

# CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

## MARTYRS – PART FOUR

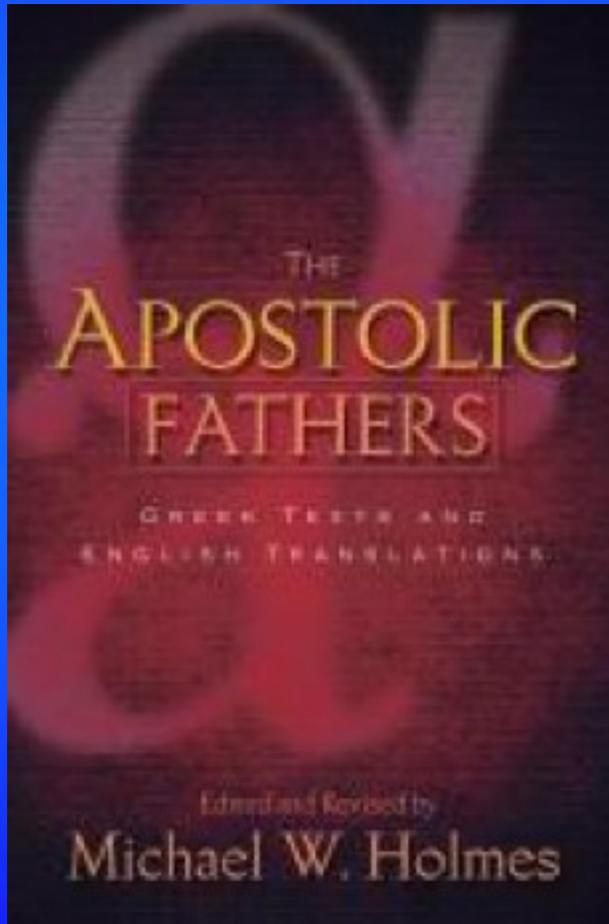
### Polycarp

#### Lesson 7

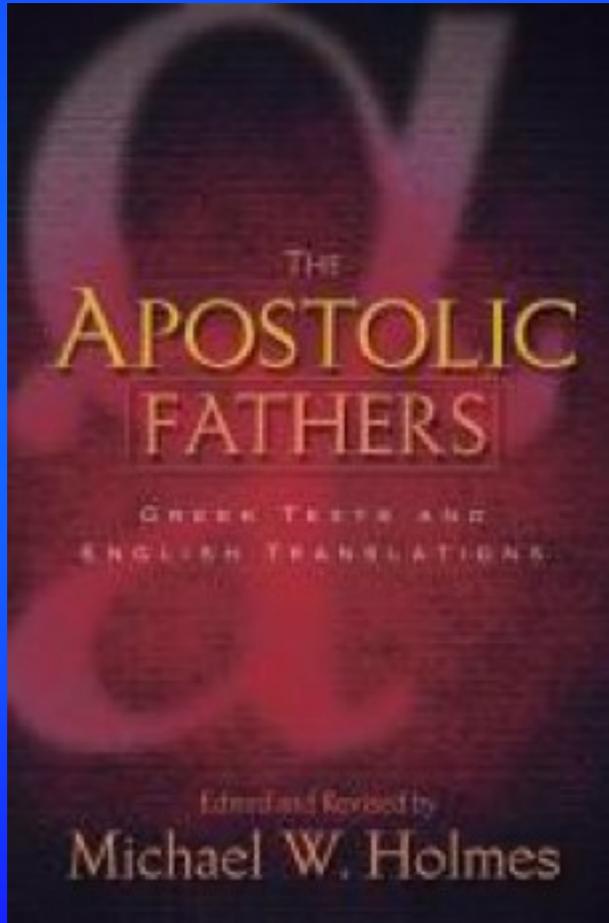
*Biblical-Literacy.com*

© Copyright 2006 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.

# “Apostolic Fathers”

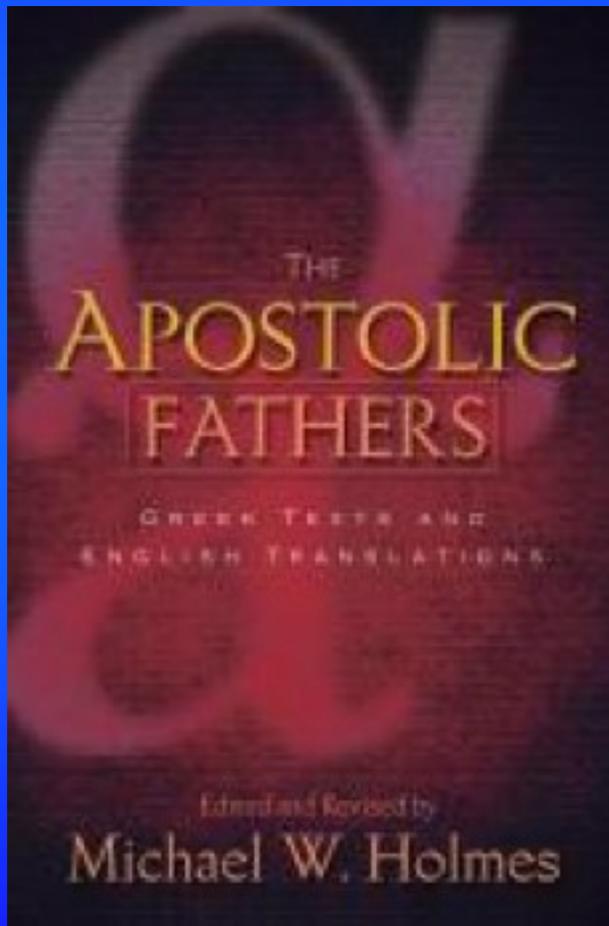


# “Apostolic Fathers”



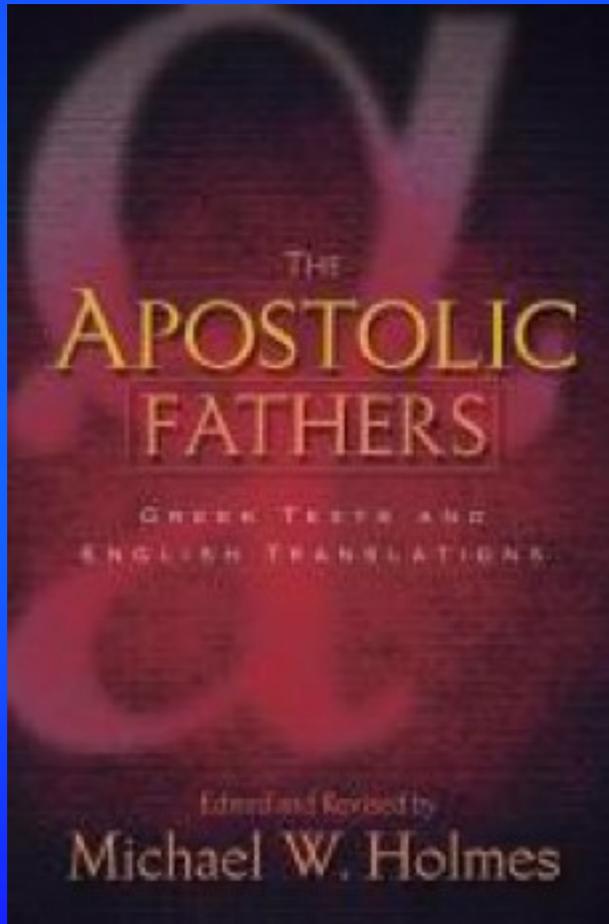
Clement of Rome

# “Apostolic Fathers”



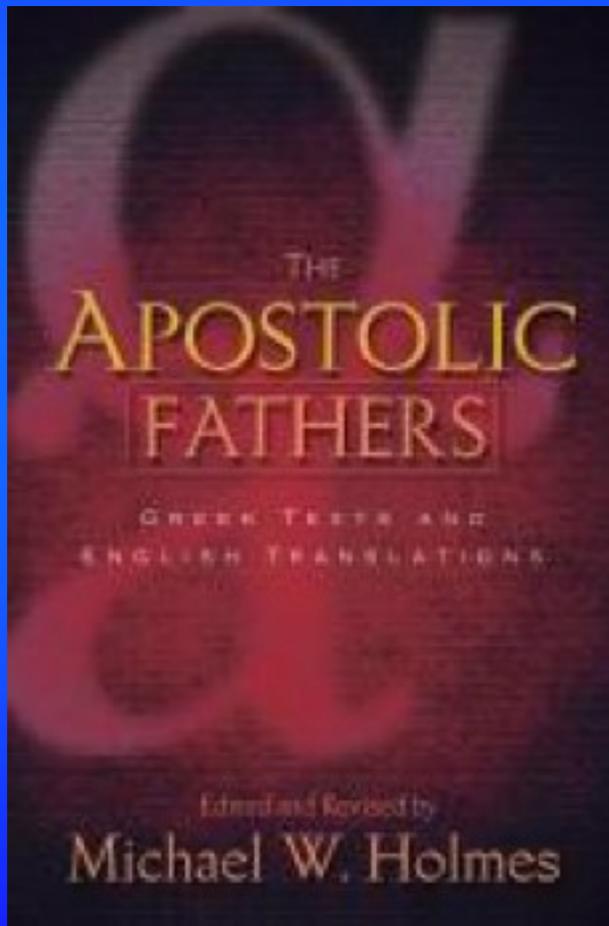
Clement of Rome  
Ignatius of Antioch

# “Apostolic Fathers”



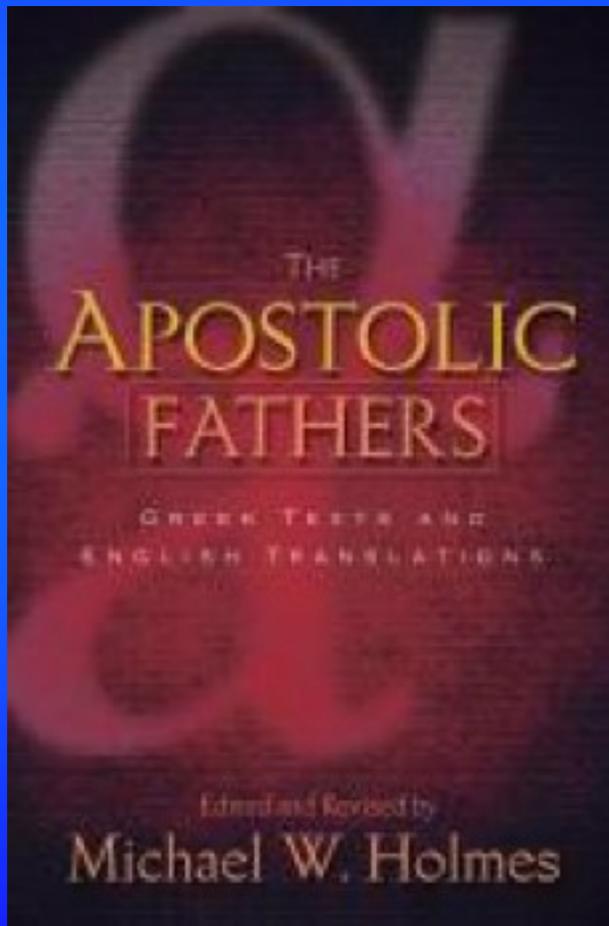
Clement of Rome  
Ignatius of Antioch  
Polycarp

# “Apostolic Fathers”



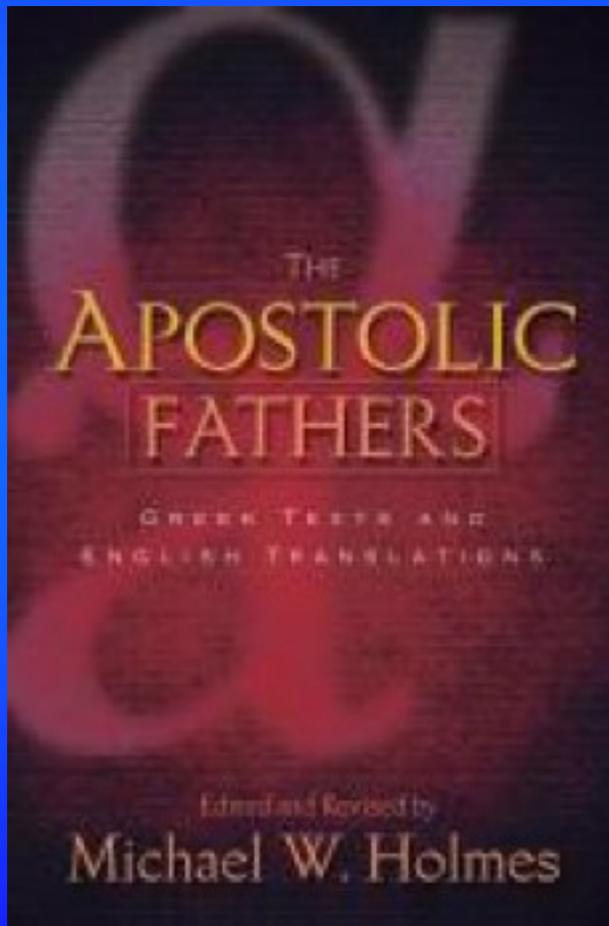
Clement of Rome  
Ignatius of Antioch  
Polycarp  
Didache

# “Apostolic Fathers”



Clement of Rome  
Ignatius of Antioch  
Polycarp  
Didache  
Epistle of Barnabas

# “Apostolic Fathers”



Clement of Rome

Ignatius of Antioch

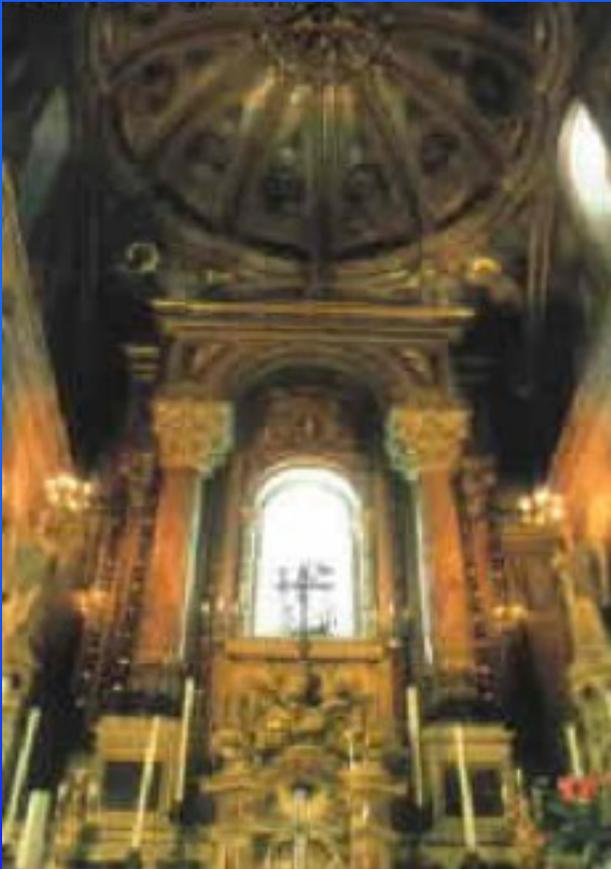
Polycarp

Didache

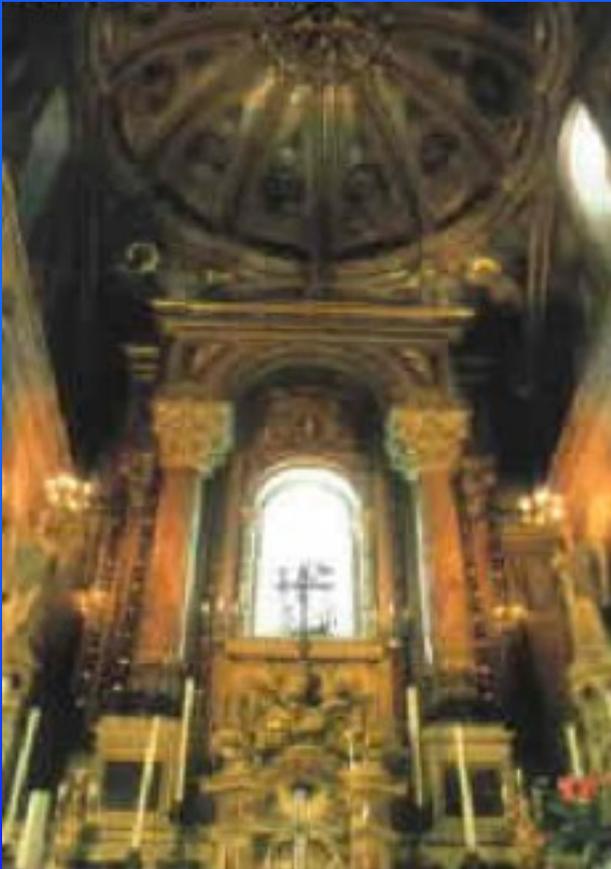
Epistle of Barnabas

Shepherd of Hermes

# Polycarp - Bishop of Smyrna

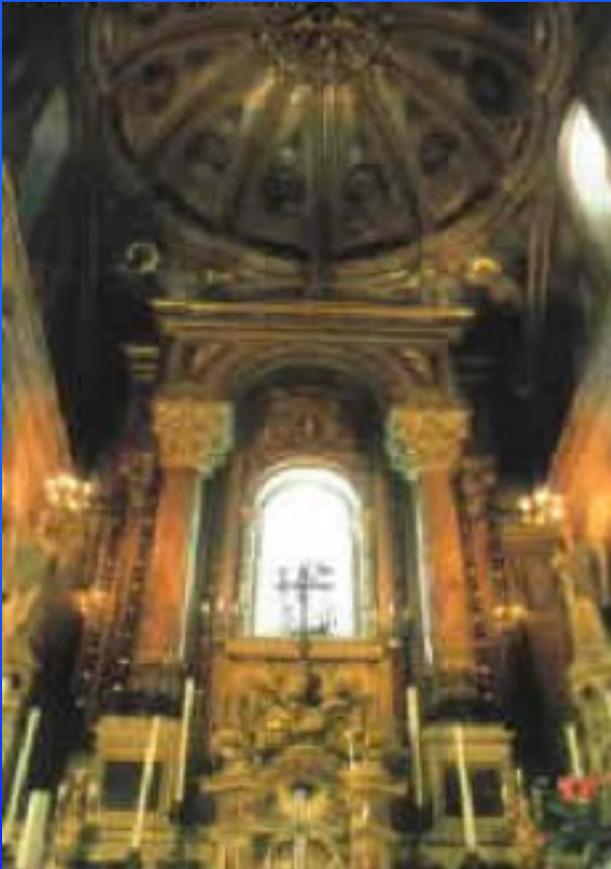


# Polycarp - Bishop of Smyrna



Ignatius to Polycarp

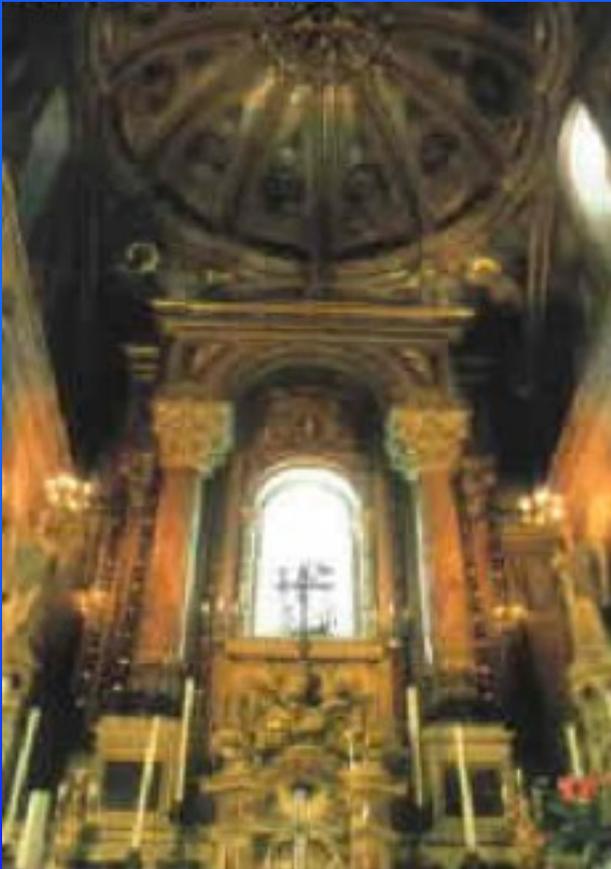
# Polycarp - Bishop of Smyrna



Ignatius to Polycarp

Polycarp to Philippians

# Polycarp - Bishop of Smyrna

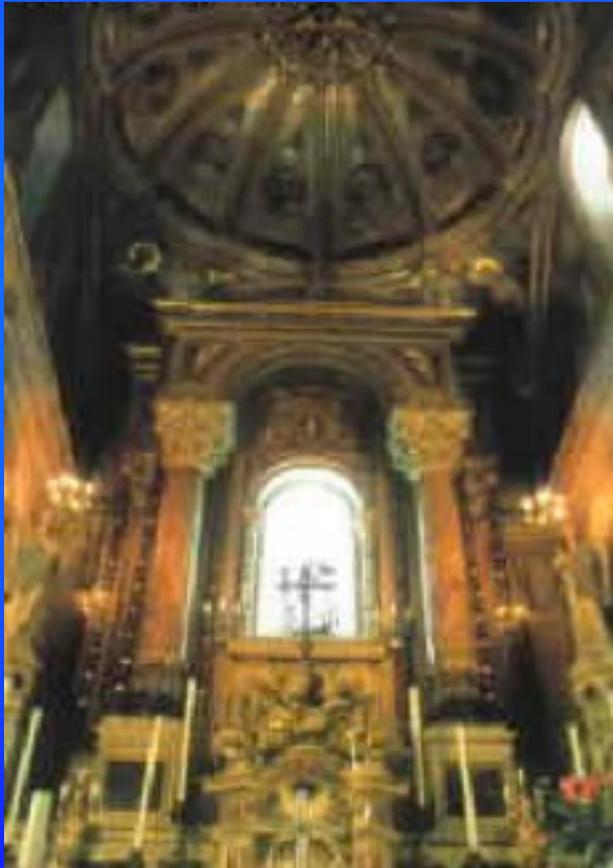


Ignatius to Polycarp

Polycarp to Philippians

Martyrdom of Polycarp

# Polycarp - Bishop of Smyrna



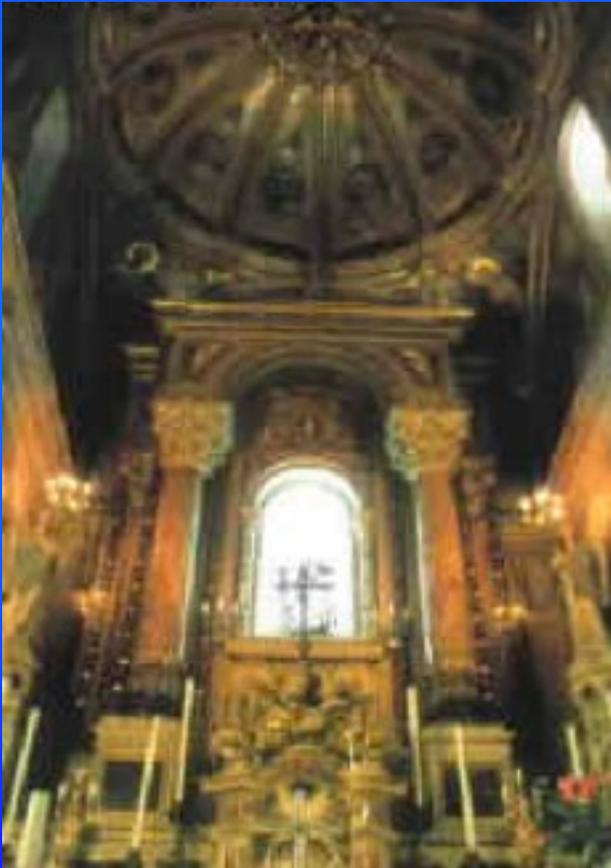
Ignatius to Polycarp

Polycarp to Philippians

Martyrdom of Polycarp

Iranaeus and Eusebius

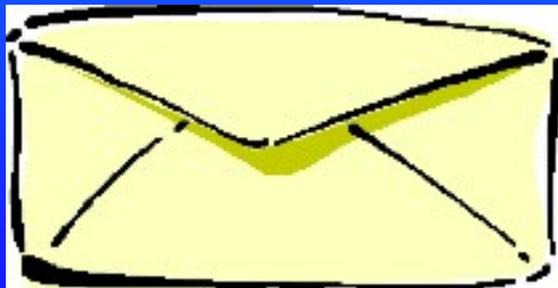
# Polycarp - Bishop of Smyrna



Iranaeus:

“I can describe the very place in which the blessed Polycarp used to sit ... his personal appearance ... and how he would describe his interactions with John and with the rest who had seen the Lord, and how he would relate their words.”

# Ignatius of Antioch



Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - What was Polycarp like?



# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - What was Polycarp like?



“So approving am I of your **godly mind**, which is **grounded** upon an **unmovable rock**, that my praise exceeds all bounds, inasmuch as I was judged worthy of seeing your **blameless face**.”

# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - What Should Polycarp Do?



# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - What Should Polycarp Do?



- Always pray for more understanding

# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - What Should Polycarp Do?



- Always pray for more understanding
- Always increase your diligence

# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - What Should Polycarp Do?



- Always pray for more understanding
- Always increase your diligence
- Always wait for the “eternal” who is “above time”

# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - How Should Polycarp Pastor?



# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - How Should Polycarp Pastor?



- Know everyone by name

# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - How Should Polycarp Pastor?



- Know everyone by name
- Preach on family love and avoiding sin

# Ignatius's Letter to Polycarp - How Should Polycarp Pastor?



- Know everyone by name
- Preach on family love and avoiding sin
- Write and circulate the letters



Ignatius to Polycarp:

“Since I have not been able to write to all the churches ... as the divine will commands, you must write.”

# Polycarp Writes the Philippians



Ignatius to Polycarp:

“Since I have not been able to write to all the churches ... as the divine will commands, you must write.”

# Polycarp Writes the Philippians



# Polycarp Writes the Philippians



- Seeks further info on Ignatius's death

# Polycarp Writes the Philippians

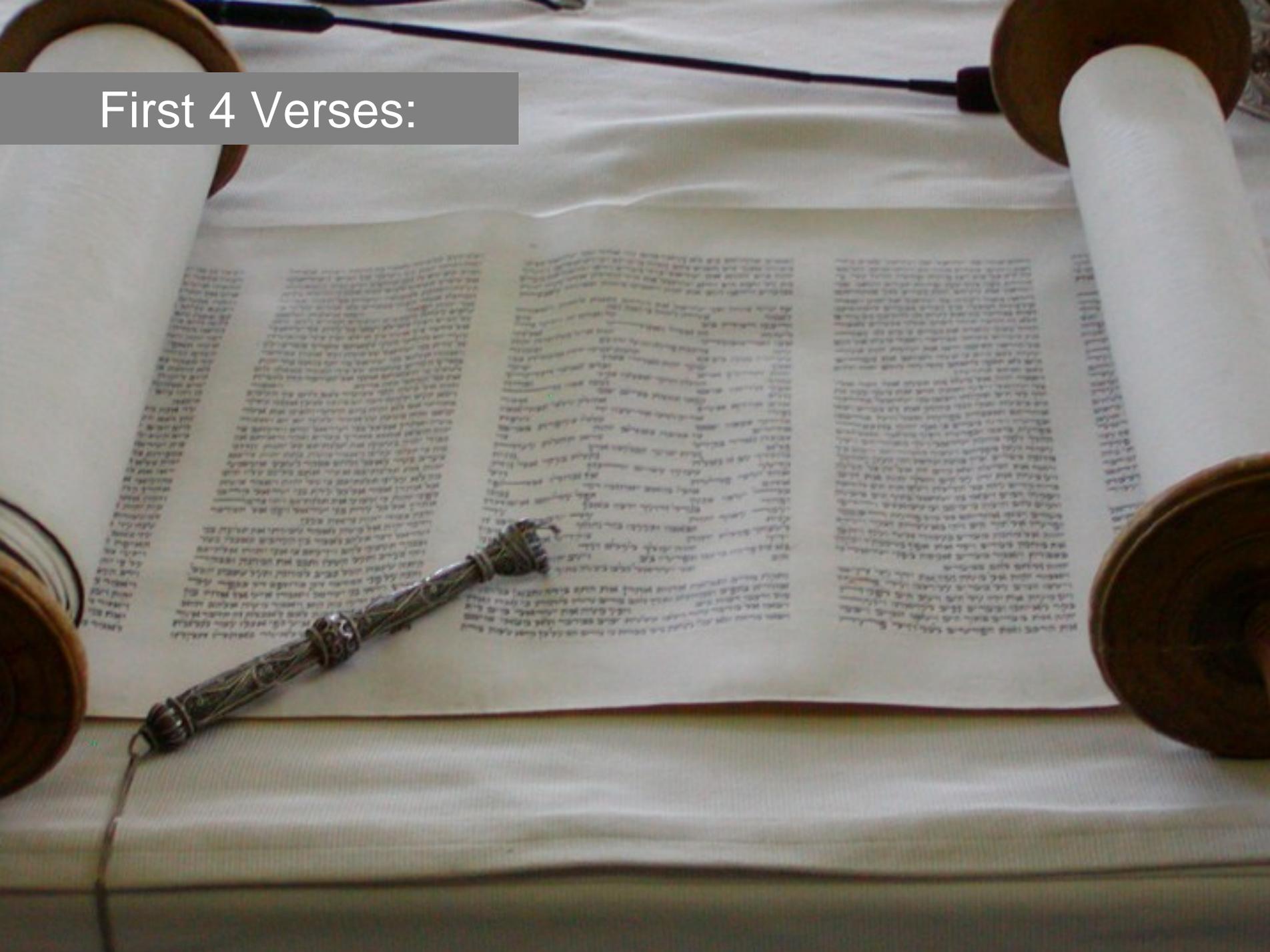


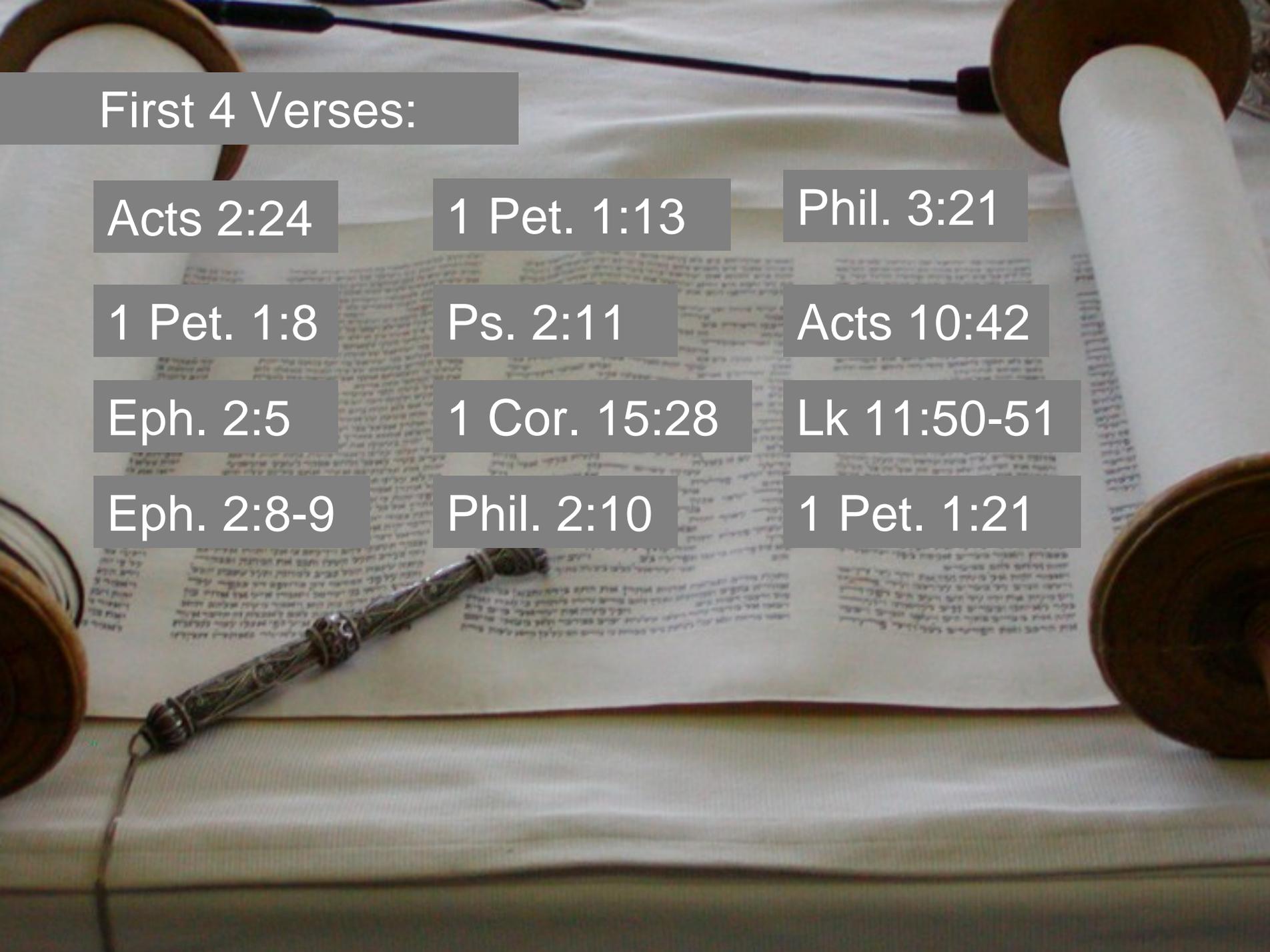
- Seeks further info on Ignatius's death

- Extensive use of scripture



# First 4 Verses:



A scroll of parchment with a quill pen and a wooden gavel resting on it. The scroll is unrolled, showing some text. The quill is in the foreground, and the gavel is on the right side. The background is a light-colored surface.

## First 4 Verses:

Acts 2:24

1 Pet. 1:13

Phil. 3:21

1 Pet. 1:8

Ps. 2:11

Acts 10:42

Eph. 2:5

1 Cor. 15:28

Lk 11:50-51

Eph. 2:8-9

Phil. 2:10

1 Pet. 1:21

A scroll of parchment is unrolled across a wooden surface. A quill pen with a decorative handle lies across the scroll. The parchment has faint, illegible text written on it. The scene is lit from above, creating soft shadows.

# Polycarp knows:

Matthew

1 Corinthians

2 Thessalonians

Luke

Galatians

1 and 2 Timothy

Acts

Ephesians

Hebrews

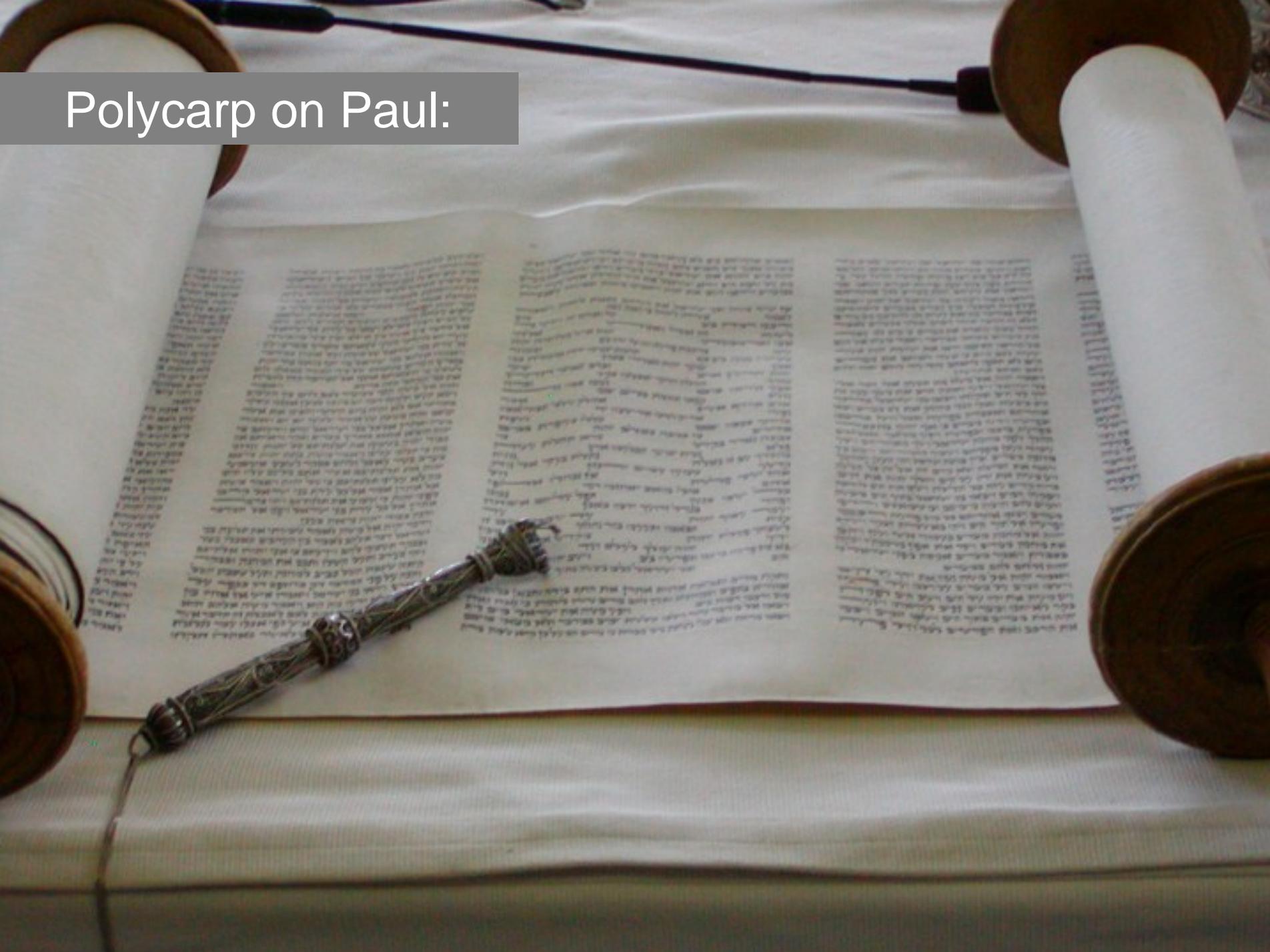
Romans

Philippians

1 Peter

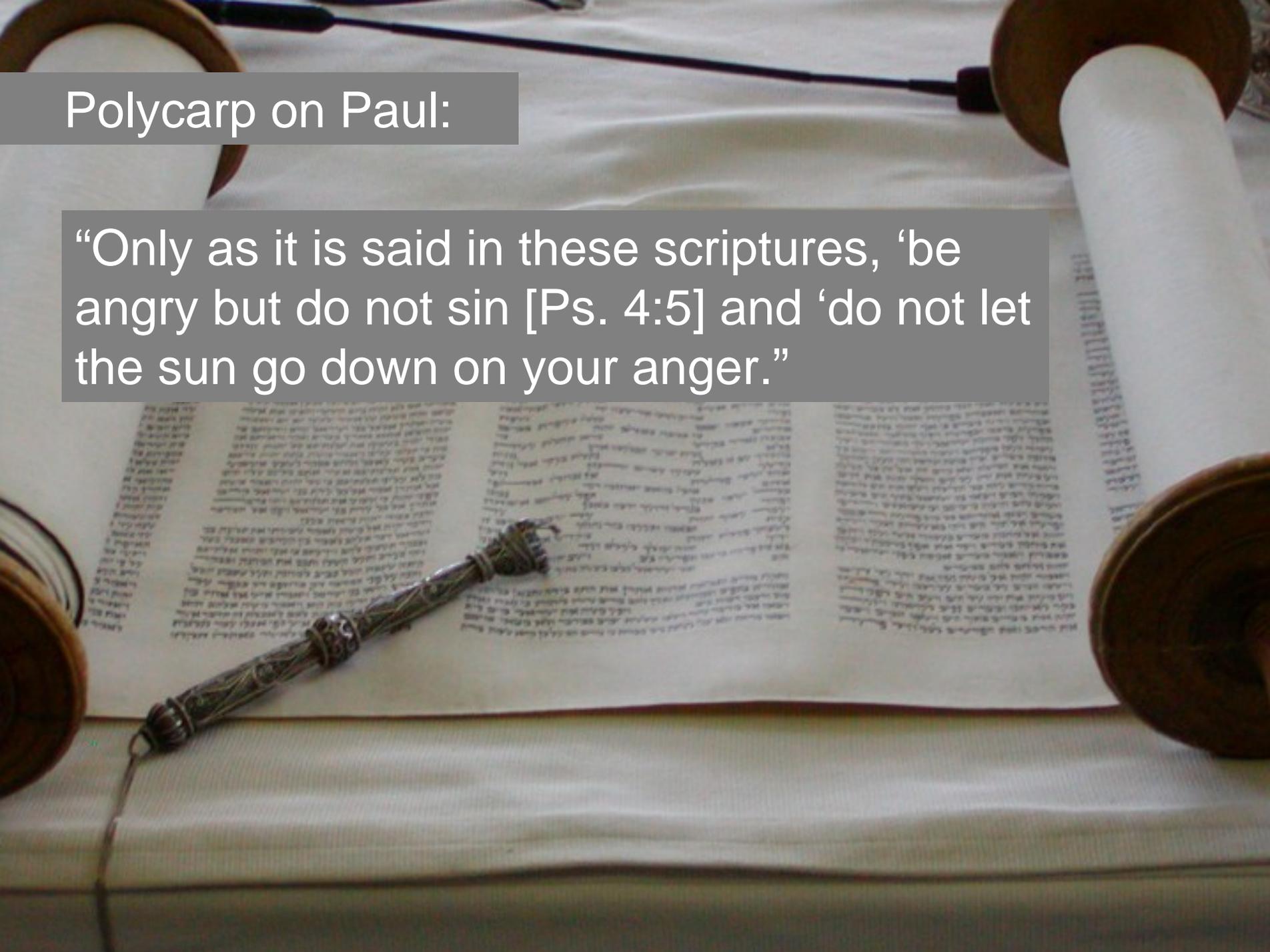
1 John

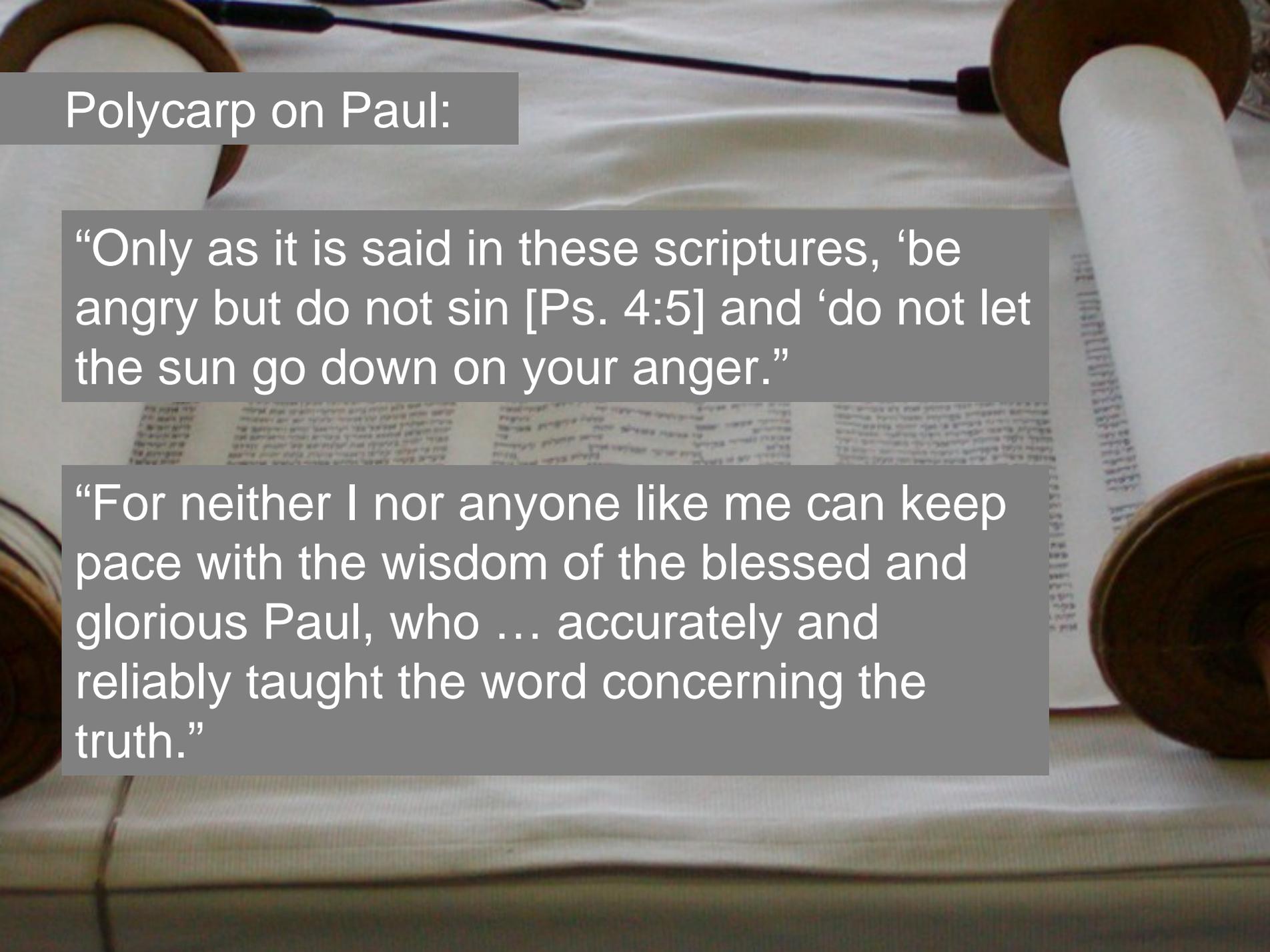
# Polycarp on Paul:



## Polycarp on Paul:

“Only as it is said in these scriptures, ‘be angry but do not sin [Ps. 4:5] and ‘do not let the sun go down on your anger.’”



A scroll of parchment with a wooden handle, resting on a white cloth. The scroll is partially unrolled, showing some text. The background is a white cloth with some shadows and a wooden handle visible on the right side.

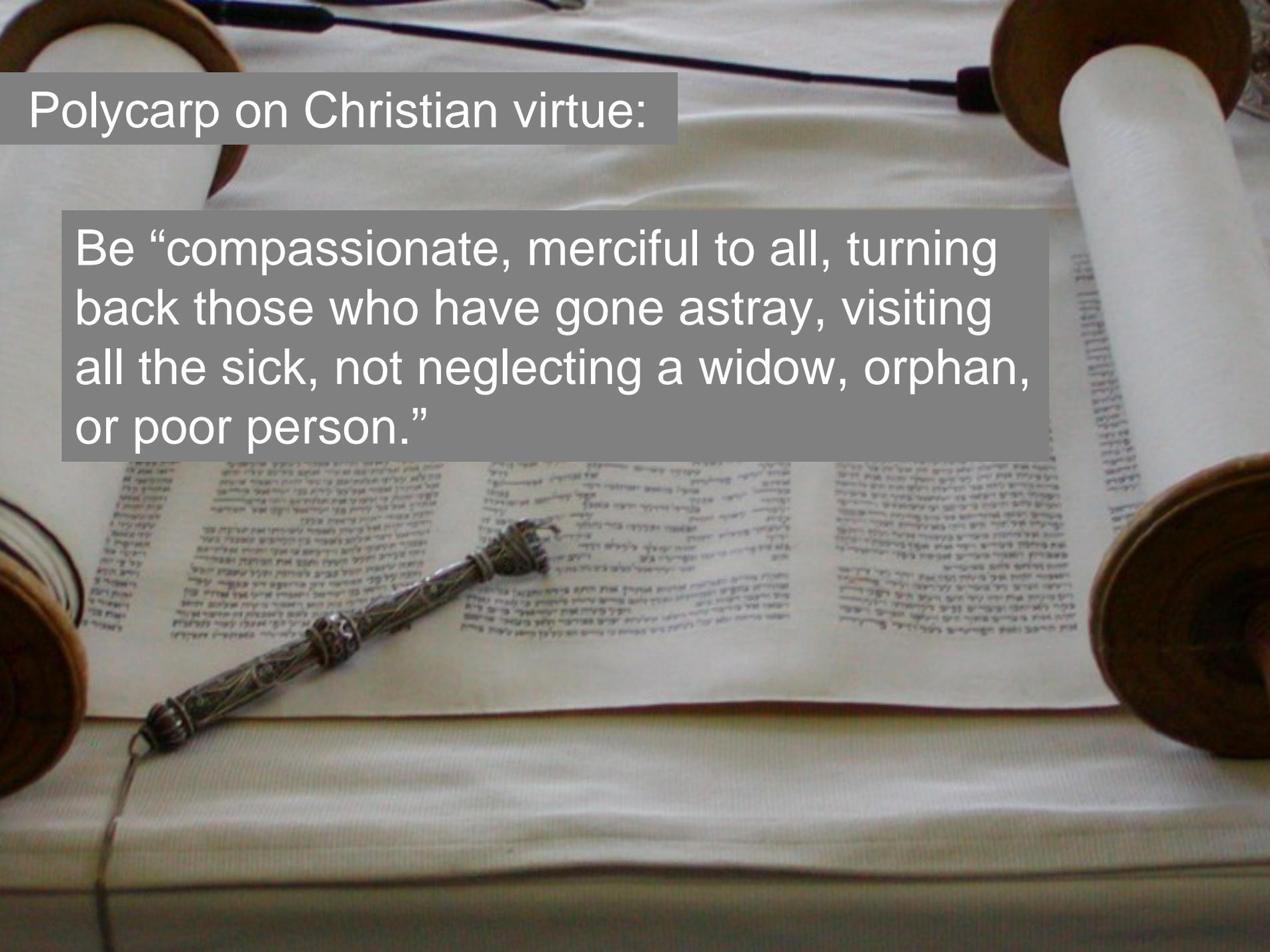
## Polycarp on Paul:

“Only as it is said in these scriptures, ‘be angry but do not sin [Ps. 4:5] and ‘do not let the sun go down on your anger.’”

“For neither I nor anyone like me can keep pace with the wisdom of the blessed and glorious Paul, who ... accurately and reliably taught the word concerning the truth.”

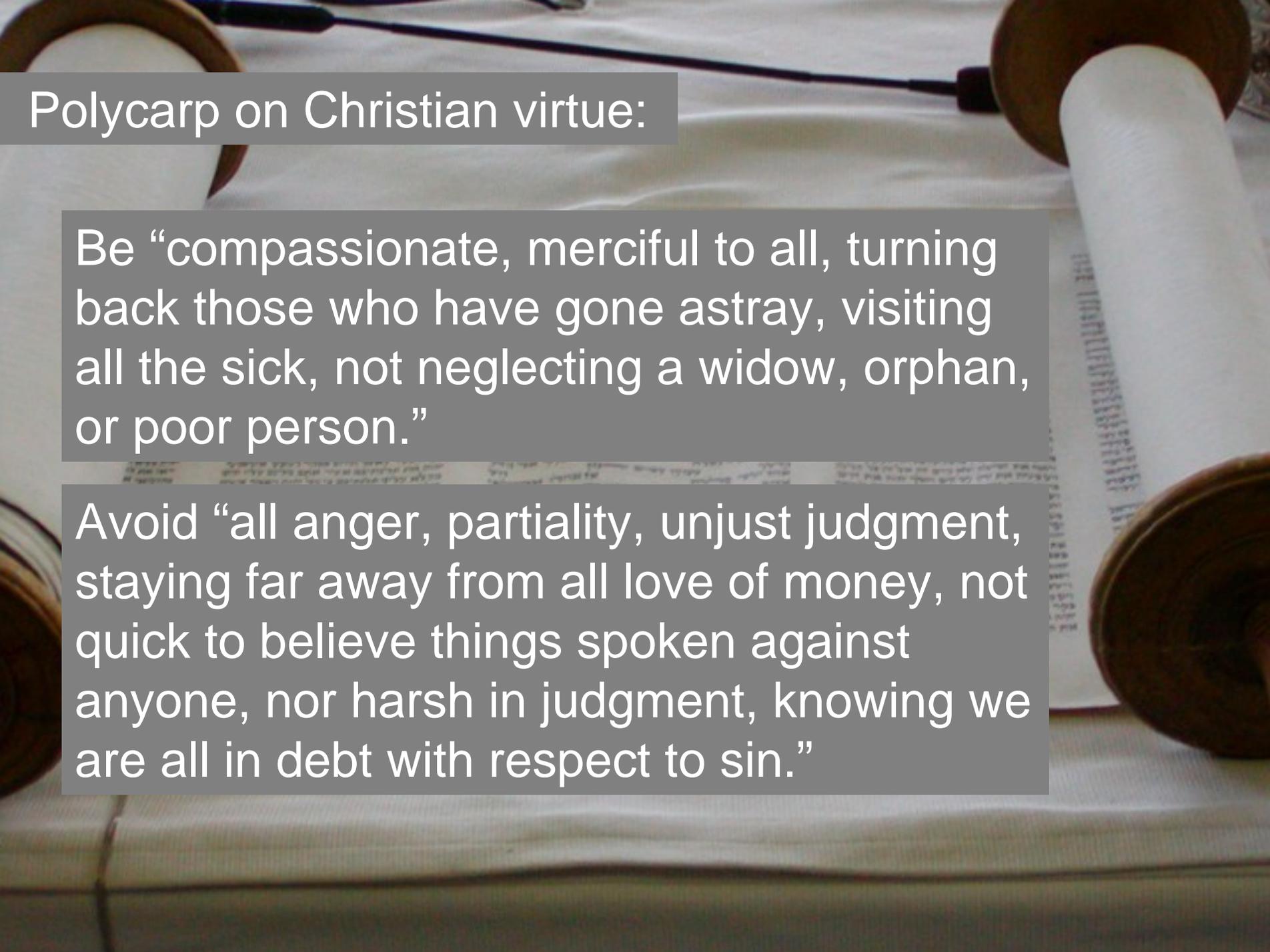
# Polycarp on Christian virtue:



A scroll of parchment is unrolled on a light-colored surface. A quill pen with a decorative handle lies across the scroll. A wooden gavel with a dark handle is positioned at the top right. The parchment has some faint, illegible text on it.

Polycarp on Christian virtue:

Be “compassionate, merciful to all, turning back those who have gone astray, visiting all the sick, not neglecting a widow, orphan, or poor person.”

A scroll of parchment with a wooden handle, resting on a white surface. The scroll is partially unrolled, showing some text. The background is a light-colored, textured surface.

## Polycarp on Christian virtue:

Be “compassionate, merciful to all, turning back those who have gone astray, visiting all the sick, not neglecting a widow, orphan, or poor person.”

Avoid “all anger, partiality, unjust judgment, staying far away from all love of money, not quick to believe things spoken against anyone, nor harsh in judgment, knowing we are all in debt with respect to sin.”

# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



Letter from church  
at Smyrna to  
church at  
Philomelium *et al.*

# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



Not blaming God, but, the martyrdoms “have taken place in accordance with the will of God (for we must reverently assign to God the power over all things).”

# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



Quiet endurance of  
other martyrs

# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



Quiet endurance of  
other martyrs

- “so torn by whips the internal structure of the flesh was visible as far as the inner veins and arteries”

# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



Quiet endurance of  
other martyrs

- Bystanders “had pity and wept”

# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



Quiet endurance of  
other martyrs

- Bystanders “had pity and wept”
- Martyr visions of Jesus

# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



A side note of Quintus

# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



February 22 or 23

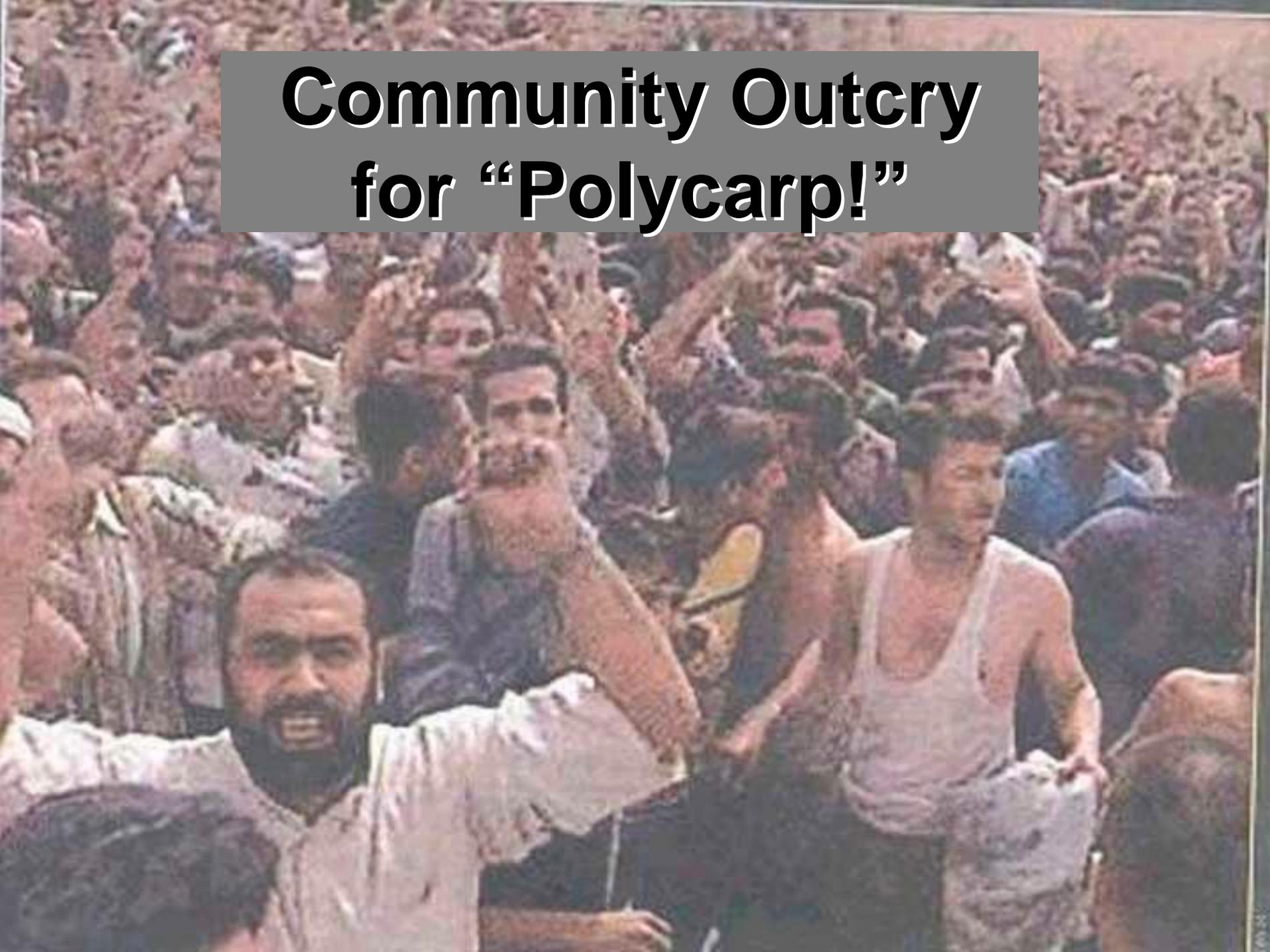
# The Martyrdom of Polycarp



February 22 or 23

7 days before the  
“calends” of March

# Community Outcry for “Polycarp!”



# Polycarp to a Farm House



# Polycarp to a Farm House



Horsemen  
Mount up in  
Full Armor



Horsemen  
Mount up in  
Full Armor



# Horsemen Mount up in Full Armor





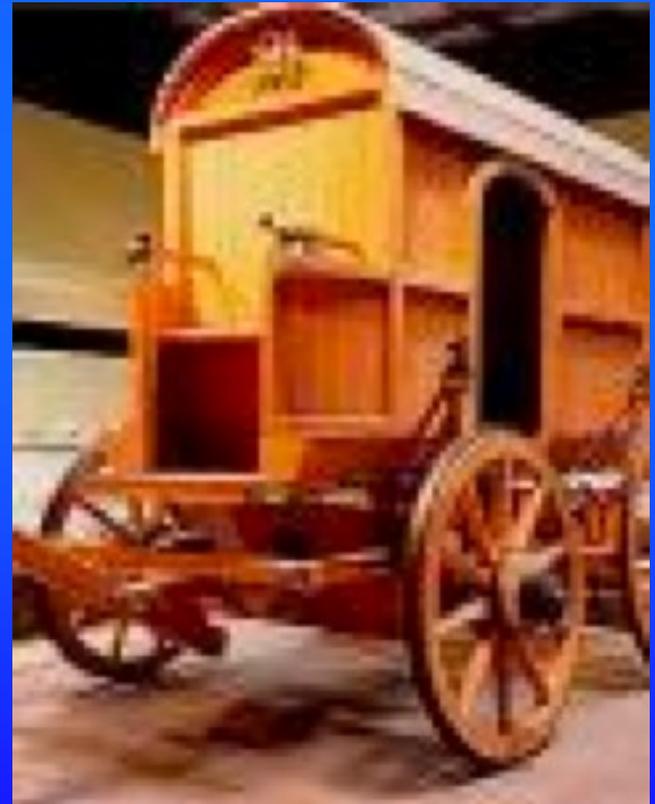
**“May God’s will be done”**



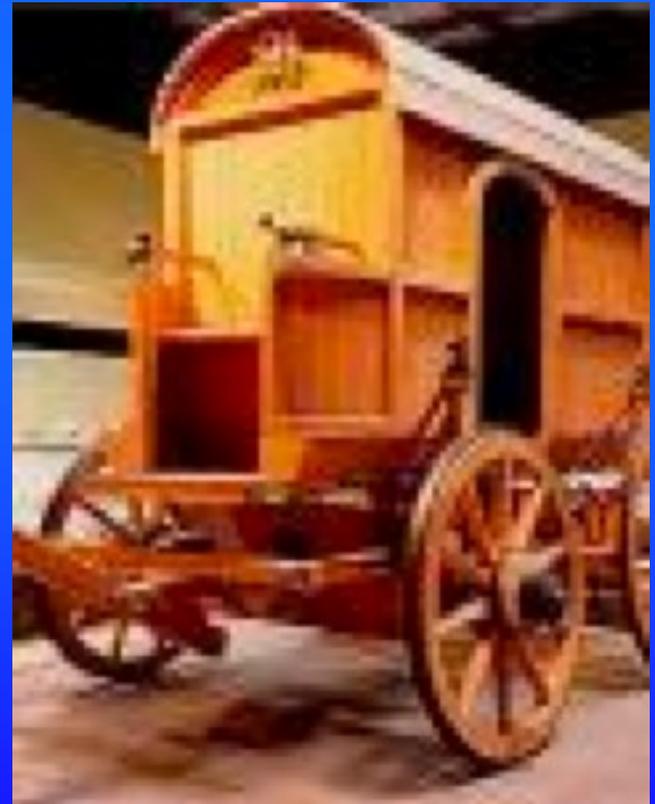
**Captors regret taking “such  
a godly old man”**



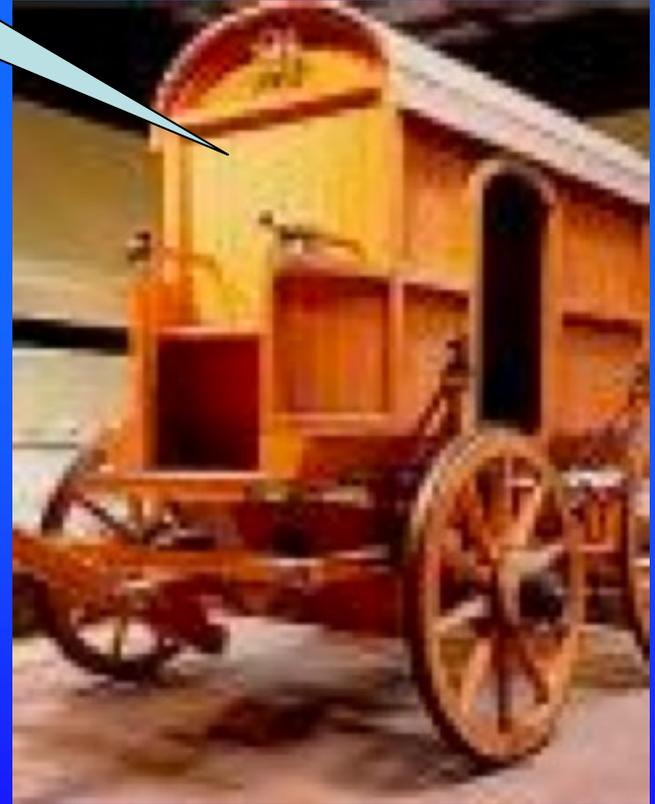
# To the authorities



To the  
authorities

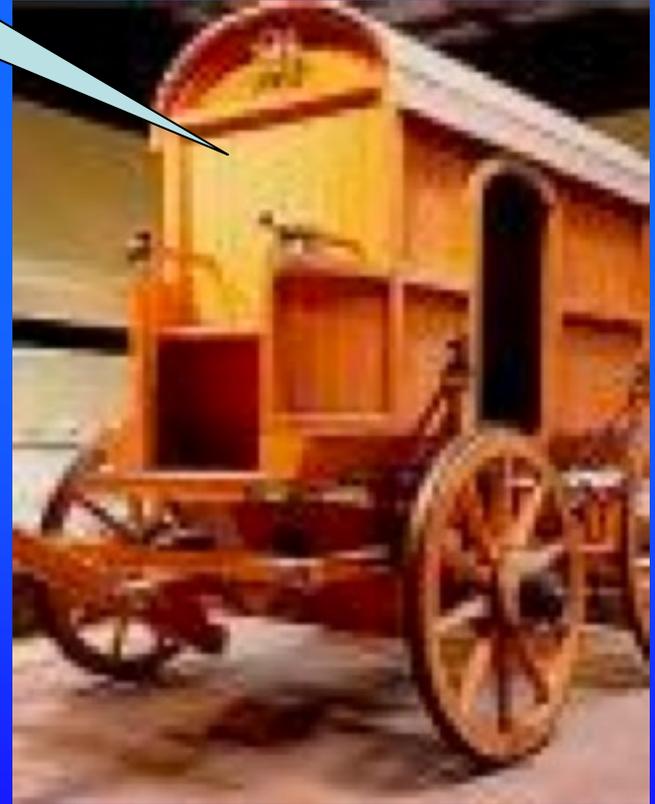


To the  
authorities



“Just say, ‘Caesar is Lord’  
and burn some incense”

To the  
authorities



“Just say, ‘Caesar is Lord’  
and burn some incense”

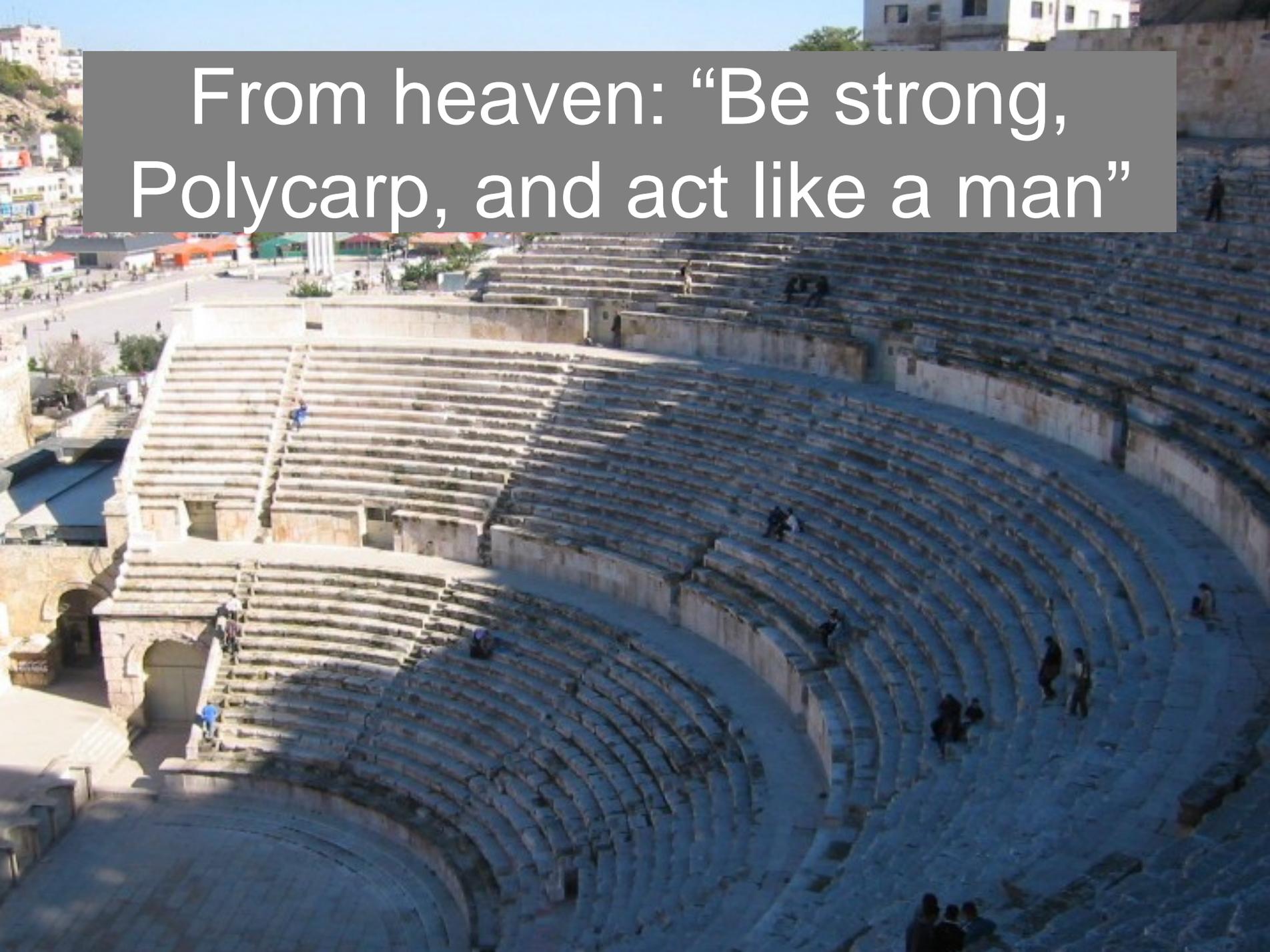
To the  
authorities

“I am not going to do  
what you are suggesting  
to me!”



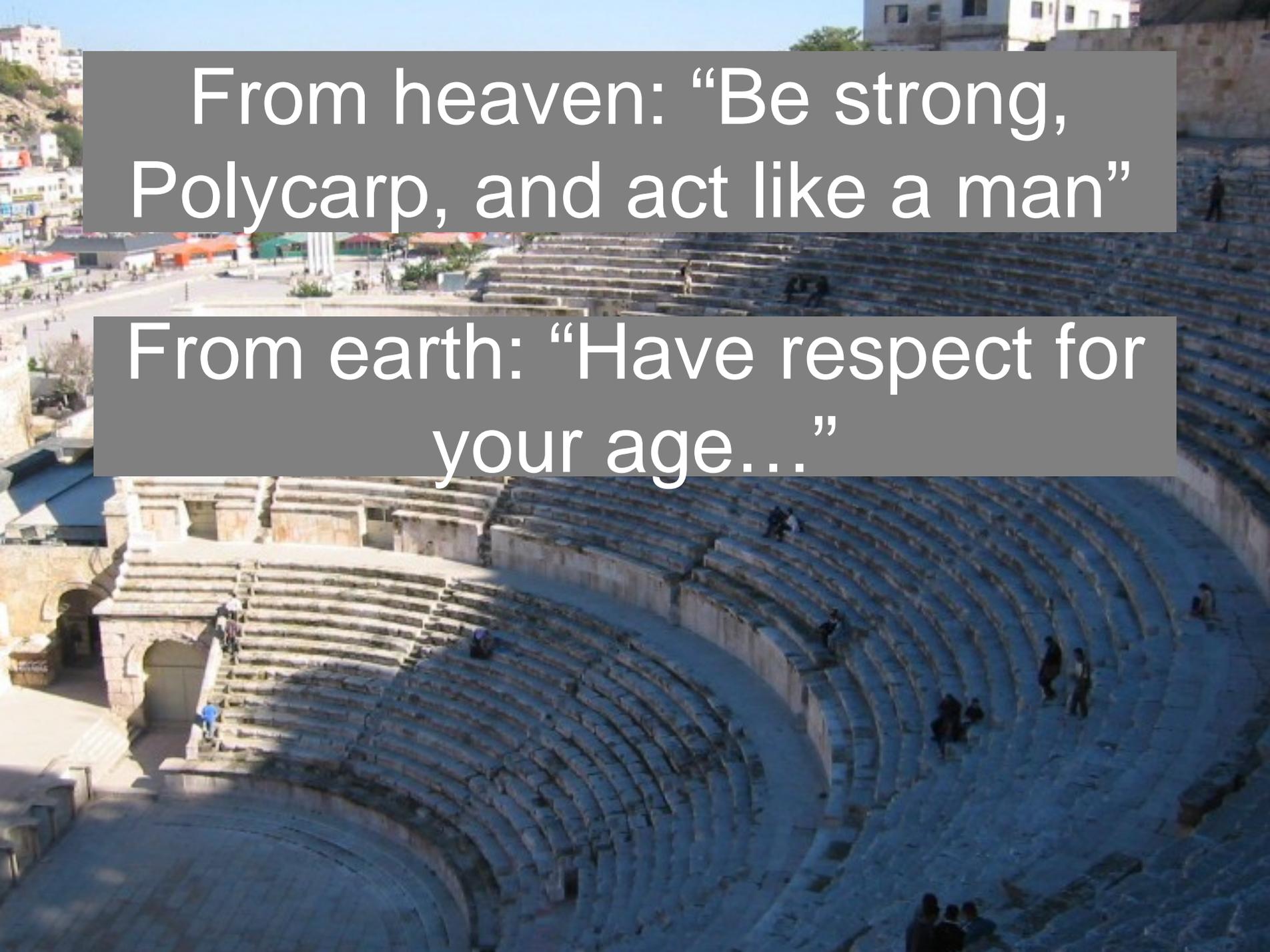


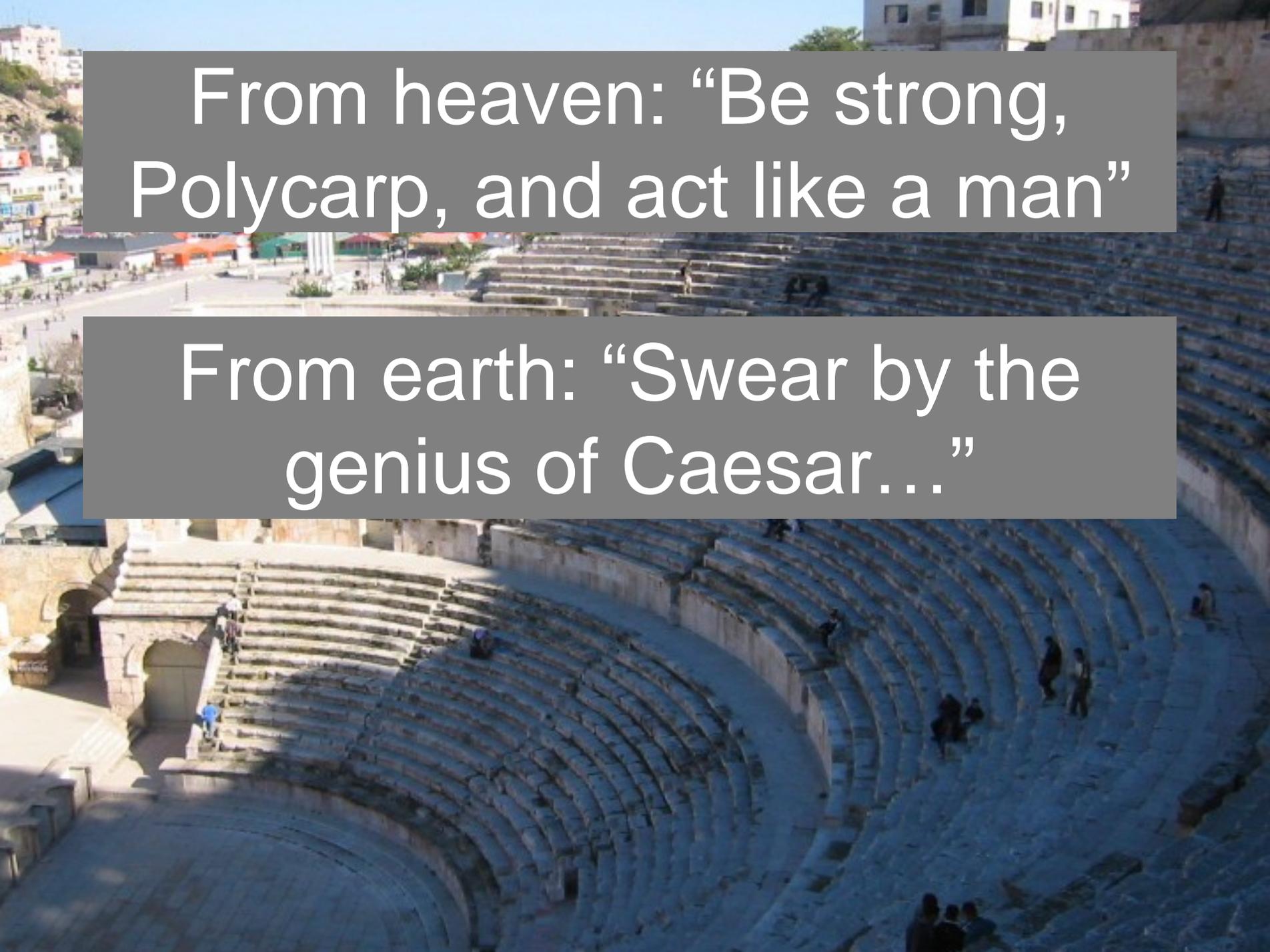
From heaven: “Be strong,  
Polycarp, and act like a man”



From heaven: “Be strong,  
Polycarp, and act like a man”

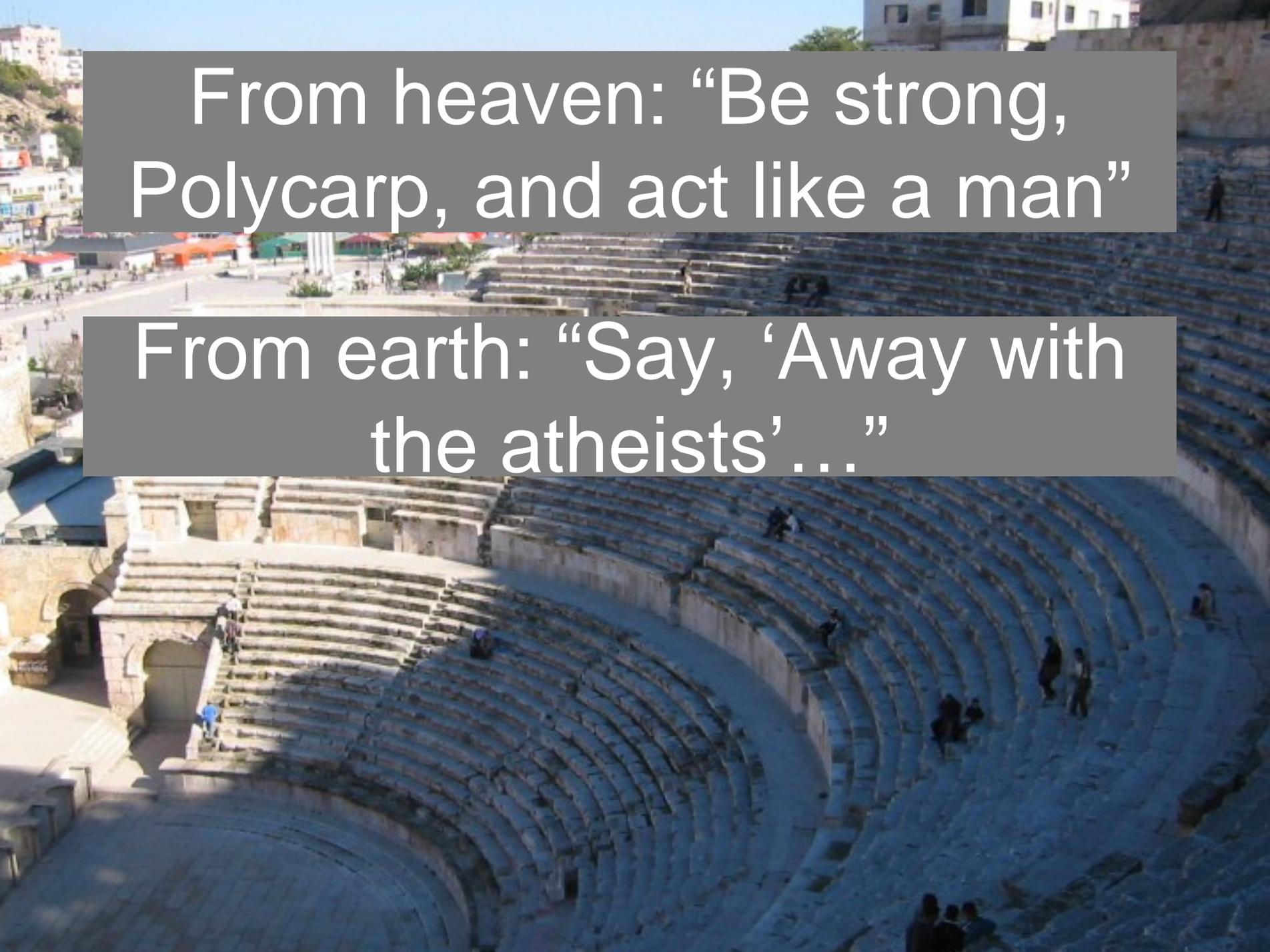
From earth: “Have respect for  
your age...”



An aerial photograph of the Amphitheatre of Ephesus, showing the semi-circular stone seating tiers and the central stage area. The amphitheatre is surrounded by modern buildings and a paved plaza. Two semi-transparent grey text boxes are overlaid on the image. The top box contains the text "From heaven: 'Be strong, Polycarp, and act like a man'", and the bottom box contains "From earth: 'Swear by the genius of Caesar...'".

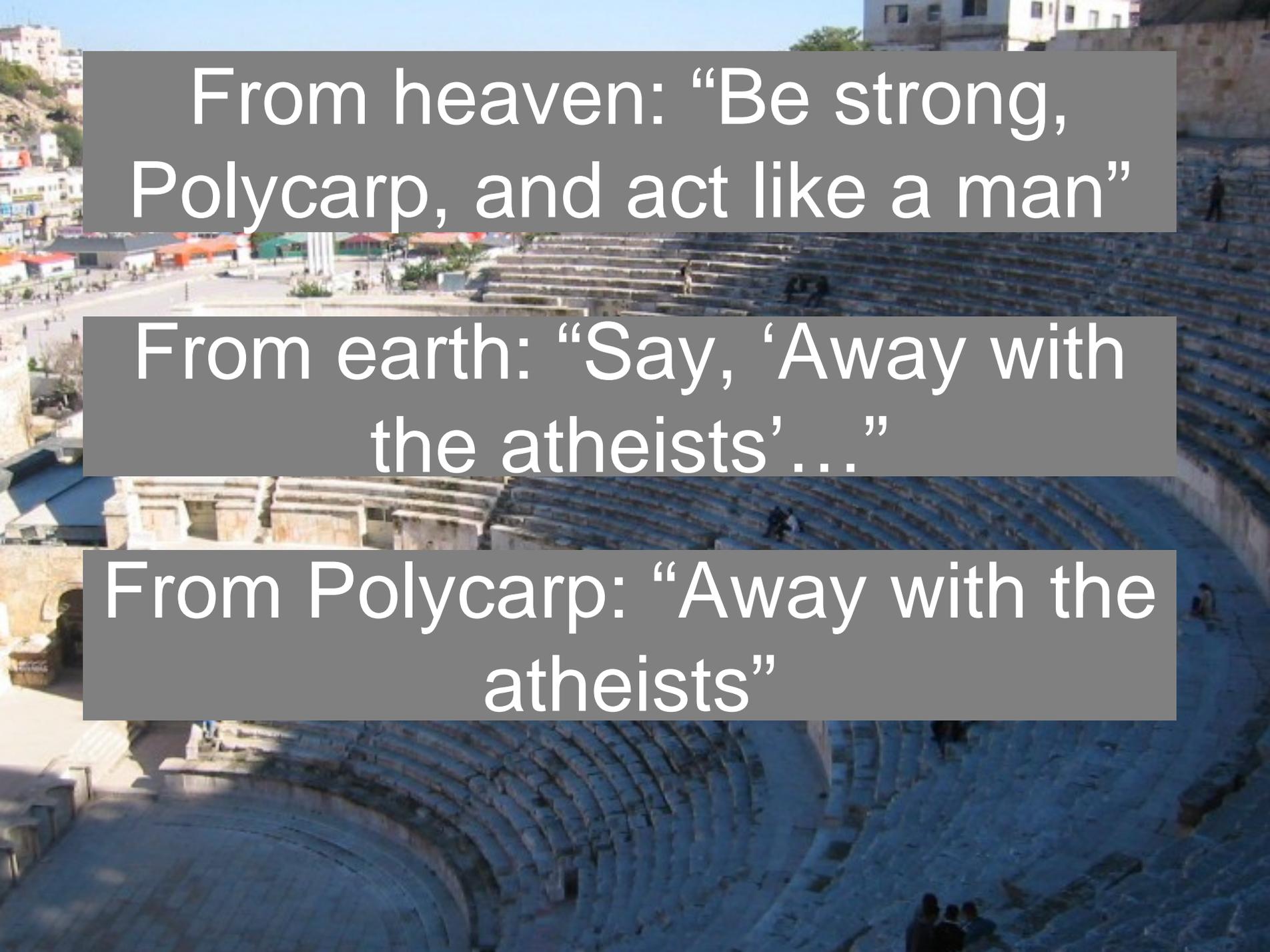
From heaven: "Be strong,  
Polycarp, and act like a man"

From earth: "Swear by the  
genius of Caesar..."

An aerial photograph of the Amphitheatre of Ephesus, showing the semi-circular stone seating tiers and the central stage area. The amphitheatre is surrounded by modern buildings and a paved plaza. The sky is clear and blue.

From heaven: “Be strong,  
Polycarp, and act like a man”

From earth: “Say, ‘Away with  
the atheists’...”

An aerial photograph of the Theatre of Ephesus, showing the semi-circular stone seating and the surrounding urban environment. The text is overlaid on a dark grey rectangular background.

From heaven: “Be strong, Polycarp, and act like a man”

From earth: “Say, ‘Away with the atheists’...”

From Polycarp: “Away with the atheists”



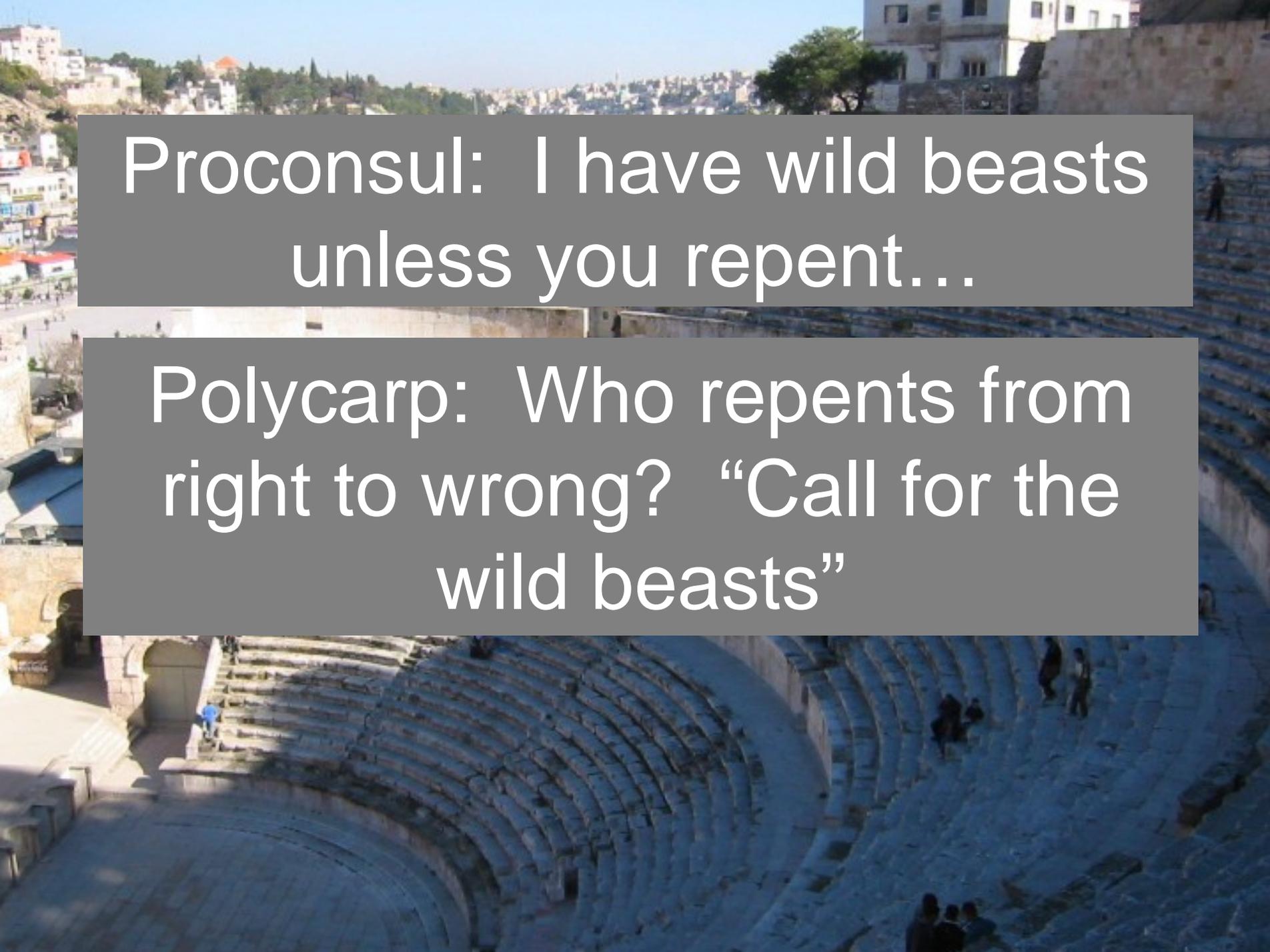
From Polycarp: “If you vainly suppose that I will swear by the genius of Caesar, as you request, and pretend not to know who I am, listen carefully: I am a Christian.”



From Polycarp: “Now if you want to learn the doctrine of Christianity, name a day and give me a hearing.”

Proconsul: I have wild beasts  
unless you repent...

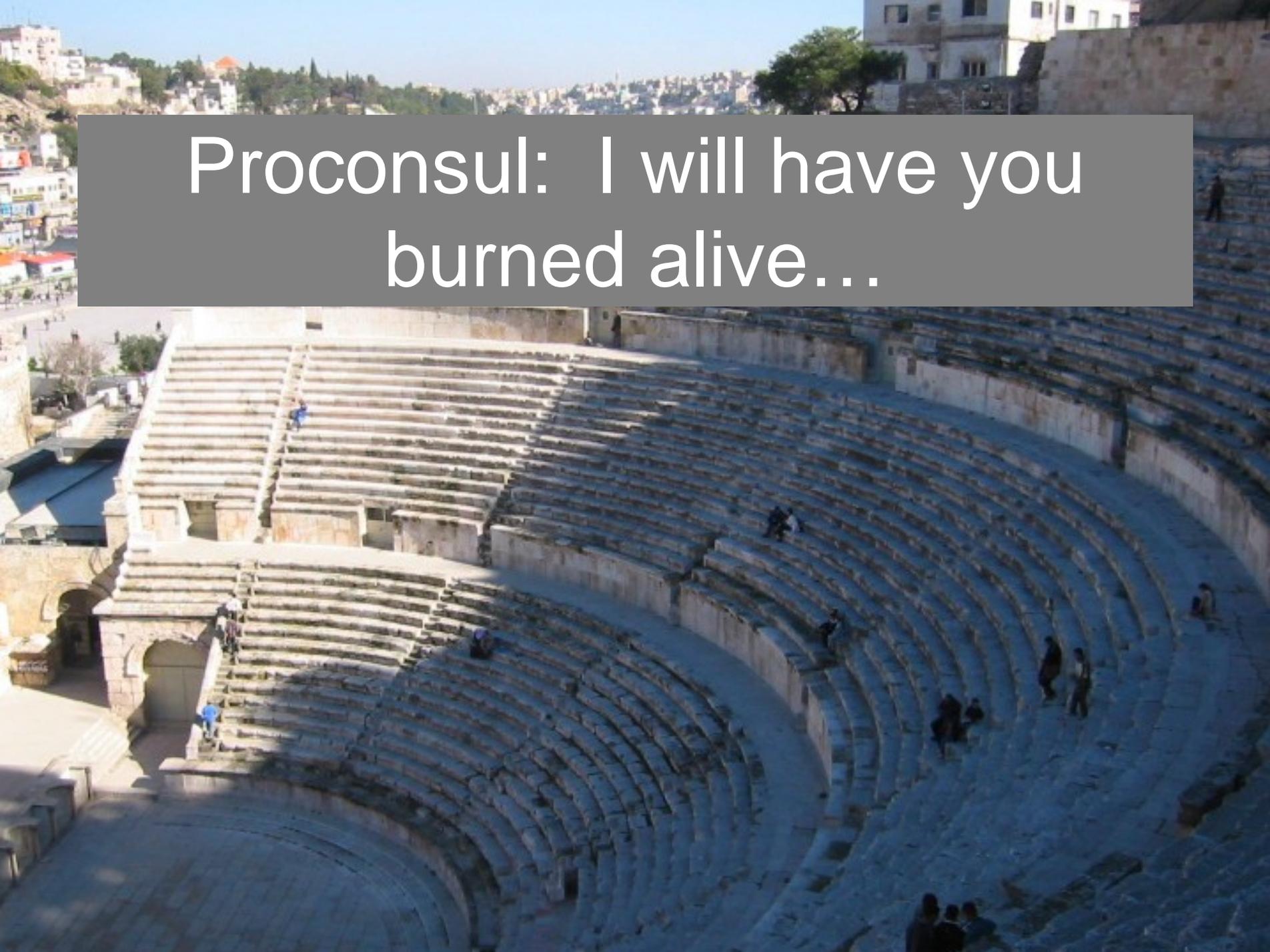


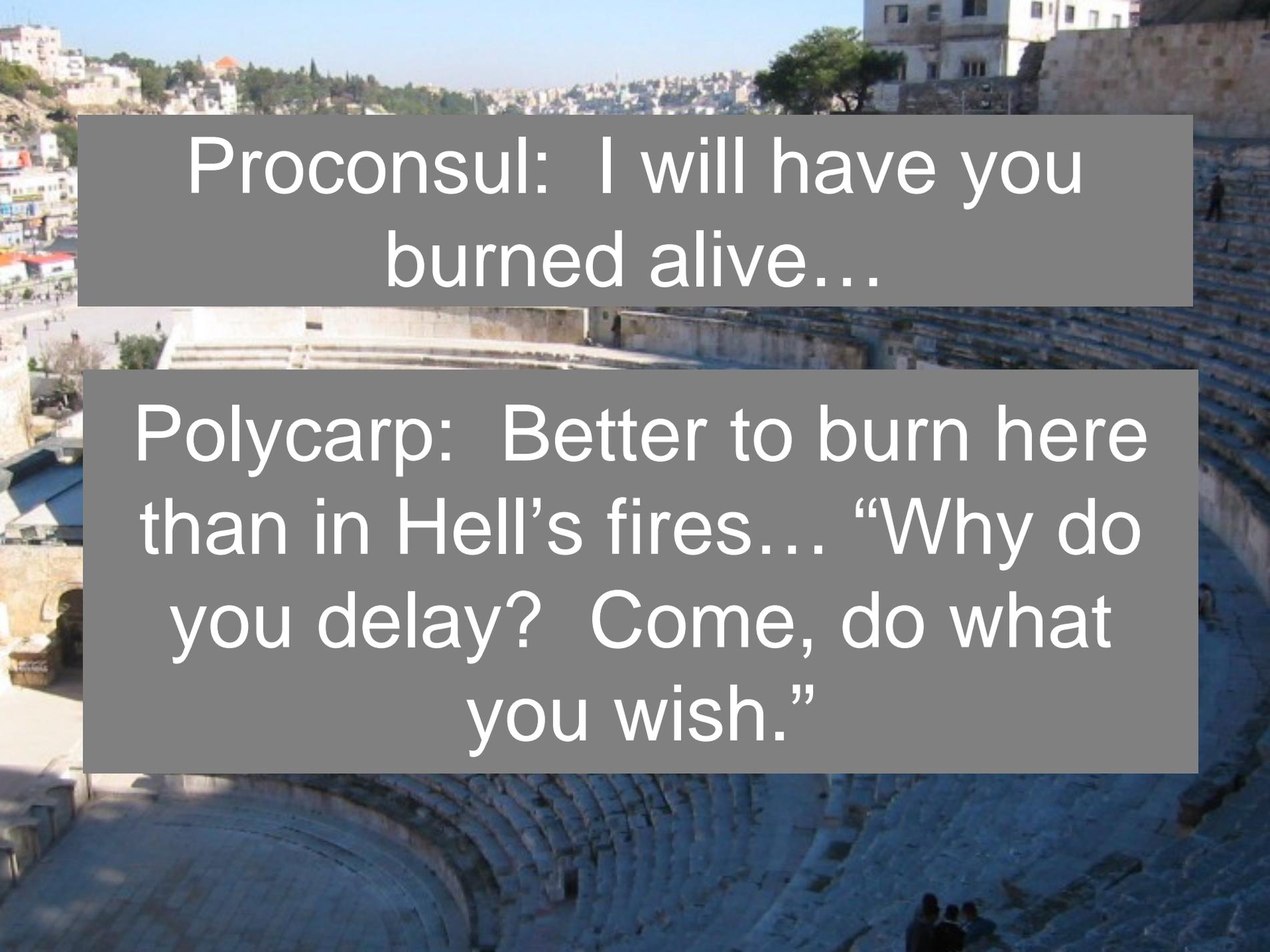


Proconsul: I have wild beasts  
unless you repent...

Polycarp: Who repents from  
right to wrong? “Call for the  
wild beasts”

Proconsul: I will have you  
burned alive...

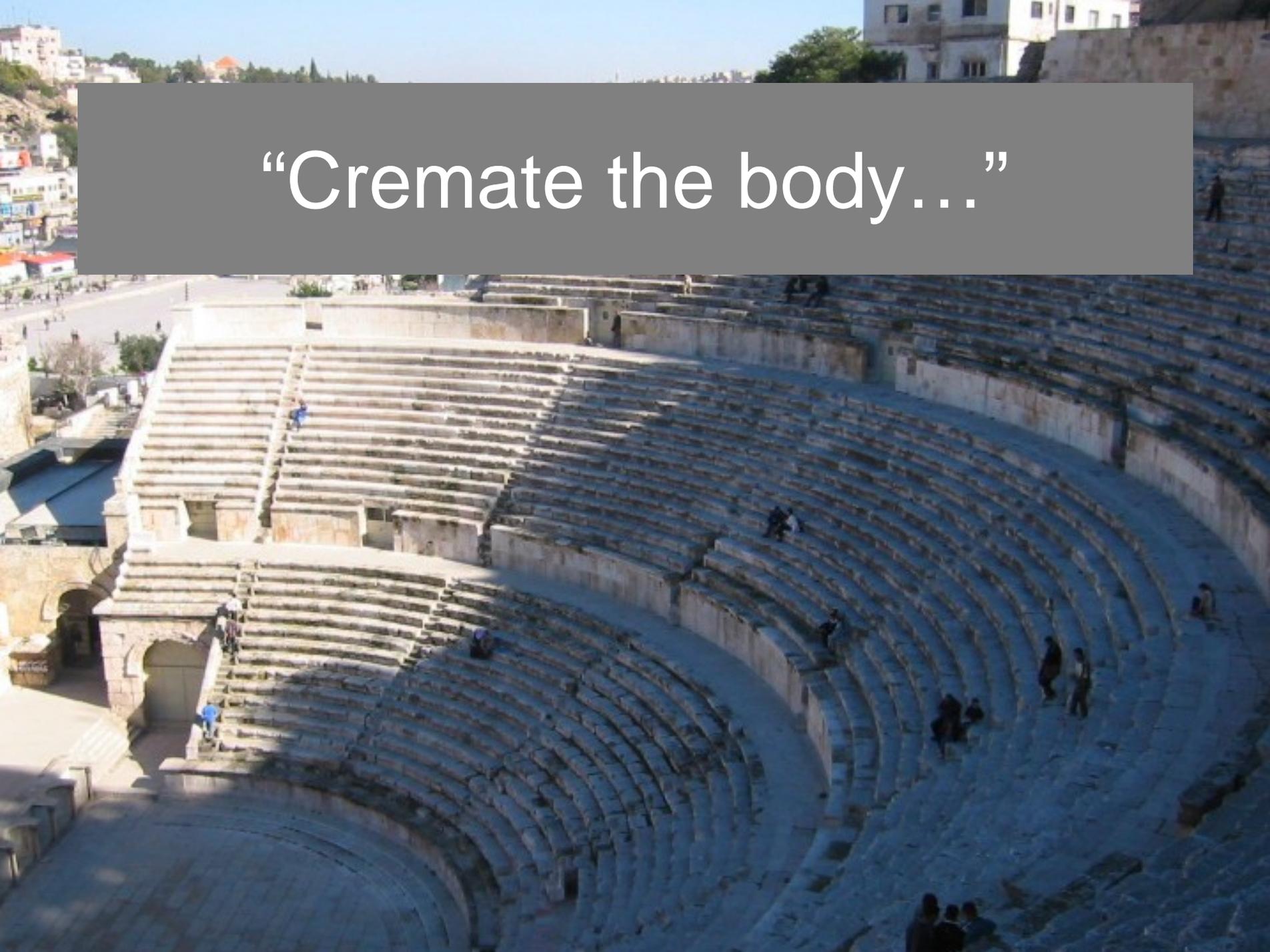




Proconsul: I will have you  
burned alive...

Polycarp: Better to burn here  
than in Hell's fires... "Why do  
you delay? Come, do what  
you wish."

“Cremate the body...”





“Cremate the body...”

“They did not know that we will never be able either to abandon the Christ who suffered for the salvation of the whole world of those who are saved, the blameless on behalf of sinners, or to worship anyone else.”

# Polycarp Writes the Philippians



# Polycarp Writes the Philippians



“Pray for the kings,  
powers and rulers...  
And for those who  
persecute you and  
hate you, and for the  
enemies of the cross,  
in order that your fruit  
might be evident  
among all people”

# Points for Home

- Actions speak louder than words ...  
both to God and man (Mt 7:15-24)

# Points for Home

- Actions speak louder than words ... both to God and man (Mt 7:15-24)
- Live Right... The world sees a difference (Mt 5:14-16)

# Points for Home

- Actions speak louder than words ... both to God and man (Mt 7:15-24)
- Live Right... The world sees a difference (Mt 5:14-16)
- Have confidence in what God is doing in your life (Phil 3:12-16; Rom 8:28)