

# Apologetic Evangelism



**Defending the faith**



**Sharing the Gospel**

## Apologetic Method : Step 5

1 Truth is absolute and knowable

2 God exists

3 Miracles are possible

4 The New Testament is historically reliable

5 **The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God**

6 Jesus proved this claim by: 1. Living a sinless miraculous life 2. Fulfilling prophecies 3. Predicting and accomplishing His Resurrection

7 Therefore, Jesus is God

8 Whatever Jesus teaches is true, because He is God

9 Jesus taught the Bible was the Word of God

10 The Bible is the Word of God!

# Did Jesus Claim to Be God?



When did Christians begin to believe this?



Did Jesus believe it?



Did He teach it?



Did His disciples/Apostles?



What about the opponents of Jesus?



Did the early Church?

# 1st Century Jewish View of God:

1

Based on Duet 6:4 - "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"

2

No one other than God can share the glory, honor, titles, or be worshipped as God.

3

Jesus did claim the titles, honor, & authority, of God.

4

Either Jesus' claims are false, the Word of God is false, or Jesus is God.

# How did Jesus claim to be God?

Acceptance of Titles of Deity and Authority

Messianic Claims

Acceptance of Worship

His Commands

First-Century Monotheistic Jewish Reaction

# Accepting Titles of God

1

**Shepherd**

**Jesus:** John 10:11

**God:** Psalm 23:1

2

**Judge**

**Jesus:** John 5:27, Mt 25:31-33

**God:** Joel 3:12

3

**Light of World**

**Jesus:** John 8:12

**God:** Ps 27:1

4

**First and Last**

**Jesus:** Rev 1:17, 2:8, 22:13

**God:** Is 41:4, 44:6, 48:12

5

**I Am**

**Jesus:** John 8:58, 10:31-33

**God:** Exodus 3:14

I AM THE GOOD  
SHEPHERD.



The good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

**He has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.**

**For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.**

**Then Jesus spoke to them again,  
saying, "I am the light of the world.  
He who follows Me shall not walk in  
darkness, but have the light of life."**

**The LORD is my light and my  
salvation;**

**John 8:12**

He laid His right hand on me, saying to me,  
“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the  
Last.

“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
‘I am the First and I am the Last;  
Besides Me there is no God.

REVELATION 1:17 ISAIAH 44:6

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

JOHN 8:58 EXODUS 3:14

# Accepting Authority of God

1

**Forgive Sin**

**Jesus:** Mark 2:5

**God:** Mark 2:7; Jer 31:34

2

**Judge, Raise/Dead**

**Jesus:** Jn 5:25, 29, 21

**God:** 1 Sm 2:6, Dt 32:39

3

**Shared Glory**

**Jesus:** John 17:5

**God:** Is 42:8, 48:11

The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

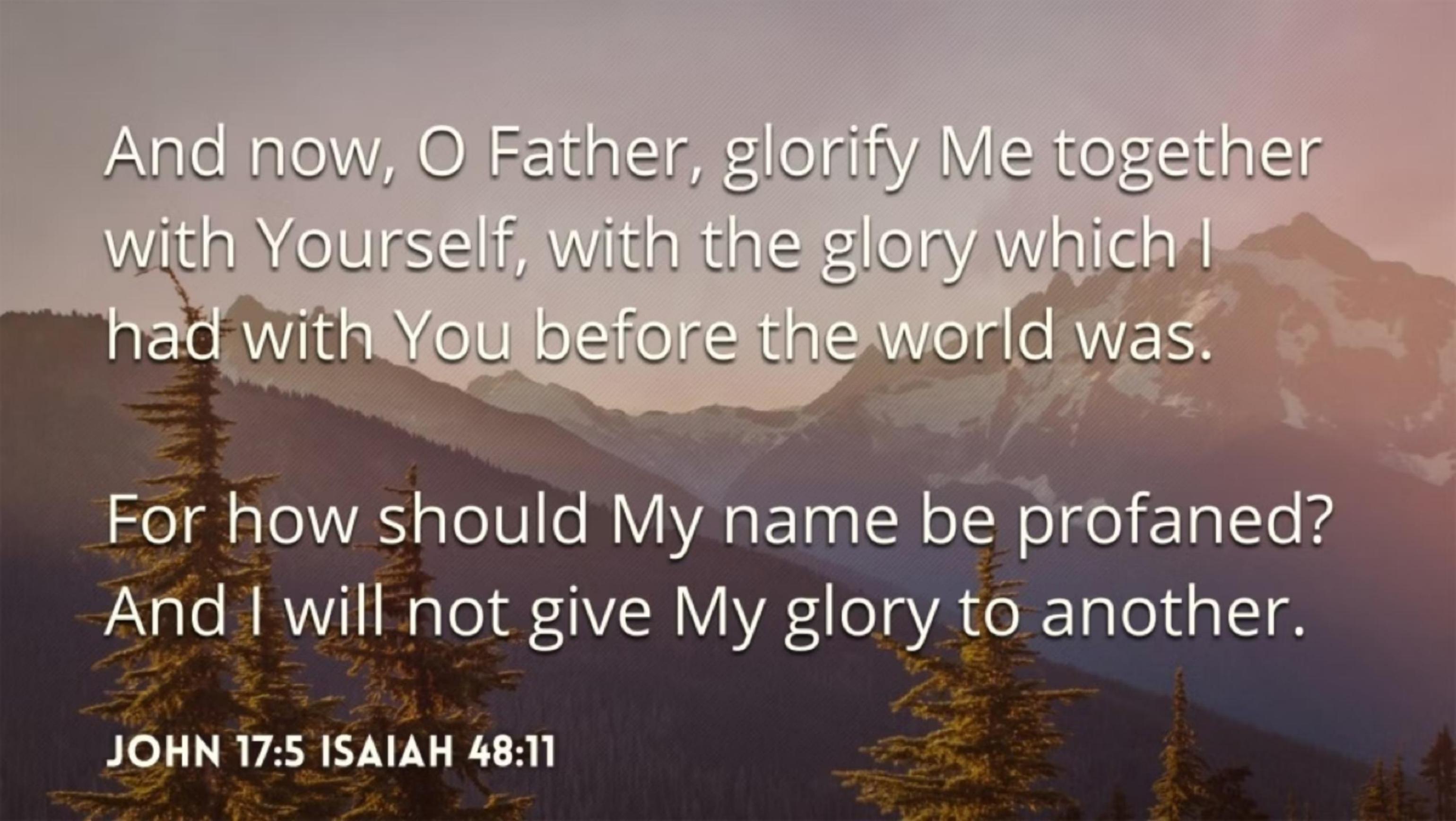
The LORD kills and makes alive;  
He brings down to the grave and brings up.

## **MARK 2:5 JEREMIAH 31:34**

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."





And now, O Father, glorify Me together  
with Yourself, with the glory which I  
had with You before the world was.

For how should My name be profaned?  
And I will not give My glory to another.

**JOHN 17:5 ISAIAH 48:11**

# Jesus' Messianic claims

1

**The Messiah (Christ) to come was understood to be God**

Daniel 7:9, 13

2

**High Priest understands Jesus' words as claiming equality with God**

Mark 14:41-64

3

**Jesus says he is Christ**

Luke 24:25-27, 44-48



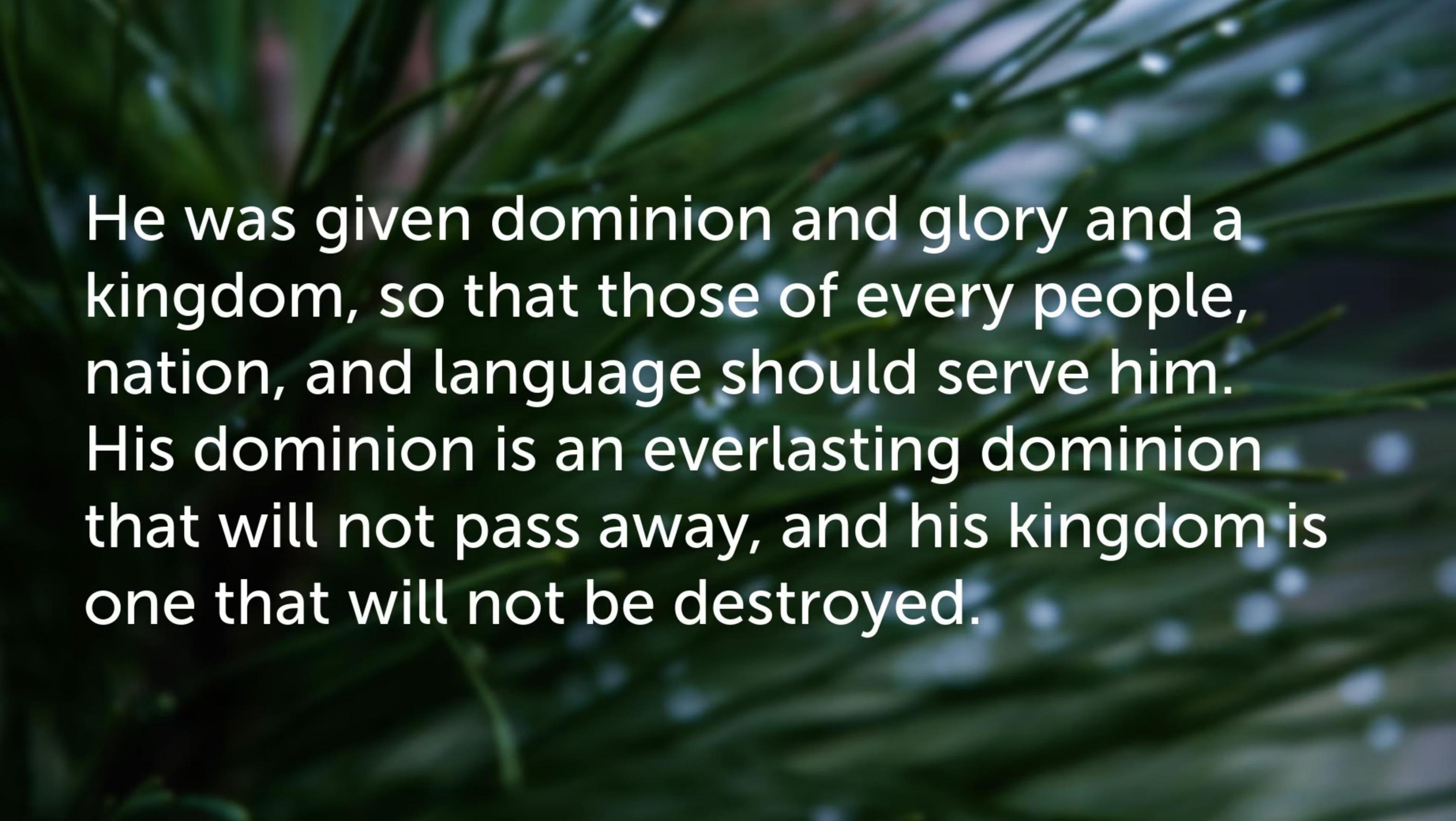
AS I LOOKED, THRONES WERE PLACED, AND THE

# ANCIENT OF DAYS TOOK HIS SEAT;

HIS CLOTHING WAS WHITE AS SNOW,  
AND THE HAIR OF HIS HEAD LIKE PURE WOOL;  
HIS THRONE WAS FIERY FLAMES;  
ITS WHEELS WERE BURNING FIRE.

DANIEL 7:9

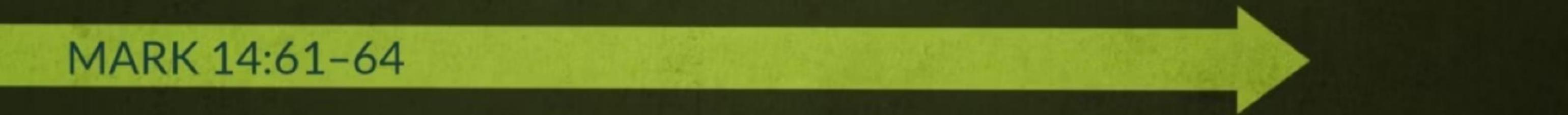
I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him.



He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

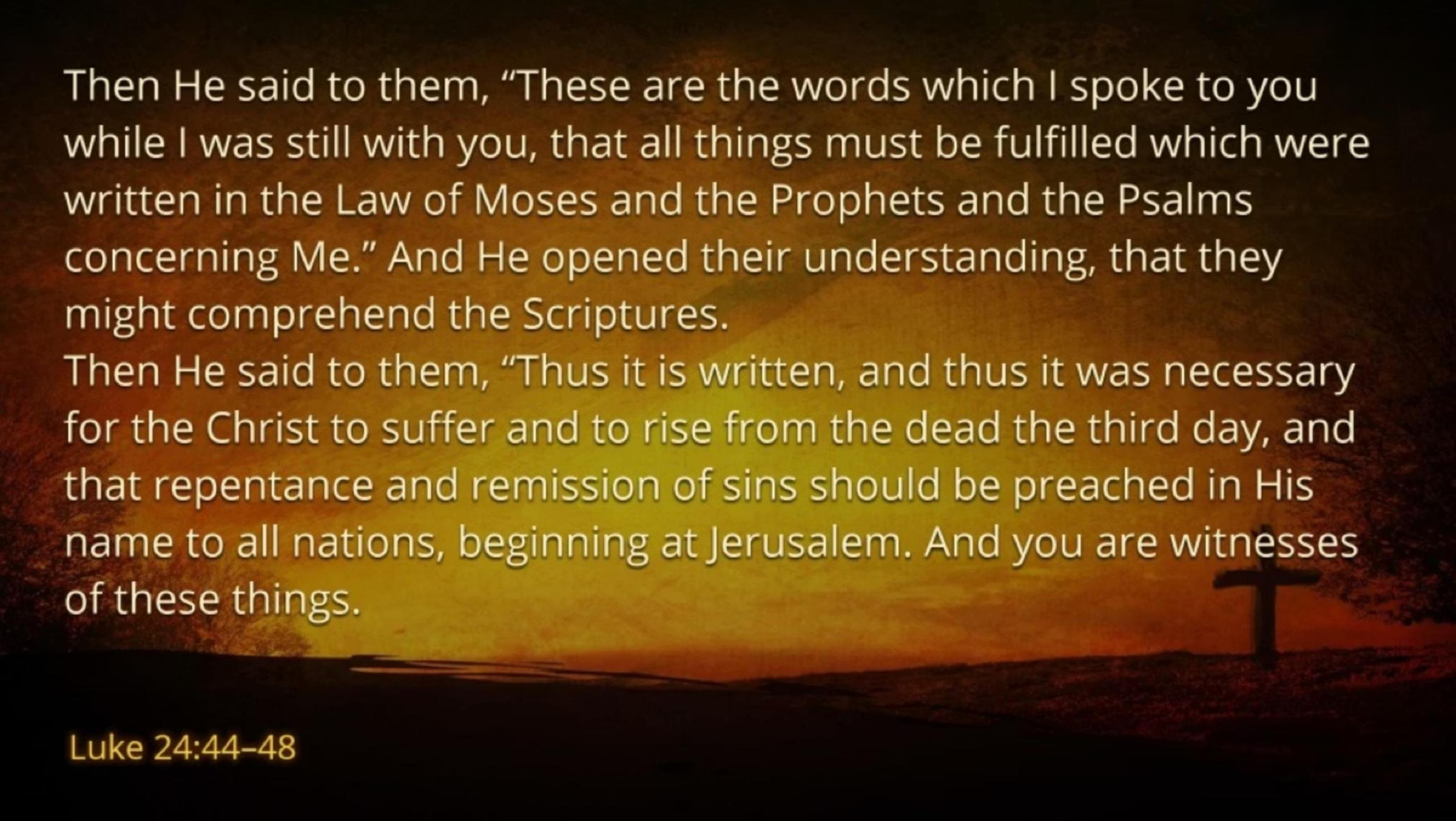
Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him,  
“Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”  
Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man  
sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming  
with the clouds of heaven.”  
Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,  
“What further need do we have of witnesses? You  
have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”

MARK 14:61-64



Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Luke 24:25-27

The background of the slide is a sunset or sunrise over a dark landscape. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and red. In the lower right corner, there is a dark silhouette of a cross on a hill.

Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.

Luke 24:44-48

# Jesus Accepted Worship

The OT reveals **God** declaring **no one and no thing** are to be worshipped **other than Him**

Ex 20:1-4

**Men** refused worship

Acts 14:15

**Angels** refused Worship

Rev 22:8,9

**And God spoke all these words, saying:**

**“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**

**“You shall have no other gods before Me.**

**“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;**

**Exodus 20:1–4**

**"Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,**

**Acts 14:15**

Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

**Revelation 22:8–9**

# Jesus Accepted Worship

**The mother of James & John**

**Matthew 20:20**

**The Gerasene demoniac**

**Mark 5:6**

**A blind man**

**John 9:38**

**Doubting Thomas**

**John 20:28**

**The women at the tomb**

**Matthew 28:9**

**A Canaanite woman**

**Matthew 15:25**

**His disciples**

**Matthew 14:33**

**A healed leper**

**Matthew 8:2**

**A synagogue leader (Jairus)**

**Matthew 9:18, Mark 5:22–23**

# Jesus' Commands equal to God's



Jesus believed His words were equally as authoritative as God's

**Matthew 24:25 | Matthew 28:18-20 | John 13:34**



Jesus instructed His disciples to pray to Him

**John 14:1, 6, 13-15**

HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL  
PASS AWAY

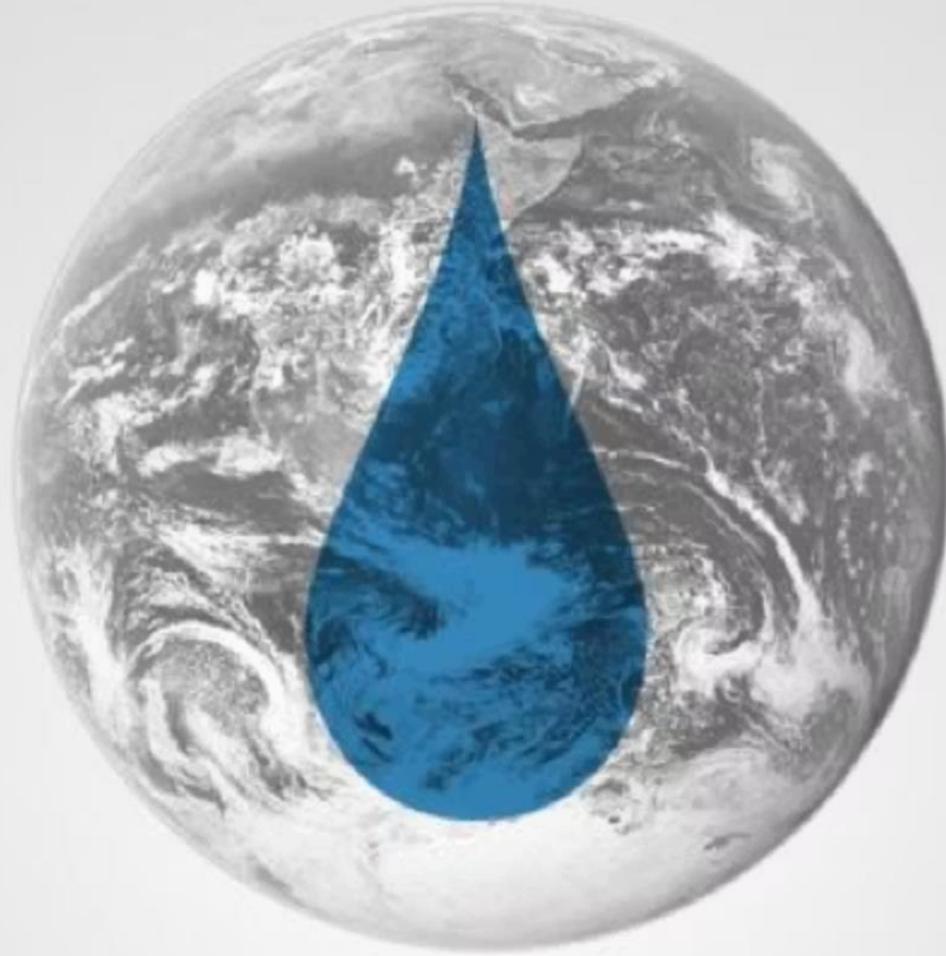
**BUT MY WORDS  
WILL NOT  
PASS AWAY.**

**MATTHEW 24:35**

And Jesus came and said to them,

**ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN  
AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN  
GIVEN TO ME.**

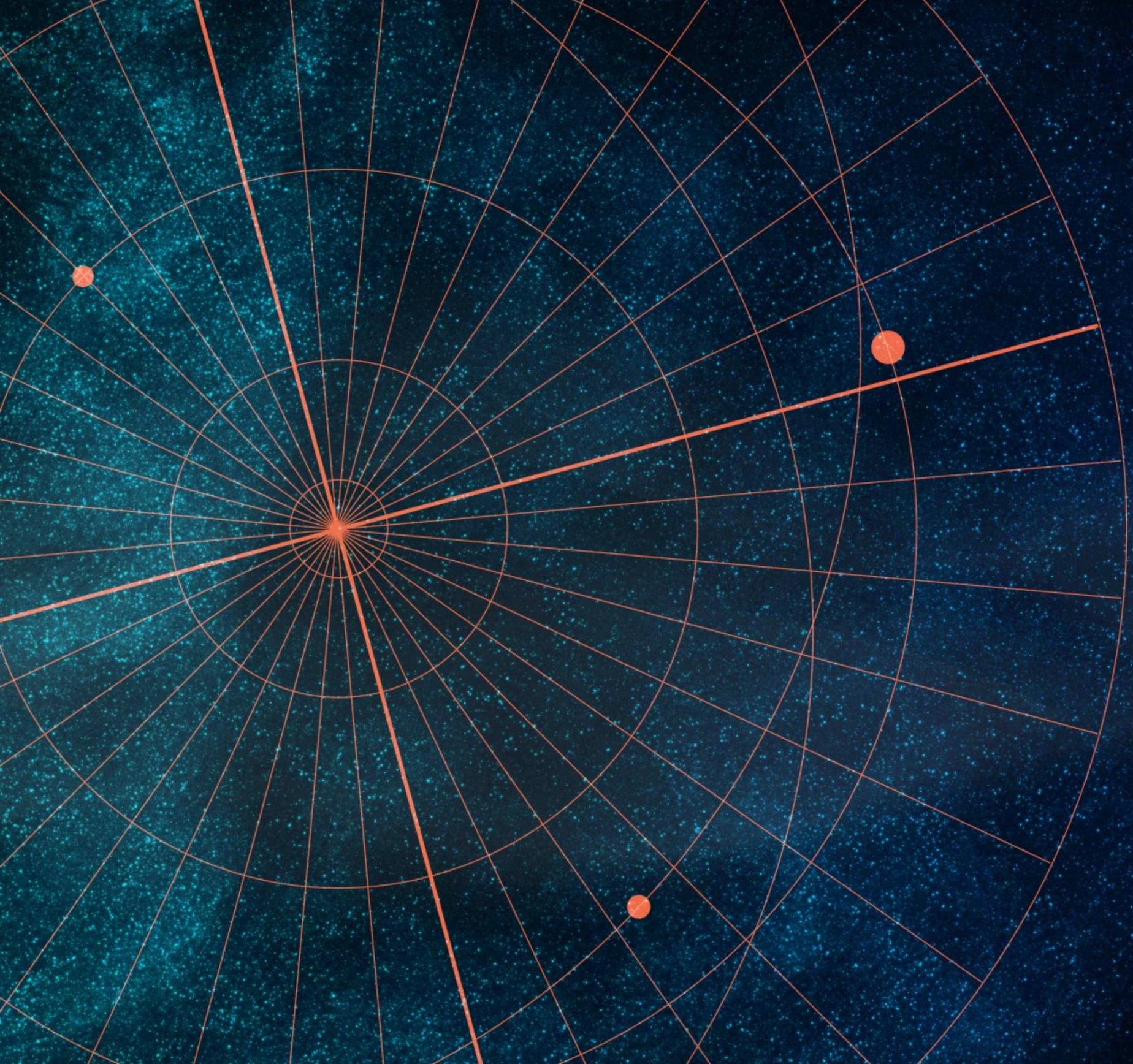
Matthew  
28:18



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

MATTHEW 28:19



**...teaching them to  
observe all that  
I have commanded  
you. And behold,**

**I AM**

**WITH YOU ALWAYS,  
to the end of the age.**

**MATTHEW 28:20**



A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER:

*just as I have loved you,  
you also are to love one another.*

JOHN 13:34

JESUS  
SAID TO HIM,  
"I AM  
THE WAY,  
AND  
THE TRUTH,  
AND THE



WAY

• NO ONE COMES TO  
THE FATHER  
EXCEPT THROUGH ME."  
JOHN 14:6

**JOHN 14:1, 13-15**

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.



# What did others believe?

1

What does the Bible demonstrate people believed about Him?

Disciples, Apostles, Opponents, Early Church?

2

Who did the 1st Century Monotheistic Jews believe **Jesus said** He was?

SIMON PETER REPLIED

**YOU ARE**  
**THE**  
**CHRIST,**  
**THE SON OF THE**  
**LIVING GOD.**

MATTHEW 16:16

THOMAS ANSWERED HIM,

"MY LORD  
AND MY  
GOD!"

JOHN 20:28



“Why does this Man speak  
blasphemies like this? Who can  
forgive sins but God alone?”

The Jews answered Him, saying,  
“For a good work we do not stone  
You, but for blasphemy, and  
because You, being a Man, make  
Yourself God.”

Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the world.

HEBREWS 1:1-2

For to which of the angels did He ever say:

“You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You”?

And again:

“I will be to Him a Father,

And He shall be to Me a Son”?

But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

“Let all the angels of God worship Him.”



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3

The current point is not about the truth of the claim, but the **claim itself**.