



That You May

BELIEVE

"LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

[Conclusion of Jesus' Public Ministry]

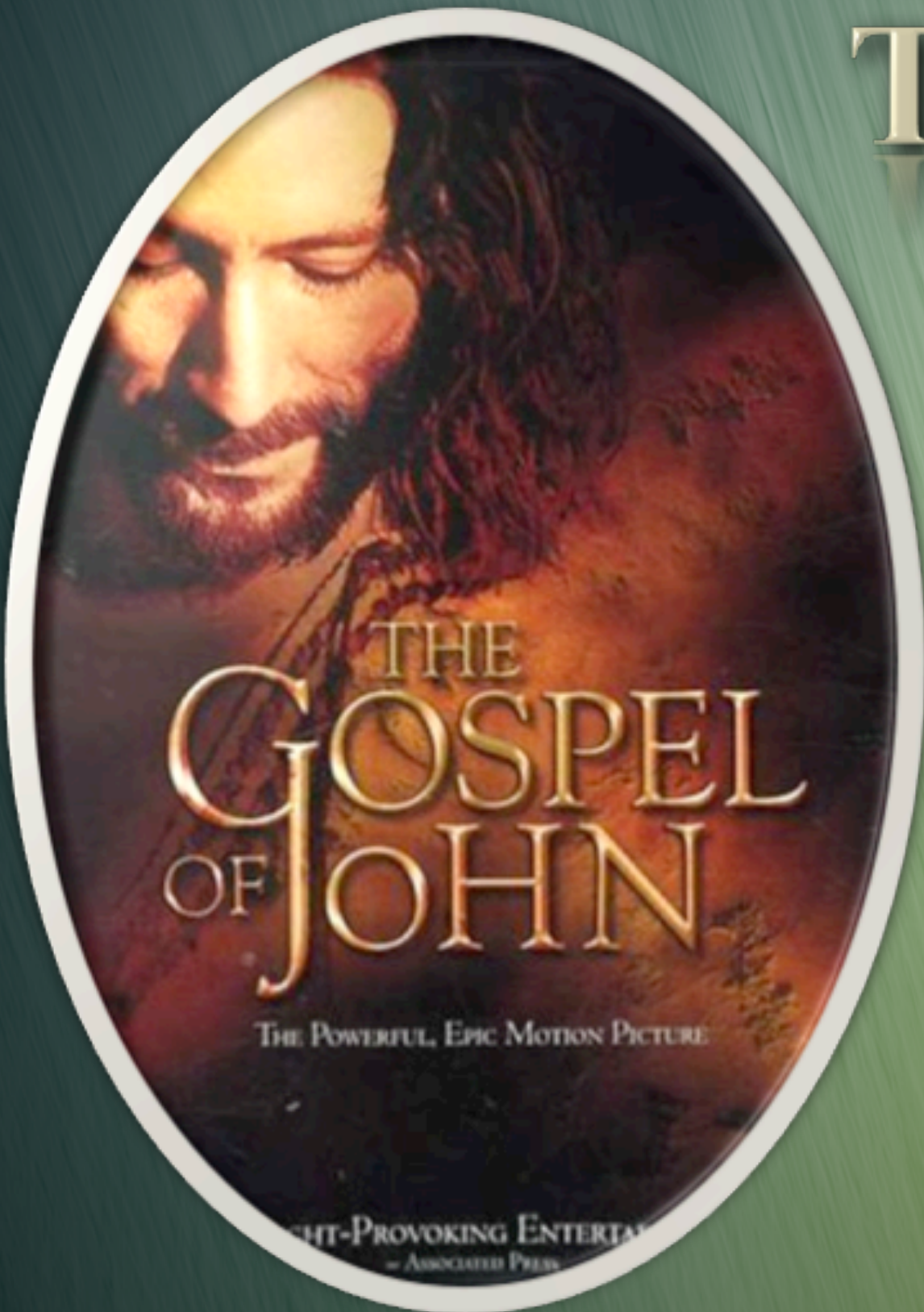
JOHN 12:37-50

"Lord, who has believed our report?"

THEME

John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.



"The Hour Has Come"

CONCLUSION OF JESUS' PUBLIC MINISTRY

➤ With the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead, John has set the stage for the final days of Christ's ministry on earth . . .

- (1) The anointing (12:1–8)
- (2) Plot to kill Lazarus (12:9–11)
- (3) The triumphal entry (12:12–19).
- (4) The fruitful grain of wheat (12:20–26).
- (5) Jesus speaks of His death (12:27–36)
- (6) Jewish national unbelief & Jesus' response (12:37–50).



"Lord, who has believed our report?"

THE JEWS DID NOT BELIEVE



John 12:37-38 (NKJV)

³⁷ But although He had done so many signs before them, they **did not believe in Him,** ³⁸ that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37–50)

JOHN'S EXPLANATION (12:37–43)

³⁸ that the word of
Isaiah the prophet
might be fulfilled,



- ◆ John from at the beginning sounded the theme of national unbelief – (1:11; 15:24; cf. Mat 11:20; Luke 16:31)
- ◆ In spite of all Jesus' miraculous signs, they would not believe in Him. Their unbelief was irrational – (11:47; 15:25)
- ◆ Negative imperfect active of [pisteuō], "they kept on not believing on him," stubborn refusal in face of the light (verse 35) – 6:35,36,44–51

"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37–50)

JOHN'S EXPLANATION (12:37–43)



³⁸ that the word of
Isaiah the prophet
might be fulfilled,

- ◆ The clearest Old Testament passage concerning the suffering Servant (Isa. 53:1–12) begins by stating that Israel would not perceive God's revelation in and through the Servant.
- ◆ "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" – though the message was preached everywhere – only a few believed (Isa 53:1; Rom 10:16–21)
- ◆ This unbelief did not at all set aside the purpose of God – (Rom 9–11)

"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37-50)

JOHN'S EXPLANATION (12:37-43)



John 12:39-40 (NKJV)
³⁹ Therefore **they could not believe**, because Isaiah said again: ⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37-50)

JOHN'S EXPLANATION (12:37-43)



⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts ..."

- ◆ "They could not" – The impossibility of their believing was the product of their own impenitent, hardened, prideful hearts – John quotes – Isa. 6:9,10; (cf. Mat 13:14,15; Mark 4:12; Acts 28:26,27; Rom 11:8; Eze 12:2)
- ◆ "The same sun that hardens clays melts butter" – Seeing they had rejected Moses & the prophets – they "COULD" not believe – (Jn 5:46,47; 6:36-45)

"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37–50)

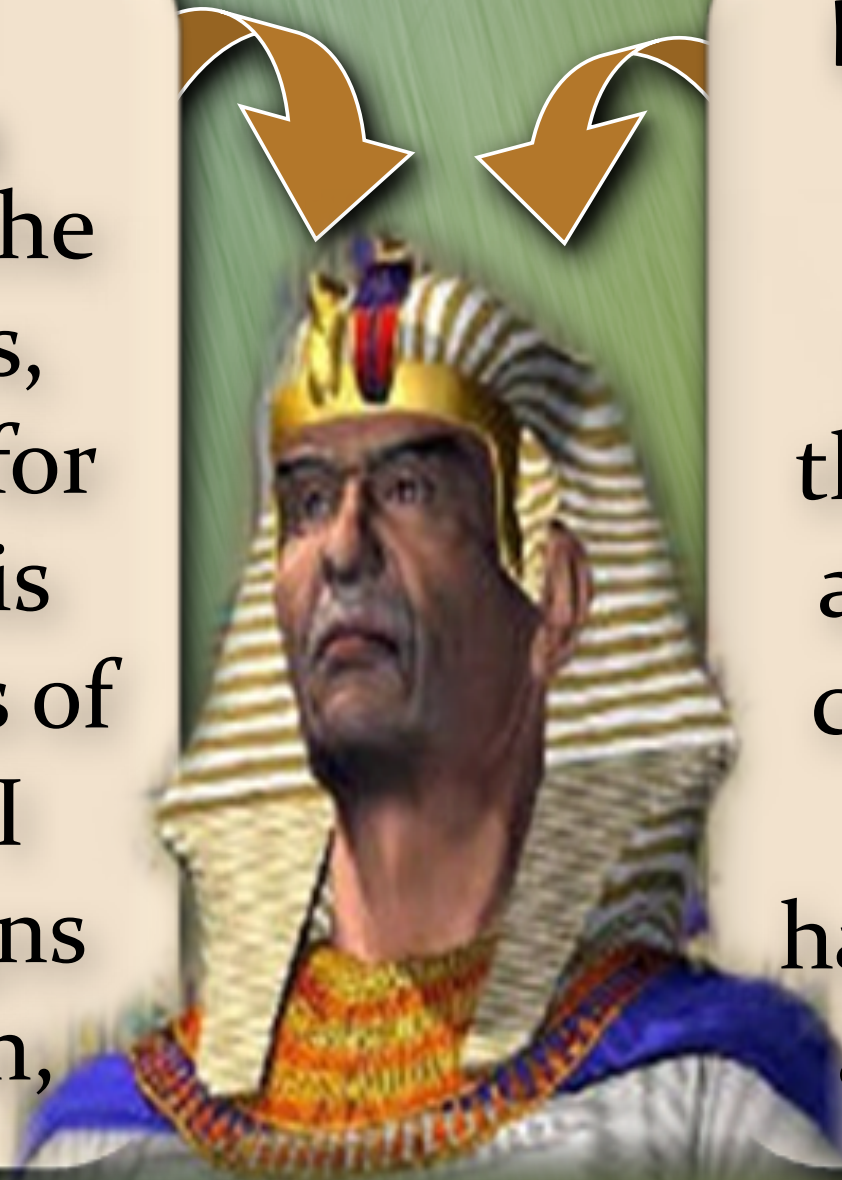
JOHN'S EXPLANATION (12:37–43)

(Rom 9:17,18)

God Hardened

Pharaoh's heart

[Exodus 10:1] Now the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him,



Pharaoh Hardened

his own heart

[Exodus 9:34] . . . when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants . . .

"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37–50)

JOHN'S EXPLANATION (12:37–43)

Pharaoh (Rom 9:17,18)

Israel



- God raised up
- Rejected God's word
- God hardened through His word & mercy
- God's purpose was not thwarted by their rebellion



"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37-50)

JOHN'S EXPLANATION (12:37-43)

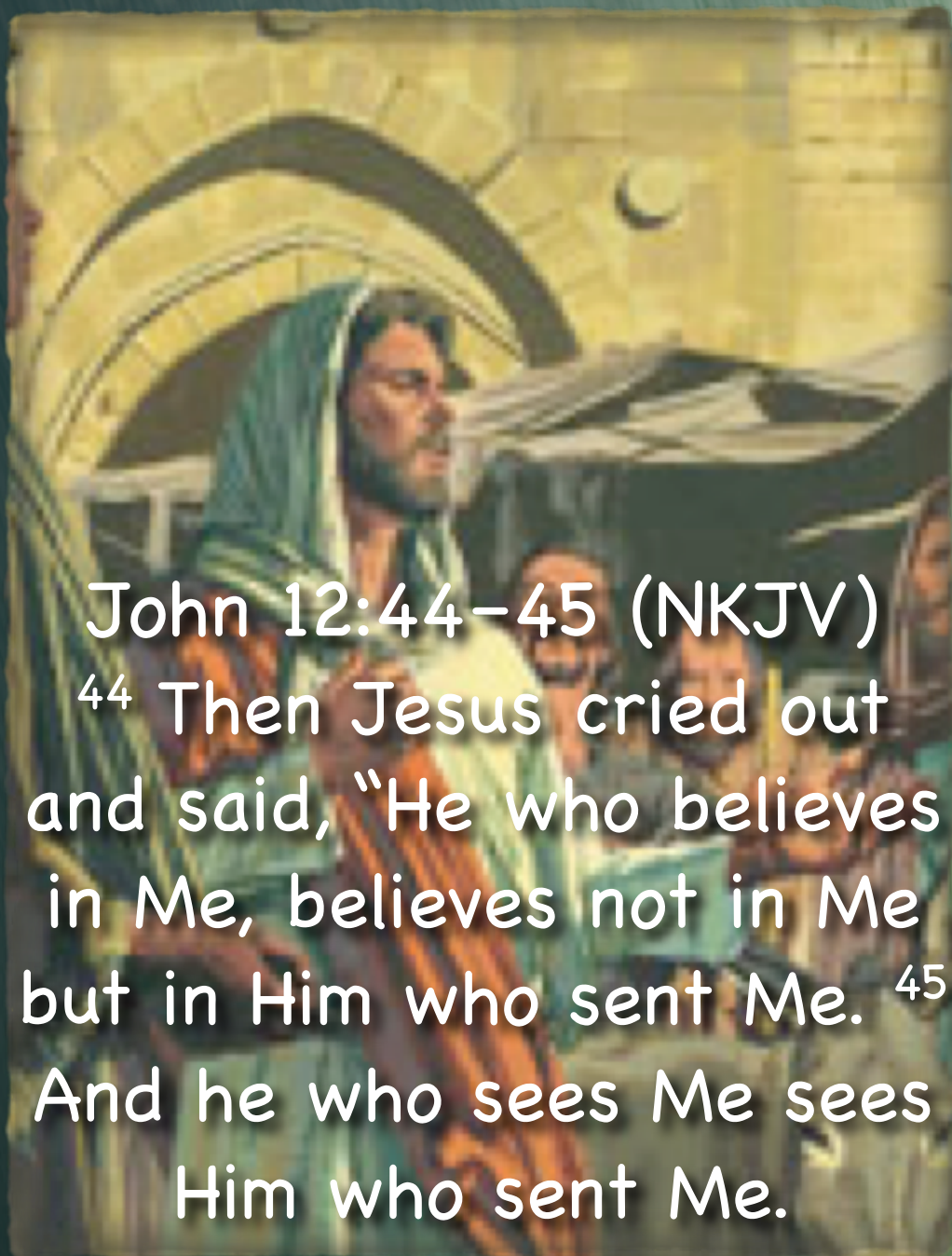


John 12:42-43 (NKJV)

⁴² Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37-50)

JESUS' EXHORTATION (12:44-50)



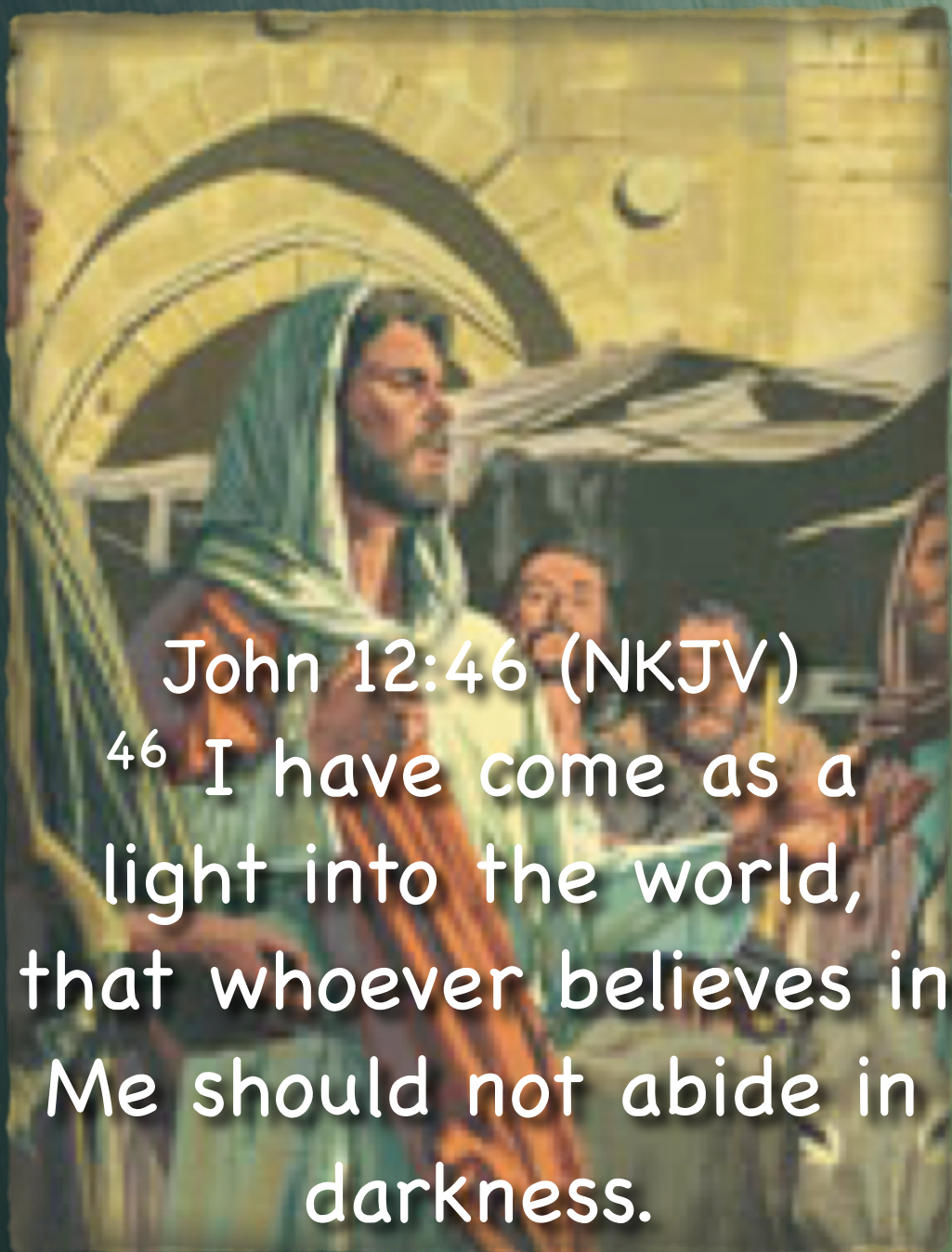
John 12:44-45 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. ⁴⁵ And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

- ◆ When and where Jesus spoke these words is not indicated. This seems to be a general summary of Jesus' manifestation of Himself to the nation - (7:16; 8:42; 9:5,39).
- ◆ Cried out (ekraxen, "called out," cf. 1:15; 7:28, 37) indicates the importance of that which is stated -
- ◆ Belief in Jesus is necessary to believe in the Father - you can't have one without the other - 13:20; 14:9; Mat 10:40; 1 Jn 9,10

"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37-50)

JESUS' EXHORTATION (12:44-50)



John 12:46 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

- ◆ Jesus came to lead people out of Satan's kingdom of darkness into God's kingdom of love and light (cf. 1:4, 9; 8:12; 12:35,36; Col. 1:13-14).
- ◆ We should walk in the light – (1 Jn 1:5-2:1)

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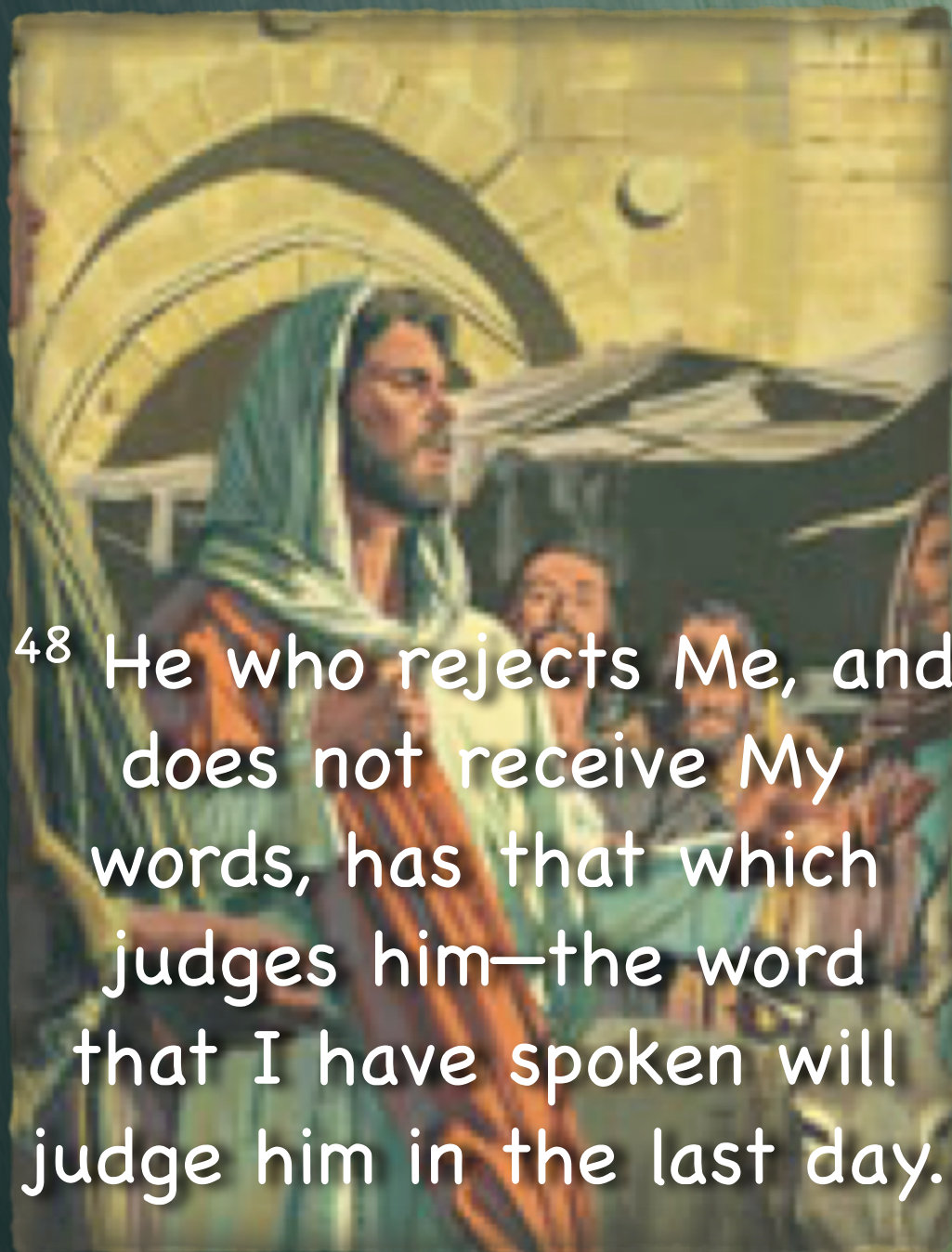
JESUS' EXHORTATION (12:44–50)

John 12:47–50 (NKJV)

⁴⁷ And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

"Lord, who has believed our report?"
Jewish National Unbelief (12:37–50)

JESUS' EXHORTATION (12:44–50)

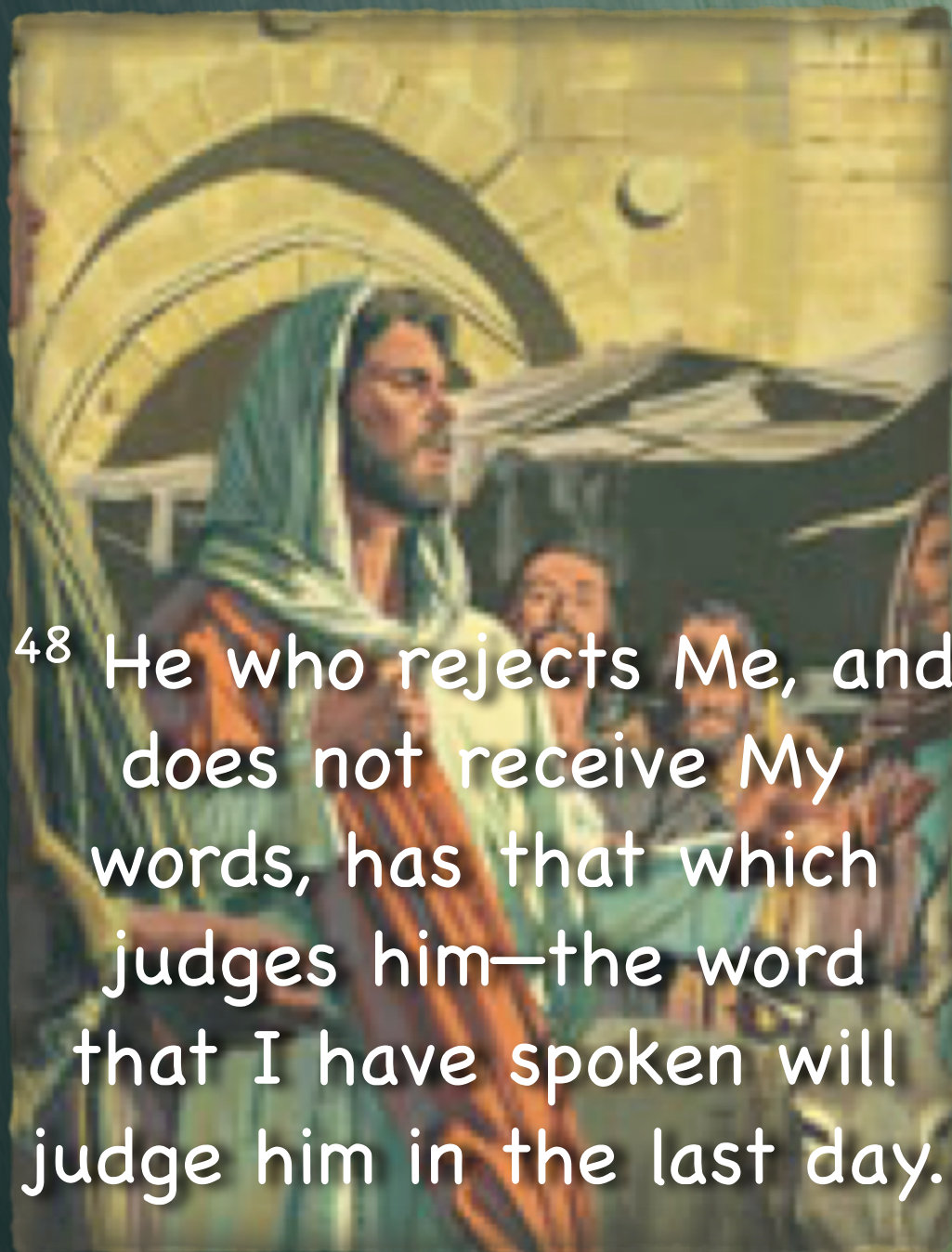


⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

- ◆ Jesus is God's Word (Logos) to people, God spoke decisively and finally in Him (Heb. 1:1–3).
- ◆ To reject the Father's word—which is Jesus' very word (v. 48; cf. v. 50b; 7:16; 14:10, 24)—is to abide in death.
- ◆ Condemnation at the last day is the penalty for rejecting the One whom the Father sent (Deut. 18:18–19; John 3:18, 36; 5:24).

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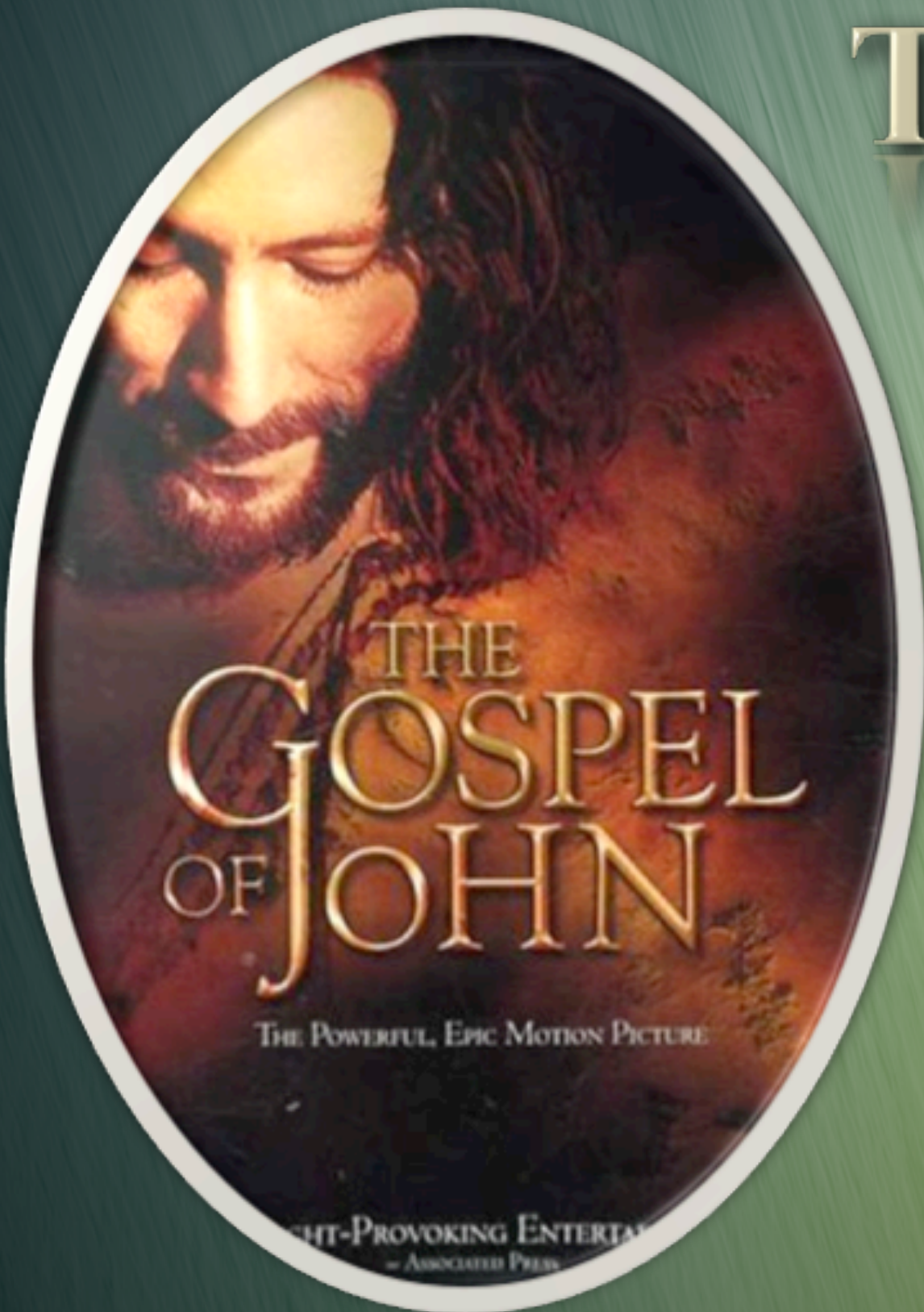
Mark 16:16 (NKJV)
¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

“Lord, who has believed our report?”

THEME

John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.



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ROMANS 10:14-21 (NKJV)

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

ROMANS 10:14-21 (NKJV)

¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. ¹⁸ But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."

ROMANS 10:14-21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation." ²⁰ But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me." ²¹ But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."