



**Life is Short...**

— The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9 —

**Do you want  
the good news**

**or the bad  
news first?**



**#AMERICA  
STRONG**





# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE



**Heads up! We're  
going to be looking  
at one of the so-called  
“hard sayings”  
of Jesus.**



**Life is Short...**

— The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9 —

## The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

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1 There were some present at that very time who told him about **the Galileans** whose blood **Pilate** had mingled with their sacrifices.



**How do you think  
Jesus would respond  
to news of His fellow  
countrymen being  
murdered?**



## The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

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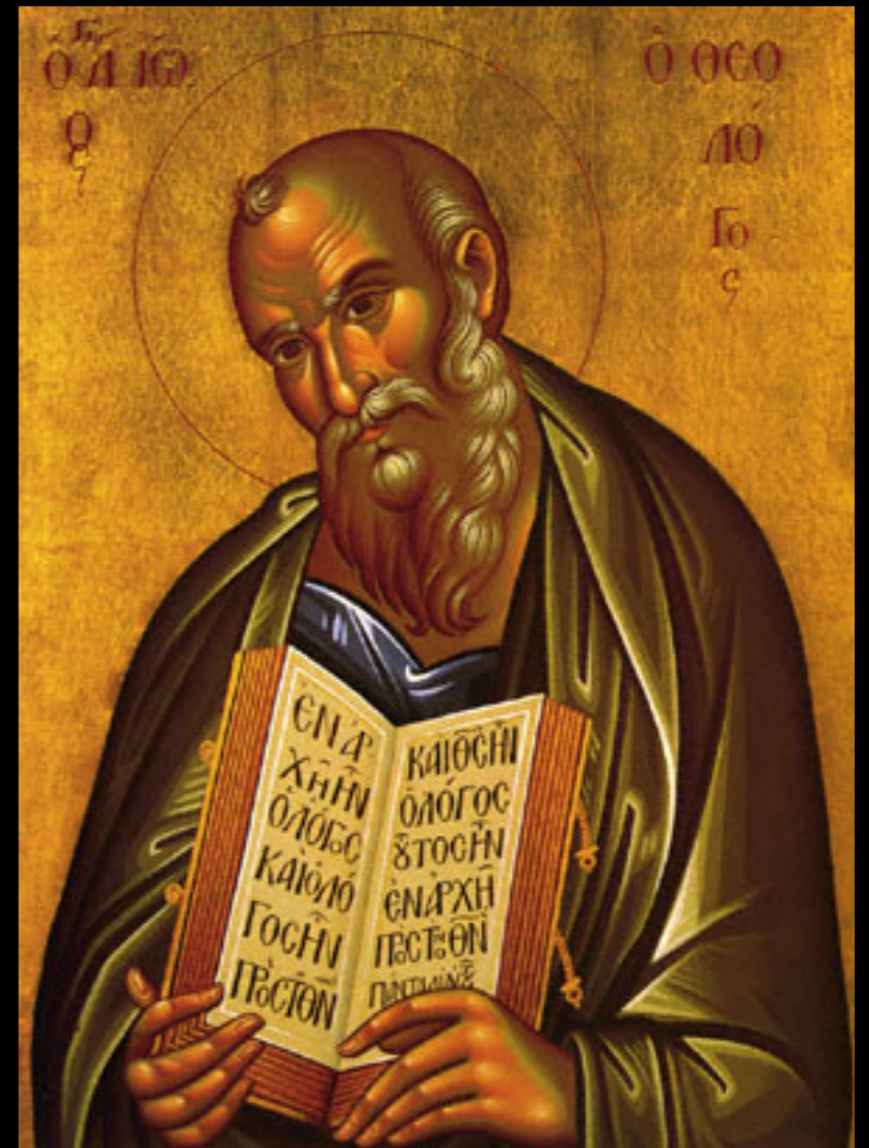
**2 And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?”**

**Consider now:  
Who, being innocent,  
has ever perished?  
Where were the  
upright ever  
destroyed?**

— Eliphaz in Job 31:13-28 —



**As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”**



— The Gospel of John 9:1-3 —

## The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

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**2 And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?”**

## The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

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**3** **No I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**



***The same way?* That's the key. Jesus isn't talking about what happens to people after they die. Many have read this passage and supposed that it was a warning about perishing in hell after death, but that is clearly wrong.**



**In line with the warnings he has issued several times already, and will continue to issue right up to his own crucifixion, Jesus is making it clear that those who refuse his summons to change direction,**



**to abandon the crazy  
flight into national  
rebellion against Rome,  
will suffer the conse-  
quences. Those who  
take the sword will  
perish with the sword.**



## The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

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4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think they were **worse offenders** than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?

## The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

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5 **No** I tell you; but unless you **repent**,  
you will all **likewise perish**.



**Those who take the sword will perish with the sword. Or if not the sword, they will be crushed as the siege brings them crashing down....**





**Building accidents happen; but if the Jerusalemites continue to refuse God's kingdom-call to repent, to turn from their present agendas, then those who escape Roman swords will find the very walls collapsing on top of them as the enemy closes in.**

## The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

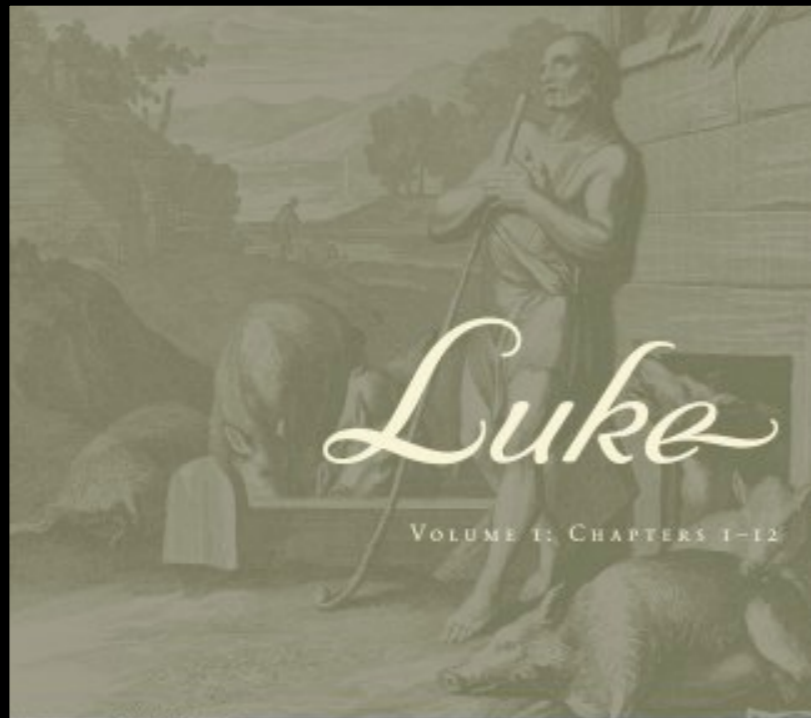
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**6 And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he came to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’**

## The Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

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**8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'**

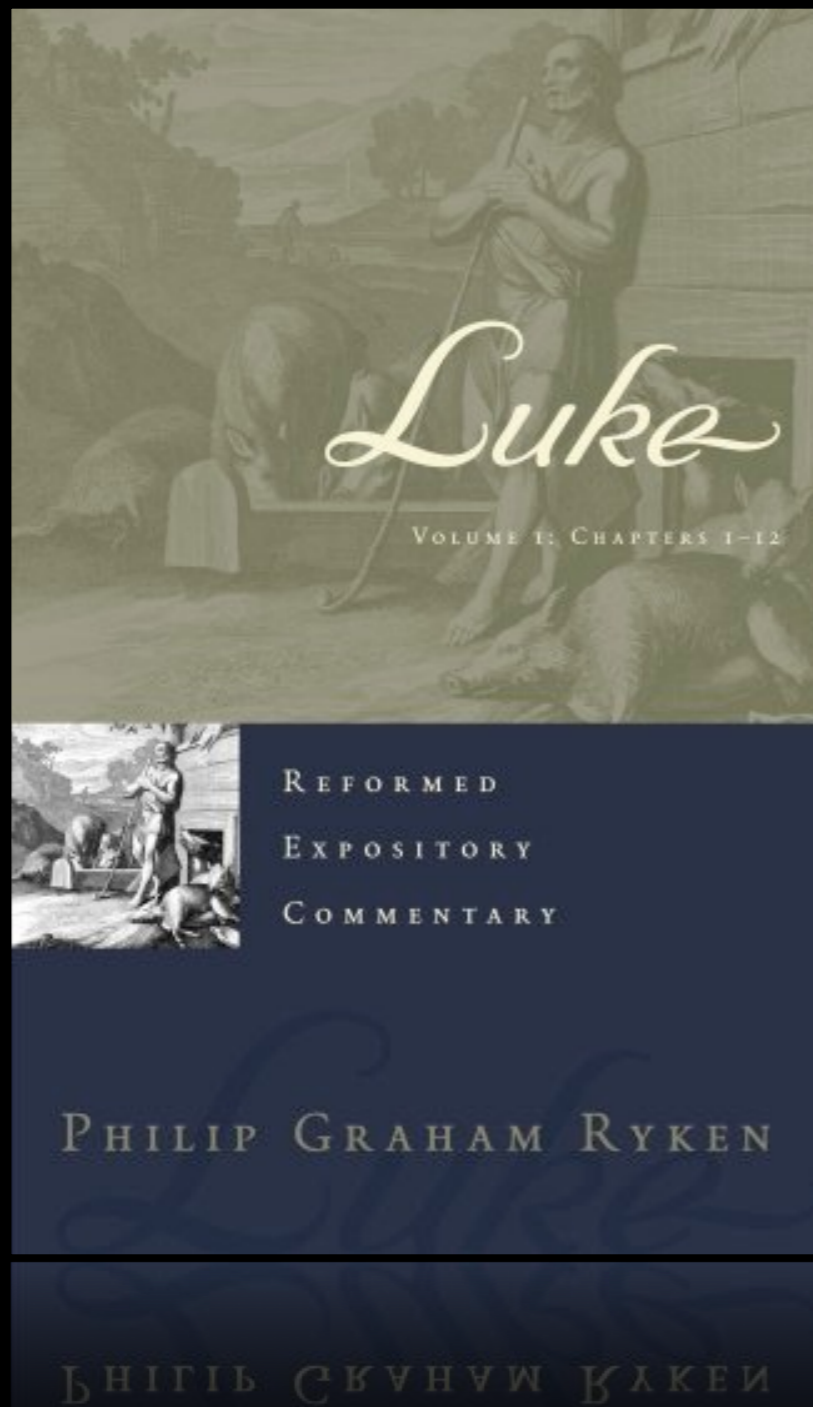


REFORMED  
EXPOSITORY  
COMMENTARY

PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN

КНИГА СВЯТАГО ЛУКЕИ

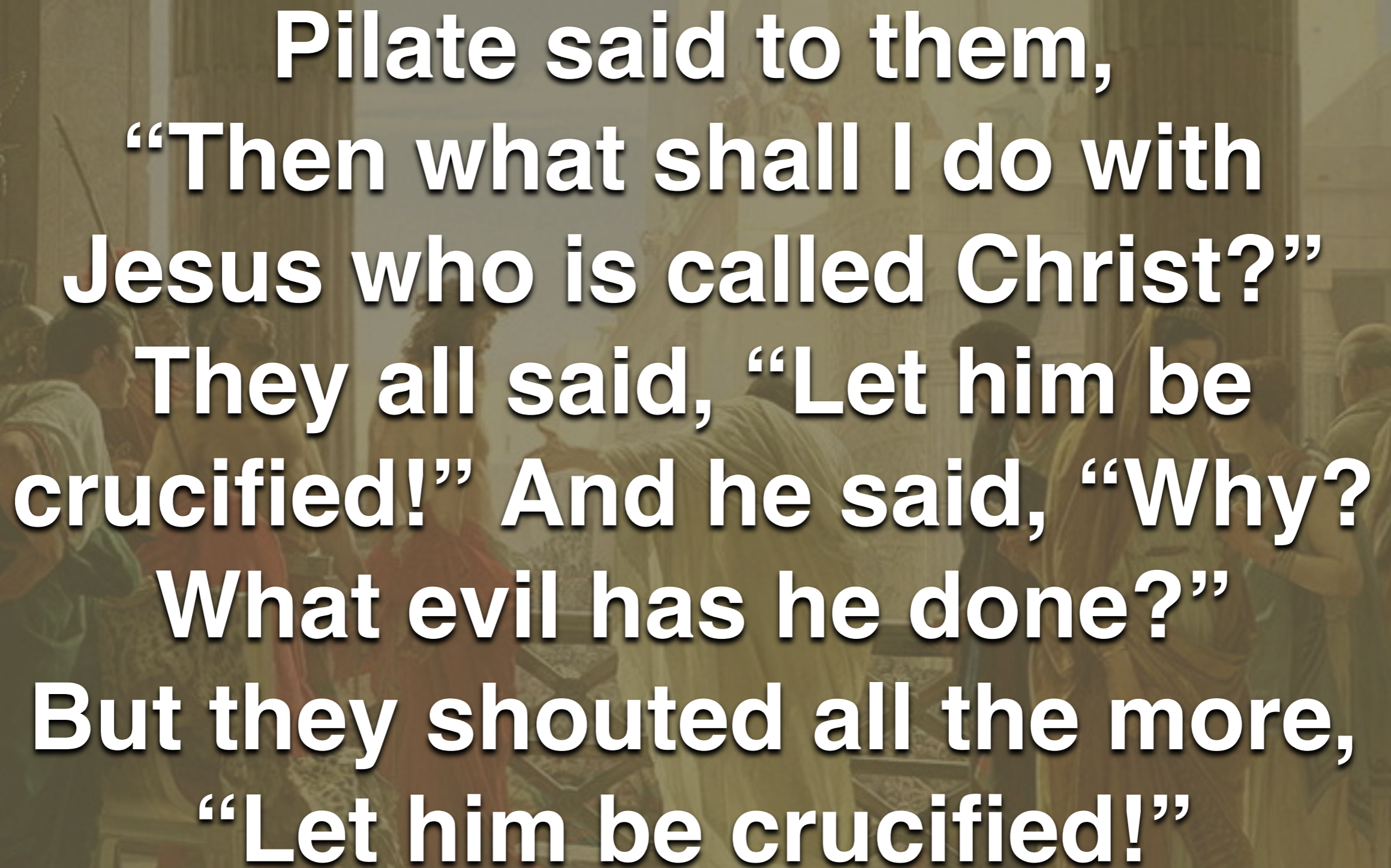
**This parable is about  
God's patience with  
his people Israel.  
They had every  
opportunity to come  
to Christ and bear  
good fruit.**



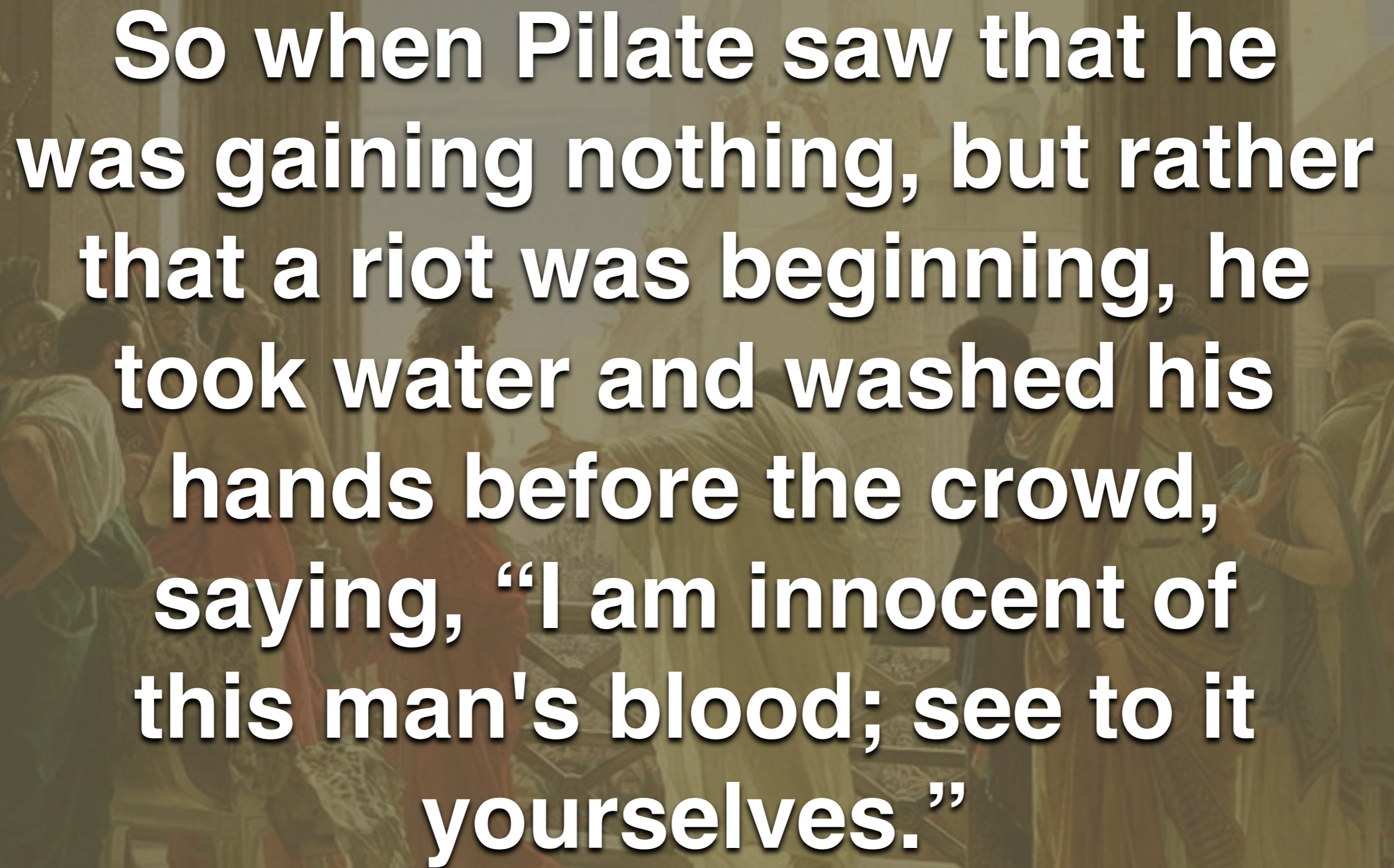
**For nearly three years, Jesus had been healing them and teaching them to follow God. Alas, they were bearing so little fruit. Most rejected Jesus.**



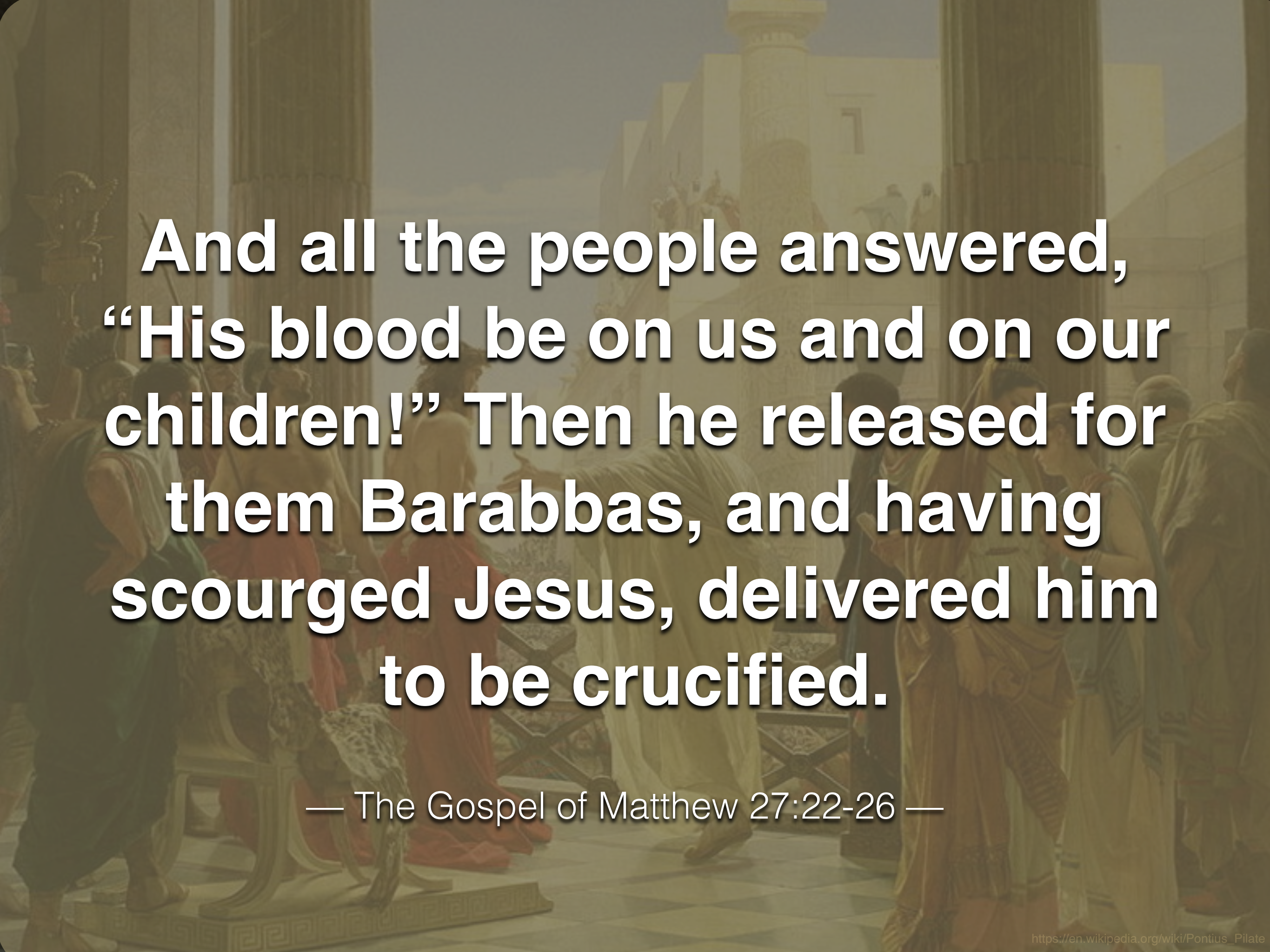




**Pilate said to them,  
“Then what shall I do with  
Jesus who is called Christ?”  
They all said, “Let him be  
crucified!” And he said, “Why?  
What evil has he done?”  
But they shouted all the more,  
“Let him be crucified!”**

The background is a faded, sepia-toned image of a classical painting. It depicts a scene where a man, presumably Pontius Pilate, is seated on a throne or a high chair, washing his hands. He is surrounded by a crowd of people in classical attire. The scene is set in a grand, classical building with columns and arches.

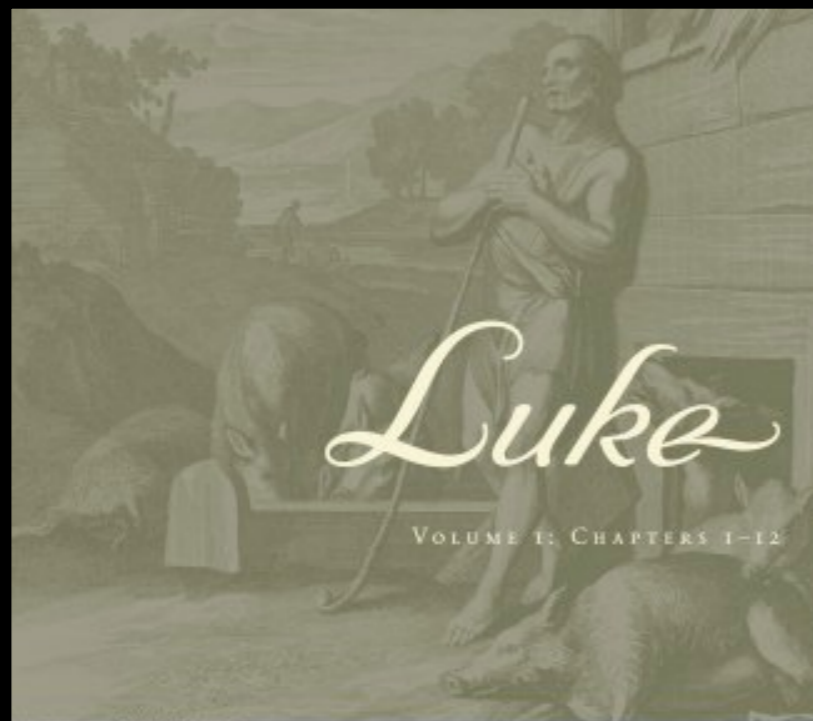
**So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.”**



**And all the people answered,  
“His blood be on us and on our  
children!” Then he released for  
them Barabbas, and having  
scourged Jesus, delivered him  
to be crucified.**

— The Gospel of Matthew 27:22-26 —



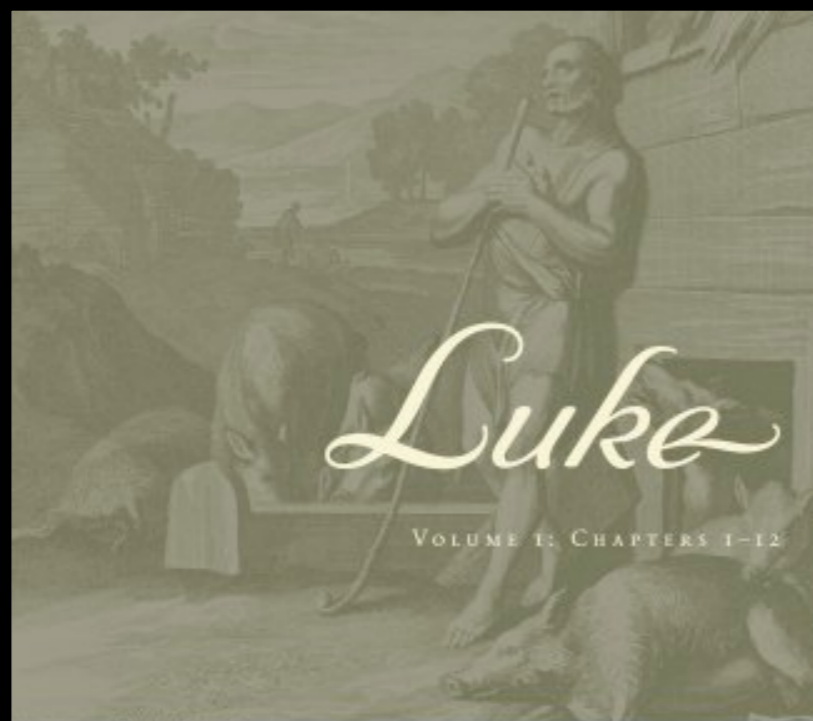


REFORMED  
EXPOSITORY  
COMMENTARY

PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN

БІГІЯ СВЯТАГО ЛУКЕИ

**Most rejected Jesus.  
Yet in his mercy, God  
would give them one  
final opportunity.  
Jesus would die on  
the cross; he would be  
raised from the grave;  
his gospel would be  
preached in Israel.**

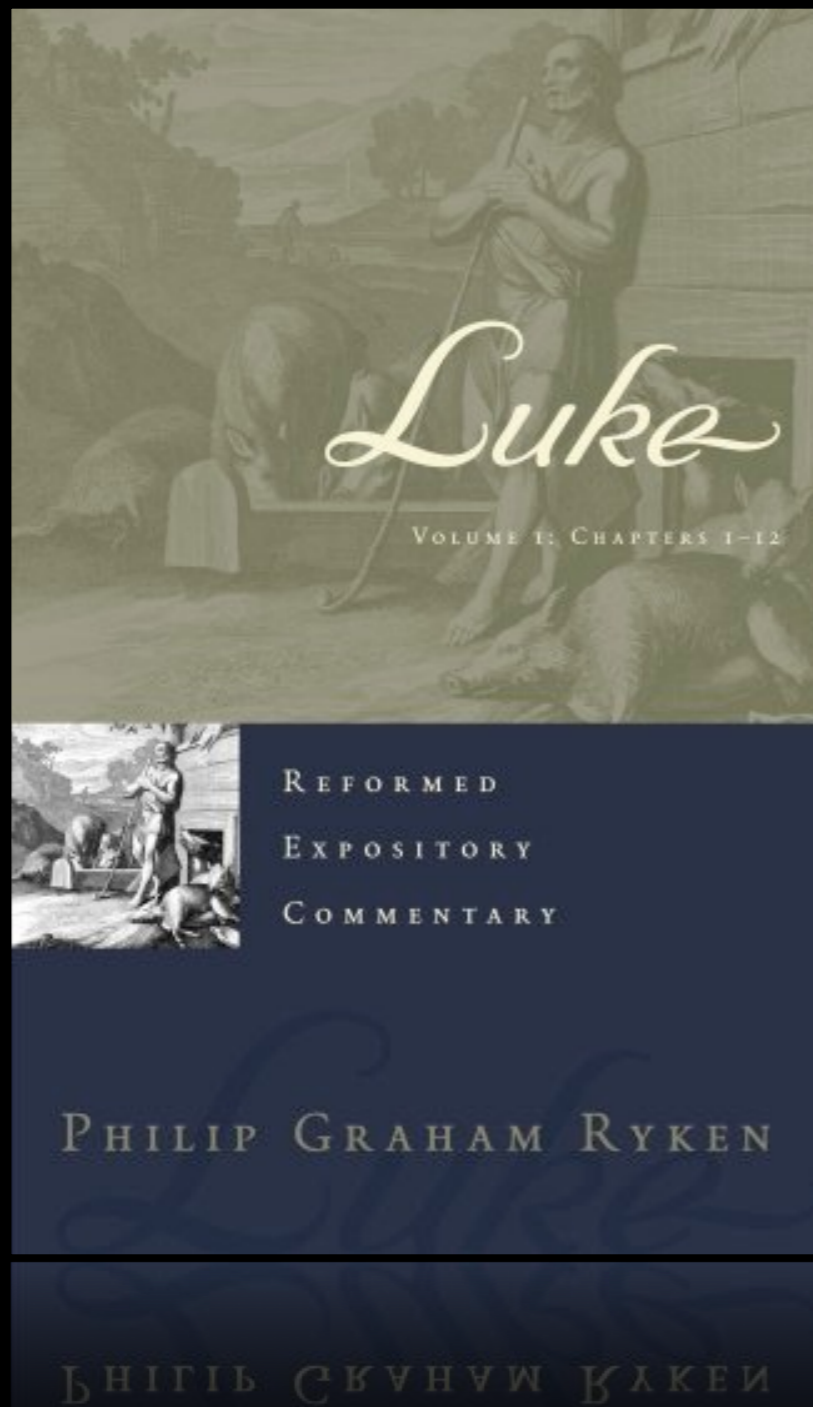


REFORMED  
EXPOSITORY  
COMMENTARY

PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN

БНІГЬ СВЯНАМ РУКЕН

**Thus there was still  
time for people to  
repent and bear good  
spiritual fruit through  
faith in Jesus Christ.  
Nevertheless, the  
window of opportunity  
would not stay open  
forever.**



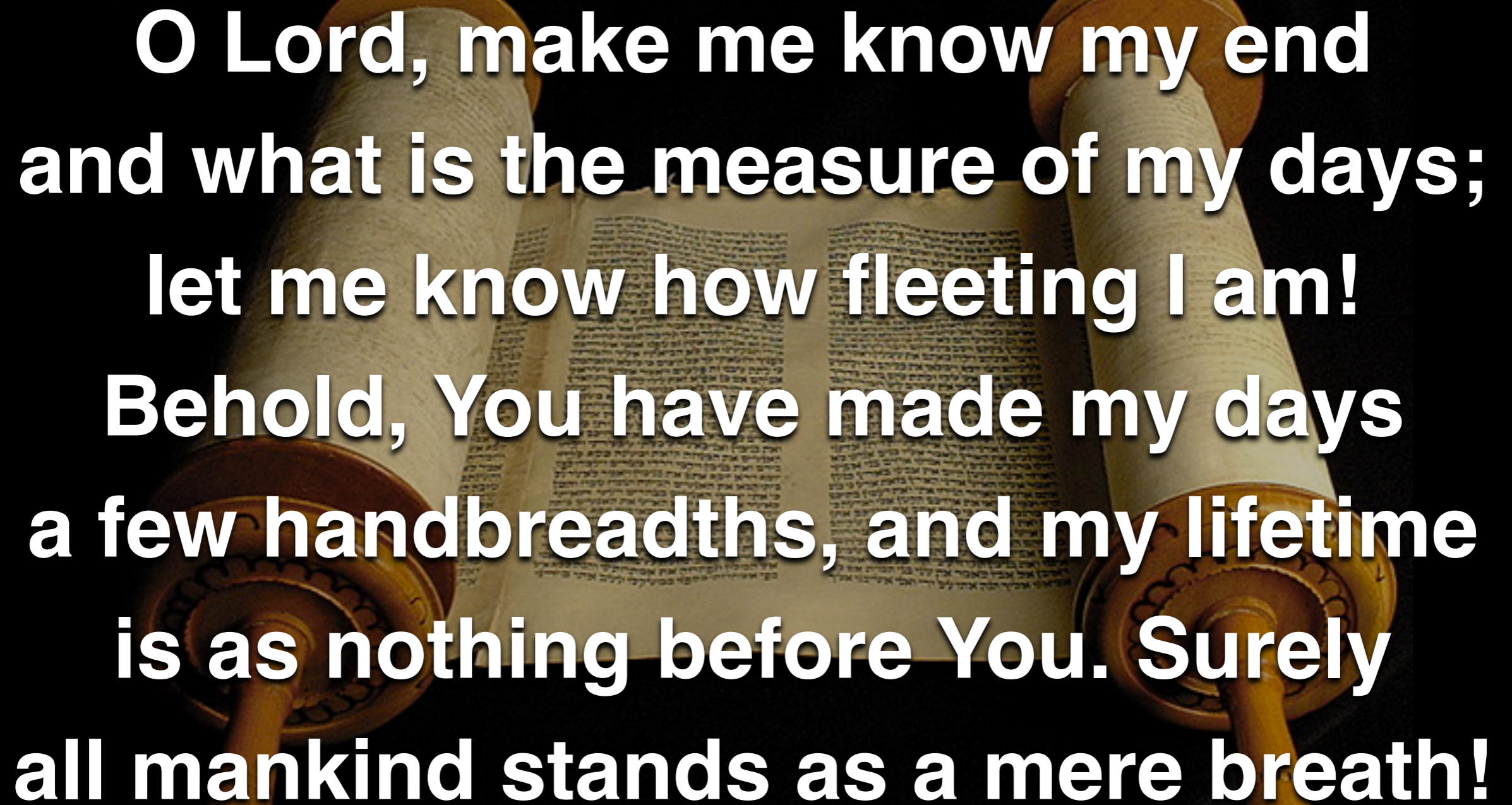
**This was the last chance for the people of that generation. If they did not repent, they would perish, as many of them did. Not many years later Jerusalem was besieged, the temple destroyed, and Israel was scattered.**





# **Important Point!**

**When we see dictators killing  
and towers tragically falling,  
let us remember that life is short,  
and we too will one day step off  
the stage of this world  
to meet our Maker.**



**O Lord, make me know my end  
and what is the measure of my days;  
let me know how fleeting I am!  
Behold, You have made my days  
a few handbreadths, and my lifetime  
is as nothing before You. Surely  
all mankind stands as a mere breath!**

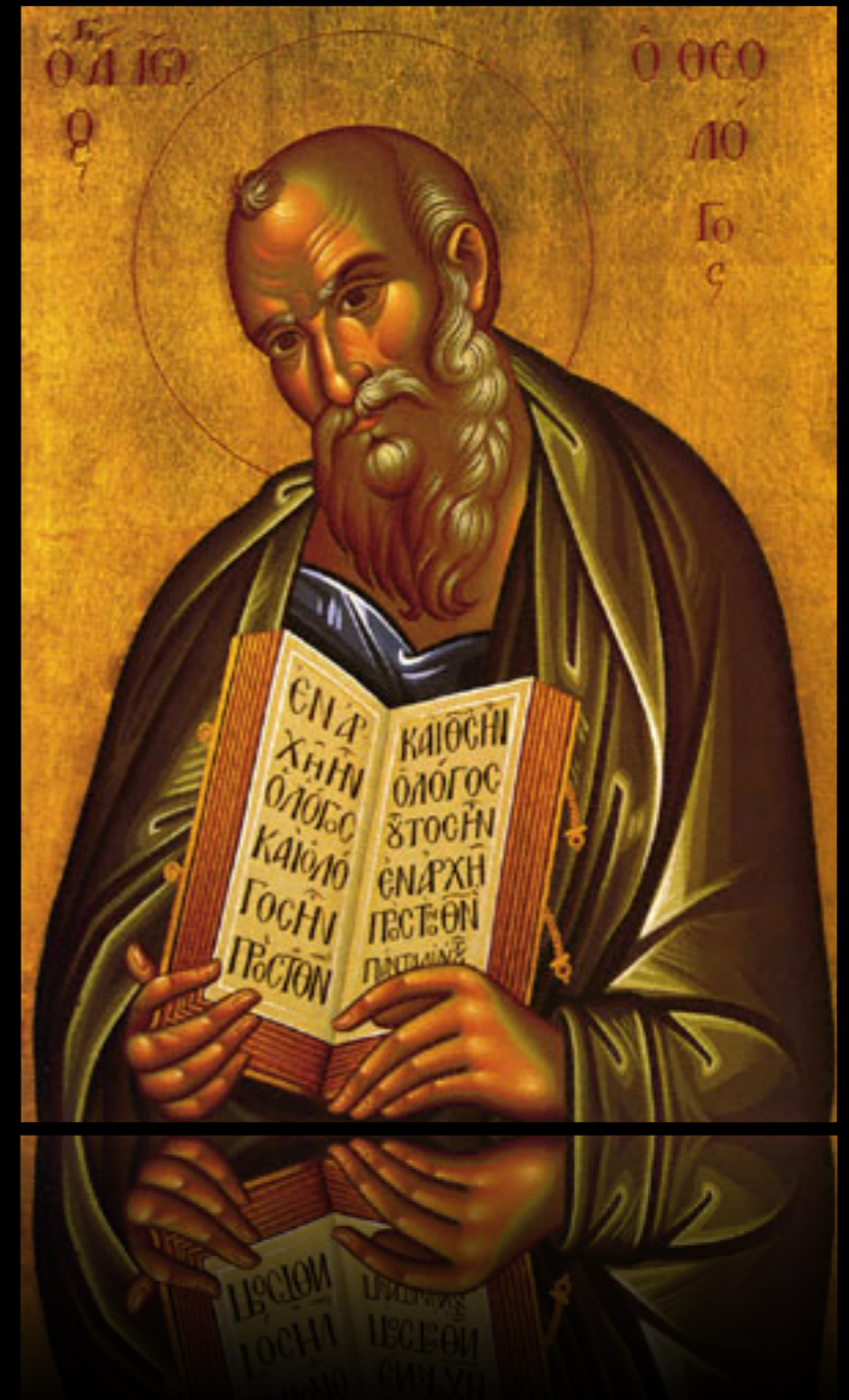
— Psalm 39:4-5 —

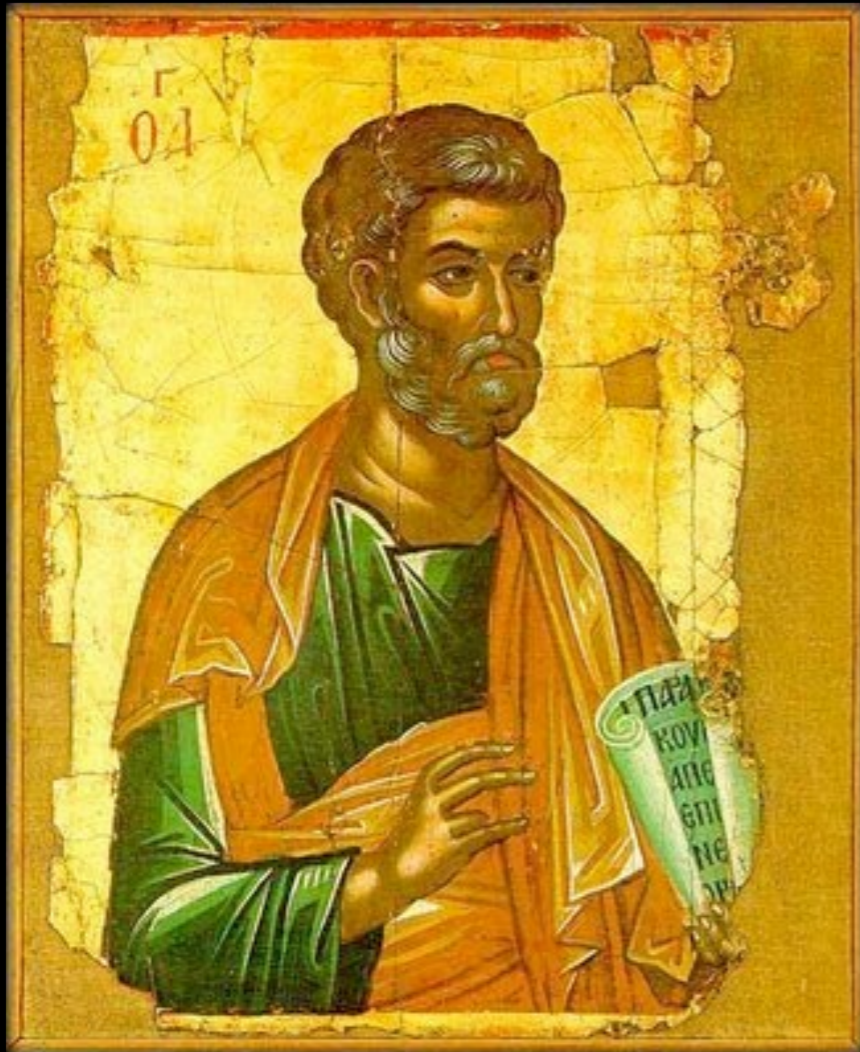
**Since life is short, there is no more important time to turn to God than now.**



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

— The Gospel of John 3:16 —





**The Lord...is patient  
with you, not wanting  
anyone to perish, but  
everyone to come to  
repentance.**

**The Apostle Peter**  
— 2 Peter 3:18 —

**Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?**

**The Apostle Paul**  
— Romans 2:4 —



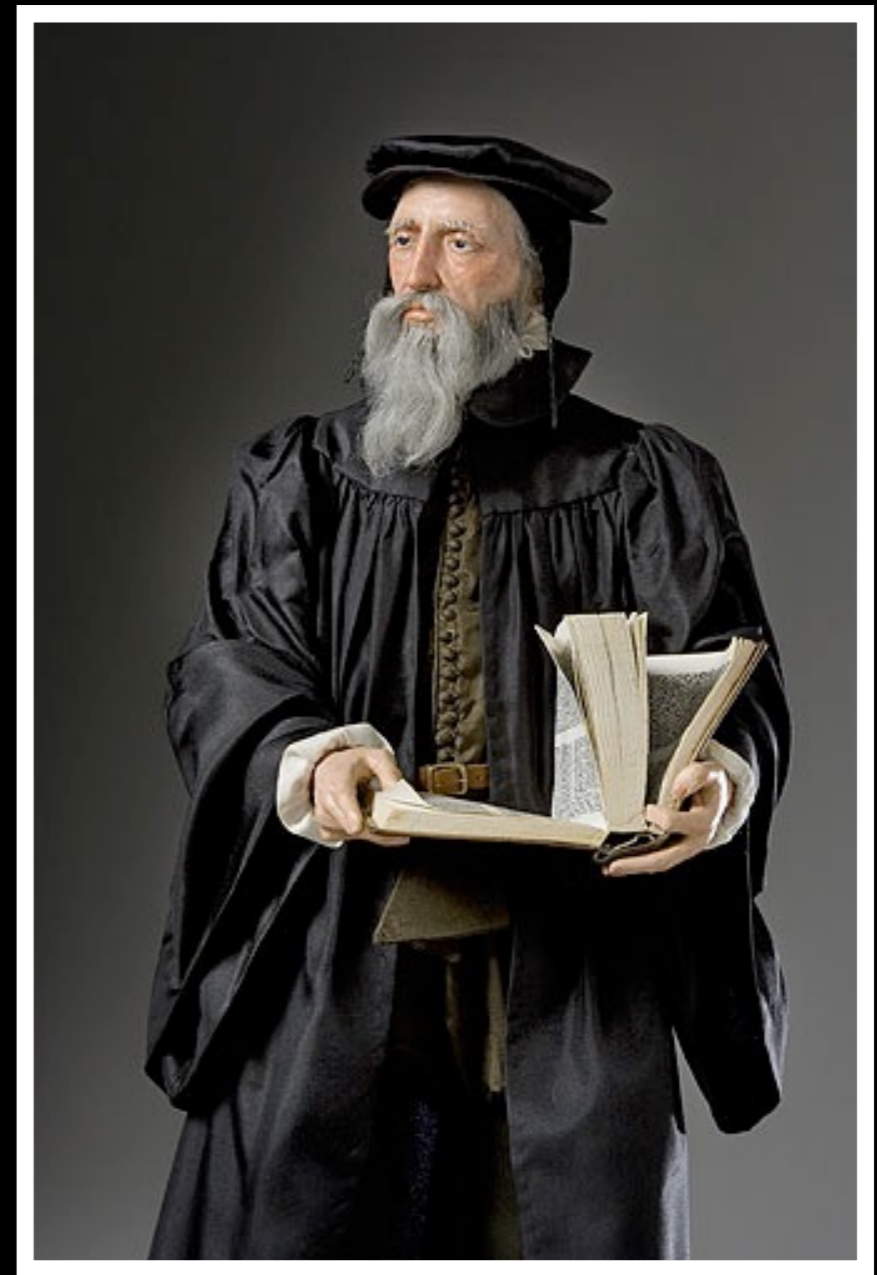


**REPENTANCE  
IS A GIANT  
"U-TURN"  
OF YOUR LIFE**



**Repentance is not  
merely the start of  
the Christian life;  
it is the Christian life.**

— John Calvin (1509-1564) —

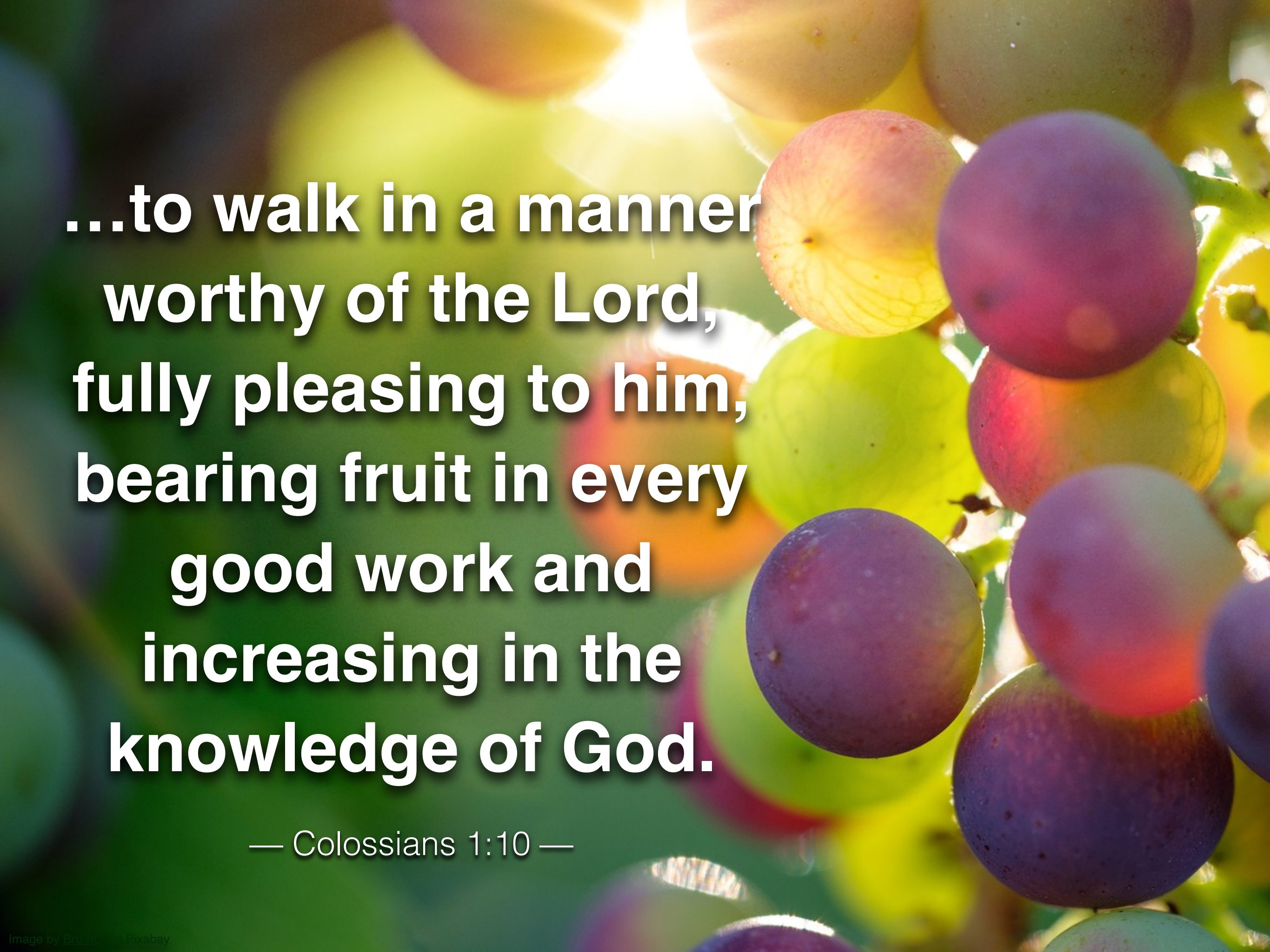


**Since life is short, there is no more important time to turn to God than now.**





**Since life is short,  
let's live our short  
lives for Christ.**



**...to walk in a manner  
worthy of the Lord,  
fully pleasing to him,  
bearing fruit in every  
good work and  
increasing in the  
knowledge of God.**

— Colossians 1:10 —

**For we are God's  
handiwork, created in  
Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared  
in advance for us to do.**

**The Apostle Paul**  
— Ephesians 2:10 —



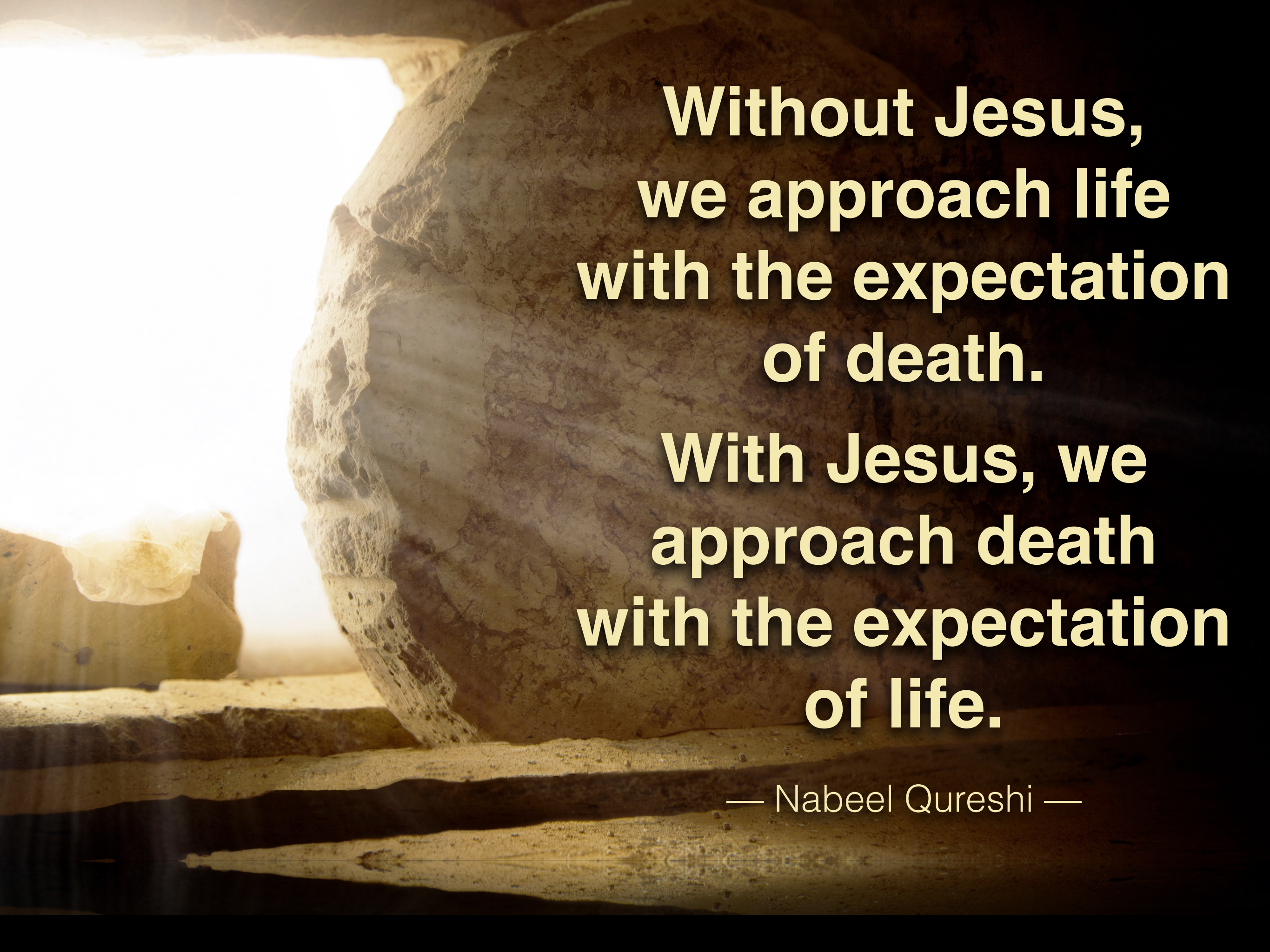
**I give Thee back the life I owe  
That in Thine ocean's depths it's flow  
May richer, fuller be**



**“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”  
— George Matheson —**

**NOT ONLY IS THE GOOD  
NEWS ABOUT JESUS  
THE GREATEST NEWS  
THAT HAS BEEN HEARD,  
BUT IT IS THE BEST  
POSSIBLE NEWS THAT  
COULD EVER BE HEARD  
AND BELIEVED.**





**Without Jesus,  
we approach life  
with the expectation  
of death.**

**With Jesus, we  
approach death  
with the expectation  
of life.**

— Nabeel Qureshi —





**Since life is short, may  
you always be turning  
back to the Lord,  
walking in a manner  
fully pleasing to the  
Him, bearing fruit in  
every good work as  
you increase in  
the knowledge of God!**