

The background of the image is a close-up, high-angle shot of an antique clock face. The clock face is made of aged, yellowish-brown paper or parchment, showing signs of wear and discoloration. The Roman numerals are dark and prominent, with the numbers III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX clearly visible. A shadow of a hand holding a pen is cast across the clock face, suggesting the act of writing or recording. The overall lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a sense of time and history.

# THE PRIORITY OF PROPHETIC TRUTH IN THE LAST DAYS

*Why Bible Prophecy Matters Now More Than Ever*

# 1. Because Doctrine and Truth Matter

- Truth and reality itself are under assault
- What is a woman? No one seems to know
- Men can become women simply by “identifying”
- “Men” can have babies
- Love is love (no matter how you define it) but “Life” (in the womb) isn’t life
- Murder is “healthcare” and “reproductive freedom”

# **1. Because Doctrine and Truth Matter**

**John 14:6; 17:17 – “I am the ... truth.” “Your Word is truth.”**

**1 Timothy 2:7 - Paul was appointed as a teacher of the gentiles in faith and in truth**

**1 Timothy 3:2 - an elder must be “able to teach”**

**1 Timothy 3:8 - deacons must hold to the “mystery of the faith”**

**1 Timothy 4:6 - constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine**

**1 Timothy 4:11 - prescribe and teach these things**

**1 Timothy 4:13 - give attention to public reading of scripture, to exhortation and teaching**

**1 Timothy 4:14-16 do not neglect your spiritual gift, take pains with these things. Be absorbed in them, pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching, persevere in these things**

# 1. Because Doctrine and Truth Matter

1 Timothy 5:17-18 - double honor to teaching elders who work hard

1 Timothy 6:3-5 - reject those who do not agree with sound doctrine or who hold different doctrine, who have a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise strife

1 Timothy 6:12 - fight the good fight of faith

1 Timothy 6:20-21 - guard what has been entrusted to you

2 Timothy 1:13 - retain the standard of sound words... guard the treasure which has been entrusted to you

2 Timothy 2:2 - doctrine and truth are the very essence of discipleship. we are soldiers (4), athletes (5), and farmers (6) in the stewardship of God's truth

2 Timothy 2:15 - handling accurately the word of truth (cutting it straight)



**1. Because Doctrine and Truth Matter**

**2. Because of Encroaching Apostasy**

**(1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Timothy 4:1-5)**

**The majority of Paul's epistles were written to combat false teachers, false teaching, and blatant heresy.**

**1. Because Doctrine and Truth Matter**

**2. Because of Encroaching Apostasy**

**Corinthians** - false apostles, deceitful workers, disguised as apostles (2 Cor. 11:13)

**Galatians** - Judaizers, “another gospel” (Gal. 1:6)

**Ephesians** - myths, speculations, doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 1:2; 4:1-3)

**Philippians** - “false circumcision,” deceptions (Phil. 3:1-3)

**Colossians** - Gnosticism, Christ an “emanation,” angel visions (Col. 1:15-19; 3:18)

**Thessalonians** - sensationalist eschatology, deceivers (1 Th. 1:10; 2 Th. 2:1-5)

**Crete** - money-hungry false teachers, myths, man-made rules (Titus 1:11, 14)

**Asia Minor** - “destructive heresies” (2 Peter 2:1)

**1 John** - “antichrists,” spirit of antichrist, (1 John 2:18; 4:3)

**Jude** - immoral, false teachers, visions, dreams, ego-driven (Jude 4, 8, 10, 11)

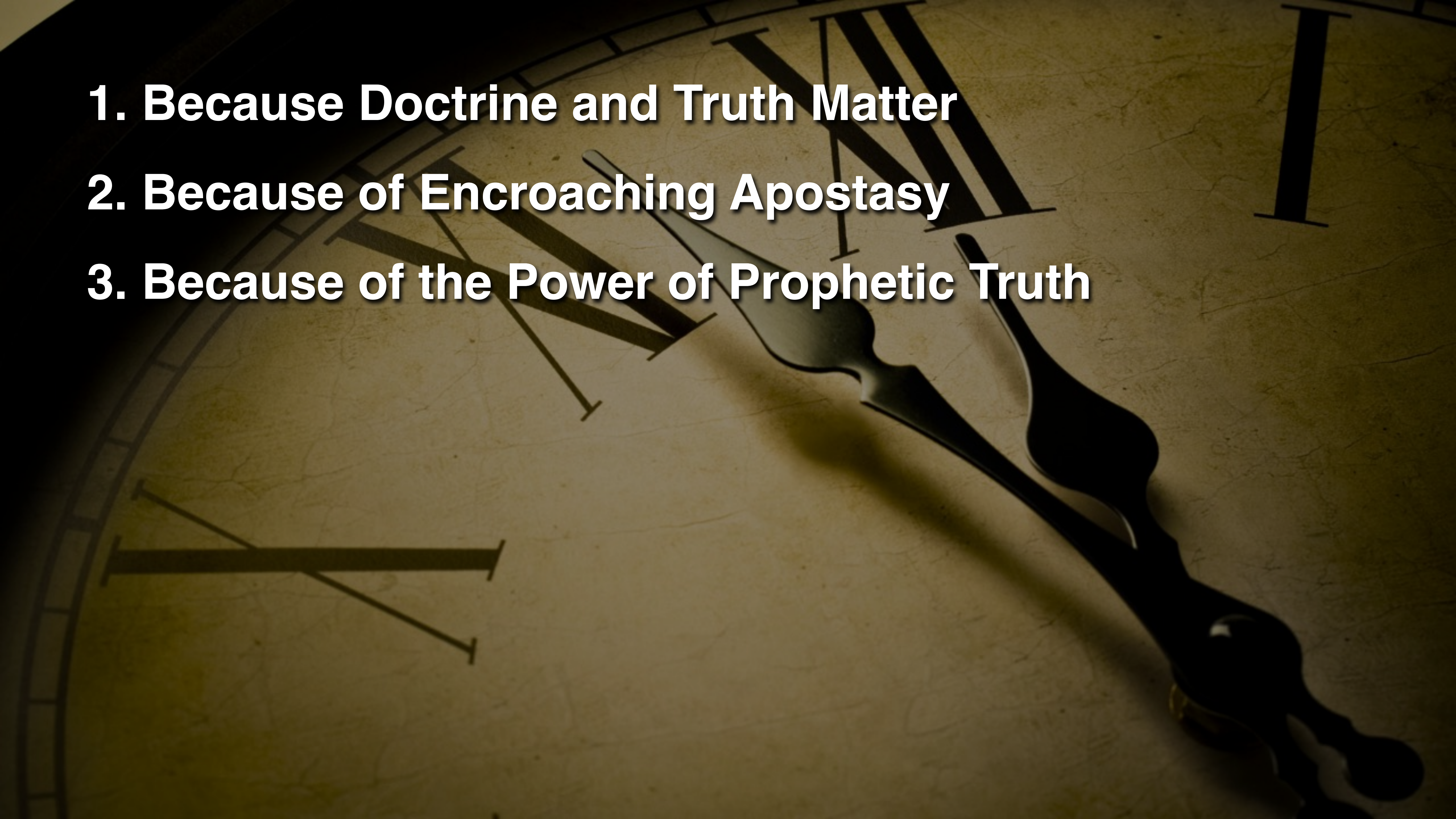
**Revelation** - seven churches, pick a heresy (Revelation 2-3)

# **1. Because Doctrine and Truth Matter**

# **2. Because of Encroaching Apostasy**

**Consider that:**

- 75-150 churches close every week in America**
- 30,000 churches closed from 2006-2012**
- Lowest levels of church attendance in American history**
- 1/3 less attended church during the pandemic lockdown. Majority have no plans to return**
- Lutheran church just ordained its first transgender bishop.**
- Many Methodist and Episcopalian churches have sanctioned gay lifestyle and performed homosexual marriages.**
- 1/3 of Americas Pastors say good people can go to heaven**
- Only 37% of pastors surveyed have a biblical world view**
- 1/3 believe the Holy Spirit is not a Person, but a “symbol of God’s power**

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- 1. Because Doctrine and Truth Matter**
  - 2. Because of Encroaching Apostasy**
  - 3. Because of the Power of Prophetic Truth**



# 3. Because of the Power of Prophetic Truth

## A. The Power of the Word of God

Ephesians 4:11-17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – to equip and mature saints

Romans 12:2; Hebrews 4:12 (“MRI”) – to change us from the inside out

Psalms 19:7-11 – restoration, wisdom, joy, enlightenment, etc

Luke 16:27-31 – More powerful and persuasive than miracles

2 Peter 1:3 – everything we need for life and godliness

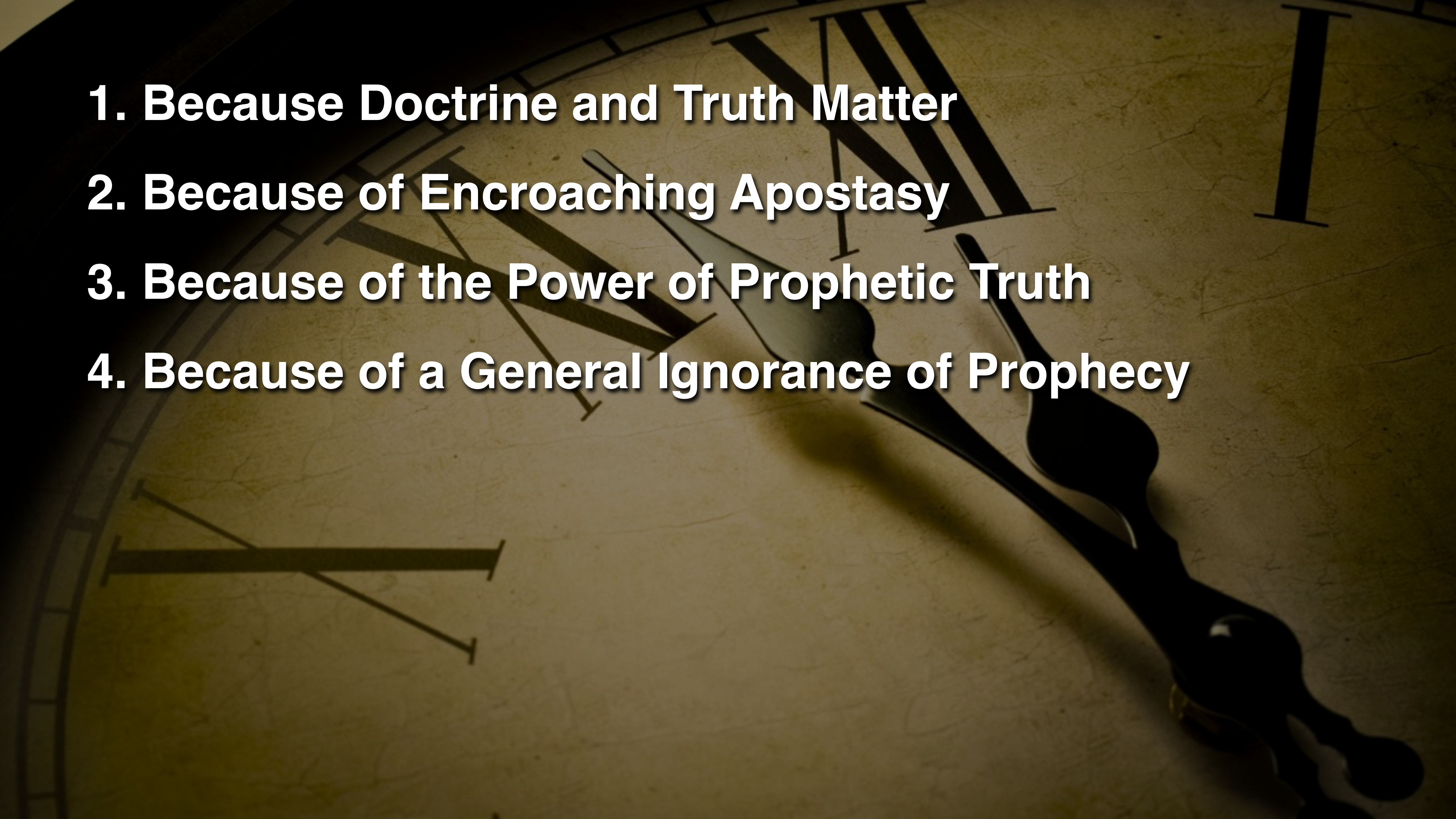
## B. The Practical Benefits of Prophecy

## **B. The Practical Benefits of Prophecy**

- 1. Helps you understand the times in which you live (I Chron. 12:32)**
- 2. Calms your fears about the future (Matt. 28:20; John 14:1-3, 27)**
- 3. Gives you confidence, courage, and comfort in the present (I Th 4:13-18; Jn 16:33)**
- 4. Increases your faith in God who's in control of earth's story (Isa 40:12-26; Ps 115:3; Daniel 4:35)**
- 5. Helps you see the relevance of your Bible to life, for now and for the future (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)**
- 6. Builds expectancy and anticipation for what is to come (Rev. 22:10; Matt. 6:10)**
- 7. Gives you positive hope in a hopeless world, rescuing from despair (Titus 2:13-15)**
- 8. Keeps you centered in an age of doctrinal error, heresy and apostacy (1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 3:1-17)**

## **B. The Practical Benefits of Prophecy**

- 9. Blesses you as you listen and obey Scripture's prophetic words (Rev 1:3)**
- 10. Motivates you to be urgent about your mission here on earth, not wasting your time on worthless pursuits (Eph. 5:15-16)**
- 11. Fuels the fire of your desire to see others know Jesus (2 Cor. 5:10-13; 6:2)**
- 12. Gives you perspective on the temporary nature of suffering (John 16:1,4; Rom 8:18)**
- 13. Helps you prioritize spiritual things over physical things, living wisely (Ps. 90:10-12)**
- 14. Purifies your life as you prepare yourself as Christ's Bride (I John 3:2-3)**
- 15. Helps you know what to expect, living godly in an increasingly hostile world (John 15:18-23)**

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- 1. Because Doctrine and Truth Matter**
  - 2. Because of Encroaching Apostasy**
  - 3. Because of the Power of Prophetic Truth**
  - 4. Because of a General Ignorance of Prophecy**

# **4. Because of a General Ignorance of Prophecy**

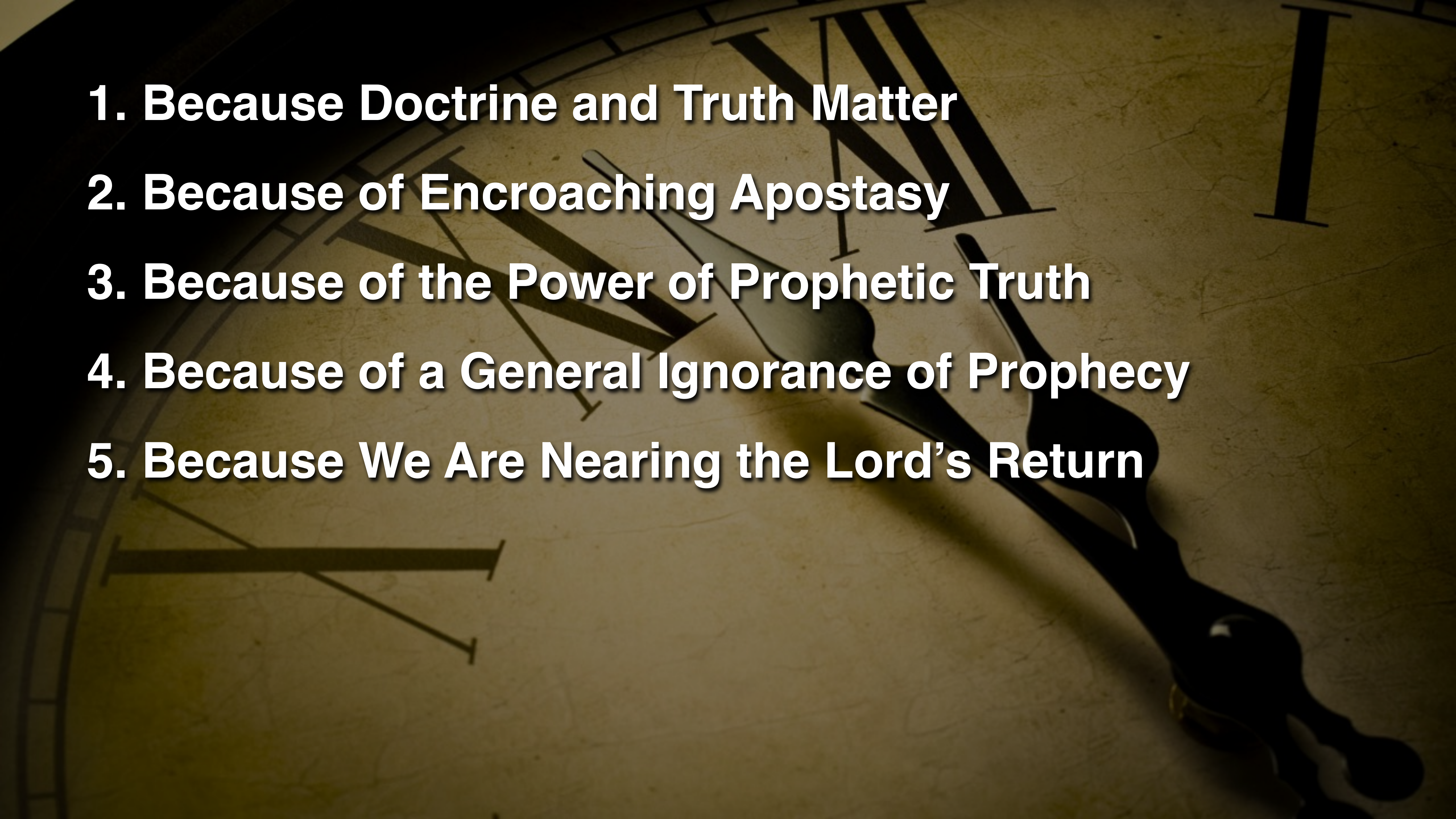
## **Top Ten Reasons Why Pastors Don't Preach on Bible Prophecy**

- 1. The pastor doesn't feel qualified to teach on the subject.**
- 2. Preaching on prophecy requires hard work, and much study.**
- 3. Prophecy is sometimes viewed as controversial, sensational, and for some, even frightening and offensive.**
- 4. Divergent views on eschatology, seen as divisive, and therefore avoided.**
- 5. To be too dogmatic or confident regarding prophetic interpretation can come off as prideful, or even cult-like at times.**

# 4. Because of a General Ignorance of Prophecy

## Top Ten Reasons Why Pastors Don't Preach on Bible Prophecy

6. The end times involves God's wrath, and some pastors don't want to be viewed as "prophets of doom." Negativity empties seats, not fills them.
7. No one really knows the future, so why dwell on it?
8. Many pastors and denominations do not believe in a literal, prophetic fulfillment of Scripture. Rather, they take a "spiritual," or symbolic approach when interpreting books like Revelation or Daniel.
9. So many more "*relevant*" things to preach on (marriage, family issues, personal problems, etc.).
10. Perhaps some fear people will stop giving financially if they think the world is **ending soon** or if economic hard times are coming. **However**, prophecy is in the Bible, it's prominent in the Bible, and it's the last book of the Bible. Also Acts 20:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:5

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  - 5. Because We Are Nearing the Lord's Return**

## 5. Because We Are Nearing the Lord's Return

***Two Extremes Today: Skeptical Mockers and Eager Sensationalists***

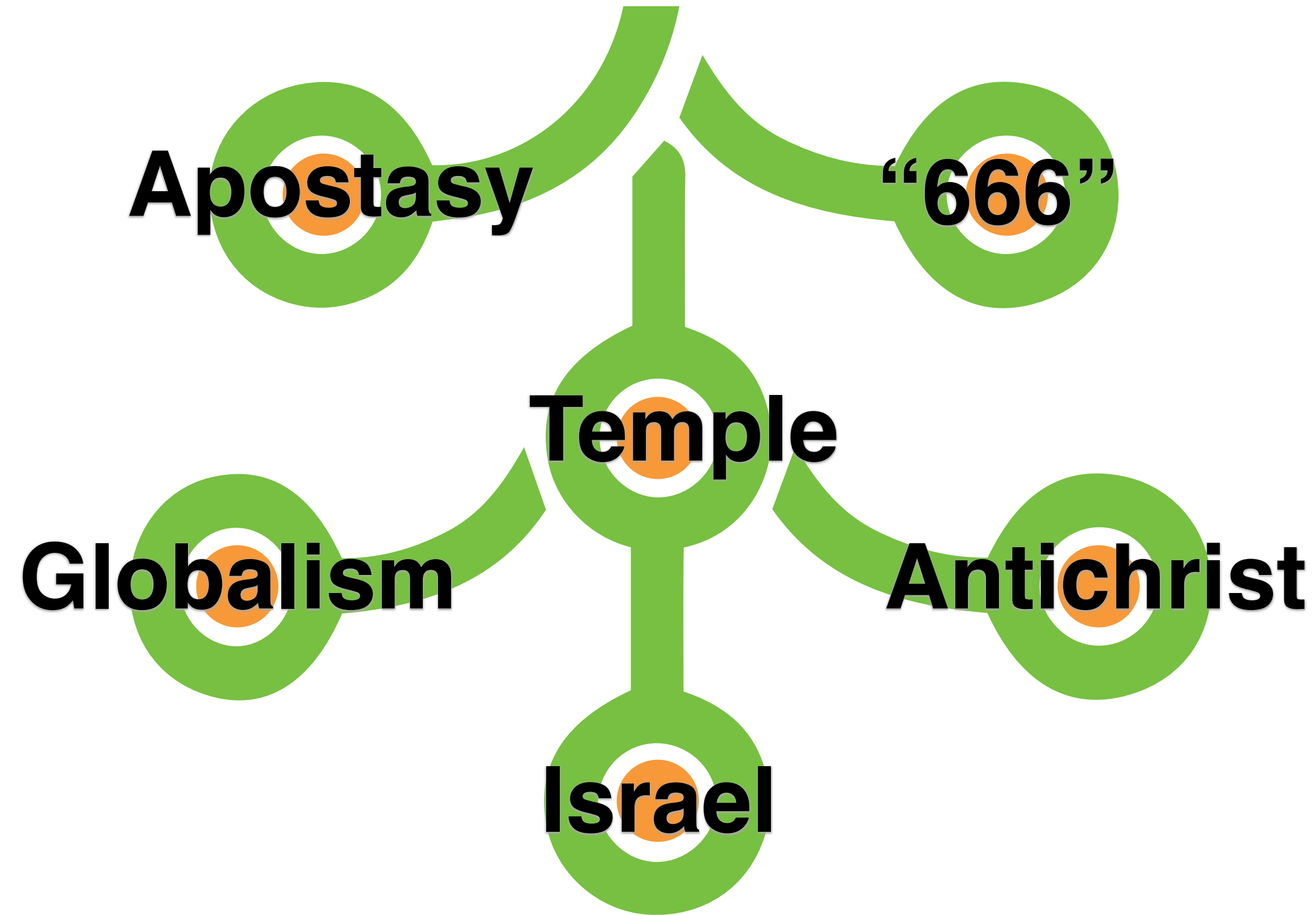
***The Rapture is a "signless event" but the rivers of prophetic fulfillment are converging.***

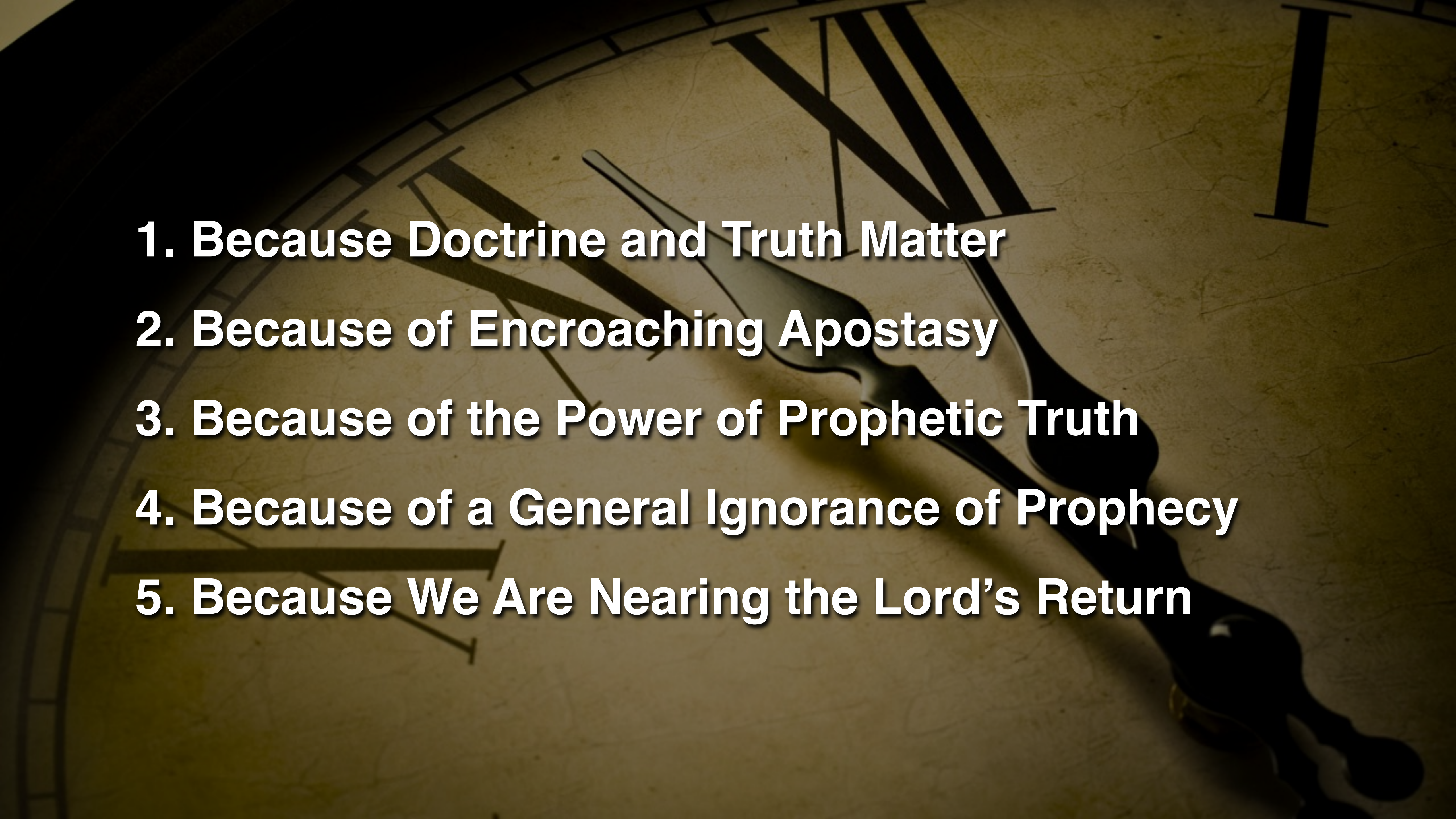


**Revelation**



**CONVERGENCE**



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**So What Do I Do?**

**Preach the Word**

**Defend the Faith**

**Proclaim the Good News**

**Wake the Bride**