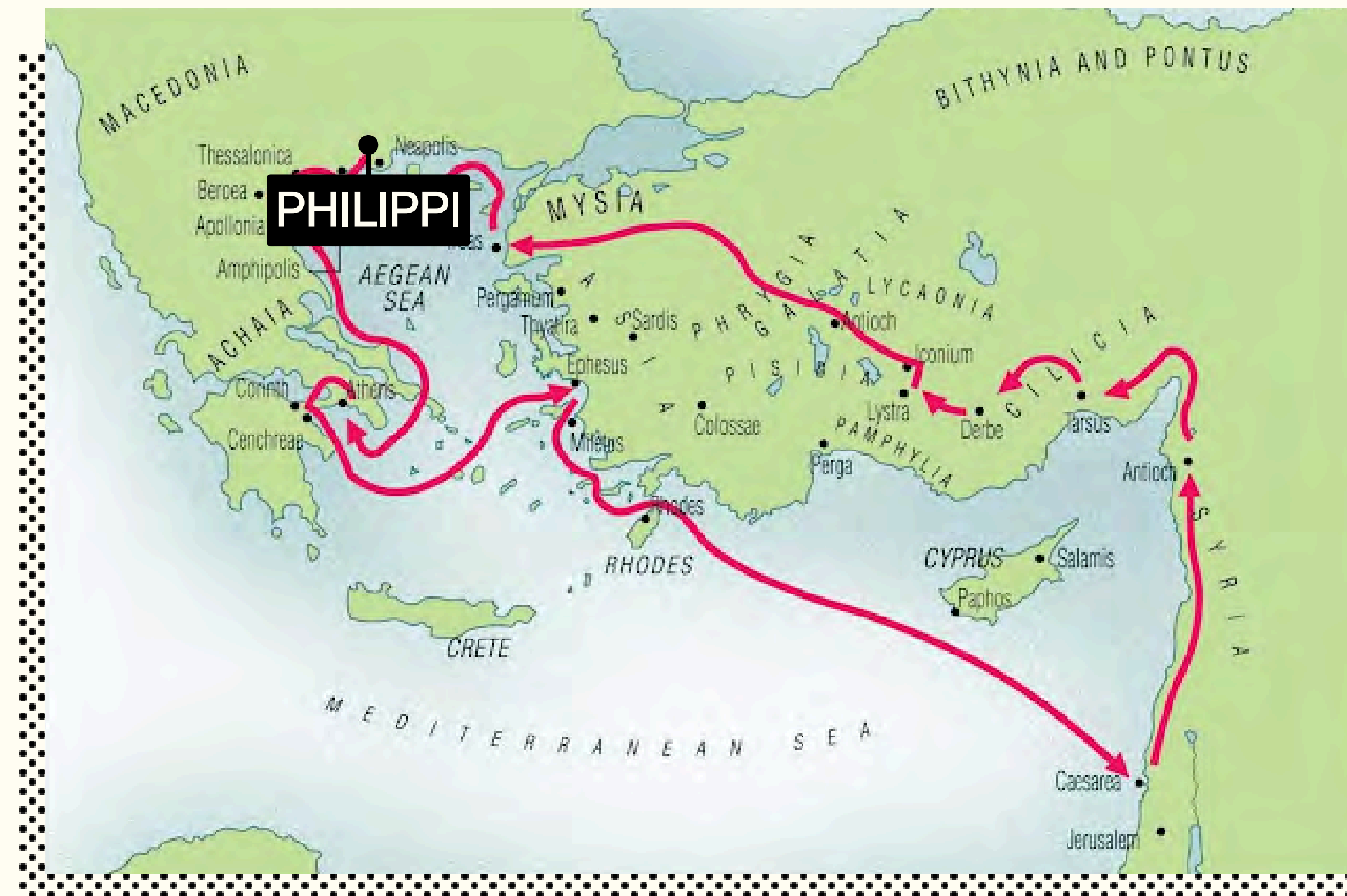


A wide landscape of rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The foreground shows soft, undulating hills with a mix of green and brown tones. In the middle ground, a prominent, rugged mountain peak rises, its surface textured with rocks and sparse vegetation. The background features more distant, lower hills. The sky is a pale, clear blue. The word "Acts." is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Acts.





ACTS 16

The Journey to Europe





ACTS 17

The Gospel through Europe



Gospel in Thessalonica

→ **Synagogue Strategy**

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to **Thessalonica**, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² **As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue**, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. ⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

ACTS 17:1-4 NIV

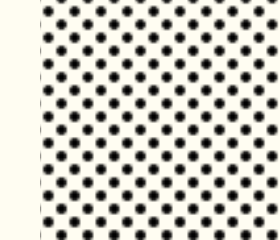


Gospel in Thessalonica

- Synagogue strategy
- **Suffering Messiah**

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days **he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,** ³ explaining and proving that the **Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.** “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is **the Messiah,**” he said. ⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

ACTS 17:1-4 NIV



Suffering Predicted

He was **despised and rejected by mankind**, a man of **suffering**, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we **held him in low esteem**.⁴ Surely **he took up our pain and bore our suffering**, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.⁵ But he was **pierced** for our transgressions, he was **crushed** for our iniquities; the **punishment** that brought us peace was **on him**, and by his wounds we are healed.⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and **the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all**.

ISAIAH 53:3-6 NIV



Suffering Predicted

He said to them, “How **foolish** you are, and how **slow to believe** all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the **Messiah** have to **suffer** these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

LUKE 24:25-27 NIV



Gospel in Thessalonica

- Synagogue Strategy
- Suffering Messiah
- **Diverse Reception**

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. ⁴ **Some of the Jews** were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of **God-fearing Greeks** and quite a few **prominent women**.

ACTS 17:1-4 NIV

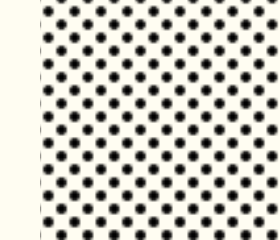


Gospel in Thessalonica

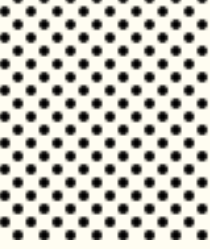
- Synagogue Strategy
- Suffering Messiah
- Diverse Reception
- **Opposition... yet again**

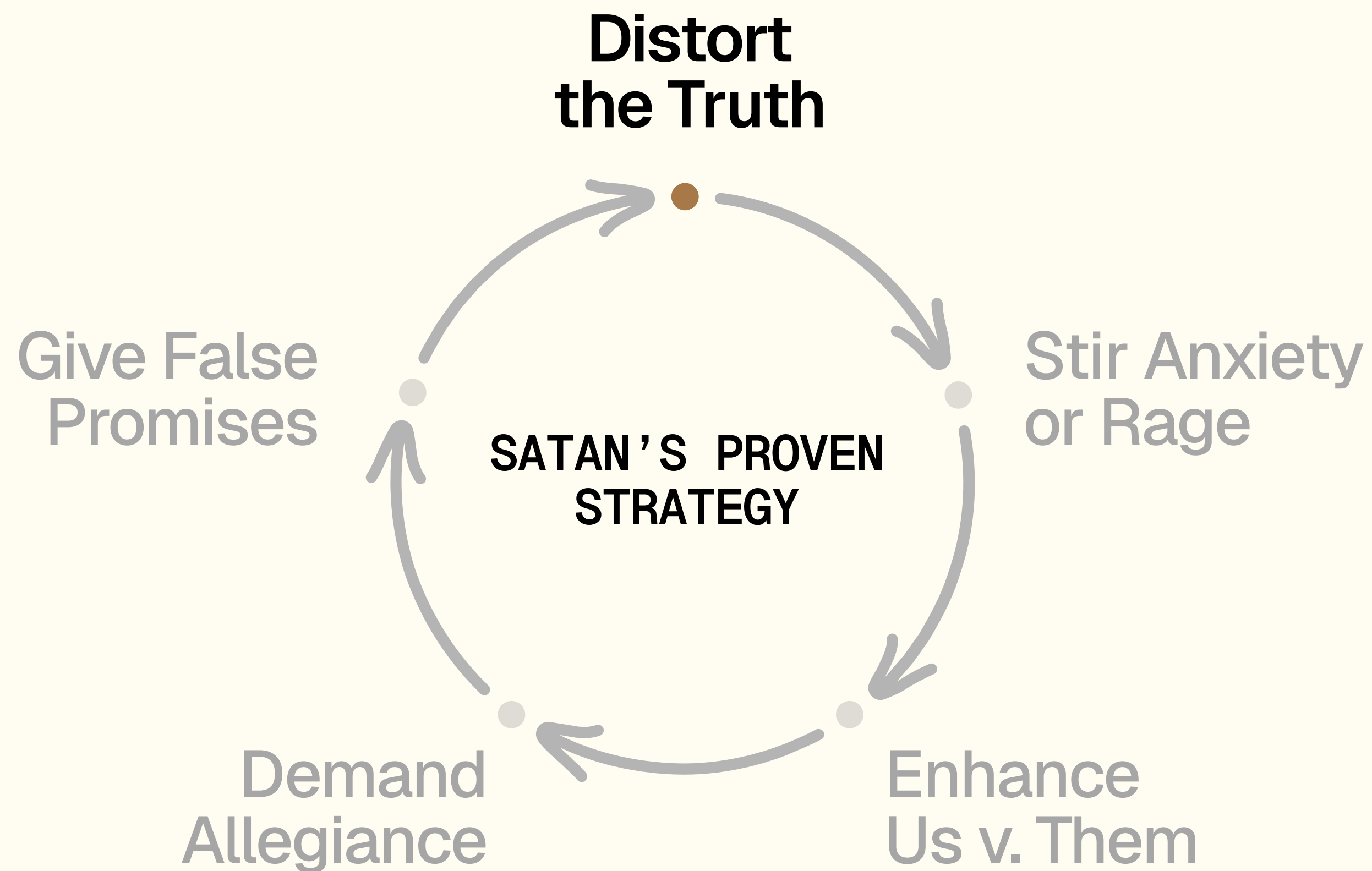
But other Jews were **jealous**; so they rounded up some **bad characters** from the marketplace, formed a **mob** and **started a riot** in the city.

ACTS 17:5A NIV



How does Satan do this?



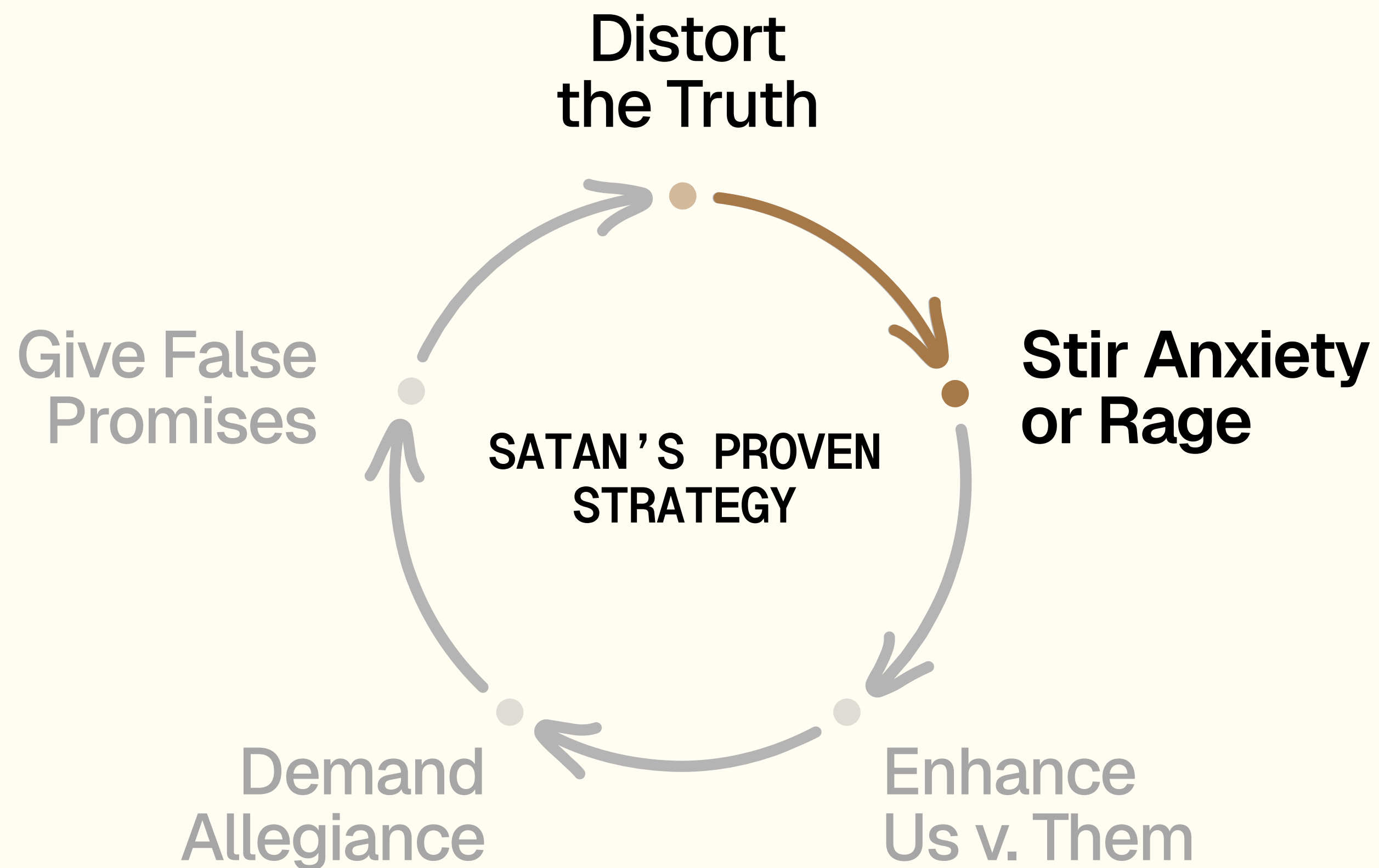


The true Messiah would **never** suffer.

As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,³ explaining and **proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.** “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said.

ACTS 17:2-3 NIV

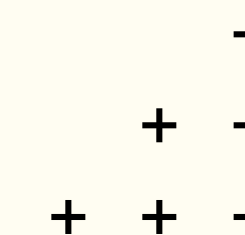


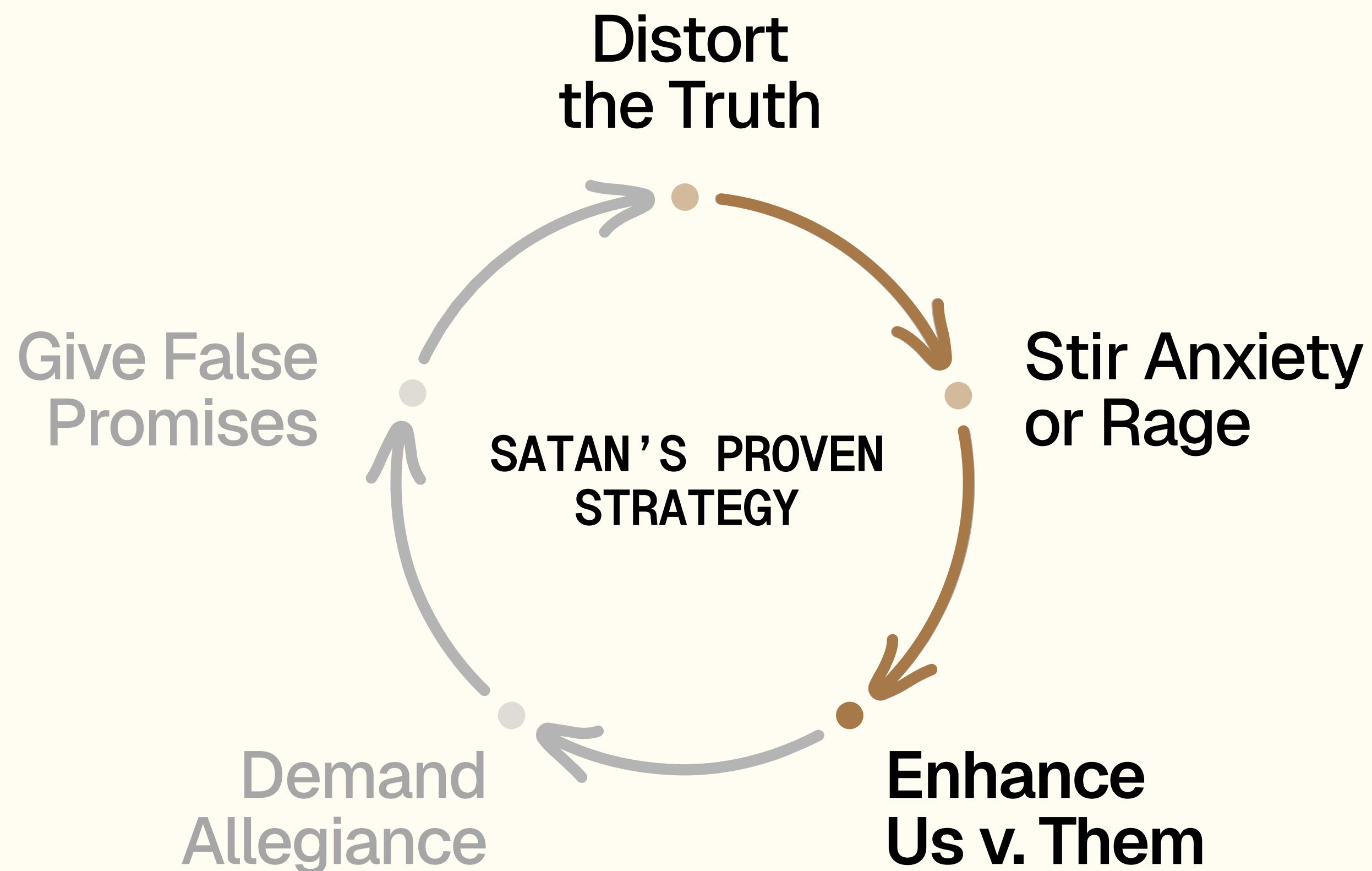


This will destroy your people. **Fight.**

But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.

ACTS 17:5 NIV

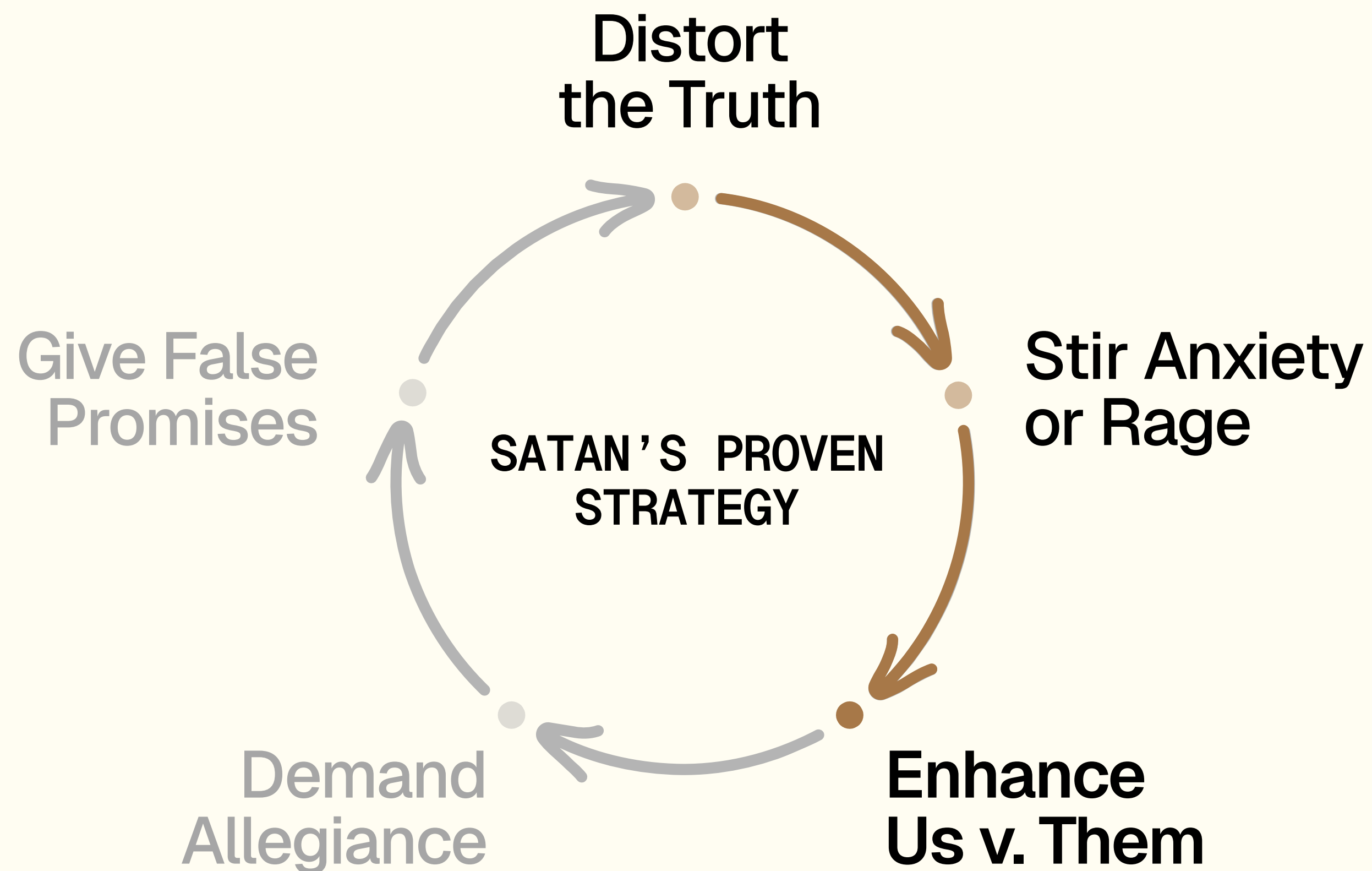




Get as many people on **your side** as possible.

But other Jews were jealous; so **they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace**, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting:

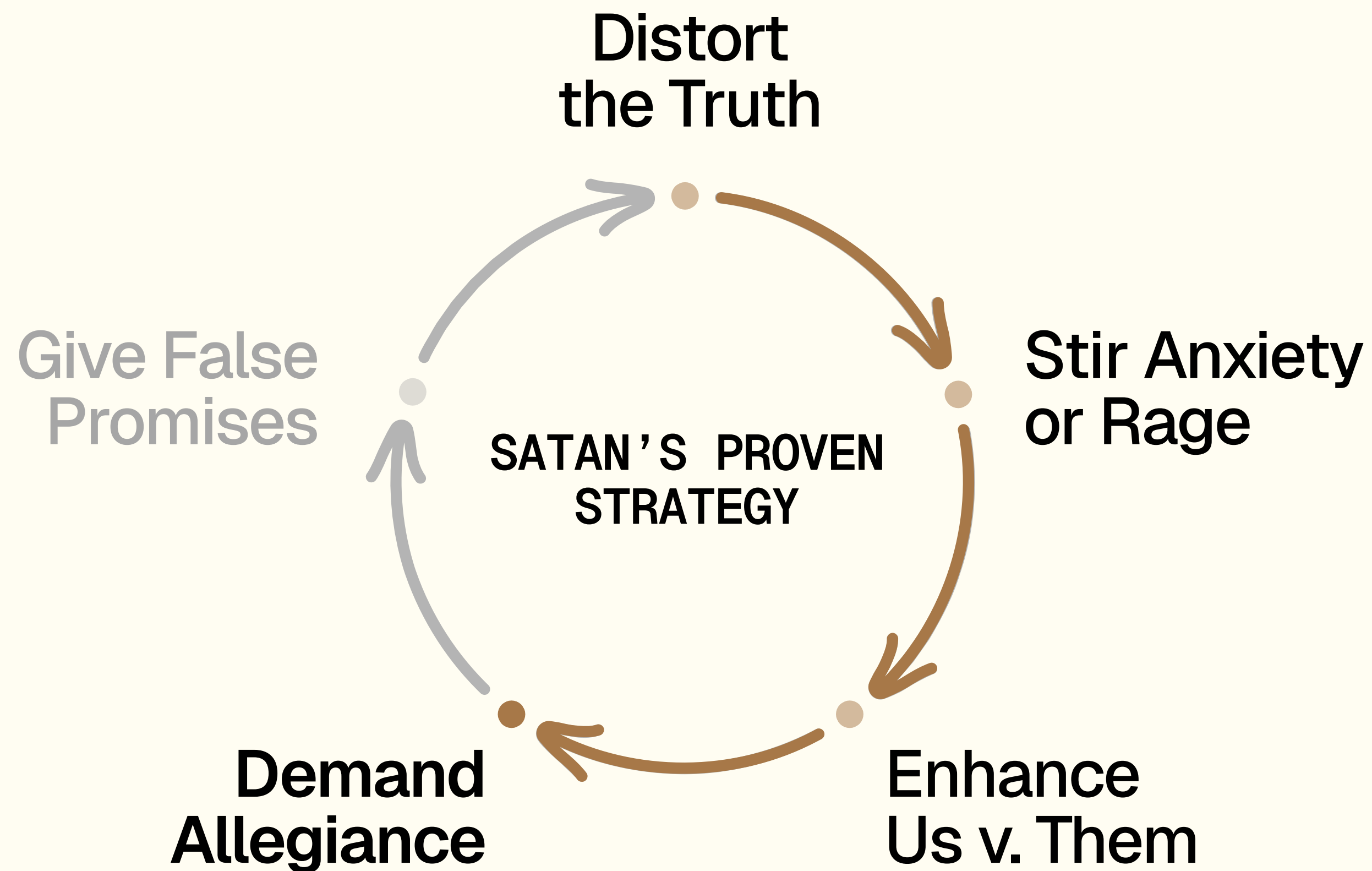
ACTS 17:5-6A NIV



Attack the **other** side.

But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house **in search of Paul and Silas** in order to bring them out to the crowd. But when **they did not find them**, they dragged **Jason and some other believers** before the city officials, shouting:

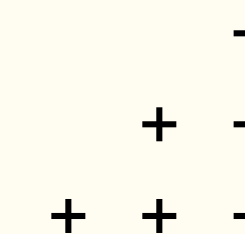
ACTS 17:5-6A NIV

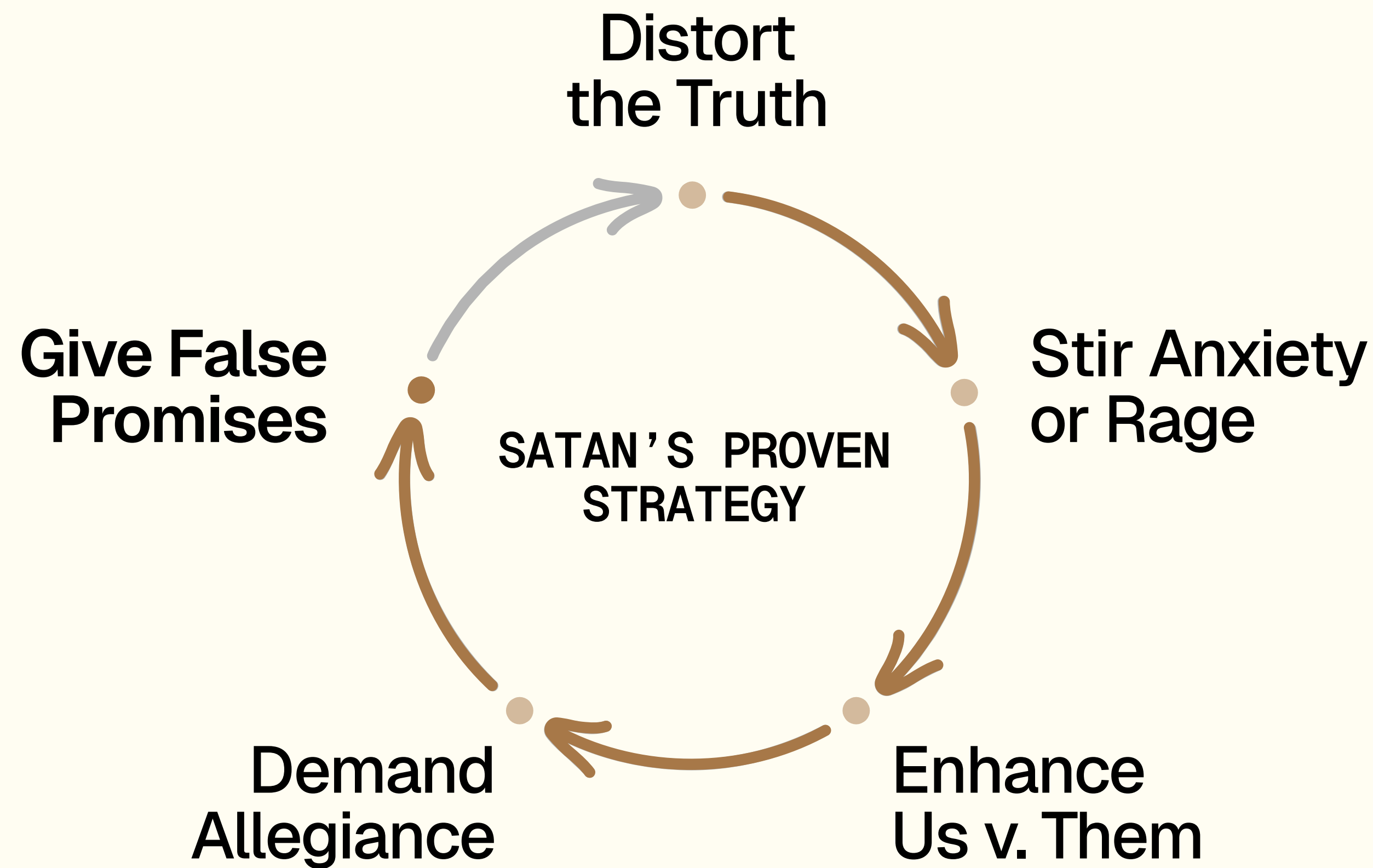


Choose your **king**.

“These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here,⁷ and Jason has welcomed them into his house. **They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.**”

ACTS 17:6B-7 NIV

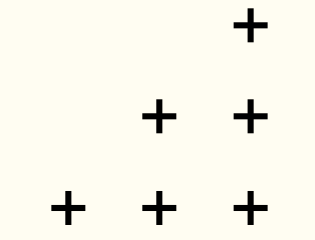




If you want peace, **get rid** of these people.

“These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here,⁷ and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.”

ACTS 17:6B-7 NIV



Fate of Thessalonica

→ Paul & Silas were snuck out

When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil.⁹ Then they made **Jason and the others post bond** and let them go.¹⁰ As soon as it was night, the **believers sent Paul & Silas to Berea**. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish Synagogue.

ACTS 17:8-10 NIV



Fate of Thessalonica

- Paul & Silas were snuck out
- Paul was never allowed back

But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing **we made every effort to see you.** ¹⁸ For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but **Satan blocked our way.**

1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-18 NIV



Fate of Thessalonica

- Paul & Silas were snuck out
- Paul was never allowed back
- **The Church was thriving**

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,⁵ because **our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power**, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.⁶ **You became imitators of us and of the Lord**, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.⁷ **And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.**

1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-7 NIV



Gospel in Berea

→ Synagogue strategy

→ Diverse reception

As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, **they went to the Jewish synagogue.**¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.¹² As a result, **many of them believed**, as did also a number of **prominent Greek women and many Greek men.**

ACTS 17:10-12 NIV



Gospel in Berea

- Synagogue strategy
- **A careful examination**
- Diverse reception

As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the **Berean Jews were of more noble character** than those in Thessalonica, for they **received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.** ¹²

As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

ACTS 17:10-12 NIV



Gospel in Berea


- Synagogue strategy
- A careful examination
- Diverse reception
- **The mob follows them**

But when the **Jews in Thessalonica** learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them **went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up.**

¹⁴ The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. ¹⁵ Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

ACTS 17:13-15 NIV





“If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the **Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.**” ⁴⁹ Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰ You do not realize that it is **better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.**”

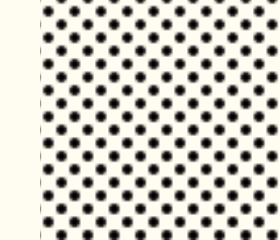
JOHN 11:48-50 NIV



What is so **disruptive** about Jesus as King?

“And Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all **defying Caesar’s decrees**, saying that there is **another king, one called Jesus.**”

ACTS 17:7 NIV



JESUS IS SAVIOR

Eternal life

JESUS IS KING

Life now

What is so **disruptive**
about Jesus as King?



What is so **disruptive** about Jesus as King?

JESUS IS SAVIOR

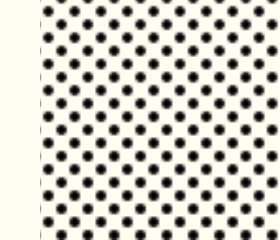
Eternal life

Forgiveness of sin

JESUS IS KING

Life **now**

Freedom from sin



What is so **disruptive** about Jesus as King?

JESUS IS SAVIOR

Eternal life

Forgiveness of sin

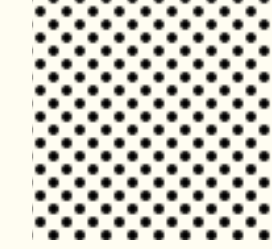
Confess & believe **once**

JESUS IS KING

Life **now**

Freedom from sin

Submit & abide **daily**



What is so **disruptive** about Jesus as King?

JESUS IS SAVIOR

Eternal life

Forgiveness of sin

Confess & believe **once**

Admit you need Jesus

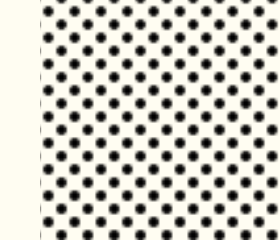
JESUS IS KING

Life **now**

Freedom from sin

Submit & abide **daily**

Walk with Jesus



What is so **disruptive** about Jesus as King?

JESUS IS SAVIOR

Eternal life

Forgiveness of sin

Confess & believe **once**

Admit you need Jesus

Get people into the **Kingdom**

JESUS IS KING

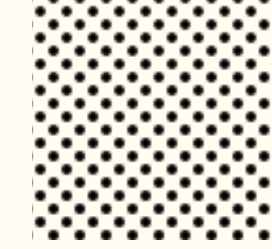
Life **now**

Freedom from sin

Submit & abide **daily**

Walk with Jesus

Introduce people to the King



What is so **disruptive** about Jesus as King?

JESUS IS SAVIOR

Eternal life

Forgiveness of sin

Confess & believe **once**

Admit you need Jesus

Get people into the **Kingdom**

Jesus is **enthroned** in Heaven

JESUS IS KING

Life **now**

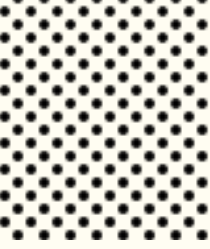
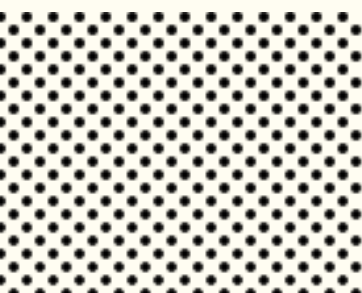
Freedom from sin

Submit & abide **daily**

Walk with Jesus

Introduce people to the King

Jesus is **interceding** in Heaven



What is so **disruptive** about Jesus as King?

JESUS IS SAVIOR

Eternal life

Forgiveness of sin

Confess & believe **once**

Admit you need Jesus

Get people into the **Kingdom**

Jesus is **enthroned** in Heaven

Spiritual allegiance

JESUS IS KING

Life **now**

Freedom from sin

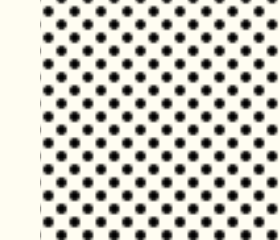
Submit & abide **daily**

Walk with Jesus

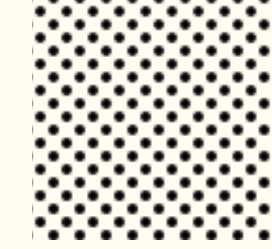
Introduce people to the King

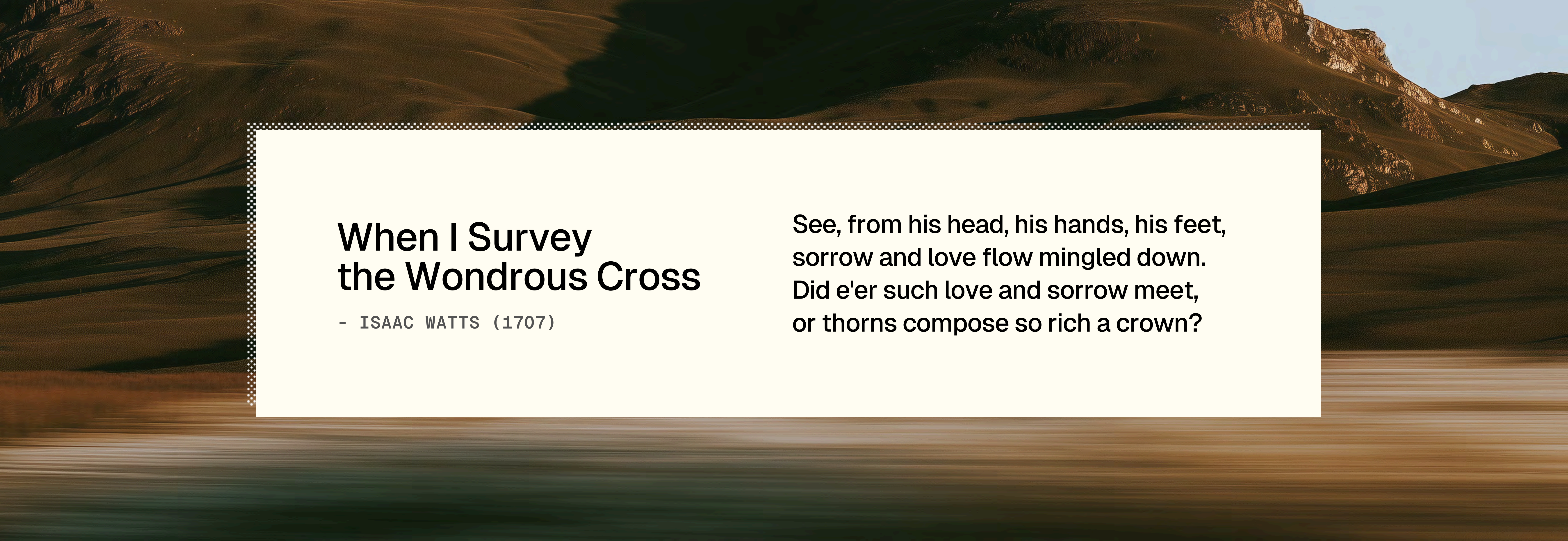
Jesus is **interceding** in Heaven

Complete allegiance



If Jesus is my King, then I can have
no other true allegiances.





When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- ISAAC WATTS (1707)

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?