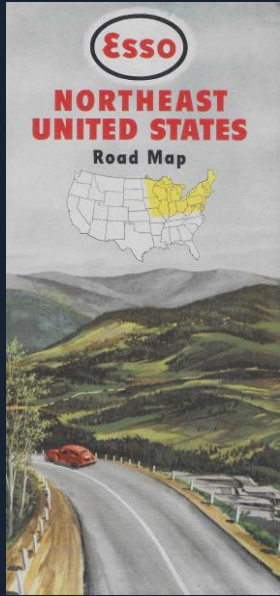
Reading through Ancient Honor-Shame Culture



Reading through Ancient Imperial Warfare Language



Reading through Ancient Jewish Chiastic Patterns



Reading through Ancient Imperial Warfare Language

Pax Romana: Roman
“peace” was maintained
through military superiority



Pax Romana: Conquest followed
by occupation and pacification



Pax Romana: People lived under constant awareness of Roman power



Pax Romana: Rebellion met
with swift, brutal retaliation



Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin
came into the world
through one man, and
death through sin, and
so death spread to all
men because
sinne

eisēlthen : “came into”
(εἰσῆλθεν) • invasion language

Romans 5:12

Διὰ τοῦτο ὥσπερ δι’ ἐνὸς
ἀνθρώπου ἡ ἁμαρτία εἰς
τὸν κόσμον εἰσῆλθεν καὶ
διὰ τῆς ἁμαρτίας ὁ
θάνατος, καὶ οὕτως εἰς

Romans 5:14

Yet death reigned from
Adam to Moses, even
over those whose
sinning was not like the
transgression of Adam,
who was
one who

basileuō
(βασιλεύω): “imperial authority”

Romans 5:14

ἀλλ' ἐβασίλευσεν ὁ
θάνατος ἀπὸ Ἀδὰμ μέχρι
Μωϋσέως καὶ ἐπὶ τοὺς
μὴ ἁμαρτήσαντας ἐπὶ τῷ
ὁμοιώματι τῆς
ἁμαρτίας

Romans 5:16

And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

Romans 5:16

καὶ οὐχ ὡς δι' ἑνὸς ἁμαρτήσαντος τὸ δῶρημα· τὸ μὲν γὰρ κρίμα ἐξ ἑνὸς εἰς κατάκριμα, τὸ δὲ χάρισμα ἐκ πολλῶν

katakrima •
(κατάκρῖμα) •

judicial verdict
after conquest

Romans 5:17

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righted through Christ.

basileuō (βασιλεύω): “imperial authority”

Romans 5:17

εἰ γὰρ τῷ τοῦ ἑνὸς παραπτώματι ὁ θάνατος ἐβασίλευσεν διὰ τοῦ ἑνός, πολλῷ μᾶλλον οἱ τὴν περισσεΐαν τῆς χάριτος καὶ τῆς δωρεᾶς τῆς
νοντες
σιν διὰ
τοῦ ἑνός ἡσού Χριστοῦ

Romans 5:19

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:19

ὥσπερ γὰρ διὰ τῆς παρακοῆς τοῦ ἑνὸς ἀνθρώπου ἁμαρτωλοὶ κατεστάθησαν οἱ πολλοί, οὕτως καὶ διὰ τῆς ὑπακοῆς τοῦ ἑνὸς δίκαιοι κατασταθήσονται οἱ

kathisēmi • “constitute/appoint”
(καθίστημι) • installation of authority

Sin invaded the world as a conquering force
establishing death's reign over conquered humanity



But in one *decisive* triumphant battle, the war ended



Romans 5:18

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

Romans 5:18

Ἄρα οὖν ὥς δι' ἑνὸς παραπτώματος εἰς πάντας ἀνθρώπους εἰς κατάκριμα, οὕτως καὶ δι' ἑνὸς δικαιώματος εἰς πάντας ἀνθρώπους εἰς δικαίωσιν ζωῆς·

Romans 5:19

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:19

ὥσπερ γὰρ διὰ τῆς παρακοῆς τοῦ ἑνὸς ἀνθρώπου ἁμαρτωλοὶ κατεστάθησαν οἱ πολλοί, οὕτως καὶ διὰ τῆς ὑπακοῆς τοῦ ἑνὸς δίκαιοι κατασταθήσονται οἱ πολλοί.

Romans 5:20

Now the law came in to
increase the trespass,
but where sin
increased, grace
abounded all the more,

Romans 5:20

νόμος δὲ παρεισῆλθεν,
ἵνα πλεονάσῃ τὸ
παράπτωμα· οὐ δὲ
ἐπλεόνασεν ἡ ἁμαρτία,
ὑπερεπερίσσευσεν ἡ
χάρις,

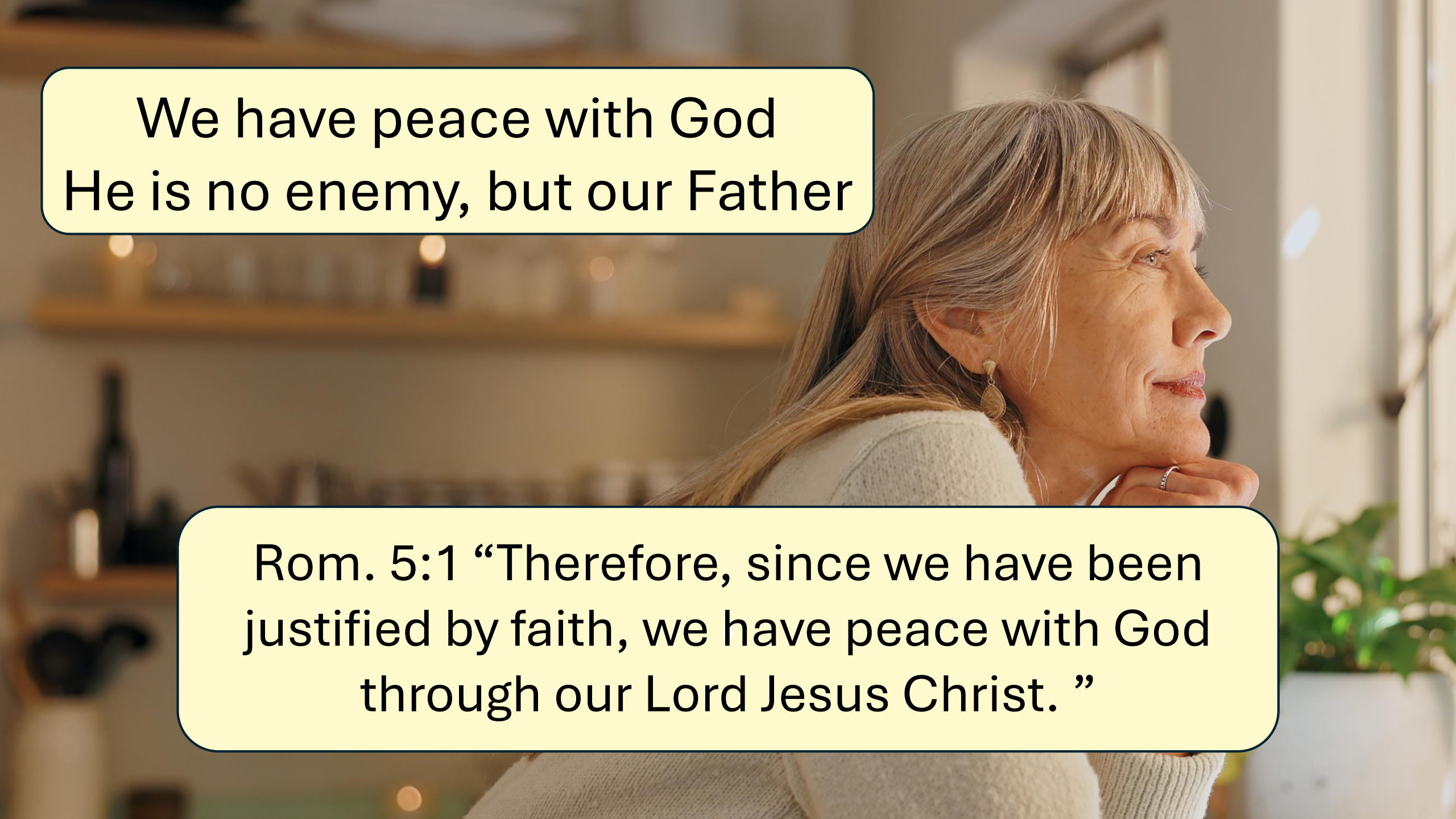
Terms of peace:

- Justification
- Reconciliation
- Life





so what?



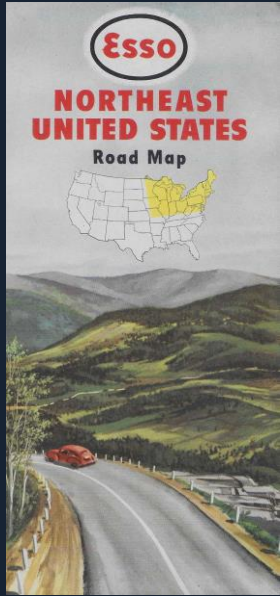
We have peace with God
He is no enemy, but our Father

Rom. 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ”

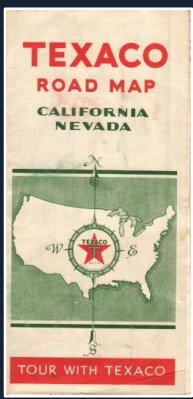
Stop living like you're
at war with God

The peace treaty
is signed in
Christ's blood

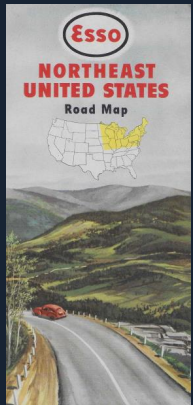




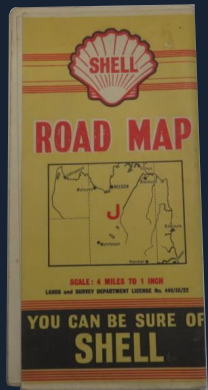
Reading through Ancient Imperial Warfare Language



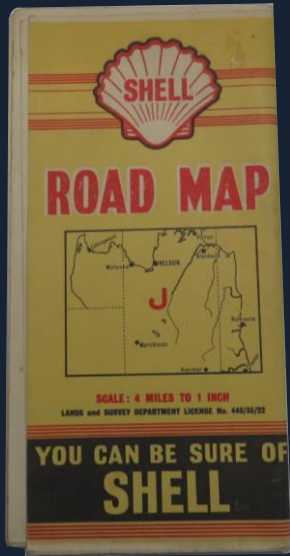
Reading through Ancient Honor-Shame Culture



Reading through Ancient Imperial Warfare Language



Reading through Ancient Jewish Chiastic Patterns



Reading through Ancient Jewish Chiastic Patterns

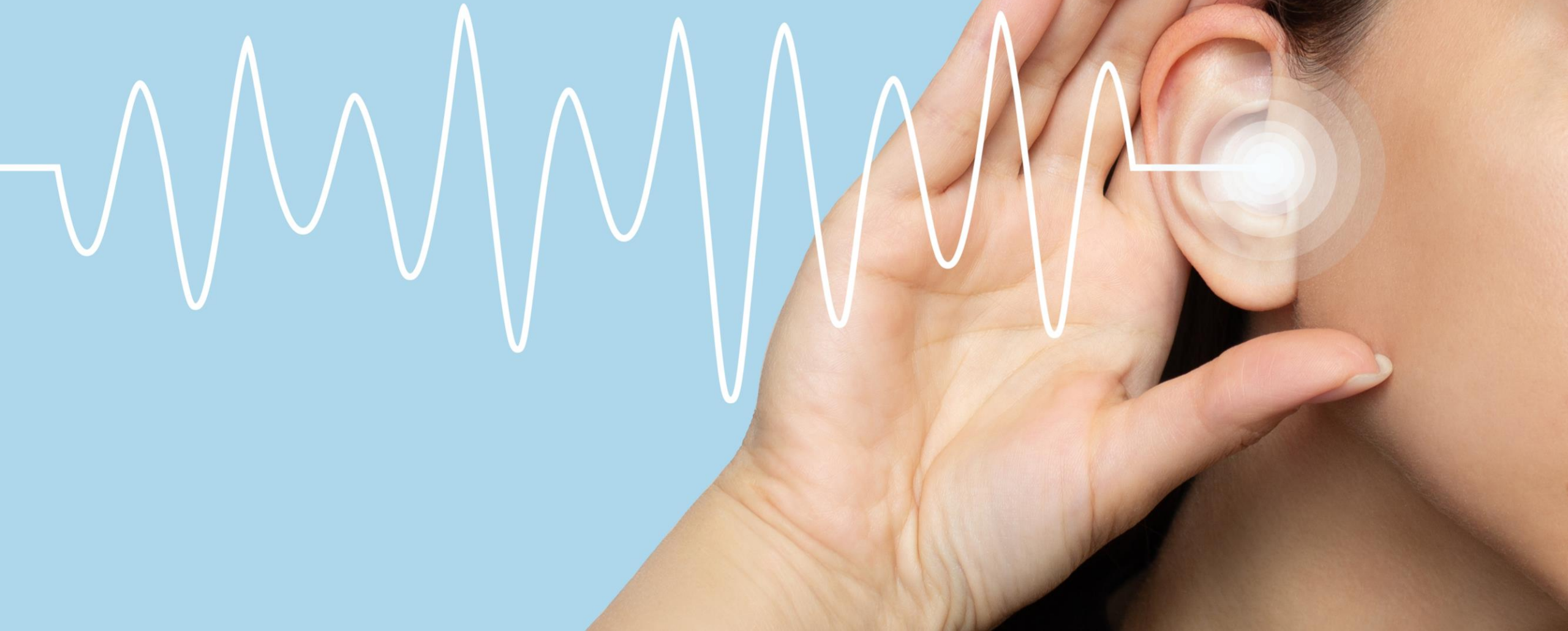
“Chiasm”

X

Chi



Ancients were trained to
listen for these patterns



Sin through
Adam (v. 12)

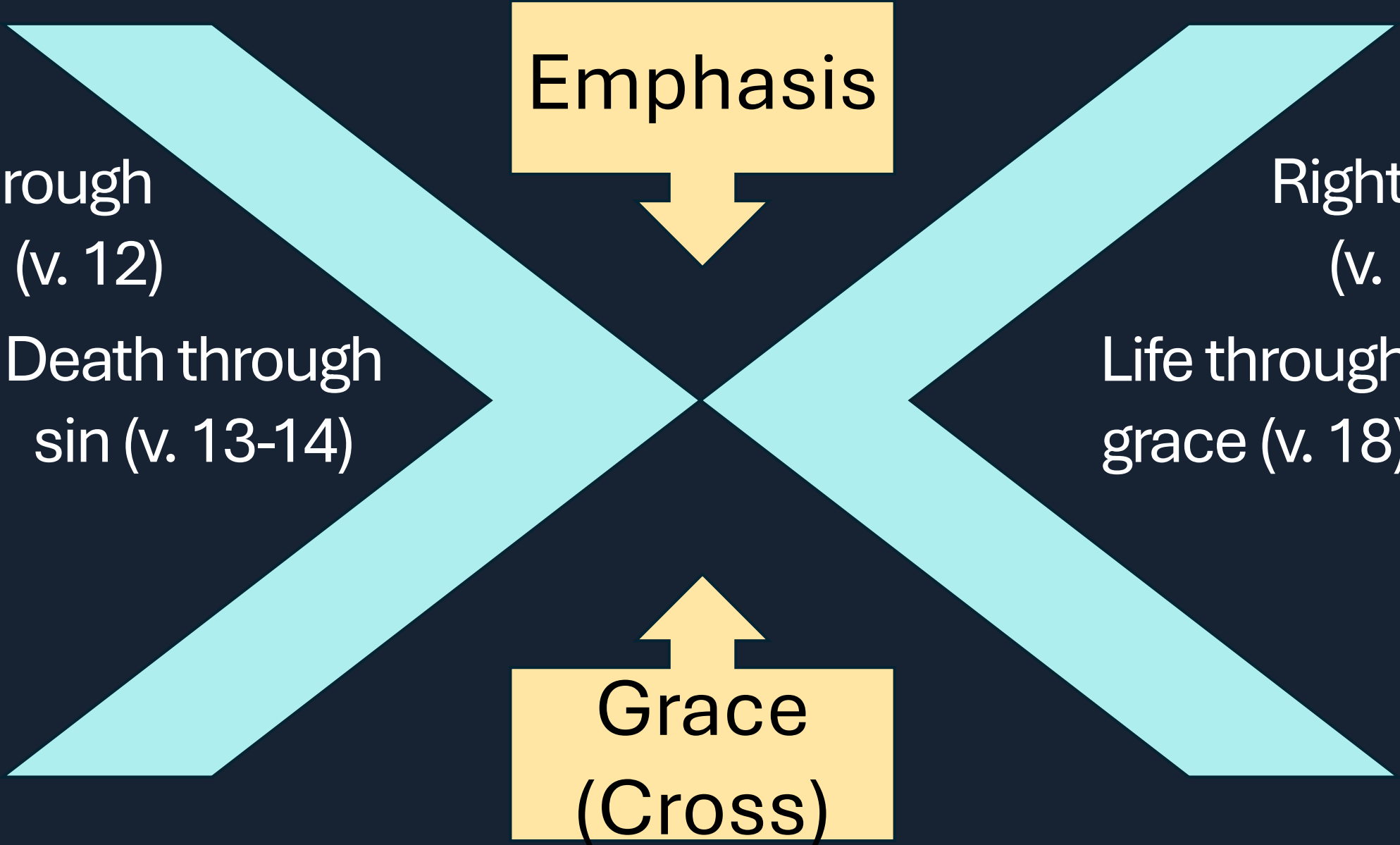
Death through
sin (v. 13-14)

Emphasis

Righteous
(v. 19)

Life through
grace (v. 18)

Grace
(Cross)



The cosmic reversal isn't a fix,
grace far exceeds what was lost!



Adam lost
innocence

Christ gives
righteousness



Adam
brought death

Christ brings
eternal life



Adam
brought
condemnation

Christ brings
justification



Adam
made many
sinners

Christ makes
many
righteous





so what?

Consider your role

We're part of
God's cosmic
project to restore
creation through
Christ





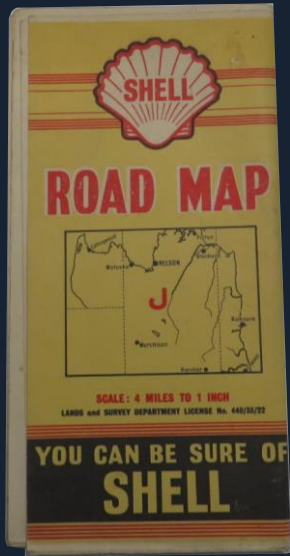
Your life has cosmic significance!

You're not just trying to be a good person -
you're participating in God's restoration of all things

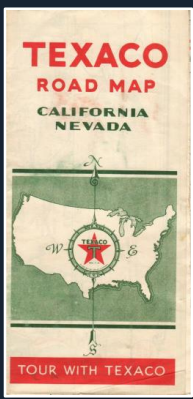
A view of Earth from space, showing the horizon and city lights at night. The Earth's curve is visible against the dark background of space, with a thin blue line of the atmosphere at the top. The lower half of the image shows the Earth's surface at night, with numerous yellow and orange lights from cities and towns scattered across the dark landmasses.

Your life has cosmic significance!

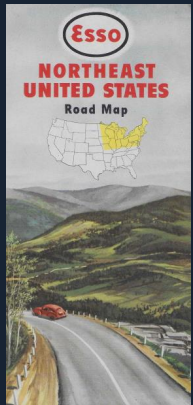
Every act of love, justice, mercy, and
faithfulness is part of the divine
chiasm that's reversing the curse



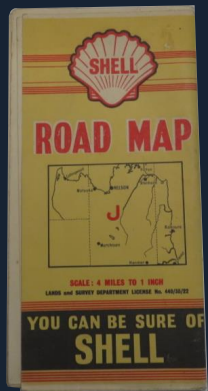
Reading through Ancient Jewish Chiastic Patterns



Reading through Ancient Honor-Shame Culture



Reading through Ancient Imperial Warfare Language



Reading through Ancient Jewish Chiastic Patterns

1



Historical
context

2



Literary
context

3



Textual
analysis

4



Paragraph
exegesis

5



Theological
analysis

6



Application

7



Mix-in
others

8



Ongoing
reflection

Not Honor-Shame but Grace-Security

We are among “those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness” (Rom. 5:17)

Points
for Home



Let your identity come from whose you are,
not what you've done!

Not Warfare but Peace

“we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus
Christ” (Rom. 5:1)

Points
for Home



When guilt or fear attacks, remember - you're
living under grace's reign, not death's tyranny

Not Warfare but Peace

“we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus
Christ” (Rom. 5:1)

Points
for Home

Act like a citizen of God's kingdom,
not a refugee from His wrath



From Individual to Cosmic

“Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.”

(Rom. 5:18)



Points
for Home

When life feels meaningless, remember –
you're part of God's cosmic restoration project

From Individual to Cosmic

“Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.”

(Rom. 5:18)



Points
for Home

When your problems seem overwhelming,
remember - you're on the winning side of
the cosmic story

Romans

