

Order of Service

August 13, 2023

- Worship in Fellowship
- Worship in Music
- Worship in Message
- Worship in Giving

Wayne Braudrick

The Return

Revelation 19

"As We See the Day Approaching" Series

Life Change: We worship, celebrate, and follow God.

"Locked in an upper room of our own fears"

Worship

Because salvation belongs to our God

1-5

The crowd at your peril

Now as at all times I can see in the mind's eye,
 In their stiff, painted clothes, the pale unsatisfied ones
 Appear and disappear in the blue depths of the sky
 With all their ancient faces like rain-beaten stones,
 And all their helms of silver hovering side by side,
 And all their eyes still fixed, hoping to find once more,
 Being by Calvary's turbulence unsatisfied,
 The uncontrollable mystery on the bestial floor.
 – William Butler Yeats, "The Magi"

3 suggested actions:

Trust Jesus

Relax

Stick to scripture

Child sacrifice, alas, is alive and well in America these days, too. We may not, like the Vikings, toss our young into wells as offerings to the heavens, but turn over every rock in our craggy contemporary political landscape and you'll find some pagan policy offering up the well-being of children to the gods of "virtue." – Liel Leibovitz, "The Return of Paganism"

Celebrate

The marriage of the Lamb

The feast

God alone

Follow

The Lord in confidence

6-10

(Continued from other side)

How did you find us?

- Online Ad
- All the Difference
- Website
- Family/Friend _____

Are you a member of another church?
Name/Location _____ / _____

I am new in the community

11-21

Do you already have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/ I'd like to know more

I/we made a decision today:

- To place my/our trust in Jesus Christ
- For a deeper commitment to Christ
- To be baptized
- To learn more about joining this church

Names of those making this decision:

Prayer Request/Praise

Your Request will be added to our email prayer chain unless specified otherwise (below).

CONFIDENTIAL (Staff and Elders only)



AS WE SEE
THE DAY
APPROACHING

Please Silence Your Phone

Story Time



Holy Saturday
Eugene Bernard
1907-08



courtesy Musee des Beaux Arts, La Chaux de Fends, France

Gerard Baker

It's the climate, roasting us in a crucible. It's that old tormentor thermonuclear war, long submerged beneath trendier concerns, back with a vengeance because of an actual land war in Europe and a seemingly inevitable conflict with China. Plague, an older agent of human destruction, stalks us again; Covid was a mere foretaste if the alarmists are right. The latest terror is artificial intelligence. If you haven't read it, do seek out the article in Time everyone is talking about, by Eliezer Yudkowsky, an AI expert. Given all the other threats we face, there is something perversely calming about its essential conclusion: We're all going to die soon.

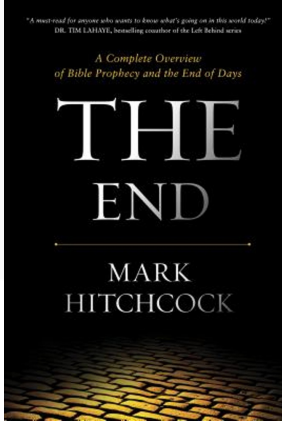
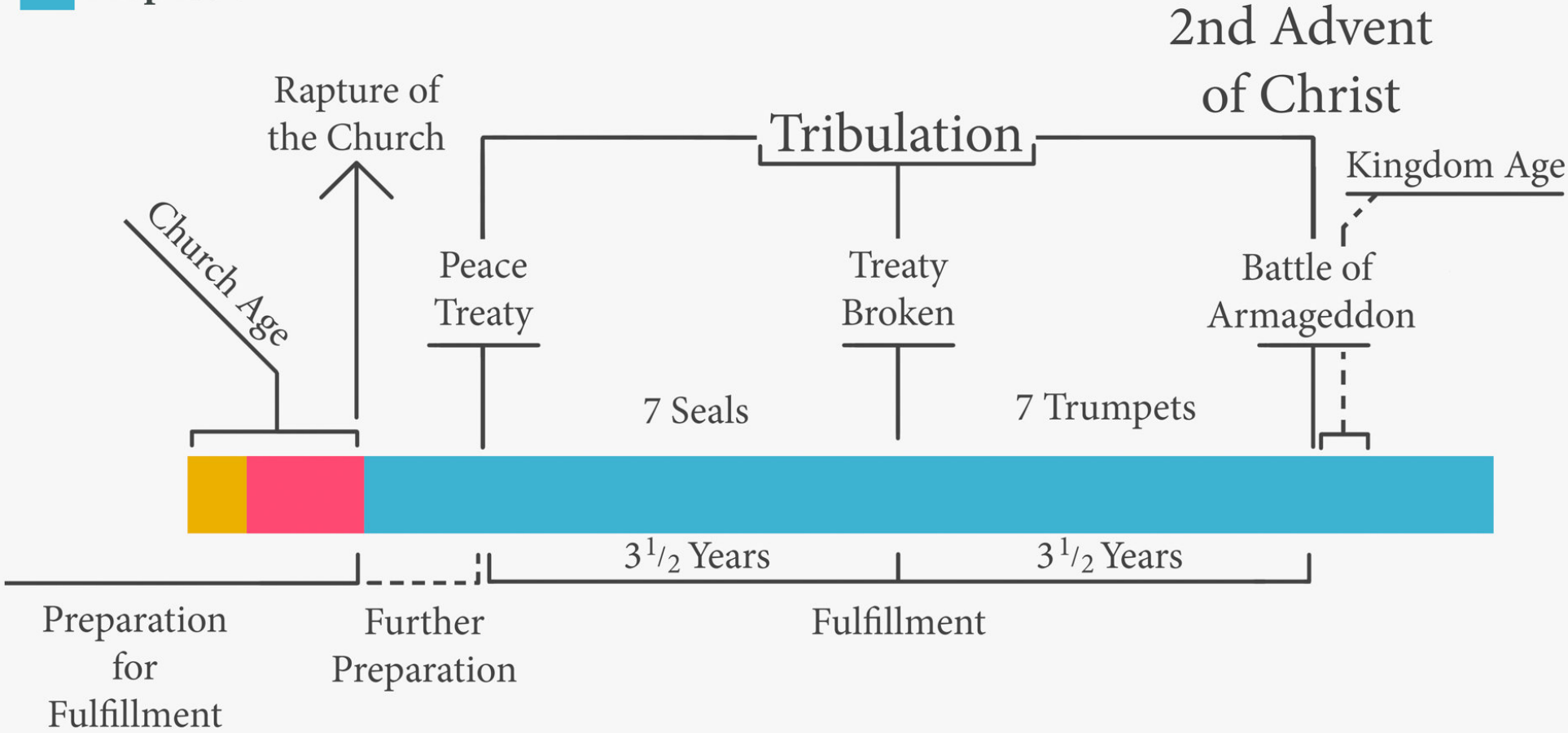
courtesy World Economic Forum



At home the republic and democracy are finished. From one side the orange beast is slouching back toward Washington. From the other, a left wing authoritarianism is moving its slow thighs, crushing free speech and politicizing the law, its weird ideology pitting race against race even as it denies the existence of biological sex. A much noted Wall Street Journal/NORC poll last month found that tens of millions of Americans seem to have lost their faith and their values and think about nothing other than making money. – Gerard Baker, “The World Is Ending, but It’s Been Ending Many Times Before”

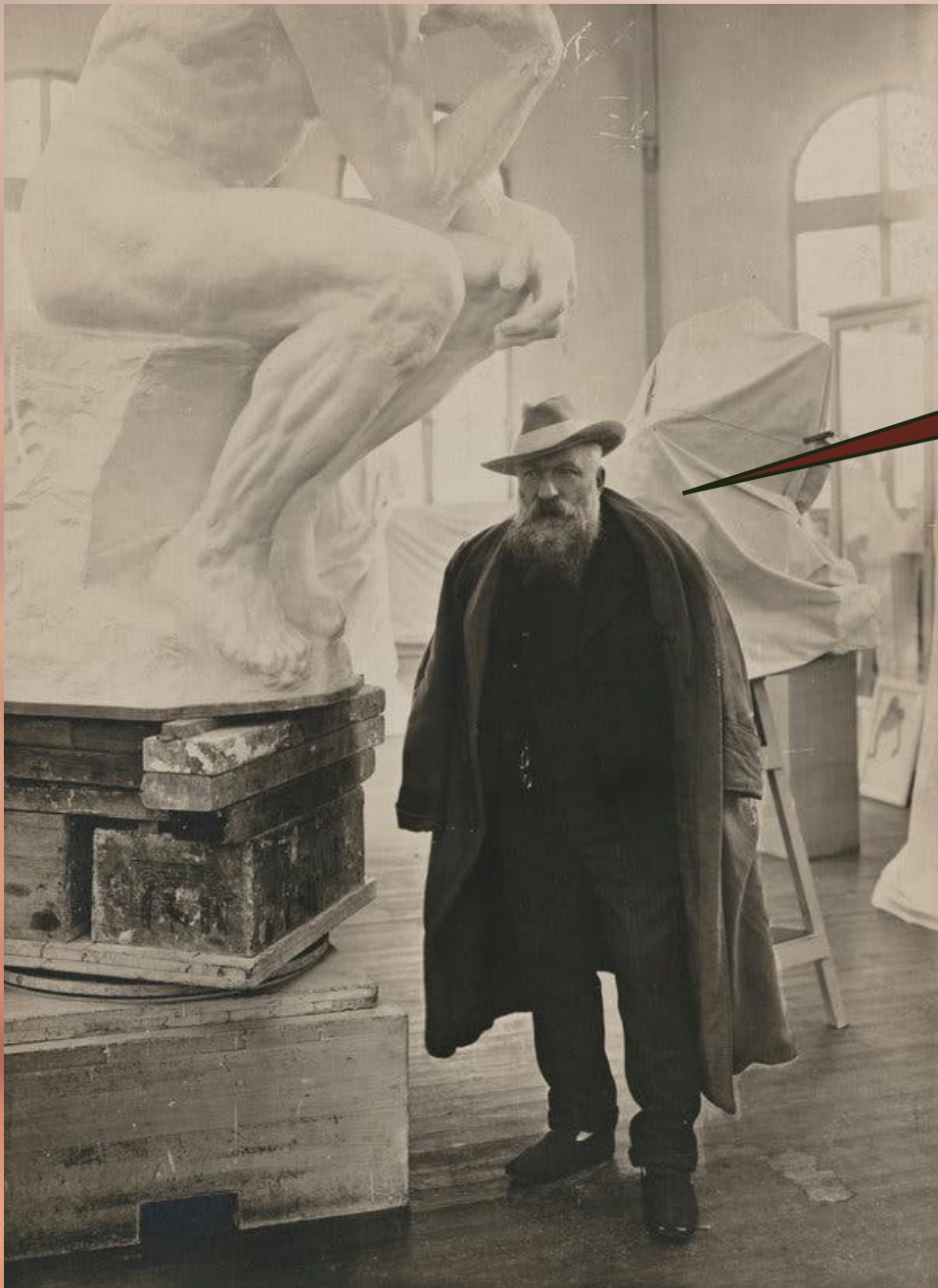
Order of Events

- Past
- Present
- Prophetic





courtesy Rodin Museum



What could possibly
cause rejoicing in
such a time?

¹ After this I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven, saying,

Hallelujah!

Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God,

² because his judgments are true and righteous,

because he has judged the notorious prostitute

who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality;

and he has avenged the blood of his servants

that was on her hands.

Revelation 19 CSB

**³ A second time they said,
Hallelujah!**

Her smoke ascends forever and ever!

**⁴ Then the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell
down and worshiped God, who is seated on the throne, saying,
Amen! Hallelujah!**

**⁵ A voice came from the throne, saying,
Praise our God,
all his servants, and the ones who fear him,
both small and great!**

Revelation 19 CSB

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Secular humanism

Humans lack indwelling sin.

Honor should be given.

Each human possesses the power to achieve peace.

Introducing religion endangers actualization.



Religion

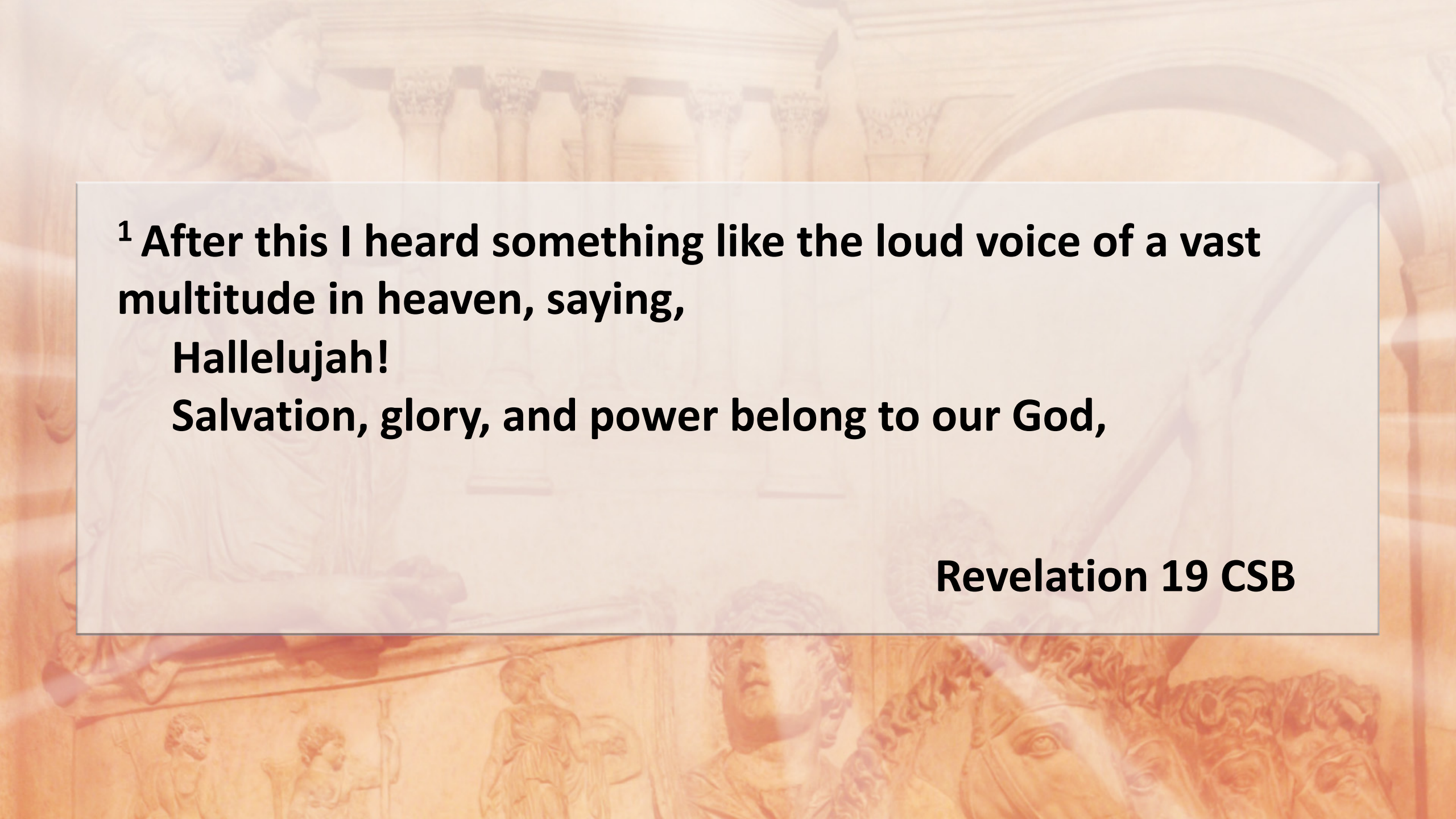
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Worship should be given.

Deity possesses the power to help toward salvation.

Human must earn his way, but human effort isn't enough.





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Biblical Christianity

Humans have indwelling sin.

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Only God can grant salvation through His sacrifice alone.

Humans can enter a covenant of grace by trust.

¹ After this I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven, saying,

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Revelation 19 CSB

³⁸ They will be my people, and I will be their God.

Jeremiah 32 CSB

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courtesy autobytel

A close-up photograph of a car's instrument cluster. The focus is on a digital display screen that shows the text "Key Fob Not Detected" in a bright cyan or light blue color. The screen is set against a dark background. Above the screen, parts of analog gauges are visible, including a speedometer with markings for 140 and 200. A red needle is visible on the top gauge. The overall lighting is dim, typical of a car's interior at night or in low light conditions.

Key Fob
Not Detected

Three spots over, a Jeep Wagoneer was chirping...I looked at the car I was in – a Saturn SUV. Looked at my key fob – Jeep. Whoopsie. Grabbed my backpack and suitcase from the hatch and ran over to the Jeep which promptly unlocked for me.



Three spots over, a Jeep Wagoneer was chirping...I looked at the car I was in – a Saturn SUV. Looked at my key fob – Jeep. Whoopsie. Grabbed my backpack and suitcase from the hatch and ran over to the Jeep which promptly unlocked for me. As I'm driving away quickly, I realize my Styrofoam water cup with lipstick marks is still in the cup holder of the Saturn. I



may or may not have ended a relationship with some poor dude and his girl when he can't explain how that cup got in his car.

Secular humanism

Humans lack indwelling sin

**WRONG
CAR!**



Introducing religion
endangers actualization.

Religion

Humans have indwelling sin

**WRONG
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Biblical Christianity

²⁹ Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

John 6 NLT

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Biblical Christianity

²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. John 3 CSB

Biblical Christianity

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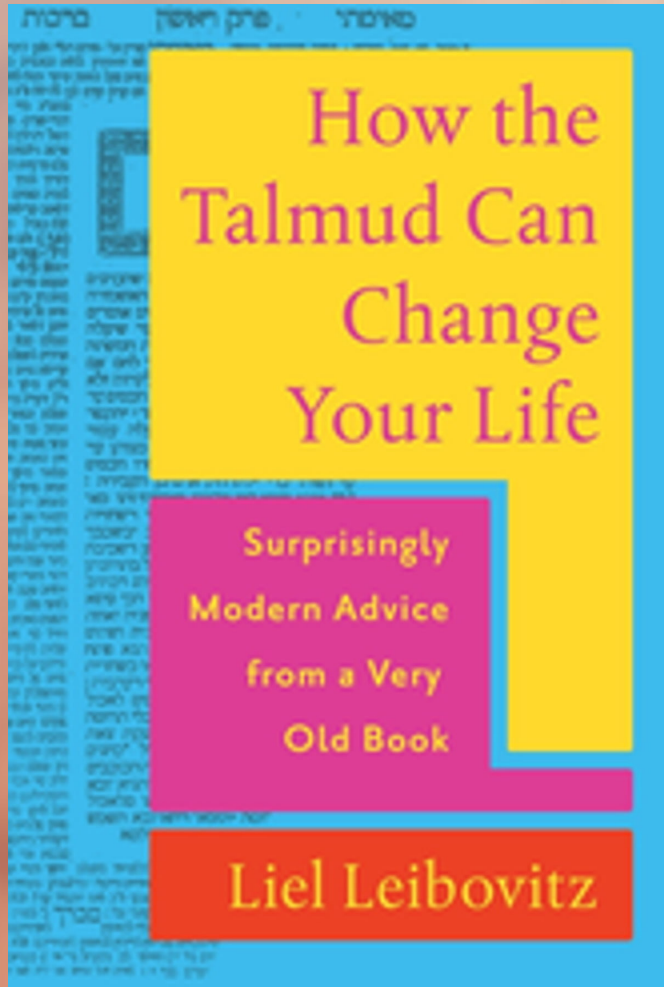
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Revelation 19 CSB



courtesy Norton; nj.com

Liel Leibovitz

When a 28-year-old person identifying as transgender shot up a Tennessee school in March 2023, killing three children and three adults, the usual grim afterlife of tragedy was underlined by an odd note: One by one, media outlets rushed to apologize for “misgendering” the shooter, who, they explained, had been born female but had recently begun identifying as male.

Liel Leibovitz

How to make sense of such a statement? And what to do when a newspaper headline tells you about a “trans woman left sobbing in JFK Airport after TSA agent hit her testicles”? Appealing to reason hardly helps, as J.K. Rowling and others learned the hard way when trying to ask simple questions such as how one might define sex if not according to the chromosomes rooted in literally every cell of our bodies. Instead, anyone wishing to find his way through the thicket of American public discourse these days should start by embracing one simple and terrifying idea: The barbarians are at the gates.

Liel Leibovitz

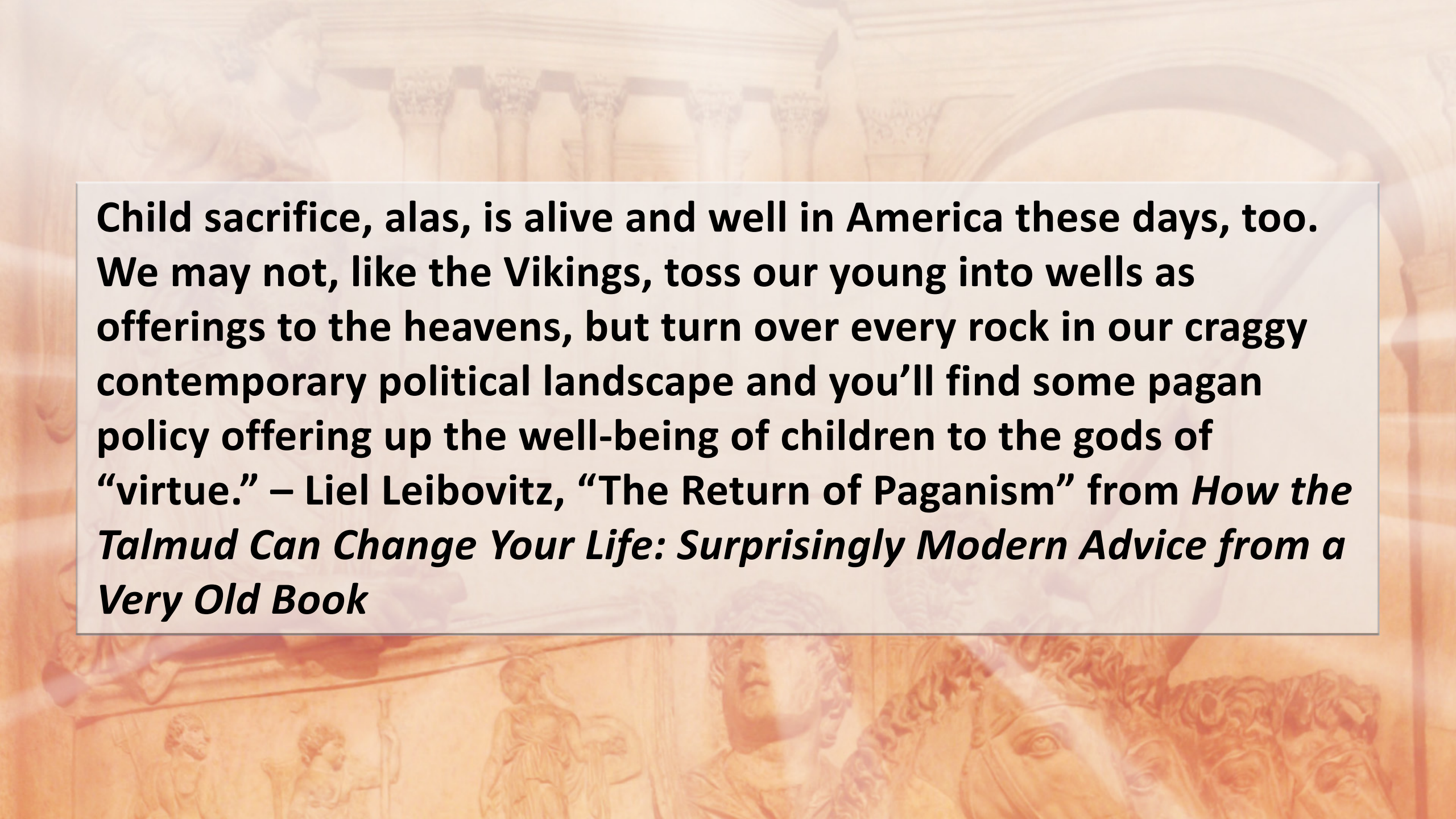
I mean this almost literally. Everywhere you turn these days, pagans are afoot, busily hacking away at the Christian and Jewish foundations of American life and replacing them with a cosmology that would have been absolutely coherent to followers of, say, Voltumna, the Etruscan earth god, or to those who worshipped the Celt tribal protector Toutatis...Scan the modern pagan cosmology, and you'll see

much that would have made ancient Germanic cultists nod in recognition.



Liel Leibovitz

This is especially seen [with] children...At once the embodiment of innocence and the object of our deepest and most sincere emotions, children, the most vulnerable of mortals, were the ultimate offering to the gods—proof that the pagan believer was so certain in his belief that he would offer up his own offspring to show the gods the strength of his faith, appeasing them and avoiding potential punishment. So prevalent among the heathens of antiquity was the practice of child sacrifice that the Torah issued a strongly worded prohibition against it, in Leviticus 18:21: “Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molek.”

The background features a warm, orange-toned collage of classical art. At the top, there are architectural elements like columns and arches. Below, various sculptures are visible, including a prominent head of a woman with curly hair and a figure holding a staff. The overall aesthetic is that of ancient Greek or Roman art.

Child sacrifice, alas, is alive and well in America these days, too. We may not, like the Vikings, toss our young into wells as offerings to the heavens, but turn over every rock in our craggy contemporary political landscape and you'll find some pagan policy offering up the well-being of children to the gods of "virtue." – Liel Leibovitz, "The Return of Paganism" from *How the Talmud Can Change Your Life: Surprisingly Modern Advice from a Very Old Book*

⁶ Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying,

Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, reigns!

⁷ Let us be glad, rejoice, and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself.

Revelation 19 CSB

⁸ She was given fine linen to wear, bright and pure. For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: Blessed are those invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb!” He also said to me, “These words of God are true.”

¹⁰ Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters who hold firmly to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Revelation 19 CSB

4 stages of classical Jewish wedding

1. Bride price paid and betrothal arranged.
2. The fetching of the bride.
3. The marriage ceremony, a smaller gathering.
4. The marriage feast, a larger & more diverse gathering.

Jewish Wedding (feast) in Morocco
Eugène Delacroix
1839

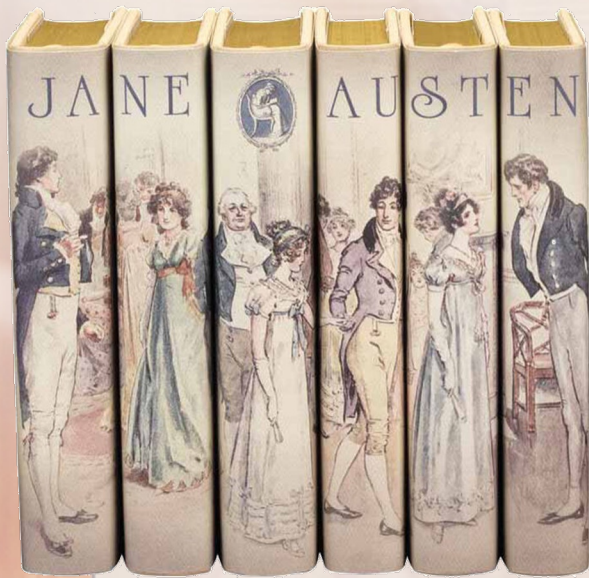


classical Jewish wedding

- 1. Bride price paid and betrothal arranged.**
- 2. The fetching of the bride.**
- 3. The marriage ceremony, a smaller gathering.**
- 4. The marriage feast, a larger & more diverse gathering.**

NT use of the wedding template

- 1. The bride price is paid by God.
1 Cor. 6:20; Eph. 5:25-27.**
- 2. The fetching will come as
detailed in 2 Thess. 4:13-18.**
- 3. The marriage ceremony is
seen by John in Rev. 19:6-8.**
- 4. The feast is celebrated in Rev.
19:9.**



It's a theme that Jane Austen used extensively. The unseen bridegroom is key to Austen's writing. He is desired, despaired of, and unseen; but once appearing, the groom changes all for the better. Austen tends to pull into her tales false bridegrooms until the good, the true, and the beautiful is unveiled. It is in this unveiling that the heroine becomes complete as the mature and sought after bride. Austen poetically makes the union of the church with the Lord Jesus Christ the thematic through-line in almost every tale, depicting our real happily-ever-after. – Fran Legband



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For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.**

Revelation 19 CSB

Surmises: takes place in heaven

sanctification is complete

sin has been removed

the judgment seat of Christ [bema] has already taken place

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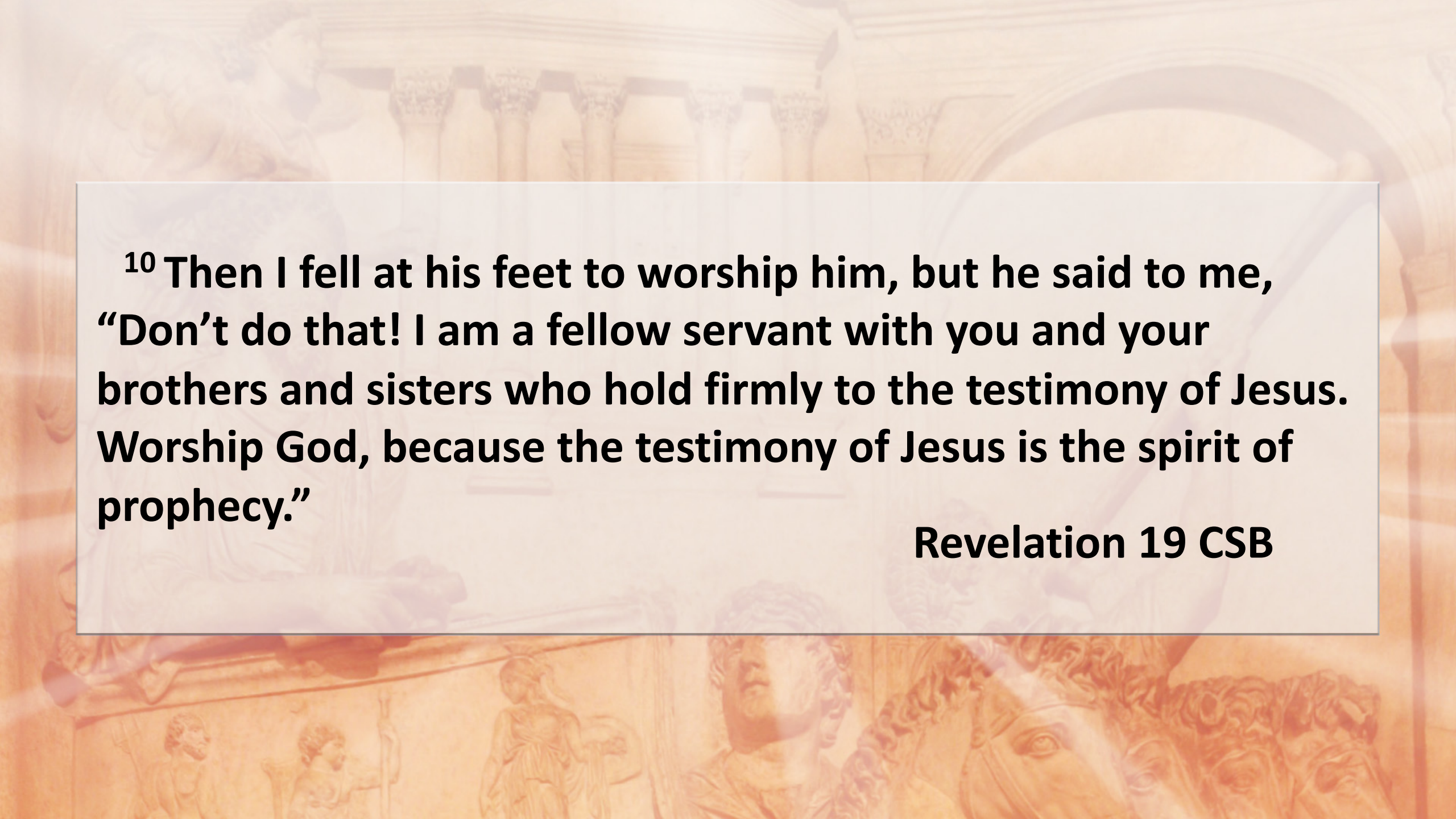


courtesy marketingweek

**There's something perfect flowing through the air
Something precious to which none can compare
Singing the songs heard over the birds
Never spoken, still more beautiful than words
Along the streams and seams of clouds
Every measure calming, every note resounds
Someone awaiting that dawn now hears
Now listens closely, wiping away tears
After years and years of silence they sing along
When love comes home, all sing
When love comes home
– Mike Braudrick, “When Love Comes Home”**

courtesy Janna Braudrick



The background features a warm, golden-brown color palette with faint, semi-transparent images of classical architecture, including columns and arches, and various sculptures of figures in classical attire.

¹⁰ Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters who hold firmly to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Revelation 19 CSB

10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters who hold firmly to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Revelation 19 CSB

Then I prostrated myself before his feet (or, in front of him) to give him honor, but he said to me, “Don’t do that! I serve God just as you and your fellow believers do. They are the ones who follow the truth that Jesus revealed. So God is the one you should worship.”

For the truth that Jesus revealed is what enables (or, empowers) people to proclaim God’s message. – Robert Bratcher & Howard Hatton, *A Translator’s Handbook on the Revelation to John*



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¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself. ¹³ He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. ¹⁵ A sharp sword came from his mouth, so that he might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty

Revelation 19 CSB

¹⁶ And he has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he called out in a loud voice, saying to all the birds flying high overhead, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of military commanders, the flesh of the mighty, the flesh of horses and of their riders, and the flesh of everyone, both free and slave, small and great.” ¹⁹ Then I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and against his army.

Revelation 19 CSB

20 But the beast was taken prisoner, and along with it the false prophet, who had performed the signs in its presence. He deceived those who accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image with these signs. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword that came from the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds ate their fill of their flesh.

Revelation 19 CSB

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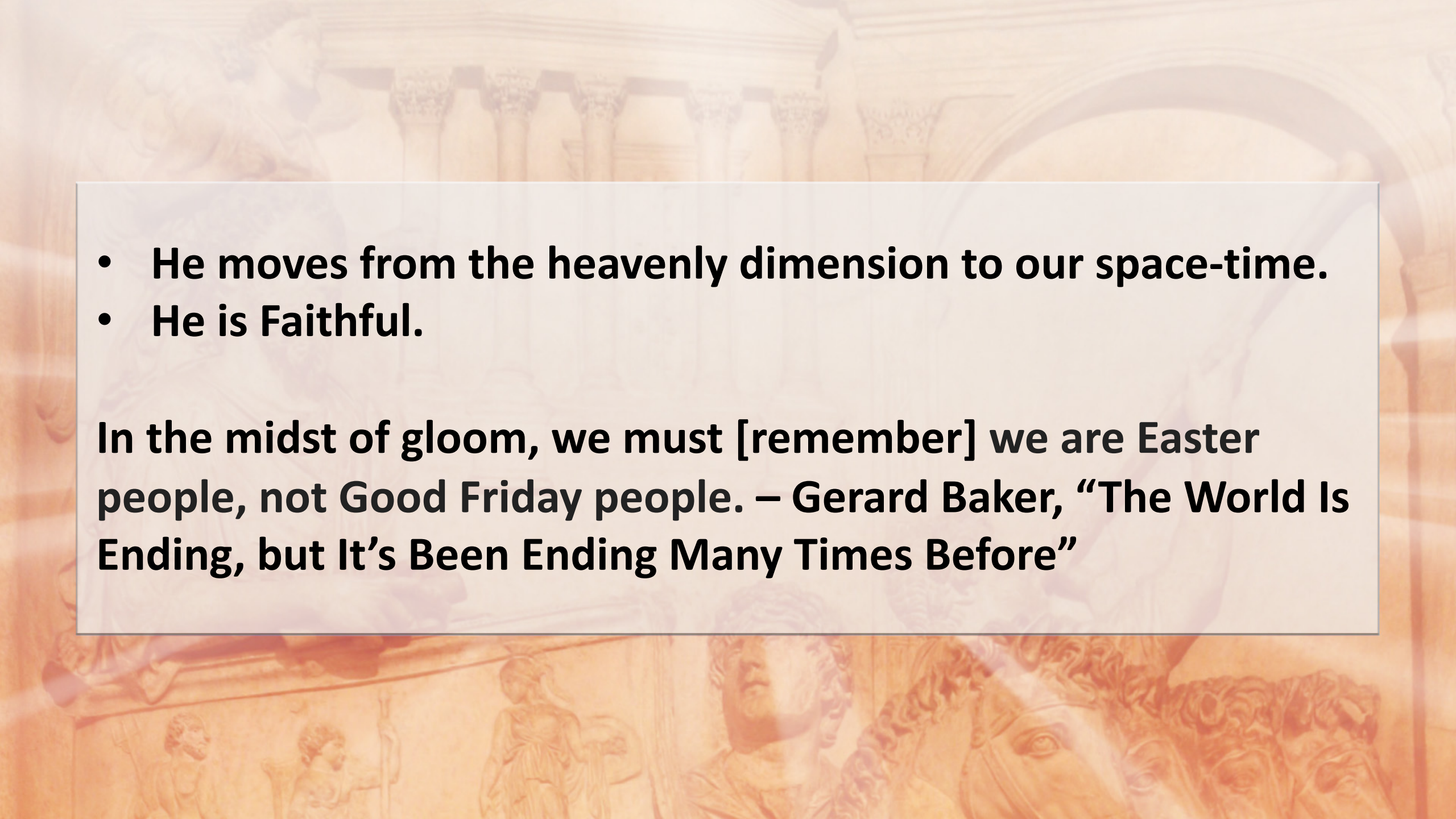
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courtesy Mariners' Memorial/silentinthewings

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- The background features a warm, golden-brown color palette with faint, semi-transparent images of classical architecture and sculptures. On the left, there are columns and arches, possibly from a temple or a grand hall. On the right, there are detailed carvings of human figures, including a prominent head and a figure in a dynamic pose. The overall aesthetic is that of ancient Greek or Roman art.
- **He moves from the heavenly dimension to our space-time.**
 - **He is Faithful.**

In the midst of gloom, we must [remember] we are Easter people, not Good Friday people. – Gerard Baker, “The World Is Ending, but It’s Been Ending Many Times Before”

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice he judges and makes war.

Revelation 19 CSB

Greek: ἀληθινός alethinos = true; in philosophical and legal writings, often paired with logos

Logos is how the truth gets reasoned or revealed.

Alethinos is the truth logos reveals.

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John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Rev. 19:13 He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God.

Revelation 19 CSB

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- **He moves from the heavenly dimension to our space-time.**
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- **He is the True Word.**
- **He is crowned sovereign Emperor.**
- **He cannot be fully comprehended.**
- **He wears his sacrificial love on his literal sleeve.**

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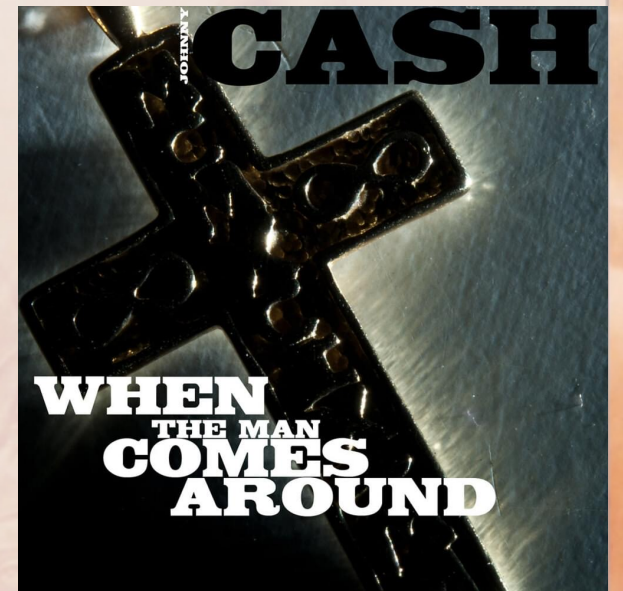
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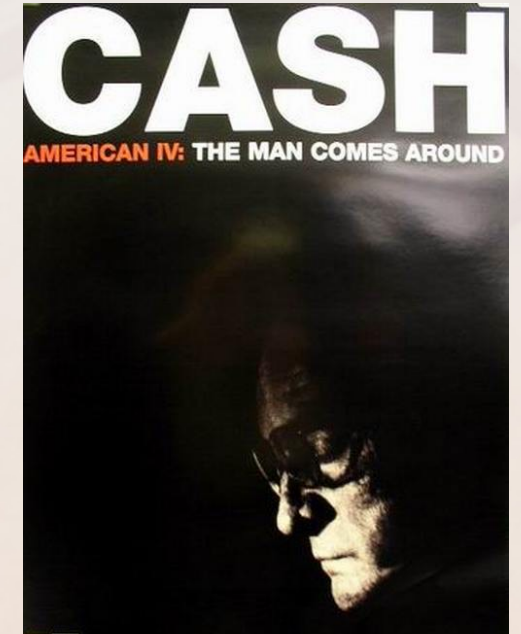
**And I heard, as it were, the noise of thunder
One of the four beasts saying, “Come and see”
And I saw, and behold, a white horse**

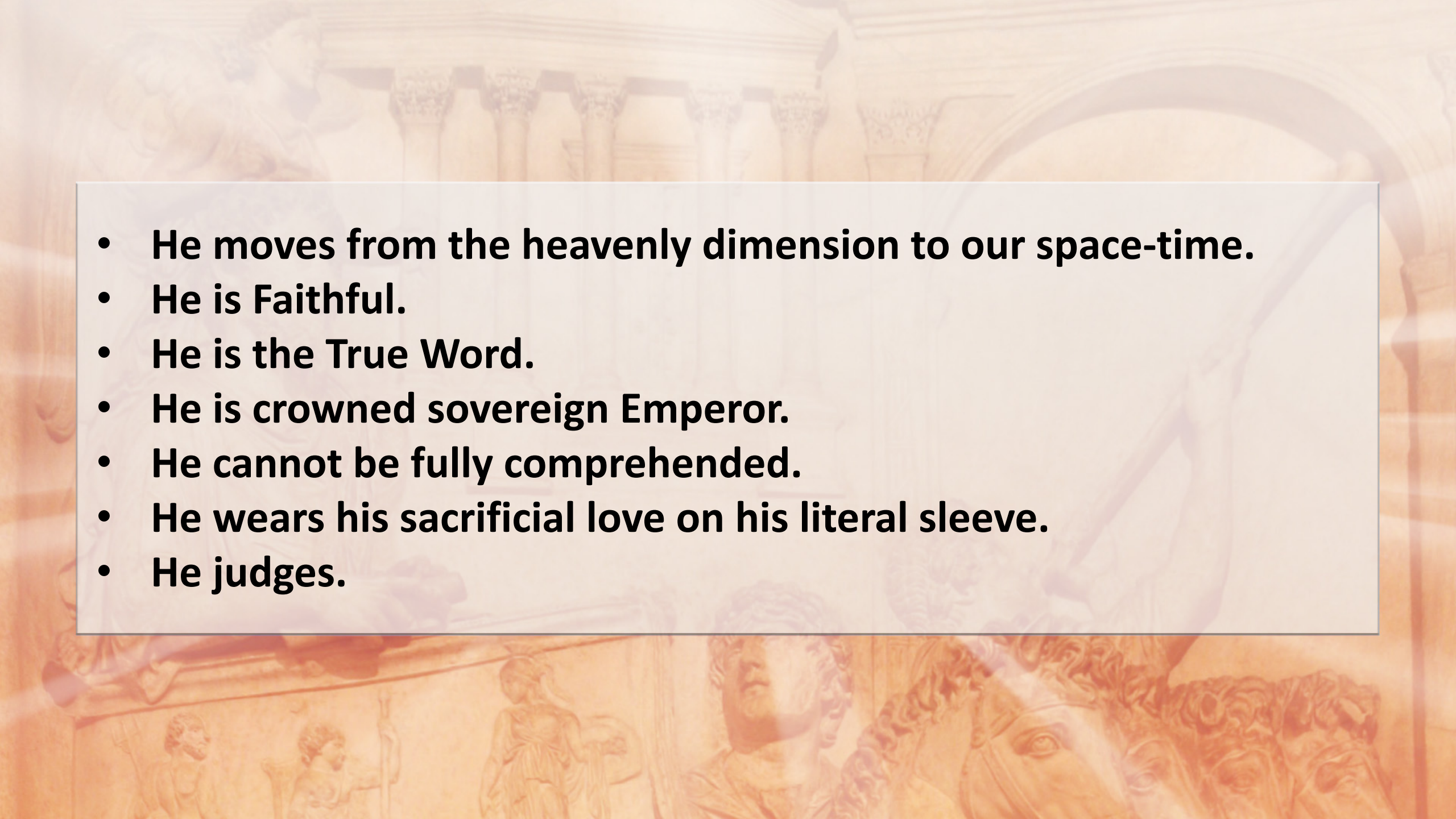
**There’s a man going ‘round taking names
And he decides who to free and who to blame
Everybody won’t be treated all the same
There’ll be a golden ladder reaching down
When the man comes around**



**The hairs on your arm will stand up
At the terror in each sip and in each sup
Will you partake of that last offered cup?
Or disappear into the potter's ground
When the man comes around?**

**Whoever is unjust, let him be unjust still
Whoever is righteous, let him be righteous still
Whoever is filthy, let him be filthy still
Listen to the words long written down
When the man comes around
– Johnny Cash, “When the Man Comes Around”**

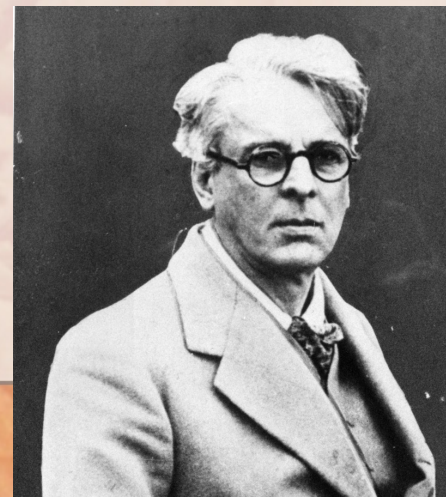


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- The background features a warm, golden-brown color palette with faint, semi-transparent images of classical architecture and sculptures. On the left, there are columns and arches. On the right, a large, muscular figure is shown in a dynamic pose, possibly a statue or relief. At the bottom, there are several smaller figures, including a horse's head and a person's face, all rendered in a classical style.
- **He moves from the heavenly dimension to our space-time.**
 - **He is Faithful.**
 - **He is the True Word.**
 - **He is crowned sovereign Emperor.**
 - **He cannot be fully comprehended.**
 - **He wears his sacrificial love on his literal sleeve.**
 - **He judges.**

19 Then I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and against his army. 20 But the beast was taken prisoner, and along with it the false prophet, who had performed the signs in its presence. He deceived those who accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image with these signs. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword that came from the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds ate their fill of their flesh.

Revelation 19 CSB

**Now as at all times I can see in the mind's eye,
In their stiff, painted clothes, the pale unsatisfied ones
Appear and disappear in the blue depths of the sky
With all their ancient faces like rain-beaten stones,
And all their helms of silver hovering side by side,
And all their eyes still fixed, hoping to find once more,
Being by Calvary's turbulence unsatisfied,
The uncontrollable mystery on the bestial floor.
– William Butler Yeats, “The Magi”**



19 Then I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and against his army. 20 But the beast was taken prisoner, and along with it the false prophet, who had performed the signs in its presence. He deceived those who accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image with these signs. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword that came from the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds ate their fill of their flesh.

Revelation 19 CSB

Secular humanism

Humans lack indwelling sin.

Honor should be given.

Each human possesses the power to achieve peace.

Introducing religion endangers actualization.

Religion

Humans have indwelling sin.

Worship should be given.

Deity possesses the power to help toward salvation.

Human must earn his way, but human effort isn't enough.

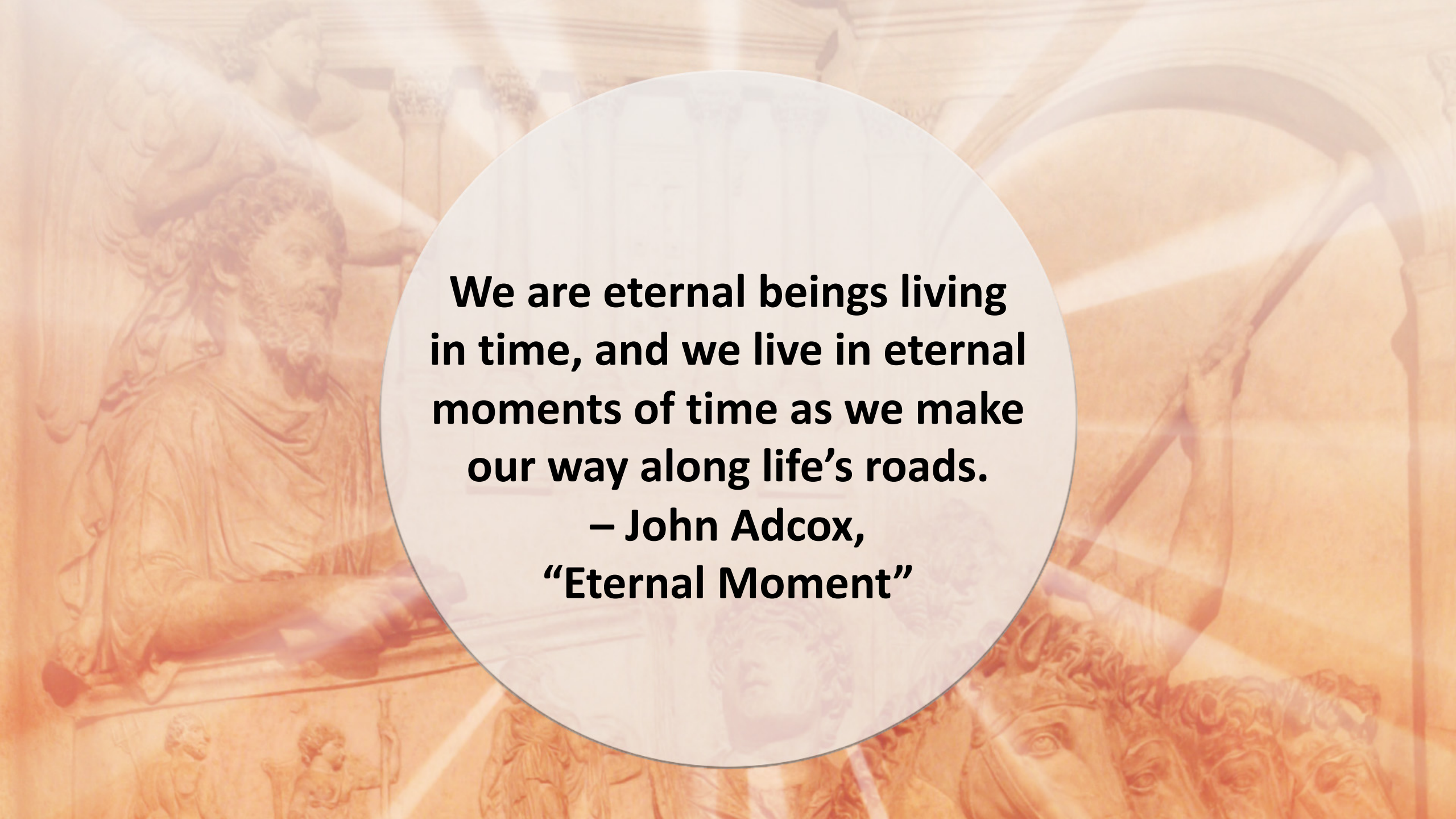
Biblical Christianity

Humans have indwelling sin.

Worship should be given.

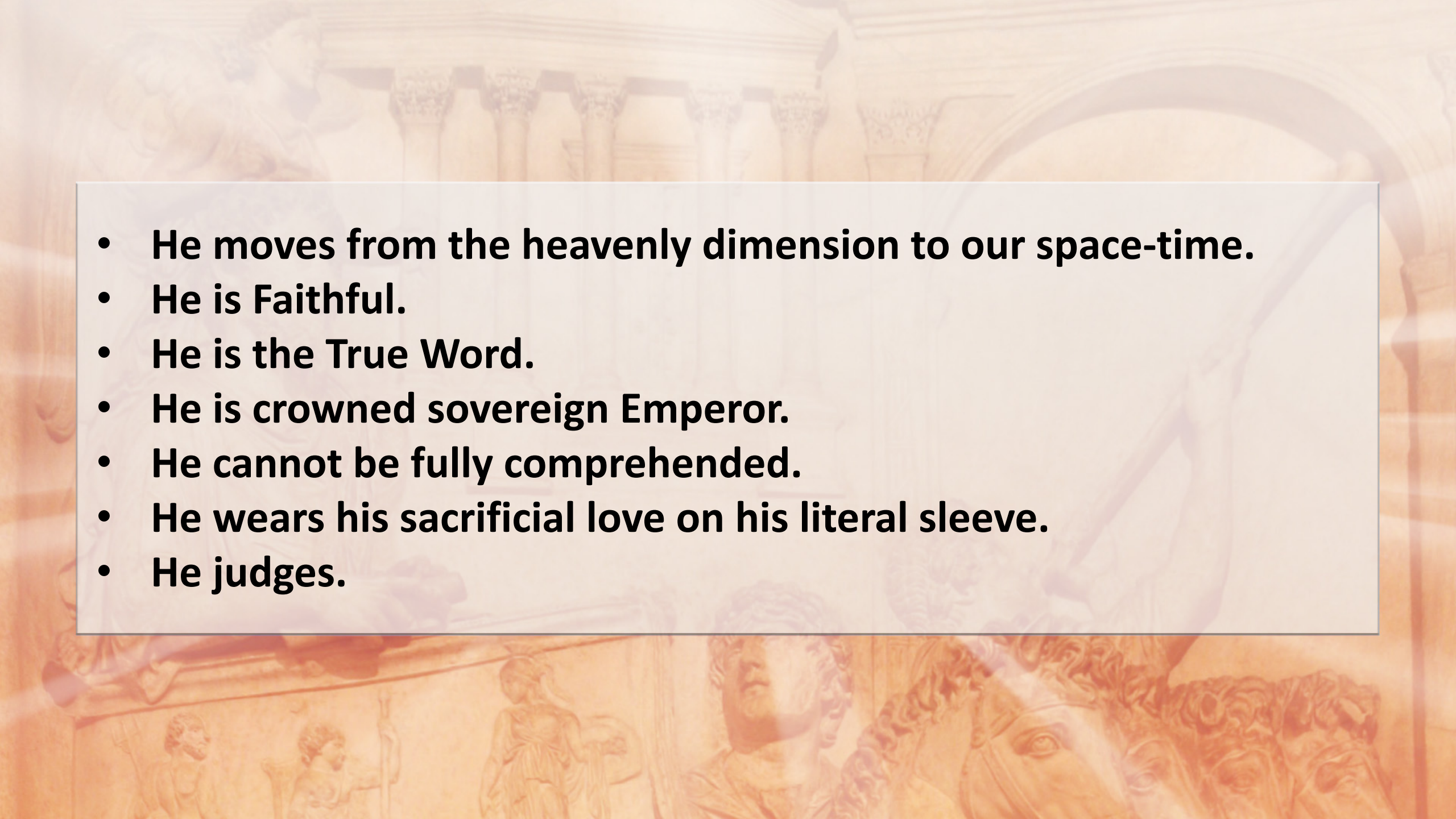
Only God can grant salvation through His sacrifice alone.

Humans can enter a covenant of grace by trust.



**We are eternal beings living
in time, and we live in eternal
moments of time as we make
our way along life's roads.**

**– John Adcox,
“Eternal Moment”**

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- The background features a warm, golden-brown color palette with faint, semi-transparent images of classical architecture and sculptures. On the left, there are columns and arches. On the right, a large, muscular figure is shown in a dynamic pose, possibly a deity or hero. At the bottom, there are various busts and relief carvings, including a prominent horse head sculpture on the right side.
- **He moves from the heavenly dimension to our space-time.**
 - **He is Faithful.**
 - **He is the True Word.**
 - **He is crowned sovereign Emperor.**
 - **He cannot be fully comprehended.**
 - **He wears his sacrificial love on his literal sleeve.**
 - **He judges.**

**¹ After this I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven, saying,
Hallelujah!
Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God,**

Revelation 19 CSB

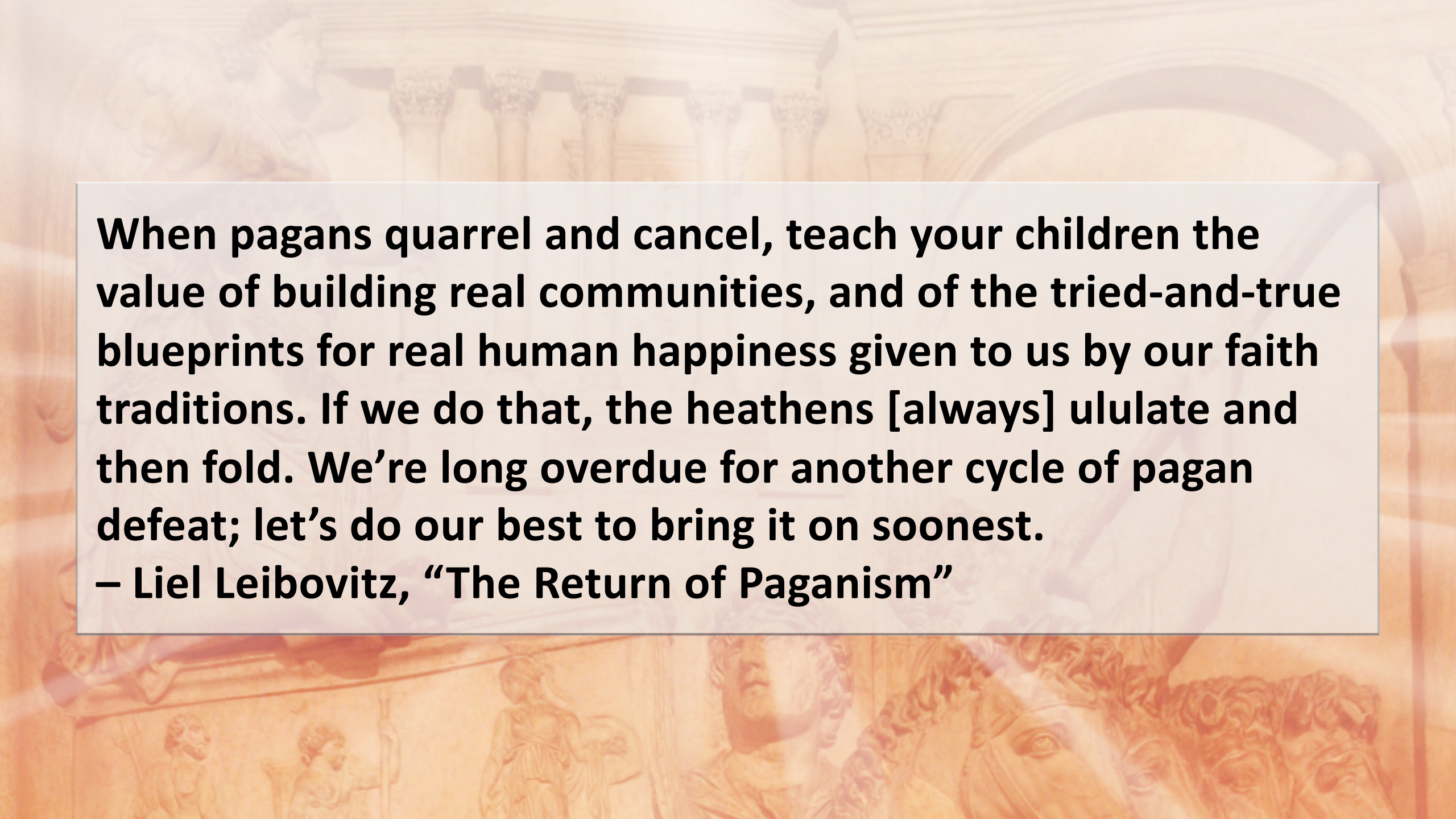
**¹ After this I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven, saying,
Hallelujah!
Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God,**

Revelation 19 CSB

**Along the streams and seams of clouds
Every measure calming, every note resounds
Someone awaiting that dawn now hears
Now listens closely, wiping away tears
– Mike Braudrick, “When Love Comes Home”**

Liel Leibovitz

...When pagans waving the banner of diversity, equity, and inclusion insist that we judge others by the color of their skin, not the content of their character, tell your children that the Hebrew prophets offered a much more transformational vision of racial justice, one that inspired everyone from Frederick Douglass to Martin Luther King Jr. When pagans calling themselves environmentalists tell your children to worship the earth, introduce them to the [Bible] for a superior attitude that is as mindful of production as it is of conservation.

The background features a warm, orange-toned collage of classical art. At the top, there are architectural elements like columns and an archway. Below, various sculptures are visible, including a large head of a woman with curly hair, a horse's head, and several smaller figures in classical attire.

When pagans quarrel and cancel, teach your children the value of building real communities, and of the tried-and-true blueprints for real human happiness given to us by our faith traditions. If we do that, the heathens [always] ululate and then fold. We're long overdue for another cycle of pagan defeat; let's do our best to bring it on soonest.

– Liel Leibovitz, “The Return of Paganism”



AS WE SEE
THE DAY
APPROACHING