

Peter's Denial of Jesus

(& What We Learn About the Savior)

— The Gospel of Luke 22:31ff —

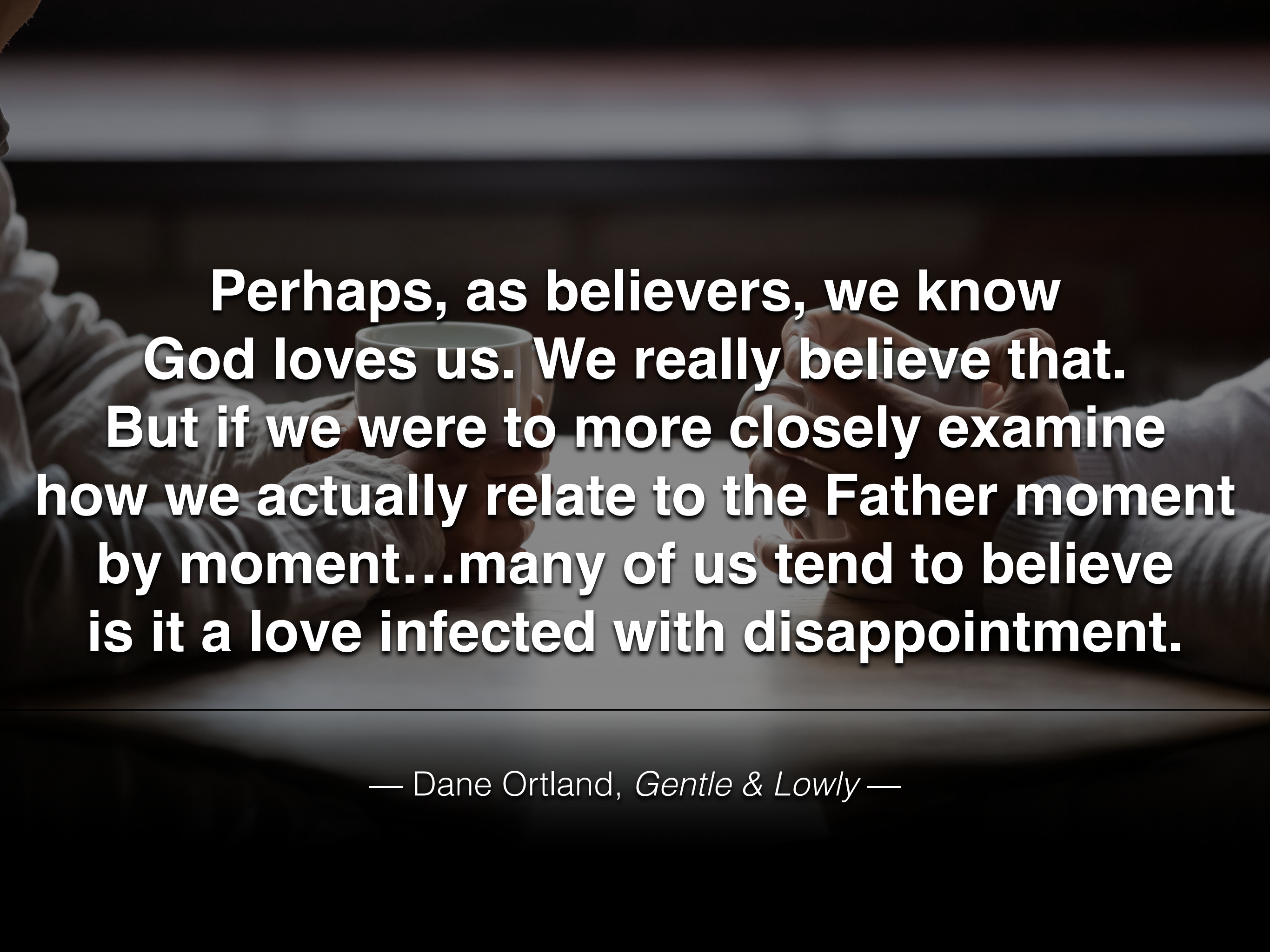




THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE





**Perhaps, as believers, we know
God loves us. We really believe that.
But if we were to more closely examine
how we actually relate to the Father moment
by moment...many of us tend to believe
is it a love infected with disappointment.**

— Dane Ortland, *Gentle & Lowly* —

Peter's Denial of Jesus (& What We Learn About the Savior)

— The Gospel of Luke 22:31ff —



The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat....

**Satan? C'mon man!
You can't seriously
expect us to take
this seriously?**



What Americans Believe About Demons

22% “definitely exist”

24% “probably exist”

— YouGov - Oct 21, 2019 —



**Do I have to
believe in
“Satan”
to be a
Christian?**

Here's the thing.....

**In the Scriptures,
no one spoke of the devil
or the demonic realm
more than Jesus**

**Well, there are all manner of lesser imps
and demons, Pete, but the great Satan
himself is red and scaly with a bifurcated
tale, and he carries a hay fork.**



— Ulysses Everett McGill, *O Brother Where Art Thou?* —

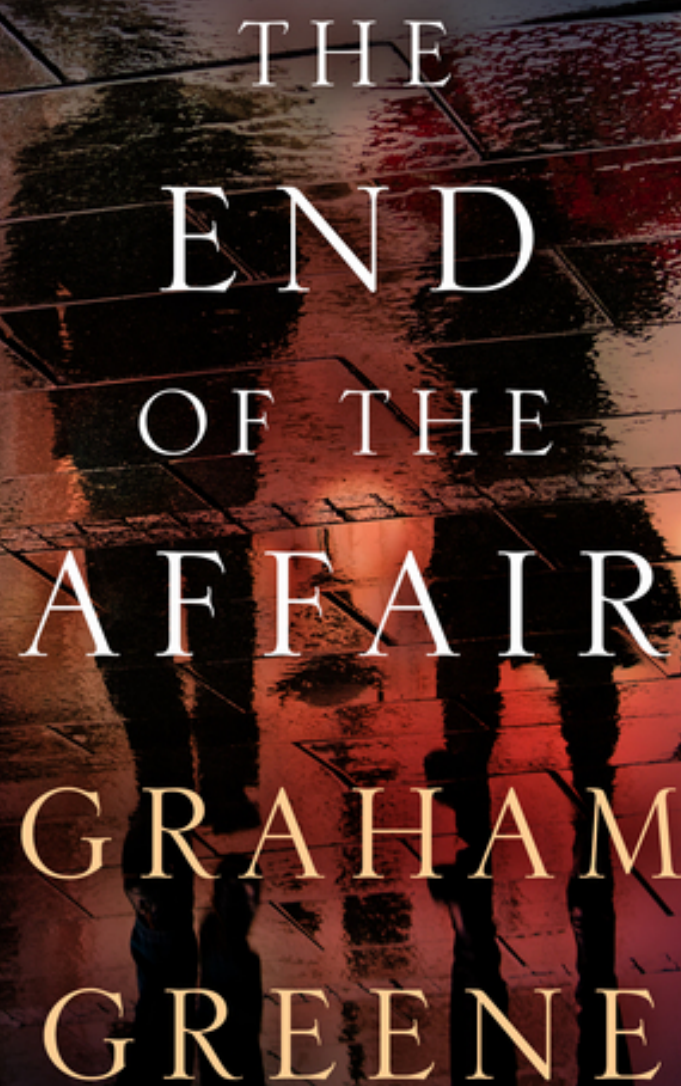
Important Point

You will learn as you begin to follow Jesus that He is going to ask you to deepen your understanding of all kinds of things: God, yourself, & evil.

“The Satan” = “the adversary”

(1 Pet. 5:8-9)

- Satan is the leader of fallen angels (Rev. 12:9)
- Satan’s tactics involve lies & deception (John 8:44)
- Satan masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Cor. 11:14)
- Satan hates humanity b/c he hates God, and humans bear the image of God (Gen. 2-3)
- Satan leads the whole world astray (Rev. 12:9)



THE
END
OF THE
AFFAIR
GRAHAM
GREENE

I can imagine that if there existed a God who loved, the devil would be driven to destroy even the weakest, the most faulty imitation of that love. Wouldn't he be afraid that love might grow, and wouldn't he trap us all into being traitors, into helping him extinguish love?

— Maurice Bendrix —

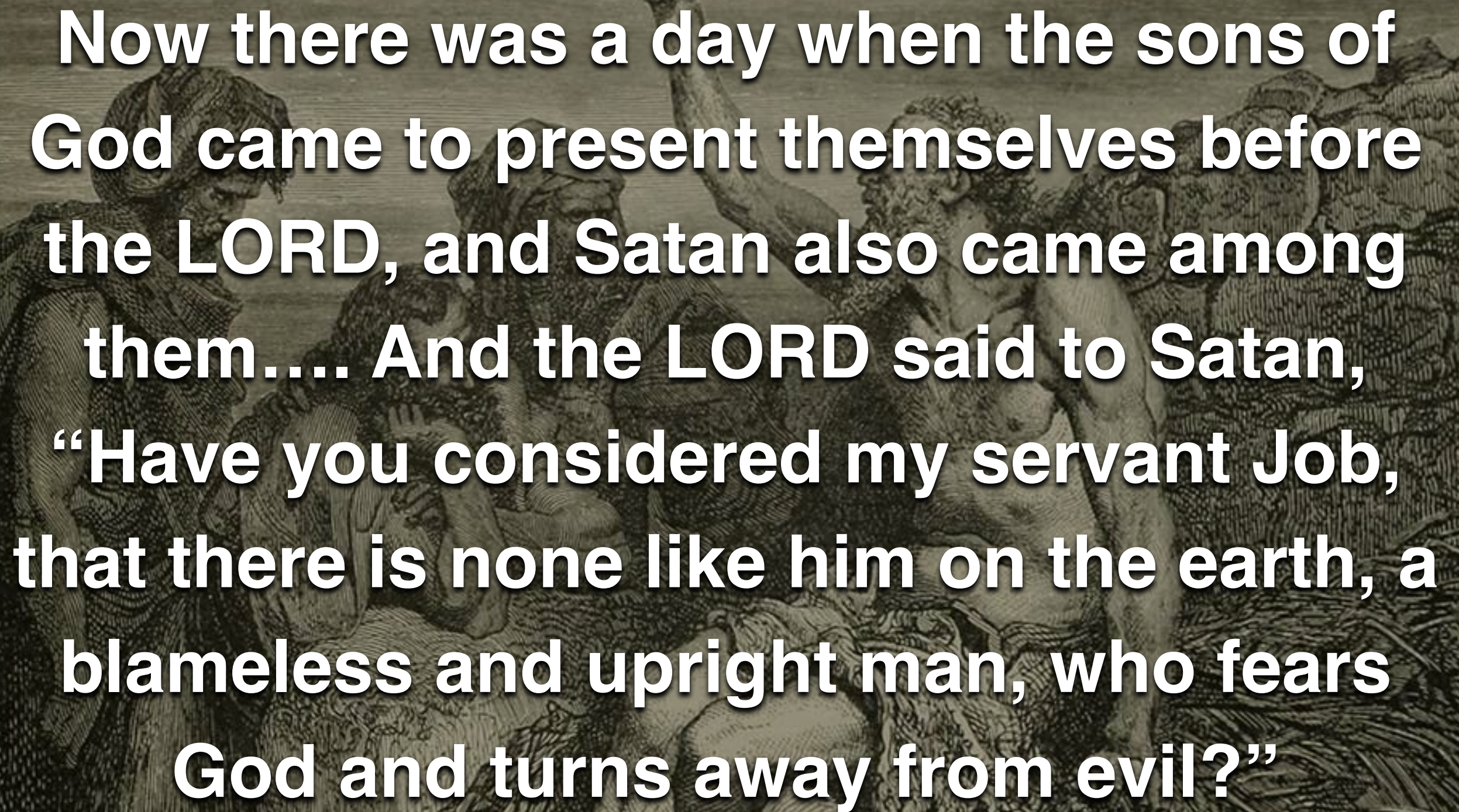


The chief priests and scribes were seeking to put him to death... Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the Twelve. He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them.

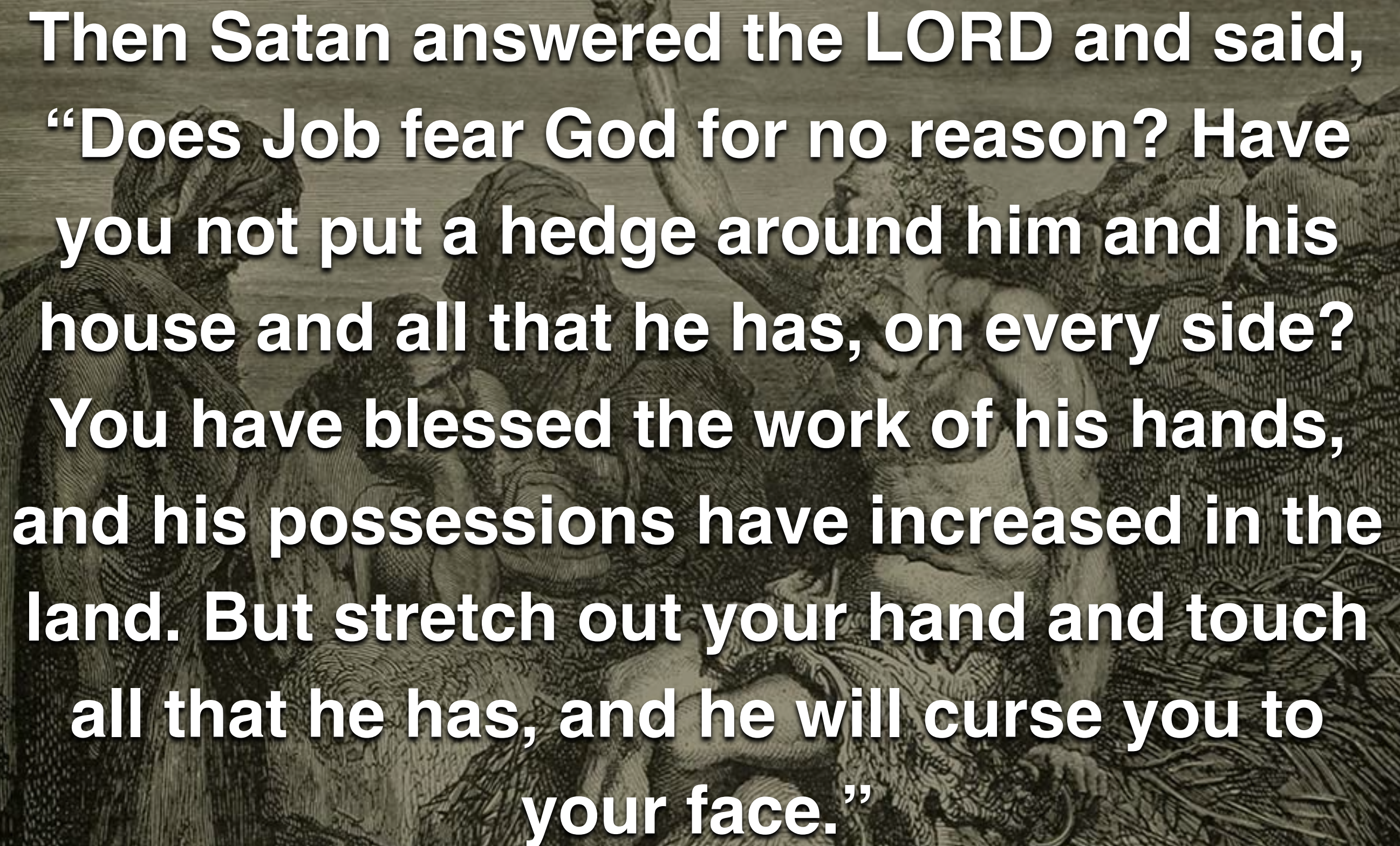
The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat.....

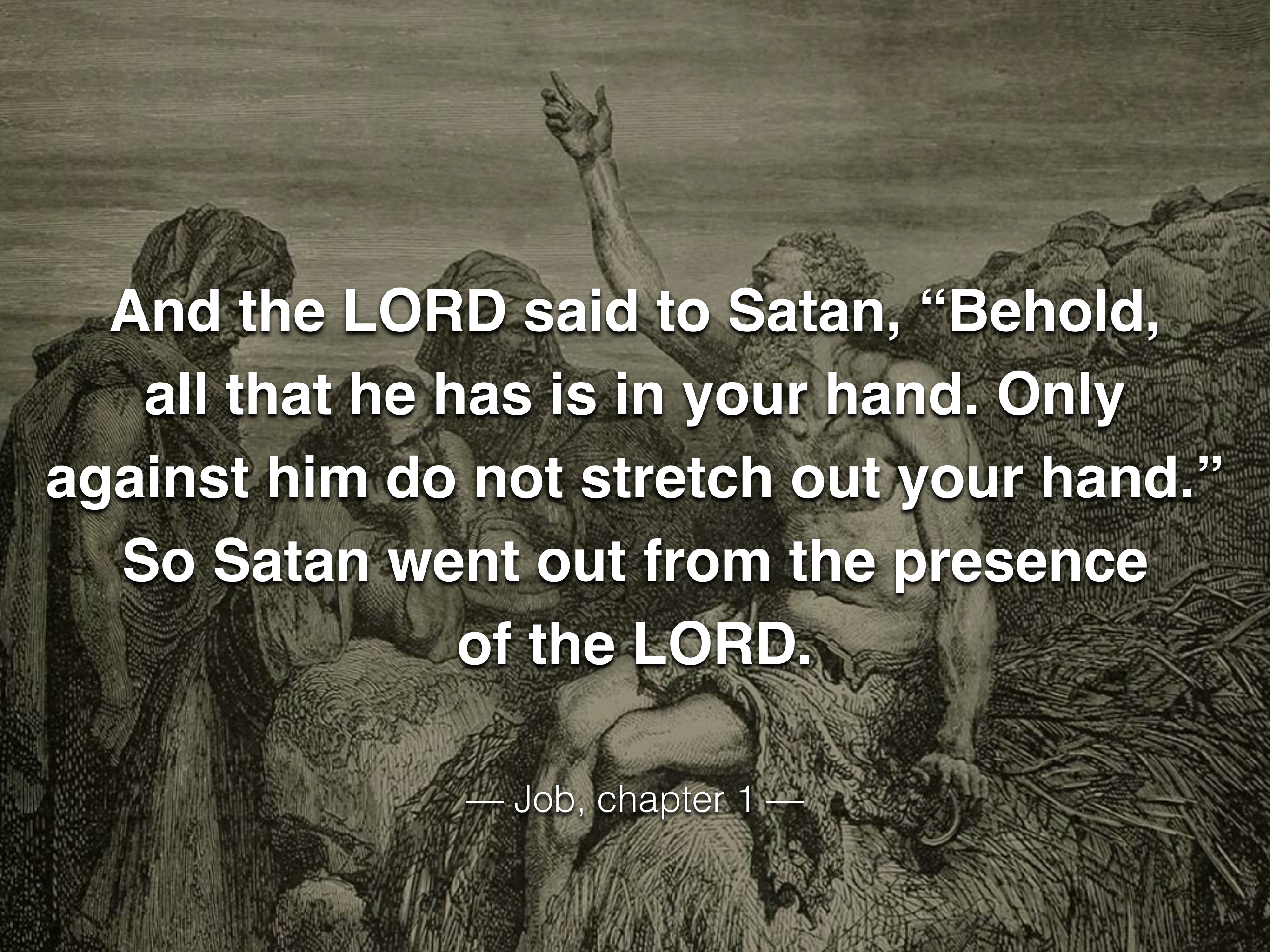




Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.... And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”



**Then Satan answered the LORD and said,
“Does Job fear God for no reason? Have
you not put a hedge around him and his
house and all that he has, on every side?
You have blessed the work of his hands,
and his possessions have increased in the
land. But stretch out your hand and touch
all that he has, and he will curse you to
your face.”**



**And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold,
all that he has is in your hand. Only
against him do not stretch out your hand.”
So Satan went out from the presence
of the LORD.**

— Job, chapter 1 —

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

31 **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat....**



Greek word is plural: "y'all"

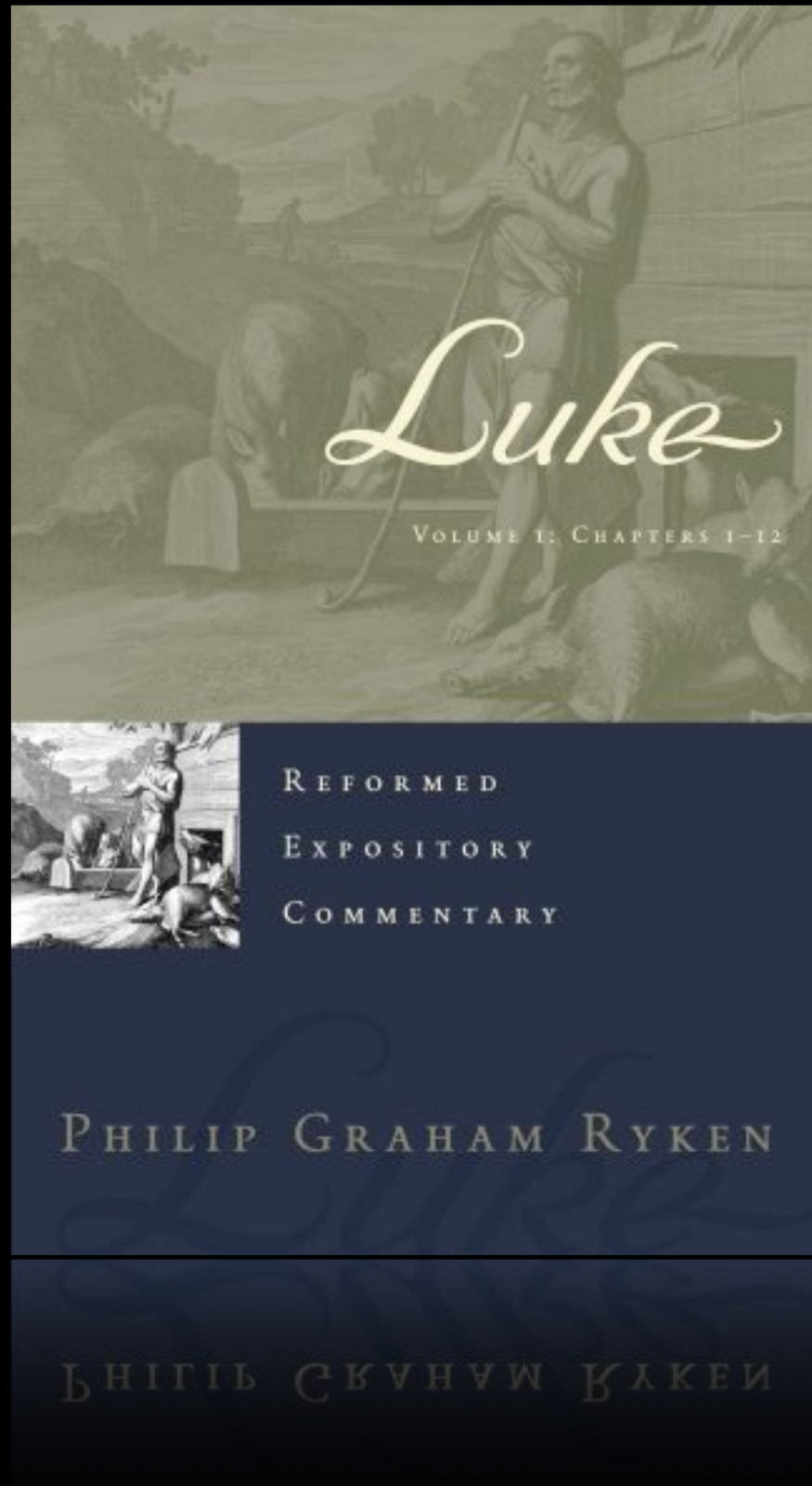
The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 **but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.**

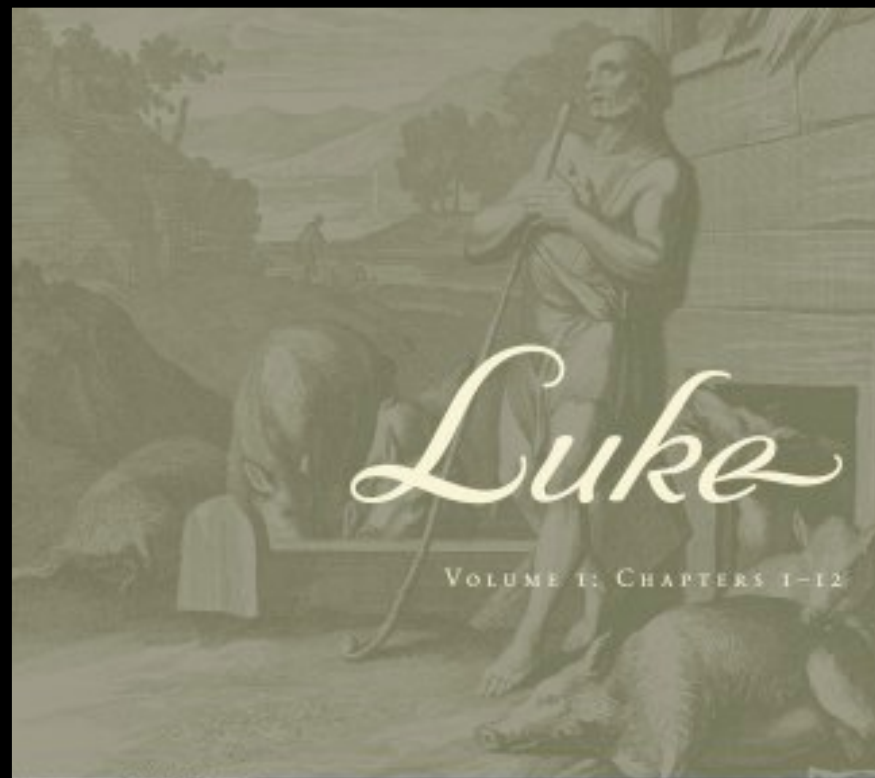
Greek word is singular: "you" / "your"

Wait! What???
You said yes?
You told him he
could do that!?!





It is not surprising that Satan would go after Peter. After all, he was the leading disciple—the first among equals. Peter was the first disciple that Jesus called, the first to confess him as the Christ, and the first to get out of the boat and walk on water.

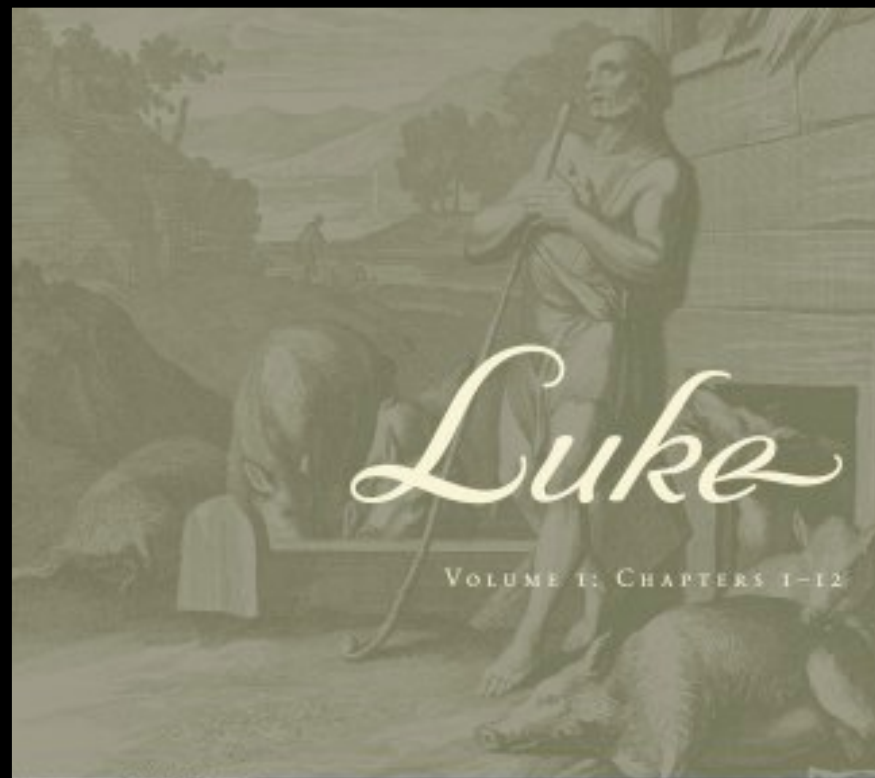


REFORMED
EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN

БНІГІЬ СВАНУМ РЛКЕН

**If Satan could destroy
Peter, he could
destroy them all....
The devil wanted more
than Judas and more,
even, than Peter; he
wanted all the
disciples....**

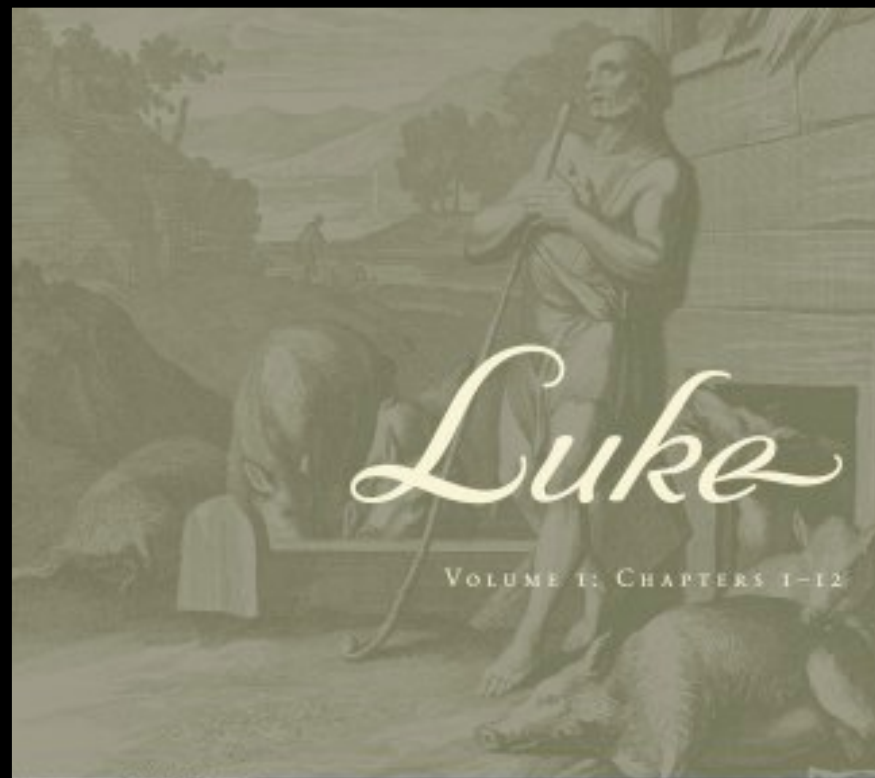


REFORMED
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COMMENTARY

PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN

БНІГІТЬ СВЯНУМ РYКЕН

Would they really remain faithful until the very end? Satan didn't think so, and he demanded to find out. He wanted to sift the disciples like wheat.... Satan wanted to see if they would get blown away like Judas...



REFORMED
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COMMENTARY

PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN

ФІЛІП ГРАНАМ РІКЕН

But he could not do this without God's permission, so the devil dared Jesus to let them put the disciples to the test.

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

31 **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.**

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

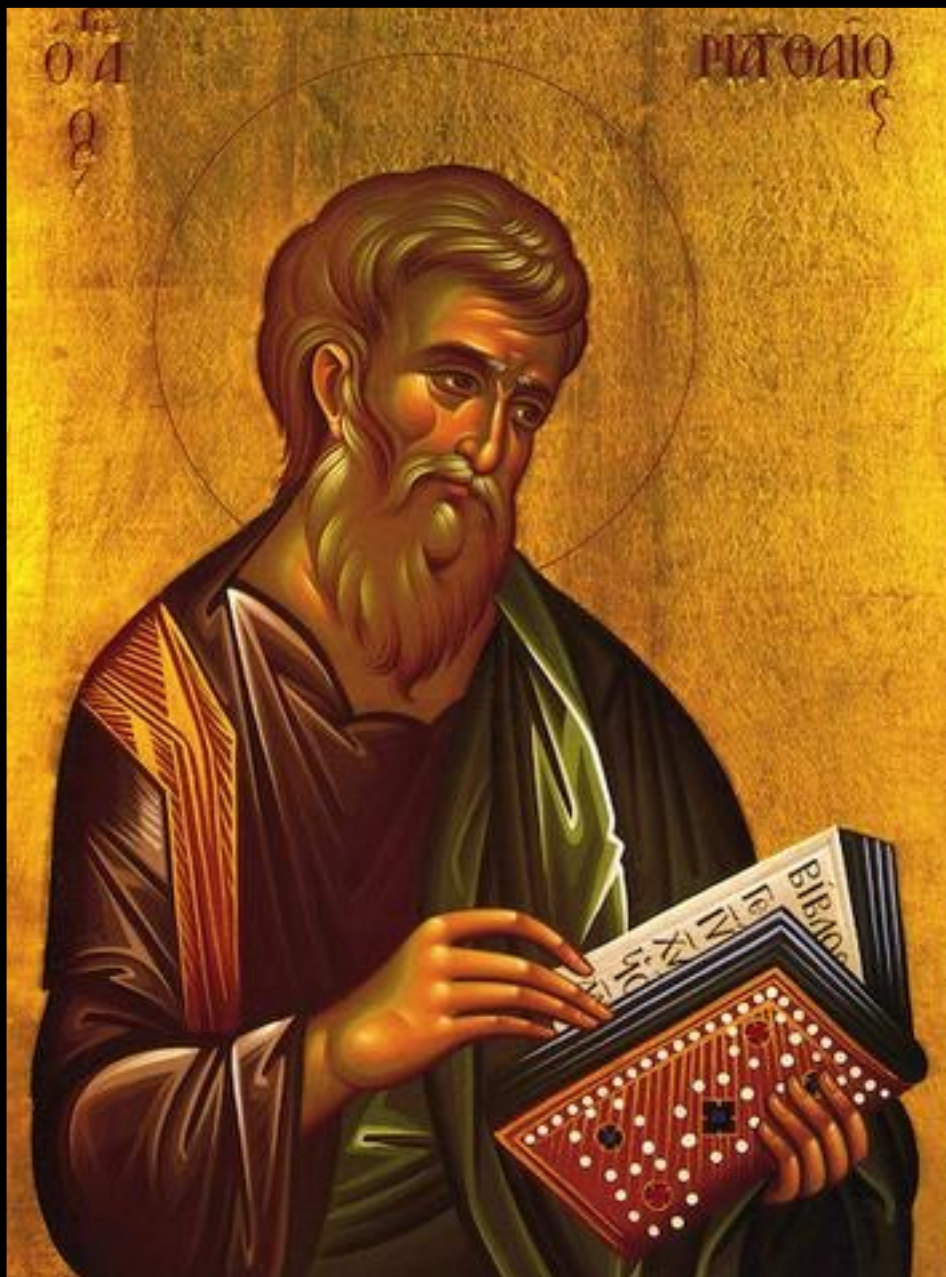
31 **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. **And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.****

**How do you
think Peter
should've
responded**



The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

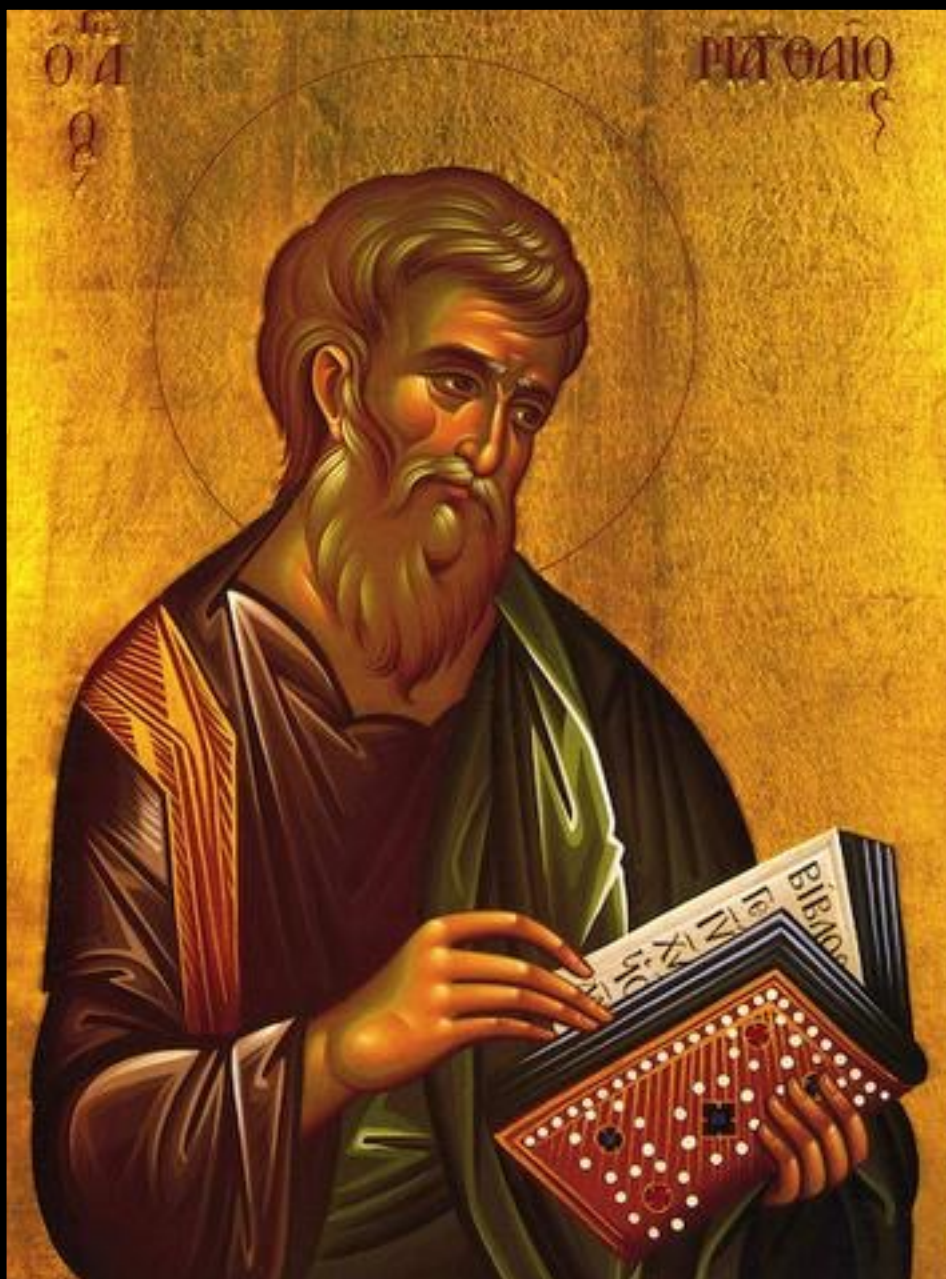
33 Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.”



**Then Jesus said to them,
“You will all fall away
because of me this night.
For it is written, ‘I will
strike the shepherd, and
the sheep of the flock will
be scattered.’ But after I
am raised up, I will go
before you to Galilee.”**

— The Apostle Matthew —

The Gospel of Matthew 26:31-33



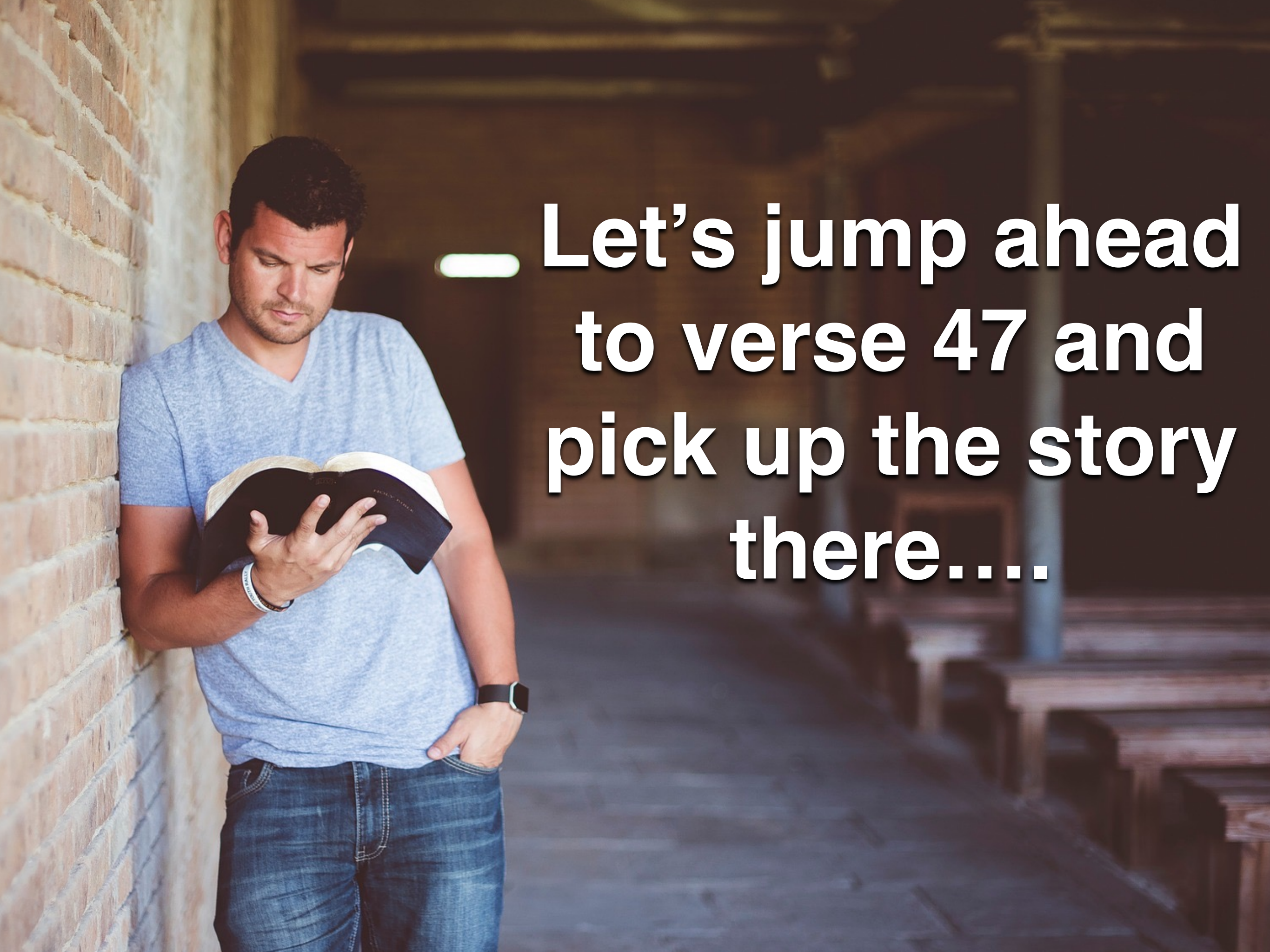
**Peter answered him,
“Though they all fall
away because of you,
I will never fall away.”**

— The Apostle Matthew —

The Gospel of Matthew 26:31-33

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

34 Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”



**— Let's jump ahead
to verse 47 and
pick up the story
there....**

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

47 ...And while he was still speaking,
there came a crowd, and the man called
Judas, one of the twelve, was leading
them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him,
48 but Jesus said to him, “**Judas, would
you betray the Son of man with a kiss?**”

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

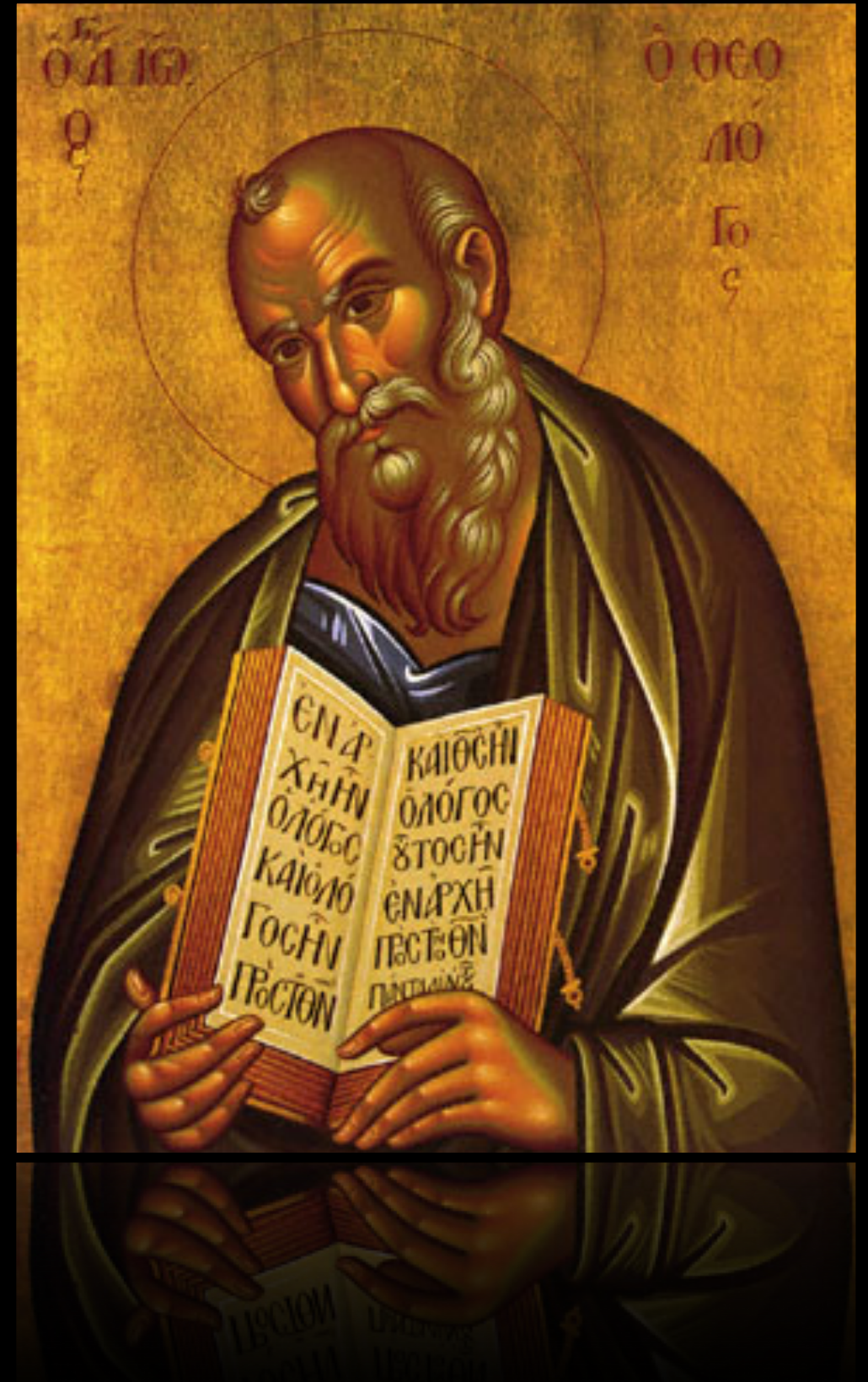
49 And when those who were with him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?”

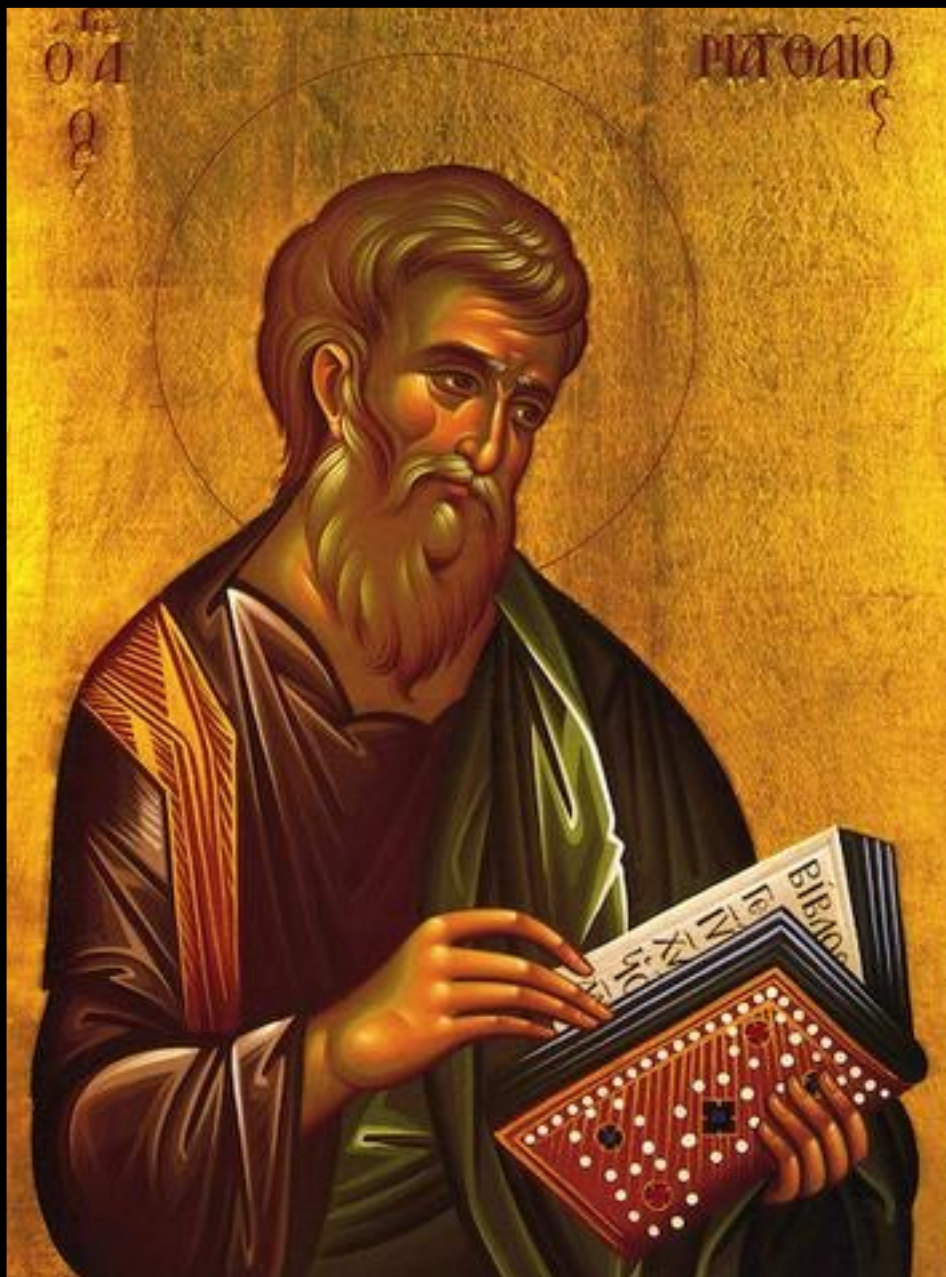
The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

49 And when those who were with him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. 51 But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him....

**Then Simon Peter,
having a sword, drew
it and struck the high
priest's servant and
cut off his right ear.
(The servant's name
was Malchus.)**

— The Apostle John —
The Gospel of John 18:10





— The Apostle Matthew —

The Gospel of Matthew 26:52-54

Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”



A Roman Legion = 6000 Soldiers

54 ...Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and **Peter was following from a distance.** 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” 57 But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” 59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” 60 But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And **immediately**, while he was still speaking, **the rooster crowed.**



But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.”

Mark the Evangelist
— The Gospel of Mark 1:27 —

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

60 But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And **immediately, while he was still speaking, **the rooster crowed.****



The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.”

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 22

61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” 62 **And he went out and wept bitterly.**

...he wept bitterly.



Important Question

Why does Luke record this question in his historical biography of Jesus?

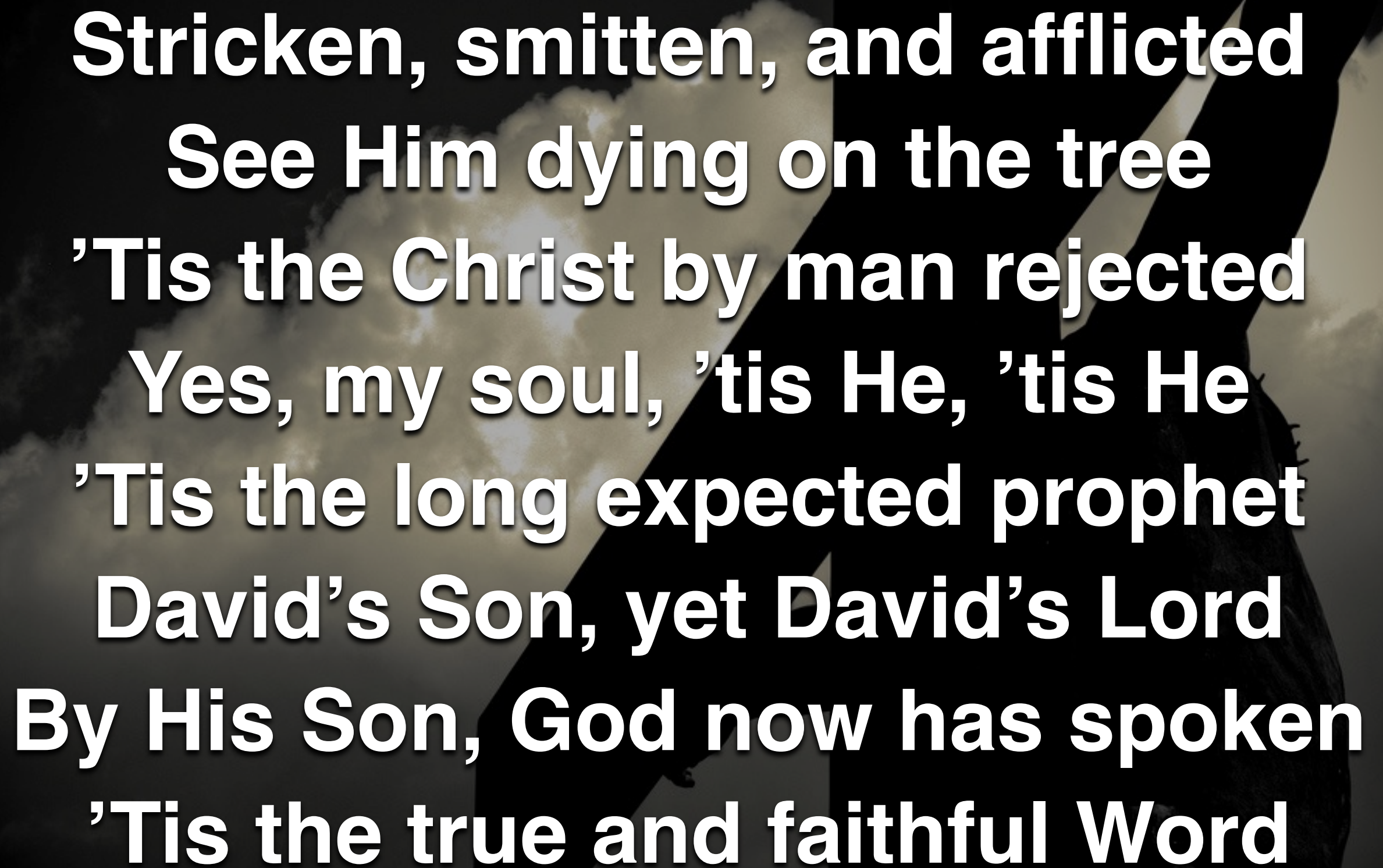
This is a cautionary tale about the dangers of spiritual pride and arrogance, but Peter's story of failure is not the end of his story. Rather Peter's story is taken up into the story of Jesus.



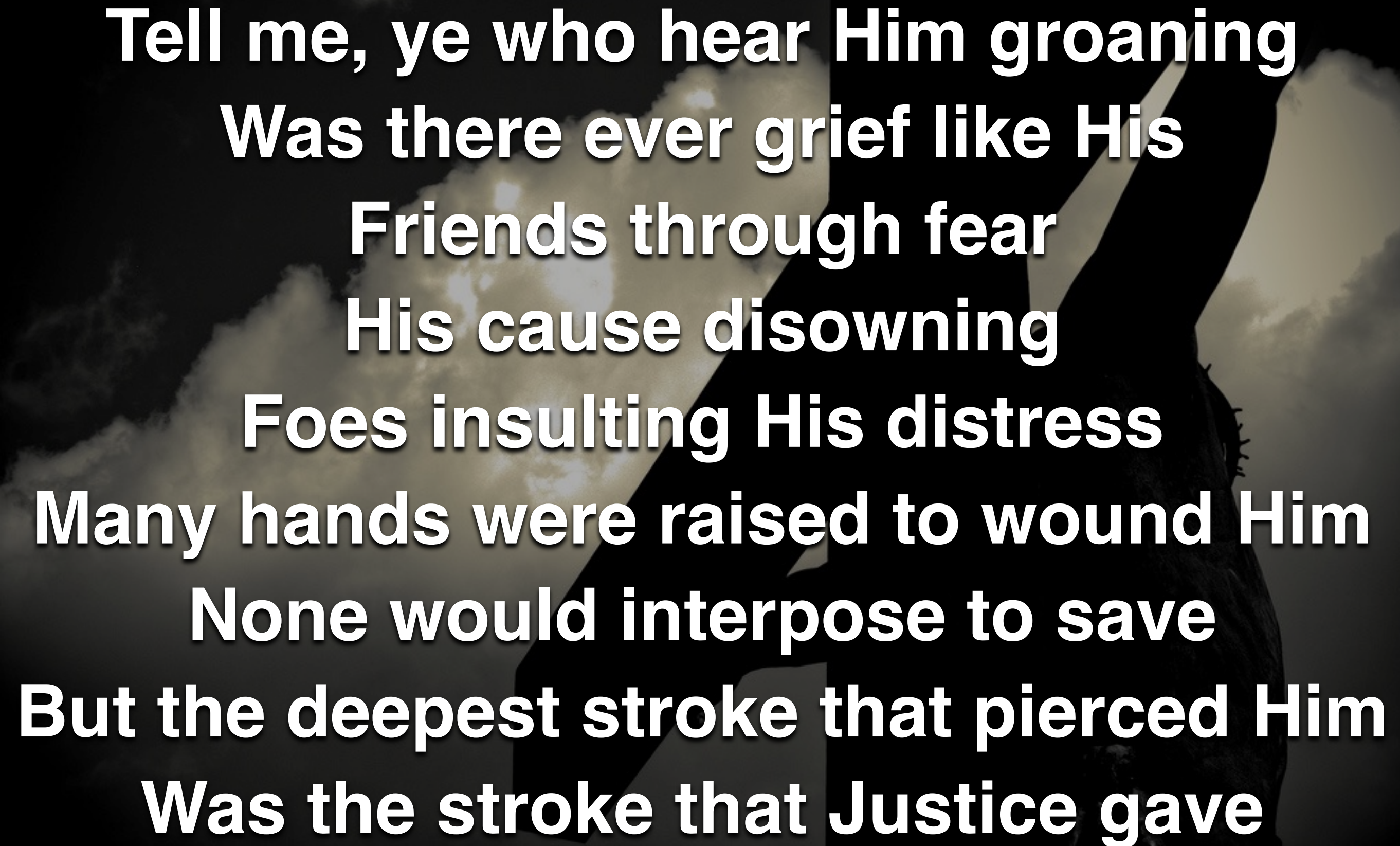


**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes
away the sin of the world.**

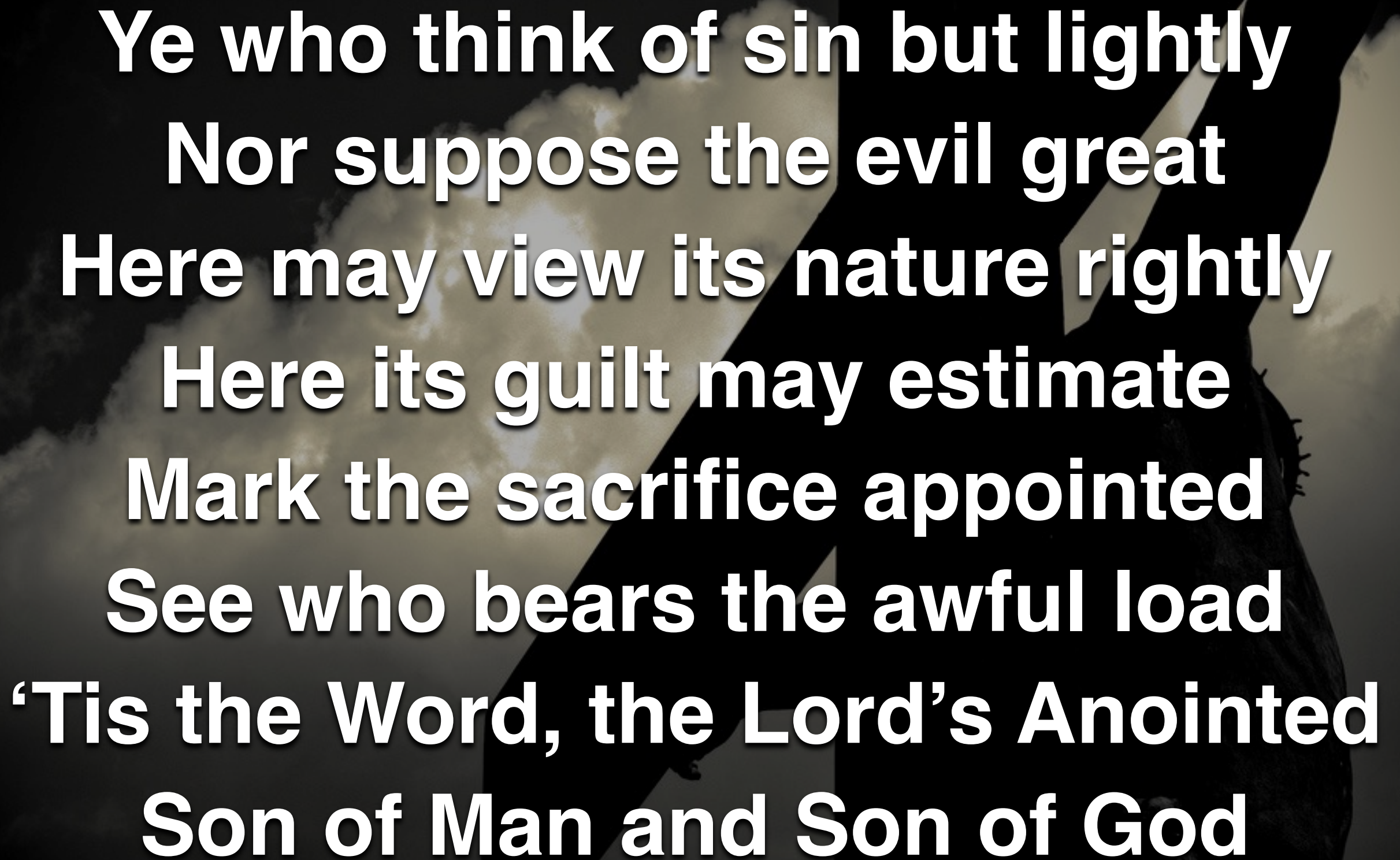
— John the Baptist - The Gospel of John 1:29 —



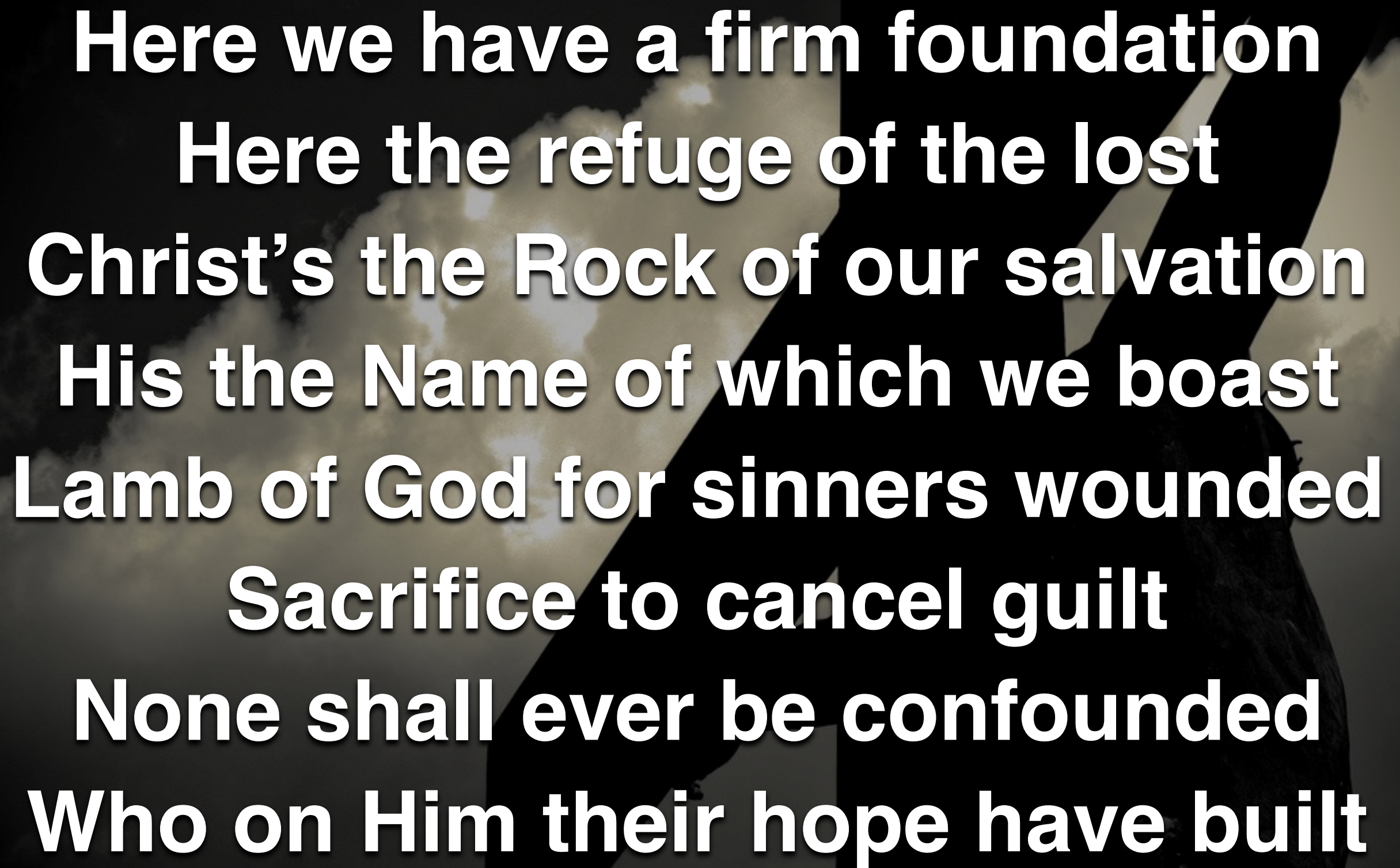
Stricken, smitten, and afflicted
See Him dying on the tree
'Tis the Christ by man rejected
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He
'Tis the long expected prophet
David's Son, yet David's Lord
By His Son, God now has spoken
'Tis the true and faithful Word



**Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning
Was there ever grief like His
Friends through fear
His cause disowning
Foes insulting His distress
Many hands were raised to wound Him
None would interpose to save
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave**




**Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly
Here its guilt may estimate
Mark the sacrifice appointed
See who bears the awful load
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed
Son of Man and Son of God**



**Here we have a firm foundation
Here the refuge of the lost
Christ's the Rock of our salvation
His the Name of which we boast
Lamb of God for sinners wounded
Sacrifice to cancel guilt
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built**

— “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” —





**The cross is not a
defeat reversed by
the resurrection;
it is a victory
proclaimed by
the resurrection.**

— Leslie Newbigin —



1

Let's believe that Jesus' very heart is drawn out to us in our failures and in our weakness.

— “ ” —

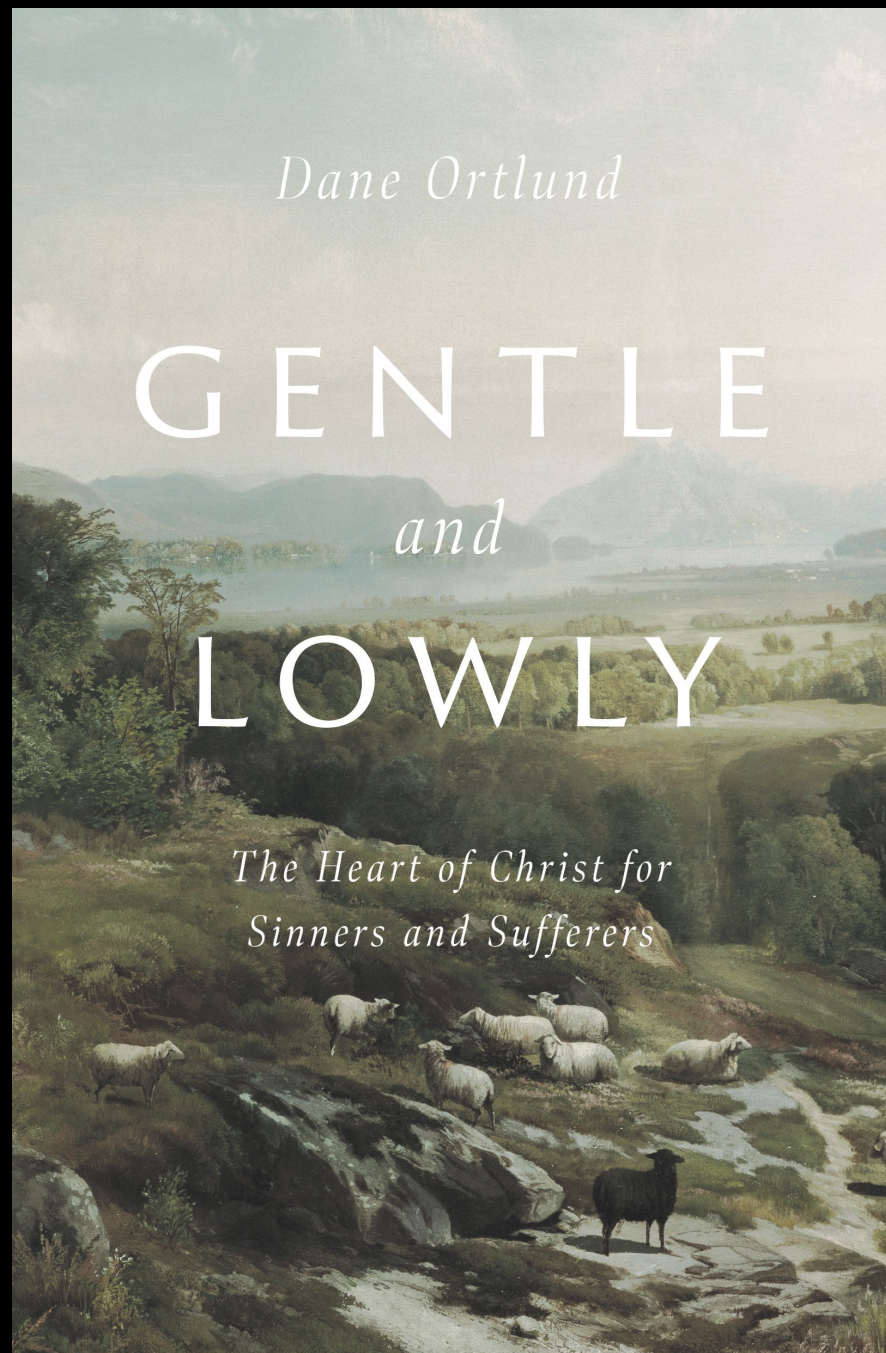
**And the Lord turned
and looked at Peter.**

— The Gospel of Luke 22:61 —

**We do not have a high priest
who is unable to sympathize
with our weakness, but one
who in every respect has
been tempted as we are,
yet without sin.**

— Hebrews 4:15 —





**The burden of this anchor
verse is Jesus Christ's
sheer solidarity with his
people. All our natural
intuitions tell us that Jesus
is with us, on our side,
present and helping,
when life is going well.**

Dane Ortlund

GENTLE
and
LOWLY

*The Heart of Christ for
Sinners and Sufferers*

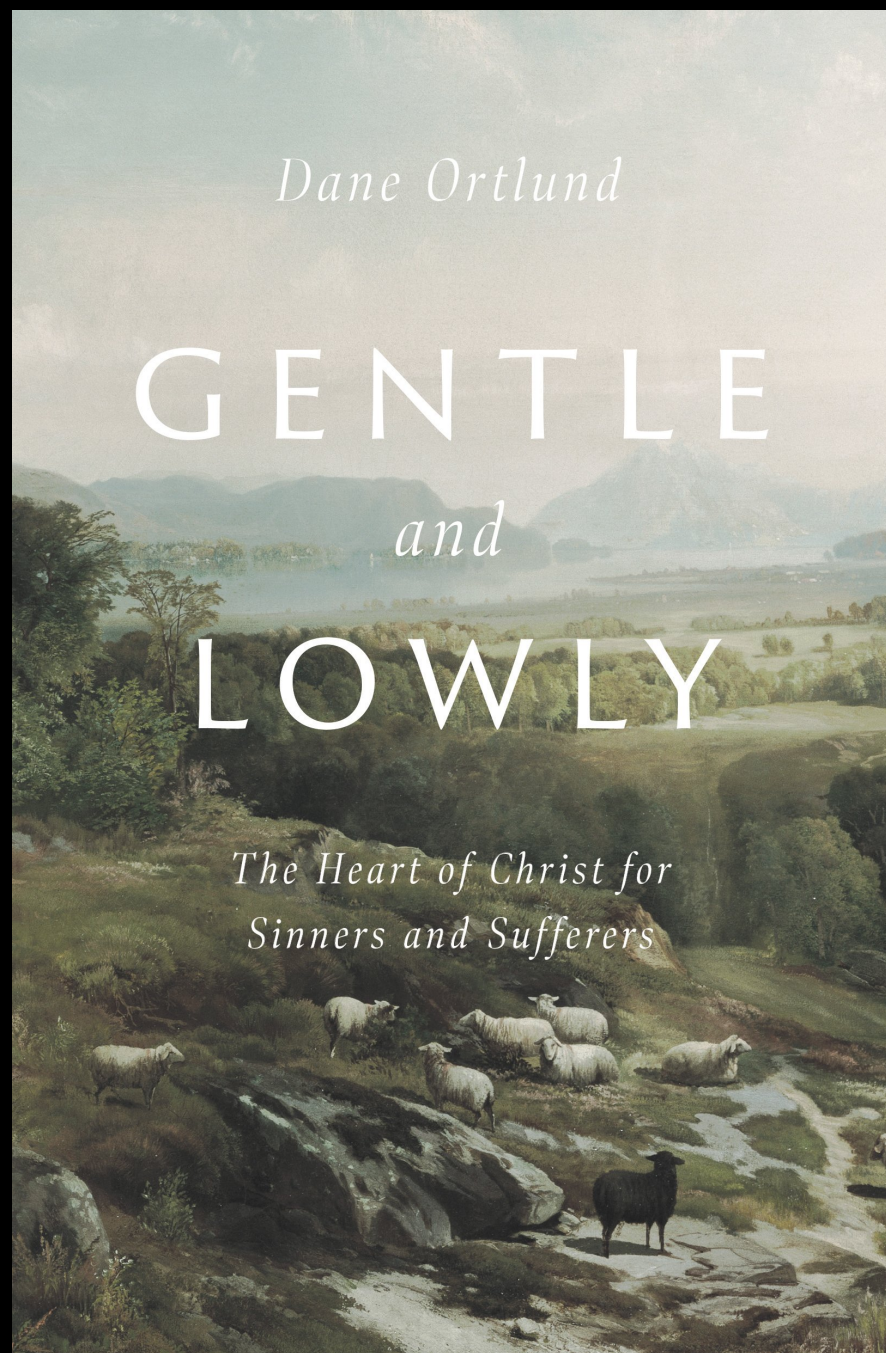
**This text says the opposite.
It is in “our weakness” that
Jesus sympathizes with
us.... “Sympathize” here is
not cool and detached pity.
It is a depth of solidarity....**

Dane Ortlund

GENTLE
and
LOWLY

*The Heart of Christ for
Sinners and Sufferers*

**In our pain, Jesus is pained;
in our suffering, he feels the
suffering as his own.... his
heart is feelingly drawn to
our distress....**



Our pain never outstrips what he himself shares in. We are never alone. That sorrow that feels so isolating, so unique, was endured by him in the past and is now shouldered by him in the present.

**Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love,
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above**

— Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing —





**It's more than I can do
to keep my hold on You
But all my hope and peace
is that You cling to me**

— “Cling to Christ” —

2

**Let's courageously believe that Jesus
is praying for us right now.**



Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

— Hebrews 7:25 —

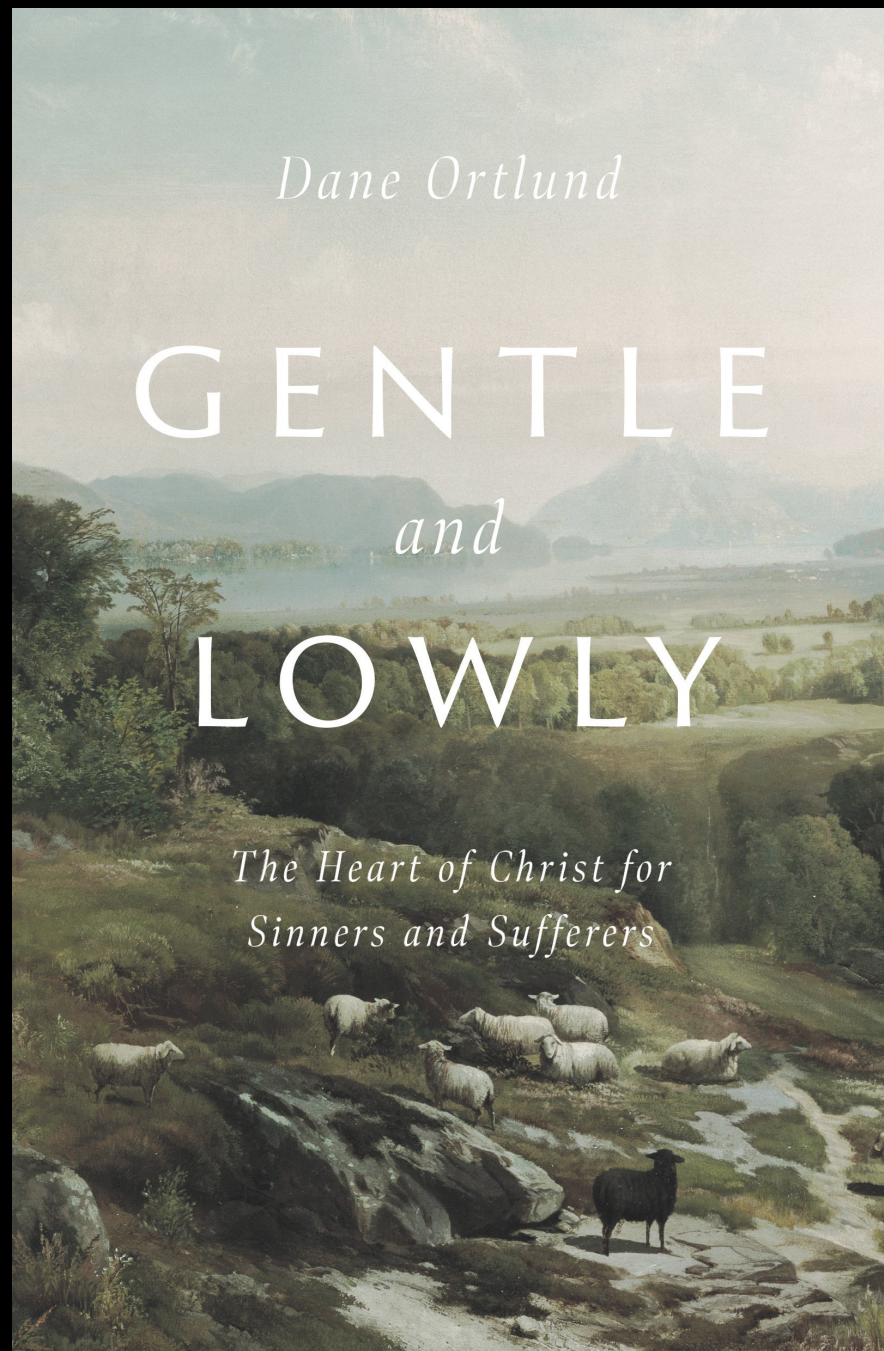


Dane Ortlund

GENTLE
and
LOWLY

*The Heart of Christ for
Sinners and Sufferers*

**What is the point of saying
Christ saves “to the utter-
most”? We who know our
hearts understand. We are
to-the-uttermost sinners.
We need a to-the-uttermost
Savior....**

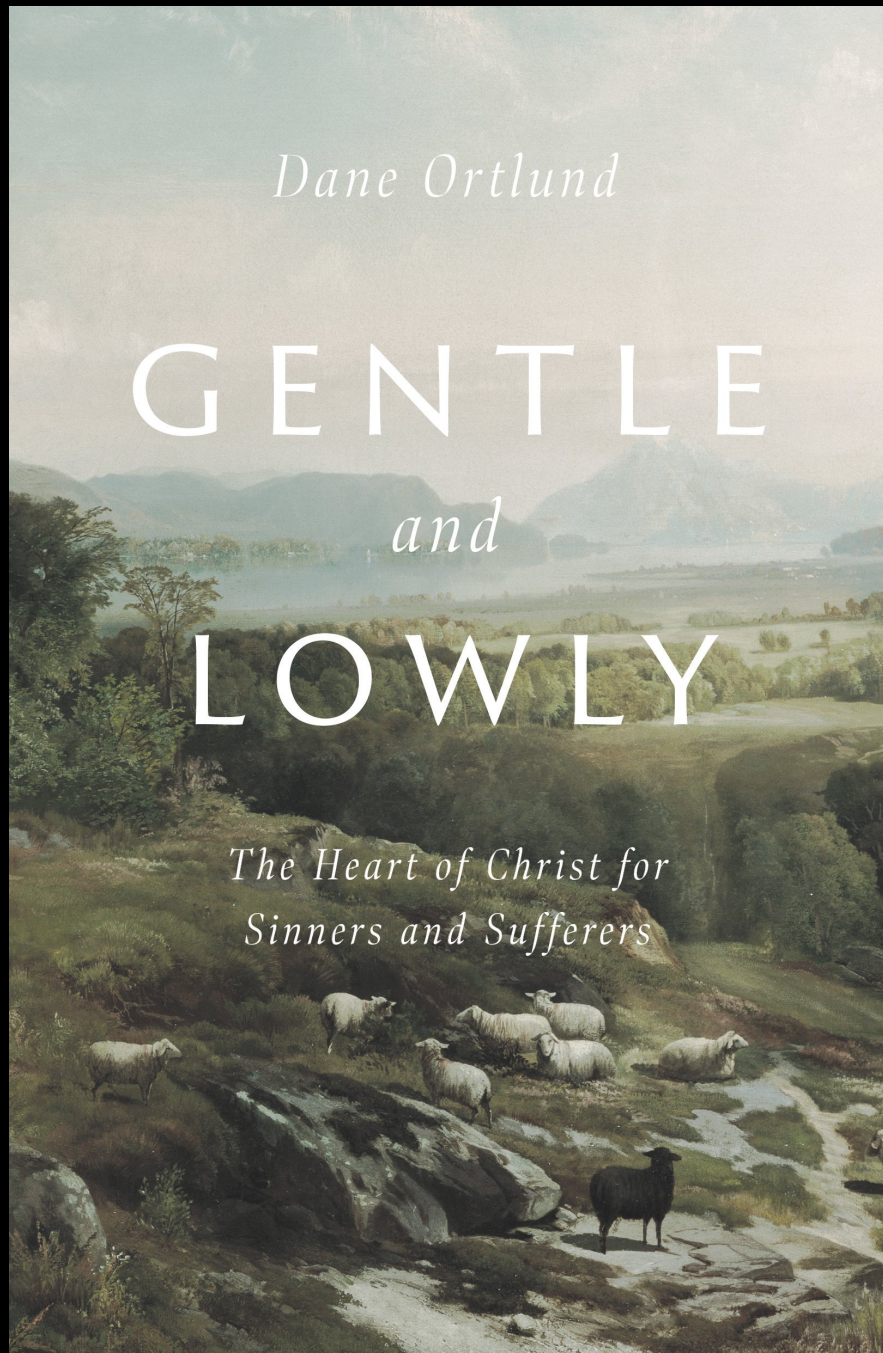


“To the uttermost” in Hebrews 7:25 means: God’s forgiving, redeeming, and restoring touch reaches down into the darkest crevices of our souls, those places where we are most ashamed, most defeated.

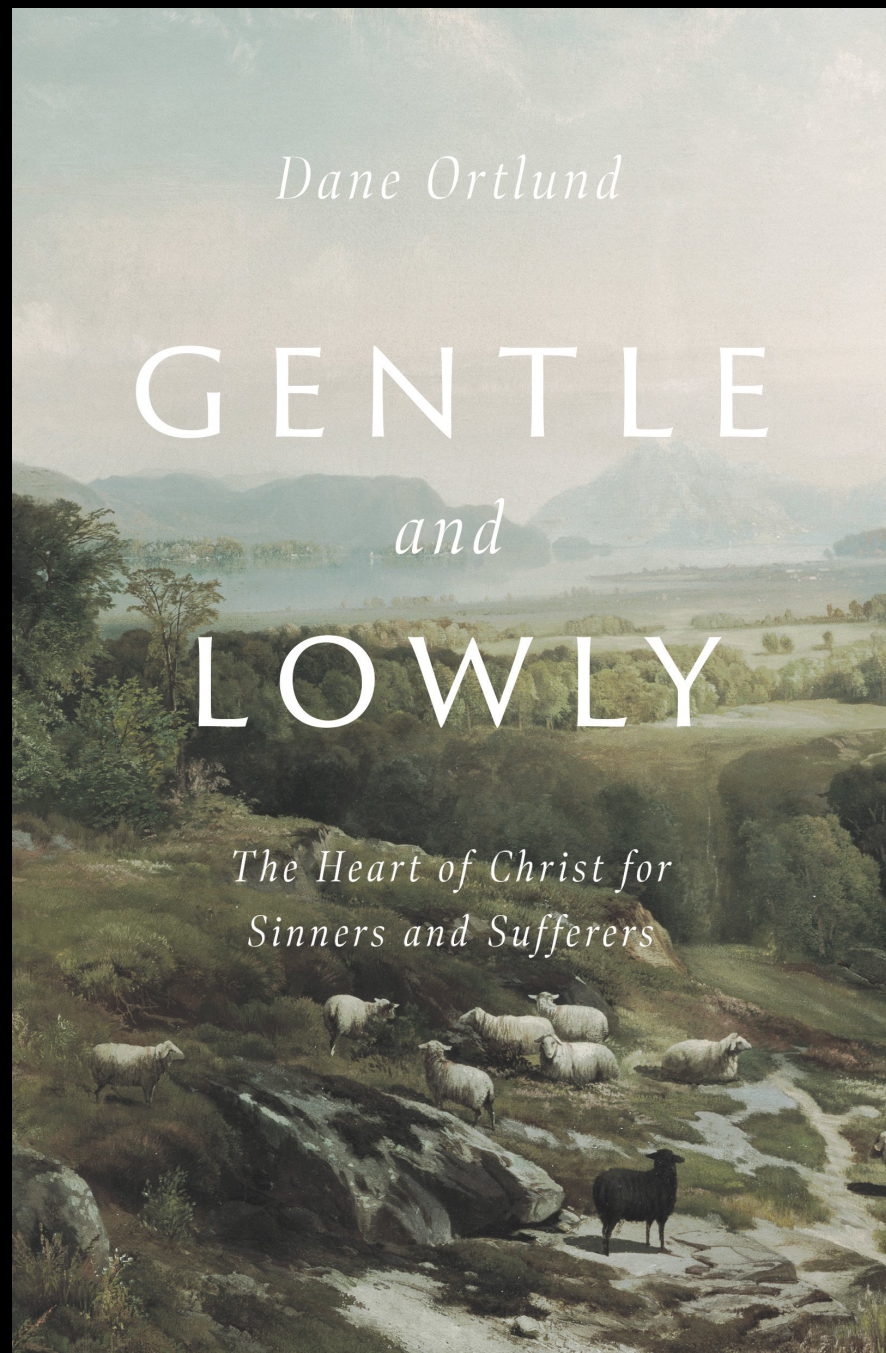
Dane Ortlund

GENTLE
and
LOWLY

*The Heart of Christ for
Sinners and Sufferers*

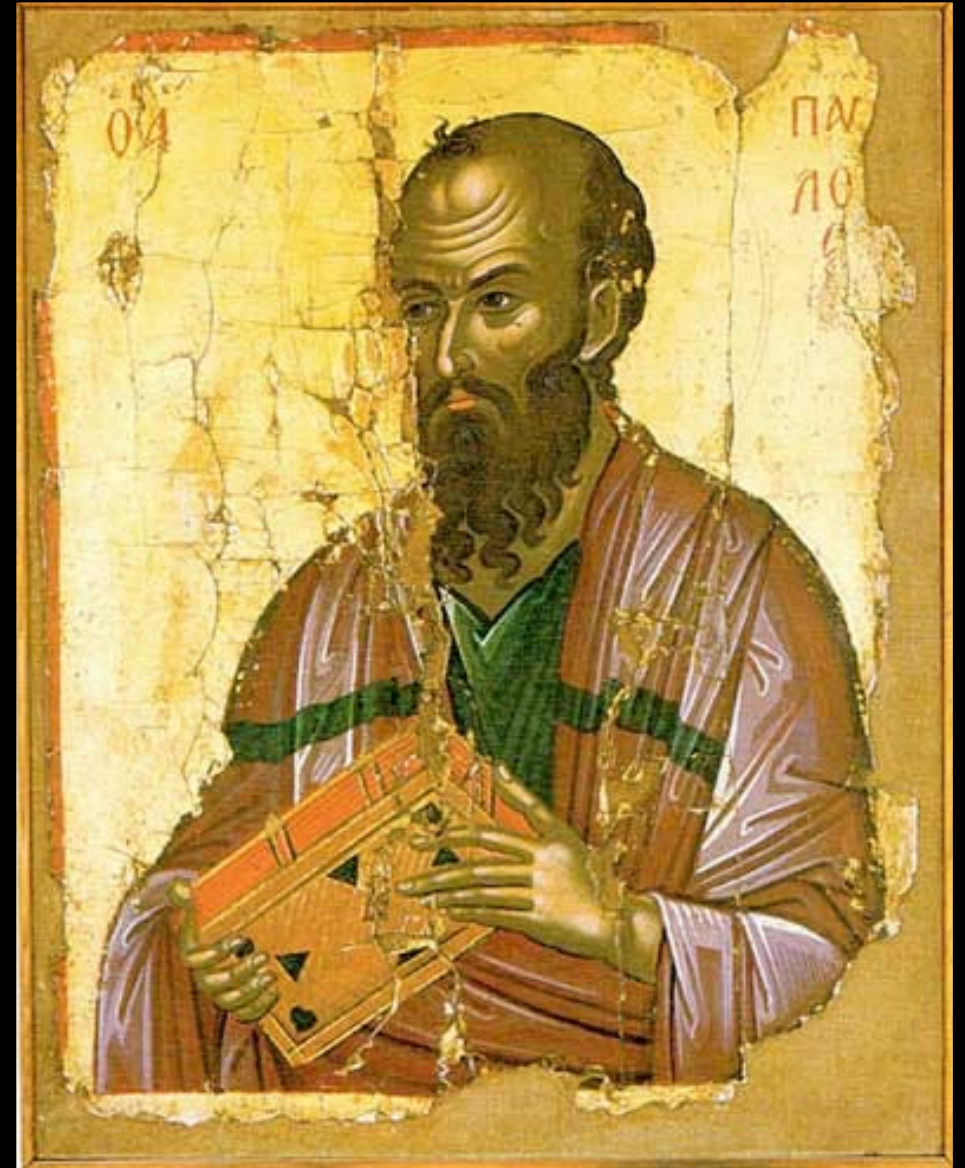


More than this: those crevices of sin are themselves the places where Christ loves us the most. His heart willingly goes there. His heart is most strongly drawn there.

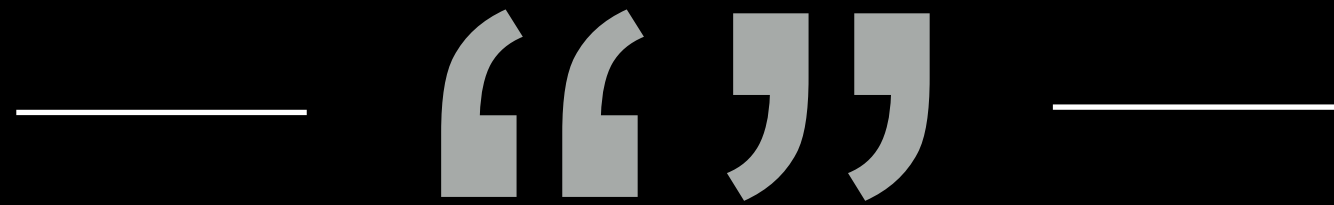


He knows us to the uttermost, and he saves us to the uttermost, because his heart is drawn out to us to the uttermost. We cannot sin our way out of his tender care.... Christ's heavenly intercession is the reason we know he will save us to the uttermost.

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.



The Apostle Paul
— Romans 8:33-34 —



If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million of enemies.

Yet the distance makes no difference; He is praying for me.

— Robert Murray McCheyne —

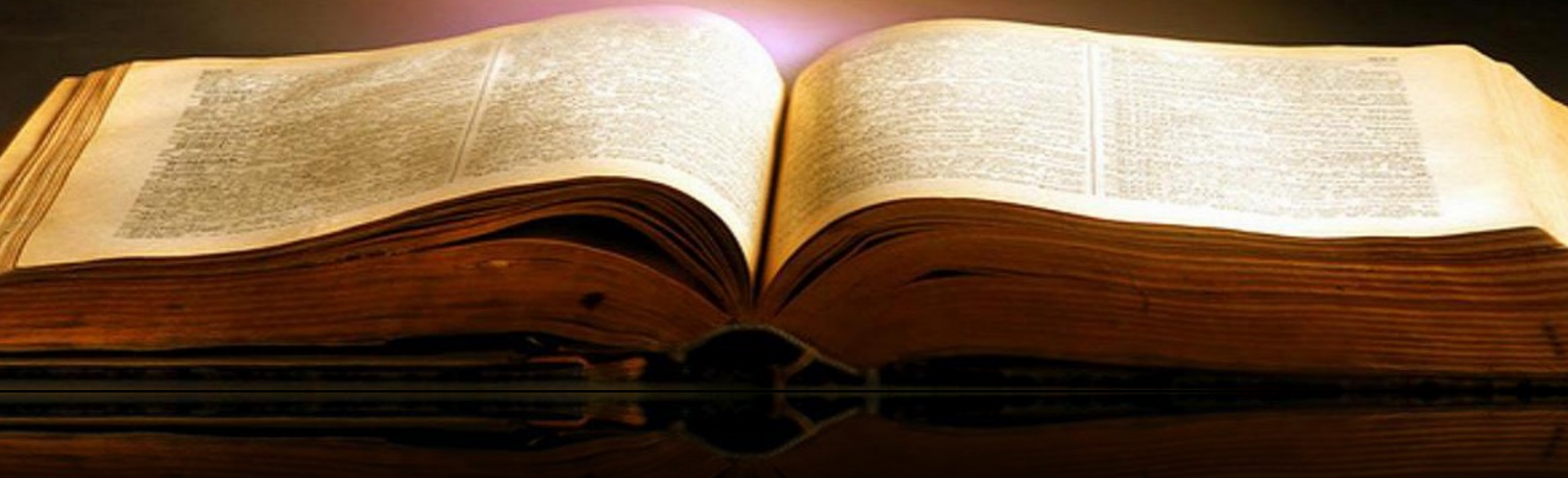
3

Let's rejoice that Jesus wants to use people who have failed like us — precisely because we are NOT defined by our failures.



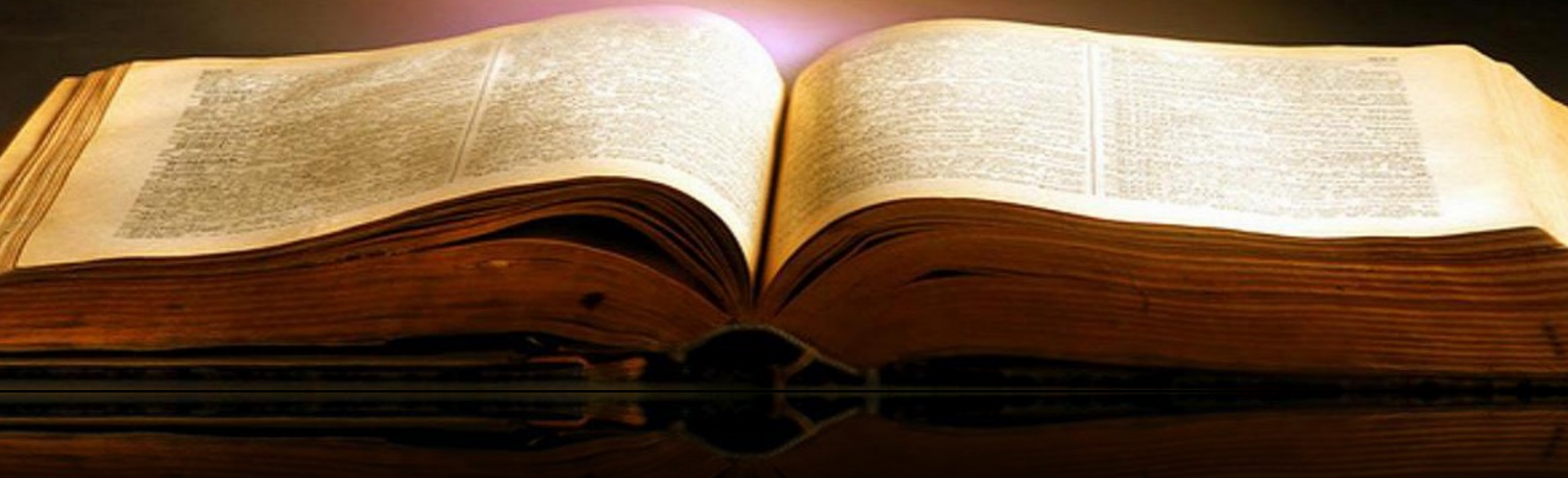
When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

— The Gospel of John 21:15-17 —



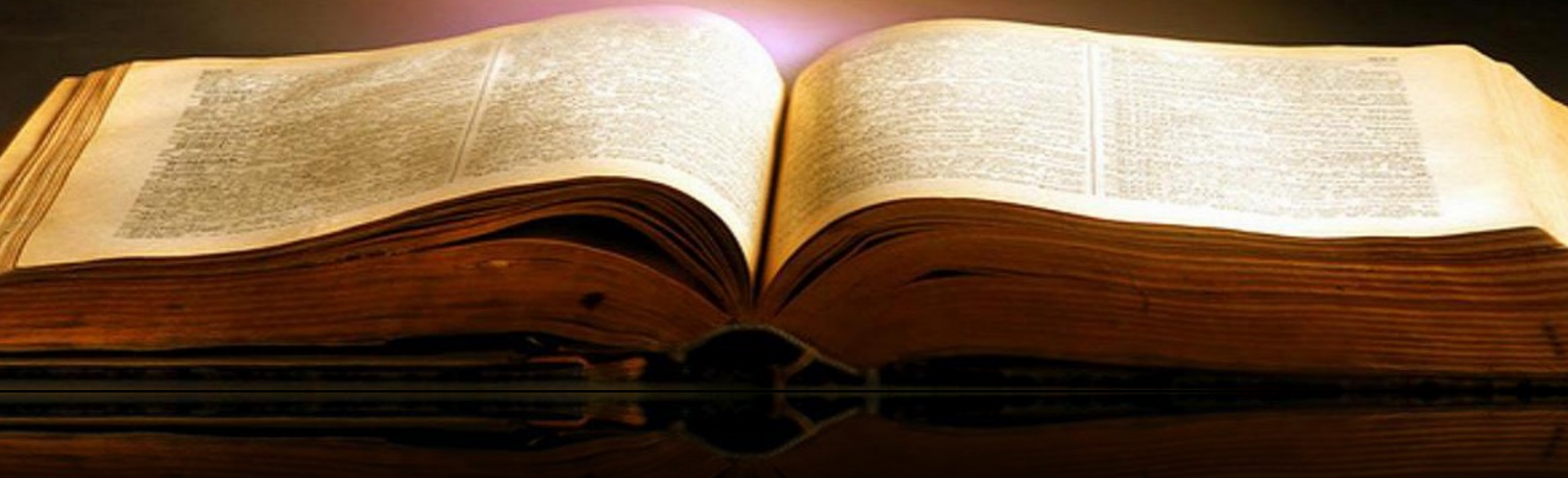
He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

— The Gospel of John 21:15-17 —



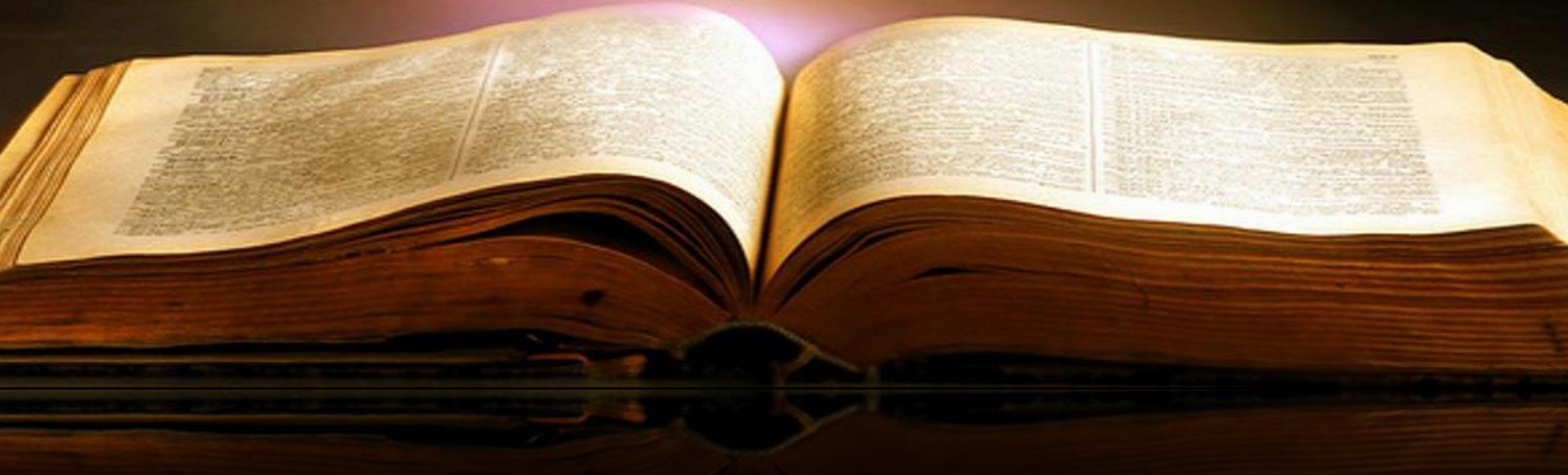
He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

— The Gospel of John 21:15-17 —



“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.)

— The Gospel of John 21:15-17 —





The Crucifixion of St Peter
by Caravaggio

**Now the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God and the
authority of his Christ have come,
for the accuser of our brothers has
been thrown down, who accuses
them day and night before our God.
And they have conquered him by
the blood of the Lamb and by the
word of their testimony.**

— Revelation 12:10 —



**May you experience the
Savior's heart being
drawn out after you,
knowing that He lived
and died for you, and
now lives forevermore
to pray for you!**

