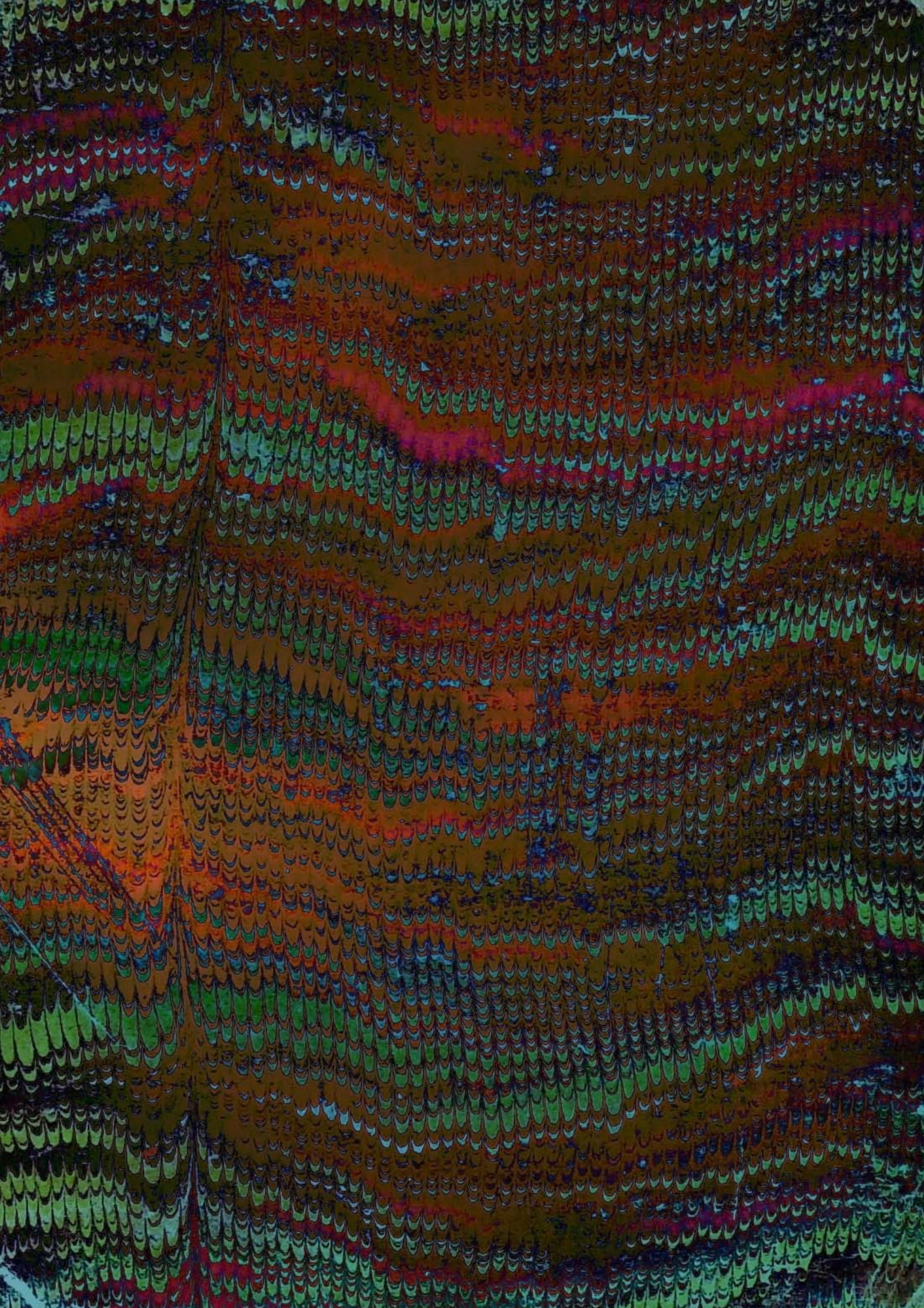
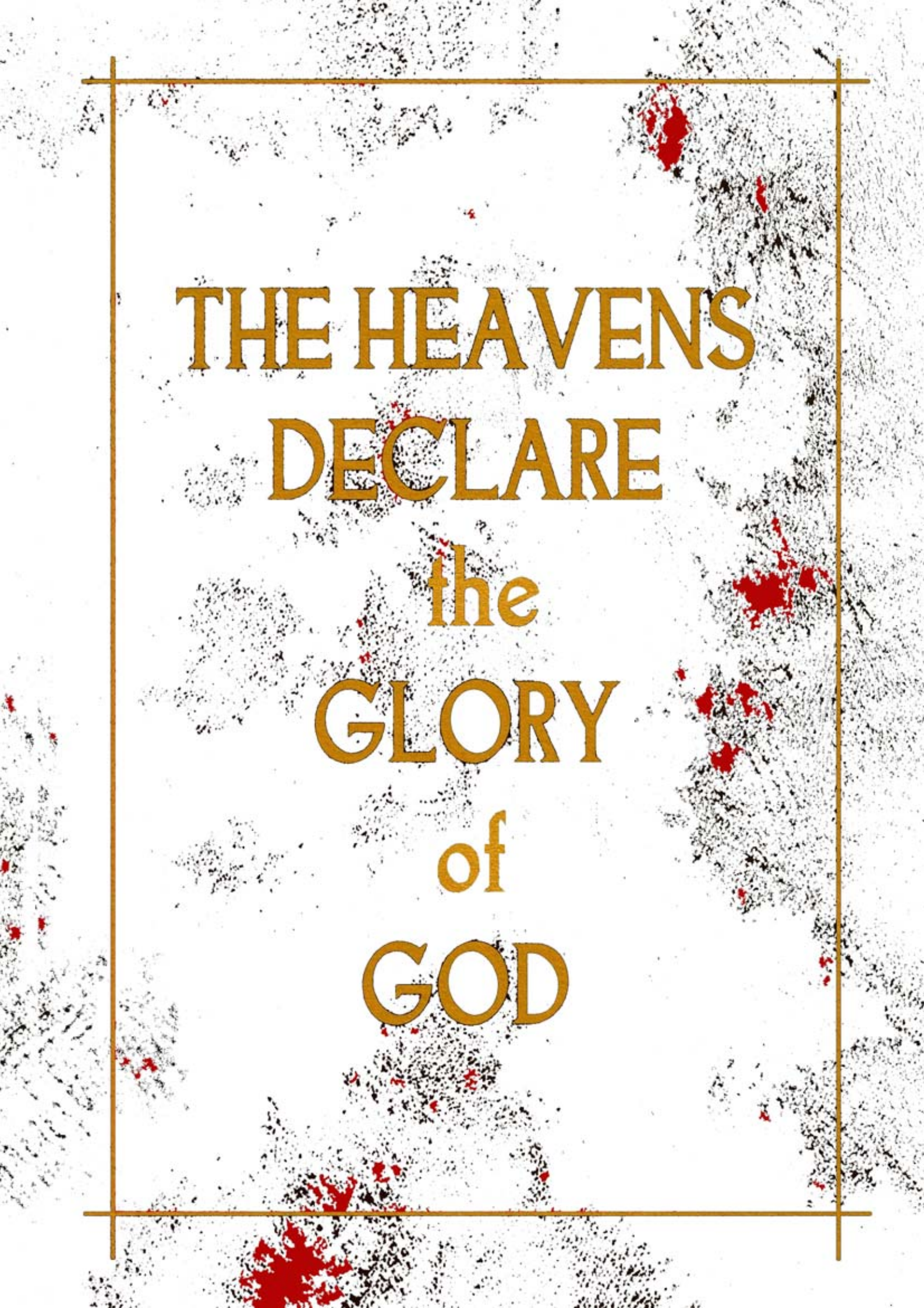


THE HEAVENS
DECLARE
the
GLORY
of
GOD





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PREFACE

BASED ON OBSERVATION AND SCIENTIFIC REASON, IT DOES SEEM THAT THE MATERIAL UNIVERSE 'EXISTS 'NOW' - BUT DIDN'T ALWAYS!

TWO MAIN HYPOTHESES APPEAR TO BE CONTENDING FOR THE ORIGIN OF 'EVERYTHING', NAMELY:

1. A 'BIG BANG' THEORY, IN WHICH MATTER NOT PREVIOUSLY IN EXISTENCE WAS ABLE TO BRING ITSELF INTO EXISTENCE, THIS THEN FOLLOWED BY THE PASSAGE OF BILLIONS OF YEARS DURING WHICH RANDOM CHANCE MUTATIONS RESULTED IN THE VAST COMPLEXITY WE OBSERVE TODAY! SUMMING UP, THAT IS NOBODY X NOTHING = EVERYTHING (BY CHANCE),

OR

2. A VERY BIG, ETERNAL, POWERFUL, INFINITELY COMPLEX BEING - GOD - MIRACULOUSLY CREATED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING TIME AND ALL LIFE ON EARTH, BY SPEAKING IT INTO EXISTENCE OUT OF NOTHING. AND, 6 DAYS WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR HIM TO DO IT! HE EVEN LEFT US A WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF THE PROCESS [GENESIS, CHAPTERS 1 & 2]!

TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE FORMER AND DENY THE LATTER, THE APOSTLE PAUL HAD THIS TO SAY IN THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS:

ROMANS, CHAPTER 1

FOR THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN AGAINST ALL UNGODLINESS AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF MEN, WHO SUPPRESS THE TRUTH IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE WHAT MAY BE KNOWN OF GOD IS MANIFEST IN THEM, FOR GOD HAS SHOWN IT TO THEM.

FOR SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD HIS INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES ARE CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD BY THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE, EVEN HIS ETERNAL POWER AND GODHEAD, SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE, BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW GOD, THEY DID NOT GLORIFY HIM AS GOD, NOR WERE THANKFUL, BUT BECAME FUTILE IN THEIR THOUGHTS, AND THEIR FOOLISH HEARTS WERE DARKENED.

PROFESSING TO BE WISE, THEY BECAME FOOLS, AND CHANGED THE GLORY OF THE INCORRUPTIBLE GOD INTO AN IMAGE MADE LIKE CORRUPTIBLE MAN—AND BIRDS AND FOUR-FOOTED ANIMALS AND CREEPING THINGS. THEREFORE GOD ALSO GAVE THEM UP TO UNCLEANNESS, IN THE LUSTS OF THEIR HEARTS, TO DISHONOUR THEIR BODIES AMONG THEMSELVES, WHO EXCHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD FOR THE LIE, AND WORSHIPPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE RATHER THAN THE CREATOR, WHO IS BLESSED FOREVER.

AMEN.

"I HAVE GIVEN THEM
YOUR WORD,
AND THE WORLD
HAS HATED THEM
BECAUSE THEY ARE
NOT OF THE WORLD,
JUST AS I AM NOT
OF THE WORLD.

SANCTIFY THEM
BY YOUR TRUTH.
YOUR WORD
IS TRUTH."

ALL SCRIPTURE IS
GIVEN BY INSPIRATION
OF GOD.

PREACH THE WORD!
FOR THE TIME WILL COME
WHEN THEY WILL NOT
ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE,
AND THEY WILL TURN
THEIR EARS AWAY FROM
THE TRUTH, AND
BE TURNED ASIDE
TO FABLES.

GENESIS, 1

IN THE BEGINNING [OF TIME] GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID [OF LIFE]; AND DARKNESS WAS ON THE FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS HOVERING OVER THE FACE OF THE WATERS. THEN GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE LIGHTS IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVENS TO DIVIDE THE DAY FROM THE NIGHT; AND LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS AND SEASONS, AND FOR DAYS AND YEARS; AND LET THEM BE FOR LIGHTS IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVENS TO GIVE LIGHT ON THE EARTH"; AND IT WAS SO. THEN GOD MADE TWO GREAT LIGHTS: THE GREATER LIGHT TO RULE THE DAY, AND THE LESSER LIGHT TO RULE THE NIGHT. *He made* THE STARS ALSO. GOD SET THEM IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVENS TO GIVE LIGHT ON THE EARTH, AND TO RULE OVER THE DAY AND OVER THE NIGHT, AND TO DIVIDE THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD. SO THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FOURTH DAY.

THEN GOD SAID, "LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, ACCORDING TO OUR LIKENESS; SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE; IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM."

PSALMS, 8 & 19

OLORD, our LORD, how excellent *is* your NAME IN ALL THE EARTH, who have set your GLORY ABOVE THE HEAVENS! **W**hen I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the MOON AND THE STARS, which you have ordained, what is MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM, AND THE SON OF MAN THAT YOU VISIT HIM? FOR YOU HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS, AND YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOUR. YOU HAVE MADE HIM TO HAVE DOMINION OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; you have put ALL *THINGS* UNDER HIS FEET,

The heavens declare the glory of God; AND THE FIRMAMENT SHOWS HIS HANDIWORK. DAY UNTO DAY utters speech, AND NIGHT UNTO NIGHT REVEALS KNOWLEDGE. *There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.* Their line has gone out through ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE END OF THE WORLD. IN THEM HE HAS SET A TABERNACLE FOR THE SUN, which *is* like a BRIDEGROOM COMING OUT OF HIS CHAMBER, AND REJOICES LIKE A STRONG MAN TO RUN ITS RACE. ITS RISING *is* FROM ONE END OF HEAVEN, AND ITS CIRCUIT TO THE OTHER END; AND THERE IS NOTHING HIDDEN FROM ITS HEAT.

DEUTERONOMY, 4 & 1 CHRONICLES, 16

TAKE careful heed to yourselves, for you saw NO FORM when the LORD spoke to you [ISRAEL] at HOREB out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: AND take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage."

BRING TO THE LORD, all the earth; for all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honour and majesty are before him; strength and gladness are in his place.

GIVE TO THE LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come before him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."

JOB, 9 & 38

God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. He shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; he commands the sun, and it does not rise; he seals off the stars; he alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; he made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; he does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number. If he goes by me, I do not see him; if he moves past, I do not perceive him; if he takes away, who can hinder him? Who can say to him, 'What are you doing?'

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone? Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring out Mazzaroth [the Zodiac of Constellations] in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?"

JOHN, 1 & COLOSSIANS 1

IN THE BEGINNING [OF TIME] WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH HIM, AND WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT WAS MADE. IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. AND THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS DID NOT COMPREHEND IT.

HE WAS IN THE WORLD, AND THE WORLD WAS MADE THROUGH HIM, AND THE WORLD DID NOT KNOW HIM. HE CAME TO HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN DID NOT RECEIVE HIM. BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD, TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIS NAME: AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US, AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

HE IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD, THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION. FOR BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED THAT ARE IN HEAVEN AND THAT ARE ON EARTH, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, WHETHER THRONES OR DOMINIONS OR PRINCIPALITIES OR POWERS. ALL THINGS WERE CREATED THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM.

MATTHEW, 24

AND Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

IMMEDIATELY after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

PSALMS, 33

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; he lays up the deep in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he has chosen as his own inheritance.

The LORD looks from heaven; he sees all the sons of men. From the place of his dwelling he looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; he fashions their hearts individually; he considers all their works. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

PSALMS, 89 & 90

The heavens are yours, the earth also is yours; the world and all its fullness, you have founded them. The north and the south, you have created them; righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; mercy and truth go before your face.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God. You turn man to destruction, and say, "Return, O children of men."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night. You carry them away like a flood; they are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up: in the morning it flourishes and grows up; in the evening it is cut down and withers. For we have been consumed by your anger, and by your wrath we are terrified.

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. For all our days have passed away in your wrath; we finish our years like a sigh.

PSALMS, 96

Oh, SING TO THE LORD a NEW SONG! SING TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH. SING TO THE LORD, BLESS HIS NAME; PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF HIS SALVATION FROM DAY TO DAY. DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS, HIS WONDERS AMONG ALL PEOPLES.

FOR THE LORD IS GREAT AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED; HE IS TO BE FEARED ABOVE ALL GODS. FOR ALL THE GODS OF THE PEOPLES ARE IDOLS, BUT THE LORD MADE THE HEAVENS. HONOUR AND MAJESTY ARE BEFORE HIM; STRENGTH AND BEAUTY ARE IN HIS SANCTUARY. Oh, WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS! TREMBLE BEFORE HIM, ALL THE EARTH. SAY AMONG THE NATIONS, "THE LORD REIGNS; THE WORLD ALSO IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, IT SHALL NOT BE MOVED; HE SHALL JUDGE THE PEOPLES RIGHTEOUSLY."

LET THE HEAVENS REJOICE, AND LET THE EARTH BE GLAD; LET THE SEA ROAR, AND ALL ITS FULLNESS; LET THE FIELD BE JOYFUL, AND ALL THAT IS IN IT. THEN ALL THE TREES OF THE WOODS WILL REJOICE BEFORE THE LORD. FOR HE IS COMING, FOR HE IS COMING TO JUDGE THE EARTH. HE SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THE PEOPLES WITH HIS TRUTH.

HEBREWS, 1

FOR TO WHICH OF THE ANGELS DID HE [GOD THE FATHER] EVER SAY: "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? BUT WHEN HE AGAIN BRINGS THE FIRSTBORN [THE LORD JESUS CHRIST] INTO THE WORLD, HE SAYS: "LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." AND OF THE ANGELS HE SAYS: "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS SPIRITS AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE." BUT TO THE SON *he says*: "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER; A SCEPTRE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTRE OF YOUR KINGDOM.

AND: "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS. THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY WILL ALL GROW OLD LIKE A GARMENT; LIKE A CLOAK YOU WILL FOLD THEM UP, AND THEY WILL BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT FAIL."

BUT TO WHICH OF THE ANGELS HAS HE EVER SAID: "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, TILL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES YOUR FOOTSTOOL"? ARE THEY NOT ALL MINISTERING SPIRITS SENT FORTH TO MINISTER FOR THOSE WHO WILL INHERIT SALVATION?

PSALMS, 102

My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away like grass. But you, O LORD, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of your name to all generations. This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

For he looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven the LORD viewed the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to release those appointed to death, to declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem, when the peoples are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.

I said, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; your years are throughout all generations. Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak you will change them, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

PSALMS, 104

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great: you are clothed with honour and majesty, who cover yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

Who makes his angels spirits, his ministers a flame of fire. You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, you covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which you founded for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works. He looks on the earth, and it trembles; he touches the hills, and they smoke. I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to him; I will be glad in the LORD.

PSALMS, 115 & 136

NOT UNTO US, O LORD, NOT UNTO US, BUT TO YOUR NAME GIVE GLORY, BECAUSE OF YOUR MERCY, BECAUSE OF YOUR TRUTH. Why should the GENTILES say, "So where is their God?" But our God is in heaven; he does whatever he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.

May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth. The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S; but the earth he has given to the children of men.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For his mercy endures forever: to him who alone does great wonders, for his mercy endures forever; to him who by wisdom made the heavens, for his mercy endures forever; to him who laid out the earth above the waters, for his mercy endures forever; to him who made great lights, for his mercy endures forever—the sun to rule by day, for his mercy endures forever; the moon and stars to rule by night, for his mercy endures forever.

PSALMS, 147 & 148

Praise the LORD! for *it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.* He counts the number of the stars; he calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; his understanding is infinite.

Who covers the heavens with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth, who makes grass to grow on the mountains. He does not delight in the strength of the horse; he takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his mercy.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light! Praise him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He also established them forever and ever; he made a decree which shall not pass away.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

JESUS SPOKE THESE WORDS,
"I HAVE GLORIFIED YOU ON
EARTH. I HAVE FINISHED THE
WORK WHICH YOU HAVE
GIVEN ME TO DO.

AND NOW, O FATHER,
GLORIFY ME TOGETHER
WITH YOURSELF, WITH
THE GLORY WHICH I HAD
WITH YOU BEFORE THE
WORLD WAS."

"I pray for them. I do
not pray for the world
but for those whom you
have given me, for they
are yours.

Father, I desire that
they also whom you
gave me may be with
me where I am, that they
may behold my glory
which you have
given me."

PROVERBS, 3

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT YOUR PATHS. DO NOT BE WISE IN YOUR OWN EYES; FEAR THE LORD AND DEPART FROM EVIL. MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR DETEST HIS CORRECTION; FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CORRECTS, JUST AS A FATHER THE SON *IN WHOM HE DELIGHTS.*

THE LORD BY WISDOM FOUNDED THE EARTH; BY UNDERSTANDING HE ESTABLISHED THE HEAVENS; BY HIS KNOWLEDGE THE DEPTHS WERE BROKEN UP, AND CLOUDS DROP DOWN THE DEW.

MY SON, LET THEM NOT DEPART FROM YOUR EYES—KEEP SOUND WISDOM AND DISCRETION; SO THEY WILL BE LIFE TO YOUR SOUL AND GRACE TO YOUR NECK. THEN YOU WILL WALK SAFELY IN YOUR WAY, AND YOUR FOOT WILL NOT STUMBLE. WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, YOU WILL NOT BE AFRAID; YES, YOU WILL LIE DOWN AND YOUR SLEEP WILL BE SWEET.

PROVERBS, 8

DOES NOT WISDOM CRY OUT, AND UNDERSTANDING
LIFT UP HER VOICE? "LISTEN, FOR I WILL SPEAK
OF EXCELLENT THINGS, AND FROM THE OPENING
OF MY LIPS *WILL COME* RIGHT THINGS; FOR MY
MOUTH WILL SPEAK TRUTH; ALL THE WORDS OF MY
MOUTH *ARE* WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS; NOTHING CROOKED
OR PERVERSE *IS* IN THEM.

IHAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FROM EVERLASTING, FROM
THE BEGINNING, BEFORE THERE WAS EVER AN EARTH.
WHEN HE [GOD] PREPARED THE HEAVENS, I WAS THERE,
WHEN HE DREW A CIRCLE ON THE FACE OF THE DEEP,
WHEN HE ESTABLISHED THE CLOUDS ABOVE, WHEN HE
STRENGTHENED THE FOUNTAINS OF THE DEEP, WHEN HE
ASSIGNED TO THE SEA ITS LIMIT, SO THAT THE WATERS
WOULD NOT TRANSGRESS HIS COMMAND, WHEN HE
MARKED OUT THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH, THEN I
WAS BESIDE HIM AS A MASTER CRAFTSMAN.

HEAR INSTRUCTION AND BE WISE, AND DO NOT DISDAIN
IT. BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO ME. FOR
WHOEVER FINDS ME FINDS LIFE, AND OBTAINS FAVOUR
FROM THE LORD; BUT HE WHO SINS AGAINST ME
WRONGS HIS OWN SOUL; ALL THOSE WHO HATE ME
LOVE DEATH."

ISAIAH, 13

WAIL, FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND! IT WILL COME AS DESTRUCTION FROM THE ALMIGHTY. THEREFORE ALL HANDS WILL BE LIMP, EVERY MAN'S HEART WILL MELT, AND THEY WILL BE AFRAID.

BEHOLD, THE DAY OF THE LORD COMES, CRUEL, WITH BOTH WRATH AND FIERCE ANGER, TO LAY THE LAND DESOLATE; AND HE WILL DESTROY ITS SINNERS FROM IT. FOR THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND THEIR CONSTELLATIONS WILL NOT GIVE THEIR LIGHT; THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED IN ITS GOING FORTH, AND THE MOON WILL NOT CAUSE ITS LIGHT TO SHINE.

"I WILL PUNISH THE WORLD FOR *ITS* EVIL, AND THE WICKED FOR THEIR INIQUITY; I WILL HALT THE ARROGANCE OF THE PROUD, AND WILL LAY LOW THE HAUGHTINESS OF THE TERRIBLE. I WILL MAKE A MORTAL MORE RARE THAN FINE GOLD, A MAN MORE THAN THE GOLDEN WEDGE OF OPHIR.

THEREFORE I WILL SHAKE THE HEAVENS, AND THE EARTH WILL MOVE OUT OF HER PLACE, IN THE WRATH OF THE LORD OF HOSTS AND IN THE DAY OF HIS FIERCE ANGER."

ISAIAH, 34

COME NEAR, YOU NATIONS, TO HEAR; AND HEED, YOU PEOPLE! LET THE EARTH HEAR, AND ALL THAT IS IN IT, THE WORLD AND ALL THINGS THAT COME FORTH FROM IT. FOR THE INDIGNATION OF THE LORD IS AGAINST ALL NATIONS, AND *his* FURY AGAINST ALL THEIR ARMIES; HE HAS UTTERLY DESTROYED THEM, HE HAS GIVEN THEM OVER TO THE SLAUGHTER.

ALL THE HOST OF HEAVEN SHALL BE DISSOLVED, AND THE HEAVENS SHALL BE ROLLED UP LIKE A SCROLL; ALL THEIR HOST SHALL FALL DOWN AS THE LEAF FALLS FROM THE VINE, AND AS *FRUIT* FALLING FROM A FIG TREE.

"FOR MY SWORD SHALL BE BATHED IN HEAVEN; INDEED IT SHALL COME DOWN ON EDOM, AND ON THE PEOPLE OF MY CURSE, FOR JUDGEMENT. THE SWORD OF THE LORD IS FILLED WITH BLOOD. FOR THE LORD HAS A SACRIFICE IN BOZRAH, AND A GREAT SLAUGHTER IN THE LAND OF EDOM. THE WILD OXEN SHALL COME DOWN WITH THEM, AND THE YOUNG BULLS WITH THE MIGHTY BULLS; THEIR LAND SHALL BE SOAKED WITH BLOOD, AND THEIR DUST SATURATED WITH FATNESS."

FOR IT IS THE DAY OF THE LORD'S VENGEANCE, THE YEAR OF RECOMPENSE FOR THE CAUSE OF ZION.

ISAIAH, 40

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

The voice said, "Cry out!" and he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as his counsellor has taught him? With whom did he take counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, he lifts up the isles as a very little thing. All nations before him are as nothing, and they are counted by him less than nothing and worthless.

ISAIAH, 40

HAVE YOU NOT KNOWN? HAVE YOU NOT HEARD? **H**AS IT NOT BEEN TOLD YOU FROM THE BEGINNING? HAVE YOU NOT UNDERSTOOD FROM THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH? *It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He brings the princes to nothing; he makes the judges of the earth useless.*

"TO WHOM THEN WILL YOU LIKEN ME, OR TO WHOM SHALL I BE EQUAL?" SAYS THE HOLY ONE. LIFT UP YOUR EYES ON HIGH, AND SEE WHO HAS CREATED THESE THINGS, WHO BRINGS OUT THEIR HOST [THE CELESTIAL UNIVERSE] BY NUMBER; HE CALLS THEM ALL BY NAME, BY THE GREATNESS OF HIS MIGHT AND THE STRENGTH OF *his* POWER; NOT ONE IS MISSING.

WHY DO YOU SAY, O JACOB, AND SPEAK, O ISRAEL: "MY WAY IS HIDDEN FROM THE LORD, AND MY JUST CLAIM IS PASSED OVER BY MY GOD"? HAVE YOU NOT KNOWN? HAVE YOU NOT HEARD? THE EVERLASTING GOD, THE LORD, THE CREATOR OF THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, NEITHER FAINTS NOR IS WEARY. **HIS UNDERSTANDING IS UNSEARCHABLE.**

ISAIAH, 45

Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask me of things to come concerning my sons; and concerning the work of my hands, you command me. I have made the earth, and created man on it. I—my hands—stretched out the heavens, and all their host I have commanded.

Tell and bring forth *your case*; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? *Have not I, the LORD? and there is no other God besides me, a just God and a Saviour; there is none besides me. Look to me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! for I am God, and there is no other.*

I have sworn by myself; the word has gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath. He shall say, 'Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To him men shall come, and all shall be ashamed who are incensed against him. In the LORD all the descendants of Israel shall be justified, and shall glory.'

ISAIAH, 51 & 52

"**L**ISTEN TO ME, MY PEOPLE; AND GIVE EAR TO ME, O MY NATION: FOR LAW WILL PROCEED FROM ME, AND I WILL MAKE MY JUSTICE REST AS A LIGHT OF THE PEOPLES. LIFT UP YOUR EYES TO THE HEAVENS, AND LOOK ON THE EARTH BENEATH. FOR THE HEAVENS WILL VANISH AWAY LIKE SMOKE, THE EARTH WILL GROW OLD LIKE A GARMENT, AND THOSE WHO DWELL IN IT WILL DIE IN LIKE MANNER; BUT MY SALVATION WILL BE FOREVER, AND MY RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL NOT BE ABOLISHED.

LISTEN TO ME, YOU WHO KNOW RIGHTEOUSNESS, YOU PEOPLE IN WHOSE HEART IS MY LAW: DO NOT FEAR THE REPROACH OF MEN, NOR BE AFRAID OF THEIR INSULTS. FOR THE MOTH WILL EAT THEM UP LIKE A GARMENT, AND THE WORM WILL EAT THEM LIKE WOOL; BUT MY RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL BE FOREVER, AND MY SALVATION FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION."

BEHOLD, MY SERVANT SHALL DEAL PRUDENTLY; HE SHALL BE EXALTED AND EXTOLLED AND BE VERY HIGH. KINGS SHALL SHUT THEIR MOUTHS AT HIM; FOR WHAT HAD NOT BEEN TOLD THEM THEY SHALL SEE, AND WHAT THEY HAD NOT HEARD THEY SHALL CONSIDER.

ISAIAH, 65

"**B**UT you are those who forsake the LORD, who forget my holy mountain, therefore I will number you for the sword, and you shall all bow down to the slaughter; because, when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not hear, but did evil before my eyes, and chose *that* in which I do not delight."

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; behold, my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed; you shall leave your name as a curse to my chosen; for the Lord GOD will slay you, and call his servants by another name; so that he who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from my eyes."

FOR behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy."

ISAIAH, 66

Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool. Where is the house that you will build me? And where is the place of my rest? For all those things my hand has made, and all those things exist," says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at my word. For behold, the LORD will come with fire and with his chariots, like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword the LORD will judge all flesh; and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see my glory. Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to my holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "for as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before me," says the LORD, "so shall your descendants and your name remain."

DANIEL, 9

"**Q** LORD, HEAR! O LORD, FORGIVE! O LORD, LISTEN AND ACT! DO NOT DELAY FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, MY GOD, FOR YOUR CITY AND YOUR PEOPLE ARE CALLED BY YOUR NAME."

NOW WHILE I [DANIEL] WAS SPEAKING, PRAYING, AND CONFESSING MY SIN AND THE SIN OF MY PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND PRESENTING MY SUPPLICATION BEFORE THE LORD MY GOD FOR THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF MY GOD, YES, WHILE I WAS SPEAKING IN PRAYER, THE MAN [ANGEL] GABRIEL, WHOM I HAD SEEN IN THE VISION AT THE BEGINNING, BEING CAUSED TO FLY SWIFTLY, REACHED ME ABOUT THE TIME OF THE EVENING OFFERING. AND HE INFORMED ME, AND TALKED WITH ME, AND SAID, "O DANIEL, I HAVE NOW COME FORTH TO GIVE YOU SKILL TO UNDERSTAND. AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR SUPPLICATIONS THE COMMAND WENT OUT, AND I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU, FOR YOU ARE GREATLY BELOVED; THEREFORE CONSIDER THE MATTER, AND UNDERSTAND THE VISION: SEVENTY WEEKS [SEVENS OF YEARS] ARE DETERMINED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND FOR YOUR HOLY CITY, TO FINISH THE TRANSGRESSION, TO MAKE AN END OF SINS, TO MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY, TO BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS, TO SEAL UP VISION AND PROPHECY, AND TO ANOINT THE MOST HOLY."

DANIEL, 9

R NOW THEREFORE AND UNDERSTAND, *THAT FROM THE GOING FORTH OF THE COMMAND TO RESTORE AND BUILD JERUSALEM UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE SHALL BE SEVEN WEEKS [7X7 = 49 YEARS] AND SIXTY-TWO WEEKS [62X7 = 434 YEARS]; THE STREET SHALL BE BUILT AGAIN, AND THE WALL, EVEN IN TROUBLESOME TIMES.*

AND AFTER THE SIXTY-TWO WEEKS MESSIAH SHALL BE CUT OFF [KILLED], BUT NOT FOR HIMSELF; AND THE PEOPLE OF THE PRINCE WHO IS TO COME SHALL DESTROY THE CITY AND THE SANCTUARY [THIS IS THE 'NEAR' EVENT THAT OCCURRED IN 70AD WHEN JERUSALEM WAS RAZED BY THE ROMANS]. THE END OF IT *SHALL BE WITH A FLOOD, AND TILL THE END OF THE WAR DESOLATIONS ARE DETERMINED.*

THEN HE SHALL CONFIRM A COVENANT WITH MANY FOR ONE WEEK [THE FINAL 7 YEARS]; BUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK HE SHALL BRING AN END TO SACRIFICE AND OFFERING [THE PROPHESIED 'END-TIME' EVENT WHEN THE ANTICHRIST WILL SEEK TO BE WORSHIPPED AND CONTROL THE WORLD]. AND ON THE WING OF ABOMINATIONS SHALL BE ONE WHO MAKES DESOLATE, EVEN UNTIL THE CONSUMMATION, WHICH IS DETERMINED, IS Poured OUT ON THE DESOLATE."

JOEL, 2 & 3

BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION, AND SOUND AN ALARM IN MY HOLY MOUNTAIN! LET ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND TREMBLE; FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD [THE LORD'S JUDGMENT OF THE UNGODLY] IS COMING, FOR IT IS AT HAND: A DAY OF DARKNESS AND GLOOMINESS, A DAY OF CLOUDS AND THICK DARKNESS, LIKE THE MORNING CLOUDS SPREAD OVER THE MOUNTAINS. A PEOPLE COME, GREAT AND STRONG, THE LIKE OF WHOM HAS NEVER BEEN; NOR WILL THERE EVER BE ANY *such* AFTER THEM, EVEN FOR MANY SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS. THE EARTH QUAKES BEFORE THEM, THE HEAVENS TREMBLE; THE SUN AND MOON GROW DARK, AND THE STARS DIMINISH THEIR BRIGHTNESS. THE LORD GIVES VOICE BEFORE HIS ARMY, FOR HIS CAMP IS VERY GREAT; FOR STRONG IS *THE ONE* WHO EXECUTES HIS WORD. FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS GREAT AND VERY TERRIBLE; WHO CAN ENDURE IT?

"**N**OW, THEREFORE," SAYS THE LORD, "TURN TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH FASTING, WITH WEeping, AND WITH MOURNING." SO REND YOUR HEART, AND NOT YOUR GARMENTS; RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD, FOR HE IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER, AND OF GREAT KINDNESS; AND HE RELENTS FROM DOING HARM.

"**A**ND IT SHALL COME TO PASS AFTERWARD THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHESY, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS. AND ALSO ON MY MENSERVANTS AND ON MY MAIDSERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS. AND I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN THE HEAVENS AND IN THE EARTH: BLOOD AND FIRE AND PILLARS OF SMOKE. THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND AWESOME DAY OF THE LORD. AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED. FOR IN MOUNT ZION AND IN JERUSALEM THERE SHALL BE DELIVERANCE, AS THE LORD HAS SAID, AMONG THE REMNANT WHOM THE LORD CALLS."

FOR BEHOLD, IN THOSE DAYS AND AT THAT TIME, WHEN I BRING BACK THE CAPTIVES OF JUDAH AND JERUSALEM, I WILL ALSO GATHER ALL NATIONS, AND BRING THEM DOWN TO THE VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT; AND I WILL ENTER INTO JUDGEMENT WITH THEM THERE ON ACCOUNT OF MY PEOPLE, MY HERITAGE ISRAEL, WHOM THEY HAVE SCATTERED AMONG THE NATIONS; THEY HAVE ALSO DIVIDED UP MY LAND. THEY HAVE CAST LOTS FOR MY PEOPLE, HAVE GIVEN A BOY AS PAYMENT FOR A HARLOT, AND SOLD A GIRL FOR WINE, THAT THEY MAY DRINK."

ZECHARIAH, 12 & 13

Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

In that day," says the LORD, "I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open my eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the LORD of hosts, their God.' In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD before them. It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

AND I WILL POUR ON THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND ON THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM THE SPIRIT OF GRACE AND SUPPLICATION; THEN THEY WILL LOOK ON ME WHOM THEY PIERCED [CRUCIFIED]. YES, THEY WILL MOURN FOR HIM AS ONE MOURNS FOR *his* ONLY SON, AND GRIEVE FOR HIM AS ONE GRIEVES FOR A FIRSTBORN. IN THAT DAY THERE SHALL BE A GREAT MOURNING IN JERUSALEM, LIKE THE MOURNING AT HADAD RIMMON IN THE PLAIN OF MEGIDDO [BECAUSE THE NATION CRUCIFIED THE MESSIAH]. AND THE LAND SHALL MOURN, EVERY FAMILY BY ITSELF: THE FAMILY OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID BY ITSELF, AND THEIR WIVES BY THEMSELVES; THE FAMILY OF THE HOUSE OF NATHAN BY ITSELF, AND THEIR WIVES BY THEMSELVES; THE FAMILY OF THE HOUSE OF LEVI BY ITSELF, AND THEIR WIVES BY THEMSELVES; THE FAMILY OF SHIMEI BY ITSELF, AND THEIR WIVES BY THEMSELVES; ALL THE FAMILIES THAT REMAIN, EVERY FAMILY BY ITSELF, AND THEIR WIVES BY THEMSELVES.

IN THAT DAY A FOUNTAIN SHALL BE OPENED FOR THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND FOR THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM, FOR SIN AND FOR UNCLEANNESS. IT SHALL BE IN THAT DAY," SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS, "THAT I WILL CUT OFF THE NAMES OF THE IDOLS FROM THE LAND, AND THEY SHALL NO LONGER BE REMEMBERED."

ACTS, 2

BUT PETER [THE APOSTLE], STANDING UP WITH THE ELEVEN, RAISED HIS VOICE AND SAID TO THEM, "MEN OF JUDEA AND ALL WHO DWELL IN JERUSALEM, LET THIS BE KNOWN TO YOU, AND HEED MY WORDS. BUT THIS IS WHAT WAS SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET JOEL: 'AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH. I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN HEAVEN ABOVE AND SIGNS IN THE EARTH BENEATH: BLOOD AND FIRE AND VAPOUR OF SMOKE. THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND AWESOME DAY OF THE LORD. AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.'

MEN OF ISRAEL, HEAR THESE WORDS: JESUS OF NAZARETH, A MAN ATTESTED BY GOD TO YOU BY MIRACLES, WONDERS, AND SIGNS WHICH GOD DID THROUGH HIM IN YOUR MIDST, AS YOU YOURSELVES ALSO KNOW—HIM, BEING DELIVERED BY THE DETERMINED PURPOSE AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YOU HAVE TAKEN BY LAWLESS HANDS, HAVE CRUCIFIED, AND PUT TO DEATH; WHOM GOD RAISED UP, HAVING LOOSED THE PAINS OF DEATH, BECAUSE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE THAT HE SHOULD BE HELD BY IT.

FOR [KING] DAVID SAYS CONCERNING HIM: 'I FORESAW THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE MY FACE, FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, THAT I MAY NOT BE SHAKEN. FOR YOU WILL NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN HADES, NOR WILL YOU ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO SEE CORRUPTION.' MEN AND BRETHREN, LET ME SPEAK FREELY TO YOU OF THE PATRIARCH DAVID, THAT HE IS BOTH DEAD AND BURIED, AND HIS TOMB IS WITH US TO THIS DAY. THEREFORE, BEING A PROPHET, AND KNOWING THAT GOD HAD SWORN WITH AN OATH TO HIM THAT OF THE FRUIT OF HIS BODY, ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, HE WOULD RAISE UP THE CHRIST TO SIT ON HIS THRONE, HE, FORESEEING THIS, SPOKE CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION OF THE CHRIST, THAT HIS SOUL WAS NOT LEFT IN HADES, NOR DID HIS FLESH SEE CORRUPTION. THIS JESUS GOD HAS RAISED UP, OF WHICH WE ARE ALL WITNESSES. THEREFORE BEING EXALTED TO THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, AND HAVING RECEIVED FROM THE FATHER THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, HE POURED OUT THIS WHICH YOU NOW SEE AND HEAR.

FOR DAVID DID NOT ASCEND INTO THE HEAVENS, BUT HE SAYS HIMSELF: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, TILL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES YOUR FOOTSTOOL."' THEREFORE LET ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL KNOW ASSUREDLY THAT GOD HAS MADE THIS JESUS, WHOM YOU CRUCIFIED, BOTH LORD AND CHRIST."

philippians, 2 - 4

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO, BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD, DID NOT CONSIDER IT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD, BUT MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION, TAKING THE FORM OF A BONDSERVANT, AND COMING IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN. AND BEING FOUND IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN, HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF AND BECAME OBEDIENT TO *the point of* DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS. THEREFORE GOD ALSO HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM AND GIVEN HIM THE NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THOSE IN HEAVEN, AND OF THOSE ON EARTH, AND OF THOSE UNDER THE EARTH, AND *that* EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

YET INDEED I ALSO COUNT ALL THINGS LOSS FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST JESUS MY LORD, FOR WHOM I HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS, AND COUNT THEM AS RUBBISH, THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST AND BE FOUND IN HIM, NOT HAVING MY OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH IS FROM THE LAW, BUT THAT WHICH IS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS FROM GOD BY FAITH;

NOT THAT I HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED, OR AM ALREADY PERFECTED; BUT I PRESS ON, THAT I MAY LAY HOLD OF THAT FOR WHICH CHRIST JESUS HAS ALSO LAID HOLD OF ME. I PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL FOR THE PRIZE OF THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.

BRETHREN, JOIN IN FOLLOWING MY EXAMPLE, AND NOTE THOSE WHO SO WALK, AS YOU HAVE US FOR A PATTERN. FOR MANY WALK, OF WHOM I HAVE TOLD YOU OFTEN, AND NOW TELL YOU EVEN WEeping, *that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.*

FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH WE ALSO EAGERLY WAIT FOR THE SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO WILL TRANSFORM OUR LOWLY BODY THAT IT MAY BE CONFORMED TO HIS GLORIOUS BODY, ACCORDING TO THE WORKING BY WHICH HE IS ABLE EVEN TO SUBDUE ALL THINGS TO HIMSELF.

THEREFORE, MY BELOVED AND LONGED-FOR BRETHREN, MY JOY AND CROWN, SO STAND FAST IN THE LORD, BELOVED.

HEBREWS, 11 & JAMES 4

NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. FOR BY IT THE ELDERS OBTAINED A GOOD TESTIMONY. BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORLDS WERE FRAMED BY THE WORD OF GOD, SO THAT THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN WERE NOT MADE OF THINGS WHICH ARE VISIBLE.

WHERE DO WARS AND FIGHTS COME FROM AMONG YOU? DO THEY NOT COME FROM YOUR DESIRES FOR PLEASURE THAT WAR IN YOUR MEMBERS? YOU LUST AND DO NOT HAVE. YOU MURDER AND COVET AND CANNOT OBTAIN. YOU FIGHT AND WAR. YET YOU DO NOT HAVE BECAUSE YOU DO NOT ASK. YOU ASK AND DO NOT RECEIVE, BECAUSE YOU ASK AMISS, THAT YOU MAY SPEND IT ON YOUR PLEASURES.

ADULTERERS AND ADULTERESSES! DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS ENMITY WITH GOD? WHOEVER THEREFORE WANTS TO BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD MAKES HIMSELF AN ENEMY OF GOD. OR DO YOU THINK THAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS IN VAIN, "THE SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN US YEARNs JEALOUSLY"? BUT HE [THE HOLY SPIRIT] GIVES MORE GRACE. THEREFORE HE SAYS: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

1 THESSALONIANS, 4 & 5

FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF AN ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE TRUMPET OF GOD. AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. THEN WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR. AND THUS WE SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD.

BUT CONCERNING THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS, BRETHREN, YOU HAVE NO NEED THAT I SHOULD WRITE TO YOU. FOR YOU YOURSELVES KNOW PERFECTLY THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD SO COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT. FOR WHEN THEY SAY, "PEACE AND SAFETY!" THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMES UPON THEM, AS LABOUR PAINS UPON A PREGNANT WOMAN. AND THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE. BUT YOU, BRETHREN, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, SO THAT THIS DAY SHOULD OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF. YOU ARE ALL SONS OF LIGHT AND SONS OF THE DAY. WE ARE NOT OF THE NIGHT NOR OF DARKNESS. TEST ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST WHAT IS GOOD.

NOW MAY THE GOD OF PEACE HIMSELF SANCTIFY YOU COMPLETELY; AND MAY YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY BE PRESERVED BLAMELESS AT THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

II THESSALONIANS, 2

NOW, BRETHREN, CONCERNING THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND OUR GATHERING TOGETHER TO HIM, WE ASK YOU, NOT TO BE SOON SHAKEN IN MIND OR TROUBLED, EITHER BY SPIRIT OR BY WORD OR BY LETTER, AS IF FROM US, AS THOUGH THE DAY OF CHRIST HAD COME. LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU BY ANY MEANS; FOR *that day will not come* UNLESS THE FALLING AWAY COMES FIRST, AND THE MAN OF SIN IS REVEALED, THE SON OF PERDITION, WHO OPPOSES AND EXALTS HIMSELF ABOVE ALL THAT IS CALLED GOD OR THAT IS WORSHIPPED, SO THAT HE SITS AS GOD IN THE TEMPLE OF GOD, SHOWING HIMSELF THAT HE IS GOD.

DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THAT WHEN I WAS STILL WITH YOU I TOLD YOU THESE THINGS? AND NOW YOU KNOW WHAT IS RESTRAINING, THAT HE MAY BE REVEALED IN HIS OWN TIME. FOR THE MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS IS ALREADY AT WORK; ONLY HE [THE HOLY SPIRIT] WHO NOW RESTRAINS *will do so* UNTIL HE IS TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY. AND THEN THE LAWLESS ONE [THE ANTICHRIST] WILL BE REVEALED, WHOM THE LORD WILL CONSUME WITH THE BREATH OF HIS MOUTH AND DESTROY WITH THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS COMING.

The coming of the *Lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which he called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

II PETER, 3

BELOVED, I NOW WRITE TO YOU THIS SECOND EPISTLE (IN *BOTH* OF WHICH I STIR UP YOUR PURE MINDS BY WAY OF REMINDER), THAT YOU MAY BE MINDFUL OF THE WORDS WHICH WERE SPOKEN BEFORE BY THE HOLY PROPHETS, AND OF THE COMMANDMENT OF US, THE APOSTLES OF THE LORD AND SAVIOUR, KNOWING THIS FIRST: THAT SCOFFERS WILL COME IN THE LAST DAYS, WALKING ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN LUSTS, AND SAYING, "WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING? FOR SINCE THE FATHERS FELL ASLEEP, ALL THINGS CONTINUE AS *THEY WERE* FROM THE BEGINNING OF CREATION."

FOR THIS THEY WILFULLY FORGET: THAT BY THE WORD OF GOD THE HEAVENS WERE OF OLD, AND THE EARTH STANDING OUT OF WATER AND IN THE WATER, BY WHICH THE WORLD *THAT* THEN EXISTED PERISHED, BEING FLOODED WITH WATER. BUT THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH *WHICH* ARE NOW PRESERVED BY THE SAME WORD, ARE RESERVED FOR FIRE UNTIL THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT AND PERDITION OF UNGODLY MEN.

BUT, BELOVED, DO NOT FORGET THIS ONE THING, THAT WITH THE LORD ONE DAY *IS* AS A THOUSAND YEARS, AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY.

The Lord is not slack concerning *his* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever.

AMEN.

REVELATION, 10

I SAW STILL ANOTHER MIGHTY ANGEL COMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN, CLOTHED WITH A CLOUD. AND A RAINBOW WAS ON HIS HEAD, HIS FACE WAS LIKE THE SUN, AND HIS FEET LIKE PILLARS OF FIRE. HE HAD A LITTLE BOOK OPEN IN HIS HAND. AND HE SET HIS RIGHT FOOT ON THE SEA AND *HIS* LEFT FOOT ON THE LAND, AND CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE, AS *WHEN* A LION ROARS. WHEN HE CRIED OUT, SEVEN THUNDERS UTTERED THEIR VOICES. NOW WHEN THE SEVEN THUNDERS UTTERED THEIR VOICES, I WAS ABOUT TO WRITE; BUT I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAYING TO ME, "SEAL UP THE THINGS WHICH THE SEVEN THUNDERS UTTERED, AND DO NOT WRITE THEM."

THE ANGEL WHOM I SAW STANDING ON THE SEA AND ON THE LAND RAISED UP HIS HAND TO HEAVEN AND SWORE BY HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS THAT ARE IN IT, THE EARTH AND THE THINGS THAT ARE IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS THAT ARE IN IT, THAT THERE SHOULD BE DELAY NO LONGER, BUT IN THE DAYS OF THE SOUNDING OF THE SEVENTH ANGEL, WHEN HE IS ABOUT TO SOUND, THE MYSTERY OF GOD WOULD BE FINISHED, AS HE DECLARED TO HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS.

REVELATION, 21 & 22

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

When he who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And he said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son."

AND THE NATIONS OF THOSE WHO ARE SAVED SHALL WALK IN ITS LIGHT, AND THE KINGS OF THE EARTH BRING THEIR GLORY AND HONOUR INTO IT. ITS GATES SHALL NOT BE SHUT AT ALL BY DAY (THERE SHALL BE NO NIGHT THERE). AND THEY SHALL BRING THE GLORY AND THE HONOUR OF THE NATIONS INTO IT. BUT THERE SHALL BY NO MEANS ENTER IT ANYTHING THAT DEFILES, OR CAUSES AN ABOMINATION OR A LIE, BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE.

AND THERE SHALL BE NO MORE CURSE, BUT THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB SHALL BE IN IT, AND HIS SERVANTS SHALL SERVE HIM. THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE, AND HIS NAME *shall be* ON THEIR FOREHEADS. THERE SHALL BE NO NIGHT THERE: THEY NEED NO LAMP NOR LIGHT OF THE SUN, FOR THE LORD GOD GIVES THEM LIGHT. AND THEY SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER.

WHEN HE SAID TO ME, "THESE WORDS ARE FAITHFUL AND TRUE." AND THE LORD GOD OF THE HOLY PROPHETS SENT HIS ANGEL TO SHOW HIS SERVANTS THE THINGS WHICH MUST SHORTLY TAKE PLACE. "BEHOLD, I AM COMING QUICKLY! BLESSED IS HE WHO KEEPS THE WORDS OF THE PROPHECY OF THIS BOOK." NOW I, JOHN, SAW AND HEARD THESE THINGS. AND WHEN I HEARD AND SAW, I FELL DOWN TO WORSHIP BEFORE THE FEET OF THE ANGEL WHO SHOWED ME THESE THINGS.

Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

"And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

And behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Blessed are those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practises a lie. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

appendix: 1 CORINTHIANS 1 & 2

NOR IT IS WRITTEN [Isaiah 29, 14] : "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND BRING TO NOTHING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

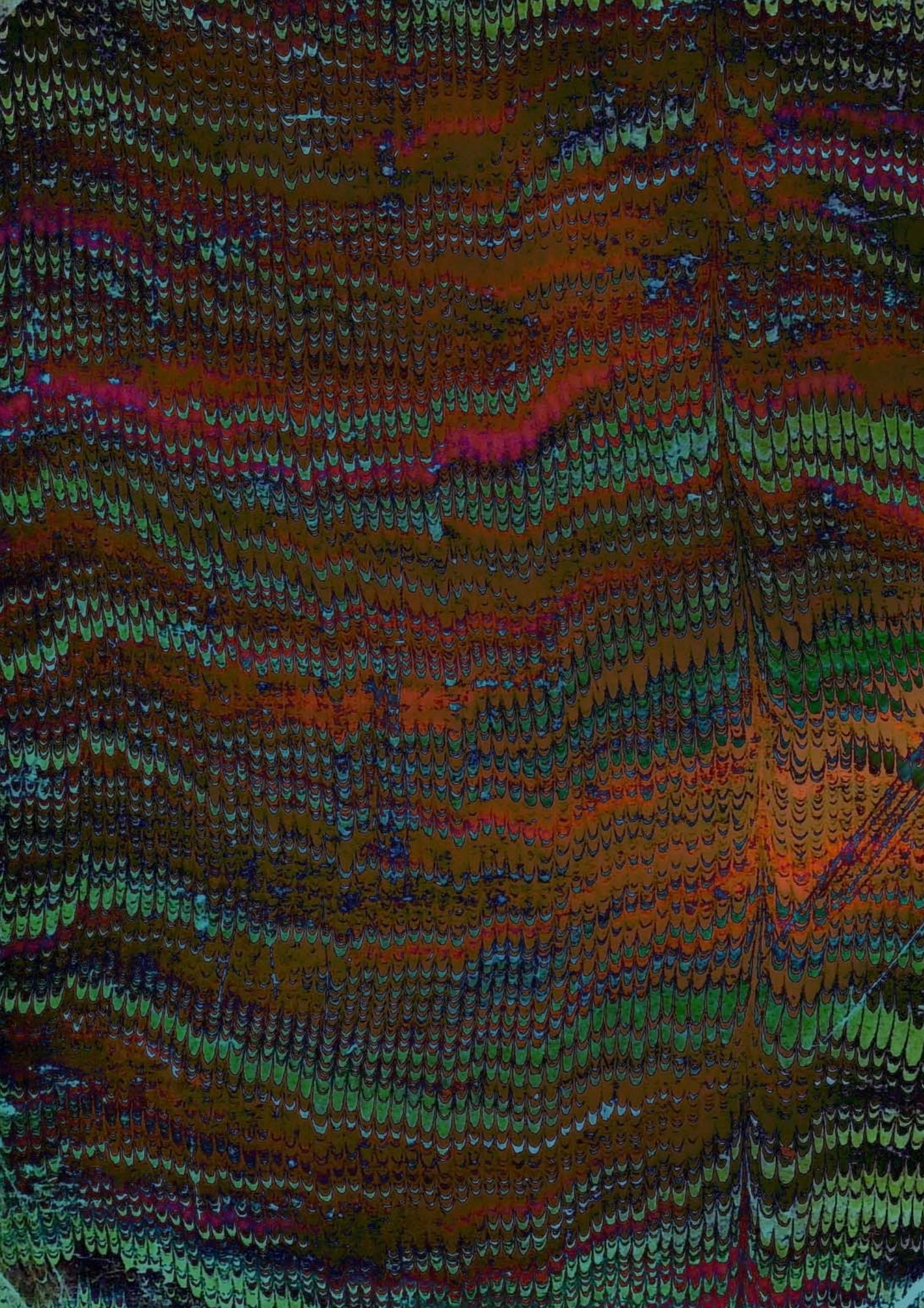
NOR SINCE, IN THE WISDOM OF GOD, THE WORLD THROUGH WISDOM DID NOT KNOW GOD, IT PLEASED GOD THROUGH THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE MESSAGE PREACHED [THE GOSPEL] TO SAVE THOSE WHO BELIEVE. FOR JEWS REQUEST A SIGN, AND GREEKS [GENTILES] SEEK AFTER WISDOM; BUT WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED, TO THE JEWS A STUMBLING BLOCK AND TO THE GREEKS FOOLISHNESS, BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED, BOTH JEWS AND GREEKS, CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD AND THE WISDOM OF GOD. BECAUSE THE FOOLISHNESS OF GOD IS WISER THAN MEN, AND THE WEAKNESS OF GOD IS STRONGER THAN MEN.

NOR YOU SEE YOUR CALLING, BRETHREN, THAT NOT MANY WISE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, NOT MANY MIGHTY, NOT MANY NOBLE, ARE CALLED.

BUT God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

BUT we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery [previously hidden, now revealed in the Gospel], the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

BUT AS IT IS WRITTEN: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him." But God has revealed them to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.





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