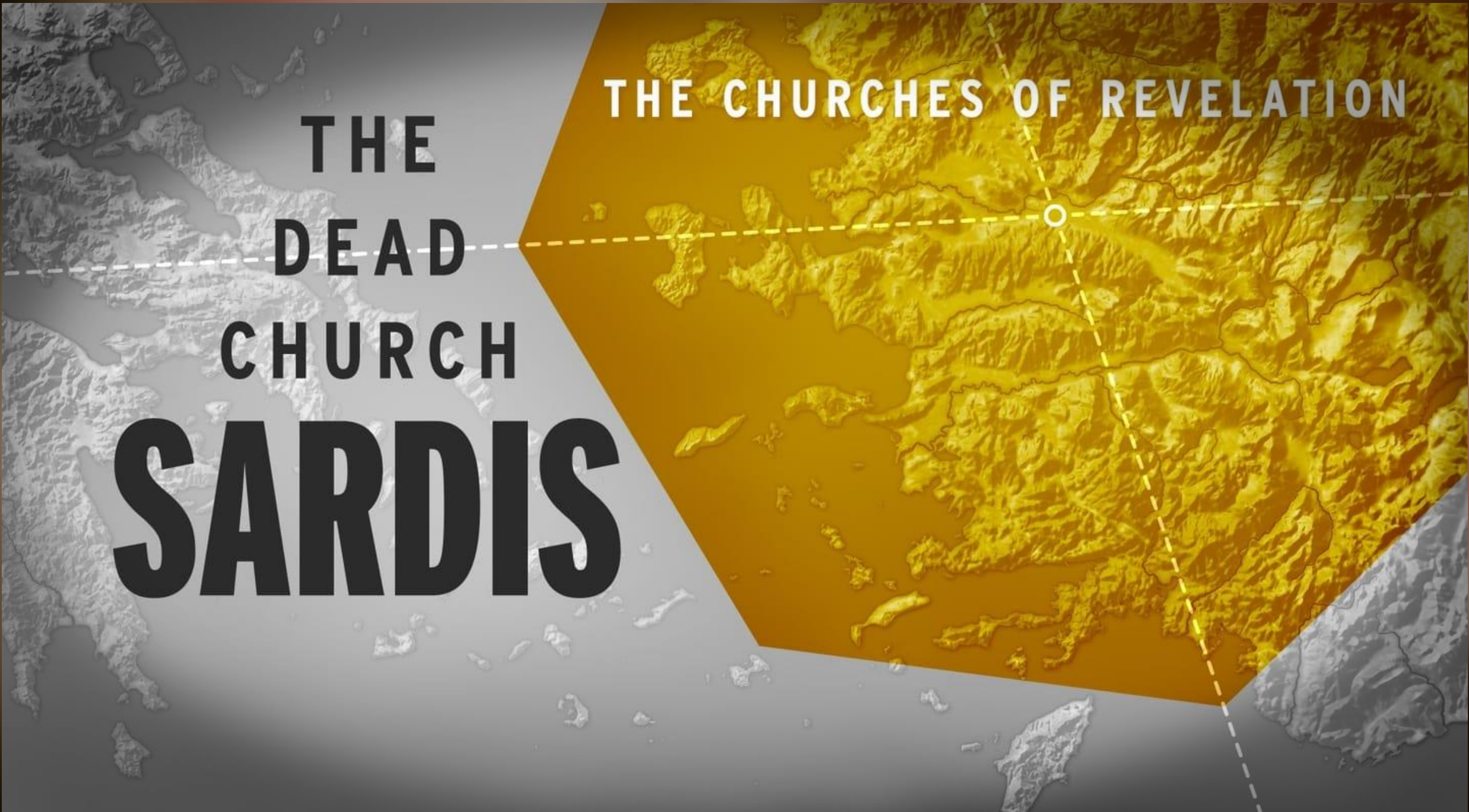


THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION

THE
DEAD
CHURCH
SARDIS



Seven Churches

- **EPHESUS: The loveless church**
31 AD – 100 AD
- **SMYRNA: The persecuted church**
100 AD – 313 AD
- **Pergamos: The compromising church**
313 AD – 538 AD
- **THYATIRA: The corrupt church**
538 AD – 1517 AD

Mountains of North Italy





Waldensians
experienced
horrible
persecution

These people had something that we in the 21st century so desperately need....





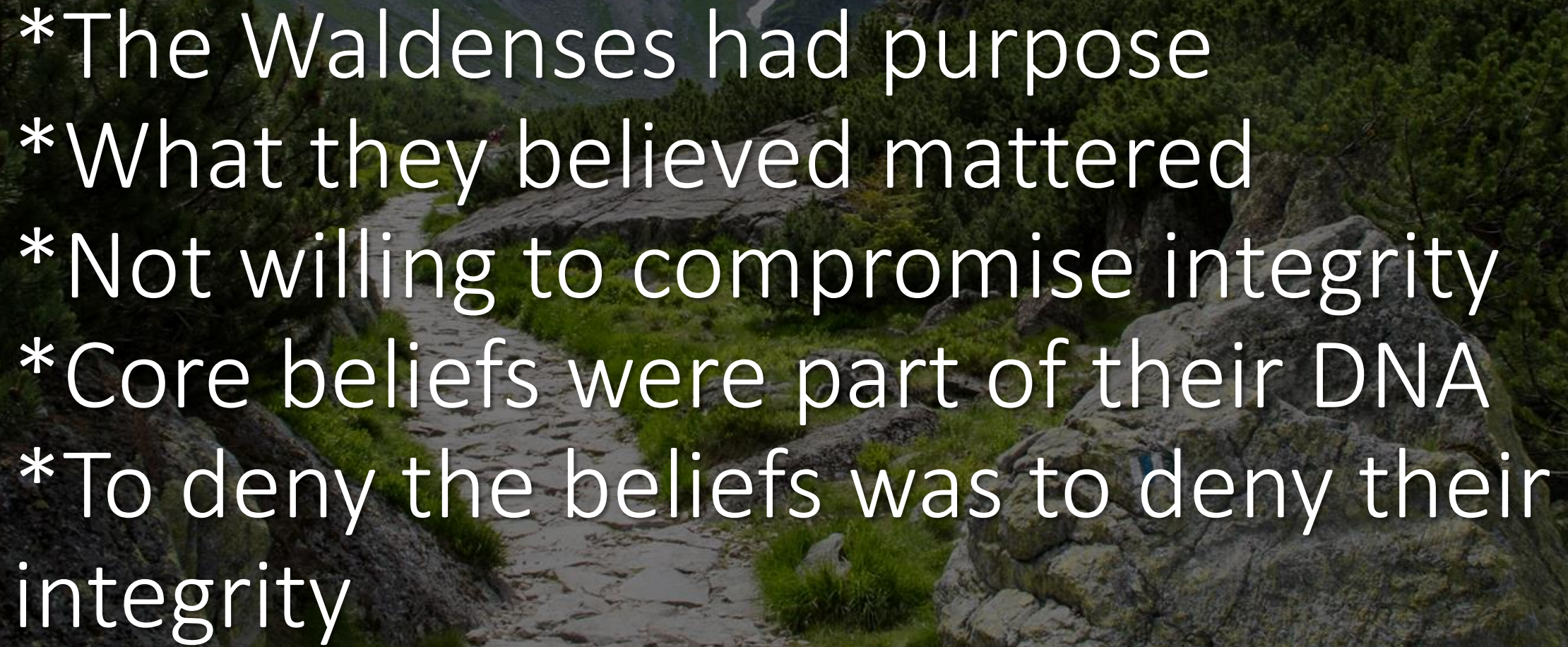
A PURPOSE TO LIVE FOR

“Why the Self is Empty”: By Philip Cushman

“constructed a self that is, fundamentally, a disappointment to itself.”

“Why the Self is Empty”: By Philip Cushman

Their beliefs are shallow. Little of real significance matters, and they have nothing worth dying for, so they have little worth living for. The force that drives them is an immediate need for self-gratification that ultimately leaves them empty and unsatisfied.

- 
- *The Waldenses had purpose
 - *What they believed mattered
 - *Not willing to compromise integrity
 - *Core beliefs were part of their DNA
 - *To deny the beliefs was to deny their integrity





Revelation 3:1

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write...



SARDIS





CROESUS
REIGN: 560 BC - 546 BC



CYRUS THE GREAT
600 BC - 530 BC



ANTIOCHUS III THE GREAT
241 BC - 187 BC

Revelation 3:1

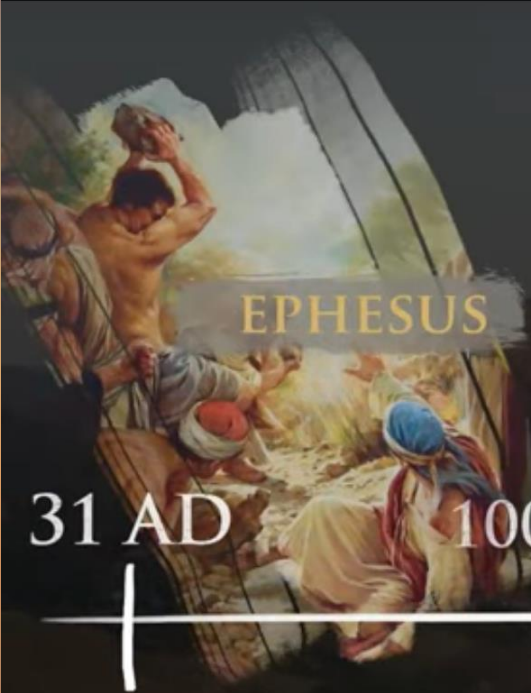
“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”



1 Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.





EPHESUS

SMYRNA



PERGAMOS

THYATIRA



SARDIS

31 AD

100 AD

320-330 AD

538 AD

1798 AD

1833 AD



Revelation 3:2

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for **I have not found your works perfect before God.**



SARDIS

- *The dead church**
- *It purports to be alive, but is largely dead.**
- *Became an institution and exists primarily to maintain its power and authority.**



Early Church

- In the days of the apostles when the Christian faith was new, the gospel message gave vitality and an impetus to the mission of the church.
- *The church grew rapidly*
- *BUT, the church began to compromise*

The Dark Ages Church

- Church attempted to be popular... at a cost
- Allowed false doctrines to come in
- Substituted ritual for genuine worship and incorporated pagan practices
- It became contented, lazy, weak until it was on its deathbed spiritually, even if it was rich and powerful

Revelation 3:2

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.



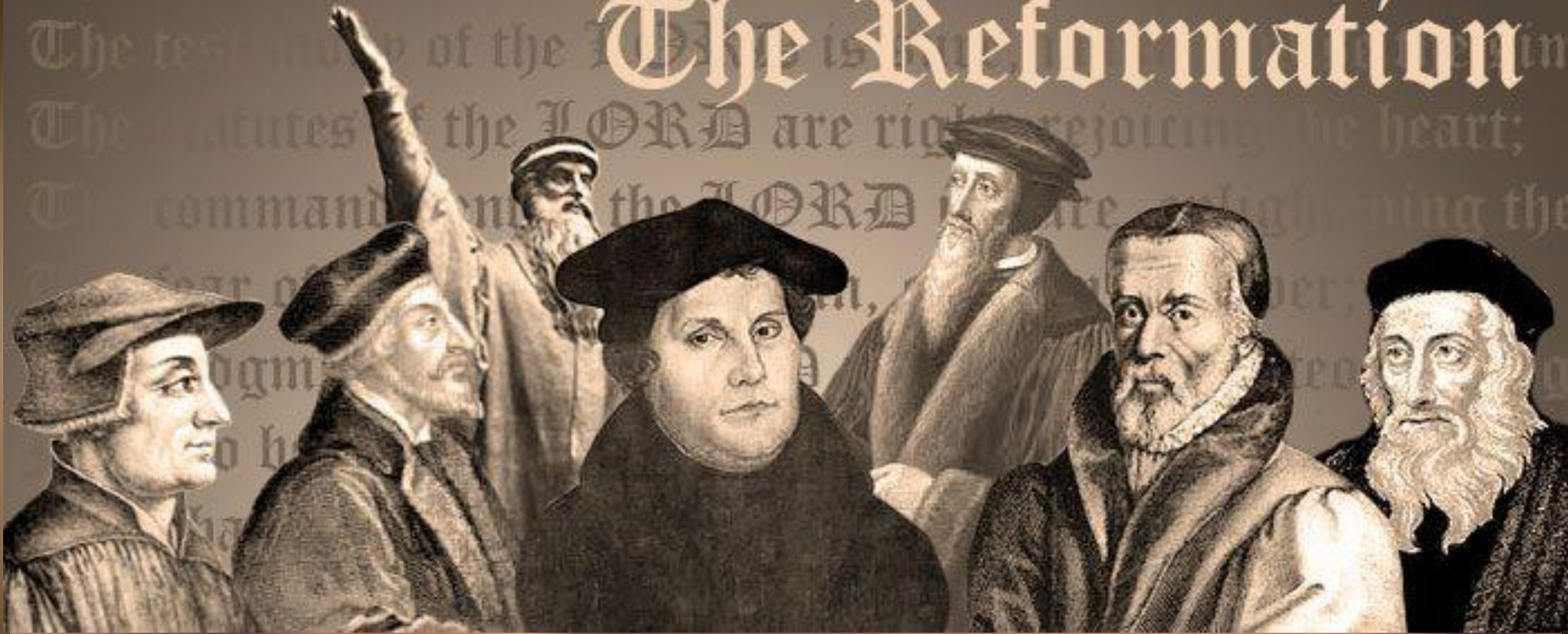
Revelation 3:4

You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.





The Reformation



Revelation 3:3

Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.



Revelation 3:4

You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.



Revelation 3:5

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.





The Reformation



**“Here I stand, I
can do no other.”**

Martin Luther

2 Timothy 3:5

having a form of godliness but denying its power.
And from such people turn away!





TIME WITH

JESUS

**Stand faithful with Jesus and
have your name written in the
Book of Life**



Revelation 3:6

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”



THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION



THE
DEAD
CHURCH
SARDIS