



The Lord Adds ...

Those Who

FOLLOW JESUS

... John 21:18-23

Some Thoughts To Consider

① Jeremiah SAID ...

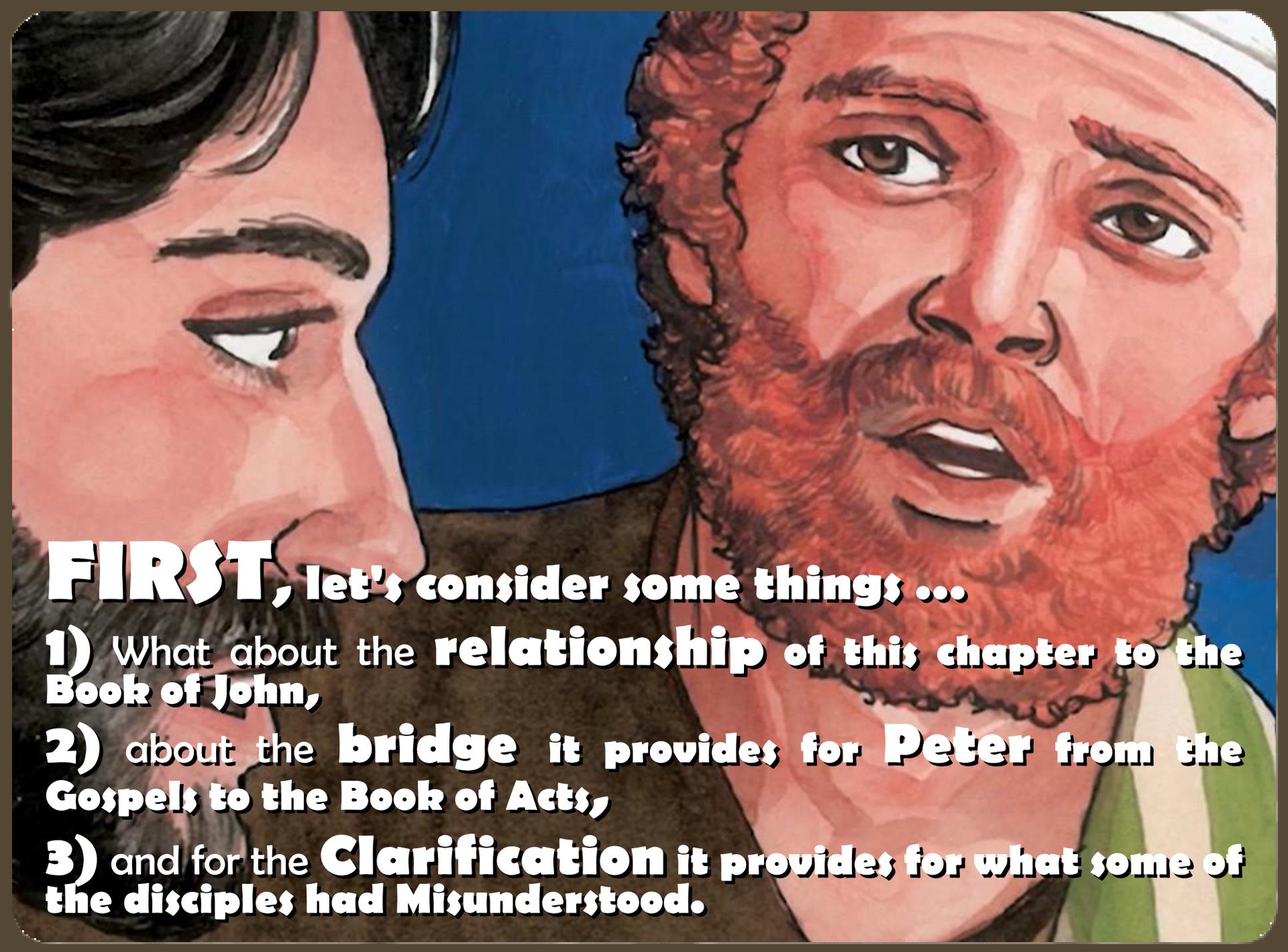
"Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?" ... (Jeremiah 12:1)

② I'd say most of us have **FELT** the same way about things in our own Time.

③ Would you agree that some people have it **BETTER**, while others seem to have more **TRIALS** and **TRIBULATIONS**?

④ If you have ever been troubled by the fact that at times life seems to be **UNFAIR**, there is a lesson found in one of the last conversations that **JESUS** had with **PETER**.

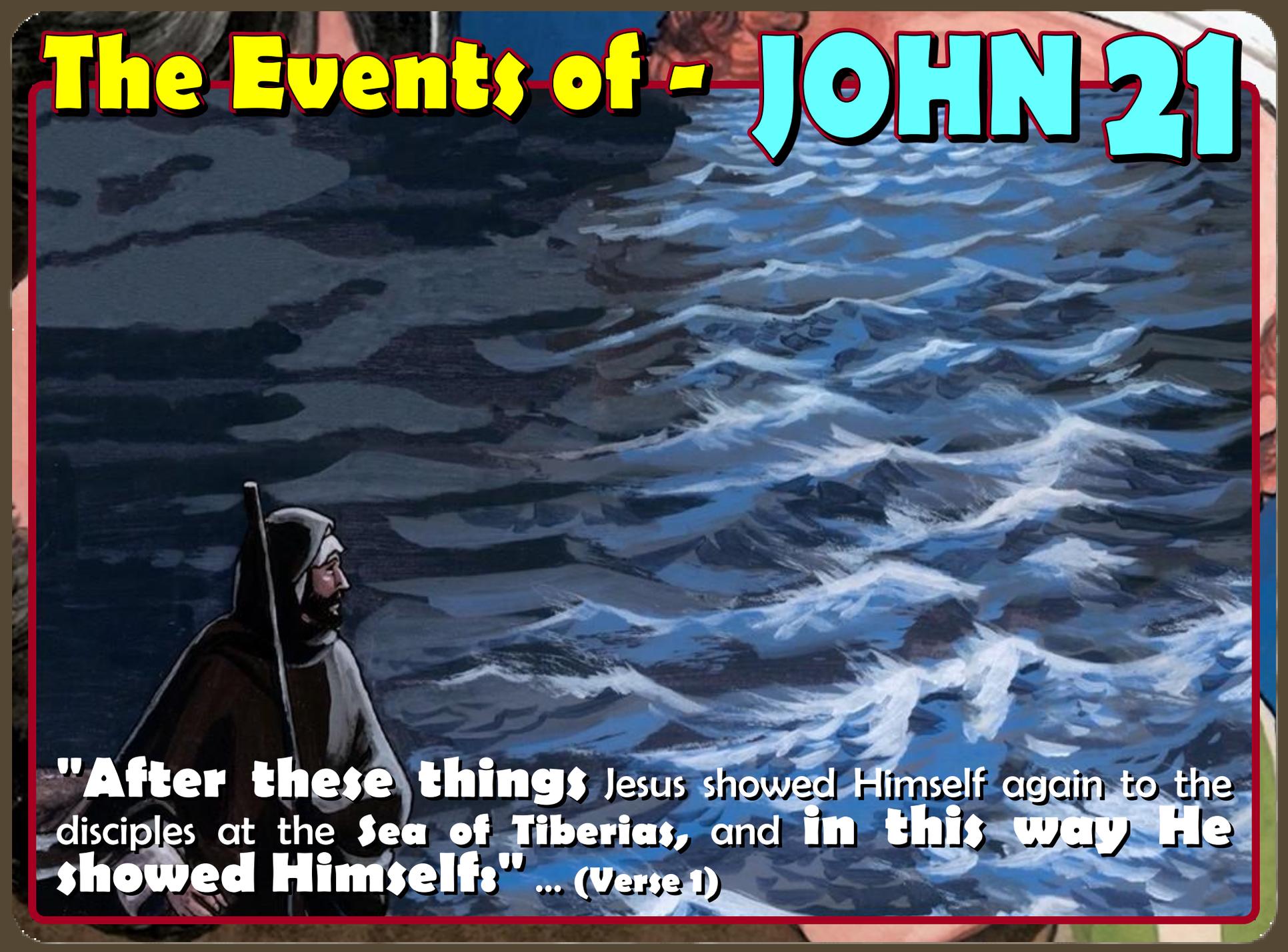
⑤ Now, let's give the background to the **TEXT** ...



FIRST, let's consider some things ...

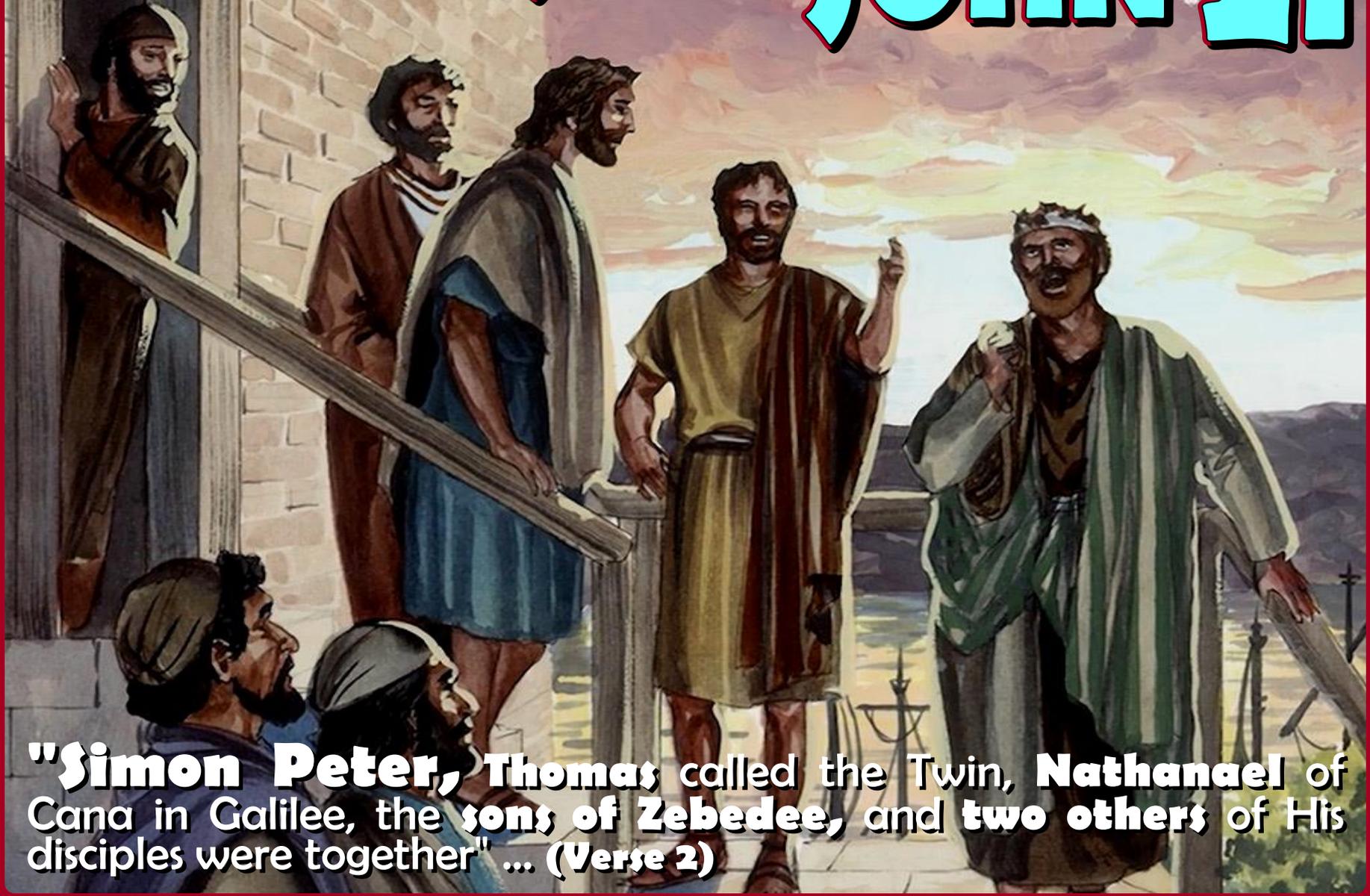
- 1)** What about the **relationship** of this chapter to the **Book of John**,
- 2)** about the **bridge** it provides for **Peter** from the **Gospels** to the **Book of Acts**,
- 3)** and for the **Clarification** it provides for what some of the **disciples** had **Misunderstood**.

The Events of - JOHN 21

A man with a beard, wearing a dark robe and a hood, is shown in profile, looking out over a vast, turbulent sea. The water is dark blue with white-capped waves, suggesting a storm or rough weather. The man's expression is serious and contemplative. The background is a dark, overcast sky, adding to the dramatic atmosphere of the scene.

"After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the **Sea of Tiberias,** and **in this way He showed Himself:"** ... (Verse 1)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together" ... (Verse 2)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"Simon Peter said to them, **"I am going fishing."** They said to him, **"We are going with you also."** They went out and immediately got into the boat, and **that night they caught nothing"** ... (Verse 3)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus" ... (Verse 4)

The Events of - JOHN 21



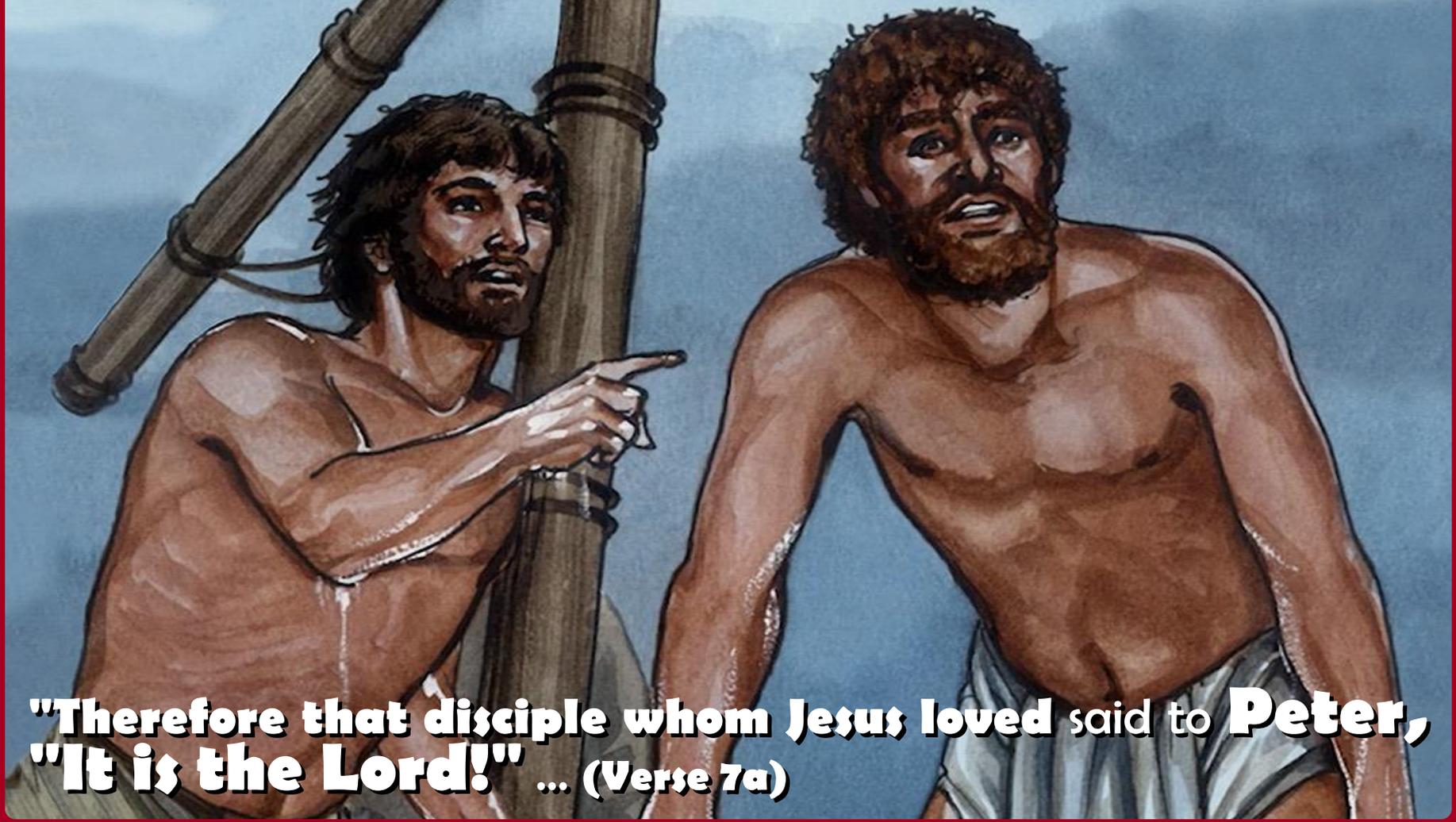
"Then **Jesus** said to them, "**Children, have you any food?**"
They answered Him, "**No**" ... (Verse 5)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"And **He** said to them, "**Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.**" So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish" ... (Verse 6)

The Events of - JOHN 21



**"Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter,
"It is the Lord!" ... (Verse 7a)**

The Events of - JOHN 21



"Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea" ... (Verse 7b)

The Events of - JOHN 21

"But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. ⁹ Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught" ... (Verses 8-10)

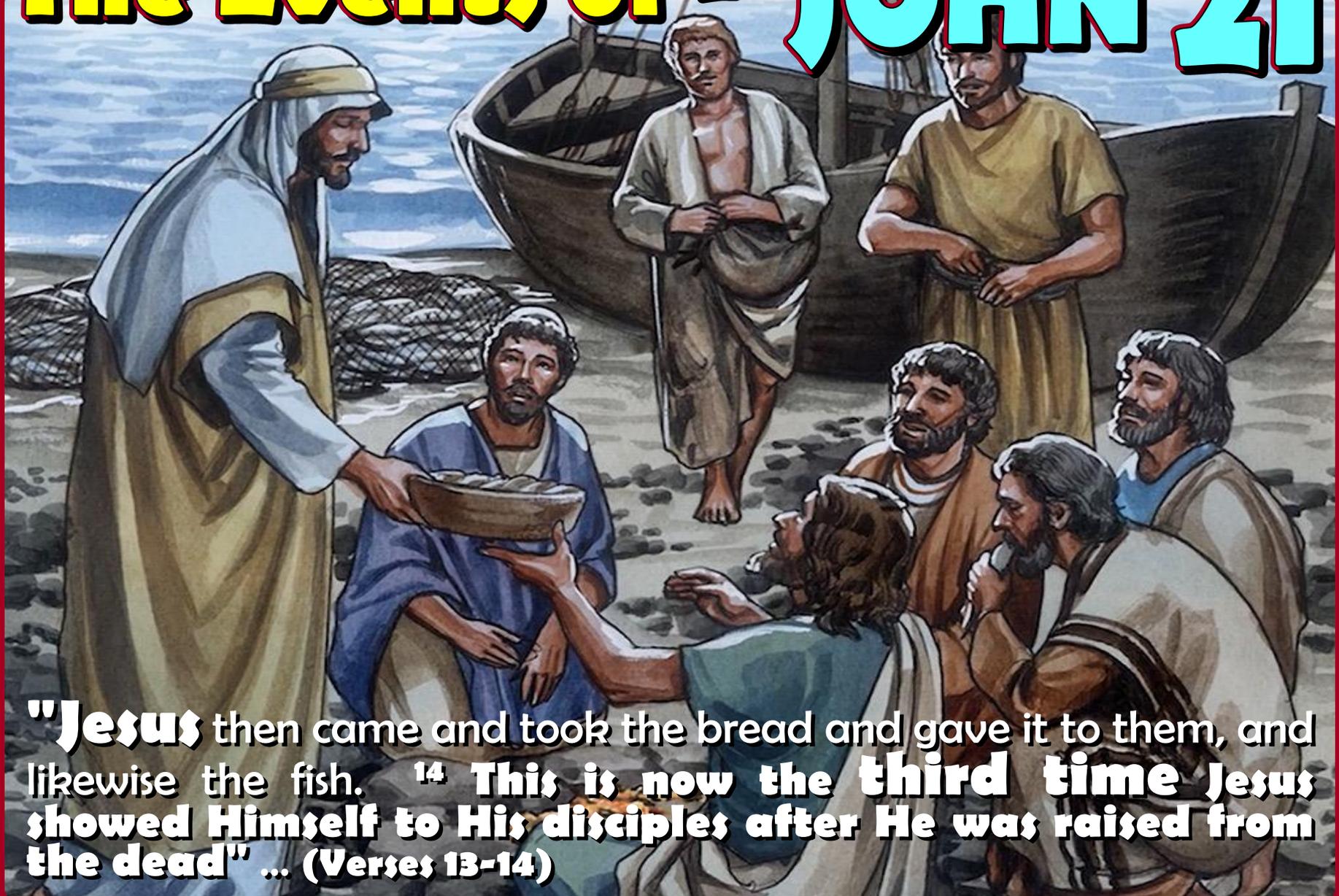


The Events of - JOHN 21



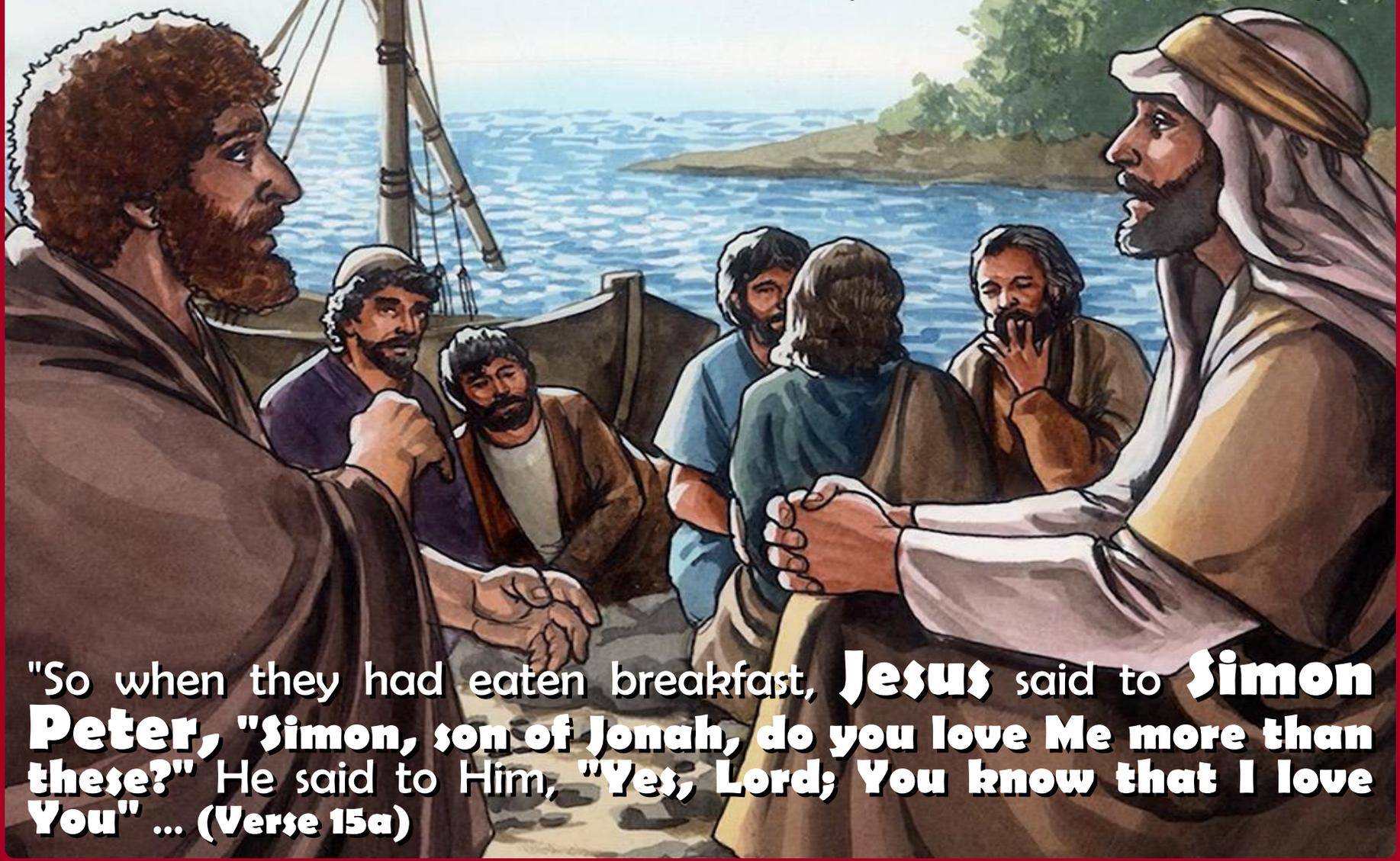
"Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" - knowing that it was the Lord" ... (Verses 11-12)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. ¹⁴ **This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead"** ... (Verses 13-14)

The Events of - JOHN 21



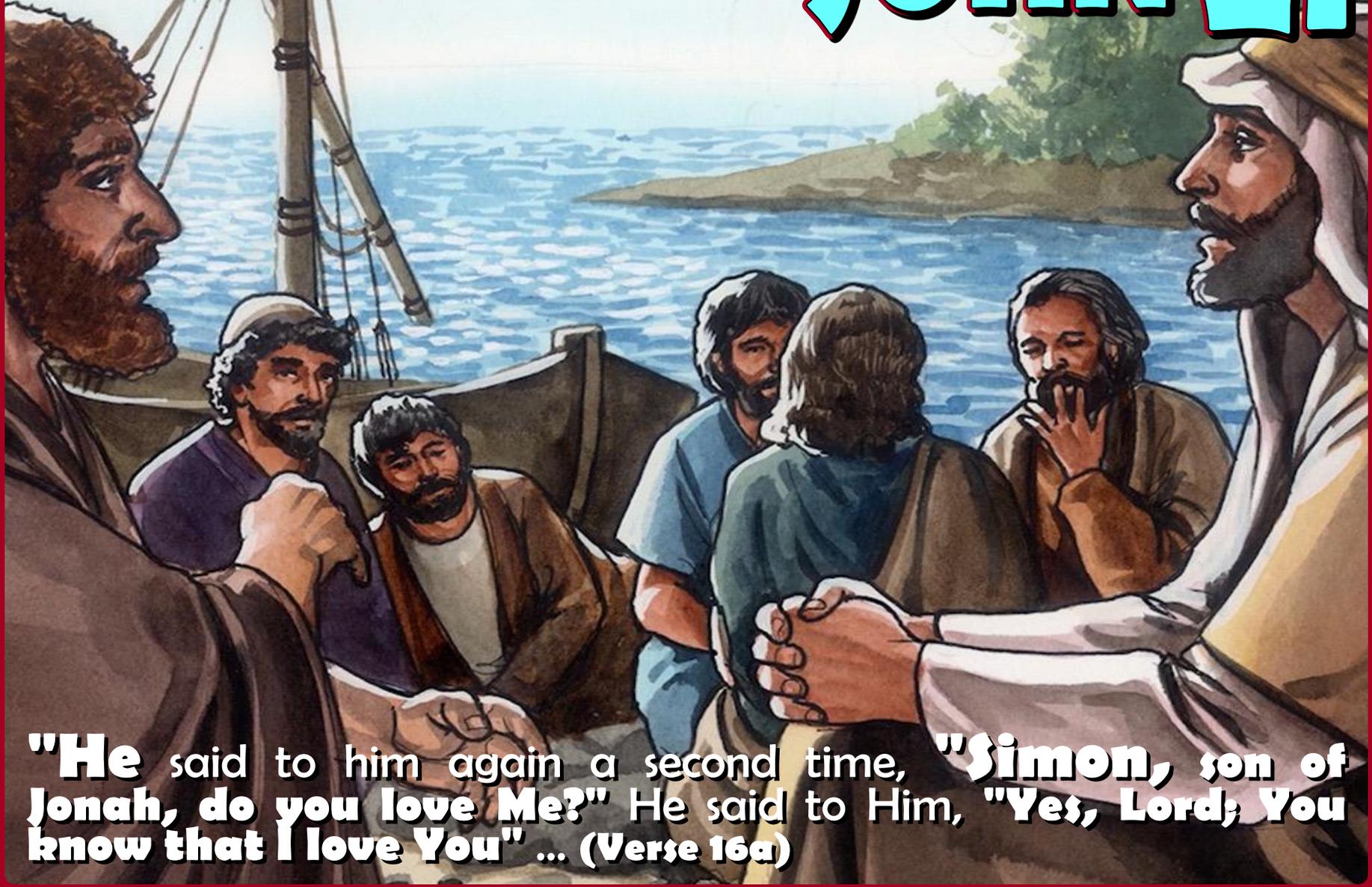
"So when they had eaten breakfast, **Jesus** said to **Simon Peter**, "**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?**" He said to Him, "**Yes, Lord; You know that I love You**" ... (Verse 15a)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"He said to him, "Feed My lambs" ... (Verse 15b)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"He said to him again a second time, **"Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"** He said to Him, **"Yes, Lord; You know that I love You"** ... (Verse 16a)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"He said to him, "Tend My sheep" ... (Verse 16b)

The Events of - JOHN 21



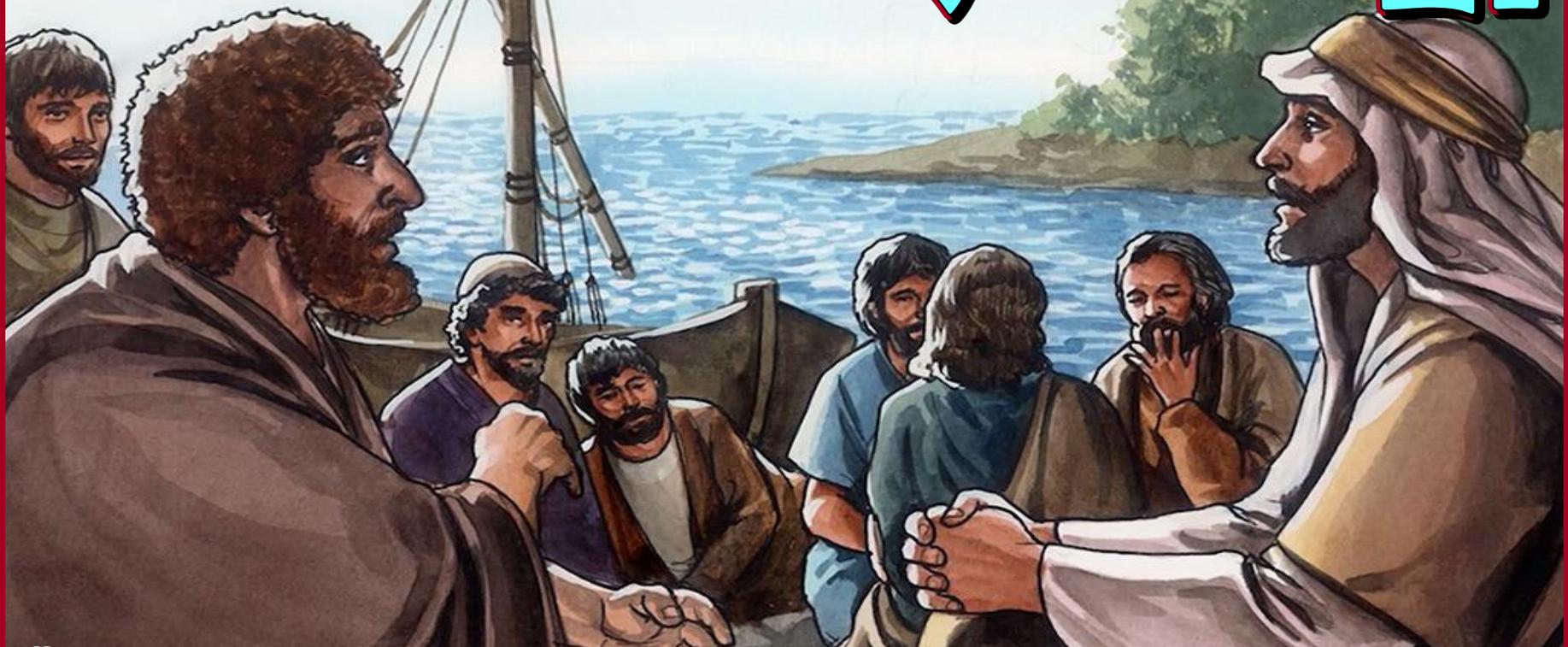
"He said to him the third time, **"Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter** was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, **"Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You"** ... (Verse 17a)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep" ... (Verse 17b)

The Events of - JOHN 21



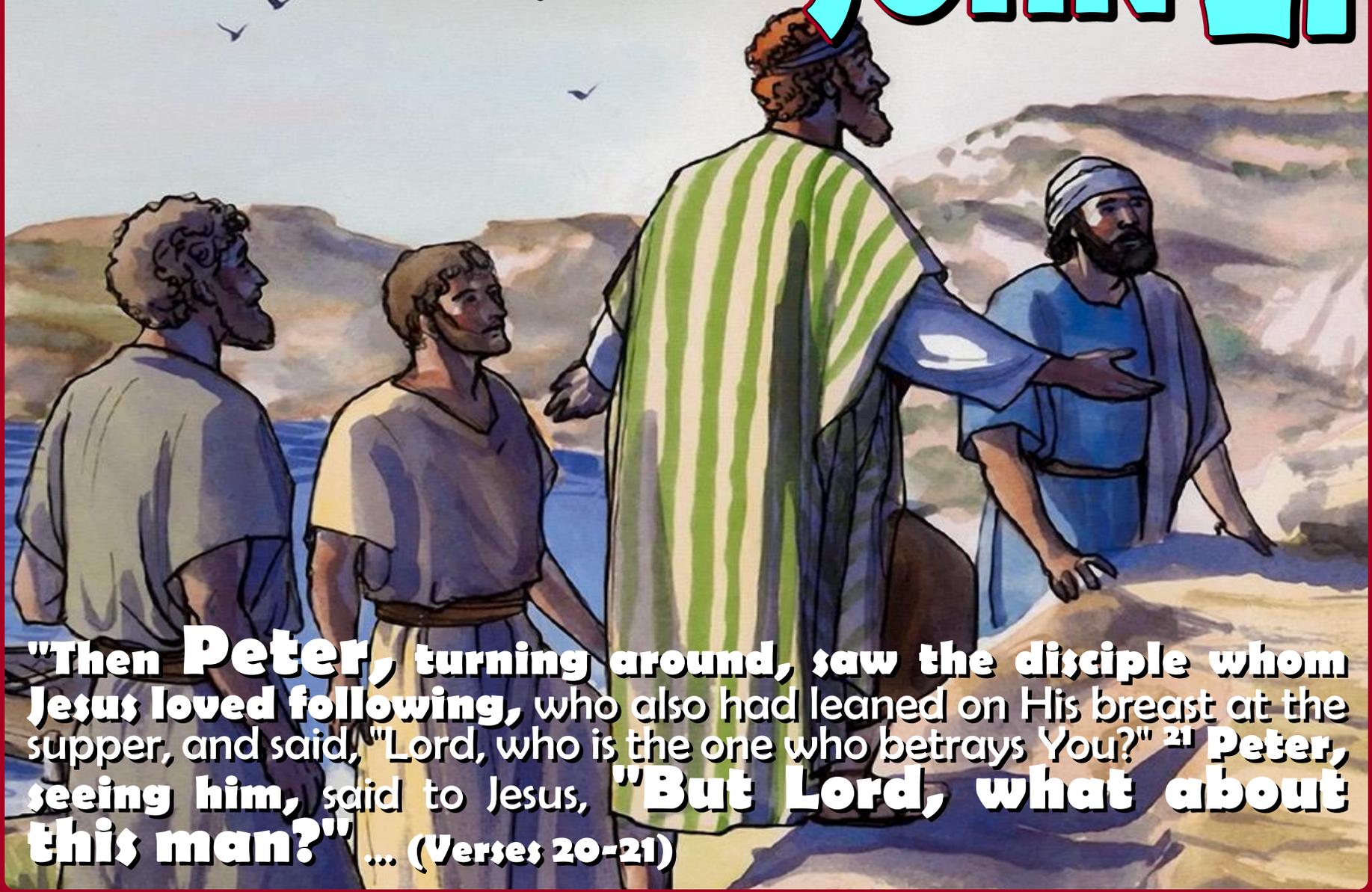
"Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." ¹⁹
This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God" ... (Verses 18-19a)

The Events of - JOHN 21

An illustration depicting three men in traditional Middle Eastern attire. On the left, a man with a dark beard and a white head covering (Jesus) looks towards the right. In the center, a man with a dark beard and a white head covering looks towards the right. On the right, a man with a thick red beard and a white head covering looks towards the left. The background shows a hazy landscape with mountains.

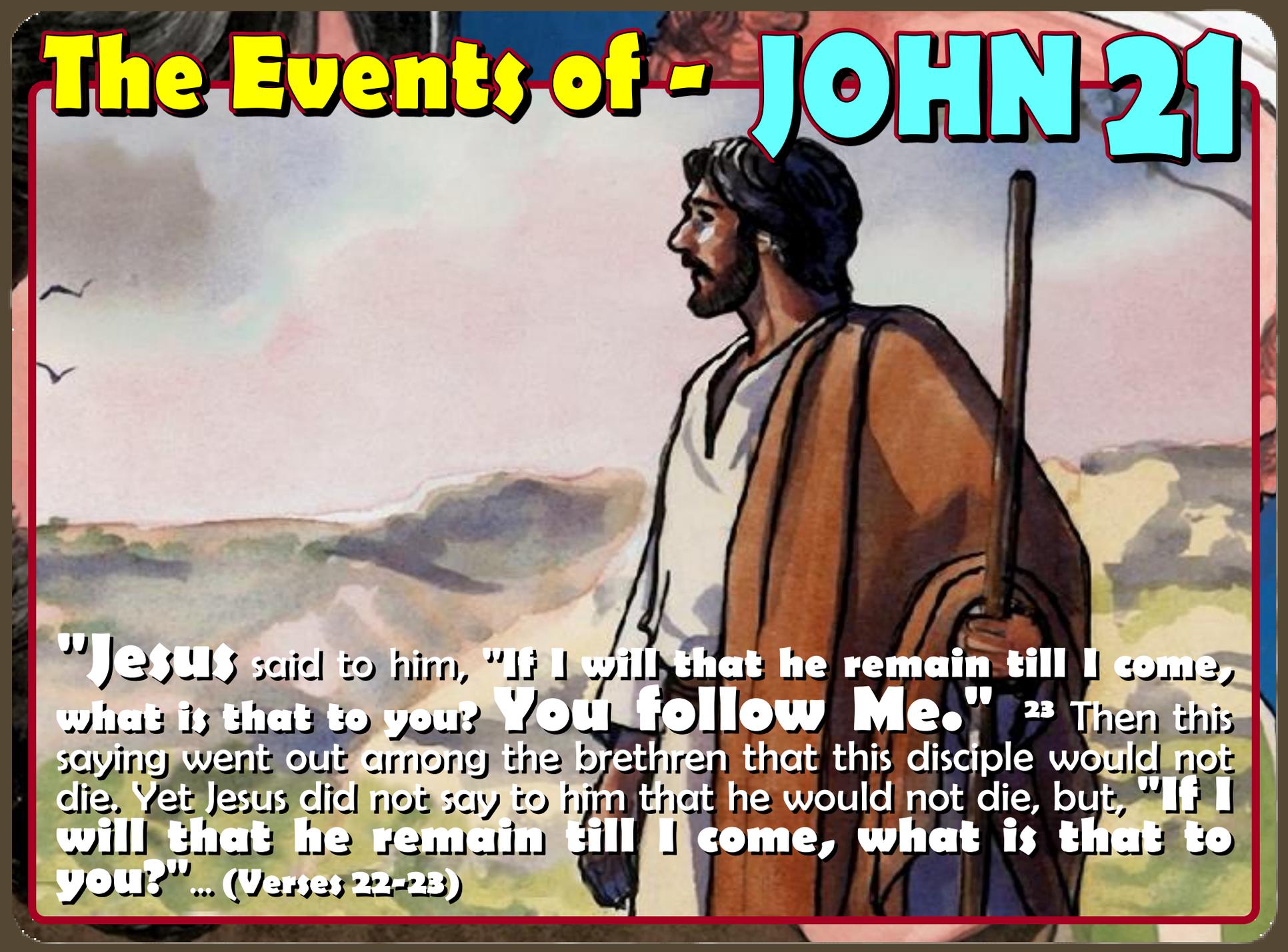
"And when He had spoken this, **He said to him, "Follow Me"** ... (Verse 19b)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"²¹ Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" ... (Verses 20-21)

The Events of - JOHN 21



"Jesus said to him, **"If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."** ²³ Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, **"If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"** ... (Verses 22-23)

POWERS
UNCOMMON



Christians are NOT promised that all will have the same **TEMPERAL DESTINY.**

① **JESUS** was **not obligated** to say **John** would suffer the same kind of death as **Peter** ...



John 21:18-22

18 "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but **when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."**

19 This He spoke, **signifying by what death he would glorify God.** And when He had spoken this, He said to him, **"Follow Me."**

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, **"If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."**

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Christians are NOT promised that all will have the same **TEMPERAL DESTINY.**

- ① JESUS was not obligated to say John would suffer the same kind of death as Peter ...**
- ② GOD allows some to live a long time and others to die young, and He has a right to do that! ...**



Acts 12:1-7

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church.

2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

4 So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands.

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- ② GOD** allows some to **live a long time** and **others to die young**, and **He has a right to do that!** ...
- ③ What PETER** would later tell us **about this** ...



II Peter 1:12-15

12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

14 knowing that shortly I must put off my

tent, just as our Lord

Jesus Christ showed

me.

15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things **after my decease.**

2

God holds each of our destinies **IN HIS HAND:**

① **JESUS** indicates that **His Will** had something to do with both **Peter** and **John's Destiny ...**



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God holds each of our destinies **IN HIS HAND:**

- ① JESUS** indicates that **His Will** had something to do with both **Peter** and **John's Destiny ...**
- ② GOD IS SOVEREIGN ...** yes, there is truth in the song, "**He's Got The Whole World In His Hand**" ...



Daniel 4:34-35

34 And at the end of the time **I, Nebuchadnezzar,** lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and **I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.**

35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; **He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"**

Job 14:1-5

1 "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.

2 He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.

3 And do You open Your eyes on such a one, And bring me to judgment with Yourself?

4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one!

5 Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.

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- ② GOD IS SOVEREIGN ...** yes, there is truth in the song, "**He's Got The Whole World In His Hand**" ...
- ③ BIBLE** teaches both the **Sovereignty of God** and the **Free-Will of Man**, and **PETER** taught it too ...



1 Peter 3:10-14

10 For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.

11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."

13 **And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?**

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

1 Peter 5:6-11

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

POWERS
OF
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3

We are not to **INFER** things that God did not **IMPLY**:

① **JESUS** words and what He meant were **Misapplied** by the **Other Disciples** ...



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- ① **JESUS** words and what He meant were **Misapplied** by the **Other Disciples ...**
- ② **GOD** intends **We Infer** only what **He Implied ...**



Matthew 11:1-6

1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.

2 And when **John** had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples

3 and said to Him, "**Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?**"

4 **Jesus** answered and said to them, "**Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:**

5 "**The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.**

6 "**And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.**"

Acts 8:34-38

34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"

35 Then **Philip** opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, **preached Jesus to him.**

36 Now as they went down the road, **they came to some water.** And the **eunuch** said, "**See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?**"

37 Then **Philip** said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And **he answered and said,** "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. **And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.**

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- ② **GOD** intends **We Infer** only what **He Implied ...**
- ③ **PETER** warned us about the **Danger of Twisting the Scriptures ...**



II Peter 3:15-18

15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation - **as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,**

16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, **in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.**

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, **beware** lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

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4

We're to FOLLOW JESUS regardless of what we or others Might Experience:

① JESUS had to remind Peter that he needed to Fulfill his Own Personal Responsibilities ...



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We're to FOLLOW JESUS regardless of what we or others Might Experience:

- ① JESUS had to remind Peter that he needed to Fulfill his Own Personal Responsibilities ...**
- ② GOD has shown us Examples of the Faithful ...**



Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

4

We're to FOLLOW JESUS regardless of what we or others Might Experience:

- 1 JESUS** had to remind Peter that he needed to **Fulfill his Own Personal Responsibilities ...**
- 2 GOD** has shown us **Examples of the Faithful ...**
- 3 PETER** reminds us **not to allow Bad Experiences to Distract us from our Duty To God ...**



1 Peter 2:18-21

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

1 Peter 4:14-19

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

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IF ... Other Christians have GOOD HEALTH and you are afflicted with SERIOUS ILLNESS.

IF ... others seem to have a more PLEASANT LIFE while yours seems to be filled with CHAOS and DIFFICULTIES?

IF ... others are blessed to have a SPOUSE and you are not able to find a SUITABLE MATE?

IF ... others have HAPPY MARRIAGES and yours DIDN'T TURN OUT that way?

IF ... others have children who are LOVING and RESPECTFUL and yours are REBELLIOUS?

IF ... others are having PEACEFUL conditions and you are suffering PERSECUTION?

IF ... others are PROSPEROUS and your FUNDS RUN OUT BEFORE THE MONTH DOES?

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1 Corinthians 10:13

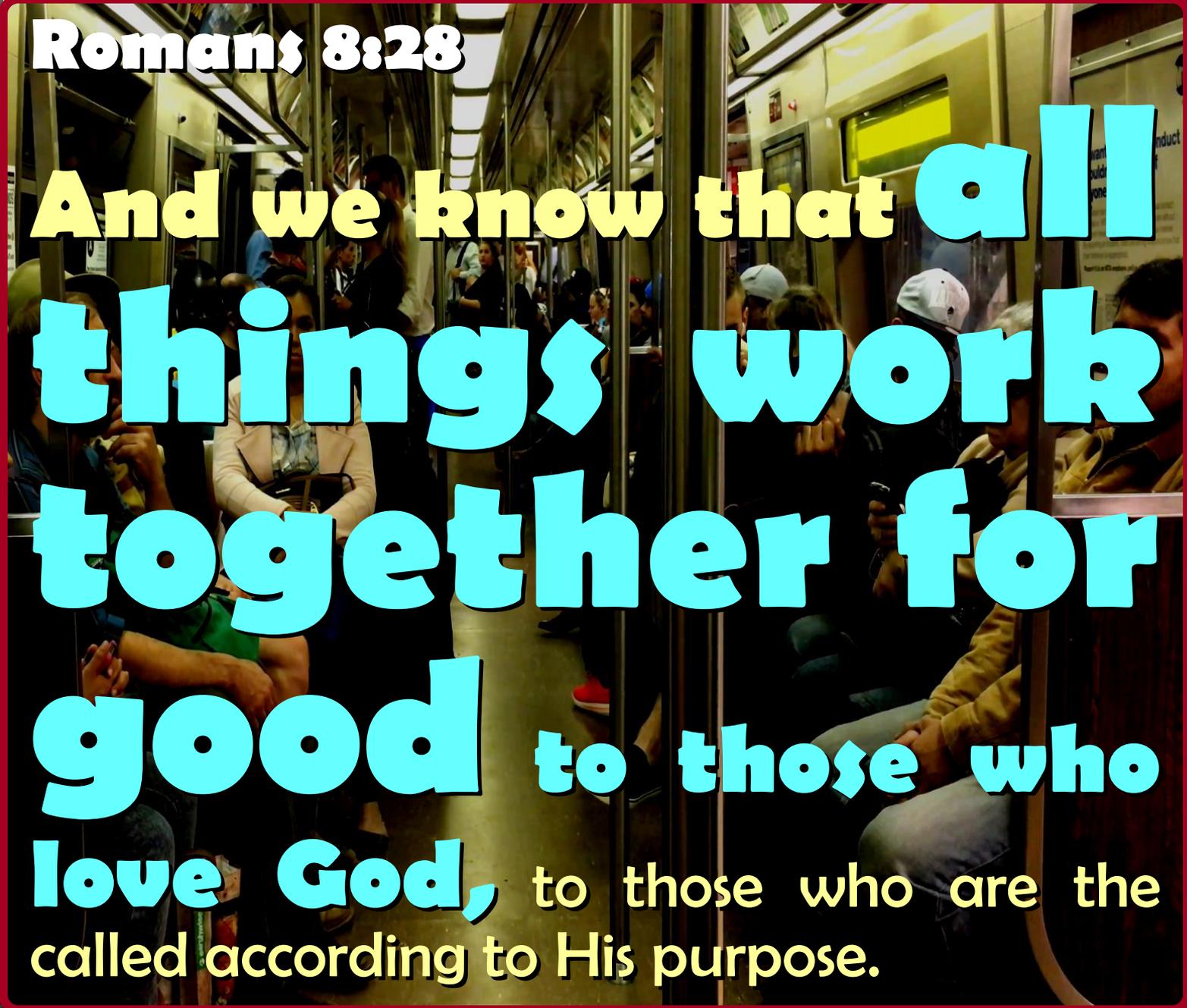
No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; **but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,** but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.



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Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.



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Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. **For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."**

6 So we may boldly say: **"The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"**



**"LORD, what about all
these THINGS?"**

**"What is that
to You?"**

**YOU
FOLLOW
ME."**

... John 21:18-23