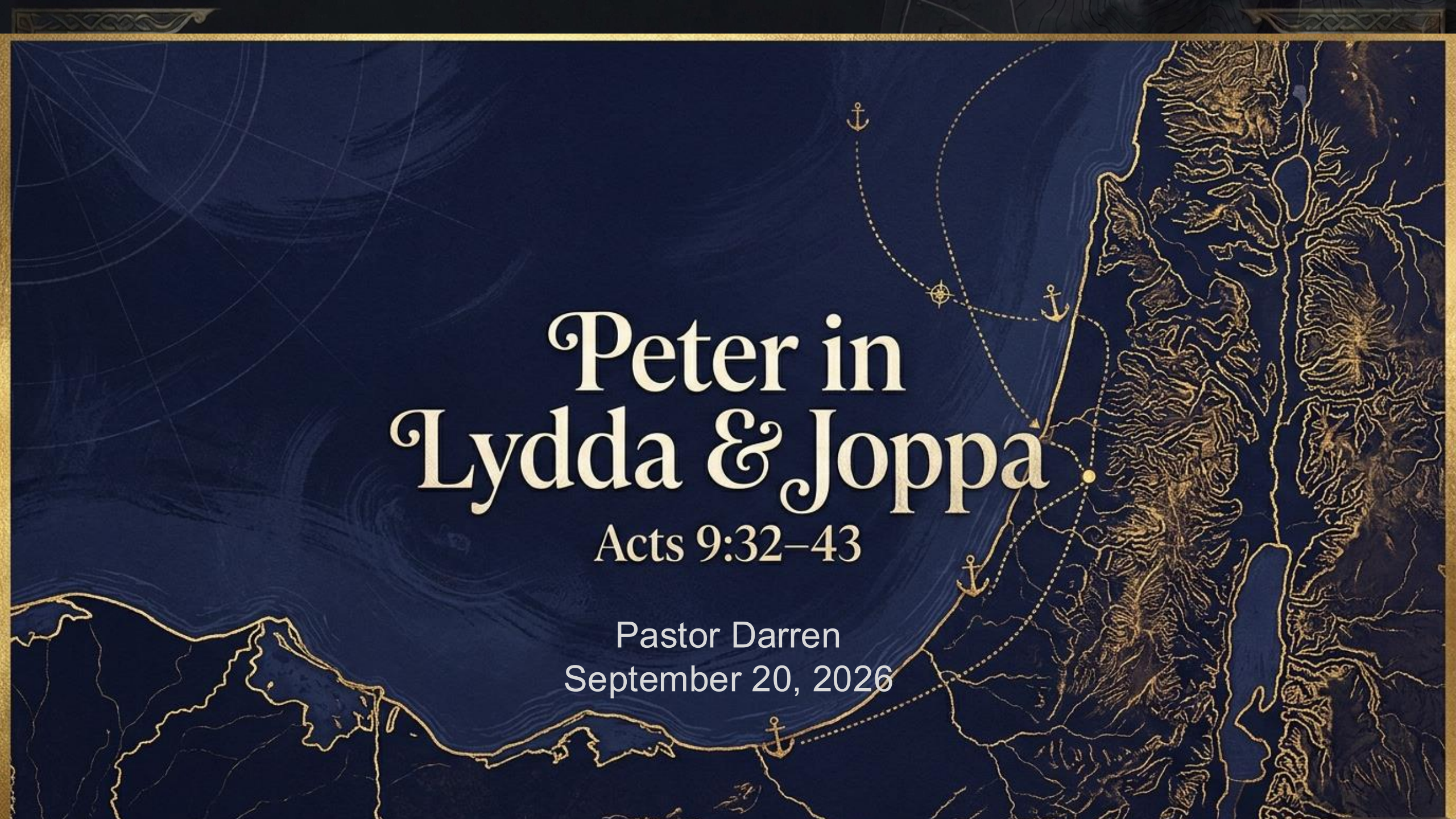


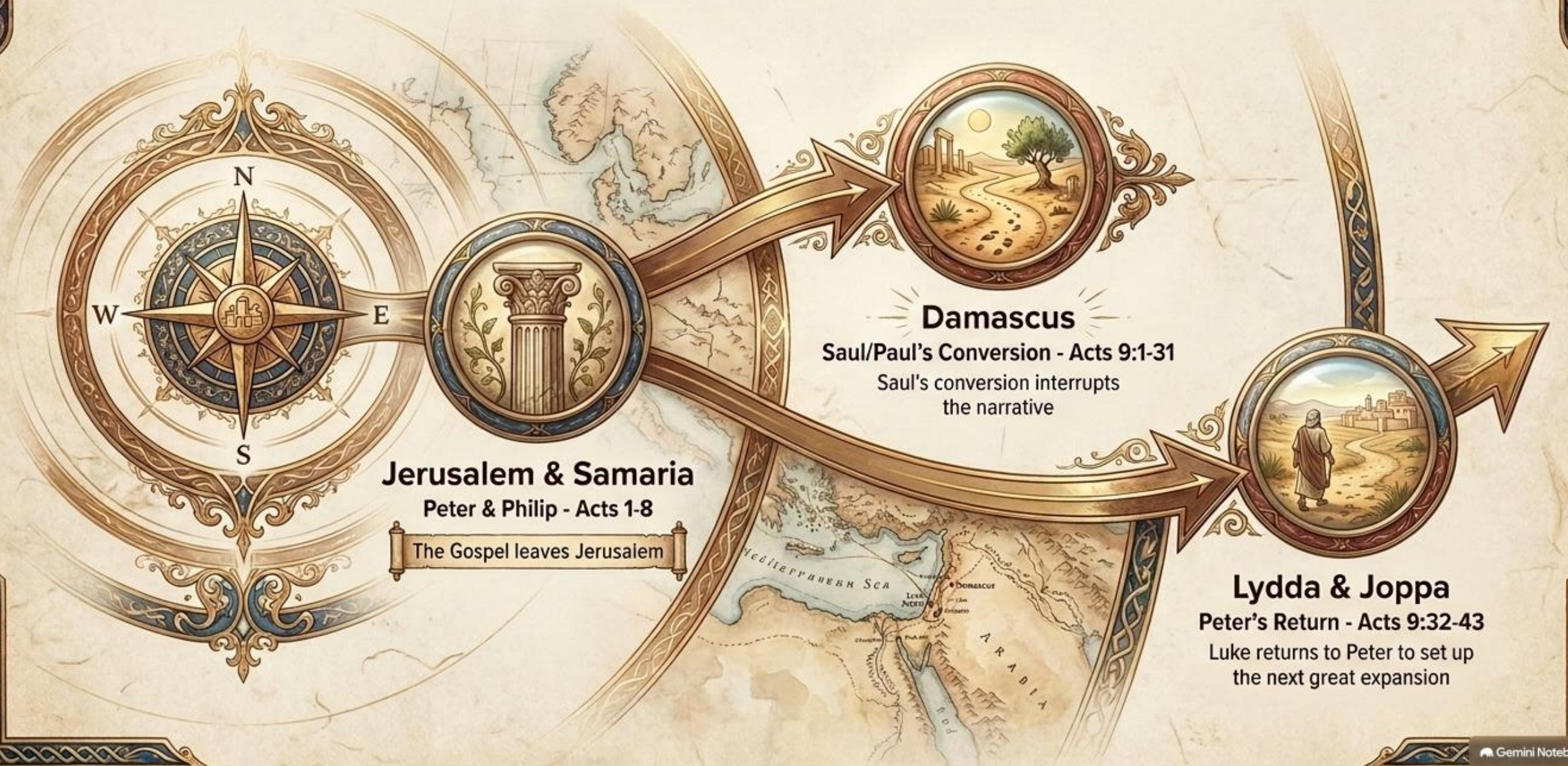


Peter in Lydda & Joppa

Acts 9:32–43

Pastor Darren
September 20, 2026

The Metanarrative of Acts: The Outward Explosion



32 Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.

Acts 9:32

NASB

14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,

15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14–15

NASB95



Caesarea

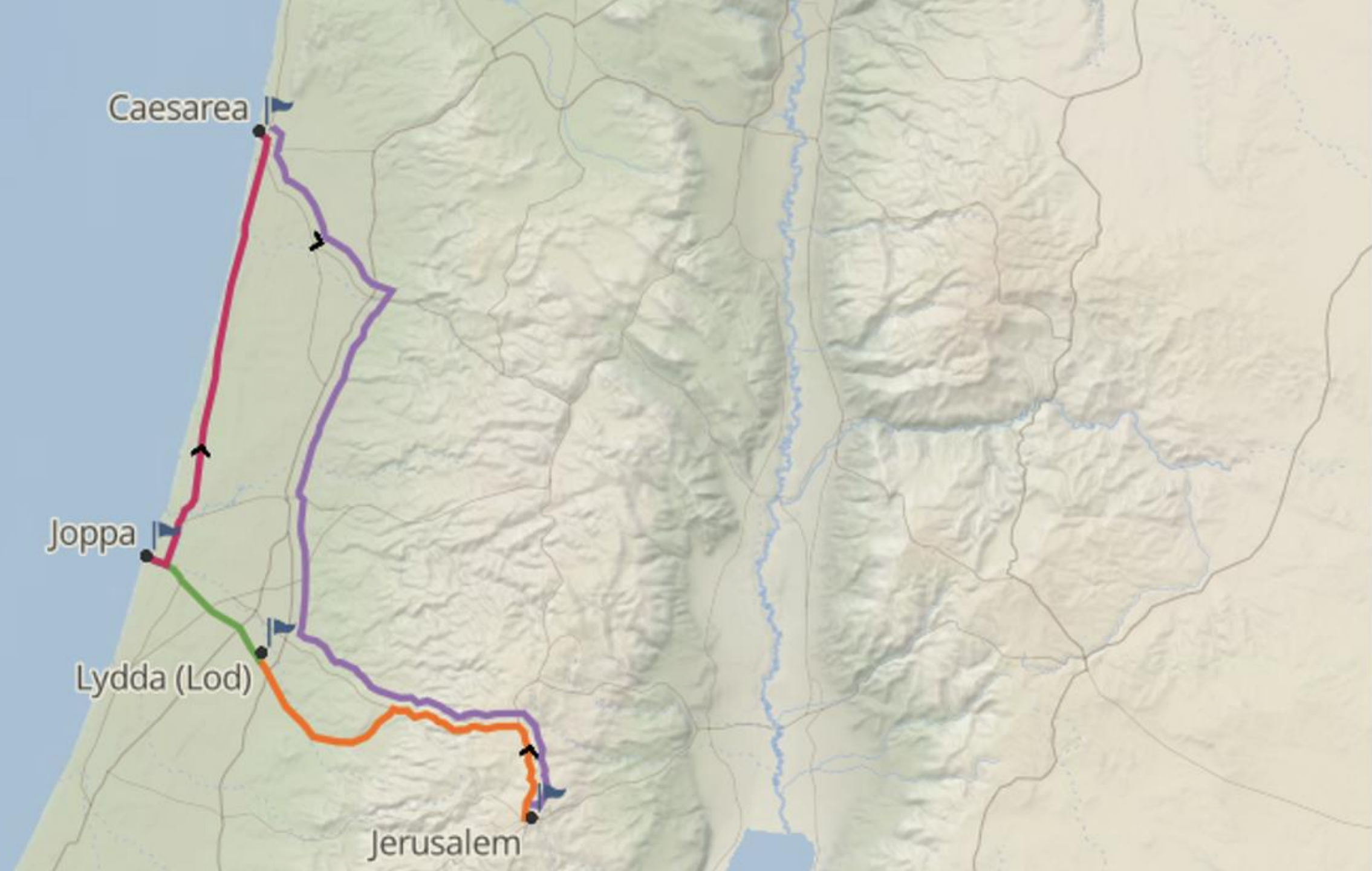
Joppa

Lydda (Lod)

Jerusalem

J U D E A

Dead Sea



33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed.

Acts 9:33

NASB

The name Aeneas indicates that he may have been of Roman ancestry. He could have been a Roman Jew (there were many), or possibly a Gentile slave of a Roman, but it is not likely that Luke would have told about Peter's ministering to a Gentile before his encounter with Cornelius.

All the People in the Bible: An A–Z Guide to the Saints, Scoundrels, and Other Characters in Scripture

34 Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed.” Immediately he got up.

Acts 9:34

NASB95

“Jesus Christ heals you”

1 The first account I composed,
Theophilus, about all that Jesus **began**
to do and teach,

Acts 1:1

NASB95

15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

16 “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

17 “These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Mark 16:15–20

NASB95

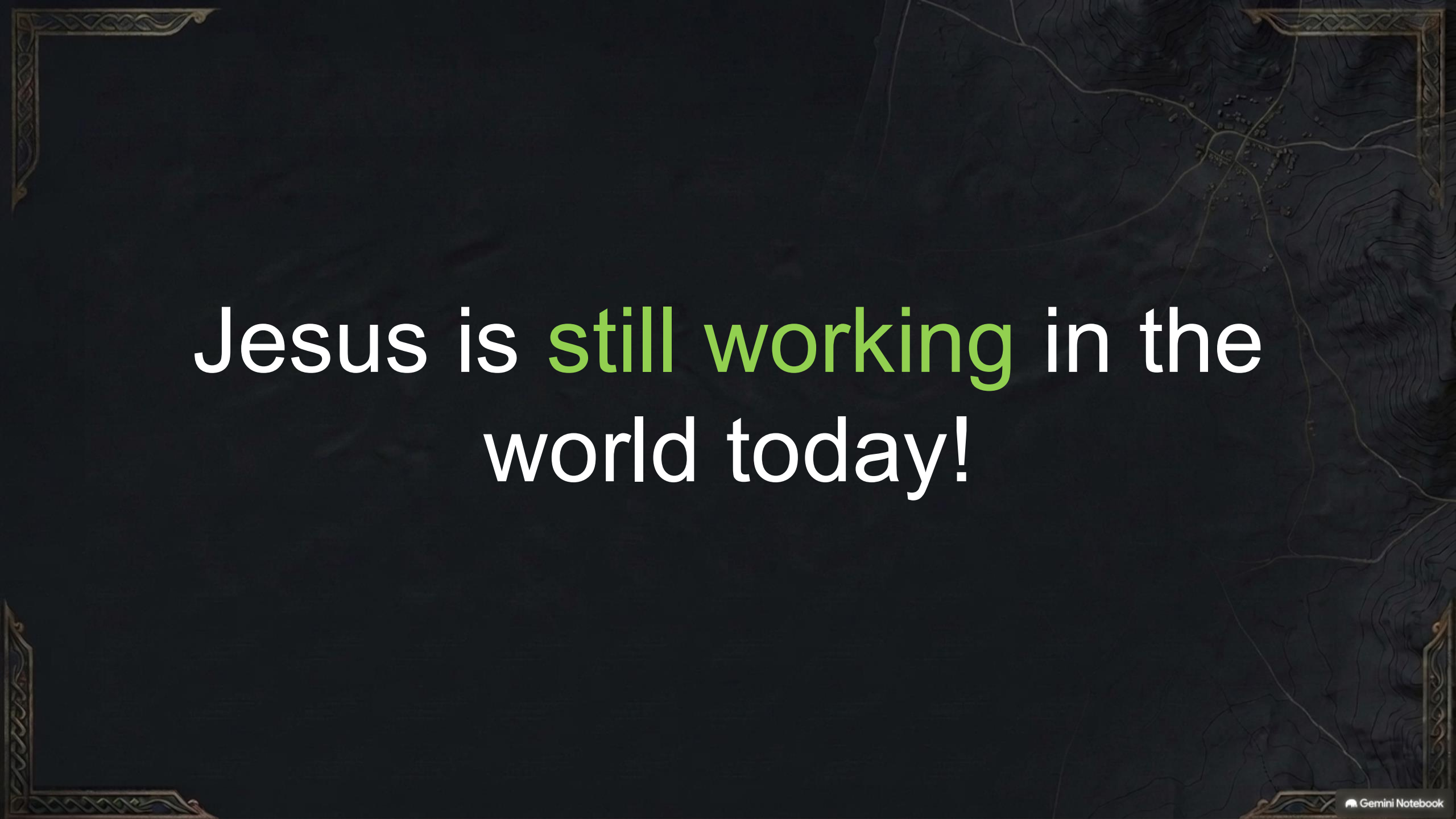
19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

Mark 16:15–20

NASB95



Jesus is **still working** in the
world today!

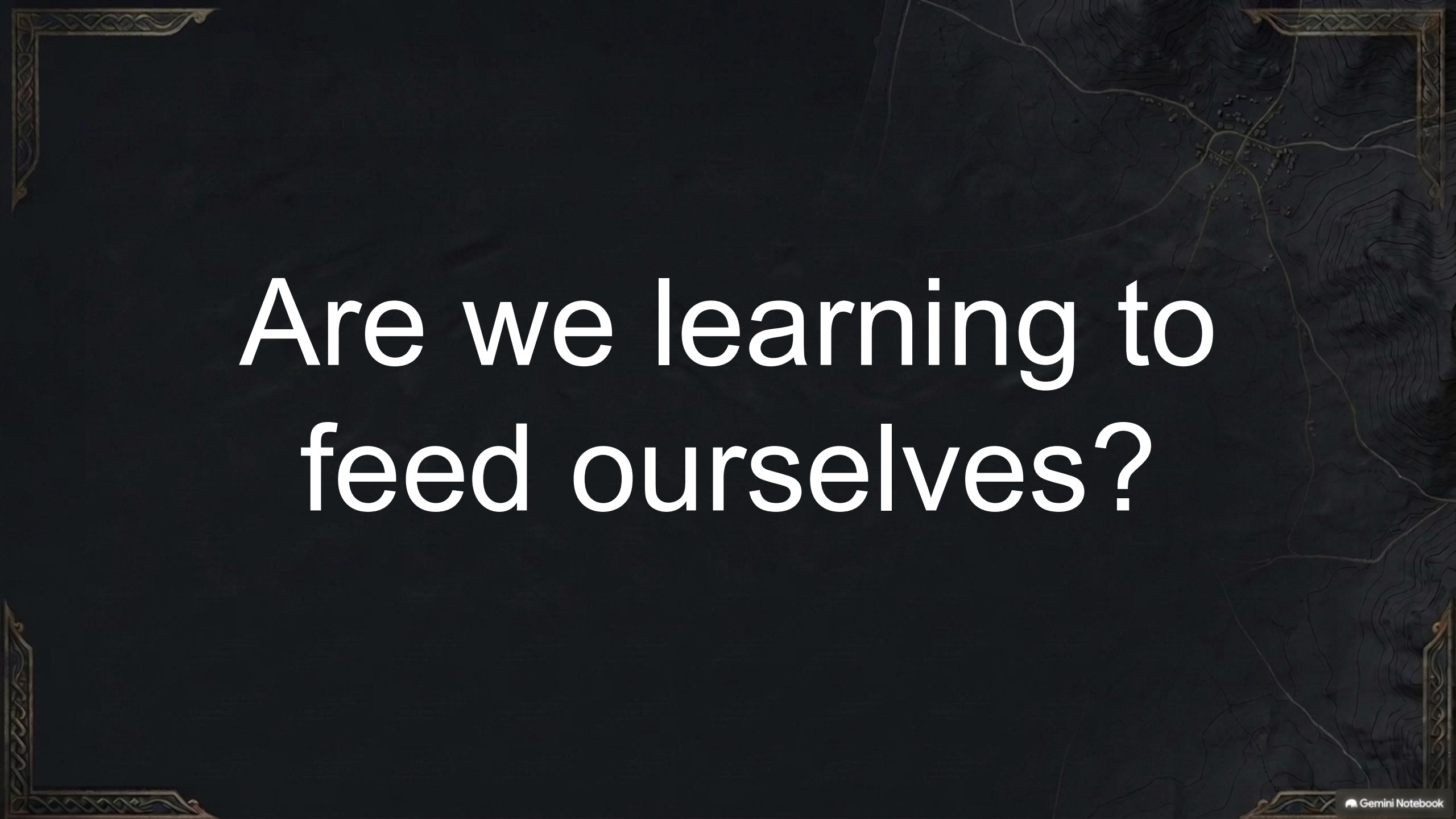
3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Hebrews 2:3–4

NASB95

The present tense along with the word immediately (v. 34) implies instant, complete activity, not a process.

Evangelical Commentary on the Bible



Are we learning to
feed ourselves?

'Get Up and Make Your Bed': The Path to Spiritual Self-Feeding



The Infant

Fed by Others (Sunday School,
Parents, Teachers)



The Maturing Believer

Self-Feeding (Reading the Word,
Fasting, Practicing His Presence)

1 Cor. 13:11



The Reproducer

Feeding Others
(Disciples making disciples)

God desires to move us from relying on others for our spiritual sustenance
to a place of overflow where we can feed others.

11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

1 Corinthians 13:11

NASB95

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The Reproducer

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(Disciples making disciples)

God desires to move us from relying on others for our spiritual sustenance
to a place of overflow where we can feed others.

God wants to move us to a place in our lives where we can begin doing for ourselves (and for others) things we once relied on others to do for us.

'Get Up and Make Your Bed': The Path to Spiritual Self-Feeding



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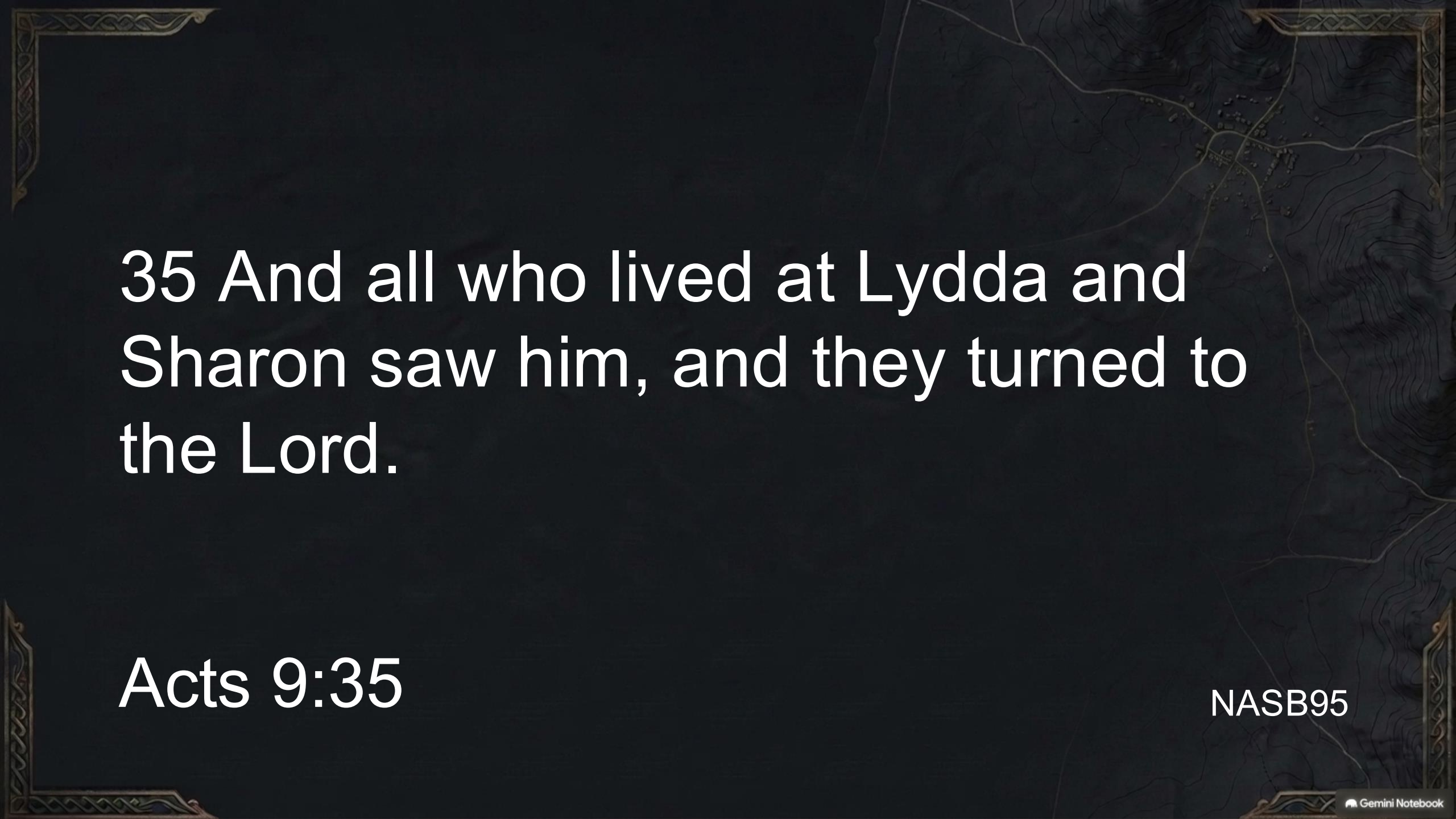
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Acts 9:34

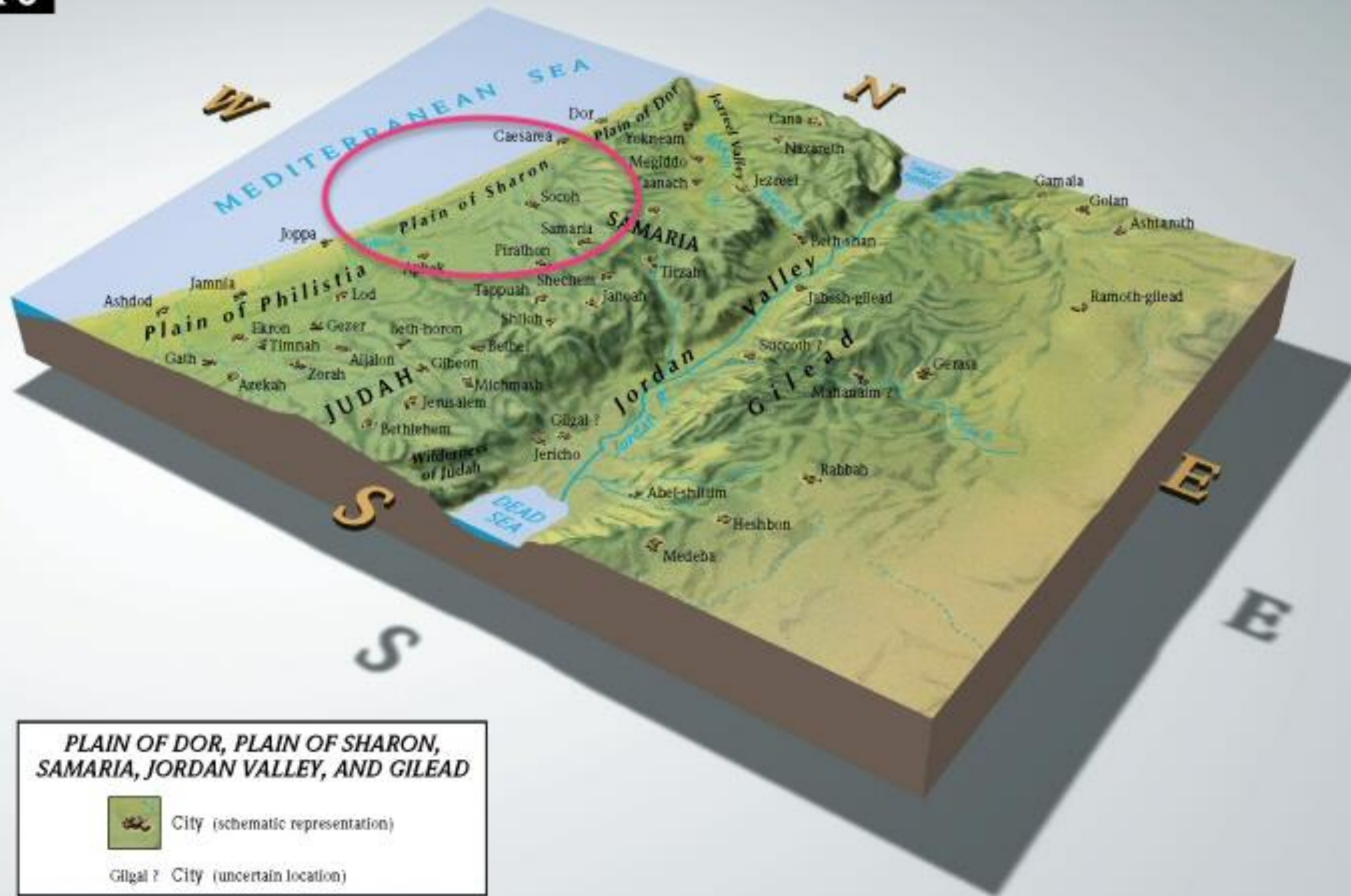
NASB95



35 And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:35

NASB95

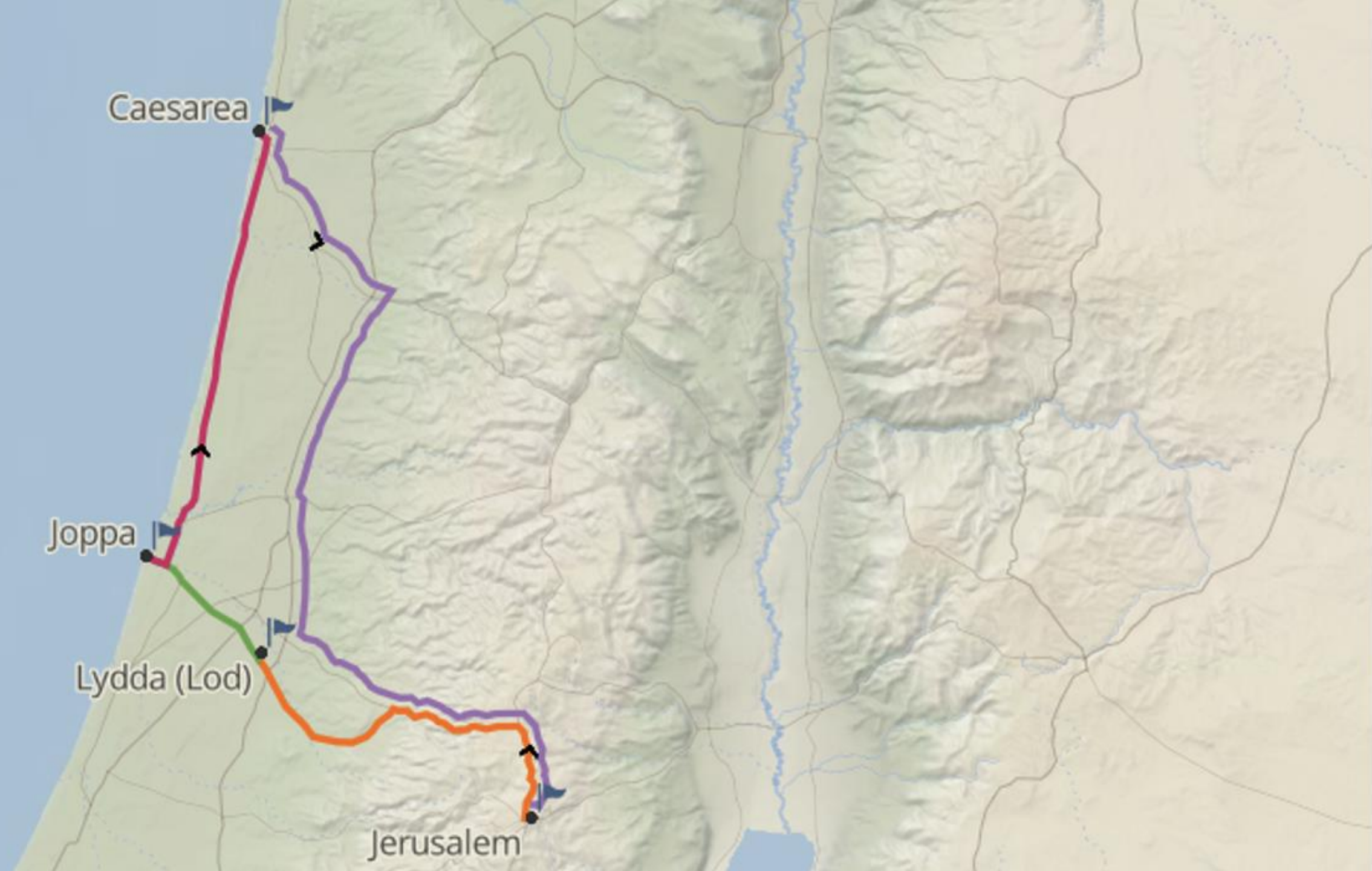




36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.

Acts 9:36

NASB95



37 And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.

Acts 9:37

NASB95



The Rings of a Life Well-Lived

If you were cut down tomorrow, what would the rings of your life reveal?

→ Love of Jesus

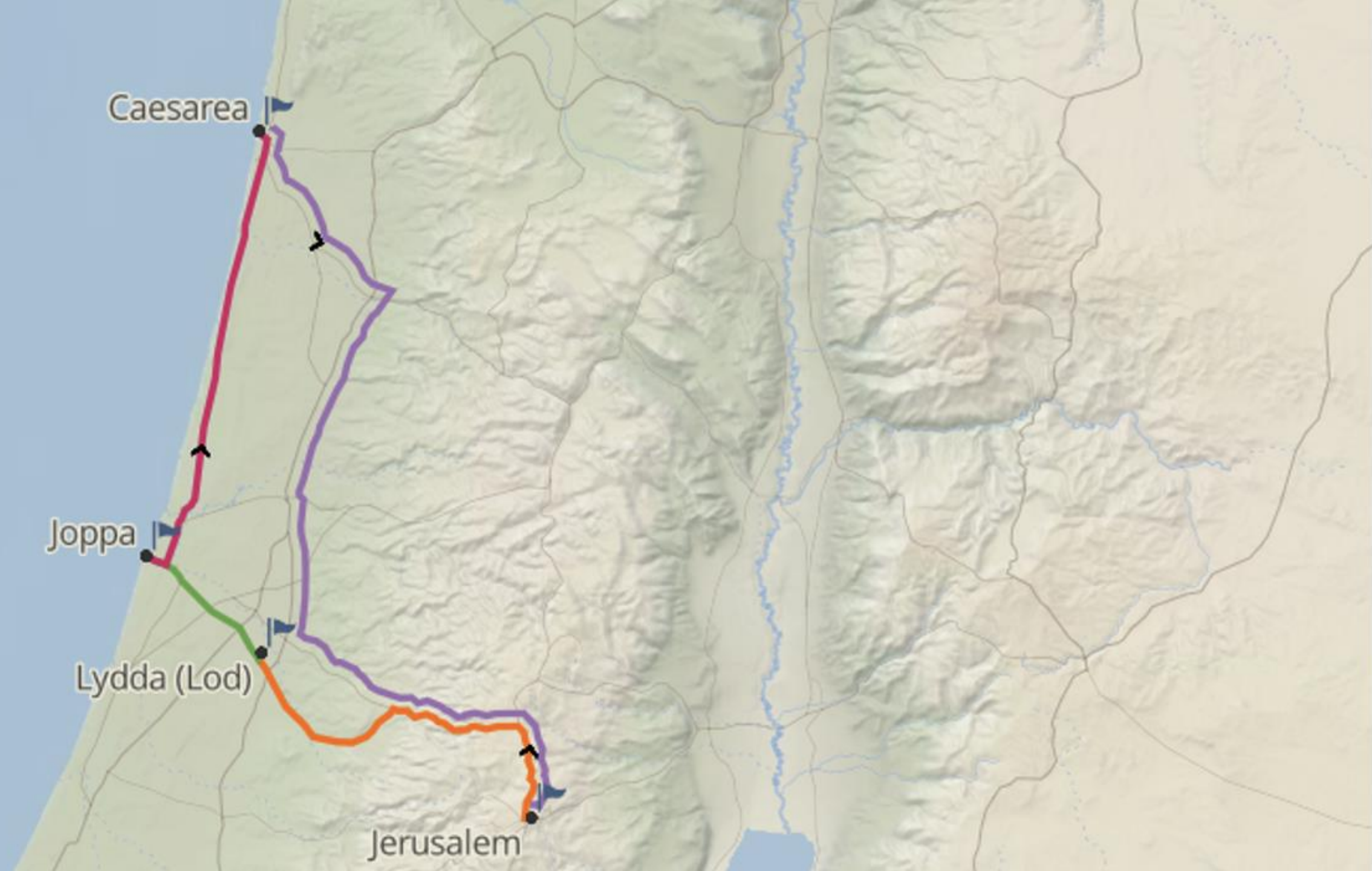
→ Deeds of Kindness

→ Charity to the Destitute (Widows)

38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, “Do not delay in coming to us.”

Acts 9:38

NASB95



The fact that she had not been fully prepared for burial and the loving ministry she had had as well as the proximity of Lydda to Joppa imply that the believers may have expected Peter to raise her from the dead. -Elwell

Evangelical Commentary on the Bible

39 So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

Acts 9:39

NASB95

Posture of openness and willingness

Examining Our Posture: Frantic Striving vs. Abiding Rest

The Frantic Posture

- Stressed and anxious
- Trying to earn favor and prove worth
- Doing for God instead of being with Him
- Feelings dictated by daily productivity

The Abiding Posture

- Openness and willingness
- Resting in Jesus (Matt. 11:28-30)
- Being with Him before doing for Him
- Faithfully responding to the Holy Spirit's nudges

28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28–30

NASB95

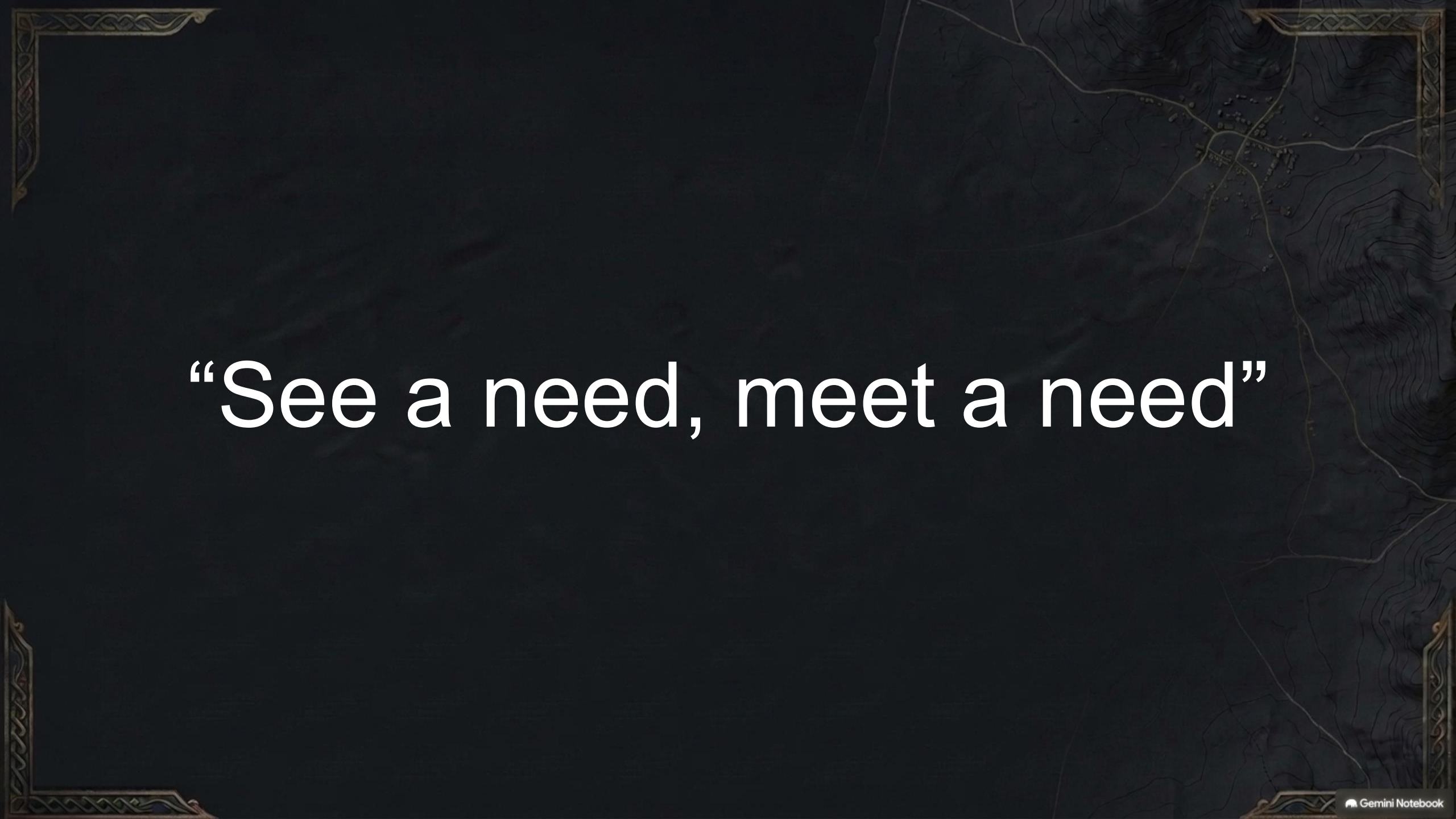
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Acts 9:39

NASB95

Luke refers to widows mourning her death, indicating that Dorcas's ministry had been primarily to these destitute people, providing them with clothing.

Evangelical Commentary on the Bible



“See a need, meet a need”

40 But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

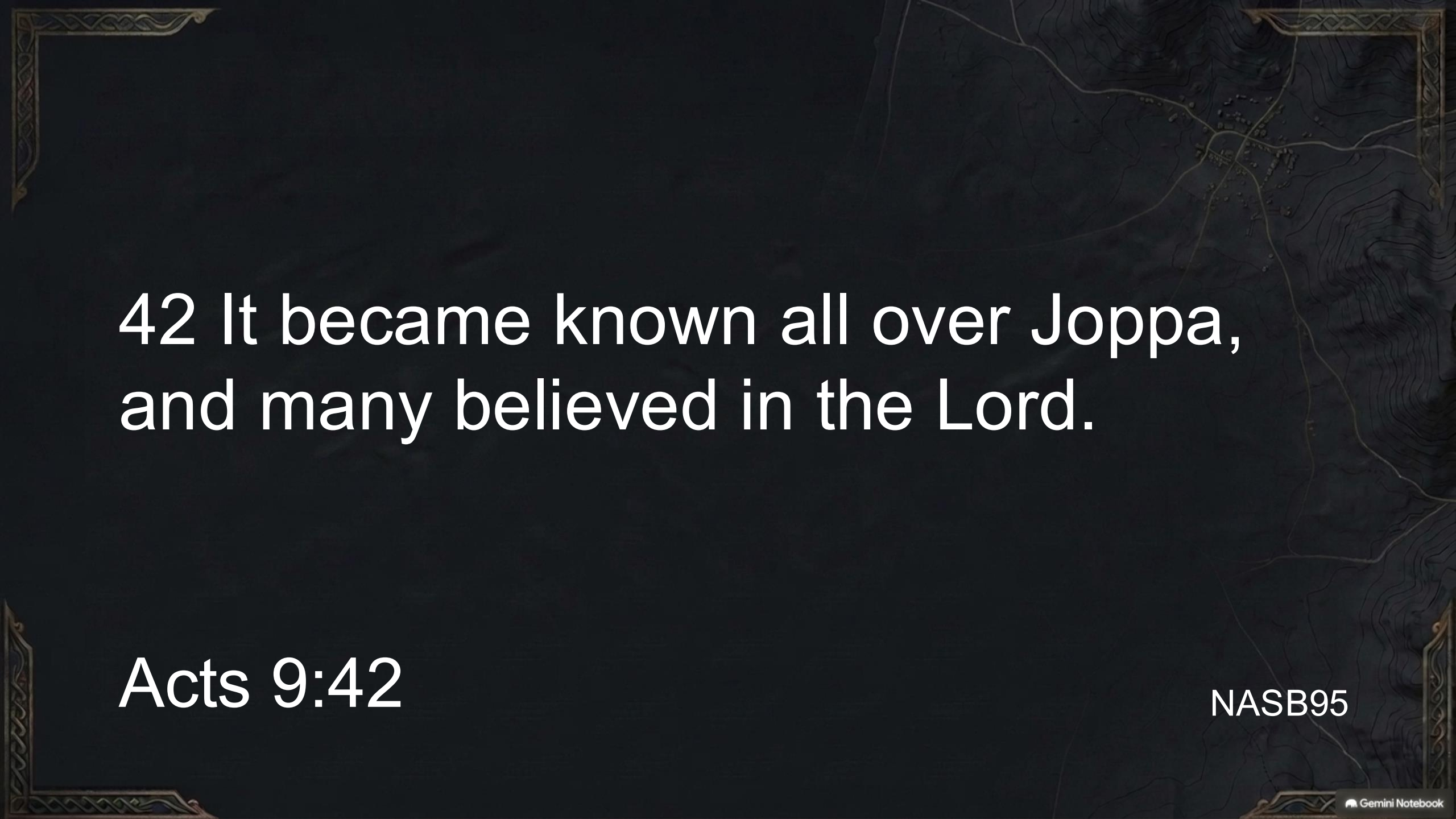
Acts 9:40

NASB95

41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

Acts 9:41

NASB95



42 It became known all over Joppa,
and many believed in the Lord.

Acts 9:42

NASB95

As with Aeneas, God is more concerned with gospel proclamation than the welfare of the individual recipient of the miracle. Luke explains that the fame of the incident spread “all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord” (v. 42). Spiritual healing and future resurrection are far more significant to the New Testament writers than physical healing and temporary resurrection.

Evangelical Commentary on the Bible

The Primary Thrust of the Miracle

Temporal Realities

- Physical healing, Aeneas walking, Tabitha breathing



Eternal Realities

- Gospel proclamation, many believed in the Lord, eternal destination of souls

“We are more concerned with keeping saints out of Heaven than we are keeping sinners out of hell.” — Paul Washer

Diagnostic Question: Are your prayers dominated by bodily focus or eternal significance?

43 And Peter stayed many days in
Joppa **with a tanner** named Simon.

Acts 9:43

NASB95

The Divine Setup: Geographically and Theologically



Geographic Movement

Positioned at the Edge of the World



Theological Movement

Staying with an “unclean” tanner →
Breaking down strict Jewish purity prejudices
→ Preparing the heart to welcome the Gentiles

The healings in Lydda and Joppa were divine stepping stones. God was not only working through Peter to heal, but in Peter to extend the Gospel of grace to those previously excluded.

Living on Mission in a Modern World

Resting in Jesus

Being with Him
before doing
for Him.

Maintaining Openness

Willing to
engage the
world however
He leads.

Trusting the Waymaker

Knowing He
confirms His
Word when His
people live on
mission.