

GENESIS 1-3 & THE ROOTS OF THEOLOGY

DIGGING DEEPER, BUILDING STRONGER.

#ROOTED

THE STORY SO FAR?...

Genesis 1-3 tell us that:

1. God created the heavens (His dwelling-place) and the earth (man's dwelling-place) and there was perfect harmony between the two. Everything was very good.
2. Mankind was uniquely made in the image of God - male and female, joined and complementary, with authority to rule over other created things .
3. Man is on earth to fulfil his mission-mandate: to bring Kingdom-rule into all things and fill the earth with image-bearers and exercise good stewardship over creation.
4. God commanded man not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge and warned that death would be the certain consequence.
5. The Serpent (Lucifer, a fallen angel in whom evil/wickedness was found) is a Liar and Thief, whose envy of man's identity (made in God's image) motivates him to tempt man to rebel and sin against God.

6. Adam rebelled against God's authority, placed Satan's lie above God's truth, and surrendered (some of) his authority.
7. Sin brought death and separation from God. The Fall has corrupted all creation; every good thing has been tarnished. Adam and Eve became estranged from God and afraid of Him.
8. But God called out (reached-out) to Adam. He cursed the Serpent and the ground...but (re-) clothed Adam and Eve and promised a Saviour! His purpose prevails; there remains a Tree of Life...
9. The harmony of the Garden gave way to hatred and hardship - labour pains, painful labour, sin, disease, death; *image-bearers unable to fulfil their potential*. God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden, preventing them from a fallen eternity.
10. Thereafter, mankind lived under the catastrophic consequences of the Fall. This is the world under the influence of the Thief, Liar, Deceiver (the “ruler of this world”, Jn 16:11, Eph 2:2)...

| ASIDE: CULTURAL CHALLENGES?

Many apparently modern cultural issues are only properly understood and addressed in the context of the Genesis story, Eg:

The rejection of **AUTHORITY** including the Word/Truth, gender, marriage and God Himself, in the belief that all authority is oppressive and takes away our right of self-determination...

The embracing of **IDOLATRY** and hedonism: de-throning God, self-seeking, pleasure-seeking and sensual self-indulgence - are all expressions of original sin...

The confusions about **IDENTITY** including manhood and womanhood, gender and sexual orientation, and other anxieties and traumas, may at root be issues of 'mistaken identity'...

"There is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl 1:9)

ADAM & CHRIST

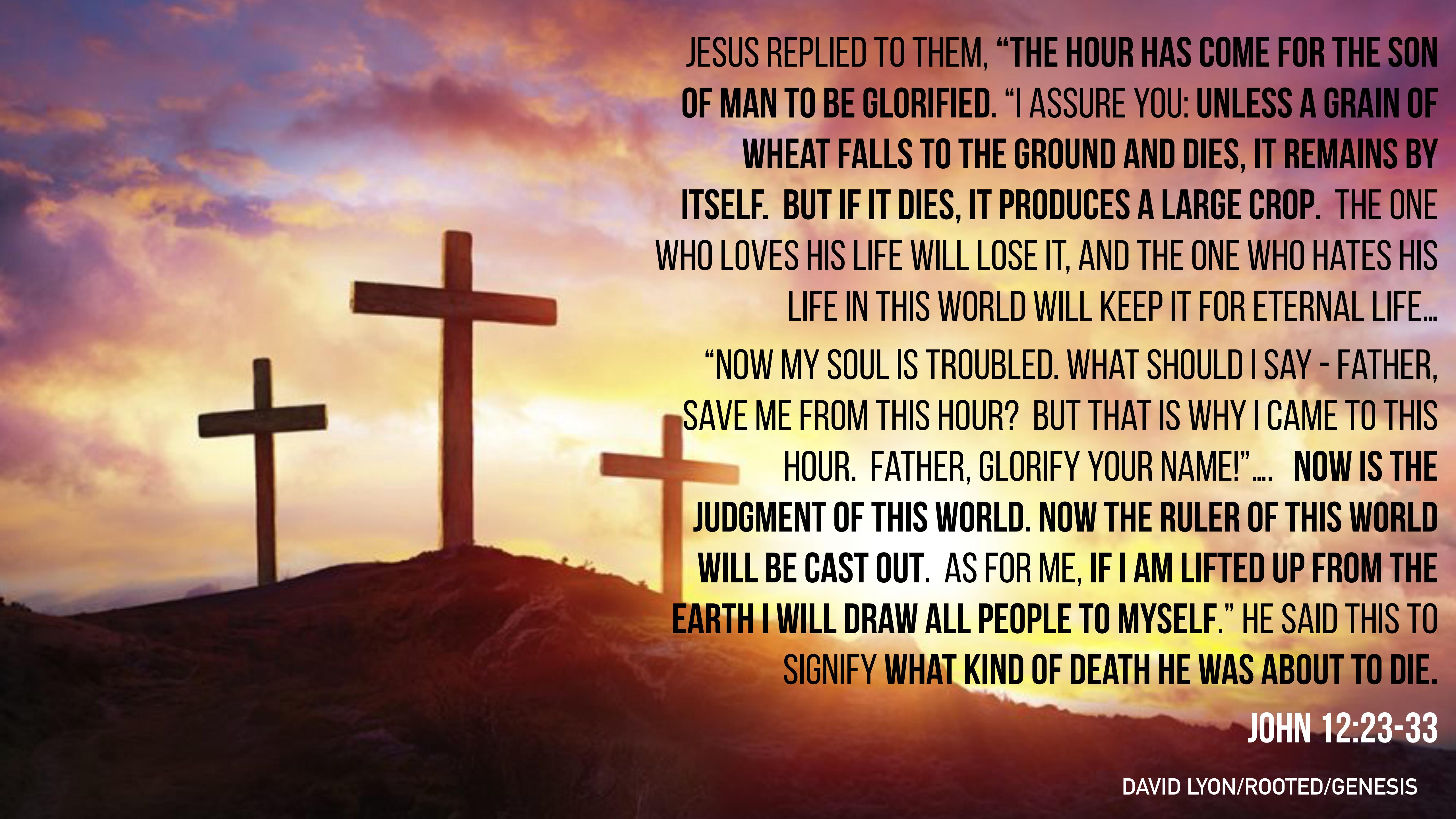
- Mankind needed another ‘Adam’. The first Adam was the first man of the *old order* of mankind and Jesus - the “last Adam” and “second man” (1Co 15:45-47) - is the first of a *new order* [NB: Luke’s genealogy (Lk 3:23-38) connects Jesus with Adam]. Adam and Christ stand as heads of two ‘races’ - everyone is *either* “in Adam” or “in Christ”.
- Adam ate the forbidden fruit and fell in the Garden of Eden. But Jesus drank the cup of suffering and stood firm in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:36ff). From Gethsemane He was taken to ‘Golgotha’ (= ‘Place of the Skull’) - *the location chosen by God for the crushing of Satan’s head* (Jn 19:17-19, Ge 3:15).
- Paul compares the works of Adam and Christ in **Ro 5** and **1Co 15**. Adam’s action had universal consequences...but Christ’s work eclipses it!



BREAKOUT GROUPS

WHAT DOES JOHN 12:23-33
TELL US ABOUT JESUS'S
WORK ON THE CROSS?

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A photograph of three wooden crosses of varying sizes standing on a dark, hilly landscape. The crosses are silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky with orange, yellow, and purple clouds. The sun is partially visible at the horizon, casting a warm glow.

JESUS REPLIED TO THEM, “THE HOUR HAS COME FOR THE SON OF MAN TO BE GLORIFIED. “I ASSURE YOU: UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS TO THE GROUND AND DIES, IT REMAINS BY ITSELF. BUT IF IT DIES, IT PRODUCES A LARGE CROP. THE ONE WHO LOVES HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT, AND THE ONE WHO HATES HIS LIFE IN THIS WORLD WILL KEEP IT FOR ETERNAL LIFE...

“NOW MY SOUL IS TROUBLED. WHAT SHOULD I SAY - FATHER, SAVE ME FROM THIS HOUR? BUT THAT IS WHY I CAME TO THIS HOUR. FATHER, GLORIFY YOUR NAME!”.... NOW IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS WORLD. NOW THE RULER OF THIS WORLD WILL BE CAST OUT. AS FOR ME, IF I AM LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH I WILL DRAW ALL PEOPLE TO MYSELF.” HE SAID THIS TO SIGNIFY WHAT KIND OF DEATH HE WAS ABOUT TO DIE.

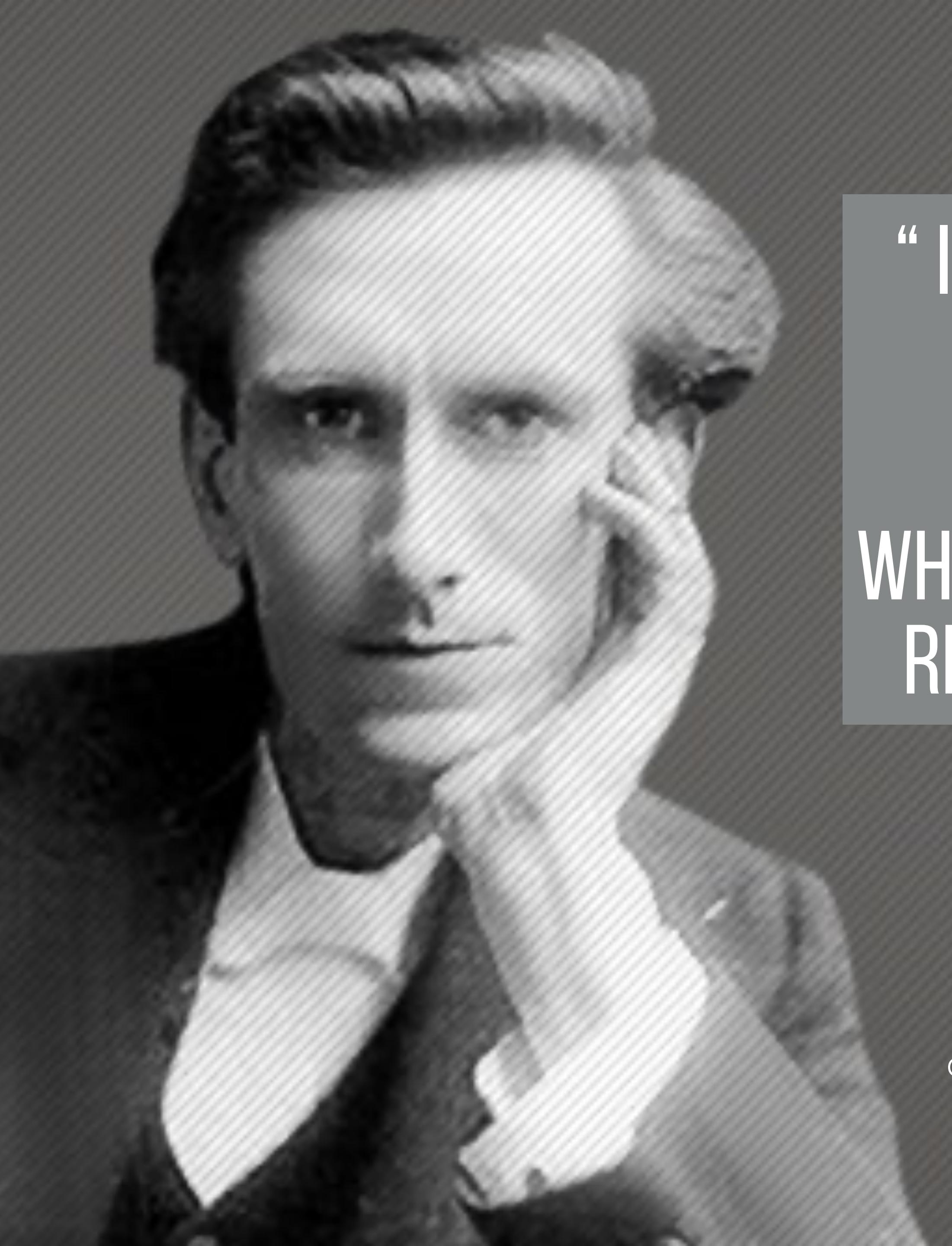
JOHN 12:23-33

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE CROSS?

The Cross is about so much more than *my salvation!* On the Cross:

- A *NEW GLORY* was *Revealed*. God was glorified (**Jn 12:23**). “Glory” is *doxa* meaning ‘honour, renown; the unspoken manifestation of God, splendour.’ Creation is a revelation of God’s glory and goodness (Ro 1:20); the Incarnation was a further revelation; but the Cross is the greatest revelation of all! Each reveals Father, Son and Spirit working ‘gloriously’ together, and on the Cross especially we see the breathtaking relationship between them (sacrifice, obedience, forsaking, separation, resurrection!...)
- A *NEW HUMANITY* was *Born*. Jesus brought forth “a large crop” (**Jn 12:24**) - a multitude of sons in His image; a *new type* of man. See Eph 2:15 where “new” (*kainos*) is ‘fresh, new, unused, novel’ and “man” (*anthrόpos*) is ‘race, class, type’ (Hence, Amp: “one new quality of humanity” and Msg: “a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody.”) We are “new creations” (2Co 5:17) - the Church was always the goal of the Cross!

- A *NEW ERA Began*. Jesus's conflict with the domain of darkness reached its climax; Satan tried to kill Him, but the Lord of Life chose to take every sin, sickness and demonic power upon Himself (Jn 14:30-31), so as to disarm, disable and dethrone them (Col 2:15, Heb 2:14) - He destroyed the Devil's works (1 Jn 3:8) and cast-out the “ruler of this world” (**Jn 12:31**).
- A *NEW HOPE Emerged*. As Jesus was “lifted up” in resurrection He began to “draw *all* people to Himself” (**Jn 12:32**). God so loved the world (NB: He has *not cursed* mankind) that He gave His Son. Jesus hung between heaven and earth not just to enable us to go to heaven but to restore the broken harmony between them and enable *heaven to come to earth* - now men can come to Christ and be filled with His Spirit and experience the goodness of His Kingdom and “the powers of the age to come” (Heb 6:5, see below...)

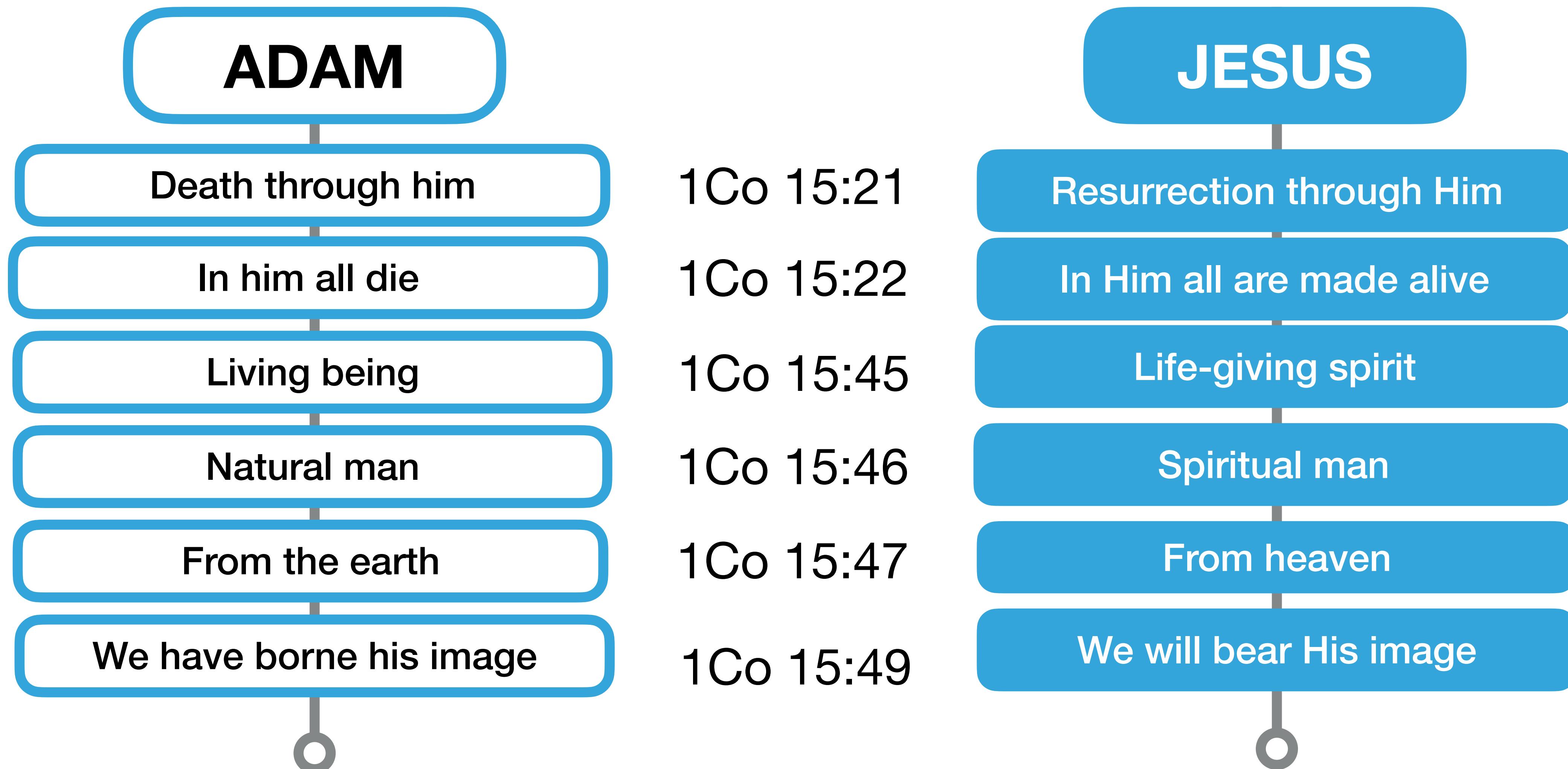


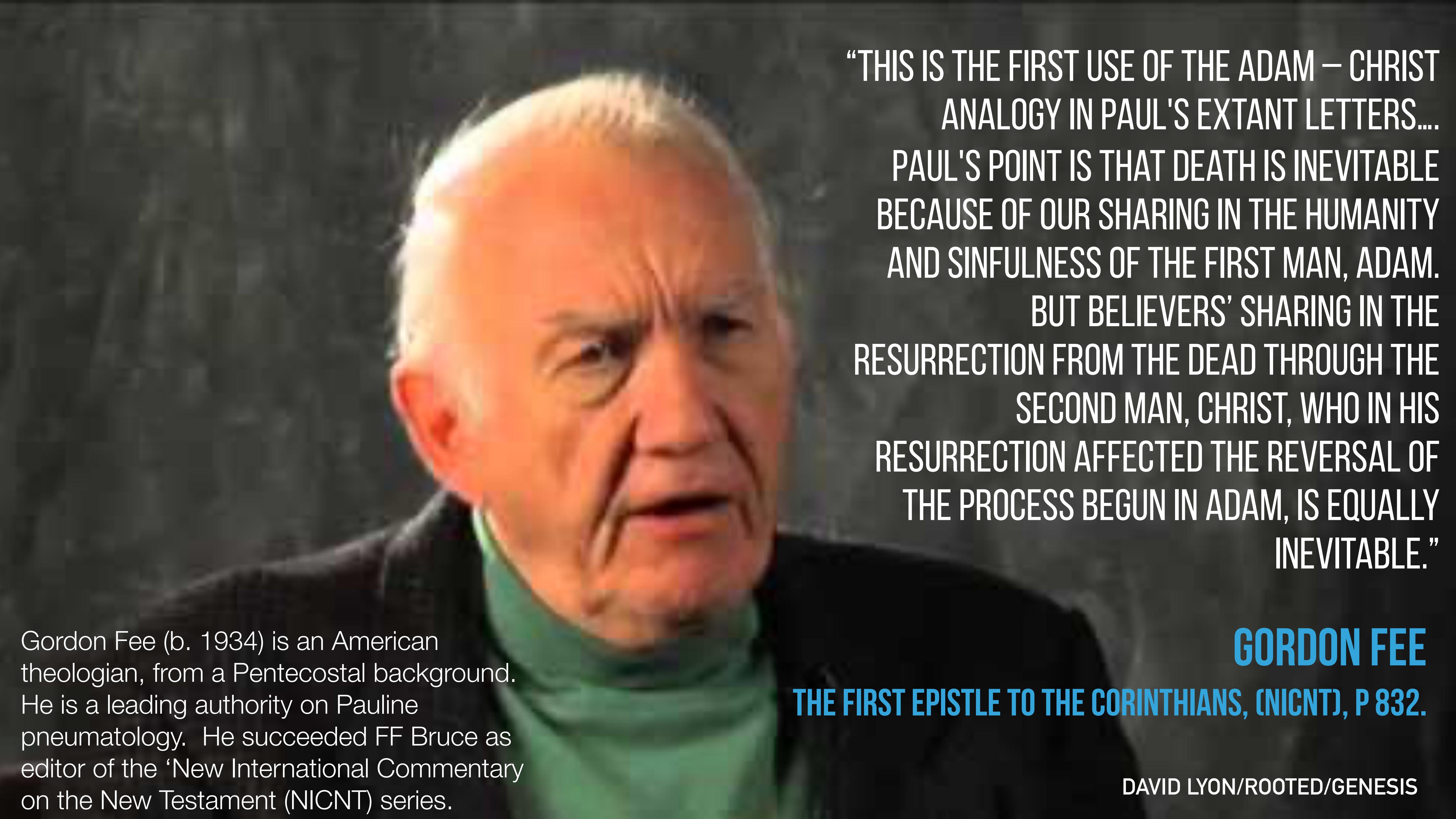
“ IT'S A TRAVESTY TO SAY THAT JESUS CHRIST
TRAVAILED TO MAKE ME A SAINT.
JESUS CHRIST TRAVAILED...TO REDEEM THE
WHOLE WORLD, AND PLACE IT UNIMPAIRED AND
REHABILITATED BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD.”

OSWALD CHAMBERS
‘MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST’ (FEB 1ST)

Oswald Chambers (1874-1917) was a British Pentecostal-Holiness teacher and evangelist who founded a missionary-sending Bible college and served as a YMCA chaplain in Egypt during WW1. His wife turned his sermons into books after his death.

ADAM & CHRIST: 1 CORINTHIANS 15



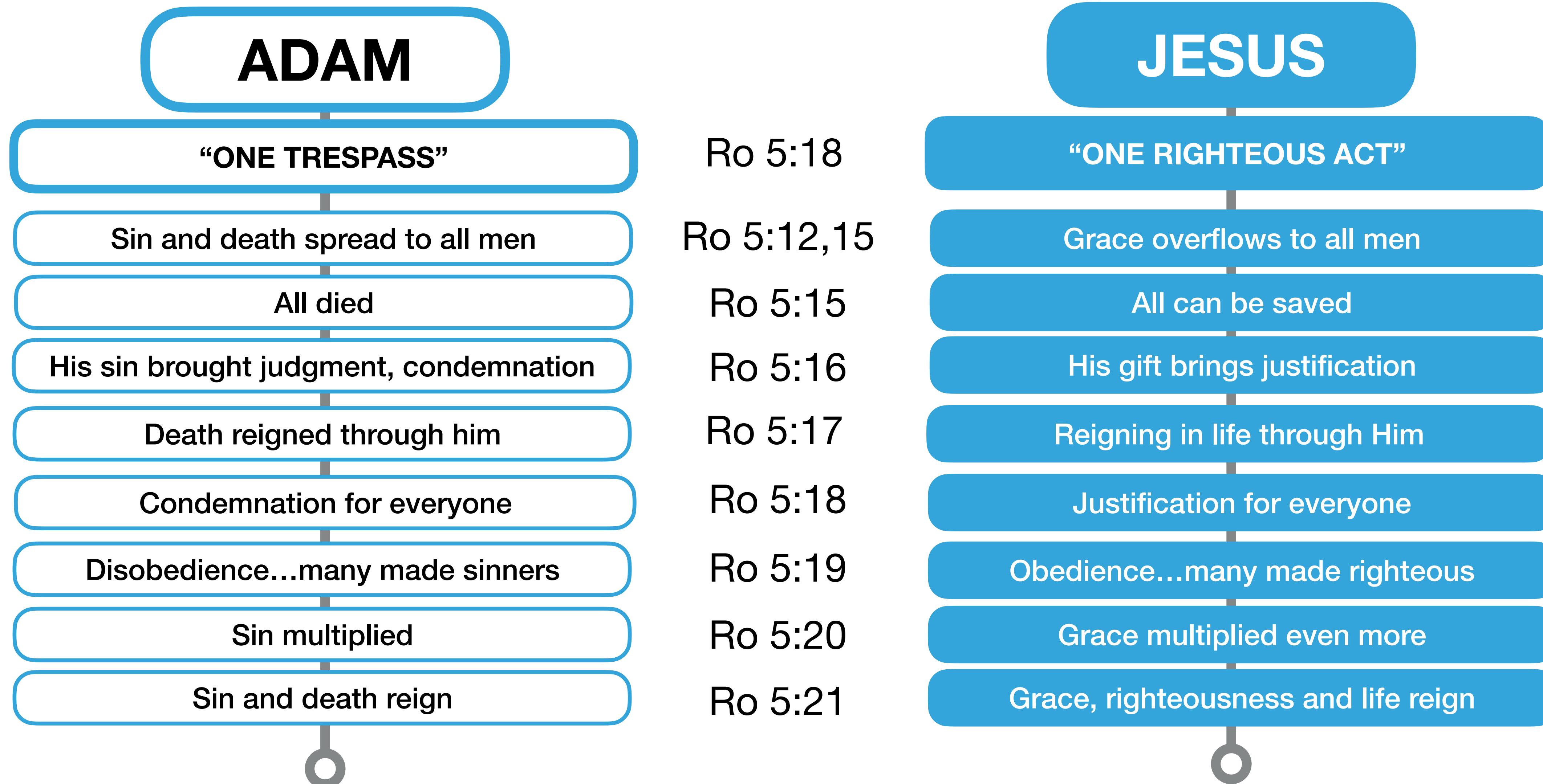
A close-up, slightly blurred portrait of Gordon Fee, an elderly man with white hair and a gentle expression, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a dark jacket over a green patterned scarf.

“THIS IS THE FIRST USE OF THE ADAM – CHRIST ANALOGY IN PAUL'S EXTANT LETTERS.... PAUL'S POINT IS THAT DEATH IS INEVITABLE BECAUSE OF OUR SHARING IN THE HUMANITY AND SINFULNESS OF THE FIRST MAN, ADAM. BUT BELIEVERS' SHARING IN THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD THROUGH THE SECOND MAN, CHRIST, WHO IN HIS RESURRECTION AFFECTED THE REVERSAL OF THE PROCESS BEGUN IN ADAM, IS EQUALLY INEVITABLE.”

Gordon Fee (b. 1934) is an American theologian, from a Pentecostal background. He is a leading authority on Pauline pneumatology. He succeeded FF Bruce as editor of the 'New International Commentary on the New Testament (NICNT) series.

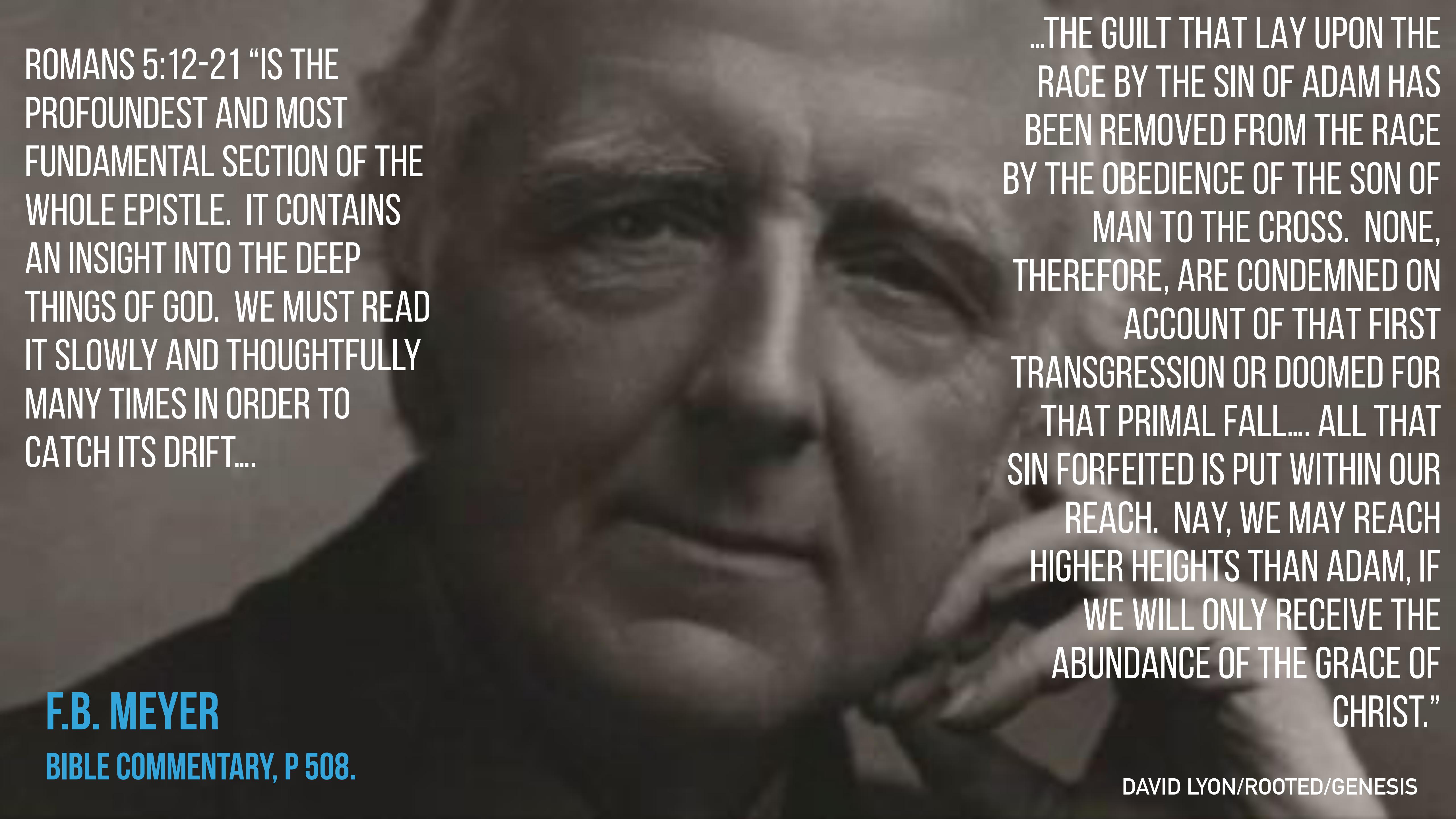
GORDON FEE
THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS, (NICNT), P 832.

ADAM & CHRIST: ROMANS 5



NB: “just as...so also” (vv. 12,18,19,21) and “how much more” (vv. 15, 17).

DAVID LYON/ROOTED/GENESIS



ROMANS 5:12-21 “IS THE PROFOUNDEST AND MOST FUNDAMENTAL SECTION OF THE WHOLE EPISTLE. IT CONTAINS AN INSIGHT INTO THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD. WE MUST READ IT SLOWLY AND THOUGHTFULLY MANY TIMES IN ORDER TO CATCH ITS DRIFT....

F.B. MEYER

BIBLE COMMENTARY, P 508.

...THE GUILT THAT LAY UPON THE RACE BY THE SIN OF ADAM HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE RACE BY THE OBEDIENCE OF THE SON OF MAN TO THE CROSS. NONE, THEREFORE, ARE CONDEMNED ON ACCOUNT OF THAT FIRST TRANSGRESSION OR DOOMED FOR THAT PRIMAL FALL.... ALL THAT SIN FORFEITED IS PUT WITHIN OUR REACH. NAY, WE MAY REACH HIGHER HEIGHTS THAN ADAM, IF WE WILL ONLY RECEIVE THE ABUNDANCE OF THE GRACE OF CHRIST.”



BREAKOUT GROUPS

WHT DID JESUS MEAN BY
“IT IS FINISHED” (JN 19:30)?

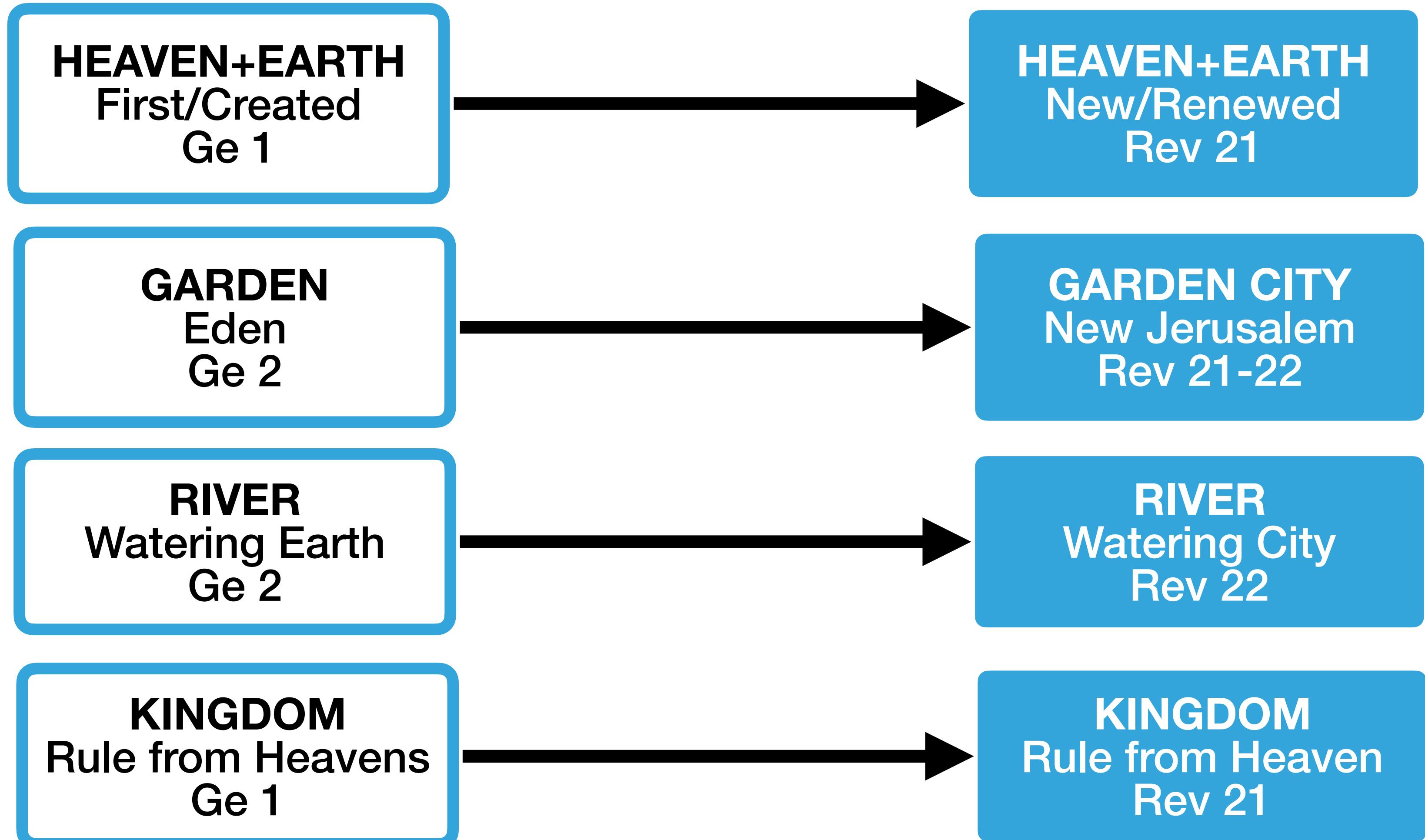
#ROOTED

“IT IS FINISHED”

- Jesus’s earth-shattering cry (Jn 19:30, Mt 27:50ff) is not a reference to His life...*but to the era of influence/dominance of the ‘ruler of this world’* (Jn 12:31). Christ’s work was done!...
- On the Cross, God “condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son in flesh like ours under sin’s domain, and as a sin offering” (Ro 8:3). Jesus “became sin” so we might be made righteous (2Co 5:21)
- God judged sin (not you, me or Jesus); the Cross is God’s *judgement on sin itself and every evil force behind it*, so that “there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ! (Ro 8:1).
- Jesus regained all the authority Adam surrendered. At ‘the Place of the Skull’ the enemy’s head was crushed and Jesus was crowned HEAD of all things!

BEGINNING & END...

The Bible's big picture of God's purpose is seen in several overarching themes and images that have their *beginnings* in Genesis 1-2, are prominent elsewhere, and find *fulfilment* in Revelation. Eg:



Then the One seated on the throne said, “Look! I am making everything new.” He also said, “Write, because these words ^[a] are faithful and true.” And He said to me, “It is done! I am the **Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End...**”

Rev 21:5-6

IMAGE-BEARERS
Spirit-filled Man
Gen 2

MARRIAGE
Adam & Eve
Gen 2

PRESENCE
God with Adam
Ge 2 (-3)

MISSION
Commissioned
Gen 1

TREE OF LIFE
Adam's Potential
Ge 2-3

IMAGE-BEARERS
Spirit-filled Church
Rev 21-22

MARRIAGE
Christ & Church
Rev 21-22

PRESENCE
God with Men
Rev 21

MISSION
Accomplished
Rev 21

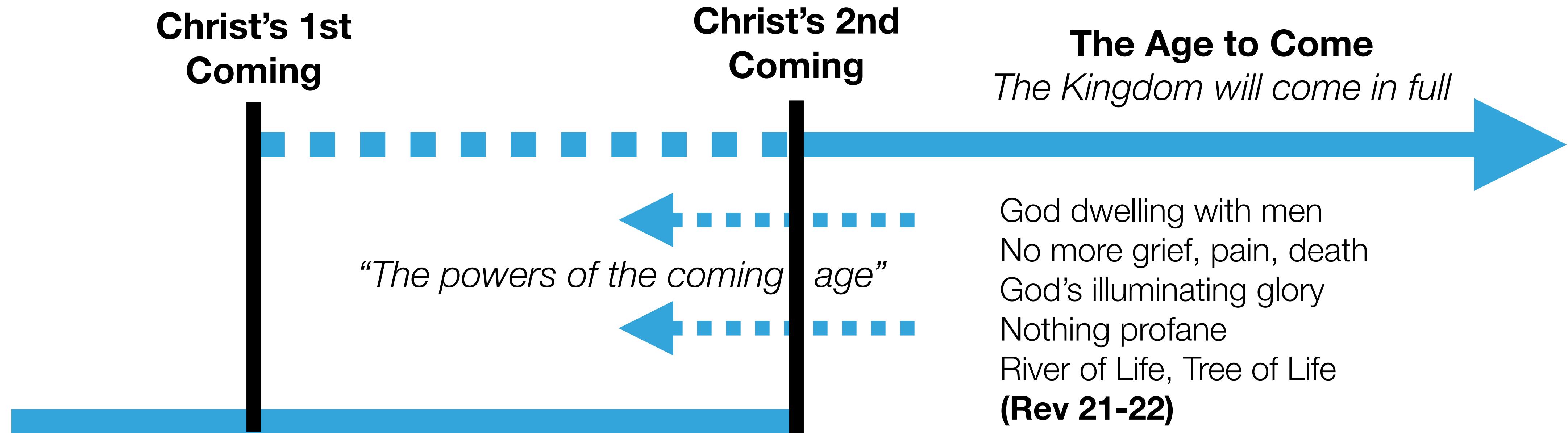
TREE OF LIFE
Christ's Victory
Rev 22

CHRIST & HIS BRIDE

- Eve was brought forth from Adam's side (Ge 2:22). She was “bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh” (2:23) - “*another just like me*” - and therefore perfectly-suited to become his bride and mission-companion (2:24).
- Now the blood shed from Christ’s pierced side has brought forth the Church. The resurrected, ascended, glorified Christ has filled His Church *with his Spirit* so that she’s *another just like Him* (cf. Ge 2:23) - perfectly-suited to be His mission-companion and Bride (Mt 28:18-20, Rev 21:2).
- Marriage is the union (or ‘re-union’) of a man and a woman and reveals the destiny of Christ and His Spirit-filled Body.

THE KINGDOM & THE AGES

The Bible speaks of “the ages” (1Co 10:11), and distinguishes: [1] “this/present/evil age” (Gal 1:4, 1Co 2:6, Tit 2:12); and [2] “the age *to come*” (Mt 12:32, Mk 10:30, Lk 18:30, Eph 1:21, 1Ti 6:19), which will be heralded by Christ’s return (Mt 24:3).



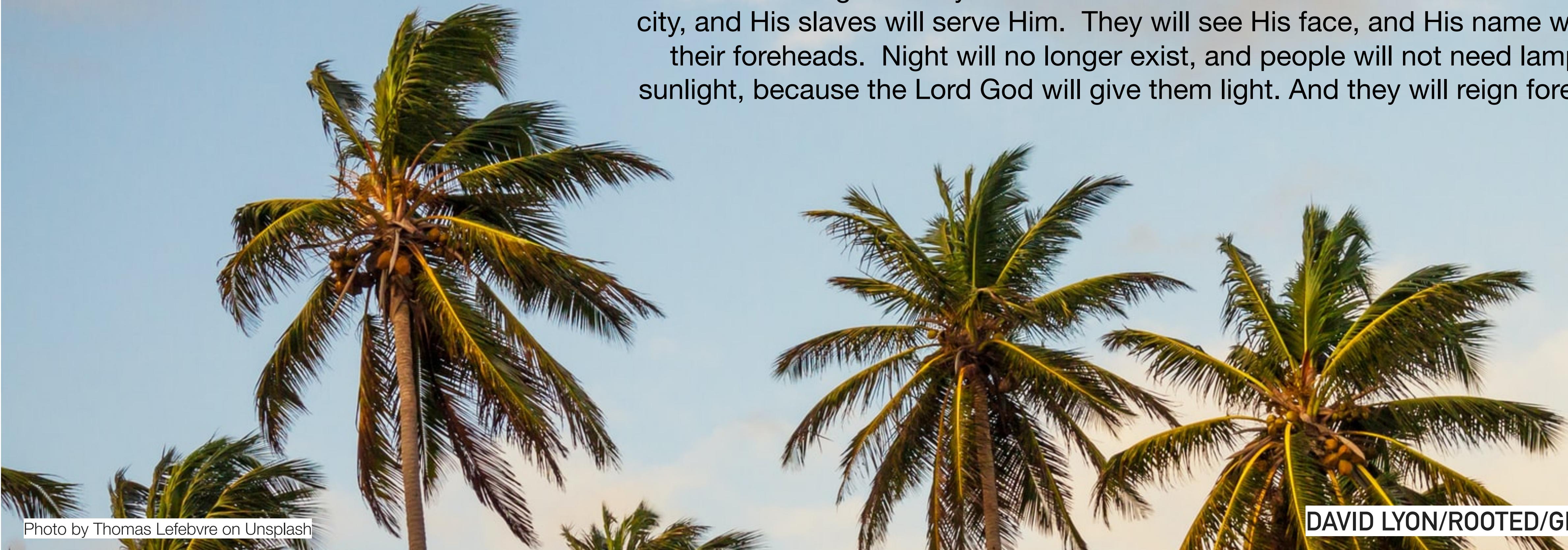
The Kingdom has come in part/measure

| LIVING IN THE ‘OVERLAP’

- We live in the Present Age but have “tasted the powers of the Age to Come” (Heb 6:5). The Kingdom is both ‘now’ and ‘not yet’ - it *has come* in the Present Age (Mt 3:2, 4:17, 10:7, 12:28) but will *yet come* on earth in all its fulness in the Age to Come (hence our prayer, Mt 6:10).
- The church’s mission is establishing His Kingdom (rule/will) *on earth* as it is already *in heaven* (Mt 28:18ff, 6:10); ‘binding and loosing’ (Mt 16:19, 18:18) to *make earth like heaven*.
- In this time of ‘overlap’ Christ’s total victory is being outworked and made effective ‘on the ground’; even if we “do not yet see everything subjected” to Christ or His church (Heb 2:7-8) we have no doubt that our mission/destiny is to grow in our experience of His victory...

Rev 21:1-6 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea no longer existed. I also saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: "Look! God's dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will no longer exist; grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer, because the previous things have passed away." Then the One seated on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new....It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."

Rev 22:1-5 Then he showed me the river of living water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the broad street of the city. The tree of life was on both sides of the river, bearing 12 kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations, and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His slaves will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. Night will no longer exist, and people will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.



EDEN RESTORED!

Rev 21-22 describe another paradise and completes the Bible's magnificent 'bookends'. Mankind, once banished, is now *back in the Garden*, and the blessings of Eden are fully-restored:

- Death and pain non-existent; man lives forever.
- God's presence with men; His face seen.
- The river of living water, flowing from God's throne.
- The curse removed, the ground restored.
- The Tree of Life, bearing fruit super-abundantly.



Photo by Thomas Lefebvre on Unsplash



DAVID LYON/ROOTED/GENESIS