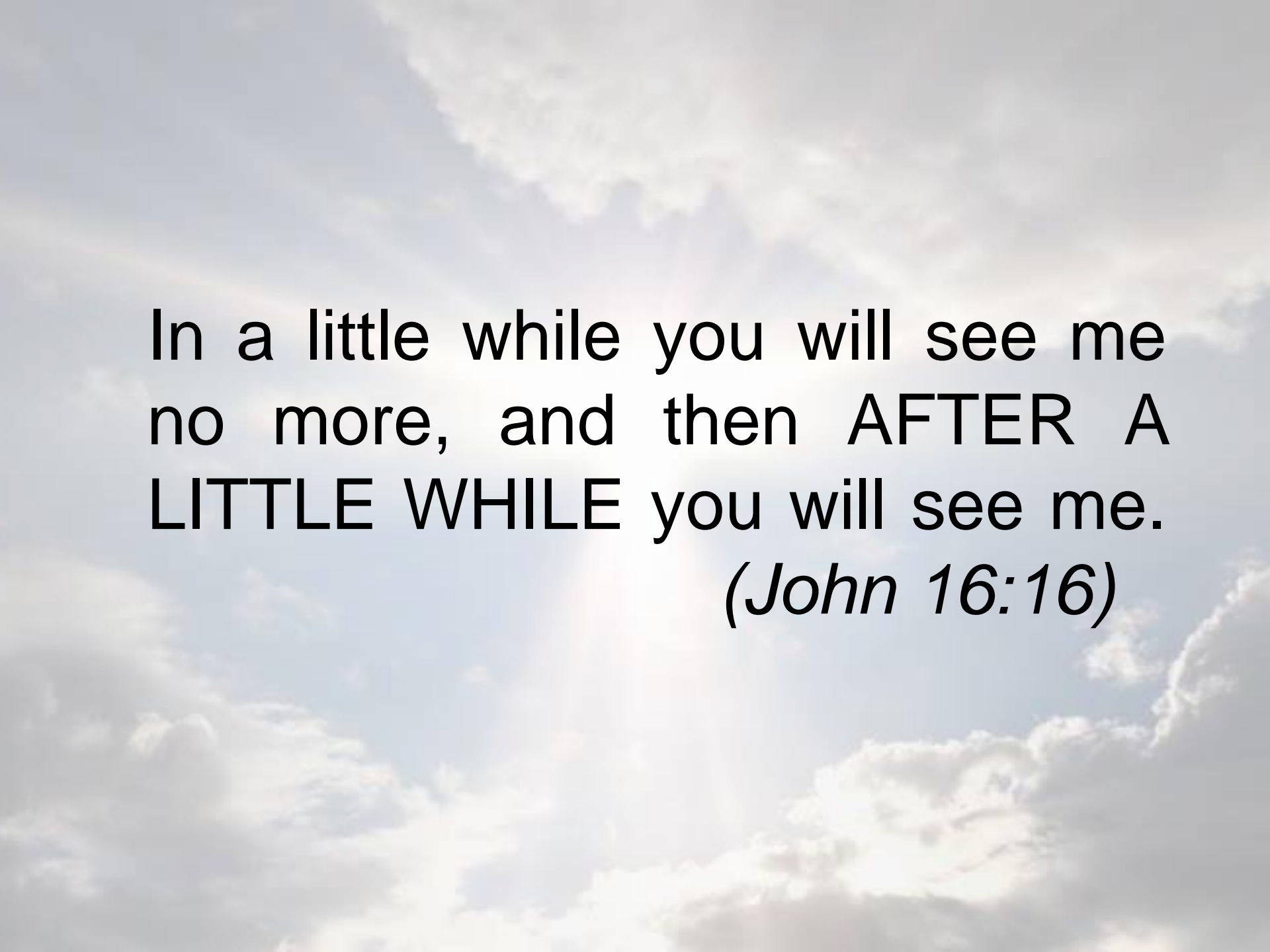




AFTER A LITTLE WHILE



**Hopelessness is HARD to
HANDLE!**



In a little while you will see me
no more, and then AFTER A
LITTLE WHILE you will see me.
(John 16:16)



BAD NEWS ... “I’m leaving you ... soon”

GOOD NEWS ... “I’ll be back ... soon”

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, priests, and law teachers, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This will never happen to you!” (*Matthew 16:21-22*)

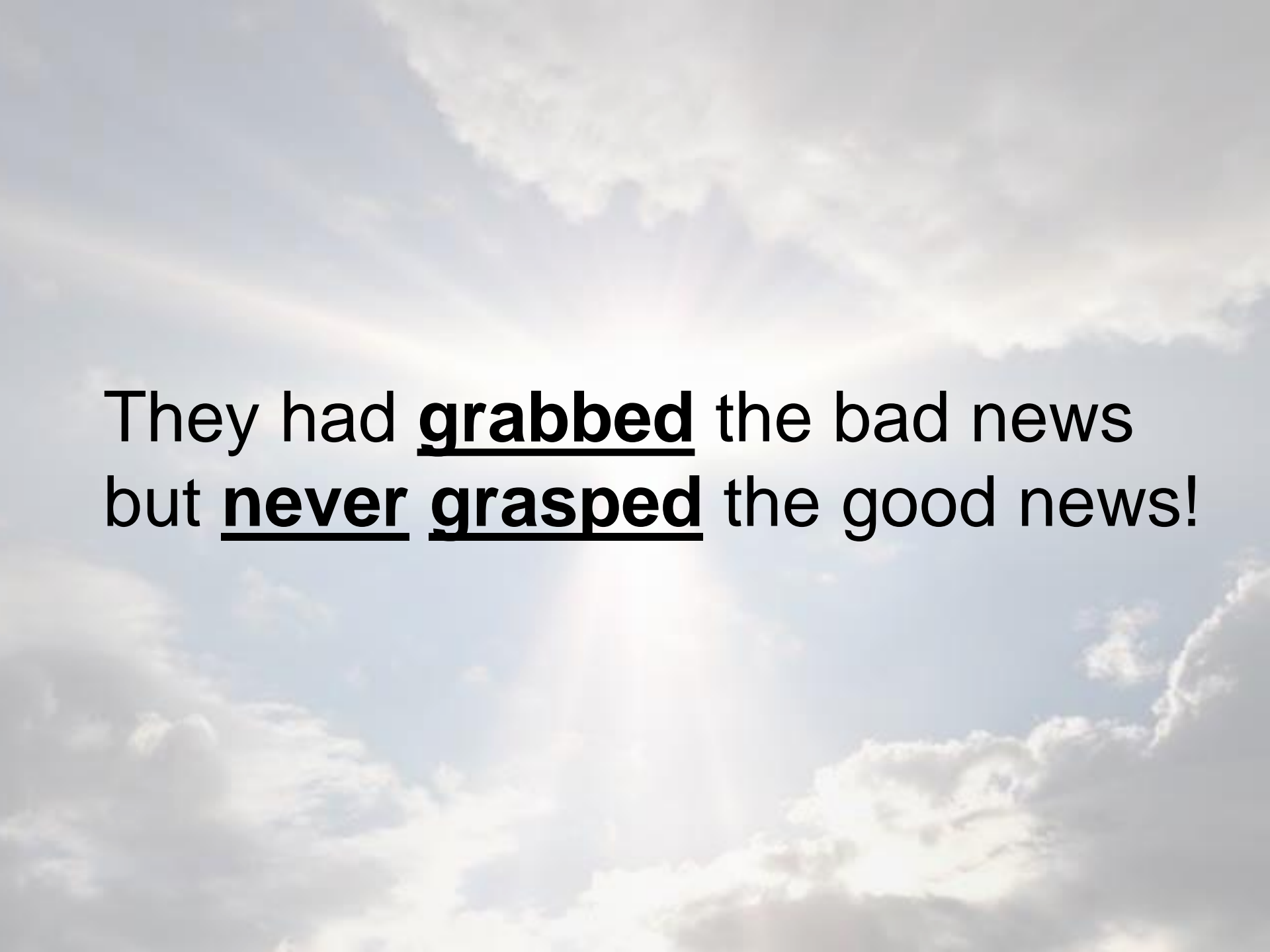


Amazingly, his friends did not
comprehend or **believe**.


Jesus said, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” ... After he had risen from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. **THEN** they believed the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken. (*John 2:19-22*)

Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first went in too and he saw and believed. **UNTIL THEN**, they had not understood the Scriptures, which showed that he must rise from the dead. (*John 20:8-9*)

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen! Remember how he told you when he was still in Galilee”... **THEN** they remembered his words. (*Luke 24:6-8*)



They had **grabbed** the bad news
but **never grasped** the good news!



Our world is filled with BAD news.
God's world overflows with GOOD news.

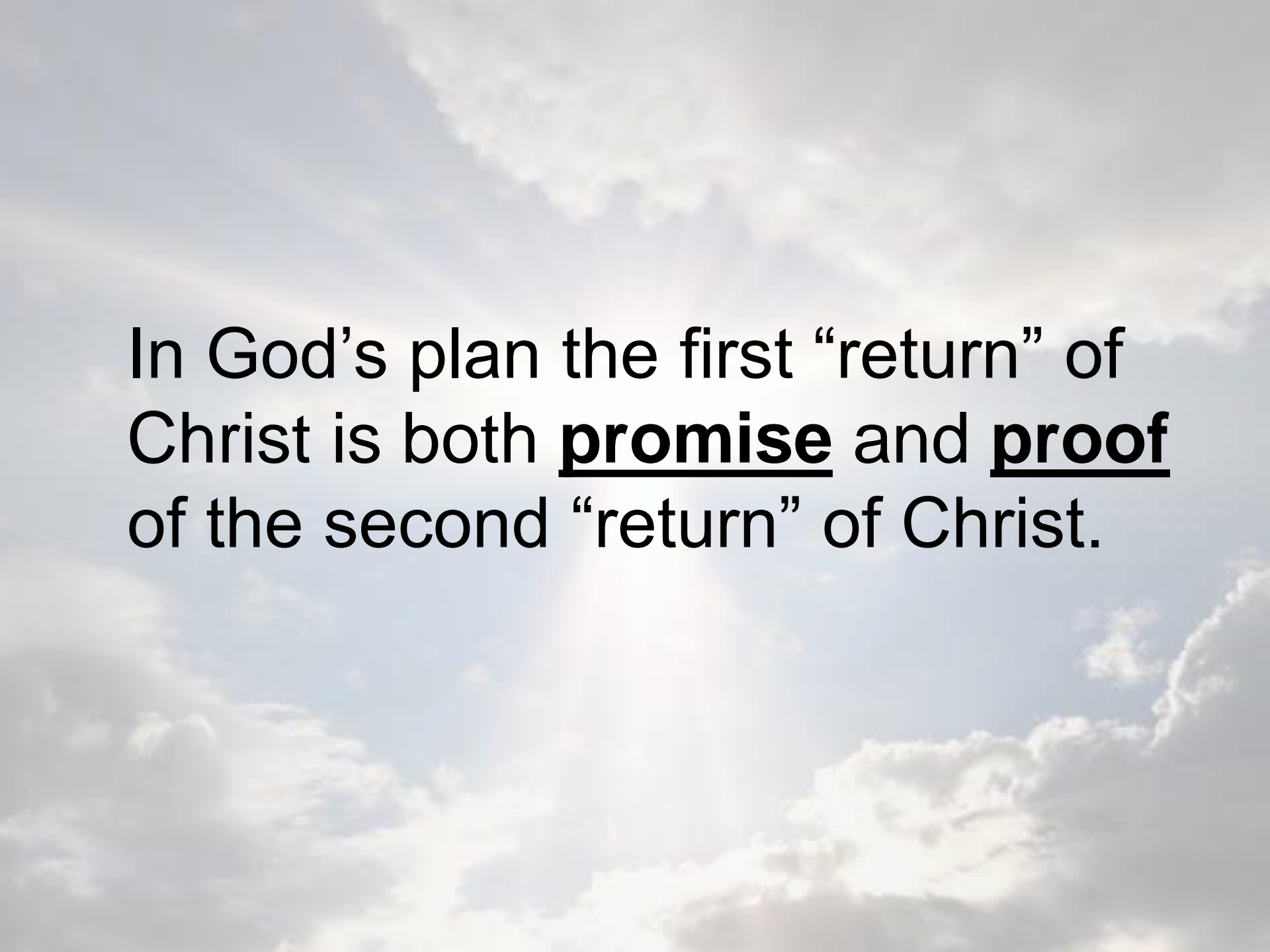


How long is “a while”?

For them ... **DOWN** in the grave > **UP**
from the grave (3 days!)

For me ... **UP** into heaven > **DOWN**
from heaven (?)

For me ... **ABSENT** from my life >
PRESENT in my life



In God's plan the first "return" of Christ is both **promise** and **proof** of the second "return" of Christ.