



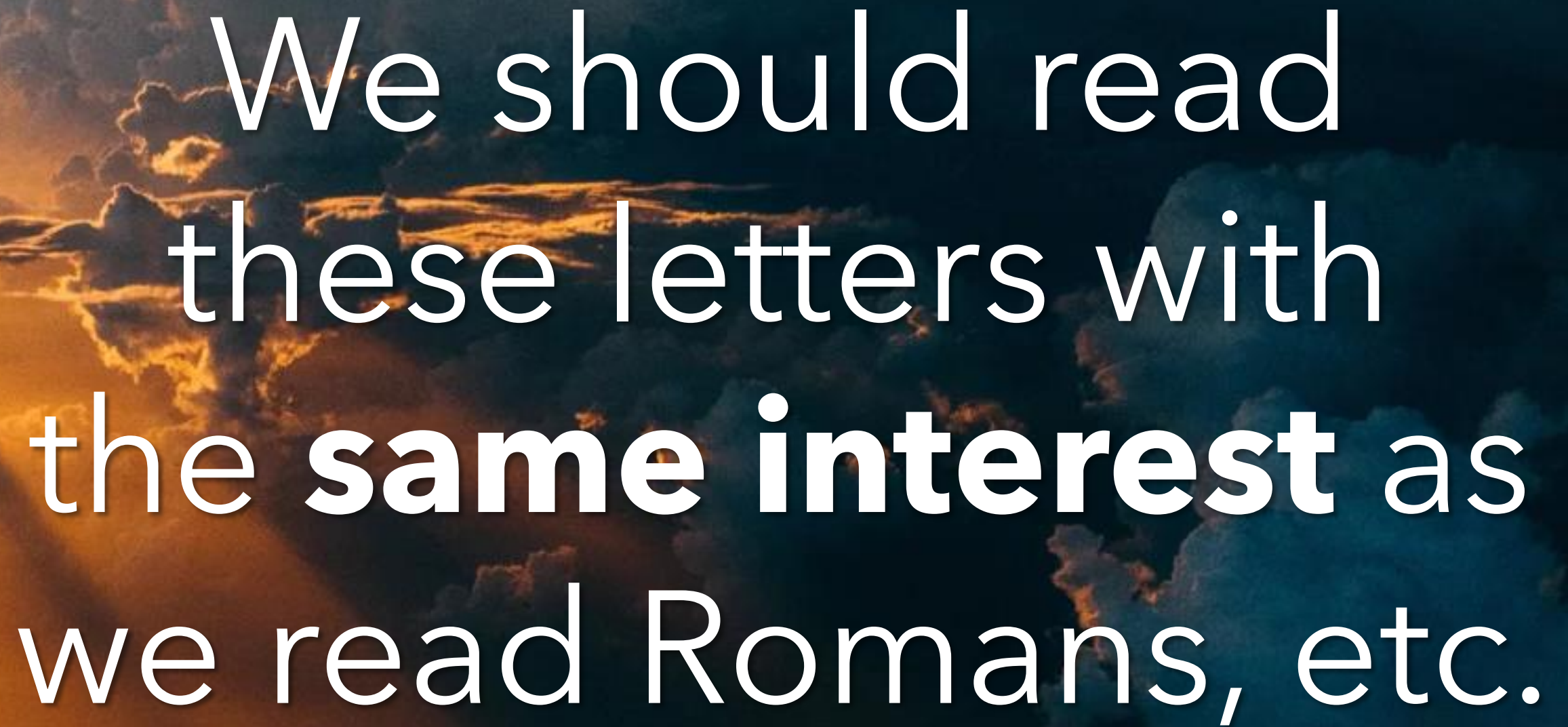
The

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

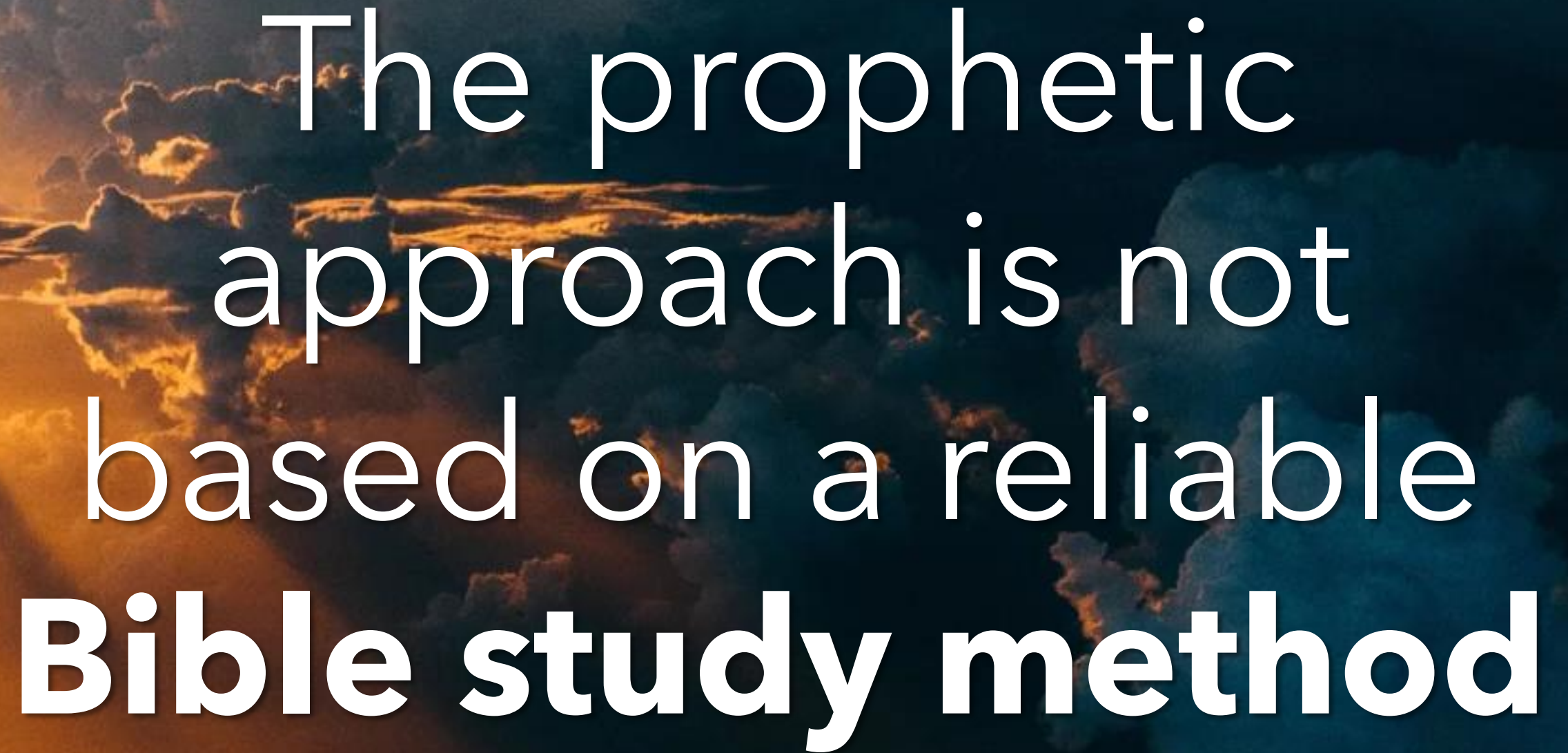
Missionary
Era

1750-
1900

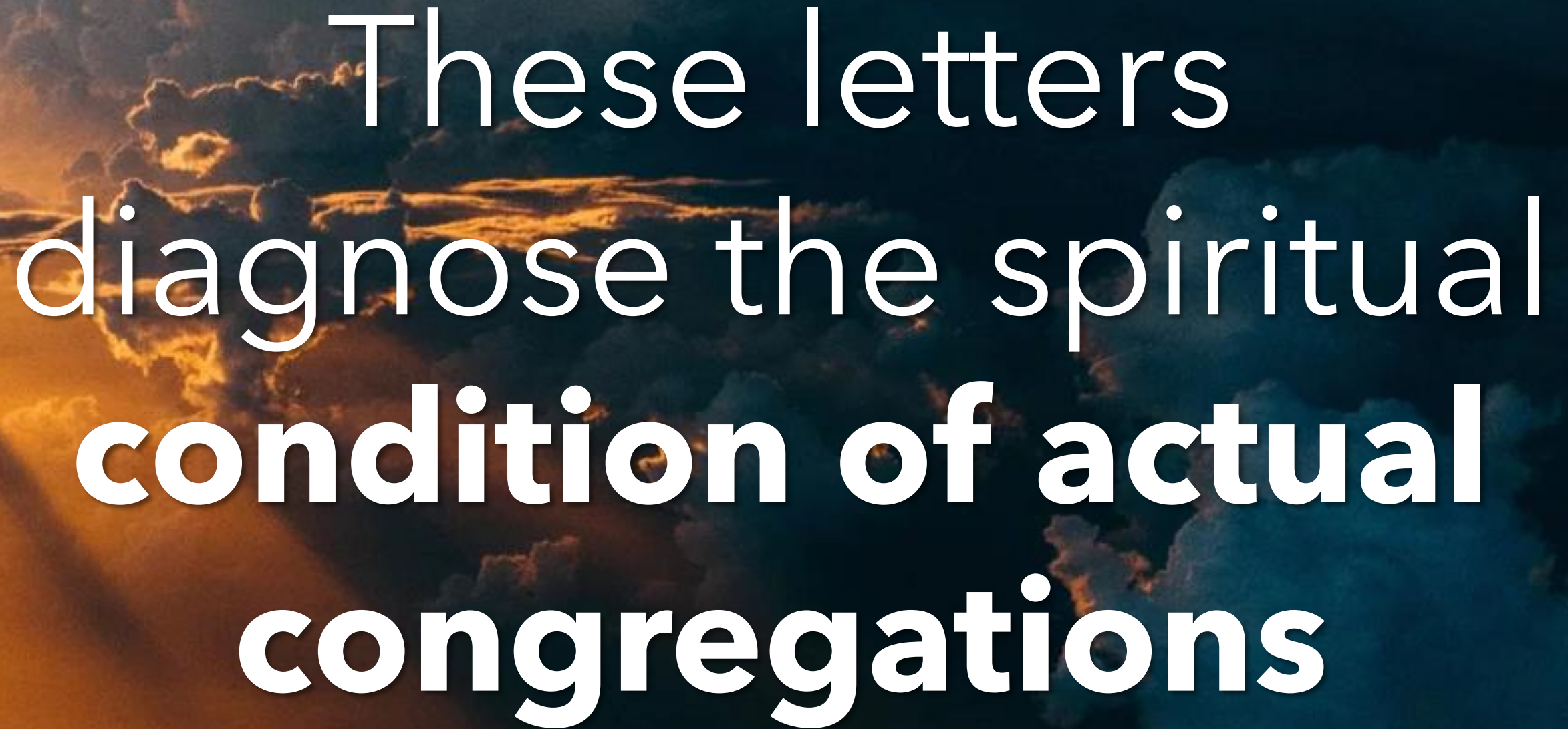
Laodicea

Lukewarm
Era

1900-
now



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



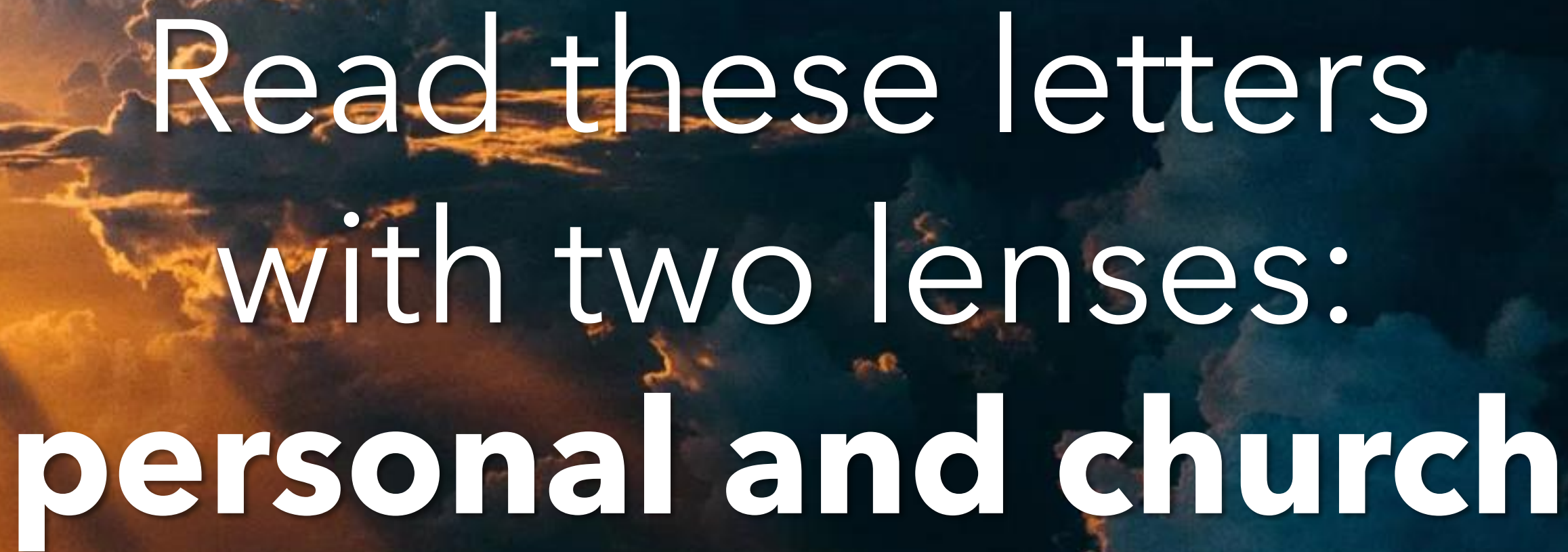
These letters
diagnose the spiritual
**condition of actual
congregations**



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

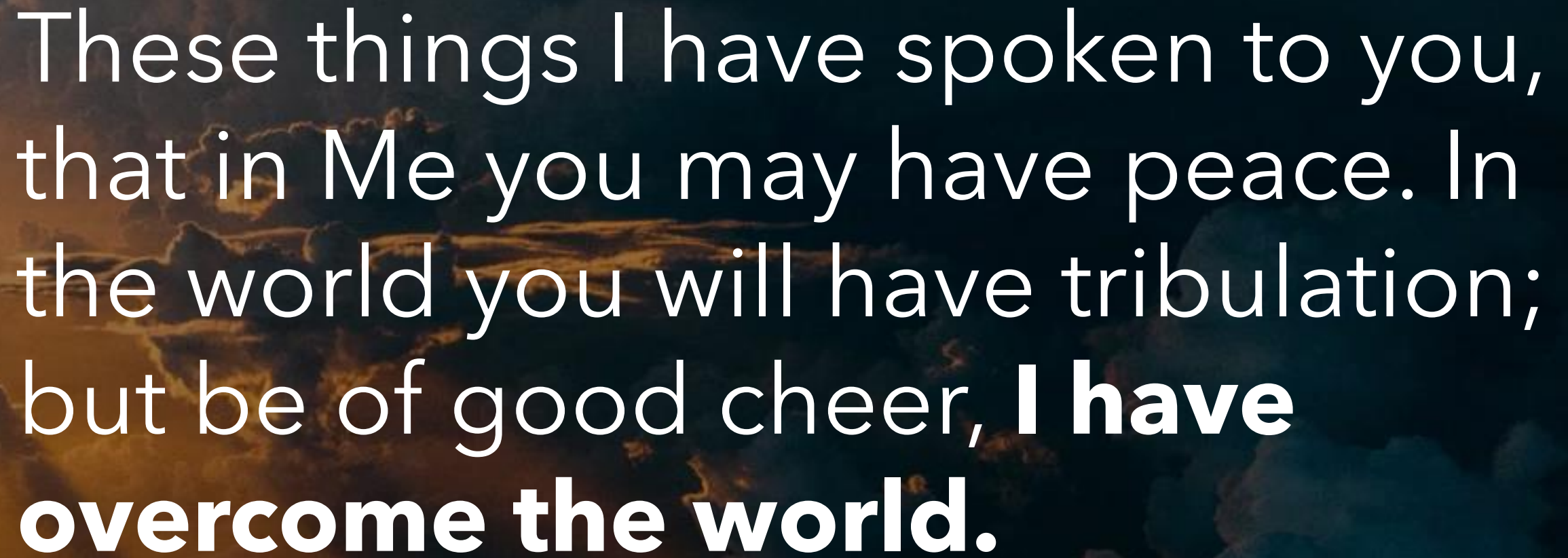


Who is an
overcomer?

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

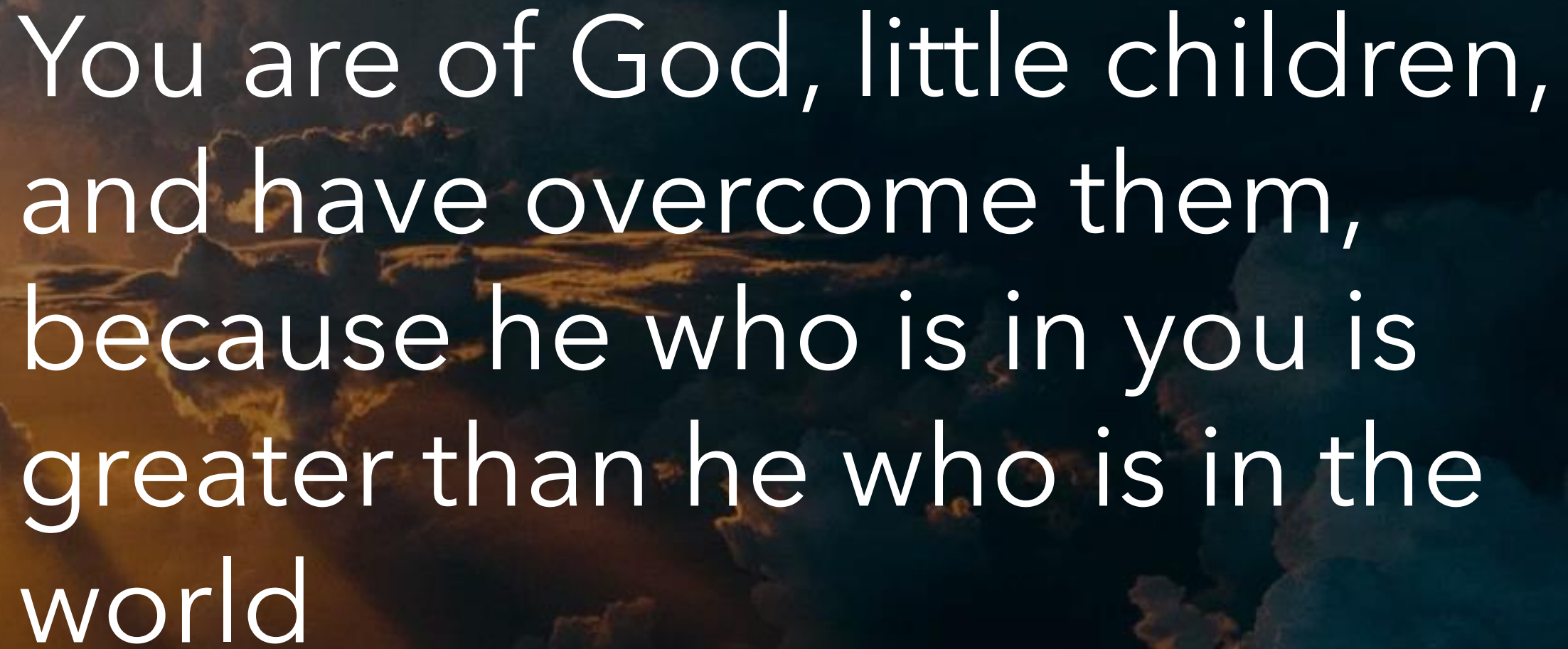
Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5



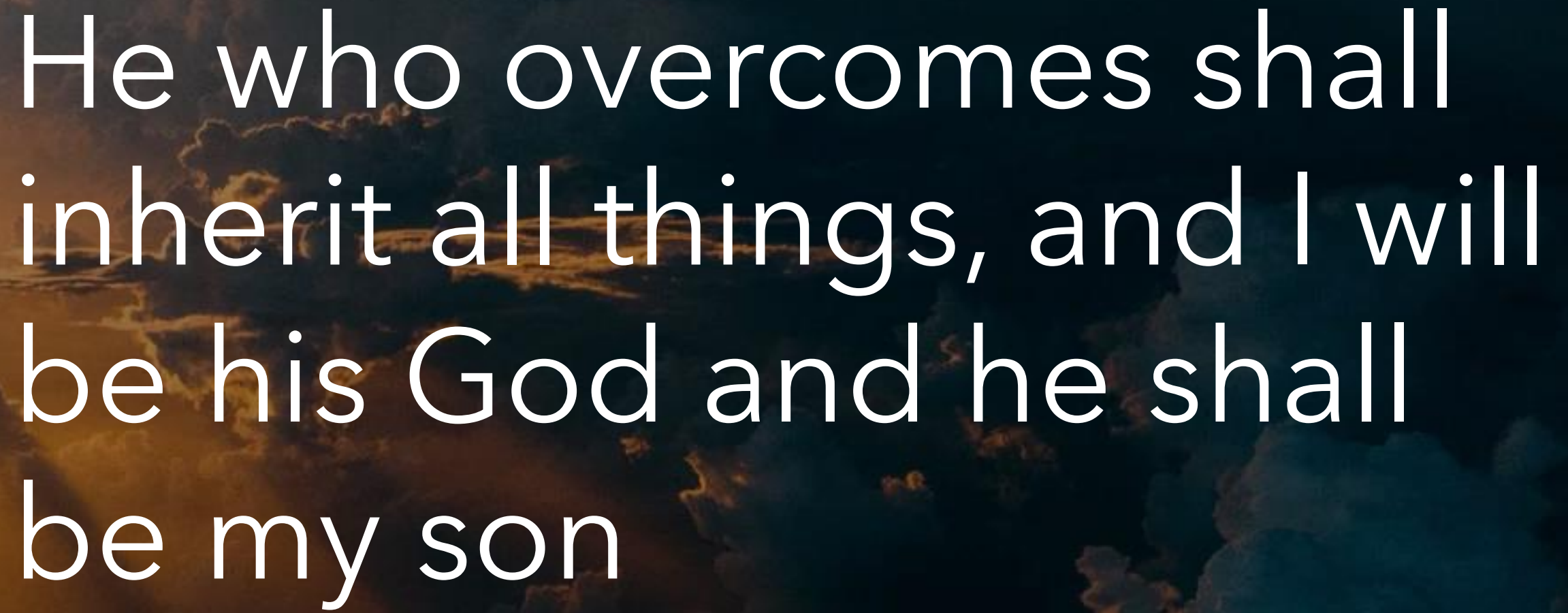
These things I have spoken to you,
that in Me you may have peace. In
the world you will have tribulation;
but be of good cheer, **I have
overcome the world.**

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