

He Reigns . He Returns . He Wins!

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Chapter 6:1-17

The Beginning of The End

The modern habit throughout the Christian Church is to play this subject down. Those who still believe in the wrath of God say little about it; perhaps, they do not think much about it. To an age which is unashamedly sold itself to the gods of greed, pride, sex and self-will. The church mumbles on about God's kindness but says virtually nothing about his judgment. ...The fact is that the subject of divine wrath has become taboo in modern society and Christians by and large have accepted the taboo and conditioned themselves never to raise the matter.

We may well ask whether this is as it should be for the Bible behaves very differently. One cannot imagine that talk of divine judgment was ever very popular. Yet the biblical writers engage in it constantly. One of the most striking things about the Bible is the vigor with which both testaments the reality and terror of God's wrath. ...Clearly the theme of God's wrath is one about which the biblical writers feel no inhibitions whatever.

J.I. Packer in **Knowing God** Chap. 15 The Wrath of God

“How can a loving God allow, or in fact cause, such things to happen in this world?”

- 1. Ask & seek to answer: “What perspective do we bring to the text and what standing do we have to call God’s actions into question?”**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Romans 1:18

2. Seek to understand God's attribute of wrath rightly.

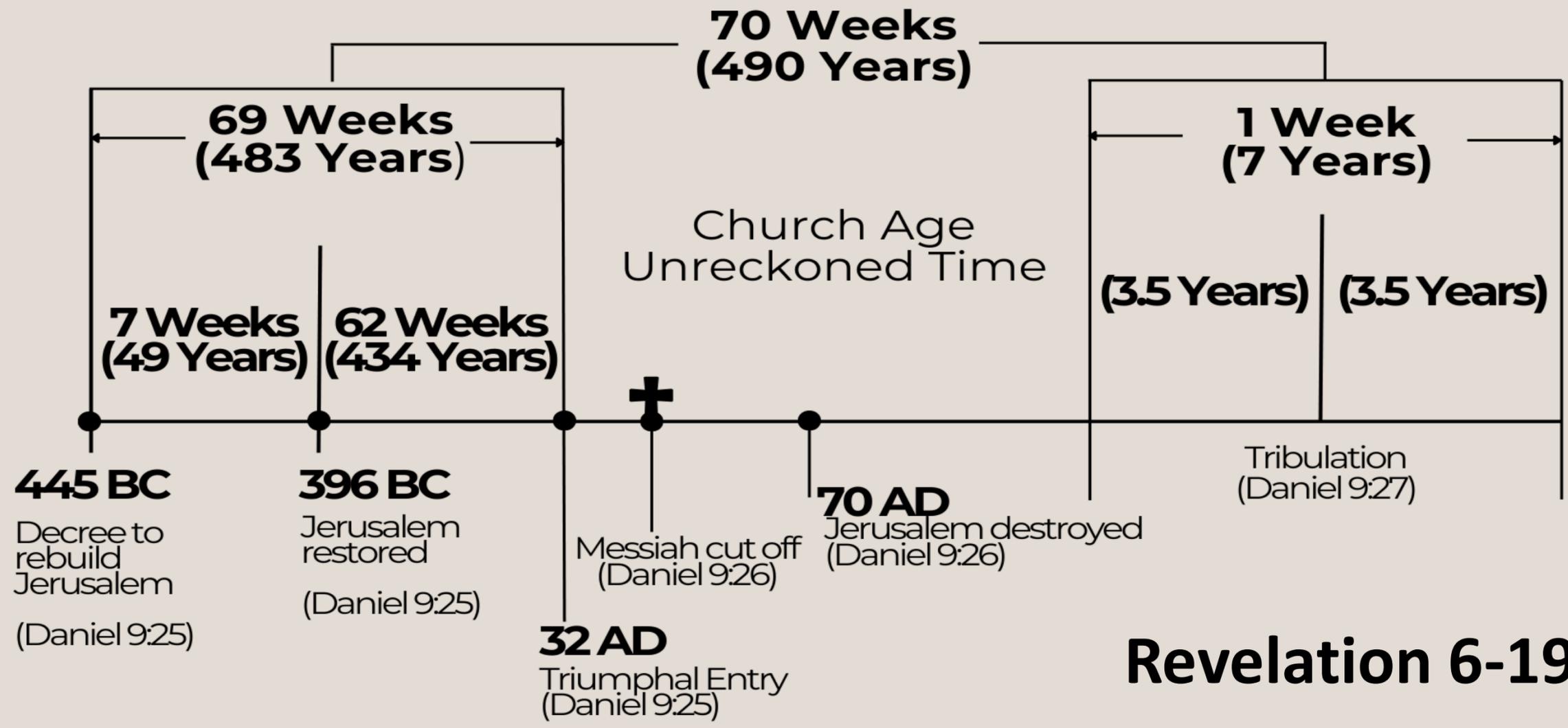
“God’s wrath is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. God is only angry where anger is called for...all God’s indignation is righteous. Would a God who took pleasure in evil as he did in good be a good God? Would a God who did not react adversely to evil be morally perfect? Surely not! ...It is precisely this adverse reaction to evil, which is a necessary part of moral perfection, that the Bible has in view when it speaks to God’s wrath.”

J.I. Packer in Knowing God Chap. 15 The Wrath of God

¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

Revelation 1:19

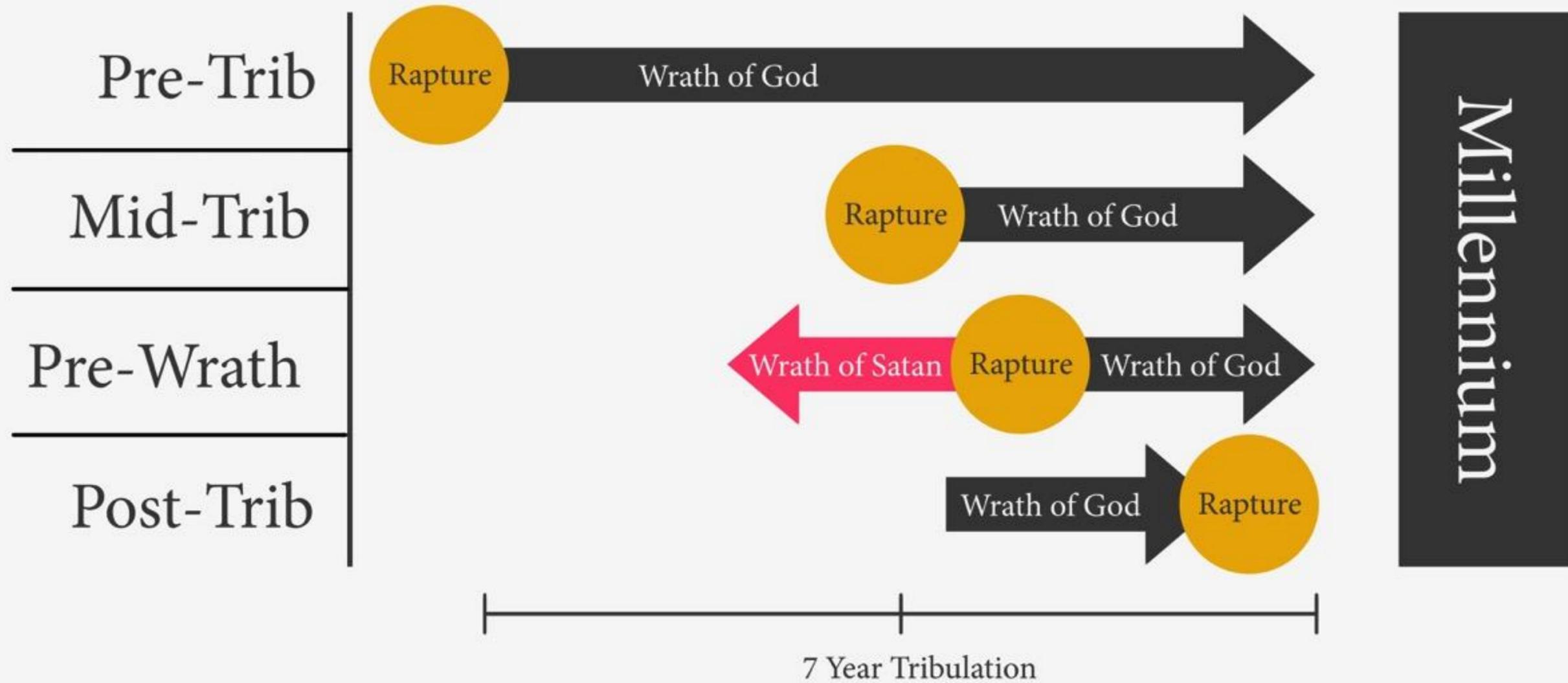
- The Vision of Christ. Revelation 1
- The Churches of Christ. Revelation 2-3
- The Consummation of Christ. Revelation 4-22



And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

Daniel 9:27

4 Views of the Timing of the Rapture



and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thessalonians 1:10

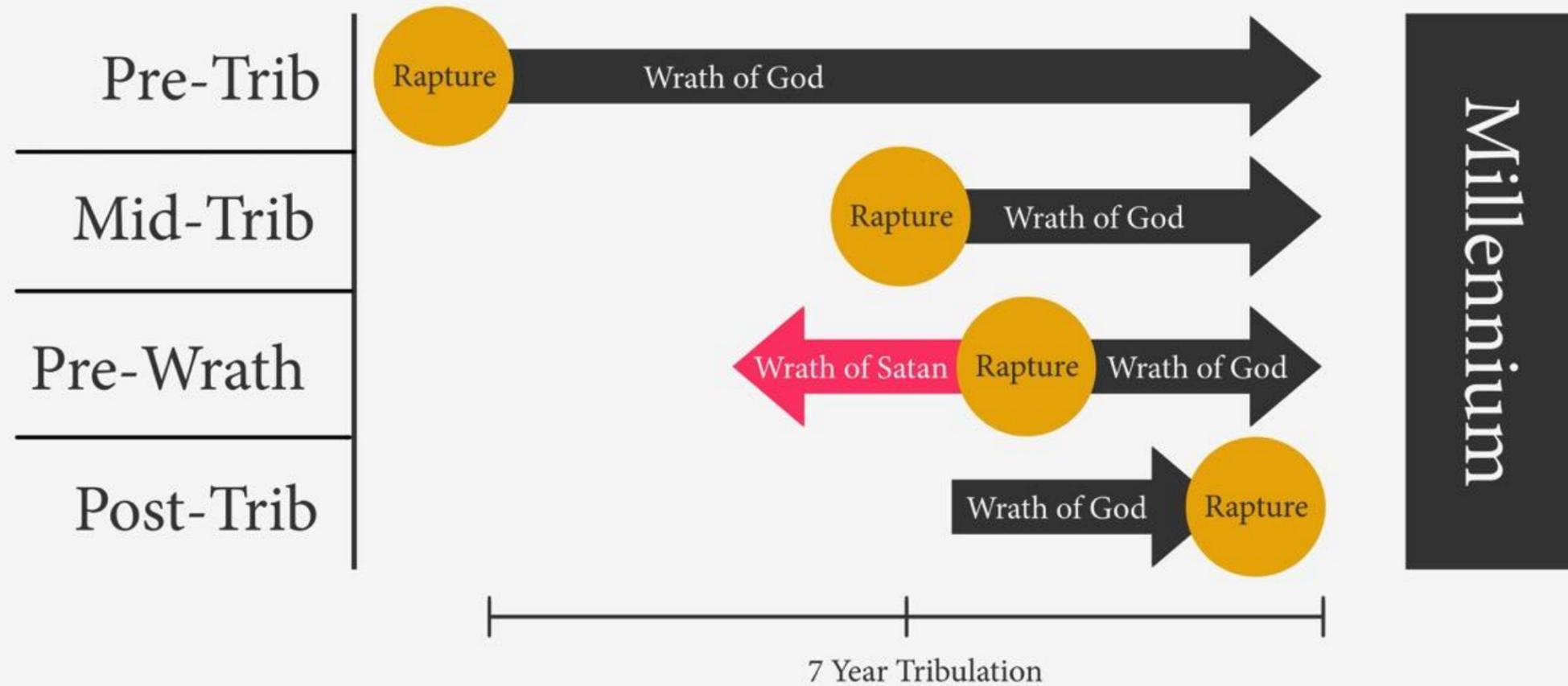
For **God has not destined us for wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 5:9

Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, **I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world**, to try those who dwell on the earth.

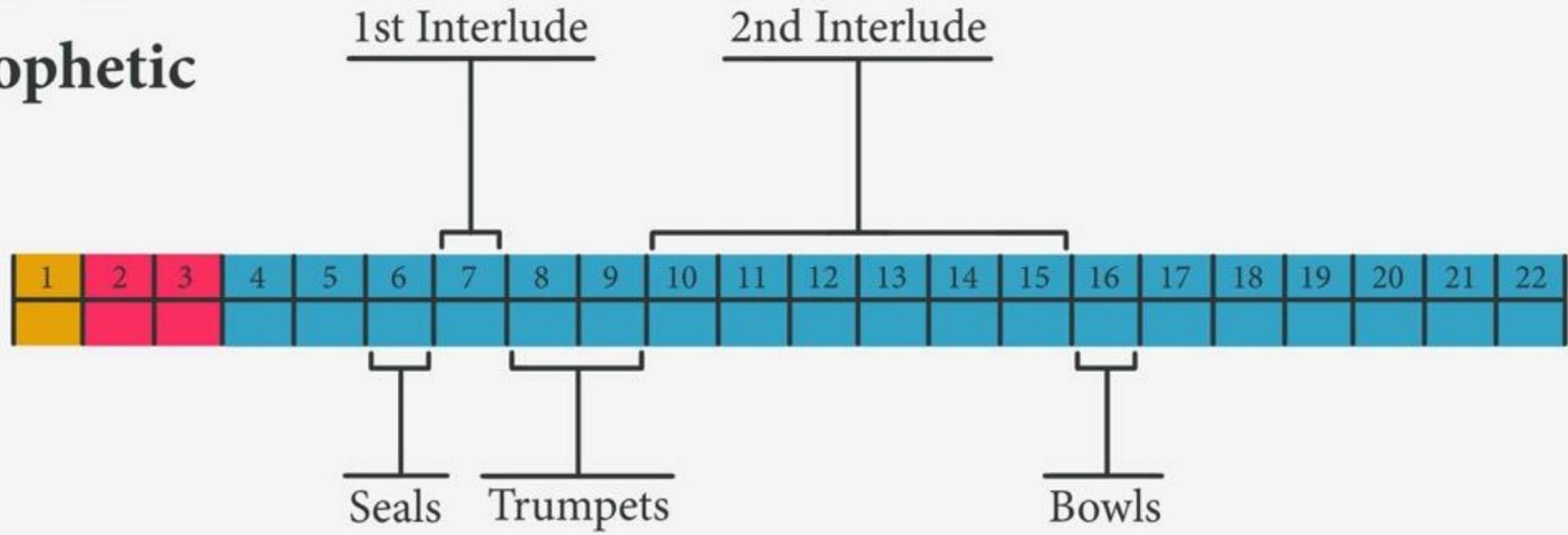
Revelation 3:10

4 Views of the Timing of the Rapture



Timeline

- Past
- Present
- Prophetic



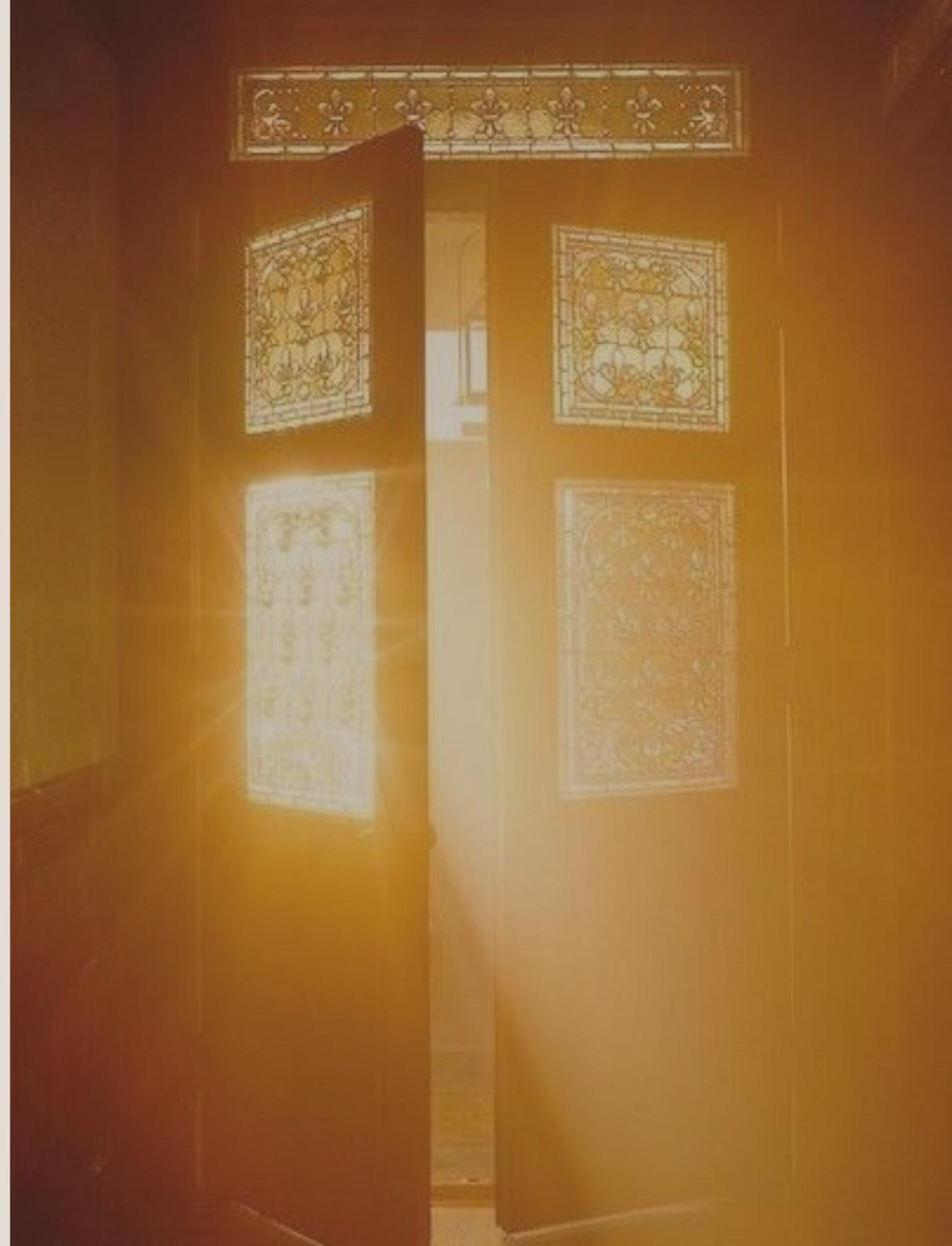
I. Four Seals & four Horseman. 6:1-8

II. Fifth Seal the Martyrs Plea. 6:9-11

III. Sixth Seal the Wrath of the Lamb. 6:12-17

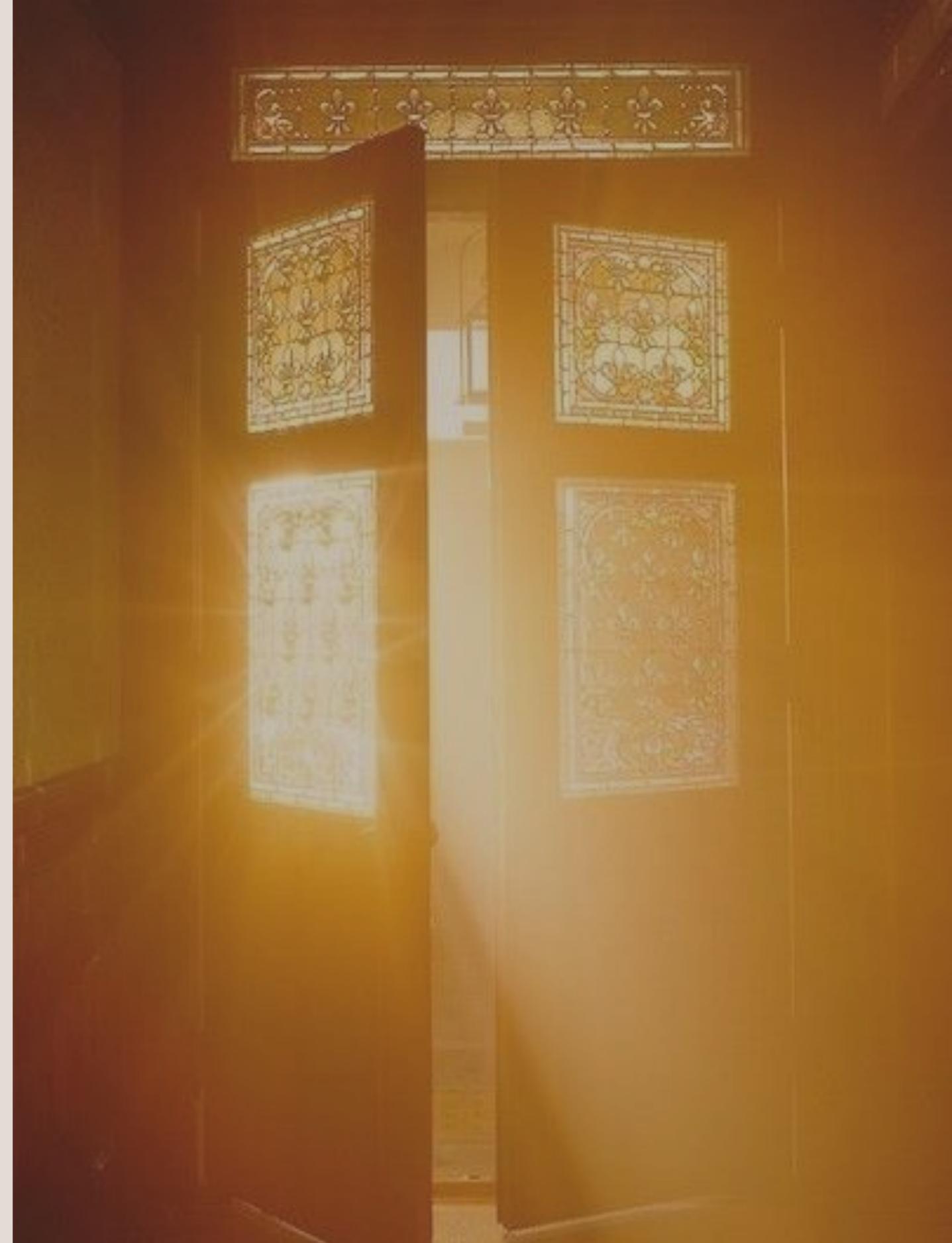
Four Seals & Four Horseman.

¹ Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!"



The First Seal: False Peace.

² And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.



The First Seal: False Peace.

RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE (REVELATION 6:2)	RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE (REVELATION 19:11-19)
Carries a bow without any arrows	Wields a sword
Wears a stephanos or victor's crown	Wears many crowns - the diadema or kingly crown
Initiates war	Destroys His enemies and brings an end to war
Commences the Tribulation	Climaxes the Tribulation

² And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

PARALLELS BETWEEN MATTHEW 24:4-14 & REVELATION 6-7

Matthew 24	Revelation 6-7
false Christs (24:4-5)	rider on the white horse (6:1-2)
wars and rumors of wars (24:6-7)	rider on the red horse (6:3-4)
famine (24:7)	rider on the black horse (6:5-6)
famines and plagues (24:7)	rider on a pale horse (6:7-8)
persecution on martyrdom (24:9-10)	martyrs (6:9-11)
terrors and great cosmic signs (Luke 21:11)	terror (6:12-17)
worldwide preaching of the gospel (24:14)	worldwide preaching of the gospel Ministry of the 144,000 (7:1-8)

Little Horn (Daniel 7:8); Prince to come (Daniel 9:26-27); Man of Lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:3); The Beast (Revelation 13); The Anti-Christ (1 John 2:18)

The Second Seal: War.

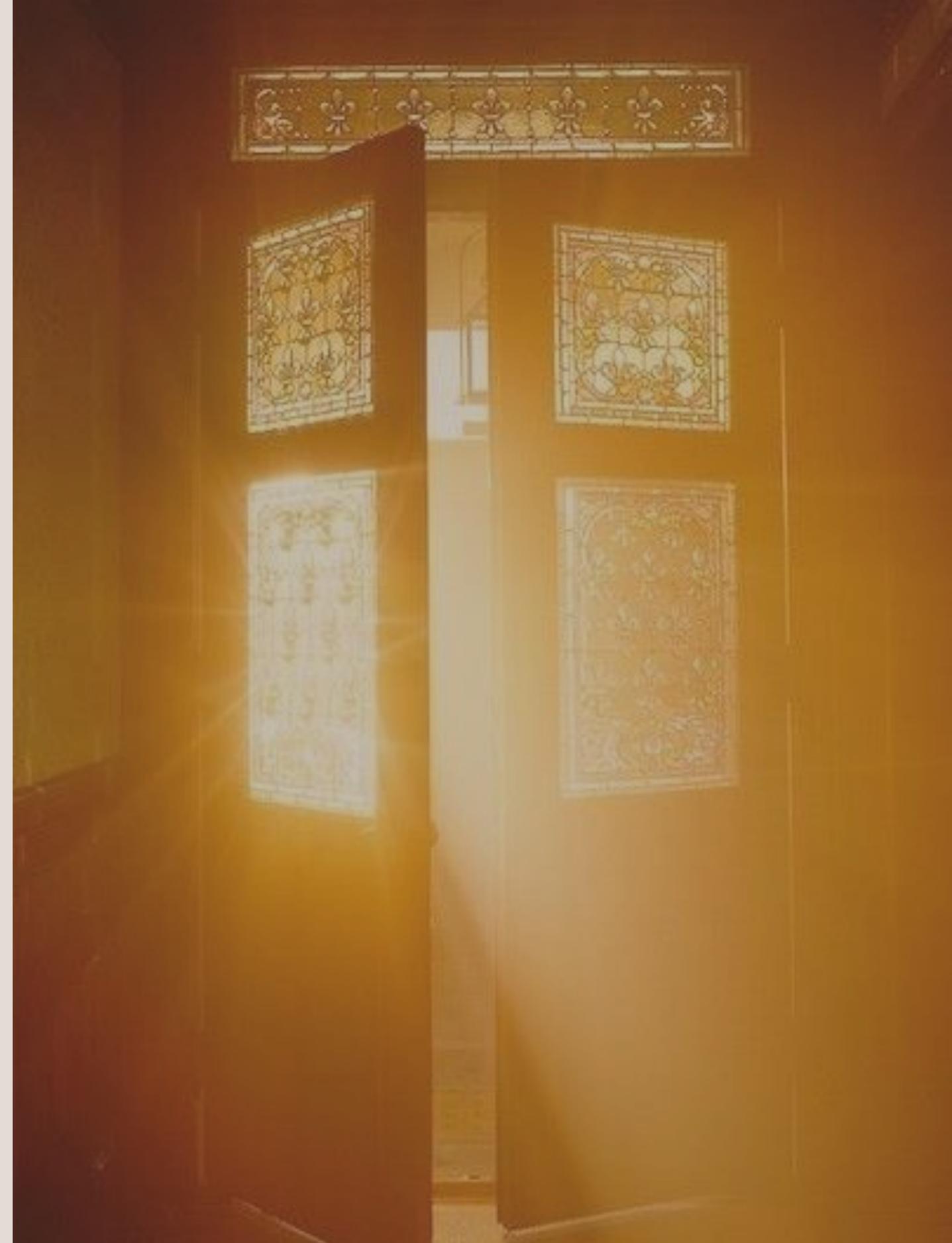
³ When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" ⁴ And out came another **horse, bright red.** Its rider was permitted **to take peace** from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:3

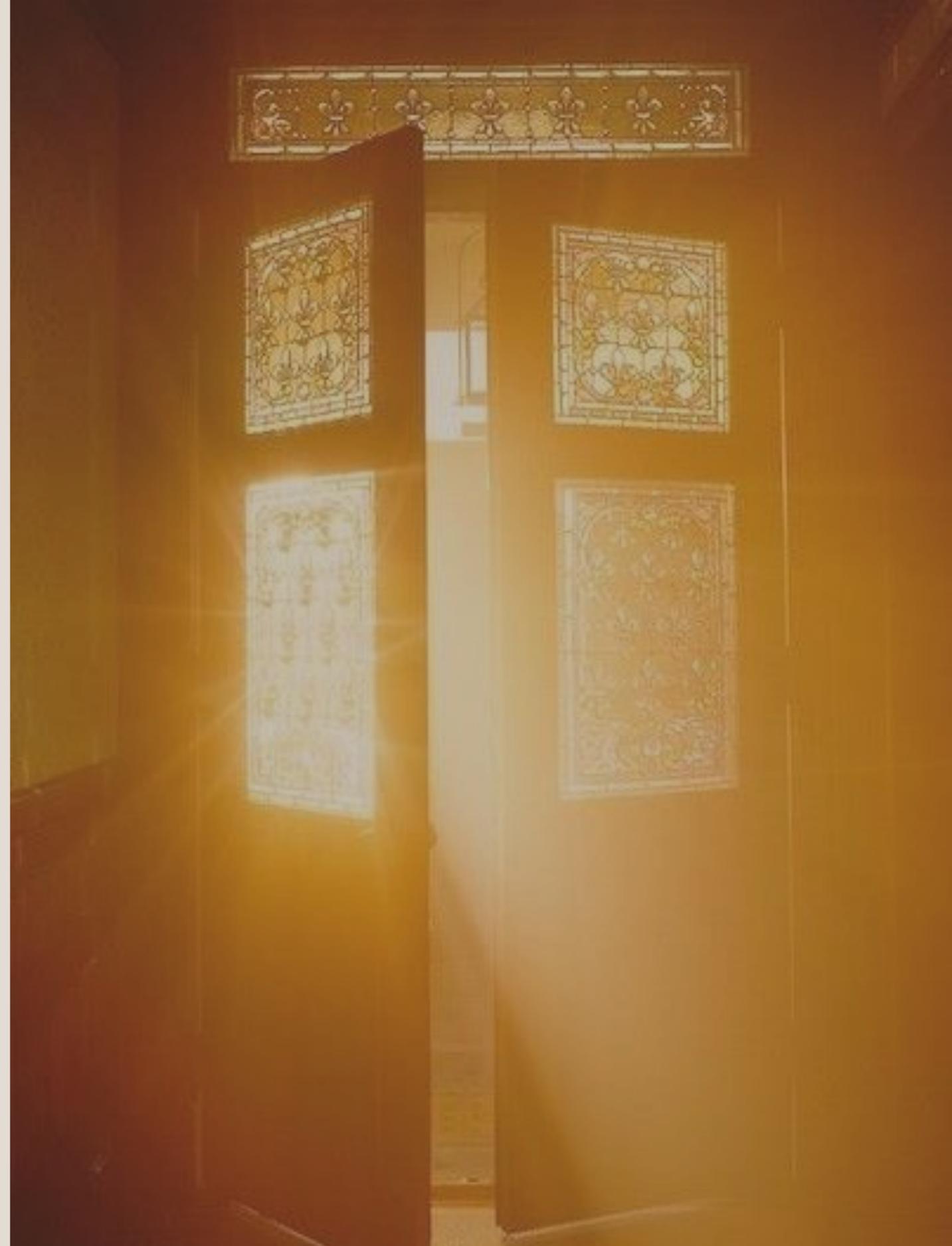
The Third Seal: Famine.

⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, **a black horse!** And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!”



The Fourth Seal: Death.

⁷ When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"
⁸ And I looked, and behold, **a pale horse!** And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.



The Fifth Seal: The Martyr's Plea.

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful unto death,** and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

We must come to the point where what matters most to us is faithfulness to God. Faithfulness to the word of God and the gospel must be more important to us than pleasure, more important to us than leisure, and more important than life itself. We must value faithfulness to God and his word more than we value the ability to go on living our peaceful, happy lives. That is what it means to be “faithful unto death.”

Knowing that others who have been faithful unto death before us are now in the presence of God can liberate us from any fear we may have about what comes after death. Death is not the end. This life is not the ultimate reason for your existence. You exist for the glory of God. Live in a way that testifies to that reality. Die in a way that testifies to that reality.

James Hamilton Jr.

The Fifth Seal: The Martyr's Plea.

¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Romans 12:19

The Fifth Seal: The Martyr's Plea.

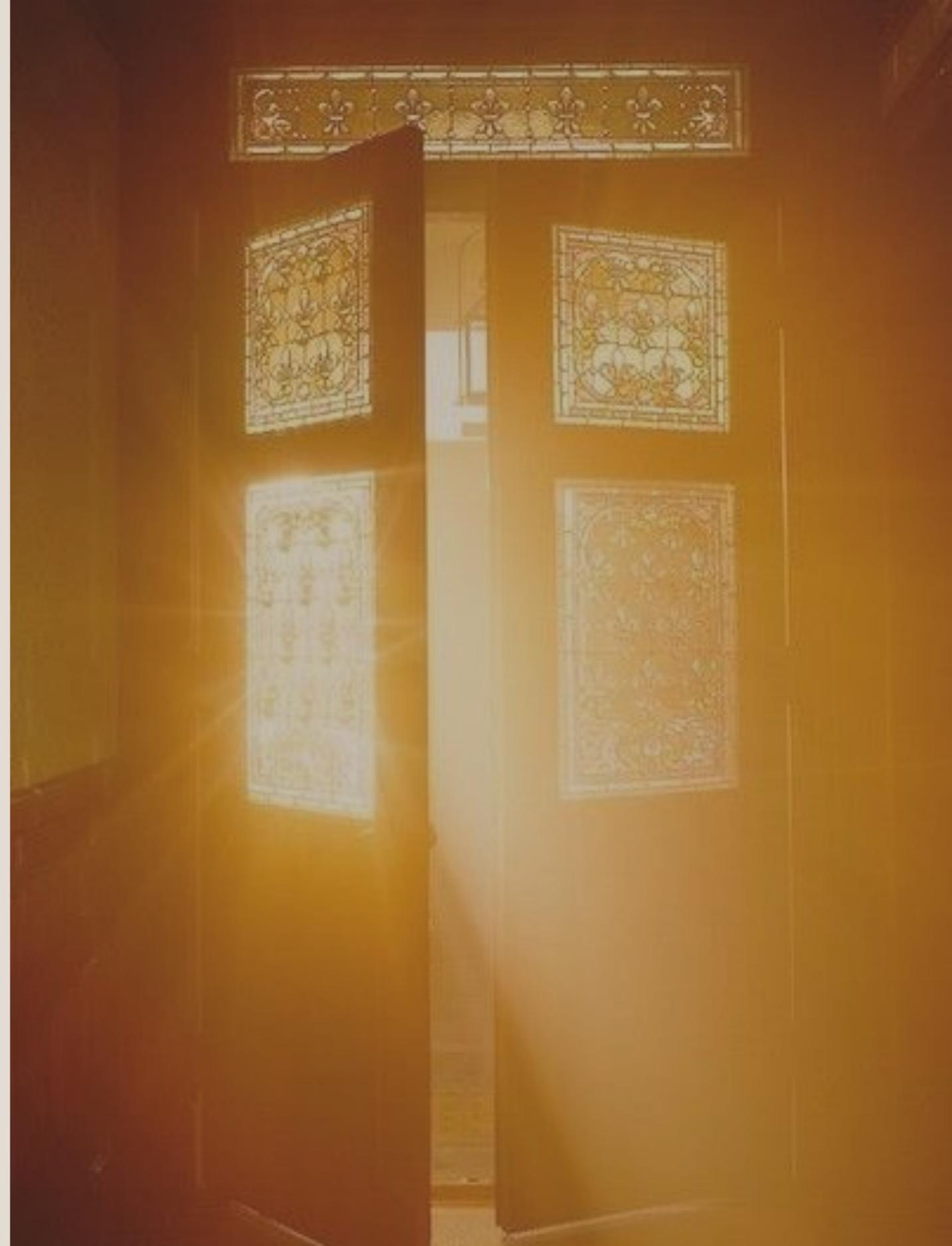
¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice,
“O Sovereign Lord, holy and true,
how long before you will judge
and avenge our blood on those
who dwell on the earth?”

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

The Fifth Seal: The Martyr's Plea.

¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.



The Sixth Seal: The Wrath of the Lamb.

¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

The Sixth Seal: The Wrath of the Lamb.

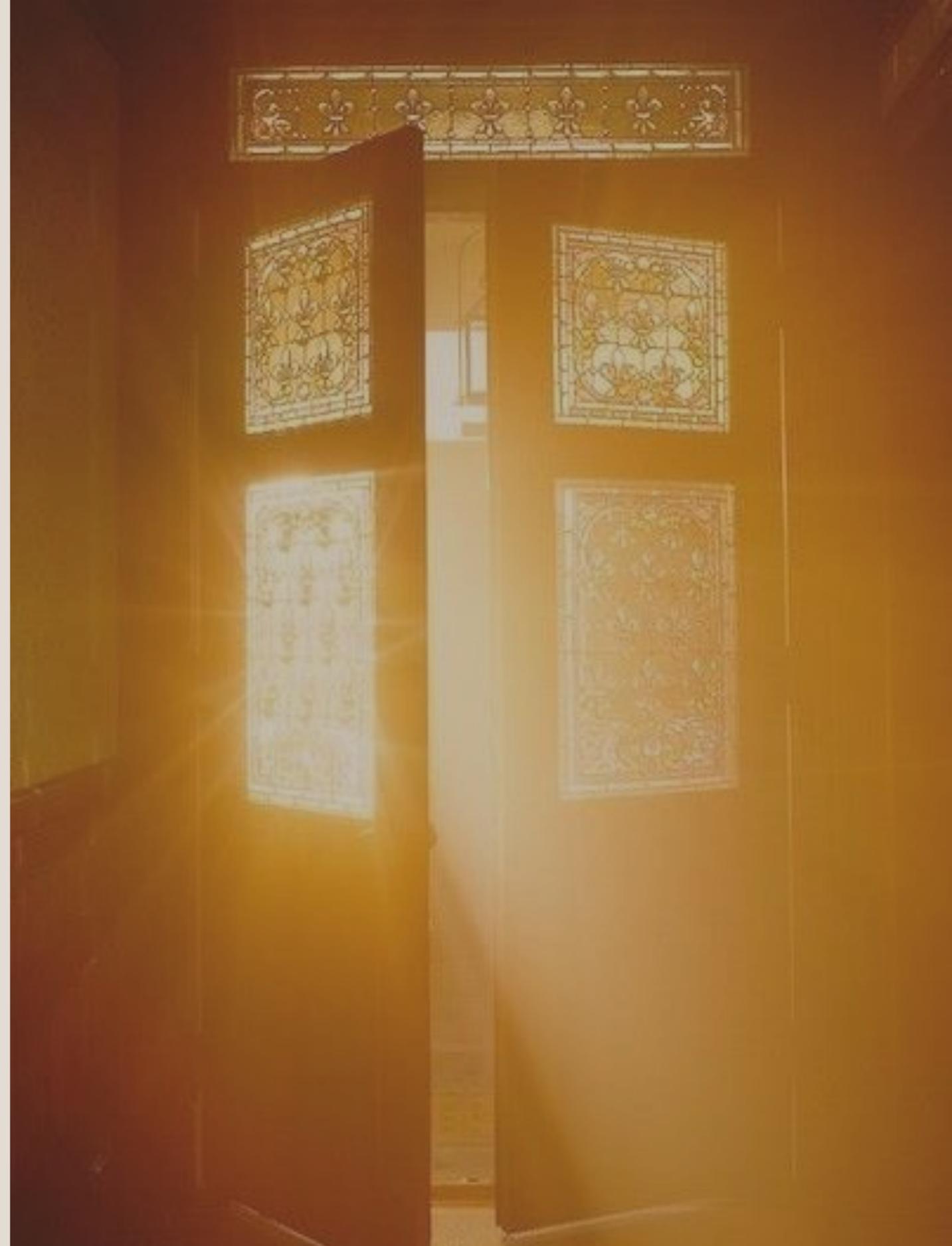
¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the **wrath of the Lamb**, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, **and who can stand?**”

The Response

1) Unbelievers, repent & place faith in Jesus.

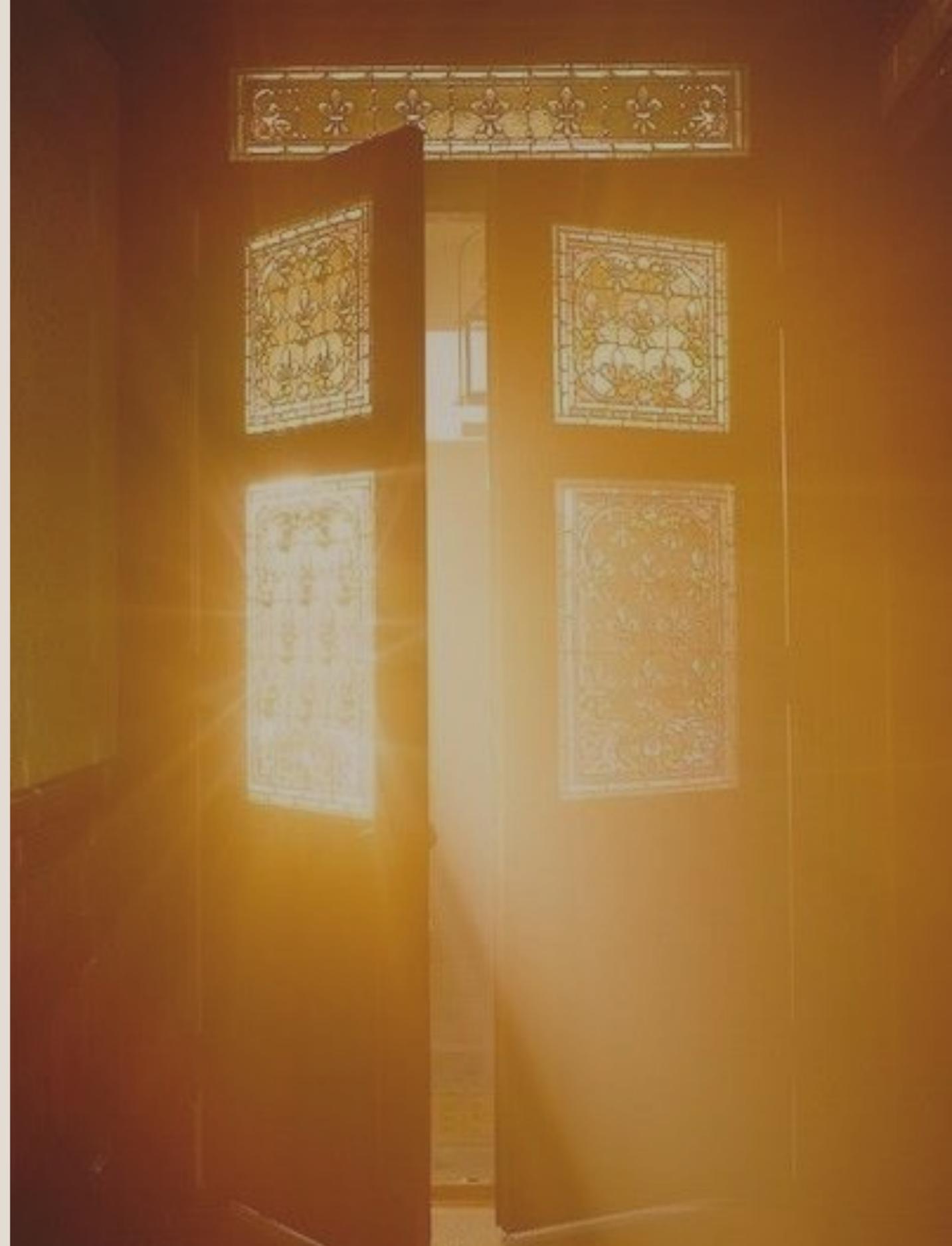
“If men and women will not yield to the love of God, and be changed by the grace of God, then there is no way for them to escape the wrath of God”

Warren Wiersbe



The Response

2) Believers, take comfort in our Holy, True, & Sovereign God.



The Response

2) Believers, take comfort in our Holy, True, & Sovereign --
-----God.

3) Believers, let prophecy motivate you to tell others about Jesus.

