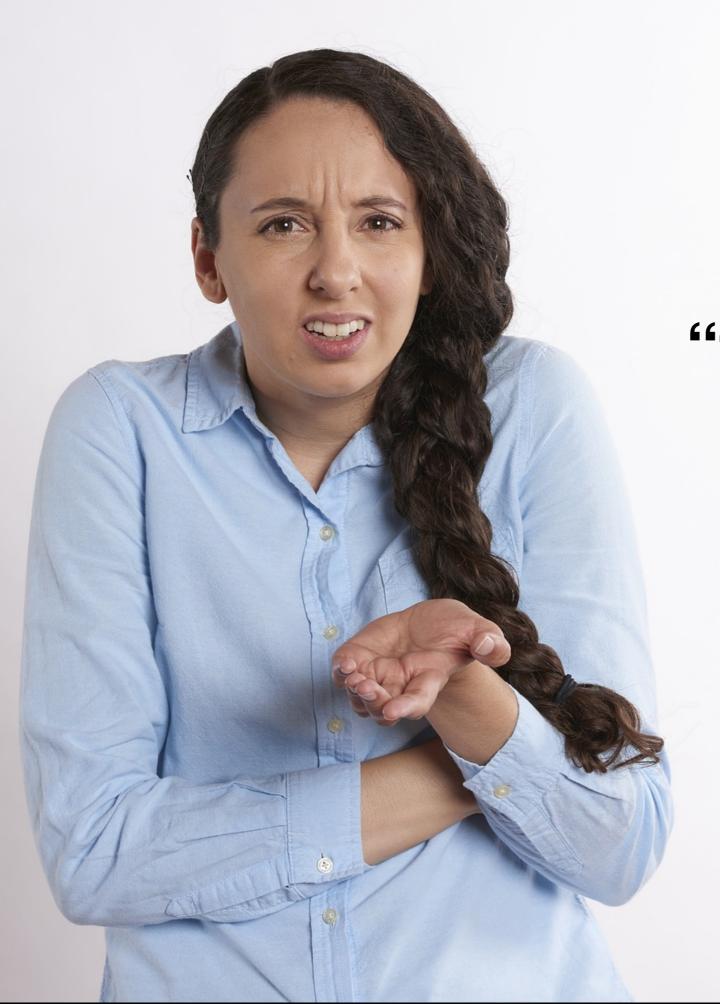


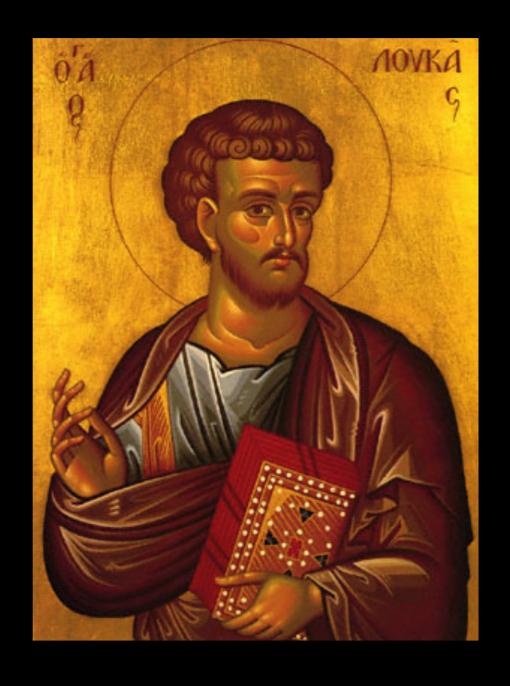
What if God was one of us



18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.



C'mon, now!
Pregnant by
"the Holy Spirit?"
You expect me
to believe that?



Luke the Evangelist in the Gospel of Luke ch. 1

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....



Luke the Evangelist in the Gospel of Luke ch. 1

And Mary said
to the angel,
"How will this be,
since I am a
virgin?"



Luke the Evangelist in the Gospel of Luke ch. 1

And the angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God...



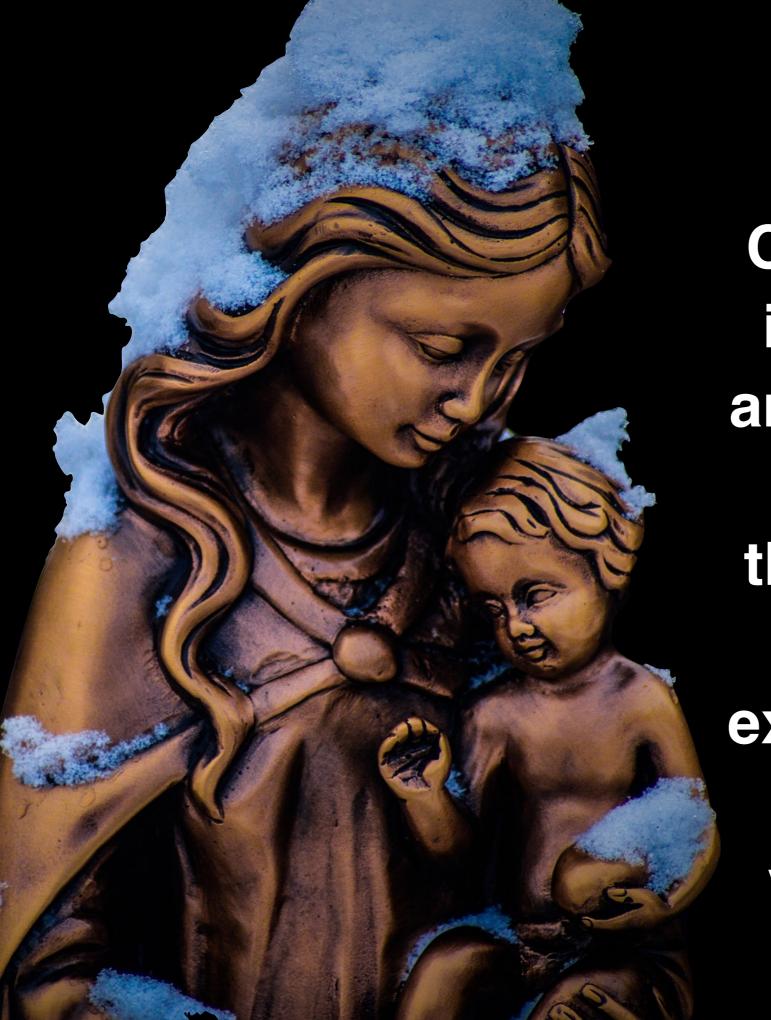
Luke the Evangelist in the Gospel of Luke ch. 1

"For nothing is impossible with God."

Nope, I'm not buying it. You see, I don't believe in miracles.



Everybody believes in at least one miracle— the miracle of the beginning of the universe.



If the all knowing and all powerful Creator could bring into existence this amazing universe by an act of his will, then it's nothing for him to bring into existence an embryo in the womb of a virgin by an act of his will.

19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

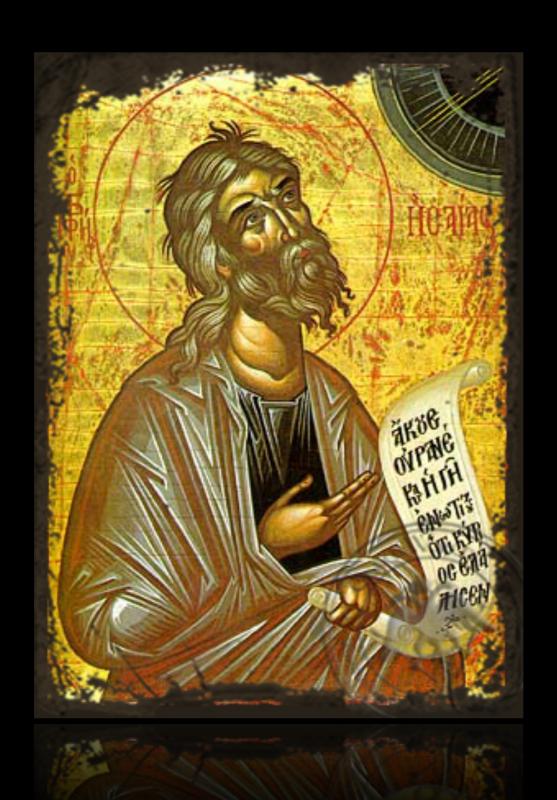
20 But as he considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit....

The Gospel of Matthew 1:18-25

21 "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

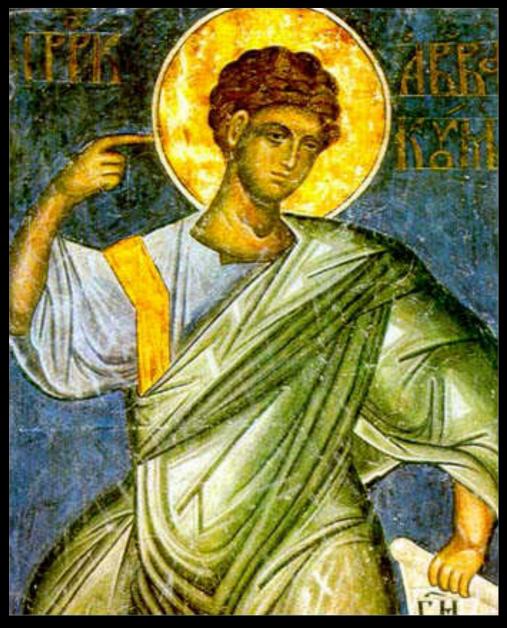


There you go again? You Christians can't stop talking about sin. Why are y'all so obsessed with sin?



...your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

— Isaiah 59:2 —





Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; You cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

— Habakkuk 1:13 —



Here is the scandal of the Gospel: this same God, whose eyes are too pure to look upon evil, nevertheless draws near to us in the person of Jesus who was known as the friend of sinners!

22 All this took place to fulfill what God had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us.)

Immanuel – Jesus





God with us God saves us

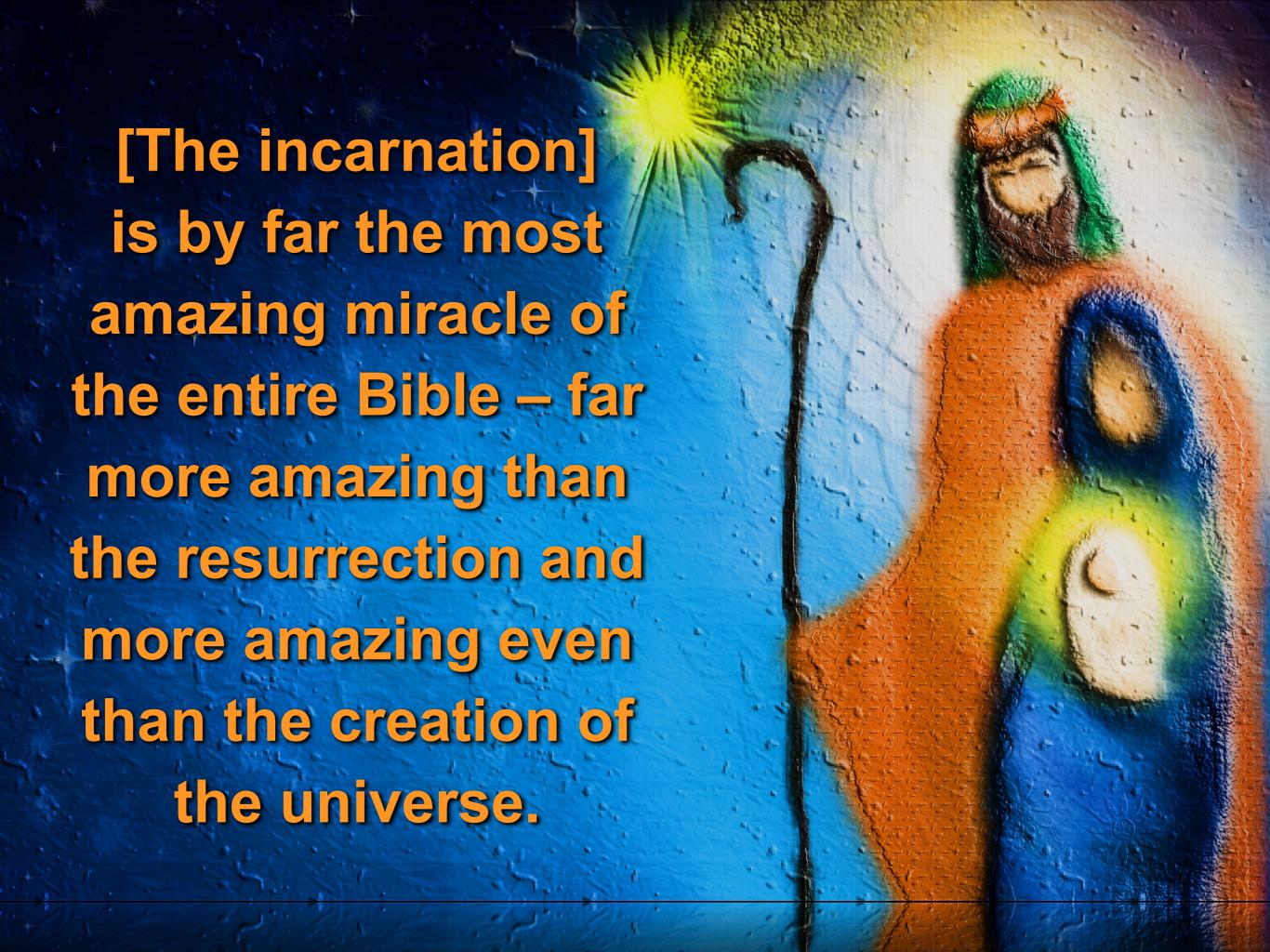
Immanuel — Jesus





God with us God saves us

That's why the Gospel of Jesus is Good News of Great Joy for All People!



The fact that the infinite, omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join Himself to a human nature forever, so that infinite God became one person with finite man, will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe.



24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.



2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King...

King Herod

"Herod the Great"

 The Roman Empire's King over Judea, aka the Herodian Kingdom

 Killed his wife and two of his sons

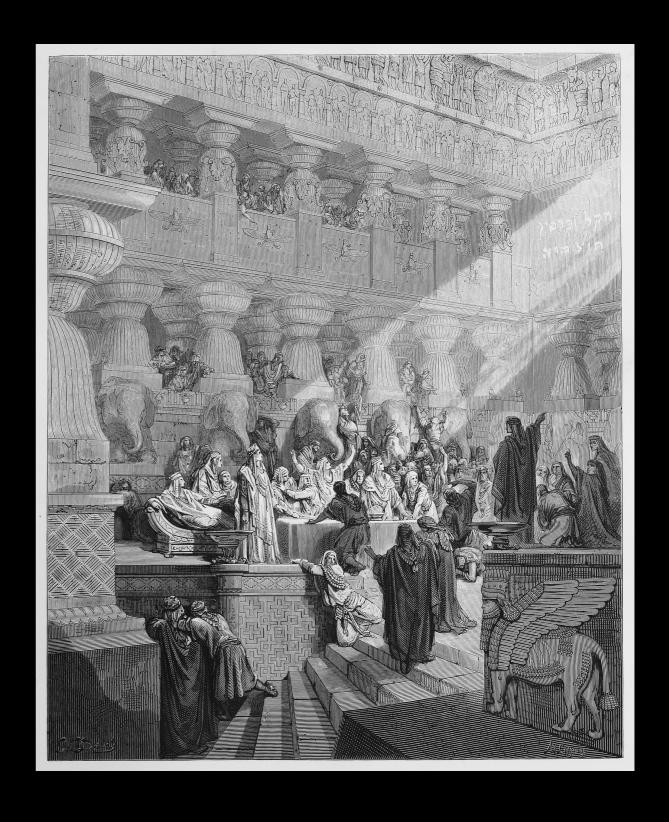
Ordered the "Massacre of the Innocents"



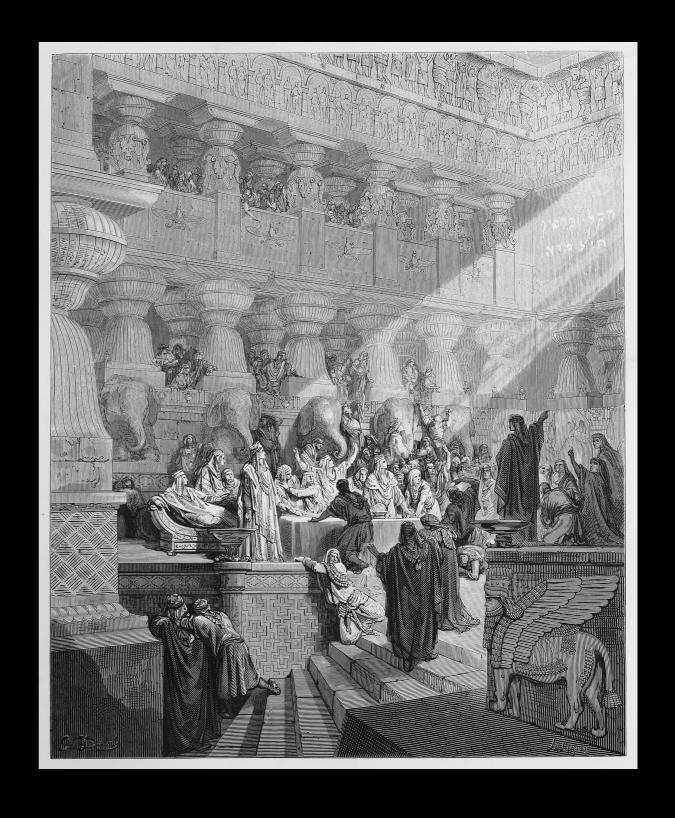
2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star when it rose and have come to worship him."



...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.

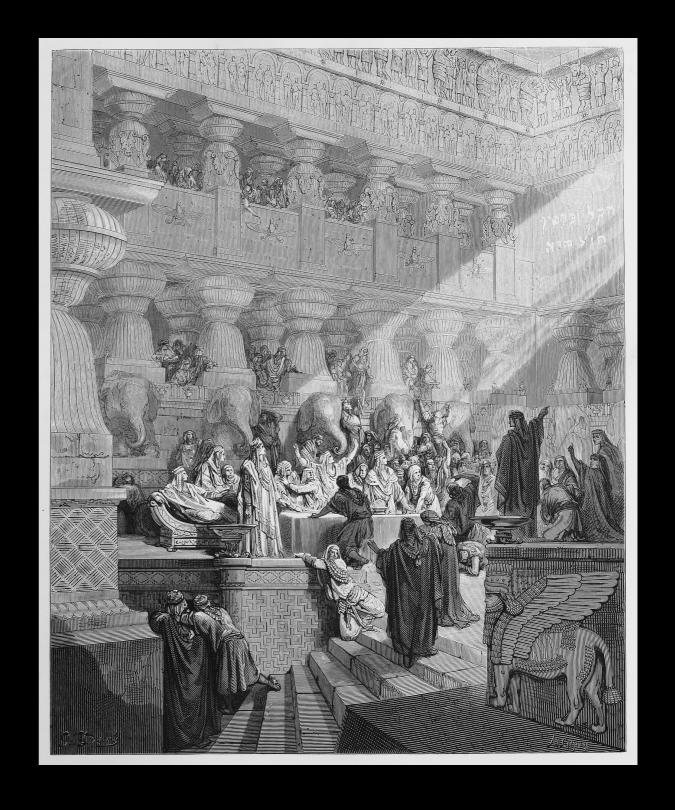


And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him;



His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7 —





a scepter shall rise out of Israel"

Numbers 24:17 -

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him...;

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel'" [Micah 5:2].

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

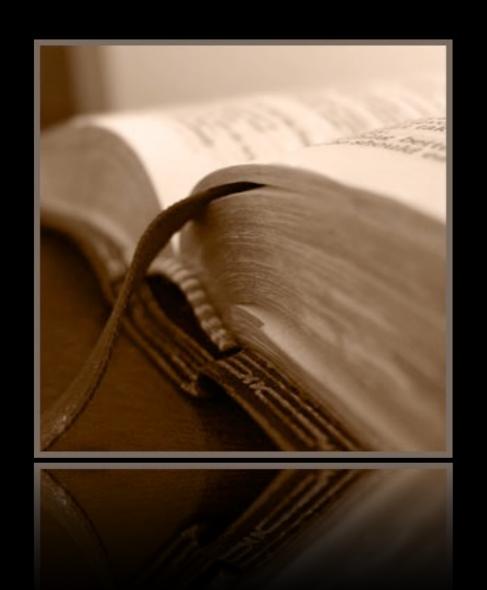




The Gospel of Matthew 2:1-13

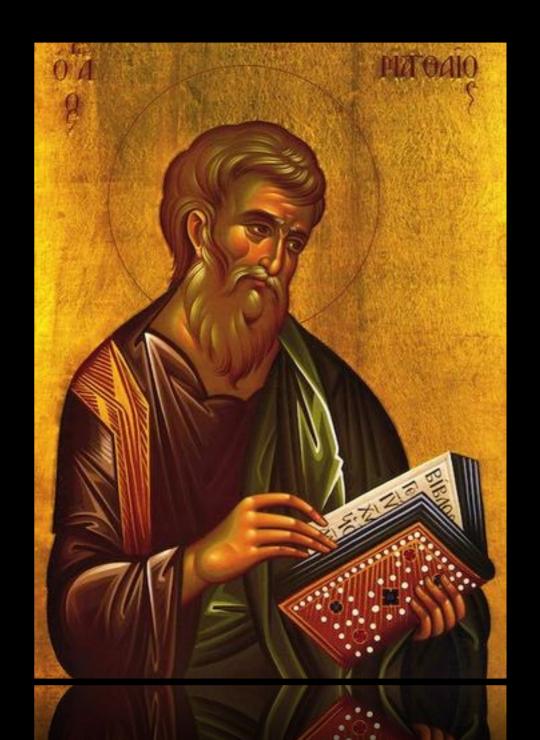
11 And going to the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankencense and myrrh.

Why were they worshiping this newborn child?



You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.

The Words of Jesus in The Gospel of Matthew 4:10



And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings! And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped Him."

The Apostle Matthew in the Gospel of Matthew 28:9



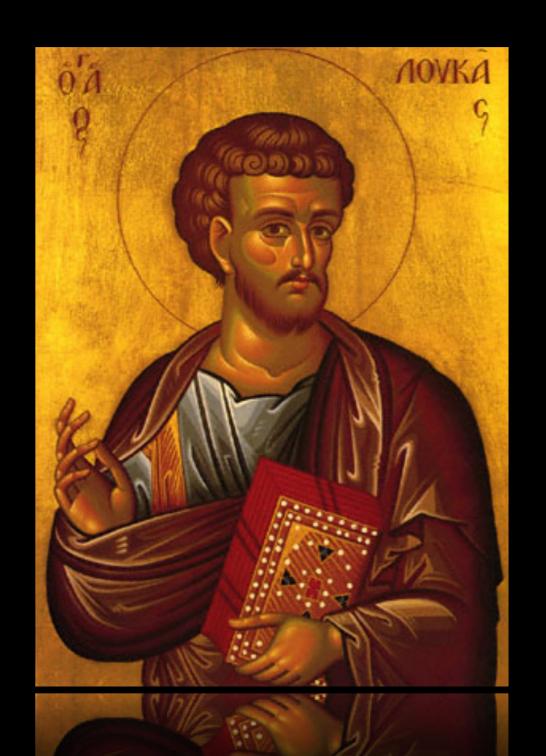
Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

— The Gospel of John 20:25-28 —



Thomas
answered him,
"My Lord
and my God."

— The Gospel of John 20:25-28 —



And they [i.e. the disciples] worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy...

Luke the Evangelist in the Gospel of Luke 24:52

Though an infant now we view Him He shall fill His Father's throne Gather all the nations to Him Every knee shall then bow down



Come and worship, Come and worship Come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King

— "Angels from the Realms of Glory" —



12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

"Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Don't Miss This Key Point!

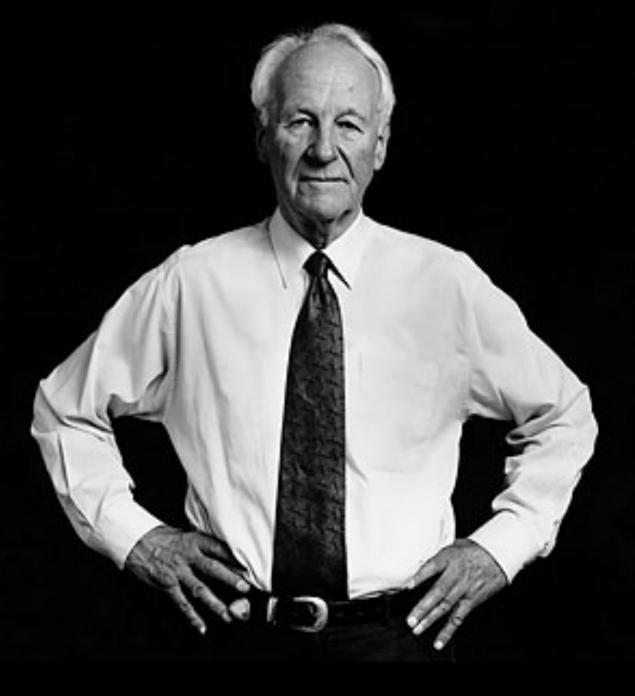
Jesus—God with us—
was born into and
experienced the horrors
of this world.



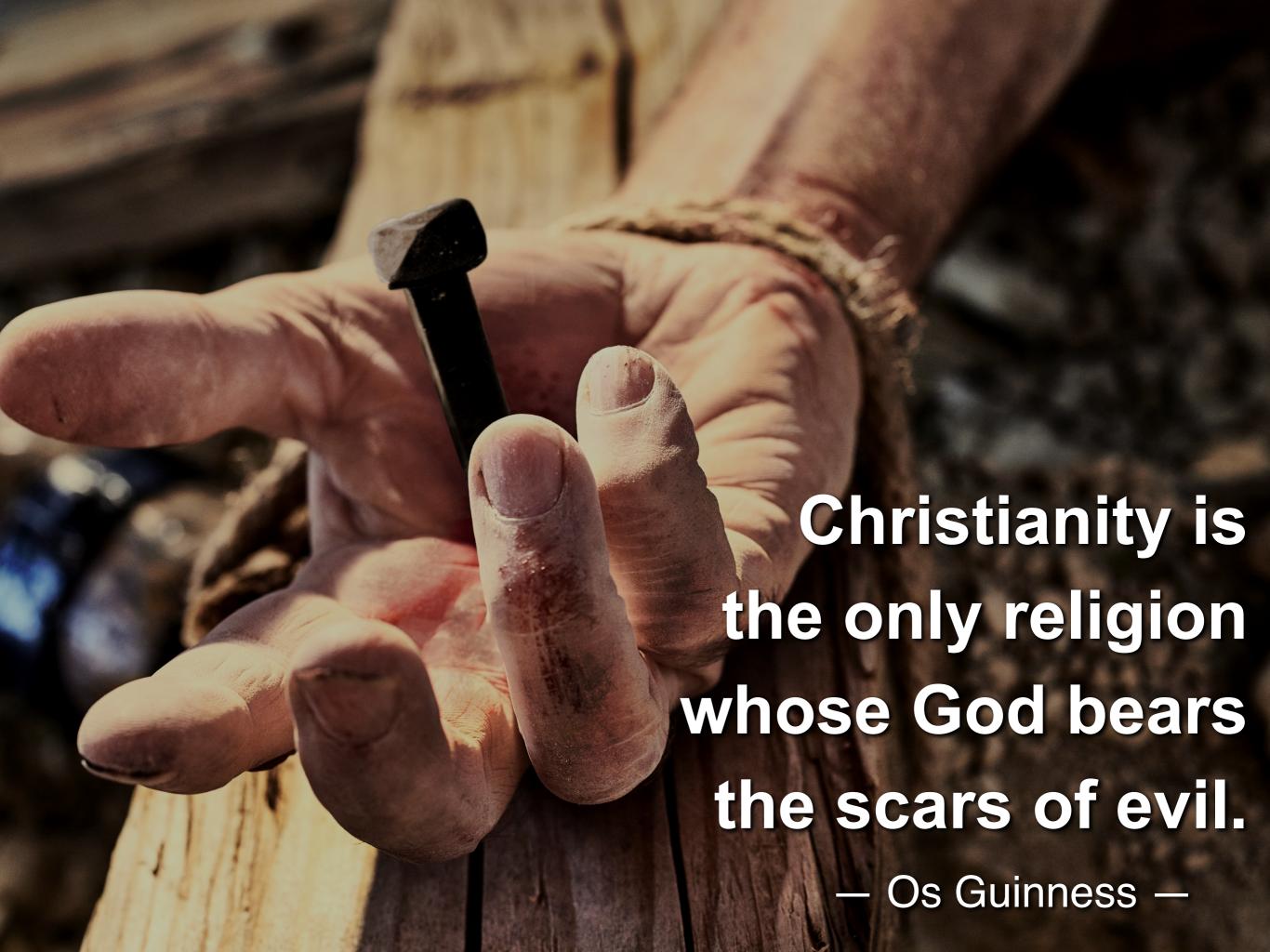
Come to earth to taste our sadness He whose glory knew no end

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" —

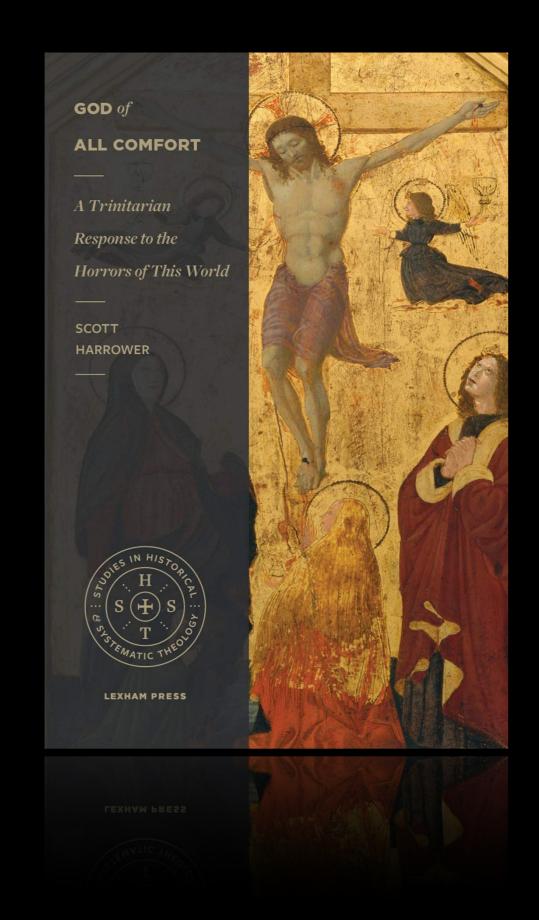
I could never believe in God if it were not for the cross. The only God I believe in is the one Nietzsche ridiculed as "God on a cross." In a real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?



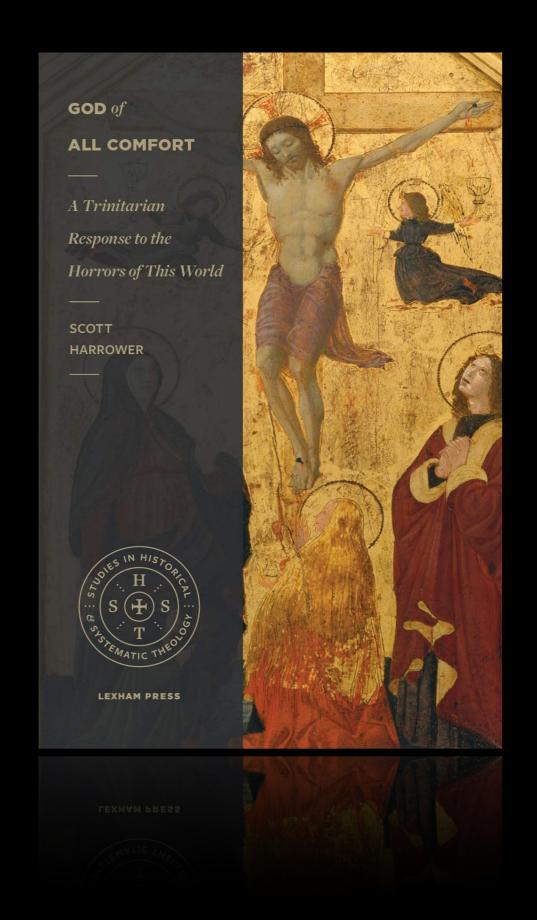
John Stott, Anglican Minister (1921-2011)



God revealed himself via angels in the past, and angels are prominent and positively portrayed in Matthew's Gospel. Angels are valuable to God and useful agents of God, and also have great insights into God and his workings.



Despite his historic practice of revealing himself through angels or an angelic form, however, God took on a human nature and not an angelic one. He chose to be "God with us" in the person of Jesus.

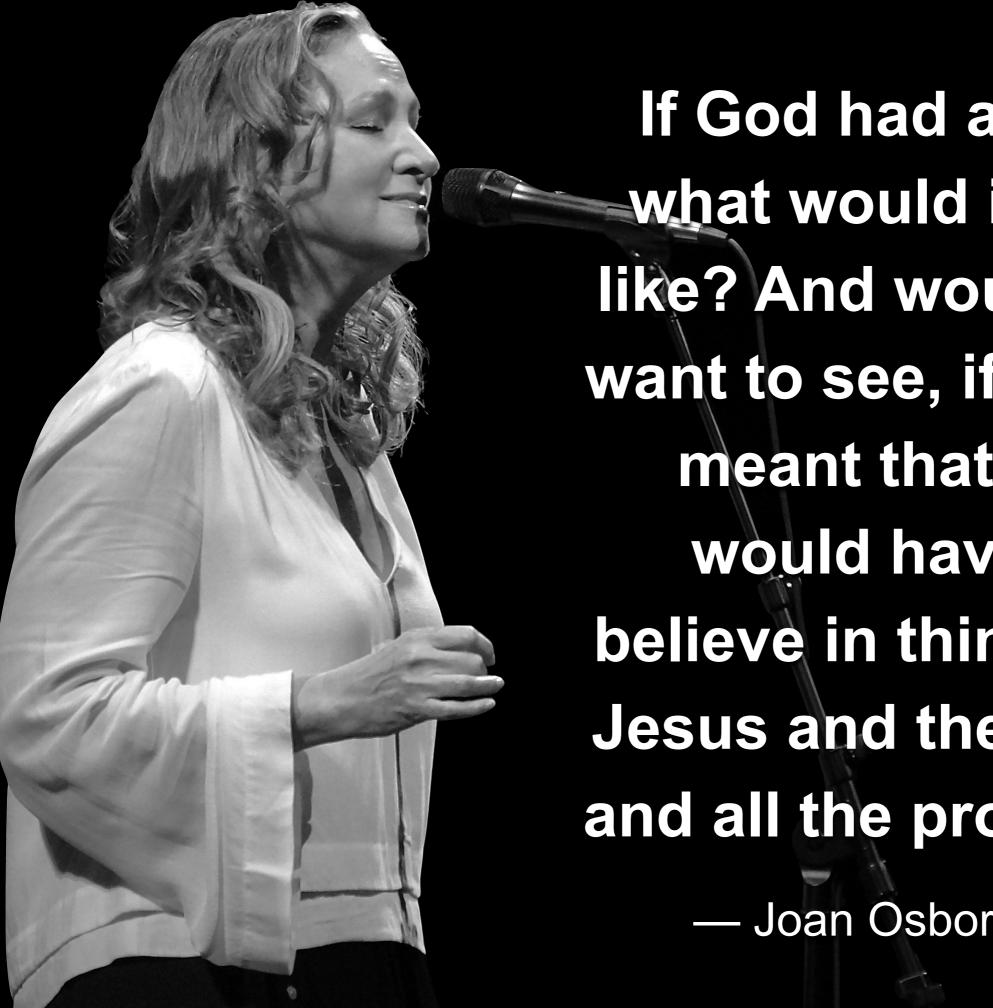


God became one of us — with us and for us — in the person of Jesus Christ.

What do you do with this central claim of the Christian faith?

OPTION #1: This troubles you...





If God had a face, what would it look like? And would you want to see, if seeing meant that you would have to believe in things like Jesus and the saints and all the prophets?

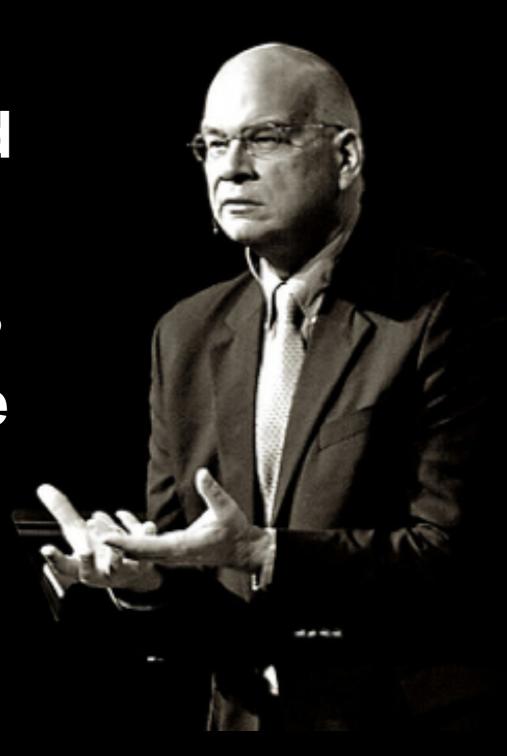
— Joan Osborne —



The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the Christian view, the ultimate evidence for the existence of God is Jesus Christ. If there is a God, we characters in his play have to hope that he put some information about himself in the play.



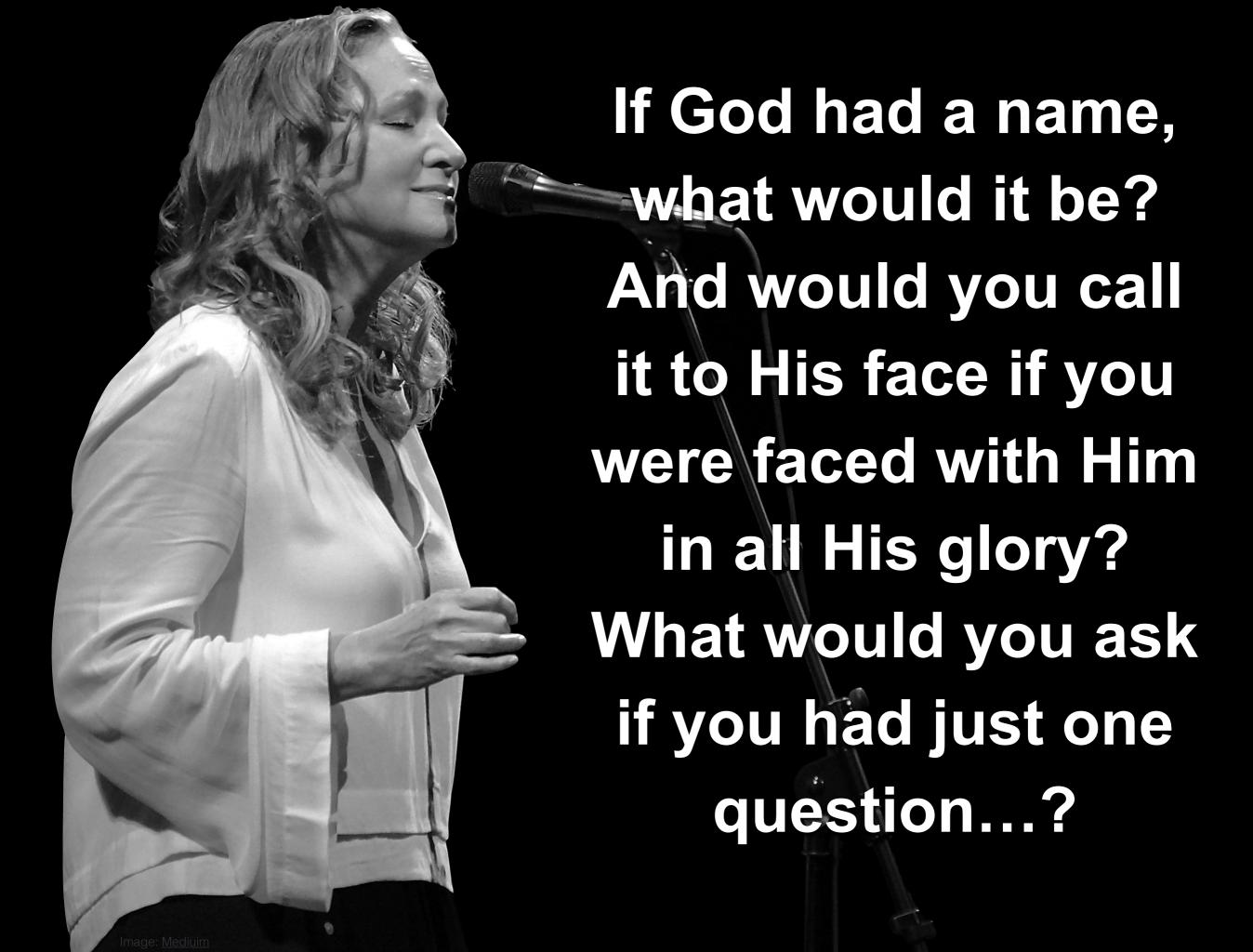
But Christians believe he did more than give us information. He wrote himself into the play as the main character in history, when Jesus was born in a manger and rose from the dead.

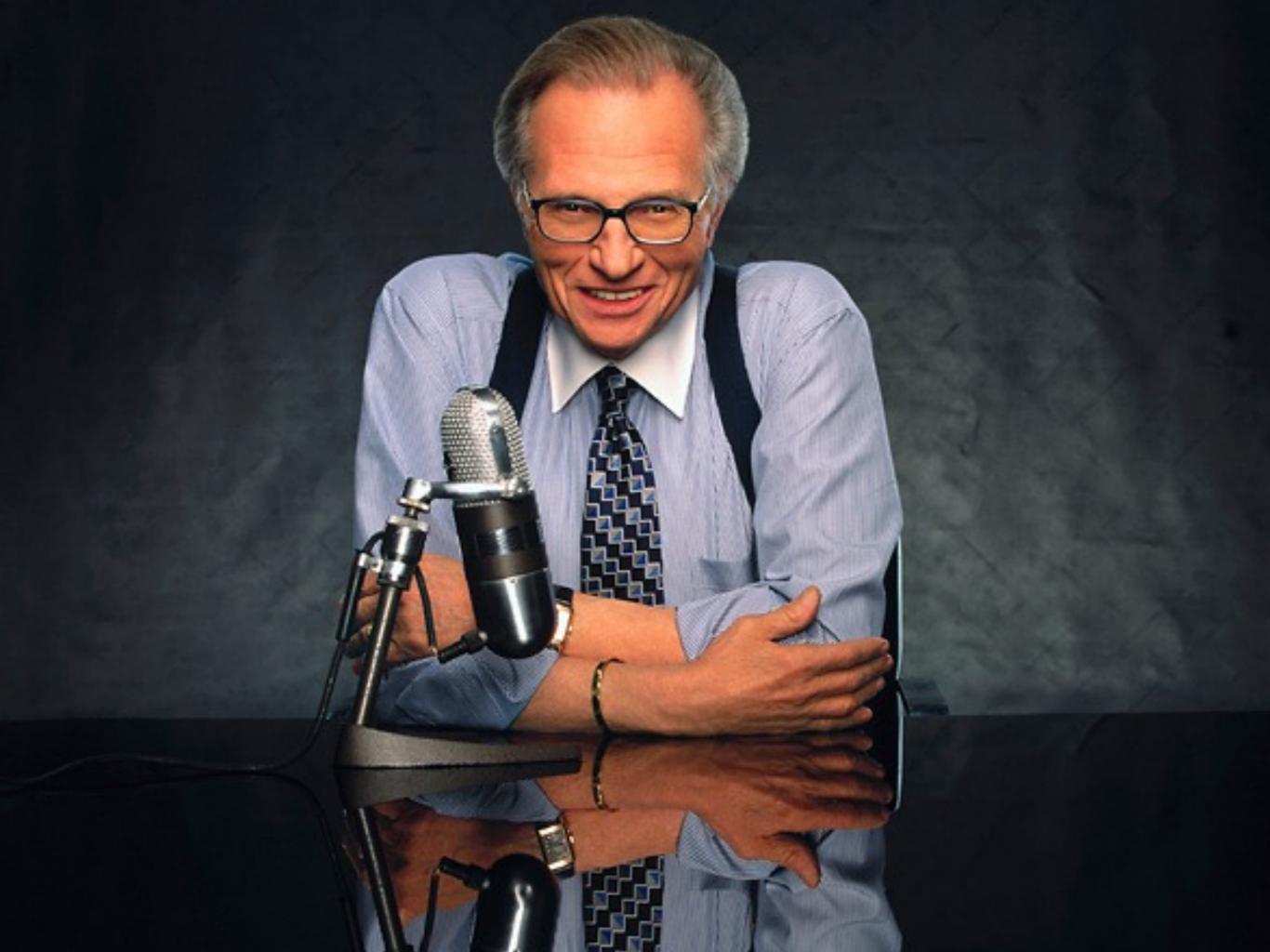
— Tim Keller — The Reason For God



OPTION #2: This defines you...









What if you could interview God? What would be the first question?

Larry King:

Do you have a Son?
If He would say no, chaos
throughout the Christian world.

Jesus Christ.... I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me.

Larry King, CNN's Larry King Live —

OPTION #1: OPTION #2: This troubles you...

