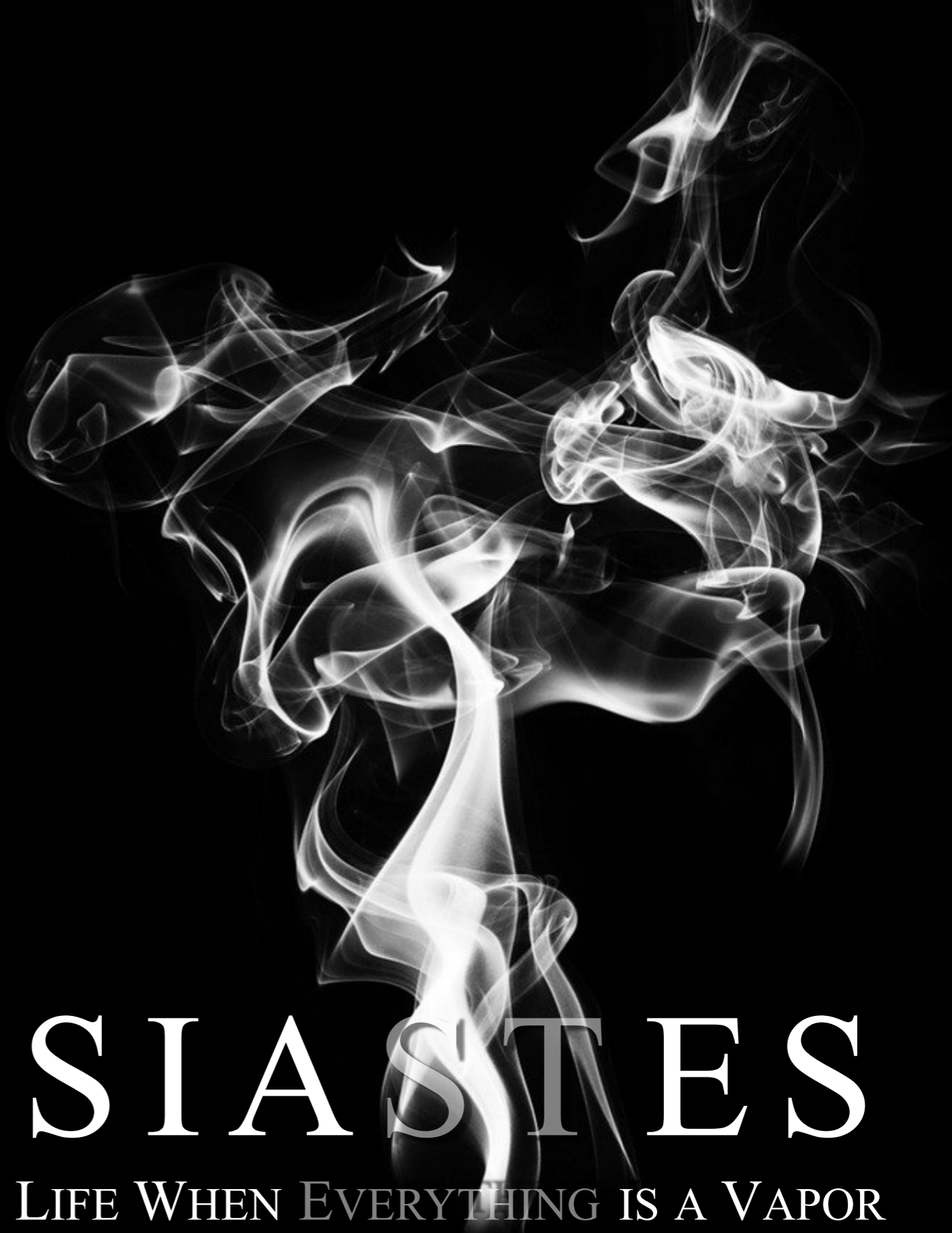


A Time for Everything

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-15





ECCLESIASTES

EXPLORING THE MEANING OF LIFE WHEN EVERYTHING IS A VAPOR



Shower Feelings

@feelings_shower

When asked "where do you see yourself in 5 years", everybody in 2015 probably got the answer wrong.



**What then is time?
If no one asks me,
I know what it is. If
I wish to explain it
to him who asks,
I do not know.**

— Augustine (354-430) —



We are all
time-bound
creatures



**Time why you punish me
like a wave bashing
into the shore
you wash away
my dreams**



**Time why you walk away
like a friend with
somewhere to go
you left me crying**



**Can you teach me
'bout tomorrow
and all the pain
and sorrow
running free**



**'Cause tomorrow's
just another day
and I don't believe
in Time**



**I think I'm
out of my mind
thinking about time**



A Time for Everything

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-15



Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

1 For everything there is **a season,**
and **a time** for every matter under
heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

- 1 For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under
heaven:**
- 2 a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck
up what has been planted.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

**3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time
to build up;**

**4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to
dance;**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

- 5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.**
- 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

- 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time
to speak;**
- 8 a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.**



This is a poem

1

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

2

a time to kill, and a time to heal
a time to break down, and a time to build up

3

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

4

a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

5

a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

6

a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

7

a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

a **time** to be born, and a **time** to die;
a **time** to plant, and a **time** to pluck up what is planted;
a **time** to kill, and a **time** to heal;
a **time** to break down, and a **time** to build up;
a **time** to weep, and a **time** to laugh;
a **time** to mourn, and a **time** to dance;
a **time** to cast away stones, and a **time** to gather stones;
a **time** to embrace, and a **time** to refrain from embracing;
a **time** to seek, and a **time** to lose;
a **time** to keep, and a **time** to cast away;
a **time** to tear, and a **time** to sew;
a **time** to keep silence, and a **time** to speak;
a **time** to love, and a **time** to hate;
a **time** for war, and a **time** for peace.



This is a poem



about life

a time to be **born**, and a time to die;
a time to **plant**, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to **heal**;
a time to break down, and a time to **build up**;
a time to weep, and a time to **laugh**;
a time to mourn, and a time to **dance**;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to **gather** stones;
a time to **embrace**, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to **seek**, and a time to lose;
a time to **keep**, and a time to cast away;
a time to tear, and a time to **sew**;
a time to keep silence, and a time to **speak**;
a time to **love**, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for **peace**.



This is a poem



about life



east of Eden

a time to be born, and a time to **die**;
a time to plant, and a time to **pluck up** what is planted;
a time to **kill**, and a time to heal
a time to **break down**, and a time to build up
a time to **weep**, and a time to laugh;
a time to **mourn**, and a time to dance;
a time to **cast away** stones, and a time to gather stones;
a time to embrace, and a time to **refrain from embracing**;
a time to seek, and a time to **lose**;
a time to keep, and a time to **cast away**;
a time to **tear**, and a time to sew;
a time to **keep silence**, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to **hate**;
a time for **war**, and a time for peace.

25

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal
a time to break down, and a time to build up
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to **cast away** stones, and a time to gather stones;
a time to embrace, and a time to **refrain from embracing**;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

24

a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.



This is a poem



about life



east of Eden



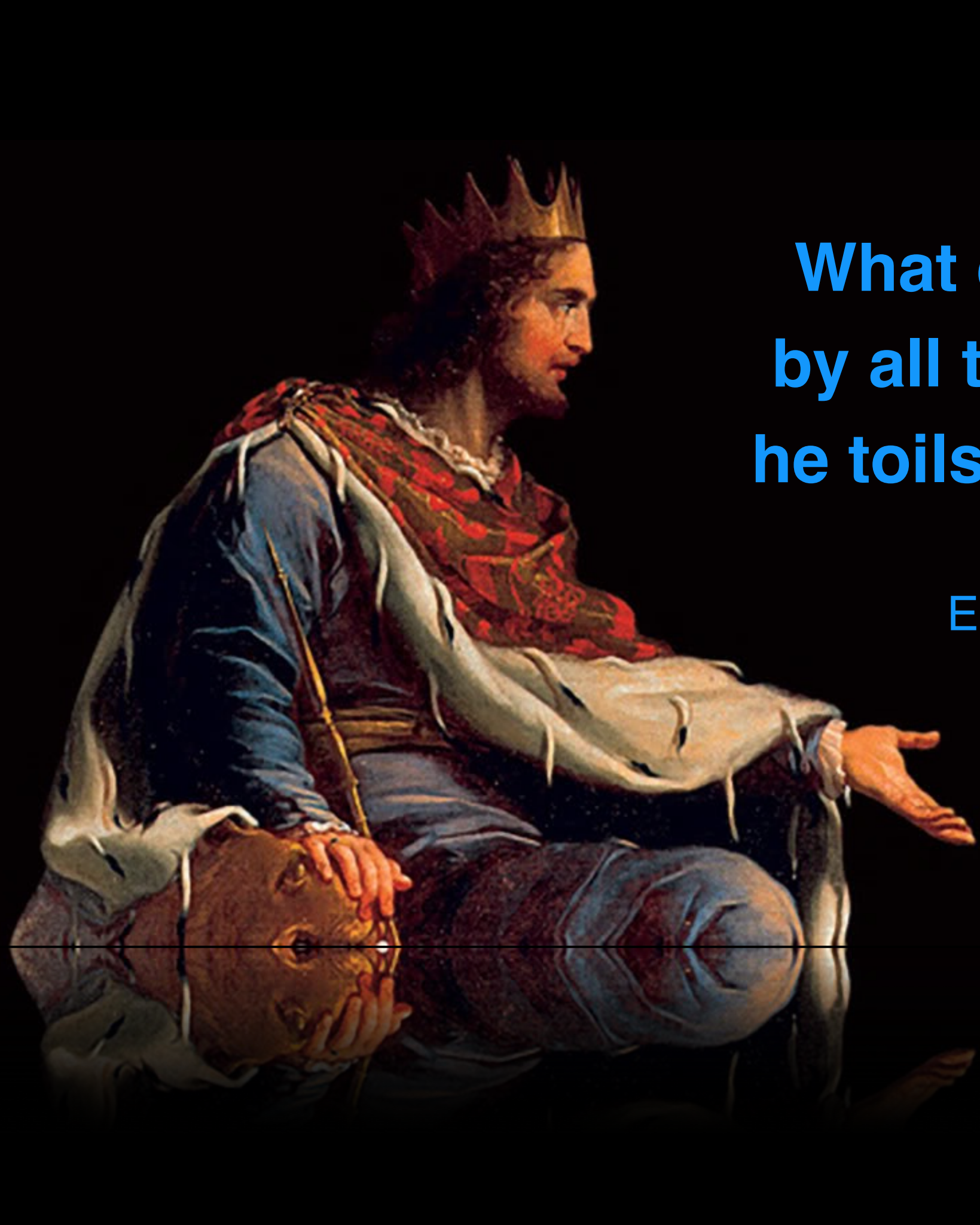
under heaven

3:1 - “a time for every matter under heaven”

5:1 - “God is in heaven”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

9 What **gain** has the worker from his toil? 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.

A painting of a king in profile, facing right. He wears a golden crown and a blue and red patterned robe. His hands are clasped in prayer, and he has a contemplative expression. The background is dark.

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

Ecclesiastes 1:3

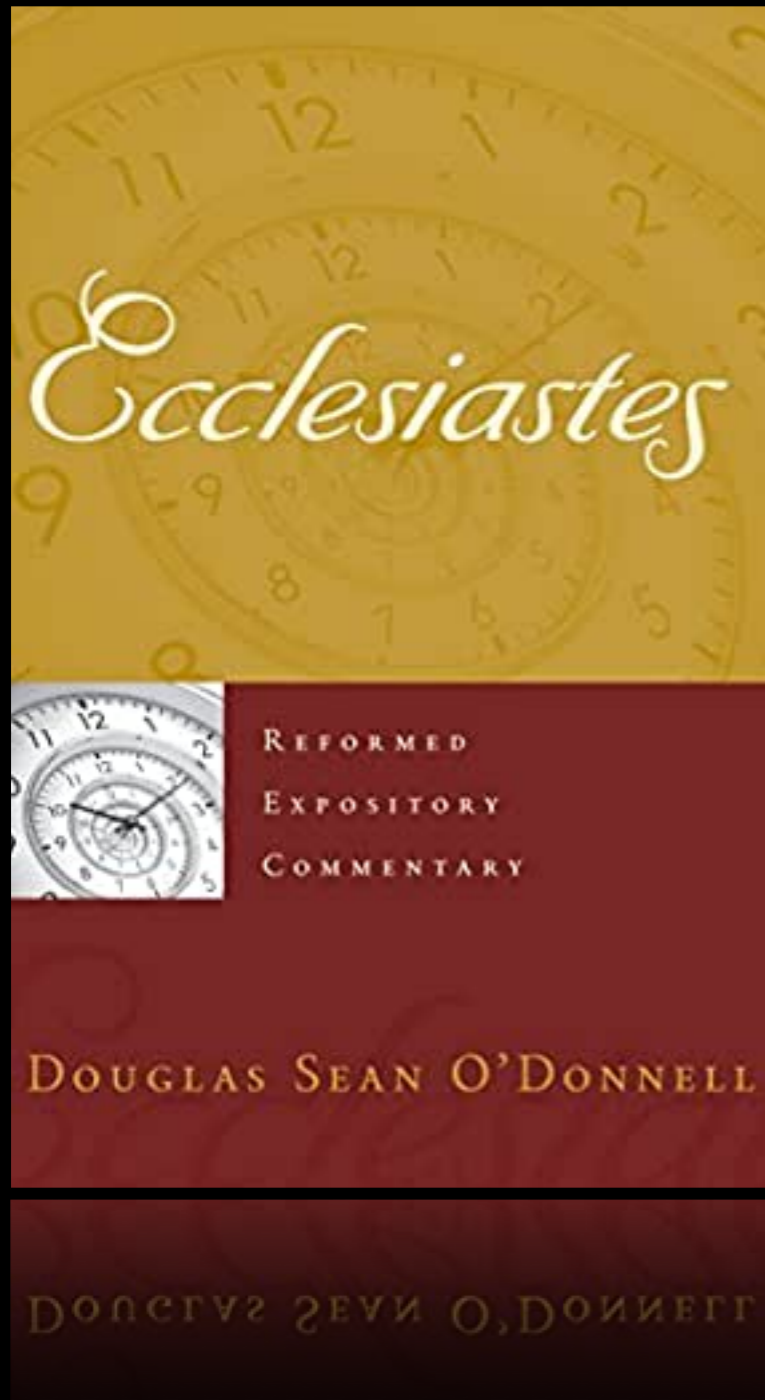
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

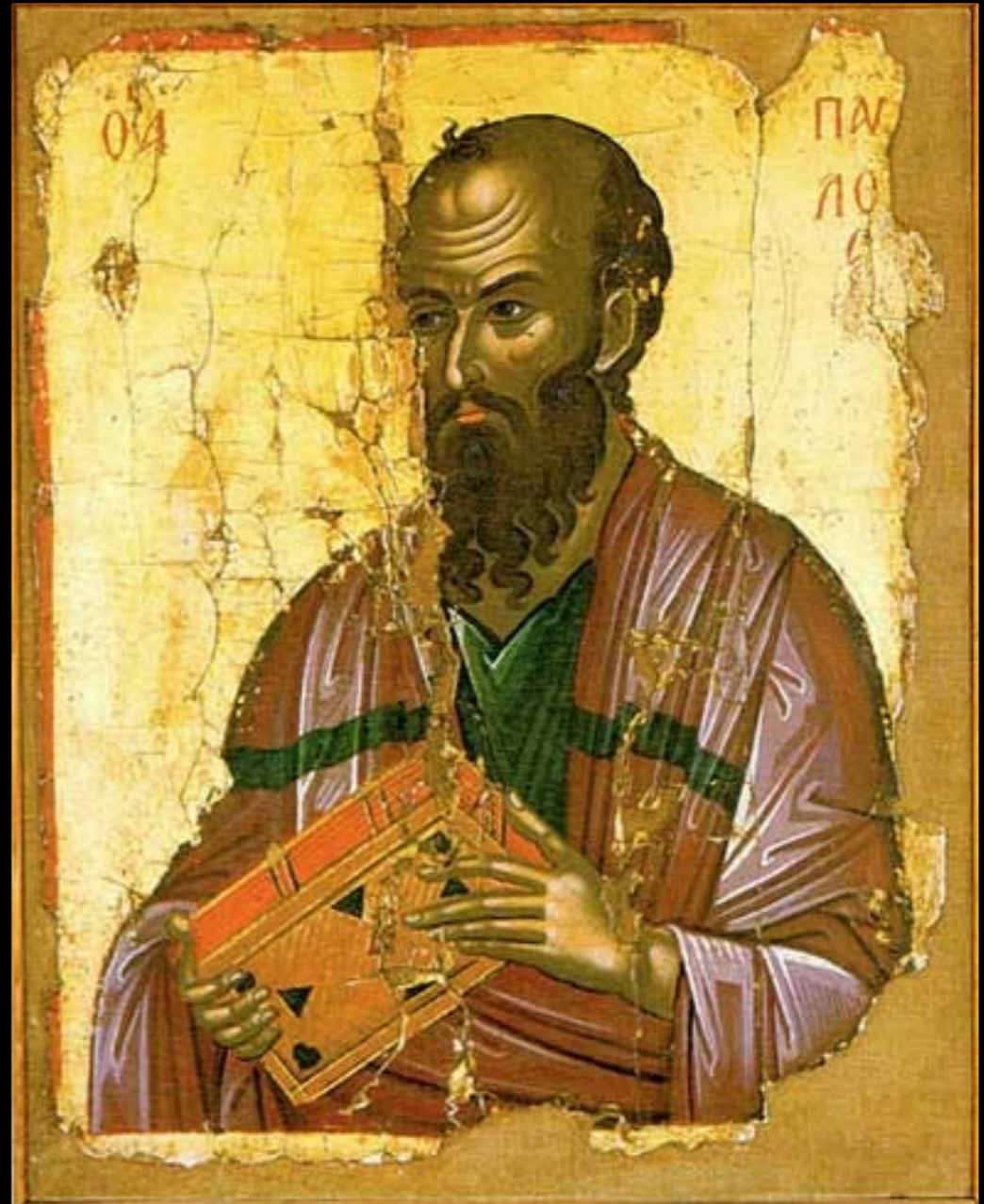




**The purpose of seeing
from a heavenly
perspective the tick and
tock of time on earth is...
so that we might
embrace the beauty of
God's comprehensive
control of everything.**

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

The Apostle Paul
— Romans 8:28 —

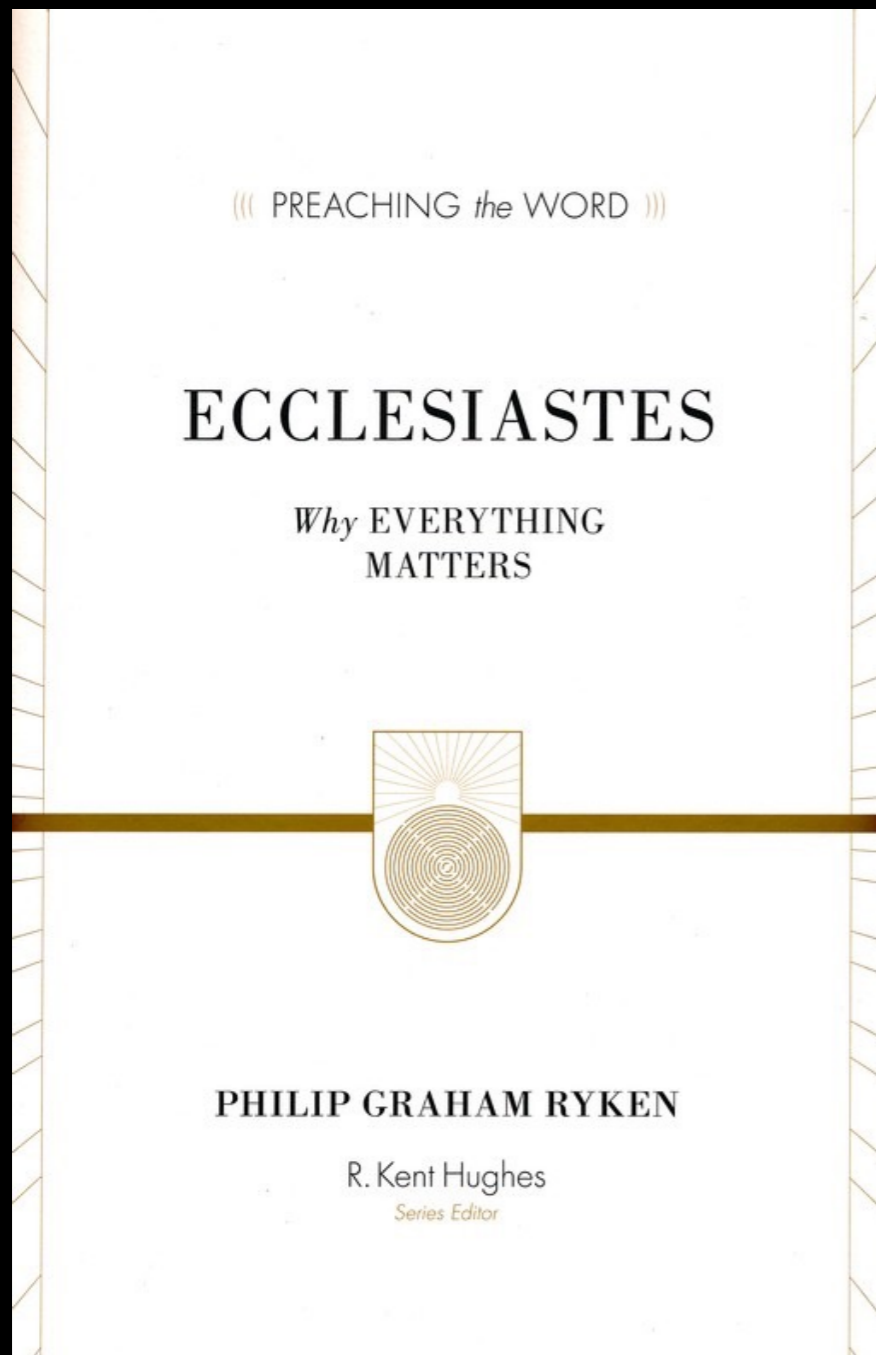


Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. **Also, he has put eternity into man's heart,** yet so that he cannot find out what God has some from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. **Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has some from the beginning to the end.**



The eternity in our hearts gives us a deep desire to know what God has done from the beginning to end.... But as finite creatures living in a fallen world, there are so many things we do not understand...

(((PREACHING *the* WORD)))

ECCLESIASTES

Why EVERYTHING
MATTERS



PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN

R. Kent Hughes
Series Editor

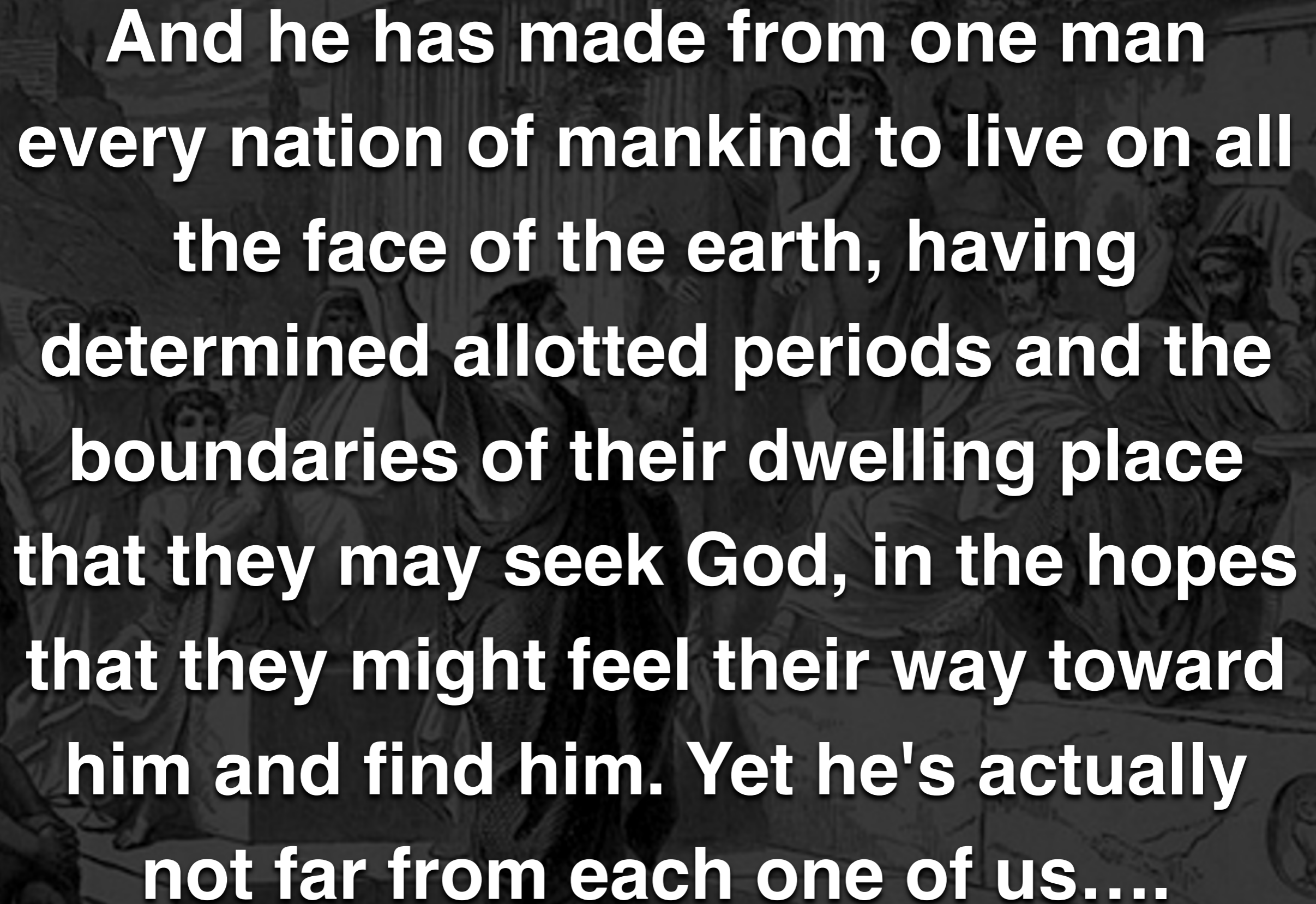
Whereas God has a complete view, all we have is a point of view. Our limited perspective is unable to span the mind of God.



The sweetest thing in all my life
has been the longing...
to find the place where
all the beauty came from.

~ CS Lewis





And he has made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place that they may seek God, in the hopes that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he's actually not far from each one of us....

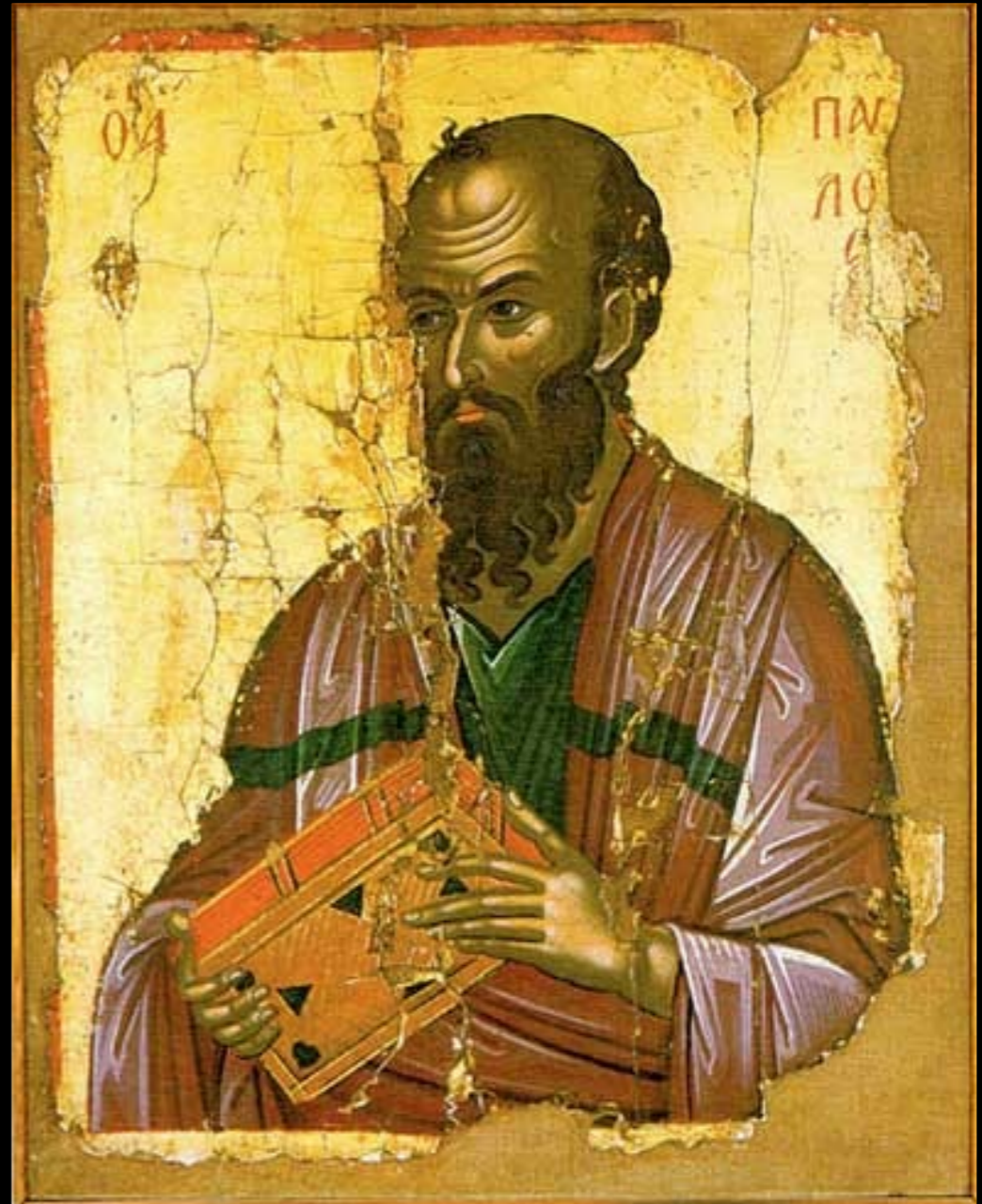
— The Apostle Paul in Athens (Acts 17:26) —

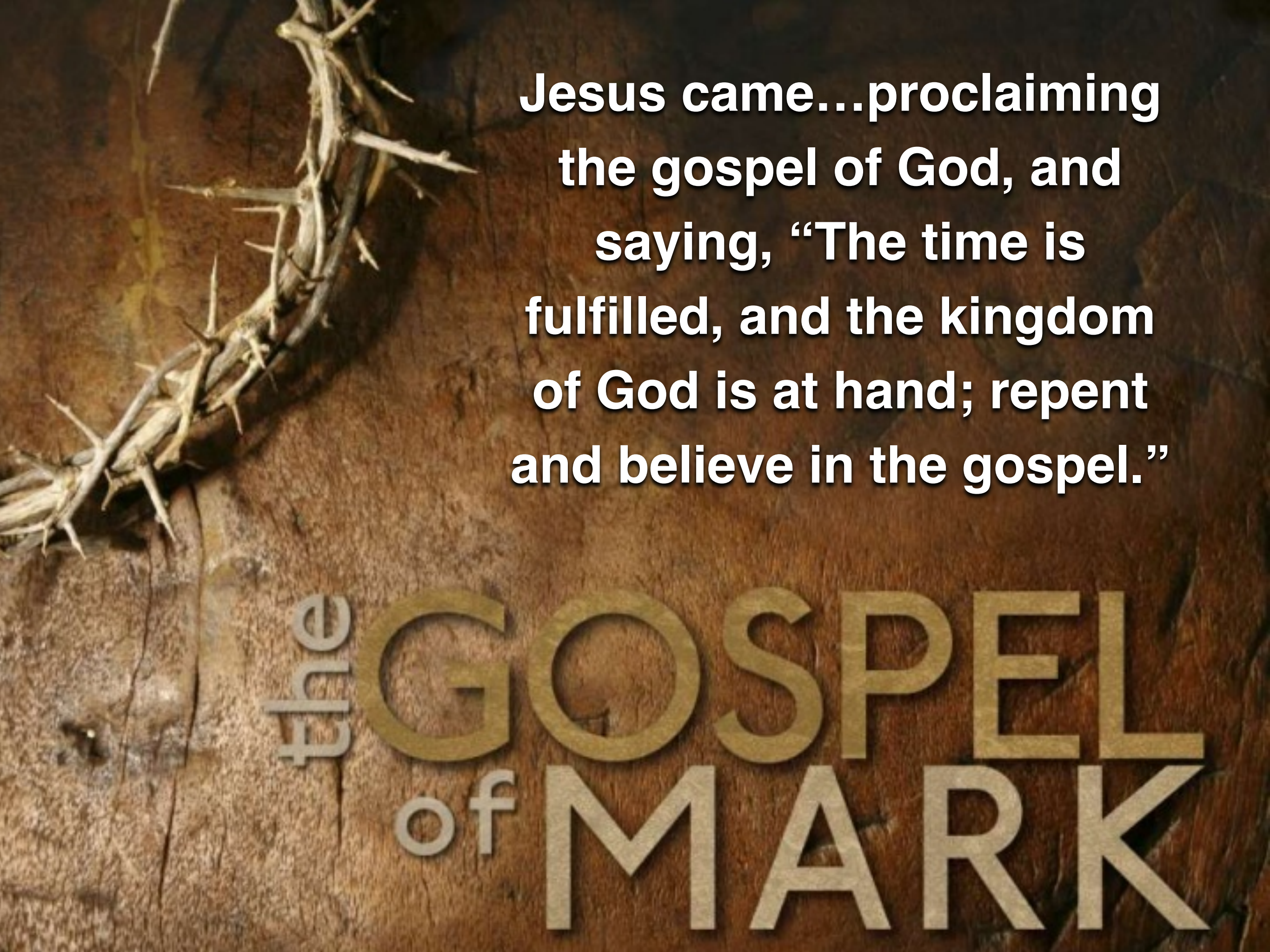
**THERE IS PART OF US
THAT LONGS TO
TRANSCEND TIME,
BUT THE GOOD NEWS
IS THAT THE ONE WHO
TRANSCENDS TIME
DETERMINED TO ENTER
TIME TO BRING US
TO GOD**



**But when the
fullness of time had
come, God sent
forth his Son...**

The Apostle Paul
— Galatians 4:4 —



A wooden surface with a crown of thorns in the upper left corner. The text is overlaid on the wood.

**Jesus came...proclaiming
the gospel of God, and
saying, "The time is
fulfilled, and the kingdom
of God is at hand; repent
and believe in the gospel."**

**the GOSPEL
of MARK**

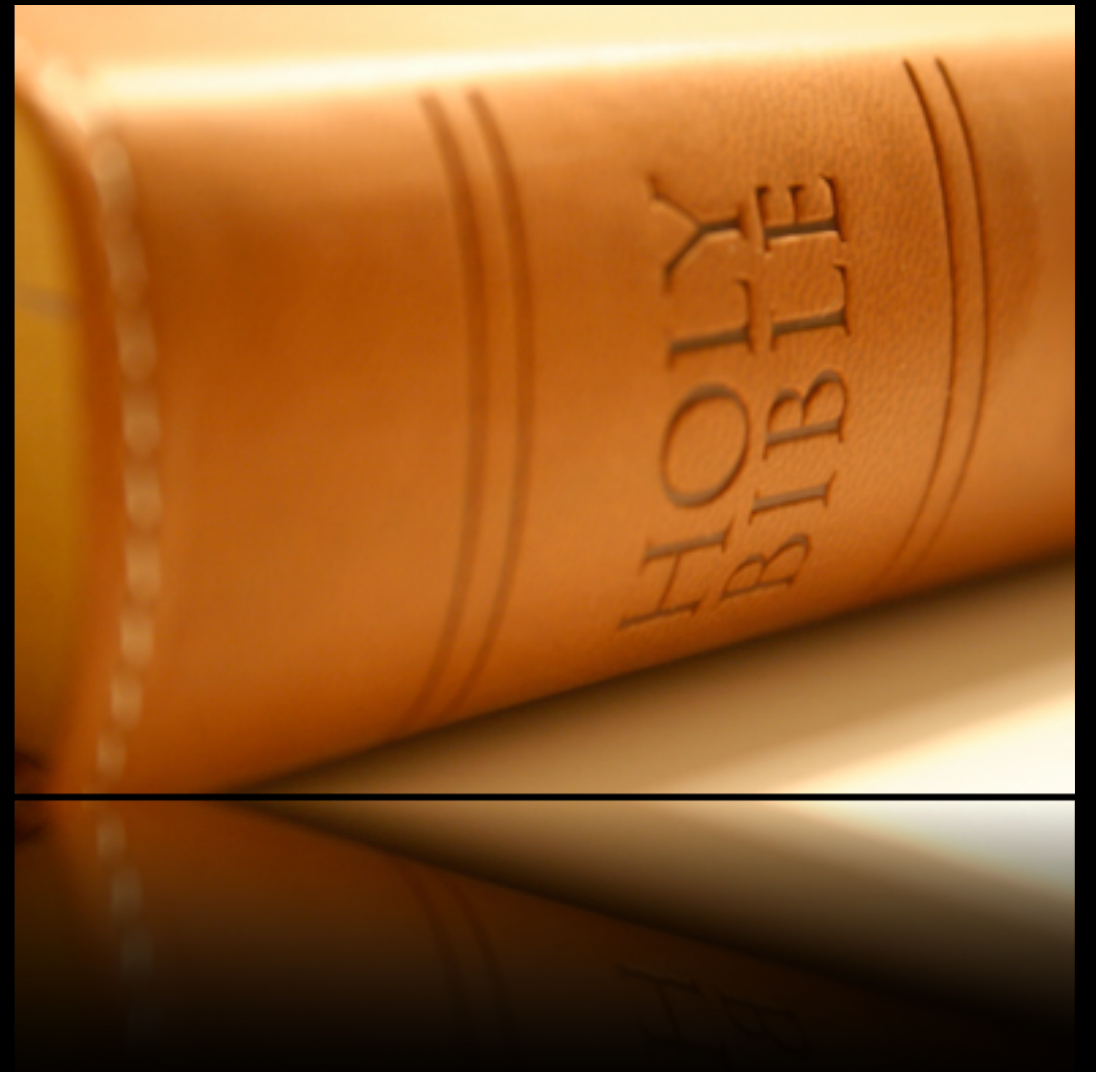


**Jesus knew that his hour had come
to depart out of this world to the Father....**

— The Gospel of John 13:1 —

**At just the
right time,
Christ died
for the ungodly.**

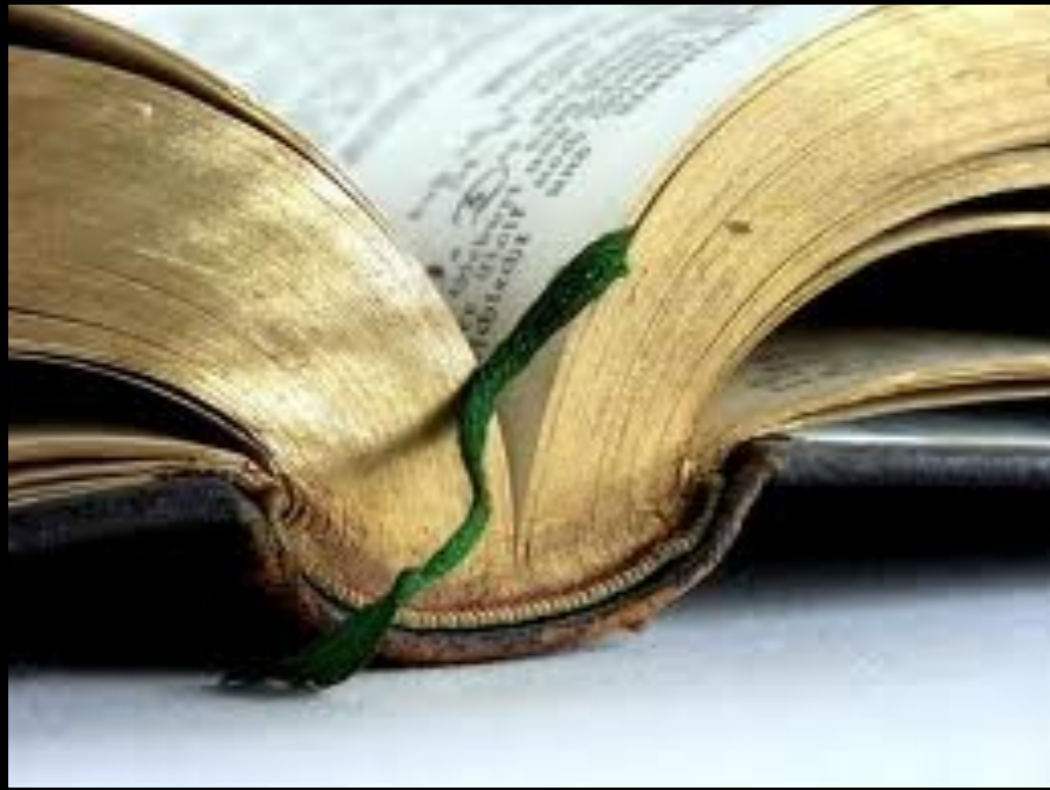
The Apostle Paul
Romans 5:6



**God raised him from
the dead, freeing him
from the agony of death,
because it was
impossible for death to
keep its hold on him.**

— Acts 2:24 —





The Apostle John
in The Revelation 21:4

**He will wipe every
tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no
more, neither shall
there be mourning,
nor crying, nor pain
anymore, for the
former things have
passed away.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.



Confession #1: This I Know

**Life is a gift to be
enjoyed from God**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

12 I perceived that **there is nothing better** for them than **to be joyful** and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should **eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil**—this is **God's gift to man.**

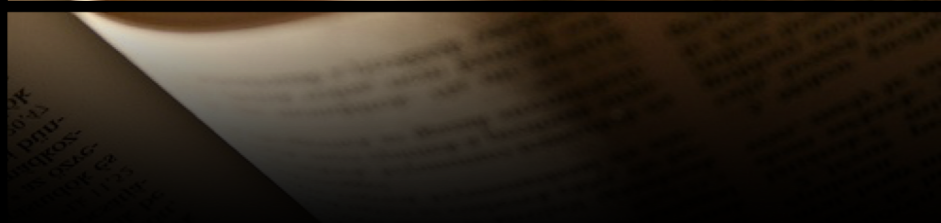
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

12 I perceived that **there is nothing better** for them than to be joyful and **to do good as long as they live;** 13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—**this is God's gift to man.**

**God anointed Jesus
of Nazareth with the
Holy Spirit and power,
and he went around
doing good.**

— Acts 10:38 —





Ephesians 2:10

**We are God's
workmanship created
in Christ Jesus to do
good works which
God has prepared in
advance that we
should do.**



**There is nothing better than to be joyful
and to do good as long as I live, and
to eat and drink and take pleasure
in all my work—this is God’s gift to me.**

HT: Phillip Ryken

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

14 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.



Confession #2: This I Know

God is sovereign

The background features a close-up, slightly blurred view of Hebrew text from an ancient manuscript, likely the Bible. The text is written in a traditional script and is illuminated by a warm, golden light that creates a bright, circular glow in the center of the image. The overall tone is reverent and historical.

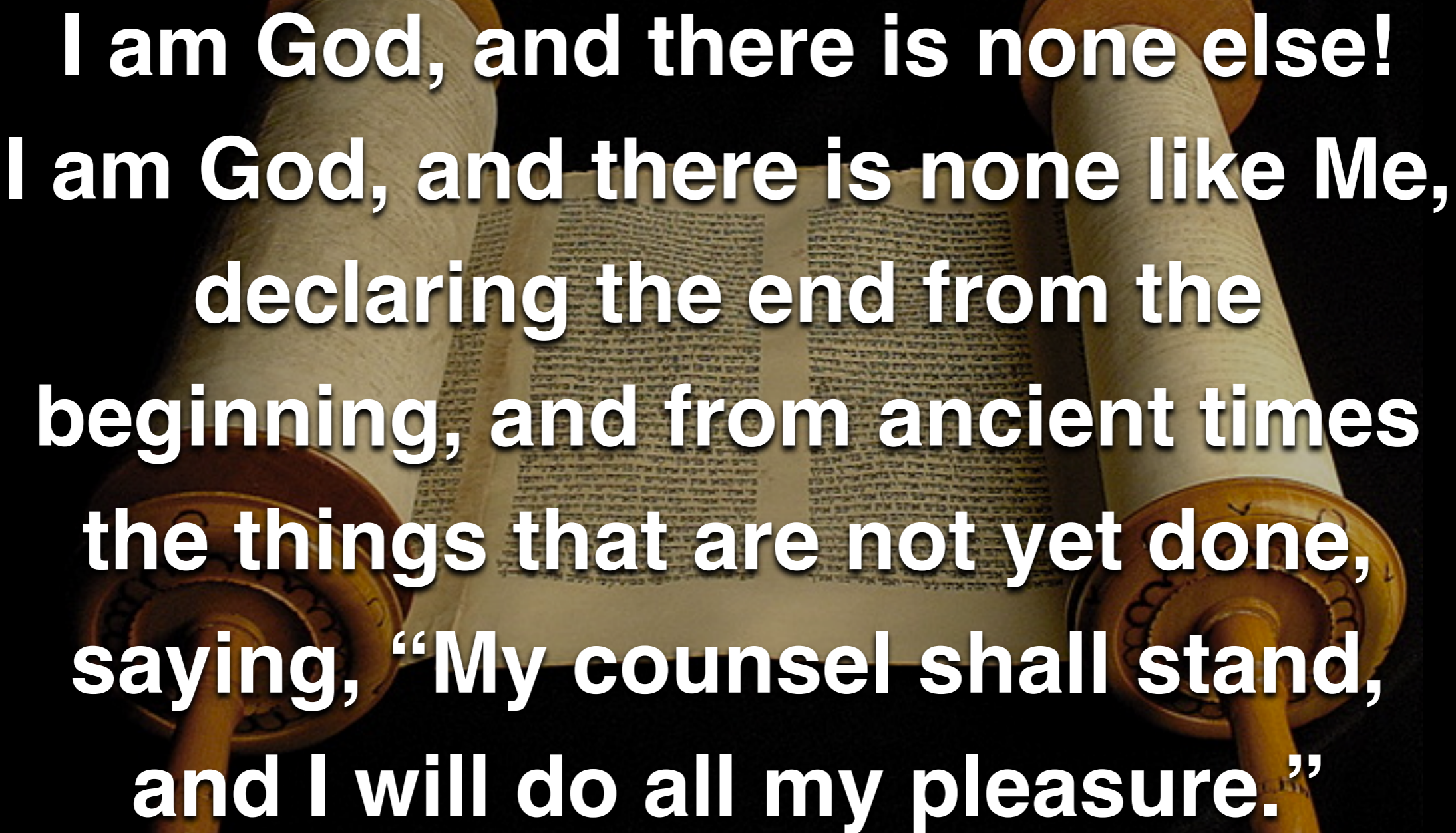
**Our God is in the heavens;
He does whatever he pleases.**

— Psalm 115:3 —



— Daniel 4:35 —

**He does according to his
will among the host of
heaven and among the
inhabitants of the earth.
None can stay his hand
or say to him,
“What have you done?”**



**I am God, and there is none else!
I am God, and there is none like Me,
declaring the end from the
beginning, and from ancient times
the things that are not yet done,
saying, “My counsel shall stand,
and I will do all my pleasure.”**

— Isaiah 46:9-10 —

— The Westminster Assembly of 1643 —



God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

— Westminster Confession of Faith 5:1 —



**There is
no maverick
molecule if God
is sovereign.**

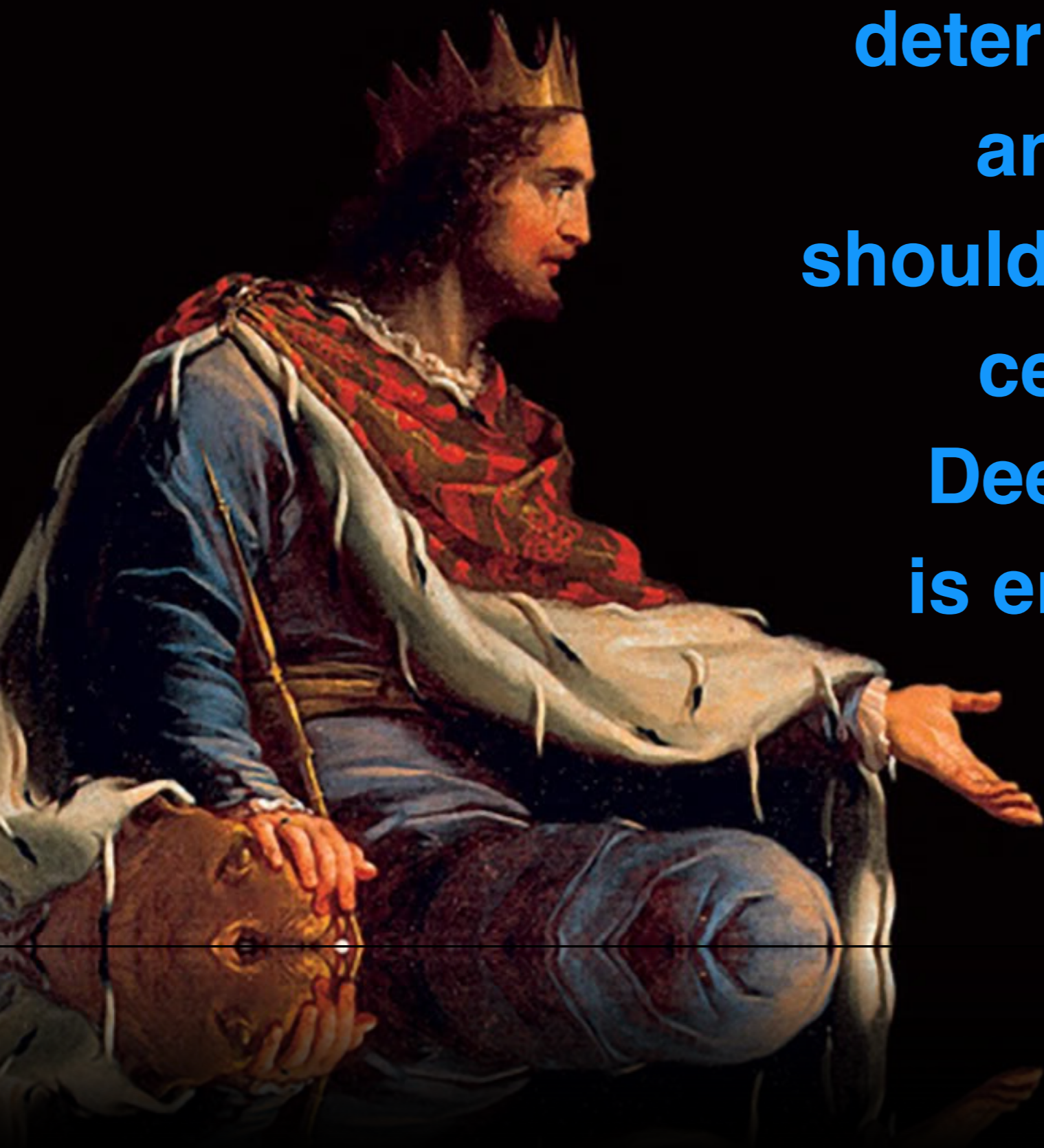
— RC Sproul —

**What was that
thing about
“fearing God”?**



Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

14 I perceived that **whatever God does endures forever**; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, **so that people fear before him.**



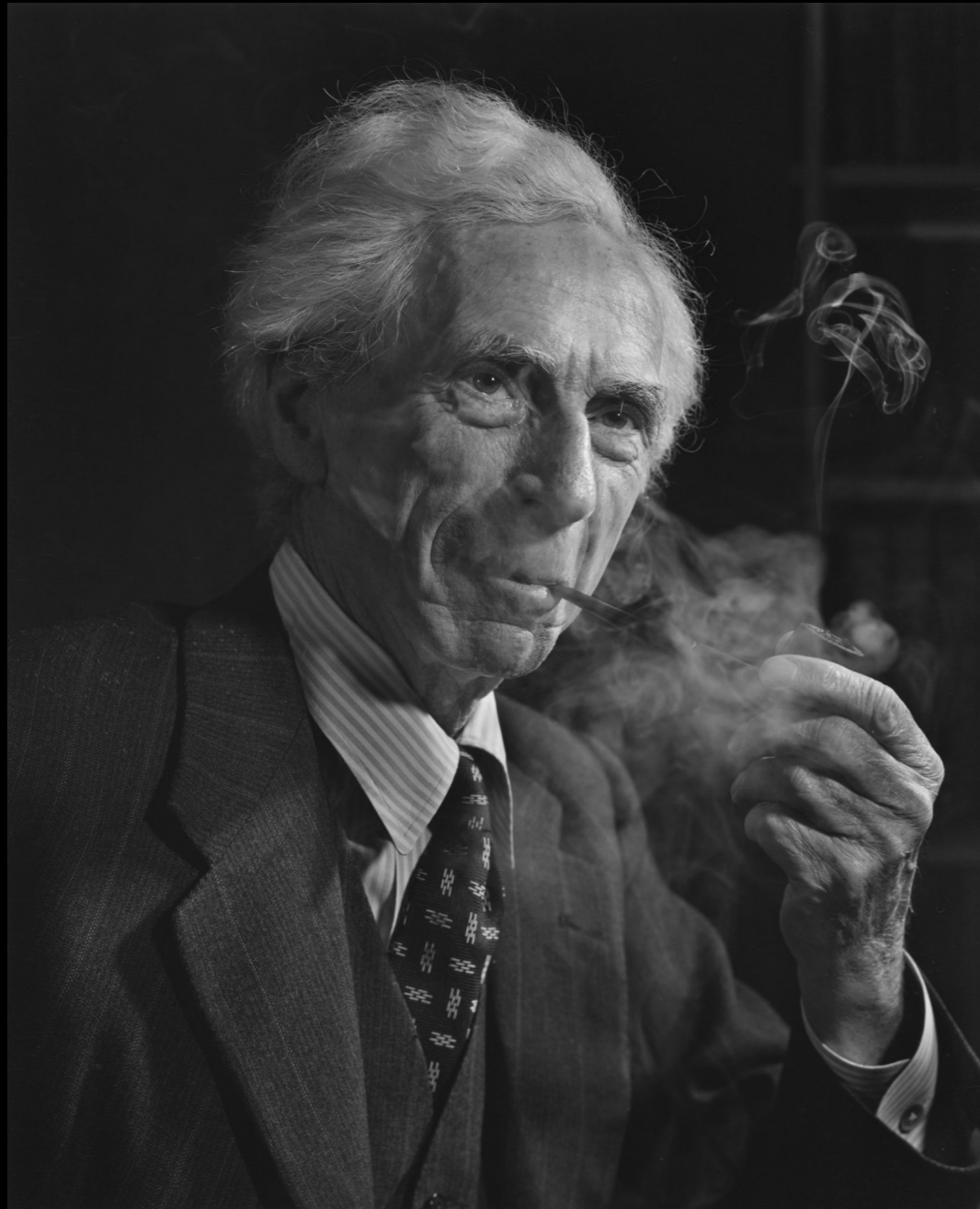
**The sovereign God who has
determined our birth date
and our death date
should be the all consuming
center of our lives.**

**Deep, reverential awe
is entirely appropriate.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

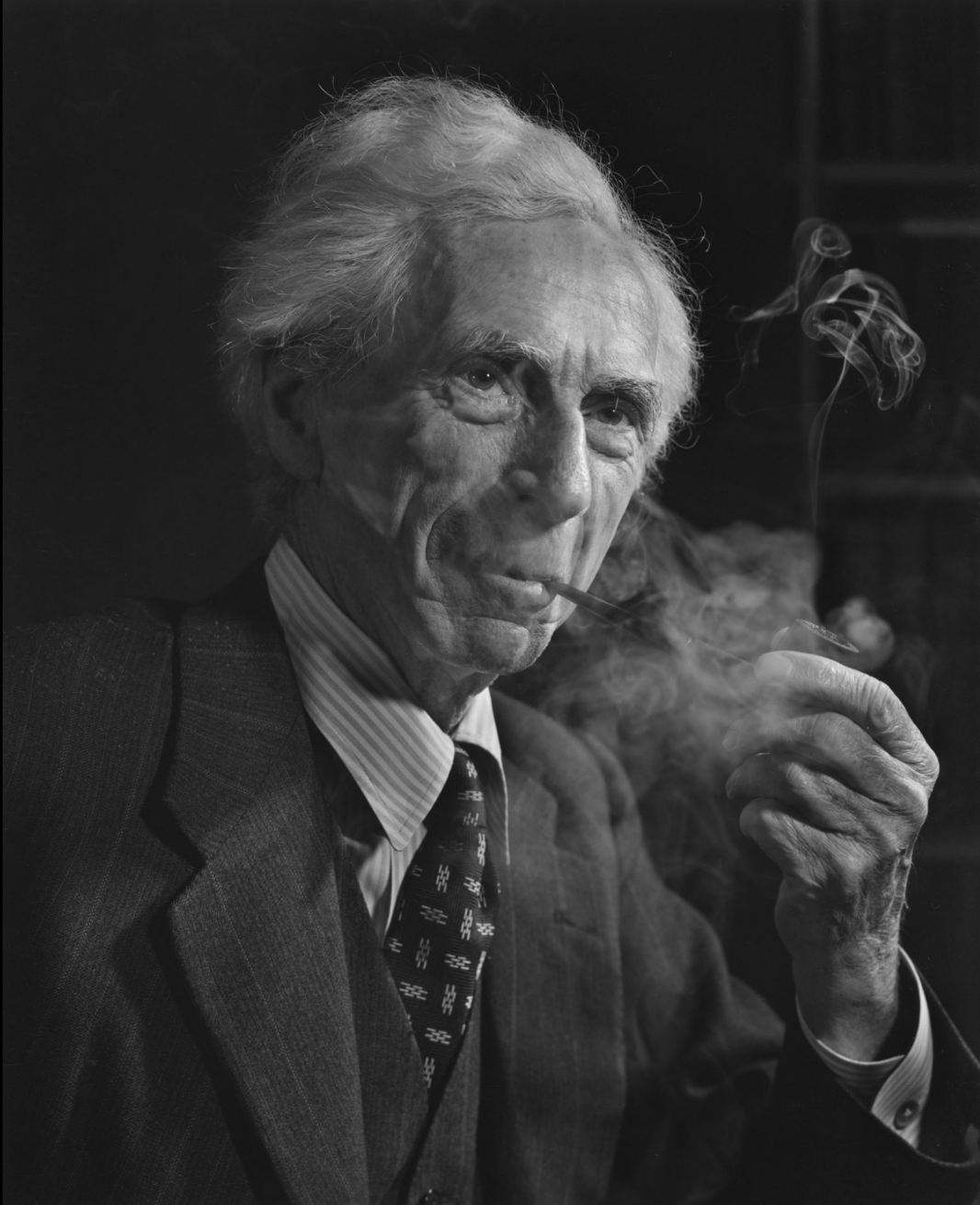
**15 That which is, already has been;
that which is to be, already has been;
and God seeks what has been driven
away.**

**GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER
THE TICK TOCK OF TIME.
WHILE WE DRAW BREATH,
LET'S REJOICE IN HIS
SOVEREIGN GIFT OF LIFE.**



— Bertrand Russell —

It was true, I had always realized it—I hadn't any 'right' to exist at all. I had appeared by chance. I existed like a stone, a plant, a microbe. I could feel nothing to myself but an inconsequential buzzing.

A black and white photograph of Bertrand Russell, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark suit, a light-colored striped shirt, and a patterned tie. He is holding a pipe in his mouth and smoking, with a wisp of smoke rising from the pipe. The background is dark and out of focus.

**I was thinking...that
here we are eating and
drinking, to preserve
our precious existence,
and that there's
nothing, nothing,
absolutely no reason
for existing.**

— Bertrand Russell —



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

~ Phillip James Bailey, *Festus* (1839)



**I trust in you, O Lord.
I say, You are my God.
My times are in Your hand.**

— Psalm 31:14-15 —



**Remember
right now
counts forever**



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 is giving assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

— Acts 17:30-31 —

