

From Abomination to Reformation



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HOLY
BIBLE

The background image shows a grand, ancient stone structure, likely a temple or palace, in a state of complete ruin. The architecture features intricate carvings and columns. The floor is covered in a thick layer of broken stone blocks and debris. A bright light source, possibly a window or an opening in the structure, casts a powerful beam of light across the scene, creating a dramatic atmosphere of desolation and divine judgment.

Ezekiel 14:6

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations.”



Defining the Departure

THE MEANING OF ABOMINATION

That which is "detestable" to God,
not merely because it is "bad,"
but because it is profane.

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes with some sparse, dry vegetation. In the background, a city is built on a hillside, featuring a prominent temple or palace with a large columned portico. The overall scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and ancient feel.

Leviticus 10:10

... you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean,



*** Leviticus 10:11 ***

and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.

THE SPIRITUAL VIOLATION

- When the church attempts to worship the Creator using the methods, philosophies, or idols of the culture around it, it offers what the Bible calls "strange fire."
- As was the case with Nadab and Abihu, *Lev. 10:1-3*.

The background is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes with sparse, dry vegetation. In the middle ground, a city is built on a hillside, with a prominent temple or palace structure featuring columns and a pediment. The sky is a deep, dark blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall mood is somber and ancient.

*** Leviticus 10:2 ***

So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.



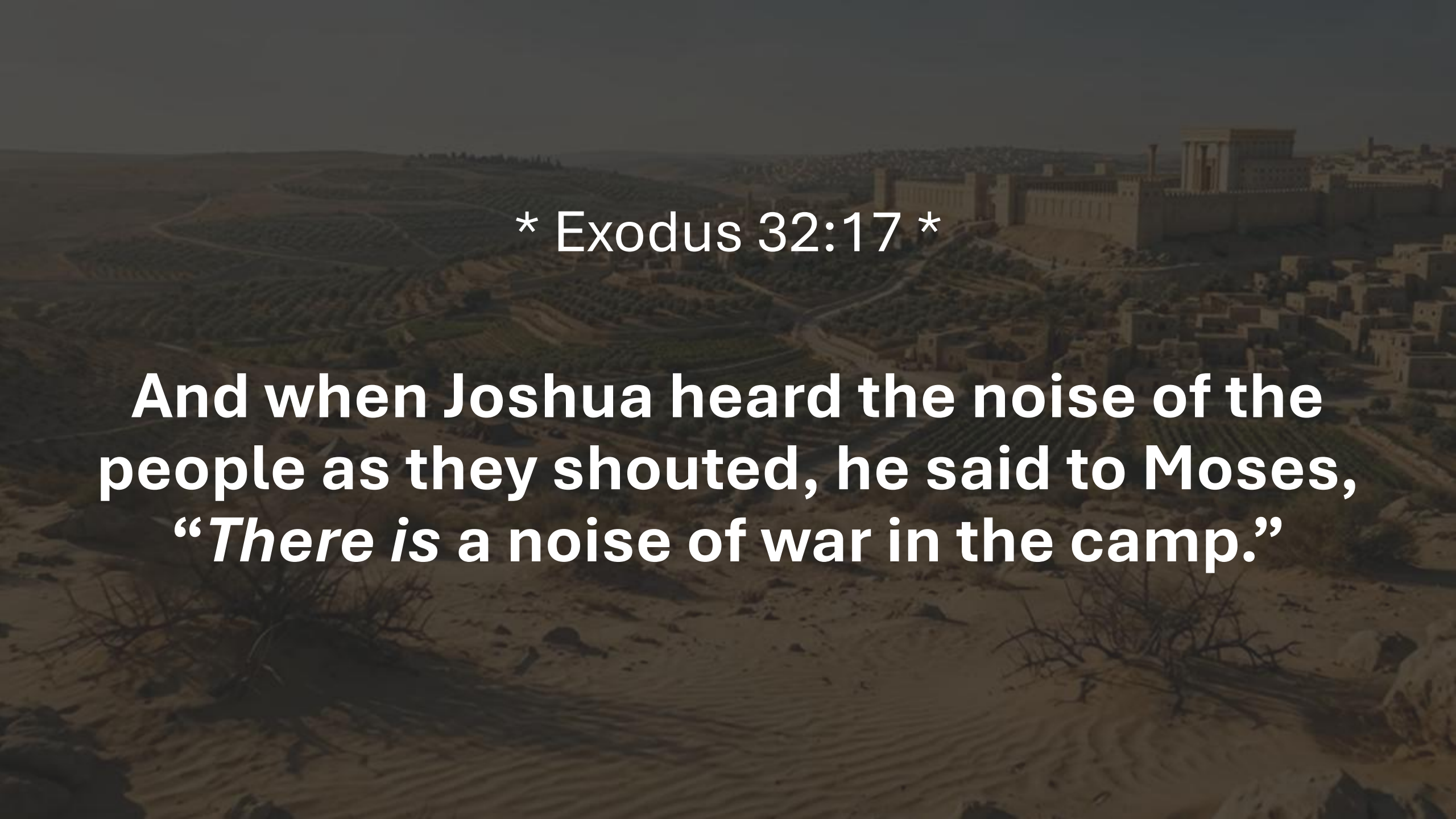
REFORMATION:
a recurring
necessity

** Matthew 24:15 **

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

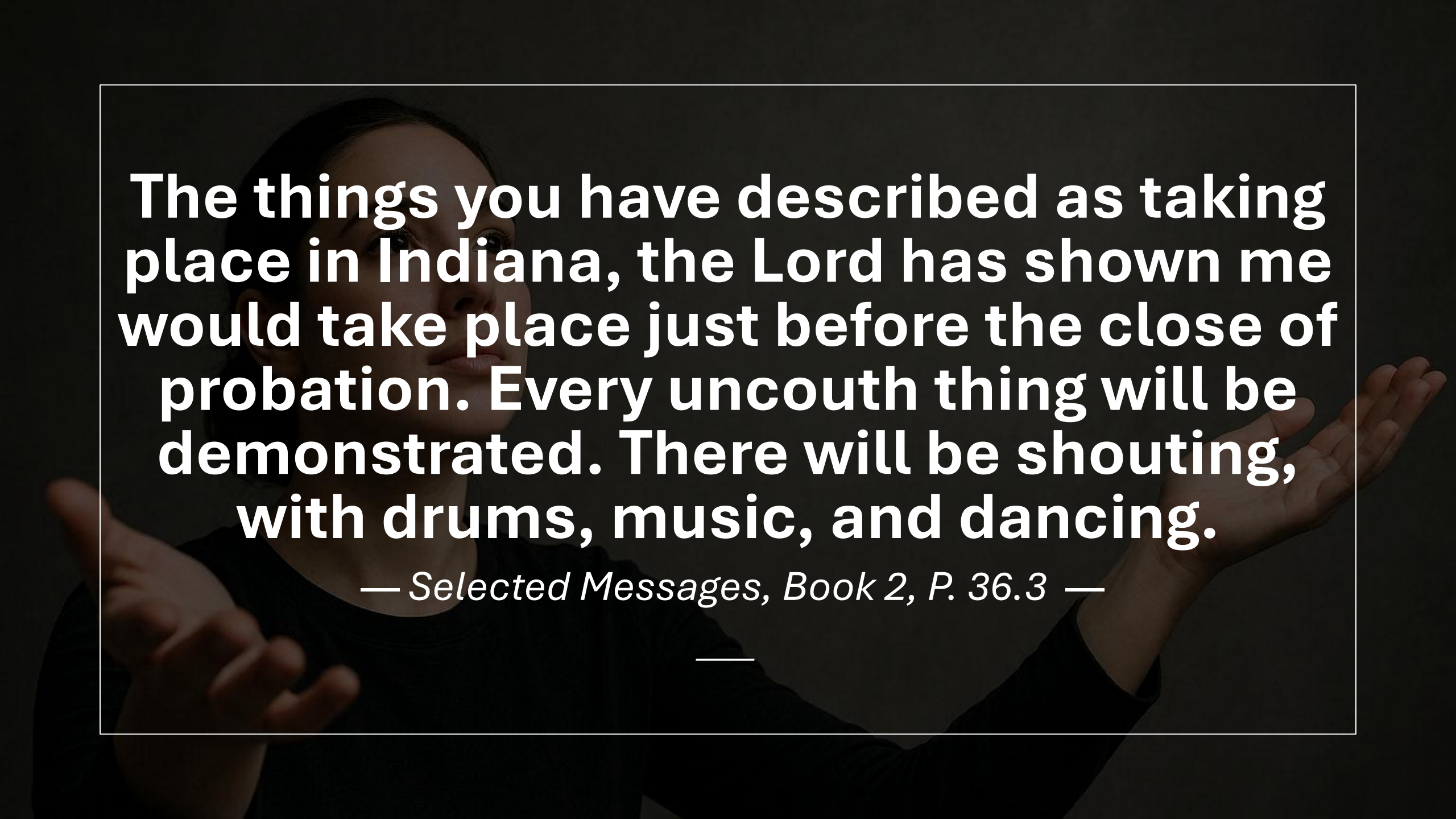
~ Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11 ~



The background is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes with some sparse, dry vegetation. In the middle ground, there are more dunes and some small structures. In the background, a city with a prominent temple or palace building is visible on a hillside. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

*** Exodus 32:17 ***

And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “*There is a noise of war in the camp.*”



The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing.

— Selected Messages, Book 2, P. 36.3 —

*

The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time.

— *Selected Messages, Book 2, P. 36.3* —

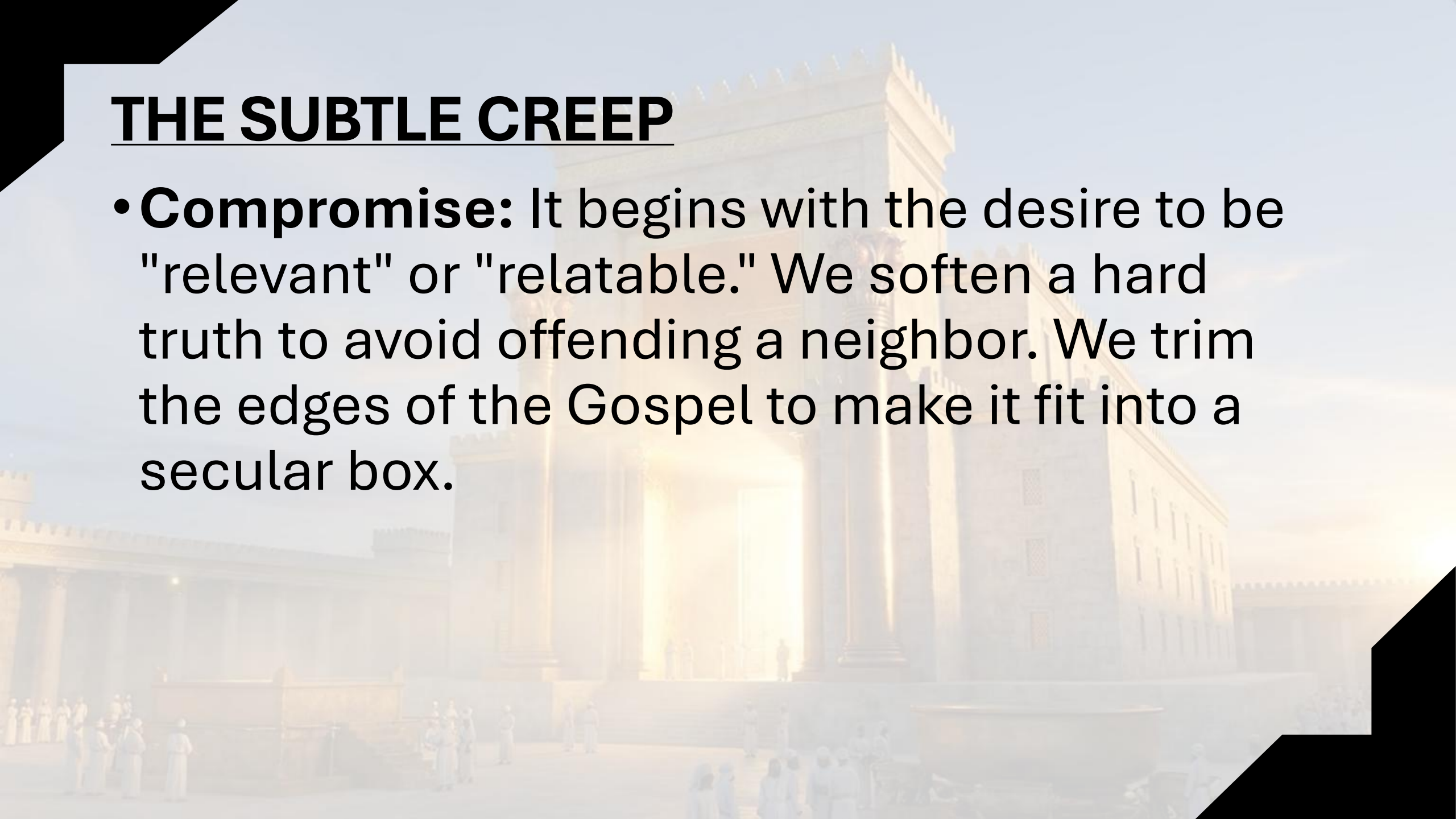


The Subtle Creep:



THE SUBTLE CREEP

- **Compromise:** It begins with the desire to be "relevant" or "relatable." We soften a hard truth to avoid offending a neighbor. We trim the edges of the Gospel to make it fit into a secular box.



THE SUBTLE CREEP


- **Compromise:**
- **Cultural Assimilation:** Gradually, the church begins to look, talk, and entertain exactly like the world. When the salt loses its savor, it is because it has been diluted by the earth it was meant to season. *Mt. 5:13*

THE SUBTLE CREEP

- **Compromise:**
- **Cultural Assimilation:**
- **The Erosion of Authority:** The final stage of the creep is the slow transition from "***Thus saith the Lord***" to "***I feel***" or "***Society says.***" Once the Bible is no longer the final arbiter of truth, the door is off the hinges, and the "abomination of desolation" finds a permanent seat in the holy place.

11th-century rabbi
Rashi suggested it was
named Tophet
from *toph* (drum), as
drums were beaten to
drown out the cries of
children during
sacrifice.





**"The spirit of the world is eating out the
vitals of godliness from those who profess
to be the chosen people of God."**

— Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2 —



Because human nature tends toward drift, the church must be in a state of constant calibration.

Before we can reform, we must first identify what has been deformed



#1

Tradition Over Revelation



An aerial, sepia-toned photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes with sparse, dry vegetation. A winding river or path cuts through the middle ground. In the background, a large, walled city with a prominent temple or palace complex is visible on a hillside. The sky is clear and light-colored.

Mark 7:6-9

TRADITION OVER REVELATION

- **The Danger:** Tradition often begins as a helpful fence, but it eventually becomes a prison.
- **The Result:** It creates a "filter" through which the Word of God must pass. If the Bible contradicts the tradition, the tradition is kept and the Word is explained away. This is the very definition of nullifying God's authority.

#2

**Idolatry of
Form:**



Idolatry and Form: The Empty Shell

- The grandeur of the building over the holiness of the people.
- The precision of the ritual over the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The "experience" of the music or the atmosphere over the purity of the Gospel message.

Ask the
question,
**“Would this
please God?”**

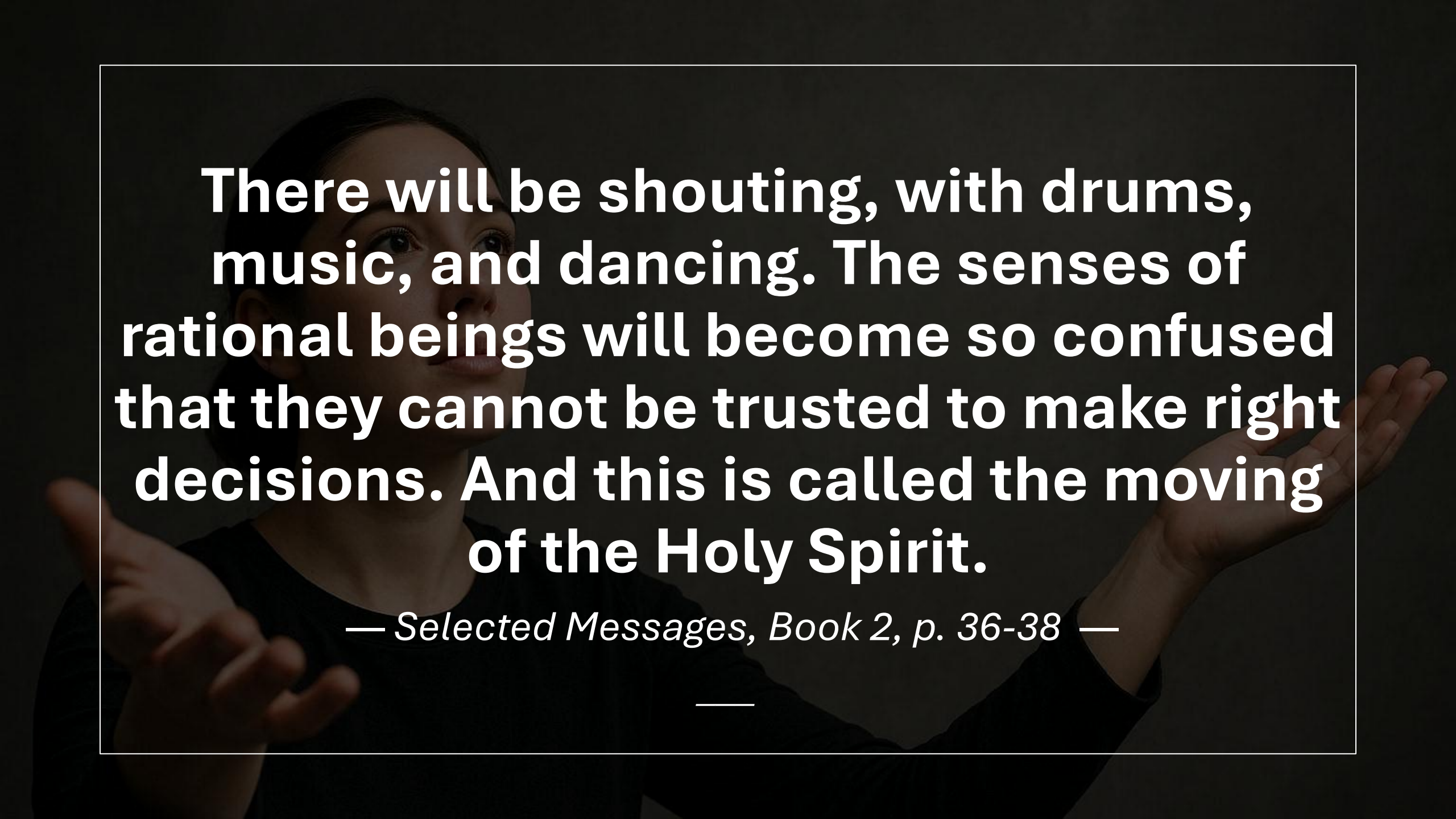




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It is as easy to make an idol of cherished ideas or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone.

— *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 173* —



**There will be shouting, with drums,
music, and dancing. The senses of
rational beings will become so confused
that they cannot be trusted to make right
decisions. And this is called the moving
of the Holy Spirit.**

— *Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 36-38* —



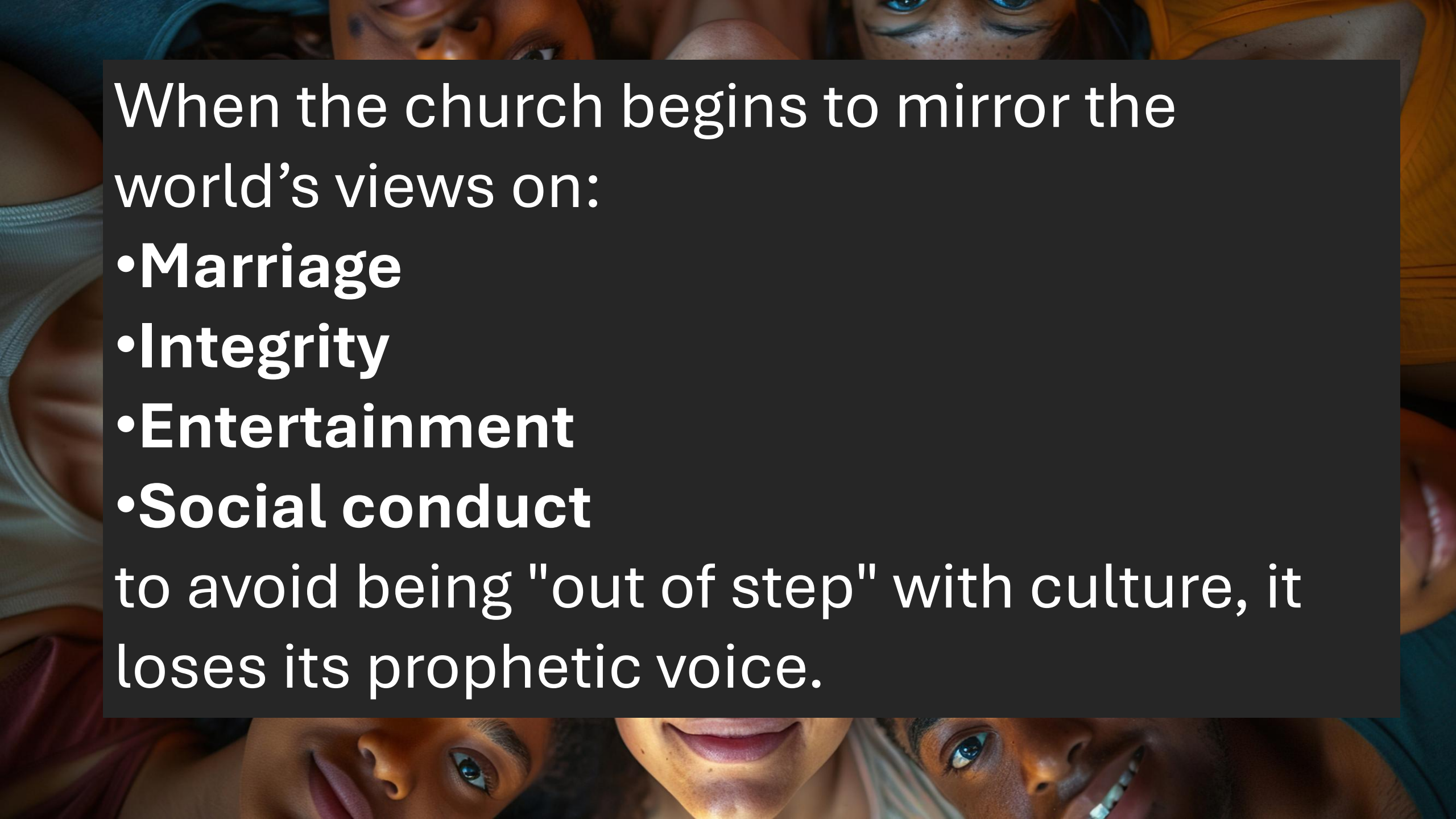
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...the Lord showed me that erroneous theories and methods would be brought into our camp meetings, and that the history of the past would be repeated.

— *Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 36-38* —

**Moral
Compromise:
The Desolating
Heart**

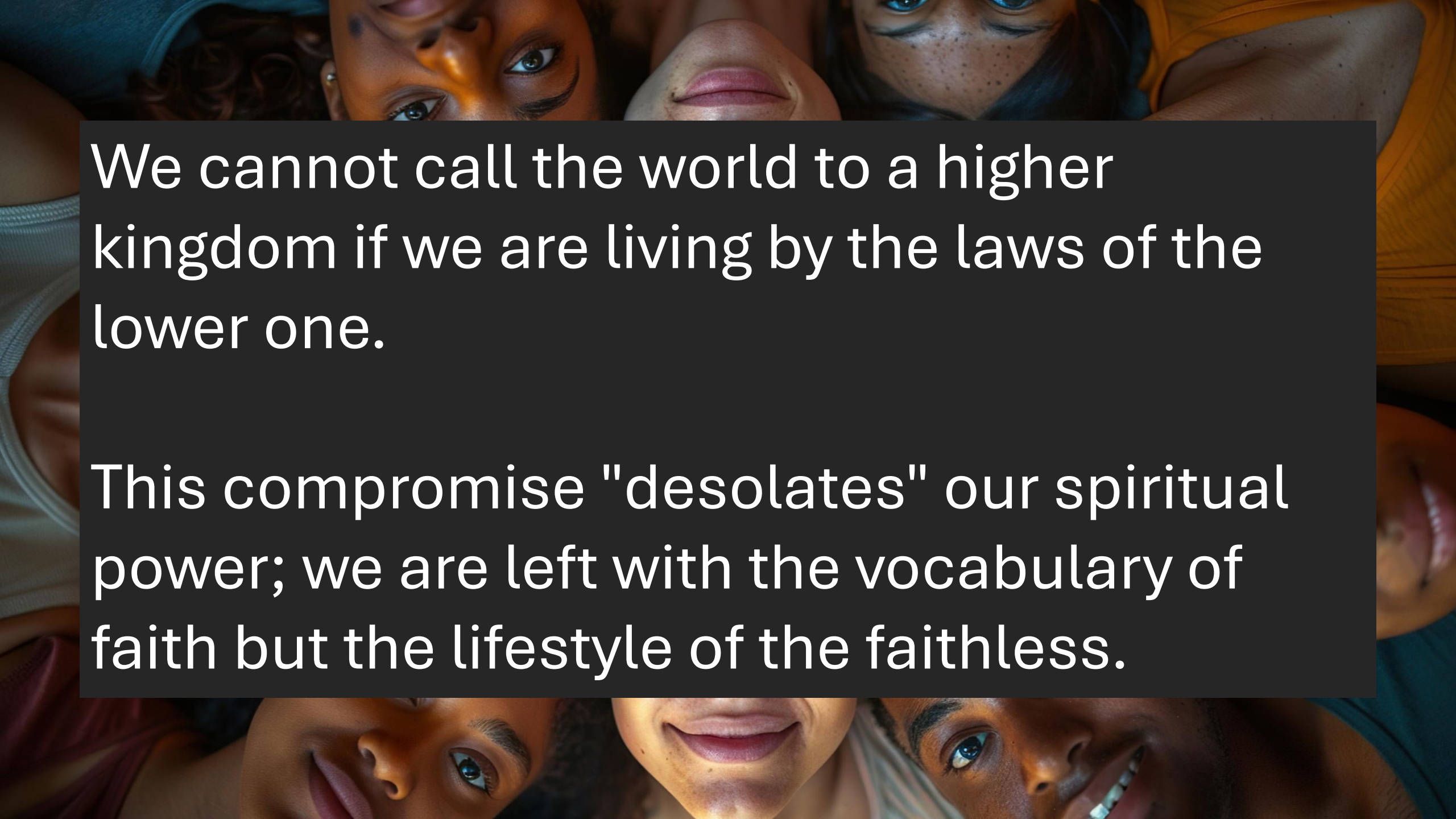




When the church begins to mirror the world's views on:

- **Marriage**
- **Integrity**
- **Entertainment**
- **Social conduct**

to avoid being "out of step" with culture, it loses its prophetic voice.



We cannot call the world to a higher kingdom if we are living by the laws of the lower one.

This compromise "desolates" our spiritual power; we are left with the vocabulary of faith but the lifestyle of the faithless.

#3

Syncretism:



SUBTLE SYNCRETISM

- **Psychological Syncretism:** Replacing the doctrine of sin and repentance with mere self-help and secular "wellness" philosophies.
- **Market-Driven Worship:** Using the world's entertainment models to "sell" Jesus, effectively turning the sanctuary into a marketplace.

The Mixed Multitude





REVELATION 17:4-6

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a crumpled piece of white paper, poised to drop it into a dark, circular trash can. The background is a neutral, light gray. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the crumpled paper.

THE DIAGNOSIS:

We cannot reform what we refuse to name.

If our traditions, our forms, our morals, or our mixtures have displaced the Word of God, the first step of reformation is not "improvement"—it is **removal.**



The Catalyst of Reformation



2 Kings 22:8, 11, 13



HOLY
BIBLE

SOLA SCRIPTURA

**Holy
Dissatisfaction:**





Subtle Syncretism

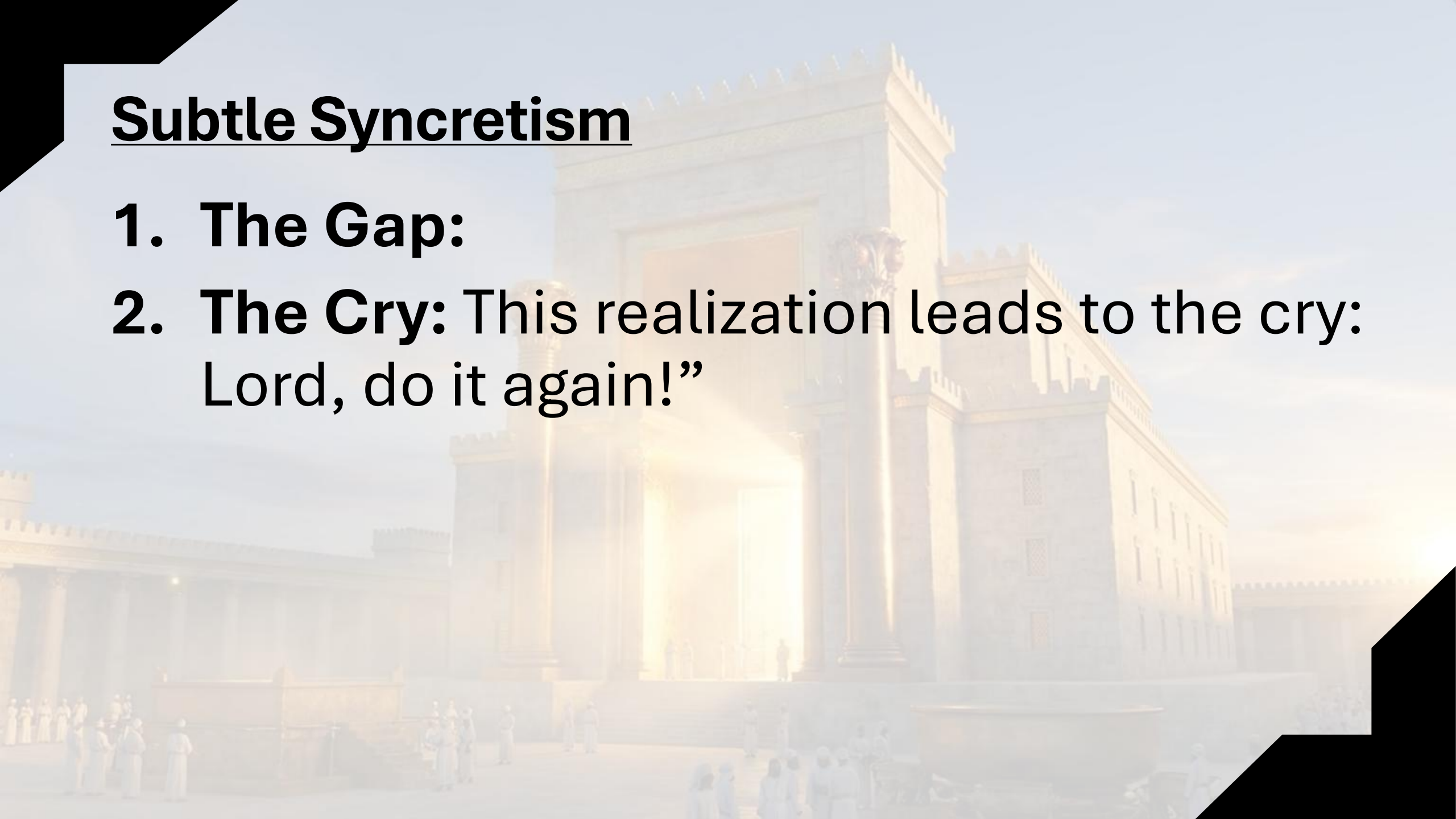
1. **The Gap:** We realize the gap between our *experience* and God's *promise*.



Subtle Syncretism

1. The Gap:

2. The Cry: This realization leads to the cry:
“Lord, do it again!”



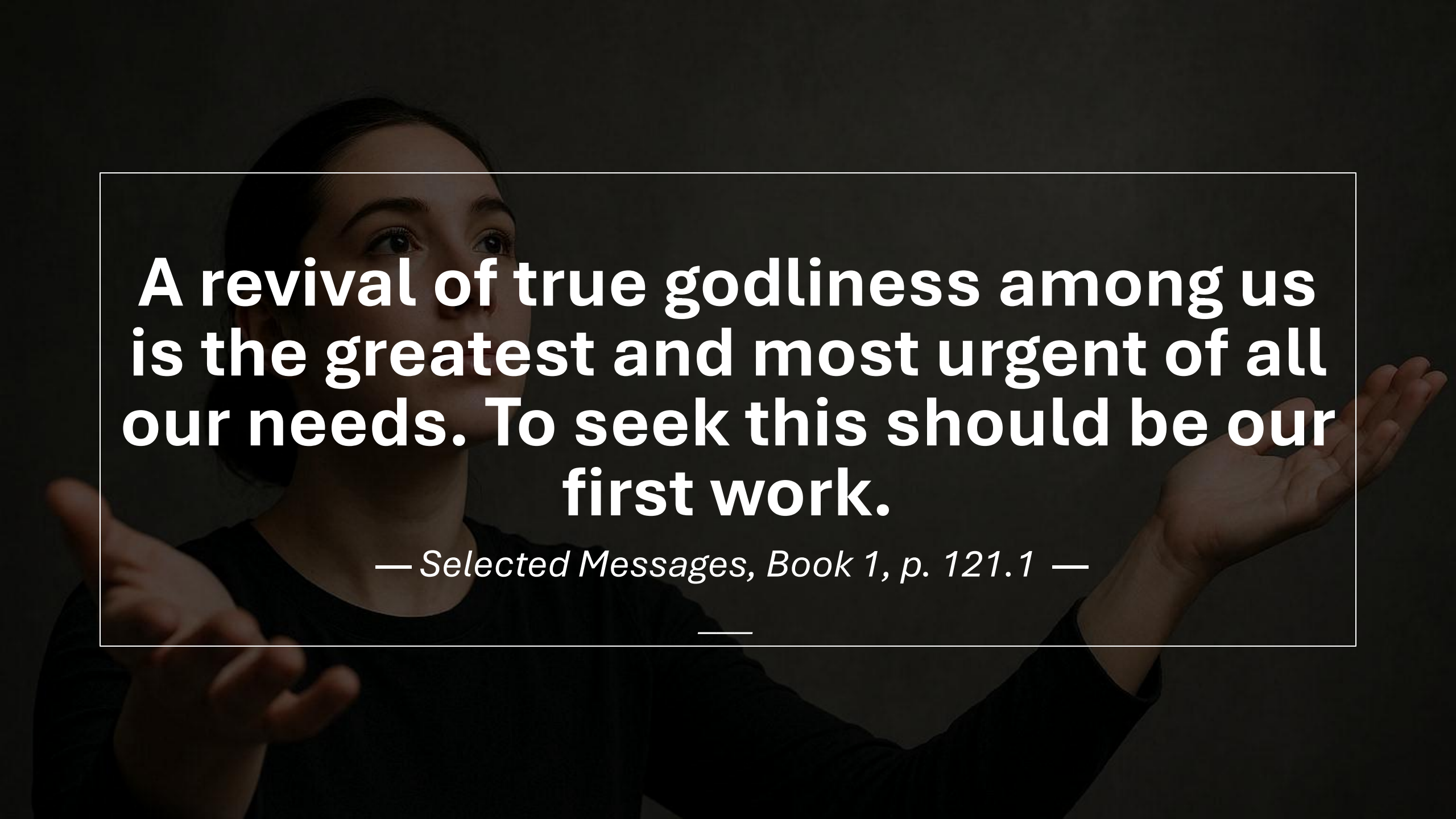
Subtle Syncretism

1. **The Gap:**
2. **The Cry:**
3. **The Result:** This is not a desire for "innovation," but for **restoration**. We become dissatisfied with the "lukewarm" atmosphere of Laodicea and long for the "first love" of Ephesus.

#4

The Role of Repentance:



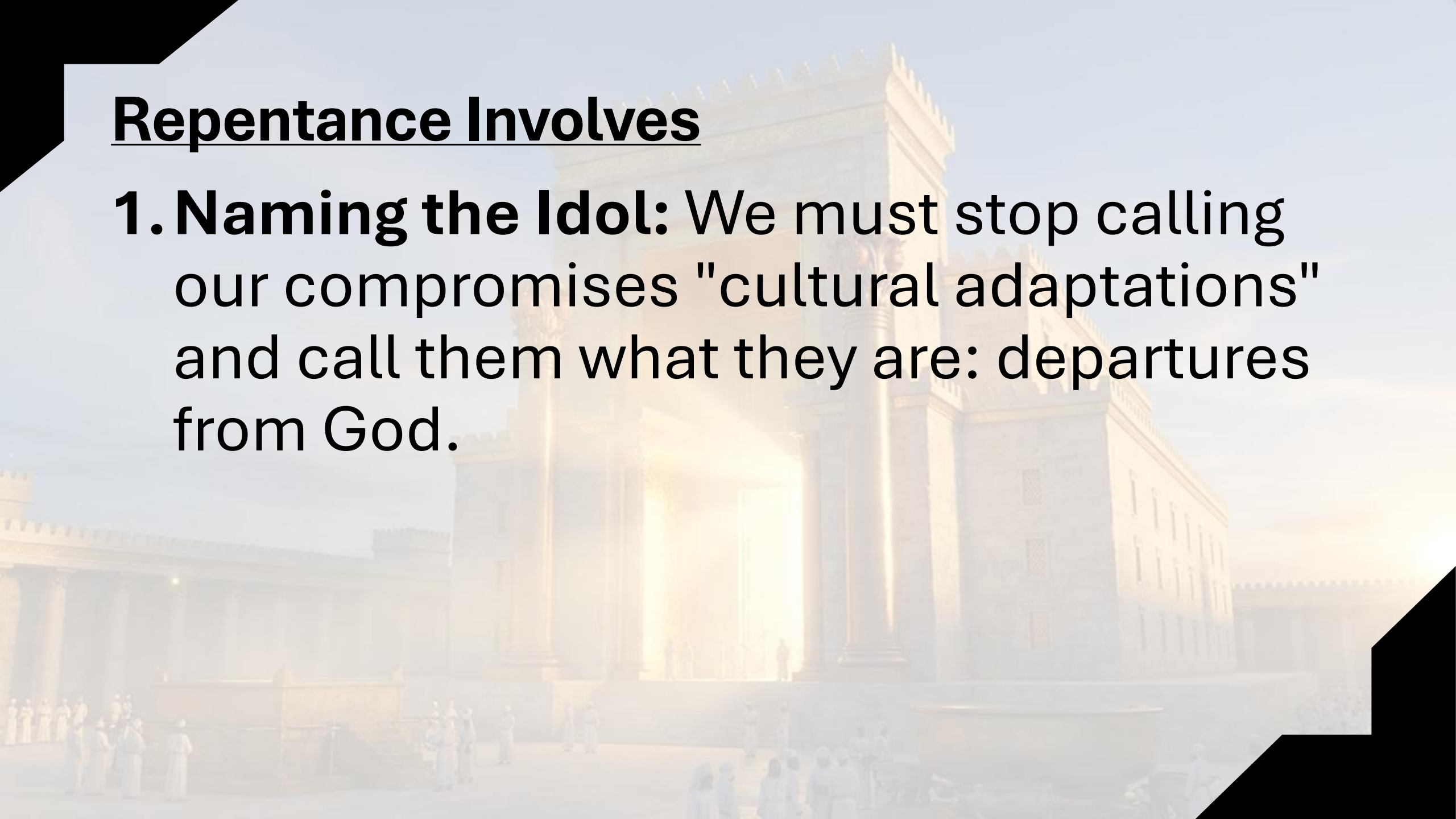


**A revival of true godliness among us
is the greatest and most urgent of all
our needs. To seek this should be our
first work.**

— *Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 121.1* —

Repentance Involves

1. Naming the Idol: We must stop calling our compromises "cultural adaptations" and call them what they are: departures from God.



Repentance Involves

1. Naming the Idol:

2. The Casting Out: Just as Josiah broke down the idols and burned them, repentance requires a physical and spiritual removal of the things that have desolated our holy places.

Repentance Involves

1. Naming the Idol:

2. The Casting Out:

3. The Broken Heart: Repentance is the "godly sorrow" that leads to a change of direction. It is the humble admission that we have tried to build a kingdom without the King.



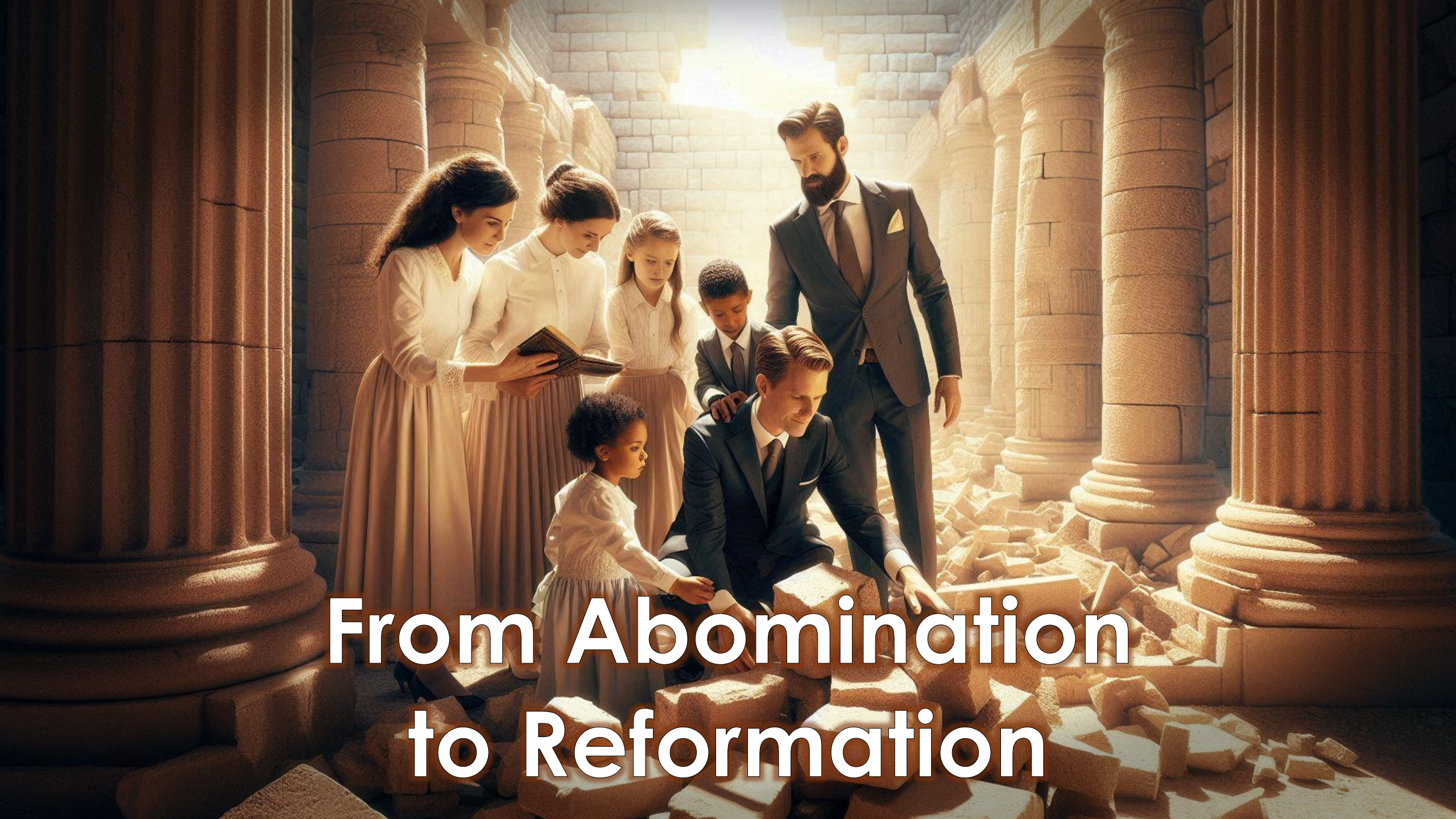
The Process of Restoration

A dark, atmospheric background image of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes with some sparse, dry vegetation. In the middle ground, there are terraced fields or vineyards. In the background, a city with a prominent temple or fortress on a hill is visible under a hazy sky.

* John 4:24 *

**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him
must worship in spirit and truth.**





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