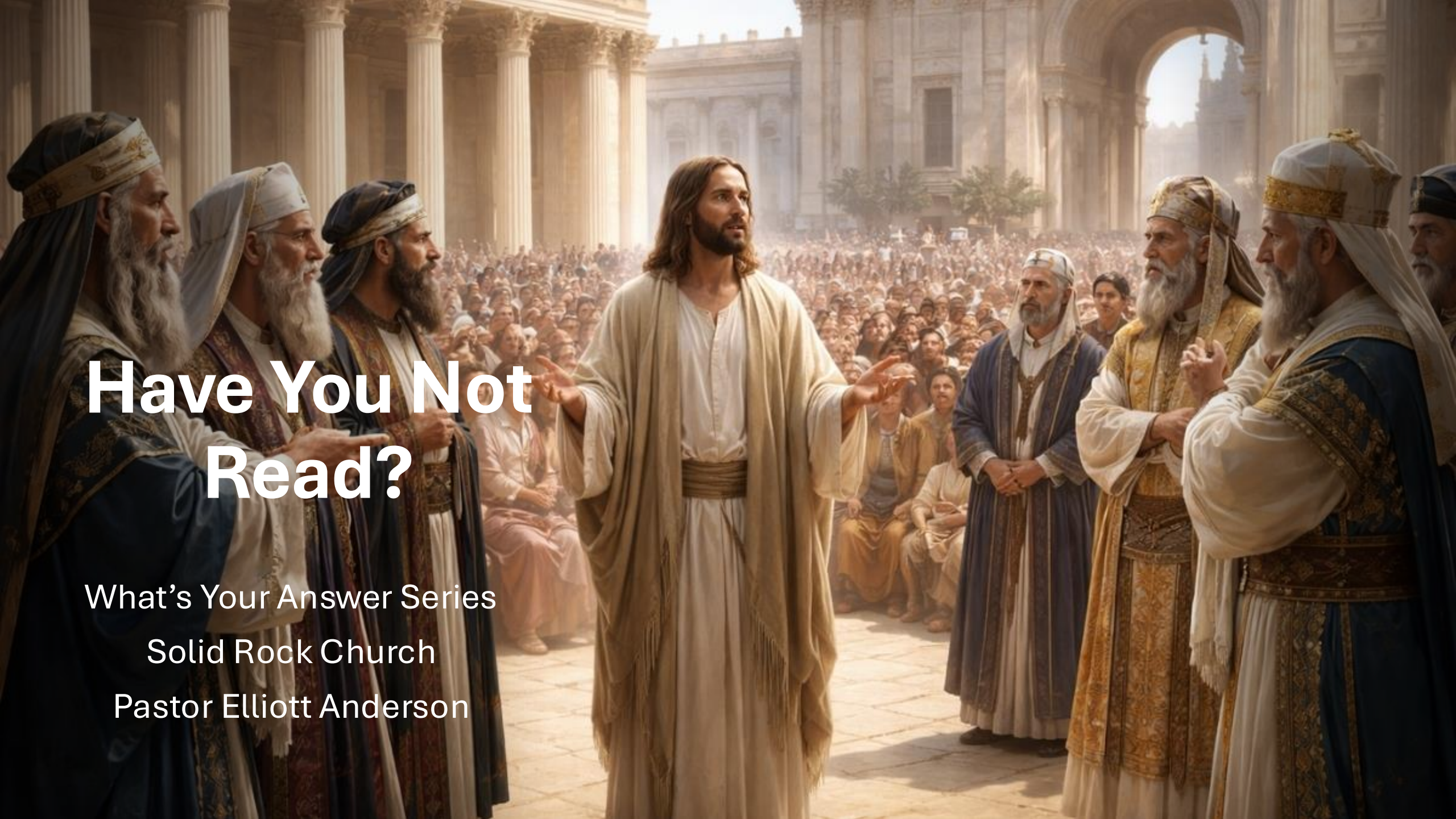


Have You Not Read?

What's Your Answer Series

Solid Rock Church

Pastor Elliott Anderson

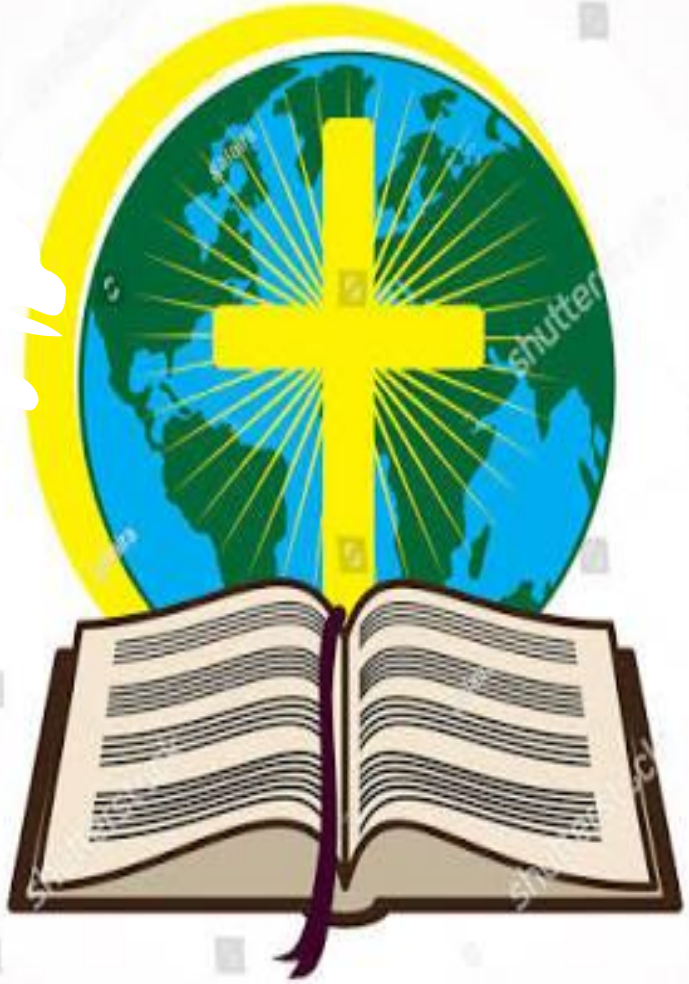
Bible Literacy Around the World

Biblical literacy: the capacity to read, understand, and interpret the Bible.

6.5 billion adults in the world

1 billion are illiterate! (15%)

Bible Access Initiative: 100 million Christians, 88 countries with no Bibles.



Bible Literacy U.S.

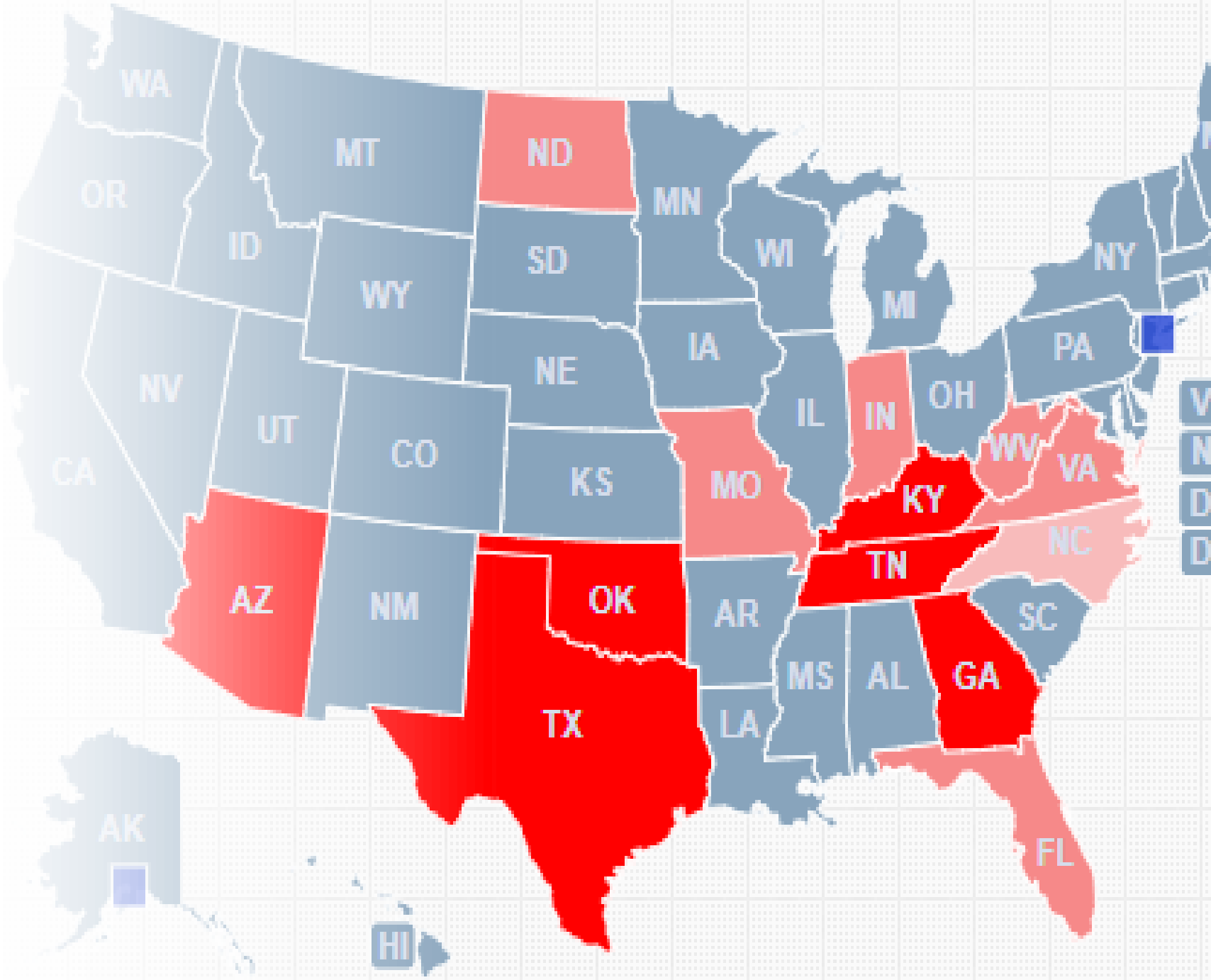
Barna Group: Bible reading up 15% in last 3 years

Gen Z: 30% to 49%

BUT

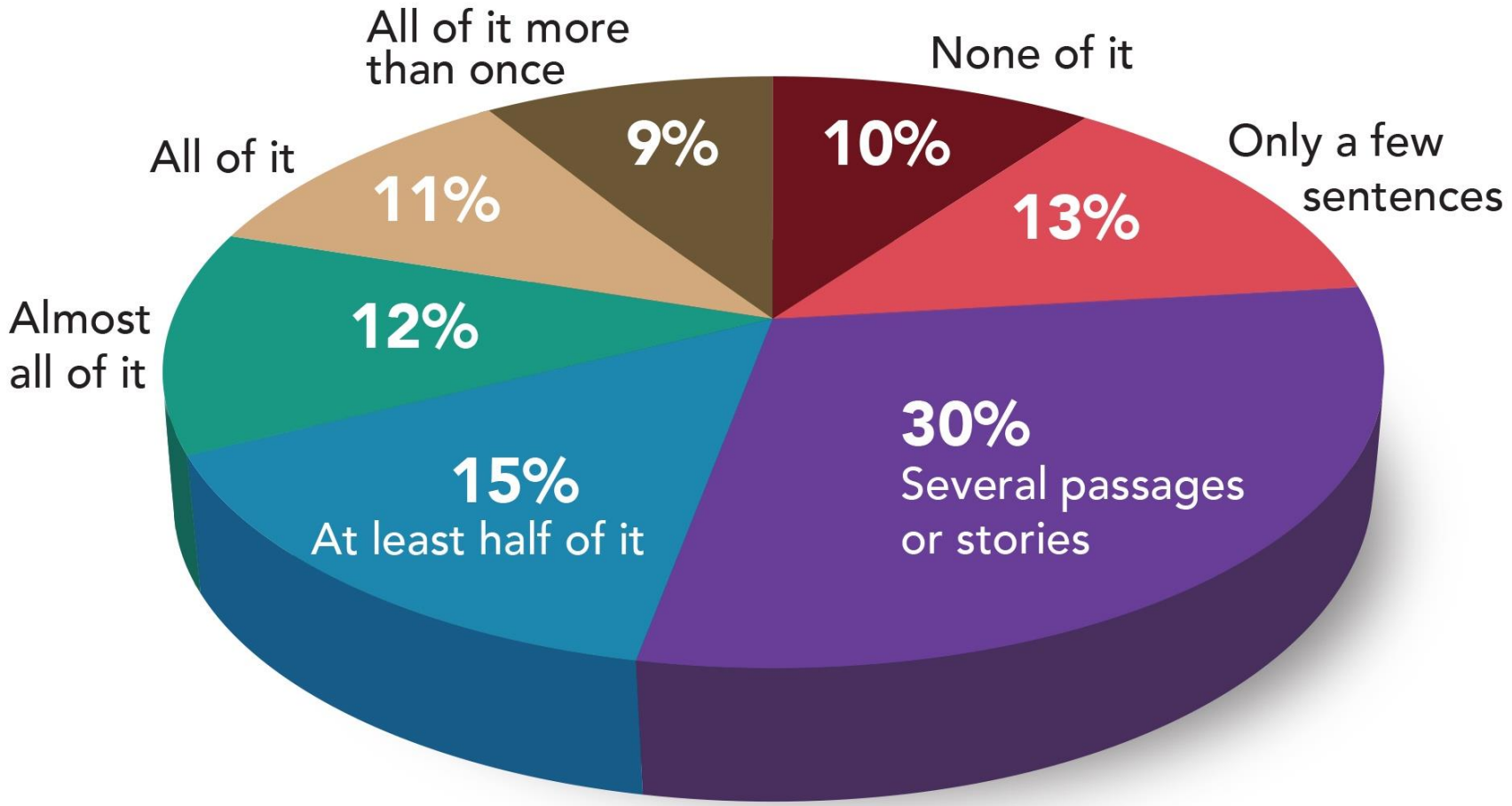
1/2 can't name 4 Gospels

3/5 5 Commandments



Among Americans:

How much of the Bible have you personally read?

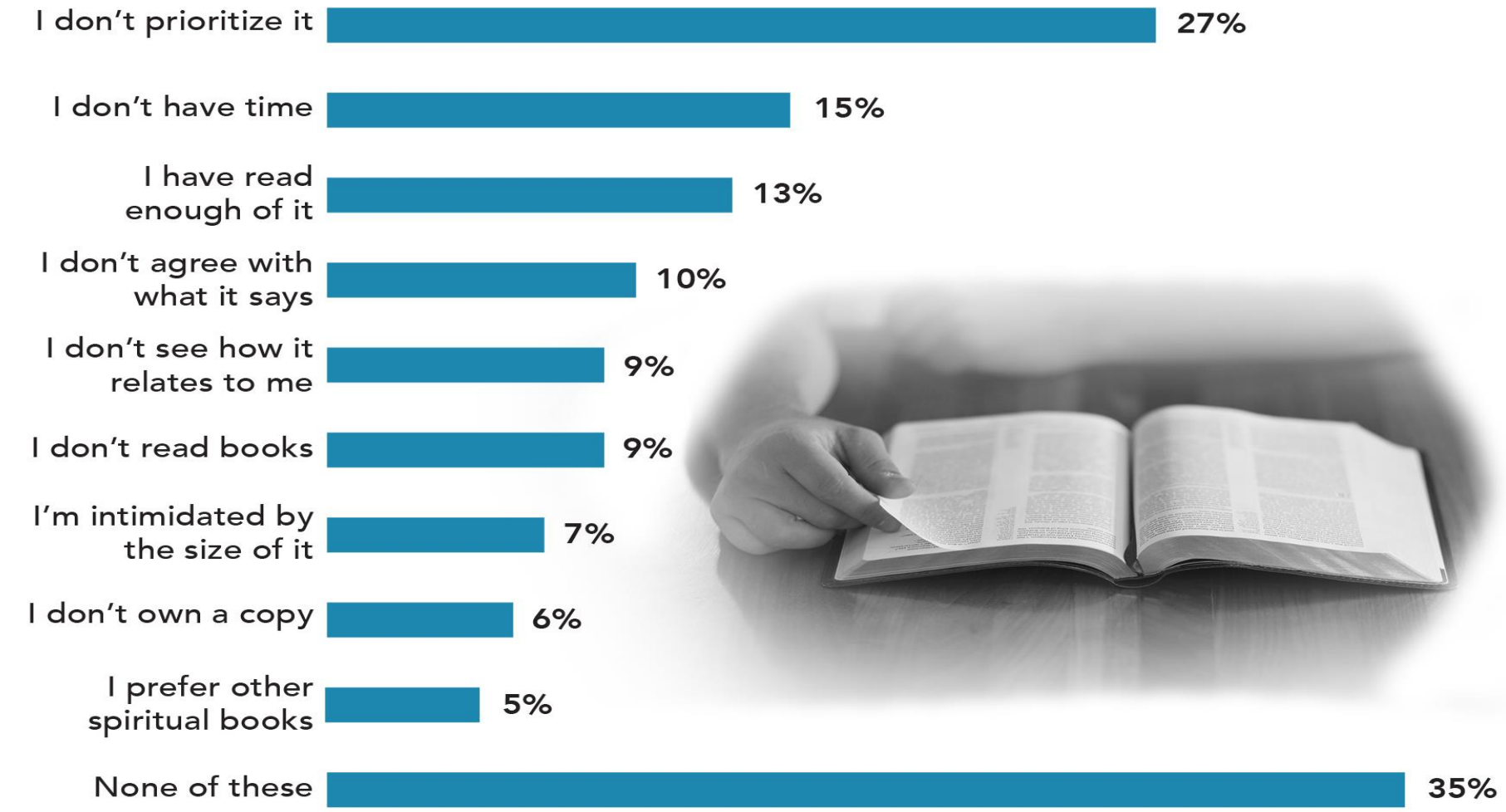


LifeWay
Biblical Solutions for Life

LifeWayResearch.com

Among Americans:

Why have you not read the Bible more?



Note: Respondents could select all that apply.

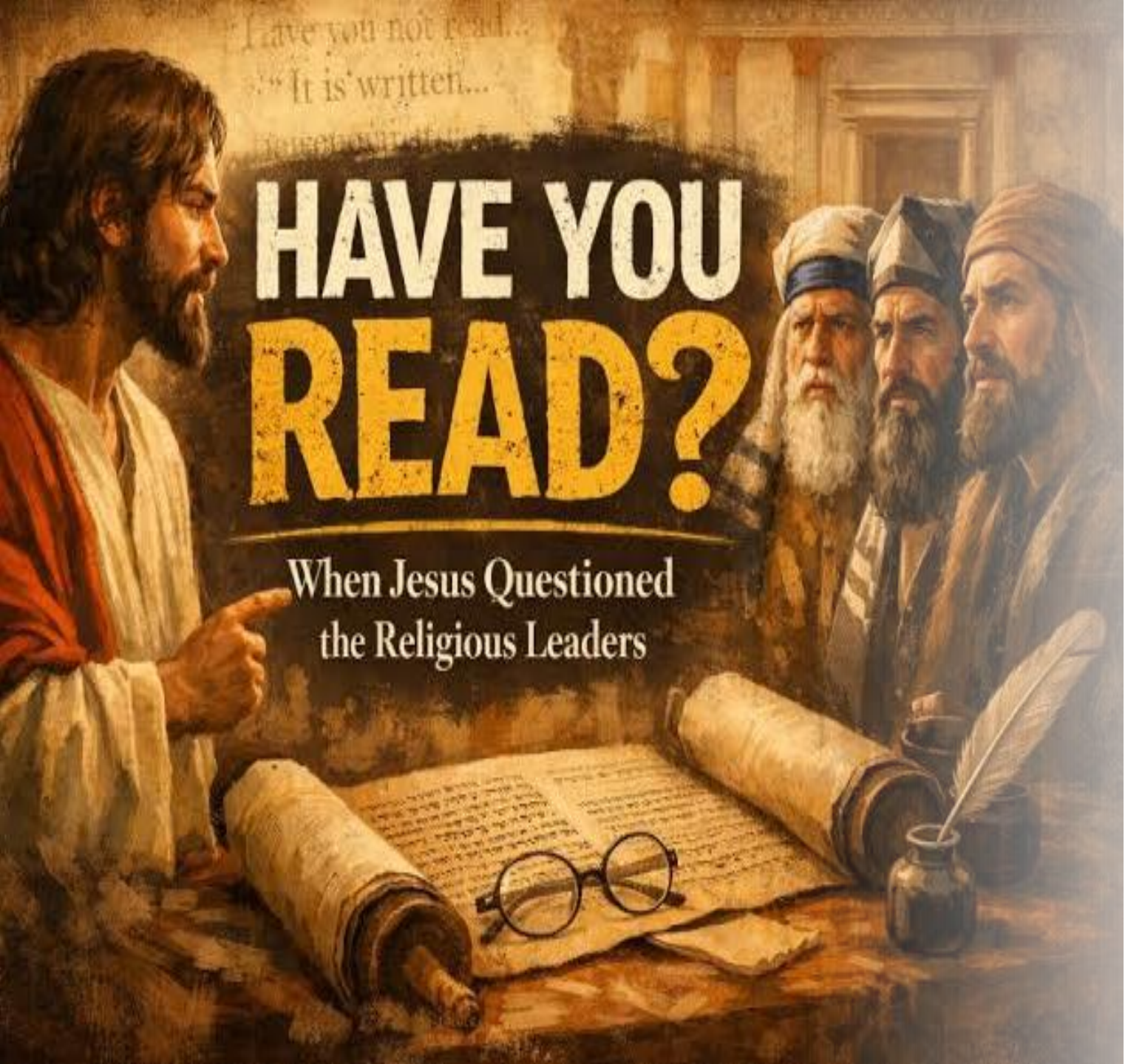


Scripture Literacy in the Days of Jesus

90% of Roman Jewish Palestine was illiterate!

Hand copied parchment scrolls were rare and expensive

Individual reading restricted to the elite – Pharisees, Chief Priests. Sadducees, Elders



The Most Asked Question of Jesus

5X in Matthew directly

1X in Matt indirectly

1X in Luke indirectly

IS MATTHEW THE MOST JEWISH OF THE GOSPELS?



Jewish readers/listeners

Lineage of Jesus

Old Testament prophecy

Preservation of the Law

Kingdom of Heaven

Lost sheep of Israel

Irony of the Reading Question to the Only Men who Could Read

Matthew:

12:3, 5	To Pharisees
19:4	To Pharisees
21:16	To Chief Priests / Scribes
21:42	To Chief Priests / Elders
22:31	To Sadducees





Pharisees – middle class Synagogue Teachers

Accepted entire Hebrew Bible (Law, Prophets, Writings) as authority.

Strict obedience to the 613 commandments of the Torah.

Believed the “oral Torah” was as important as the “written Torah.”

Messiah would be a political hero.

Sadducees – upper class
Temple - Sanhedrin

Accepted only the Law as authority (Gen – Deuteronomy)

Strict obedience to sacrificial and ritual purity laws.

Rejected the “oral Torah”

Messiah would be a threat.



Chief Priests / Elders
Most Elite Sadducees

Regularly read, studied, and taught the Law of Moses and Prophets.

They knew Messianic prophecies, viewed him as a political and religious zealot (like them).

Overseers of the entire religious process – Sanhedrin and Laws.



#1 Pharisees: Have You Not Read?

Matthew 12: 3 – 5, At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. But when the **Pharisees** saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” Jesus said to them, **“Have you not read** what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him; how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence which it was not lawful for him to eat nor tor those who were with him, but only for the priests? **Or have you not read** in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless?”

Applicable "Written Torah" Sabbath Laws Against and For Jesus and Disciples

Against: ***Melachah*****: 39 laws** on no creative / constructive labor – e.g., plowing, sowing, reaping, threshing, or cooking. (Exodus 20:8–11, 31:14, Leviticus 23:3).

For: ***Pikuach Nefesh:*** Any Sabbath restriction (written or oral law) is suspended if human life is in danger.

Applicable “Oral Torah” Sabbath Laws Against and For Jesus and Disciples

Against: *Melachot:* Rubbing the grain in their hands to remove the husk (associated with threshing or processing) and separating the edible grain from chaff as meal prep.

For: Deuteronomy 23:25, If you go into your neighbor’s standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor’s standing grain.

David and *Pikuach Nefesh*

1st Samuel 21:1-6

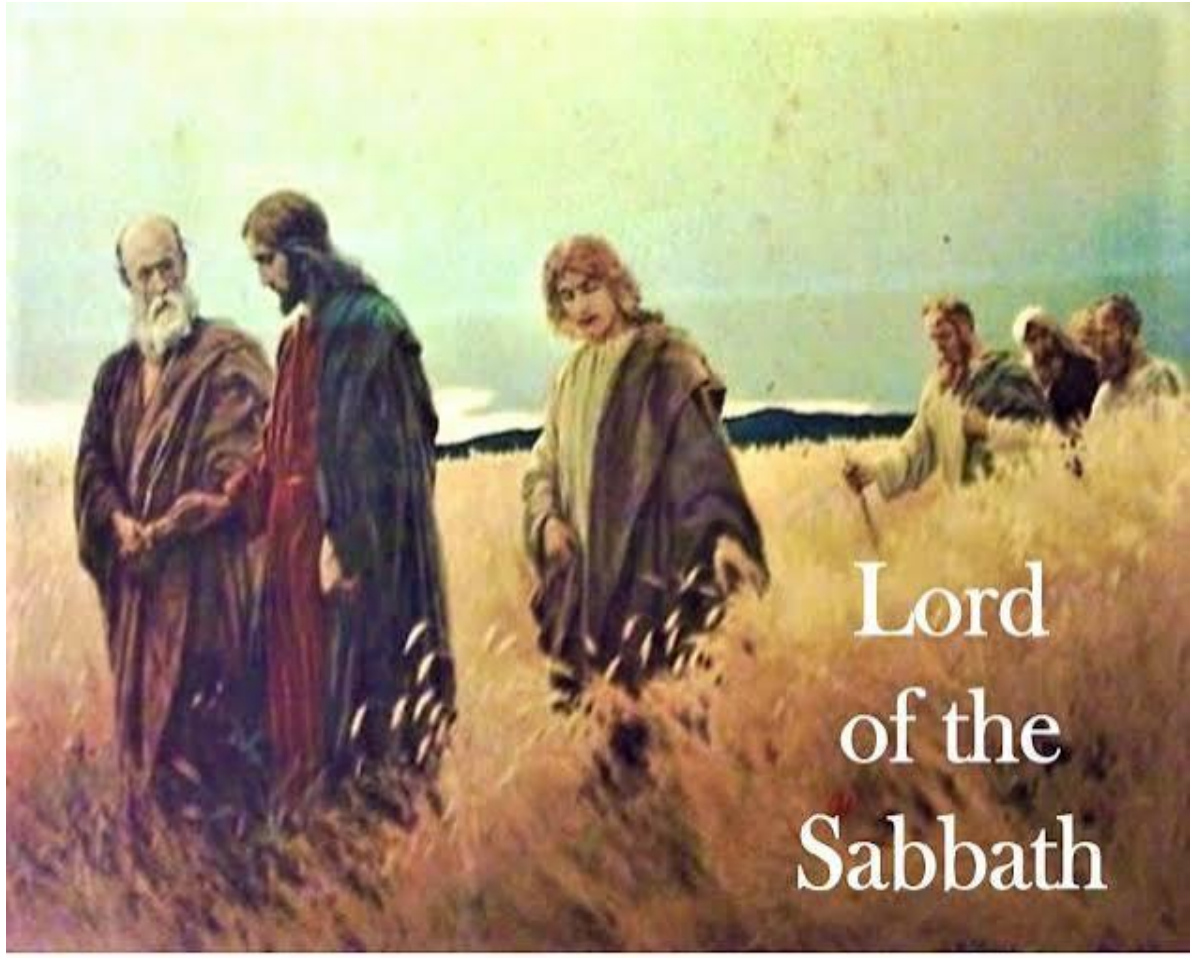
David was fleeing from King Saul and arrived hungry at Nob. The high priest Ahimelech only had the "Bread of the Presence," and gave it to David and his men.

Leviticus 24:5–9, this bread strictly reserved for Aaron's priests to eat after they had performed their duties.



Lord of the Sabbath is Here!

Matthew 12: 6 – 7, I tell you that something greater than the temple (Bread of Presence) is here. And if you had known what this means, I desire mercy not sacrifice, you would **not** have condemned the guiltless for the **Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath**.



Irony of the Reading Question to the Only Men Who Could Read

Matthew:

1. 2:3, 5 Pharisees
2. 19:4 Pharisees
3. 21:16 Chief Priests / Scribes
4. 21:42 Chief Priests / Elders
5. 22:31 Sadducees



2 What Pharisees Didn’t Understood About Divorce

Matt 19:1 – 12, Pharisees were hard hearted about divorce, though it was never God's original ideal or command.

Deuteronomy 24:1, allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce if he found something "indecent."

Pharisees viewed it as a “right,” or as a general permission, rather than an accommodation for human sin.

3 What Chief Priests / Scribes Didn't Understand about Prophecy

Matt 21:12 - 17, The children were singing, "Hosana, to the Son of David." Praising Jesus as the Messiah.

They asked Jesus if he heard what they were singing to him - and inferring – Chief Priests wanted Jesus to stop them.

Psalm 8:2, is about children singing to the Messiah. (Jesus did not stop them – the people would all sing it soon…)

4 What Chief Priests and Elders Didn't Understand: Jesus was the Messiah

Matt 21:33 – 42, Jesus shared a parable about a wealthy landlord who leased his vineyard to some tenants. After the harvest, the landlord sent his servants to the tenants to bring back some fruit. The tenants beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. More servants sent – more of the same. Then the landlord sent his son, and they killed him also. Jesus asked them. **"When the landlord comes back, what will he do to the tenants?"**

They Did Understand Parable Was About Them

Matthew 21: 45, When the Chief Priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held Jesus to be a prophet.

God sent His prophets and the people would not repent and obey. Then He sent Jesus, and they would kill him. Foreshadowing no one understood except Jesus.

5 What the Sadducees Didn't Understand There is Heaven, but no Marriage there

Matt 22:23 – 28, Sadducees asked Jesus, "If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. The first married and died, having no offspring. So too the second and third, down to the seventh brother. And after them all, the woman died. In the resurrection, whose wife shall she be?"

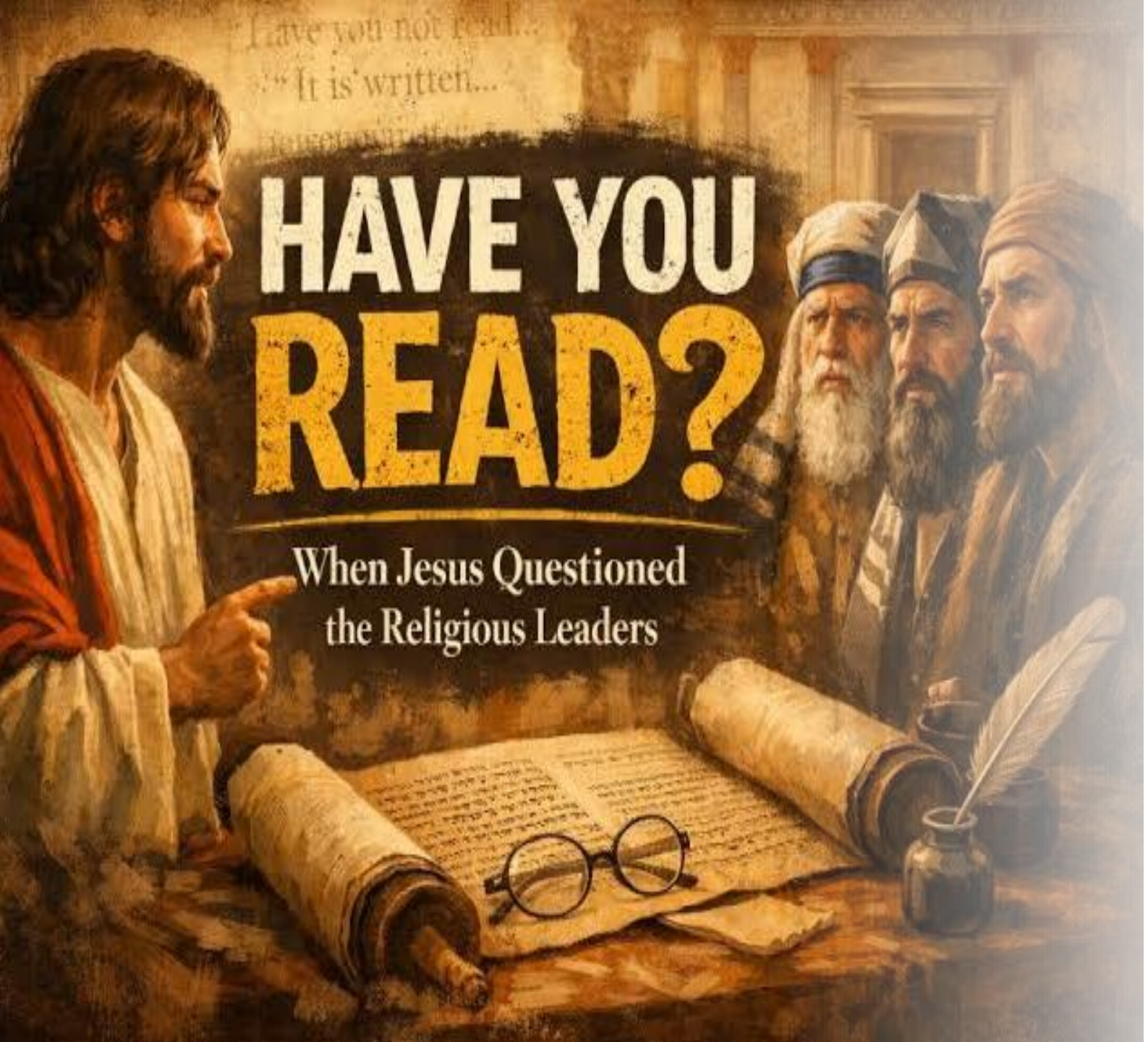
The Sadducees completely rejected the belief in the resurrection of the dead, a future afterlife, or a spiritual realm (including angels and demons).

Jesus Answered Them: Torah Heaven Verses

Matthew 22:29 – 32, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, **have you not read** what was said to you by God. **(Shamayim: Heaven - Over 500 times!!!)**

Gen 1:1, In the beginning, God created ***the heaven*** and the earth.

Duet 4:39, Know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in ***heaven above***, and on the earth beneath.



What's Our Answer?

87% or Americans have easy access to a Bible

99% of Evangelical Christians have a Bible (3.5 in home)

67% of Evangelicals have a Bible App on phone

What's Our Answer?
Stats from Lifeway Research

Only 31% of Evangelicals read the Bible daily

Only 20% say they are trying to follow the life of Jesus

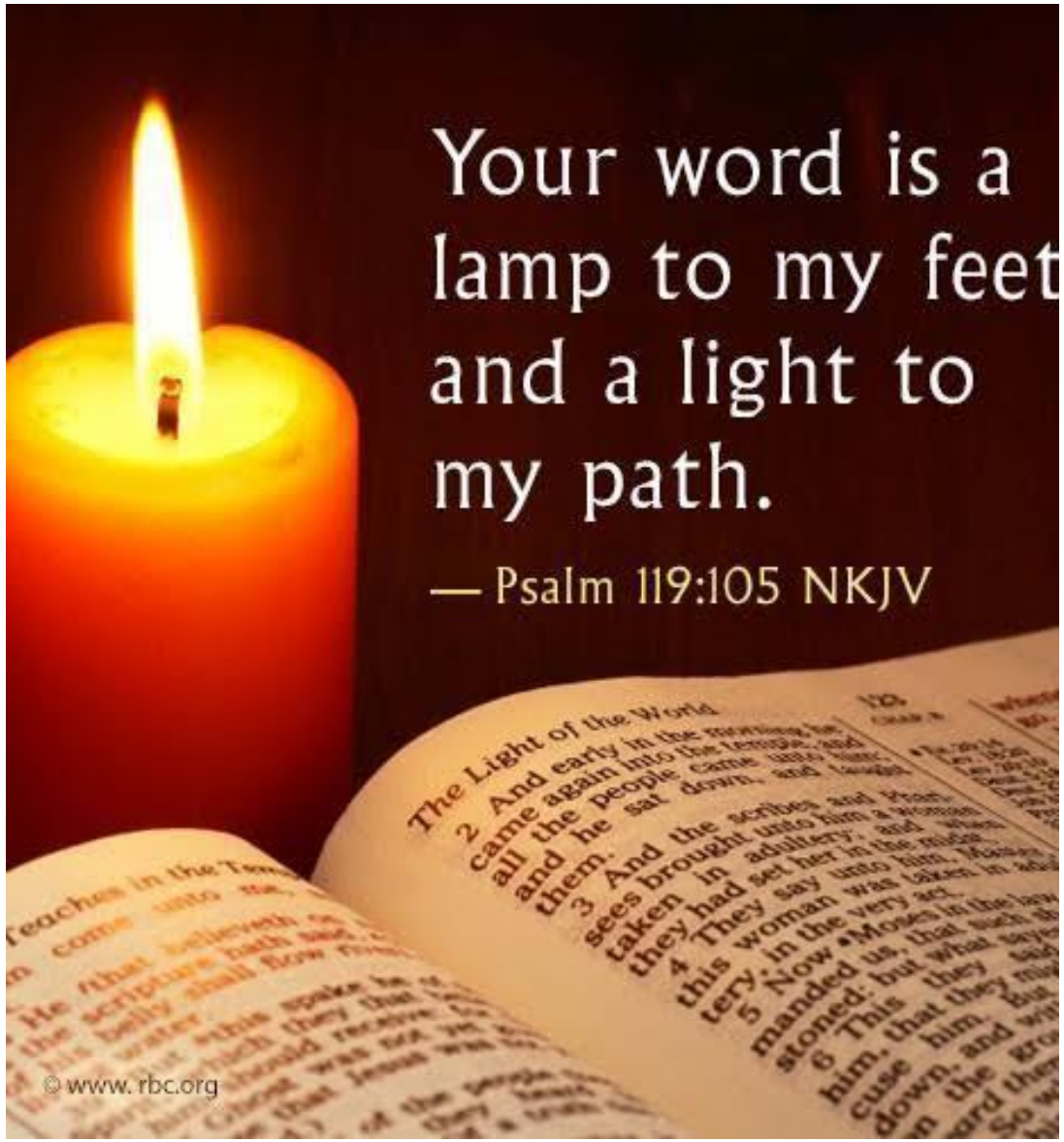
The more you attend Church the more you read the Bible

If you attend a small group or Bible study, you read more

If you believe in the power of God's Word as a foundational dependency, you'll read more!

Bible: Many Metaphors of Foundational Dependency

Mirror	James 1:23–25
Sword	Hebrews 4:12
Hammer	Jeremiah 23:29
Lamp, Light	Psalm 119:105
Milk	1 Peter 2:2
Bread	John 6:35



what's
Your
Answer?

