



# 2 CORINTHIANS

THORN IN THE FLESH



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**#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**

# **Catch Me If You Can**

**The True Story of  
a Real Fake**

*The basis of the hit  
DreamWorks movie  
—now a Broadway musical*

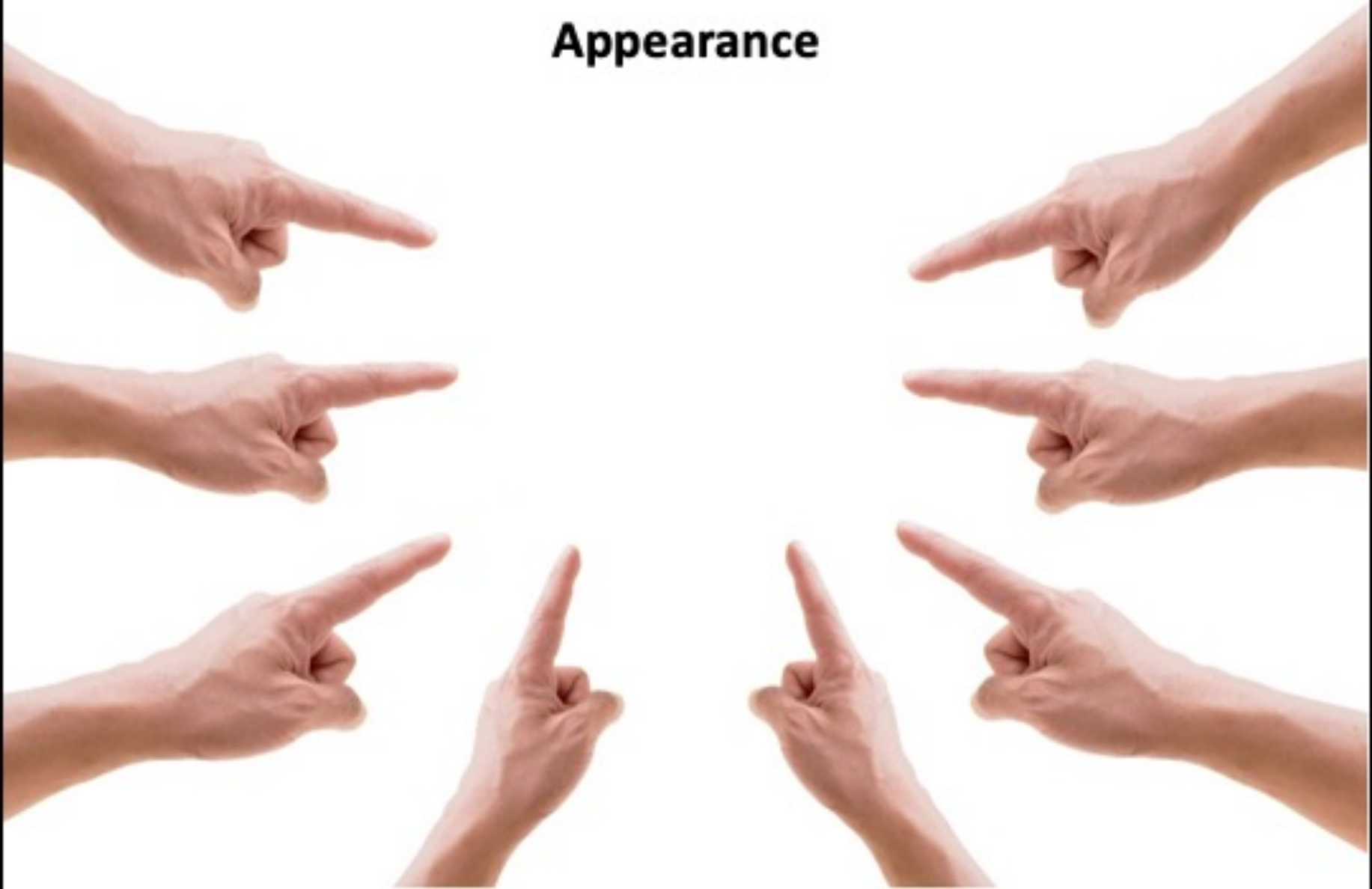
**Frank W. Abagnale**  
with Stan Redding

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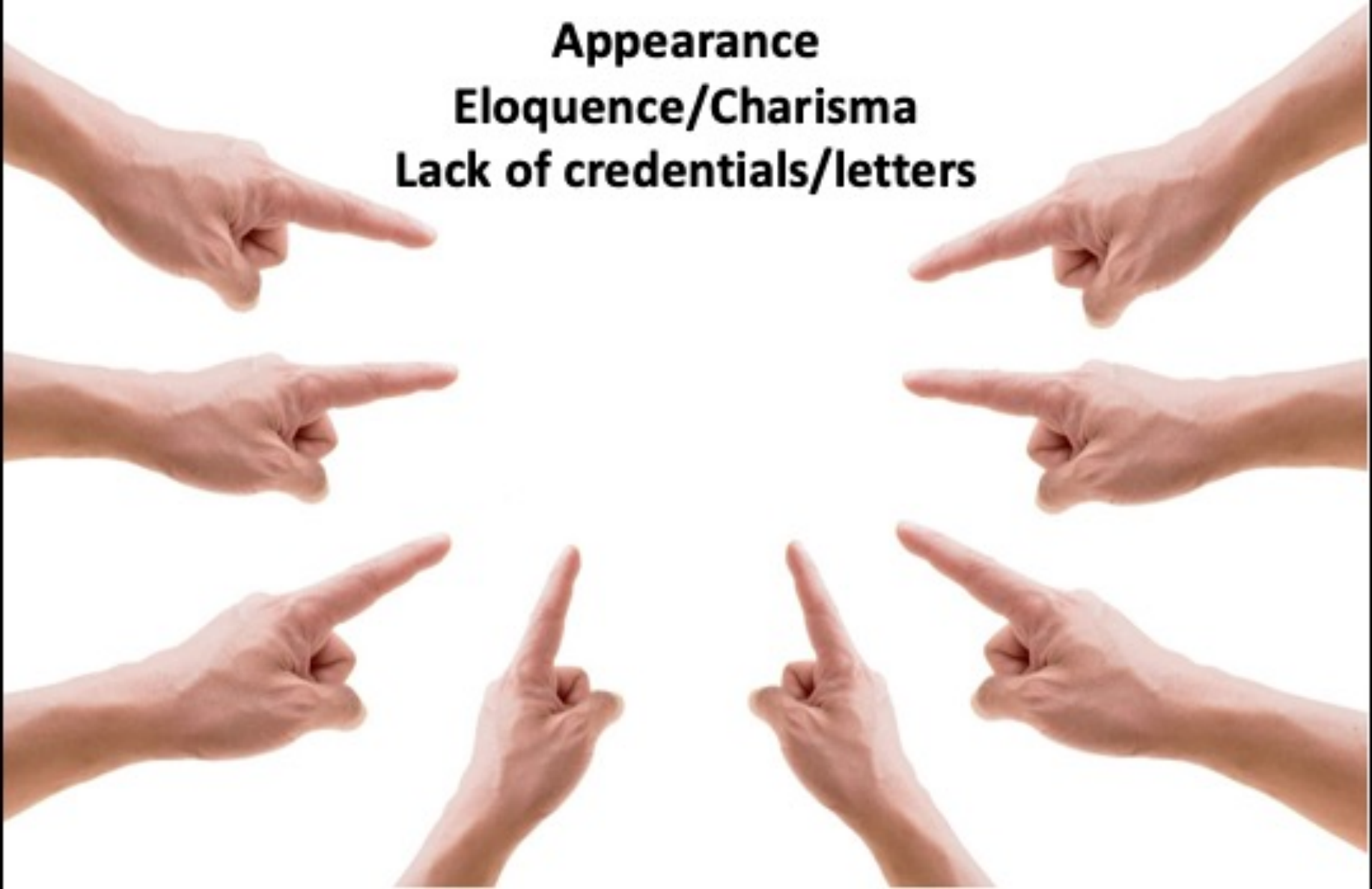
# Appearance



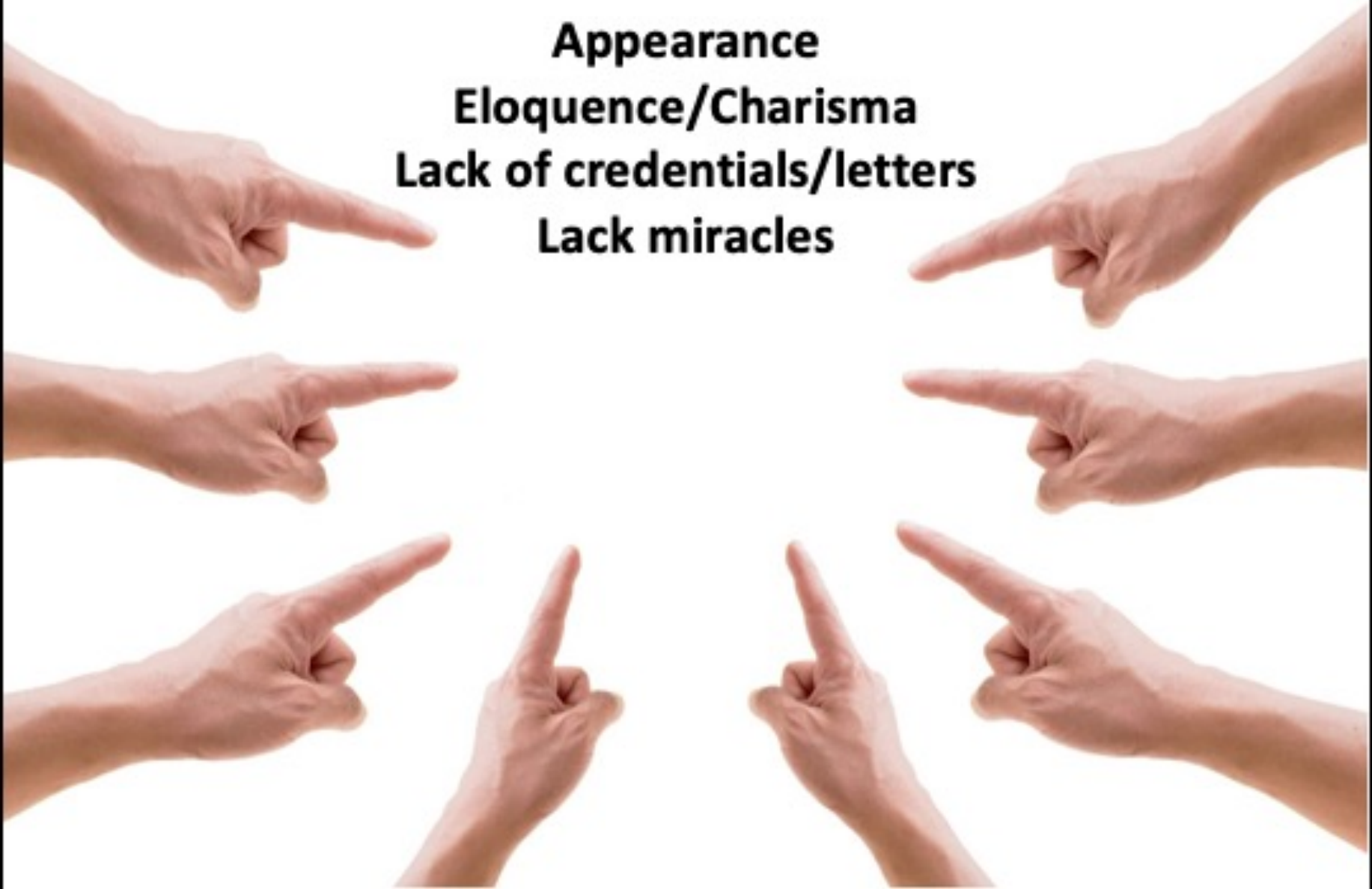
**Appearance**  
**Eloquence/Charisma**



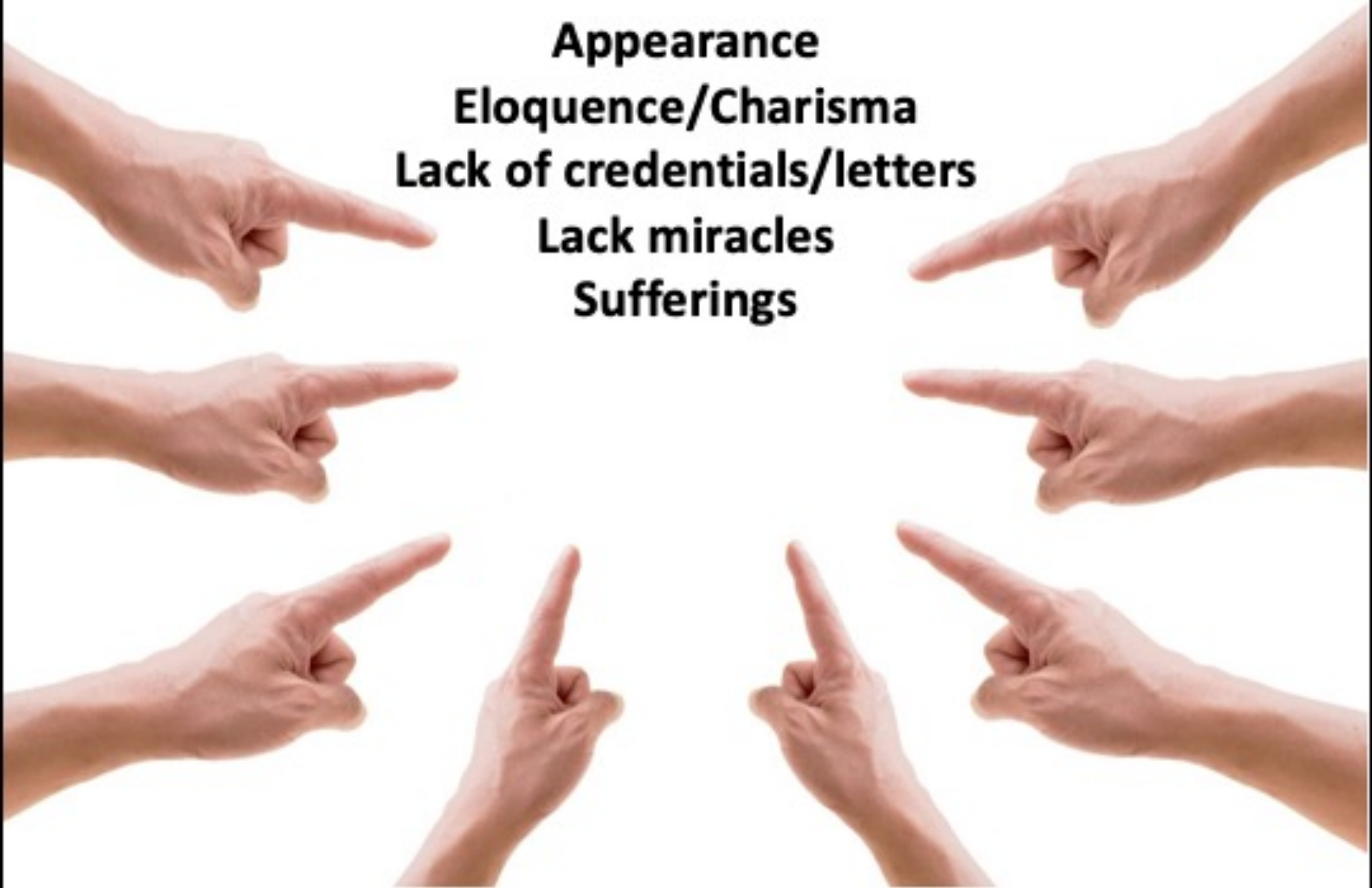
**Appearance**  
**Eloquence/Charisma**  
**Lack of credentials/letters**



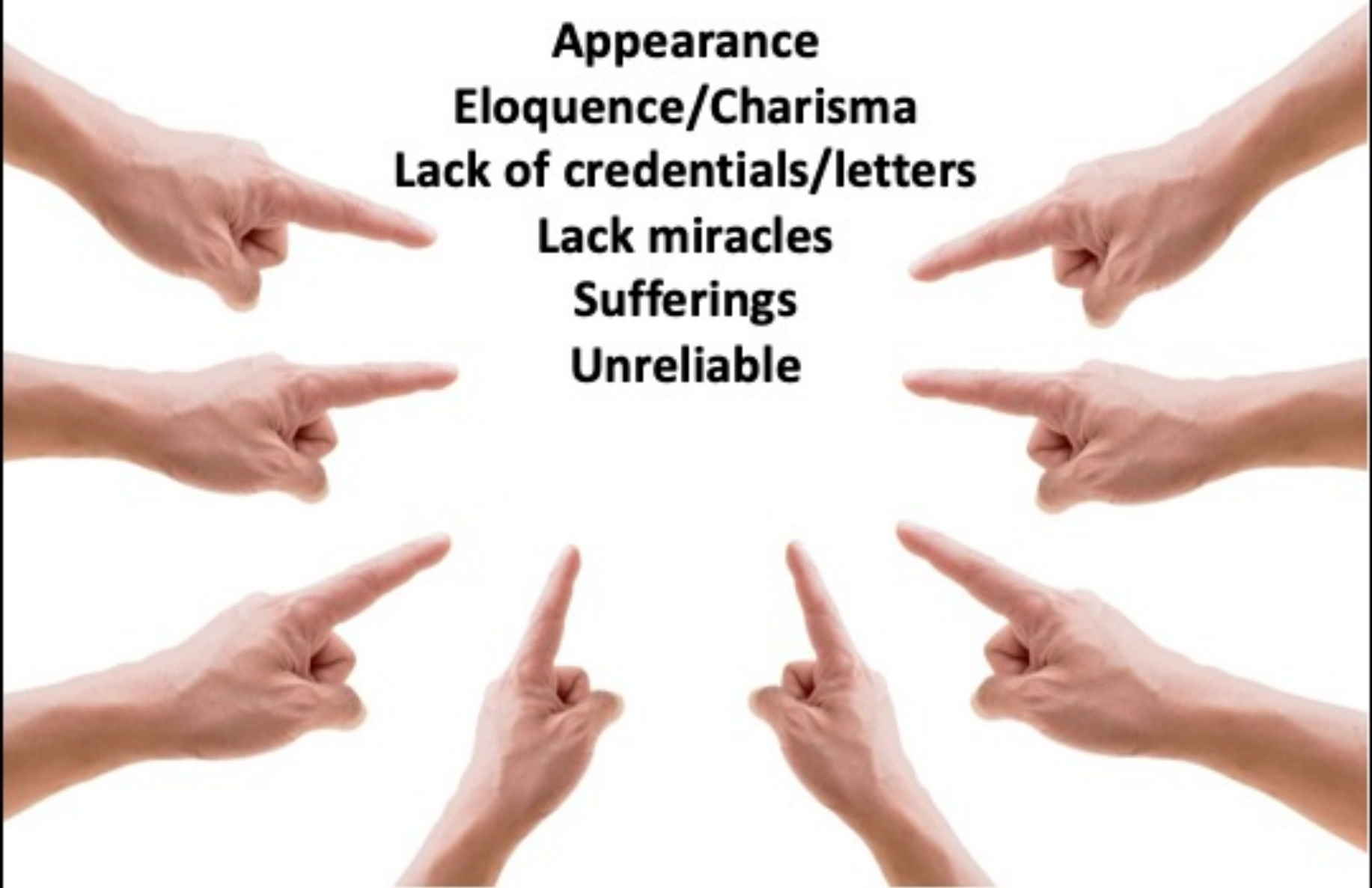
**Appearance**  
**Eloquence/Charisma**  
**Lack of credentials/letters**  
**Lack miracles**



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**Eloquence/Charisma**  
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**Lack miracles**  
**Sufferings**



**Appearance**  
**Eloquence/Charisma**  
**Lack of credentials/letters**  
**Lack miracles**  
**Sufferings**  
**Unreliable**



# PAUL, ARE YOU THE REAL DEAL?

2CORINTHIANS 3:1-6

2 CORINTHIANS  
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# 1. The Proof of Ministry

2 CORINTHIANS  
THORN IN THE FLESH

# 1. The Proof of Ministry

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?  
Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation  
to you, or from you? v1

# 1. The Proof of Ministry

You yourselves are our letter of recommendation,  
written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. v2

# 1. The Proof of Ministry

And you show that you are a letter from Christ v3

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And you show that you are a letter from Christ  
delivered by us, written not with ink  
but with the Spirit of the living God, v3

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And you show that you are a letter from Christ  
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not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. v3

# 1. The Proof of Ministry

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# 1. The Proof of Ministry

False Teachers: “letters”

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False Teachers: “letters”  
Paul: “You!”

1 Corinthians 16:3

And when I arrive, I will send those whom  
**you accredit by letter** to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

## 2 Peter 2:1–2

But **false prophets** also arose among the people,  
just as there will be false teachers among you...

And **many will follow** their sensuality,  
and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.

## 1 Corinthians 6:9–11

neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers,  
nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the  
greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit  
the kingdom of God.

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nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the  
greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit  
the kingdom of God.

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were  
sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus  
Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

# **Our Mission**

**Leading Generations Into  
A Life-changing Relationship  
With Jesus Christ**

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# 1. The Proof of Ministry

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**People > Papers**

**2 CORINTHIANS**  
THORN IN THE FLESH

## **2. The Power in Ministry**

**2 CORINTHIANS**  
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## 2. The Power in Ministry

And you show that you are a letter from Christ  
delivered by us, written not with ink  
but **with the Spirit of the living God**,  
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## 2. The Power in Ministry

Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but **our sufficiency is from God** v5

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Who is sufficient for these things? 2Co 2:16

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Paul: “You!”

## **2. The Power in Ministry**

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## **2. The Power in Ministry**

False Teachers: “We are capable!”

## 2. The Power in Ministry

False Teachers: "We are capable!"

Paul: "Our sufficiency is from God!"

### **3. The Premise of Ministry**

**2 CORINTHIANS**  
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### 3. The Premise of Ministry

who has made us sufficient to be ministers  
of a **new covenant**, not of the letter but of the Spirit.  
For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. v6



Exodus 19:5

Now therefore,  
if you will  
indeed obey my  
voice and keep  
my covenant,  
you shall be my  
treasured  
possession  
among all  
peoples



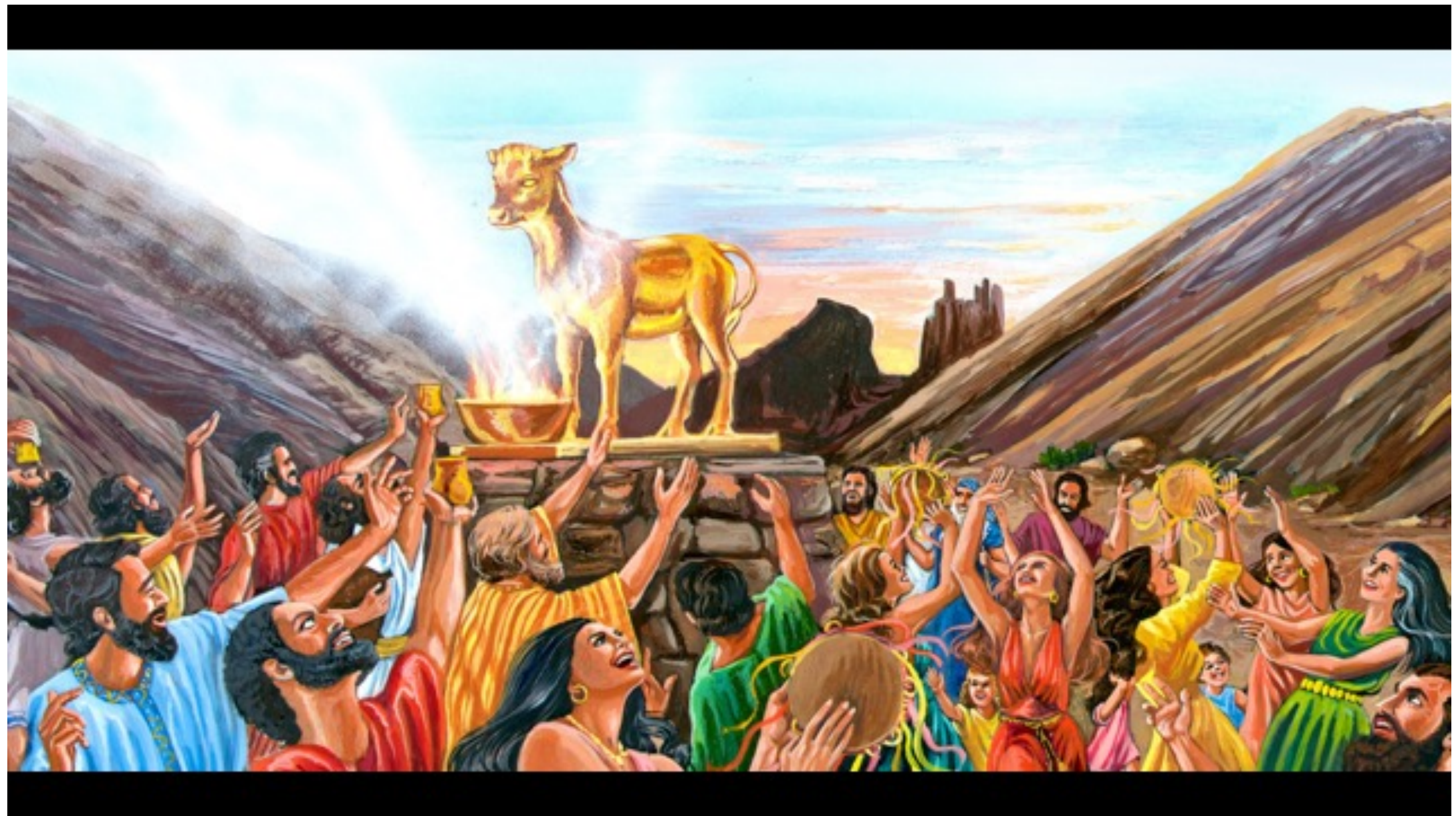
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Exodus 24:3

And all the  
people answered  
with one voice  
and said, "All the  
words that the  
LORD has spoken  
we will do."



**Harden not your heart, as in the provocation  
and as in the day of temptation  
in the wilderness**

Psalm 95:8



Knowing-Jesus.com

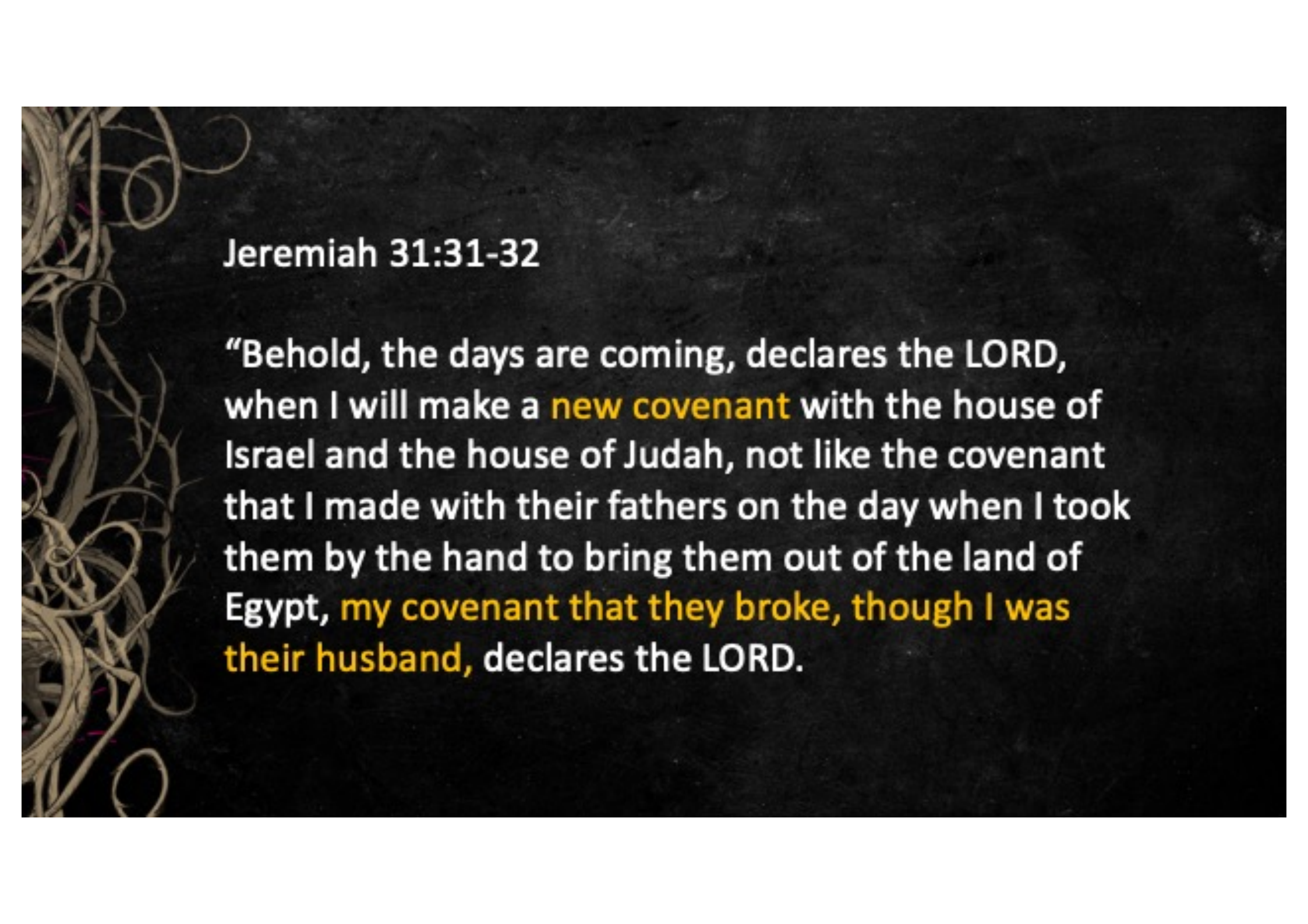






Jeremiah 31:31-32

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD,  
when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of  
Israel and the house of Judah,



## Jeremiah 31:31-32

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband**, declares the LORD.



Jeremiah 31:33

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will **put my law within them**, and I will write it on their hearts. And **I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**



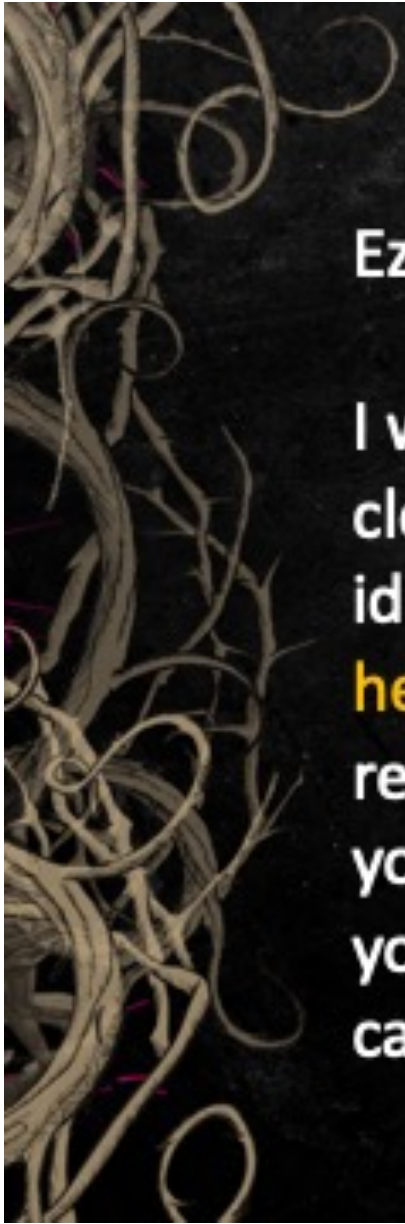
Jeremiah 31:34

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they **shall all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will **forgive their iniquity**, and I will remember their sin no more."



Ezekiel 11:19-20

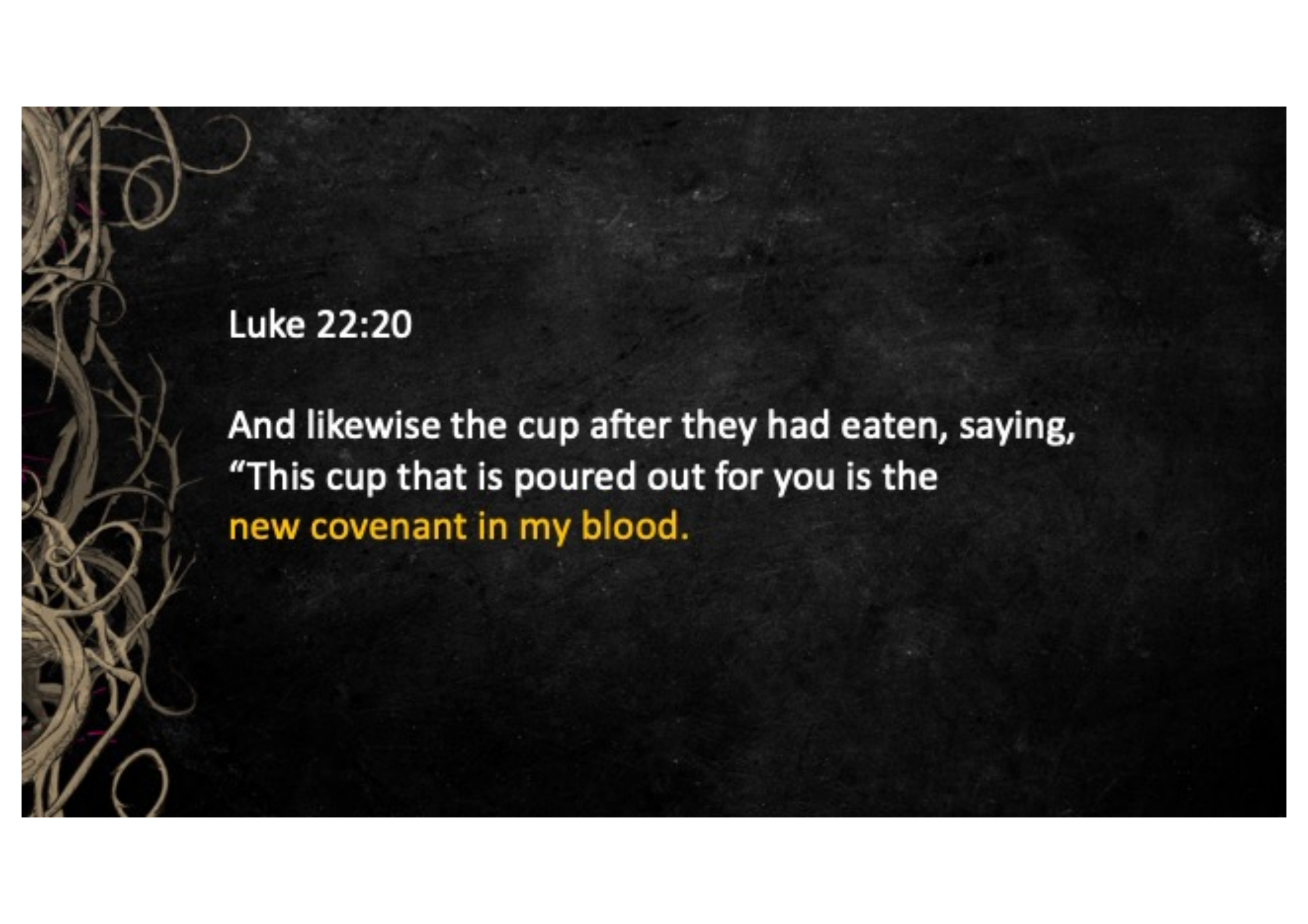
And I will give them one heart, and a **new spirit** I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a **heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes** and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.



## Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will **sprinkle clean water** on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a **new heart, and a new spirit** I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will **put my Spirit within** you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.





Luke 22:20

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,  
“This cup that is poured out for you is the  
**new covenant in my blood.**”



Hebrews 9:16

For where a will is involved, the **death** of the one who made it must be established.



Hebrews 9:12

he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by **means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**



Hebrews 9:22

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.**

... written ... with the Spirit of the living God, not on  
tablets of stone but on tablets of **human hearts**.

ministers of a **new covenant**,

not of the letter but of the **Spirit**.

# **3. The Premise of Ministry**

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False Teachers: “Old Covenant”

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False Teachers: “Old Covenant”  
Paul: “New Covenant”

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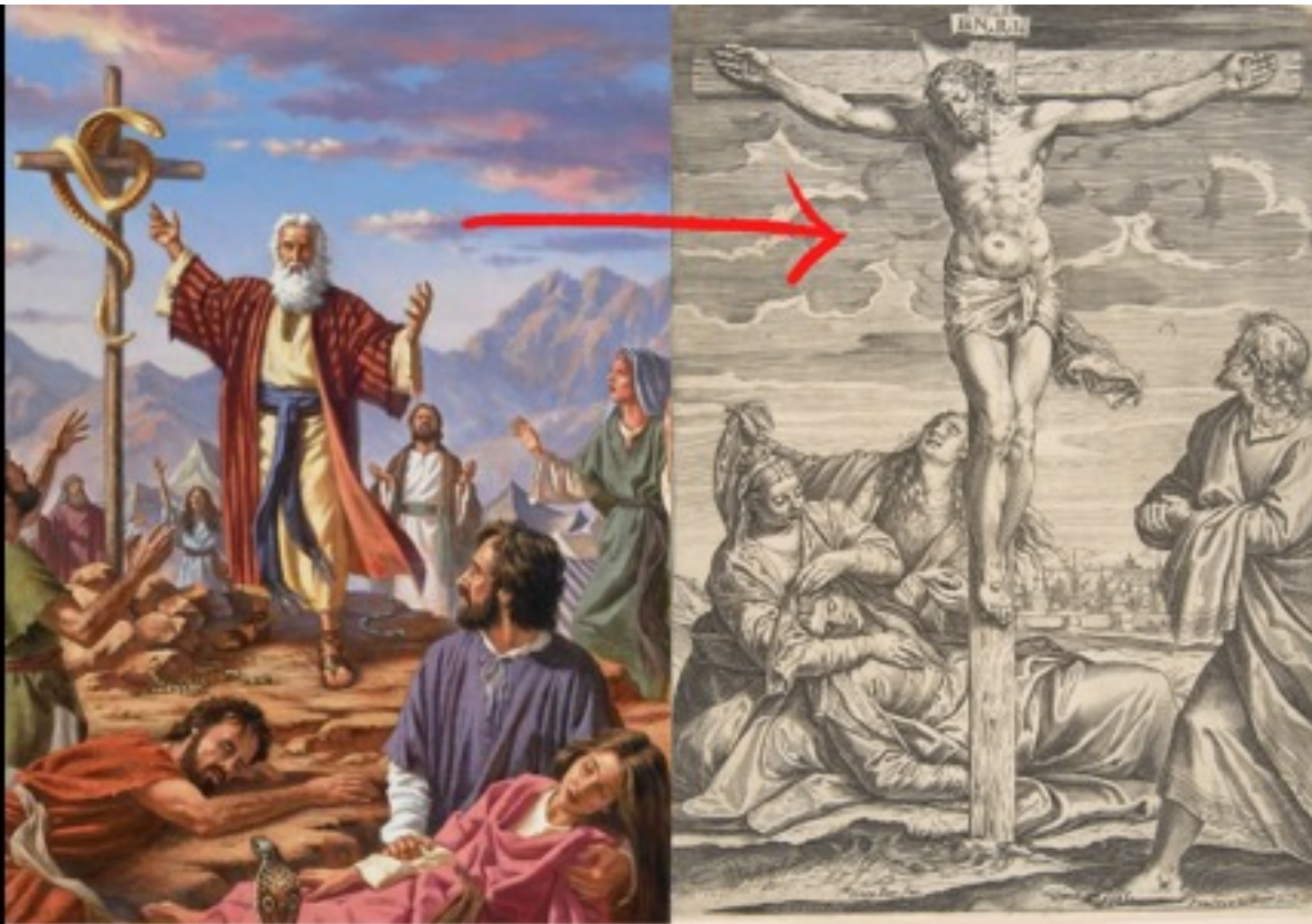
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**14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him may have *Eternal Life*.**

**JOHN 3:14-15**

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