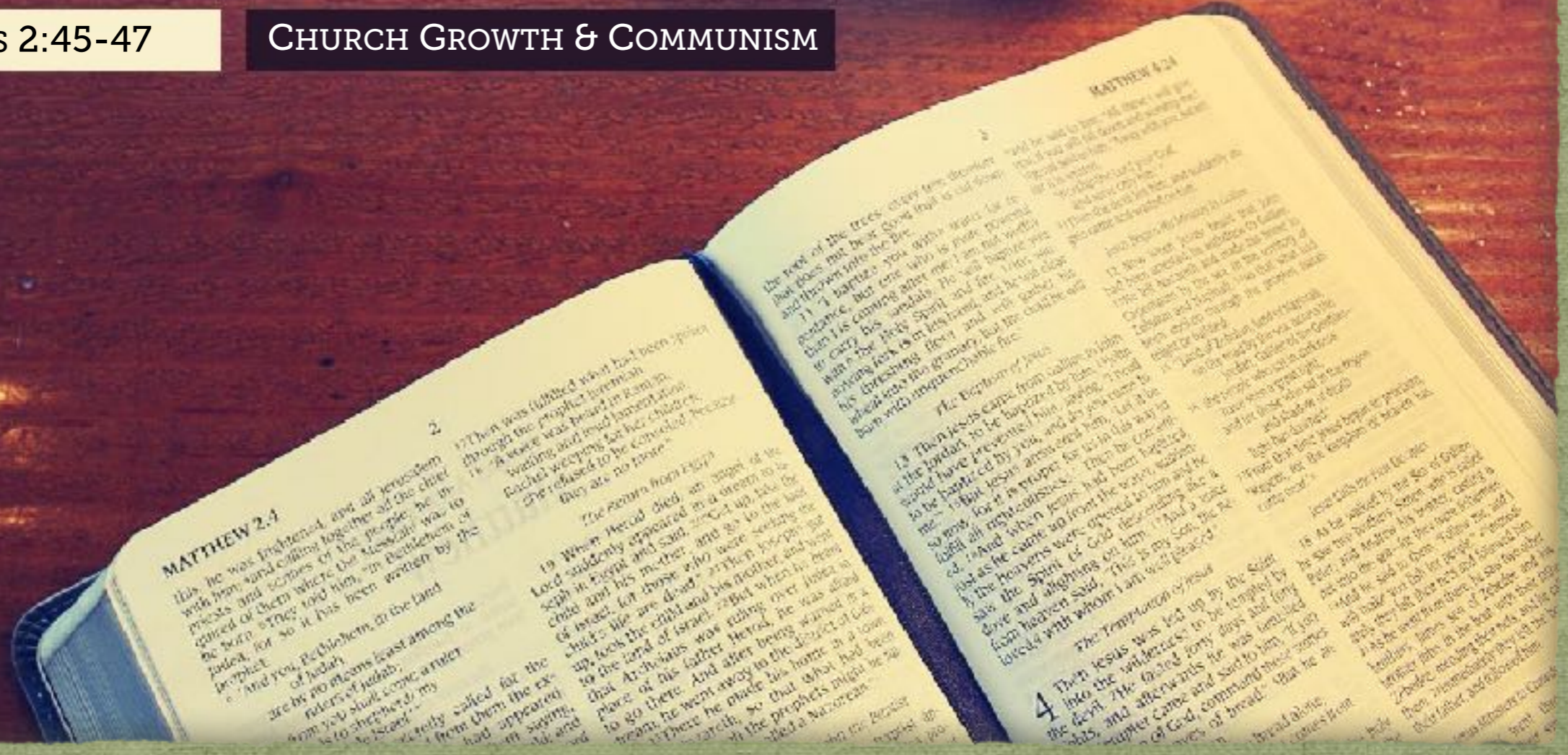


THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 90 DAYS

#5: ACTS 2:45-47

CHURCH GROWTH & COMMUNISM



Overview

1. Reading Review

- ▶ John 13 - Acts 12

2. Acts Chapter 2:45-47

- ▶ Church Growth & Communism

3. Turning Knowledge into Wisdom

- ▶ What Can I Learn From This?

4. This Week's Reading

- ▶ Acts 13 – Romans 3

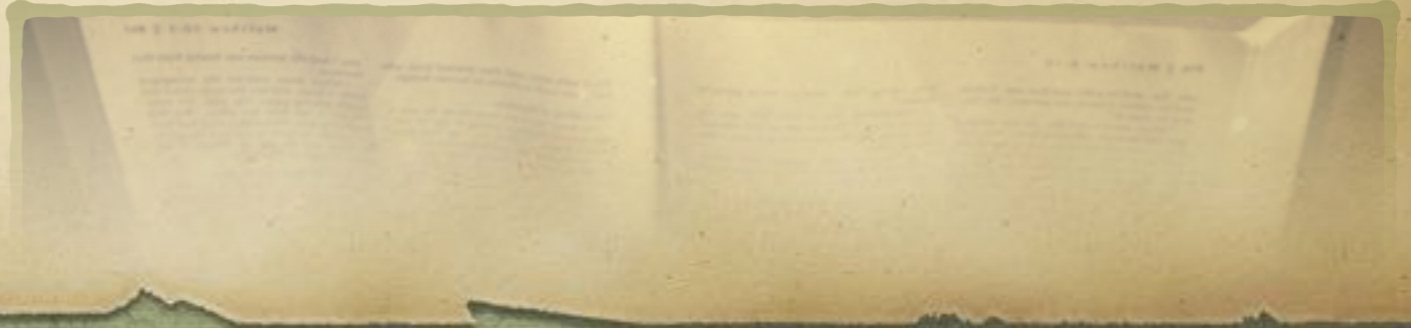


#1 - Bible Reading Review

John 13 - Acts 12

Bible Reading

- What did you learned from your devotions last week?





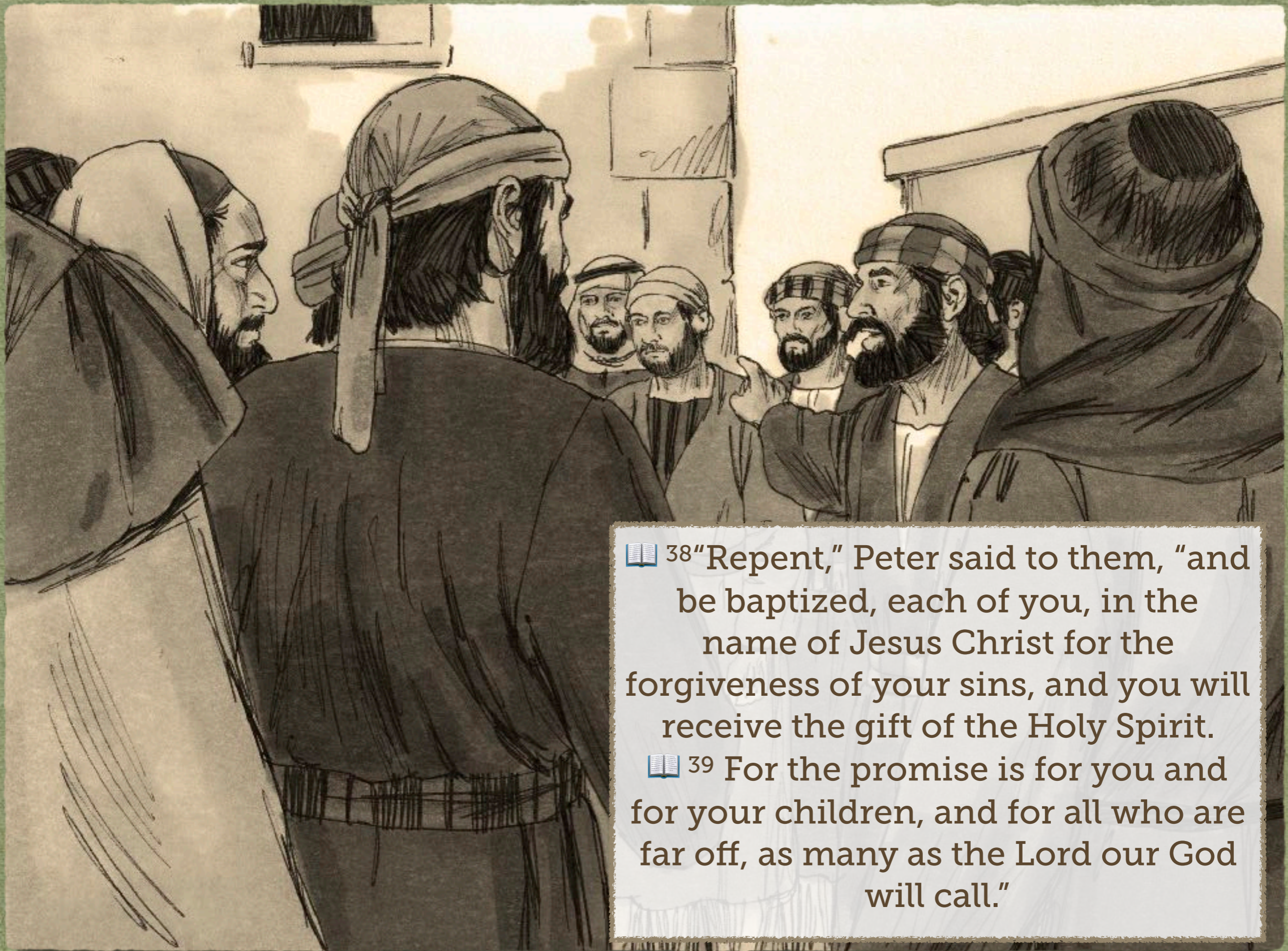
#2 - Passage

Acts 2:45-47



Context: Setting The Stage

- ▶ The Holy Spirit had just been sent to the Disciples and the church was born.
- ▶ Peter and the others attract a crowd and Peter preaches to them.
- ▶ His main point is that Jesus is the Messiah who the Jews had killed just 40 days before...



📖 38 "Repent," Peter said to them, "and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

📖 39 For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

The Three "R"s

Repent



Change your mind
from rejecting Jesus to
believing He is Lord.

Receive




The Holy Spirit enters
& seals you at the
time of Salvation.

Reveal



Be publicly baptized
to tell the world of
your Salvation.

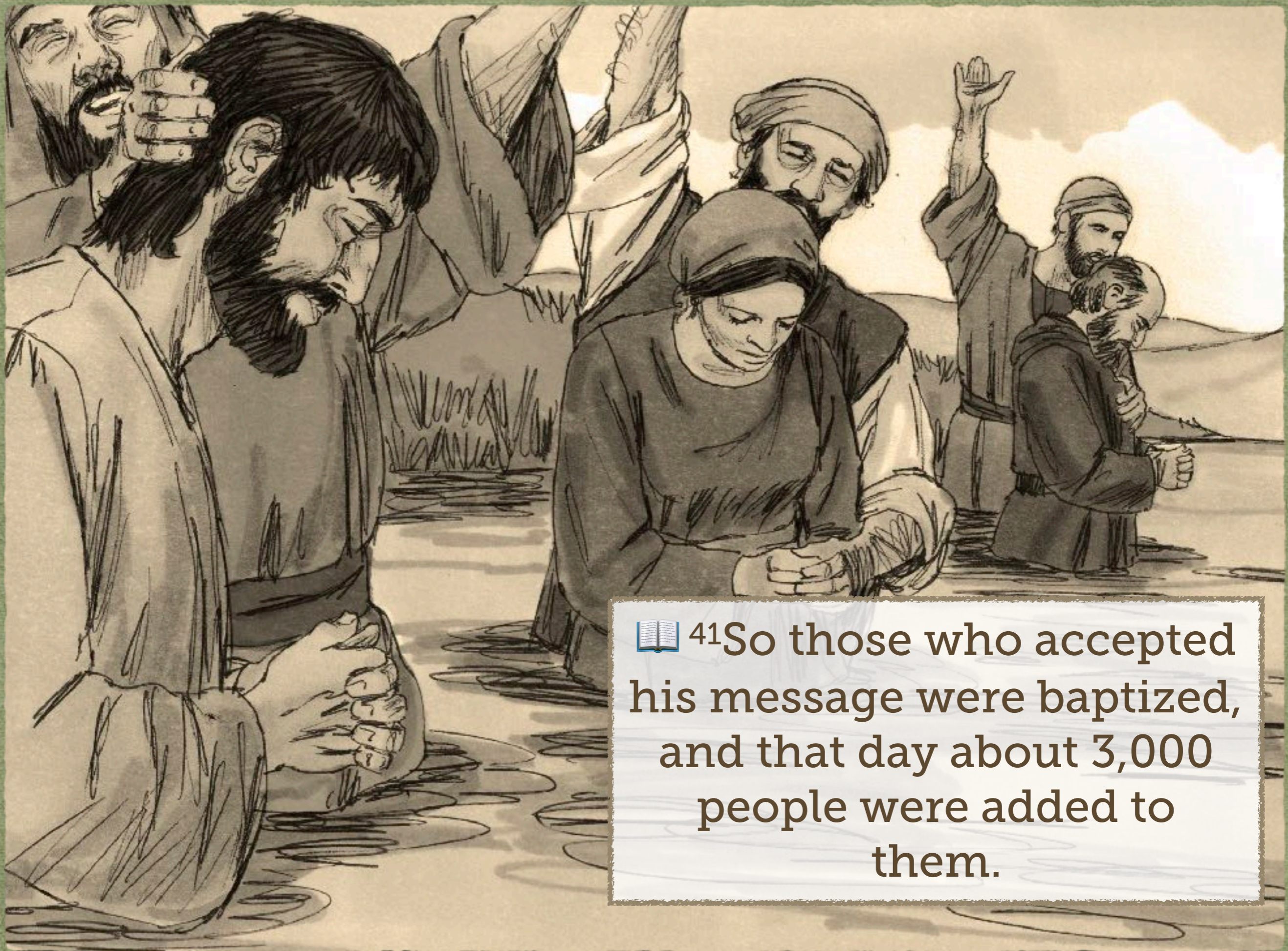



 ⁴⁰And with many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!"

Fear Of God's Holy Wrath!

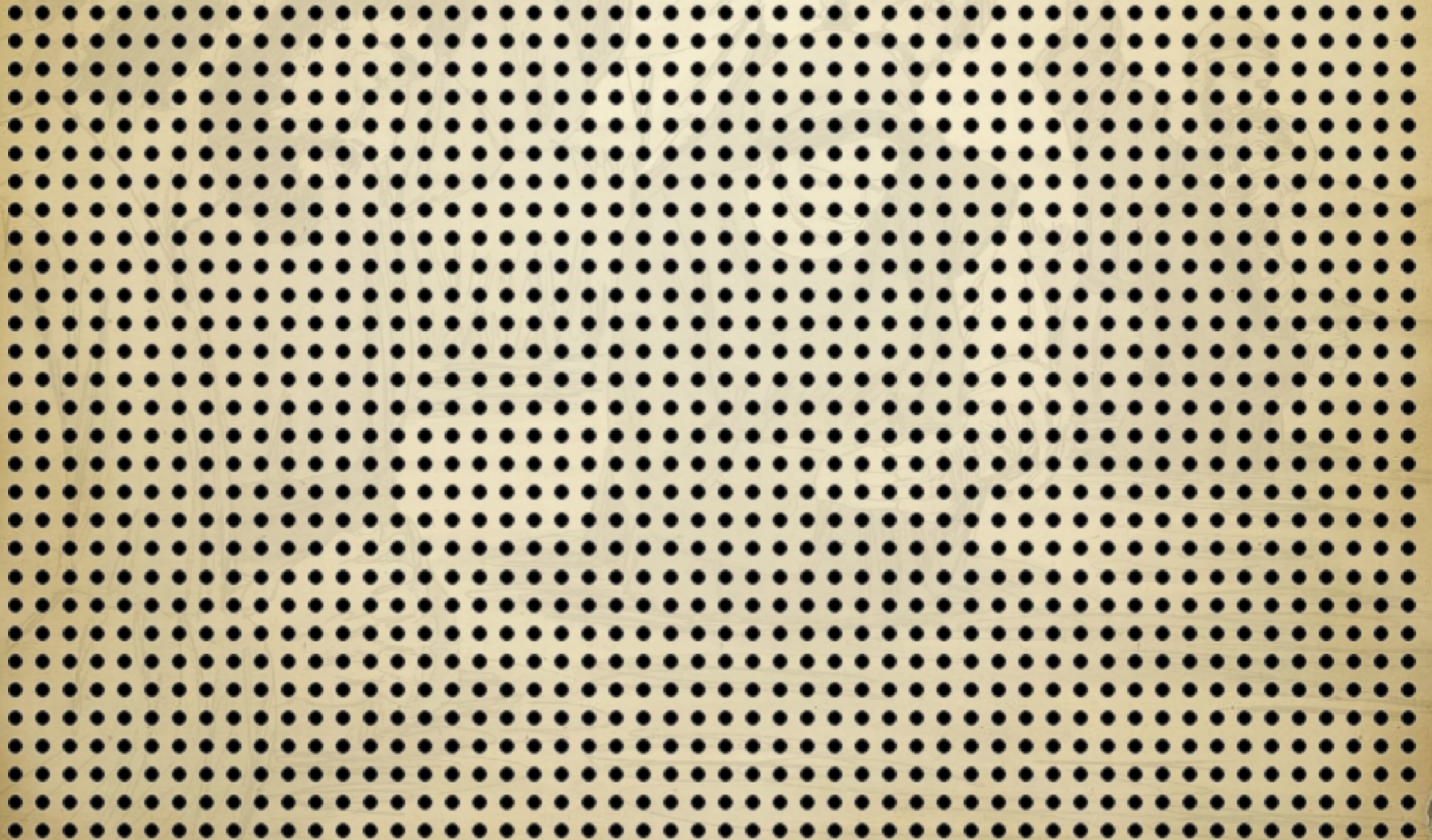
The people were terrified!
They understood it was
their generation that
killed the Son of God!
They knew without
forgiveness they would
face God's Holy Wrath!

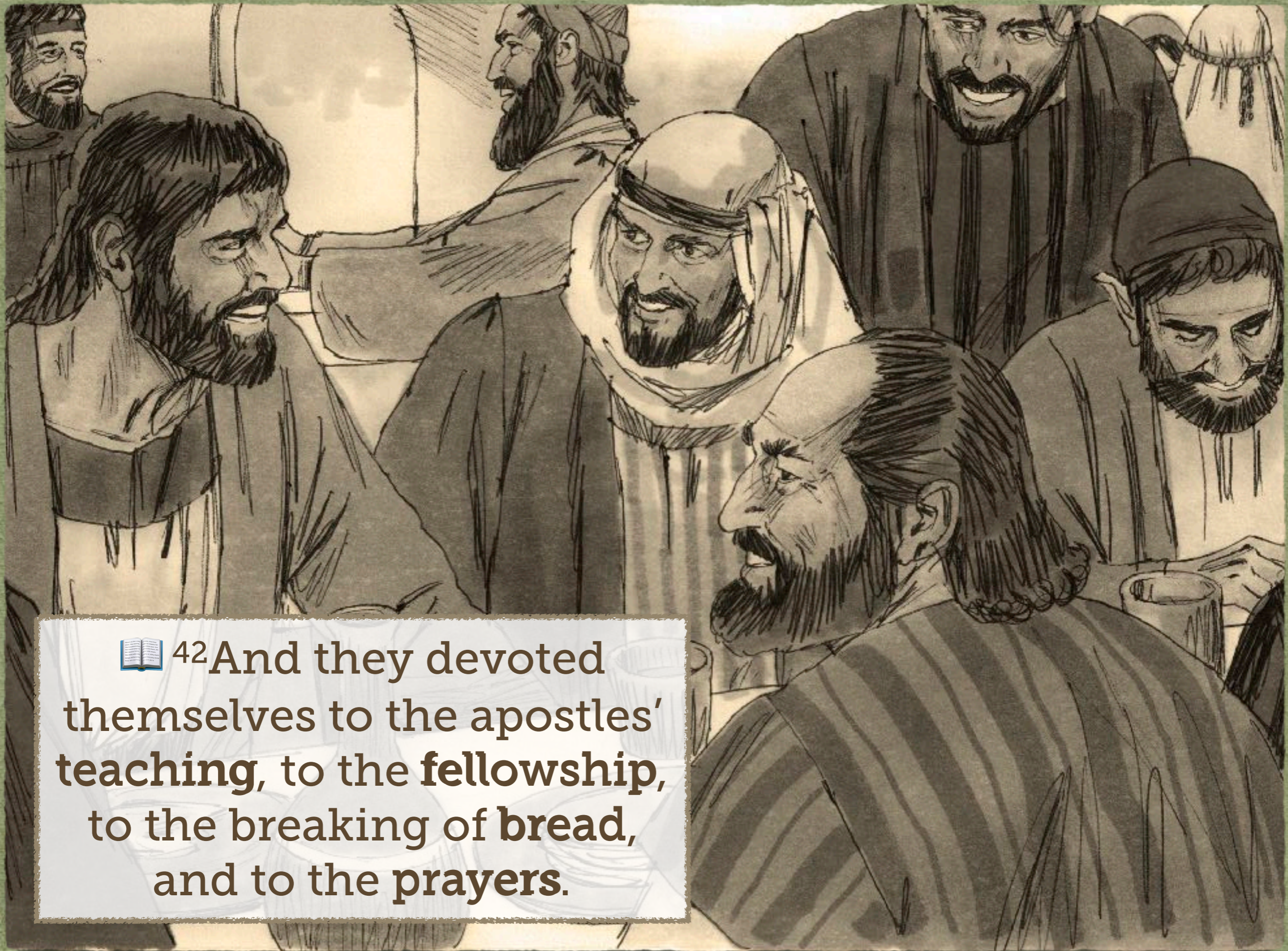




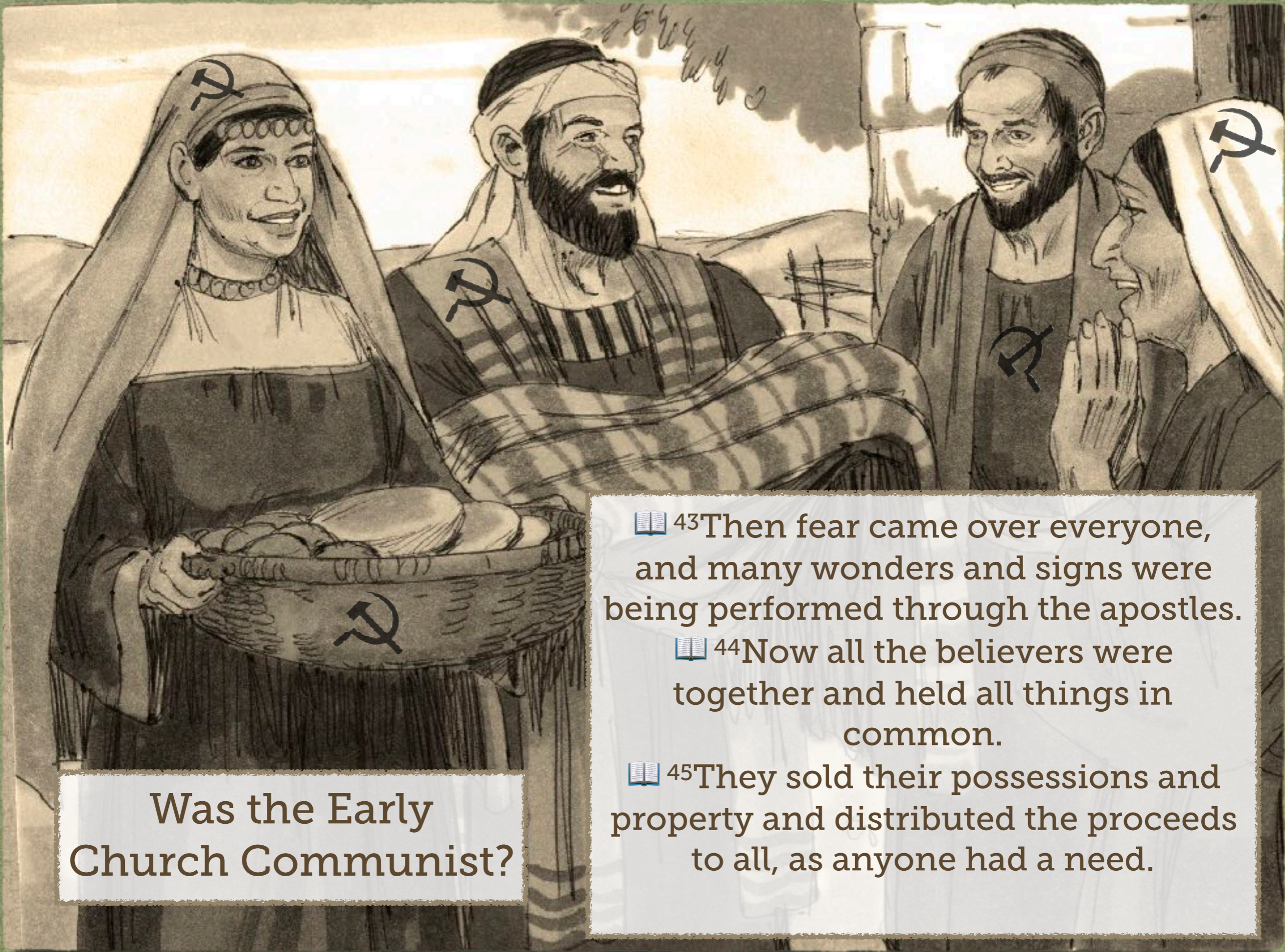
 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 people were added to them.

Visualize The Converts...





📖 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.



Was the Early Church Communist?

📖 43 Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles.

📖 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

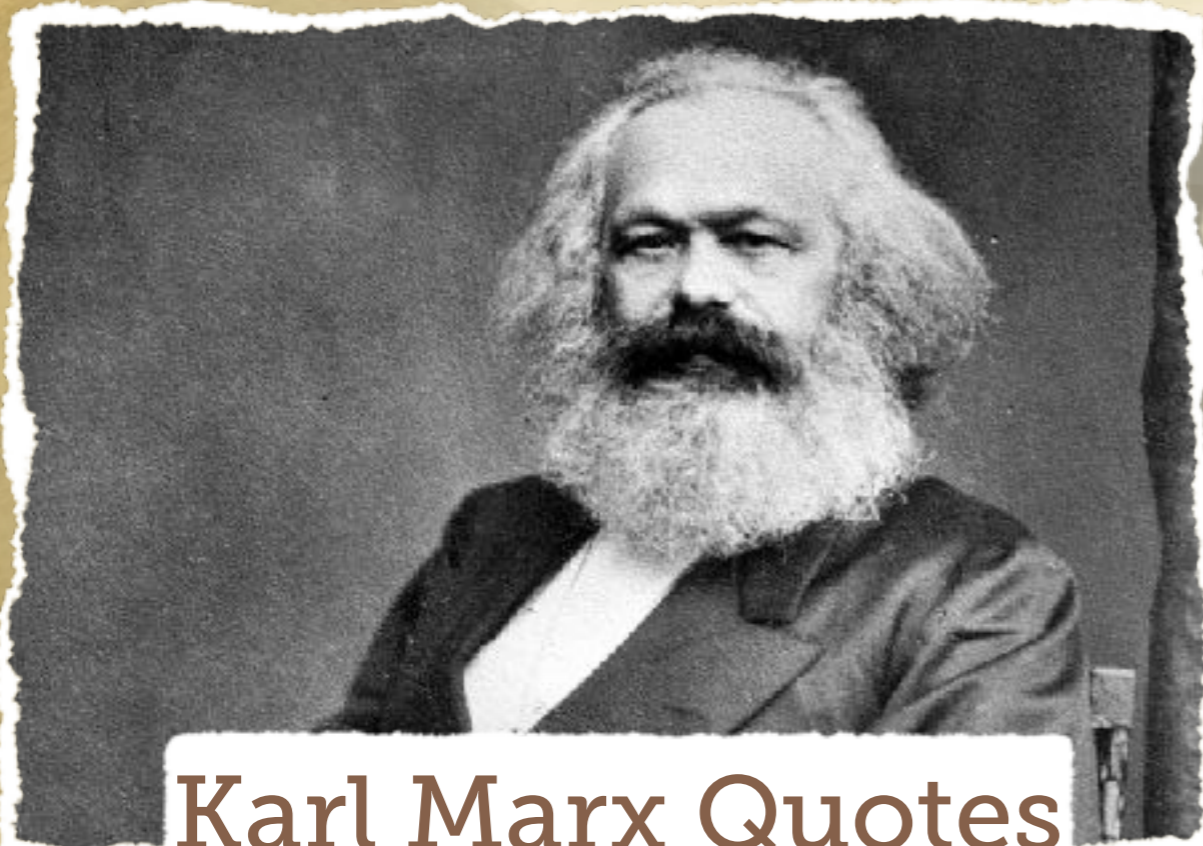
📖 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need.

Communism Vs. Christianity



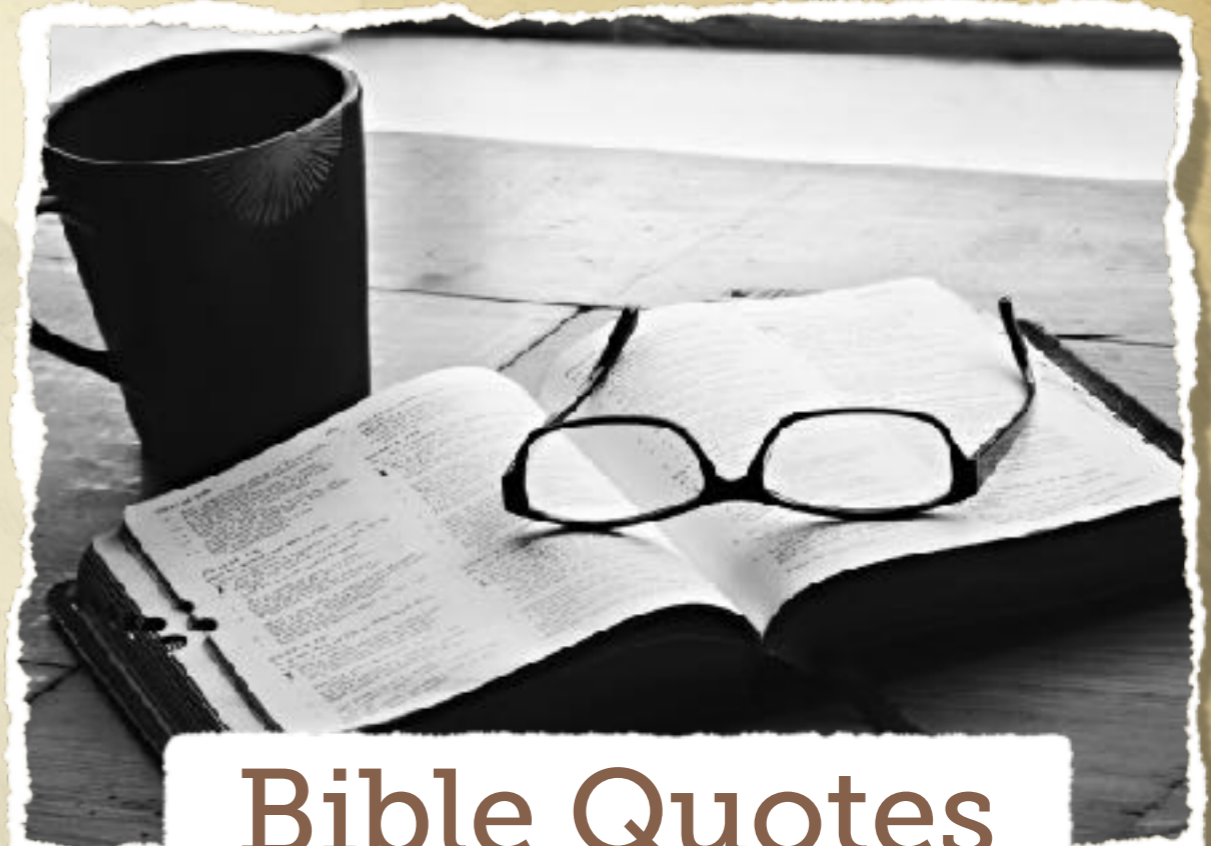
- ▶ Individuals are forced by authorities to give.
- ▶ Goods are forcibly taken from rich and equally distributed to all.
- ▶ The governments owns everything - all land and goods belongs to them.
- ▶ Motivation - create a stateless, Godless, classless society.

- ▶ Individuals willingly desired to give & meet needs.
- ▶ Goods were willingly donated and distributed to those who had needs
- ▶ The people own their land and goods until they decide to give it away
- ▶ Motivation - to delight in God, show His love, build His kingdom.



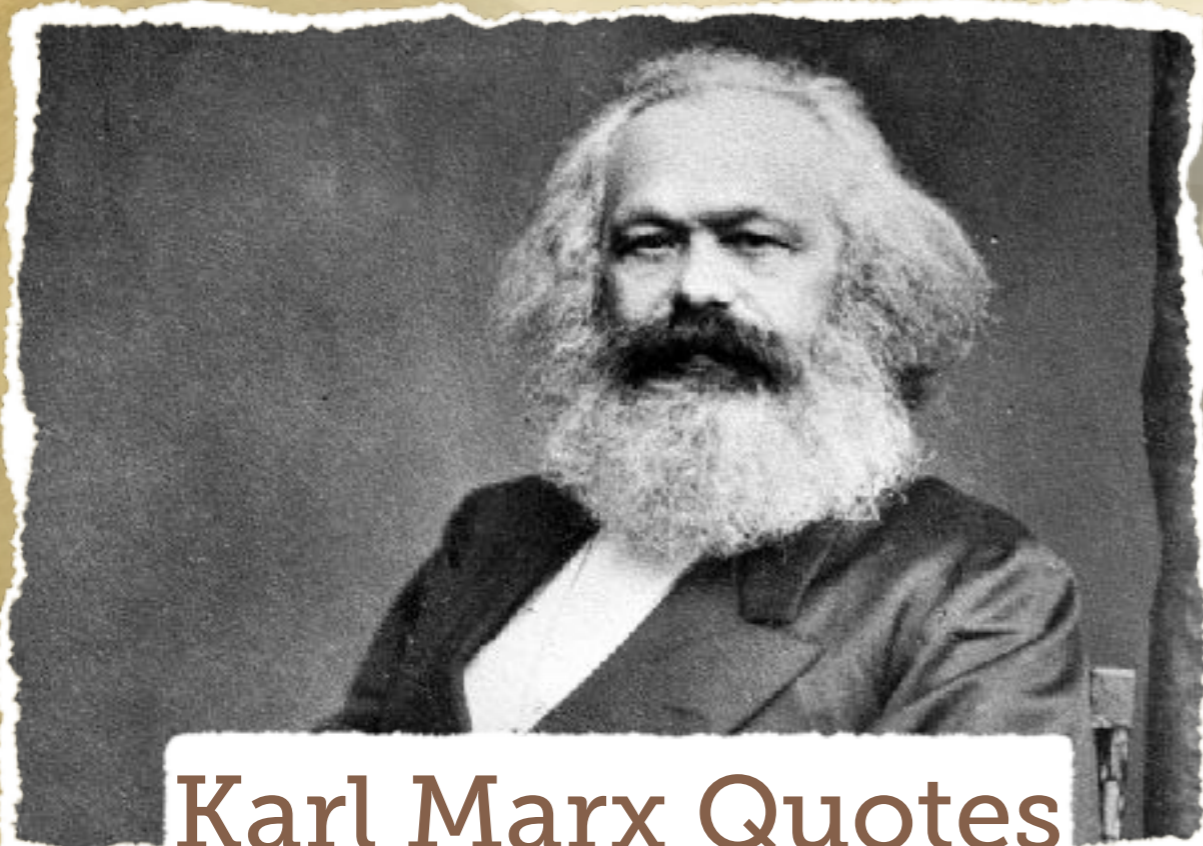
Karl Marx Quotes

"The first requisite for the happiness of the people is the abolition of religion."



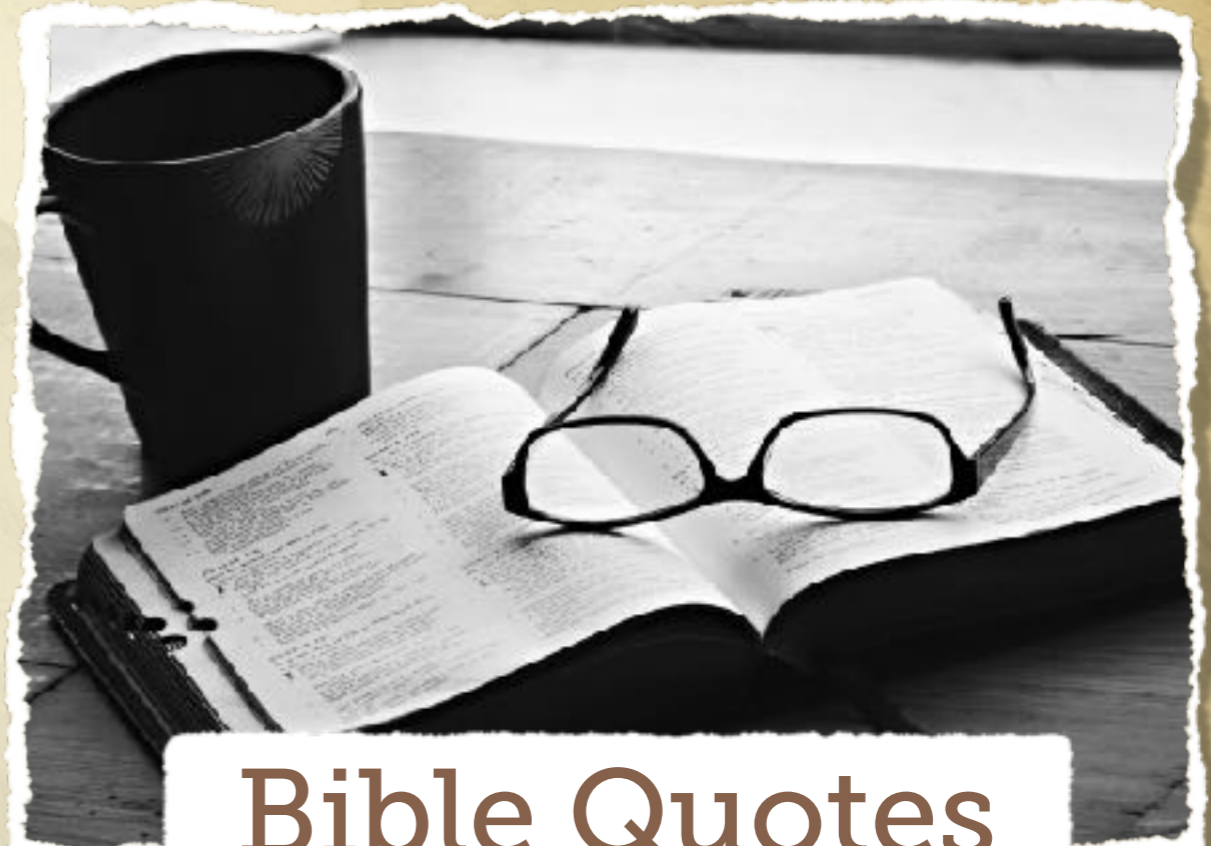
Bible Quotes

"But the righteous are glad; they rejoice before God and celebrate with joy." (Psalm 68:3)



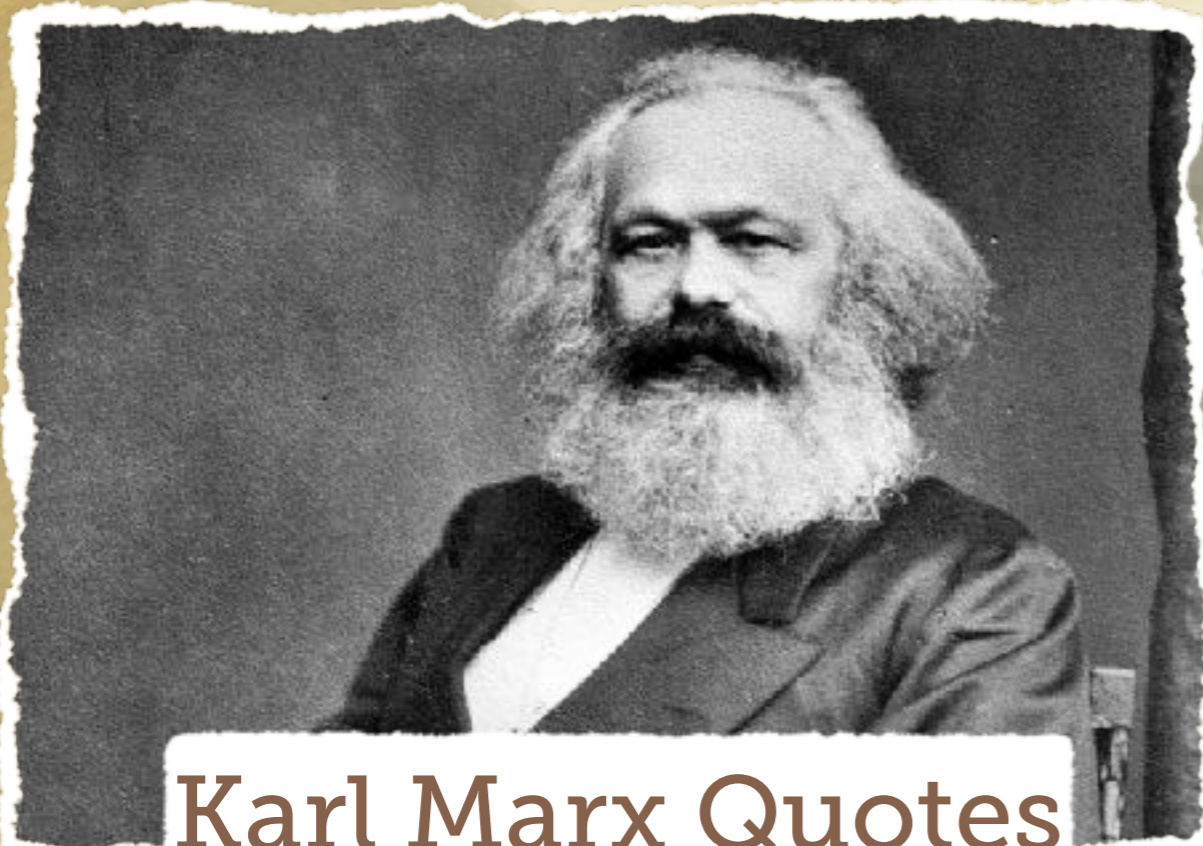
Karl Marx Quotes

"I wish to avenge myself against the One who rules above."



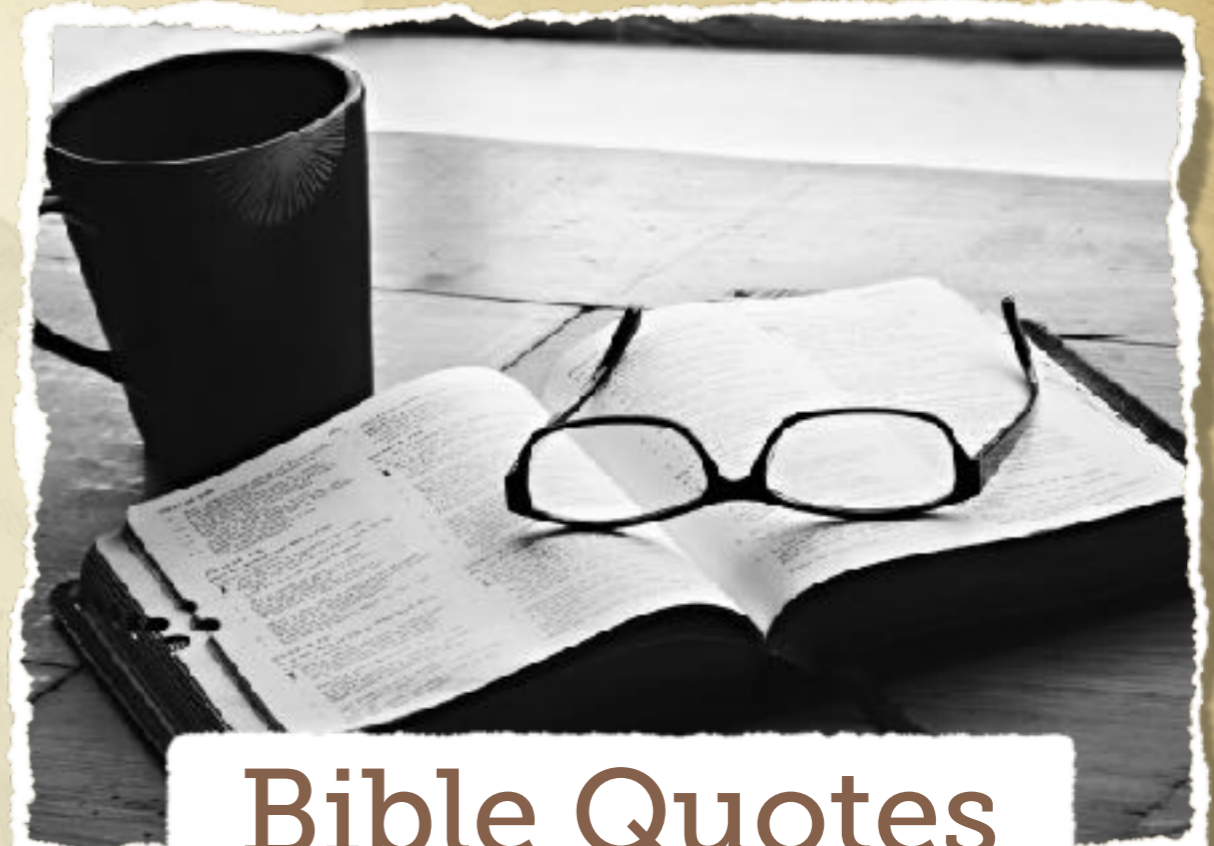
Bible Quotes

Justice executed is a joy to the righteous, but a terror to those who practice iniquity.
(Proverbs 21:15)



Karl Marx Quotes

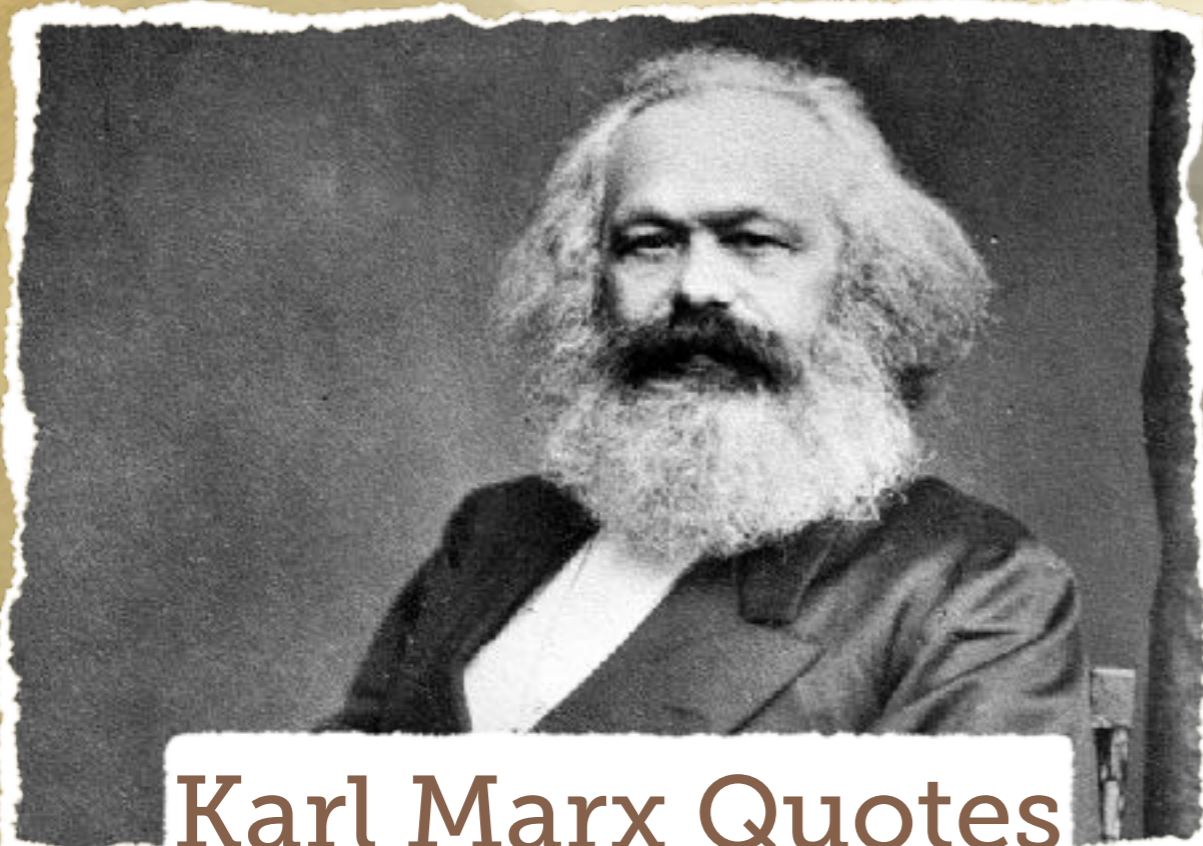
"Communism begins where atheism begins."



Bible Quotes

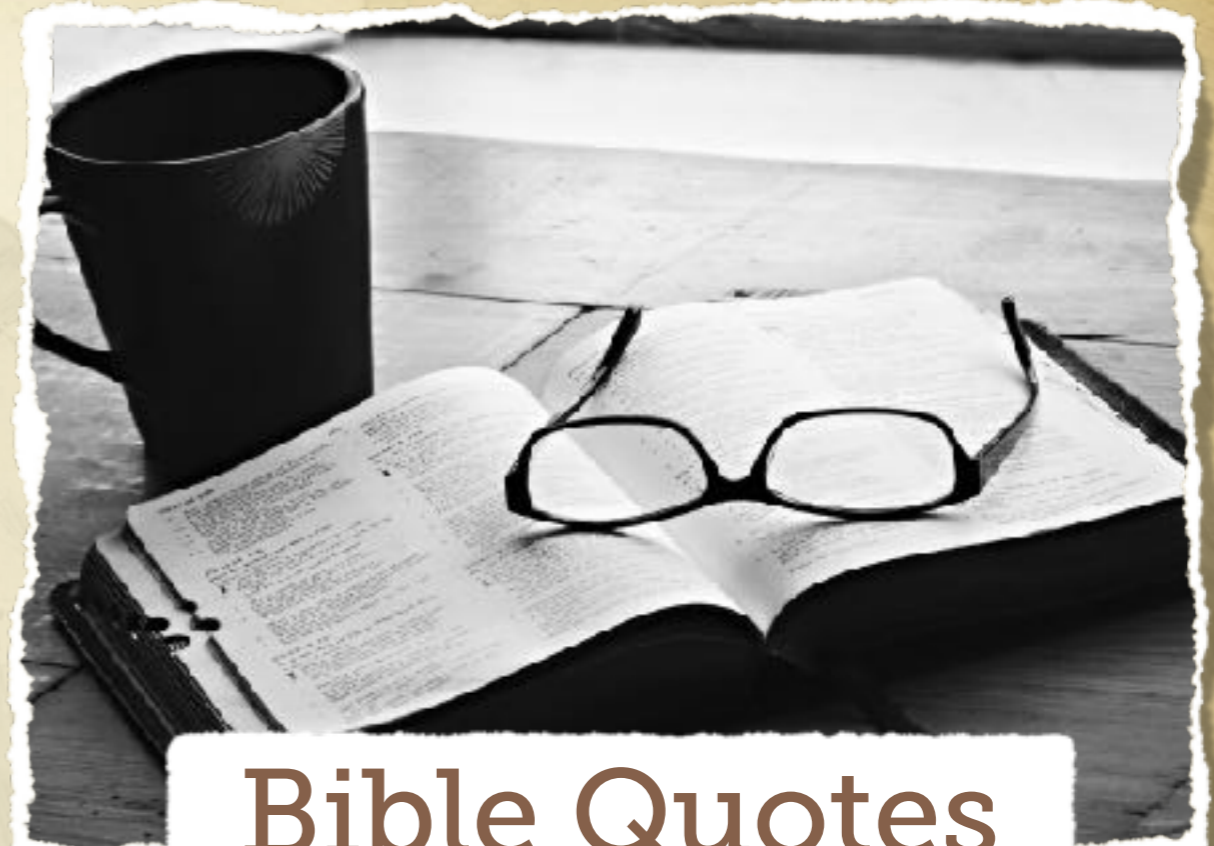
"The fool says in his heart, 'God does not exist.'"

(Psalm 14:11)



Karl Marx Quotes

"Religion is the opium of the masses."



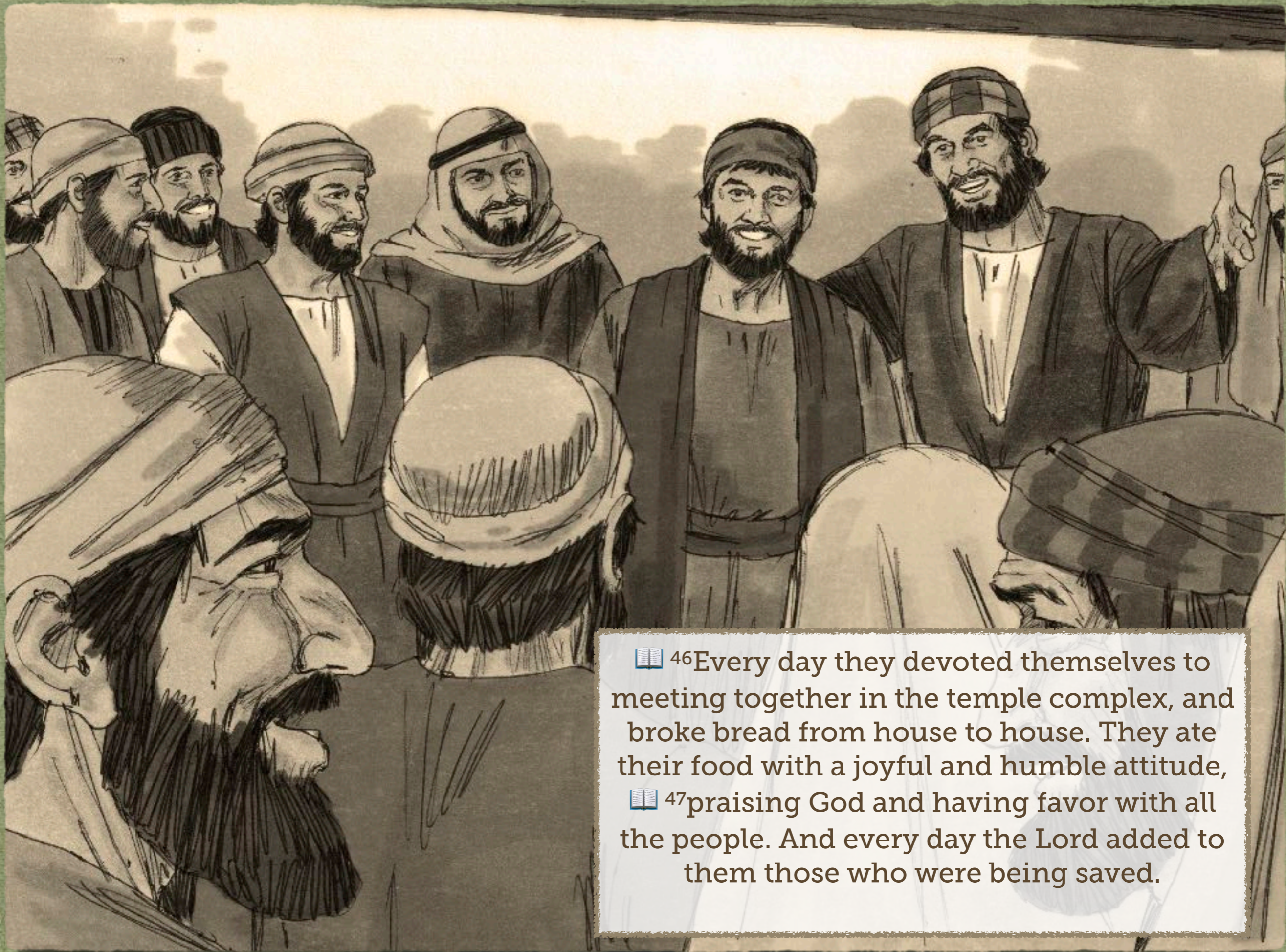
Bible Quotes

"Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elemental forces of the world, and not based on Christ."

(Colossians 2:8)

Communism Is
Not What the Early
Church
Practiced...





📖 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, 📖 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved.

"They met daily, cared daily, won souls daily, searched the Scriptures daily, and increased in number daily. Their Christian faith was a day to day reality not a once a week routine."

- Warren Wiersbe

"BIBLICAL TEACHING,
GOD-CENTERED FELLOWSHIP,
COMMUNION,
PRAYER,
MEETING NEEDS
ARE SIGNS OF A HEALTHY LOCAL CHURCH"

Main Point



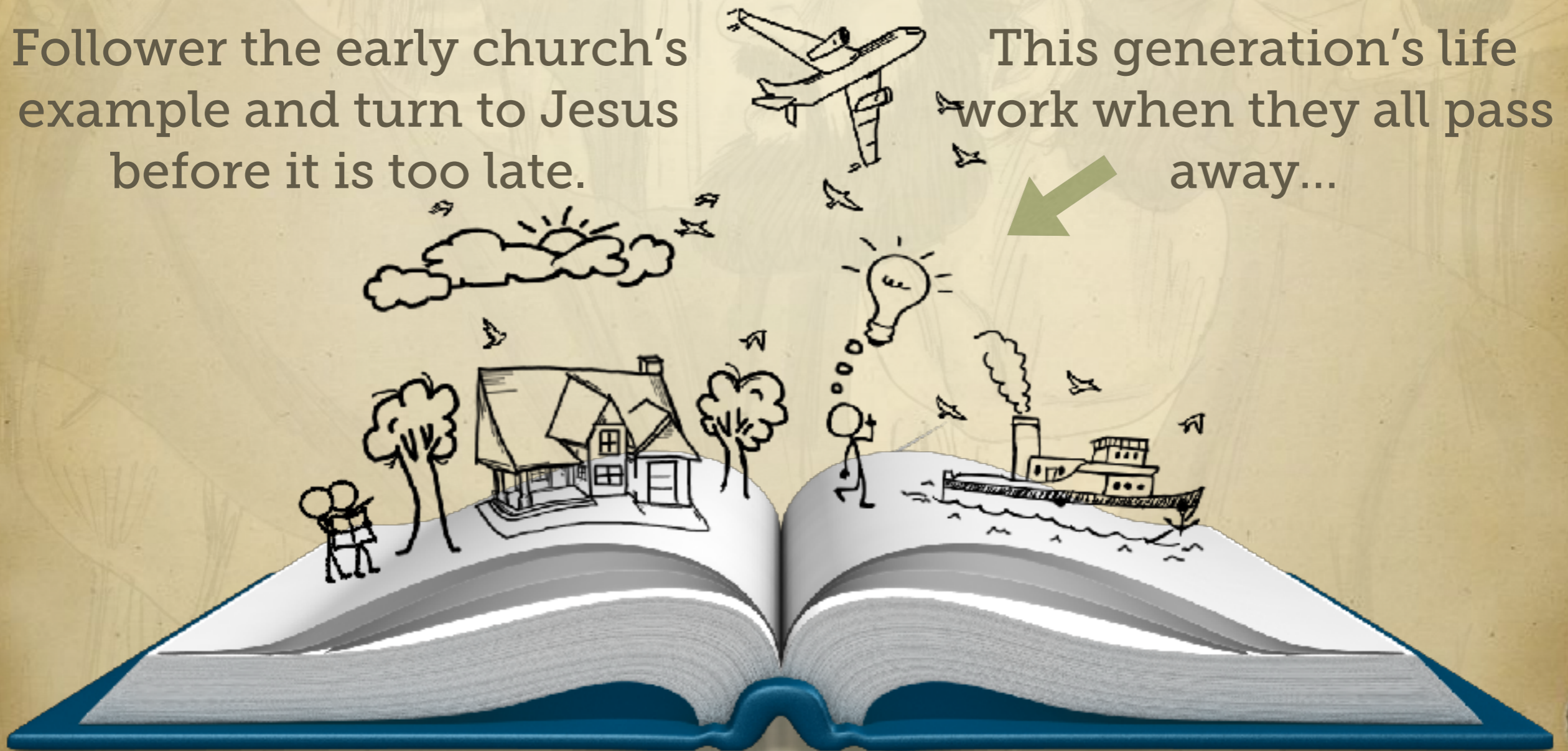
#3 - Turning Knowledge Into Wisdom

○ Acts Chapter 2:45-47

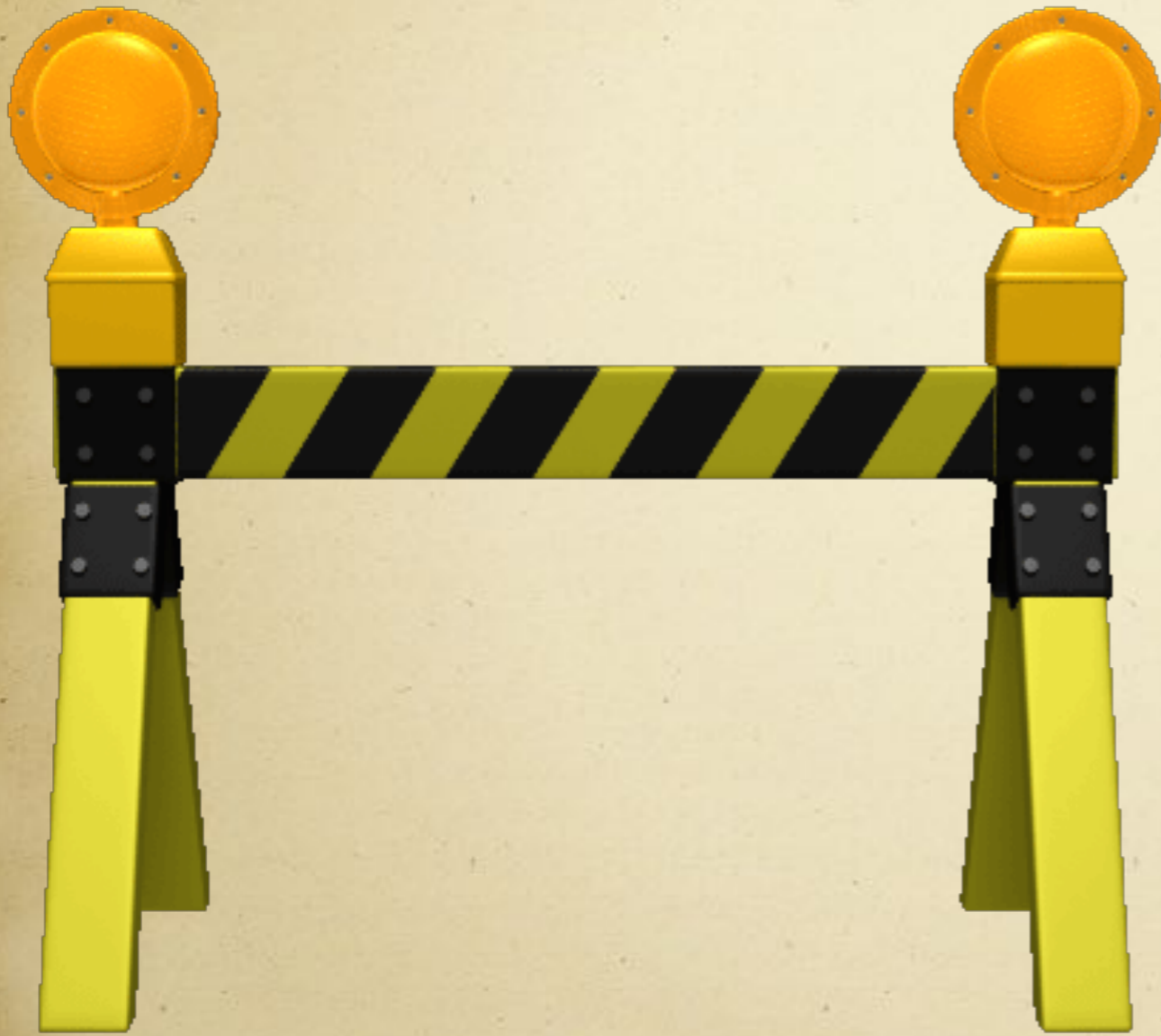
"Be Saved From This Corrupt Generation!"

Follow the early church's example and turn to Jesus before it is too late.

This generation's life work when they all pass away...



Beware...



- ▶ Beware of divisive people who warp the Word of God to fit their agenda.
- ▶ Some like Marx reject God's word all-together, but many try to include it by twisting it's meaning to deceive Christians.

Generous Or Entitled?

- ▶ As a Christian you should always be ready to give to meet needs.
- ▶ Sadly, some Christians are not good stewards and expect other to bail them out.
- ▶ The early church set a good example by being generous - you should do likewise.



What Are You Devoted To?



- ▶ The early church was devoted to the apostles' teaching (Doctrine), to the fellowship, and to prayer.
- ▶ What do you devote your time and effort too?
- ▶ Have hobbies or pleasures replaced your devotion to God?

Find A Solid Church...

► Find a solid church which practices these things just like the early church:

1. Biblical Teaching/Preaching
2. God-centered fellowship
3. Communion
4. Prayer
5. Meets Needs of The Saints





#4 - This Week's Reading

Acts 13 – Romans 3

THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 90 DAYS

#5: ACTS 2:45-47

CHURCH GROWTH & COMMUNISM

