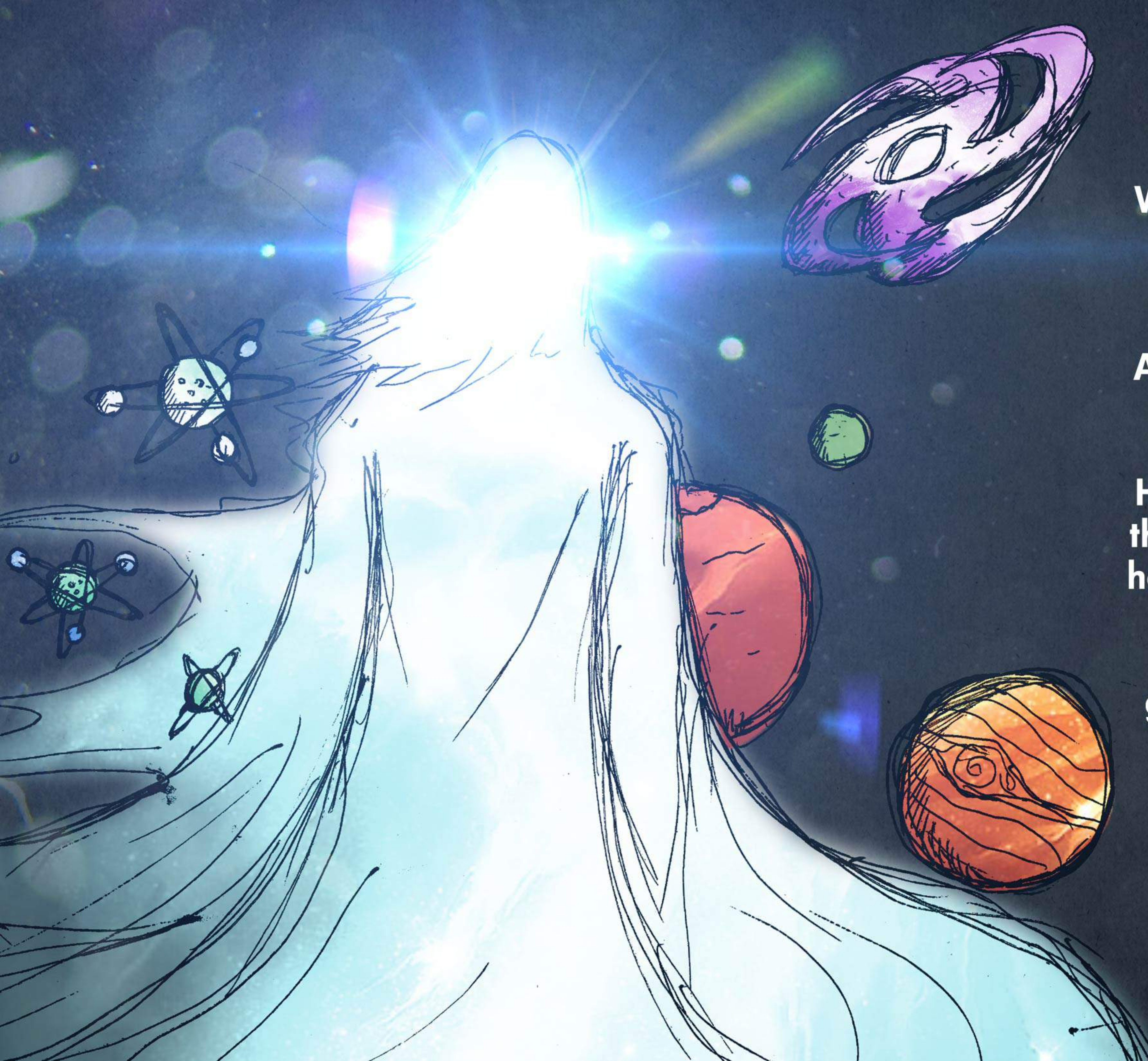


THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

God does everything for a reason, including the fact that you're looking at this booklet right now. If you'd look through it, it's my prayer that God would use it to bring you to trust in, and Love His Son – Jesus Christ.



We need to start with GOD.

He exists.

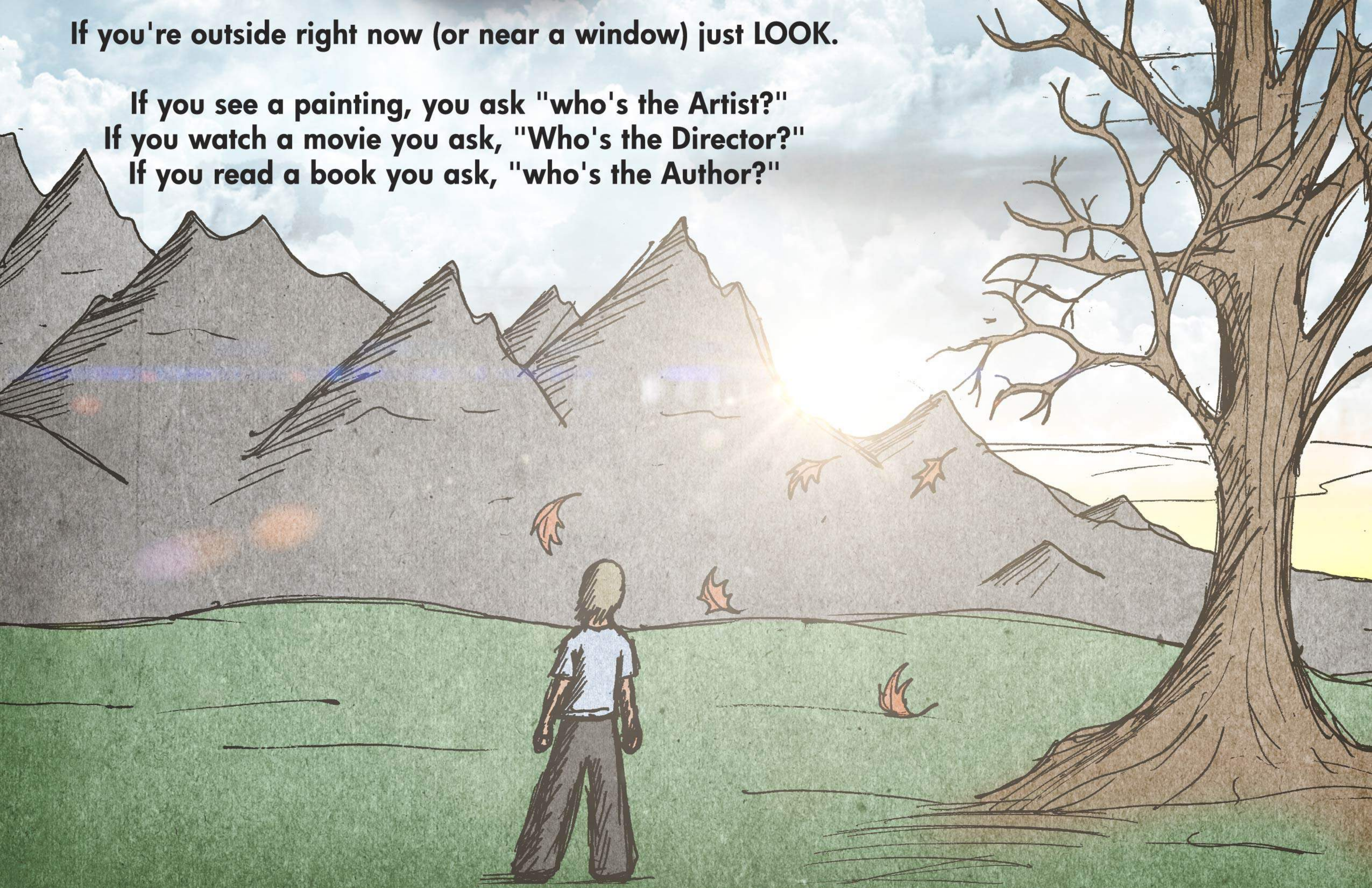
**And He is the unimaginably
wise Creator of reality.**

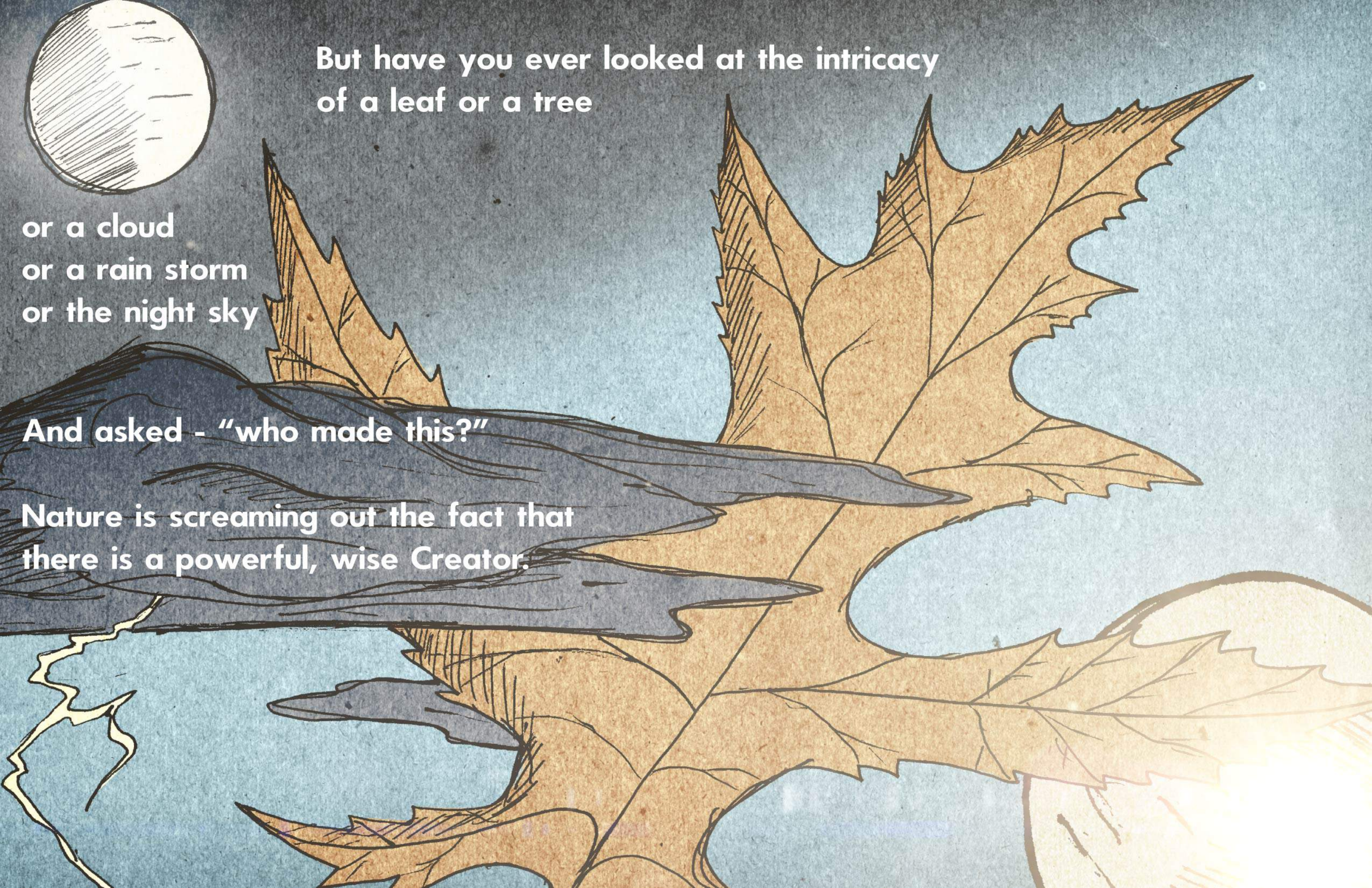
**He formed everything, from
the sub-atomic particles that
hold an ant's legs together –**

**to the massive clusters of
galaxies each with millions
of stars a piece.**

If you're outside right now (or near a window) just LOOK.

**If you see a painting, you ask "who's the Artist?"
If you watch a movie you ask, "Who's the Director?"
If you read a book you ask, "who's the Author?"**





But have you ever looked at the intricacy
of a leaf or a tree

or a cloud
or a rain storm
or the night sky

And asked - "who made this?"

Nature is screaming out the fact that
there is a powerful, wise Creator.



In fact, the Bible says that:

"What can be known about God is plain to them because He has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

So they are without excuse."

-Romans 1:19-20

"They are without excuse."

It's frightening to be caught without an excuse. But you know it's true. You know, in the quiet places of your heart and mind – maybe places you've long ago boarded up with cleverly crafted arguments – but even still, friend, you know that God exists.

You know when you see the stars, the trees, the clouds; you know when a sunset stirs something inside of you that the simple combination of light rays and water vapor should not be able to do. The symphony of Creation is saying one thing:



God exists.

**But more than knowing He
exists – you also know
you're guilty before this
God.**



Guilt is a haunting that we all experience.

No matter how much we try to rationalize it away or ignore it – there is that weight of guilt – that realization that we aren't measuring up.

We don't measure up to our own standards of what we know is "good", so how much less do we measure up to the standards of a God who is the very essence of "Good"?

Ever wonder why that sense of falling short of a standard is there?

The Bible explains why, in Romans chapter 1 verse 25 where it says:

"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the created thing rather than the Creator – who is blessed forever!"

See – the problem with all of humanity is that even though we know God exists, we refuse to honor Him as God.

We think He's a lie, or maybe a nice idea, or a religious thing, or a superstition for kids and old ladies – when in reality He is worthy of our entire lives!

**You've heard about Sin.
Well, the essence of sin
is what that verse said,
the essence of sin is to
Worship something else
instead of God.**

**To build our lives on
something other than
God**



What do you worship?



If you're not sure just look at the thing that's at the root of your life.

What do you love most?

Treasure most?

Trust in most?

What is it that you could not live without?

Whatever your answer is – that is what you are worshipping. See, we worship the thing we love most – the thing that most satisfies our souls. And whatever that is – we have made into our god.

The problem is – Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said that this was the greatest and single most important command ever given to human beings from God:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

So every time we make something more ultimate than God in our lives – we are living in rebellion against the Creator of Reality.

Who has ever loved God the way He deserves to be loved?

And notice, that verse doesn't say "serve" Him, it doesn't say, "follow His rules".

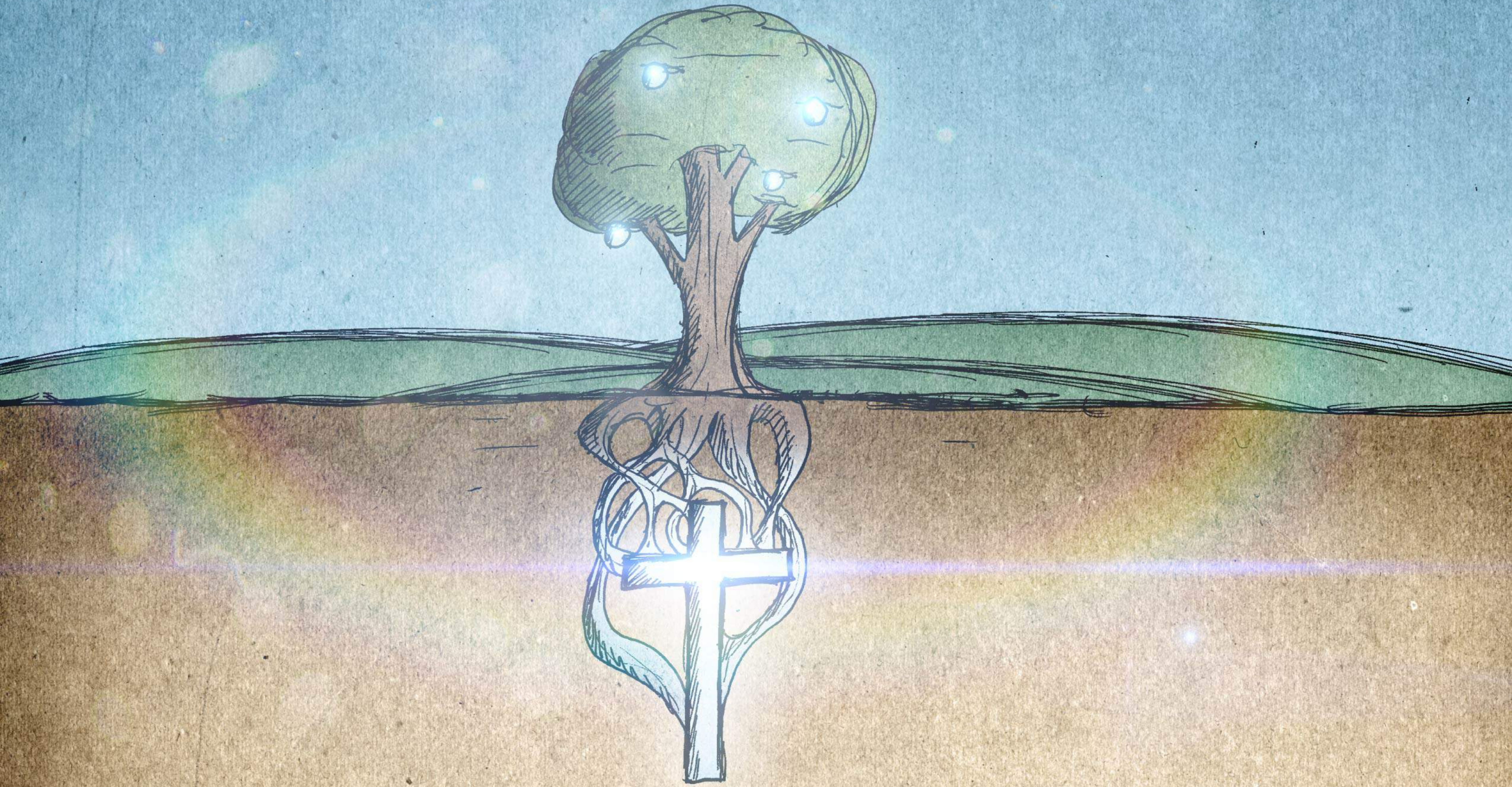
Anyone can "act" good if they try hard enough. We're all good at putting on a show when we want to.

But God doesn't ask for a show.

No, this command says, "LOVE God".

That's a command to enjoy God, to desire God, to actually want God more than all the other stuff in our lives, and to honor Him – joyfully – as more important than anything else.

God's greatest command is that – at the roots of who we are – would be Love for Him.



NO ONE lives that way by nature, which means – every one of us are sinners. Everyone of us has something other than God at our roots.

Never mind all the perverted things we've thought and said, never mind all the messed up things we've done to ourselves or others –

Yeah, that's all sin, but the **MAIN** issue here is that humans just don't worship God. We'd much rather choose other "gods" or be our own god. We don't honor Him.

Look at what God says about this in the book of Jeremiah chapter 2 verses 12 and 13:

"Be horrified, Oh heavens at this; be shocked and utterly desolate, declares the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the Fountain of Living Waters, and have cut out wells for themselves, broken wells that can hold no water."

**God says that something has taken place that is so shocking, so horrific, and so evil, that the heavens themselves should be stunned.
What could be so evil?**

This: That the people who God created to know and love and be utterly satisfied with Him have instead turned and are trying to fill themselves up with broken, dirty puddles of water.

In other words, anything but Him.



**So all the philosophies and techniques, all the riches and fame, all
the morality and self confidence, all the achievement and legacy
– the things that we love and trust instead of God –**

THAT – God says, is unspeakably evil.

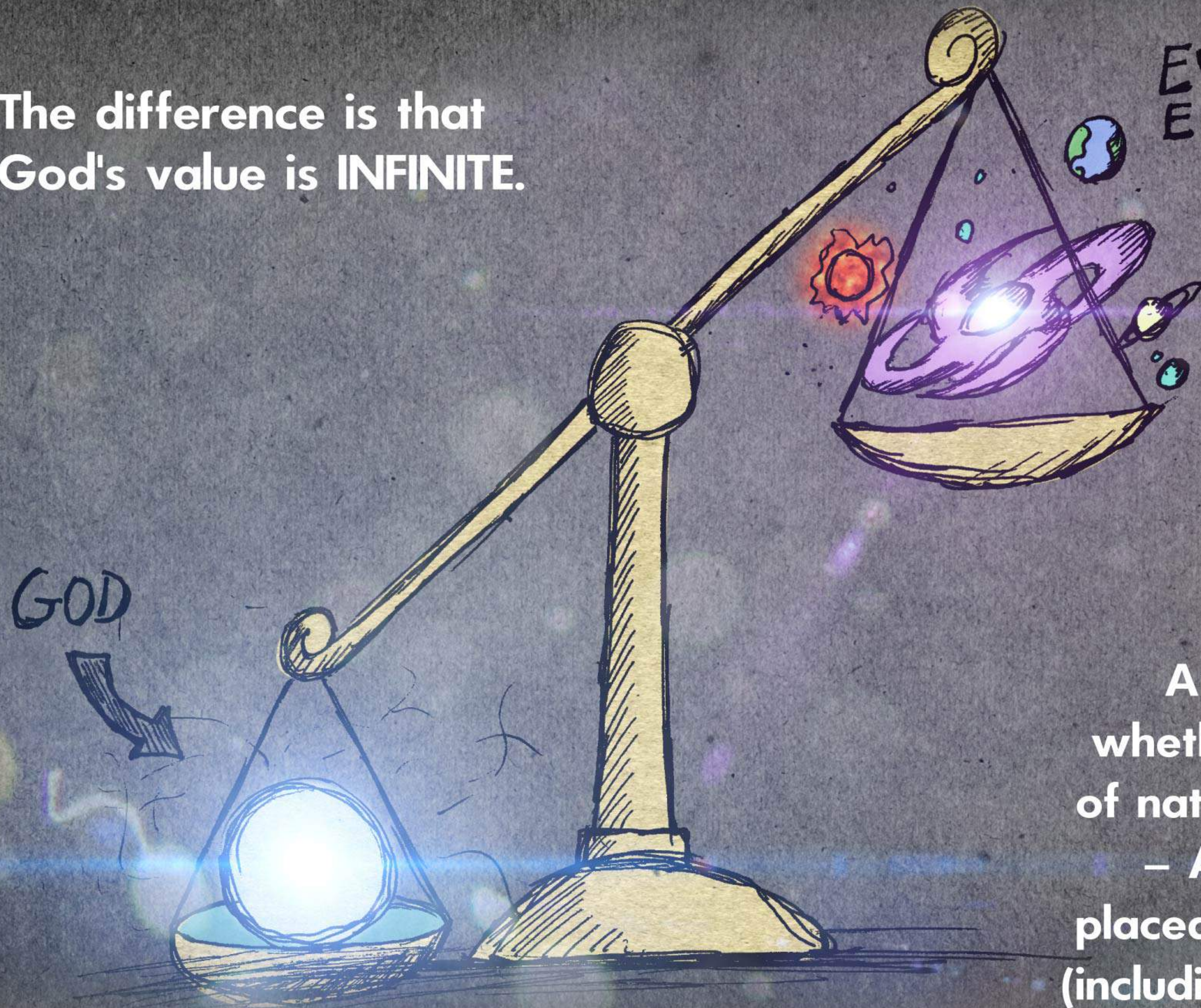
**You may be confused or even angered to hear
God say it is "evil" to refuse to worship Him.**

**Well – would you say it is "evil" to murder a child
in cold blood?**

**Of course! Anyone would. But why? Why is it evil
to kill a child? Certainly at the foundation is the
value and the dignity of a human life. It is wrong
to kill a human because their life has value.**

In the same way – God has value

The difference is that
God's value is INFINITE.



EVERYTHING
ELSE

Think about it – what is
the value, the worth of
the being who spoke
the Universe into
existence with a
Word?

Anything you've ever valued,
whether a possession, an aspect
of nature, a concept, or a person
– ANYTHING that you've ever
placed any sort of value on at all
(including human life) is one of the
THOUGHTS of God. It was
something that He spoke out.

**Just think about that – The value of the person of
God is truly ETERNAL.**

**So, when we refuse to give Him the honor He is due
we are not just making a lifestyle choice – we are,
for all intents and purposes, flipping off God Almighty
and telling Him we'd rather worship ourselves.**



**We are doing the same thing
that has damned Satan to Hell.**

And since God is ETERNALLY worthy, our ignorance of and rebellion against Him is an ETERNALLY evil sin and therefore it deserves an ETERNALLY lasting punishment.

Hell.

Hell is simply the just and deserved punishment for refusing to honor and worship the Eternal Creator God.

Oh, and my friend, please hear me – Hell is where we will experience the un-ending horror of God's deserved anger against us. (remember, a sin against an infinite being is a sin worthy of infinite punishment – that is why Hell never ends).

If you are one who thinks Hell might be "fun" because your friends will be there, or if you think of it as an unending party with no authority – please just take a moment and consider this.

Have you ever looked into the night sky and been amazed by how big it is? So far, scientists have found the universe to be 93 billion light years across – compared to that, our solar system is smaller than a piece of dust floating in the Pacific Ocean – and God spoke that into existence.

Hell is the place where that same God (whose words have formed everything that exists) is going to pour out the eternal fullness of His punishment on those who lived as His enemies. Think on this for a moment - Hell will be AT LEAST as horrific as the universe is big. Just as our planet is nothing compared to the size of the Universe, so the pain and terrors we've known in this life are as nothing compared to what will be experienced in Hell. Here is a passage from the book of Isaiah chapter 66 talking about those in Hell:

"Their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

My friend – you don't want to die as an enemy of God.



But, because of our sin – that's exactly what we are. Enemies of God who have rebelled against Him, who refuse to trust in Him, and who do not honor Him.

We are all enemies of God, we cannot make ourselves "clean" because INFINITE sin can't be fixed by FINITE beings – we are, if left to ourselves when our hearts are exposed at the Last Judgment –hopelessly condemned.

**BUT GOD – because He is merciful and loving has not
left us in that place!**

**Oh – this God who we've ignored and blasphemed, this
God who we've flipped off every day of our life, this
God who we've treated as worthless (or non-existent)
this God has made a way for us to return
into fellowship with Him!**

**Oh friend! God is offering us forgiveness, He is offering
to adopt us as His children!**

Someone may say, "Well, if God is really loving and merciful – then He should just forgive everyone."

But here's why that can't work. Our rebellion against God is a REAL sin. One act of blasphemous rebellion against God is more horrific than every sin ever committed on this planet. (Because, remember, one sin against God is an INFINITELY evil sin.) So, if God just said, "It's ok, I'm loving – I forgive you all" – that would be like a Judge saying to a man who has just raped and murdered a member of your family, "It's ok – I am loving, so I forgive you."

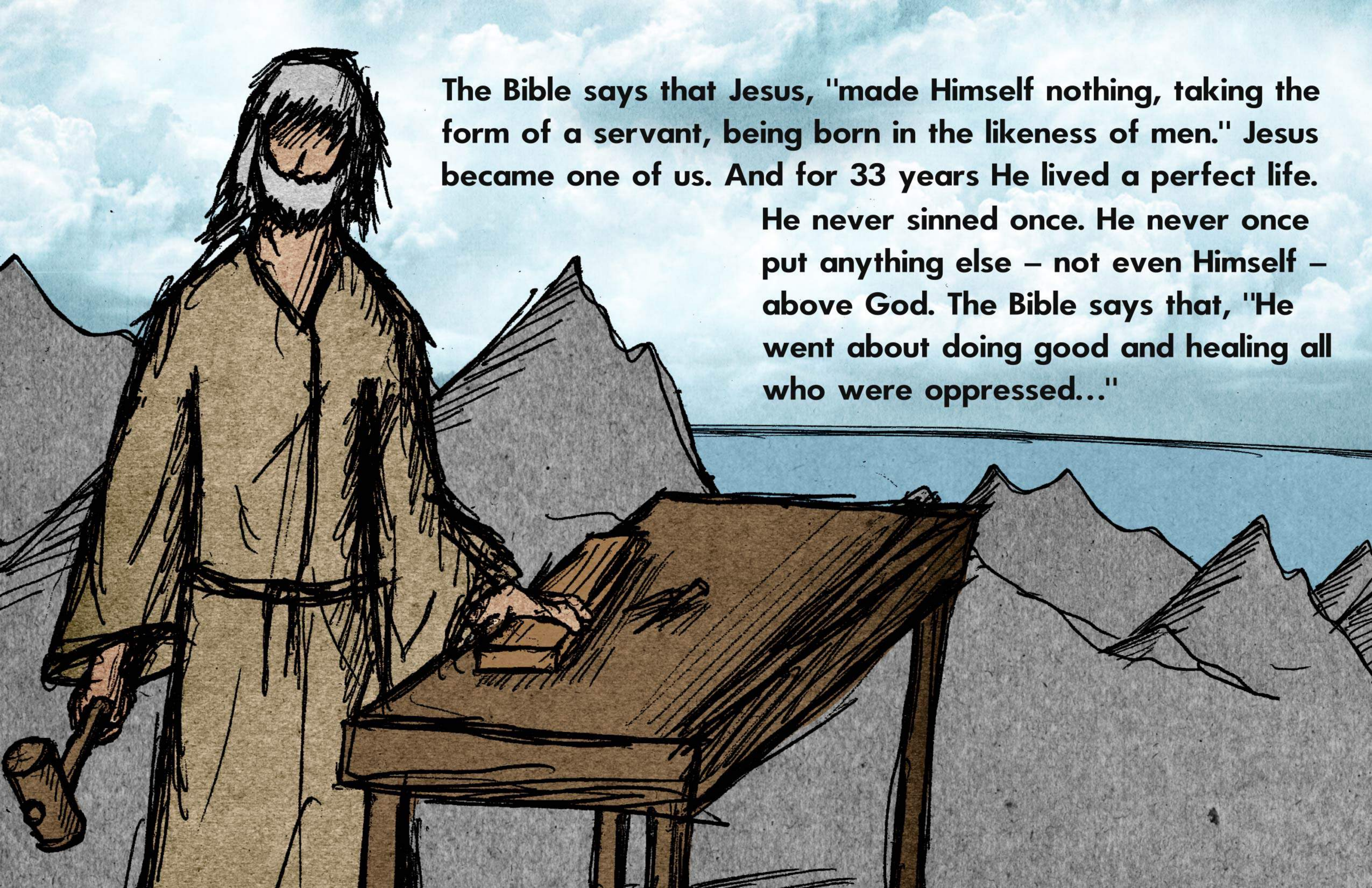
No! That would be horrible! God is Loving and Merciful, but He is also Good and Just – He cannot allow the sin of our rebellion to go unpunished. So He did something no one could have guessed

**Something that would provide perfect forgiveness
- even for murderers and rapists.**

He sent His son,
Jesus Christ
to Earth.



Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The Bible teaches that He has always existed, and that He Himself is completely equal in all ways with God the Father. And this Eternal Son of God – came to the earth as a HUMAN BEING – He became EXACTLY like us in every way.



The Bible says that Jesus, "made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." Jesus became one of us. And for 33 years He lived a perfect life.

He never sinned once. He never once put anything else – not even Himself – above God. The Bible says that, "He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed..."

**Jesus Christ was the only human being who
did not deserve Hell.**

**He was the only human being who never
once sinned and therefore, He actually
deserved to go to heaven.**

**(The requirement to earn heaven is absolute,
100% perfection).**

**Except, Jesus did not choose to earn heaven. Instead –
He did the most glorious, unimaginable thing that has
ever occurred in Human history....**

**Jesus Christ - the sinless and Eternal Son of God –
literally lifted the sin off of Humanity's back...**

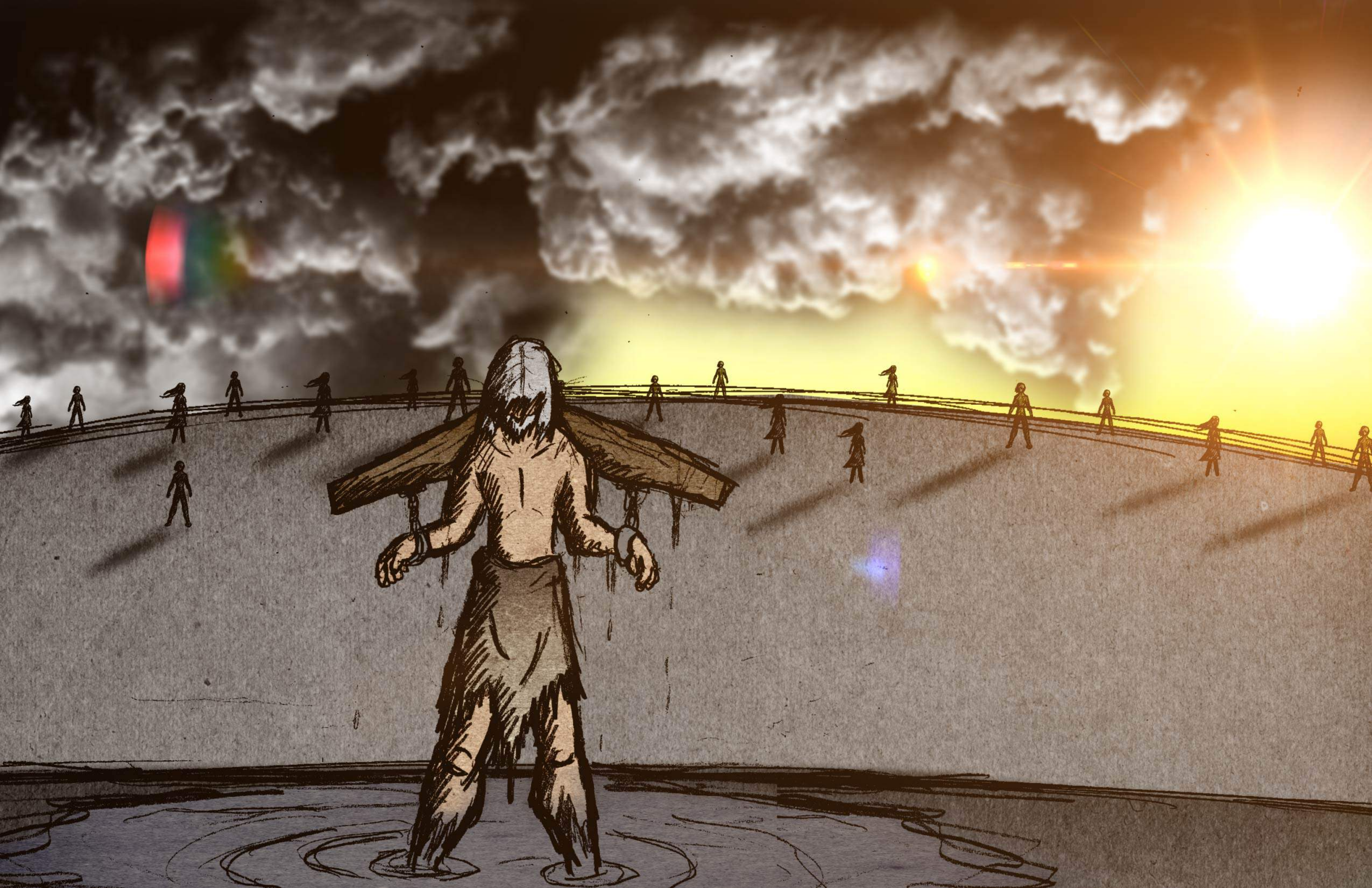
...and **TOOK**
it on Himself.



In the book of 1st Peter, chapter 2, verse 24, the Bible says that Jesus "bore our sins in His body".

And in the book of Isaiah, chapter 53, verse 6, it says that God "laid on Him the sin of us all."

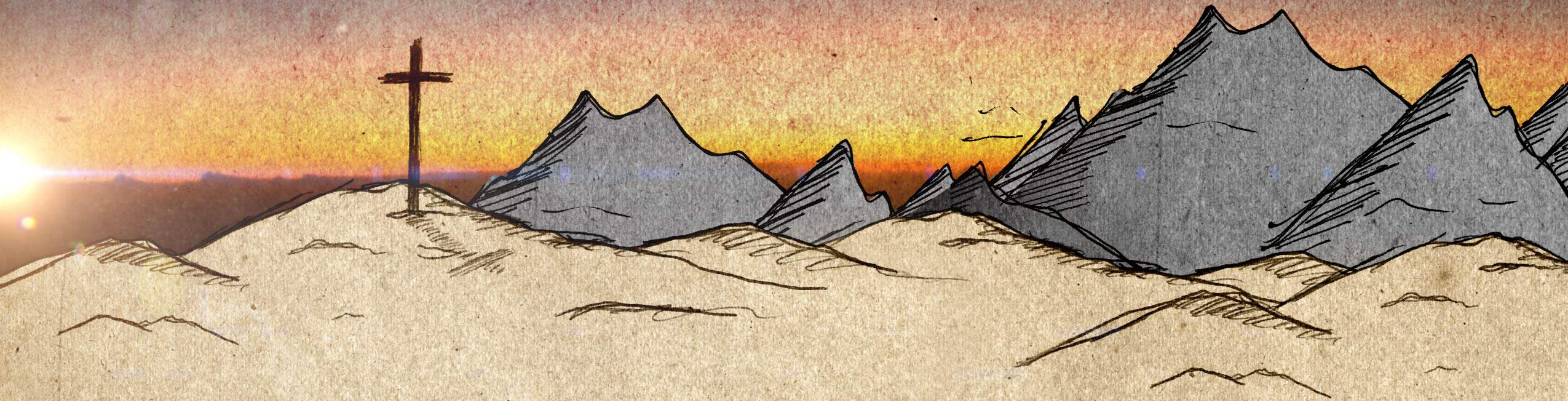
Think about that! All the junk, all the mess, all the rebellion in our lives – Jesus took that into Himself. When Jesus hung on the cross He was carrying my sins – all of my sins – in His own body.



**Have you ever wondered why Jesus had to die,
and why that makes any difference for you?**

**The answer to that question is the most important
thing you could ever hear – so please pay close
attention to the next few pages**

This is why I'm writing this booklet...



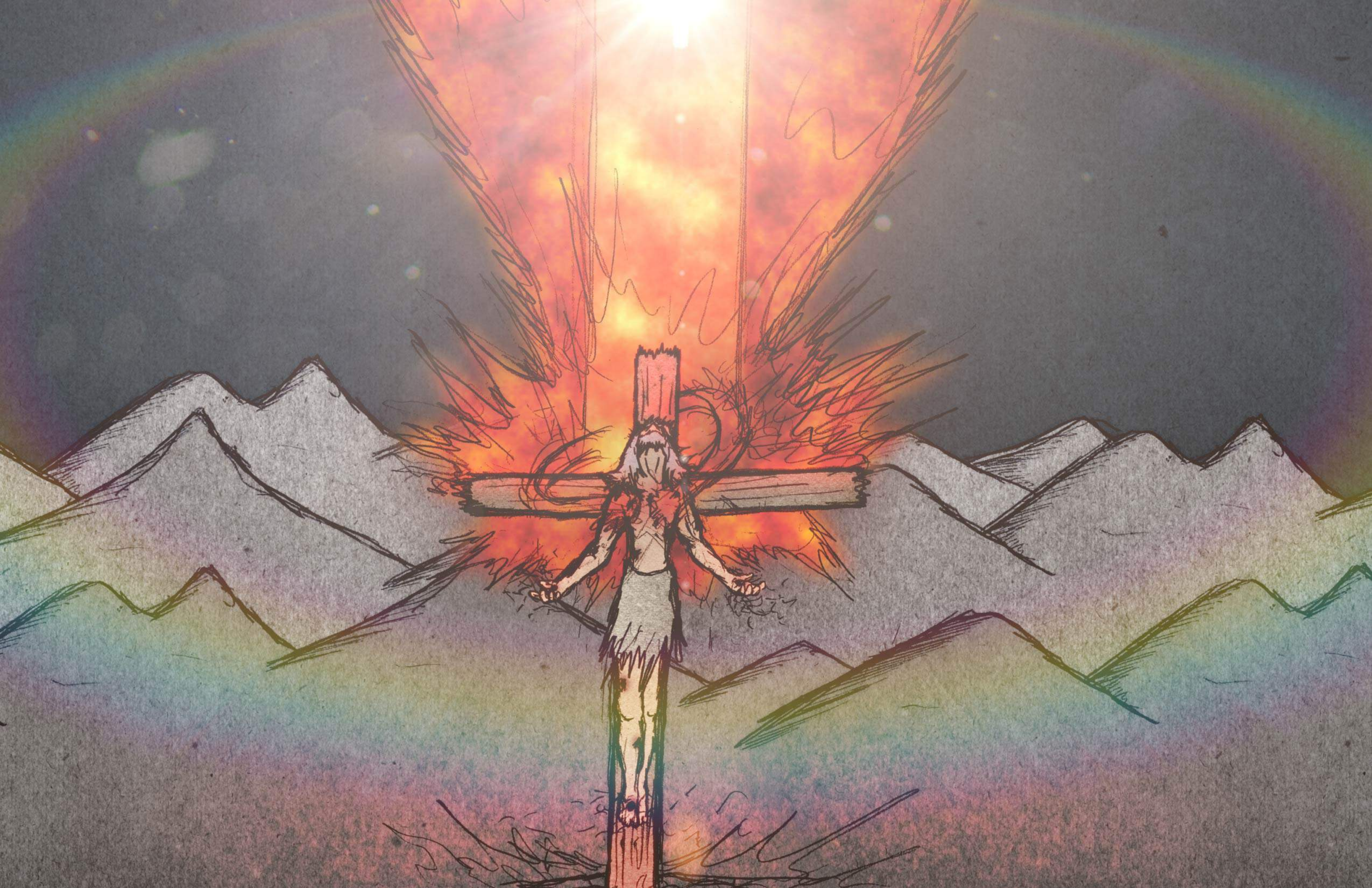
...and, quite honestly, it is the only reason I am alive at all.

The answer is this:

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He was crushed under the fury of God's just punishment for sin.

All the wrath and judgment that God had stored up for the sins that WE have committed, He poured out COMPLETELY onto Jesus Christ.

The most horrific aspect of Jesus' death was not the nails and whips; it was the fact that God the Father crushed God the Son under the full weight of the punishment that you and I deserved.



Take a moment and let that sink in.

God's eternal wrath was completely absorbed into the body and soul of His own beloved Son.

The Bible says that Jesus was "wounded for OUR wrongdoing and crushed for OUR sins".

The Son of God, the One who created the Universe and who holds it together with His words, was CRUSHED under the horrific punishment that I - that you - deserved.

And the Son died.

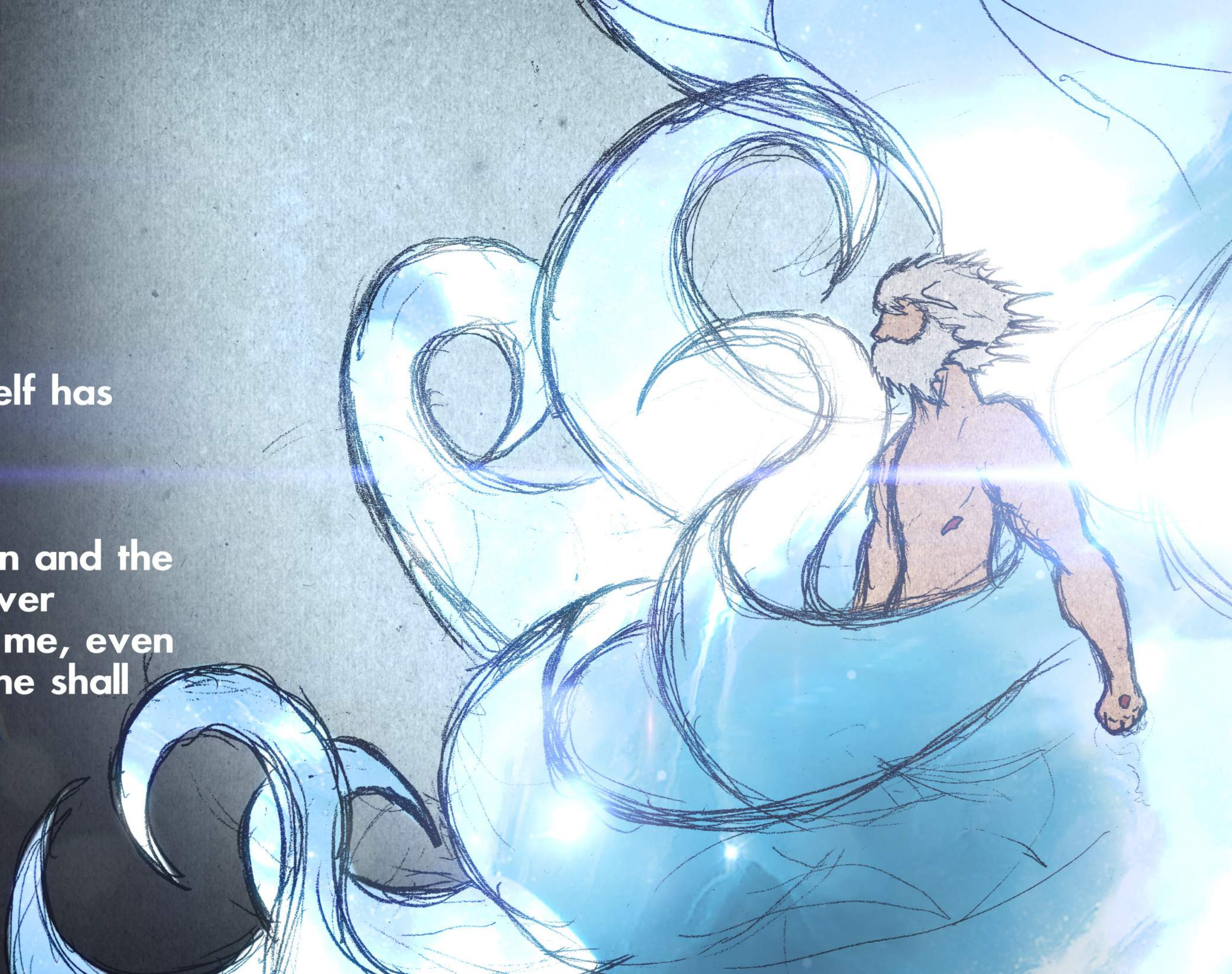
But that is not the end. Death could not hold the Author of Life, and three days later Jesus Christ rose from the dead so that:

"Through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free all those who, through fear of death, were subject to lifelong slavery."

Friend, Jesus is alive today. Right now - as you are holding this booklet and reading these words, Jesus Christ is ALIVE. I promise you that.

**Jesus Himself has
said,**

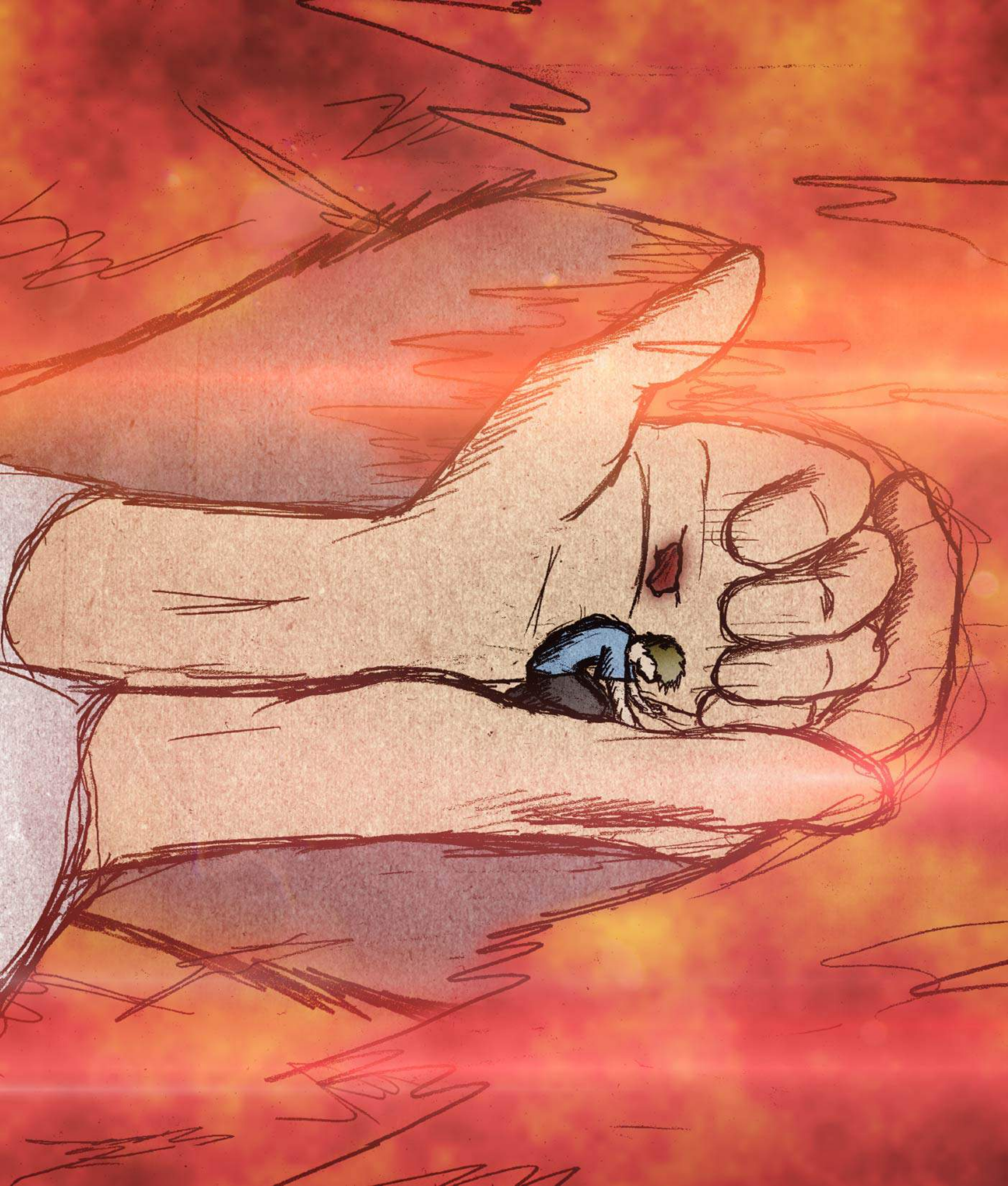
**"I AM the
Resurrection and the
Life. Whoever
believes in me, even
if he dies, he shall
live."**



See, Jesus died under the punishment for YOUR sins, IF you will trust in Him. He is offering that to you!

Oh – you know you are a mess, we all are! And we will all one day stand before a perfect and holy God, and on that day none of our good works, none of our humanitarian efforts, none of our kindness will mean anything...

because no matter how good we are we can't be perfect.



The **ONLY** thing that will be a refuge and salvation on that day will be to have trusted in Jesus Christ as Master and Savior.

Again, Jesus has said: "I am **THE** way, **THE** truth, and **THE** life – no one comes to the Father but by me."

The Bible says that, "to all who did receive Him, who believed on His name, He gave the right to become the children of God."

Think about that. If you do not trust Christ, right now you are an enemy of God – but if you will recognize the sinfulness of the “gods” you are living for and TURN from them- if you will RECEIVE Jesus as your Lord and your Master and your Only Hope - if you BELIEVE on Him as the Son of God and Savior of the world - if you TRUST what He says about Himself and what His death accomplished on your behalf -

- then His death will count as your death – His purity will count as your purity. And forgiveness and mercy rather than condemnation and punishment will flow to your soul from the throne of God Almighty.

All because of Jesus Christ.

Oh friend, listen to the words of Jesus Christ and see if your soul does not hear the voice of its Shepherd, Savior, Beloved, and King:

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep.... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand....I am the Bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst....All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

(John 10:10-11,27, and John 6:35,37).

I've shared with you only a fraction of the beauty of Jesus Christ and what He has done for us – but I hope it is enough for you to realize that you – like me – desperately need Him!

Please realize that this is not just some nice religious book. This is not just a “feel good story.” My dear friend, you will spend an eternity of conscious torment separated from the Glorious and All satisfying God who created you if you do not listen to what I am telling you. Please understand that.

He is calling you right now to turn to Him. Turn away from all the things you have been living for and recognize that Jesus Christ is Master, Lord, Savior, Shepherd, Treasure, and King!

And what a Good King He is! Cry out to Him and trust in Him – and you will be saved.

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on Him." (The Gospel of John chapter 3, verse 36).

