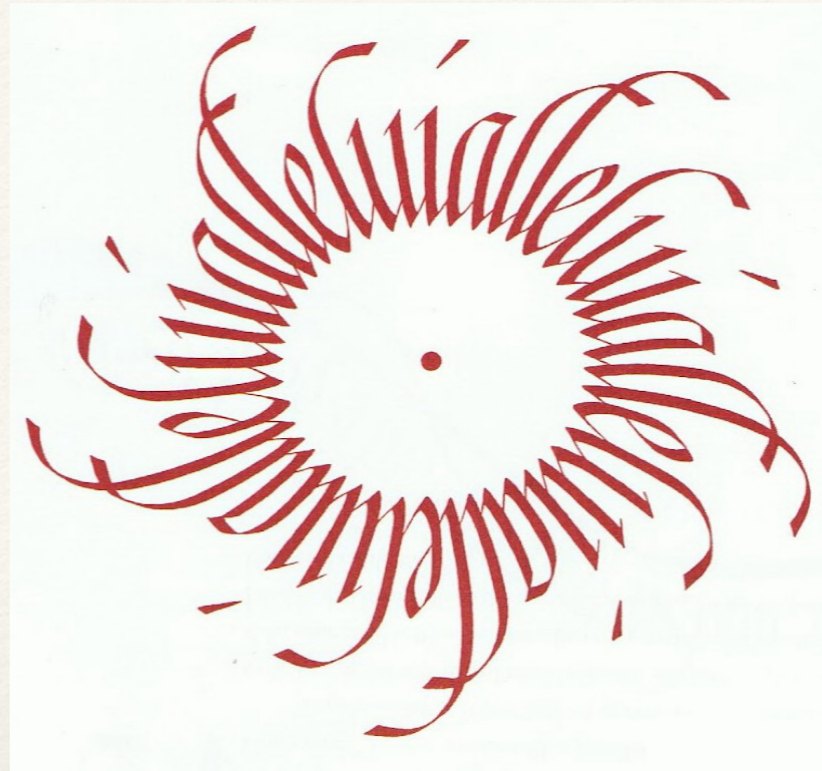




Biblical Worship

Unit 4

WORSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT





Similarities/Differences
between OT and NT Worship



1. Important Themes in New Testament Worship

1. Important Themes

- Inward worship

“In the NT there is a stunning degree of indifference to worship as an outward form and a radical intensification of worship as an inward experience of the heart.” (John Piper)

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. . . . But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:21,23-24)

1. Important Themes

- Whole-life worship

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30)

1. Important Themes

- Freedom of form

In the New Testament, all the focus is on the reality of the glory of Christ, not the shadow and copy of religious objects and forms. It is stunning how indifferent the New Testament is to such things: there is no authorization in the New Testament for worship buildings, or worship dress, or worship times, or worship music, or worship liturgy or worship size or thirty-five-minute sermons, or Advent poems or choirs or instruments or candles. . . . Almost every worship tradition we have is culturally shaped rather than Biblically commanded. . . . [We are] free to find place and time and dress and size and music and elements and objects that help us orient radically toward the supremacy of God in Christ.

(John Piper)

1. Important Themes

- Access

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

(Hebrews 10:19-22)



**Barriers between the individual
and God
under the Old Covenant**

Worship is . . .the gift of participating
through the Spirit in the incarnate Son's
communion with the Father.

(James Torrance)

*In Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

(Psalm 16:11)

“Behold, I and the children God has given Me.”

(Hebrews 2:13; Isaiah 8:18)



Draw near . . .

2. Important Vocabulary in New Testament Worship

a. “to bow down one’s self in honor,
to pay homage, to do reverence, to worship”

proskuneō

(similar to OT: *ḥistahavah*)

*“God is spirit, and those who worship Him
must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)*

*BUT: “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?
For we saw his star when it rose and have come to pay homage to him.”
(Matthew 2:2)*

2. Important Vocabulary in New Testament Worship

b. “to serve, worship”

latreuō

(similar to OT: ‘abad)

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh. (Philippians 3:3)

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe. (Hebrews 12:28)

2. Important Vocabulary in New Testament Worship

c. OT sacrificial language

*(living, spiritual) sacrifice (Rom 12:1;
1 Pet 2:5; Heb 13:15)*

priesthood (1 Pet 2:5)

temple (1 Cor 3:16; Ephes 2:21)

drink offering (Phil 2:17)

3. Important NT Passages on Worship

- Matthew

4:10

6:7

6:9

6:33

11:28-30

15:8-9

16:25

23:12

26:39

3. Important NT Passages on Worship

- Mark 12:28-34

3. Important NT Passages on Worship

- Mark 14:3-9

3. Important NT Passages on Worship

2 CORINTHIANS

1:20

For as many as
are the
promises of
God,
in Him they are
YES;

therefore also
through Him is
our AMEN to
the glory of
God through
us.

Revelation

Response

3. Important NT Passages on Worship

**The Ministry of Song
(Ephesians 5:18-20)**

A Spirit-filled ministry

A mutual ministry

A varied ministry

A God-focused ministry

An internal ministry

A responsive ministry

A Christ-empowered ministry

4. WORSHIP IN HEBREWS

A BETTER WORSHIP

(Hebrews 10:19-22)

Therefore, brethren,

since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

LET US DRAW NEAR

with a true heart in full assurance of faith,
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and
our bodies washed with pure water.

The background features a teal color with a pattern of overlapping triangles. A horizontal band of orange with a fine, dotted texture runs across the middle. Below this, a band of yellow with a similar dotted texture is visible. The bottom edge of the page is dark teal.

5. The Holy Spirit and Worship

The main focus of His ministry is to *glorify*
Christ

*“When the Spirit of truth comes . . .
. He will glorify Me.”*

(John 16:13-14)

He glorifies Christ by . . .

- Acting in Christ's earthly ministry (conception, baptism, miracles, death, resurrection)
- Continuing Christ's earthly ministry (Christ-centeredness of all His activities in the New Testament)

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever." (John 14:16)

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on his own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:13-14)

He glorifies Christ by . . .

- **Bringing us to faith in Christ**

And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8)

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us . . . by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:4-5)

He glorifies Christ by . . .

- **Giving us assurance of our relationship to God in Christ**

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” (Romans 8:15)

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” (Galatians 4:6)

He glorifies Christ by . . .

- **Motivating and empowering our worship of the Father through Christ**

For we are the true circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh. (Philippians 3:3)

Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart. (Ephesians 5:18-19)

He glorifies Christ by . . .

- **Motivating and empowering our worship of the Father through Christ**
 - ◇ *Connecting Revelation and Response/Head and Heart*

Revelation



Response



Holy Spirit

He glorifies Christ by . . .

- **Motivating and empowering our worship of the Father through Christ**
 - ◇ *Connecting Revelation and Response/Head and Heart*
 - ◇ *Christ is the **Way** – the Holy Spirit is the **Guide***
 - ◇ *We **CAN** come to the Father in worship because of the ministry of Christ; we **WANT** to come to the Father in worship because of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.*

He glorifies Christ by . . .

- **Producing growth in Christlikeness in us individually and as a Church.**

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

In Christ you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:22)

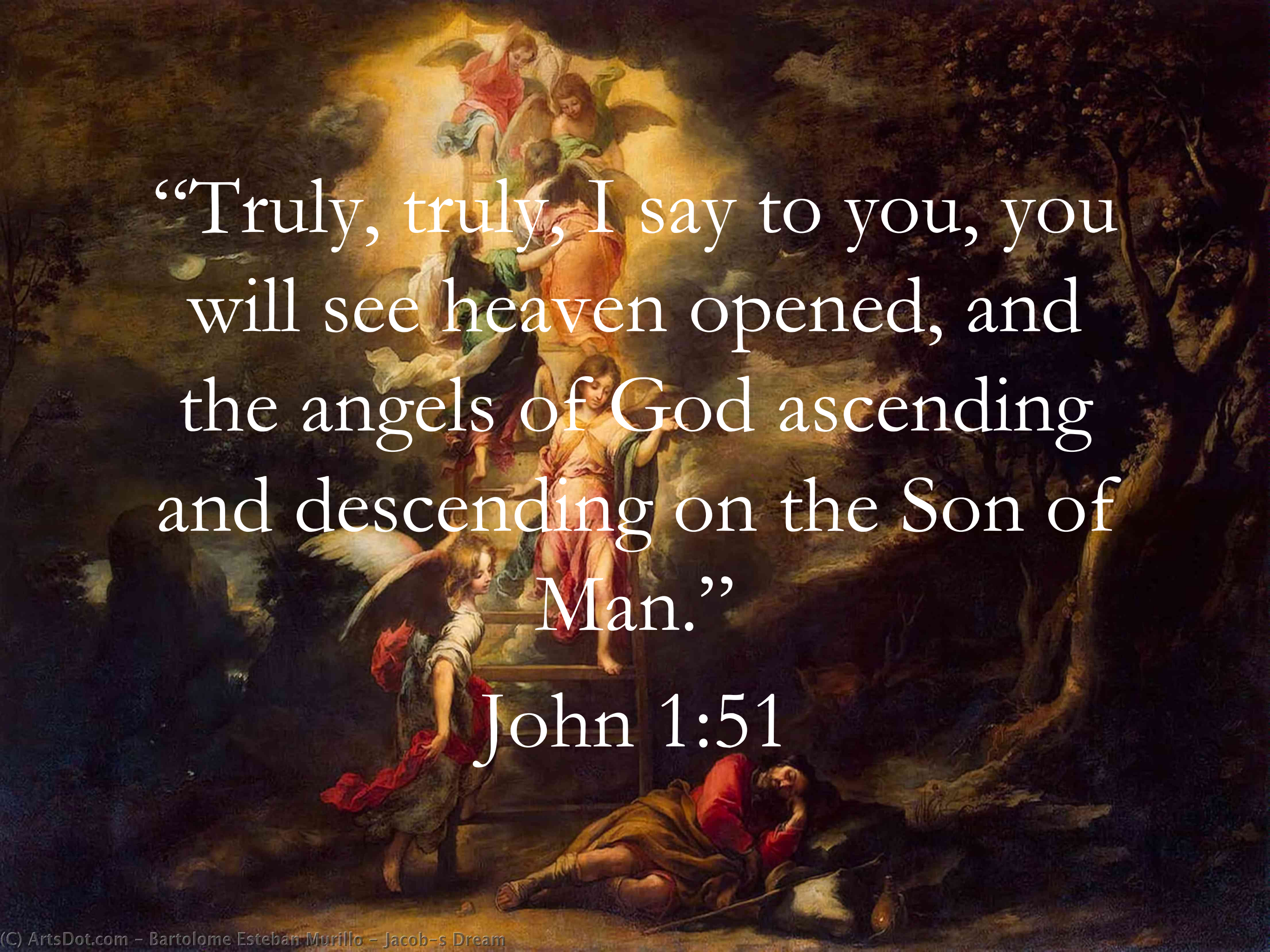
The utter Christ-centeredness
of all the Spirit's work

(J. I. Packer)

1. How would you describe the Holy Spirit's unique role?
2. Do you think we should worship the Holy Spirit?

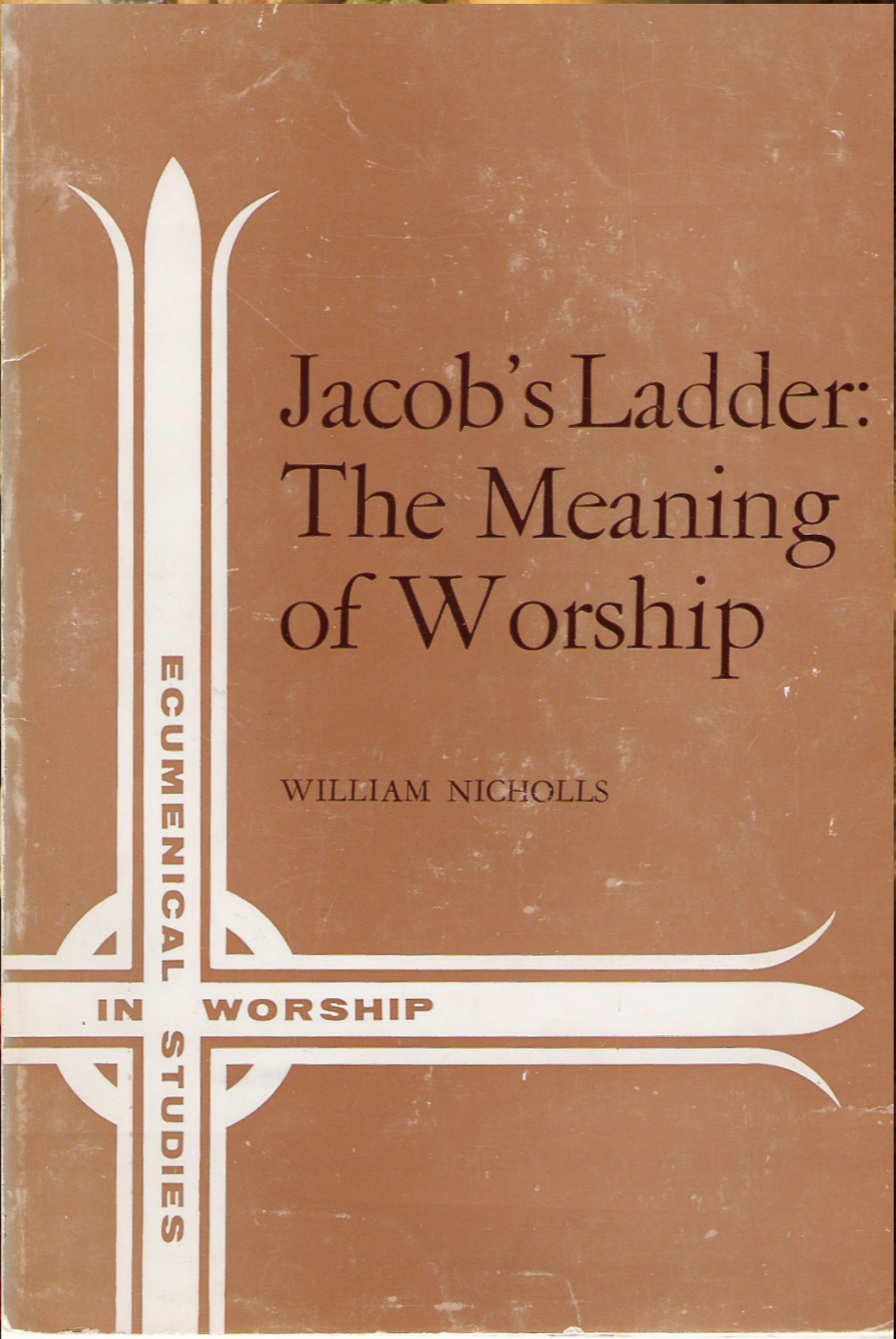
A Baroque painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo depicting the biblical story of Jacob's Dream. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape at night, illuminated by a bright, golden light from above. A wooden ladder is positioned vertically, with several angels ascending and descending. At the top of the ladder, a group of angels is gathered in a bright, heavenly glow. In the middle, an angel in a pink and orange robe is being embraced by another angel in a green and white robe. At the bottom of the ladder, an angel in a white and red robe is looking up. In the foreground, a man in a red tunic and brown cloak lies on the ground, his head resting on his hand, appearing to be in a state of exhaustion or sleep. A small lantern and a bag are visible near him. The overall mood is one of divine presence and spiritual ascent.

6. The Role of Jesus Christ in Worship



“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

John 1:51



Jacob's Ladder:
The Meaning
of Worship

WILLIAM NICHOLLS

ECUMENICAL
STUDIES

IN WORSHIP

WHAT MAKES WORSHIP “GOOD”?

- the right song?
- the right worship leader?
- the right group of talent?
- the right amount of sincerity?

the sin of trying to do worship in our own
strength

A Baroque painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo depicting Jacob's Dream. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape at night. A wooden ladder is positioned against a large, gnarled tree. Several angels are shown ascending the ladder, illuminated by a bright, golden light emanating from the top. At the base of the ladder, a man (Jacob) lies on the ground, appearing to be asleep or in a state of spiritual transition. A large, dark rock is visible on the left side of the scene. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and spiritual.

Are you so foolish?
Having begun by the Spirit,
are you now being perfected by the flesh?
(Galatians 3:3)



How God works

BREAKOUT

*What is the
common theme in
these passages?*

Romans 8:26

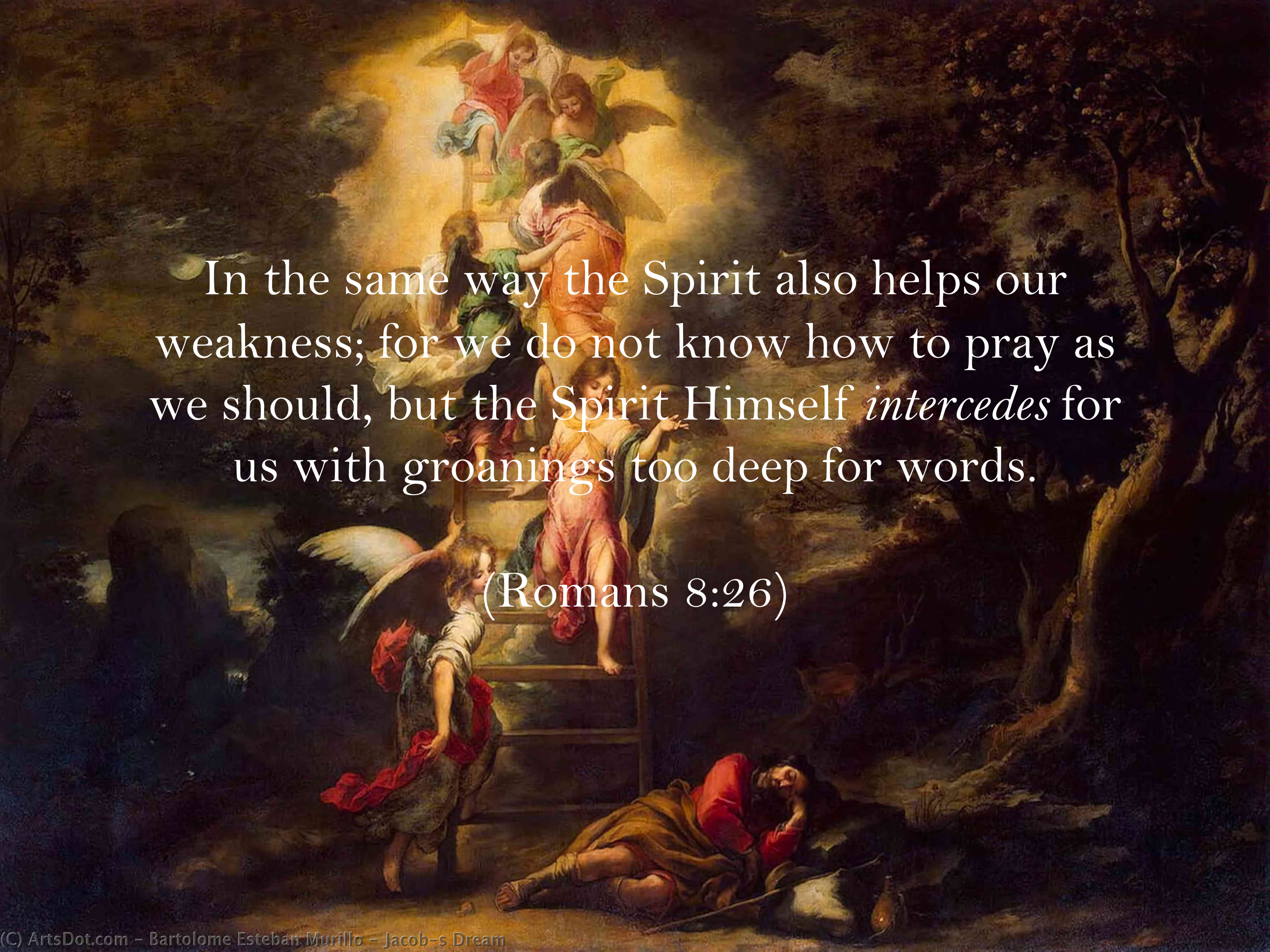
Philippians 2:12-13

1 Corinthians 15:10

Colossians 1:29

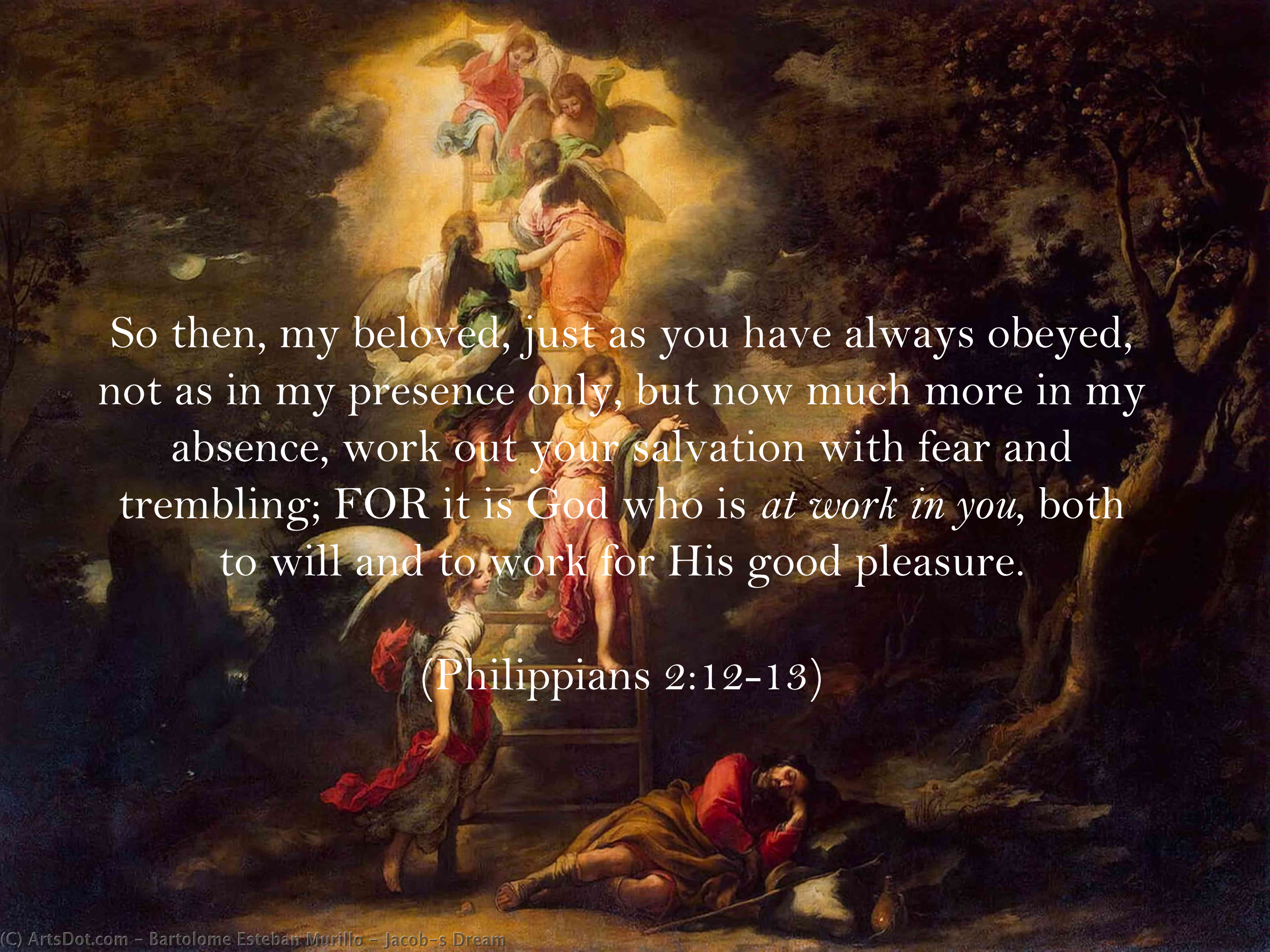
1 Thessalonians 5:21-24

Hebrews 13:20-21

A painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo titled 'Jacob's Dream'. It depicts a ladder of angels ascending to heaven, with a man lying on the ground below. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape. The angels are shown in various poses, some holding hands, and the man is lying on the ground, looking up at the ladder. The overall mood is one of divine intervention and spiritual ascent.


In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself *intercedes* for us with groanings too deep for words.

(Romans 8:26)



So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; FOR it is God who is *at work in you*, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

(Philippians 2:12-13)



But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His
grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored
even more than all of them, *yet not I, but the grace of
God with me.*

(1 Corin. 15:10)



For this purpose also I labor, striving
according to *His power*, which mightily works
within me.

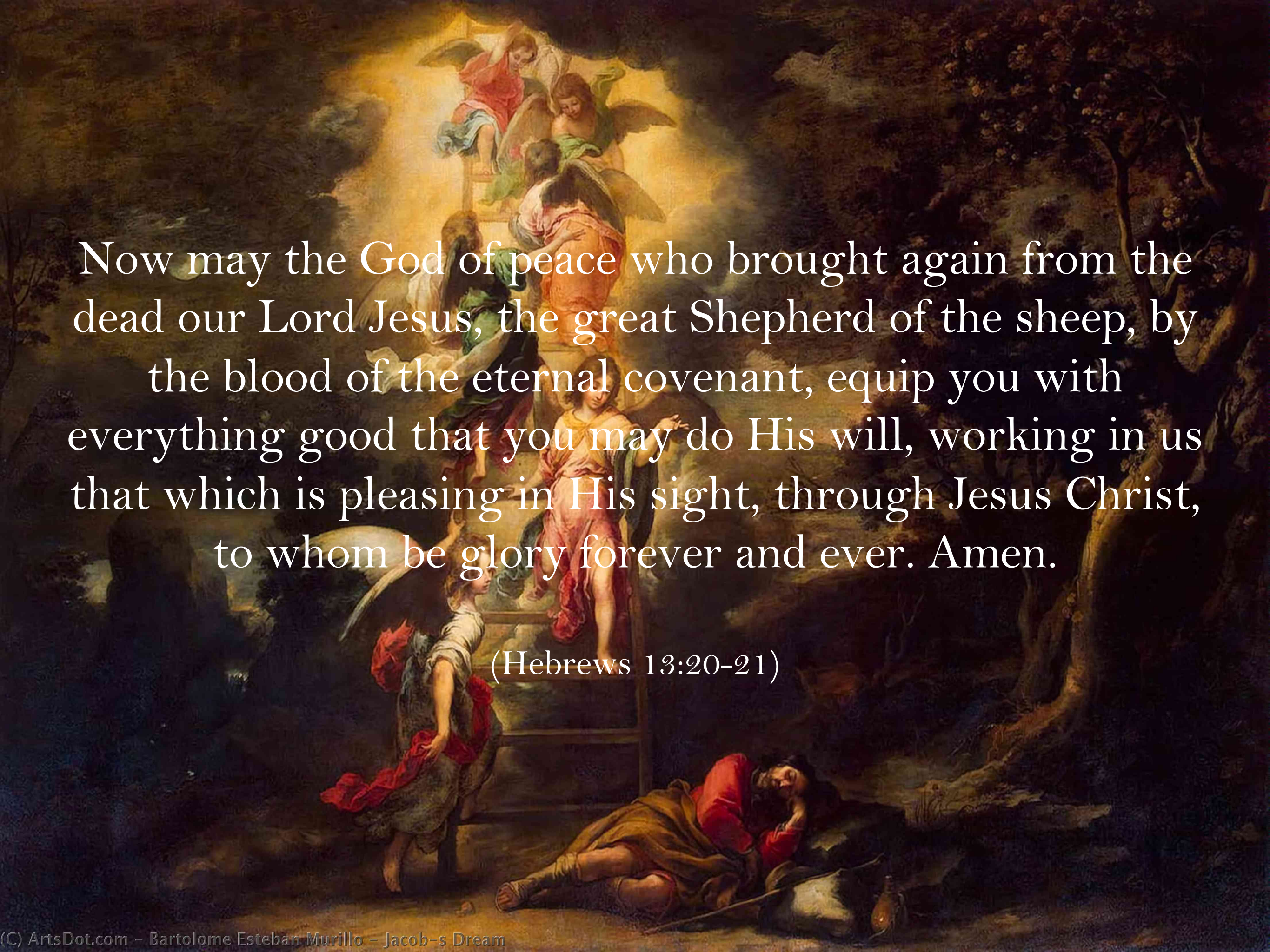
(Col. 1:29)



Test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

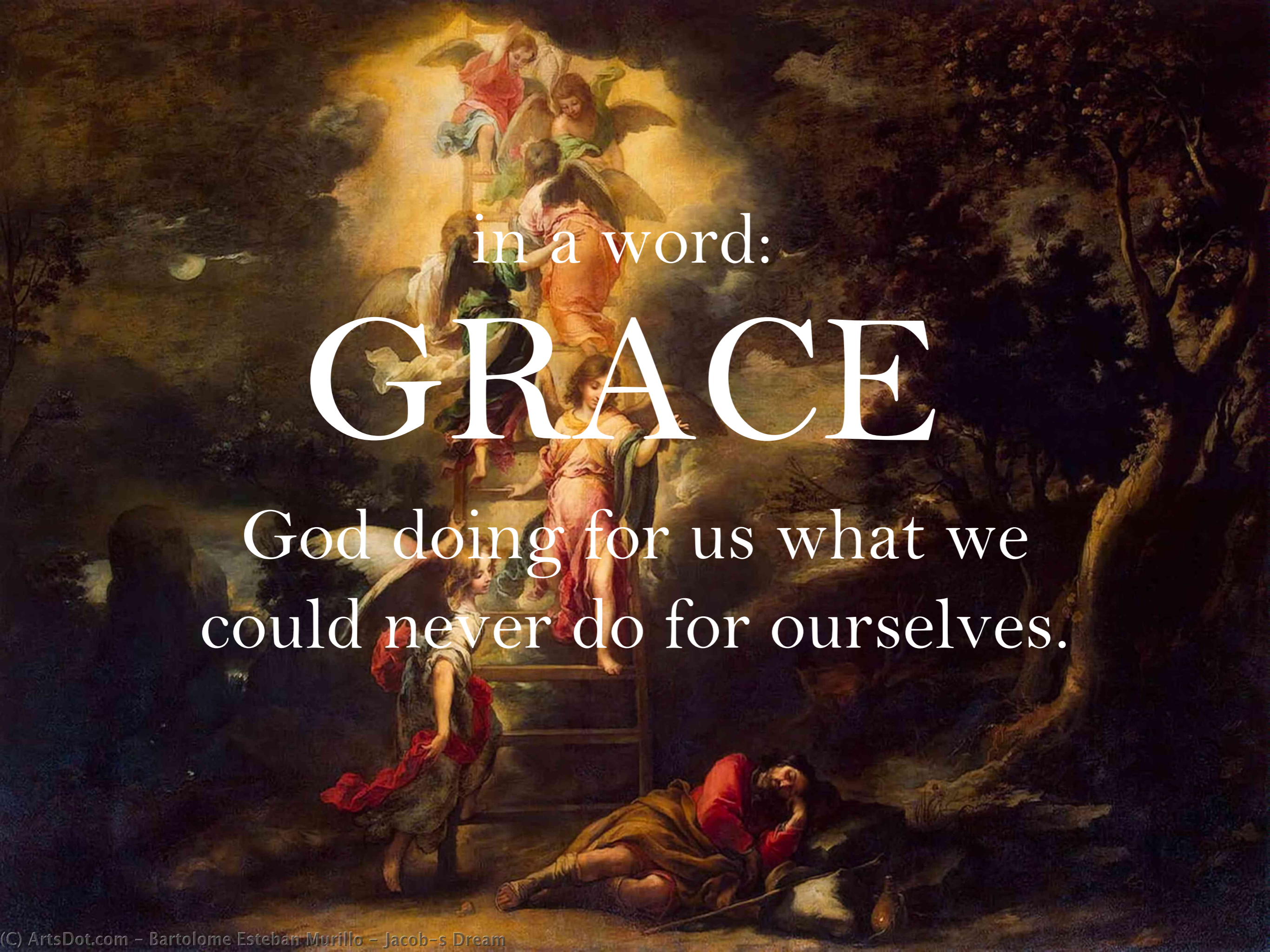
Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

(1 Thessalonians 5:21-24)



Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

(Hebrews 13:20-21)



in a word:

GRACE

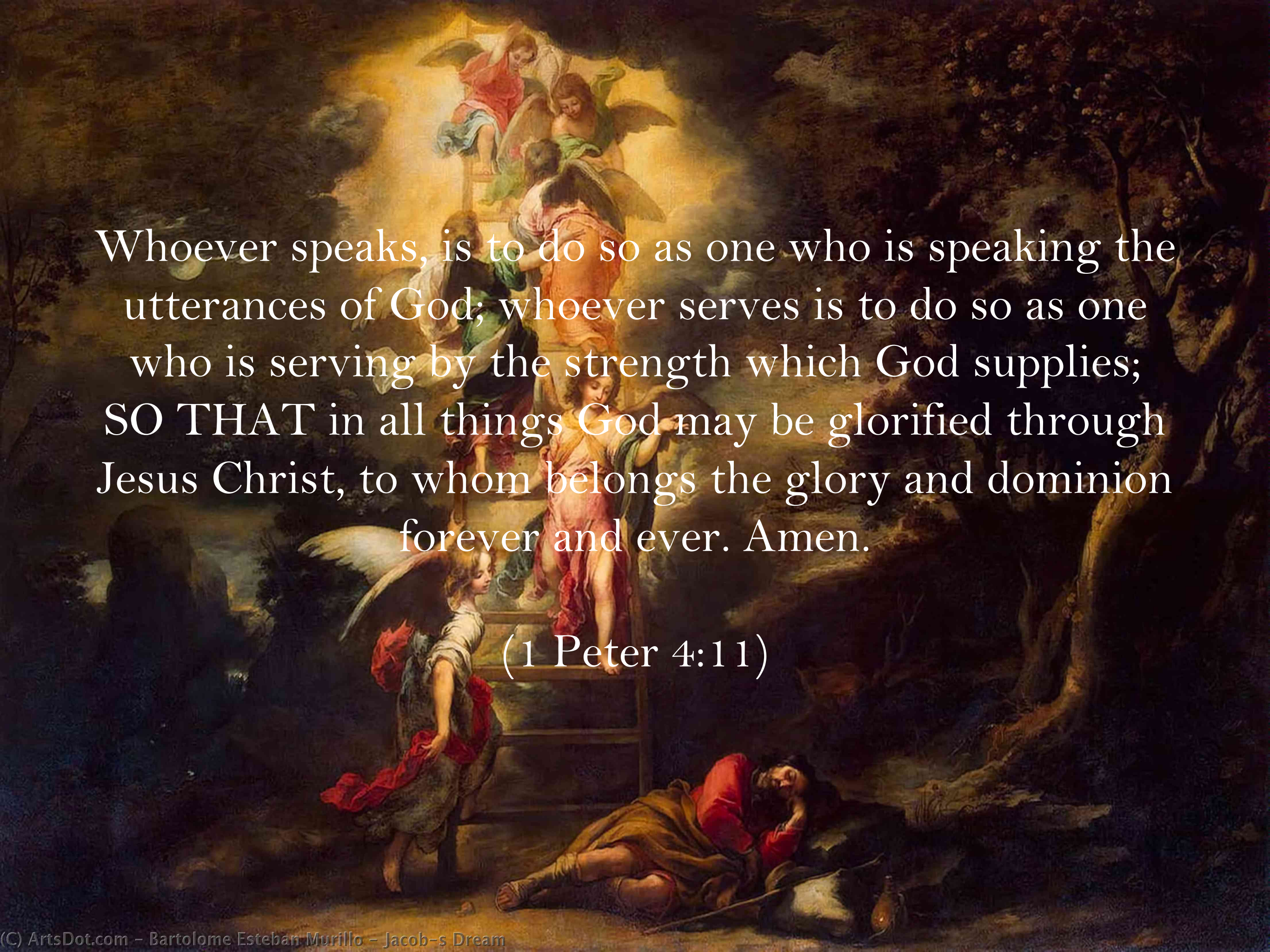
God doing for us what we
could never do for ourselves.



What God requires,
He provides.



Why does God works that way?

A painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo titled 'Jacob's Dream'. It depicts a ladder leading from earth to heaven. Several angels are shown ascending the ladder, while one angel stands at the base. In the foreground, a man (Jacob) is sleeping on the ground, leaning against a stone. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape with a large tree on the right. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright glow emanating from the top of the ladder, suggesting a divine presence.

Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; SO THAT in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

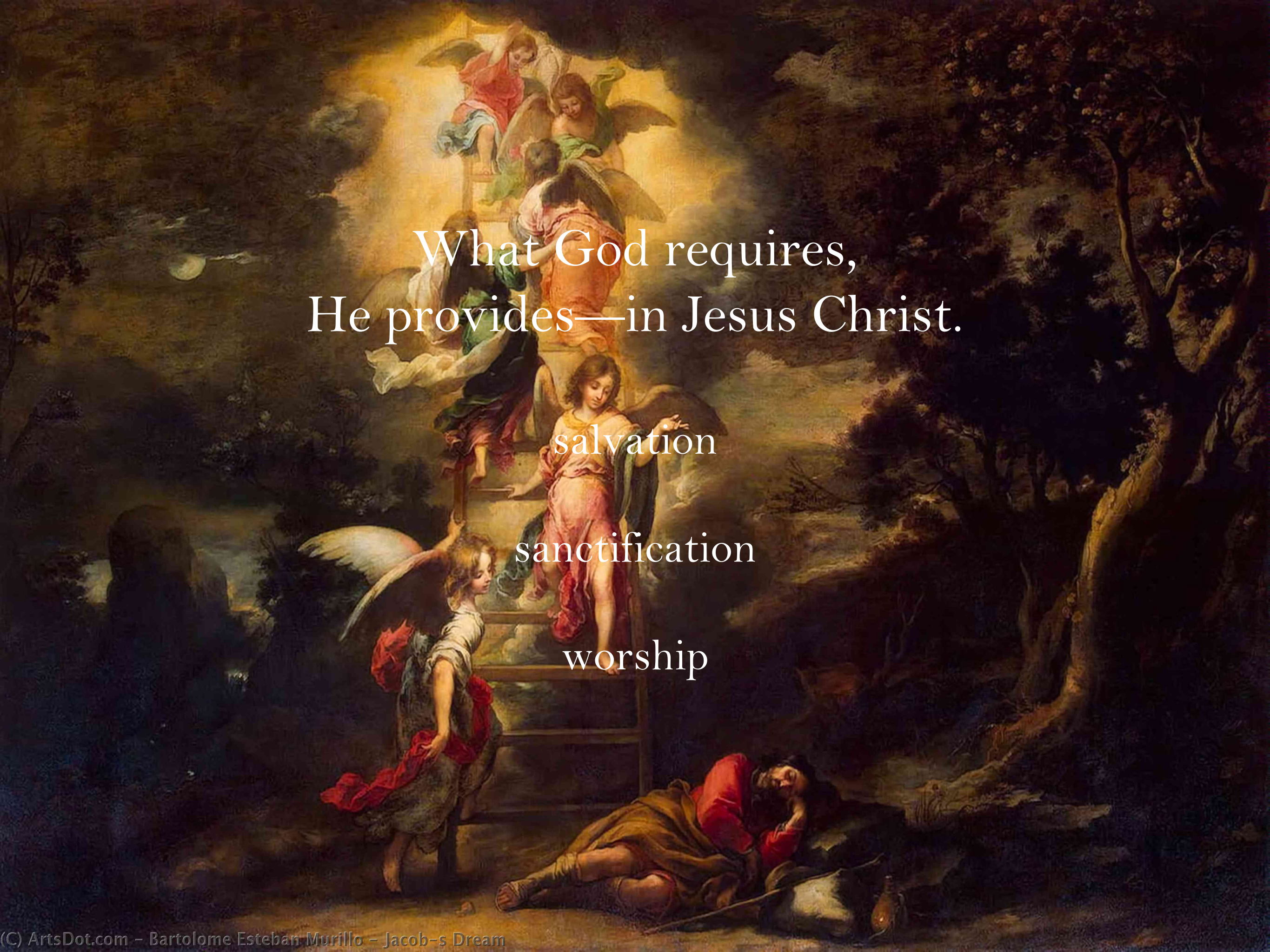
(1 Peter 4:11)



What God requires,
He provides—in Jesus Christ.

Apart from Me you can do nothing.
(John 15:5)

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
(Philippians 4:13)

A Baroque painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo titled 'Jacob's Dream'. It depicts the biblical story of Jacob's dream of a ladder to heaven. In the center, a wooden ladder extends from the ground to a bright, heavenly light. Several angels are shown climbing the ladder, ascending towards the light. At the top of the ladder, a group of angels is gathered in a circle, looking down. In the foreground, a man (Jacob) lies on the ground, exhausted and sleeping, with a pack on his back and a staff. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape with a large tree on the right and a moon in the sky on the left. The overall mood is one of divine grace and human struggle.

What God requires,
He provides—in Jesus Christ.

salvation

sanctification

worship



Three Common Misunderstandings

Jesus is gone

Jesus is no longer a man

Jesus is no longer a High Priest



Jesus is here!

“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:20)

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
(Hebrews 13:5)



Jesus is still a man

For there is one God, and there is one mediator
between God and men, the MAN Christ Jesus.

(1 Timothy 2:5)

A painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo titled 'Jacob's Dream'. It depicts a ladder leaning against a tree, with a bright light emanating from the top. Several angels are shown ascending the ladder, while a man (Jacob) lies sleeping on the ground at the base. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape with a moon in the sky.

Jesus is still a High Priest

We have such a high priest.
(Hebrews 8:1; also 4:14-15; 7:26; 10:21)

“You are a priest forever. . .”
(Hebrews 5:6; also 6:20; 7:17,21)



Jesus is still a High Priest

The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

(Hebrews 7:23-25)



The Pattern of Biblical Worship:
REVELATION AND RESPONSE

Moses & Aaron

Prophet & Priest

J E S U S C H R I S T



Proclamation & Praise (Hebrews 2:12)

"I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO
MY BRETHREN;
IN THE MIDST OF THE
CONGREGATION I WILL SING
YOUR PRAISE."



PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

Hebrews 2:12

and the

Christology

of Worship

Ron Man

HEBREWS 2:12

I will proclaim
Your Name to
my brethren . . .

and in the midst
of the congrega-
tion I will sing
Your praise.

Revelation

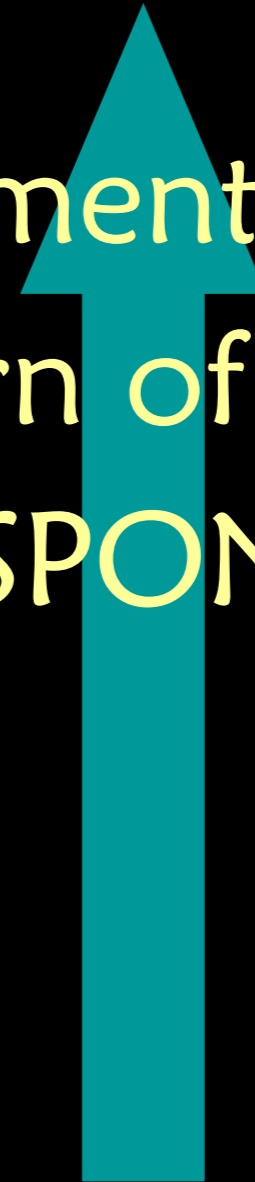
Response

Jesus' dual, two-way mediating ministry



JESUS HIMSELF

is the ultimate fulfillment
of the biblical pattern of
REVELATION AND RESPONSE





"I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME
TO MY BRETHREN"



“No one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom
the Son chooses to reveal Him.”

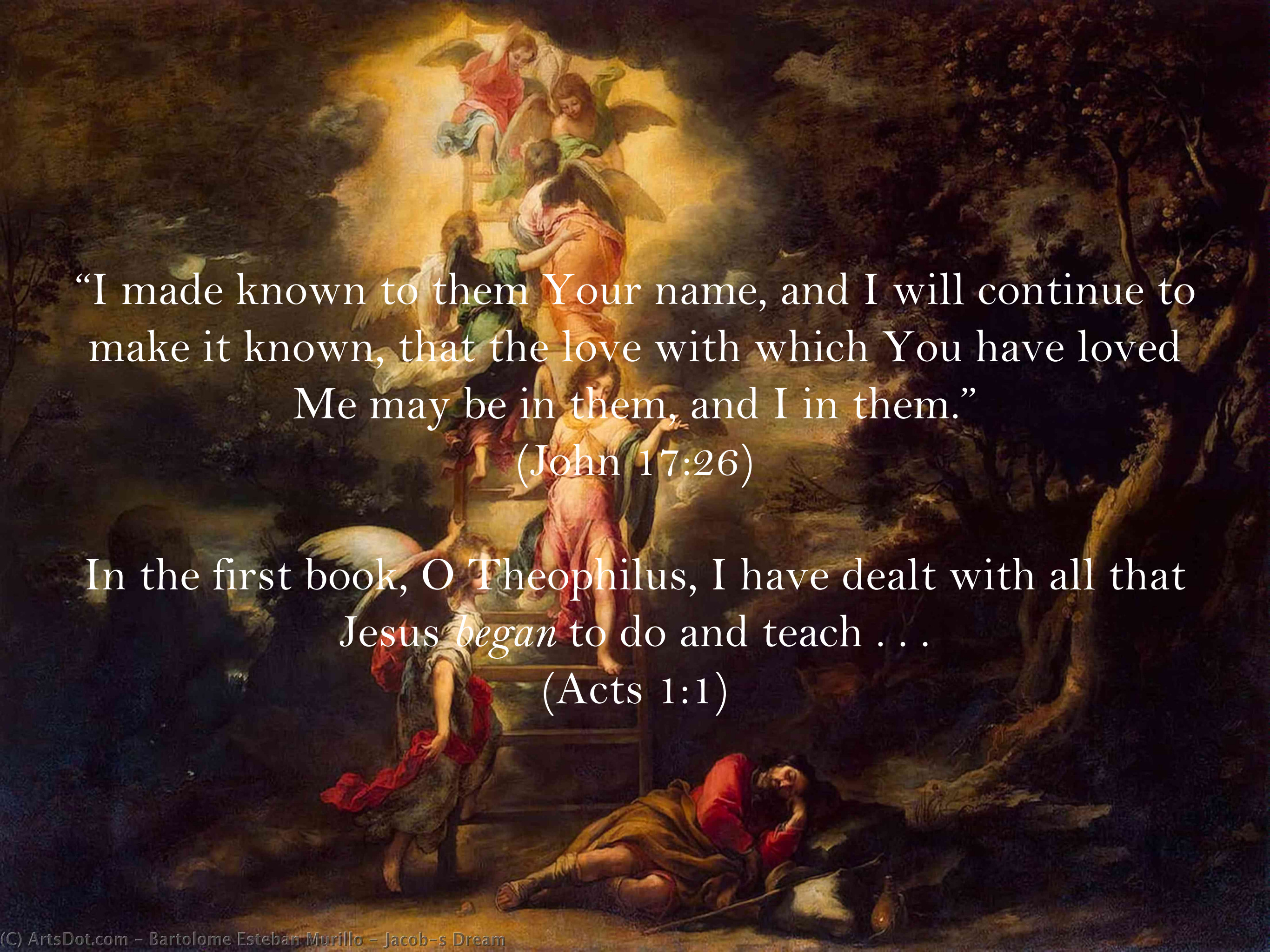
(Matthew 11:27b)

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s
side, He has made Him known.

(John 1:18)

“I have manifested *Your name* to the people whom You gave Me
out of the world.”

(John 17:6)



“I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

(John 17:26)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus *began* to do and teach . . .

(Acts 1:1)

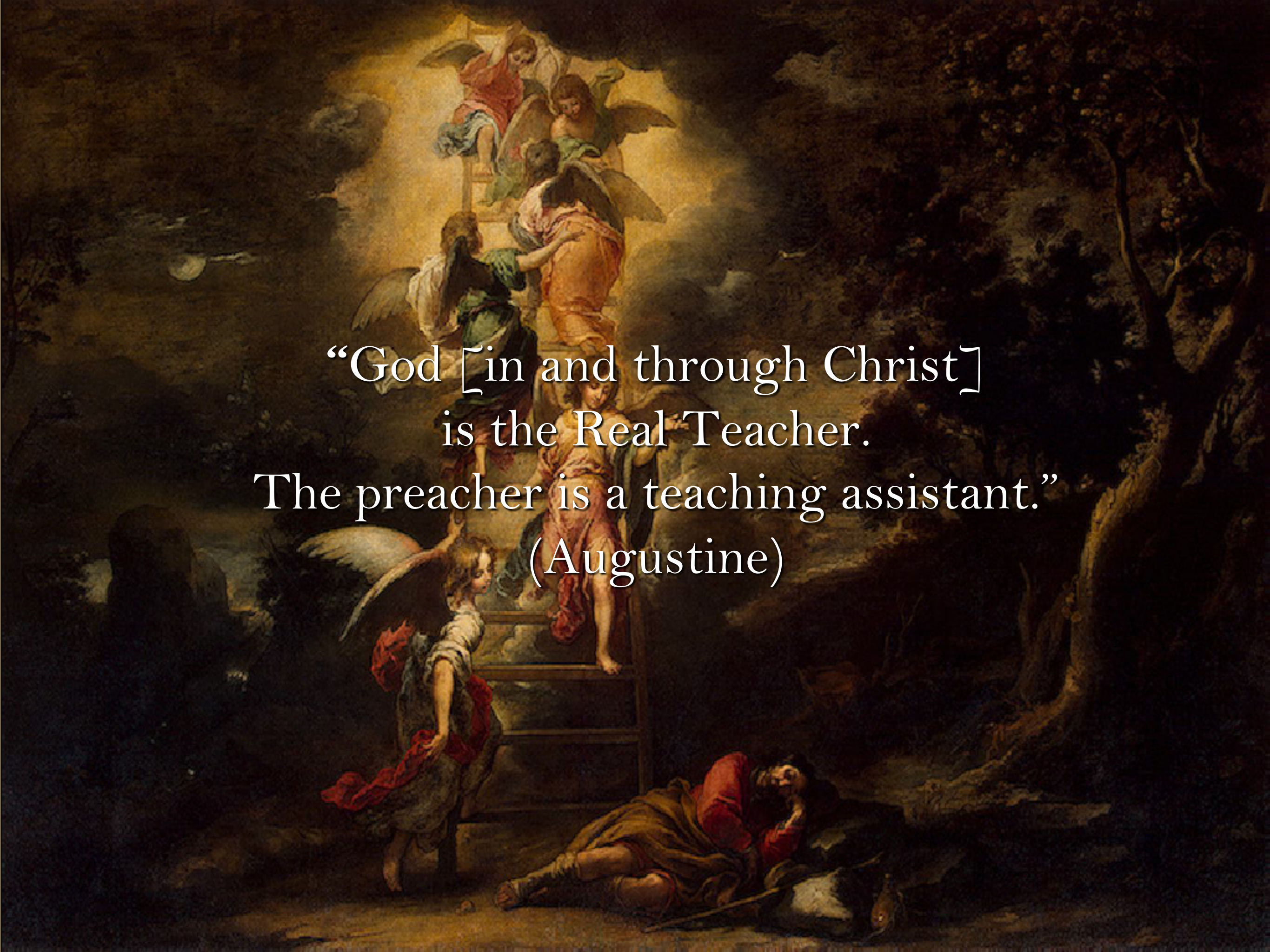


PREACHING AND TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD:

Christ's ministry

“Let the *Word of Christ*
dwell richly among you.”
(Colossians 3:16)

“The sheep hear *His voice*. . . .
The sheep follow Him, for they know *His voice*.”
(John 10:3,4)



“God [in and through Christ]
is the Real Teacher.
The preacher is a teaching assistant.”
(Augustine)

More about Jesus in His Word
holding communion with my Lord;
Hearing His voice in every line,
making each faithful saying mine.

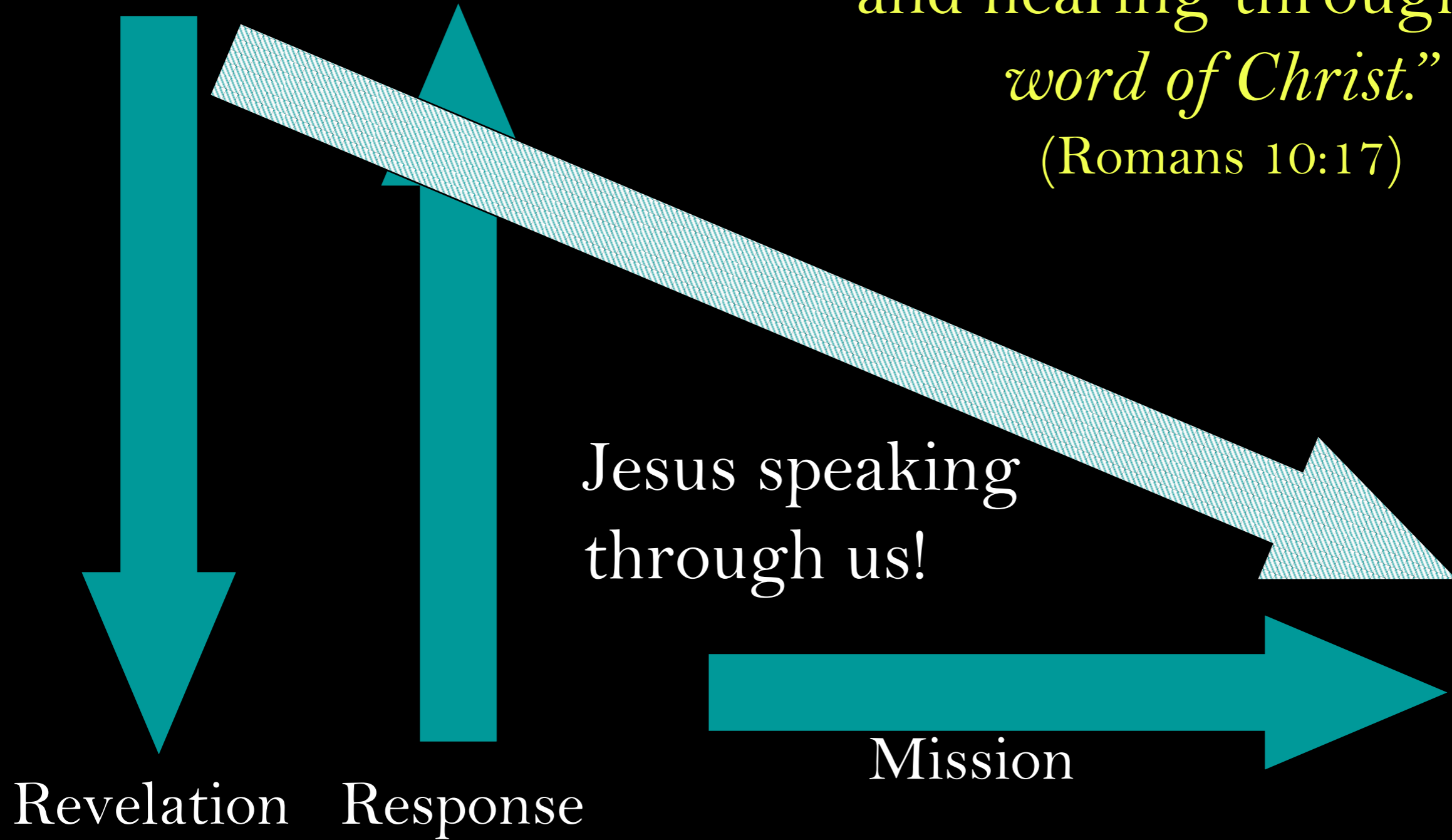
More, more about Jesus,

More, more about Jesus;

More of His saving fullness see,

More of His love who died for me.

“Faith comes from hearing,
and hearing through the
word of Christ.”
(Romans 10:17)





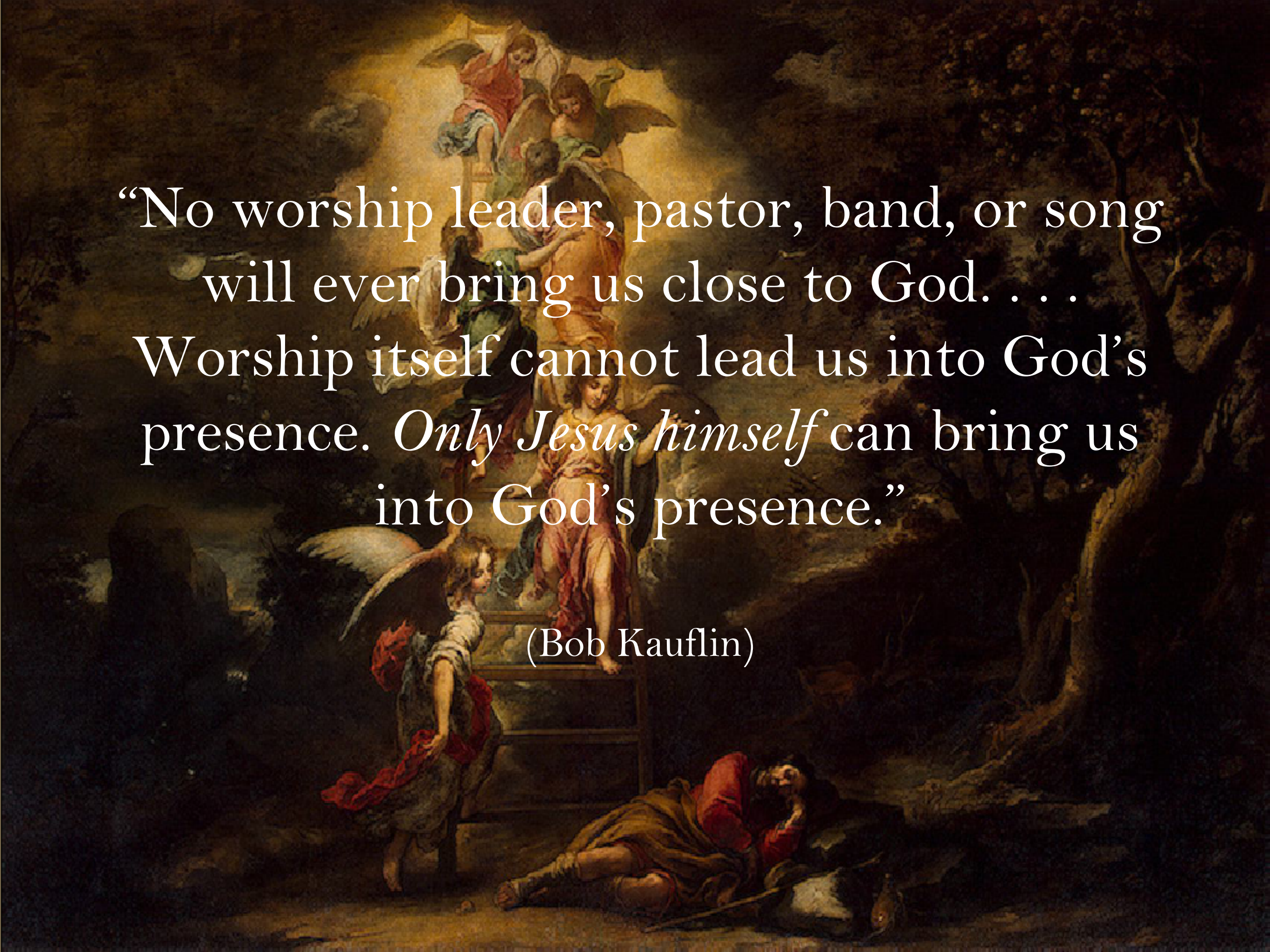
"IN THE MIDST OF THE
CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR
PRAISE."



album blurb:

“[The artist] ushered the crowd into His Presence with uplifting praise and worship melodies throughout the night.”

NOT!



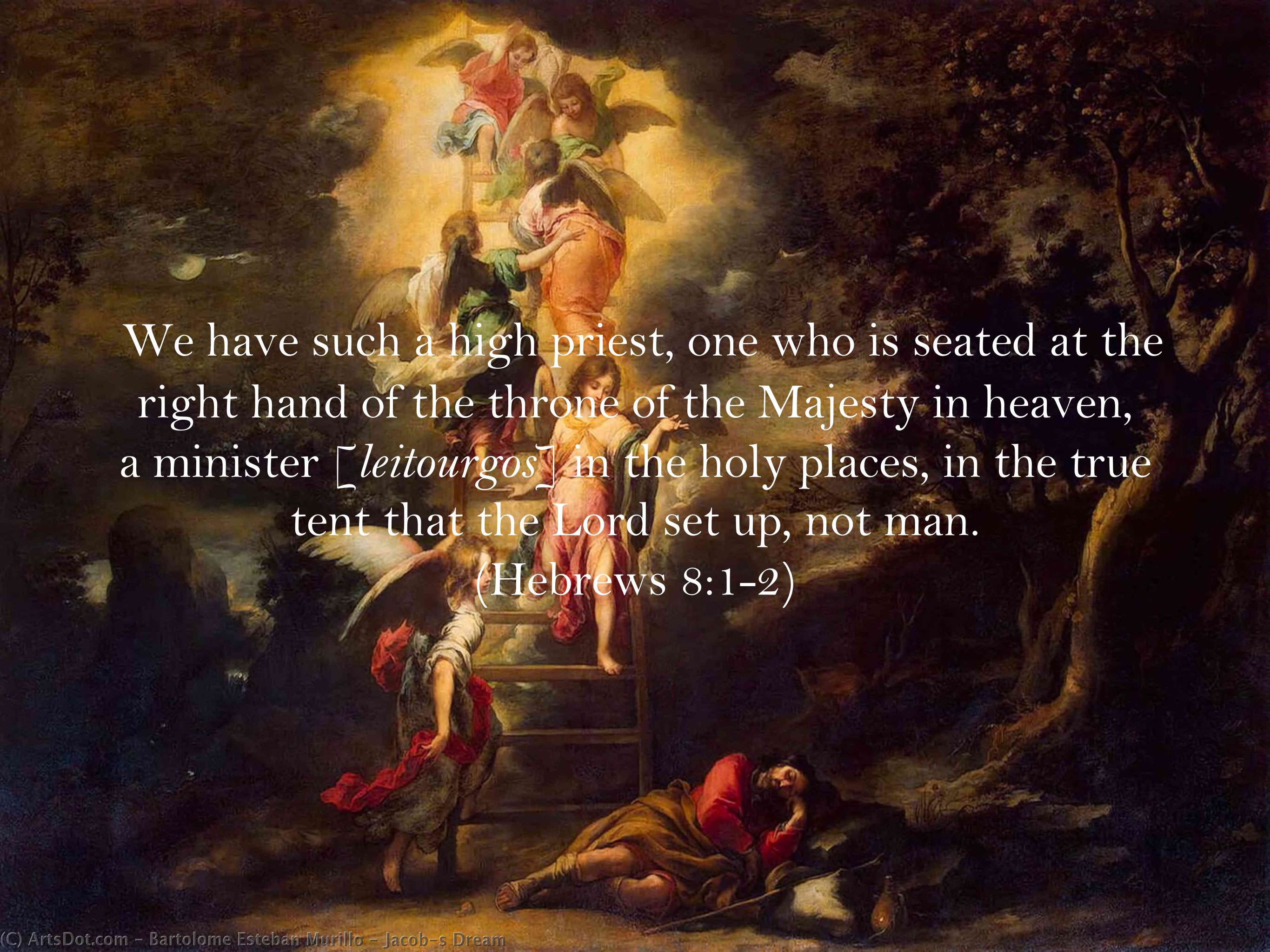
“No worship leader, pastor, band, or song will ever bring us close to God. . . . Worship itself cannot lead us into God’s presence. *Only Jesus himself* can bring us into God’s presence.”

(Bob Kauflin)



LEADING WORSHIP:
Christ's ministry

“In the midst of the congregation
I will sing Your praise.”
(Hebrews 2:12)



We have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister [*leitourgos*] in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.
(Hebrews 8:1-2)

III. A BETTER WORSHIP

(10:19-22)

Therefore, brethren,

SINCE we have confidence to enter the holy place by
PAST WORK the blood of Jesus,
by the new and living way that He opened for us
through the curtain, that is, through His flesh,

and **SINCE** we have a great priest over the house of
PRESENT WORK God,

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of
faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil
conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.



TRINITARIAN WORSHIP

“Worship is the gift of participating
through the Spirit
in the incarnate Son’s communion
with the Father.”

(James B. Torrance)

A painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo titled 'Jacob's Dream'. It depicts a ladder to heaven with several angels ascending. At the bottom of the ladder, a man (Jacob) is sleeping on the ground, leaning against a stone. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape with a large tree on the right and a moon in the sky. The text is overlaid on the central part of the painting.

New Testament worship IS Christ.

There is ONE Mediator between God and man:
the Man Christ Jesus.

(1 Tim. 2:5)

HEBREWS 2:12

I will proclaim
Your Name to
my brethren . . .

and in the midst
of the congrega-
tion I will sing
Your praise.

Revelation

Response

JESUS HIMSELF
is the fulfillment of
the biblical pattern of

REVELATION and RESPONSE



A Baroque painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo depicting Jacob's Dream. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape at night. A wooden ladder is positioned against a large, gnarled tree. Five angels are shown ascending the ladder, each in a different pose and colorful robe. At the top of the ladder, a bright, golden light emanates from a group of angels. In the foreground, a man in a red tunic and brown cloak lies on the ground, his head resting on his hand, appearing to be in a state of deep sleep or exhaustion. A pack and a staff are visible near him. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and spiritual, with strong contrasts between light and shadow.

Implications for Our Worship

The *presence* of Christ



TRINITARIAN WORSHIP

(not "Unitarian")

God is not only the One before us, "up there" to receive our praise [Father]. God is also "alongside us" in the person of Jesus, perfecting our otherwise imperfect songs and prayers. God is also at work "within us" [Holy Spirit] prodding us, prompting us, encouraging us, and even—when we are unable to pray—praying through us (Romans 8:26).

(John Witvliet)



TRINITARIAN WORSHIP

“Worship is the gift of participating
through the Spirit
in the incarnate Son’s communion
with the Father.”

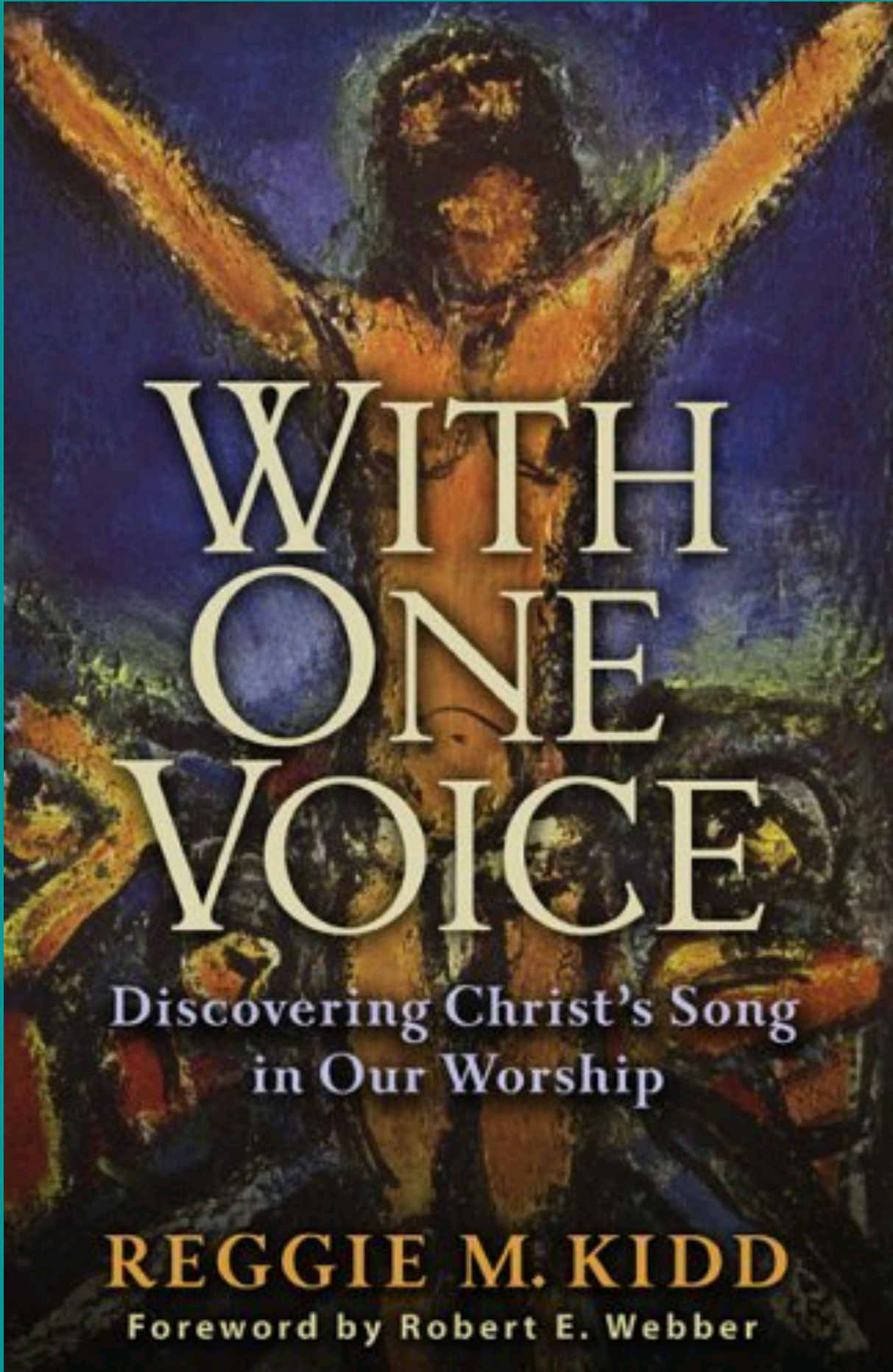
(James B. Torrance)

A Baroque painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo titled 'Jacob's Dream'. It depicts the biblical story of Jacob's dream of the ladder. In the foreground, Jacob is shown sleeping on the ground, leaning against a stone, with a donkey and a bottle nearby. A ladder of light extends from the ground to a bright, heavenly realm. Several angels are shown ascending the ladder, carrying a crown and a scepter. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape with a large tree on the right and a landscape with a stone on the left. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the sky illuminating the ladder and the angels.

Implications for Our Worship

The *presence* of Christ

The *constant* of Christ (not
form or style)

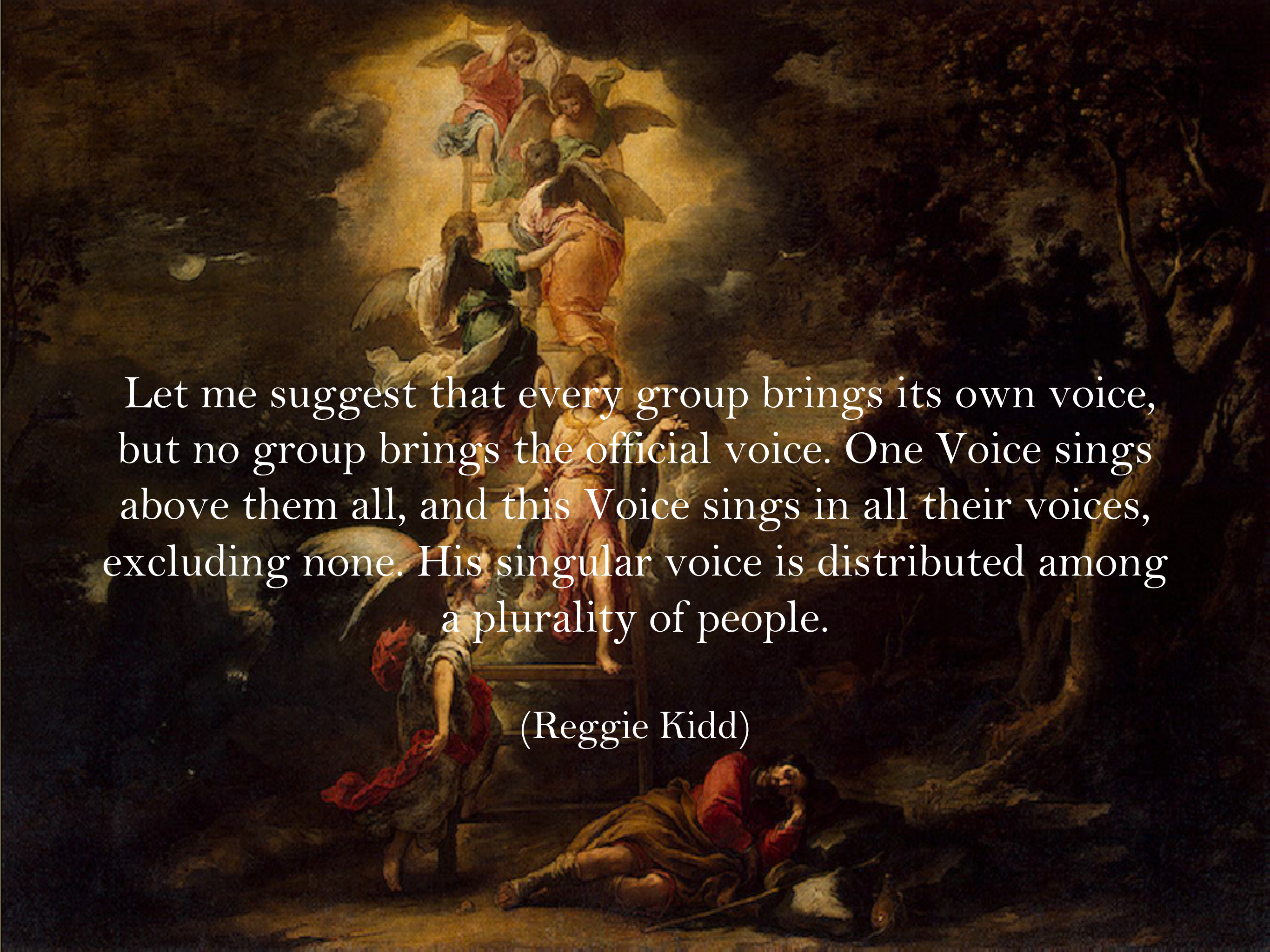


WITH ONE VOICE

Discovering Christ's Song
in Our Worship

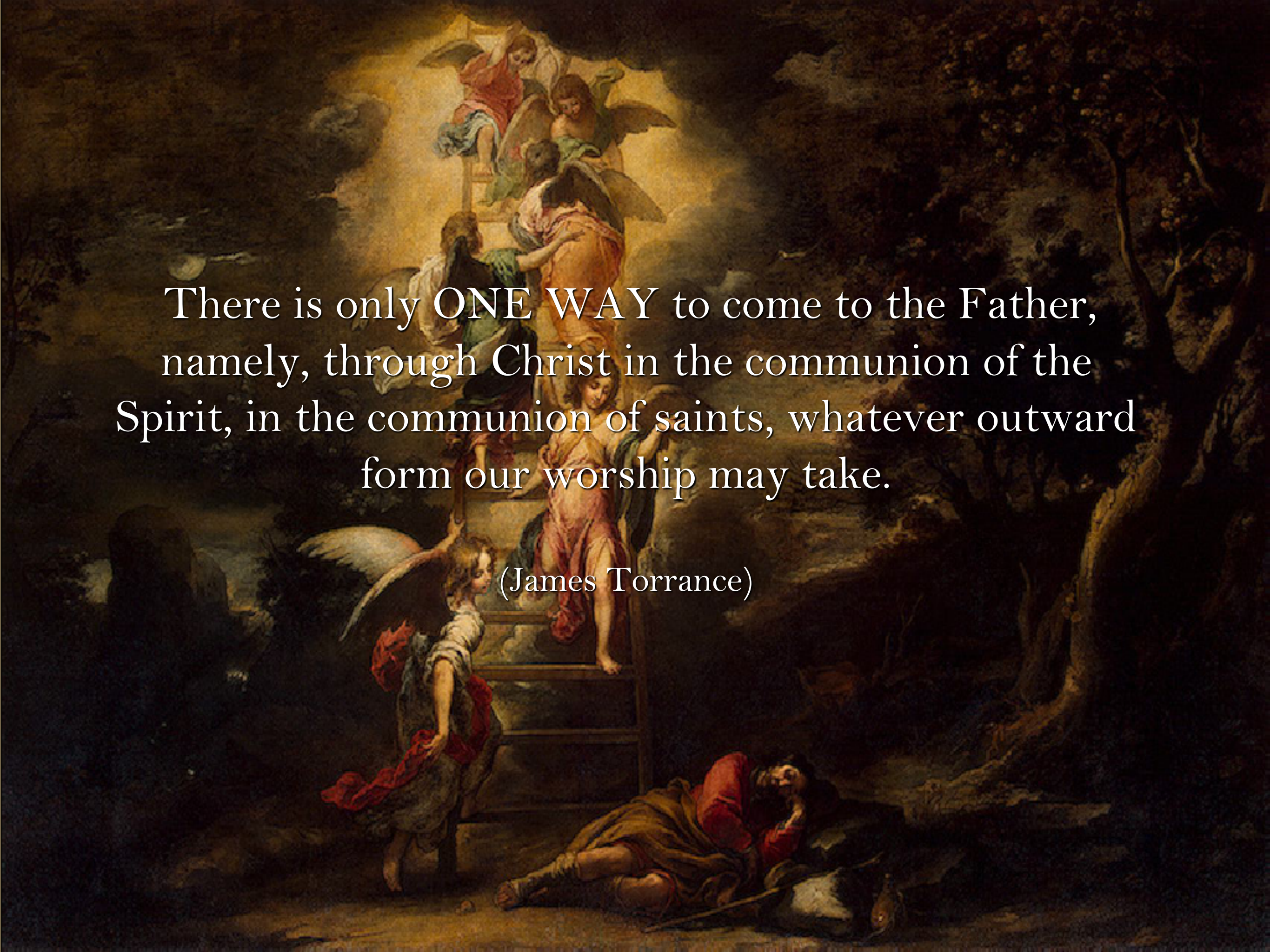
REGGIE M. KIDD

Foreword by Robert E. Webber



Let me suggest that every group brings its own voice,
but no group brings the official voice. One Voice sings
above them all, and this Voice sings in all their voices,
excluding none. His singular voice is distributed among
a plurality of people.

(Reggie Kidd)



There is only **ONE WAY** to come to the Father,
namely, through Christ in the communion of the
Spirit, in the communion of saints, whatever outward
form our worship may take.

(James Torrance)

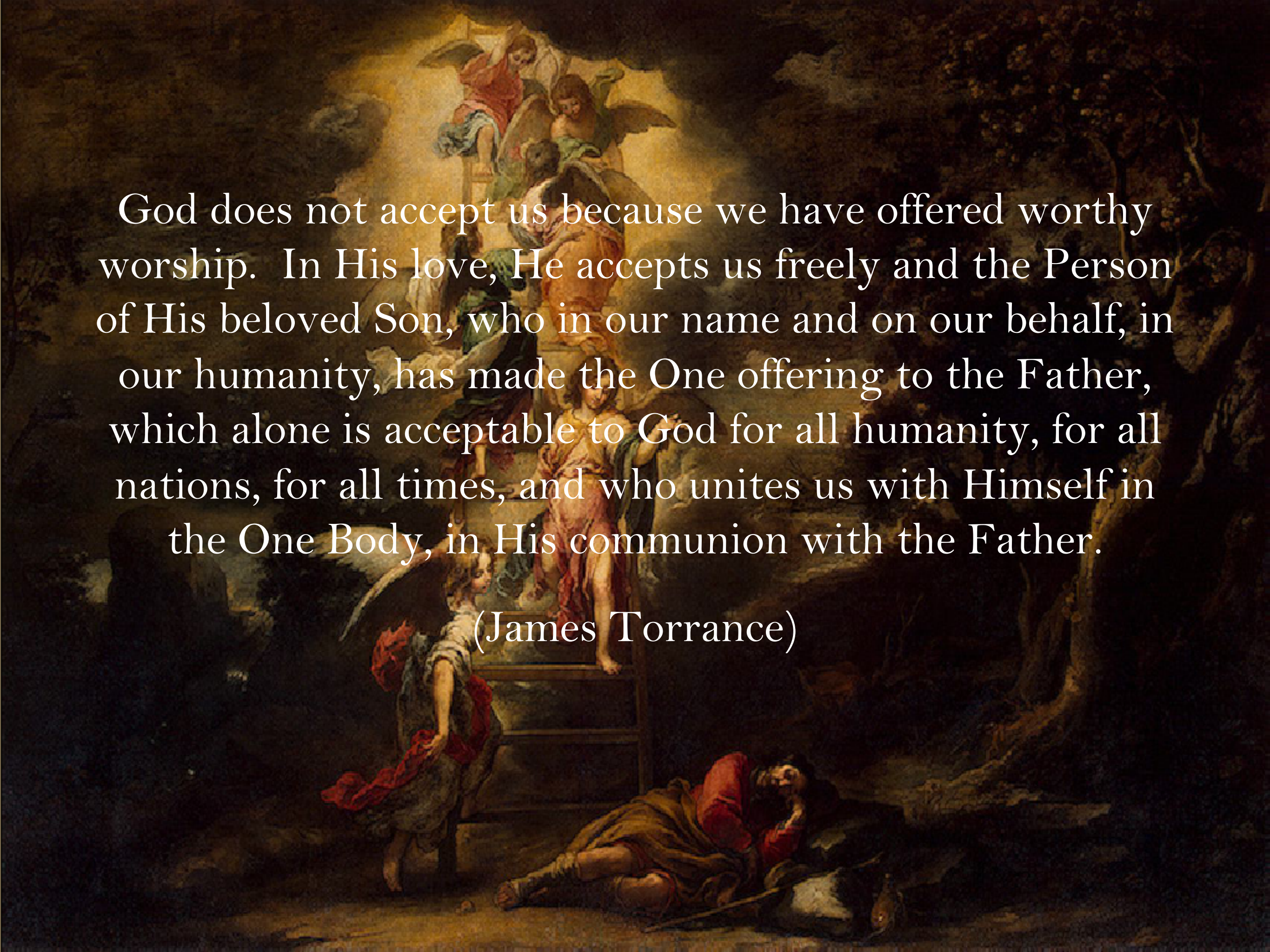


Implications for Our Worship

The *presence* of Christ

The *constant* of Christ (not
form or style)

The *excellence* of Christ



God does not accept us because we have offered worthy worship. In His love, He accepts us freely and the Person of His beloved Son, who in our name and on our behalf, in our humanity, has made the One offering to the Father, which alone is acceptable to God for all humanity, for all nations, for all times, and who unites us with Himself in the One Body, in His communion with the Father.

(James Torrance)



God's grace for our worship!

TRUE FREEDOM: we don't have to worry:

- If our worship was good enough
- If my attitude was good enough
- If our musicians were good enough

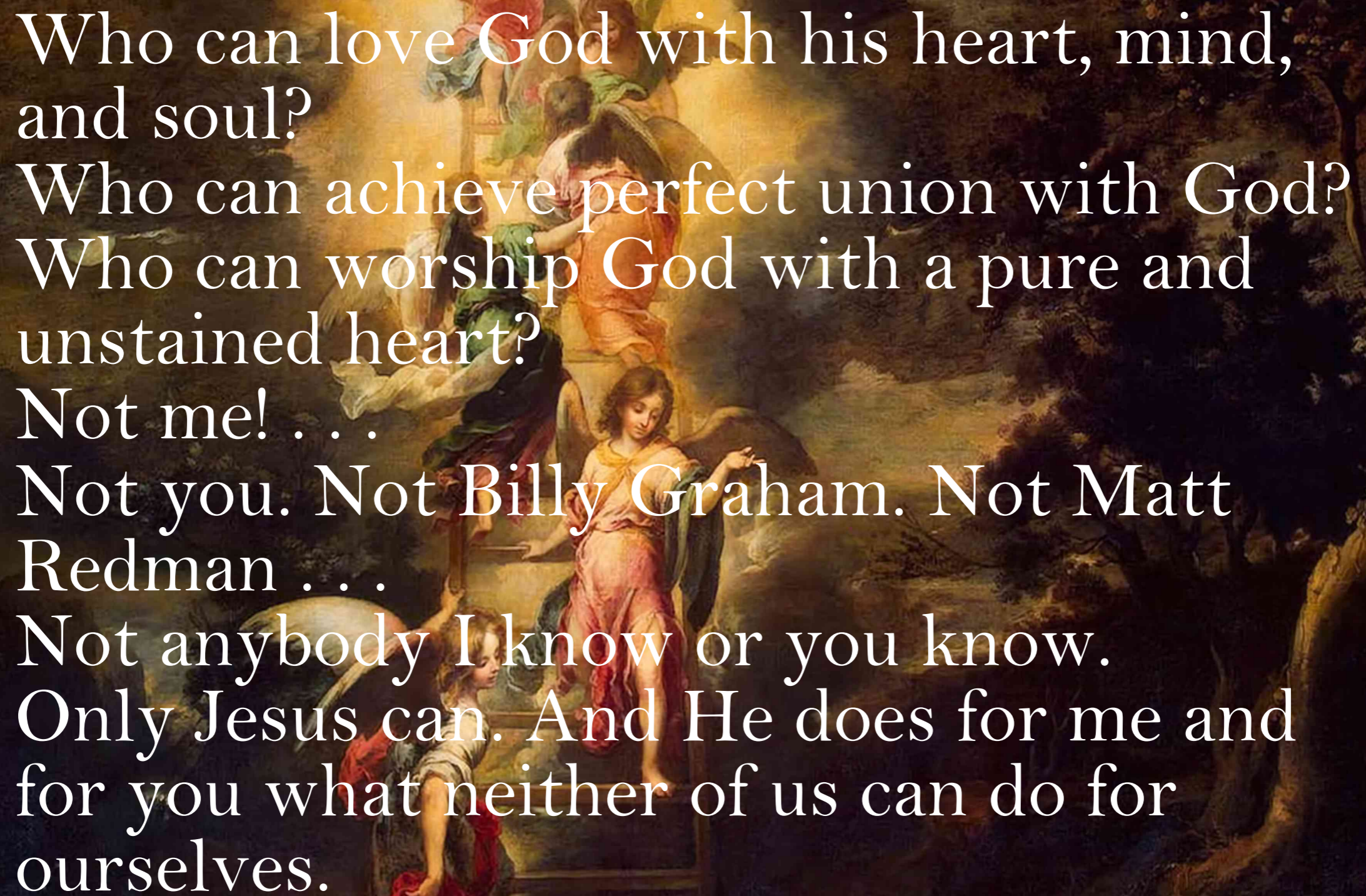


Give Him our best

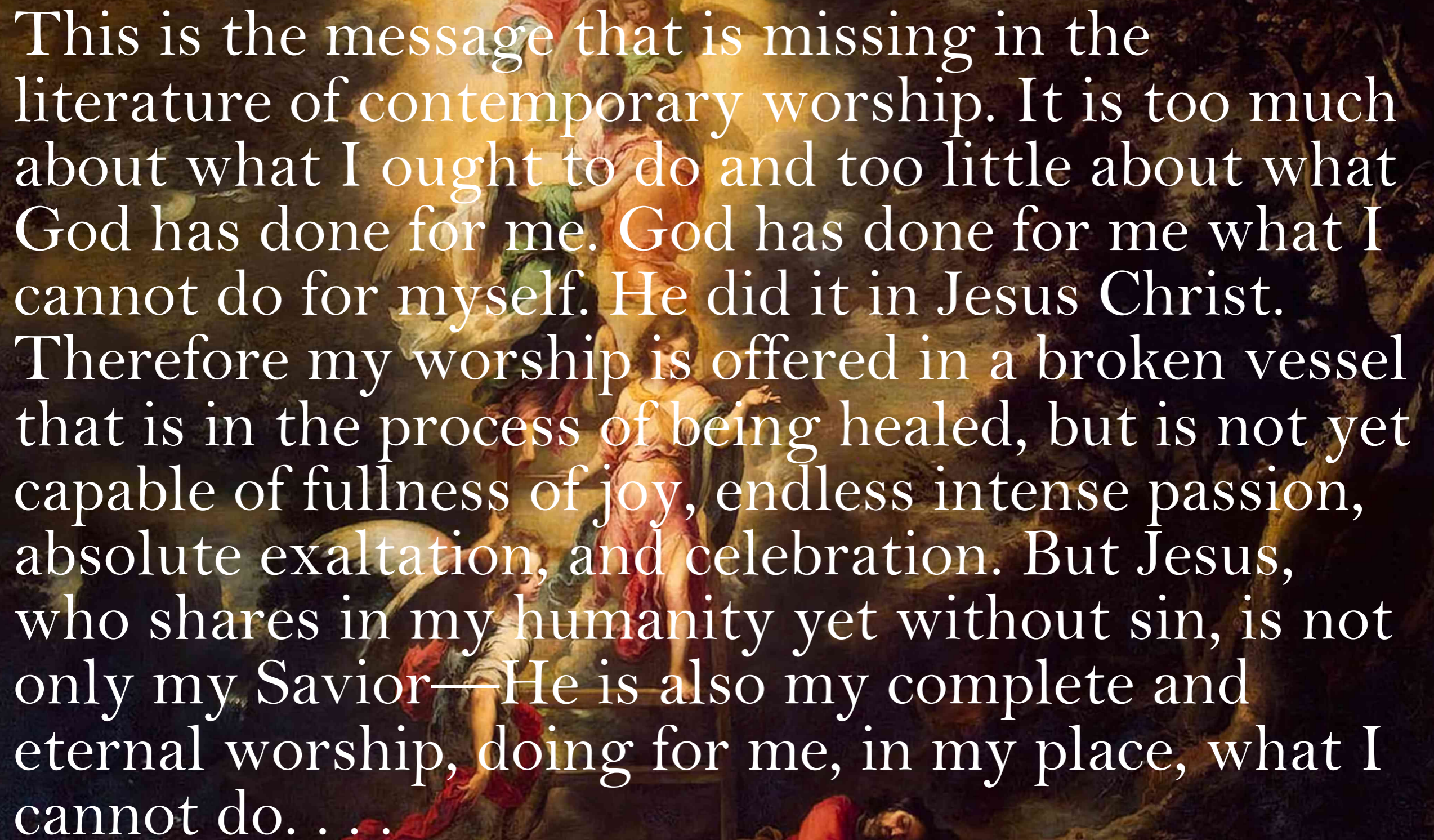
BUT

that is **NOT** why He accepts and delights in our
worship

→ He delights in His Son, whose worship is *always*
good enough



Who can love God with his heart, mind,
and soul?
Who can achieve perfect union with God?
Who can worship God with a pure and
unstained heart?
Not me! . . .
Not you. Not Billy Graham. Not Matt
Redman . . .
Not anybody I know or you know.
Only Jesus can. And He does for me and
for you what neither of us can do for
ourselves.



This is the message that is missing in the literature of contemporary worship. It is too much about what I ought to do and too little about what God has done for me. God has done for me what I cannot do for myself. He did it in Jesus Christ. Therefore my worship is offered in a broken vessel that is in the process of being healed, but is not yet capable of fullness of joy, endless intense passion, absolute exaltation, and celebration. But Jesus, who shares in my humanity yet without sin, is not only my Savior—He is also my complete and eternal worship, doing for me, in my place, what I cannot do. . . .



He is eternally interceding to the Father on our behalf. And for this reason, our worship is always in and through Christ.

...
Thanks for Jesus Christ, who is my worship. We are free! And in gratitude, we offer our stumbling worship in the name of Jesus with thanksgiving.

(Robert Webber)



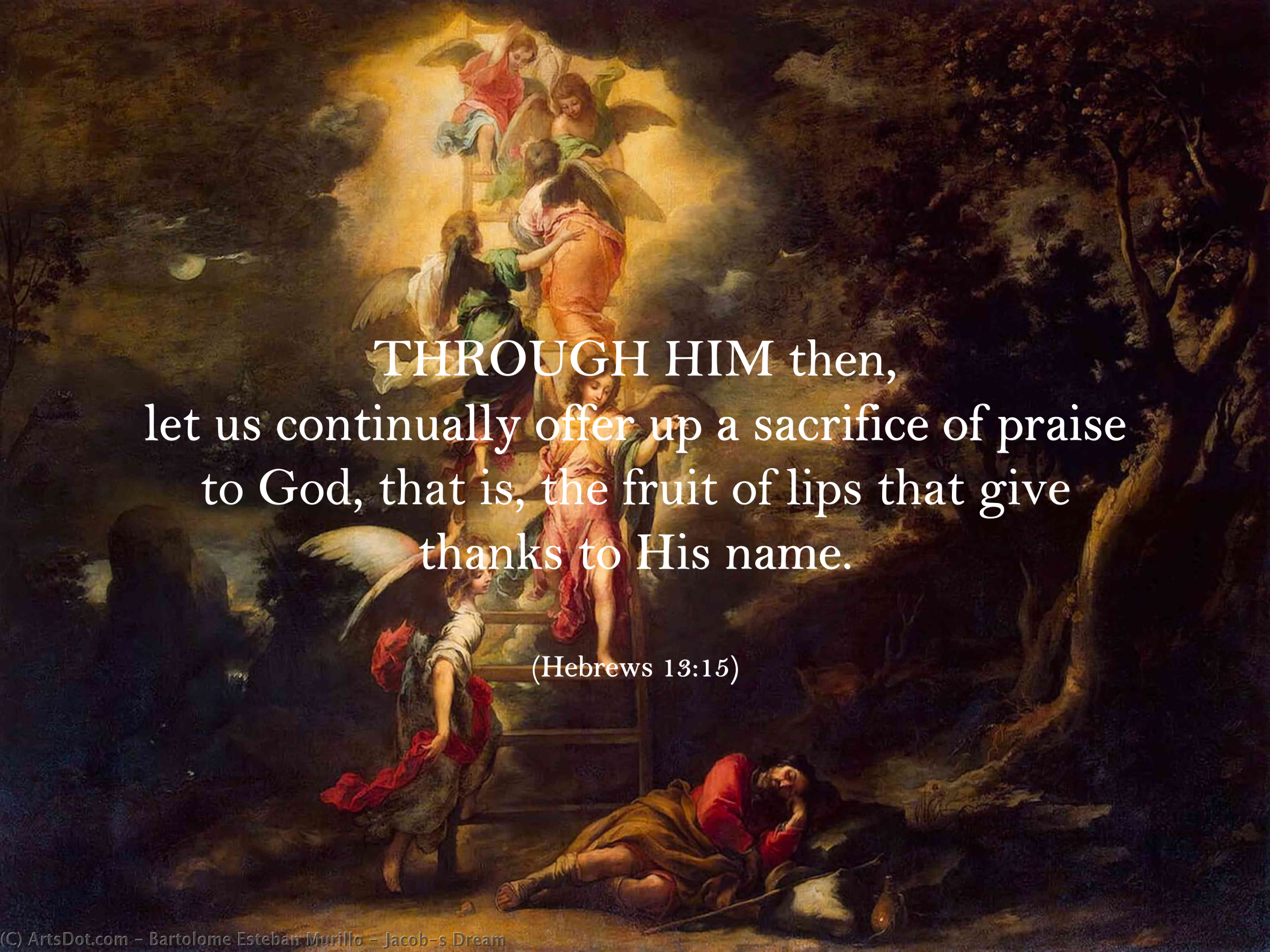
ALL OF GRACE

What God requires, He provides.

A Baroque painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo depicting Jacob's Dream. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape at night. A wooden ladder is positioned against a large, gnarled tree. Several angels are shown ascending the ladder, illuminated by a bright, golden light emanating from the top. At the base of the ladder, a man in a red tunic and brown cloak lies on the ground, appearing to be in a state of unconsciousness or death. A large, dark rock is visible on the left side of the scene. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and spiritual.

BREAKOUT

1. What might the implications be for your church?
2. How would you explain/teach this truth to others?



THROUGH HIM then,
let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise
to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give
thanks to His name.

(Hebrews 13:15)

A painting by Bartolome Esteban Murillo titled 'Jacob's Dream'. The scene is set in a dark, wooded landscape at night. A wooden ladder extends from the ground to a bright, glowing light in the sky. Several angels are positioned on the ladder, appearing to assist or guide. At the base of the ladder, a man in a red tunic and brown cloak lies on the ground, sleeping. A pack and a staff are visible near him. The overall atmosphere is one of divine revelation and spiritual journey.

Martin Luther and
Johann von Staupitz

