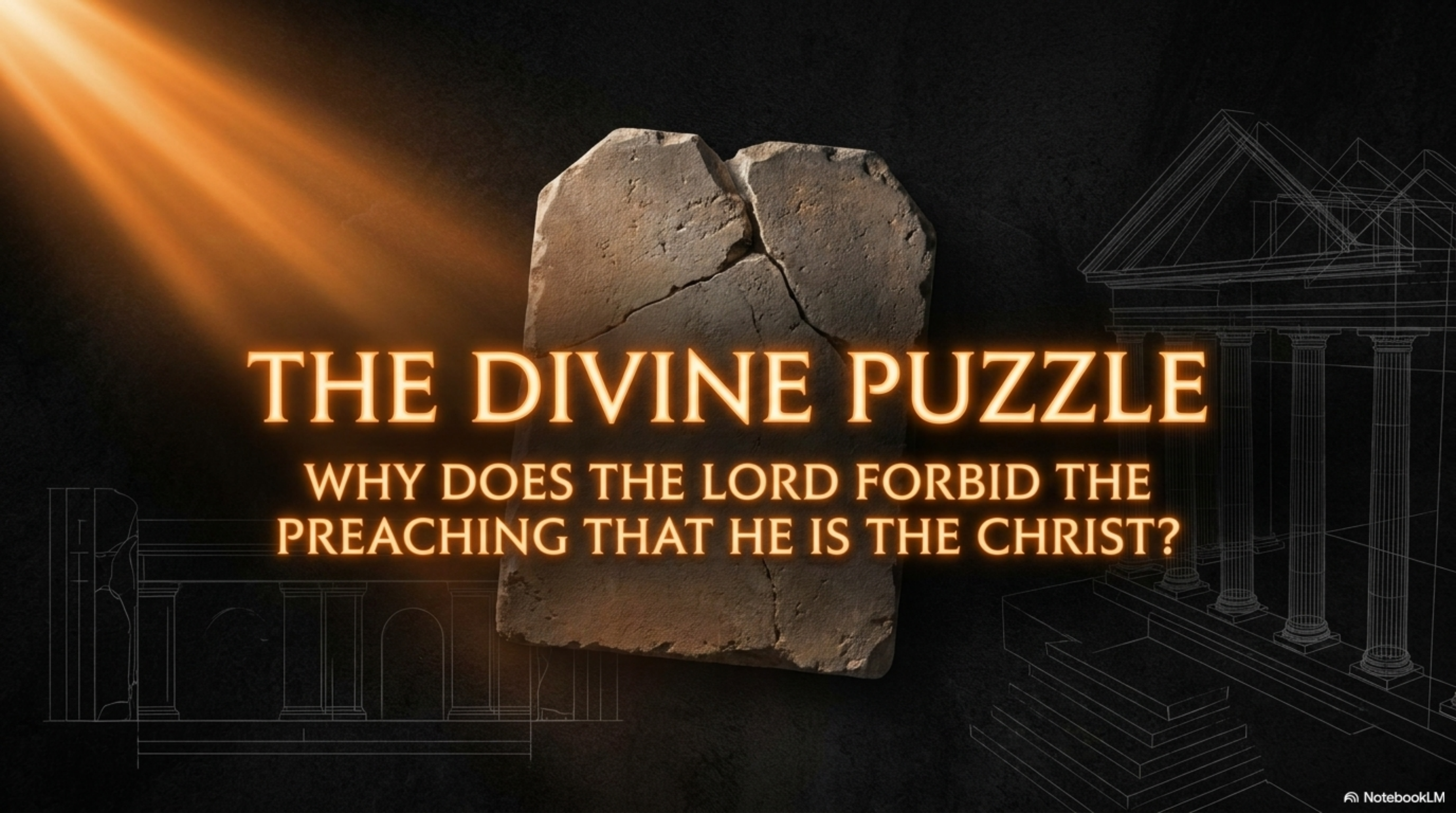




THE DIVINE PUZZLE

WHY DOES THE LORD FORBID THE
PREACHING THAT HE IS THE CHRIST?

Matthew 16:16

Acts 8:37

Luke 9:20

John 20:31

Romans 1:4

Mark 1:1

The Gospel of the Kingdom = Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

John 20:31

2 John 1:9

Luke 9:20

1 John 5:5

2 John 1:9

Appears 4x
in the Gospels
(Matthew, Mark)

Affirmed by
John the Baptist
(John 1:34)

Affirmed by Peter
(John 6:69)

Affirmed by Martha
(John 11:27)

The Disciples' Blind Spot

Acknowledgment
(Thou art the Christ)

The Prophecy
(The Son of Man
must suffer and be
killed)

And they understood
none of these things:
and this saying was hid
from them...
(Luke 18:34)

Takeaway: The Pre-Cross Gospel of the Kingdom included His identity, but explicitly excluded the comprehension of His death, burial, and resurrection.

The Glaring Contradiction

The Mission:
Preach the Kingdom
(that Jesus is the Christ)



The Command: Tell No Man

Then charged he his disciples that they should
tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.
(Matthew 16:20)

Insight: Whenever Jesus gave this command, He immediately
began teaching them about His impending crucifixion. Why?

The Law of the Slayer (Numbers 35)

	Murder	Manslaughter
Intent	Premeditated / Knowing	Unwitting / Ignorant
Action	Driven by Enmity	Without laying wait
Punishment	Unforgivable	Flee to City of Refuge
Condition of Release	None	The Death of the High Priest

The Legal Basis for Concealment: Murder vs. Manslaughter

Murder (Intentional Killing)

Knowledge + Action
Requires capital punishment.
No forgiveness under the law.
(Numbers 35:31)



Manslaughter (Unintentional Killing)

Ignorance + Action
Forgivable.
Flee to a City of Refuge until
the death of the High Priest.
(Numbers 35:25, 28)

Insight: God concealed Jesus' identity so Israel's sin would be manslaughter, not murder, making forgiveness possible through the death of the ultimate High Priest, Christ Jesus.

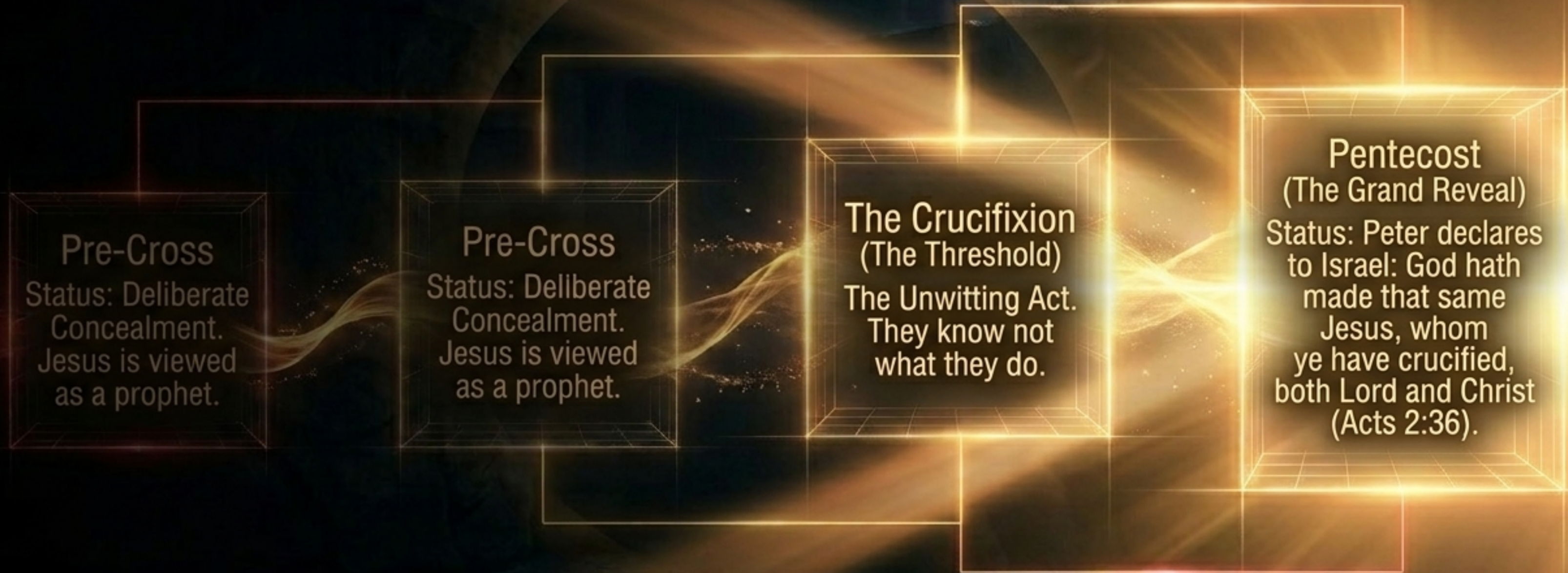
The Objective of Concealment

The Rulers' Ignorance:
Let him save himself,
if he be Christ...
(Luke 23:35)

Father, forgive them; for
they know not what they do.
(Luke 23:34)

The High Priest's Ignorance:
Condemned Him for
blasphemy, sincerely
He was the Son of God
(Mark 14:61-64).

The Timeline of Revelation



The Indictment and The Defense

The Capital Charge

And killed the Prince of life... (Acts 3:15). (Acts 3:15). Israel realizes the magnitude of their crime; they are pricked in their heart.

The Legal Loophole

And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. (Acts 3:17).

Takeaway: Peter applies the manslaughter defense perfectly, offering them the refuge Christ's death just secured.

What Israel Saw

A Prophet mighty in deed
and word (Luke 24:19).
Supported
by public consensus
(Elias, John the Baptist, or
one of the prophets).



Who He Actually Was

The Christ, the Son of the
Living God.

During His earthly ministry, God intentionally allowed the vast majority of Israel to view Jesus merely as a prophet, not the Son of God.

The Mechanics of Refuge (Joshua 20)

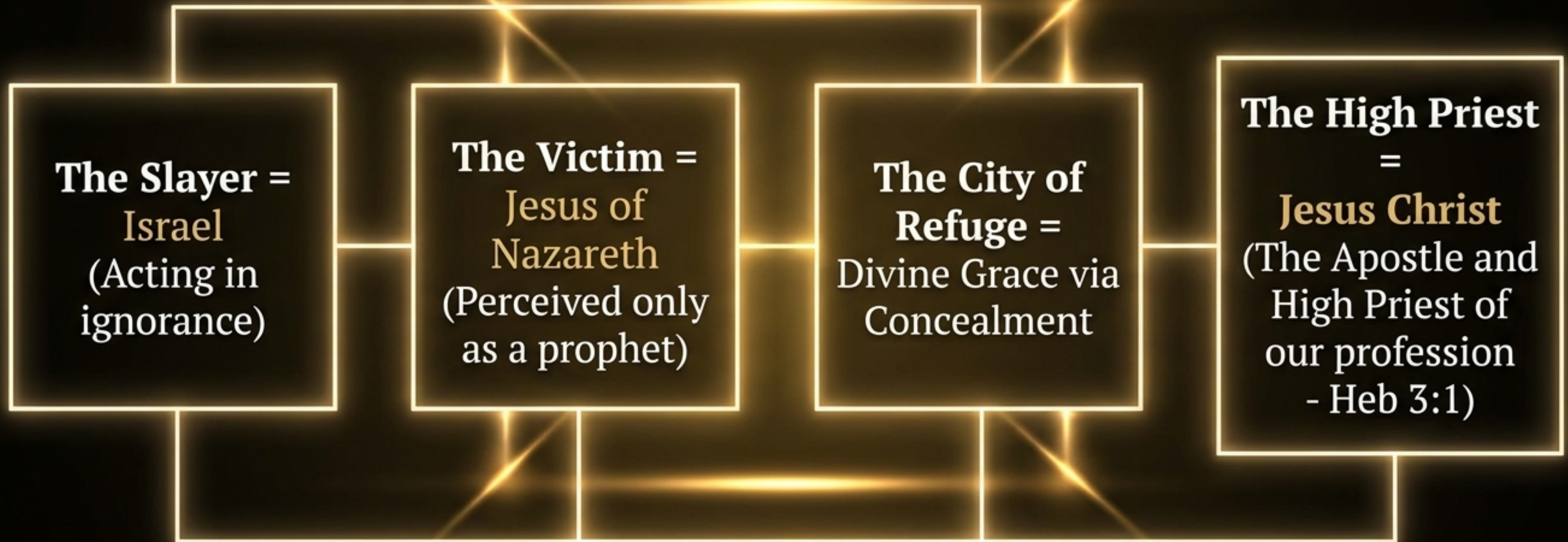
The Act
(Slayer kills person unwittingly).

The Pursuit
(Pursued by the Avenger of Blood).

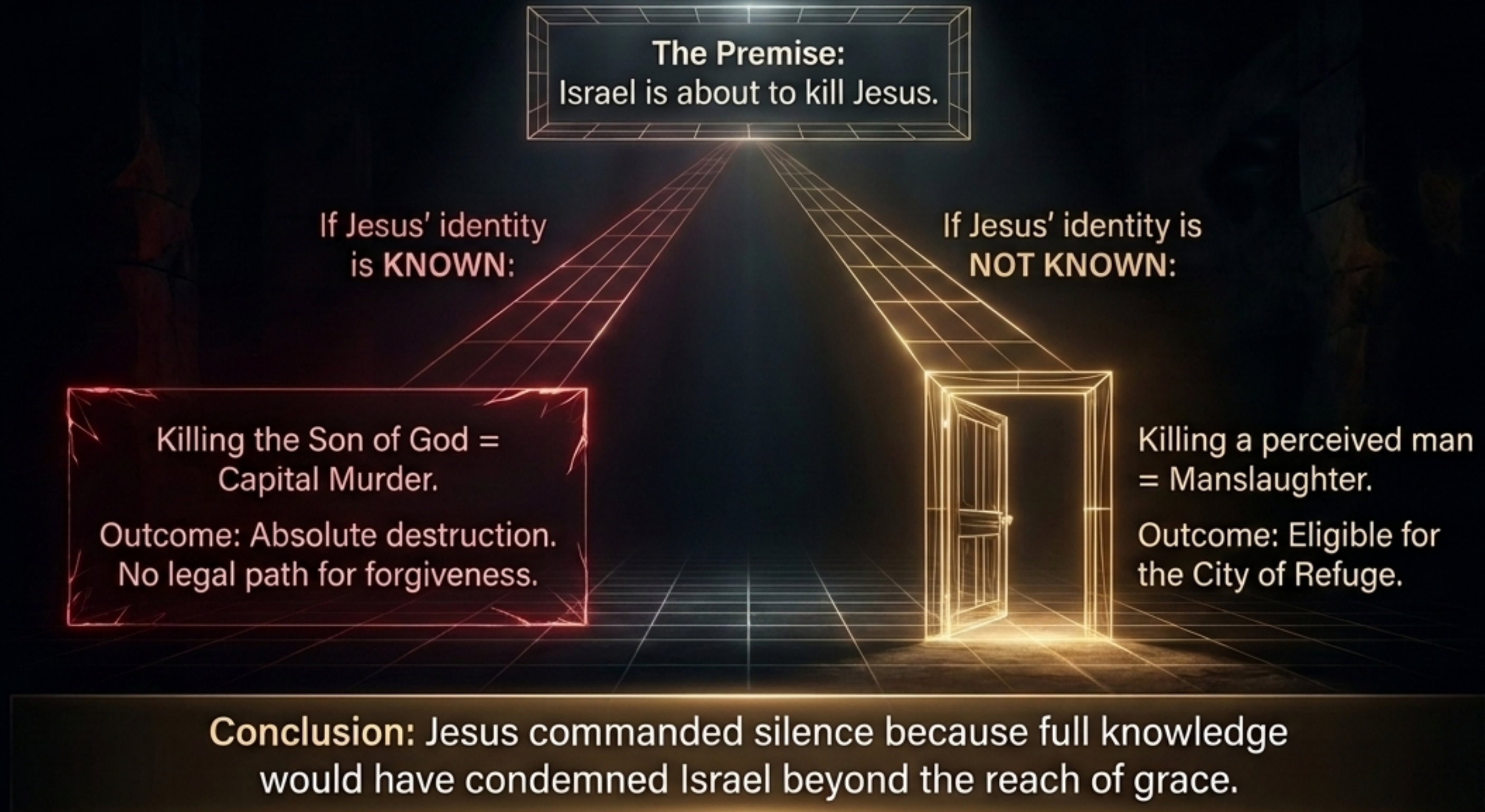
The Refuge
(Slayer escapes to the appointed City of Refuge).

The Release
(Slayer dwells safely until the death of the High Priest, then returns home free).

Fulfilling the Architecture of Grace



The Master Stroke of Divine Jurisprudence



The Wisdom of the Cross



Illuminating the Shadows

O the depth of the riches **both** of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **how unsearchable are his judgments**, and his ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33)

The command to hide His identity was not a restriction of the Gospel, but the exact mechanism of its grace.
Concealment enabled forgiveness.