

When God Became One of Us

— The Gospel of John 1:1-14 —



The Descent of Christmas

Advent 2022 - Mercy Hill Church

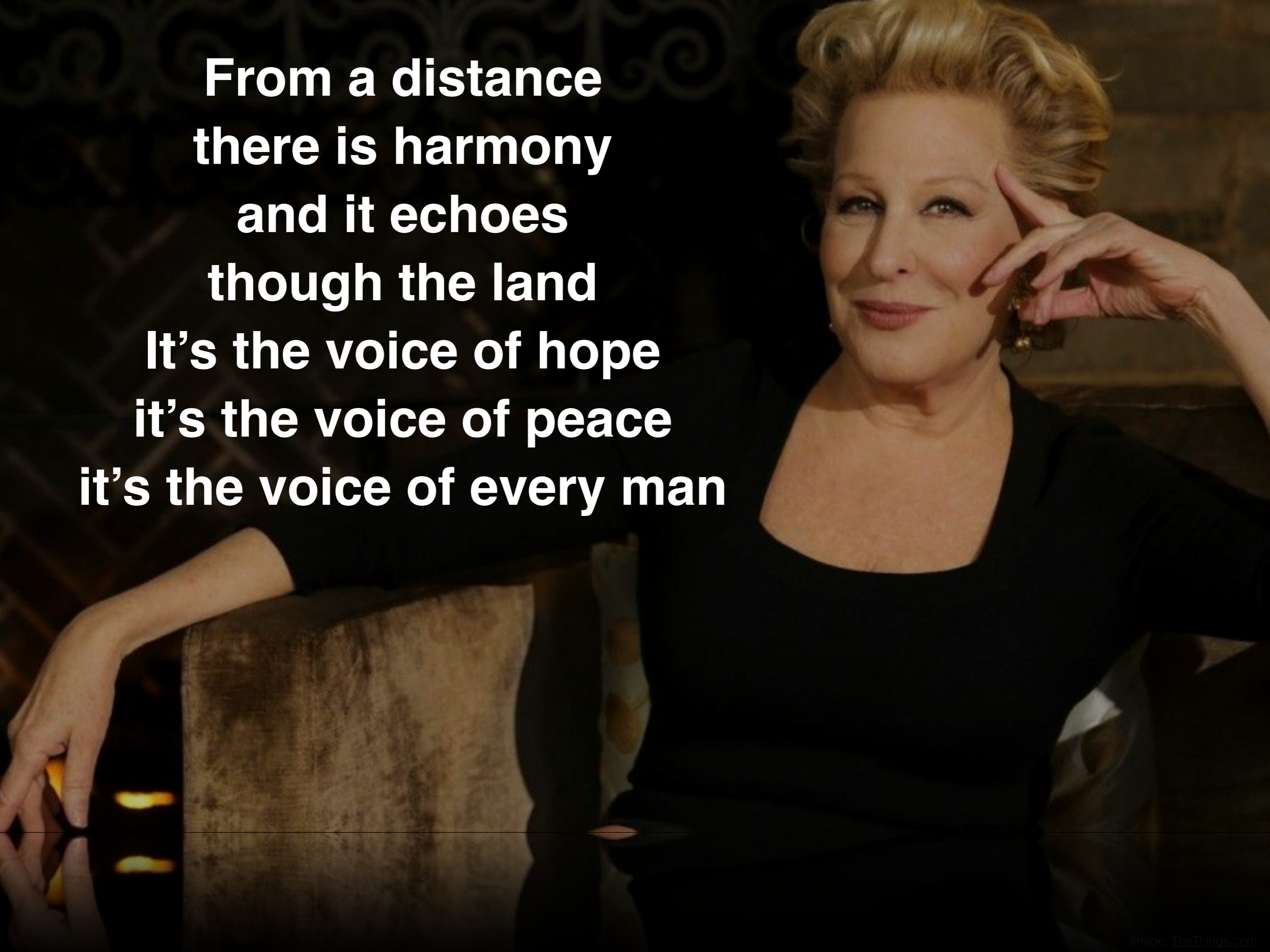


“From A Distance”

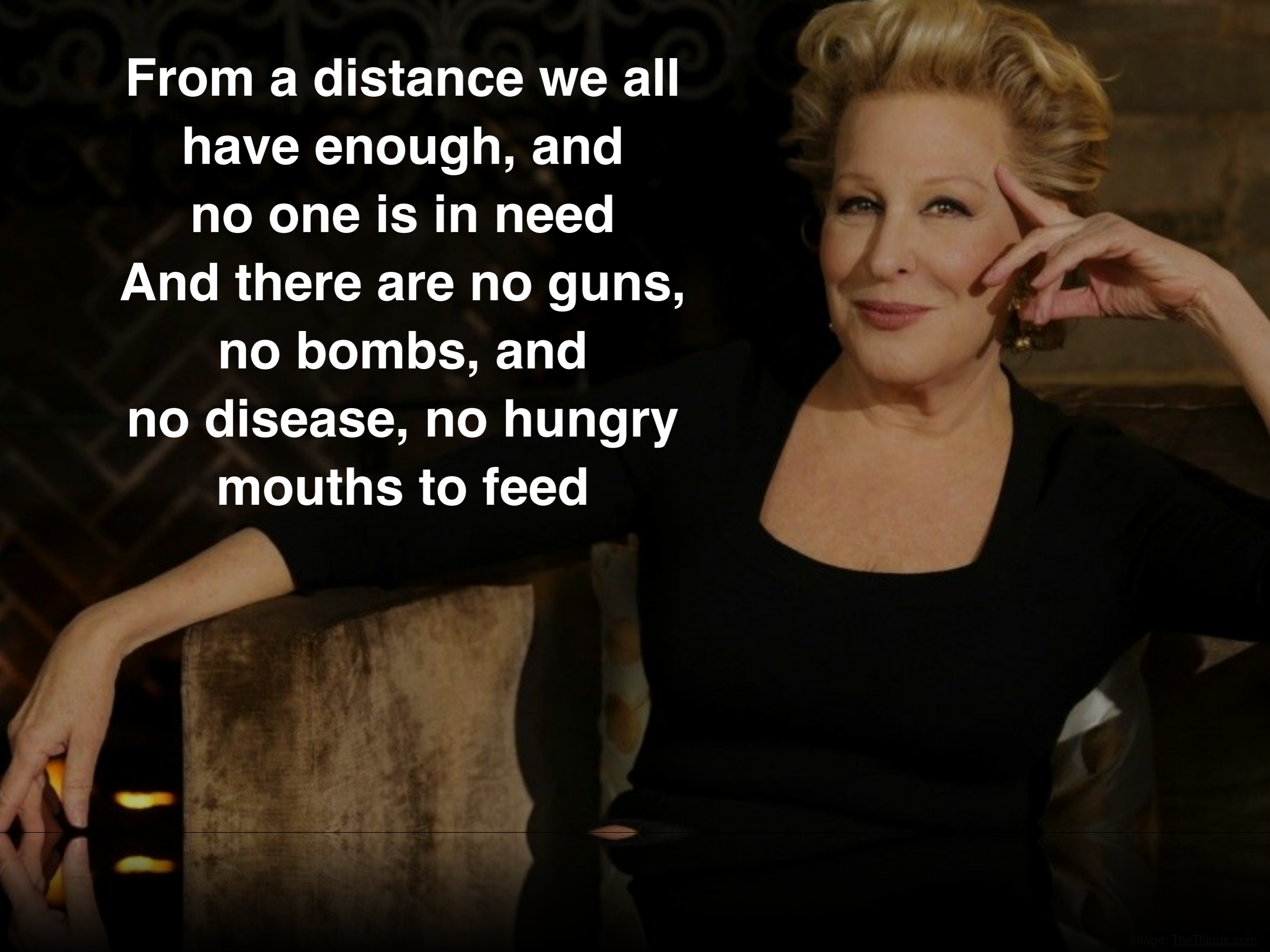
— Bette Midler —



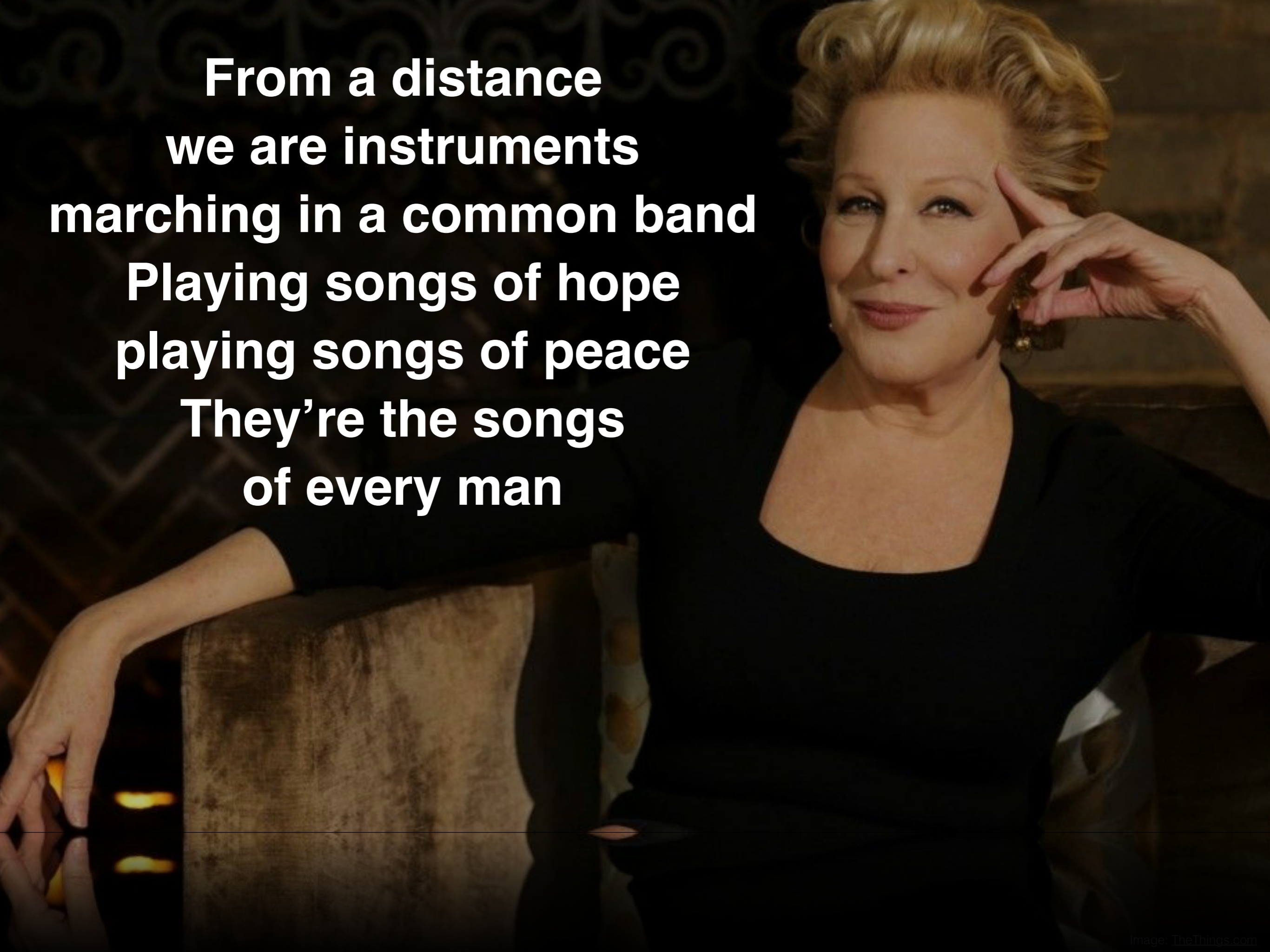
**From a distance
there is harmony
and it echoes
though the land
It's the voice of hope
it's the voice of peace
it's the voice of every man**



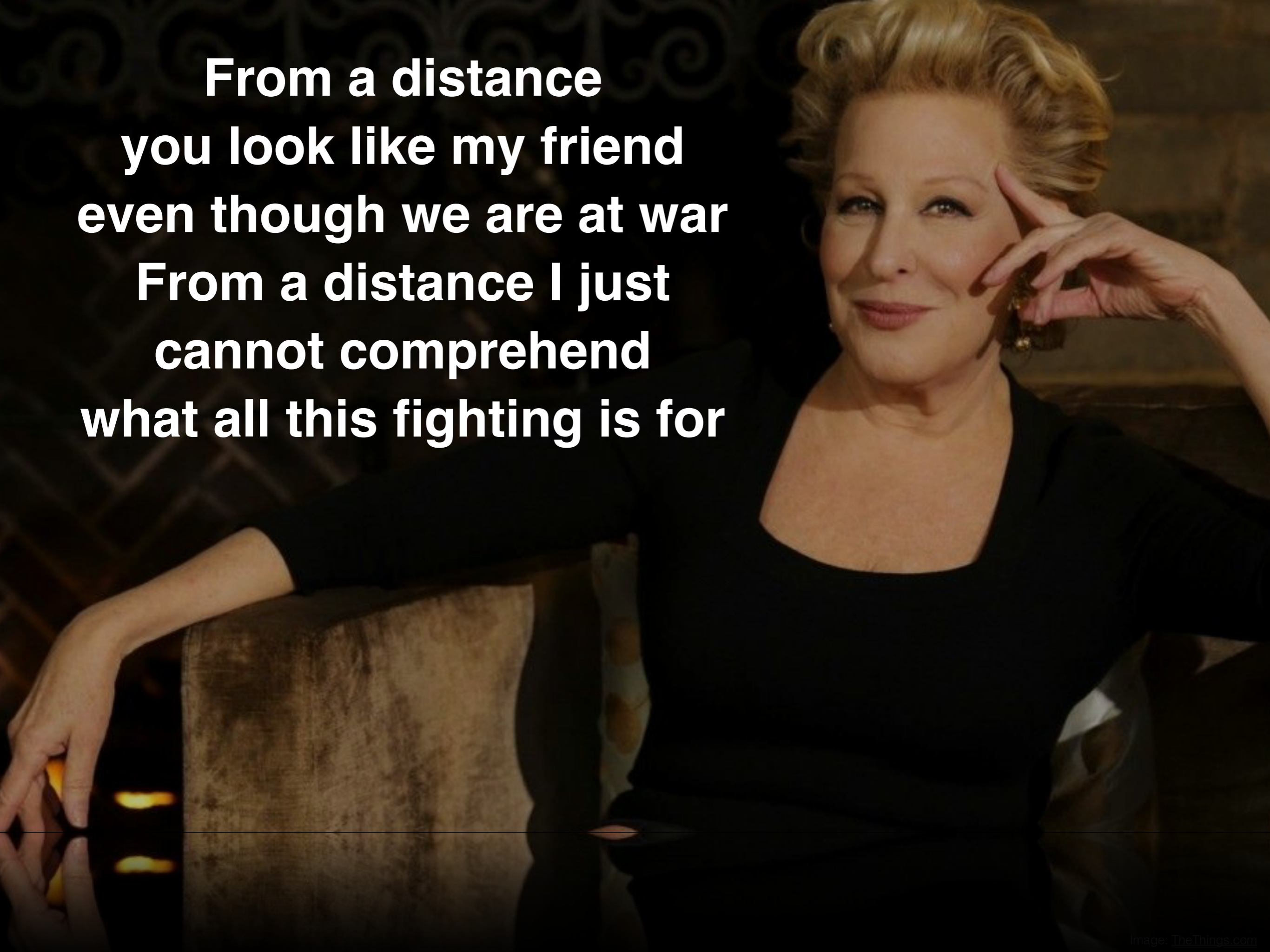
**From a distance we all
have enough, and
no one is in need
And there are no guns,
no bombs, and
no disease, no hungry
mouths to feed**



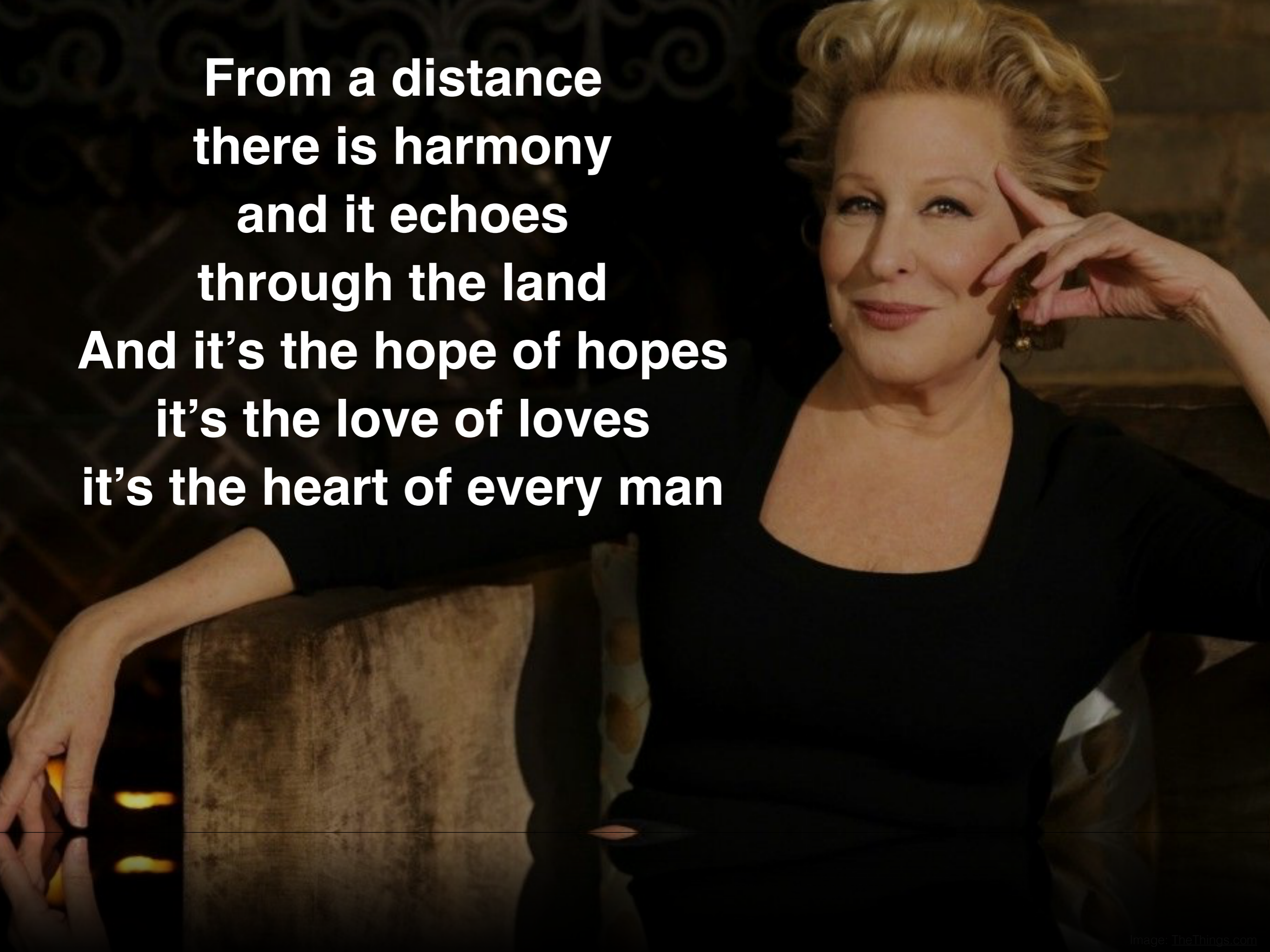
**From a distance
we are instruments
marching in a common band
Playing songs of hope
playing songs of peace
They're the songs
of every man**



**From a distance
you look like my friend
even though we are at war
From a distance I just
cannot comprehend
what all this fighting is for**



**From a distance
there is harmony
and it echoes
through the land
And it's the hope of hopes
it's the love of loves
it's the heart of every man**



**It's the hope of hopes
it's the love of loves
This is the song
of every man**



**God is watching us
God is watching us
God is watching us
from a distance
Oh, God is watching us
God is watching
God is watching us
from a distance**



**Do you feel like
it's good news
or bad news
that God might
be “watching us
from a distance”?**



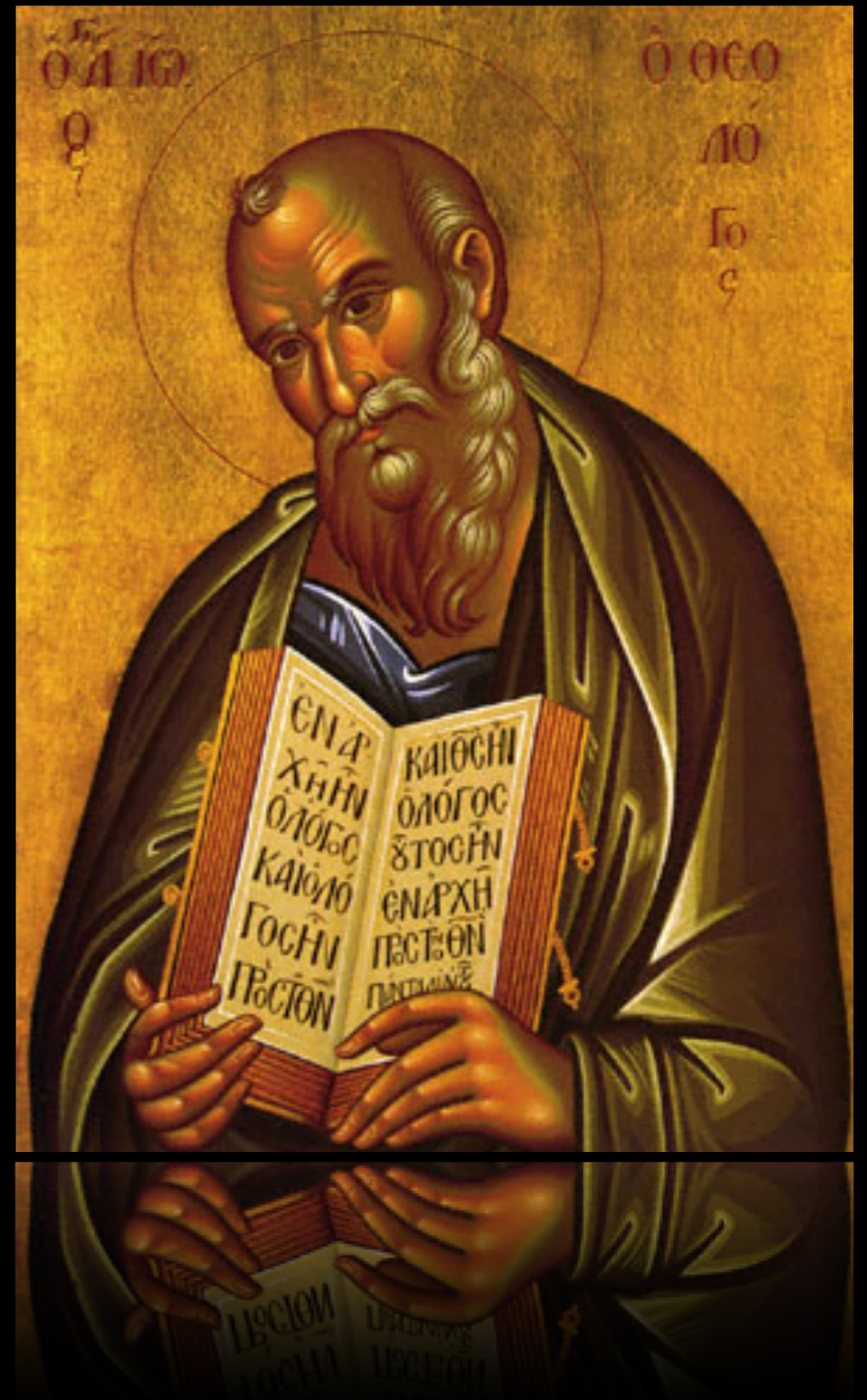
When God Dwelt Among Us

— The Gospel of John 1:1-14 —




The Apostle John

- One of the 12 Disciples
- A part of the inner circle
- Eyewitness to the life & resurrection of Jesus
- Biographer of Jesus
- Wrote 3 NT Letters + The Revelation
- Exiled to Isle of Patmos



The Gospel of John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



**In the beginning,
god created
the heavens
and the earth.**

— Genesis 1:1—

N. T. Wright

Whatever else John is going to tell us, he wants us to see his book as the story of God and the world, not just the story of one character in one place and time.

JOHN Part 1

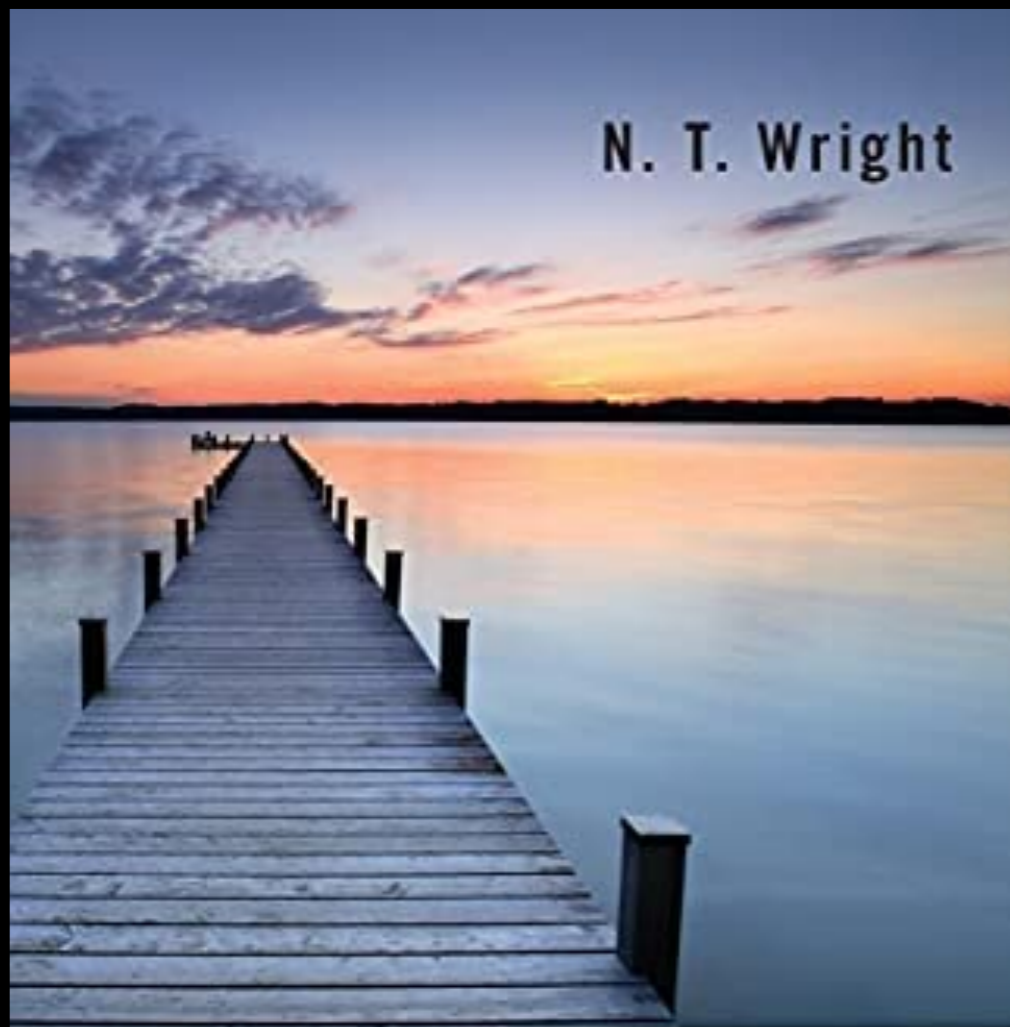
FOR EVERYONE

Chapters 1-10

Chapters 1-10

FOR EVERYONE

JOHN Part 1



JOHN Part 1

FOR EVERYONE

Chapters 1-10

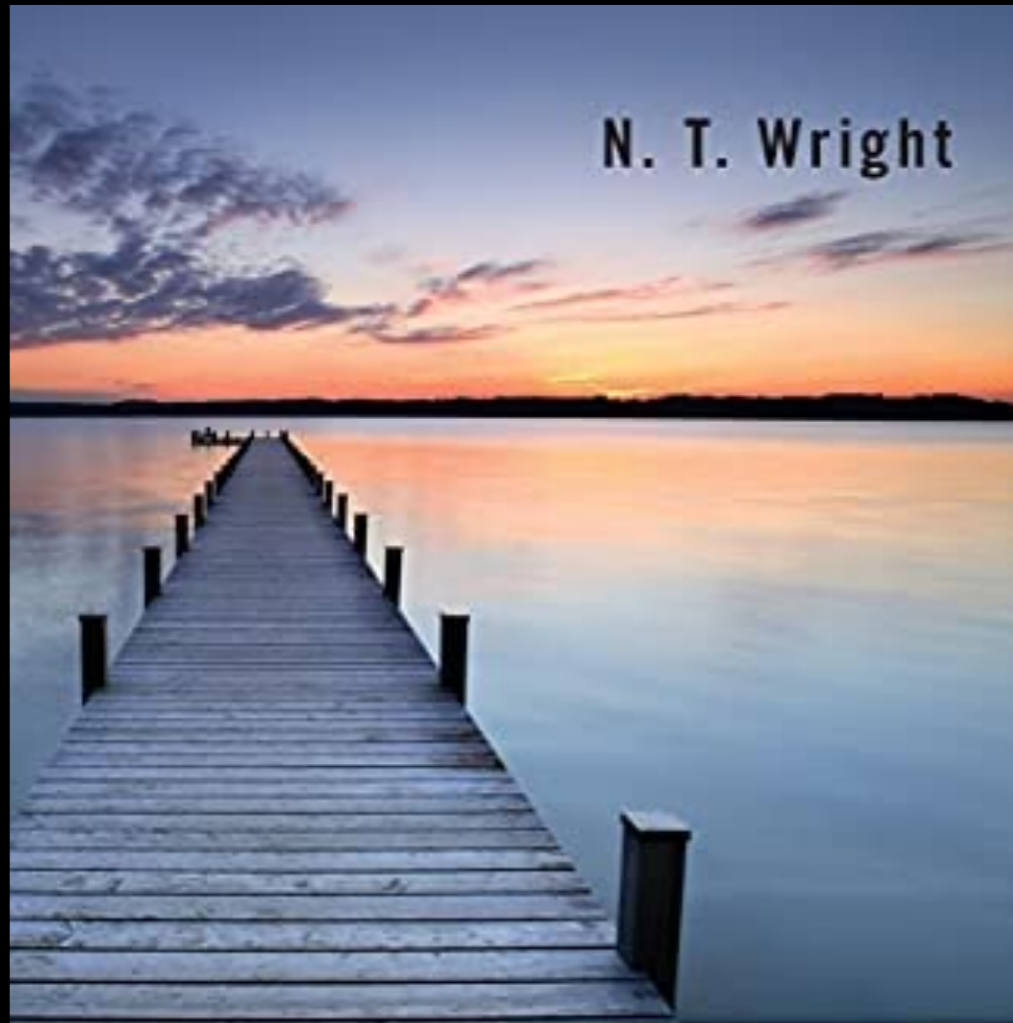
Chapters 1-10

FOR EVERYONE

JOHN Part 1

This book is about the Creator God acting in a new way within his much-beloved creation. It is about the way in which the long story which began in Genesis reached the climax the Creator had always intended.

N. T. Wright



JOHN Part 1

FOR EVERYONE

Chapters 1-10

Chapters 1-10

FOR EVERYONE

JOHN Part 1

And it will do this through ‘the Word’. In Genesis 1, the climax is the creation of humans, made in God’s image. In John 1, the climax is the arrival of a human being, the Word become ‘flesh.’

The Gospel of John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

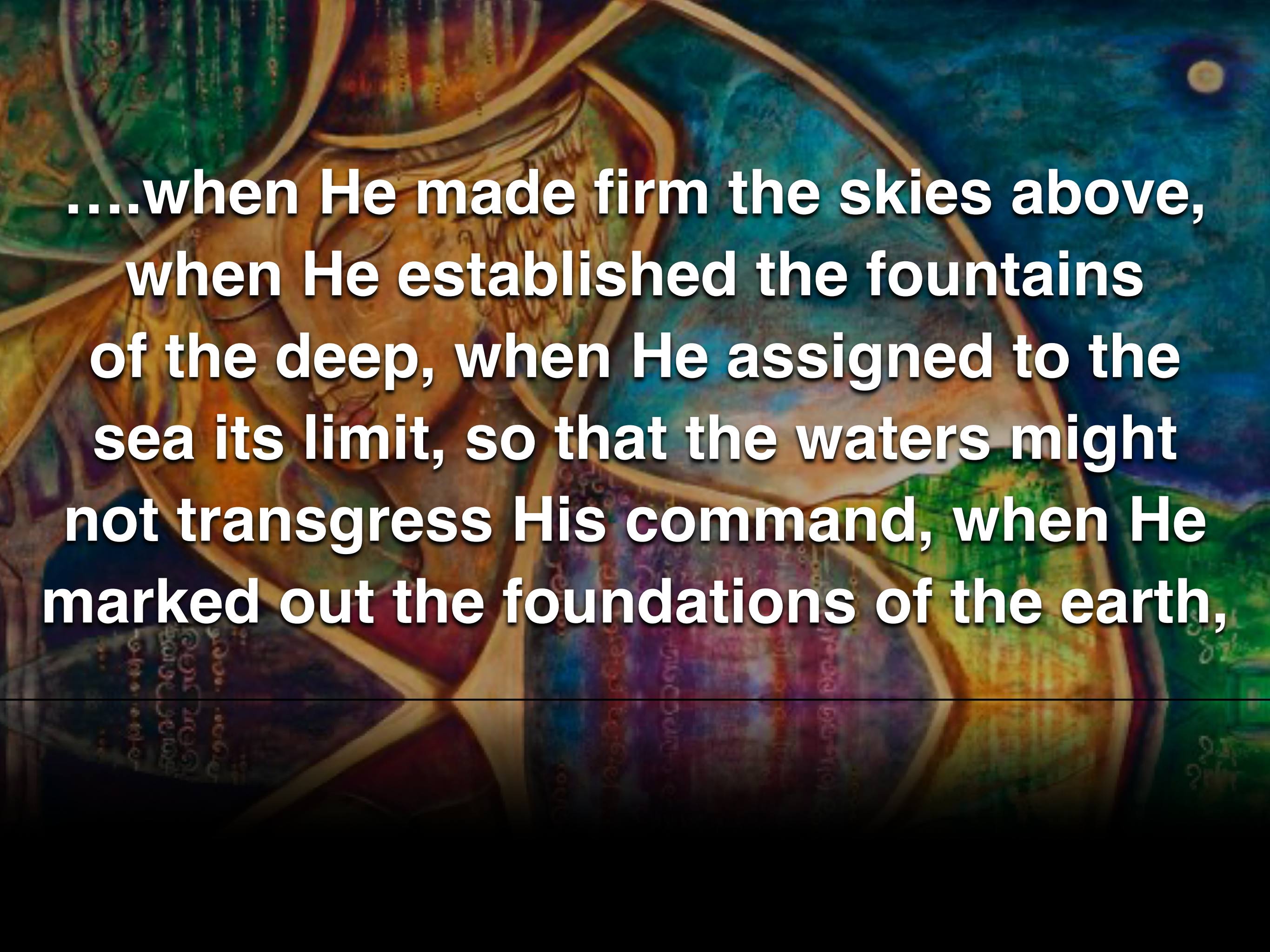
A cosmic scene featuring a large blue planet, a ringed planet, and Earth in space. The background is a deep blue space filled with stars and a galaxy. In the foreground, the Earth's horizon is visible at the bottom. A large blue planet is in the upper right, and a ringed planet is in the middle right. A bright light source is behind the blue planet, creating a lens flare.

**By the word of the Lord
the heavens were made.**

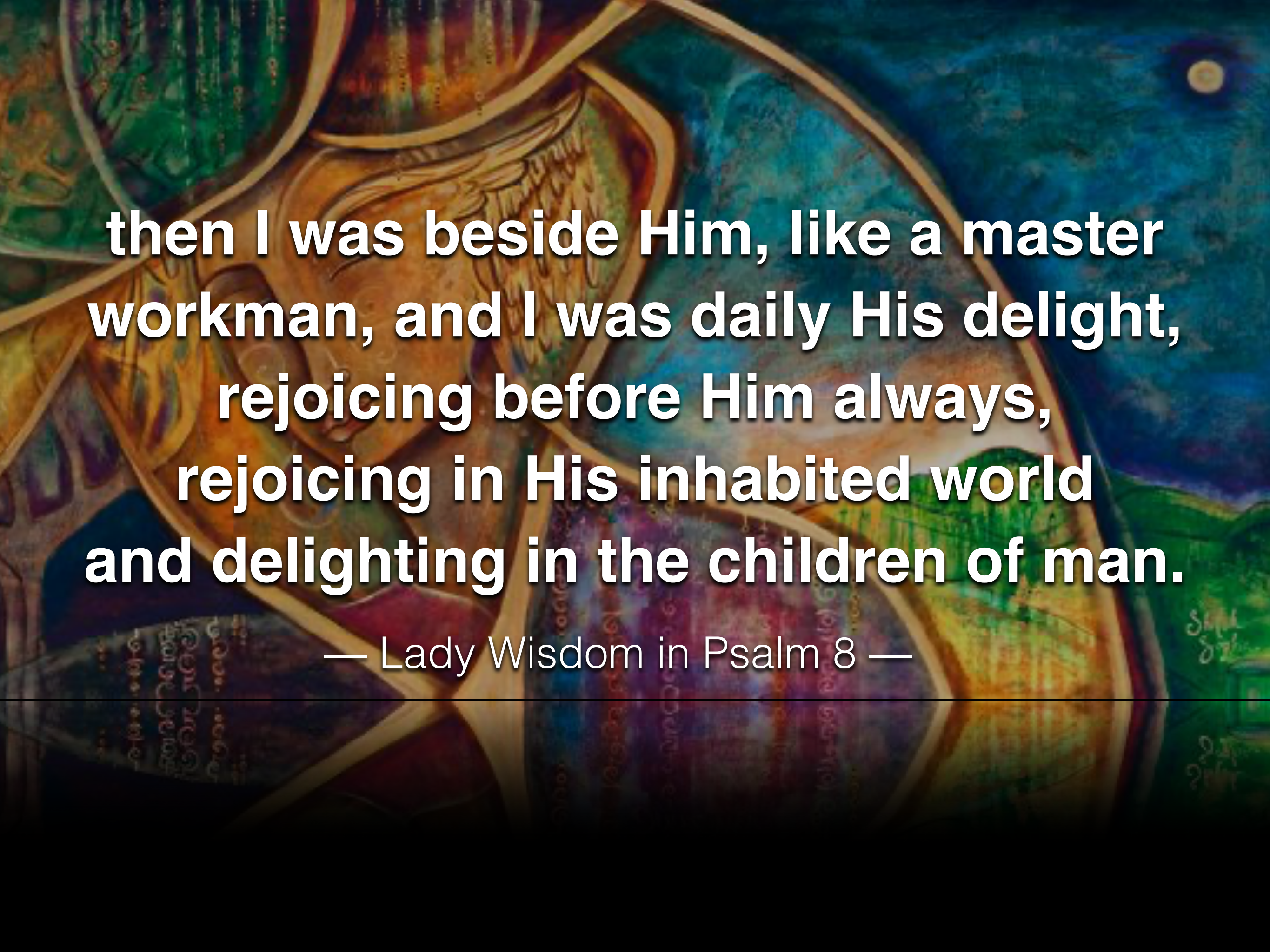
— Psalm 33:6 —



— Lady Wisdom —



**....when He made firm the skies above,
when He established the fountains
of the deep, when He assigned to the
sea its limit, so that the waters might
not transgress His command, when He
marked out the foundations of the earth,**



**then I was beside Him, like a master
workman, and I was daily His delight,
rejoicing before Him always,
rejoicing in His inhabited world
and delighting in the children of man.**

— Lady Wisdom in Psalm 8 —

The Gospel of John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

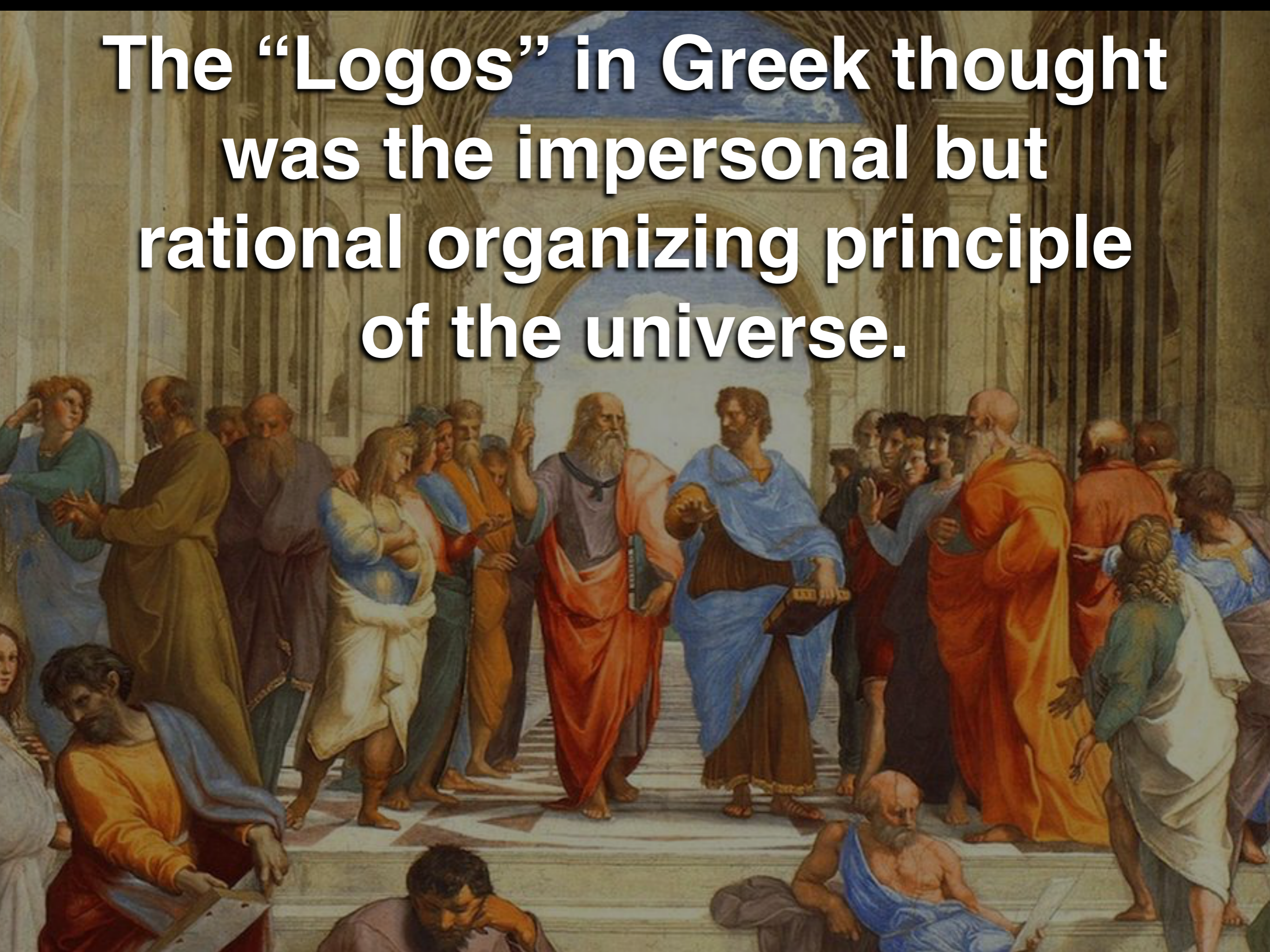
GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

Word = *logos* (λόγος)



word, speech, utterance
message, announcement
study, reason

The “Logos” in Greek thought was the impersonal but rational organizing principle of the universe.



The Gospel of John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

**Wait...which is it?
Was the Word
with God or was
the Word God?**



N. T. Wright

John knows perfectly well he's making language go beyond what's normally possible, but it's Jesus that makes him do it.

JOHN Part 1

FOR EVERYONE

Chapters 1-10

Chapters 1-10

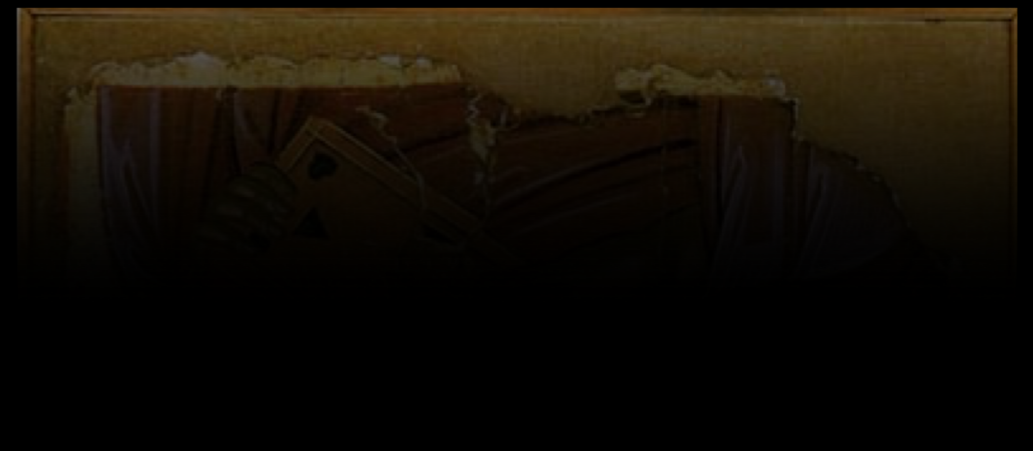
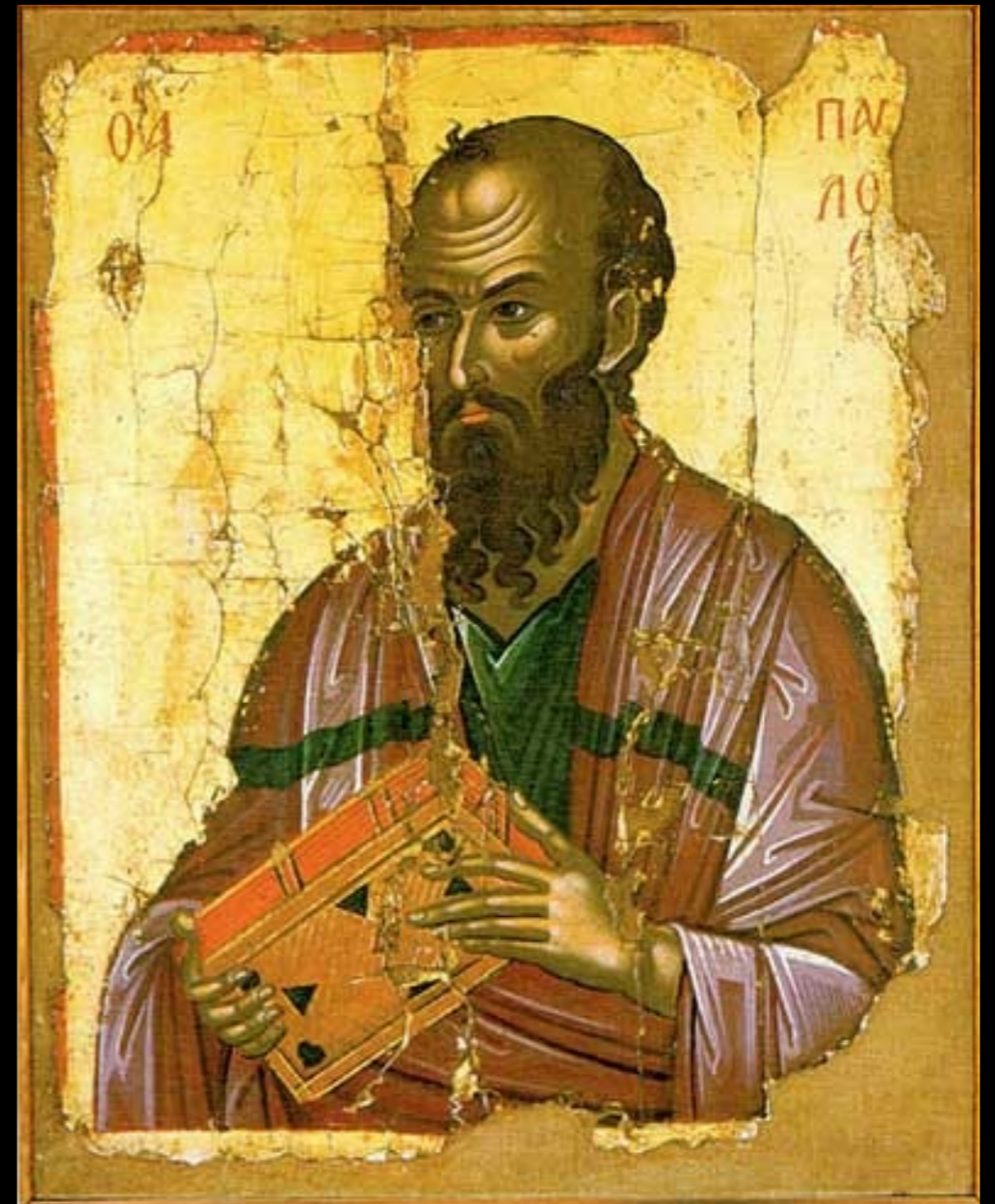
FOR EVERYONE

JOHN Part 1

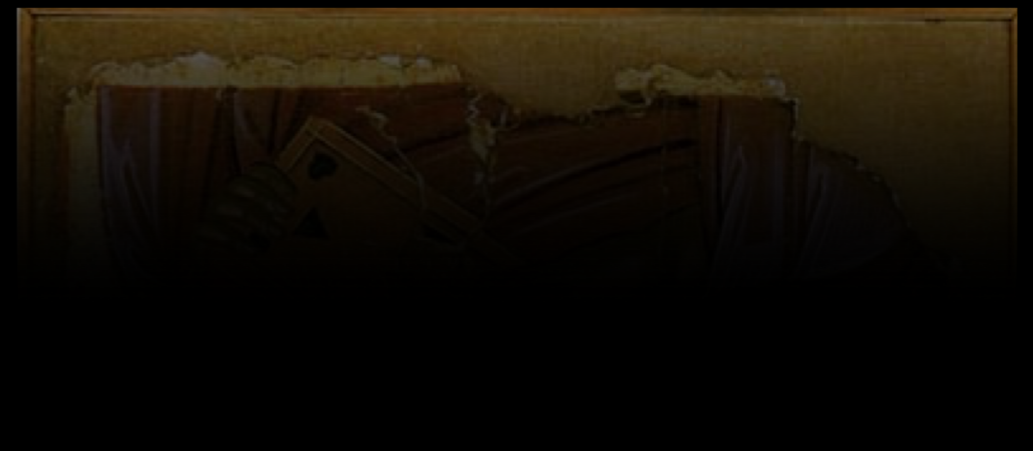
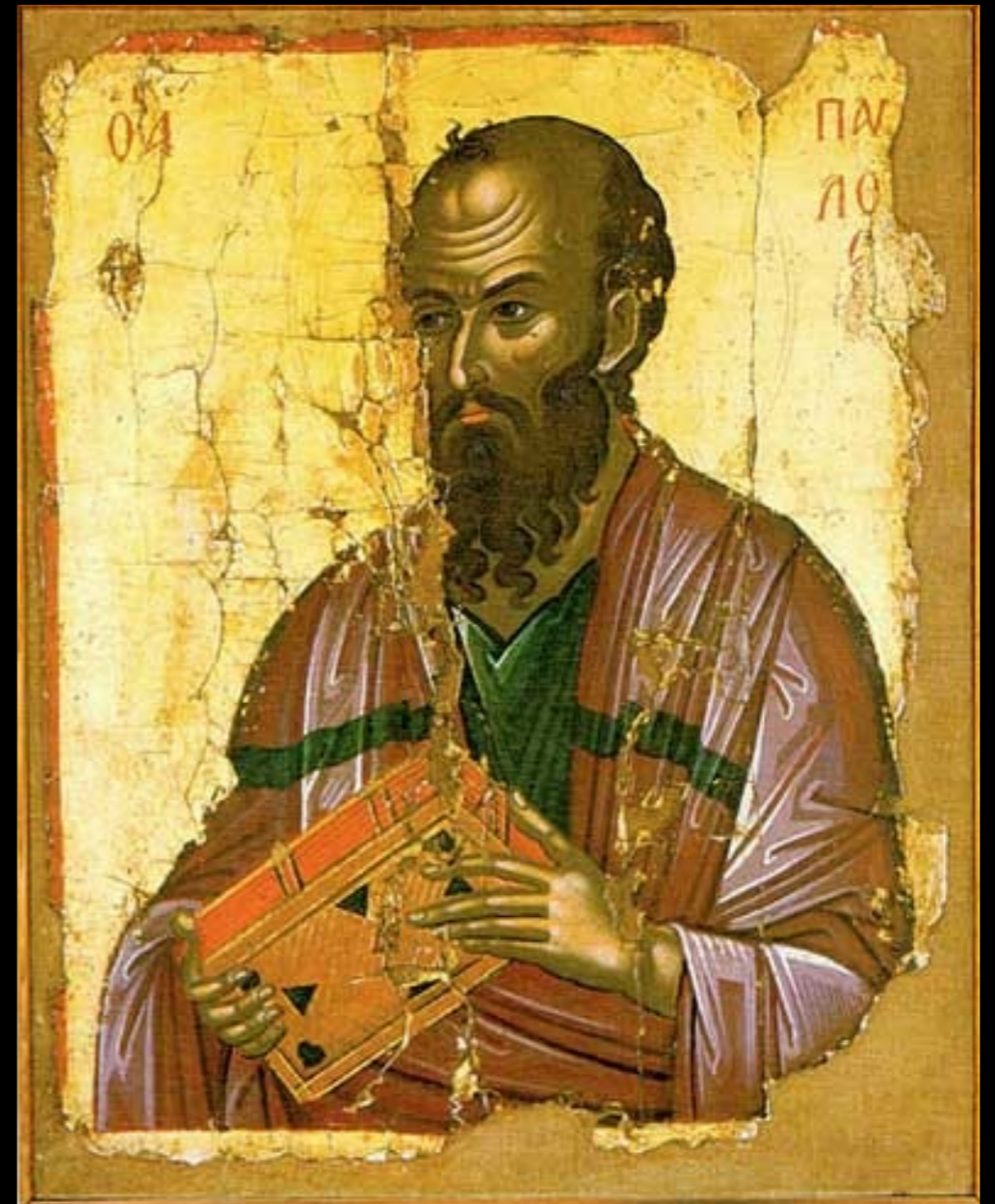
The Gospel of John 1:1-18

3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

**He is the image of
the invisible God,
the firstborn of all
creation.**

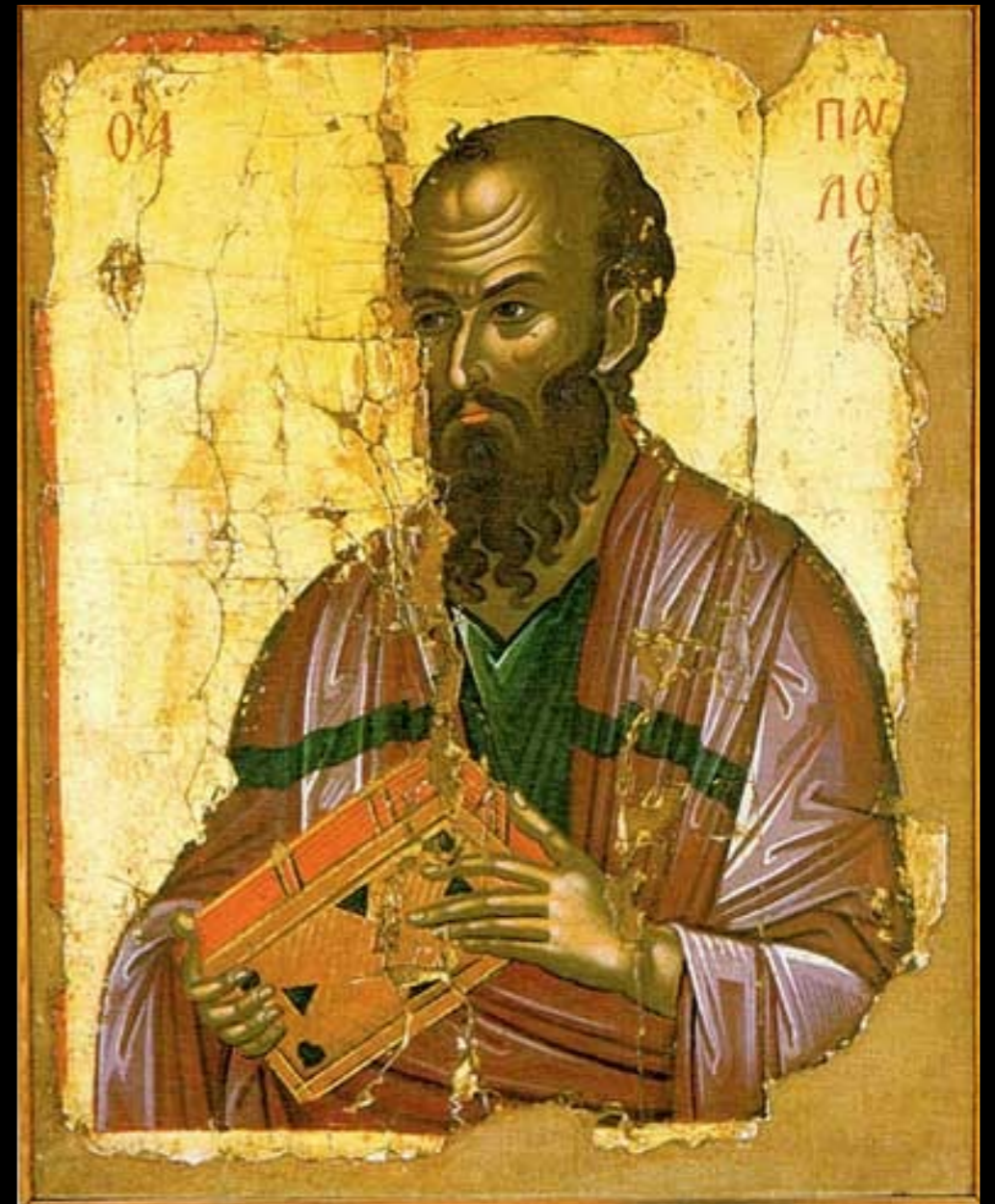


**For by him all things
were created, in
heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or
dominions or rulers
or authorities —**



**—all things were
created through him
and for him. And He
is before all things,
and in him all things
hold together.**

**The Apostle Paul
— Colossians 1:15-17 —**



The Gospel of John 1:1-18

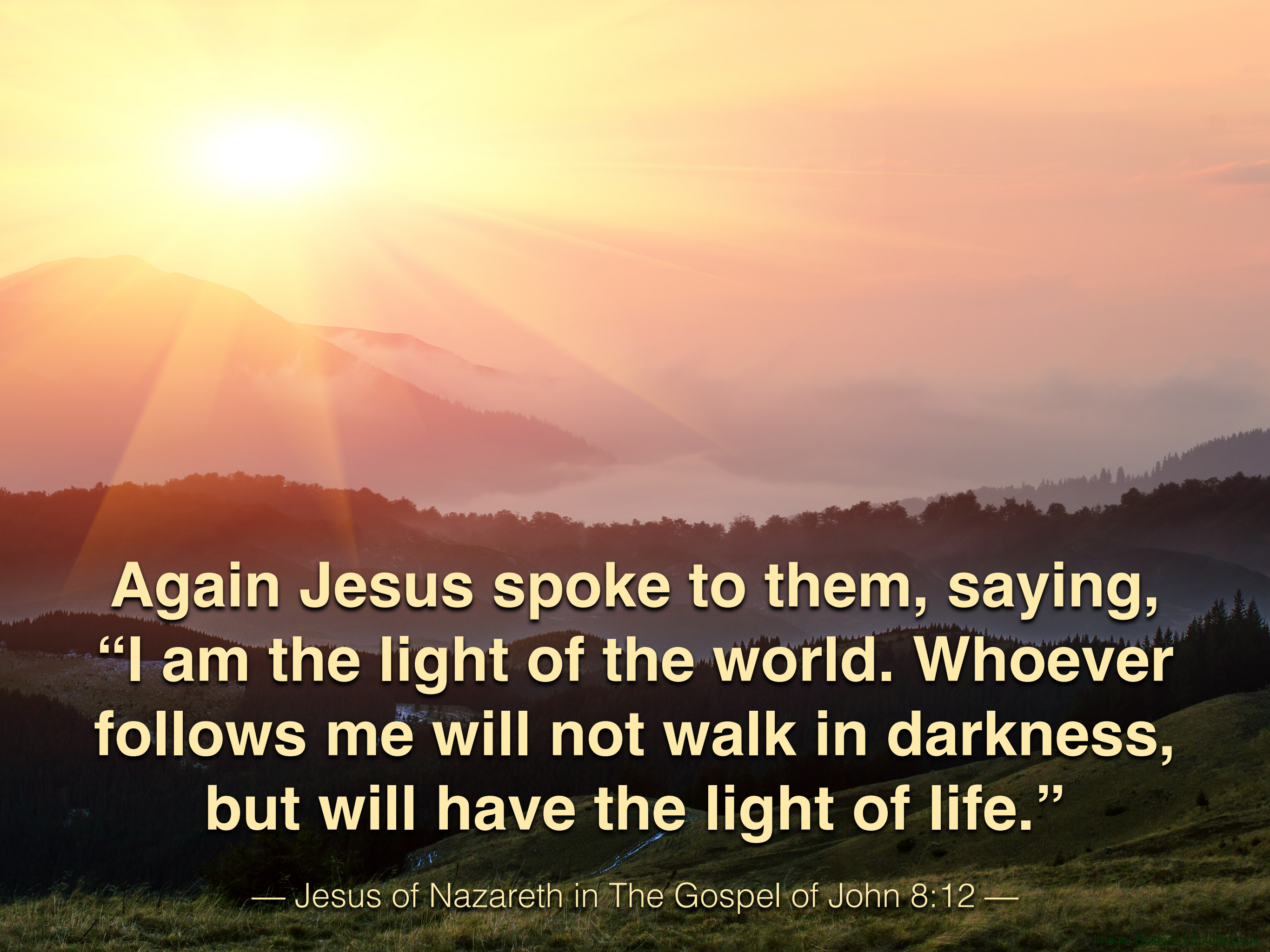
4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Gospel of John 1:1-18

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The Gospel of John 1:1-18

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.



**Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,
“I am the light of the world. Whoever
follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.”**

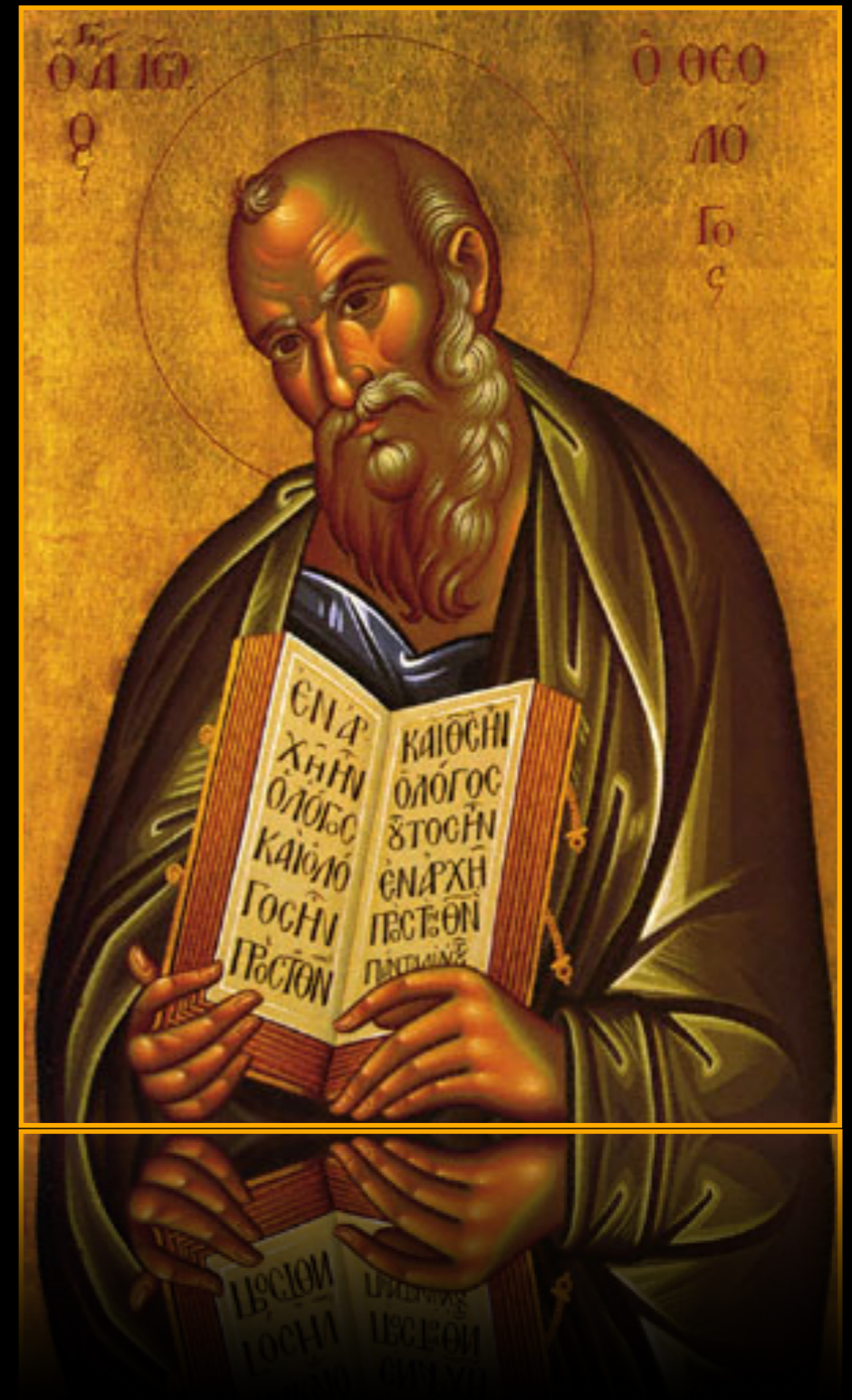
— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of John 8:12 —

The Gospel of John 1:1-18

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

**...the light has come
into the world, and
people loved the
darkness rather than
the light because their
deeds were evil.**

The Apostle John
in the Gospel of John 3:19



The Gospel of John 1:1-18

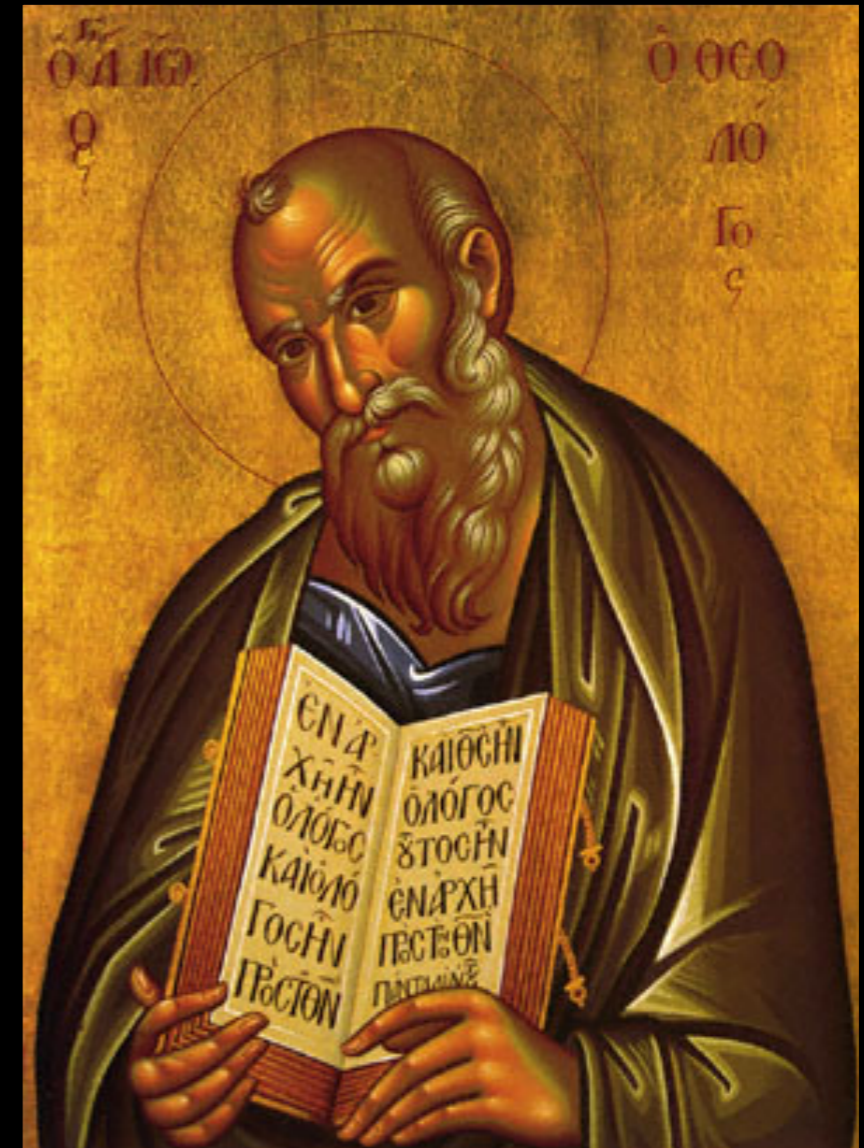
12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Gospel of John 1:1-18

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

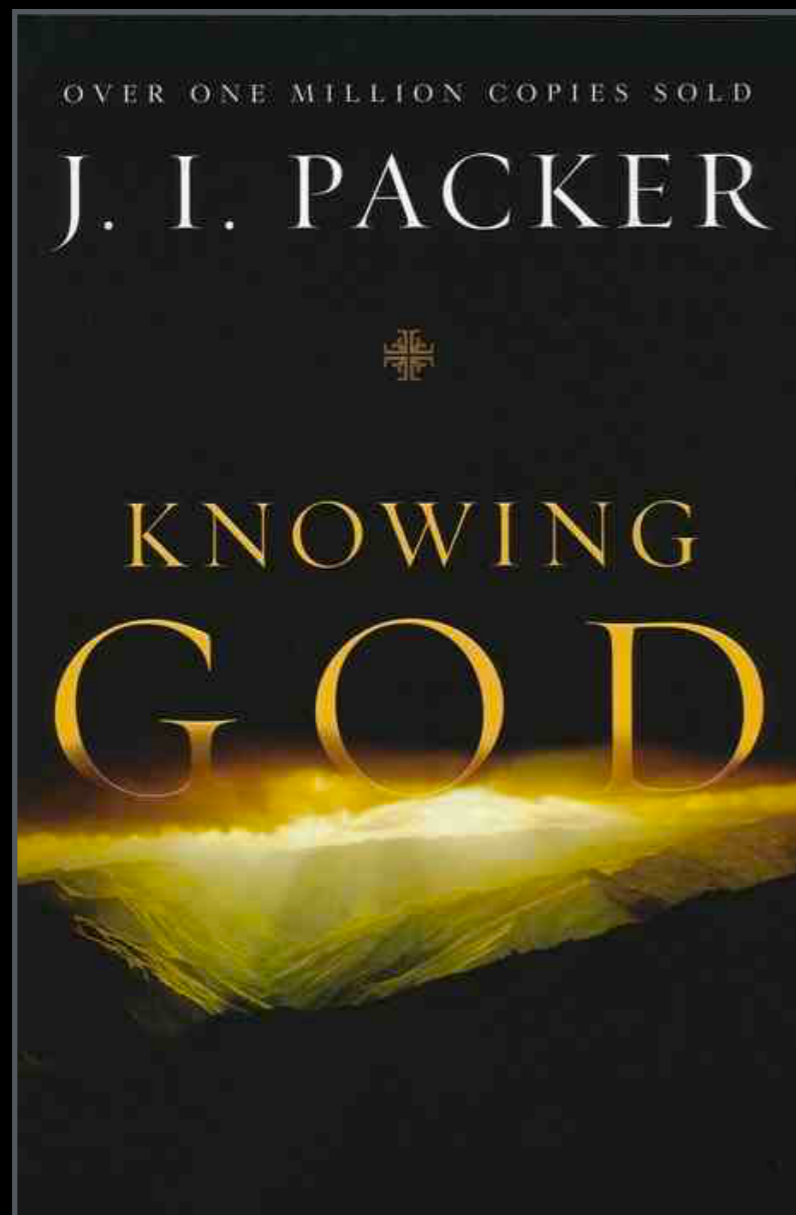
**See what kind of love
the Father has given to
us, that we should be
called children of God;
and so we are....**

**Beloved, we are God's
children now, and what
we will be has not yet
appeared; but we know
that when he appears
we shall be like him,
because we shall see
him as he is.**

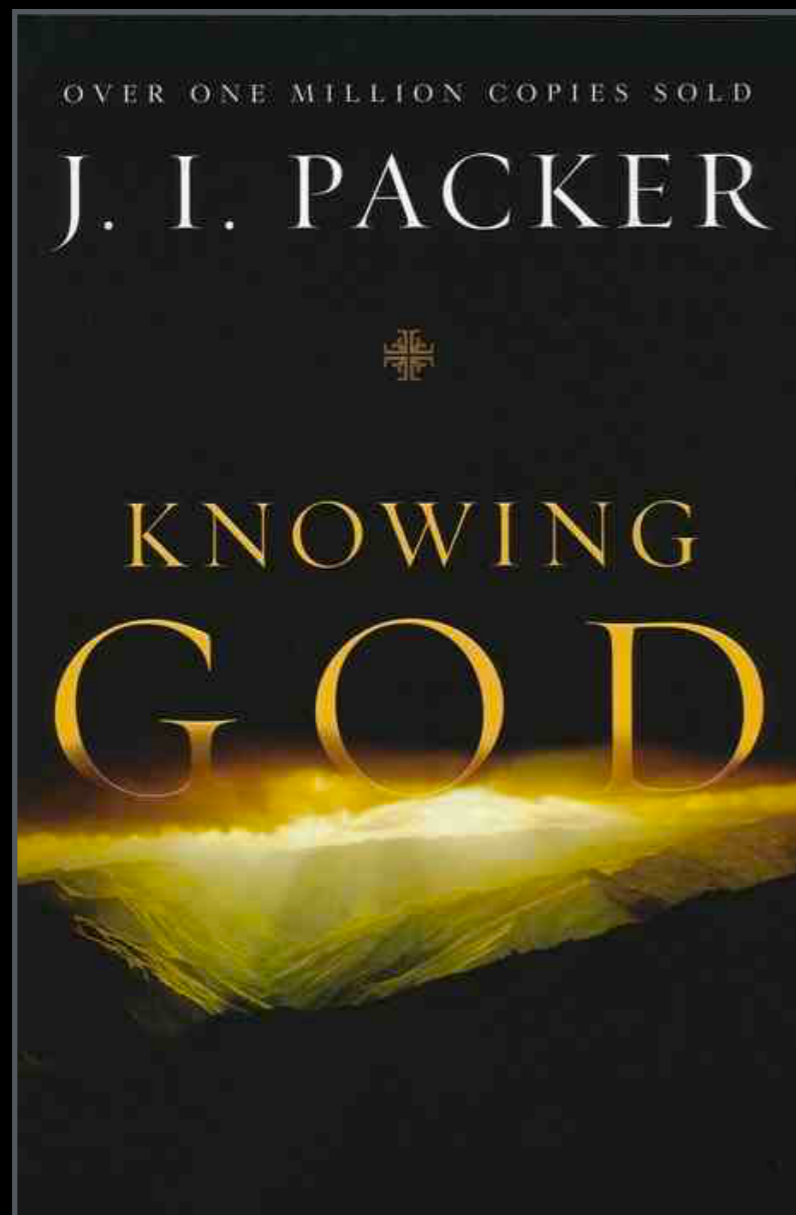


The Apostle John

— 1 John 3:1 —



If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father....



If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.

**Who am I that the Highest King
would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me**



**In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God, yes I am**

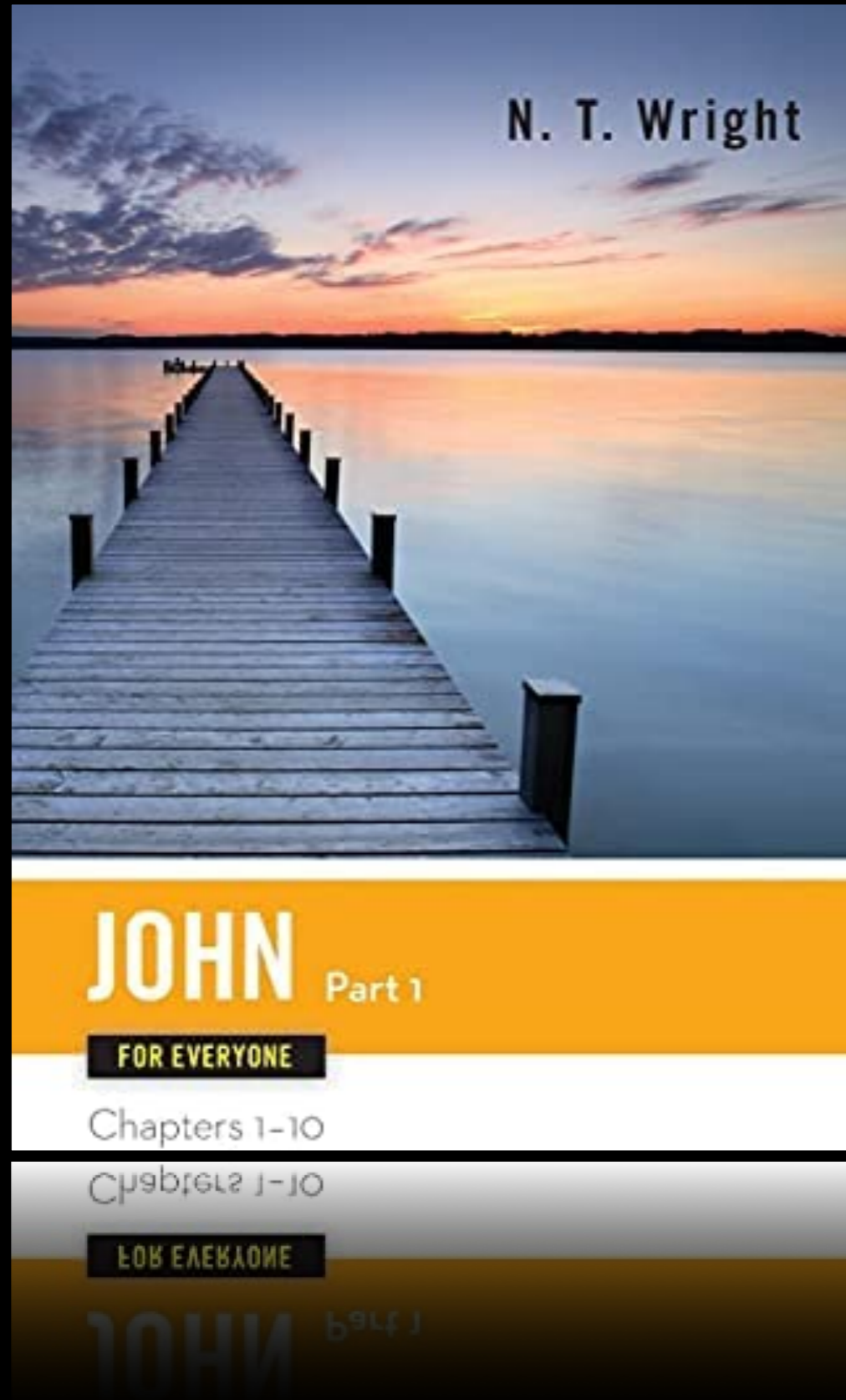


**I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who you say I am**



The Gospel of John 1:1-18

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.



God wants people from everywhere to be born in a new way, born into the family which he began through Jesus which has since spread throughout the world.

The Gospel of John 1:1-18

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us....

The Incarnation



“en-flesh-ment” or “embodiment”

GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

dwelt = *skenoō* (σκηνώω)



to encamp / to pitch a tent
to abide / to live with
“to tabernacle”

EUGENE H. PETERSON

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

—ROMANS 12:1

The
MESSAGE

THE BIBLE IN CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGE

"Eugene Peterson's work is the freshest, most dramatic treatment of the Scriptures since *The Living Bible*."

JERRY JENKINS, coauthor of the LEFT BEHIND series

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**The Word became
flesh and blood,
and moved into
the neighborhood.**

No other religion—whether secularism, Greco-Roman paganism, Eastern religion, Judaism or Islam—believes God became breakable or had a body. Eastern religion believes the physical is illusion. Greco-Romans believe the physical is bad. Judaism and Islam don't believe God would do such a thing as live in the flesh.

— Tim Keller, Pastor & Author



**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”



A Rough Paraphrase:

**Witness the Divine Nature embodied in flesh
Praise the Divine Being in a human body
Pleased in the flesh to become one of us
Jesus is our “God with us”**



The Gospel of John 1:1-18

18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Gospel of John 1:1-18

18 No one has ever seen God; **the only God**, who is at the Father's side, he has **made him known.**



Literally, "he has exegeted him."

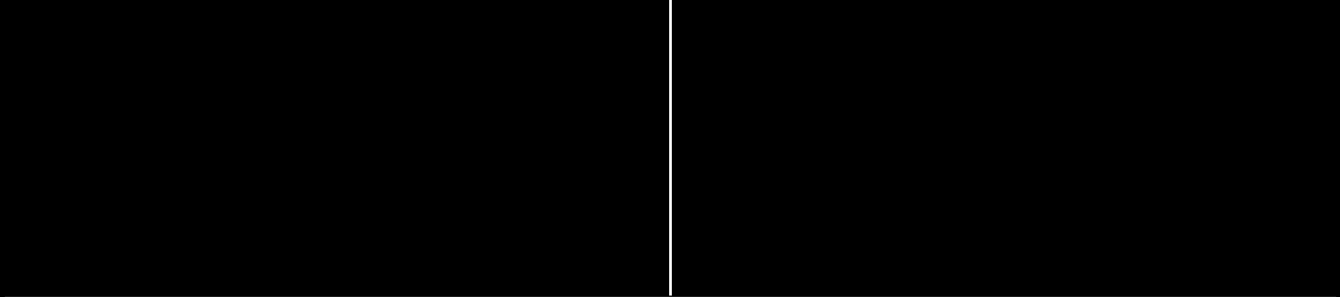


Exegesis

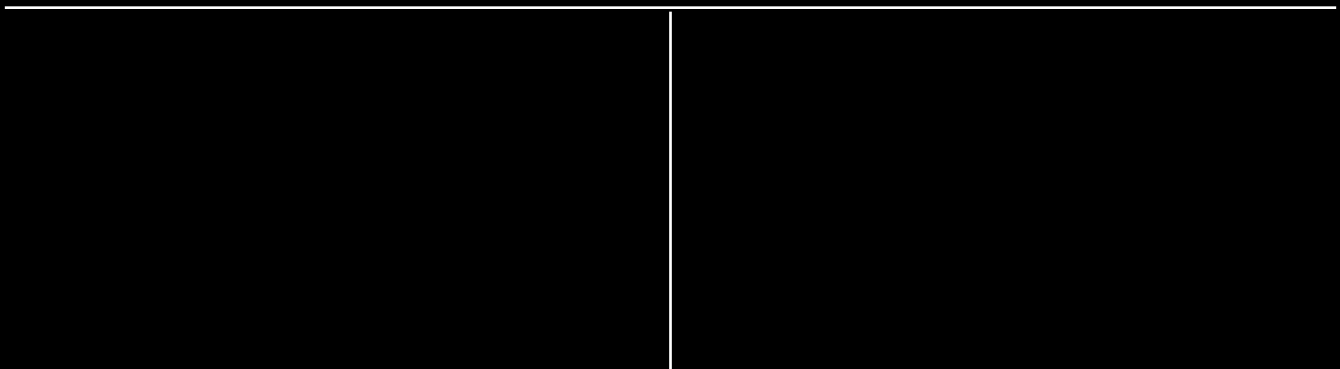
ex·e·ge·sis

“to draw out the meaning”

“to explain something accurately”

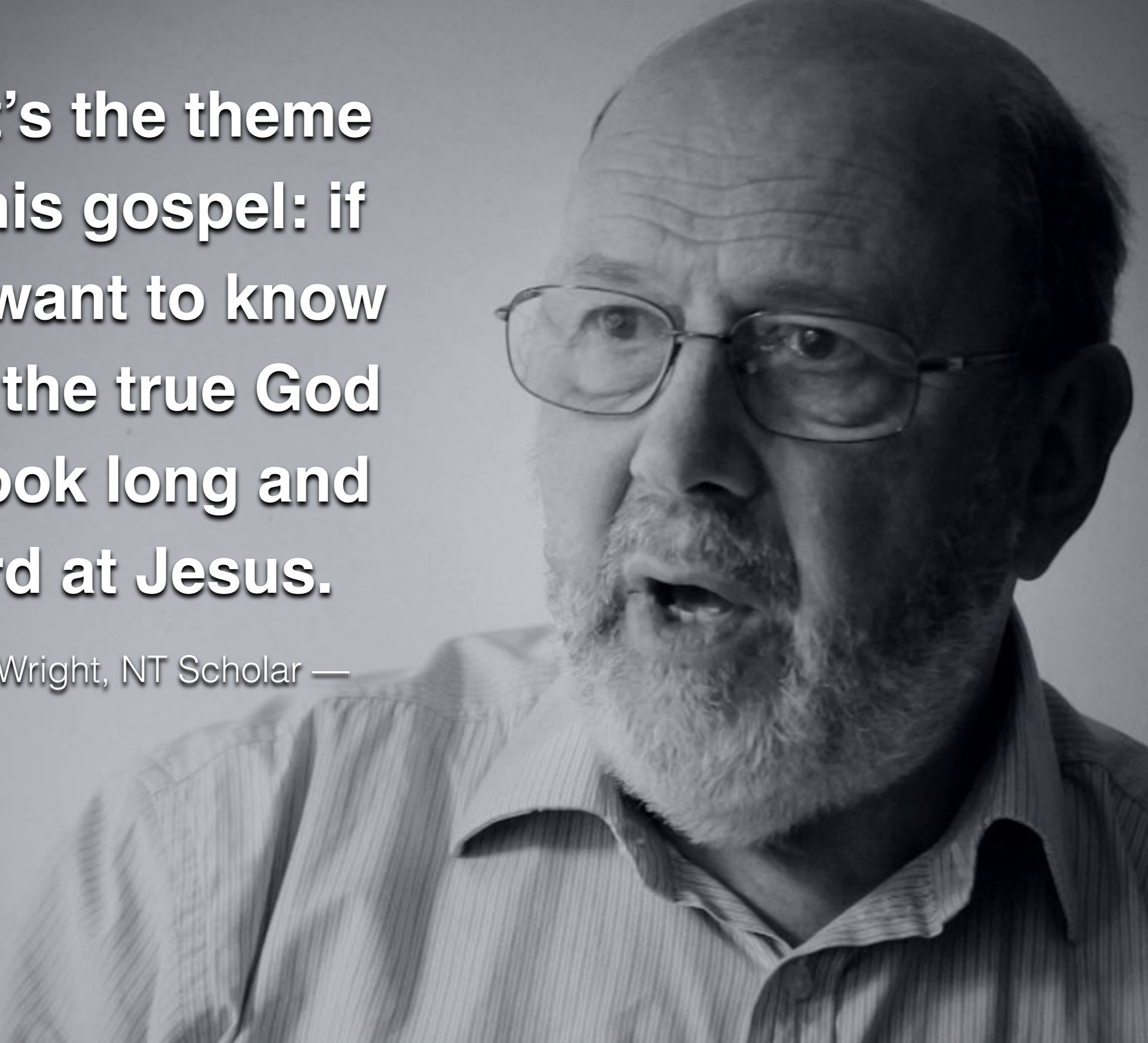


**If you want to know god
you have to get to know jesus,
because in jesus
god has made himself known**



**That's the theme
of this gospel: if
you want to know
who the true God
is, look long and
hard at Jesus.**

— NT Wright, NT Scholar —





**If you find it hard to believe
in God, I strongly advise you
to begin your search not with
philosophical questions...but
with Jesus of Nazareth.**

— John Stott —

**“Let not your hearts
be troubled.
Believe in God;
believe also in me....”**



The Gospel of John, ch. 14

“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....



The Gospel of John, ch. 14

**“From now on you
do know him and
have seen him.”**

**Philip said to him,
“Lord show us the
Father, and it is
enough for us.”**



The Gospel of John, ch. 14

**Jesus said to him,
“Have I been with
you so long, and you
still do not know me
Philip? Whoever has
seen me has seen
the Father.”**



The Gospel of John, ch. 14

**Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
but in these last days he has spoken to us
by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of
all things, and through whom also he
created the world.**

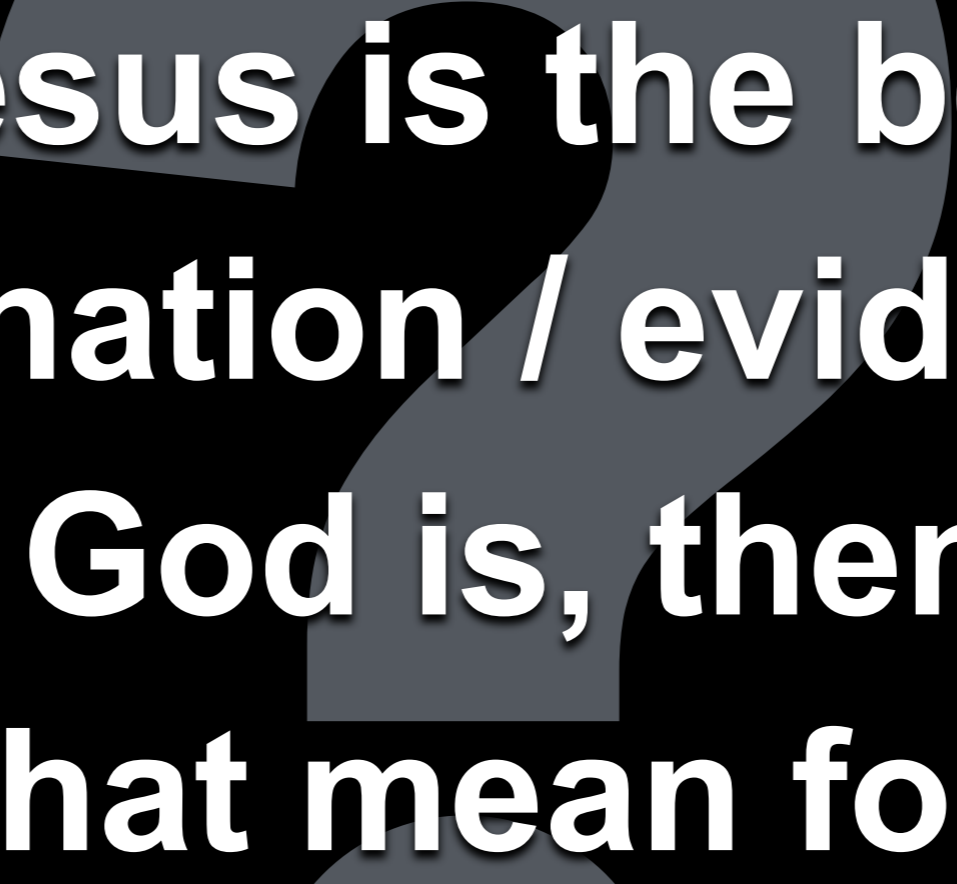
— Hebrews 1:1-3 —



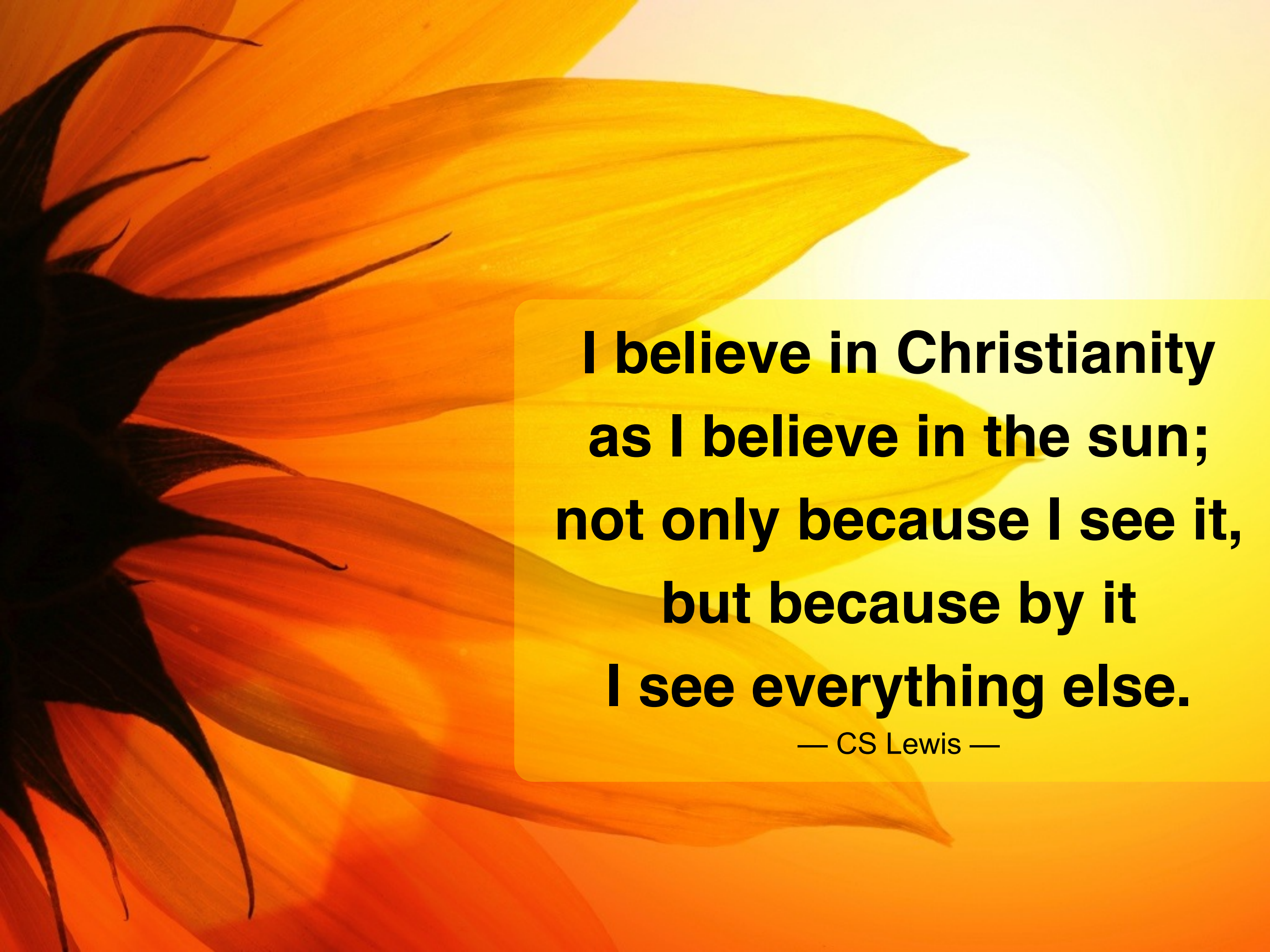
**The Son is the radiance of God's
glory and the exact representation of
his being, sustaining all things by his
powerful word.**

— Hebrews 1:1-3 —





**If Jesus is the best
explanation / evidence
of who God is, then what
would that mean for you?**



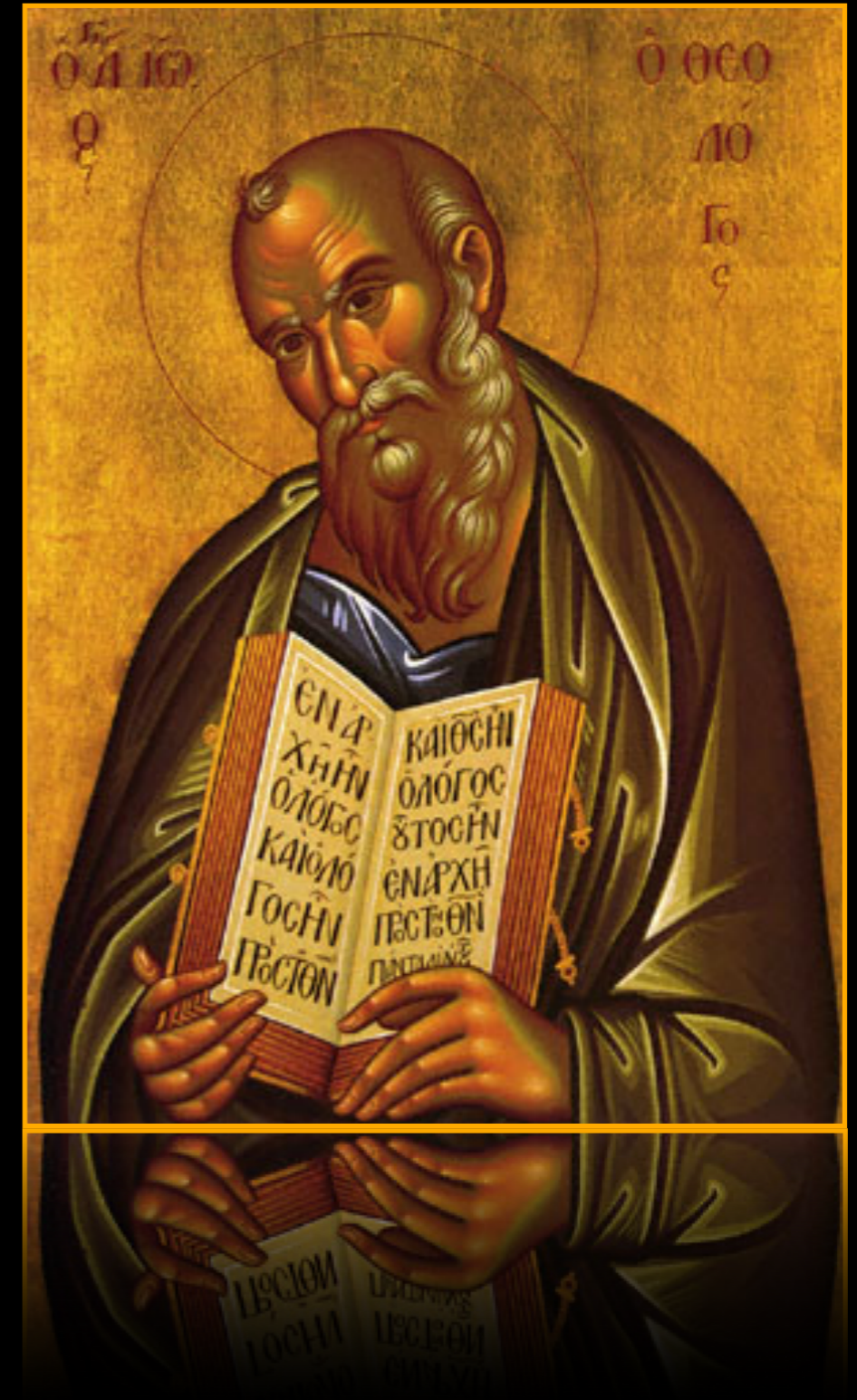
**I believe in Christianity
as I believe in the sun;
not only because I see it,
but because by it
I see everything else.**

— CS Lewis —

Christmas is not about God watching us from a distance, but of God coming near to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

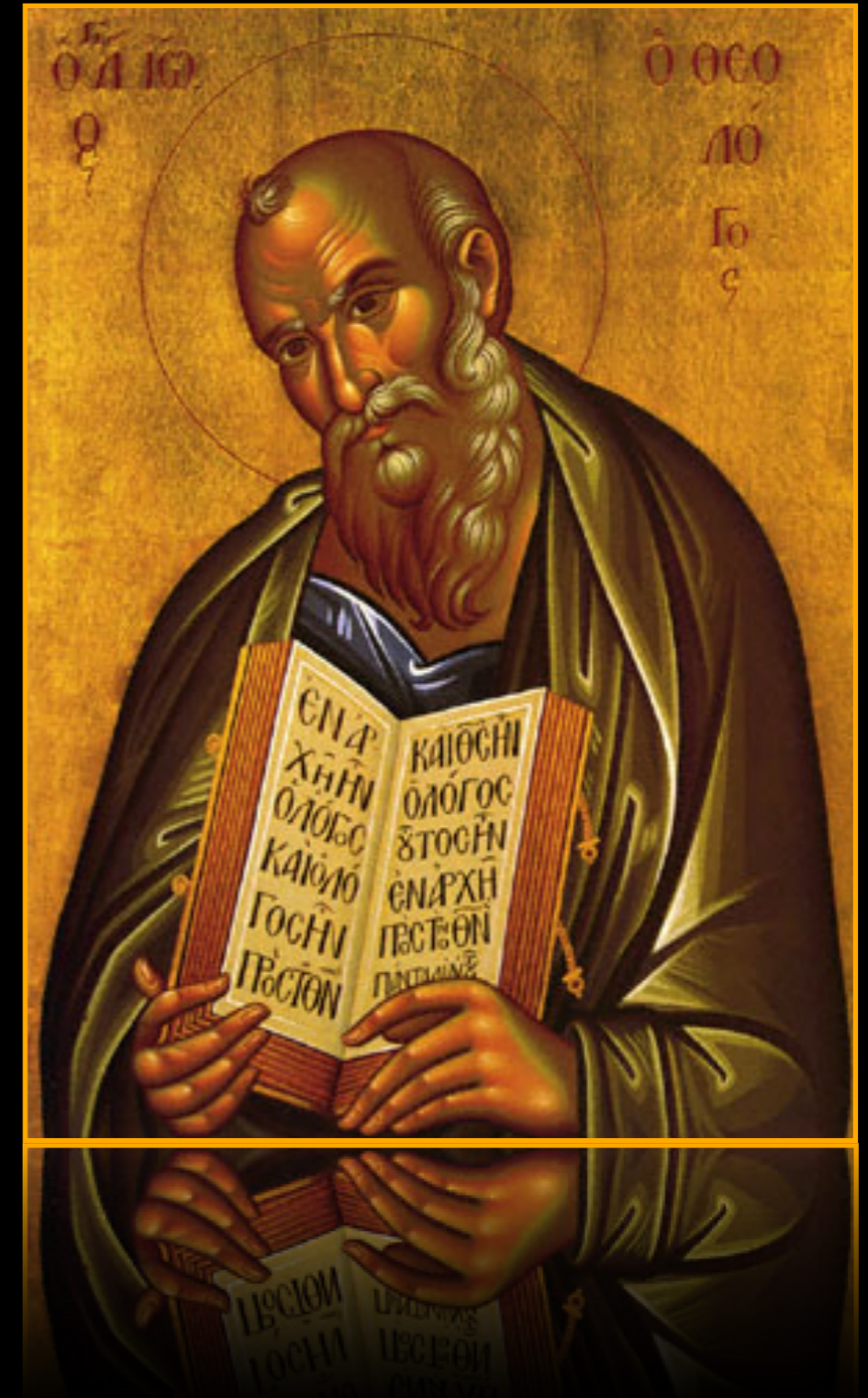


**God is love. In this
the love of God was
manifest among us,
that God sent his Son
into the world, that we
might live through
him....**



**We have seen and
testify that the Father
has sent his Son to be
the Savior of the
world... So we have
come to know and
believe the love that
God has for us....**

— The Apostle John in 1 John 4:8ff —



**The Good News of Christmas
is the Good News about Jesus
and it calls each and every
one of to prepare Him room.**

