



Rejoicing  
when God  
Comes Home  
for Christmas

The Gospel of John 1:1-18



**DISHWALLA**

**“Counting Blue Cars”**



**Must of been mid afternoon as I could tell  
by how far the child's shadow stretched out  
And he walked with a purpose  
in his sneakers down the street**



**He had many questions like children often do.  
He said, “Tell me all your thoughts on God,  
and tell me am I very far.”**

— “ ” —

**TELL ME ALL YOUR  
THOUGHTS ON GOD**

**What if we  
could go to God  
ourselves,  
or better yet,  
what if God  
came to us**



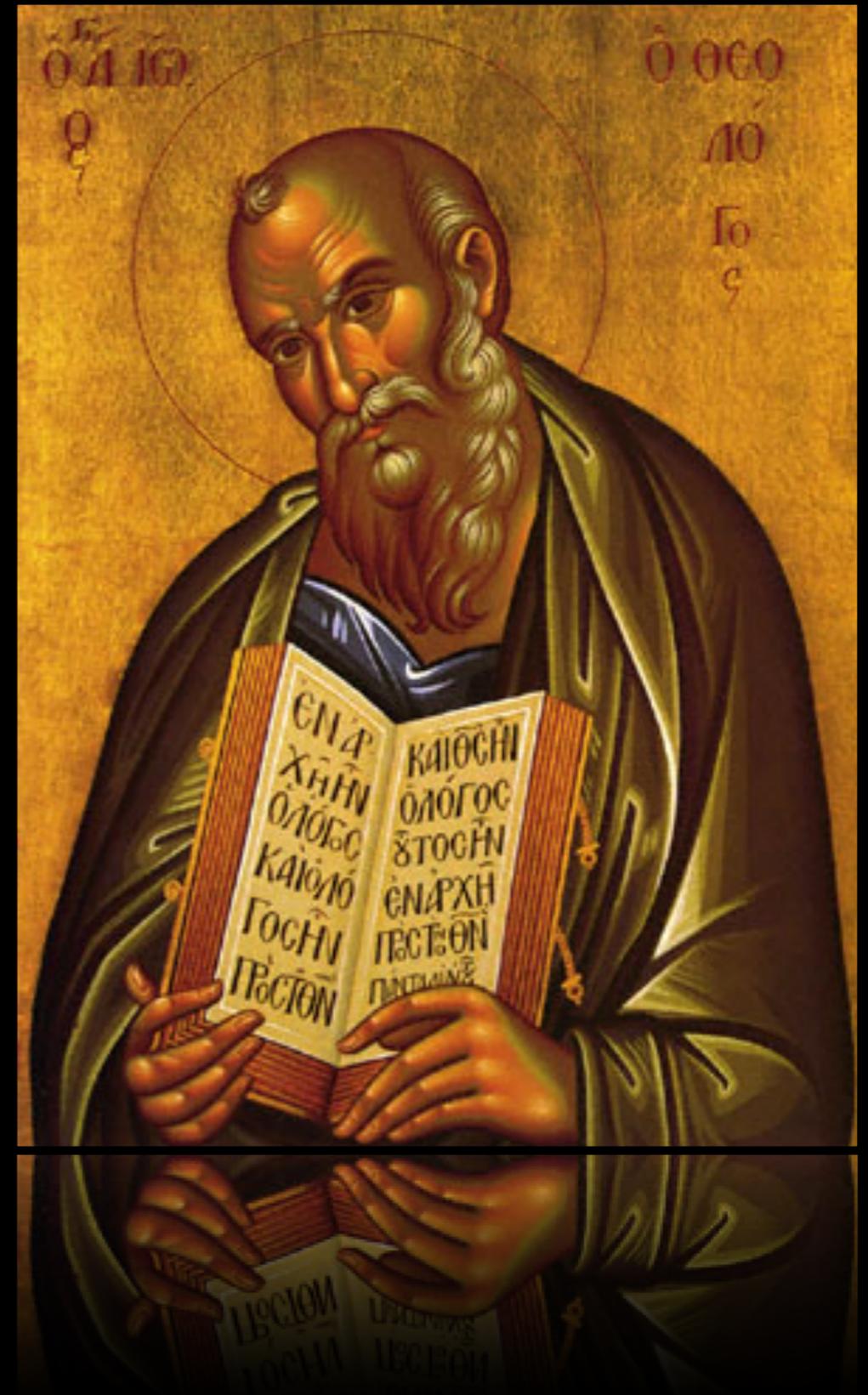


Rejoicing  
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The Gospel of John 1:1-18

# The Apostle John

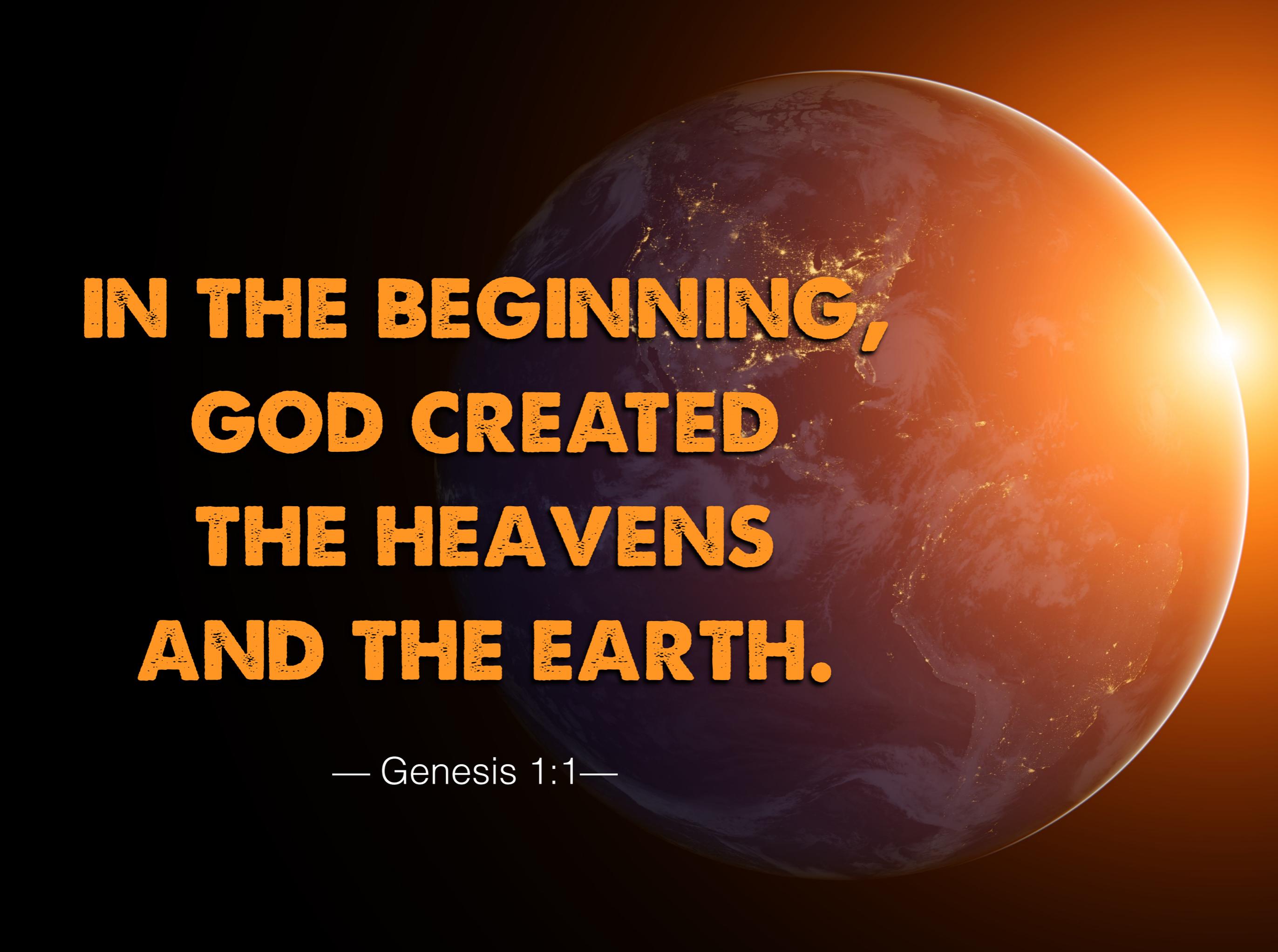
- One of the 12 Disciples
- A part of the inner circle
- Eyewitness to the life & resurrection of Jesus
- Biographer of Jesus
- Wrote 3 NT Letters + The Revelation
- Exiled to Isle of Patmos



# The Gospel of John 1:1-18

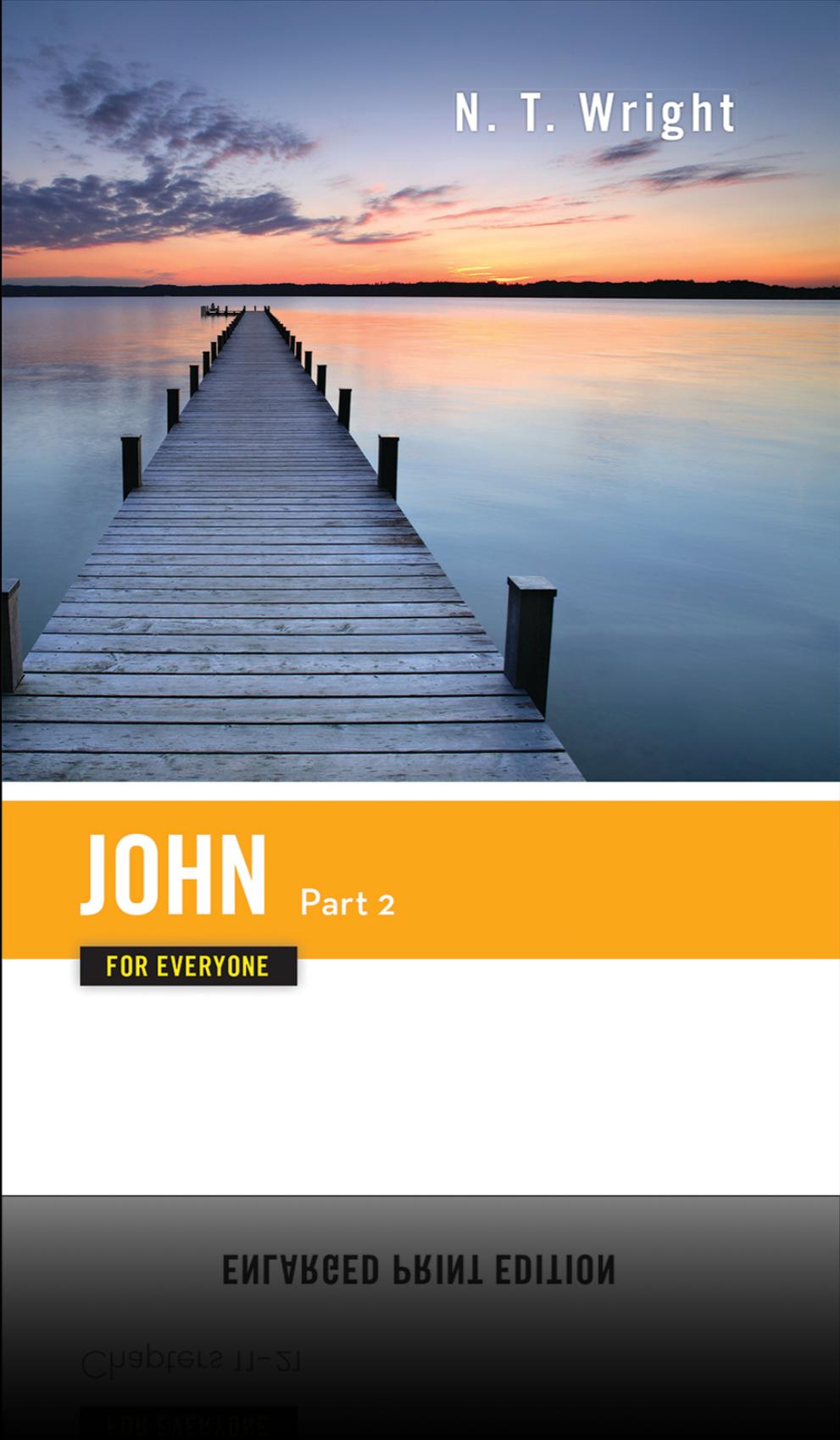
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**1 In the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



**IN THE BEGINNING,  
GOD CREATED  
THE HEAVENS  
AND THE EARTH.**

— Genesis 1:1 —



N. T. Wright

**JOHN** Part 2

FOR EVERYONE

ENGAGED BIBLE EDITION

Chapters 11-21

**This book is about the Creator God acting in a new way within his much-beloved creation. It is about the way in which the long story which began in Genesis reached the climax the Creator had always intended....**



N. T. Wright

**JOHN** Part 2

FOR EVERYONE

ENGAGED PRINT EDITION

Chapters 11-21

**In Genesis 1,  
the climax is  
the creation  
of humans....**

**In John 1,  
the climax is  
the arrival of  
a human being.**

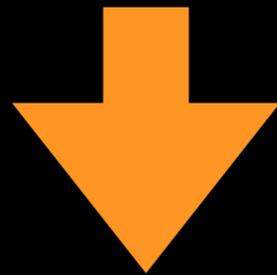
# The Gospel of John 1:1-18

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**1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

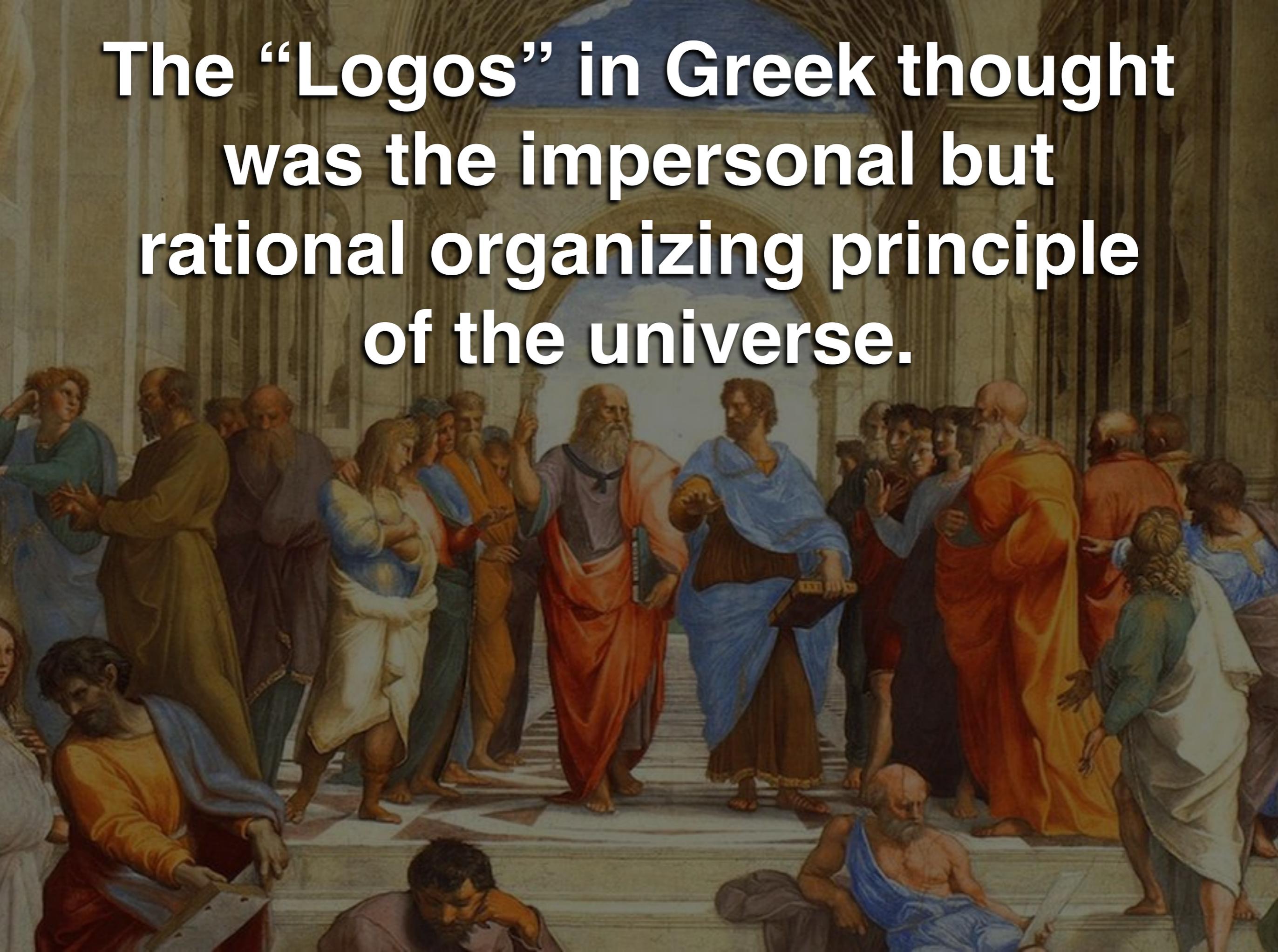
# **GEEKING OUT ON GREEK**

**Word = *logos* (λόγος)**



**word, speech, utterance  
message, announcement  
study, reason**

**The “Logos” in Greek thought  
was the impersonal but  
rational organizing principle  
of the universe.**

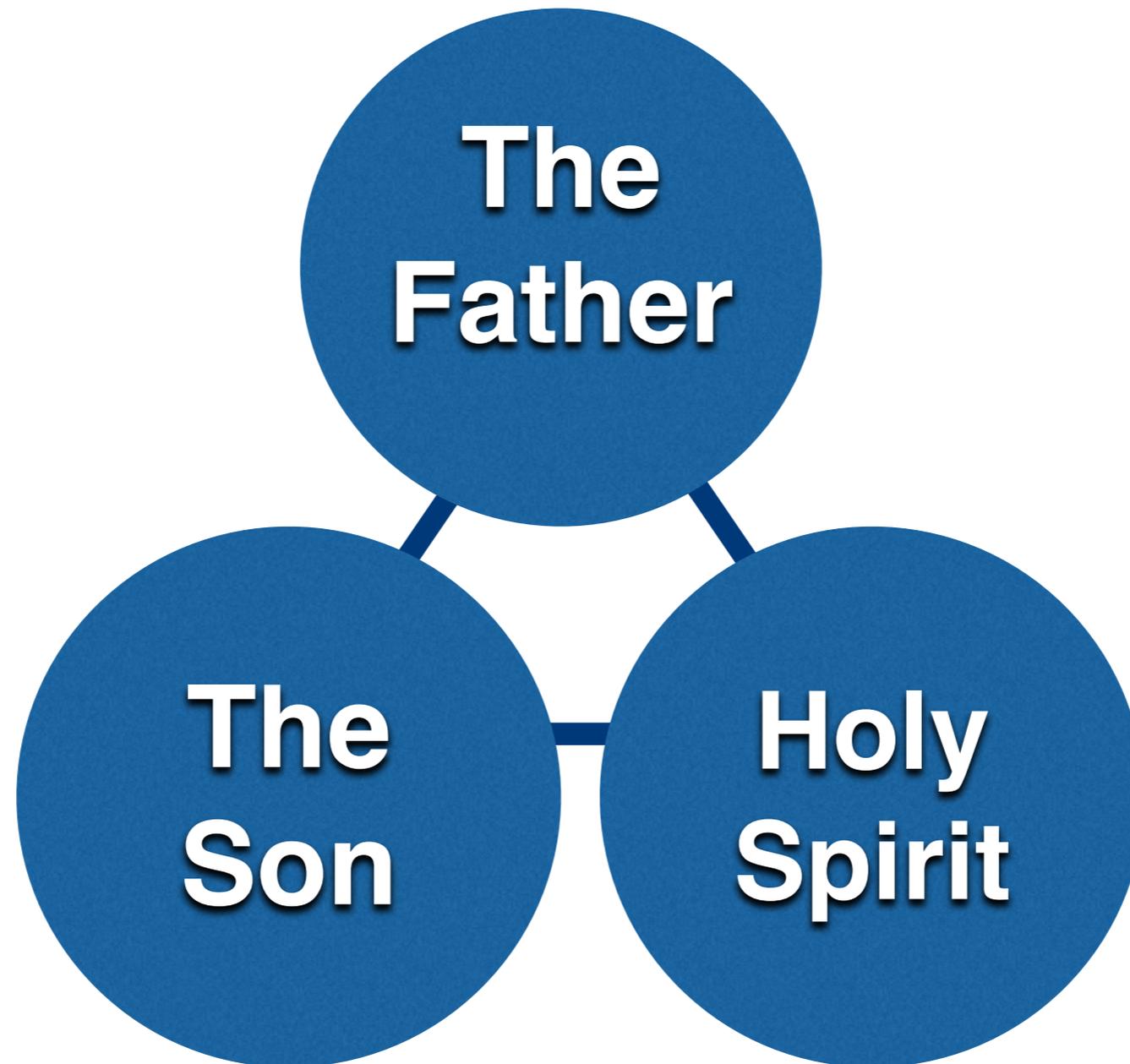


# The Gospel of John 1:1-18

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**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.**

# THE TRINITY



**“God is Love” and exists in an eternal community of love.**

# The Gospel of John 1:1-18

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**3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.**

**He is the image of the  
invisible God, the  
firstborn of all creation.  
For by him all things  
were created, in  
heaven and on earth,  
visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or  
dominions or rulers or  
authorities—**



**—all things were  
created through him  
and for him. And he  
is before all things,  
and in him all things  
hold together.**

**The Apostle Paul**  
— Colossians 1:15-17 —



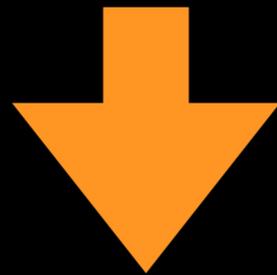
## The Gospel of John 1:1-18

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

# GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

Word = *skenoō* (σκηνώ)



to encamp / to pitch a tent

to abide / to live with

“to tabernacle”

EUGENE H. PETERSON

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.*

—ROMANS 12:1

*The*  
**MESSAGE**

THE BIBLE IN CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGE

"Eugene Peterson's work is the freshest, most dramatic treatment of the Scriptures since *The Living Bible*."

JERRY JENKINS, coauthor of the LEFT BEHIND series

JERRY JENKINS, coauthor of the LEFT BEHIND series  
of the Scriptures since *The Living Bible*.

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**The Word became  
flesh and blood,  
and moved into  
the neighborhood.**

**“Incarnation”**

in·car·na·tion

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**“en-flesh-ment”**

or

**“embodiment”**

**No other religion—whether secularism, Greco-Roman paganism, Eastern religion, Judaism or Islam—believes God became breakable or had a body. Eastern religion believes the physical is illusion. Greco-Romans believe the physical is bad. Judaism and Islam don't believe God would do such a thing as live in the flesh.**

— Tim Keller, Pastor & Author



**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”



A Rough Paraphrase:

**See God clothed in flesh**

**Praise the Divine Being in a human body**

**Pleased to live in the flesh with us**

**Jesus is our “God with us”**



# Key Thought

**It is possible to speak  
highly of Jesus —  
very highly, and yet  
not speak highly enough**

## The Gospel of John 1:1-18

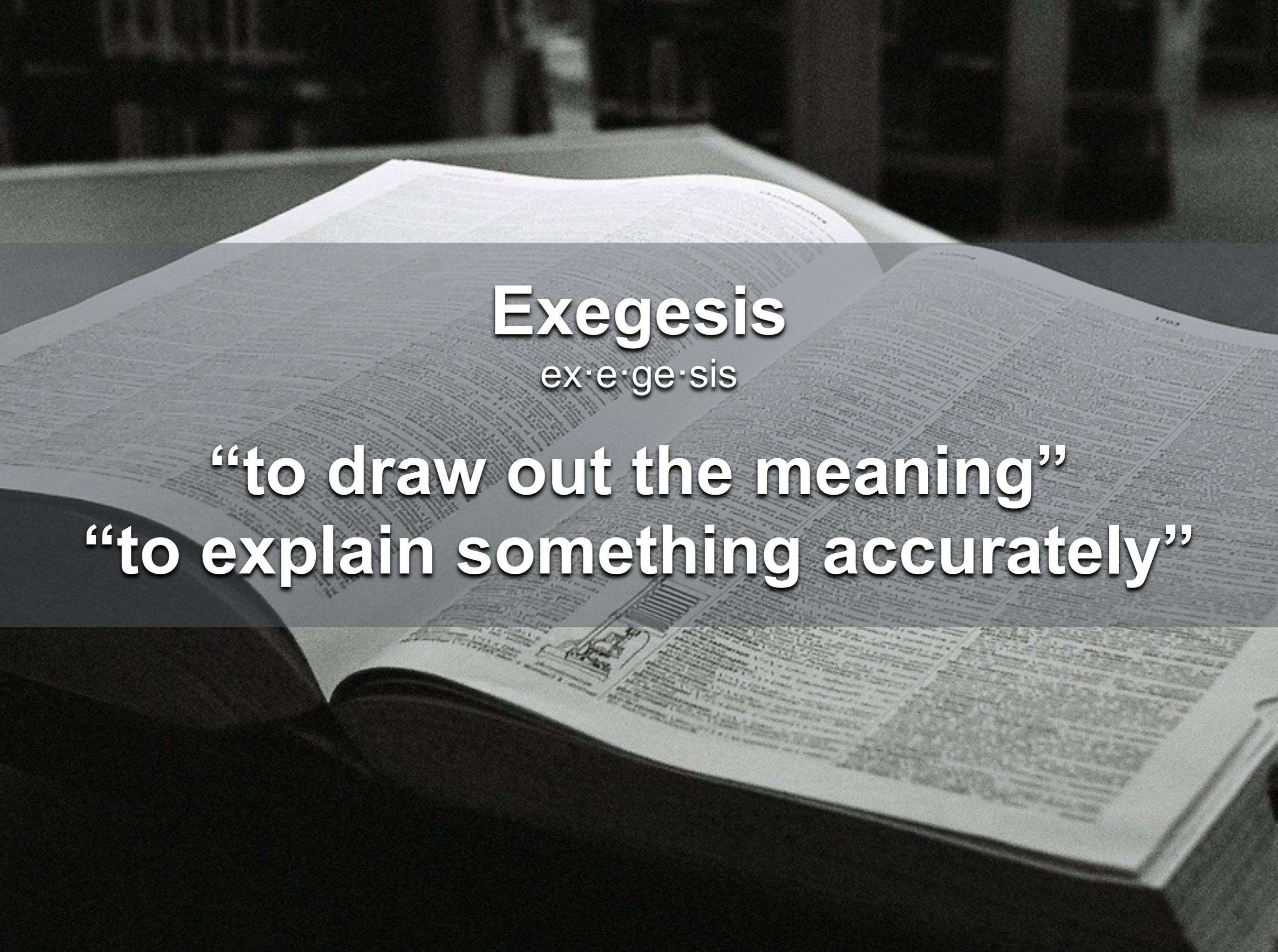
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14 **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

## The Gospel of John 1:1-18

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**18 No one has ever seen God; **the only God,** who is at the Father's side, **he has made him known.****



# Exegesis

ex·e·ge·sis

“to draw out the meaning”

“to explain something accurately”

**“Let not your hearts  
be troubled.  
Believe in God;  
believe also in me....**



The Gospel of John, ch. 14

**“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also....**



The Gospel of John, ch. 14

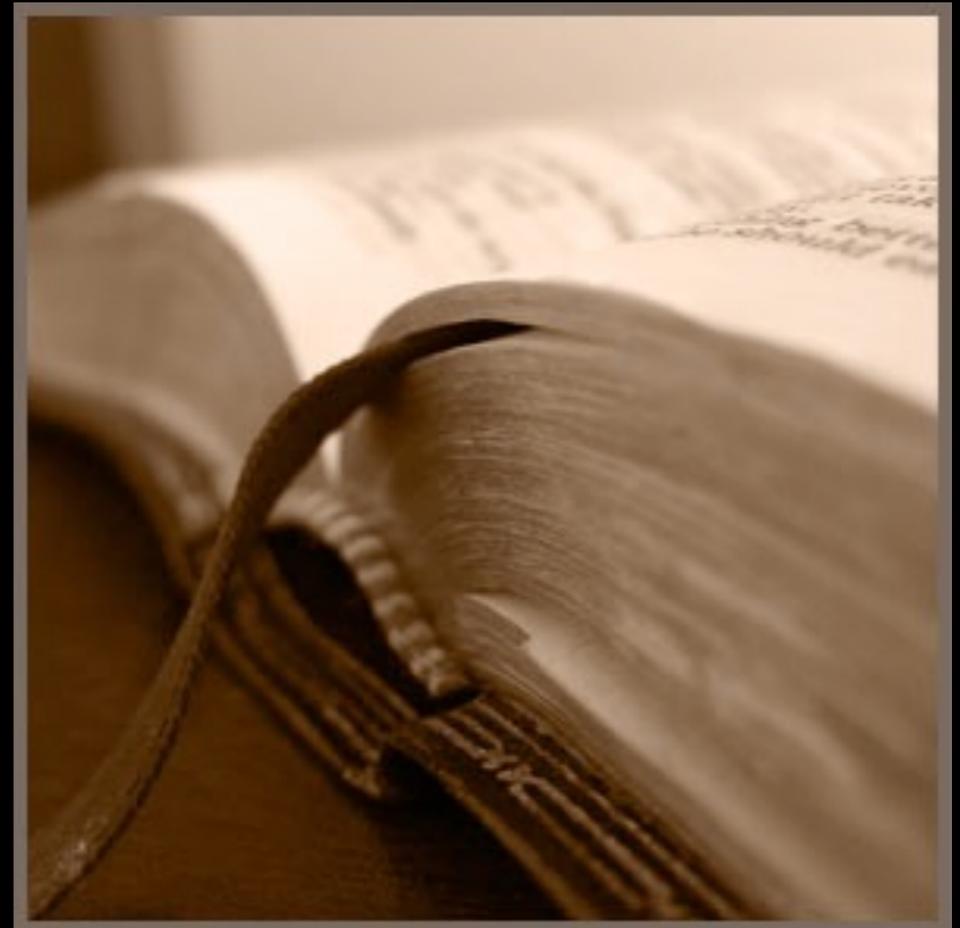
**“From now on you do know him and have seen him.”**

**Philip said to him,  
“Lord show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”**



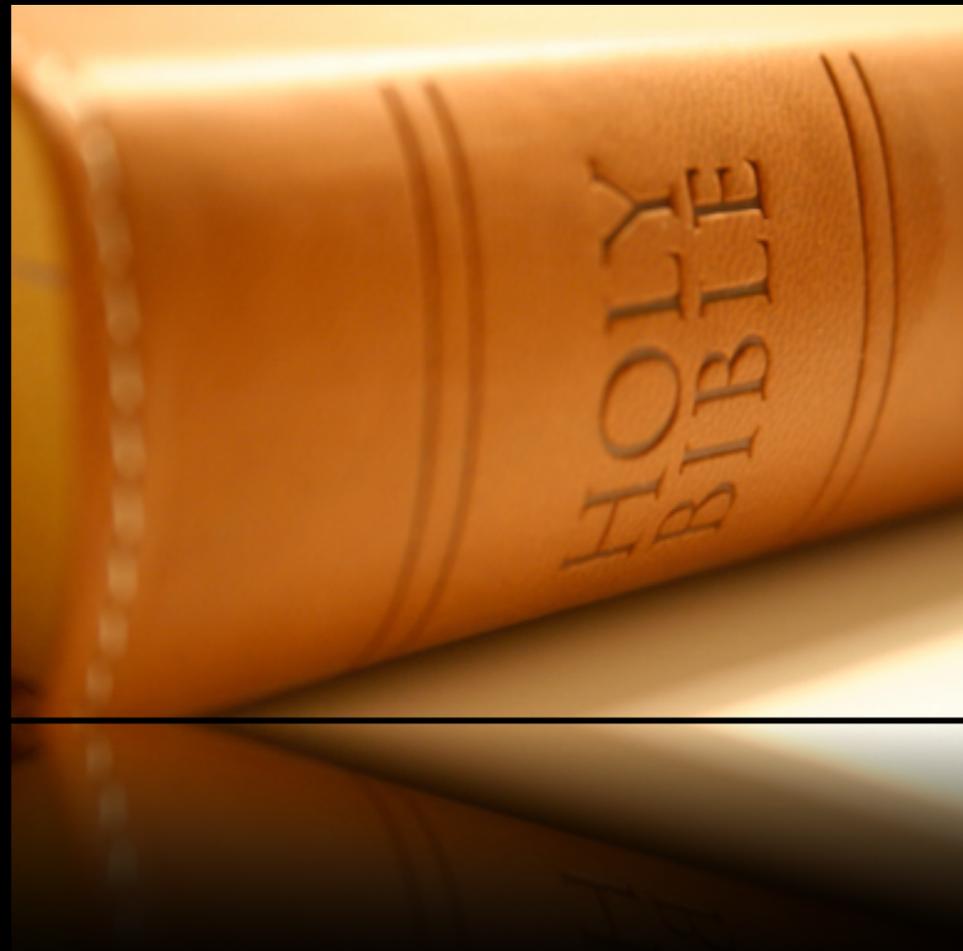
The Gospel of John, ch. 14

**Jesus said to him,  
“Have I been with  
you so long, and you  
still do not know me  
Philip? Whoever has  
seen me has seen  
the Father.”**



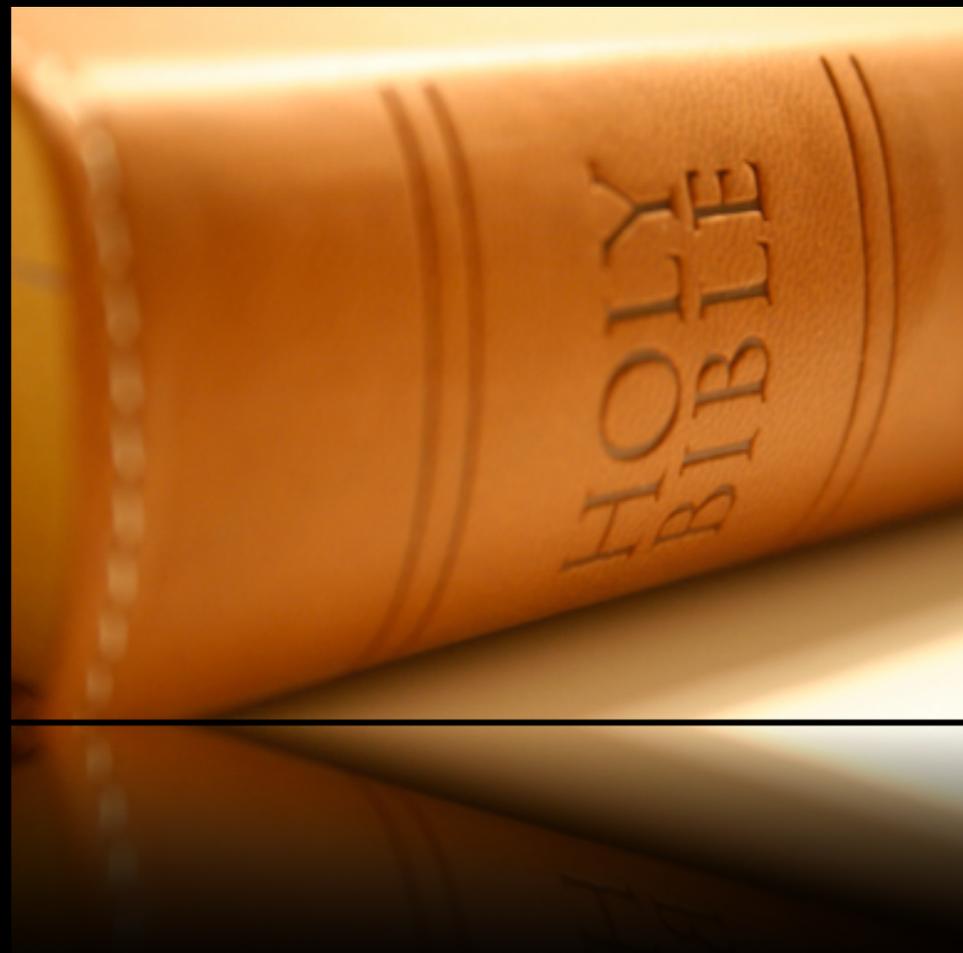
The Gospel of John, ch. 14

**Long ago, at many times and in many ways,  
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,  
but in these last days he has spoken to us  
by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of  
all things, and through whom also he  
created the world.**



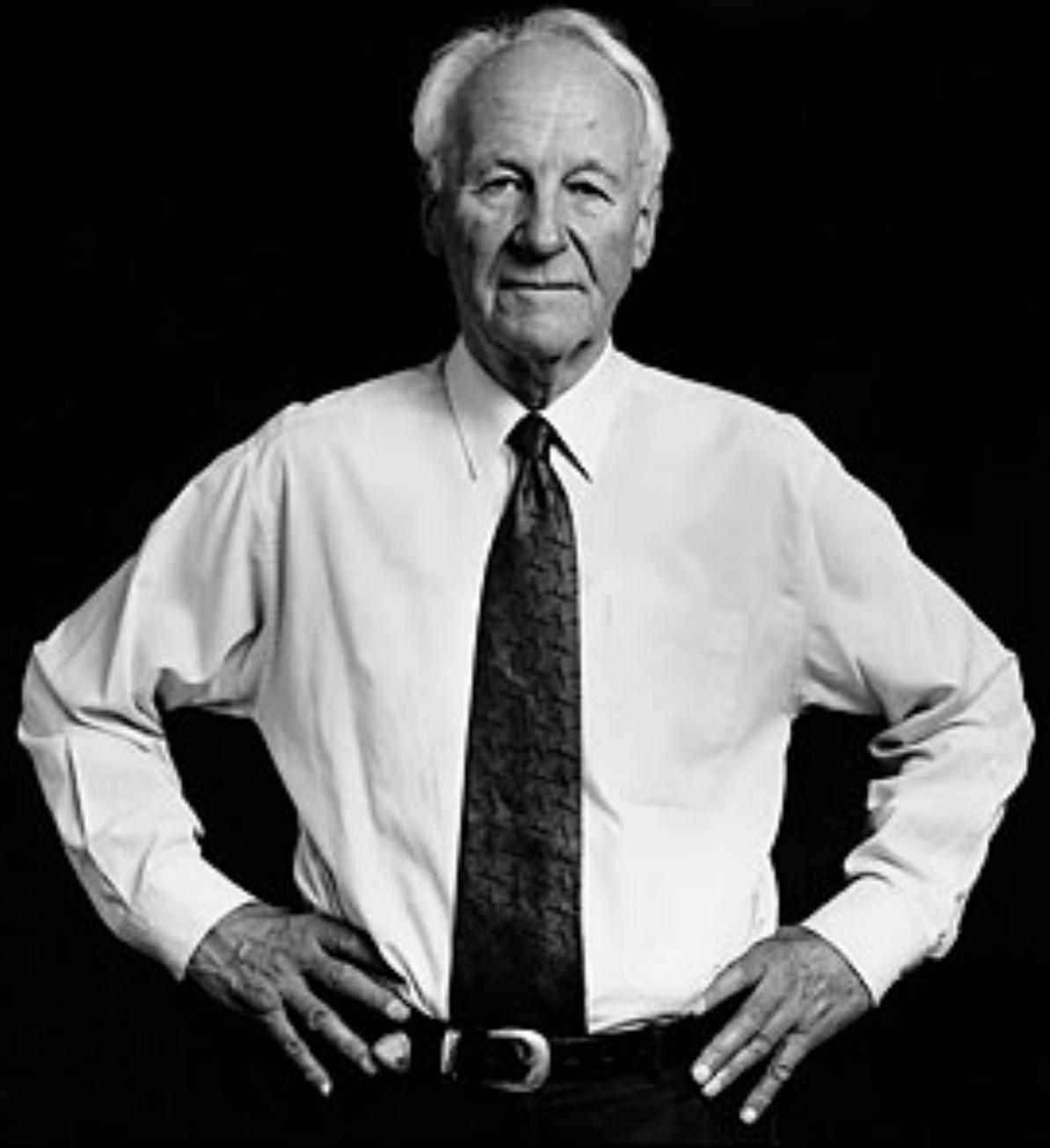
**He is the radiance of the glory of God  
and the exact imprint of his nature,  
and he upholds the universe  
by the word of his power.**

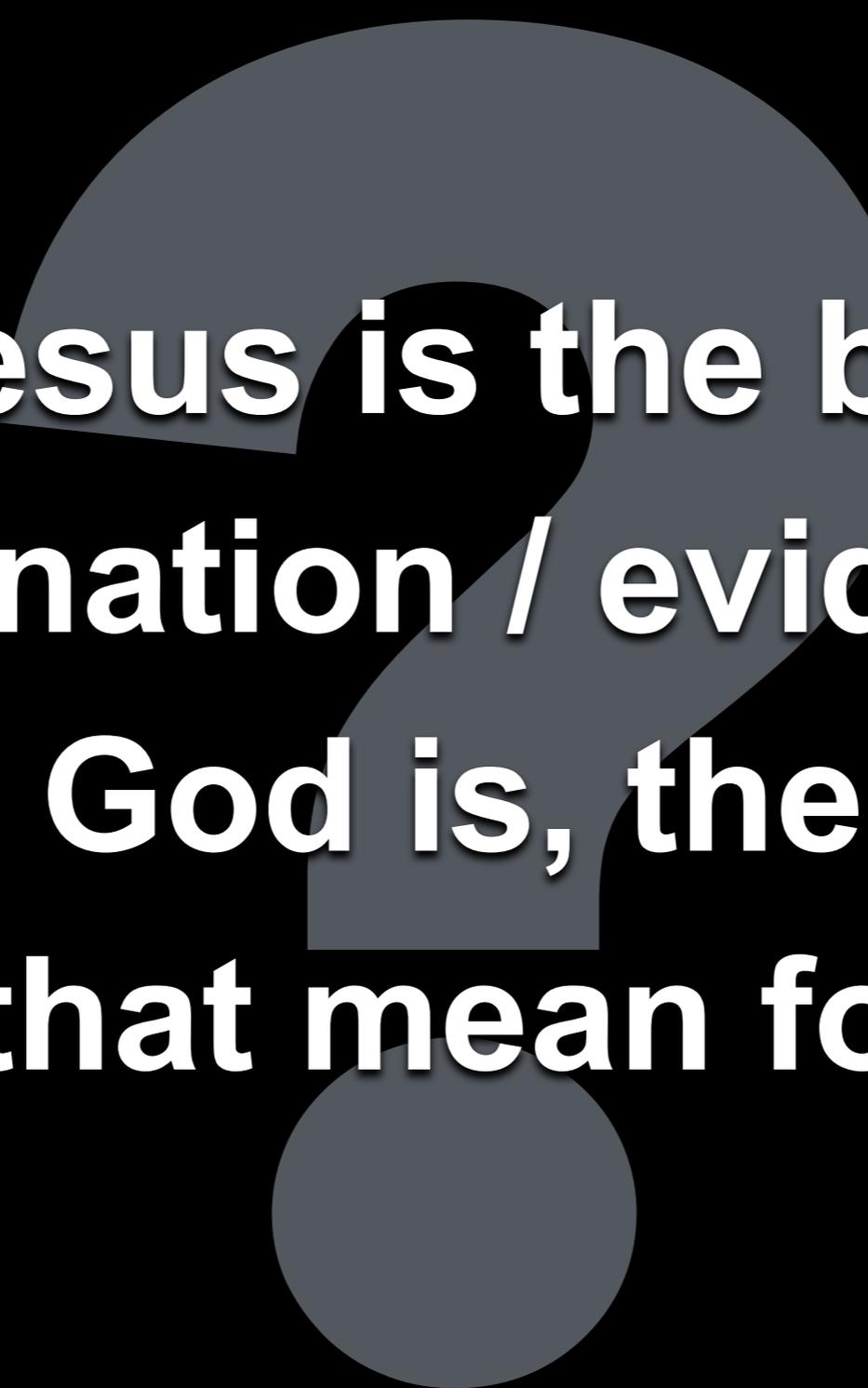
— Hebrews 1:1-3 —



**If you find it hard  
to believe in God,  
I strongly advise you  
to begin your search  
not with philoso-  
phical questions...  
but with Jesus of  
Nazareth.**

John Stott (1921-2011)



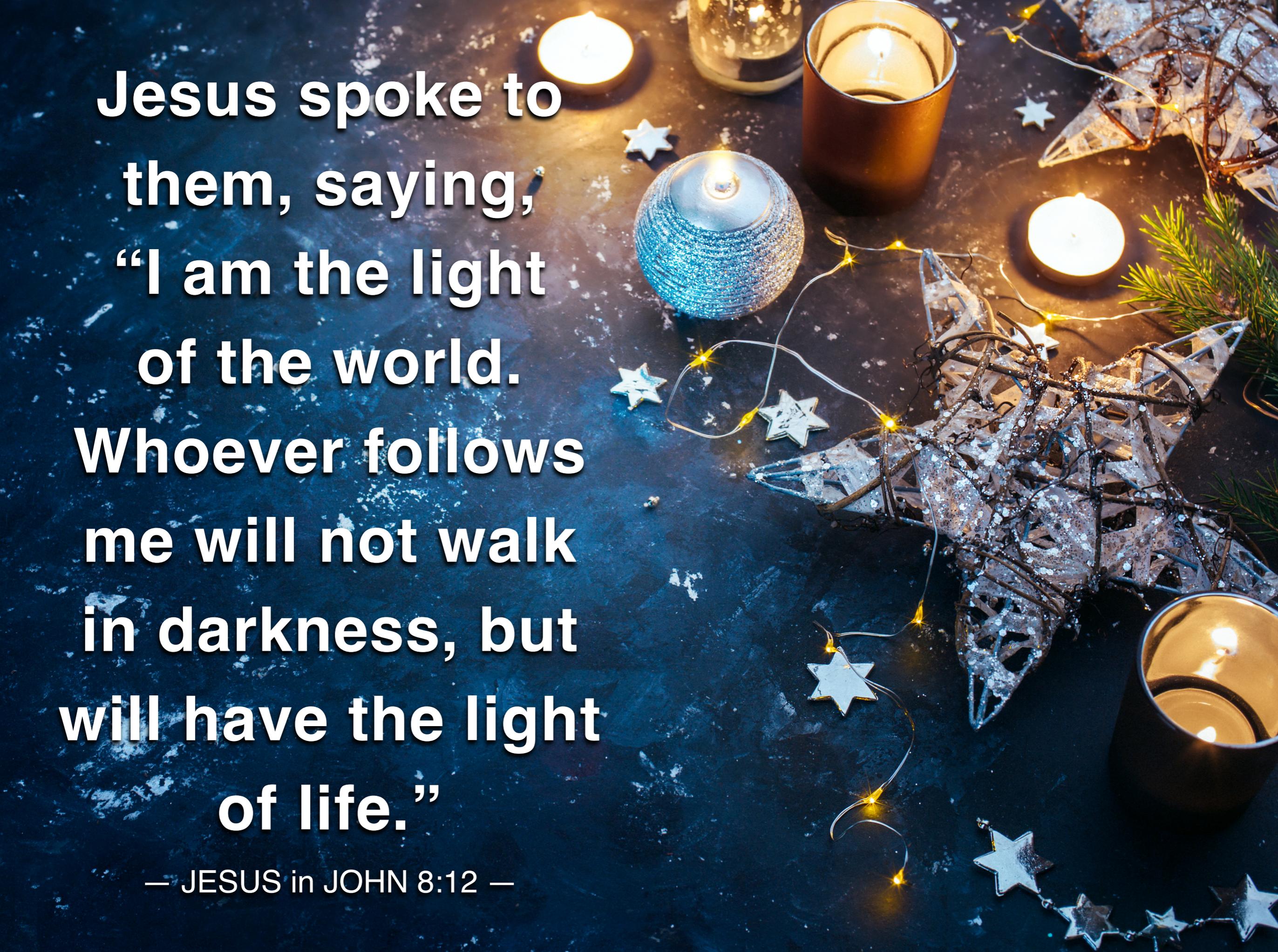


**If Jesus is the best  
explanation / evidence  
of who God is, then what  
would that mean for you?**

# The Gospel of John 1:1-18

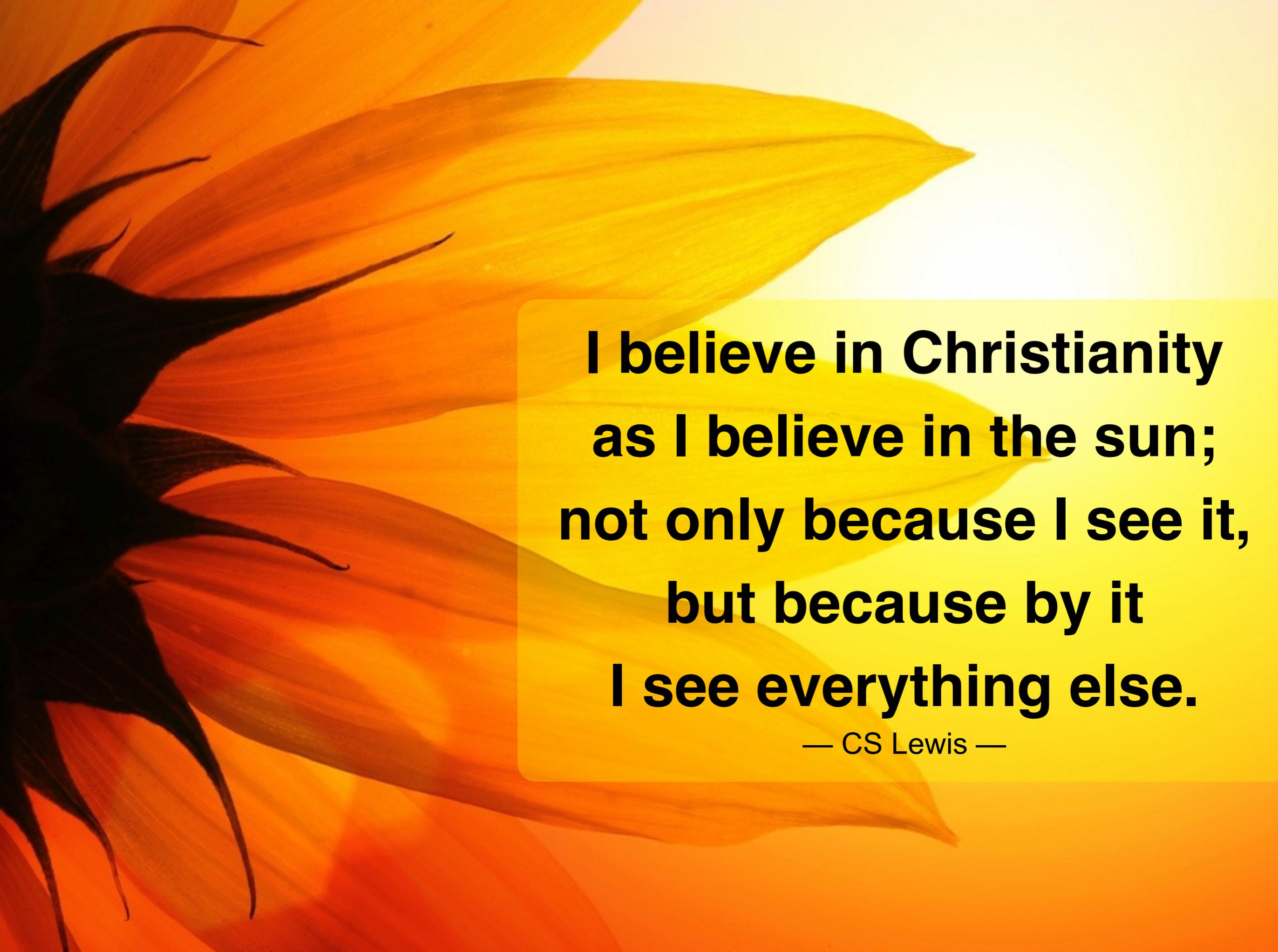
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**9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**



**Jesus spoke to  
them, saying,  
“I am the light  
of the world.  
Whoever follows  
me will not walk  
in darkness, but  
will have the light  
of life.”**

— JESUS in JOHN 8:12 —



**I believe in Christianity  
as I believe in the sun;  
not only because I see it,  
but because by it  
I see everything else.**

— CS Lewis —

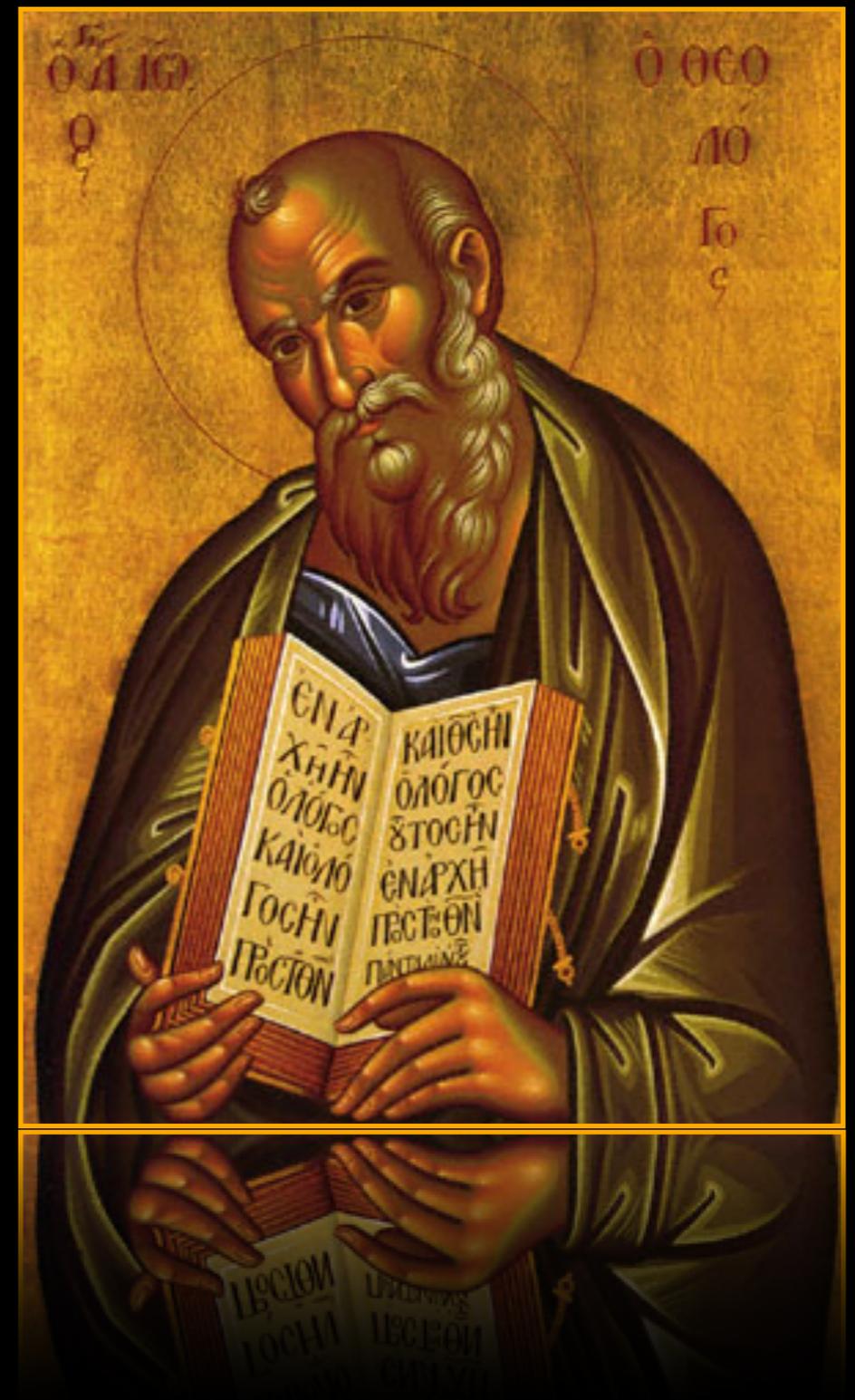
## The Gospel of John 1:1-18

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**9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, but his own people did not receive him.**

**...the light has come  
into the world, and  
people loved the  
darkness rather than  
the light because their  
deeds were evil.**

The Apostle John  
in the Gospel of John 3:19



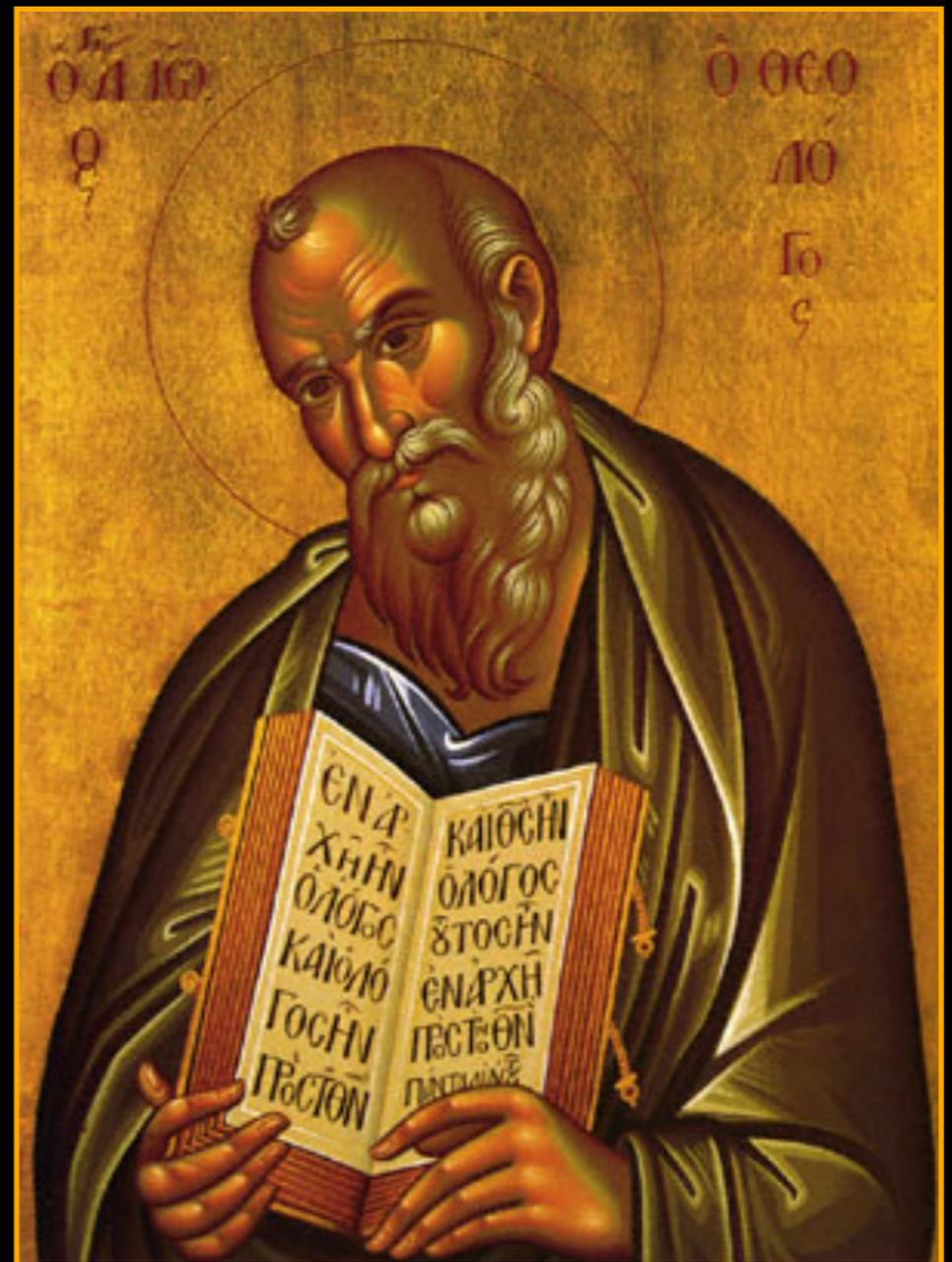
## The Gospel of John 1:1-18

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**12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God....**

**See what kind of  
love the Father has  
given to us, that we  
should be called  
children of God;  
and so we are.**

— The Apostle John in 1 John 3:1 —



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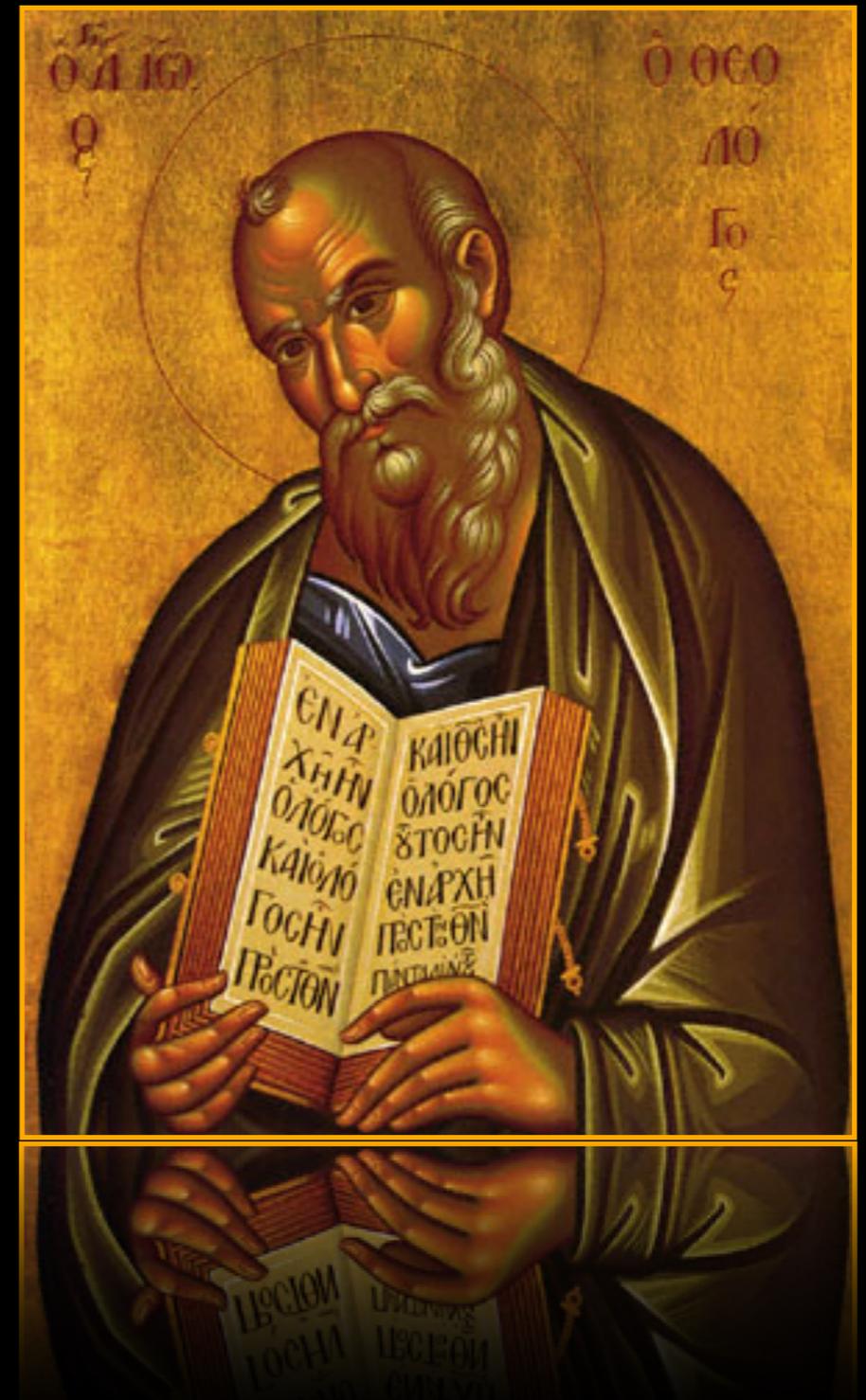
**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD  
YOU HAVE TO GET TO KNOW  
JESUS, BECAUSE IN JESUS  
GOD HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN**

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A festive Christmas scene with a dark blue, textured background. In the upper right, a large, glowing blue, textured Christmas ornament is visible. A string of warm white lights with small, glowing bulbs is draped across the scene. Several silver, star-shaped decorations are scattered around. On the right side, there is a decorative arrangement of silver, star-shaped ornaments and lights. The overall atmosphere is warm and celebratory.

**THE CHRISTMAS  
STORY IS ALL  
ABOUT JESUS!**

**Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**



The Apostle John in  
the Gospel of John 20:30-31

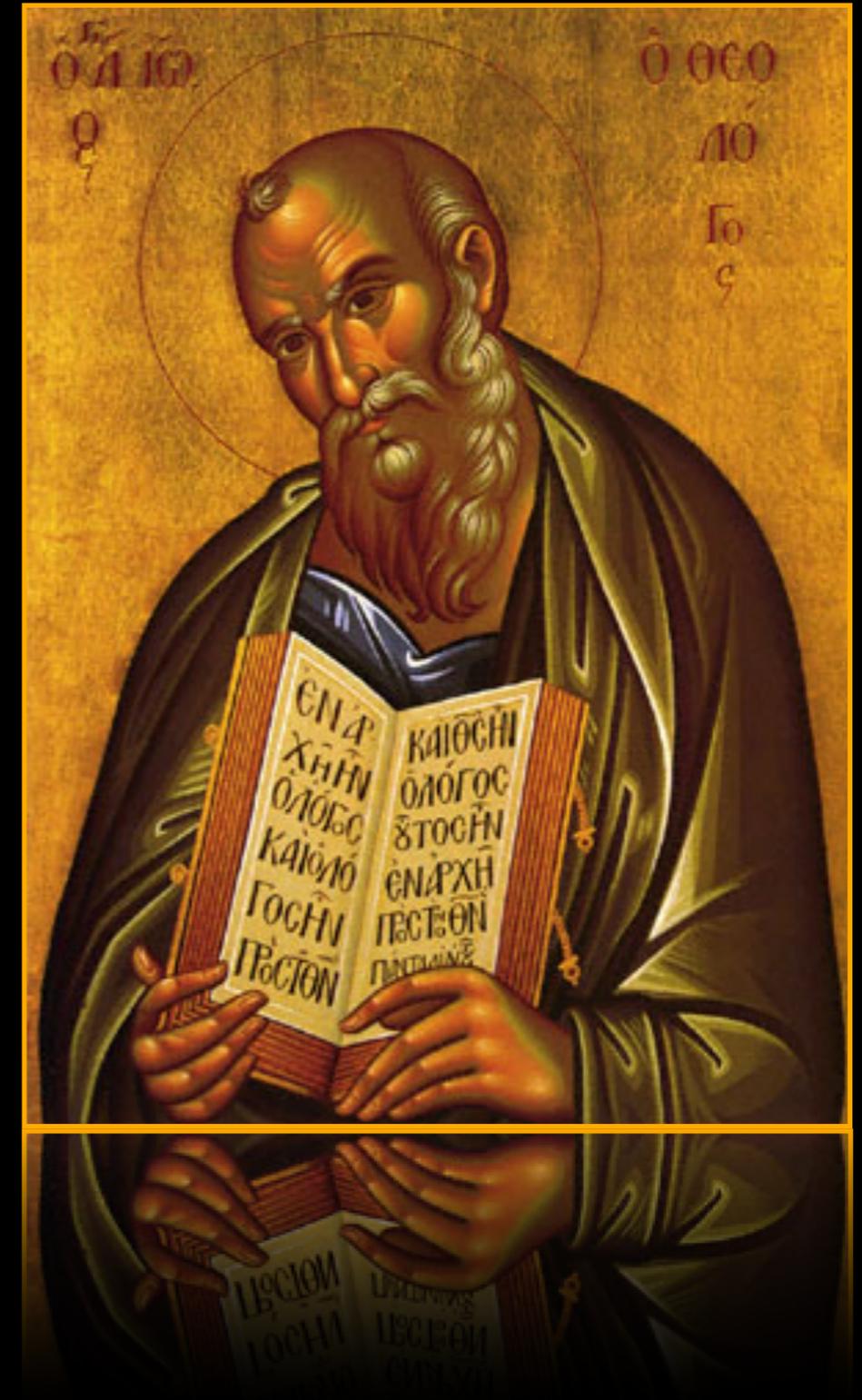
A festive Christmas scene set against a dark blue, textured background. In the upper right, a large, glowing silver star-shaped ornament is visible. Below it, a string of warm white lights is draped across the scene. To the right, a starburst decoration made of silver and gold tinsel is partially visible. Several smaller silver star ornaments are scattered on the surface. The overall atmosphere is warm and celebratory.

**THE CHRISTMAS  
STORY INCLUDES US!**



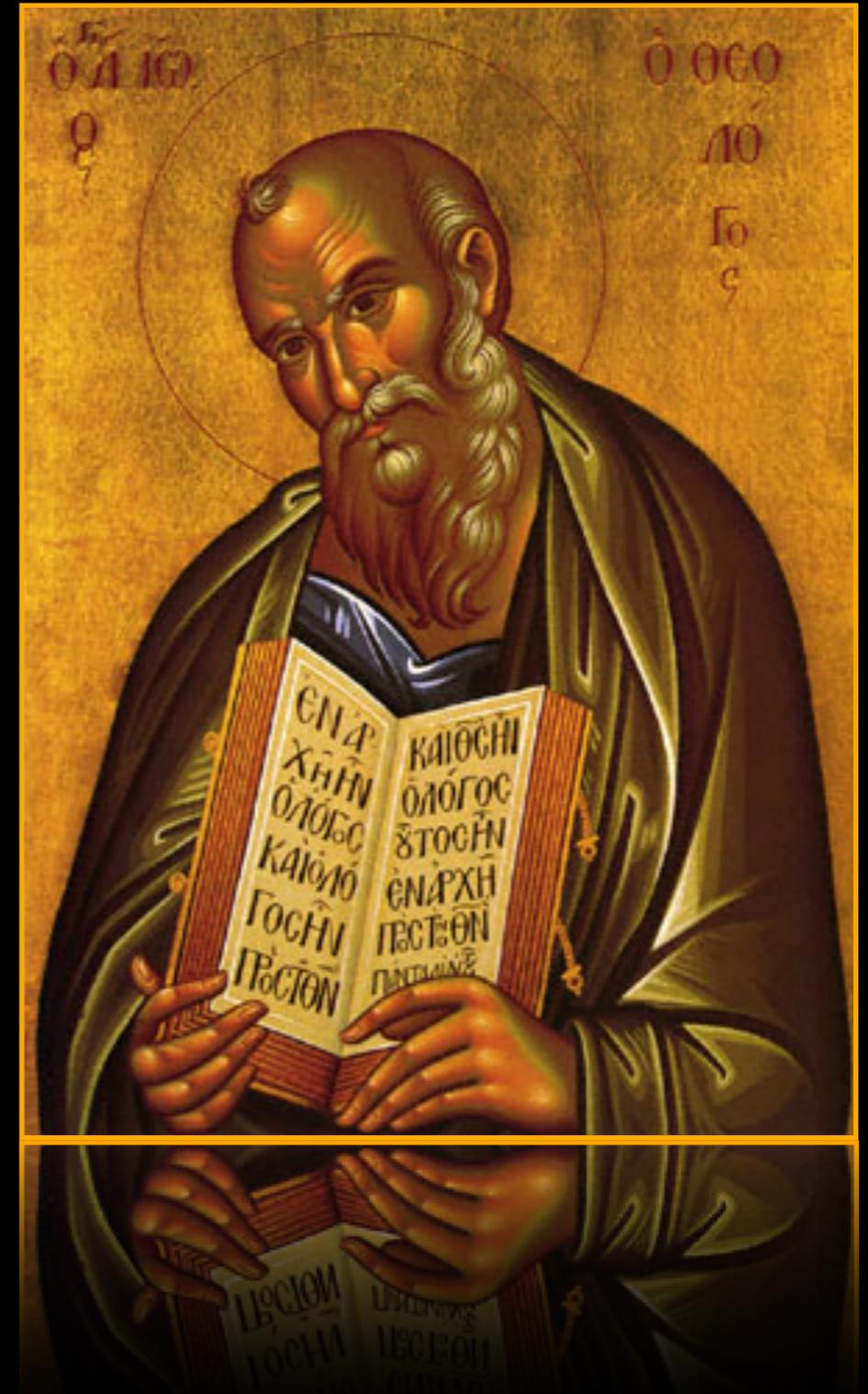
**He had many questions like children often do  
He said, “Tell me all your thoughts on God,  
and tell me am I very far.”**

**God is love. In this  
the love of God was  
manifest among us,  
that God sent his Son  
into the world, that we  
might live through  
him....**



**We have seen and  
testify that the Father  
has sent his Son to be  
the Savior of the  
world... So we have  
come to know and  
believe the love that  
God has for us....**

— The Apostle John in 1 John 4:8ff —



## The Gospel of John 1:1-18

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**16 And from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

A festive Christmas scene with a blue background, snow, a glowing blue ornament, warm lights, and silver stars.

**THE CHRISTMAS  
STORY CALLS  
EVERY HEART TO  
“PREPARE HIM ROOM”**

**He is not a stagehand in the play  
you are writing and starring in. You  
are no longer the star of the show.  
It's not about you. He displaced  
you from the center of your life.**

— Rankin Wilbourne, *Union With Christ* —