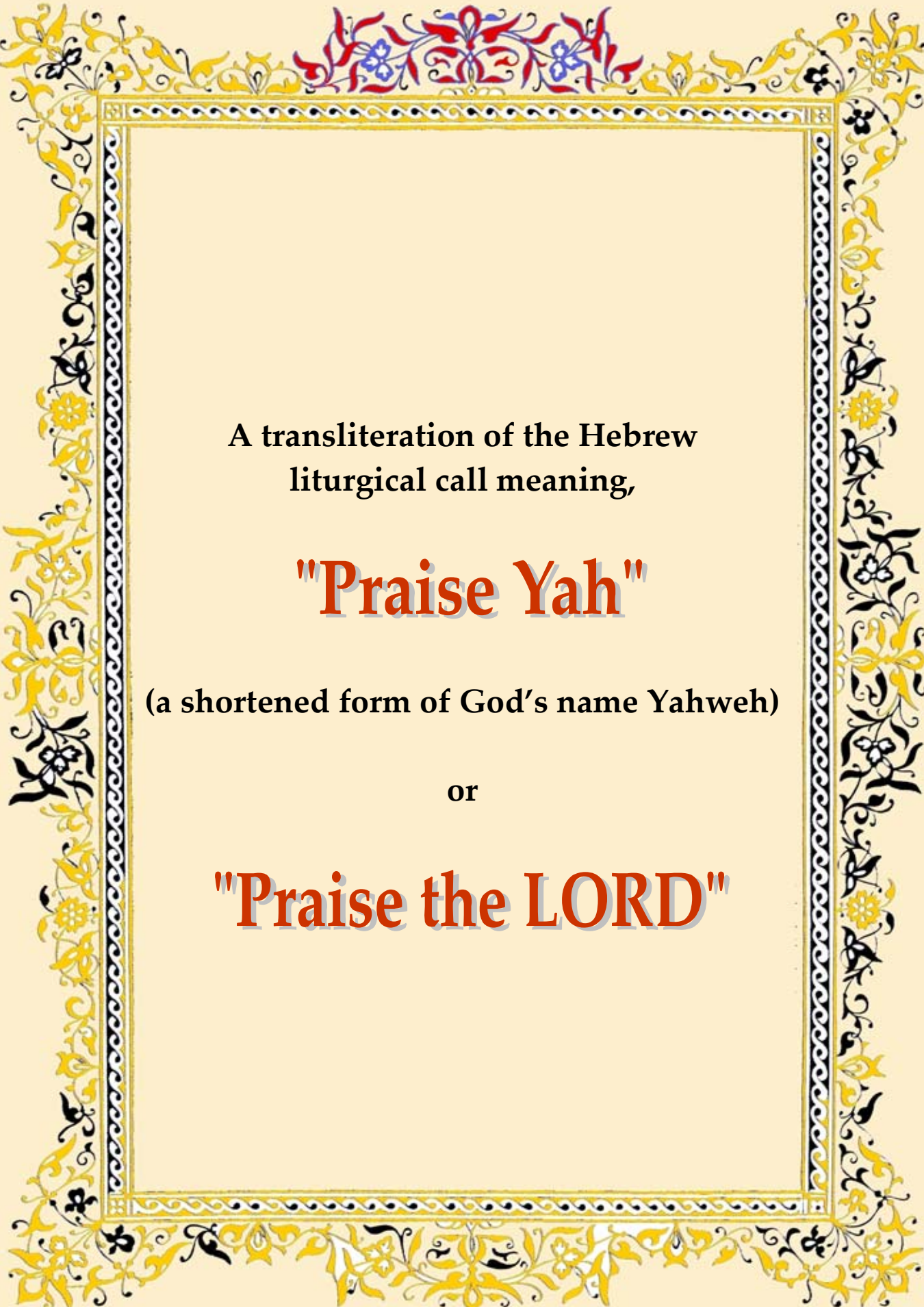


Hallelujah



HALLELUJAH



A transliteration of the Hebrew
liturgical call meaning,

"Praise Yah"

(a shortened form of God's name Yahweh)

or

"Praise the LORD"

Hallelujah

Hannah prayed to the LORD that she would conceive and bear a son – and the LORD remembered her pain and sorrow at being barren. The son she bore was the prophet Samuel whom she dedicated to the LORD. Her song of praise is recorded in *1 Samuel 2: 1 – 10:*

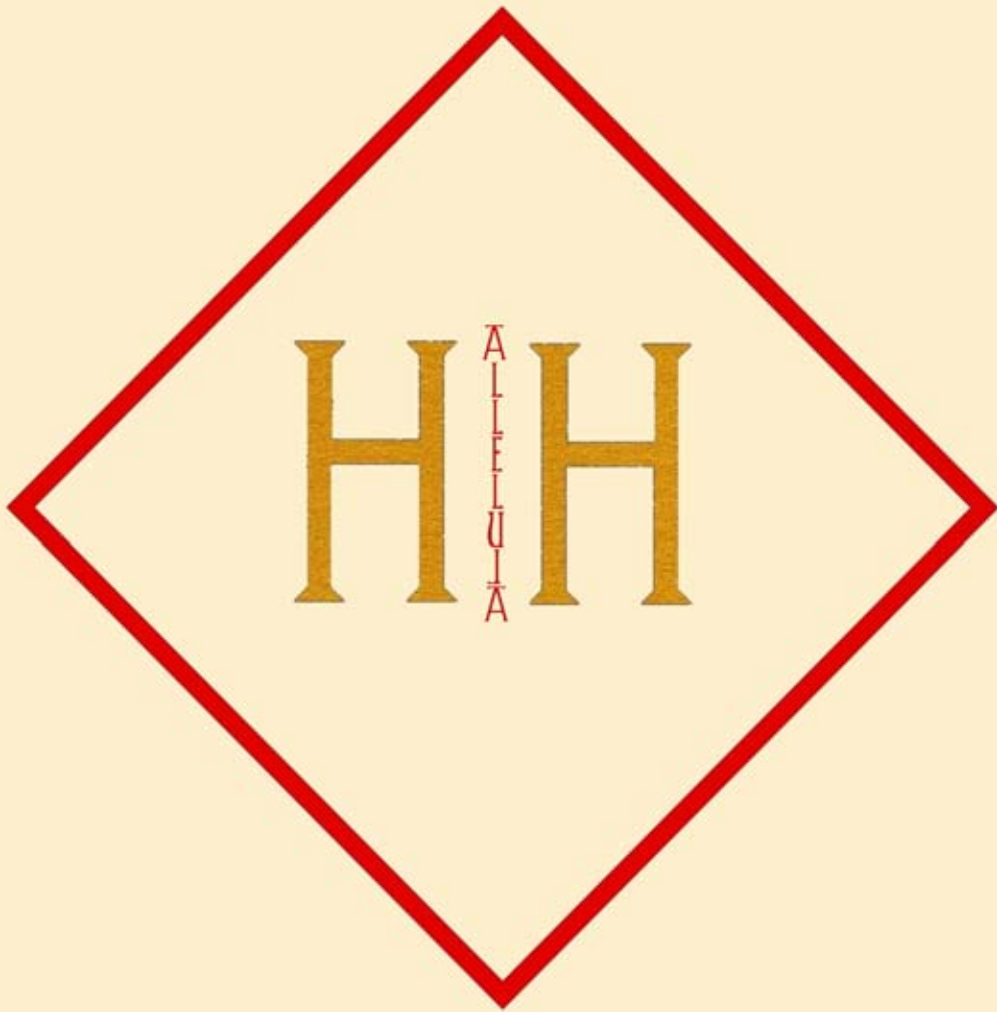
"MY heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. No one is holy like the LORD, for *there is none besides you, nor is there any rock like our God.* Talk no more so very proudly; let no arrogance come from your mouth, for the LORD *is the God of knowledge; and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, and those who stumbled are girded with strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, and the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, and she who has many children has become feeble.*

The LORD kills and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and brings up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and lifts up. He raises the poor from the dust *and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he has set the world upon them.*

He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness. For by strength no man shall prevail. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; from heaven he will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah



ALLELUIA



Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The prophet Nathan told King David about the plan that the LORD had for his life and reign over Israel (II Samuel 7), and about the promise that from his dynasty and bloodline would come an everlasting kingdom. David's response is recorded in II Samuel 7: 17 – 29:

ACCORDING to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David. Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: "Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that you have brought me this far? And yet this was a small thing in your sight, O Lord GOD; and you have also spoken of your servant's house for a great while to come. *Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?*

Now what more can David say to you? For you, Lord GOD, know your servant. For your word's sake, and according to your own heart, you have done all these great things, to make your servant know *them*.

Therefore you are great, O LORD GOD. For *there is none* like you, nor *is there any* God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

And who *is* like your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for himself as a people, to make for himself a name—and to do for yourself great and awesome deeds for your land—before your people whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods?

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

For you have made your people Israel your very own people forever; and you, LORD, have become their God.

Now, O LORD God, the word which you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, establish *it* forever and do as you have said.

So let your name be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts *is* the God over Israel.' And let the house of your servant David be established before you.

For you, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed *this* to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to you.

And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this goodness to your servant.

Now therefore, let it please you to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever before you; for you, O Lord GOD, have spoken *it*, and with your blessing let the house of your servant be blessed forever."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul (the first king of Israel). And he said: *II Samuel 22: 2 – 51:*

"THE LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; the God of my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my Saviour, you save me from violence. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.

When the waves of death surrounded me, the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; he heard my voice from his temple, and my cry *entered* his ears.

Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, because he was angry. Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; coals were kindled by it.

He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under his feet. He rode upon a cherub, and flew; and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness canopies around him, dark waters *and* thick clouds of the skies. From the brightness before him coals of fire were kindled.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice. He sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning bolts, and he vanquished them. Then the channels of the sea were seen, the foundations of the world were uncovered, at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me; for they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me because he delighted in me. The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all his judgements *were* before me; and *as for* his statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also blameless before him, and I kept myself from my iniquity. Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his eyes.

With the merciful you will show yourself merciful; with a blameless man you will show yourself blameless; with the pure you will show yourself pure; and with the devious you will show yourself shrewd. You will save the humble people; but your eyes *are* on the haughty, *that* you may bring *them* down. For you *are* my lamp, O LORD; the LORD shall enlighten my darkness. For by you I can run against a troop; by my God I can leap over a wall. *As for* God, his way *is* perfect; the word of the LORD *is* proven; he *is* a shield to all who trust in him.

Praise the LORD

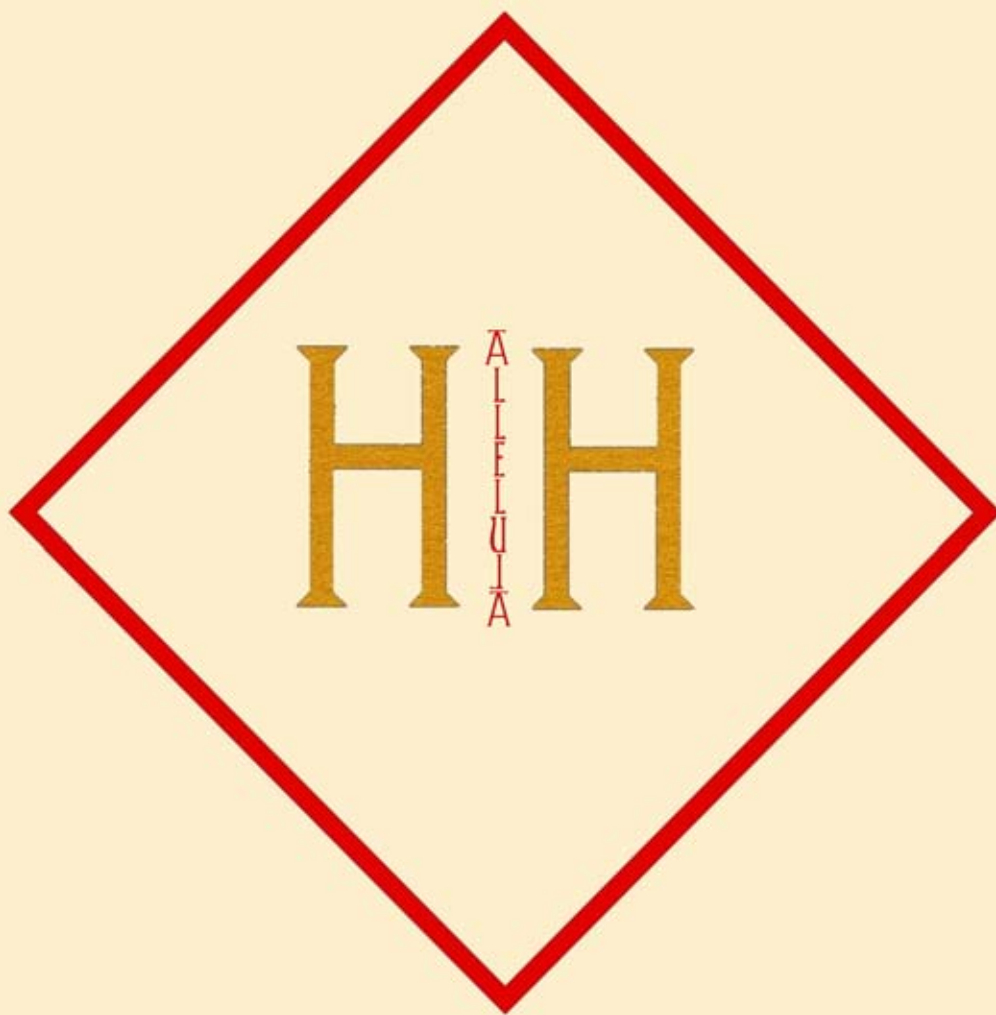
Hallelujah

For who *is* God, except the LORD? And who *is* a rock, except our God? God *is* my strength *and* power, and he makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the *feet* of deer, and sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of your salvation; your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me; so my feet did not slip. I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them; neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed. And I have destroyed them and wounded them, so that they could not rise; they have fallen under my feet. For you have armed me with strength for the battle; you have subdued under me those who rose against me. You have also given me the necks of my enemies, so that I destroyed those who hated me. They looked, but *there was* none to save; *even* to the LORD, but he did not answer them. Then I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth; I trod them like dirt in the streets, *and* I spread them out. You have also delivered me from the strivings of my people; you have kept me as the head of the nations. A people I have not known shall serve me. The foreigners submit to me; as soon as they hear, they obey me. The foreigners fade away, and come frightened from their hideouts.

The LORD lives! Blessed *be* my Rock! Let God be exalted, the Rock of my salvation! *It is* God who avenges me, and subdues the peoples under me; he delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; you have delivered me from the violent man. Therefore I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name. *He is* the tower of salvation to his king, and shows mercy to his anointed, to David and his descendants forevermore."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

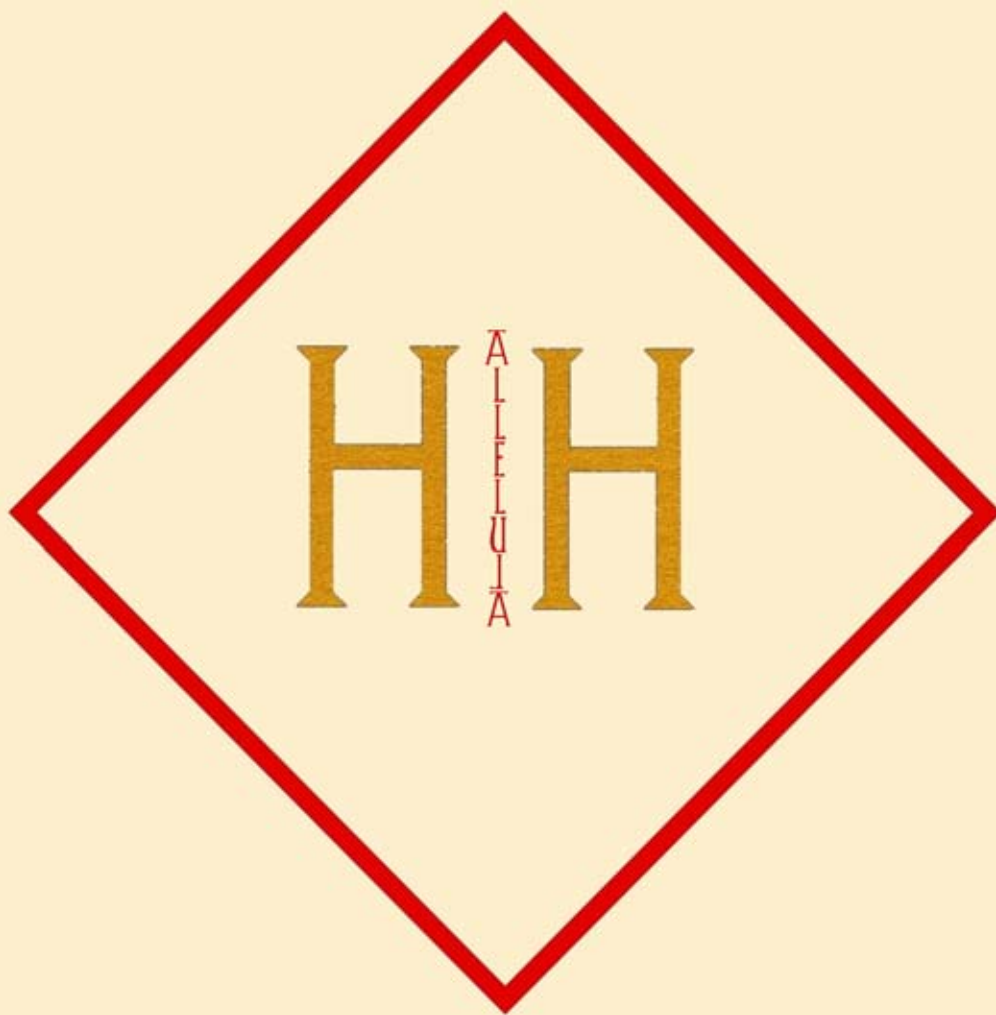


ALLELUIA
H H



Praise the LORD

Hallelujah



ALLELUIA



Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Now these *are* the last words of David.

Thus says David the son of Jesse; thus says the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel: || *Samuel 23: 1 – 7:*

"**T**HE Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and his word *was* on my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God.

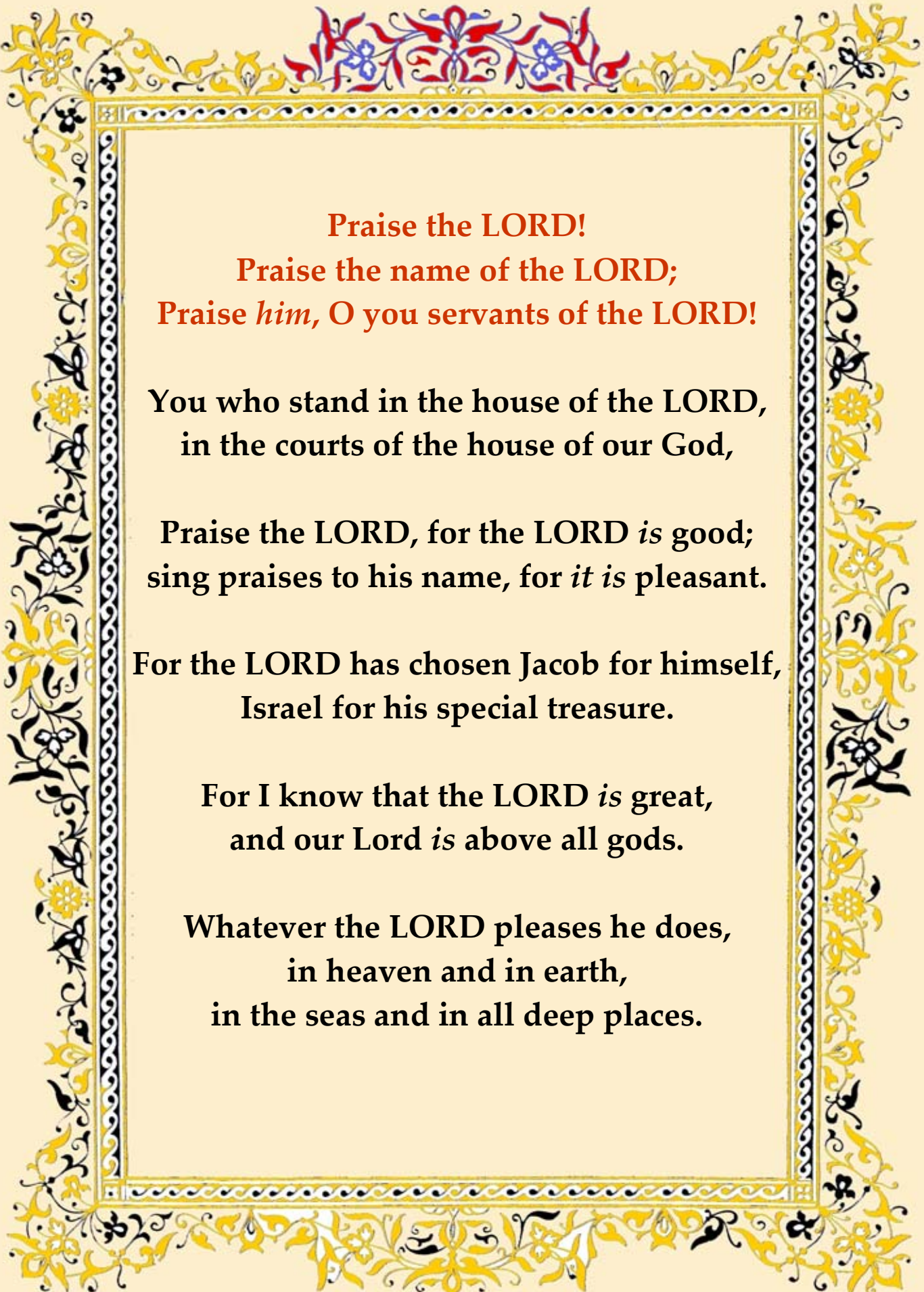
And he shall be like the light of the morning *when* the sun rises, a morning without clouds, like the tender grass springing out of the earth, by clear shining after rain.'

Although my house *is* not so with God, yet he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things* and secure. For *this is* all my salvation and all *my* desire; will he not make it increase?

But *the sons* of rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands.

But the man *who* touches them must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear, and they shall be utterly burned with fire in *their* place."

Praise the LORD



Praise the LORD!
Praise the name of the LORD;
Praise *him*, O you servants of the LORD!

**You who stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God,**

**Praise the LORD, for the LORD *is* good;
sing praises to his name, for *it is* pleasant.**

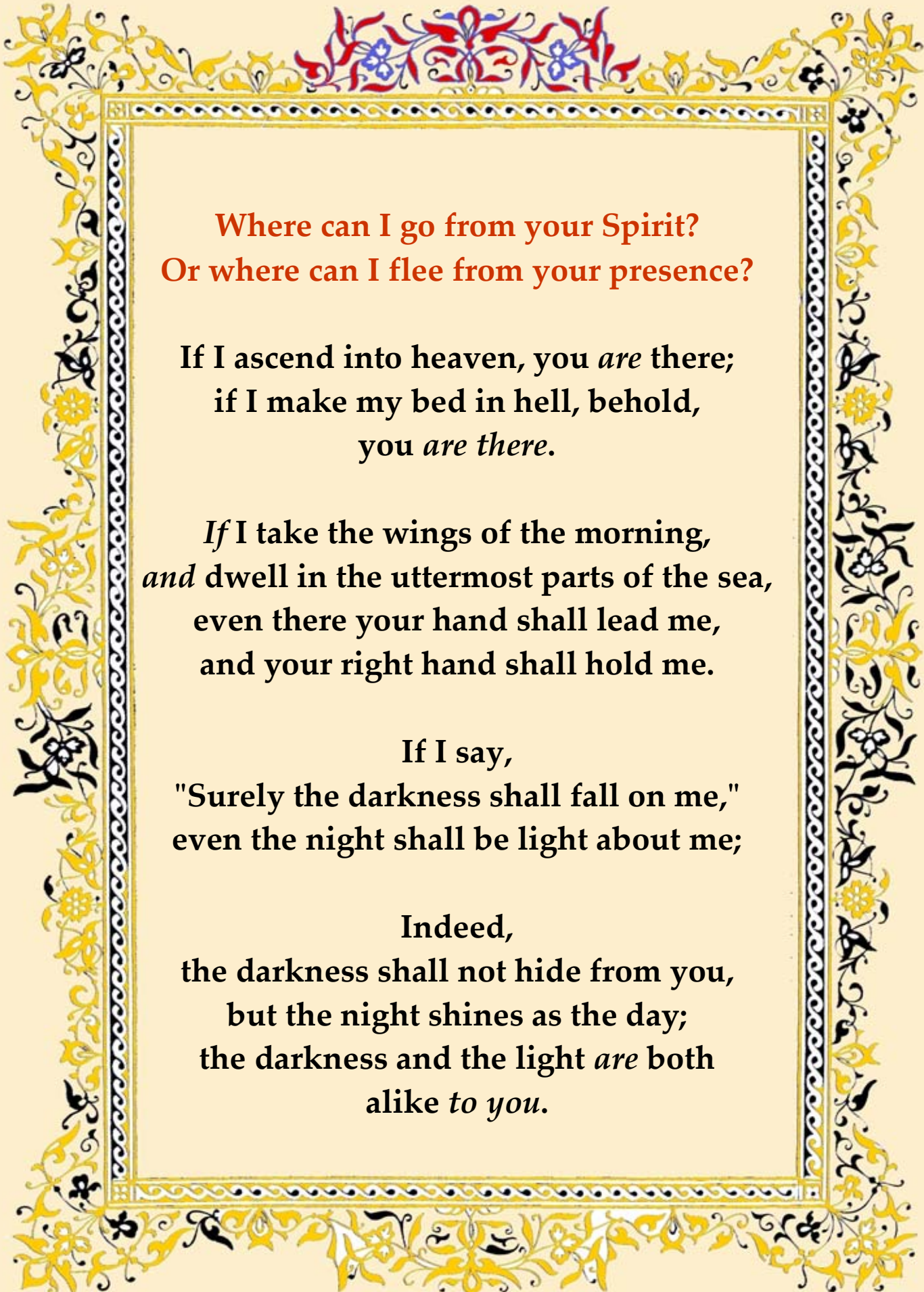
**For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself,
Israel for his special treasure.**

**For I know that the LORD *is* great,
and our Lord *is* above all gods.**

**Whatever the LORD pleases he does,
in heaven and in earth,
in the seas and in all deep places.**







**Where can I go from your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?**

**If I ascend into heaven, you *are* there;
if I make my bed in hell, behold,
you *are there*.**

**If I take the wings of the morning,
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.**

**If I say,
"Surely the darkness shall fall on me,"
even the night shall be light about me;**

**Indeed,
the darkness shall not hide from you,
but the night shines as the day;
the darkness and the light *are* both
alike to you.**

Hallelujah

A prayer of Moses the man of God, perhaps written at the time when the older generation of Israelites that left Egypt were dying in the wilderness. Moses considers God's eternality and power, and man's frailty and brevity. He asks for the people of God to live significant lives in God's compassion: **Psalm 90: 1 – 17:**

LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. 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. The days of our lives *are* seventy years; and if by reason of strength *they are* eighty years, yet their boast *is* only labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Who knows the power of your anger? For as the fear of you,
so is your wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we
may gain a heart of wisdom.

Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on your
servants.

Oh, satisfy us early with your mercy, that we may rejoice and
be glad all our days! Make us glad according to the days *in*
which you have afflicted us, the years *in which* we have seen
evil.

Let your work appear to your servants, and your glory to their
children.

And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and
establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the
work of our hands.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

God the LORD of Scripture is the eternal sovereign over all creation. His power exceeds temporal strength, his word is certain and established. Holiness clothes him and all his heaven:

Psalm 93: 1 – 5:

THE LORD reigns, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, he has girded himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. Your throne *is* established from of old; you *are* from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves.

The LORD on high *is* mightier than the noise of many waters, *than* the mighty waves of the sea.

Your testimonies are very sure; holiness adorns your house, O LORD, forever.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The works of the LORD are worthy to be praised. All that the LORD does are true, righteous and just. His works stand forever, those who have understanding know that he alone is God:

Psalm 111: 1 – 10:

PRAISE the LORD! I will praise the LORD with *my* whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and *in* the congregation. The works of the LORD *are* great, studied by all who have pleasure in them.

His work *is* honourable and glorious, and his righteousness endures forever. He has made his wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion.

He has given food to those who fear him; he will ever be mindful of his covenant. He has declared to his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands *are* verity and justice; all his precepts *are* sure. They stand fast forever and ever, *and are* done in truth and uprightness.

He has sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever: Holy and awesome *is* his name.

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do *his commandments*. His praise endures forever.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Human plans are temporary – placing hope in people ultimately disappoints! By comparison, God can be trusted to bring fulfillment. He is everlasting and his power upholds the righteous but overturns his enemies. The LORD is King forever:

Psalms 146: 1 – 10:

PRAISE the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Do not put your trust in princes, *nor* in a son of man, in whom *there is* no help. His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish.

Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners. The LORD opens *the eyes of* the blind; the LORD raises those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers; he relieves the fatherless and widow; but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

The LORD shall reign forever—your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

God alone is worthy of praise and glory! All creation, spiritual and material, animate and inanimate, animal and human should exalt the name of the LORD who created and is upholding all things by his word alone:

Psalms 148: 1 – 14:

PRAISE the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
Praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; Praise
him, all his hosts!

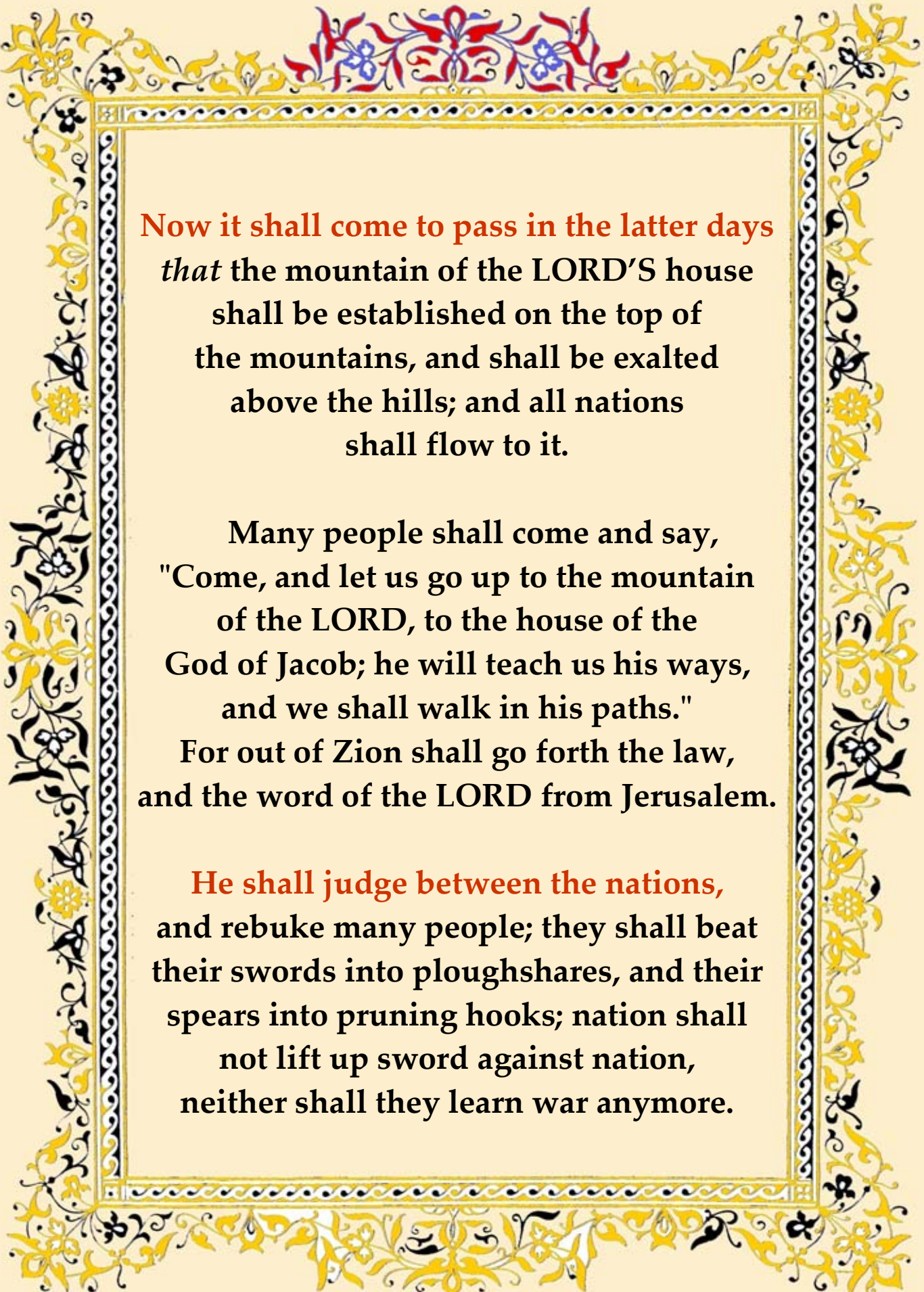
Praise him, sun and moon; Praise him, all you stars of light!
Praise him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above
the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he
commanded and they were created. He also established them
forever and ever; he made a decree which shall not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and
all the depths; fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind,
fulfilling his word; mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all
cedars; beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying fowl;
kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the
earth; both young men and maidens; old men and children.

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

And he has exalted the horn of his people, the praise of all his
saints—of the children of Israel, a people near to him. Praise
the LORD!

Praise the LORD



Now it shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the LORD'S house
shall be established on the top of
the mountains, and shall be exalted
above the hills; and all nations
shall flow to it.

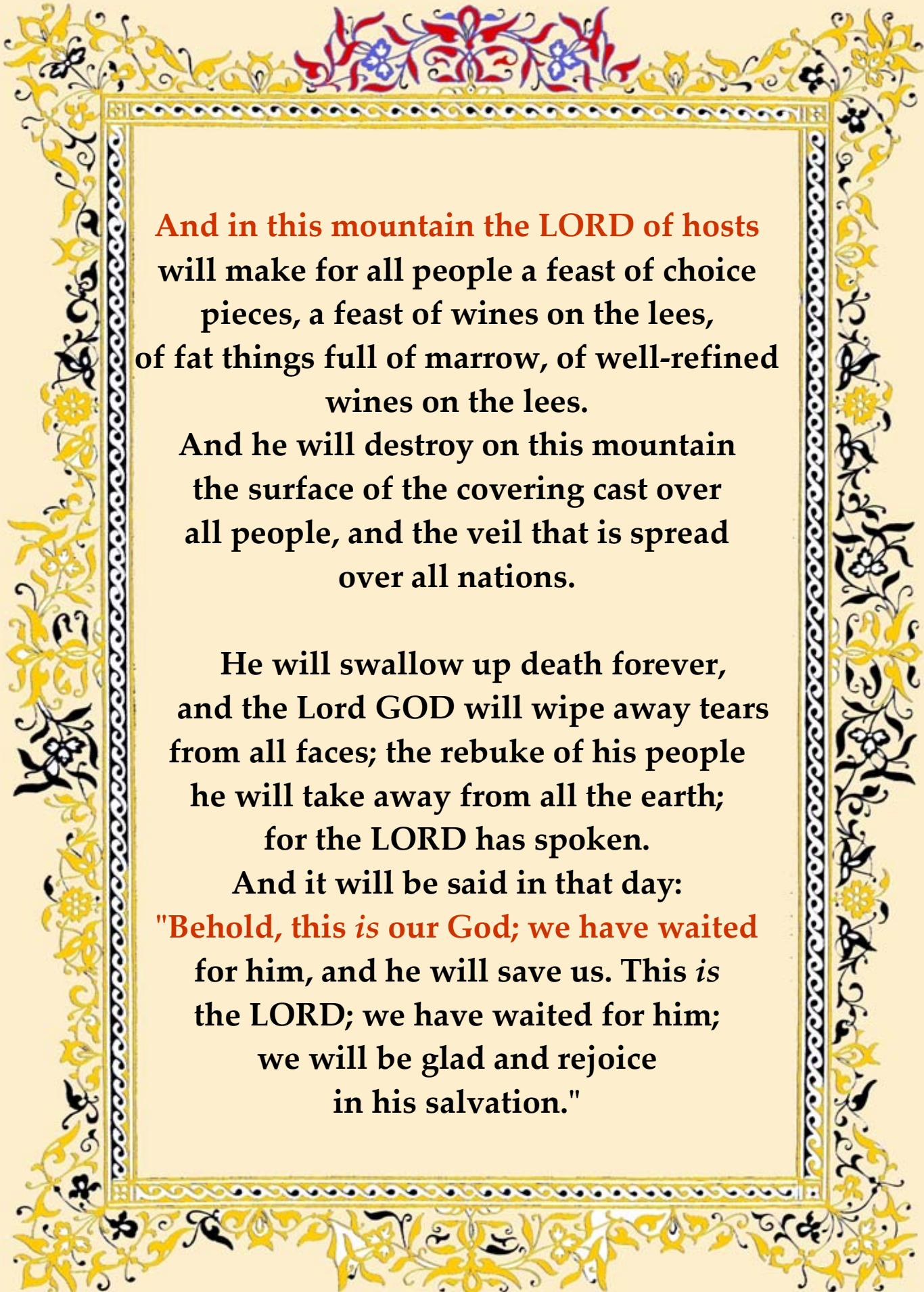
Many people shall come and say,
"Come, and let us go up to the mountain
of the LORD, to the house of the
God of Jacob; he will teach us his ways,
and we shall walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and rebuke many people; they shall beat
their swords into ploughshares, and their
spears into pruning hooks; nation shall
not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.







And in this mountain the LORD of hosts
will make for all people a feast of choice
pieces, a feast of wines on the lees,
of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined
wines on the lees.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the surface of the covering cast over
all people, and the veil that is spread
over all nations.

He will swallow up death forever,
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears
from all faces; the rebuke of his people
he will take away from all the earth;
for the LORD has spoken.

And it will be said in that day:
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited
for him, and he will save us. This is
the LORD; we have waited for him;
we will be glad and rejoice
in his salvation."

Hallelujah

Humanity has an extraordinary, elevated view of its own achievements and importance – a view that is not shared by Scripture! God brings to nothing those who imagine themselves to be the ‘elite’ without him. Meanwhile he gives power and strength to the world’s ‘rejects’! *Isaiah 40: 21 – 24 & 28 – 31:*

HAVE you not known? Have you not heard? Has 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. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when he will also blow on them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

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. *There is* no searching of his understanding. He gives power to the weak, and to *those who have* no might he increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Through the pen of the prophet Isaiah (ca. 700BC) comes a divine song of obedience, hope and trust from the pre-incarnate Son of God. Though he knew what awaited him, Jesus became a man so as to make propitiation for the sins of humanity and open the way to be reconciled to God: *Isaiah 50: 4 – 10:*

"THE Lord GOD has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to *him who is weary*. He awakens me morning by morning, he awakens my ear to hear as the learned.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave my back to those who struck *me*, and my cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide my face from shame and spitting.

For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. *He is near who justifies me; who will contend with me? Let us stand together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near me.*

Surely the Lord GOD will help me; *who is he who will condemn me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; the moth will eat them up.*

Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of his Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon his God."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Again through the writings of Isaiah the glorious words of the pre-incarnate Christ are spoken prophetically. Hundreds of years later, as the man Jesus of Nazareth, the words are repeated and fulfilled: *Isaiah 61: 1 – 3 & Luke 4: 16 – 21:*

"THE Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified."

SO he came to Nazareth, where he [Jesus] had been brought up. And as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And he was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written:

"THE Spirit of the LORD *is* upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." Then he closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The pagan king of the great Babylonian empire saw a demonstration of power by the only true and living God and was humbled. However, his response was to recognise, exalt and praise the LORD of Scripture as the true King: **Daniel 3: 24 – 29:**

THEN King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counsellors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counsellors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent his Angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. Knowing that God was about to use a Chaldean invasion to judge Israel for its apostasy and rejection of God's laws, the prophet asks for God's mercy. He acknowledges God's sovereign power, and praises the LORD for salvation and faithfulness to his people: **Habakkuk 3: 1 – 19a:**

LORD, I have heard your speech *and* was afraid; O LORD, revive your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make *it* known; in wrath remember mercy.

God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. *His* brightness was like the light; he had rays flashing from his hand, and there his power *was* hidden. Before him went pestilence, and fever followed at his feet.

He stood and measured the earth; he looked and startled the nations. And the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills bowed. His ways *are* everlasting.

Isaw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian trembled. O LORD, were *you* displeased with the rivers, *was* your anger against the rivers, *was* your wrath against the sea, that you rode on your horses, your chariots of salvation?

Your bow was made quite ready; oaths were sworn over *your* arrows. Selah. You divided the earth with rivers. The mountains saw you *and* trembled; the overflowing of the water passed by. The deep uttered its voice, *and* lifted its hands on high.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; at the light of your arrows they went, at the shining of your glittering spear. You marched through the land in indignation; you trampled the nations in anger.

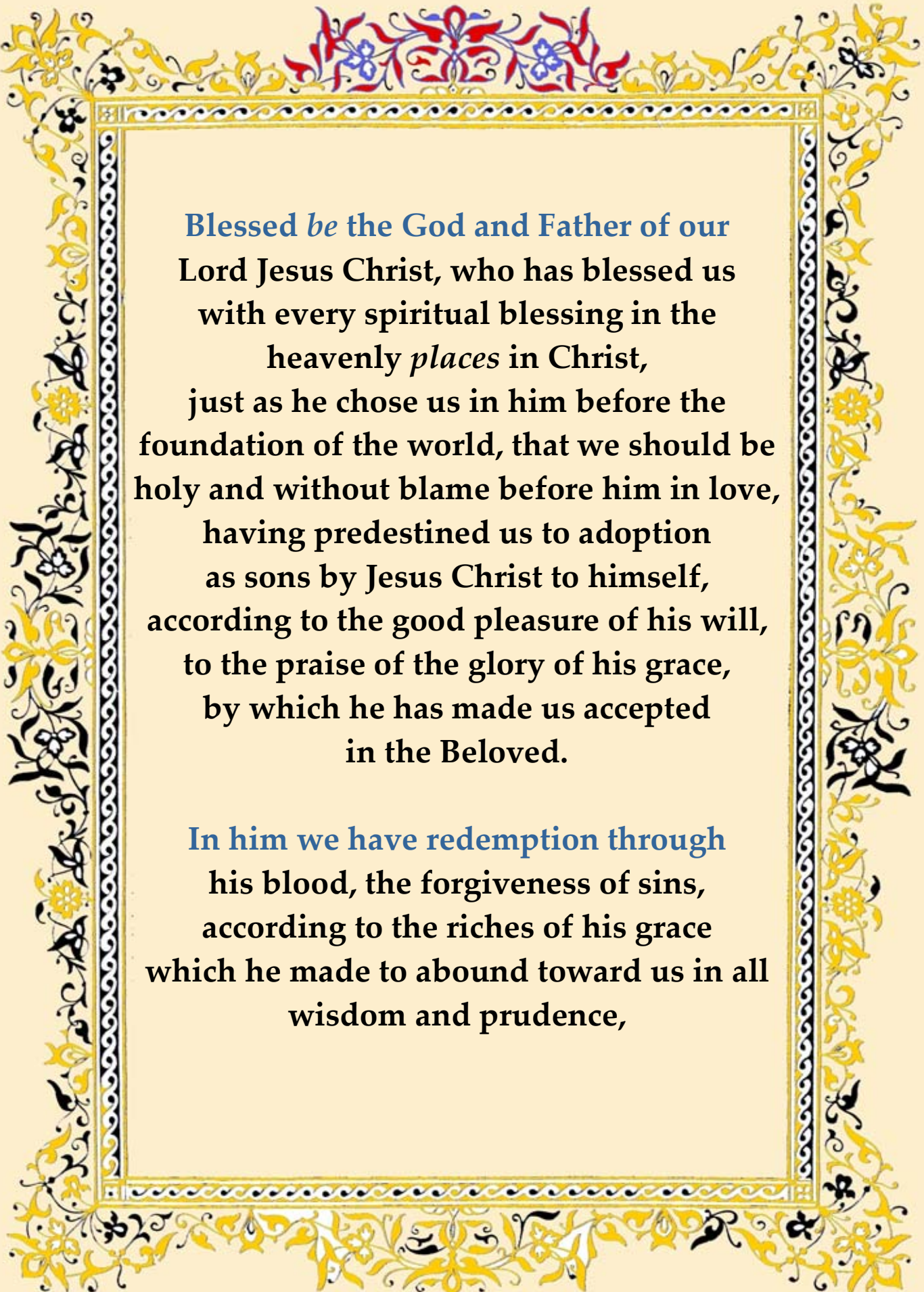
You went forth for the salvation of your people, for salvation with your Anointed. You struck the head from the house of the wicked, by laying bare from foundation to neck. Selah.

You thrust through with his own arrows the head of his villages. They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me; their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret.

You walked through the sea with your horses, through the heap of great waters. When I heard, my body trembled; my lips quivered at the voice; rottenness entered my bones; and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, he will invade them with his troops.

Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labour of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength; he will make my feet like deer's feet, and he will make me walk on my high hills.

Praise the LORD

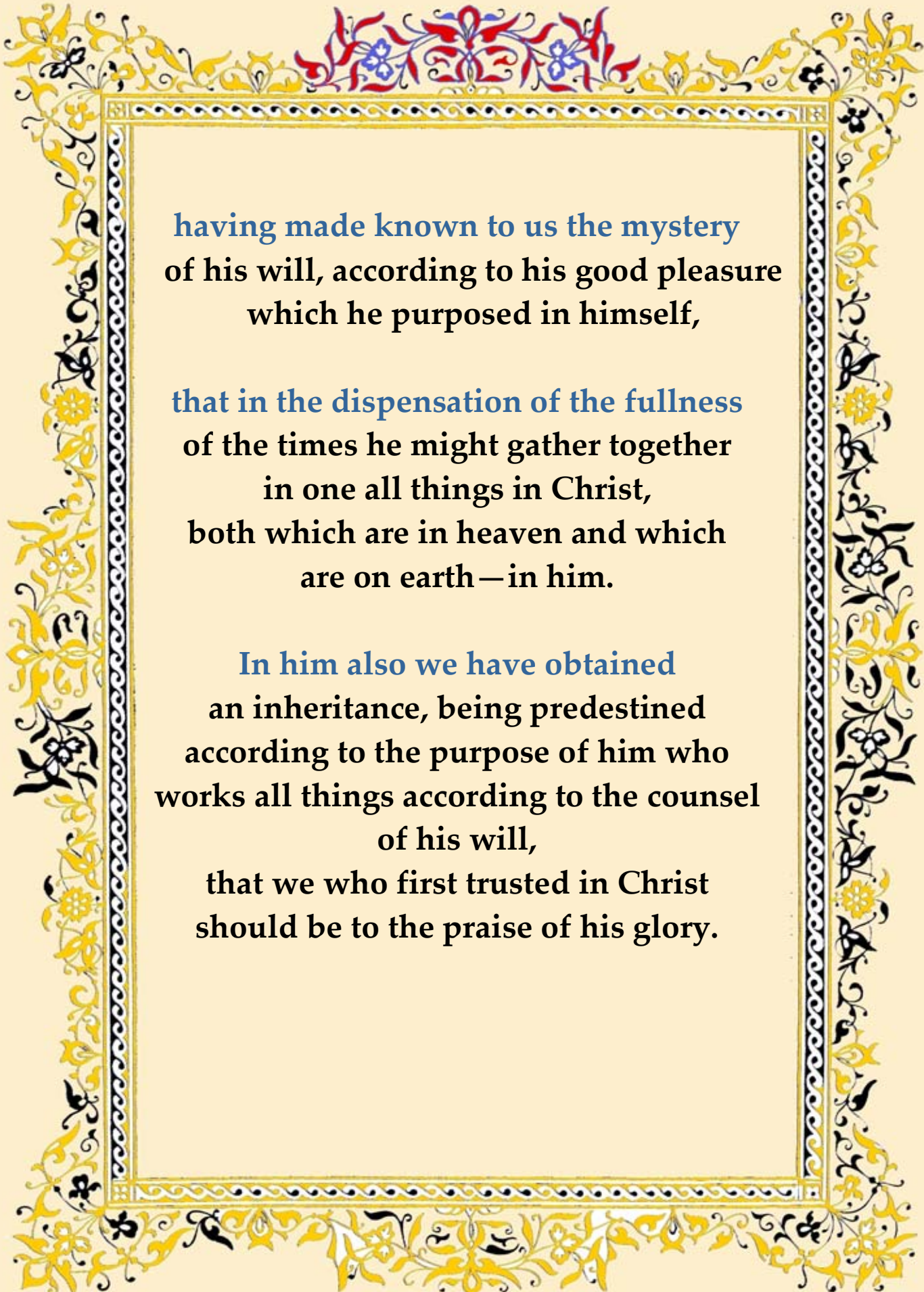


Blessed be the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us
with every spiritual blessing in the
heavenly *places* in Christ,
just as he chose us in him before the
foundation of the world, that we should be
holy and without blame before him in love,
having predestined us to adoption
as sons by Jesus Christ to himself,
according to the good pleasure of his will,
to the praise of the glory of his grace,
by which he has made us accepted
in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through
his blood, the forgiveness of sins,
according to the riches of his grace
which he made to abound toward us in all
wisdom and prudence,







having made known to us the mystery
of his will, according to his good pleasure
which he purposed in himself,

that in the dispensation of the fullness
of the times he might gather together
in one all things in Christ,
both which are in heaven and which
are on earth—in him.

In him also we have obtained
an inheritance, being predestined
according to the purpose of him who
works all things according to the counsel
of his will,
that we who first trusted in Christ
should be to the praise of his glory.

Hallelujah

The priest Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth were old and childless. Nevertheless, at the time pre-ordained by God, they were given a son – John the Baptist. He was the prophesied forerunner to announce Messiah's arrival, 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness', as promised by the LORD to Abraham and Iskael. His father understood his purpose, as follows: 'Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying':
Luke 1: 67 – 79:

BLESSED is the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to our father Abraham: to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said: *Luke 2: 25 – 28:*

"LORD, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother,

"Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

knowing that he was about to be arrested so as to die by crucifixion for the sins of the world, 'Jesus spoke these words, lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said': John 17: 1 – 26:

FATHER, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify you, as you have given him authority over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I have glorified you on the 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 have manifested your name to the men whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they have known that all things which you have given me are from you. For I have given to them the words which you have given me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. And all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to you.

Holy Father, keep through your name those whom you have given me, that they may be one as we *are*. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name. Those whom you gave me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

But now I come to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 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. I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one.

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Ido not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in me through their word; that they all may be one, as you, Father, *are* in me, and I in you; that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And the glory which you gave me I have given them, that they may be one just as we are one: I in them, and you in me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them as you have loved me.

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; for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father! The world has not known you, but I have known you; and these have known that you sent me. And I have declared to them your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The apostle Paul, from the moment of his meeting with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus to persecute Christians, always rejoiced in the mercy of God and the revelation of forgiveness of sin through faith in the Son of God: Romans 16: 25 – 27:

NOW to him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. **Amen.**

The apostle Paul understood that Jesus Christ's death on his behalf had purchased for him, and all mankind, peace with God the Father – provided the Son is received as Saviour and acknowledged as Lord: Galatians 1: 1 – 8:

PAUL, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia [a roman province of Asia]: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Paul understood that the Creator himself came into the world to accomplish the Father's eternal purpose – to redeem a people for himself, through his church, and restore humanity to spiritual life and communion with God: *Ephesians 3: 8 – 21:*

TO me [the apostle Paul], who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, according to the eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in him. Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The apostle Paul knew whom he served and why. He understood that the one who made everything, the one who gives 'being' to all its creatures is also holding the whole creation together by his will. Christ is pre-eminent because he purchased humanity out of bondage to sin and death by being the propitiation for human sin that restored peace with God: *Colossians 1: 13 – 20*:

HE has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

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.

And he is before all things, and in him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the pre-eminence.

For it pleased the Father that in him all the fullness should dwell, and by him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Paul the apostle knew that only through God's grace and mercy he lived to serve the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and that Jesus Christ would use the 'chief of sinners' to preach the Gospel of grace to the Gentiles: *1 Timothy 1: 12 – 17 & 6: 12 – 16:*

AND I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because he counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honour and glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

FIGHT the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which he will manifest in his own time, *he who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honour and everlasting power. **Amen.**

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The apostle Paul knew he was about to be martyred. Also that the church he had laboured to establish would be infiltrated by false teachers. But the word of God would not be 'chained' – and he had fulfilled the work Christ gave him: *11 Timothy 3: 16 – 4: 8:*

ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God [Gk. God-breathed], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

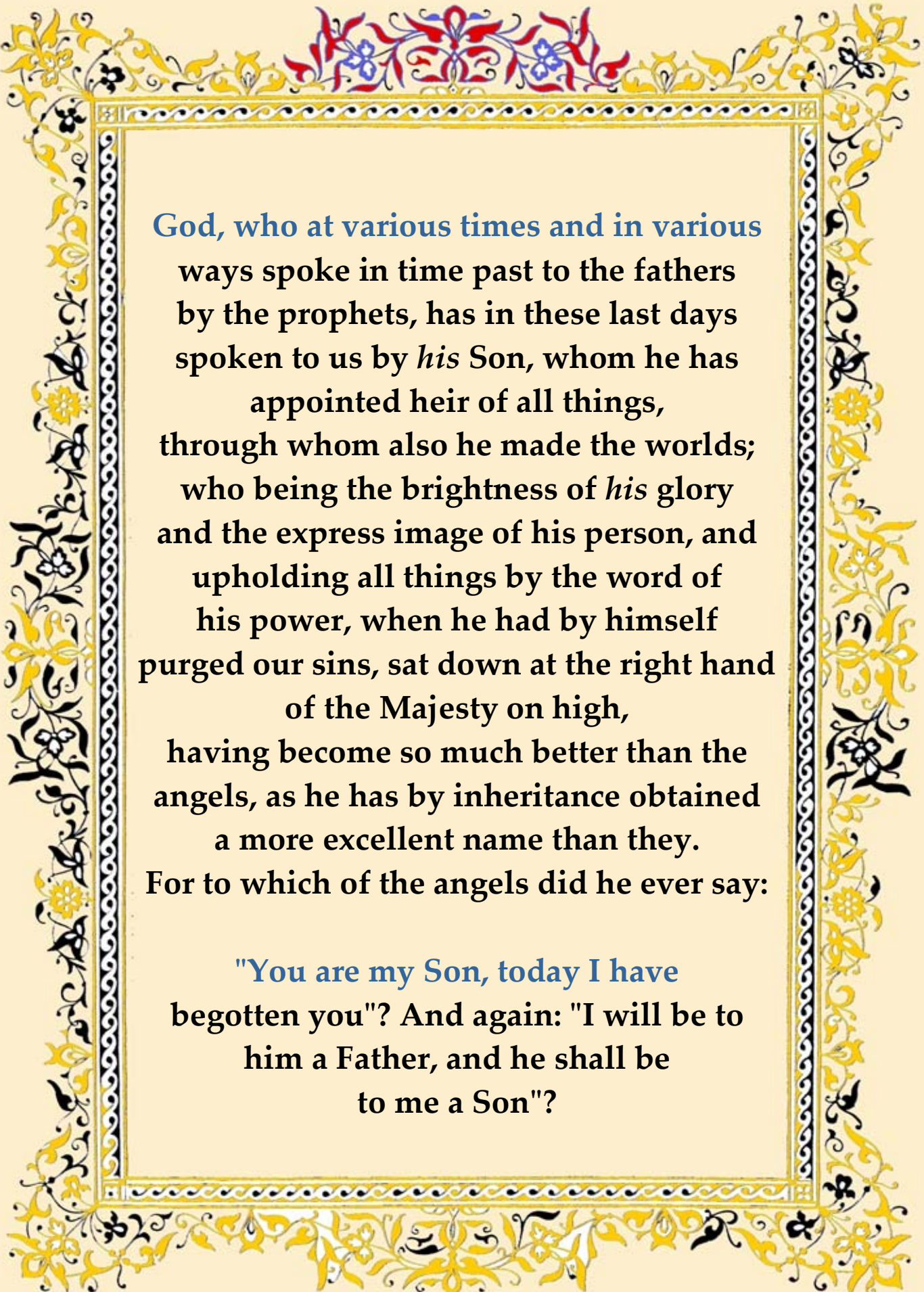
The grace and kindness of God towards mankind 'has appeared' in the person of Jesus Christ. He entered the world, whose people God loved, in order to make atonement for the sins of all those who would receive God's offer of justification by grace – that is forgiveness for sins as a gift from the Father purchased by the shed blood of his Son: Titus 2: 11 – 14 & 3: 3 – 7:

FOR the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for himself *his* own special people, zealous for good works.

FOR we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that having been justified by his grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Praise the LORD

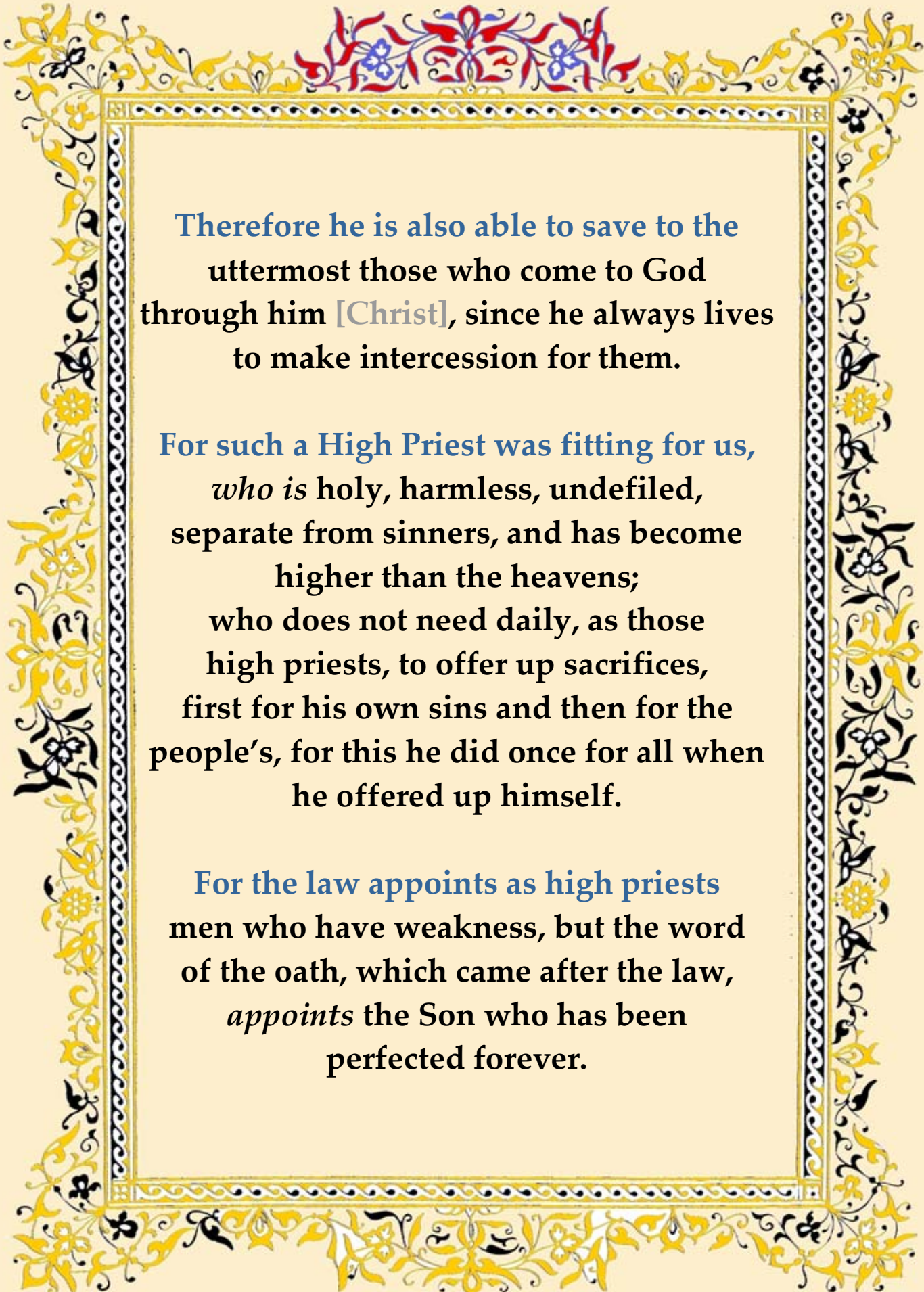


God, who at various times and in various
ways spoke in time past to the fathers
by the prophets, has in these last days
spoken to us by *his* Son, whom he has
appointed heir of all things,
through whom also he made the worlds;
who being the brightness of *his* glory
and the express image of his person, and
upholding all things by the word of
his power, when he had by himself
purged our sins, sat down at the right hand
of the Majesty on high,
having become so much better than the
angels, as he has by inheritance obtained
a more excellent name than they.
For to which of the angels did he ever say:

"You are my Son, today I have
begotten you"? And again: "I will be to
him a Father, and he shall be
to me a Son"?







Therefore he is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through him [Christ], since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this he did once for all when he offered up himself.

For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.

Hallelujah

The writer wants Jewish believers (who were totally familiar with the sacrificial system in which atonement for sin was made by the priest sacrificing an animal on behalf of the sinner) to fully grasp that Jesus Christ is both High Priest and the only sacrifice that God accepts as propitiation for human sin. Christ's blood, shed on earth then offered in heaven, redeems all who come to him under the new covenant of grace: *Hebrews 9: 11 – 15:*

BUT Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood he entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

And for this reason he is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The apostle Peter, who once denied Christ three times has, as an older man been strengthened to understand that Jesus Christ is Lord of eternity who came to redeem his people from their sins by shedding his own blood. His resurrection from death, through the power of God, established the faith and hope given to all those who believe in Christ's power to save: *1 Peter 1: 3 – 5 & 17 – 21:*

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

AND if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through him believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The Lord wants everyone to be saved into his eternal kingdom – but his patience with rebellious humanity will run out. And he has promised that the Day to judge mankind will come! The old creation will be dismissed – the new creation will be for those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour: *11 Peter 3: 9 – 16:*

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. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

The apostle John was with the incarnate Christ, and he knew that Jesus came out of eternity to purchase our salvation from bondage to sin and death by pouring out his blood on our behalf. To belong to Jesus Christ is to keep his commandments – and thus have an Advocate at God's right hand: 1 John 1: 1 – 7 & 2: 1 – 3:

THAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from him and declare to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.

MY little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. Now by this we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Jude or Judas, was a son of Mary and Joseph (and therefore a half-brother of Jesus of Nazareth). Once he did not believe according to the Gospel record. Then he saw the glorified Christ risen from the grave and knew that Jesus was indeed the Son of God, the Lord from heaven and God the Saviour who died for humanity so as to give eternal life to those who put their faith in him. He recognized that only God – in Christ – is able to reconcile mankind to God the Father, and the Son of God is to be exalted as Lord and King: *Jude 1: 20 – 25:*

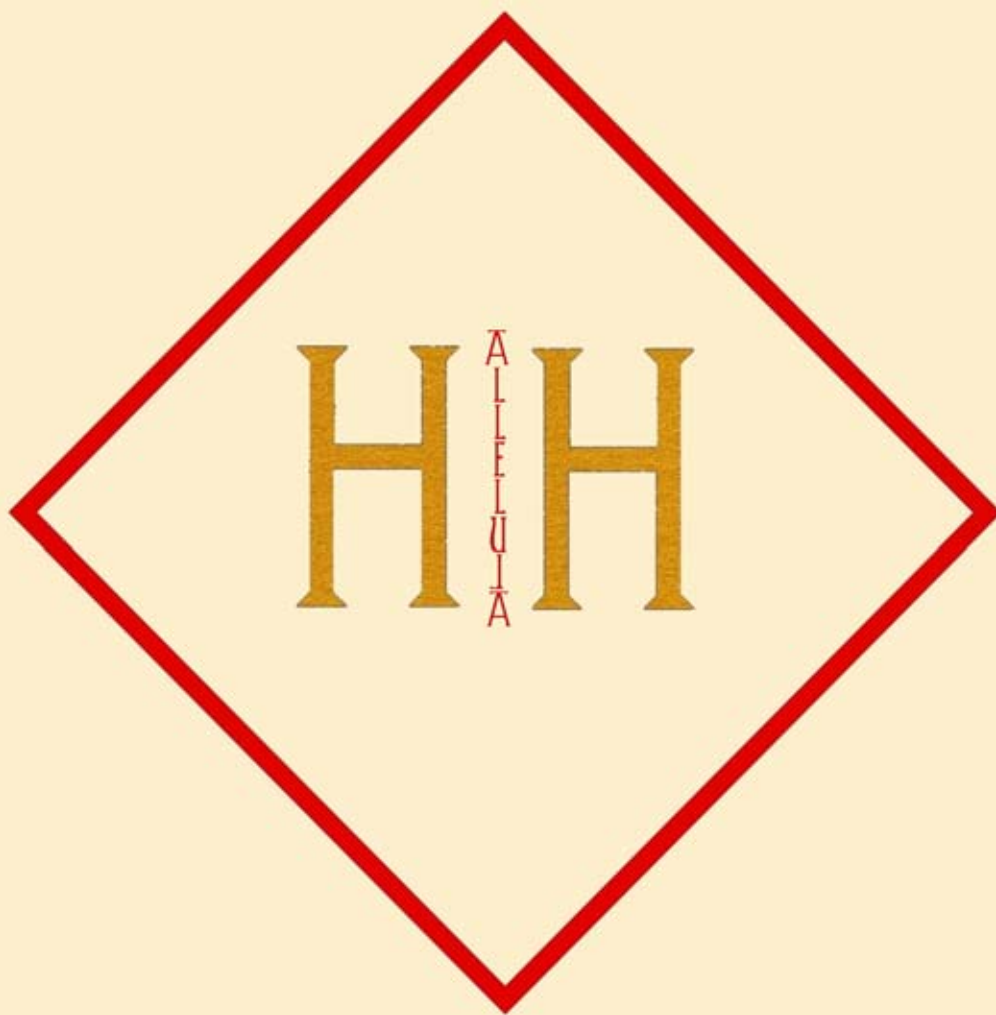
BUT you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

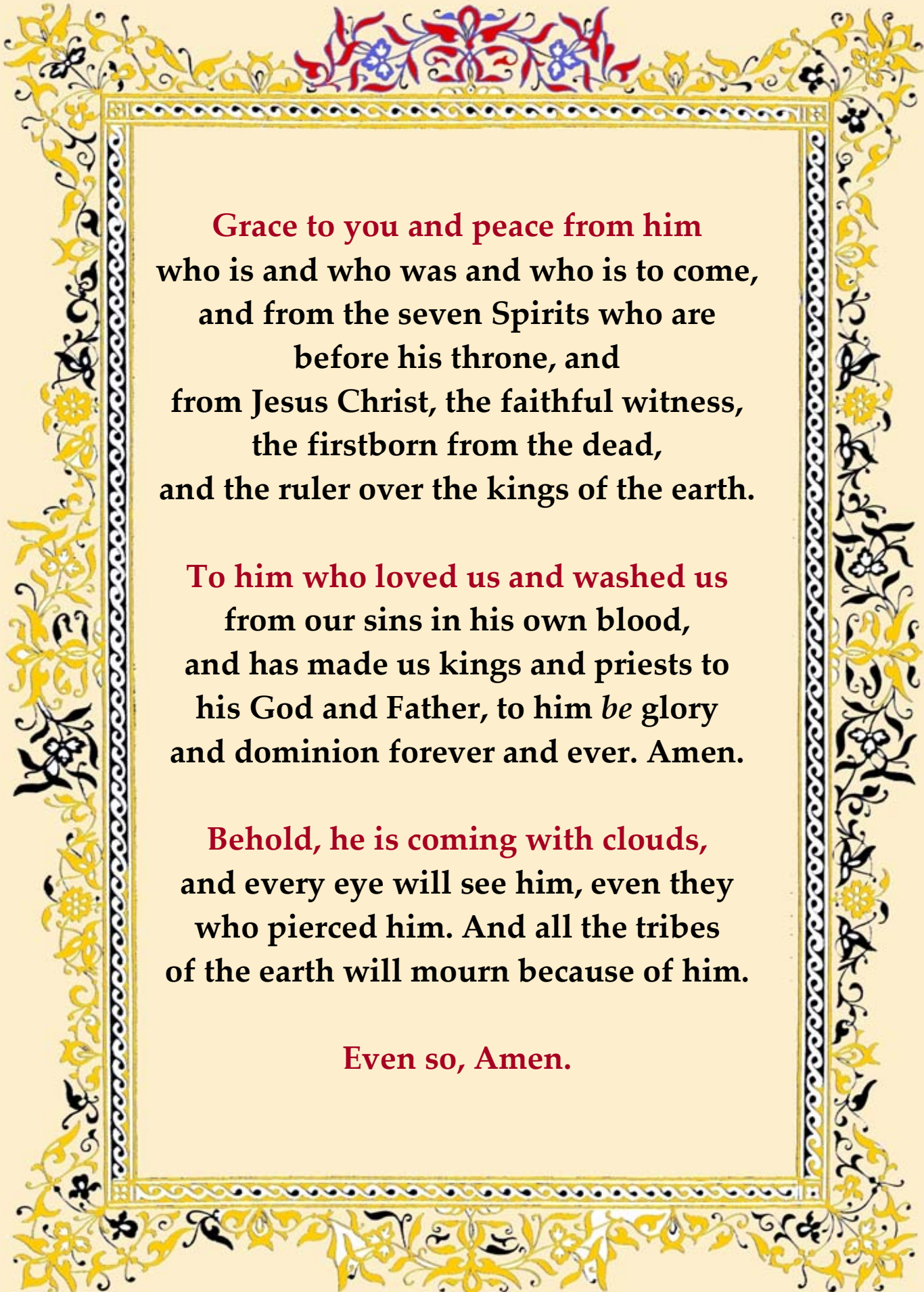
Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to God our Saviour, who alone is wise, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. *Amen.*

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah



Praise the LORD



Grace to you and peace from him
who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven Spirits who are
before his throne, and
from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn from the dead,
and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

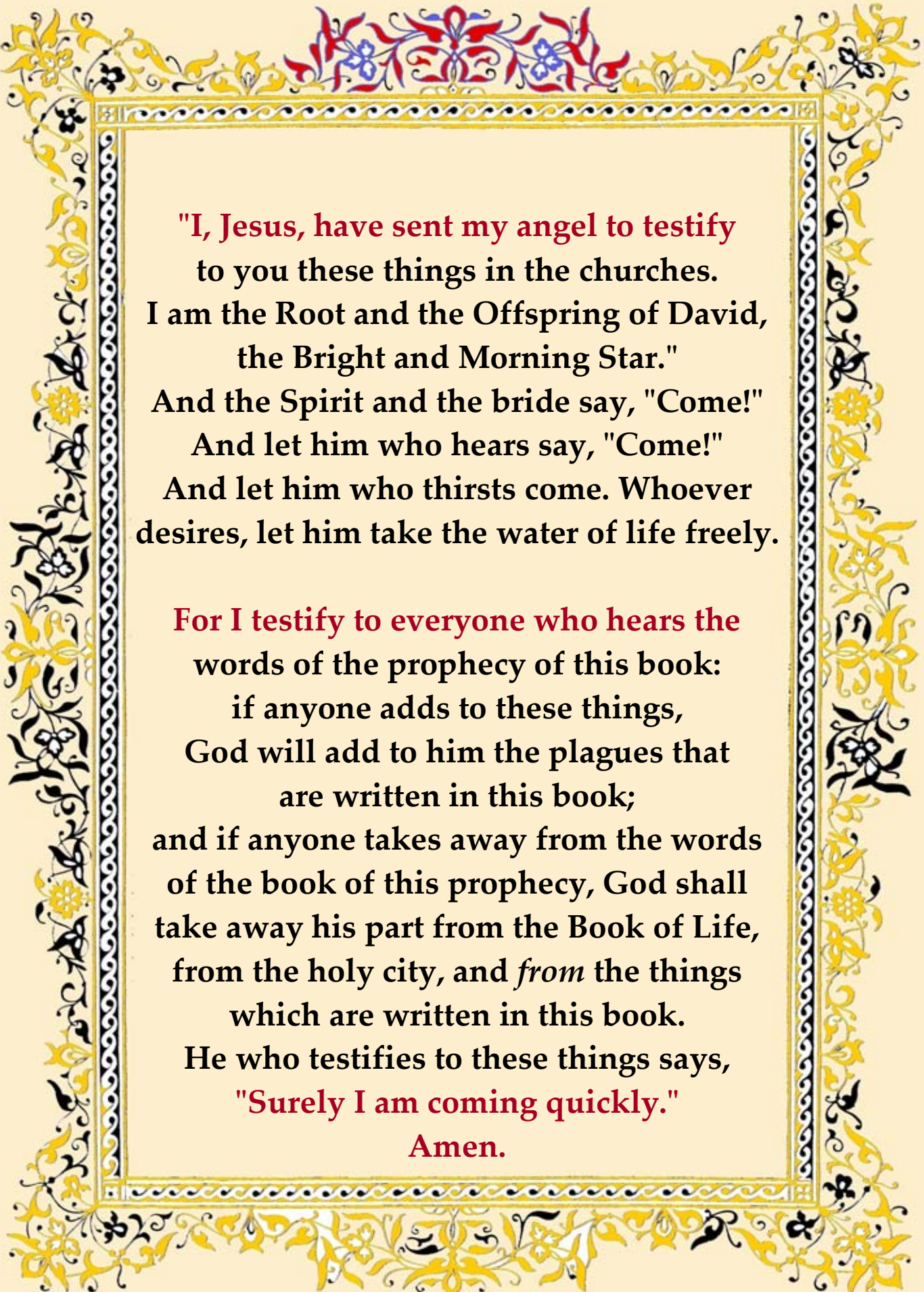
To him who loved us and washed us
from our sins in his own blood,
and has made us kings and priests to
his God and Father, to him *be* glory
and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Behold, he is coming with clouds,
and every eye will see him, even they
who pierced him. And all the tribes
of the earth will mourn because of him.

Even so, Amen.







"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."
And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"
And let him who hears say, "Come!"
And let him who thirsts come. Whoever
desires, let him take the water of life freely.

For I testify to everyone who hears the
words of the prophecy of this book:
if anyone adds to these things,
God will add to him the plagues that
are written in this book;
and if anyone takes away from the words
of the book of this prophecy, God shall
take away his part from the Book of Life,
from the holy city, and *from* the things
which are written in this book.
He who testifies to these things says,
"Surely I am coming quickly."
Amen.

Hallelujah

The apostle John, now an old man exiled to the Isle of Patmos, was given a prophetic vision of events that will occur in heaven. Jesus Christ the Lamb of God is the only one worthy to take back the world that he redeemed with his own blood – and he does so! Those he has saved come from every race, country and language on earth. He is worshipped and praised by his church, by all saved people, by the millions of holy angels and by the whole creation: *Revelation 5: 1 – 14:*

AND I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne [Lord God Almighty] a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals [the title deed to the earth?]. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, [Christ] has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

Then he came and took the scroll out of the right hand of him who sat on the throne. Now when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!"

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power be to him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped him who lives forever and ever.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

John the apostle continues to be shown revelations of things to come. The many believers who stood firm – and were martyred – for their faith in Christ during the period of great persecution join the multitude of others who give glory to God and Christ in heaven: [Revelation 7: 9 – 17](#):

A**FTER** these things [the results of opening the first six seals] I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb [Christ], clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. And he who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

In the prophetic vision of heaven shown to the apostle John, when the seventh angel sounded his trumpet God's victorious consummation of all things was imminent! And the elders – probably representative of the 'raptured' church – praised God for finally bringing about his judgement of wickedness and establishing the righteous who serve him: [Revelation 11: 15 – 19](#):

THEN the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever!"

And the twenty-four elders [representing the church?] who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying: "We give you thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because you have taken your great power and reigned.

The nations were angry, and your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should reward your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth."

Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of his covenant was seen in his temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

All those who have stood firm in their faith to God in Christ Jesus, the apostle John sees praising God in heaven. And their worship is for the holiness, truth and power of Almighty God who is about to complete the work of restoring his creation: *Revelation 15: 1 – 8:*

THEN I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. And I saw *something* like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark *and* over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb [*Jesus Christ*], saying:

"Great and marvellous *are* your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true *are* your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear you, O Lord, and glorify your name? For *you alone are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before you, for your judgements have been manifested."

After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

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Hallelujah

Wow! The apostle John sees the final judgment of God on the false church (a 'harlot' rather than the 'bride' of Christ), and the eternal kingdom of God put in place as the worship of a great multitude rings out like thunder in heaven: [Revelation 19: 1 – 6](#):

A**FTER** these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honour and power *belong* to the Lord our God!

For true and righteous *are* his judgements, because he has judged the great harlot [[the apostate church?](#)] who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants *shed* by her."

Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants and those who fear him, both small and great!"

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

Praise the LORD

Hallelujah

John the apostle is shown a glimpse, not just of a restored creation, but of the new creation remade by God as it (perhaps) was in the beginning. And he records the pronouncements and promises of God himself regarding this ultimate eternal state:

Revelation 21: 1 – 8:

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."

Then 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.

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death [eternal separation from God]."

Praise the LORD



HALLELUJAH

Praise
he
Lord