

Comfort in OFFENSE

Reconciliation in the Kingdom



OFFENSES & JUDGMENTS

part 4: the testimony of a good friend

Brother Roberts

a few days before he fell asleep



Brother Roberts

“A Letter to My Enemies” *May 1885*



Brother Roberts

Why would he write such a thing?



desire
to reconcile



BROTHER ROBERTS

Recognizing Christ's Control

MAY 1885

*“I greet you in the best of good wishes. My greeting may not be acceptable. It is nevertheless sincere, I assure you. I can pray, and this I do. **Rarely do I bend my knee before the Maker of us all without asking him to open your eyes,** to bring your steps into paths of wisdom and love.”*



BROTHER ROBERTS

Expect persecution.

MAY 1885

*“When I was quite young, I was smitten with the beauty of the popular dictum, that it was a good thing, and a thing to aim at, to have no enemies. I worked under the power of this idea for a good while. But having the Bible standard before me in all things, I came to see this futility, and to perceive the reason of the saying of Christ, ‘**woe unto you when all men speak well of you.**’”*



BROTHER ROBERTS

Eye Servants and Men Pleasers

MAY 1885

*“I found it impossible to avoid giving offense; and after many struggles against the inevitable, I quietly and grimly surrendered to the inevitable. I saw that **I could not prevent the making of enemies without becoming an eye servant, and a pleaser of men.** I therefore made up my mind to accept enmity. I do not mean to give up the idea of being friendly.”*



BROTHER ROBERTS

Hurtful Oppositions

MAY 1885

*“I am not able to carry myself toward you as I should desire. Between chronic physical discomfort of body **and the grimness begotten of collision with opposition**, and to constant action in one line of things, I realise that I must appear a very repugnant person in your eyes, not withstanding my strong desire and best efforts to sustain a different part.”*



BROTHER ROBERTS
Importance of Principle

MAY 1885

*“Please do not bring charges about which I cannot own. I do not and have not aimed at personal exaltation. I enjoy not, and never have enjoyed, the position into which circumstances have forced me. **I am anxious only for the ascendancy of principles,** and could hide me out of sight if they were exalted.”*



BROTHER ROBERTS

Importance of Truth

MAY 1885

“Men who rejoice in the Truth are not to be mistaken with those in whom personal elevation is a more controlling influence. ...If I have been compelled to take a prominent and offensive part, it has been to my sorrow. So little has been a satisfaction, in the sense of your surmises, that I have felt the greatest kindness God could show me would be to lay me where all his servants rest, while the present confusion reigns upon the earth.”



BROTHER ROBERTS
Importance of Mercy

MAY 1885

*“And now, if my whole work,
and my whole influence to
promote the Truth in public and
in private, in theory and in
practice, **ought you not to be
merciful to what you may
consider my infirmities?** Ought
you not to help in any way in
your power, instead of trying to
weaken and hinder by
unfriendly words and deeds.”*

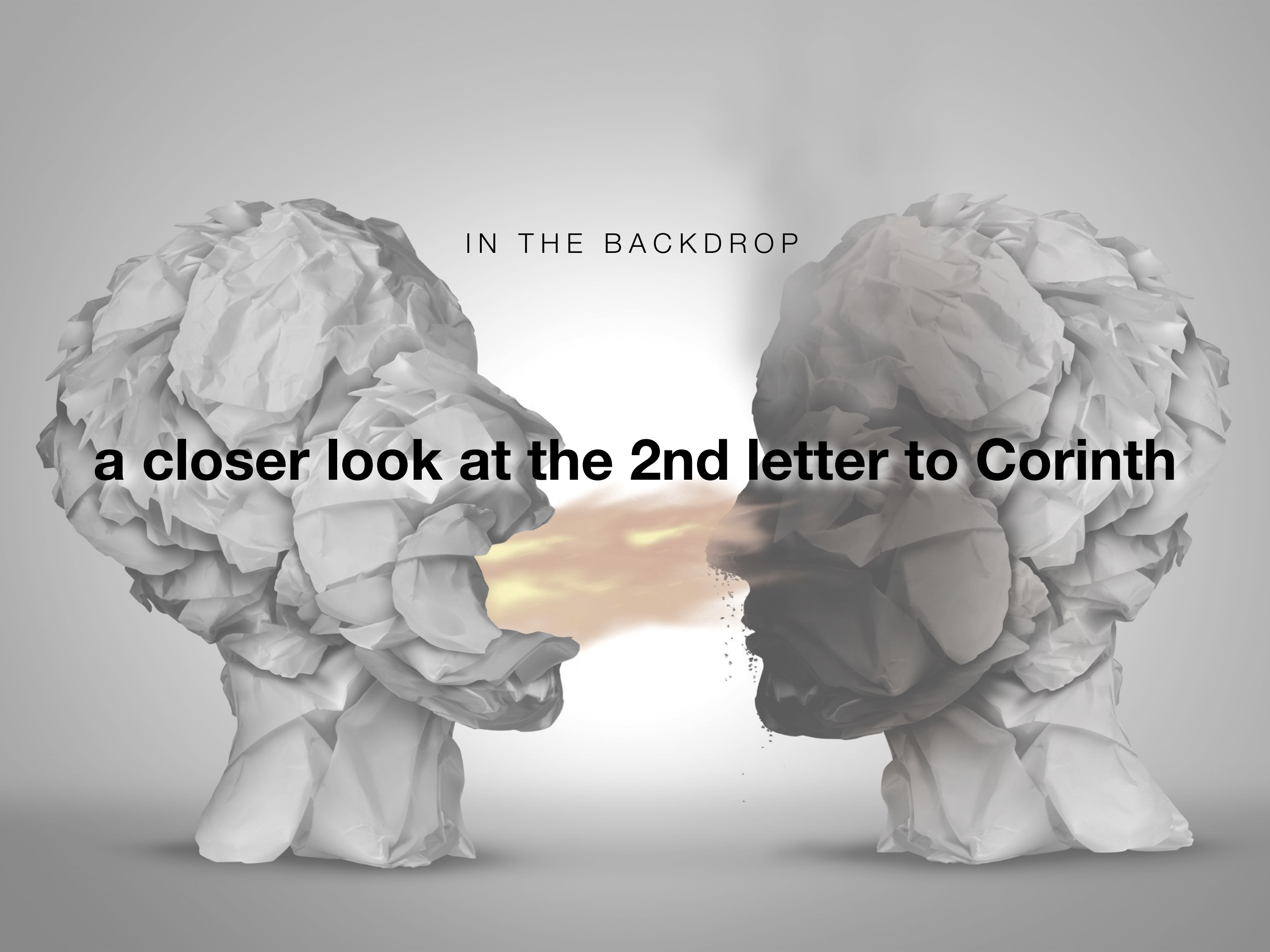


Comfort in God's personal assurance:

Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, you people in

whose heart is My law: *Do not fear the reproach of men, Nor be afraid of their insults.* For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; But My righteousness will be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation. 12 “I even I am He who comforts you.

Isaiah 51:7-8,12 (NKJV)

The image features two large, crumpled paper heads, one on the left and one on the right, facing each other. A bright, glowing orange and yellow beam of light connects the two heads, creating a focal point in the center. The background is a soft, light gray gradient. The text "IN THE BACKDROP" is centered above the beam, and "a closer look at the 2nd letter to Corinth" is centered across the beam in a larger, bold font.

IN THE BACKDROP

a closer look at the 2nd letter to Corinth

“THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT”

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of *all* comfort**, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.”

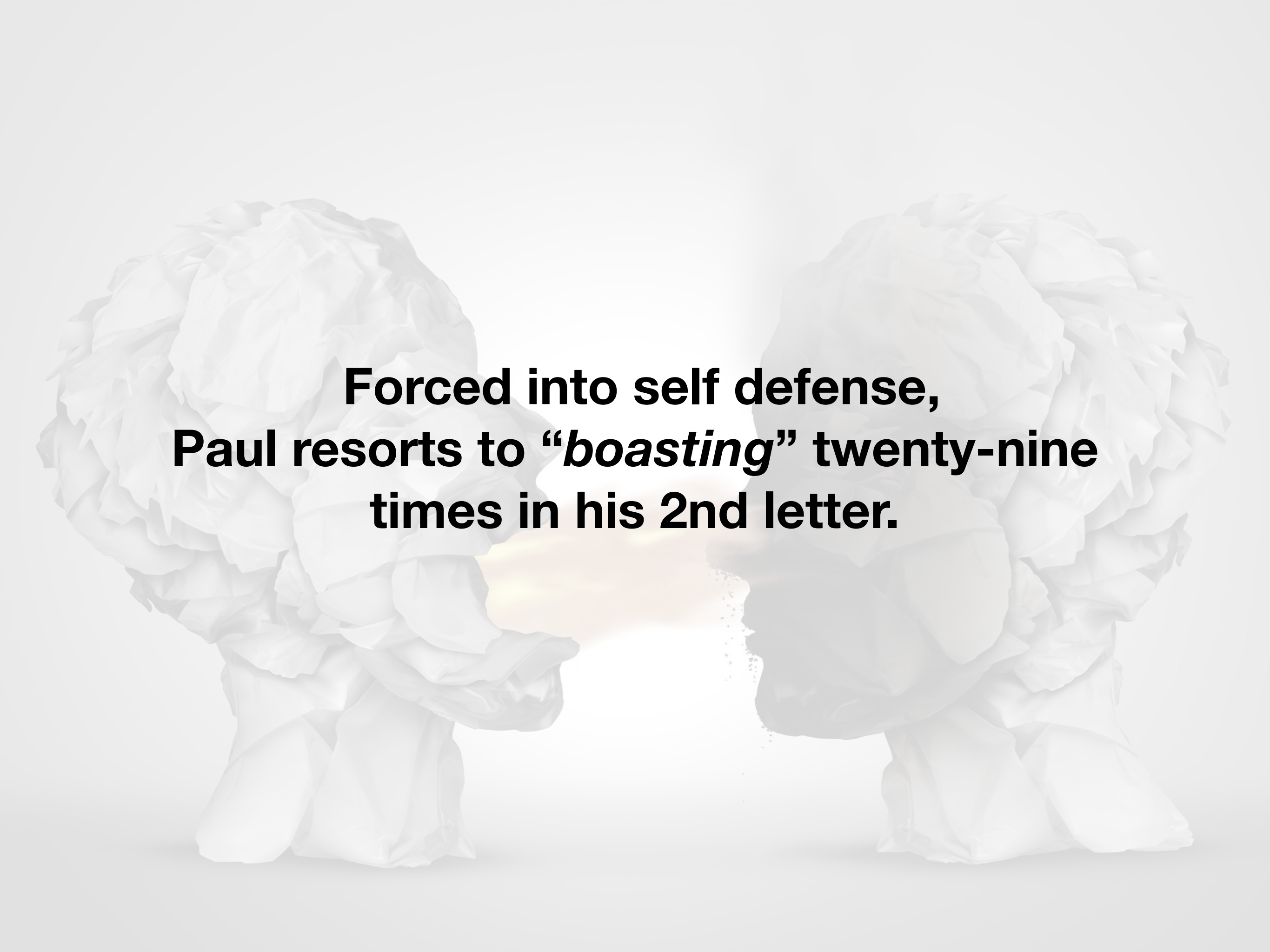
2 COR 1:3-7

C O N T E X T :

Paul's suffering was from controversy.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of *all* comfort**, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.”

2 COR 1:3-7

The image features two large, crumpled white paper balls positioned on the left and right sides of the frame. Between them, a bright, glowing orange and yellow energy burst or spark is visible, suggesting a point of contact or conflict. The background is a plain, light gray.

**Forced into self defense,
Paul resorts to “*boasting*” twenty-nine
times in his 2nd letter.**

The image features two large, crumpled white paper balls positioned on the left and right sides of the frame. They are facing each other, and a bright, orange-yellow flame or fire is visible between them, suggesting a conflict or tension. The background is a plain, light gray.

What caused the *conflict* in Corinth?

1st Letter: Discord and Dissipation

Jesus characterizes the vineyard in the last days in the same way:

48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘*My master is delayed,*’
49 and begins to beat his fellow servants [**discord**] and eats and
drinks with drunkards” [**dissipation**] (Matthew 24:48-50 ESV)

2nd Letter: Offenses and Judgments

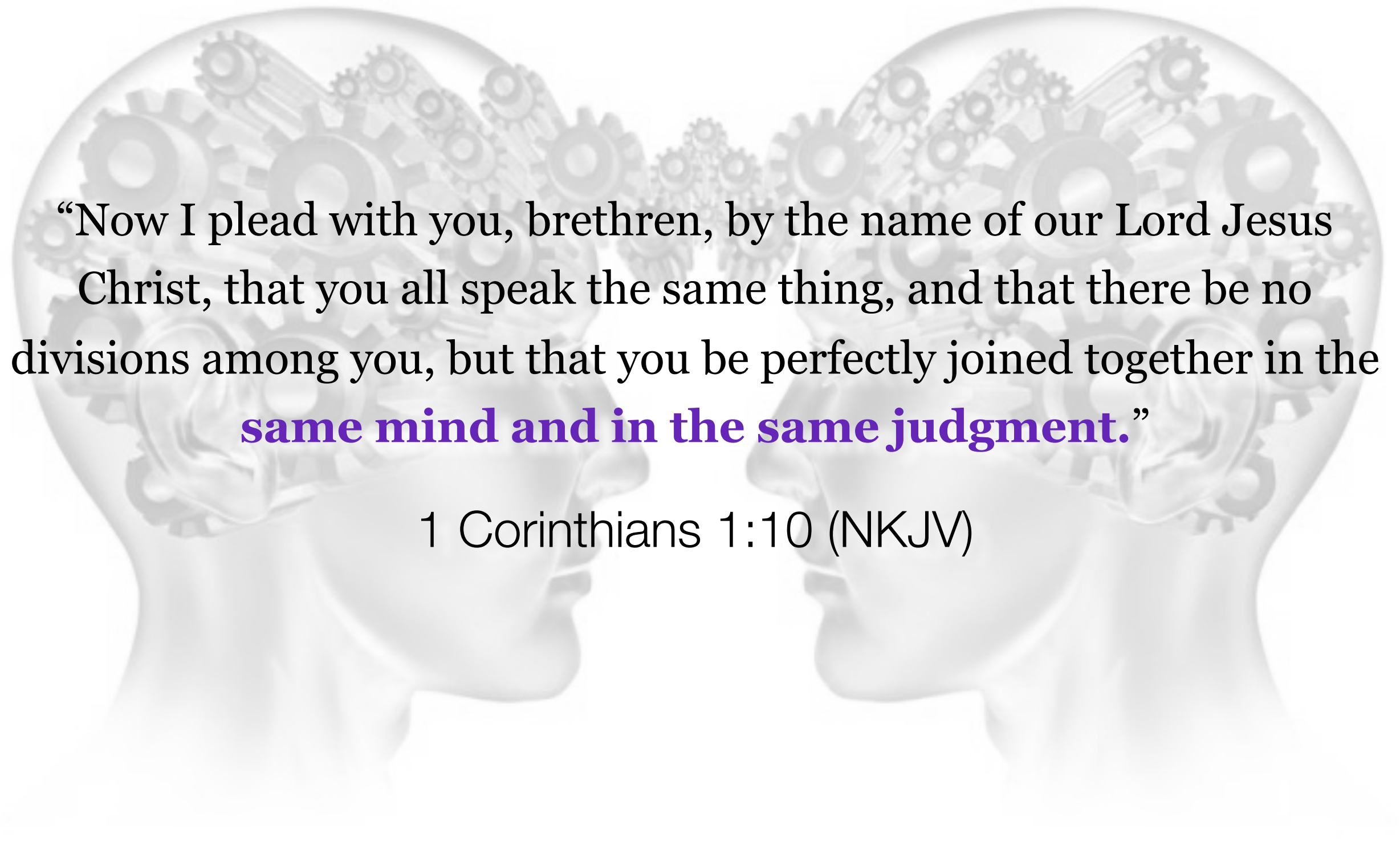
2 Corinthians 10:10 (NKJV) 10 “‘For his letters,’ they say, ‘are weighty and powerful, [**offense**] but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.’” [**judgment**] (2 Corinthians 10:10 NKJV)

5 For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles.
[**judgment**] 6 Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. (2 Corinthians 11:5-6 NKJV)

Offenses and Judgments against Paul:

- They swayed many **brethren against** Paul (1 Cor 16:5-7)
- His change of plan meant he was **unreliable** (2 Cor 1:17-18)
- He was a **coward** (2 Cor 1:23)
- He **corrupted** the Word (2 Cor 2:17)
- He **lacked the support** of those in authority (2 Cor 3:1-4)
- He was **dishonest** (2 Cor 4:2, 7:2, 8:20-21)

PAUL'S APPEAL



“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the **same mind and in the same judgment.**”

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV)

BUT:

Sameness of mind and judgment is not natural;
because it's *spiritual!*



OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT:

offenses and **judgments**

discord and **disagreement**

variance and **emulation**



offenses and judgments.

*“Thou preparest a **table** before me in the presence of mine **enemies**.”*



BROTHER ROBERTS

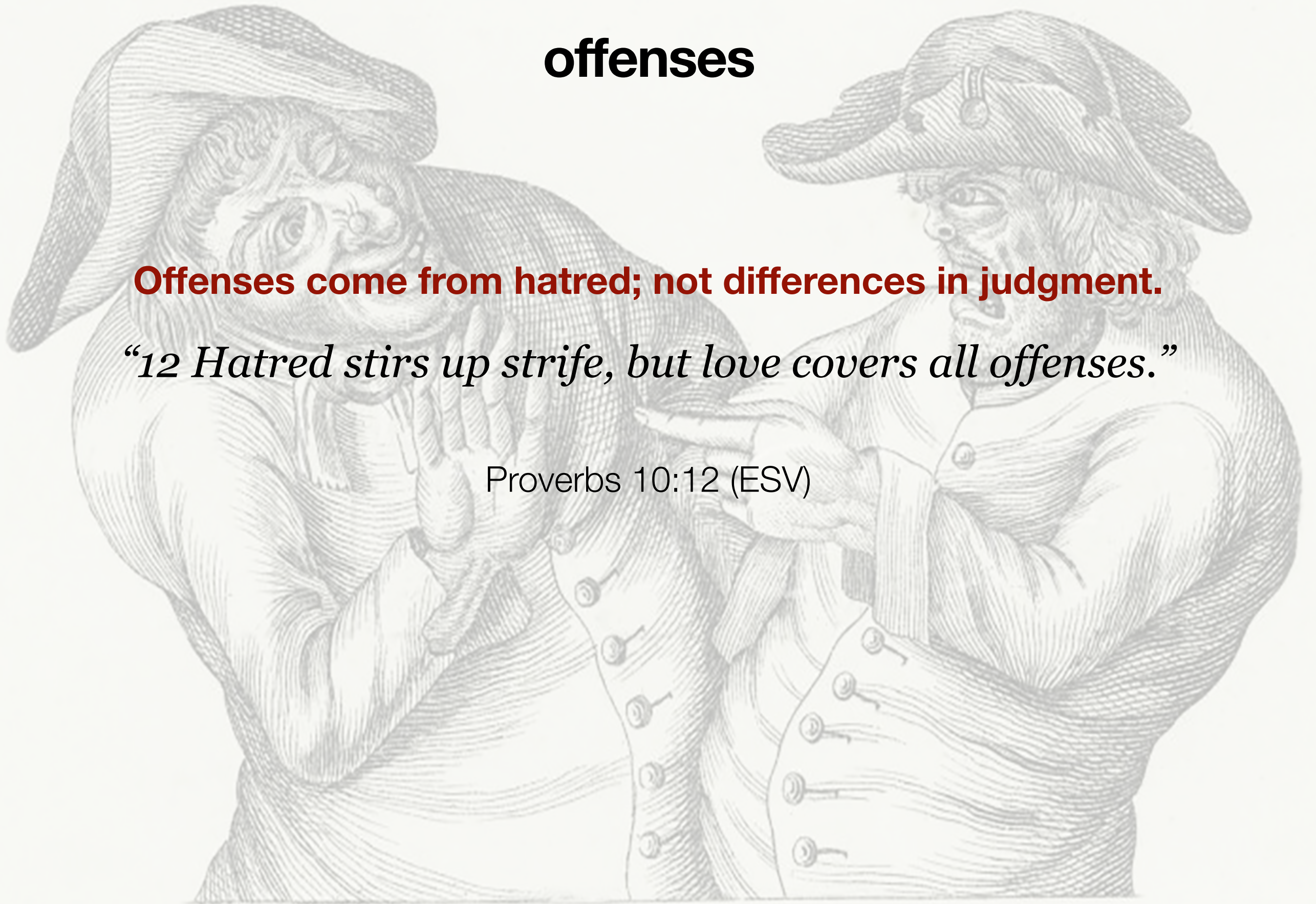
**“The record of ecclesial life
seems to be one of constant controversy.”**

offenses

Offenses come from hatred; not differences in judgment.

“12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.”

Proverbs 10:12 (ESV)



judgments

How to recognize hatred in yourself:

- ▶ “all that **watch for iniquity** are cut off” *v.20*
- ▶ “that make a man an **offender for a word**” *v.21*
- ▶ “that **lay a snare** for him that reprove in the gate” *v.21*
- ▶ “and **turn aside the just** for a thing of nought” *v.21*

Isaiah 29:20-21



discord and disagreement

“Agree with one another; live in peace.”

Two problems leading to discord:

- **Being righteous over much** (Ecc 7:16) ESV

“**Be not overly righteous**, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself?”

- **Going beyond what is written** (1 Cor 4:6)

“I have applied all these things *to myself and Apollos* for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us **not to go beyond what is written**, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.”

agreement and humility

Humility is the only spiritual disposition that makes this work:

*“11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, **agree with one another, live in peace**; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”*

2 Corinthians 13:11 (ESV)



variance and emulation

“The works of the flesh are manifest, which are these.”

old words : still at work

HALF OF THESE INVOLVE CONTROVERSY

“¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, **hatred**, **variance**, **emulations**, **wrath**, **strife**, **seditions**, **heresies**, ²¹ **envyings**, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-21 (KJV)



CONSIDERATION:

In the House of God,
controversy has caused an incalculable amount of
suffering and loss of faith.

RECONCILIATION



sameness of mind and judgment

A vibrant rainbow arches over a bright sun in a cloudy sky. The sun is a glowing yellow-orange circle with a white center, surrounded by a soft purple and blue aura. The rainbow is a multi-colored arc with red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple bands. The background is a sky with soft, white and grey clouds, and a hint of green grass at the bottom.

Rainbow and the **THRONE OF CHRIST**

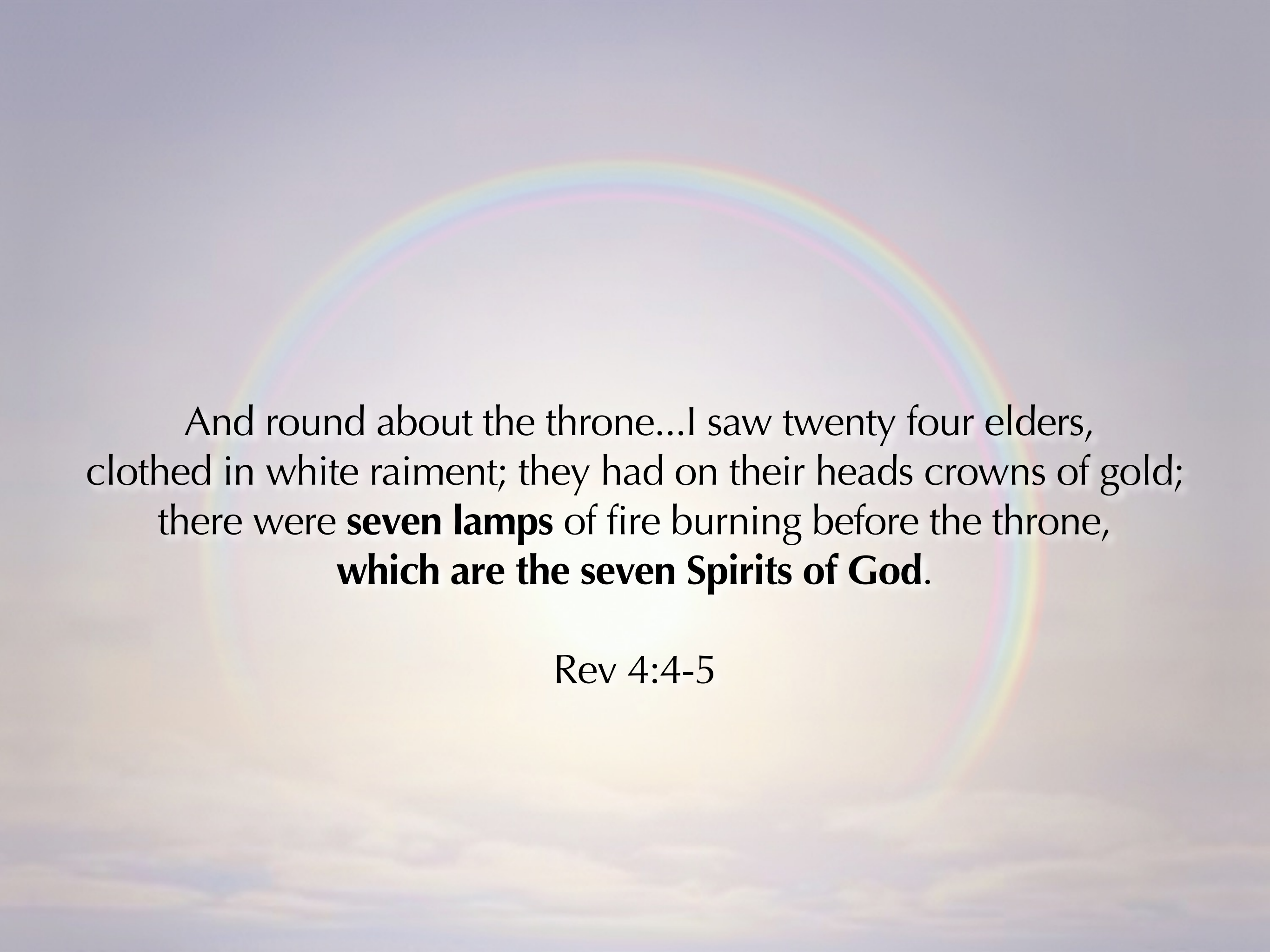
“And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold,
a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.”

Revelation 4:2

A vibrant rainbow arches over a bright sun in a cloudy sky. The sun is a large, glowing orb in the center, casting a warm light. The rainbow is a multi-colored arc that spans across the sky, with colors ranging from red to violet. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall scene is peaceful and serene.

“and there was a rainbow round about the throne”

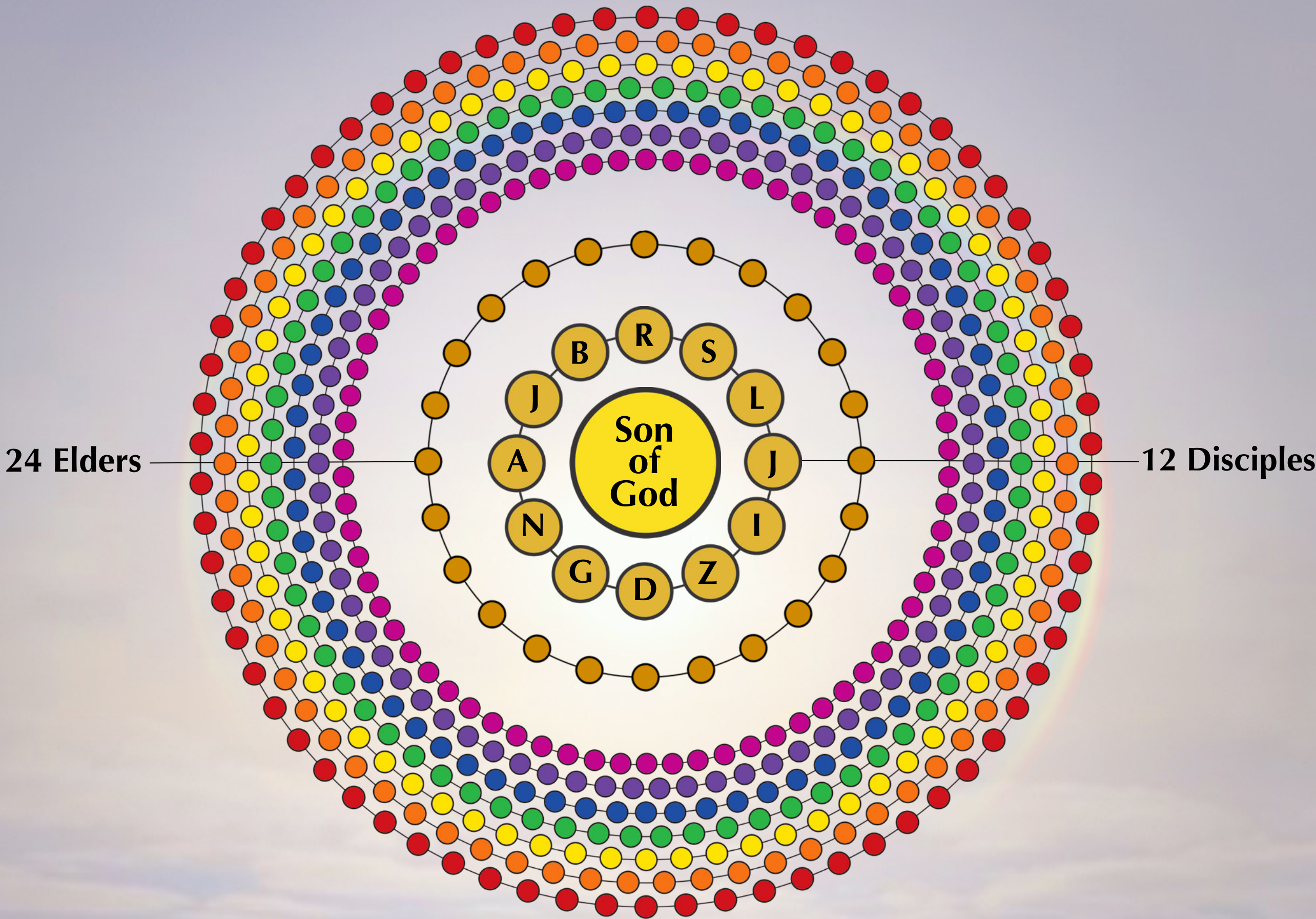
Revelation 4:3



And round about the throne...I saw twenty four elders,
clothed in white raiment; they had on their heads crowns of gold;
there were **seven lamps** of fire burning before the throne,
which are the seven Spirits of God.

Rev 4:4-5

7 SPIRITS OF FIRE AROUND THE THRONE



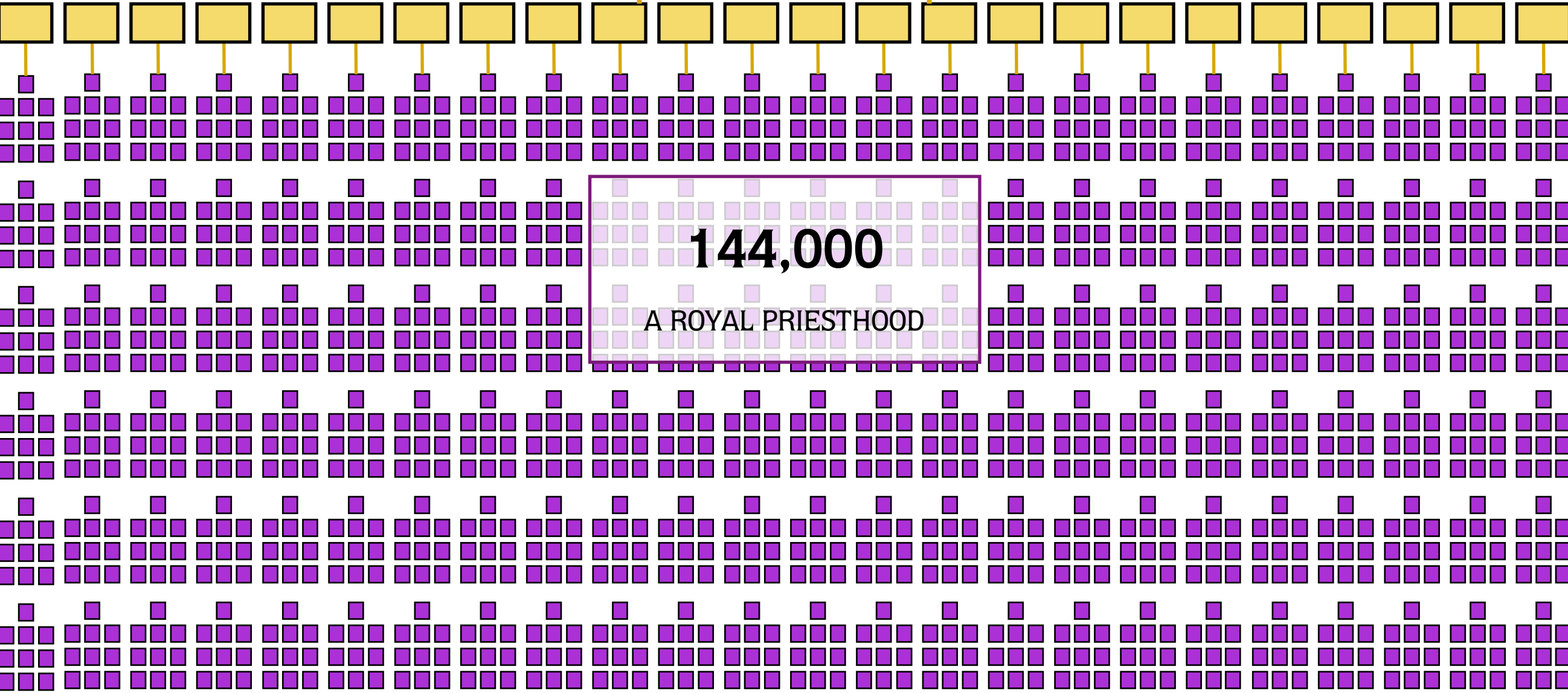
ROYAL ADMINISTRATION



12 THRONES OVER 12 TRIBES

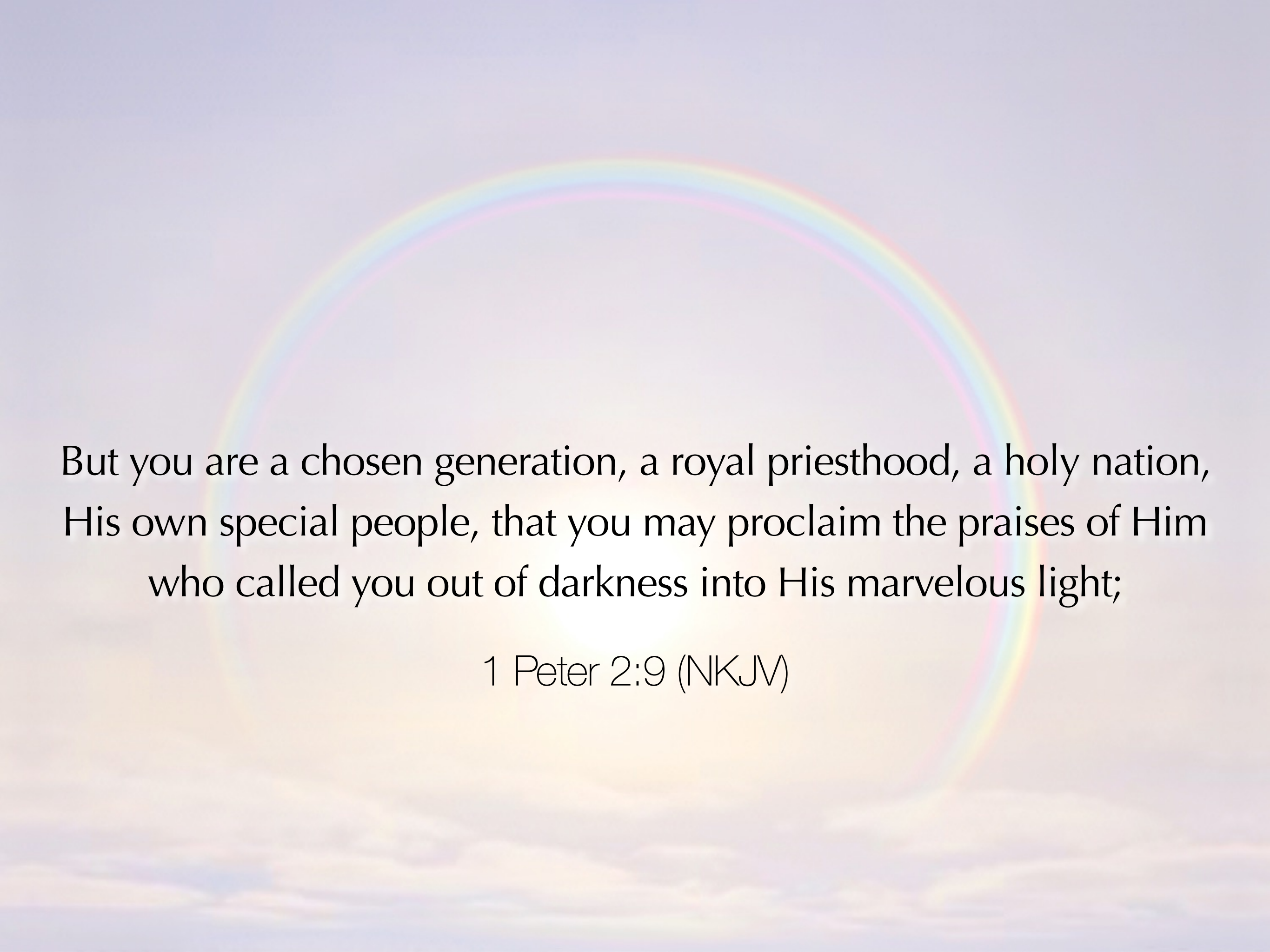


24 ELDERS SEATED AROUND THRONE



144,000
A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Subjects: All the families of the earth – billions.



But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him
who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)