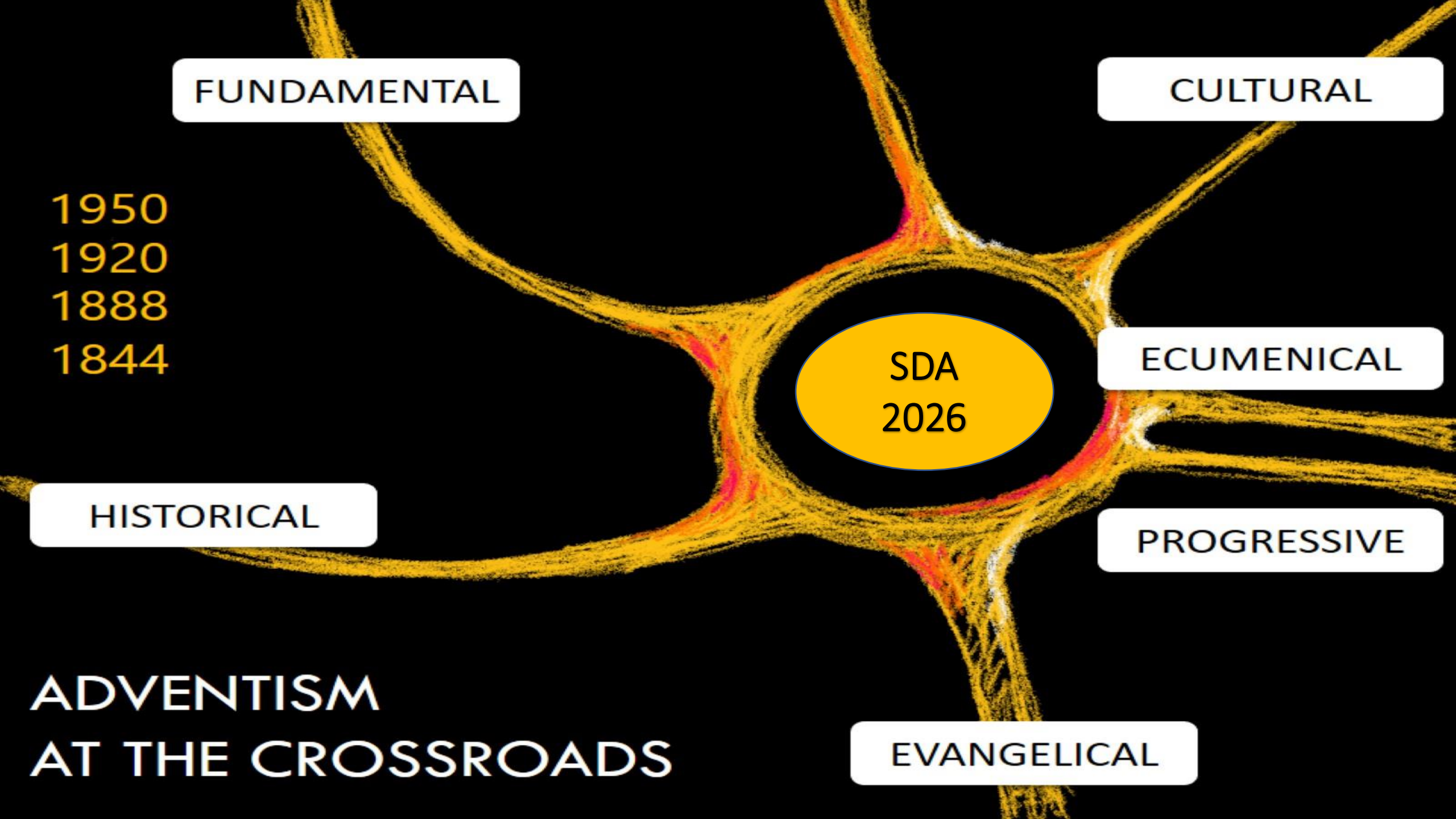
WHO ARE WE?

The Quest that Shapes Us

Tihomir Lazić | Poland | 19 Sep 2026



ADVENTISM AT THE CROSSROADS

THE QUESTION BENEATH THE QUESTIONS

By what shared criteria do we discern together?

What is our common frame of reference?

Whether we select, integrate, or innovate, we cannot escape the question of **how we discern what is faithful.**



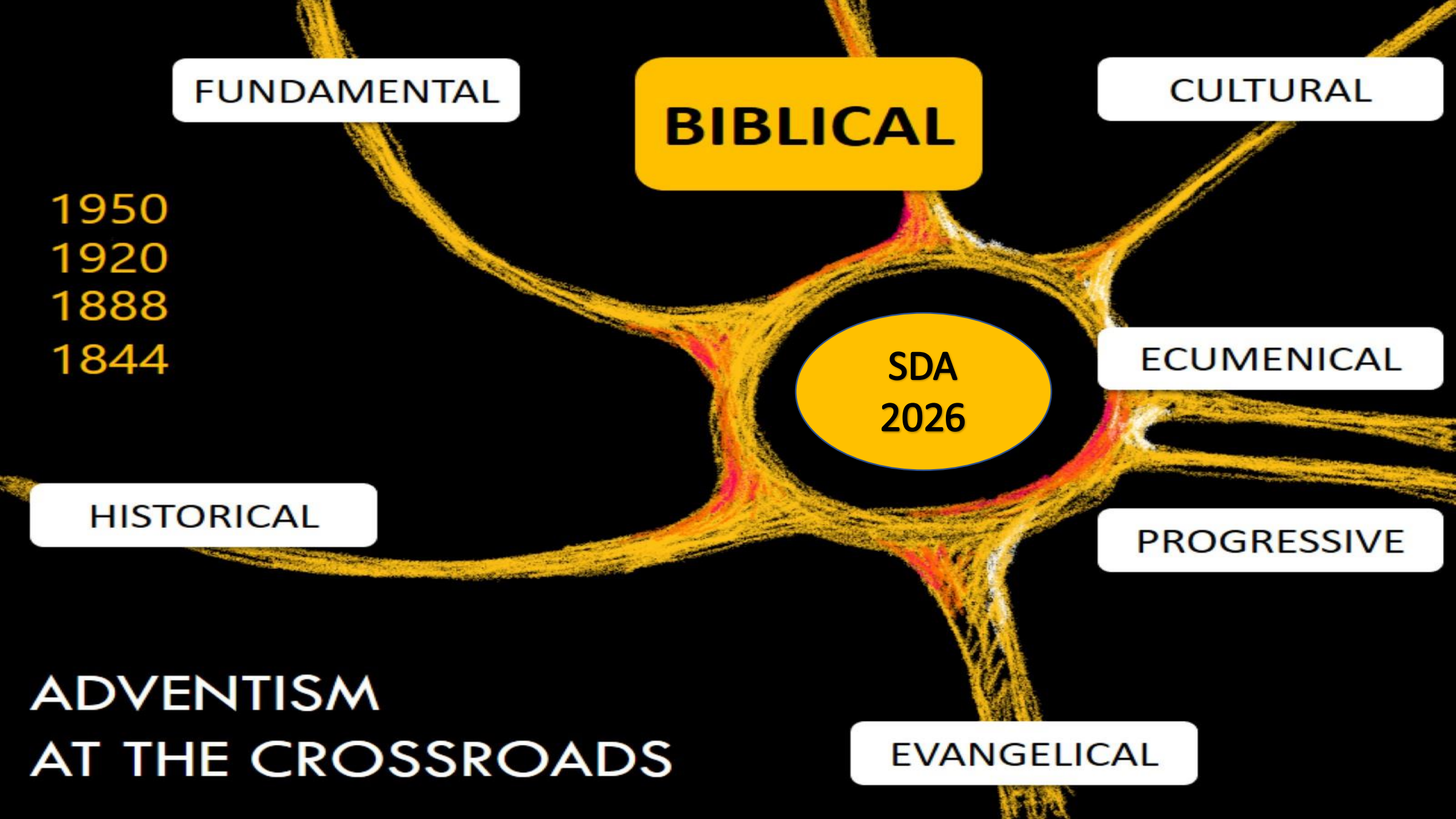
HOW DO WE DISCERN TOGETHER?

What must remain at the centre if we are to navigate our differences faithfully?

.



WHAT MAKES US ADVENTIST?


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

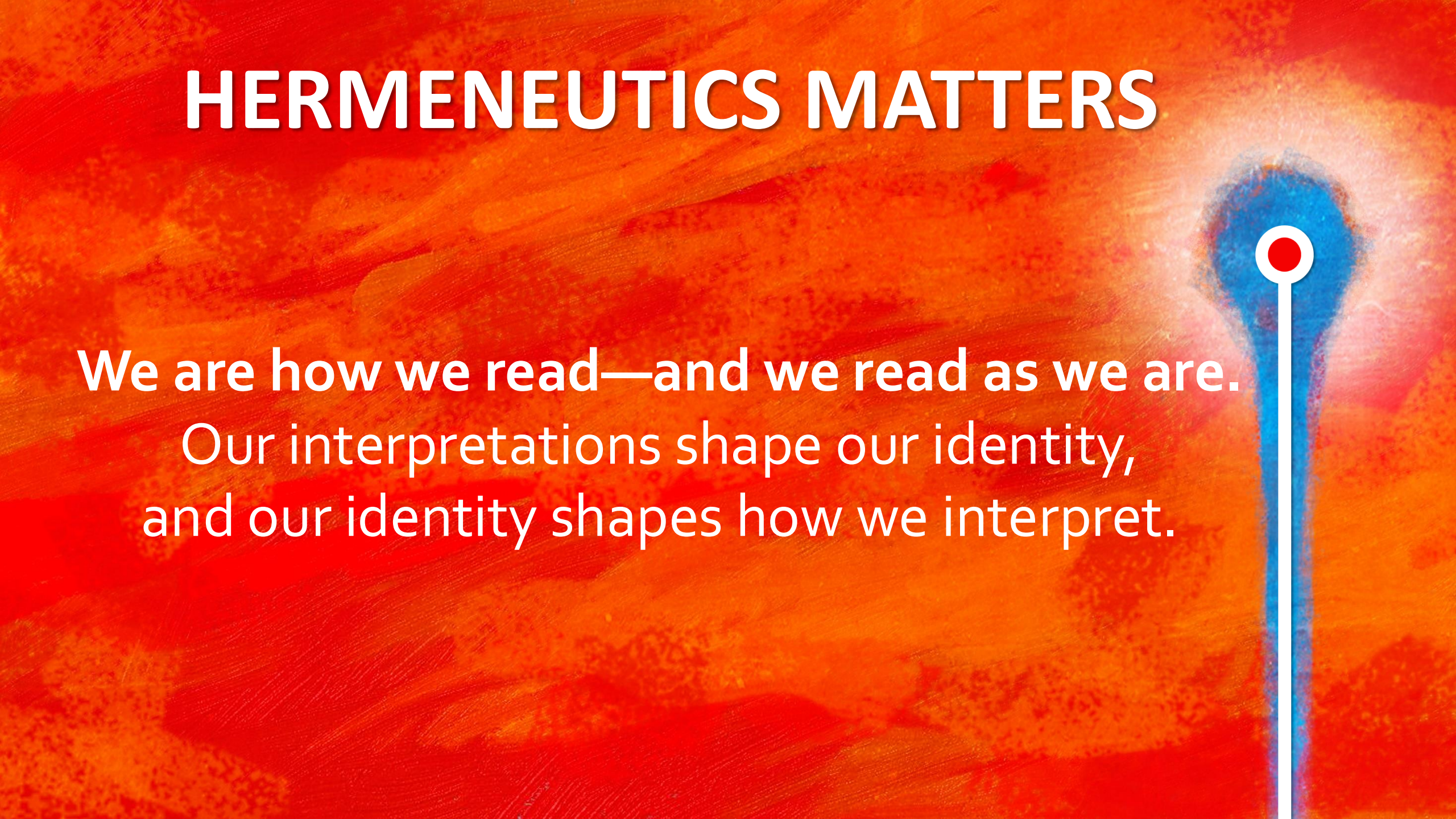


THE QUESTION IS

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

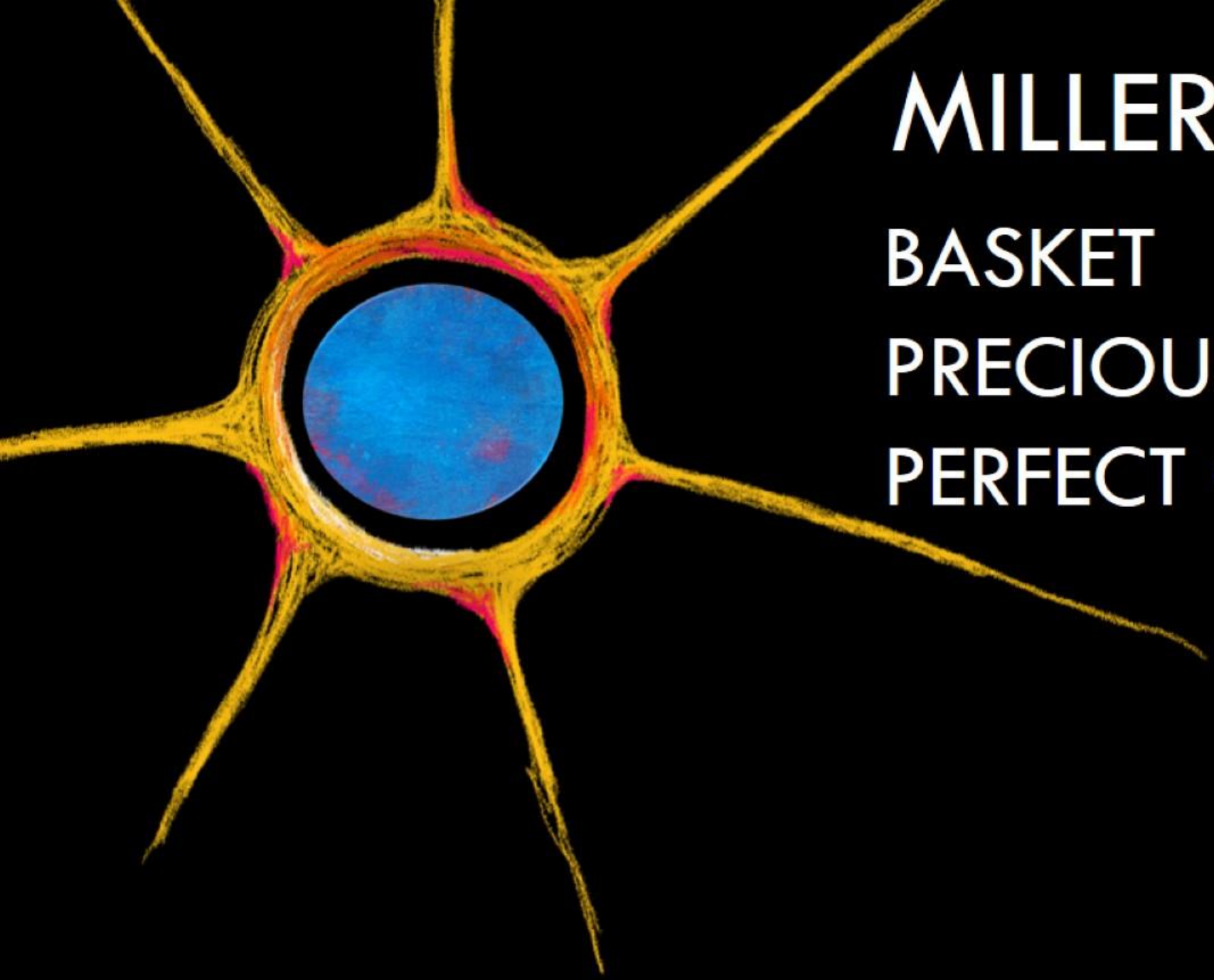




MILLER'S DREAM:

BIBLE

ONLY

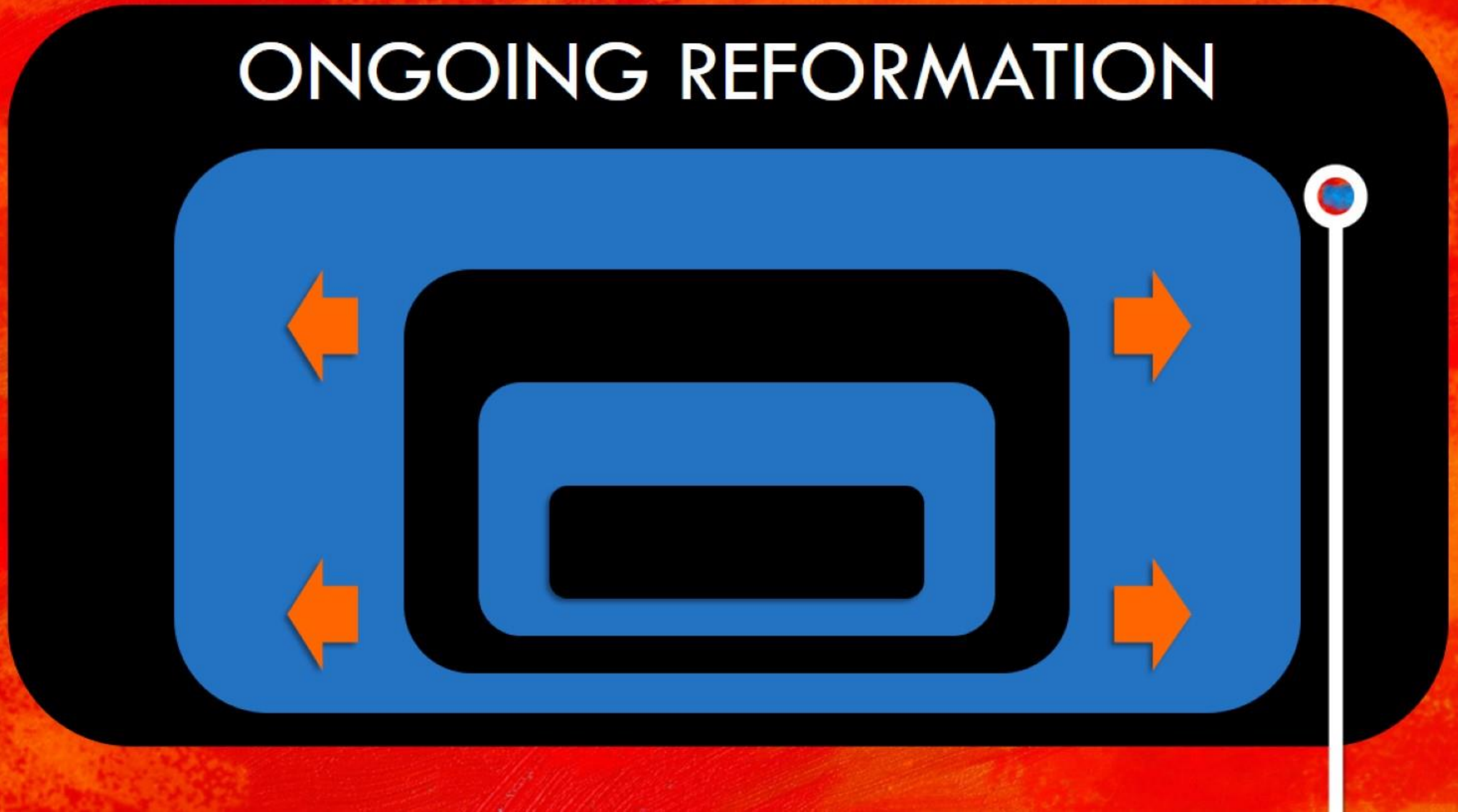


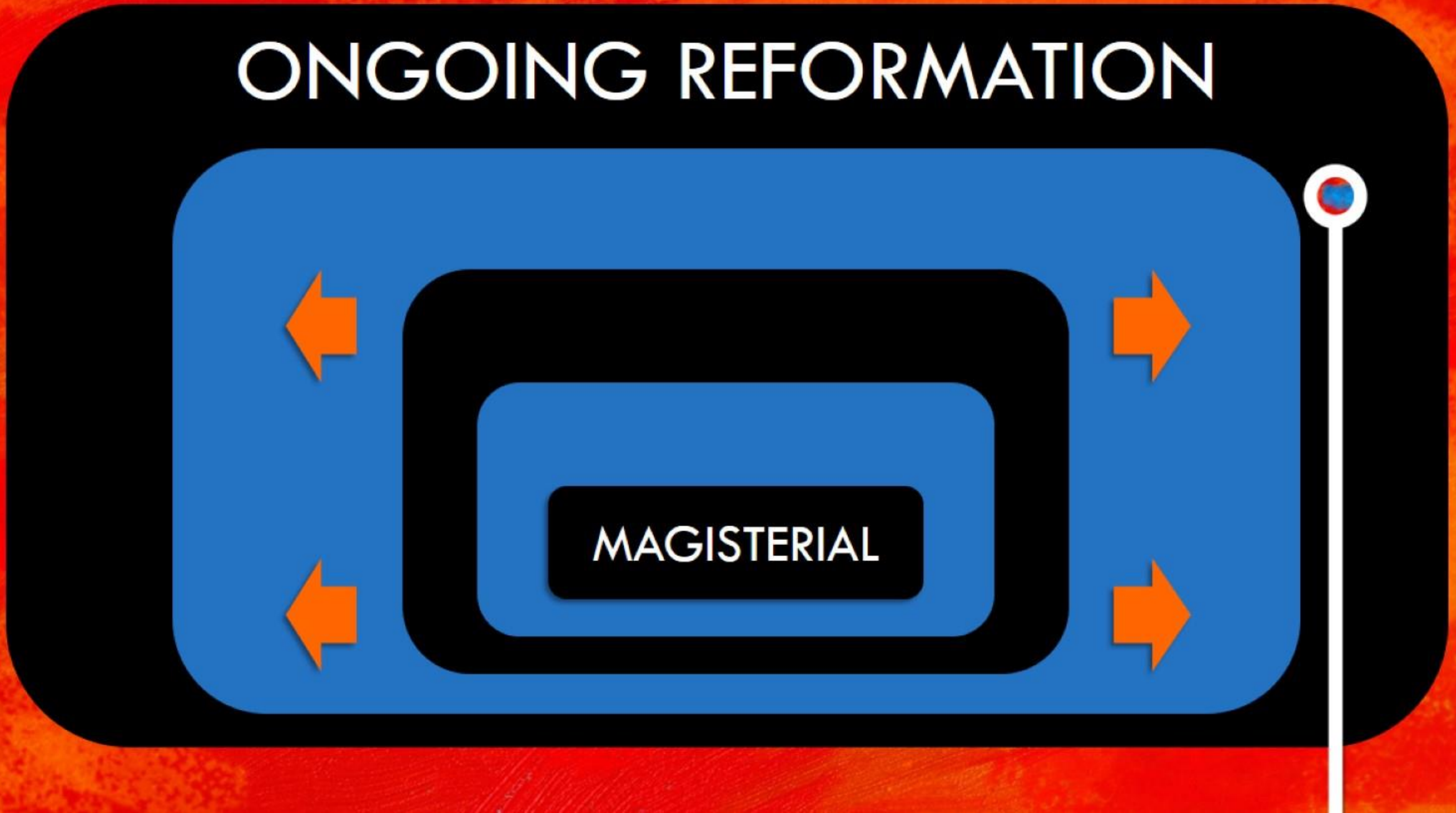
MILLER'S DREAM:

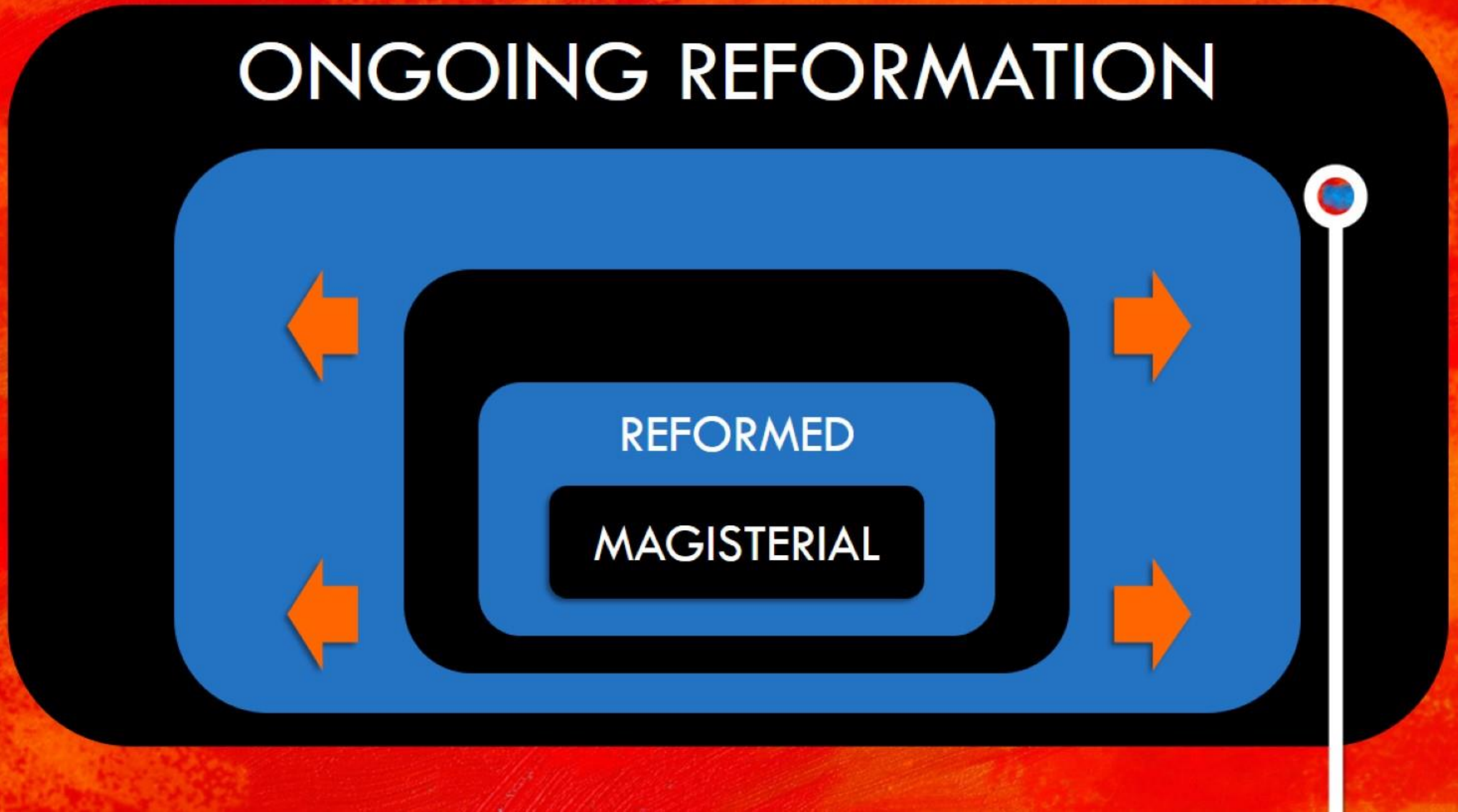
BASKET
PRECIOUS STONES
PERFECT ORDER

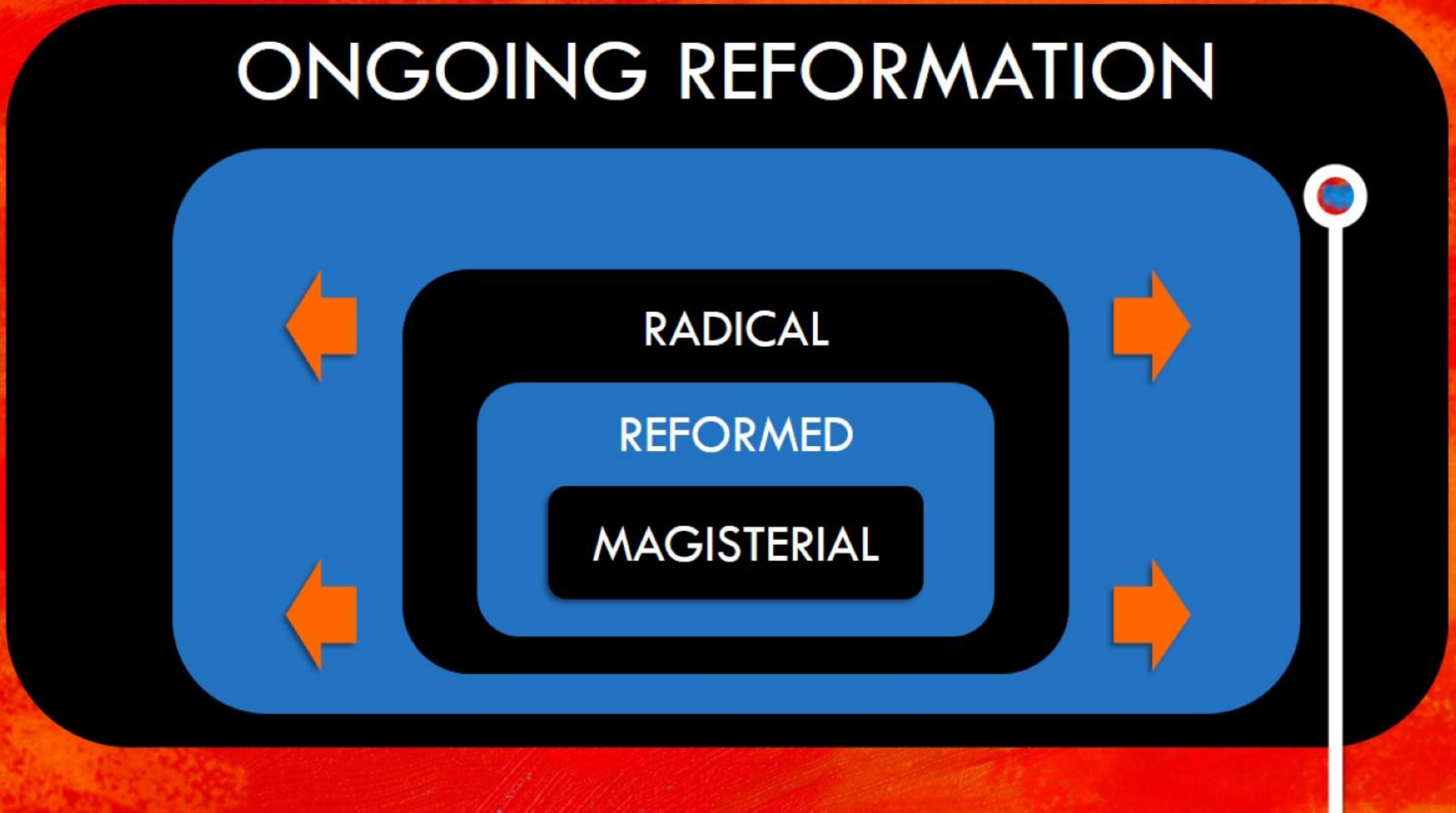
ADVENTIST TASK:

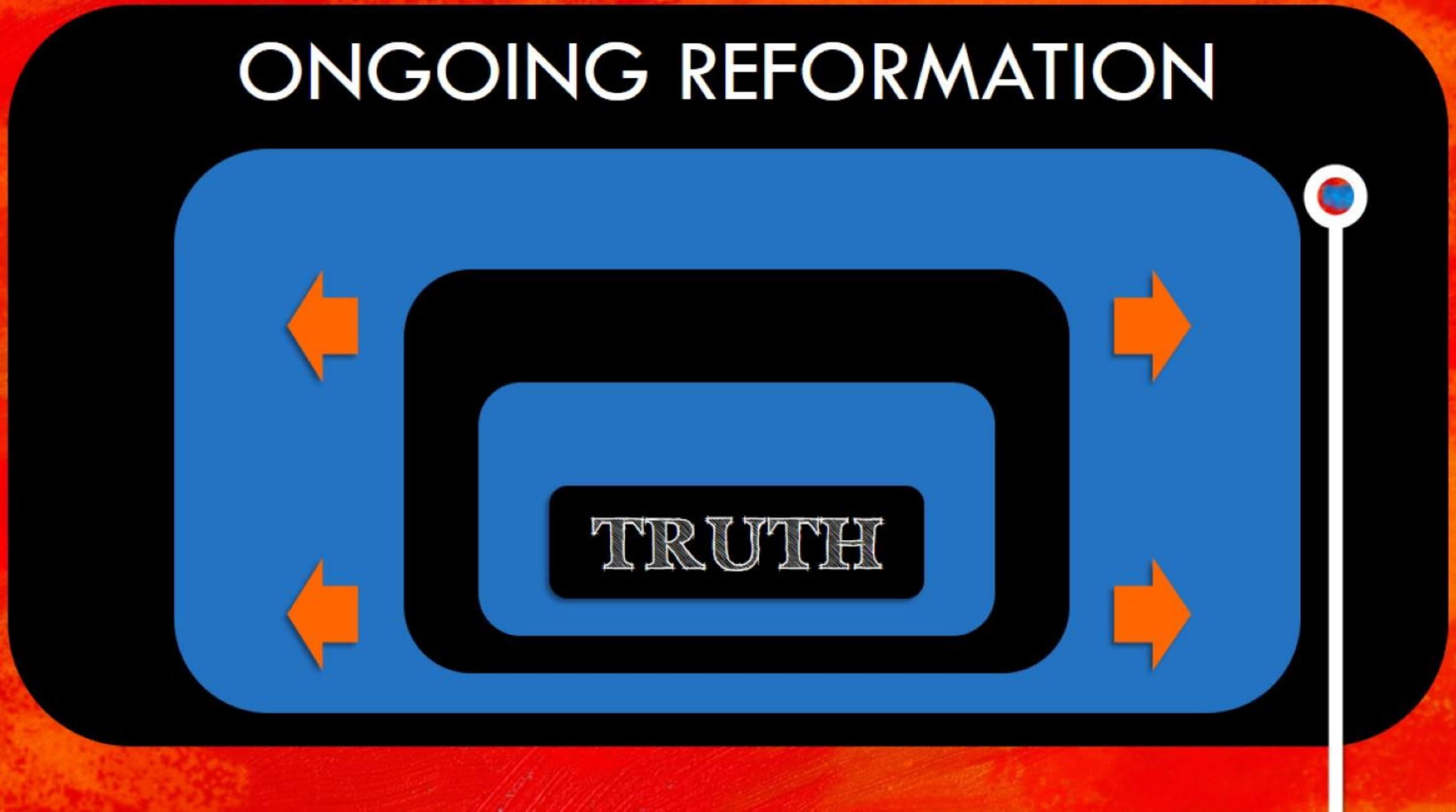
RESTORING THE FORGOTTEN TRUTH


ONGOING REFORMATION


ONGOING REFORMATION
MAGISTERIAL


ONGOING REFORMATION
REFORMED
MAGISTERIAL


ONGOING REFORMATION
RADICAL
REFORMED
MAGISTERIAL


ONGOING REFORMATION
TRUTH


QUEST FOR
TRUTH
OUTCOME

QUEST FOR TRUTH

ORTHOPATHY

SOLA SCRIPTURA

TOTA SCRIPTURA

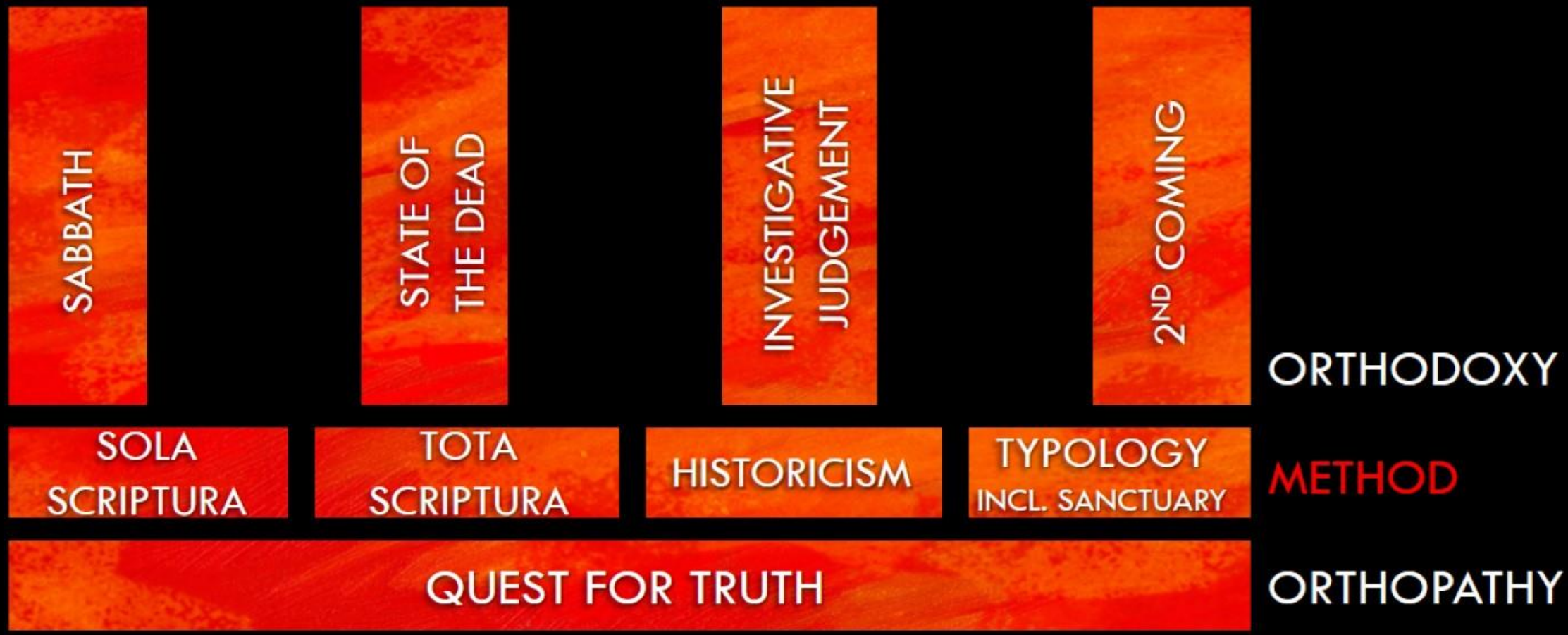
HISTORICISM

TYPOLOGY
INCL. SANCTUARY

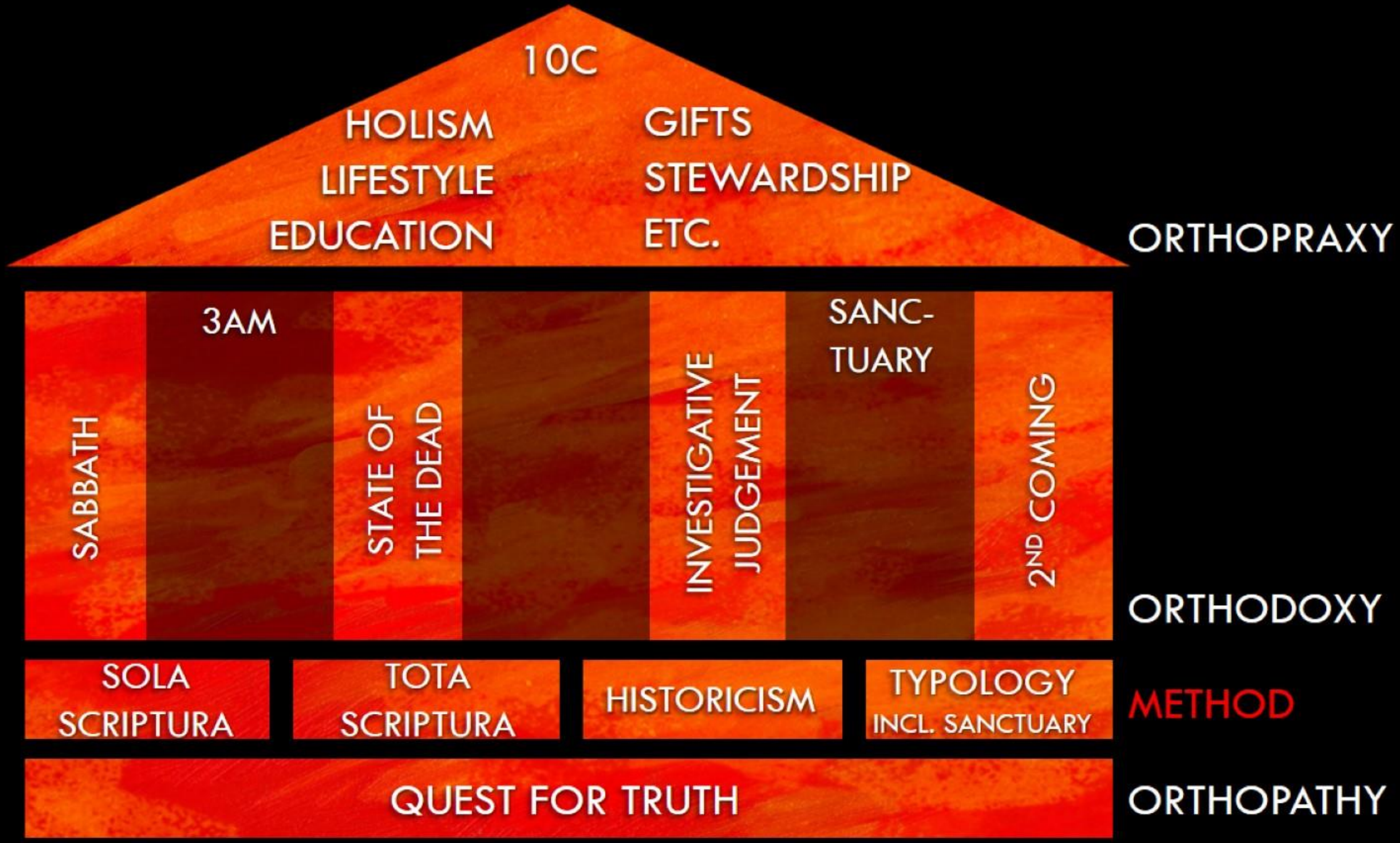
METHOD

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
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HISTORICISM
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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
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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)

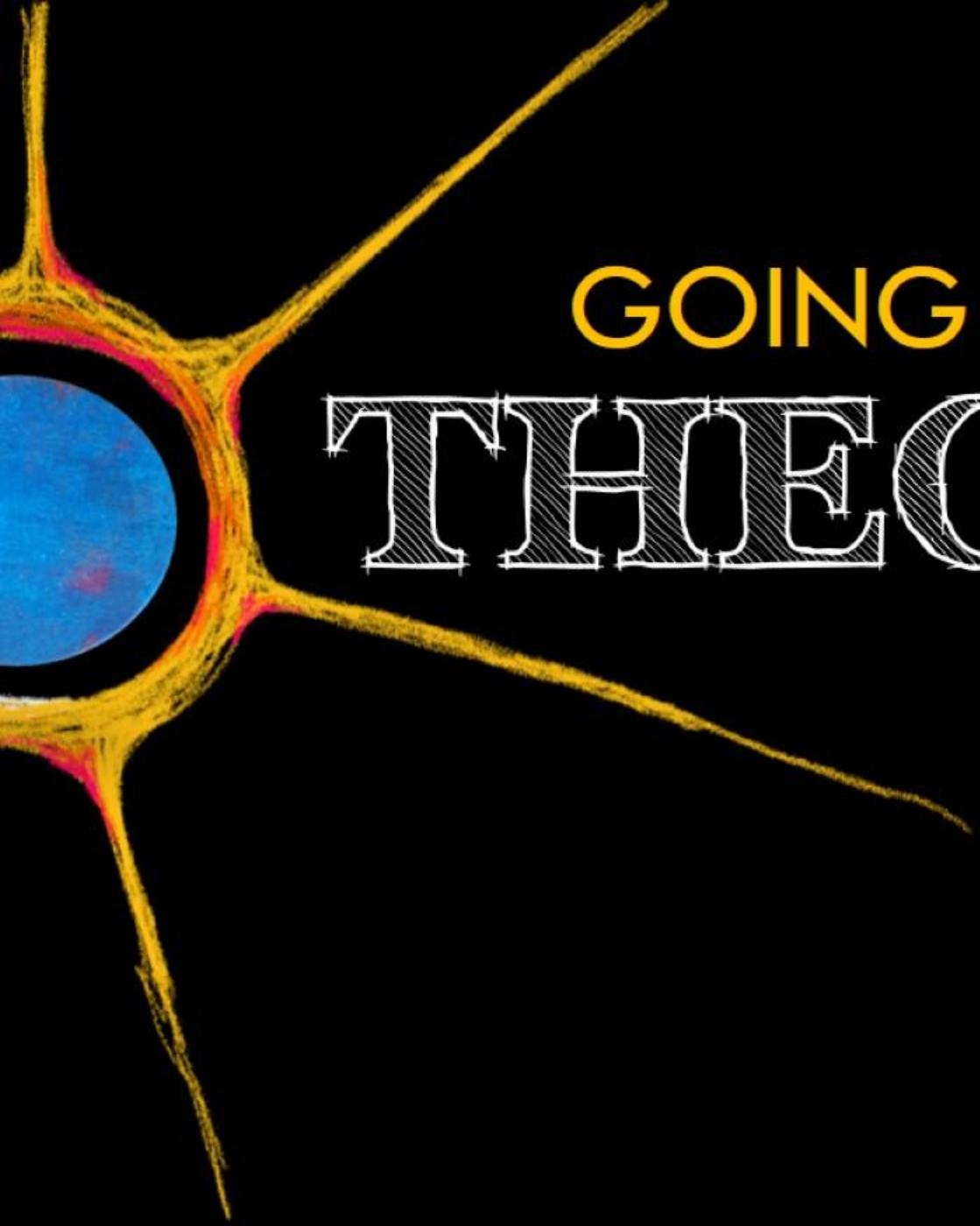
...opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand had directed the great Advent movement and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people.

ELLEN WHITE

EARLY ADVENTIST CRISIS

GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT





GOING BACK TO THE STORY

THEODRAMA

“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

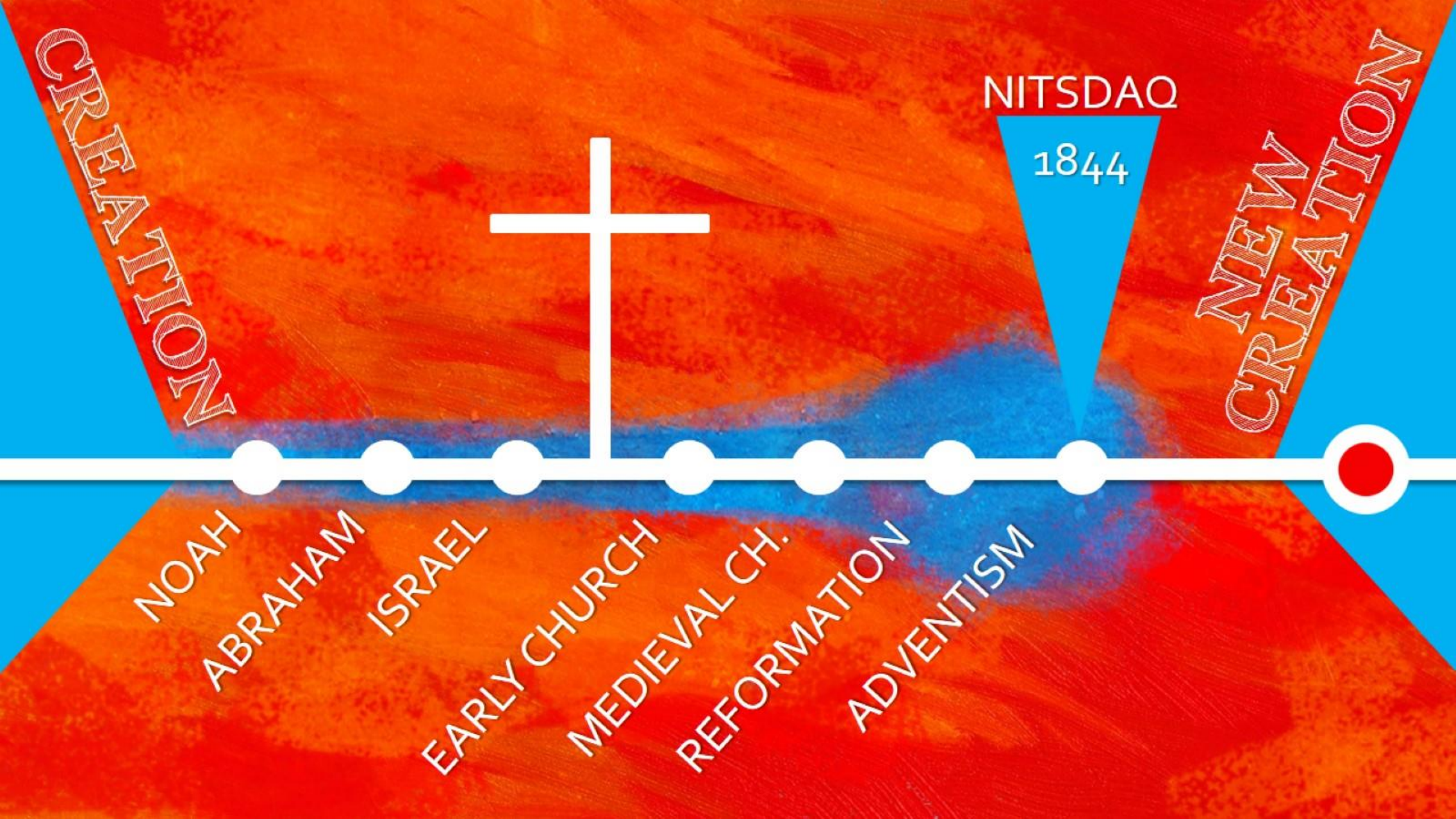


ESCHATOLOGICAL JUDGEMENT:
3 STAGES

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

ADVENTIST REINTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLICAL STORYLINE

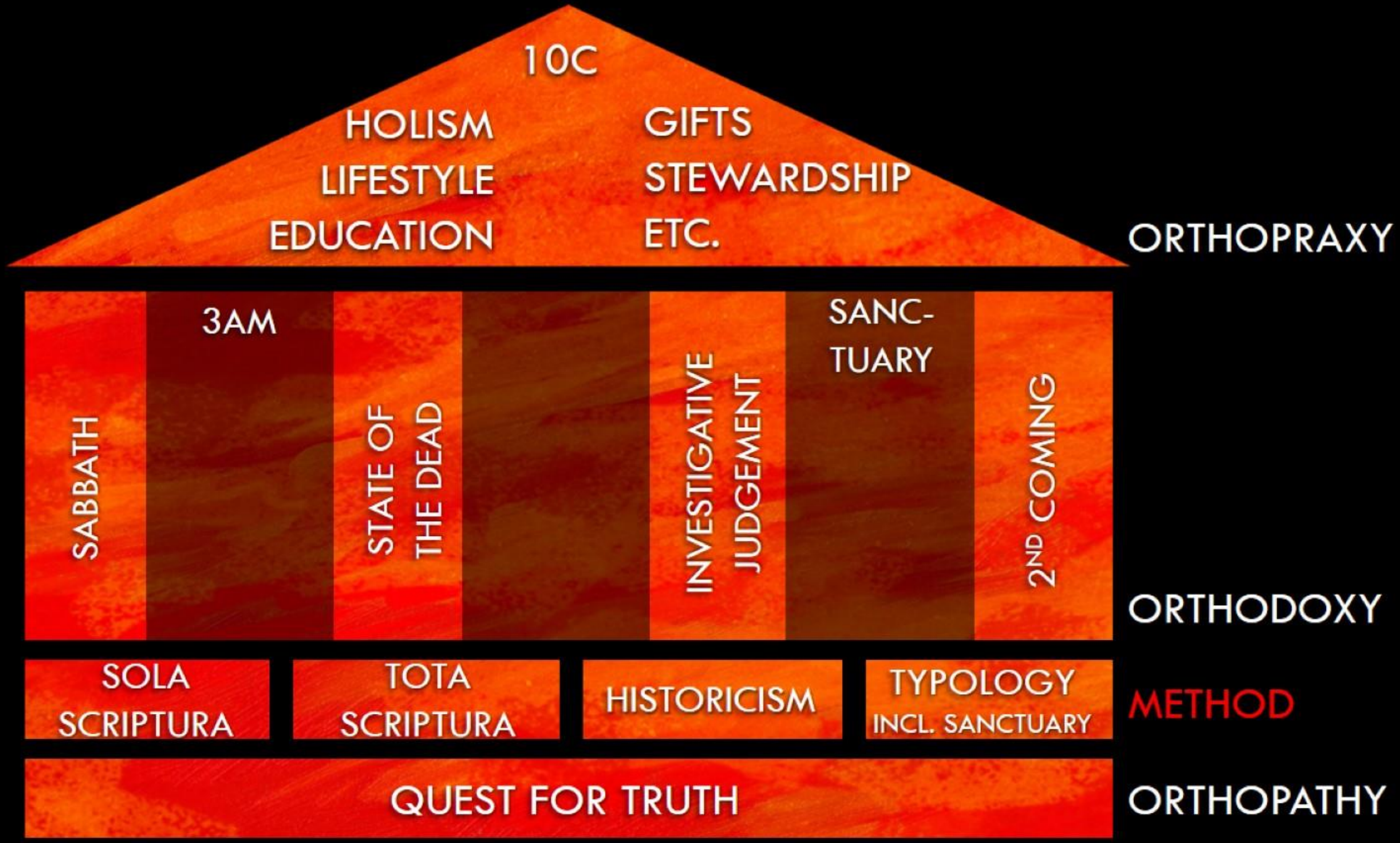



CREATION
NITSDAQ
1844
NEW CREATION
NOAH
ABRAHAM
ISRAEL
EARLY CHURCH
MEDIEVAL CH.
REFORMATION
ADVENTISM

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

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 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


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.

BUT WE DO NOT SEEK TRUTH ALONE.

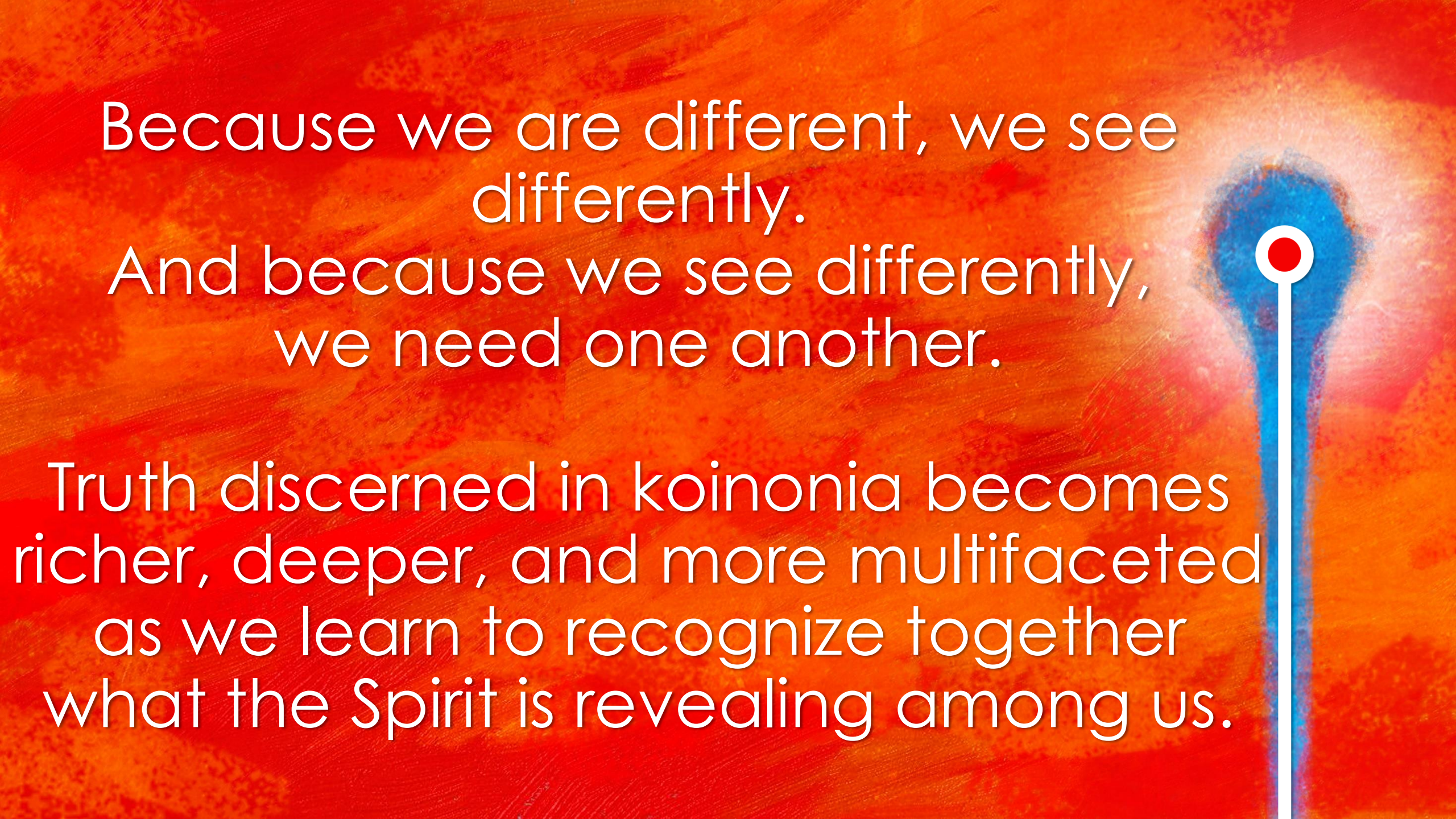


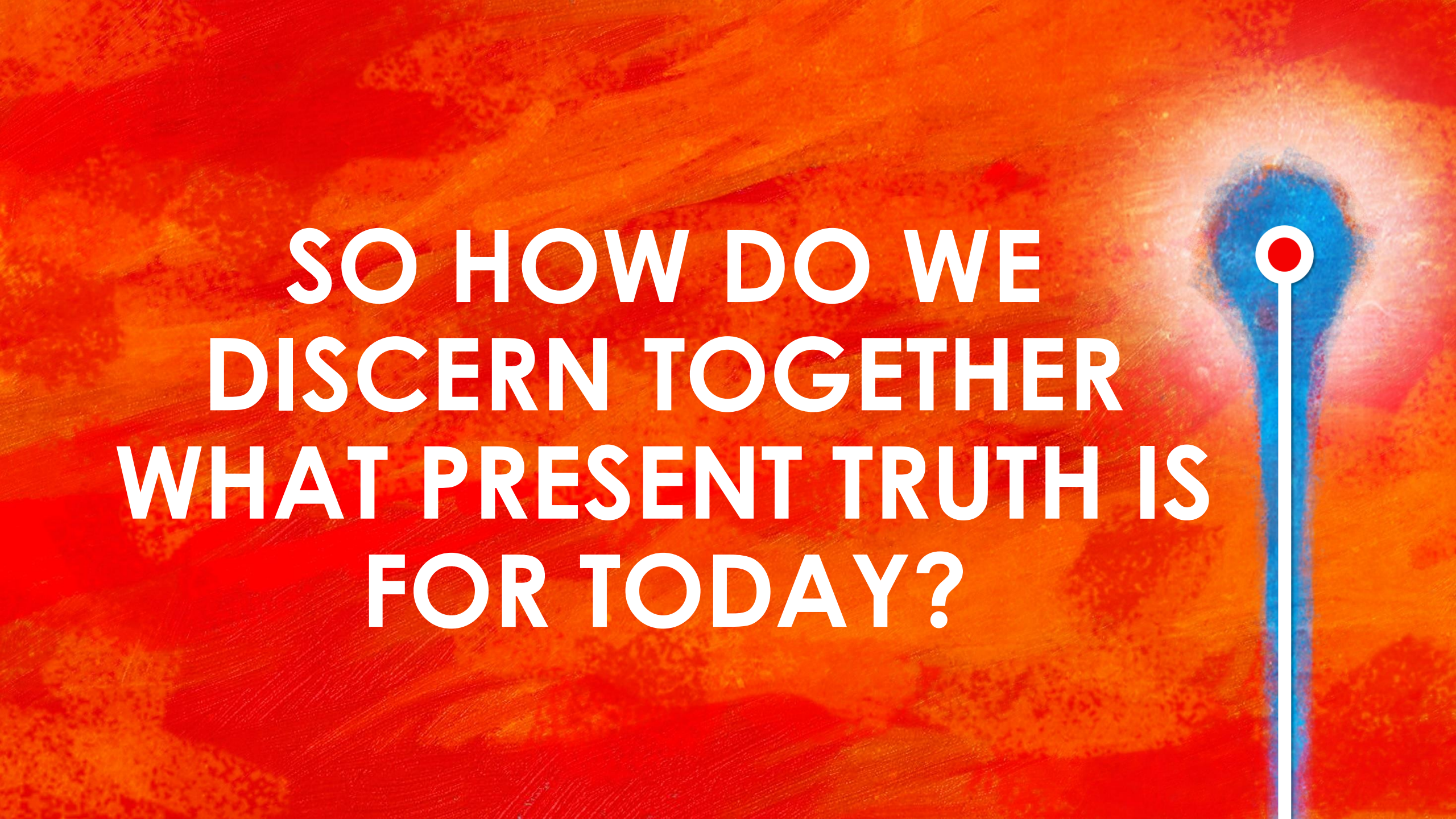
If truth is more than propositions
to be possessed—
If truth is a living reality in which
we participate—
Then our journey into truth is
also a journey with one
another.



Because we are different, we see differently.
And because we see differently, we need one another.

Truth discerned in koinonia becomes richer, deeper, and more multifaceted as we learn to recognize together what the Spirit is revealing among us.




SO HOW DO WE
DISCERN TOGETHER
WHAT PRESENT TRUTH IS
FOR TODAY?