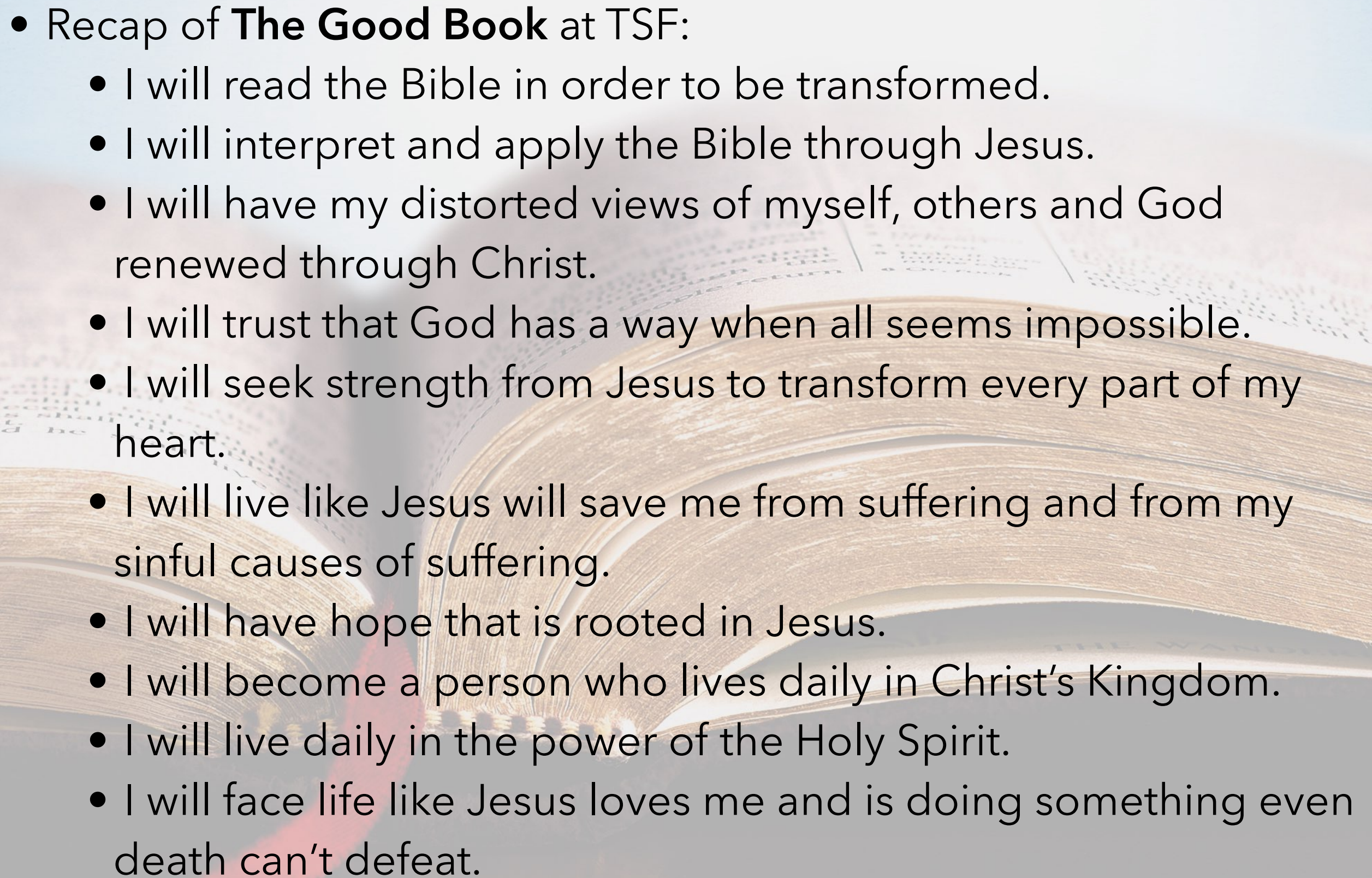
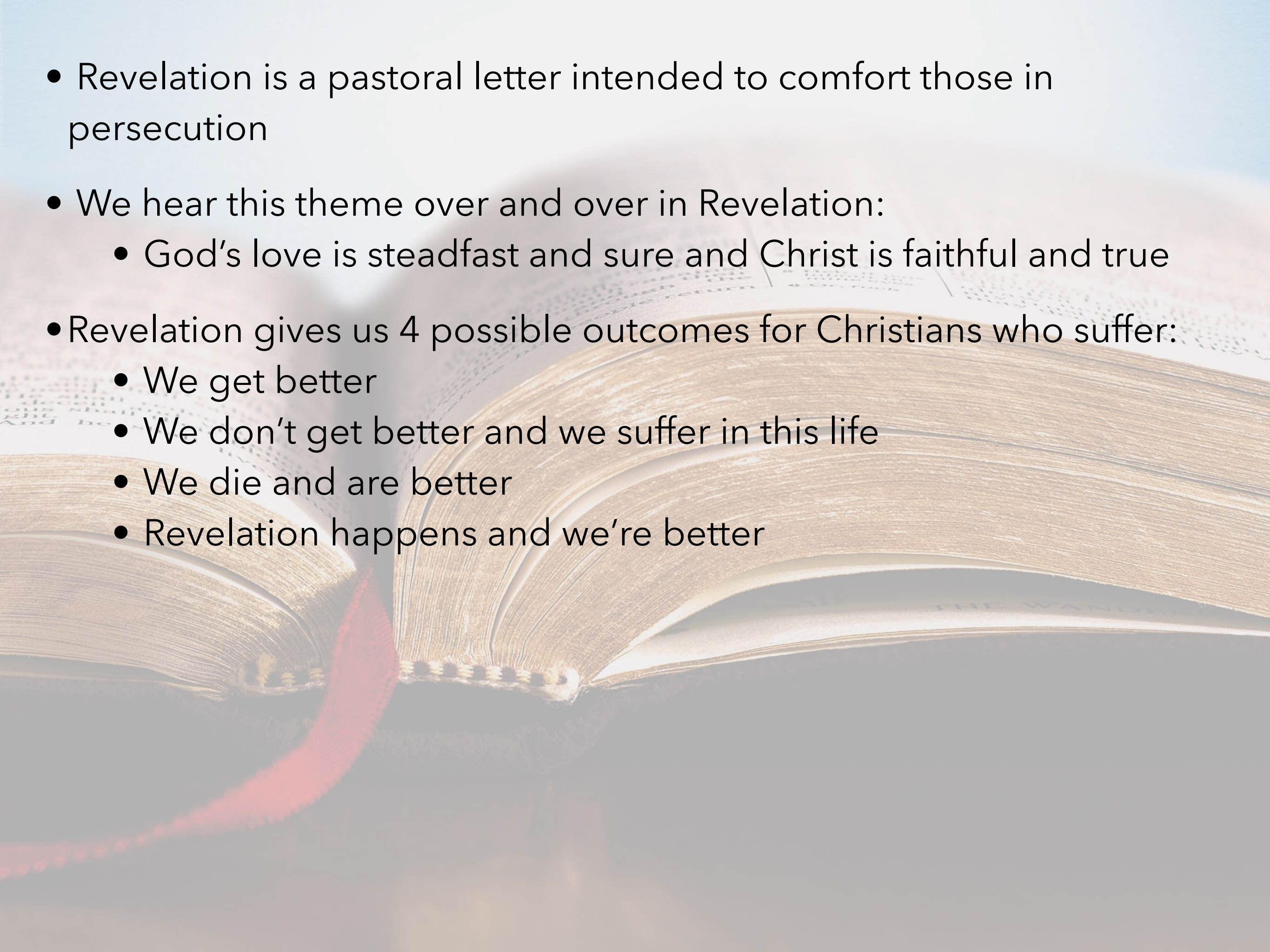


The Good Book



- 
- Recap of **The Good Book** at TSF:
 - I will read the Bible in order to be transformed.
 - I will interpret and apply the Bible through Jesus.
 - I will have my distorted views of myself, others and God renewed through Christ.
 - I will trust that God has a way when all seems impossible.
 - I will seek strength from Jesus to transform every part of my heart.
 - I will live like Jesus will save me from suffering and from my sinful causes of suffering.
 - I will have hope that is rooted in Jesus.
 - I will become a person who lives daily in Christ's Kingdom.
 - I will live daily in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - I will face life like Jesus loves me and is doing something even death can't defeat.

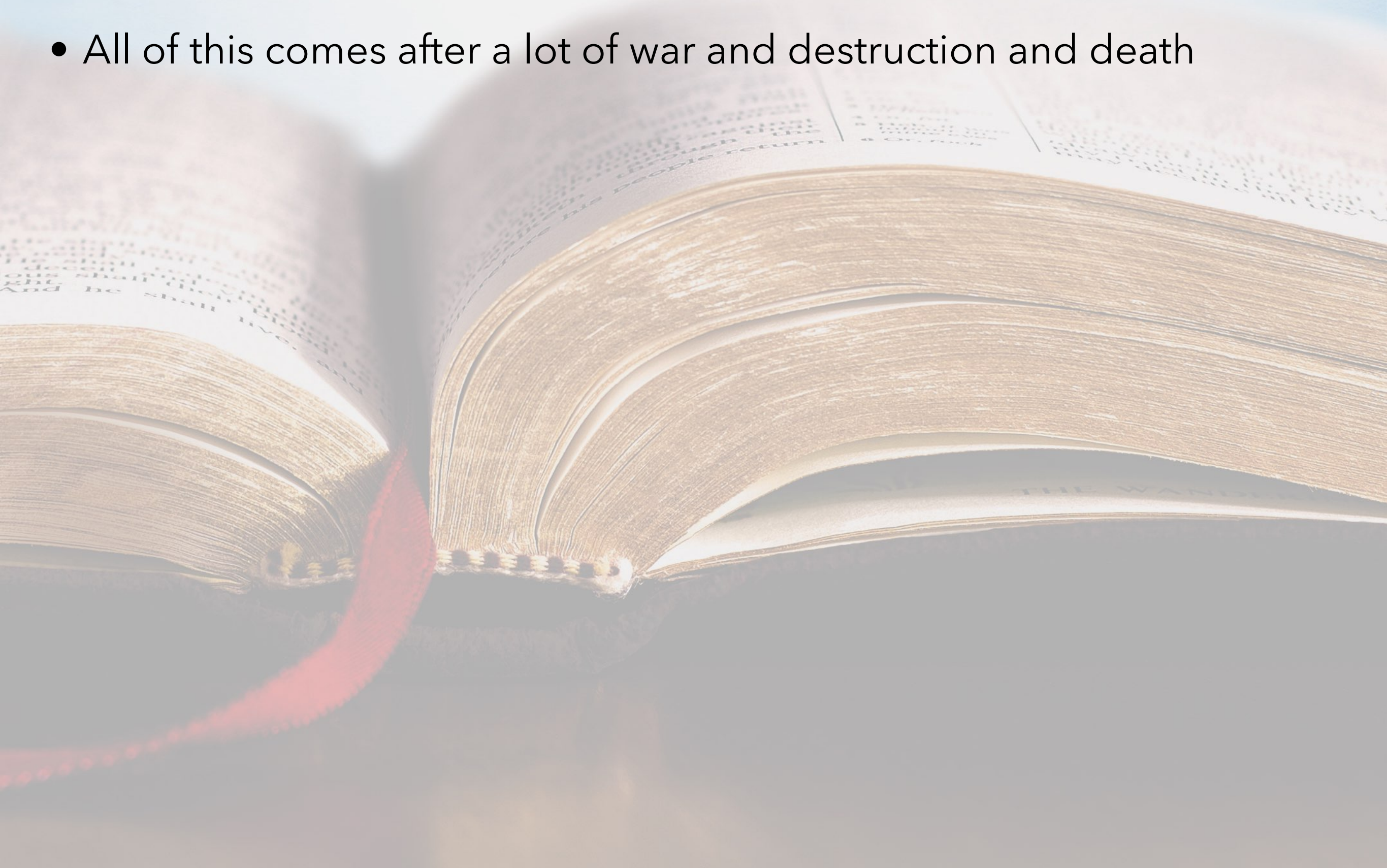
- 
- Revelation is a pastoral letter intended to comfort those in persecution
 - We hear this theme over and over in Revelation:
 - God's love is steadfast and sure and Christ is faithful and true
 - Revelation gives us 4 possible outcomes for Christians who suffer:
 - We get better
 - We don't get better and we suffer in this life
 - We die and are better
 - Revelation happens and we're better

Revelation 21:1-5

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

- The point of all history is Jesus
 - The point of your story is culminating in Christ!
- All of this comes after a lot of war and destruction and death



Revelation 19:11-21

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

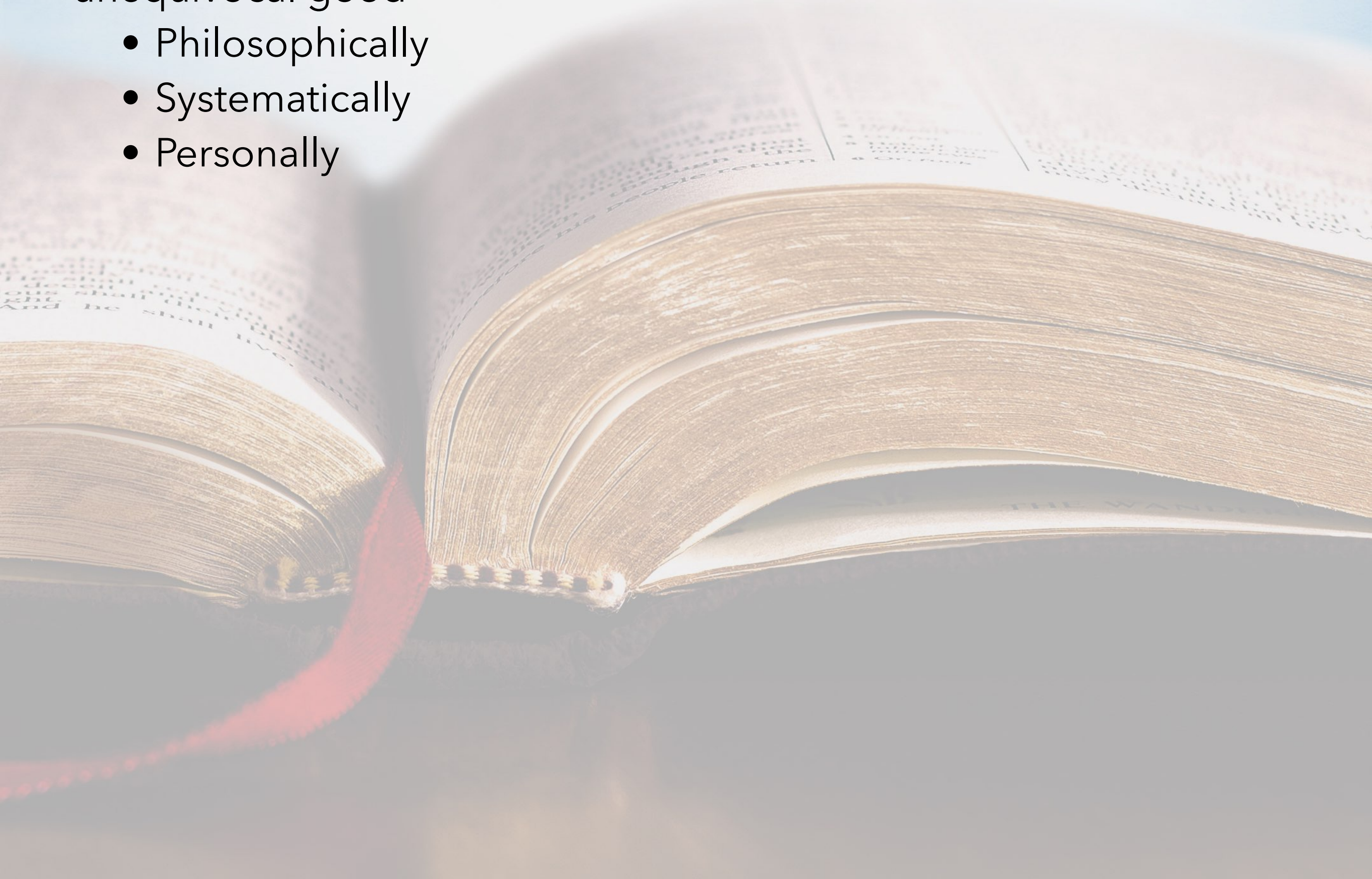
17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

Revelation 19:11-21 (continued)

19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

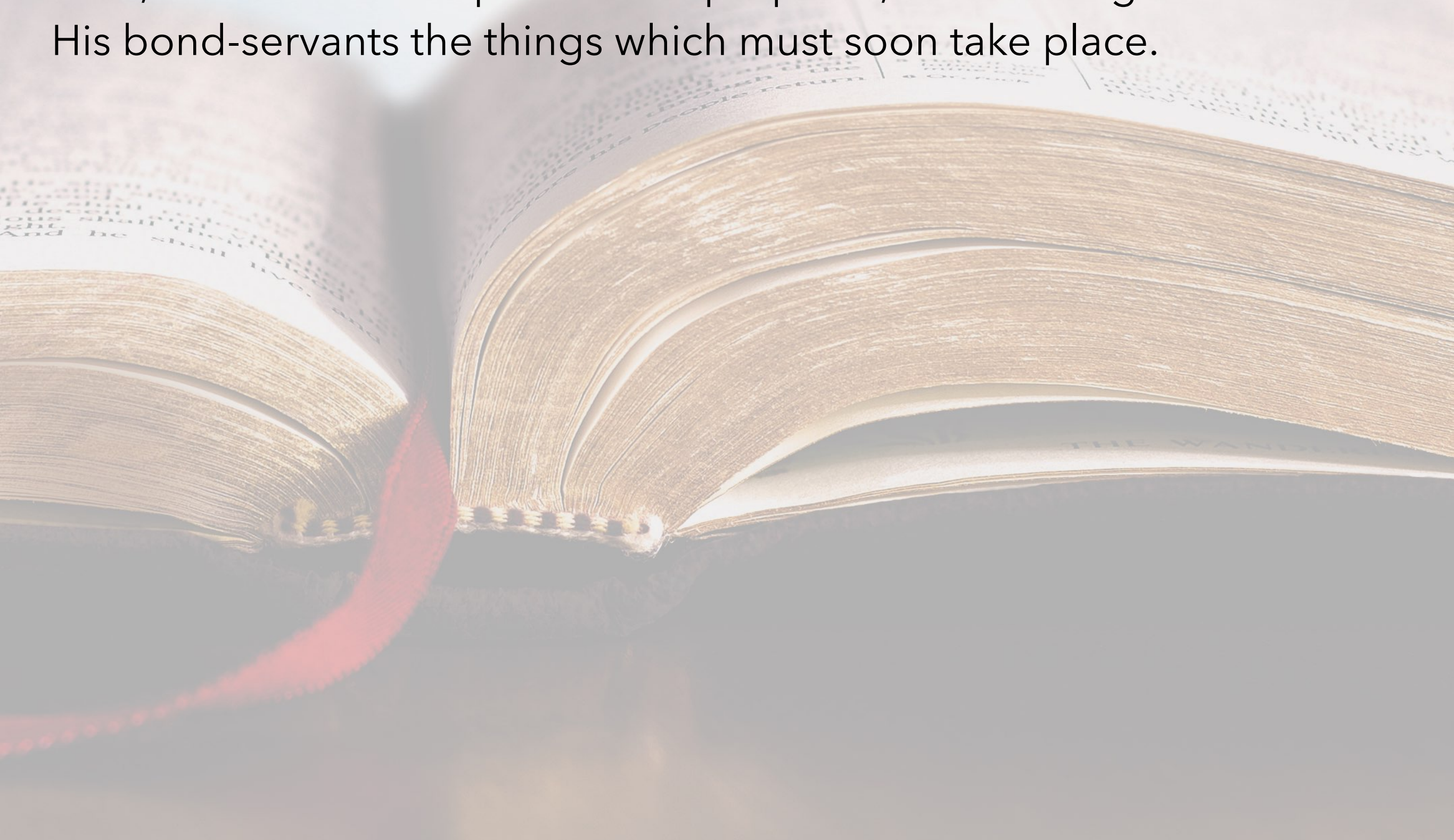
20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

- Revelation is the story of the war we all need—the defeat of evil by unequivocal good
 - Philosophically
 - Systematically
 - Personally



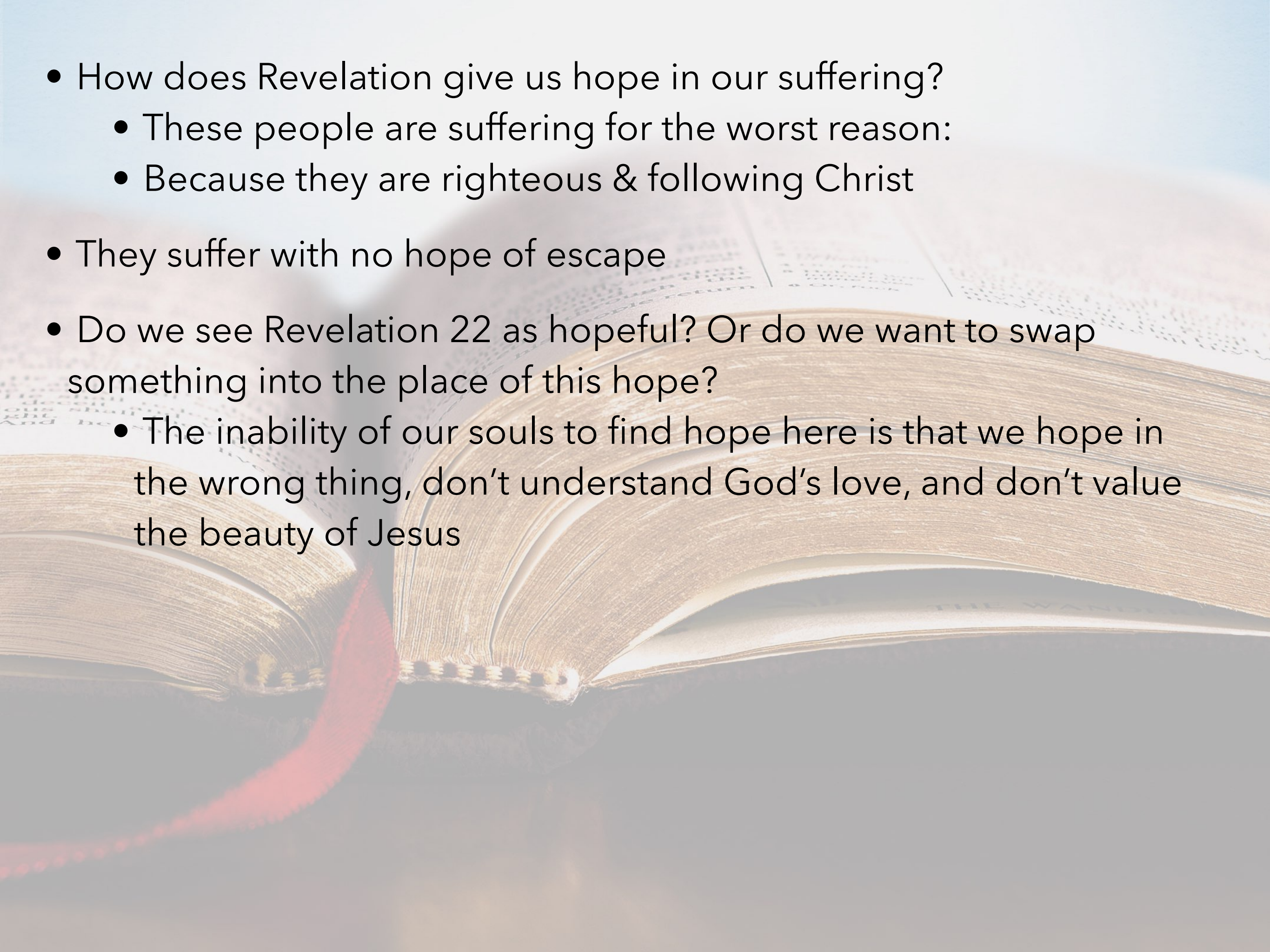
Revelation 22:6

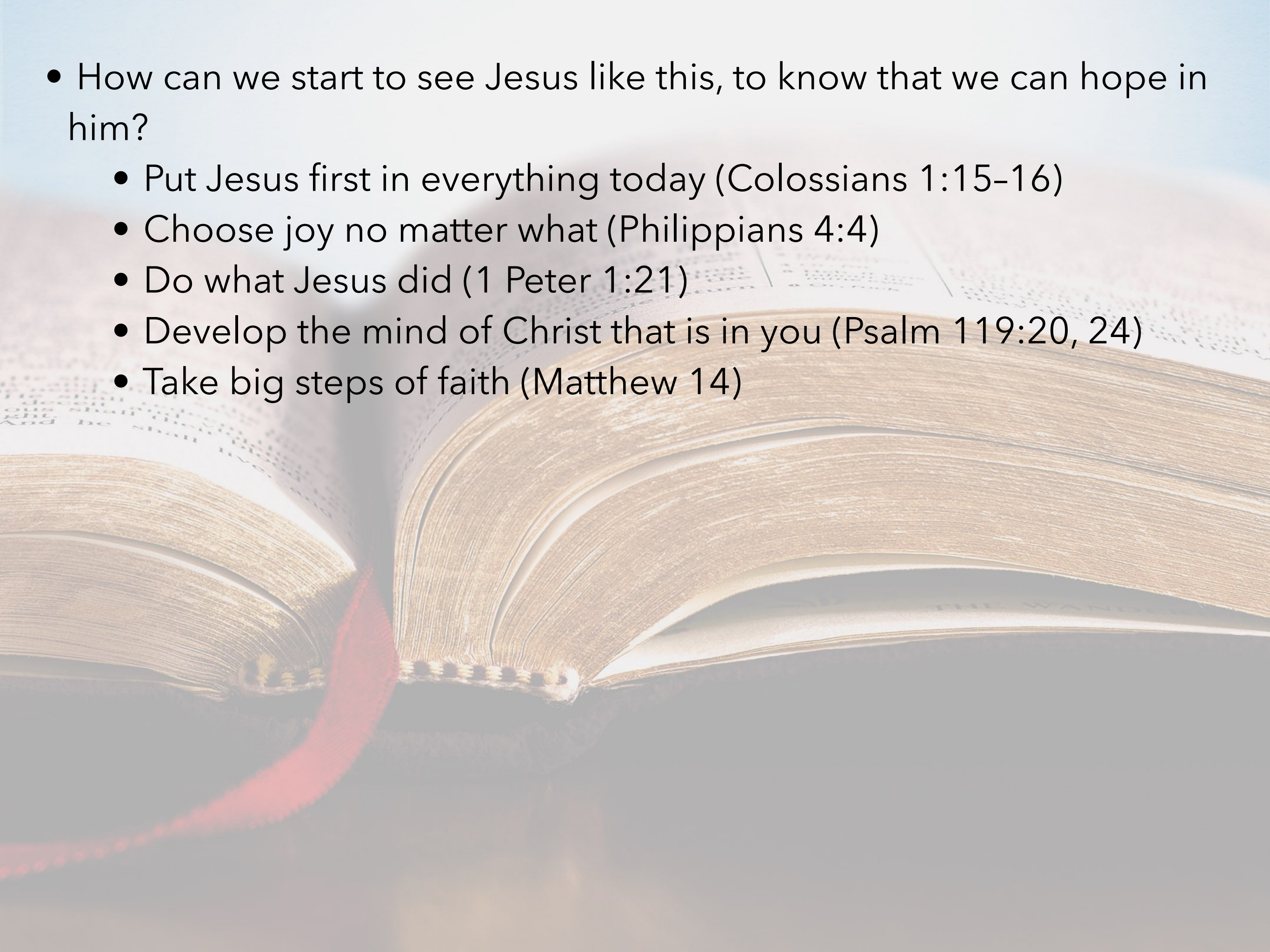
6 And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.



Revelation 6:9-10

9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

- 
- How does Revelation give us hope in our suffering?
 - These people are suffering for the worst reason:
 - Because they are righteous & following Christ
 - They suffer with no hope of escape
 - Do we see Revelation 22 as hopeful? Or do we want to swap something into the place of this hope?
 - The inability of our souls to find hope here is that we hope in the wrong thing, don't understand God's love, and don't value the beauty of Jesus

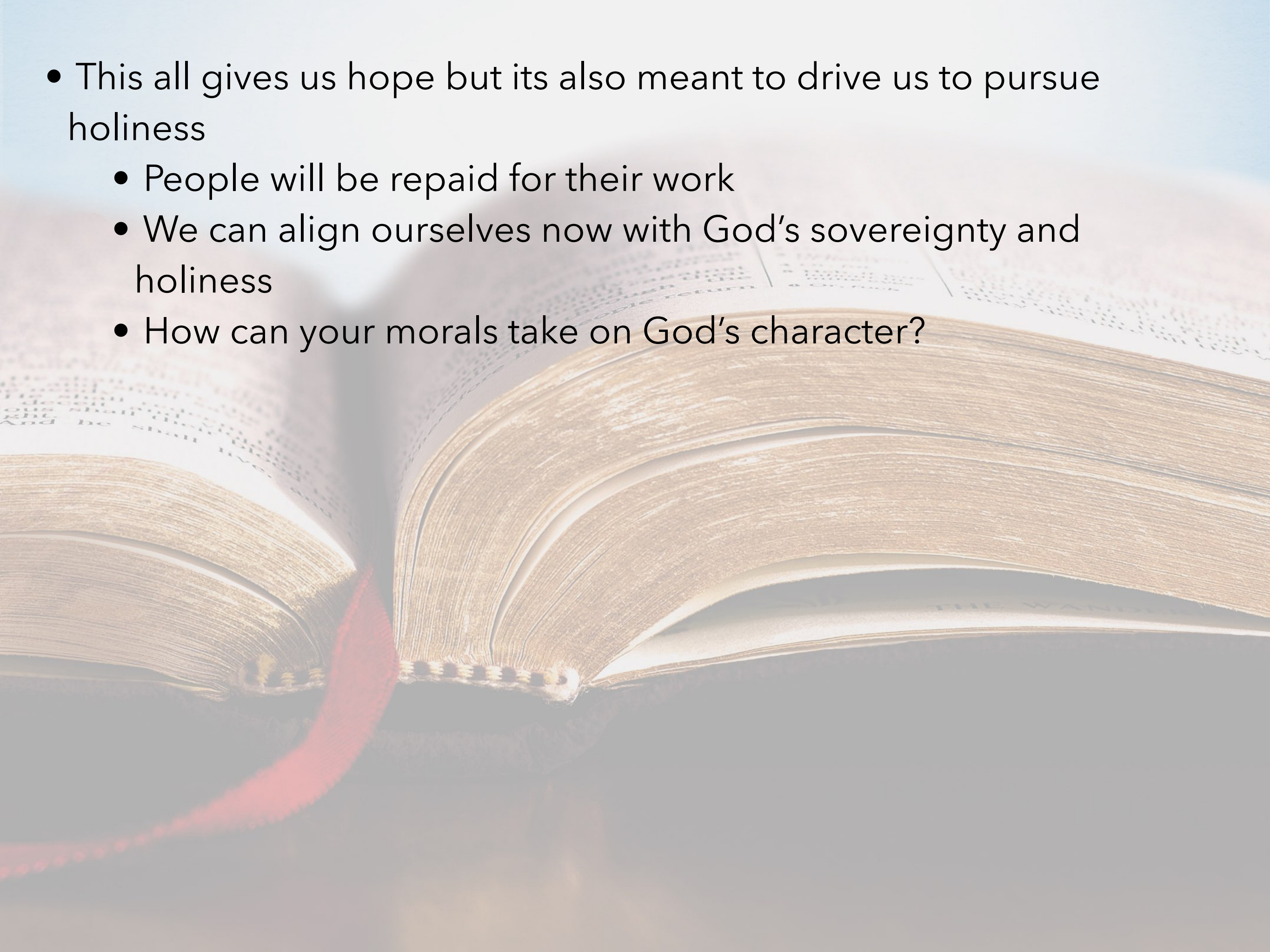
- 
- An open book with a red bookmark is shown in the background, slightly out of focus. The pages are yellowed with age, and the binding is visible in the center. The overall tone is warm and spiritual.
- How can we start to see Jesus like this, to know that we can hope in him?
 - Put Jesus first in everything today (Colossians 1:15-16)
 - Choose joy no matter what (Philippians 4:4)
 - Do what Jesus did (1 Peter 1:21)
 - Develop the mind of Christ that is in you (Psalm 119:20, 24)
 - Take big steps of faith (Matthew 14)

Revelation 22:12

12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."



- This all gives us hope but its also meant to drive us to pursue holiness
 - People will be repaid for their work
 - We can align ourselves now with God's sovereignty and holiness
 - How can your morals take on God's character?



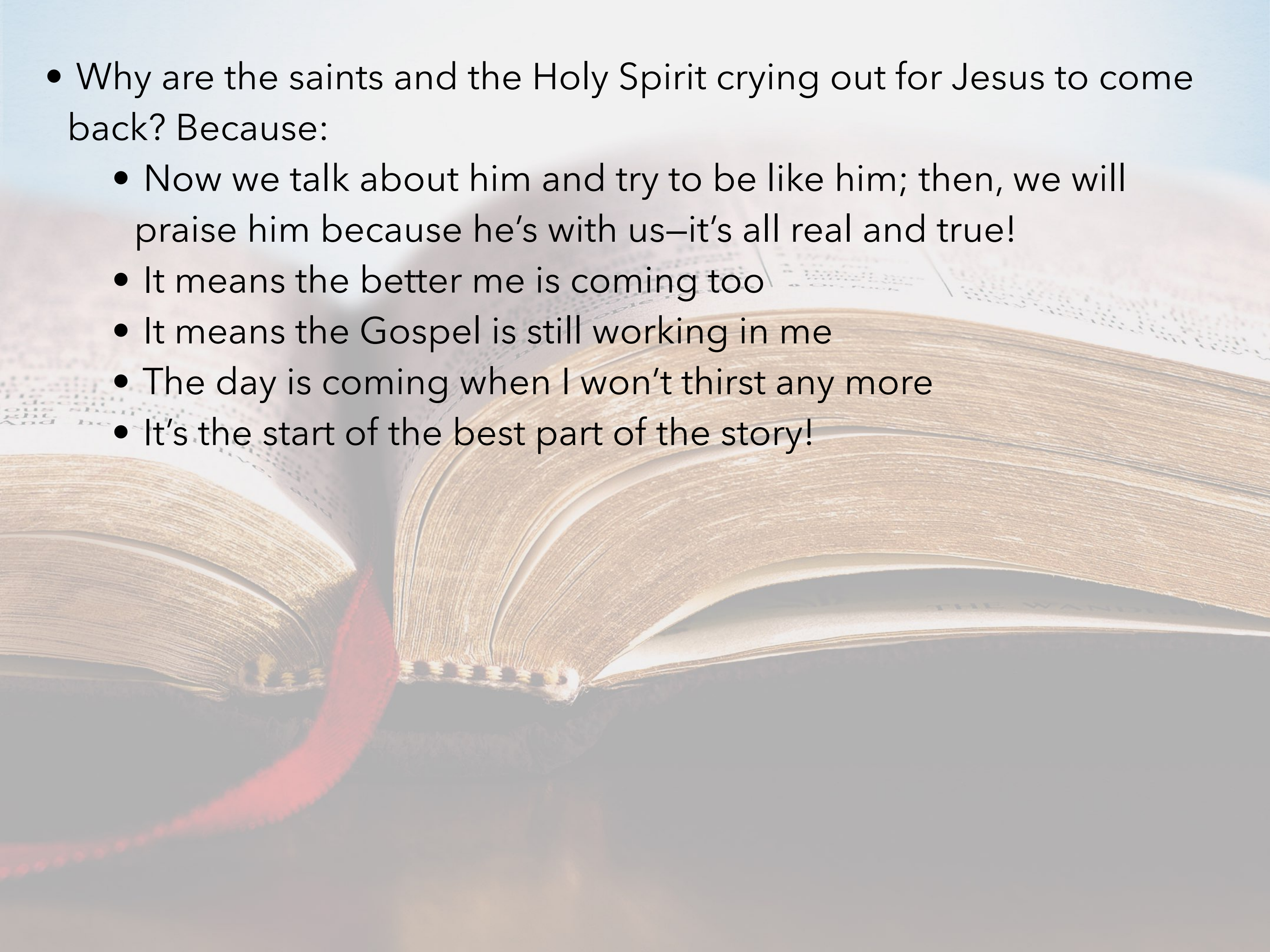
Revelation 22:17-20

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

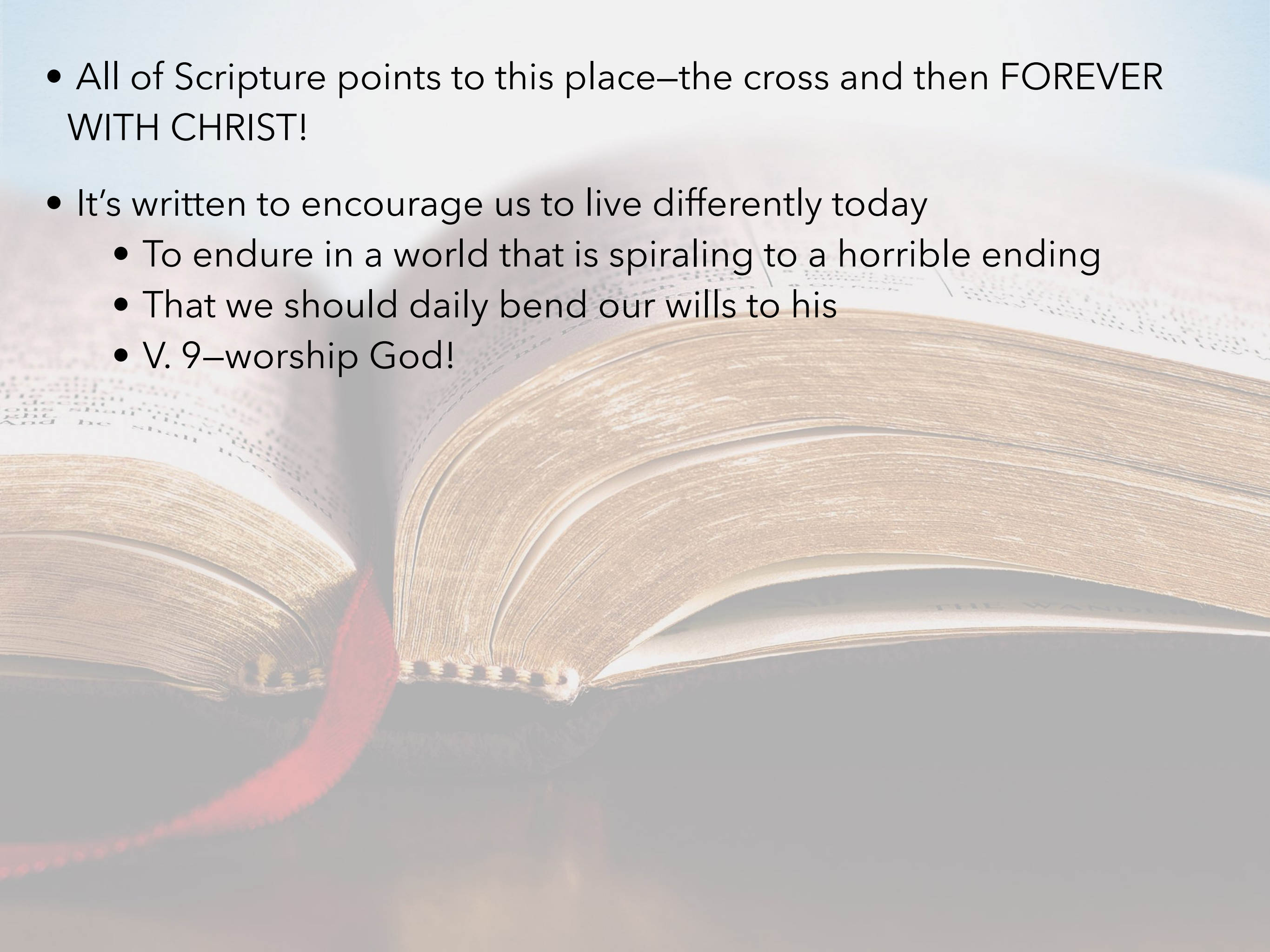
18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



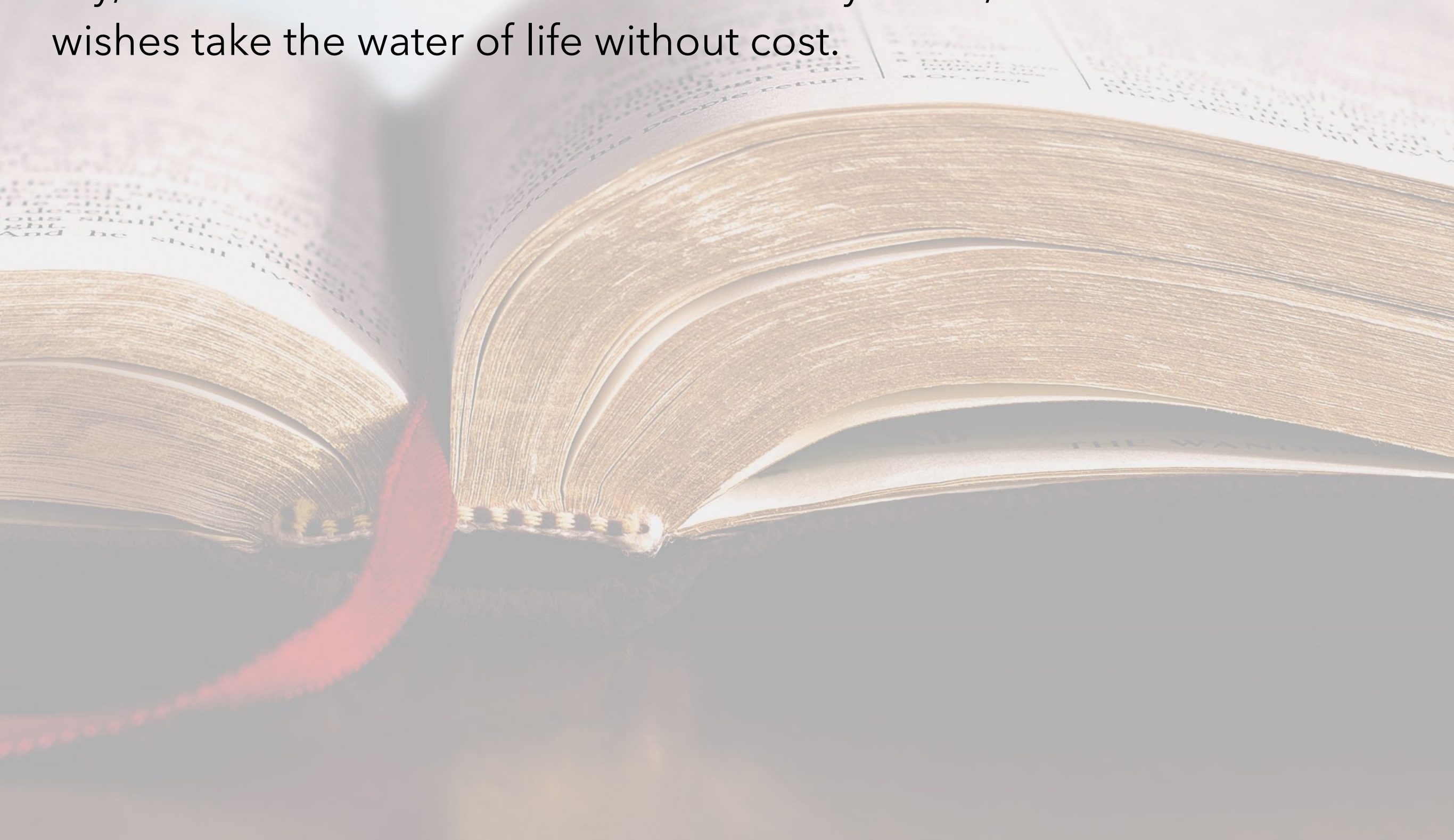
- 
- Why are the saints and the Holy Spirit crying out for Jesus to come back? Because:
 - Now we talk about him and try to be like him; then, we will praise him because he's with us—it's all real and true!
 - It means the better me is coming too
 - It means the Gospel is still working in me
 - The day is coming when I won't thirst any more
 - It's the start of the best part of the story!

- All of Scripture points to this place—the cross and then FOREVER WITH CHRIST!
- It's written to encourage us to live differently today
 - To endure in a world that is spiraling to a horrible ending
 - That we should daily bend our wills to his
 - V. 9—worship God!



Revelation 22:17

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.



- Do you see how much God loves you?
- Here, even at the end, he is still saying, "Come to me"
 - Come and drink; its free and it always satisfies!
- What are you thirsty for?
 - What are you drinking?

