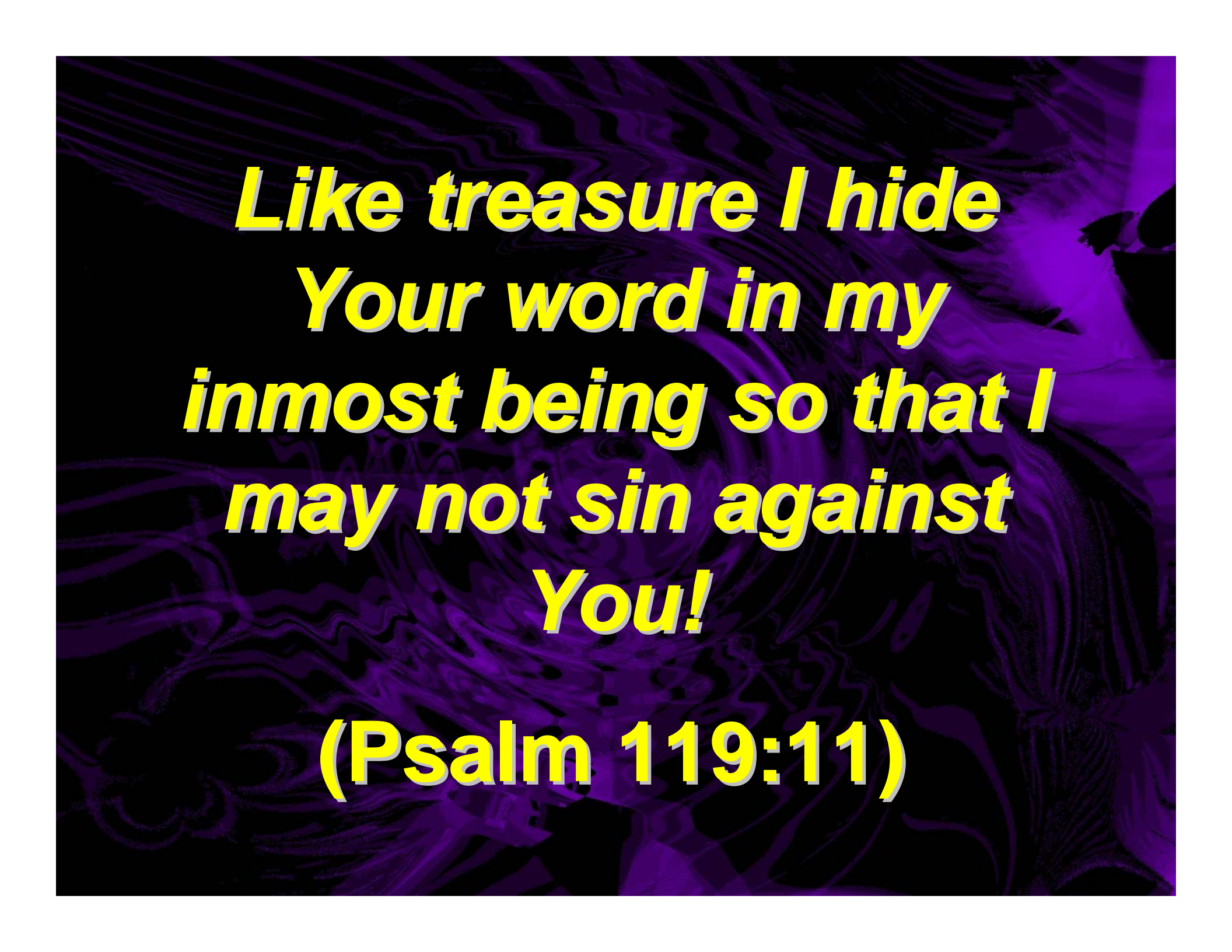
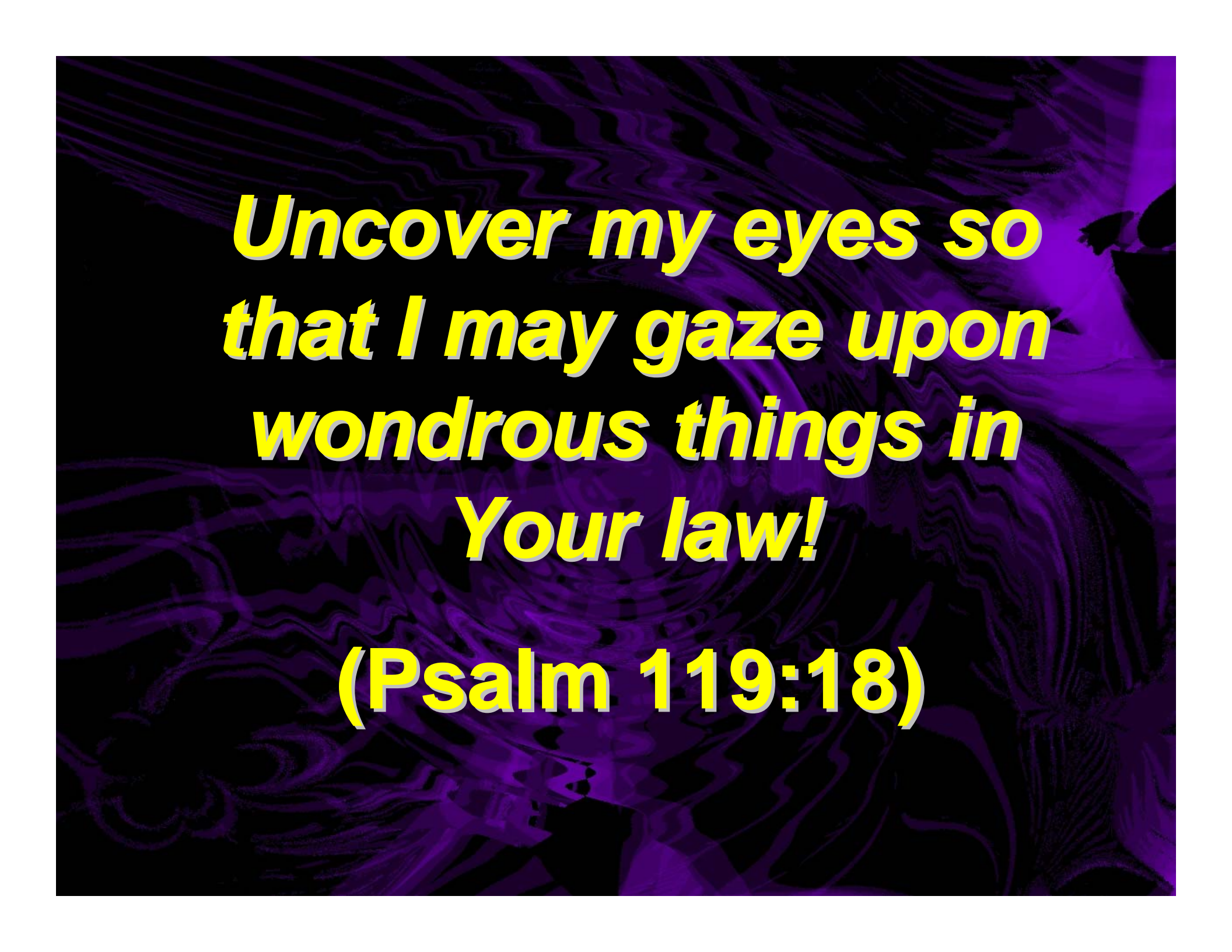
The background of the slide is a purple-tinted photograph of a person with long hair, seen from the side, reading a book. The person's face is partially visible, and they appear to be looking down at the text in the book. The overall mood is quiet and studious.

**The Sufficiency of
Scripture: God's Word
is True in Every Way,
in Every Place, in
Every Generation**



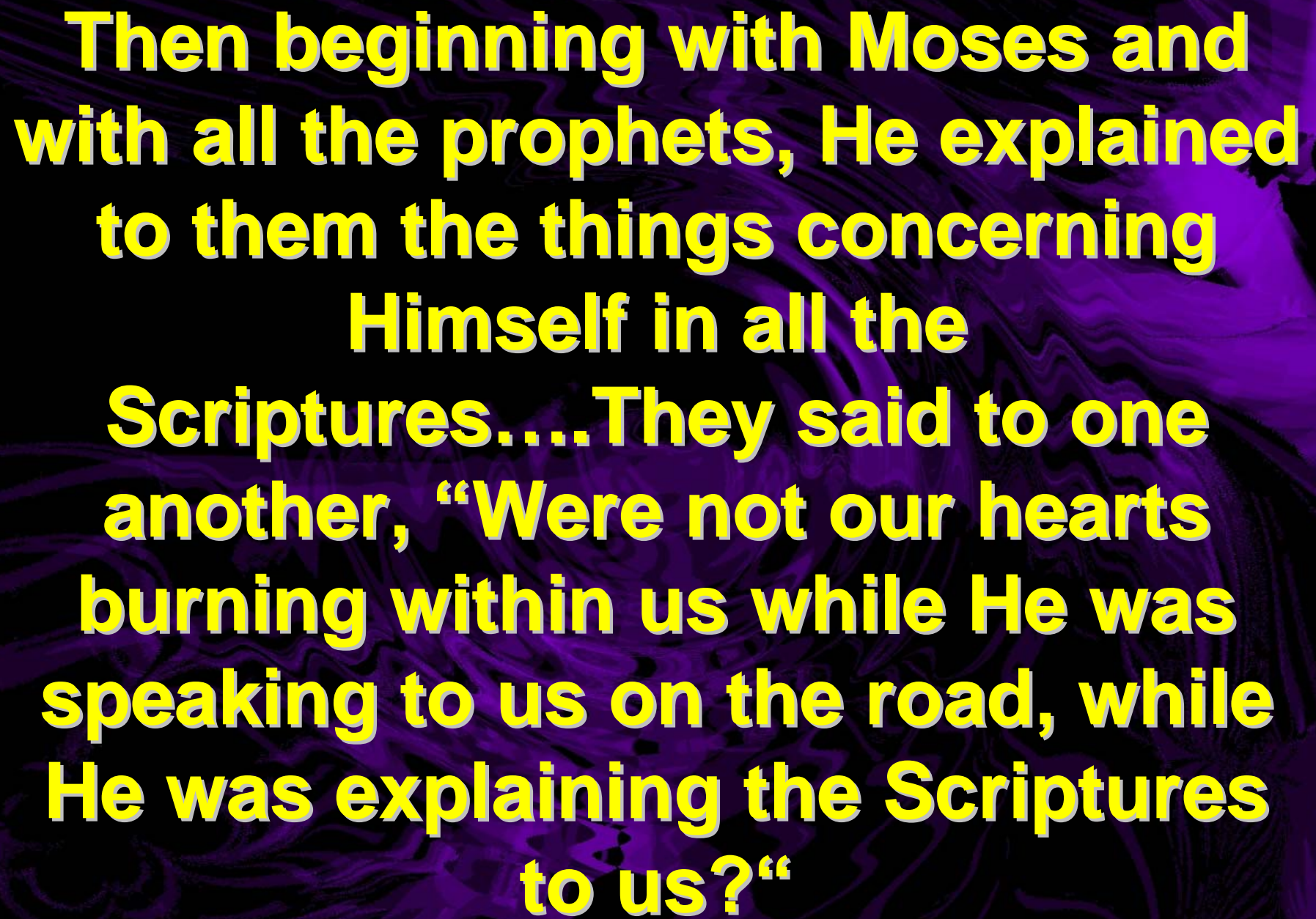
***Like treasure I hide
Your word in my
inmost being so that I
may not sin against
You!***

(Psalm 119:11)

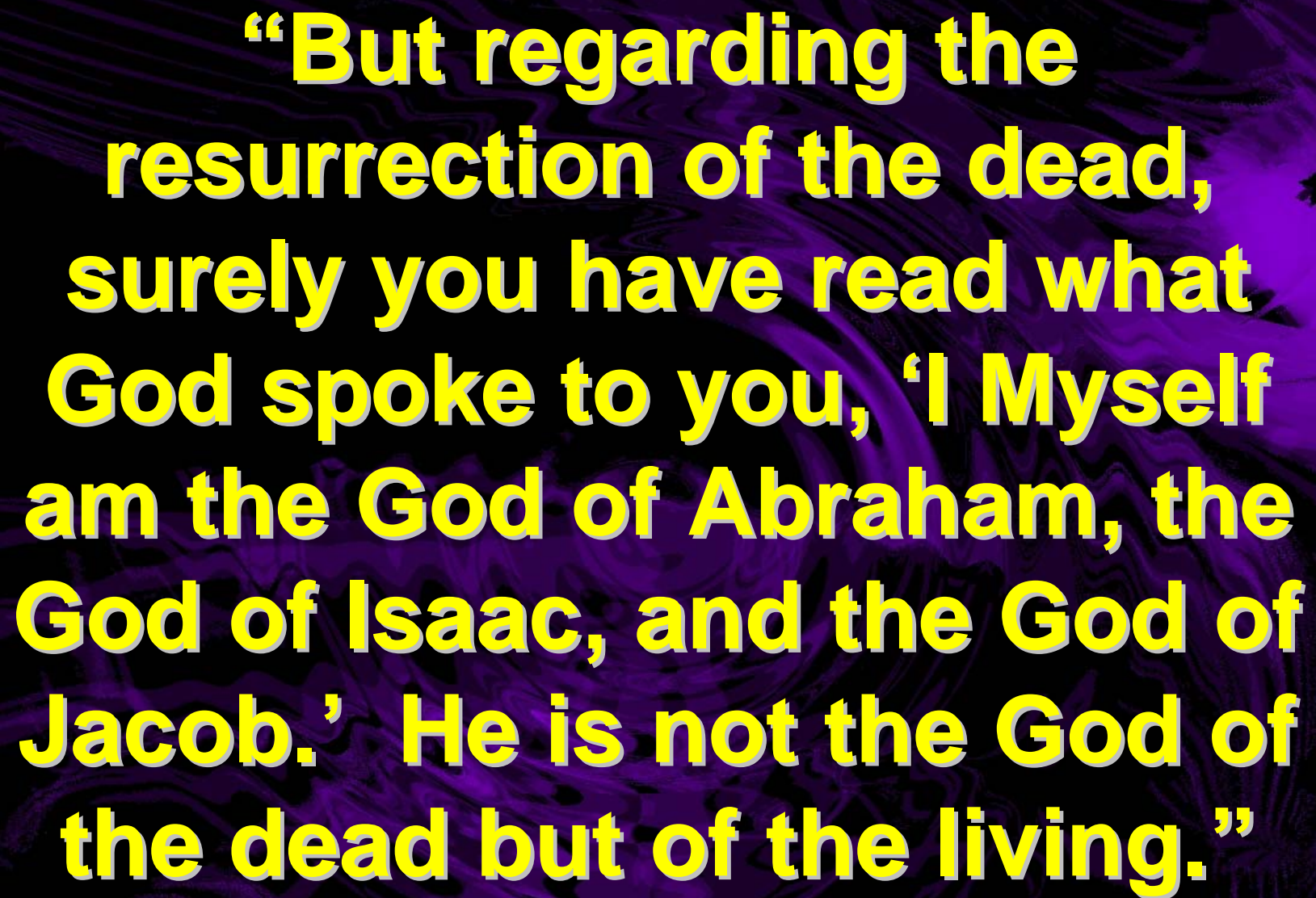


***Uncover my eyes so
that I may gaze upon
wondrous things in
Your law!***

(Psalm 119:18)

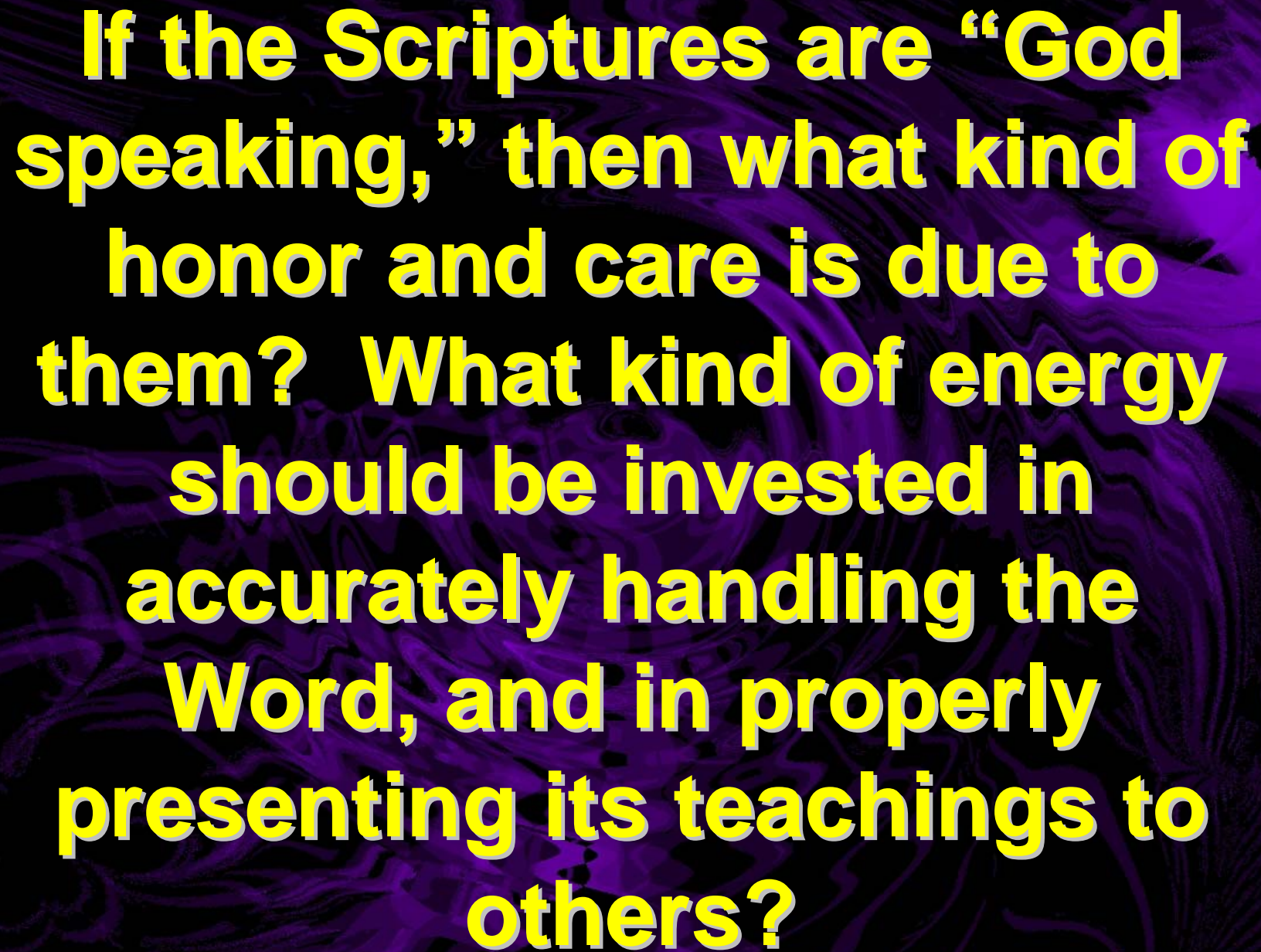


Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures....They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?”



“But regarding the resurrection of the dead, surely you have read what God spoke to you, ‘I Myself am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

(Matthew 22:31-32)



If the Scriptures are “God speaking,” then what kind of honor and care is due to them? What kind of energy should be invested in accurately handling the Word, and in properly presenting its teachings to others?



**Attacks Upon the Scriptures
Today:**

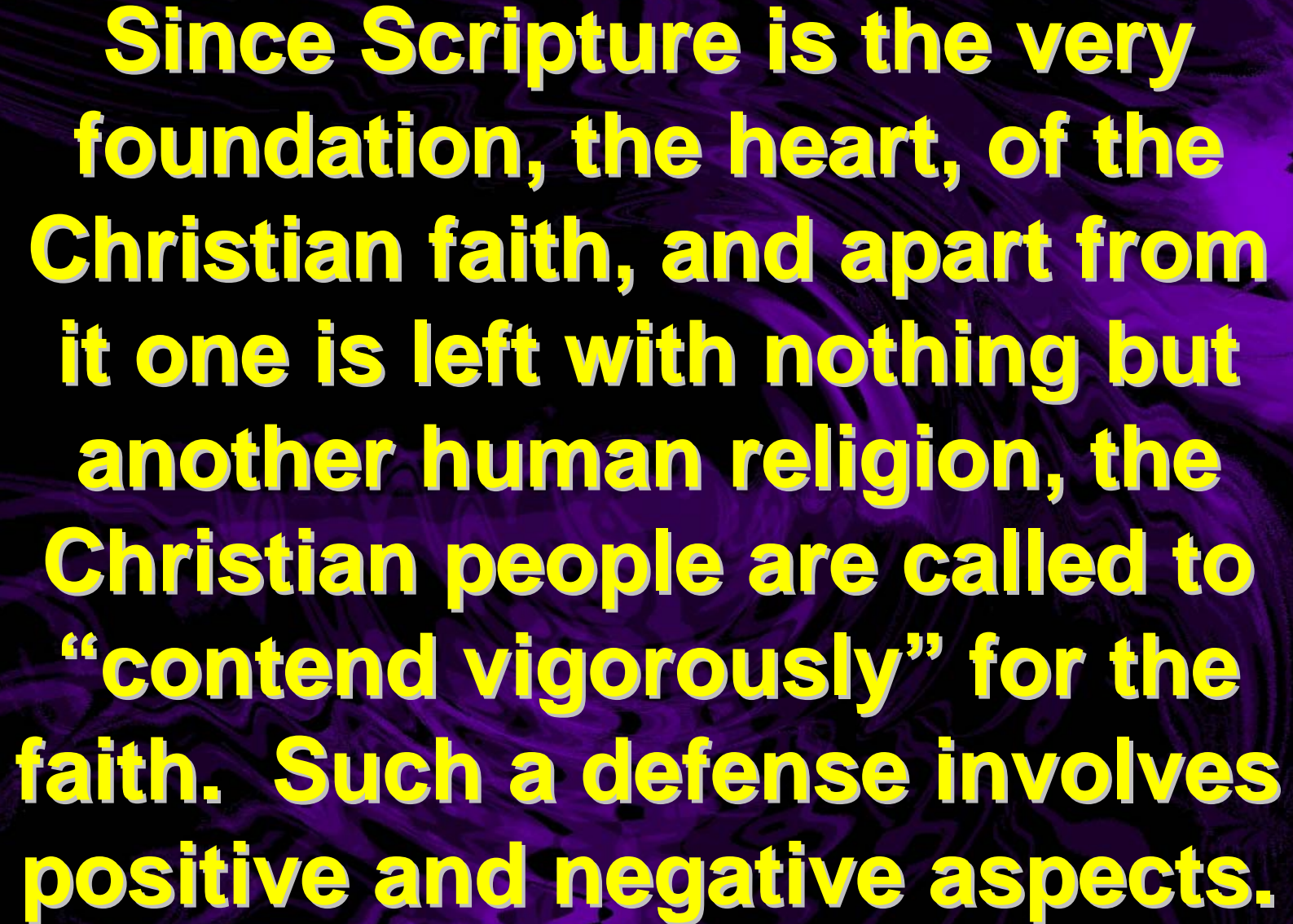
The Da Vinci Code

The Jesus Seminar

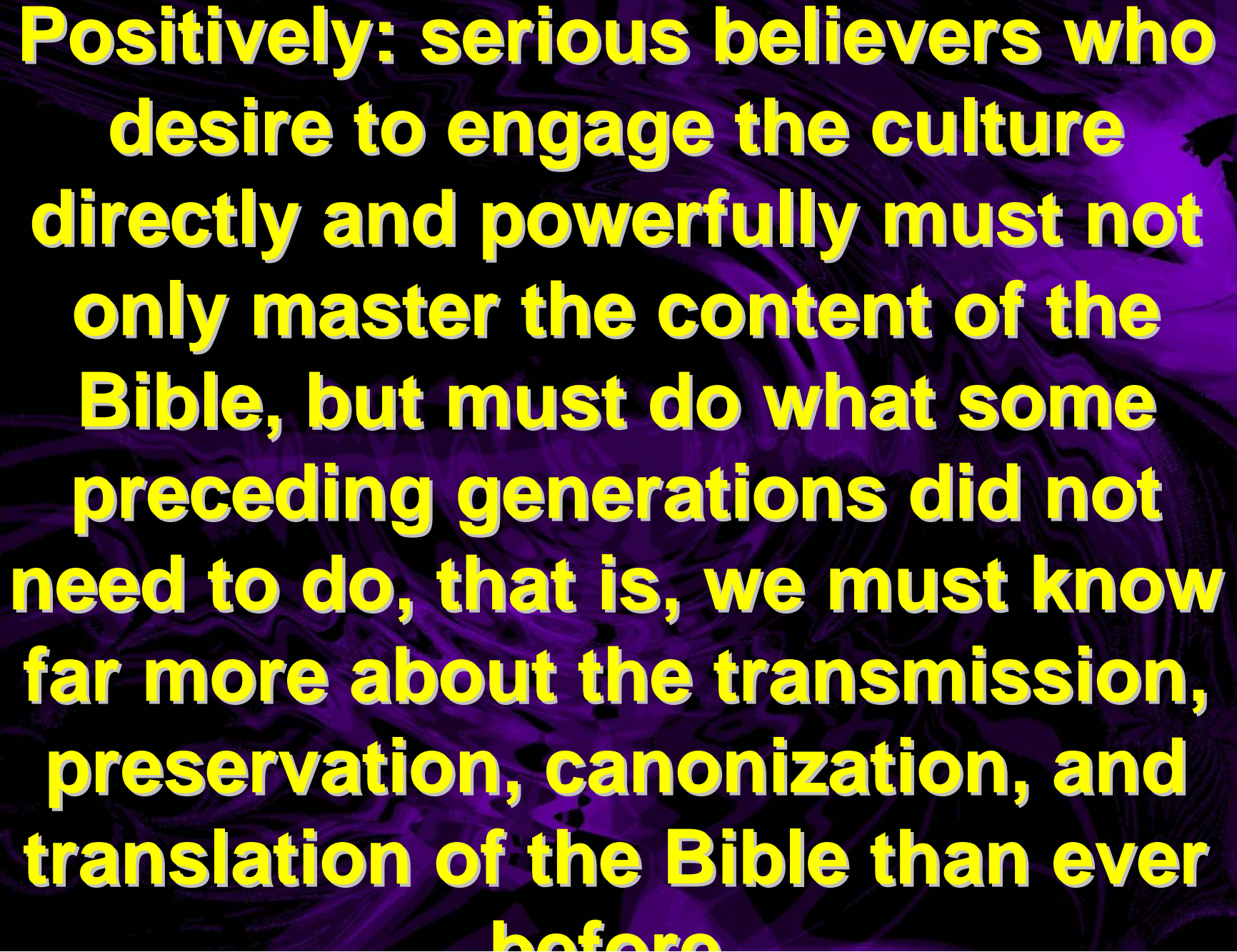
Unbelieving Critical Scholarship

Islam

Secularism



Since Scripture is the very foundation, the heart, of the Christian faith, and apart from it one is left with nothing but another human religion, the Christian people are called to “contend vigorously” for the faith. Such a defense involves positive and negative aspects.



Positively: serious believers who desire to engage the culture directly and powerfully must not only master the content of the Bible, but must do what some preceding generations did not need to do, that is, we must know far more about the transmission, preservation, canonization, and translation of the Bible than ever before

Negatively, due to the advanced of communication technology, attacks upon the faith can be spread with great rapidity and ease. Hence, familiarity with the arguments used against the faith by Muslims, or atheists, or secularists, or cultists, while secondary to knowledge of the Bible itself, is still vitally important



**The Nature of Scripture as
“God-breathed”**

**The centrality of sound
exegetis**

**The supremacy of Scripture
over other “contenders”
(*Book of Mormon, Qur’ân*)**



First: What is the Canon?

“Canon” means a “rule” or standard against which something is judged or measured.

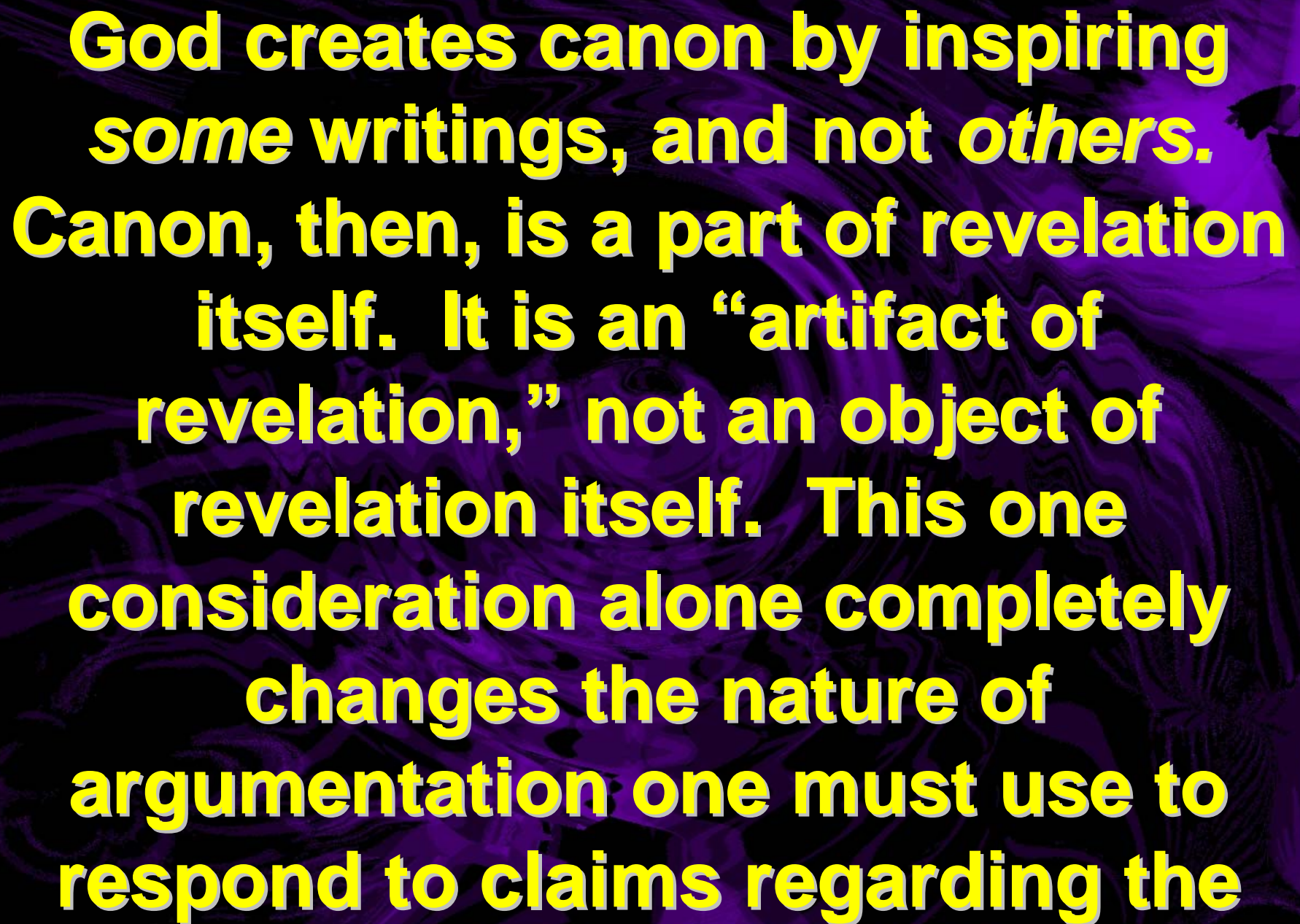
The term came to mean an authoritative listing of books or works.

The Protestant “canon” contains

The “Protestant” Canon of the OT is simply the Jewish canon without the addition of the Apocryphal books.

How is the “canon” determined?

A vital distinction and fact is often lost when this topic is discussed:



**God creates canon by inspiring
some writings, and not *others*.
Canon, then, is a part of revelation
itself. It is an “artifact of
revelation,” not an object of
revelation itself. This one
consideration alone completely
changes the nature of
argumentation one must use to
respond to claims regarding the**

Man's knowledge of canon is *passive*, not active. Man (or church) does not create canon, but seeks to recognize it.

Hence, we have two views of canon, which we will designate canon¹ and canon².

Canon¹ is the canon as created by God's act of inspiration.

Canon² is the canon as passively recognized by God's people, led by God's Spirit over time and beyond geographical boundaries. Disputes about canon² do not any way destroy the existence of canon¹, anymore than doctrinal disputes prove there is no objective revelation of doctrinal truth.

Da Vinci Code Madness

The Bible is a product of man...not of God. The Bible did not fall magically from the clouds. Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions.

History has never had a definitive version of the book. (231)

Da Vinci Code Madness

More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion--- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John among them....The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great. (231)

Da Vinci Code Madness

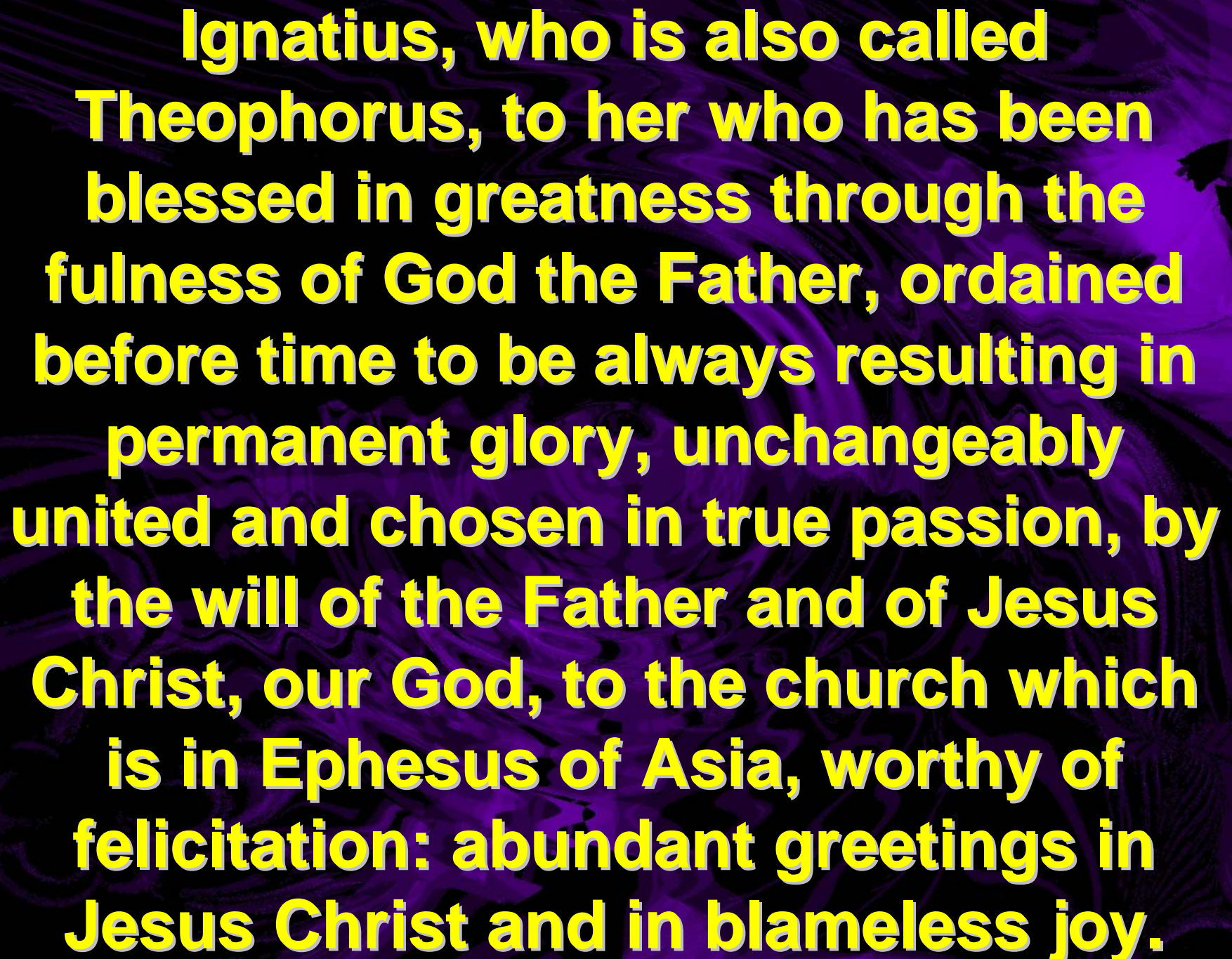
...until that moment in history [the Council of Nicea] Jesus was viewed by His followers as a mortal prophet...a great and powerful man, but a man nonetheless. A mortal.... Jesus' establishment as 'the Son of God' was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicaea. (233)

Da Vinci Code Madness

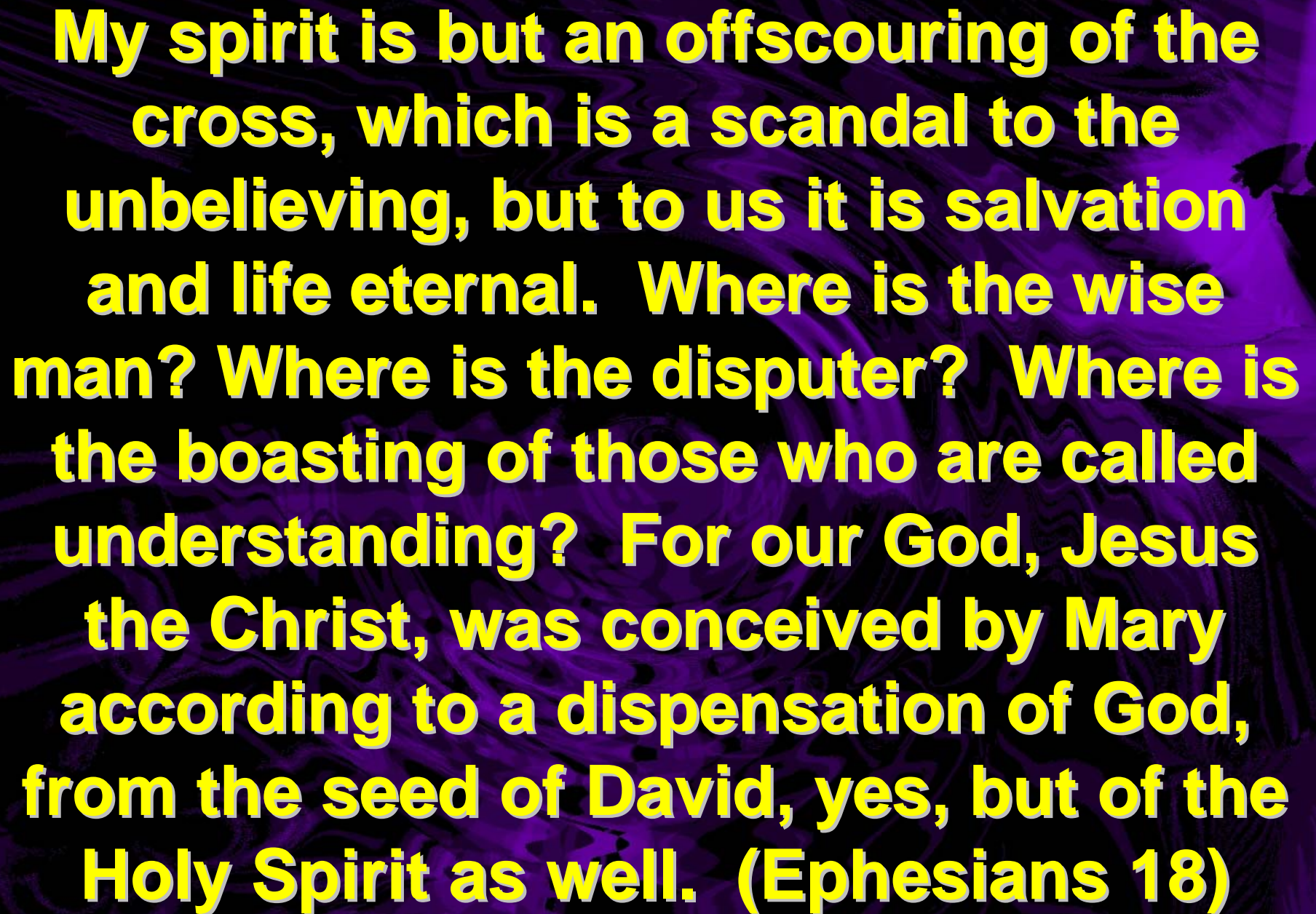
**Brown has his “expert historian”
opine that the “vote” on Jesus’
divinity at Nicaea was “A
relatively close vote at that.”
(233)**

Da Vinci Code Madness

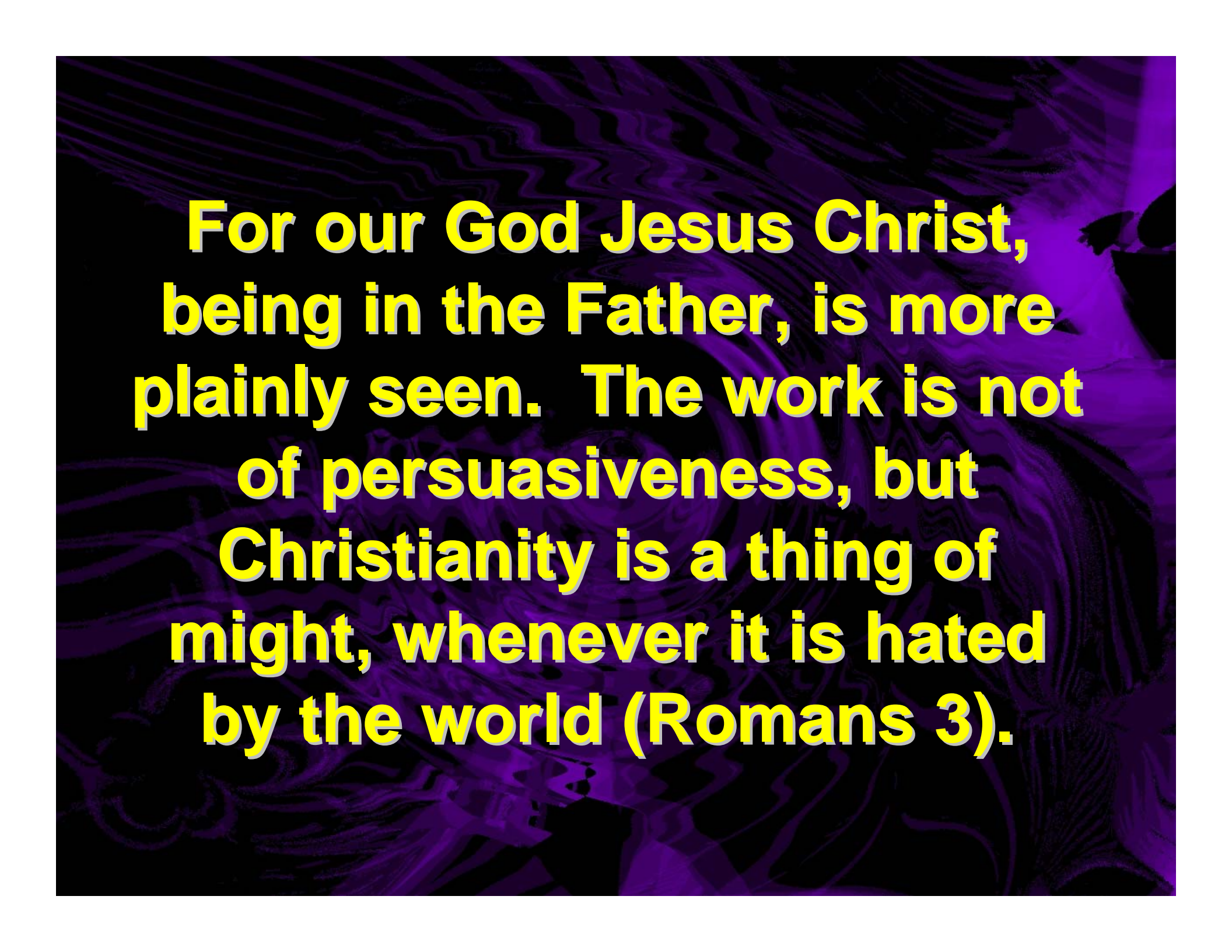
To identify these claims as absurd is to be kind to them. There was no “relatively close vote,” and the issue was not whether Jesus was the Son of God but what that meant in relationship to His deity, whether He was of the same substance as the Father, or of like substance with the Father. The vote was 99% to 1%.



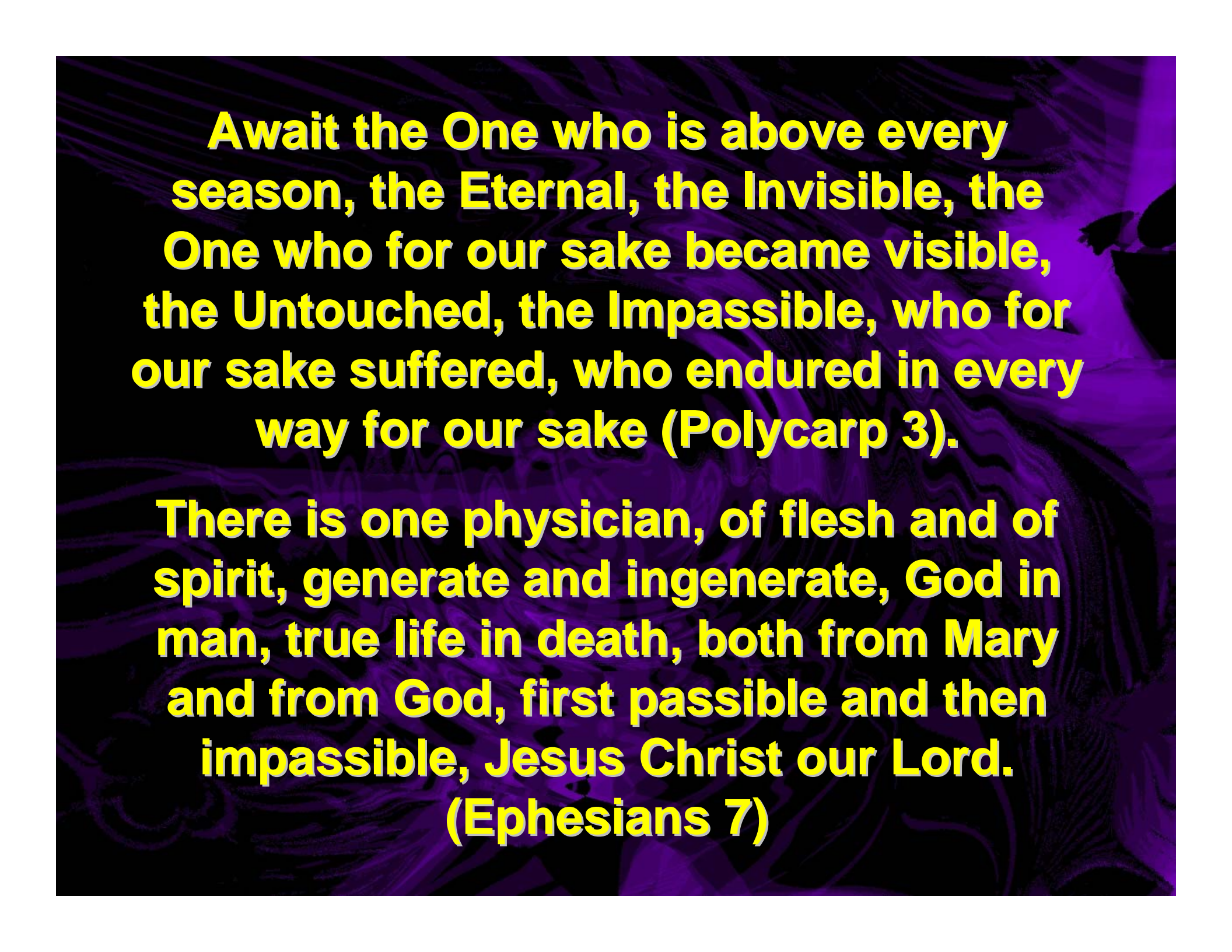
Ignatius, who is also called Theophorus, to her who has been blessed in greatness through the fulness of God the Father, ordained before time to be always resulting in permanent glory, unchangeably united and chosen in true passion, by the will of the Father and of Jesus Christ, our God, to the church which is in Ephesus of Asia, worthy of felicitation: abundant greetings in Jesus Christ and in blameless joy.



My spirit is but an offscouring of the cross, which is a scandal to the unbelieving, but to us it is salvation and life eternal. Where is the wise man? Where is the disputer? Where is the boasting of those who are called understanding? For our God, Jesus the Christ, was conceived by Mary according to a dispensation of God, from the seed of David, yes, but of the Holy Spirit as well. (Ephesians 18)



**For our God Jesus Christ,
being in the Father, is more
plainly seen. The work is not
of persuasiveness, but
Christianity is a thing of
might, whenever it is hated
by the world (Romans 3).**



Await the One who is above every season, the Eternal, the Invisible, the One who for our sake became visible, the Untouched, the Impassible, who for our sake suffered, who endured in every way for our sake (Polycarp 3).

**There is one physician, of flesh and of spirit, generate and ingenerate, God in man, true life in death, both from Mary and from God, first passible and then impassible, Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Ephesians 7)**

Melito of Sardis:

And so he was lifted up upon a tree and an inscription was attached indicating who was being killed. Who was it? It is a grievous thing to tell, but a most fearful thing to refrain from telling. But listen, as you tremble before him on whose account the earth trembled!

He who hung the earth in place is hanged.

He who fixed the heavens in place is fixed in place.

He who made all things fast is made fast on a tree.

The Sovereign is insulted.

God is murdered.

The King of Israel is destroyed by an Israelite hand.



**This is the One who made the
heavens and the earth,**

**and formed mankind in the
beginning,**

**The One proclaimed by the Law and
the Prophets,**

The One enfleshed in a virgin,

The One hanged on a tree,

The One buried in the earth,



**The One raised from the dead
and who went up into the
heights
of heaven,**

**The One sitting at the right hand of
the Father,**

**The One having all authority to
judge
and save,**

**Through Whom the Father made the
things which exist from the**



This One is “the Alpha and the Omega,”

This One is “the beginning and the end”

**—the beginning indescribable and the end
incomprehensible.**

This One is the Christ.

This One is the King.

This One is Jesus.

This One is the Leader.



This One is the Lord.

This One is the One who rose from the dead.

This One is the One sitting on the right hand of the Father.

He bears the Father and is borne by the Father.

“To him be the glory and the power forever. Amen.”