



BENEATH THE GLITTER

*WHAT'S IT REALLY LIKE
TO WALK WITH JESUS*

Lesson 2: God At Work

Sermon Summary

God is at work in your life, right now. He's given you a new life, a living hope and an unexplainable joy. This transforms the way you cope with the hard things of life. God uses hard things to grow His people. This confounds some but underlines the difference Jesus makes. Joy, not favor, is your strongest testimony.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are **shielded** by God's

power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even

though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you **love** him; and even though you do not see him now, you **believe** in him and are **filled** with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are **receiving** the end result of your faith, the salvation of

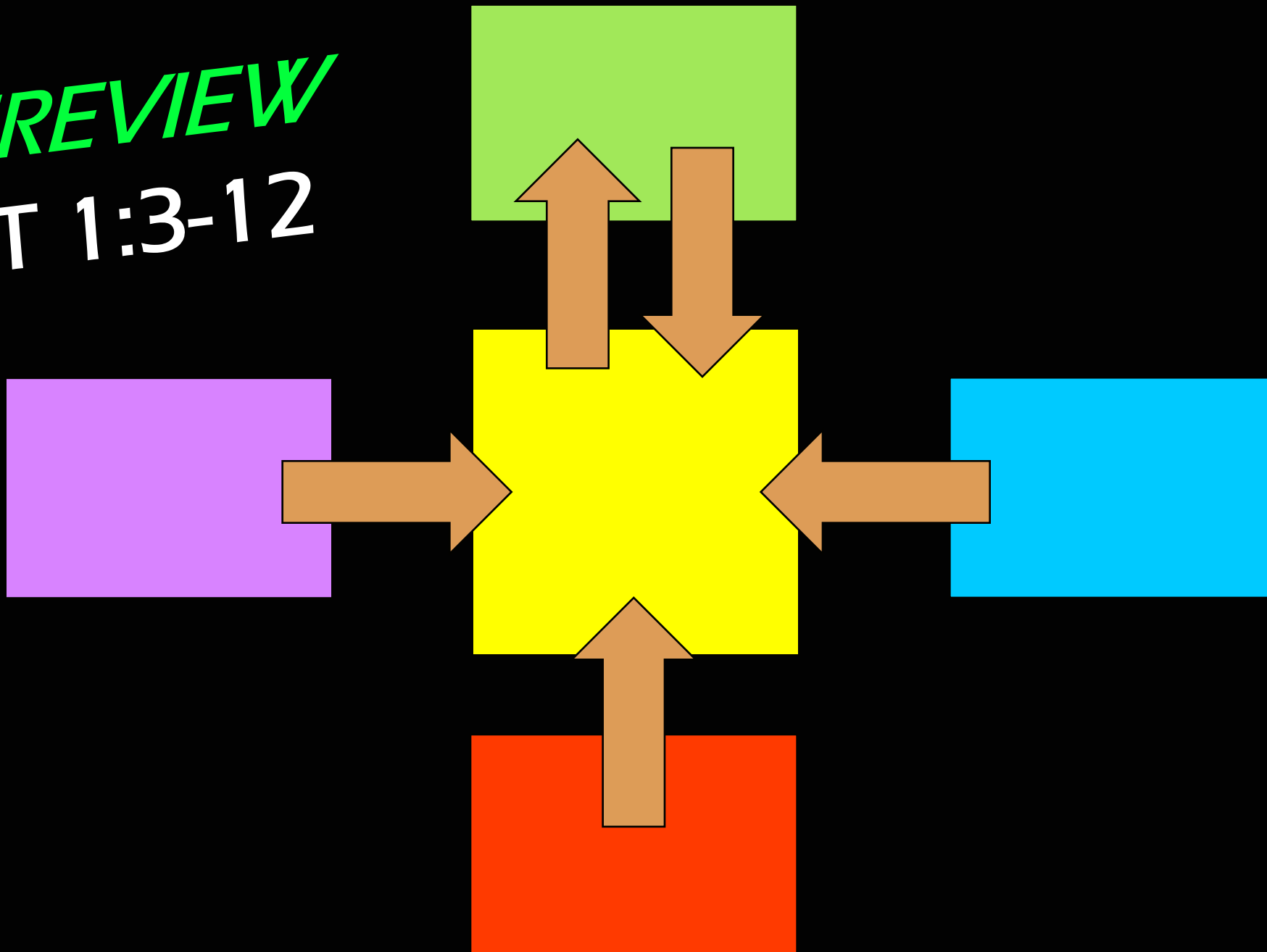
your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched **intently** and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would

follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but **you**, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even **angels** long to look into these things.

1 Pet 1:3-12 (NIV)

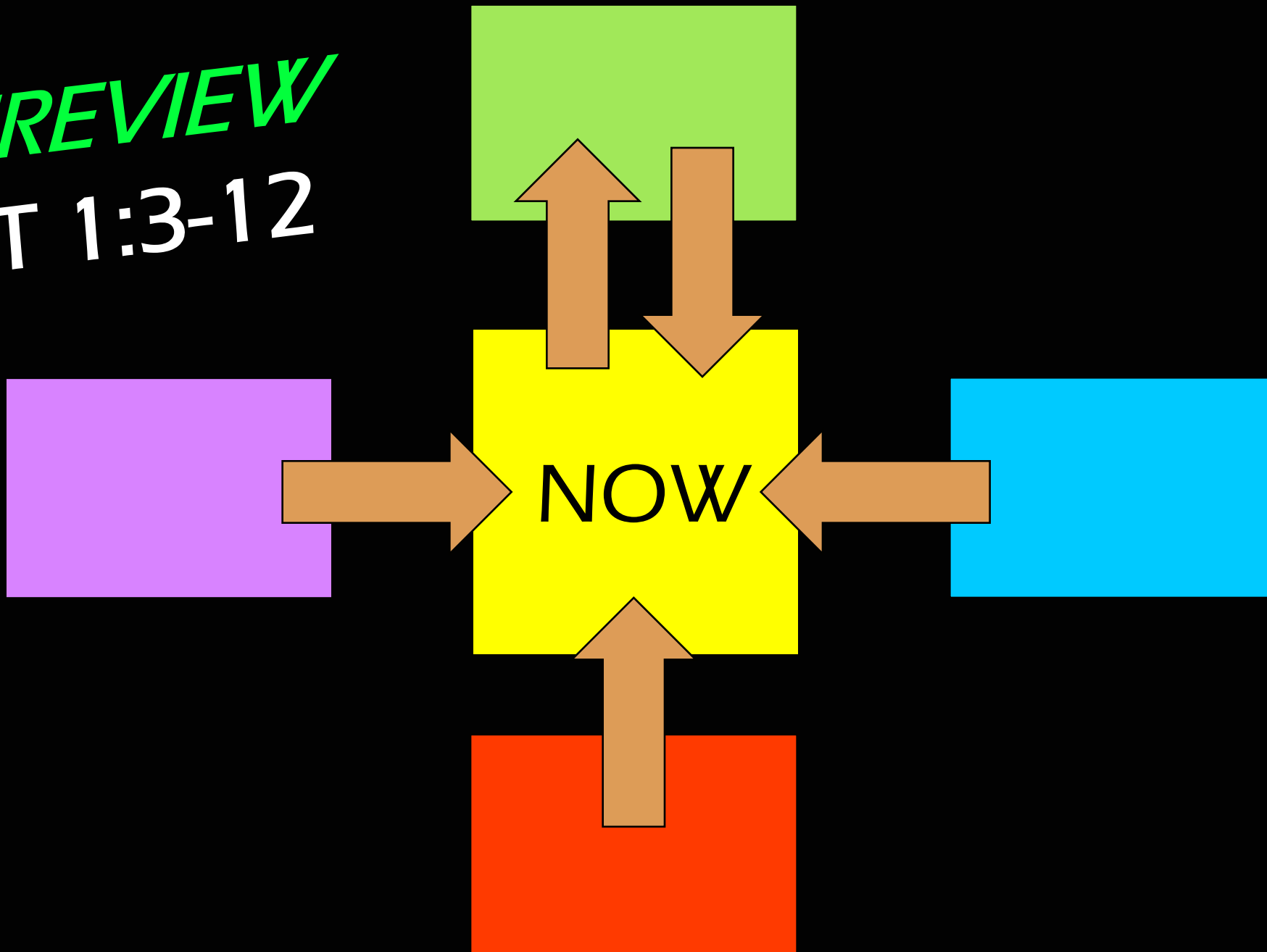
OVERREVIEW

1 PET 1:3-12

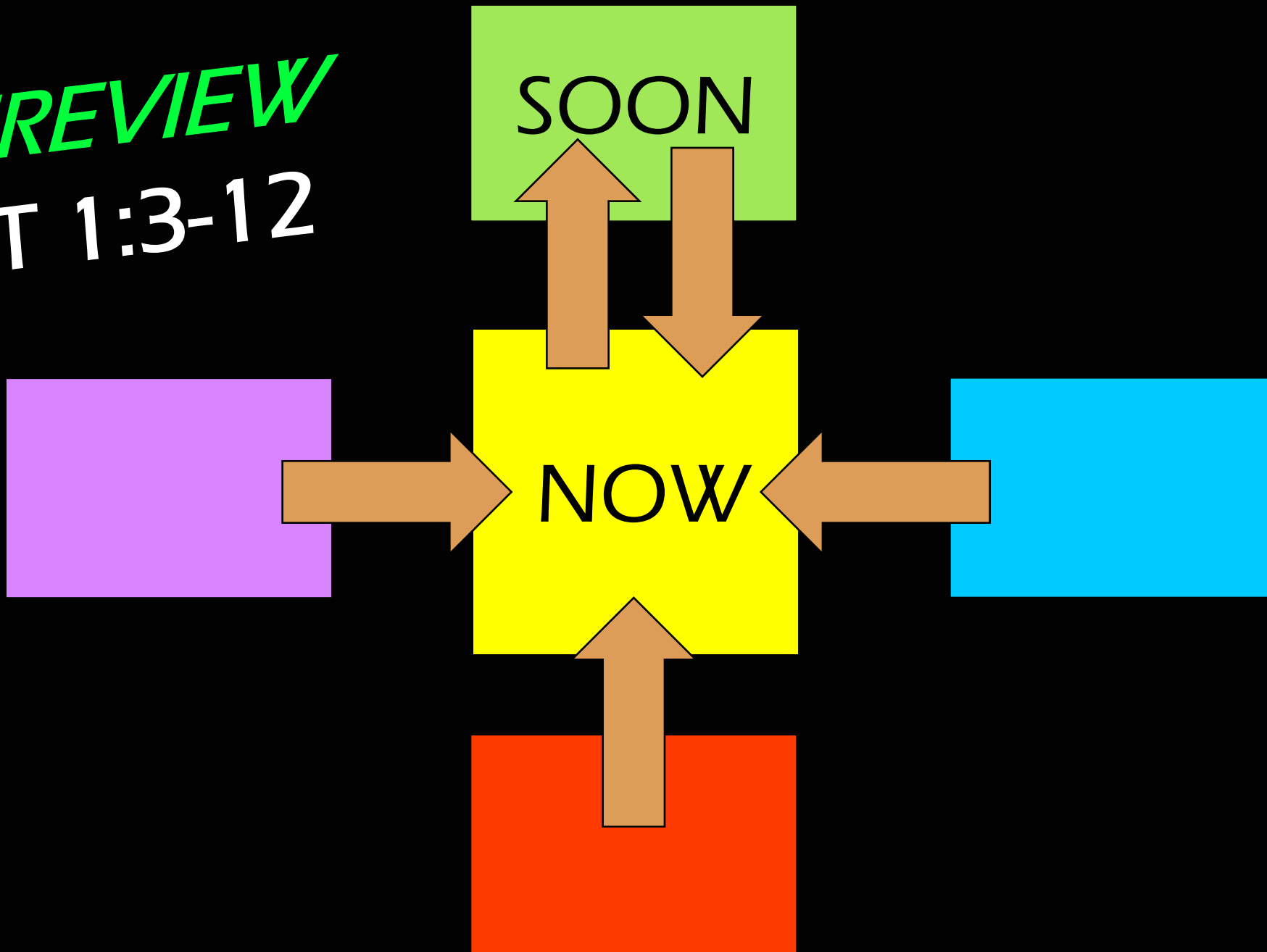


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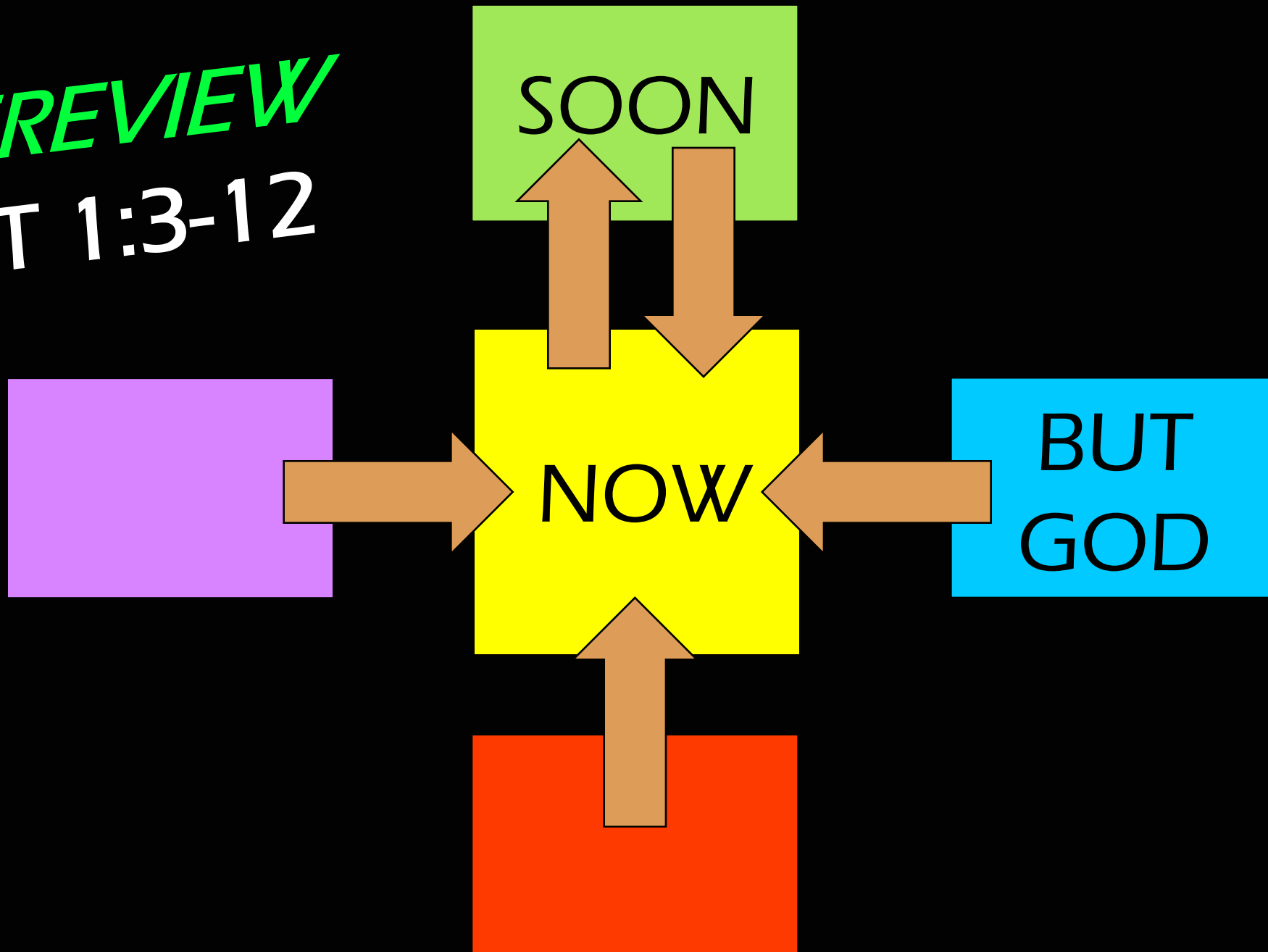
1 PET 1:3-12



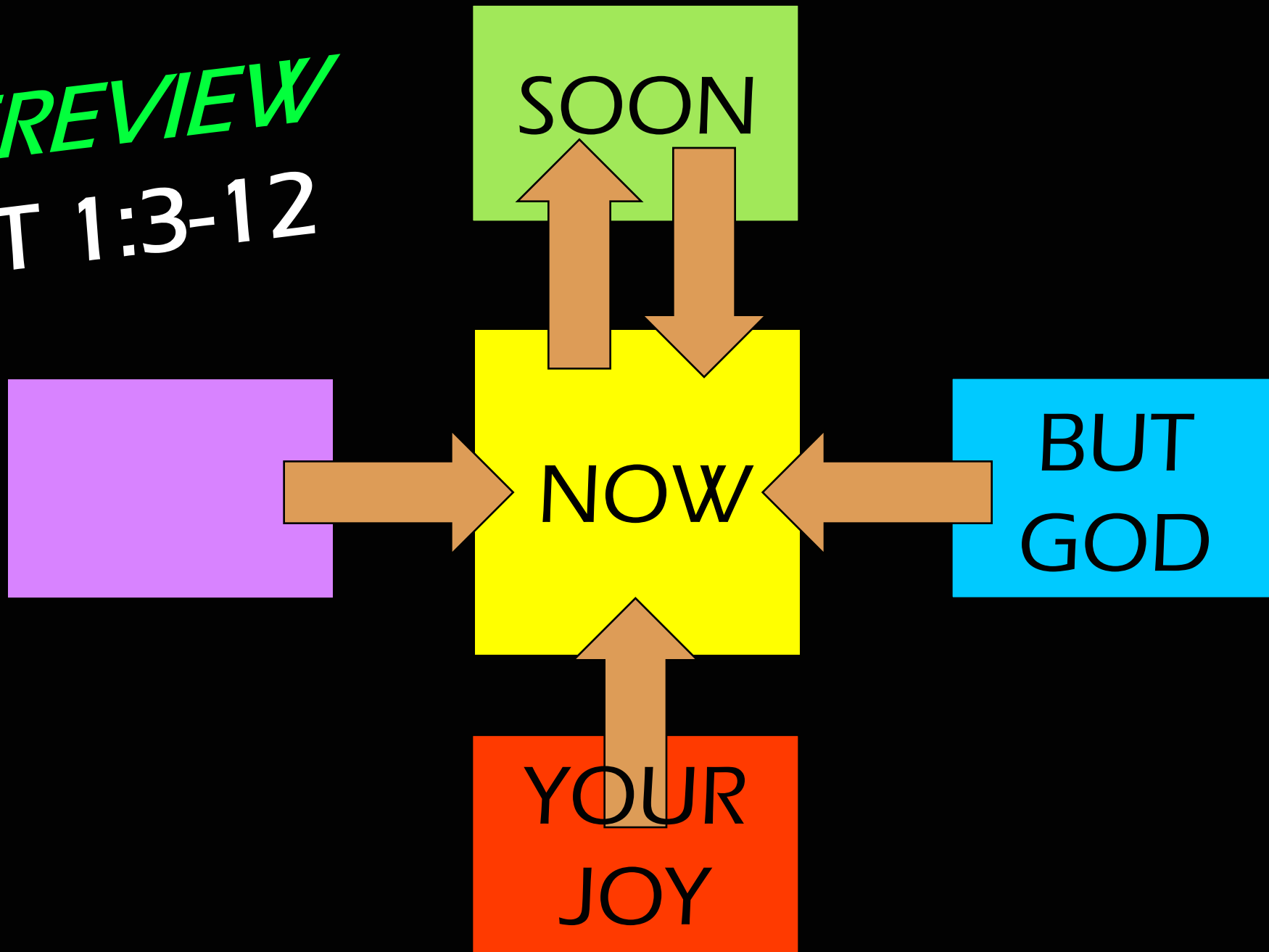
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1 PET 1:3-12



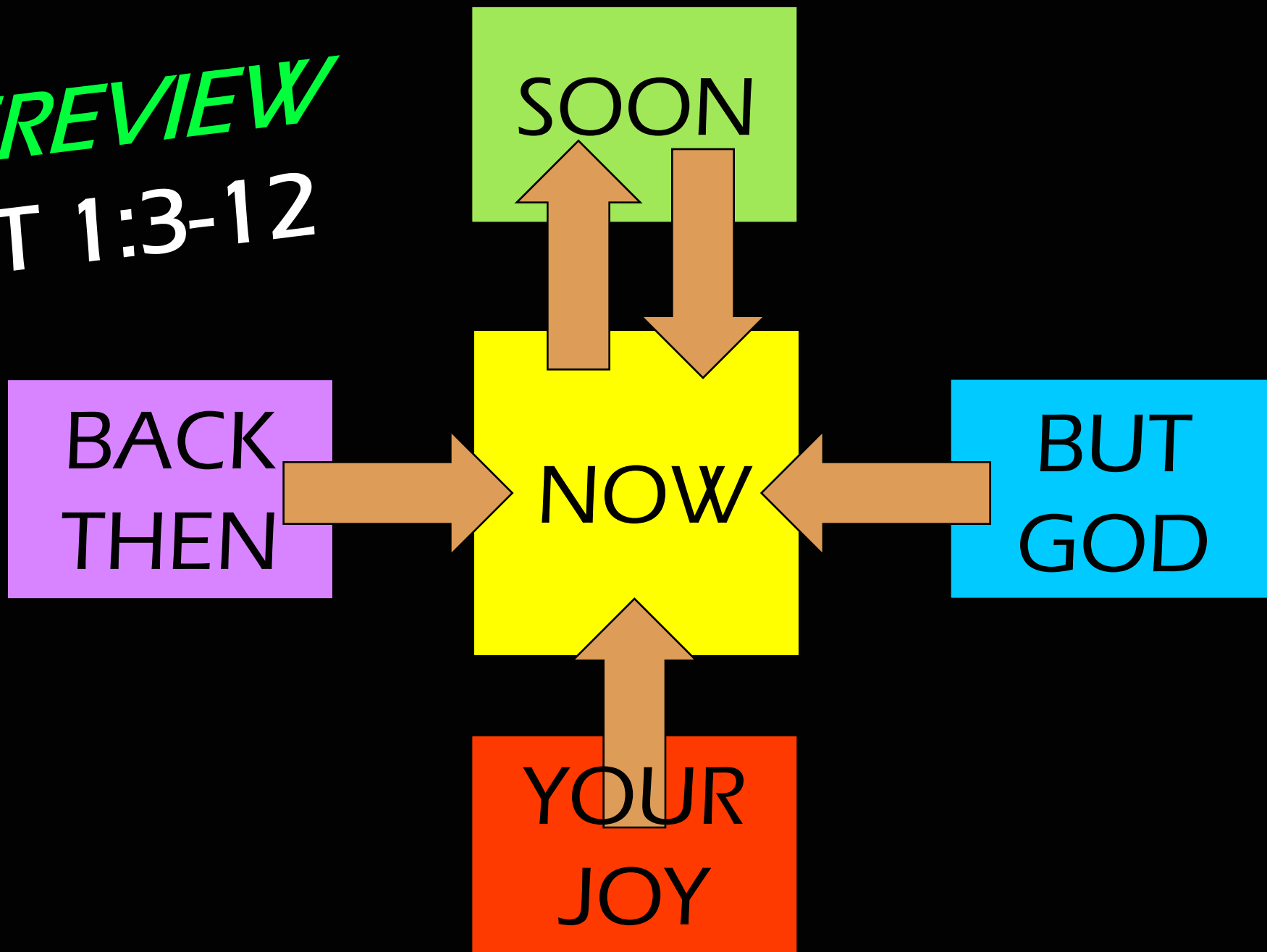
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1 PET 1:3-12



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OVERREVIEW
1 PET 1:3-12



How can God
be merciful if
He allows His
followers to
suffer?



Opposing Views of Evil

Cultural View:

1. Since bad stuff happens, then either God isn't real or He's not good.
2. I'm not a bad guy. God owes me.

Biblical View:

1. God is fixing the world we broke. This proves He is real and good.
2. I am a bad guy but God is merciful. I owe Him.

In his great **mercy**
he has given us
new birth into a
living hope
through the
resurrection of
Jesus Christ. 1:3



These have come so
that the **proven**
genuineness of your
faith – of greater
worth than gold. . .
May result in praise,
glory and honor 1:7



With the state
of everything,
is God asleep?
What's He
doing now?



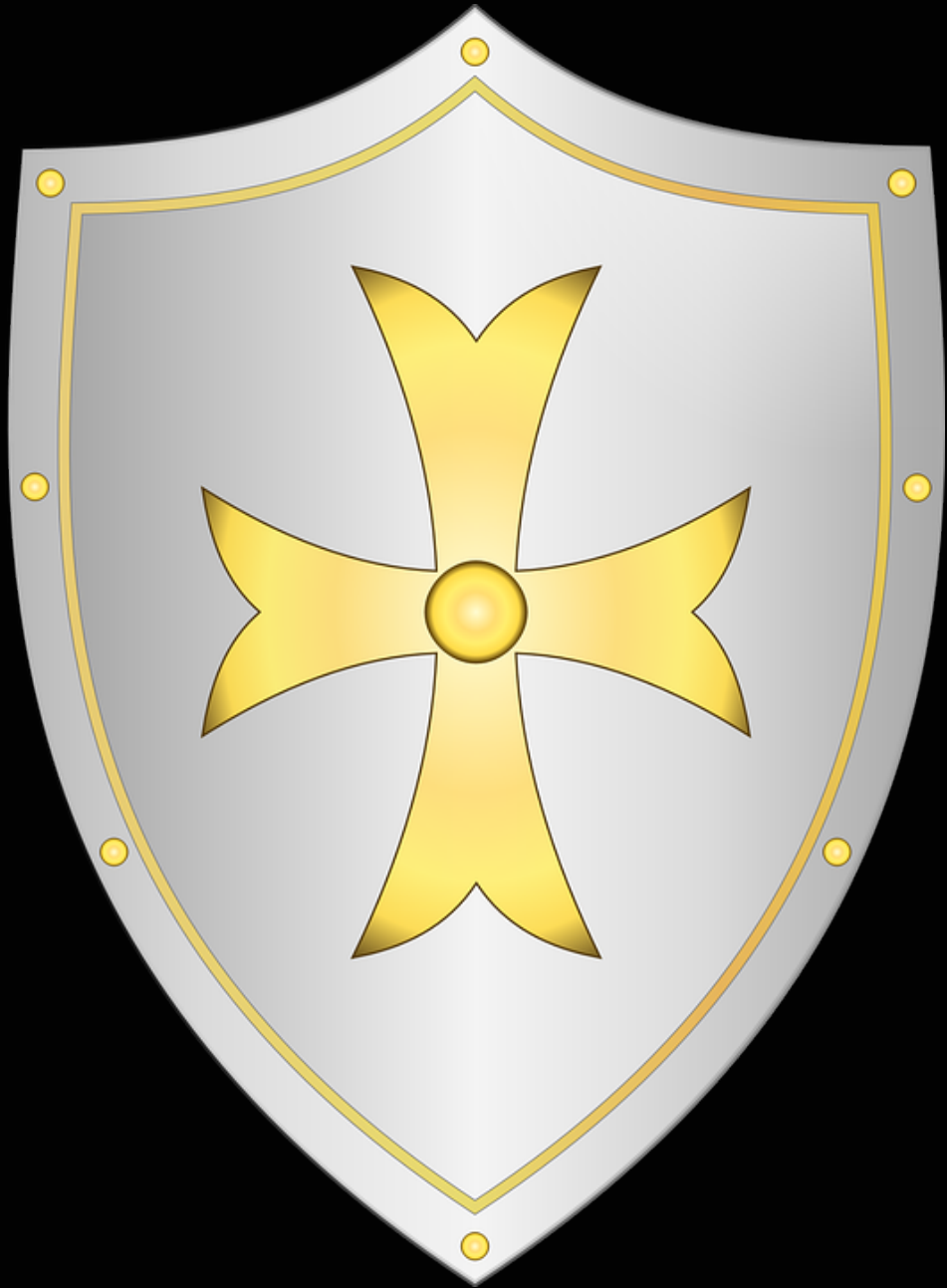
Opposing Views of God's Activity

Cultural View:

1. If God exists, he must not care about me.
2. What have you done for me lately?

Biblical View:

1. God not only cares, He's gone all out to rescue.
2. God's rescue isn't a pass from hardship, rather a presence through it.



This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power . . .

1:5

You are **receiving**
the end result of
your faith, the
salvation of your
souls

1:9



If God is so good, why are His people so negative?



Opposing Views of Christians

Cultural View:

1. Christians are against everyone who isn't like them.
2. Christians are no different than others.

Biblical View:

1. All of us need a Savior. We are all in the same boat.
2. You're right, we are all alike, but Jesus is the difference-maker. He provides joy.

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious **joy** . . . 1:8



Sermon Summary

God is at work in your life, right now. He's given you a new life, a living hope and an unexplainable joy. This transforms the way you cope with the hard things of life. God uses hard things to grow His people. This confounds some but underlines the difference Jesus makes. Joy, not favor, is your strongest testimony.