

It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
And to sing praises to Your name,  
O Most High;

To declare Your lovingkindness in  
the morning and Your faithfulness by  
night.

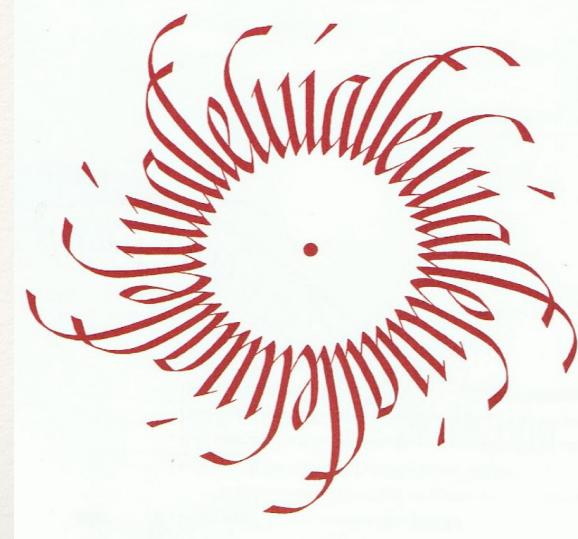
For You, O Lord, have made me glad  
by what You have done; I will sing  
for joy at the works of Your hands.

(Psalm 92:1-2,4)

# Biblical Worship

## Unit 2

THE CENTRALITY  
OF WORSHIP IN  
GOD'S PROGRAM



The background of the image is a dramatic sunset or sunrise sky. The sky is filled with wispy, horizontal clouds that are heavily tinted with warm, fiery colors of orange, red, and yellow. These colors are more concentrated in the lower half of the image, fading into a darker blue-grey at the top. The overall effect is one of a serene yet powerful natural scene.

Everybody Worships

# COMPETING WORSHIPS

The problem is NOT that there are people in this world who do not worship

+

Rather it is that so many worship the wrong thing

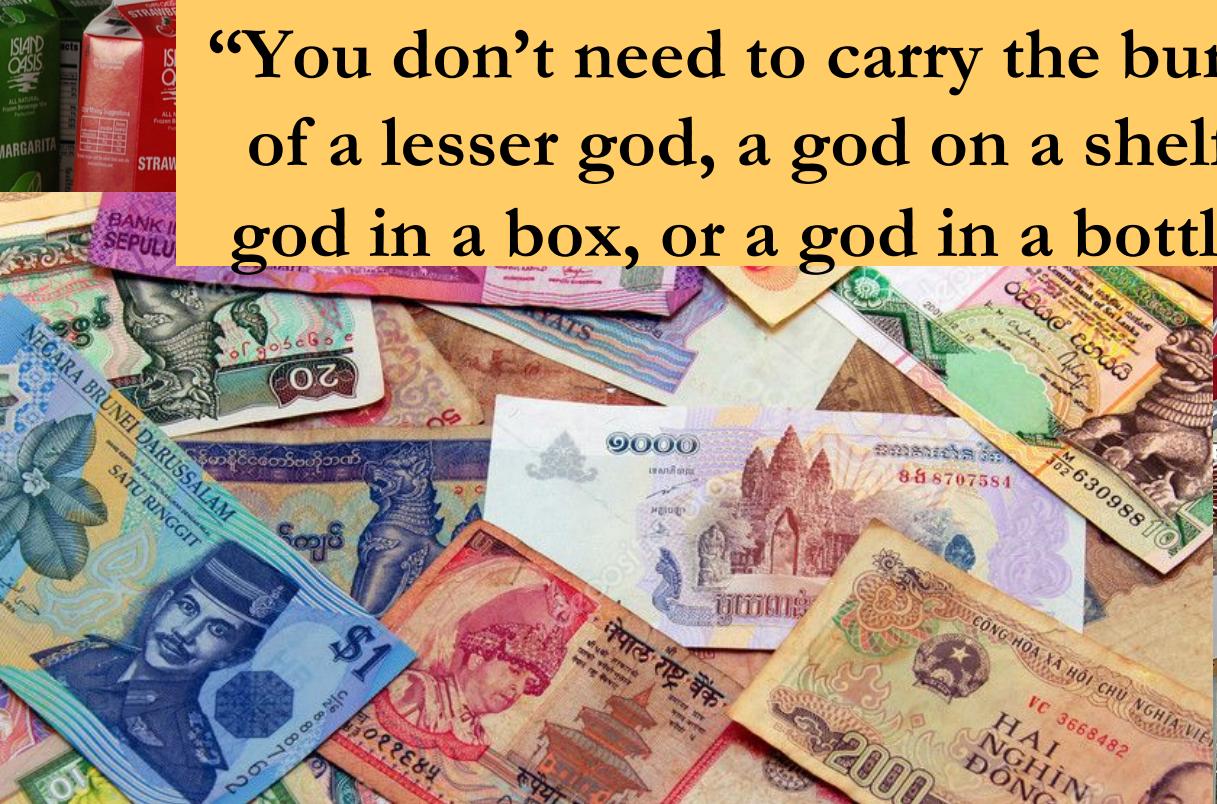


A scene from the classic film "The Wizard of Oz". Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion are gathered in a dimly lit room, looking up at the complex machinery of the Wizard's castle. The Tin Man is on the left, Dorothy is next to him, the Scarecrow is behind her, and the Cowardly Lion is on the right. The machinery is filled with green lights and mechanical parts.

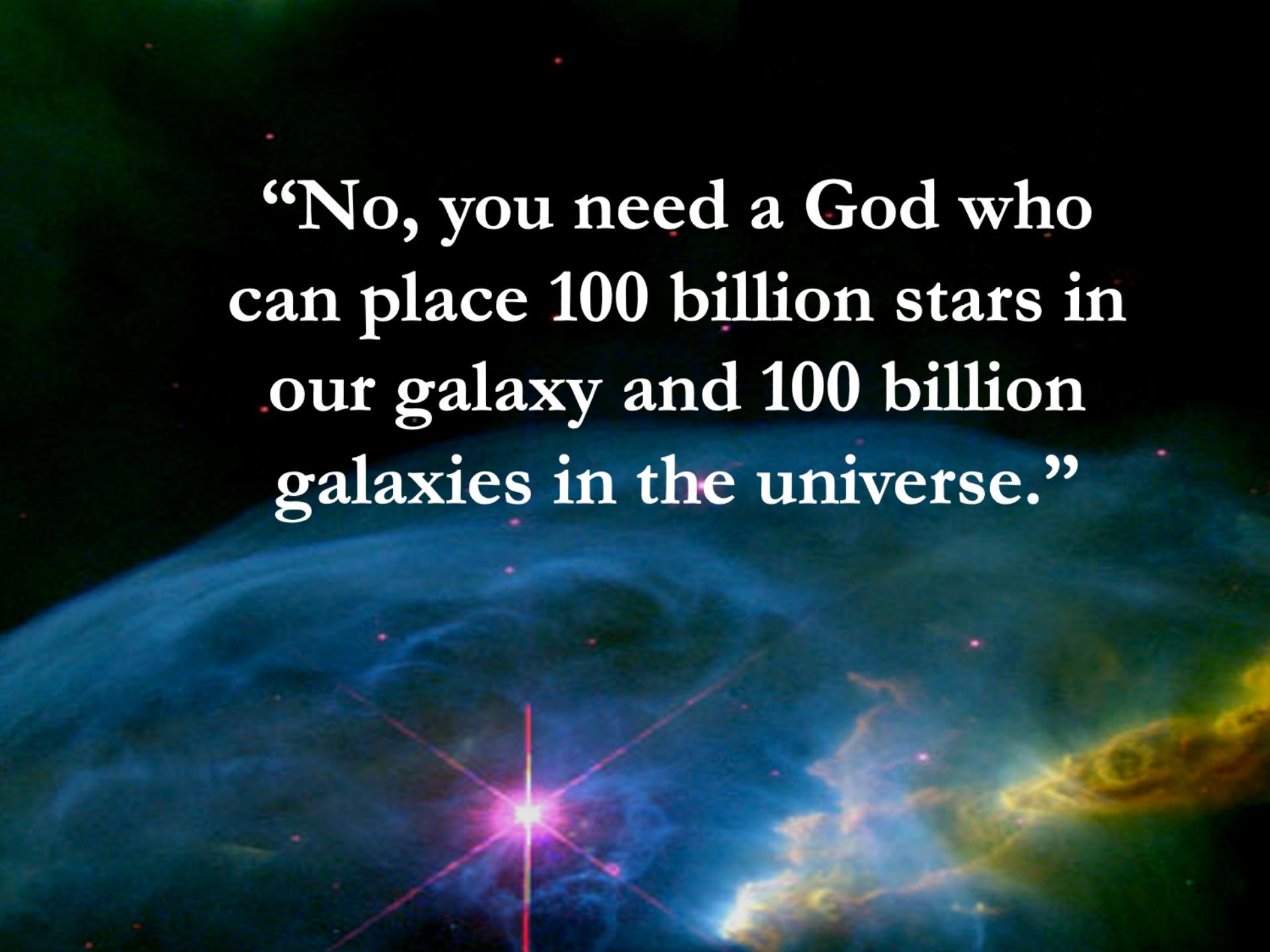
**Max Lucado:**  
**“You don’t need what**  
**Dorothy found.”**



“You don’t need to carry the burden of a lesser god, a god on a shelf, a god in a box, or a god in a bottle.”



**“No, you need a God who  
can place 100 billion stars in  
our galaxy and 100 billion  
galaxies in the universe.”**



# COMPETING WORSHIPS

“The great hindrance to worship is not that we are a pleasure-seeking people, but that we are willing to settle for such pitiful pleasures.”

+

(John Piper)

# COMPETING WORSHIPS



a competing vision of what  
constitutes “the good life”

# COMPETING WORSHIPS

*“My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”*

*(Jeremiah 2:11-13)*

# **TRUE WORSHIP**

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



(Psalm 16:11)



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### “Competing Worships”

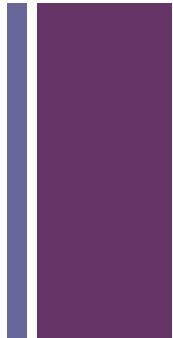
1. What false worships do you see people pursuing in the culture around you?
2. What competing worships/broken cisterns do you struggle with in your own life?



# **+ The Centrality of Worship in Creation**



# God the Creator



- 1. Most basic truth about God
  2. First truth about God – Genesis 1:1
  3. All that is not God was made by Him

*“God creates, out of generous love, all that is not God, so that He can fill it with His glory.” (N. T. Wright)*

- 4. A fundamental distinction



OT Testimonies  
to the fundamental  
distinction

**O God, who is like You?  
(Psalm 71:19)**

**O Lord, there is none like  
You, nor is there any God  
besides You. (1 Chronicles  
17:20)**

**There is no one like the Lord  
our God. (Exodus 8:10)**

**“I am God, and there is no  
other; I am God, and there is no  
one like Me.” (Isaiah 46:9)**

**“I am the Lord, that is My  
name; I will not give My glory  
to another.” (Isaiah 42:8)**



# True worship presupposes this fundamental distinction

- *“You are God, and I am not.”*

“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

(Revelation 4:11)

Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. (Psalm 95:6)



# True worship presupposes this fundamental distinction

- *“You are God, and I am not.”*

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, “Do not do that! I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”

(Revelation 22:8-9; cf. 19:10)



# + The Centrality of Worship in the Fall



The Fall challenged this fundamental distinction: God's unique glory



*Lucifer/Satan:*

“I will make myself like the Most High.”

(Isaiah 14:14)



The Fall challenged this fundamental distinction: God's unique glory

*Lucifer/Satan:*

**"I will make  
MYSELF like the  
Most High."**

**(Isaiah 14:14)**



The Fall challenged this fundamental distinction: God's unique glory



*Adam & Eve*

[Satan said:] “YOU  
will be *like God.*”

(Genesis 3:5)



## *Adam & Eve*

For since the creation of  
the world  
His invisible attributes,  
His eternal power  
and divine nature,  
have been clearly seen,  
being understood  
through what has been  
made, so that they are  
without excuse.

For even though they  
knew God,  
they did not  
honor [glorify] Him  
*as God*  
or give thanks.

(Romans 1:20-21)



False  
presupposition →  
False  
worship  
worship

Professing to be wise,  
they became fools, and  
exchanged the glory of  
the incorruptible God for  
an image in the form of  
corruptible man and of  
birds and four-footed  
animals and crawling  
creatures. (Romans 1:22-23)

For they exchanged the  
truth of God for a lie,  
and worshiped and  
served the creature  
rather than the Creator.  
(Romans 1:25)

**WORSHIP** was the  
central issue  
in the Fall

*WHOM are you going  
to worship?*

+

# COMPETING WORSHIPS

The problem is NOT that there are people in this world who do not worship

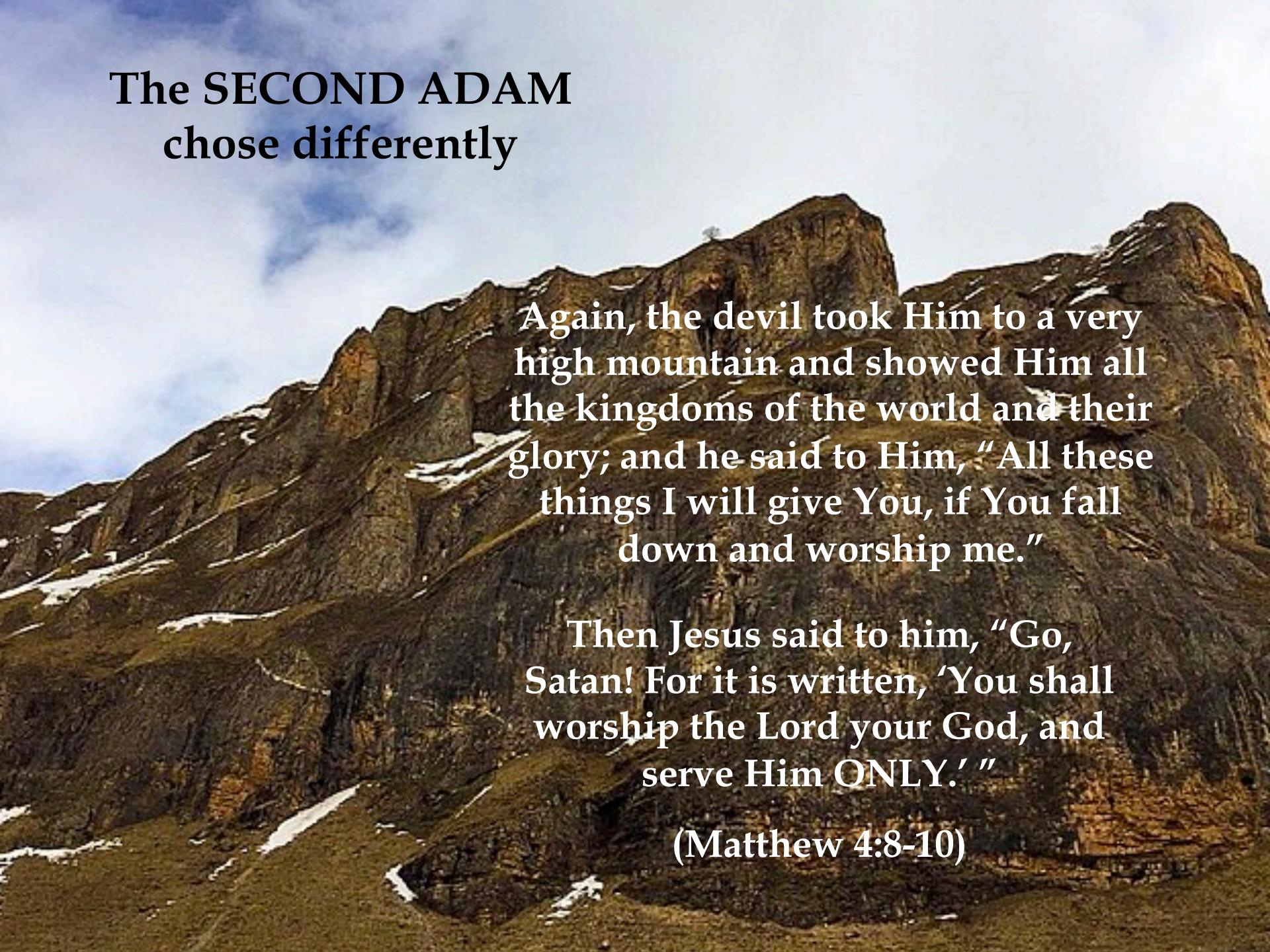
Rather it is that so many worship the wrong thing



What's all-important is WHOM you worship

# The Centrality of Worship in Redemption

# The SECOND ADAM chose differently

A scenic view of a rugged mountain range. The mountains are covered in dark green vegetation, with patches of white snow clinging to their rocky slopes. The sky above is a clear, pale blue with wispy white clouds.

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him ONLY.’ ”

(Matthew 4:8-10)

**Why did Christ come? Why was He conceived?  
Why was He born? Why was He crucified? Why  
did He rise again? Why is He now at the right  
hand of the Father?**

The answer to all these questions is,  
“in order that He might make  
*worshipers out of rebels;*  
in order that He might restore us again to the  
place of worship we knew when we were first  
created.”

(A. W. Tozer)

## ROMANS 1

(v. 21) Enabling us to glorify God as God, and give thanks

(v. 23) Enabling us to exchange images for the glory of God

(v. 25) Enabling us to exchange the lie for the truth of God

(v. 25) Enabling us to worship and serve the Creator rather  
than the creature

**“But an hour is coming, and now is,  
when the true worshipers  
will worship the Father in spirit and truth;  
for such people the Father seeks  
to be His worshipers.”**

**(John 4:23)**

# The Centrality of Worship in the Gospel

# The Gospel is a call to turn from false to true worship

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God. (1

Thessalonians 1:9)

“Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, Who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. (Acts 14:15)

# The Goal of the Gospel

Therefore, brethren,

since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

let us draw near to God

with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.

(Hebrews 10:19-22)

# The Goal of the Gospel

The triune God has eternally desired to bless His people with the greatest possible gift, and the greatest possible gift He can give is nothing other than the enjoyment of His own eternal, fecund [fruitful] fellowship. Communion in the Son's eternal life of love, glory and giving with the Father in the Spirit constitutes the ultimate blessing of the gospel.

(Andreas Köstenberger & Scott Swain)

# The Goal of the Gospel

O come to the Father

*through Jesus the Son*

And give Him the glory:

*Great things He hath done!*

# Worship and the Gospel

1. God is the Creator, unique in His glory and alone worthy of worship.
2. The Fall usurped God's claim to exclusive worship.
3. Christ came to undo the effects of the fall and to enable true worship.
4. The Gospel then is a call to all mankind to come to the Father through Christ, a call to worldwide worship, to the glory of God.



# **The Centrality of Worship in Missions**



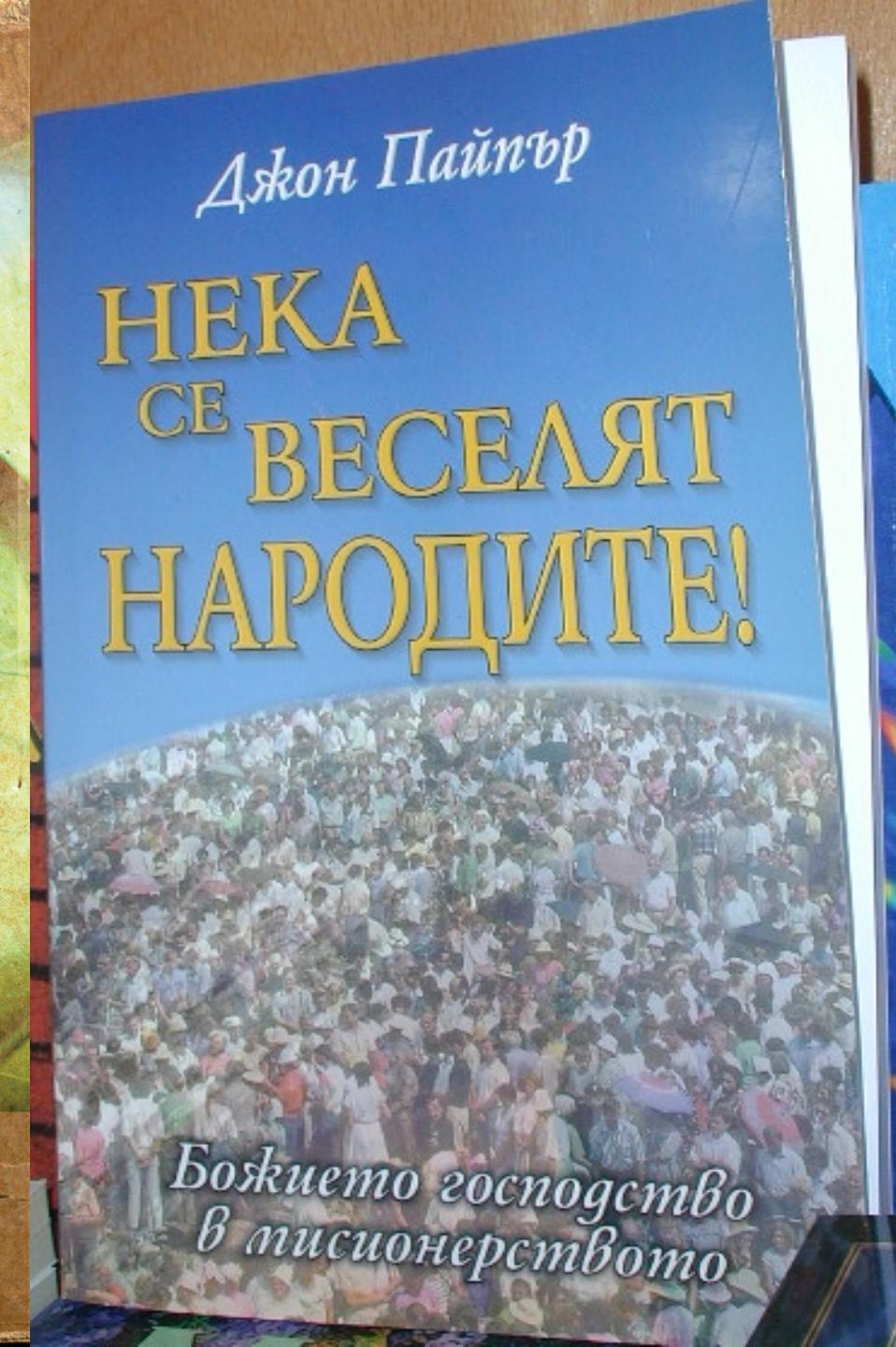
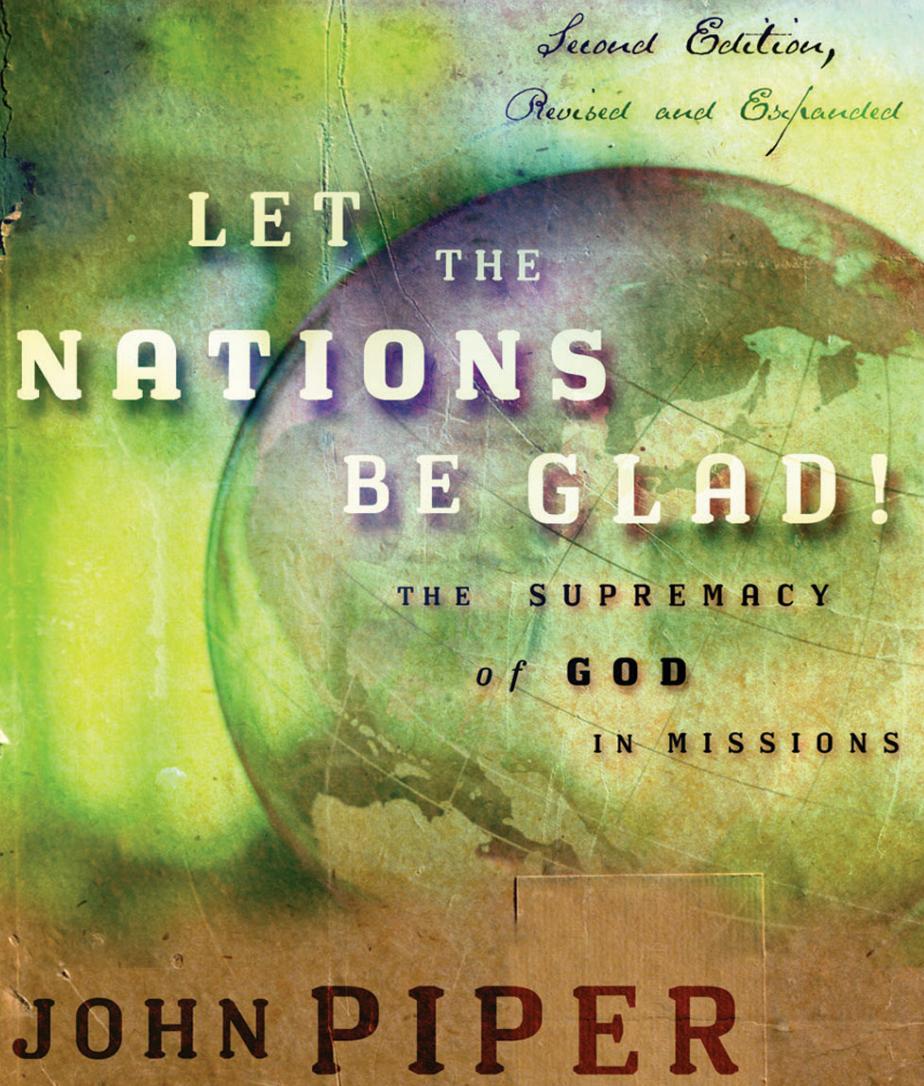
# **MISSIONS**

**the worldwide application  
of the gospel's call  
for true worship  
to the glory of God**

# MISSIONS

The ultimate missionary compulsion is not simply that there are people who are dying without knowing Christ, nor is it that God has given us the Great Commission to go out into the world; it is that there are areas of the world, whether here or to the ends of the earth, *where God is being robbed of His glory.*

(Eric Alexander)



“Missions is not the ultimate goal  
of the church.  
Worship is.  
Missions exists  
because worship doesn’t. . . .

Missions is a temporary necessity.  
But worship abides forever.”

(John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*)

# Worship is the GOAL of missions

“The goal of missions is the gladness  
of the peoples  
in the greatness of God.”

*‘Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
Let all the peoples praise You.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.’*  
(Psalm 67:3-4)

MISSIONS



WORSHIP



Cultivating Christ-honoring transformation in communities where He is yet to be worshiped.



Home  
Welcome!

About  
Our DNA

Go  
Serve

Give  
Donate

Activities  
What we're up to

Articles  
And Media

Resources  
Tools

Contact

## Cycle of Transformation

Using everyday skills to meet community needs with the love of Christ.

- Cycle of Transformation

Our Vision

Our Mission

Distinctives



## Vision

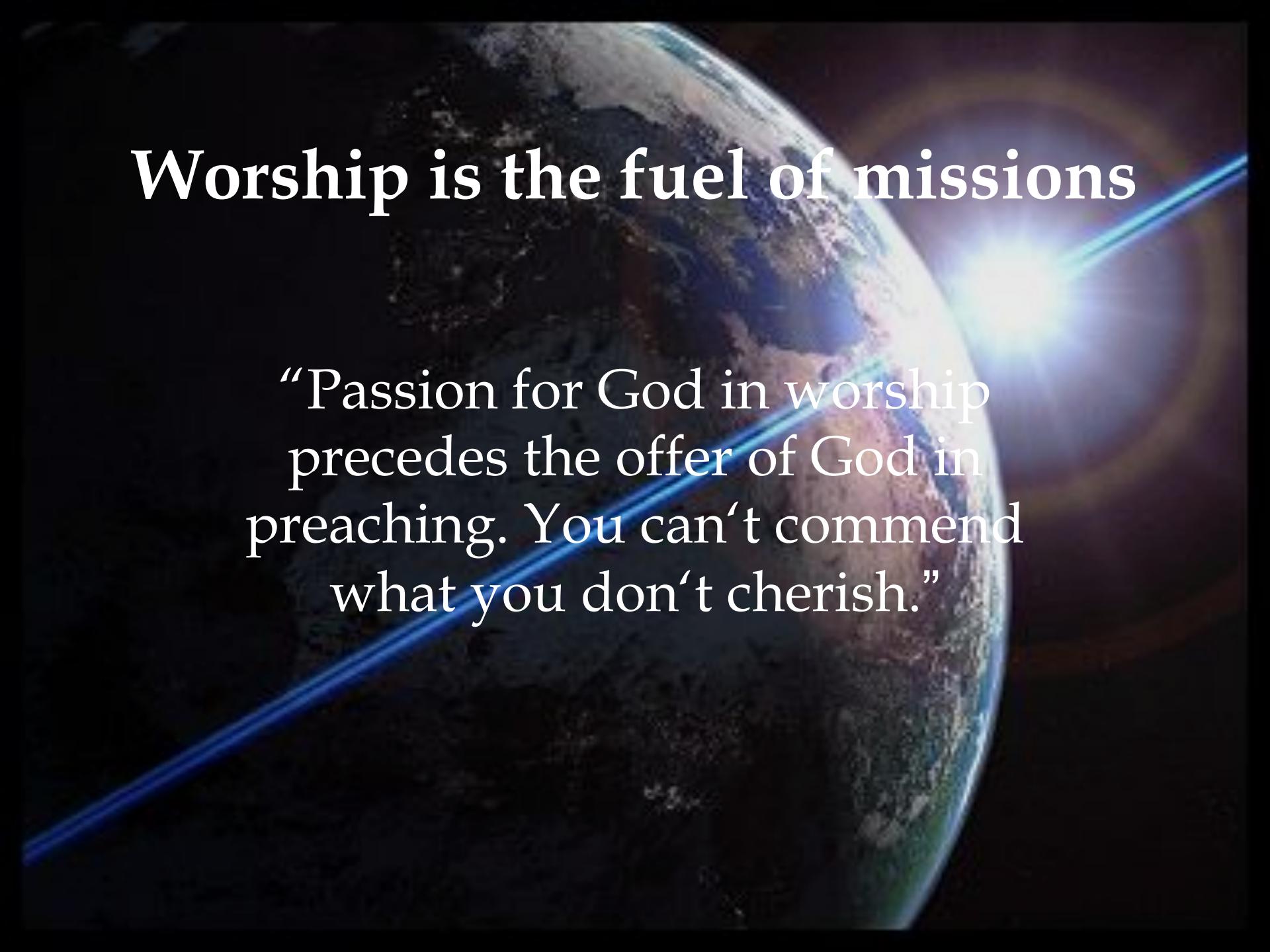


The vision of Christar is to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation in communities where He is yet to be worshiped.

- Christ-honoring transformation - Transformation speaks to the process as well as the outcome. In the establishment of indigenous churches we pursue a Christ-honoring influence on the community at large. As workers who partner with God in His work, we are a part of the transformation process that God is bringing about. God's promise in Revelation 5:9 is clear. People from every tongue, tribe, people and nation will worship God in eternity. Our vision is to go to those people who are not accounted for in the eternal roll call of nations!

Share

# Worship is the fuel of missions



“Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can’t commend what you don’t cherish.”

# Worship is also the FUEL of missions

“Passion for God in worship  
precedes the offer of God  
in preaching.

You can’t commend  
what you don’t cherish.”

*WORSHIP* → *MISSIONS*

# Worship is also the FUEL of missions

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Let all the peoples praise You.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.’*  
(Psalm 67:3-4)

WORSHIP → MISSIONS

Praise His name, we are called to  
*doxological evangelism*:

If we do not praise His name,  
we do not preach the gospel.

(Edmund Clowney, *Urbana* 1976)

*WORSHIP* → *MISSIONS*

Worship and mission are so bound together in the economy of God that you really cannot have one without the other.

No one can truly worship God and at the same time have an apparently total indifference to whether anyone else is worshiping Him or not.

True worship and true mission always go together.

(Eric Alexander, Urbana, 1981)

*WORSHIP* → *MISSIONS*



## Medical Ministry



By expressing compassion for suffering people, the medical work of CrossWorld demonstrates the love of Christ in a tangible way.

At the same time, it contributes to meeting the needs of the whole person. In so doing, bridges of friendship are often built and the Gospel can be shared in an atmosphere of trust and respect.

Our medical teams encounter AIDS, malaria, respiratory diseases, malnutrition, parasites, tuberculosis, fractures, injuries, pregnancy complications, tumors, burns, and lack of basic health care knowledge. Low literacy, lack of water, a high death rate, low income are just some of the factors that contribute to great physical and spiritual need.

Help us carry the love of Christ all over the world. Check out [opportunities](#) and [Get Involved](#).

### WILLS GUIDE



Wills Guide  
Leaving A Legacy

**Leaving a Legacy**  
- There are a variety of ways to plan for your family and loved ones with a will or living trust, while also investing in the growth of God's kingdom.

### ONLINE GIVING



You can give [online](#) now to any Crossworld Missionary or Project.

Would you rather give by check or ACH? All the details are in our [Give](#) section.

### NEWS HEADLINES

# Paul, the Gospel and the Nations in Romans

*For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy. (Romans 15:8-9a)*

“The aim was *worship*. Notice: It’s not just that the Gentiles might receive God’s mercy or simply experience God’s mercy, but that they *glorify God* for His mercy.

The aim of the gospel among the nations is not man-centered. Paul does not say, ‘Christ became a servant in order that the Gentiles might receive mercy.’ He says, ‘Christ became a servant in order that the Gentiles might *glorify God* for receiving mercy.’ The ultimate aim of the gospel is God—God glorified for His mercy.’ (John Piper)

# God's Goal for the Nations

*God be gracious to us and bless us,  
And cause His face to shine upon us—  
That Your way may be known on the earth,  
Your salvation among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
Let all the peoples praise You.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.*

*(Psalm 67:1-4)*

# God's Sufficiency for the Nations

*All the ends of the earth will remember  
and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations  
will worship before You. (Psalm 22:27)*

*'Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.' (Psalm 46:10)*

# God's Sufficiency for the Nations

*All the earth will worship You,  
And will sing praises to You. (Psalm 66:4)*

*All nations whom You have made  
shall come and worship before You,  
O Lord, And they shall glorify Your name.  
(Psalm 86:9)*

“Probably the hardest thought of all  
for our natural egotism to entertain  
is that God does not need our help.

We commonly represent Him as a  
busy, eager, somewhat frustrated Father  
hurrying about seeking help to carry out

His benevolent plan to bring  
peace and salvation to the world.

The God who worketh all things  
surely needs no help and no helpers.

Too many missionary appeals are based upon this fancied frustration of Almighty God.

An effective speaker can easily excite pity in his hearers, not only for the heathen but for the God who has tried so hard and so long to save them and has failed for want of support.

I fear that thousands of young persons enter Christian service from no higher motive than to help deliver God from the embarrassing situation His love has gotten Him into and His limited abilities seem unable to get Him out of.” (A. W. Tozer)

# God's Goal for the Nations

*God be gracious to us and bless us,  
And cause His face to shine upon us—  
That Your way may be known on the earth,  
Your salvation among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
Let all the peoples praise You.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.  
(Psalm 67:1-4)*

# God's Goal for the Nations

“God is pursuing with omnipotent passion  
a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful  
worshippers for Himself from every tribe  
and tongue and people and nation.”

(John Piper)

# God's Call to the Nations

*Kings of the earth and all peoples;  
Princes and all rulers on earth;  
old men and children. Let them praise the  
For His name alone is exalted;  
His glory is above earth and heaven.*  
*(Psalm 148:11-13)*

# Creative Arts, Missions, and Worship

*Global  
Consultation  
on Music and  
Missions  
Singapore  
Bible College  
2010*

Ron Man  
Worship Resources  
International  
[www.worr.org](http://www.worr.org)

# WHY?

**Why should we use the creative arts?**

--*to contextualize and focus the message of missions*

**Why should we do missions?**

--*so that God will receive the worship of all peoples*

**Why should the peoples worship God?**

--*because He is supremely worthy of all praise*

**GOD**

**worship**

**missions**

**evangel-  
ism**      **disciple-  
ship**

**creative  
arts**

The QUESTION of the ages

WHOM are you going  
to worship?

# The MESSAGE to the nations

## Worship GOD!



# Our Role

to proclaim:

*Praise the Lord, all nations;  
Laud Him, all peoples!*

*(Psalm 117:1)*

*Sing to the LORD a new song;*

*Sing to the LORD, all the earth.*

*Sing to the LORD, bless His name;*

*Proclaim good tidings of His salvation*

*from day to day.*

*Tell of His glory among the nations,*

*His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.*

*For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;*

*He is to be feared above all gods.*

*For all the gods of the peoples are idols,*

*But the LORD made the heavens.*

*(Psalm 96:1-5)*

# DISCUSSION

How will/should this understanding of the relationship between worship and missions impact our missionary endeavors?

# Great Commission

(Matthew 28:28-30)

man-focused

temporary

means

secondary

# Great Commandment

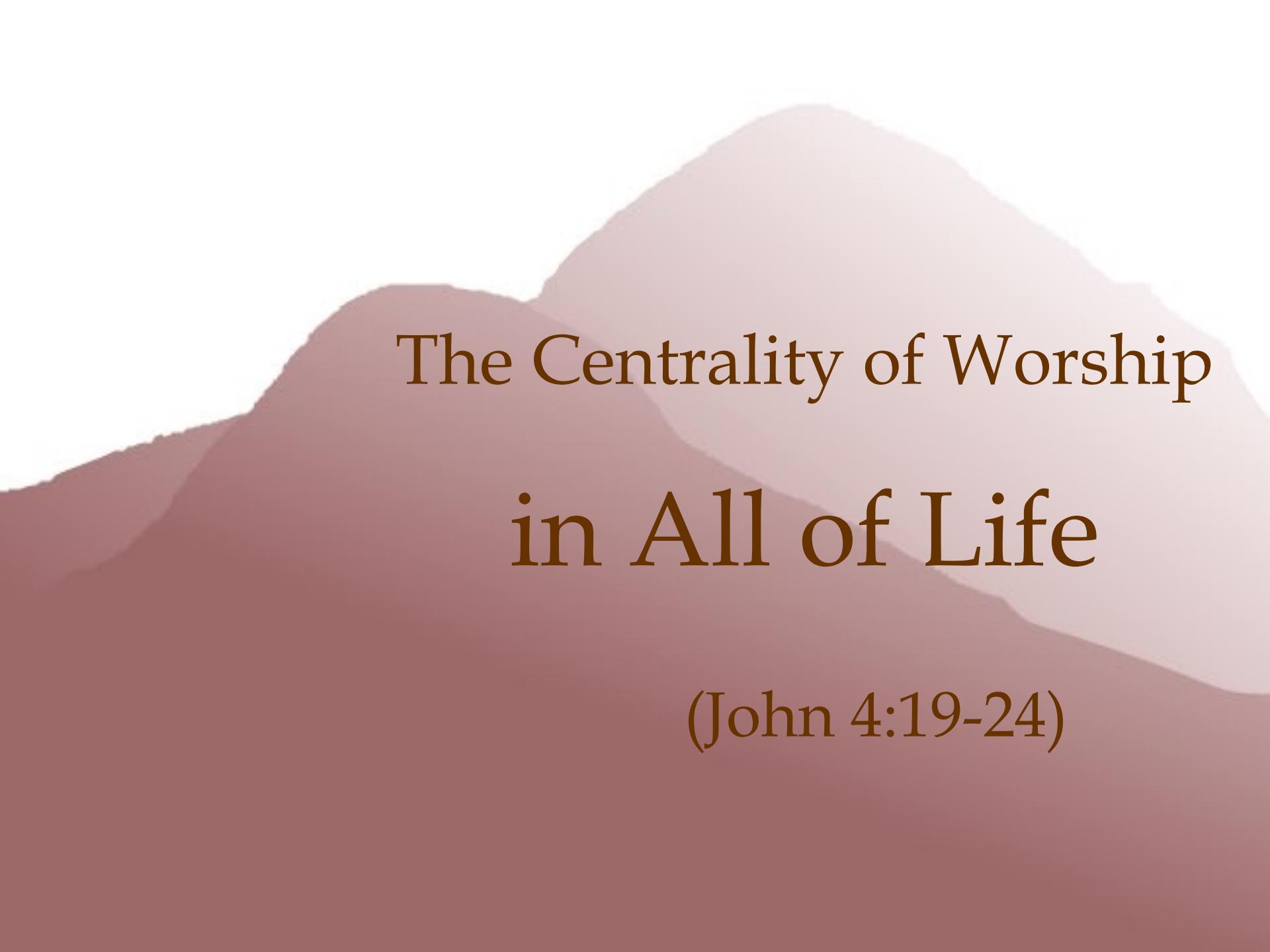
(Matthew 22:35-38)

God-focused

eternal

end

primary



# The Centrality of Worship

## in All of Life

(John 4:19-24)



# Barriers between the individual and God under the Old Covenant

# The Veil

## Exodus 26:33

And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.

In the New Covenant,

# Was Torn

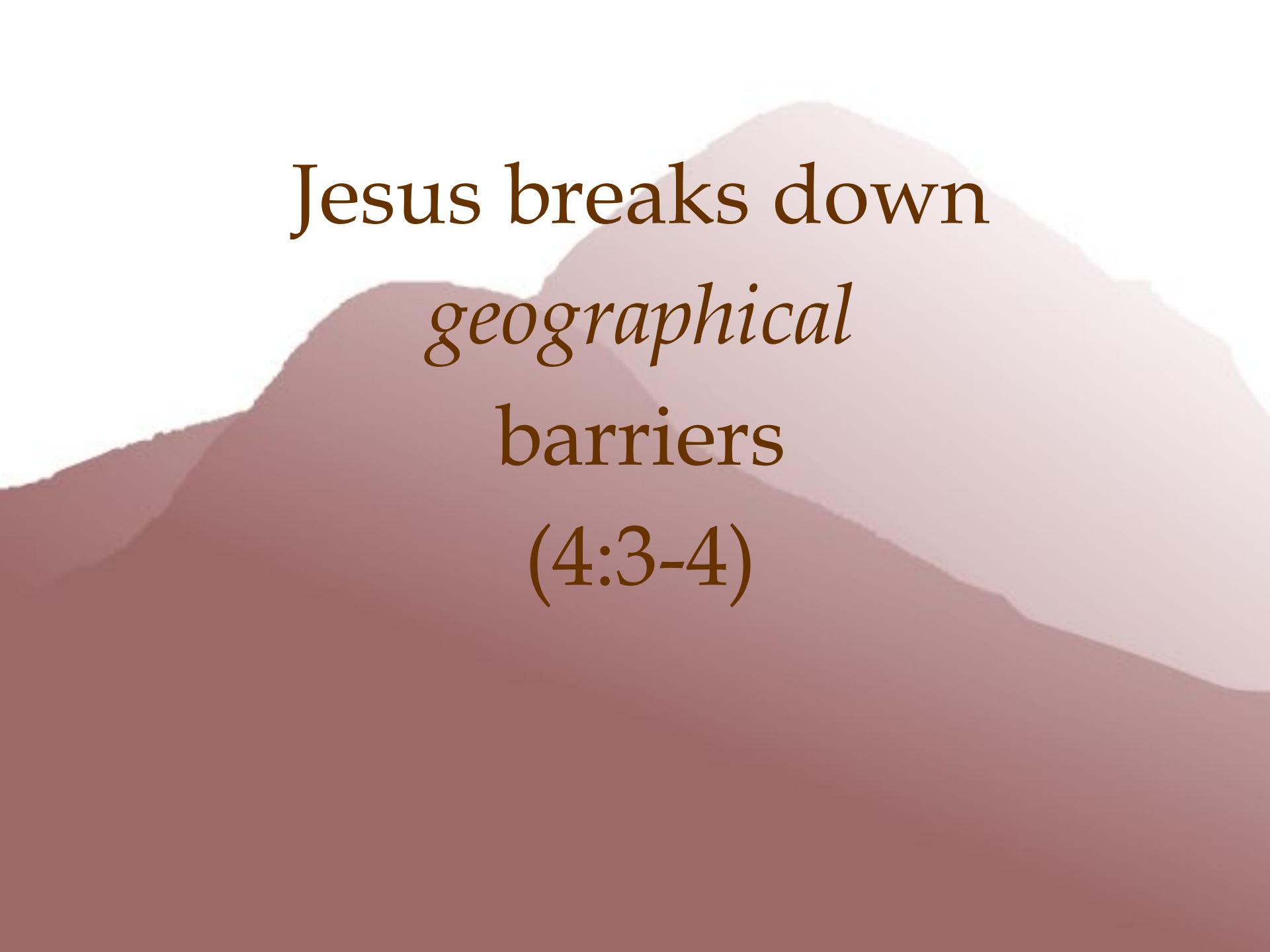
## Matthew 27:51

Then, behold, the **veil** of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

you have direct access to God







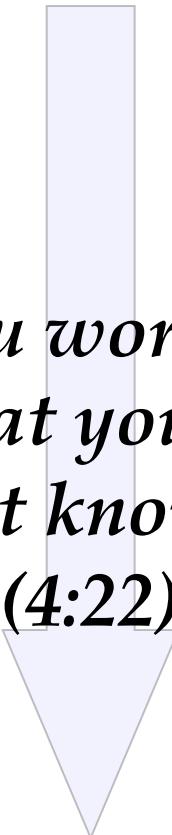
Jesus breaks down  
*geographical*  
barriers  
(4:3-4)

# *Samaritans hated by Jews:*

- Half-breeds
- Rejected most of OT
- Worshiped on Mt. Gerizim

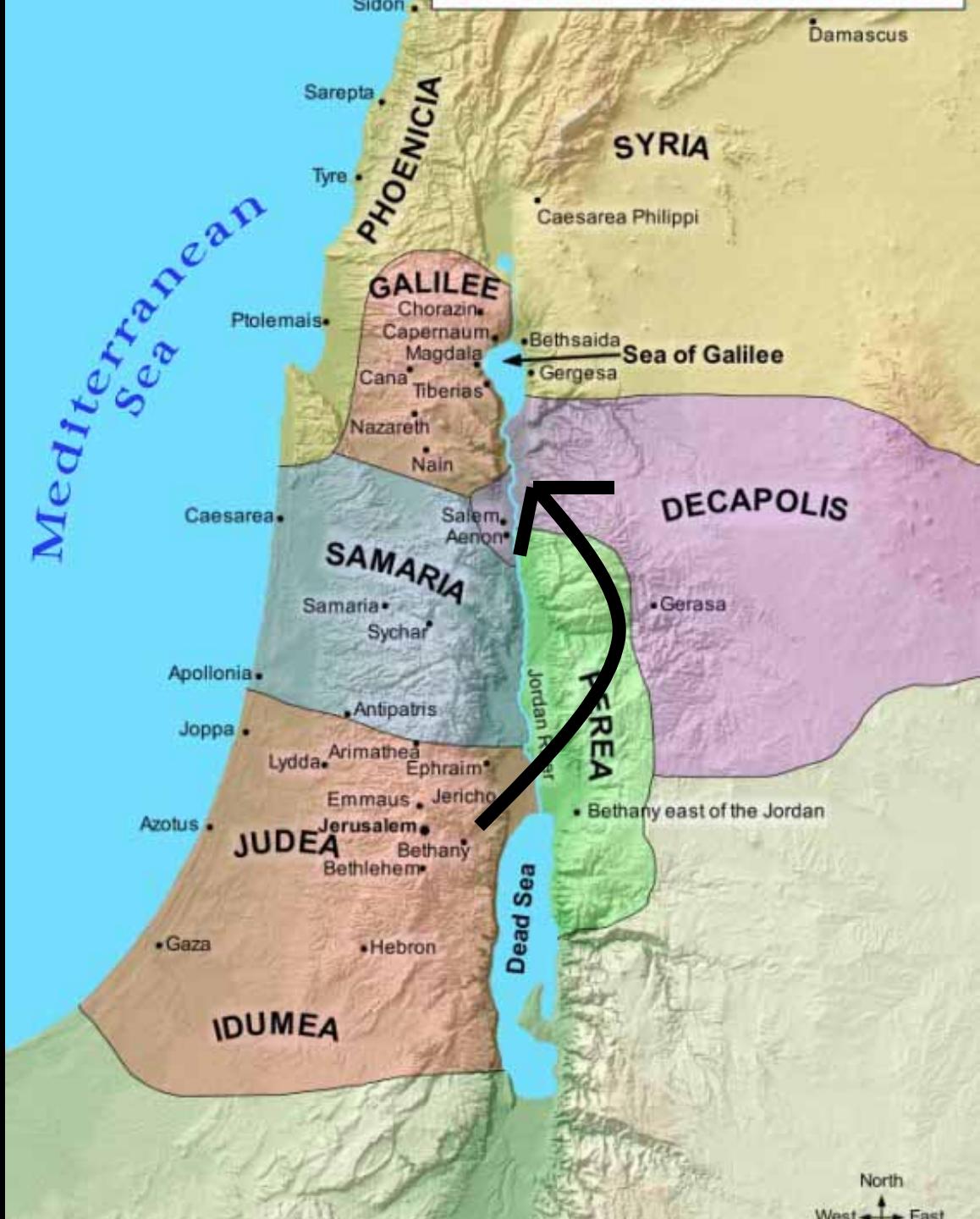
*“you worship  
what you do  
not know”*

(4:22)



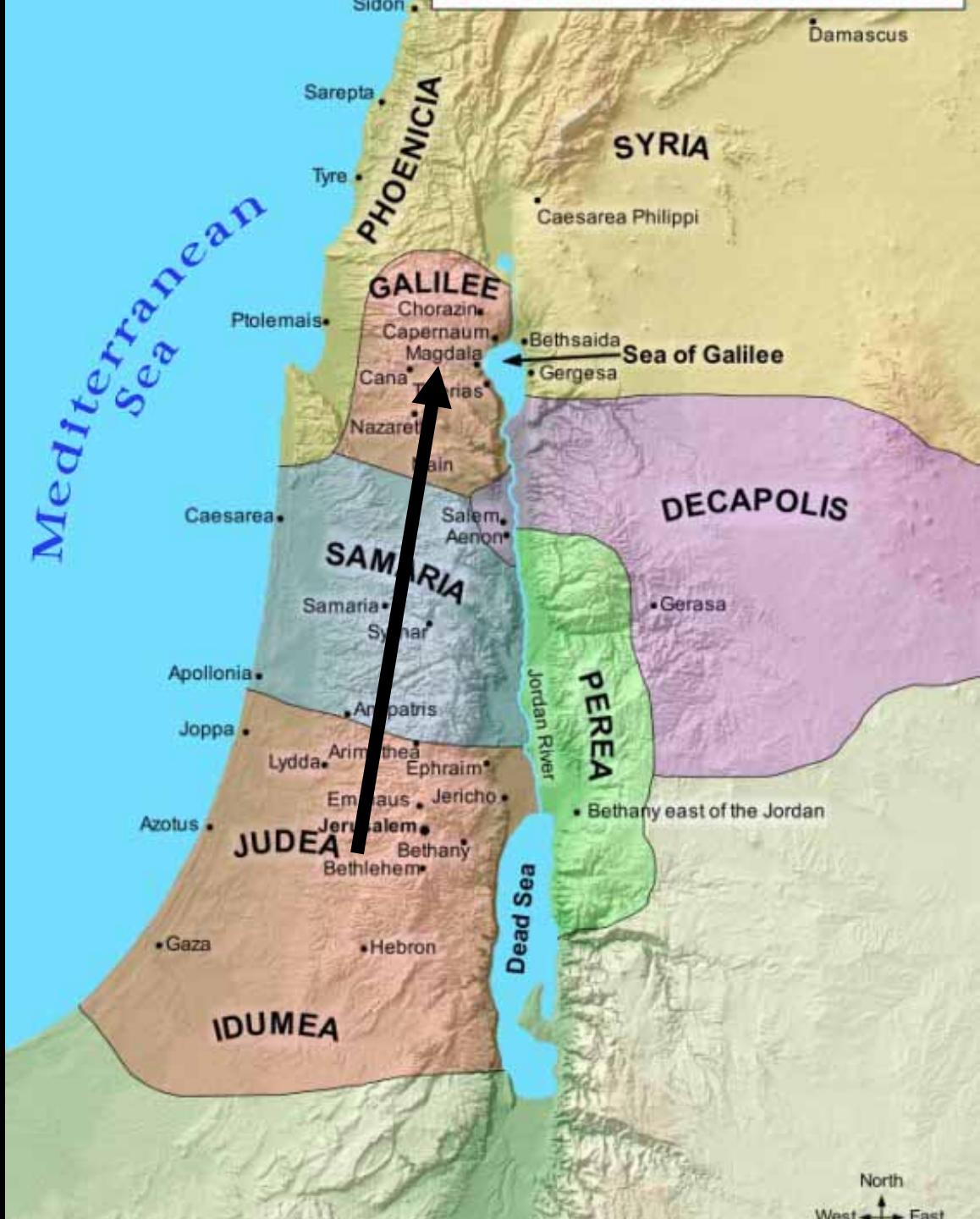
**Mount  
Gerizim  
worship**





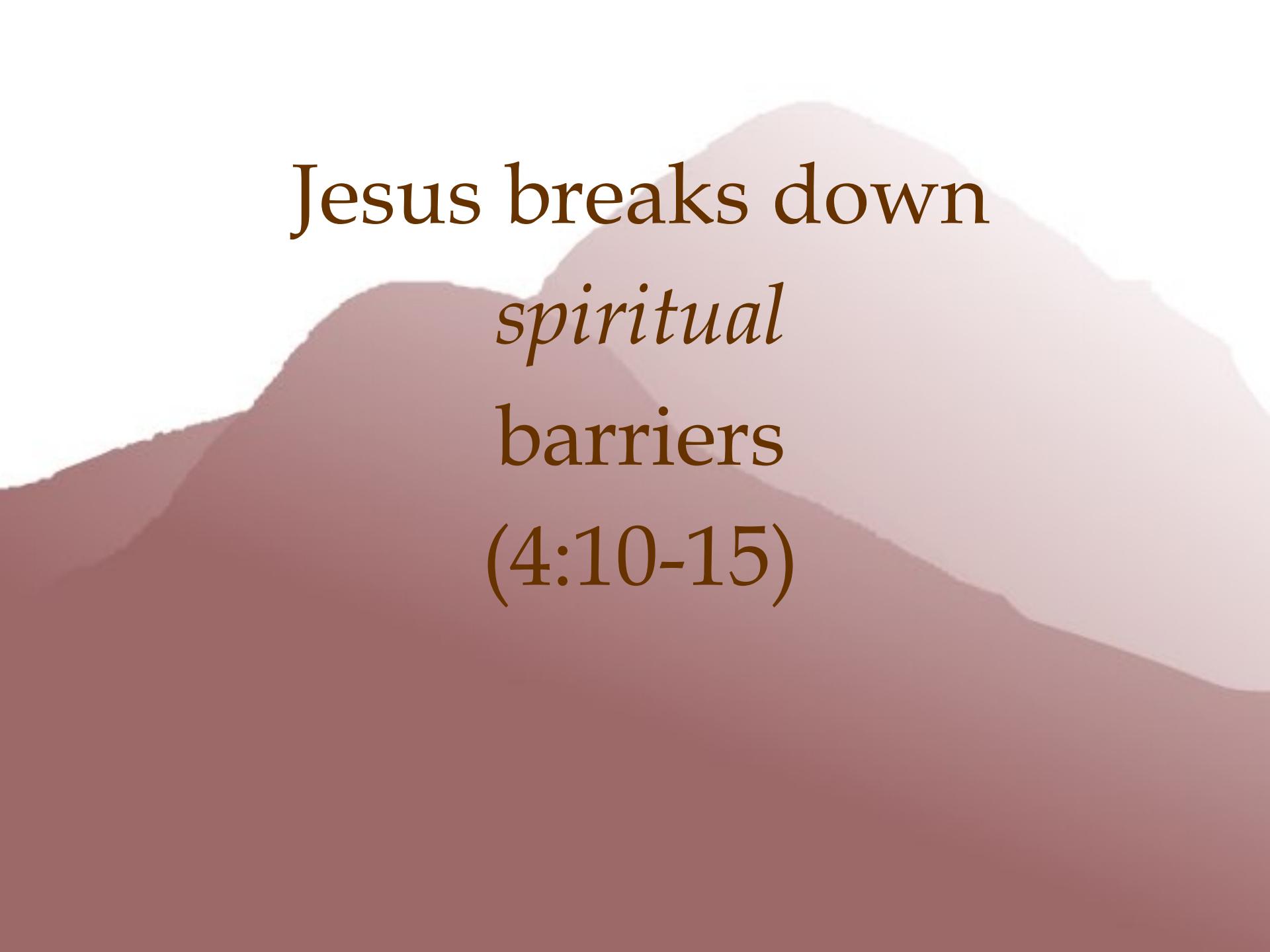
North

West East

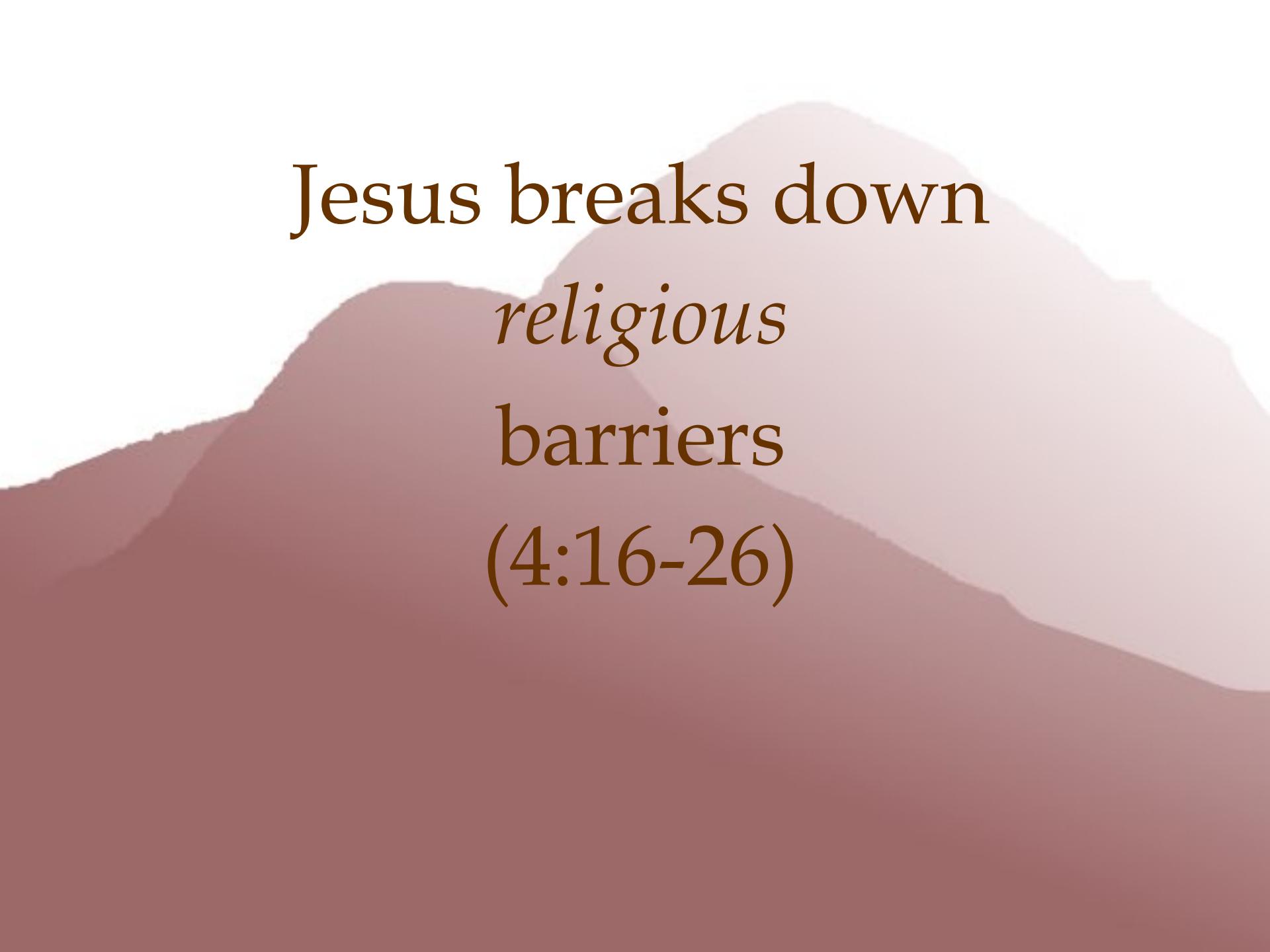




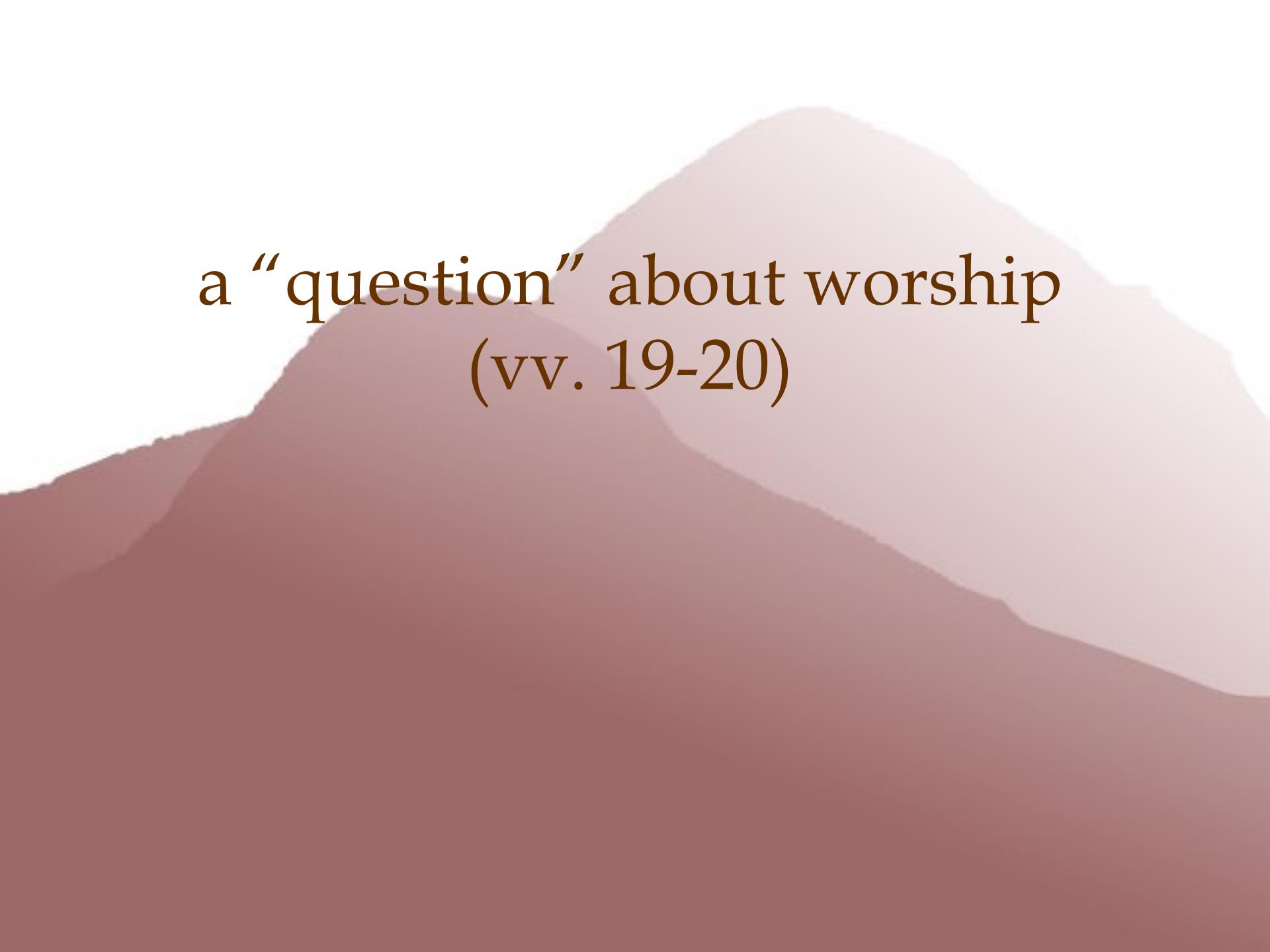
Jesus breaks down  
*ethnic and social*  
barriers  
(4:5-9)



Jesus breaks down  
*spiritual*  
barriers  
(4:10-15)



Jesus breaks down  
*religious*  
barriers  
(4:16-26)



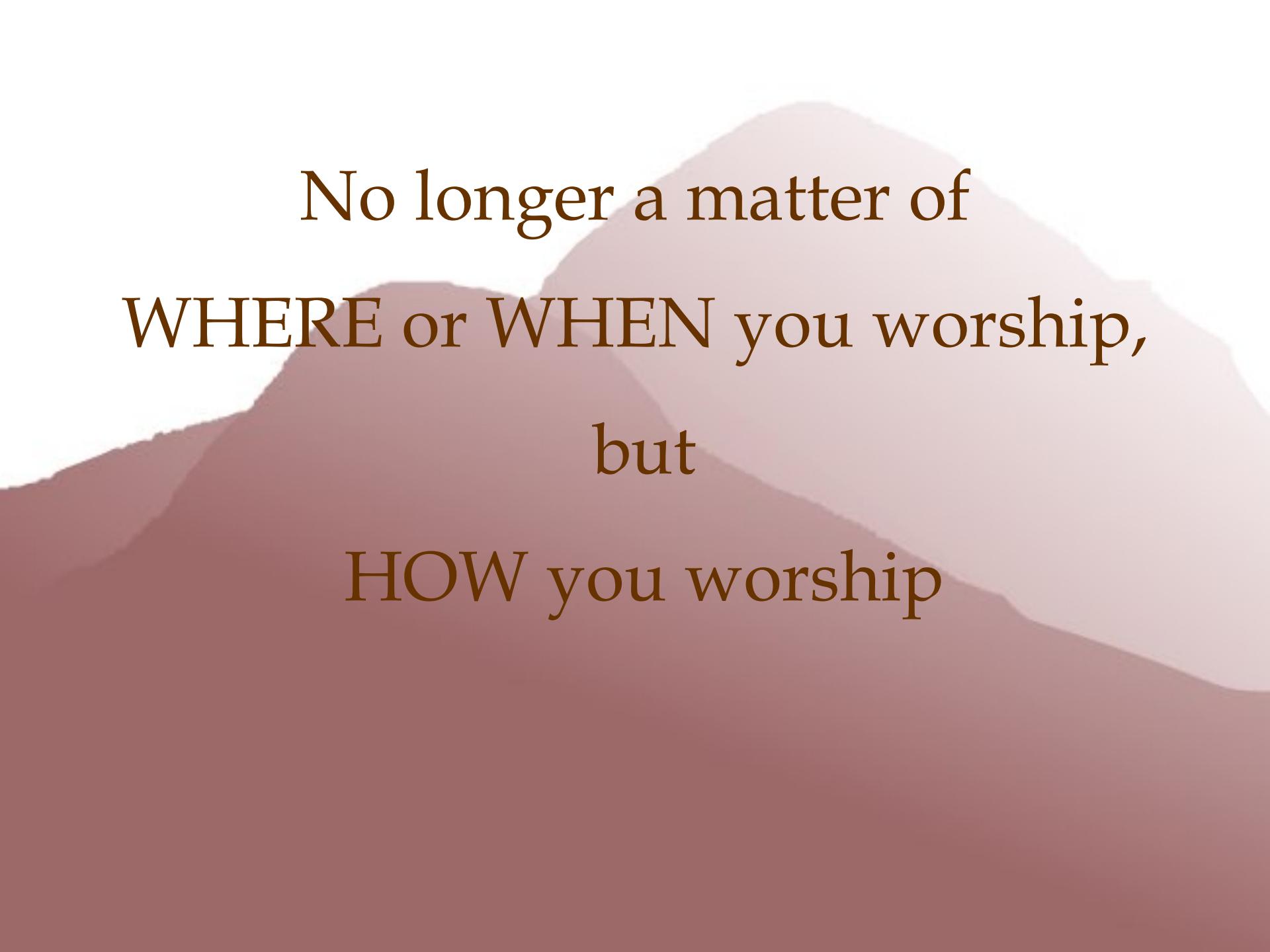
a “question” about worship  
(vv. 19-20)

Jesus changes the rules (vv. 21, 23):

“neither IN this mountain,

nor IN Jerusalem”

but “IN spirit and truth”



No longer a matter of  
WHERE or WHEN you worship,  
but  
HOW you worship



# worship in spirit

(contrast the Jews)

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. . . . And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others.” (Matthew 6:1-2, 5)

“You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’”  
(Matthew 15:8-9)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. . . .

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

(Matthew 23:25-28)



worship in truth

(contrast the Samaritans)

*“you worship  
what you do  
not know”*  
*(4:22)*



**Mount  
Gerizim  
worship**





spirit AND truth

*What God wants:*  
**OUR HEARTS**

worship in spirit

# *What God wants:*

# *OUR LIVES*

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

*all of life is worship!*

# *What God wants:*

## **OUR LIVES**

1 Cor 10:31 Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

*a life and lifestyle of worship*

# *What God wants:*

# *OUR WORSHIP*

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.”

John 4:23

*He's seeking WORSHIPERS*

# *What God wants:*

## *OUR WORSHIP*

“The Father seeks to commune with you in worship. He is not looking for your money, your glory, or your strength. He is looking for your heart. . . . If you are not worshiping God, but you are serving Him (or so you think), you are making a big mistake. To pray without worship is mockery. To sing without worship is sounding brass. To work without worship is an insult to God. To teach without worship is ignorance. To serve without worship is hypocrisy. To witness without worship is perjury. God wants your worship.”  
(Adrian Rogers)



# The Centrality of Worship in Heaven (Revelation 5)





But our citizenship  
is in heaven, and from it  
we await a Savior,  
the Lord Jesus Christ,

(Philippians 3:20)

## **BREAKOUTS**

Discuss the statement:

**“Worship is the only Christian activity  
which is an end in itself.”**

(John Piper)



**“Worship is the only Christian activity which is an end in itself.”**  
**(John Piper)**



Evangelism activities:  
MORE worshipers

Edification activities:  
BETTER worshipers

# Great Commission

(Matthew 28:28-30)

man-focused

temporary

means

secondary

# Great Commandment

(Matthew 22:35-38)

God-focused

eternal

end

primary

# Biblical Worship

## Unit 2

### THE CENTRALITY OF WORSHIP

- in Creation
- in the Fall
- in Redemption
- in the Gospel
- in Missions
- in All of Life
- in Heaven

