

The End of the Matter

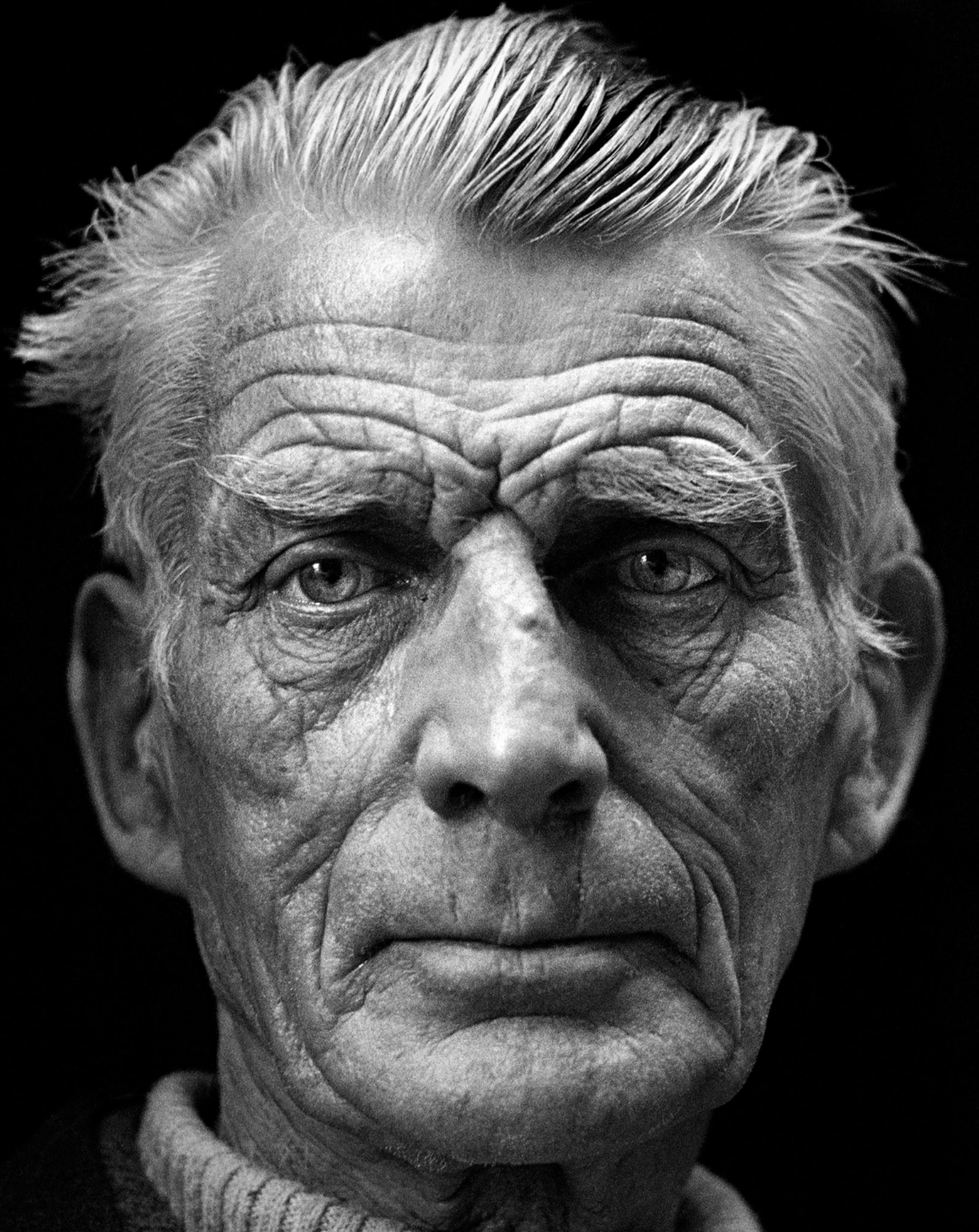
(Why Everything Matters)

ECCLESIASTES 12:1-14

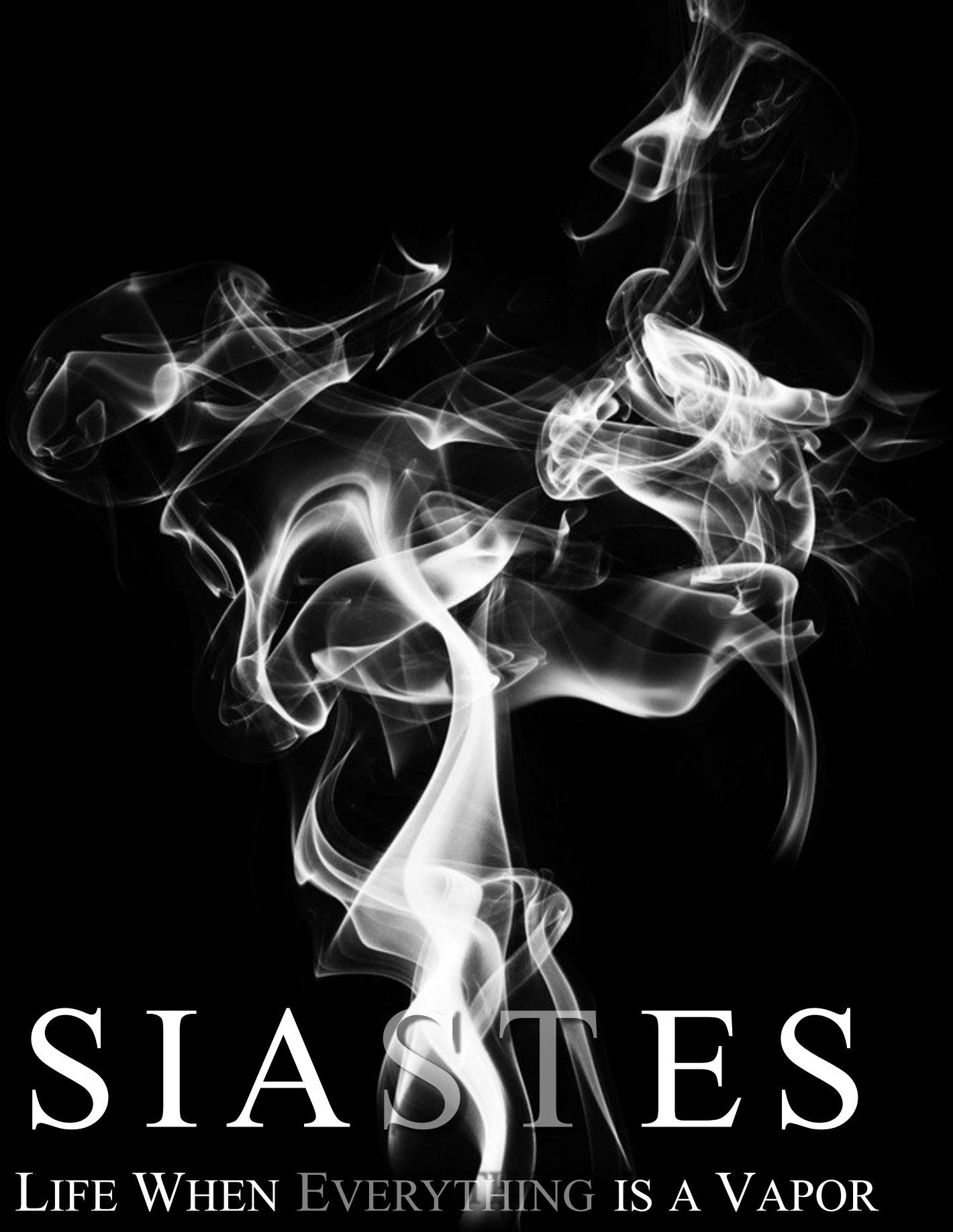


“Breath”

Samuel Becket, 1969







ECCELESIASTES

EXPLORING THE MEANING OF LIFE WHEN EVERYTHING IS A VAPOR

The End of the Matter

(Why Everything Matters)

ECCLESIASTES 12:1-14



Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

**1 Remember your Creator in the days
of your youth....**



**Let every man think
himself an act of God.**

Phillip James Bailey, *Festus* (1839)



In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION

By the REPRESENTATIVES of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;

We hold these Truths to be self-evident,
that all Men are created equal,
that they are endowed by their Creator
with certain unalienable Rights,
that among these are Life, Liberty,
and the Pursuit of Happiness.



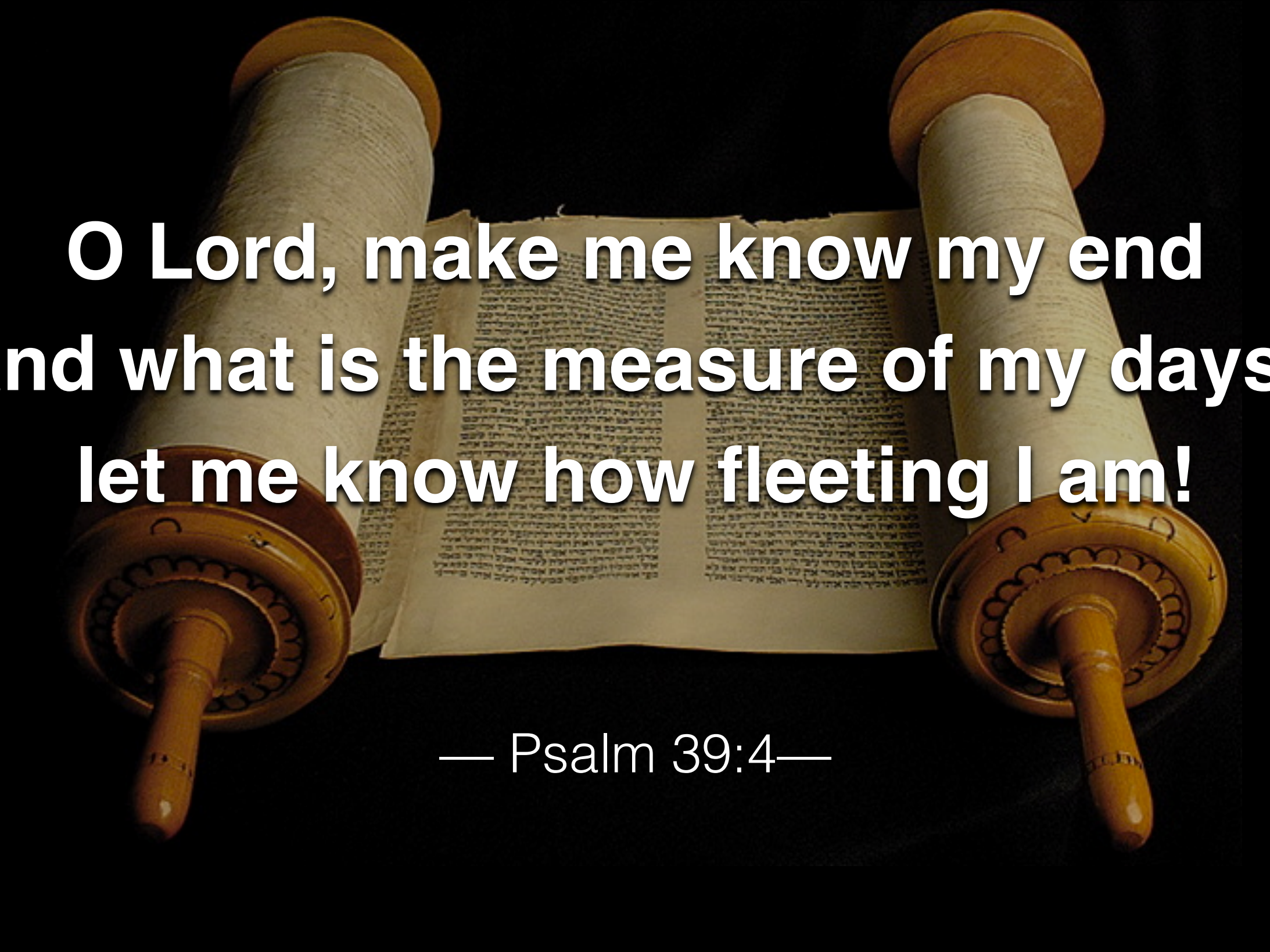
**THE HUMAN
RACE IS JUST A
CHEMICAL
SCUM ON A
MODERATE-
SIZED PLANET.**

Stephen Hawking
1942-2018



**Remember your Creator
in the days of your youth**



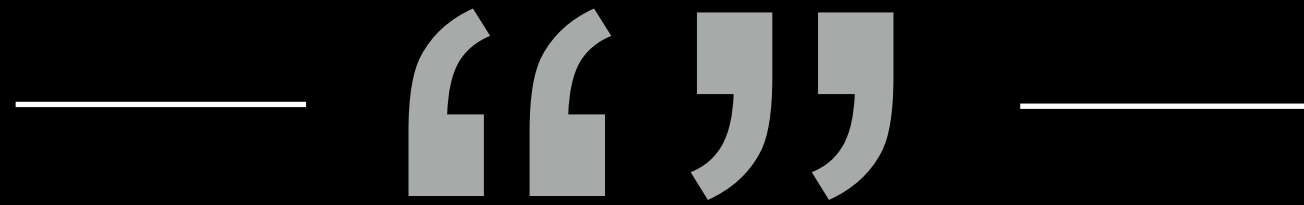


O Lord, make me know my end
and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!

— Psalm 39:4 —

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”....



A DELICATELY SKETCHED VIGNETTE OF OLD AGE

Douglas Sean O'Donnell

Ecclesiastes: Reformed Expository Commentary

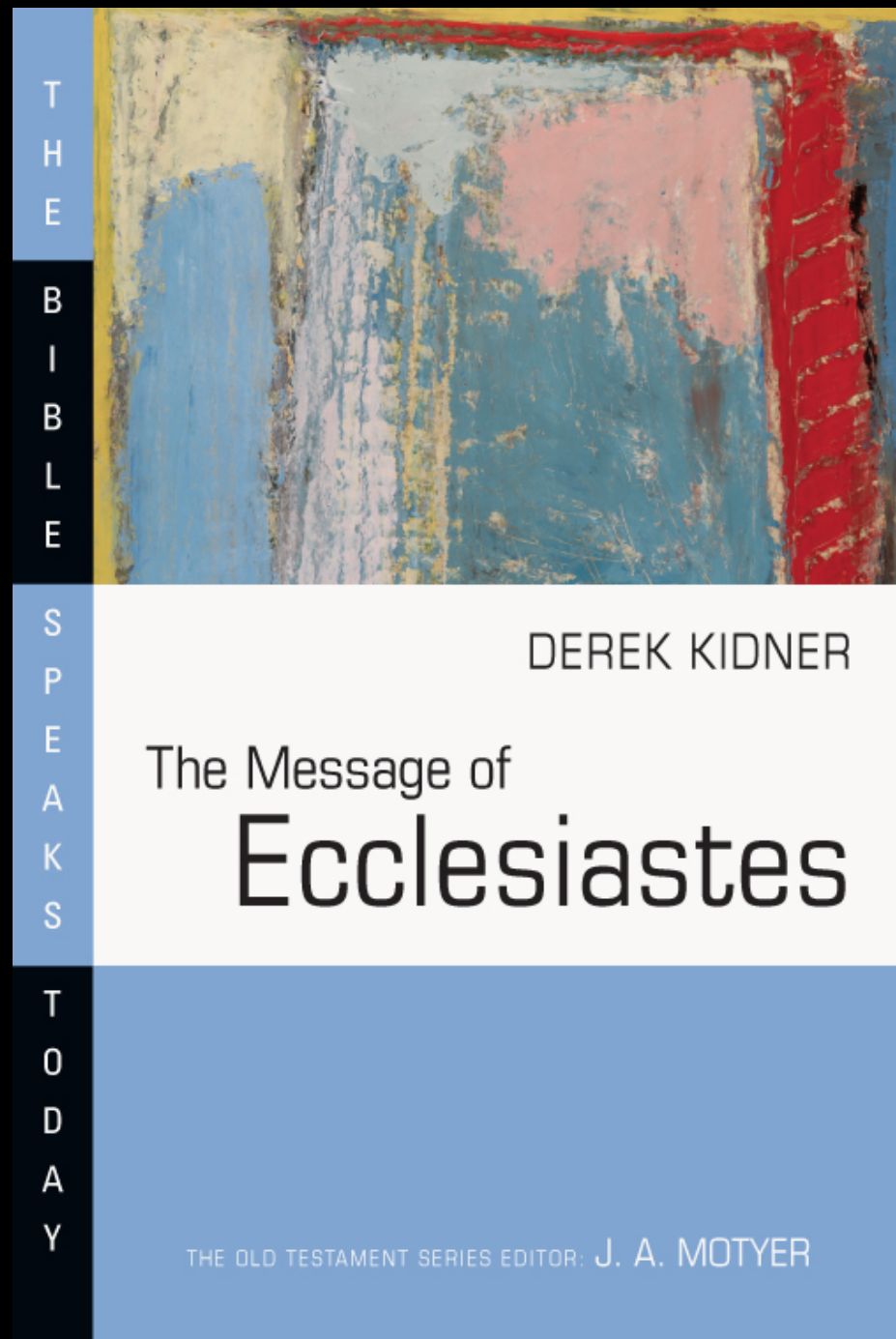


a gathering storm



a decaying house

1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; **2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain....**



**In one's early years,
and for the greater
part of life, troubles
and illnesses are
chiefly setbacks, not
disasters. One
expects the sky to
eventually clear.**

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

**3 in the day when the keepers of the
house tremble,**

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

3 in the day when the keepers of the
house tremble, and the strong men are
bent,

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

3 in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few,

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

3 in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed,

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

**4 and the doors of the street are shut
—when the sound of grinding is low,
and one rises up at the sound of a bird,**

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

4 and the doors of the street are shut
—when the sound of grinding is low,
and one rises up at the sound of a bird,
**and all the daughters of song are
brought low—**

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

**5 they are also afraid of what is high,
and terrors are in the way;**

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

5 they are also afraid of what is high,
and terrors are in the way; **the almond
tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags
itself along, and desire fails....**

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

5 they are also afraid of what is high,
and terrors are in the way; the almond
tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags
itself along, and desire fails, **because**
man is going to his final home and the
mourners go about the streets—

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

**6 before the silver cord is snapped,
or the golden bowl is broken, or the
pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or
the wheel broken at the cistern,**

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

6 before the silver cord is snapped,
or the golden bowl is broken, or the
pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or
the wheel broken at the cistern, **and**
dust returns to the earth as it was, and
the spirit returns to God who gave it.



**The time to remember your Creator
is the time before you run out of time**



Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

**8 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher;
all is vanity.**

hebel

smoke, vapor,
mist, or even
breath

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

— Psalm 144:4 —

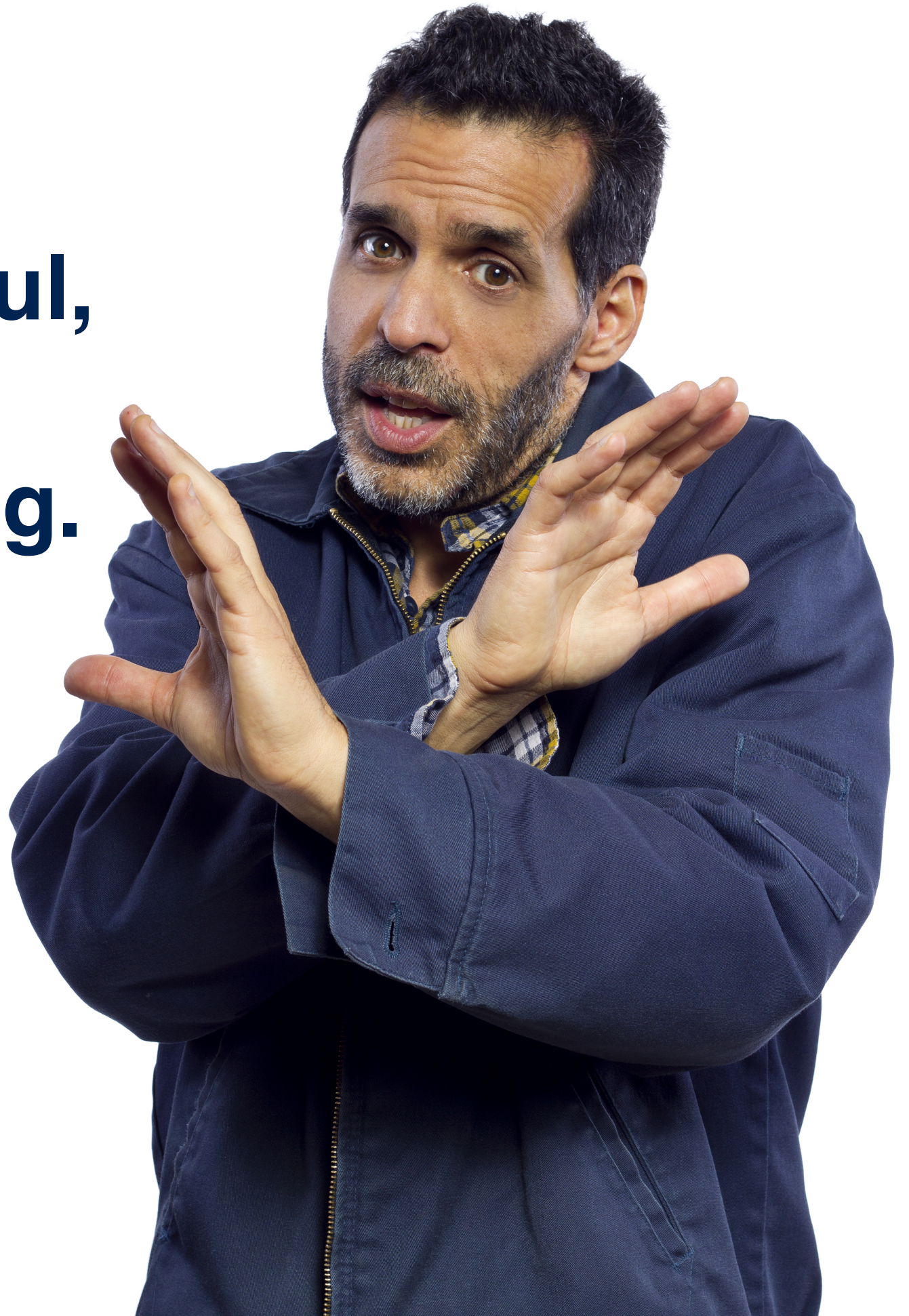


What is your
life? You are a
mist that appears
for a little time
and then vanishes.

— James 4:14 —



**I don't mean
to be disrespectful,
but this seems
sooooo depressing.**





**What is truly depressing is to waste
the precious breath you have been given**



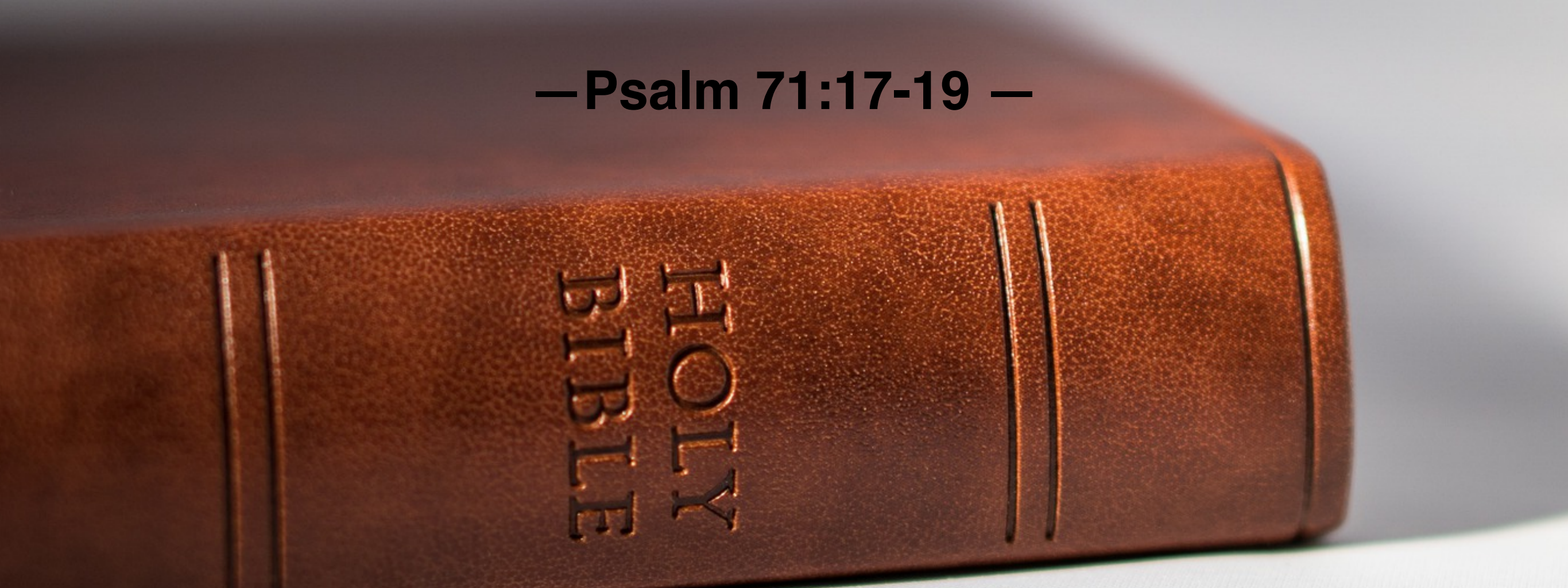
Two women are standing against a grey background. The woman on the left has dark curly hair and is wearing a beige tank top. She is holding a large light blue speech bubble sign with her right arm raised. The woman on the right has long brown hair and is wearing a white t-shirt. She is holding a large yellow speech bubble sign with her right arm raised. Both women are smiling and looking towards the camera. The woman on the left also has her left hand raised in a gesture.

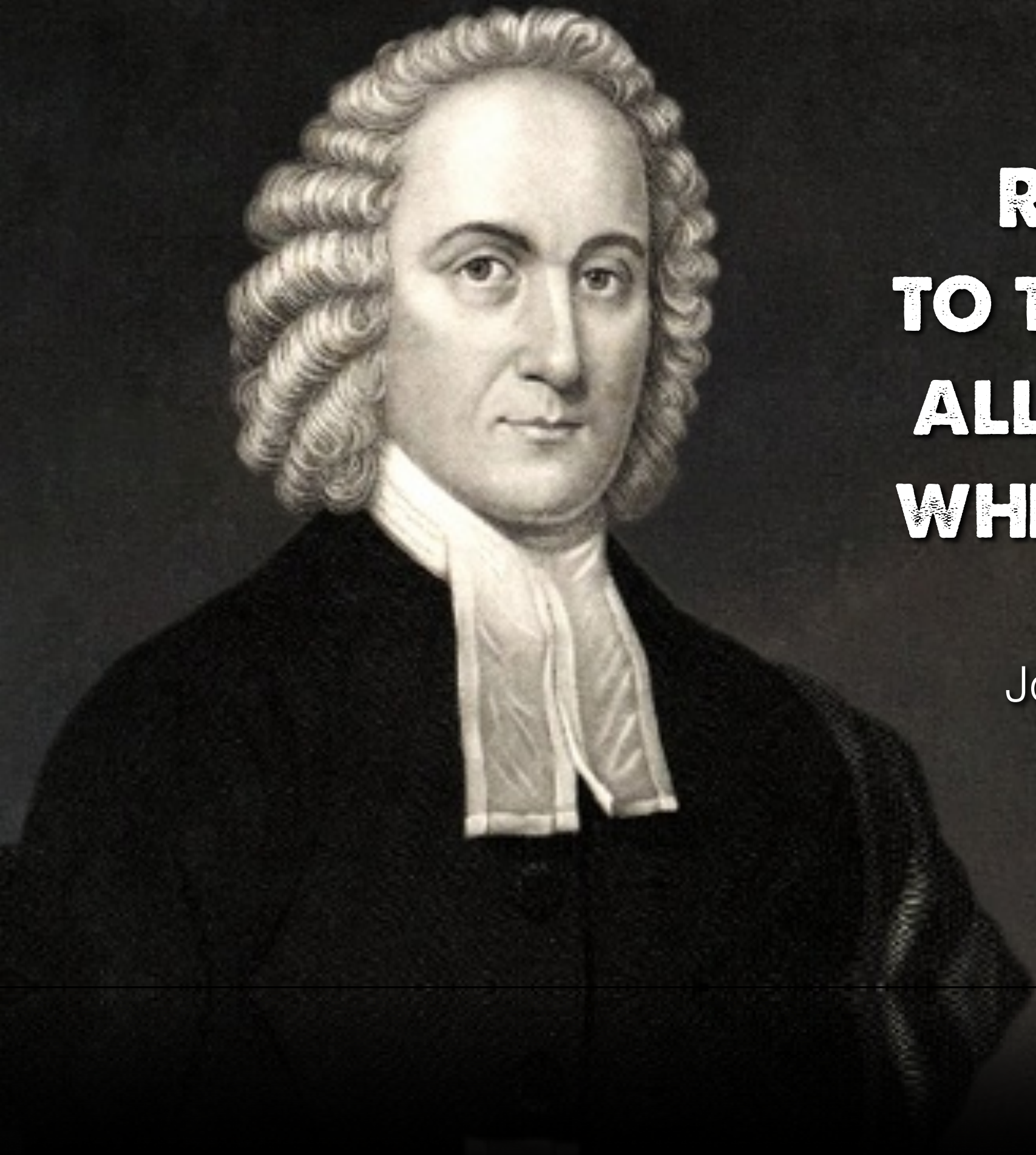
Thank you!

**We still
need you!**

**O God, from my youth You have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
So even to old age and gray hairs, O God,
do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your
might to another generation, Your power
to all those to come.**

—Psalm 71:17-19 —





**RESOLVED,
TO TO LIVE WITH
ALL MY MIGHT,
WHILE I DO LIVE.**

Jonathan Edwards
1703-1758

**May 21. This day
I attained my
21st year. How
long and how
worthlessly
I have lived?**

Robert Murray McCheyne
(1813-1843)



**God, I pray, light
these idle sticks of
my life, and may I
burn up for You.
Consume my life,
my God, for it is
Yours. I seek not a
long life but a full
one like Yours,
Lord Jesus.**

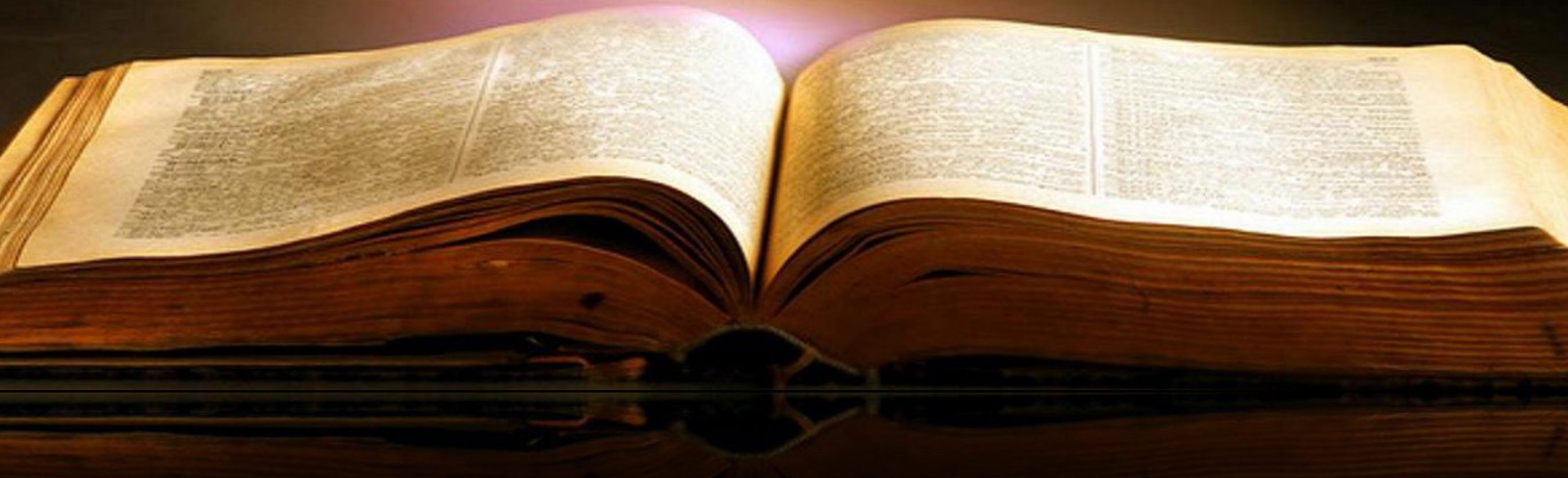


Jim Elliot, Martyr
Died Jan 8, 1956 at the age of 29

**Father, the hour has come; glorify your
Son that the Son may glorify you....**

**I glorified you on earth, having
accomplished the work that you gave
me to do.**

— Jesus of Nazareth in the Gospel of John 17: 1 & 4 —



The Structure of Ecclesiastes

Intro

1:1

Main Teaching

1:2-12:8

The words of the Preacher:

**“Vanity of vanities.
Everything is vanity.”**

Outro

12:9-14

9 Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care.

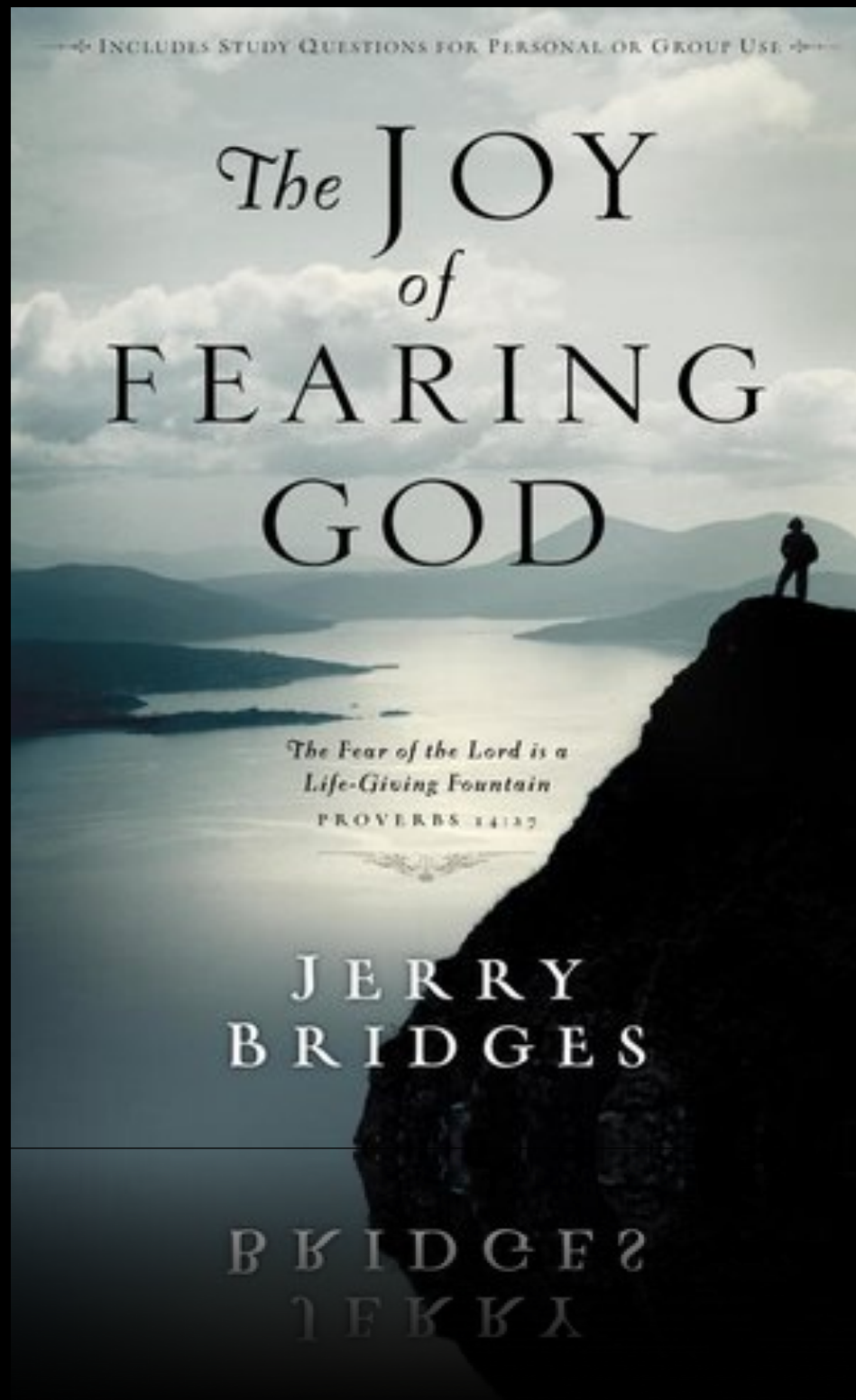
10 The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

**11 The words of the wise are like
goads, and like nails firmly fixed are
the collected sayings; they are given
by one Shepherd.**

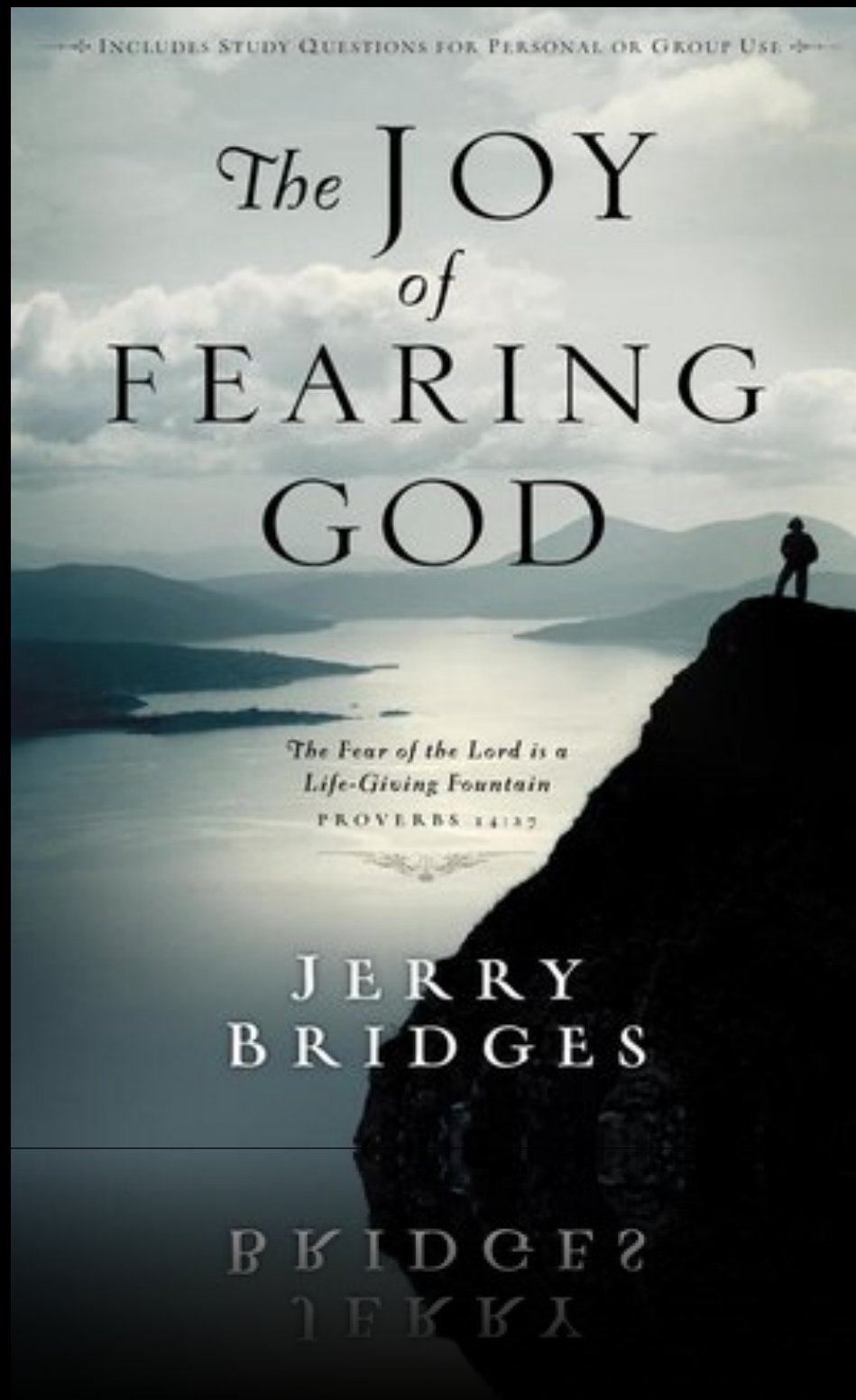
Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

12 My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of the making of many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

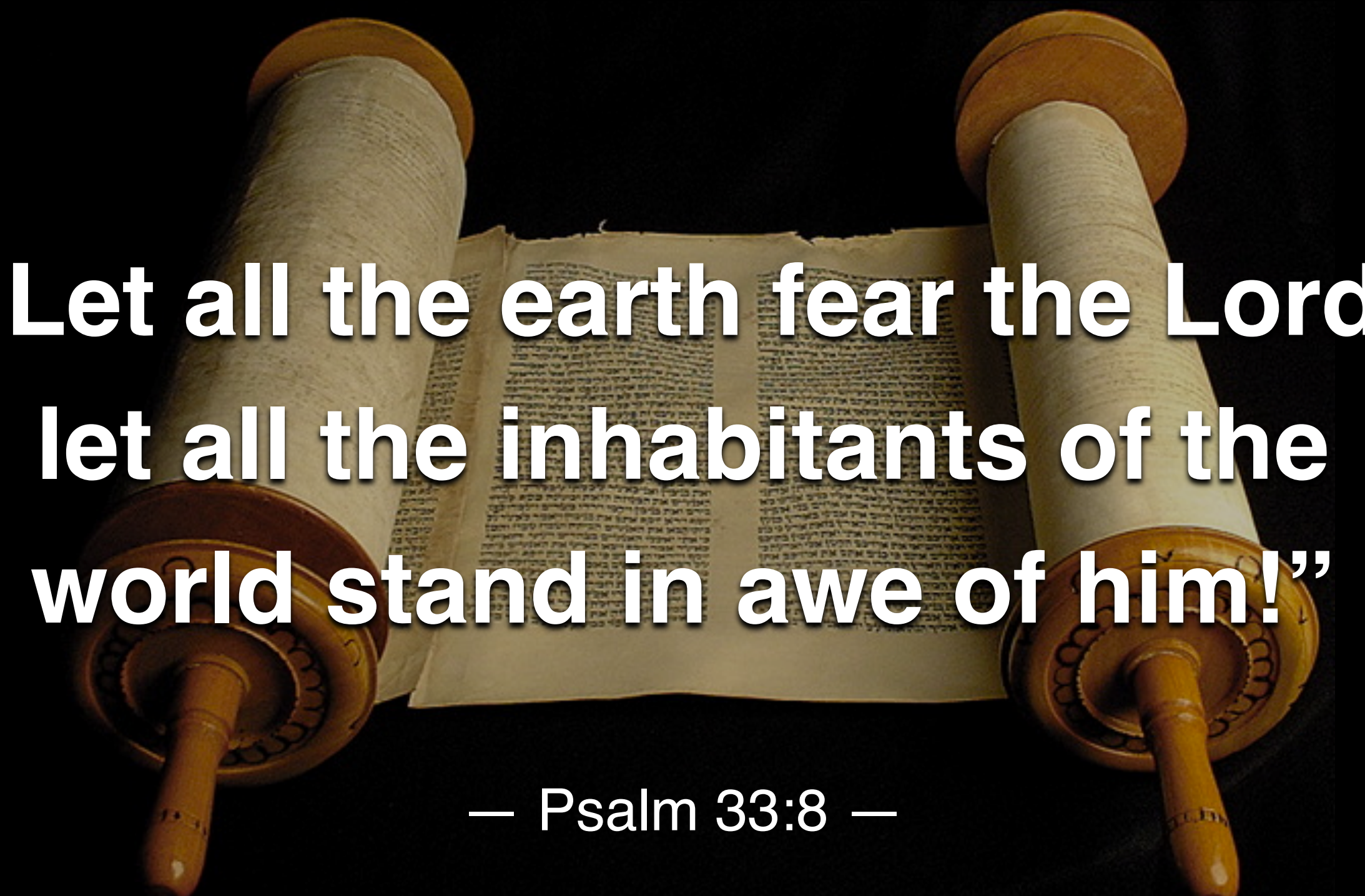
13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments,** for this is the whole duty of man.



...a profound sense of awe toward God is undoubtedly the dominant element in the attitude or set of emotions that the Bible calls “the fear of God.”



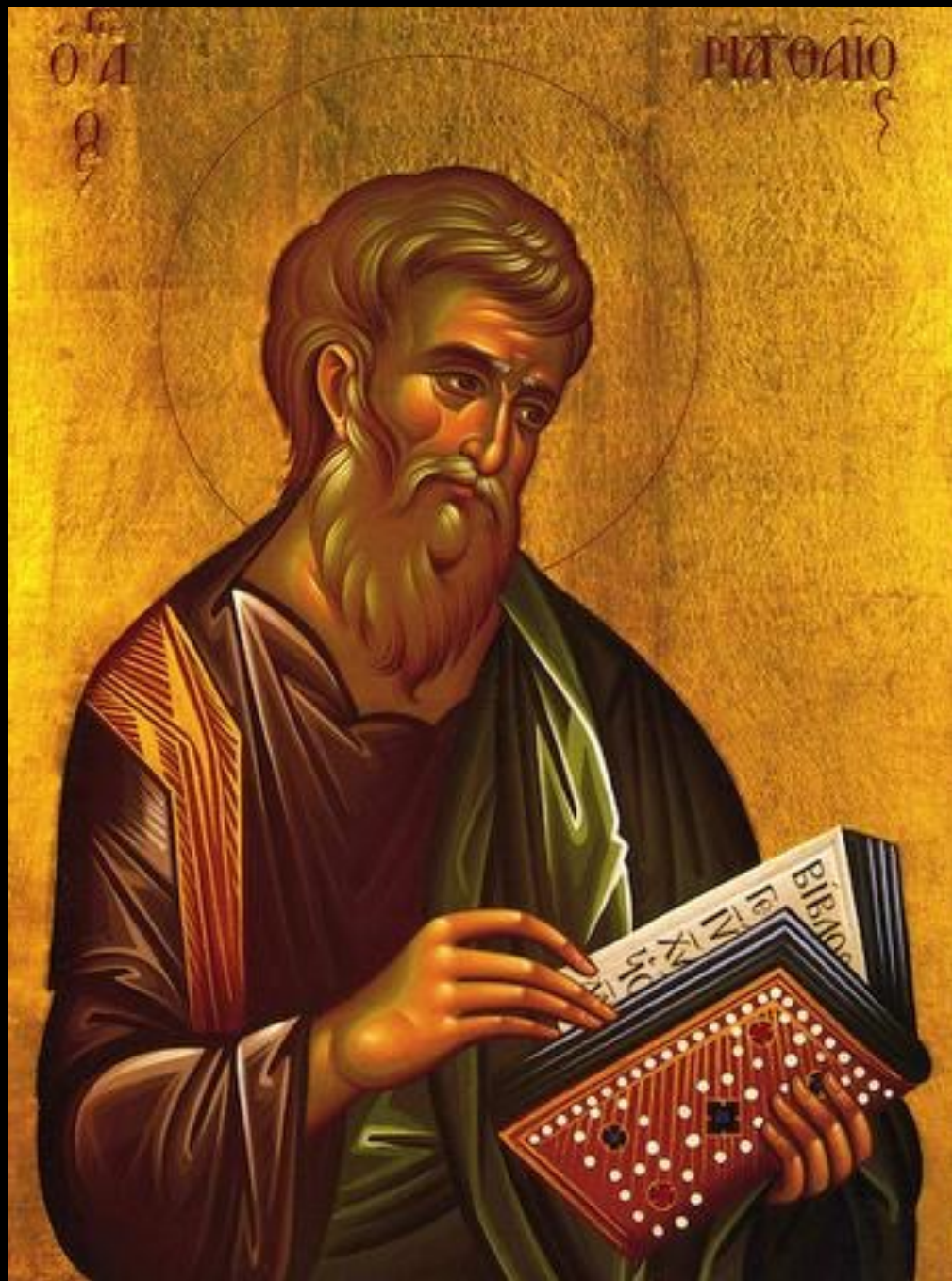
**Respect, admiration,
and amazement all
mingled together to
create a complete
sense of awe.**



**“Let all the earth fear the Lord,
let all the inhabitants of the
world stand in awe of him!”**

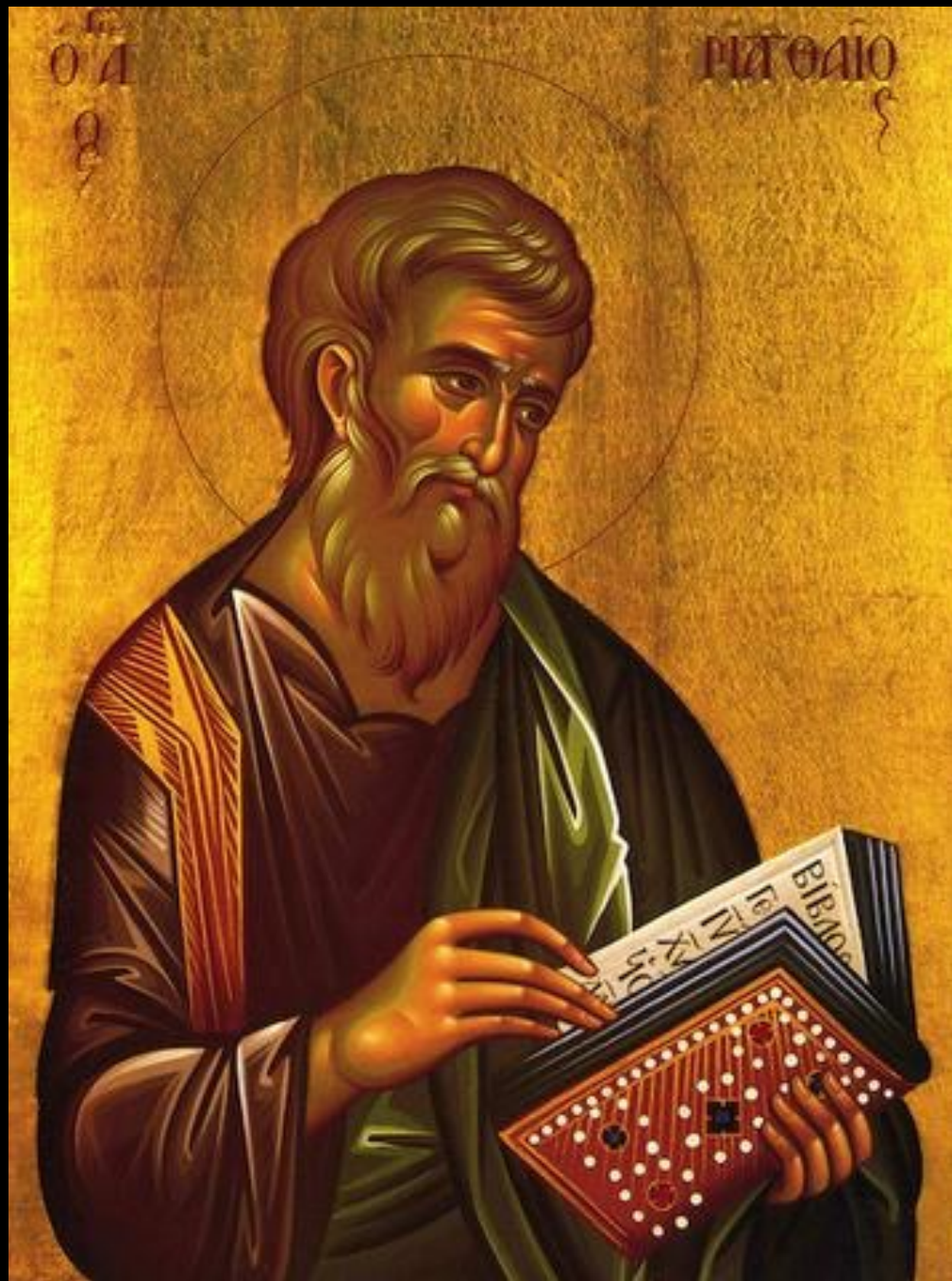
— Psalm 33:8 —

13 The end of the matter, all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments,** for this is the whole duty of man.



**But when the Pharisees
heard that he had
silenced the Sadducees,
they gathered together.
And one of them, a
lawyer, asked him a
question to test him.
“Teacher, which is the
great commandment
in the Law?”**

— The Gospel of Matthew 22:34-40 —



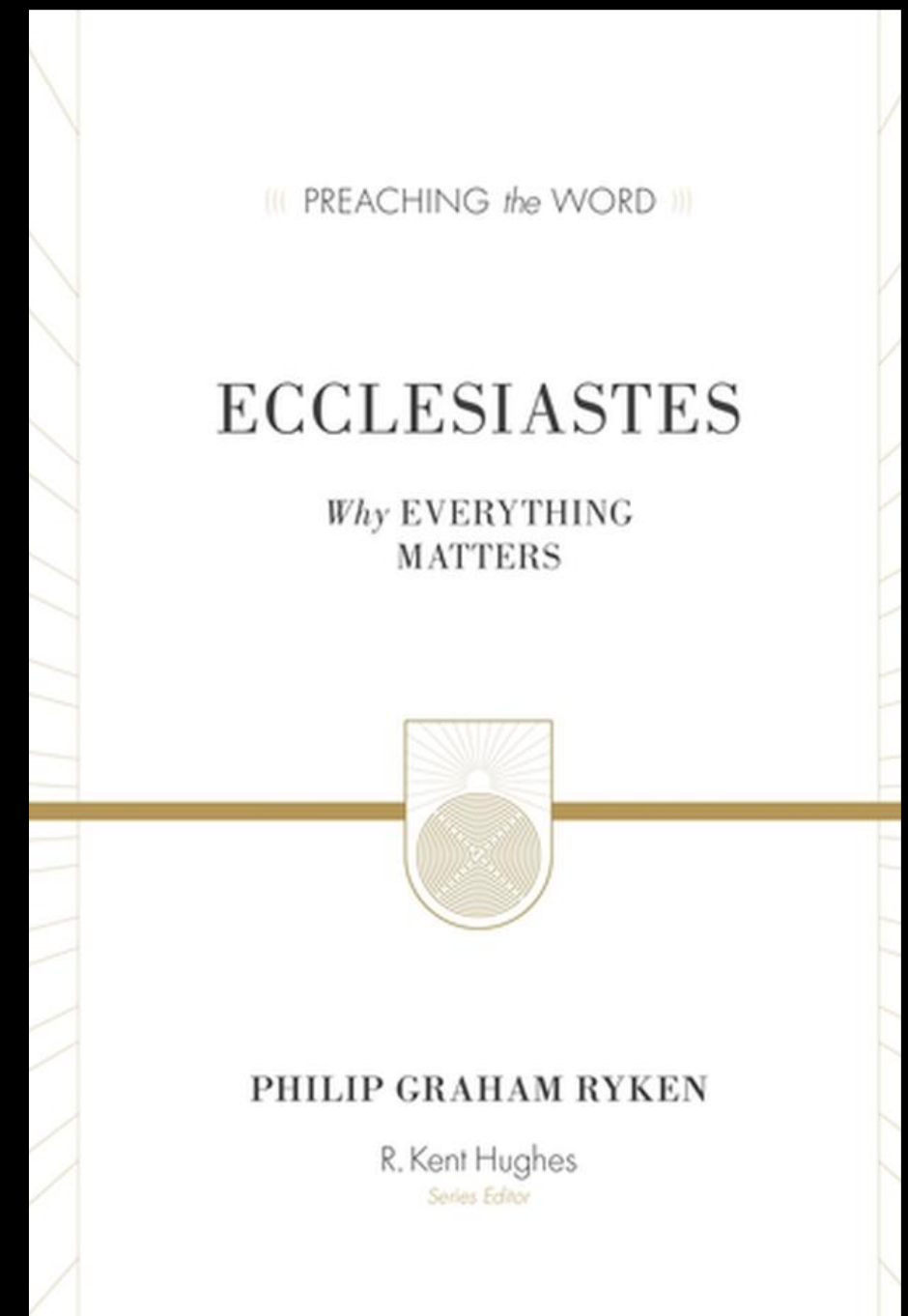
— The Gospel of Matthew 22:34-40 —

**And he said to him,
“You shall love the Lord
your God with all your
heart and with all your
soul and with all your
mind. This is the great
and first commandment.
And a second is like it:
You shall love your
neighbor as yourself.”**

13 The end of the matter, all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

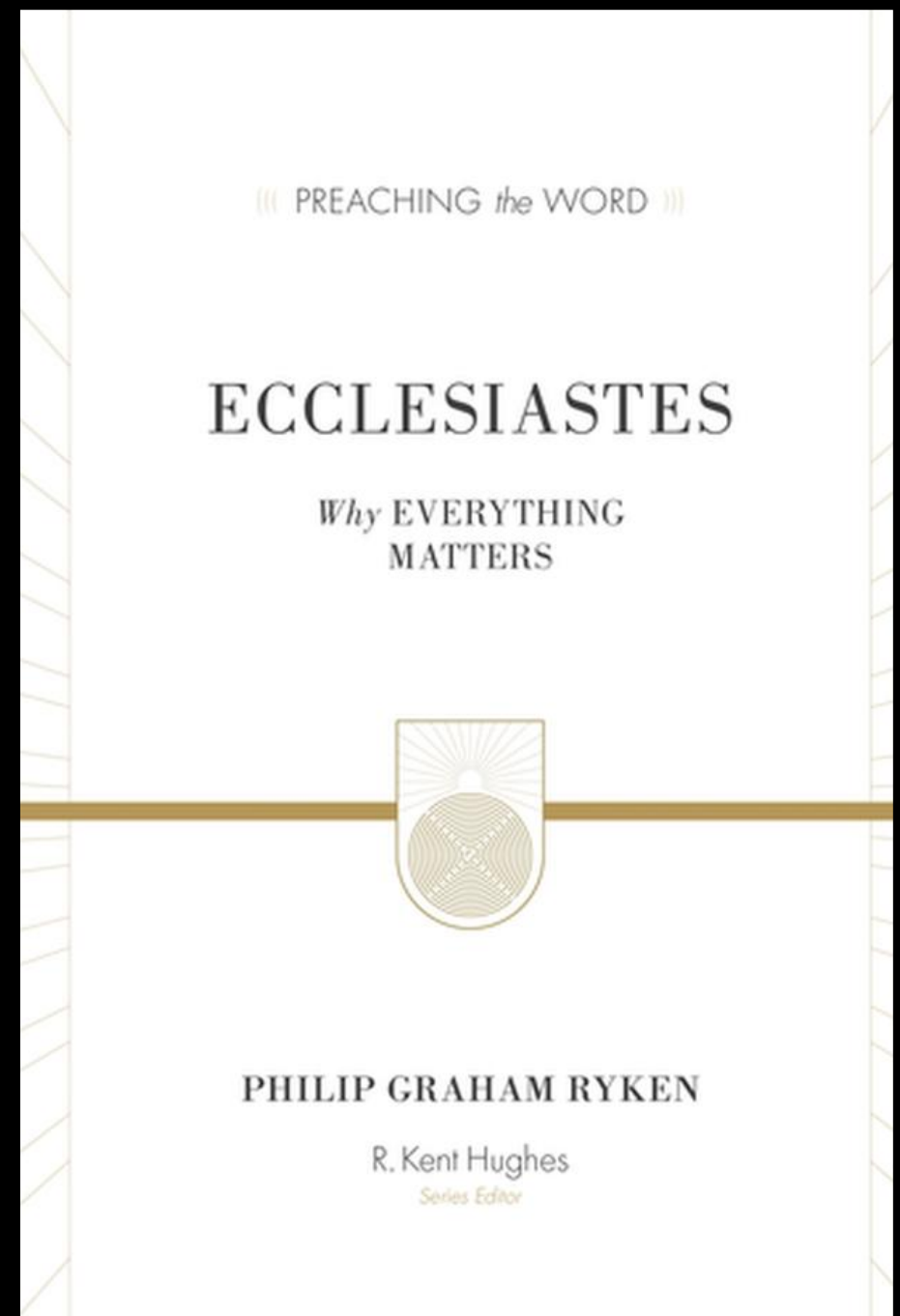
14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

**Why does Ecclesiastes
tell us about the final
judgment here? Because
it means that everything
matters.... If there is no
God, and therefore no
final judgment, then it is
hard to see how anything
we do really matters.**

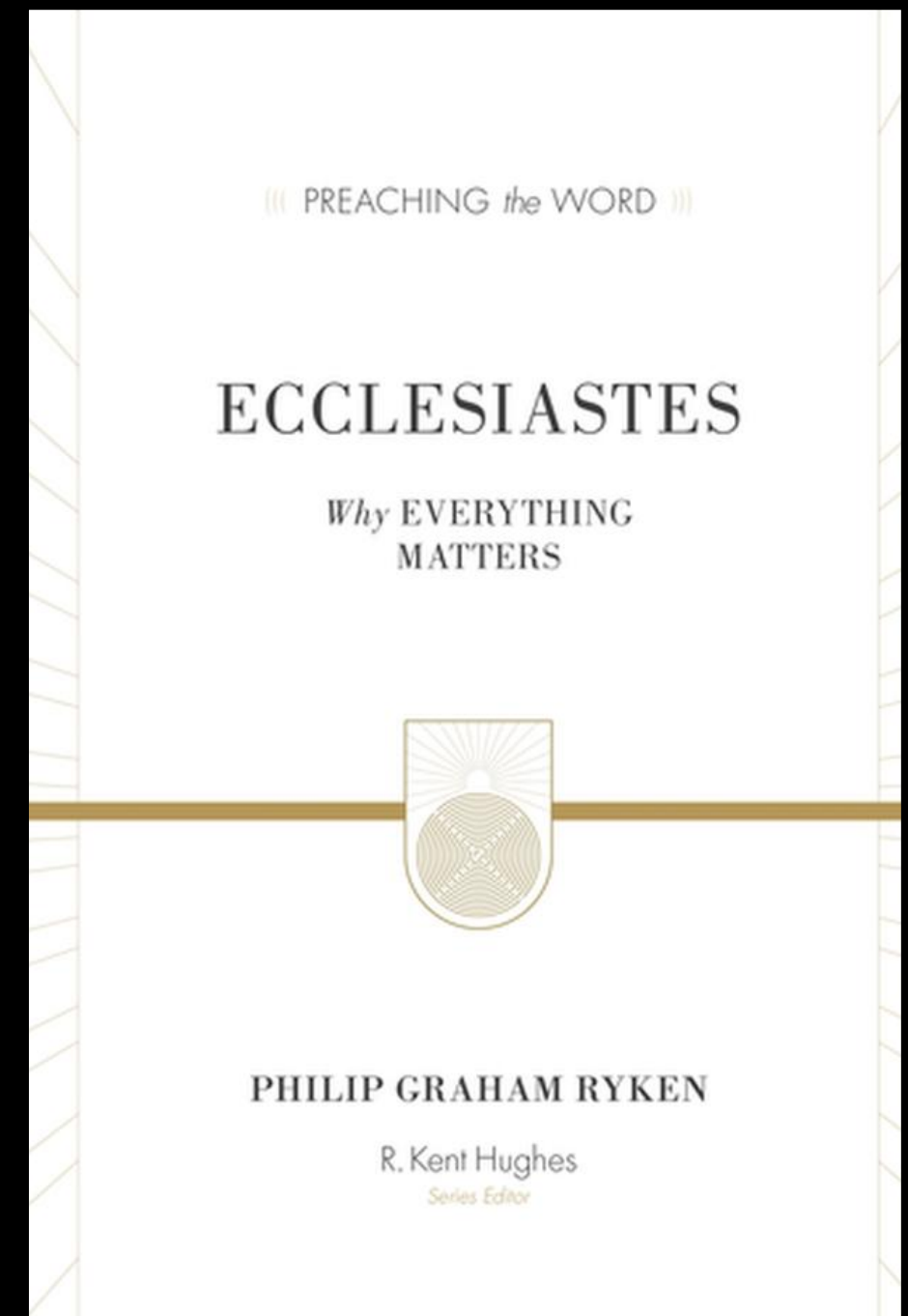


**But if there is a God who
will judge the world, then
everything matters....**

**The final message of
Ecclesiastes is not
nothing matters, but
that everything does.**



What we did, how we did it, and why we did it will all have eternal significance. The reason everything matters is because everything in the universe is subject to the final verdict of a righteous God who knows every secret.



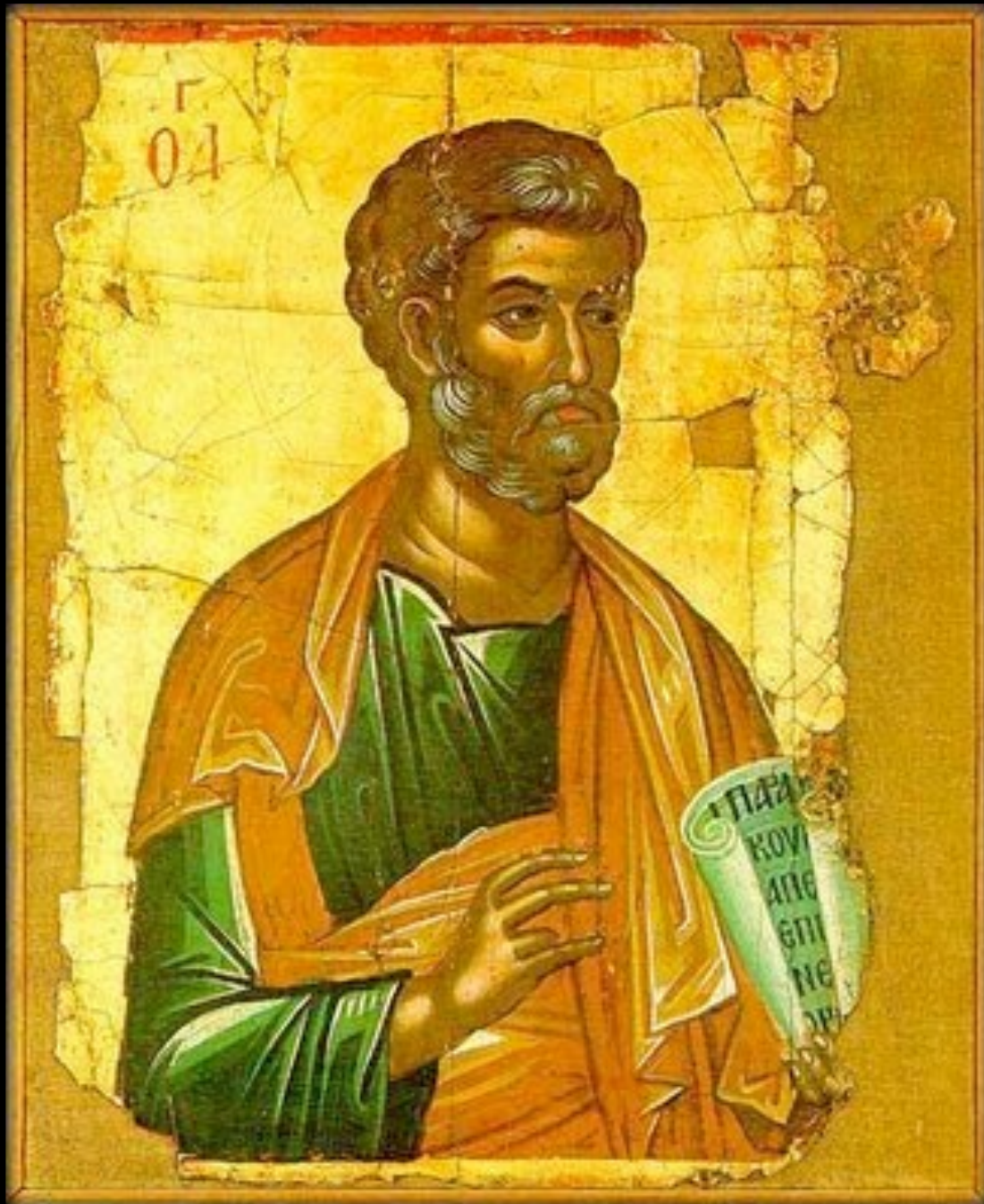


**THE END OF THE MATTER IS
THAT EVERYTHING MATTERS,
INCLUDING YOUR FLEETING LIFE**

Right Now Counts Forever

— RC Sproul —





**For Christ also
suffered for sins,
the Righteous for
the unrighteous,
that He might
bring us to God.**

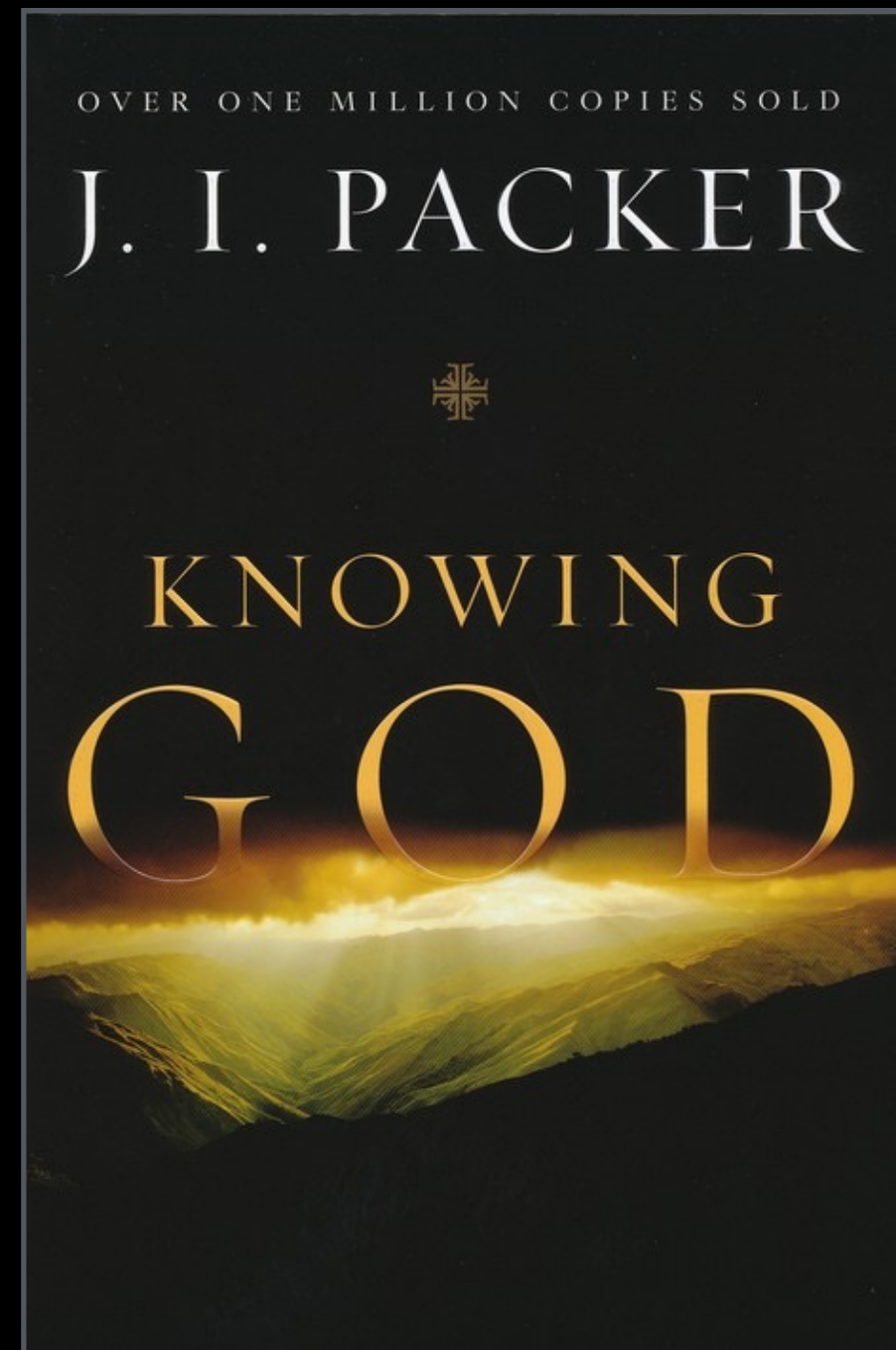
The Apostle Peter

1 Peter 3:18

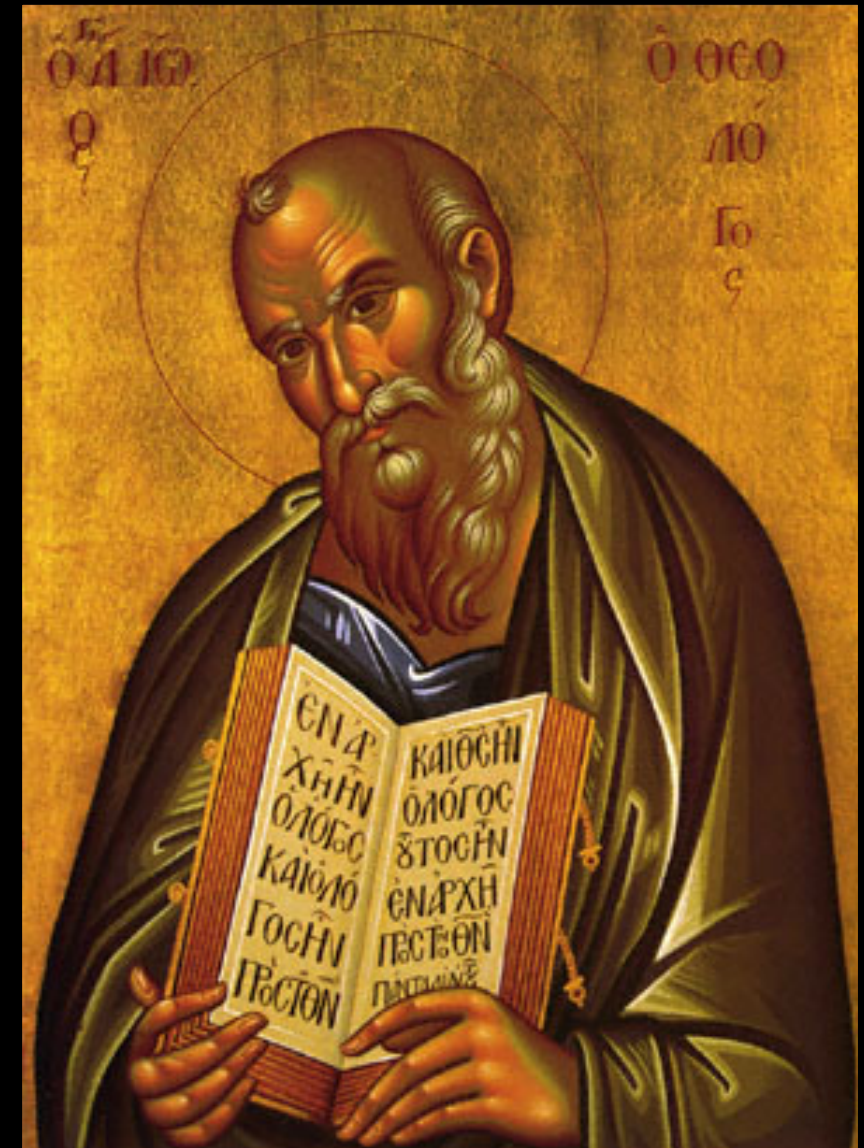


The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.

**God's own
appointment has
made Jesus Christ
inescapable. He
stands at the end
of life's road for
everyone without
exception.**

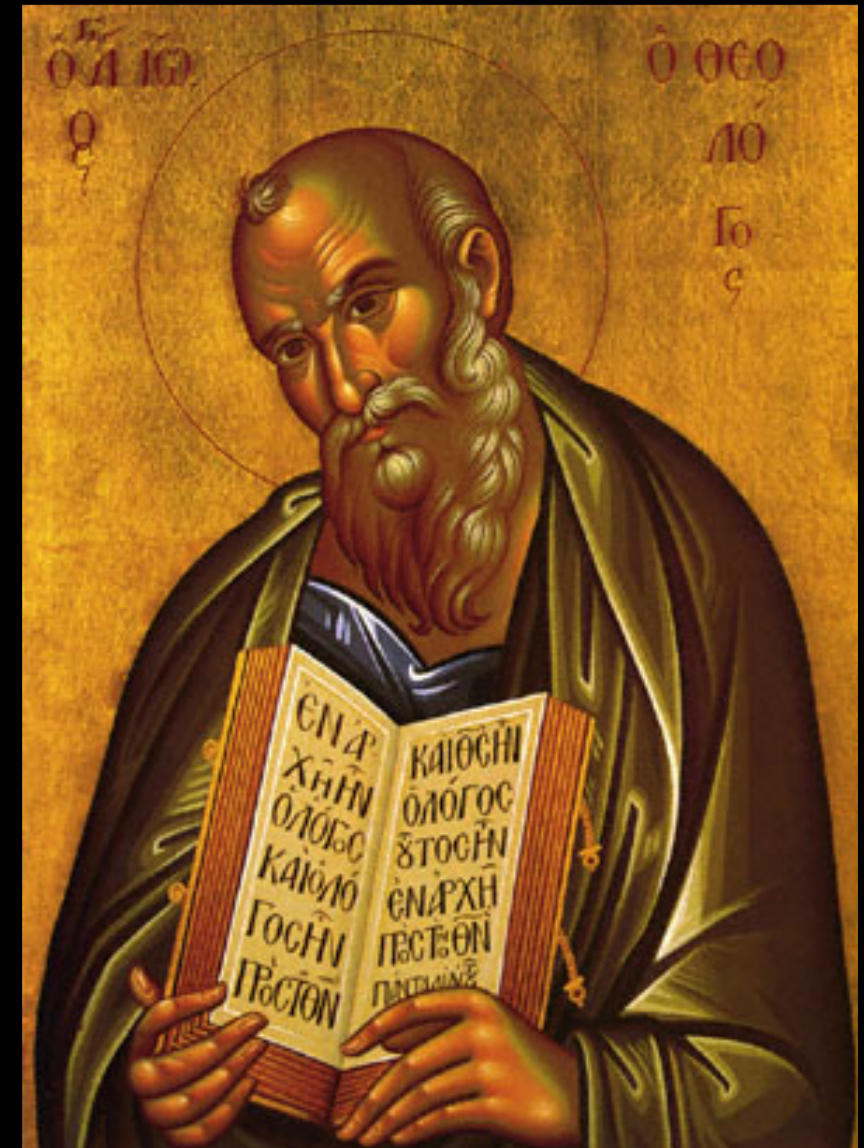


**God so loved the
world that He gave
His only Son, that
whoever believes in
Him should not
perish, but have
eternal life.**



The Words of Jesus recorded
by The Apostle John
in the Gospel of John 3:16-17

**For God did not send
His Son into the
world to condemn the
world, but in order
that the world might
be saved through
Him.**



The Words of Jesus recorded
by The Apostle John
in the Gospel of John 3:16-17



**And this is eternal life,
that they may know You
the only true God, and
Jesus Christ whom You
have sent.**

— The Gospel of John, 17:1-3 —

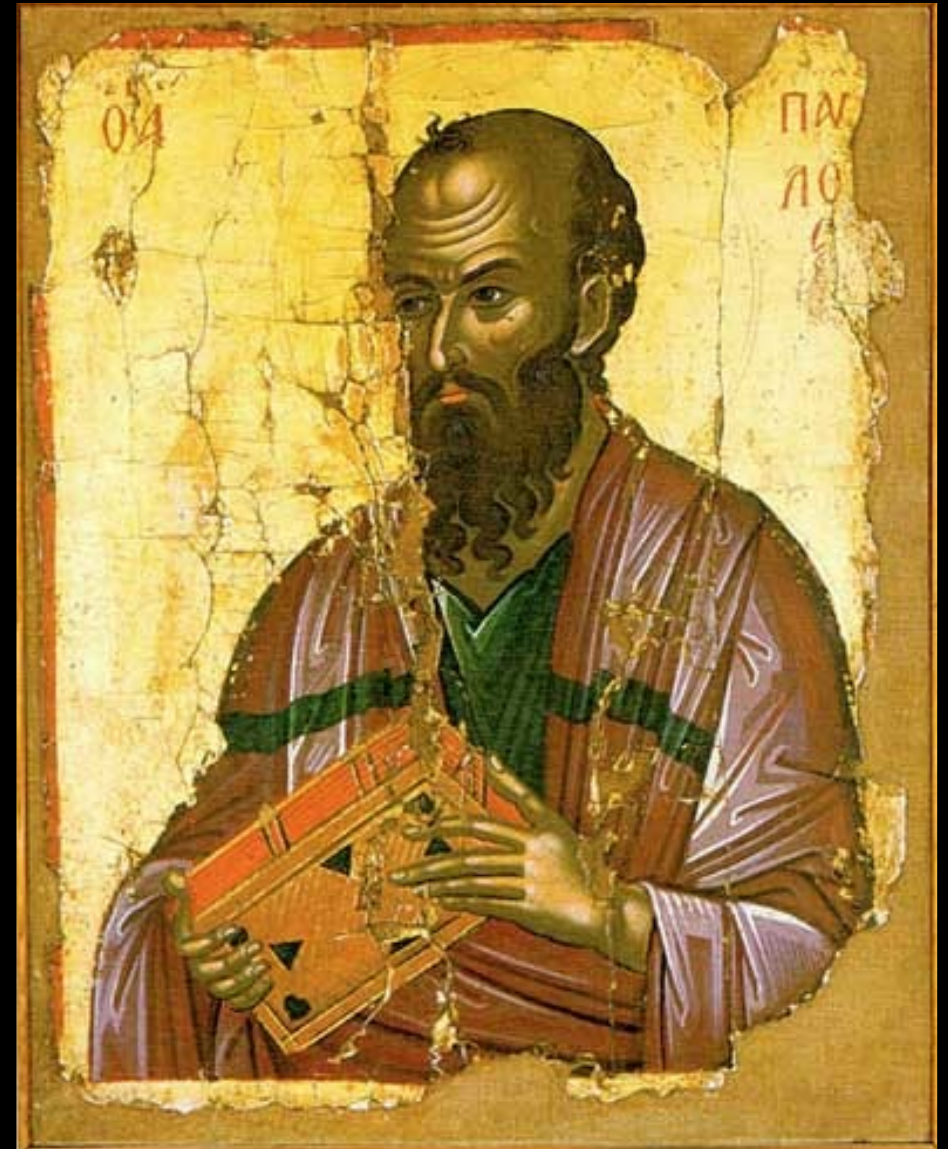
KANSAS



**Dust in the wind
All we are is dust in the wind
Everything is dust in the wind
Dust in the wind**

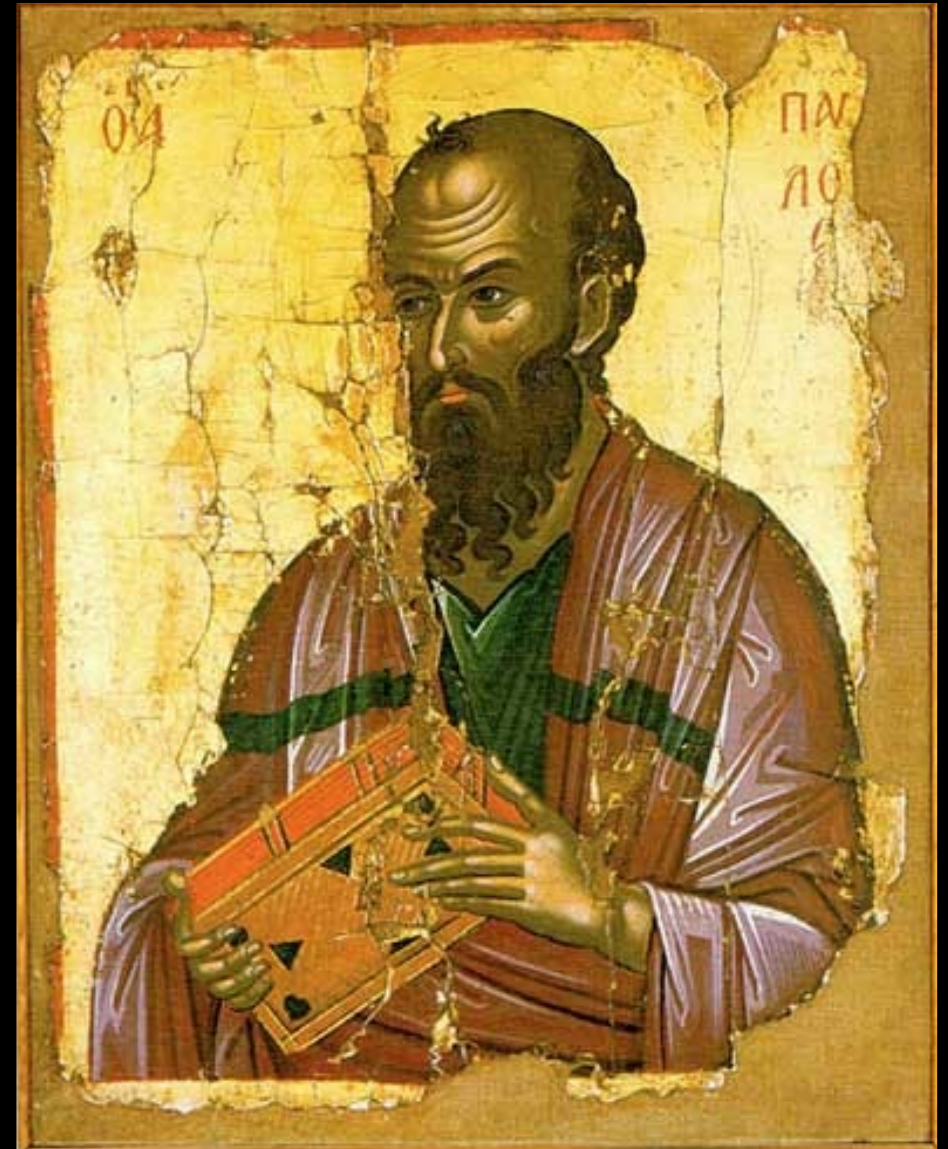


**So we do not lose heart.
Though our outer self is
wasting away, our inner
self is being renewed day
by day. For this light
momentary affliction is
preparing for us an
eternal weight of glory
beyond all comparison,**



The Apostle Paul
— 2 Corinthians 4:16-19 —

**as we look not to the
things that are seen but
to the things that are
unseen. For the things
that are seen are
transient, but the things
that are unseen are
eternal.**



The Apostle Paul
— 2 Corinthians 4:16-19 —

May you live
remembering your
Creator because
everything you do
in your fleeting life
matters!

