

The Innocence of Jesus

— The Gospel of Luke 22:63-23:16 —





THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE

Lady Justice
embodies the ideals
of swift & impartial justice





The Innocence of Jesus

— The Gospel of Luke 22:63-23:16 —







The Gospel of Luke 22

63 Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were **mocking him as they beat him.**

The Gospel of Luke 22

63 Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. 64 They also **blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?”**



**...the torture had begun, and
Jesus stood in regal silence,
dripping spittle and blood.**

R Kent Hughes

Luke: That You May Know

The Gospel of Luke 22

**65 And they said many other things
against him, **blaspheming** him.**

The Gospel of Luke 22

65 And they said many other things against him, **blaspheming** him.



“to revile, slander, insult”

“to speak of God or divine things in terms of impious irreverence”

**Who is
this man
Jesus**



The Gospel of Luke 22

66 When day came, the assembly of the **elders of the people** gathered together, both **chief priests** and **scribes**. And they led him away to their **council**....

The Gospel of Luke 22

66 And they led him away to their council and they said, 67 “If you are **the Christ**, tell us.”

THE CHIRST

“THE ANOINTED ONE”

Hebrew = Messiah

**The title “Christ” = 25x in Luke
(kingly overtones)**



And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.



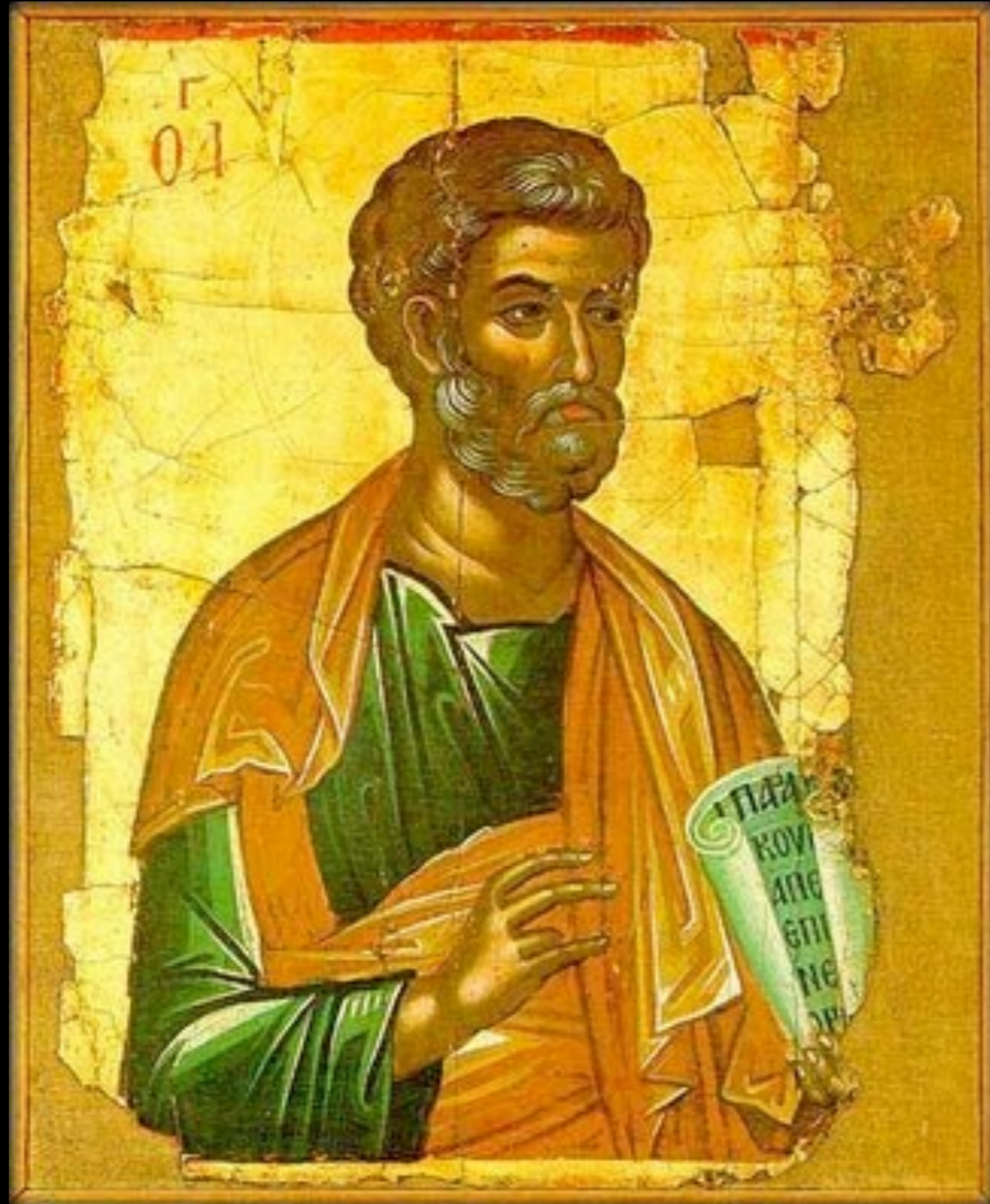
“And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

— The Gospel of Luke 1:30-33 —

**For unto you is
born this day
in the city of
David a Savior,
who is Christ
the Lord.**

— The Gospel of Luke 2:11 —





The Apostle Peter

— The Gospel of Luke 9:20 —

Then [Jesus] said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one.

The Gospel of Luke 22

66 ...and they said, 67 “If you are **the Christ**, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, 68 and if I ask you, you will not answer.

The Gospel of Luke 22

69 But from now on **the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”**

The Son of Man

Jesus' favorite self-designation

Used over 80x in the Gospels

**The original source is from
Daniel 7, & refers to a future
person who would be given
power to rule the nations**

...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 Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Jesus of Nazareth

— The Gospel of Luke 9:22 —



**Jesus embraced the cross
precisely as a king
embraces his scepter.**

— Michael Horton —



ALL AUTHORITY IN
HEAVEN & ON EARTH
HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME

— JESUS OF NAZARETH —

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 28:18

The Gospel of Luke 22

69 But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

The Gospel of Luke 22

69 But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” 70 So they all said, “Are you **the Son of God, then?**”

The Son of God

This phrase meant different things to different people.

A marble bust of Octavian, the first Roman Emperor, shown from the chest up. He has short, wavy hair and is looking slightly to the right. His right arm is raised, pointing his index finger upwards. He is wearing a highly detailed breastplate (cuirass) with various relief carvings, including a central figure and other figures on either side. The background is dark.

**Octavian:
“Caesar Augustus”**

First Roman Emperor
27 BC - AD 14

“The Son of God”

**“King of kings,
Lord of lords”**

**“The Savior of
the whole world”**



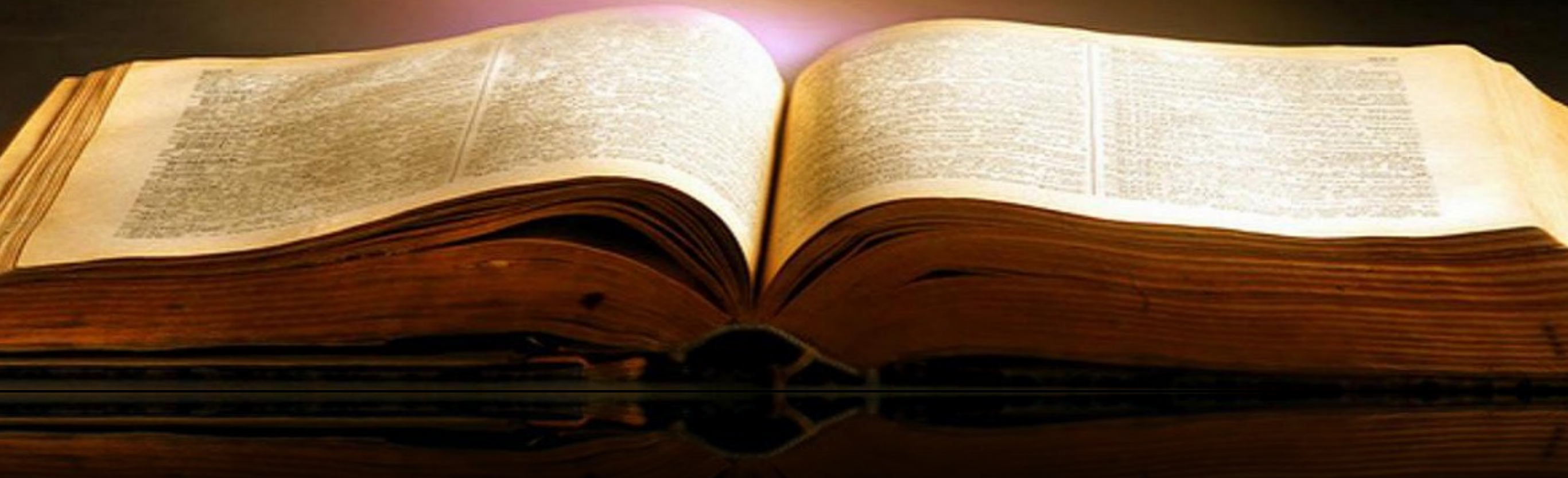
TI. CAESAR DIVI AVG. F. AVGVSTVS

Tiberius Caesar Augustus
Son of the Divine Augustus

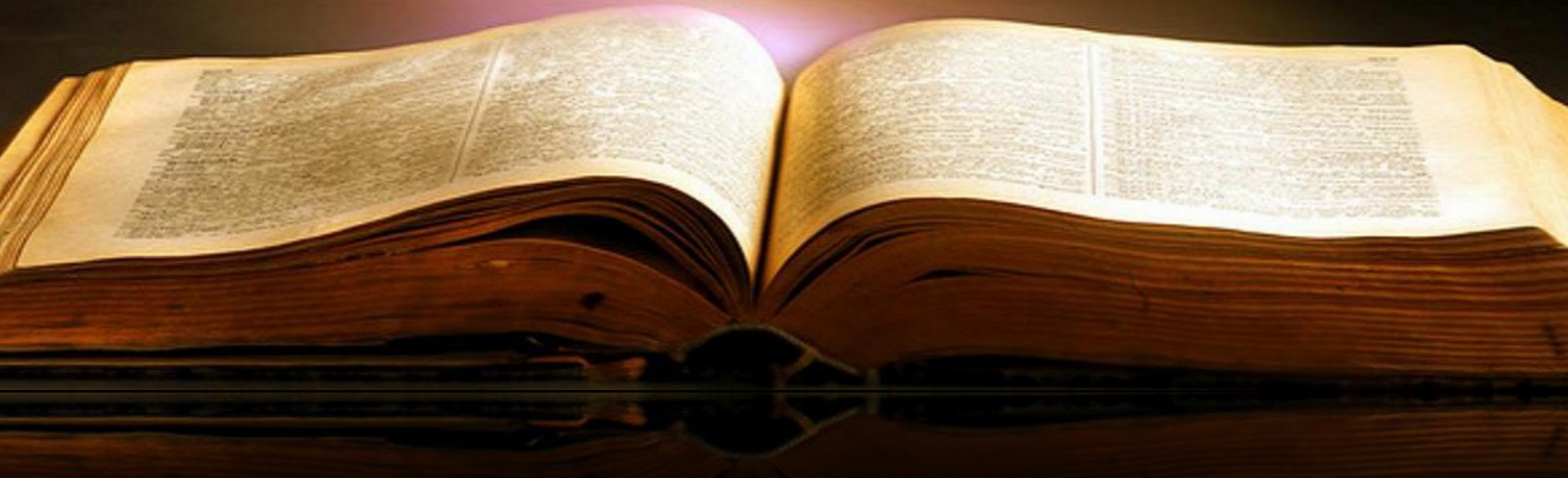
**I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations
your heritage, and the ends of the earth
your possession.**

— Psalm 2:7-8 —

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

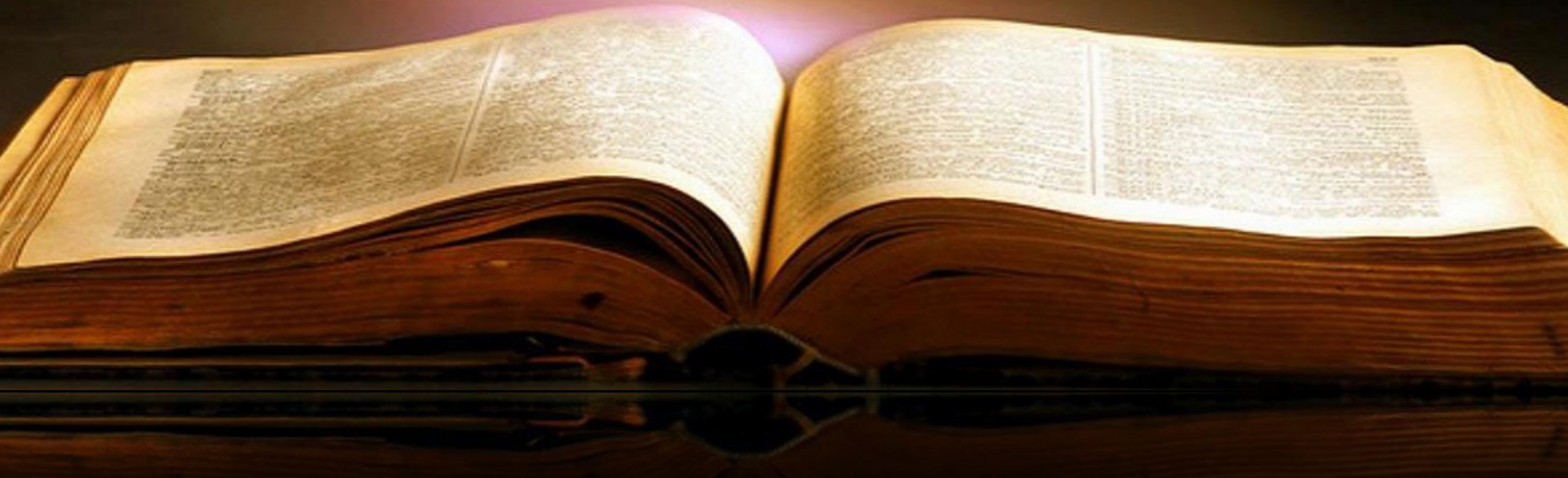


The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?”



The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”

— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of John 10:27-33 —

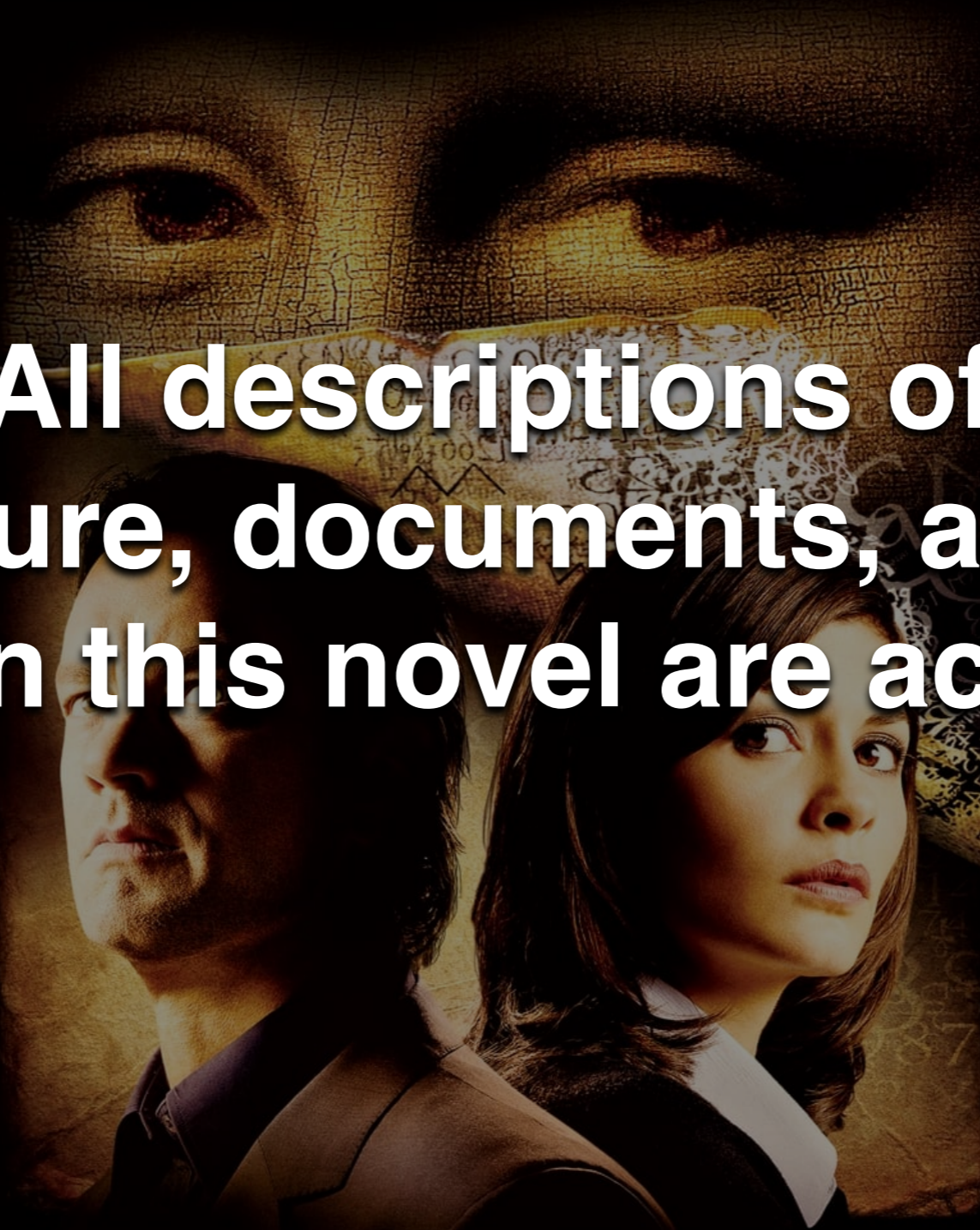


THE
DA VINCI CODE



THE
DA VINCI CODE

“FACT - All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate.”





Professor Teabing in
Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code*

“Jesus’ establishment as
‘the Son of God’ was
officially proposed and
voted on by the Council of
Nicea [325 AD]...until *that*
moment in history, Jesus
was viewed by his
followers as a mortal
prophet...a great and
powerful man, but a man
nonetheless.”



**“The beginning of the
gospel of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.”**

— The Gospel of Mark 1:1 —

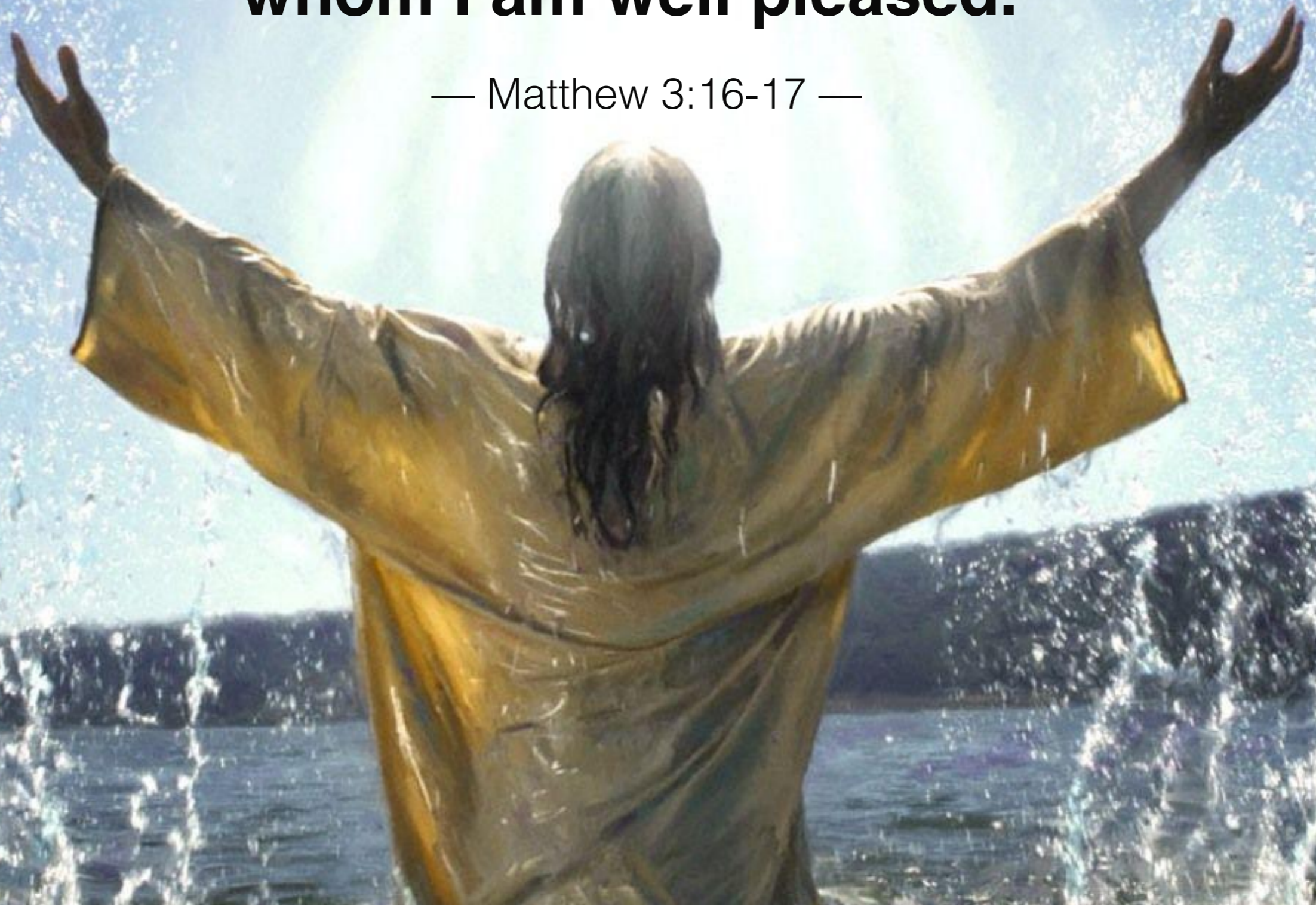


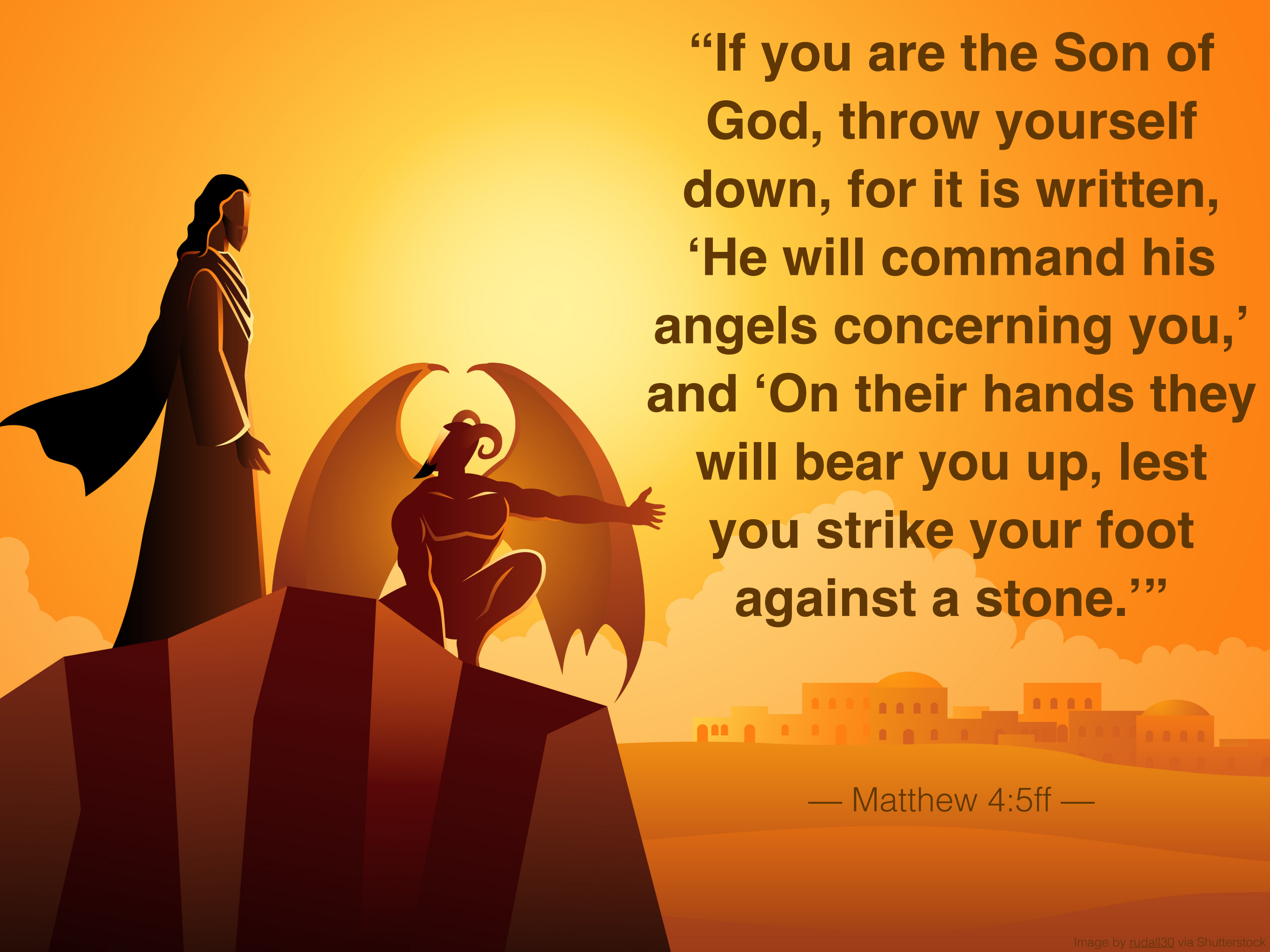
And the angel said to her...., “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”

— The Gospel of Luke 1:30ff —

**...he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove
and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice
from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with
whom I am well pleased.”**

— Matthew 3:16-17 —



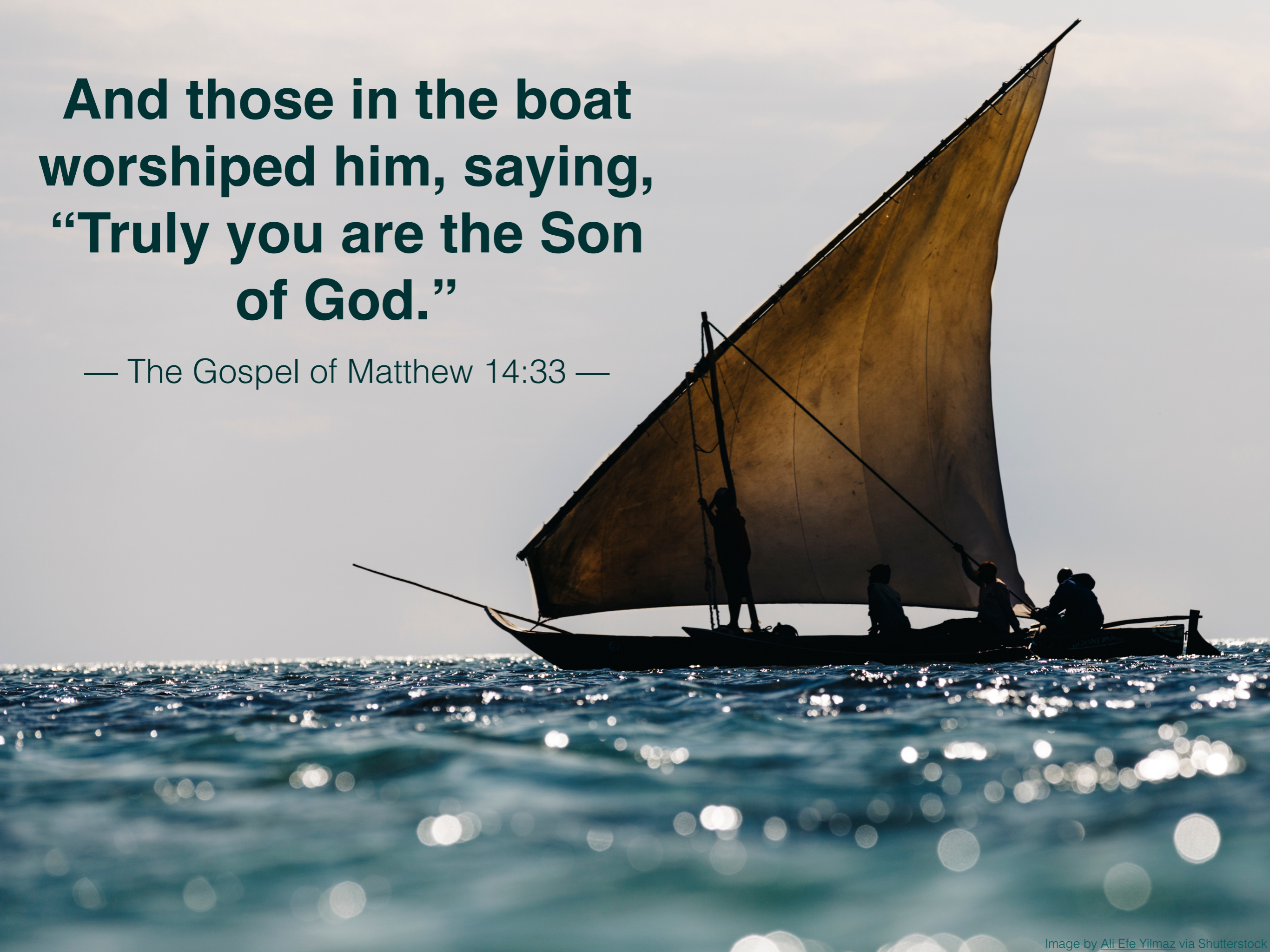
An illustration depicting the biblical scene of Jesus being tempted by Satan. Jesus, on the left, is shown in profile, wearing a dark robe with a white sash and a dark cape. He stands on a dark, jagged rock formation. Satan, on the right, is a muscular, dark-skinned figure with large, bat-like wings and a horned head. He is crouching on the same rock formation, gesturing towards Jesus. The background is a warm, orange and yellow sky with a bright sun or moon. In the distance, a city with domes and buildings is visible on a hillside.

“If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

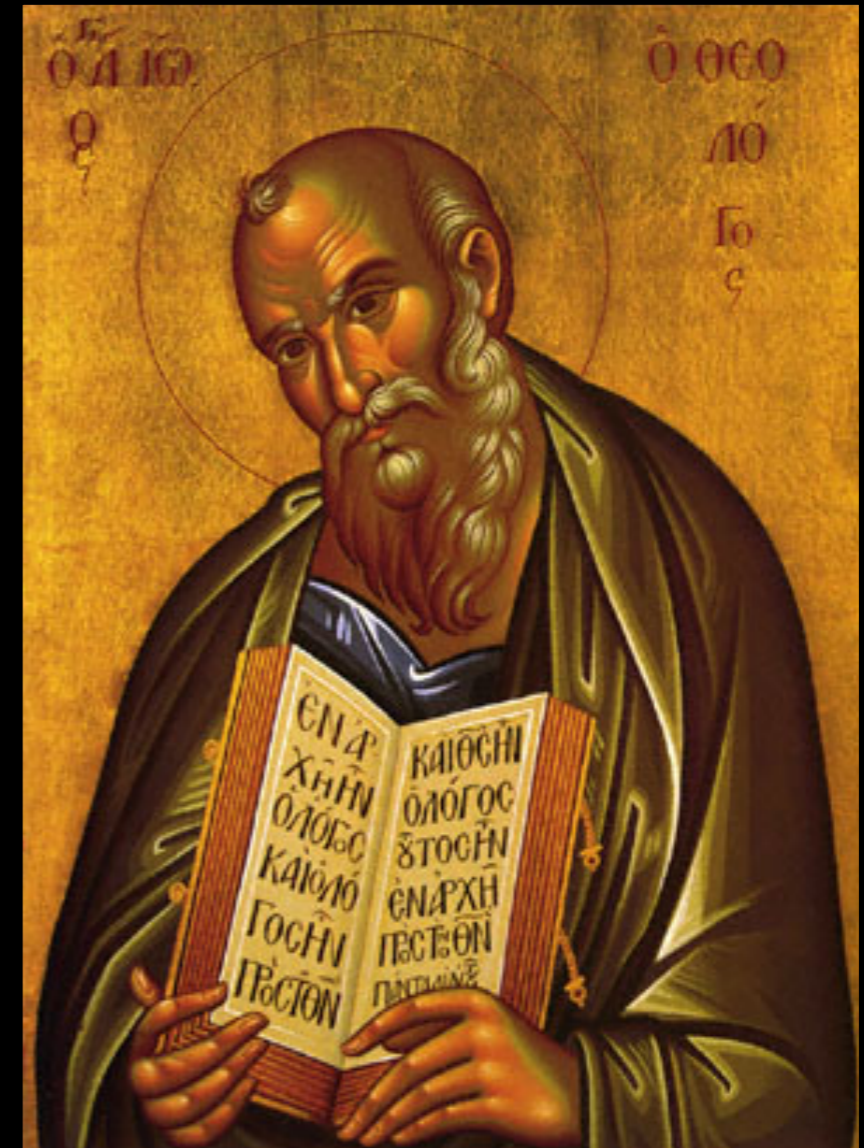
— Matthew 4:5ff —

**And those in the boat
worshiped him, saying,
“Truly you are the Son
of God.”**

— The Gospel of Matthew 14:33 —



**“...these are written
so that you may
believe that Jesus
is the Christ, the
Son of God, and
that by believing
you may have life
in his name.”**



**— The Apostle John —
The Gospel of John 21:31**

The Gospel of Luke 22

70 So they all said, “Are you **the Son of God, then?**” And he said to them, “**You say that I am.**” 71 Then they said, “**What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.**”

The Christ

The Son of Man

The Son of God

The Gospel of Luke 23

1 Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate.

2 And they began to accuse him, saying,

“We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

The Gospel of Luke 23

3 And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

The Gospel of Luke 23

3 And Pilate asked him, **“Are you the King of the Jews?”** And he answered him, **“You have said so.”**

The Gospel of Luke 23

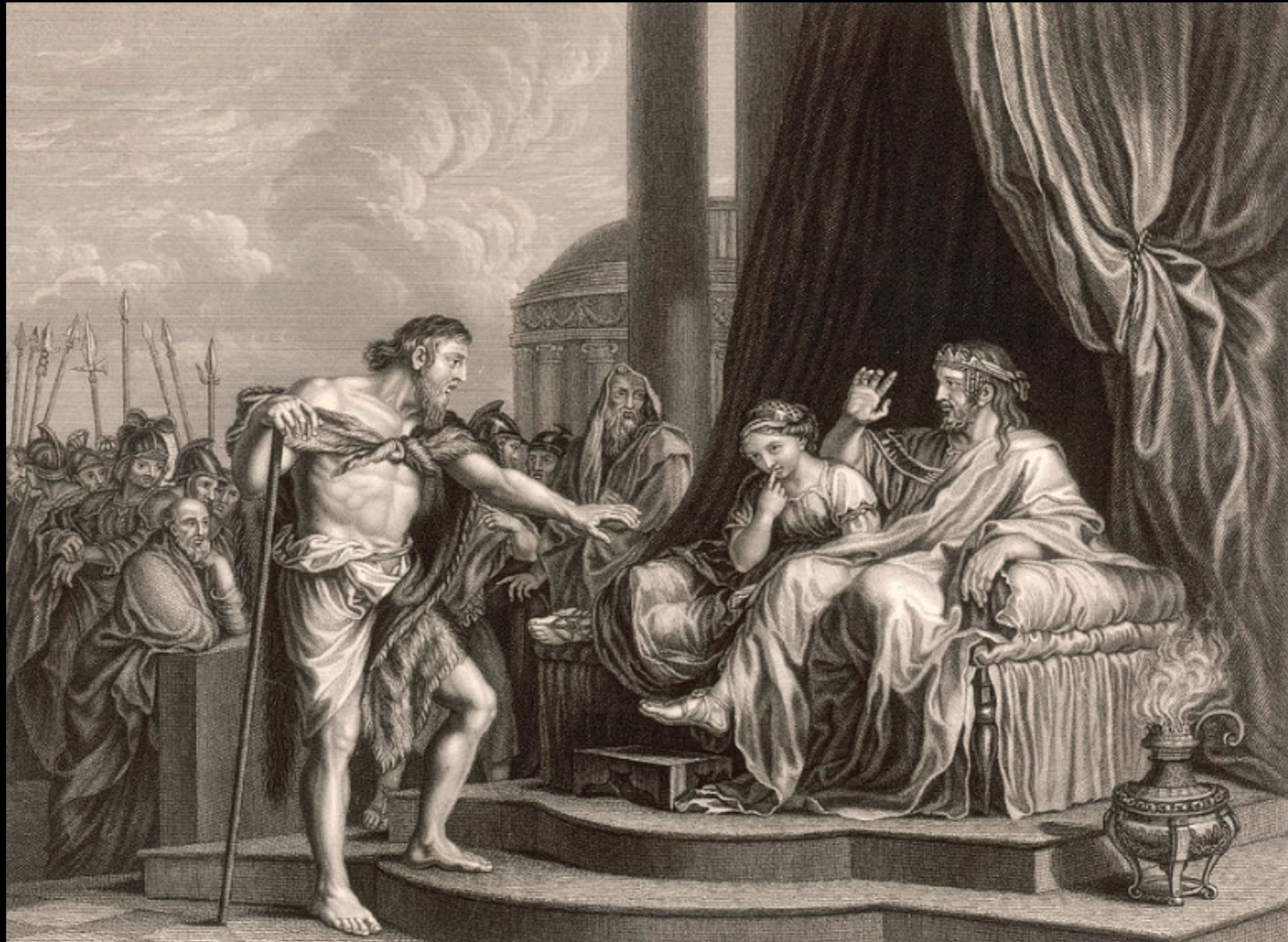
4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.”

The Gospel of Luke 23

5 But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

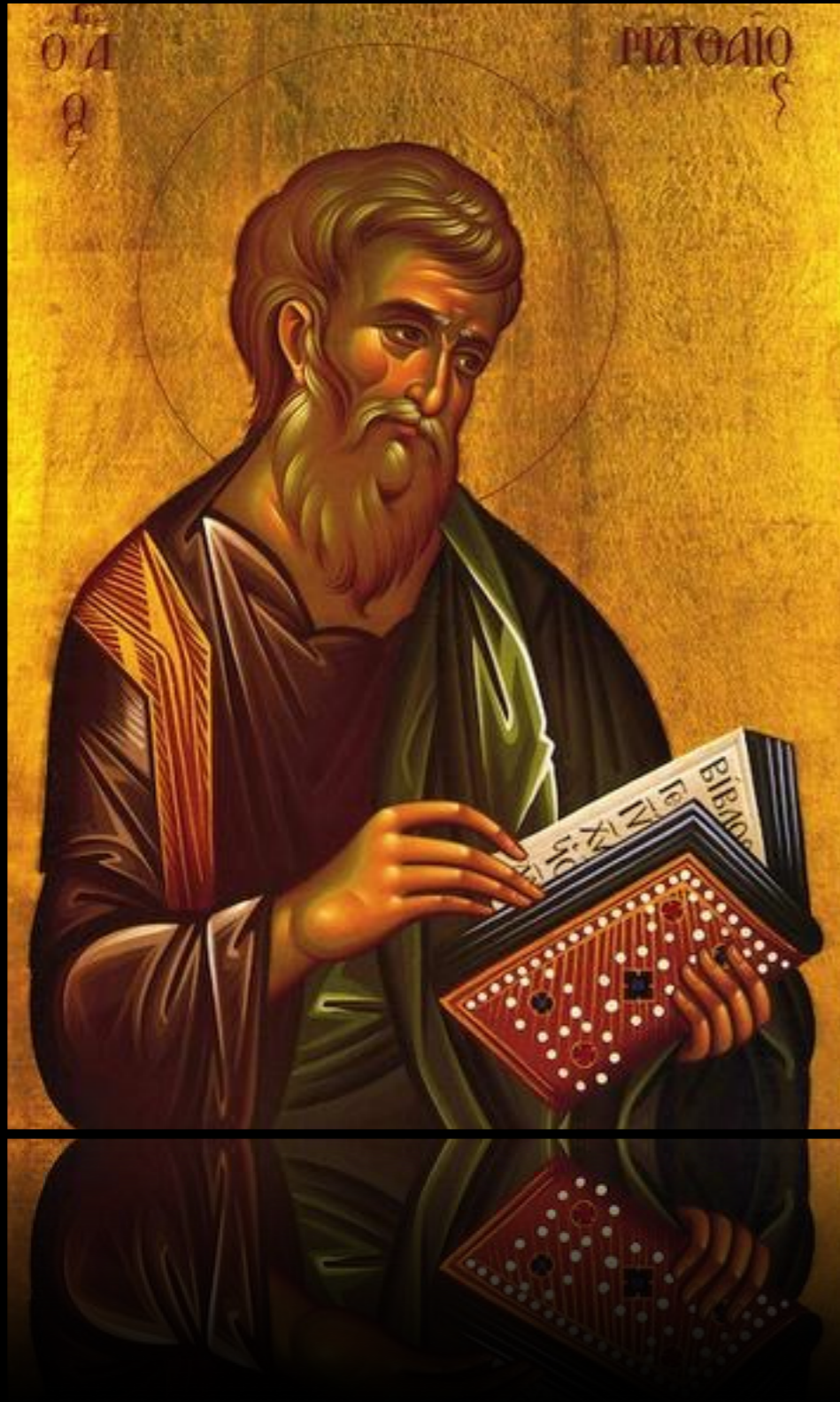
The Gospel of Luke 23

6 When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. 7 And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.



John the Baptist Confronts Herod

Artwork from Mary Evans Picture Library



At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.”

**— The Apostle Matthew —
The Gospel of Matthew 14:1-2**

The Gospel of Luke 23

8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him.

The Gospel of Luke 23

8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, **for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him,** and he was hoping to see some sign done by him.

The Gospel of Luke 23

8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, **and he was hoping to see some sign done by him.**

The Gospel of Luke 23

9 So he questioned him at some length, but **he made no answer.** **10** The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him.

The Gospel of Luke 23

11 And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.

The Gospel of Luke 23

12 And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

The Gospel of Luke 23

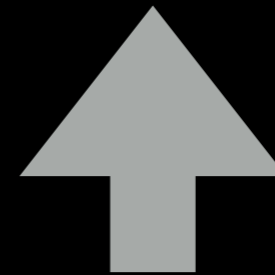
13 Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,
14 and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him.”

The Gospel of Luke 23

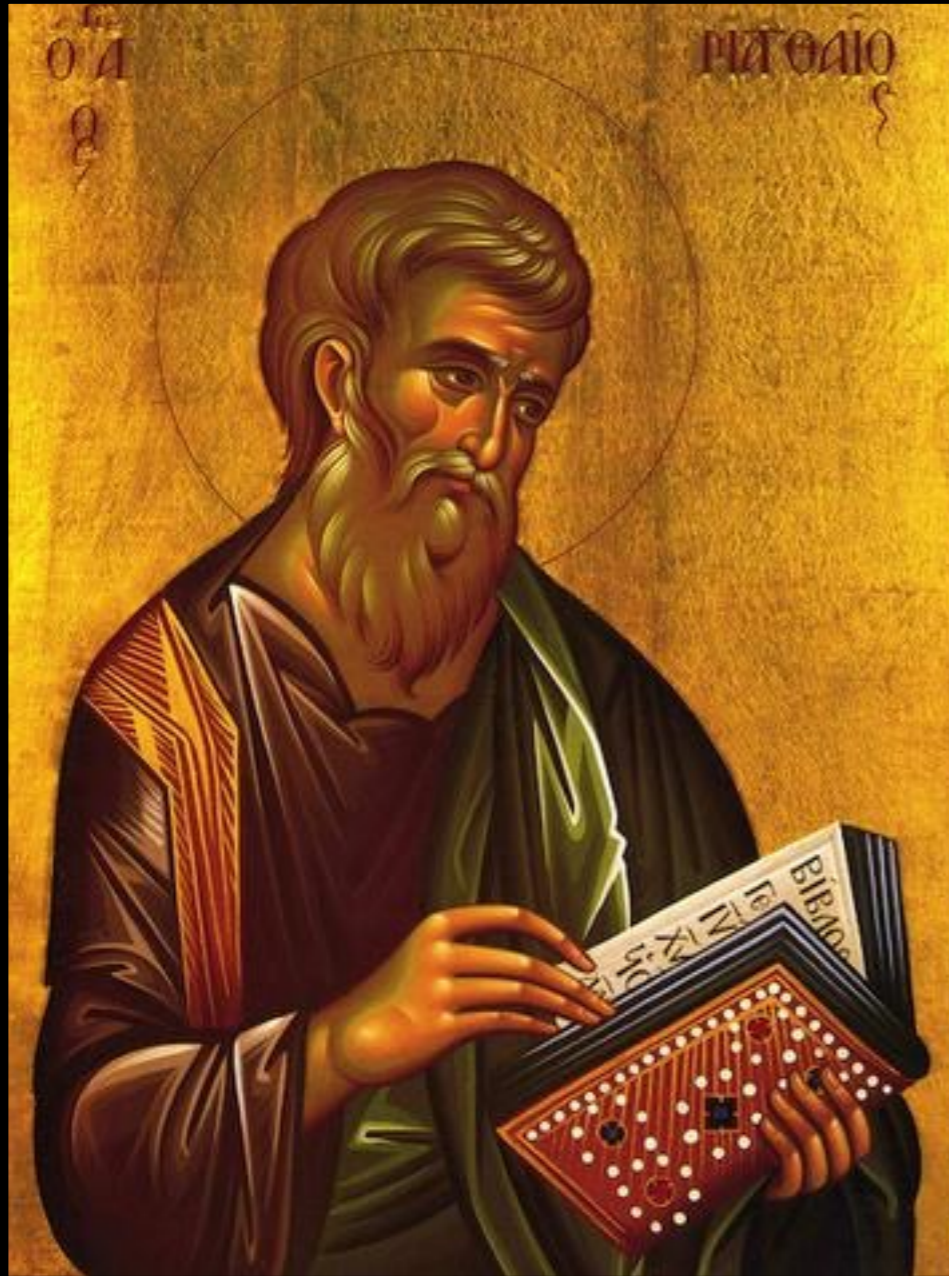
15 Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. 16 I will therefore punish and release him.”

The Gospel of Luke 23

15 Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. **Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him.** 16 I will **therefore** ~~punish and~~ **release him.**”

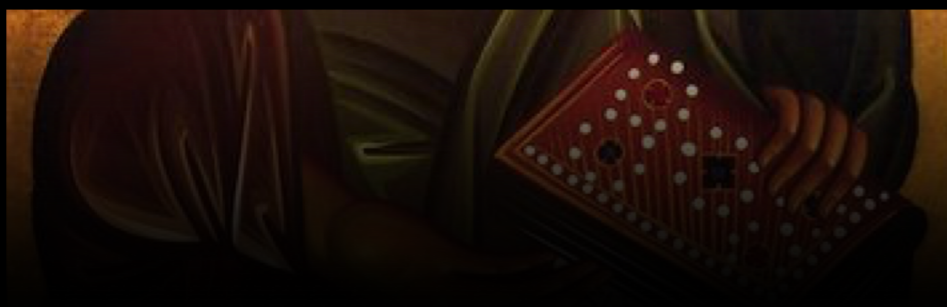


This would have been justice.



**Pilate “knew it was
out of envy that they
had delivered him up.”**

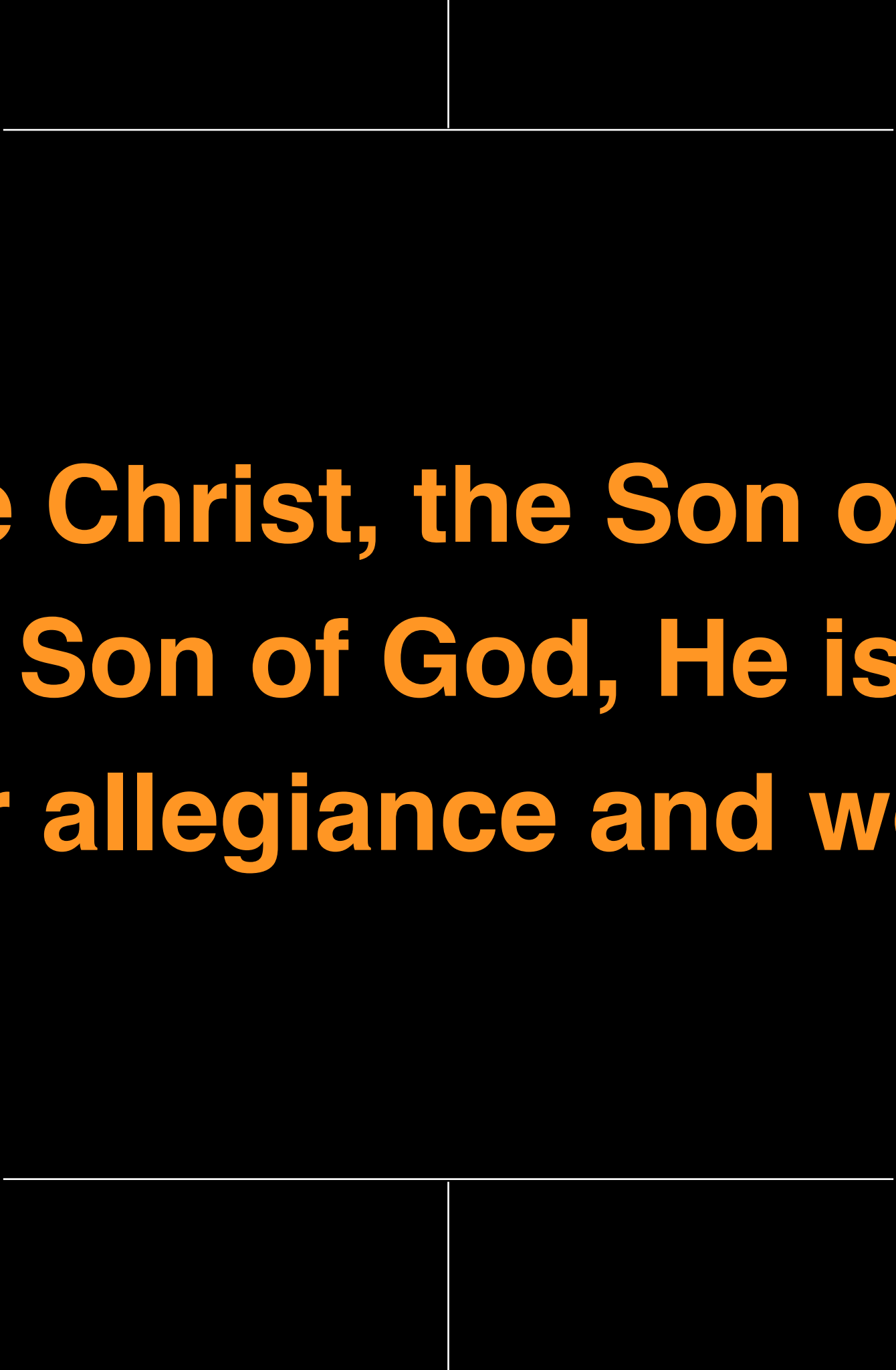
— The Apostle Matthew —
The Gospel of Matthew 27:18



Important Question

Why did Luke go to great pains to show us what happened when Jesus was on trial before the religious authorities and the civil authorities?

**Jesus was truly innocent
of all the charges against Him
of being a seditious king
leading an insurrection.**



**As the Christ, the Son of Man,
and the Son of God, He is worthy
of your allegiance and worship.**



**Let's get
Jesus right.**



CS Lewis, Oxford Professor
& Author of *Mere Christianity*



I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say.



A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with a man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice.



**Either this man was, and is, the Son of God,
or else a madman or something worse.
You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit
at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can
fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.**

“

But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us.

— CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity* —

The Claims of Jesus

```
graph TD; A[The Claims of Jesus] --> B[False]; A --> C[True];
```

False

True

The Claims of Jesus

False

True

He **KNEW** his
claims were
FALSE

LIAR

Hypocrite
Evil
Fool

The Claims of Jesus

False

True

He **KNEW** his
claims were
FALSE

He **DID NOT**
KNOW his claims
were **FALSE**

LIAR

LUNATIC

Hypocrite
Evil
Fool

Deluded
Crazy

The Claims of Jesus

False

True

He **KNEW** his
claims were
FALSE

He **DID NOT**
KNOW his claims
were **FALSE**

LIAR

LUNATIC

LORD

Hypocrite
Evil
Fool

Deluded
Crazy

You can
REJECT
Him

You can
TRUST
Him



2

**Bow your knee
before King Jesus**

Bono | U2

Bono on “The Meaning of Life”
Ireland’s National Public Service Media



**The Question:
Who, or what, was
Jesus as far as you
are concerned?**



I think it's a defining question for a Christian... and I don't think you're let off easily by saying, 'A great thinker,' or 'A philosopher,' because actually he went around saying he was the Messiah.



**That's why he was
crucified. He was
crucified because he
said he was the Son of
God. So he either, in my
view, was the Son of
God, or he was...nuts.
Forget rock-and-roll
messianic complexes;
I mean Charlie-Manson-
type delirium.**



**And I find it hard to
accept that whole
millions and millions of
lives—half the earth—
for 2000 years have
been touched, felt their
lives touched and
inspired by some nutter.
I just don't believe it.**



Question:
**So therefore it follows
that you believe he was
divine?**

Answer: Yes.



Question:
**And therefore it follows
that you believe
he physically rose
from the dead?**

Answer:
**Yes. I have no problem
believing in miracles....
I am surrounded by
them. I am one.**



Question:
And when you pray,
you pray to Jesus?

Answer: Yes.

Question:
The risen Jesus?

Answer: Yes.



Question:
**And you believe he
made promises that
will come true?**

Answer: Yes. I do.

