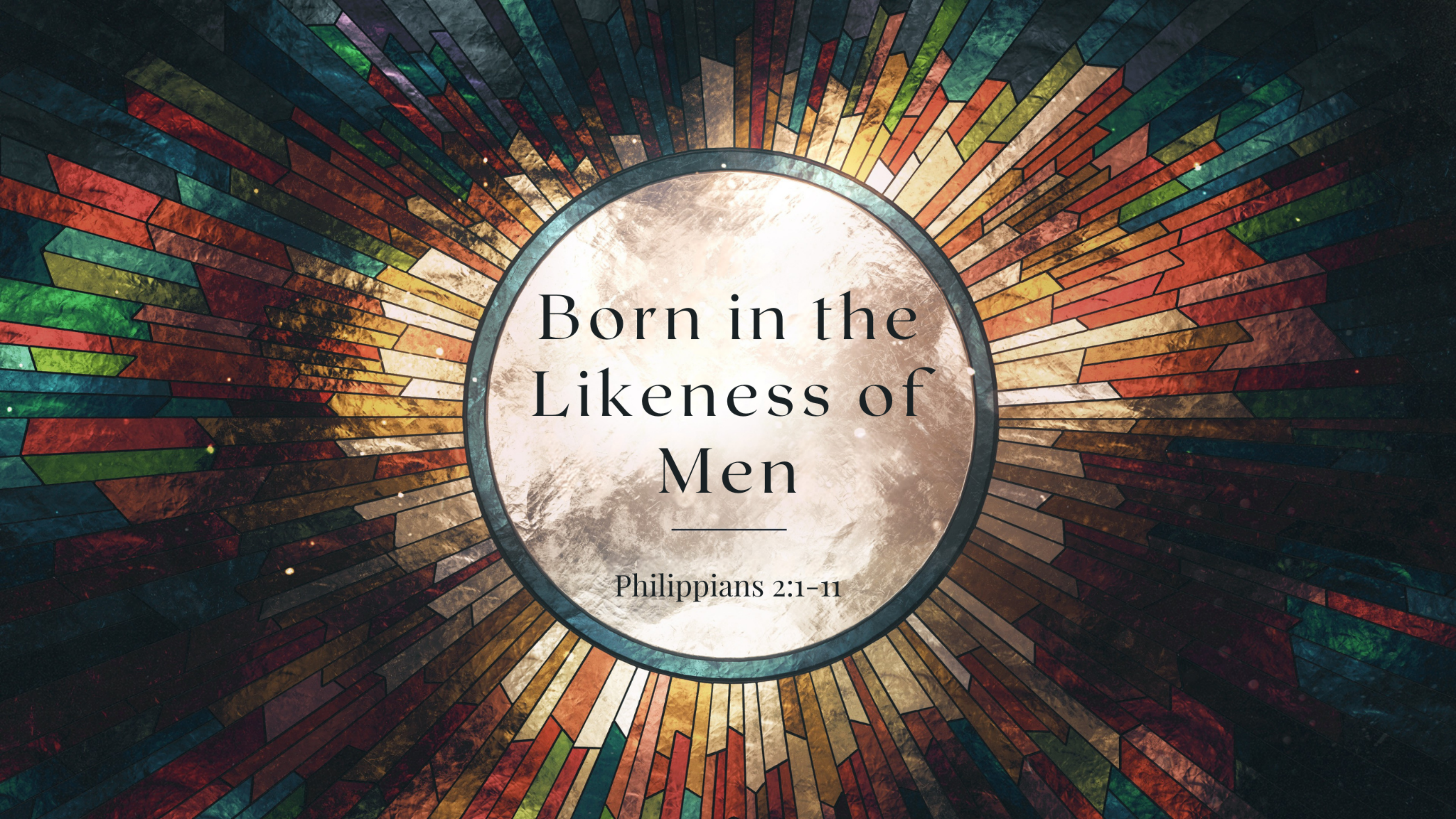




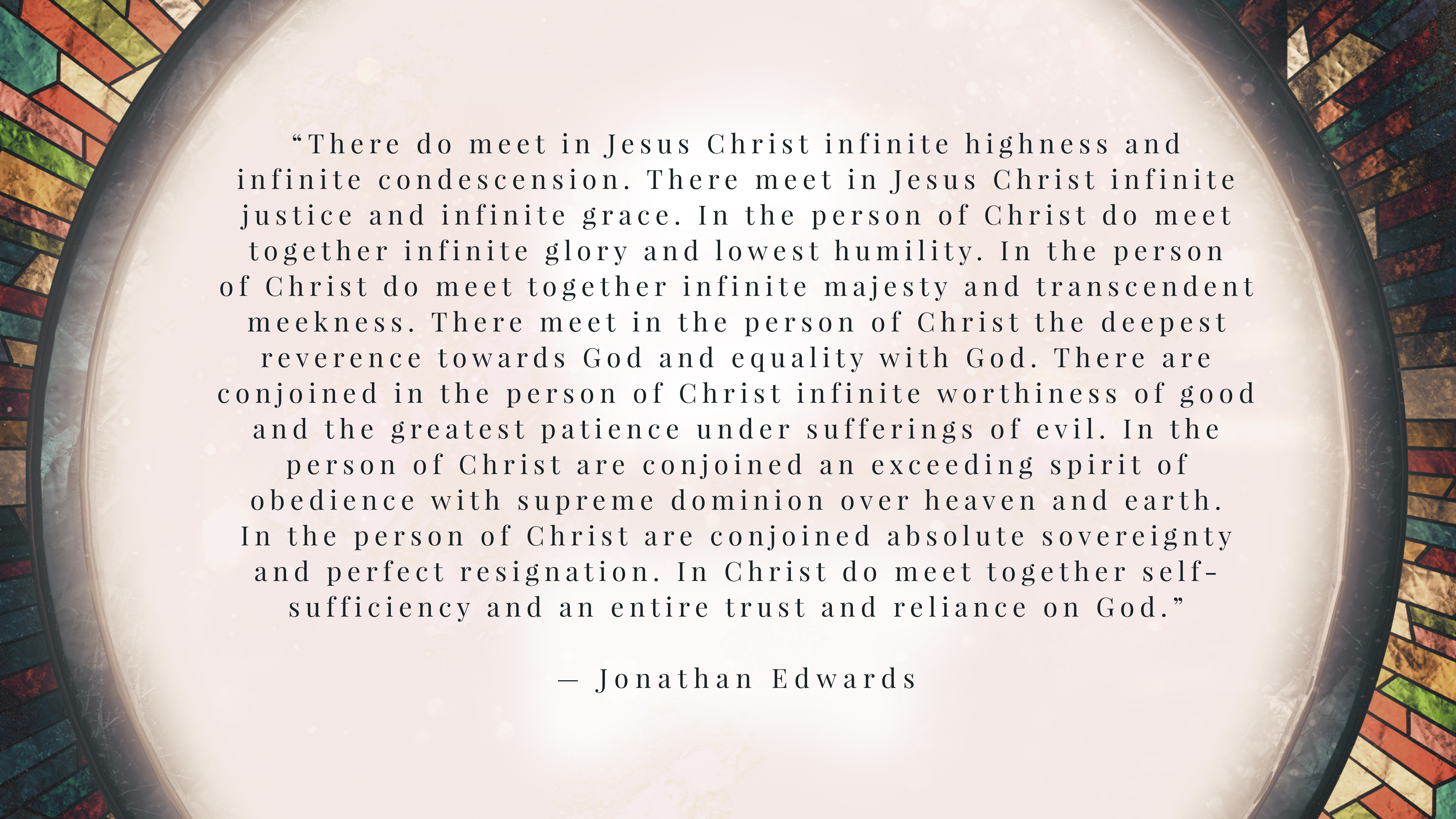
BEHOLD the GLORY

Advent 2025



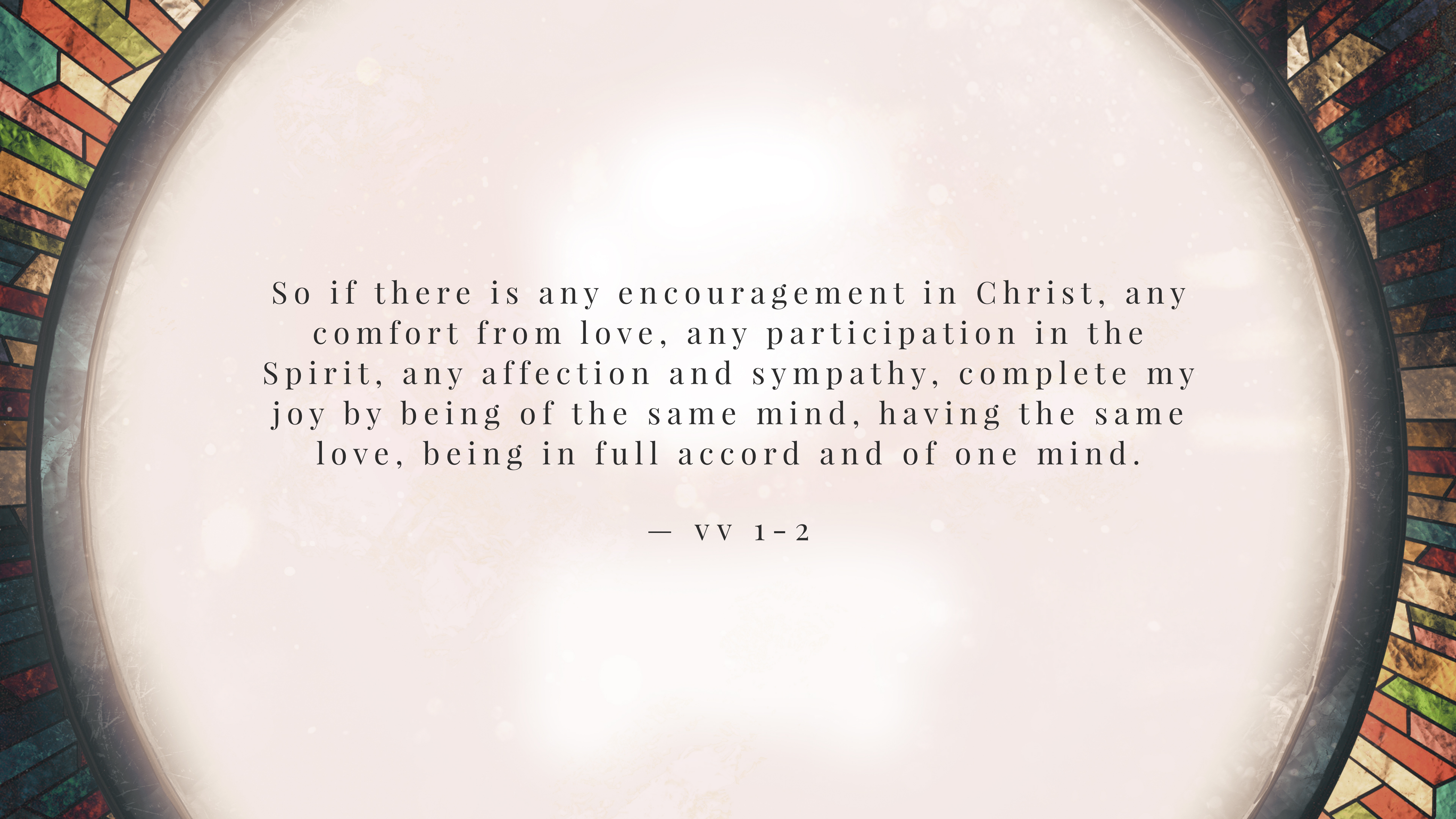
Born in the Likeness of Men

Philippians 2:1-11



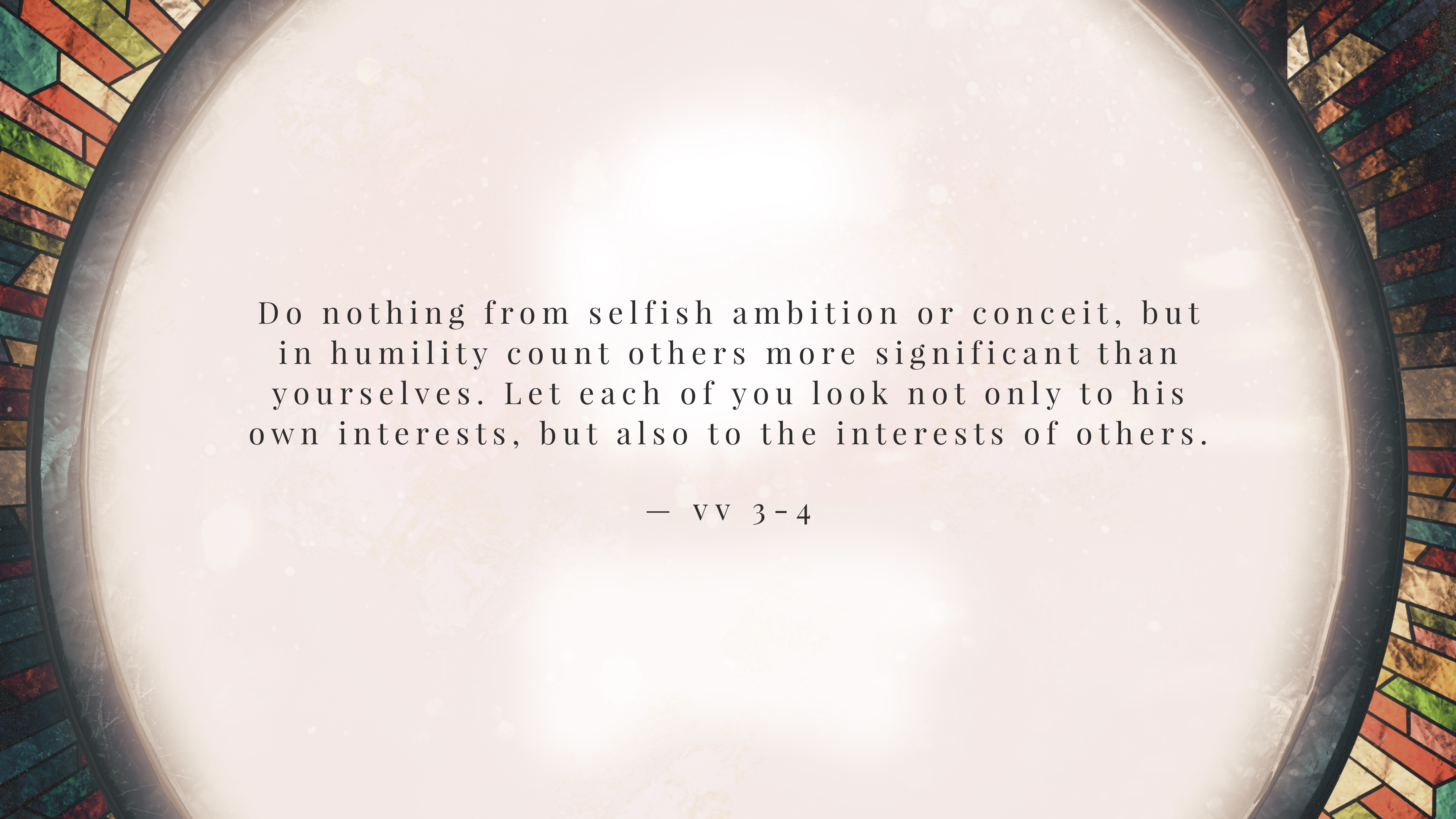
“There do meet in Jesus Christ infinite highness and infinite condescension. There meet in Jesus Christ infinite justice and infinite grace. In the person of Christ do meet together infinite glory and lowest humility. In the person of Christ do meet together infinite majesty and transcendent meekness. There meet in the person of Christ the deepest reverence towards God and equality with God. There are conjoined in the person of Christ infinite worthiness of good and the greatest patience under sufferings of evil. In the person of Christ are conjoined an exceeding spirit of obedience with supreme dominion over heaven and earth. In the person of Christ are conjoined absolute sovereignty and perfect resignation. In Christ do meet together self-sufficiency and an entire trust and reliance on God.”

— Jonathan Edwards

The image features a circular stained glass window. The central part is a large, bright white pane. Surrounding this is a dark, possibly black or very dark blue, circular border. Outside this border, the stained glass continues with a complex, colorful geometric pattern. The colors include red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, arranged in various shapes and sizes, creating a vibrant, mosaic-like effect. The overall composition is symmetrical and visually striking.

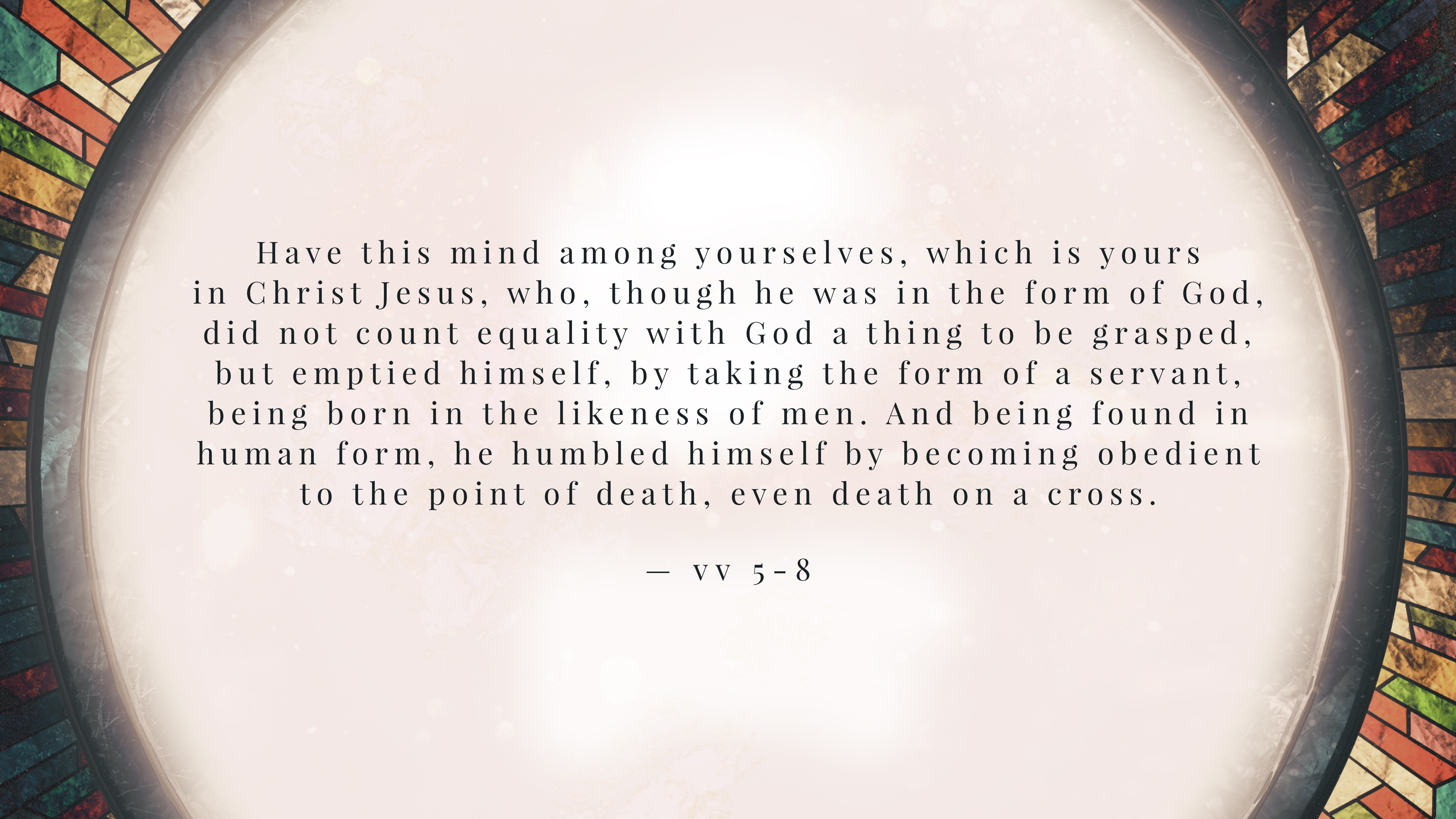
So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any
comfort from love, any participation in the
Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my
joy by being of the same mind, having the same
love, being in full accord and of one mind.

— V V 1 - 2



Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but
in humility count others more significant than
yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his
own interests, but also to the interests of others.

— VV 3-4

The background of the image is a stained glass design. It features a large, central circular area that is brightly lit, creating a soft, glowing effect. This central area is surrounded by a border made of various colored glass pieces in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, arranged in a geometric, mosaic-like pattern. The overall aesthetic is reminiscent of traditional church architecture and religious art.

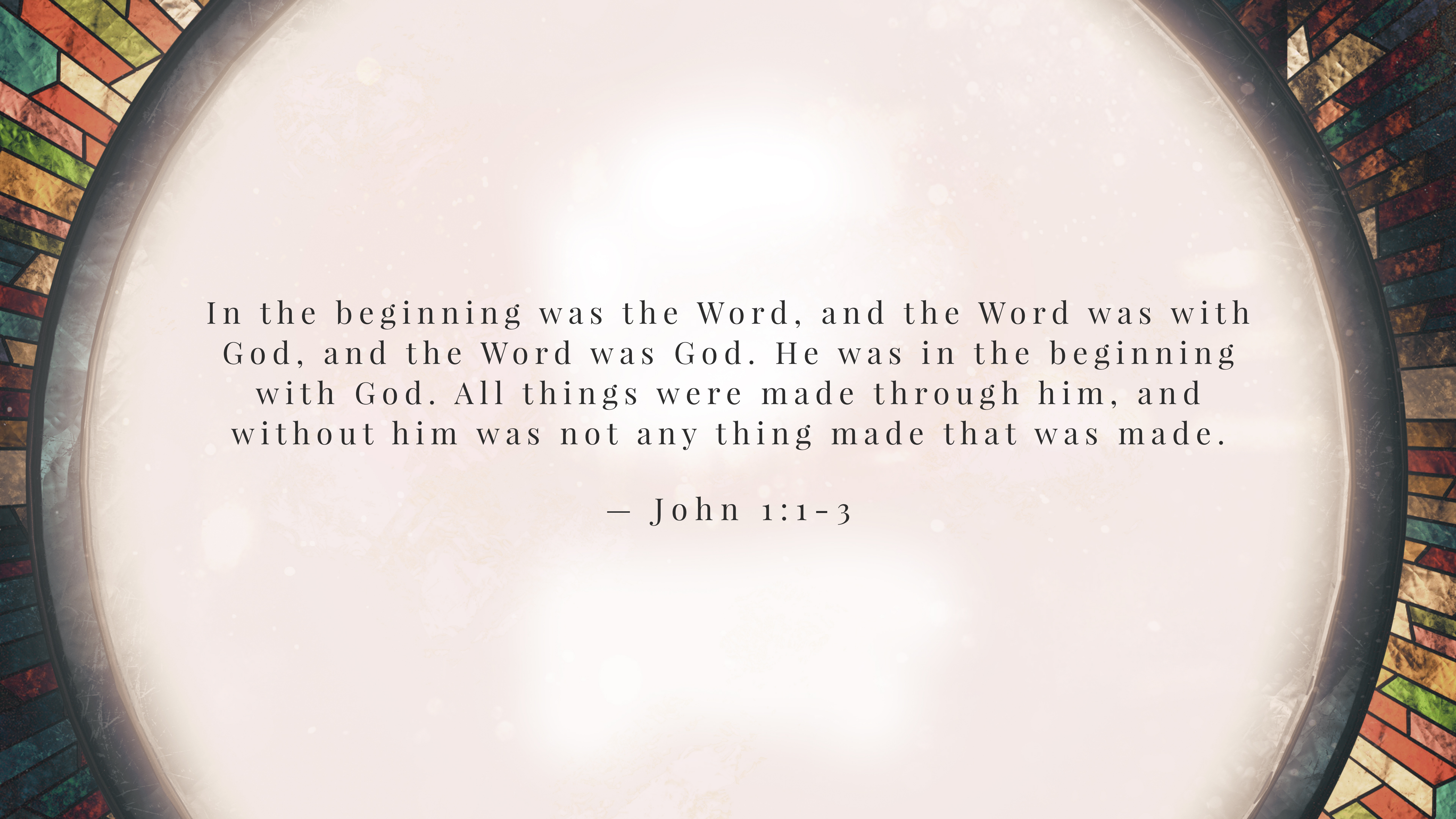
Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours
in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men. And being found in
human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death, even death on a cross.

— vv 5-8



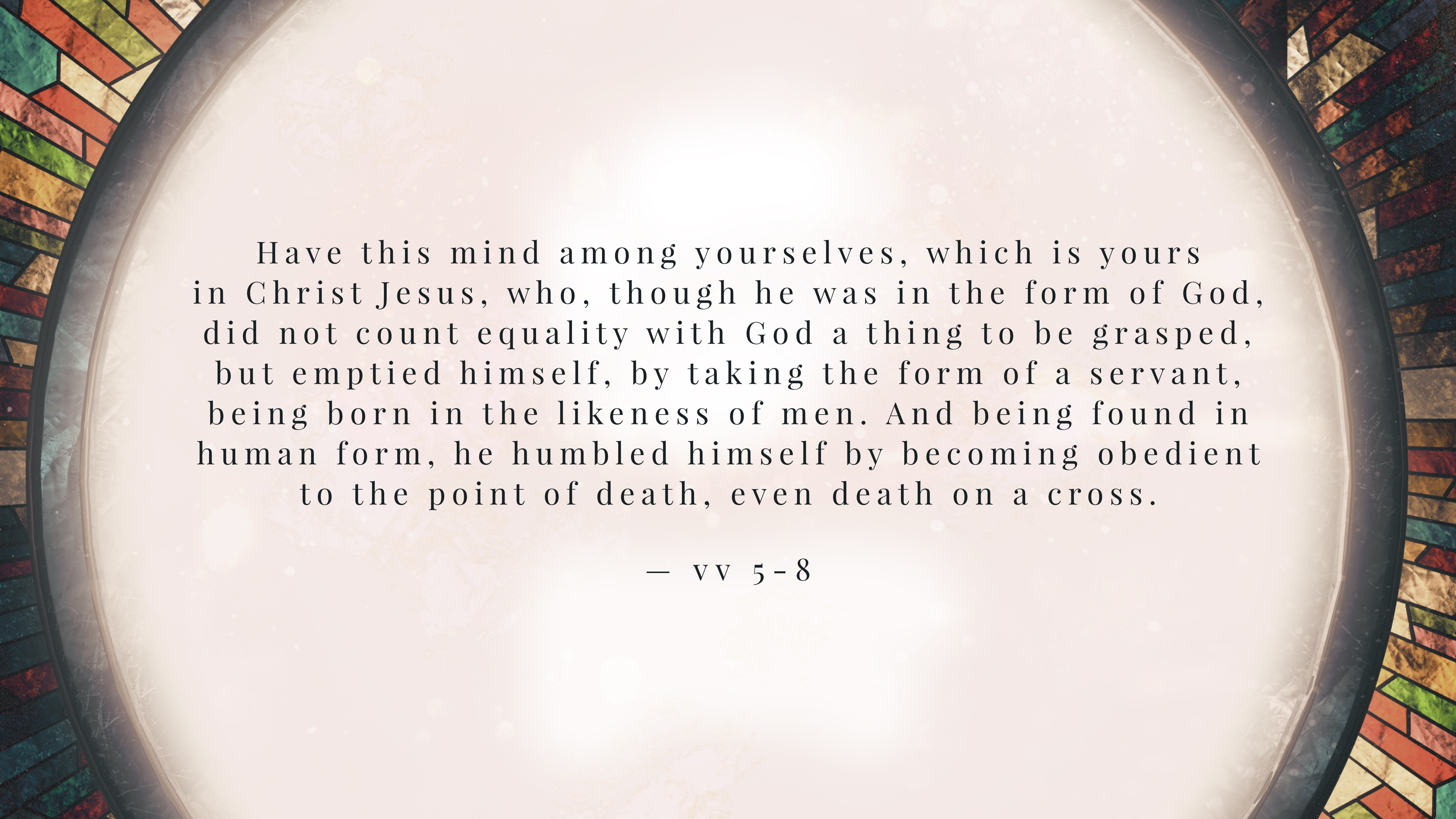
He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of his nature.

— Hebrews 1:3



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning
with God. All things were made through him, and
without him was not any thing made that was made.

— John 1:1-3

The background of the image is a stained glass window. It features a large, central circular area that is brightly lit, creating a soft, glowing effect. This central area is surrounded by a border of colorful, geometric stained glass patterns in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. The overall composition is symmetrical and visually appealing.

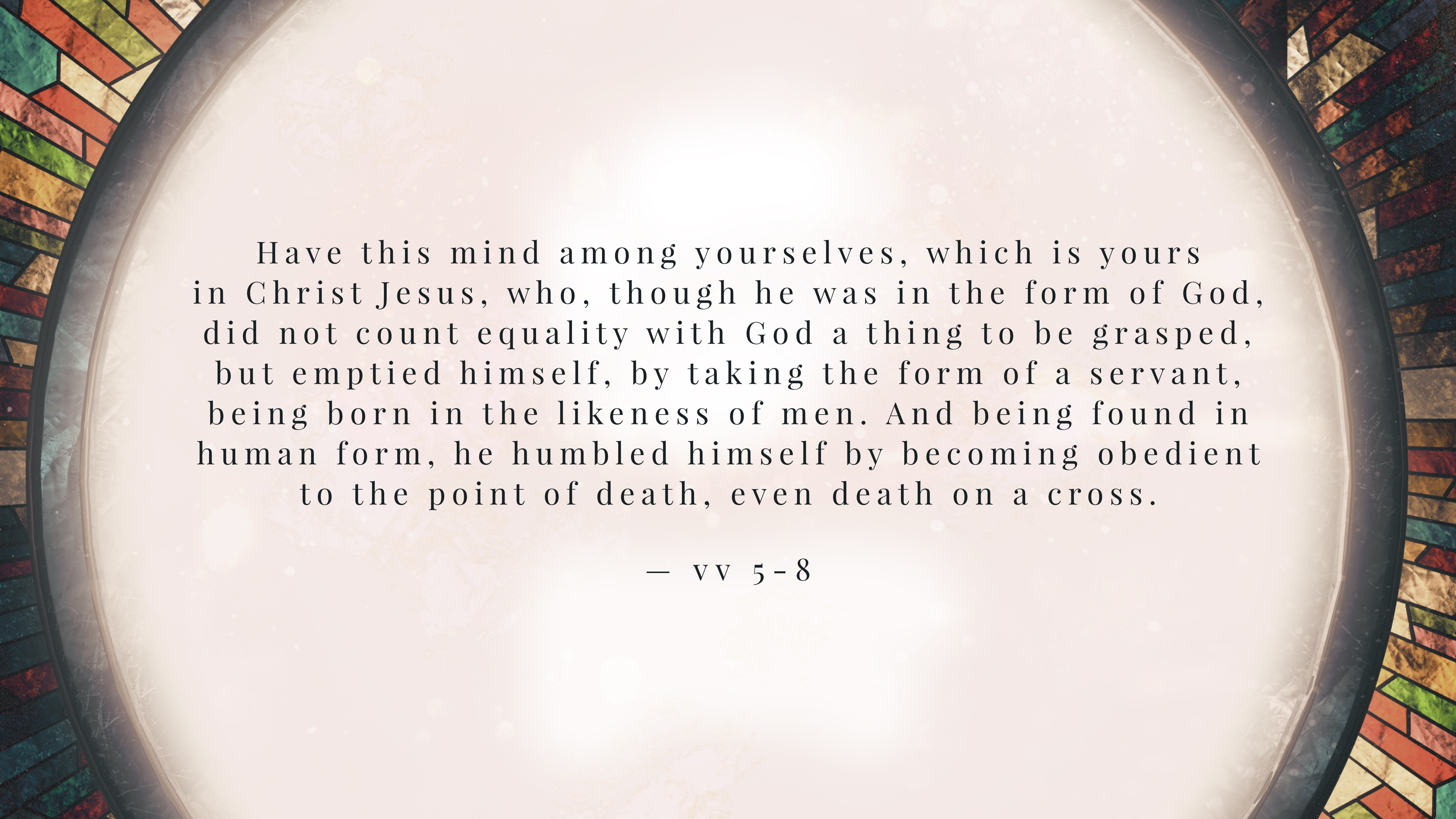
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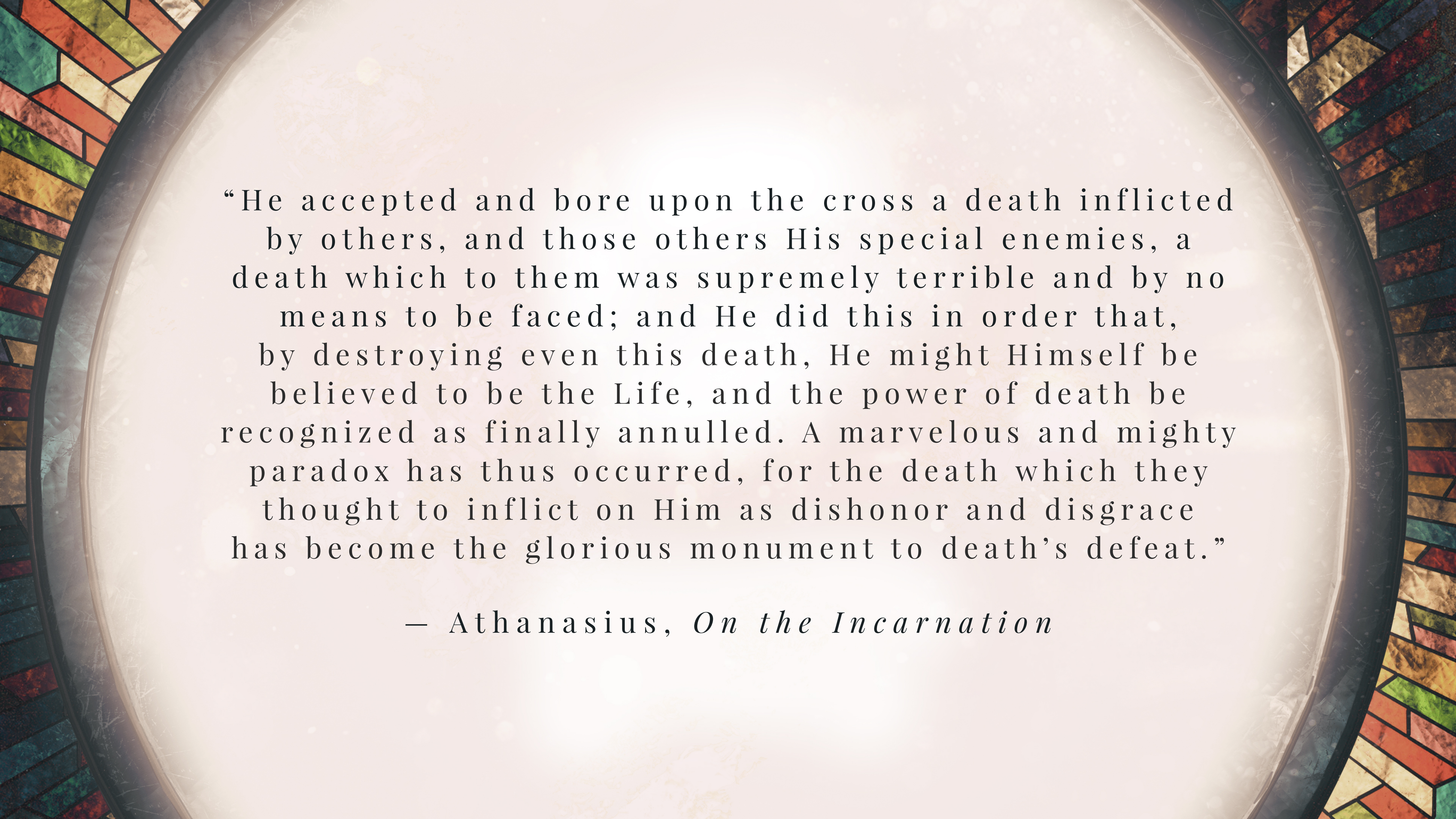
“Remaining what he was,
he became what he was not.”

— Gregory of Nazianzus

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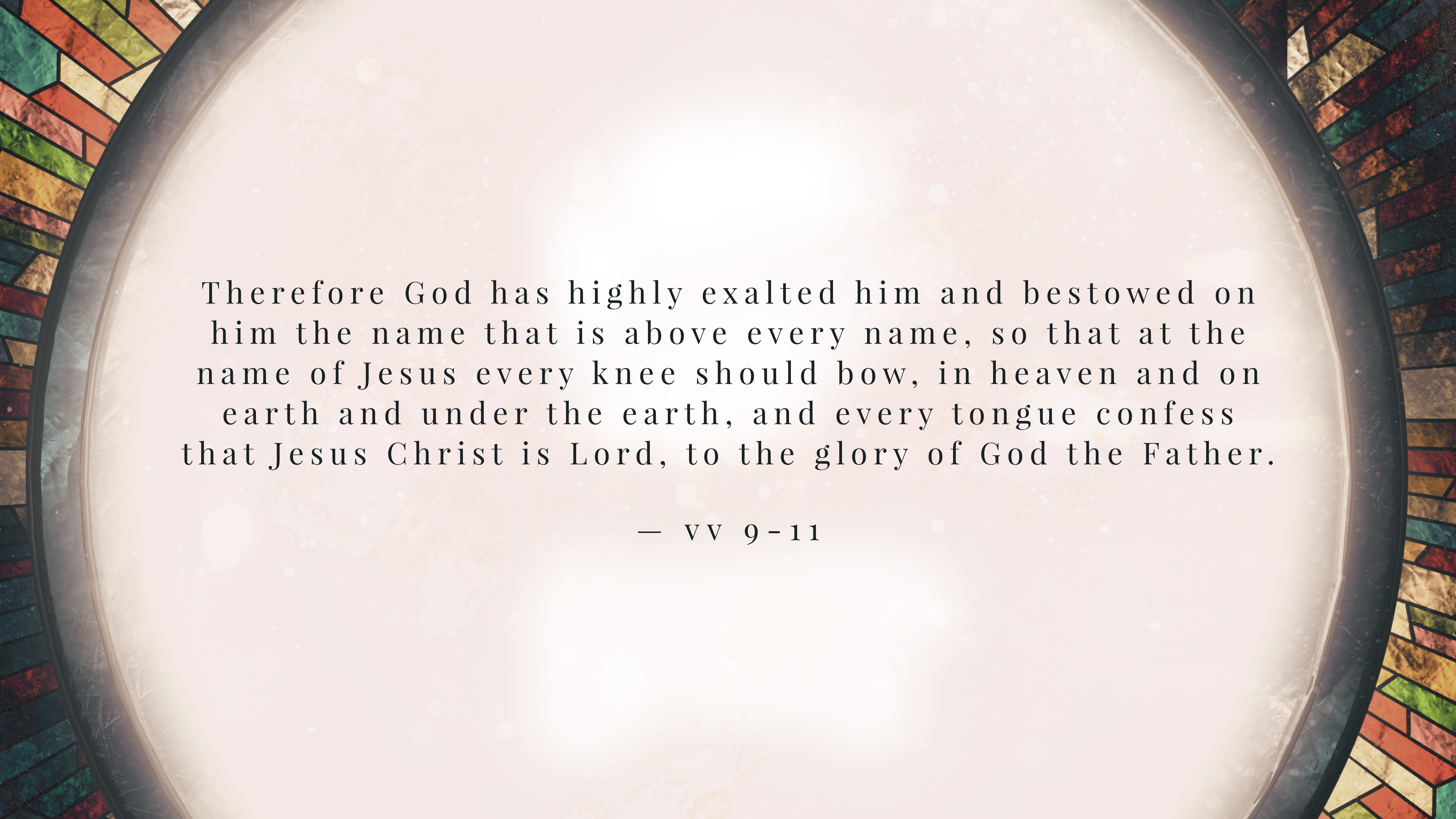
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but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,
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human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death, even death on a cross.

— vv 5-8

The background of the image is a circular stained glass window. The central part is a large, pale yellow circle. Surrounding this are concentric rings of colorful glass in shades of red, orange, green, and blue, arranged in a geometric, mosaic-like pattern. The text is centered within the yellow circle.

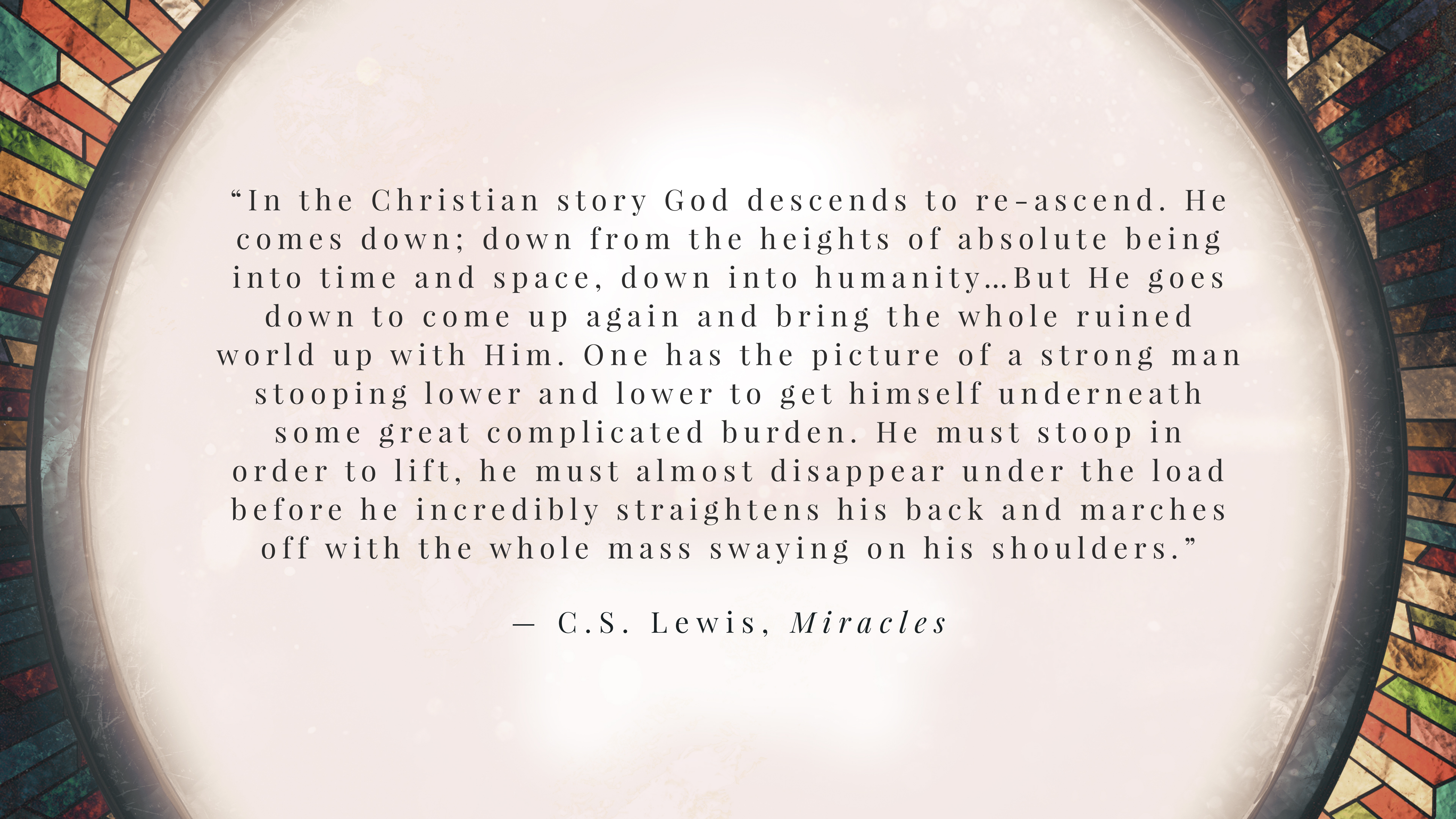
“He accepted and bore upon the cross a death inflicted by others, and those others His special enemies, a death which to them was supremely terrible and by no means to be faced; and He did this in order that, by destroying even this death, He might Himself be believed to be the Life, and the power of death be recognized as finally annulled. A marvelous and mighty paradox has thus occurred, for the death which they thought to inflict on Him as dishonor and disgrace has become the glorious monument to death’s defeat.”

— Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*



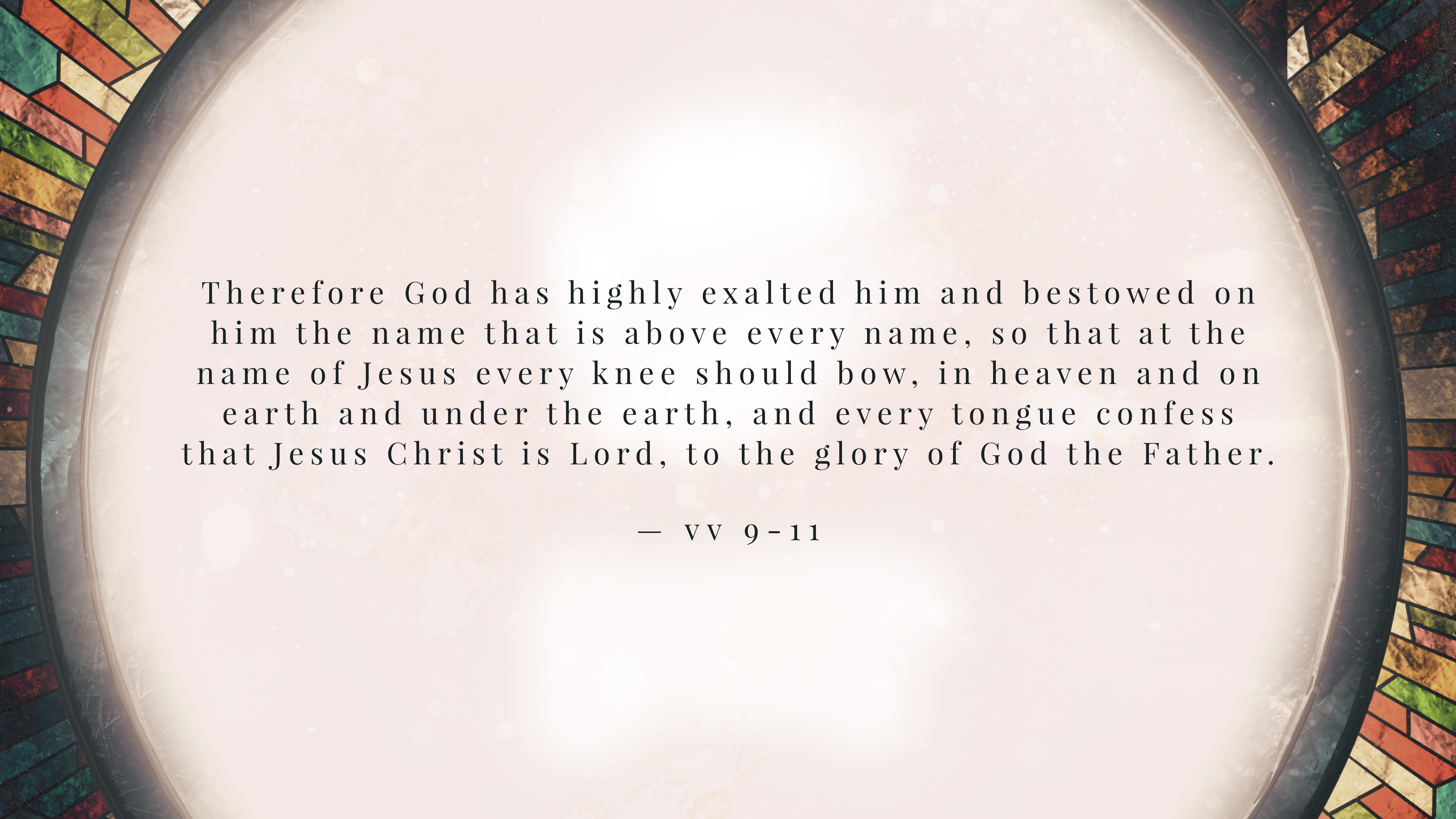
Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

— V V 9 - 11



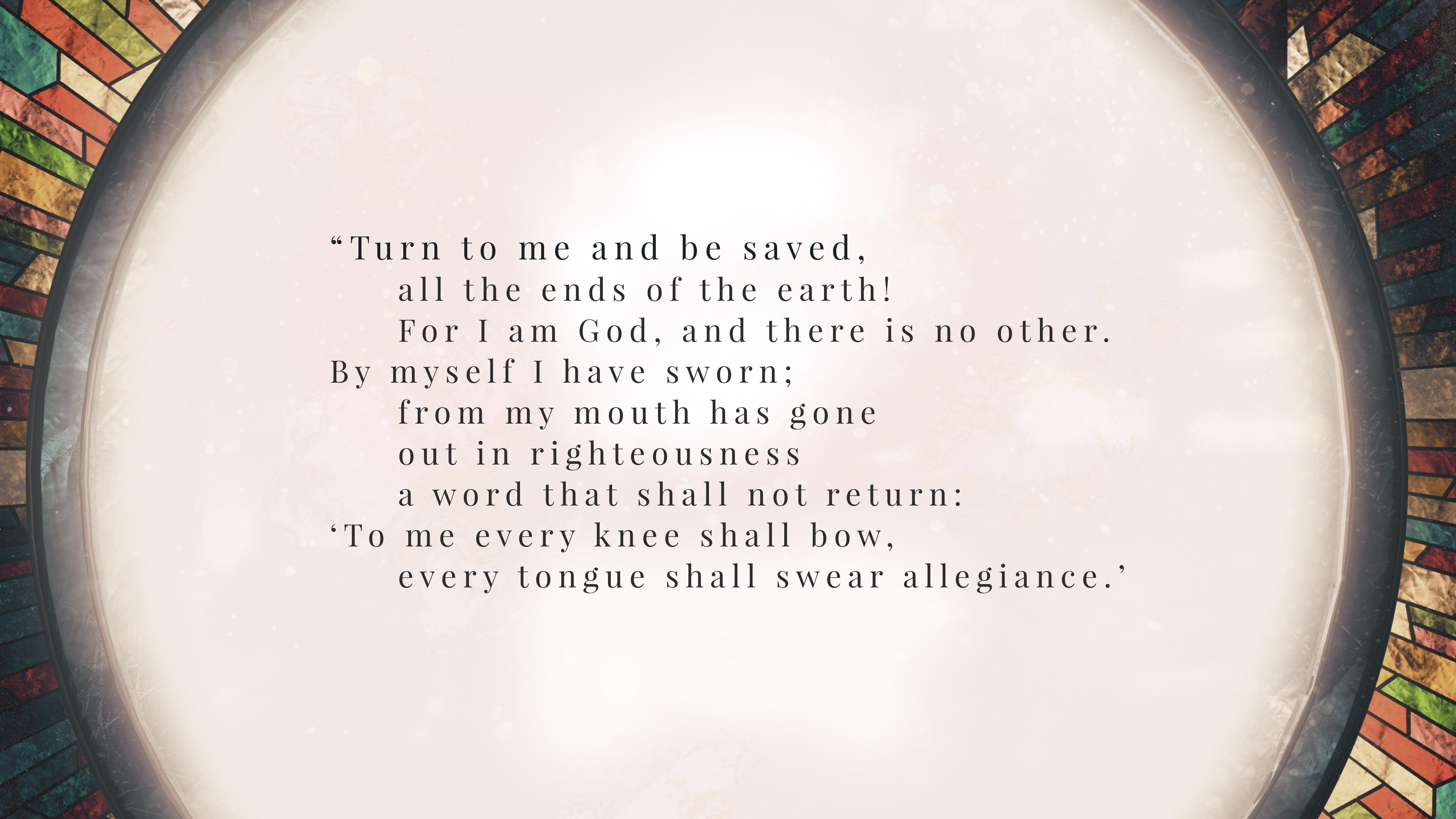
“In the Christian story God descends to re-ascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity...But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him. One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great complicated burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must almost disappear under the load before he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*

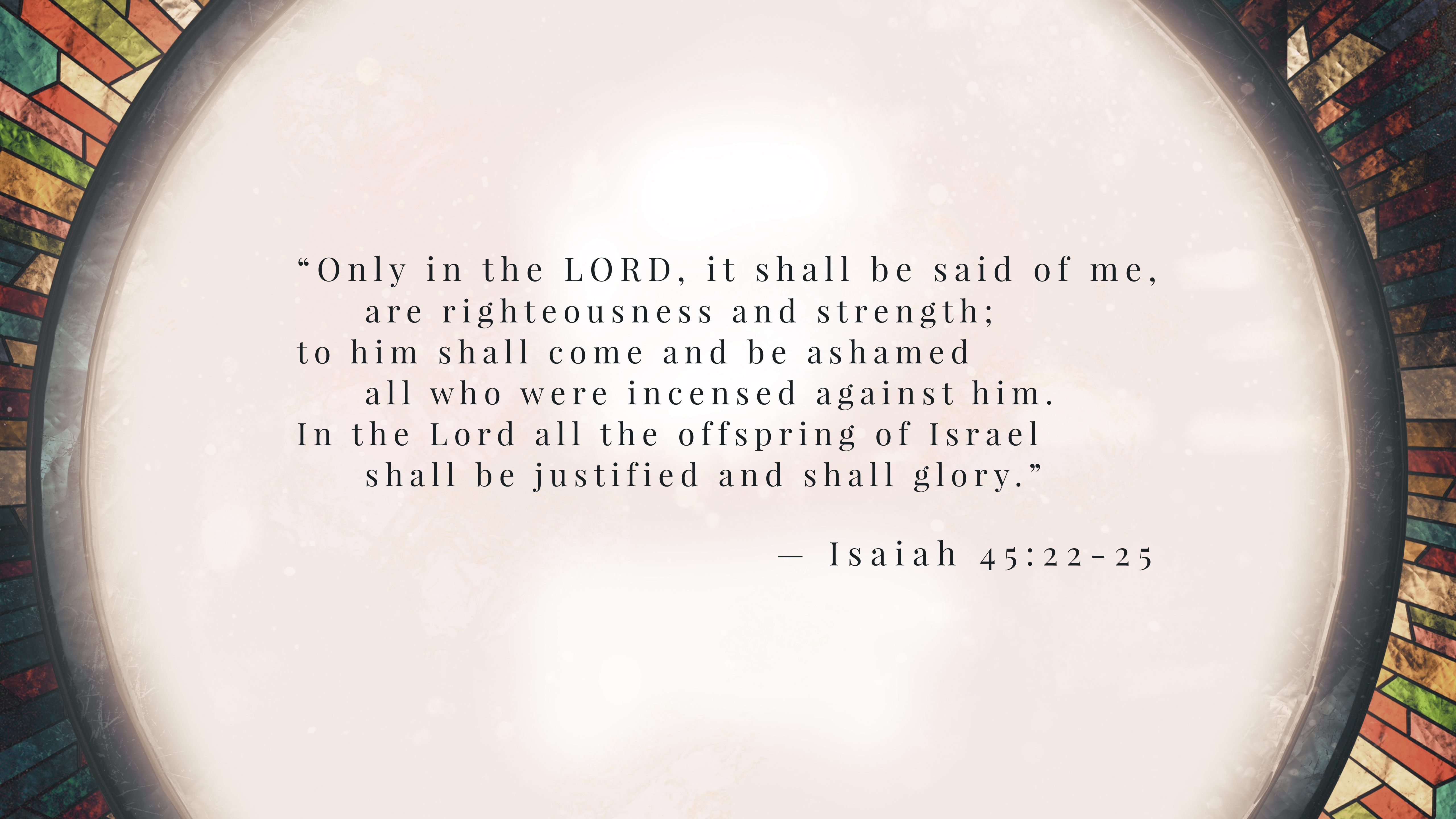


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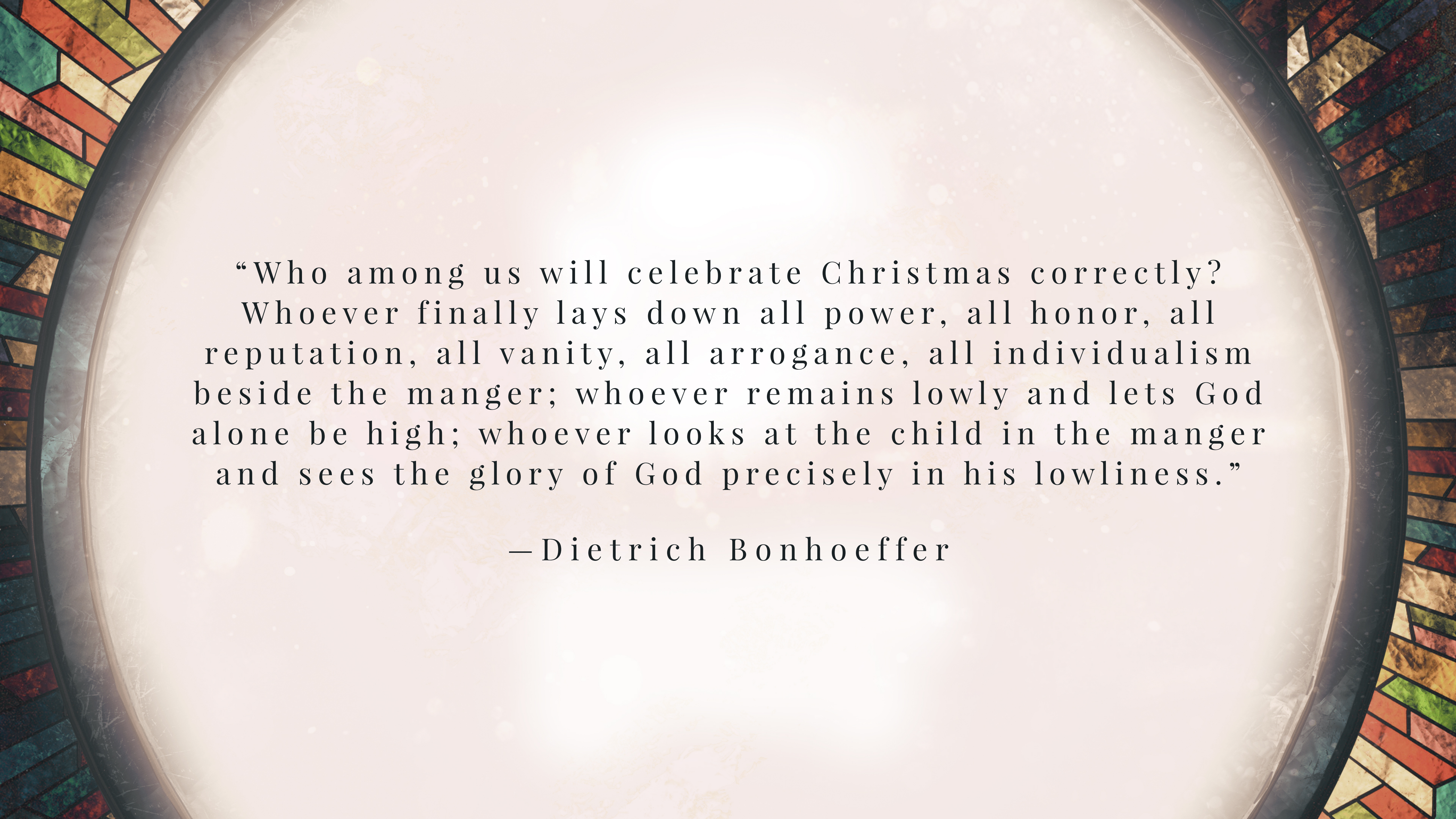


“Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
By myself I have sworn;
from my mouth has gone
out in righteousness
a word that shall not return:
‘To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear allegiance.’



“Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength;
to him shall come and be ashamed
all who were incensed against him.
In the Lord all the offspring of Israel
shall be justified and shall glory.”

— Isaiah 45:22-25

The background of the image is a circular stained glass window. The central part is a large, bright, circular pane with a warm, golden-yellow glow. This central pane is surrounded by a border of smaller, multi-colored glass panes in shades of red, orange, green, and blue, creating a decorative, geometric pattern. The overall effect is that of light streaming through a church window.

“Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly?
Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all
reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism
beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God
alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger
and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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