

MATTHEW 7

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you **in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are **ferocious wolves**. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

MATTHEW 7

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'



1 PETER 5

So I exhort the **elders** among you, ... **shepherd the flock of God** that is among you, exercising oversight, ... eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but **being examples to the flock**. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ... **Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith. . .**



I think we're
going to need a
bigger dog!



ACTS 20 – PAUL TO EPHESIAN ELDERS

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them ... I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for **I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.**

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. **I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert,** remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.



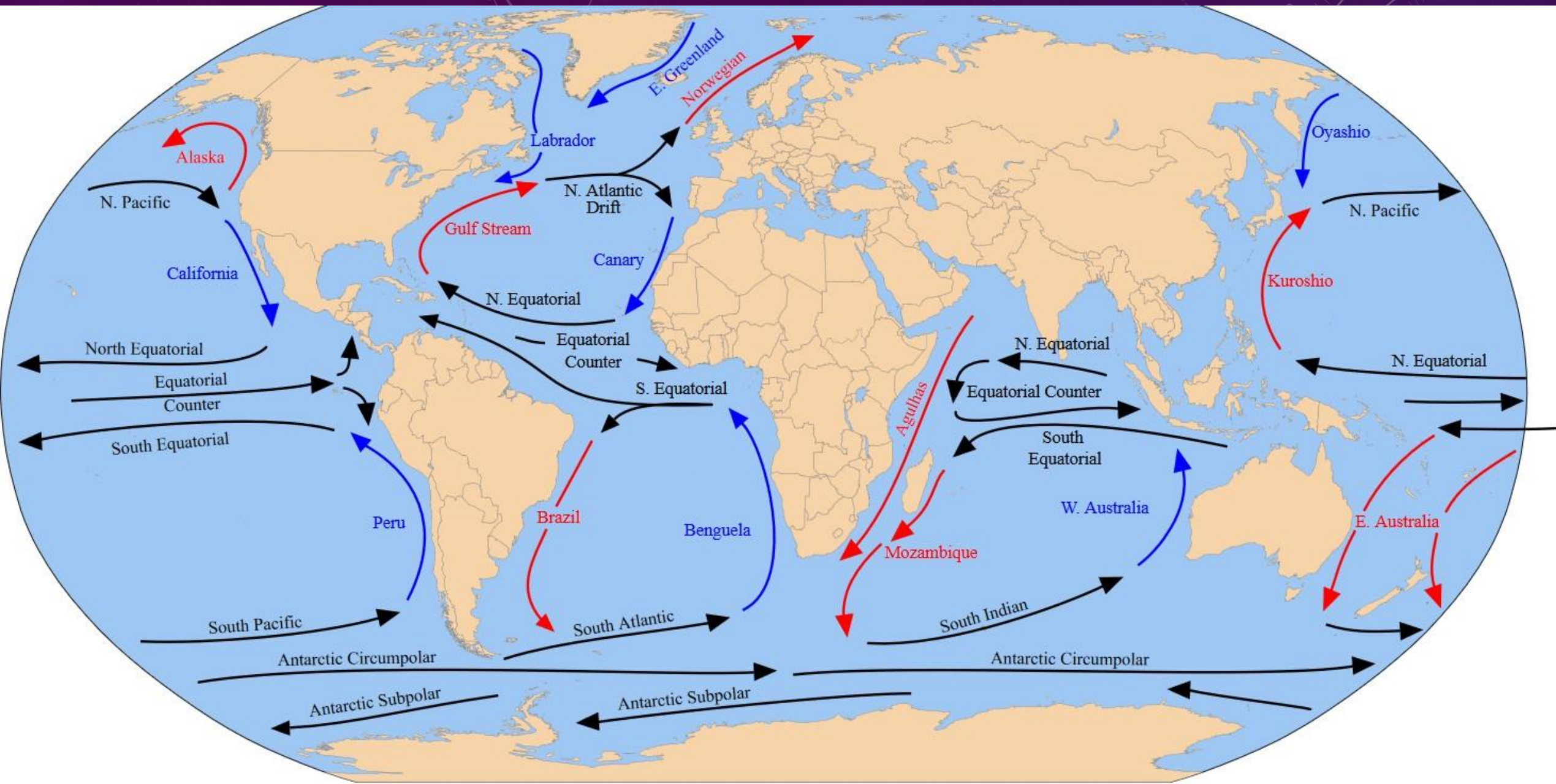
EPH 4

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is **one** body and **one** Spirit—just as you were called to the **one** hope that belongs to your call—**one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **one** God and Father of all ...



EPH 4

And he [Christ] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the **shepherds and teachers**, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the **unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ **so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.** ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love. . .



ROMANS 16

I urge you, brothers, to **watch out** for those who **cause divisions** and put obstacles in your way that are **contrary to the teaching you have learned**. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. **By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people**. Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

MT. 13

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

"'An enemy did this,' he replied. " The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them.'



MATTHEW 24

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. . . you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. . . you [will] see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel. . .

MATTHEW 24

At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. **For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.** See, I have told you ahead of time. So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

DANIEL 12

... none of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise shall understand. And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. **Blessed is he who waits and arrives** at the 1,335 days.

LUKE 21

And He said: “**Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name**, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’ Therefore do not go after them. . . they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. . . You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. . .

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars and technical diagrams. On the right side, there is a large circular diagram with concentric rings and numerical markings (100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210) around its perimeter. Below it, another circular diagram with dashed lines and arrows is visible. In the bottom left corner, there are more faint circular diagrams with arrows. The text is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

BUT NOT ALL
HYPER-BIBLICAL
CHANGE NEEDS TO BE
OPPOSED

SLAVERY - ON ONE HAND. . .

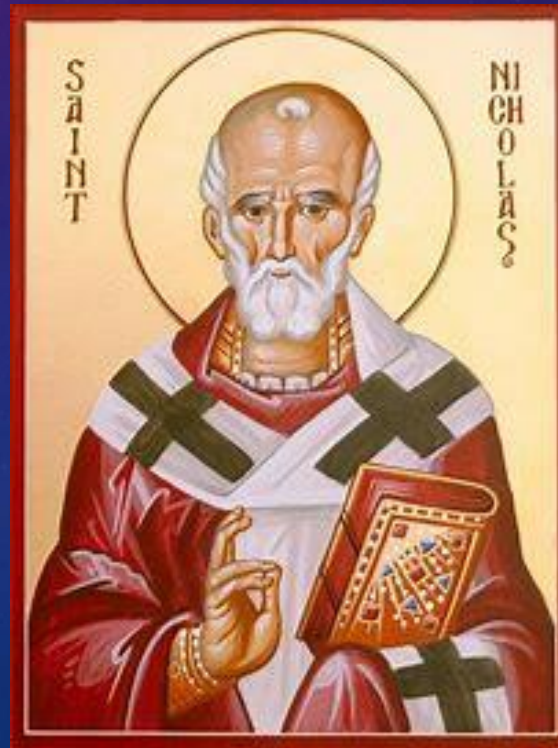
- While the Apostles valued redemption, they **sort of** accepted slavery as a fact of life
- “Slaves, obey your masters . . . Masters, treat your slaves well.” (Eph. 6)
- “Slaves, get your freedom if you can.” (1 Cor. 7)
- Paul returned Onesimus to Philemon and asked him to free him
- But the main mission of the apostles and the early church was **not** to abolish physical slavery in the Roman Empire

“The causes of the final triumph of Christian preaching are many and various. First of all were the unshakable faith and moral strength of Christians, their courage in the face of torture and death—a courage admired even by their greatest enemies. . . Furthermore, the solidarity of the Christians was unequaled; the community took care of widows, orphans, the aged, and [they] ransomed those captured by pirates. During epidemics and sieges, only Christians tended the wounded and buried the dead. ... In all probability, neither before nor afterward has any historical society experienced the equivalent of this equality, of the charity and brotherly love that were the life of the Christian communities of the first four centuries.”

Mircea Eliade - *History of Religious Ideas*

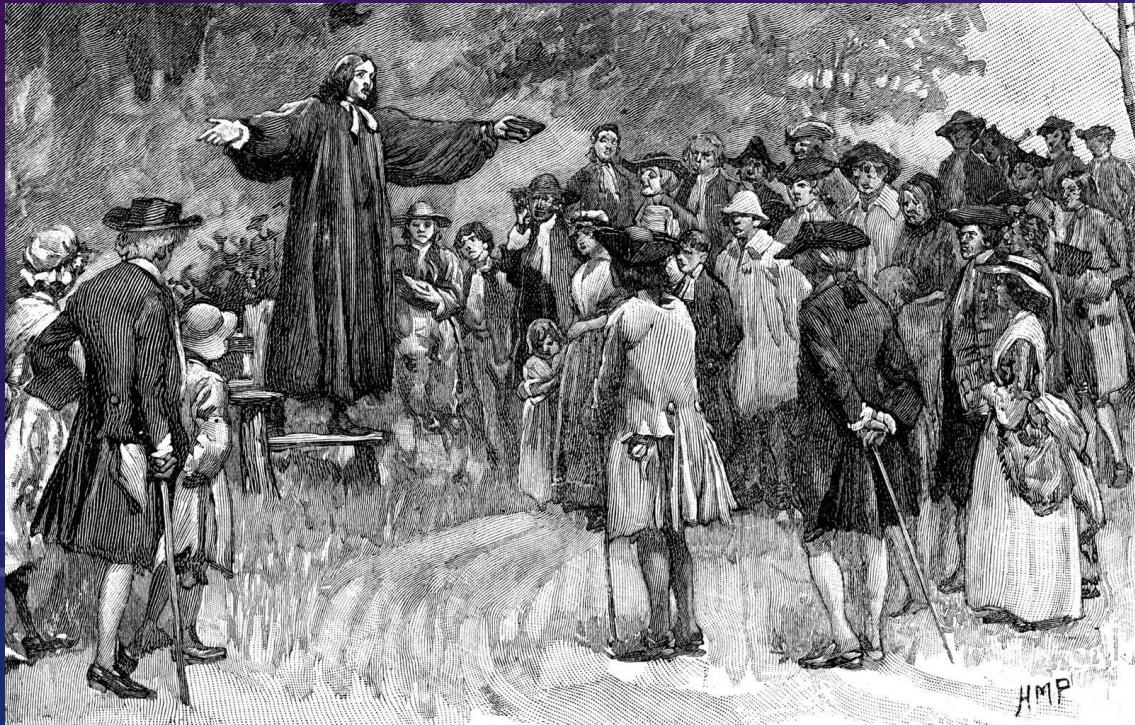
SLAVERY

- Nicolas of Myra (b. 270 AD)
- Secretly gave gifts
- to avoid slavery
- “Saint Nick”



SLAVERY

- The Great Awakenings and Methodist Revivals spawned abolitionism
- Going against the flow, not with it



GALATIANS 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity,
let us do good to everyone,
and especially to those
who are of
the household of faith.

DIDACHE 7:1-4

- Written around 80 AD!
- Shows a transition on baptism

DIDACHE 7:1-4

Concerning baptism, baptise thus: Having first rehearsed all these things, "baptise, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost," **in running water;**



DIDACHE 7:1-4

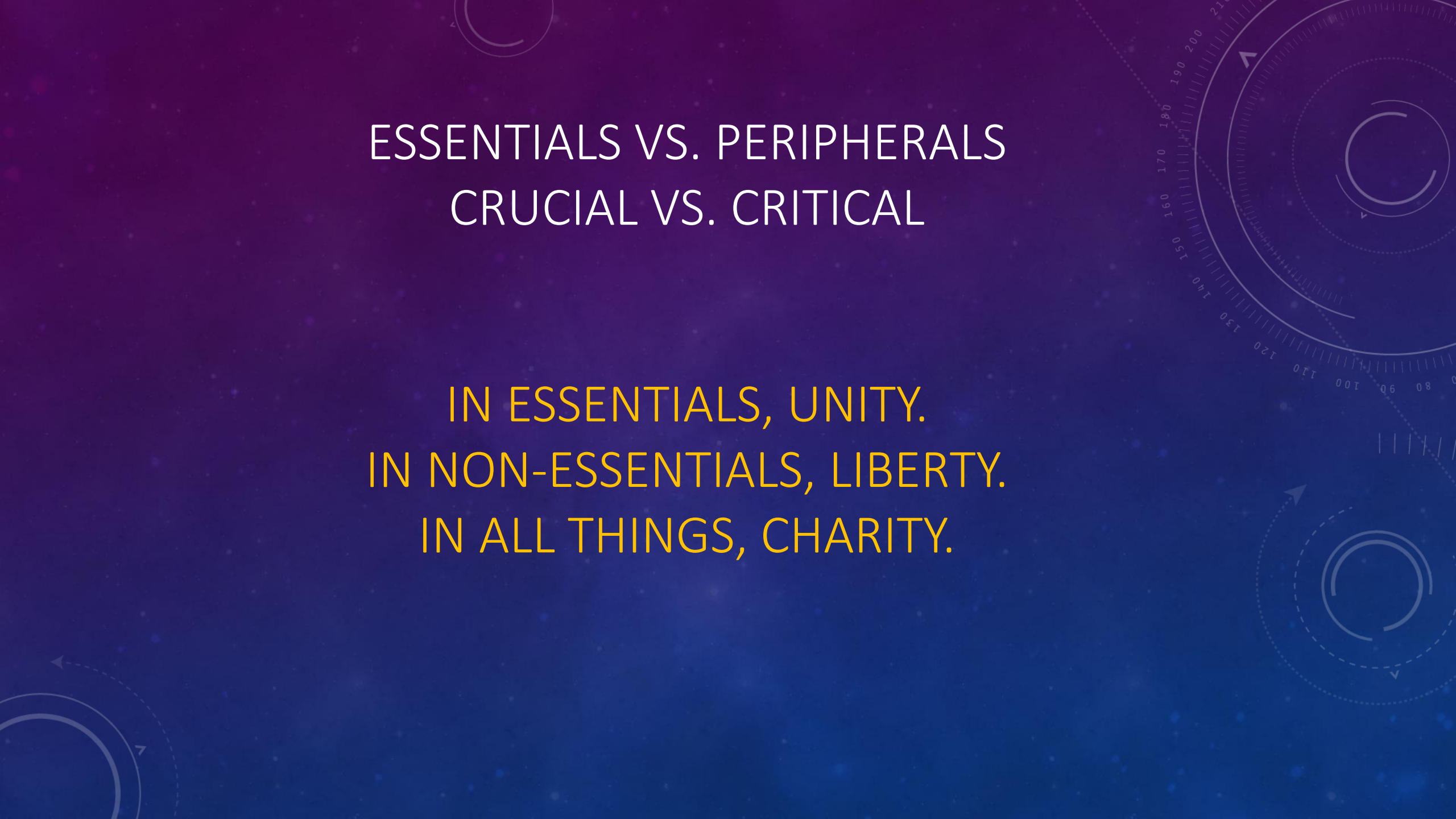
But if thou hast no running water,
baptise **in other water**, and if thou
canst not in cold, then in warm.



DIDACHE 7:1-4

But if thou hast neither, **pour water three times on the head** "in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost."



The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars and technical diagrams. On the right side, there are several circular diagrams resembling gauges or dials with numerical scales (e.g., 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210) and arrows. On the left, there are dashed circular paths with arrows indicating direction. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

ESSENTIALS VS. PERIPHERALS CRUCIAL VS. CRITICAL

IN ESSENTIALS, UNITY.
IN NON-ESSENTIALS, LIBERTY.
IN ALL THINGS, CHARITY.

[SOME SUGGEST THAT BIBLICAL INERRANCY IS A
“PERIPHERAL MATTER” AND ILLUSTRATE THEIR POINT
WITH A SERIES OF CONCENTRIC CIRCLES—LIKE A
TARGET]



“Imagine a target. The bullseye are the Gospel essentials: deity, atoning death, [resurrection] of Jesus. . . The first circle around the bullseye contains **VERY** important doctrines but not necessary for salvation. . . many would place the virgin birth, the divine inspiration of Scripture and perhaps a few others in this ring. In the second ring outside the bullseye are doctrines that are largely denominational differences, tertiary differences, such as whether the gifts of the Spirit are for today, whether women should serve as senior pastors, biblical inerrancy, etc. I think the first ring outside the bullseye is important. But my work in Christian apologetics cares only about the bullseye.”

Michael Licona 2014

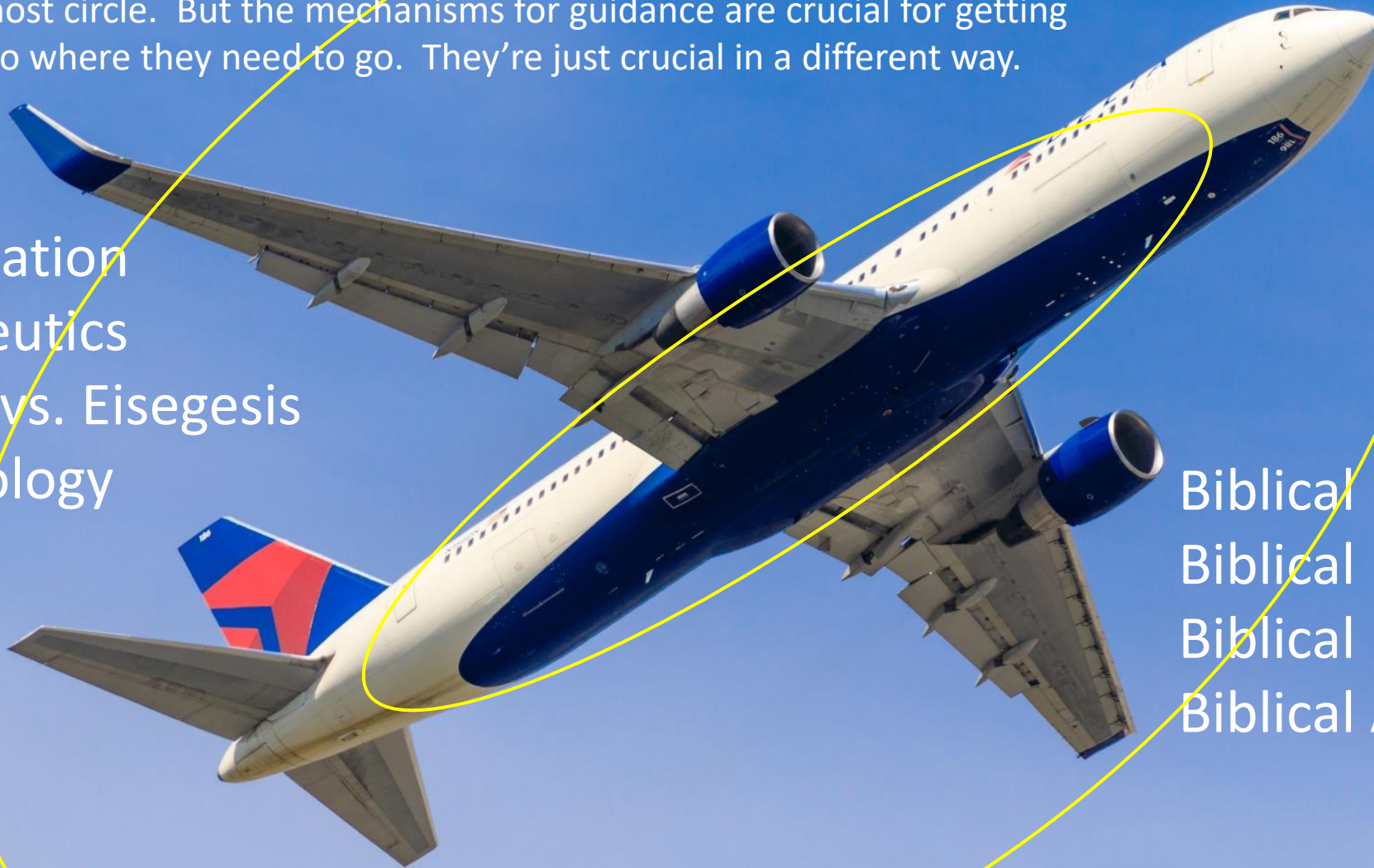
THIS METAPHOR SOUNDS FAIRLY SENSIBLE UPON FIRST CONSIDERATION BUT PERHAPS PROVES TO BE TOO SIMPLE.

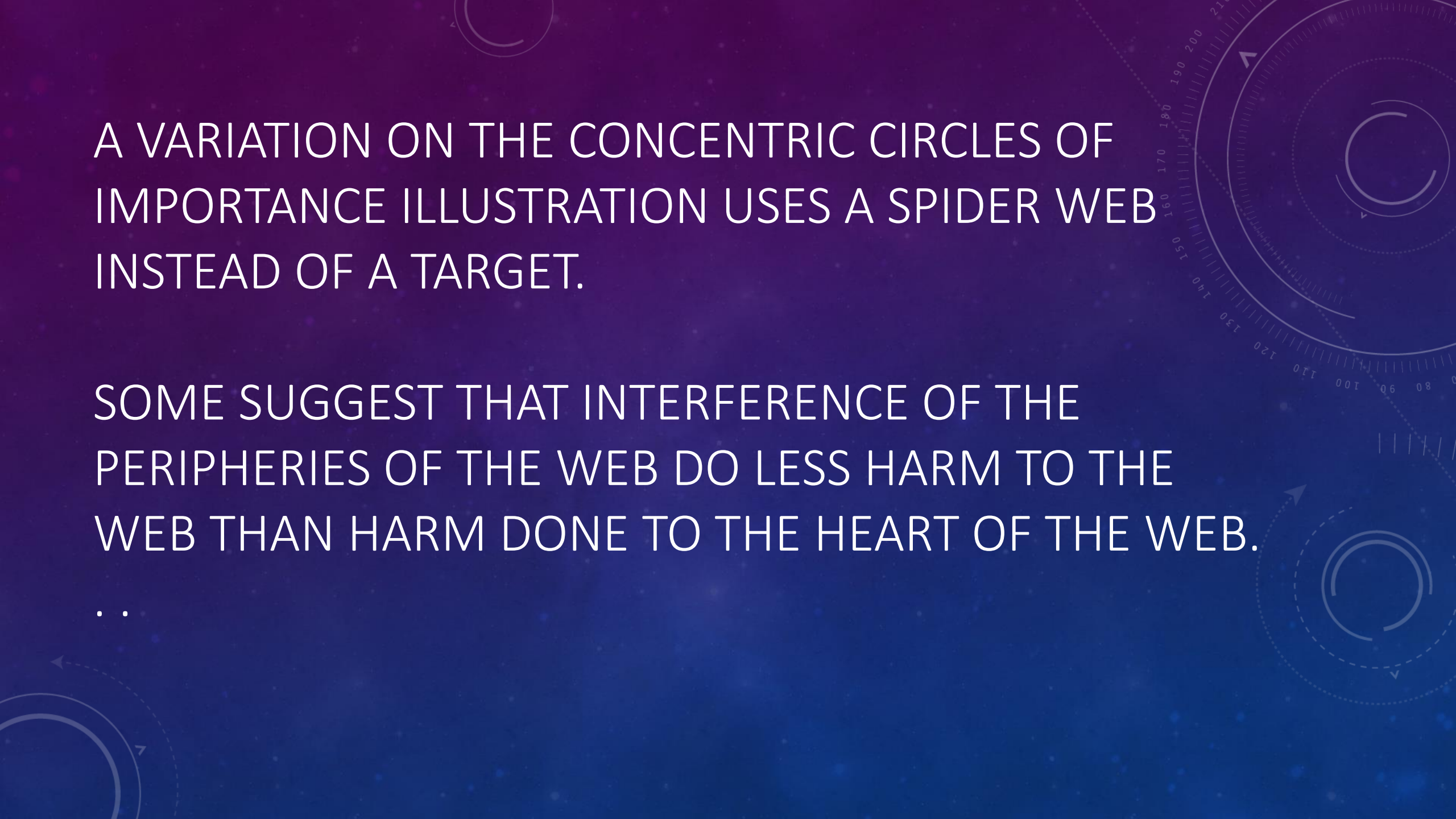
SOMETIMES “PERIPHERAL” THINGS ARE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE—ESPECIALLY WITH THINGS THAT ARE IN MOTION AND HAVE A GOAL TO REACH. CONSIDER THE CONCENTRIC RINGS SUPERIMPOSED UPON A DIFFERENT OBJECT...

In this more complex analogy for the doctrinal and intellectual movement of the church, sure, the most important “cargo” is in the heart of the circles—the innermost circle. But the mechanisms for guidance are crucial for getting the cargo to where they need to go. They’re just crucial in a different way.

Interpretation
Hermeneutics
Exegesis vs. Eisegesis
Epistemology

Biblical Inspiration
Biblical Infallibility
Biblical Inerrancy
Biblical Authority



The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars. Overlaid on this are several technical diagrams: a large circular gauge with a scale from 0 to 210 and a needle pointing to approximately 170; a smaller circular gauge with a scale from 0 to 100 and a needle pointing to approximately 60; and various dashed and solid lines representing paths or orbits. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

A VARIATION ON THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF IMPORTANCE ILLUSTRATION USES A SPIDER WEB INSTEAD OF A TARGET.

SOME SUGGEST THAT INTERFERENCE OF THE PERIPHERIES OF THE WEB DO LESS HARM TO THE WEB THAN HARM DONE TO THE HEART OF THE WEB.

• •



Inerrancy is a corollary of the doctrine of inspiration. As such, it is important to the Christian faith, but it doesn't stand at the center of the Christian faith. It is not one of the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith. If we think of our theological system of beliefs as like a spider's web, at the core of the web where the center of the web is, there will be things like belief in the existence of God. That would be absolutely central to the web of beliefs. A little further out from that would be the deity of Christ and his resurrection from the dead. A little bit further out from that perhaps would be the penal theory of the atonement – his substitutionary death for our sins. Even further out from that, somewhere near the periphery of the web, will be the belief in the inerrancy of Scripture. What that means is that if one of these central beliefs – like the belief in the existence of God or the resurrection of Jesus – goes, if that part of the web is plucked out, the whole web is going to collapse. Because **if you take something out of the center then the rest of the web can't exist. But if you pull one of the strands out that is near the periphery, that will cause some reverberation in your web of beliefs but it is not going to destroy the whole thing.** . . . If inerrancy is not true, does that mean Jesus of Nazareth wasn't the second person of the Trinity? That he didn't rise from the dead? That he didn't die for our sins? Obviously not. So inerrancy is a doctrine that doesn't belong at the center of your web of beliefs. It belongs somewhere out near the periphery. . . [it is a mistake to try to] make the focus of your evangelism is inerrancy rather than Christ, as you say. It is Christ that is the center of the Gospel. He ought to be the stumbling stone, not the doctrine of inerrancy. Inerrancy is an in-house debate for someone who is already a Christian. . . It is an in-house argument about what corollaries are there to the concept of inspiration.

William Lane Craig, "What is Inerrancy?" <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/what-is-inerrancy>



BUT THIS ANALOG BREAKS DOWN QUICKLY UPON DEEPER CONSIDERATION. THE BEST WAY TO COMPROMISE OR COLLAPSE AN ENTIRE WEB IS TO REMOVE ITS “MOORING THREADS” —WHICH ARE PERIPHERAL.

Commonly found on all spider webs are the following silk threads that aid in creating the spider web.

- **Mooring threads** – Long threads that attach to the frame threads and act as the main anchor lines.
- Frame threads – Create a frame around the web to which the inner threads are attached.
- Radial Threads – Threads run from the center of the web to the outside, attached to the frame threads
- Viscid threads – Also called the orb threads, are the thin threads that run between the radial threads and are sticky to trap the insects.

THE “PERIPHERAL” MATTERS OF BIBLICAL INERRANCY AND BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION MAY APPEAR TO BE PERIPHERAL WHILE ACTUALLY BEING FOUNDATIONAL AND CRUCIAL.

GALATIANS 1

I am astonished that you are so quickly **deserting the one** who called you by the grace of Christ and are **turning to a different gospel**—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently **some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ**. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

GALATIANS 2

This matter arose because **some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.** We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.

... **When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel,** I said to Peter in front of them all,

"You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

2 COR. 11

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

But I fear, lest somehow, as the **serpent deceived** Eve **by his craftiness**, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. ...

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.



2 PETER 2

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. . . . those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, ... They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. ... They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. ... For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

2 PETER 3

I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. **First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.**

... Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which **ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures,** to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, **be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

JUDE

I found it necessary to write appealing to you to **contend for the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints. **For certain people have crept in unnoticed** who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, **who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality/lewdness** and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. ... For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. **These are hidden reefs at your love feasts**, as they feast with you without fear, **shepherds feeding themselves**; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

THEY NAMED NAMES

The Apostle John named Cain as the old rascal who should not be imitated (1 Jn. 3:2) and named Diotrephes as the noteworthy contemporary antagonist *inside the network of first-century churches*. He described Diotrephes as one who does not properly recognize apostolic authority, who spoke “wicked nonsense” against them, and who should not be followed (3 Jn. 9-12).

The Apostle Paul named Jannes and Jambres as the old rascals who will serve as patterns for many in these last days (2 Ti. 3:1-9).

He also generalized that “all who are in Asia have turned away from me” and singled out Phygelus and Hermogenes as noteworthy examples (2 Ti. 1:15).

He warned about Demas—a man who had been one of Paul’s coworkers and companions—because he preferred the world (2 Ti. 4:10).

Paul also wanted church leaders to be wary of “Alexander the coppersmith” who “did me great harm” and “strongly opposed our message” (2 Ti. 4:14-15).

He urged Timothy to “charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths . . . which promote speculations rather than . . . a good conscience and a sincere faith.” These “certain persons” had “wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers. . . without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions” (1 Ti. 1:3-7). He named three of them by name (“among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander” and “among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus”). These were men who also were operating *inside the first-century network of apostolic churches*. They were insiders who had “made shipwreck of their faith” and “swerved from the truth.” They were “upsetting the faith of some” with “irreverent babble” that will “lead people into more and more ungodliness” and “spread like gangrene” (1 Ti. 1:19-20; 2 Ti. 2:16-18).

DEMAS

Colossians 4:14

Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.

Philemon 1:23-24

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, 24 and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

2 Timothy 4:10

For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.

2 TIM. 1

By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

1 TIM 1

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, ... that ... you may **wage the good warfare**, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1 TIM. 4

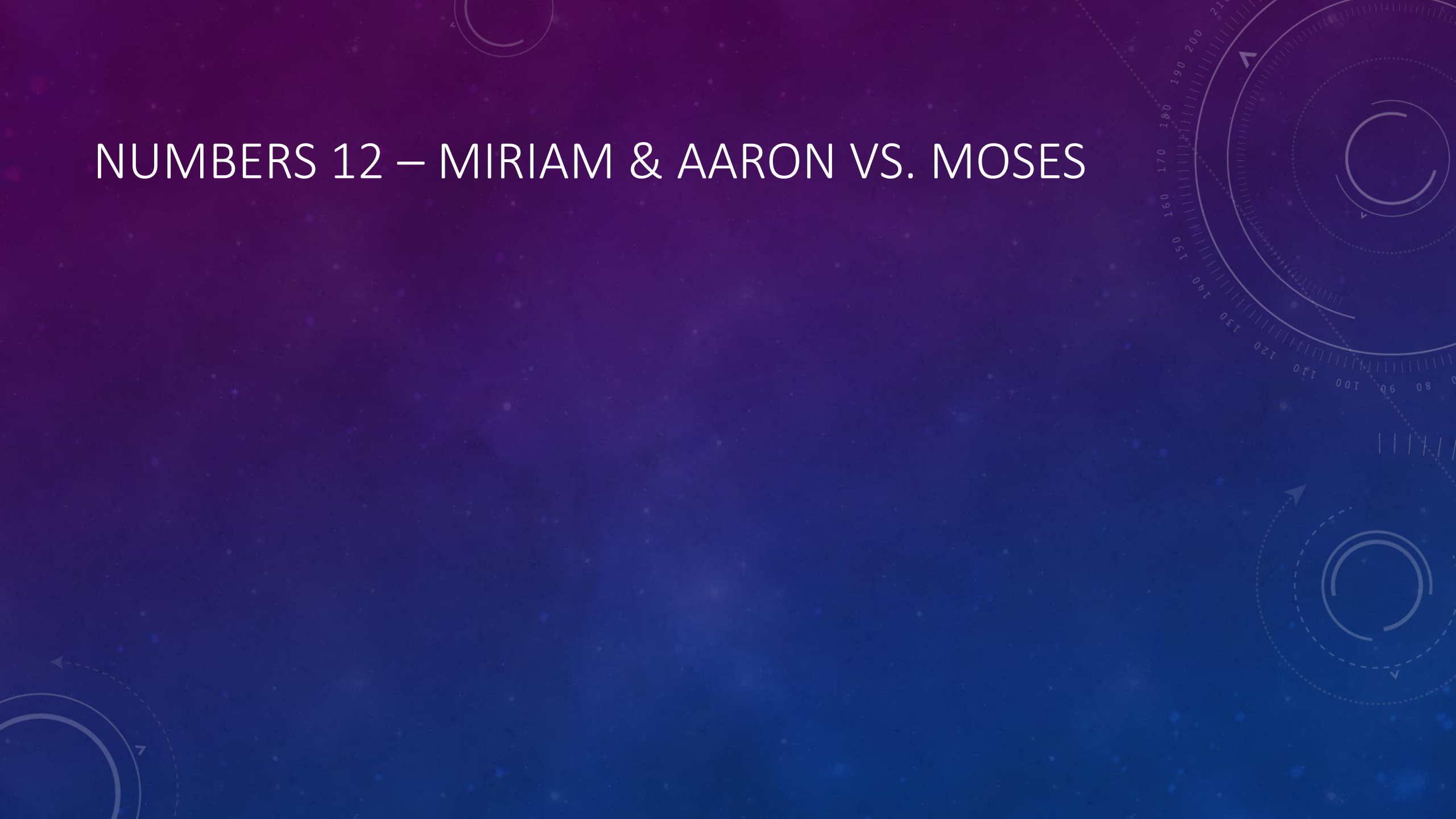
Now the Spirit expressly says that **in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ... If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

2 TIMOTHY 3

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

[There's a lot in 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy, and Titus]

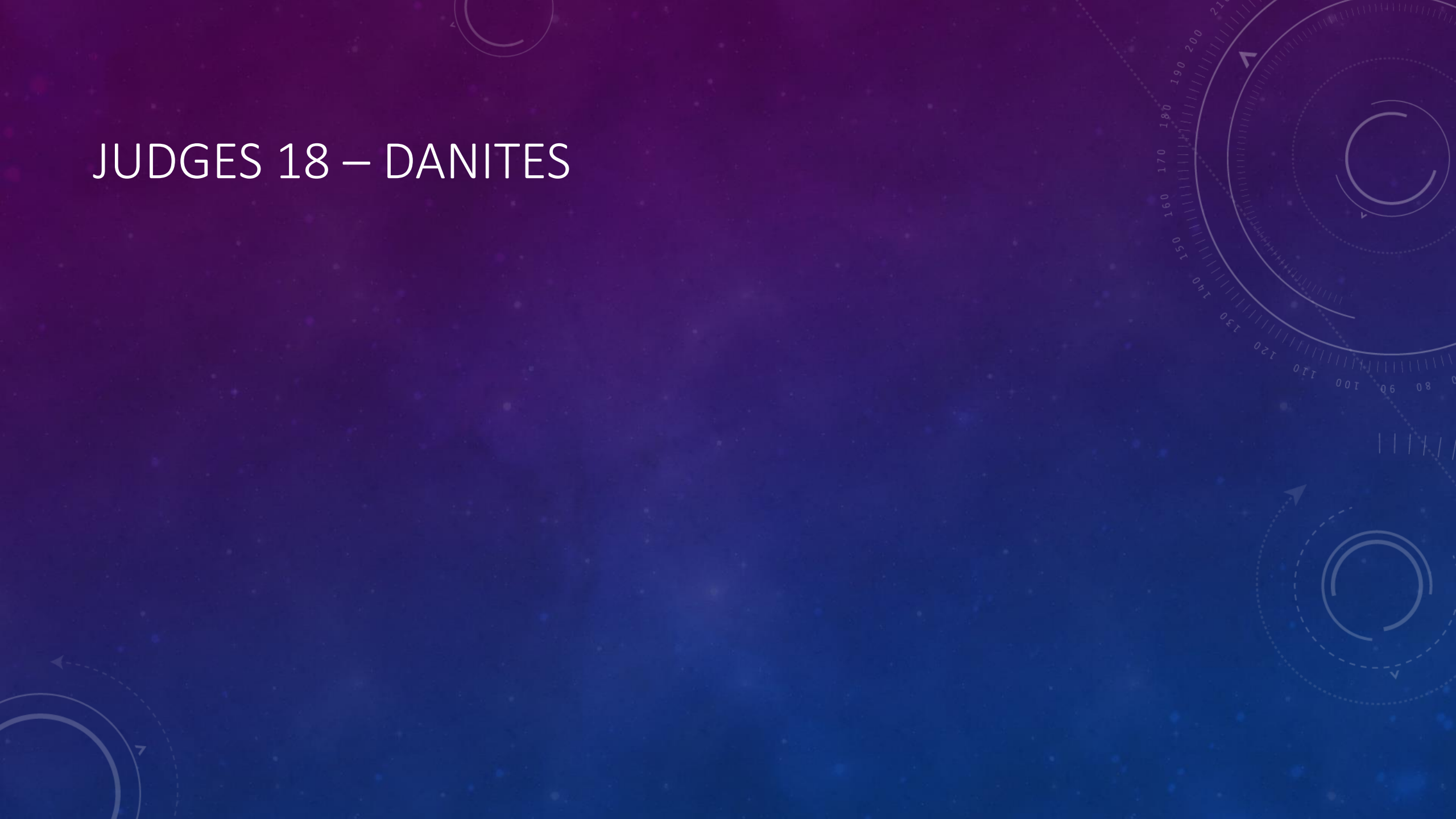
NUMBERS 12 – MIRIAM & AARON VS. MOSES



NUMBERS 16 - KORAH'S REBELLION



JUDGES 18 – DANITES



7 CHURCHES OF “ASIA” IN REVELATION 2-3

