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BLISS

The
Blessed
One



Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, *saying*, "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then he shall speak to them in his wrath, and distress them in his deep displeasure: "Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion."

"I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to me, 'You *are* my Son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will give *you* the nations *for* your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish *in* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in him.





Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his wonders among all peoples. For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; he *is* also to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honour and majesty *are* before him; strength and gladness are in his place.

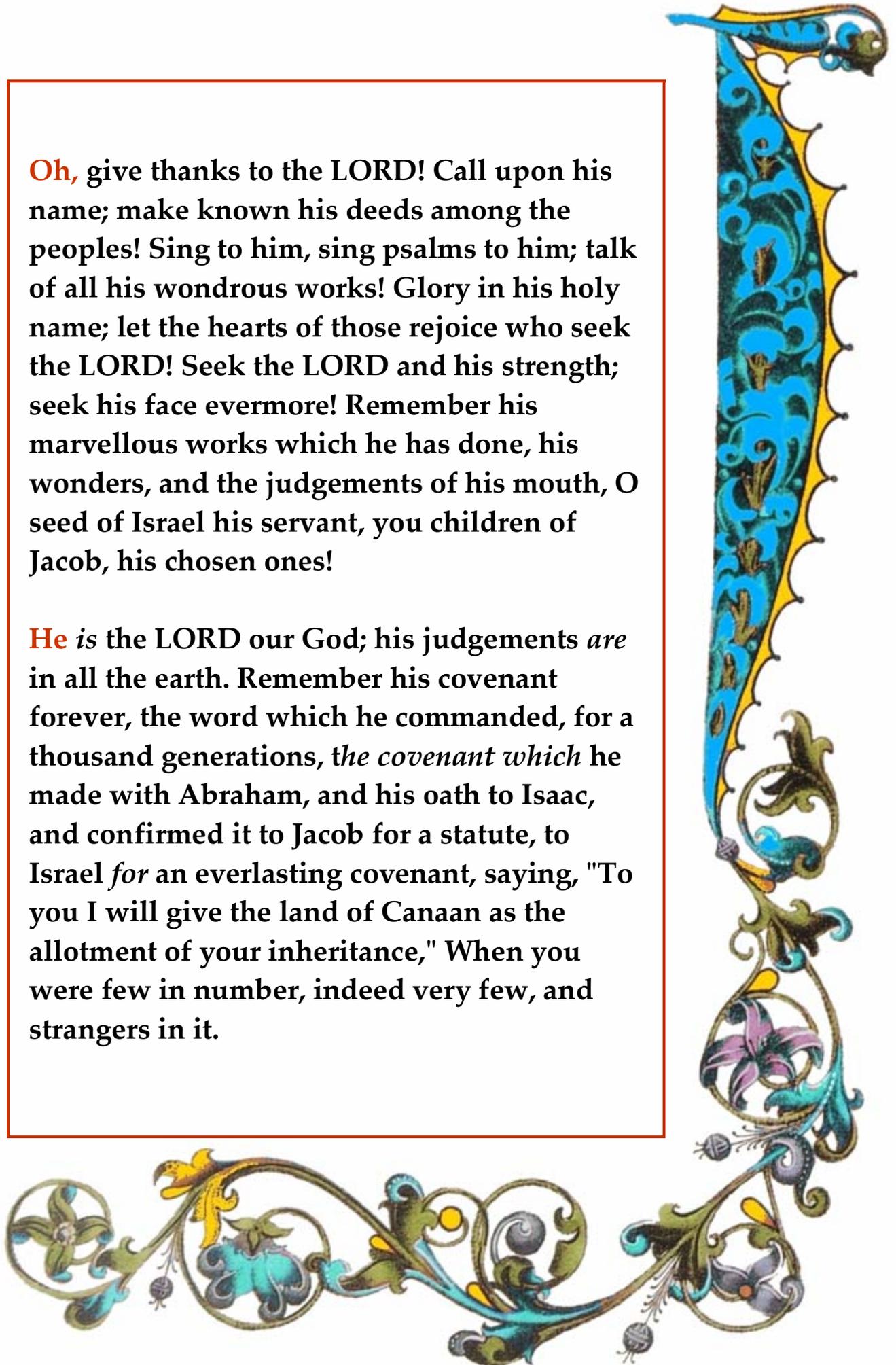
Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory *due* his name; bring an offering, and come before him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; let the field rejoice, and all that *is* in it. Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.



Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing psalms to him; talk of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his face evermore! Remember his marvellous works which he has done, his wonders, and the judgements of his mouth, O seed of Israel his servant, you children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He is the LORD our God; his judgements *are* in all the earth. Remember his covenant forever, the word which he commanded, for a thousand generations, *the covenant which* he made with Abraham, and his oath to Isaac, and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel *for* an everlasting covenant, saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance," When you were few in number, indeed very few, and strangers in it.





For the word of the LORD *is* right, and all his work *is done* in truth. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; he lays up the deep in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it was *done*; he commanded, and it stood fast.

The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD, the people he has chosen as his own inheritance.

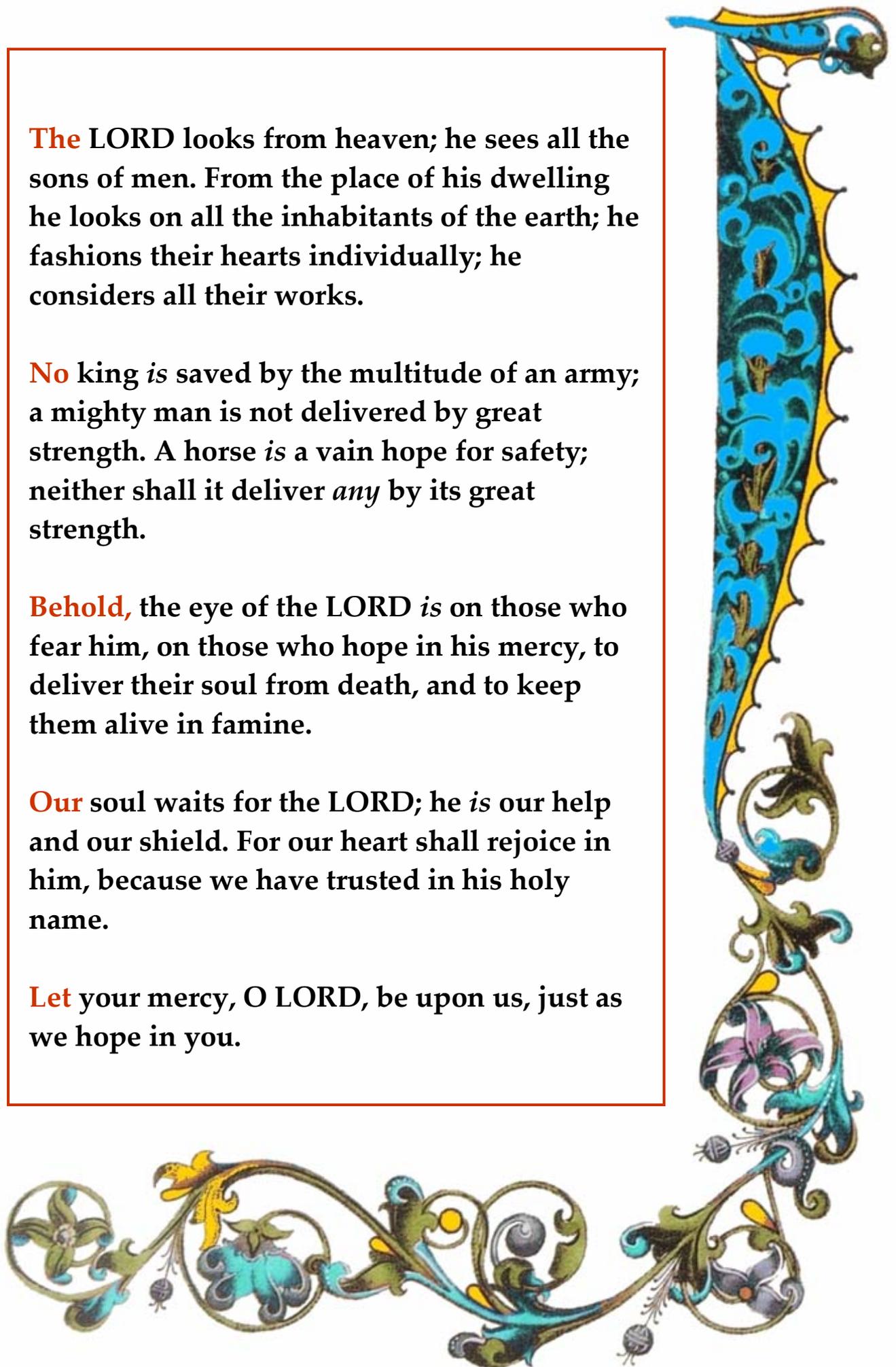
The LORD looks from heaven; he sees all the sons of men. From the place of his dwelling he looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; he fashions their hearts individually; he considers all their works.

No king *is* saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse *is* a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver *any* by its great strength.

Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* on those who fear him, on those who hope in his mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD; he *is* our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Let your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, just as we hope in you.





They shall fear you as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers *that* water the earth.

In his days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before him, and his enemies will lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles will bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts. Yes, all kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him.

For he will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and *him* who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy.



He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in his sight.

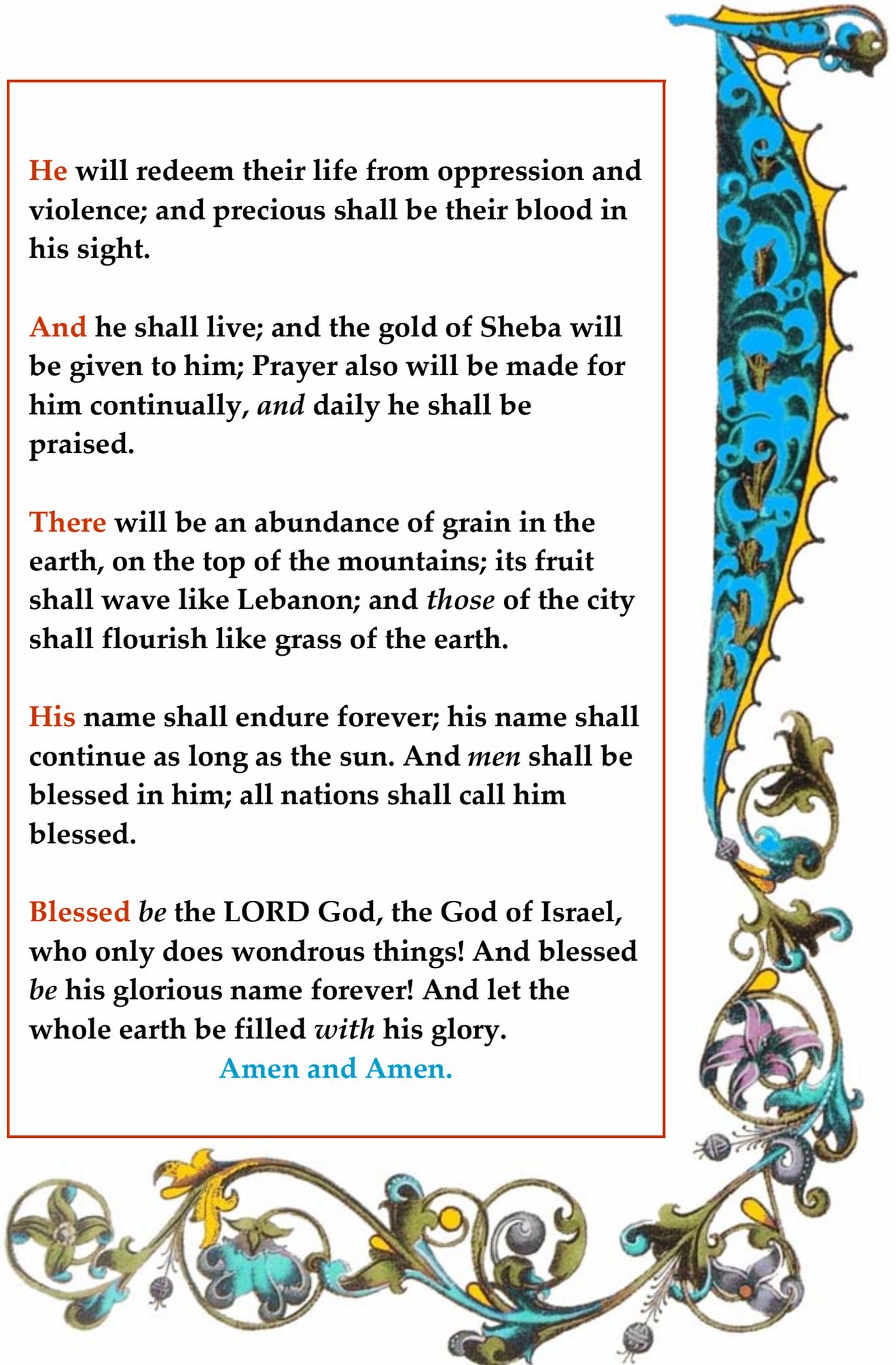
And he shall live; and the gold of Sheba will be given to him; Prayer also will be made for him continually, *and* daily he shall be praised.

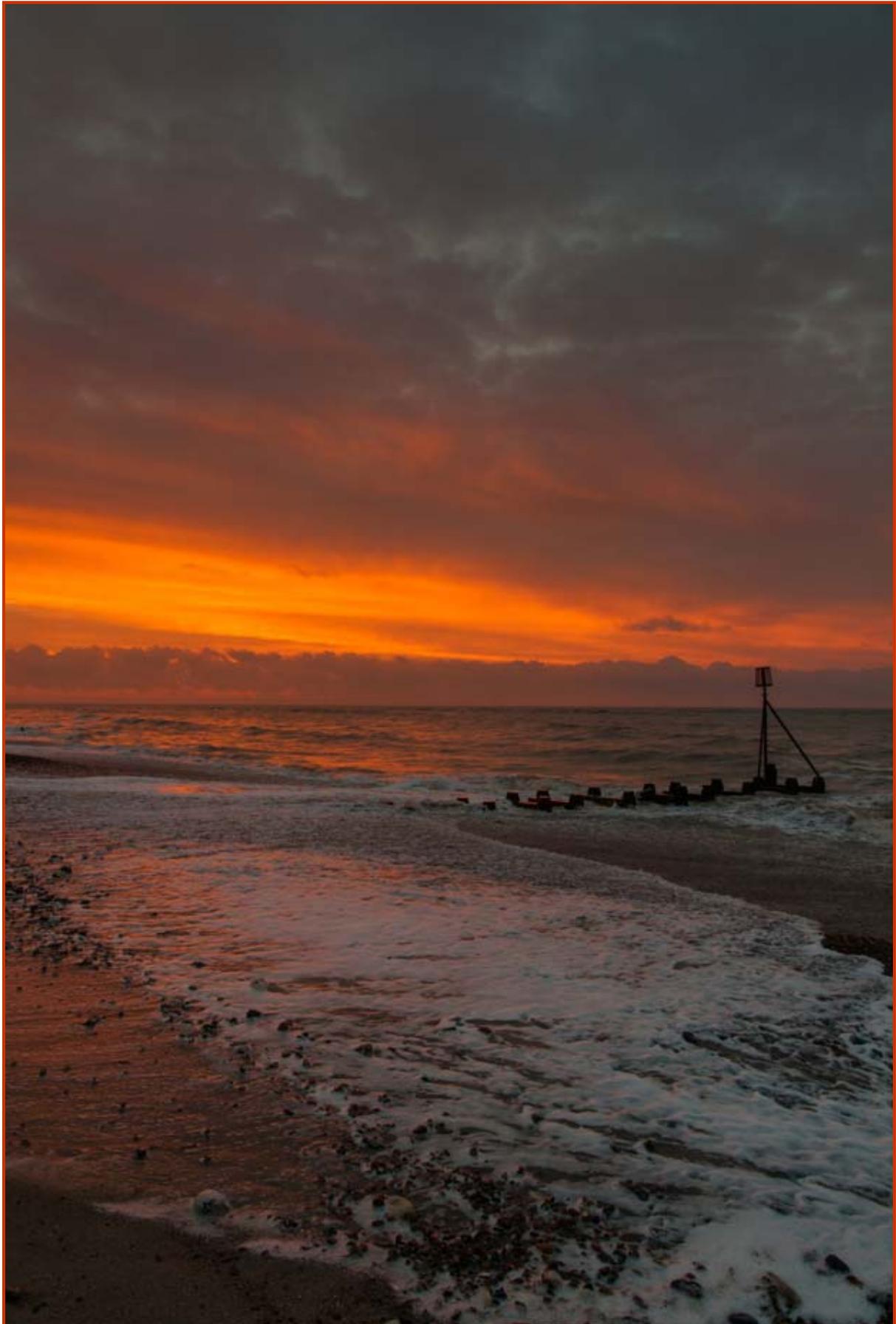
There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on the top of the mountains; its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; and *those* of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.

His name shall endure forever; his name shall continue as long as the sun. And *men* shall be blessed in him; all nations shall call him blessed.

Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things! And blessed be his glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* his glory.

Amen and Amen.





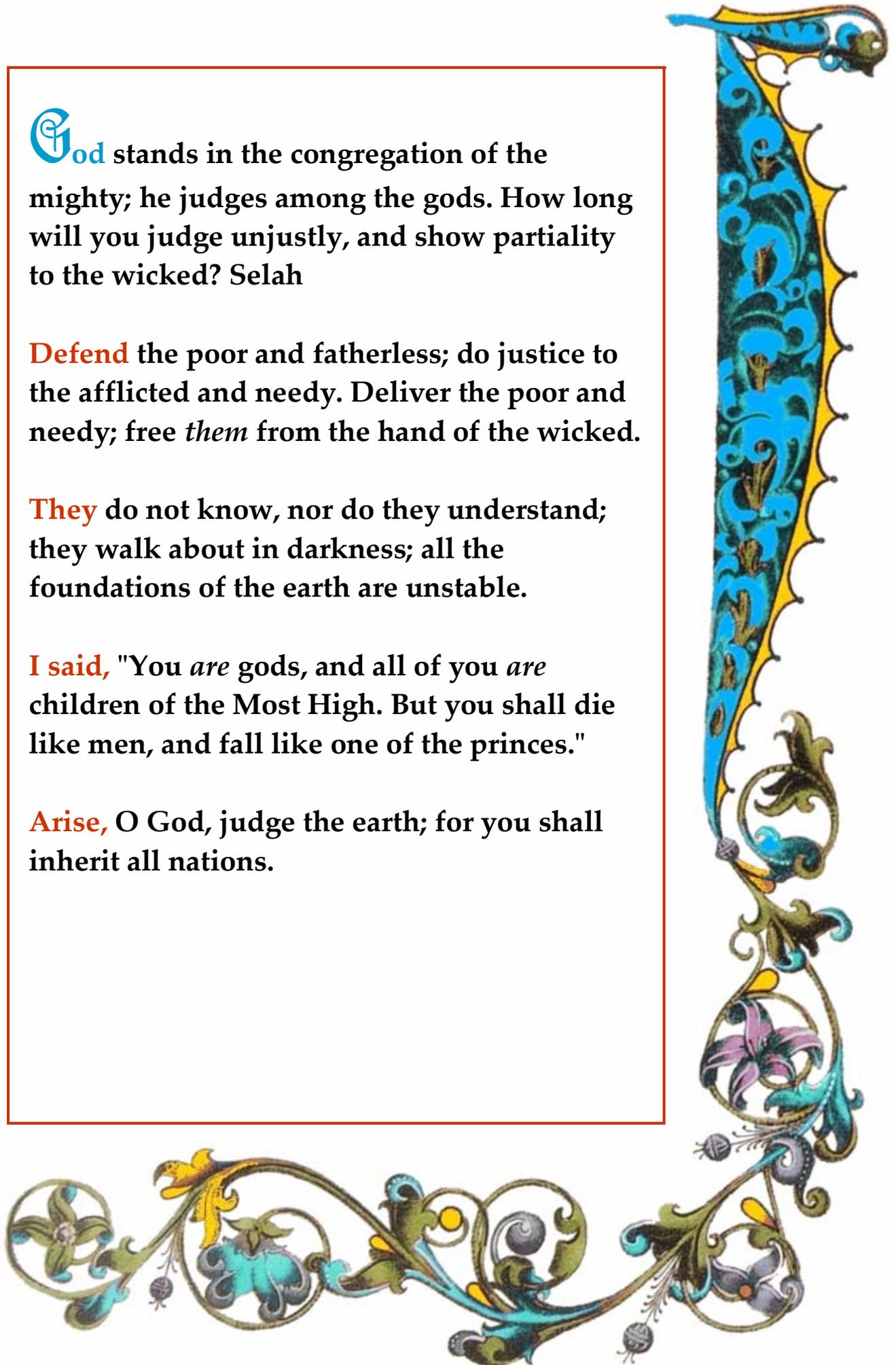
God stands in the congregation of the mighty; he judges among the gods. How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked? Selah

Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; free *them* from the hand of the wicked.

They do not know, nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are unstable.

I said, "You *are* gods, and all of you *are* children of the Most High. But you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes."

Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all nations.





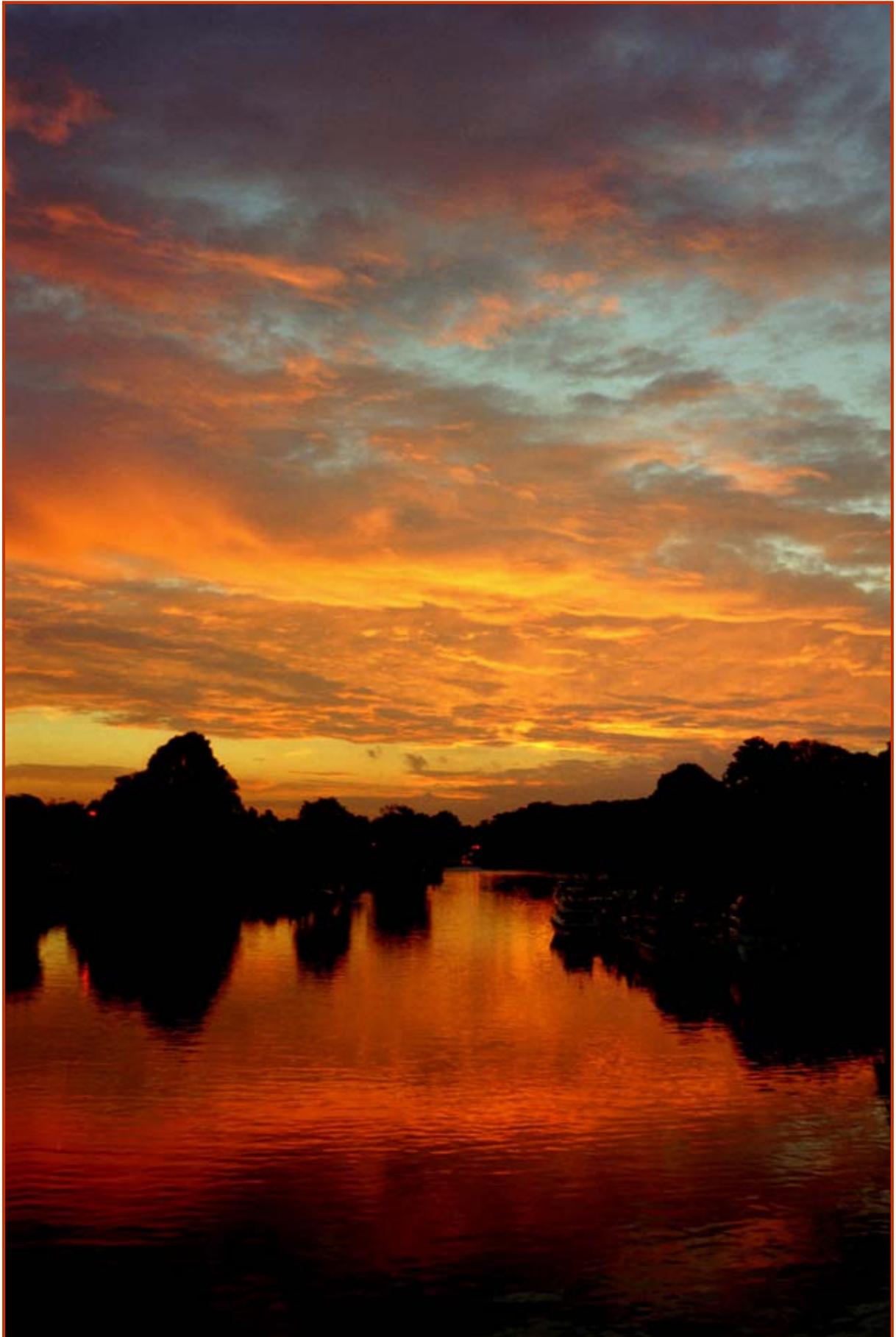
God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all *those* around him. O LORD God of hosts, who *is* mighty like you, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds you. You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them. You have broken Rahab in pieces, as one who is slain; you have scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

The heavens *are* yours, the earth also *is* yours; the world and all its fullness, you have founded them. The north and the south, you have created them; Tabor and Hermon rejoice in your name. You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, *and* high is your right hand.

Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of your throne; mercy and truth go before your face.

Blessed *are* the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance.







Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you *are* God.

You turn man to destruction, and say, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in your sight *are* like yesterday when it is past, and *like* a watch in the night.

You carry them away *like* a flood; *they are* like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass *which* grows up: in the morning it flourishes and grows up; in the evening it is cut down and withers. For we have been consumed by your anger, and by your wrath we are terrified.

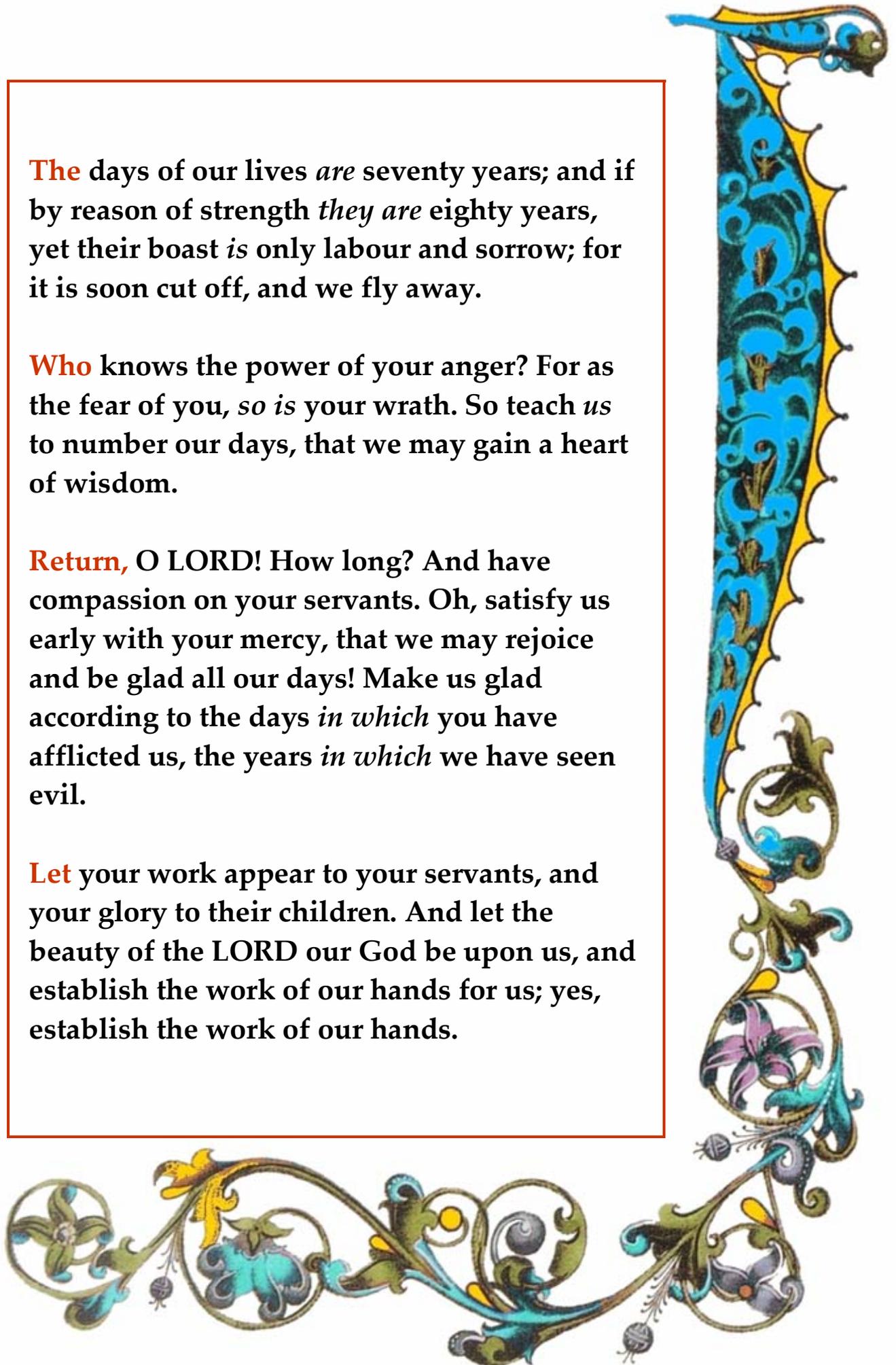
You have set our iniquities before you, our secret *sins* in the light of your countenance. For all our days have passed away in your wrath; we finish our years like a sigh.

The days of our lives *are* seventy years; and if by reason of strength *they are* eighty years, yet their boast *is* only labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Who knows the power of your anger? For as the fear of you, *so is* your wrath. So teach *us* to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on your servants. Oh, satisfy us early with your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days! Make us glad according to the days *in which* you have afflicted us, the years *in which* we have seen evil.

Let your work appear to your servants, and your glory to their children. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.





Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, *bless* his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the children of Israel. The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive *with us*, nor will he keep *his anger* forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.

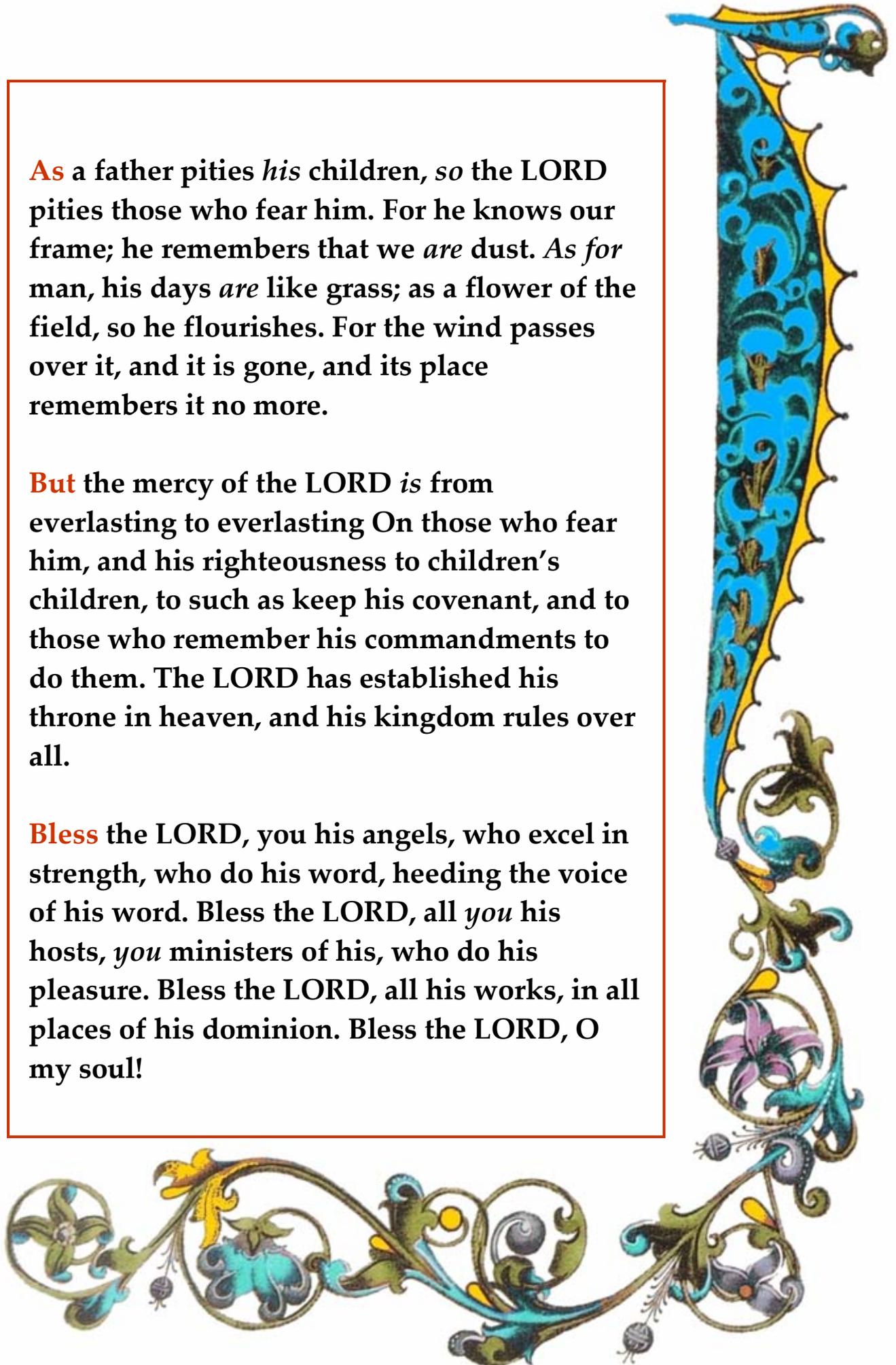
For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.



As a father pities *his* children, so the LORD pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we *are* dust. *As for* man, his days *are* like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to such as keep his covenant, and to those who remember his commandments to do them. The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the LORD, you his angels, who excel in strength, who do his word, heeding the voice of his word. Bless the LORD, all *you* his hosts, *you* ministers of his, who do his pleasure. Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!





Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, Praise the name of the LORD!

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the LORD'S name *is* to be praised.

The LORD *is* high above all nations, his glory above the heavens. Who *is* like the LORD our God, who dwells on high, who humbles himself to behold *the things that are* in the heavens and in the earth?

He raises the poor out of the dust, *and* lifts the needy out of the ash heap, that he may seat *him* with princes— with the princes of his people.

He grants the barren woman a home, like a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!

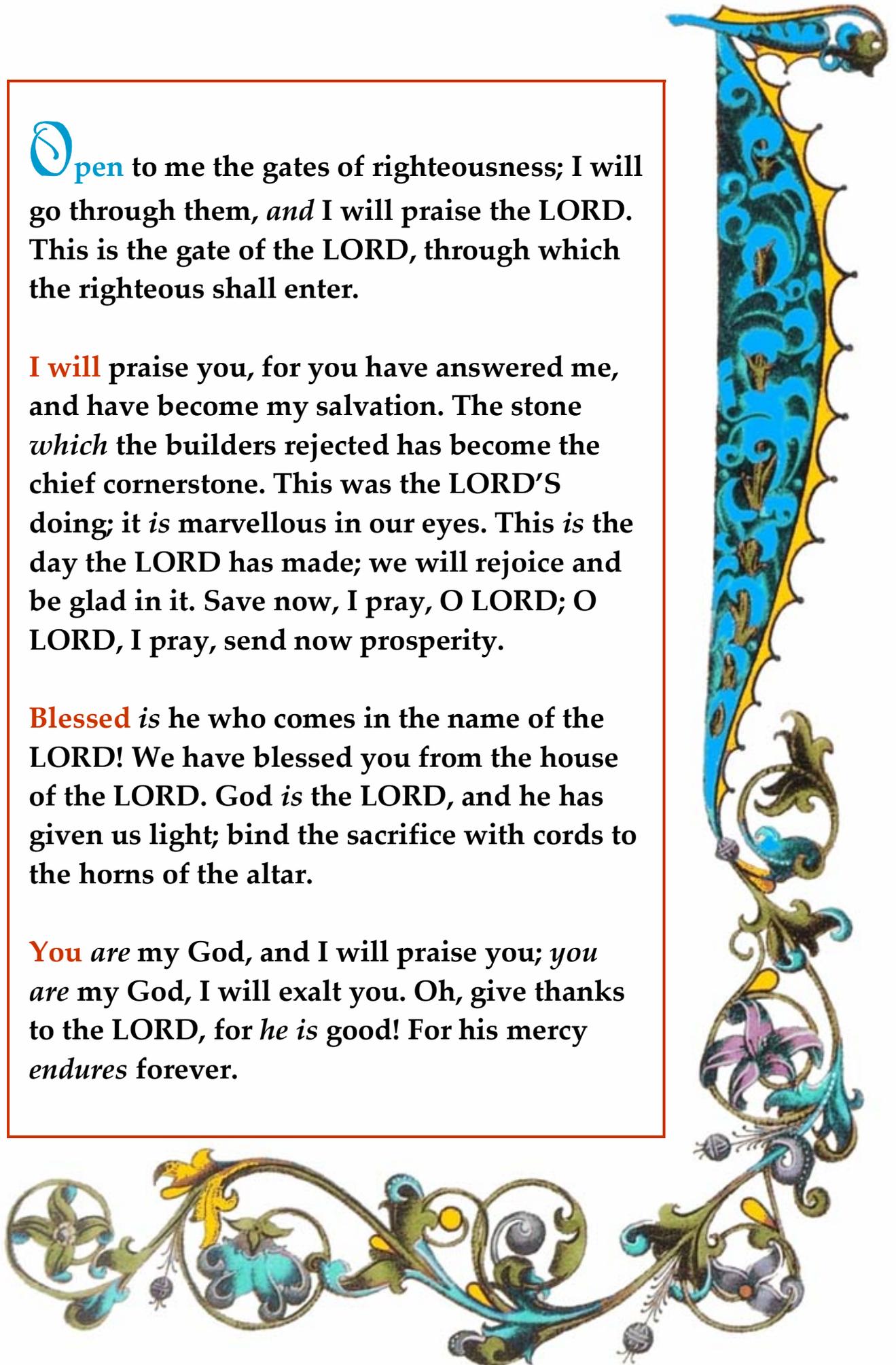


Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, *and* I will praise the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD, through which the righteous shall enter.

I will praise you, for you have answered me, and have become my salvation. The stone *which* the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing; it *is* marvellous in our eyes. This *is* the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.

Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. God *is* the LORD, and he has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

You *are* my God, and I will praise you; *you are* my God, I will exalt you. Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *he is* good! For his mercy *endures* forever.







Your name, O LORD, *endures* forever, your fame, O LORD, throughout all generations. For the LORD will judge his people, and he will have compassion on his servants.

The idols of the nations *are* silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; nor is there *any* breath in their mouths. Those who make them are like them; *so is* everyone who trusts in them.

Bless the LORD, O house of Israel! Bless the LORD, O house of Aaron! Bless the LORD, O house of Levi! You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD! Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the LORD!

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *he is* good! For his mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For his mercy *endures* forever.





Blessed be the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, *and* my fingers for battle—my loving-kindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and *the one* in whom I take refuge, who subdues my people under me.

LORD, what *is* man, that you take knowledge of him? *Or* the son of man, that you are mindful of him? Man is like a breath; his days *are* like a passing shadow.

Bow down your heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Flash forth lightning and scatter them; shoot out your arrows and destroy them. Stretch out your hand from above; rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of foreigners, whose mouth speaks vain words, and whose right hand *is* a right hand of falsehood.







Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; Praise him, all his hosts! Praise him, sun and moon; Praise him, all you stars of light! Praise him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He also established them forever and ever; he made a decree which shall not pass away. Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all the depths; fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling his word; mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars; beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying fowl; kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth; both young men and maidens; old men and children.

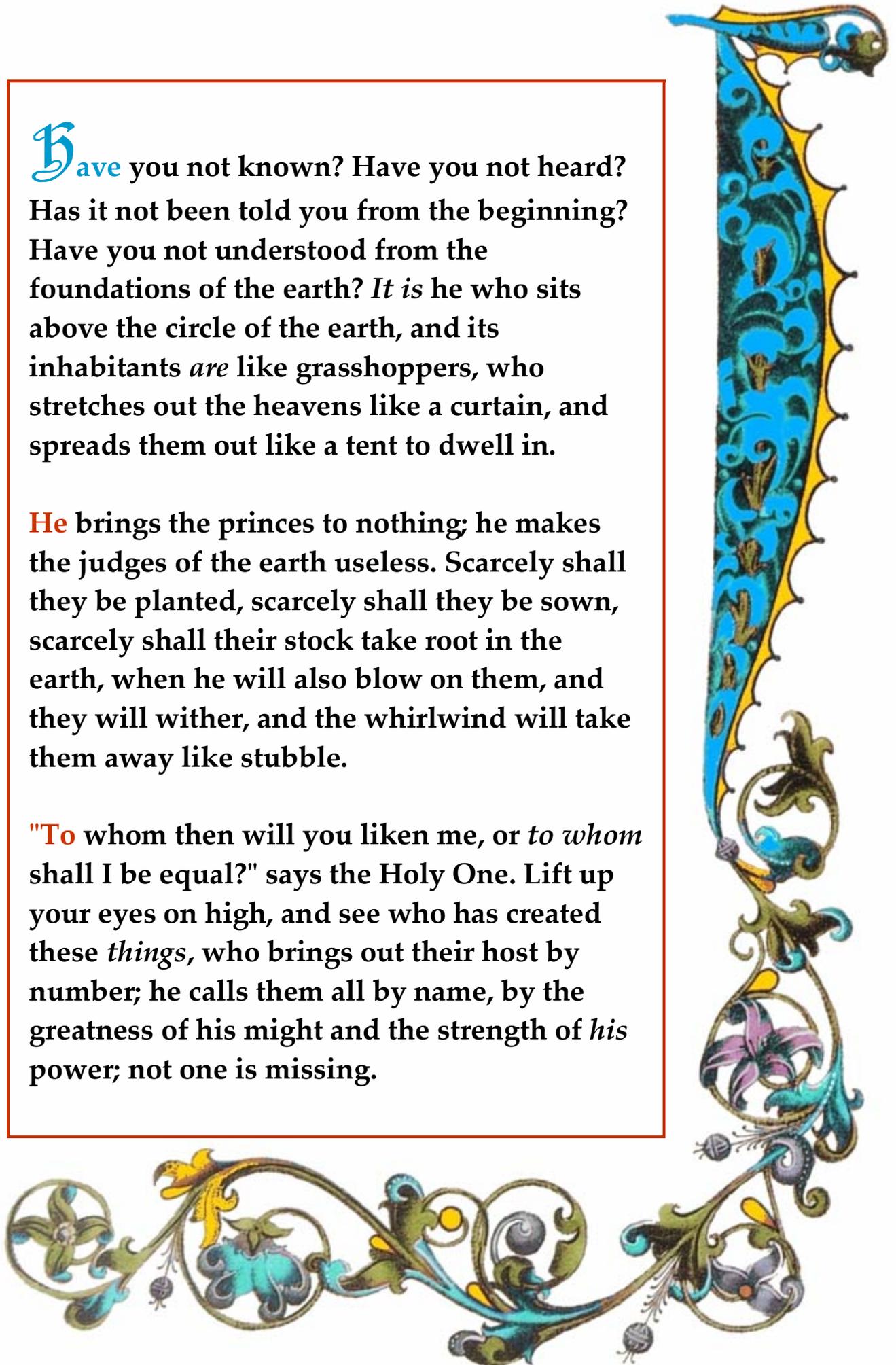
Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory *is* above the earth and heaven.



Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the
foundations of the earth? *It is* he who sits
above the circle of the earth, and its
inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, who
stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and
spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

He brings the princes to nothing; he makes
the judges of the earth useless. Scarcely shall
they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown,
scarcely shall their stock take root in the
earth, when he will also blow on them, and
they will wither, and the whirlwind will take
them away like stubble.

"To whom then will you liken me, or *to whom*
shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up
your eyes on high, and see who has created
these *things*, who brings out their host by
number; he calls them all by name, by the
greatness of his might and the strength of *his*
power; not one is missing.





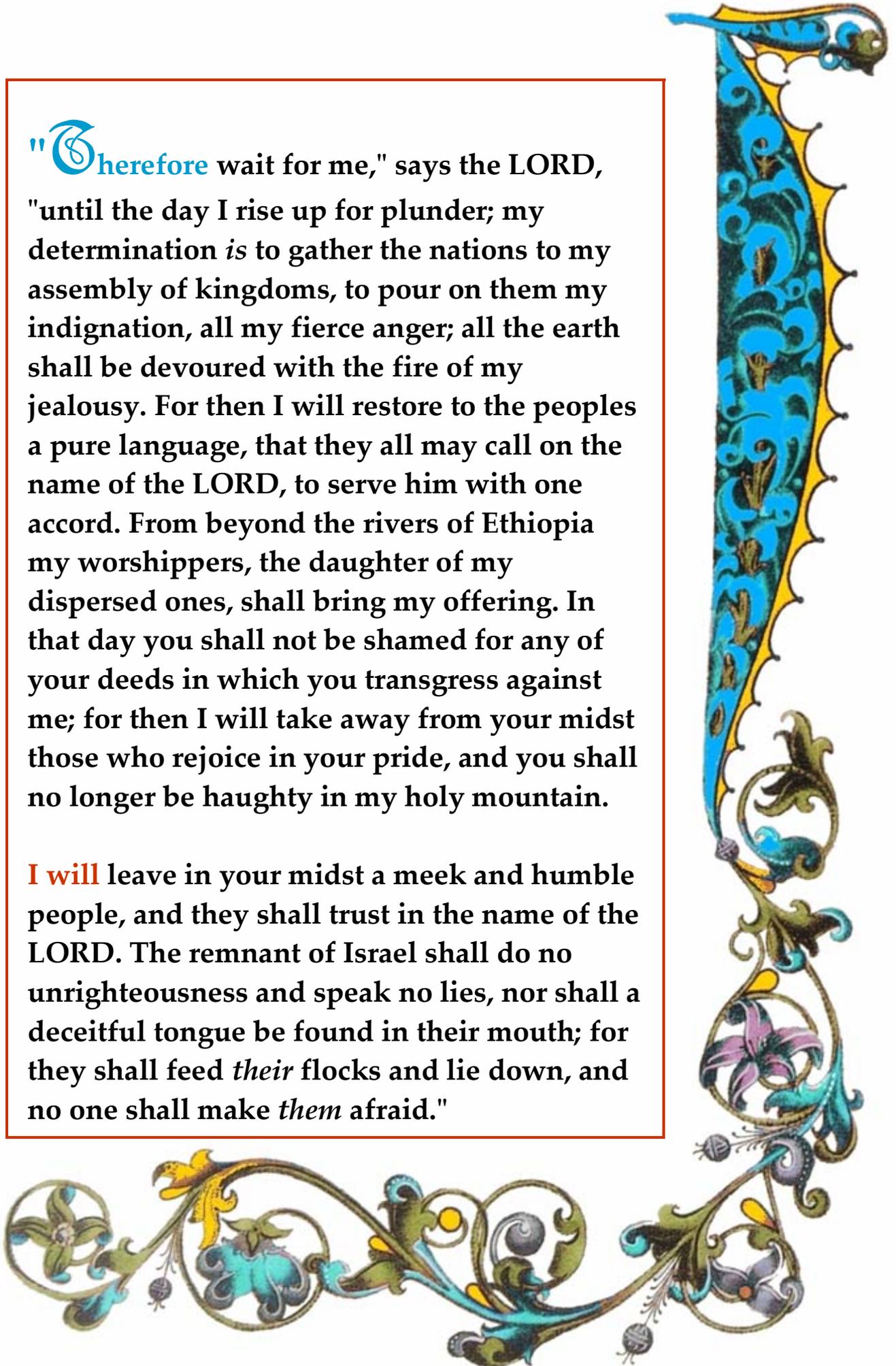
Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are his. And he changes the times and the seasons; he removes kings and raises up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; he knows what *is* in the darkness, and light dwells with him.

Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: As for you, O king, thoughts came *to your mind while on your bed, about* what would come to pass after this; and he who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be."



"Therefore wait for me," says the LORD, "until the day I rise up for plunder; my determination *is* to gather the nations to my assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them my indignation, all my fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve him with one accord. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my worshippers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering. In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds in which you transgress against me; for then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain.

I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed *their* flocks and lie down, and no one shall make *them* afraid."





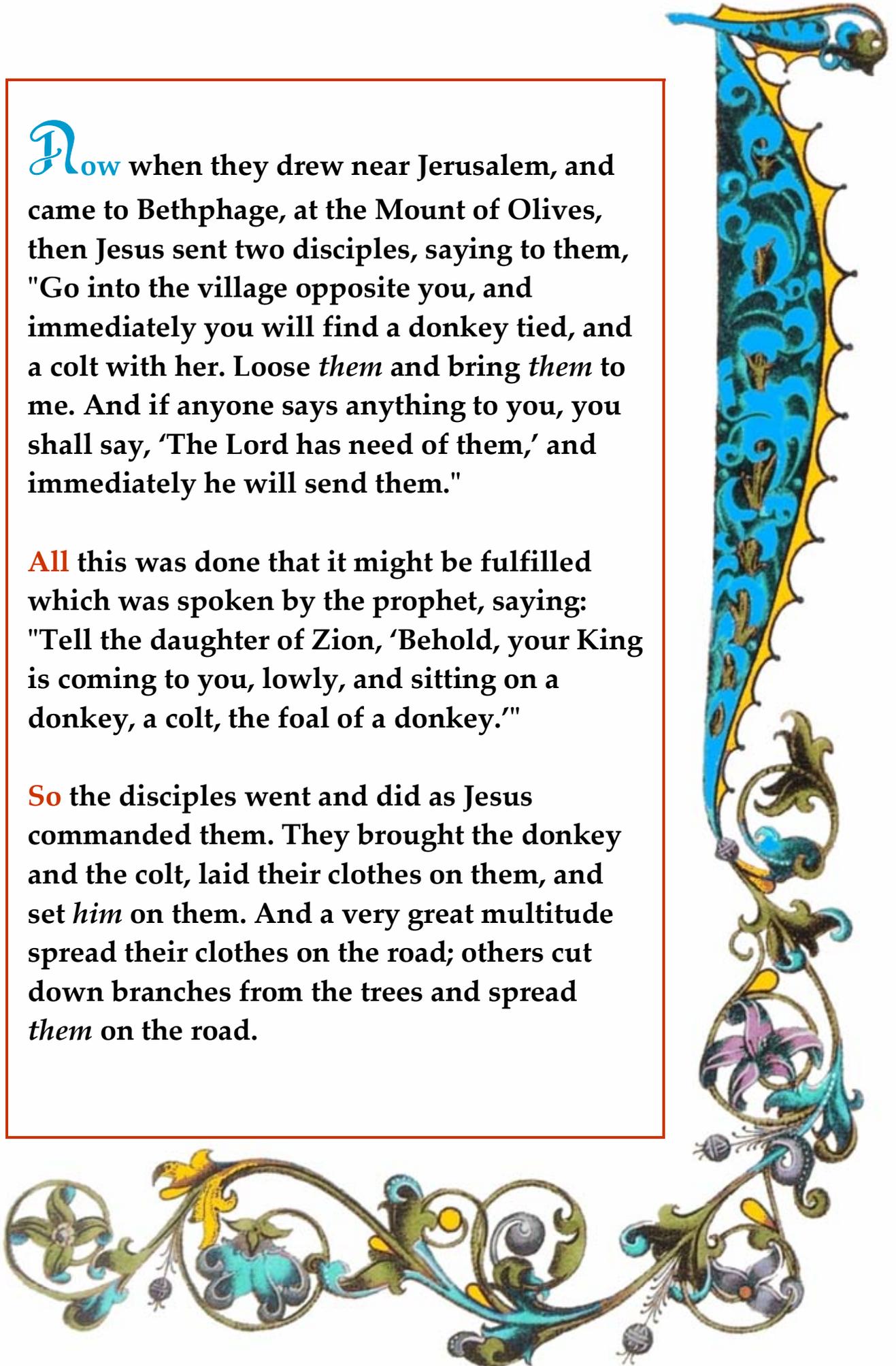
"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, he is coming," says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he *is* like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; he will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years. And I will come near you for judgement; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien — because they do not fear me," says the LORD of hosts. "For *I am* the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."



Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *him* on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road.



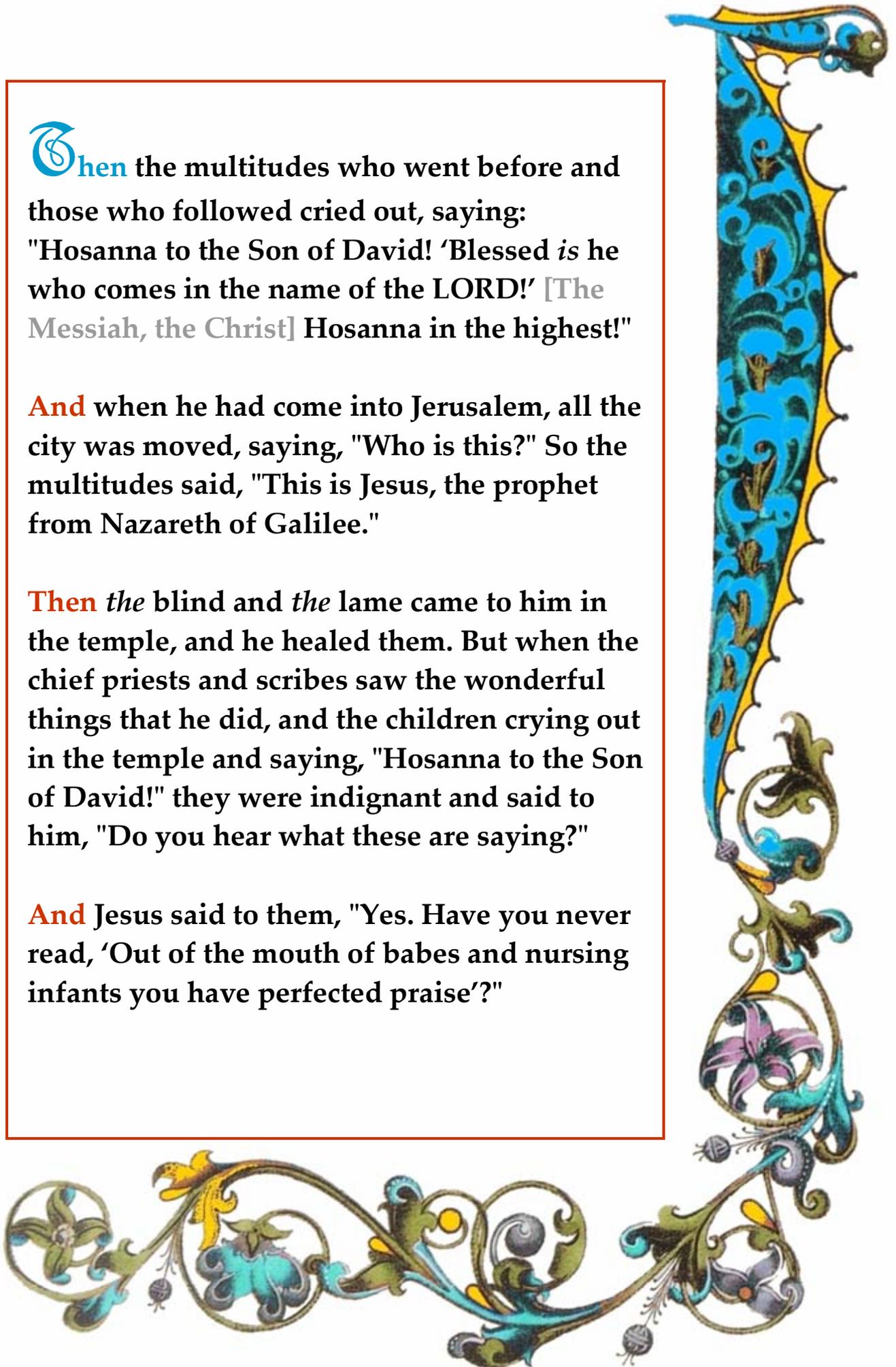


When the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!' [The Messiah, the Christ] Hosanna in the highest!"

And when he had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

Then *the* blind and *the* lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?"

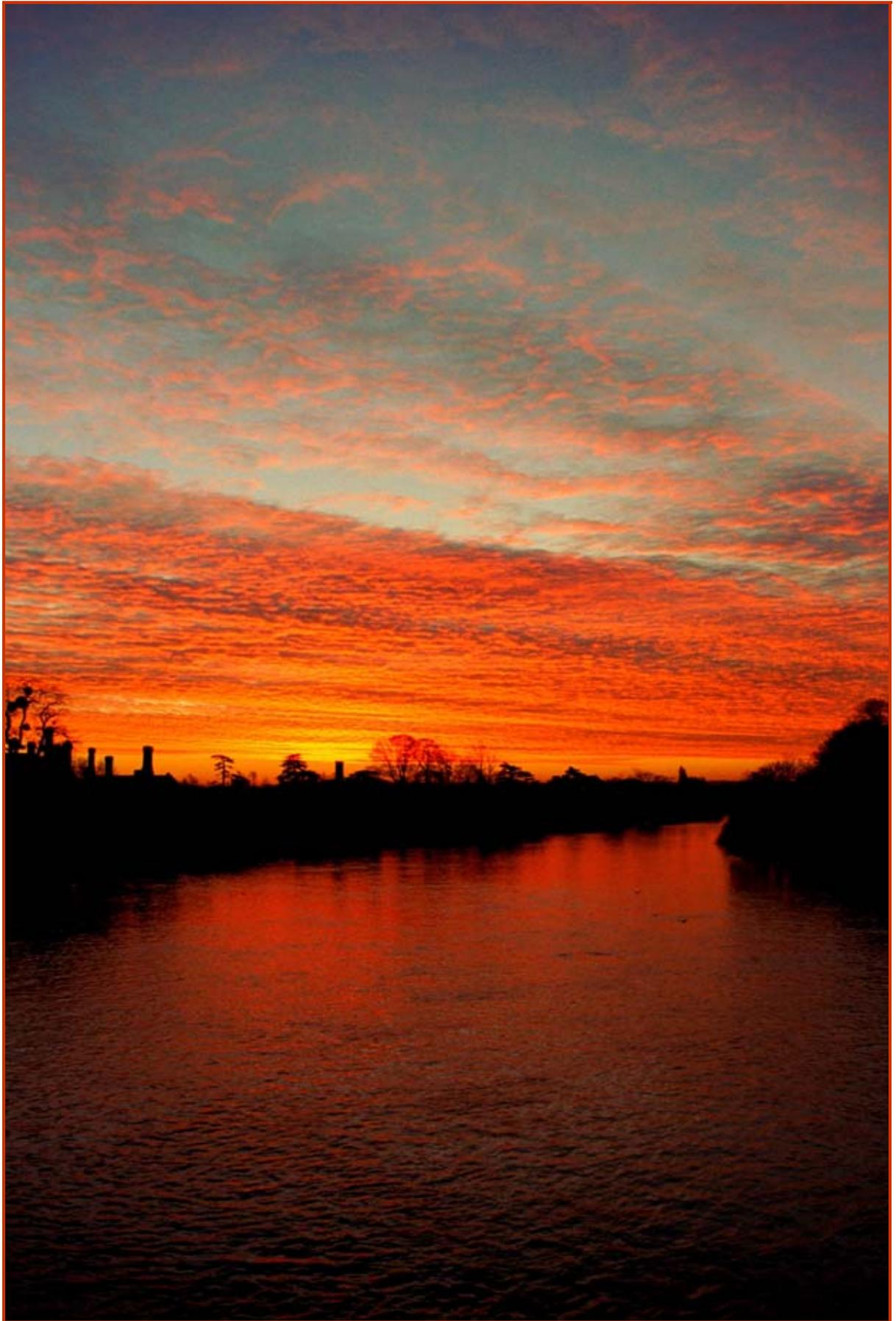
And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have perfected praise'?"





"**B**lessed is the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, who *have been* since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to our father Abraham: to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life. And you, child, [John the Baptist] will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high [Christ] has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."



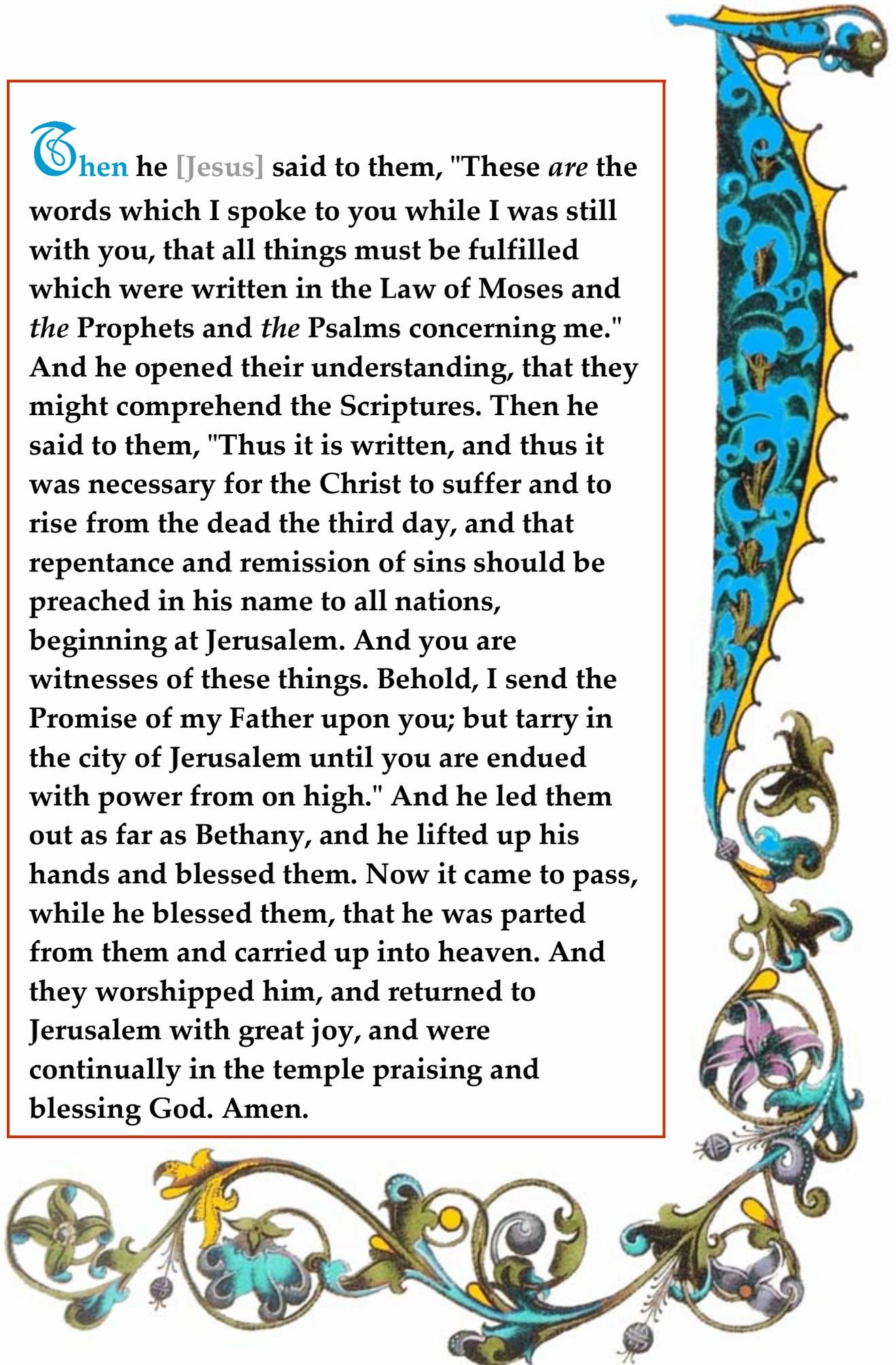




Then, as he [Jesus] was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees called to him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." But he answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

Now as he drew near, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

When he [Jesus] said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning me." And he opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then he said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of my Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." And he led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while he blessed them, that he was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.





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.

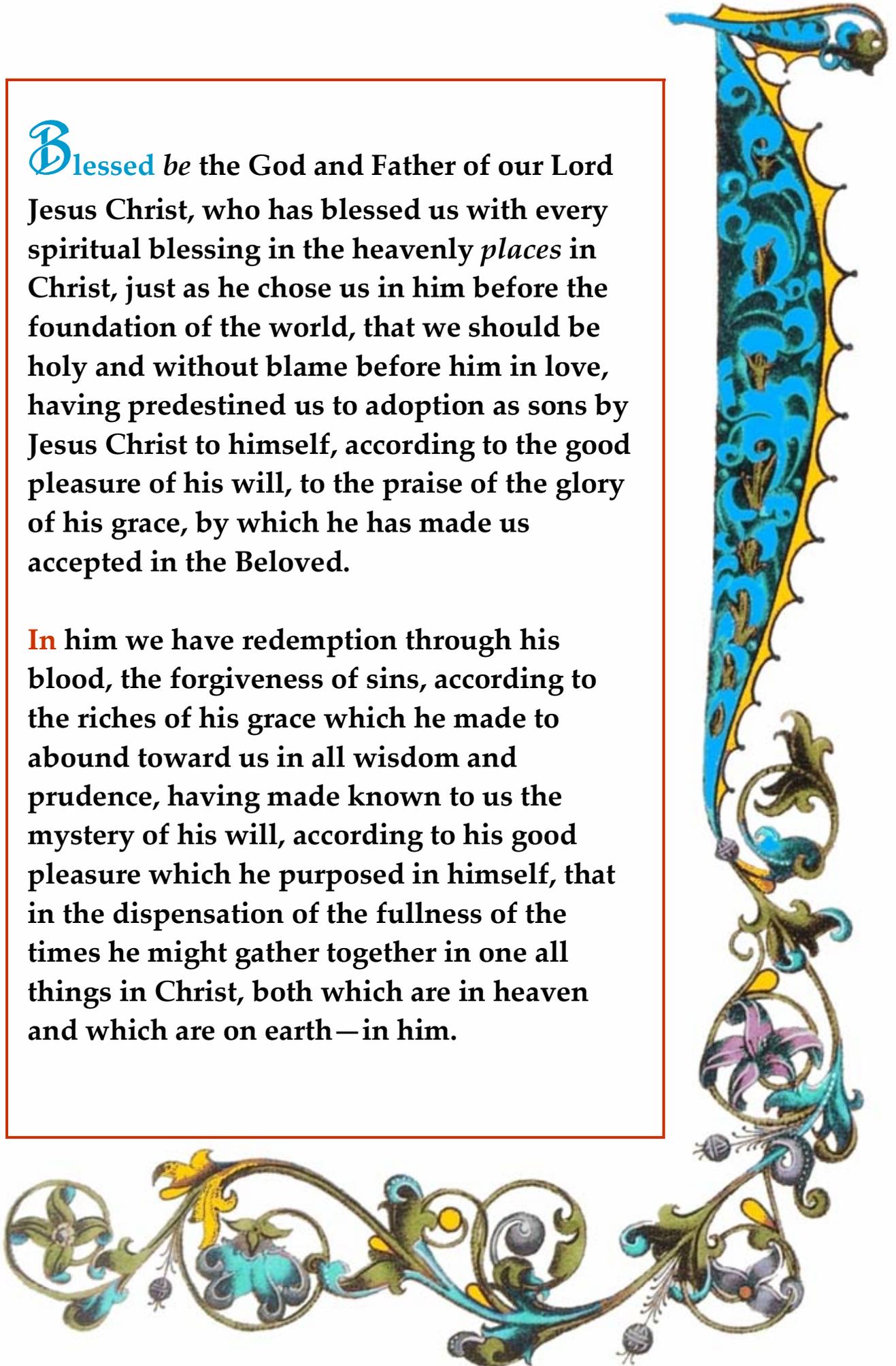
He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will 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.



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.



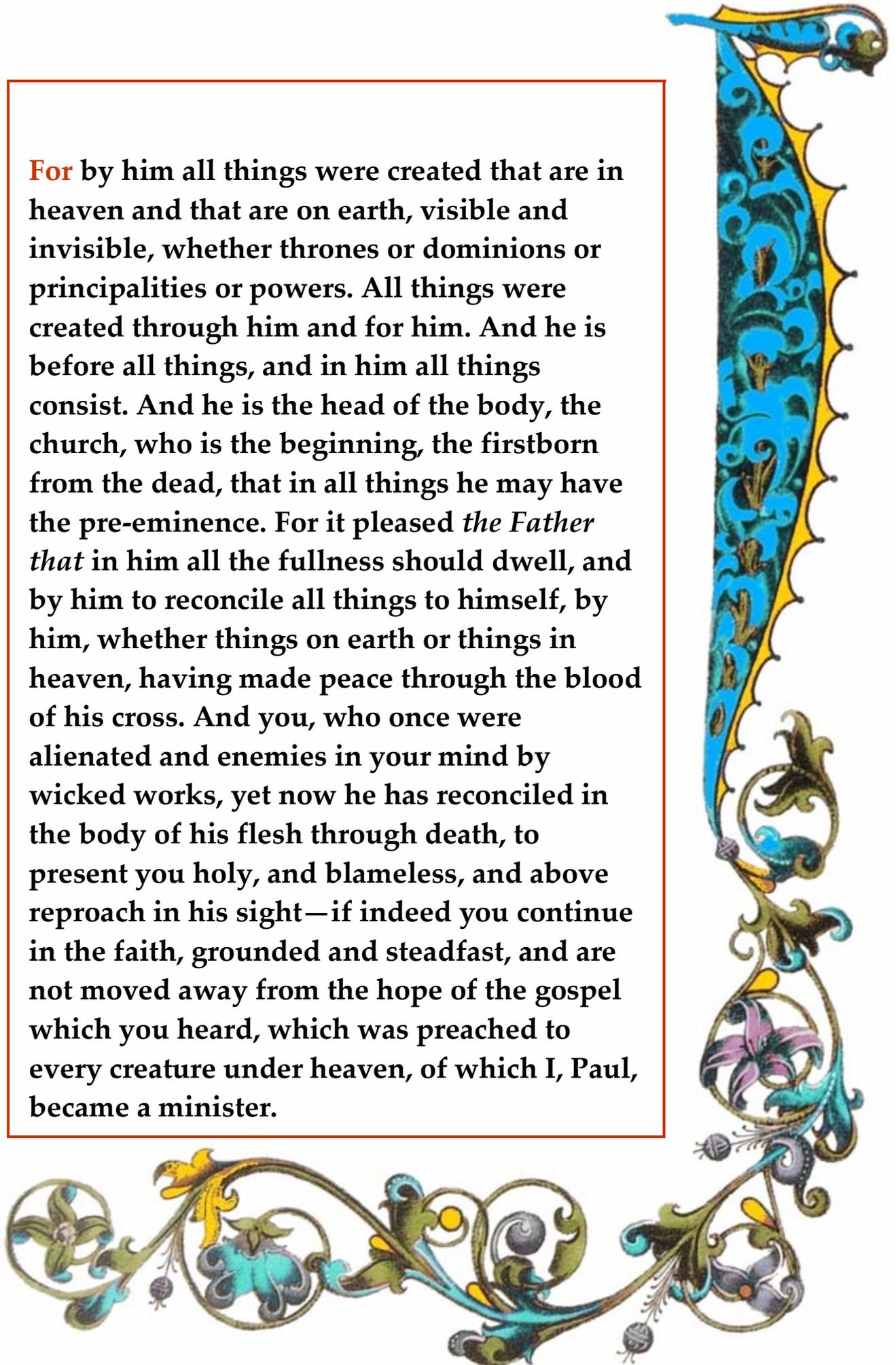


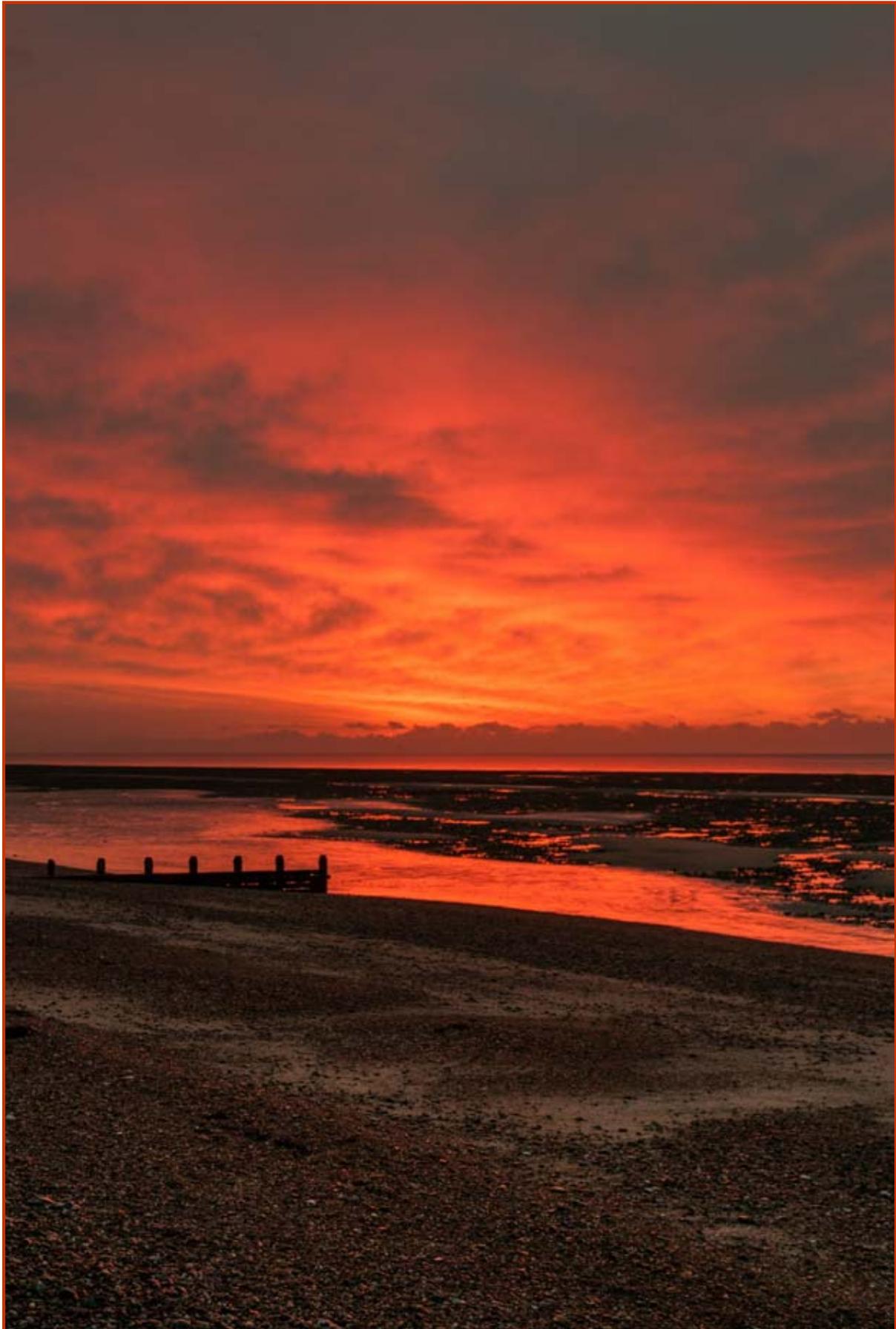
Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself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

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.



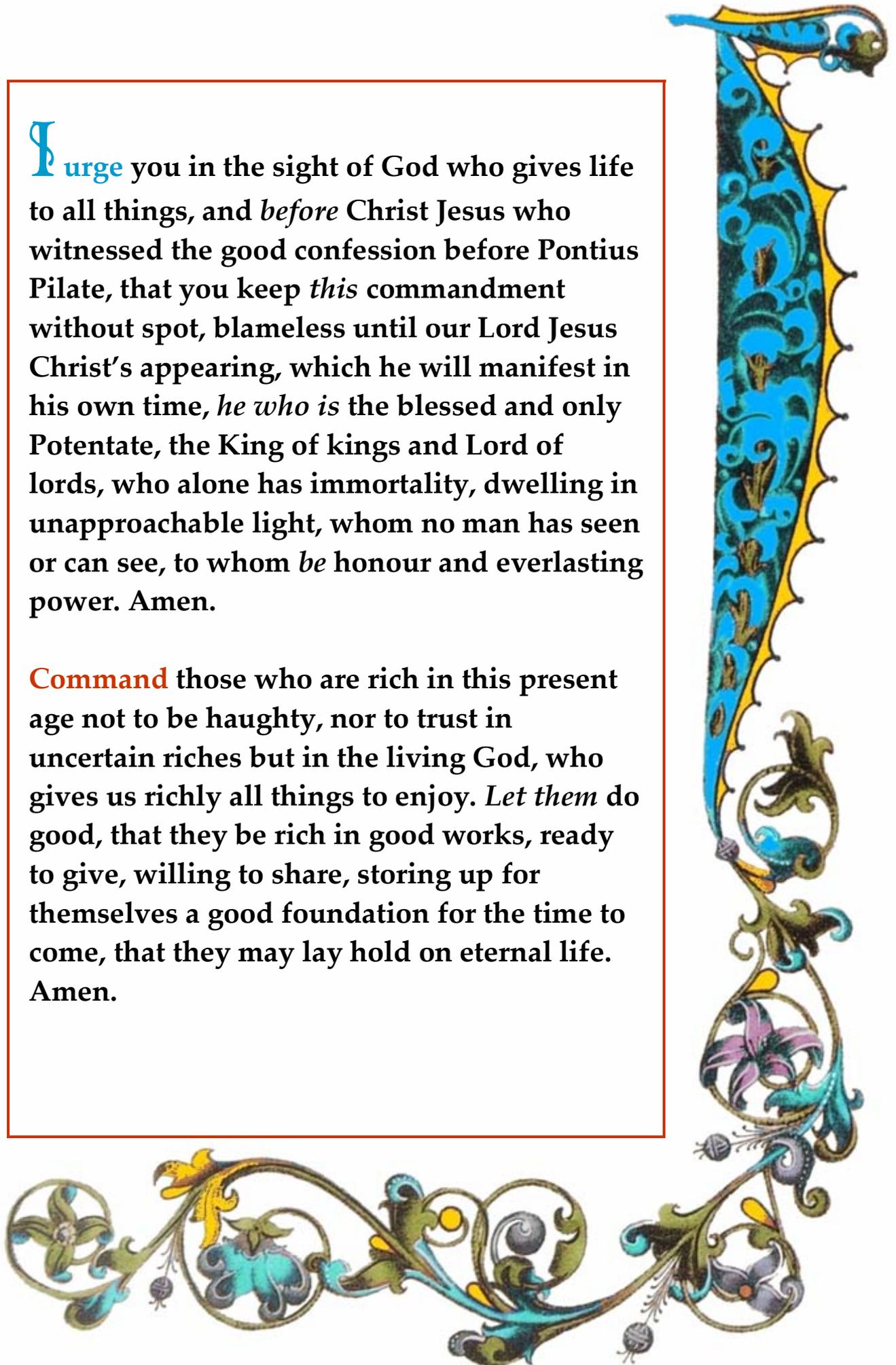
For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the 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.





Iurge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which he will manifest in his own time, *he who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honour and everlasting power. Amen.

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. Amen.





For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for himself *his* own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that having been justified by his grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.







God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *his* Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of *his* glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as he has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

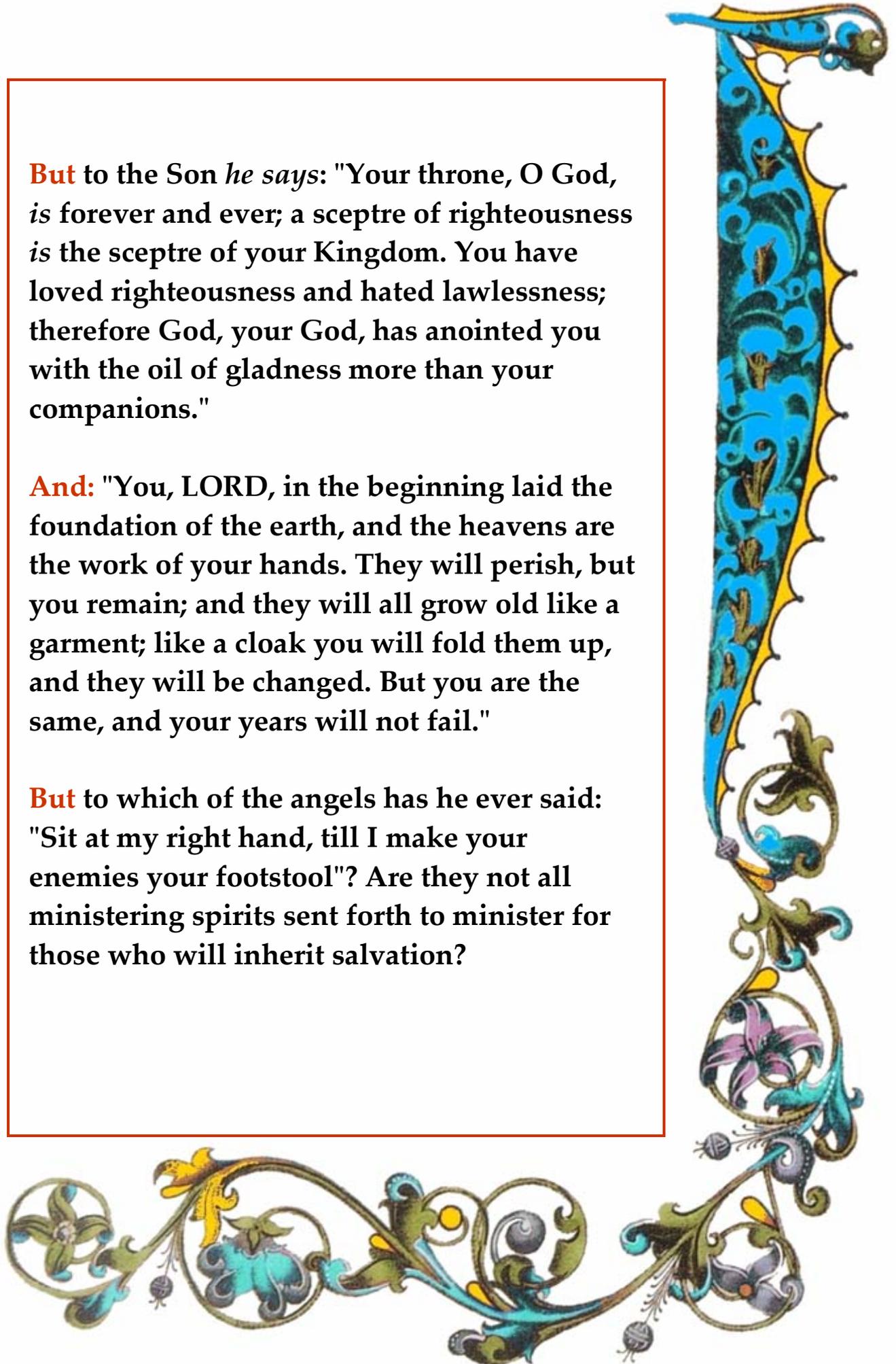
For to which of the angels did he ever say: "You are my Son, today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son"? But when he again brings the firstborn into the world, he says: "Let all the angels of God worship him." And of the angels he says: "Who makes his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire."



But to the Son *he says*: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness more than your companions."

And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak you will fold them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will not fail."

But to which of the angels has he ever said: "Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?





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.

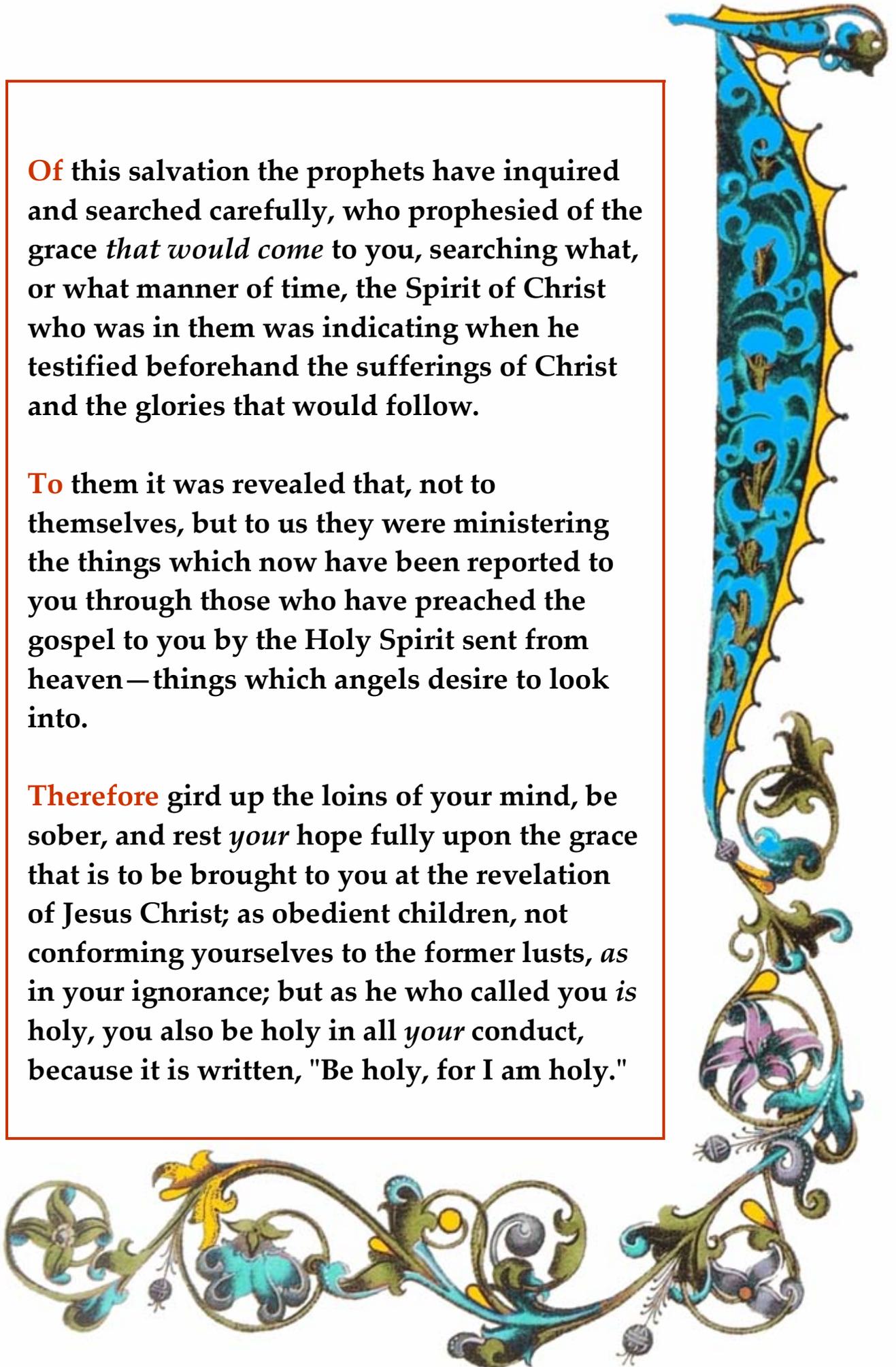
Though now you do not see *him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.



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.

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."



The
Blessed
Ones

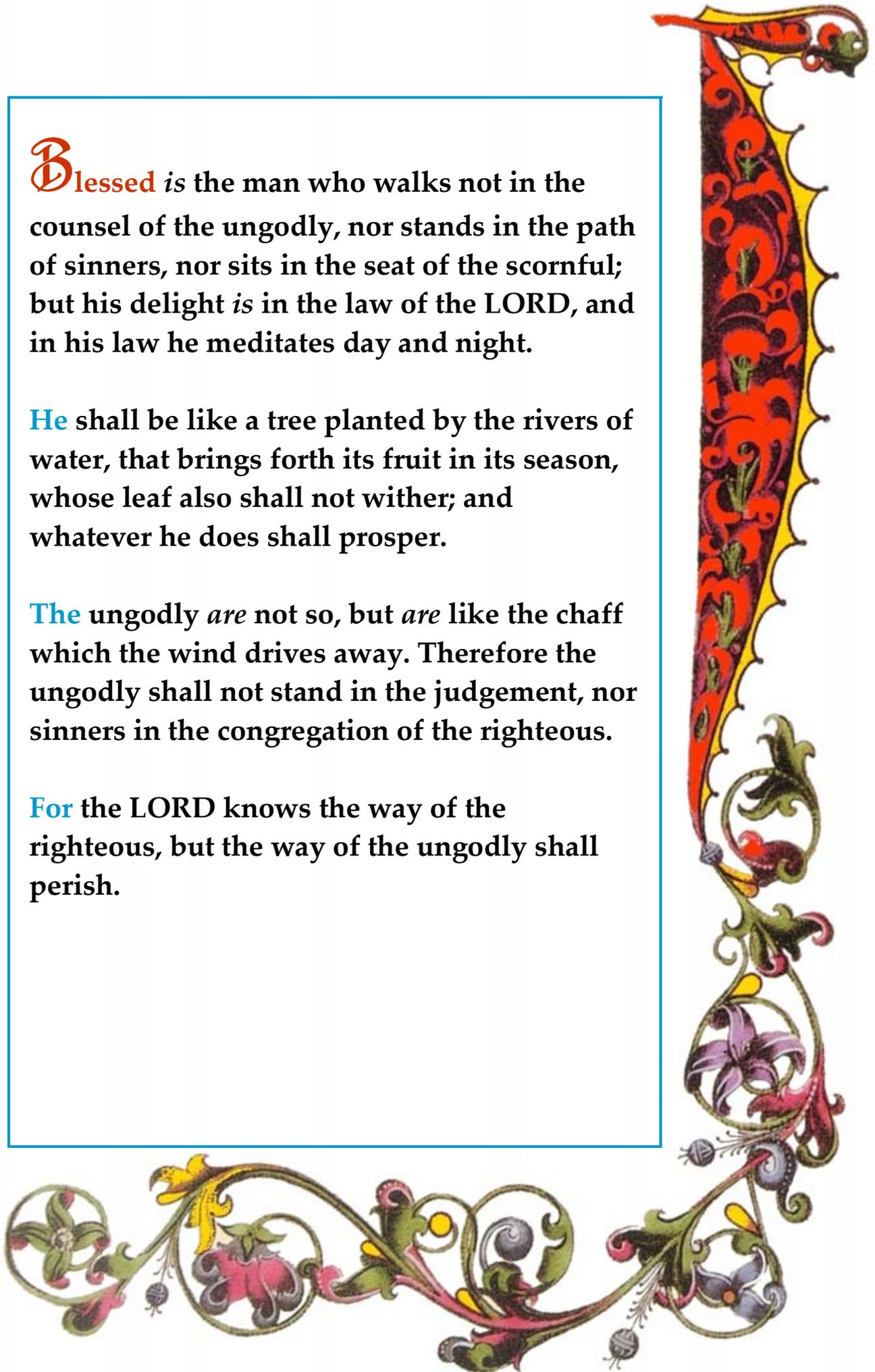


Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in his law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.





Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is no* deceit. When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to you in a time when you may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him. You *are* my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble; you shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all *you* upright in heart!





The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in him! Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints! *There is* no want to those who fear him.

Who *is* the man *who* desires life, and loves *many* days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, and his ears *are open* to their cry. The face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. *The righteous* cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

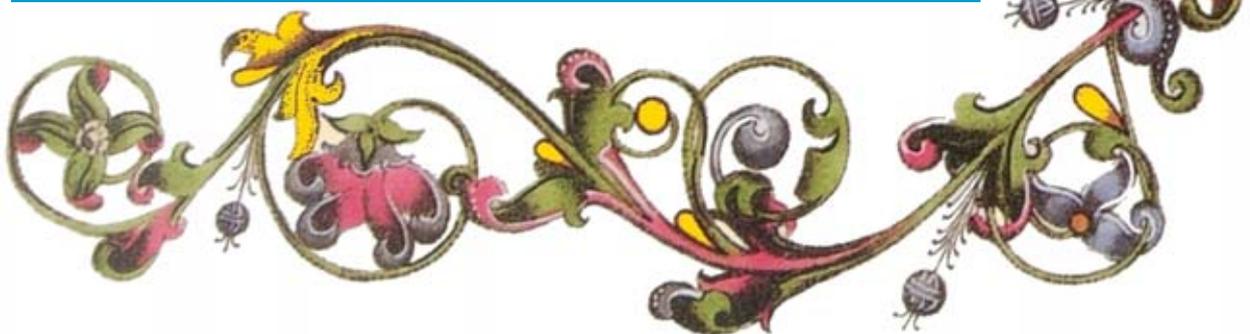




Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. Many, O LORD my God, *are* your wonderful works *which* you have done; and your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to you in order; *if* I would declare and speak *of them*, they are more than can be numbered. Sacrifice and offering you did not desire; my ears you have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering you did not require. Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book *it is* written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God, and your law *is* within my heart." I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, you yourself know. I have not hidden your righteousness within my heart; I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your lovingkindness and your truth from the great assembly. Do not withhold your tender mercies from me, O LORD; let your lovingkindness and your truth continually preserve me.



Blessed is the man you choose, and cause to approach you, that he may dwell in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, of your holy temple. By awesome deeds in righteousness you will answer us, O God of our salvation, you who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far-off seas; who established the mountains by his strength, being clothed with power; you who still the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the peoples. They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of your signs; you make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice. You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its ridges abundantly, you settle its furrows; you make it soft with showers, you bless its growth. You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths drip with abundance. They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side.





Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they will still be praising you. Selah

Blessed is the man whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass
through the Valley of Baca, they make it a
spring; the rain also covers it with pools. They
go from strength to strength; each one appears
before God in Zion.

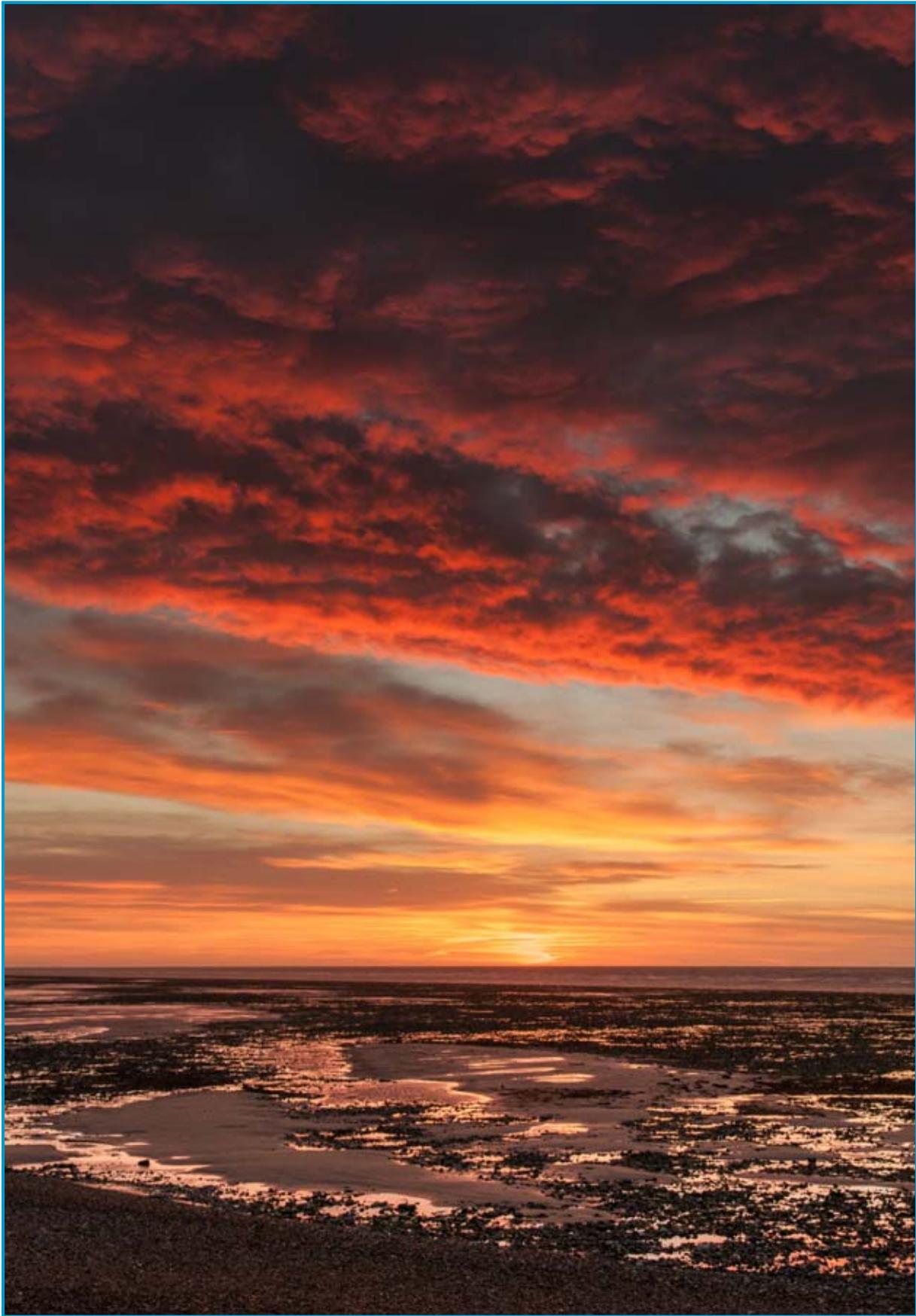
O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give
ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

O God, behold our shield, and look upon the
face of your anointed. For a day in your courts
is better than a thousand. I would rather be a
doorkeeper in the house of my God than
dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the
LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD
will give grace and glory; no good thing will
he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who
trusts in you!

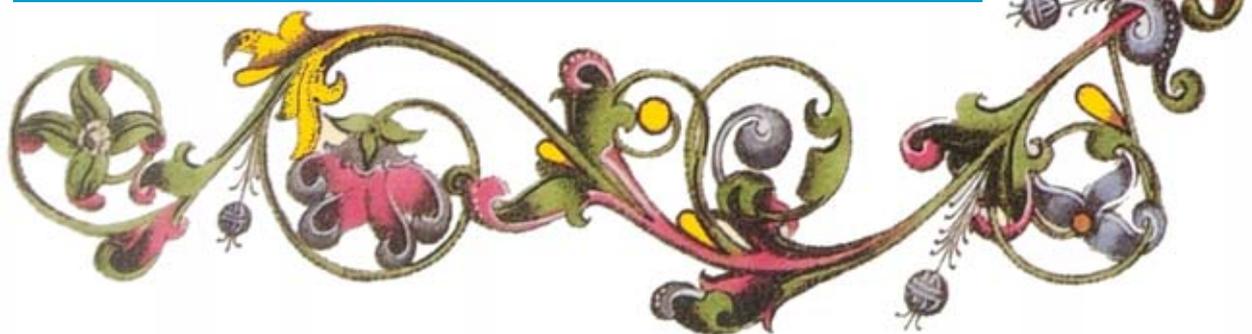
Blessed is the man whom you instruct, O LORD, and teach out of your law, that you may give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit is dug for the wicked. For the LORD will not cast off his people, nor will he forsake his inheritance. But judgement will return to righteousness, and all the upright in heart will follow it. Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? Unless the LORD *had been* my help, my soul would soon have settled in silence. If I say, "My foot slips," your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, your comforts delight my soul. Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with you? They gather together against the life of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood. But the LORD has been my defence, and my God the rock of my refuge. He has brought on them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; the LORD our God shall cut them off.





Praise the LORD! Blessed *is* the man *who* fears the LORD, *who* delights greatly in his commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches *will be* in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; *he is* gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. A good man deals graciously and lends; he will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he will never be shaken; the righteous will be in everlasting remembrance. He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart *is* established; he will not be afraid, until he sees *his desire* upon his enemies. He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be exalted with honour. The wicked will see *it* and be grieved; he will gnash his teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked shall perish.





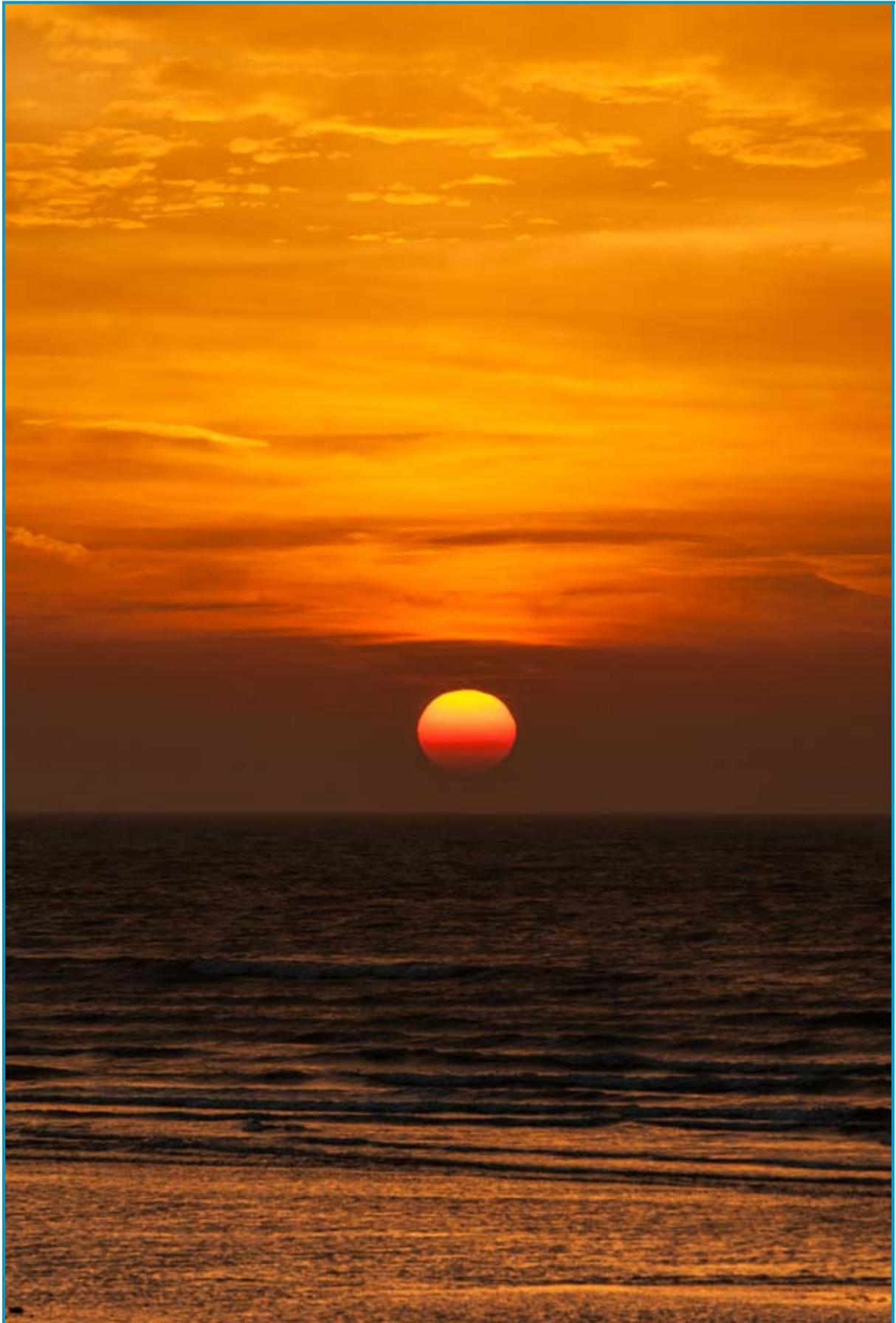
Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed *are* those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in his ways.

You have commanded *us* to keep your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all your commandments. I will praise you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous judgements. I will keep your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word. With my whole heart I have sought you; Oh, let me not wander from your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you!

Blessed *are* you, O LORD! Teach me your statutes!







Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways. When you eat the labour of your hands, you *shall be* happy, and *it shall be* well with you. Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you out of Zion, and may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace *be* upon Israel!

Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in a salt land which is not* inhabited.

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD.



For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."

"**A**wake, O sword, against my Shepherd, against the man who is my Companion," says the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn my hand against the little ones. And it shall come to pass in all the land," says the LORD, "that two-thirds in it shall be cut off *and* die, but *one-third* shall be left in it: I will bring the *one-third* through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested.

They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This *is* my people'; and each one will say, 'The LORD *is* my God.'"





Great multitudes followed him [Jesus] — from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, he went up on a mountain, and when he was seated his disciples came to him.

Then he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



"For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods."





"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. And he will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I *was* naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.'

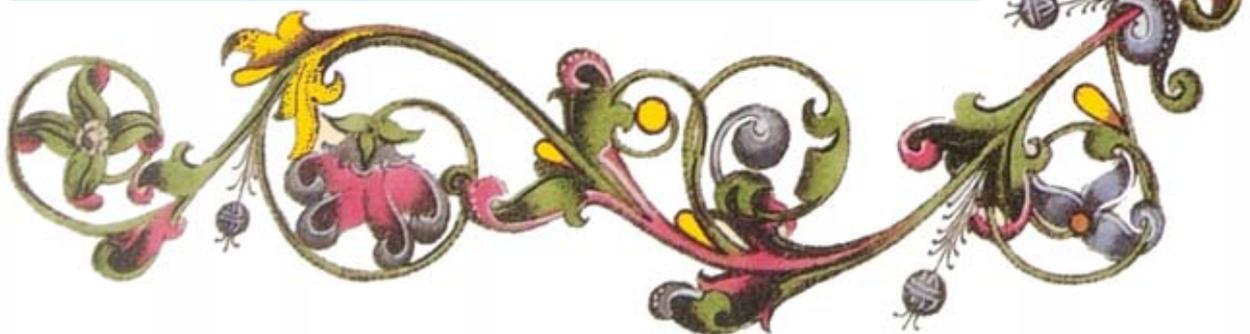
Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed *you*, or thirsty and give *you* drink? When did we see you a stranger and take *you* in, or naked and clothe *you*? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?'

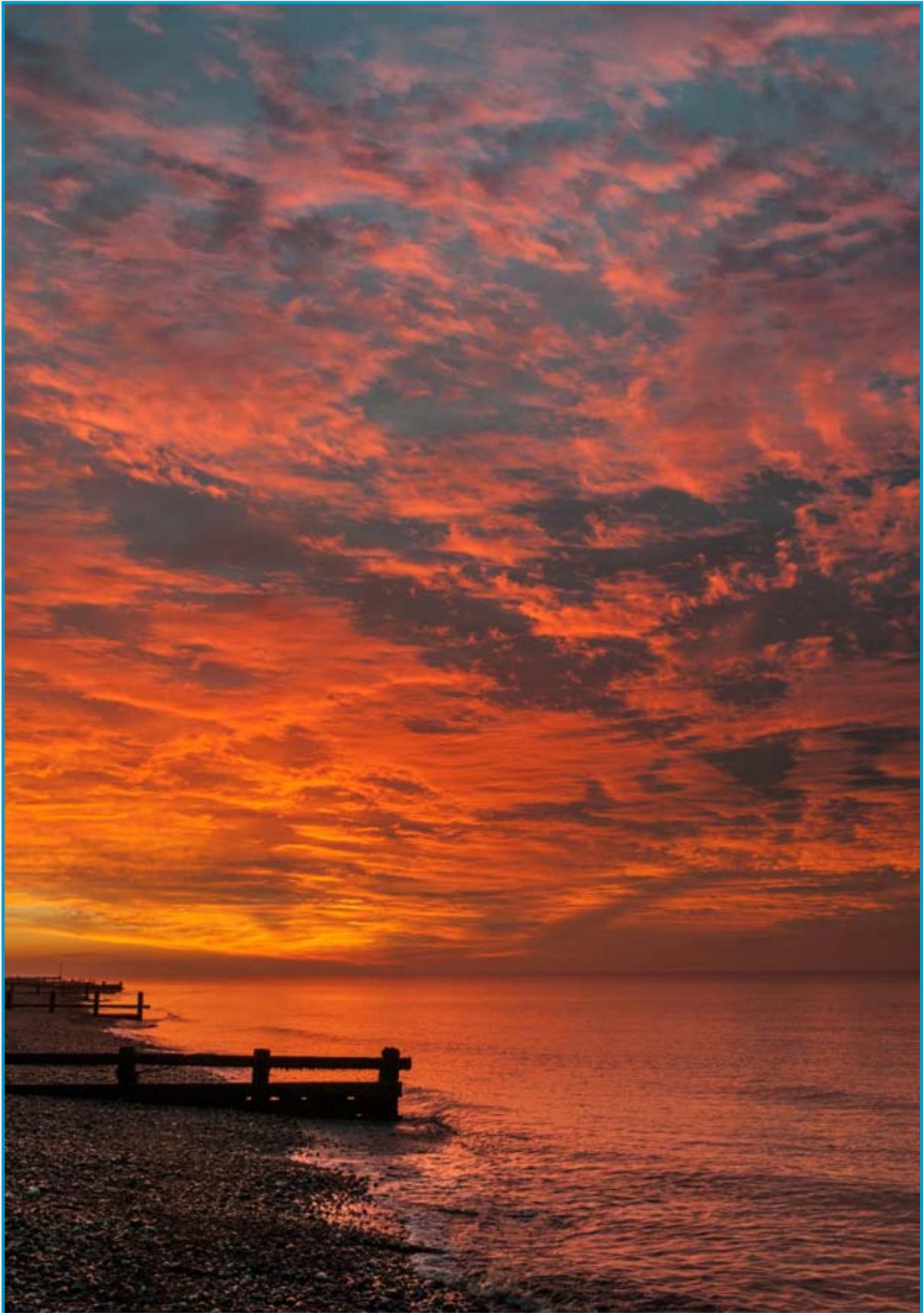


And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these my brethren, you did *it* to me.'

Then he will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

Then he will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."





And he [Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him, for power went out from him and healed *them* all.

Then he lifted up his eyes toward his disciples, and said: "Blessed *are you* poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed *are you* who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed *are you* who weep now, for you shall laugh.

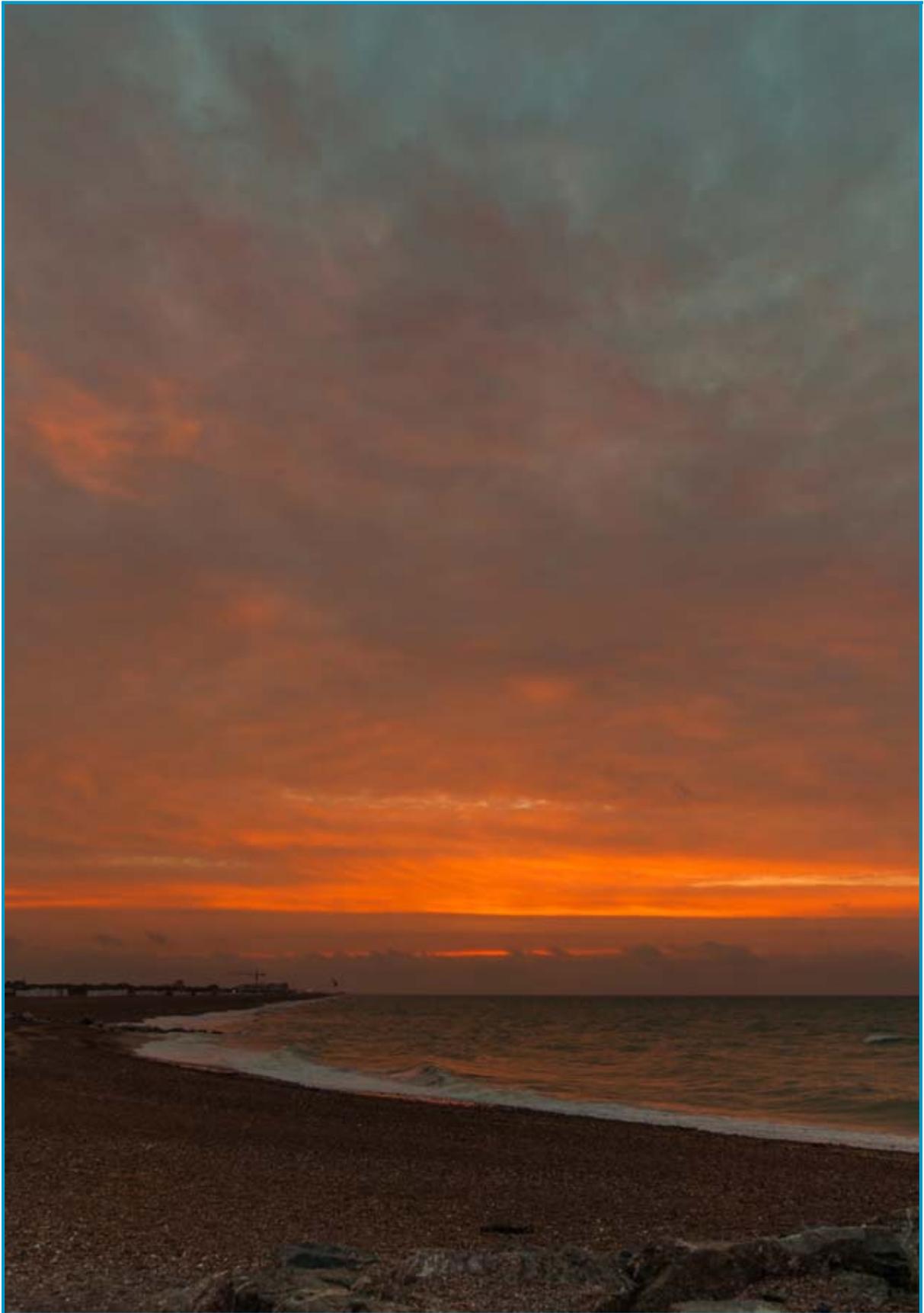
Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile *you*, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward *is* great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.





But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For he is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."







"Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.

Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them.

And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants.

But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."



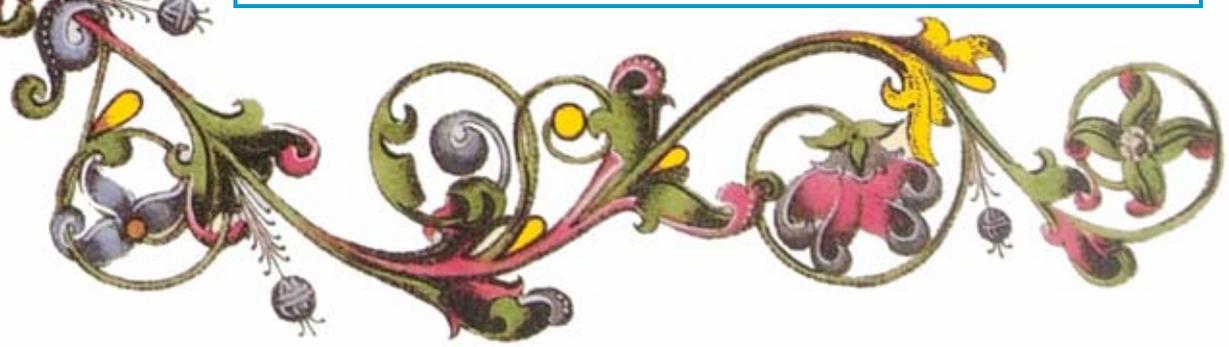
"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin." Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised [Jews] only, or upon the uncircumcised [Gentiles] also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had while still* uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision to those who not only *are* of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham *had while still* uncircumcised. For the promise that he would be the heir of the world *was* not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.





Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying*, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then those who *are* of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for "the just shall live by faith." Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.



Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures. So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.





Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labours, and their works follow them."

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in your sickle and reap, for the time has come for you to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

So he who sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

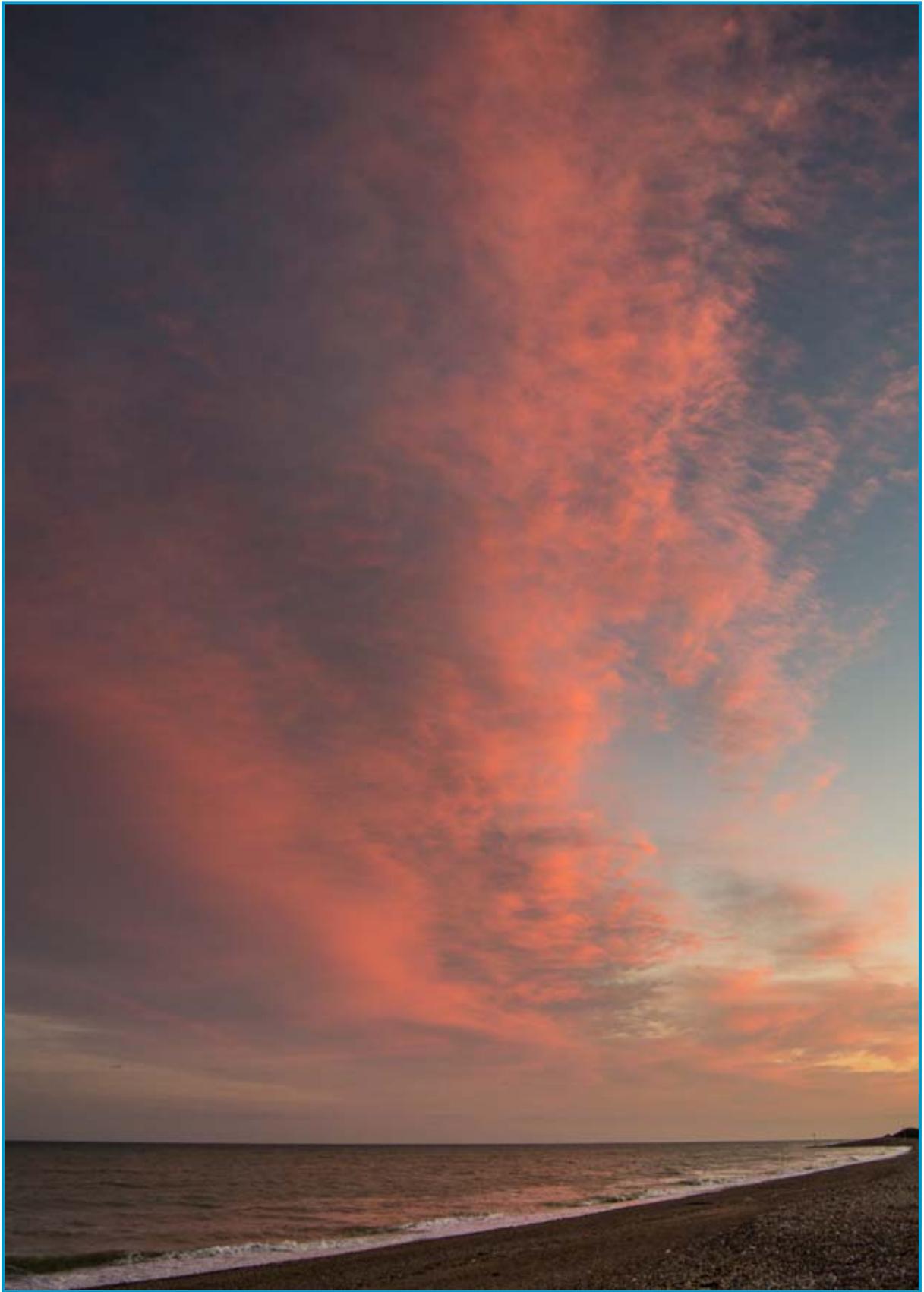


"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, *each hailstone* about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.



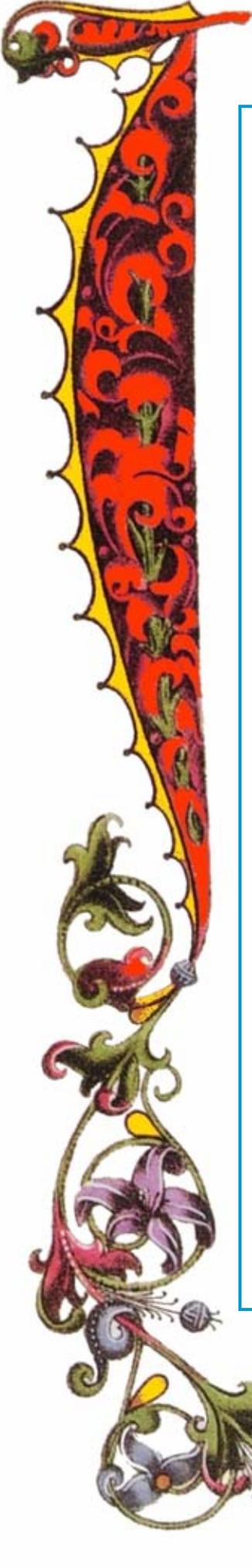


Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants and those who fear him, both small and great!"

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb [Christ] has come, and his wife [Christ's Church] has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

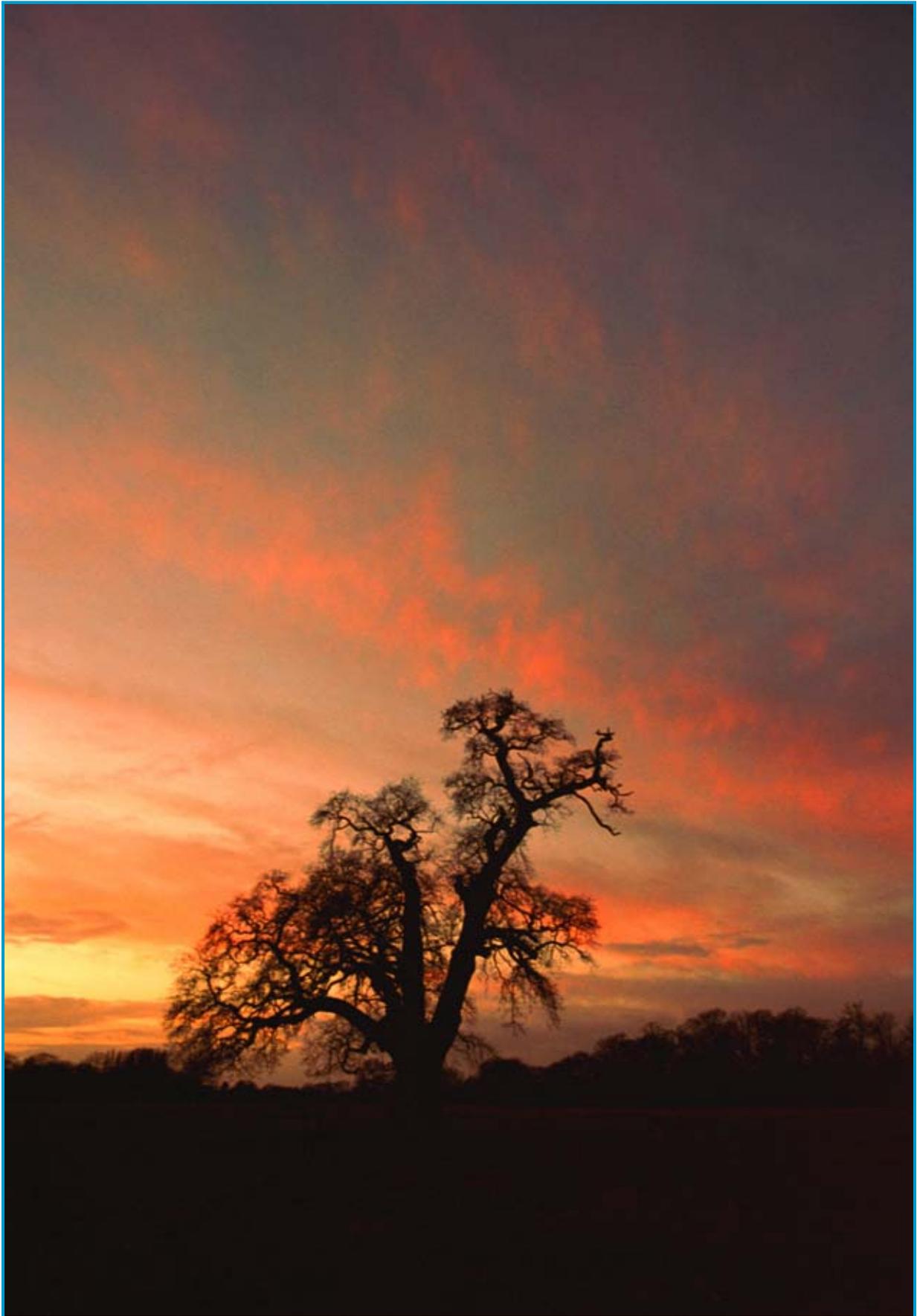




And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgement was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward *is* with me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last." Blessed *are* those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.









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