



Prayer and The Coming Revolution of God

— The Gospel of Luke 18:18 —



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

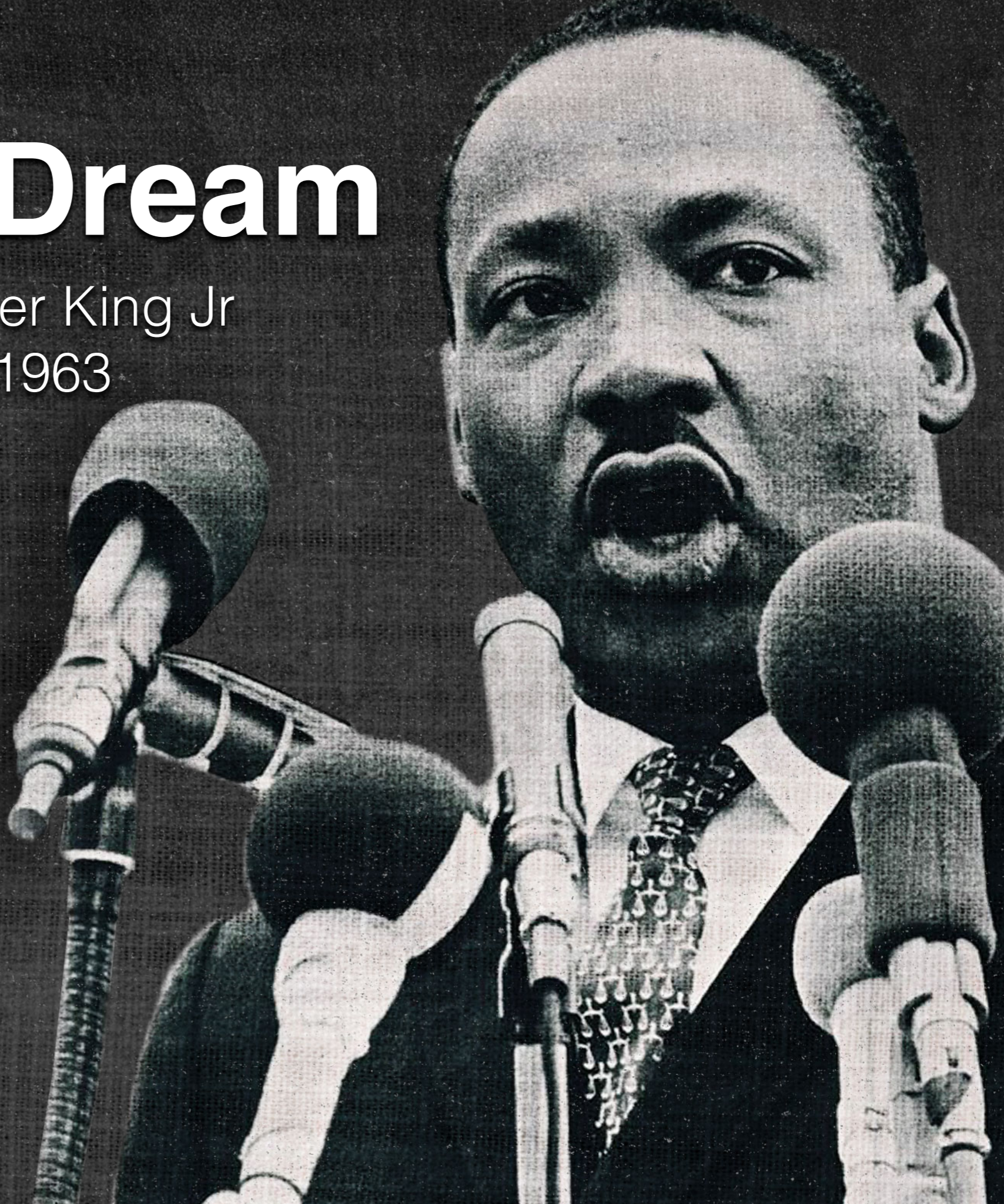
GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE



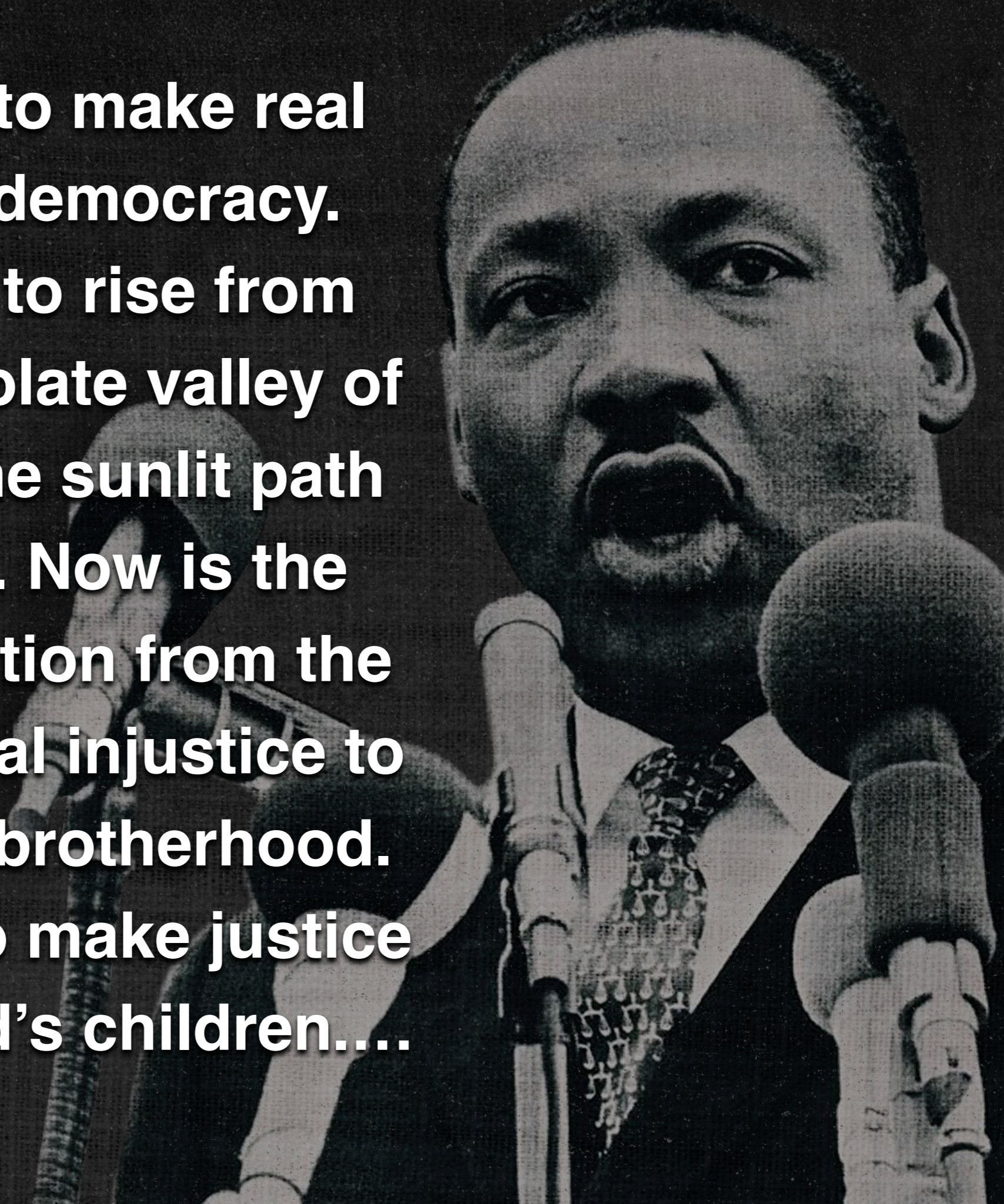
When you dream of this
world becoming a better place,
what does that look like?

I Have A Dream

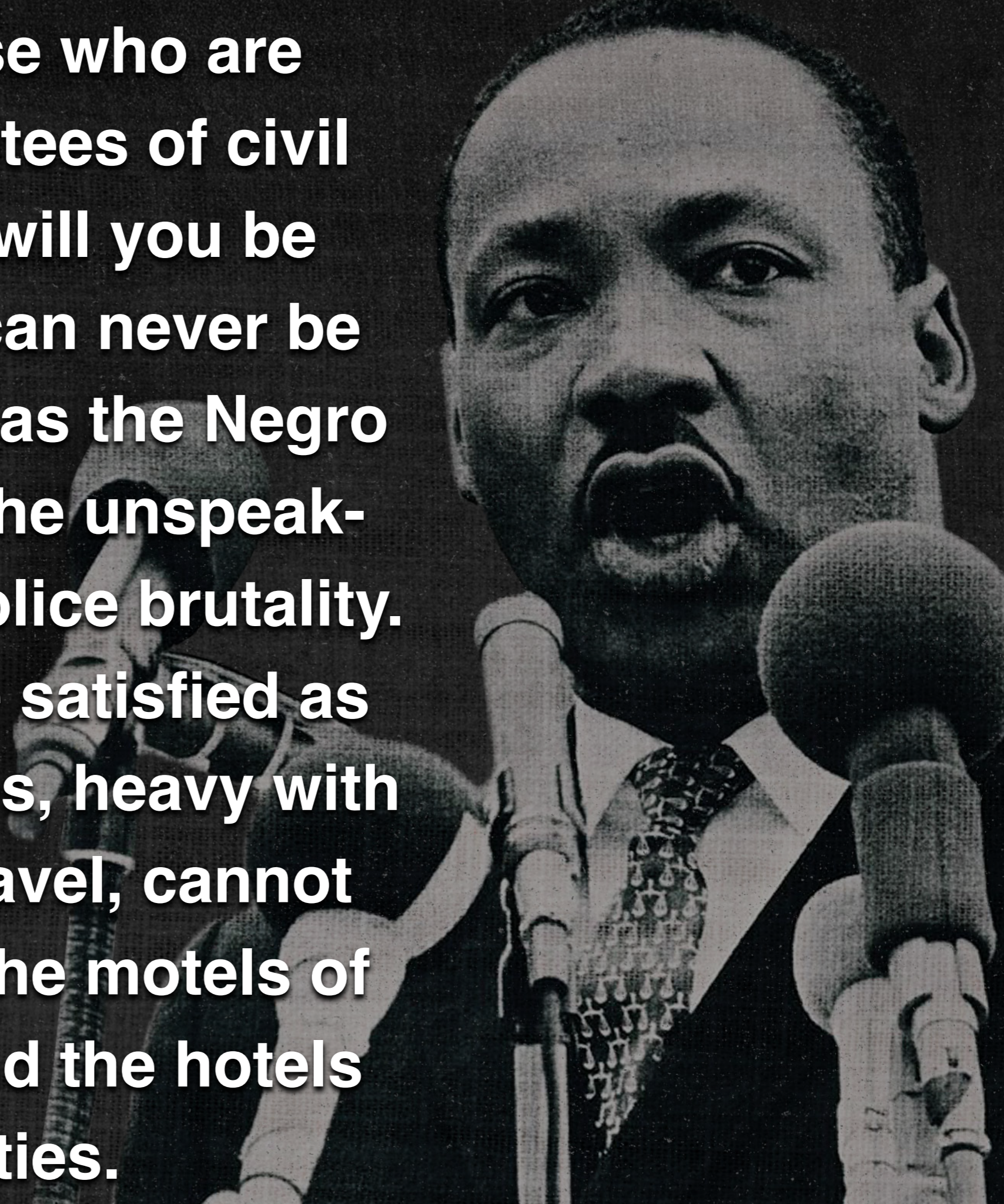
Rev. Martin Luther King Jr
August 28, 1963



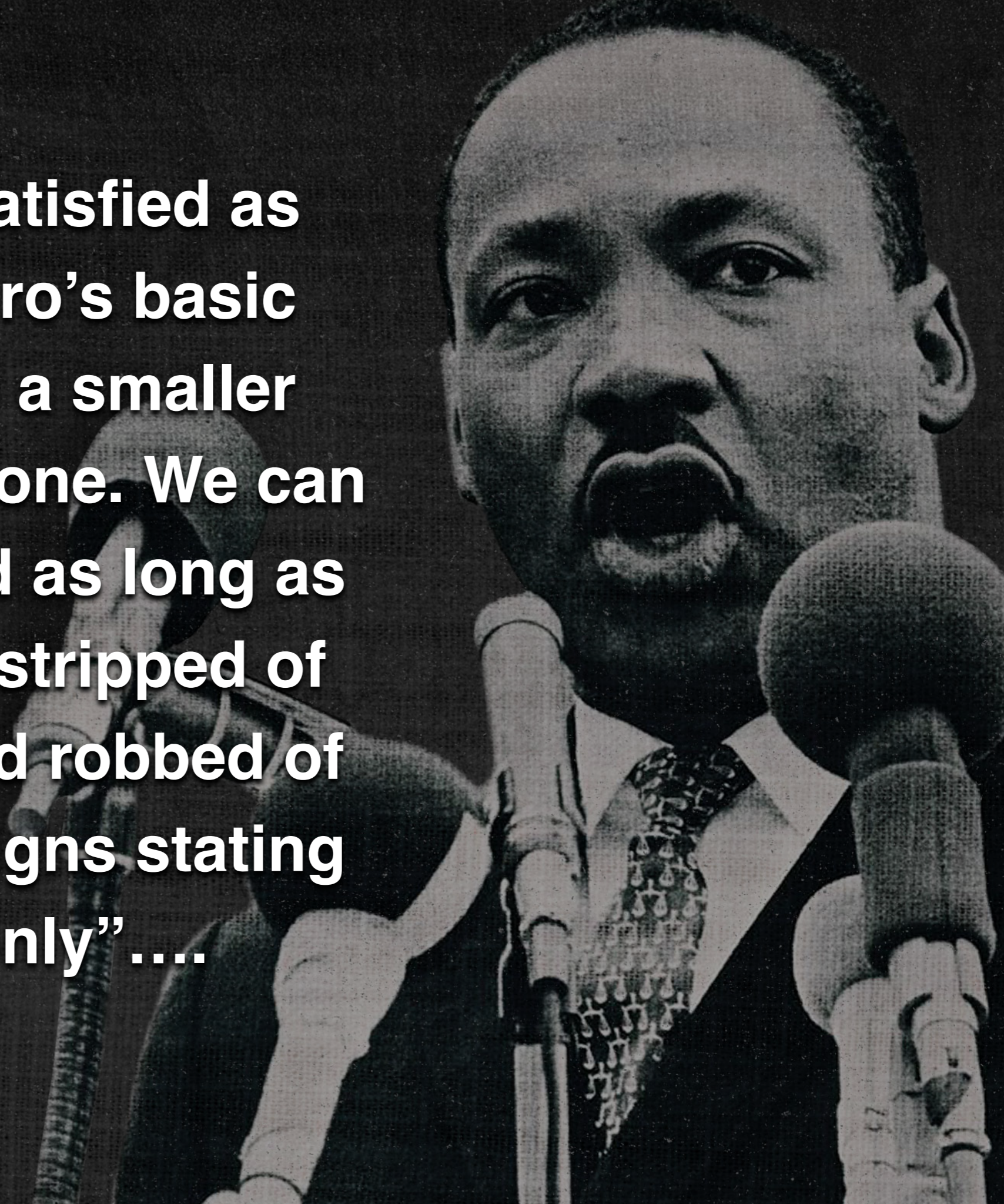
**Now is the time to make real
the promise of democracy.
Now is the time to rise from
the dark and desolate valley of
segregation to the sunlit path
of racial justice. Now is the
time to lift our nation from the
quicksand of racial injustice to
the solid rock of brotherhood.
Now is the time to make justice
a reality to all God's children....**



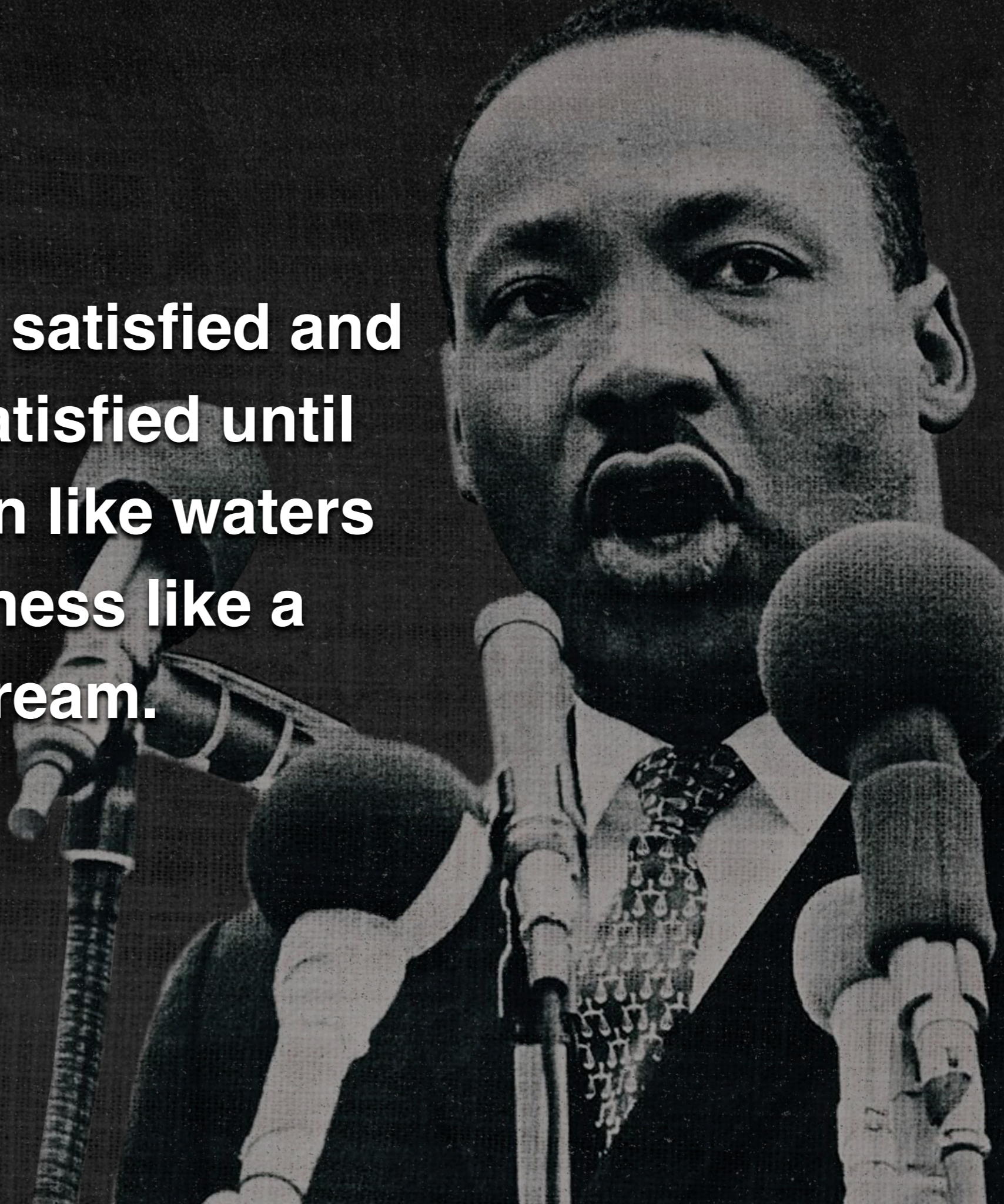
There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities.



We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "for whites only"



**No, no we are not satisfied and
we will not be satisfied until
justice rolls down like waters
and righteousness like a
mighty stream.**





When you dream of this
world becoming a better place,
what does that look like?



I must preach the good news
of the kingdom of God....
Jesus of Nazareth



Prayer and The Coming Revolution of God

— The Gospel of Luke 18:18 —

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

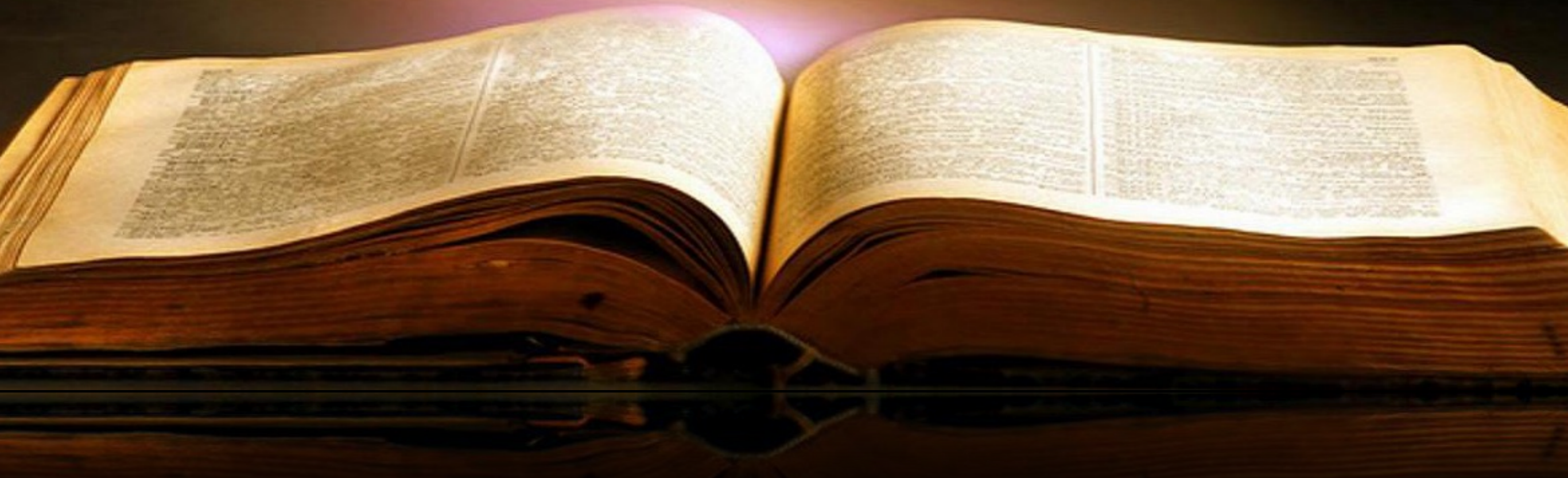
1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

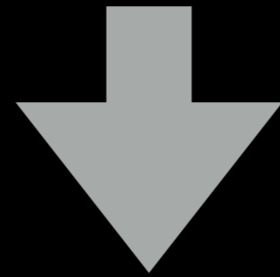
1 **And** he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of Luke 18:10-21 —

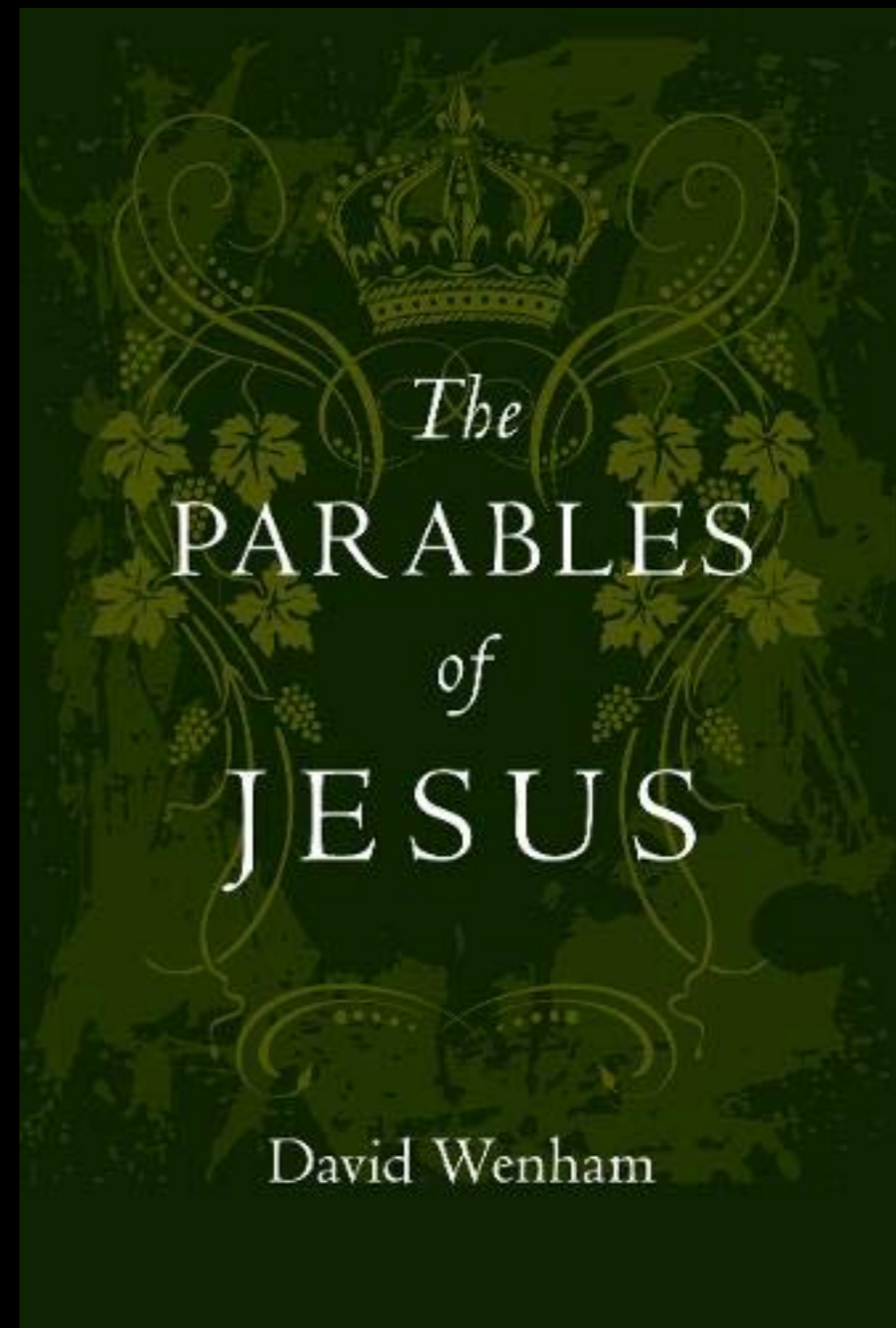


The Kingdom of God

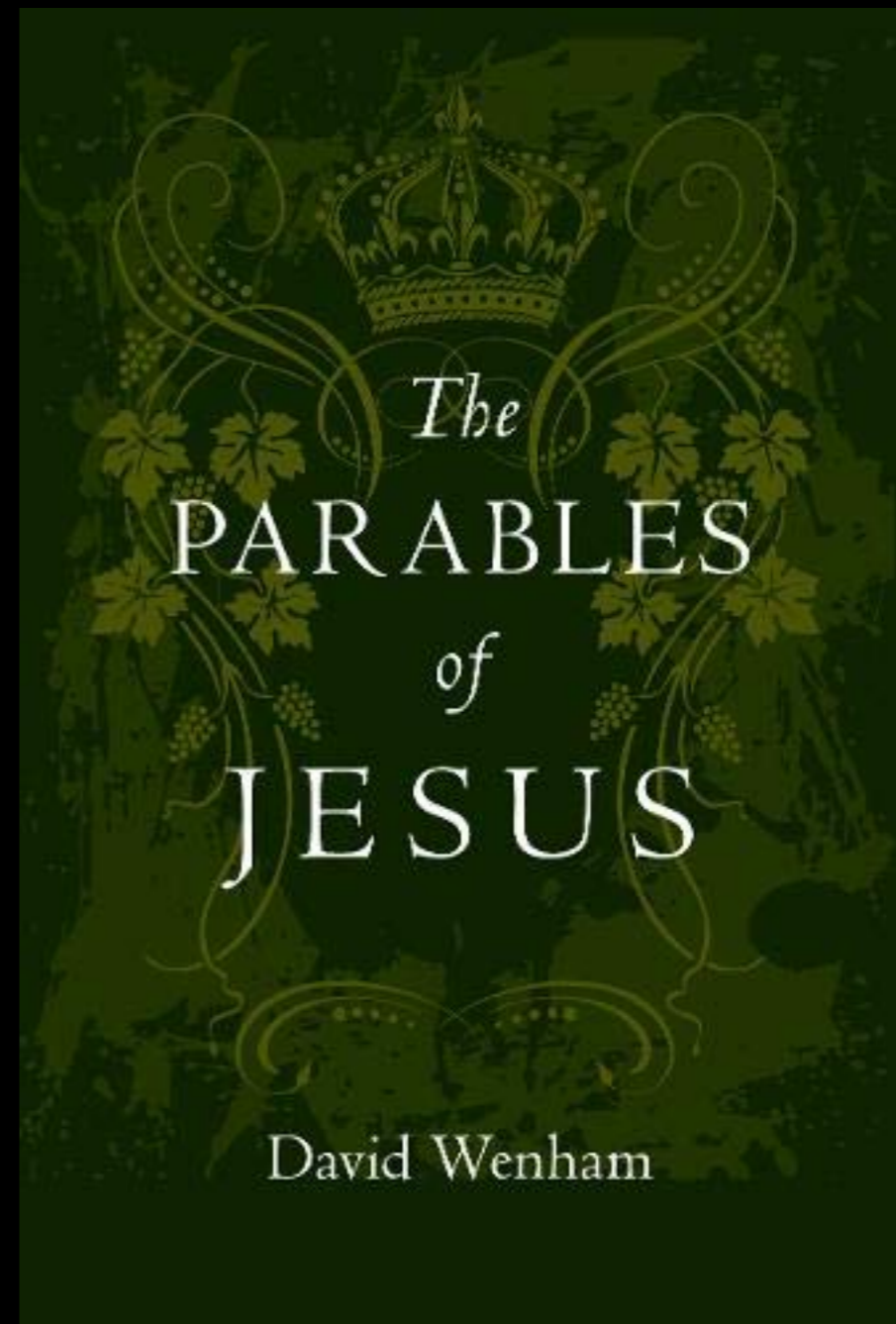


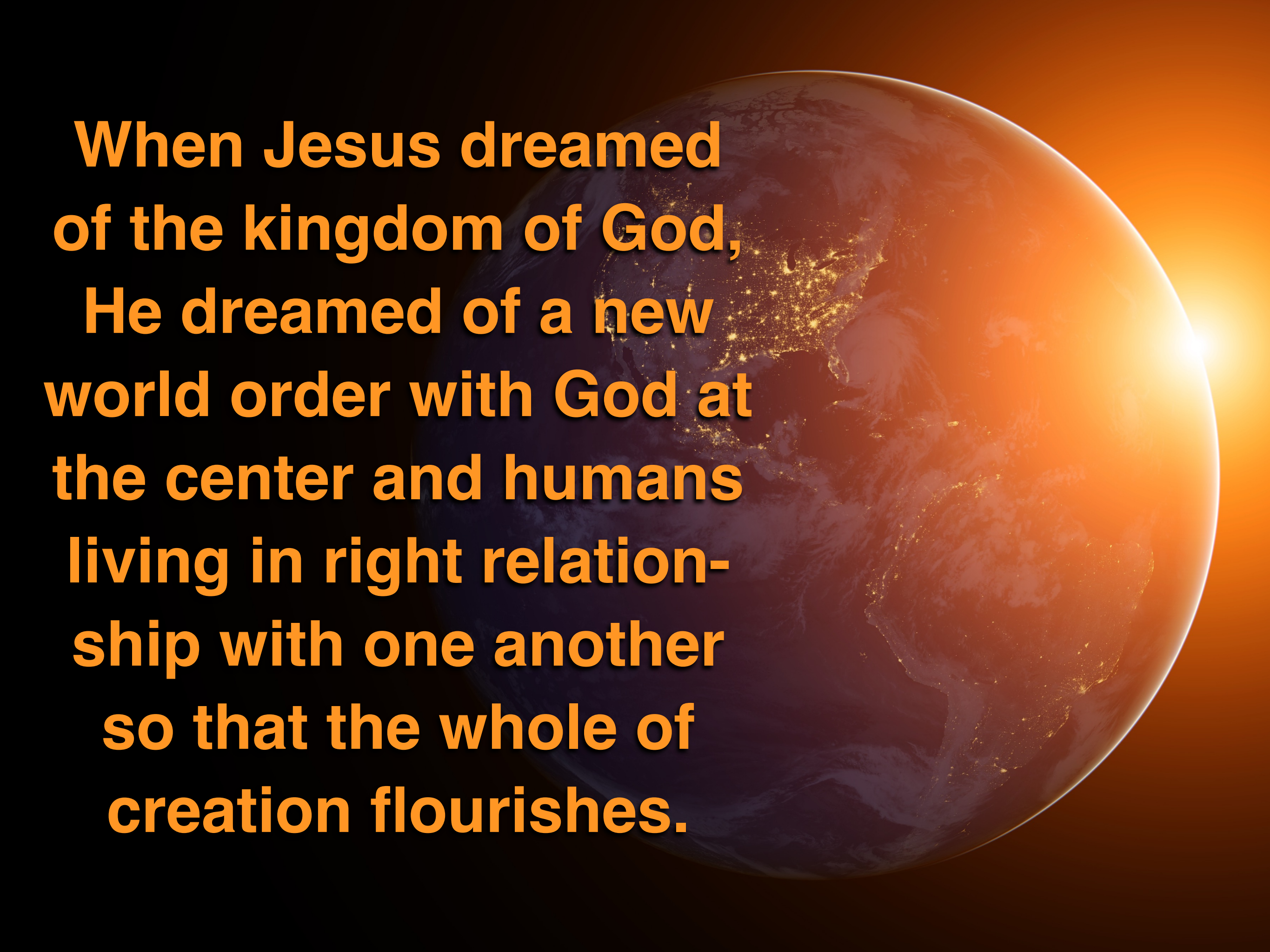
The Revolution of God

**...in proclaiming
the kingdom of
God, Jesus was
announcing the
coming of God's
revolution and of
God's new world...**



**God was at last
intervening, Jesus
declared, to esta-
blish his reign over
everything, to bring
salvation to us
people and renewal
and reconciliation to
the world.**



A glowing Earth with city lights at night, set against a bright orange and yellow background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**When Jesus dreamed
of the kingdom of God,
He dreamed of a new
world order with God at
the center and humans
living in right relation-
ship with one another
so that the whole of
creation flourishes.**

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

1 And he told them a parable to the effect that **they ought always to pray** and not lose heart.

FOCUS • ON • THE • BIBLE

LUKE 14-24

ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

'Ralph Davis always unfolds the text with freshness, insight, and humor, leaving the reader with a clear understanding of what God is up to.'
Iain Duguid

DALE RALPH DAVIS

Jesus implied that his disciples would be driven to desperation as they endured the pressures, assaults, and opposition of the world around them...

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LUKE 14-24

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So the prayer Jesus speaks of is particularly prayer that goes on pleading with God to put things right for His people as they suffer wrong in this world.

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

1 And he told them a parable to the effect that **they ought always to pray and not lose heart.**

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Jesus assumes that you will likely have trouble with prayer.... This statement recognizes that there are times when prayer will be hard, when will be tempted to leave off praying and give it all up....

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There may be times when we have no emotional energy, no warmth of feeling, for prayer. A creeping conviction of pointlessness slithers into our mind, and we find our motivation has sprung a slow leak.

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But Jesus says his disciples '*must* always pray.' So this is where what I call 'Anyway Christianity' has to kick in. You don't feel like praying; you may imagine it's useless to do so, but you do it anyway.

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You do it because Jesus says so. His disciples *'must always pray.'* There is often simply a certain doggedness about the Christian life.

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man....”

Jehoshaphat... appointed judges in the land. He told them, “Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for mere mortals but for the Lord, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.”

— 2 Chronicles 19:6-7 —

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

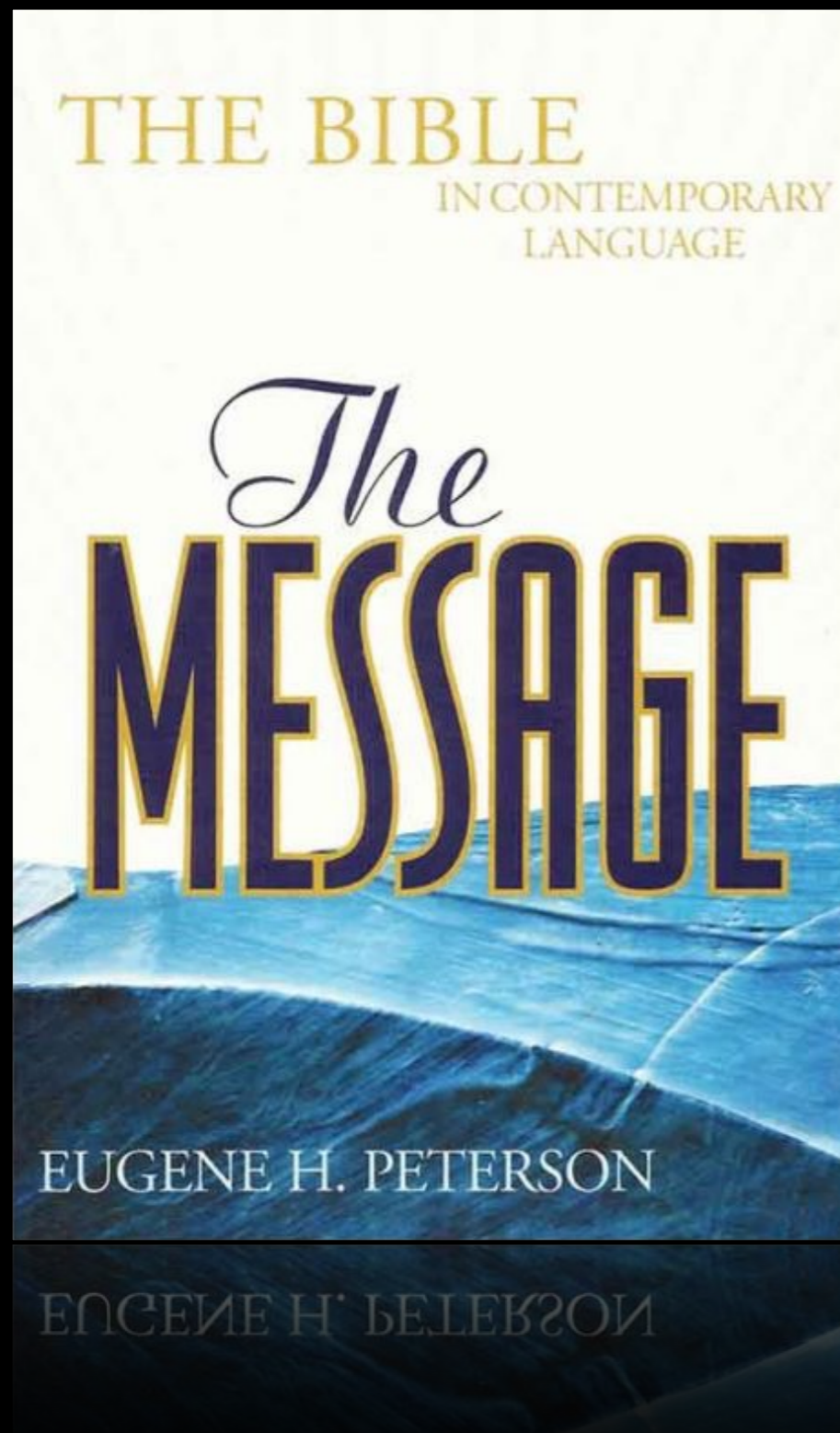
2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man....”

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

3 And there was **a widow** in that city who kept coming to him and saying, **“Give me justice against my adversary.”**

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

4 **For a while he refused,** but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet **because this widow keeps bothering me,** I will give her justice, so that she will **not beat me down** by her continual coming.



He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, 'I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black and blue by her pounding.'

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says....

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?”



**I am the Lord who practices kindness,
justice, and righteousness in the
earth. For in these things I delight.**

— Jeremiah 9:24 —

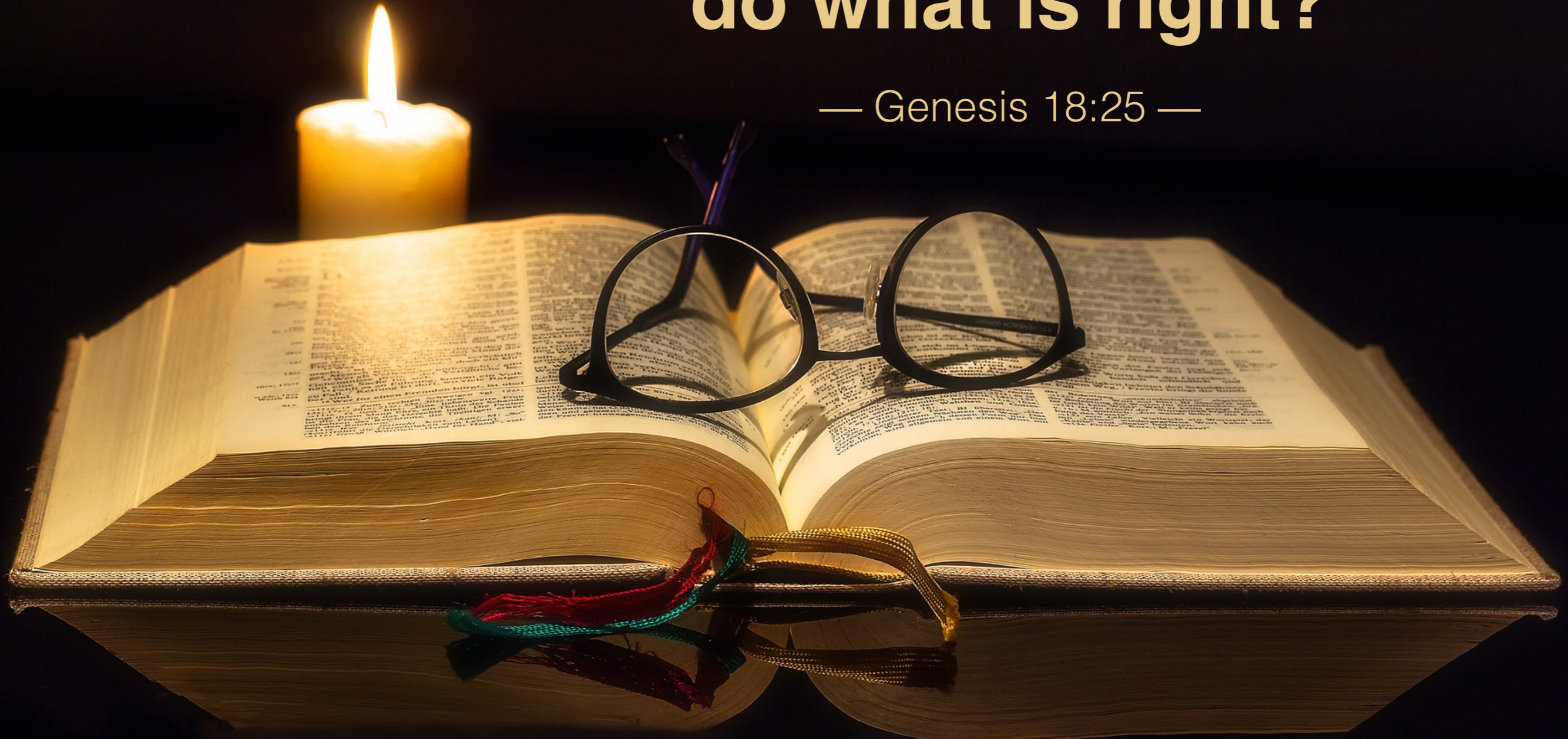


He loves righteousness and justice.

— Psalm 33:5 —

**Will not the Judge
of all the earth
do what is right?**

— Genesis 18:25 —



The Unjust Judge

The Just Judge

**A crooked person who
could not care less
about justice**

**A righteous person who
could not care more
about justice**

**Faced with the pleading
of a widow for whom he
cares nothing about**

**Faced with prayers from
his chosen ones for
whom he cares deeply**

**Responds reluctantly
and grudgingly to
vindicate her**

**Will respond willingly and
eagerly to vindicate them**

PREACHING THE WORD

LUKE



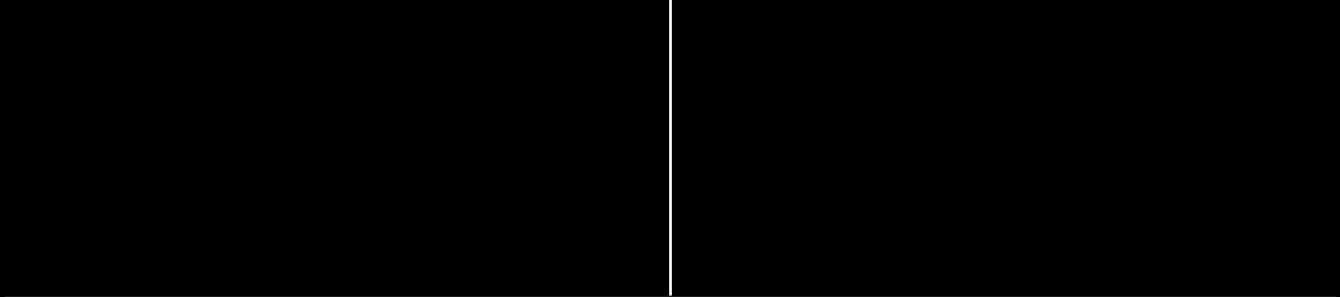
VOLUME ONE

THAT YOU
MAY KNOW
THE TRUTH

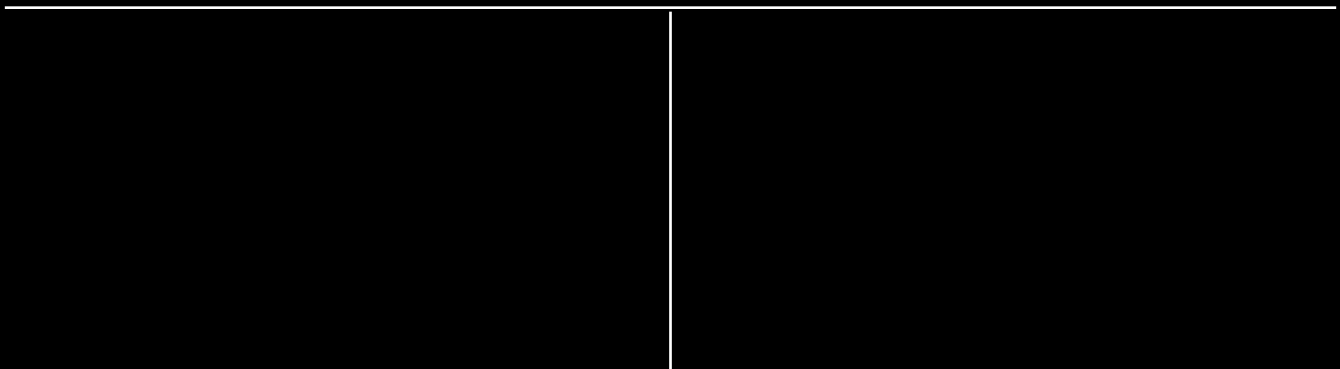
R. Kent Hughes

R. Kent Hughes

**The judge was unloving,
evil, ungracious,
merciless, and unjust.
But God is loving, good,
gracious, merciful, and
just. Moreover whatever
God is, he is infinitely.
He is infinitely loving,
infinitely gracious,
infinitely merciful, and
infinitely just.**



**We continue to pray
not because we are trying
to get God's attention, but
because we already have it!**



The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

7 “Will he delay long over them?

8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.”

My Best Shot at the Sense of This:

Will God delay long over them?

**I tell you, He will grant justice for them,
and it will be swift when it comes.**

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

8 Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

...behold, with the
clouds of heaven
there came one
like a **Son of Man,**
and He came to the
Ancient of Days
and was presented
before Him.



**And 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
one that shall not
be destroyed.**

— Daniel 7 —



The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

8 Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find [the] faith on earth?

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

1 And he told them a parable to the effect that **they ought always to pray and not lose heart.**

8 Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, **will he find [the] faith** on earth?

The Gospel of Luke 18:1-8

1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

8 Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find [the] faith on earth?

Will Jesus find this kind of persevering, praying, never-losing-heart kind of faith?

FOCUS • ON • THE • BIBLE

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We must remember Jesus' whole purpose in telling this parable. And we must remember the kind of prayer he speaks of – not prayer for a new job or for your house to sell, for your kid to get accepted into a certain university, but for God to give justice to his weary and beaten-down people.

FOCUS • ON • THE • BIBLE

LUKE 14-24

ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

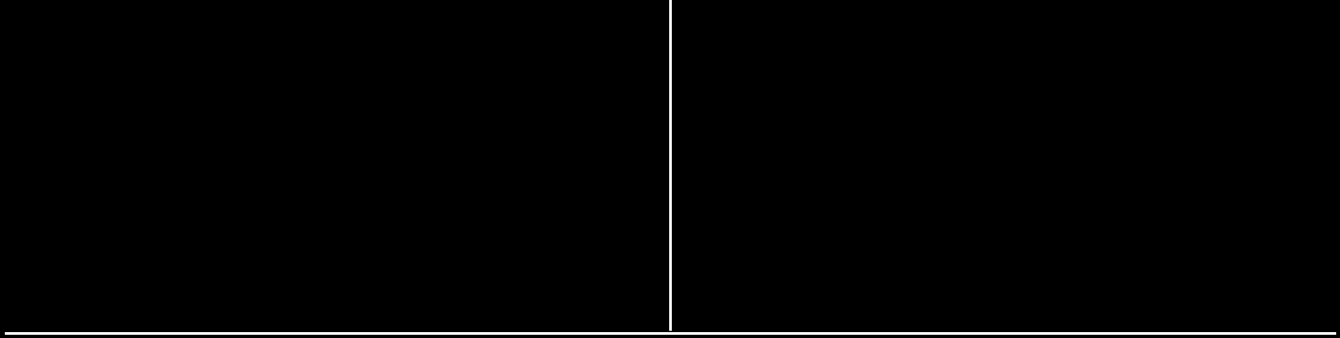
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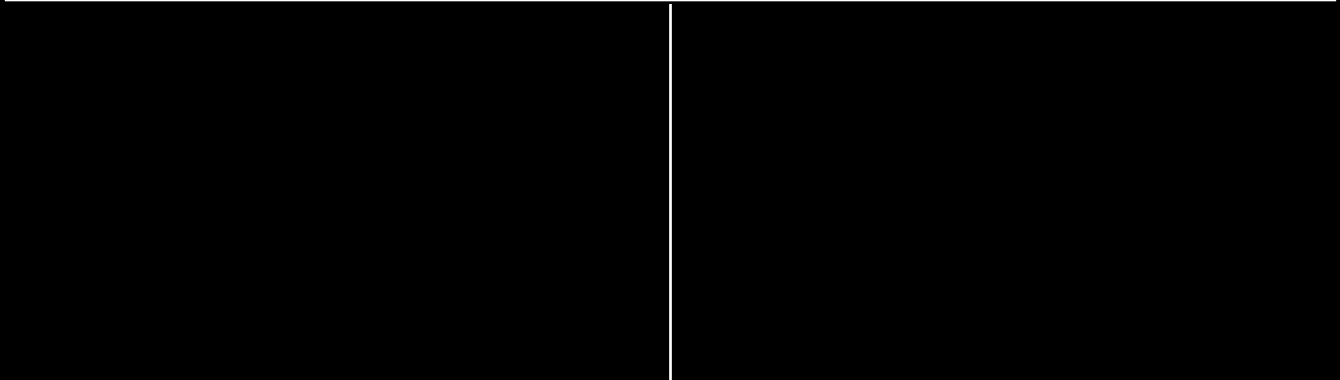
DALE RALPH DAVIS

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God's people live in a world in which they are assailed, assaulted, and sometimes annihilated, and so, in the face of that, they must never give in, lose heart, or throw in the towel; they must keep praying for God to put things right. And this prayer requires unrelenting tenacity.



**When we pray longing prayers
for the coming of God's kingdom,
our hearts are actually reflecting
the longing heart of God!**



**Let's remember that
we have every reason
to pray and not lose heart!**



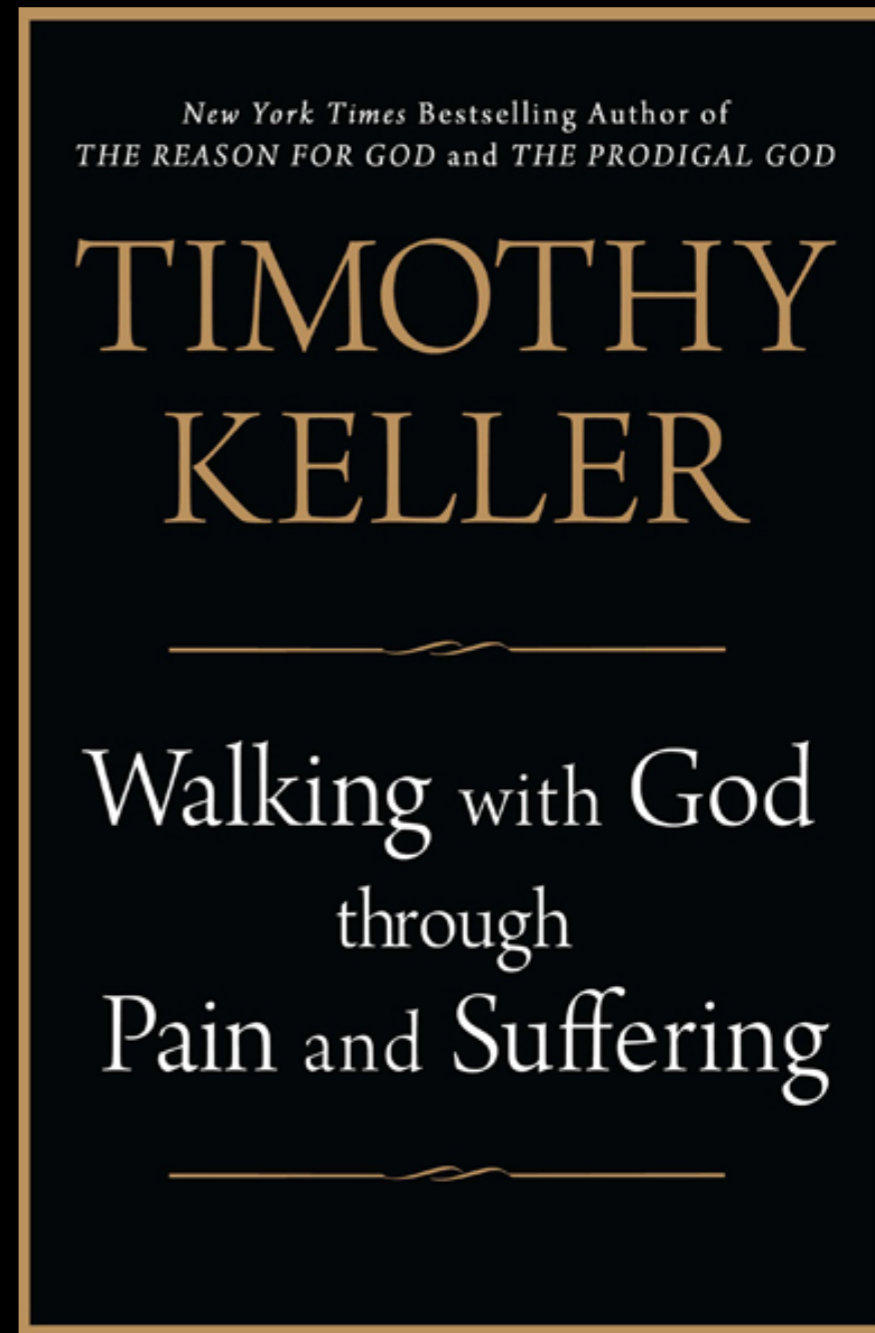




**My God, my God, why
have You forsaken me?**

— The Gospel of Mark 15:34 —

Without the suffering of Jesus, evil wins. It results in the destruction of the human race. It is only Jesus' suffering that makes it possible to end suffering—to judge and renew the world—without having to destroy us.





**Behold, I am making
all things new.**

— Revelation 21:5 —



**Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.**

Jesus of Nazareth
The Gospel of Matthew 5:6



Let's use the **BAD NEWS** of
this world to prompt prayer for
the **GOOD NEWS** of the kingdom.

BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS
BREAKING NEWS
BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS
BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS

**How long,
O Lord?**

**Your
kingdom
come!**

**O Lord,
have mercy!**

**Come quickly
Lord Jesus!**

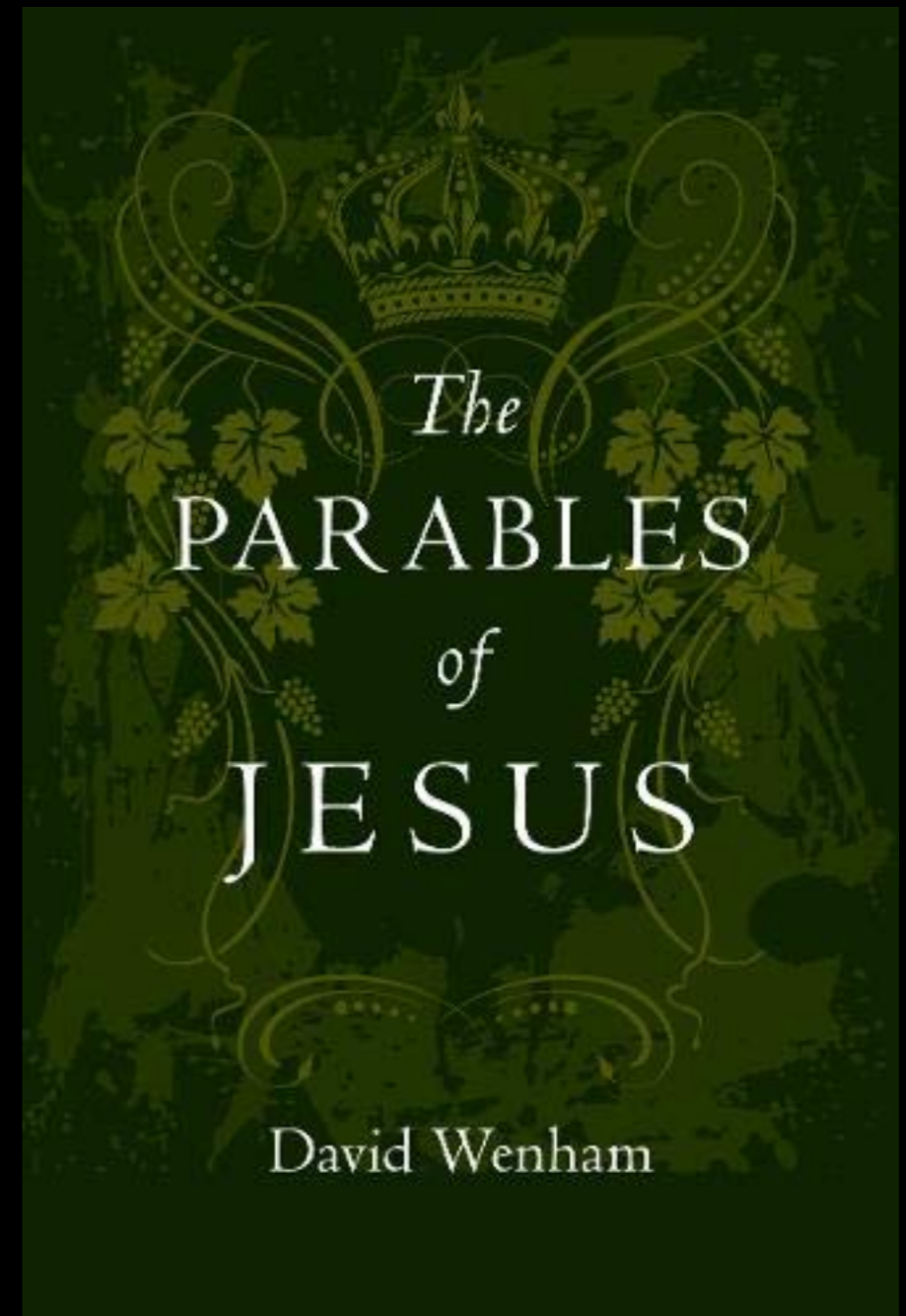
**Cause good
to come from
this!**

**Let them fall
into their
own trap!**

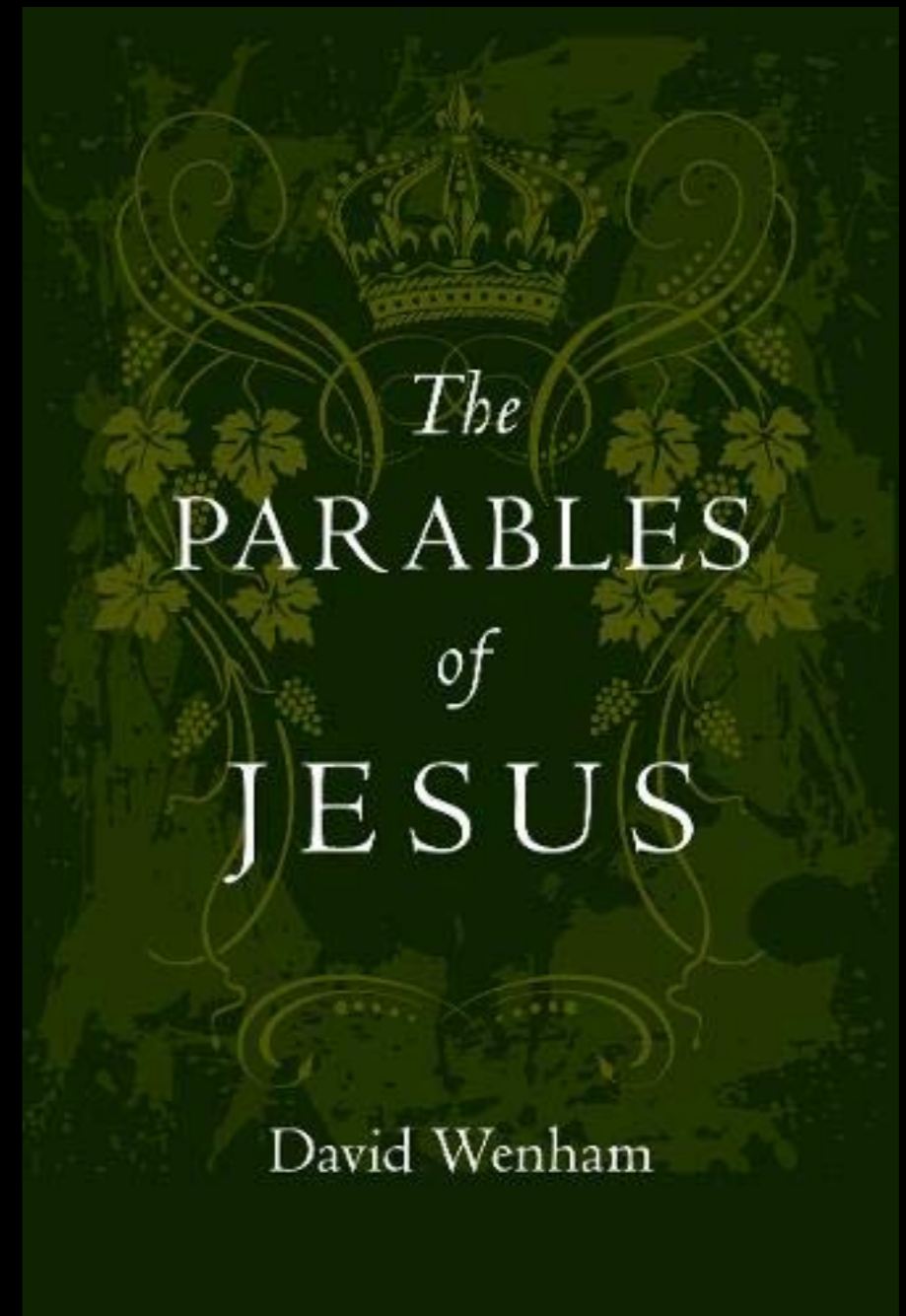
**Frustrate
their evil
plans!**



Prayer is the expression of our powerlessness and our dependence on God, and at the same time the most powerful means we have of collaborating in God's work.

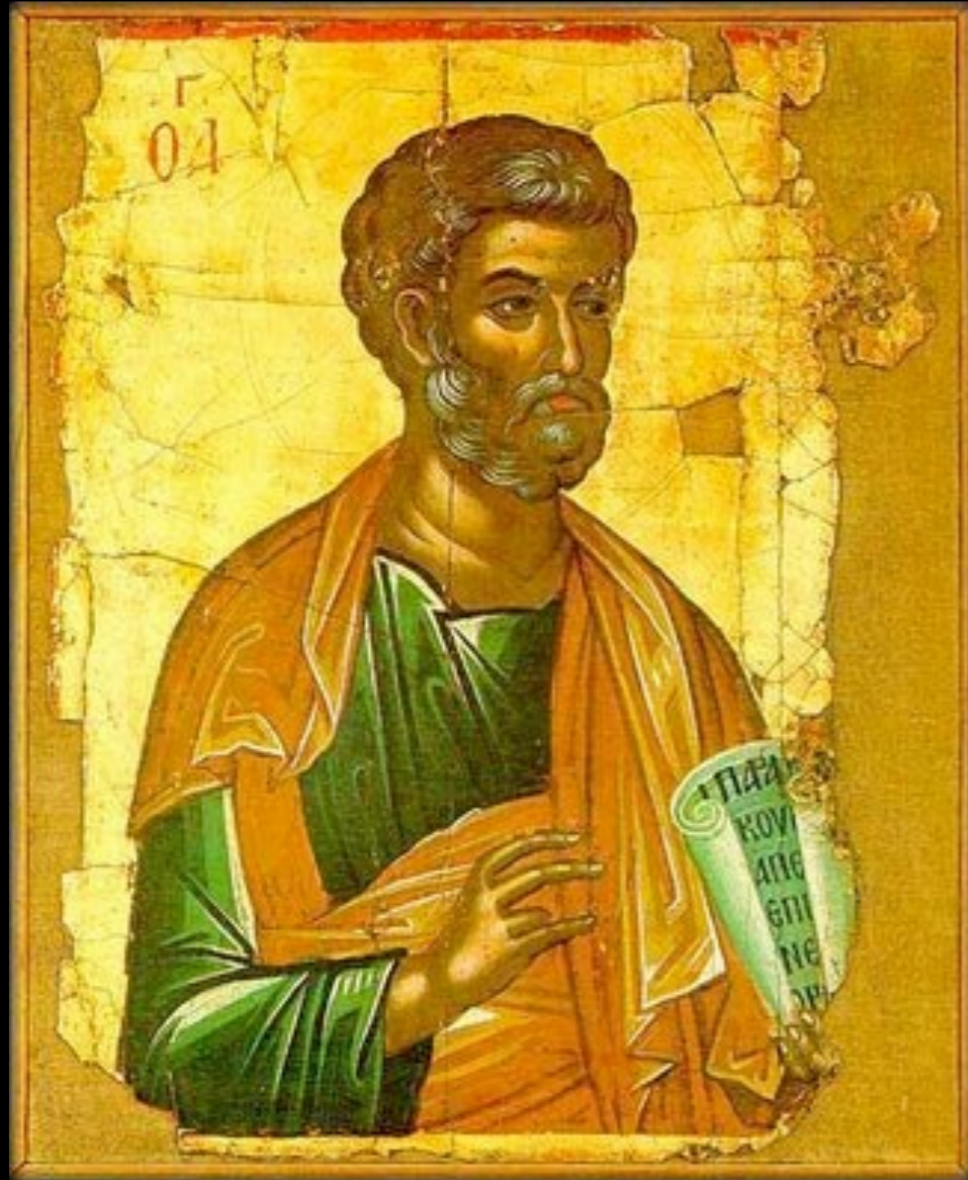


God does not bring the kingdom independently of his people, but through his people as they trust him and express that trust in prayer. Prayer is thus a top priority in the revolution of God.



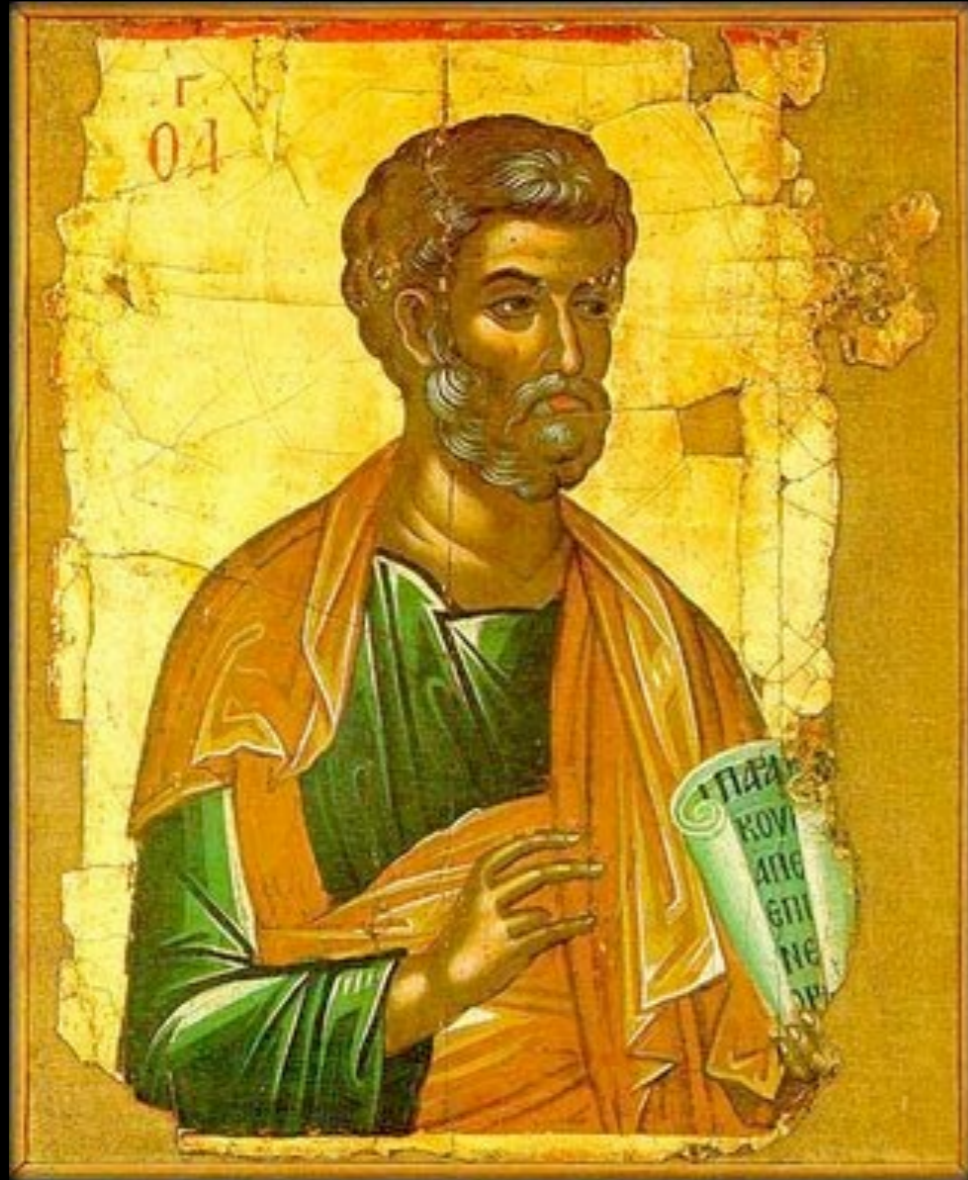
A view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet, the blue atmosphere, and the sun's glow on the horizon. The text "Let's trust in God's perfect timing." is overlaid in yellow.

**Let's trust in
God's perfect timing.**



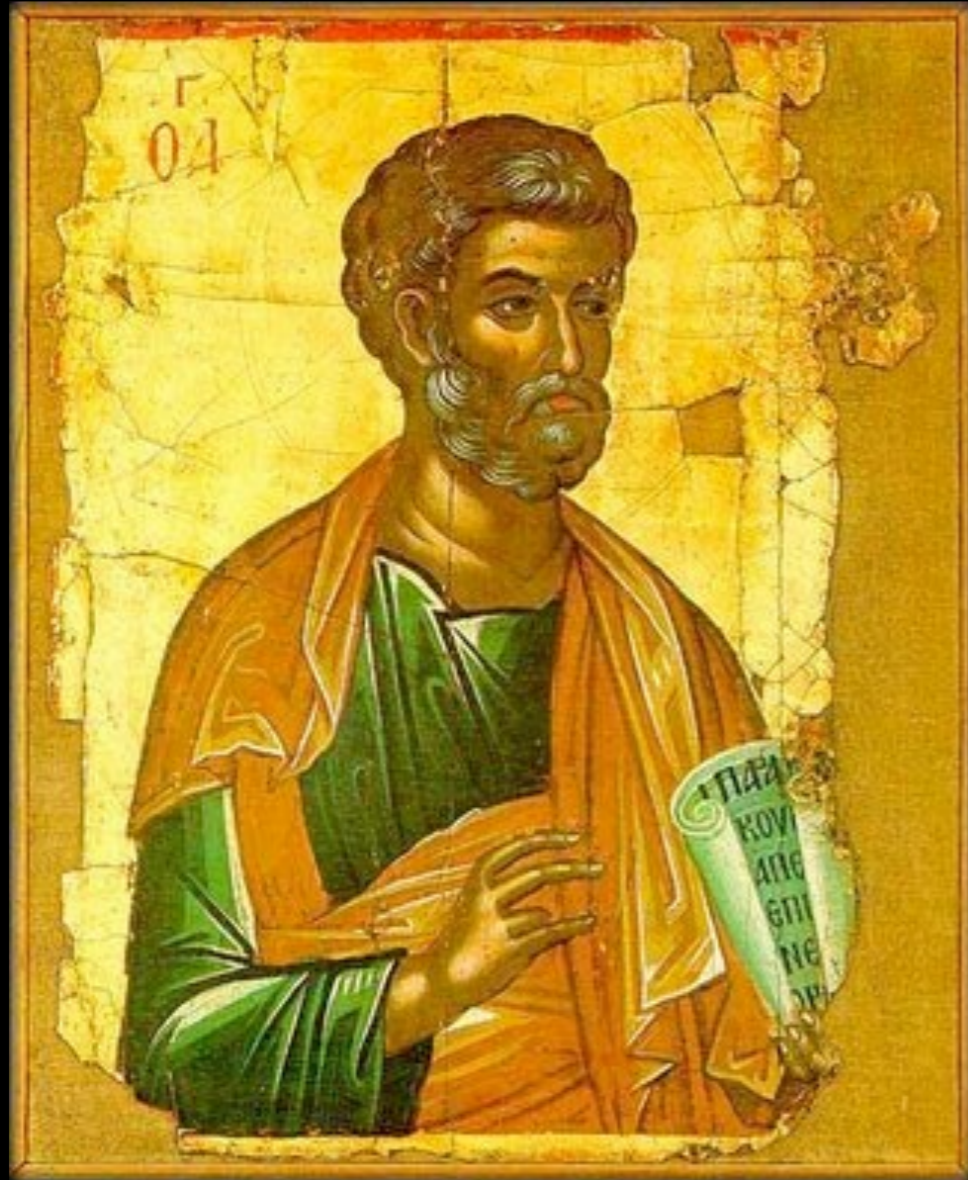
The Apostle Peter
— 2 Peter 3:1-4 —

I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.



They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

The Apostle Peter
— 2 Peter 3:1-4 —



The Apostle Peter
— 2 Peter 3:8-9 —

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

**When he opened the fifth seal,
I saw under the altar the souls
of those who had been slain
for the word of God and for
the witness they had borne.**



They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”



Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

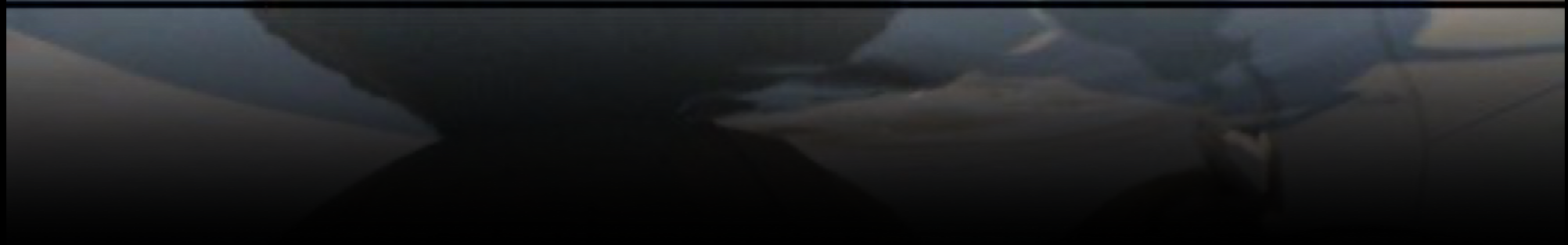
— Revelation 6:9-10 —





— Reepicheep —

From CS Lewis' *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*







While I can, I sail east in the Dawn Treader. When she fails me, I paddle east in my coracle. When she sinks, I shall swim east with my four paws.



And when I can swim no longer, if I have not reached Aslan's country, or shot over the edge of the world in some vast cataract, I shall sink with my nose to the sunrise....



What kind of me does
Jesus want me to be?



May your heart always long
for the coming revolution of God,
and may you pray for it
and never lose heart.