

The Path Back to God

Forgiveness → Repentance → Reconciliation

The Path Back to God

Three Critical Components of Restoration

Forgiveness → Repentance → Reconciliation

God does not merely want to remove our guilt.
He wants to restore our relationship with Him.

The Problem: Sin Breaks the Relationship

Sin creates separation.

- Sin produces **guilt**.
- Sin damages our **relationship with God**.
- Sin creates a need for **restoration**.

Isaiah 59:2 *EASY*

But the wrong things that you have done
have made you separate from your God.
Your sins have caused him to turn away from you,
so that he does not listen to your prayers.

The question is ...

How does God bring us back?

*Evidence of private
aphiemi (release)
completed long ago*

*Evidence of public
katallage (reconciliation)
only now made possible*



Three Critical Components

FORGIVENESS

God removes the guilt of sin.



REPENTANCE

We turn away from sin and turn toward God.



RECONCILIATION

The broken relationship is restored.

Forgiveness deals with the guilt.

Repentance deals with the direction.

Reconciliation deals with the relationship.

PART 1

FORGIVENESS

What is Forgiveness?

Forgiveness means releasing a person from the guilt and debt of an offense.

Biblical forgiveness involves:

- God no longer holding our sin against us.
- The debt of sin being dealt with.
- The sinner receiving mercy instead of condemnation.

Psalm 103:12 *EASY*

How far is the east from the west?

The Lord has taken our sins further away than that!

He no longer says that we are guilty.

Forgiveness says ...

"Your sin does not have to
remain your permanent record."

The Action of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not pretending that sin never happened. It is dealing with sin without allowing it to have the final word.

God's action:

- He provides forgiveness.
- He removes guilt.
- He offers mercy.
- He restores our standing before Him.

Our response:

- Receive God's forgiveness.
- Confess our sin.
- Trust God's promise.

1 John 1:9 *NKJV*

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 *EASY*

Instead, we should agree that we have done wrong things and tell that to God. Then God will forgive us for our sins. He always does what he has promised to do. He always does what is right. He will forgive us and he will make us clean again, whatever bad things we may have done.

PART 2

REPENTANCE

What is Repentance?

Repentance is more than feeling sorry.

Repentance means:

Recognize → Turn → Return

- **Recognize** — I acknowledge that I have gone the wrong way.
- **Turn** — I turn away from the wrong direction.
- **Return** — I turn back toward God.

SHUV — 180 DEGREES.
NOT SLOW DOWN. NOT STEP BACK.
TURN COMPLETELY.



Repentance is a change of mind
that produces a change of direction.

The Action of Repentance

Forgiveness is not pretending that sin never happened. It is dealing with sin without allowing it to have the final word.

God's action:

- He provides forgiveness.
- He removes guilt.
- He offers mercy.
- He restores our standing before Him.

Our response:

- Receive God's forgiveness.
- Confess our sin.
- Trust God's promise.

Repentance requires action.

Not merely:

"I am sorry."

But:

"I am turning around."

Acts 3:19 *NCV*

So you must change your hearts and lives! Come back to God, and he will forgive your sins.

A repentant person asks:

What must I leave behind?

Where must I turn?

How can I walk with God again?

Forgiveness vs. Repentance

FORGIVENESS

- Deals with guilt
- Receives mercy
- God releases the debt
- "I am forgiven."
- Forgiveness removes the burden.

REPENTANCE

- Deals with direction
- Changes direction
- We turn from sin
- "I am turning back."
- Repentance changes the direction.

And both point toward something greater:

RELATIONSHIP RESTORED

PART 3

RECONCILIATION

What is Reconciliation?

Reconciliation means restoring a broken relationship.
It is more than having the debt removed.

Imagine two people who have been separated.

Forgiveness:

“The offense has been dealt with.”

Repentance:

“I turn away from what caused the separation.”

Reconciliation:

“We are together again.”

The Action of Reconciliation

Reconciliation brings **relationship** back to the center.

2 Corinthians 5:18 *NKJV*

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18 *NCV*

All this is what God does for us. Because of what Christ has done, God has **brought us back to himself**, as his friends. Now he **wants us to bring other people** to be his friends too. That is the job that he has given to us.

God's purpose is not merely:

“Your sins are forgiven.”

It is also:

“Come home.”

The ultimate goal is restored fellowship with God.

The Prodigal Son: A Picture of Restoration

Luke 15

The story illustrates all three:

The Prodigal Son: A Picture of Restoration

FORGIVENESS

The father does not hold the son's past over him.



REPENTANCE

The son recognizes his condition and gets up and goes home.



RECONCILIATION

The father receives his son back into the family.

He was lost.

He was found.

He was home again.

The Complete Picture

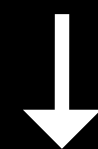
FORGIVENESS

The guilt is removed.



REPENTANCE

The direction is changed.



RECONCILIATION

The relationship is restored.

God doesn't merely want to erase your past.
He wants to restore your relationship with Him.

The Cross Makes It Possible

At the center of all three *is* **Jesus Christ**.

The Cross deals with our sin.

Forgiveness — our guilt can be removed.

Repentance — our hearts can be changed.

Reconciliation — our relationship with God can be restored.

2 Corinthians 5:19 *EASY*

"God's message is this: By Christ's death, God was bringing people of the world back to himself, as his friends. He would no longer keep their sins in his thoughts. This is the message that God wants us to tell people."

Final statement

Forgiveness removes the guilt.

Repentance changes the direction.

Reconciliation restores the relationship.

The Invitation

Where are you on the path?

The Invitation

Do you need forgiveness?

Receive God's mercy.

The Invitation

Do you need repentance?

Turn back to God.

The Invitation

Do you need reconciliation?

Come home.

The Invitation

God's goal *is not* simply to forgive you.

His goal *is* to bring you home.

Forgiven → Turned → Restored

REPENTANCE

PART I

4 SIGNS OF REAL REPENTANCE



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אני מצטער אם
I'M SORRY IF
YOU FELT HURT

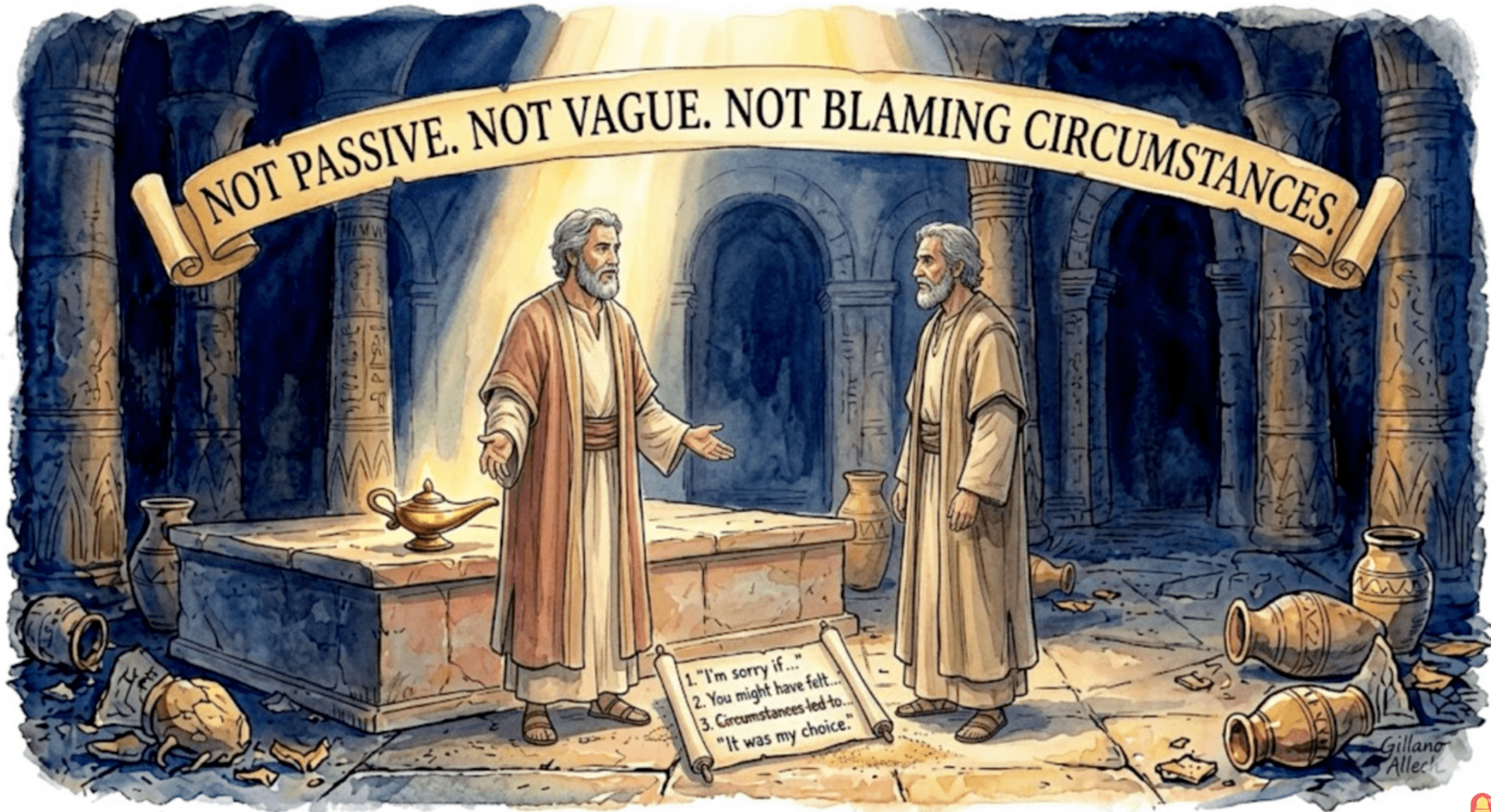
EVASION

I DID THIS. THIS IS
THE SPECIFIC THING
I DID WRONG

SIGN 1 – ACKNOWLEDGE SPECIFICALLY



NOT PASSIVE. NOT VAGUE. NOT BLAMING CIRCUMSTANCES.



1. "I'm sorry if..."
 2. You might have felt..."
 3. Circumstances led to..."
- "It was my choice."

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**SIGN 2 — THEY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE COST. THEY CARRY THE WOOD.**

~~LET IT GO.~~

~~YOU NEED TO
GET OVER IT.~~

~~JUST MOVE ON.~~

THEY CARRY IT
THEMSELVES



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Allechi





XVI
L
THEIR
RESPONSIBILITY
XVI
L

SIGN 3 — THEY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
TO REBUILD IT. THEY CARRY THE WOOD.

SIGN 3 — PATIENT WITH THE VICTIM'S PROCESS. THE HARDEST SIGN.

ONE OF THE MOST MATURE FORMS OF LOVE.





THE VICTIM IS ENTITLED TO THEIR OWN TIMELINE.
וְזוֹמָה לִיתּוֹקֵל כּוֹל מוֹדָע מִמָּה שִׁישׁוֹר רֵוִין דְּמִנִּיה.

הַיְיָ לֵבְנוֹ חֲכָמָה אֲנוֹתוֹר עֲשִׂירָה

הַיְיָ לֵבְנוֹ חֲכָמָה אֲנוֹתוֹר עֲשִׂירָה



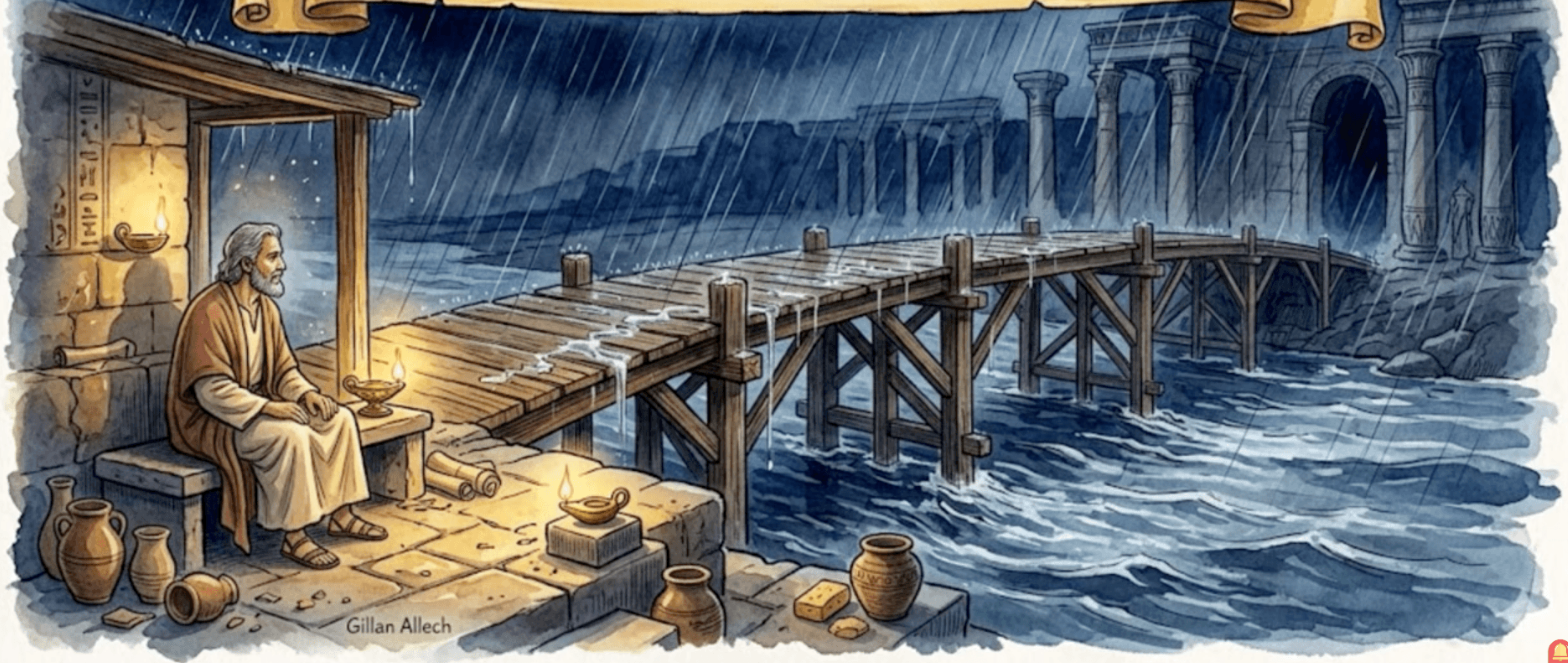
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PROMISES

**SIGN 4 — CHANGED BEHAVIOR OVER TIME.
WORDS ARE CHEAP. PROMISES ARE CHEAP.**

**A RAINY SEASON PASSING — BRIDGE STILL STANDS.
THAT IS THE ONLY PROOF.**



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NOT A WEEK. NOT A MONTH. ENOUGH TIME.

OLD PATTERN —
DOES IT SURFACE?

NEW PERSON —
PROVED THEY
EXIST.

4 SIGNS OF REAL REPENTANCE

1 —
ACKNOWLEDGE
SPECIFICALLY

2 —
CARRY
THE COST

3 —
PATIENT WITH
THE PROCESS

4 —
CHANGE
OVER TIME

CARRY COST

BE PATIENT

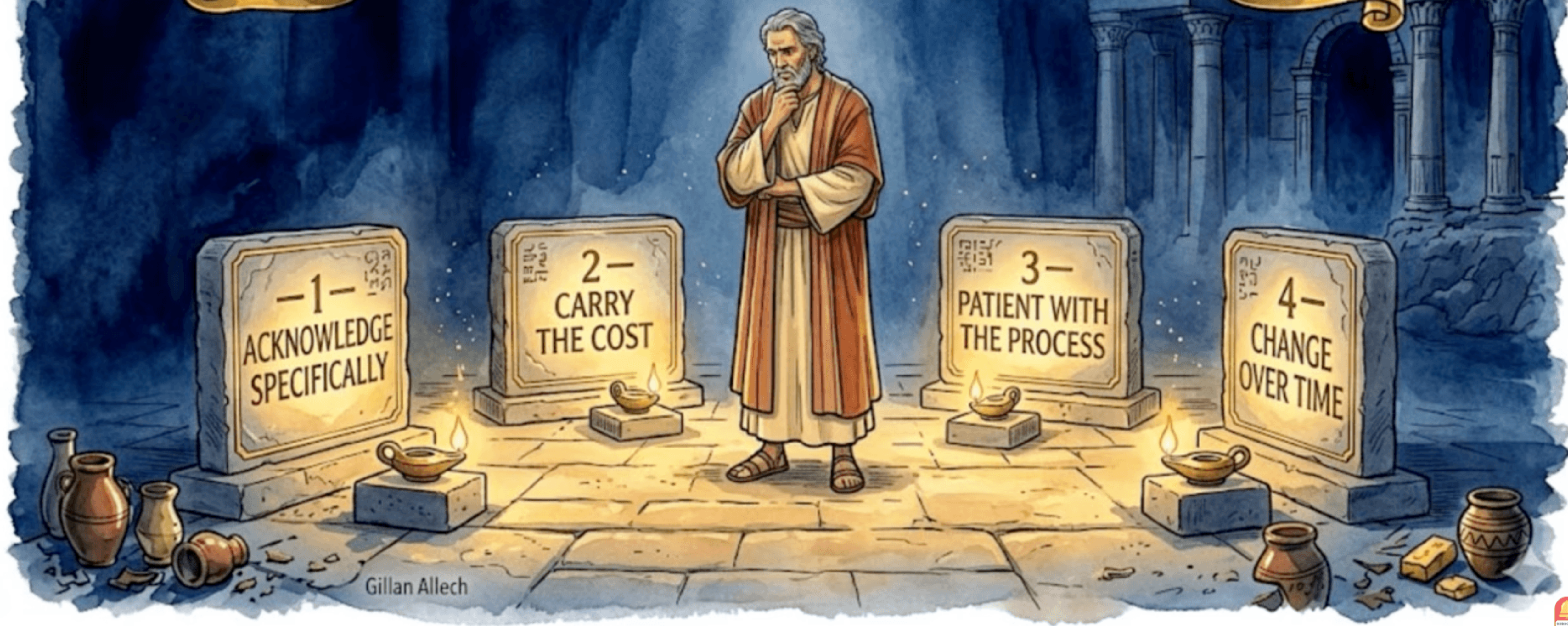
ACKNOWLEDGE

CHANGE

THE PATH TO RECONCILIATION.



THE PERSON WHO HURT YOU — HOW MANY OF THESE SIGNS ARE PRESENT?



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YOU CAN FORGIVE THEM. BUT YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO
WALK ACROSS A BRIDGE THEY HAVE NOT CARRIED A SINGLE BEAM TOWARD.

4 SIGNS OF REAL REPENTANCE.



1—
ACKNOWLEDGE
SPECIFICALLY

2—
CARRY
THE COST

3—
PATIENT WITH
THE PROCESS

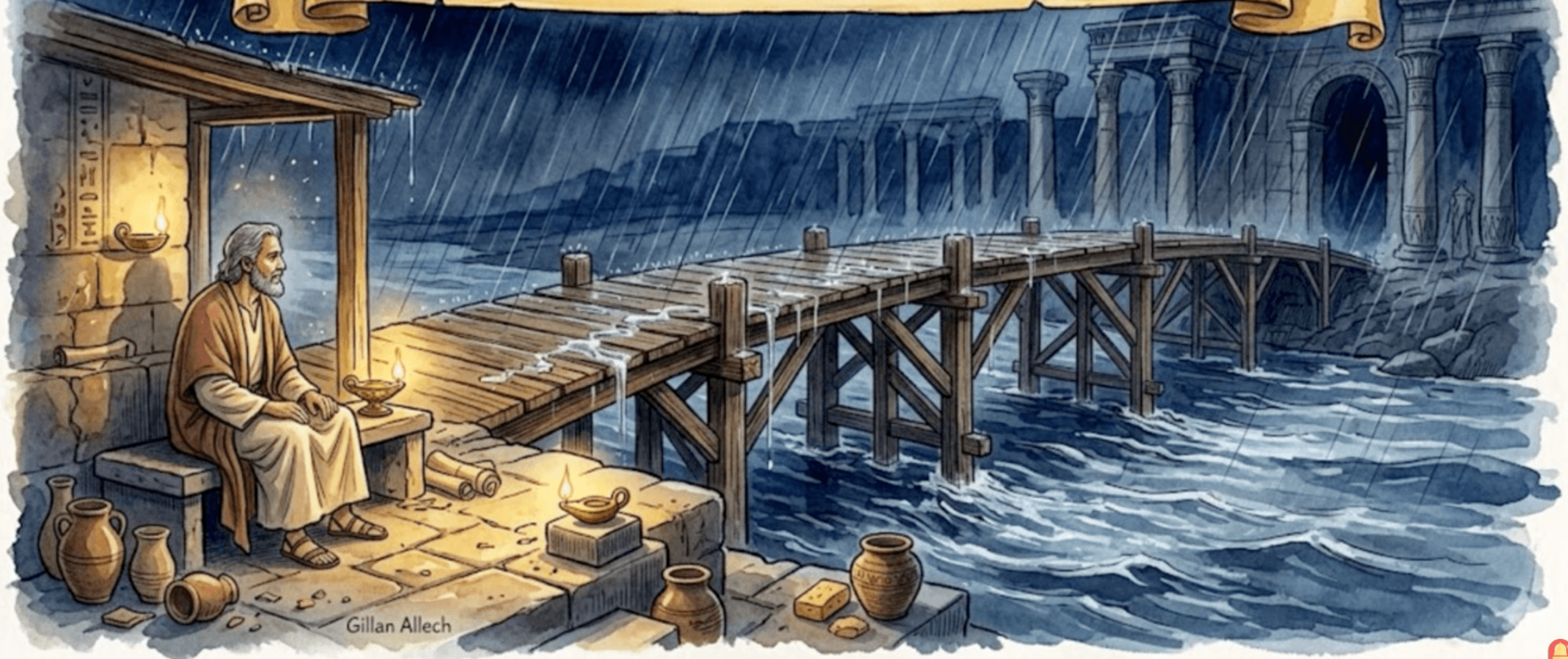
4—
CHANGE
OVER TIME

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RECONCILIATION

PART 2

**A RAINY SEASON PASSING — BRIDGE STILL STANDS.
THAT IS THE ONLY PROOF.**



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Sin burned the bridge





Forgiveness declared — the debt is removed.

Bridge still gone





I BURNED
THIS BRIDGE.

We release you
from the debt of war.

He is not
to see
my face.

עֲדָה הַלְבִּיר וְנִבְנוּ

בִּזְכוּר יִשְׁמֹר

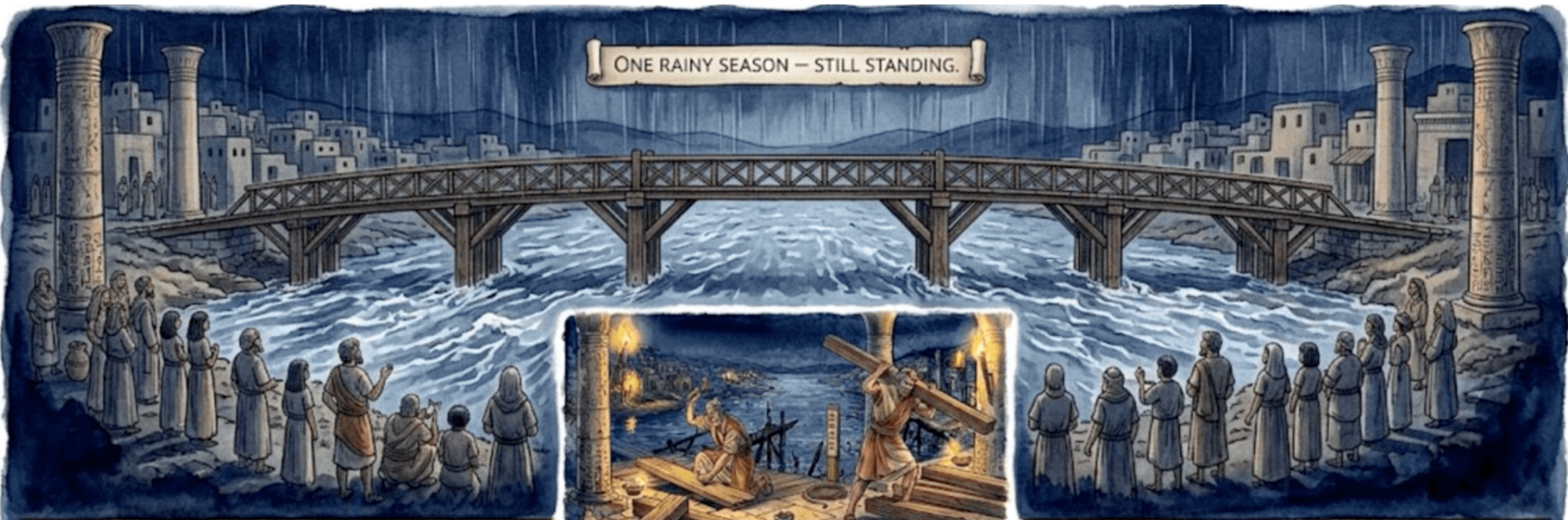
בִּזְכוּר יִשְׁמֹר

בִּזְכוּר יִשְׁמֹר





ONE RAINY SEASON — STILL STANDING.



ANOTHER — STILL STANDING.





THE OLD BRIDGE

THE NEW BRIDGE

THE OLD BRIDGE BURNED. IT IS NEVER COMING BACK.



NEW WOOD. NEW NAILS. PROVEN HANDS — NO LONGER CARRYING A TORCH.



NEVER THE SAME AS WHAT WAS LOST.



SOMETIMES DEEPER



SOMETIMES THINNER



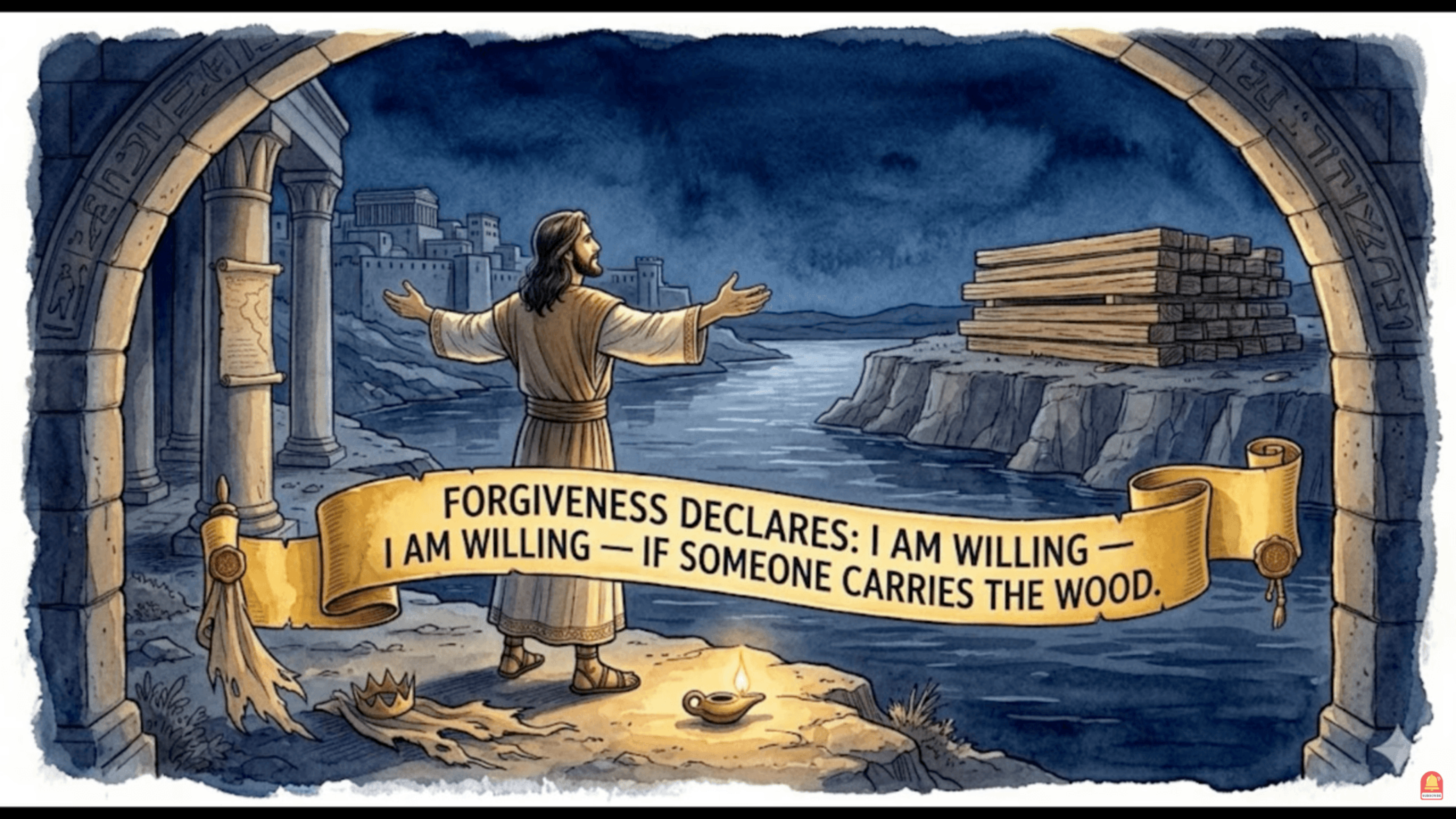
SOMETIMES NOTHING



SUMMARY

PART 3





FORGIVENESS DECLARES: I AM WILLING —
I AM WILLING — IF SOMEONE CARRIES THE WOOD.



ERASING HISTORY ✗



SAYING IT WAS OKAY ✗

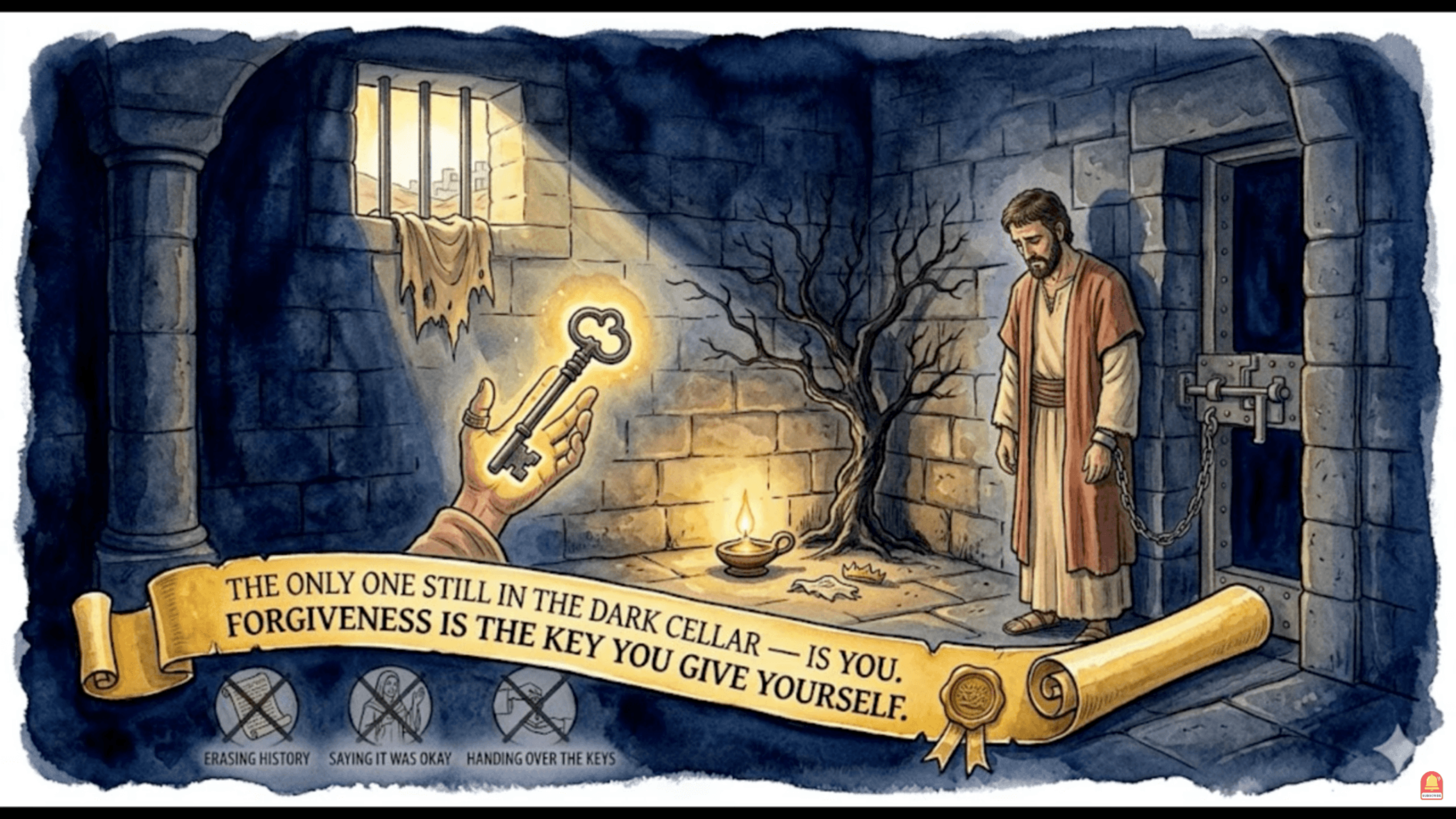


HANDING OVER THE KEYS ✗

TRUTH 1 — FORGIVENESS IS FOR YOU, NOT FOR THEM.

UNLOCKING THE CHAIN YOU'VE BEEN WEARING
— LONG AFTER THEY MOVED ON.





THE ONLY ONE STILL IN THE DARK CELLAR — IS YOU.
FORGIVENESS IS THE KEY YOU GIVE YOURSELF.



ERASING HISTORY



SAYING IT WAS OKAY



HANDING OVER THE KEYS

TRUTH 2 — RECONCILIATION IS A PROJECT, NOT A DECISION.



Forgiveness — one second



Reconciliation — cannot happen in a second



TRUTH 7 — A MATURE SPIRIT SETS MANDATED BOUNDARIES.

GUARD YOUR HEART
— PROVERBS 4:23



MANIC'25

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SETTING A BOUNDARY IS NOT UN-CHRISTIAN — IT IS STEWARDSHIP.

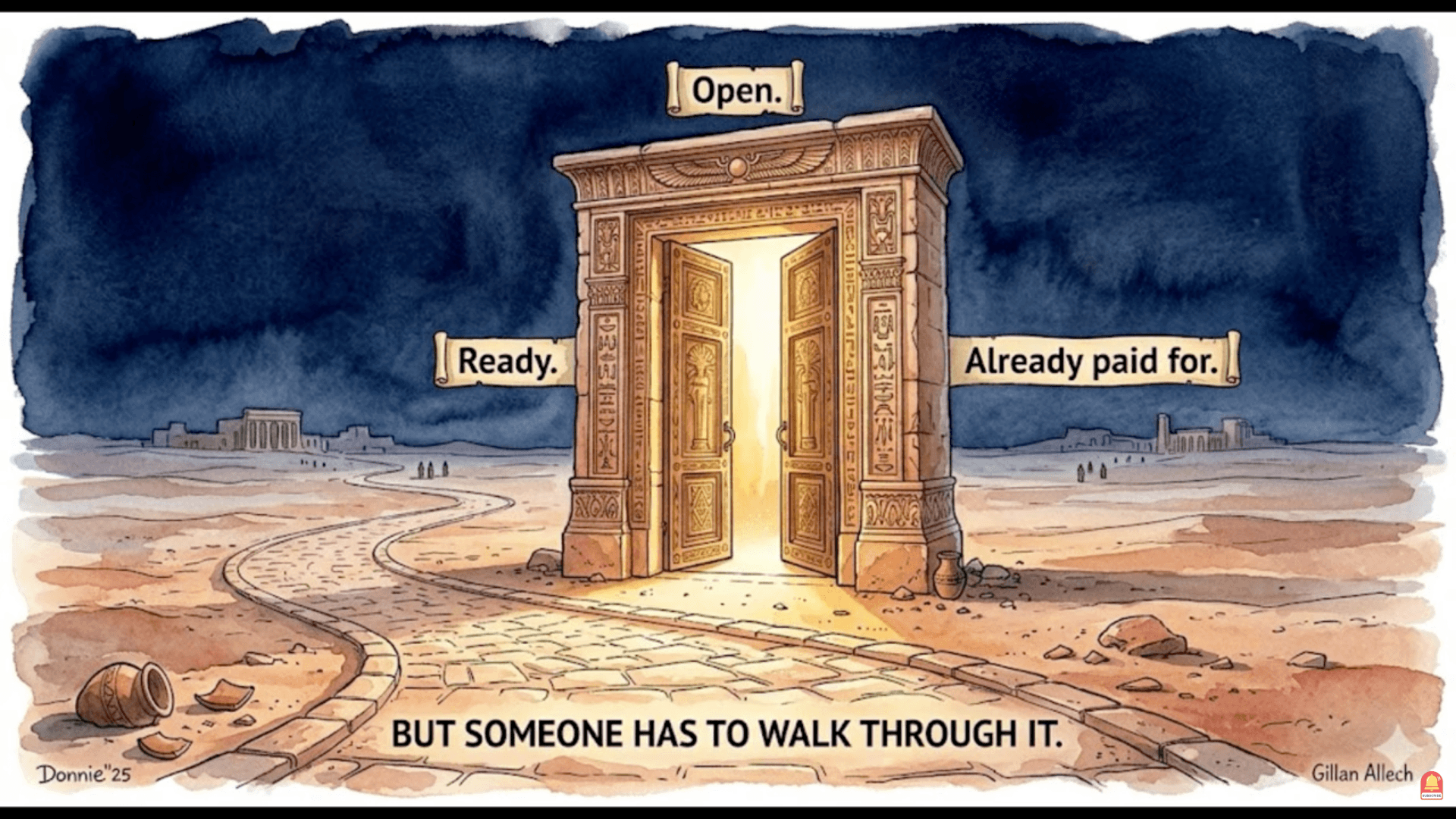




FATHER, FORGIVE THEM — FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.





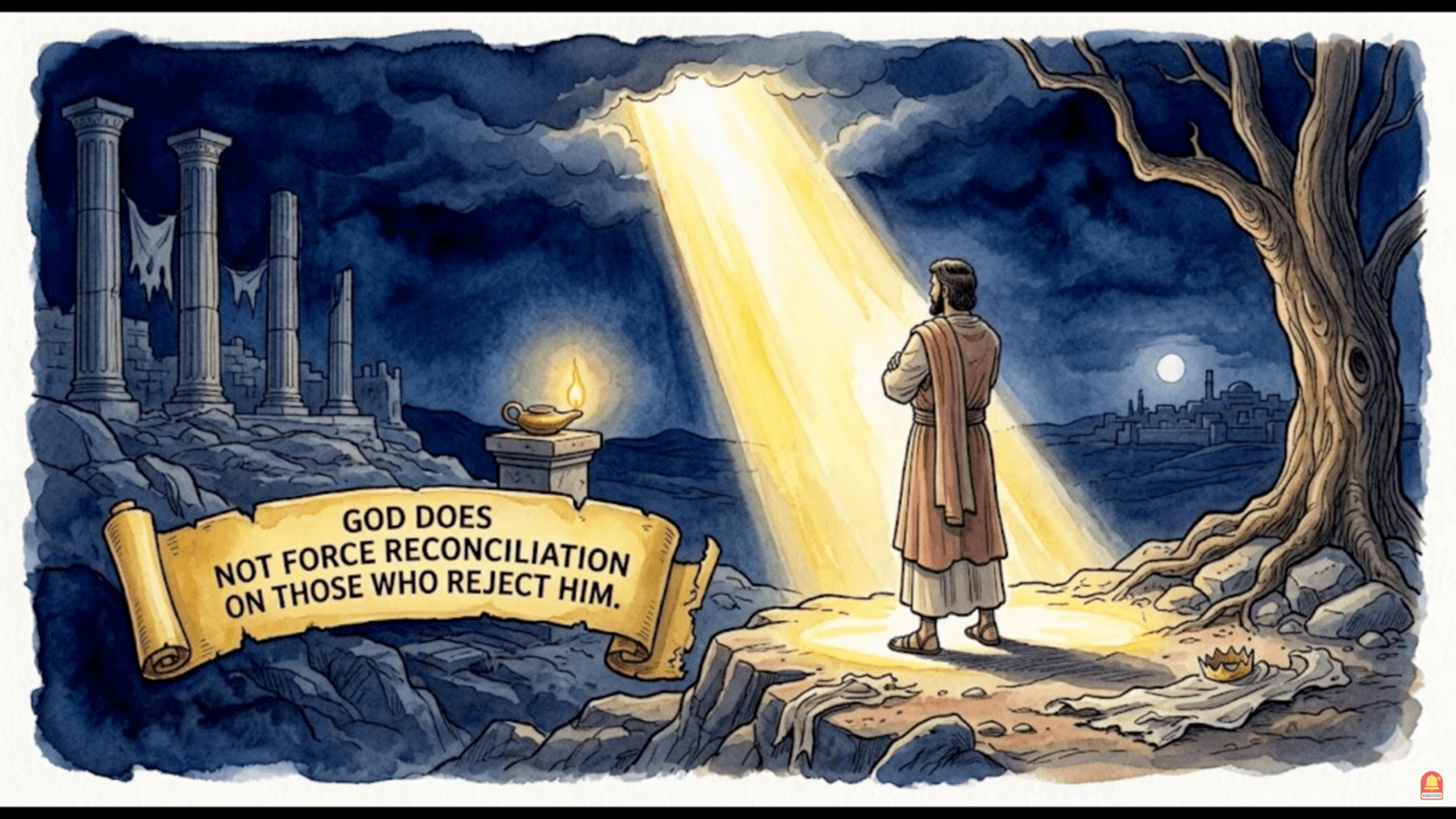


Open.

Ready.

Already paid for.

BUT SOMEONE HAS TO WALK THROUGH IT.

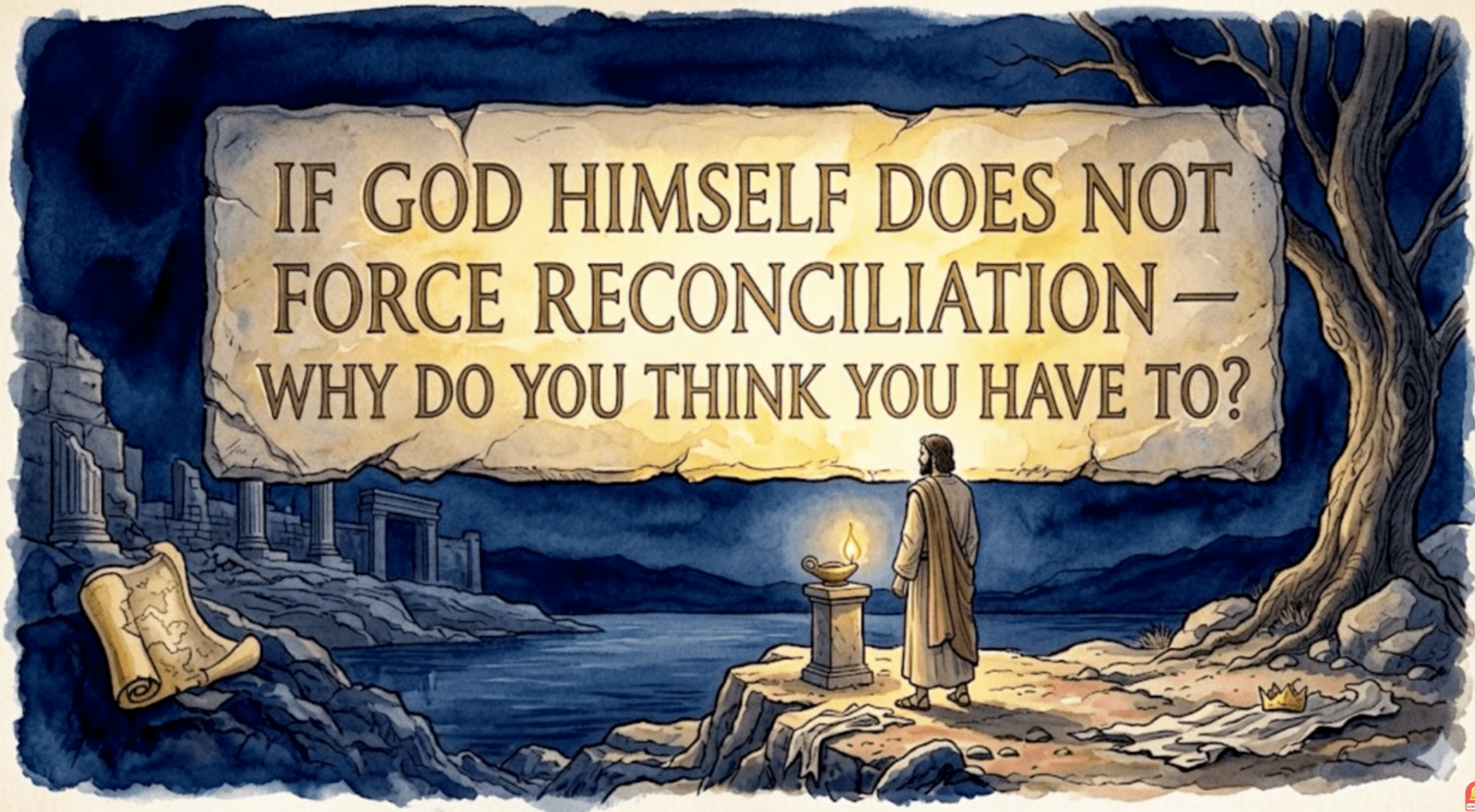


**GOD DOES
NOT FORCE RECONCILIATION
ON THOSE WHO REJECT HIM.**

HE HONORS THEIR CHOICE — EVEN WHEN IT BREAKS HIS HEART.



IF GOD HIMSELF DOES NOT
FORCE RECONCILIATION—
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE TO?



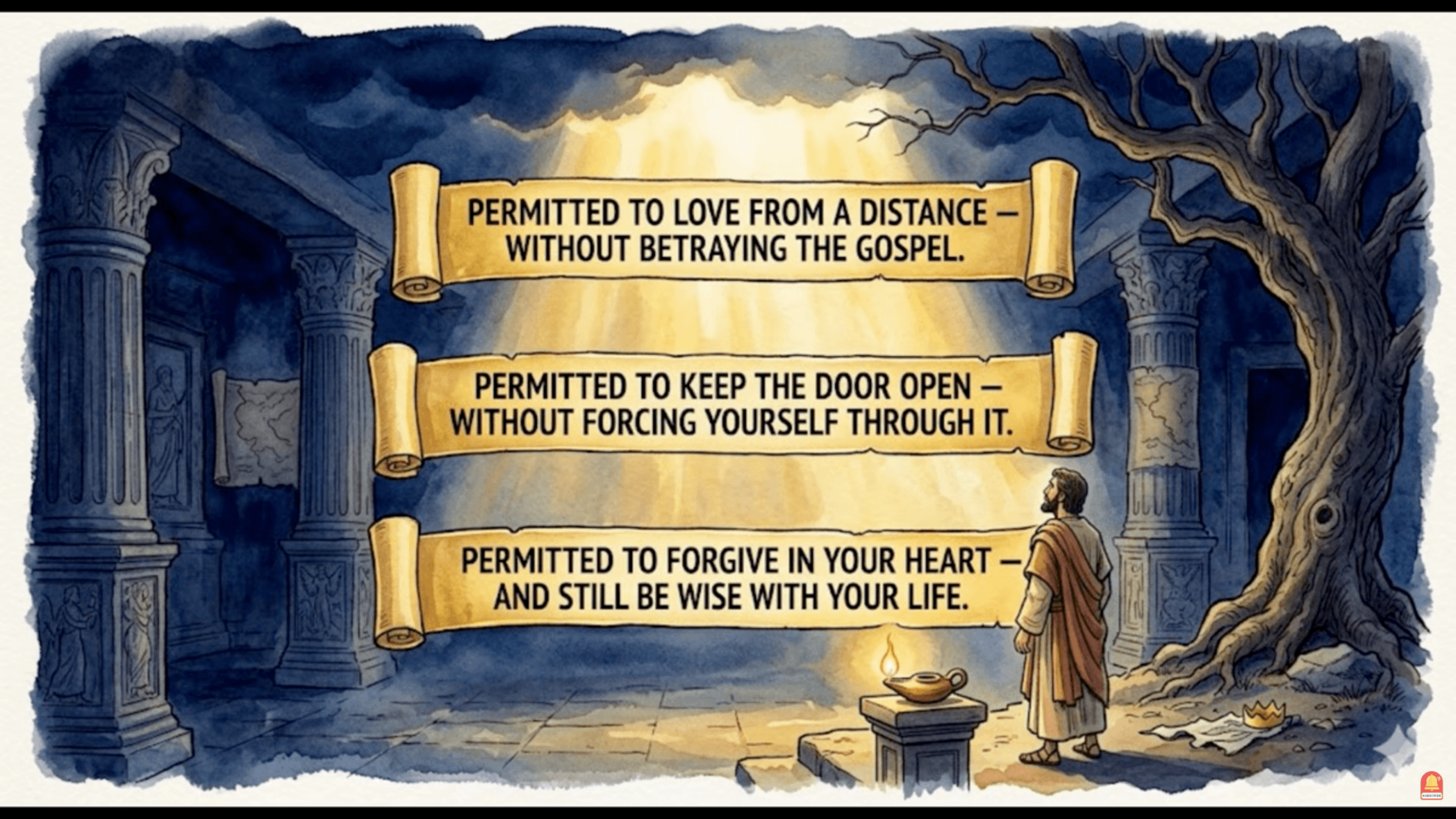
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PERMITTED TO LOVE FROM A DISTANCE —
WITHOUT BETRAYING THE GOSPEL.

PERMITTED TO KEEP THE DOOR OPEN —
WITHOUT FORCING YOURSELF THROUGH IT.

PERMITTED TO FORGIVE IN YOUR HEART —
AND STILL BE WISE WITH YOUR LIFE.

THE FREEDOM JESUS DIED TO GIVE YOU.



GRACE.

WISDOM.



FORGIVENESS IS A
GIFT YOU GIVE.
RECONCILIATION IS A
BRIDGE THAT GETS REBUILT.

4 SIGNS OF REAL REPENTANCE.



DON'T LET ANYONE MAKE YOU FEEL GUILTY FOR GIVING THE
GIFT BEFORE YOU CAN CROSS THE BRIDGE.

**RELEASE
THE DEBT**



**BUT NOT
THE KEYS
TO YOUR HOUSE**





YOU CAN MOVE FORWARD IN PEACE
— EVEN IF THE RELATIONSHIP
IS NEVER RESTORED.

THIS IS NOT A
LACK OF FAITH.
THIS IS MATURE FAITH.

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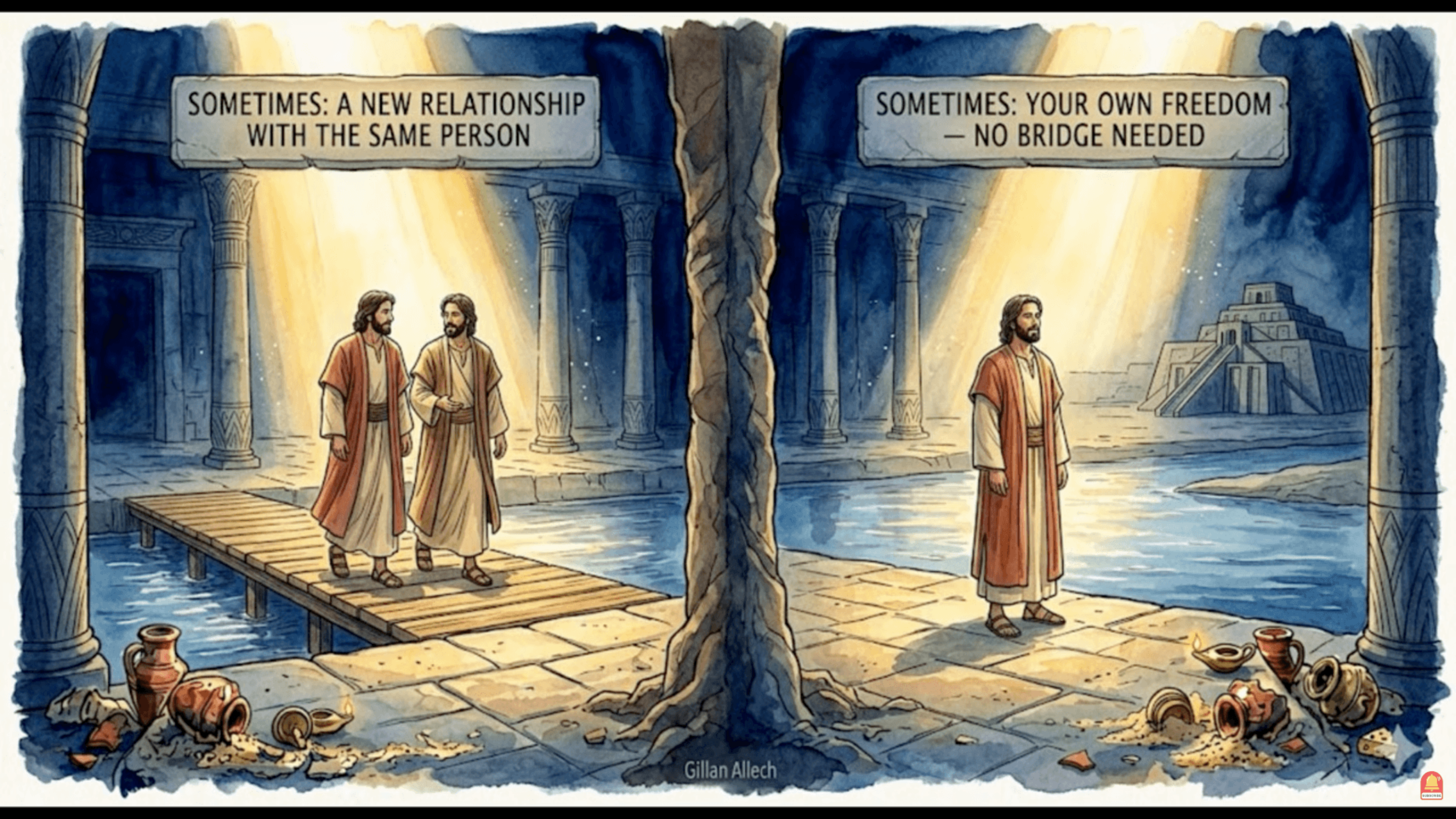


SOMETIMES THE OLD RELATIONSHIP NEEDED TO FALL —
SO SOMETHING MORE HONEST COULD BE BORN.



SOMETIMES: A NEW RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE SAME PERSON

SOMETIMES: YOUR OWN FREEDOM
— NO BRIDGE NEEDED



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BOTH ARE GRACE



TELL ME
IN THE
COMMENTS.

WHICH ONE ARE YOU REALIZING YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR?

4 SIGNS OF REAL REPENTANCE.

—1—
ACKNOWLEDGE

—2—
CARRY
THE
COST.

—3—
BE
PATIENT

—4—
CHANGE
OVER
TIME

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