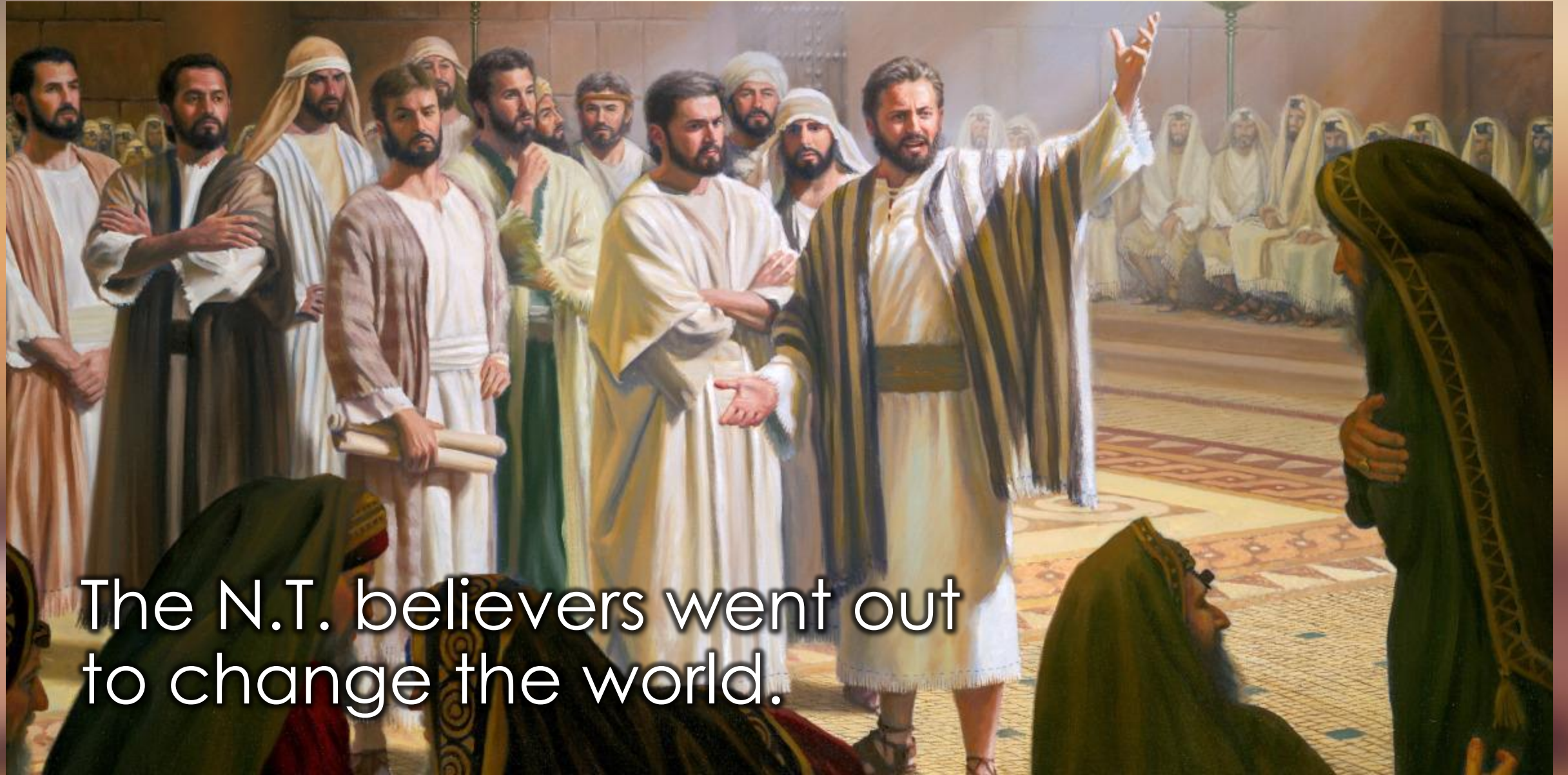


THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION

SMYRNA

**THE
PERSECUTED
CHURCH**



The N.T. believers went out to change the world.

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!





The devil tried to stop the progress of the early Christian church. Lucifer launched a storm of persecution.

The Roman government actively began to persecute the Christians in Smyrna.





The seven churches of Revelation

Revelation 2:8

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,
‘These things says the First and the Last, who
was dead, and came to life:



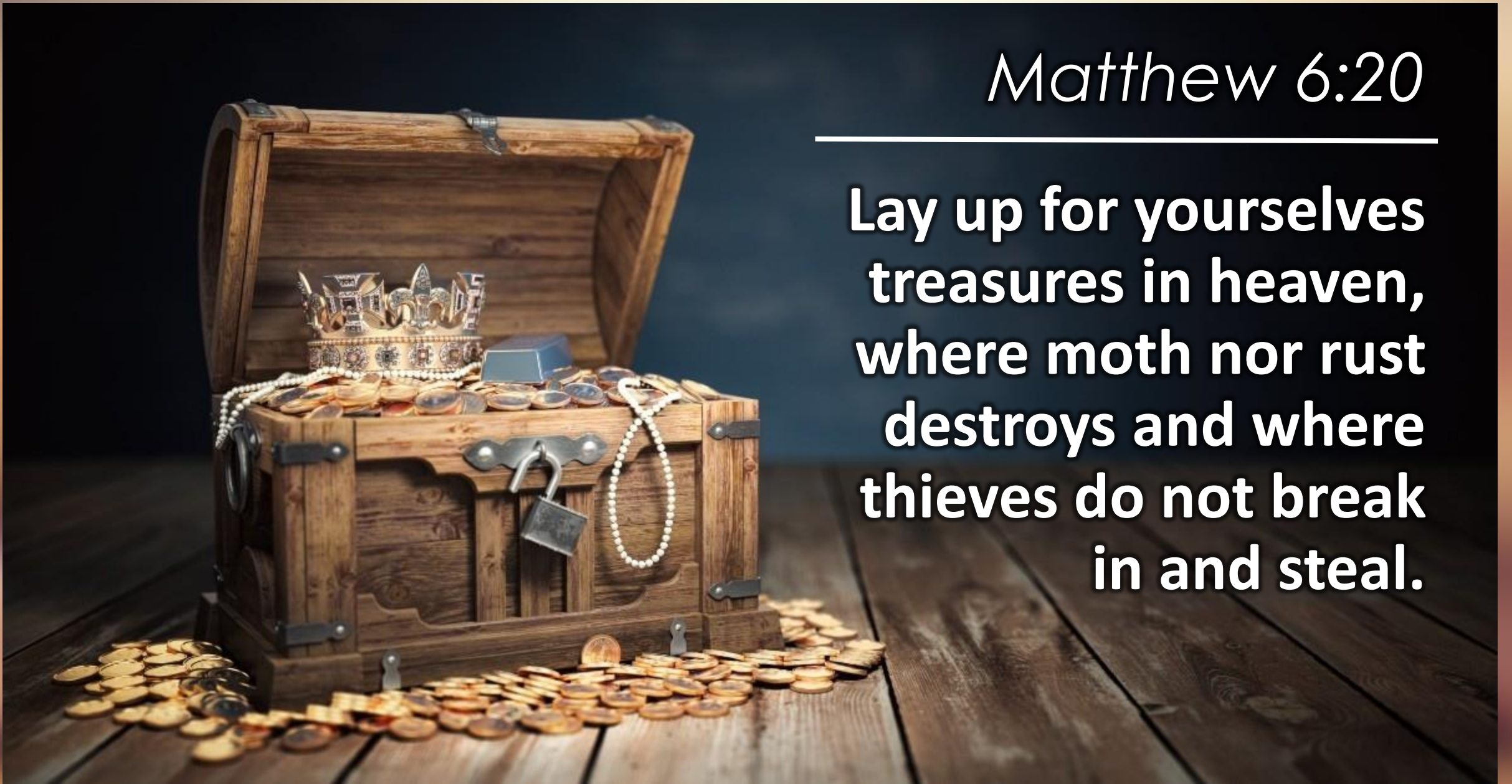
Revelation 2:9

“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty
(but you are rich)...



Matthew 6:20

**Lay up for yourselves
treasures in heaven,
where moth nor rust
destroys and where
thieves do not break
in and steal.**



Revelation 2:9

“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a **synagogue of Satan.**”



Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. ...



modern day
TURKEY

Pergamos

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea

7 Churches:
Time periods of Church history

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and **you will have tribulation ten days**. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

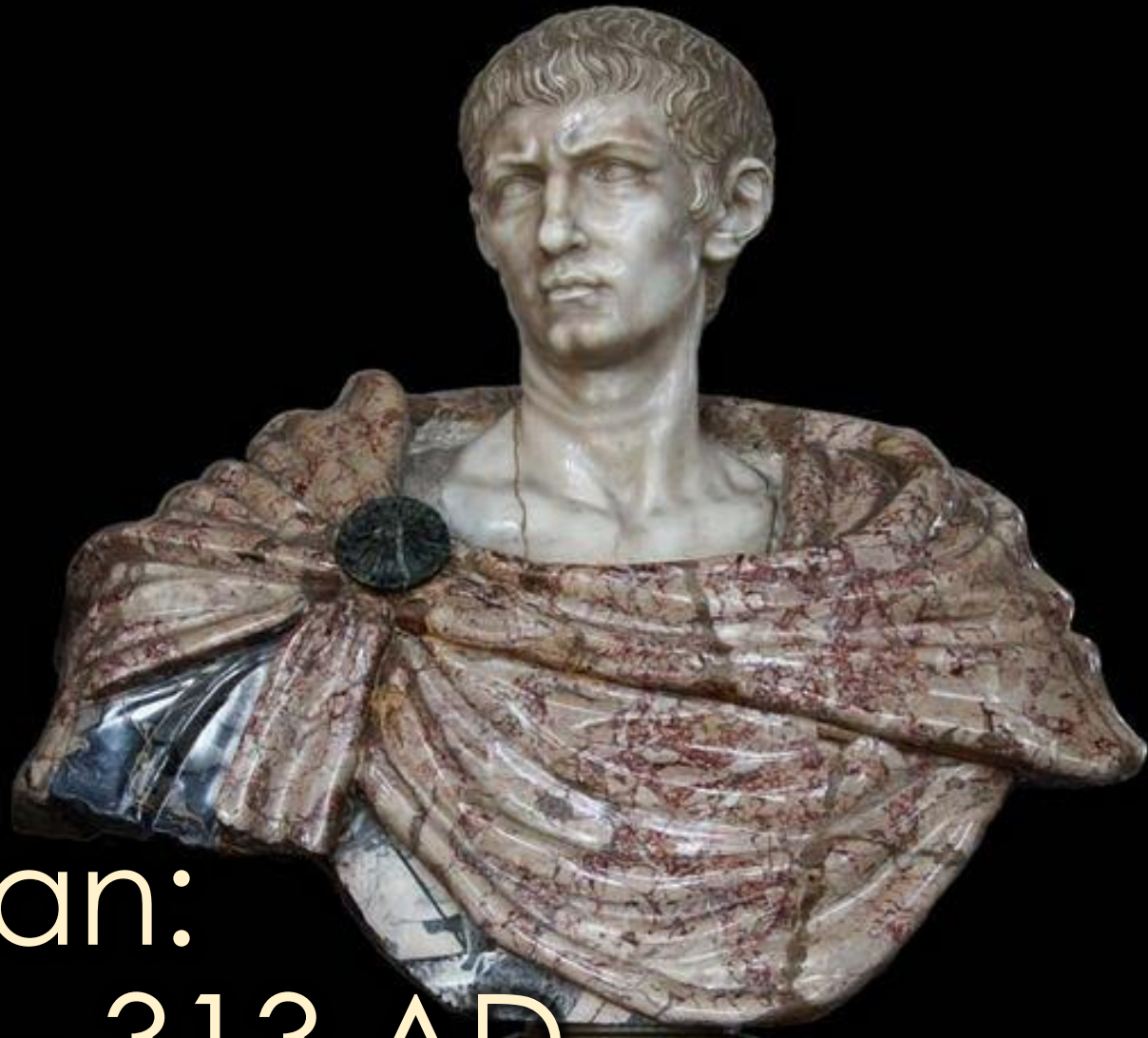




YEAR-DAY PRINCIPLE



Deification (apotheosis) of Roman leaders



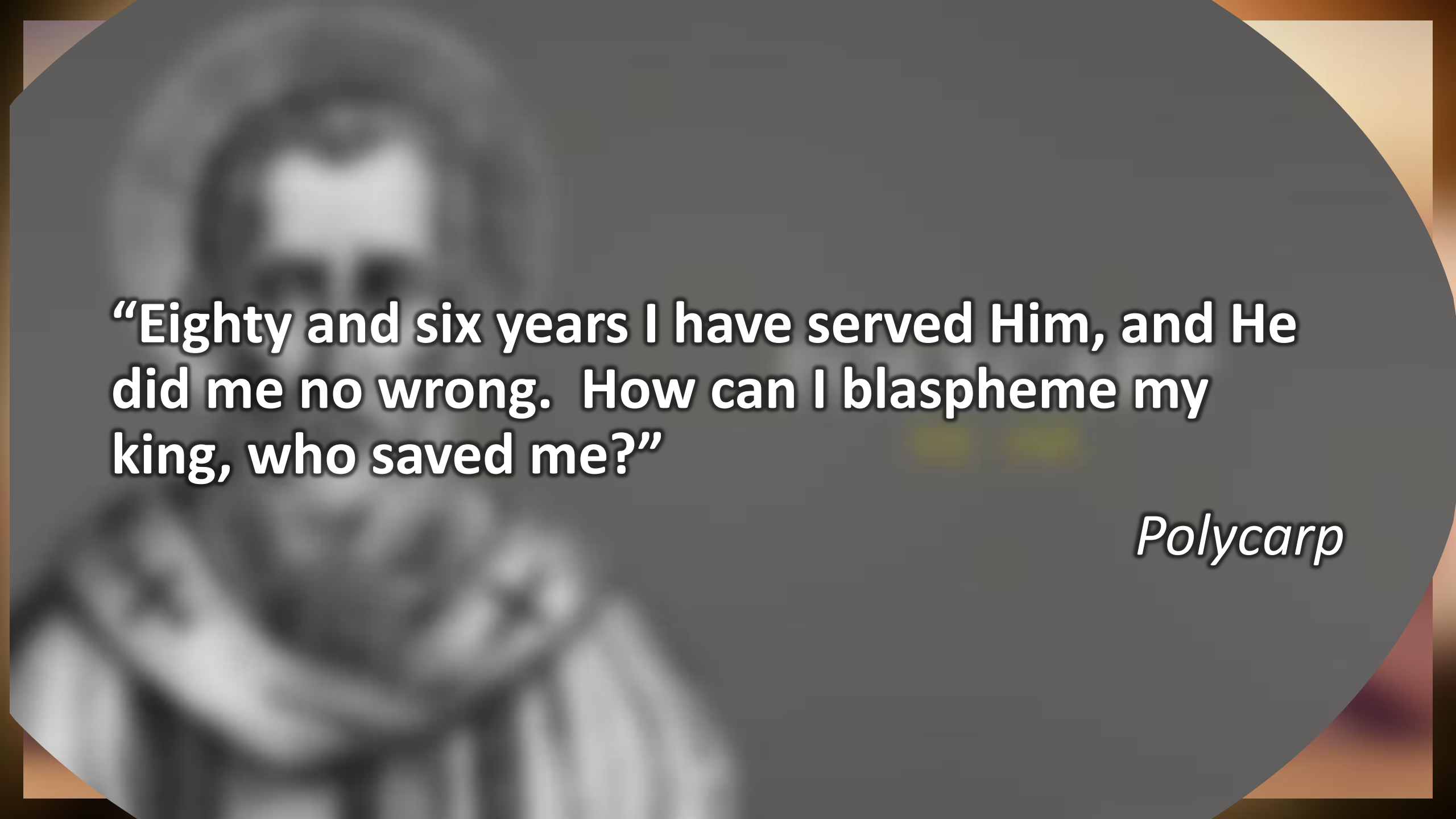
Diocletian:
303 AD – 313 AD





POLYCARP

69-156



“Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He did me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my king, who saved me?”

Polycarp

Revelation 2:8

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,
‘These things says the First and the Last, who
was dead, and came to life:







Revelation 2:11

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” ’



CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION:

- In the FAMILY
- At the WORKPLACE (i.e. Sabbath observance)
- POLITICAL persecution (sanctity of life & marriage etc...)
- Apostolic persecution (Foxes Book of Martyrs)
- TIME OF TROUBLE (1,260 yrs.)
- GREAT Time of Trouble

Revelation 2:11

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.**”



THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION

PERGAMOS

THE COMPROMISING CHURCH



**Are you strong enough to
stand for Jesus?**

**Will your faith withstand
the test?**

THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION

SMYRNA

**THE
PERSECUTED
CHURCH**