

BREAKING BARRIERS

Brian Smoller | Acts 10–11:18 | July 26, 2026

Following Jesus means allowing Him to break the barriers that keep His Kingdom from rippling through us.

Slide 1 – introduction / basic recap of series

Slide 2 – read Acts 1:8

Slide 3 – Title (BREAKING BARRIERS *Acts 10–11:18*)

...At first, it feels like different stories. But they're not. They're one story with one Author."

Slide 4 – read Acts 10:1-16

...but let's get some historical context of what's going on and why Peter is so hesitant to accept the vision.

Slide 5 – four groups description.

...this story isn't simply about the first Gentile receiving the Holy Spirit. It's about God forever changing the church by breaking down barriers."

Slide 6 – Religion (history of Jewish traditions – food, fellowship, circumcision)

...but all those traditions weren't the issue. The issue wasn't bacon, it was belonging."

Slide 7 – (belonging in the sense of becoming a part of the plan God had for the church) – Mark 7

...Breaking barriers usually begins by letting Jesus challenge our thinking."

Slide 8 – Personal (we are flawed and have fear, anxiety, doubt, temptation, etc.)

...despite the imperfections, these two characters turned to God instead of their own fears."

Slide 9

...Where might Jesus be leading you to view change in a new way, but comfort, busyness, fear, routine say no?"

Slide 10 – Kingdom (Acts 11:18)

...church finally grasped the message, and it changed everything."

Slide 11

Slide 12 – Epic/Saga correlation, this story part of larger story of Bible as well

...expansion of Israel's blessing to be for humankind."

Slide 13 – Summarized shorter

...a father of all nations needed this tumbler to turn into place to unlock the promise of Revelation 7, where are all who believe are welcome in Eternity.”

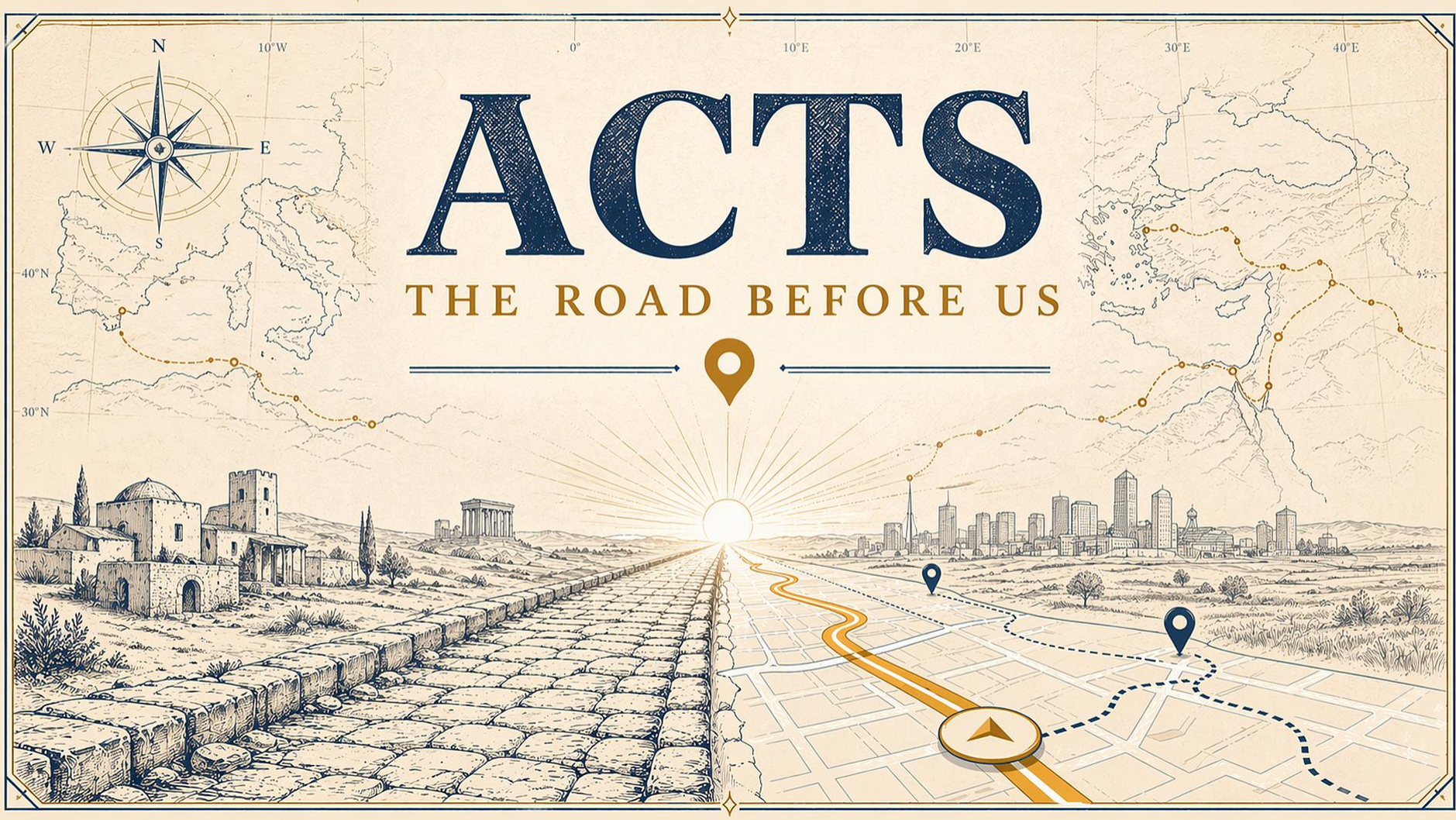
Slide 14 – Application (Welcome. Equip. Send.)

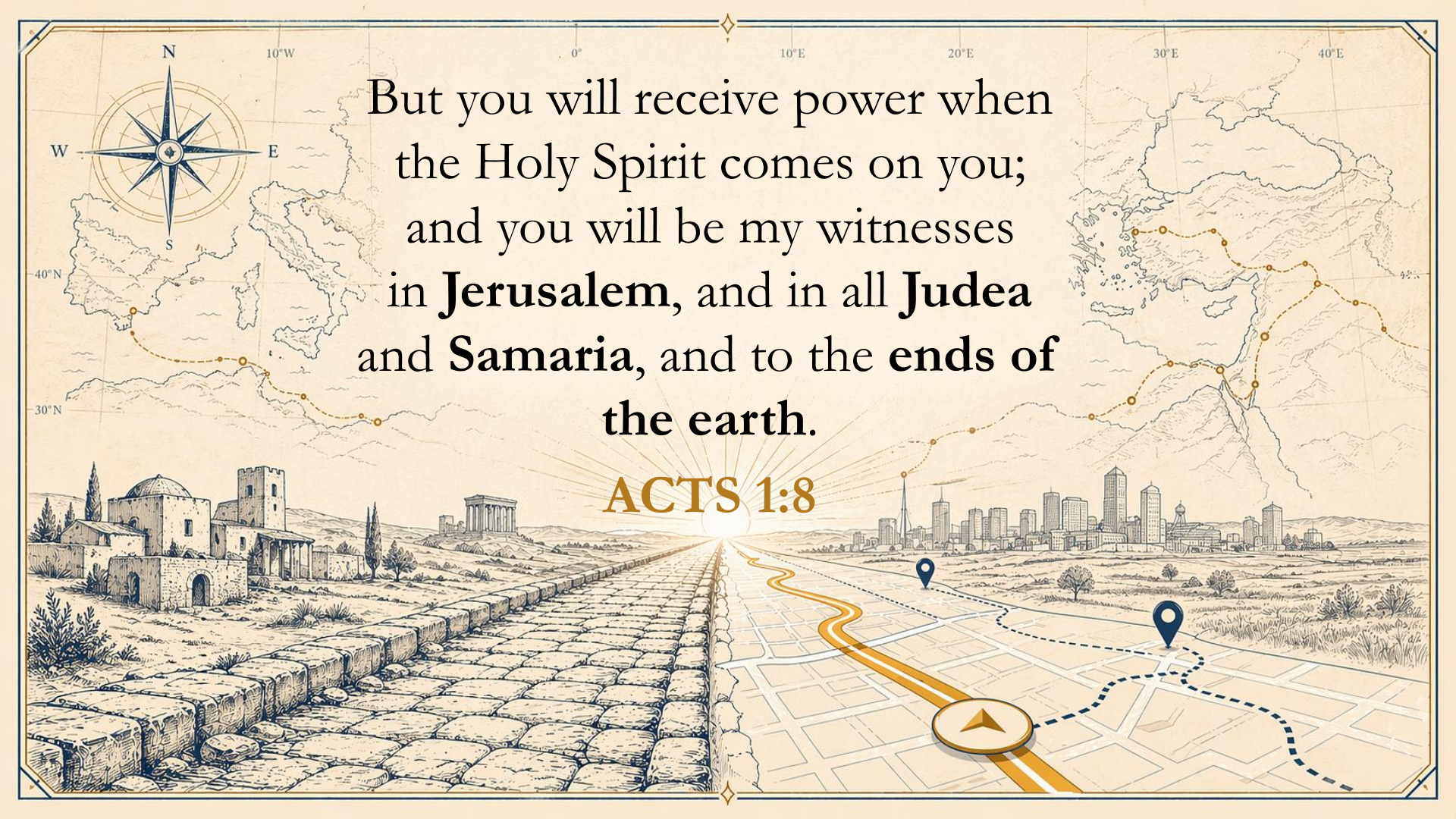
Slide 15 – 1. Welcome Jesus to change YOU

Slide 16 – 2. The Holy Spirit equips ordinary people

Slide 17 – 3. Growing means Going

Slide 18 - CONCLUSION



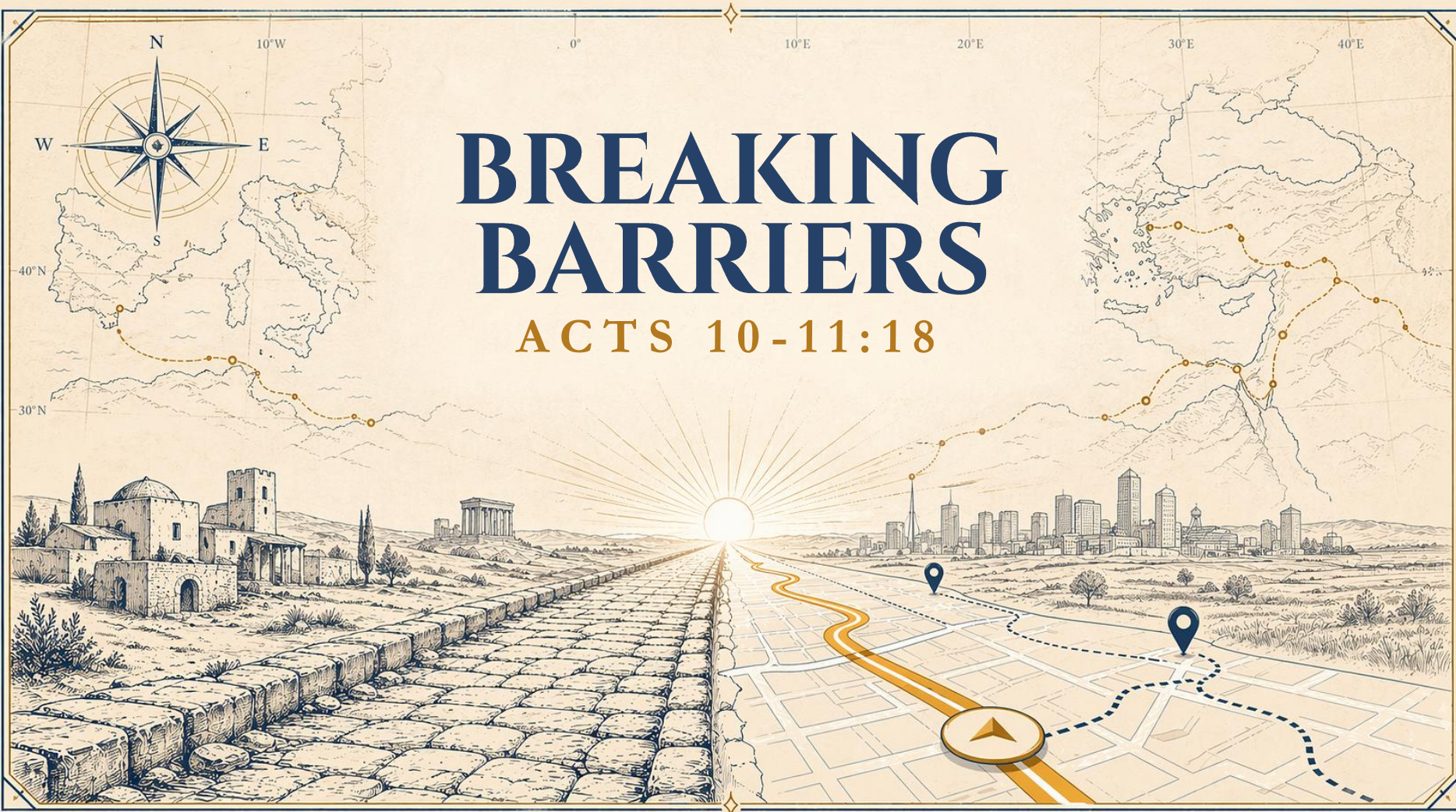


But you will receive power when
the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses
in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea**
and **Samaria**, and to the **ends of**
the earth.

ACTS 1:8

BREAKING BARRIERS

ACTS 10-11:18



ONE STORY

Peter

Philip

Stephen

Saul

Cornelius

Peter

ONE AUTHOR. ONE KINGDOM.



THE RIPPLE KEEPS GROWING

JEW | ———▶ | SAMARITAN | ———▶ |
GOD-FEARERS | | GENTILE |

Acts 1:8 isn't just about geography, it's about breaking barriers.

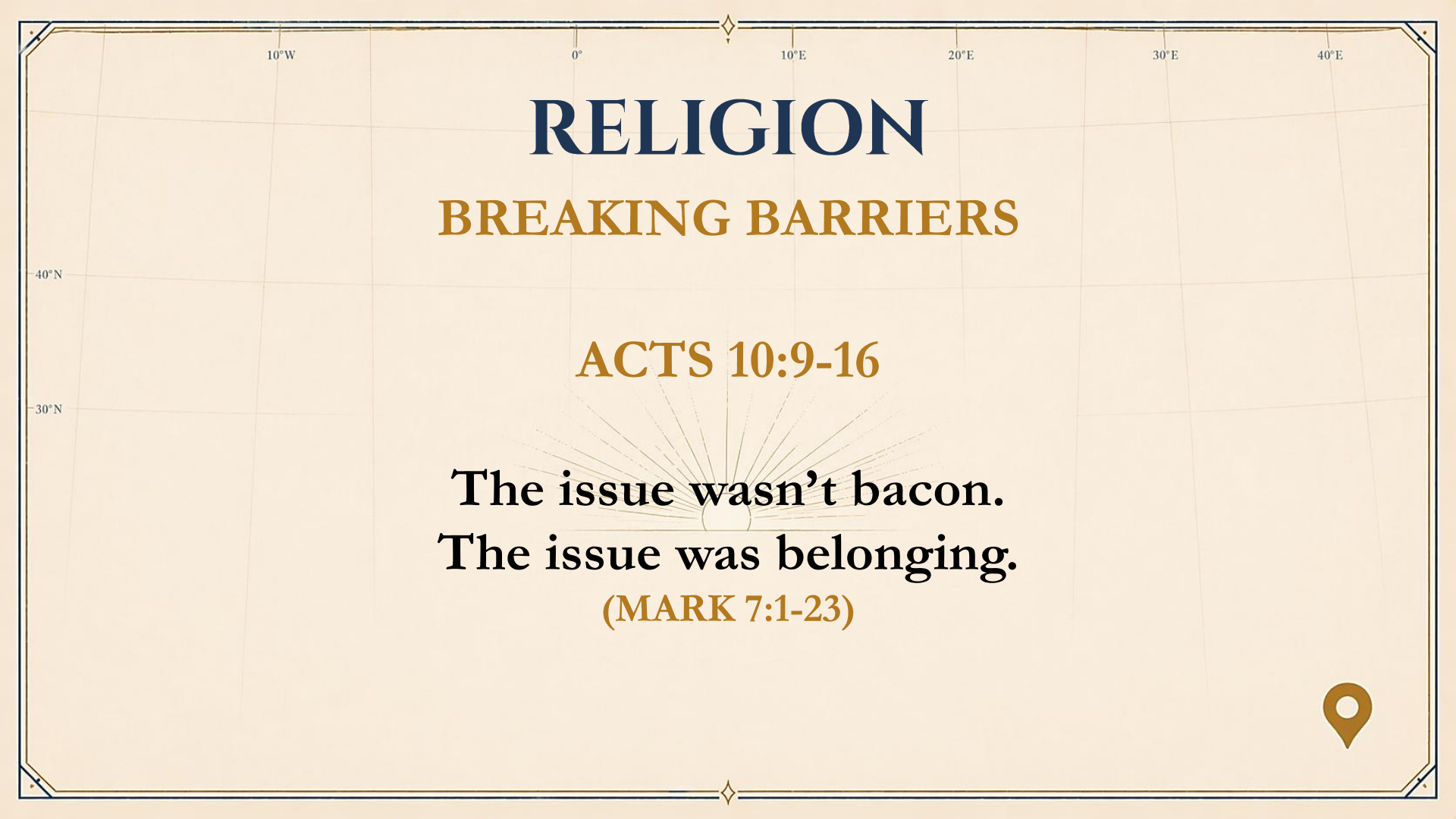


RELIGION

BREAKING BARRIERS

ACTS 10:9-16





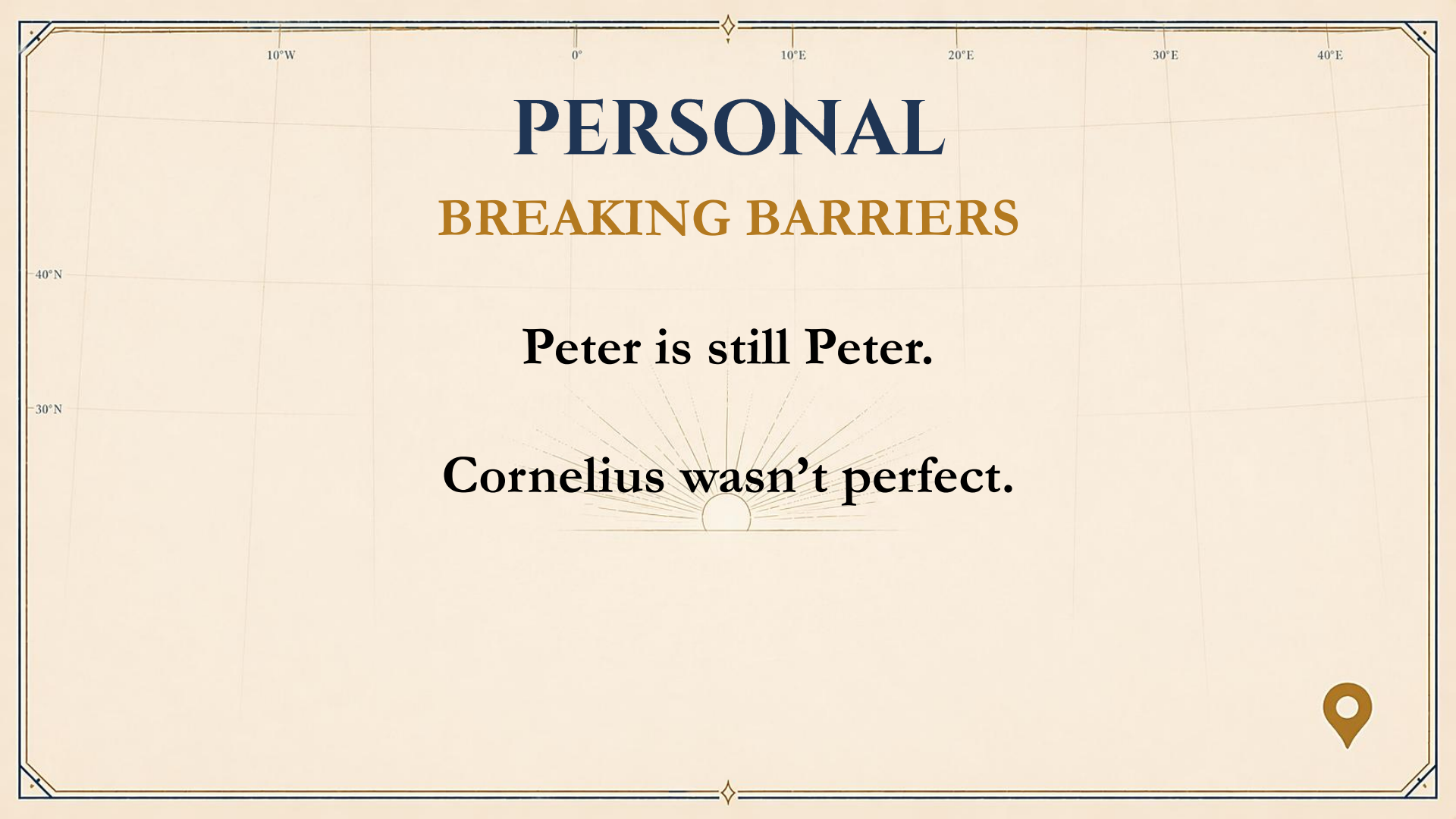
RELIGION

BREAKING BARRIERS

ACTS 10:9-16

The issue wasn't bacon.
The issue was belonging.
(MARK 7:1-23)





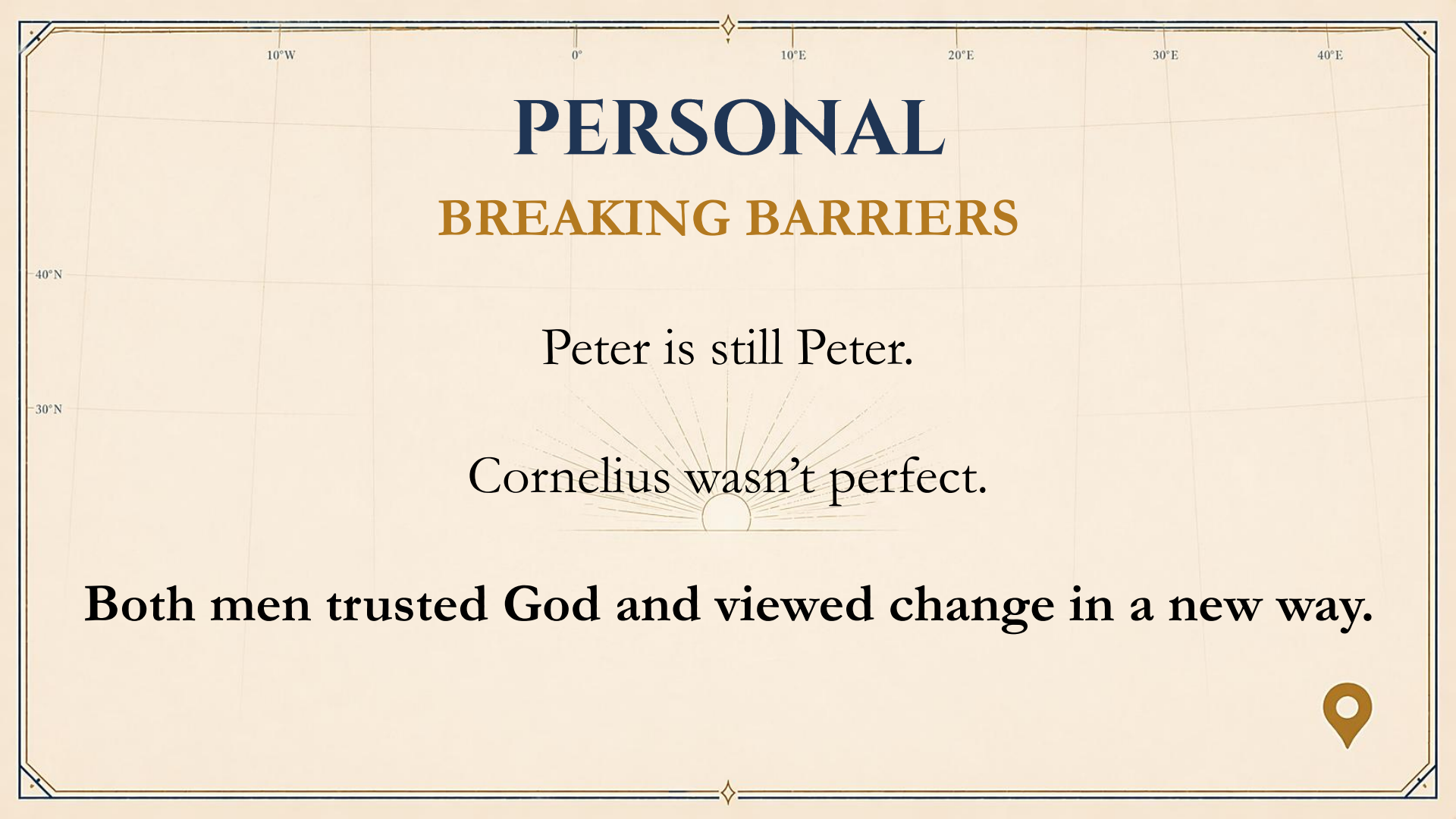
PERSONAL

BREAKING BARRIERS

Peter is still Peter.

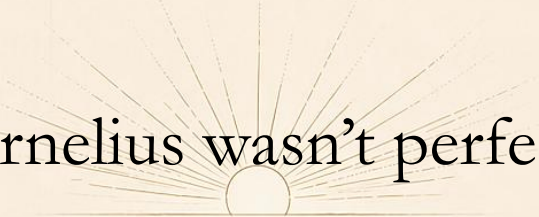
Cornelius wasn't perfect.





PERSONAL BREAKING BARRIERS

Peter is still Peter.



Cornelius wasn't perfect.

Both men trusted God and viewed change in a new way.



KINGDOM

BREAKING BARRIERS

ACTS 11 ¹⁸ When they heard this, they had **no further objections and praised God**, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”



KINGDOM

BREAKING BARRIERS

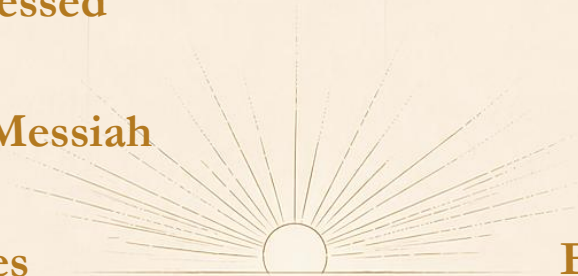
ACTS 11 ¹⁸ When they heard this, they had **no further objections and praised God**, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

The church forever changed.



ONE STORY. ONE KINGDOM.

Abraham
|
"All Nations Blessed"
|
Israel receives Messiah
|
Jesus Comes
|
Cross & Resurrection
|



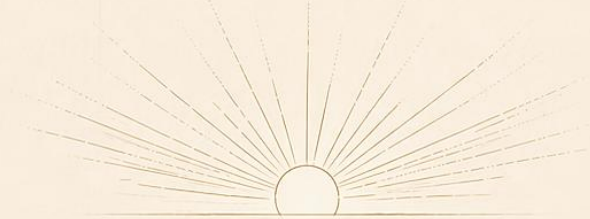
Pentecost (Acts 2)
|
Samaria (Acts 8)
|
Cornelius (Acts 10)
|
Every Nation (Today)
|
Revelation 7



ONE STORY. ONE KINGDOM.

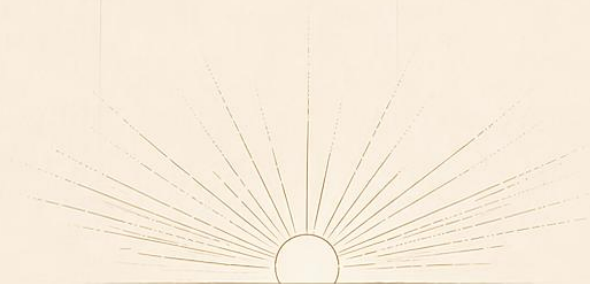
Genesis 12 ————— Acts 10 ————— Revelation 7

● Promise ● Barrier Broken ● Promise Fulfilled



APPLICATION

WELCOME. EQUIP. SEND.



APPLICATION

WELCOME. EQUIP. SEND.

1. Welcome Jesus to change your heart.

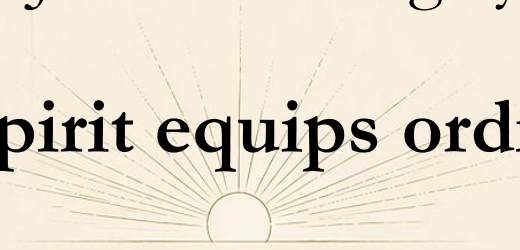


APPLICATION

WELCOME. EQUIP. SEND.

1. Welcome Jesus to change your heart.

2. The Holy Spirit equips ordinary people.



APPLICATION

WELCOME. EQUIP. SEND.

1. Welcome Jesus to change your heart.

2. The Holy Spirit equips ordinary people.

3. **Growing means going.**



BREAKING BARRIERS

ACTS 10-11:18

