



IMAGO DEI

Restoring the Divine Image

Romans 13:11-14

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

1 John 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Outline

1. The time in which we live
2. The future for which we hope
3. The implications for our present lives



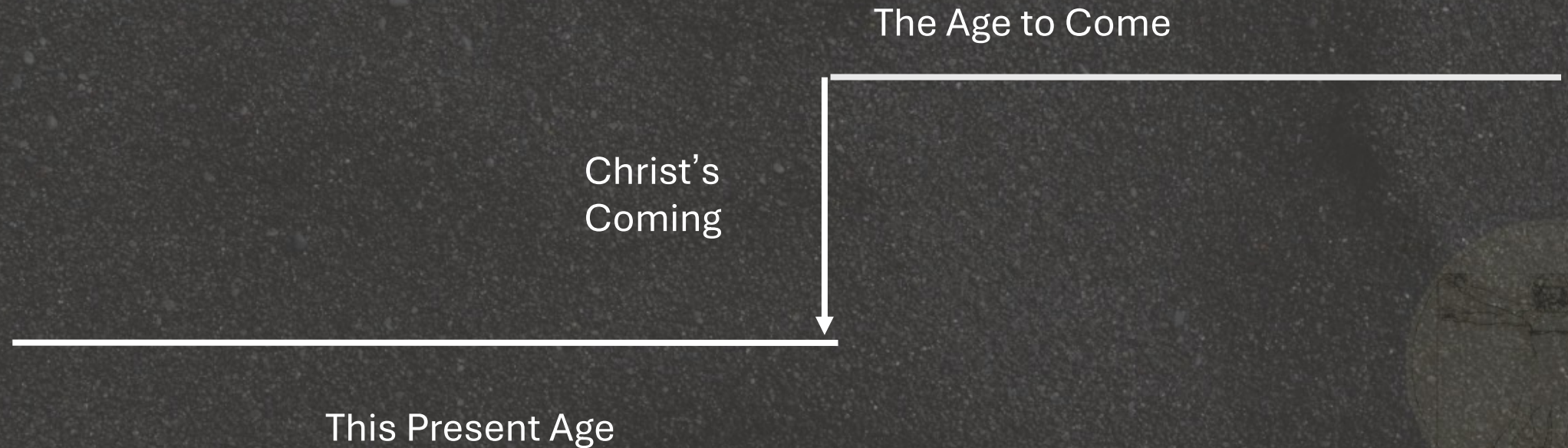
1. The time in which we live

Romans 13:11: “*understanding the present time*”



1. The time in which we live

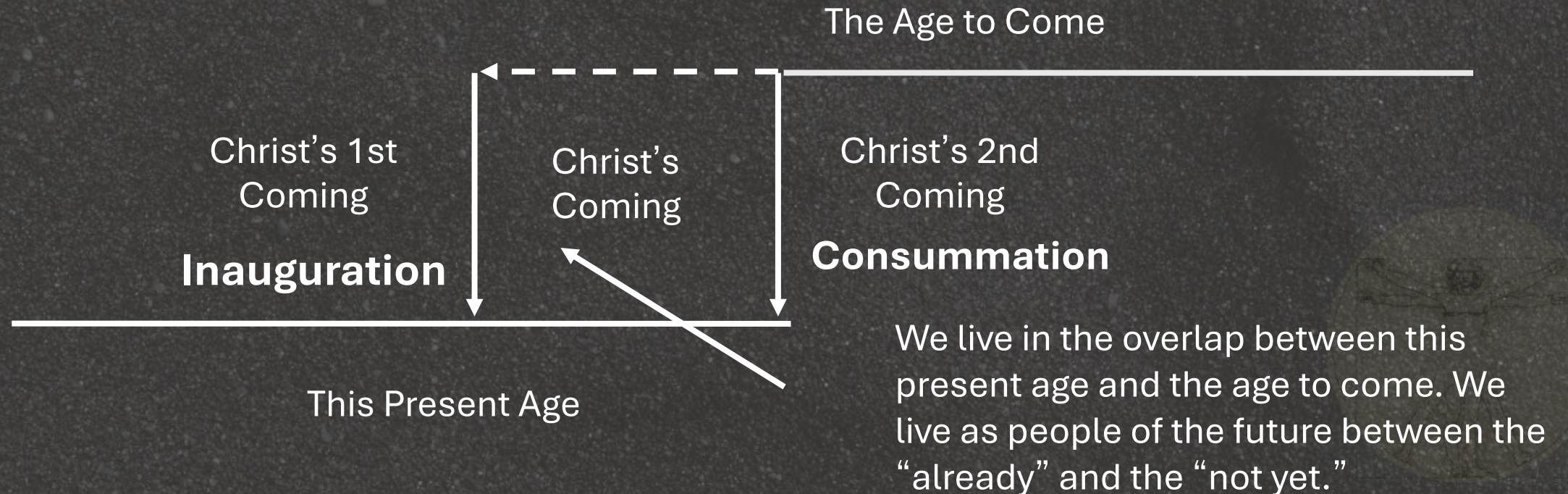
The Kingdom of God in Old Testament Expectation



1. The time in which we live

The Kingdom of God in New Testament Teaching

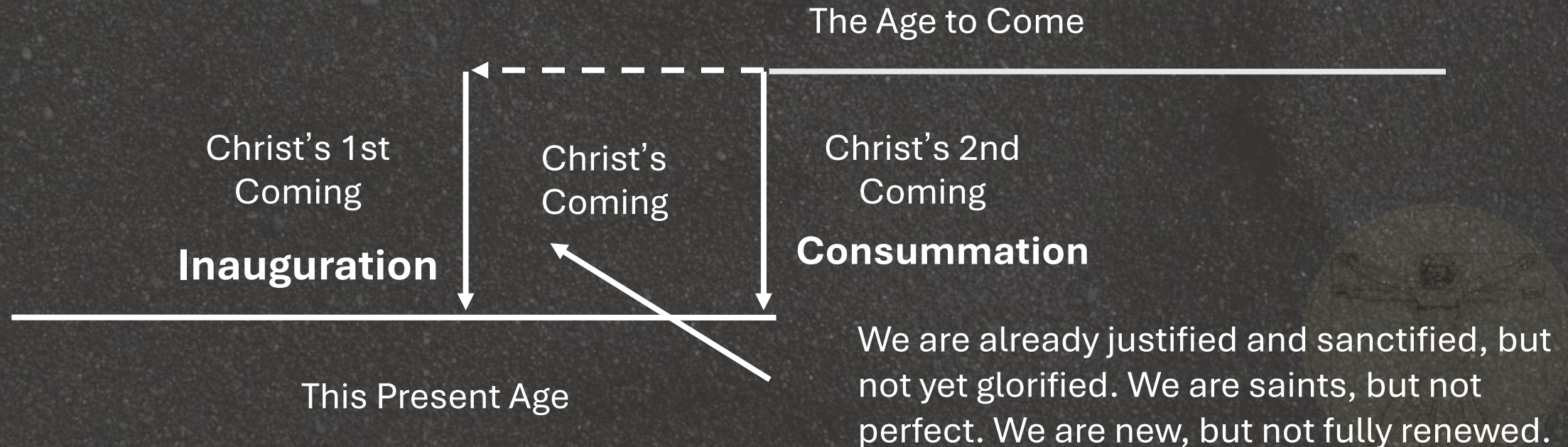
The future has **invaded** this present age in the exaltation of Christ and his gift of the Spirit.



1. The time in which we live

The Kingdom of God in New Testament Teaching

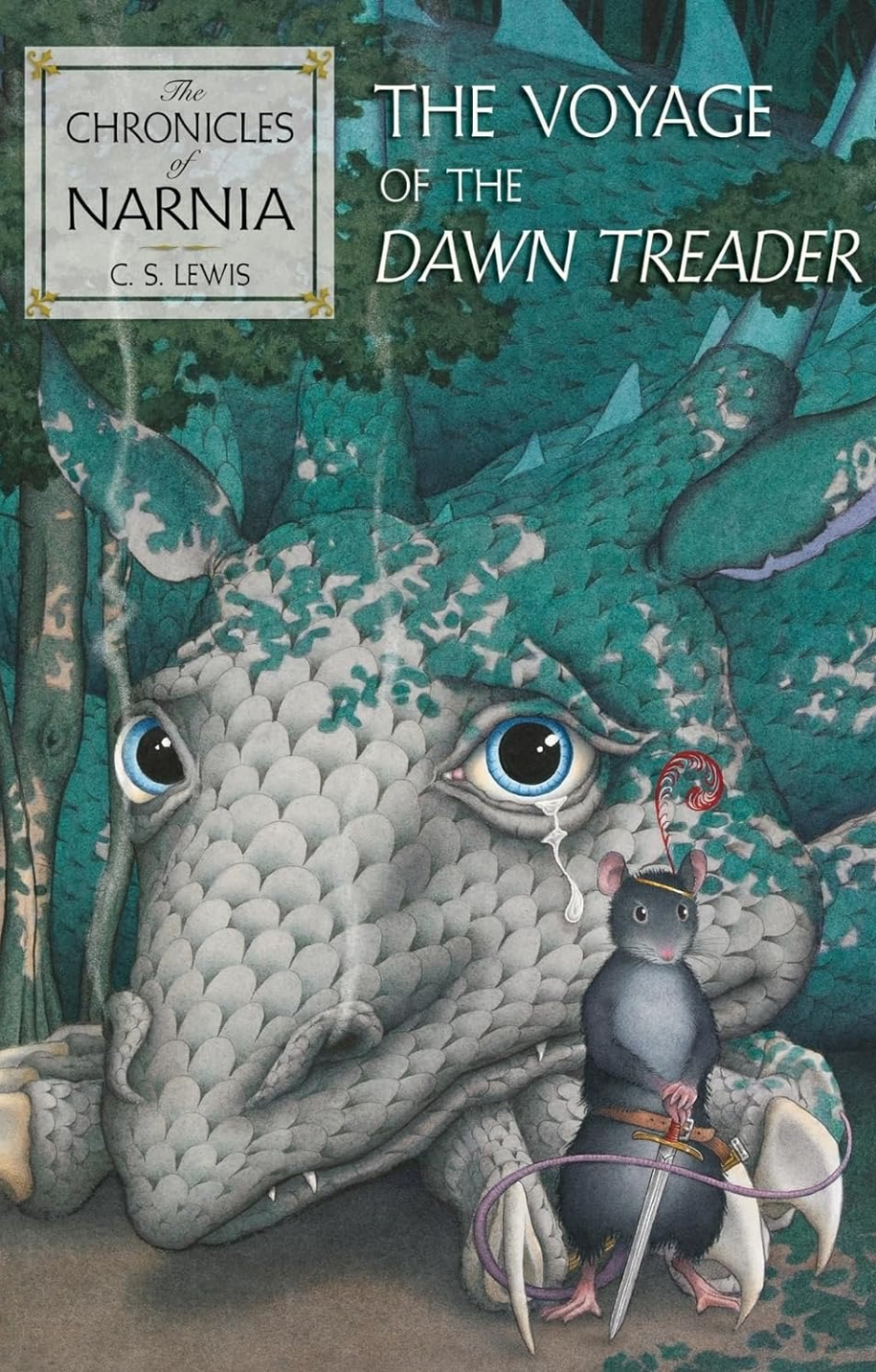
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The
CHRONICLES
of
NARNIA

C. S. LEWIS

THE VOYAGE
OF THE
DAWN TREADER

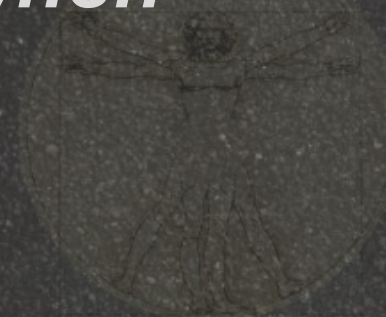


It would be nice and fairly nearly true, to say that “from that time forth Eustace was a different boy.” To be strictly accurate, he began to be a different boy. He had relapses. There were still many days when he could be very tiresome. But most of those I shall not notice. The cure had begun.

—C. S. Lewis

2. The future for which we hope

Romans 13:11: “*our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed*”



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2. The future for which we hope

New creation

- 2 Peter 3:13
- Revelation 21:1 (Isaiah 65:17, 66:22)
- Romans 8:18-25



Romans 8:18-25

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:18-25

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

The background of the left side of the image is a painting of a coastal landscape. It shows a path leading from the foreground towards the sea, with rolling hills and trees. The sky is a mix of blue and white, suggesting a cloudy day. The overall style is impressionistic.

SINCLAIR B.
FERGUSON

THE
CHRISTIAN
LIFE

A Doctrinal Introduction

The goal of the Christian's vision is not his own death, but stretches beyond that to the return of Christ and the consummation of the kingdom. There is one last ritual event to take place. This event, variously and vividly described in the Scriptures, is the last 'salvation-event' which has a decisive and critical influence on the life of the child of God. It takes us to the outer limits of Christian knowledge and leave us like men standing on the shore watching a boat disappear over the horizon into an experience at which we can only begin to guess. This event is our glorification.

—Sinclair Ferguson

2. The future for which we hope

New bodies (glorification)

- Colossians 3:2
- Romans 8:29-30
- 1 John 3:2
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-57
- Philippians 3:20-21



Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.



3. The implications for our present lives

Selected Scriptures



3. The implications for our present lives

a. Struggle is normal



3. The implications for our present lives

- a. Struggle is normal
- b. Growth is a process



3. The implications for our present lives

- a. Struggle is normal
- b. Growth is a process
- c. Effort is required



3. The implications for our present lives

- a. Struggle is normal
- b. Growth is a process
- c. Effort is required
- d. Suffering is purposeful





Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to?



The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of – throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.

—C. S. Lewis

3. The implications for our present lives

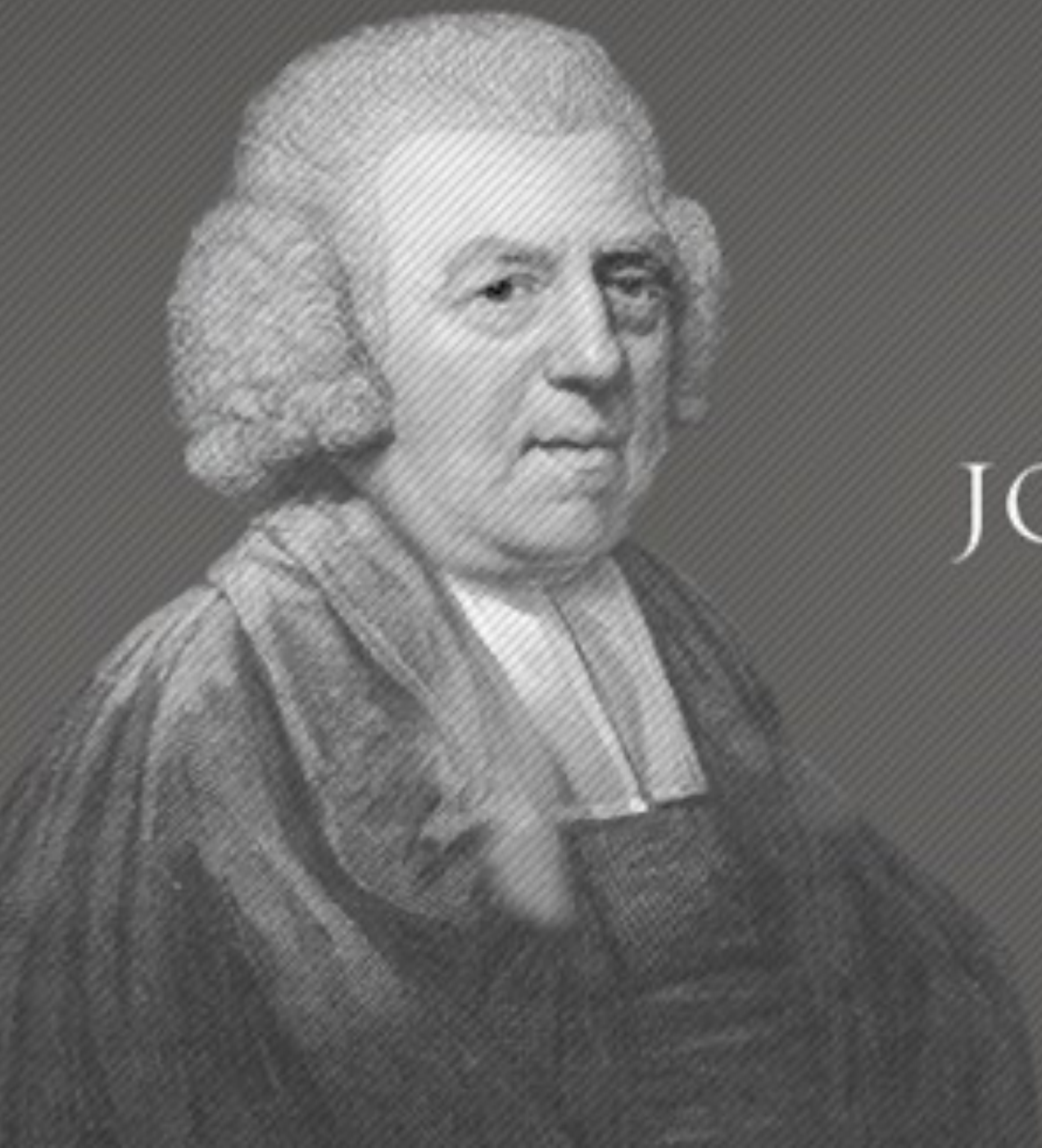
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- b. Growth is a process
- c. Effort is required
- d. Suffering is purposeful
- e. Peace is possible



3. The implications for our present lives

- a. Struggle is normal
- b. Growth is a process
- c. Effort is required
- d. Suffering is purposeful
- e. Peace is possible
- f. Glory is guaranteed





JOHN NEWTON

1725-1807



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