



# **The Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls**

New Covenant Lutheran Church  
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# The Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls

## Course Outline

### 🌟 Sessions

1. Dead Sea Scrolls Archaeology
2. The Essenes
3. The Rabbit Hole
4. Messiah's
5. Celibacy, Marriage & Priesthood
6. John the Baptist
7. John the Apostle
8. Communion
9. Summary

### 🌟 Readings

1. Intro & Ch 1 pg. 3-4. 9-14
2. Ch 1 pg. 4-15; Ch 9 pg. 129-137; Handouts
3. Intro xii-xiii; Ch 4 pg. 45 & Ch 7.14.15
4. Ch 2
5. Ch 9-13
6. Ch 3 & 5
7. Ch 4
8. Ch 6, 8
9. Ch 16



# Session 2

## The Essenes

- 1. Who were they? Sources?**
- 2. What was their lifestyle?**
- 3. What did they believe and teach?**
- 4. What were their favorite Biblical and Extra-Biblical texts?**
- 5. Examples? | Enoch, Jubilees, Book of Giants**

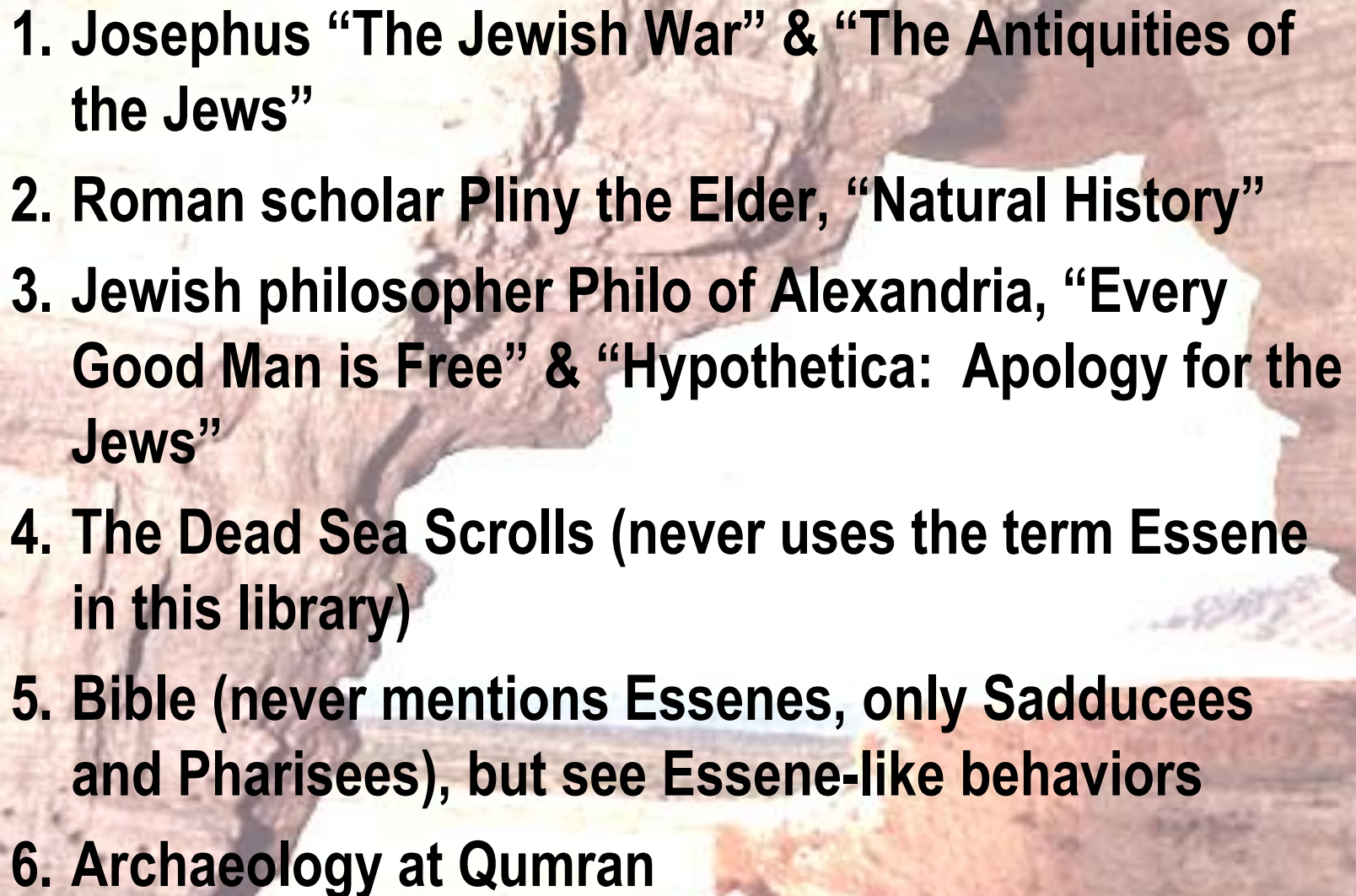


# Imagine

**Imagine trying to maintain your faith in God in a world in which there is no certainty...**

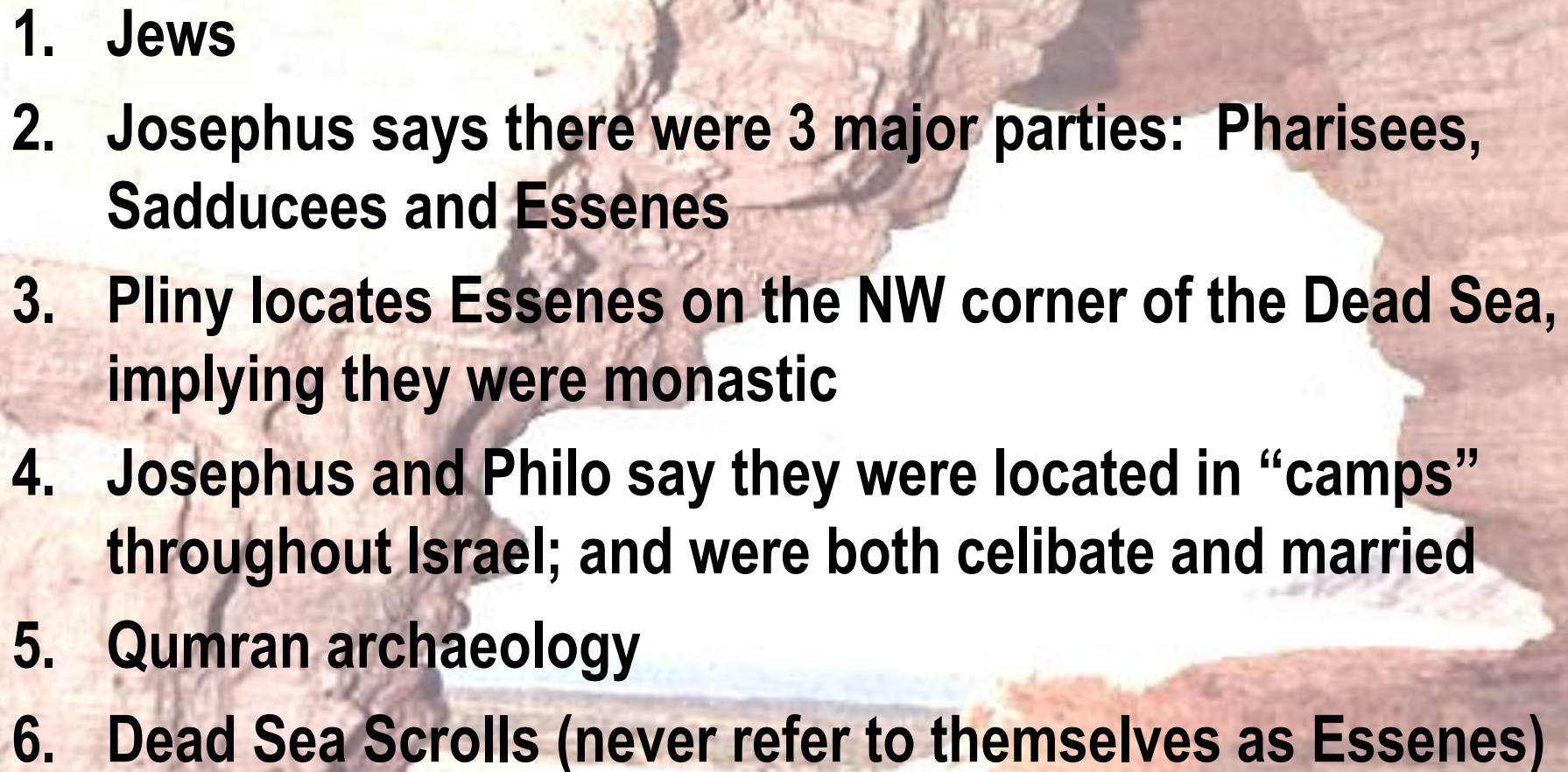


# Sources

1. **Josephus “The Jewish War” & “The Antiquities of the Jews”**
  2. **Roman scholar Pliny the Elder, “Natural History”**
  3. **Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria, “Every Good Man is Free” & “Hypothetica: Apology for the Jews”**
  4. **The Dead Sea Scrolls (never uses the term Essene in this library)**
  5. **Bible (never mentions Essenes, only Sadducees and Pharisees), but see Essene-like behaviors**
  6. **Archaeology at Qumran**
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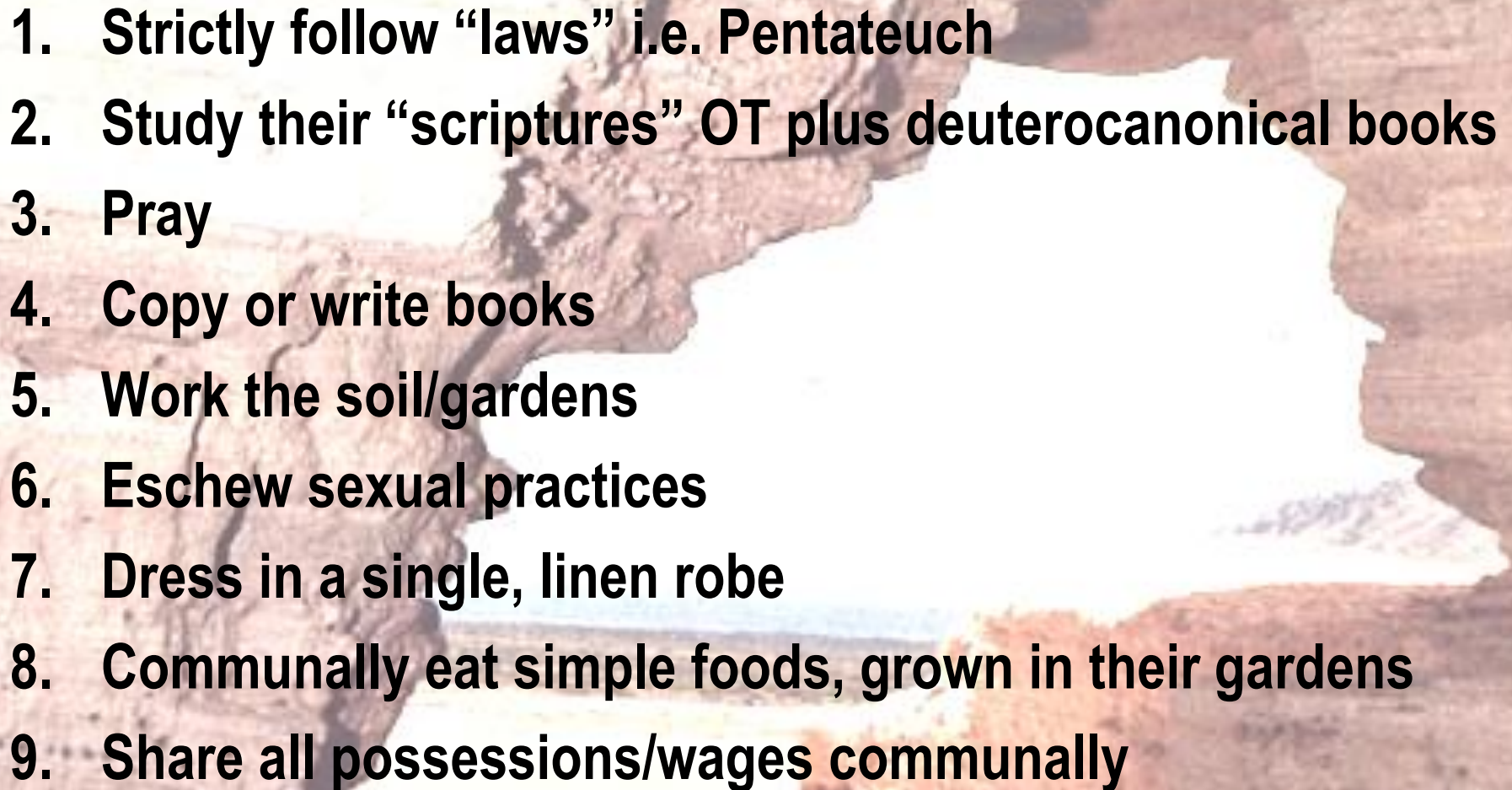


# Who were they?

1. **Jews**
  2. **Josephus says there were 3 major parties: Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes**
  3. **Pliny locates Essenes on the NW corner of the Dead Sea, implying they were monastic**
  4. **Josephus and Philo say they were located in “camps” throughout Israel; and were both celibate and married**
  5. **Qumran archaeology**
  6. **Dead Sea Scrolls (never refer to themselves as Essenes)**
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# Lifestyle

1. **Strictly follow “laws” i.e. Pentateuch**
  2. **Study their “scriptures” OT plus deuterocanonical books**
  3. **Pray**
  4. **Copy or write books**
  5. **Work the soil/gardens**
  6. **Eschew sexual practices**
  7. **Dress in a single, linen robe**
  8. **Communally eat simple foods, grown in their gardens**
  9. **Share all possessions/wages communally**
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# Lifestyle-2

- 10. Don't believe in slavery, so do all menial tasks for themselves**
- 11. Celibate, so do the work women would normally do in the home**
- 12. Practice daily ceremonial washing**
- 13. All male, at Qumran**
- 14. Sell all possessions, initiation process at least 1 year**
- 15. Then profess faith, take oaths to forever abide by communal rules, and have first ceremonial washing for the forgiveness of sins, i.e. baptism**
- 16. Can be ostracized by communal vote**



## Lifestyle-3

- 17. Essenes in “camps” in cities throughout Israel, including in Jerusalem**
- 18. There was a “guest house” in these “camps” Pg 100-101 & Damascus Document**
- 19. Essene Gate, Jerusalem**
- 20. Not celibate**
- 21. Simply “live in accordance with the law”**



# Group Exercise #1

**Read Luke 22: 10-11**

*“Jesus replied, ‘As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: ‘Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs all furnished. Make preparations there’.”*

**In the previous 3 slides, which 2 Essene lifestyle attributes are seen here?**



## Group Exercise #2

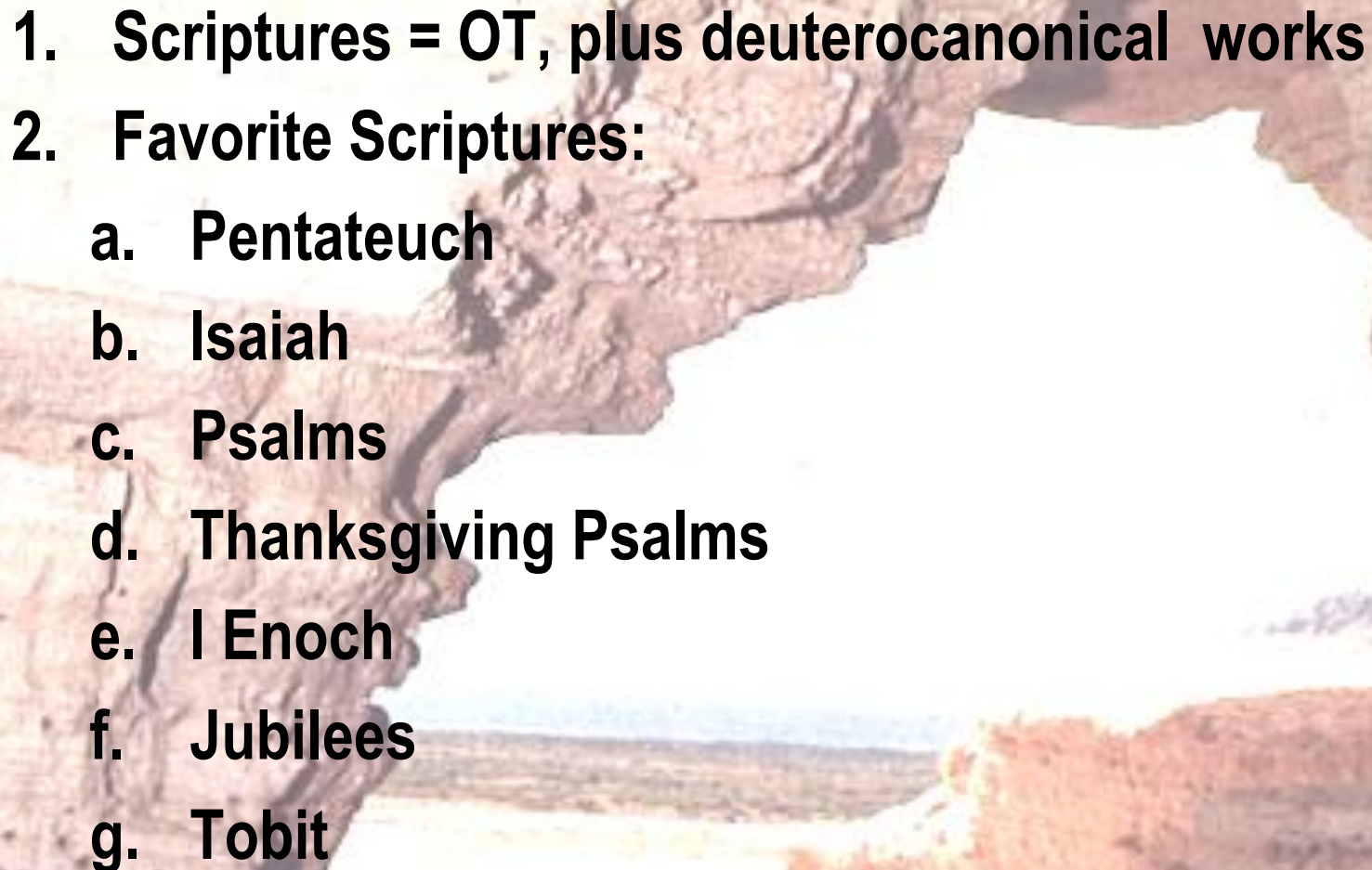
**Read Mark 14: 51-52**

*“A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.”*

**Using the same 3 previous slides, which 1 Essene lifestyle attribute might lead you to believe this young man is an Essene?**

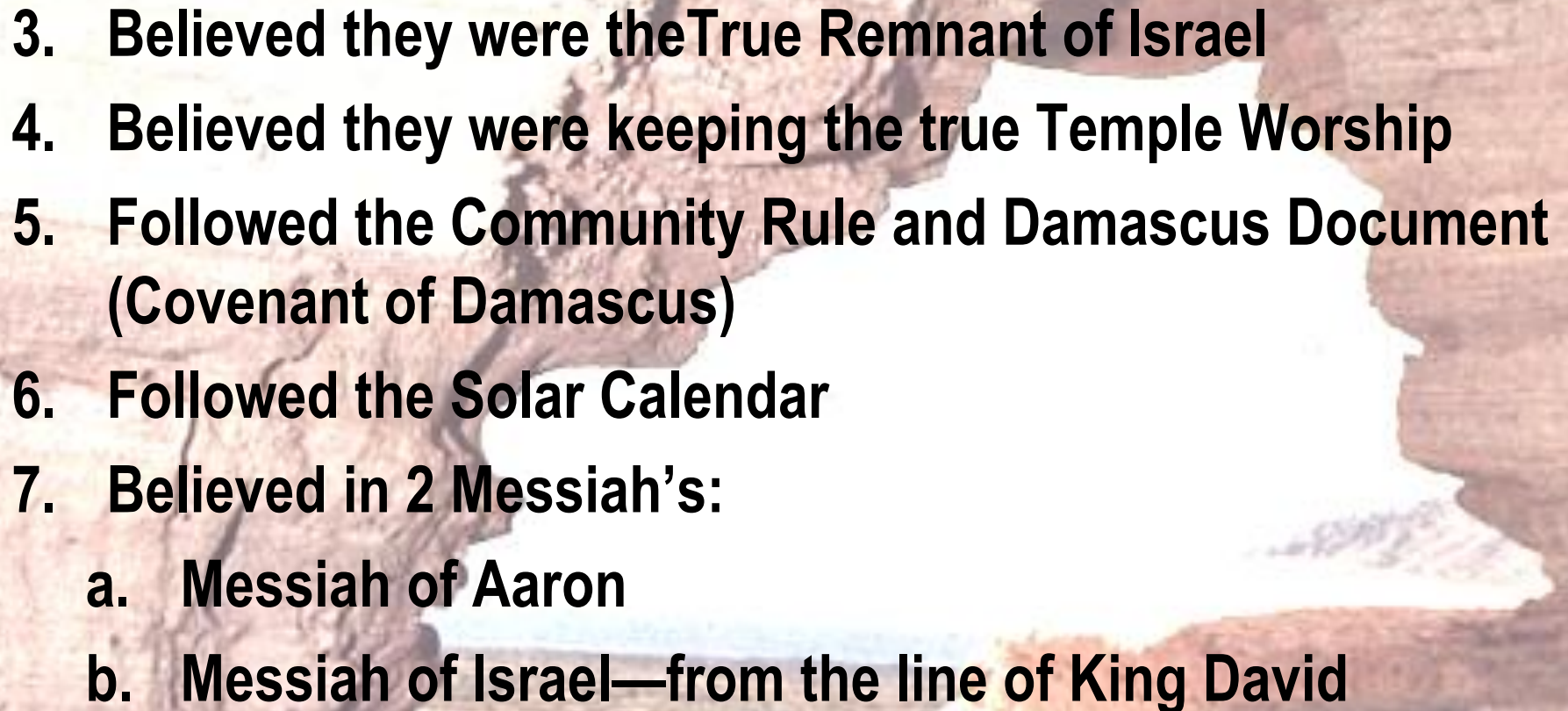


# Belief System

1. **Scriptures = OT, plus deuterocanonical works**
  2. **Favorite Scriptures:**
    - a. **Pentateuch**
    - b. **Isaiah**
    - c. **Psalms**
    - d. **Thanksgiving Psalms**
    - e. **I Enoch**
    - f. **Jubilees**
    - g. **Tobit**
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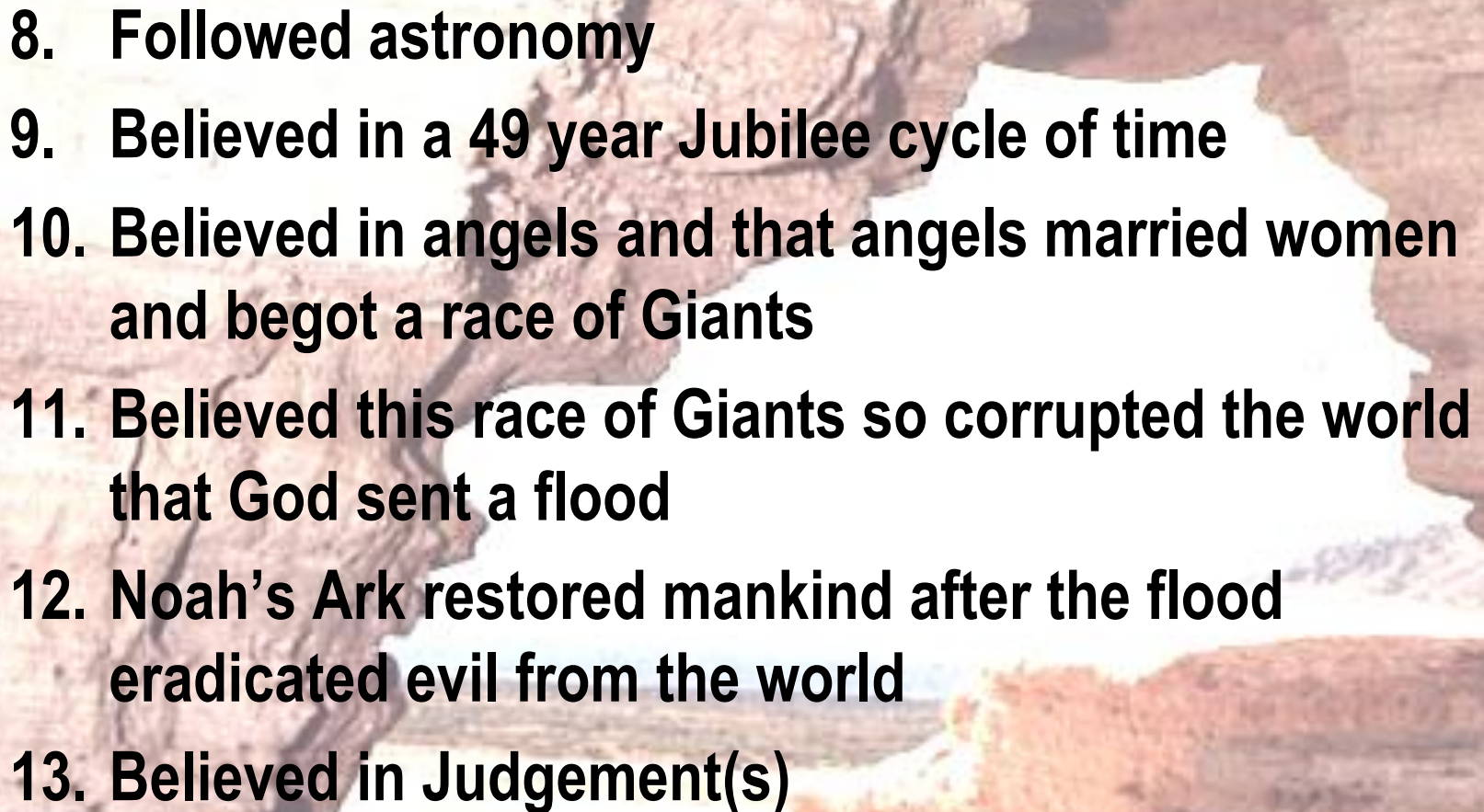


# Belief System-2

- 3. Believed they were the True Remnant of Israel**
  - 4. Believed they were keeping the true Temple Worship**
  - 5. Followed the Community Rule and Damascus Document (Covenant of Damascus)**
  - 6. Followed the Solar Calendar**
  - 7. Believed in 2 Messiah's:**
    - a. Messiah of Aaron**
    - b. Messiah of Israel—from the line of King David**
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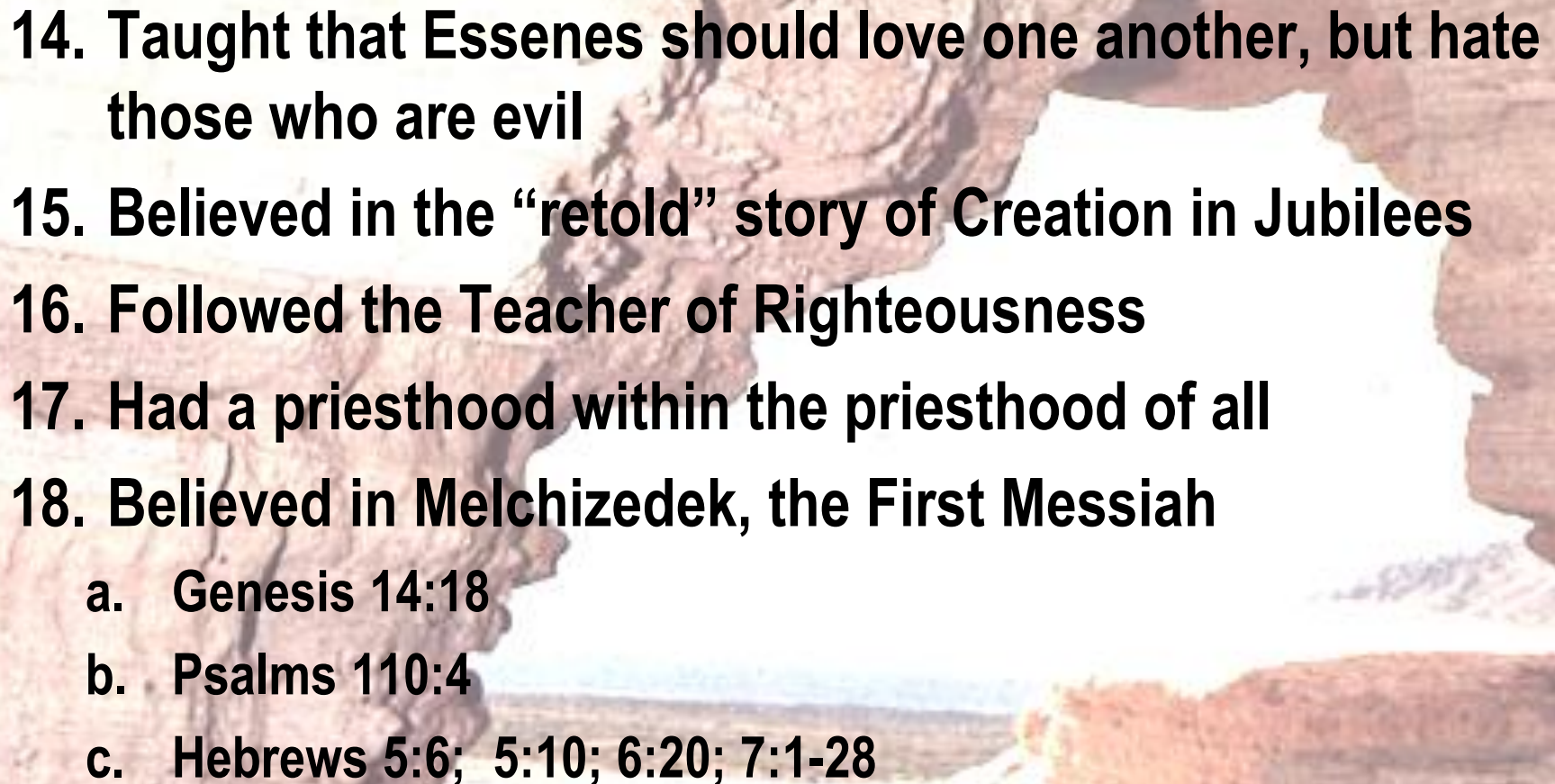


# Belief System-3

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8. **Followed astronomy**
  9. **Believed in a 49 year Jubilee cycle of time**
  10. **Believed in angels and that angels married women and begot a race of Giants**
  11. **Believed this race of Giants so corrupted the world that God sent a flood**
  12. **Noah's Ark restored mankind after the flood eradicated evil from the world**
  13. **Believed in Judgement(s)**



# Belief System-4

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- 14. Taught that Essenes should love one another, but hate those who are evil**
  - 15. Believed in the “retold” story of Creation in Jubilees**
  - 16. Followed the Teacher of Righteousness**
  - 17. Had a priesthood within the priesthood of all**
  - 18. Believed in Melchizedek, the First Messiah**
    - a. Genesis 14:18**
    - b. Psalms 110:4**
    - c. Hebrews 5:6; 5:10; 6:20; 7:1-28**



# Belief System-5

**19. Believed in a final war, Righteous vs. Evil**

**20. Last days--corrupt generation**

**21. Signs and wonders**

**Archaeology at Qumran supports this picture of the Essenes.**

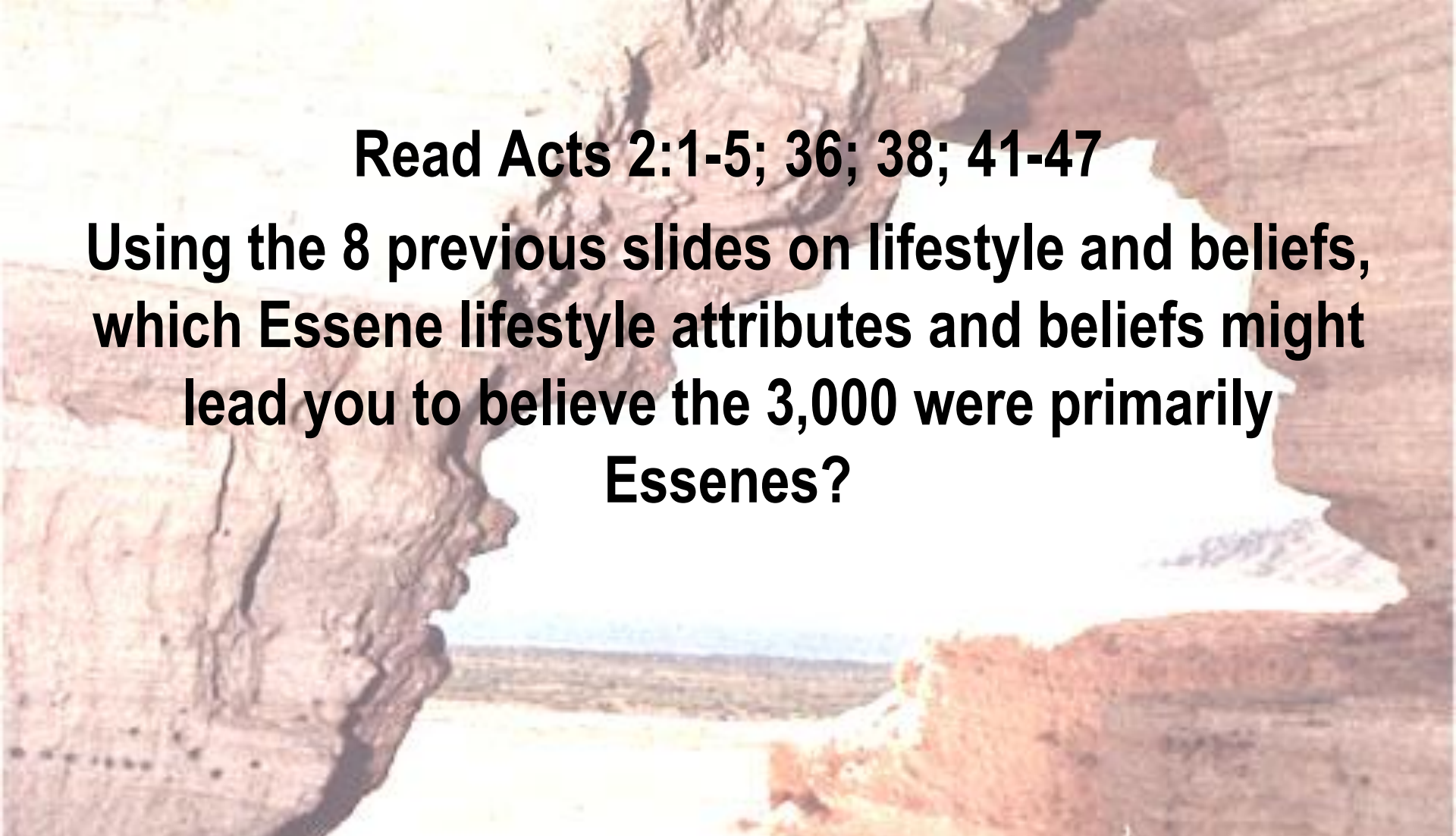




## Group Exercise #3

**Read Acts 2:1-5; 36; 38; 41-47**

**Using the 8 previous slides on lifestyle and beliefs, which Essene lifestyle attributes and beliefs might lead you to believe the 3,000 were primarily Essenes?**





# Group Exercise #3--Facts

## From Acts 2

1. Vs. 2 “whole house where they were sitting”
2. Vs. 5 “God-fearing Jews from every nation”
3. Vs. 17 “last days” “signs and wonders” Joel 2: 28-32
4. Vs. 25 “David”
5. Vs. 31 “messiah”
6. Vs. 36 “Lord and Messiah”



# Group Exercise #3—More Facts



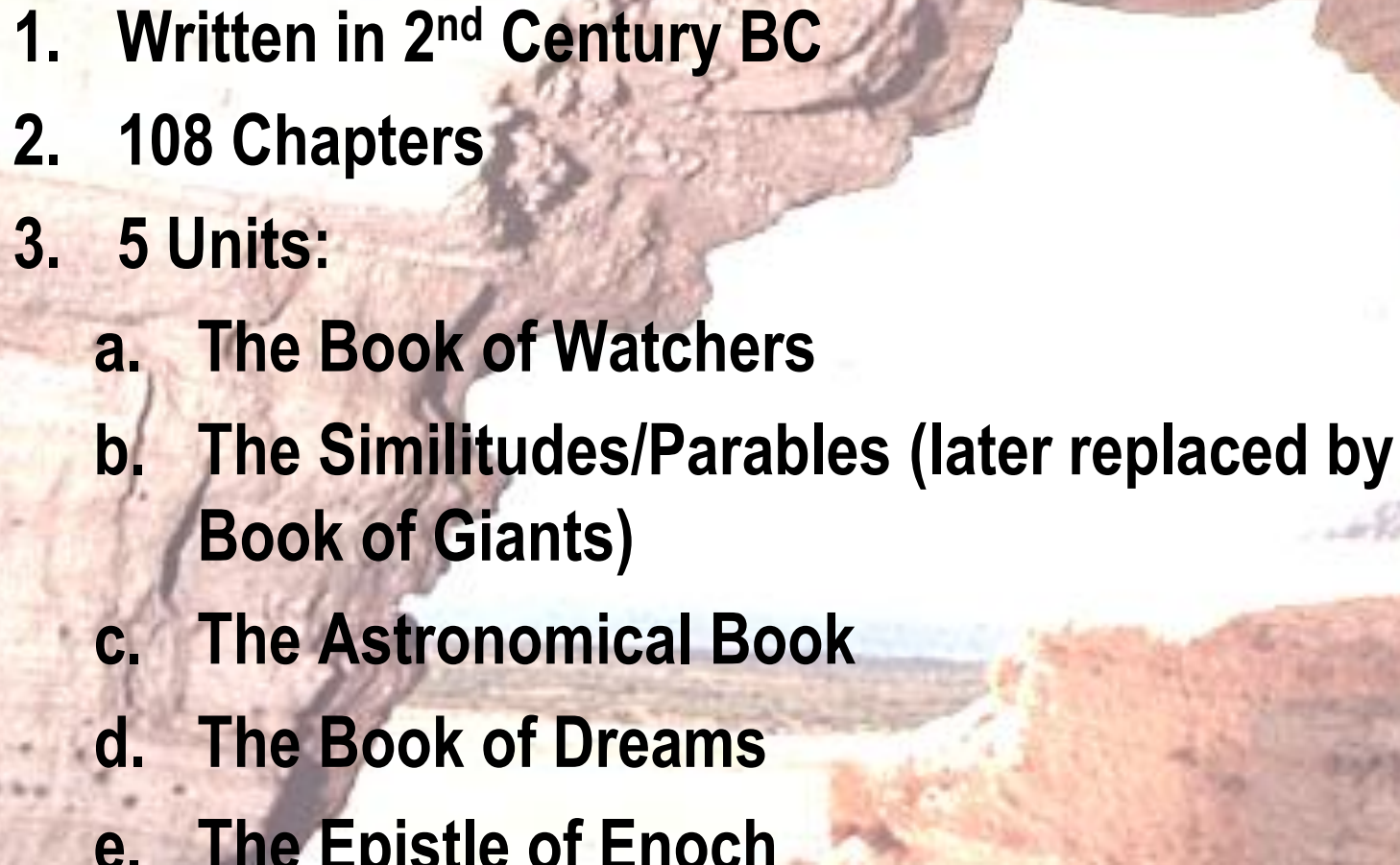
## From Acts 2

7. **Vs. 38 “repent and be baptized” “for the forgiveness of your sins”**
8. **Vs. 40 “this corrupt generation”**
9. **Vs. 44 “all the believers were together and had everything in common”**
10. **Vs. 45 “They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”**
11. **Vs. 46 “Every day they continued to meet together...They broke bread in their homes and ate together”**



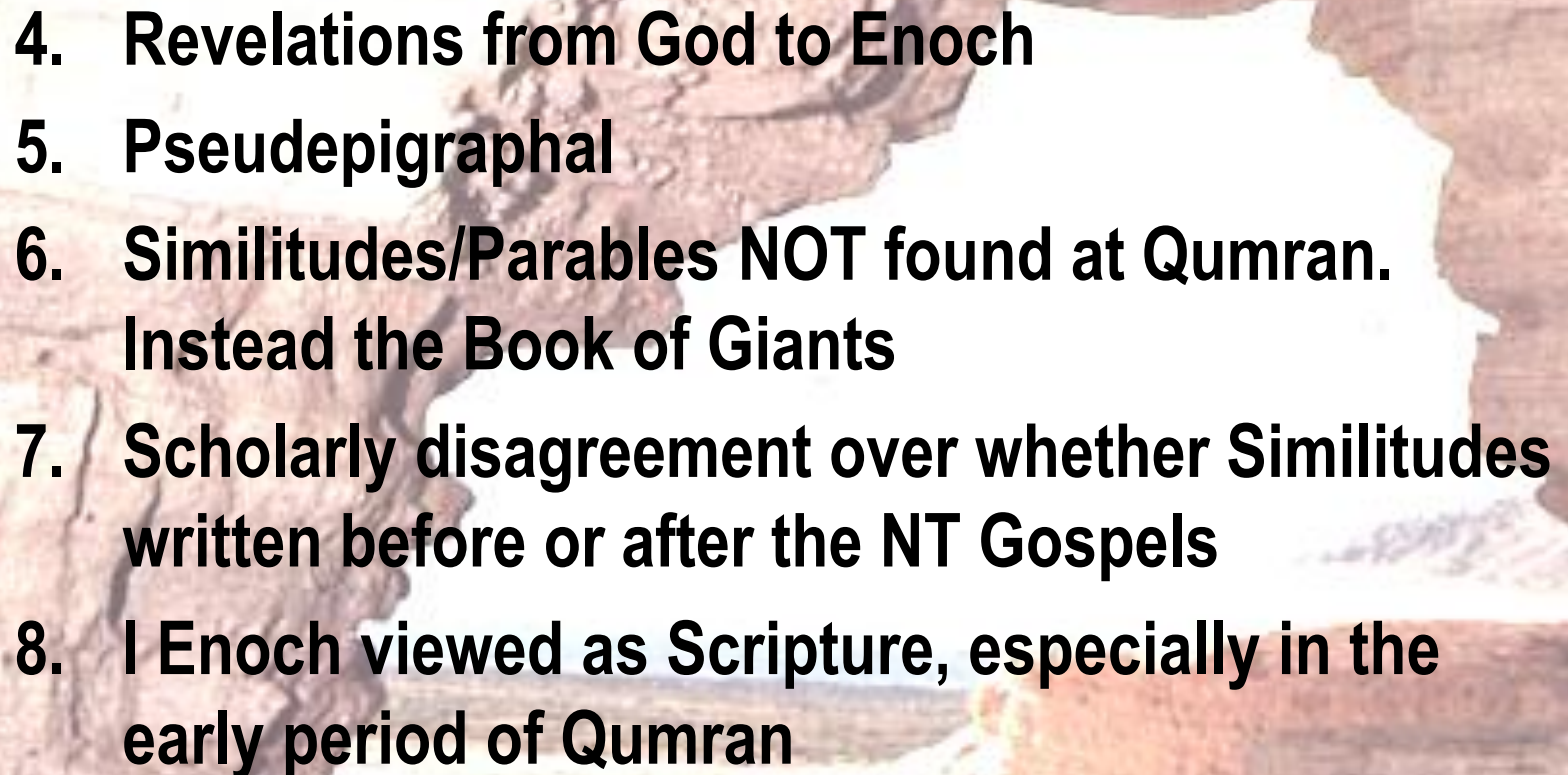
# I Enoch

## Enoch—Genesis 5:24

1. **Written in 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC**
  2. **108 Chapters**
  3. **5 Units:**
    - a. **The Book of Watchers**
    - b. **The Similitudes/Parables (later replaced by Book of Giants)**
    - c. **The Astronomical Book**
    - d. **The Book of Dreams**
    - e. **The Epistle of Enoch**
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# I Enoch-2

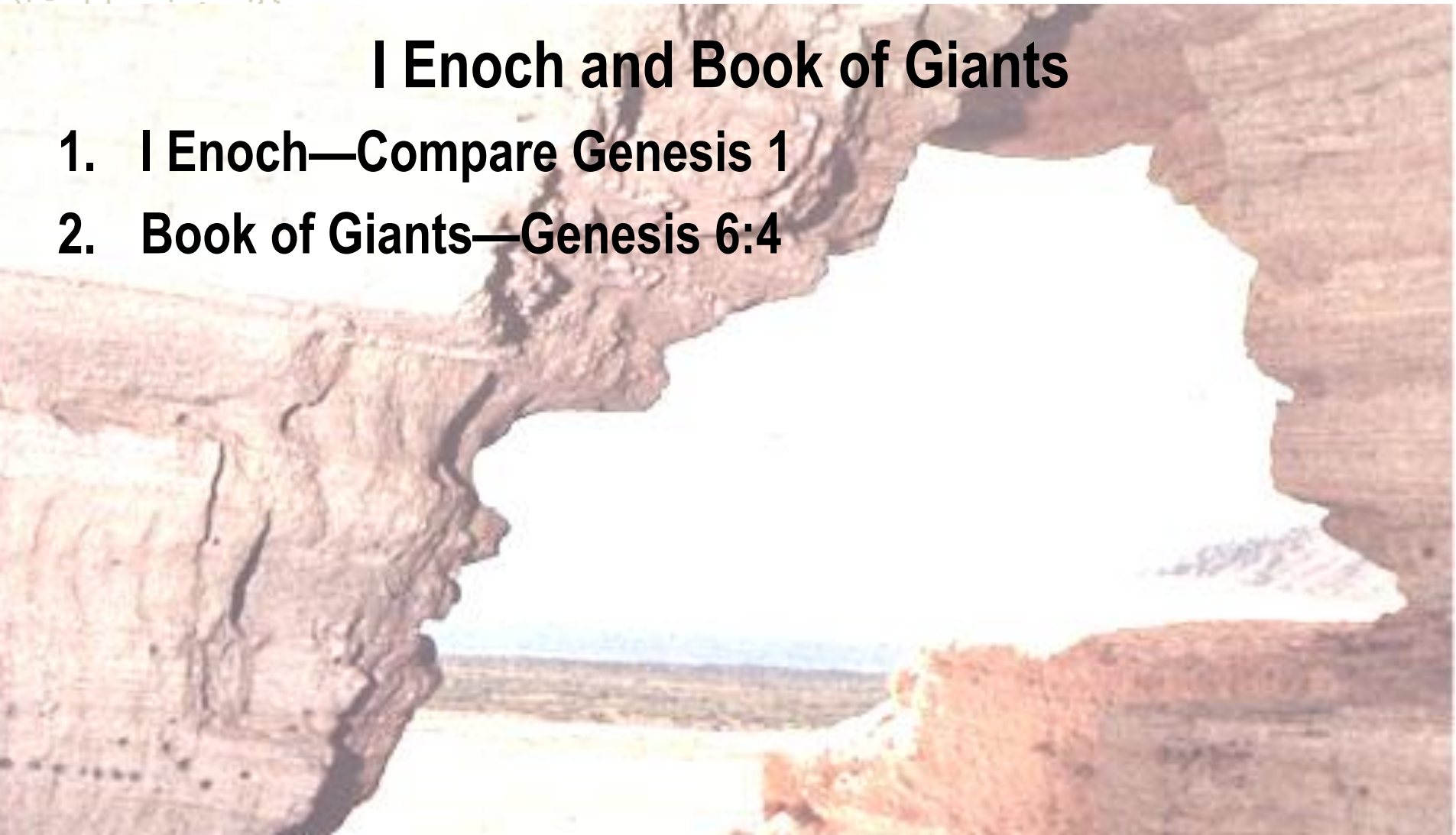
- 4. Revelations from God to Enoch**
  - 5. Pseudepigraphal**
  - 6. Similitudes/Parables NOT found at Qumran. Instead the Book of Giants**
  - 7. Scholarly disagreement over whether Similitudes written before or after the NT Gospels**
  - 8. I Enoch viewed as Scripture, especially in the early period of Qumran**
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# Handouts Discussion

## I Enoch and Book of Giants

1. I Enoch—Compare Genesis 1
2. Book of Giants—Genesis 6:4





# Jubilees

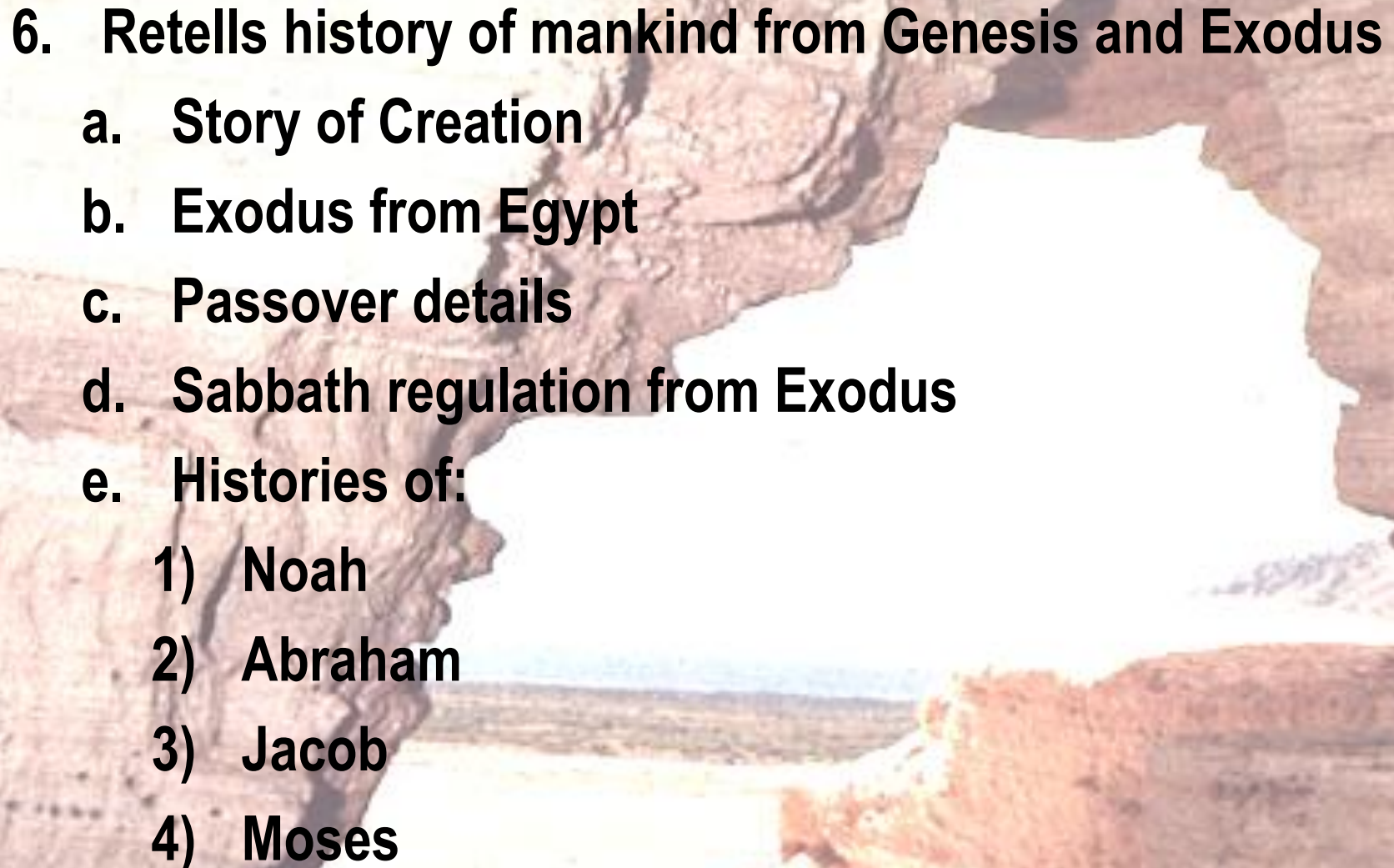


## Leviticus 25: 8-12

- 1. Written 160 BC**
- 2. 50 Chapters**
- 3. Revelation from God delivered to Moses by an angel serving God**
- 4. Jubilees structure, i.e. divides history into 50 units of 49 years each**
- 5. Shortens/lengthens Genesis/early Exodus history**



# Jubilees-2

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- 6. Retells history of mankind from Genesis and Exodus**
    - a. Story of Creation**
    - b. Exodus from Egypt**
    - c. Passover details**
    - d. Sabbath regulation from Exodus**
    - e. Histories of:**
      - 1) Noah**
      - 2) Abraham**
      - 3) Jacob**
      - 4) Moses**



# Handout Discussion

## Jubilees

**Jubilees—Compare Daniel 9:24-26**

**Also, 11QMelchisedek 2:1-8**





# Your Thoughts?

**The Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls**

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