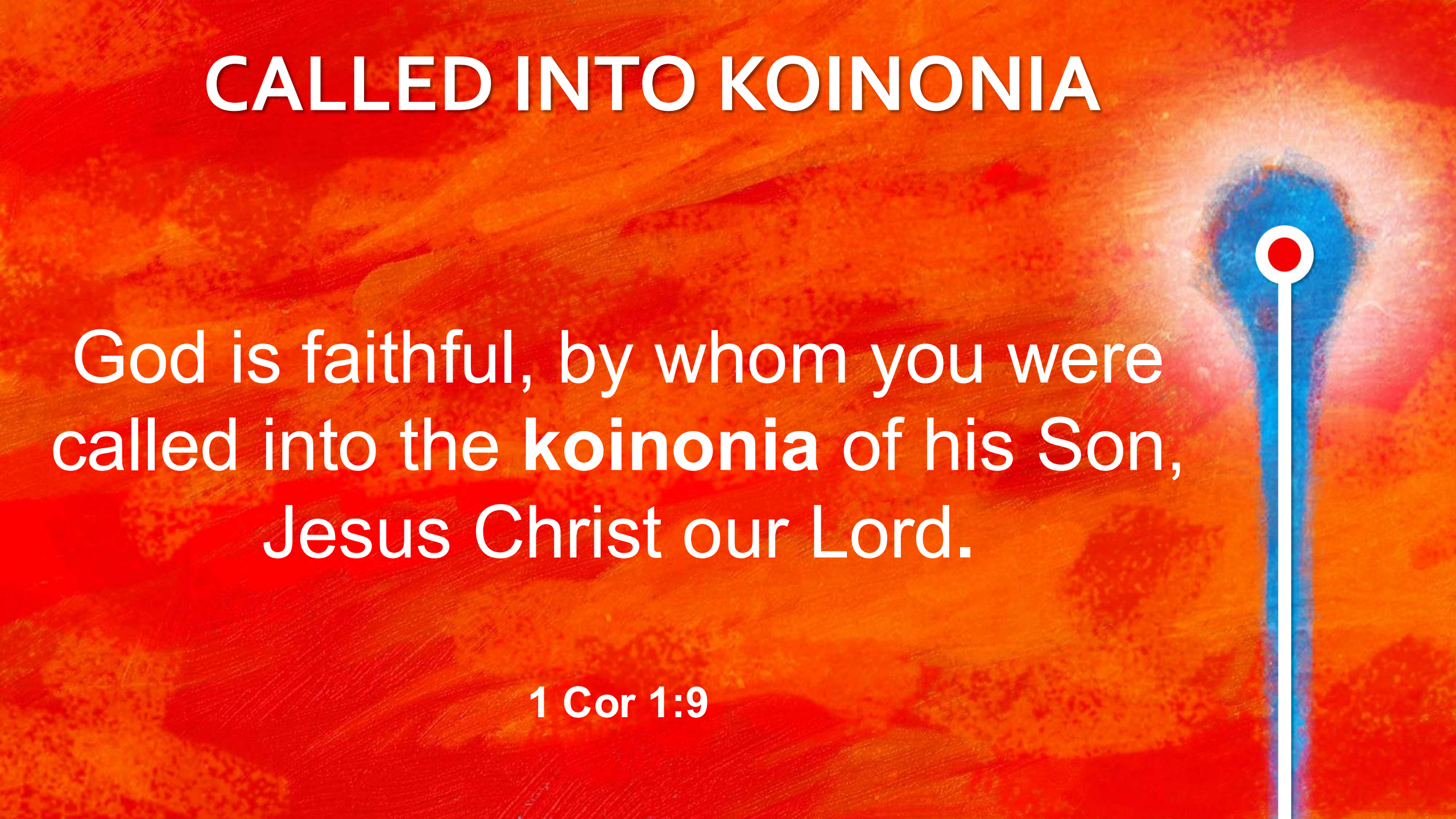
# DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER

## Adventisms within Adventism

Tihomir Lazić | Poland | 19 Sep 2026

# CALLED INTO KOINONIA



God is faithful, by whom you were called into the **koinonia** of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**1 Cor 1:9**

# CALLED TO COMMUNION, LIVING IN DIVISION

## 1 Cor 1. 9

…called into the **koinonia** of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## AND THEN THE VERY NEXT VERSE…

## 1 Cor 1.10

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that **there be NO DIVISIONS among you**, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.



Called in COMMUNION.
Living in FRAGMENTATION.

KOINONIA → SCHISMATA



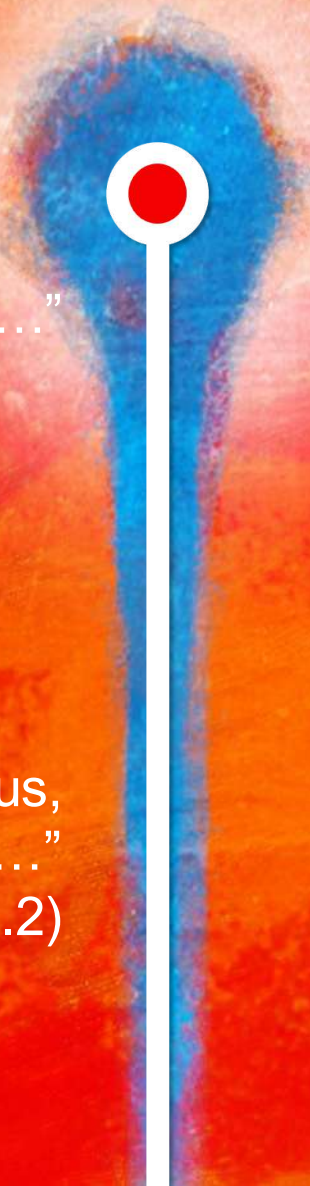
# KOINONIA IN A MESSY CHURCH

## CORINTH

Factions & polarization
Sexual misconduct
Lawsuits between believers
Marriage & sexuality disputes
Food, idols & conscience
Rich-poor divisions
Competition over spiritual gifts
Disorder in worship
Disagreement about resurrection

"I belong to Paul…Apolos…Cephas…"

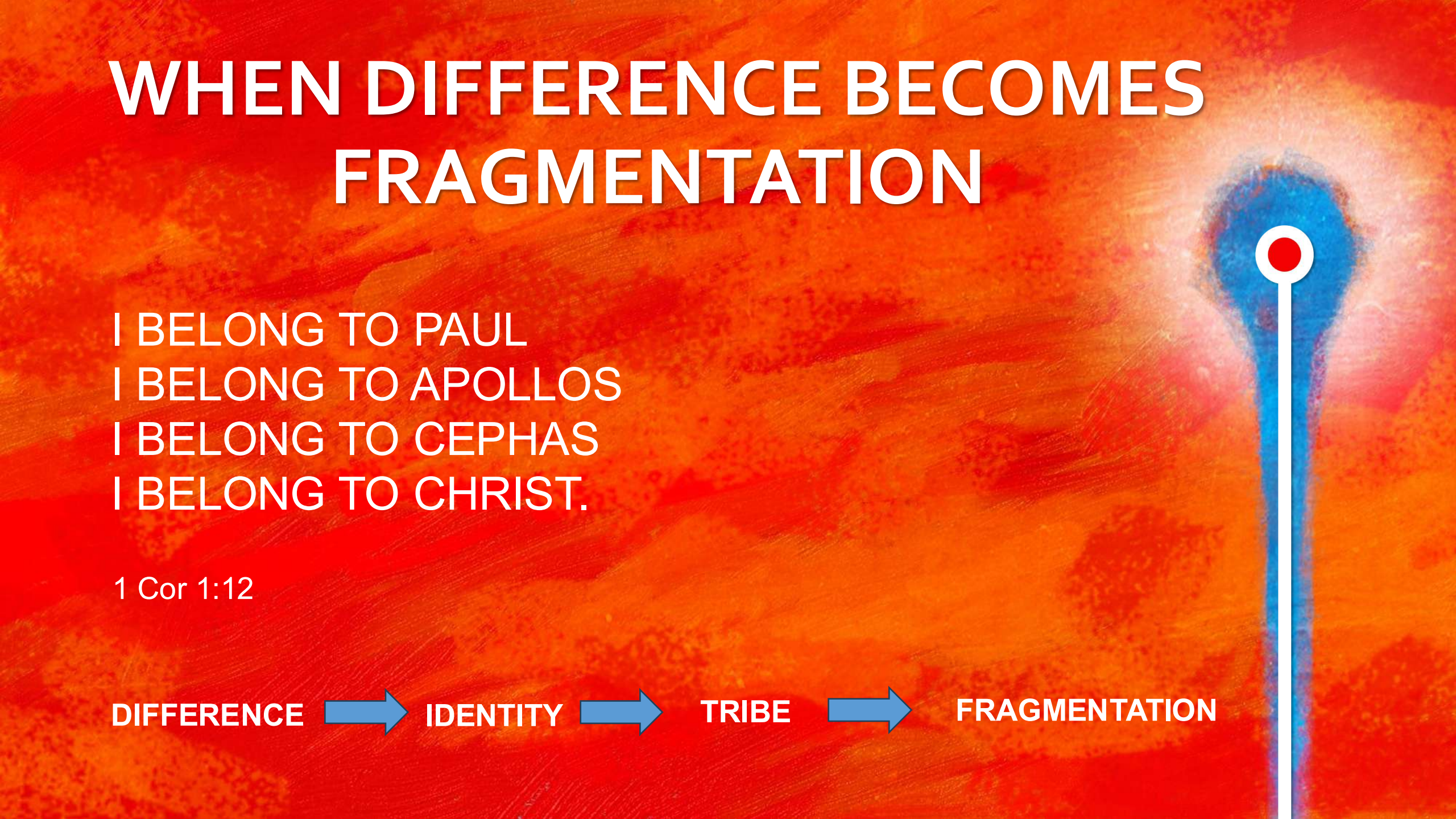
"…sanctified in Christ Jesus,
CALLED TO BE SAINTS…"
(1 Cor 1.2)



# WHEN DIFFERENCE BECOMES FRAGMENTATION

I BELONG TO PAUL
I BELONG TO APOLLOS
I BELONG TO CEPHAS
I BELONG TO CHRIST.

1 Cor 1:12



# A SIGN OF IMMATURITY?

**”For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly?”**

1 Cor 3.3

**Sarkikos / Pneumatikos**

**HOW WE HANDLE DIFFERENCE REVEALS OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY.**



# DIFFERENCE IS NOT THE PROBLEM

**”I PLANTED**
**Apollos WATERED,**
**But God gave the GROWTH”**

1 Cor 3.6

**DIFFERENT PEOPLE.**
**DIFFERENT CONTRIBUTIONS.**
**GOD GIVES THE GROWTH.**



# DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER

1 Cor 3.8

**”The one who plants and the one who waters are ONE…”**

**DIFFERENCE ≠ DIVISION**

**Different contributions.**
**One purpose.**
**One God.**

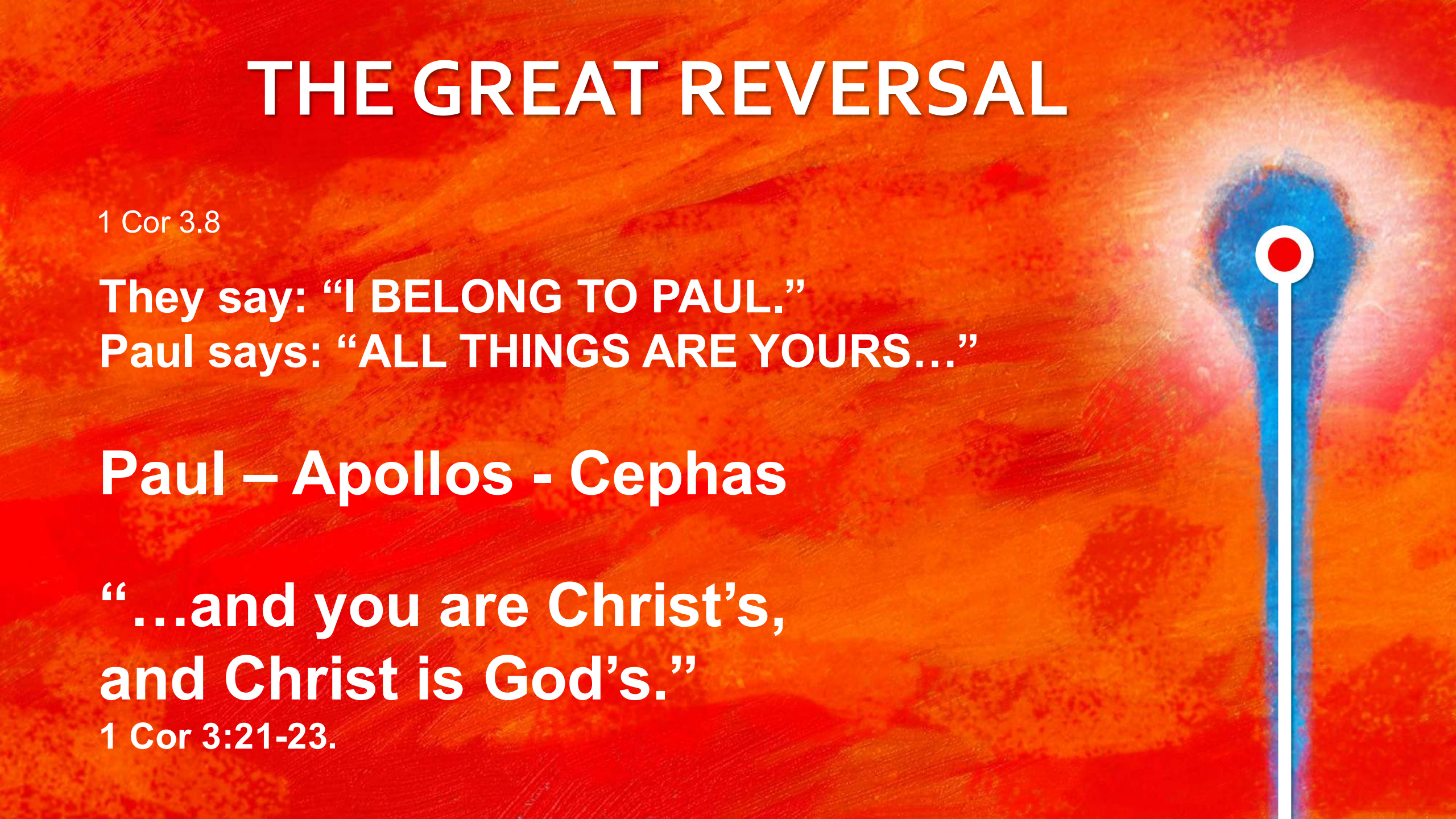
# THE GREAT REVERSAL

1 Cor 3.8

**They say: "I BELONG TO PAUL."**
**Paul says: "ALL THINGS ARE YOURS…"**

**Paul – Apollos - Cephas**

**"…and you are Christ's,**
**and Christ is God's."**
**1 Cor 3:21-23.**



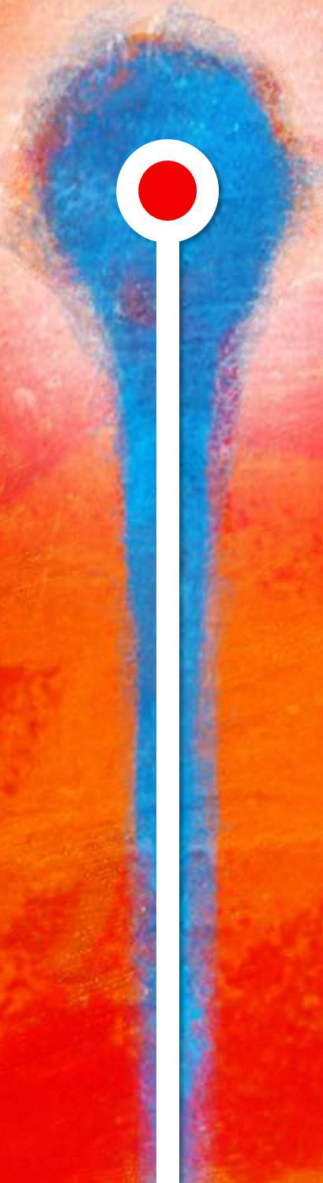
# TWO FAILED RESPONSES TO DIFFERENCE

## FRAGMENTATION

**Different, but not together.**

## UNIFROMITY

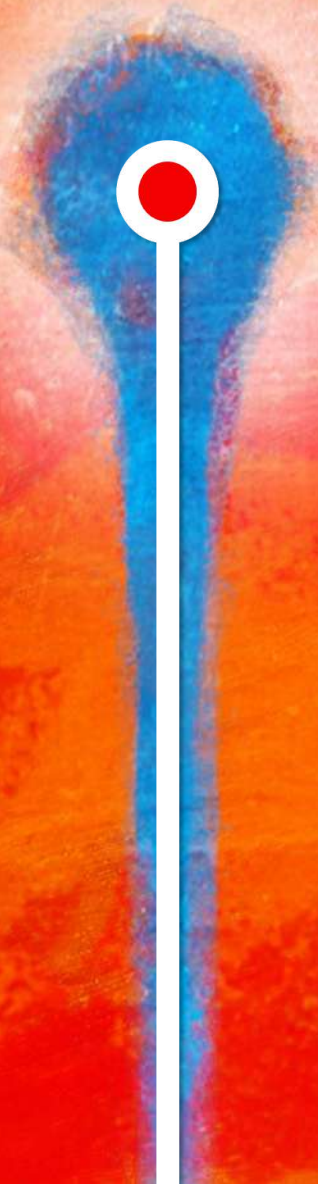
**Together, but not different.**



# ANOTHER POSSIBILITY

## DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER

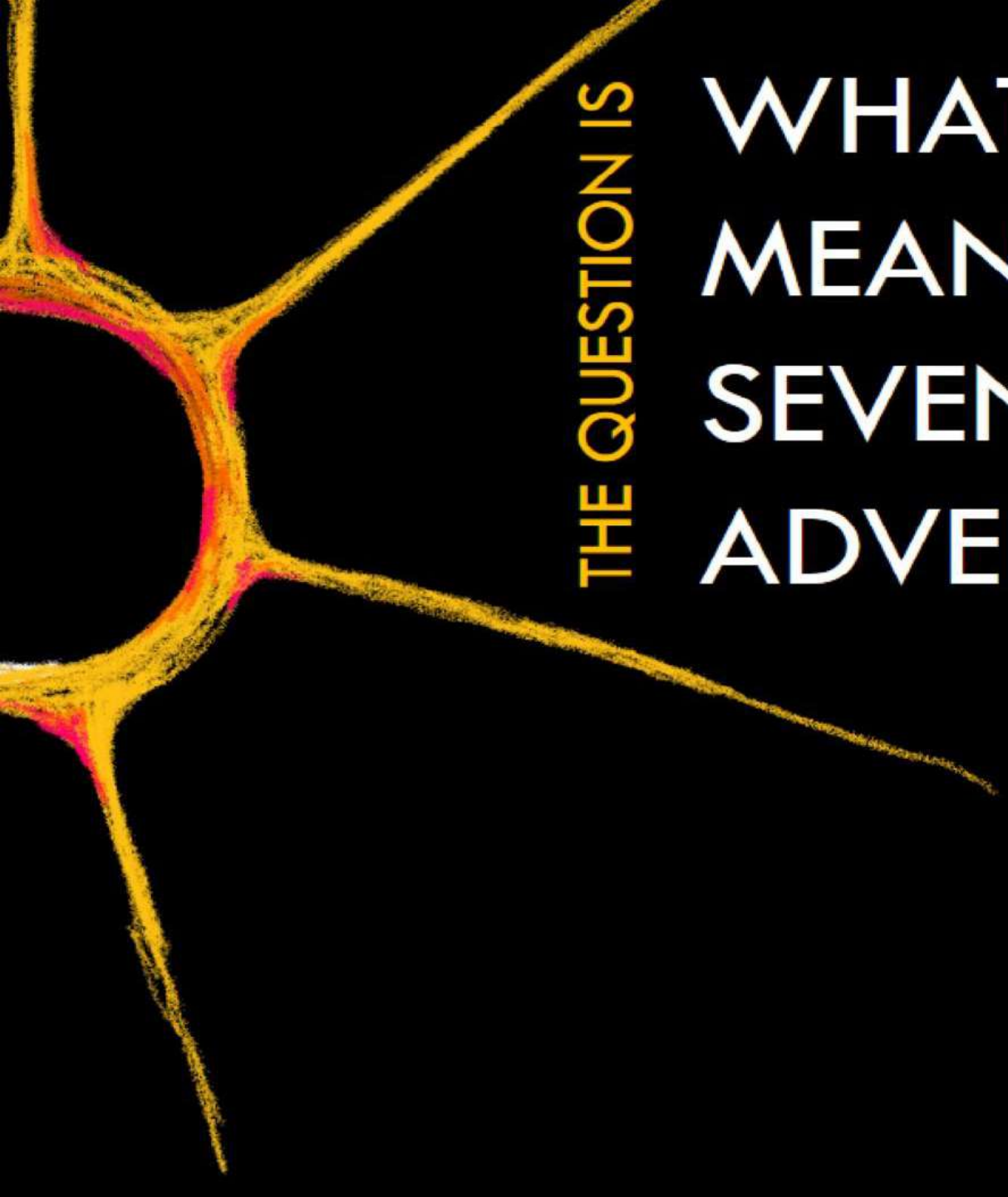
**Communion without uniformity.**
**Difference without fragmentation.**



# OUR QUESTION

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE CHURCH CONTAINS DIFFERENT VISIONS OF FAITHFULNESS?

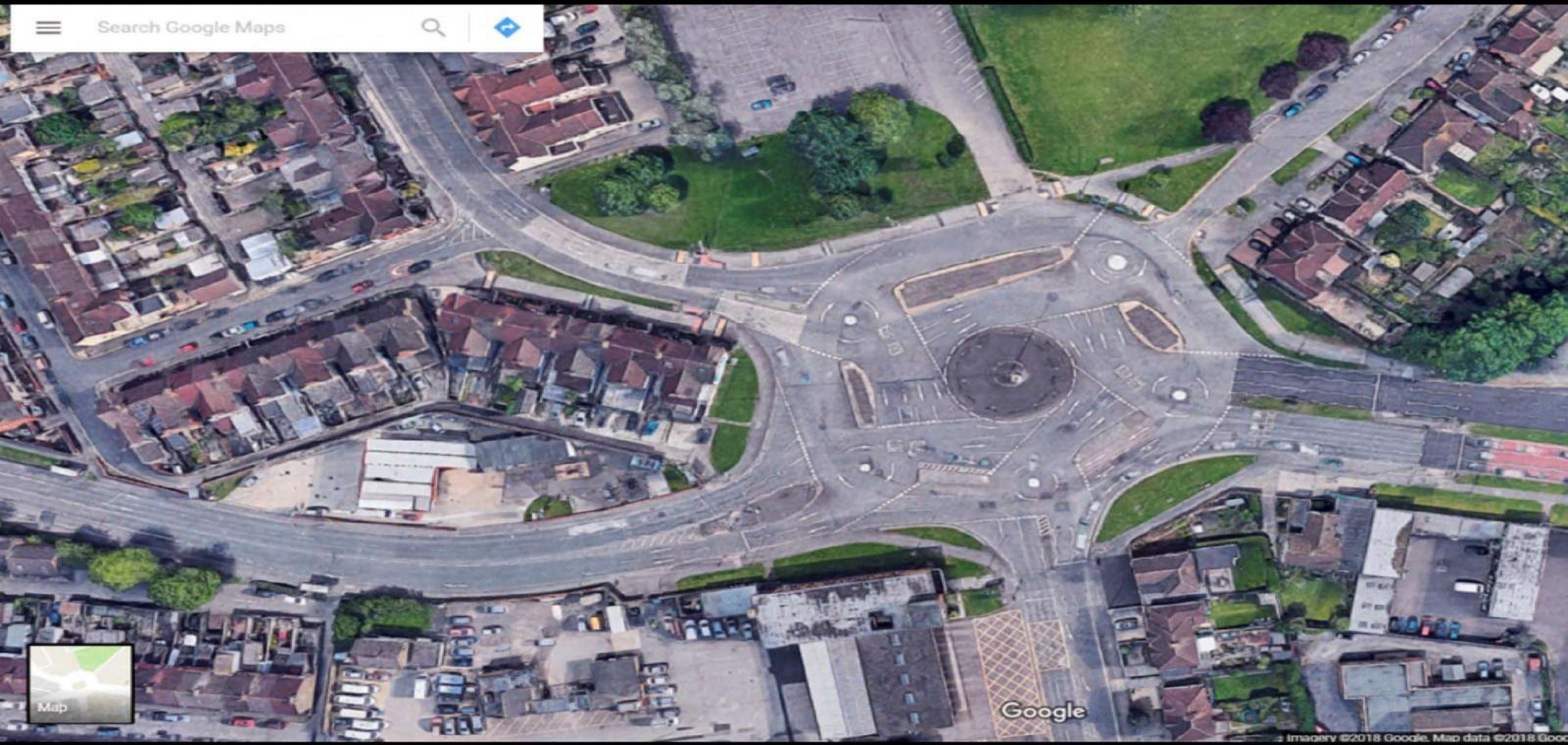
### WHEN DOES DIVERSITY ENRICH?
### WHEN DOES DIVERSITY FRAGMENT?



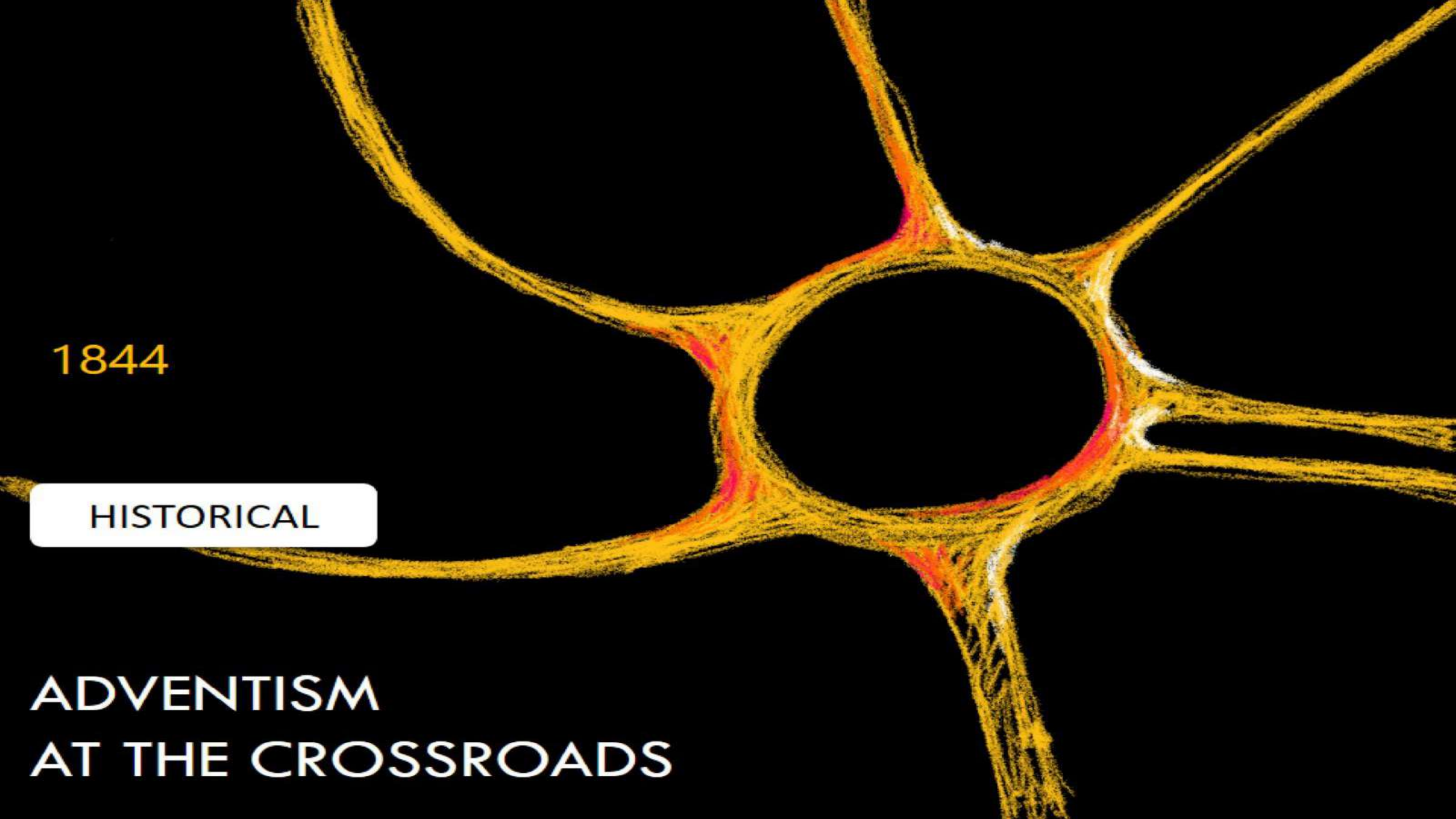
THE QUESTION IS

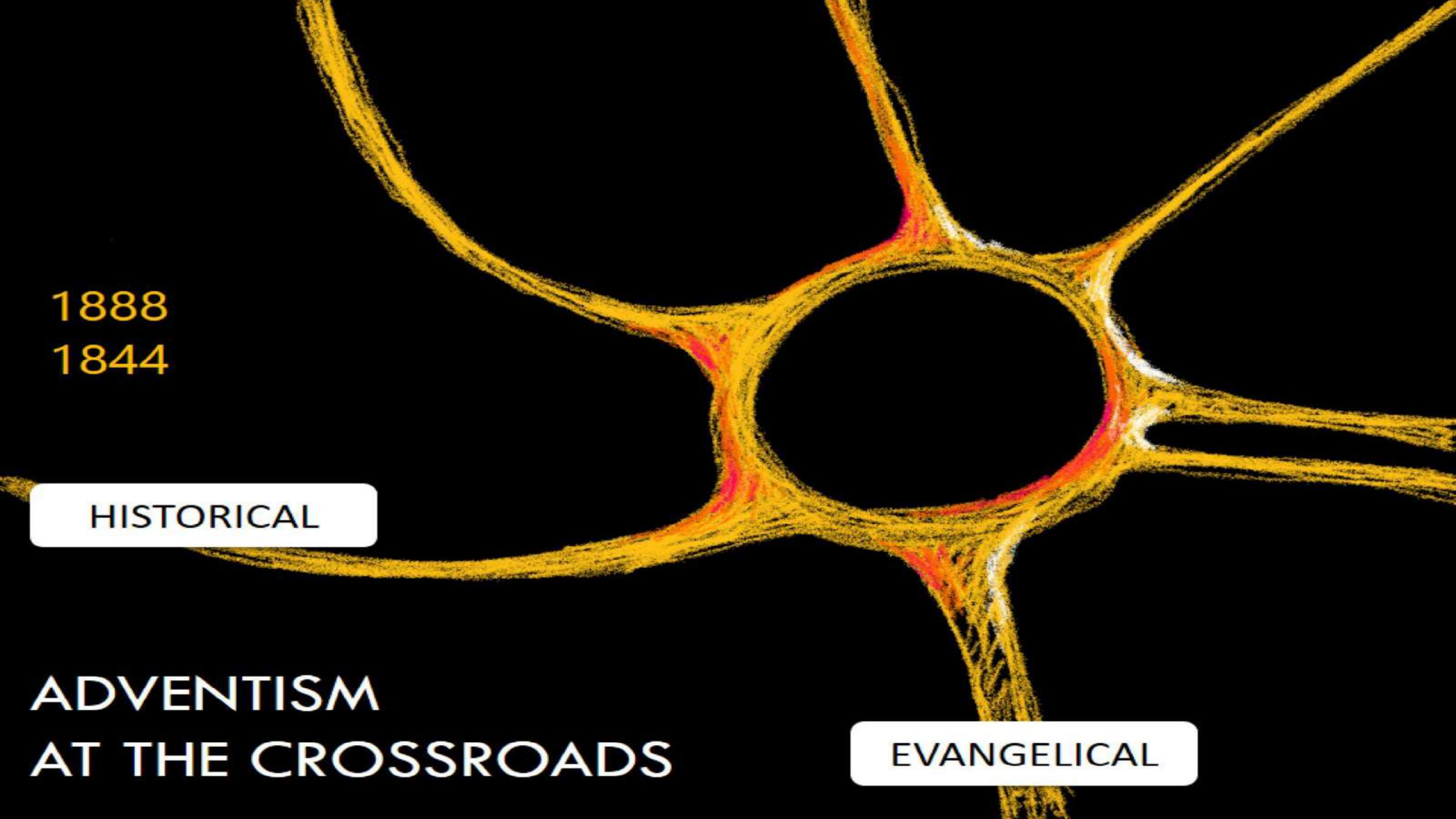
# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST?

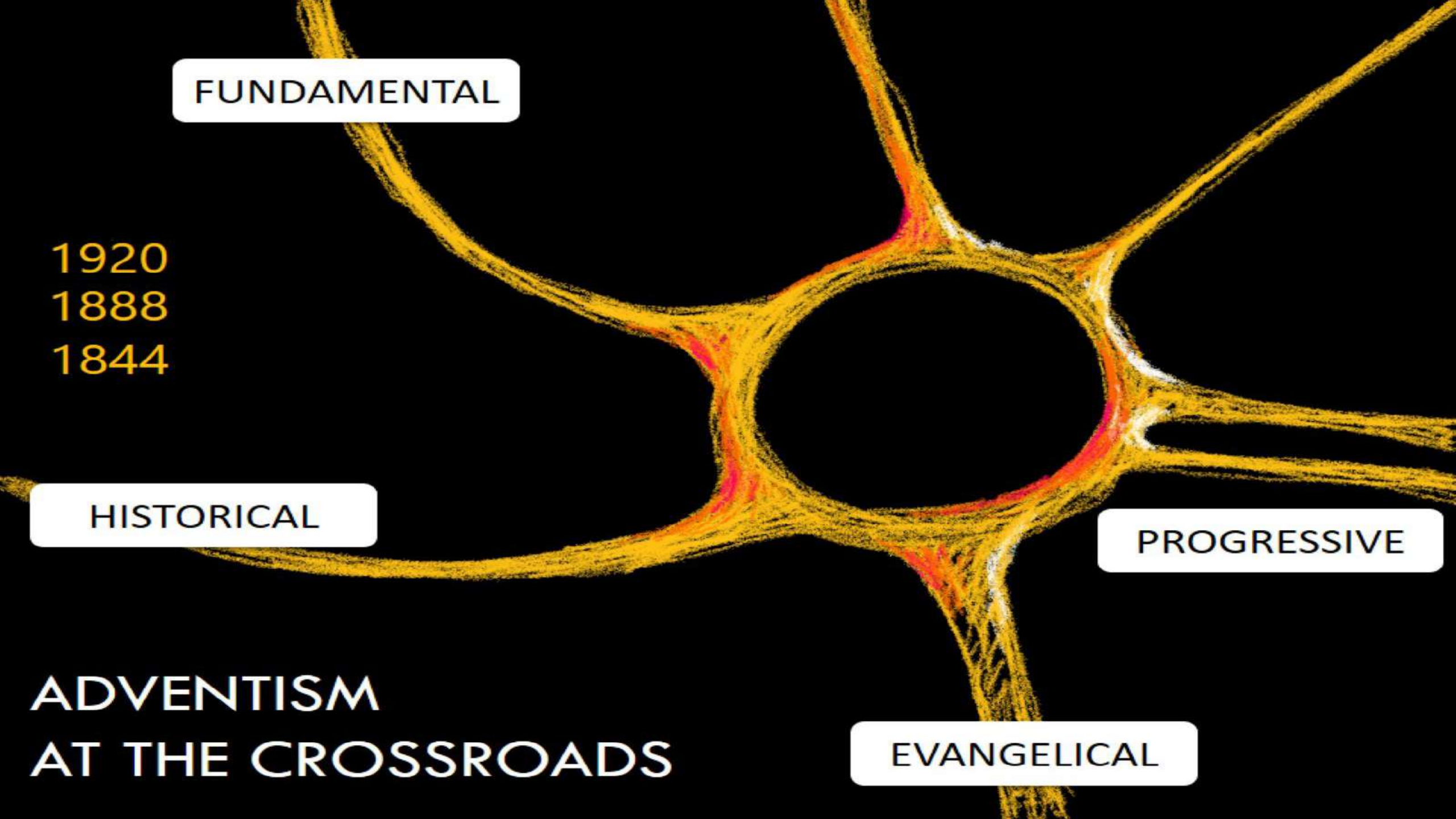

THE MAGIC ROUNDABOUT
Motorway M4
Marlborough (A 346)
Burford (A 361)
Oxford (A 420)
R
R
Cirencester
A 4289
(A 419)
Wroughton
B 4289
(A 4361)

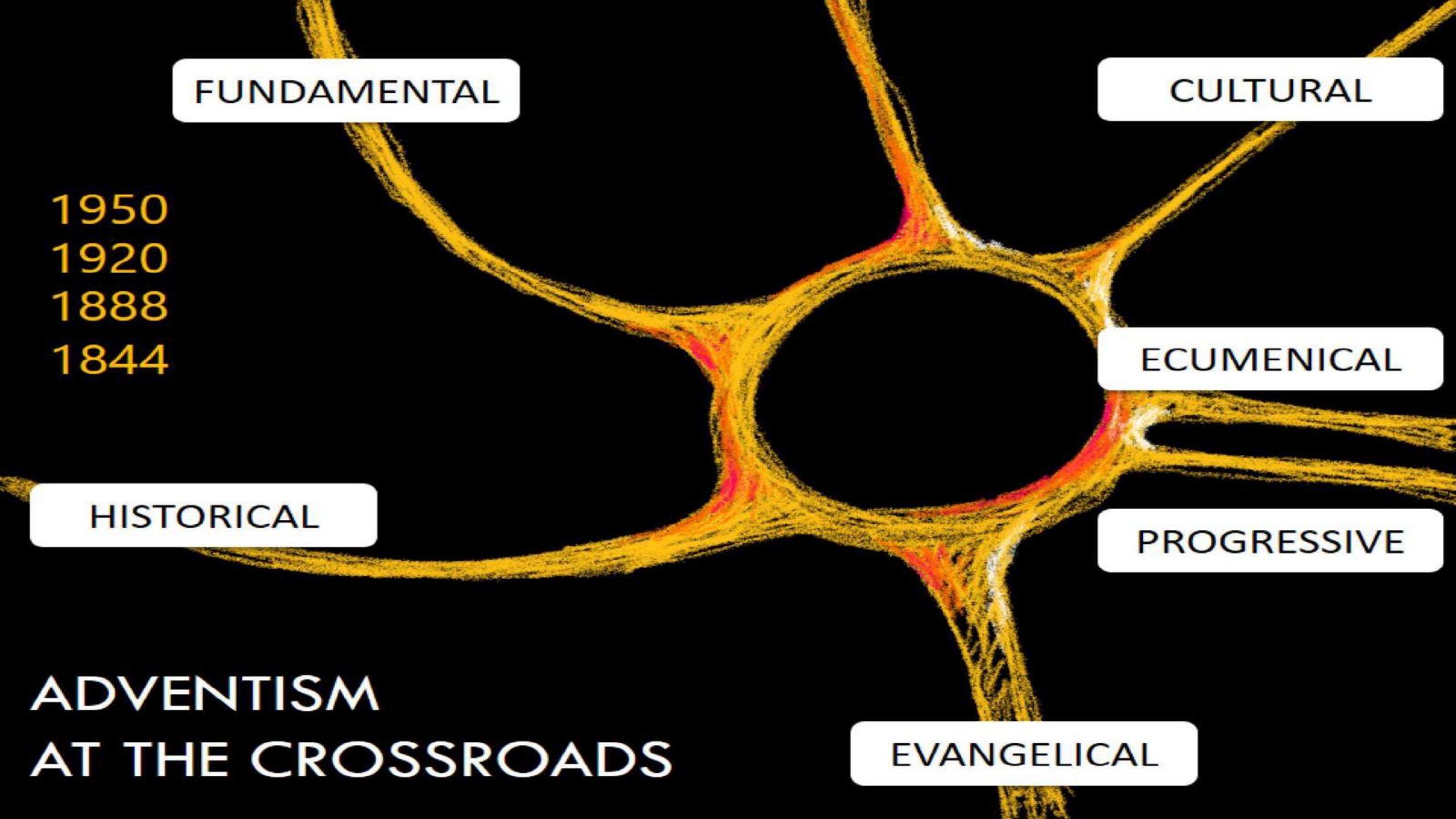

Search Google Maps
Map
Google
Imagery ©2018 Google, Map data ©2018 Goog

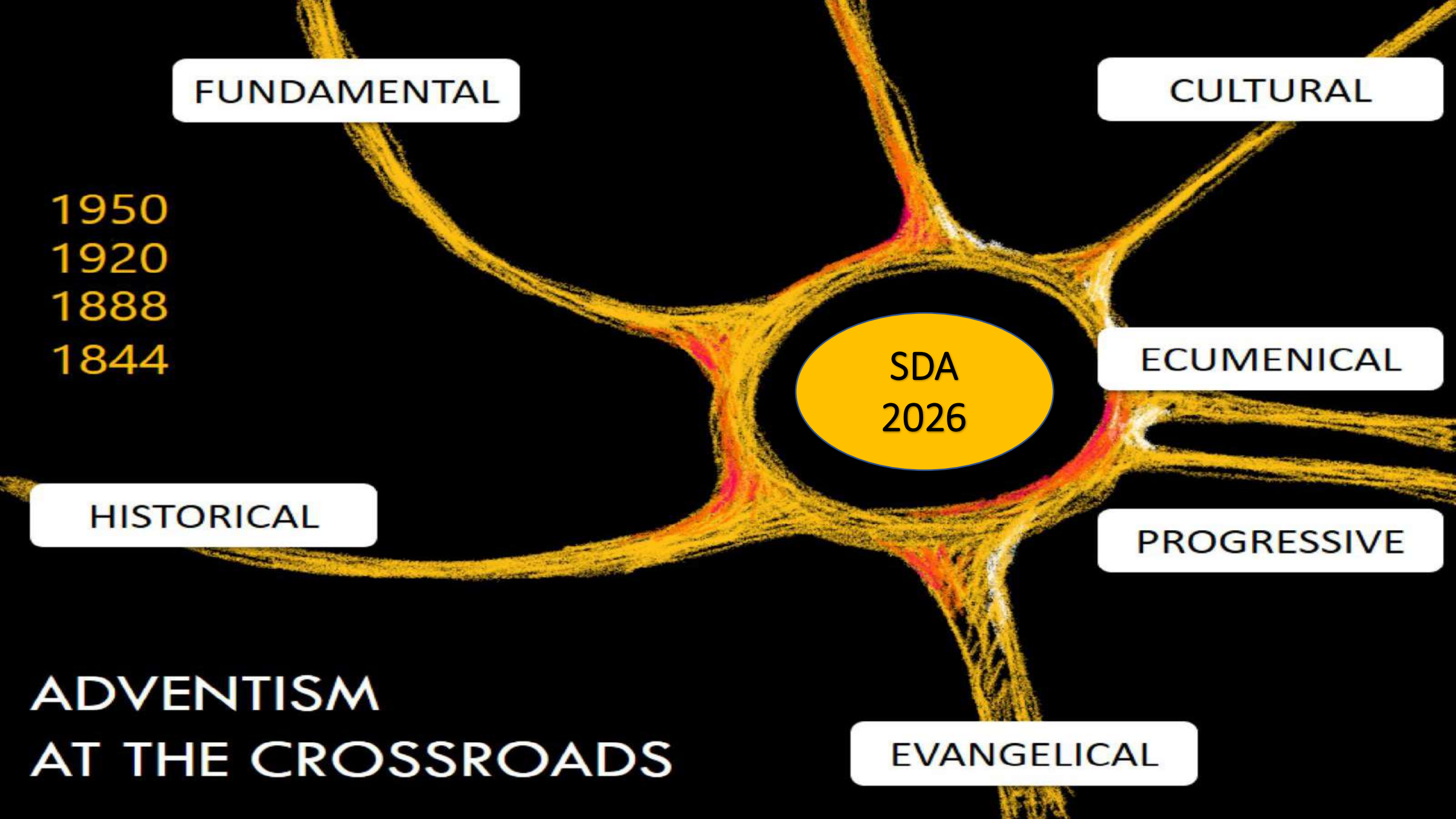

ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS

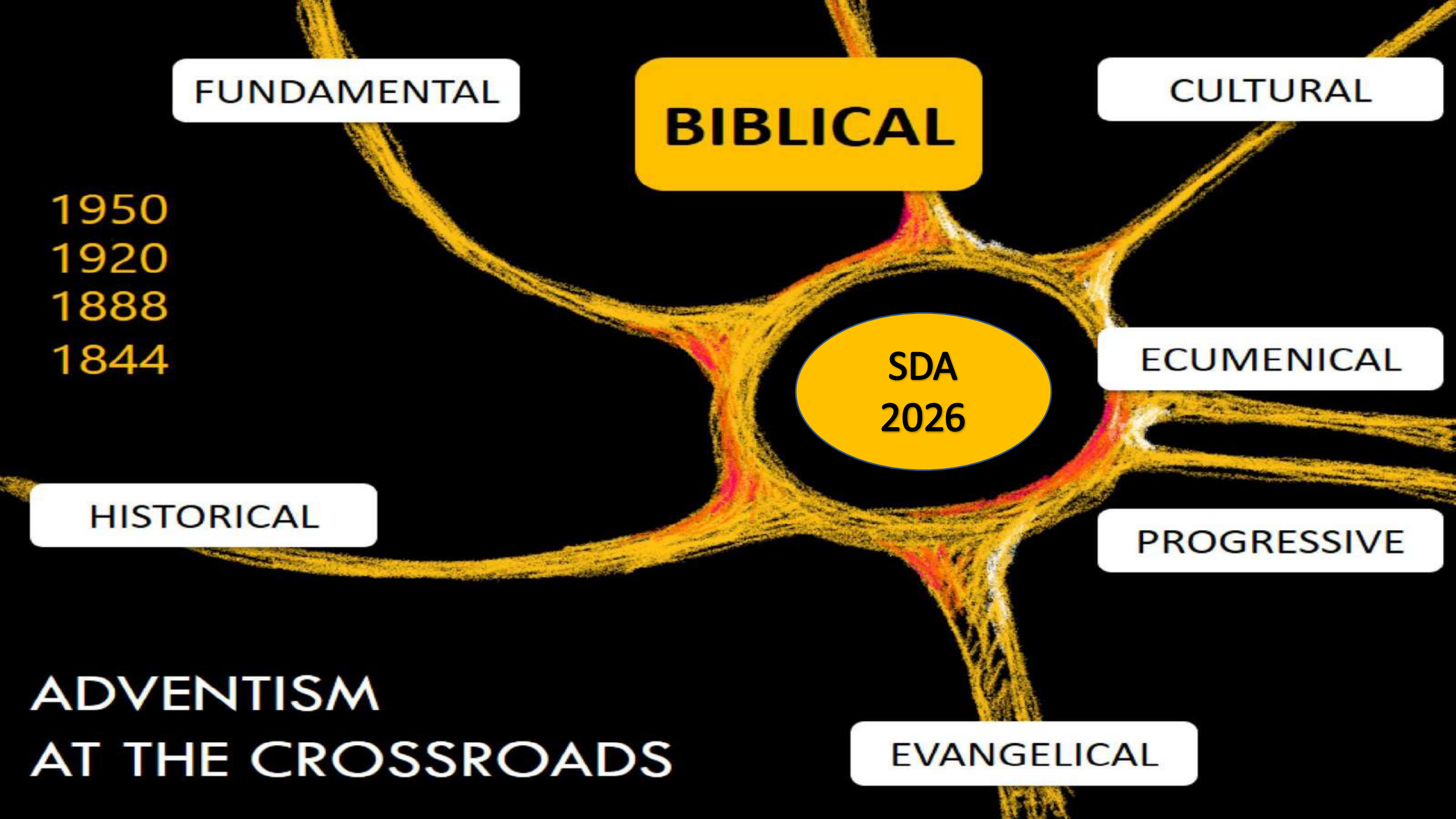

1844
HISTORICAL
ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS


1888
1844
HISTORICAL
ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS
EVANGELICAL


FUNDAMENTAL
1920
1888
1844
HISTORICAL
PROGRESSIVE
ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS
EVANGELICAL


FUNDAMENTAL
CULTURAL
1950
1920
1888
1844
ECUMENICAL
HISTORICAL
PROGRESSIVE
ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS
EVANGELICAL


FUNDAMENTAL
CULTURAL
1950
1920
1888
1844
SDA
2026
ECUMENICAL
HISTORICAL
PROGRESSIVE
ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS
EVANGELICAL




# ADVENTISM AT THE CROSSROADS

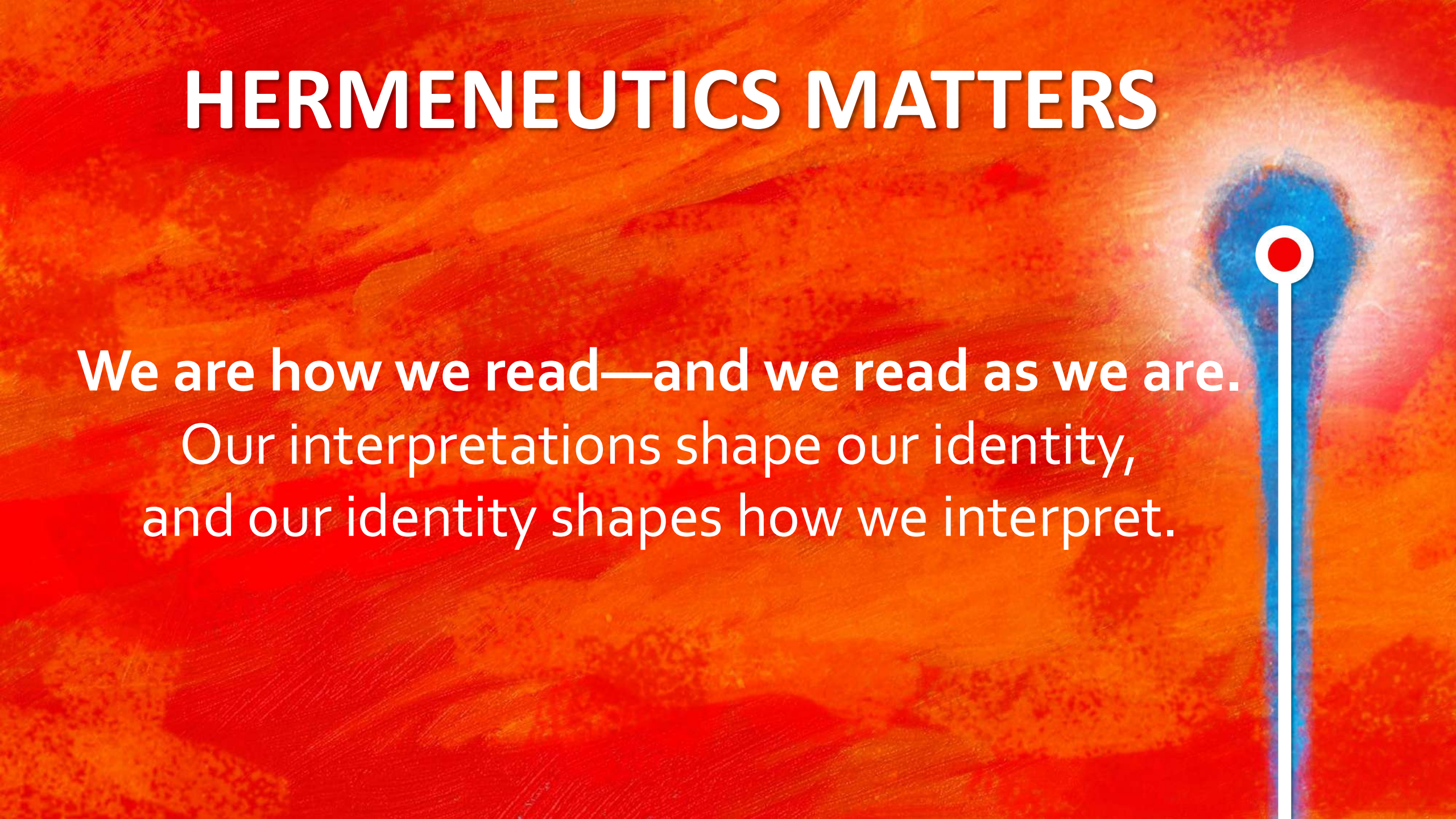


THE QUESTION IS

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BIBLICAL?

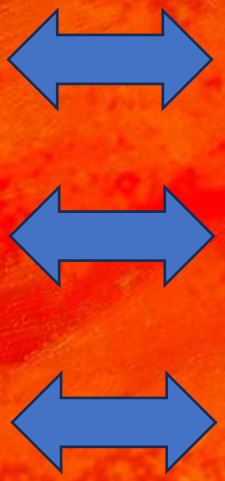
# HERMENEUTICS MATTERS

**We are how we read—and we read as we are.**
Our interpretations shape our identity,
and our identity shapes how we interpret.



# YOU ARE HOW YOU READ!

| BEING | KNOWING |
| --- | --- |
| IDENTITY | READING |
| BECOMING | INTERPRETING |
| ONTOLOGY | EPISTEMOLOGY |




WHO ARE YOU?

# NAME

Tihomir Lazic



# ROLES

Lecturer
Former TED PCM Director
Musician



# RELATIONAL ROLES

Son
Husband
Father
Friend



# DESCRIPTORS

Tall
Handsome
Smart
Sporty
Artistic

Honest



# DESCRIPTORS

Tall
Handsome
Smart
Sporty
Artistic

Honest

....extremely humble ☺



# DRIVES

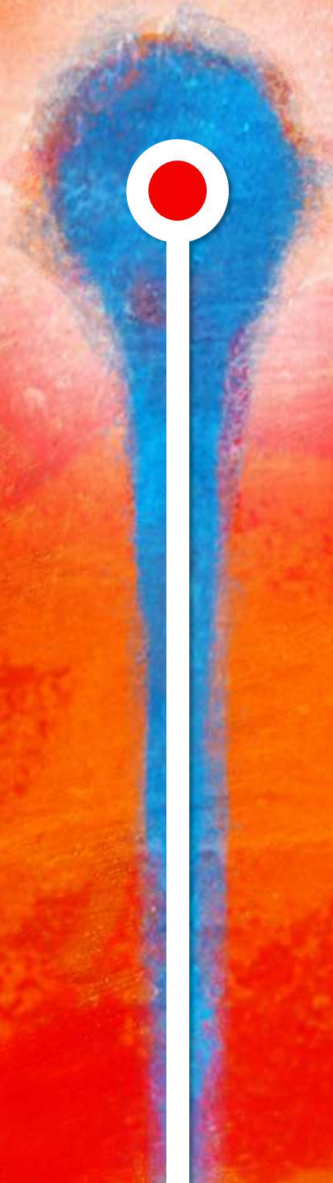
I like…

I value…

I dream of…

I want…

My goal is…




BUT STILL
WHO ARE YOU?

**ULTIMATE IDENTITY QUESTION:**

# WHAT STORIES DO WE SUBSCRIBE TO?

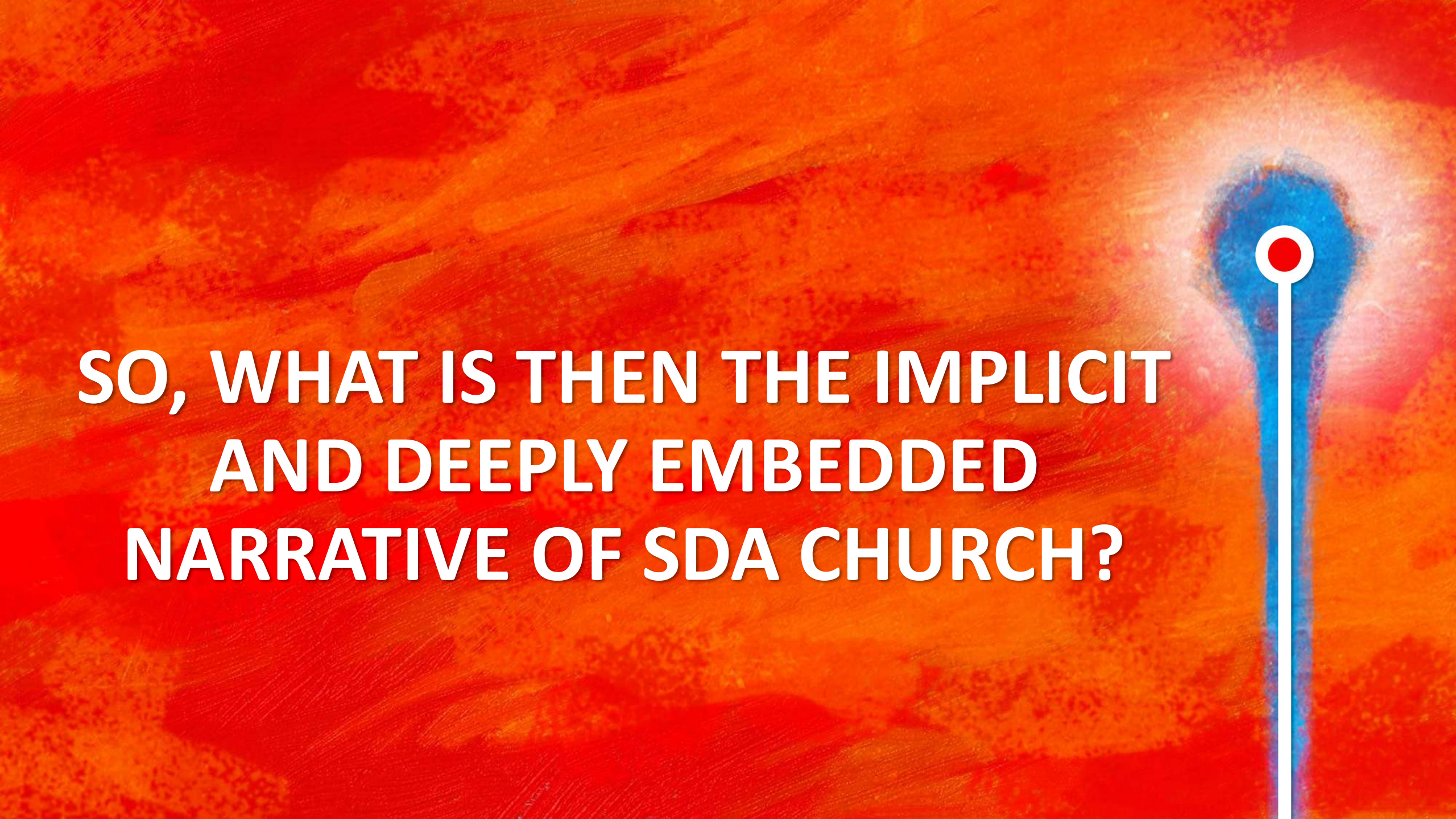


“

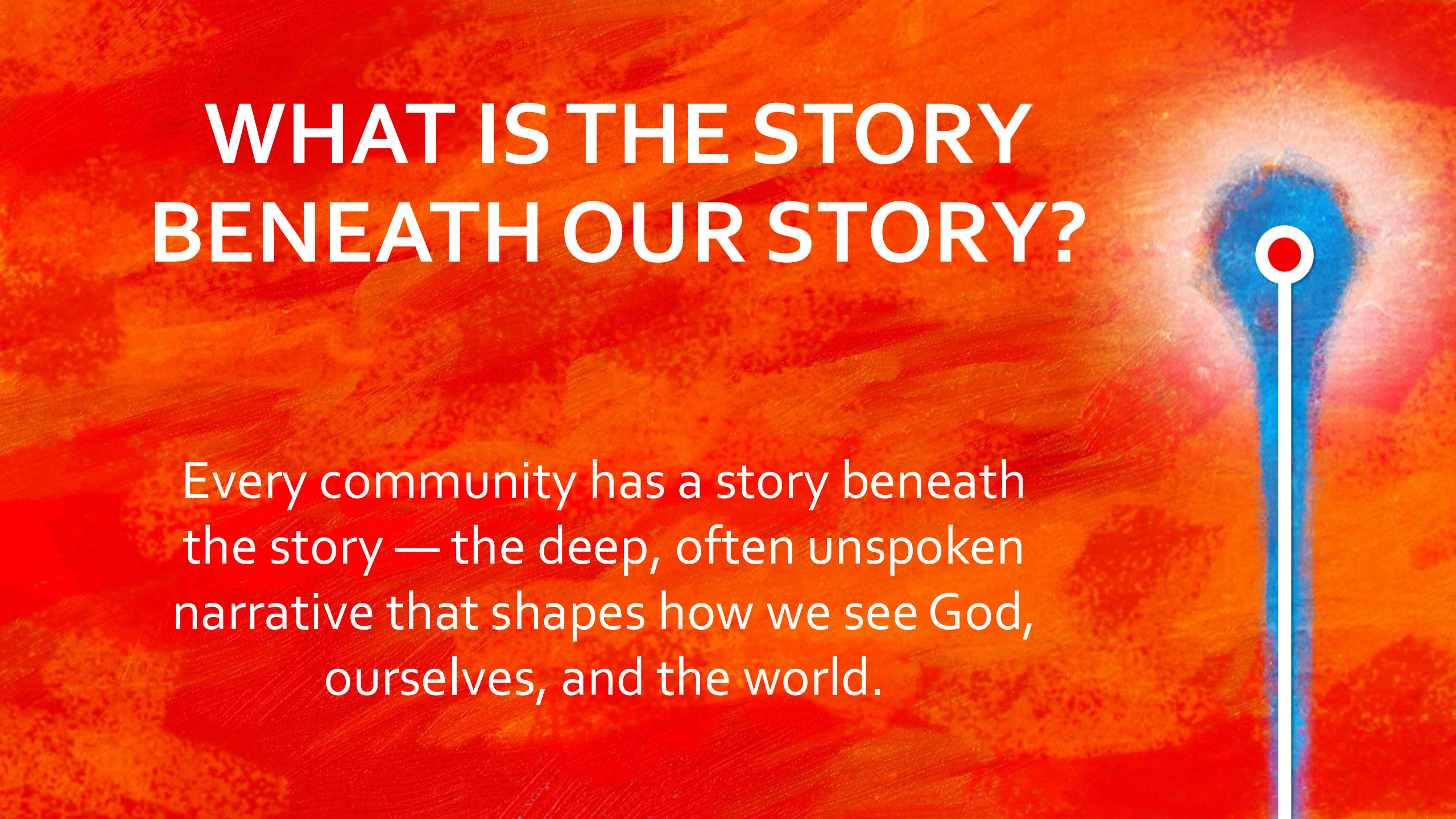
Who we are—our identity—is largely shaped by the stories we tell, the narratives we seek to inhabit. In identity theory, ‘narrative identity’ refers to a person’s internalized and evolving story, which provides her with a sense of unity across time and with purpose and significance.

Dan P. McAdams, *Narrative Identity*, Routledge, 2002.

# SO, WHAT IS THEN THE IMPLICIT AND DEEPLY EMBEDDED NARRATIVE OF SDA CHURCH?



# WHAT IS THE STORY BENEATH OUR STORY?



Every community has a story beneath the story — the deep, often unspoken narrative that shapes how we see God, ourselves, and the world.



# ADVENTISM AT THE CROSSROADS


WE ARE A TRUTH-SEEKING
COMMUNITY OF FAITH


QUEST FOR
TRUTH
EMBODIED
WRITTEN

# THE CENTRALITY OF TRUTH





# MILLER'S DREAM:

# BIBLE

# ONLY

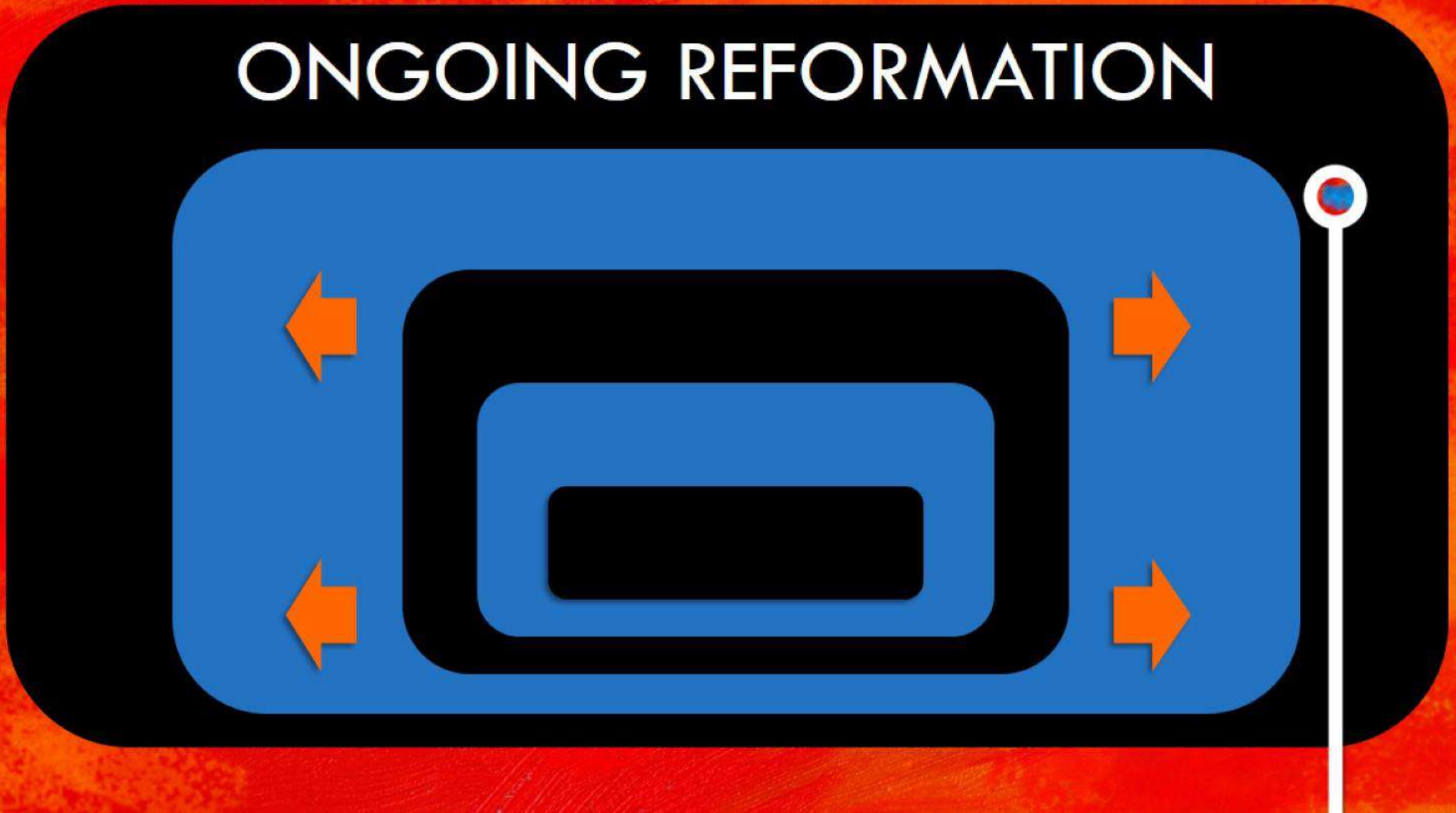


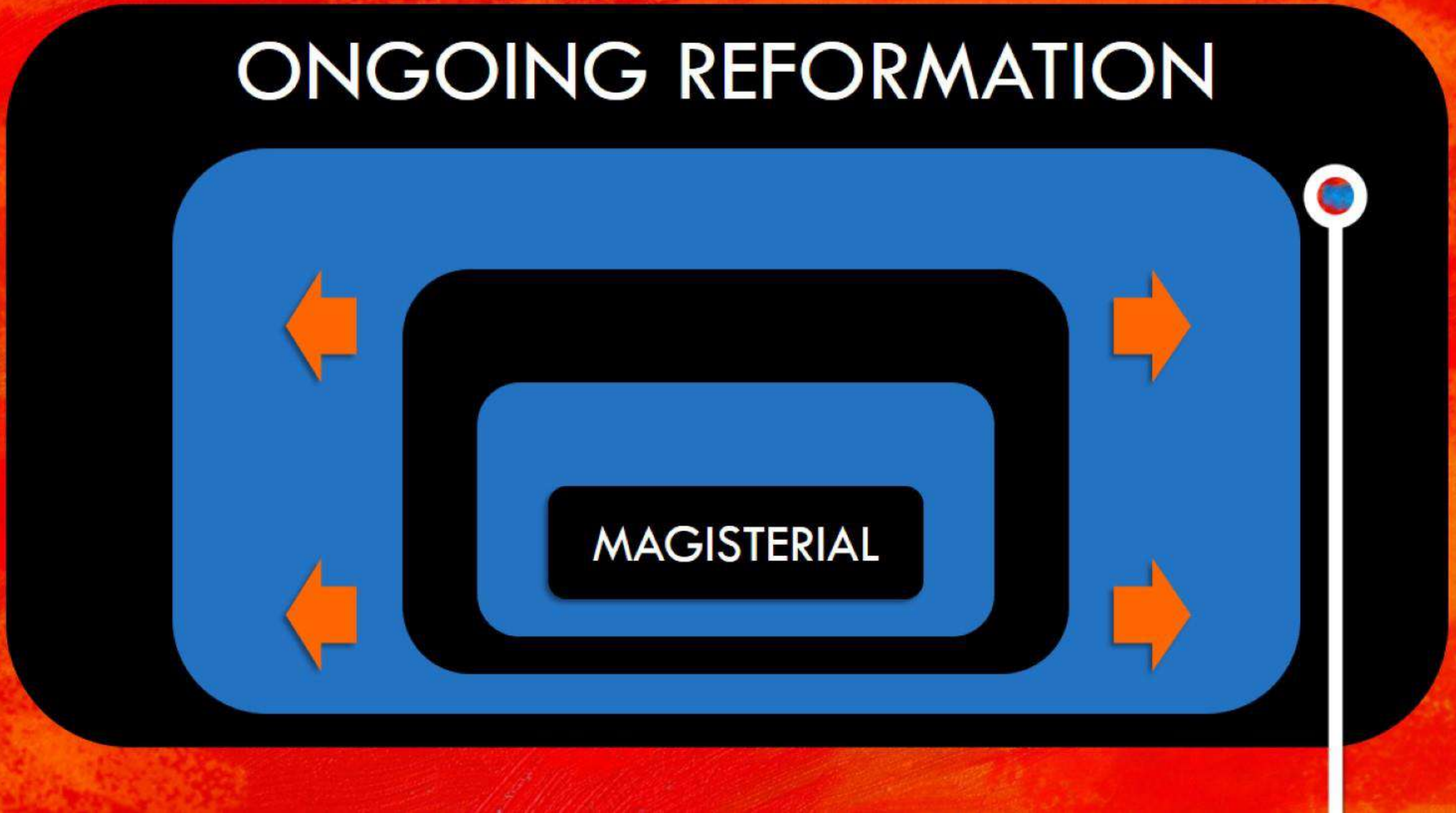
# MILLER'S DREAM:

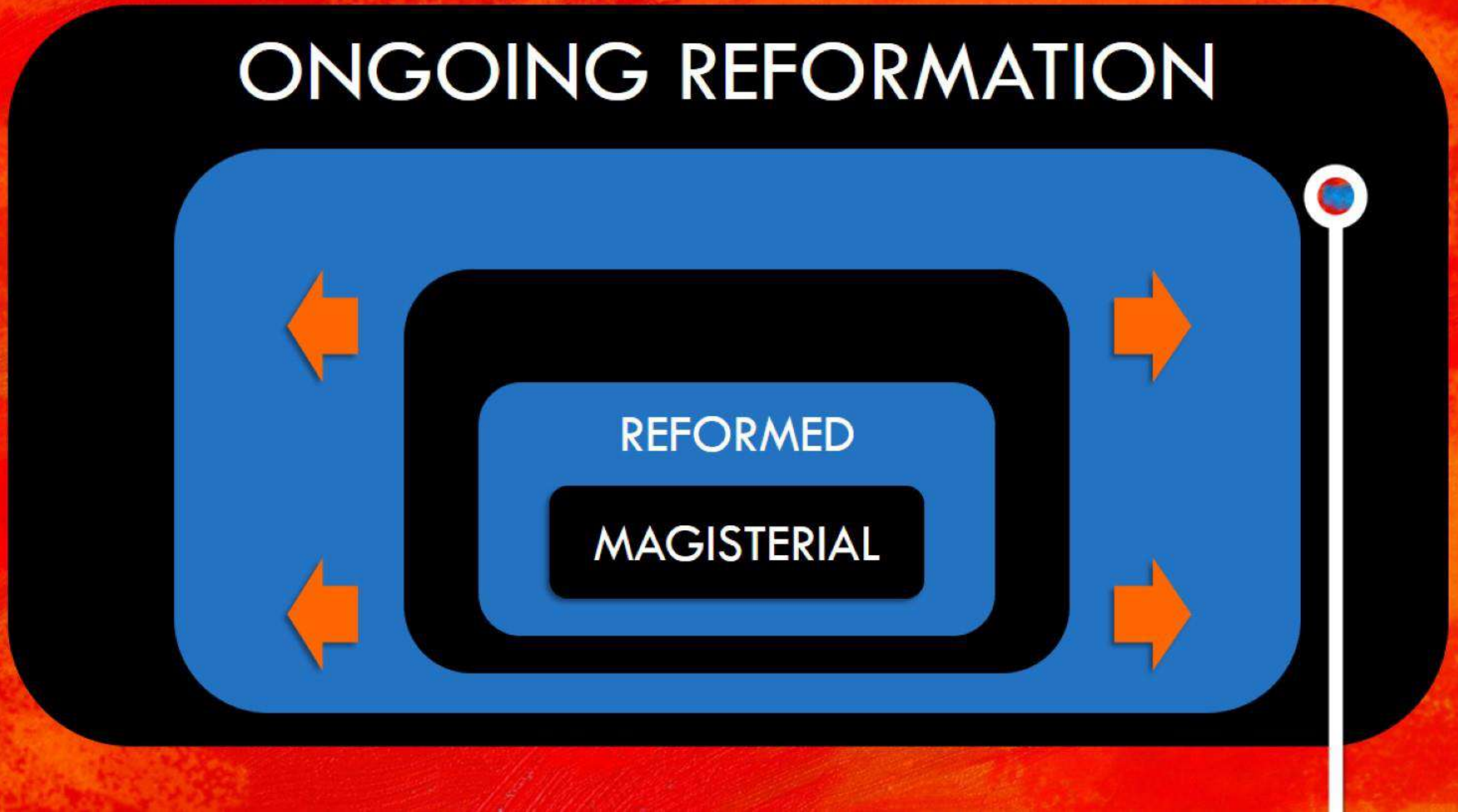
BASKET
PRECIOUS STONES
PERFECT ORDER

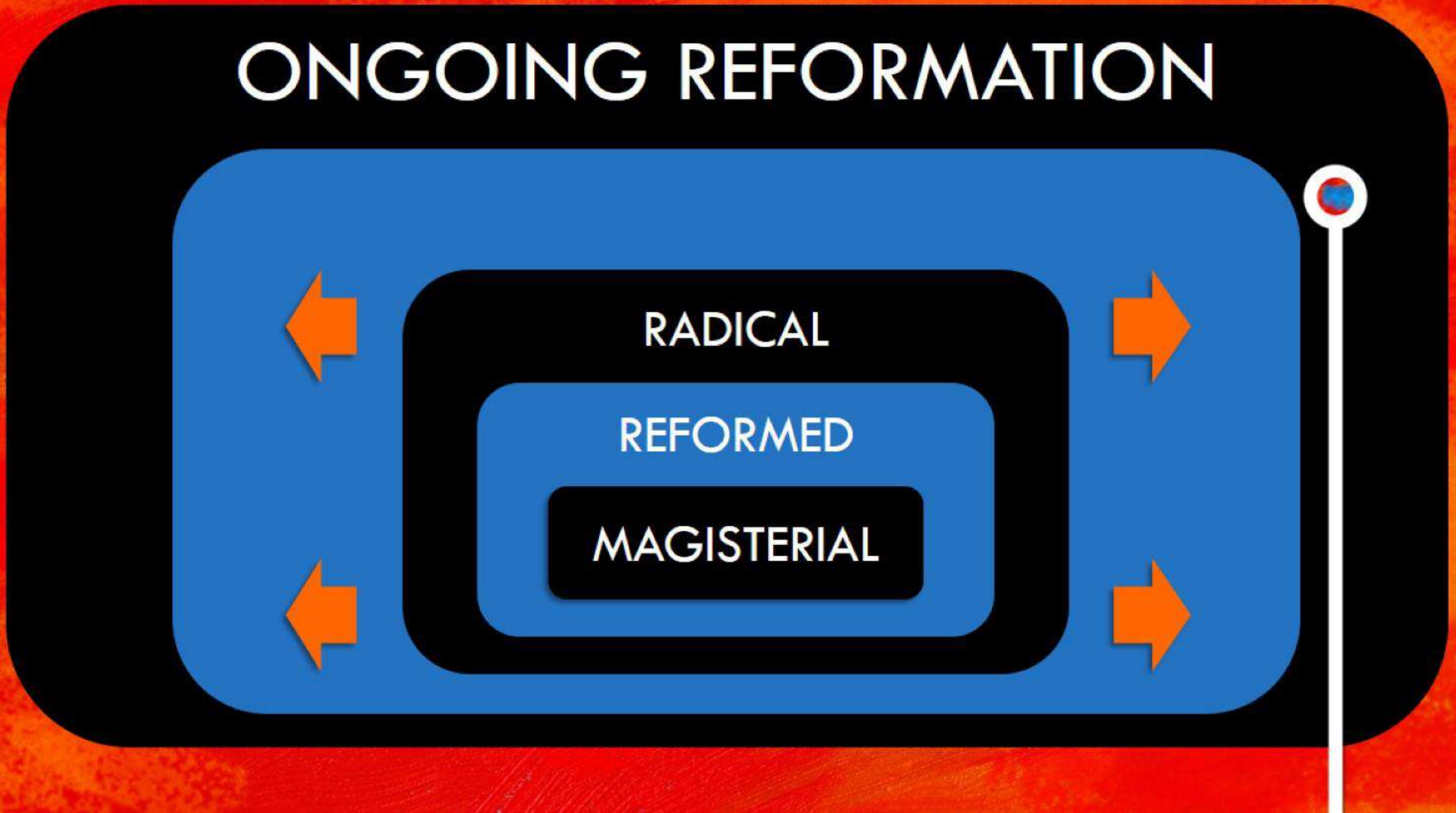
# ADVENTIST TASK:

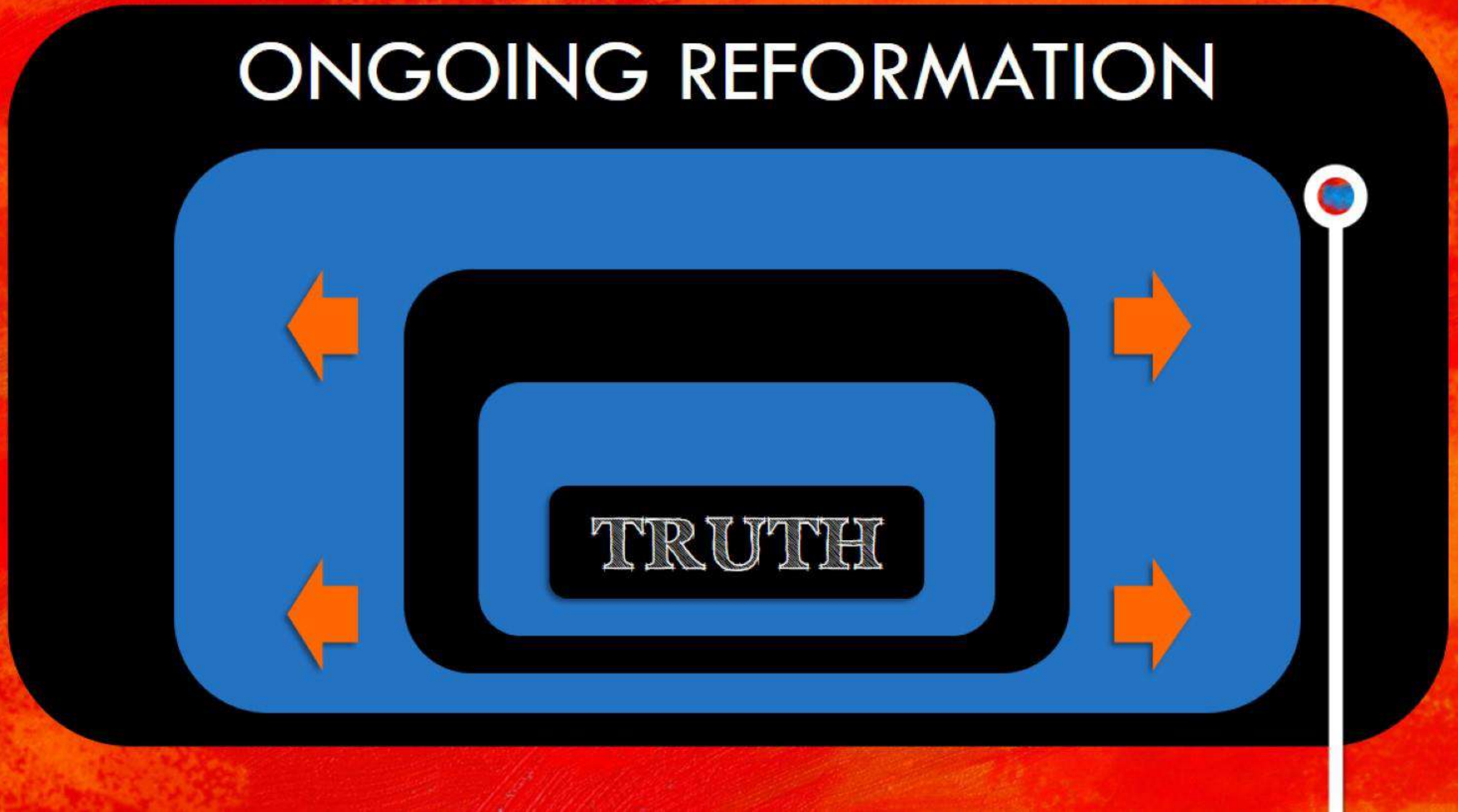
# RESTORING THE FORGOTTEN TRUTH


ONGOING REFORMATION


ONGOING REFORMATION
MAGISTERIAL


ONGOING REFORMATION
REFORMED
MAGISTERIAL


ONGOING REFORMATION
RADICAL
REFORMED
MAGISTERIAL


ONGOING REFORMATION
TRUTH


QUEST FOR
TRUTH
OUTCOME

SOLA SCRIPTURA

TOTA SCRIPTURA

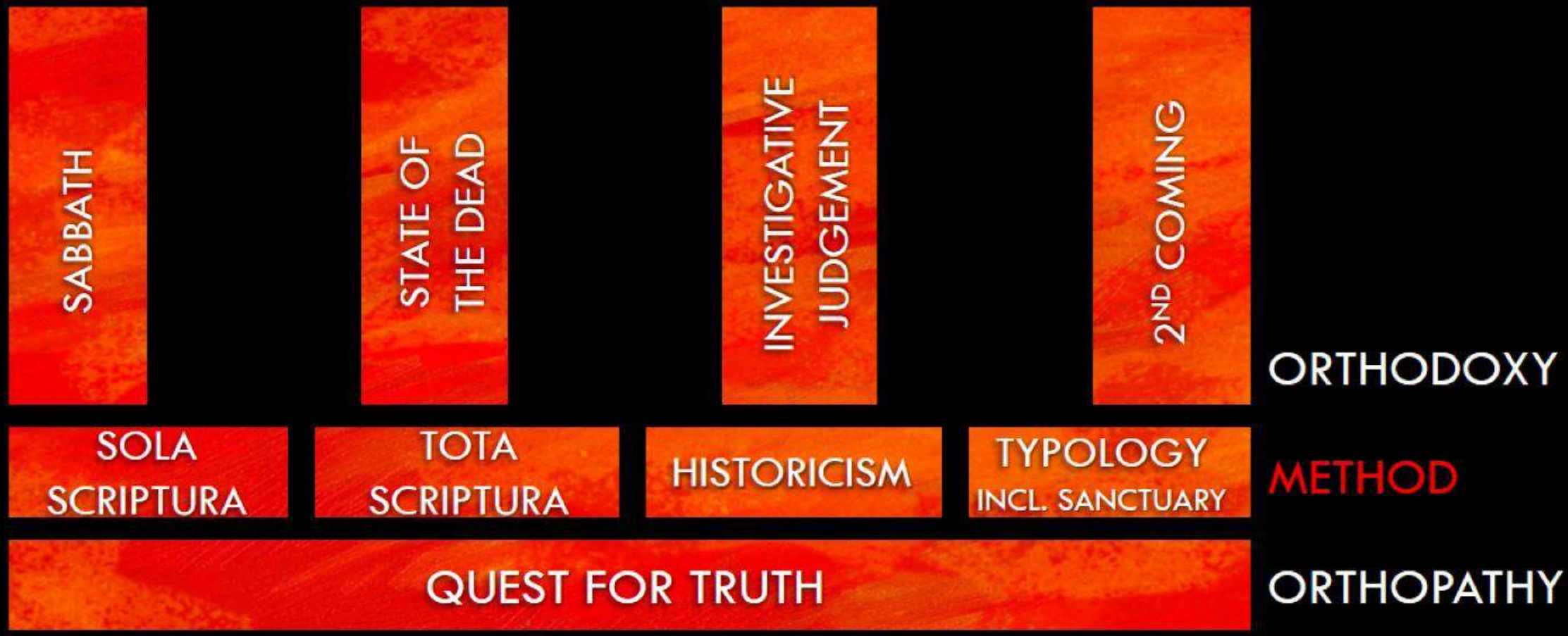
HISTORICISM

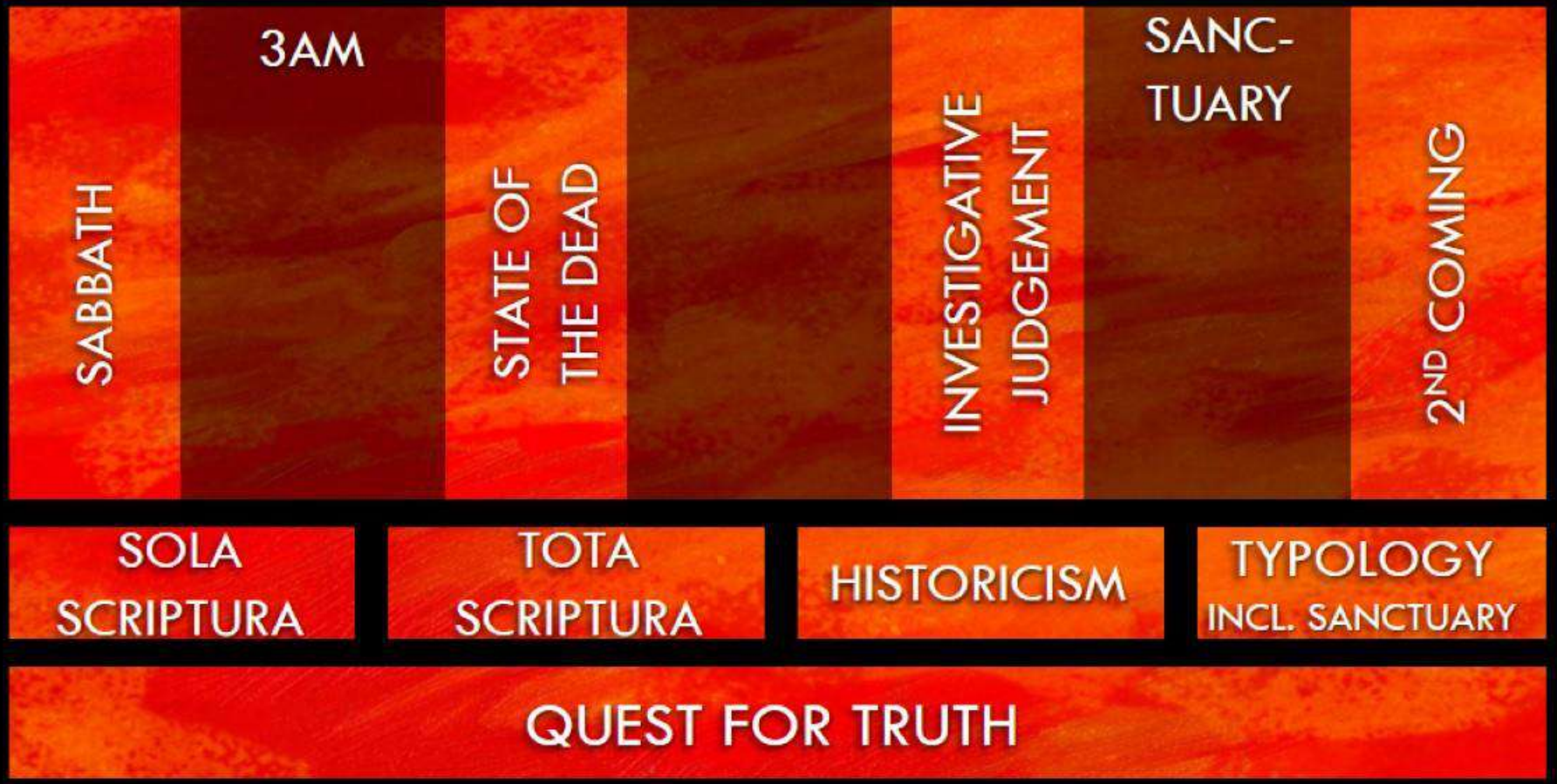
TYPOLOGY
INCL. SANCTUARY

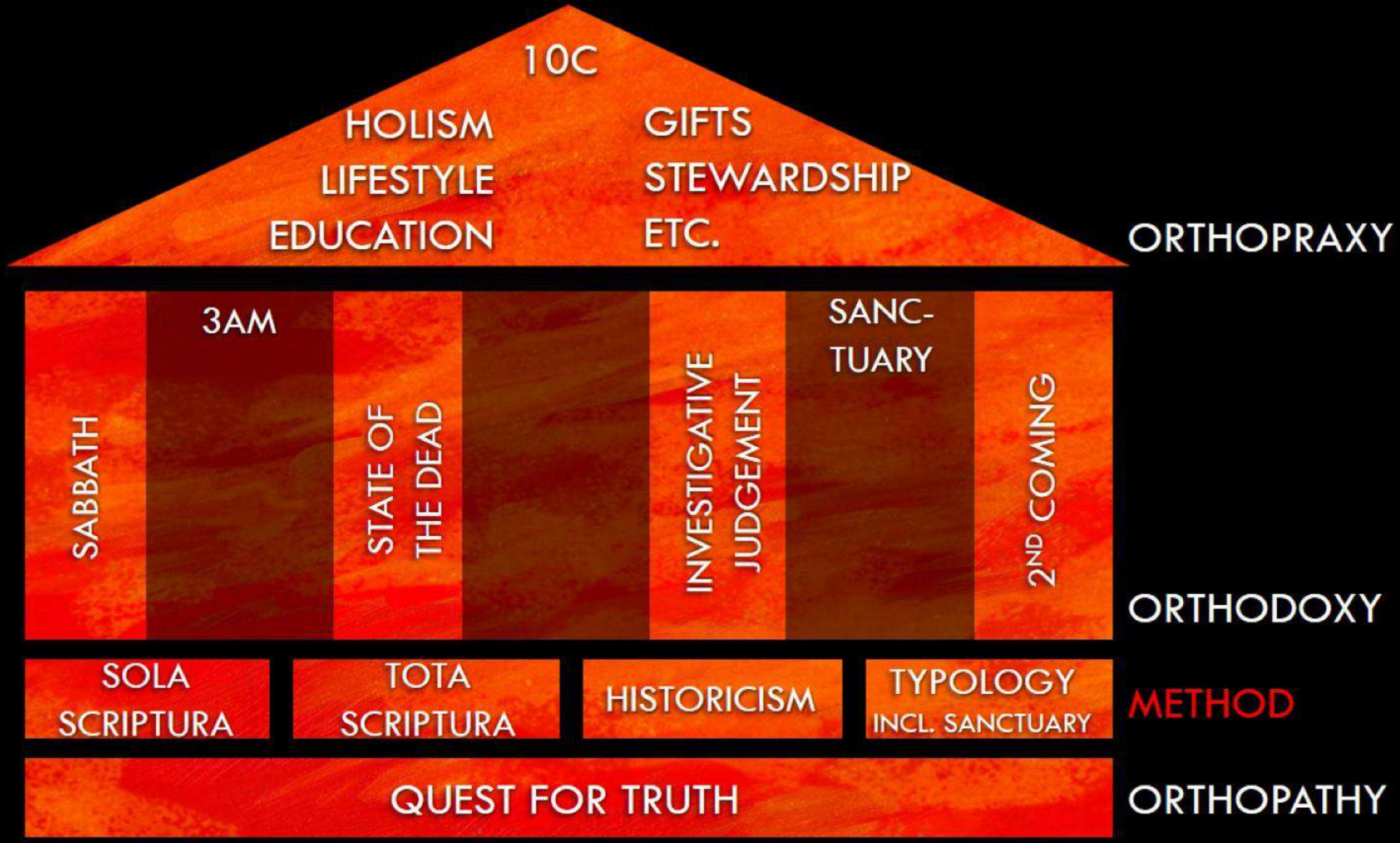
METHOD

QUEST FOR TRUTH

ORTHOPATHY


SABBATH
STATE OF THE DEAD
INVESTIGATIVE JUDGEMENT
2ND COMING
ORTHODOXY
SOLA SCRIPTURA
TOTA SCRIPTURA
HISTORICISM
TYPOLOGY INCL. SANCTUARY
METHOD
QUEST FOR TRUTH
ORTHOPATHY


SABBATH
3AM
STATE OF THE DEAD
INVESTIGATIVE JUDGEMENT
SANC-TUARY
2ND COMING
ORTHODOXY
SOLA SCRIPTURA
TOTA SCRIPTURA
HISTORICISM
TYPOLOGY INCL. SANCTUARY
METHOD
QUEST FOR TRUTH
ORTHOPATHY


10C
HOLISM
LIFESTYLE
EDUCATION
GIFTS
STEWARDSHIP
ETC.
ORTHOPRAXY
SABBATH
3AM
STATE OF THE DEAD
INVESTIGATIVE JUDGEMENT
SANC-TUARY
2ND COMING
ORTHODOXY
SOLA SCRIPTURA
TOTA SCRIPTURA
HISTORICISM
TYPOLOGY INCL. SANCTUARY
METHOD
QUEST FOR TRUTH
ORTHOPATHY

‘the truth that has come to us as a system’

S. N. HASKELL (1904)

The truth for this time is broad in its outlines, far reaching, embracing many doctrines; but these doctrines are not detached items, which mean little; they are united by golden threads, forming a complete whole, with Christ as the living centre.

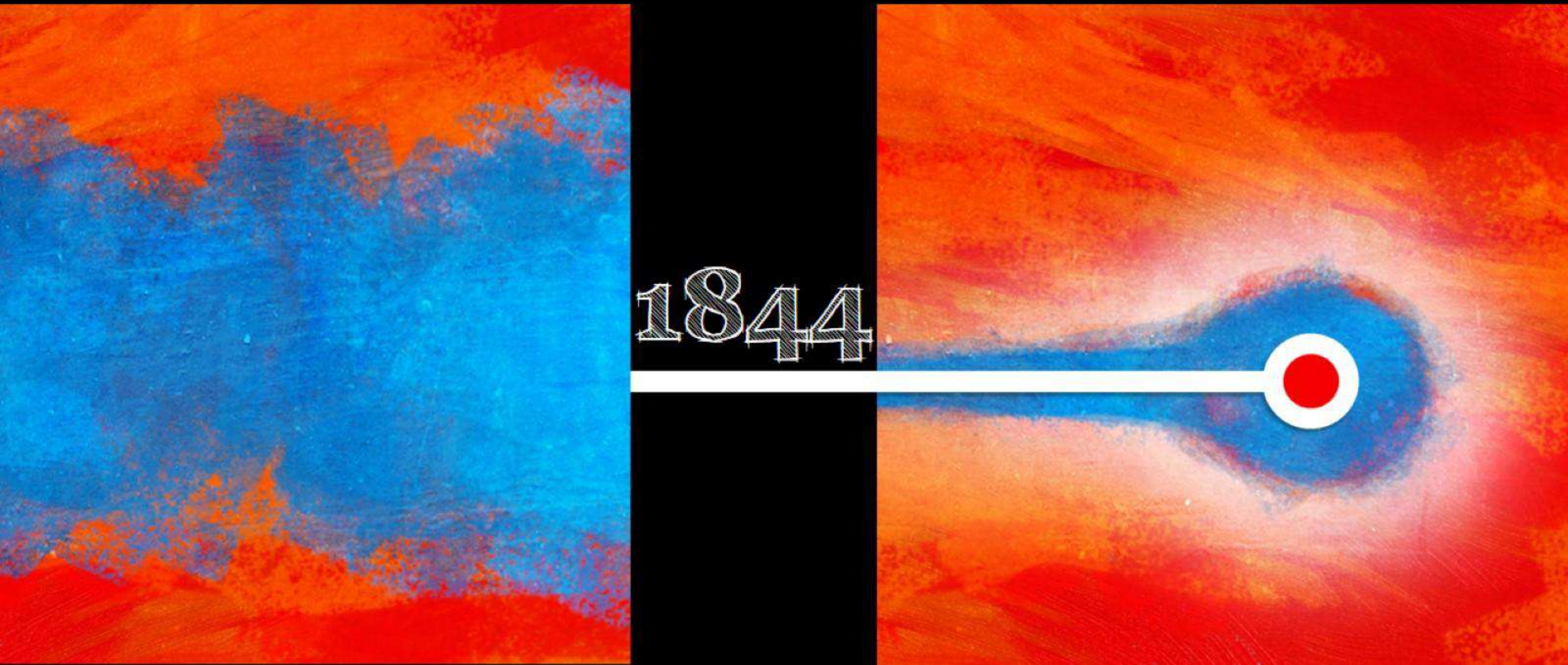
ELLEN WHITE (1894)

...opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand had directed the great Advent movement and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people.

ELLEN WHITE

# EARLY ADVENTIST CRISIS

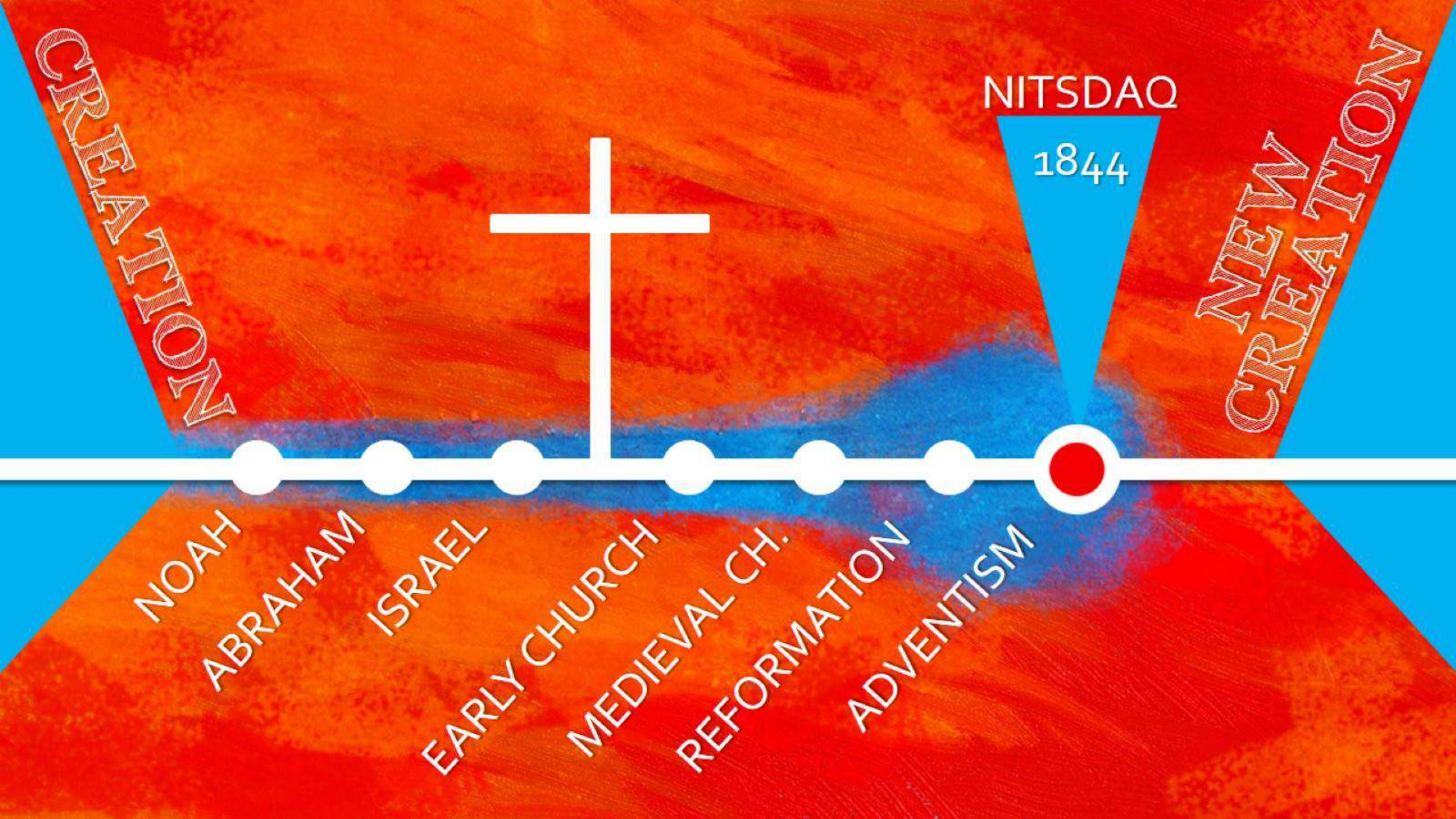
# GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT





GOING BACK TO THE STORY

# THEODRAMA


CREATION
NITSDAQ
1844
NEW CREATION
NOAH
ABRAHAM
ISRAEL
EARLY CHURCH
MEDIEVAL CH.
REFORMATION
ADVENTISM

“For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary shall be

NITSDAQ

Daniel 8:14

# NITSDAQ

RESTORE

VINDICATE

CLEANSE

# THE CENTRAL ESCHATOLOGICAL DISCOVERY:

On 22 October 1844, Christ had actually entered a new phase of his heavenly mediatory ministry. In doing so, he had ushered in a new stage in the unfolding cosmic story of redemption.

# LIGHT IN THE SHADOWS

| SPRING FESTIVALS | FULFILMENT IN CHRIST |
| --- | --- |
| Passover | Death |
| Unleavened bread | Resurrection |
| First Fruits | Pentecost |

| AUTUMN FESTIVALS | FULFILMENT IN CHRIST |
| --- | --- |
| Feast of Trumpets | ? |
| The Day of Atonement | |
| Feast of Tabernacles | |

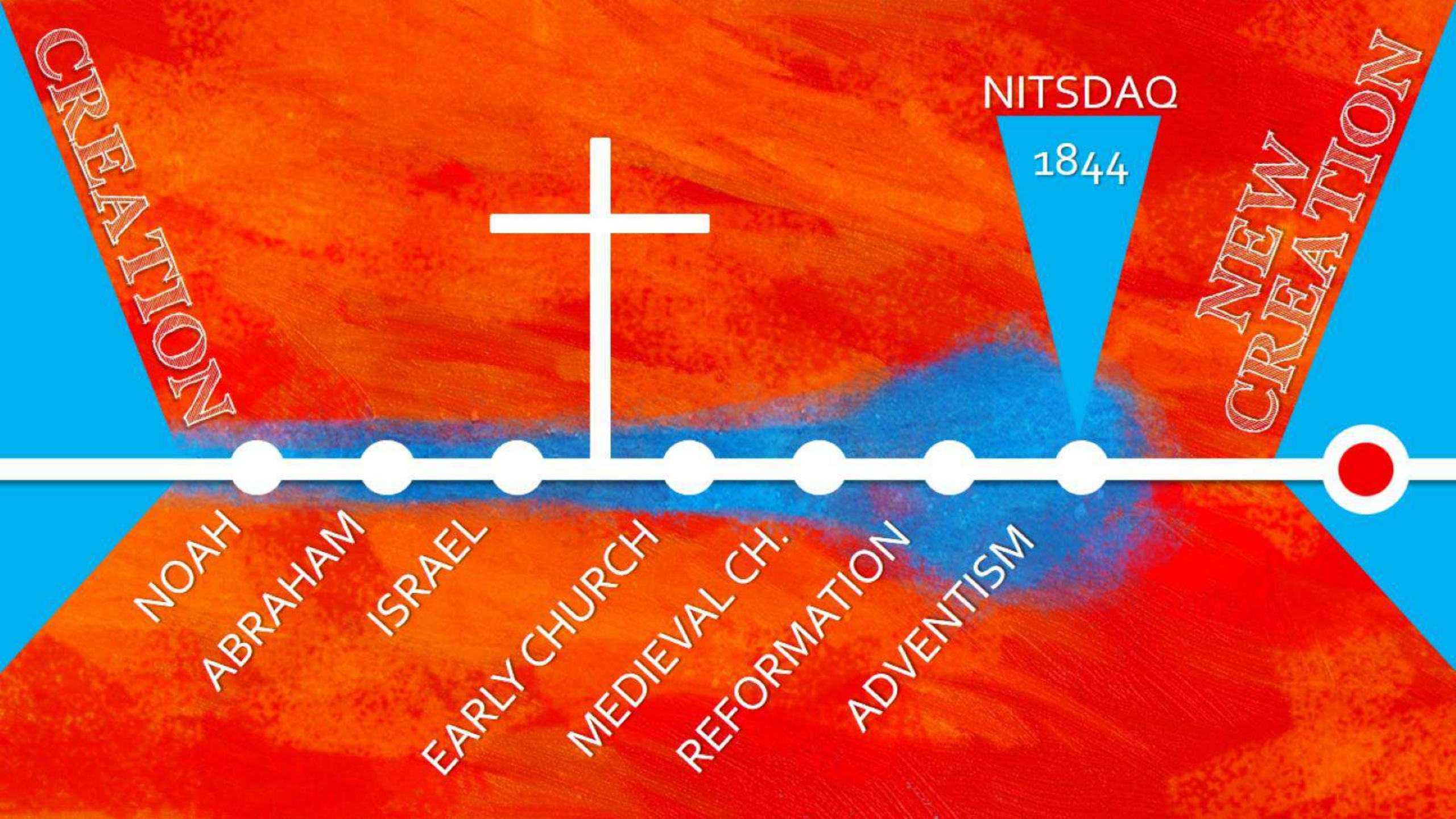
# THE DAY OF ATONEMENT & ESCHATOLOGICAL JUDGEMENT



# ESCHATOLOGICAL JUDGEMENT:
# 3 STAGES

- 1: Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment
- 2: Post-Advent millennial judgment
- 3: Postmillennial executive judgment

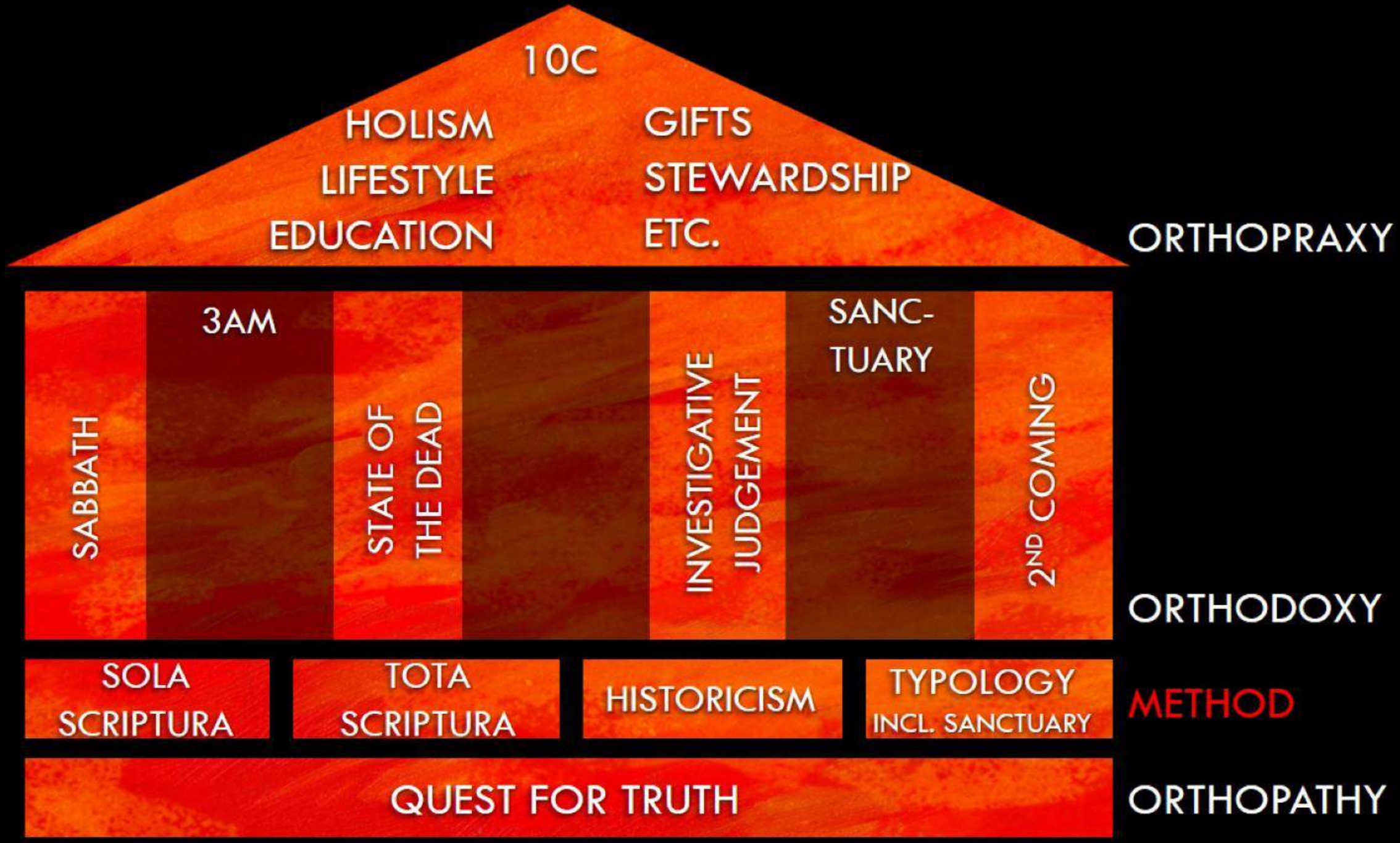
# ADVENTIST REINTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLICAL STORYLINE

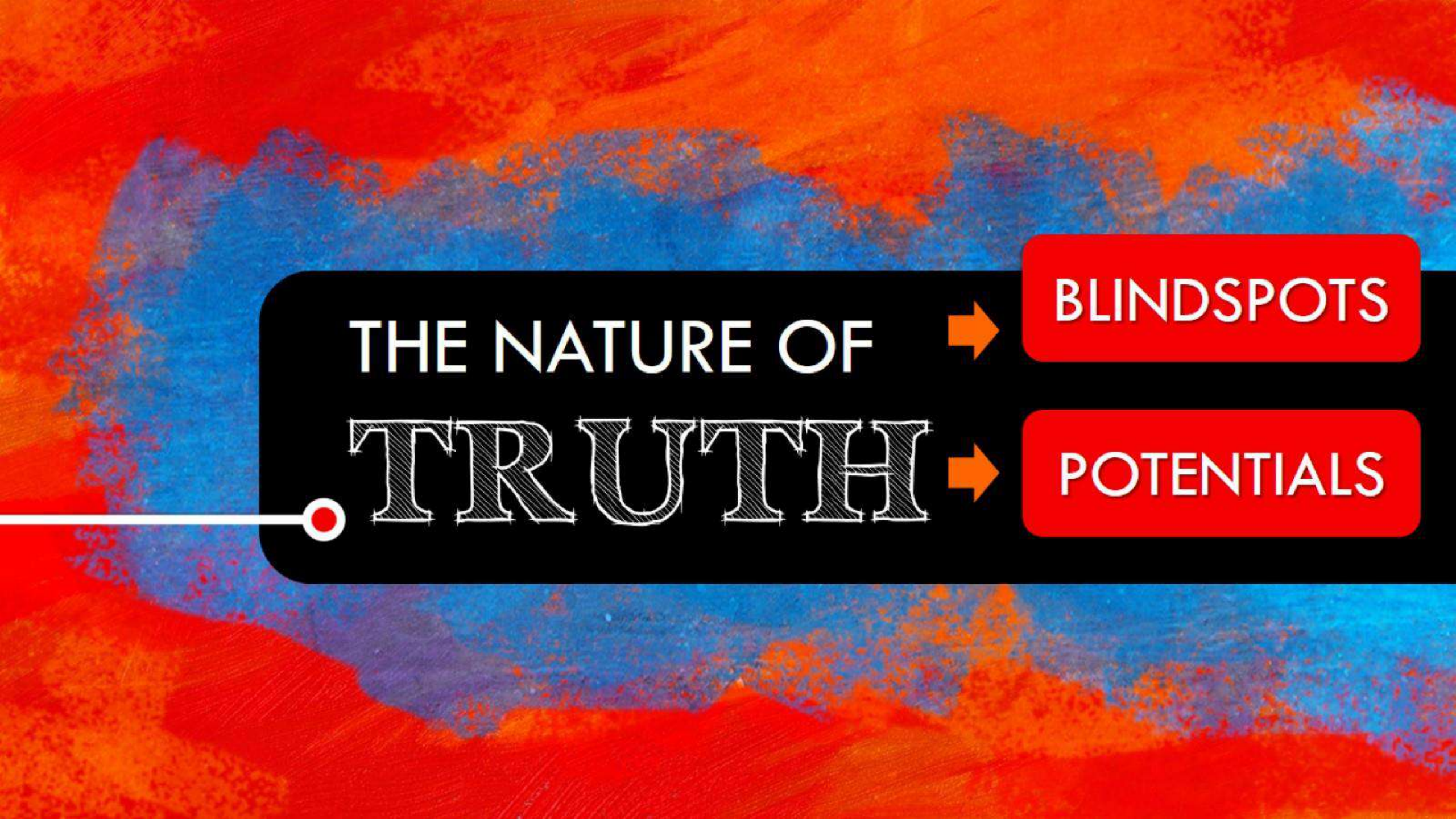

CREATION
NITSDAQ
1844
NEW CREATION
NOAH
ABRAHAM
ISRAEL
EARLY CHURCH
MEDIEVAL CH.
REFORMATION
ADVENTISM

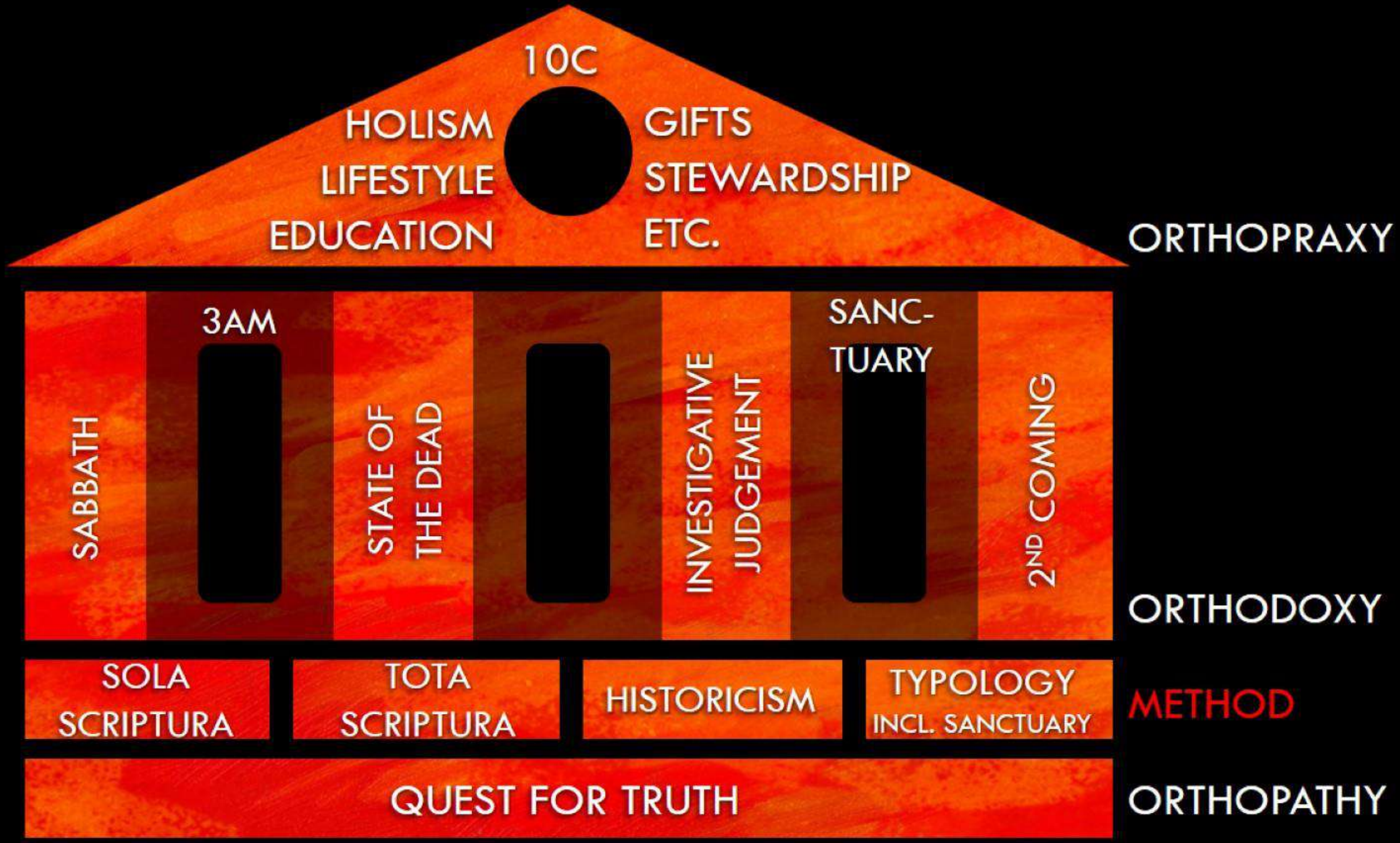
# AS A RESULT

1. FIRMLY GROUNDED IDENTITY
2. DEEPENED CONVICTIONS
3. EMPOWERED MISSION




10C
HOLISM
LIFESTYLE
EDUCATION
GIFTS
STEWARDSHIP
ETC.
ORTHOPRAXY
SABBATH
3AM
STATE OF THE DEAD
INVESTIGATIVE JUDGEMENT
SANC-TUARY
2ND COMING
ORTHODOXY
SOLA SCRIPTURA
TOTA SCRIPTURA
HISTORICISM
TYPOLOGY INCL. SANCTUARY
METHOD
QUEST FOR TRUTH
ORTHOPATHY


THE NATURE OF
TRUTH
BLINDSPOTS
POTENTIALS


10C
HOLISM
LIFESTYLE
EDUCATION
GIFTS
STEWARDSHIP
ETC.
ORTHOPRAXY
SABBATH
3AM
STATE OF THE DEAD
INVESTIGATIVE JUDGEMENT
SANC-TUARY
2ND COMING
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SOLA SCRIPTURA
TOTA SCRIPTURA
HISTORICISM
TYPOLOGY INCL. SANCTUARY
METHOD
QUEST FOR TRUTH
ORTHOPATHY


ORTHOPRAXY
ORTHODOXY
METHOD
ORTHOPATHY

# KEY CHARACTERISTICS

PROPOSITIONAL

LOGOCENTRIC

RATIONAL

TRUTH

OBJECTIVE

INDIVIDUALISTIC



# METHOD

# TRUTH

INDUCTIVE

CONCOR-
DANCE

EXEGESIS



# THE GREAT BLINDSPOT

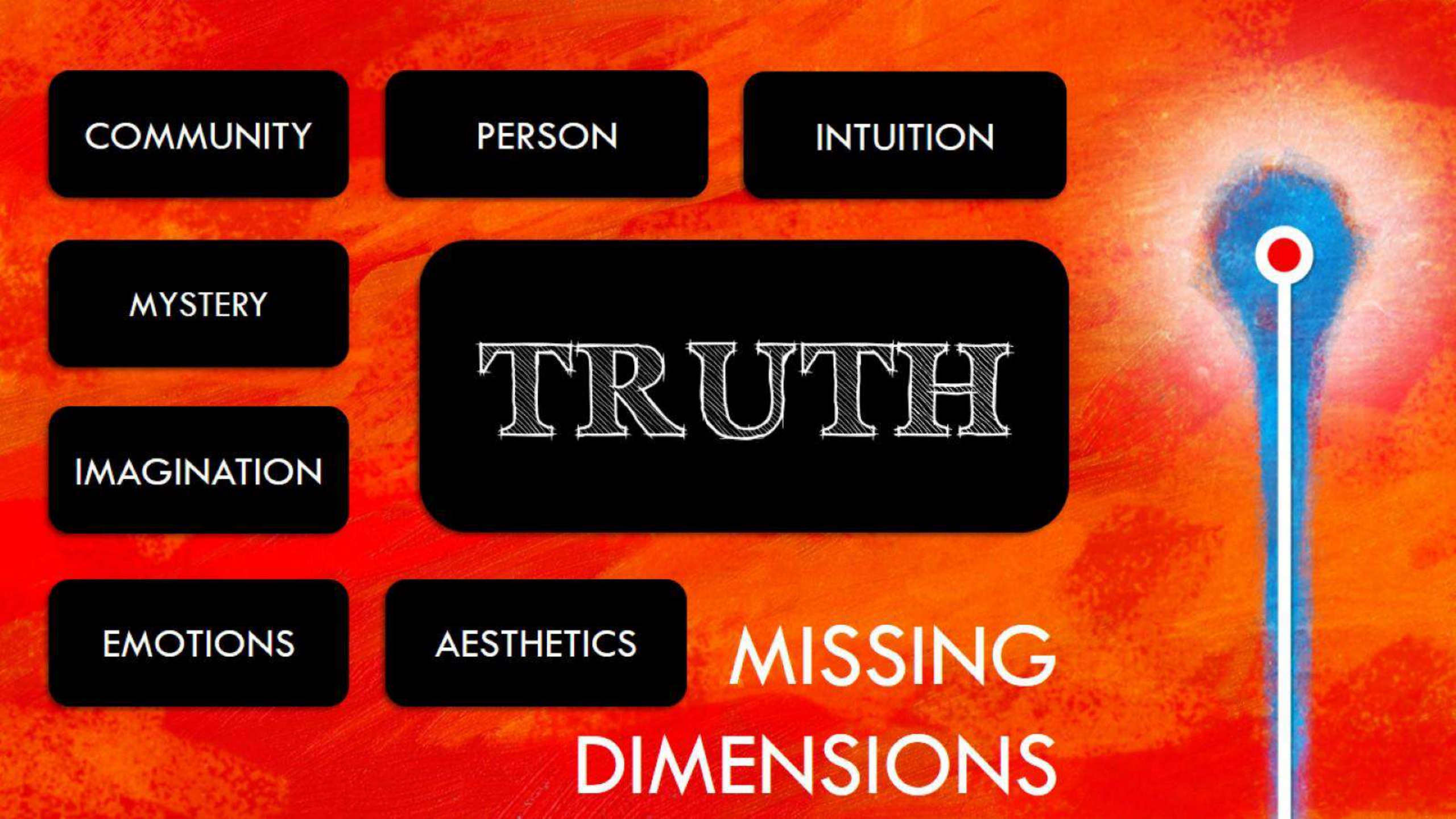
LIVED REALITY

PERSON

COM-MUNITY

TRUTH




COMMUNITY
PERSON
INTUITION
MYSTERY
TRUTH
IMAGINATION
EMOTIONS
AESTHETICS
MISSING
DIMENSIONS

# NEW OPPORTUNITY

## TRUTH AS KOINONIA

GOD IN US

SHARED REALITY

PERSON



# A TRUTH-SEEKING COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

# THE JOURNEY OF THE TRUTH-SEEKING CHURCH

As a **truth-seeking church, we are always on the move**—never settling, never assuming we have already attained all there is to know.

We keep leaping, stretching, and moving forward, open to being surprised by the Spirit as we encounter ever-new riches of divine self-revelation.

# PRESENT TRUTH AS COMMUNAL QUEST

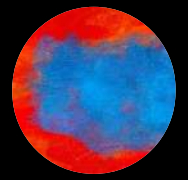
## Why We Need the Other

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“

God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Eph. 3:10



“

THOURGH THE CHURCH THE **MANIFOLD** WIDSOM OF GOD IS MADE VISIBLE

**Polypoikilos**

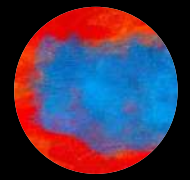


Manifold
Many-coloured
Richly variegated

Eph. 3:10

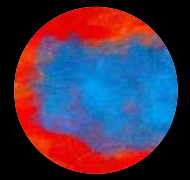
# QUESTION BENEATH THE QUESTION

Who must we become—together—in order to discern the present truth faithfully?



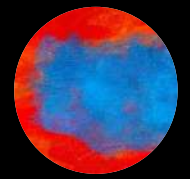
# QUESTION BENEATH THE QUESTION

Not only what we believe—but what kind of community we are becoming.



# OTHERNESS: THE STRANGER AT THE TABLE

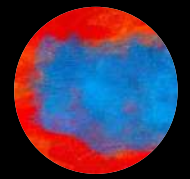
Otherness is not a treat to discernment. It is a condition for it.



“

# LOGO-PNEUMATIC DISCERNMENT

LOGOS + PNEUMA



New light will ever be revealed on the word of God to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness. Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed.

ELLEN WHITE

The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the word of God.

Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God.

ELLEN WHITE

We have seen only the glimmering of divine glory and of the infinitude of knowledge and wisdom; we have, as it were, been working on the surface of the mine, when rich golden ore is beneath the surface, to reward the one who will dig for it.

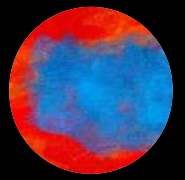
ELLEN WHITE

The shaft must be sunk deeper and yet deeper in the mine, and the results will be glorious treasure. Through a correct faith, divine knowledge will become human knowledge

ELLEN WHITE

“If it were possible for us to attain to a full understanding of God and His word, there would be for us no further discovery of truth, no greater knowledge, no further development. God would cease to be supreme, and man would cease to advance. Thank God, it is not so, since God is infinite, and in him are all the treasures of wisdom, we may to all eternity be ever searching, ever leaping, yet never exhaust the riches of his wisdom, his goodness, or his power.

Ellen G. White, “Mysteries of the Bible,” *Education* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1903, 1952), p. 172.



If Adventism is to survive in the 21st century, it will have to be like a microorganism: 'capable of rapid mutation and adaptation in response to changing environment, while still maintaining continuity with its earlier forms.'

# THE FUTURE OF ADVENTISM



# THE QUEST FOR TRUTH:
# CONTINUING EXPLORATION

Let us be a pilgrim community that is always in motion — on a journey towards fuller truth, constantly progressing in its knowledge of God.

Let our path be 'like the light of the dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day'

PROVERBS 4:18

# DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER

## Adventisms within Adventism

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