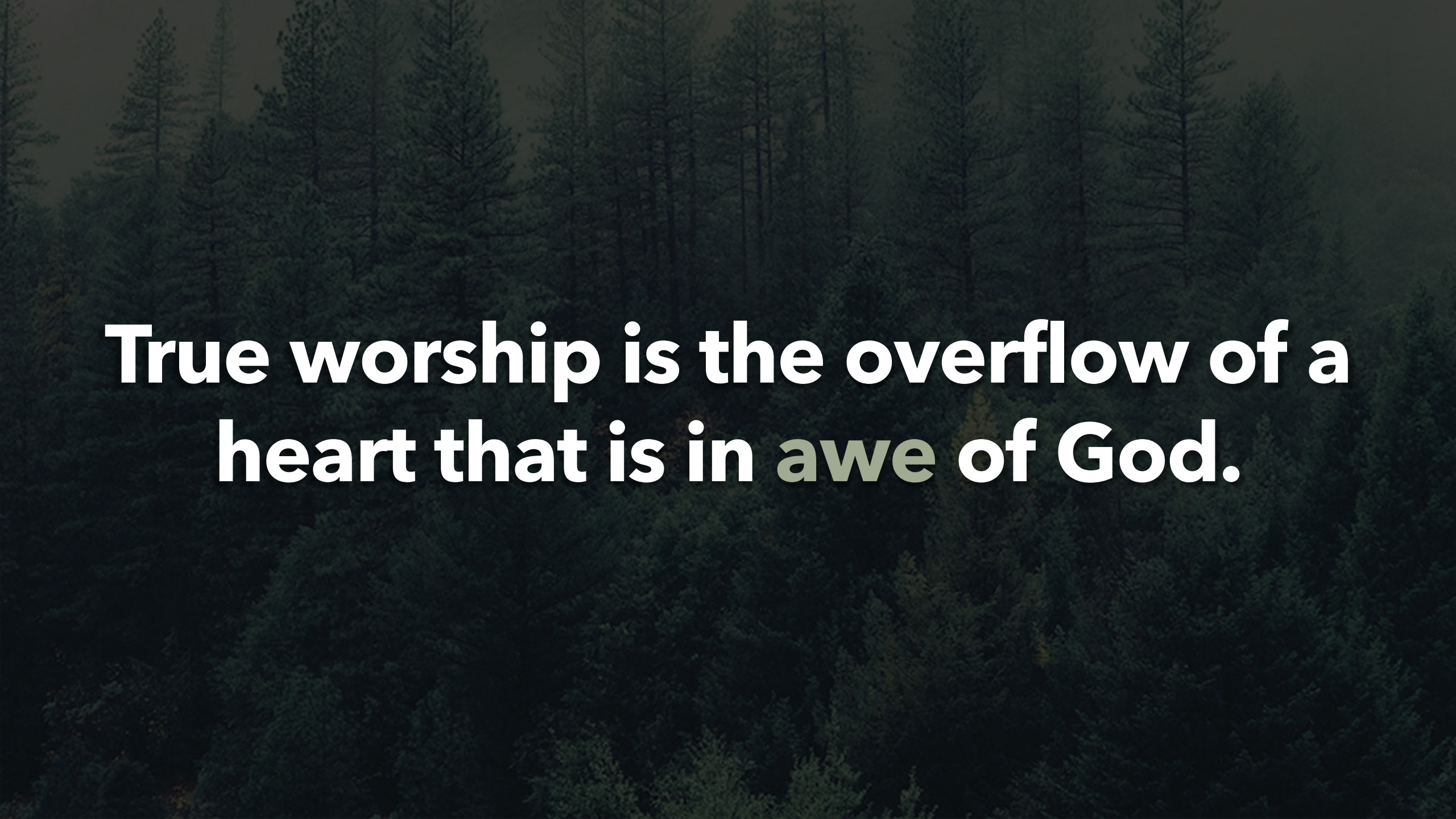


A dense forest of tall evergreen trees, possibly pines or firs, with a white rectangular frame in the center containing the text "WHY WORSHIP?". The background is a soft, hazy green, suggesting a misty or overcast day. The trees are dark green and densely packed, with some lighter green foliage visible in the foreground. The white frame is a simple, thin border that encloses the text.

WHY WORSHIP?



The God We Worship



**True worship is the overflow of a
heart that is in awe of God.**



**Our passion for worship
is proportional to
our knowledge of God**

Psalm 145:1-7

I will exalt You, my God, the King,

And I will bless Your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless You,

And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Psalm 145:1-7

Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised;
And His greatness is **unsearchable**.

Psalm 145:1-7

Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised;
And His greatness is **unsearchable**.

(AMP) - His greatness is [so vast and profound as to be] unsearchable [incomprehensible to man].

Psalm 145:1-7

One generation will praise Your works to another,
And will declare Your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of Your majesty

And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.

Psalm 145:1-7

People will speak of the power of Your awesome acts,
And I will tell of Your greatness.

They will burst forth in speaking of Your abundant goodness,
And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human, but each of them had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. All four of them had faces and wings, and the wings of one touched the wings of another. Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle. Such were their faces. They each had two wings spreading out upward, each wing touching that of the creature on either side; and each had two other wings covering its body.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

Each one went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they went. The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it. The creatures sped back and forth like flashes of lightning.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like topaz, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not change direction as the creatures went. Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose.

Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would rise along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

When the creatures moved, they also moved; when the creatures stood still, they also stood still; and when the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels rose along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked something like a vault, sparkling like crystal, and awesome. Under the vault their wings were stretched out one toward the other, and each had two wings covering its body. When the creatures moved, I heard the sound of their wings, like the roar of rushing waters, like the voice of the Almighty, like the tumult of an army. When they stood still, they lowered their wings.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

Then there came a voice from above the vault over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. Above the vault over their heads was what looked like a throne of lapis lazuli, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him.

Ezekiel 1:4-28

This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.



Seeing God moves us to worship!

1. He is Self-Existent



1. He is Self-Existent

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” - John 1:1-3

1. He is Self-Existent

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” - John 1:1-3
- We are not the result of a cosmic accident.

Wall Street Journal

The odds of life existing on another planet grow ever longer.
Intelligent design, anyone?

In 1966 Time magazine ran a cover story asking: Is God Dead? Many have accepted the cultural narrative that he's obsolete — that as science progresses, there is less need for a "God" to explain the universe. Yet it turns out that the rumors of God's death were premature. More amazing is that the relatively recent case for his existence comes from a surprising place — science itself.

Wall Street Journal

Here's the story: the same year Time featured the now-famous headline, the astronomer Carl Sagan announced that there were two important criteria for a planet to support life: The right kind of star, and a planet the right distance from that star.

It turns out Sagan was wrong. Today we understand that there are more than 200 known parameters necessary for a planet to support life — every single one of which must be perfectly met, or the whole thing falls apart. And many of these parameters are ones you may not have heard of.

Wall Street Journal

For example, without a massive planet like Jupiter nearby – whose gravity will draw away asteroids – a thousand times as many asteroids would hit the Earth. The odds against life on any planet in the universe are simply astonishing. Yet here we are, not only existing, but talking about existing. What can account for it? Can every one of those hundreds of parameters have been perfect by accident? At what point is it fair to admit that science suggests that we cannot be the result of random forces?

Wall Street Journal

Doesn't assuming that an intelligence created these perfect conditions require far less faith than believing that a life-sustaining Earth just happened to beat the inconceivable odds to come into being?

There's more. The fine-tuning necessary for life to exist on a planet is nothing compared with the fine-tuning required for the universe to exist at all. For example, astrophysicists now know that the values of the four fundamental forces — gravity, the electromagnetic force, and the "strong" and "weak" nuclear forces — were determined

Wall Street Journal

less than one millionth of a second after the big bang. Alter any one value and the universe could not exist. For instance, if the ratio between the nuclear strong force and the electromagnetic force had been off by the tiniest fraction of the tiniest fraction—by even one part in 100,000,000,000,000,000 [100 quadrillion] — then no stars could have ever formed at all. Feel free to gulp.

Multiply that single parameter by all the other necessary conditions, and the odds against the universe existing are so heart-stoppingly astronomical that the notion that it all “just happened” defies

Wall Street Journal

common sense. It would be like tossing a coin and having it come up heads 10 quintillion times in a row. Really?

Fred Hoyle, the astronomer who coined the term "big bang," said that his atheism was "greatly shaken" at these developments. He later wrote that "a common-sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super-intellect has tinkered with the physics, as well as with chemistry and biology... The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question."

Wall Street Journal

Theoretical physicist and atheist Paul Davies adds, "the appearance of design is overwhelming."

2. He is Eternal



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- “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” - Psalm 90:2

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- “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” - Psalm 90:2
- “Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’” – Isaiah 46:9-10

3. He is Immutable



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- He is the unchanging God!

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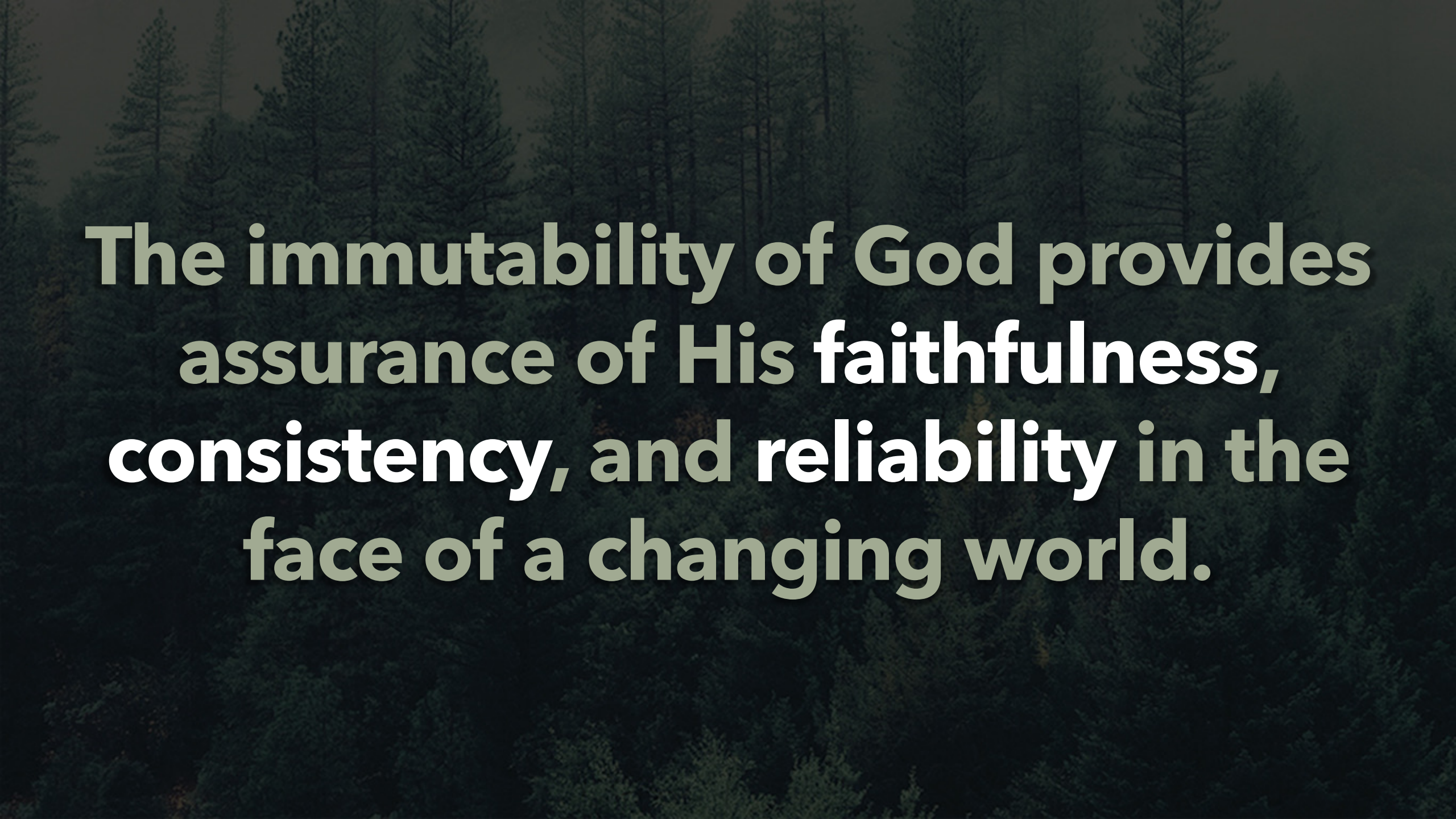
- He is the unchanging God!
- "I the Lord do not change." - Malachi 3:6

3. He is Immutable

- He is the **unchanging** God!
- "I the Lord do not change." - Malachi 3:6
- "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is **no variation** or shifting shadow." – James 1:17







**The immutability of God provides
assurance of His faithfulness,
consistency, and reliability in the
face of a changing world.**

4. He is Merciful



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- His mercies/compassions are new every morning -
Lamentations 3:22-23

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Lamentations 3:22-23
- Shame significantly hinders our worship.
- Understanding God's mercy destroys shame!

5. He is Transcendent



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- Dictionary: Going beyond the limits of ordinary experience.







5. He is Transcendent

- Dictionary: Going beyond the limits of ordinary experience.
- The Lord is exalted **over** all the nations, his glory **above** the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on **high**. - Psalm 113:4-5

5. He is Transcendent

- For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place...” - Isaiah 57:15

5. He is Transcendent

- For this is what the **high** and **exalted** One says—he who lives forever, whose name is **holy**: “I live in a **high** and **holy** place...” - Isaiah 57:15
- “...but also with the one who is **contrite** and **lowly** in spirit, to revive the spirit of the **lowly** and to revive the heart of the **contrite**.”

Leviticus 10:3

By those who come near Me I will be treated as **holy**, And before all the people I will be **honored**.

Revelation 4:1-11

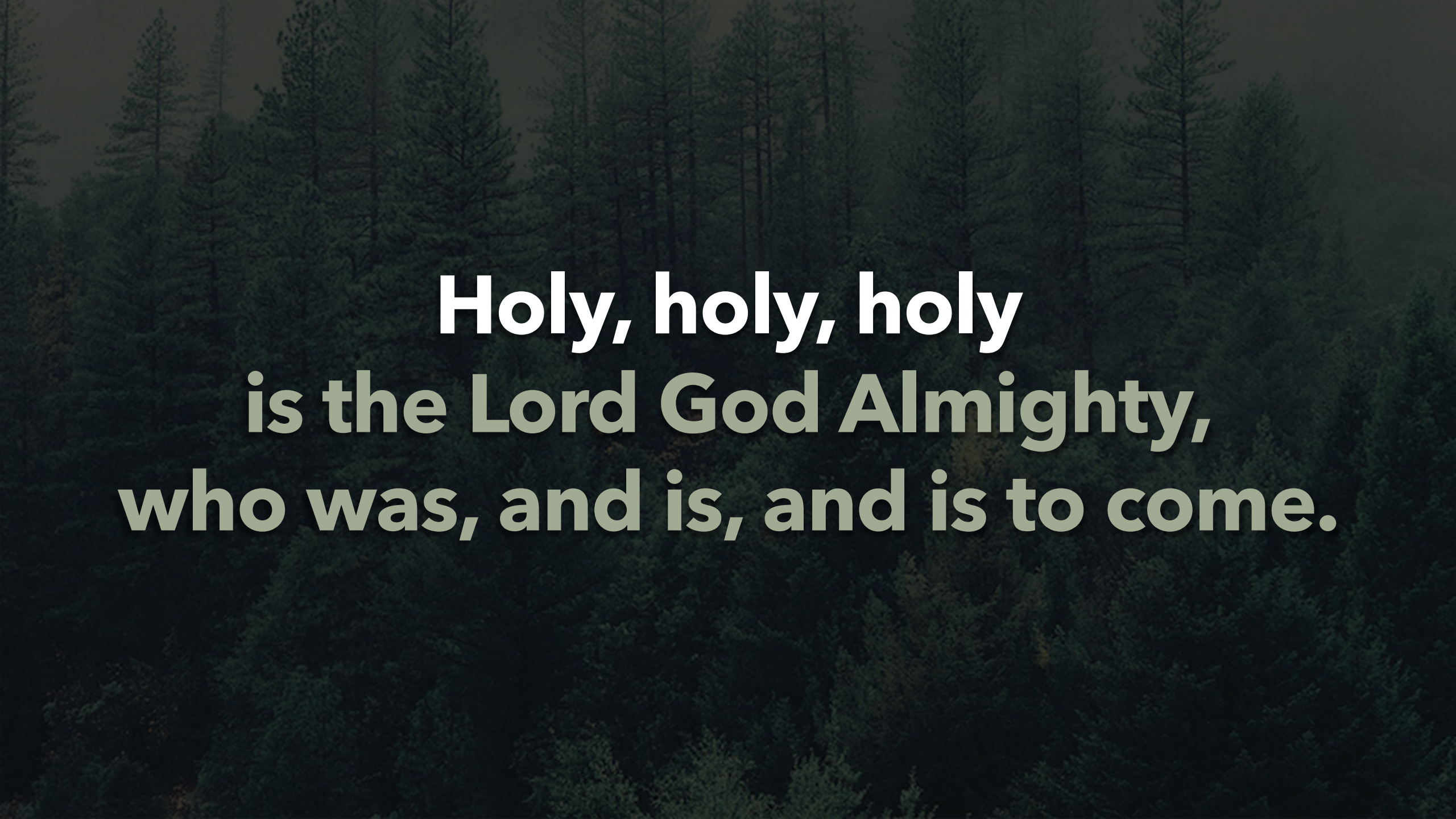
After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

Revelation 4:1-11

Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

Revelation 4:1-11

Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:



Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.

Revelation 4:1-11

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

Revelation 4:1-11

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."



Holy holy holy LORD
God almighty over all!

A dense forest of evergreen trees, likely pines or firs, fills the frame. The trees are dark green, with some lighter green and yellowish foliage visible in the lower center. A white rectangular frame is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the text "WHY WORSHIP?". The background is slightly hazy, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

WHY WORSHIP?