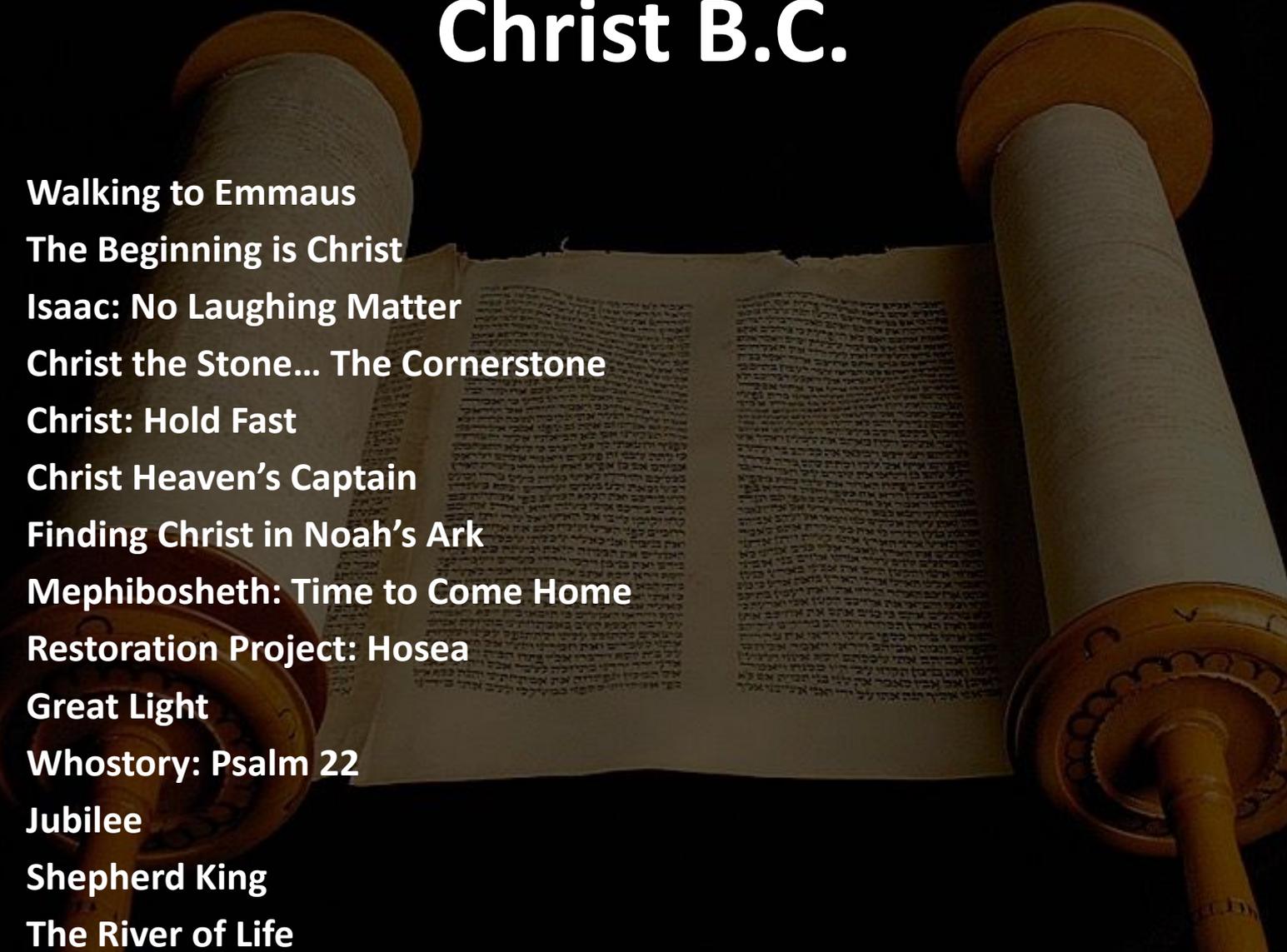


Christ B.C.



Christ B.C.



1. **Walking to Emmaus**
2. **The Beginning is Christ**
3. **Isaac: No Laughing Matter**
4. **Christ the Stone... The Cornerstone**
5. **Christ: Hold Fast**
6. **Christ Heaven's Captain**
7. **Finding Christ in Noah's Ark**
8. **Mephibosheth: Time to Come Home**
9. **Restoration Project: Hosea**
10. **Great Light**
11. **Whostory: Psalm 22**
12. **Jubilee**
13. **Shepherd King**
14. **The River of Life**
15. **Joseph: Pictures of Christ**
16. **Christ in Song of Songs**



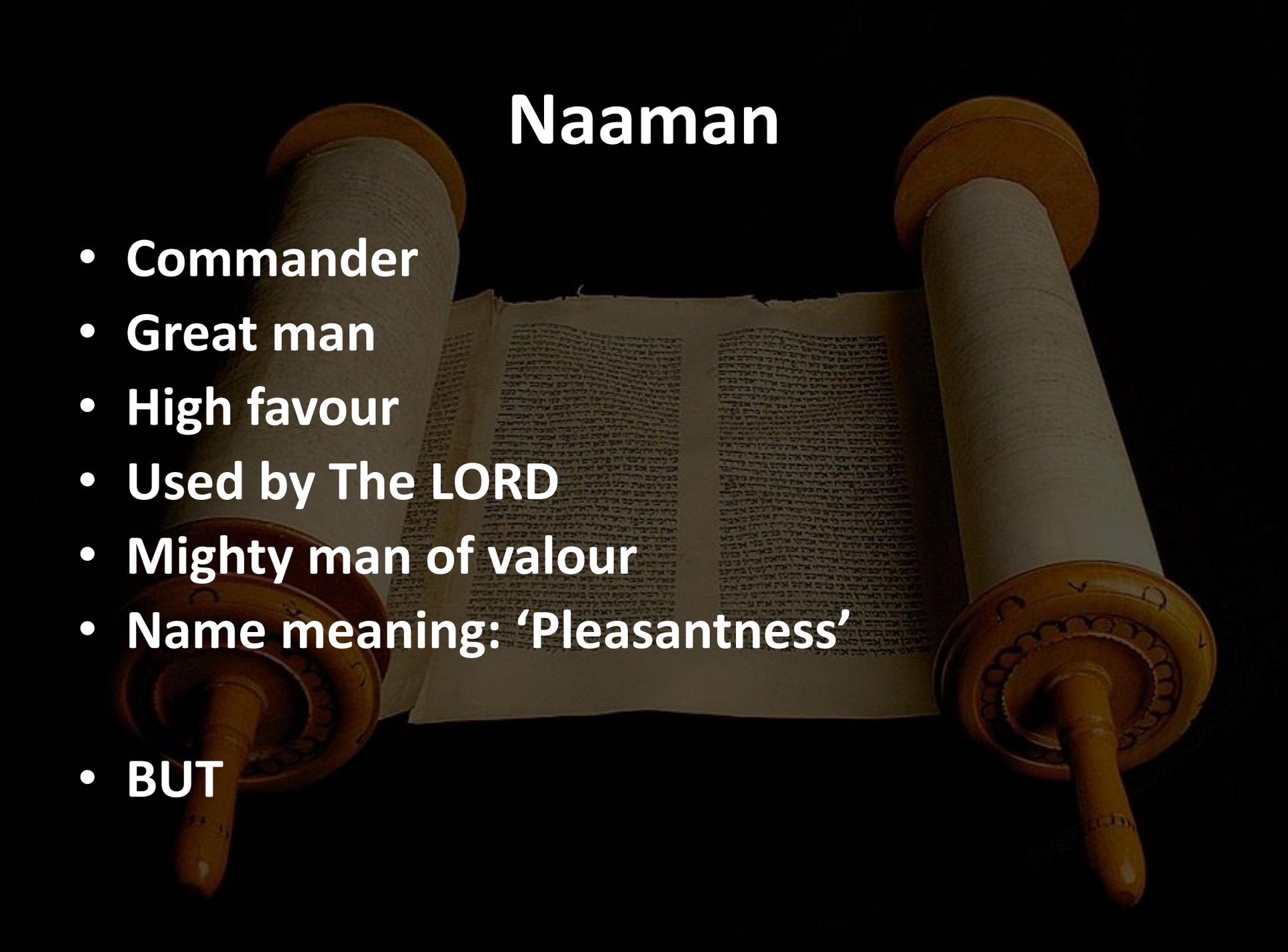
Christ B.C 19

7 Swims

2 Kings 5

5 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favour, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valour, but he was a leper. 2 Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." 4 So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." 5 And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

Naaman

An open scroll with Hebrew text, likely from the Bible, set against a dark background. The scroll is unrolled in the center, showing two columns of text. The ends of the scroll are rolled up into wooden bobbles with decorative patterns. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the parchment and the wood of the bobbles.

- **Commander**
- **Great man**
- **High favour**
- **Used by The LORD**
- **Mighty man of valour**
- **Name meaning: 'Pleasantness'**

- **BUT**

BUT

- 'He was a leper'
- "Naaman was afflicted with a leprosy of the white kind which had hitherto defied cure" (Dr. W. Smith)
- Leprosy in the bible is symbolic of sin: destructive, degrading, 'unclean,' dead man walking, incurable without Christ... NT Christ declares people 'clean'

Small Voices



- **'a little girl from the land of Israel'**
 - Big doors turn on small hinges (John Glass)
 - Simply available and willing with boldness to speak
- **Don't dismiss the insights of our children**
 - Her faith was amazing
 - Elisha hadn't healed a leper in Israel before!
- **Believing her insight (be it through revelation or desperation) = Naaman's first step toward his healing**
- **We are all at some stage in our journey... Look out for those small voices and signs the God is using**

2 Kings 5

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. 6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” 7 And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.”

king or King?

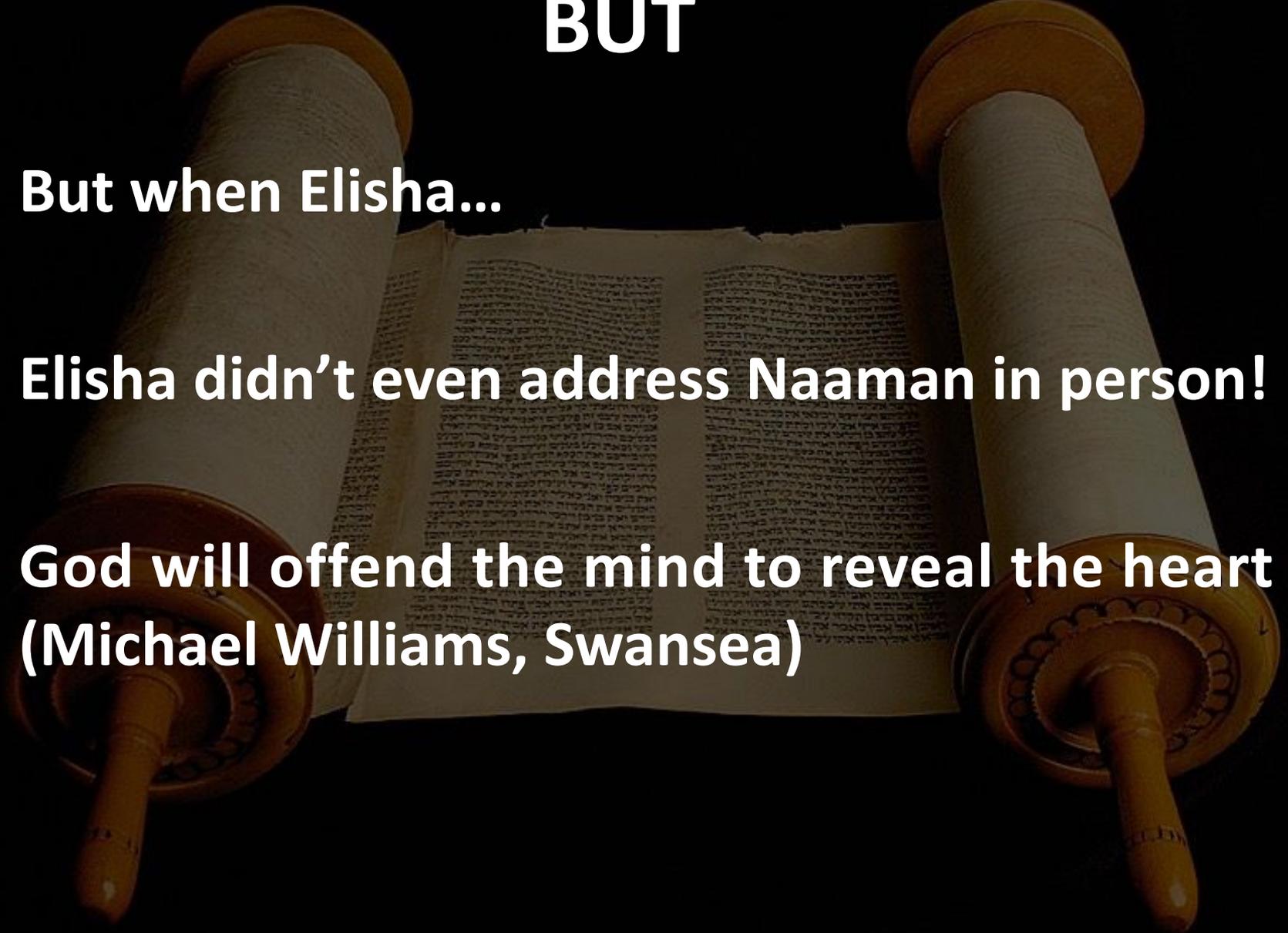
- He makes his first mistakes
- He takes earthly means – salvation cannot be purchased. Elisha refuses payment
- He looks to earthly authority – he goes to the king instead of The King!
- And even the king of Israel is full of fear instead of faith – he tore his clothes

2 Kings 5

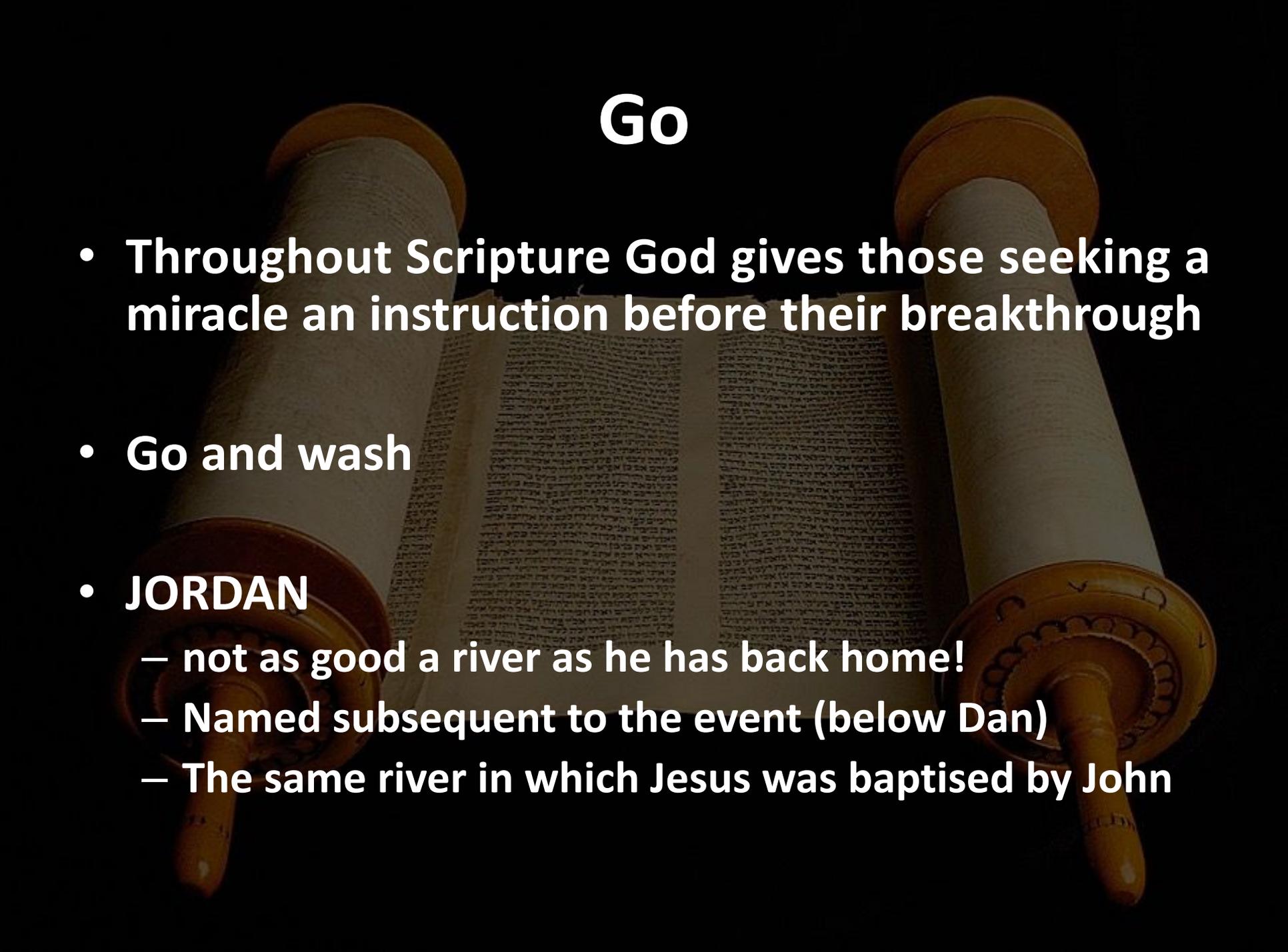
8 But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."

BUT

- But when Elisha...
- Elisha didn't even address Naaman in person!
- God will offend the mind to reveal the heart
(Michael Williams, Swansea)



Go

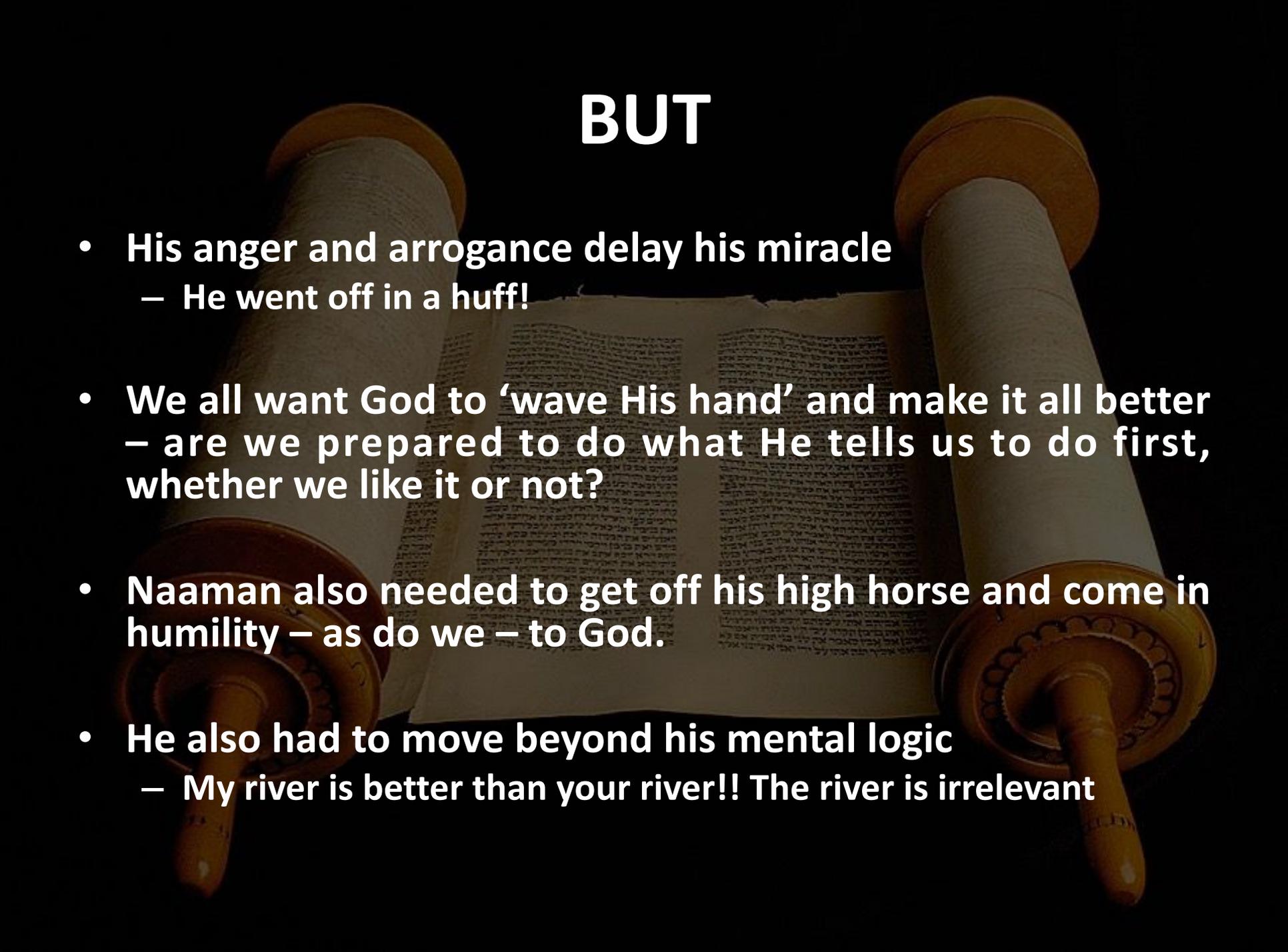
An open scroll with Hebrew text, likely the Bible, set against a dark background. The scroll is unrolled in the center, showing two columns of text. The ends of the scroll are rolled up into wooden bobbles with decorative patterns. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the parchment and the wood of the bobbles.

- Throughout Scripture God gives those seeking a miracle an instruction before their breakthrough
- Go and wash
- **JORDAN**
 - not as good a river as he has back home!
 - Named subsequent to the event (below Dan)
 - The same river in which Jesus was baptised by John

2 Kings 5

11 But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.

BUT

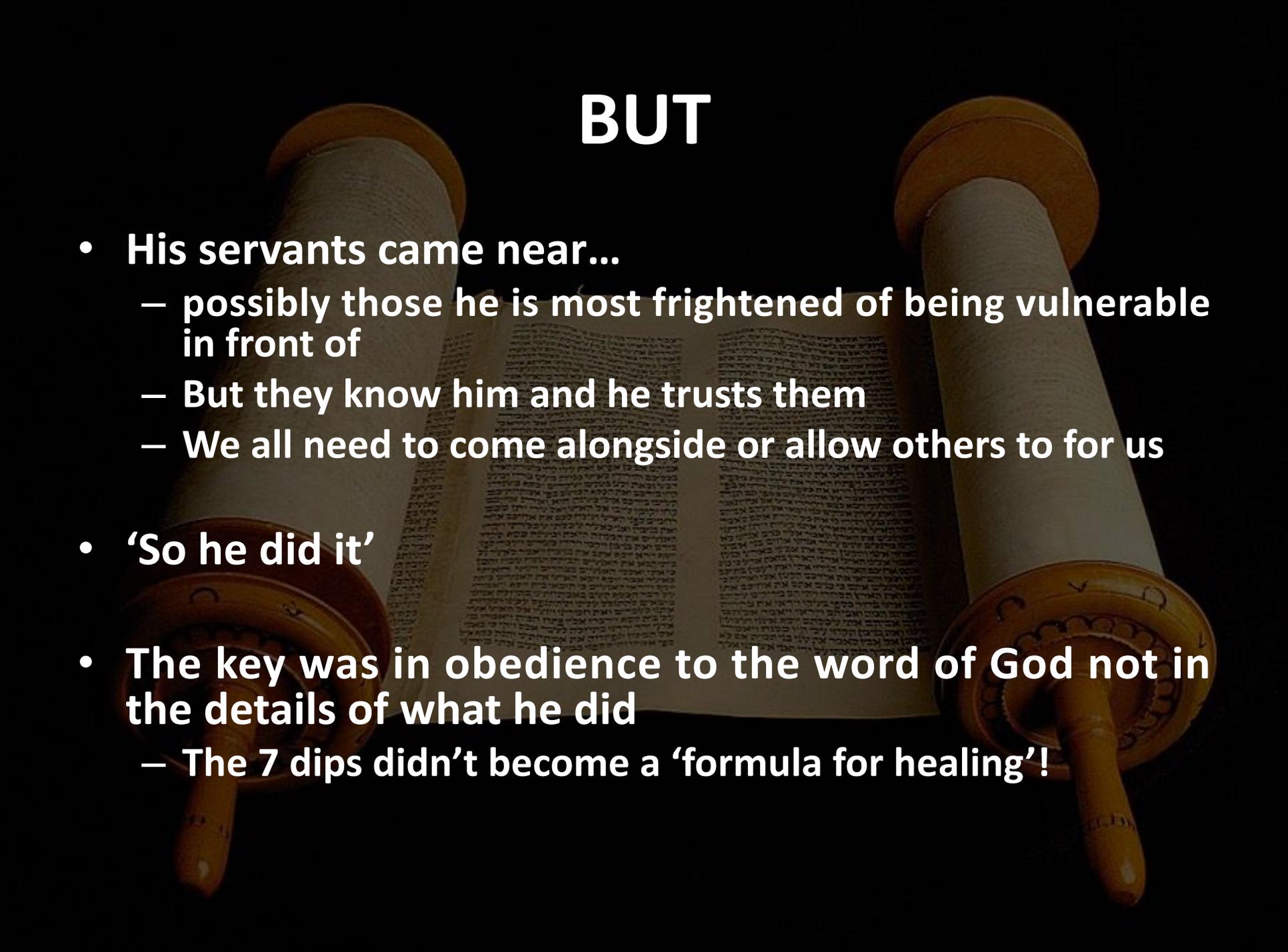


- **His anger and arrogance delay his miracle**
 - He went off in a huff!
- **We all want God to ‘wave His hand’ and make it all better**
 - are we prepared to do what He tells us to do first, whether we like it or not?
- **Naaman also needed to get off his high horse and come in humility – as do we – to God.**
- **He also had to move beyond his mental logic**
 - My river is better than your river!! The river is irrelevant

2 Kings 5

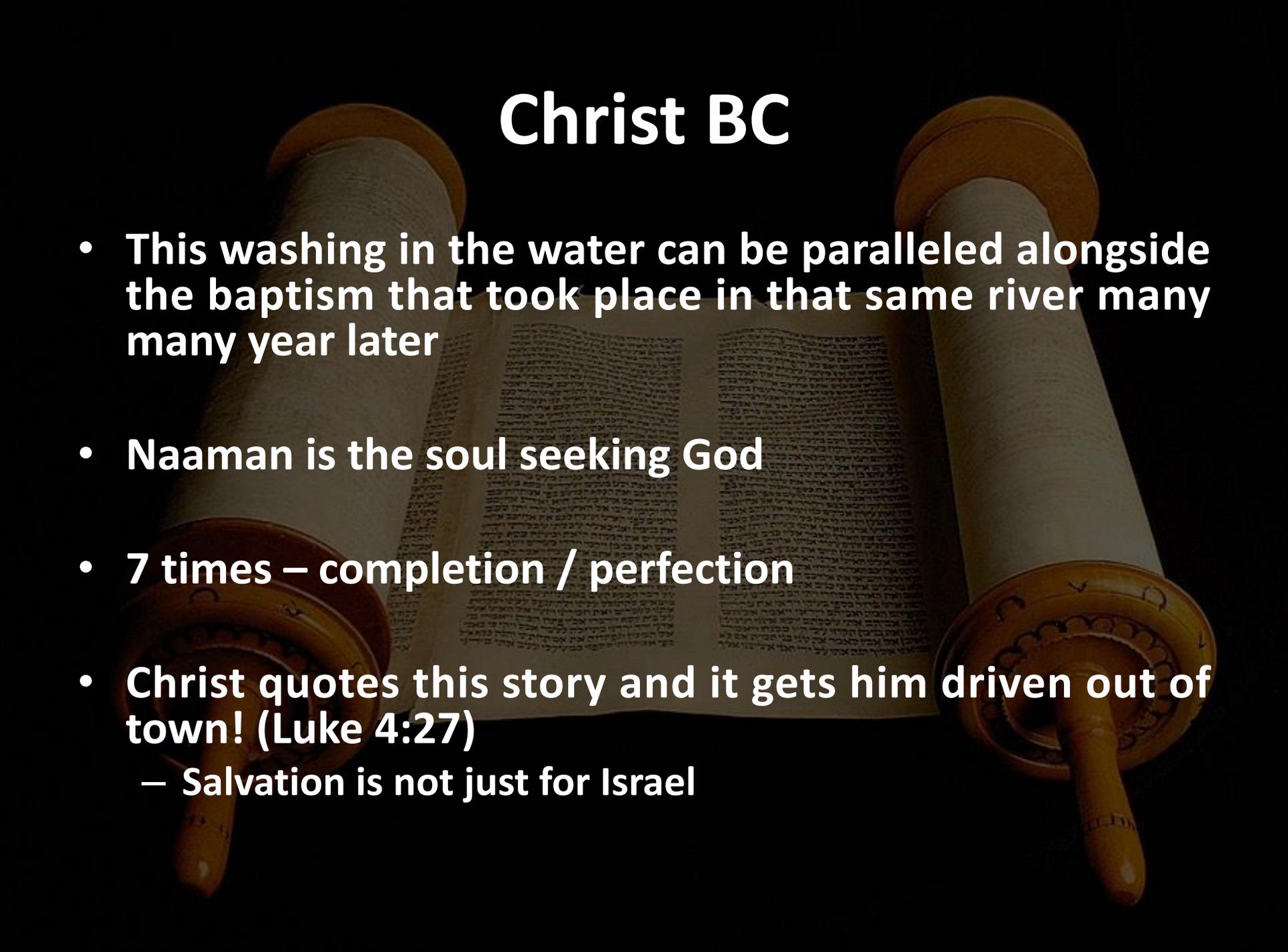
13 But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” **14** So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

BUT



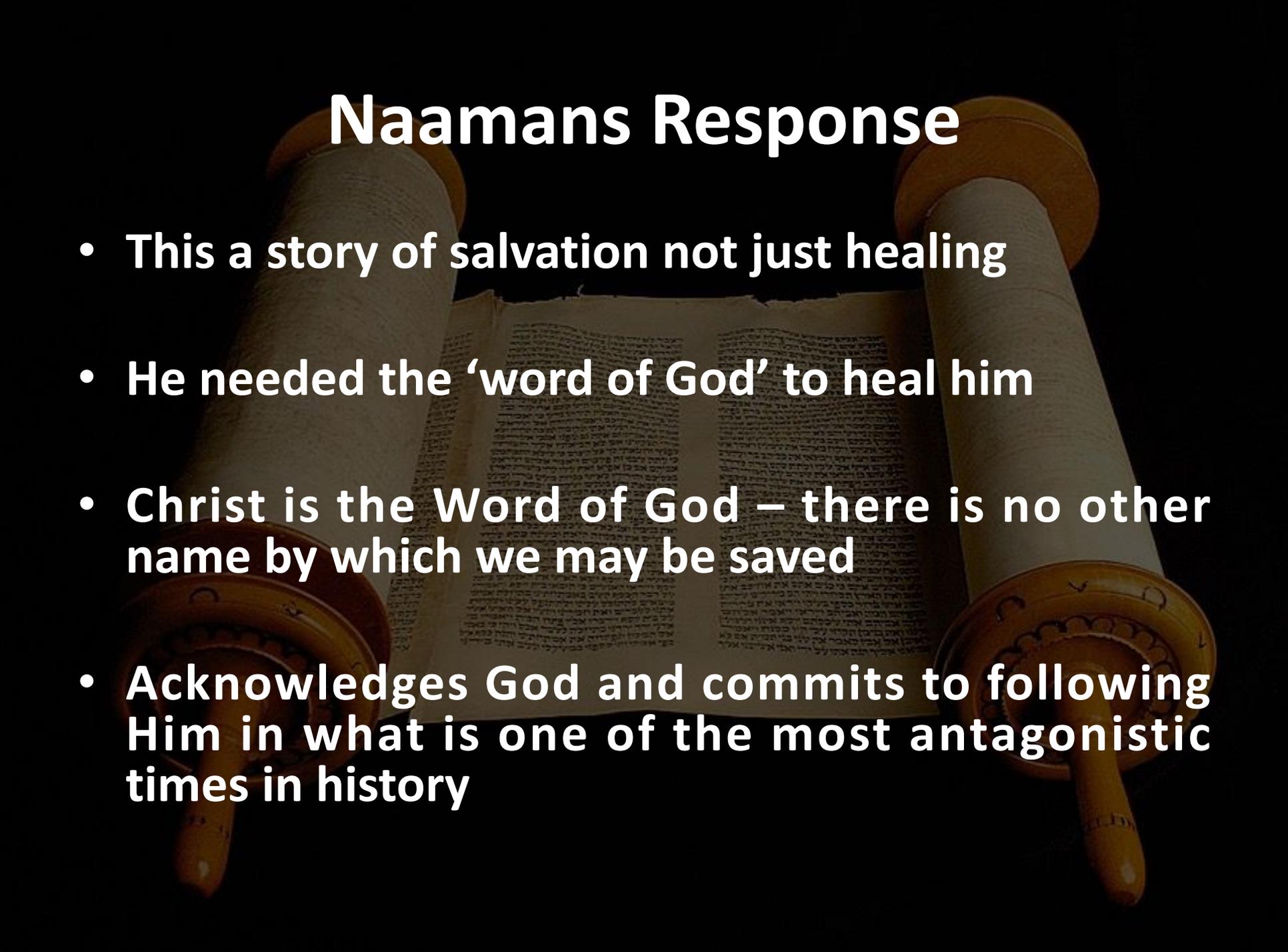
- **His servants came near...**
 - possibly those he is most frightened of being vulnerable in front of
 - But they know him and he trusts them
 - We all need to come alongside or allow others to for us
- **‘So he did it’**
- **The key was in obedience to the word of God not in the details of what he did**
 - The 7 dips didn’t become a ‘formula for healing’!

Christ BC



- This washing in the water can be paralleled alongside the baptism that took place in that same river many many year later
- Naaman is the soul seeking God
- 7 times – completion / perfection
- Christ quotes this story and it gets him driven out of town! (Luke 4:27)
 - Salvation is not just for Israel

Naamans Response



- This a story of salvation not just healing
- He needed the 'word of God' to heal him
- Christ is the Word of God – there is no other name by which we may be saved
- Acknowledges God and commits to following Him in what is one of the most antagonistic times in history

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