

Occasionally during this teaching I will speculate on the meaning of the words or actions read on the screen.

If you have a different interpretation feel free to share it with us.

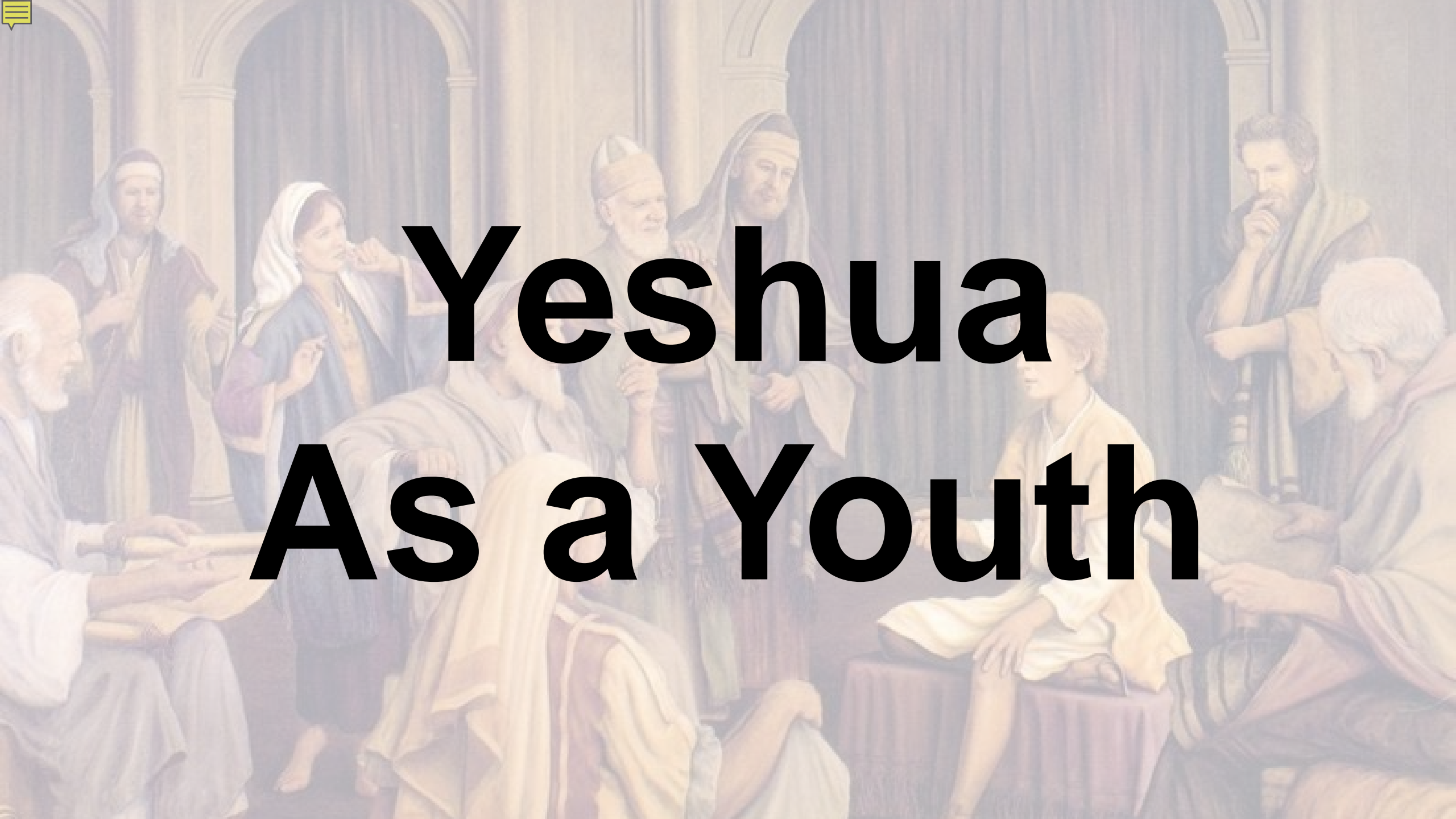


**The Bible translation I use throughout
this teaching is the
“Complete Jewish Bible”.**

***Text in red and italics are words from the
Bible spoken by Yeshua.***

***Text in brown and italics are words from
non-Biblical sources attributed to Yeshua.***

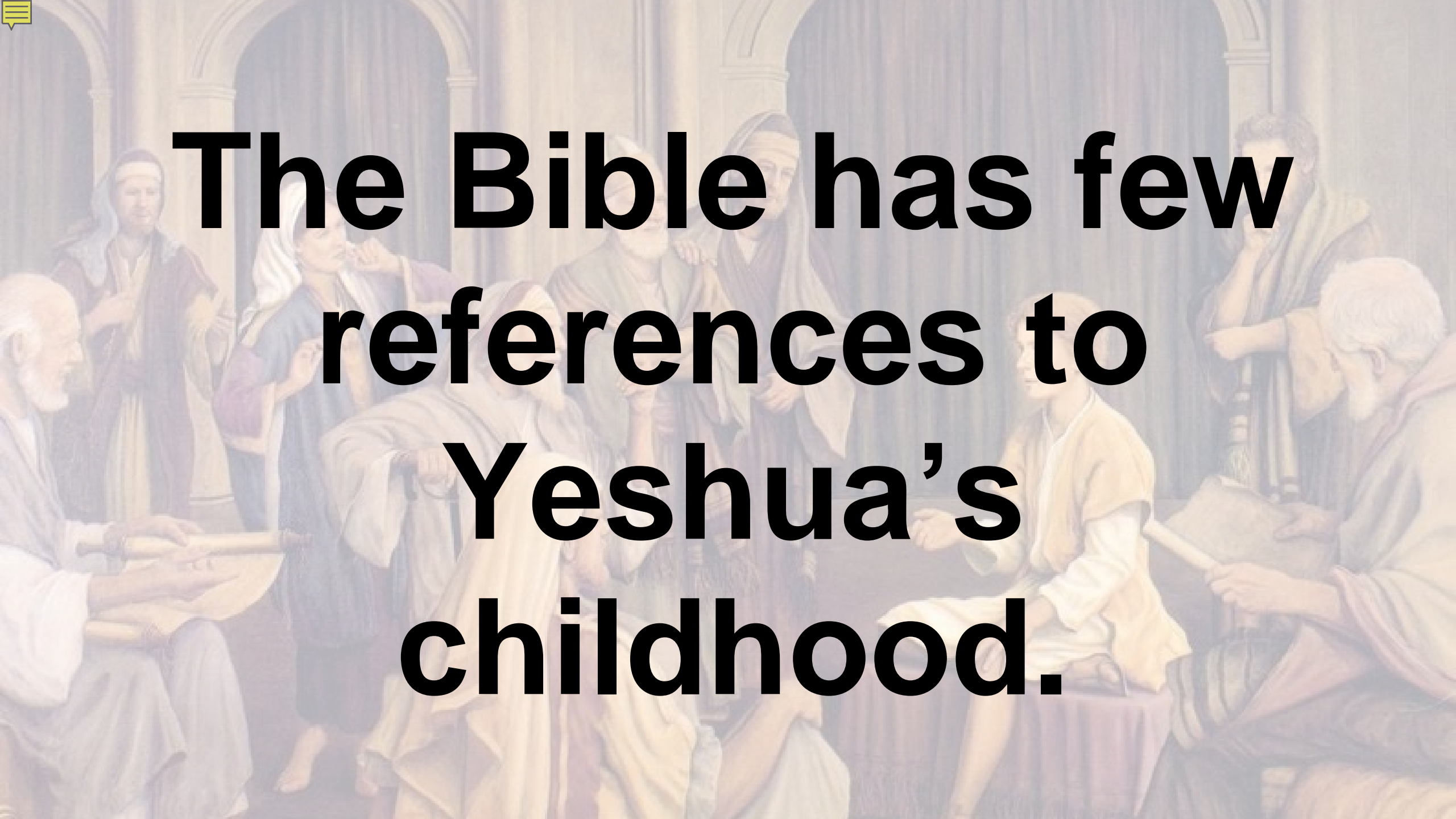
***Text in purple and italics are scriptures
from the Bible.***

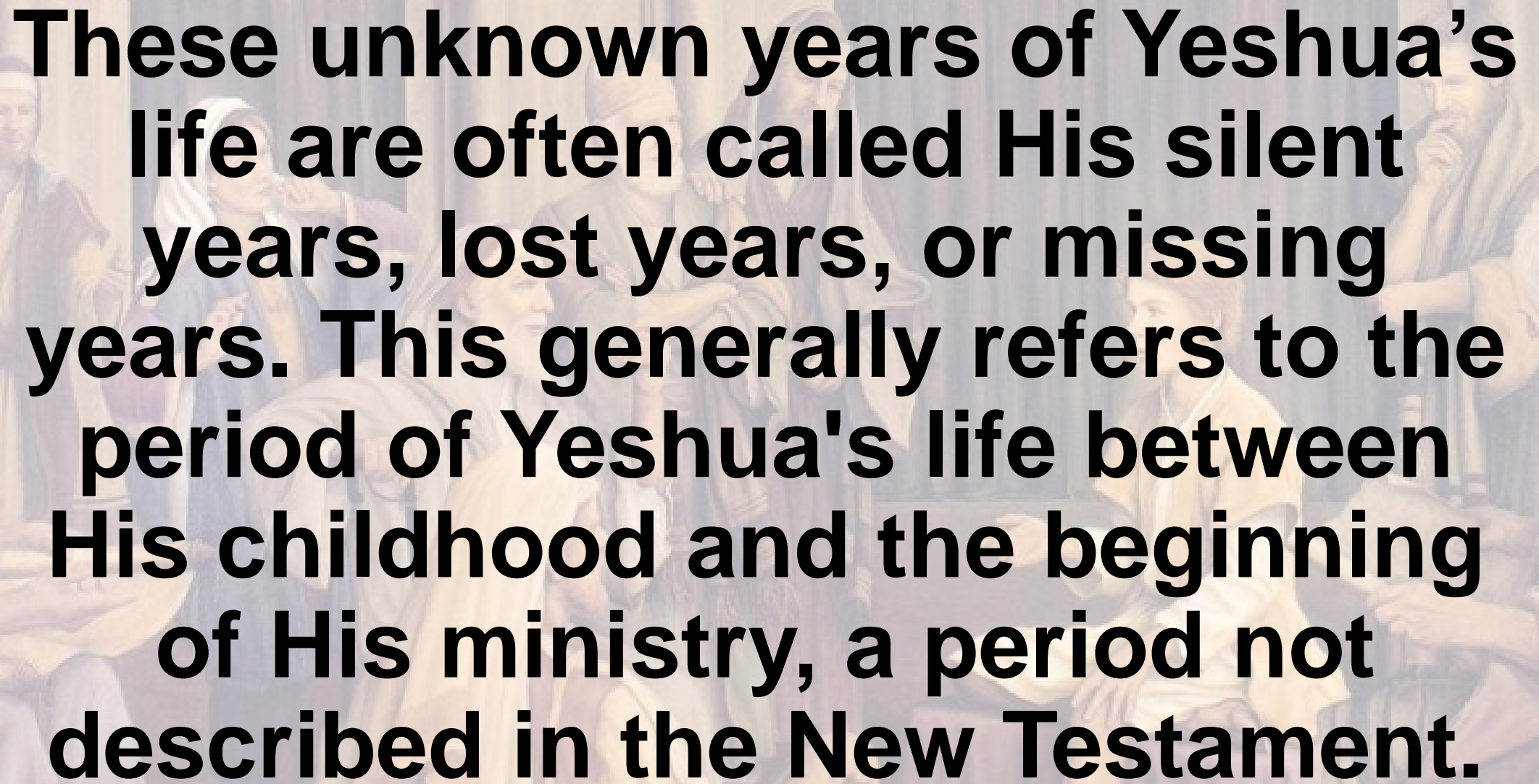


Yeshua As a Youth

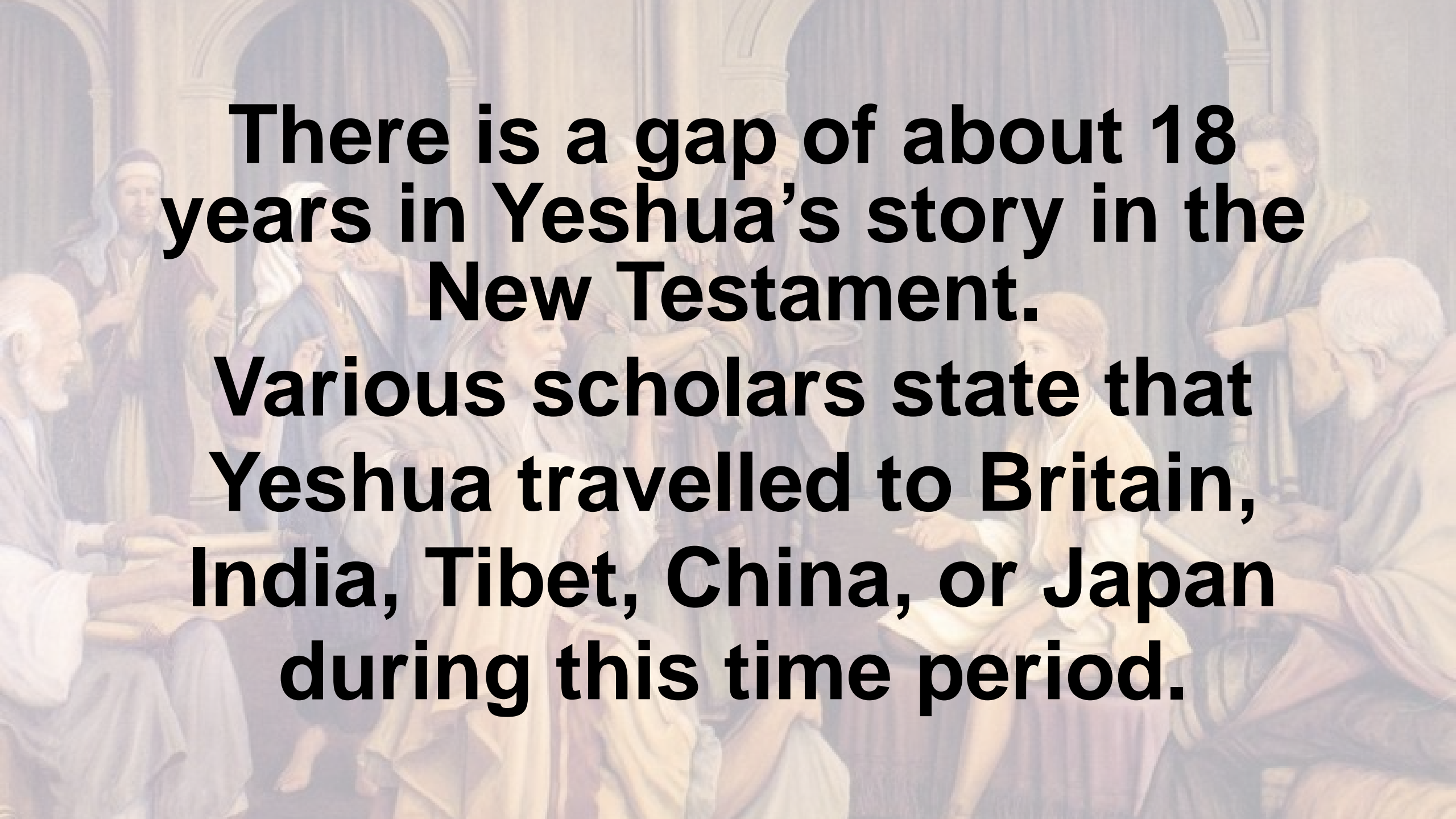


The Bible has few references to Yeshua's childhood.



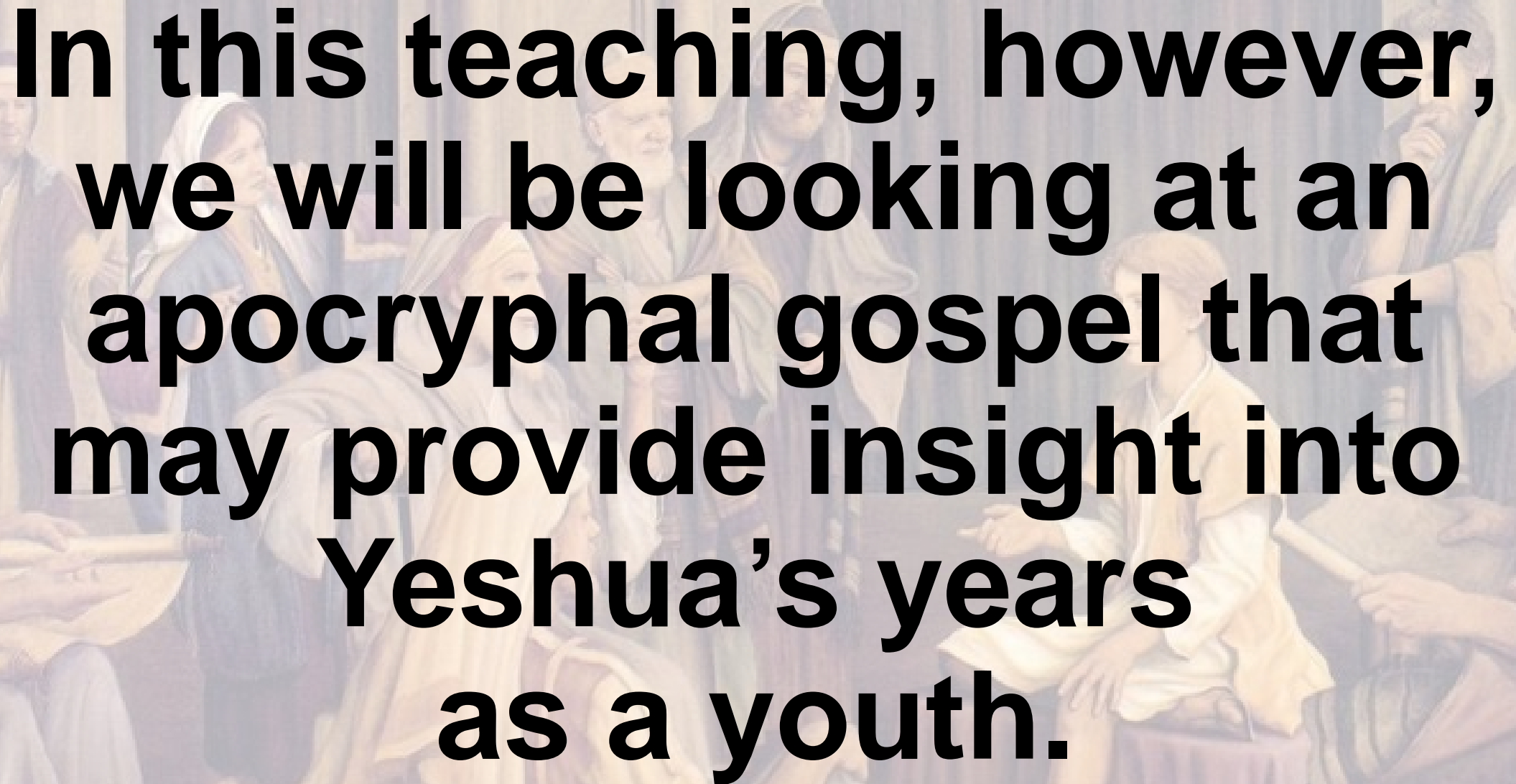


These unknown years of Yeshua's life are often called His silent years, lost years, or missing years. This generally refers to the period of Yeshua's life between His childhood and the beginning of His ministry, a period not described in the New Testament.



There is a gap of about 18 years in Yeshua's story in the New Testament.

Various scholars state that Yeshua travelled to Britain, India, Tibet, China, or Japan during this time period.



**In this teaching, however,
we will be looking at an
apocryphal gospel that
may provide insight into
Yeshua's years
as a youth.**



The first Rabbit Hole

Why should we be wary of apocryphal writing:





**They take the place of actual gospels
in the minds of people.**

**They can be considered false
gospels.**

**They don't have the same
provenance as the Biblical Canon.**

Many came from the Gnostics.



**Why we should read
the apocryphal
gospels:**



**They can possibly fill in gaps in
the actual gospels**

**They can provide us historical information
that illuminates our understanding**

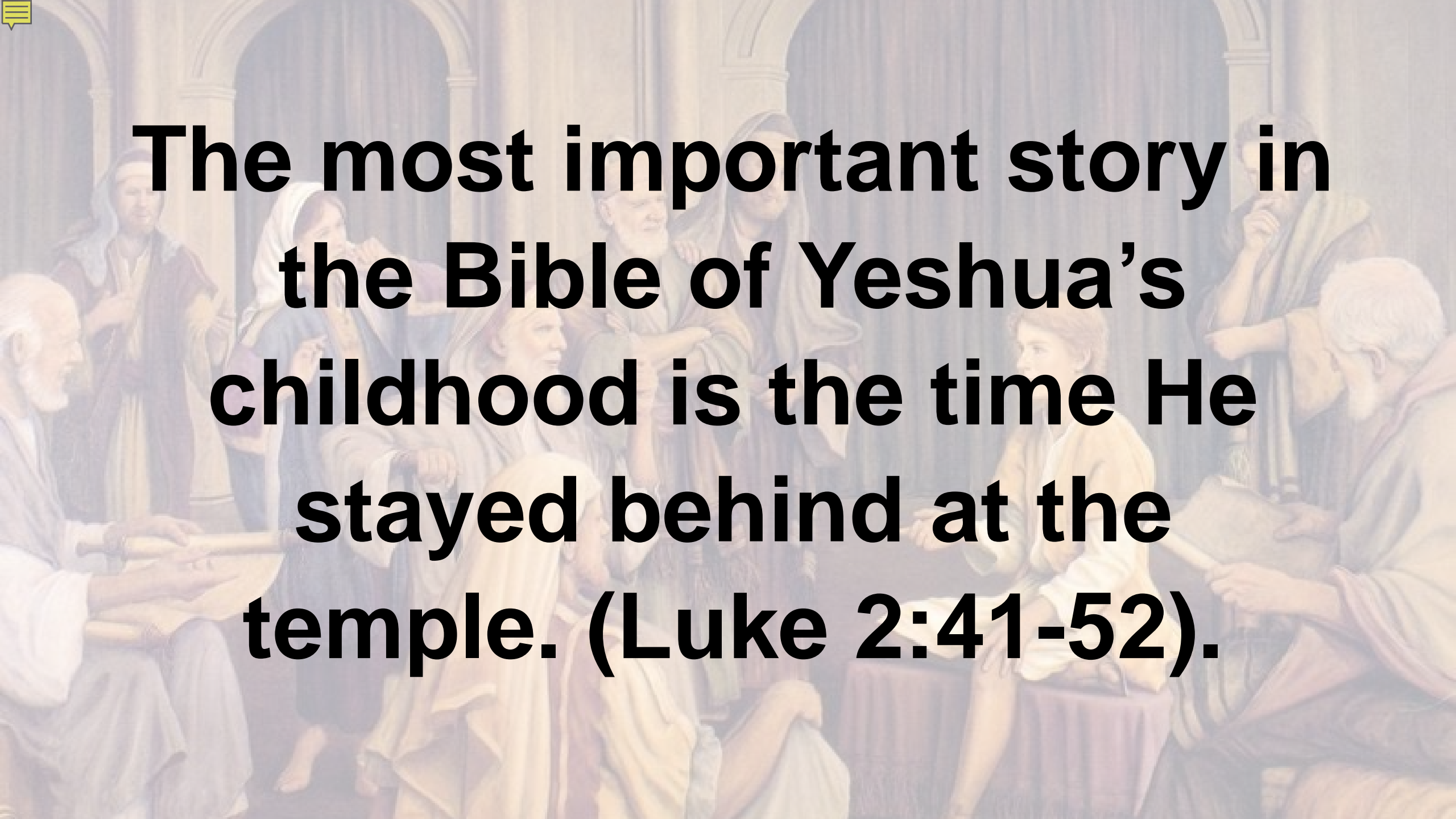
**They help bridge the cultural, religious, and
historical gap between the end of the Old
Testament and the beginning of the New**

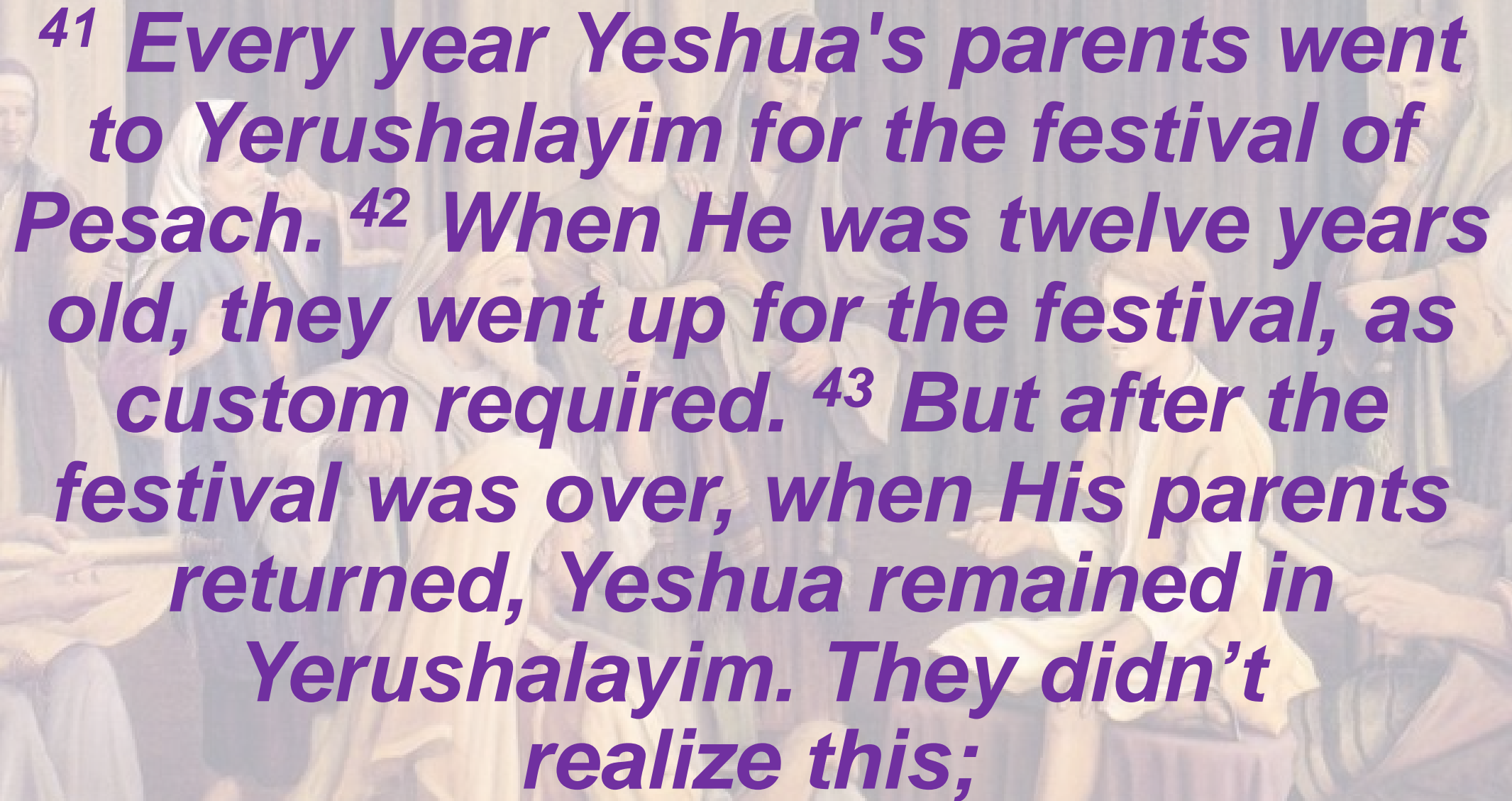
They were important to early Christians

**They can raise questions to why certain
accounts were excluded or included
in the Bible**

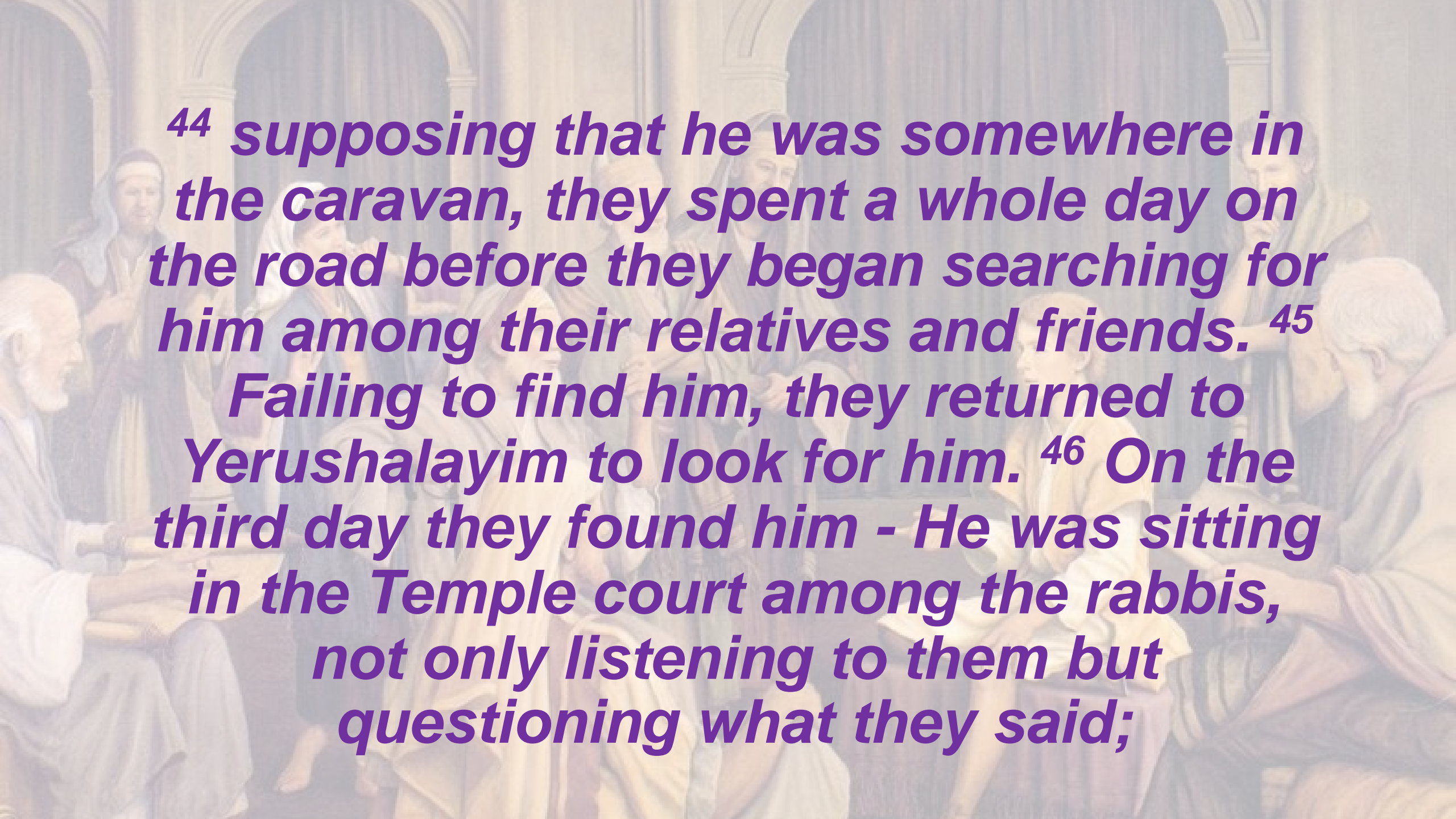


The most important story in the Bible of Yeshua's childhood is the time He stayed behind at the temple. (Luke 2:41-52).



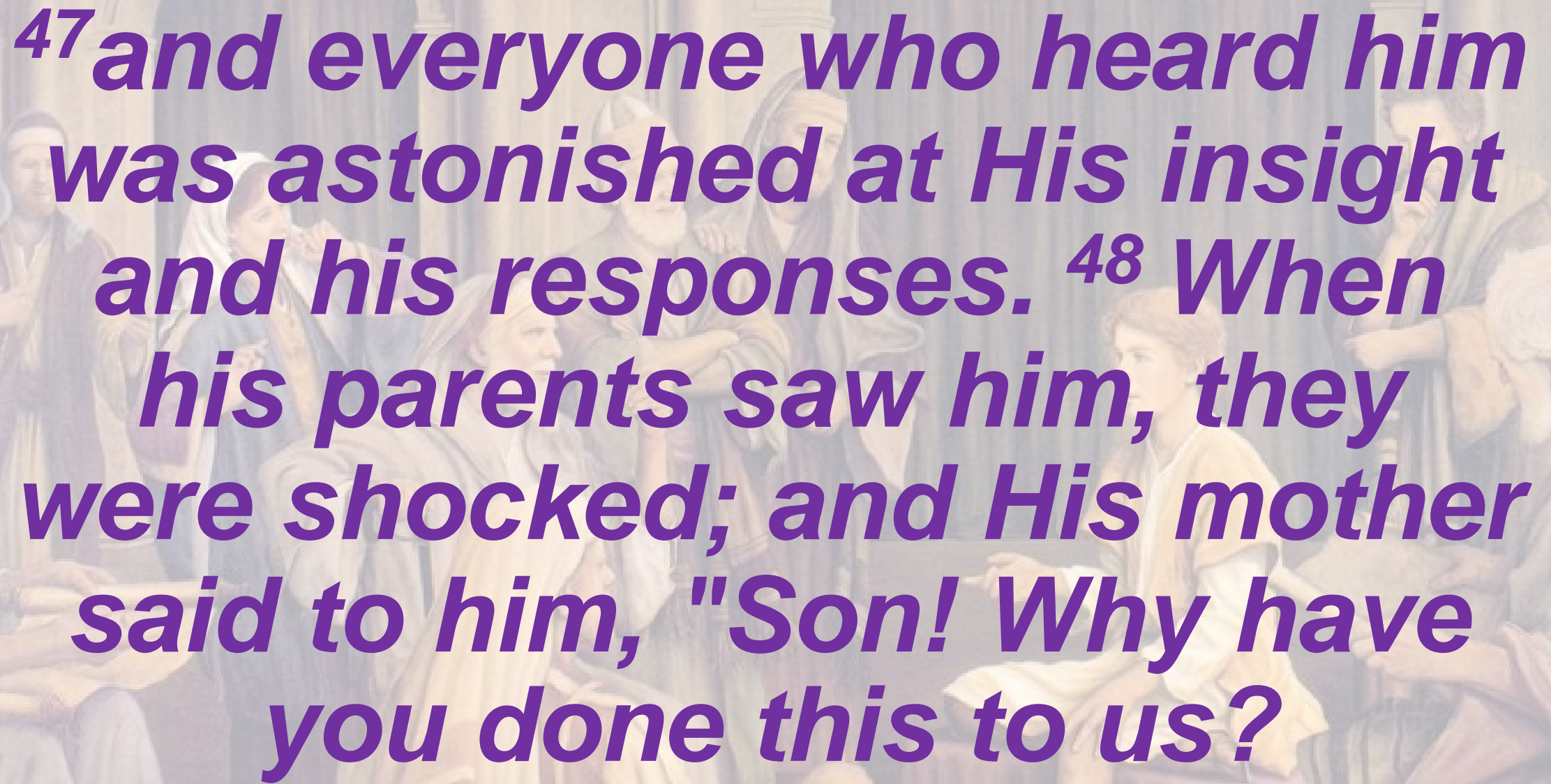
A painting depicting a group of people in a room with arches. The scene is set in a room with several large, arched doorways in the background. In the foreground, a group of people, including men and women, are gathered around a table. Some are seated, while others stand. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is historical and somewhat somber. The text is overlaid on the painting in a bold, purple font.

41 Every year Yeshua's parents went to Yerushalayim for the festival of Pesach. 42 When He was twelve years old, they went up for the festival, as custom required. 43 But after the festival was over, when His parents returned, Yeshua remained in Yerushalayim. They didn't realize this;

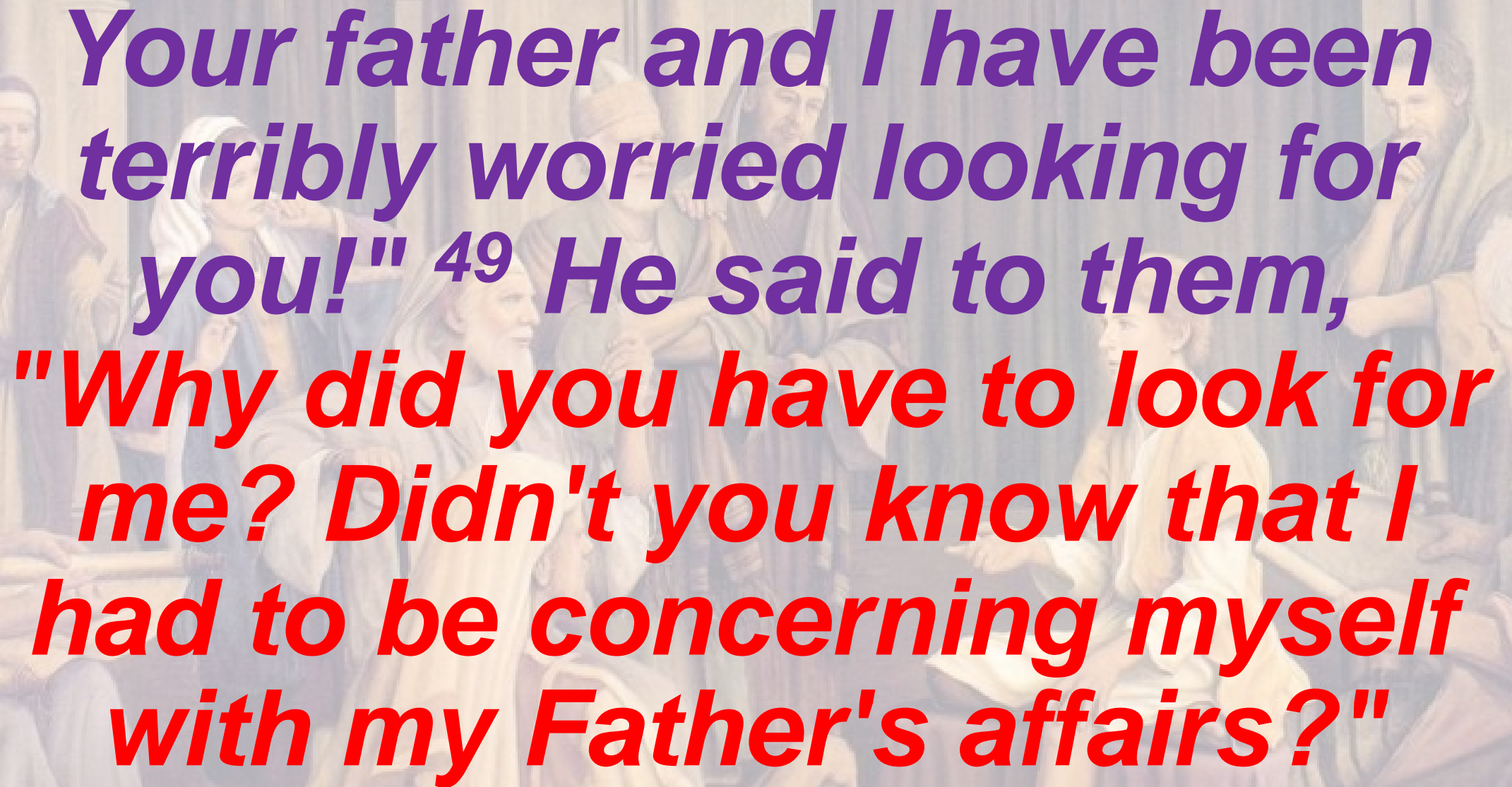


44 supposing that he was somewhere in the caravan, they spent a whole day on the road before they began searching for him among their relatives and friends. 45

Failing to find him, they returned to Yerushalayim to look for him. 46 On the third day they found him - He was sitting in the Temple court among the rabbis, not only listening to them but questioning what they said;

A painting depicting a scene where Jesus is seated at a table with his parents and other people. The scene is set in a room with large arches. Jesus is in the center, looking towards his mother on the right. His father is on the left, looking towards Jesus. Other people are seated around the table, some looking at Jesus. The text is overlaid on the painting in a bold, purple font.

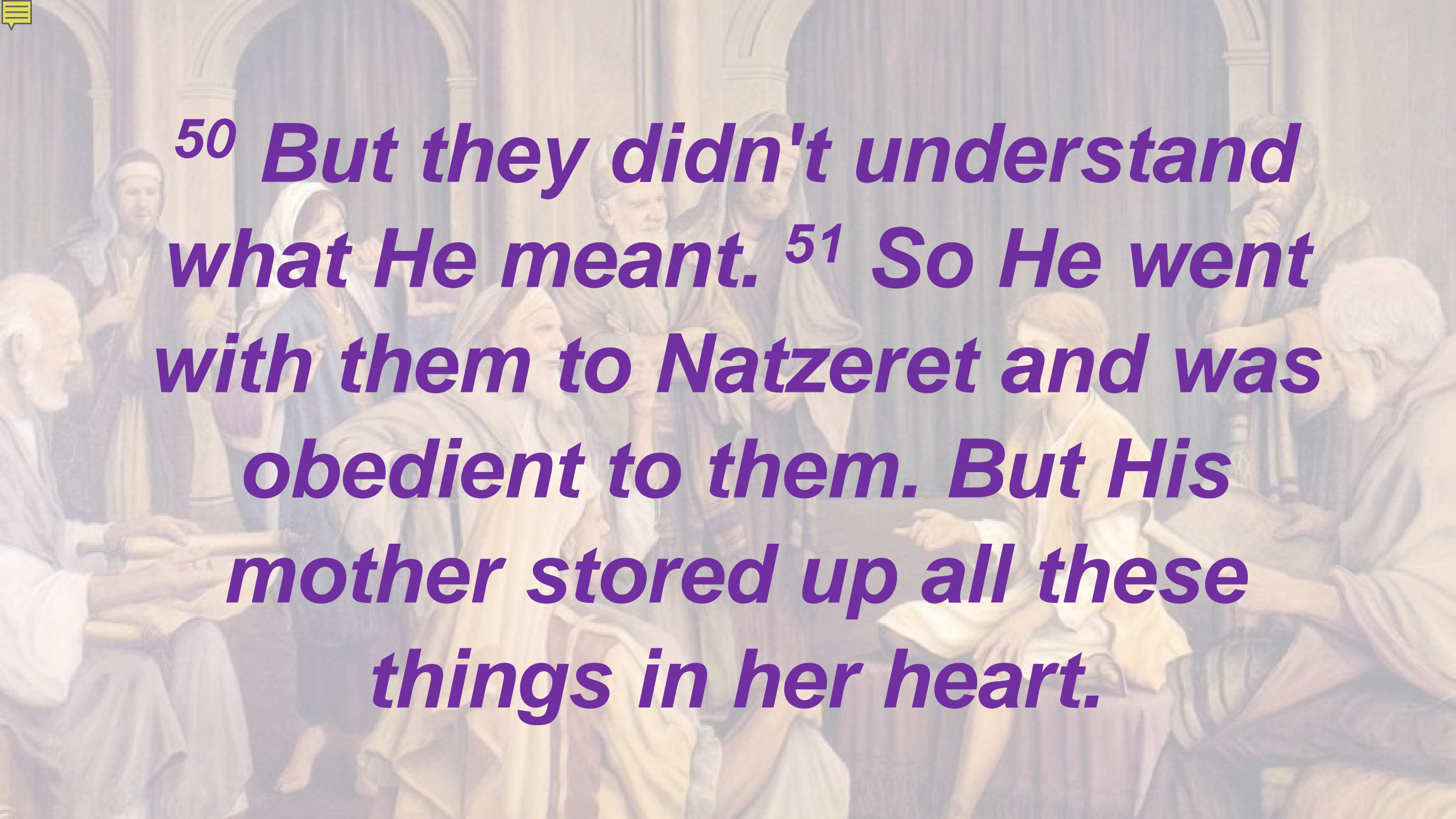
47 and everyone who heard him was astonished at His insight and his responses. 48 When his parents saw him, they were shocked; and His mother said to him, "Son! Why have you done this to us?"



Your father and I have been terribly worried looking for you!" ⁴⁹ ***He said to them,***
"Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be concerning myself with my Father's affairs?"

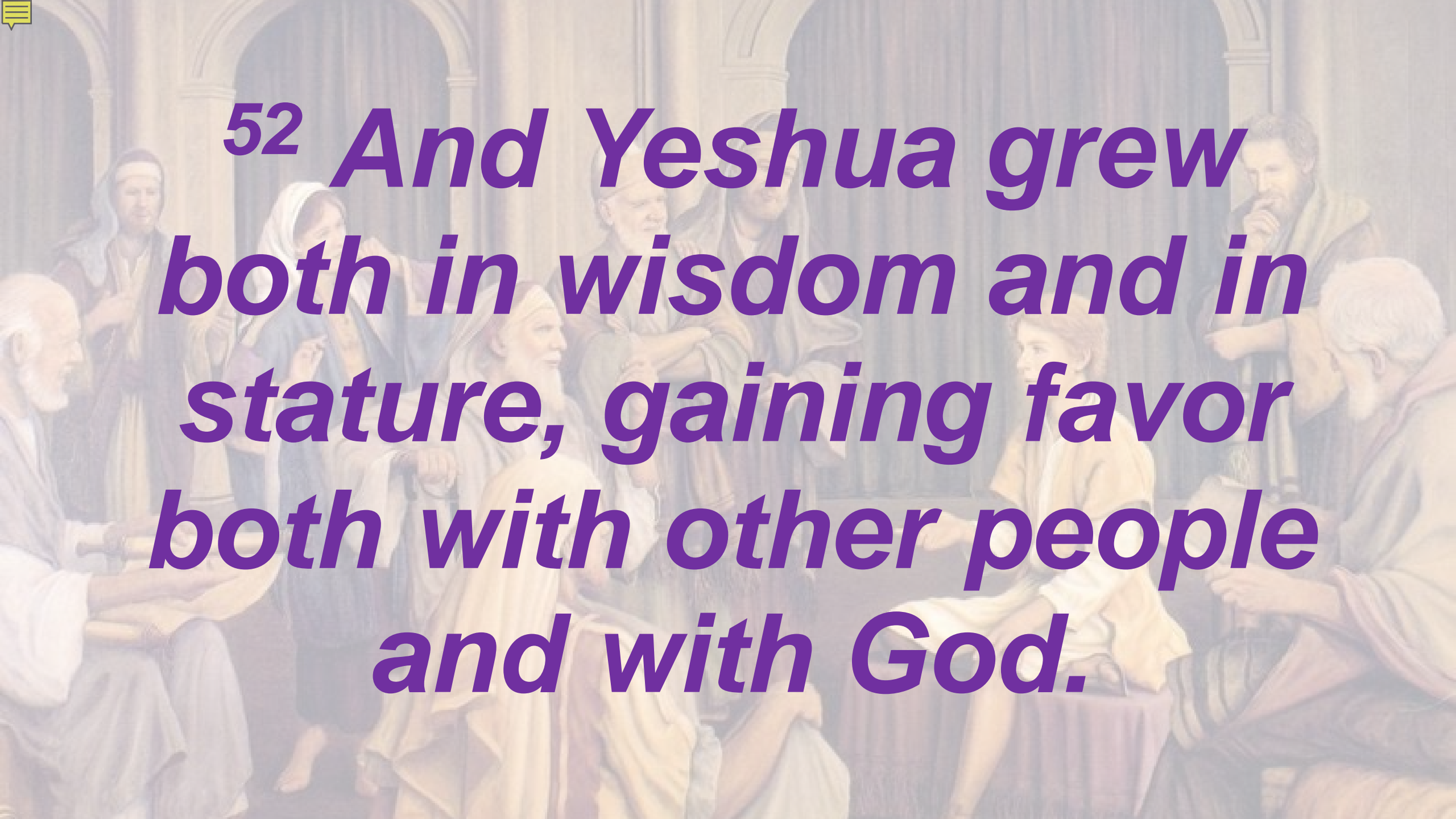


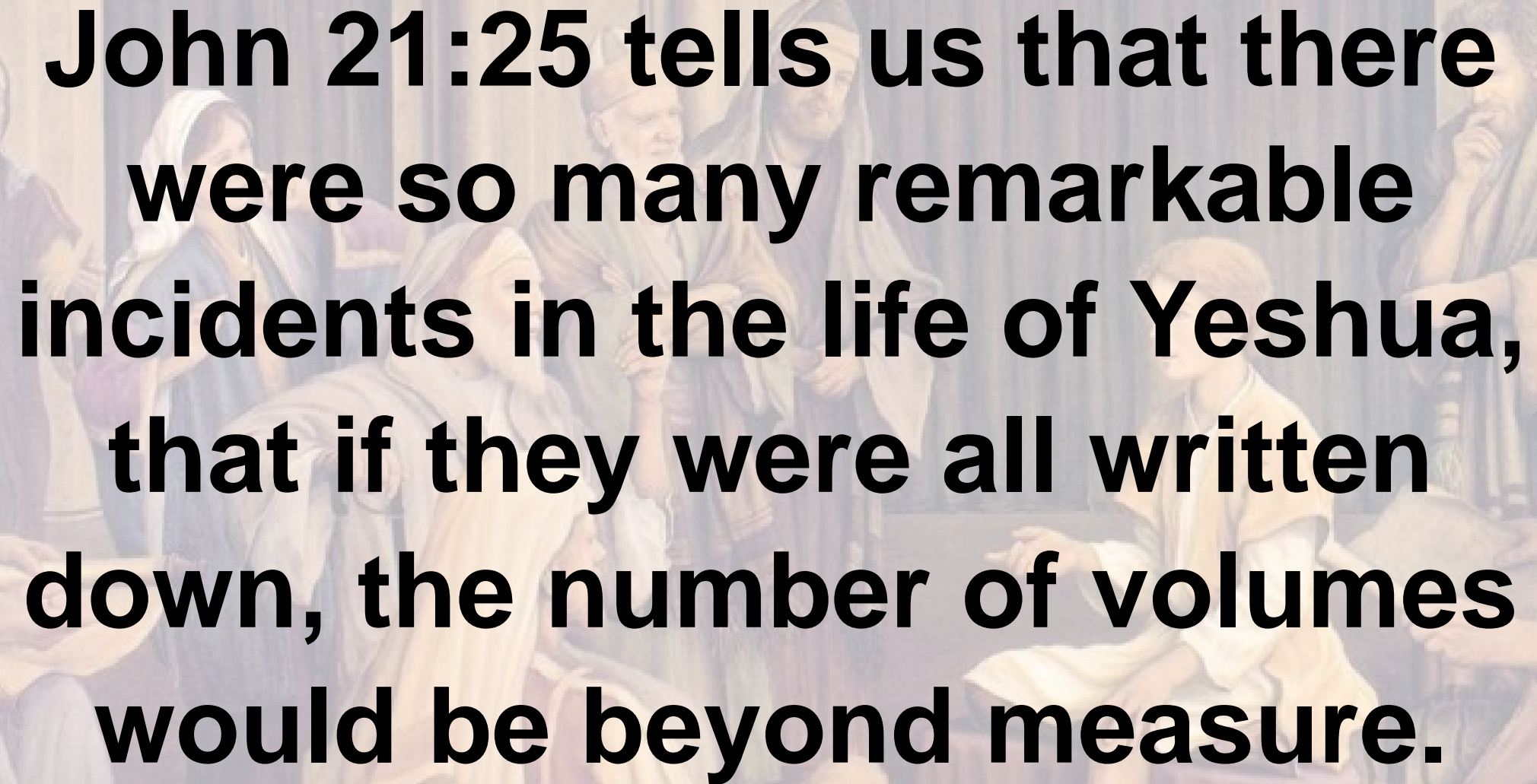
50 But they didn't understand what He meant. 51 So He went with them to Natzeret and was obedient to them. But His mother stored up all these things in her heart.





52 And Yeshua grew both in wisdom and in stature, gaining favor both with other people and with God.



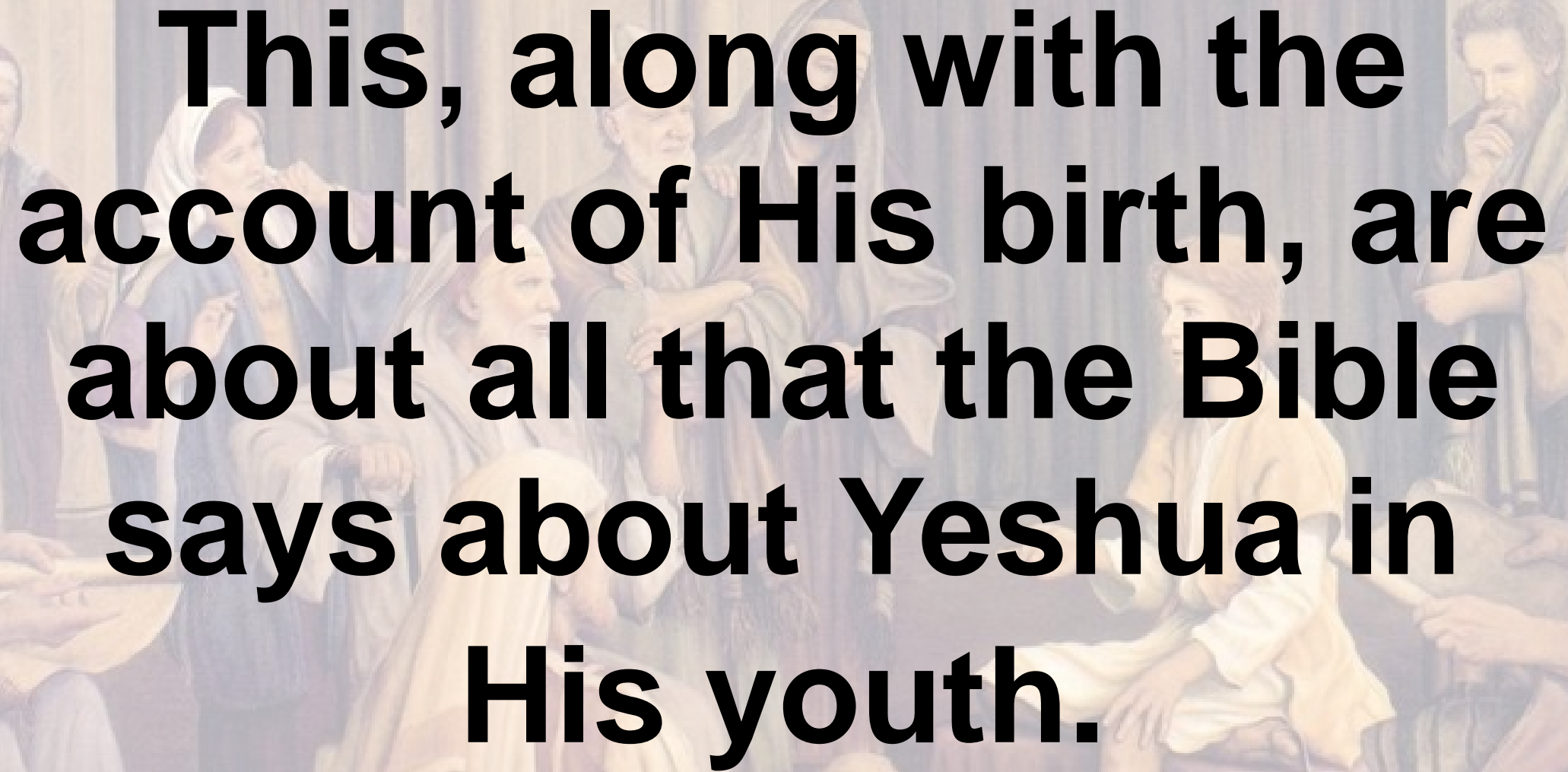


John 21:25 tells us that there were so many remarkable incidents in the life of Yeshua, that if they were all written down, the number of volumes would be beyond measure.

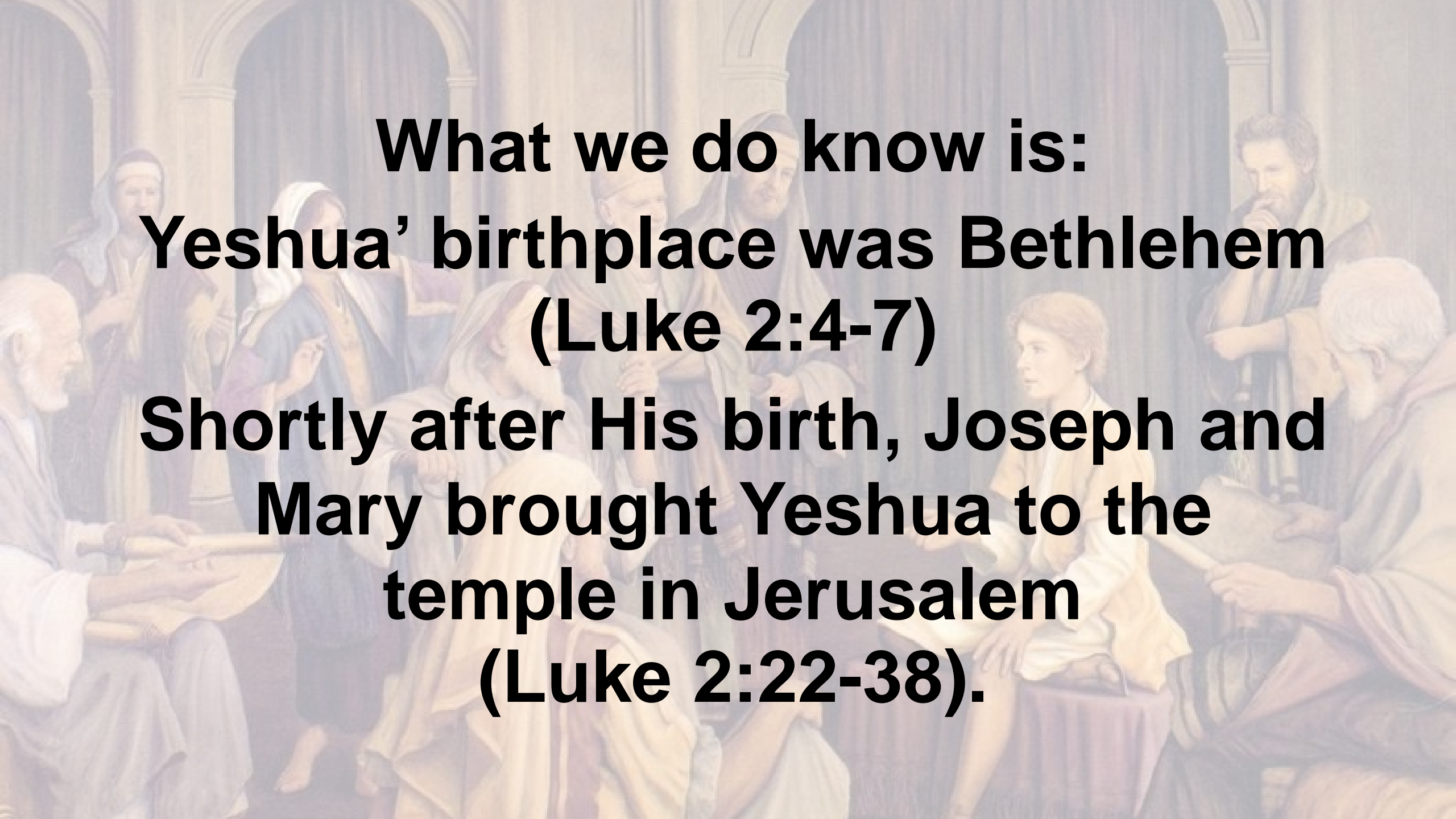


(John 21:25) CJB

But there are also many other things Yeshua did; and if they were all to be recorded, I don't think the whole world could contain the books that would have to be written!

The background image is a faded, sepia-toned illustration of a group of people in a room with arched doorways. In the center, a man with a long white beard and a white robe is seated, holding a book. To his right, a woman in a white headscarf and a purple robe is seated, looking towards him. Other people are standing and sitting around them, some looking at the man with the book. The overall scene suggests a teaching or a study session in a historical setting.

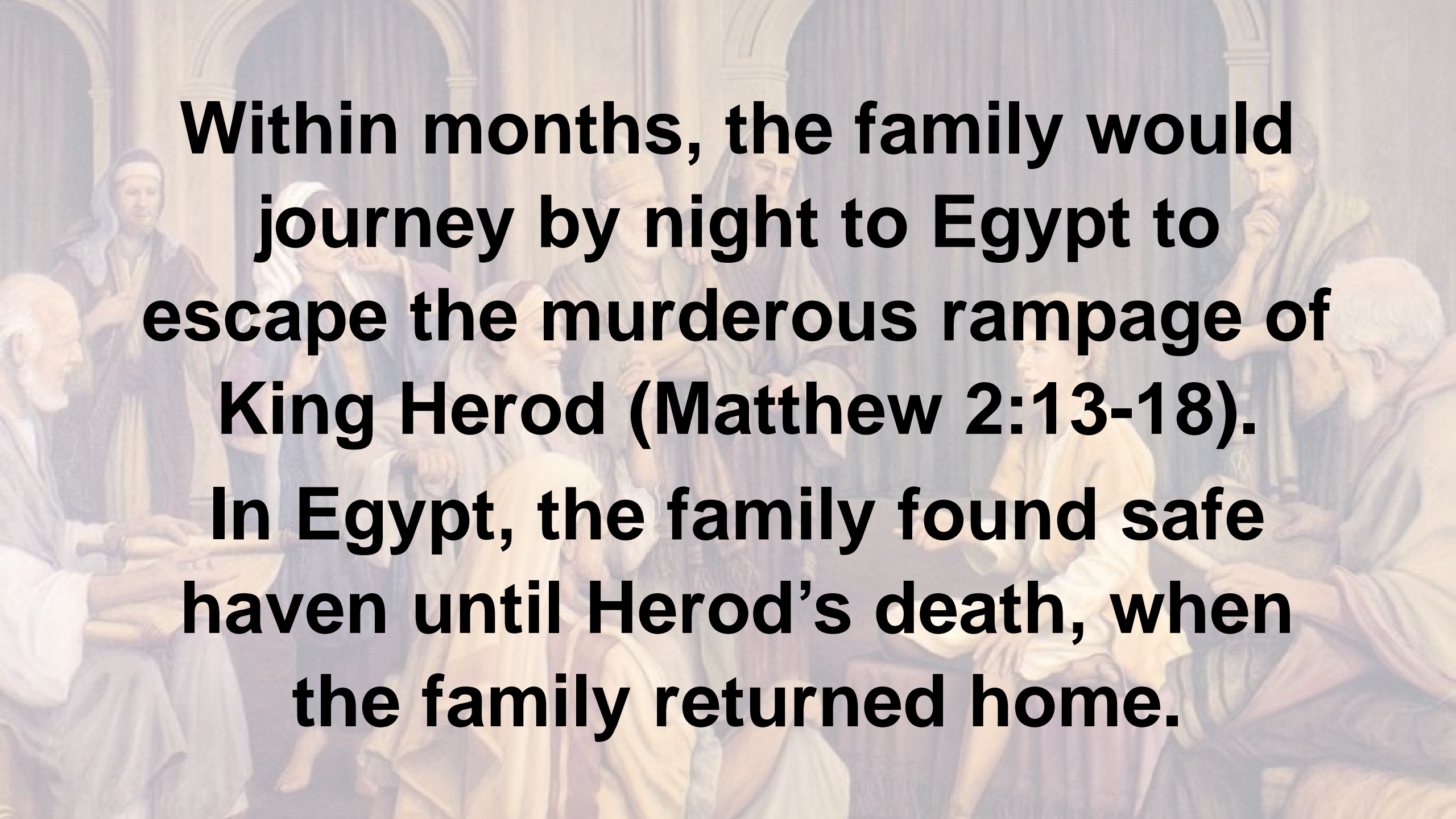
This, along with the account of His birth, are about all that the Bible says about Yeshua in His youth.



What we do know is:

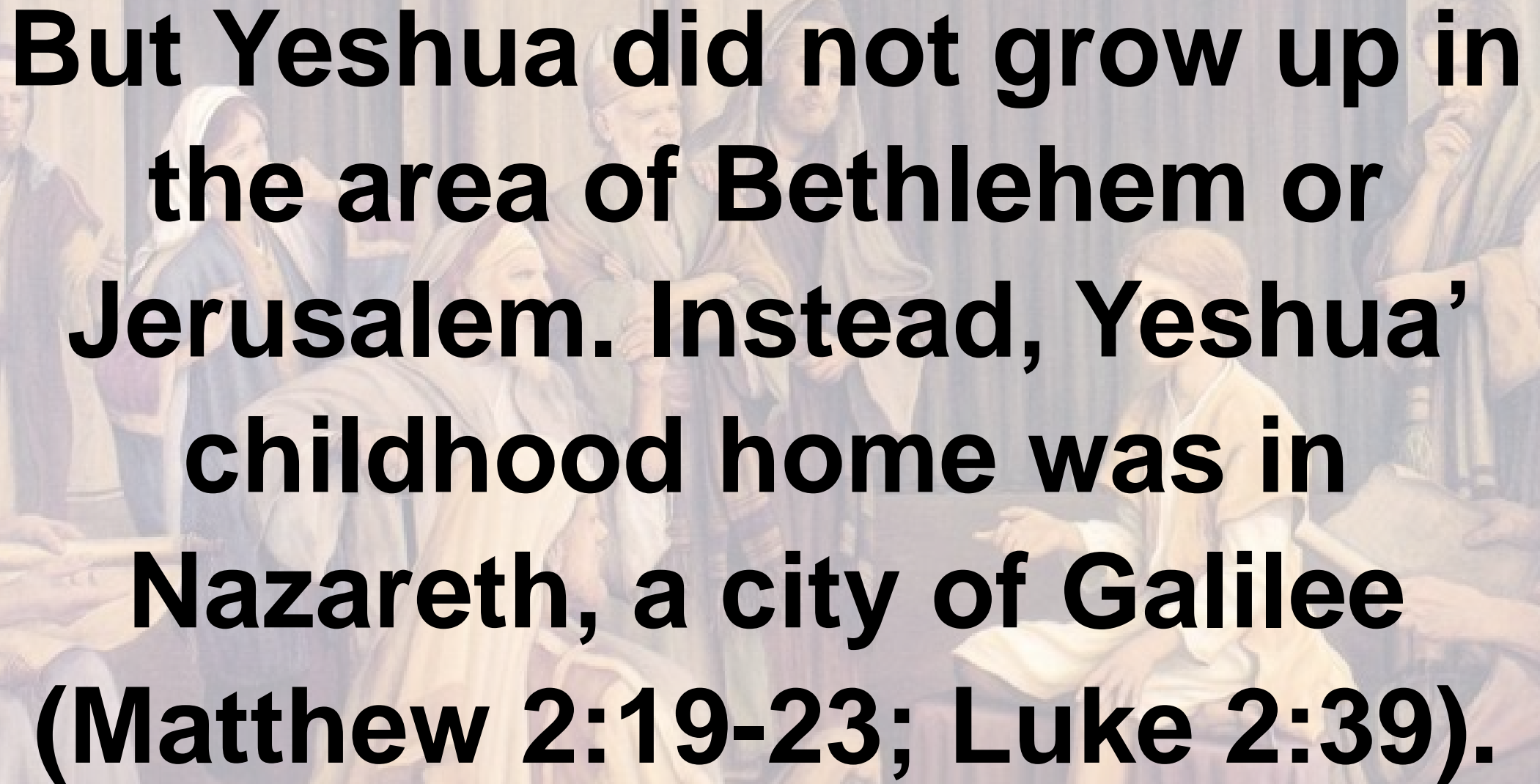
**Yeshua' birthplace was Bethlehem
(Luke 2:4-7)**

**Shortly after His birth, Joseph and
Mary brought Yeshua to the
temple in Jerusalem
(Luke 2:22-38).**

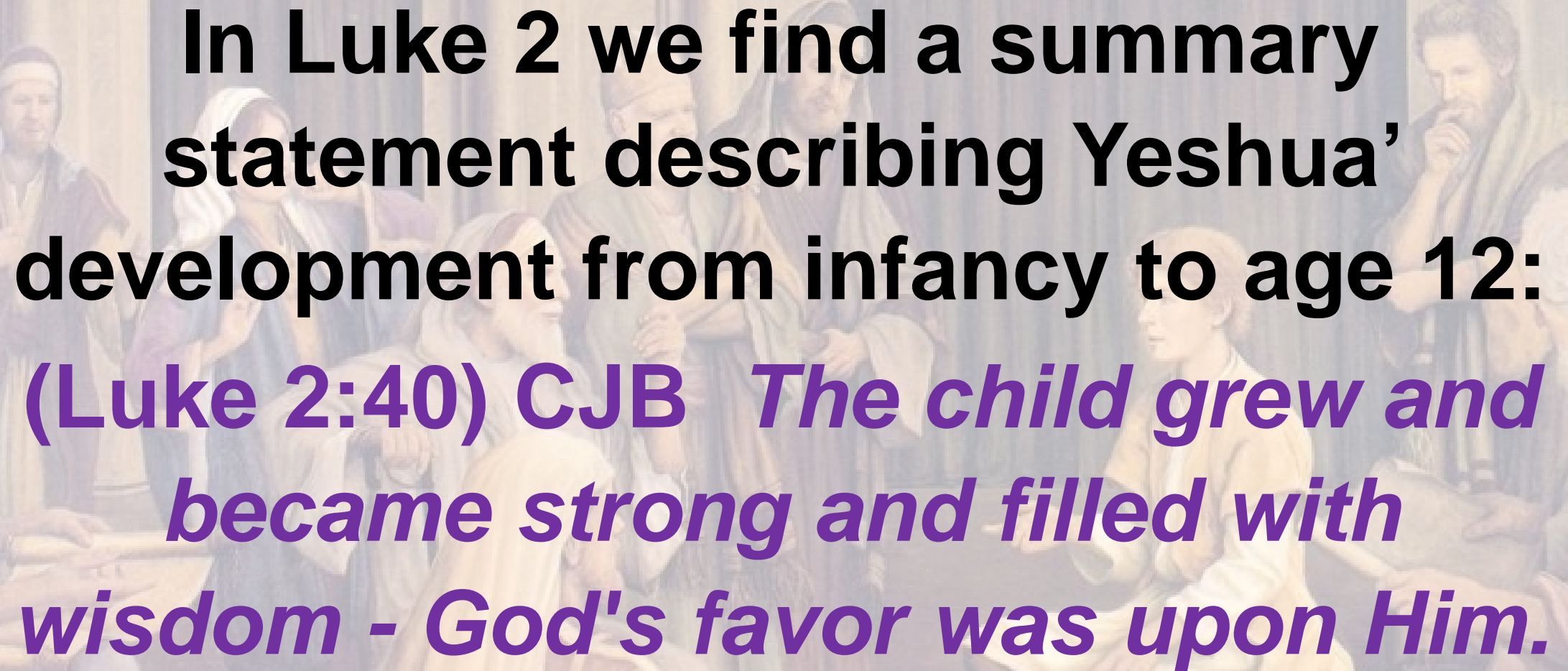


Within months, the family would journey by night to Egypt to escape the murderous rampage of King Herod (Matthew 2:13-18).

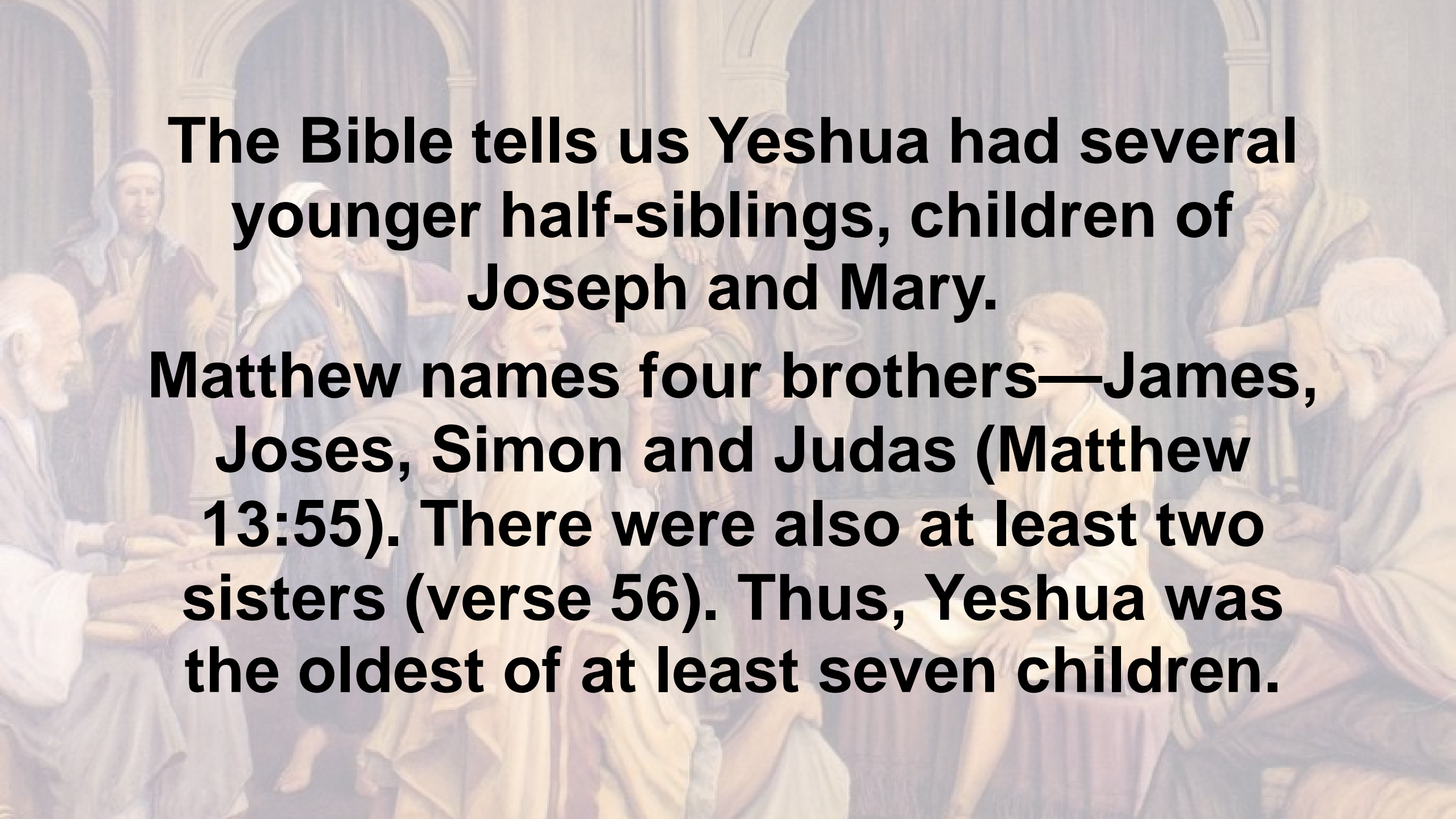
In Egypt, the family found safe haven until Herod's death, when the family returned home.



But Yeshua did not grow up in the area of Bethlehem or Jerusalem. Instead, Yeshua's childhood home was in Nazareth, a city of Galilee (Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:39).

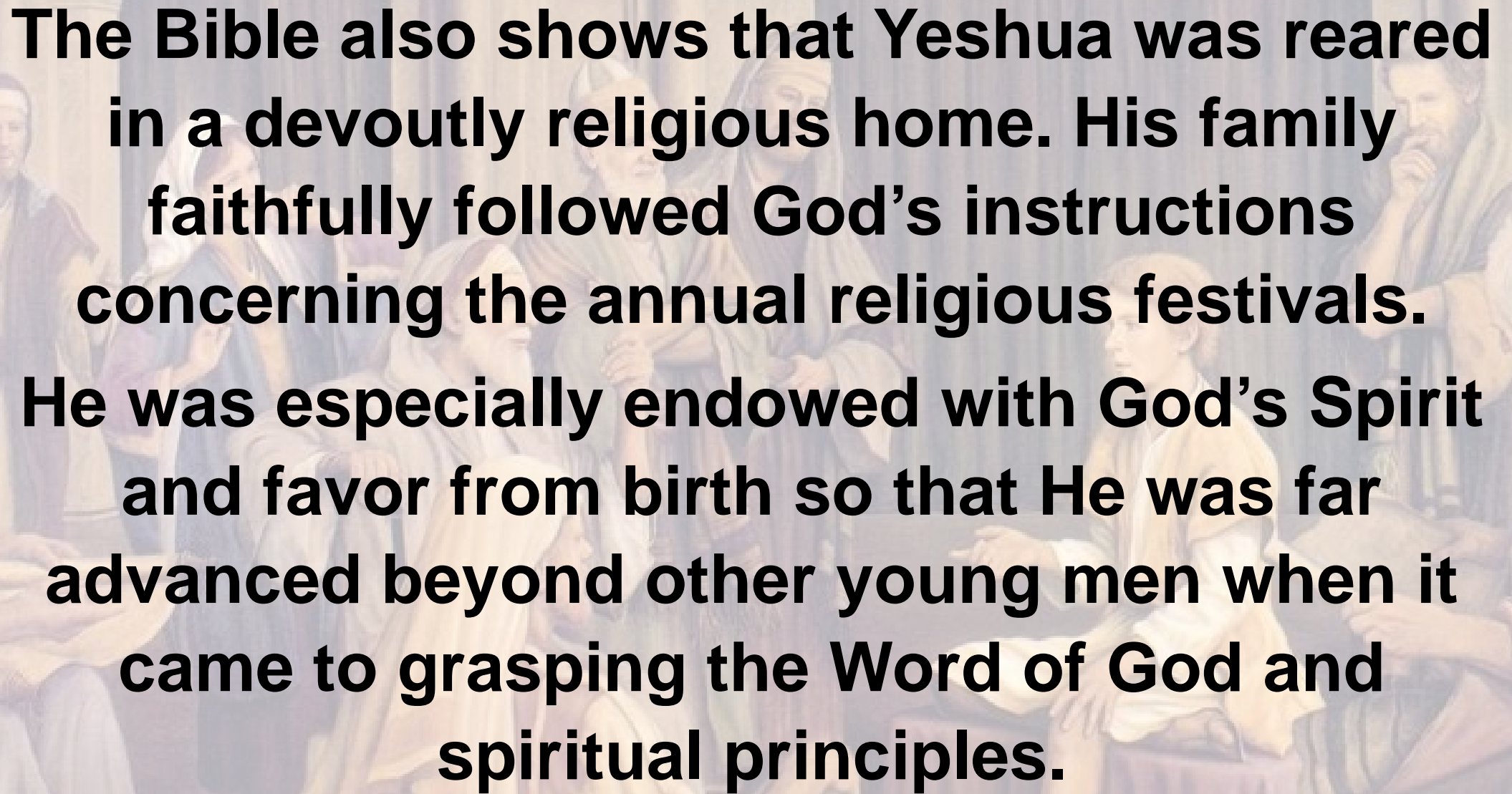
A painting depicting a group of people in a classical setting, possibly a church or a study. In the center, a young boy is seated, looking towards the right. He is surrounded by several men and women, some of whom are seated and appear to be engaged in conversation or study. The background features architectural elements like arches and columns, suggesting an indoor space with high ceilings. The overall tone is warm and historical.

In Luke 2 we find a summary statement describing Yeshua's development from infancy to age 12:
(Luke 2:40) CJB *The child grew and became strong and filled with wisdom - God's favor was upon Him.*



The Bible tells us Yeshua had several younger half-siblings, children of Joseph and Mary.

Matthew names four brothers—James, Joses, Simon and Judas (Matthew 13:55). There were also at least two sisters (verse 56). Thus, Yeshua was the oldest of at least seven children.



The Bible also shows that Yeshua was reared in a devoutly religious home. His family faithfully followed God's instructions concerning the annual religious festivals. He was especially endowed with God's Spirit and favor from birth so that He was far advanced beyond other young men when it came to grasping the Word of God and spiritual principles.

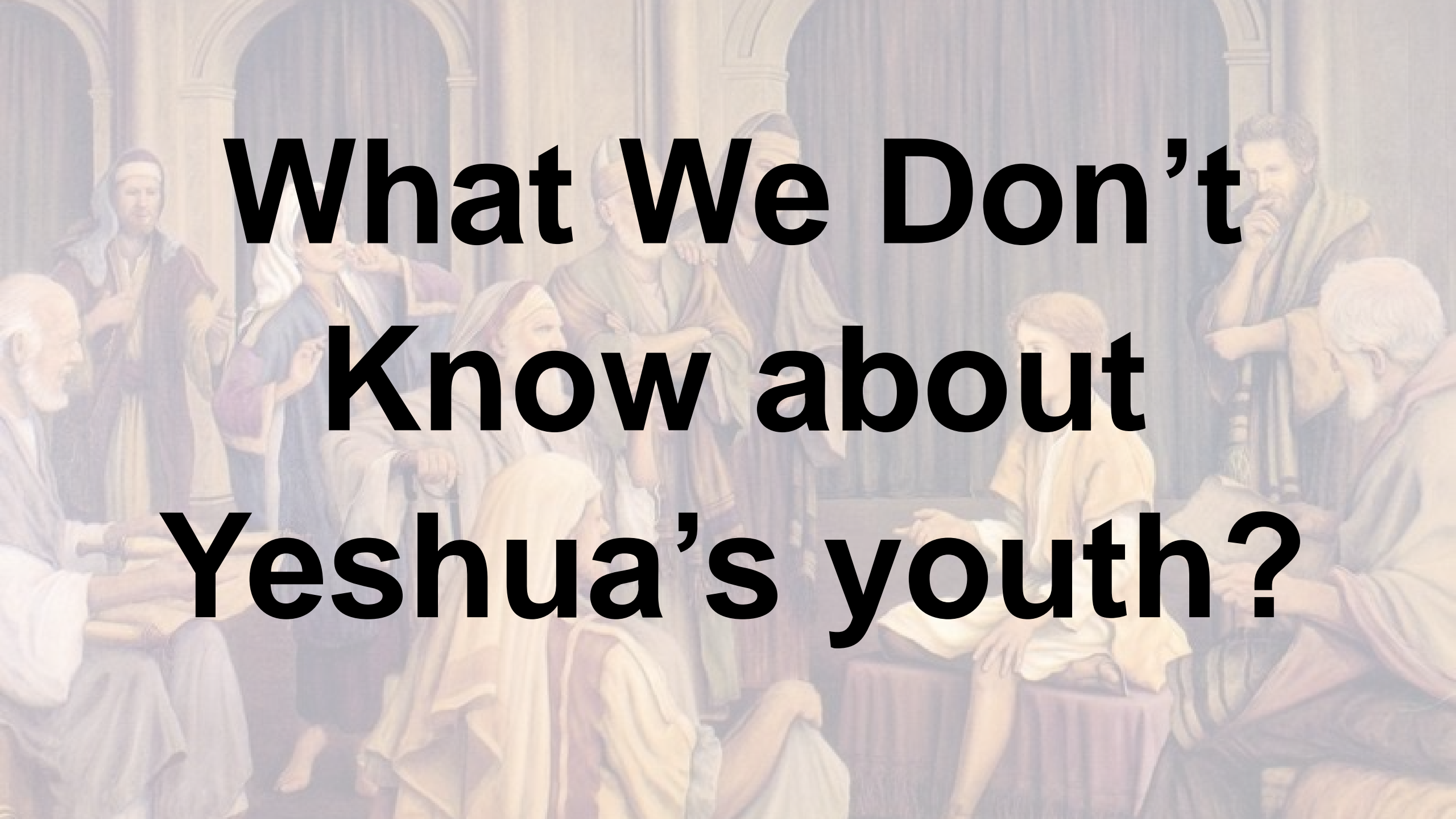
A painting depicting Jesus in a synagogue, surrounded by people. Jesus is seated in the center, looking towards the right. He is wearing a white robe with a brown sash. To his left, a man with a white beard is seated, holding a scroll. To his right, a woman is seated, looking towards Jesus. In the background, several other people are standing and talking. The setting is a room with arched doorways and columns.

Yeshua developed spiritually during His preteen years.

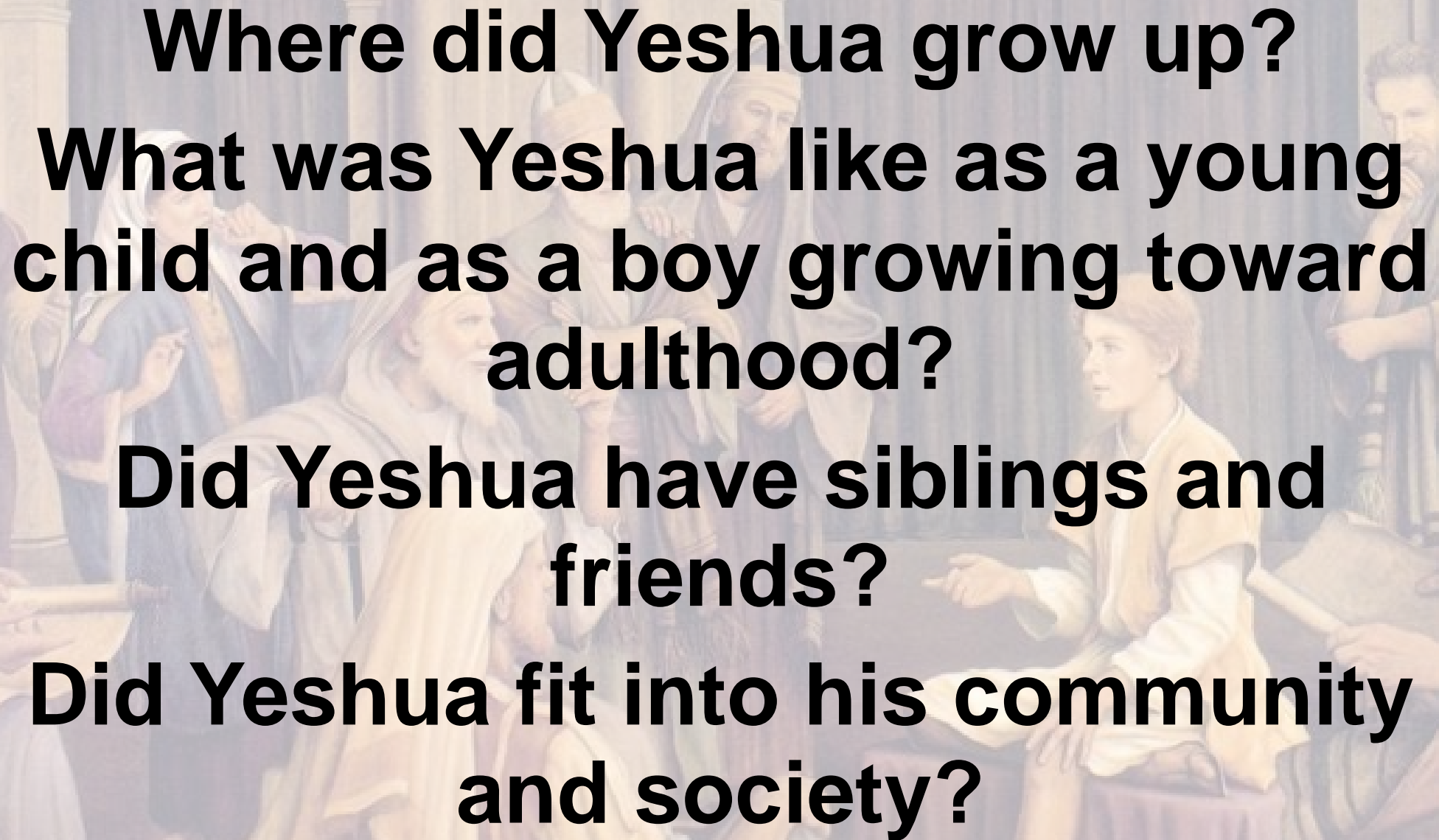
Yeshua followed the example of His parents

Yeshua and His parents had misunderstandings

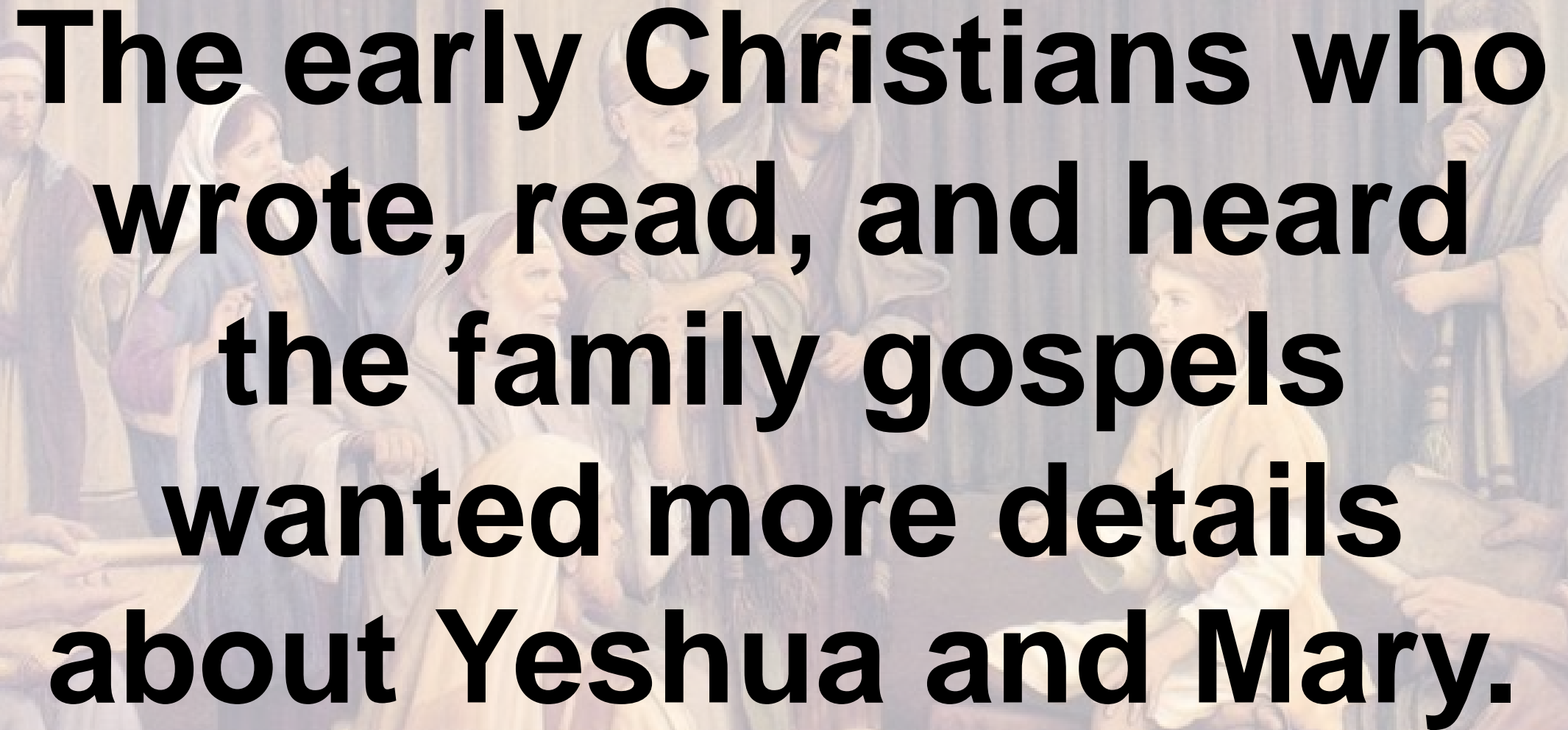
Yeshua went home with His parents and obeyed them



**What We Don't
Know about
Yeshua's youth?**



Where did Yeshua grow up?
What was Yeshua like as a young child and as a boy growing toward adulthood?
Did Yeshua have siblings and friends?
Did Yeshua fit into his community and society?



The early Christians who wrote, read, and heard the family gospels wanted more details about Yeshua and Mary.

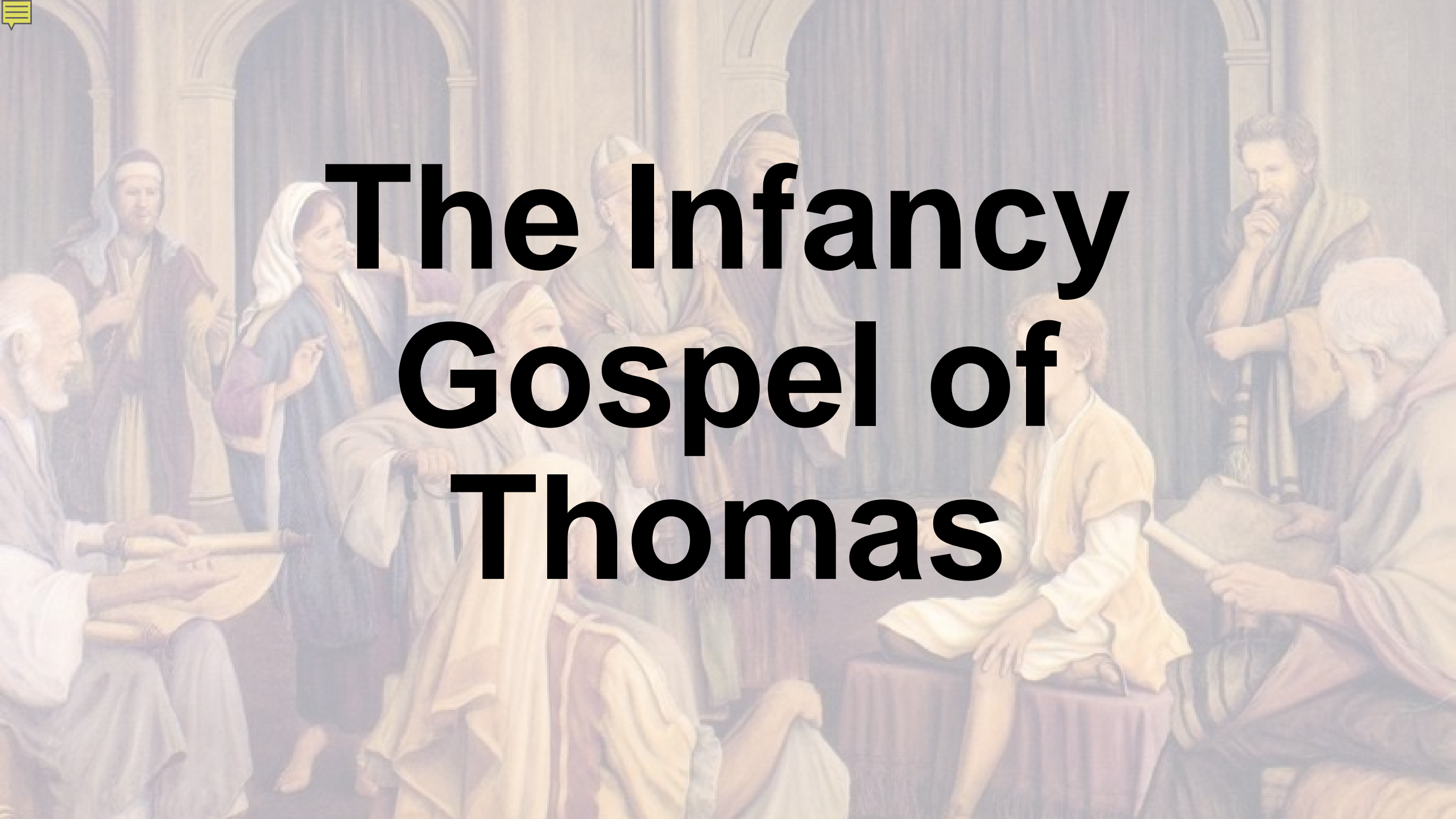


Several apocryphal gospels attempt to shed life on Yeshua in His youth.

The Infancy Gospel of Thomas is one of the better known.



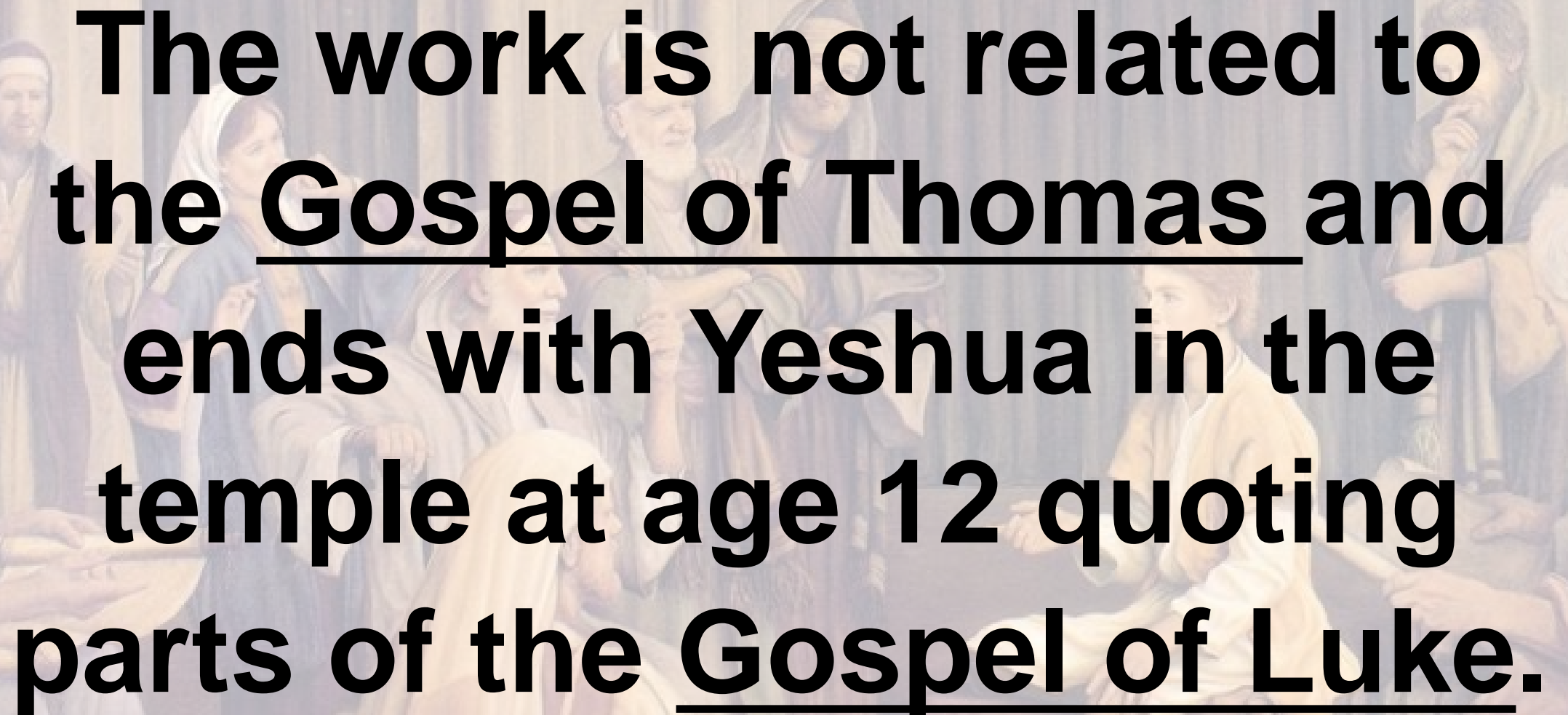
The Infancy Gospel of Thomas





The Infancy Gospel of Thomas includes stories about Yeshua between the ages of five and twelve.

They are believed to date from the second century, and the original language it was written in, is unknown.



The work is not related to the Gospel of Thomas and ends with Yeshua in the temple at age 12 quoting parts of the Gospel of Luke.

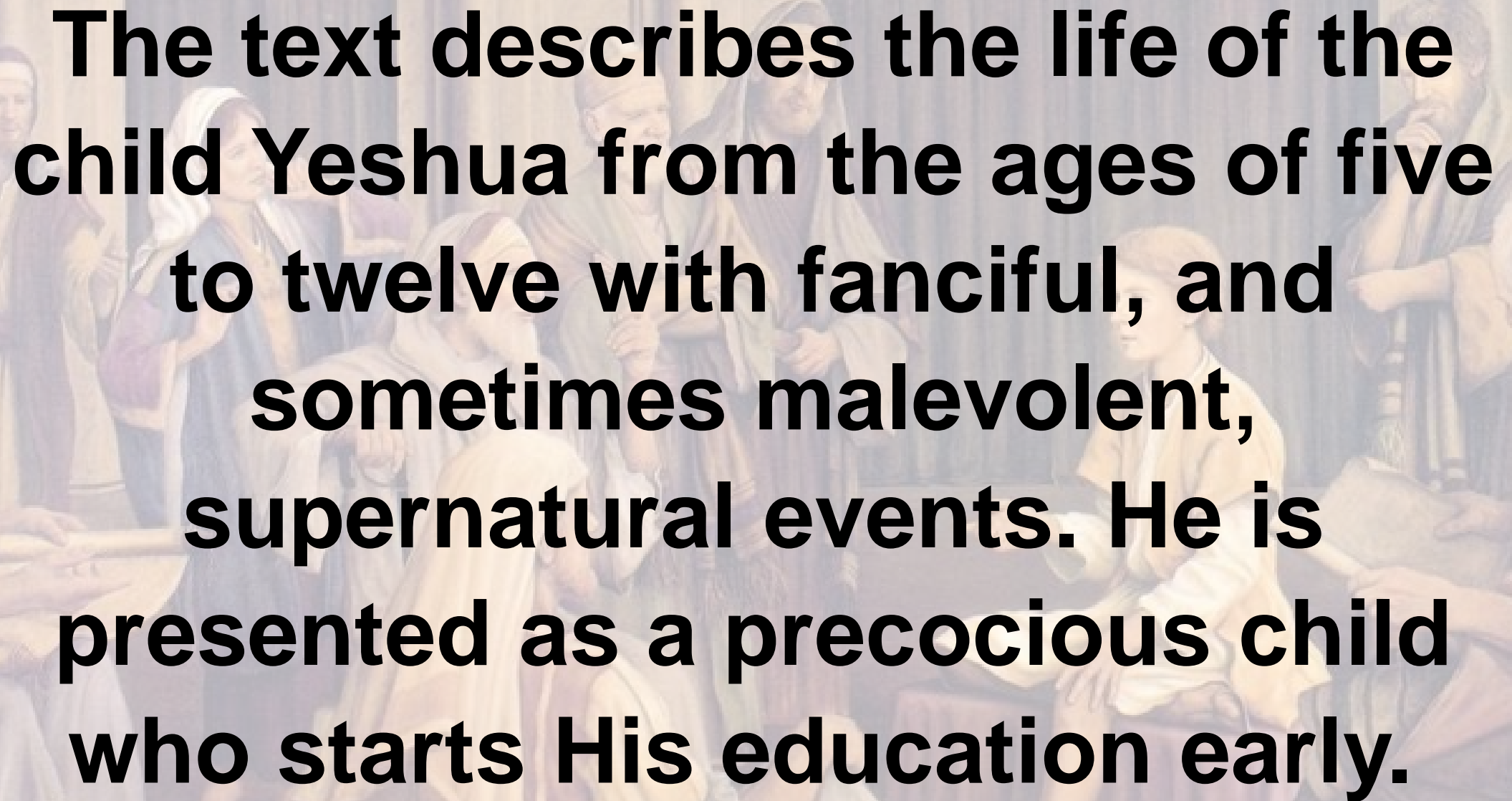


A shallow Rabbit Hole

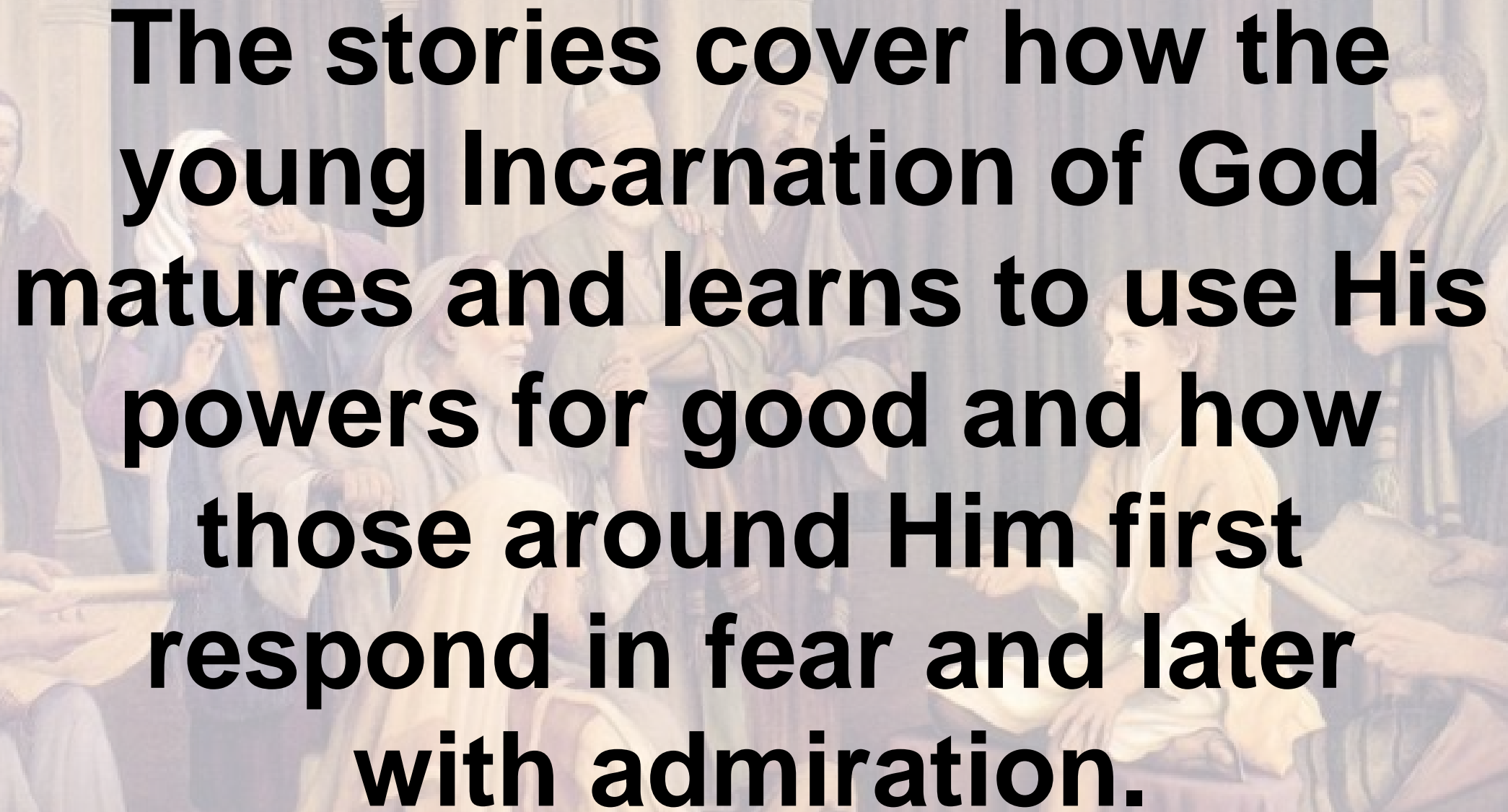
The Gospel of Thomas consists of 114 quotes based on various answers to questions attributed to Yeshua, some being controversial and out of nature to what you'd expect coming from Him.

As an example: Simon Peter said to them: "Let Mary go away from us, for women are not worthy of life."

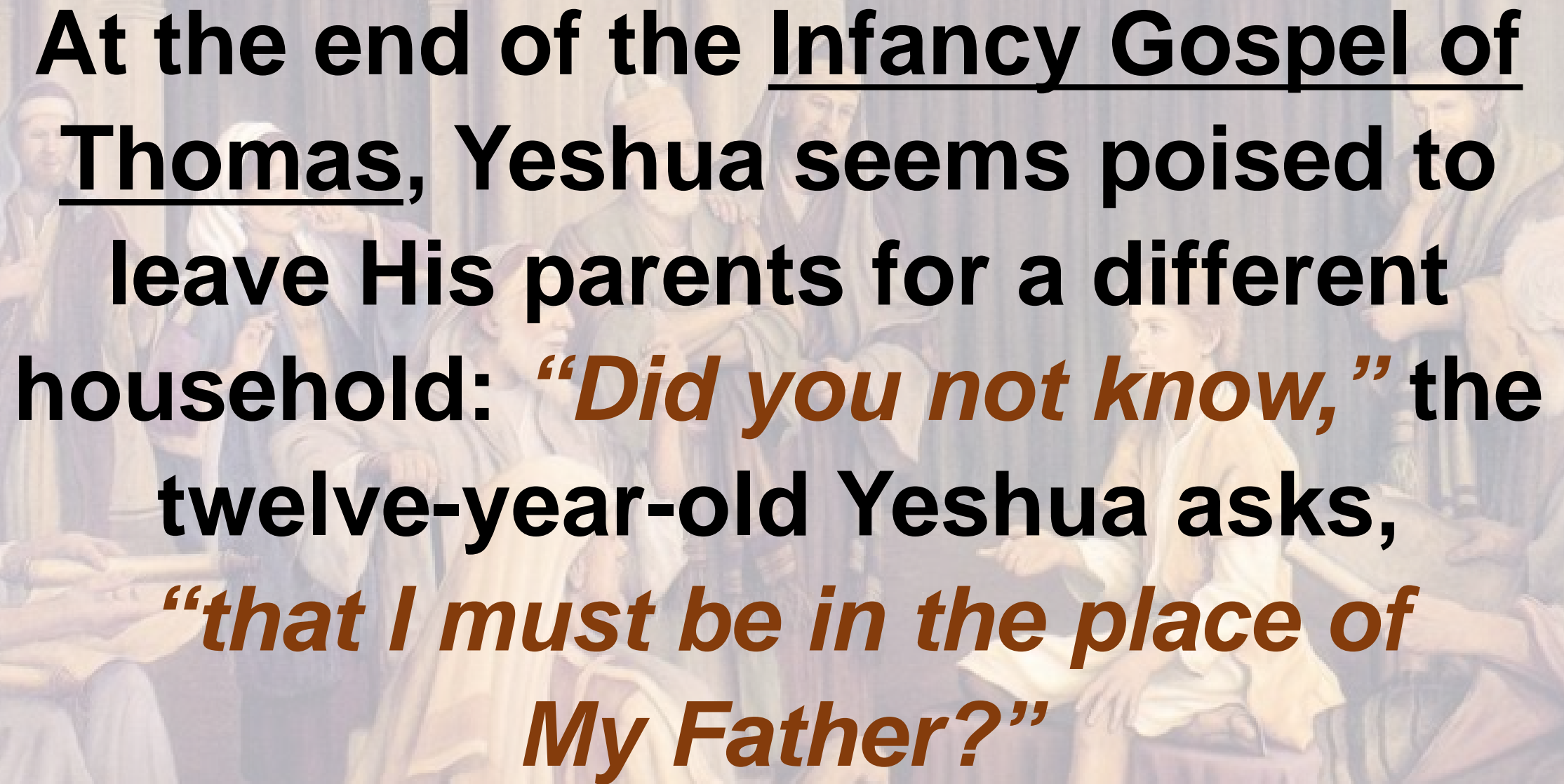
Yeshua said: "Look, I will draw her in so as to make her male, so that she too may become a living male spirit, similar to you." (But I say to you): "Every woman who makes herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven."



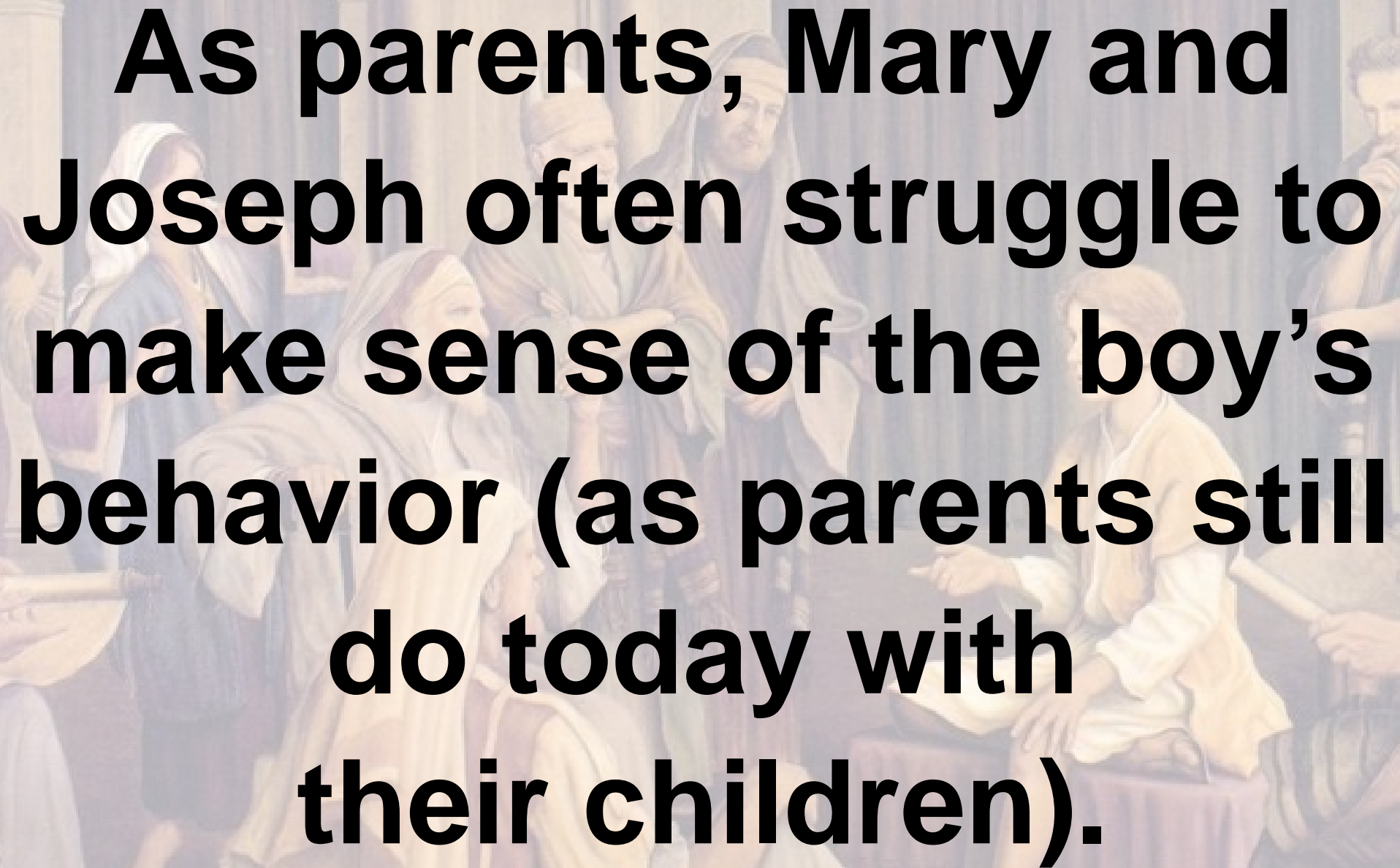
The text describes the life of the child Yeshua from the ages of five to twelve with fanciful, and sometimes malevolent, supernatural events. He is presented as a precocious child who starts His education early.



The stories cover how the young Incarnation of God matures and learns to use His powers for good and how those around Him first respond in fear and later with admiration.

A faded background image of a group of people in a room, possibly a classroom or a meeting, with a young boy in the center. The text is overlaid on this image.

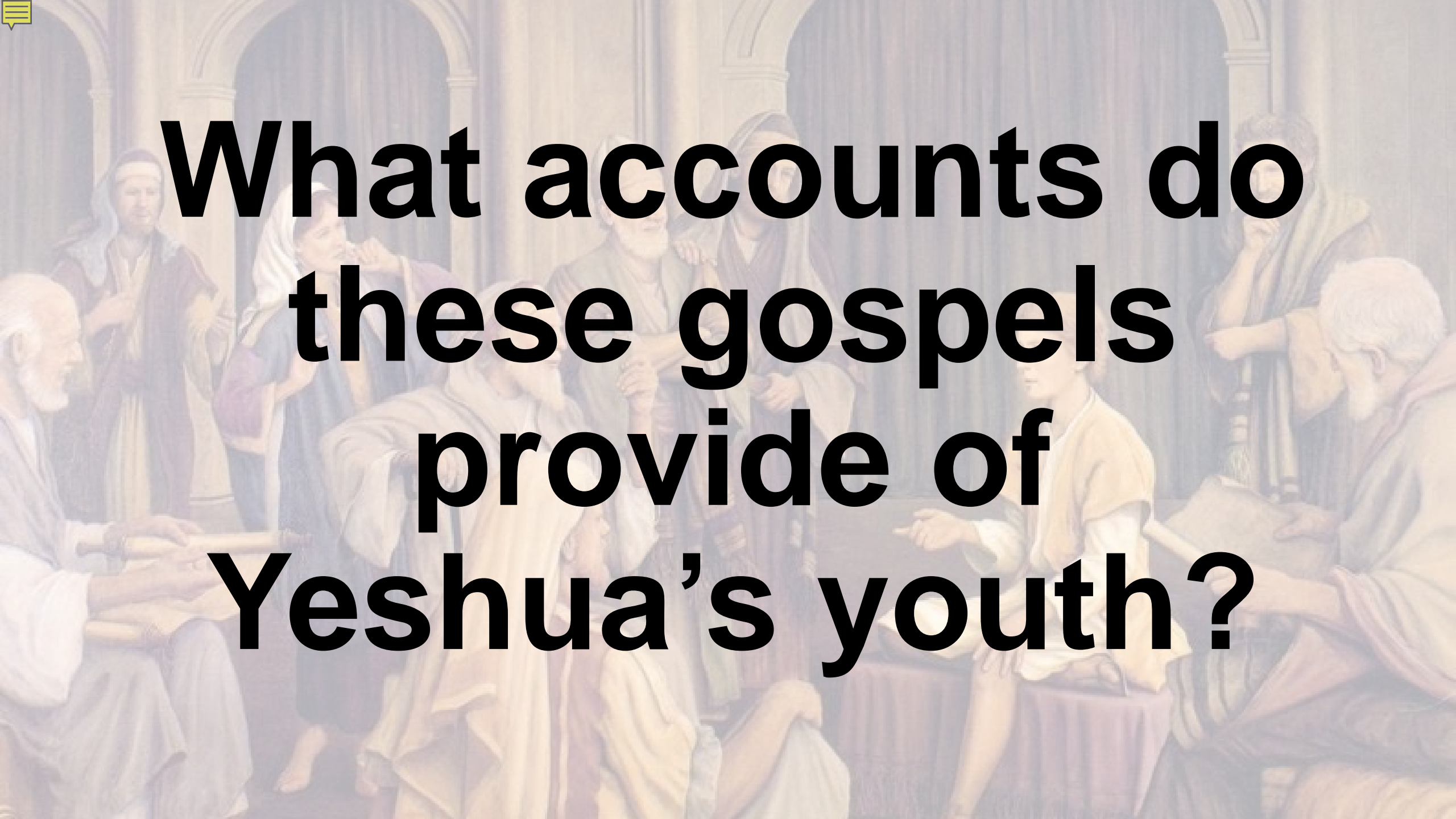
At the end of the Infancy Gospel of Thomas, Yeshua seems poised to leave His parents for a different household: ***“Did you not know,”*** the twelve-year-old Yeshua asks, ***“that I must be in the place of My Father?”***



As parents, Mary and Joseph often struggle to make sense of the boy's behavior (as parents still do today with their children).



**What accounts do
these gospels
provide of
Yeshua's youth?**





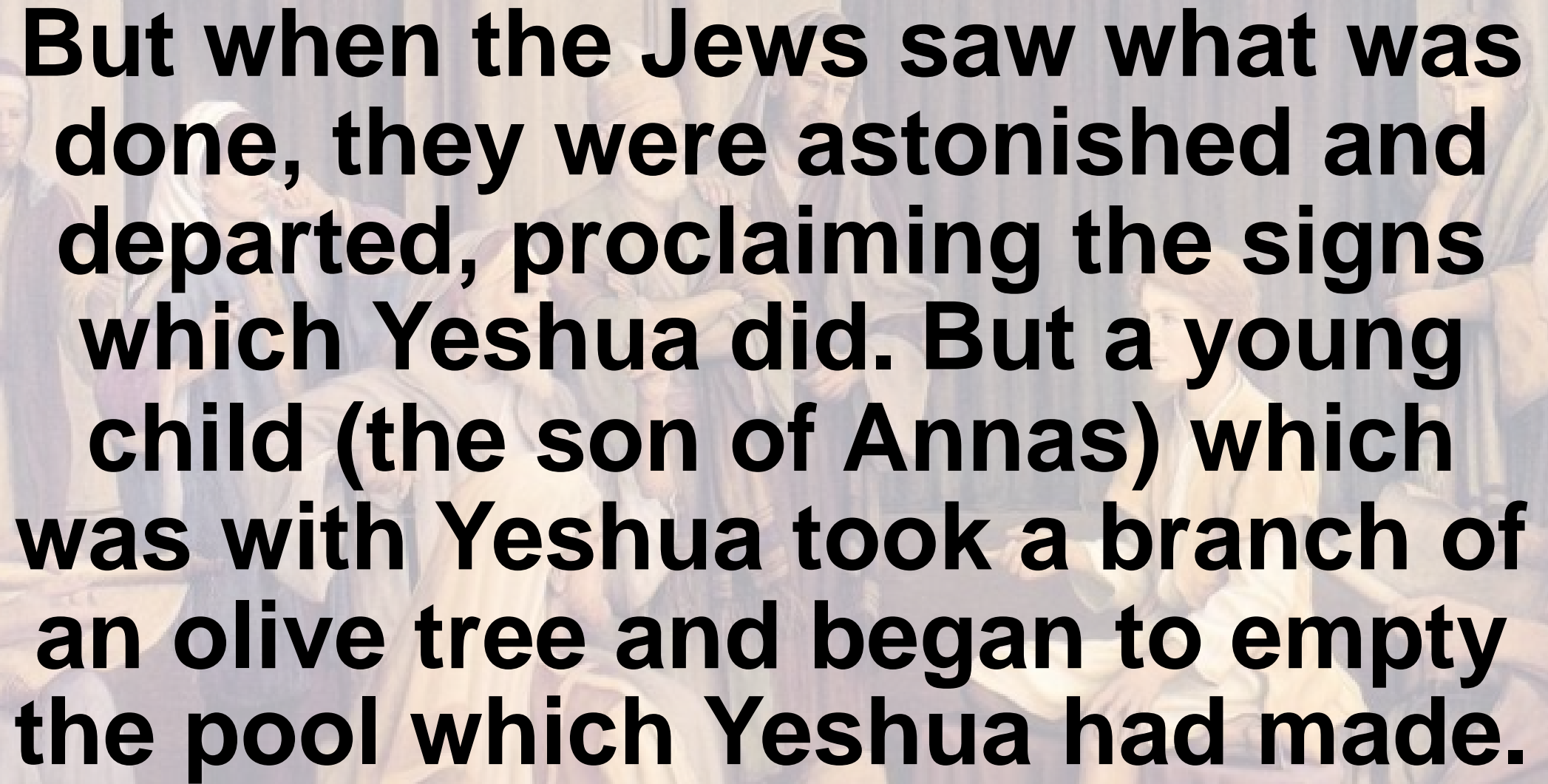
Yeshua makes muddy water clear

**When Yeshua was five,
after a heavy rain, He
commanded that the water
in a pool turn clear and
it did.**



The Sparrows

On the Sabbath, Yeshua took clay from that pool and made twelve sparrows with it. When Joseph admonished Him for doing this on the Sabbath, Yeshua spread forth His hands and commanded the sparrows, *“Go forth into the height and fly; you shall not meet death at any man’s hands”*.

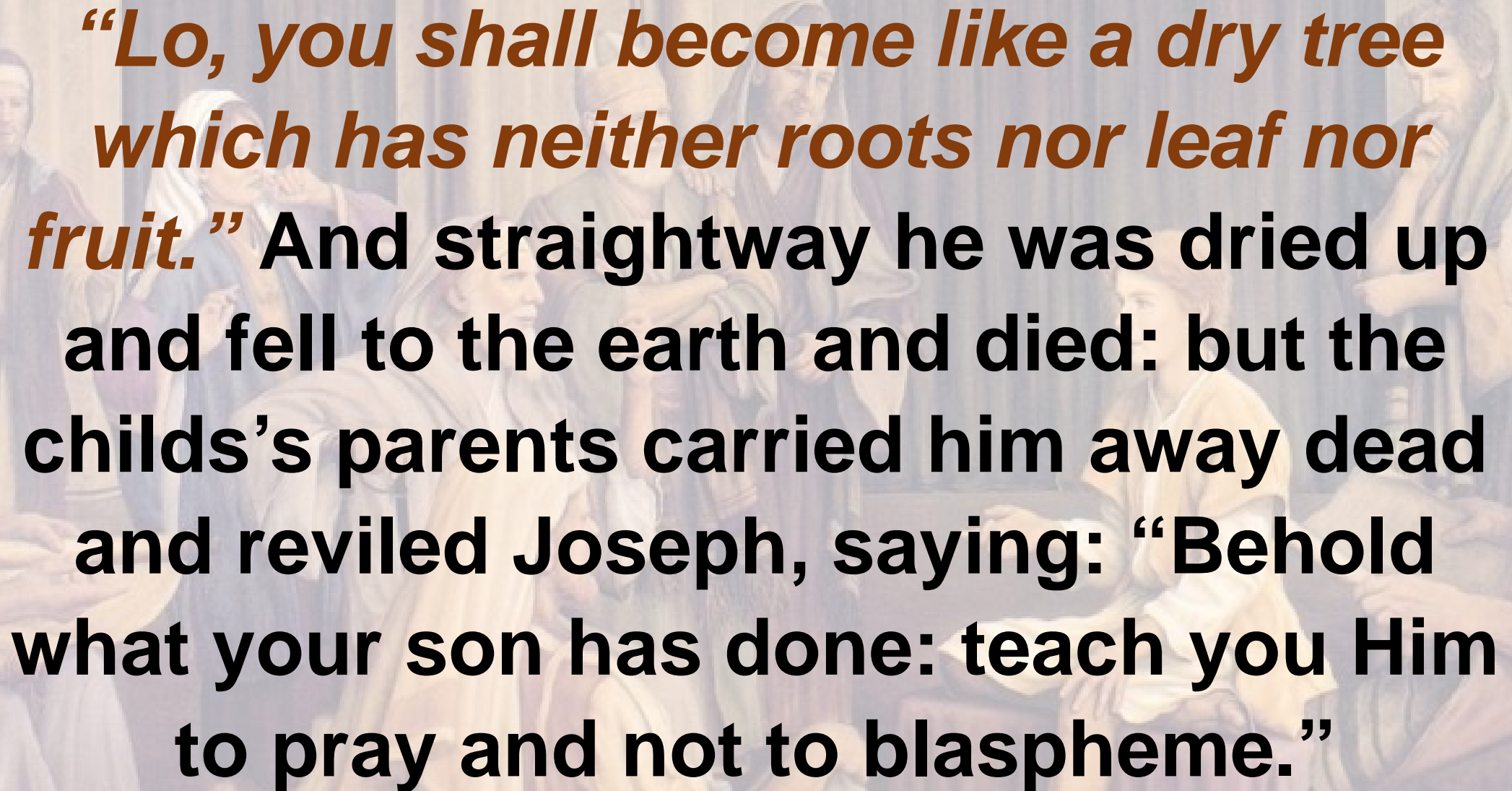


But when the Jews saw what was done, they were astonished and departed, proclaiming the signs which Yeshua did. But a young child (the son of Annas) which was with Yeshua took a branch of an olive tree and began to empty the pool which Yeshua had made.



**And when Yeshua saw it he
was vexed and said to him:**

***“O you of Sodom, ungodly and
ignorant, what hurt did the
fountain of water, which I
made, do you,?”***

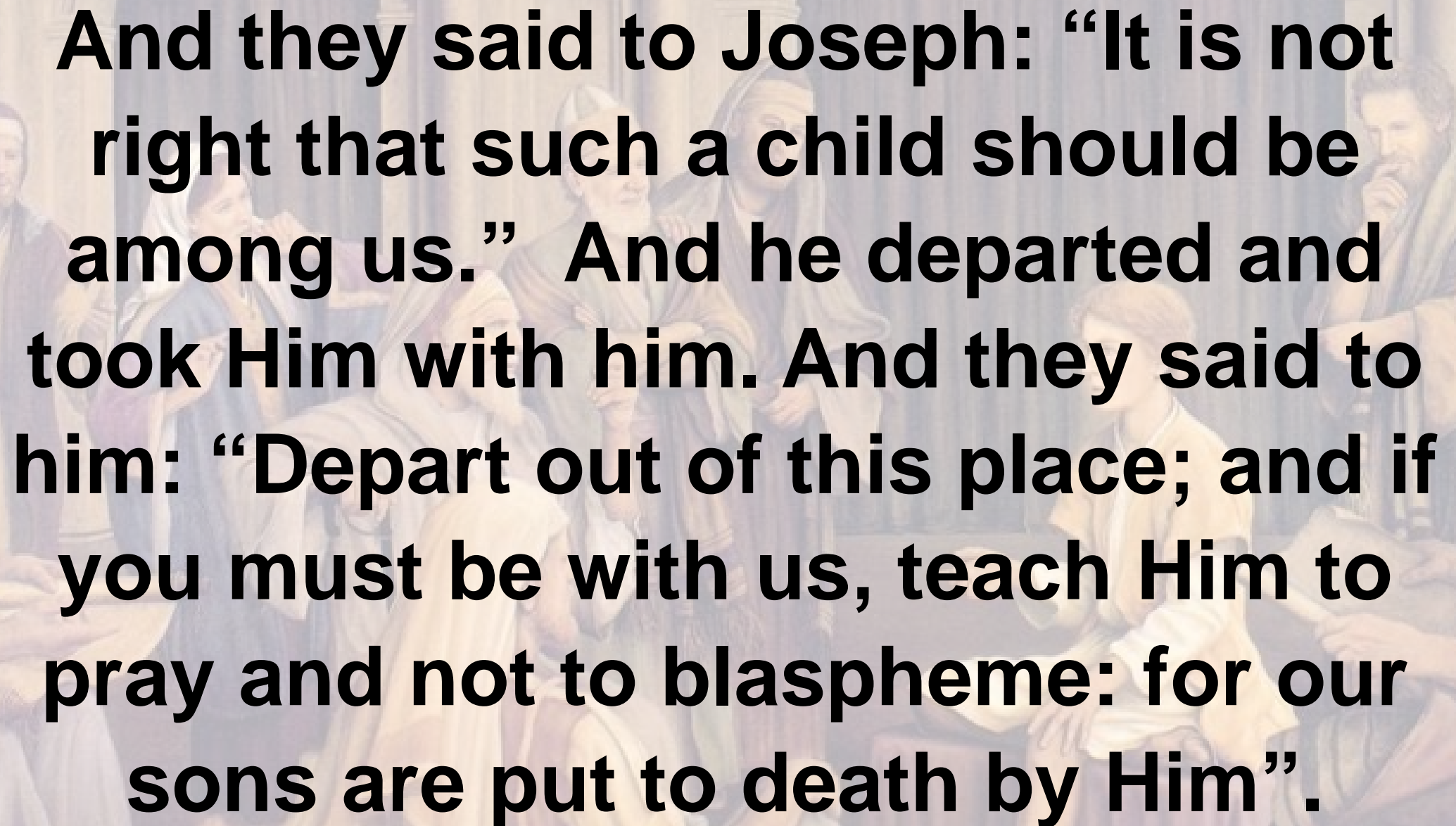


“Lo, you shall become like a dry tree which has neither roots nor leaf nor fruit.” And straightway he was dried up and fell to the earth and died: but the child's parents carried him away dead and reviled Joseph, saying: “Behold what your son has done: teach you Him to pray and not to blaspheme.”

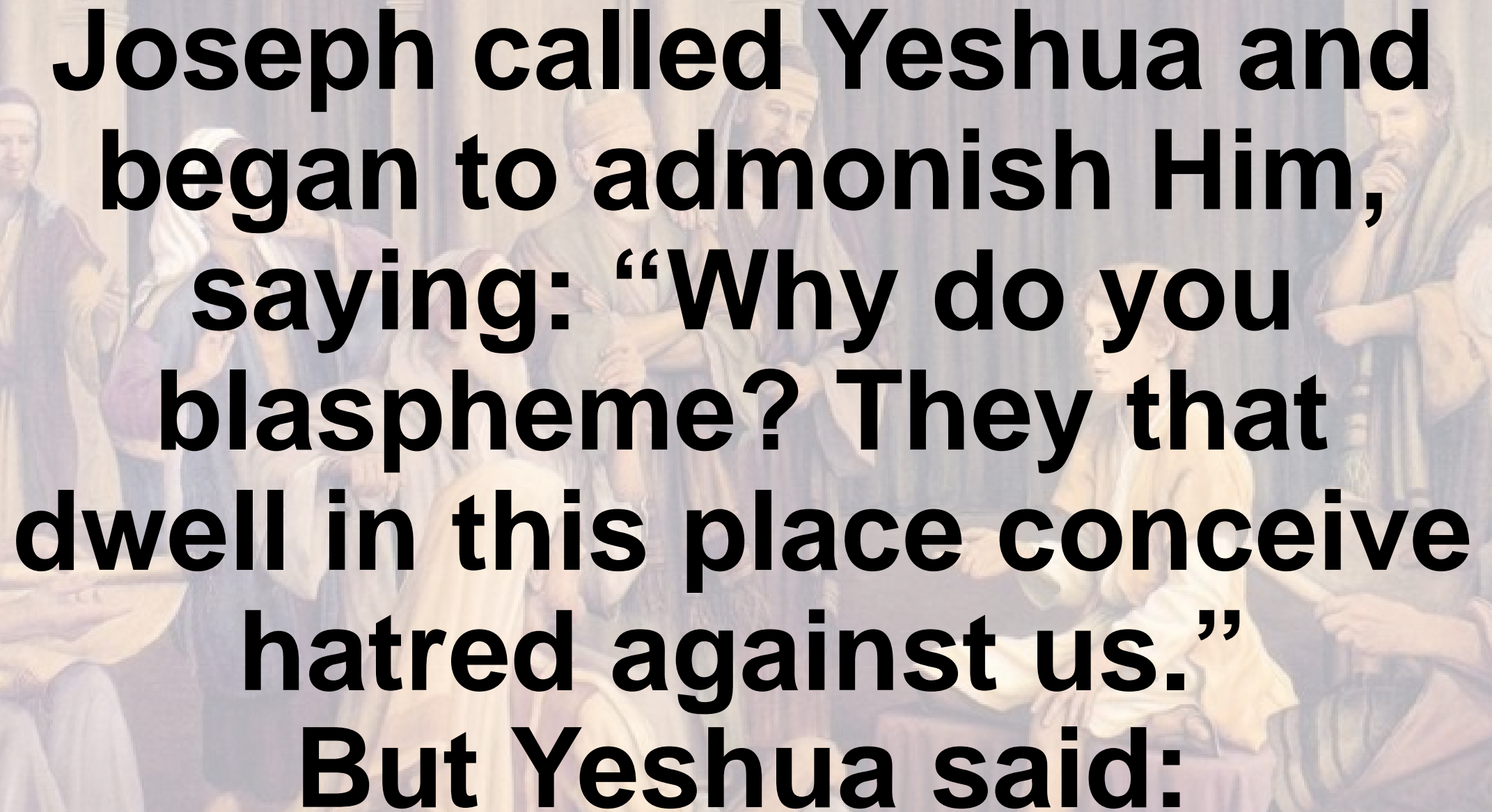


A child accidentally strikes Yeshua.

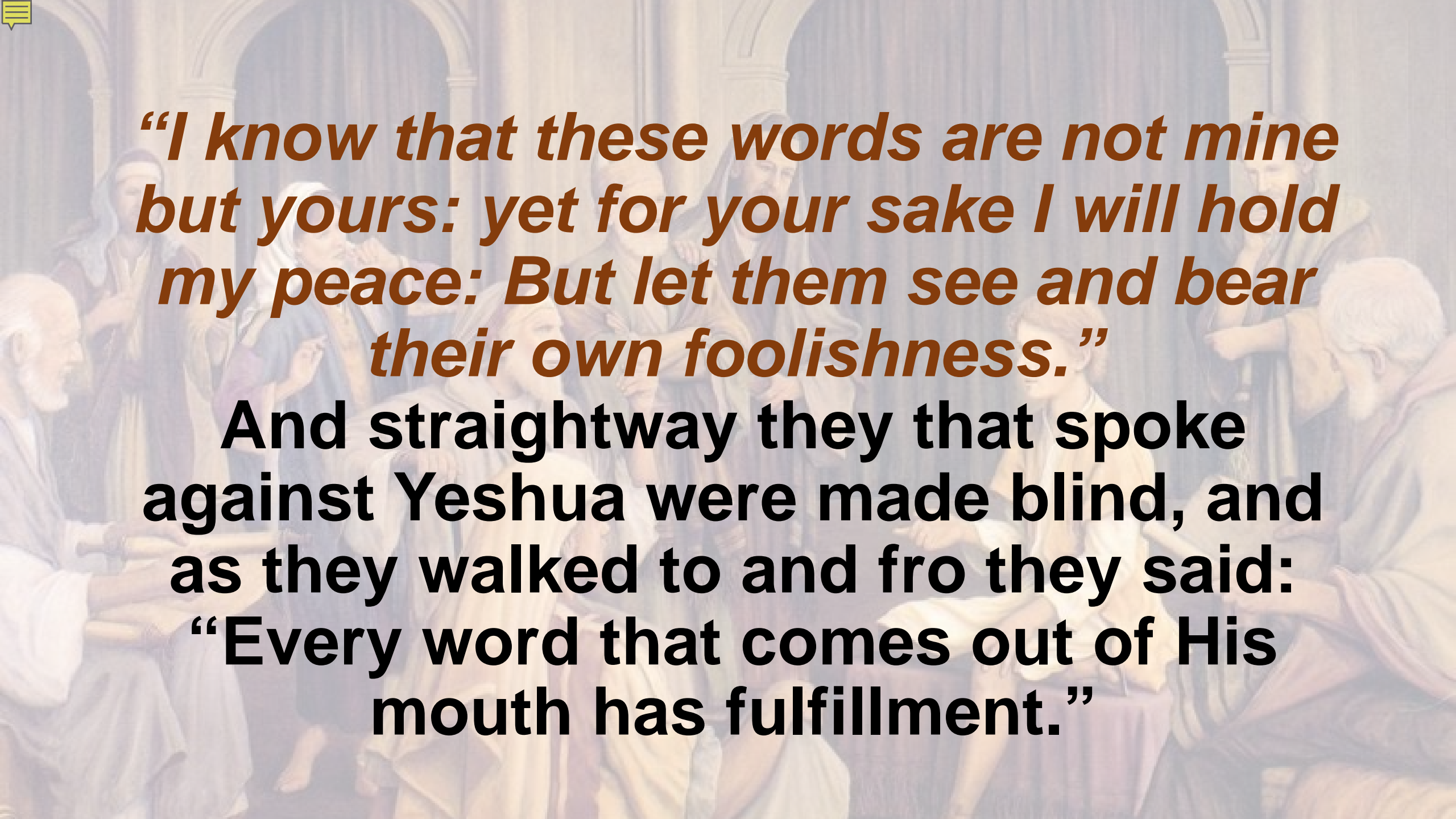
As Yeshua and Joseph were walking through the city, one of the children ran by and smote Yeshua on the arms: but Yeshua said to him: *“So finish you your course.”* And immediately the child fell to the earth and died. But when the people saw this wonder, they cried out saying: “From where comes this child?”



And they said to Joseph: “It is not right that such a child should be among us.” And he departed and took Him with him. And they said to him: “Depart out of this place; and if you must be with us, teach Him to pray and not to blaspheme: for our sons are put to death by Him”.

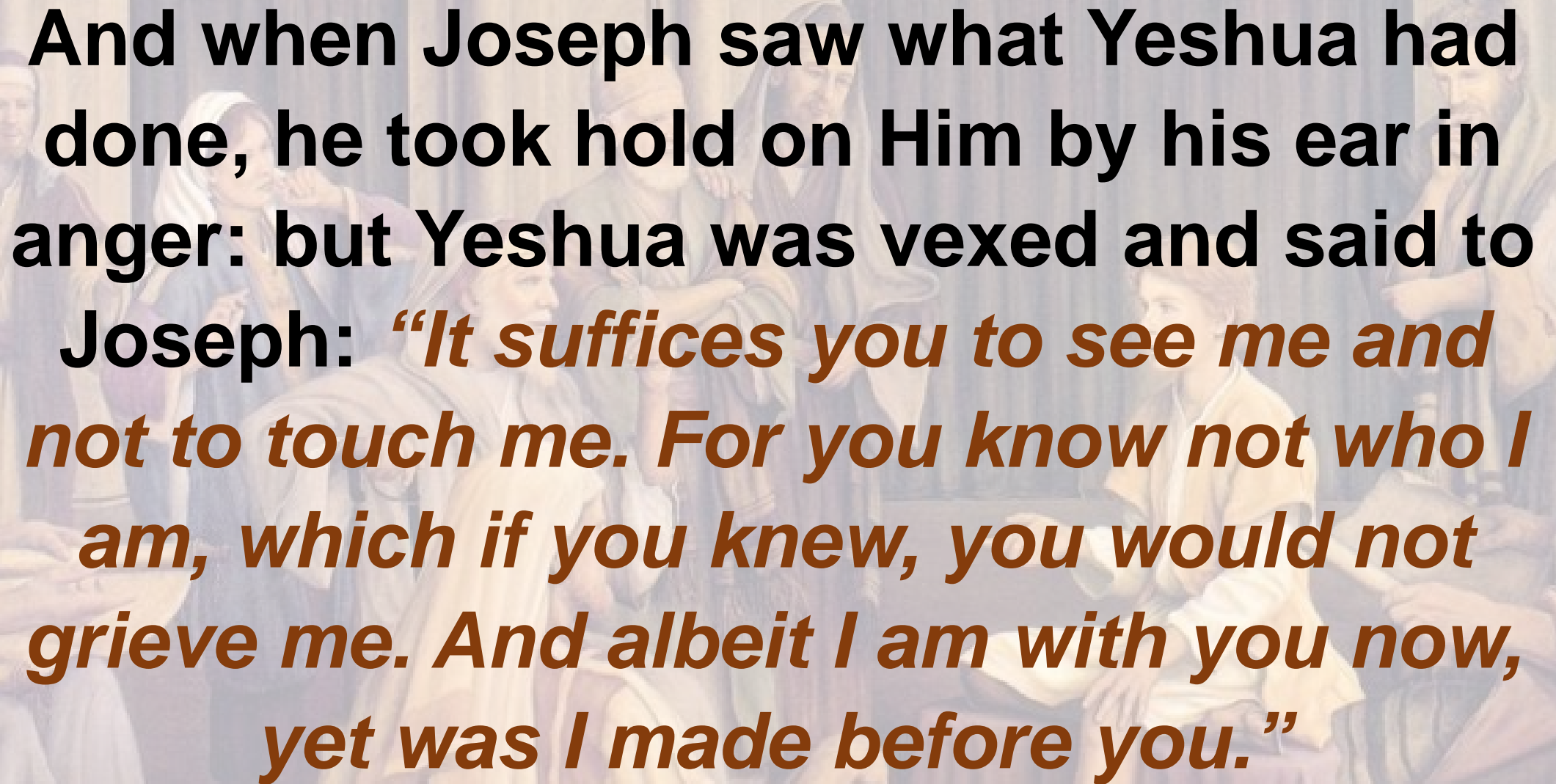


**Joseph called Yeshua and began to admonish Him, saying: “Why do you blaspheme? They that dwell in this place conceive hatred against us.”
But Yeshua said:**



“I know that these words are not mine but yours: yet for your sake I will hold my peace: But let them see and bear their own foolishness.”

**And straightway they that spoke against Yeshua were made blind, and as they walked to and fro they said:
“Every word that comes out of His mouth has fulfillment.”**

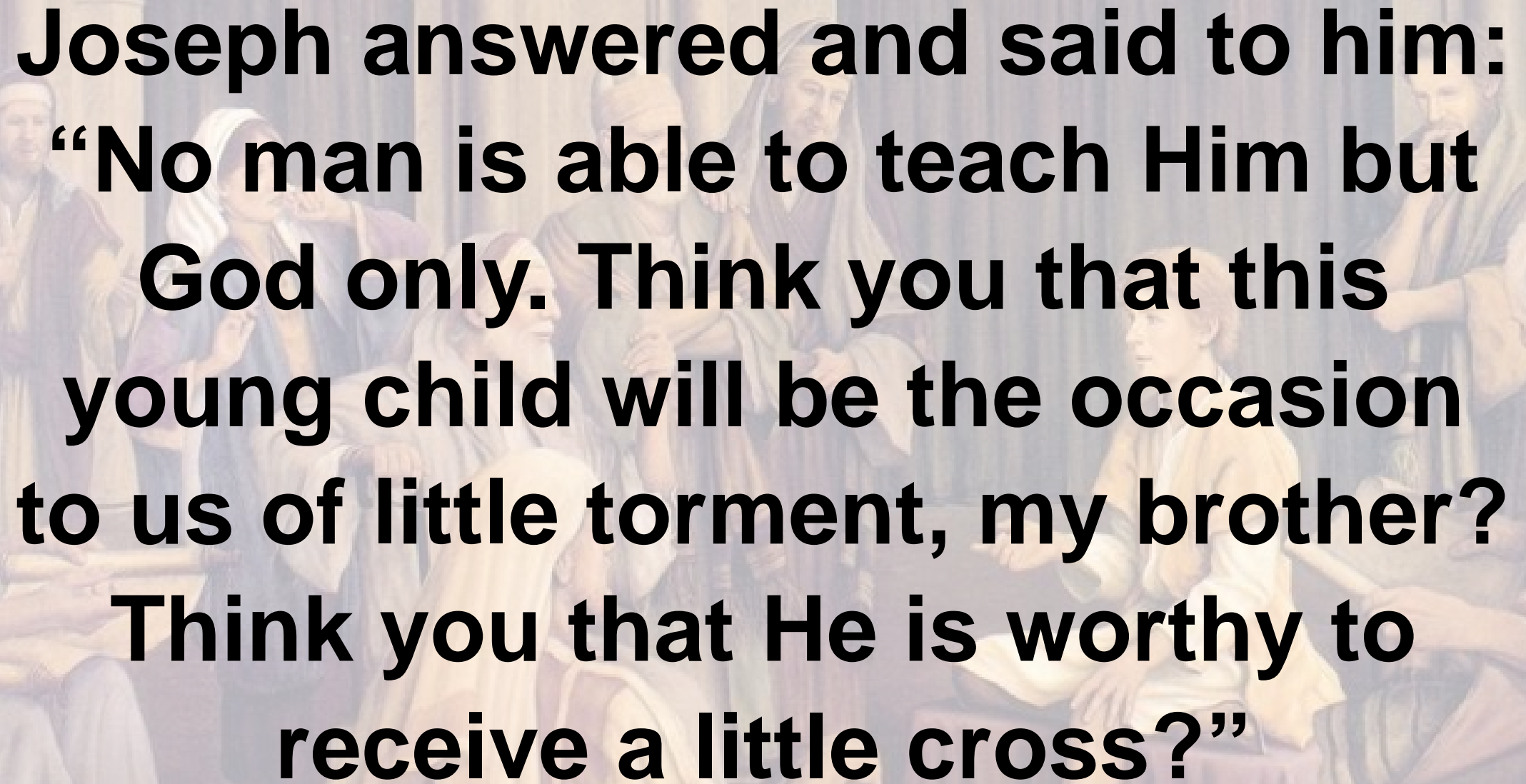


And when Joseph saw what Yeshua had done, he took hold on Him by his ear in anger: but Yeshua was vexed and said to Joseph: *“It suffices you to see me and not to touch me. For you know not who I am, which if you knew, you would not grieve me. And albeit I am with you now, yet was I made before you.”*

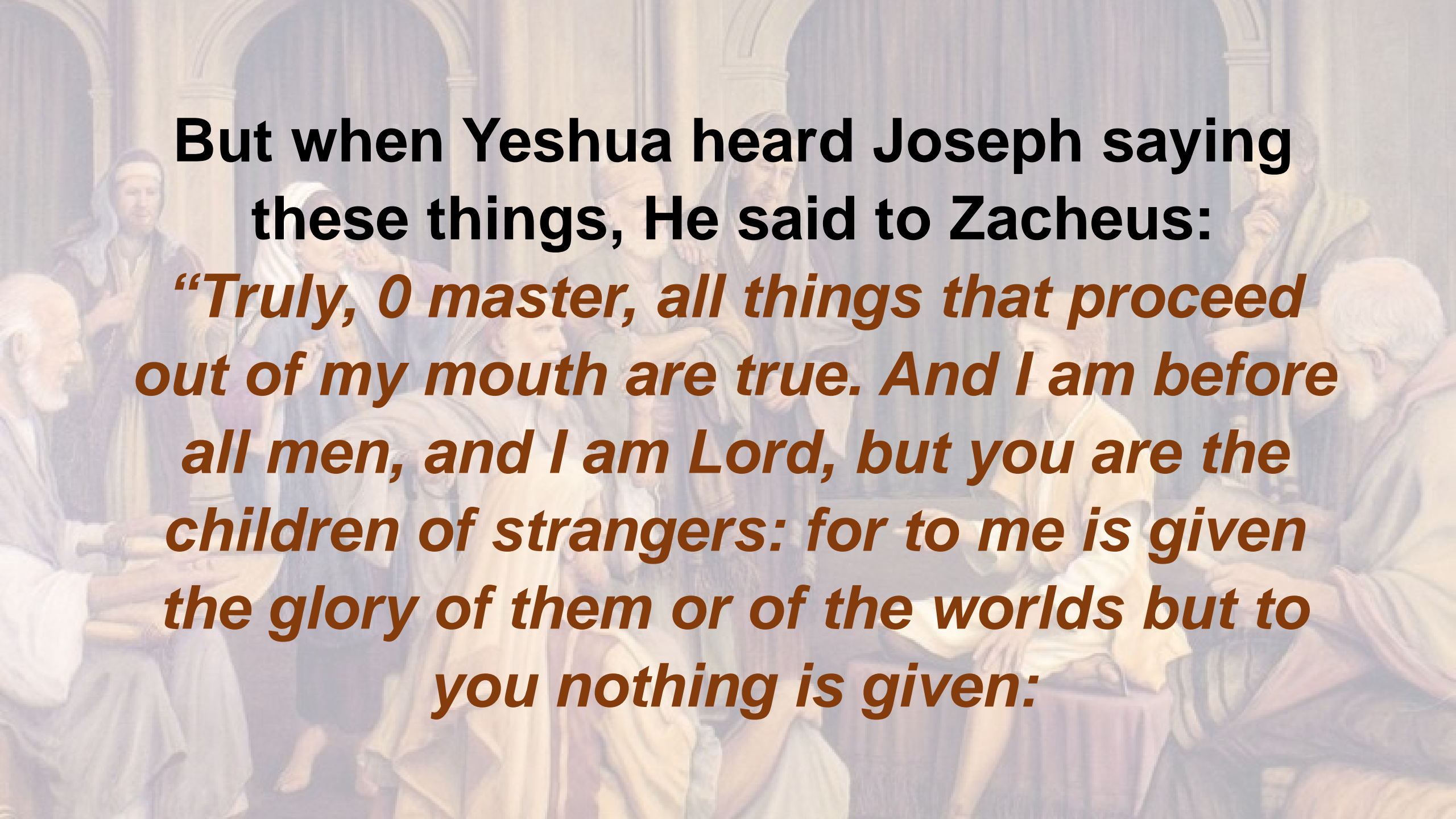


Yeshua Becomes the Teacher not a Student

There was therefore a man named Zacheus who heard all that Yeshua said to Joseph, “I have never beheld such a child that spoke so”. And he came near to Joseph and said to him: “You have a wise child: deliver Him to me to learn letters, and when He is learned in the study of the letters, I will teach Him reverently that He become not foolish”.

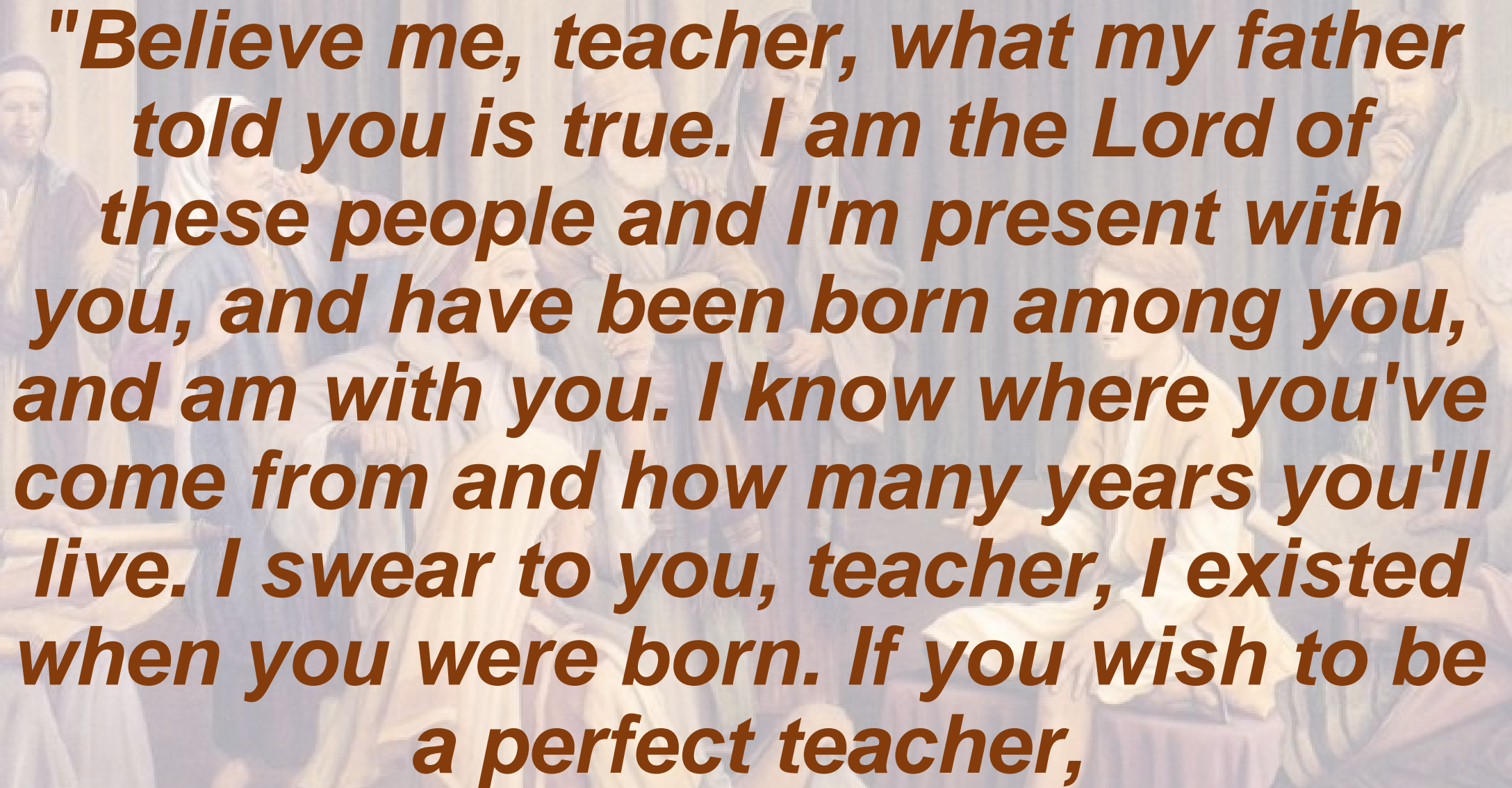


**Joseph answered and said to him:
“No man is able to teach Him but
God only. Think you that this
young child will be the occasion
to us of little torment, my brother?
Think you that He is worthy to
receive a little cross?”**



But when Yeshua heard Joseph saying these things, He said to Zacheus:

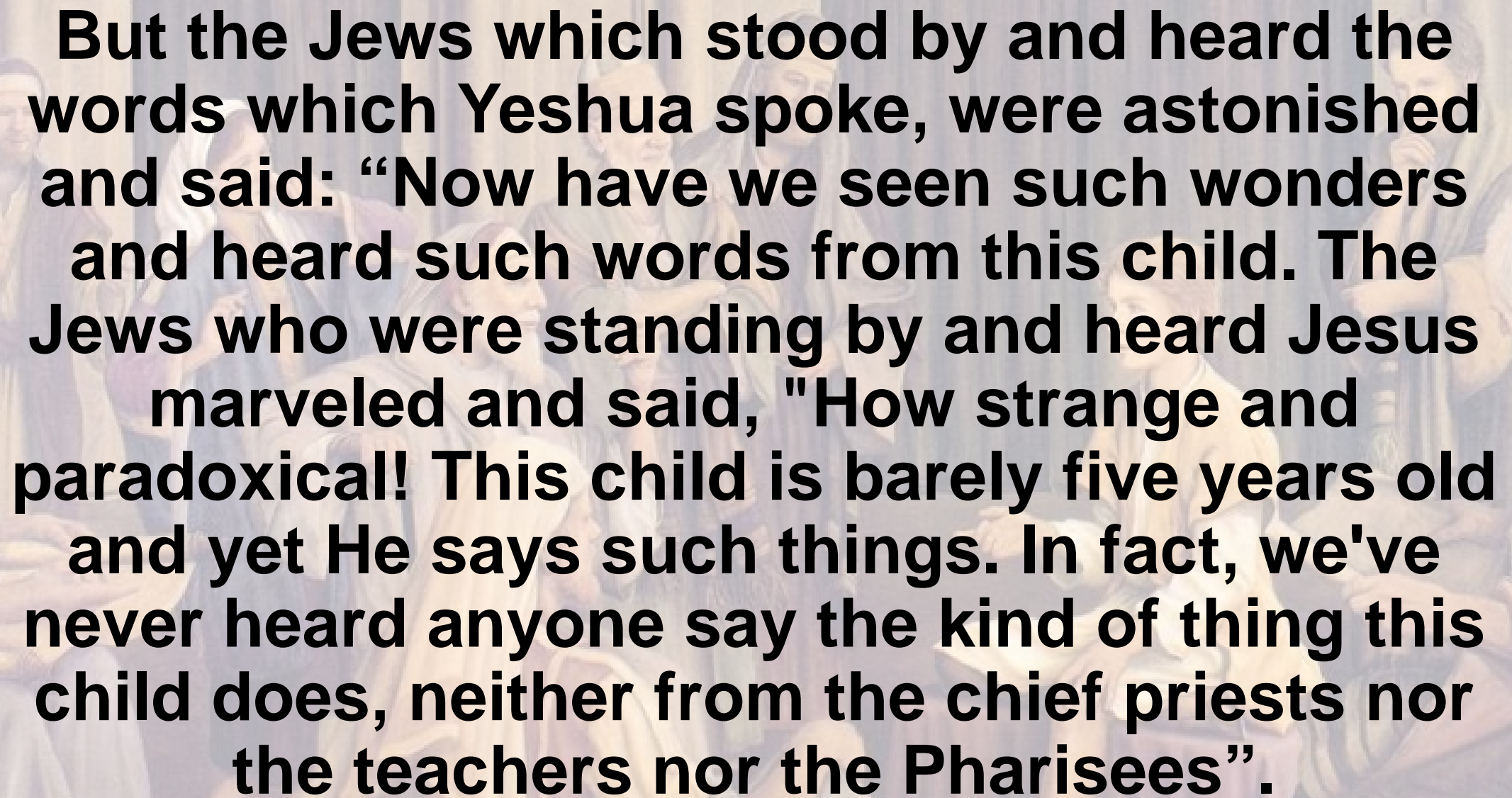
“Truly, O master, all things that proceed out of my mouth are true. And I am before all men, and I am Lord, but you are the children of strangers: for to me is given the glory of them or of the worlds but to you nothing is given:



"Believe me, teacher, what my father told you is true. I am the Lord of these people and I'm present with you, and have been born among you, and am with you. I know where you've come from and how many years you'll live. I swear to you, teacher, I existed when you were born. If you wish to be a perfect teacher,



listen to me and I'll teach you a wisdom that no one else knows except for me and the one who sent me to you. It's you who happens to be my student, and I know how old you are and how long you have to live. When you see the cross that my father mentioned, then you'll believe that everything I've told you is true."

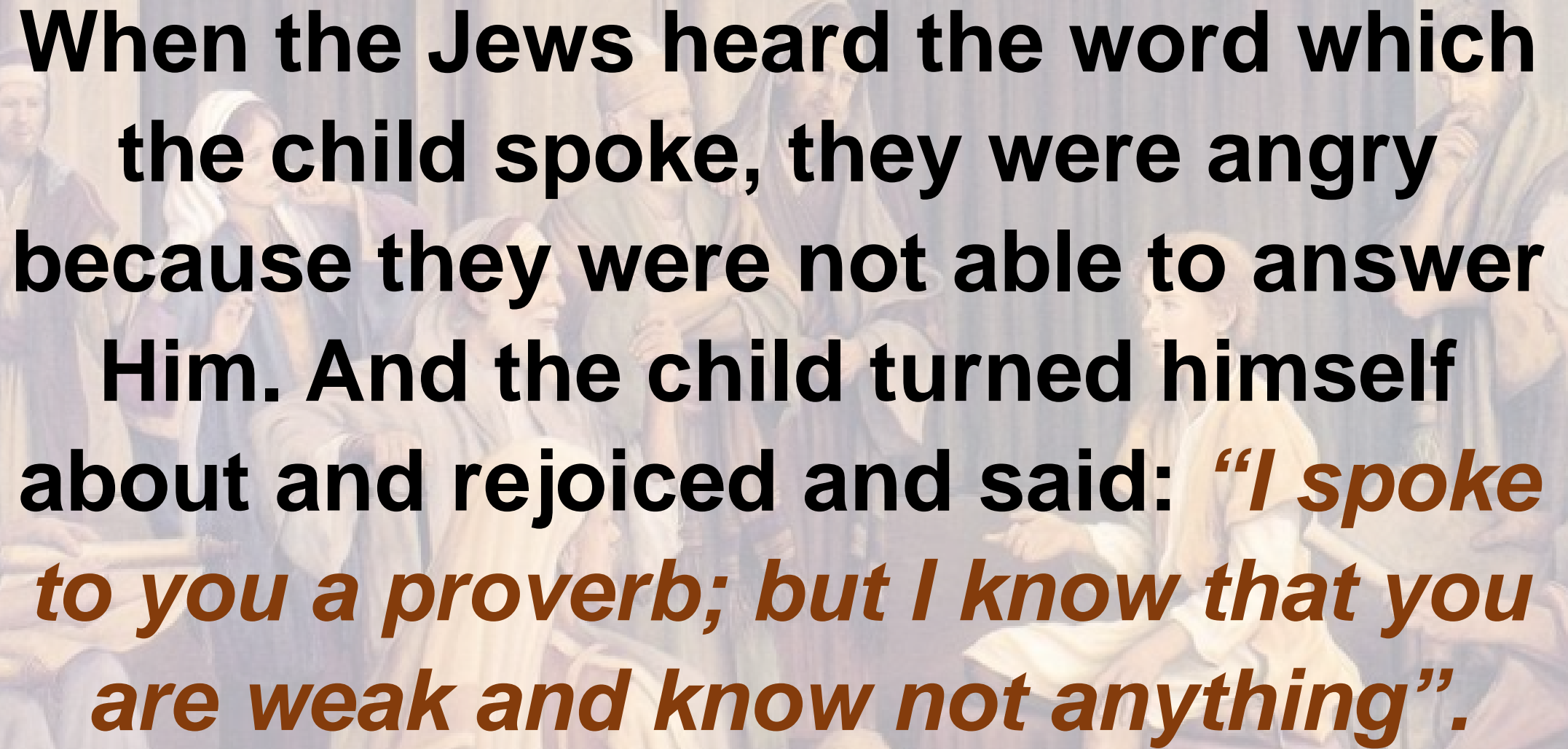


But the Jews which stood by and heard the words which Yeshua spoke, were astonished and said: “Now have we seen such wonders and heard such words from this child. The Jews who were standing by and heard Jesus marveled and said, “How strange and paradoxical! This child is barely five years old and yet He says such things. In fact, we've never heard anyone say the kind of thing this child does, neither from the chief priests nor the teachers nor the Pharisees”.

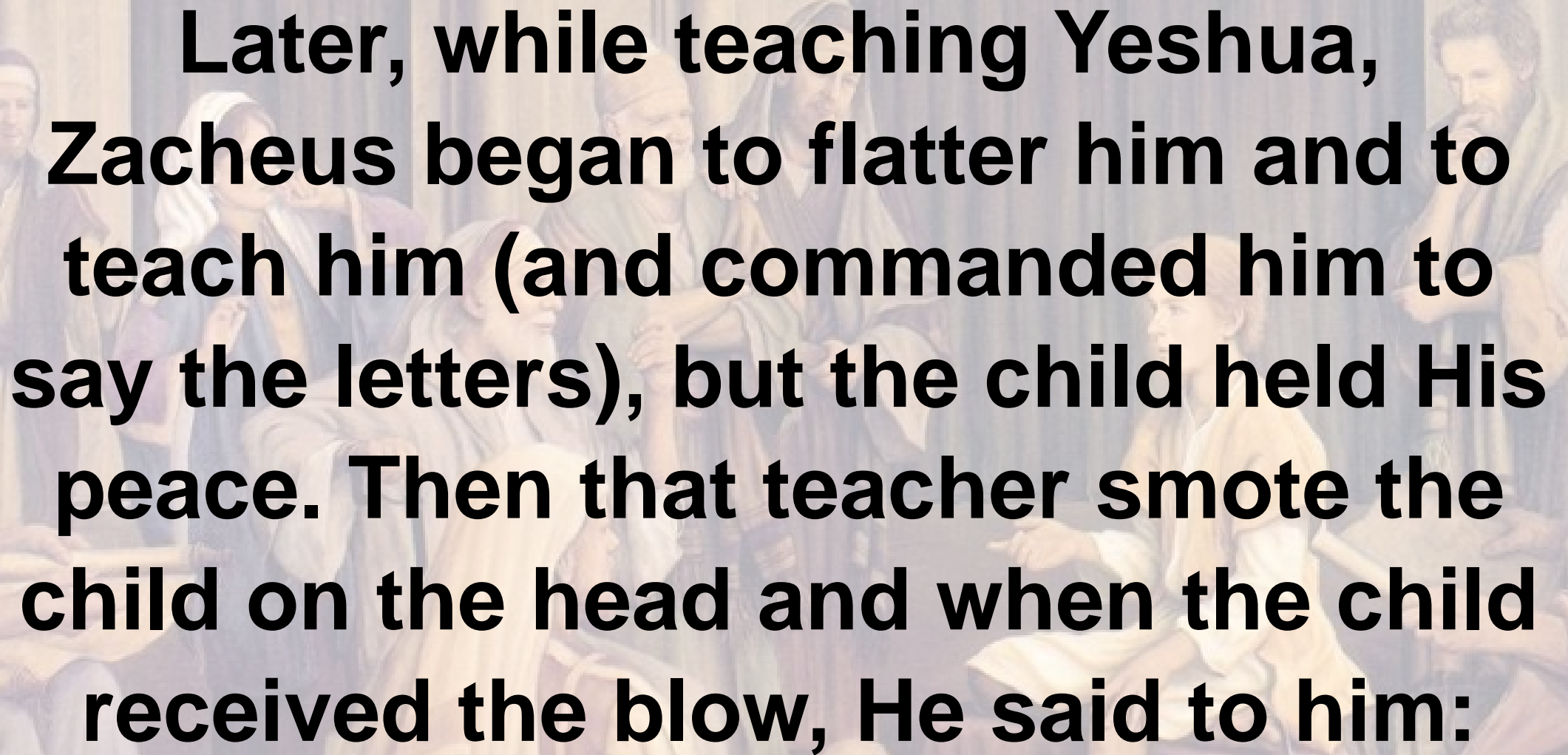


Yeshua answered and said to them:
“Why marvel you? Do you think it a thing incredible that I have told you the truth? I know when you were born, and your fathers: and if I should say more to you, I know when the world was created, and who sent me to you.”

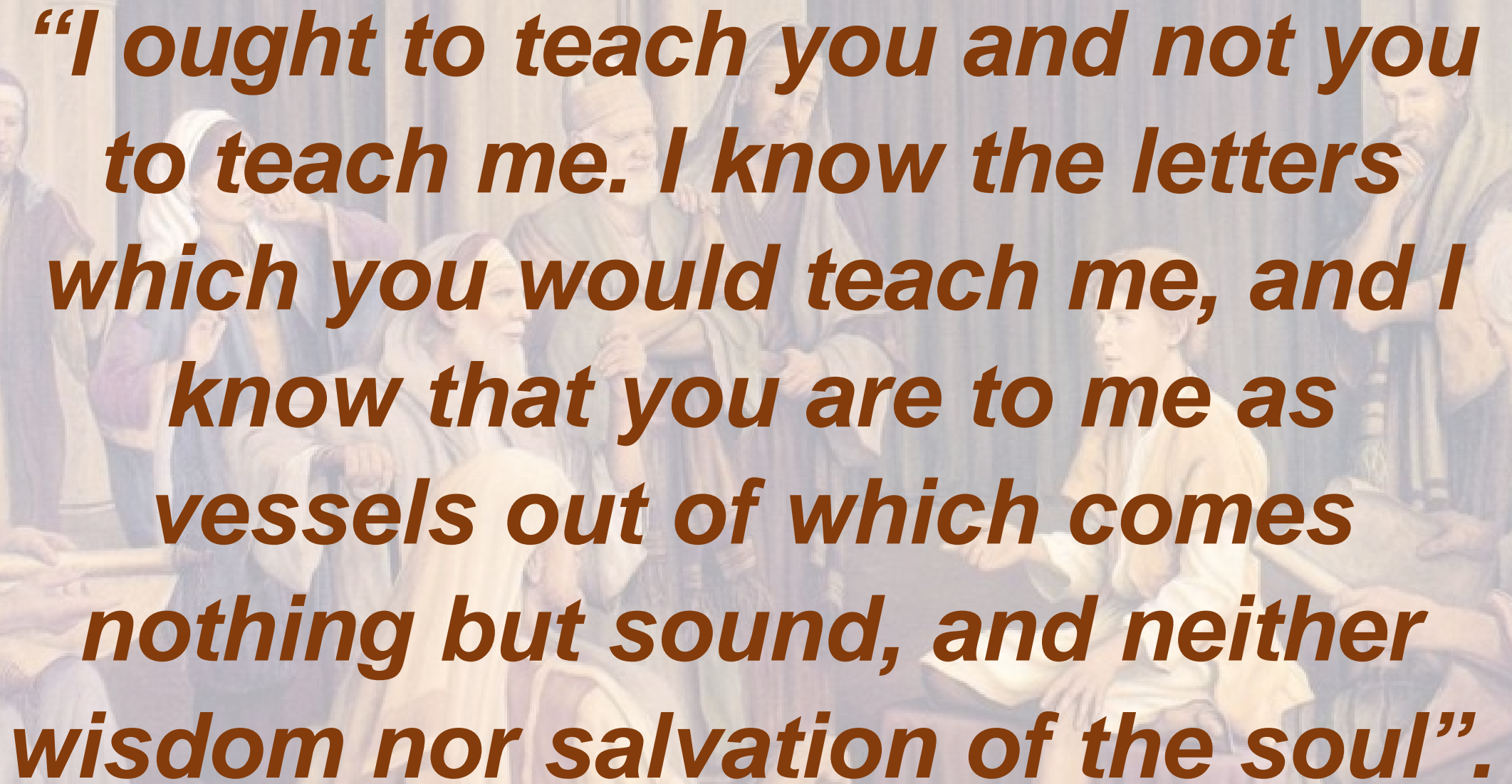
A background painting depicting Jesus sitting at a table with his twelve apostles. Jesus is on the left, wearing a white robe and a sash, looking towards the right. The apostles are seated around the table, some looking at Jesus, some looking at each other. The setting is an interior with arched doorways and columns.

A painting depicting a scene where a young child, Jesus, is surrounded by a group of men, likely the Pharisees and scribes, in a room with large arches. The child is seated in the center, looking towards the men. The men are dressed in traditional robes and are engaged in conversation, some looking at the child with interest and others with skepticism. The overall atmosphere is one of a significant religious or philosophical debate.

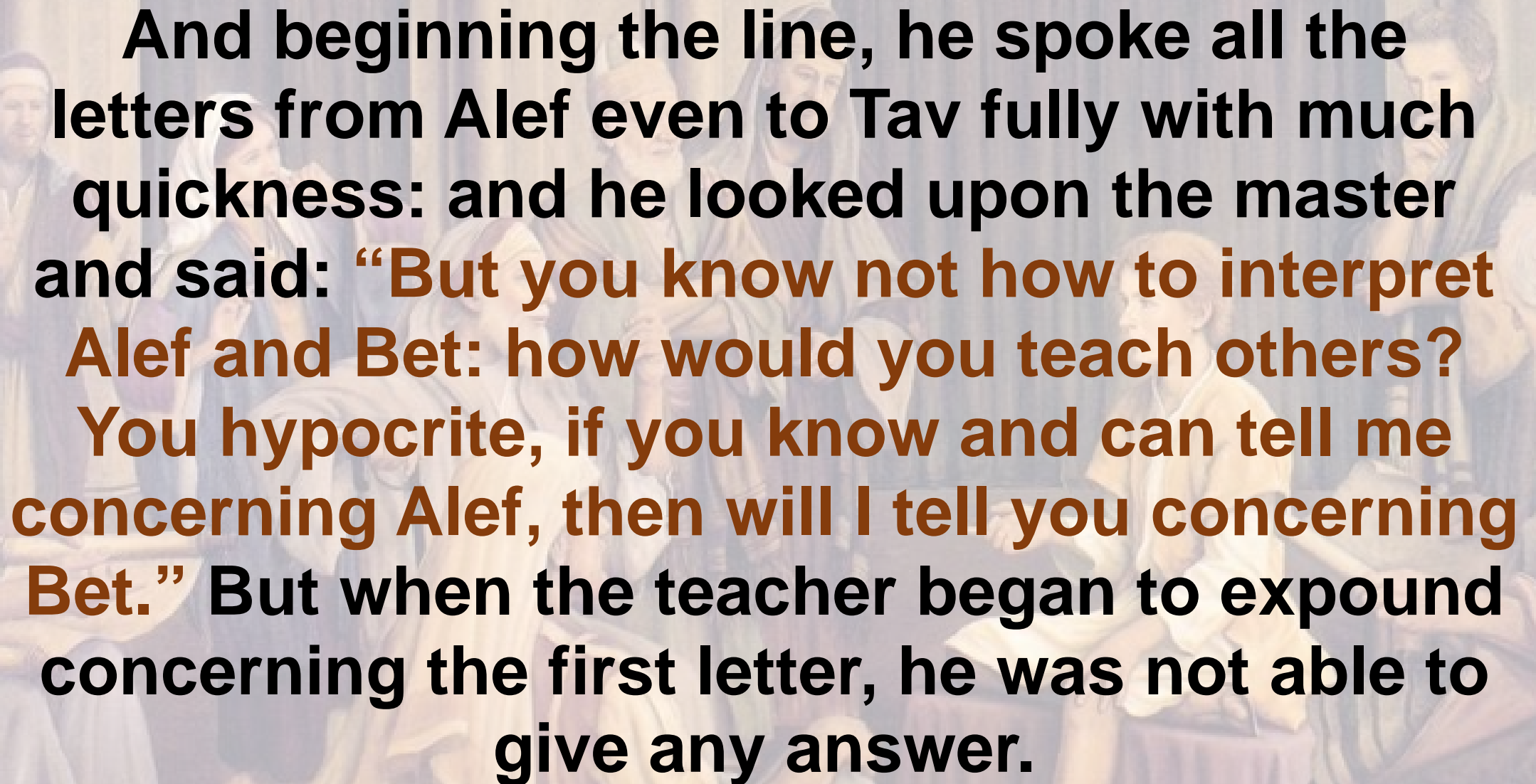
When the Jews heard the word which the child spoke, they were angry because they were not able to answer Him. And the child turned himself about and rejoiced and said: *“I spoke to you a proverb; but I know that you are weak and know not anything”*.

A painting depicting Jesus teaching a group of people in a room with arches. Jesus is seated on the right, holding a book, and looking towards the center. A young boy is seated in the center, looking towards Jesus. Other people are seated around them, some looking at Jesus and others at the boy. The scene is set in a room with large arches and columns.

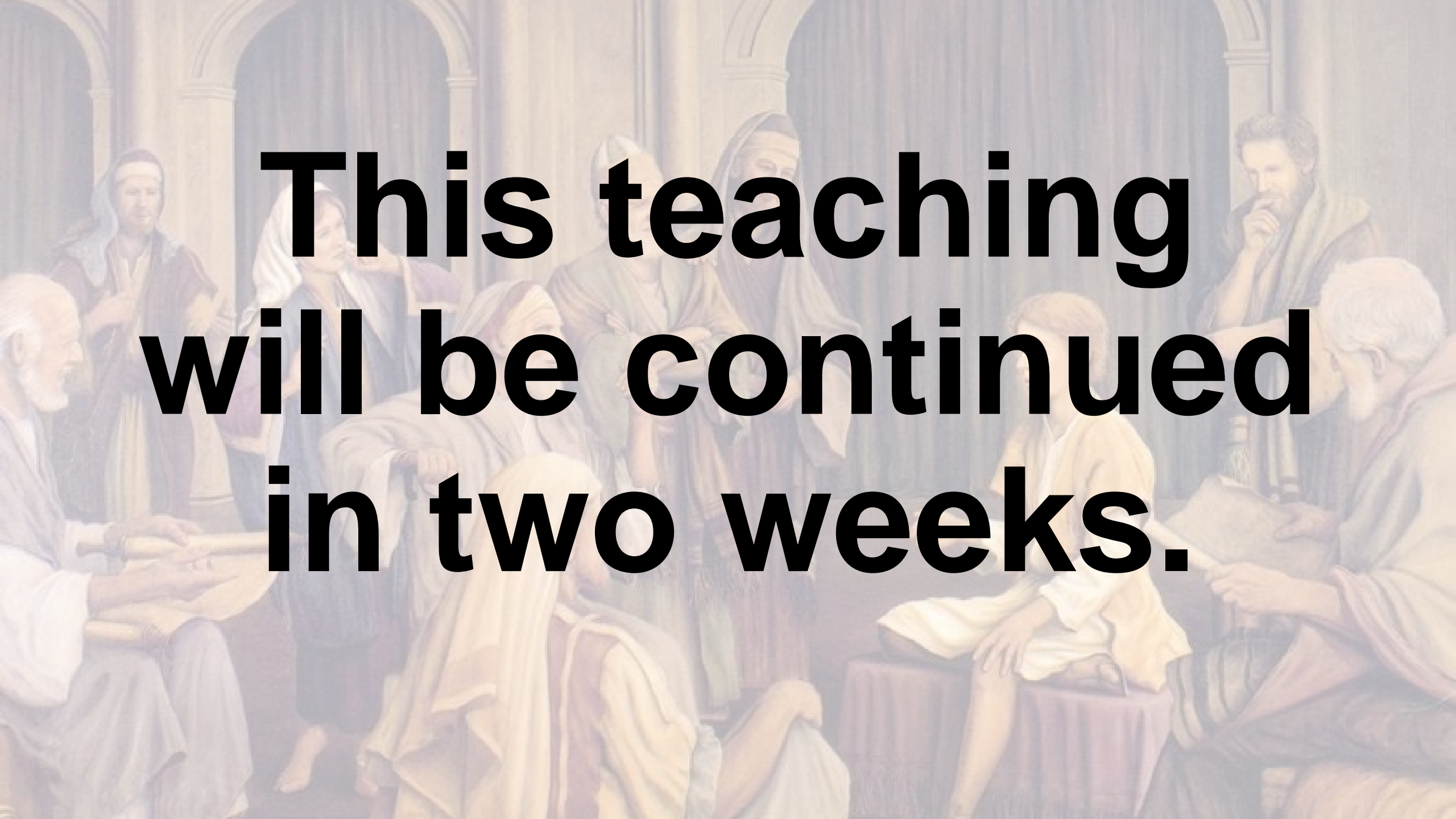
Later, while teaching Yeshua, Zacheus began to flatter him and to teach him (and commanded him to say the letters), but the child held His peace. Then that teacher smote the child on the head and when the child received the blow, He said to him:



“I ought to teach you and not you to teach me. I know the letters which you would teach me, and I know that you are to me as vessels out of which comes nothing but sound, and neither wisdom nor salvation of the soul”.



And beginning the line, he spoke all the letters from Alef even to Tav fully with much quickness: and he looked upon the master and said: “But you know not how to interpret Alef and Bet: how would you teach others? You hypocrite, if you know and can tell me concerning Alef, then will I tell you concerning Bet.” But when the teacher began to expound concerning the first letter, he was not able to give any answer.

A classical painting depicting a group of men in a study or council, likely representing the Council of Nicaea. The men are dressed in traditional robes and are engaged in discussion and study. The background features arched doorways and classical architectural elements. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a focus on the figures in the foreground.

**This teaching
will be continued
in two weeks.**

