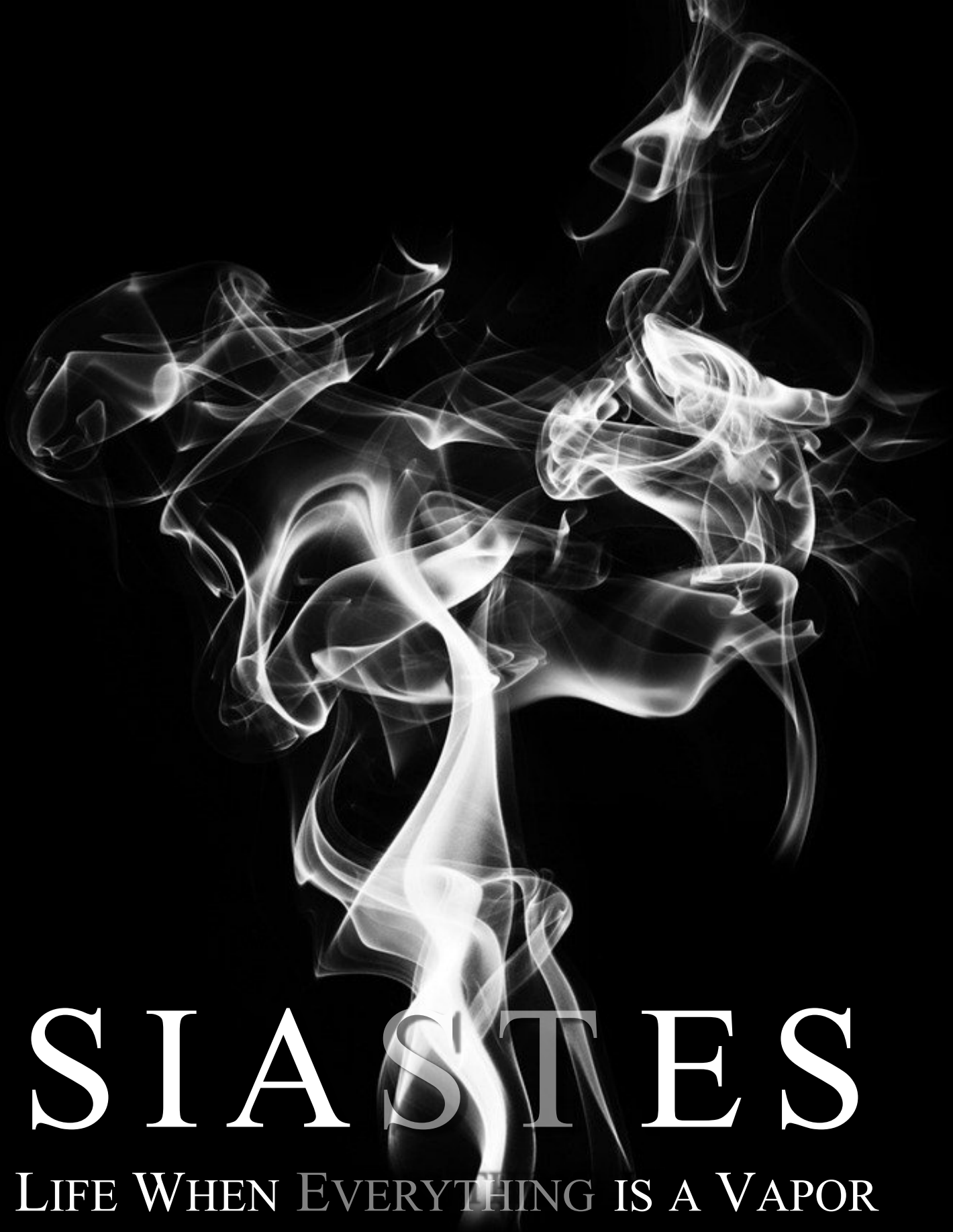


When It's All
Said & Done,
What Do You
Gain...?

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-11



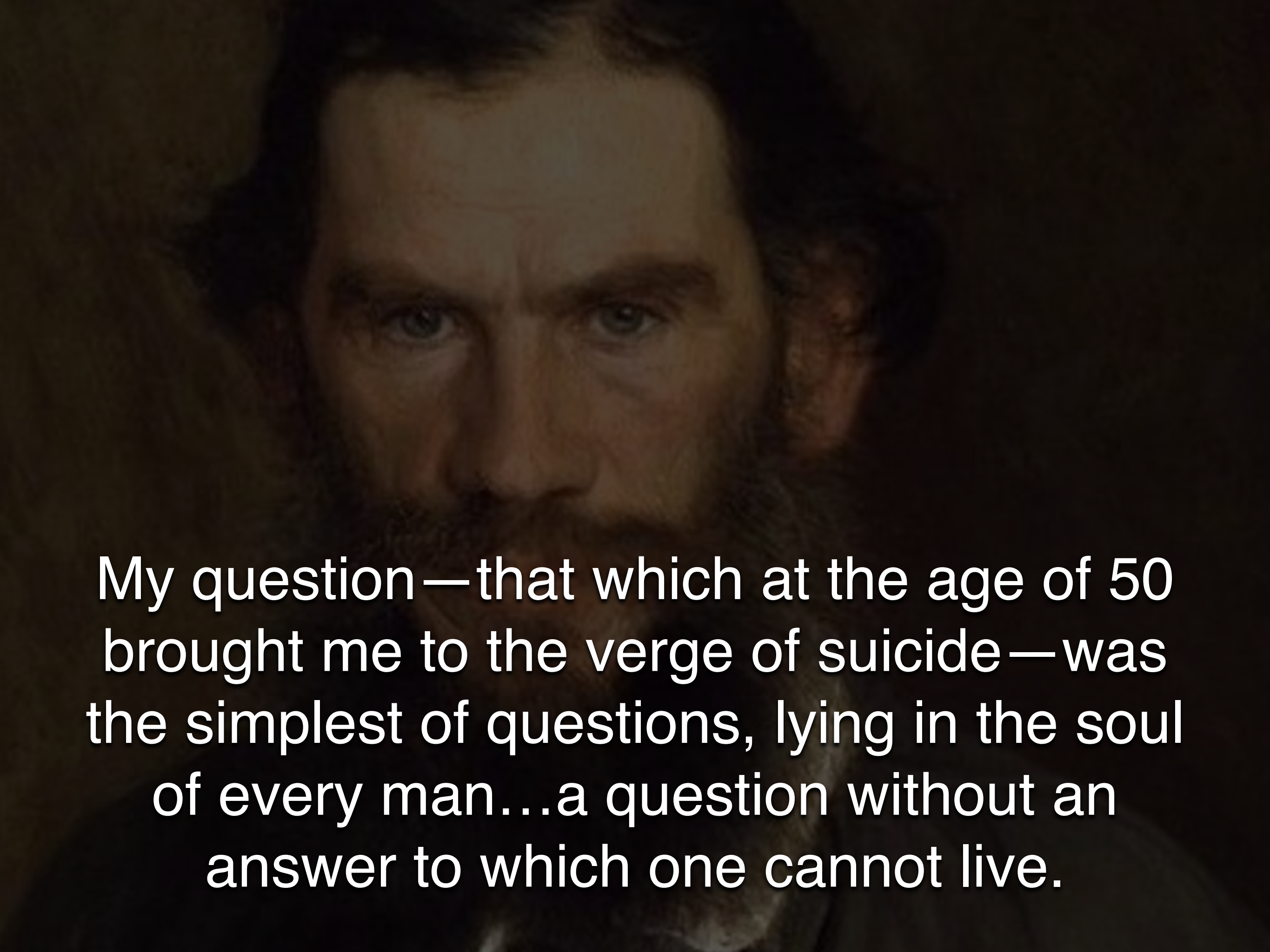


ECCELESIASTES

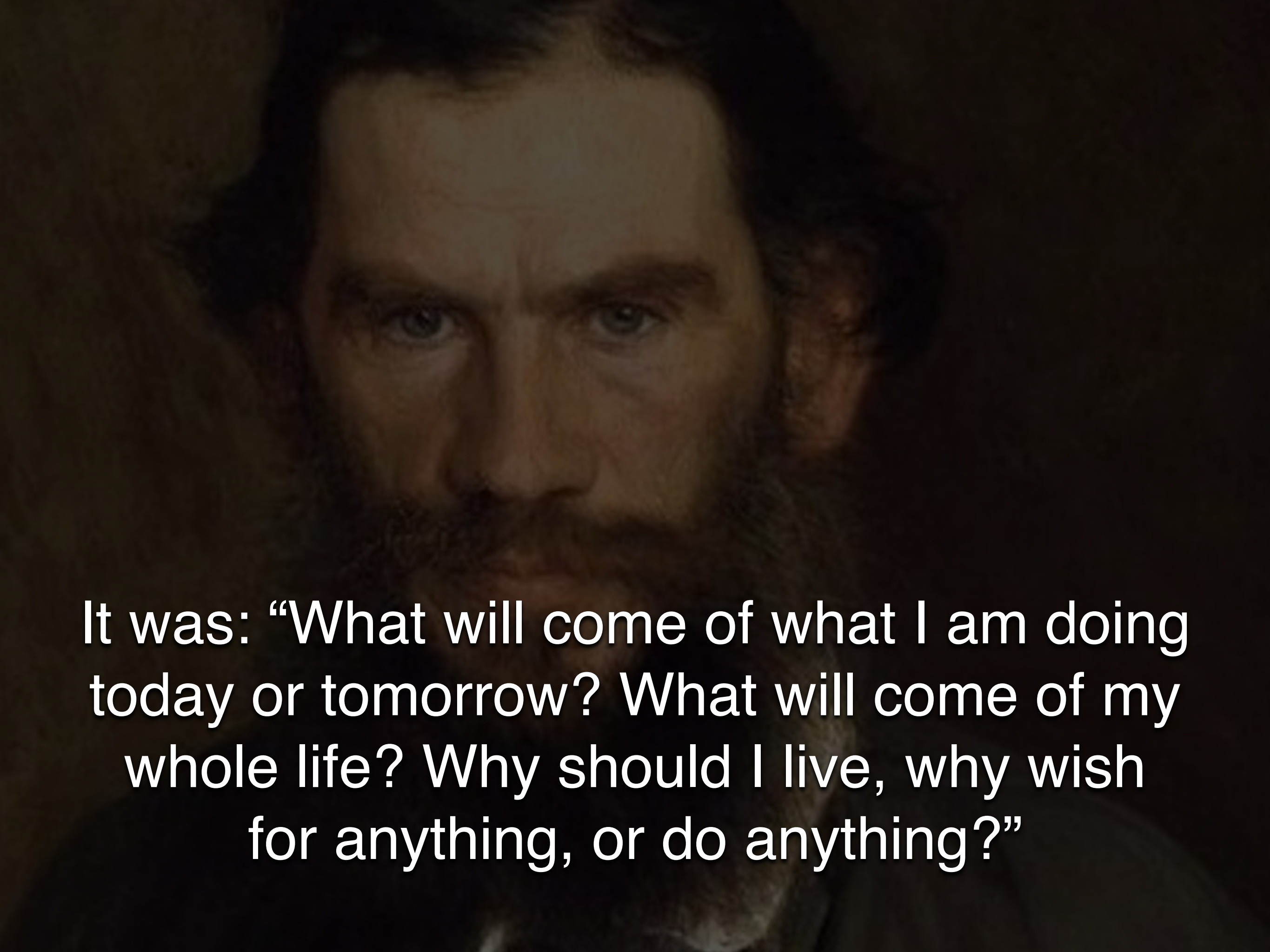
EXPLORING THE MEANING OF LIFE WHEN EVERYTHING IS A VAPOR



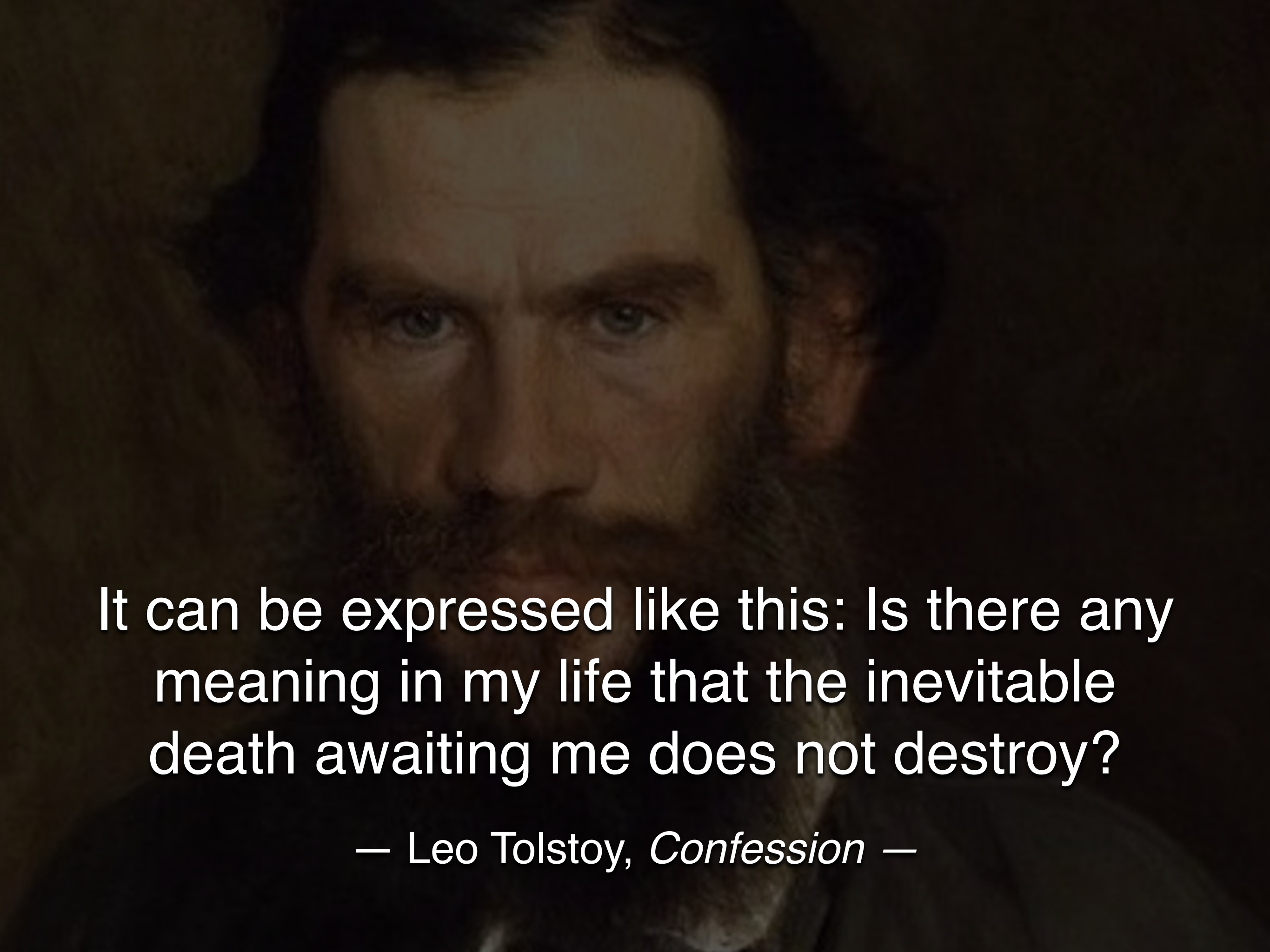




My question—that which at the age of 50 brought me to the verge of suicide—was the simplest of questions, lying in the soul of every man...a question without an answer to which one cannot live.



It was: “What will come of what I am doing today or tomorrow? What will come of my whole life? Why should I live, why wish for anything, or do anything?”



It can be expressed like this: Is there any
meaning in my life that the inevitable
death awaiting me does not destroy?

— Leo Tolstoy, *Confession* —



When It's All
Said & Done,
What Do You
Gain...?

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-11



ECCLESIASTES 1:1-2

1 The words of the Preacher, the Son of David, king in Jerusalem.

2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

When It's All
Said & Done,
What Do You
Gain...?

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-11



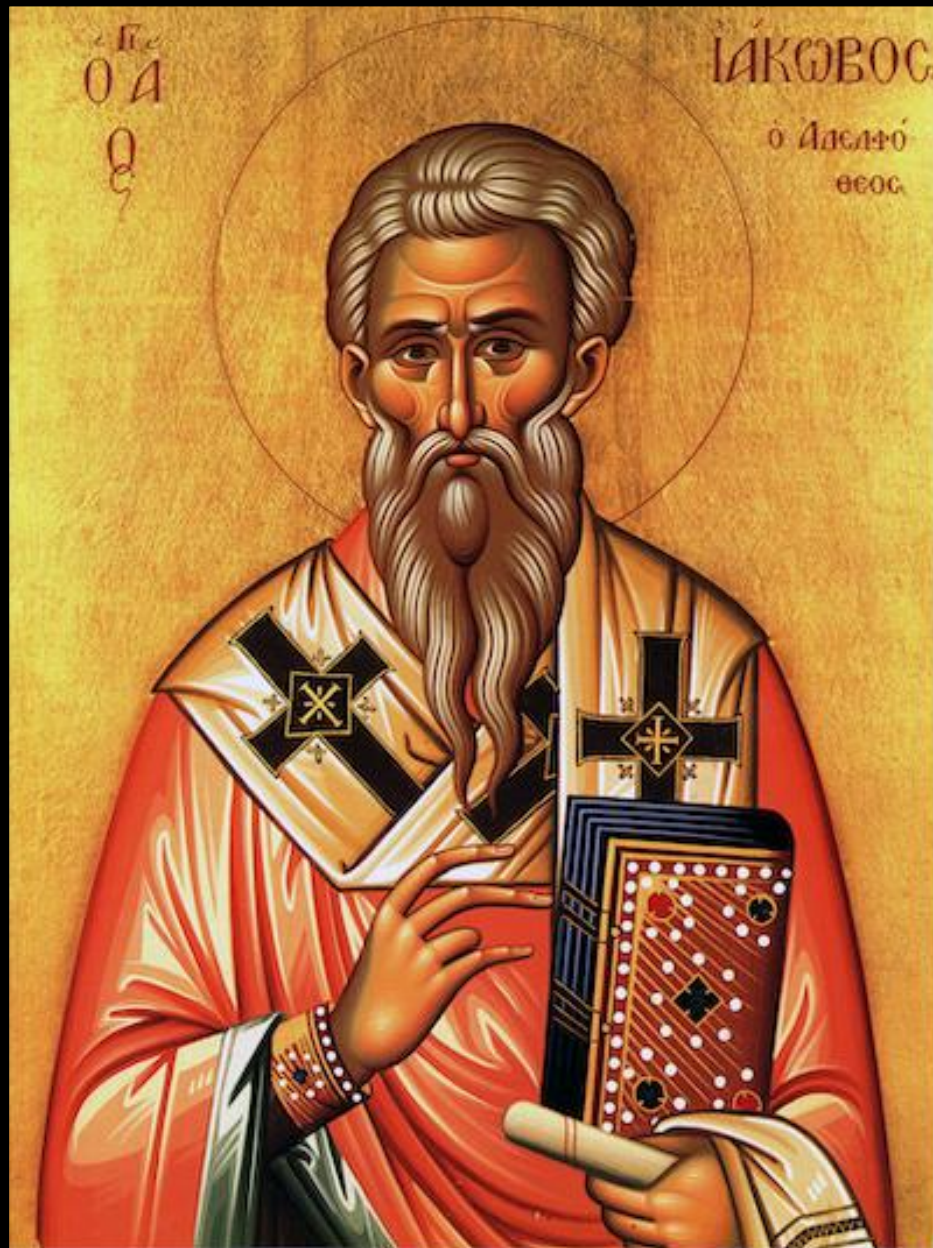
hebel

smoke, vapor,
mist, or even
breath

“Man is like a breath, his days
are like a passing shadow.”

— Psalm 144:4 —





**What is your life?
You are a mist that
appears for a little
time and then
vanishes.**

James, the Brother of Jesus
in James 4:14

Vapor of vapors.
All is a vapor.

Mist of mists.
All is a mist.



ECCLESIASTES 1:1-2

**3 What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?**

The average adult will work

40 hours

per week

2000 hours

per year

94,000 hours

over the course of life

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-2

4 A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-2

5 The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.

What does the
sun gain by all
its activity, all
its toil, all its
busyness



ECCLESIASTES 1:1-2

6 The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.

What does the
wind gain by
all its activity,
all its toil, all its
busyness



ECCLESIASTES 1:1-2

7 All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.

What do the
streams gain by
all their activity,
all their toil, all
their busyness



ECCLESIASTES 1:1-2

8 All things are full of weariness;
a man cannot utter it; the eye is
not satisfied with seeing, nor the
ear filled with hearing.

**When it's all said & done,
what do I gain?**



Hevel. Hevel.
Everything is
utterly hevel.



ECCLESIASTES 1:1-2

9 What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. **10** Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has been already in the ages before us.

The more
things change,
the more they
stay the same.



ECCLESIASTES 1:1-2

11 There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.



In Memory of
ANNA CHURCH
Relict of
Silas Church
who died
Oct. 1793
aged 25 years

ELIZABETH CHURCH
died
Oct. 9, 1819

THOMAS R. FOLLES
died
December 29, 1829
aged 21 years

REBECCA
died
Jan. 16, 1831
aged 50 years

In Memory of
JOSEPH FOLLES
died
July 28, 1828
aged 42 years

JOSEPH FOLLES
died
July 28, 1828
aged 42 years

In memory of
Maria A. Folles
died
Nov. 1, 1828
aged 3 years

**“I was the star
back in the day.”**

Douglas Sean O'Donnell



DAVID GIBSON

LIVING LIFE
BACKWARD

HOW ECCLESIASTES TEACHES US
TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF THE END

**Whatever you think
you've gained, it will
soon vanish from the
earth like the morning
mist, and you along
with it too....**

DAVID GIBSON

LIVING LIFE
BACKWARD

HOW ECCLESIASTES TEACHES US
TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF THE END

One day you will be
dead and gone, and the
world will go on,
probably without even
remembering you. A
hundred years after
your death, the
chances are, no one
will know you lived.



DAVID GIBSON

LIVING LIFE
BACKWARD

HOW ECCLESIASTES TEACHES US
TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF THE END

**If this depresses you,
then keep reading.
There's still a lot to
learn. But if it cracks
a wry smile on your
face, you're halfway
to happiness.**

DAVID GIBSON

LIVING LIFE
BACKWARD

HOW ECCLESIASTES TEACHES US
TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF THE END ◀◀

**For the Preacher is
going to show us
what we should, and
should not, expect
out of life.**

DAVID GIBSON

LIVING LIFE
BACKWARD

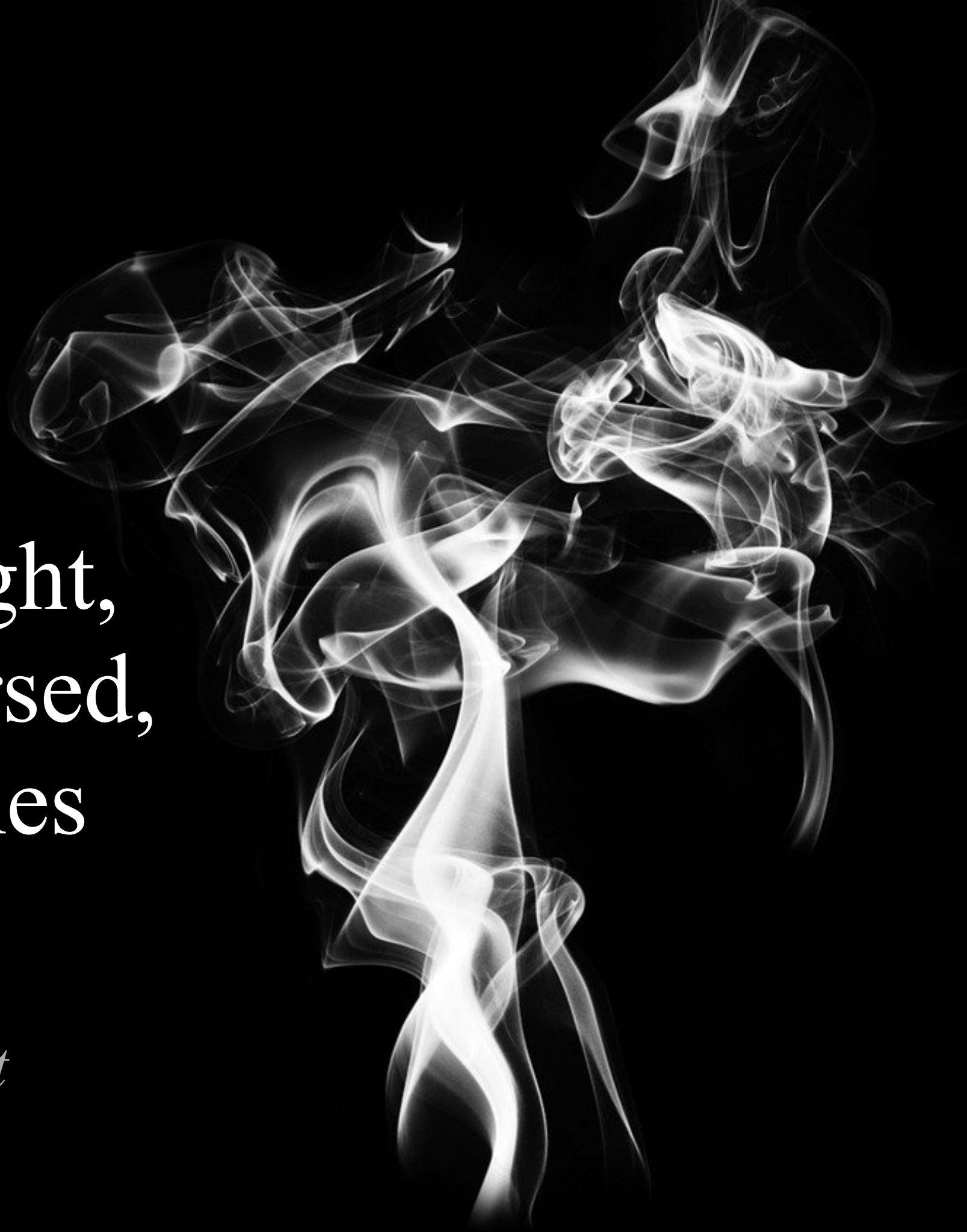
HOW ECCLESIASTES TEACHES US
TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF THE END

He's not just saying there's no gain after we have chased the wind; he will insist there's no need for the chase in the first place. There is no gain to be had under the sun, and that's precisely the point.



“
...one long night,
seven times cursed,
and seven times
sealed.

Elie Weisel, *Night*





**O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth**



**Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth**



**A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks, a new and glorious morn**




**Fall on your knees,
O hear the angels' voices**



**O night divine, O night
when Christ was born**





**Fear not, for behold
I bring you good news
of great joy that will be
for all peoples. For
unto you is born this day
in the city of David
a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord.**

— The Gospel of Luke 2:1-11 —




**What did Jesus
gain by all his
toil under the sun?**



**What did Jesus
gain by all his
toil under the sun?**

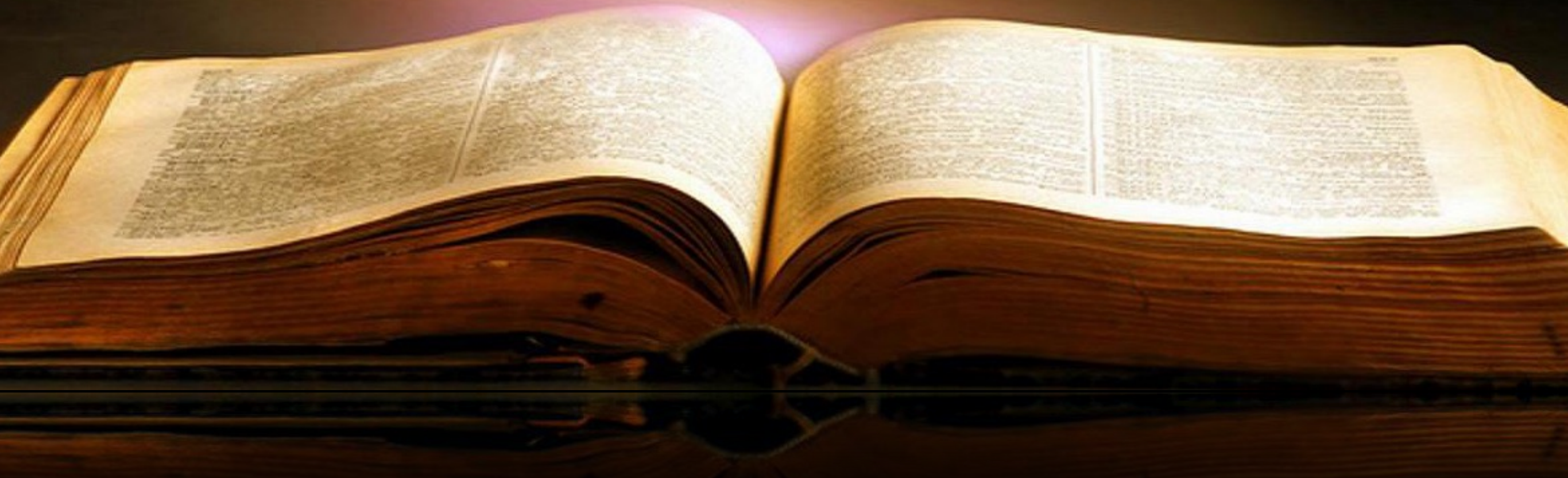
**In a word:
Everything!**



**Jesus is Good News
of *mega joy* for a
weary world because
in Jesus there is no
remembrance of our
toil in sin**

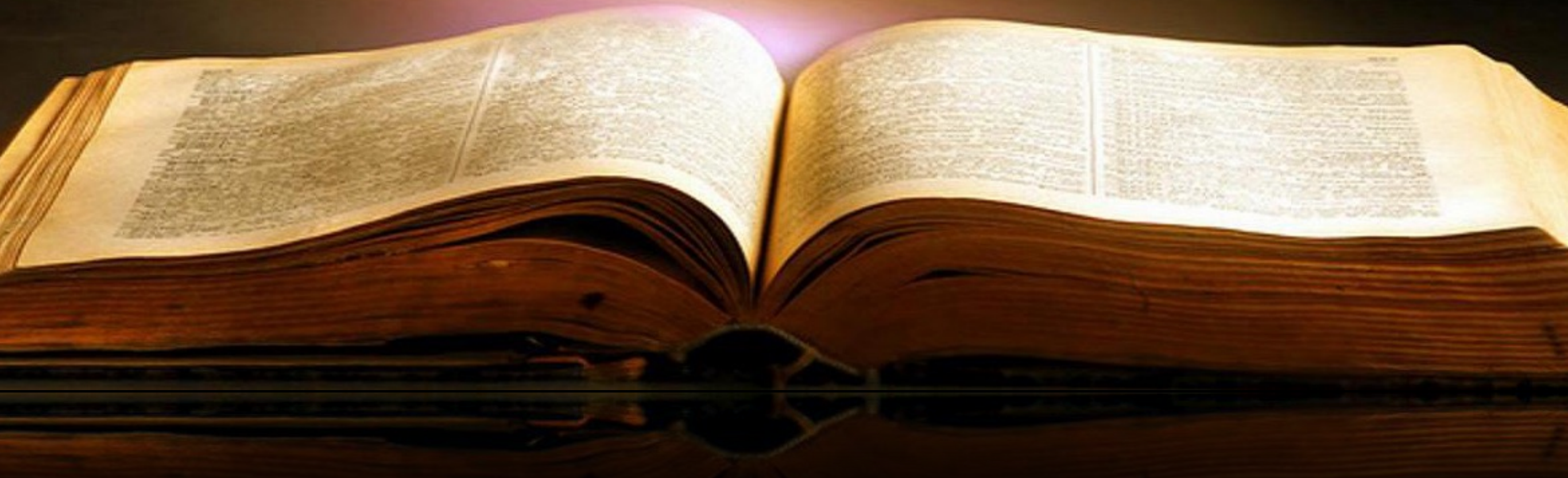
**...He has appeared once for all at the
end of the ages to put away sin but the
sacrifice of Himself. And just as it is
appointed for man to die once, and after
that comes the judgment,**

— Hebrews 9:26-28, 10:15, 17-18 —



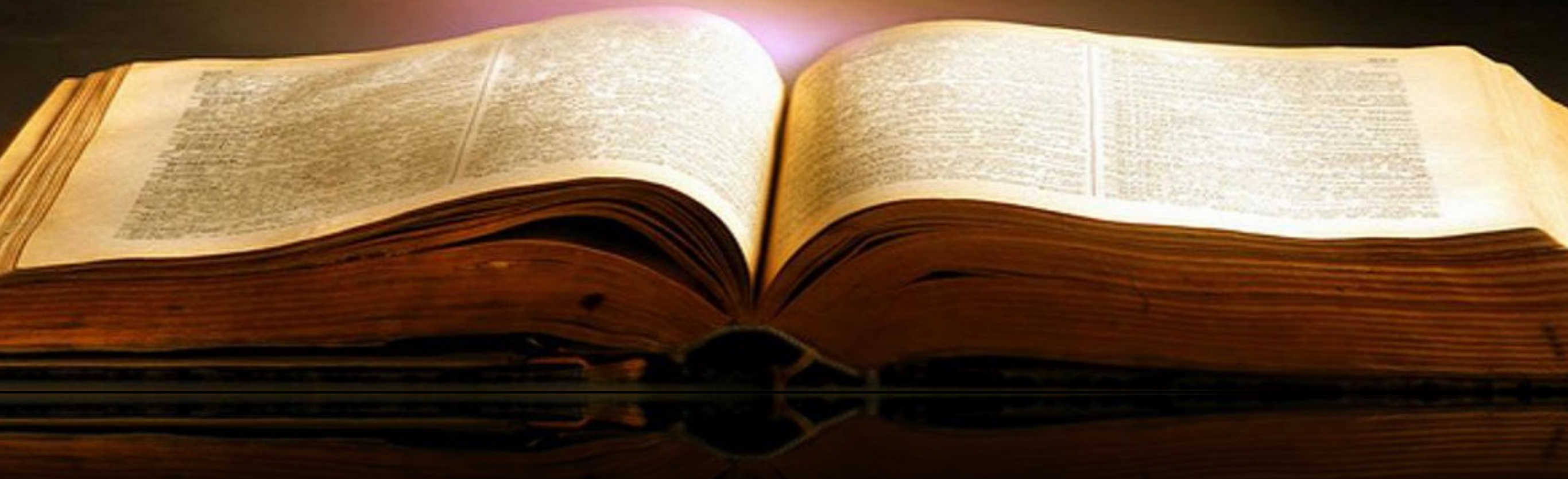
**so Christ, having been offered once to bear
the sins of many, will appear a second time
not to deal with sin but to save those who
are eagerly waiting for Him.**


— Hebrews 9:26-28, 10:15, 17-18 —



And the Holy Spirit also bears witness for us..., “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins.

— Hebrews 9:26-28, 10:15, 17-18 —





**Jesus is Good News
of *mega joy* for a
weary world because
in Jesus our names
will never be forgotten**

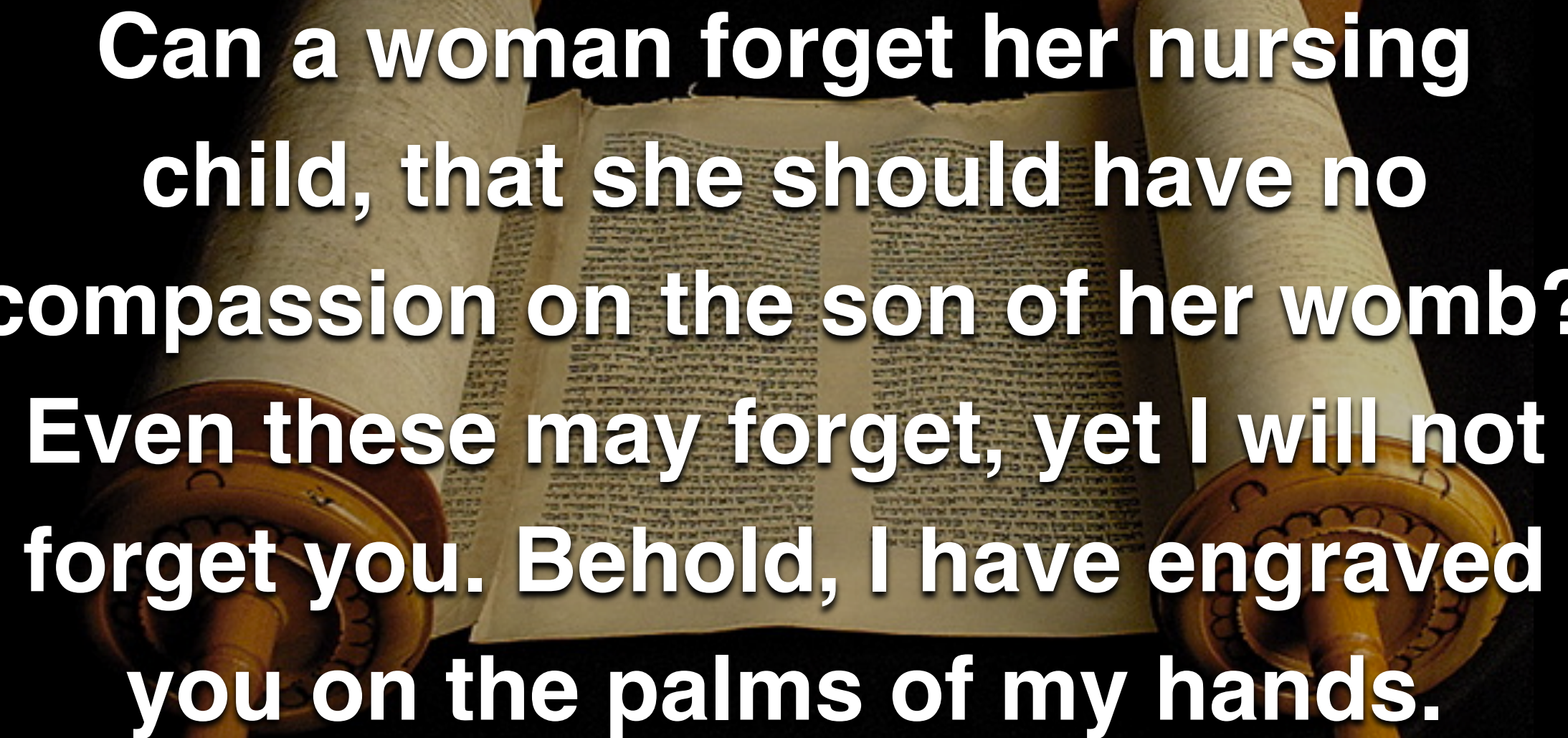




**And he said, “Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.”**




**And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you,
today you will be with me in Paradise.”**



**Can a woman forget her nursing
child, that she should have no
compassion on the son of her womb?
Even these may forget, yet I will not
forget you. Behold, I have engraved
you on the palms of my hands.**

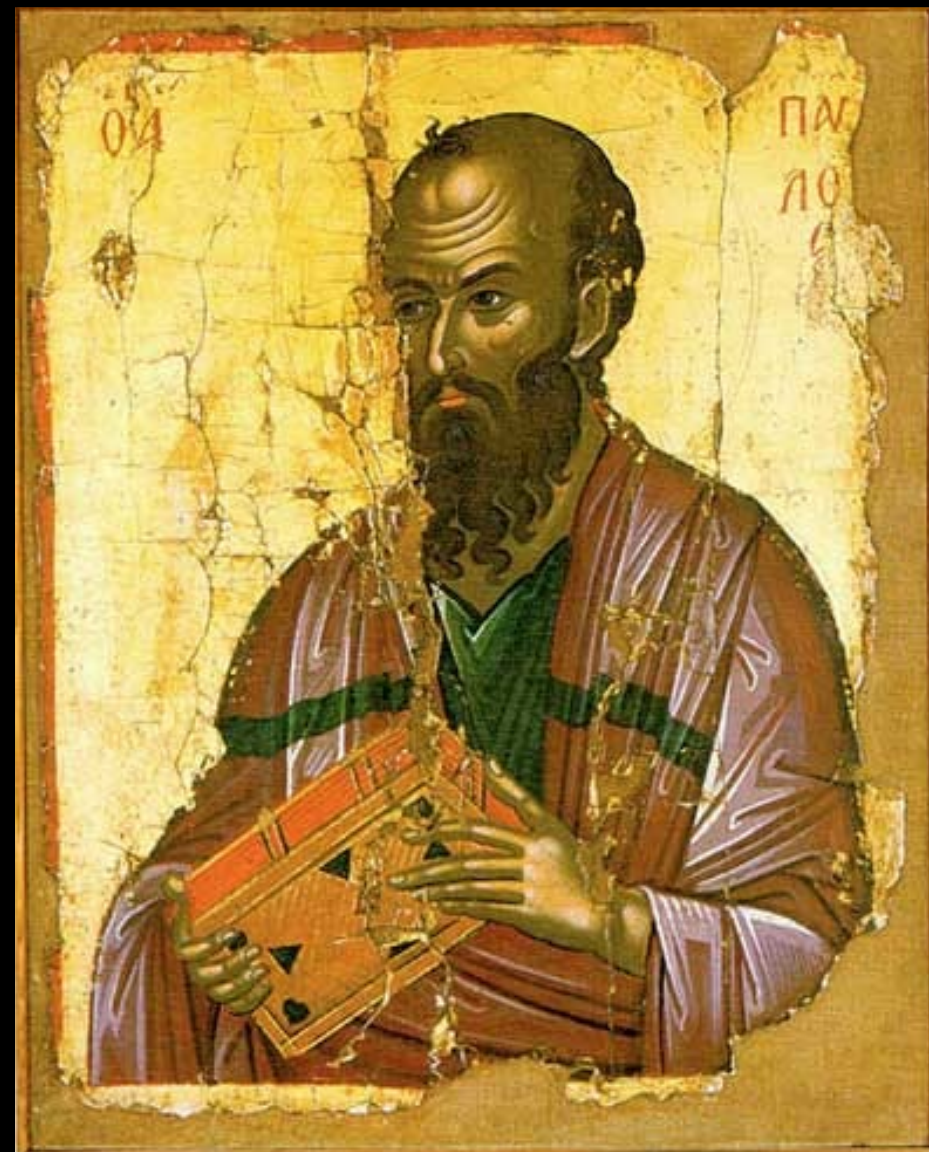
— Isaiah 49:15-16 —



**Jesus is Good News
of *mega joy* for a
weary world because
in Jesus our work is
never in vain**

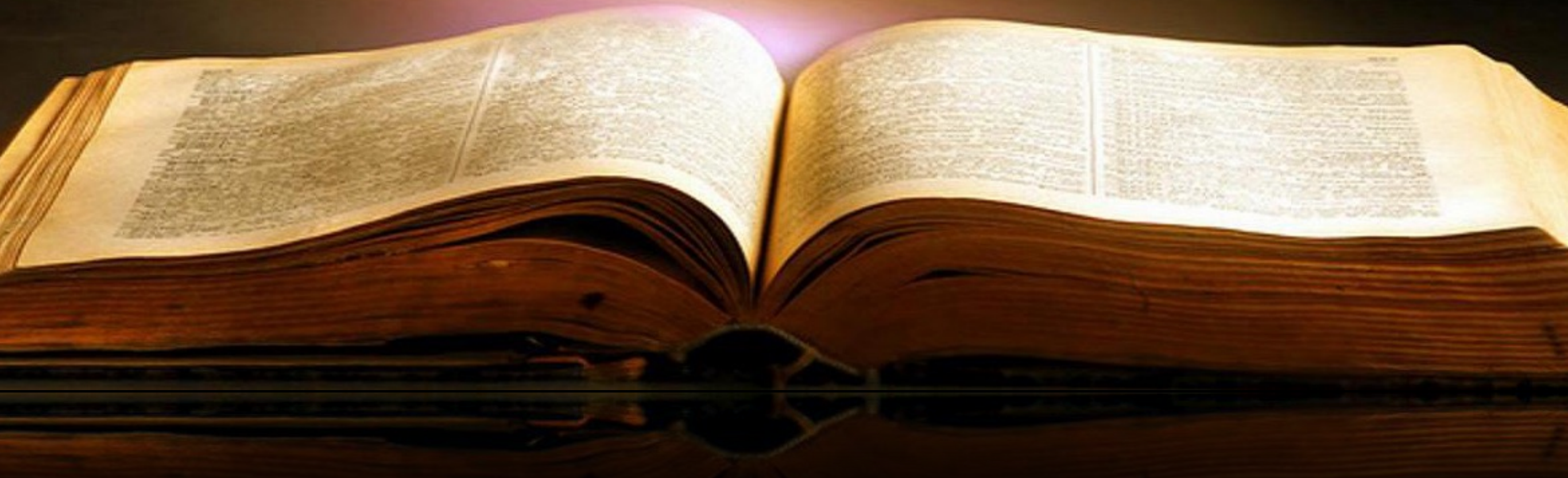
**Always give yourself
fully to the work of the
Lord, because you know
that your labor in the
Lord is not in vain.**

The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 15:58 —



And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.... Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Jesus.

— Colossians 3:17, 23-24 —



**When it's all said & done,
what do I gain because of Jesus?
In a word: Everything!**



