

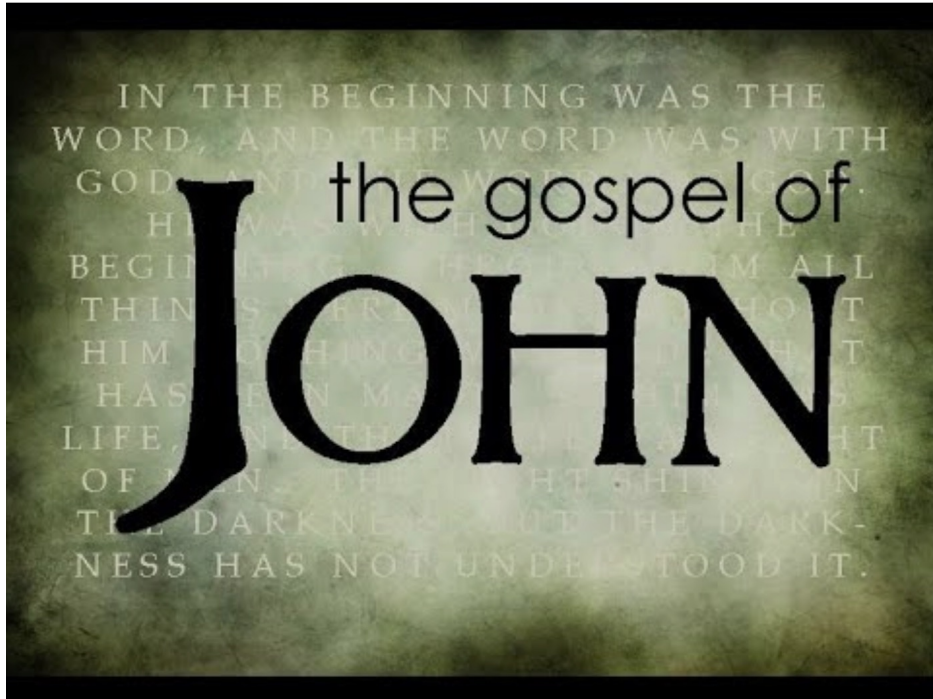


THE SPECIAL WITNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

By Michael Havens



JOHN 1:1-18



¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. ⁵ And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.

The Witness John the Baptist

⁶ A man came, *one* sent from God, *and* his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.

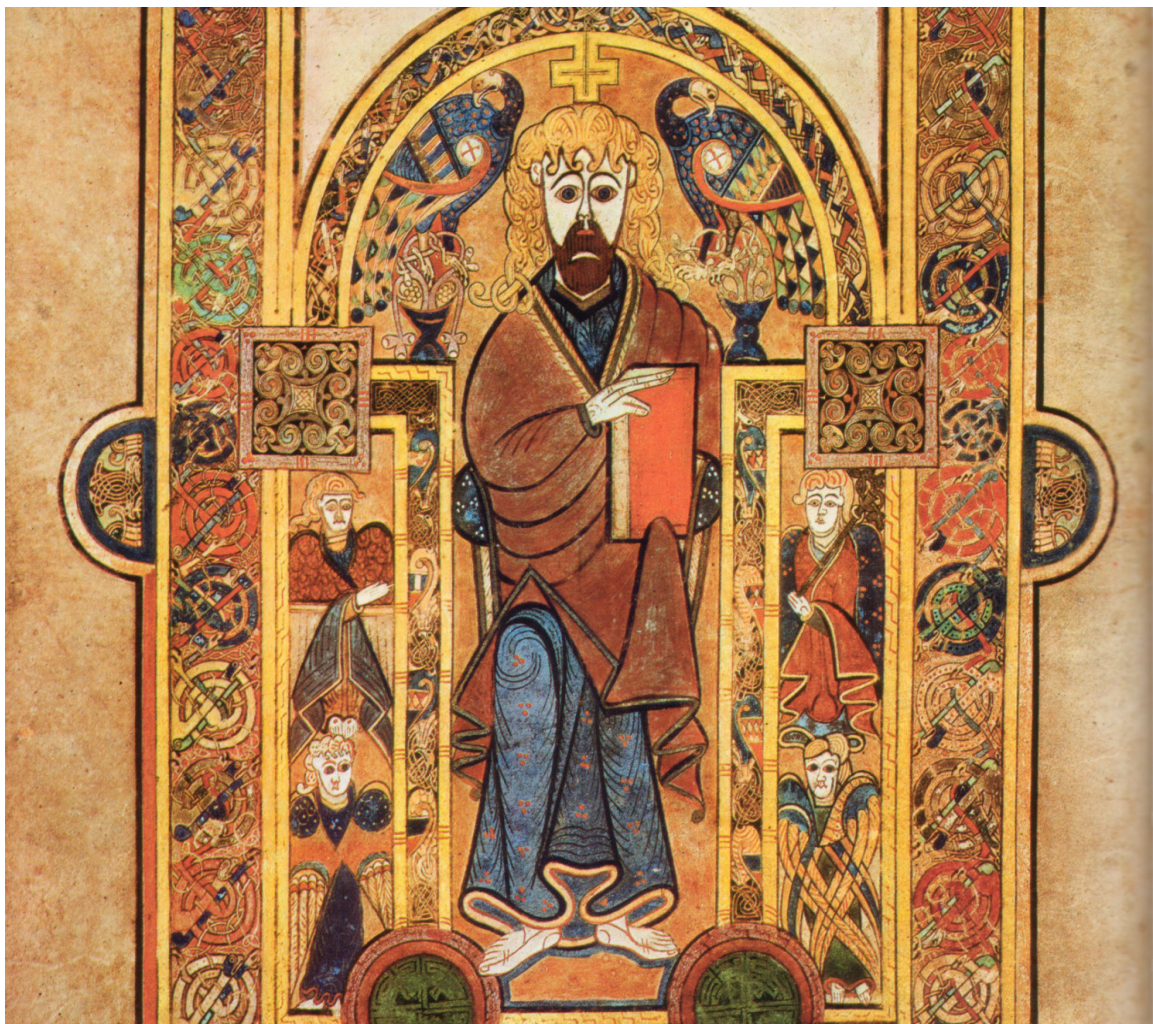
⁹ *This* was the true Light that, coming into the world, enlightens every person. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.

The Word Made Flesh

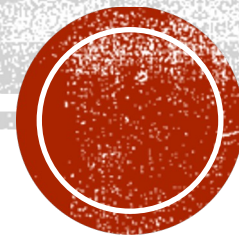
¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only *Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John *testified about Him and called out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who is coming after me has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.'" ¹⁶ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; God the only *Son*, who is in the arms of the Father, He has explained *Him*.





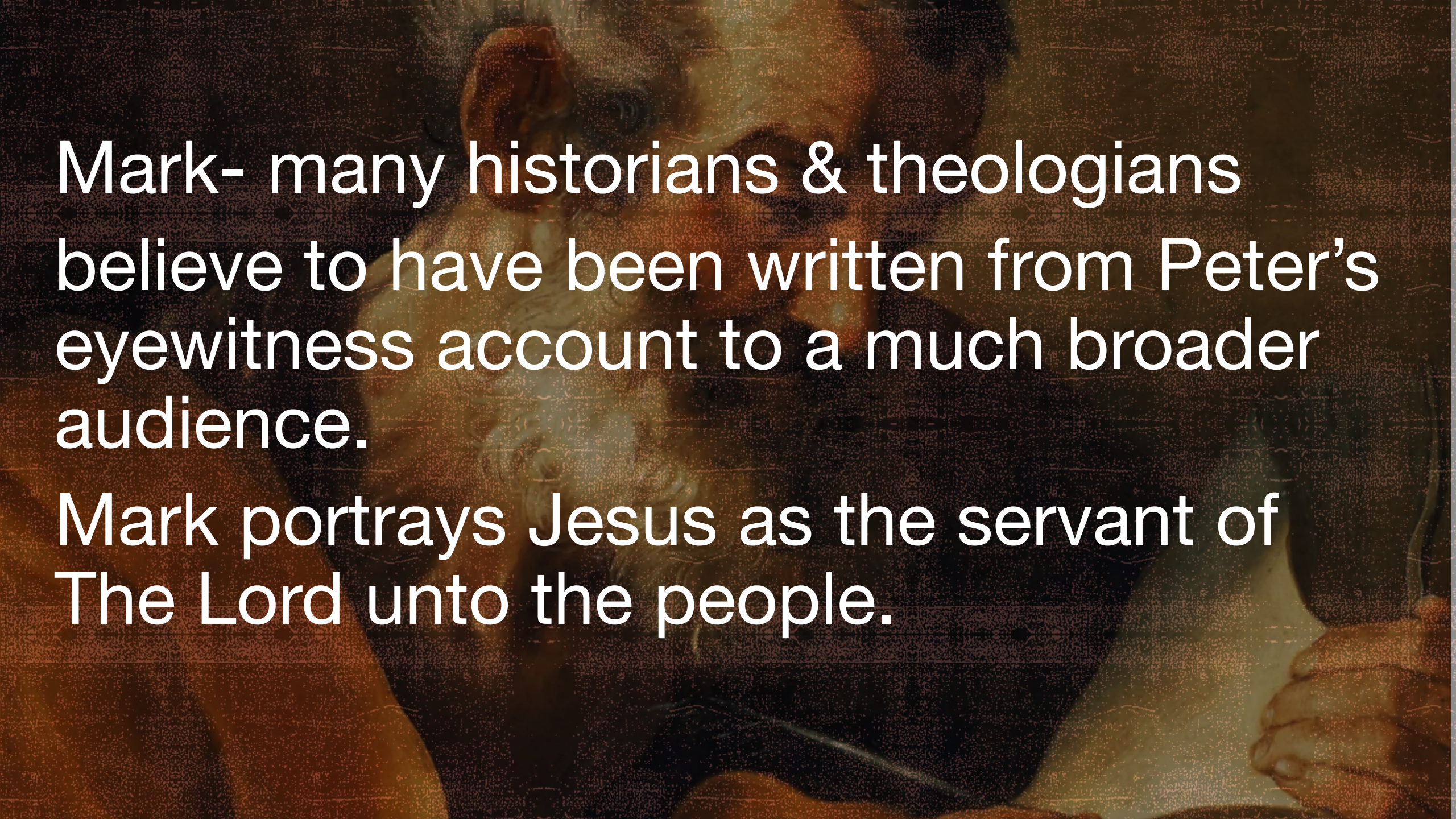
Why Four Gospels?
Three called
synoptic which
means similar,
written from Galilee
following the third
year of Jesus
ministry.





Matt- written primarily to a Jewish audience, he quotes the Old Testament in order to show Jesus' fulfillment of it.





Mark- many historians & theologians believe to have been written from Peter's eyewitness account to a much broader audience.

Mark portrays Jesus as the servant of The Lord unto the people.



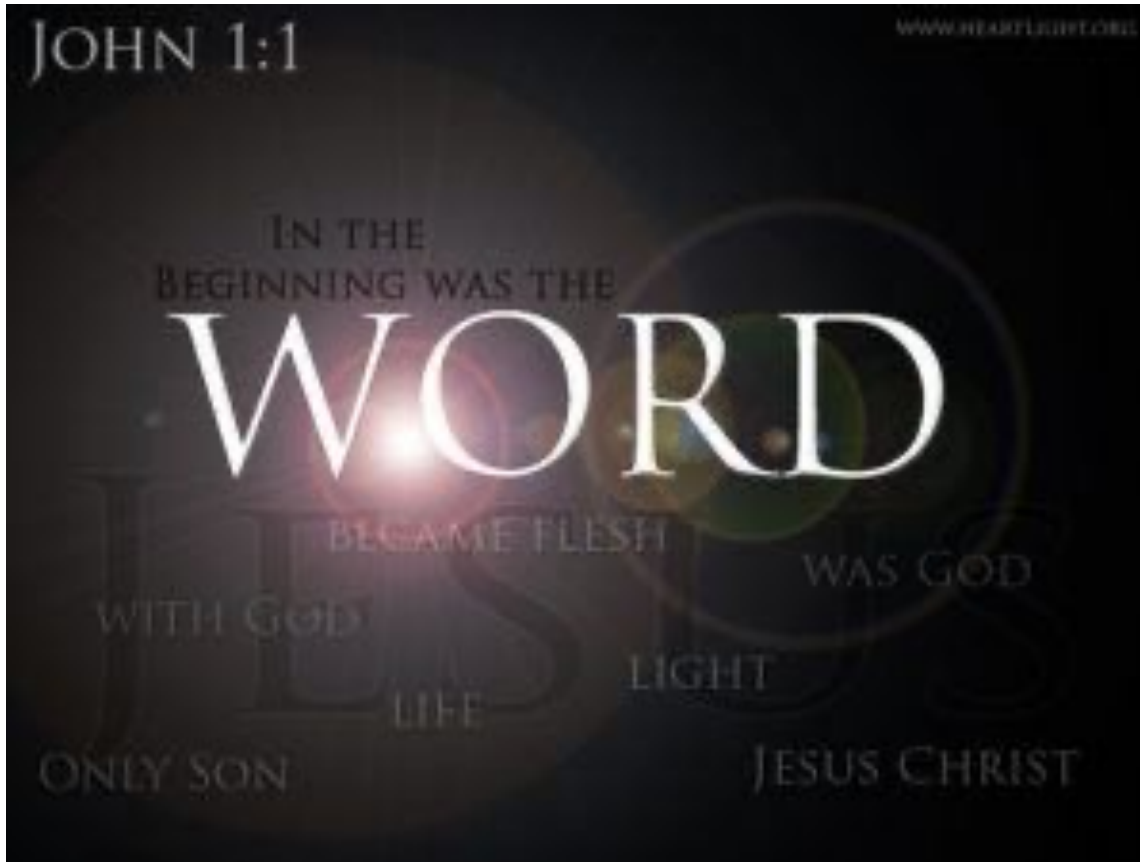
Luke- is a master historian compiling and gathering first-hand reports from numerous eyewitness accounts.

Mary the mother of Jesus, provides not only information about the birth of Jesus but also John the Baptist. Luke presents to us Jesus as the sinless son of God

Finally, we have the gospel of John in which we see Jesus as the eternal son equal to God.

Reading all four gospels gives us a very thorough look at the ministry of Jesus.





Matthew, Mark, & Luke begin with the (birth of Jesus); John begins (with the birth of time)

He begins with three words found in only one other book of the Bible (Genesis) as we have seen

“In the beginning”





There are many things we would have no account of would it not be for John's gospel.
Matthew-Mark-Luke record one Passover where John records three.

Jn 2 John tells us of Jesus first miracle in Cana Jn 3 God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son.

Jn 3 You must be born again Nicodemus,

Jn 4 The conversation with the woman at the well.

Jn 5 Jesus heals the man at the pool of Bethesda after lying there 38 years

Jn 6 Jesus tells us he is the true bread that comes down from heaven.

Jn 7 Jesus tells us that out of our being will flow rivers of living water.

Jn 8 Jesus tells us about the woman caught in adultery.

Jn 9 The blind man healed from birth.

Jn 10 Jesus is the good shepherd and his sheep hear his voice.

Jn 11 we would not know about Lazarus being raised from the dead.

Jn 12 unless a grain fall to the earth and die it will not bear fruit, foretelling of his death burial and resurrection.

Jn 13 only in John's gospel do we know of the washing of the disciple's feet.



OT Prophets Foretold of John the Baptist

***“A voice of one calling in the desert
Prepare the way of the Lord.” Isaiah 40:3***

**400 hundred years of silence between OT and NT
John's arrival is often counted a new dispensation
or period of time.**

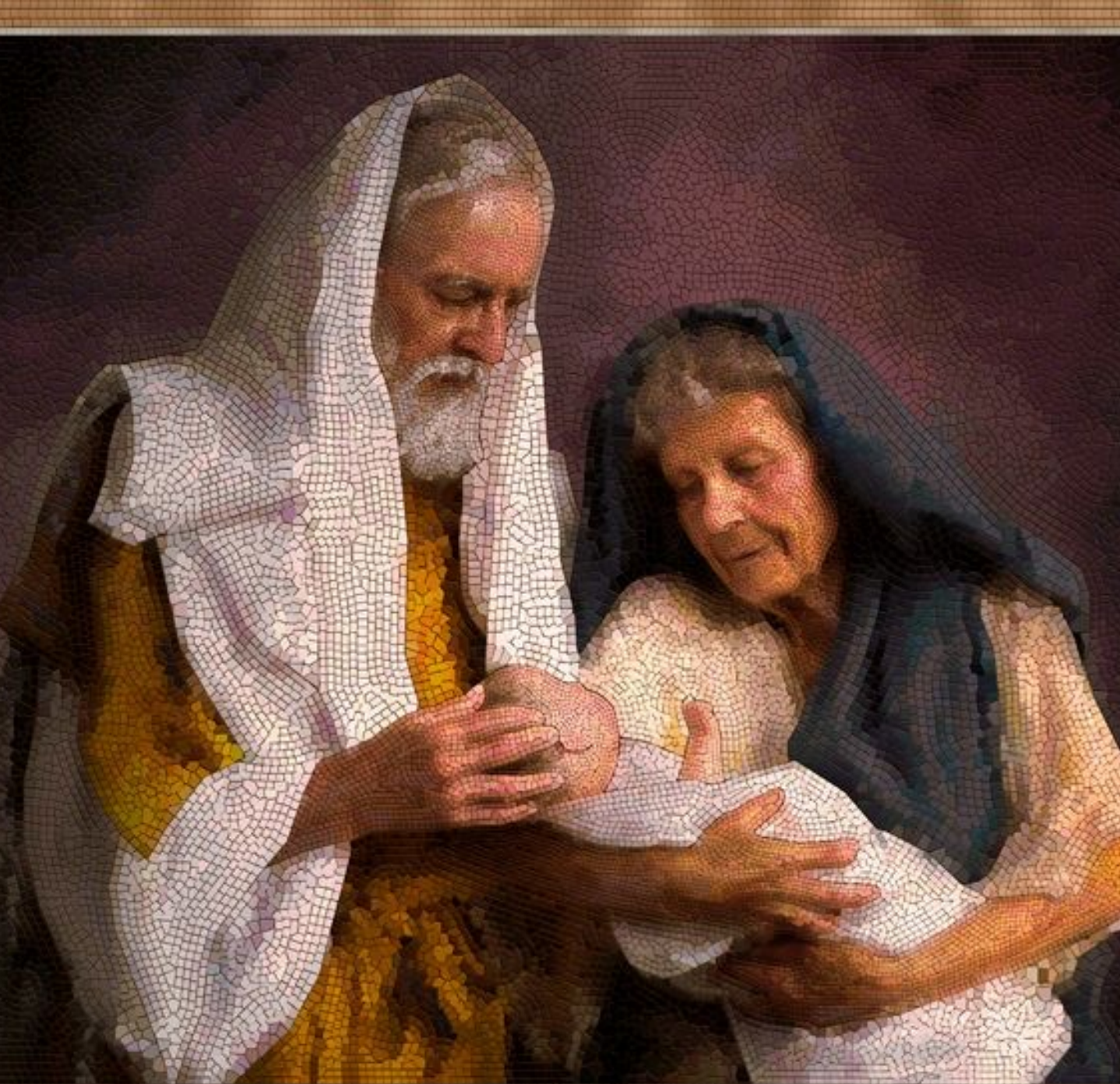


John, was a man sent from God



John was a man sent on a very
special mission. To bear witness to
(The Light of the World)

that men might believe in the coming messiah



Although it made little sense to Elizabeth and Zechariah God knew just when John needed to be born as Christ Jesus's precursor. Elizabeth was old and had been infertile for a very long time.



Luke 1:41

Yet when pregnant and receiving Mary, as Mary announced her pregnancy with Jesus, the Bible says John leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.



John grew up with clear direction and strong in spirit. Normally the first born was named after the father, but the Angle Gabriel had foretold of John's conception and revealed his mission.

Luke 1:63



Remember Zechariah was mute but inscribed on tablet “His name is John” the Bible says that immediately his mouth was open and he began praising God. And spoke over the child saying that he would go before the Lord and prepare the way for him. Luke 1:76,77

That he would give the people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins by repentance



John was a great man, but he was not the light. John's sole purpose on earth, was to witness, and to bear testimony to the light of the world. His purpose stands as a dynamic example for every believer.

He was born with a specific purpose and timing in history.





The purpose of the believer is to bear the same witness as John.

The term Witness was a very important term. This was a term all Jews were very familiar with.



When a business deal was to be struck between individuals a witness was required to solidify the transaction. A wedding required the attendance and signatures of two witnesses.

- Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- John was a man sent from God, sent on a very special mission.
- The word sent the phrase from God means he was not only sent from God, but from the very heart of God.
- He was only a man, but a man of high calling and commission of enormous responsibility and accountability. He was sent forth as an ambassador from God, prepare the Way of the Lord ,who is the embodiment of God's glorious Grace

The message is that a servant of God is not left on his own to think up a message he is not dependent upon his own reason or thoughts and ideas.

The purpose of this man's witness is clearly stated that through Christ all men might believe.

John's purpose was not to start or be the organizer to minister to build some program around the synagogue or temple his purpose was to lead men to believe in the light he witnessed, and proclaim the light, so that all men might believe in Jesus. John was sent to bring focus, that people would see their sin, and their need for repentance, which would lead them to their need for a savior.



The servant of God has one primary purpose to lead man to believe in Jesus, the light of the world. John was a great man, Jesus himself said of John among those born of women. There is not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist,

but he was not the light Matthew 11:11.

The impact of humility of John was striking, the example he set for every servant of God.



No matter how great the ministry of a man may be in the eyes of men, that man's ministry is eclipsed by the greatness of John.

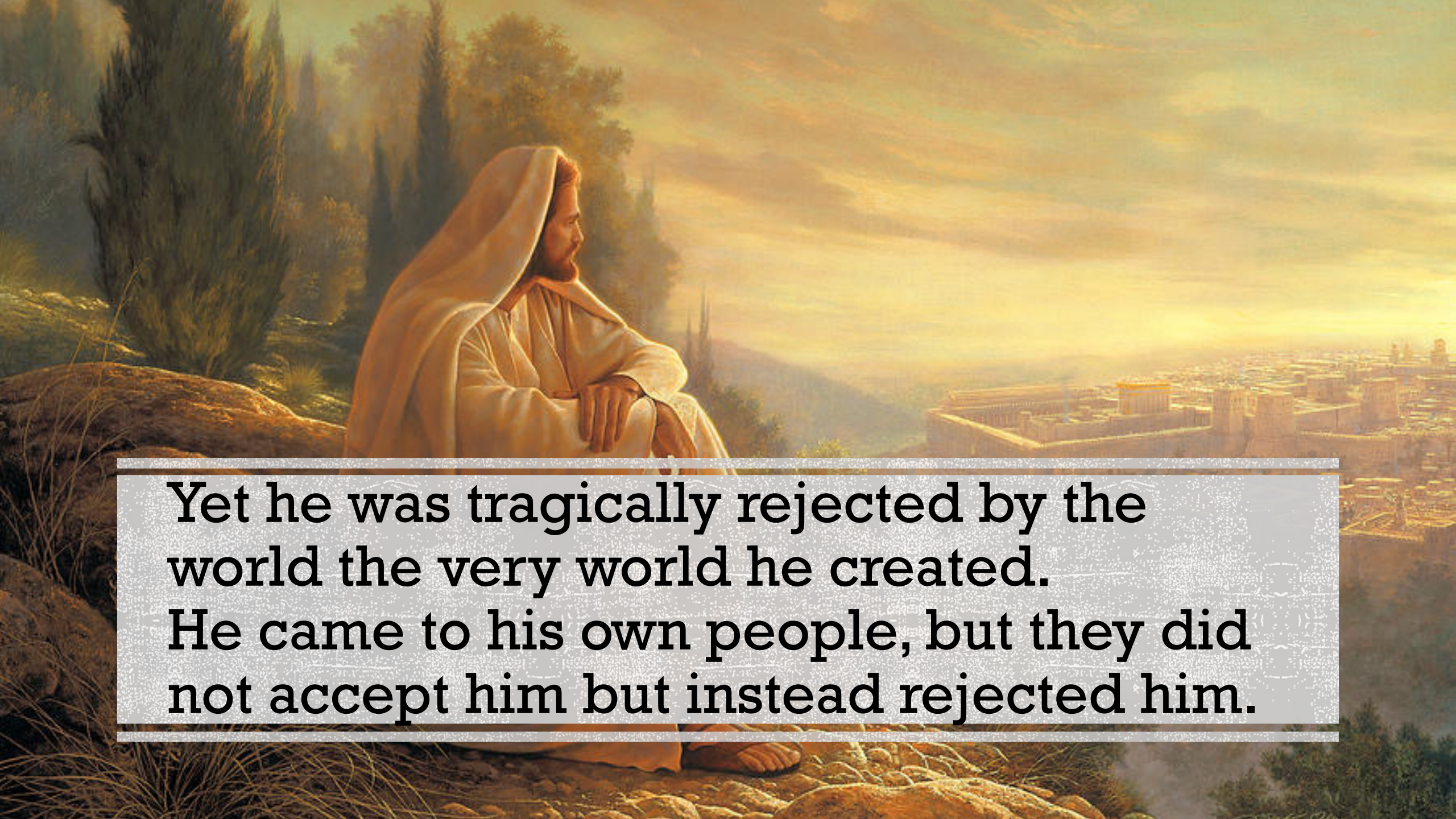
Yet John said the throngs of his (Jesus) sandals I am not worthy to untie.

John 1:8-9

Jesus Christ was the
light, the true light.
His mission was to
give light to everyone
to all that would
receive.



I HAVE COME AS A
LIGHT INTO THE WORLD,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME
SHOULD NOT ABIDE IN DARKNESS.



Yet he was tragically rejected by the world the very world he created. He came to his own people, but they did not accept him but instead rejected him.

- ❖ However, Jesus was wonderfully received by some who believed and became the sons of God.
- ❖ The source of becoming a child of God is a new birth, this not of man it was and is of God.



We read in John 15
APART FROM ME
YOU CAN DO “NO-THING”!
However, We read in Philippians
THROUGH ME
YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS!

There's a Big difference
in nothing and all things.

THE DIFFERENCE IS THROUGH JESUS!!



*I can do all things
through Christ who
strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:13

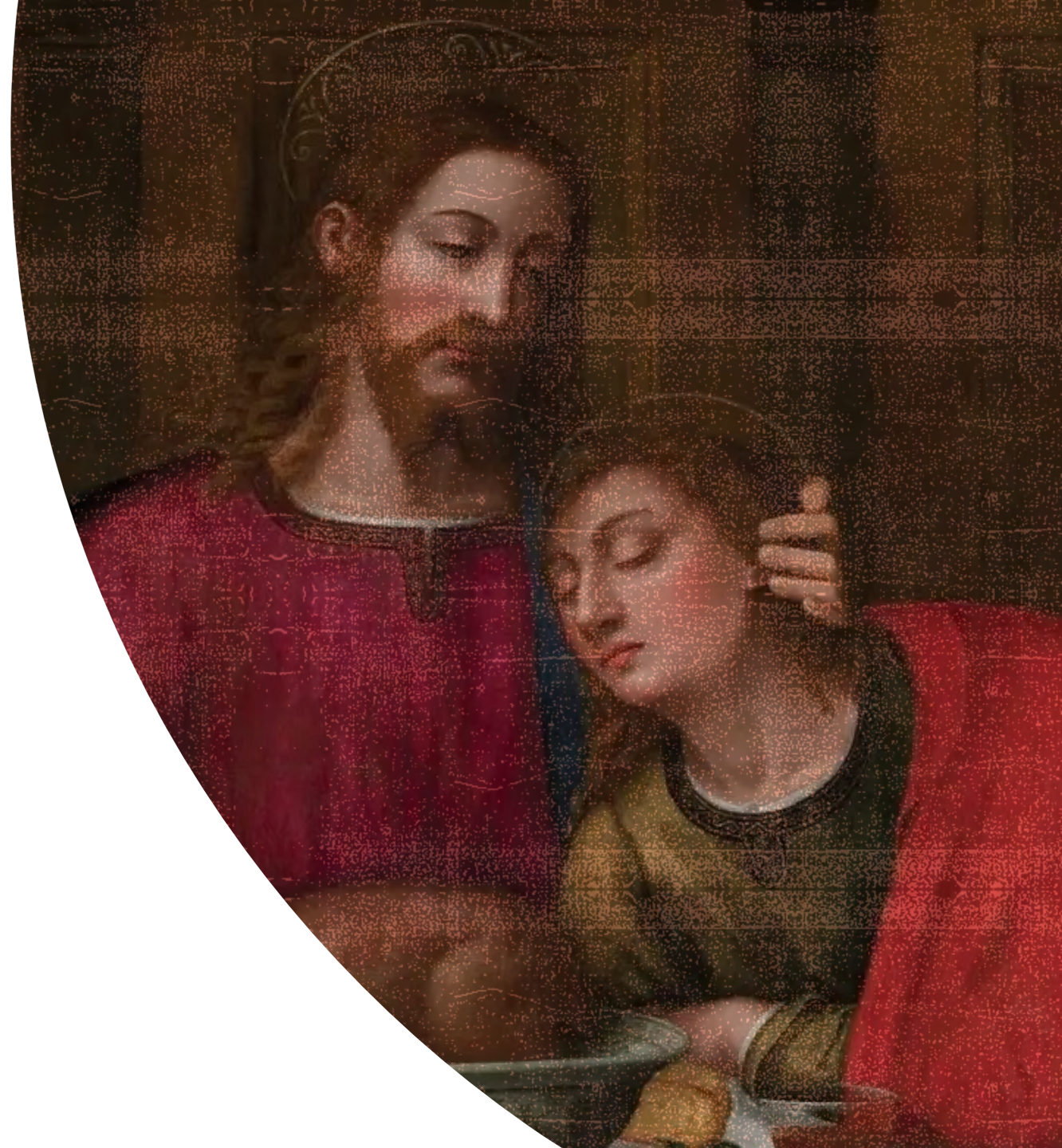
I want to close leaving you with this thought

- John wrote this gospel 60 years after Jesus's Ascension
- He had an opportunity to read all the other gospels. He had experienced his face to face encounter with Jesus during the three years of his ministry.

However, now after sixty years of daily encounters with Jesus, He had a much stronger experiential relationship.



As he looks back at his time in the upper room where he writes of his head lying on the bosom of Jesus listening intently to every word our Lord spoke; his realization and revelation of Jesus as he begins the book of Revelation with “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” has now come to a epiphany for him.



Now when John makes the statement “The disciple Jesus loved” takes on a completely experiential context as it must for you and I, as we continue to meet with Jesus in a growing relationship.

TAKING TO HEART
JESUS' WORDS

“IT IS FINISHED”



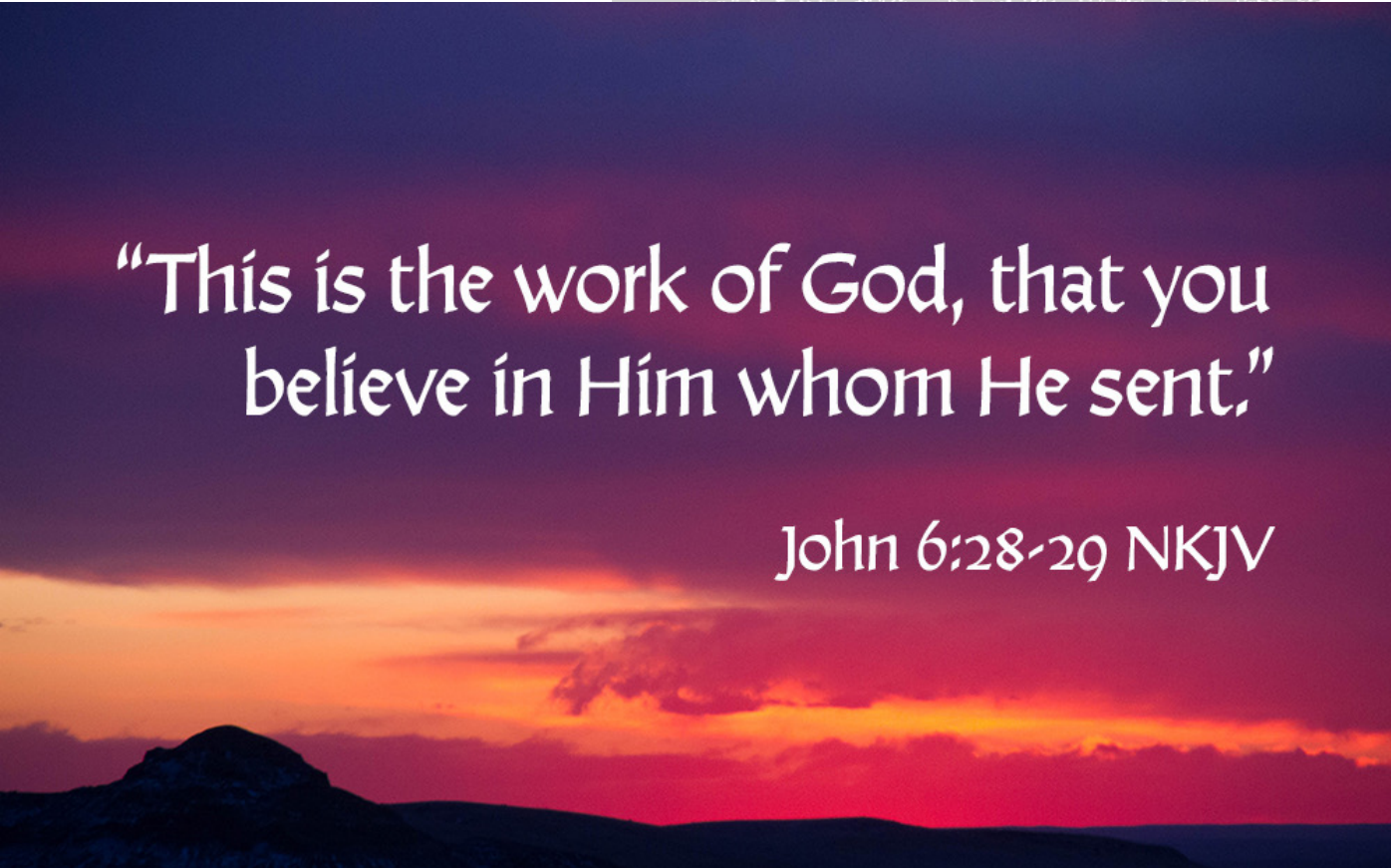
Everything that needed to be done for man to
have a right relationship with God the Father

Has now been done!

Through Jesus
Christ the Son!

It's now up to you
and I to believe and
receive.

Amen.



"This is the work of God, that you
believe in Him whom He sent."

John 6:28-29 NKJV