

# Romans







# OEDIPUS REX SOPHOCLES











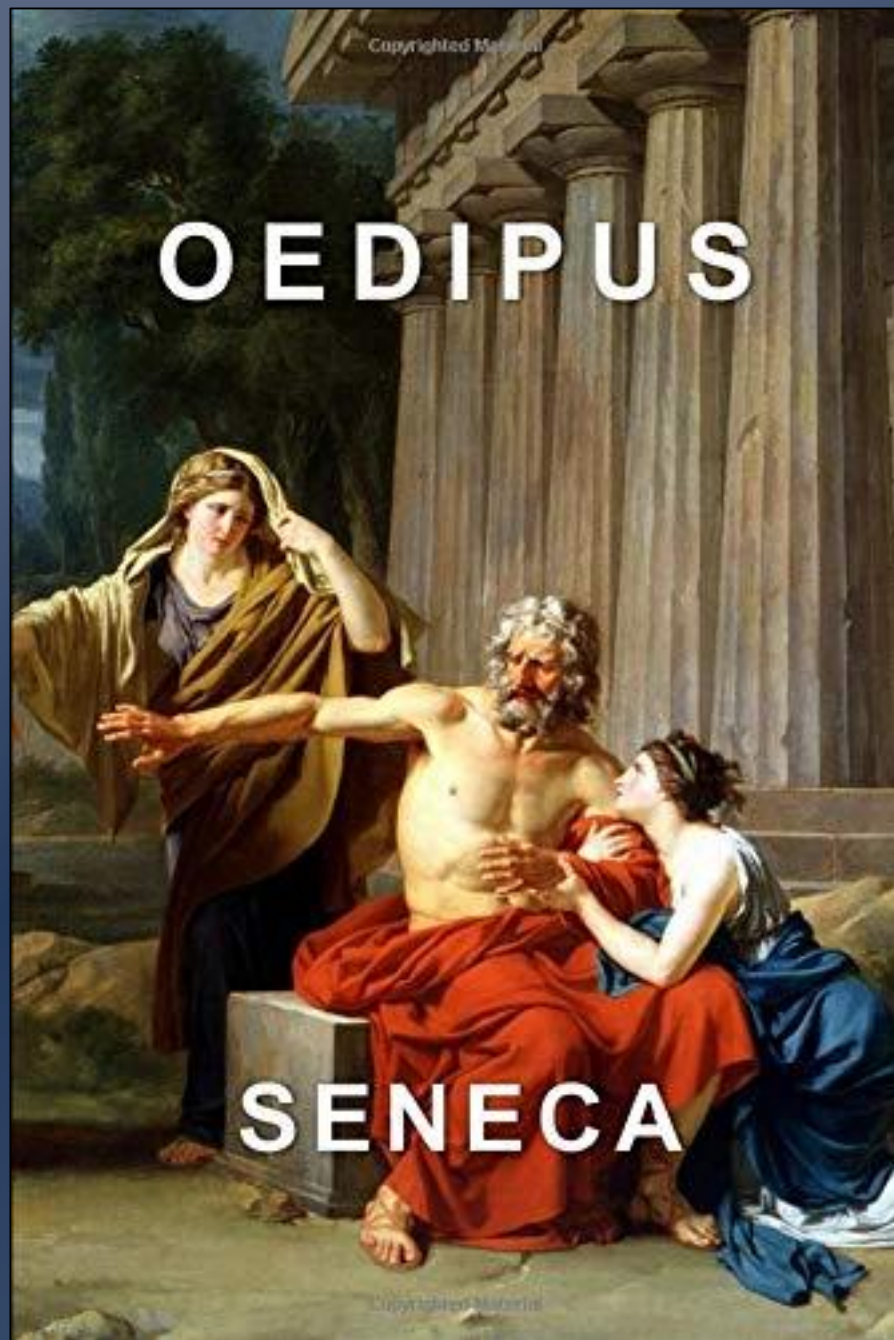


**King  
Oedipus**

**Queen  
Jocasta**









# The WRATH of God



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

# Romans in seven sections



1:1-1:17

Introduction

Greetings

Overarching theme



1:18-3:20

Reign and  
condemnation of sin  
over Jew and Gentile





Ancient  
Greco-  
Roman  
thought

Contrast  
Paul's text

Points for  
home  
Paul's text





Ancient  
Greco-  
Roman  
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Ancient  
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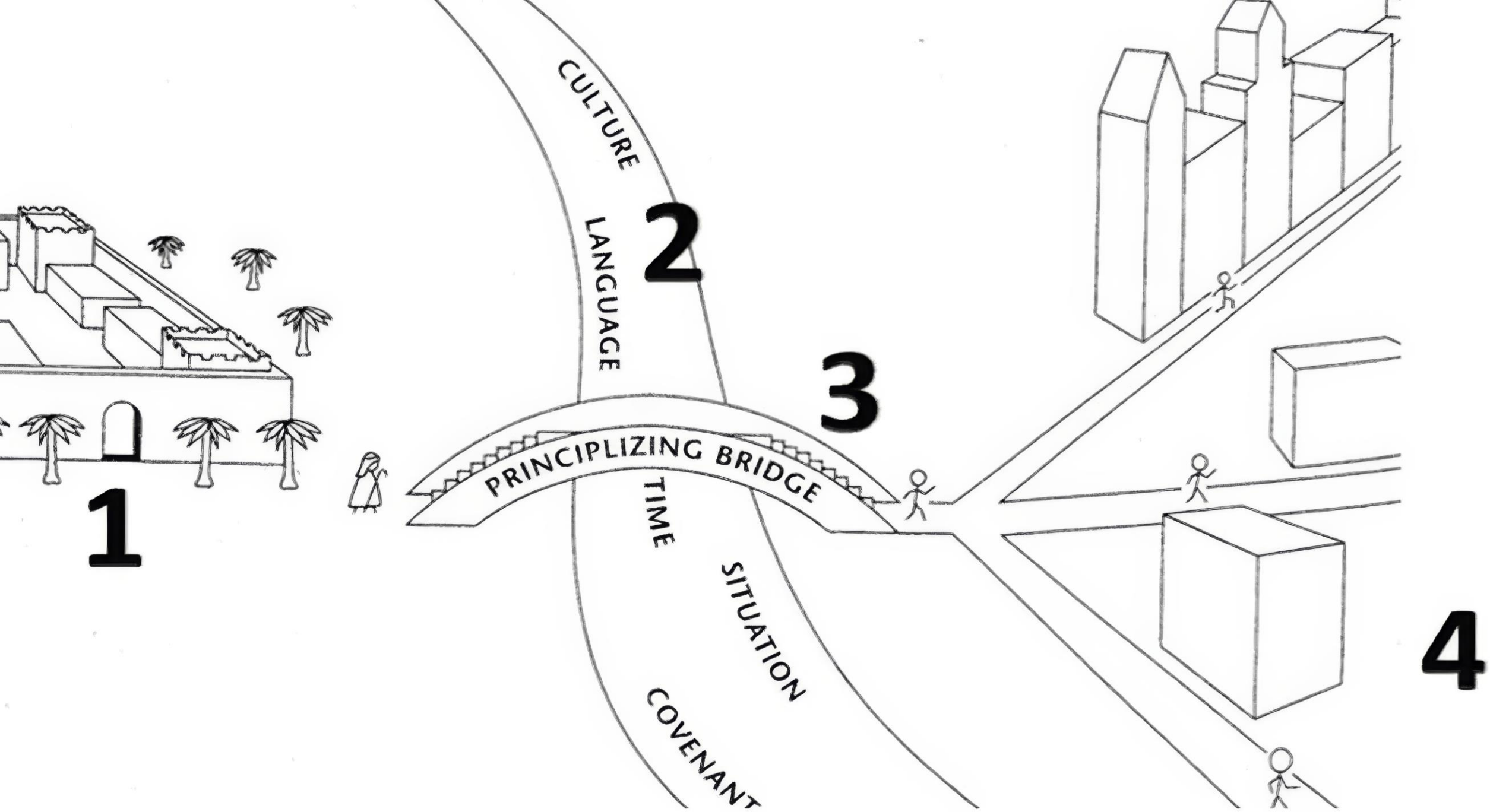




Ancient  
Greco-  
Roman  
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Paul's text

Points for  
home  
Paul's text





STAR  
WARSTM

The background of the image is a composite of two iconic Star Wars scenes. On the left, Emperor Palpatine, played by Ian McDiarmid, is shown in his dark, hooded robes, with his wrinkled, pale skin and orange eyes. He has a menacing expression and is gesturing with his hands. On the right, the Death Star is visible, a large, spherical space station with a grid-like pattern of windows and a prominent circular opening. The entire scene is set against a black background filled with white stars.

**STAR  
WAR**

Similarities

Differences





STAR  
WARs

Similarities

Differences

The point: We naturally use  
culturally appropriate reference  
points and tie-ins to analogize  
and distinguish faith



Paul was deeply  
aware of Greco-  
Roman thought





Where you live, forms  
who you are, how you  
think, and what you know





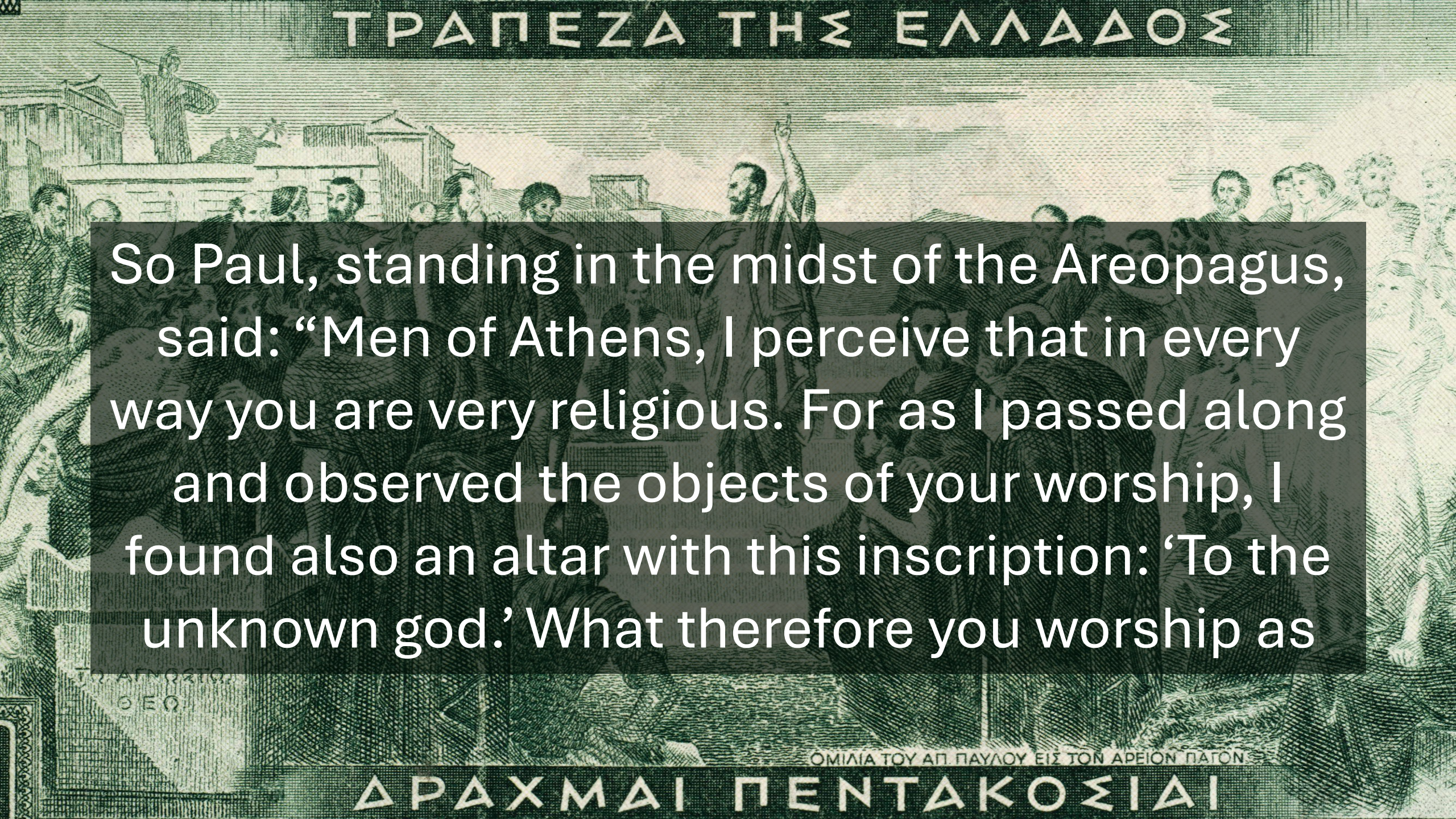
The people of Tarsus have devoted themselves so zealously to philosophy, to the whole encyclical curriculum, and to whatever other studies you might name that they have surpassed Athens, Alexandria, and any other place that can be named where there are schools and lectures of philosophers. - Strabo







ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ



So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as

ΟΜΙΛΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΠ. ΠΑΥΛΟΥ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΕΙΟΝ ΠΑΤΟΝ

ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ ΠΕΝΤΑΚΟΣΙΑΙ



ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and

ΤΟ ΑΓΝΩΣΤΟ  
ΤΟ ΘΕΟ

ΟΜΙΛΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΠ. ΠΑΥΛΟΥ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΕΙΟΝ ΠΑΤΟΝ

ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ ΠΕΝΤΑΚΟΣΙΑΙ



ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us... (Acts 17:22-27)

ΟΜΙΛΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΠ. ΠΑΥΛΟΥ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΕΙΟΝ ΠΑΤΕΡ

ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ ΠΕΝΤΑΚΟΣΙΑΙ



ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for  
'In him we live and move and have our being'  
[Epimenides of Crete]; as even some of your  
own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his  
offspring.' [Aratus] (Acts 17:28)

ΤΩ ΑΓΝΩΣΤΩ  
ΘΕΩ

ΟΜΙΛΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΠ. ΠΑΥΛΟΥ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΕΙΟΝ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ

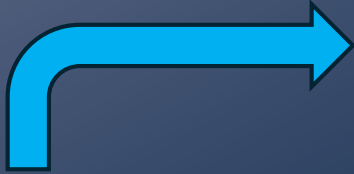
ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ ΠΕΝΤΑΚΟΣΙΑΙ



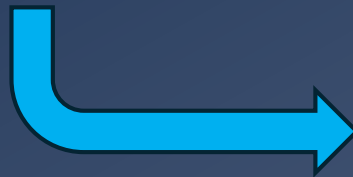
Ἄτη



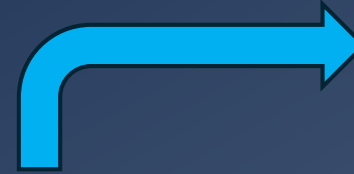
Gods are  
angry



They cloud  
a person's  
judgment



The person  
makes poor  
decisions

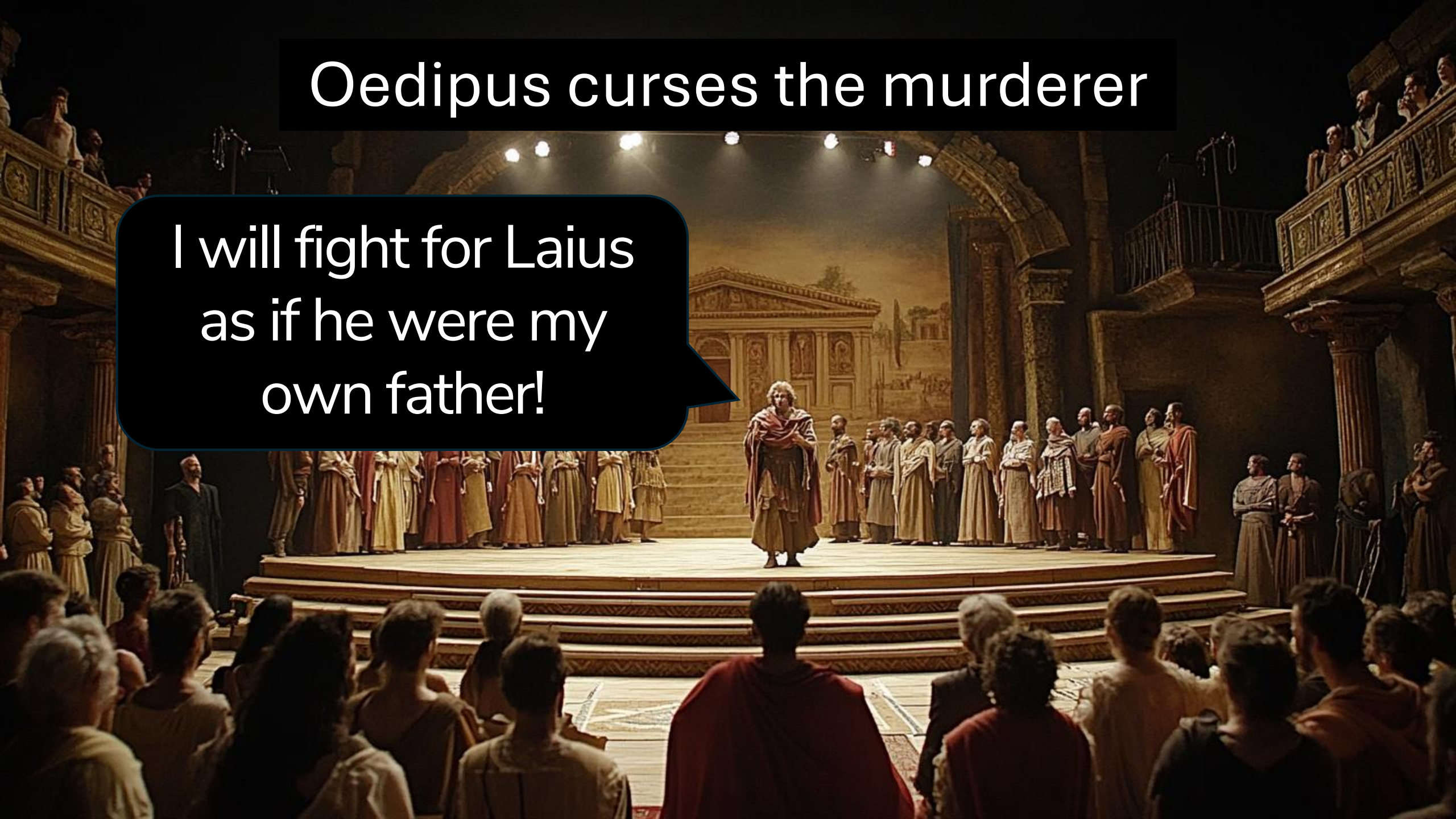


Disaster  
comes



# Oedipus curses the murderer

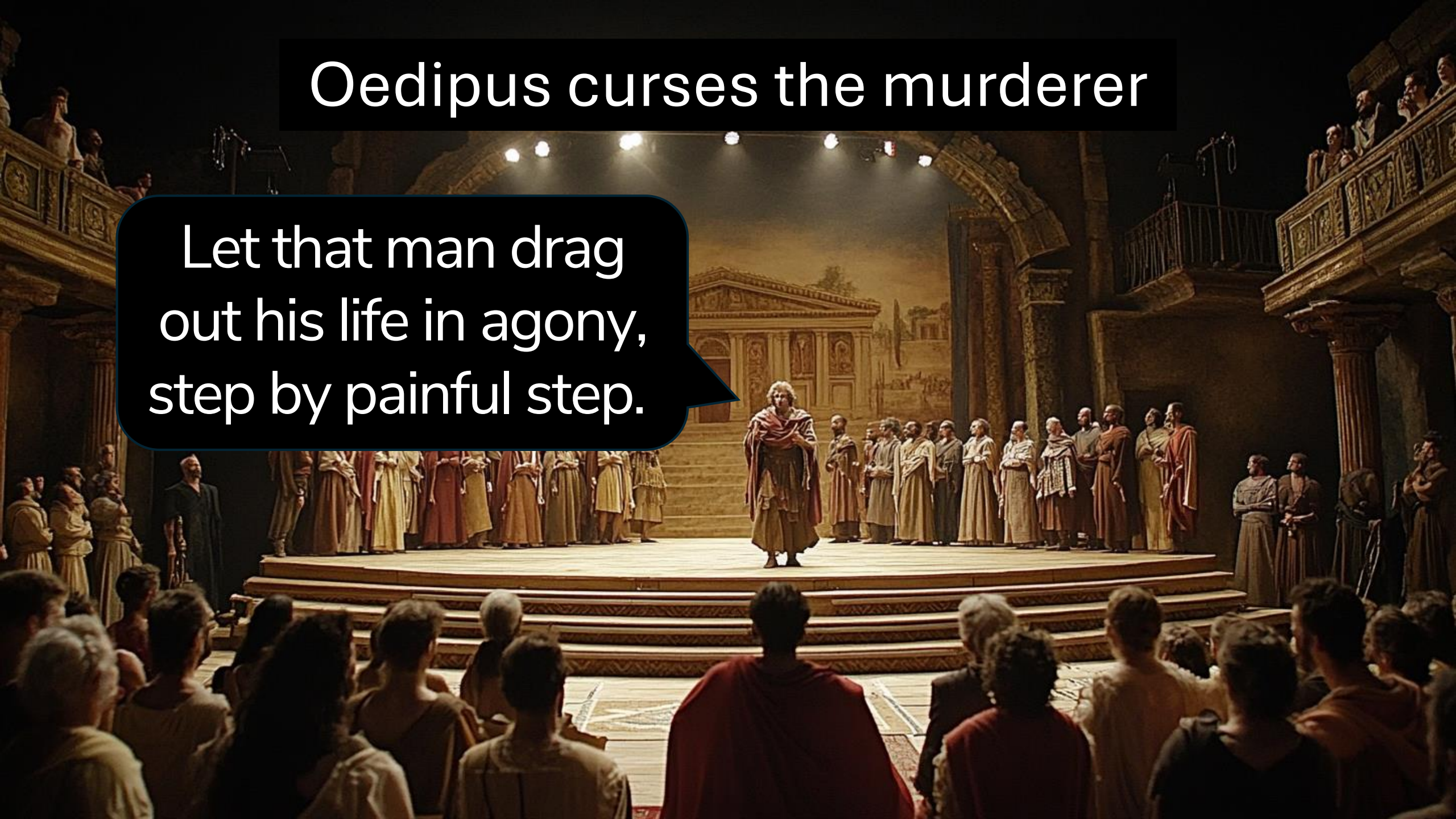
I will fight for Laius  
as if he were my  
own father!



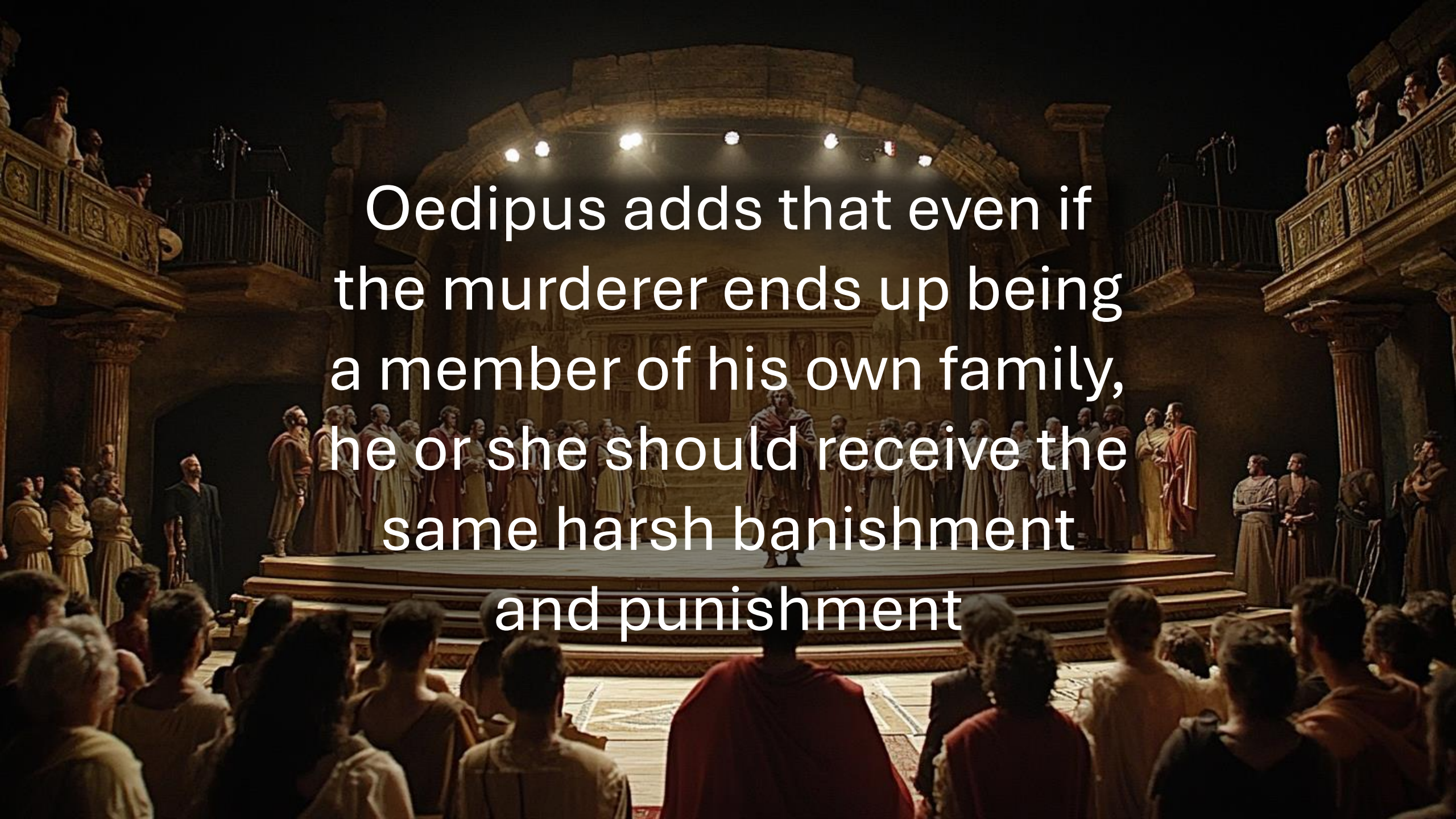


# Oedipus curses the murderer

Let that man drag  
out his life in agony,  
step by painful step.







Oedipus adds that even if  
the murderer ends up being  
a member of his own family,  
he or she should receive the  
same harsh banishment  
and punishment





*Ἄτη* – moral blindness  
and error;  
the work of the gods



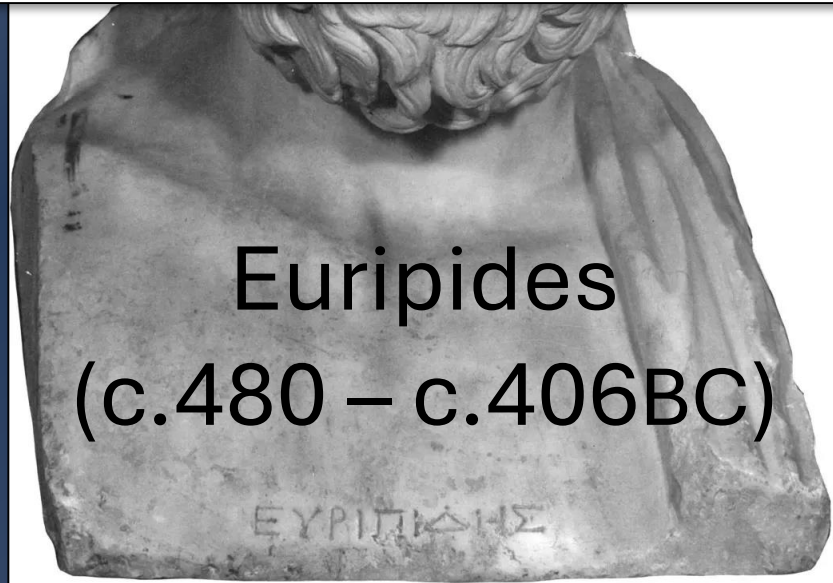


Ancient  
Greco-  
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thought

Contrast  
Paul's text

Points for  
home  
Paul's text



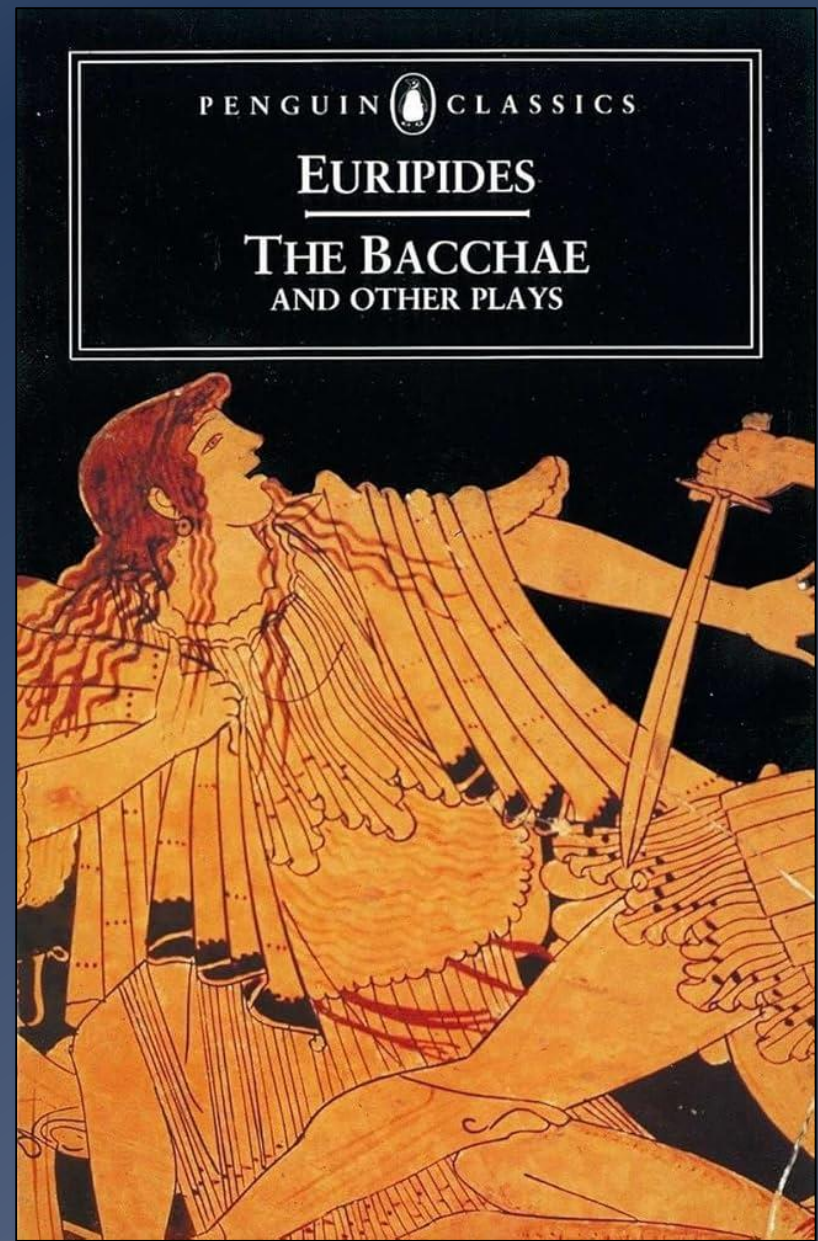


# Euripides

(c.480 – c.406BC)











“For when the anger of the gods would harm someone, first this very thing occurs: it strips away good sense from their mind, and turns their judgment toward the worse, so they know nothing of their errors”



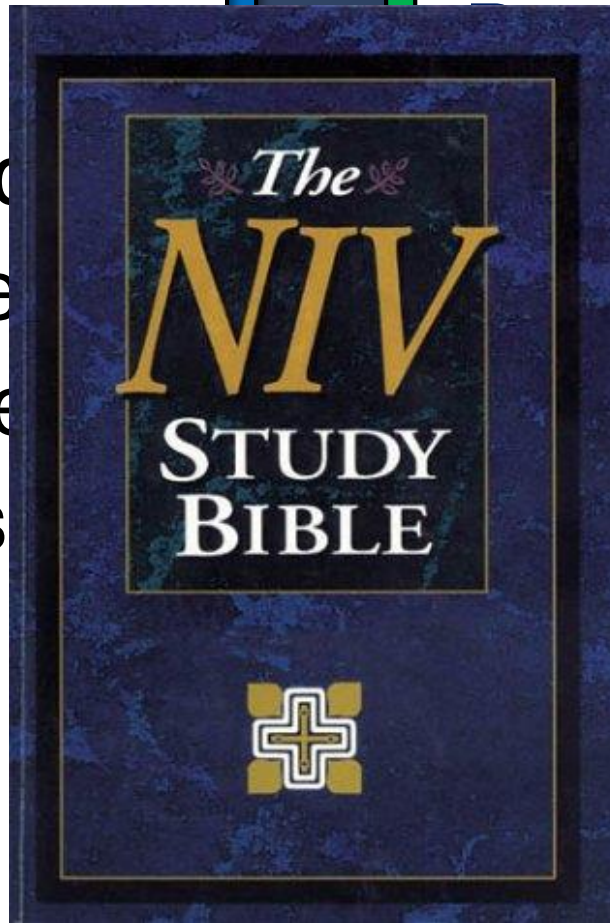
How is Paul's different  
from Greek tragedy?





Rom. 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.



Rom. 1:18

καλύπτεται γὰρ ὀργὴ  
ἡ ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἐπὶ  
τοὺς ἀσεβείαν καὶ  
ἀνθρώπων τῶν  
ἀλήθειαν ἐν ἀδικίᾳ  
ἐκκλίνοντων,



Rom. 1:18

For the **wrath** of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Rom. 1:18

Ἀποκαλύπτεται γὰρ **ὀργή**  
θεοῦ ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἐπὶ  
πᾶσαν ἀσέβειαν καὶ  
ἀδικίαν ἀνθρώπων τῶν  
τὴν ἀλήθειαν ἐν ἀδικία  
κατεχόντων,



Euripides:  
the gods can be  
arbitrary and  
capricious

Cause:

Paul:  
destruction is  
sin's natural  
consequence





Rom. 1:18

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τὴν ἀλήθειαν ἐν ἀδικία  
κατεχόντων,



Rom. 1:19

For what can be known  
about God is plain to  
them, because **God has  
shown it to them.**

Rom. 1:19

διότι τὸ γνωστὸν τοῦ  
θεοῦ φανερόν ἐστιν ἐν  
αὐτοῖς· **ὁ θεὸς γὰρ αὐτοῖς  
ἐφάνερωσεν.**



Euripides:  
the person  
knows nothing of  
their errors  
(εἰδῆ μηδέν)

Knowledge:

Paul:  
People know  
God's righteous  
decree but  
suppress the  
knowledge





Rom. 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse.**

Rom. 1:20

τὰ γὰρ ἀόρατα αὐτοῦ  
ἀπὸ κτίσεως κόσμου τοῖς  
ποιήμασιν νοούμενα  
καθορᾶται, ἥ τε αἰδῖος  
αὐτοῦ δύναμις καὶ  
θειότης, **εἰς τὸ εἶναι  
αὐτοὺς ἀναπολογήτους,**



A full-page background image featuring a night sky with the Milky Way galaxy. A person is silhouetted on a dark, rocky cliff in the lower right, pointing their right arm towards the galaxy. The sky is filled with stars, and the Milky Way's dust lanes are visible in shades of orange and purple. A bright star with a lens flare is on the left.

Think about this  
for a bit....

Psalm 8



Rom. 1:20

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Sophocles:  
Often the person  
is almost  
excusable

Knowledge:

Paul:  
People have no  
excuse





Rom. 1:21

**For** although they knew God, they did not **honor** him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom. 1:21

**διότι** γνόντες τὸν θεὸν οὐχ ὡς θεὸν ἐδόξασαν ἢ ηὐχαρίστησαν, ἀλλ' ἐματαιώθησαν ἐν τοῖς διαλογισμοῖς αὐτῶν καὶ ἐσκοτίσθη ἡ ἀσύνετος αὐτῶν καρδία.



Rom. 1:22-23

Claiming to be wise,  
they became fools, and  
exchanged the glory of  
the immortal God for  
images resembling  
mortal man and birds  
and animals and  
creeping things.

Rom. 1:22-23

φάσκοντες εἶναι σοφοὶ  
ἐμωράνθησαν καὶ  
ἥλλαξαν τὴν δόξαν τοῦ  
ἀφθάρτου θεοῦ ἐν  
ὁμοιώματι εἰκόνης  
φθαρτοῦ ἀνθρώπου καὶ  
πετεινῶν καὶ τετραπόδων  
καὶ ἑρπετῶν.



The difference  
in religion and  
the gospel



Rom. 1:24

Therefore God **gave them up** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

Rom. 1:24

Διὸ **παρέδωκεν** αὐτοὺς ὁ θεὸς ἐν ταῖς ἐπιθυμίαις τῶν καρδιῶν αὐτῶν εἰς ἀκαθαρσίαν τοῦ ἀτιμάζεσθαι τὰ σώματα αὐτῶν ἐν αὐτοῖς·

Gave up (παραδίδωμι): to convey something in which one has a relatively strong personal interest

Acts 7:42; Eph 4:19



Euripides:  
the gods actively  
strip away good  
sense

Agency:

Paul:  
God is more  
passive - he gives  
people over to  
their choices  
(removes his  
restraining  
influence)





# Cause and Effect





# Cause and Effect





# Cause and Effect







God doesn't  
force you to  
faithful  
obedience



Rom. 1:25

because they  
exchanged the **truth**  
about God for a **lie** and  
worshiped and served  
the creature rather than  
the Creator, who is  
blessed forever! Amen.

Rom. 1:25

οἵτινες μετήλλαξαν τὴν  
**ἀλήθειαν** τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν τῷ  
**ψεύδει** καὶ ἐσεβάσθησαν  
καὶ ἐλάτρευσαν τῇ κτίσει  
παρὰ τὸν κτίσαντα, ὃς  
ἐστὶν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς  
αἰῶνας, ἀμήν.



Rom. 1:26

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;

Rom. 1:26

Διὰ τοῦτο παρέδωκεν αὐτοὺς ὁ θεὸς εἰς πάθη ἀτιμίας, αἳ τε γὰρ θήλειαι αὐτῶν μετέλλαξαν τὴν φυσικὴν χρῆσιν εἰς τὴν παρὰ φύσιν,



Rom. 1:27

and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Rom. 1:27

ὁμοίως τε καὶ οἱ ἄρσενες ἀφέντες τὴν φυσικὴν χρῆσιν τῆς θηλείας ἐξεκαύθησαν ἐν τῇ ὀρέξει αὐτῶν εἰς ἀλλήλους, ἄρσενες ἐν ἄρσεσιν τὴν ἀσχημοσύνην κατεργαζόμενοι καὶ τὴν ἀντιμισθίαν ἣν ἔδει τῆς πλάνης αὐτῶν ἐν ἑαυτοῖς ἀπολαμβάνοντες.



Rom. 1:28

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

Rom. 1:28

Καὶ καθὼς οὐκ  
ἐδοκίμασαν τὸν θεὸν  
ἔχειν ἐν ἐπιγνώσει,  
παρέδωκεν αὐτοὺς ὁ  
θεὸς εἰς ἀδόκιμον νοῦν,  
ποιεῖν τὰ μὴ καθήκοντα,



Rom. 1:29

They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,

Rom. 1:29

πεπληρωμένους πάση  
ἀδικία πονηρία  
πλεονεξία κακία,  
μεστοὺς φθόνου φόνου  
ἔριδος δόλου  
κακοηθείας, ψιθυριστὰς



Rom. 1:30-31

slanderers, haters of  
God, insolent, haughty,  
boastful, inventors of  
evil, disobedient to  
parents, foolish,  
faithless, heartless,  
ruthless.

Rom. 1:30-31

καταλάλους θεοστυγεῖς  
ὑβριστὰς ὑπερηφάνους  
ἀλαζόνας, ἐφευρετὰς  
κακῶν, γονεῦσιν  
ἀπειθεῖς, 31 ἀσυνέτους  
ἀσυνθέτους ἀστόργους  
ἀνελεήμονας·

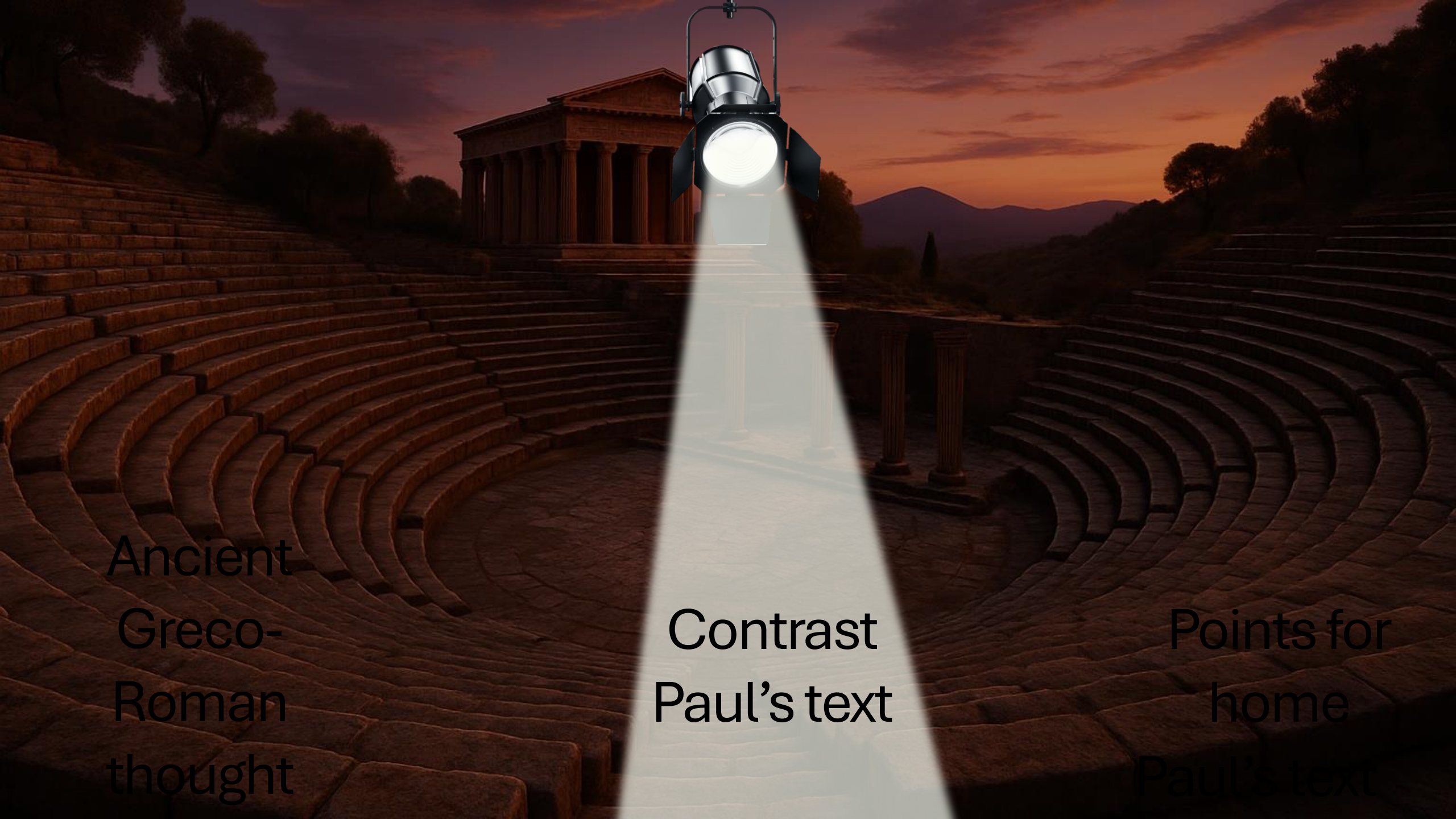
Rom. 1:32

Though they know  
God's righteous decree  
that those who practice  
such things deserve to  
die, they not only do  
them but give approval  
to those who practice  
them.

Rom. 1:32

οἵτινες τὸ δικαίωμα τοῦ  
θεοῦ ἐπιγνόντες ὅτι οἱ τὰ  
τοιαῦτα πράσσοντες  
ἄξιοι θανάτου εἰσίν, οὐ  
μόνον αὐτὰ ποιοῦσιν  
ἀλλὰ καὶ συνευδοκοῦσιν  
τοῖς πράσσουσιν.





Ancient  
Greco-  
Roman  
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Contrast  
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Paul's text





Ancient  
Greco-  
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Contrast  
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Points for  
home



Euripides:  
the inevitable  
doom of the  
person

Purpose:

Paul:  
the push for  
redemption  
(1 Cor. 6:9-11;  
Rom. 5:20)



Rom. 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom. 1:16

Οὐ γὰρ ἐπαισχύνομαι τὸ εὐαγγέλιον, δύναμις γὰρ θεοῦ ἐστὶν εἰς σωτηρίαν παντὶ τῷ πιστεύοντι, Ἰουδαίῳ τε πρῶτον καὶ Ἑλληνι.

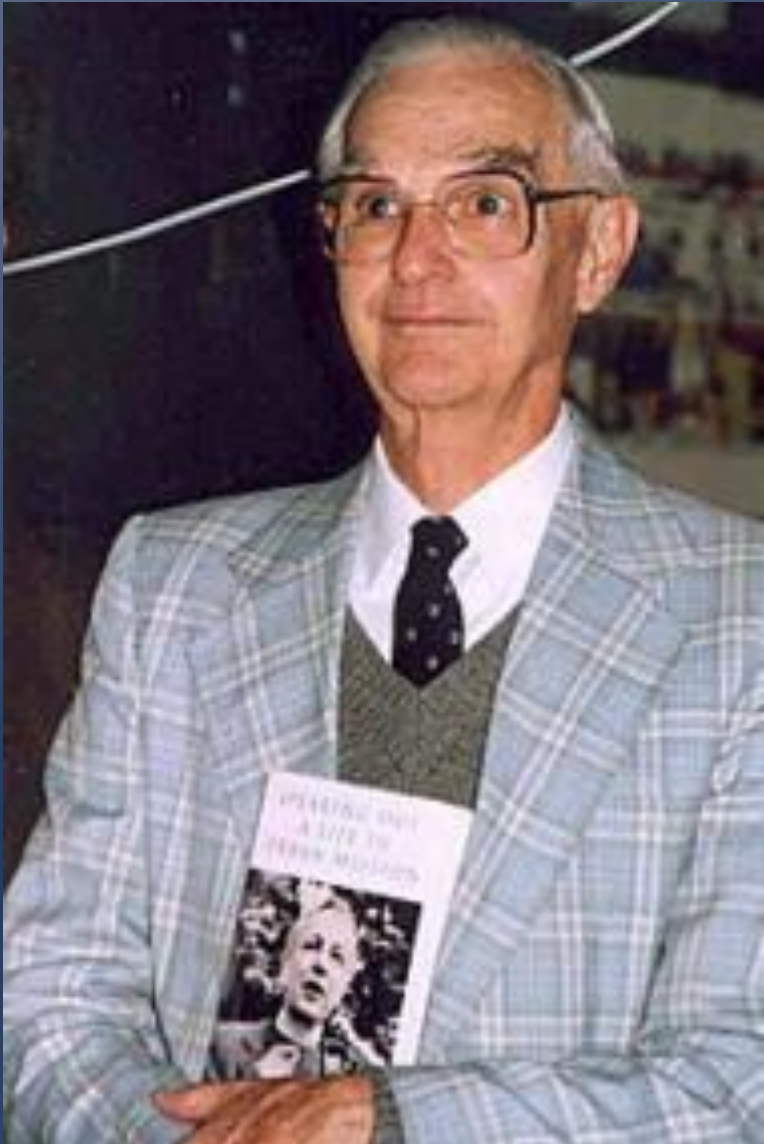


Rom. 1:17

For in it the  
righteousness of God is  
revealed from faith for  
faith, as it is written,  
“The righteous shall live  
by faith.”

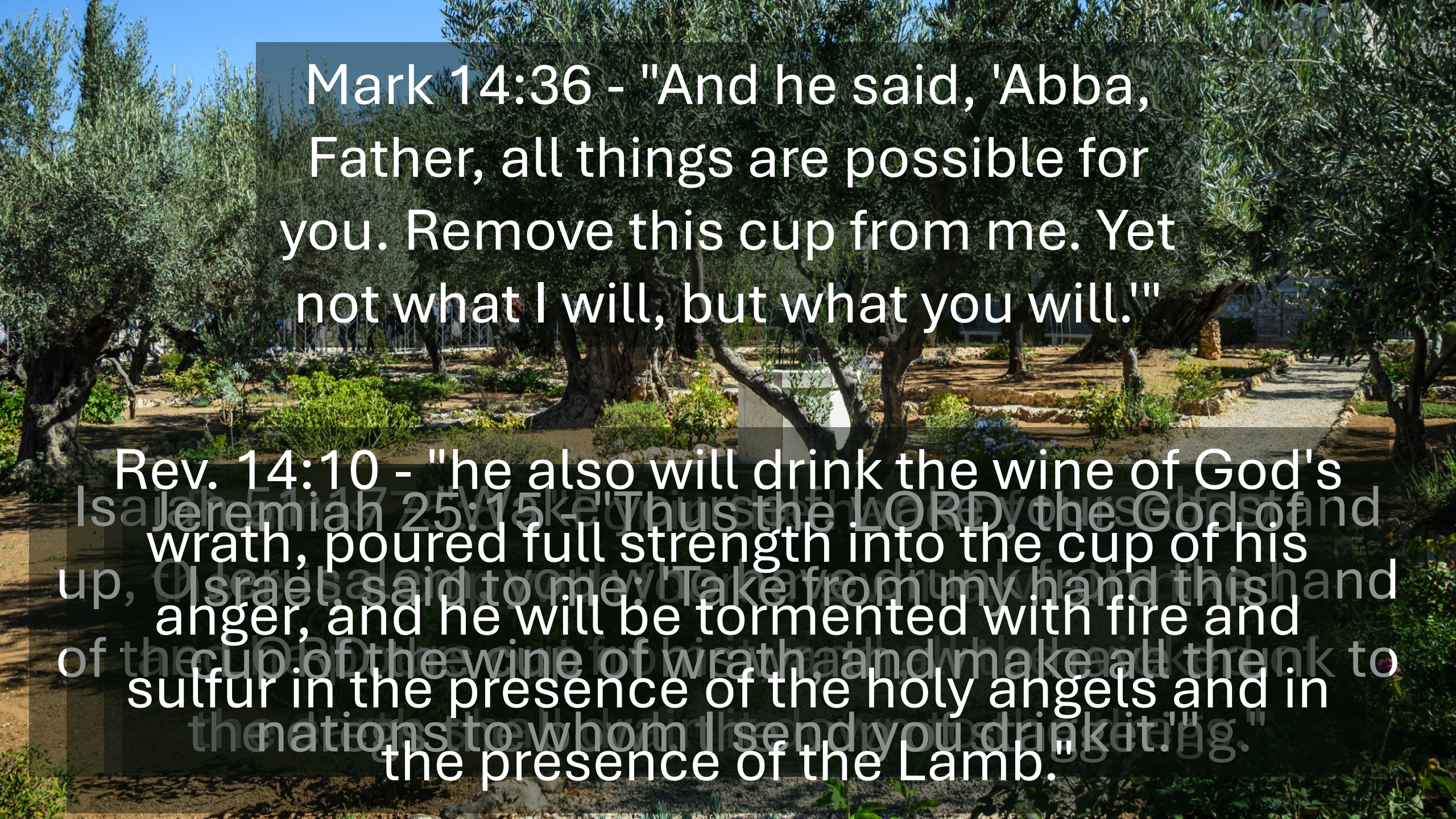
Rom. 1:17

δικαιοσύνη γὰρ θεοῦ ἐν  
αὐτῷ ἀποκαλύπτεται ἐκ  
πίστεως εἰς πίστιν, καθὼς  
γέγραπται· ὁ δὲ δίκαιος  
ἐκ πίστεως ζήσεται.



“The gospel is necessary because there is such a thing as the wrath of God, because only the gospel ...brings deliverance from that wrath.” – Leon Morris



The background of the image is a lush olive grove. Numerous olive trees with silvery-green foliage and gnarled trunks are scattered throughout the scene. A dirt path or clearing is visible in the lower right. The sky is a clear, bright blue. A semi-transparent grey rectangular box is centered in the upper half of the image, containing white text.

Mark 14:36 - "And he said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'"

Rev. 14:10 - "he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."

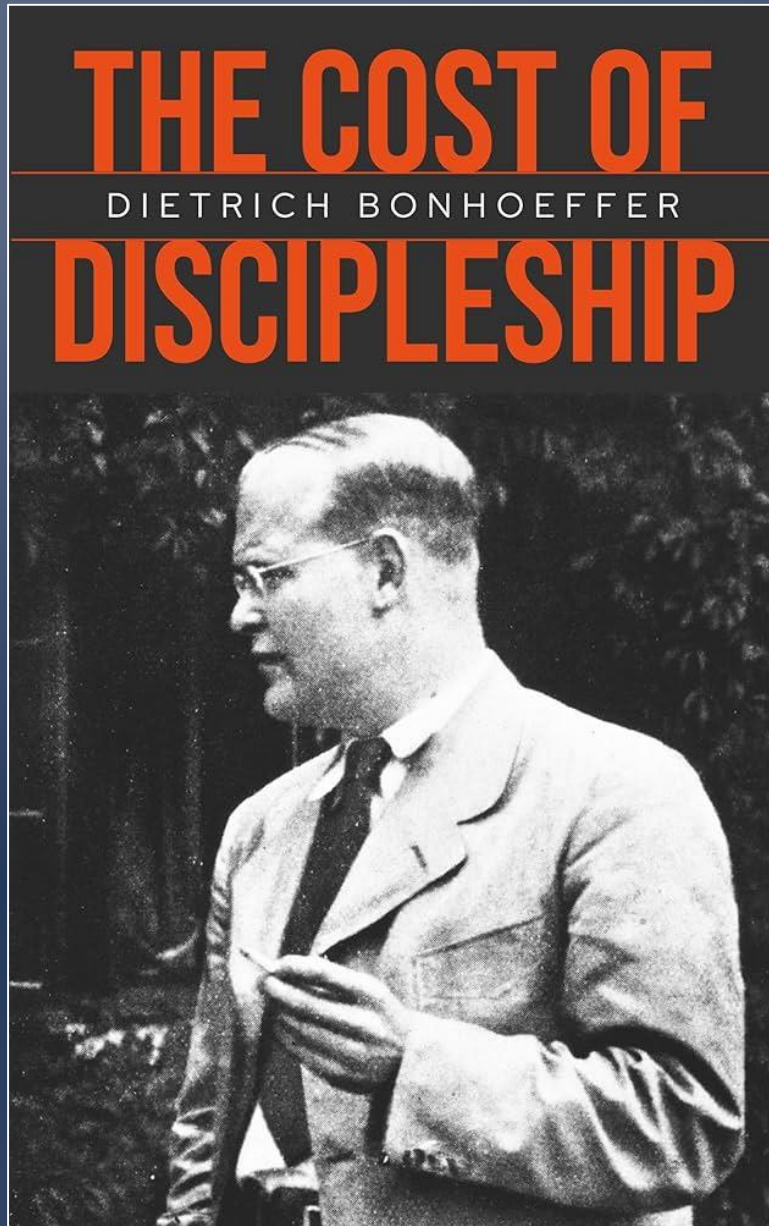
Isaiah 51:17 - "Thus says the LORD, your God and Redeemer, 'O Israel, said to me: Take from drunk and this hand of the cup of the wine of wrath and make all drink to the nations to whom I send you drinking.'"



There is an awesome  
power in the cross







“Cheap grace is the mortal enemy of our church. Our struggle today is for costly grace.”  
– Leon Morris



# Romans at the Red Dog

