

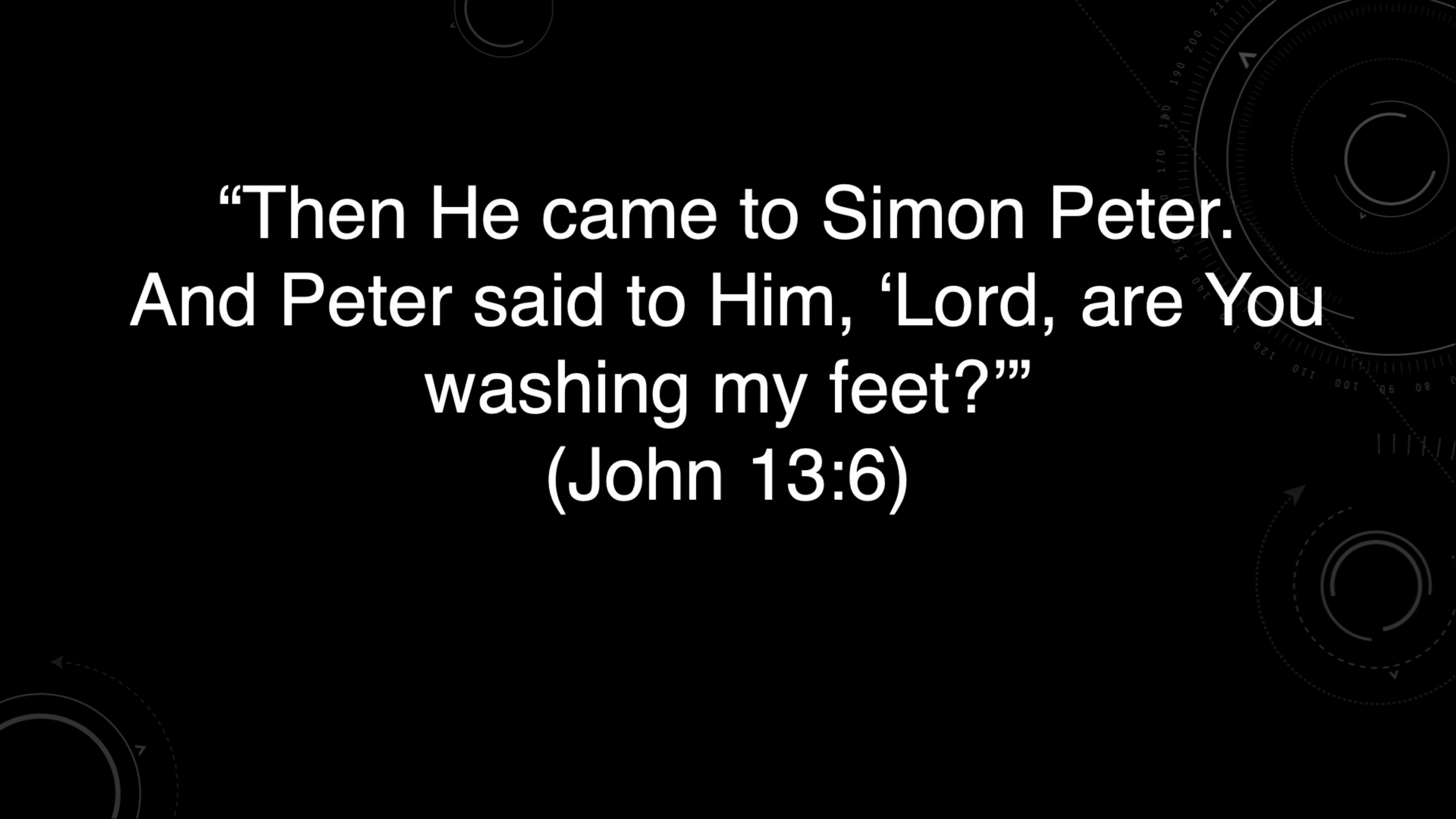
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

APOLOGETICS—DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

CHRISTIAN PRUETT, CALVARY CASTLE ROCK





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**“Then He came to Simon Peter.
And Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, are You
washing my feet?’”
(John 13:6)**



MARK

?

15

**DOWN
TO GO**

**3
7**

15

BALL ON

42

QTR

4

02:15

FIVE FACTORS OF WORLD RELIGIONS

Canonicity

- **Muratonian Fragment, Church leaders (Ireneus, Polycarp, Jerome)**
- **Discounting Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical books**
- **Hermeneutics (How to Read It)**
 - **Scripture interprets Scripture**
 - **Understanding context, time, language, genre**

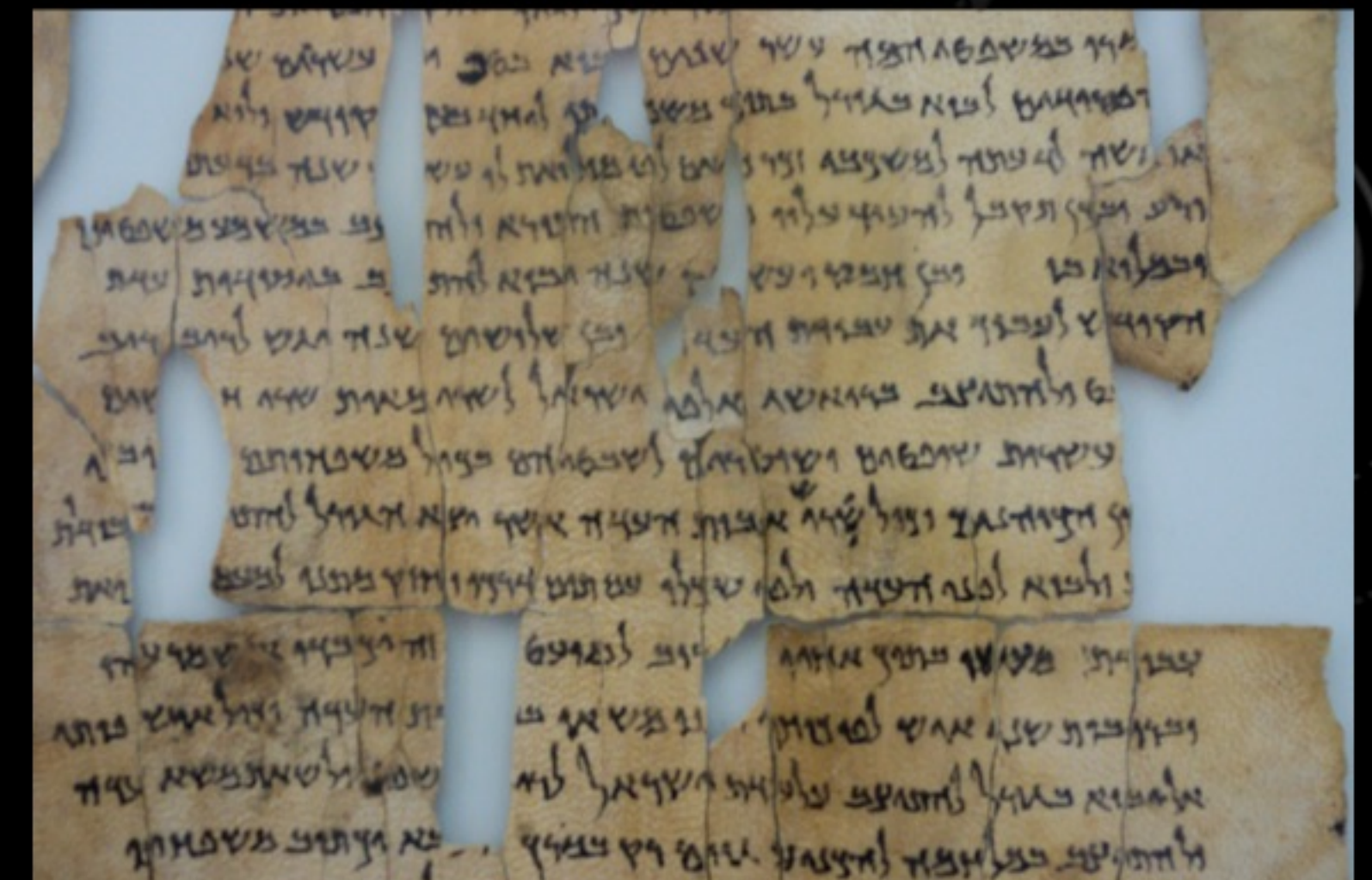
A BIBLE OVERVIEW



WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- **Overview**

- The primary text and source of truth of the Christian faith
- A compilation of 66 books, letters, and writings
- Written over 1500 years by 40 different authors through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Covers details across 3 continents in 3 different languages
- One unified message across all its pages



LAYOUT

- **Divided into two major sections**
 - The Old Testament & The New Testament
- **The Old Testament (39 books)**
 - Written in Hebrew and Aramaic
 - Documents the world and events from the Creation of the world to about 400 years before Christ
- **The New Testament (27 books)**
 - Written in Koine Greek
 - Documents the events from about 5 years before the birth of Christ to about 70AD
- **Books are divided into chapters and verses, separated by colons (Mark 16:15)**

STRUCTURE

- **Books of the Bible are named after:**
 - The events within the books (Exodus, 1 Kings)
 - The name of the author (Isaiah, Mark)
 - The subjects or addressees of the books (Esther, Galatians)
 - A translation/transliteration of the themes or original languages (Ecclesiastes, Revelation)
- **The Bible is non-linear; many different Books contain different pieces of the same timeframe or information**
 - Historical Books (1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles)
 - The Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John)

SELF ATTESTATION

- **It is divinely inspired**

- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)”

- **It is true**

- “The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. (Psalm 119:160)”

- **It is everlasting**

- “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18)”

- **It is complete**

- “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:5-6)”

ONE FAMOUS APHORISM

- **“I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and they claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin.”**
- **— Voddie Baucham**



THE OLD TESTAMENT



OLD TESTAMENT—FIVE (THREE) MAIN AREAS

- **Torah / Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy)**
 - Creation of the world, start of nation of Israel, God's Law
- **Historical Books (Joshua-Esther)**
 - Entering into Promised Land, Judges and Kings, going into Captivity
- **Wisdom Books (Job-Song of Solomon)**
 - Life of Job, Proverbs, Psalms, introspective books, love poems
- **Major Prophets (Isaiah-Daniel)**
 - Four larger books, rise and fall of nations, prophecies of Jesus and future
- **Minor Prophets (Hosea-Malachi)**
 - Twelve smaller books, primarily prophecies of Israel, ends 400 years before Christ

THE NEW TESTAMENT

The background is a dark gray to black gradient. It features several abstract geometric elements: a large circle with a dashed outer boundary and a solid inner boundary, with a small arrow pointing clockwise, located in the bottom left; a large circle with a dashed outer boundary and a solid inner boundary, with a small arrow pointing clockwise, located in the bottom right; a large circle with a dashed outer boundary and a solid inner boundary, with a small arrow pointing clockwise, located in the top right; and a large circle with a dashed outer boundary and a solid inner boundary, with a small arrow pointing clockwise, located in the top left. Additionally, there are several concentric circles and lines of varying thicknesses scattered throughout the background.

NEW TESTAMENT—FIVE MAIN AREAS

- **The Gospels (Matthew-John)**
 - Four accounts of Jesus' life, just before birth through death and resurrection
- **History (Acts)**
 - Start of the Church, introduces Paul, opens the faith to Gentiles
- **Pauline Epistles (Romans-Philemon)**
 - Written by Paul, covers topics from theology to day-to-day church tasks
- **General Epistles (Hebrews-Jude)**
 - Written by five authors, topics ranging from faith to prophecy
- **Apocalypse (Revelation)**
 - The, “unveiling,” of the end days on Earth, the final battle, the New Heaven/
Earth

CANONICITY



HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

- **Archaeology**

- The Bible describes specific places and locations in the world where artifacts and monuments can be found

- **History**

- The Bible describes specific events, people, and happenings that have been validated by extra-biblical sources

- **Science**

- There are numerous scientific claims in the Bible that have been proven true, and things within the Bible that science has only recently proven

- **Copies**

- There are more copies of the Bible than any other book in antiquity, with consistent content and corroboration

- **Transcription**

- It was meticulously handwritten by scribes with strict guidelines

- **Prophecy**

- It made specific predictions about future events that have come true and are continuing to come true

SECONDARY SOURCES OF CANONICITY

- **Contemporaries**

- Polycarp, Irenaeus, Origen, Justin Martyr, Clement, and Athanasius all quote, show, and attest to the historicity of the New Testament books between the First and Fourth Centuries.

- **Manuscripts**

- Texts including the Muratorian Fragment, Papyri, Miniscules, and Codices contain lists of books, or partial or whole texts themselves.

- **Councils**

- Gatherings of church leaders in sessions like the Council of Nicaea, Council of Hippo, and Council of Carthage all confirm (not codify) the contents of the New Testament.

BIBLES TODAY



TRANSLATIONS

- **Formal Translations**

- Focus more on a word-for-word translation of the Bible
- Includes the King James Version (KJV), New King James Version (NKJV), English Standard Version (ESV), and New American Standard Bible (NASB)

- **Dynamic Translations**

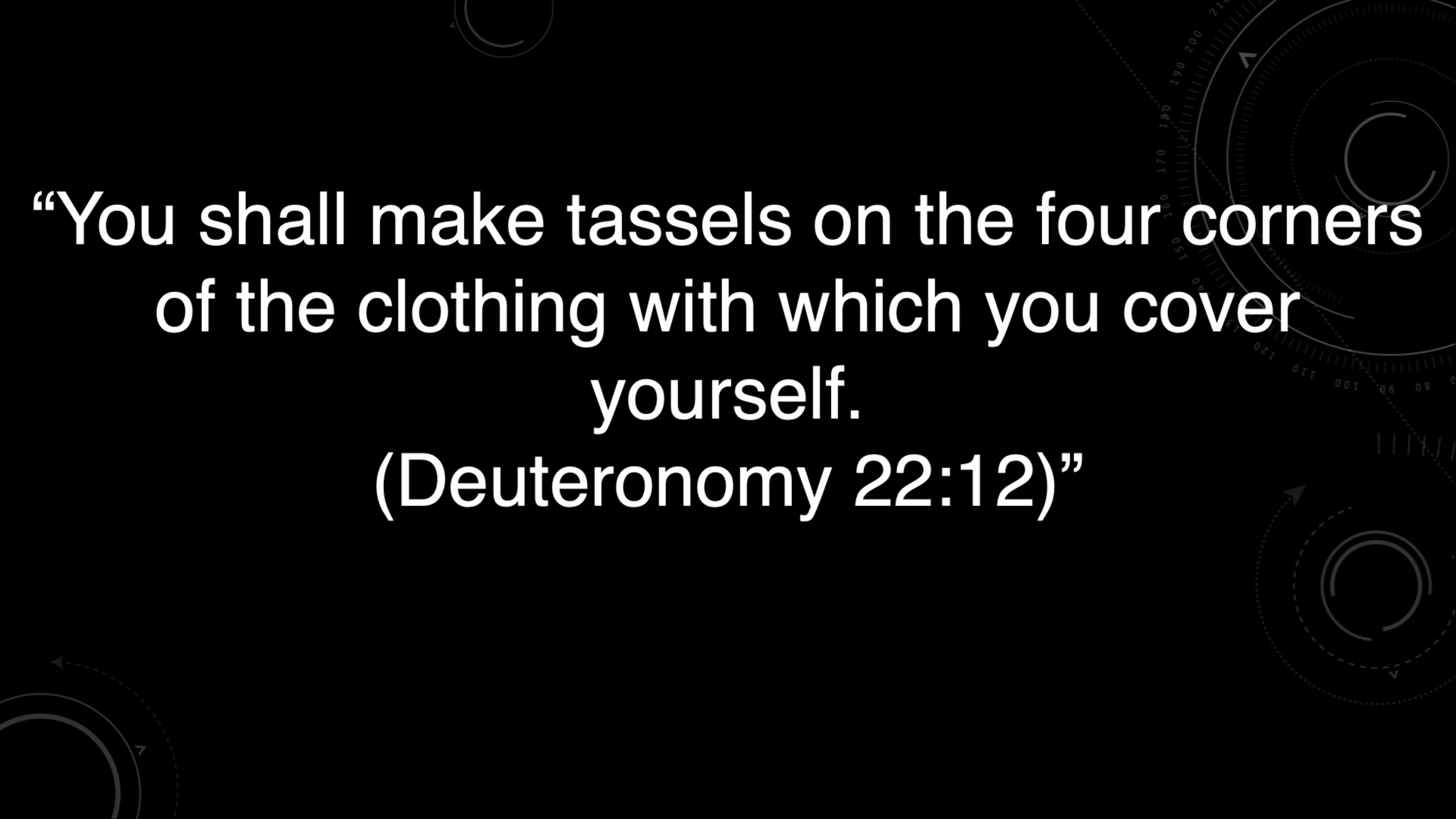
- Focus more on a thought-for-thought translation of the Bible
- Includes the New International Version (NIV), the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), and New Living Translation (NLT)

- **Paraphrase Translations**

- Focus on a subjective understanding of the Bible
- Includes The Message (get rid of it now)

HERMENEUTICS



The background is dark with several faint, light-colored technical diagrams. These include circular gauges with scales and arrows, and various geometric shapes like circles and arcs. The text is centered and rendered in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

**“You shall make tassels on the four corners
of the clothing with which you cover
yourself.
(Deuteronomy 22:12)”**

THE INDUCTIVE METHOD

- **Eisegeisis**

- Having a preconceived idea and looking to the Bible for proof.
- Using a single Bible verse for meaning or understanding.
- Applying Bible verses where they may not work.
- Superimposing a modern understanding or interpretation.
- “What does the Bible say *to me*?”

THE INDUCTIVE METHOD

- **Using The Example**

- “I believe that God loves everyone based on what they do.”
(Preconceived idea)
- “God wants people to have tassels on their clothes.” (Single verse understanding)
- “We should all start putting tassels on our clothes.” (Incorrect application)
- “Because you’re wearing a scarf with tassels on it, you know that God must love you.” (Wrong interpretation)

THIS IS WRONG!

THE DEDUCTIVE METHOD

- **Exegesis**

- Reading the Bible in light of what it says without external influence.
- Understands the Bible in terms of the author, purpose, audience, time of authorship, and timing of events.
- Looks at verses in context of the whole Bible, in a grammatical-historical sense.
- Derives the principle, application, and significance.
- “Scripture interprets Scripture.”

THE DEDUCTIVE METHOD

- **Using The Example**

- Clothing that covers the body should be hemmed or secured with tassels on the edges. (Rephrase)
- This was in the Old Testament, part of the Law of Moses, written to the Israelites. (Context)
- God wanted to use the tassels as a way of reminding them of His Commandments (Numbers 15:38-40). (Cross-referencing)
- Clothing, like prayer shawls (tallit), would become unraveled or frayed without ways of securing it. (Implications)
- Many ancient nations believed that they derived supernatural powers from their clothes, tattoos, or their body stylings (Leviticus 18:3, 19:28). (Additional context)
- This was another physical sign that differentiated the Israelites from other peoples, like their beards (Leviticus 19:27, 21:5). (Additional focus)
- There are no comments in the New Testament which would compel Gentiles to wear clothing of this fashion. (Looking at the whole)
- Therefore—God is a God of details. He may be able to measure the Universe with the span of His hand (Isaiah 40:12), but He cares about things, even down to the clothes people wear.

QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU



