

THE
POWER
OF THE
MOST HIGH
God in Christ Jesus





Volume 2 of 7

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FOREWORD

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (essentially the Hebrew Tanakh and B'Rit Hadashah) reveal God's viewpoint regarding this world: namely, that all its peoples, the earth itself, and the whole Cosmos are all corrupted and fallen from the perfection that he originally intended as their Creator. And the cause of this fall was us – humanity! The Bible is clear that God created a first man and woman (Adam and Eve) to be the 'progenitors' of the human race. They were given charge over a creation that was 'very good' in God's eyes, and a simple command to show their love and obedience to their Maker – but they chose wilfully to rebel against God and disobey his clear instruction to 'not eat' one specific thing. As the LORD God warned, so it was: in the moment they rebelled, sin and death entered them (spiritual death instantly, then being followed by physical later). And the whole created order was handed over by them to a state of corruption and decay. The human race is descended from the loins of Adam, and thus we all have inherited his rebellious and disobedient nature. The Word of God declares bluntly, "There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one." [Romans 3: 10 – 12] It would be a very bleak prospect for humanity if that assessment of us was God's final word on the matter. We could have no hope at all. But there is good news! He chose instead to set in motion a 'rescue operation' for humanity. However, because he is absolutely holy and just, his plan of redemption could not contravene his own nature; it must fulfil his own standard of holiness, justice and righteousness. Therefore without any 'help' from fallen man, who could do no good works to merit God's salvation, the Most High commenced a step-by-step plan to provide a means of rescue for Man. It began with God calling out of the nations a people for himself, to set over them his anointed King.

We tend to like immediate solutions and instant gratification, but God's intricate plan of redemption stretches over millennia, much of it being built on one (righteous) person at a time carrying out the task given them through the power of God's Holy Spirit. The Canon of Scripture reveals this story of redemption that culminates in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, coming to this earth – first as Saviour then as Judge. Salvation was purchased by Christ at his first coming as Saviour of the world. But God's righteous anger against continued human rebellion will be meted out by the Son of God at his second coming as Judge of the whole earth. In between these two momentous events is the Church Age in which we live – the 'acceptable year of the LORD' – a time of grace in which God is 'not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.'

Throughout the Scriptures, God reveals to us his purpose and plan. The Law, the Prophets, the writings – and the New Testament written during the apostolic era – bring into focus the true meanings of the following:

Redemption – from the moment humanity fell into a state of sin and death, and even before Creation, God purposed to redeem a holy people – to buy them back out of bondage – through the substitutionary death of his Son on our behalf [see Genesis 3: 15].

Atonement – that since 'the wages of sin is death' and 'the life is in the blood' therefore death is the only appropriate judgment for sin. Thus, the shedding of innocent blood for sin, as pictured by God through the Jewish sacrificial system, could be made on behalf of sinners, in order for them to be forgiven by God and come into his holy presence without being instantly condemned. The only innocent man who could pay the price for (all) human sin was Jesus Christ.

Incarnation – that God the Son, the second person of the divine trinity, set aside his eternal glory and entered the world as a man, born of a virgin. Thus he was not corrupted by Adam's fall. Therefore God's divine nature and uncorrupted human nature were perfectly in harmony in Jesus of Nazareth, who was a perfect man.

Substitution – because he lived a perfect, sinless life as a man always in obedience to the will of God the Father, the Son of God was slain on behalf of humanity as the sacrificial Lamb of God. He bore the punishment for the sins of the whole world, in our place. His blood was shed and his life given on behalf of others. All the Old Testament sacrifices pointed to this once-for-all sacrifice.

Propitiation – that the death of his Son nailed to a Roman cross was sufficient to appease God's wrath and take the judgment due to all others. Everyone who looks to the Lord Jesus as their propitiation receives God's forgiveness.

Justification – that God the Father declares righteous (not guilty of their sins against God and man) everyone who trusts in the finished work of Jesus Christ on their behalf.

Imputation – that the perfect righteousness of the Lamb of God is imputed to everyone who put their faith in Jesus Christ. God the Father no longer imputes a believer's sins to him, but sees them clothed in his Son's spotless righteousness.

New Birth/Life in Christ – that everyone who believes that Jesus Christ has died and risen for them receives the free gift of eternal life – God’s very life inside them (the Holy Spirit).

Grace – We do nothing ourselves to earn, deserve or merit salvation. As the apostle Paul said, ‘For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.’ [Ephesians 2: 8, 9]. Jesus when asked, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” answered, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him who he sent.” [John 6: 28, 29]. Salvation is a free gift, given by God to those who do not deserve it.

Resurrection – as prophesied in The Scriptures, the Messiah could not be held down by death because he had no sin of his own. Therefore, he arose in a changed body after three days in the grave, and was seen by many reliable witnesses. Christ’s resurrection confirmed that his death on the cross on behalf of others was accepted by the Father as a sacrifice for their sins.

Repentance – turning to God and away from going our own way, by acknowledging Jesus Christ as Saviour and submitting to him as Lord of a believer’s life, in accordance with all the saints of all the ages.

Sanctification – that those who believe in Jesus Christ will be transformed more and more into Christ’s likeness each day by the Holy Spirit at work in them.

Hope – Scriptural ‘hope’ is without uncertainty, and is described by the apostle Paul in Romans, chapter 8, as follows; ‘Not only *that*, but we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.'

Glorification – Everything pertaining to this fallen created order is corrupted by sin; all is temporal and will pass away when Christ dismisses it. God has prepared new glorified bodies for his people that will be immortal, incorruptible, no longer subject to sin and decay, suitable for everlasting life in the new heaven and new earth.

Judgment – All those who reject, ignore and dismiss the sacrifice of God's Beloved on their behalf will not, after they die, stand justified before God. They will be eternally punished because they are sinners and did not believe in the name of Jesus Christ – the one means of salvation prepared by God. They will experience eternal separation of their rebellious spirit from God (the second death). There is no need for anyone to undergo this indescribable punishment, for God 'takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked' [Ezekiel 33: 11] and is 'longsuffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.' [II Peter 3: 9].

God's glory – Everything that exists, including the plan that he is now unfolding in Creation, will ultimately be to God's glory. The consummation of everything will demonstrate God's absolute holiness, his ultimate power, his unsearchable wisdom, his unequalled creativity, his infinite love, his unfailing mercy, his unchanging determination to redeem humanity, his Son's right to rule over all, his spotless righteousness and his irrefutable justice as Judge of heaven and earth.

INTRODUCTION

The Hebrew Tanakh – re-ordered as the Christian Old Testament – promised that One would come from God to bring peace, righteousness and justice to the earth. It also described God bringing both salvation and judgment to its peoples. This Anointed and Chosen One is called Mashiach in Hebrew (which we translate as Messiah in English). According to the inspired Old Testament writers, Messiah would both suffer as God’s Servant and rule over Israel and the nations as God’s King – a duality that traditional Judaism was and is unable to accommodate. Messiah would come as a light to the Gentiles and restore Israel to a right relationship with God, living under his Kingship in the Promised Land. There were strong indications that Messiah would be God, the LORD himself, yet also a man!

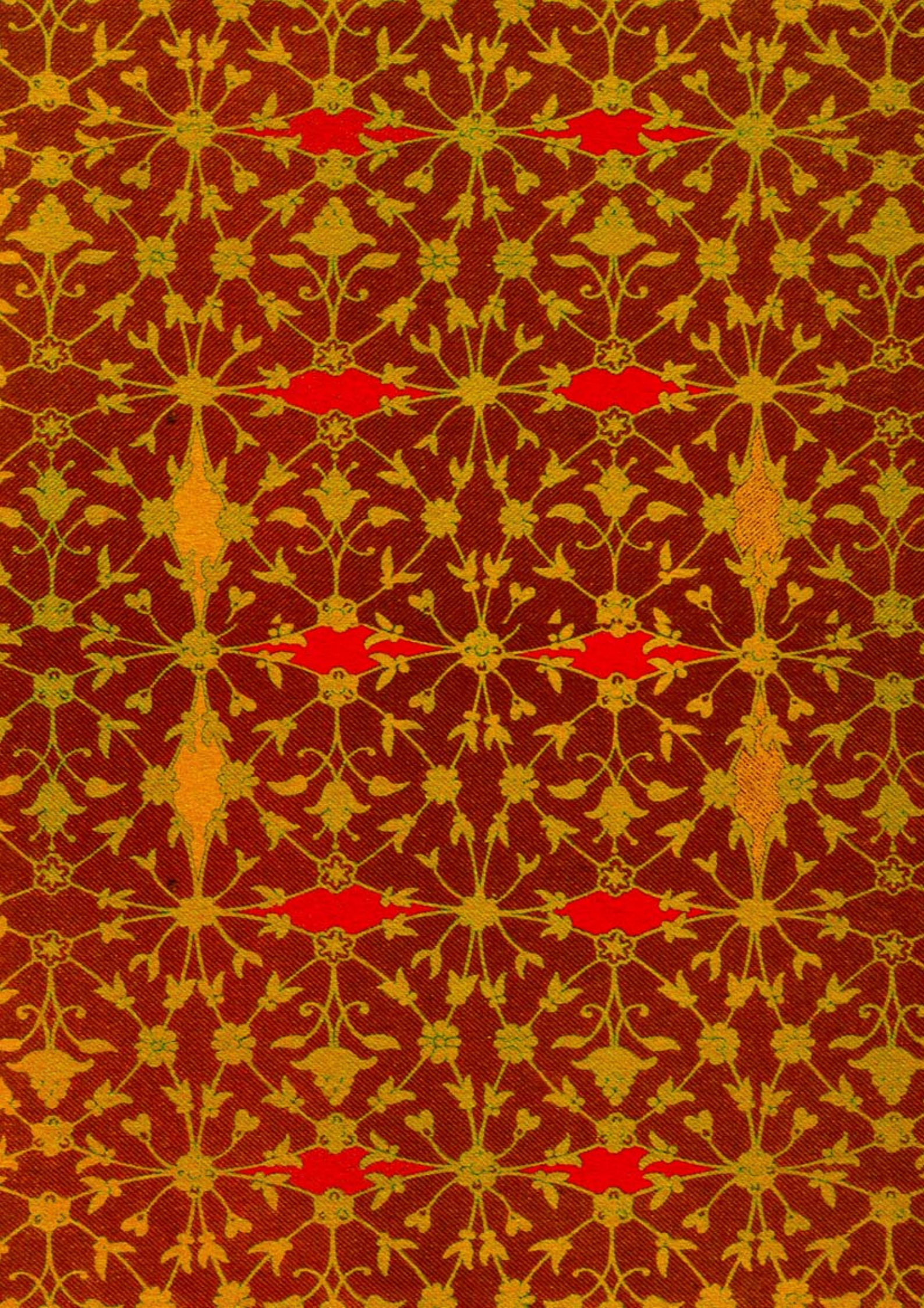
The New Testament (B’Rit Hadashah in Hebrew) was written in Greek, with Messiah being translated as Christos (Christ in English). According to its inspired writers, Messiah (Christ) came into the world, as prophesied in the Tanakh, not clothed in power and glory to execute God’s vengeance on his enemies and restore Israel to an exalted position immediately, but rather clothed in ordinary human flesh in the form of a servant. He was born into poverty and lowliness as Jesus (Heb. Yeshua, a form of Joshua) of Nazareth. His name means ‘Saviour’ or ‘God is Salvation’. Jesus announced he had come to bring ‘the acceptable year of the LORD’, a time of Jubilee – freedom from slavery, and not the day of God’s vengeance [Isaiah 61: 1 – 3]. This current era from his birth to the present day, is still a time of God’s grace during which rebellious humanity has been given a way to receive everlasting life rather than judgment/condemnation, and come into the presence of a holy and just God.

The first believers in Jesus Christ – who witnessed his resurrection from the dead and ascension back to heaven – were all Jewish. The new believers during the next few years and decades were similarly Jewish. But soon the gospel of salvation by grace was sent to the non-Jewish peoples too.

Most people today deny that God entered the world as a man born of a woman, in order to redeem humanity and reconcile us to himself by his sacrificial death on our behalf. The world and its religions generally reject the fact that no amount of ‘good works’ can earn anyone a way into God’s heaven. While in the world as a man, Jesus of Nazareth always retained the divine nature of eternal God – even though he chose to set aside his glory. He became the propitiation for God’s righteous anger against human rebellion and sin. Israel wanted their Messiah to be a conquering King who would restore the land to them immediately and rule the nations with a rod of iron – not someone who would say, ‘My kingdom is not of this world’ and be brutally nailed on a Roman cross to die a ‘sinner’s death’.

The inspired writers of the New Testament unveil Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah who lived and died on the earth as a man, but who rose from the dead on the third day, according to The Scriptures. He will return again to the earth to reveal his almighty power and eternal glory.

When the ‘year’ of grace has ended, then the time of God’s judgment will be revealed – a time of God’s wrath for all who deny, reject or ignore his Holy One. The Scriptures reveal that the One who was pierced (crucified) for us will step back on to the earth at God’s appointed time, put down all unrighteousness and judge the Earth and Cosmos that he originally created, and then create a new heaven and a new earth characterised by righteousness.



For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and he died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *him thus* no longer.

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For he made him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him.



“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the one to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*” Therefore he shall give them up, until the time *that* she who is in labour has given birth [to the Messiah]; then the remnant of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed *his flock* in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and this *one* shall be peace.

MICAH 5: 2 – 5A

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then 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!"

LUKE 2: 4 – 14



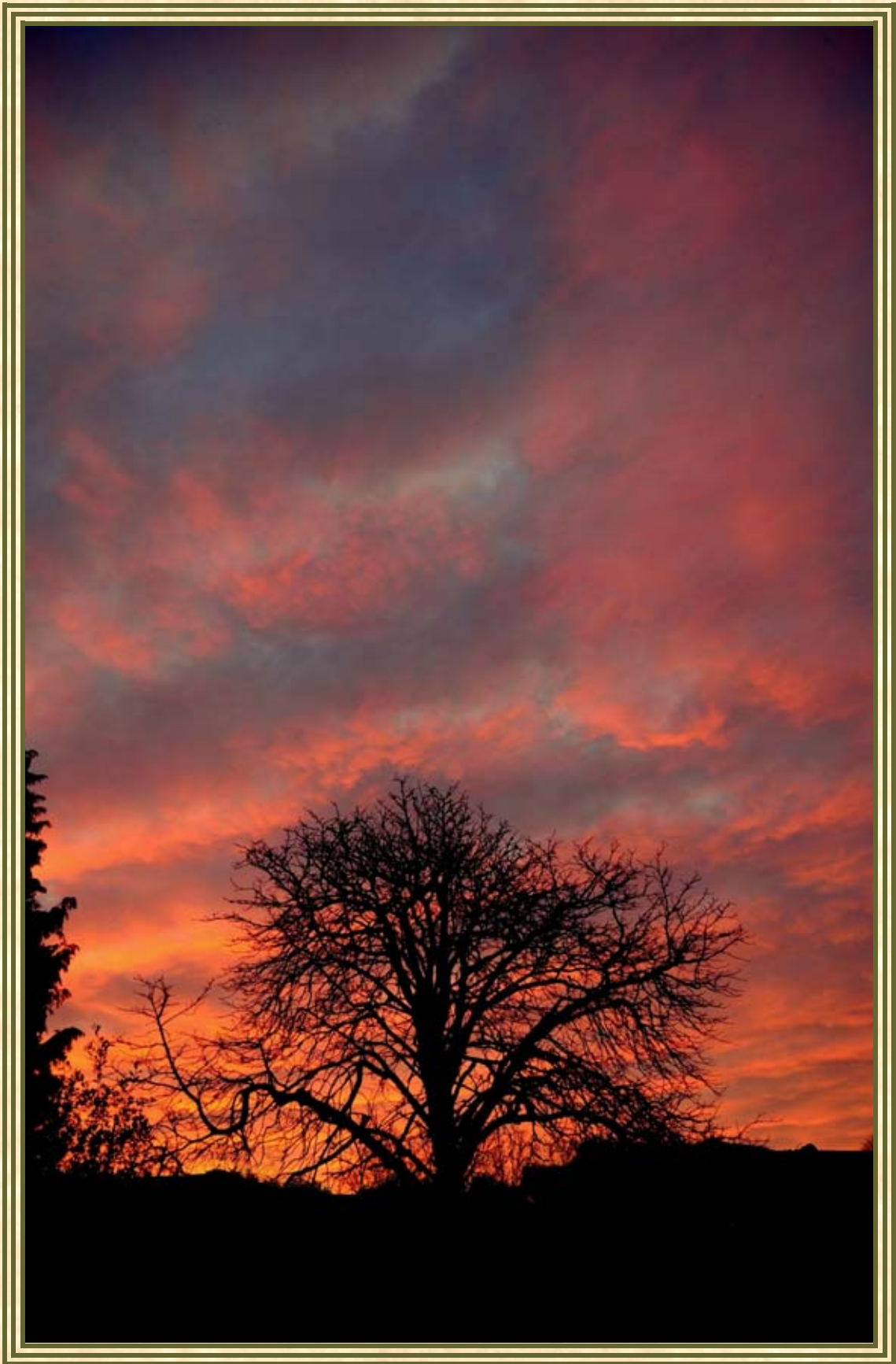
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness 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.'"

And of his fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared *Him*.



Now in the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favoured *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call his name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

LUKE 1: 26 – 38



Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

MATTHEW 28: 16 – 20

Then the Jews [the religious leaders – mainly Pharisees] said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and you say, 'If anyone keeps my word he shall never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom do you make yourself out to be?"

Jesus answered, "If I honour myself, my honour is nothing. It is my Father who honours me, of whom you say that he is your God. Yet you have not known him, but I know him. And if I say, 'I do not know him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw *it* and was glad."

Then the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." [Jesus here claims for himself the covenant name of God given to Moses by the LORD, see Exodus 3: 13 & 14] Then they took up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

JOHN 8: 52 – 59



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.

PSALM 2: 1 – 12

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *one* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him. Then to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed. I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me."

DANIEL 7: 13 – 15



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. I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of his body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to his saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

COLOSSIANS 1: 13 – 28



Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in him, who is the head of all principality and power. In him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *him* through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he has made alive together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And he has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.



Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God. Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations — "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

COLOSSIANS 2: 8 – 3: 4



Urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pon'tius 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 (Sovereign), the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man can see, to whom *be* honour and everlasting power. Amen.

I TIMOTHY 6: 13 – 16

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.

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.

PHILIPPIANS 2: 5 – 16

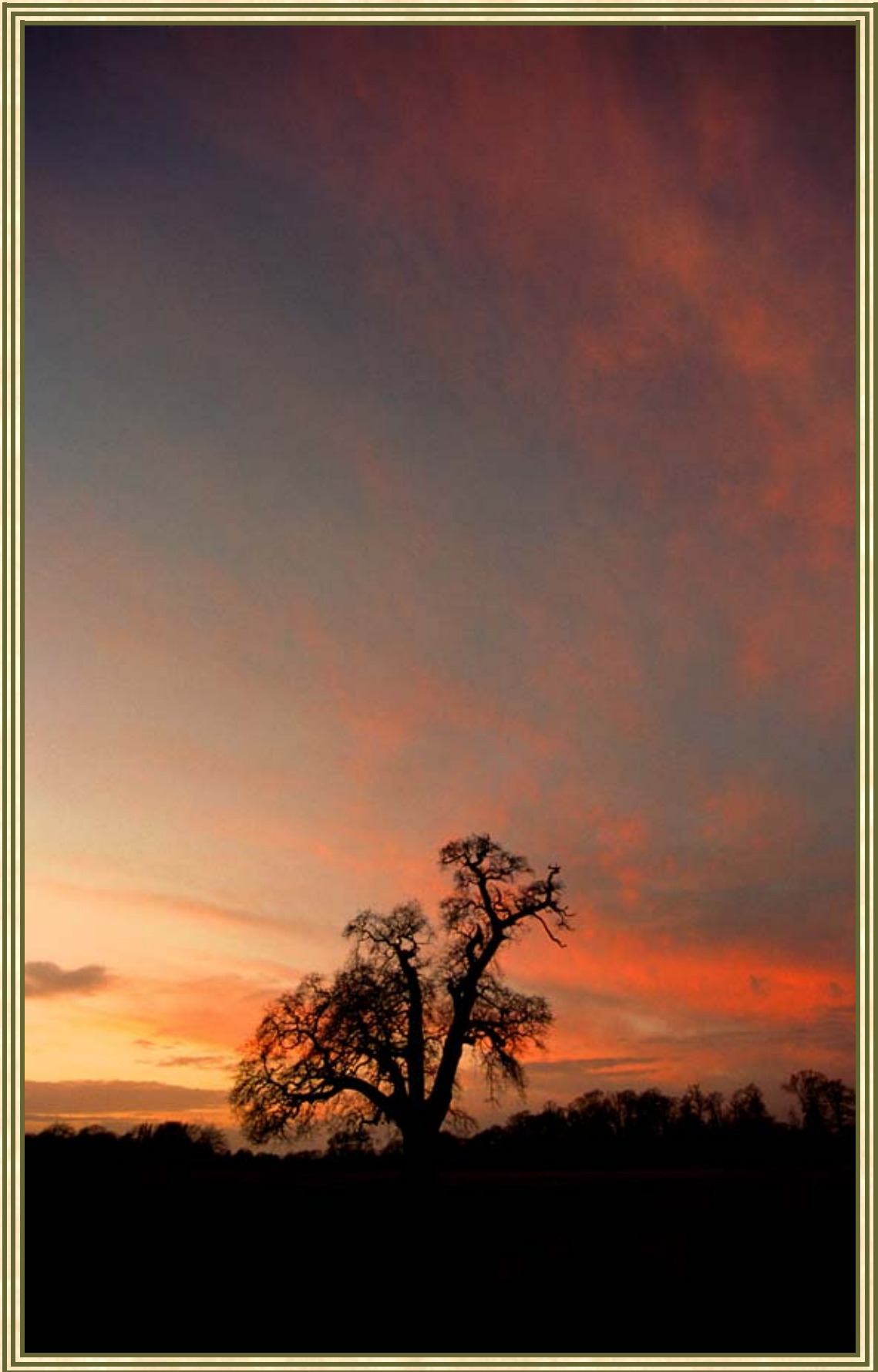


And when he came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And he presented him to his mother.

Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and "God has visited his people." And this report about him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region. Then the disciples of John [the Baptist] reported to him concerning all these things. And John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, "Are you the Coming One [Messiah], or do we look for another?" When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the Coming One, or do we look for another?' "

And at that very hour he cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind he gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the* blind see, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is *he* who is not offended because of me." [Tanakh – Old Testament Messianic prophecies]

LUKE 7: 12 – 23



So also *is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in* corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam [Christ] *became* a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

The first man *was of the earth, made of dust; the second man* [Jesus Christ] *is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust [Adam], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly man [Jesus Christ].*

Now this I say, brethren, that *flesh and blood cannot inherit the* kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?" The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I CORINTHIANS 15: 42 – 57



Then he 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."

LUKE 24: 44 – 47

Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let *us* alone! What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine *is* this? For with authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

MARK 1: 23 – 27

Now it happened, on a certain day, that he [Jesus] got into a boat with his disciples. And he said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. But as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling *with water*, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him and awoke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then he arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But he said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marvelled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For he commands even the winds and water, and they obey him!"

LUKE 8: 22 – 25



But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man [Adam] came death, by man [Jesus Christ] also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the first-fruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at his coming. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when he puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign till he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy *that* will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under his feet." But when he says "all things are put under *him*," it is evident that he who put all things under him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to him, then the Son himself will also be subject to him who put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

I CORINTHIANS 15: 20 – 28

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

II CORINTHIANS 4: 3 – 7



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?

HEBREWS 1: 1 – 14



The 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 Midian. 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.

ISAIAH 9: 2 – 7

“**A**nd now the LORD says, who formed me from the womb *to be* his Servant, to bring Jacob back to him, so that Israel is gathered to him (for I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength), indeed he says, 'It is too small a thing that you should be my Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, to him whom man despises, to him whom the nation abhors, to the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel; and he has chosen you."

ISAIAH 49: 5 – 7



Now also many nations have gathered against you, who say, "Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion." But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, nor do they understand his counsel; for he will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor. "Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hooves bronze; you shall beat in pieces many peoples; I will consecrate their gain to the LORD, and their substance to the Lord of the whole earth."

Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; he has laid siege against us; they will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to me the one to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting." Therefore he shall give them up, until the time *that* she who is in labour has given birth; then the remnant of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed *his flock* in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and this *one* shall be peace.

MICAH 4: 11 – 5: 5A



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East [Magi] came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young child, and when you have found *him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.



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 [Jesus].

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.

EPHESIANS 1: 1 – 12

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, according to the eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in him.

EPHESIANS 3: 8 – 12



Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians
in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and
peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is
fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of
every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we
ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your
patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that
you endure, *which is* manifest evidence of the righteous
judgement of God, that you may be counted worthy of the
kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since *it is* a
righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who
trouble you, and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when
the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,
in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know
God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the
presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power, when he
comes, in that Day, to be glorified in his saints and to be
admired among all those who believe, because our testimony
among you was believed.

Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count
you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his*
goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in him,
according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

II THESSALONIANS 1: 1 – 12



Inasmuch then as the children [us – humanity] have partaken of flesh and blood, he himself [Jesus Christ] likewise shared in the same, that through death he might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed he does not give aid to angels, but he does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things he had to be made like *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself has suffered, being tempted, he is able to aid those who are tempted. Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to him who appointed him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all his house. For this one has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who built the house has more honour than the house. For every house is built by someone, but he who built all things *is* God. And Moses indeed *was faithful* in all his house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, but Christ as a Son over his own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

HEBREWS 2: 14 – 3: 6

He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of his Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to believe* in the name of the Son of God.

I JOHN 5: 10 – 13



And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this man [Jesus of Nazareth], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till his enemies are made his footstool. For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after he had said before, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," *then he adds*, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Now where there is remission of these, *there is* no longer an offering for sin. Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, his flesh, and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

HEBREWS 10: 11 – 22

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to God our Saviour, who alone is wise, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

JUDE: 20 – 25

A



“This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. **I am the living bread which came down from heaven.** If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

JOHN 6: 50 & 51

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; *the night is coming when no one can work.* **As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**" When he had said these things, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And he said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

JOHN 9: 3 – 7

Then 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."

JOHN 10: 7 – 9

“I am the good shepherd; and I know my *sheep*, and 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.”

JOHN 10: 14 – 16

Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." **Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.** He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

JOHN 11: 21 – 27

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions; 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."

JOHN 14: 1 – 7

“Iam the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **I am the vine, you are the branches.** He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing."

JOHN 14: 1 – 5

Ω



Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear him!" And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

MATTHEW 17: 1 – 9

“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

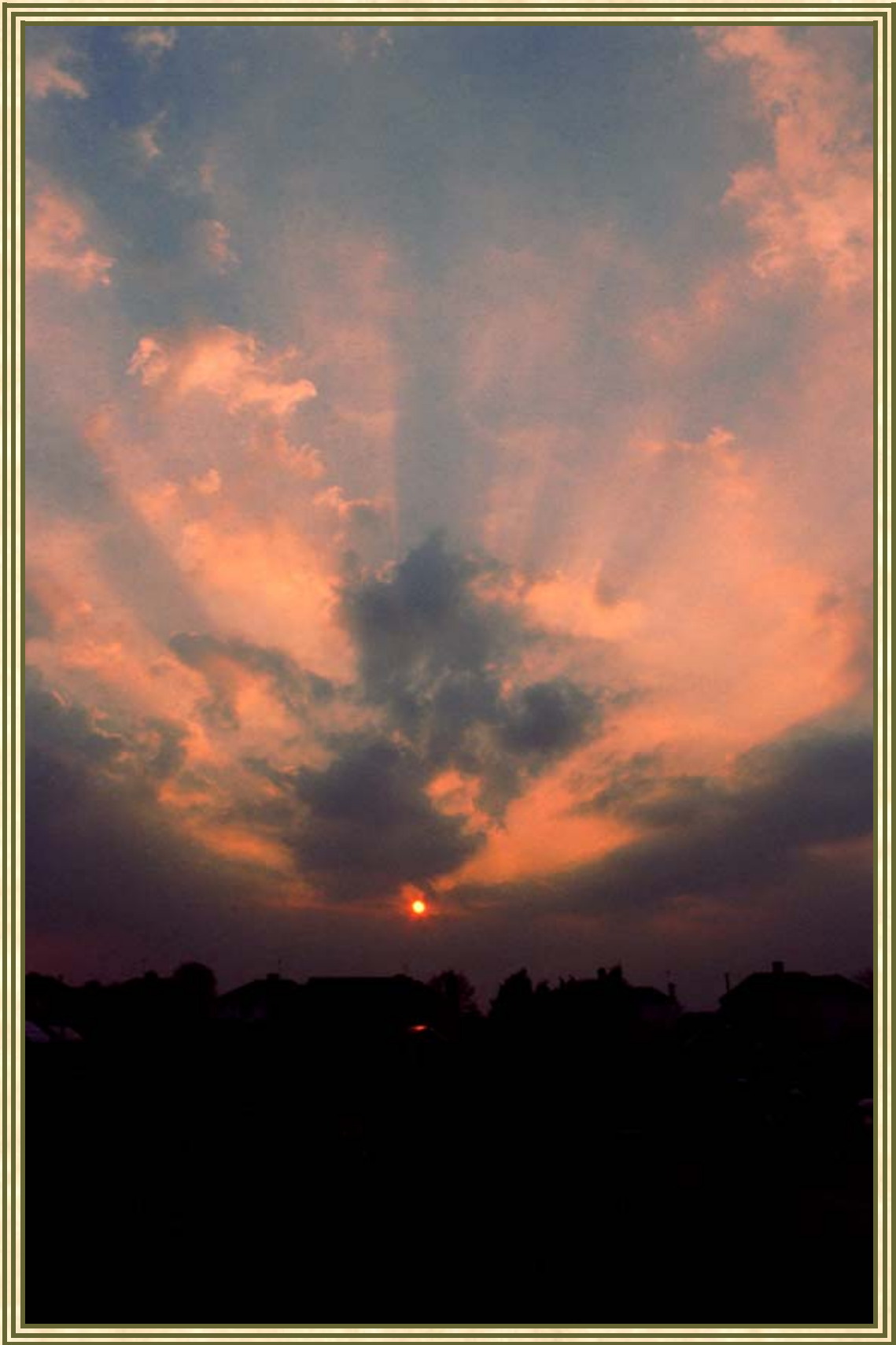
MATTHEW 24: 27 – 31



“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.”

MATTHEW 25: 31 – 46



“Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept *it*.” When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with *their* teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

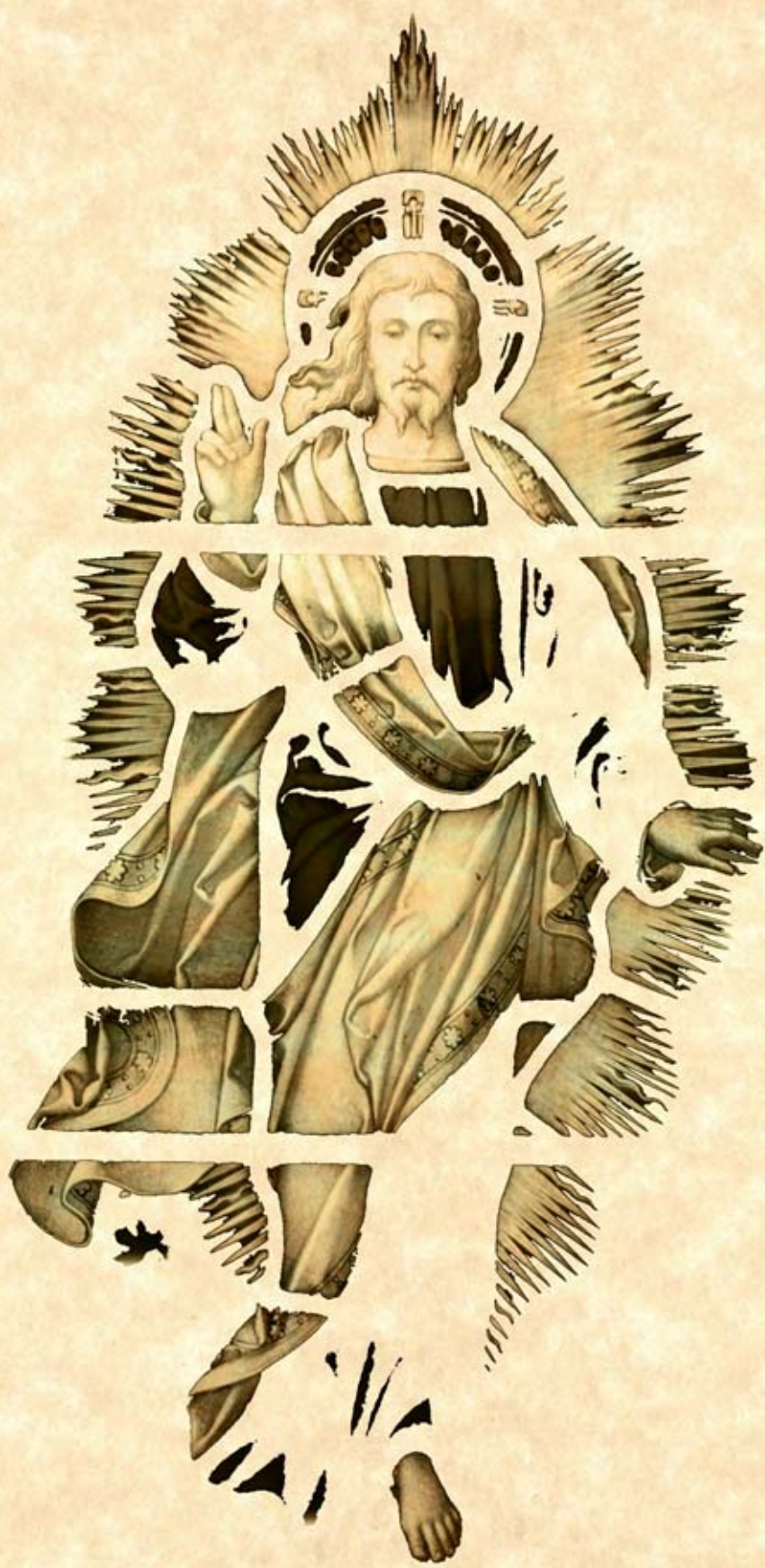
ACTS 7: 52 – 59

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who is preferred before me, for he was before me.’ I did not know him; but that he should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”

And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he remained upon him. I did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

JOHN 1: 29 – 34





Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way [Christians], whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" Then the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

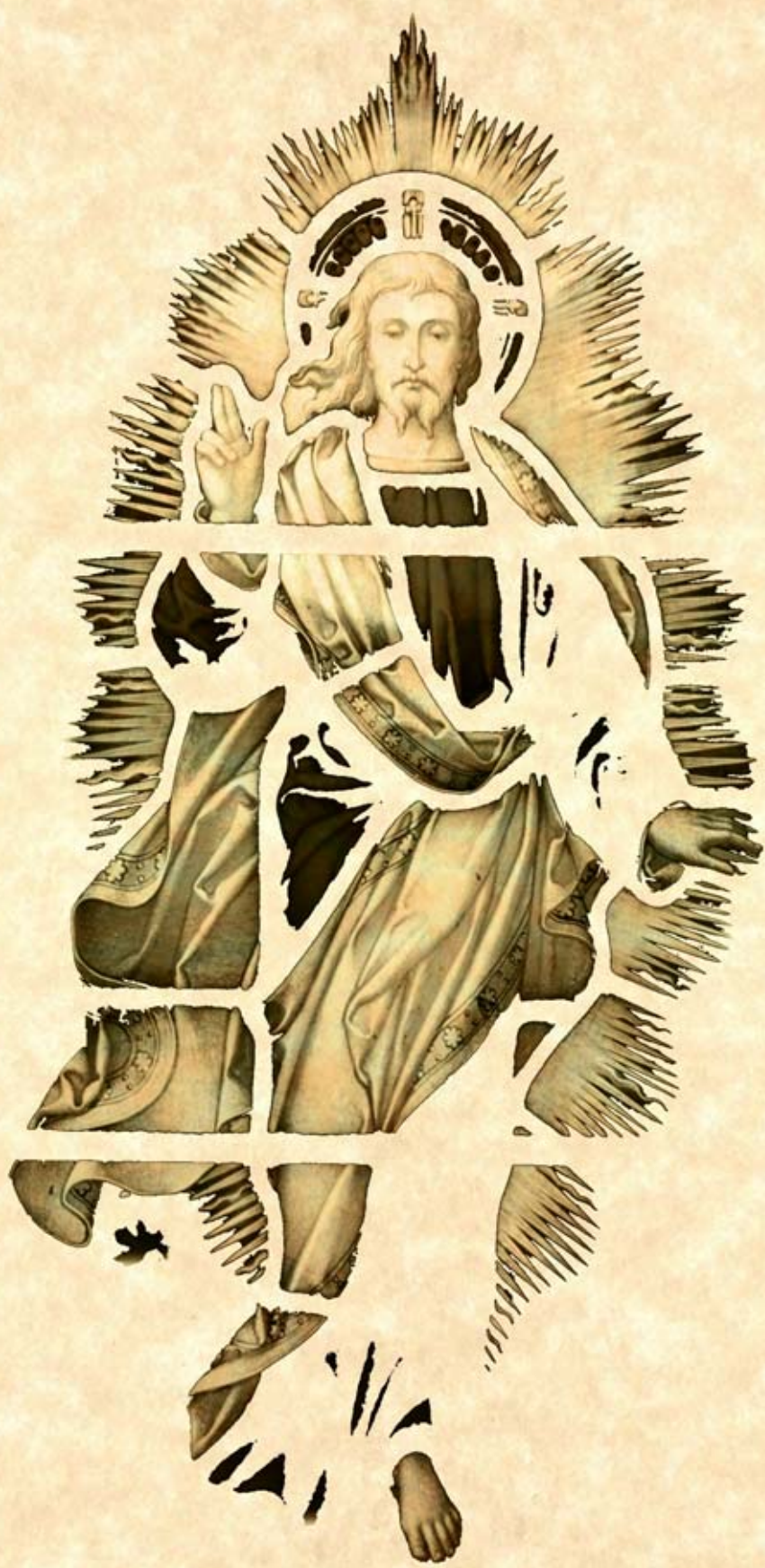
Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." So the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of mine to bear my name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for my name's sake." And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Immediately there fell from his eyes *something like scales*, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

ACTS 9: 1 – 22



And they came to John [the Baptist] and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, he is baptizing, and all are coming to him [Jesus]!" John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I *must* decrease. He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. And what he has seen and heard, that he testifies; and no one receives his testimony. He who has received his testimony has certified that God is true. For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

JOHN 3: 26 – 36

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am *he*."

JOHN 4: 23 – 26



So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where he had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to him and implored him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." The nobleman said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, "Your son lives!" Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." So the father knew that *it was* at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household. This again *is* the second sign Jesus did when he had come out of Judea into Galilee.

JOHN 4: 46 – 54

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when he had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified [raised from the dead], then they remembered that these things were written about him and *that* they had done these things to him. Therefore the people, who were with him when he called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met him, because they heard that he had done this sign.

JOHN 12: 12 – 18



The man departed and told the Jews [the religious leaders] that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill him, because he had done these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do; for whatever he does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all things that he himself does; and he will show him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom he will.

For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgement to the Son, that all should honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in him who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself, and has given him authority to execute judgement also, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear his voice and come forth—those who have done good [believed in him for their salvation], to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil [rejected him as Messiah and Saviour], to the resurrection of condemnation."

JOHN 5: 15 – 29

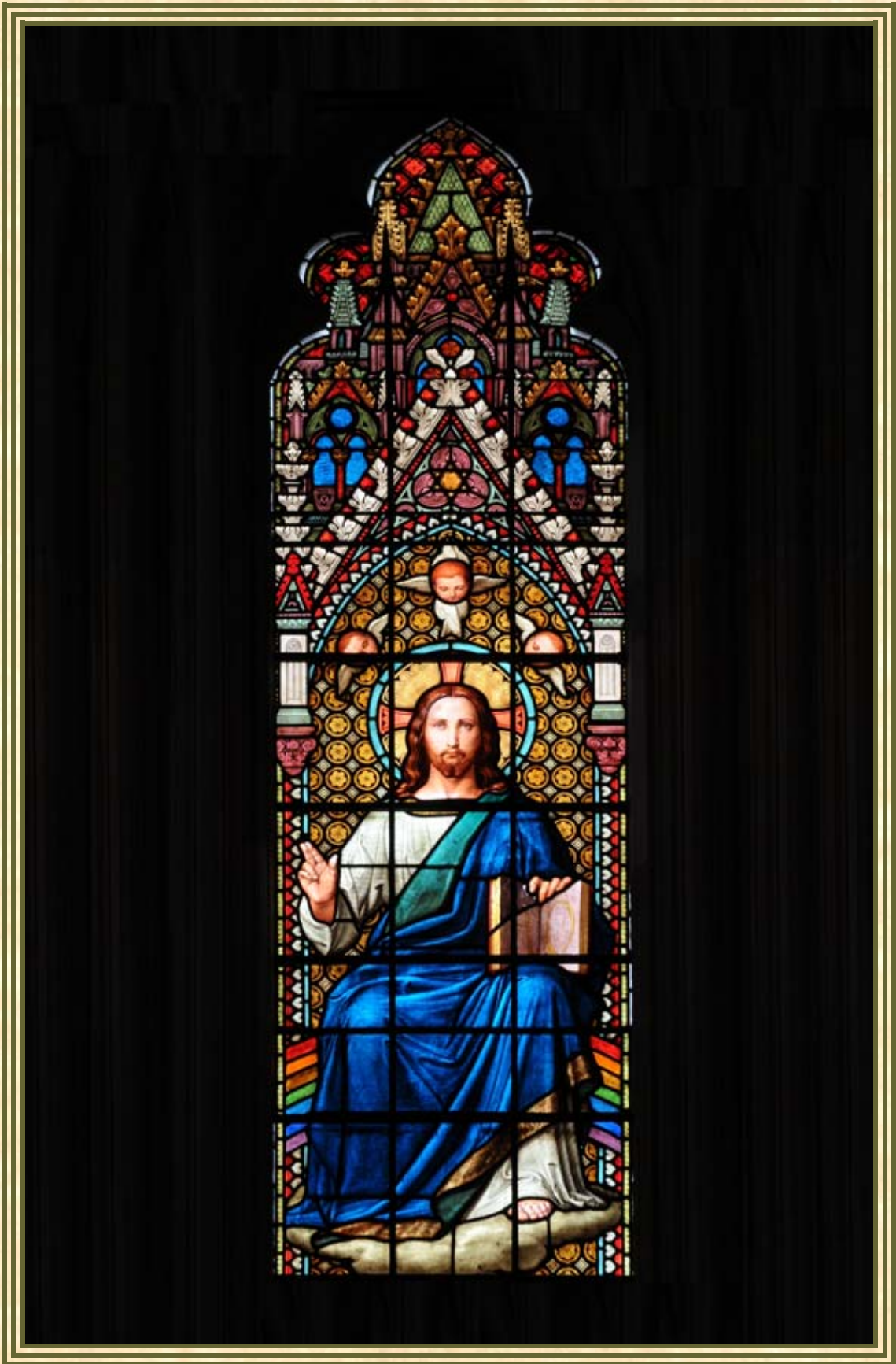


Jesus spoke these words, lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify you, as you have given him authority over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on the earth. I have finished the work which you have given me to do. And now, O Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was. I have manifested your name to the men whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they have known that all things which you have given me are from you. For I have given to them the words which you have given me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 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*."

JOHN 17: 1 – 11

Then he said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at my hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into my side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

JOHN 20: 27 – 31





John, to the seven churches which are in Asia [modern Turkey]:
Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and has made us kings and priests to his God and Father, to him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, even they who pierced him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. Even so, Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End,*" says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."



Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands *one* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes like a flame of fire; his feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and his voice as the sound of many waters; he had in his right hand seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and his countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I *am* he who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

REVELATION 1: 4 – 19



And I saw in the right *hand* of him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb [the Lamb of God – Jesus Christ] as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then he came and took the scroll out of the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

Now when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."



Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!"

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power *be* to him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped him who lives forever and ever.

REVELATION 5: 1 – 14



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.

REVELATION 20: 4 – 6

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

REVELATION 21: 2 – 6



The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

REVELATION 21: 23 – 27

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

REVELATION 22: 16 – 20

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,
"Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of
our God, and the power of his Christ have come,
for the accuser of our brethren, who accused
them before our God day and night,
has been cast down.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony, and they did
not love their lives to the death.

Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell
in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and
the sea! For the devil has come down to you,
having great wrath, because he knows that he has
a short time."

REVELATION 12: 10 – 12





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