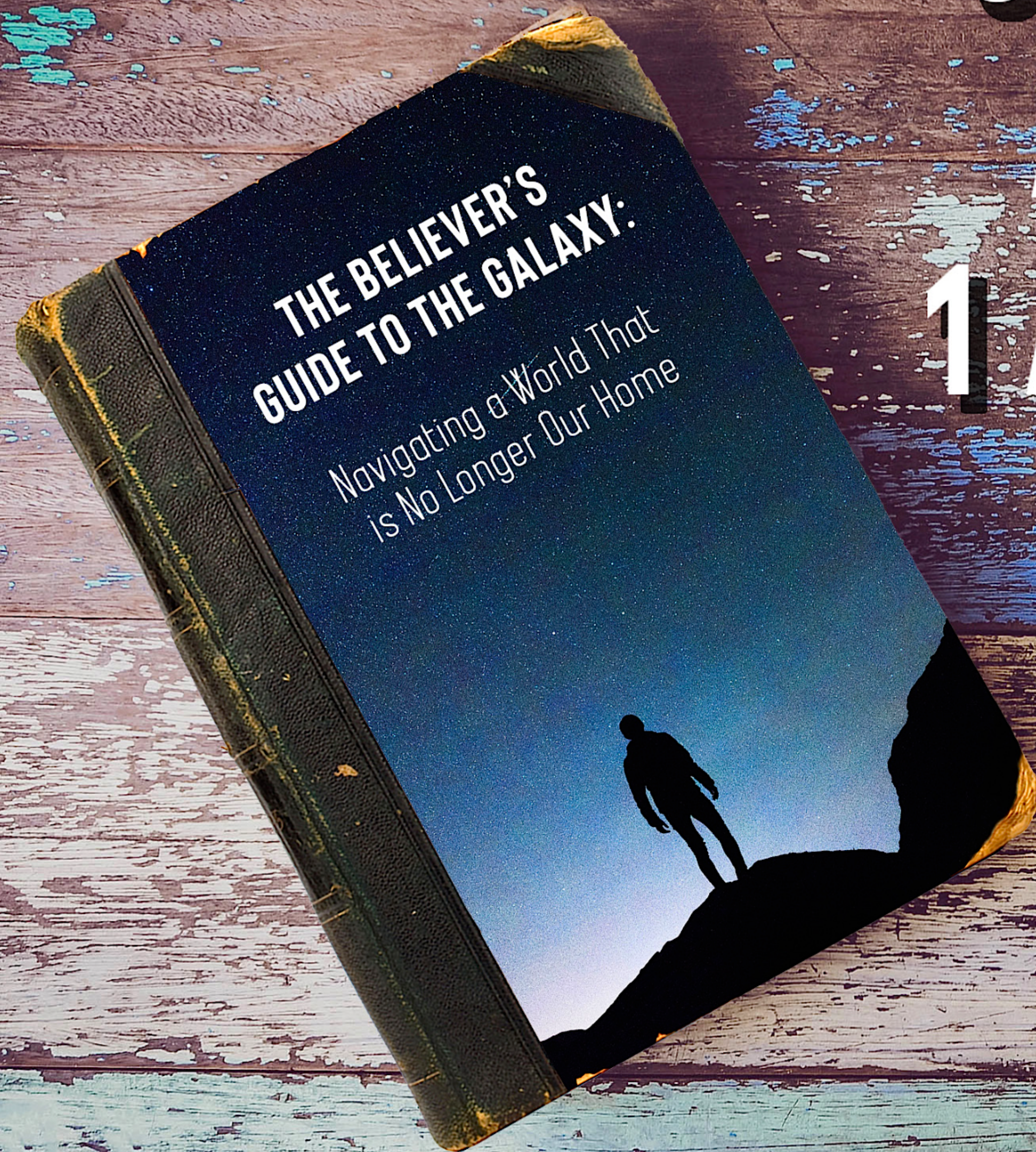


# SERIES 2019: A STUDY IN 1 AND 2 PETER



Navigating a World That  
is No Longer Our Home

Life in the Fire

1 Peter 4:12-19

## **1 Peter 4:12-19**

**Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.**

## **1 Peter 4:12-19**

**If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?**

# 1 Peter 4:12-19

And,

*“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”*

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

## 1 Peter 4:12

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

the fiery ordeal





★  
**Rome**  
**64AD**

**Jerusalem** ★

**Pontus**

**Bithynia**

**Galatia**

**Asia**

**Cappadocia**

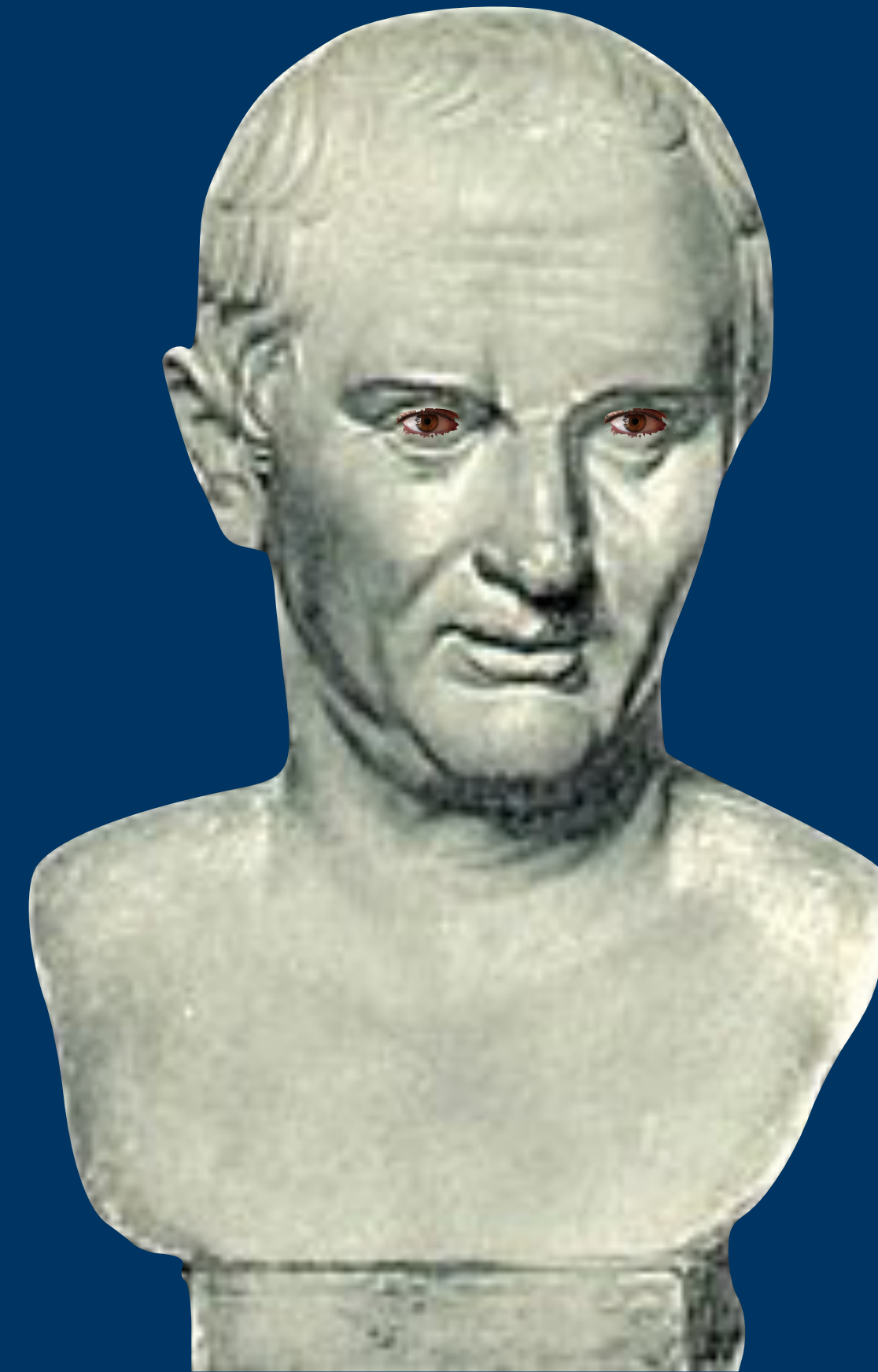


Rome  
64AD



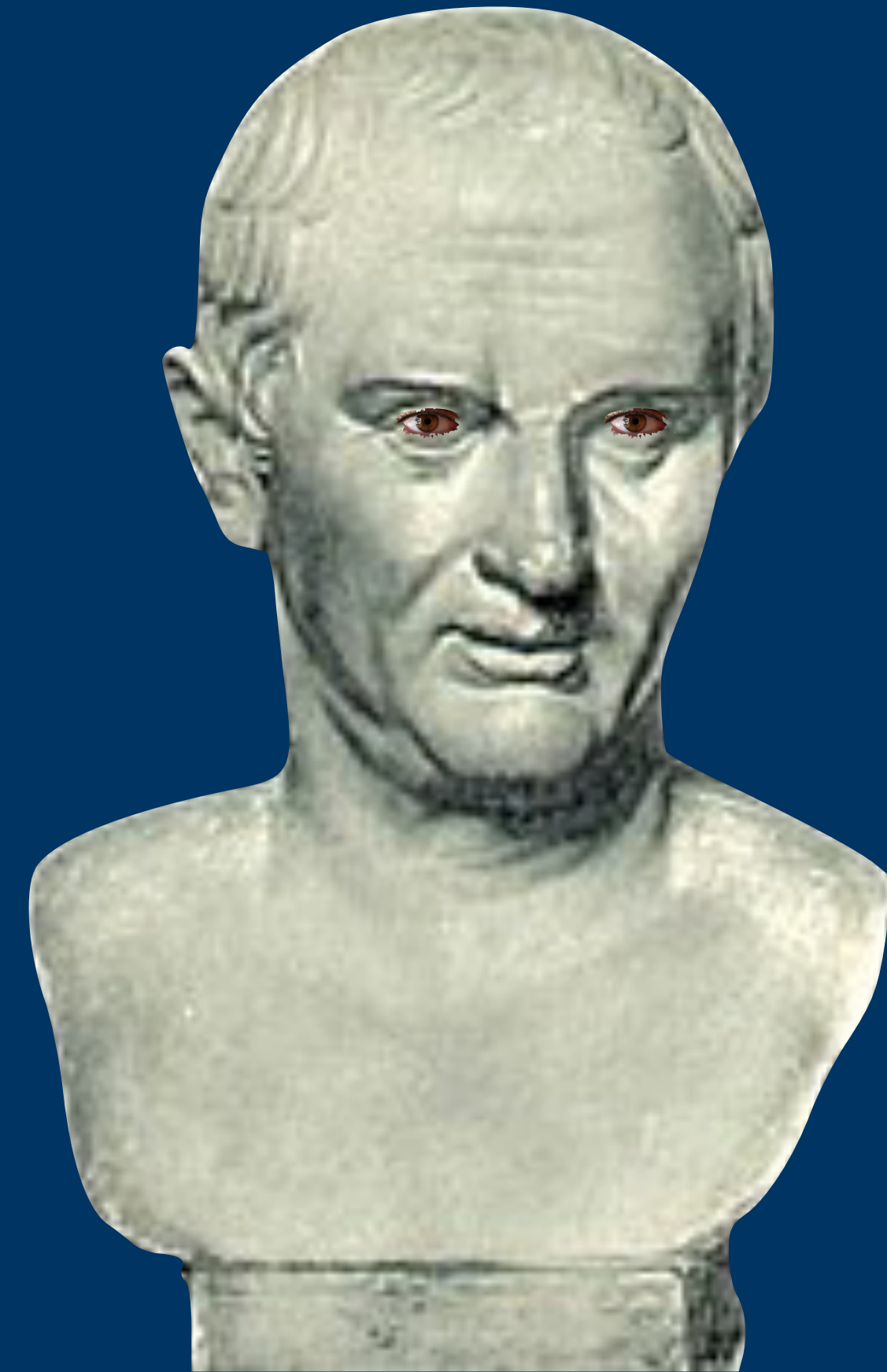
**Emperor Nero**  
54AD - 68AD

Rome  
64AD



**Cornelius Tacitus**  
56AD - 120AD  
*The Annals* (116AD)

Rome ★  
July 18, 64AD



**Cornelius Tacitus**  
56AD - 120AD  
*The Annals* (116AD)

# Cornelius Tacitus

## The Annals (116AD)

44.2. Yet no human effort, no princely largess nor offerings to the gods could make that infamous rumor disappear that Nero had somehow ordered the fire. Therefore, in order to abolish that rumor, Nero falsely accused and executed with the most exquisite punishments those people called Christians, who were infamous for their abominations.

# Cornelius Tacitus

## The Annals (116AD)

44.3. The originator of the name, Christ, was executed as a criminal by the procurator Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius; and though repressed, this *destructive superstition* erupted again, not only through Judea, which was the origin of *this evil*, but also through the city of Rome, to which *all that is horrible and shameful* floods together and is celebrated.

# Cornelius Tacitus

## The Annals (116AD)

44.4. Therefore, first those were seized who admitted their faith, and then, using the information they provided, a vast multitude were convicted, not so much for the crime of burning the city, but for *hatred of the human race*. And perishing they were additionally made into sports: they were killed by dogs by having the hides of beasts attached to them, or they were nailed to crosses or set aflame, and, when the daylight passed away, they were used as nighttime lamps.

# Cornelius Tacitus

## The Annals (116AD)

44.5. Nero gave his own gardens for this spectacle and performed a Circus game, in the habit of a charioteer mixing with the plebs or driving about the race-course. Even though they were clearly guilty and merited being made the most recent example of the consequences of crime, people began to pity these sufferers, because they were consumed not for the public good but on account of the fierceness of one man.

**“the fiery ordeal”**

**...this was real!**





**What Peter said.**

**What impact it had.**

**What we can learn?**

# What Peter said.

- Don't be surprised (v. 12)
- Don't be scared (v. 14)
- Don't be ashamed (v. 16)
- Don't stop doing good (v. 19)

**What impact did  
Peter's words have?**

**50 years later...**

**111AD**

**Rome** ★



**Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus**  
**Governor of Bithynia & Pontus**  
**111AD-113AD**



Asia

Cappadocia

**Jerusalem** ★



**Emperor Trajan**  
**98AD-117AD**

## 10.96 Pliny to Trajan (111AD)

It is my practice, my lord, to refer to you all matters concerning which I am in doubt. For who can better give guidance to my hesitation or inform my ignorance? I have never participated in trials of Christians. I therefore do not know what offenses it is the practice to punish or investigate, and to what extent. And I have been not a little hesitant as to whether there should be any distinction on account of age or no difference between the very young and the more mature; whether pardon is to be granted for repentance, or, if a man has once been a Christian, it does him no good to have ceased to be one; whether the name itself, even without offenses, or only the offenses associated with the name are to be punished.

## 10.96 Pliny to Trajan (111AD)

Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished. There were others possessed of the same folly; but because they were Roman citizens, I signed an order for them to be transferred to Rome. Soon accusations spread, as usually happens.

## 10.96 Pliny to Trajan (111AD)

An anonymous document was published containing the names of many persons. Those who denied that they were or had been Christians, when they invoked the gods in words dictated by me, offered prayer with incense and wine to your image, which I had ordered to be brought for this purpose together with statues of the gods, and moreover cursed Christ (none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do) these I thought should be discharged.

Others declared that they were Christians, but then denied it, asserting that they had been but had ceased to be, some three years before, others many years, some as much as twenty-five years. They all worshipped your image and the statues of the gods, and cursed Christ



## 10.96 Pliny to Trajan (111AD)

Most asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god. When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food—ordinary and innocent food.

Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition.

## 10.96 Pliny to Trajan (111AD)

I therefore postponed the investigation and hastened to consult you. For the matter seemed to me to warrant consulting you, especially because of the number involved. For many persons of every age, every rank, and also of both sexes are and will be endangered. For the contagion of this superstition has spread not only to the cities but also to the villages and farms.

**What Satan tried to stop...**

**God caused to grow**

**exponentially!**

**This exact thing is happening  
today, all over the globe!**

What Peter said.

What impact it had

...and continues to have!

What we can learn?

# What fire are you in?

**Daniel 3:17**

**"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from your Majesty's hand."**

## **Daniel 3:24-25**

**Suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm and said, "Didn't we throw three men, bound hand and foot, into the fire?"**

**"That's right, O king," they said.**

**"But look!" he said. "I see four men, walking around freely in the fire, completely unharmed! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!"**

Jesus is with you.



# Another In The Fire

by Hillsong UNITED

There's a grace when the heart is under fire.  
Another way when the walls are closing in.  
And when I look at the space between  
Where I used to be and this reckoning  
I know I will never be alone.

# Another In The Fire

by Hillsong UNITED

There was another in the fire standing next to me

There was another in the waters

Holding back the seas

And should I ever need reminding

Of how I've been set free

There is a cross that bears the burden

Where another died for me

There is another in the fire

