



What Are You Missing in the Mass?

Thursdays, 7PM
Parish Center

Dates and Topics

- * April 8 - Readings for April 11 - Sunday of Divine Mercy - Before Going to Mass
- * April 15 - 3rd Sunday of Easter - 1st Communion - Introductory Rites
- * April 22 - 4th Sunday of Easter - Penitential Act / Kyrie
- * **April 29 - 5th Sunday of Easter - Liturgy of the Word**
- * May 6 - 6th Sunday of Easter - Homily / Profession of Faith / Prayers of Faithful
- * May 13 - 7th Sunday of Easter - Liturgy of the Eucharist
- * May 20 - Pentecost Sunday - Communion Rite
- * May 27 - Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity - Sending Forth

The Mass is the most
perfect form of prayer!

Pope Paul VI
1963-1978





The world could
exist more easily
without the
sun than without
the Mass.

Padre Pio



Once, St. Teresa (of Avila) was
overwhelmed with God's Goodness and
asked Our Lord,

“How can I thank you?”

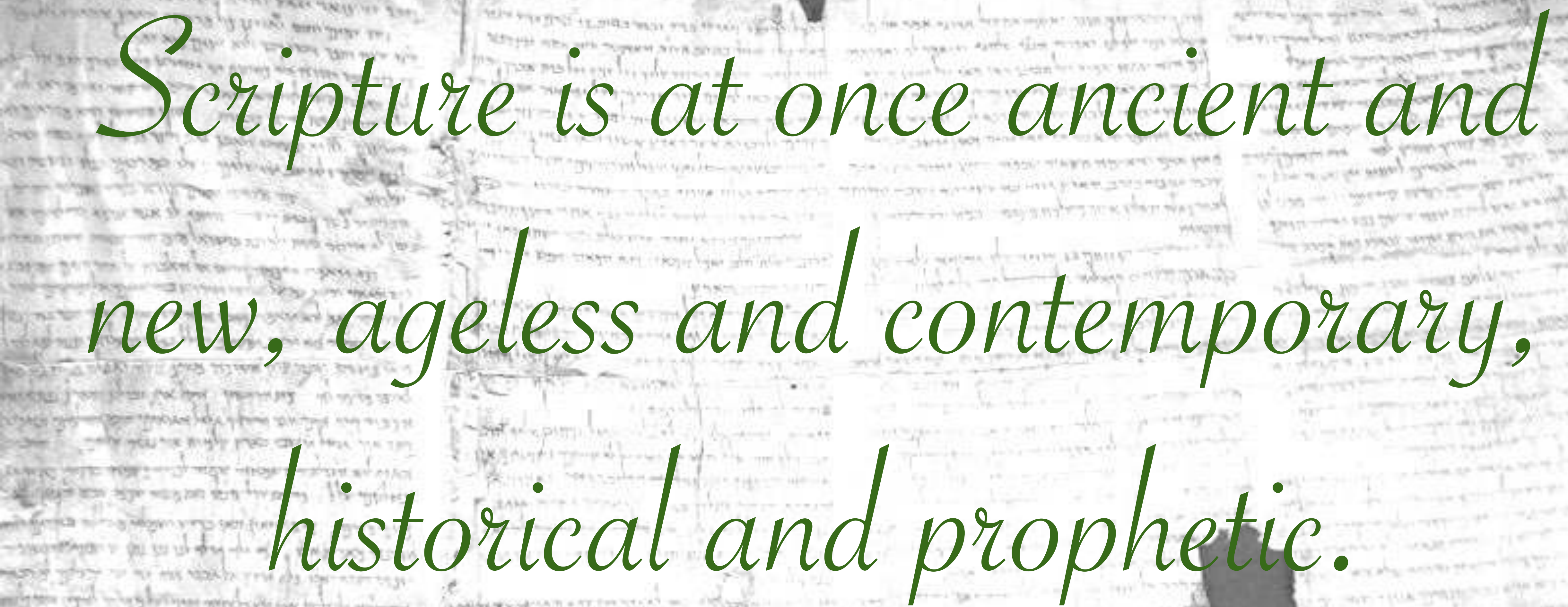
Our Lord replied,

“ATTEND ONE MASS.”

“Enrich your soul in the great goodness of God: The Father is your table, the Son is your food, and the Holy Spirit waits on you and then makes His dwelling in you.”

St. Catherine of Siena





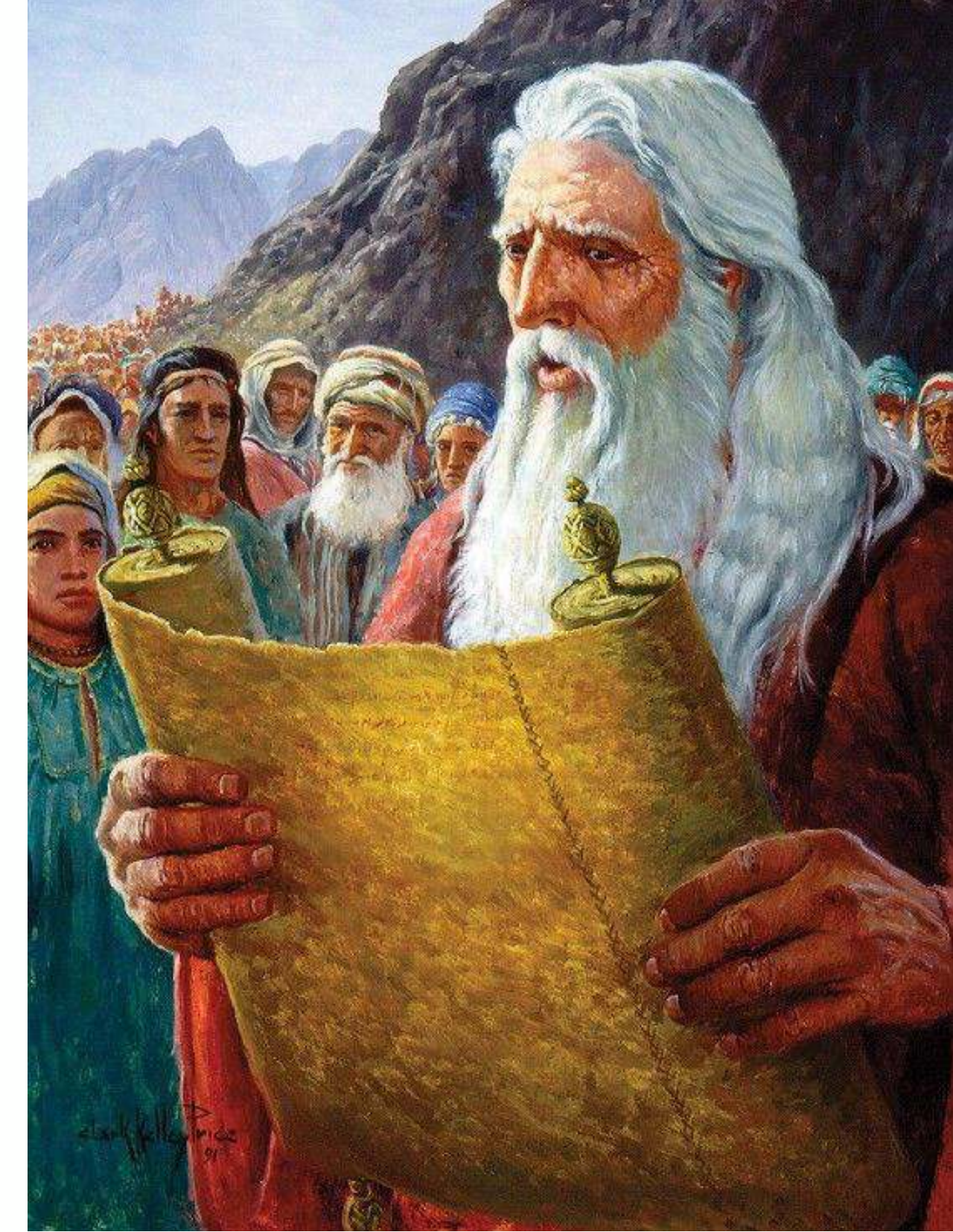
*Scripture is at once ancient and
new, ageless and contemporary,
historical and prophetic.*

Old Testament

Exodus 24:7-8

Taking the book of the covenant, [Moses] **read it aloud** to the people, who answered, "All that the LORD has said, we will hear and do."

Then he took the blood and splashed it on the people, saying, "This is the **blood of the covenant** which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."



New Testament

Luke 24:27, 30

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, **he interpreted to them** what referred to him in all **the scriptures**.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he **took bread**, said the **blessing, broke** it, and **gave** it to them.

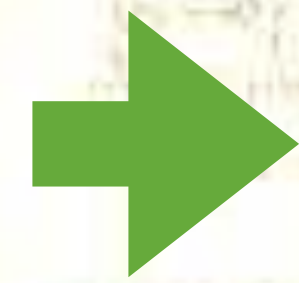


Greek: diatheke



διαθήκη

Hebrew: berith

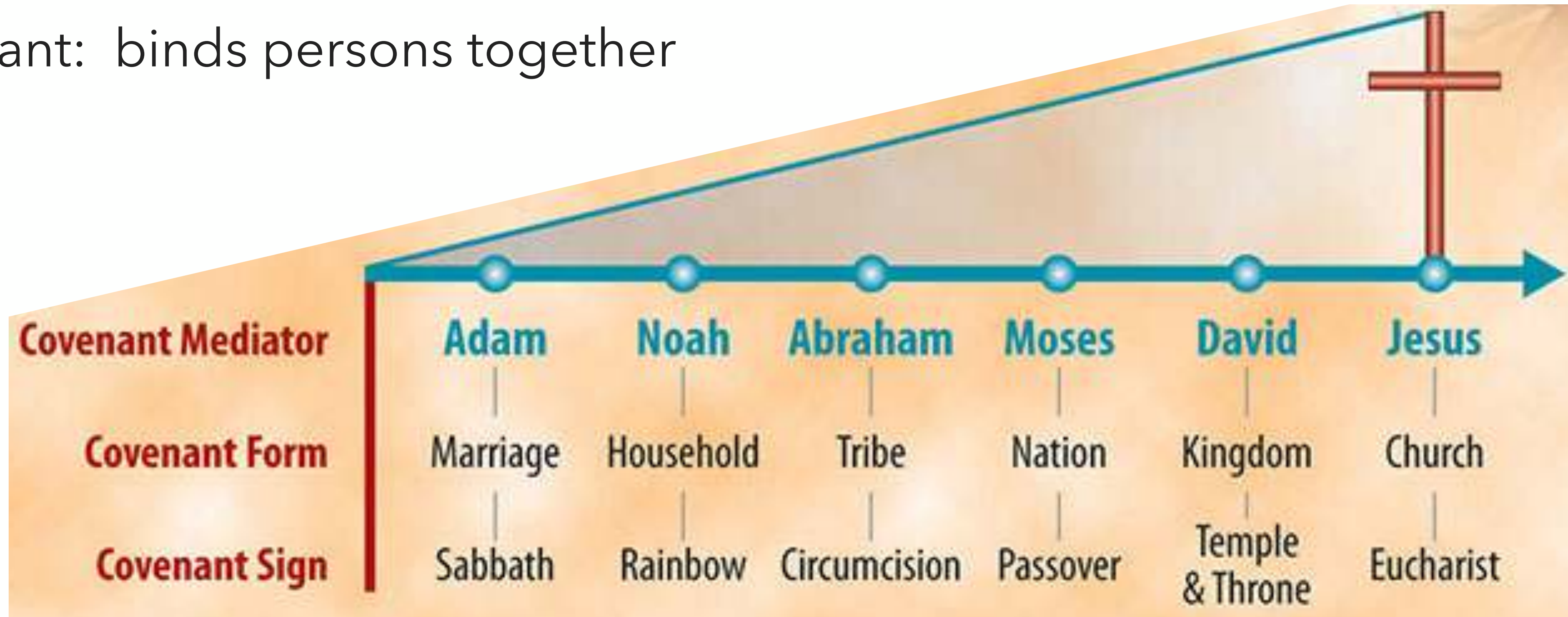


בְּרִית

Both translate roughly to testament or covenant

The First Reading

- * Old Testament
- * Contract: two parties agree to exchange of goods / services
- * Covenant: binds persons together



St. Augustine:

Old Testament *revealed* in

New Testament

New Testament *hidden* in the

Old Testament



The First Reading

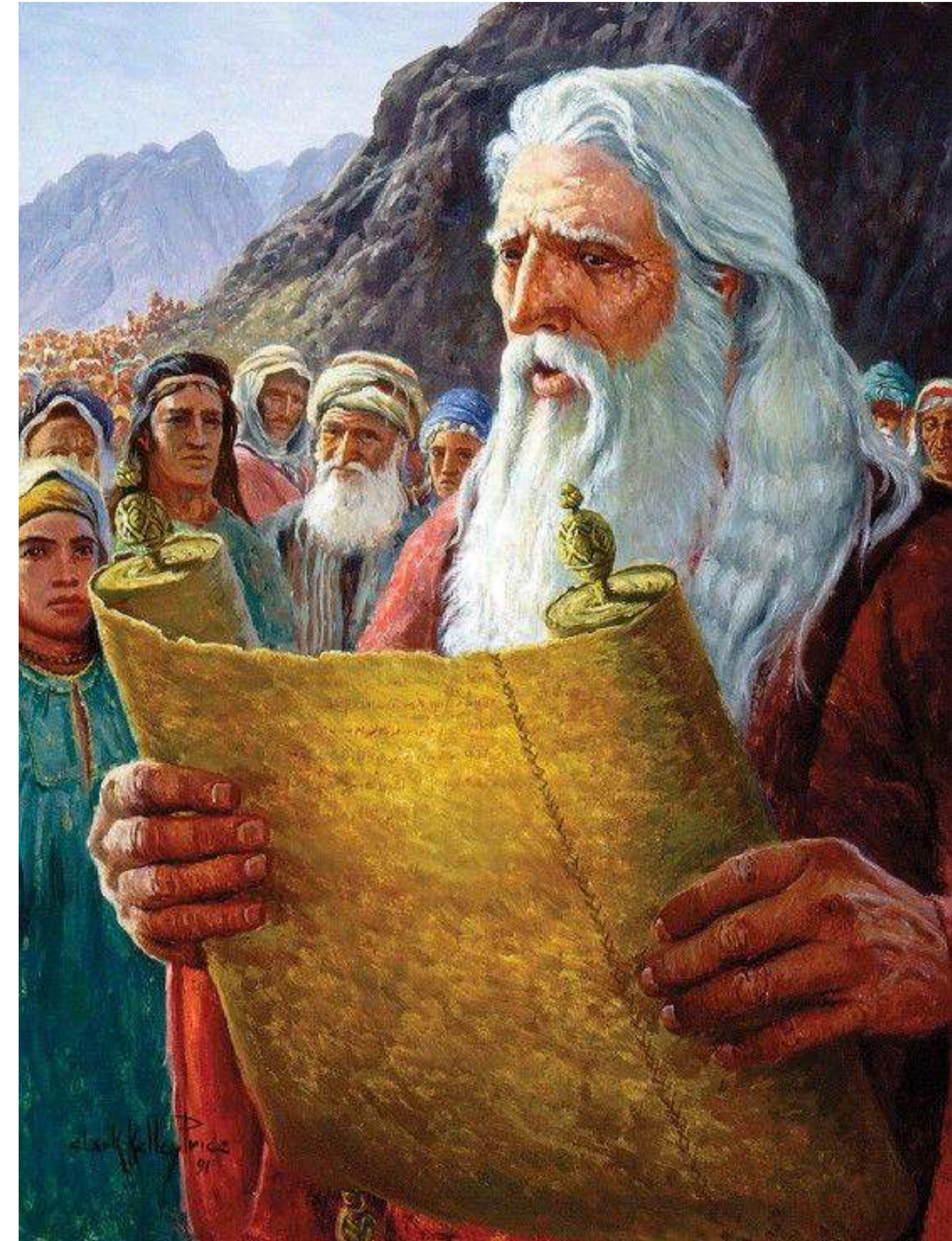
- * Early Christians believed Jesus to be the fulfillment of promises that God made in the Old Testament
- * Jews do not believe that Jesus is the fulfillment
- * **John 19:36** - ...these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled...
- * First Reading connected to Gospel



The First Reading

Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, **“All that the LORD has said, we will hear and do.”**

שָׁמַע = hear *and* do
“semah”



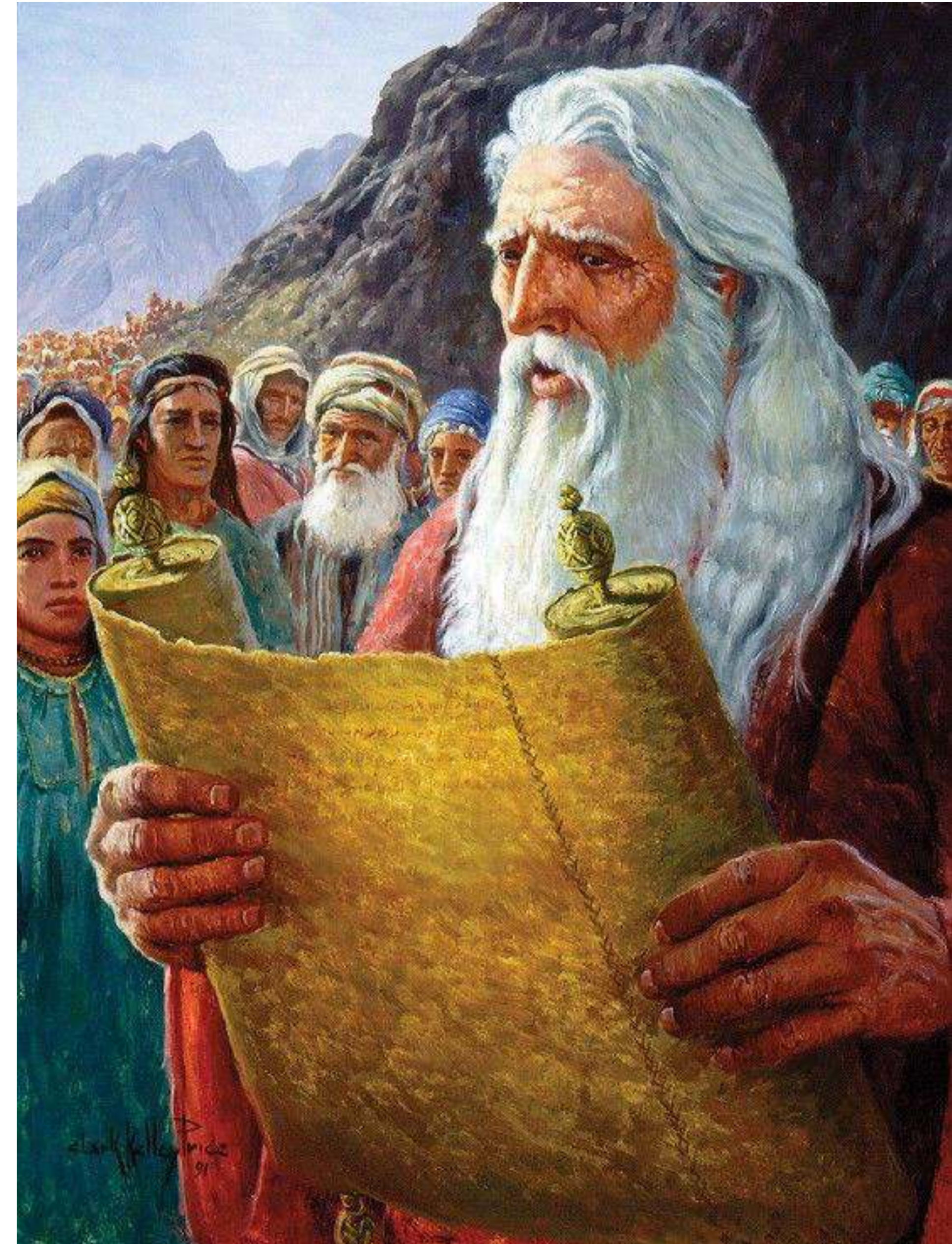
GAUD

DEUM

AMEN

The First Reading

- * Receive the Word with sense of awe and reverence as the Israelites
- * We **MUST** respond →
accept or ignore...



Thanks be to God!

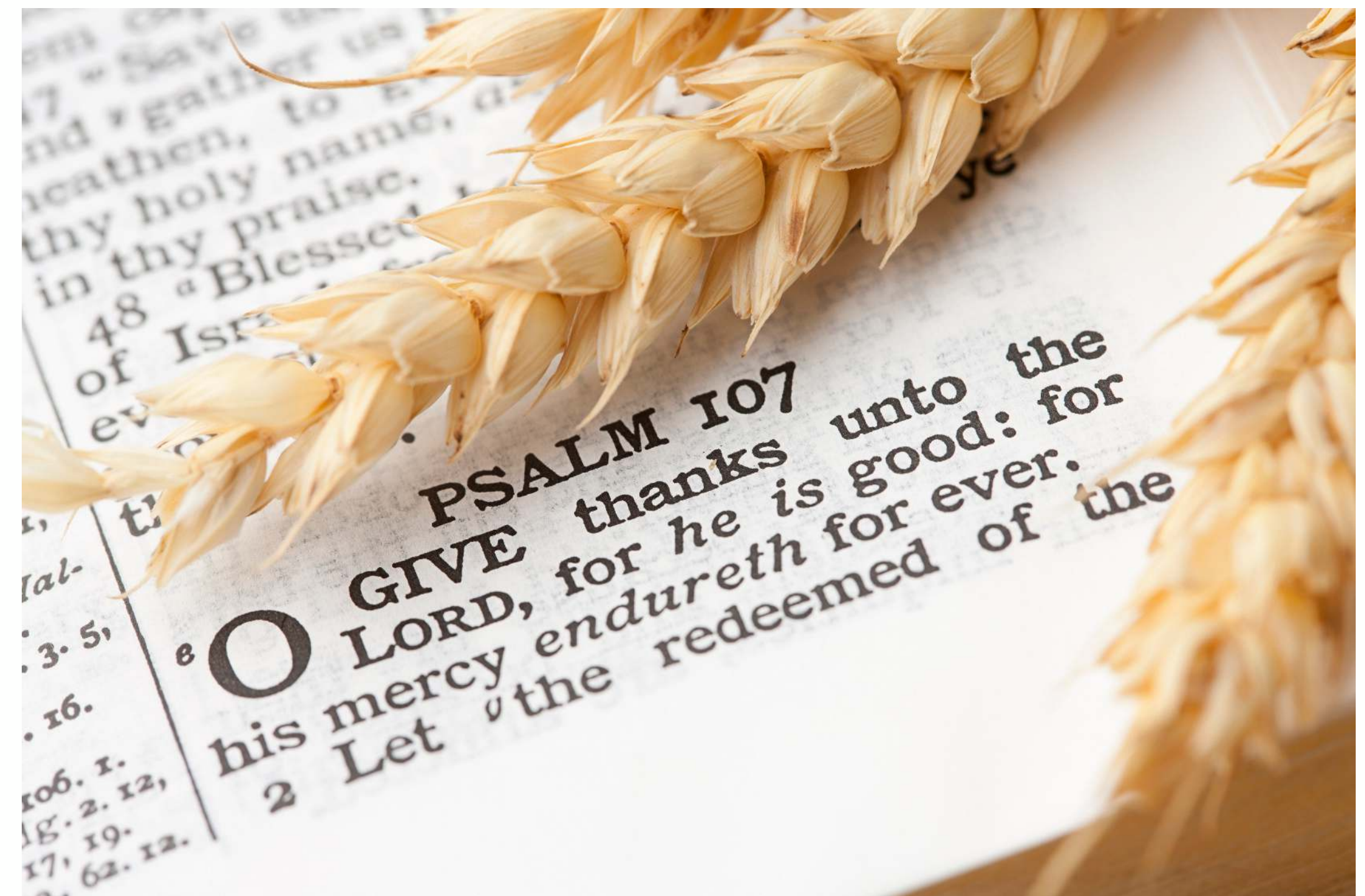
Romans 6:17 - But *thanks be to God* that, although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted.

Romans 7:25 - *Thanks be to God* through Jesus Christ our Lord...

1 Cor 15:56 - But *thanks be to God* who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 2:14 - But *thanks be to God*,* who always leads us in triumph in Christ* and manifests through us the odor of the knowledge of him* in every place.

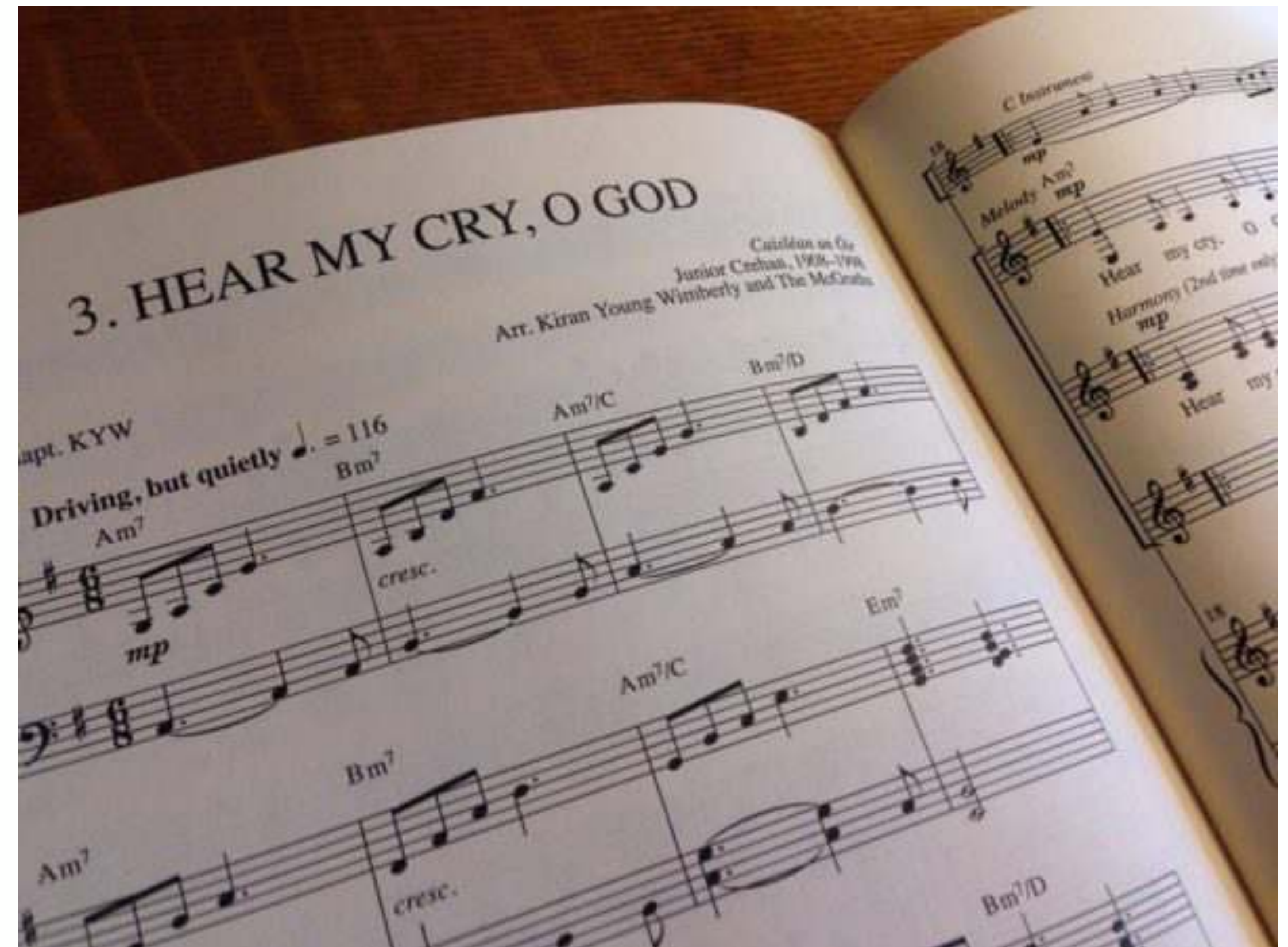
Psalm



- * Inspired poems, hymns, prayers
- * Most attributed to King David
- * Jesus quotes Psalms more than any other book
- * Psalms were sang or recited daily by early Jews

Psalm

- * "Response" to the First Reading
- * Repeating refrain, joined by congregation, points to First Reading
- * We pray the Psalm through Him, with Him, and in Him



The Second Reading

- * New Testament - other than Gospels
- * Not always related to other readings
- * Same book continued weeks in a row
- * Letters written to various "new" Christian communities
- * Topics address temptations and sinfulness
- * Remind of God's love

Gospels - 4

Acts of the Apostles

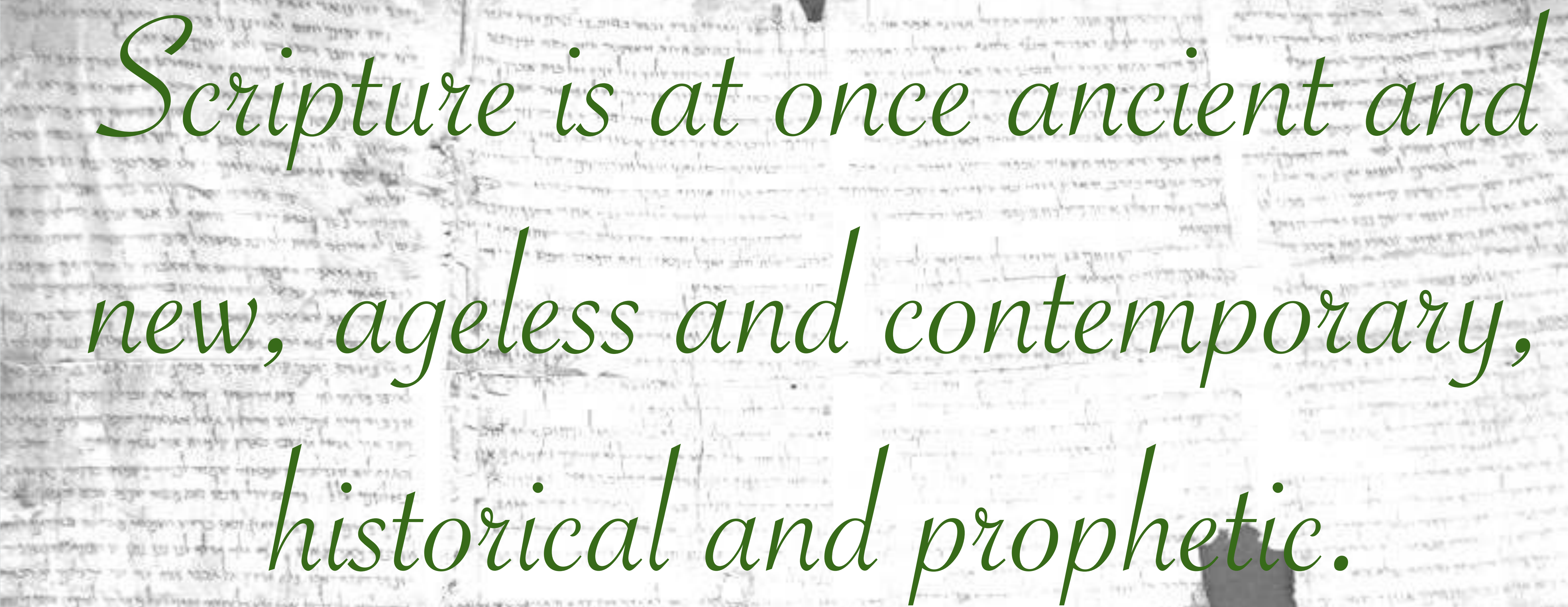
Pauline Epistles - 14

General Epistles - 7

Revelation



NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN



*Scripture is at once ancient and
new, ageless and contemporary,
historical and prophetic.*

The Gospel

- * High point of liturgy
- * Rise and acclaim "Alleluia!"
- * Alleluia → Greek translation of Hebrew "Hallelu Ya"
- * "Hallelu Yah" → Praise Yahweh
- * יהוה → sacred, never spoken other than by priest
- * יהוה → LORD

The Gospel

* Word of God incarnate in Jesus

* Good News

* Euangelion

Disciples of John the Baptist asked Jesus who he was...

Jesus responded with **Matthew 11:5:**

(fulfillment of various Isaiah passages)

"...the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them..."

The Gospel



* "The Gospel According to...."

* "Glory to You O, Lord!"

* Draw a small cross on forehead, lips, and heart

* "May the Lord purify my understanding, my speech, and my heart, so that I may receive the words of the Gospel."

* Repel evil one

The Gospel

Jesus warned disciples to guard the Word with parable of the sower



Luke 8:5-8: "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."



WEAPONS OF
===== *mass* =====
DISTRACTION

The Gospel

- * Everything leading up to is preparation
- * Special nature emphasized
 - * Standing
 - * Candles
 - * Incense
 - * Ornate style of book
 - * Ordained minister proclaiming
 - * Special prayer/blessing
 - * Joyful response
 - * Final act of tracing 3 crosses



The Gospel

- * Listen → Jesus has revealed God perfectly to us
- * Does what I hear match my understanding of God?
- * In Gospel, we come to “see” Jesus and learn what God is like and what He wishes of us.



The Gospel

John 14:8-9:

- * Phillip the Apostle asked Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father and we shall be satisfied."
- * Jesus responded, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me Phillip? He who has seen me has seen the Father..."



Praise to You,
Lord, Jesus
Christ



Readings for 5th Sunday of Easter

First Reading

Acts 9:26-31

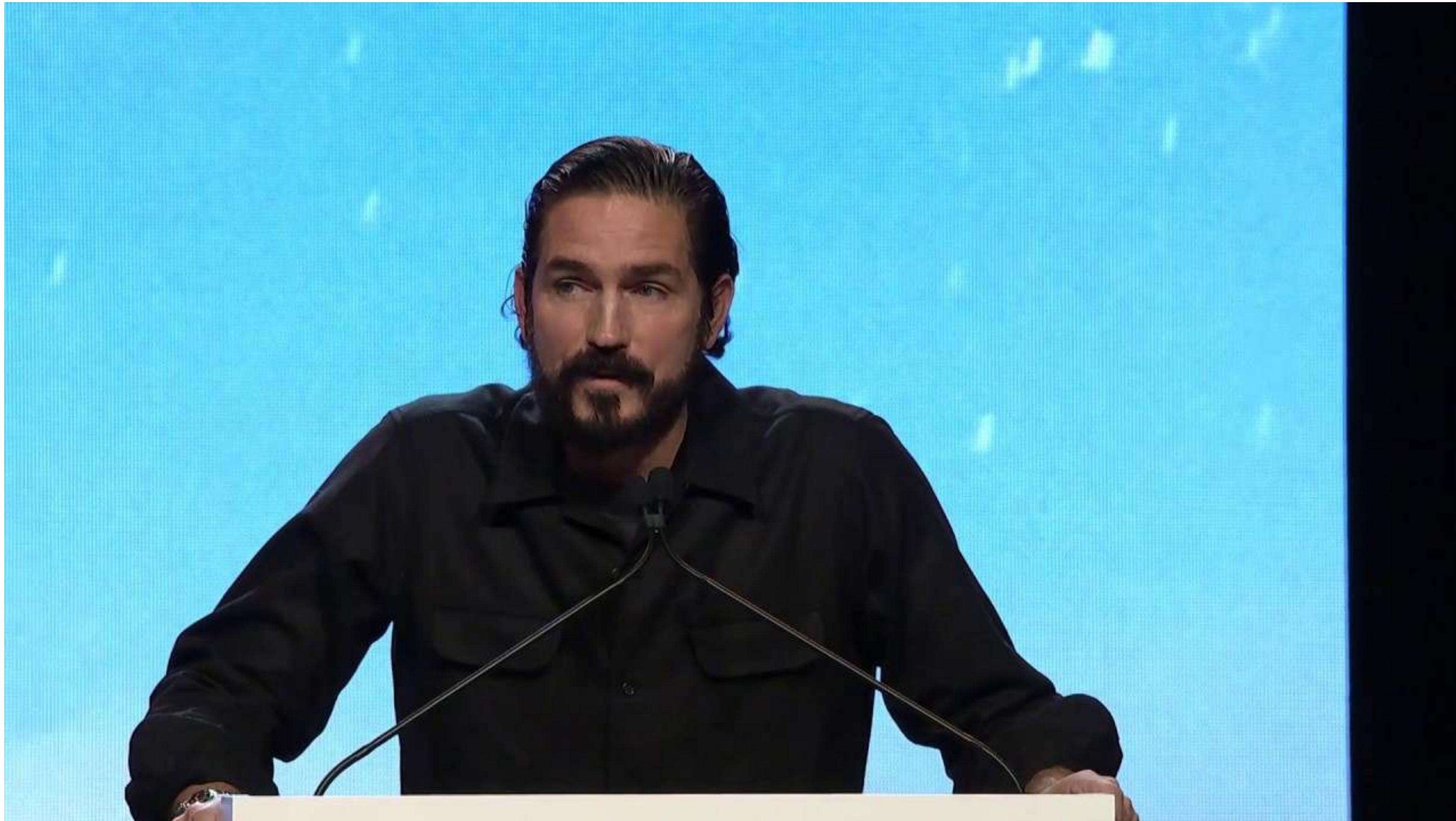
When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he

reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus. The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.



First Reading

Saul first called Paul in Acts 13:9



2:06-2:56

First Reading

- *Saul was a fervent persecutor of Christians
- *Believed himself to be a very righteous → Pharisee
- *Jesus spoke to Saul on road to Damascus
- *Saul spoke out boldly in the name of Jesus
- *The Apostles sent Saul to Tarsus
- *The church was being built up



Psalm

22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the Lord. The lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your hearts live forever!" **R.**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of the nations shall bow down before him. **R.**

To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bend all who go down into the dust. **R.**

And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him. Let the coming generation be told of the Lord that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born the justice he has shown. **R.**

*I will praise you,
Lord, in the assembly
of your people*

Psalm

*I will praise you,
Lord, in the assembly
of your people*

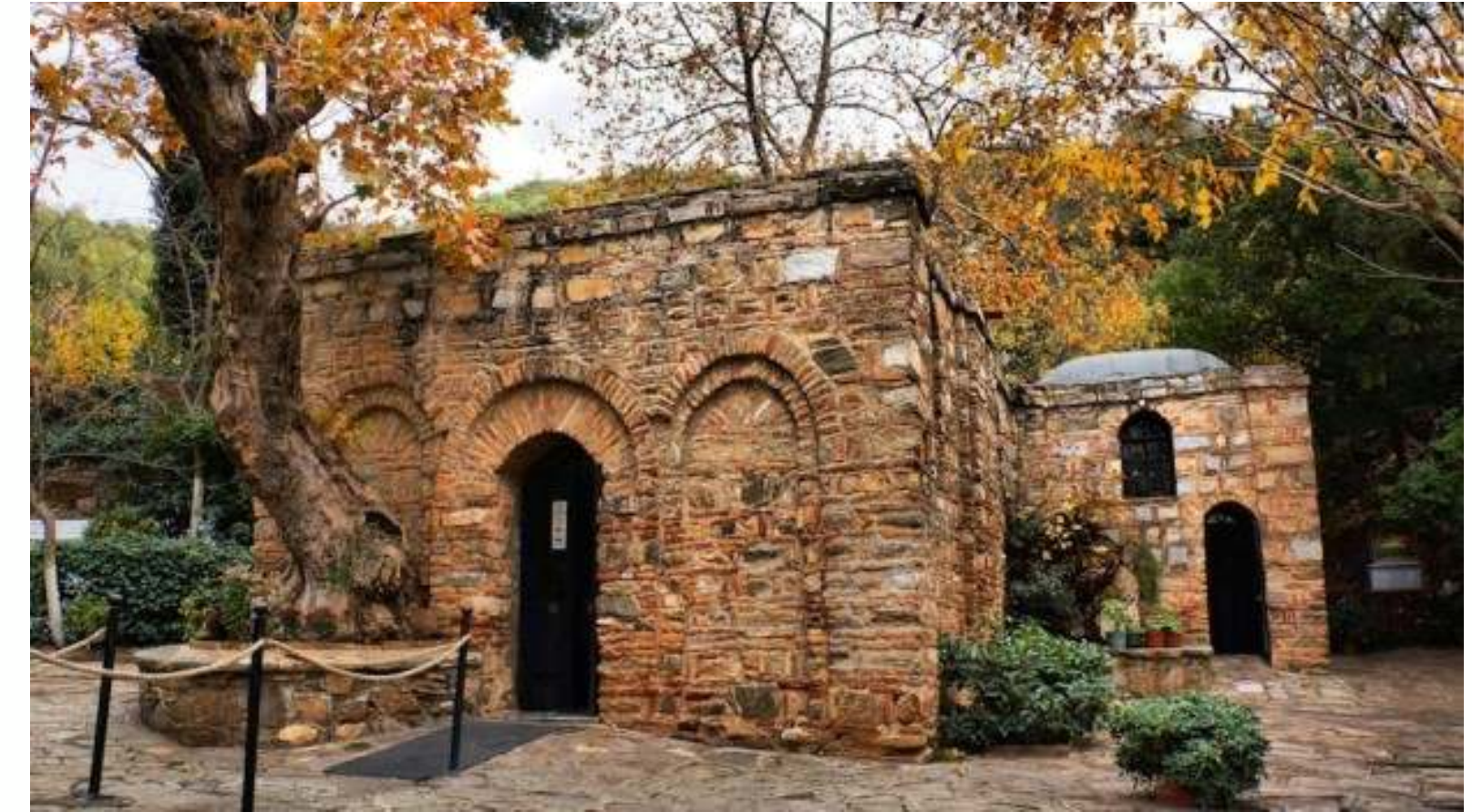
- *First line - My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?
- *Verses 1-22 express distress in contrast to God's mercy
- *Verses contained in liturgy - invitation to praise God
- *Person who offered sacrifice in the temple recounted to others favor received from God

Second Reading

1 Jn 3:18-24

Children, **let us love** not in word or speech but **in deed and truth**. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, **because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him**.

And his commandment is this: **we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us**. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.



Gospel

Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "**I am the true vine**, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



Gospel

Connection to First Reading

- * **I am the vine, you are the branches**
- * Paul's journeys "vined" throughout known world
- * The apostles spread the Gospel far and wide

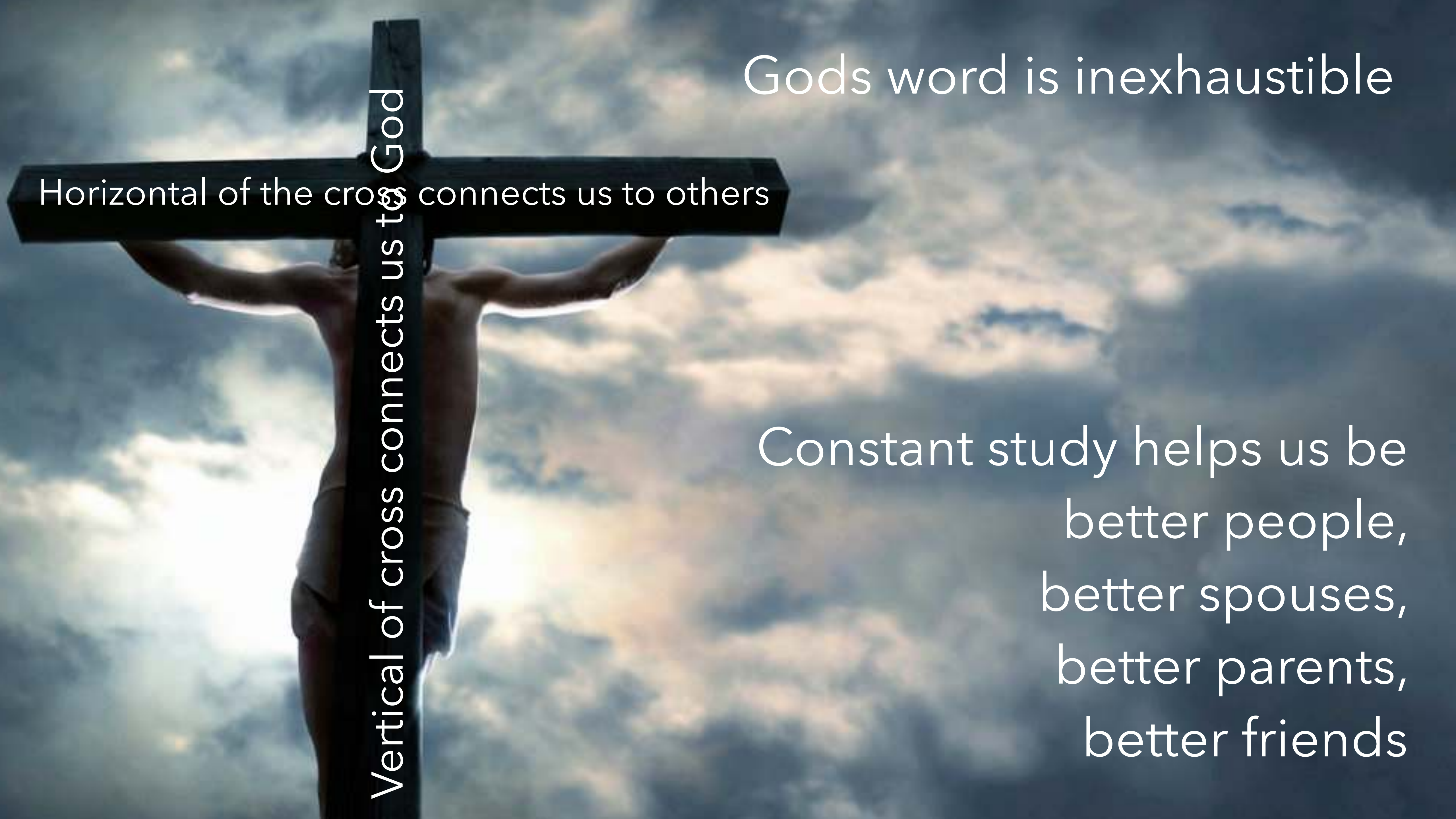
Connection to Second Reading

- * **Remain in God** - those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them
- * **You bear much fruit and become my disciples** - because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him

Connection to Us Today

- * **Without Me you can do nothing**
- * **Gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned** - hell is a reality
- * **Bear much fruit and become my disciples** - we are called to go forth - ite Missa est





Gods word is inexhaustible

Horizontal of the cross connects us to others

Vertical of cross connects us to God

Constant study helps us be
better people,
better spouses,
better parents,
better friends

Our Father



Pater noster qui es in coelis,
sanctificetur nomen tuum;
adveniat regnum tuum,
fiat voluntas tua,
sicut in coelo et in terra.

Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie,
et dimitte nobis debita nostra,
sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.
et ne nos inducas in tentationem
sed libera nos a malo.
Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Questions and Discussion



- Why should we read Scripture in the context of our own life?
- How should we respond to Scripture read at mass?
- How do we receive Jesus in the mass?
- What was your biggest "A-ha!" from tonight?