



1 Peter

March 2

Our Living Hope

Rome



St. Peter with Keys to Heaven
by Peter Paul Rubens, 1616

I Peter 1:3

In his great mercy he has given us
new birth into a Living Hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead

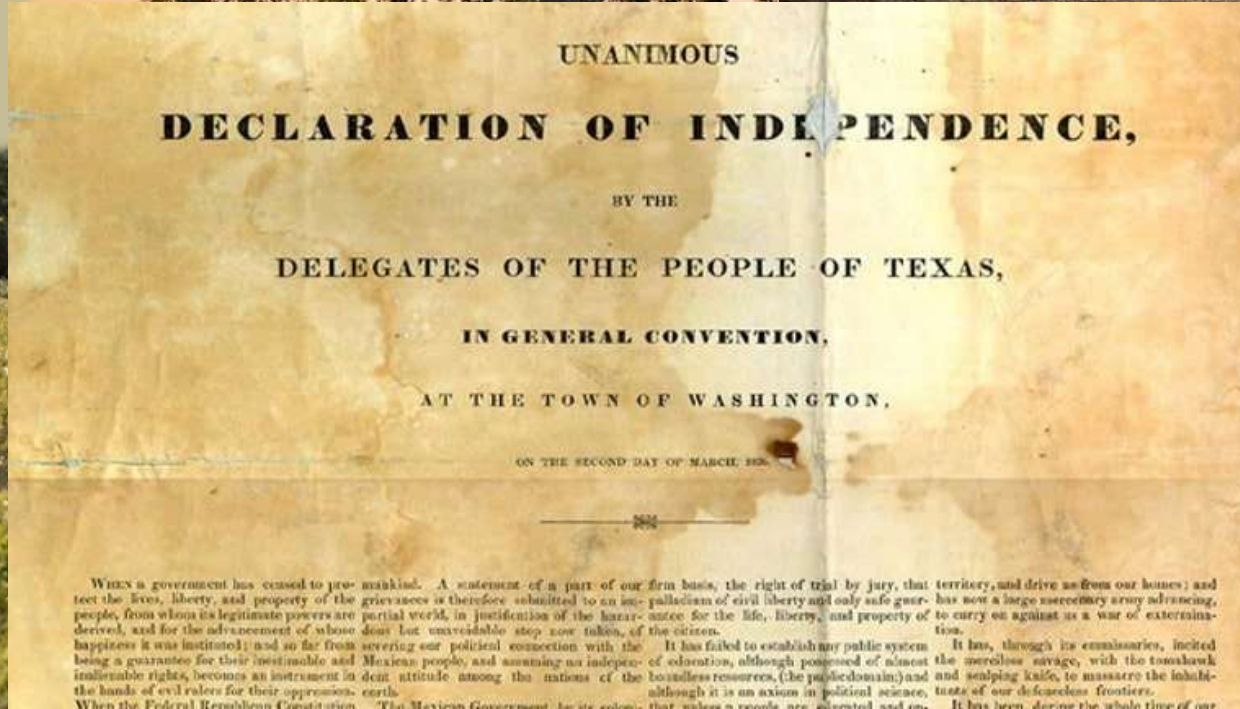


March 2

1836

Texas Declaration of
Independence
was signed at
Washington-on-the-Brazos

Toast to Texas
today, 1 PM
Heritage Village



**Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910), Russian author of
War and Peace (1869) & *Anna Karenina* (1877), &
a horde of short stories, fables, & plays**

Tolstoy once wrote:

**If I could turn back time,
I would ... I would turn back the hours and
seconds of every hour on Earth.
I would pause, just to kiss certain people
again. I will do it once, twice,
dozens of times until the meaning of life
is filled again.
But, unfortunately, it is impossible.
Time and life follow only one direction:
always forward. Not a moment goes back,
not a second goes back.
There will always be a new tomorrow,
but there will never be another yesterday.**



1 Peter 1:1-12 Our Inheritance - Living Hope

1 Peter	1:13-25	Our Mandate - Be Holy
1 Peter	2:1-10	Our Identity - Building Our Faith
1 Peter	2:11-25	Our Witness - Living as Strangers
1 Peter	3:1-12	Our Relationships -
1 Peter	3:13-22	Our Defense - Always Ready
1 Peter	4:1-11	Our Faith - Equipped to Live

Mark 15 & 16 – Happy Easter

1 Peter	4:12-19	Be Prepared - When Ridiculed
1 Peter	5:1-14	Be Humble - Alert Living
2 Peter 1		Be Equipped - Being Useful
2 Peter 2 & Jude		Be Alert - On Guard
2 Peter 3		Be Encouraged - With Anticipation



1 Peter 1:1-12 Outline

verses

- 1-2 Introduction – To God's **ELECT**, Scattered, **CHOSEN**
 - 3-4 New Birth into a **Living Hope**
 - 5 Protected by God's Power
 - 6-9 Rejoice Suffering for Faith in Christ
 - 10-12 Even Angels Longed to Look
- 1st – **Election**
2nd – **Living Hope**

Our Living Hope

Key Verse I Peter 1:3

**In his great mercy he has given us
New Birth into a Living Hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead**



1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

Church is facing PERSECUTION soon
Kinda reminds me of a song:

You Raise Me Up

by Josh Groban, 2003

**When I am down and,
oh, my soul, so weary
When troubles come
and my heart burdened be**



1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

Savor the heart of this lesson, indeed, the HEART of 1 Peter,
in these splendid, saintly inspired verses:

3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**In his great mercy he has given us New Birth into a LIVING HOPE
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and
into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.**

**This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,
who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming
of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.**

There a couple dozen passages of similar sublimity in the N.T.

all of them touching heaven



Pie Chart on Universe

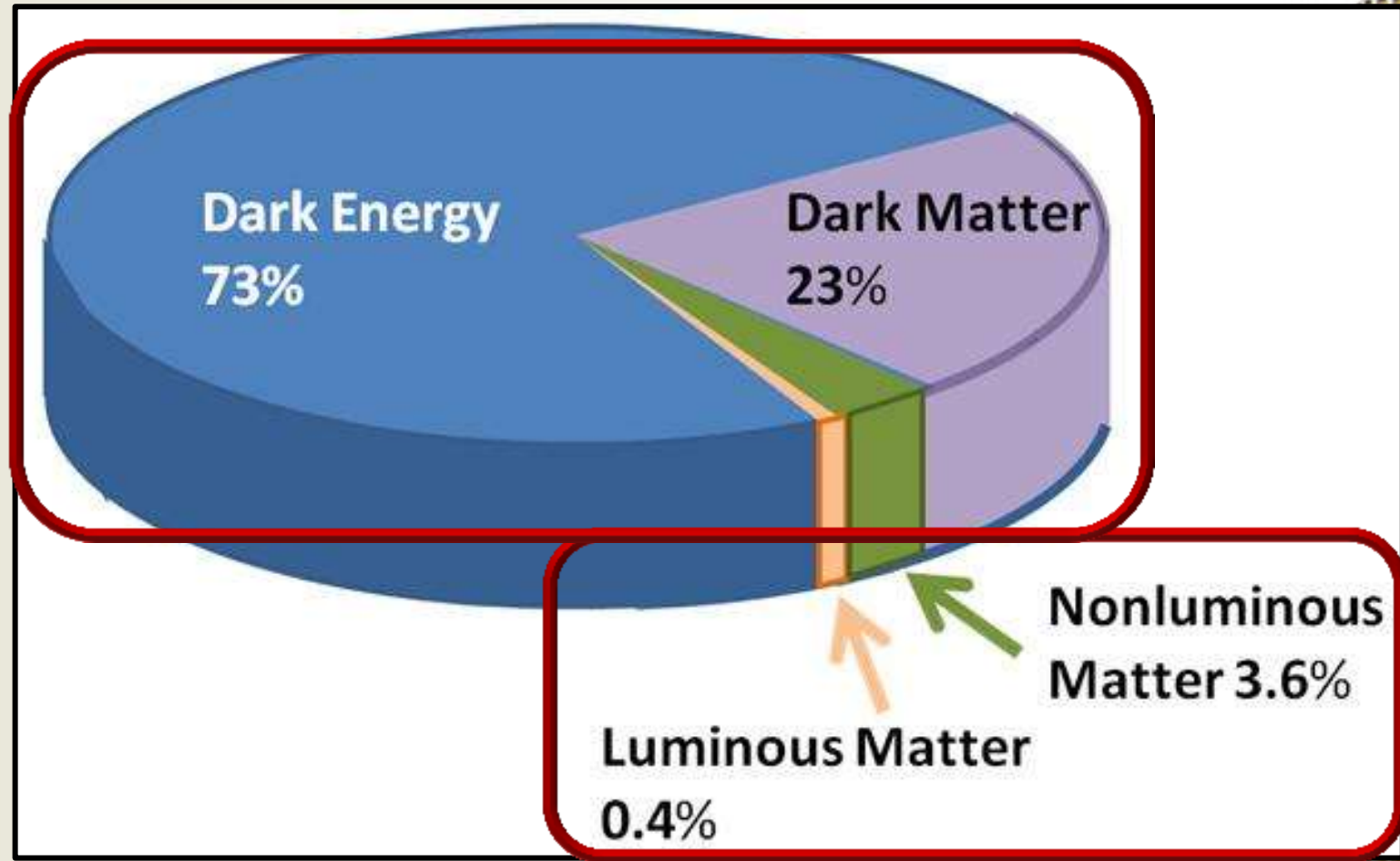
Dark Energy, Dark Matter, Luminous & Nonluminous Matter

That is:

ALL the Galaxies,
Stars, Planets, Dust
make up only about
5% of Universe

That is:

We do *NOT* know
much about
95% of Universe



1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

These timeless verses REVEAL several truths about the gospel

- ✓ Like John 3:16, they describe our world and the world to come in clear terms that separate us from all the other religions
- ✓ Peter ADDS to John 3:16 & the gospels ... insights into the peculiar life, privilege and “inheritance” of the Christian
- ✓ The parables of Jesus reveal similar truths in their beauty and timeless brushstrokes that are CLEAR, yet limitless:
Kingdom of God is like Mustard Seed, a Treasure, a Pearl
SEE the ocean, the “depth” totally unseen
- ✓ Here, we go below the surface and **peak into “THE DEEP”**
- ✓ Compare Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians
- ✓ Today, as we live and struggle, some more than others,
yet ALL of us have been gifted with a ***LIVING HOPE***

Compare Our Living Hope with Islam's Fatalism

- ✓ Islam = "submission" – Muslim = "one who submits"
- ✓ Kabba = House of Allah, Muslims face it for prayers
- ✓ Five Pillars of Islam:
 1. Shahadah – creed & confession
*There is no god but God;
Muhammad is the messenger of God.*
 2. Salat – 5 daily prayers at specific times
 3. Zakkah – almsgiving
 4. Ramadan Fasting – for whole month
 5. Hajj – the pilgrimage to Mecca
- ✓ All is in sync – prayers reflect being in sync with nature
- ✓ ALL is SETTLED with ALLAH *and* they are NOT sure WHAT is settled
- ✓ One's fate/future is dependent upon "will of Allah," his mercy

Yes, they face a
Black Box!



No *LIVING* HOPE at ALL

Buddhism's Four Noble Truths:

1. Dukkha: Craving/No Satisfaction = life of pain
2. Reincarnation: repeated life, Karma, repeated life
Karma = essentially *you GET what you GIVE*
3. Cessation of Pain in attaining Nirvana
Nirvana = "blown out" = freedom of peace
4. Path to Cessation in Nirvana = Eight-fold Path:
 1. Right View in afterlife
 2. Right Resolve, give up home
 3. Right Speech, truth, kindness
 4. Right Conduct, no killing, etc.
 5. Right Livelihood, simple
 6. Right Effort
 7. Right Mind
 8. Right Concentration

5 Hindrances, 7 awakenings

So ... if you Live Bad = Bad Karma = Next Life you're TOAD

No *LIVING* HOPE at ALL



Dharma Wheel
8-fold Path



Hot of the Press this year

Prof. Sapolsky's *Determined: A Science of Life Without Free Will* (Penguin Press, Oct. 2023; 511 pp.)

He's Professor of biology & neurology at Stanford
Recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant"

Reviewed Stanford History Prof. Jessica Riskin

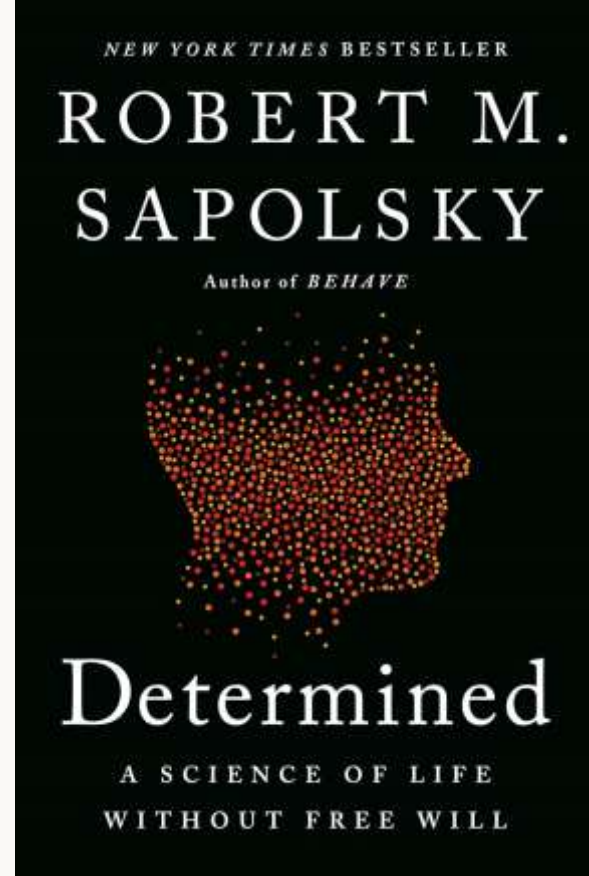
["Turtles All the Way Up," The New York Review \(2-13-25\): 23–25.](#)

From birds to all biological entities—NO Free Will

Riskin quotes Sapolsky, "What the science of this
book ultimately teaches is that there

is no meaning in life."

Prof. Riskin points - Determinism began in Theology, even Newton
ALL-Powerful, Omniscient, Omnipotent God who CONTROLS ALL



1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

Worst of all ...

Islam and Buddhism are WRONG ... their denial = damnation

NO TRUTH to their essential beliefs

America—we believe in Freedom of Religion—“right” to be wrong

NATURE of religion is exclusive ... each *excludes* ALL OTHERS

Islam denies divinity of Christ ... Buddhism denies personal God

Judaism is *STILL LOOKING* ... Atheism denies all spirituality

NO HOPE ... No Where

No *LIVING* HOPE at ALL

No Religion IS as clear or HAS more beautiful Scriptures

1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect,
exiles scattered throughout the provinces of ...

Peter – walked with Christ, walked on the water

Peter hurt after his denial ... learned a lot in Acts 1-12

ROME – now in Rome, writing near the end of his life

Peter, now old, having worked for Christ for 30 years

Galilee Fishman, rustic, now a writer of sublime letters

Peter – The Rock – a world traveler in the greatest
city of the Western World

Nero is Emperor ... an **insane oink-oink**

Nero plays fiddle as Rome burns in A.D. 64

blames Christians – brutal persecution begins

Because he makes no mention, Peter *likely* wrote in 62-63

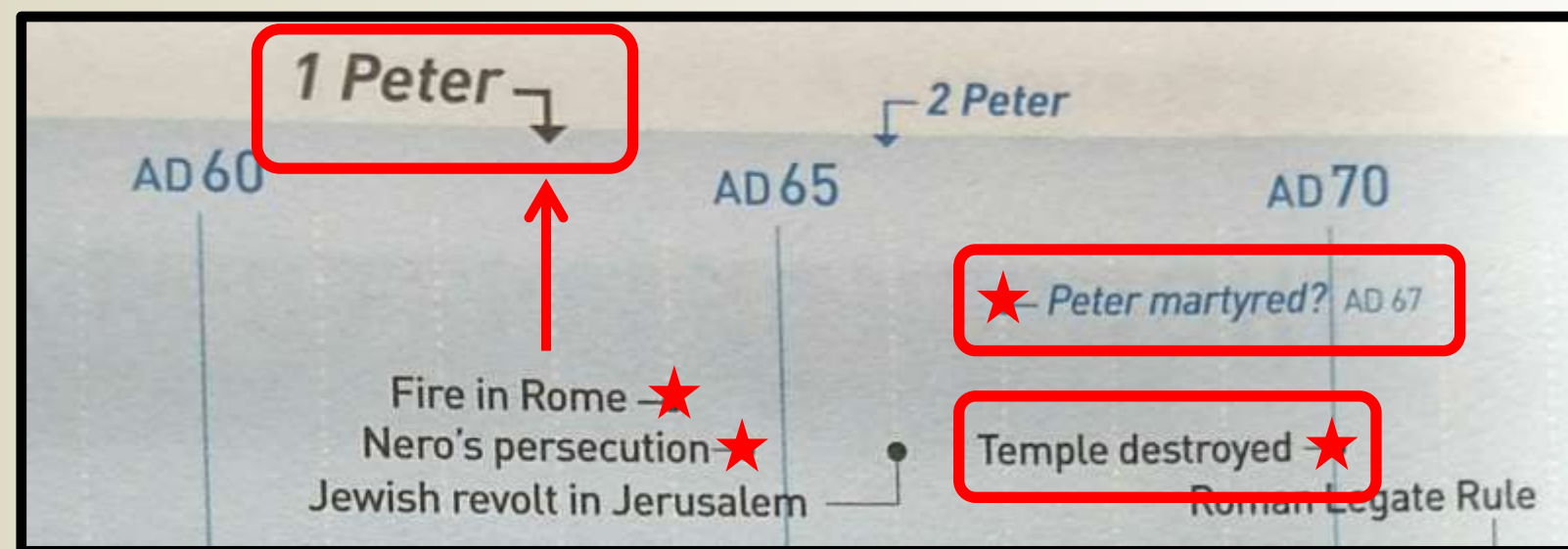


Bust of Nero
Capitoline Museum
Rome

1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect,
exiles scattered throughout the provinces of ...

Charles Swindoll, *Living Insights Commentary on 1 Peter*



Because Peter makes no mention of Nero's burning
Rome & deadly persecution, **Peter likely wrote in 62-63**
Perhaps, Peter was crucified upside down in **A.D. 67ish**

Jewish Temple in Jerusalem is destroyed in A.D. 70

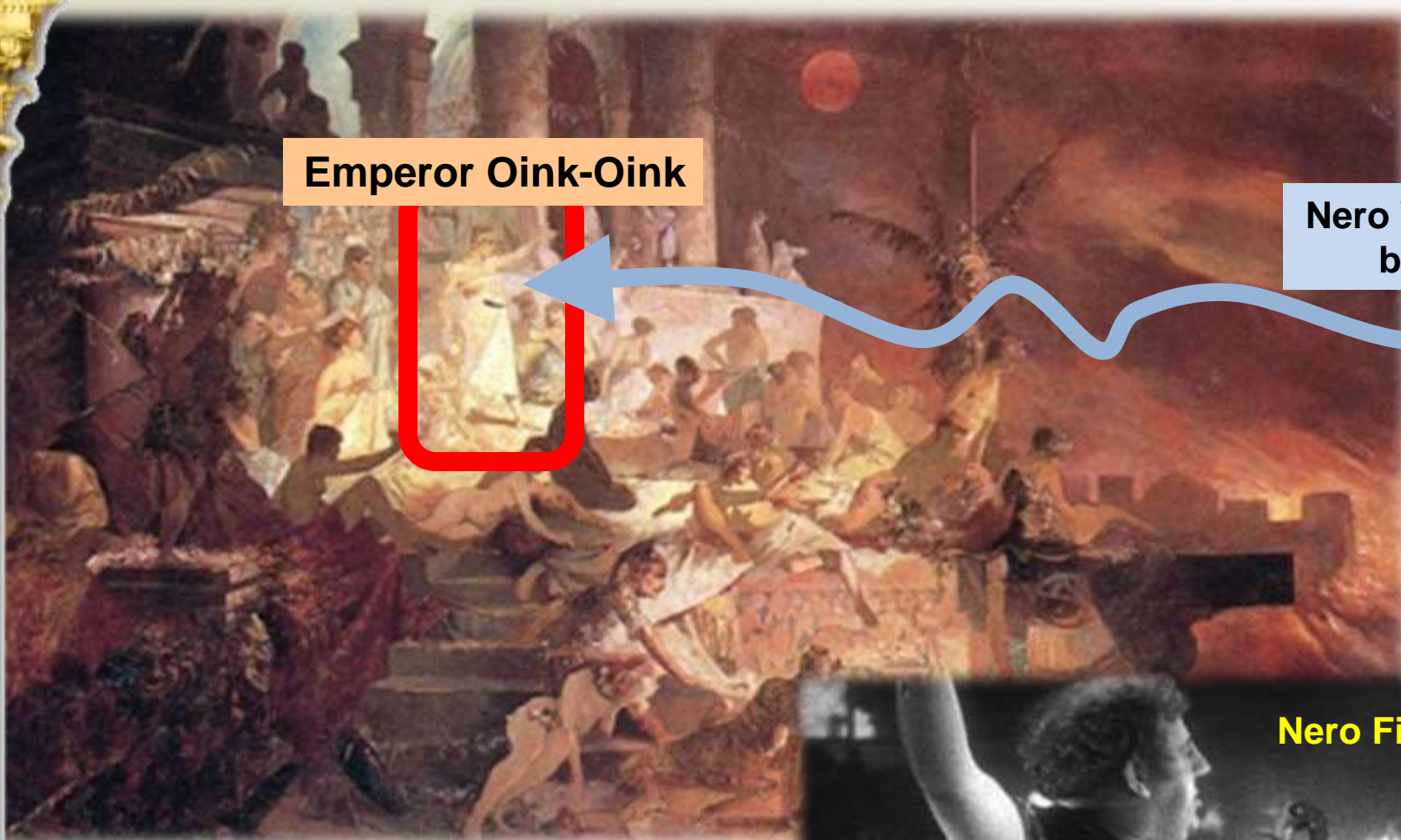


Bust of Nero
Capitoline Museum
Rome

Emperor Oink-Oink

Nero Watching Rome Burning
by Alphonse Mucha, 1887

Nero Fiddles as Rome **BURNS**





Fire of Rome, 1784
Hubert Robert

**NOT a good time
for Christians**

**Worse times
unfold quickly**

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To God's ELECT, exiles scattered thru the
provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia,
Asia and Bithynia ...

Rome

- 500-300 Golden Greece
- 325 BC Alexander
- 200 BC LXX
- 72-71 BC Spartacus
- *Hellenism Dominates*
... Latin on Rise
- 44 BC J. Caesar killed
- 31 BC Battle of Actium
- *Rome Dominates*
- AD 14 Augustus Dies
- **AD 64 Nero burns Rome**
- AD 70 Temple Destroyed

600 Miles



Area of Study
Acts 1-12



¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's ELECT,
exiles scattered throughout the provinces of
Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia ...

The map illustrates the geographical context of the apostle Peter's letter. It shows the Eastern Roman Empire with various provinces labeled, including Pontus, Bithynia, Galatia, Cappadocia, and Asia. A red outline of the state of Texas is overlaid on the left side of the map, with a red arrow pointing from the word 'Rome' in a black box to the location of Rome in Italy. A scale bar at the top right indicates 400 miles.

Rome

400 Miles

1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

You Raise Me Up

by Josh Groban, 2003

**Then I am still
and wait here in the silence
Until You come and
sit awhile with me**



1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

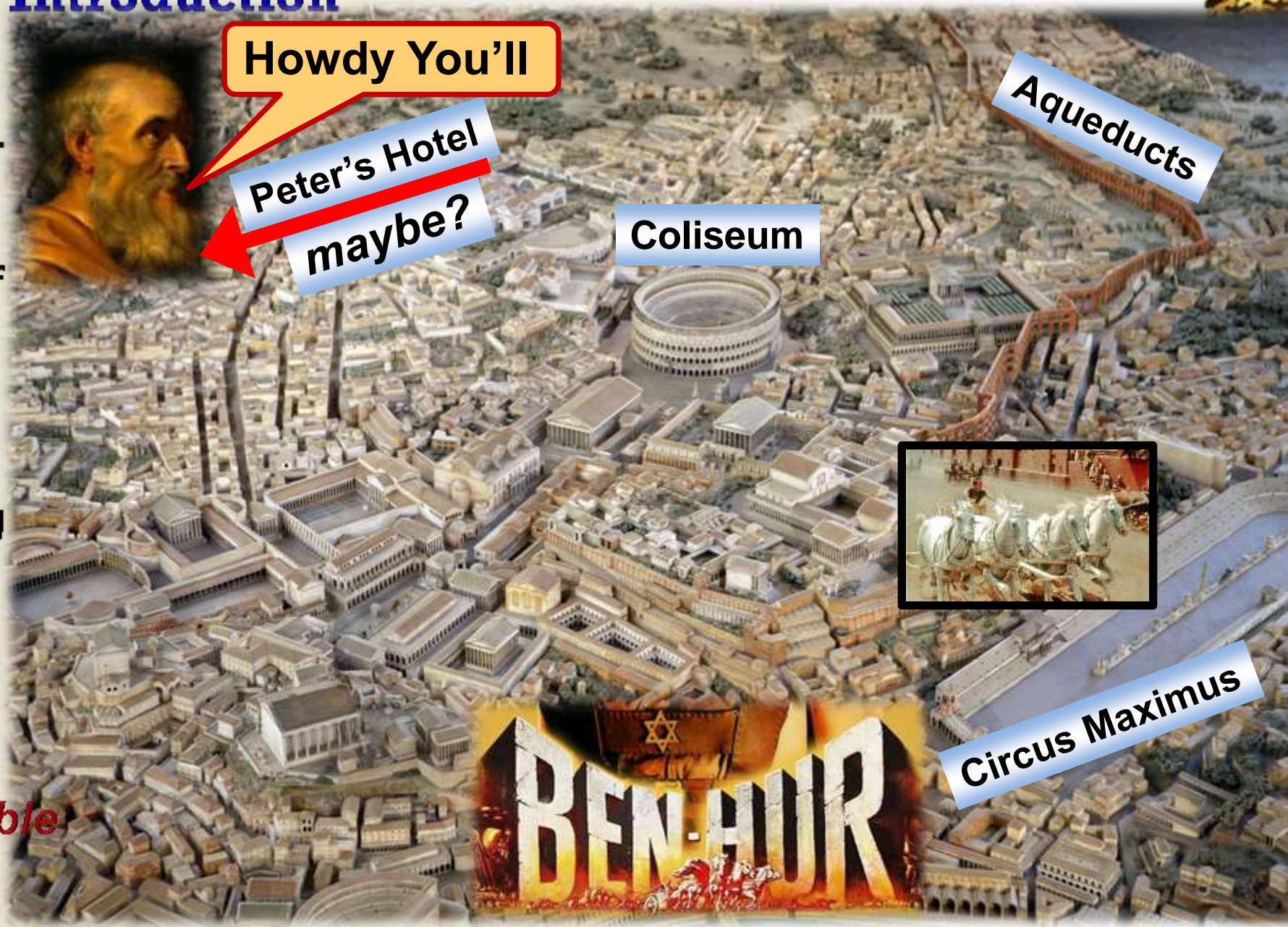
Rome

We know a LOT
about Rome

Great source of
OUR gov today

I can imagine
Peter seeing all
of this, thinking
much like WE
do when we
visit D.C. today

Awesome
Incomprehensible



1 Peter 1:1-2 Introduction

1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

- ✓ A lot, a very lot has been written on these over the centuries
- ✓ I don't blame the author not addressing them ...
- ✓ I struggled too ... *have we not enough already?*

Some would say upon these pivot ALL ... and there is a lot more Foreknowledge of God sees all, knows all ... beginning to end

**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

Peter repeats this in use of “called” five more times in his book:

- 1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do ...**
2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation ...
**2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you
an example, that you should follow in his steps ...**
**3:9 Do not repay evil with evil ... repay evil with blessing, because to this
you were called so that you may inherit a blessing ...**
**5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in
Christ, after you have suffered a little while ...**

**At least, God's ELECT that He CHOSE is the CHURCH, the Redeemed
That is:**

From the Foundation of the World with Christ—God chose THE CHURCH

**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

FOREKNOWLEDGE? Distinguished thought by Prof. Albert Barnes
(1798-1870) from his highly respected *Notes on the New Testament*

- ✓ God *foreknew* all the events and reasons which would ever occur
- ✓ ... *foreknew* all that could be made to bear on their salvation
- ✓ ... *foreknew* all that He would himself do to secure their salvation
- ✓ ... *foreknew* them as having been designated by his own counsel
- ✓ ... *foreknew* all that could be accomplished by their instrumentality

Barnes also said, "it should *not be assumed* that the word means necessarily any one of these things."

**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father....**

John MacArthur, founder of "Grace to You" radio program

- ✓ **Pastor of Grace Community Church in California**
- ✓ **Founder, Master's Seminary ... author of 400 books & study guides**
- ✓ **An outstanding teacher ... I've listened to a lot of him**

**In his book on 1 Peter, he devoted 12 pages to this verse alone,
quoting several, with perhaps 100 cross references ...**

You were ELECTED-CHOSEN from the Foundation of the world!

I was disappointed that he made NO mention of Free Will ...

There are several Church TITANS who have written MORE ...

The John MacArthur N.T. Commentary 1 Peter (Moody, 2004)

**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

John Feinberg, *No One Like Him—a Theology of God*
(Crossway, 2001, **879p.**)

John Frame, *The Doctrine of God—a Theology of Lordship*
(P & R, 2002, **864p.**)

No stone is left unturned ... every conceivable scripture and
argument is made for the *Absolute Sovereignty of God*.

Their sections on **Free Will** were **TINY**, nearly an afterthought

Our "Free Will" is somehow *assumed* in sovereignty

You're ELECTED-CHOSEN from the Foundation of the World!

STRANGELY—in their 879 & 864 pgs, LOVE is not given a nickel!

Powerful Tomes on SOVEREIGNTY, but too weak on LOVE

**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

**Michael G. Maness, *Heart of the Living God—
Love, Free Will, Foreknowledge, and Heaven:
A Theology on the Treasure of Love*
(AuthorHouse, 2001, 728p.)**

www.PreciousHeart.net/foreknowledge/

Almost 1/3 is a massive bibliography ...

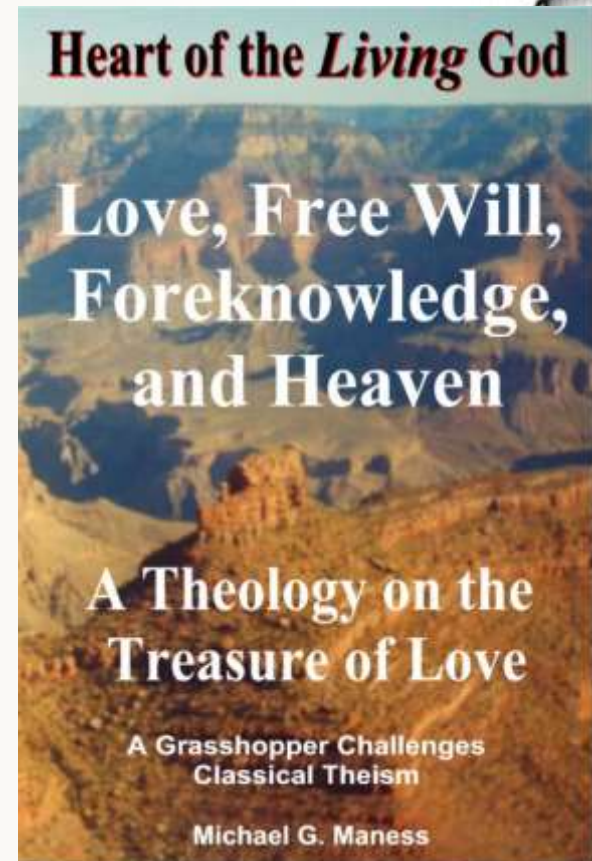
On back cover:

**“Tie up our sneakers, for we are going to have some
fun as we hike into the Grand Canyon of Love.**

Love is the treasure of life. It is Love all the way.

Nothing else really matters outside of Love.

Best of all, our Love will only get better in heaven.”



**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

**Isaiah 46:9-10 "Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God.... I make known the end from the beginning, from
ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand,
and I will do all that I please.'"**

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

How does Absolute Sovereignty jive with Free Will??

Ooooh ... Free Will is there ... just BELIEVE ... like a ghost

How and why, DAH?? ... tis a mystery ...



**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

How does Absolute Sovereignty jive with Free Will??

**Free Will is the ugly stepchild, something relegated to verses like
Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are
your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are
higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and
my thoughts than your thoughts."**

i.e., Free Will is there, somehow ... like

Casper, the Friendly Ghost

Free Will is *just there*, like a ghost ... accept it ...

No one explains HOW ... or CAN explain how

Aaaaah ... but WE DO UNDERSTAND God's Sovereignty



**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

My argument is a little more down-to-earth ...

I reverse a little ...

**Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts ... As the
heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than
your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”**

Isaiah 55 applies to the WHOLE ISSUE, not just Sovereignty ...

**God knows all ... yet I make the case that ALL is NOT SETTLED
in the mind of God ... for we are created in His Image ...**

**Most of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation REVEALS we have
SOME responsibility ... most of the Bible reveals**

We have SOME REAL Free Will that MEANS something

**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

i.e., if Love is Real ... while some things are permanently settled ...

ALL is NOT settled from the Foundation of the World

I think I LOVE God more today than 10 years ago ...

If God is *personal*, He loves me MORE TODAY than 10 years ago

If there is a relationship ... BOTH PARTIES contribute ... daahh!!

**No victim's future that GOD sees TODAY
is so *SETTLED* today that—*tomorrow*—**

God CANNOT protect!

**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have
been chosen according to the
FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**



**Father Time—for whom ALL is SETTLED—
is NOT Greater than Father God**

¹⁻² Peter ... To God's **ELECT** ... who have been chosen
according to the **FOREKNOWLEDGE** of God the Father

Essentially ... if God did Elect and Chose ALL from beginning,
THEN there is a man or woman walking today **DESTINED** to **HELL**

Some HAVE said ALL is settled with God for ALL TIME

Not me ... that is ... flipping the issue over ...

No man or woman's future is so **SETTLED** that God **CANNOT** save

No victim's future that **GOD** sees **TODAY** is so **SETTLED TODAY**

that—*tomorrow*—God **CANNOT** save and protect ...



I so very profoundly believe ...

Father Time is NOT Greater than FATHER God

**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

Moreover ... MacArthur and several VERY great men of God would say that God knows ALL, from the beginning to the end, and ALL that God knows is SETTLED in the mind of God.

Experts call it **Exhaustive Foreknowledge** ... closed, finished.

If that is what "God's ... chosen" means, then there is man or woman who CANNOT be saved. There is NO REAL evangelism.

I contend for **Dynamic Foreknowledge**, that, yes, God knows all of the future, but all of the future is NOT settled.

God can be **MOVED** by our prayers, *really and truly*

Father Time is NOT Greater than Father God

**¹⁻² Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

**God can be MOVED by our prayers, and our pleas ...
and that movement of God was NOT planned by
God a 1,000 years ago**

**Why? – Because our God is a Living God
Heaven will be better for GOD, too,
once He brings down the New Jerusalem**

**The idea that God's Foreknowledge is EXHAUSTIVE
and His knowledge of the future COMPLETE—DONE—**

Kills God's REAL-time LOVE for us

Actually—the idea of an all-settled God is Greek

**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

How does Absolute Sovereignty jive with Free Will?

Not sure ... but Free Will is NOT an ugly stepchild.

Without REAL Free Will, MOST of the N.T. must be cut.

That is,

**Free Will is *CRITICAL* to a
REAL relationship with God**



**1-2 Peter ... To God's ELECT ... who have been chosen
according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**

How does Absolute Sovereignty jive with Free Will?

Remember, **THE metaphor** that God chose for BOTH

(1) his relationship to Israel & (1) his relationship to the church :

Marriage – most intimate relationship of all

Great Banquet Table is NOT a Sham to God!

Furthermore, as we shall see—and DO LOOK—please look

**1 Peter—ALL Five chapters *imply* Free Will
so does MOST of the New Testament**

1 Peter 1:3-4 New Birth into a Living Hope

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

**NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.

3-4 New Birth into a Living Hope

1st – Election 1-2

5 Protected by God's Power

2nd – Living Hope 3-12

6-9 Rejoice in Suffering for Faith in Christ

10-12 Prophets Looked—even Angels Longed to Look



³ ... In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

By his mercy ... through the resurrection of Christ

GIVEN us New Birth into a Living Hope

We gather around the camp fire and TRULY THANK God for that,
If NOT, as Paul said in his own sublime verse of 1 Corinthians 15:9

**If in this life only we have hope in Christ,
we are of all men most miserable**

Miserable to others as they pity us

Miserable to ourselves as we gurgle nonsense

Maybe Ancient Aliens can help



³ ... In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Our anchor is the **RESURRECTION** of Christ . . .

Christ was given by his Father ... Christ gave his life

Part of our Salvation Package includes this

GIVEN us New Birth into a Living Hope

Now then ... as we walk through 1 Peter

Most of the book impacts this

Living Hope

³ ... In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Got to love this ... **a LIVING Hope is *ALIVE***

- ✓ Living Hope can be choked ... yes, a Choked Hope
- ✓ Living Hope can be run dry ... *if you stay away from the WELL!*
- ✓ Living Hope can be strengthened ... made mighty
- ✓ Many times, by APPLYING **ALL** in 1 Peter, that ...
ooooh ... wait for it ...
- ✓ Many times, by APPLYING **ALL** in 1 Peter, that ...

**LIVING HOPE can Empower to
Supreme Heights**

³ ... In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Got to love this . . . a LIVING Hope can

- ✓ Sometimes, by APPLYING all in 1 Peter, a LIVING HOPE can be made MIGHTY
- ✓ Living Hope made strong like a huge **Oak Tree**
- ✓ Giving **SHADE** to others
- ✓ Supplying **SHELTER** for small
- ✓ Even become a **Great Humankind Landmark**



1 Peter 1:5 Hope Assured

⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

A strong Living Hope ... goooooood!

Now, do NOT confuse this Hope with WHO is shielded

**Our Christian Living Hope is secure, but BECAUSE it is living,
that hope can wane, grow dim, sometimes fade**

But NOT the Salvation. Once born again, you and I are
protected until the “coming of the salvation”

Certainty—Your Salvation is PROTECTED by God

While Our “faith” & “hope” waver this side of heaven

Peter, Paul, the Gospels make clear—YOUR SALVATION IS SECURE

1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

You Raise Me Up - by Josh Groban, 2003

**You raise me up
so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up
to walk on stormy seas**



⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

There is MUCH MORE to this **Living Hope**

Salvation is the thing we hope for, long for—our **HOPE**

Salvation WITH our Eternal Rest, Heaven—our **HOPE**

END of this world & the Coming of the NEW—our **HOPE**

Shedding of Perishable & Clothed Immortal—our **HOPE**

In our best hours, you know ... you know very well
what this Living Hope does ...

next verse please

1 Peter 1:6-9 Hope Celebrated – 6-7

⁶⁻⁷ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your **FAITH**—of greater worth than gold, which perishes though refined by **FIRE**—may result in praise, glory & honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Fire? ... Peter, really?

Sometimes, those prophets and apostles should have gone to a Finishing School ... or something.

I really don't like these verses ... many times, I would just wish Peter and some of them would SHUT UP ... and, hate to say it ...

But I would like to say to God, too—***ENOUGH already!***



⁶⁻⁷ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your **FAITH**—of greater worth than gold, which perishes though refined by **FIRE**—may result in praise, glory & honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Truly ... that is a Prophecy I can do **WITHOUT**

Dear God, **ENOUGH** already!

My faith is OKAY ... don't need anymore "TRIALS"

Don't want any ... but GIVE me the GOLD

Ooops ... this is NOT a prophecy – no sir – it is a **DESCRIPTION**

Almost makes it all **WORSE ... *but not really***

⁶⁻⁷ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your **FAITH**—of greater worth than gold, which perishes though refined by **FIRE**—may result in praise, glory & honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

NOT a prophecy, you say? ... DESCRIPTIVE ... you say?

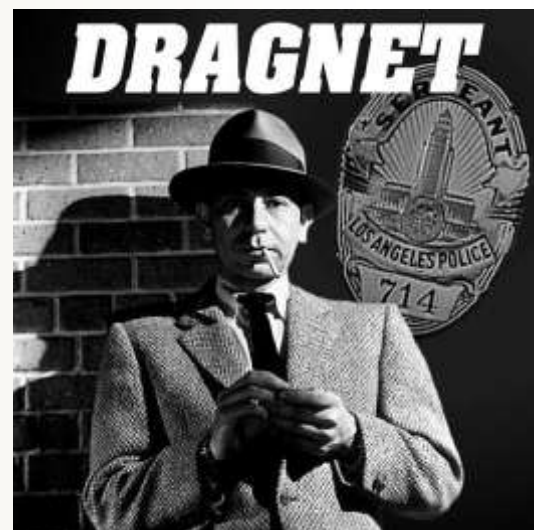
Trials come in many colors. Some because of Christ

DESCRIPTIVE, just the facts ... **the FACTS**

They were suffering ... **F A C T**

and Peter knew **more suffering was coming**

As their FAITH is proved ... the **GOLD** is that
glory & honor will go to Christ



8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him;
and even though you do not see him now,
you believe in him and are filled with an
inexpressible and glorious joy,
receiving the end of your faith,
even the salvation of your souls.

- Integral with this God-protected salvation is the tearing of the veil
- No more going to the Temple, because the Temple is INSIDE you
- Christ is IN YOU, working out this salvation to be revealed
- You go to the Father in the Name of the Son ...
- You have God's Spirit BEARING witness within—

***KNOWING You ARE GOD's Child
fuels the Living Hope***

1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

You Raise Me Up - by Josh Groban, 2003

**I am strong
when I am on Your shoulders
You raise me up
to more than I can be**



Therefore ... and Therefore

this Peter transitions from description to something GREATER
This verse moves us into a TESTIMONY ... a WITNESS

NOW Read these two verses:

**8-9 Though you have not seen him, you LOVE him ...
you believe in him and are filled with
an inexpressible and glorious joy,
receiving the end of your faith,
even the salvation of your souls.**

**Unlike the Muslim, Buddhist and Dead Atheist
our Living Hope GROWS with each remembrance**

10-12 Prophets Looked ... even Angels Longed to Look

**10-11 Concerning this salvation, the prophets,
who spoke of the grace that was to come to you,
searched intently and with the greatest care,
trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of
Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the
Messiah and the glories that would follow.**

**Daniel 12:5-13 ... “How long shall it be till the end of these
wonders” ... “O my Lord, what shall be the issue of these things.”
God answers, “Go your way ... words are shut up and
sealed until the time of the end.”**

**Ezra 4:33, he asks the angel, “How long and when shall these
things be coming to pass? For our years are few and evil.”**

No Kidding Daniel & Ezra!!!

10-11 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently ...

**Habakkuk 2:1-4, he takes his stand on the watchtower to
“Look forth to see what God will say to me” and he is told
“the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie.
If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come,
it will not delay ... the righteous shall live by his faith.”**

**In the Qumran Habakkuk commentary on these,
“the final age shall be prolonged, and
shall exceed all that the Prophets have said.”**

No Kidding Habakkuk!!!



10-11 Concerning this salvation, the prophets
which the **Spirit of Christ** in them was pointing when he
predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and
the glories that would follow.

The Spirit of Christ
POINTED to the
Sufferings and Glories to follow

1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

A Living Hope that can be **CHOKED** by doubt

A Living Hope that can **DRY UP** in the desert

Yet so glorious, a Living Hope that can

Grow & become Strong

If you and I apply 1 Peter, the rest of the book, **your Hope Grows**

If you go to church, your **Living Hope grows**

If you read and meditate upon His Word,

read your Bible, your **Living Hope grows**



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

Now the most important of all ...

For those who grow rightly in this Living Hope

For those who LOVE God truly

There is a pinnacle ... a Supreme Height

There is a reward of faithfulness ...

Those who grow **MIGHTY** in their **Living Hope**

We have seen these Mighty Christian Oaks already ...

Because we've seen the Story Unfold for two Millennia



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

We know Peter - strong to the end
saying, "I am unworthy to be
crucified as my Lord"

Peter opts out of the norm
Crucify me upside-down

Supreme Living Hope

Michelangelo da Caravaggio
The Crucifixion of Saint Peter, 1601
Cerasi Chapel, Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

*“unworthy to be
crucified as my Lord”*

THAT is a Mighty Oak

*Indeed, the
Supreme Height of*
Living Hope



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

Like Peter, strong to the end ...

History is full of ...

Mighty Christian Oaks

... facing horrendous fates

... courageously facing death

... this **Living Hope** empowers the heart

... empowers the heart to **BOLDNESS**



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope



They sang as LIONS sought them in the Coliseum

1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

Hebrews 11:1 –

Now **FAITH** is confidence in what we hope for ...

FAITH is the foundation of Living Hope

3 By **FAITH** we understand that the universe
was formed at God's command ...

4 By **FAITH** Abel ... 5 By **FAITH** Enoch ... 7 By **FAITH** No

8 By **FAITH** Abraham ... 11 And by **FAITH** even Sarah

13 All these people ...

16 ... longing for a better country—a heavenly one....

19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead ..



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

Hebrews 11:20 – By faith Isaac blessed
Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

21 By *FAITH* Jacob ... 22 By faith Joseph ...

23 By *FAITH* Moses' parents ... 24 By faith Moses ...

29 By *FAITH* the people passed through the Red Sea ...

30 By *FAITH* the walls of Jericho fell ...

32 And what more shall I say?

32 I do **NOT HAVE TIME** to tell about Gideon, Barak,
Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel ...



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

Hebrews 11:33 – who through faith conquered kingdoms ... who shut the mouths of lions

34 By *FAITH* ... quenched the fury of the flames,
and escaped the edge of the sword;
whose weakness was turned to strength;
who became powerful in battle....

35 By *FAITH* ... Women received back their dead ... others tortured,
refusing to be released ... they might gain an even better resurrection.

37-39 By *FAITH* ... put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two ...
none of them received what had been promised



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

Now then ... make it personal ... ?????

By **FAITH** ... Bob? ... he ...

By **FAITH** ... Michael? ... he ...

By **FAITH** ... Ann? ... she ...

By **FAITH** ... Sergio? ... he ...

By **FAITH** ... Betty? ... she ...

By **FAITH** ... born into a

LIVING HOPE



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

Now, you MIGHT be saying, “Faith ... Hope—
what in the world is the difference?”

Glad you asked.

Faith gets you “Eternal Life” and “Born Again”

Hope energizes your LIFE ... points you to the FUTURE

Yet there is *one more passage*

Very Pinnacle of N.T. sublimity ... most sublime of all

Height in N.T. beauty and sublimity is *wait for it . . .*



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

1 Corinthians 13 – many verses get close
Yet – no other matches in beautiful sublimity
AFTER our entrance into heaven,
this chapter that will be proven
true & then truer & truer for all eternity

Hear the last verse – 1 Corinthians 13:13

These three remain: FAITH, HOPE & LOVE.

But the greatest of these is LOVE



1 Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope

Faith gets you life ... sustains spiritual life
even from faith to faith

Hope takes you through life ... touching heaven

Love—Love IS LIFE ... *best of Life*
here and in the hereafter for God is LOVE

Ooooooh, you MIGHT be saying . . . still a tad FOGGY-BOGGY
Daahhhh mail has NOT quite arrived yet mister postman

Let me make the difference CRYSTAL clear ...



Look closely ... in the center of to the arena

Faith got us **into** the arena
Love **unites** us in arena
But our **Living Hope**
took us to the
Supreme Heights
And we **sang** as the
Lions approached

Michael
& I got
here early
We're still
toasting

John

Dale

Tim

Charles

Bob

Betty

Richard

Sue

Barbara

Lionel

Karen

Rick

Sergio

Kayla

Judy

Beverly



Look closely ... in the center of to the arena



Love is **STILL** the greatest
You see, there is only **ONE**
thing **WORSE** than getting
chewed upon by a **LION**

..... you **KNOW**

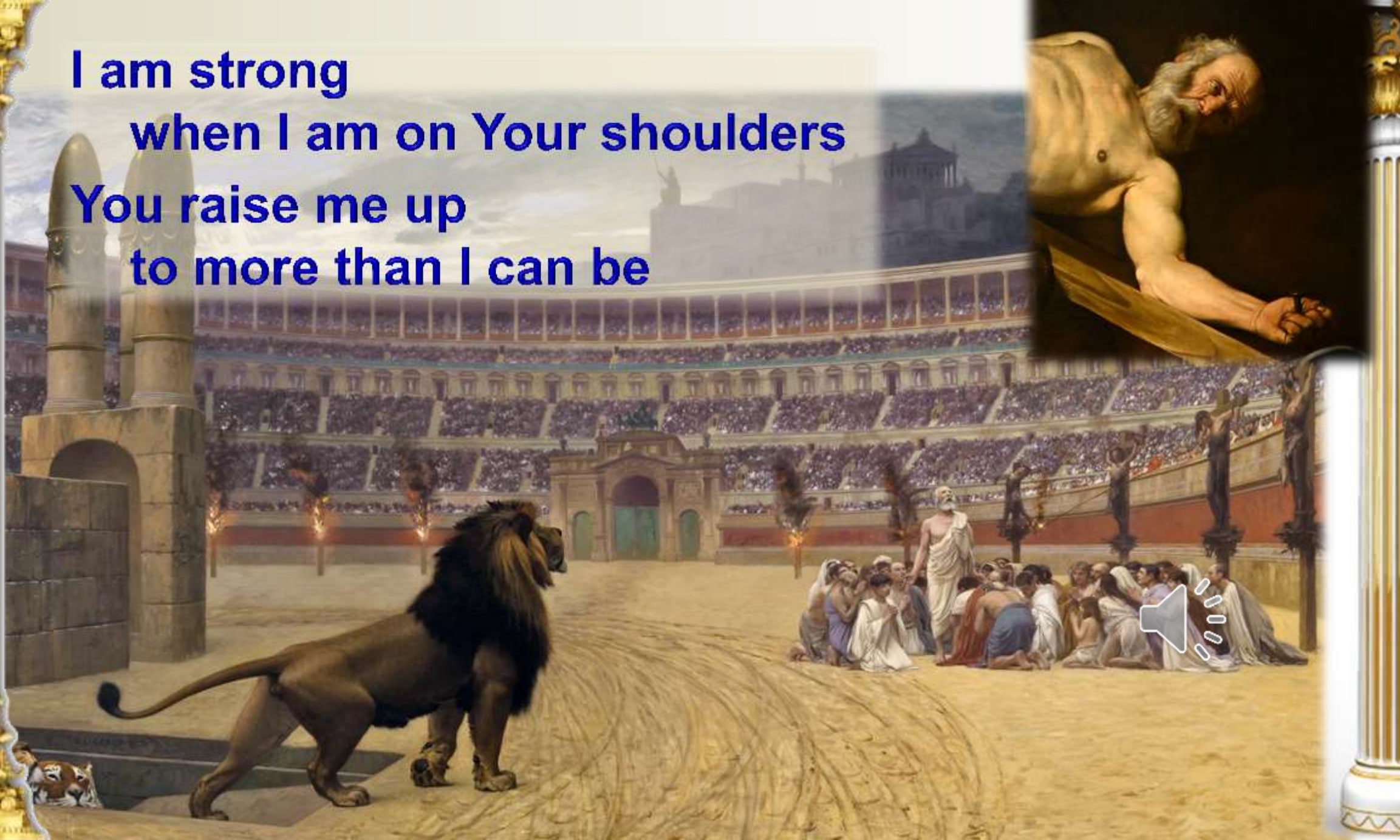
Watching someone you
LOVE getting chewed

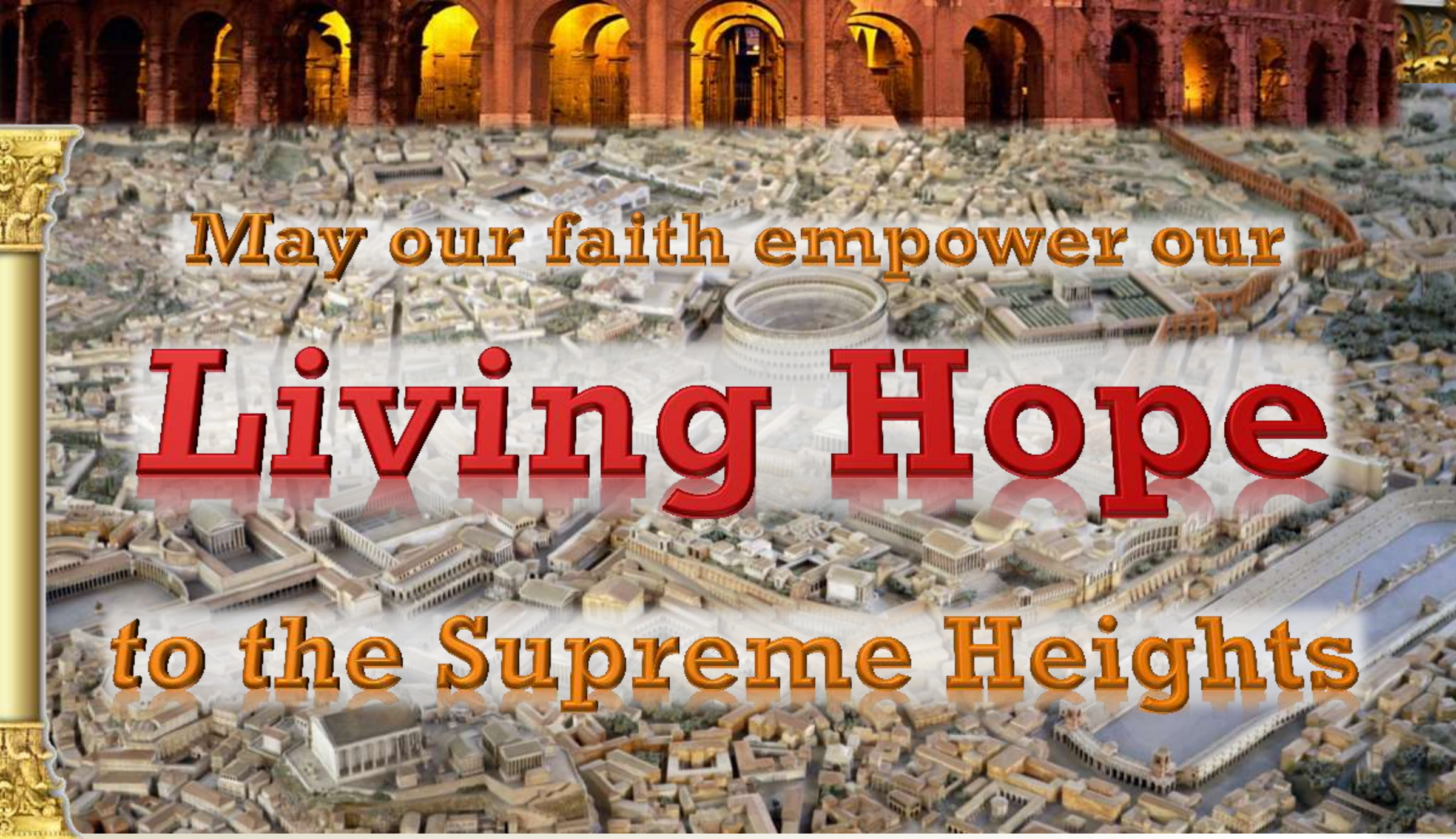
Love IS the Greatest

Yet, in the **ARENA** ... it is

LIVING HOPE
that allows us to **SING**

**I am strong
when I am on Your shoulders
You raise me up
to more than I can be**





May our faith empower our

Living Hope

to the Supreme Heights