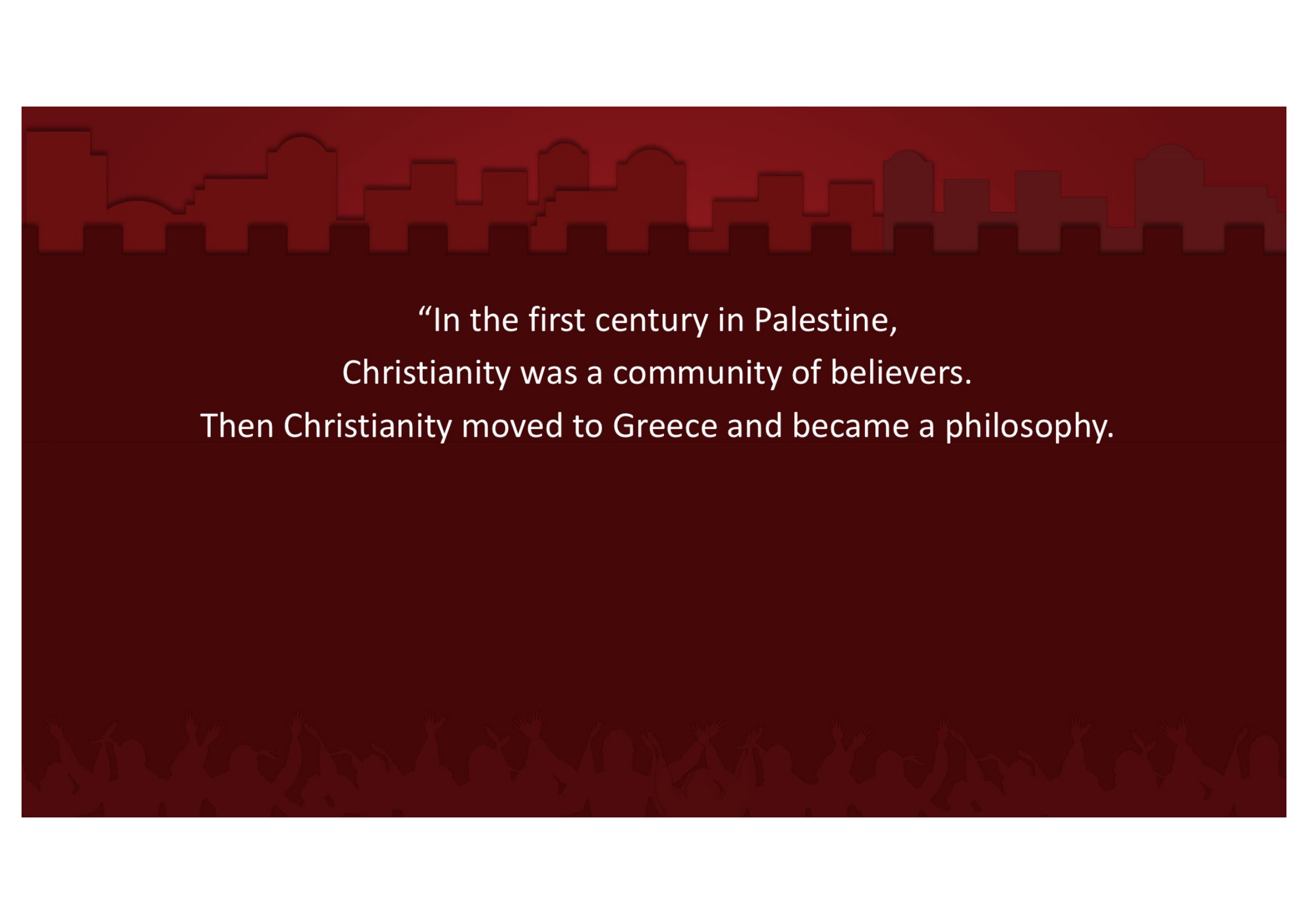
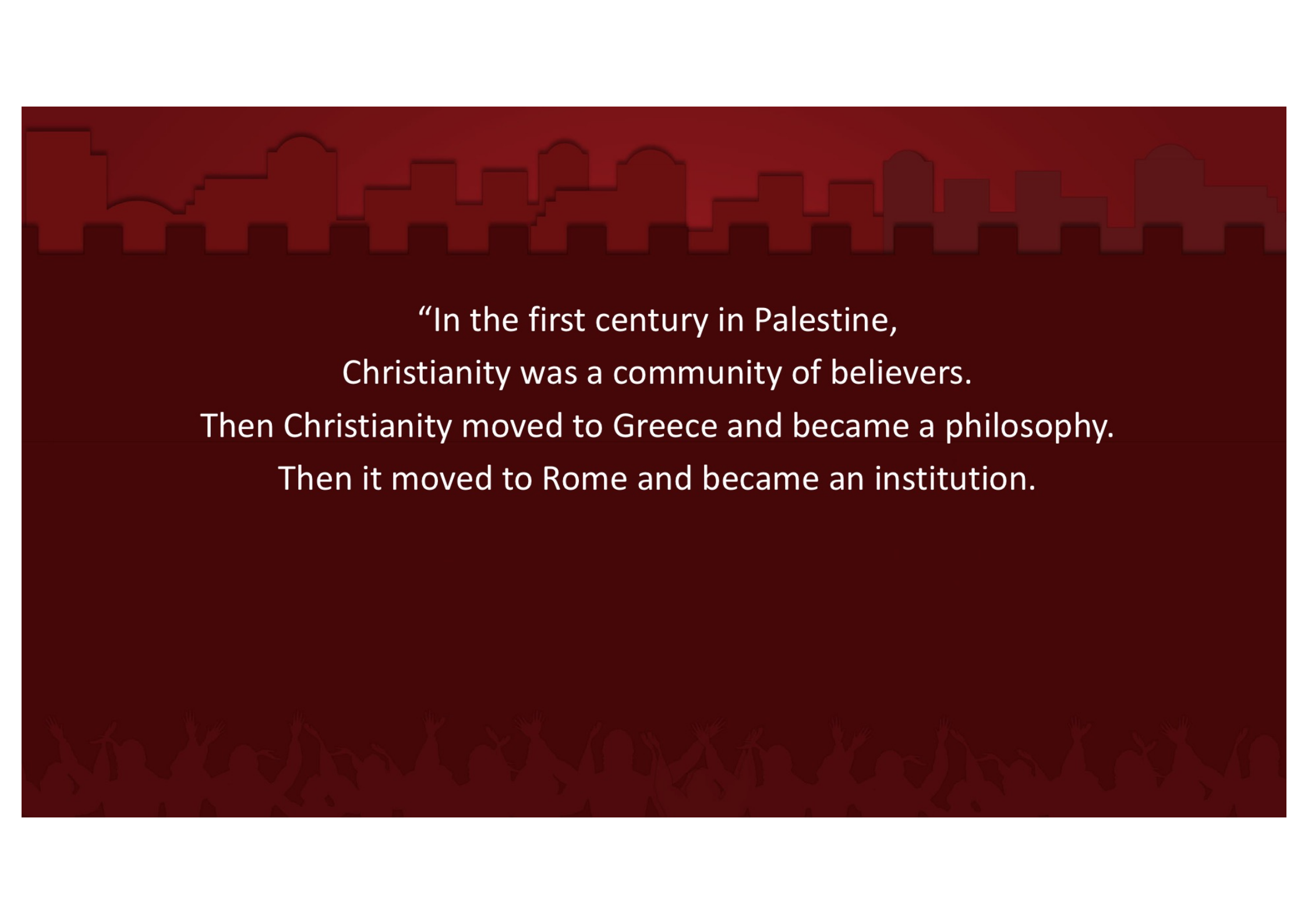



“In the first century in Palestine,  
Christianity was a community of believers.”



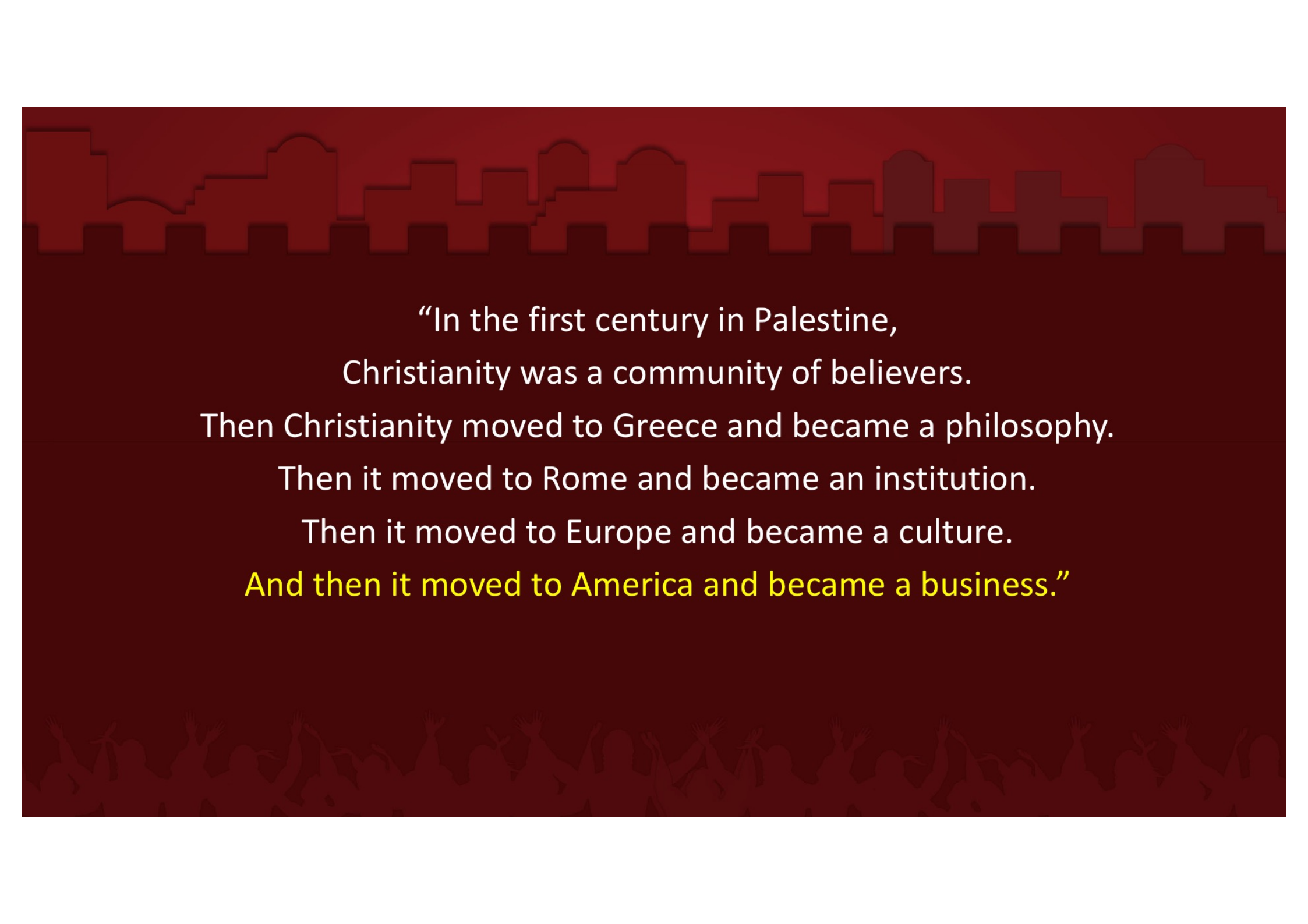
“In the first century in Palestine,  
Christianity was a community of believers.  
Then Christianity moved to Greece and became a philosophy.



“In the first century in Palestine,  
Christianity was a community of believers.  
Then Christianity moved to Greece and became a philosophy.  
Then it moved to Rome and became an institution.



“In the first century in Palestine,  
Christianity was a community of believers.  
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Then it moved to Rome and became an institution.  
Then it moved to Europe and became a culture.



“In the first century in Palestine,  
Christianity was a community of believers.  
Then Christianity moved to Greece and became a philosophy.  
Then it moved to Rome and became an institution.  
Then it moved to Europe and became a culture.  
**And then it moved to America and became a business.”**





**White Nike Air Max 97's filled with  
60cc of holy water from the River Jordan**





**White Nike Air Max 97's filled with  
60cc of holy water from the River Jordan**

To let you “walk on water,” the soles of each pair have injected with water from the Jordan River, which they say has been blessed by a priest.



**White Nike Air Max 97's filled with  
60cc of holy water from the River Jordan**

There's also a crucifix, a Bible verse reference (Matthew 14:25, where Jesus walks on water) and several other Christian-y symbols.



**White Nike Air Max 97's filled with  
60cc of holy water from the River Jordan**

bids on StockX are starting at about \$3,000.

# MESSIAH

REVEALED



Video



Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, by Harry Anderson, © IRI





## Matthew 21:12

And Jesus entered the temple  
and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple,  
and he overturned the tables of the money-changers  
and the seats of those who sold pigeons.





Matthew 21:13

He said to them, “It is written,  
‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’  
but you make it a den of robbers.”



# **Taking Business Out Of Christianity**

Mat 21:12-17



Matthew 21:13

He said to them, “It is written,  
**‘My house shall be called a house of prayer;’**



Isaiah 56:6–7

these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in **my house of prayer**;  
their burnt offerings and their **sacrifices** will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a **house of prayer** for all peoples.



Isaiah 56:6–7

And the foreigners who **join themselves to the LORD,**  
to minister to him, to **love the name of the LORD,**  
and to be his **servants,**  
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,  
and **holds fast my covenant—**



**Temple = House of Prayer**



## **Temple = House of Prayer**

For those who join themselves to the Lord,  
minister to Him,  
love the name of the Lord,  
be His servants,  
holds fast His covenant.



## **Temple = House of Prayer**

A place of joy,  
for burnt offerings & sacrifices.





Psalm 122:1–2

I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”



Matthew 21:13

He said to them, “It is written,  
‘My house shall be called a house of prayer;’



Matthew 21:13

He said to them, “It is written,  
‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’  
**but you make it a den of robbers.”**



Jeremiah 7:11

Has this house, which is called by my name,  
become a **den of robbers** in your eyes?  
Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD.



Matthew 21:13

He said to them, “It is written,  
‘My house shall be called a **house of prayer**,’  
but you make it a **den of robbers.**”



“Religion is very good business”

Pastor Paul Choo



Luke 20:46–47

Beware of the scribes...  
who devour widows' houses...



2 Peter 2:3

in their **greed** they will **exploit** you with false words.





# Commercialisation of Christianity



# Danger Signs



# Danger Signs

1. Unbalanced teaching on giving \$



## Danger Signs

1. Unbalanced teaching on giving \$
2. Excessive sale of products



## Danger Signs

1. Unbalanced teaching on giving \$
2. Excessive sale of products
3. Culturally accommodating messages



# Our Focus



# Our Focus

1. Giving, not getting





Some have wondered if I realize what we could have done with over \$8 million dollars. My answer is always the same:



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**“Nothing that would have brought us nearly as much joy as we’ve found in giving it away.”**



Some have wondered if I realize what we could have done with over \$8 million dollars. My answer is always the same:

**“Nothing that would have brought us nearly as much joy as we’ve found in giving it away.”**

I firmly believe they’re not my book royalties—they’re God’s. Nanci and I certainly don’t need them, and it delights us to see God using them to touch lives all over the world!



John Piper video



# Our Focus

1. Giving, not getting



## Our Focus

1. Giving, not getting
2. Worship, not business



## Our Focus

1. Giving, not getting
2. Worship, not business
3. Sound doctrine, not popular worldviews



2 Timothy 4:2–3

**preach the word;**

be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke,  
and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

For the time is coming when people will not endure **sound teaching,**





2 Timothy 4:2–3

**preach the word;**

be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke,  
and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

For the time is coming when people will not endure **sound teaching**,  
but having **itching ears they will accumulate for themselves**  
**teachers to suit their own passions,**



Isaiah 56:7

these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.



John 2:17

His disciples remembered that it was written,  
“Zeal for your house will consume me.”