

God Our Savior — Delivery Transcript

Jude 1:25 (CSB) · Wes Terry · Sunday, October 5, 2025 · *The Contender*

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All right, well good morning everybody. It's good to see you. Welcome to Broadview Baptist church to our eleven o'clock service. It has been a fun and full morning so far. Thank you so much for being here. Welcome you for those of you who are visiting with us. There are a couple of new faces. New haircuts as well. Congrats on that. Thank you for being here. If you're visiting with us, we consider it really a gift and a very special gift at that that you would choose to join us for worship.

That you would even go to church, period, is great. That you would join our church is even better, especially if you've never been here before, a lot of total strangers. So you're to be commended for showing up. Let me encourage you if you're comfortable and you don't mind us knowing about your visit today, connect with us by filling out the connect card on the chair in the seat in front of you. You can also do the same thing digitally by using the QR code on this worship guide here. It'll send us an email with your information and then it'll send you an automated email.

Back with a welcome email and a resource invitation to RightNow Media. We want to give you that. It's a blessing to you to help you grow in your faith. And we're again so glad that you're here. Be sure you swing by our connect table before you leave and grab a cookie and guest gift bag today is a special day for a couple of different reasons. One is we have our Brazil mission team, which will be flying out. Thank you, Homer, for shutting those doors. Our Brazil mission team will be flying out, so be sure you swing by the connect table before you leave today and grab you one of those Brazil prayer guides.

It will help you know where the team is at and what they're doing throughout the week so that you can stay informed. And pray them through the trip on the various different things that they're going to be doing. It also just so happens that today is the beginning of the vision nights that we will start Sunday. We'll do another one Monday and one on Wednesday I'll tell you more about that later on, but very excited about the kickoff of the campaign that'll start next week and the vision nights that are happening tonight.

The third thing is that there is actually a special guest here today who flew in from Ecuador. Some of the partners that are on the ground there in Santo Domingo, Ecuador, the city in which we were working. We were actually working in some of the smaller villages around that city. But we were working with a partner church in Santa Domingo, the bigger city, and pastor William, who is the pastor of that Baptist church there in Santa Domingo, is here today. He actually flew in from Ecuador. He's got another church he's visiting in New Orleans and also or yeah, New Orleans, which is in

Louisiana.

But he wanted to be sure to come by here and express his thanks in person and just to get to see our church and see our people I'm sure it's been an eventful morning for him thus far. So to help orient you to that trip, which we took this August and to orient you to the work, we David got a quick highlight video of the mission trip. I'm going to play that video and then I'm actually going to invite pastor William up here to share a few words. And then we're going to have a special time prayer for him and then we'll kick off the worship service and worship through song.

So let's let's play the video. *Quan hermoso eres Jesús, son tus palabras. Es tu amor tan glorioso que eres Jesús, es tu poder, fue tu la que me salvó, me rescató, un momento hay no seu libertad. Gloria Te loy gloria, Teloy, gloria a ti Hesu. Tell our gloria, Tay Gloria, Tay Gloria, I think so. Quando hermoso eres que só tus palavras* Alright, y'all welcome pastor William to the stage. He's actually got some friends with him as well. So William, if you'll make your way. And then Gary is going to Gary's going to help translate for pastor Williams so you can understand what he's saying.

And then we're going to have a special time of prayer. So if some of you who are pastors, deacons, or generally just have a heart for what God's doing among the nations, if you'll be ready to come up here and lay hands on them and pray. When we when we're done. Okay, thank you. Greetings church in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When I first went through with my wife and kids to Ecuador William and his family was there in the city that we started working and starting churches.

And he was a teenager at that time. And his wife was also in the youth group. And through that youth group, started a lot of churches and did a lot of different ministries and activities. And so now William has been at the first Baptist church of Santo Domingo for 25 years. And so sort of makes me feel old, William. He doesn't know what I'm saying. We're so glad to have him here visiting with us, William. Thomas muy contentos. Gracias pastor por permitirme estar en esta mañana con ustedes. Thank you, pastor, to have us here in your search service this morning.

We're really excited to get to know the church, your church here, and also the city of Abilene. Okay, who knows? No. No problem. Check check one two. Check check one two. We got nothing in the system. Check, check one two. Gracias. Muchas gracias, mi hermano Estaba compartiendo que estamos muy emocionados de estar con ustedes en esta mañana. Hemos venido a una pequeña comitiva de desde la primera iglesia bautista en Santo Domingo. Couple from our church in Santo Domingo. Carlos and Anna is with us. They have been our legal representatives in our church in Santo Domingo for several years now.

Y les hablé que Estados Unidos es un lugar acogedor de hermanos que realmente comparten con otros. And we have found that here in the united States the people are very welcoming and here in your church especially even more so Aunque la primera vez estuvimos en New Orleans visitando y bueno, estábamos un poco asustados. He said, but when we came through, we had a layover in New Orleans, and so they took a day and wanted to see the city. He said, but we were just a little bit afraid there. No conocíamos, así que no conocíamos, no sé en dónde nos metimos, esa es la verdad.

In the situation we find ourselves. But in New Orleans. There's some good folks there in New Orleans. I'm very content to be here with you, but I want to encourage you more to missions. I want to congratulate you as a church because I know and have heard of your mission projects and the way that you are doing missions all over the world. El misionero Gary, nuestro hermano Gary, ha sido nuestro mentor en las misiones en el Ecuador por muchos años. He said brother Gary has been our mentor in missions for many years.

So thank you so much for collaborating with us and partnering with us in this mission of making Jesus known. Throughout the world. There where your church came and for a couple of years now and it's in a rural sector where the kids and the adults and the fathers and the mothers do not know about Jesus Christ Y allí pude conocer al pastor, al equipo que estuvo ayudándonos in esta ocasión. And so pastor Wes and the mission team that came, that's where they were working when they came recently. We found out that the community, the rural community, is really open.

They're receiving us, they're allowing us to tell them and teach them about Jesus Christ. We're just beginning, but I am sure that soon we'll have a church start there. Y por eso quiero invitarles a que conozcan Ecuador. And unite yourselves with us and partner with us in mission. Será una bendición poderles tener a muchos de ustedes sirviendo en Ecuador. It'd be a great blessing to have you come and work with us in Ecuador. Que Dios les bendiga. Y gracias por recibarnos. Okay, if I could get William's team to come down here and then some of you from our church if you'd be willing to get up and come down here to the front and lay hands on them and pray over them as a show of our solidarity and commitment and support to them and what God is doing.

Yeah, there you go. Come on. Keep coming. Keep coming. And I would encourage you to consider going to Ecuador. It's just such a rich and tremendous opportunity. The doors of that the doors that the Lord has opened are really pretty p pretty pretty unique and pretty exciting. And so as you pray over their team, would you be open to any impression that God might put on your heart. To join in this work. And yeah, with that said, let's bow our heads together and pray over our brothers and sisters here. Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity on Sunday morning to be reminded that your glory is worldwide, that you are God of every tribe, tongue, people, and language.

And that your heart is a missionary heart. And that you did not leave us when we were adrift and in a foreign land and running away from you, but that you pursued us. You sacrificed, you generously gave of yourself so that you could get to us. Reconciling us back to yourself through the Lord Jesus Christ. And we have been tremendously blessed, not only with salvation, but with great joy. And great privileges here in the united States of America. And we pray that this morning you might in a fresh way remind us that your heart has not changed.

And that you are still pursuing people from every tribe, tongue, people, and language. And in that way we pray that you would not only increase our commitment. To joining you in that work, but that you would strengthen our brothers and sisters here from first Baptist church Santo Domingo. We pray for pastor William. We pray for his team that is here alongside of him. We pray that you would strengthen them by your grace for the work that you have in front of them. I know that it is filled with challenges

and it is filled with obstacles, hardships, and difficulties on every front.

But you are faithful and you have overcome the world and you are with us as we go and make disciples of all nations. And so we pray that the authority of Jesus Christ would go before them. We pray that the provision of our Almighty God might supply their every need according to his riches. And abundance in heaven. We pray that they would be encouraged, established, strengthened in their joy and in their contentment. In the work that you've called them to. We pray for continued doors of opportunity to be opened and for the open doors that are there.

To result in spiritual fruit of people who were separated and far from God, coming close, being reconciled through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that you would raise up more workers there in each of those individual communities. We pray you'd raise them up from within the congregation at first Baptist in Santo Domingo. And we pray that you would raise them up here in Broadview Baptist church, not only to go to Brazil and Tanzania and Romania and the different places that you've sent us. But that now and sending us to Ecuador and creating these opportunities, you would raise up workers to go out into the harvest field and to be just as generous, just as sacrificial, just as fully surrendered as you yourself became so that we might be saved.

Help us to demonstrate that in bringing salvation to the others around the world. We thank you for this morning and the fresh reminder of all of these truths. And we pray that it would inform our worship as we sing. We would join that chorus of people. All around the world singing salvation belongs to our God and to the Lamb, and that it would give us a foretaste of that ultimate day when there will be literally people from every tribe, tongue, and nation singing the same. And so giving us that foretaste of heaven, would you manifest your presence now as we worship through song and as we open up the Word of God.

Equip us to do everything good to do your will. Would your kingdom come and will be done in Jesus' name. Amen. Oh, I forgot to mention they delivered a gift in the A twenty five service. They weren't going to do it every single service, but it is a sombrero, special mate. From from Ecuador special special kind of fabric fits perfect. So very blessed. I would share it, but there's only one hat, so where I am your representative and I will wear it proudly. So thank you guys so much. Alright, church, we invite you to stand and rise as we begin to worship.

We worship the God who is, we worship the God who is. Worship the God who ever more He opened the prison doors, He parted the agencies, my God's there's joy in the house in the Lord, there's joy in the house of the Lord's day, and we won't fight, we'll shout out your praise, there's joy in the house in the Lord. I got to show you we won't fight. We share your praise. We share your praise. We sing to the God of you, we sing to the God of Saint, We sing to the God who always fails.

He hung up on that cross, then he rose up from that grave. My God still owns only there's joy in the outside. There's joy in the house of the Lord today. And we won't fight You shadow your praise there's joy in the house of the Lord I got a show of me in this place. We won't fly, we shout out your praise. We were the beggars, they are royalty. We were the prisoners. Now we're running free. We are

forgiven accepted freedom by his grace. Let the house of the Lord sing free.

We were the beggar, now we were loyalty, we were the prison, now we run everything, we all begin. There's joy in the house of the Lord. There's joy in the house of the Lord. We won't quiet. We shout out your praise and join the house alone I got to show you this place. We won't fight. Well shall I pray? Who shall I pray? Who shall I pray? Yes, Lord, let there be joy, amen, church. Is good and all the time is good come on one more time God is good and all the time Amen.

Let's continue in worship, acknowledging that and welcoming that joy. A thousand generations falling down in worship to sing the song of ages to the land. And all who've gone before us, and all who will believe, will sing the song of ages today. Your name is the highest, your name is the greatest, your name stands above the mall of and dominions all parts and positions your day stands above the law and the angels cry Holy O creation Christ. Holy, you are lifting high. If you can be a good one. Sing a song forever to the name.

And if you walk in freedom to your baby's name sing the song forever today. We'll sing the song forever and amen. And the angels cry. Stand above the Lord All hooks and lives all outs and position your name stand above the Your neighbors is the high yes, your nays, it's a great yes, your nays, stand above the mall. Above all groups and dominions of parts and positions or names stands above the wall and the angel's Holy forever. Yeske that going holy. Come on, church, wild and proud, wishing holy, holy, holy.

Eight to three we're going to sing that again, church. We're going to step away from the mics and let you, as the body this morning, as the bride of Christ to be lifted as one as we proclaim his holiness. He is holy. Amen, church. Holy crowd this morning. Yes, so Father, as we continue in worship, would you have to be able to do that? Help us to see you as holy and as we see you as holy father would you help us to make the connection that we are not like that naturally we are not holy naturally is it is within our flesh to be unholy it is it is within our flesh to desire things of the flesh father but through you by you, we have the opportunity to deny ourselves, to pick up our cross and to follow you in spirit and truth as we worship you this morning.

Would you remind us of that, Father? That we are worshiping a God who is worthy, that we are worshiping a God who is great and greatly to be praised. But most importantly, we are worshiping a God who is holy. Father, help us to understand and to see with more clarity this morning that your ways are not our ways, Father. That your words are not our words, God. For those of us that would come this morning, wrestling, bearing weight, are struggling. Struggling situationally or circumstantially, Father, I pray that you would remind us of that.

Lead us to find rest as the good shepherd that you are, Lord. I pray that you would steal us, Father. And only the way that you can steal us, God, mentally, physically, spiritually, right now by your Holy Spirit, Lord, I believe that you've already been speaking. And so Lord, I pray as we take a moment, as we turn our sight individually towards you Lord that you would continue to affirm that which is true that you are holy that you are worthy that you are trustworthy Father that you are a good good father

and despite our surroundings you never leave your throne despite our circumstances, you remain good.

Church, just take a second. In your own space, would you just even if it's in your own mind, would you just begin to pray to the Lord? If nothing else, you know the word says to enter his presence with what? With gratitude, with thankfulness. So maybe it's been a crazy morning for you. Maybe it's been a crazy week. Maybe it's been a crazy month. Maybe the very blessings that the Lord has allowed you to walk with have been the things that have somehow become a distraction. The problem isn't the blessings, the problem is us.

So would you take a moment, would you realign? Would you recalibrate? Maybe you haven't had a moment with the Lord, say God, I.. I do believe you are good. Even if I am struggling with feeling that, I want to be able to lean into that. Would you help me? Church, if you haven't already, just begin to involve fight him in your own mind in your own words Lord we need you would you begin to turn from self to him and acknowledging that that need as savior meaning that we need it or need to be saved and that's a constant thing so father remind us of that about your Holy Spirit that this religion this relationship doesn't work without you and for those of us that have come for religion instead of relationship Father would you remind us of truth this morning would you realign us to your truth.

This morning. And as we're realigned, Father, would you help us to worship you? And such a heart of being unashamed, and such a heart of being bold. Would we pray this? Churches continue to worship as we sing. We Fall down, always one voice. We sing. We Fall down We lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus, the greatness of He is mercy in love at the feet of Jesus. One is one we sing, we cry, holy, holy. Only we cry only we cry holy holy one more time we fall down church as the bride united through Christ for the sing as one together we for the greatness of the greatness.

Is mercy enough at the feet of Jesus and we cry holy. Holy wholly we cry wholly wholly holy and we cry. My holy holy holy is the land we cry just the voices but the voices encourage and remind you of his holiness and we cry, oh, you are we cry. And we cry. Yeah, Lord, as we as we continue in worship. Remind us that it's not about a fancy prayer. It's not about singing words that sound pleasing all the time, Father. That it's deeper than that. It's a relationship, Father. Would you warm our hearts and melt our hearts of hardness for any way that we might find ourselves in a place of resisting or finding difficulty in submitting or even repenting and turning ourselves back to you, Lord?

Continue to guide us to the place of saying Lord here's my heart here's my life father here's my worship let it begin here let the seed be planted. We pray this in your precious name. Church, just continue to worship in that spirit. Here's my artnoy. Here's my heart. Here's my heart. Speak what is to my heart. Speak words through cause I am found, I am yours, I am loved, I am. Made pure, I have life I can breathe, I am healed, I am free. Whose my heart? Whose my heart? I aren't cause I am found, I am yours.

I am alive, I made you work, I have alive, I can dream, I am evil. I am for you are strong, you are sure, you are lying. I am yours. I am there. I make joy, I have life, I can clean, I am killed, I am free. I have

to work with them to the Aspigo God is true. Lord, we're so grateful that we can gather together in your name and that you are here. And we're grateful that you're faithful to be here when we do that, Lord. I thank you for this congregation and that we get to do this together and this family that we have together, Lord, and I pray that as West comes, that you speak truth to our hearts through him, God.

That you encourage us, that you convict us, so that we can walk out these doors and we are prepared to speak truth to others. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen. He was a zookeeper in Toledo, Ohio. He got a phone call at 2 o'clock in the morning. Randomly, which is odd enough if you're a zookeeper, but not so odd if you're the zookeeper in Toledo, Ohio. The phone call came from the highway department in Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana. The Methodist Hospital had a patient who had just been bitten by a Jameson mamba, which is a rare sub-Saharan African snake.

That has an even more rare anti-venom, and no one in the state of Indiana had any access to that anti-venom, and the only person who had a vial just so happened to be John Chastain. In the Toledo Zoo. And so they called him up, he got the vial, he handed it to the highway department, and they rushed it over hours, overnight. And thankfully we're able to get the vial to the guy in just the nick of time so that He didn't die. And it made for a feel-good headline. And you can Google it up today if you want.

And what I also noticed when I Googled this guy, he got arrested for drunk driving this year. So be careful. Be careful of getting famous on the internet. You never know what's going to happen. But I think his story is actually a pretty good metaphor for the Christian life because we are all born into the world. With a type of spiritual venom running through our vein. C. S. Lewis, I think, captured it better than most using the German word *Zeinsucht*. The word means homesick. It's that painful longing that all of us have deep down, kind of born with it of trying to get back where we belong.

This recognition, intuition that we have lost something that we are chasing after something and all the different people, places, pleasures that we pursue are really an effort to try to get that back. St. Augustine said, our hearts are restless until they rest in thee, O Lord. We were made by God, for God. And just like that Indiana man probably had all sorts of different treatments and moral support and painkillers and all sorts of things to help him in his condition. There was really only one thing that mattered. Is that not right?

The only thing that mattered, the one thing he needed was the one thing he didn't have because certain problems have a singular solution. And in a similar way, the human problem that we all have, this homesickness has a singular solution. And that solution, as Augustine said, is in the Lord. Our hearts are restless until we rest in him. The other problem though is the one place where satisfaction is found is the one place none of us want to look. We look all the other places. We pursue it in relationships, we pursue it in career, we pursue it in children, we pursue it in all manner of different ways, looking for this *Seinzucht*, this finally getting what I want, finally getting where I belong, and no matter how many different things we pursue, no matter how many different promises that they may make or ideas that inflated ideas that we may cherish, they almost always prove deficient.

Our culture chock full of these well, I can just call them counterfeit saviors, and all of them prove to be deficient. Jude is going to address that. In today's text. It's in Jude chapter 1. It's the last sermon in this series, the last verse in this letter, and unsurprisingly, just like every other passage in the book of Jude, it is just chalk full. Of dense, glorious truth about God and about his grace and how he saves us. And so Jude chapter 1 verse 24 and 25 is our text. And he is going to make a statement that we all, I think if you're a Christian, would agree with, but he is going to explain it in a way that I think we often don't think about.

And it's interesting that this is how he decides to close his book. He could have issued another warning. He could have issued another command. His letter is full of warnings about this threat within their church. And commands to contend for the faith, but he doesn't close with a warning or an exhortation. He closes with a doxology, a word of worship to God, because God is the only one who can solve this human problem. So to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory without blemish and with great joy to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now, and forever.

And God's people said Amen. This is like I said a doxology. The scripture is full of doxologies. I went back and I read every doxology in Old and New Testaments just to kind of see. They're all very different. Some are long, some are short. But from what I read, they all have three basic things in common, and you can see it right here in Jude's doxology. Every doxology, number one, says something true about God either that God does something or that God is something. In this case, he saves. After it speaks a truth about God, then it will begin to extol certain attributes that make that truth true.

In this case, to him be glory, majesty, power, and authority. In other words, these are why God alone can save because God alone has these attributes. The last part of every doxology is what I'm going to call a word of agreement. Or affirmation. It's the Hebrew word amen. It's translated into Greek. It just means let it be, I agree, 100%. All in, and that's what every doxology is. A truth about God, an explanation why, and an affirmation that it's true. These are words about God, spoken to God, and this particular doxology is about God's power to save, which is interesting.

Given the context that Jude is writing in, they had people in their church professing believers who denied that Jesus was Messiah and were presenting other options for deliverance and salvation. Essentially, these Jewish zealots were saying Jewish politics is going to save us, take up the sword, overthrow Rome, kill the Caesar, and then we'll be saved. Then Messiah will come. And Jude is basically saying they're wrong they're lying, they will be judged by God, and true salvation is through Christ And so what I want us to do with the time that we have left, which is not much, right?

But it's one verse, so we can preach a 10-minute sermon, right? Y'all want a 10-minute sermon? With the time that we have left, we I want to show you those three things. That God alone can save. Why? He can save. And that word of agreement. And if you're taking notes, the big idea is that salvation is sourced in God the Father. It's secured through God the Son. Sourced in God the Father. I think if you

grew up in church, most Christians agree salvation comes from God. We can't save ourselves. When we try to save ourselves, we end up making a mess.

God alone can save us. Salvation is by grace through faith. We all know the right answers. And Jude, I think, knows that. And Jude's focus in saying that salvation comes from God is not on all the theology and the mechanics and all the different ins and outs of what all that looks like. He says God alone can save and then focuses on God's character. And I was tempted this week trying to write this sermon going that direction of the mechanics and how God saves and etc. And that'd probably be interesting and theological and make me feel smart and everybody else feel bored.

And that was not what Jude does. Jude does not really care to go that direction. He wants us to really soak in the truths that God is uniquely glorious, uniquely a God of majesty, power, and authority. And we read over those words. I don't know about you, but I read over those words and I'm just like, yep, that's what God is. He's glorious. Majesty, power and authority, amen. Kind of rhymes, feels right. But what do those words mean really? That's what I want us to think about and to help you in your note taking I'm going to use the word s for all of them, but they all have definitions that we don't often no.

In fact, I asked my small group this week, when you hear the word glory, what comes to your mind? And I got all kind of crazy answers back. Some of them were pretty good, and some of them were just what comes to your mind. There's not necessarily no right or wrong answer in terms of what people think, but the word glory is actually rooted in a Hebrew word kovod, which means weightiness. The word that's used in the Greek New Testament is the word doksa, which means to think. And the way I think that the Greek mind is trying to make sense out of this Hebrew word is what happens when you got your first crush.

You guys remember your first crush? A man, hopefully not a man, a boy or a girl. That was all they were all you could ever think about, right? And you thought about them day and night. You talked on the phone forever. When you got off the phone, you thought about their just who they were and how special they were and they could do no wrong. It didn't matter if they had a you know, or if she had a mustache or he, you know, didn't have any muscles. It just you saw past all of those things.

It's going to be great, it's going to be fine because the glory, the glory just arrested your attention, it consumed your thinking, everything else faded away and they alone remained. That is what glory is, and that's why they use the Greek word doksa. Which means to think. It means to rest your attention, to occupy your mind. And we all know glory when we see it. Glory is that thing that when you're in the presence of someone who's really, really talented, like way more talented than you, and you feel really deficient and they feel larger than life, that's glory.

Glory is what you see in the most compelling pieces of art where you go, man, that's just that is glorious. You're drawn into it. It's kind of larger than life. Glory is when you're in the presence of someone maybe more beautiful than you or handsome or more wealthy. They become big and you become small. Some people say it's like light, how light shines. That's a way to get at it. It's just this

significance. That is larger than anything else in your world. That's glory. It's heaviness. It's its significance. And God has glory that no other person has.

Like I just said, well, there's all kinds of glory in the world. There's glorious art, there's glorious people, there's glorious talents. But God is the source of that glory. We see glory there because those people are signposts, those experiences are signposts pointing us to the true source of glory, which is God Himself. As Plato talked about in his cave analogy, we are in the cave, right? We see the shadows, but not the substance. The shadows are in the cave, but the substance is out of the cave, and the substance is in the sun.

The sun is that light. It is the thing that shows the realities for what they really are, and God is that Son. He is the source of goodness and truth and beauty and everything that we long for in getting home. Is in God Himself. That's why only God can save. Okay? God alone can save because God alone has that glory. And all the competitors, as glorious as they may be, are deficient when their glory is compared to the glory of God. But he's not just glorious, he's also a God of majesty.

That's the when I think majesty I think of like a purple robe on a king or a queen like queen Elizabeth that's not a bad picture, but the Greek word is where we get our English word mega, except it has a suffix on the end, which in English we would translate ness. So it's this idea of greatness. But when you think about greatness, the idea is not that God is greater than this person or that person. It's this idea that God is greatness itself, that He is the fullest expression of all of these things that we desire.

Like he is truth. Truthness, the truthness of truth, God is in its fullest extent. Does that make sense? The gloriness of glory God demonstrates to its nth degree in the fullest extent the loveness of love God He shines it out. He shines brighter than any other light. That is his majesty. And so the idea they really kind of dovetail, he's not only the source of everything that is good, true, and beautiful. But in being those things, he demonstrates them in their fullest degree, which is why God alone can save. And why every competitor for the affection of our heart to save us proves deficient because it's not as great as God is great, because God is greatness He is isness, he is nesness, he is he is unique in that way, and that's why he alone can save.

The next word he uses is the word power and it's different from the word power he used earlier which is the word dunamis which means the ability to do something it's the difference between potential power and the a right to do something. Some of your translations use the word domain. Does anyone's translation use the word domain? Okay. I think that's actually better than the CSB. Think of a politician who gets elected. They may have the power to come up with really good legislation and you know it would it would fix the problems.

But they can't enforce that legislation until they get elected. When they get elected, what happens is they're endowed with a level of power in that the government becomes their domain. They have dominion over the legislative sphere such that they can bring to bear that which they desire. Okay, that's this word. God has power in that way. He has dominion. And I'm just going to use the word sovereignty because that's the best way to think about it. He is free to do as he wants when it comes to

salvation because he is unique in possessing the domain of salvation that no one else can have.

God is unique in not in that he's able to save you, as in strong enough. It is his dominion and the dominion of no one else. In Hebrews 2. 14, it says that the devil has dominion over death. In other words, the only thing the devil has the power to produce and give is death. Because that's his dominion. Well God is that which is over salvation. He has dominion over our being delivered. And healed and brought back home where we belong. And there are other people who possess other kinds of sovereignty.

There are other people who can do as they please in this field or that field, but God alone has all a power. And then the last word is the word authority, *exousia*. It's similar to majesty. Just like majesty is the expression of the glory of God. God's authority is the expression of his sovereignty. And so in your notes, I use the word say-so because that is what God has that is unlike anyone else. You may have had children who have disagreed in the past. I have three young children and one of the things that they are asked to do sometimes for my lovely wife is to do the dishes because who can't do dishes, right?

Actually it's not even do the dishes, it's put up the dishes. The machine does the dishes. All you got to do is put 'em up. But it's like pulling teeth, you know, putting up dishes. And the other day Audra told Addy Joe in the hearing of Briggs, hey, before I get home, do the dishes. Well they always wait to the last minute and mom's on her way home. And I say, hey, mom's on our way home. Y'all better get the dishes done. And so Addie Joe calls Blaze down, Blaze, we got to do the dishes.

And guess what Blaise says? Says who? Says who? You can't tell me what to do. You're my little sister. You can't tell me what to do. And I says, yeah, but mom said, she didn't tell me. I didn't hear mom say no, mom told me and I'm telling you. Well, I didn't hear from mom. And so they have this dumb argument about who says who, who says what. Until Dad says, just do the dishes. Like just take the dishes out. What they're fighting over is this, we all have this intuition.

We all know that there are people that can say who. And then there are people who can't say what or say who. And the says who is determined by the authority that that person is endowed with, but that we all have limits on our authority. And so we get kind of hot when someone tries to say to us something they have no right to say. Who are you to tell me that? And what Judah's saying is that God is the grand says who. There is no one to whom God cannot say this is or this will not be.

God is unique in being able to say this is right and this is wrong. This is true, this is false, because he is unique in possessing that level of authority. There are limits on the authority of every other person or competitor. For the title of God, but God alone has authority, which is why God alone can save. Because no one else can say of you your sins are forgiven. Who are you to forgive sins? No one can forgive sins except God alone. God alone has the authority. God alone has the sovereignty.

God alone has the glory, and God alone has the majesty. And every other competitor is deficient in one of those areas, which is why they cannot save. This really came home for me. When I'm already over my 10-minute sermon, guys. Okay. This came home for me with the I'm teaching a class at

Abilene Classical Academy. I it's a 10th grade humanities class which when I got my humanities degree in my undergrad, I thought to myself, I'll never use a humanities degree. Who who would who needs a humanities teacher? It just so happens they need a 10th grade humanities teacher, super, super part-time.

And it just so happens they're reading the same exact books that I read in my undergrad because it was a great books program. And one of the books that we're reading are these kind of ancient Greco-Roman great works like Homer's Iliad and Sophocles and Euripides, the Bache, and on we got to go on and on, it doesn't matter. But one of the things that I've been picking up on as I've been reading through, rereading through these great works, is they're all creating these myths. About the Greek gods. And we kind of know about these gods even today, people like Zeus, God of Thunder.

We Ares, the god of war. Hera, who's Zeus's jealous wife, Apollo, the god of order, on and on we can go. But what's so interesting as we're reading back through these myths is that all of those Greek gods, as powerful as they were, and even though they were understood to be gods, there was even a recognition in the Greek worldview that these gods had limits and they had flaws. In fact, they were sovereign but only over a certain domain Poseidon was only sovereign over the sea, Zeus only sovereign over the sky, and even though they had more power than men had power, they were not perfect moral beings.

They had flaws. They were wicked, just like human beings are wicked. And so in a way, the Greek gods were just intensifications of human glory and human weakness. And I think it's tempting for us to look at that and go, well those people, you know, those ancients and their silly myths and their silly gods. But we are really no different, I don't think, in the West when it comes to the worship of lower G gods. We don't give our gods names. But we have counterfeit saviors nonetheless. We look to our career and we think we think maybe if I can just be this level of success, then I'll be saved.

Like I'll be okay, I'll be home, I'll be satisfied. And we know deep down our career can only do so much, but we put all of this pressure on our career. To satisfy us in ways that it simply cannot do, but we do it nonetheless, and we worship it, we bow down to it, we make sacrifices to it, we offer up other people in the name of it, and yet it still fails us. Right? And we could go down the line. The same thing is true about money, the God of money, the God of material prosperity, the God of personal autonomy, the God of sensual pleasure.

The God of, you know, I don't have time to go on and on, but you know what I'm saying. And my point is we may not call our gods by name, but we worship these counterfeit saviors nonetheless. Why? Because these counterfeit saviors are really effective at blinding our eyes from the sun. They blind us from the true God, who is true glory and true majesty and power and authority, and they project themselves as more than what they are. They promise you that if you'll worship me and you'll make sacrifices to me, I'll make you happy.

And so you pour yourself out, you worship these other gods, and then they prove deficient. They never deliver the goods. They never really come through. Because that's the nature of counterfeit

saviors. Only God can save. Every counterfeit is deficient in one way or another. So how does God save? Jude says, God saves us through the sun. God saves us through the sun Salvation is sourced in God the Father. Salvation is secured through God the Son. Again, we don't have time to go into all the ways that Jesus possesses glory, majesty.

Power and authority, but everything that the Father possesses, Jesus possesses as well. Jesus the Son and God the Father are one the worship that belongs to the Father belongs to God the Son. That's why Jude conflates them in this doxology. To the only God, unto Jesus. Jesus secures salvation in a way that no one else can. If you go to the next slide Hebrews talks about how Jesus is the exact expression of the Father's nature. He is the radiance of the glory of God. That he was unique in making purification for sins, that he could do this in a way that the high priest in the Old Testament could not do.

And that when he did what he did, he then sat down at the right hand of who? The majesty on high so that he became superior to the angels, just as the name he inherited is more excellent than theirs. If you really want to understand why why Jesus is unique in being able to save us. I would put it under two basic headings. The first heading has to do with the glory and majesty of Jesus. The second heading has to do with the power and authority of Jesus When it comes to Jesus being the incarnation of God's glory, one of the things that the Old Testament did through the prophets was they wetted the appetite of God's people for a truer and greater Adam.

What Adam failed to do in the garden God said, I will send someone who will do it right. There will be a better Adam. You see this even in Genesis 3. 15\ That God makes a promise to the woman and Adam that I'm going to put hostility between you and the serpent, and between your offspring and her offspring, and he will crush your head and you will strike his heel. In other words the seed of the woman is going to fix this problem. And we saw this in Genesis. Every story after that, it's as if the audience is wondering, is this the promised seed?

Is this the promised seed? And it goes on and on, and no it's not, no, it's not, no, it's not. You get to Abraham through your seed. I'm going to bless the nations because you've obeyed my command. It goes from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob, from Jacob to Judah. All the way to Jesus. Paul says in Galatians 3. 16, the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He doesn't say seeds, plural, as though there's a lot of saviors. Seed singular referring to Jesus. Jesus is the promised seed. And again, it's not just the promise to Abraham.

After Abraham, there was a promise to Moses. After Moses, there was a promise to David, of your kingdom, there will be no end. If you go to the next slide, Genesis 49, the tribe of Judah will receive the scepter, meaning that the ruling power will go to Judah and it will not depart from under your feet until he whose right it is comes. Talking about Jesus made the same promise to David in 2 Samuel. From your body, in other words, biologically, someone from your line will reign on your throne, and I will establish his kingdom forever.

I will discipline that same Messiah with a rod of men, for in other words, he's bearing the wrath of God. The Messiah will make atonement for sin, but my faithful love will never leave him, and his throne will be forever. And so these Old Testament readers were saying, somebody's going to come, somebody's going to deliver us, somebody's going to save us. And the New Testament says that somebody is Jesus. Jesus is the promised seed, but he's also the perfect Savior. When Moses gets the law, you see these righteous requirements of God.

No one can meet the demands of God and the law. And so God made provision through the Levitical priesthood to make atonement for sin, for sins to be atoned. Someone had to die. That someone was the blood of bulls and goats. There had to be blood because the lifeblood of the creature is in the blood. And so they would shed the blood of bulls and goats to make atonement for sin. But the blood of bulls and goats can't take away sin. All of it was pointing to a better sacrifice. A better priest, and Jesus is that Savior.

Hebrews talks about this. He did this once for all time. He didn't offer a sacrifice for himself because he had no sin. By one offering he has perfected forever those who are being Sanctified. And Judas saying, that's why God saves us through Jesus. Jesus alone can save us. God did not save us by giving us a ladder. Through which we climb up to him. God saved us by giving us a hero who could do what we could not do. He lived the life we should have lived He died the death that we should have died, and he fulfilled everything that God promised in the Old Testament in terms of the greater prophet, the greater priest, and the greater king.

And because Jesus has done that God has highly exalted him, so at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. The glory of the Father has been given to Jesus. The majesty of the Father has been given to Jesus. The authority and power of the Father has been given to Jesus. And when you repent of your sins and you put your faith in Jesus, that home that you're longing for, that salvation and deliverance that you so deeply know you need enters into your life and saves you.

But you've got to receive it, which is the last thing. Salvation is sourced in the Father, secured by the Son, and shared by the Spirit. A lot of people wonder: Father's there, the Son is there, where's the Holy Spirit? He's in verse 19, he's in verse 20, but he's also in this last word. Amen. Remember, every doxology has a truth about God, a reason why it's true, and an affirmation. No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. That's what Paul said in 1 Corinthians. Jesus said, when I go away, I'm going to send the Spirit and He's going to show you.

What I've said. He's going to impart in your heart the salvation that I'm that I'm giving to you. And this morning, the only way for you to receive the salvation that God alone can give is through your agreement with what the Holy Spirit is saying that is true about Jesus, namely that He is the Christ and He is Lord And one day you will bow and kneel before the throne of God, and you will worship God the Son for his unique role in securing your salvation. But on that day, it might be too late.

Today is the day of salvation if you've not made that decision before. There's another story about another man got another snake bite. His name was Carl Schmidt. He was bitten by a boom snake. African snake. Except this venom paralyzes you and causes you to bleed from the inside out. He didn't think it was a boom snake because of something missing, so he tried to suck the venom out of his thumb. He thought he'd be fine, and he started recording his symptoms. He went home on the bus, he was nauseous.

He got home, he ate some cereal, he known he ate some toast and eggs, he threw up He urinated blood. He thought it's no big deal. I'll be fine. The next morning, threw up again. Temperature had gone away. Thought he was out of the woods. Twelve o'clock comes. He calls into work. Hey, I'm feeling better. I think I'm good one hour after that phone call, he hit the ground, sweating in cold blood, or sweating and cold sweat, and lost consciousness. When the ambulance came, they rushed into the hospital, and by the time they got to the hospital, he was dead.

All because he denied the one life-saving treatment that could have delivered him. But he said, I don't want to do that. It might upset the symptoms. Just like so many of us, come in Sunday, come out. Yeah, I know Jesus is important. Yeah, I know Jesus can save me, but not today. Maybe later. There may not be a later. Today may be the only day for you to say Jesus is Lord. Because it's a gift of the Holy Spirit, and God and God alone can save you. And his means of salvation is through the Son.

And so if you've never made that decision, I want to invite you. This morning as we respond, to repent of your sins and to put your faith in Jesus for who he is and what he's done. And if you are a Christian person this morning, I want to challenge you. To be refreshed in your heart of worship. Be reminded that sometimes what matters more than what we're supposed to do and the threats and dangers that we face. Is the glory of a God who is. He is here right now. You can sense his presence in this room.

I don't know how you can't. He is right here, he is right now, and he is the most important reality in the universe. And it might be that you've been blinded, that the counterfeit saviors of this world have blinded your eyes to the glory of God that is in the face of Jesus Christ. And so as we respond, would you pray that the Holy Spirit would give you eyes to see the glory of God and a heart to fully worship Him, to be fully surrendered. And to have a life that reflects that surrendered state in the domains that matter the most.

So let's bow our heads together and respond as the Lord leads. Heavenly Father, we thank you for this worship, this declaration of praise through a simple doxology at the end of the book of Jude, and what it reminds us about salvation. It's easy to grow familiar, and familiarity can breed contempt, but may we never lose the wonder of just how awesome you are. You are the God of glory and majesty, power and authority before all time, now and forever. There will never be a competitor. There will never be a second You will always be first place.

You will never be second best. And we pray that we would live as people who actually believe that to be true. In the marketplace of ideas and in the competitions of counterfeit saviors for the affections of our heart. Our career, our money, our kids, all of the things that sometimes vie for our worship and

praise, we lay them down at your throne and we say, holy, holy, holy is the Lord. To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever.

And God's people said Amen. I'm going to take just a few moments to respond right there where you're seated. We're not going to do a public altar call, but I'm going to challenge you if there's a decision that you put it on that connect card on the chair in the seat in front of you. And you can just pull that out. There should be a pen and paper there as well. I'm going to ask our ushers if they would take their place in the back and they're going to pass the plate.

And this is the time for our members and long-term attenders to give their tithes and offerings. But you can also give to the Lord a surrendered life through that contact card or commitment card. You may have a prayer request, you may have some kind of spiritual decision that you want to indicate, and I want to encourage you to use this moment right now to offer that to the Lord and put it in that plate and we'll follow up with you this week as the Lord leads. Father, as we now take up this offering, we pray that it would be received with that it would be received as a offering that is pleasing in your eyes, a fragrant offering of absolute surrender, cheerful generosity lives that desire to see your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, because we have come to worship.

The only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And we pray it in Jesus' name. And God's people said. Amen. Alright, as the ushers are taking up the offering, I want to share with you a couple quick announcements before we dismiss. Don't forget tonight we have the vision nights starting at 6 o'clock p. M. Many of you signed up for Sunday because it is chock full. There are no more available tickets. So if you did not sign up, we still want you to come, but there's only openings on Monday and Wednesday.

There's lots of openings. I think we're only at 50% full. And so if you haven't signed up, please join us on Monday or Wednesday. You can sign up online. You can sign up in the app. You can just show up and not sign up. I don't really care so long as you get there. And you participate. There are things that we'll talk about during this vision night that will not be talked about any other time during the course of this campaign. It'll be a very special moment. It's not even a sermon.

It's a vision night. I am going to share some of the really cool things God has been doing in our church and we're going to present a path for how we can partner together in responding to some of the challenges. That that has created in our church family. You've also got the women's retreat coming up. Don't forget you can sign up for that. You've got men's breakfast this coming Saturday. Several other announcements that are coming down the pipe that you can read on your own. Thank you so much for being here this morning.

Have a wonderful rest of your week. You are sent