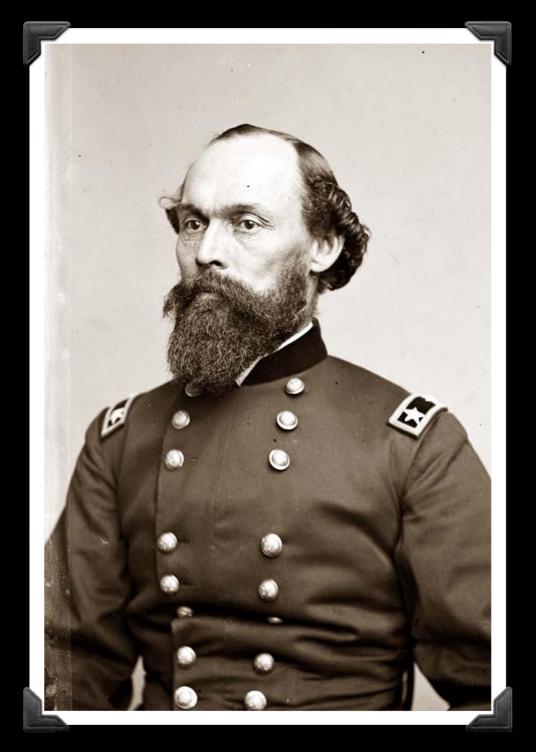
Spiritual Feasting

— The Gospel of Luke 22:7-20 —



THE GOSPELOF LUKE GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE





On June 19, 1865, Union Major-General Gordon Granger issued a military order in Galveston, Texas, freeing all slaves.



GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 3

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are Free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves."



An African American Band at an Emancipation Celebration in Austin in 1900

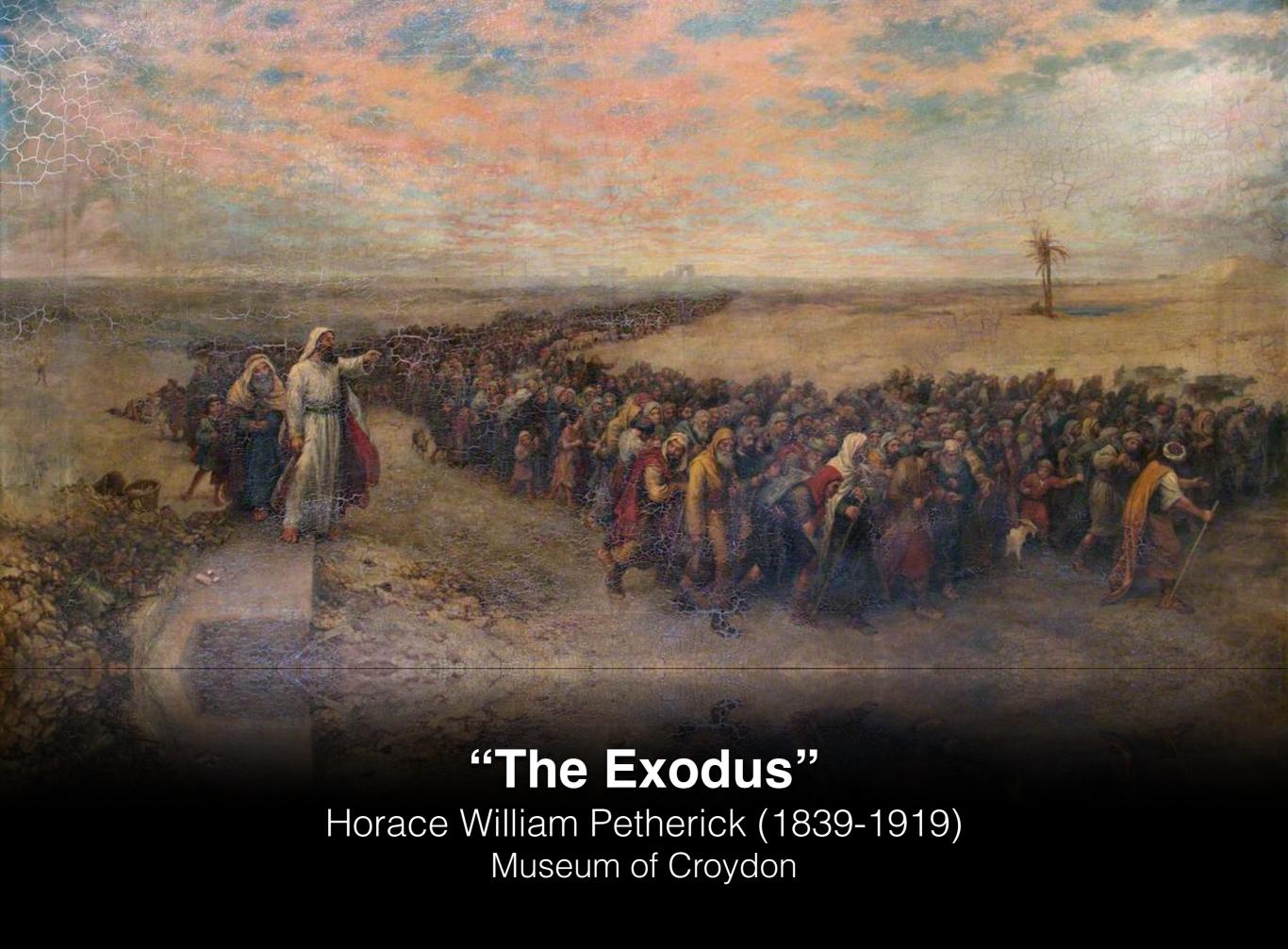


Spiritual Feasting

— The Gospel of Luke 22:7-20 —



7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it."









We were slaves

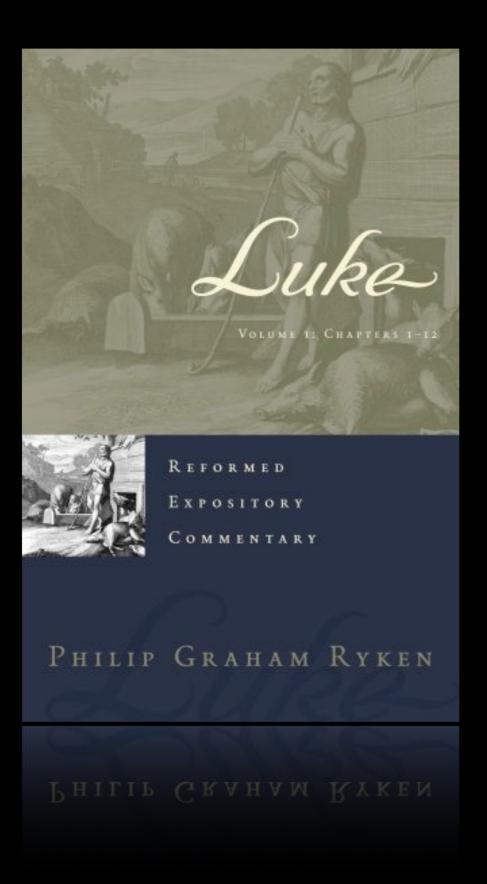
of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand. Before our eyes the LORD inflicted great and devastating signs and wonders on Egypt, on Pharaoh, and on all his household, but He brought us from there in order to lead us in and give us the land that He swore to our fathers.

— Deuteronomy 6:21-23 —

9 They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" 10 He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters 11 and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room

where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 12 And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." 13 And they went and found it just as he told them, and they prepared the Passover.

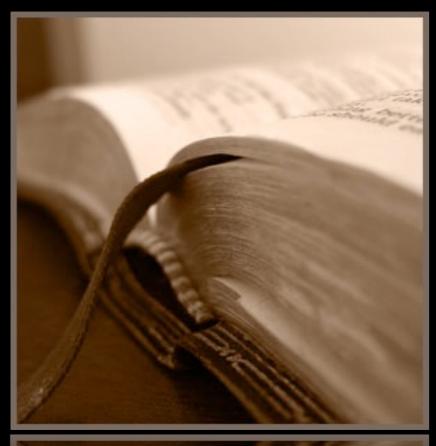
14 When when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...."



For Jesus and the disciples, the feast brought back some of the happiest memories of childhood: making the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem, eating roast lamb with their families, and praising God for his salvation.

14 When when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...."

The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

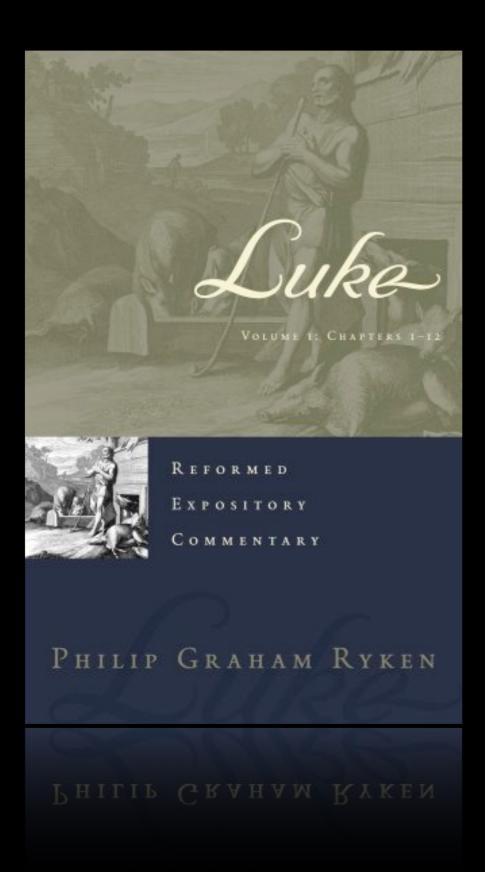




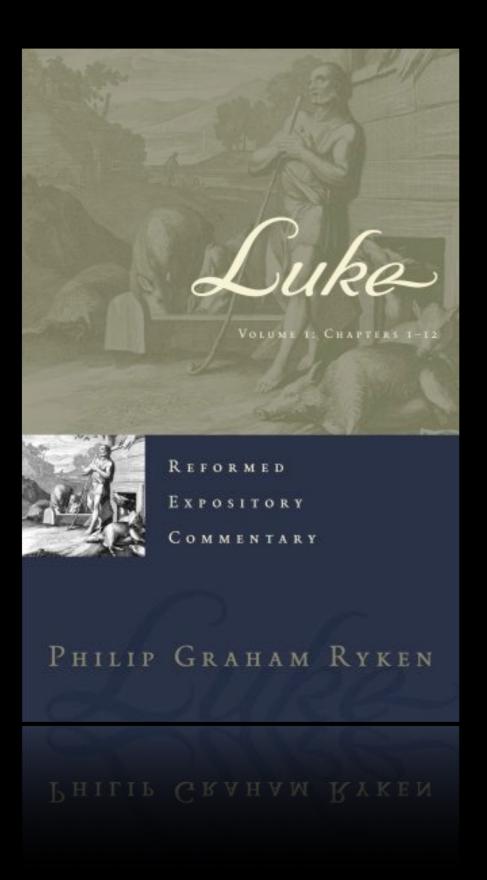
14 When when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

...two men were talking with him,
Moses and Elijah, who appeared in
glory and spoke of his departure*
[literally: exodus] which he was
about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

The Gospel of Luke 9:30 —



Soon that sacrament would find its true fulfillment in the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they would never have occasion to celebrate it [that is, the Passover] again.



Instead, the people of God would celebrate the new sacrament of the new covenant in Christ by eating the bread and drinking the wine of the Lord's Supper.

17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Key Thought

This Last Supper becomes
the Last Passover meal
because Jesus is about to
accomplish a far greater Exodus
being Himself the Passover Lamb.

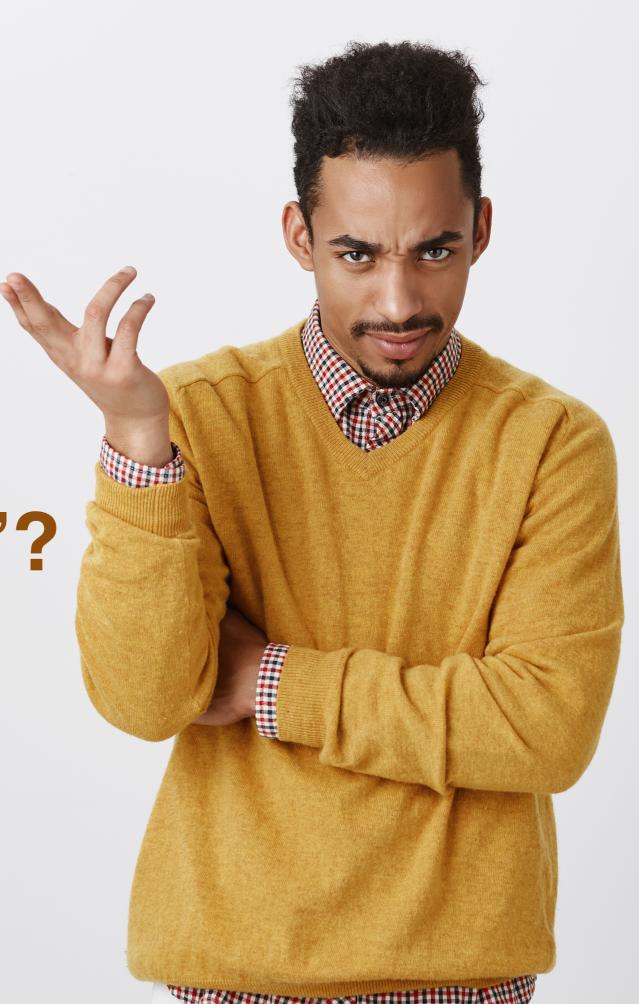


"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

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

19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

What does
Jesus mean
when he says,
"This is my body"?



Literal View: Transubstantiation

(The Roman Catholic Church's View)

The bread and the wine actually turn into the literal body and blood of Jesus.

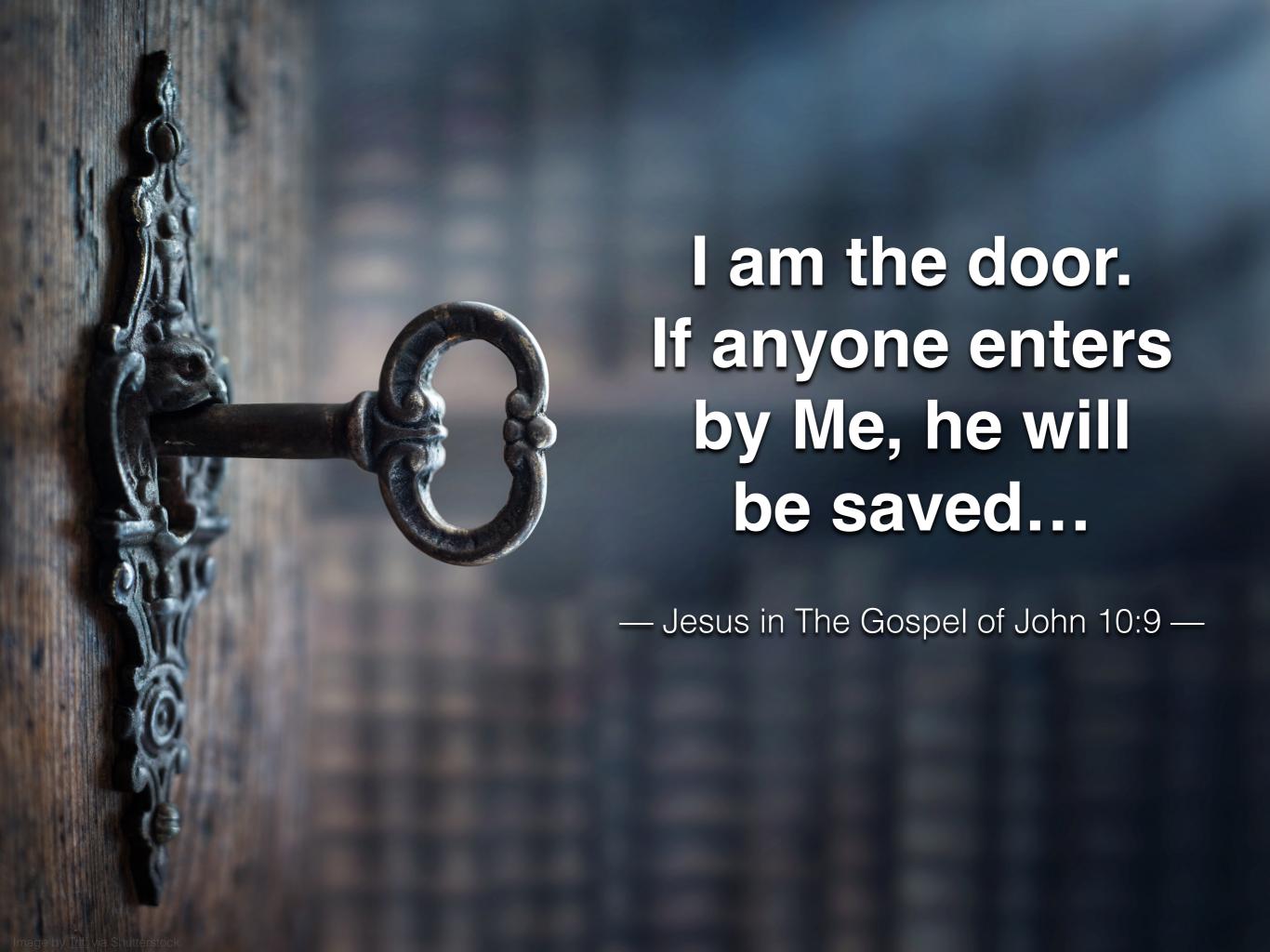
Non-Literal View: Mere Memorial

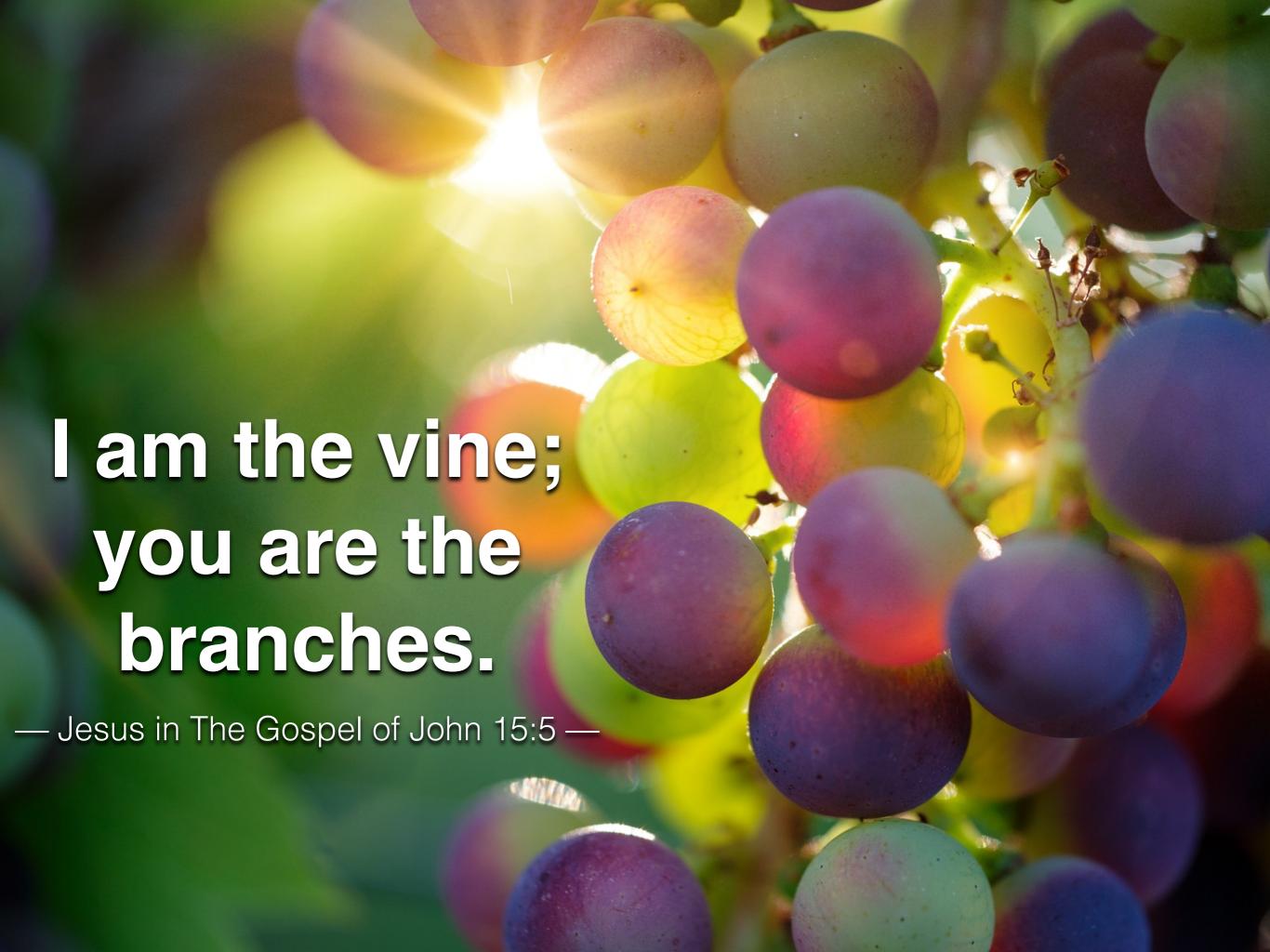
(Most Evangelical Churches)

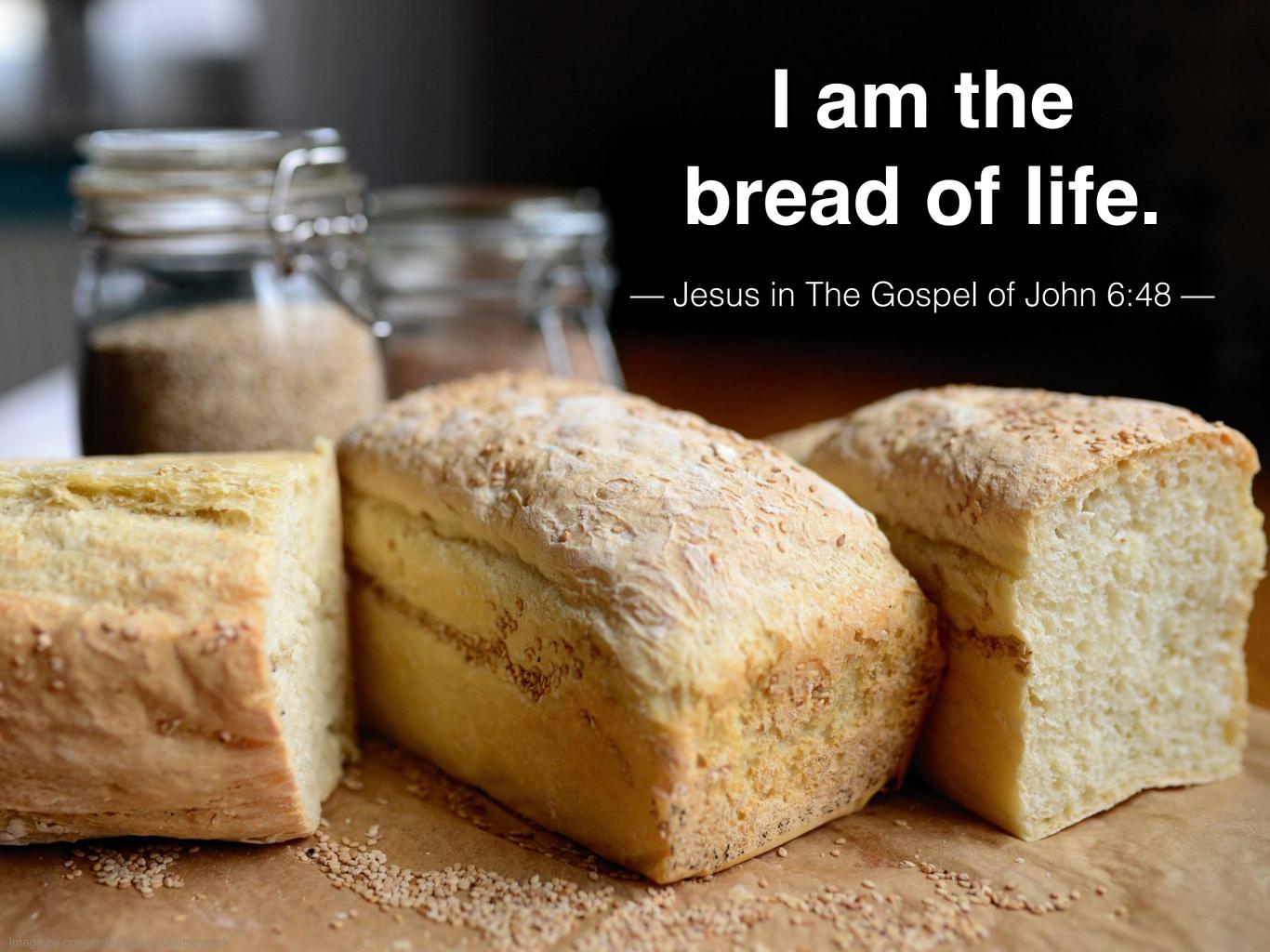
The bread and the wine are merely aids to help us remember that Jesus died for us.

Given that the Lord's Table helps us remember the sacrifice of Jesus, is there something more going on here









The View of the Real Spiritual Presence of Christ

(Many Reformational Churches)

Jesus is using a figure of speech—a metaphor— to help His disciples understand that He is really present in this meal in a way that we can truly by faith lay hold of Him in an experiential way.



When Jesus says the bread is His body which is given for us, and the wine is His blood which is shed for us, we need to see Jesus infusing Passover Meal with new meaning:

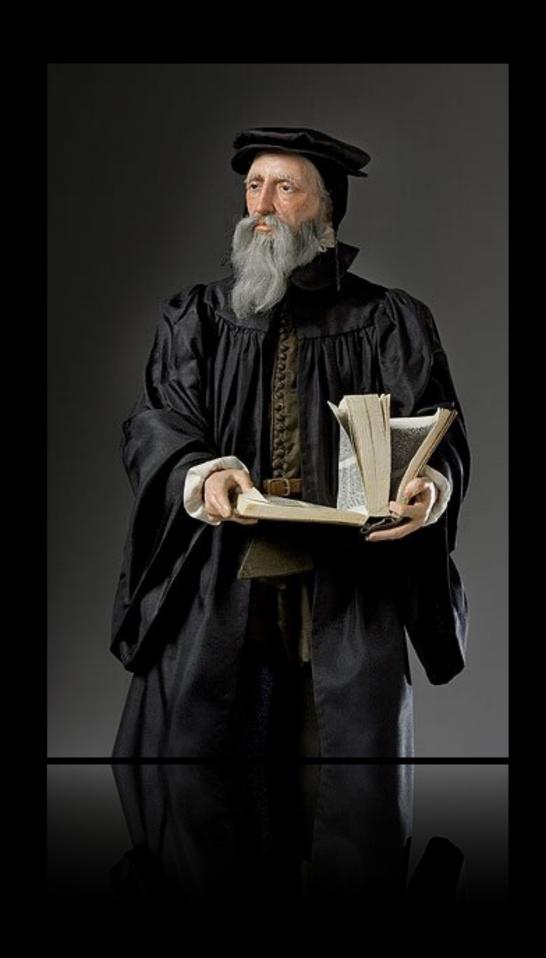
I am the ultimate Passover sacrifice.

Sacraments are sacred mysteries that speak to us about the Gospel.



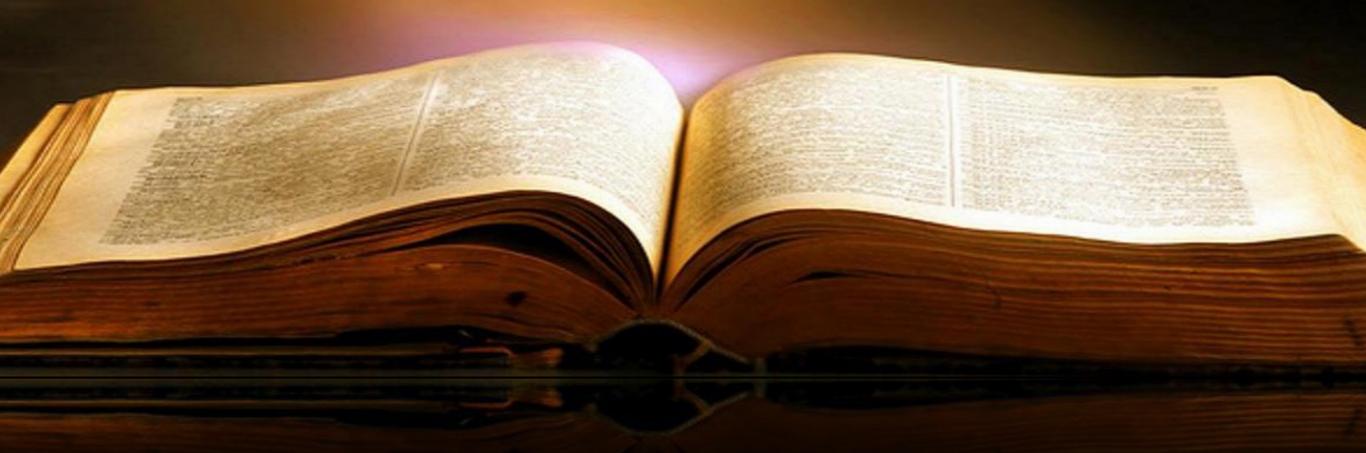
The sacraments are exercises which make us more certain of the trustworthiness of God's Word.... For by them he manifests himself to us... and attests his good will and love toward us more expressly than by the Word.

> John Calvin (1509-1564) The Institutes of the Christian Religion

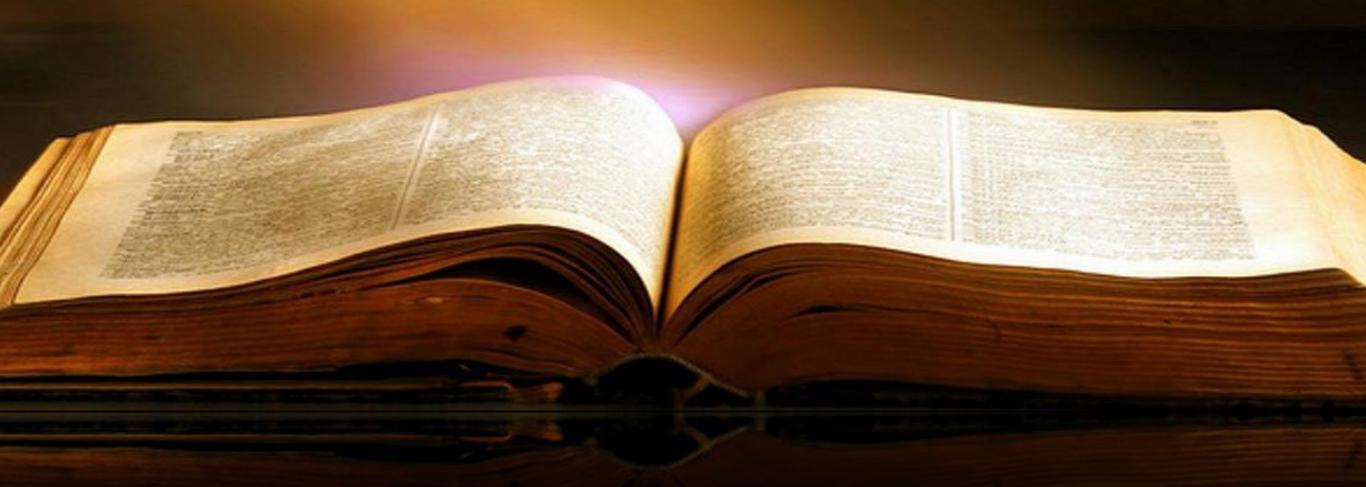


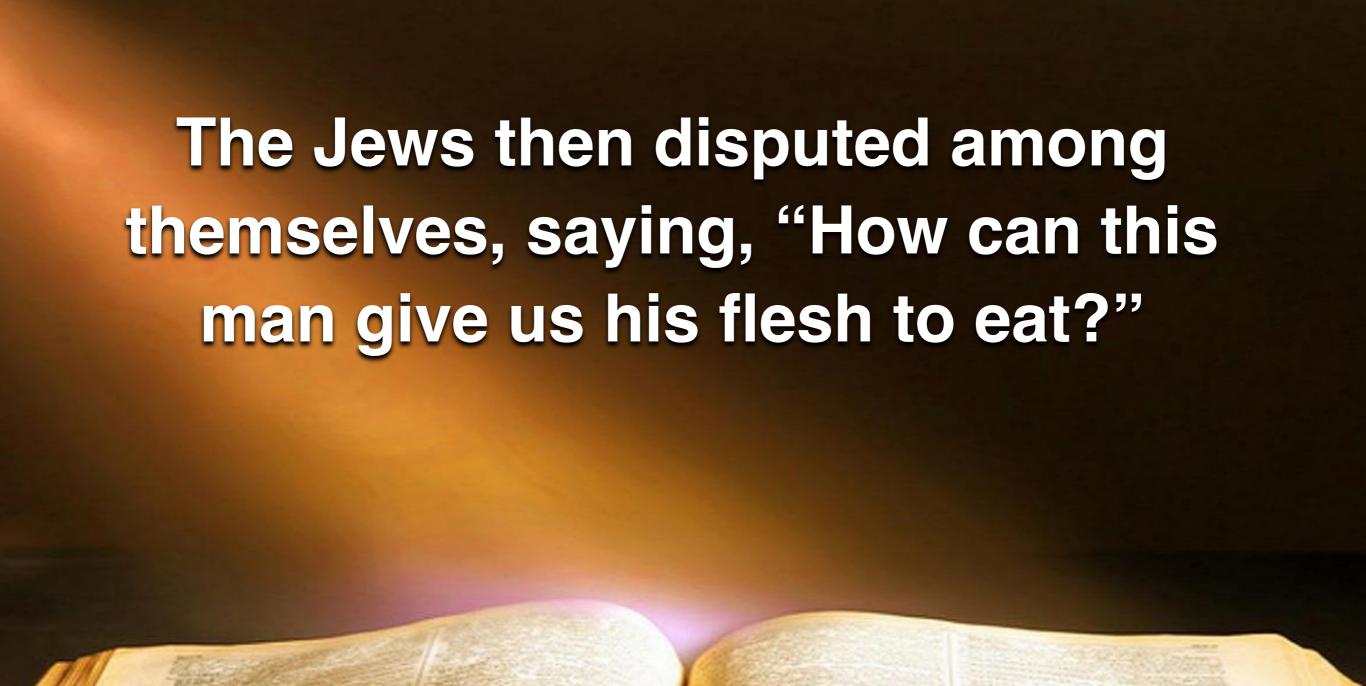
In the Supper, we get to hear, see, touch, smell, and taste the Gospel, all by faith! Through this sacraments, God nourishes our faith as the Gospel is set before us to taste and see that the Lord is good.

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.... Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.



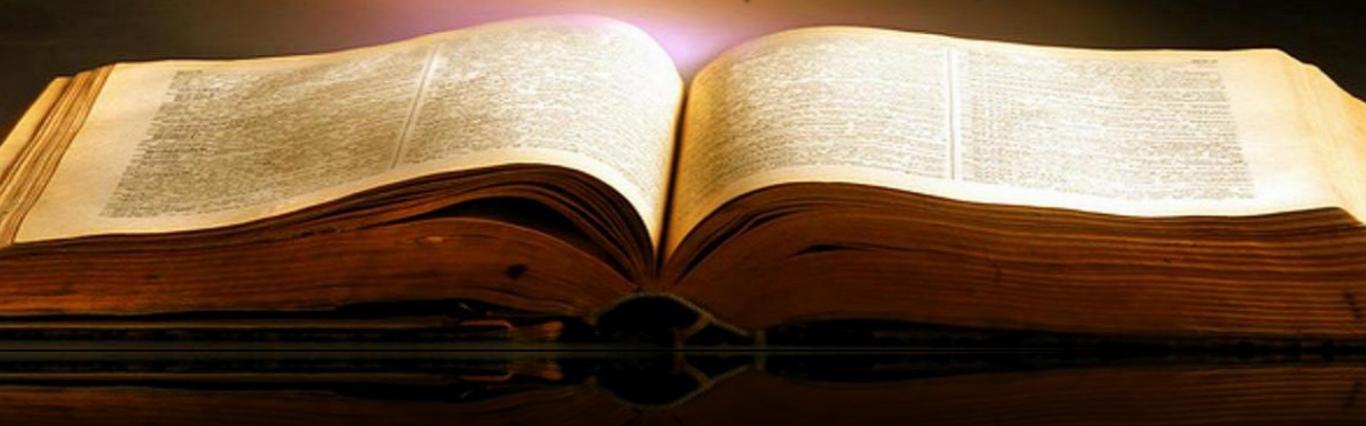
I am the bread of life... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

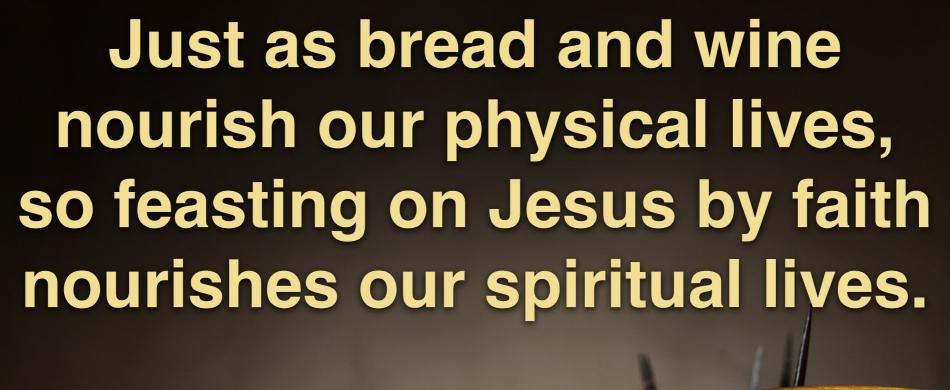




So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

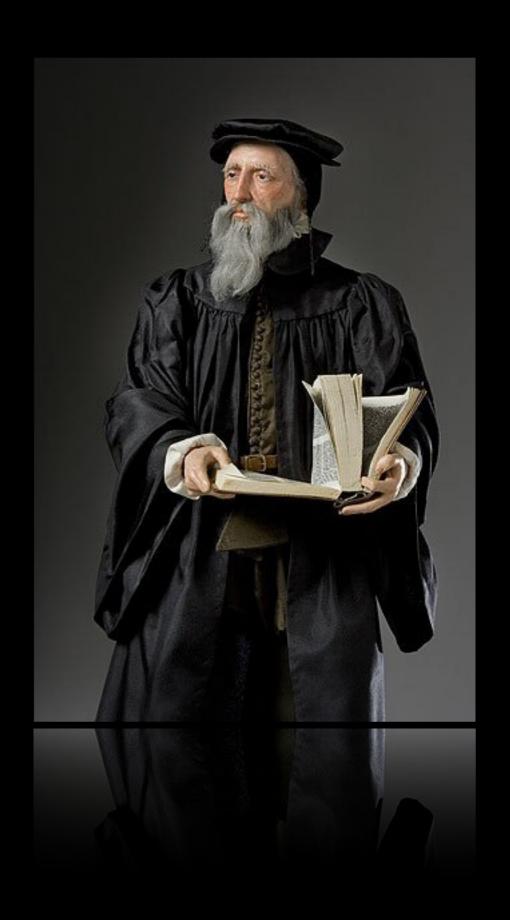
— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of John 6:40, 47ff —



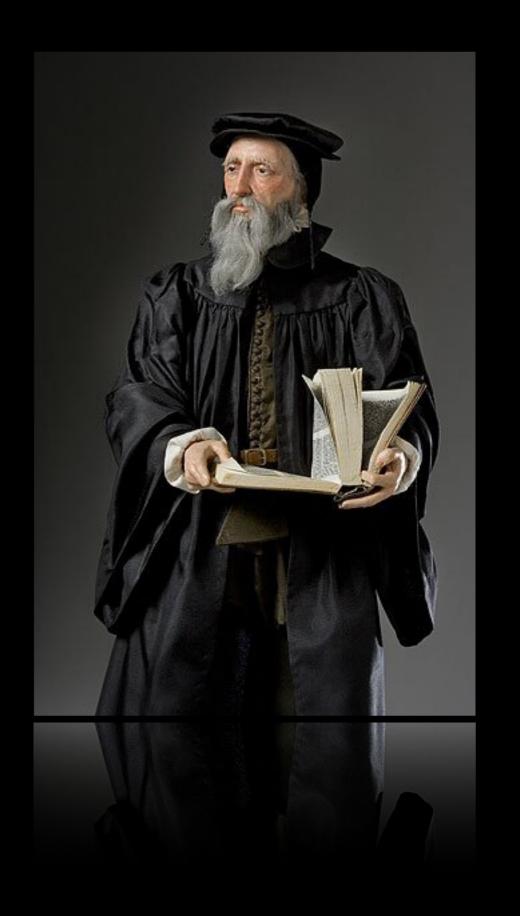




For whenever this matter is discussed, when I have tried to say all, I feel that I have as yet said little in proportion to its worth.

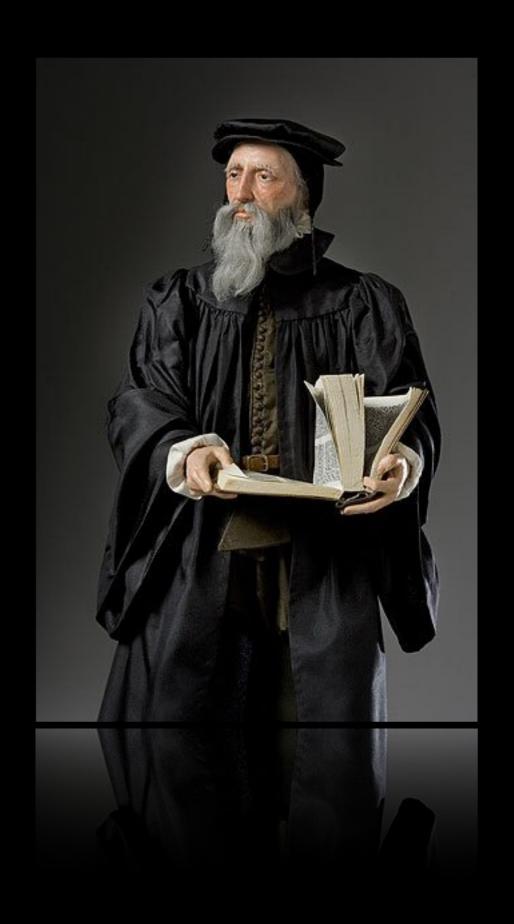


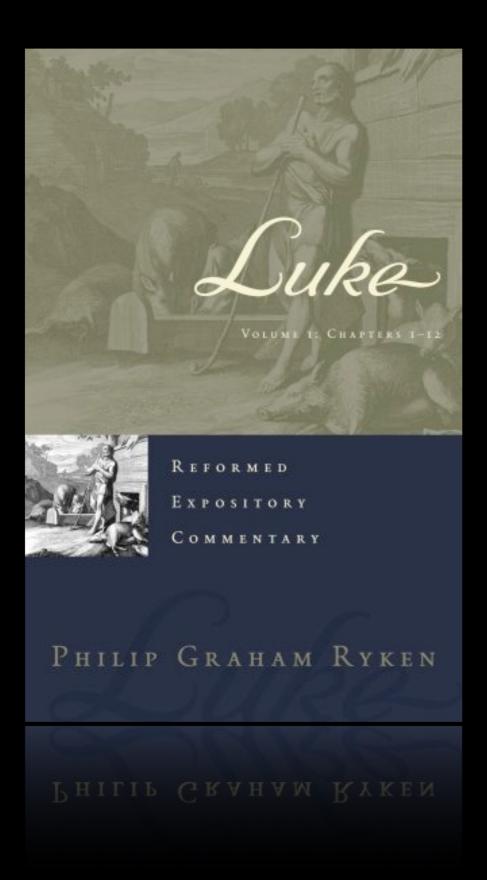
Although my mind can think beyond what my tongue can utter, yet even my mind is conquered and overwhelmed by the greatness of the thing.



Therefore, nothing remains but to break forth in wonder at this mystery, which plainly neither the mind is able to conceive or the tongue to express.

John Calvin (1509-1564)
The Institutes of the Christian Religion





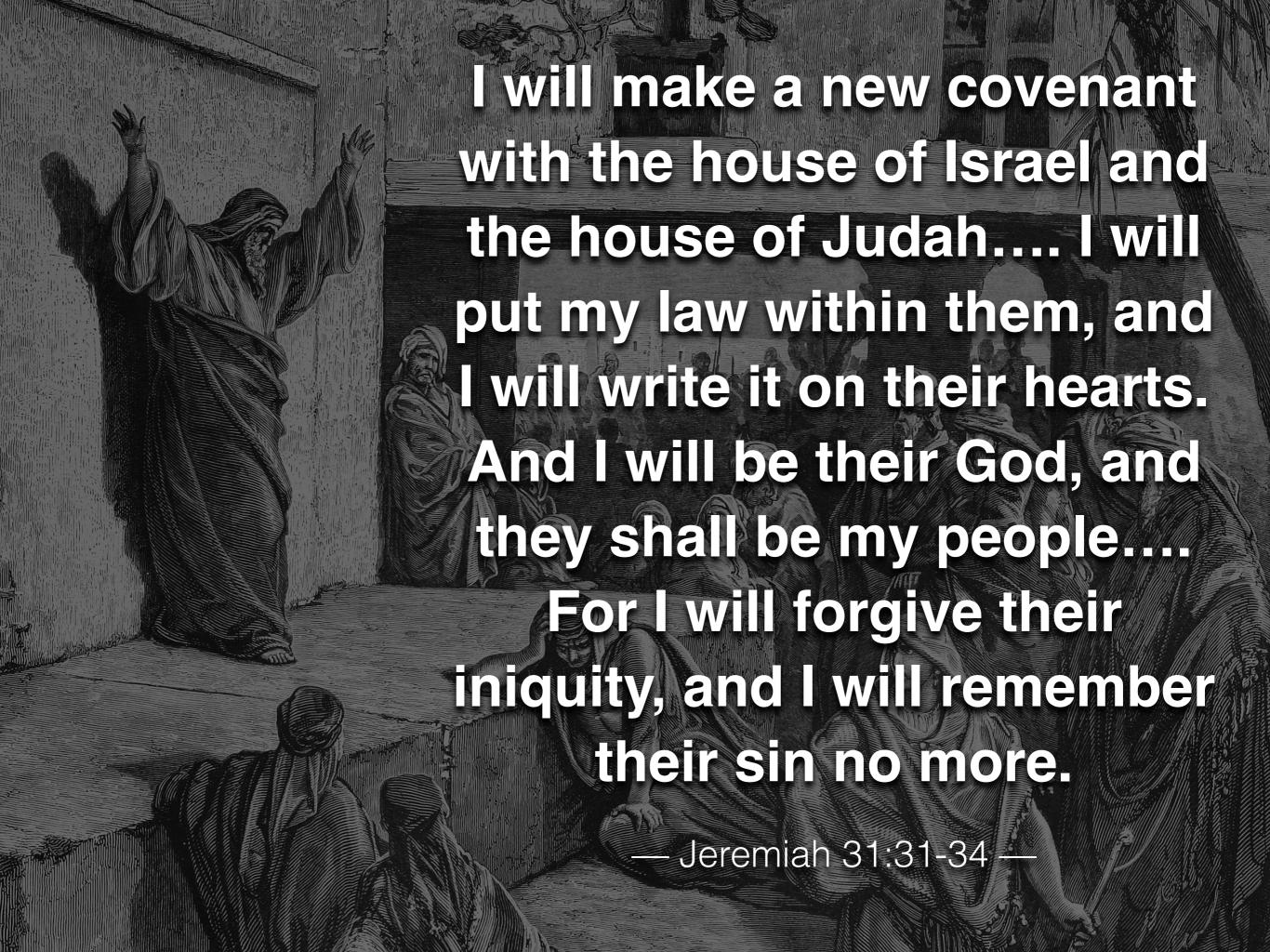
They are words it takes only a moment to understand but a lifetime to comprehend, for although they are simple in themselves, they reveal many deep mysteries of the gospel.

20 And likewise the bus after they had eaten saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you.

The Prophet Moses
— Exodus 24:8 —







— 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 —

Jesus is life—eternal life—and so we feast upon him by faith.



Come Humbly



Come Hungry



The danger is not lest the soul should doubt whether there is any bread, but lest, by a lie, it should persuade itself that it is not hungry.



- Simone Weil (1909-1949) -



All the treasures of this world will never satisfy You alone are endless joy so I cling to Christ

— "Cling to Christ" —

Come Believing



Come Celebrating



Come Regularly



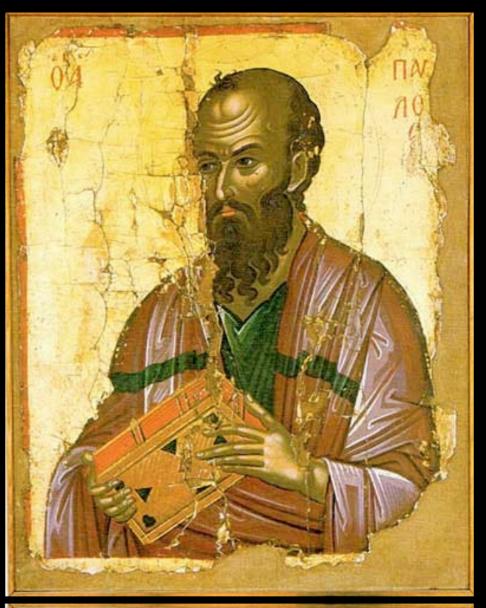
Come Together



The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a fellowship in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a fellowship in the body of Christ.

The Apostle Paul

— 1 Corinthians 10:16 —



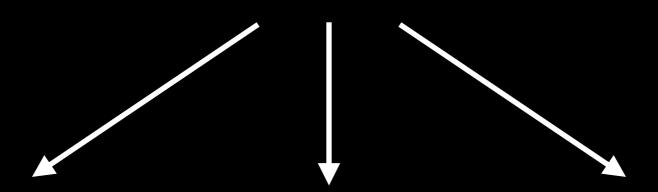


Come Longing





The Lord's Table



The Past

Remembering the Sacrifice of Jesus

The Present

Communing with Jesus & One Another

The Future

Anticipating the Marriage Supper of Jesus

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Take them believing that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.