

- Kurdish groups
- Assad
- Turkey
- Other groups

TURKEY

Semalka border crossing

Gaziantep

Aleppo

SYRIA

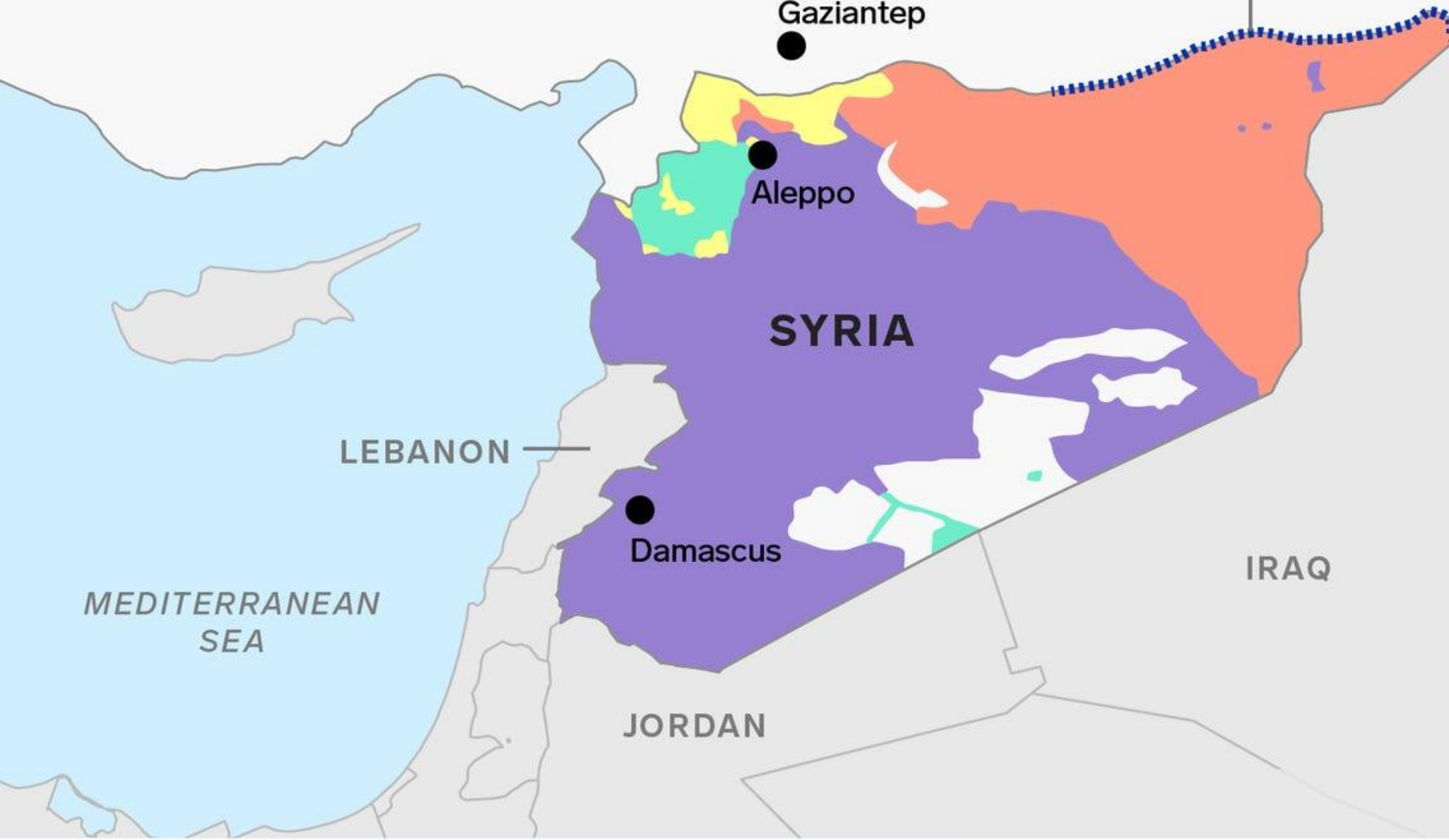
LEBANON

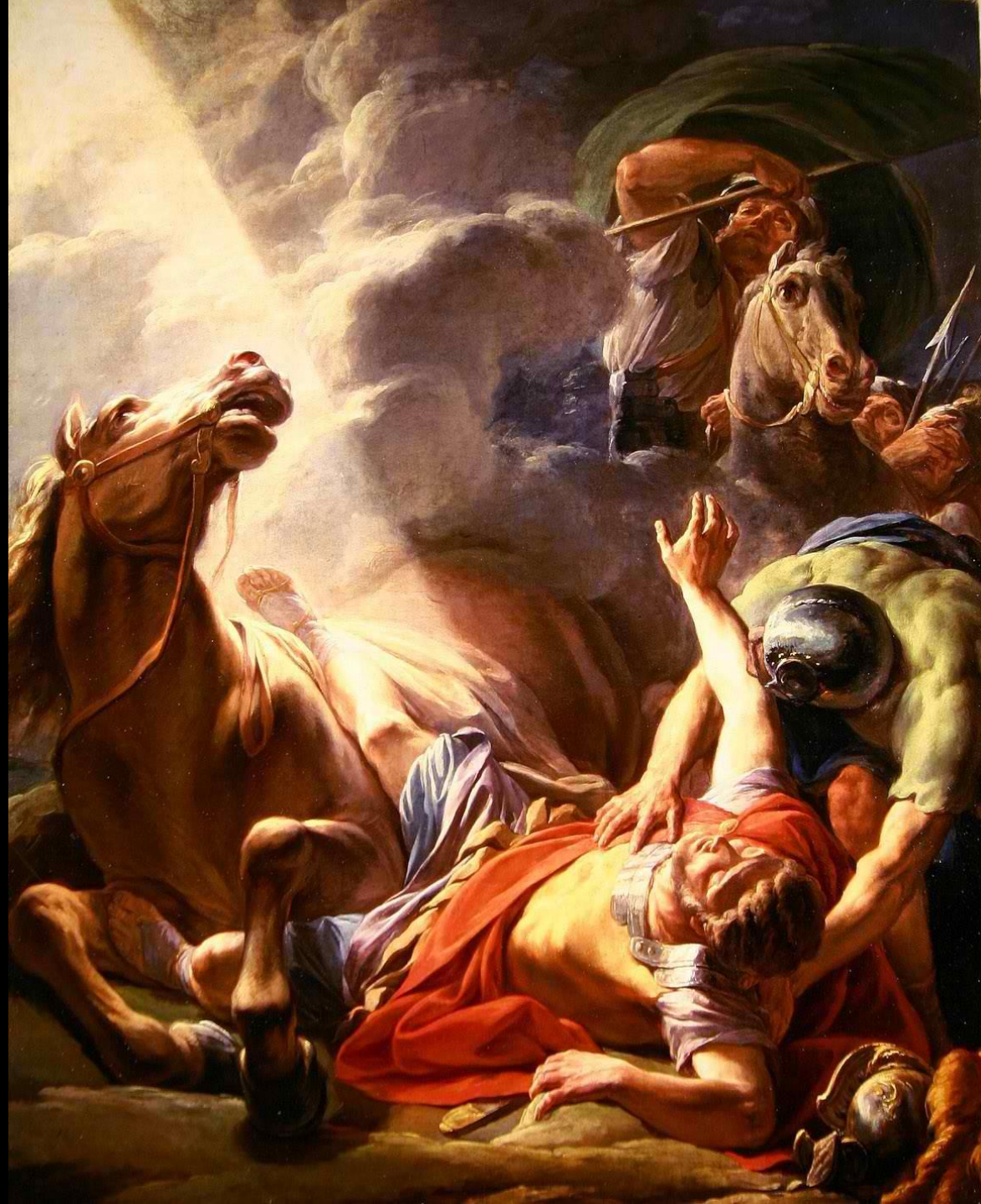
Damascus

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

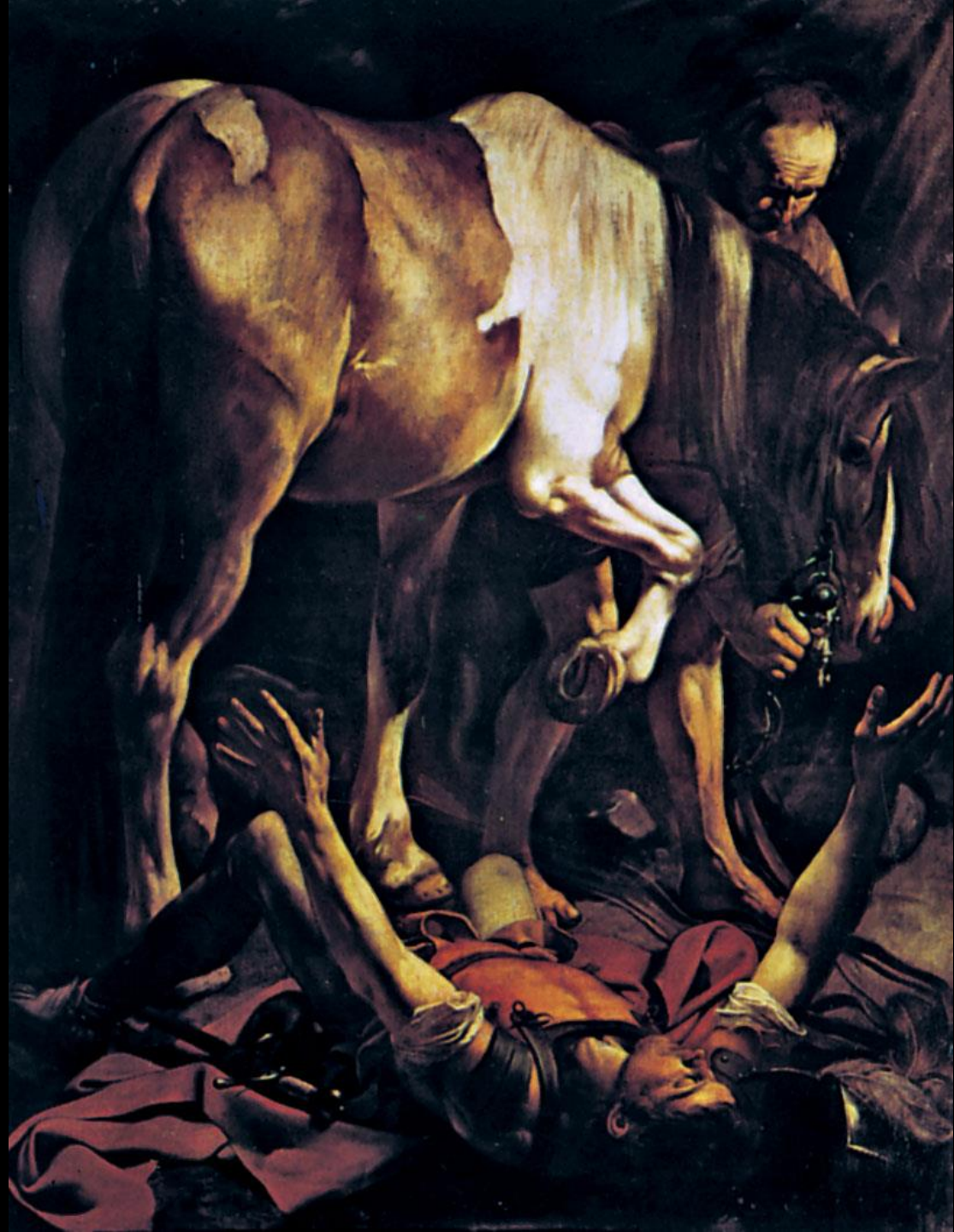
JORDAN

IRAQ













A close-up, high-resolution image of Jesus' face, focusing on the right side. The skin is a warm, golden-brown color with visible texture and fine lines. The right eye is prominent, looking slightly downwards and to the left. The hair is dark and curly, framing the face. The lighting is soft, coming from the upper right, creating a gentle glow on the forehead and cheek.

FACE TO FACE

with *Jesus*

part 7

*Persecutor to
Proclaimer*





The Power of the **of the Gospel**

Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named **Saul**.

Acts 7:58



And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem,

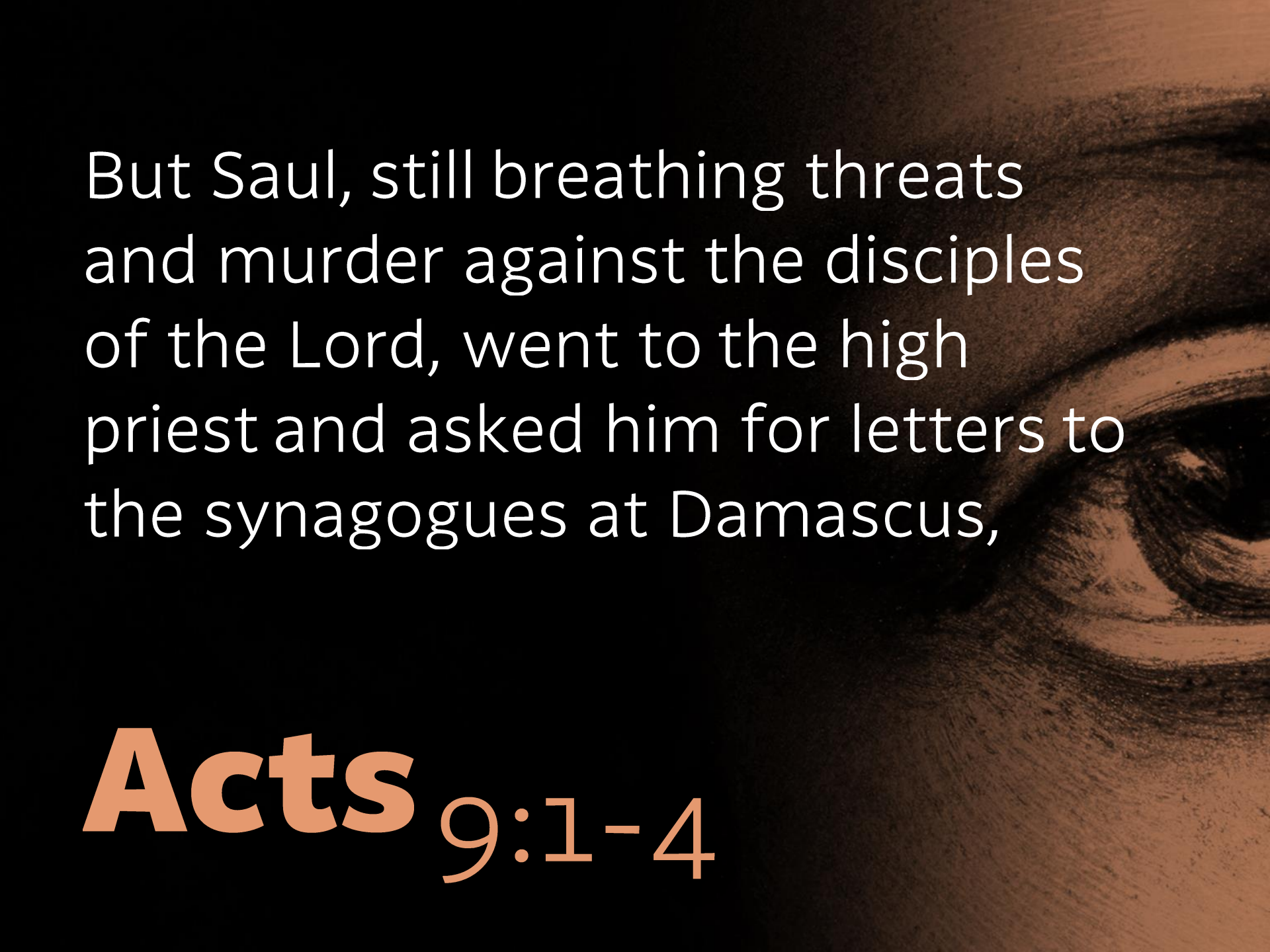
Acts 8:1-3

and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.

Acts 8:1-3

But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Acts 8:1-3



But Saul, still breathing threats
and murder against the disciples
of the Lord, went to the high
priest and asked him for letters to
the synagogues at Damascus,

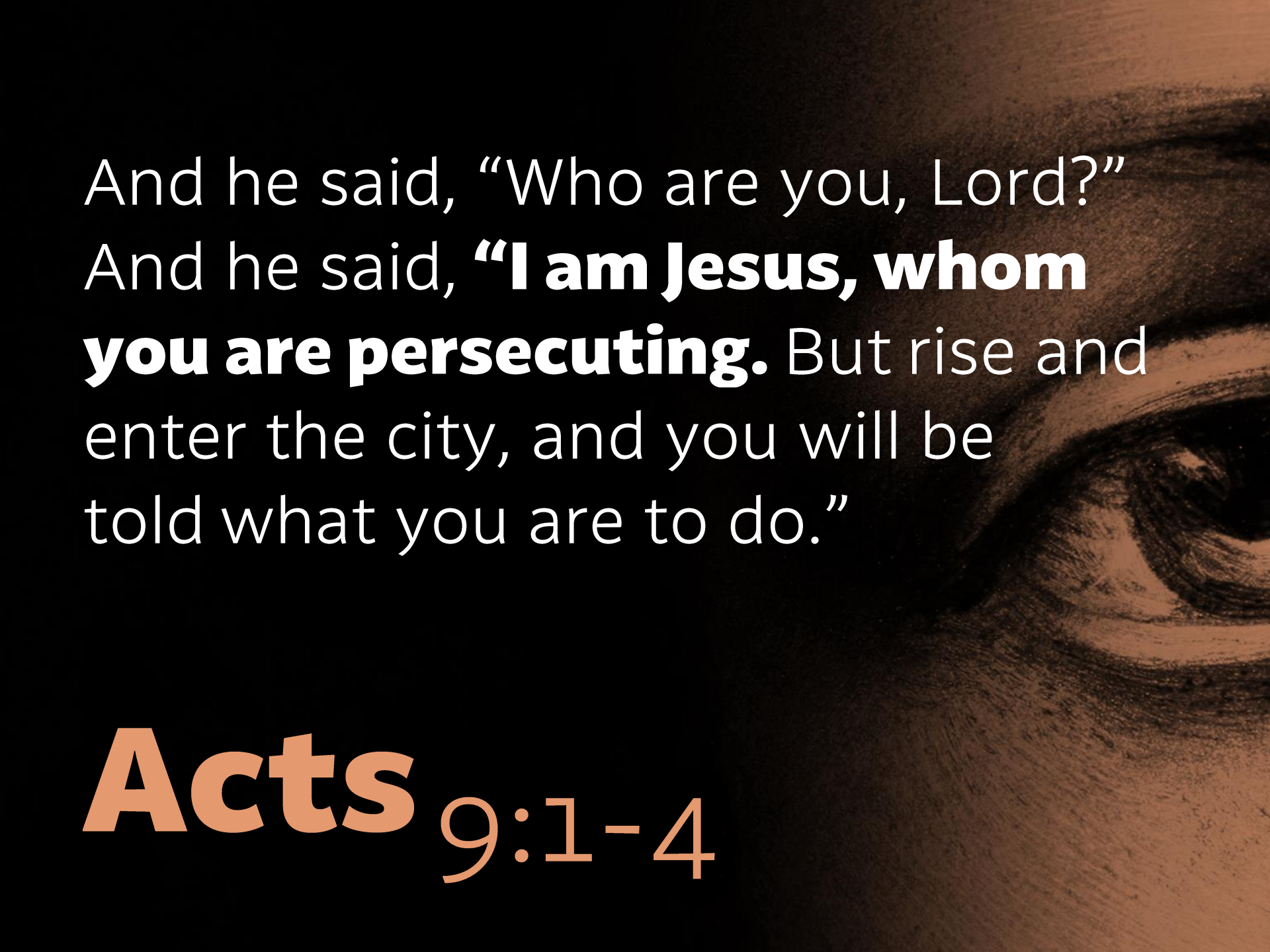
Acts 9:1-4

so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1-4

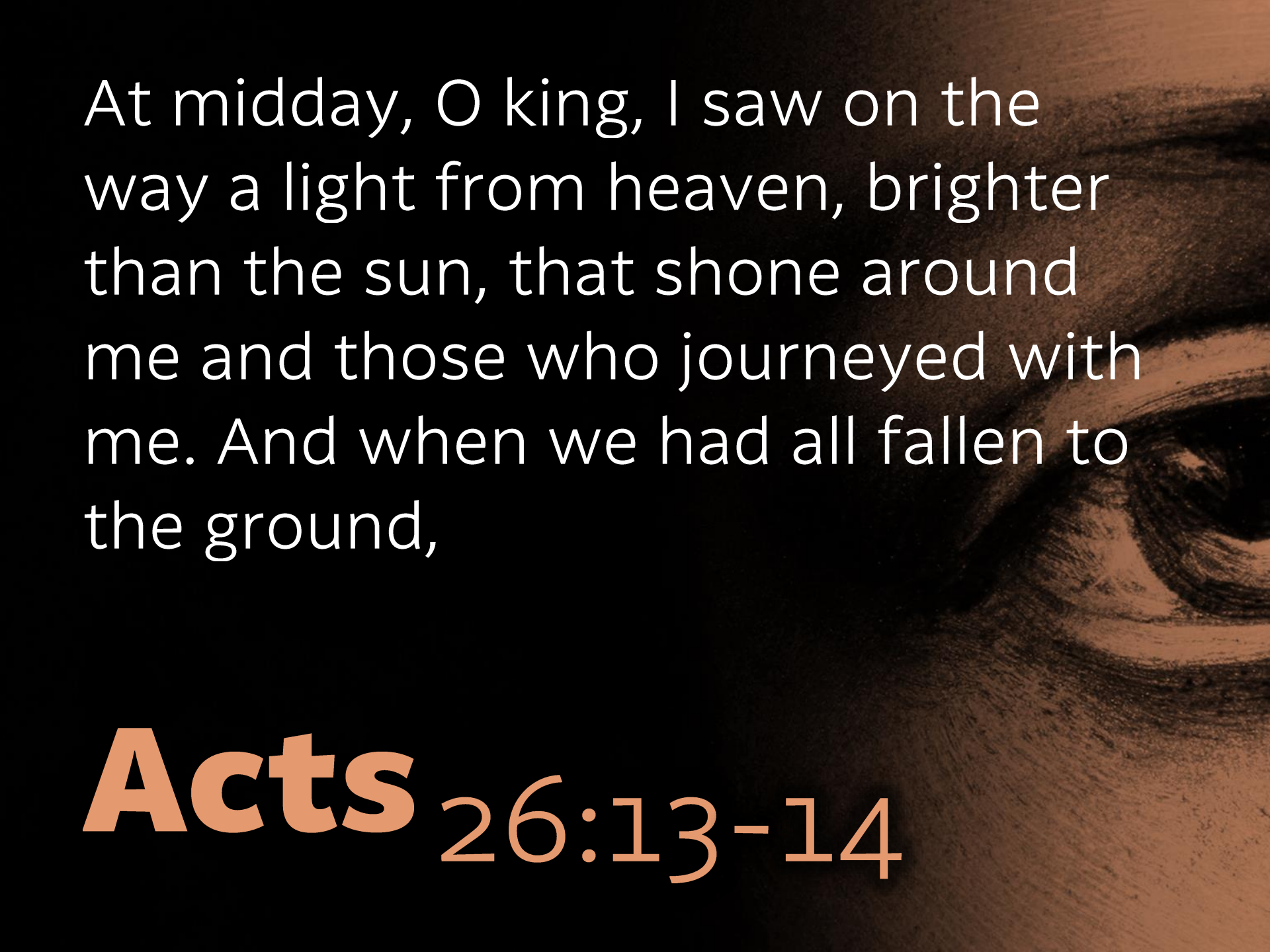
Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”**

Acts 9:1-4



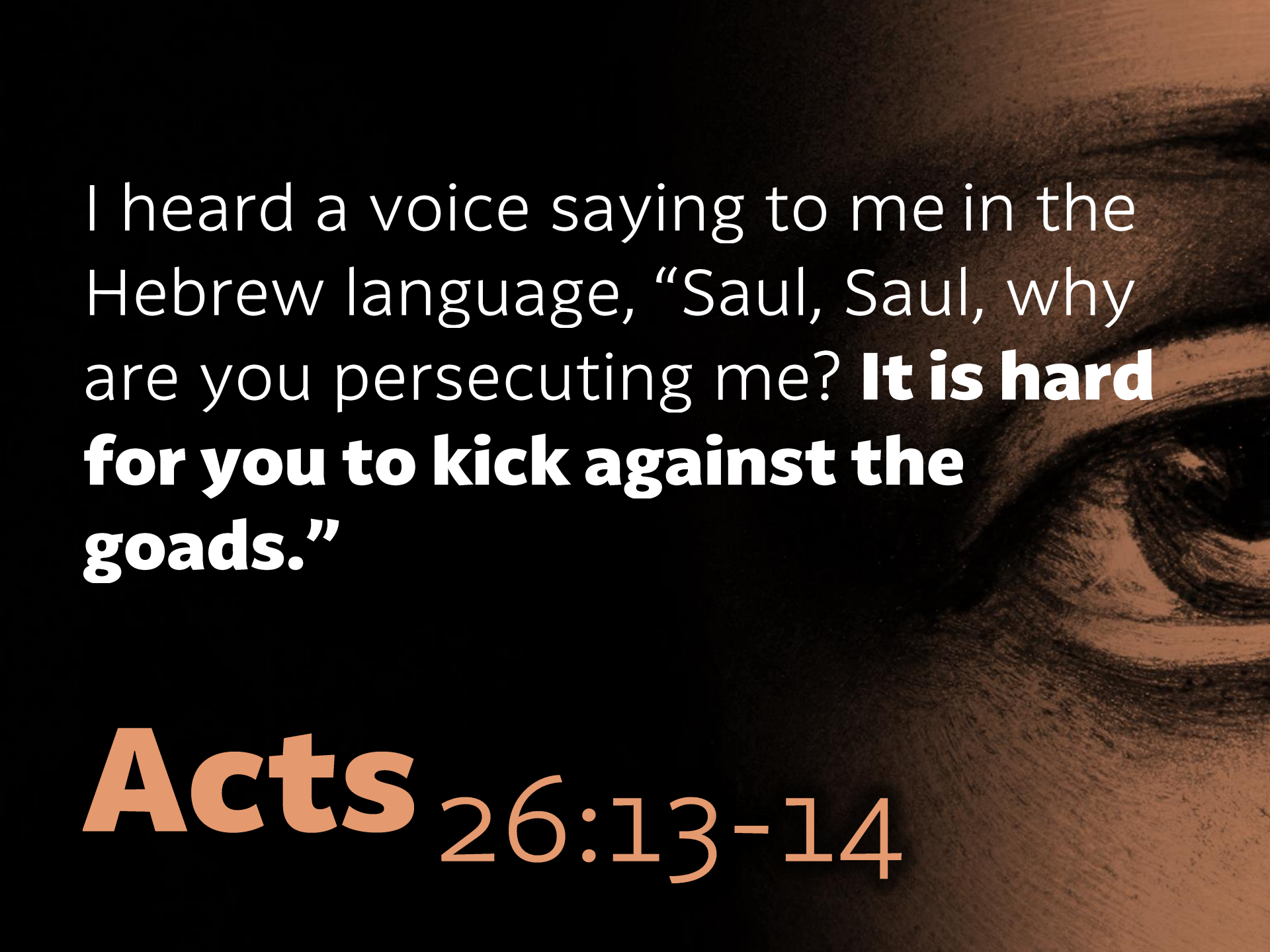
And he said, “Who are you, Lord?”
And he said, “**I am Jesus, whom
you are persecuting.** But rise and
enter the city, and you will be
told what you are to do.”

Acts 9:1-4



At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground,

Acts 26:13-14



I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? **It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**”

Acts 26:13-14

Great reversal in
Paul's life





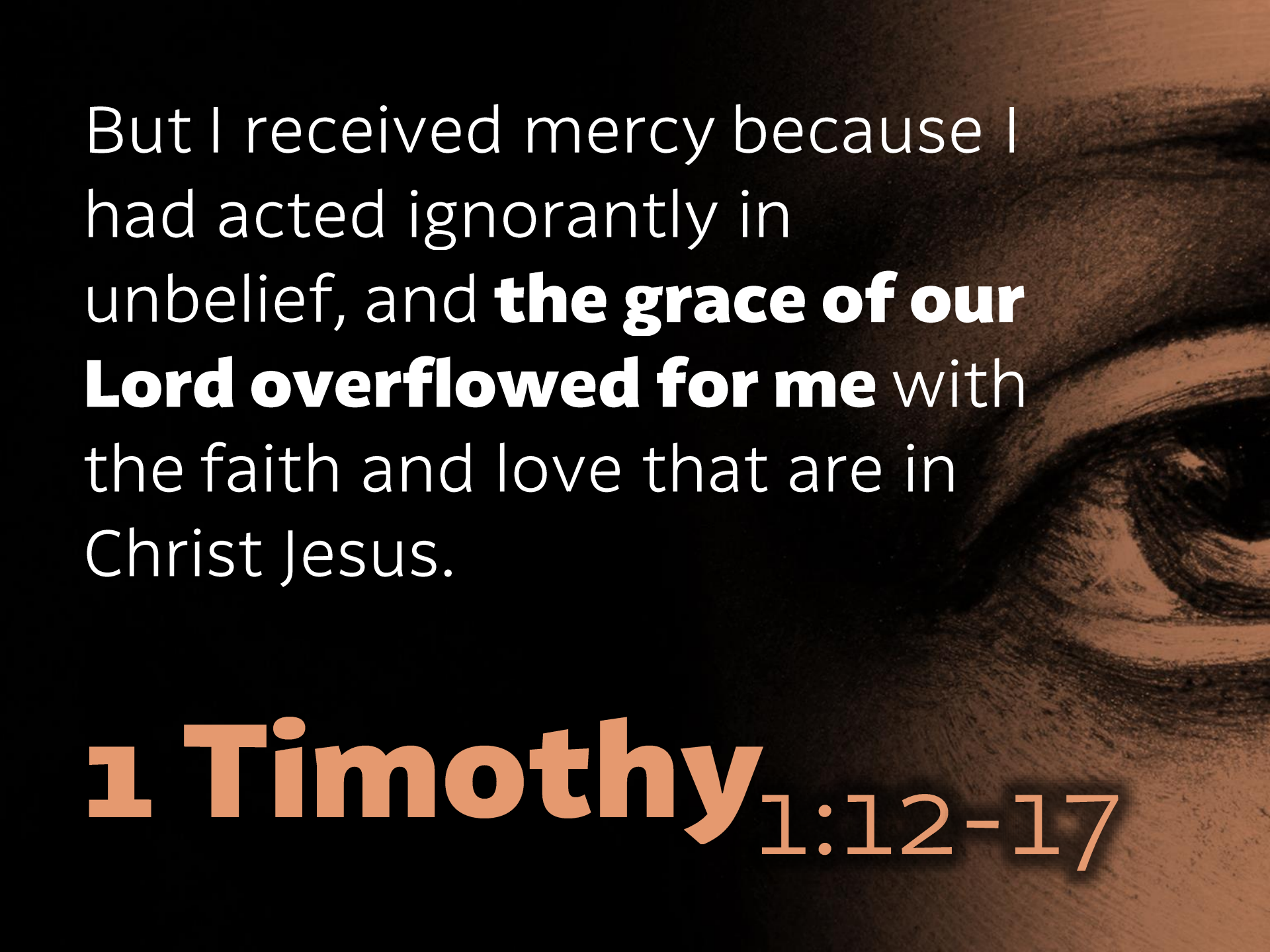
The Truth of the **of the Gospel**

A close-up, artistic photograph of a person's face, focusing on the right eye. The person has a contemplative or serene expression. The lighting is warm and directional, coming from the upper right, which highlights the texture of the skin and the details of the eye. The background is dark and out of focus.

The Depth of God's Mercy

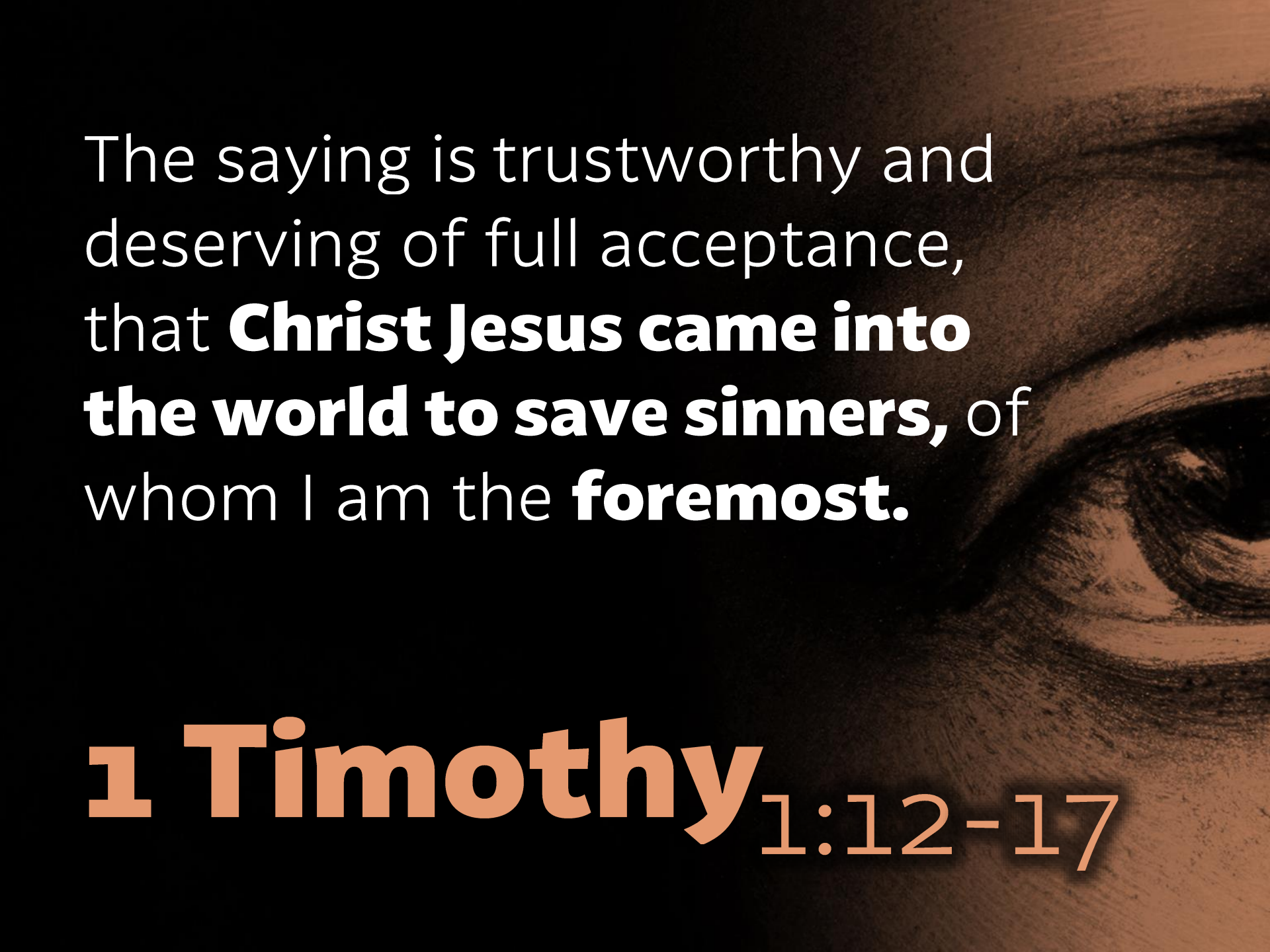
I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent.

1 Timothy_{1:12-17}



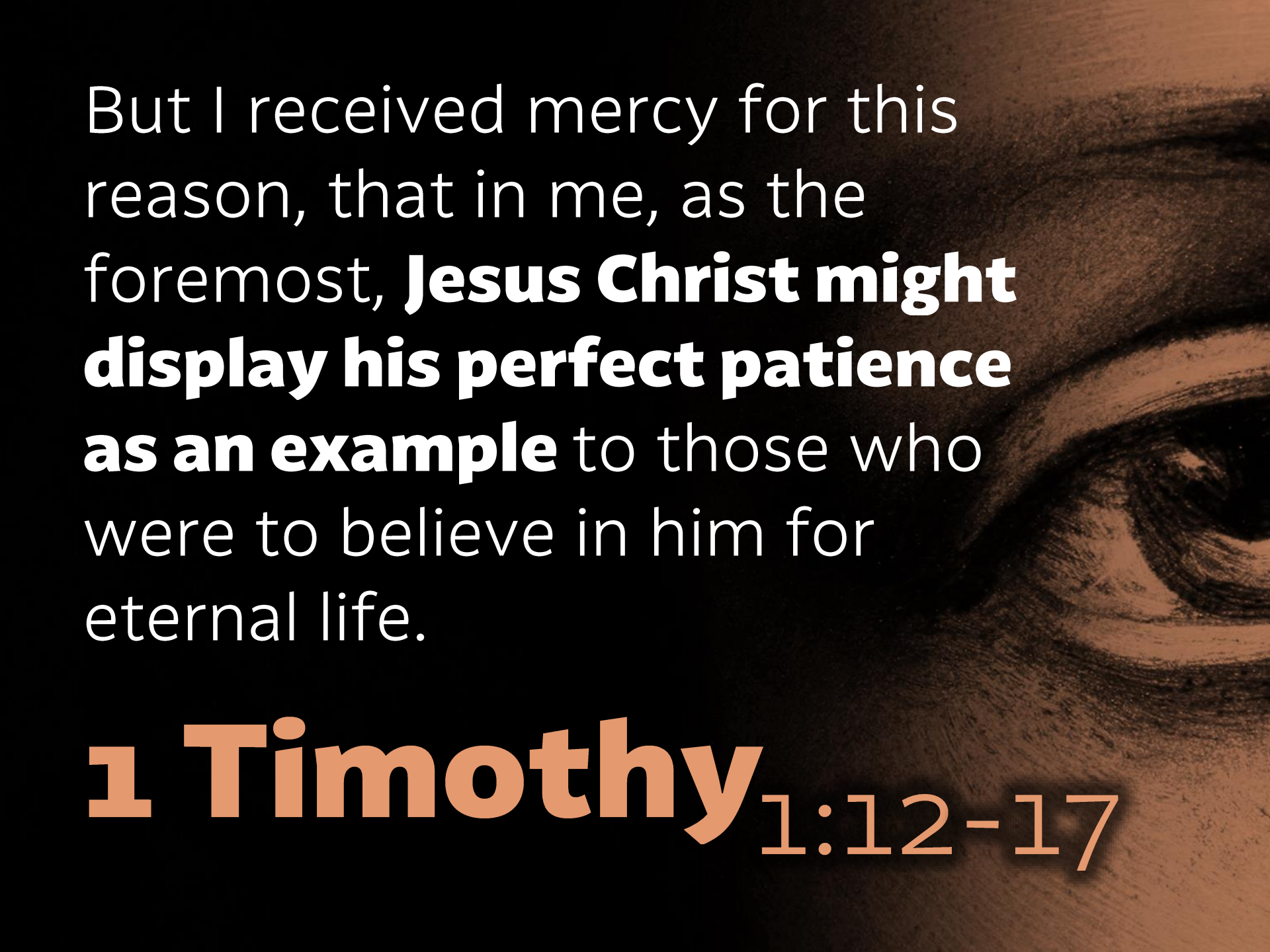
But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and **the grace of our Lord overflowed for me** with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy_{1:12-17}



The saying is trustworthy and
deserving of full acceptance,
that **Christ Jesus came into
the world to save sinners**, of
whom I am the **foremost**.

1 Timothy_{1:12-17}



But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, **Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example** to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

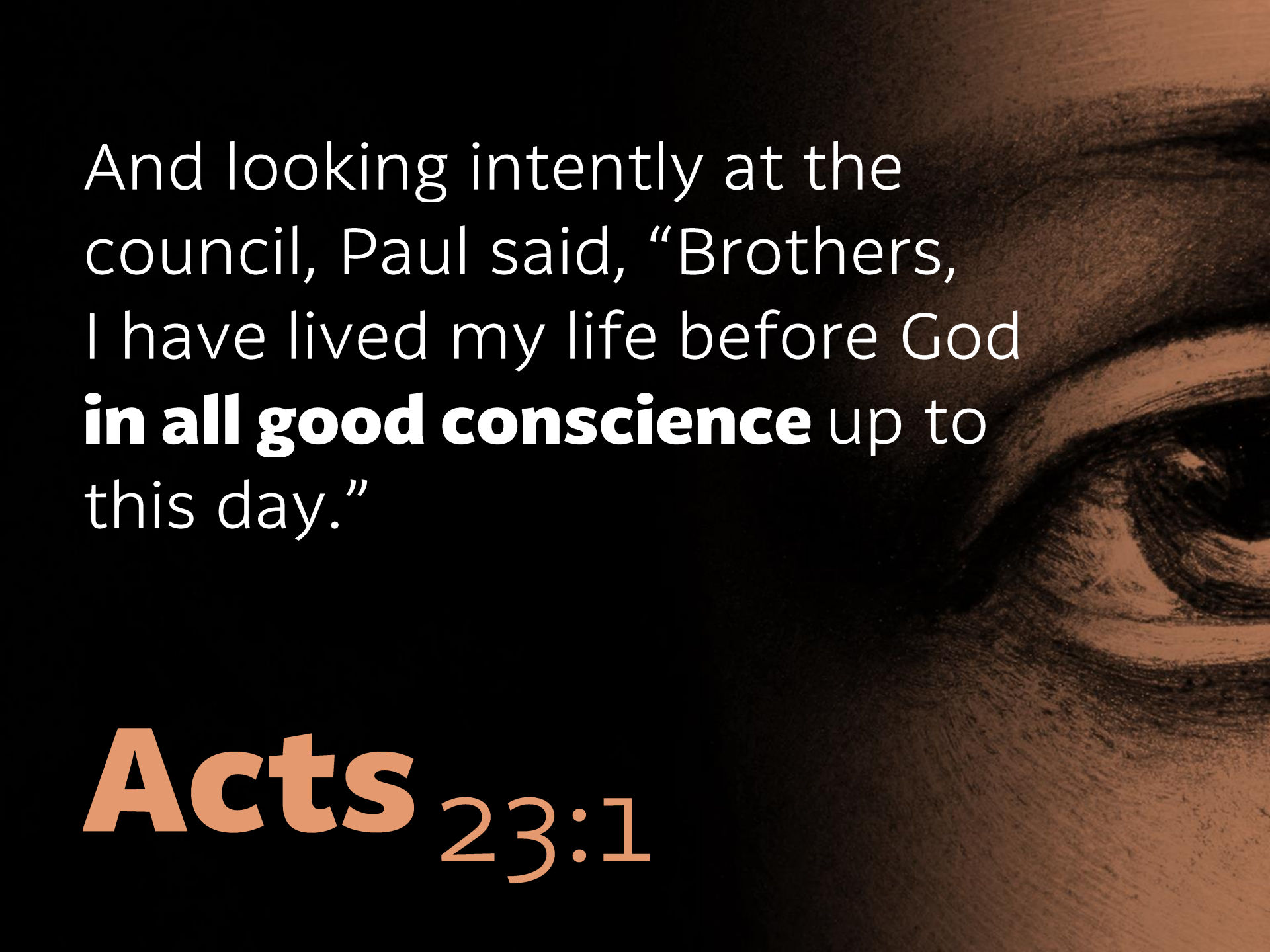
1 Timothy_{1:12-17}

To the King of the ages,
immortal, invisible, the only
God, be honor and glory
forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy_{1:12-17}

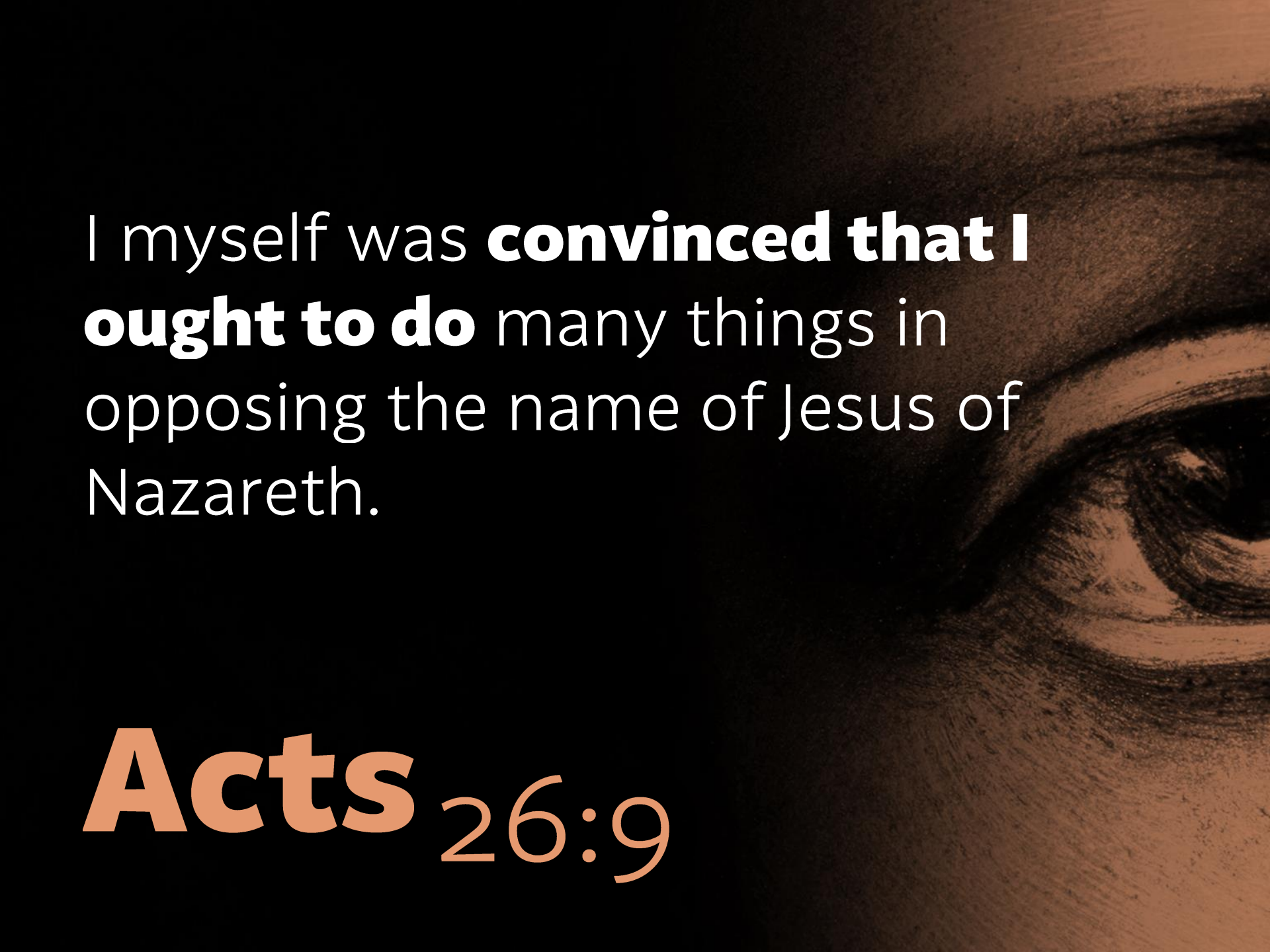


The Insufficiency of Sincerity



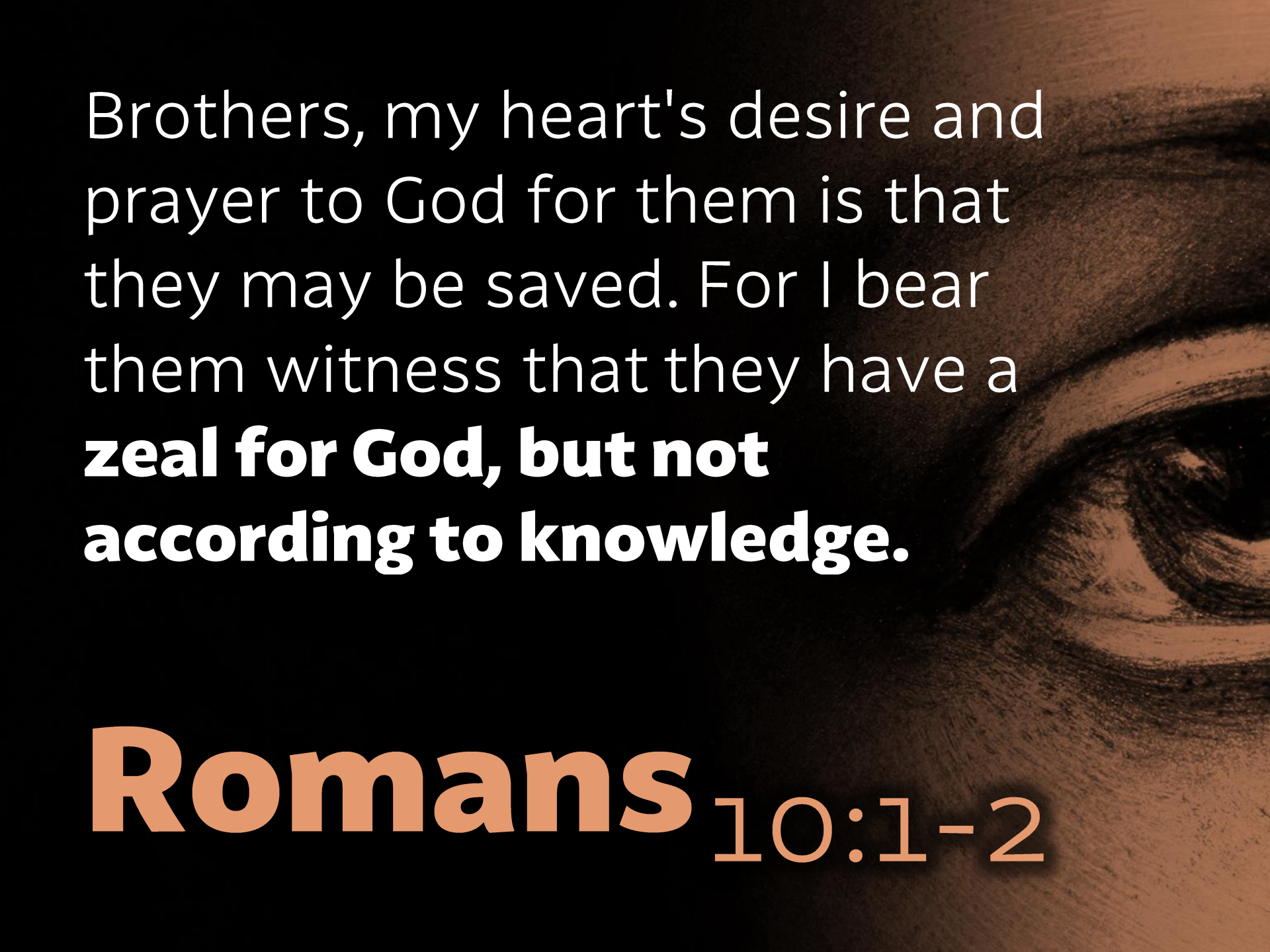
And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God **in all good conscience** up to this day.”

Acts 23:1



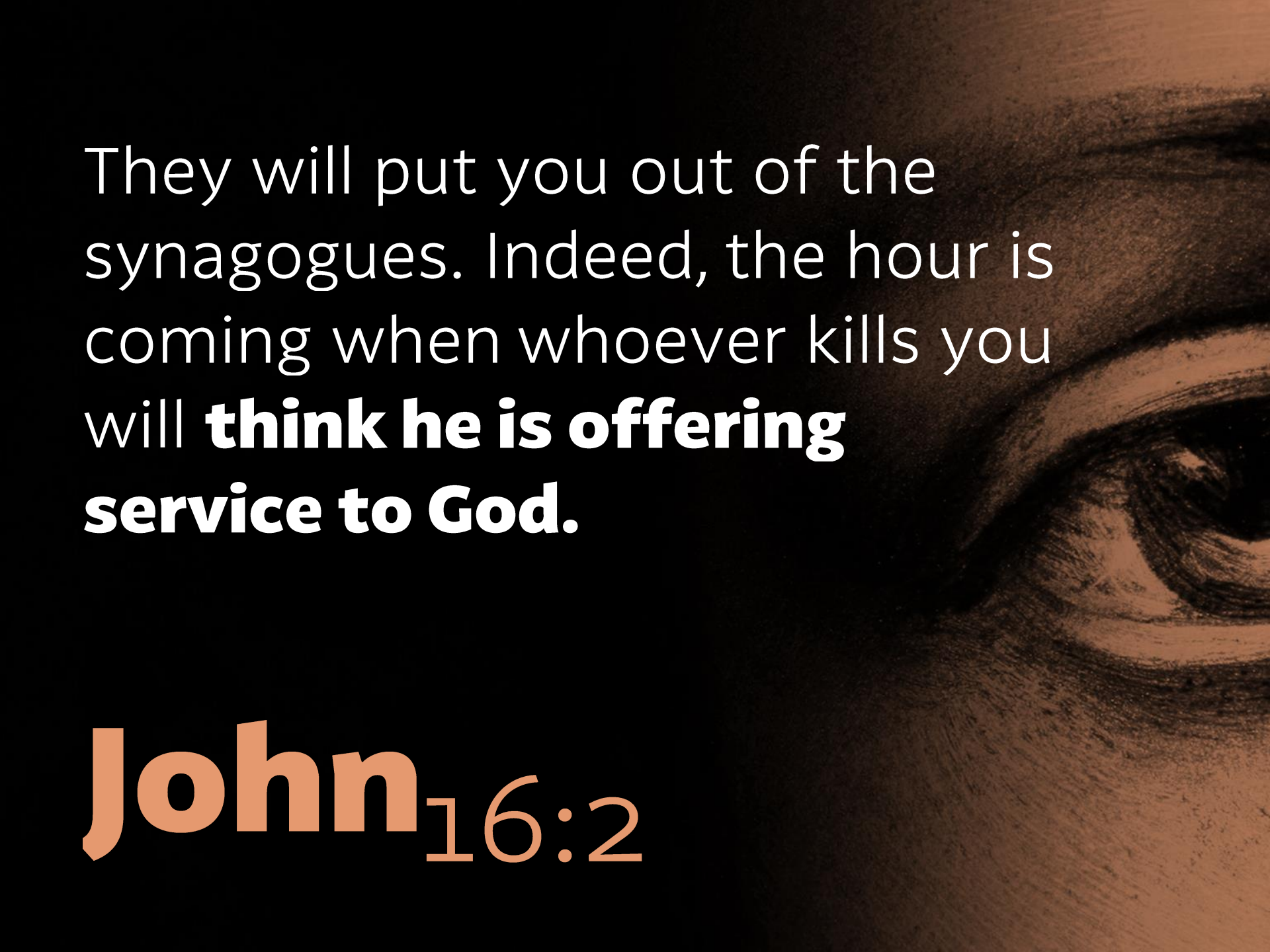
I myself was **convinced that I ought to do** many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Acts 26:9



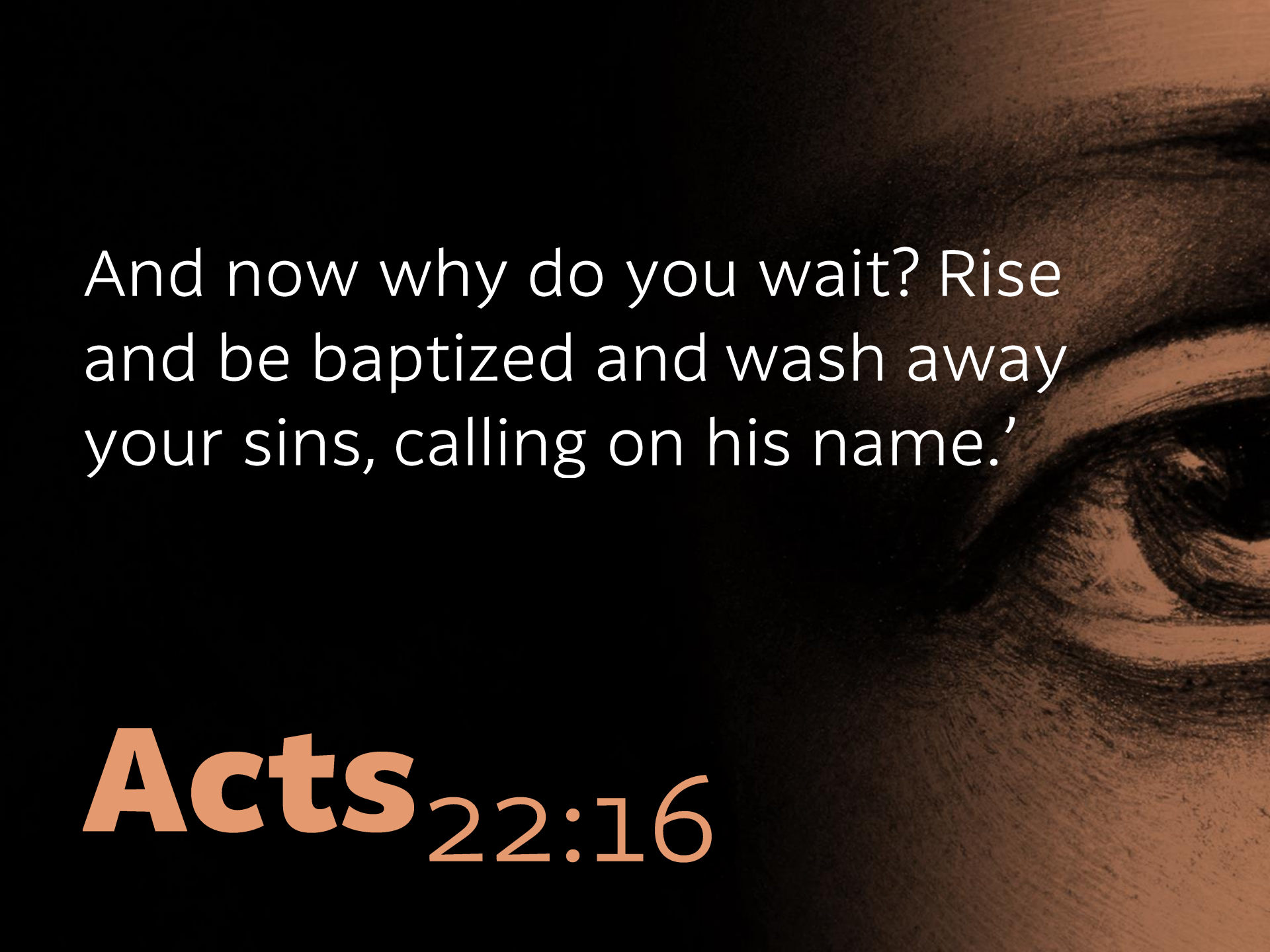
Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a **zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.**

Romans 10:1-2



They will put you out of the
synagogues. Indeed, the hour is
coming when whoever kills you
will **think he is offering
service to God.**

John_{16:2}



And now why do you wait? Rise
and be baptized and wash away
your sins, calling on his name.'

Acts_{22:16}

What about
you?



