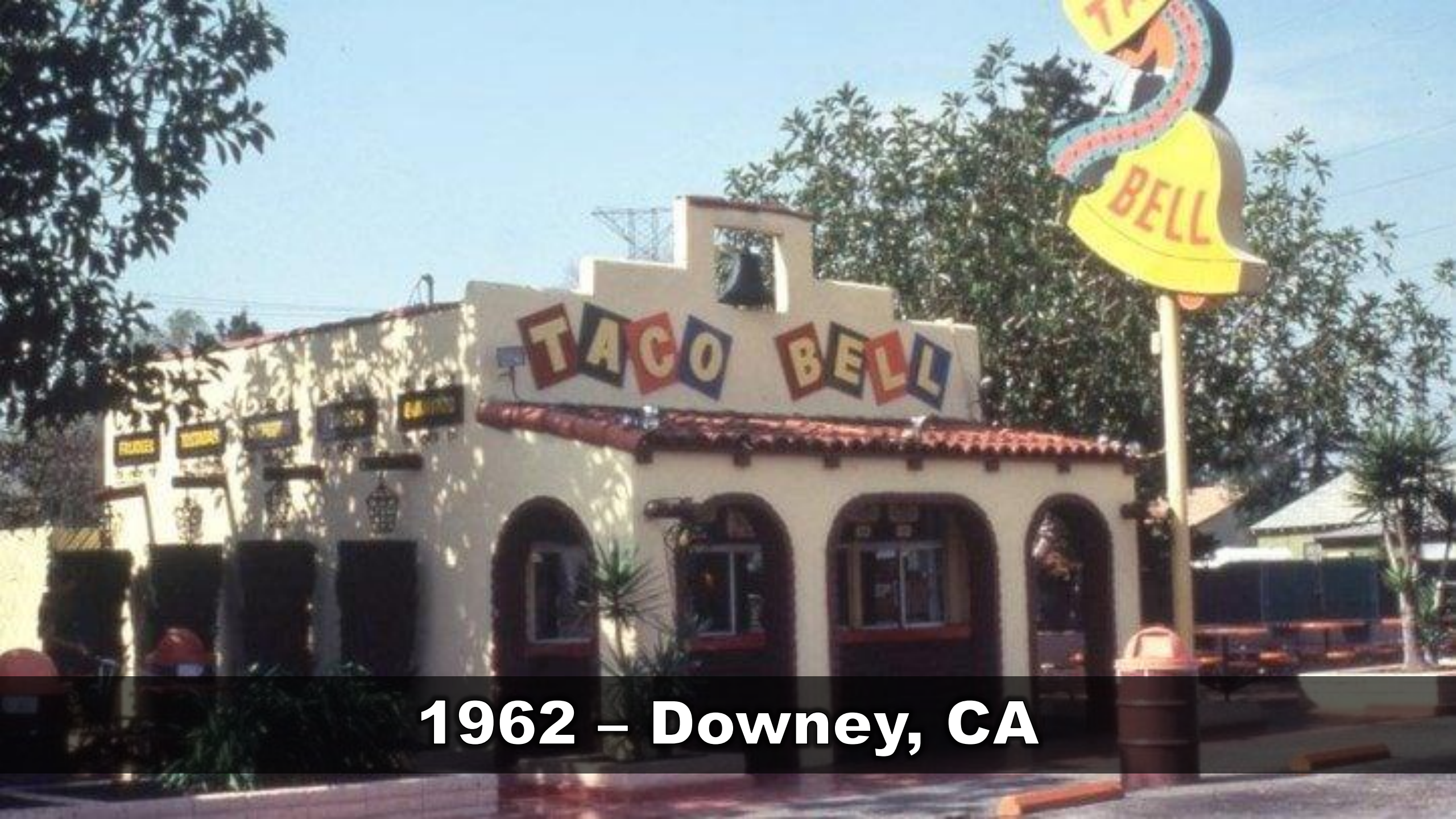




IT'S A CULTURAL THING



Bringing people together



**1962 - Downey, CA**



15 MCDONALD'S 15  
FAMOUS  
HAMBURGERS  
BUY 'EM BY THE BAG

**1940 – San Bernadino, CA  
First Big Mac, Uniontown, PA.**

# CANTON RESTAURANT



248

246

CANTON

CANTON

RESTAURANT

RESTAURANT.

**1849 – San Francisco, CA**  
**1882 – Chinese exclusion act.**



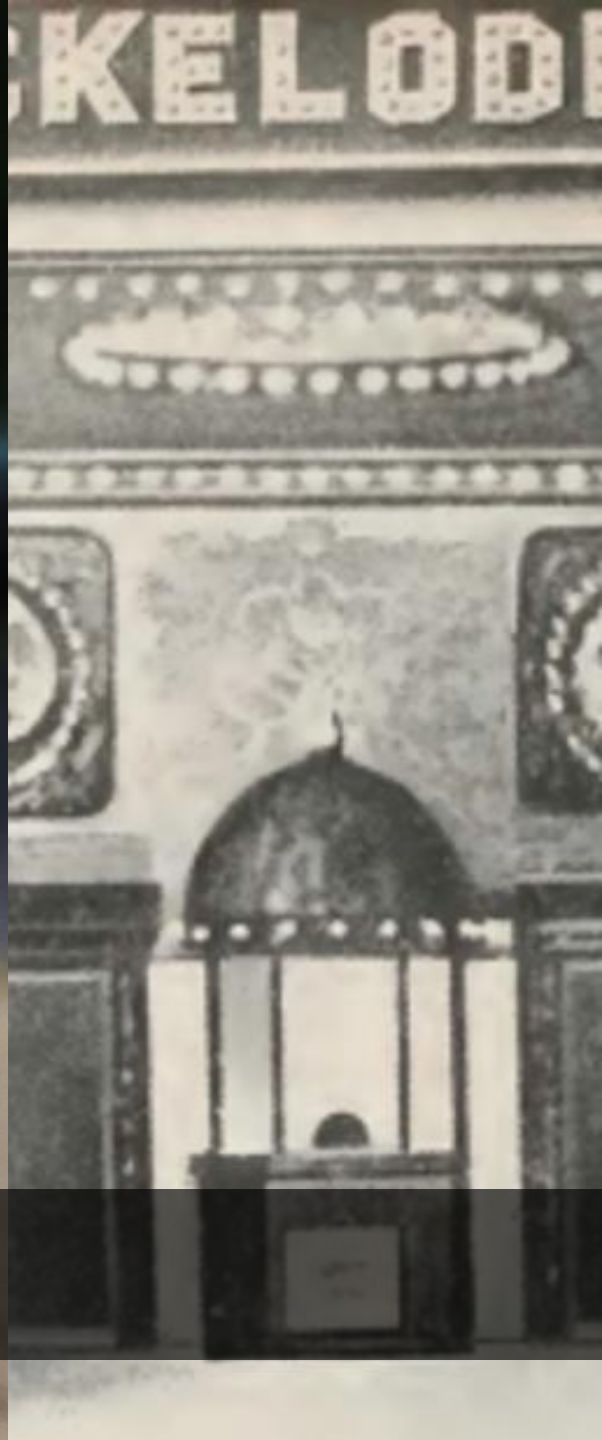
El  
RANCHO  
VEGAS

OPERA HOUSE  
CASINO THEATRE RESTAURANT SALOON  
STAGE DOOR STEAK HOUSE

**1946 – Buckaroo Buffet: Las Vegas**  
Swedish smörgåsbord goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century



**1905 – Nickelodeon, Pittsburgh**  
**1907 – Cascade Theatre, New Castle**



**CULTURAL IMPACT**

## Galatians 3:28

**There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**





Joseph, a man of  
different customs  
and beliefs.

**He is in a place with different food, different  
music, different fashion, different holidays,  
different worship...**

# Genesis 39:7-12

**The story of Joseph, culture, and Potiphar's wife.**



## CULTURAL CONTEXT:

Potiphar's Egypt  
VS  
Joseph's Hebrew  
Heritage



**Not just a story of resisting temptation, but a lesson in maintaining integrity and faithfulness even when culture operates on a different framework.**

A desert landscape at sunset. In the background, several pyramids are visible under a sky filled with soft, golden clouds. In the foreground, a caravan of camels is walking across the sand dunes. The overall scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun.

# Polygamy and Concubinage

- \*While monogamy was the norm in Egypt, polygamy and concubinage was common among the elite.**
- \*A wife of a high official may have had more freedom than is often assumed.**



# Religious Differences

- \*Egyptians worshipped a pantheon of gods.**
- \*Moral code tied to Ma'at (balance and order) but not the same as covenantal relationship with God.**
- \*Egyptian gods did not demand the same personal, moral purity as that of Joseph's God.**



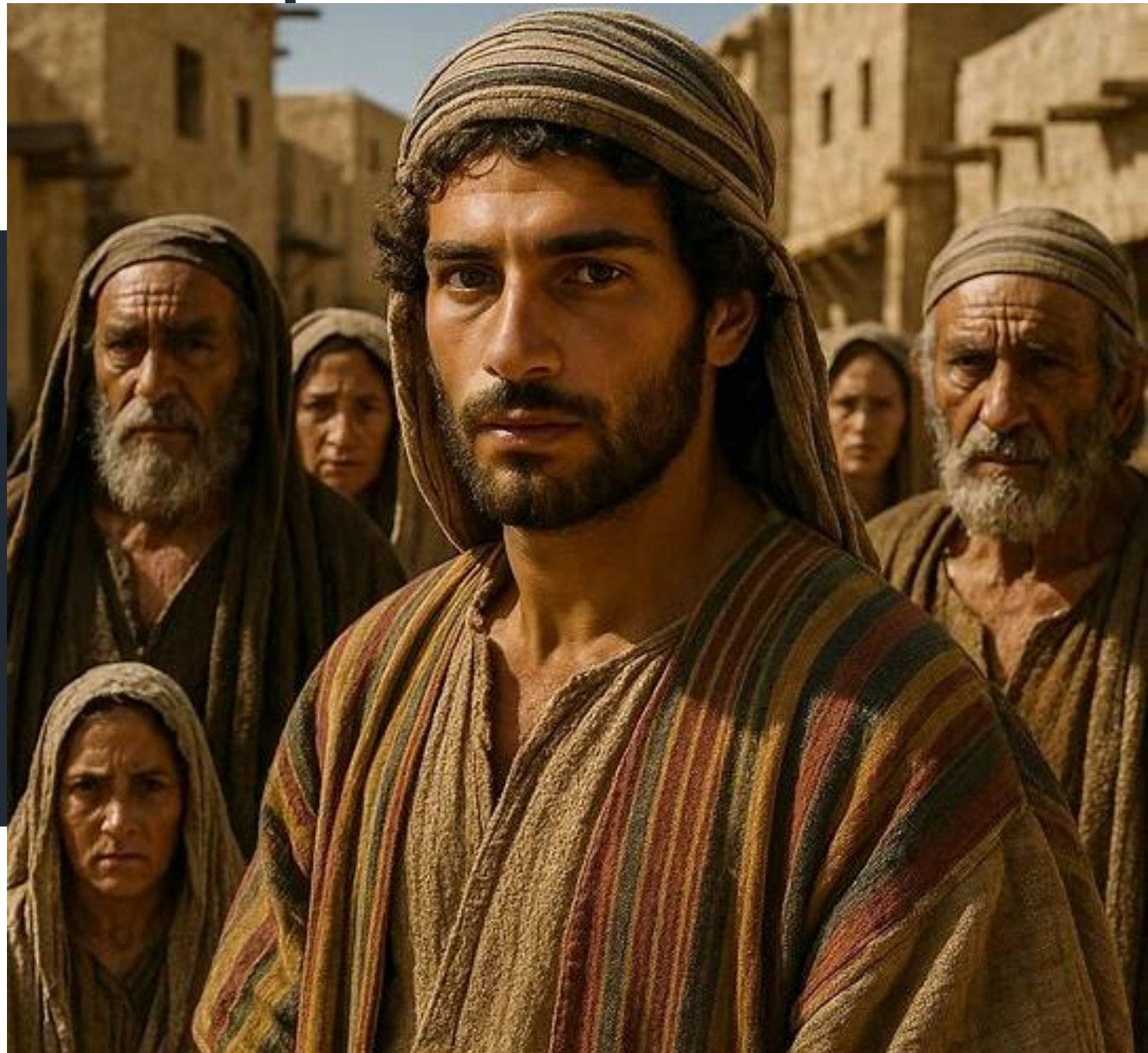
# Power Dynamics & perspective

**\*Potiphar's wife is powerful while Joseph, a slave, is not.**

**\*Her desire was seen as a right and Joseph's refusal was an insubordinate, disrespectful action.**

## Hebrew Culture (Joseph's Perspective)

Joseph had a personal, loving relationship with God. Sin was not merely a social offense, it was an offense against a holy God.



## Genesis 39:9

There is no one greater in this house than **I**, nor has **he** kept back anything from me but **you**, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against **God?**”

A diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities, including men, women, and children, are shown from the chest up. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame. The background is a soft, warm, golden-brown color, suggesting an outdoor setting at sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# Covenant and Trust

**\*The relationship between a master and a servant was one of trust to Joseph.**

**\*The concept of trust is a hallmark of the covenant between God and His people.**



Hebrew tradition placed a high value on purity within the bounds of marriage

A person is holding a red Bible with the words "HOLY BIBLE" printed on the spine. The background is a blurred image of a person's hands and arms, suggesting a religious or scholarly setting. The text is centered within a white rectangular box with a thin black border.

The Word of God  
transcends culture

Either God is God OR culture is God



When in Rome, do  
as the Romans do.

Ambrose

quote fancy

A man in a white tunic and headscarf is running towards a woman in a white tunic and headscarf. The woman is pointing towards the man. The background is a simple, light-colored wall with a window showing a palm tree.

# Joseph's Response: A Lesson in Cultural Integrity:

## Genesis 39:10

**So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day,  
that he did not heed her, to lie with her *or* to  
be with her.**



A desert landscape featuring several pyramids in the background. In the foreground, a caravan of camels is walking across the sand dunes. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall color palette is warm and golden, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Joseph did not appeal to  
Egyptian social norms.

## The Core Tension of the Story

- Joseph's reaction is one of firm rejection.
- Why? It's more than a simple "no."
- It's a "no" rooted in his understanding of God, honor, and loyalty—principles that were foreign to the Egyptian culture he was immersed in.



He recognized  
sin is an offense  
to against God,  
not just the  
social offense.



Joseph fled the situation

James 4:7

**Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**




Romans 14:13

**Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother's way.**



A group of people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are gathered around a wooden table. They are focused on their work, with some holding pens and writing on documents. Several open books, likely Bibles, are spread out on the table. The scene is lit with warm, natural light, creating a sense of collaboration and intellectual pursuit.

# Cultural Challenges and Bible Translation



The Fologa people  
of Papua New  
Guinea

Luke 11:11

**If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?**

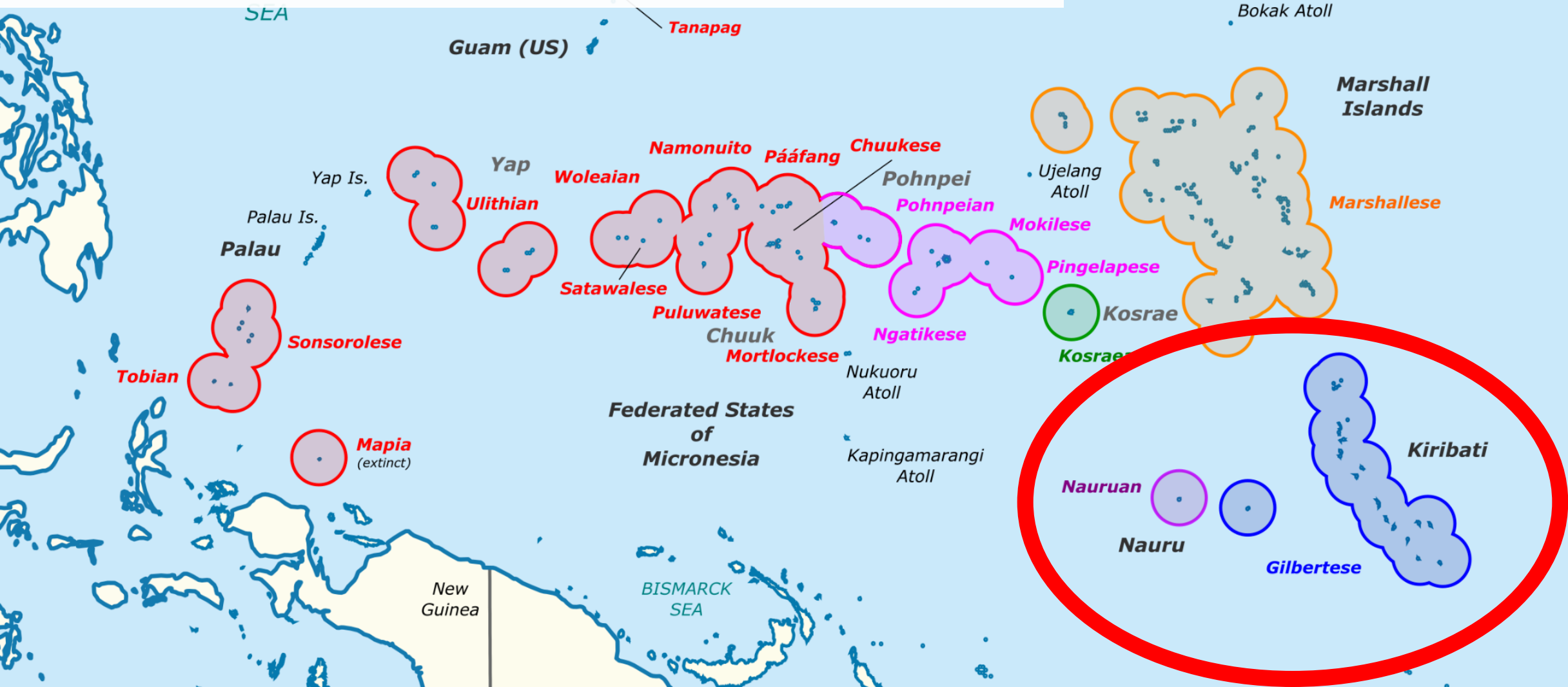


Okinotorishima (Jp.)

Wake Is. (US)


\*Gilbertese language has no word for mountain.  
 \*Some tropical regions (Amazon basin & Thailand) have no word for snow.

PACIFIC OCEAN



Isaiah 1:18

**“Come now, and let us reason together,”  
Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet,  
They shall be as white as snow;  
Though they are red like crimson,  
They shall be as wool.**



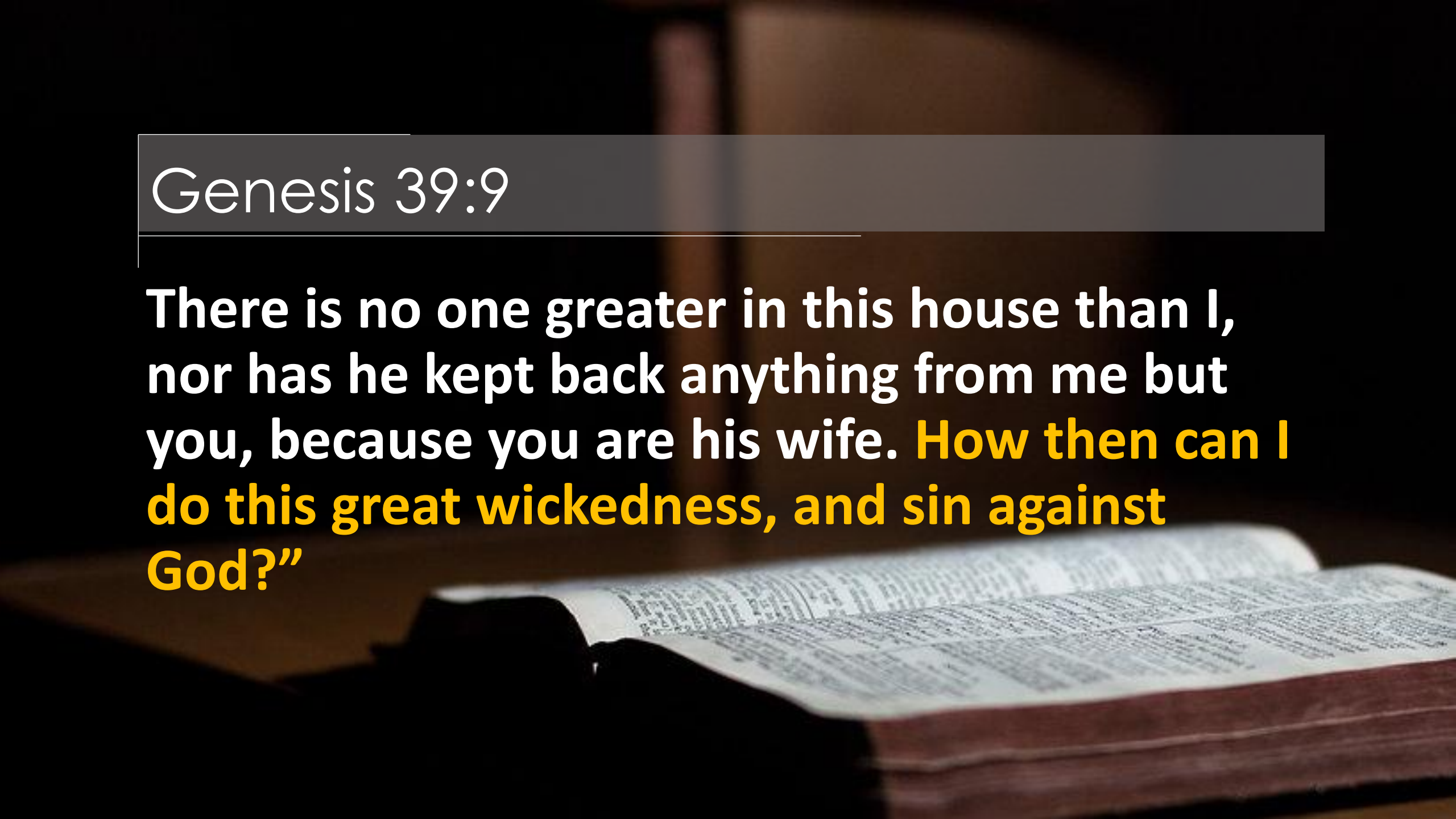
Christians are living as “foreigners” in a world with different values.

A woman in a white dress is running away from a woman in a purple dress. The woman in purple is pointing her finger towards the woman in white. The scene is set in a room with a bed and a window with a plant.

Where are our “Potiphar’s wives”?

## Genesis 39:9

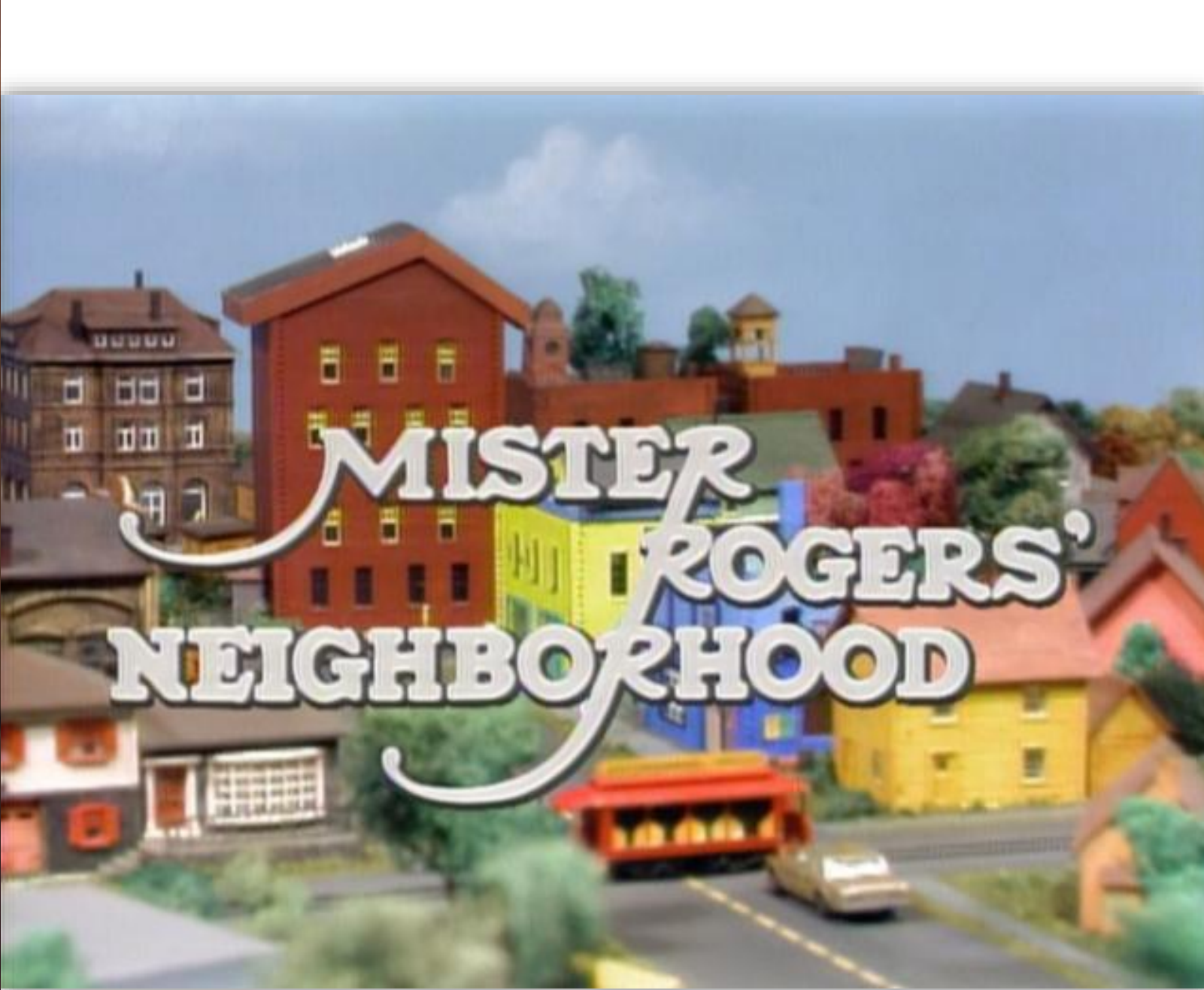
There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. **How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"**





**The ultimate  
culture shock**







Imagine a place where, we, from all background, traditions, and cultures are there with Jesus in heaven, where culture does not count.



IT'S A CULTURAL THING