

SECOND

COR INTH IANS

utterly burdened yet tireless



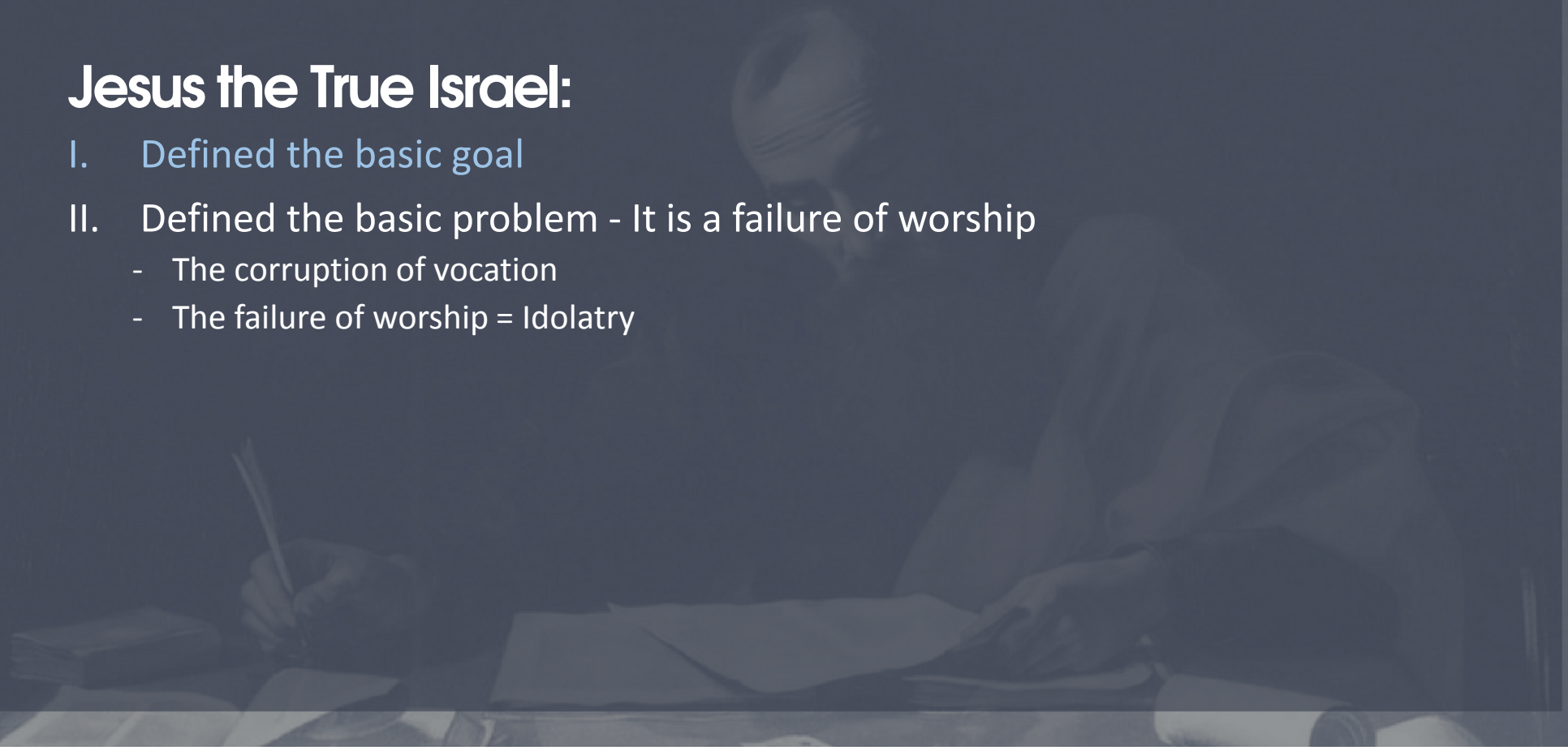
Jesus the True Israel:

I. Defined the basic goal

- We are created as multi-sided mirrors to reflect the Glory & Essence & Wisdom & Justice of God as His masterpiece back to Him
- We are created as multi-sided mirrors to reflect the Glory & Essence & Wisdom & Justice of God to this world

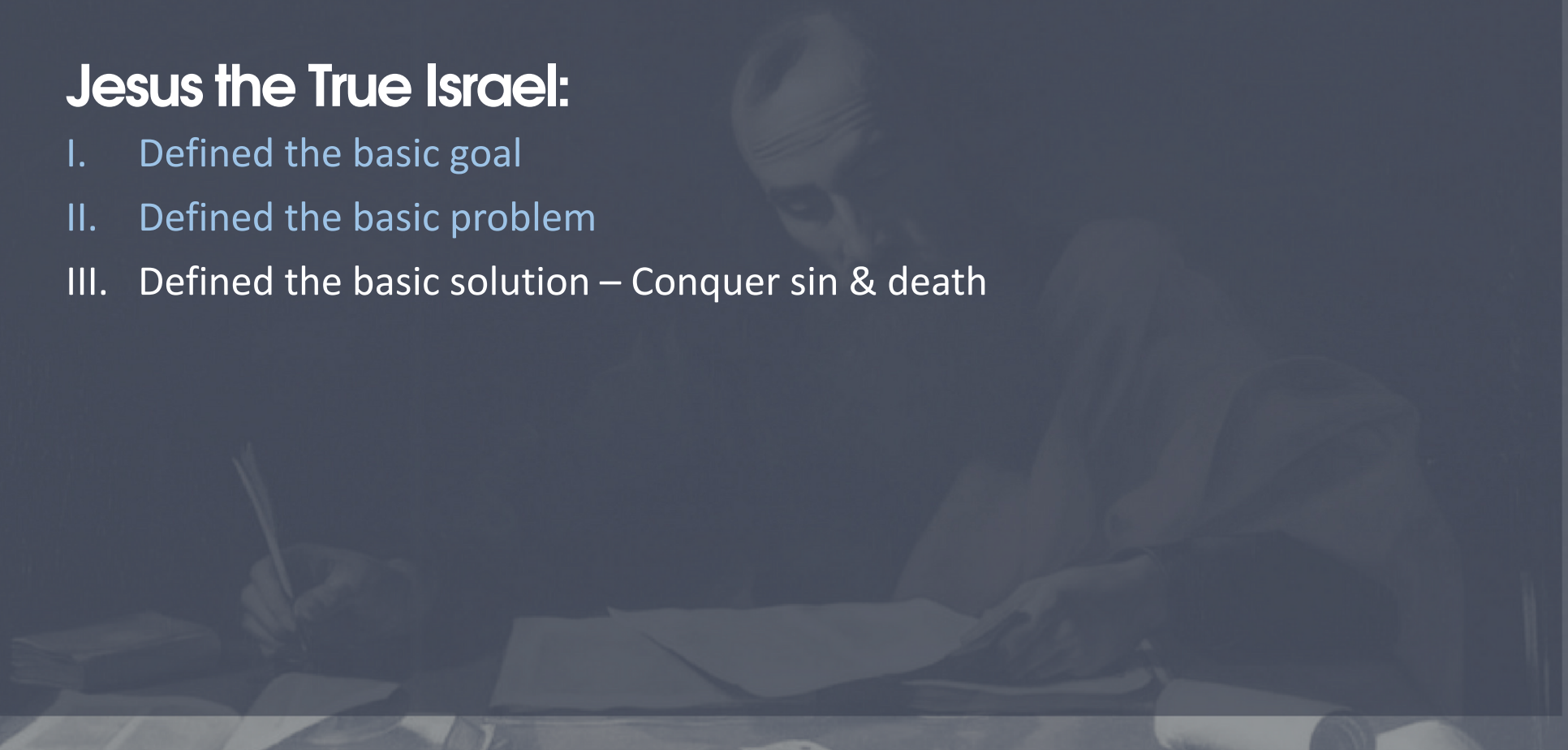
Jesus the True Israel:

- I. Defined the basic goal
- II. Defined the basic problem - It is a failure of worship
 - The corruption of vocation
 - The failure of worship = Idolatry



Jesus the True Israel:

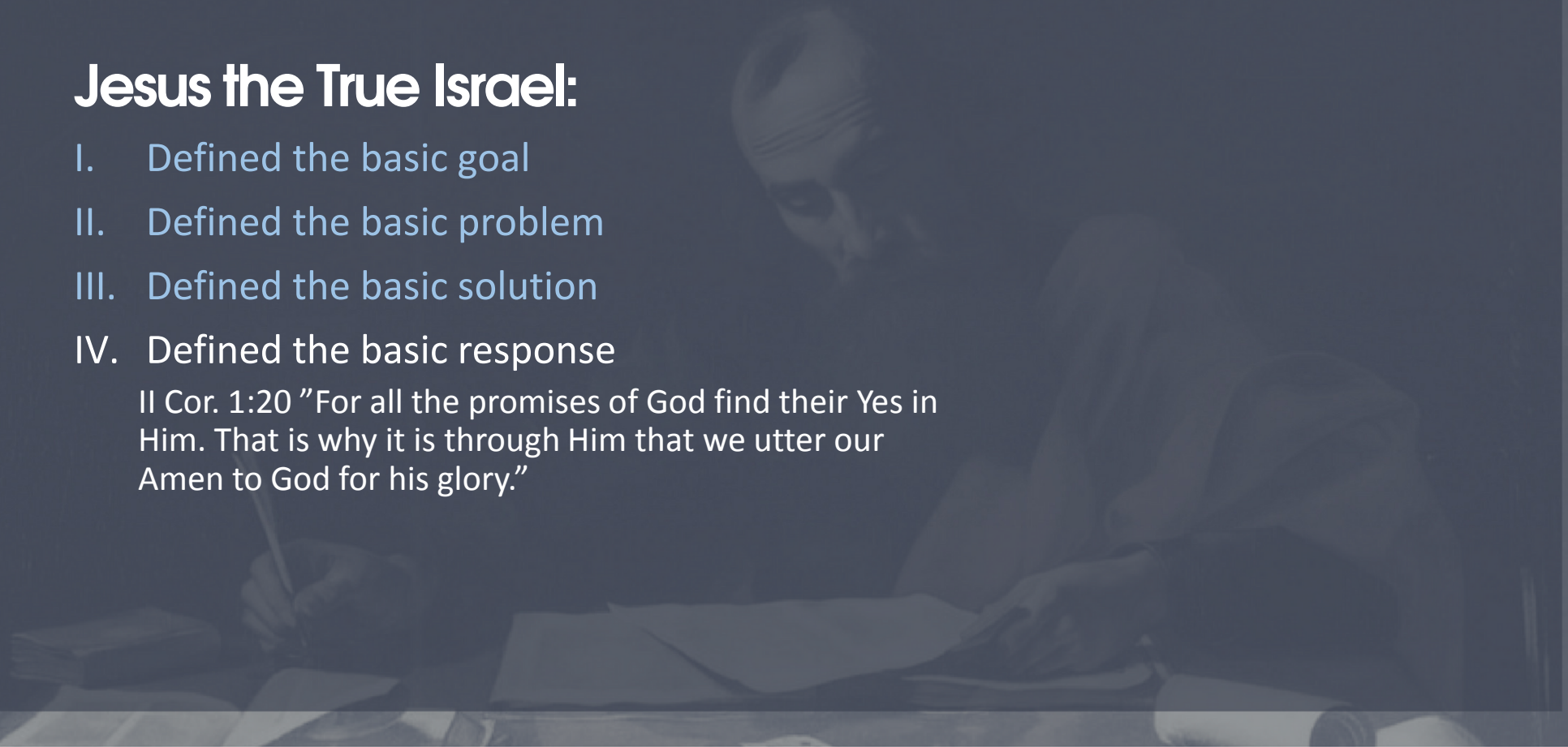
- I. Defined the basic goal
- II. Defined the basic problem
- III. Defined the basic solution – Conquer sin & death



Jesus the True Israel:

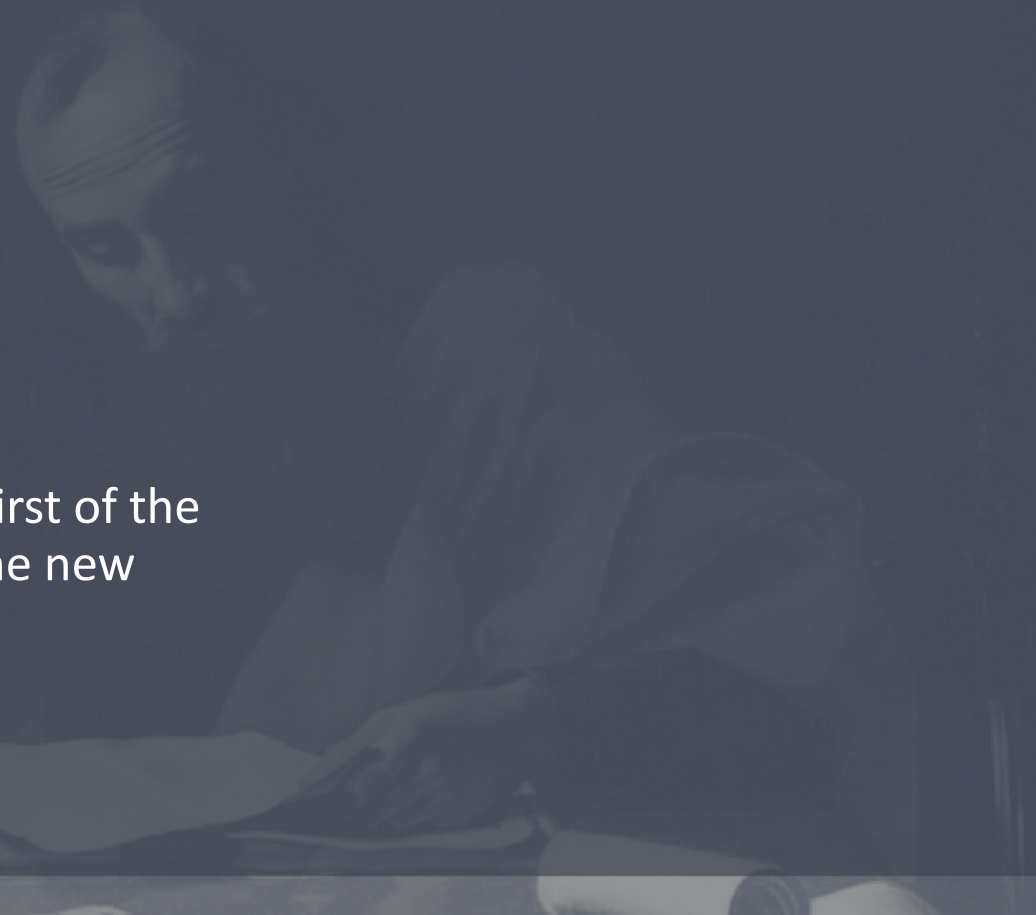
- I. Defined the basic goal
- II. Defined the basic problem
- III. Defined the basic solution
- IV. Defined the basic response

II Cor. 1:20 "For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory."



Jesus the True Israel:

- I. Defined the basic goal
- II. Defined the basic problem
- III. Defined the basic solution
- IV. Defined the basic response
- V. The result = Jesus becomes the first of the resurrection & the firstborn of the new humanity





Even if Jesus did rise from the dead, so what? Very nice for him but what's it got to do with anything else? Why should he be so specially favored? If God can pull off a stunt like that why can't he intervene & do a lot more useful things like stopping genocide or earthquakes?

Dominic Crossan



Wrestling with tough questions:

What is the ultimate Christian hope? (i.e. our ultimate destiny)
& what hope is there for change, rescue, transformation, & new possibilities within the world today? (i.e. do the 2 match each other)

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What is the ultimate Christian hope? (i.e. our ultimate destiny) & what hope is there for change, rescue, transformation, & new possibilities within the world today? (i.e. do the 2 match each other)

As long as we see our hope, our future in terms of “going to Heaven”, of a salvation that is about finally being rescued AWAY from this place we will never understand how these two questions go together



But, in keeping with where we concluded last week, if:

- the Christian hope is for God's new creation, for "new Heavens & new earth" as it says at the end of Revelation,
- & if that hope has ALREADY COME in the life & death & resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth

...then we have a totally different answer

A dark, semi-transparent background image of a person reading a book. The person is seen from the side, looking down at an open book on a table. The lighting is dim, creating a focused and contemplative atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

**Let's answer a few questions
this morning:**

- I. What is the Heaven that the Scriptures talk about?
- II. How does Heaven & earth interact in the Scriptures?
- III. How does/should this affect our hope & perspective on life today?



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“The Kingdom of Heaven is *within* you” (Luke 17:21)

It is also translated “here” and “*at hand*” meaning NOW

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**Let's answer a few questions
this morning:**

- I. What is the Heaven that the Scriptures talk about?
 - How is Heaven HERE on earth?
 - How is it right now?



All along the sacred text has been introducing us to 2 ideas:

- The idea that there are 2 realms...the heavenly realm where God resides & the earthly realm where we reside
- The constant idea that God & His realm come to our realm, invade our realm, penetrate our existence with Theirs...not the other way around



When Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God or Heaven He is referring NOT to some postmortem destiny that saved Christians go to but rather to God's sovereign rule coming to our realm meaning earth.



”

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matt. 6:10

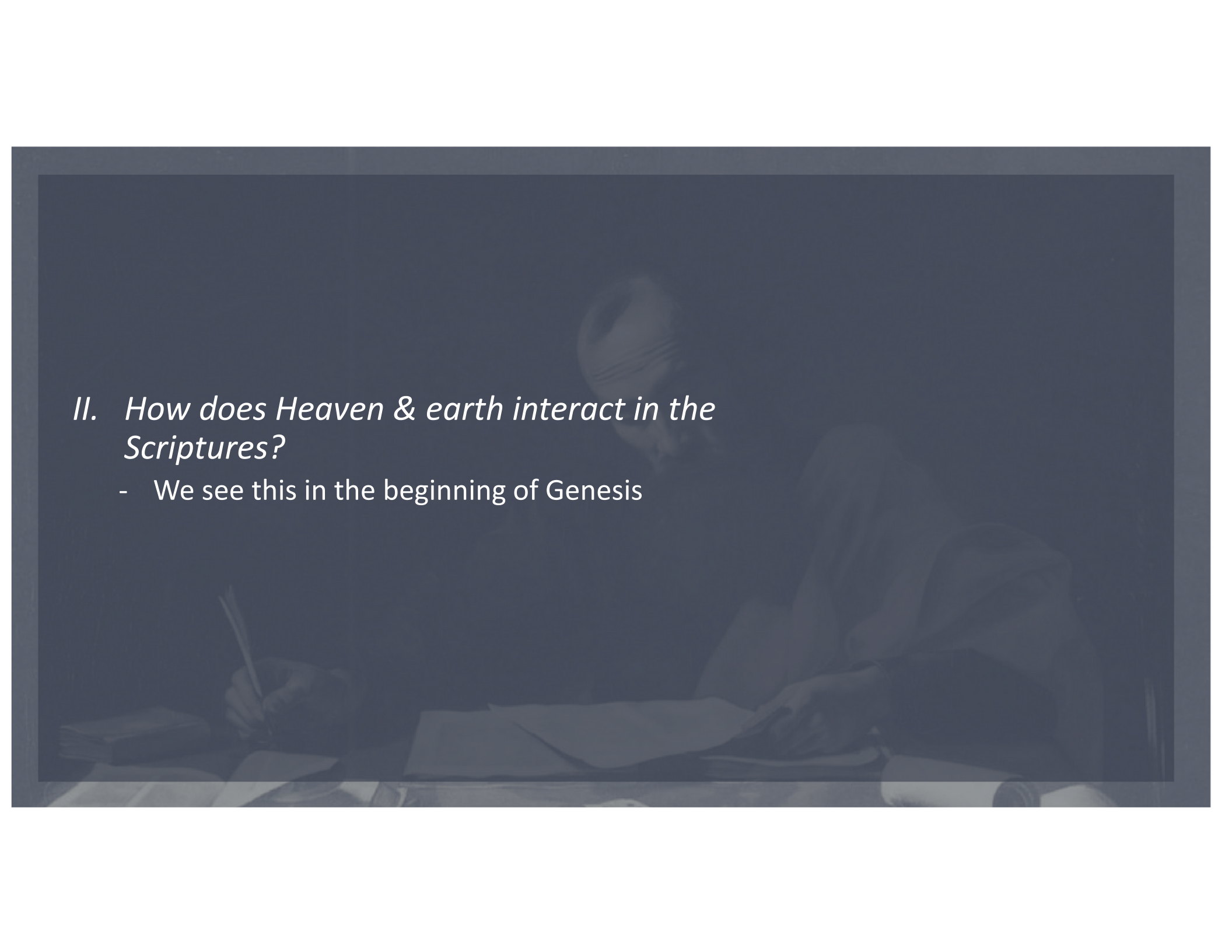
Where God is, Heaven is





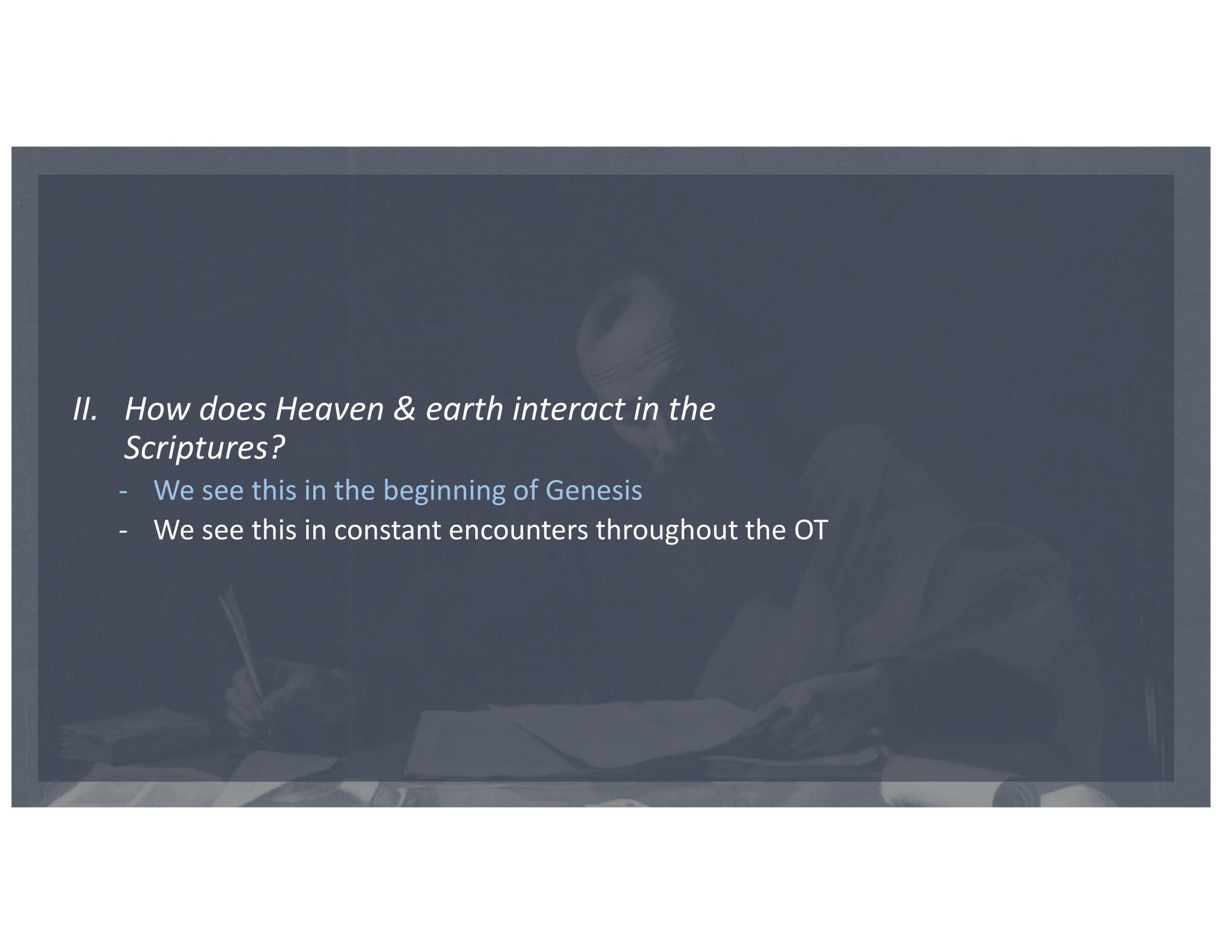
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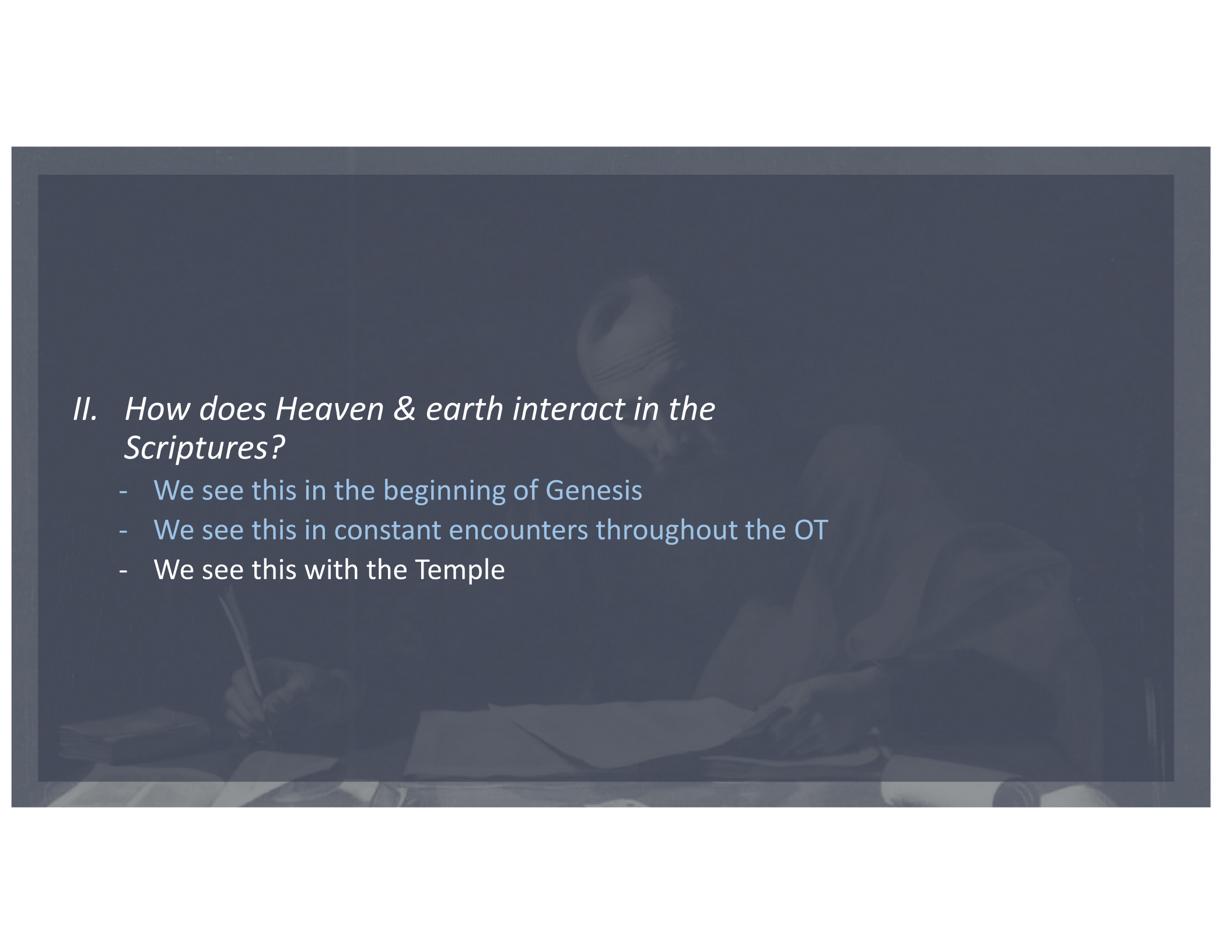
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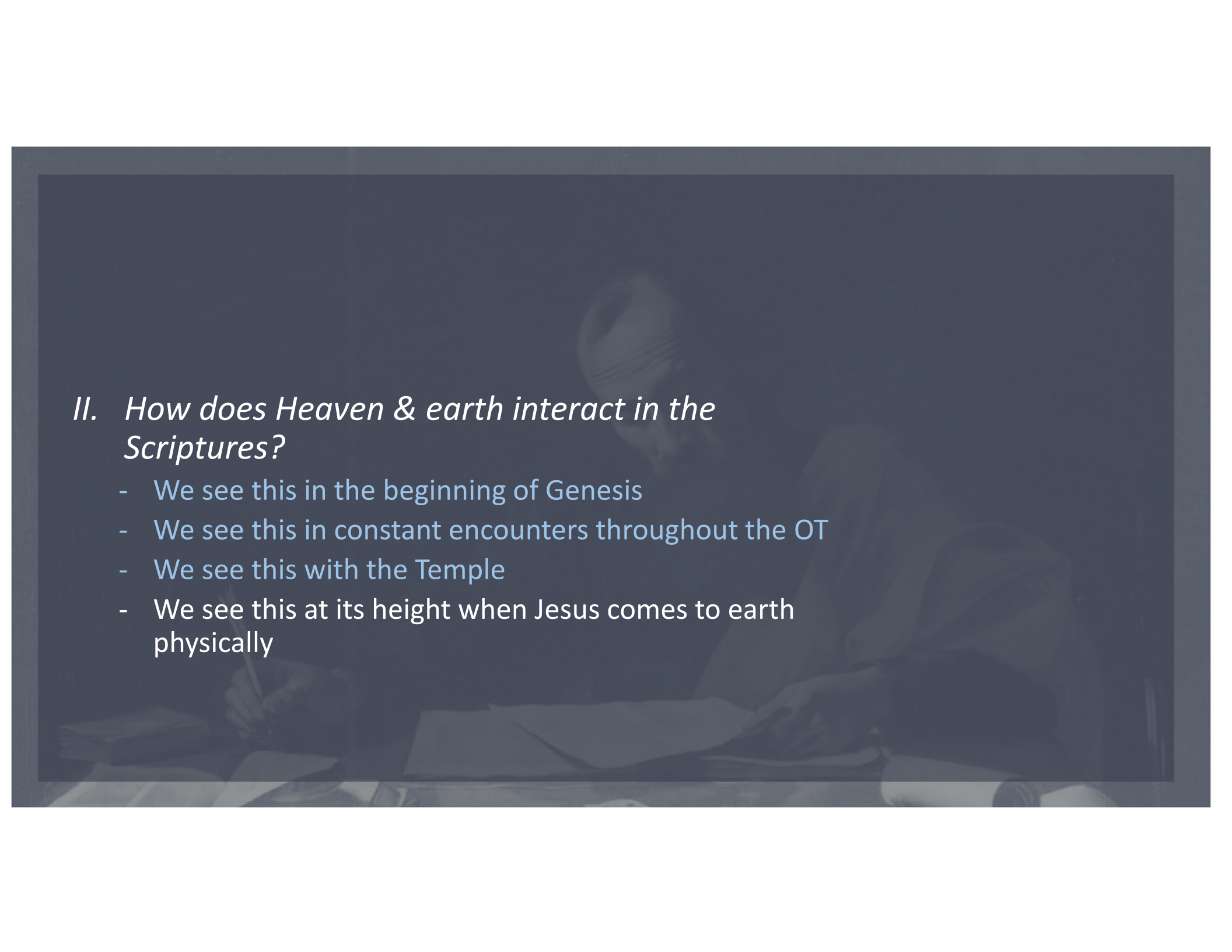
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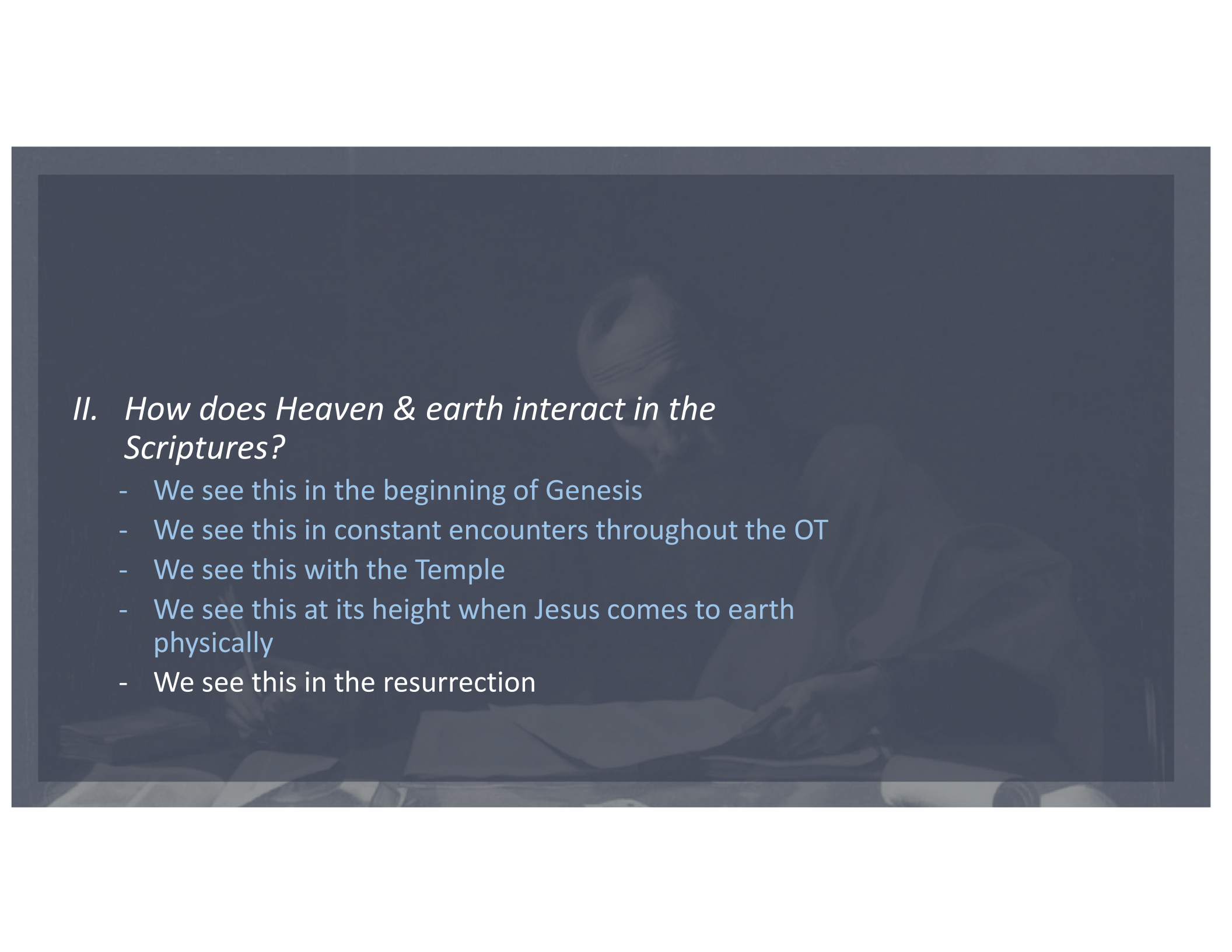
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- We see this with the Temple



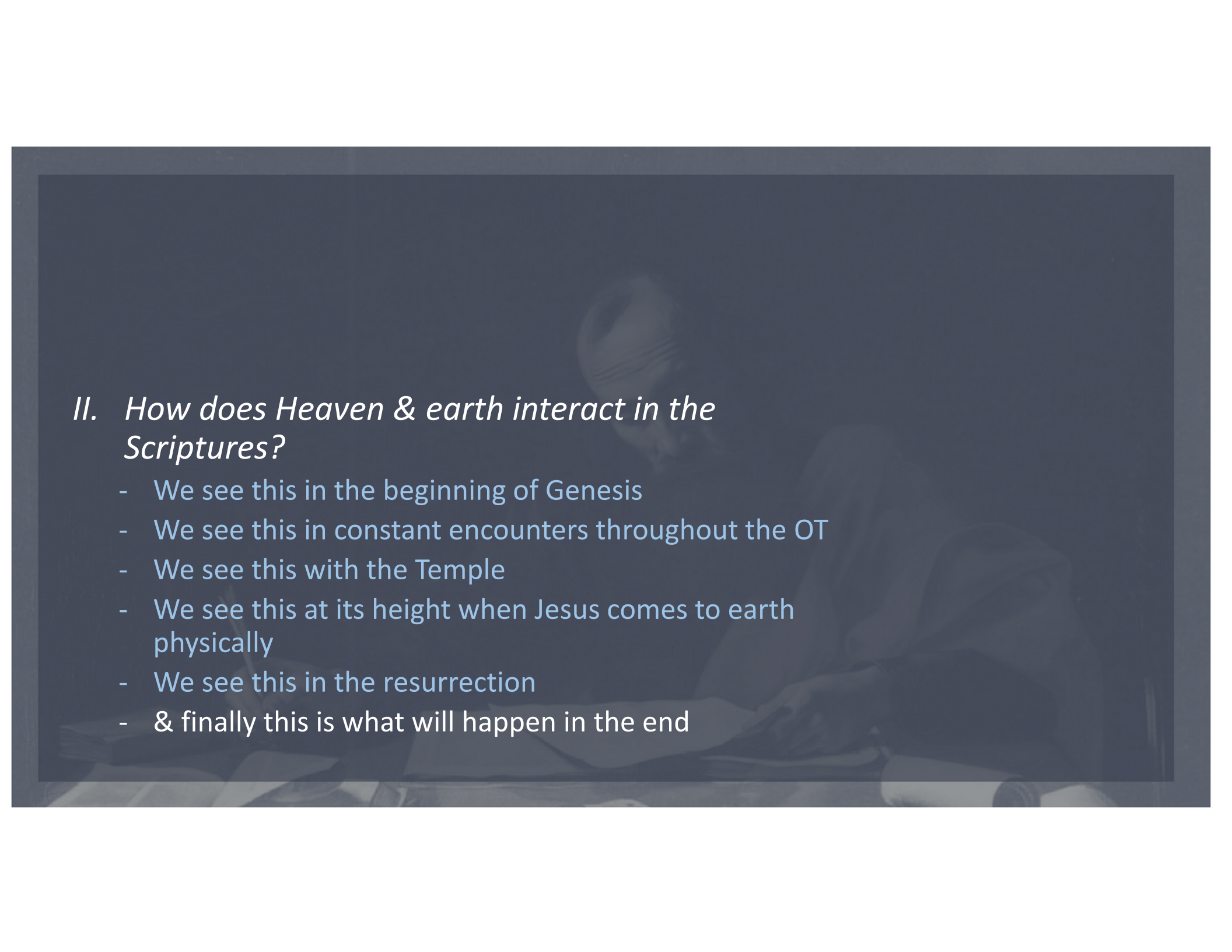
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- We see this in the beginning of Genesis
- We see this in constant encounters throughout the OT
- We see this with the Temple
- We see this at its height when Jesus comes to earth physically
- We see this in the resurrection
- & finally this is what will happen in the end



Be fruitful & multiply & fill the earth & subdue it & have
dominion

Gen. 1:28b



And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the scroll & to open its seals, for You were slain, & by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe & language & people & nation, (10) & You have made them a kingdom & priests to our God, & they shall reign on the earth.”

Rev. 5:9



Blessed be His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen & Amen!

Psalm 72:19



For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Hab. 2:14



for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Is. 11: 9b



But our citizenship is in heaven, & from it we await (i.e. He is coming back HERE) a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁽²¹⁾ who will (take us to Heaven? NO) transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

Phil. 3:20



to unite all things in Him, things in heaven & things on earth.

Eph. 1:10b

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Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

I Cor. 15:58



How can God's plan to rescue & renew the entire world go ahead despite the corruption & decay that has come about because of human rebellion?

- Because on the cross Jesus defeated the dark powers of evil which have enslaved humanity
- & now we, resurrected as new human beings, have the rare opportunity to work alongside Him in His power to recreate a lost & dying world!