Through the Book of Titus

Three Important Things

BACKGROUND TO TITUS:

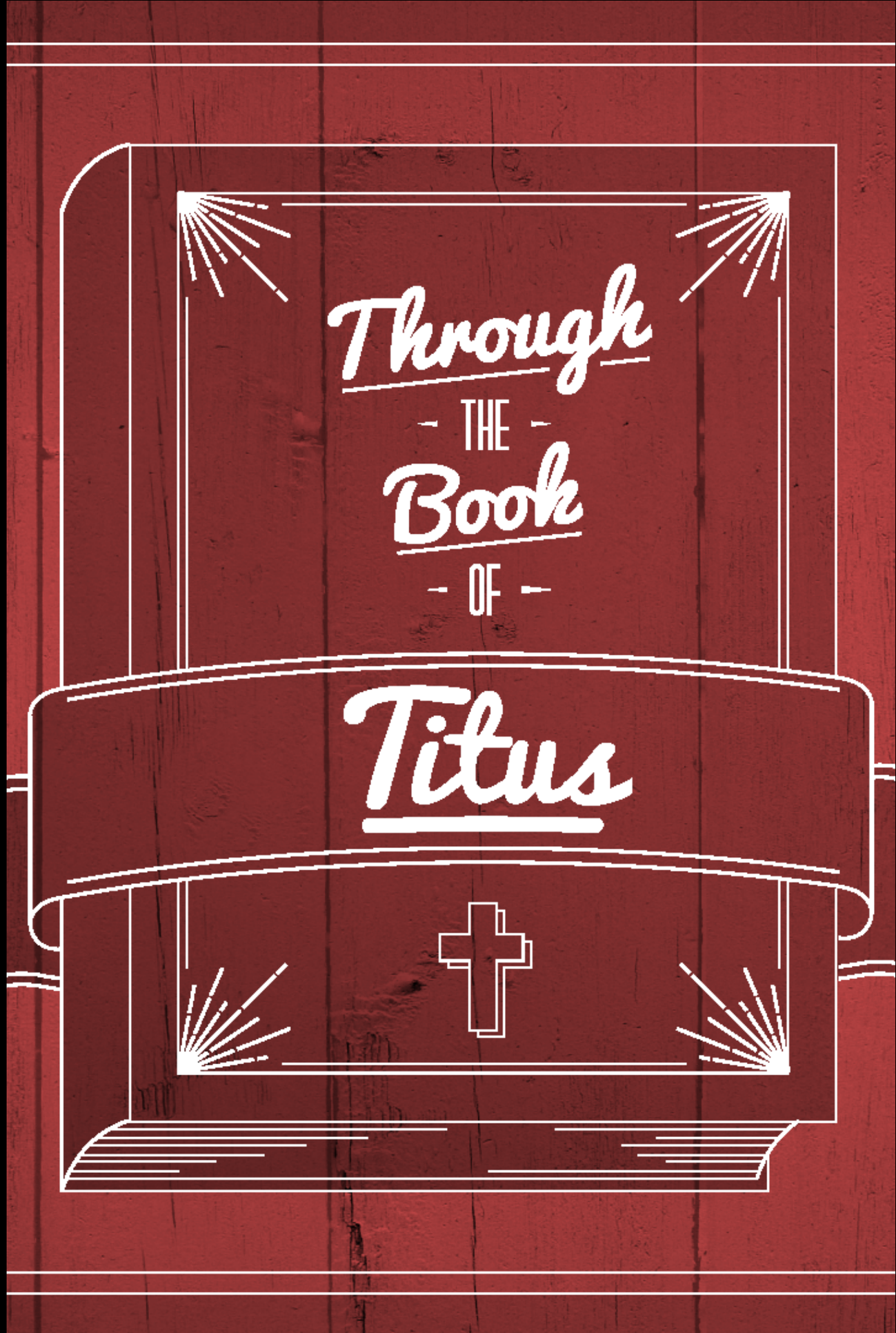
- Titus was a Gentile convert who refused circumcision (1.4; Galatians 2.3).
- Titus may have been with Paul at the Jerusalem meeting (Gal. 2.1), among other places (2 Cor. 8.23).
- Paul has now left Titus on Crete with instructions to help the churches re: elders (1.5).
  - He would reunite with Paul toward the end of Paul's life (2 Timothy 4.10).

BREAKING DOWN THE BOOK:

- Maintaining good works/deeds is a consistent theme throughtout the book.
  - Titus 1.16; 2.7,14; 3.1,8,14
- Three topics are clearly discussed in the book:
  - An orderly church (Chapter 1)
  - An orderly doctrine (Chapter 2)
  - An orderly life (Chapter 3)

CHAPTER 1

AN ORDERLY CHURCH



AN ORDERLY CHURCH:

- Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in every city and set in order what was lacking (1.5).
  - Note a local church's goal — an eldership.
    - "Elder" emphasizes experience, while "overseer" (7) emphasizes leadership.
- Note who was qualified for this work:
  - "husband of one wife" — Gr. *aner* — males
  - "above reproach/blameless" — upright, "a person against whom no evil can be proved" (Clarke)

"[The New Testament] nowhere even hints at any central board of administration such as those which have since developed and which exist with such wide powers today… they certainly have no Scriptural warrant. So far as the NT indications go, each local church was meant to be autonomous."

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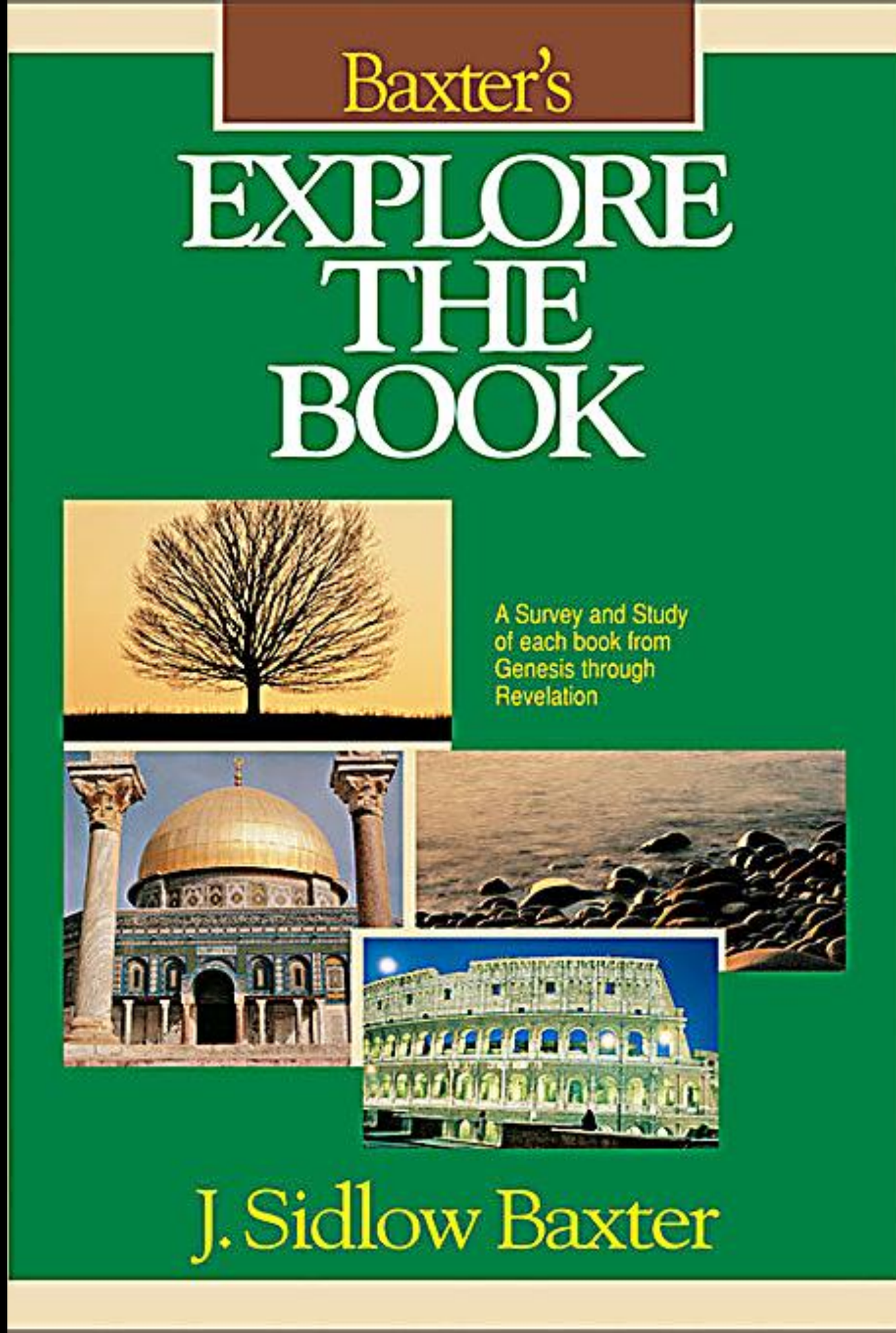
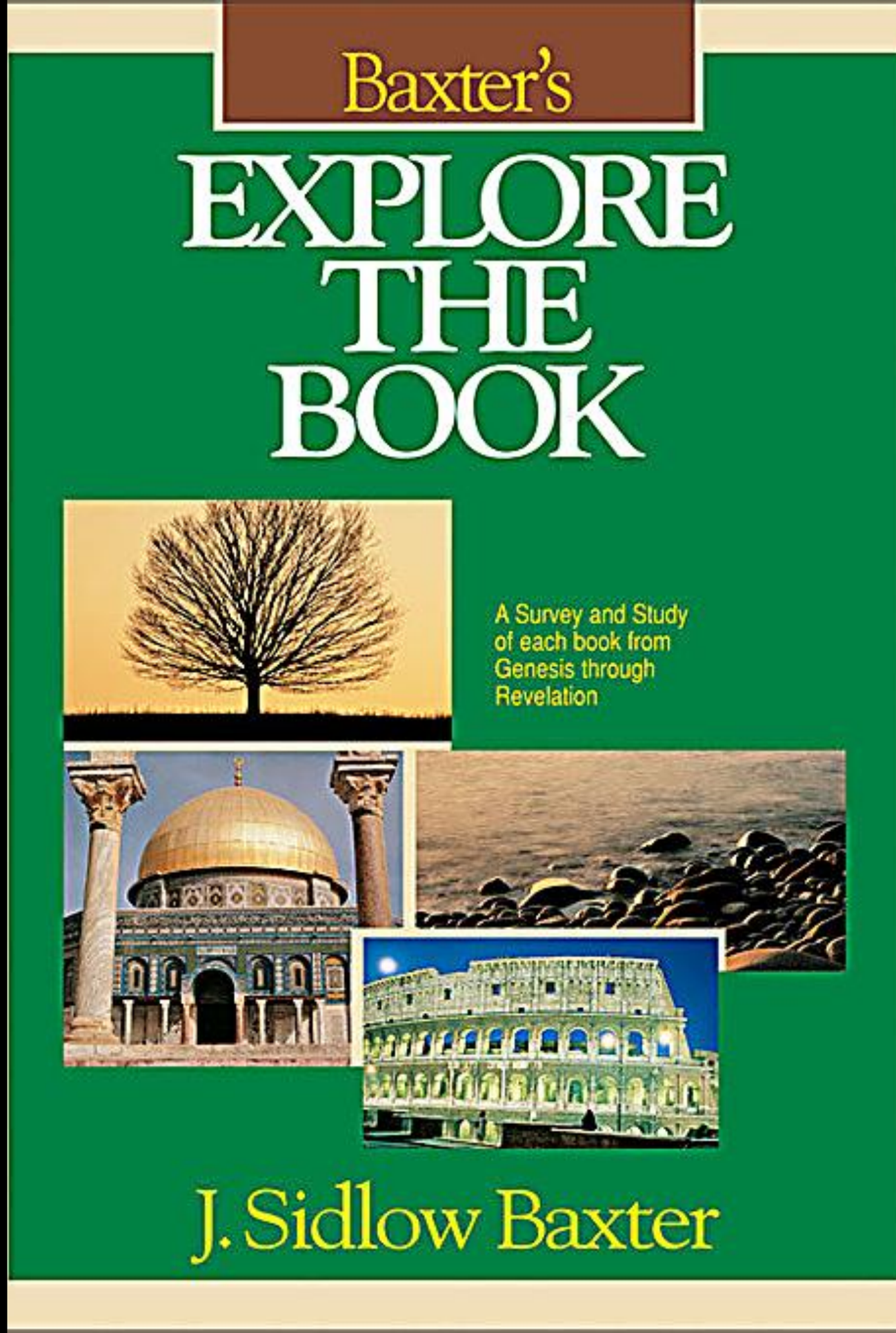


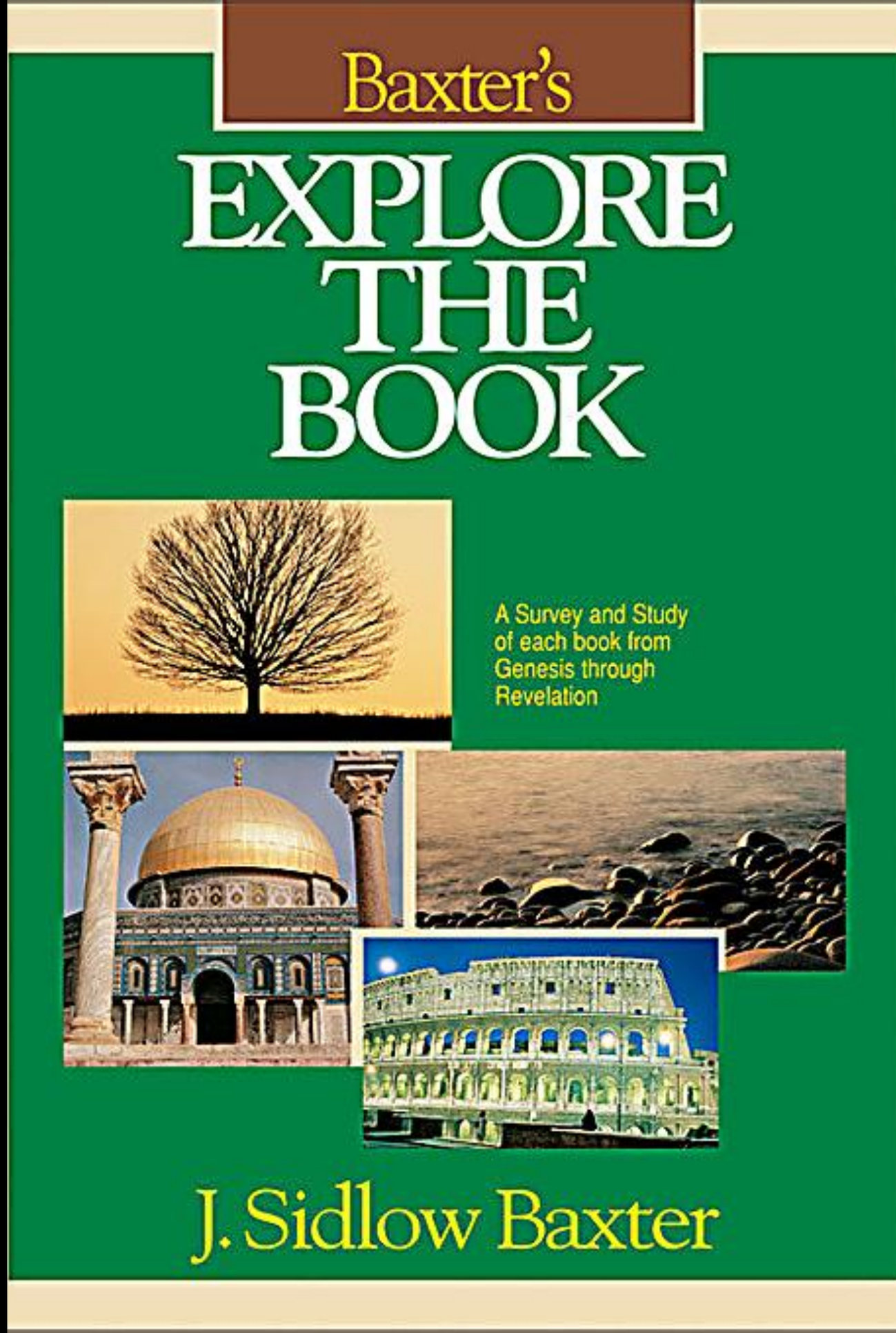
"If it should be said that in the first days there was the authoritative word of apostles in central command, then it must be replied that so is it substantially today; for we have the apostolic directions in our New Testament, and they go no further than prescribing for each local church, leaving each directly responsible thereto."

Volume VI, p247



"There may well be voluntary unions of churches which do not infringe local autonomy; but there must be no governing executives, for these, while seeming to accomplish a useful *outward* unity, almost invariably violate and often destroy that vital *inward* unity which comes of free and direct loyalty to the apostolic word."

Volume VI, p247



AN ORDERLY CHURCH:

- Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in every city and set in order what was lacking (1.5).
  - Note why elders were needed:

BECAUSE THE CHURCH NEEDS SKILLED TEACHERS

TITUS 1.9

AN ORDERLY CHURCH:

- Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in every city and set in order what was lacking (1.5).
  - Note why elders were needed:

BECAUSE THE CHURCH NEEDS MEN WHO CAN ENCOURAGE

TITUS 1.9

AN ORDERLY CHURCH:

- Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in every city and set in order what was lacking (1.5).
  - Note why elders were needed:

BECAUSE THOSE WHO CONTRADICT SOUND DOCTRINE MUST BE REFUTED

TITUS 1.9 (CF. 2.1)

AN ORDERLY CHURCH:

- Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in every city and set in order what was lacking (1.5).
  - Note why elders were needed:

BECAUSE REBELLIOUS, DECEPTIVE, AND HYPOCRITICAL BRETHREN MUST BE SILENCED

TITUS 1.10-11

AN ORDERLY CHURCH:

- Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in every city and set in order what was lacking (1.5).
  - Note why elders were needed:

BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE NEED TO BE REBUKED SEVERELY

TITUS 1.13

AN ORDERLY CHURCH:

- Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in every city and set in order what was lacking (1.5).
  - Note why elders were needed:

BECAUSE THE CHURCH NEEDS ME WHO CAN RESTORE THE ERRING BACK TO THE FAITH

TITUS 1.13