



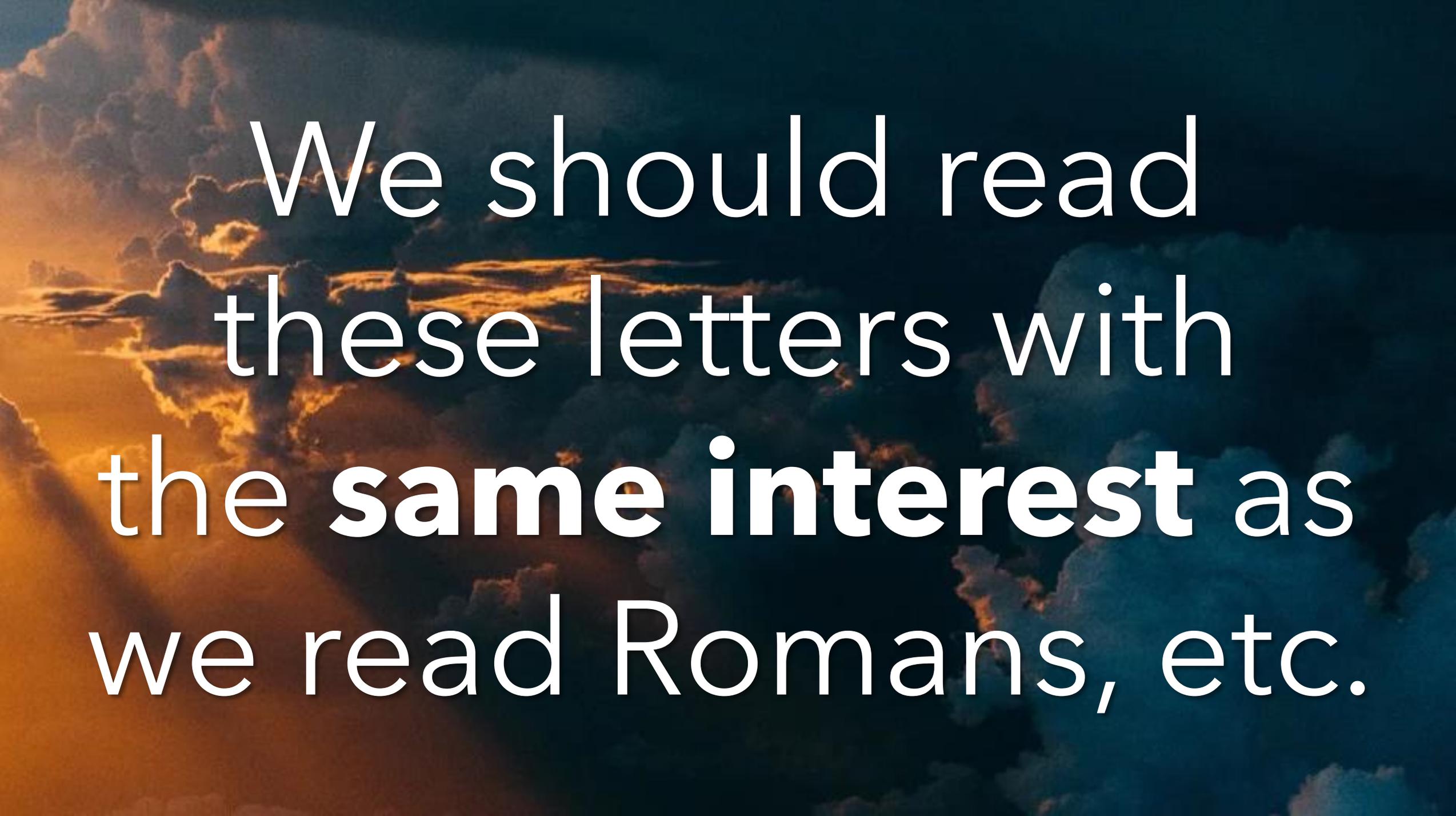
The

# REVELATION

of Jesus Christ



These “mini” letters  
**get less attention**  
than major NT letters



We should read  
these letters with  
the **same interest** as  
we read Romans, etc.

# 2 Methods of Interpretation

Historical

Prophetic

Ephesus

Apostolic  
Era

33-  
100

Smyrna

Persecuted  
Era

100-  
313

Pergamos

Comprised  
Era

313-  
590

Thyatira

Corrupt  
Era

590-  
1517

Sardis

Reformation  
Era

1517-  
1750

Philadelphia

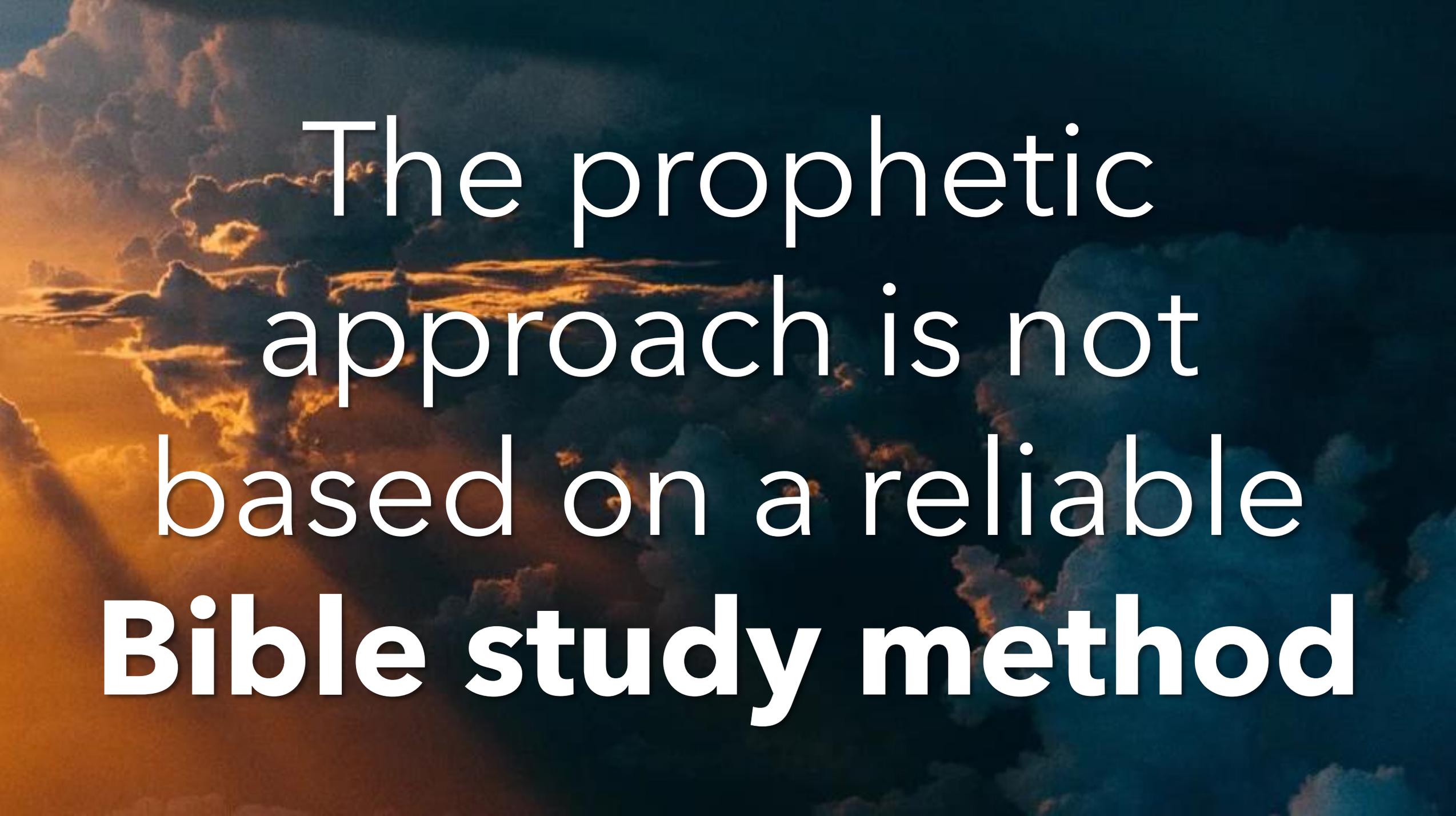
Missionary  
Era

1750-  
1900

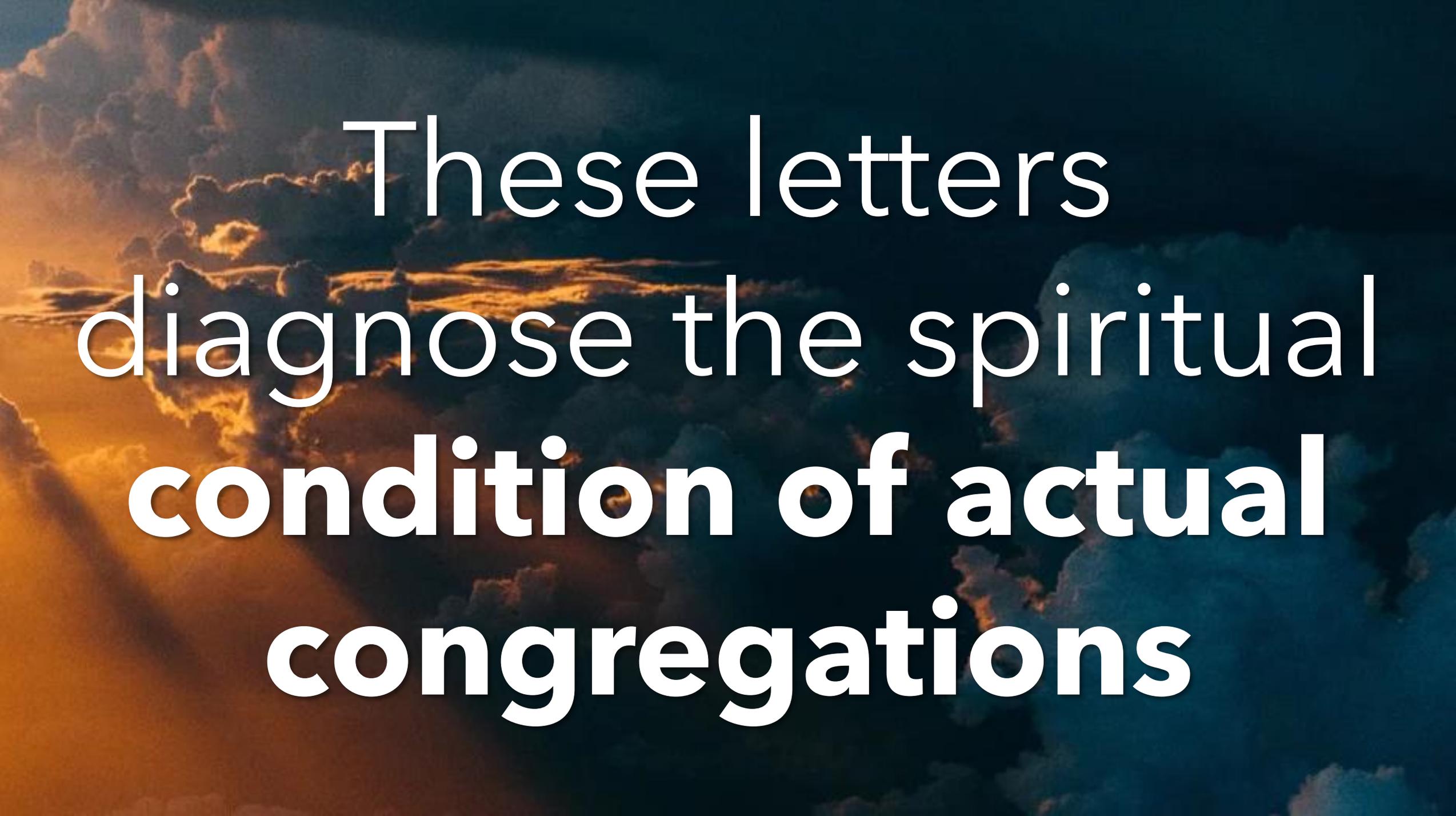
Laodicea

Lukewarm  
Era

1900-  
now



The prophetic  
approach is not  
based on a reliable  
**Bible study method**



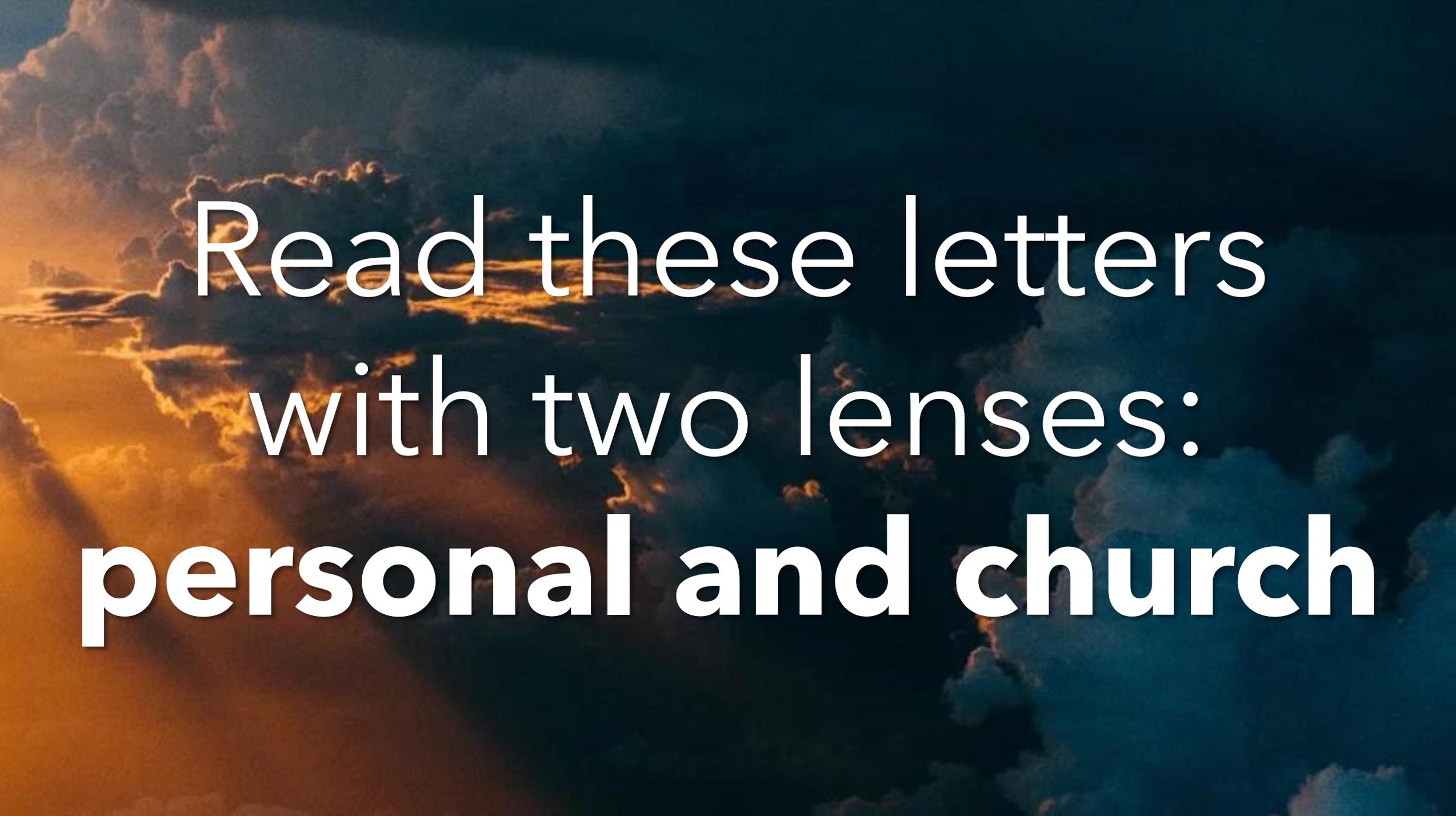
These letters  
diagnose the spiritual  
**condition of actual  
congregations**



What we can learn as  
a church in our own  
**present condition?**



What we can learn as  
**individual followers**  
**of Christ?**



Read these letters  
with two lenses:  
**personal and church**

An **introduction** to the messenger & church

A white downward-pointing arrow with a black outline, centered between the first and second text boxes.

A **description** of Christ

A white downward-pointing arrow with a black outline, centered between the second and third text boxes.

An **assessment** of the church's spiritual condition

A white downward-pointing arrow with a black outline, centered between the third and fourth text boxes.

A **promise** of personal blessing



## Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



# Introduction

Messenger

Church

# Description of Christ

"These things says"

Details  
from John's  
vision

"I know  
your works"

# **Assessment of Spiritual Condition**

Positive  
qualities

Negative  
qualities

# **A Promise of Personal Blessing**

Universal  
appeal

Reward for  
believers

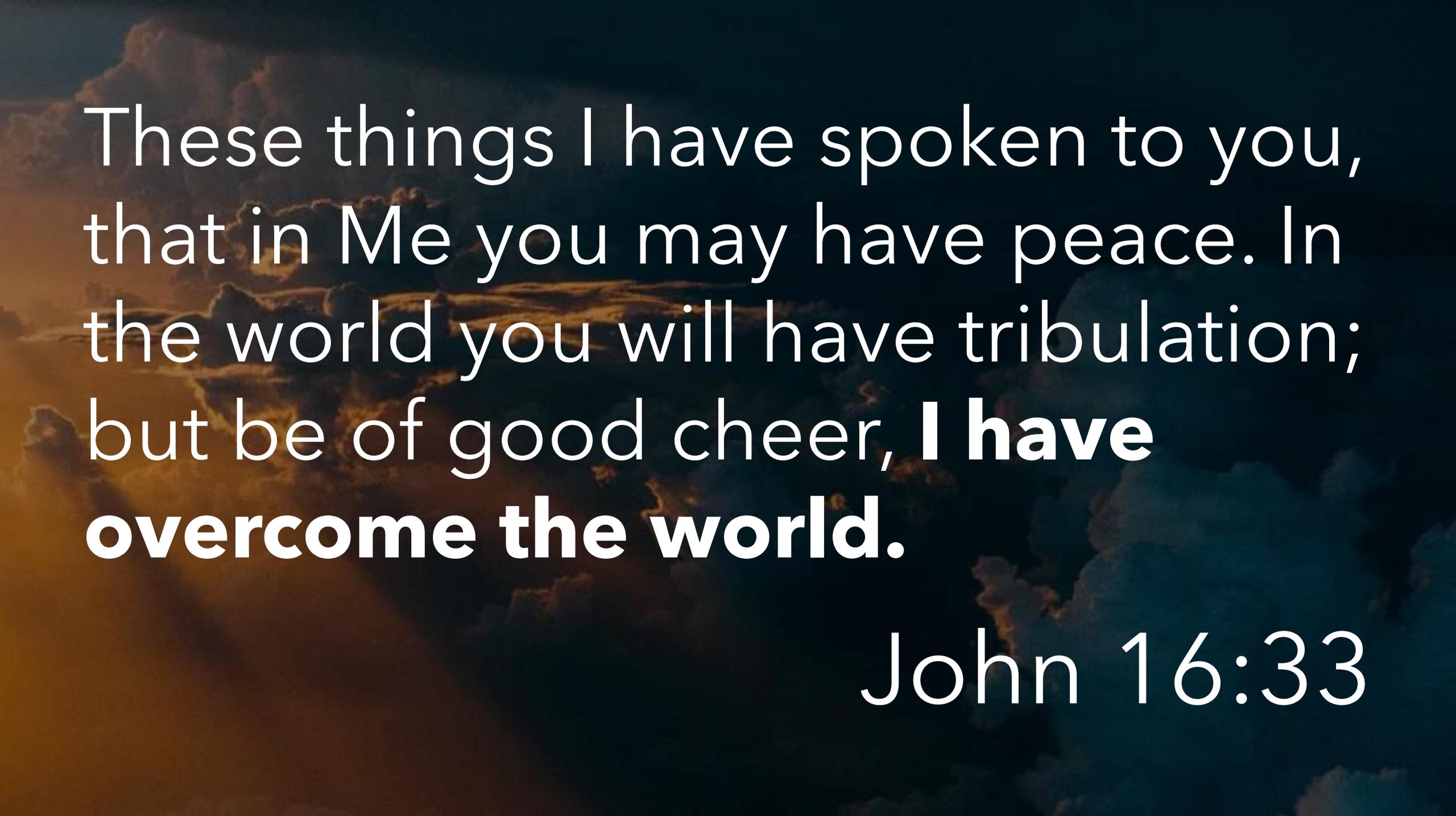


Who is an  
**overcomer?**

Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

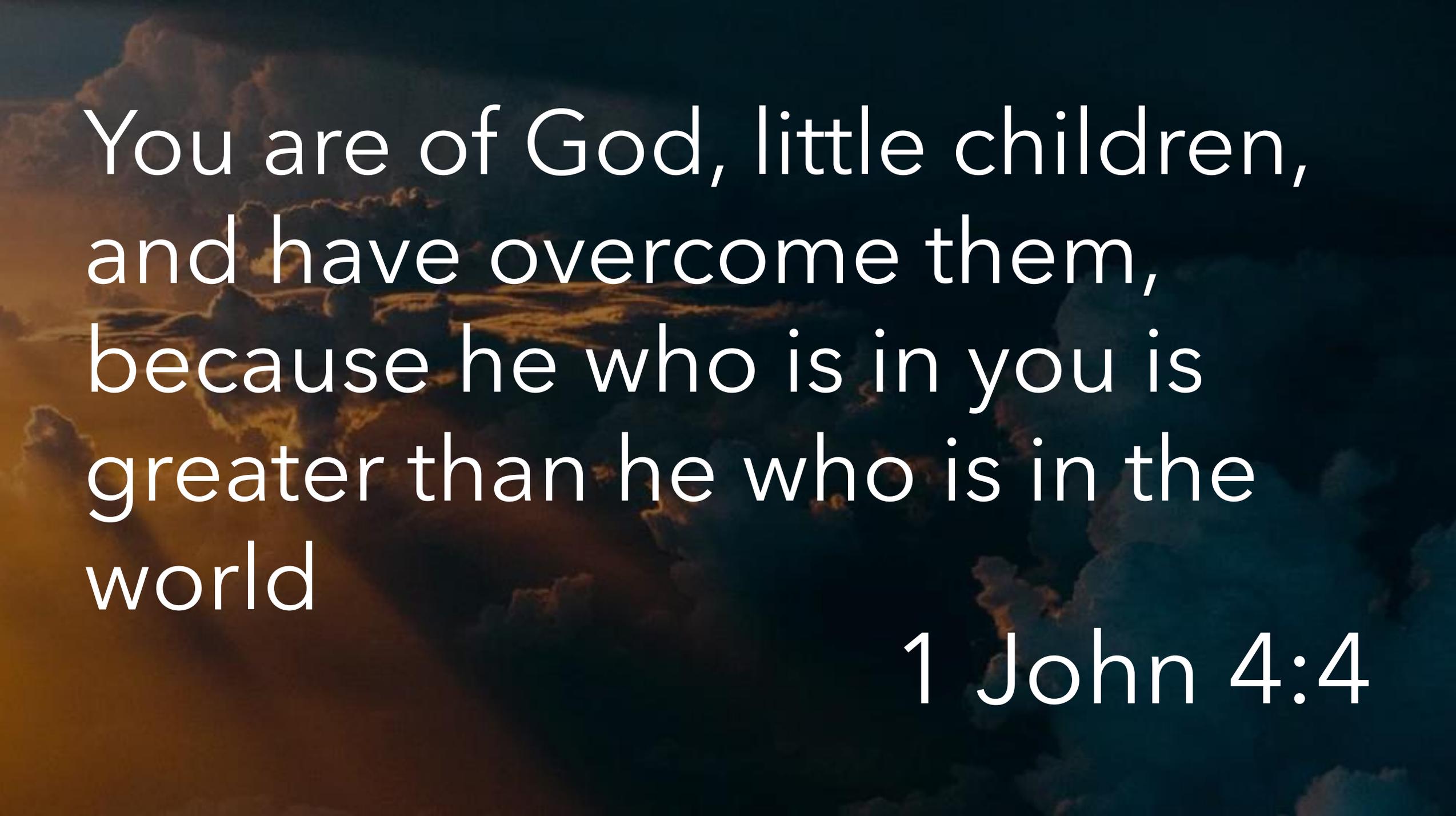
Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5



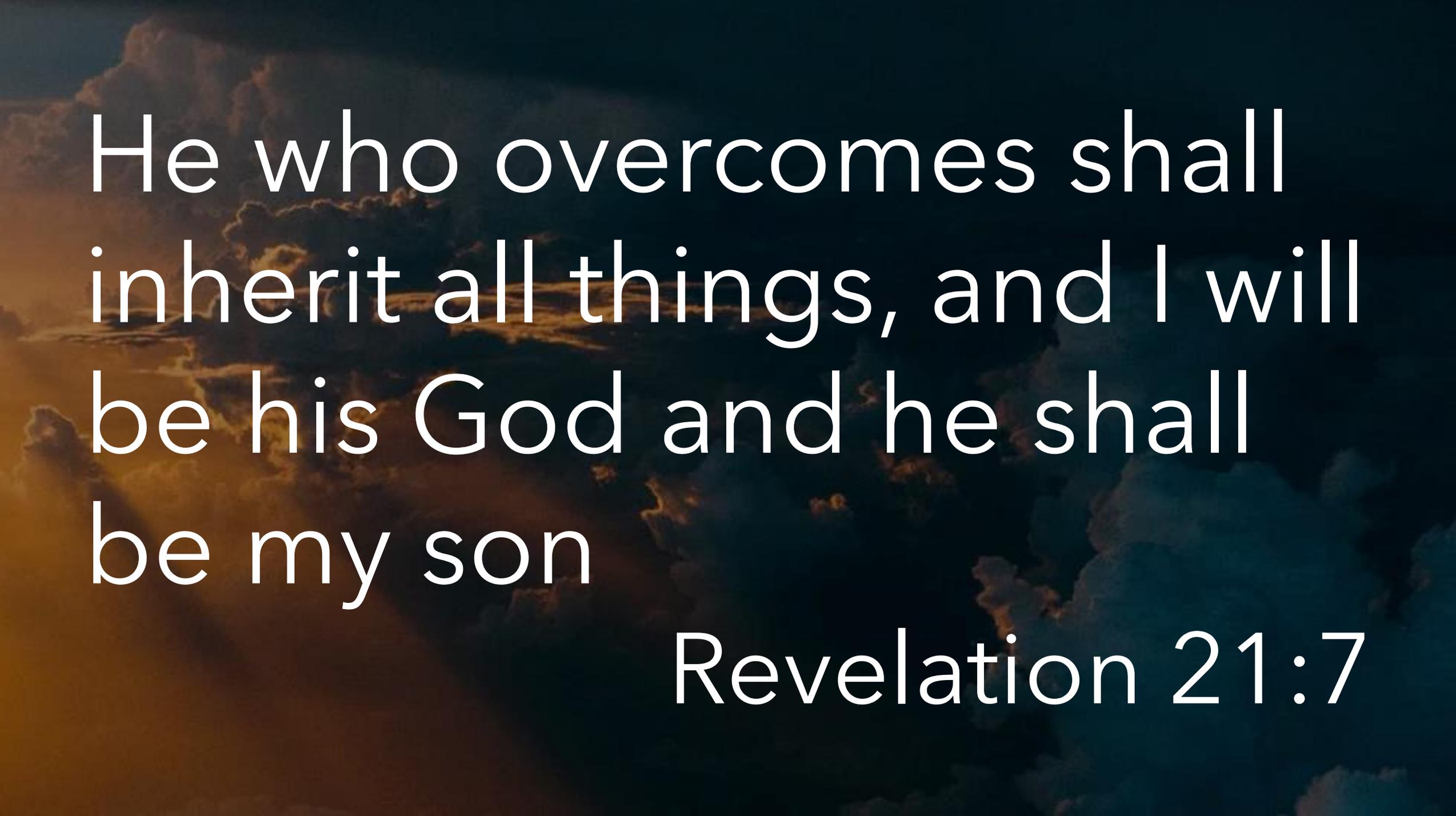
These things I have spoken to you,  
that in Me you may have peace. In  
the world you will have tribulation;  
but be of good cheer, **I have  
overcome the world.**

John 16:33



You are of God, little children,  
and have overcome them,  
because he who is in you is  
greater than he who is in the  
world

1 John 4:4

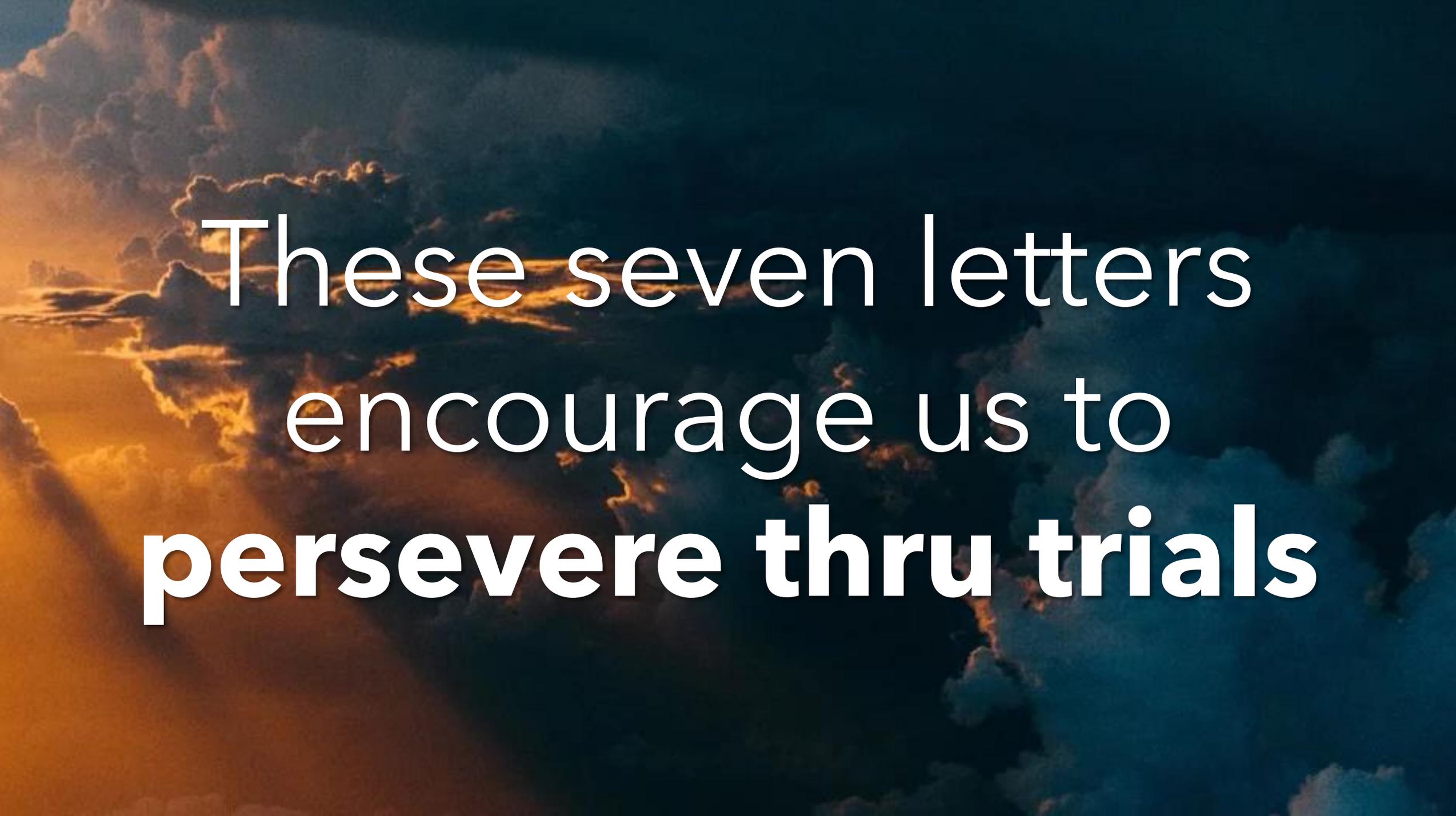


He who overcomes shall  
inherit all things, and I will  
be his God and he shall  
be my son

Revelation 21:7



Who is an  
**overcomer?**



These seven letters  
encourage us to  
**persevere thru trials**