

Theophanies

When God Appears

First Congregational Church
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*But, as it is written,
“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”——
These things God has revealed to us through the
Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the
depths of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 ESV



Dream/Vision Theophanies

Jacob's Dream of a

Heavenly Ladder — Genesis 28

Joseph's Dream — Genesis 37

Samuel's Dreams — 1 Samuel 3

Peter's Dream — Acts 10

Court Theophany - a theophany in which God is depicted as appearing on His throne in a heavenly court, surrounded by angelic servants.

In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the Lord was upon him there.

Ezekiel 1:1-3 ESV

And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: their wings touched one another.

Ezekiel 1:5-11 ESV

Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle. Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies.

Ezekiel 1:5-11 ESV

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Isaiah 6:1-2 ESV

*And one called to another and said:
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”
And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice
of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.
Isaiah 6:3-4 ESV*

Cherubim - God's throne bearers
Depicted as guardians of holy spaces
Depicted on the Ark of the Covenant

Seraphim - Throne room worshippers
Message bearers

And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around.

Ezekiel 1:26-28 ESV

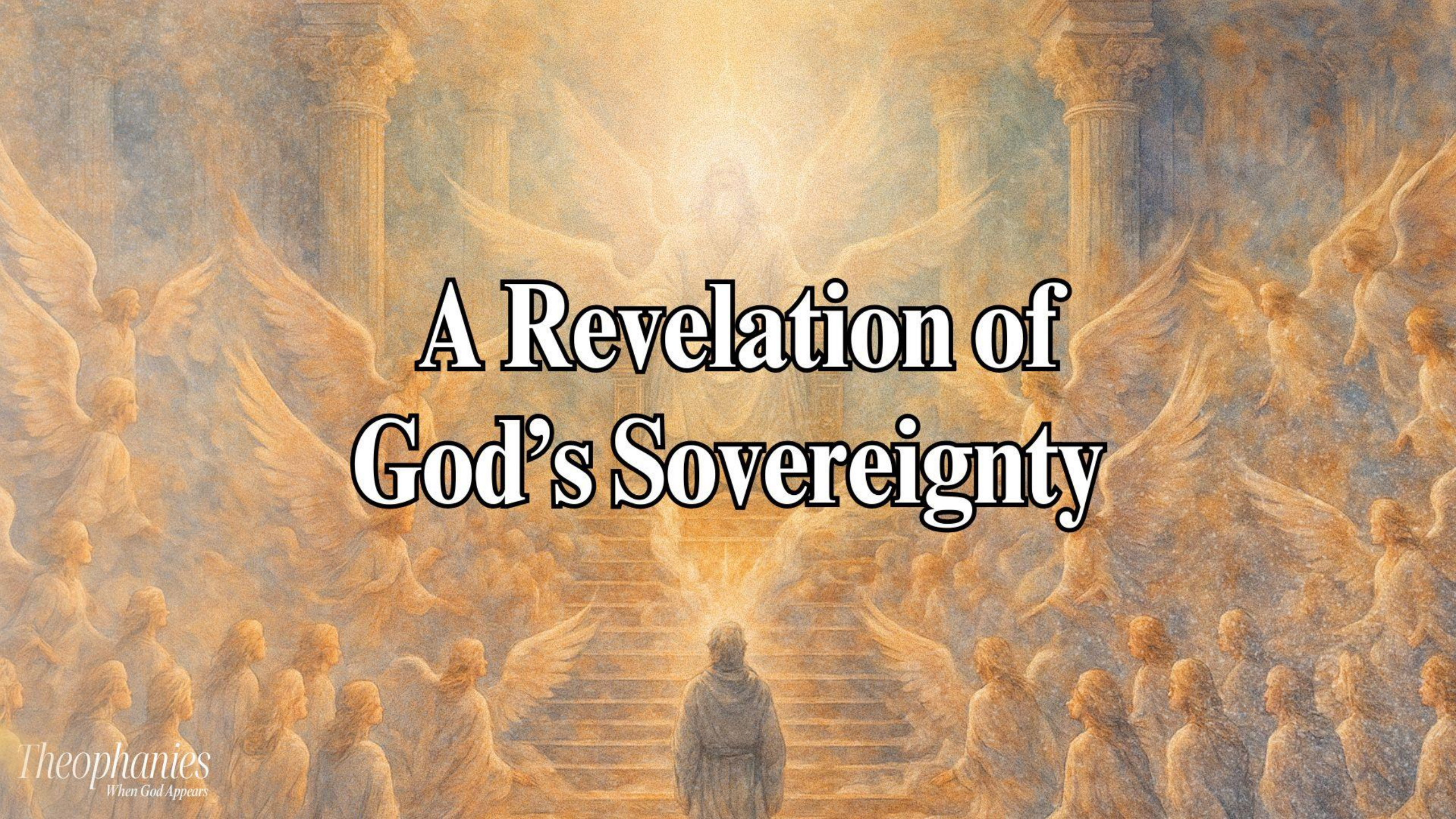
And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around.

Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Ezekiel 1:26-28 ESV

And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

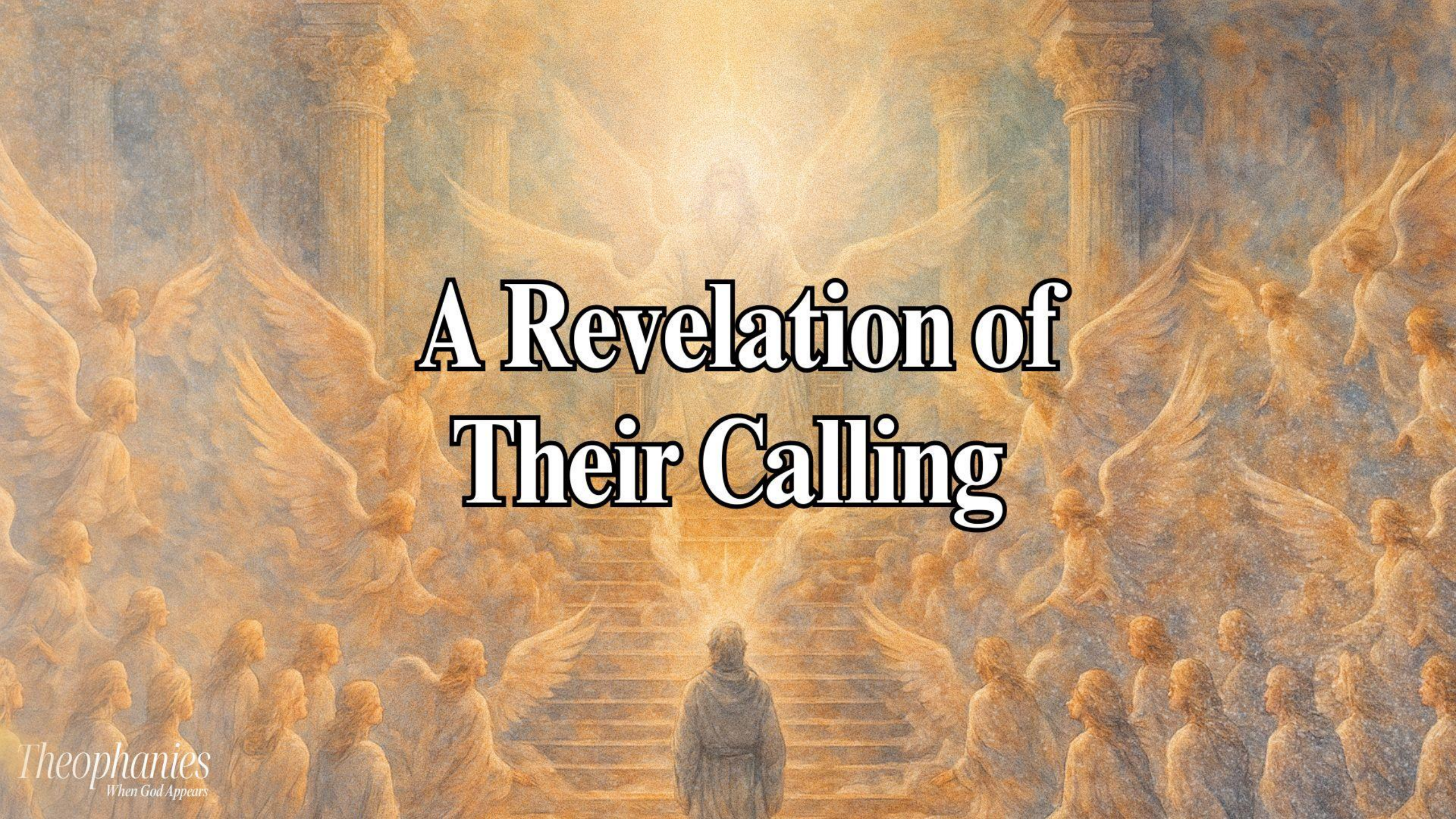
Isaiah 6:5-7 ESV



A Revelation of God's Sovereignty

And he said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’

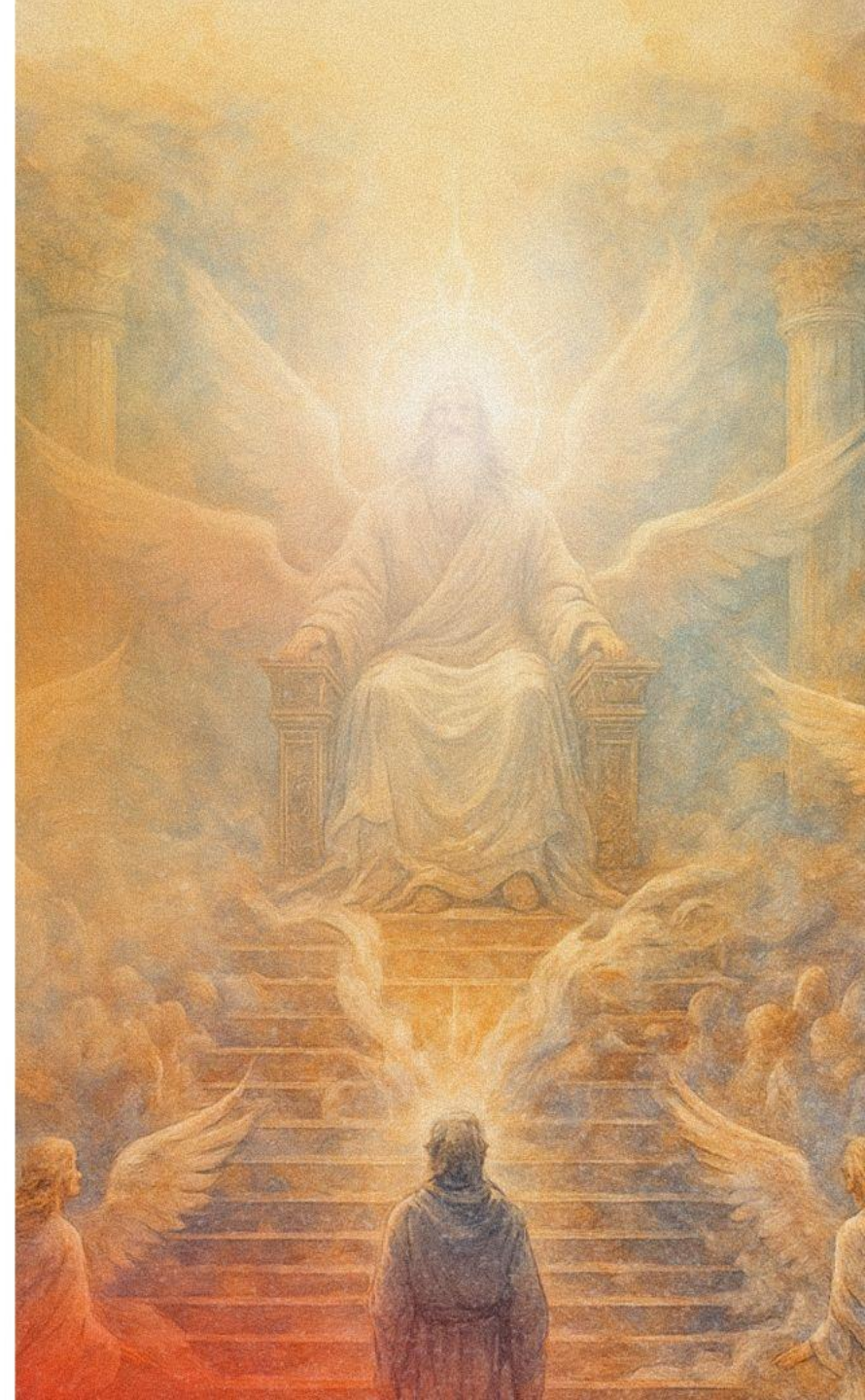
Ezekiel 2:1-4 ESV



A Revelation of Their Calling

Isaiah 6:8 ESV

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”





**When we recognize God's Sovereignty
We surrender to His purpose and plan**

*“I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;*

*His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.*

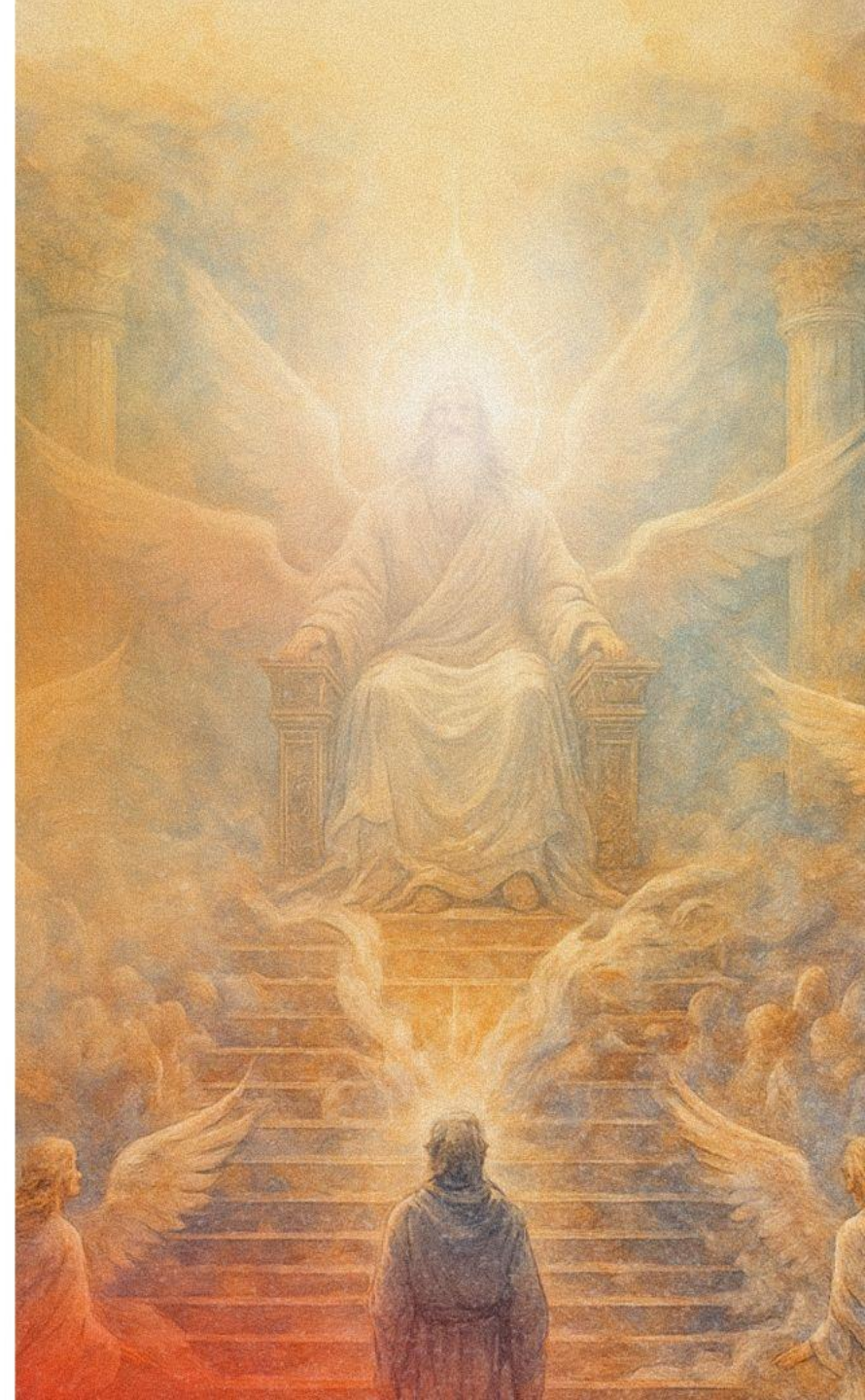
Daniel 7:13-14 ESV



A Revelation of The Coming Kingdom

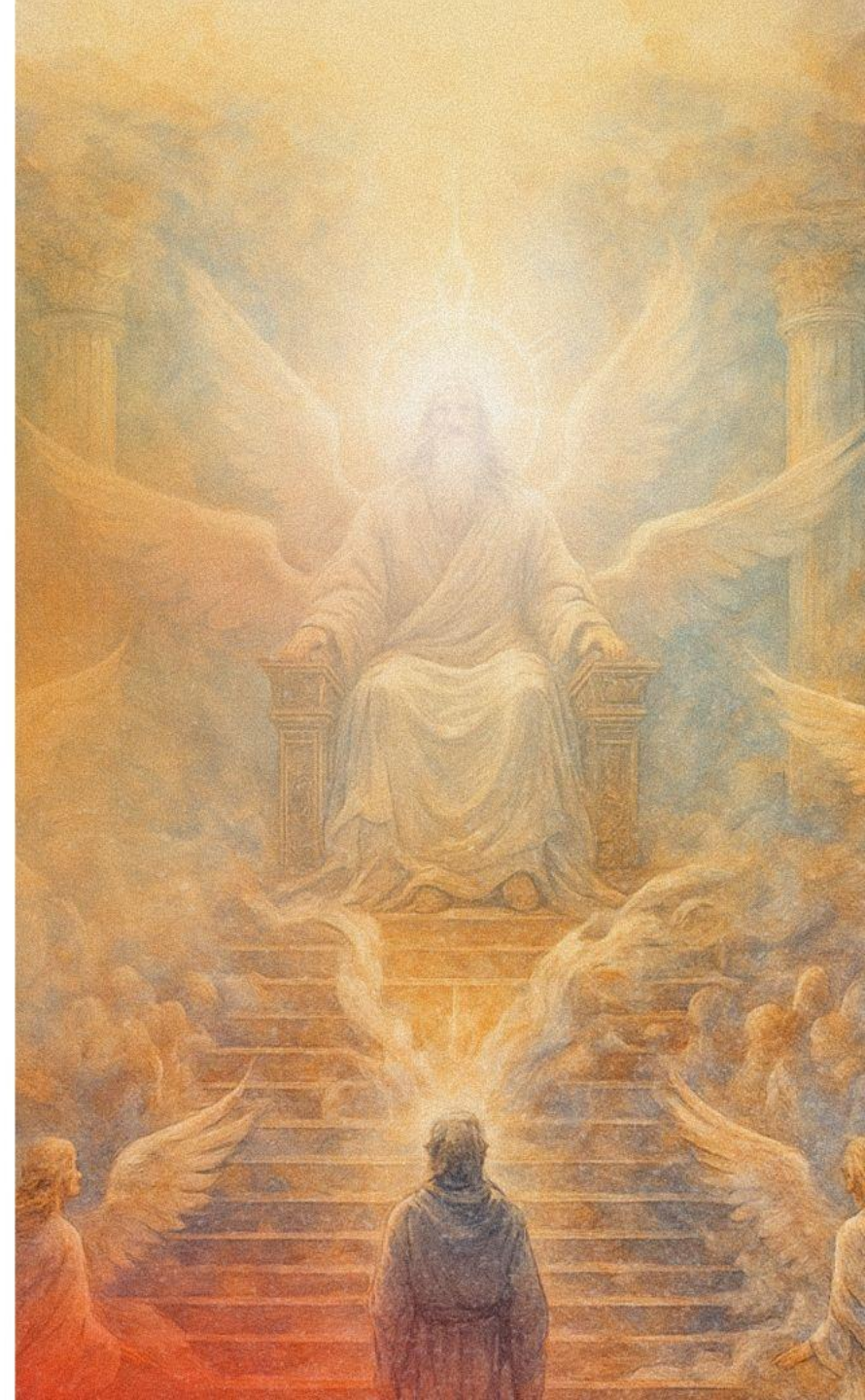
Our Mission Statement

“To honor and glorify God within a caring community of faith that seeks to serve the needs of a hurting world.”



Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

And Jesus came and said to them,
“All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me. Go therefore
and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe
all that I have commanded you. And
behold, I am with you always, to the
end of the age.”



Application

1.The Supremacy of God – God is in control. God is Lord over everything. God is on the throne and holds the world in His hands

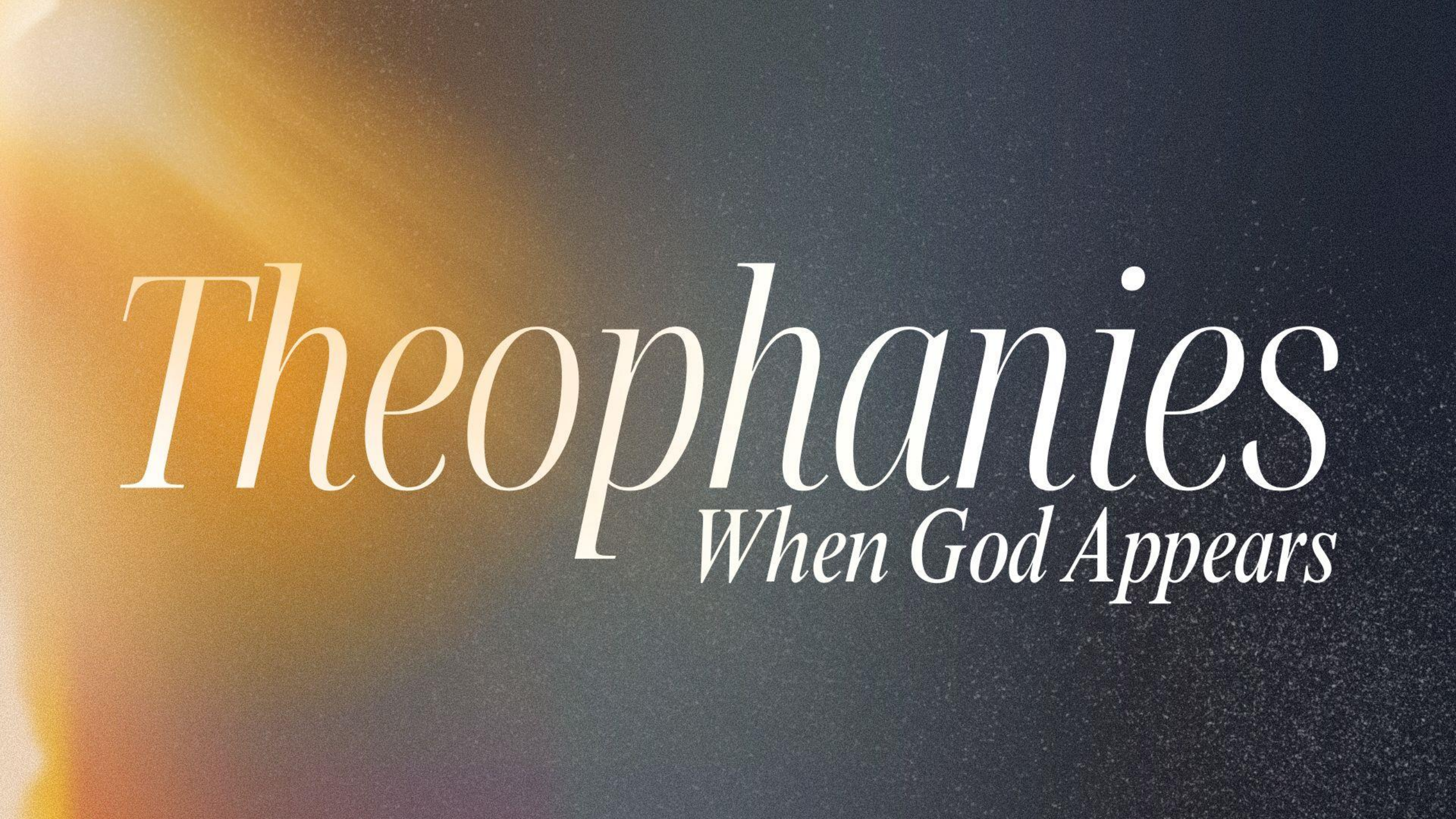
2.The Call from on High – These visions acted as a commission to Ezekiel and Isaiah. These prophets received a purpose and a mission.

3.The Kingdom of God, Now – God is ruling and reigning from Heaven and in the hearts of those who trust in Him and are filled with the Spirit.

4.We have a call. We are commissioned – What we do today impacts eternity. We can be a part of building God's Kingdom!

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV



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