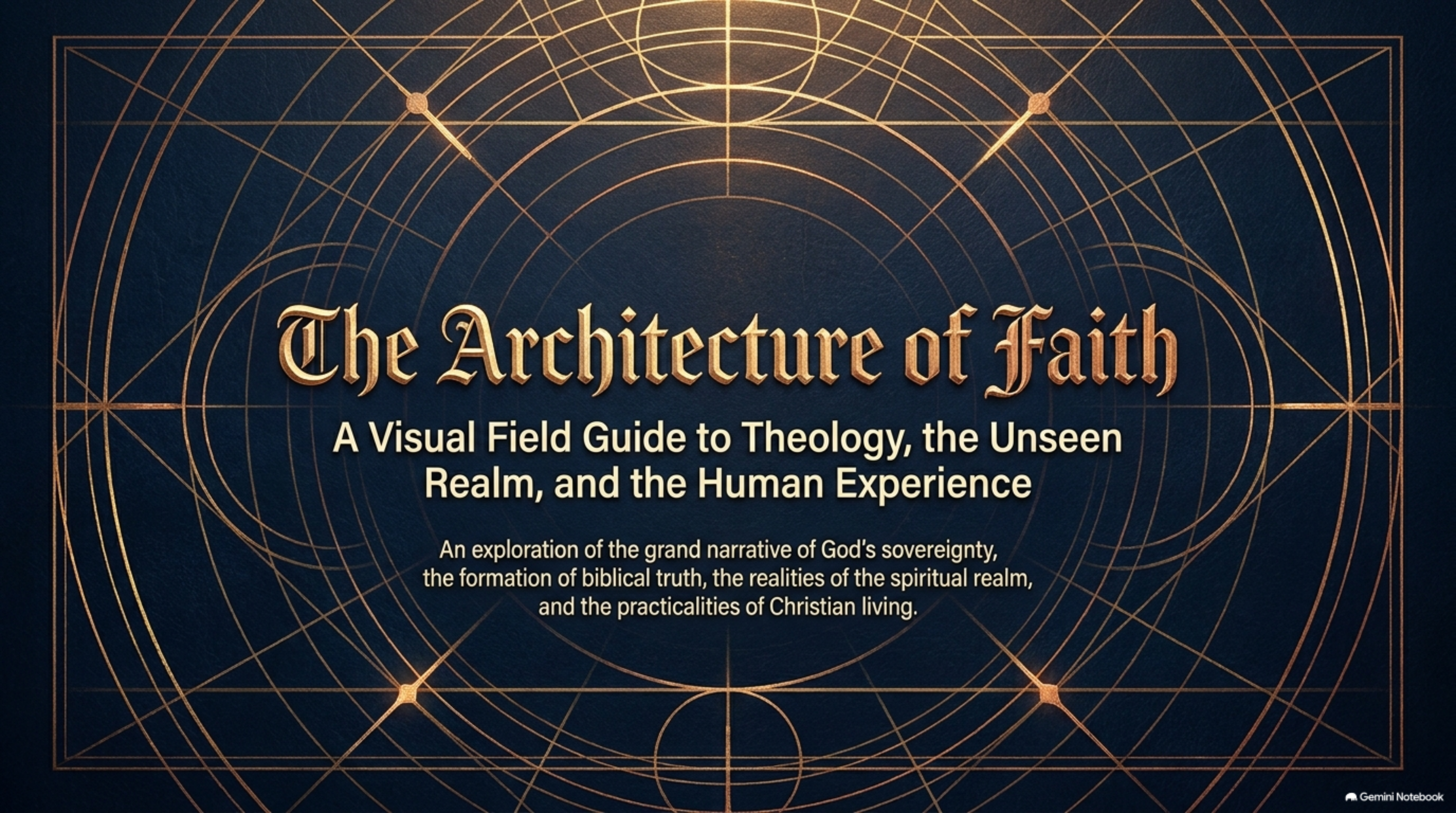


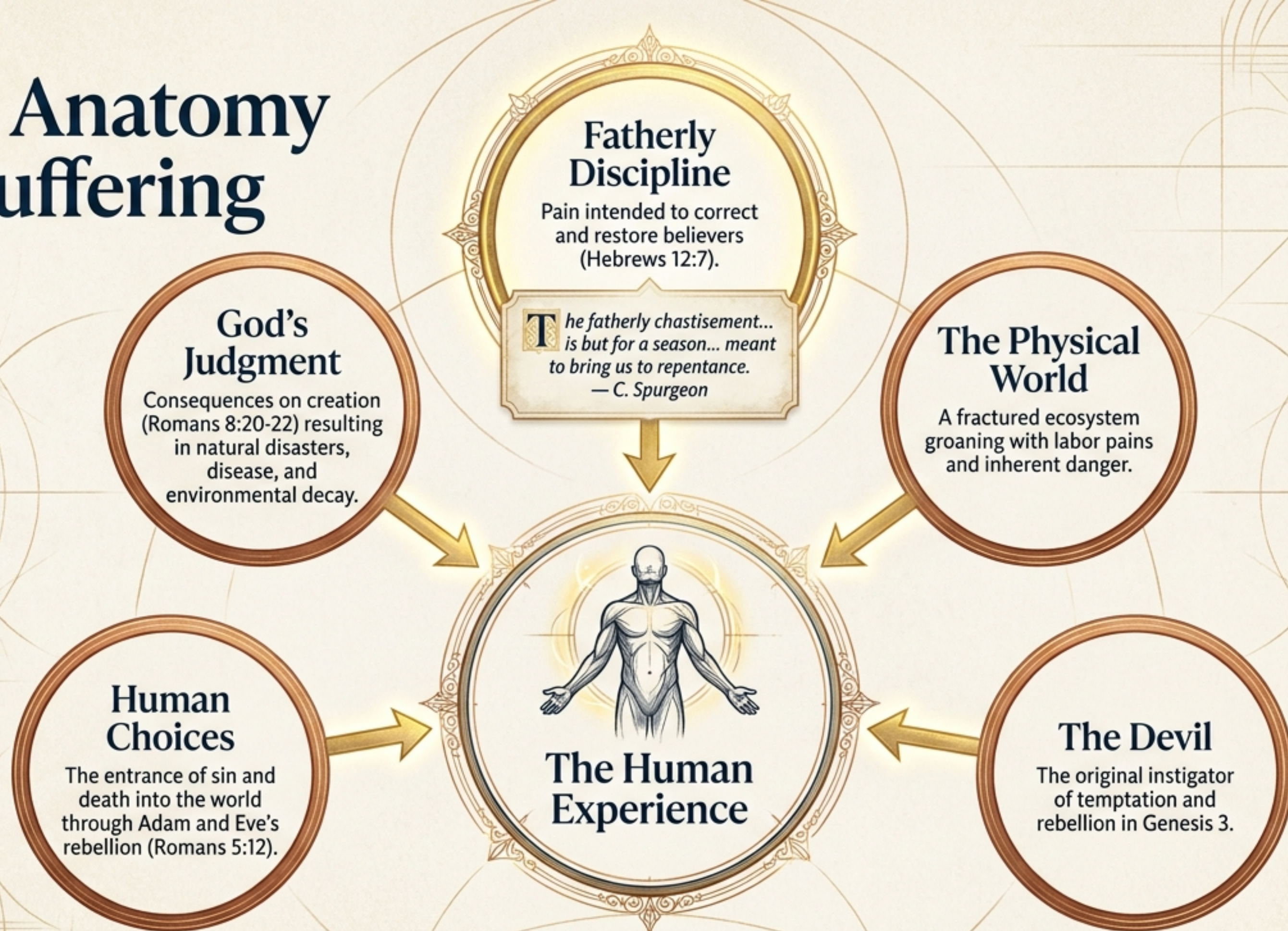


The Architecture of Faith

A Visual Field Guide to Theology, the Unseen Realm, and the Human Experience

An exploration of the grand narrative of God's sovereignty,
the formation of biblical truth, the realities of the spiritual realm,
and the practicalities of Christian living.

The Anatomy of Suffering



Moral Freedom and the Boundaries of Human Understanding



Known Revelation: Moral Freedom

Any world in which humans possess true moral freedom (the ability to choose right or wrong) inevitably results in humans making evil decisions that cause suffering. The alternative is humanity created as programmed robots.



Divine Mystery: The Whirlwind

Job demanded answers, but God spoke from the whirlwind (Job 38:1-4). As finite humans, we lack the intellectual capacity to fully grasp God's ultimate equation.

“The hidden things belong to the LORD
our God.” — Deuteronomy 29:29

Divine Sovereignty vs. Fatalism

Divine Sovereignty

The Nature of Humanity

Humans possess genuine moral freedom and agency.

The Nature of God

Powerful and intelligent enough to accomplish His precise plan despite human choices, demonic schemes, and contingencies (*Ephesians 1:11*).

Ultimate Implication

Absolute assurance of salvation. What God foreknew, predestined, called, and justified, He will glorify (*Romans 8:28-30*).

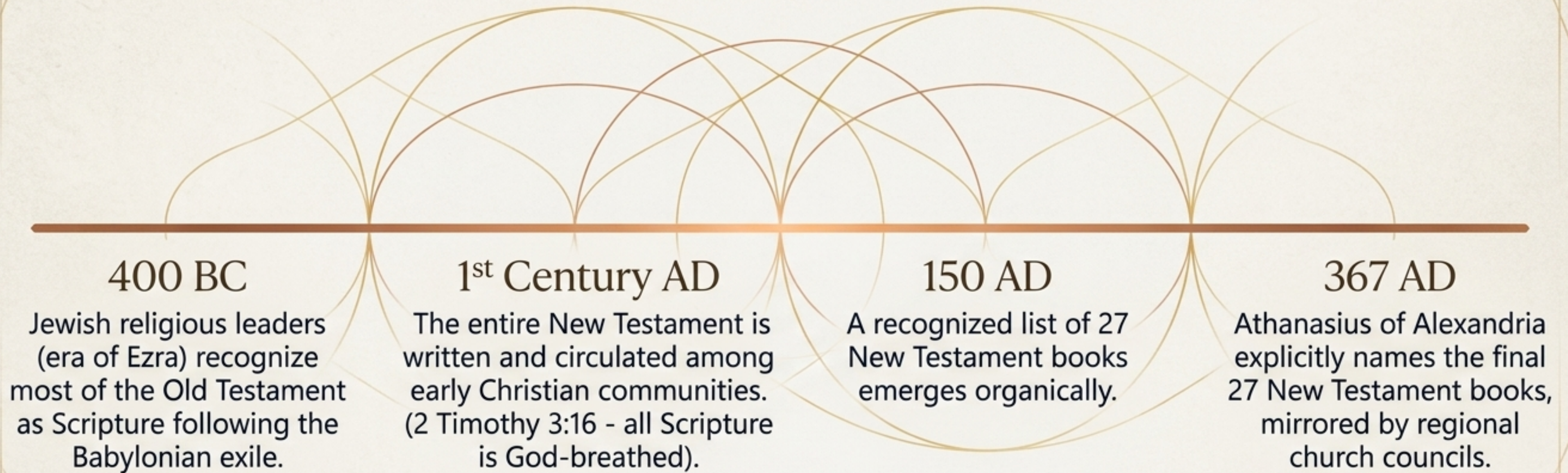
Determinism / Fatalism

Humans act as mere robots; no real choice.

A mechanical programmer dictating every individual micro-action.

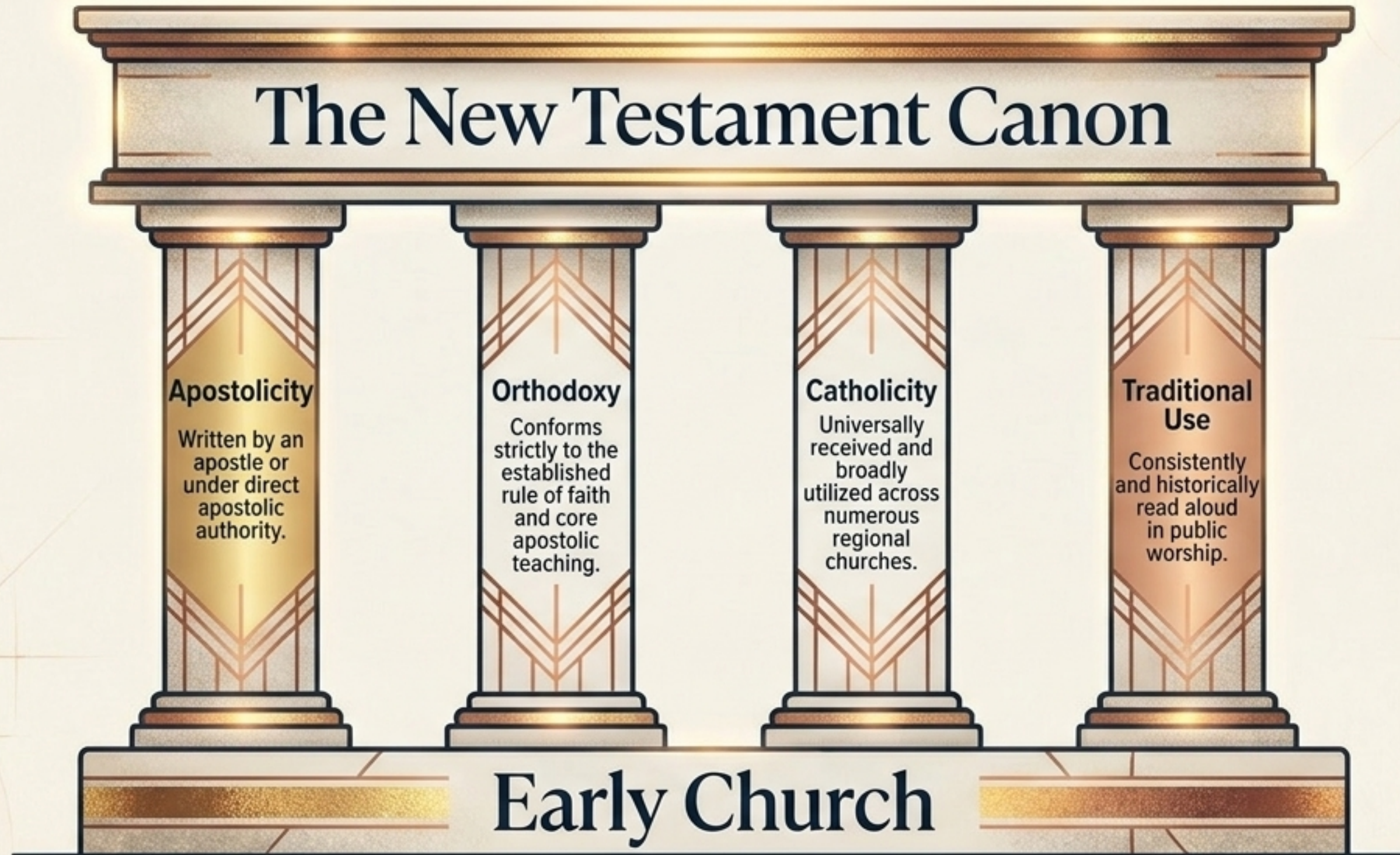
Resignation to an unchangeable, emotionless script.

The Formation of the Biblical Canon



Key Insight: The process was an organic recognition of God-breathed authority over centuries, not a sudden institutional invention.

The Rule of Faith



The Biblical Canon Across Traditions

Tradition	Old Testament Text Base	OT Books	NT Books	Total Books
Protestant	Hebrew Masoretic	39	27	66
Roman Catholic	Greek Septuagint (with Apocrypha)	46	27	73
Eastern Orthodox	Greek Septuagint (Expanded)	49 or 51	27	76 or 78
Ethiopian Orthodox	Septuagint Variant	46	35*	81

*The Ethiopian extra 8 books focus on church government; considered helpful but not divinely inspired.

Key Takeaway: All major Christian traditions universally agree on the same 27 New Testament books. Variance exists purely in the Old Testament source texts and supplementary historical texts.

The Cosmic Audience

Who are they?

Angelic beings (both holy and fallen) who rule over myriads of other angels in the unseen realm (Eph 1:21; 6:12).

What are they watching?

They observe the macro-advance of the Gospel—the spreading of the church into nations the devil once dominated.

The Reaction

Holy angels rejoice at this expansion. Fallen angels tremble in fear.



God's multi-faceted wisdom is being made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 3:10).

The Limitations of the Enemy

Divine Nature

- Omnipresent (everywhere at once)
- Omniscient (all-knowing)
- Sovereign Creator

Creaturely Limitation

Localized

As a created angel, Satan can only be in one physical/spiritual location at a time. He cannot tempt everyone simultaneously.

Delegator of Darkness

He relies on laying traps, spreading deception, and sending multitudes of fallen angels/demons to carry out localized schemes.

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.” — Ephesians 6:11-12

Discernment Without Condemnation

“Do not judge, so that you won’t be judged... Why do you look at the splinter in your brother’s eye but don’t notice the beam of wood in your own eye?” — Matthew 7:1-3

Step 1: The Self-Check



Are you acting self-righteous or superior?
Acknowledge your own severe struggles (the beam) before examining others.

Step 2: Humble Motive



Ensure the intent is strictly to help and restore, never to tear down or play the moral police.

Step 3: Prayerful Pause



Ask for the Lord's green light. Wait for the appropriate time and place rather than diving in like a busybody.

Step 4: Loving Action



Speak the truth in love and deep humility, accepting that correction is difficult and may cause friction.

The Dust and the Glory



Burial



Cremation

The Shared Fate:

All earthly bodies eventually return to dirt and dust.



The Ultimate Promise:

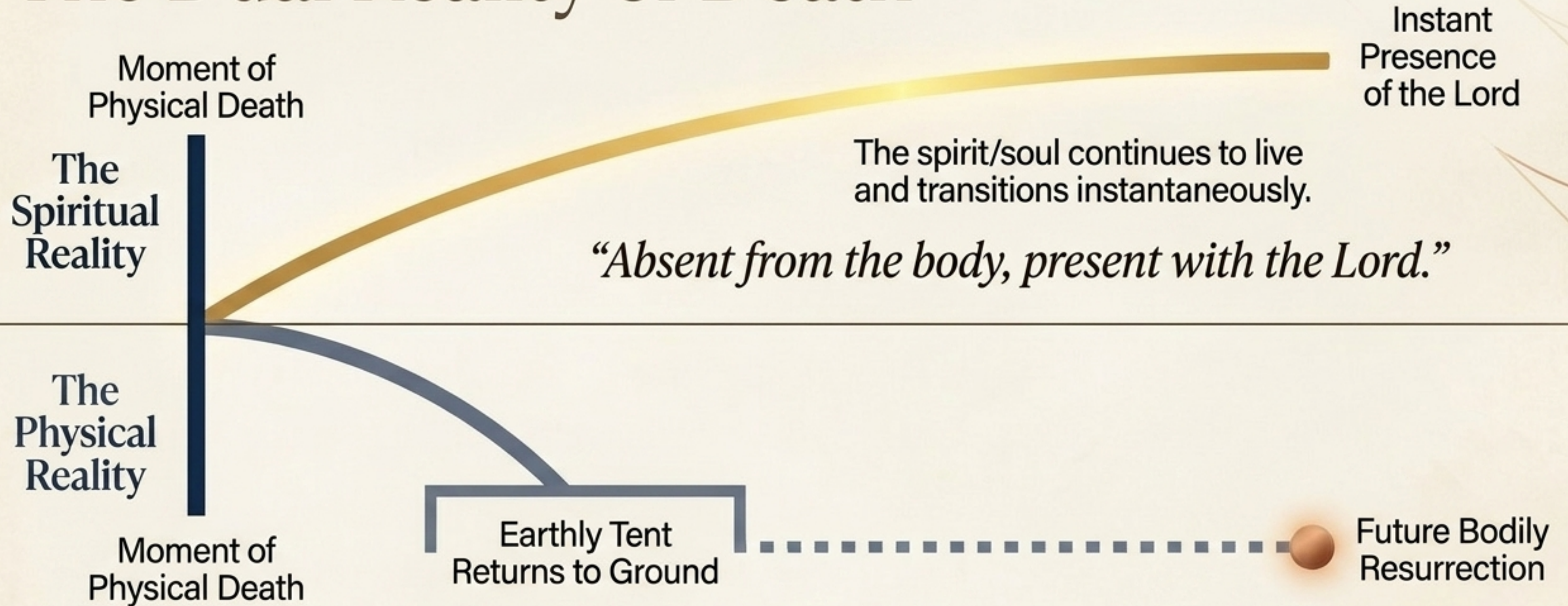
God will raise eternal bodies from grave vaults, the ocean floor, or scattered ashes.

The Bible does not explicitly command burial or cremation. Believers are free to choose based on conscience, provided the body is treated with respect and dignity.

“Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die... buried in brokenness, raised in glory... buried as natural human bodies, raised as spiritual bodies.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

The Dual Reality of Death



“When this earthly tent we live in is taken down... we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself...” — 2 Corinthians 5:1

The Multi-Faceted Plan of God



Key Insight: Though the physical world is painful and our understanding is limited, God's sovereignty utilizes human freedom and historical processes to orchestrate an ultimate, beautiful redemption.

The Final Word

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.” — Revelation 21:4

We do not know why the eradication of evil is taking so long. But we know God has intervened through Jesus Christ to bring an end to sin, death, suffering, and the enemy. In the end, God has the last word. He will make all things new, right, and beautiful.