



FOUR GOSPEL

Under Irish Skies





FOREWARD

Gospel: DERIVED FROM GREEK AND MEANING 'GOOD NEWS' OR 'GOOD THINGS'. AS FAR AS THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE IS CONCERNED, THE EXHILARATING GOOD NEWS RESIDES IN THE FACT THAT THE SINLESS 'LAMB OF GOD' ENTERED THIS WORLD AS JESUS OF NAZARETH SPECIFICALLY TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR ALL HUMAN SIN AND THEREBY RESTORE THOSE WHO ACCEPT THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR CREATOR (WE HAVING THROWN IT AWAY SO CASUALLY IN THE BEGINNING). IN GOD'S ECONOMY THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH (AND WE ALL DIE TO CONTINUALLY PROVE THIS). BECAUSE HE WANTED TO DO SO, THE FATHER CHOSE TO SEND HIS BELOVED SON INTO OUR FALLEN WORLD TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION. ON OUR BEHALF JESUS CHRIST DIED AS A SACRIFICIAL SUBSTITUTE, SO THAT WHOEVER TRULY BELIEVES ON HIS NAME MAY BE DECLARED BY THE JUDGE OF THE WHOLE EARTH 'NOT GUILTY, ACCOUNT PAID IN FULL'.

UNDER IRISH SKIES: IN IRELAND IT OFTEN RAINS! NEVERTHELESS, THE LIGHT THAT SHINES THERE DOES SEEM TO HAVE A UNIQUE AND SPECIAL QUALITY. SO IT WAS IN SEPTEMBER 2016, THE SKY NORTH OF DUBLIN AND OVER THE IRISH WEST COAST WAS AT TIMES PAINTED BY THE CREATOR'S ARTISTRY IN SPECTACULAR COLOURS. I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY USING MY TRUSTY D700 TO MAKE SOME RECORD.

VOLUME TITLE: PUTTING THE 'GOOD NEWS' FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES ALONGSIDE IMAGES OF IRISH SKIES IN VARIOUS MOODS SEEMS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO JUXTAPOSE DIFFERENT FORMS OF 'LIGHT'. HENCE THE VOLUME TITLE IS INSPIRED BY ITS CONTENT.

FOGPEL

Under Irish Skies

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED.

He who believes in him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. AND THIS IS THE CONDEMNATION; THAT THE LIGHT HAS COME INTO THE WORLD, AND MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT, BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL."

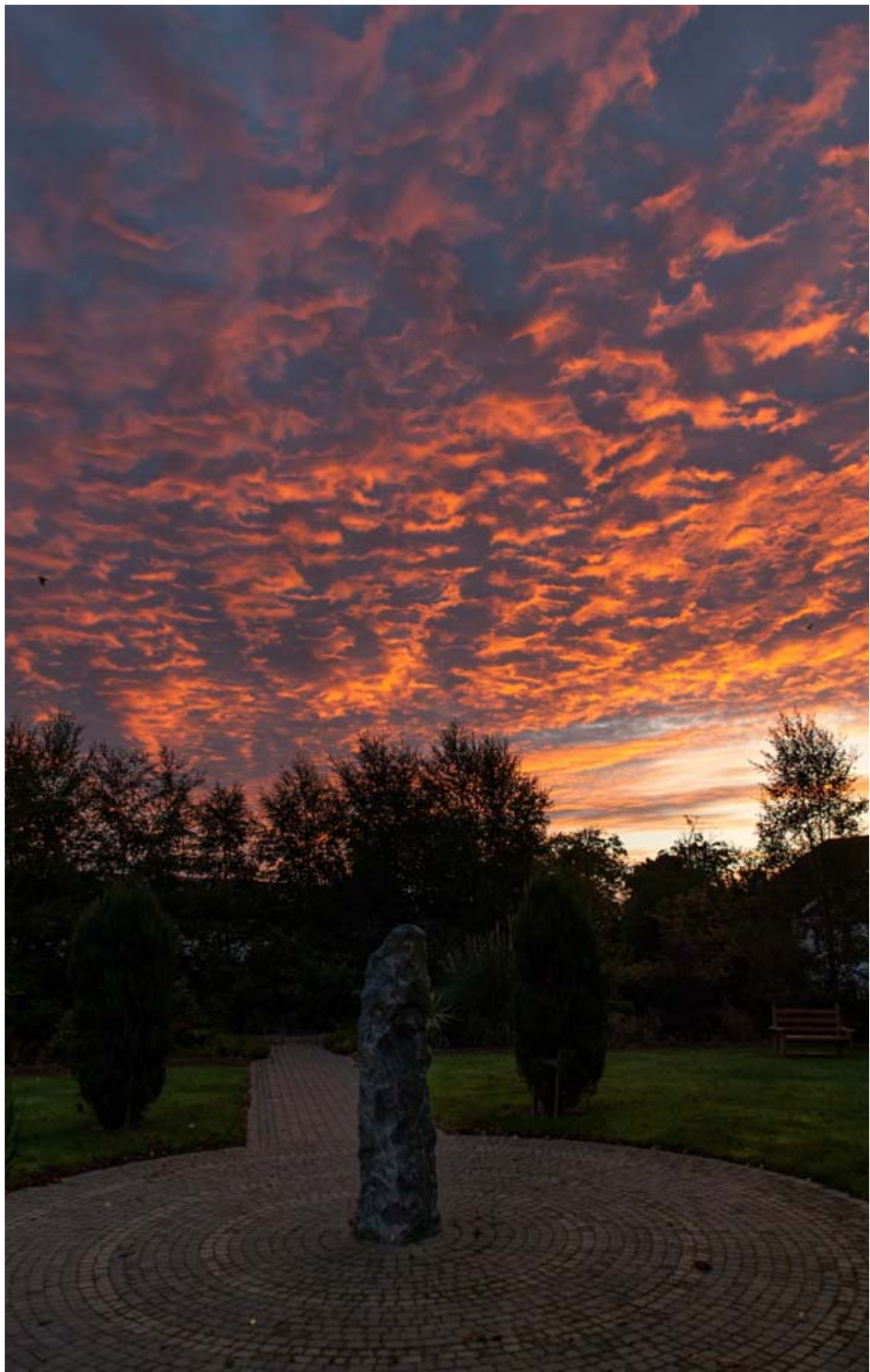
The words in the passage opposite were spoken by Jesus Christ in a conversation recorded in Chapter 3 of John's Gospel. He had a visitor (after dark) of a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, who was sincerely anxious to know why his strict legalistic religious life had not given him the assurance that he was 'right' with God – and he came to Jesus to ask why.

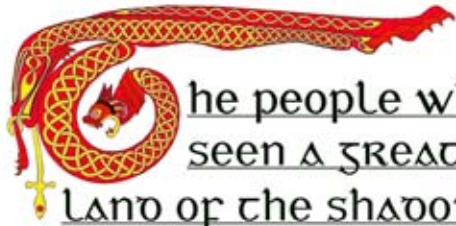
Jesus told him bluntly: he was as spiritually dead as are all the rest of fallen humanity. And, he had no relationship whatsoever with the true and living God the LORD. However, enabling him to become 'right' with God the Father was the very reason why Jesus, the Son of God, had come into the world as promised in the Messianic prophecies of the (Old Testament) Scriptures.

He undoubtedly took to heart and believed the things Jesus told him. Chapter 19 of John's Gospel tells us that Nicodemus together with Joseph of Arimathea risked their positions in the Jewish Sanhedrin by taking down the dead body of Jesus from a Roman cross, wrapping it in linen and spices, and laying it for burial in Joseph's own unused tomb.









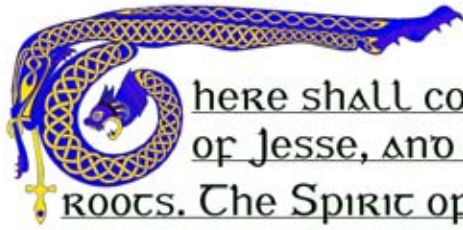
he people who walked in darkness have
seen a great light; those who dwelt in the
land of the shadow of death, upon them a light
has shined.

You have multiplied the nation *and* increased its joy; they rejoice before you according to the joy of harvest, as *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil. For you have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of *Merodach*.

FOR EVERY WARRIOR'S SANDAL FROM THE NOISY BATTLE, AND GARMENTS ROLLED IN BLOOD, WILL BE USED FOR BURNING *and* FUEL OF FIRE.

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER. AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.

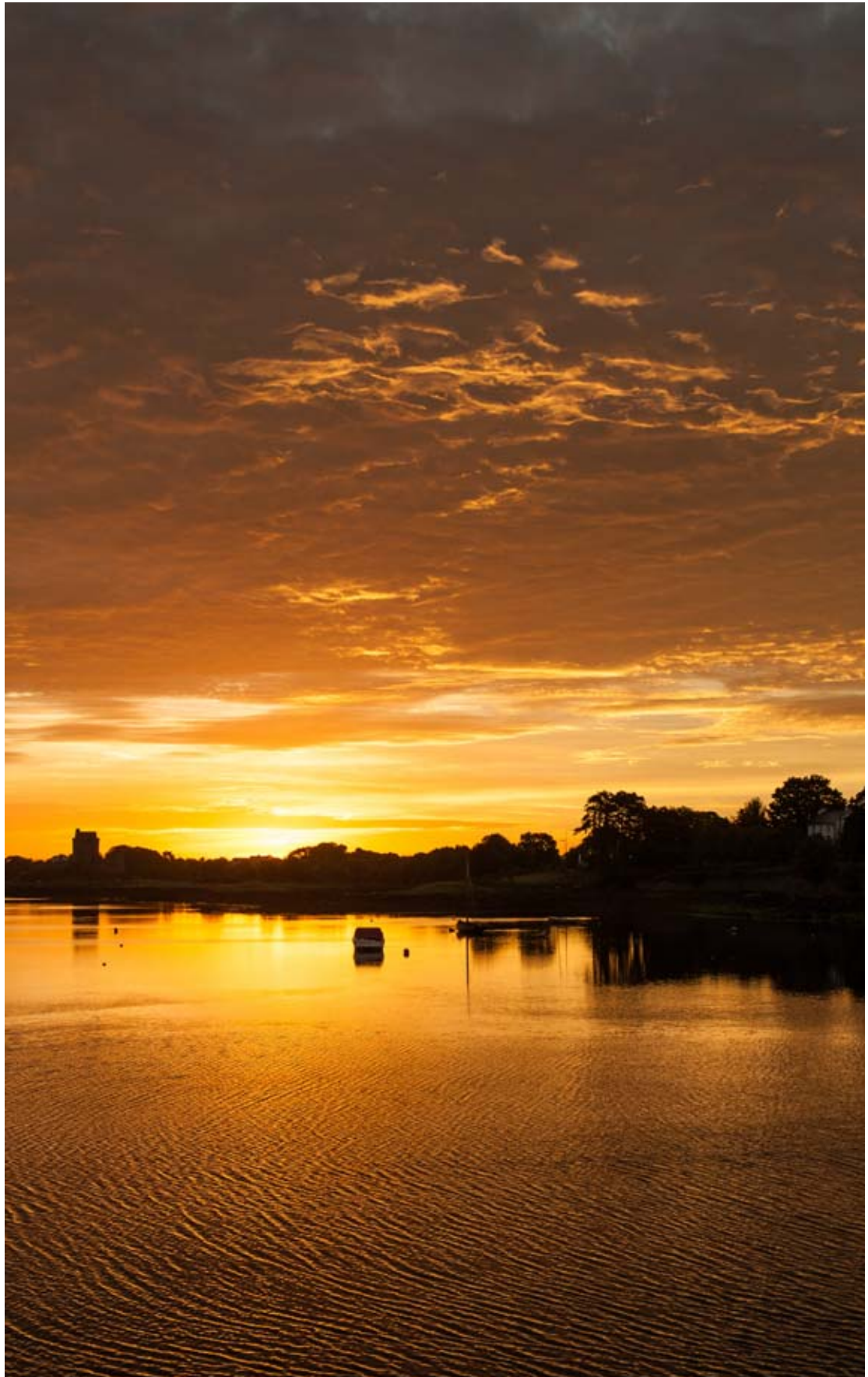
OF THE INCREASE OF *his* GOVERNMENT AND PEACE *there will be* NO END, UPON THE THRONE OF *DAVID* AND OVER HIS KINGDOM, TO ORDER IT AND ESTABLISH IT WITH JUDGEMENT AND JUSTICE FROM THAT TIME FORWARD, EVEN FOREVER. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL PERFORM THIS.



here shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and he shall not judge by the sight of his eyes, nor decide by the hearing of his ears; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his loins, and faithfulness the belt of his waist. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fawning together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek him, and his resting place shall be glorious."







Who has believed our
report? And to whom
has the arm of the
LORD been revealed?

FOR he shall grow up before him as a tender plant,
and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form
or comeliness; and when we see him, *there is* no
beauty that we should desire him.

He is despised and rejected by men, a man of
sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as
it were, *our* faces from him; he was despised, and
we did not esteem him.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our
sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten
by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for
our transgressions, *he* was bruised for our
iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was
upon him, and by his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have
turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD
has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was
oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened
not his mouth; he was led as a lamb to the
slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is
silent, so he opened not his mouth.



He was taken from prison and from judgement, and who will declare his generation? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people he was stricken.

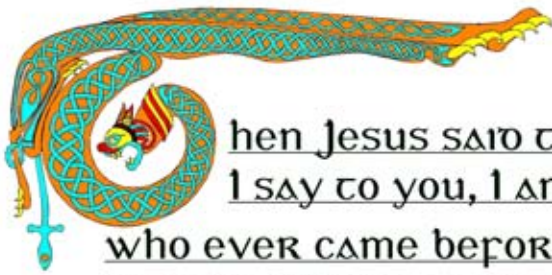
And they made his grave with the wicked—but with the rich at his death, because he had done no violence, nor *was any* deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he has put *him* to grief. When you make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

He shall see the labour of his soul, and be satisfied. By his knowledge my righteous servant shall justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul unto death, and he was numbered with the transgressors, and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.







When Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door.

If anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; and I know my *sheep*, and I am known by my own. As the Father knows me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear my voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. Therefore my Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from my Father."



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for he was before me.'"







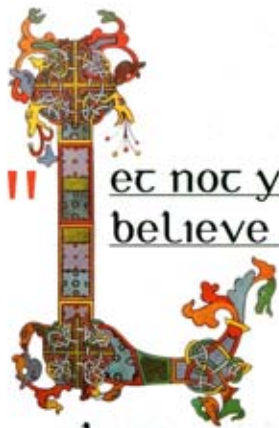
hen the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"



So he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as his custom was, he went into the Synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And he was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah.

And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Then he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."



IET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED; you believe in SOO,
believe also in me. In my FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY
mansions [dwelling places]; if it were not
so, I would have told you. I go to prepare
a place for you. And if I go and prepare a
place for you, I will come again and receive you to
myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

AND WHERE I GO YOU KNOW, AND THE WAY YOU KNOW."
THOMAS SAID TO HIM, "LORD, WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE
YOU ARE GOING, AND HOW CAN WE KNOW THE WAY?"
JESUS SAID TO HIM, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND
THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT
THROUGH ME. IF YOU HAD KNOWN ME, YOU WOULD HAVE
KNOWN MY FATHER ALSO; AND FROM NOW ON YOU
KNOW HIM AND HAVE SEEN HIM." PHILIP SAID TO HIM,
"LORD, SHOW US THE FATHER, AND IT IS SUFFICIENT FOR
US." JESUS SAID TO HIM, "HAVE I BEEN WITH YOU SO
LONG, AND YET YOU HAVE NOT KNOWN ME, PHILIP? HE
WHO HAS SEEN ME HAS SEEN THE FATHER; SO HOW CAN
YOU SAY, 'SHOW US THE FATHER?'" I PRAY FOR THEM. I
DO NOT PRAY FOR THE WORLD BUT FOR THOSE WHOM
YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, FOR THEY ARE YOURS. AND ALL
MINE ARE YOURS, AND YOURS ARE MINE, AND I AM
GLORIFIED IN THEM. NOW I AM NO LONGER IN THE
WORLD, BUT THESE ARE IN THE WORLD, AND I COME TO
YOU. HOLY FATHER, KEEP THROUGH YOUR NAME THOSE
WHOM YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS
WE ARE. I DO NOT PRAY FOR THESE ALONE, BUT ALSO FOR
THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR WORD;
THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE, AS YOU, FATHER, ARE IN
ME, AND I IN YOU; THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IN US,
THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU SENT ME."





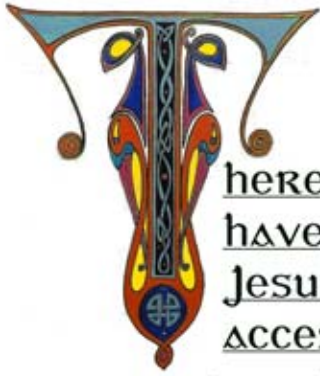


ow we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in his sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time his righteousness, that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.



HEREFORE, HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHOM ALSO WE HAVE ACCESS BY FAITH INTO THIS GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND, AND REJOICE IN HOPE OF THE GLORY OF GOD.

AND NOT ONLY *that*, BUT WE ALSO GLORY IN TRIBULATIONS, KNOWING THAT TRIBULATION PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE; AND PERSEVERANCE, CHARACTER; AND CHARACTER, HOPE. NOW HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT, BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO WAS GIVEN TO US. FOR WHEN WE WERE STILL WITHOUT STRENGTH, IN DUE TIME CHRIST DIED FOR THE UNGOODLY. FOR SCARCELY FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN WILL ONE DIE; YET PERHAPS FOR A GOOD MAN SOMEONE WOULD EVEN DARE TO DIE.

BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. MUCH MORE THEN, HAVING NOW BEEN JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM. FOR IF WHEN WE WERE ENEMIES WE WERE RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH THE DEATH OF HIS SON, MUCH MORE, HAVING BEEN RECONCILED, WE SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE.

AND NOT ONLY *that*, BUT WE ALSO REJOICE IN GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHOM WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE RECONCILIATION.





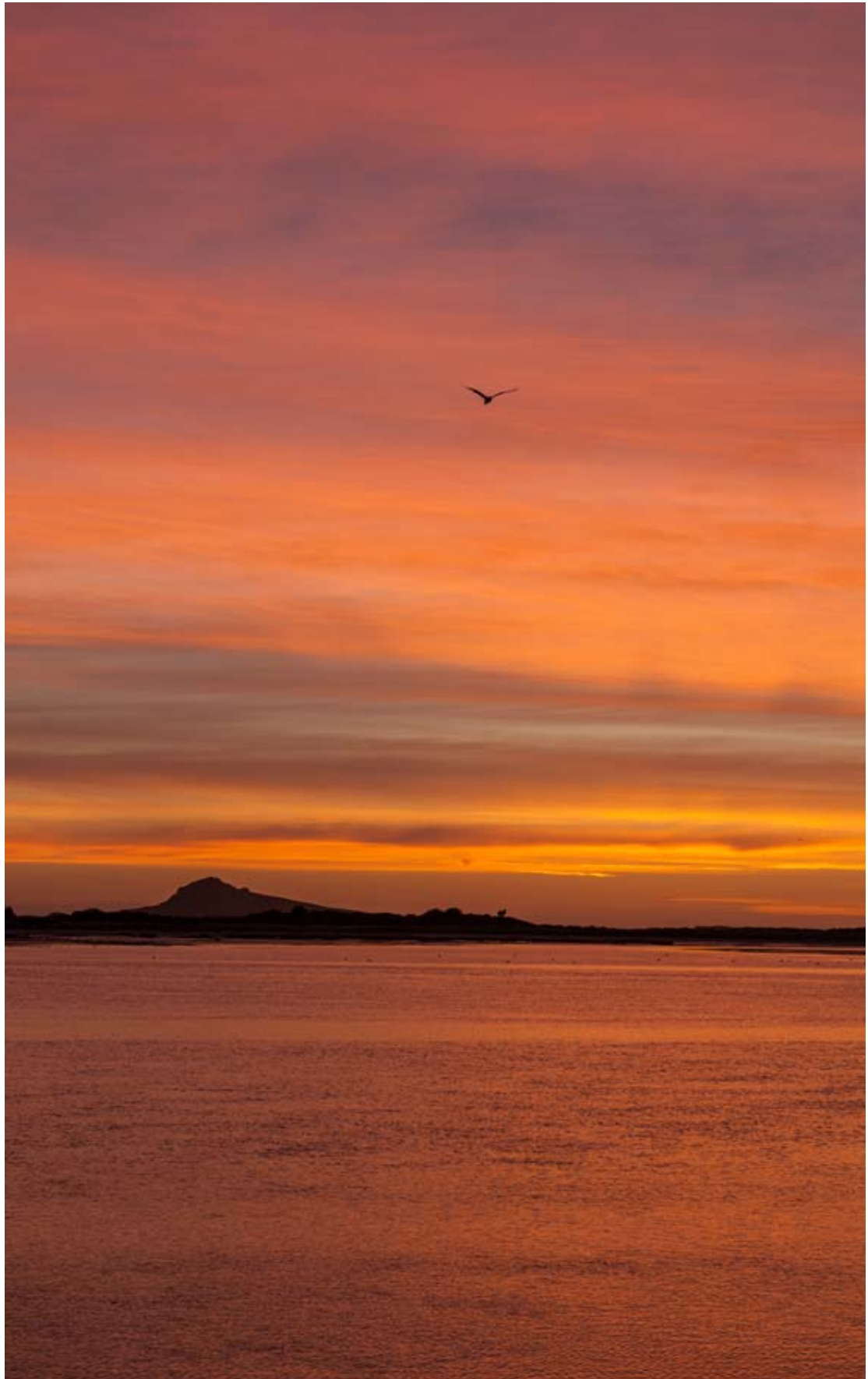
FOR the LAW of the SPIRIT of life in CHRIST Jesus HAS MADE me FREE FROM the LAW of SIN AND DEATH. FOR WHAT the LAW COULD NOT DO IN THAT IT WAS WEAK THROUGH the flesh, GOD DID by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: he condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the LAW might be fulfilled in us who do NOT WALK ACCORDING TO the flesh but ACCORDING TO the SPIRIT.

FOR those who live ACCORDING TO the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who* live ACCORDING TO the SPIRIT, the things of the SPIRIT. FOR to be CARNALLY minded *is* death, but to be SPIRITUALLY minded *is* life AND peace. Because the CARNAL mind *is* enmity AGAINST GOD; FOR IT IS NOT subject to the LAW of GOD, NOR indeed can be. So then, those who ARE in the flesh cannot please GOD. But you ARE NOT in the flesh but in the SPIRIT, if indeed the SPIRIT of GOD dwells in you. Now if anyone does NOT have the SPIRIT of CHRIST, he is NOT his. AND if CHRIST *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the SPIRIT *is* life because of righteousness. But if the SPIRIT of him who RAISED Jesus FROM the dead dwells in you, he who RAISED CHRIST FROM the dead will ALSO give life to your MORTAL bodies THROUGH his SPIRIT who dwells in you. THEREFORE, brethren, we ARE debtors—not to the flesh, to live ACCORDING TO the flesh. FOR if you live ACCORDING TO the flesh you will die; but if by the SPIRIT you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. FOR AS MANY AS ARE led by the SPIRIT of GOD, these ARE sons of GOD.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he has made us accepted in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in him.

In him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of his glory. In him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of his glory.








Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

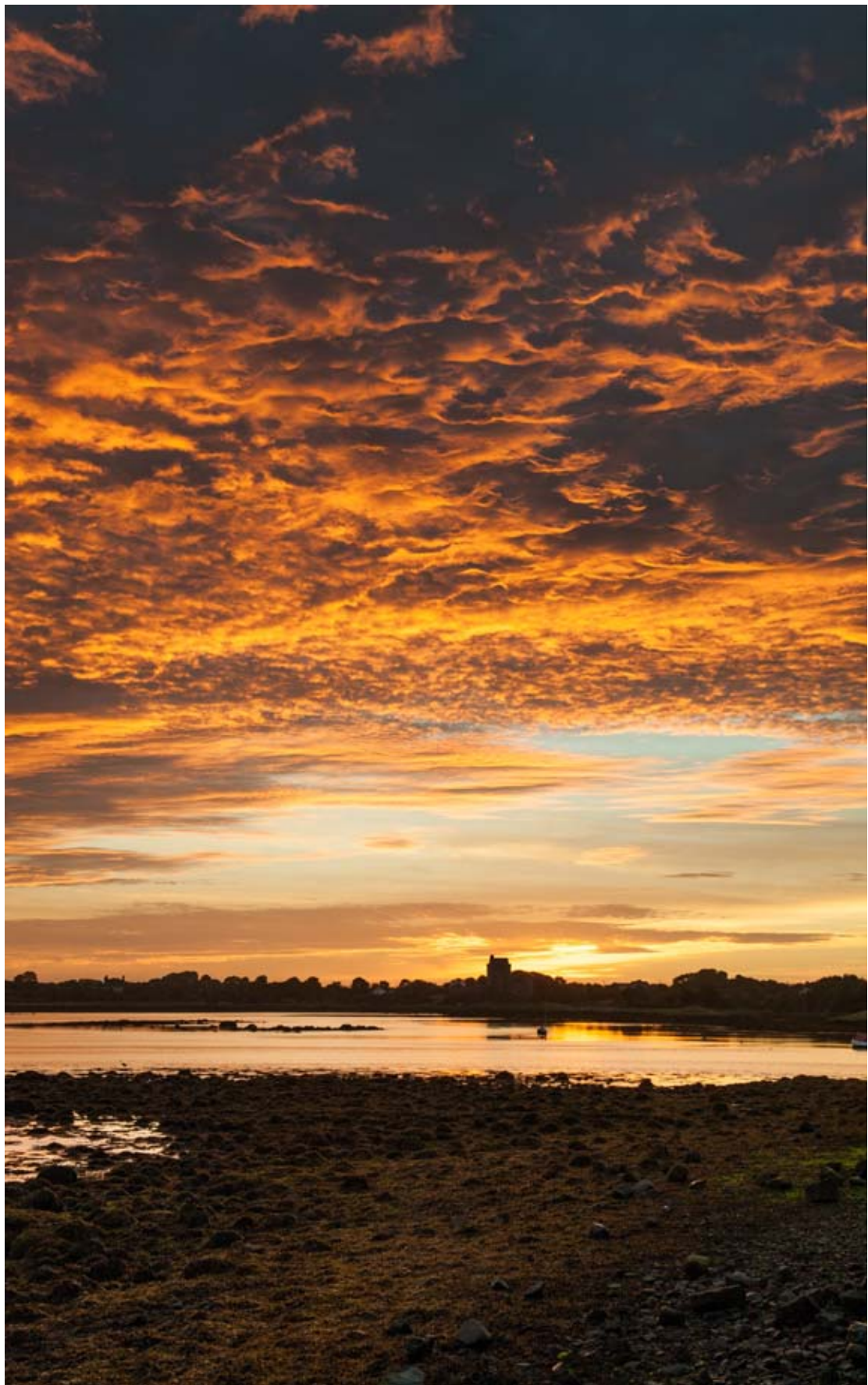
Let not being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *his* good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or laboured in vain.



He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.

All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the pre-eminence. For it pleased *the Father* that in him all the fullness should dwell, and by him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in his sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.





BUT I DO NOT WANT YOU TO BE IGNORANT, BRETHREN, CONCERNING THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP, LEST YOU SORROW AS OTHERS WHO HAVE NO HOPE. FOR IF WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN, EVEN SO GOD WILL BRING WITH HIM THOSE WHO SLEEP IN JESUS.

FOR THIS WE SAY TO YOU BY THE WORD OF THE LORD, THAT WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN UNTIL THE COMING OF THE LORD WILL BY NO MEANS PRECEDE THOSE WHO ARE ASLEEP.

FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF AN ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE TRUMPET OF GOD. AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST.

THEN WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR. AND THUS WE SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD. THEREFORE COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS.

BUT CONCERNING THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS, BRETHREN, YOU HAVE NO NEED THAT I SHOULD WRITE TO YOU. FOR YOU YOURSELVES KNOW PERFECTLY THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD SO COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT. FOR WHEN THEY SAY, "PEACE AND SAFETY!" THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMES UPON THEM, AS LABOUR PAINS UPON A PREGNANT WOMAN. AND THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE. BUT YOU, BRETHREN, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, SO THAT THIS DAY SHOULD OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF.

BUT CHRIST CAME AS HIGH PRIEST OF THE GOOD THINGS TO COME, WITH THE GREATER AND MORE PERFECT TABERNACLE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, THAT IS, NOT OF THIS CREATION. NOT WITH THE BLOOD OF GOATS AND CALVES, BUT WITH HIS OWN BLOOD HE ENTERED THE MOST HOLY PLACE ONCE FOR ALL, HAVING OBTAINED ETERNAL REDEMPTION.

FOR IF THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND GOATS AND THE ASHES OF A HEIFER, SPRINKLING THE UNCLEAN, SANCTIFIES FOR THE PURIFYING OF THE FLESH, HOW MUCH MORE SHALL THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, WHO THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT SPOT TO GOD, CLEANSE YOUR CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD? AND FOR THIS REASON HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW COVENANT, BY MEANS OF DEATH, FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE TRANSGRESSIONS UNDER THE FIRST COVENANT, THAT THOSE WHO ARE CALLED MAY RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE ETERNAL INHERITANCE.

FOR CHRIST HAS NOT ENTERED THE HOLY PLACES MADE WITH HANDS, *which are* COPIES OF THE TRUE, BUT INTO HEAVEN ITSELF, NOW TO APPEAR IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD FOR US; NOT THAT HE SHOULD OFFER HIMSELF OFTEN, AS THE HIGH PRIEST ENTERS THE MOST HOLY PLACE EVERY YEAR WITH BLOOD OF ANOTHER—he then WOULD HAVE HAD TO SUFFER OFTEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; BUT NOW, ONCE AT THE END OF THE AGES, HE HAS APPEARED TO PUT AWAY SIN BY THE SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF. AND AS IT IS APPOINTED FOR MEN TO DIE ONCE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGEMENT, SO CHRIST WAS OFFERED ONCE TO BEAR THE SINS OF MANY.







Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when he testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.



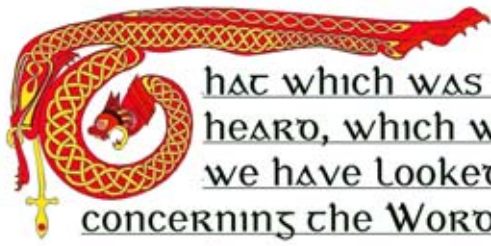
And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot.

He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through him believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever."

How this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. Coming to him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.







hat which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

This is the message which we have heard from him and declare to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 JOHN: CHAPTER 1

By this you know the Spirit of God:
every spirit that confesses that Jesus
Christ has come in the flesh is of God,
and every spirit that does not confess
that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not
of God. And this is the spirit of the
Antichrist, which you have heard was coming,
and is now already in the world.

You are of God, little children, and have overcome
them, because he who is in you is greater than he
who is in the world. They are of the world.
Therefore they speak as of the world, and the
world hears them. We are of God. He who knows
God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear
us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the
spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born
of God and knows God. He who does not love does
not know God, for God is love. In this the love of
God was manifested toward us, that God has sent
his only begotten Son into the world, that we
might live through him. In this is love, not that we
loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son
to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if
God so loved us, we also ought to love one
another. No one has seen God at any time. If we
love one another, God abides in us, and his love
has been perfected in us. By this we know that
we abide in him, and he in us, because he has given
us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify
that the Father has sent the Son as Saviour of
the world.







AND I HEARD A LOUD VOICE FROM
HEAVEN SAYING, "BEHOLD, THE
TABERNACLE OF GOD IS WITH MEN,
AND HE WILL DWELL WITH THEM, AND
THEY SHALL BE HIS PEOPLE. GOD
HIMSELF WILL BE WITH THEM AND BE
THEIR GOD. AND GOD WILL WIPE
AWAY EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES;
THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH,
NOR SORROW, NOR CRYING.
THERE SHALL BE NO MORE PAIN,
FOR THE FORMER THINGS HAVE
PASSED AWAY."

Then he who SAT ON THE THRONE
SAID, "BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS
NEW." AND HE SAID TO ME,
"WRITE, FOR THESE WORDS ARE TRUE
AND FAITHFUL." AND HE SAID TO ME,
"IT IS DONE! I AM THE ALPHA AND
THE OMEGA, THE BEGINNING
AND THE END."

The words in the passage opposite were spoken by an angel of God and also by Jesus Christ himself to the Apostle John in a vision recorded in Chapter 21 of the Book of Revelation.

John, now an old man and the last surviving Apostle, had been exiled to the island of Patmos for his continued preaching of the Christian Gospel in the Roman Empire.

The Book begins: 'The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants—things which must shortly take place. And he sent and signified it by his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.'

John has been given letters to be sent to the churches of God – then and now.

In vision, he has witnessed the unveiling of God's judgments on the world and the consummation of the age of man's rebellion against God. Now God with Christ is ready to bless his people in the eternal state.







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