

Europe's High Middle Ages



Now, where were we?...



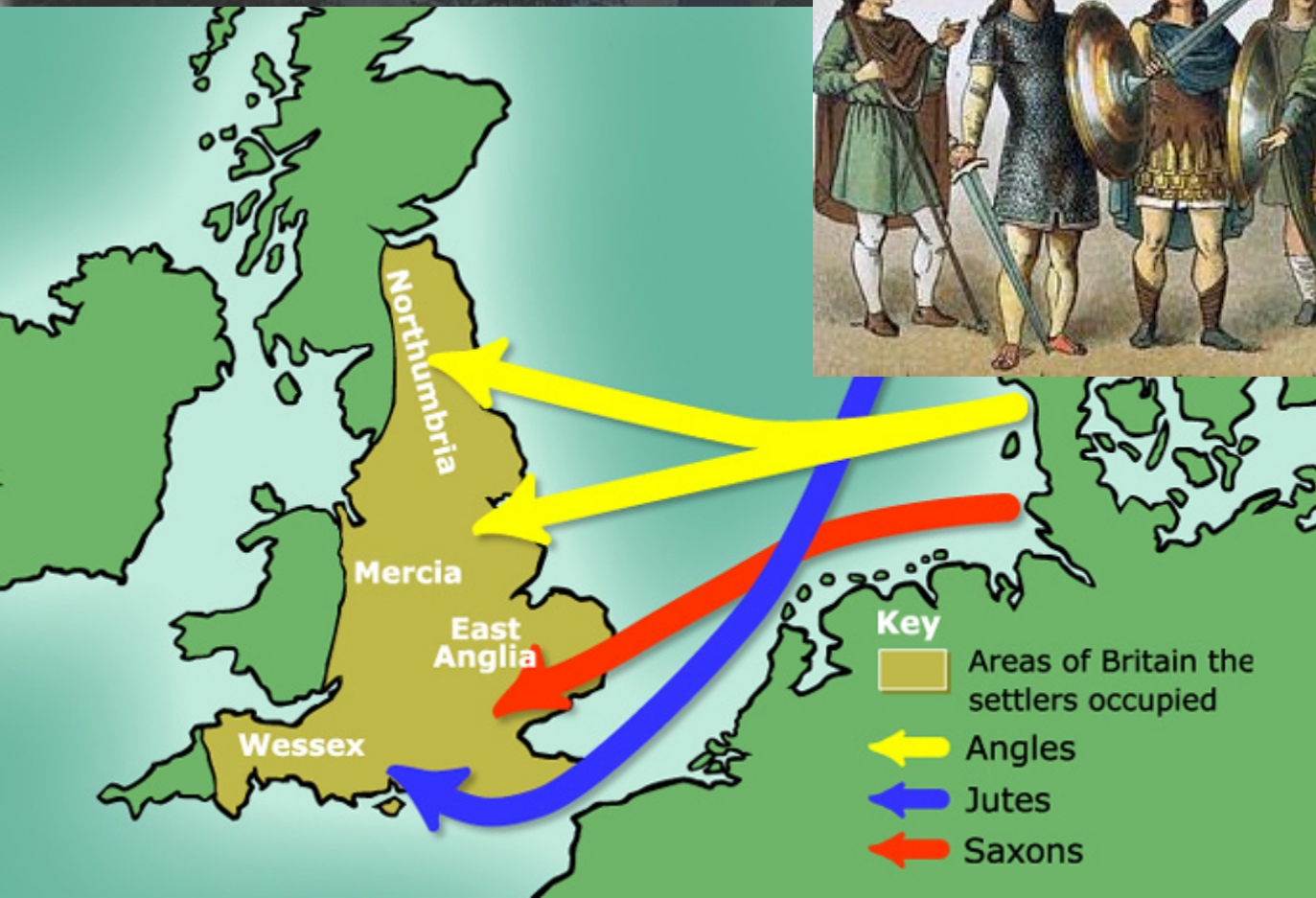
- After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, some Germanic tribes did quite well in Europe



- The Franks took over Gaul, which became known as France



- Anglo-Saxons conquered Britain, pushing the native Celts out to Scotland, Wales, and Ireland





Aethelred the Unready
978 – 1016 CE



Canute 1016 – 1035 CE



Edward the Confessor
1042 – 1066 CE

But then came the...





VIKINGS!





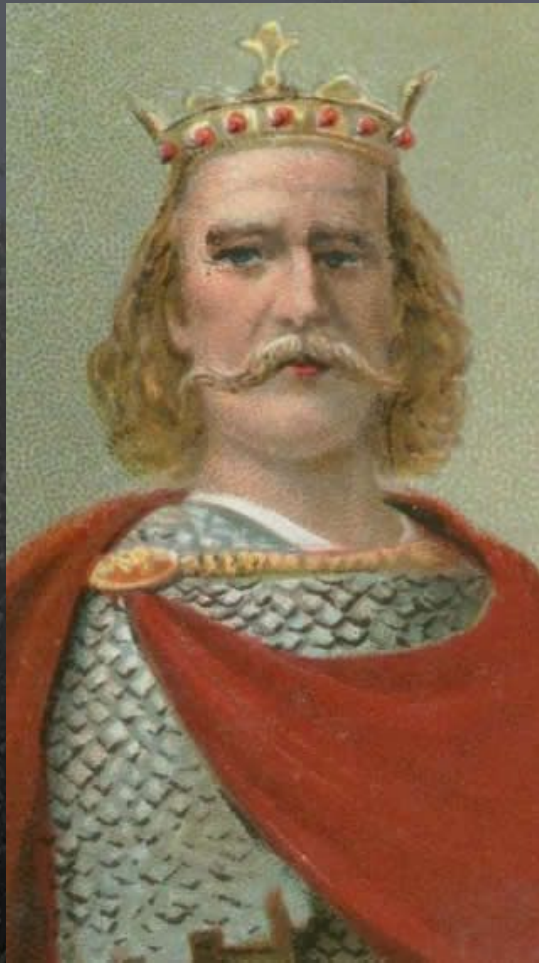
Remember:

- Why did the Age of the Vikings come to an end?
 - Stronger kings in Europe became able to resist them
 - Some Vikings were traded land for protection from other Vikings

Normandy



William the Conqueror



Harold of Wessex



Tomorrow...



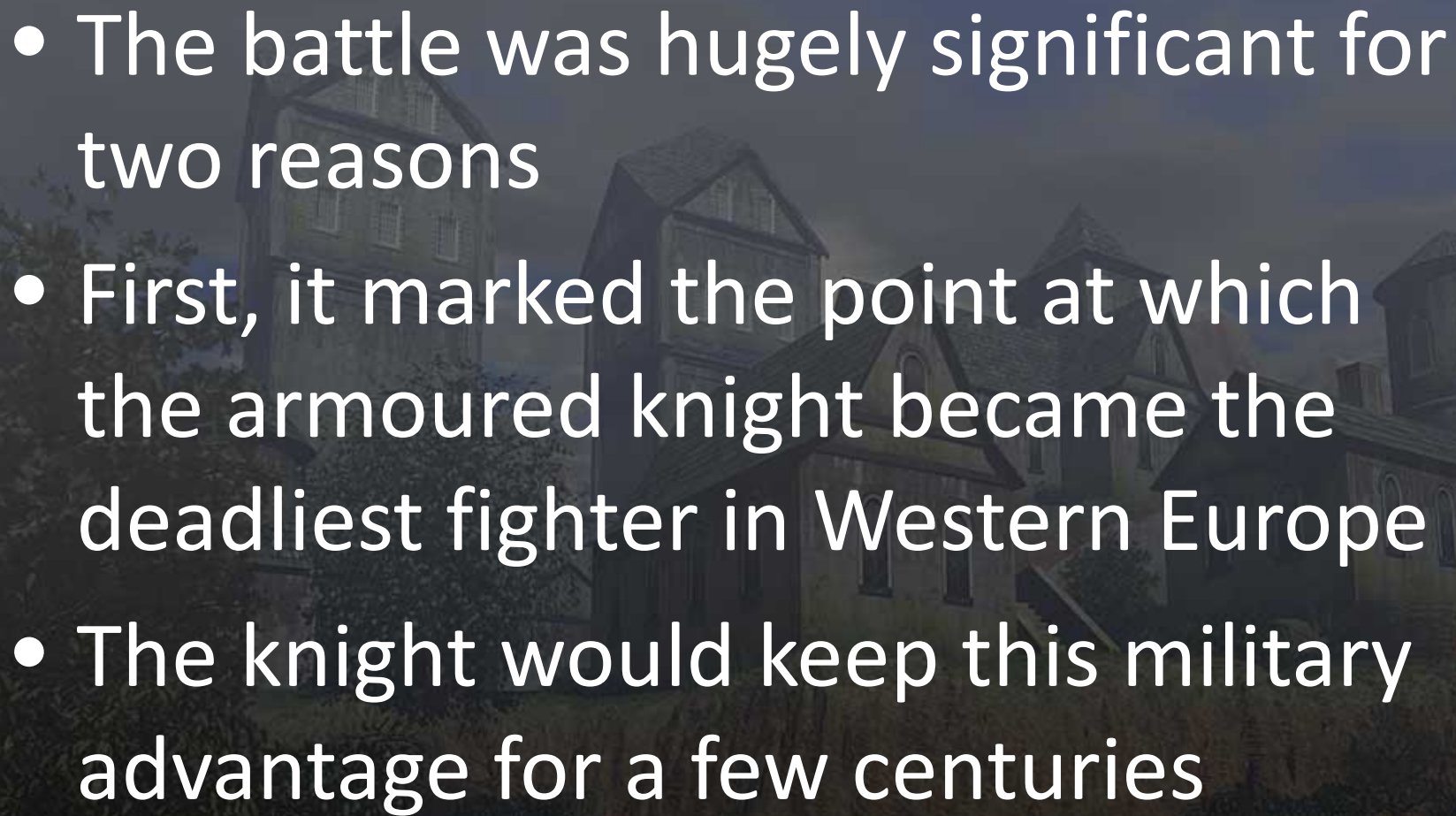


Europe's High Middle Ages

1. The Battle of Hastings
2. The Feudal System

1. The Battle of Hastings

- Fought between Harold of Wessex and William the Conqueror
- William's forces won, and he became King of England

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- The battle was hugely significant for two reasons
 - First, it marked the point at which the armoured knight became the deadliest fighter in Western Europe
 - The knight would keep this military advantage for a few centuries



11th century armour



Conical helmet

11th century armour



Chainmail Hauberk



Scale Hauberk

11th century armour

Arming Swords



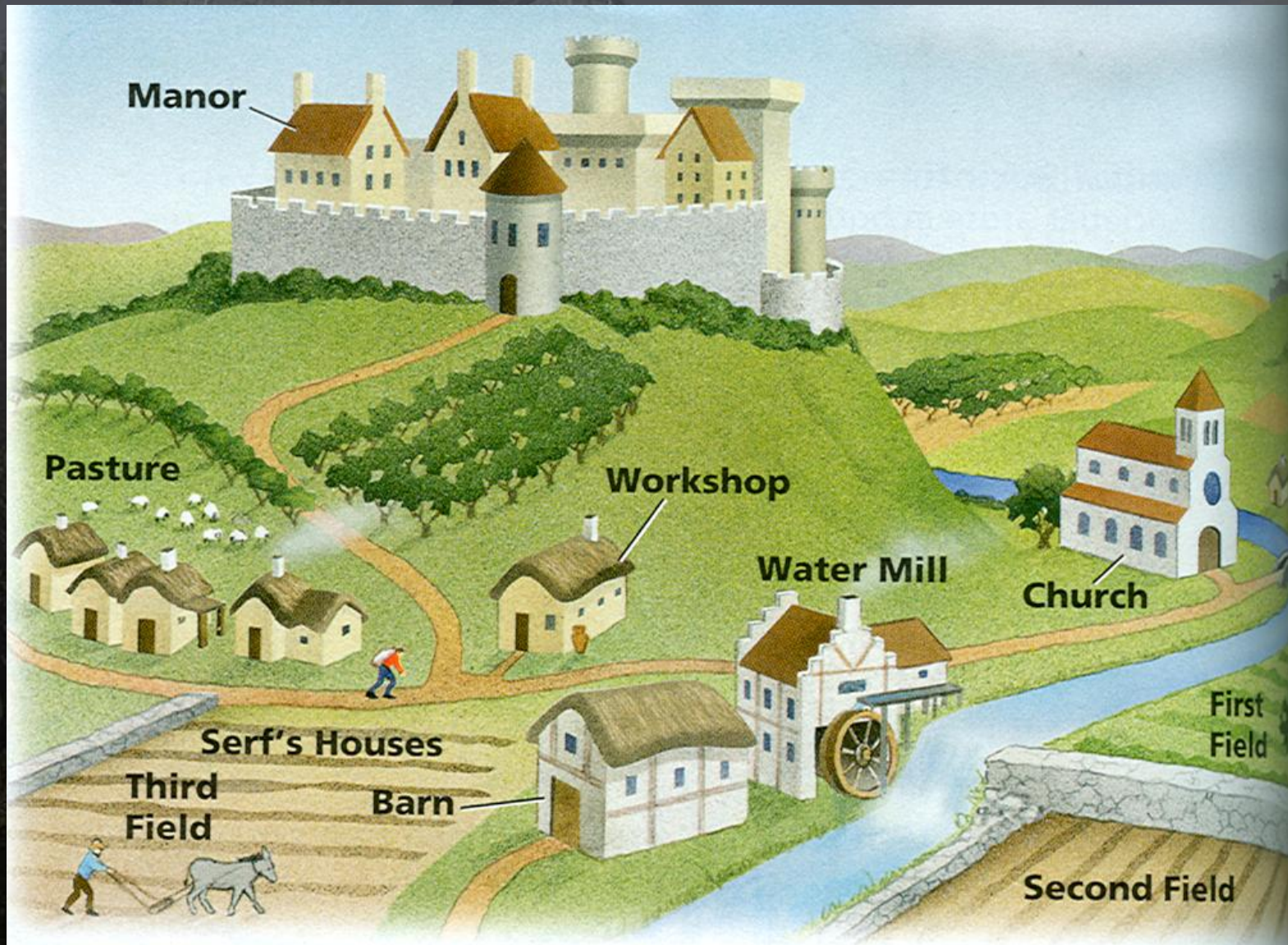
- The second main reason the battle was so significant is because William introduced a Norman social and political organization to England called *feudalism*



2. The Feudal System

- Feudalism was based on land, loyalty, and religious faith
- The centre of feudal life was the manor
- The manor's main purpose was to support the lord of the manor, a knight

Medieval Manor



The Feudal Contract

- The feudal system was based on the “3 F’s”
- Fief (land)
- Fealty (loyalty)
- Faith

Feif & Fealty

- Land was the basis of all wealth, and land was given to nobles, who were all knights, in exchange for loyalty



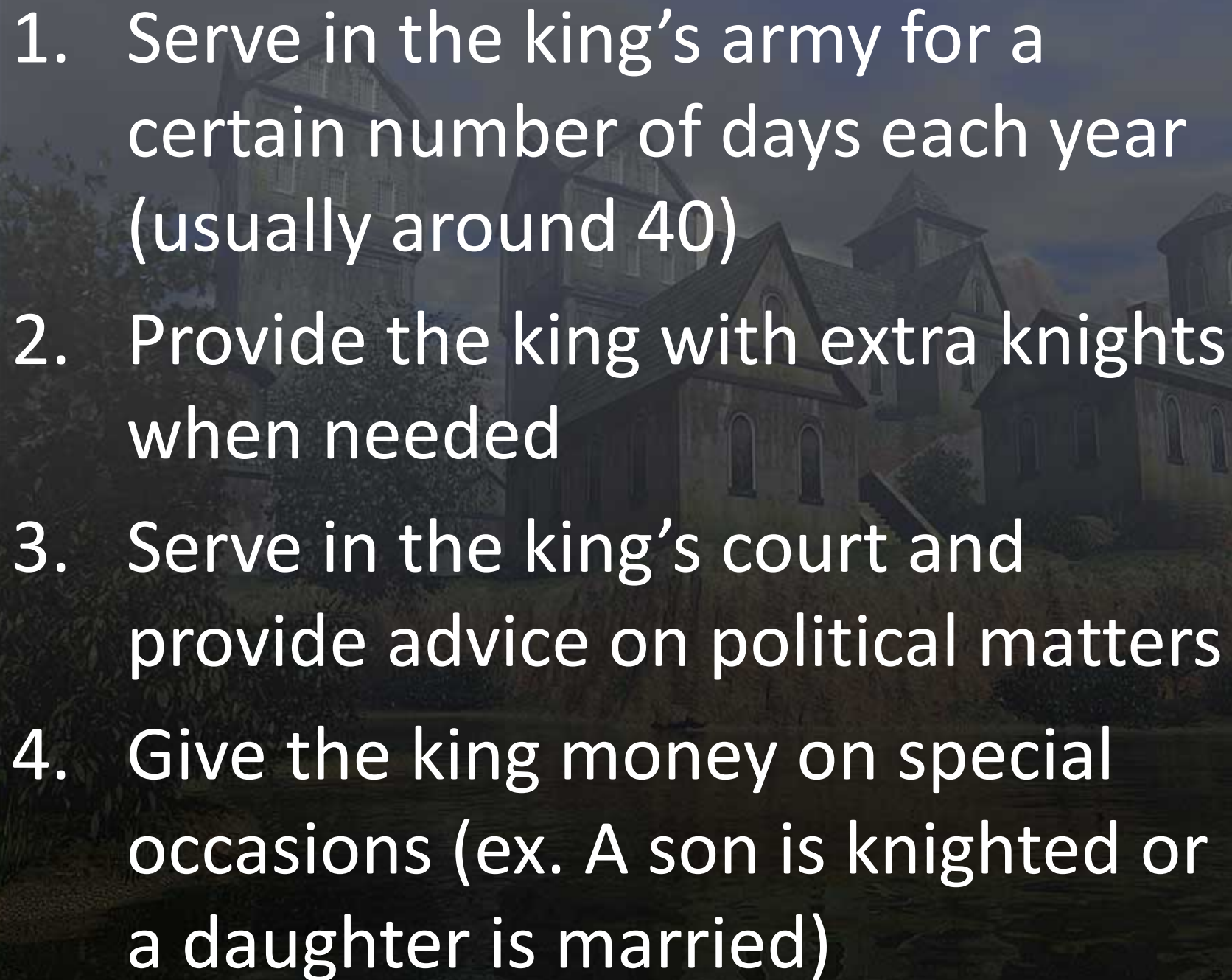
Faith

- Religious faith bound every knight to the oath he swore to his lord



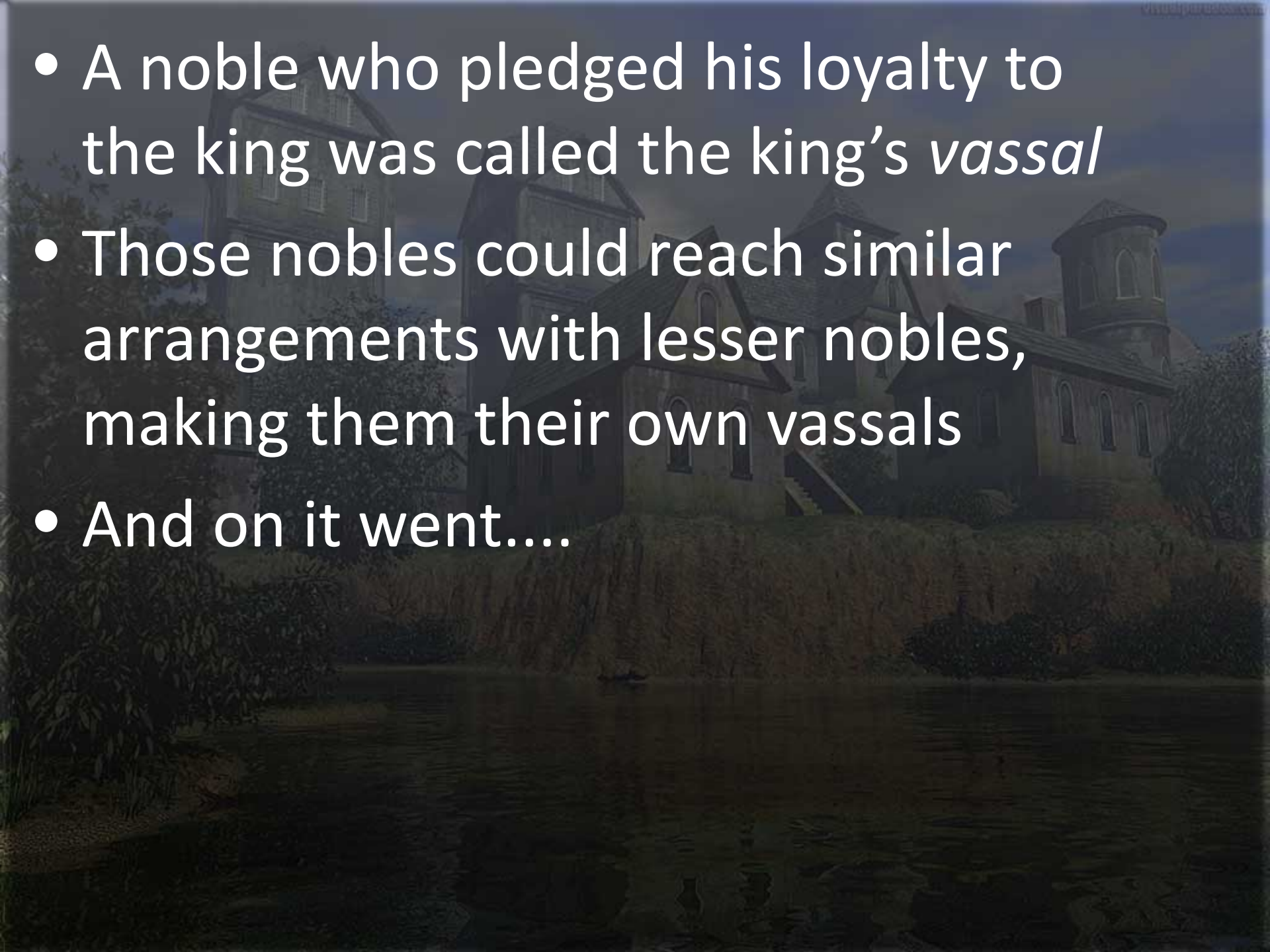
The King and His Nobles

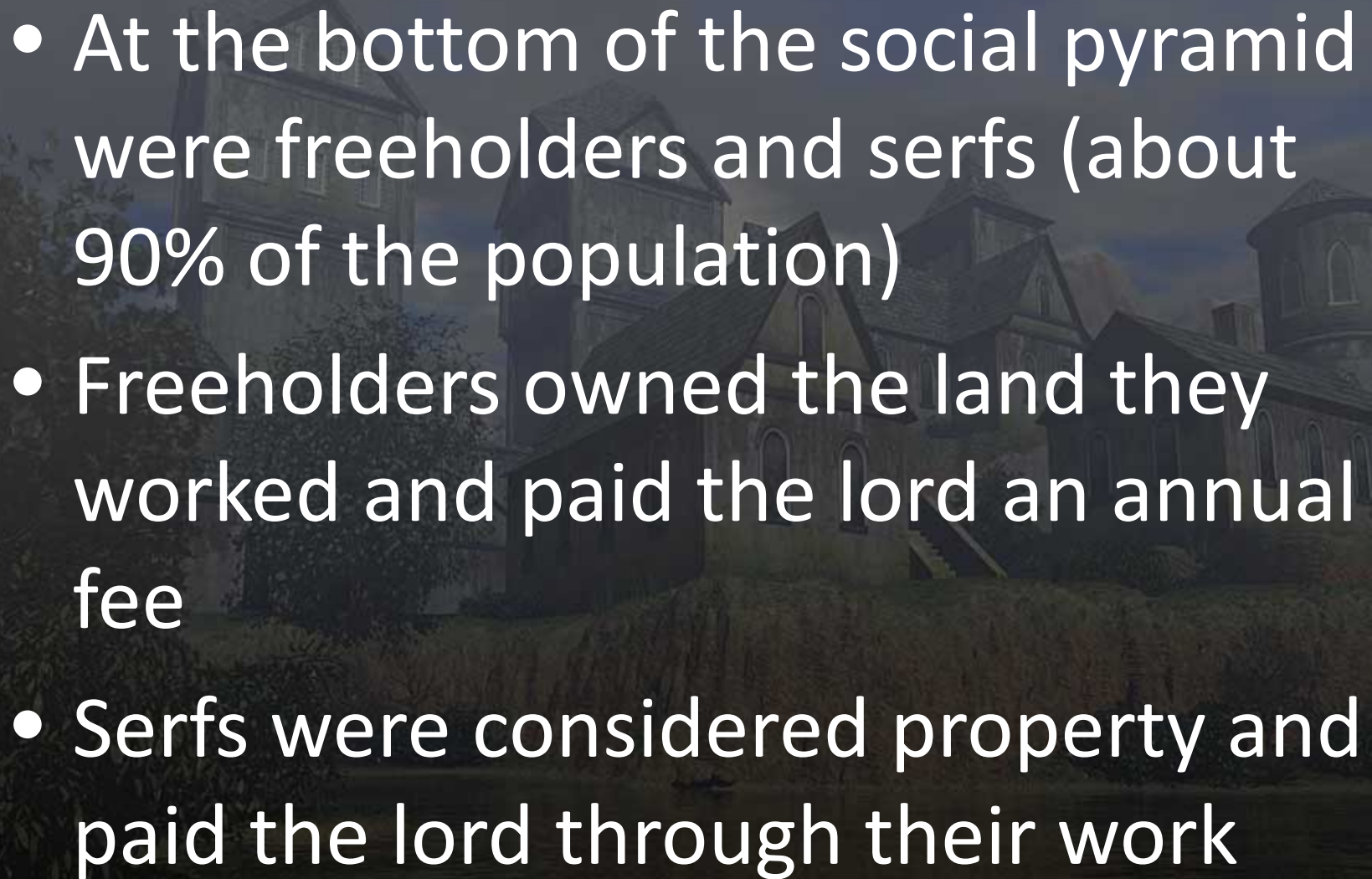
- The king provided nobles with land, or estates
- In exchange, the nobles pledged their loyalty to the king
- With that loyalty came a few obligations

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1. Serve in the king's army for a certain number of days each year (usually around 40)
 2. Provide the king with extra knights when needed
 3. Serve in the king's court and provide advice on political matters
 4. Give the king money on special occasions (ex. A son is knighted or a daughter is married)

- The nobles got not only land from the king, but also his protection from attack



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- A medieval castle with multiple towers and a central spire, situated on a grassy hill. In the foreground, a river flows, reflecting the sky. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.
- A noble who pledged his loyalty to the king was called the king's *vassal*
 - Those nobles could reach similar arrangements with lesser nobles, making them their own vassals
 - And on it went....

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- At the bottom of the social pyramid were freeholders and serfs (about 90% of the population)
 - Freeholders owned the land they worked and paid the lord an annual fee
 - Serfs were considered property and paid the lord through their work

