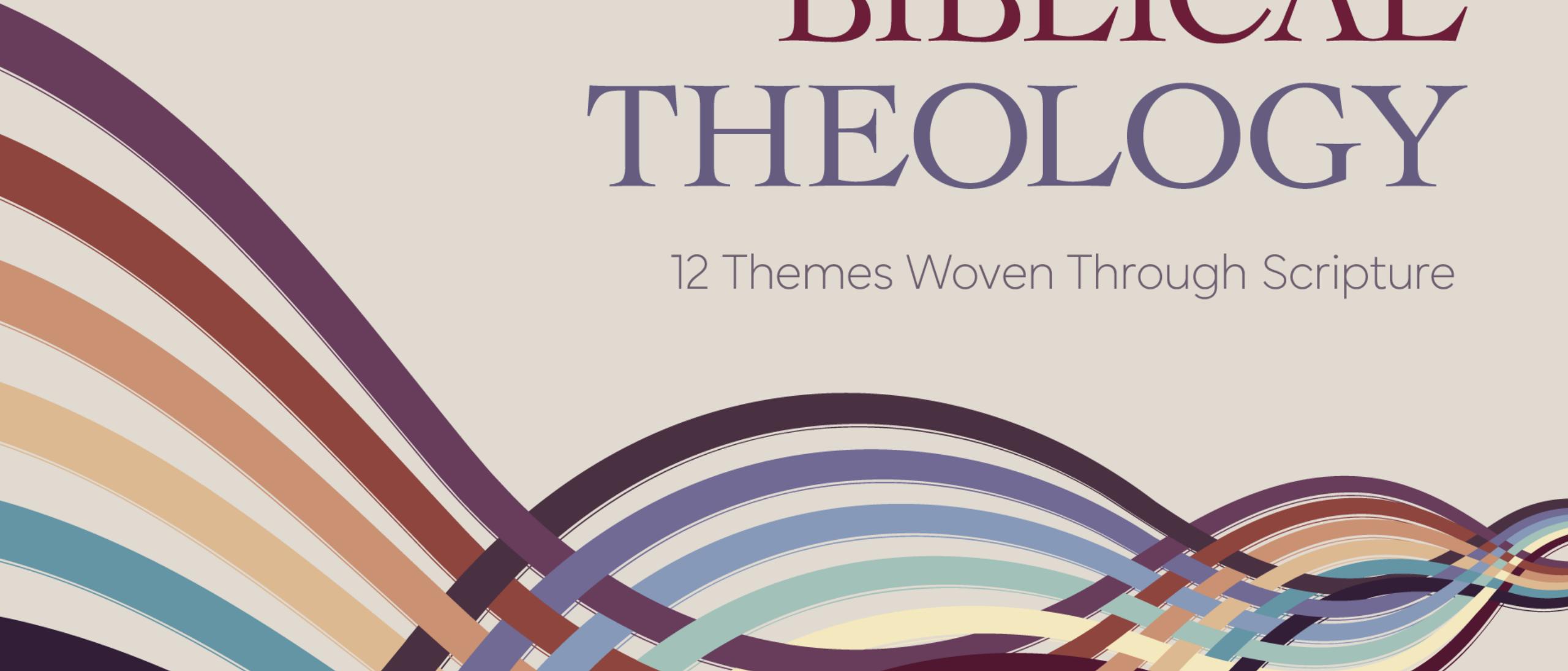


BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

12 Themes Woven Through Scripture



LESSON ONE

Introducing Biblical Theology



Introduction

What Kind of Book Is the Bible?

- ❖ The Bible is a canon.
- ❖ The Bible is a united whole.

What Is Biblical Theology?

- ◆ Studying the progression of inspired thought
- ◆ Studying the interrelation of Scripture

How Do We Practice Biblical Theology?

- ◆ **Know** the Bible.
- ◆ **Focus** on a particular book.
- ◆ **Look** at the big picture.
- ◆ Make it **practical**.

The Difference Between Biblical Theology and Systematic Theology

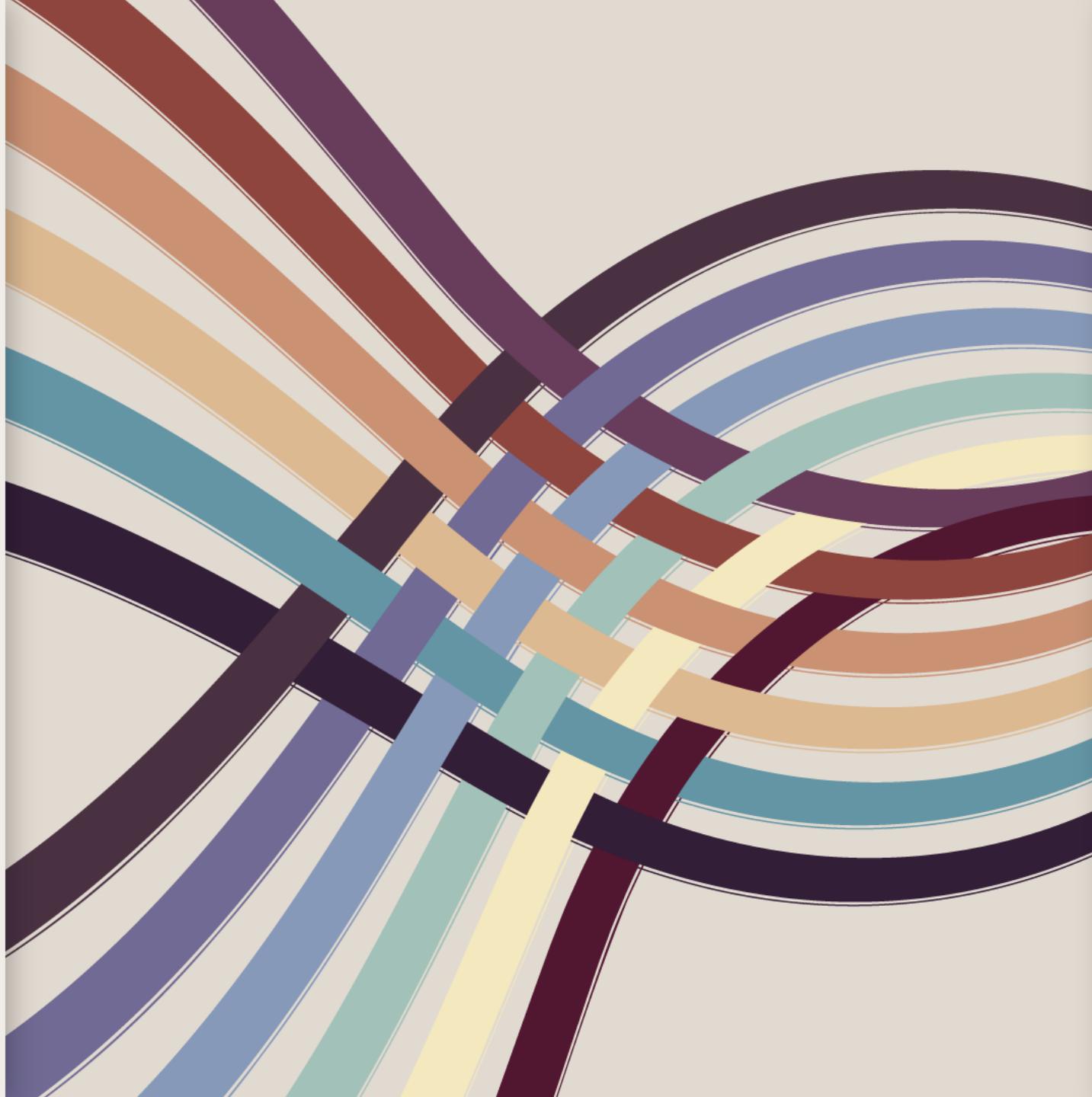
- ◆ Systematic theology asks the questions **first** and looks to Scripture for the answers.
- ◆ Biblical theology looks to Scripture **first** to see what topics it discusses.

The theme most important to Jude was warning the church about false teachers.

What other books of the Bible grapple with that topic?

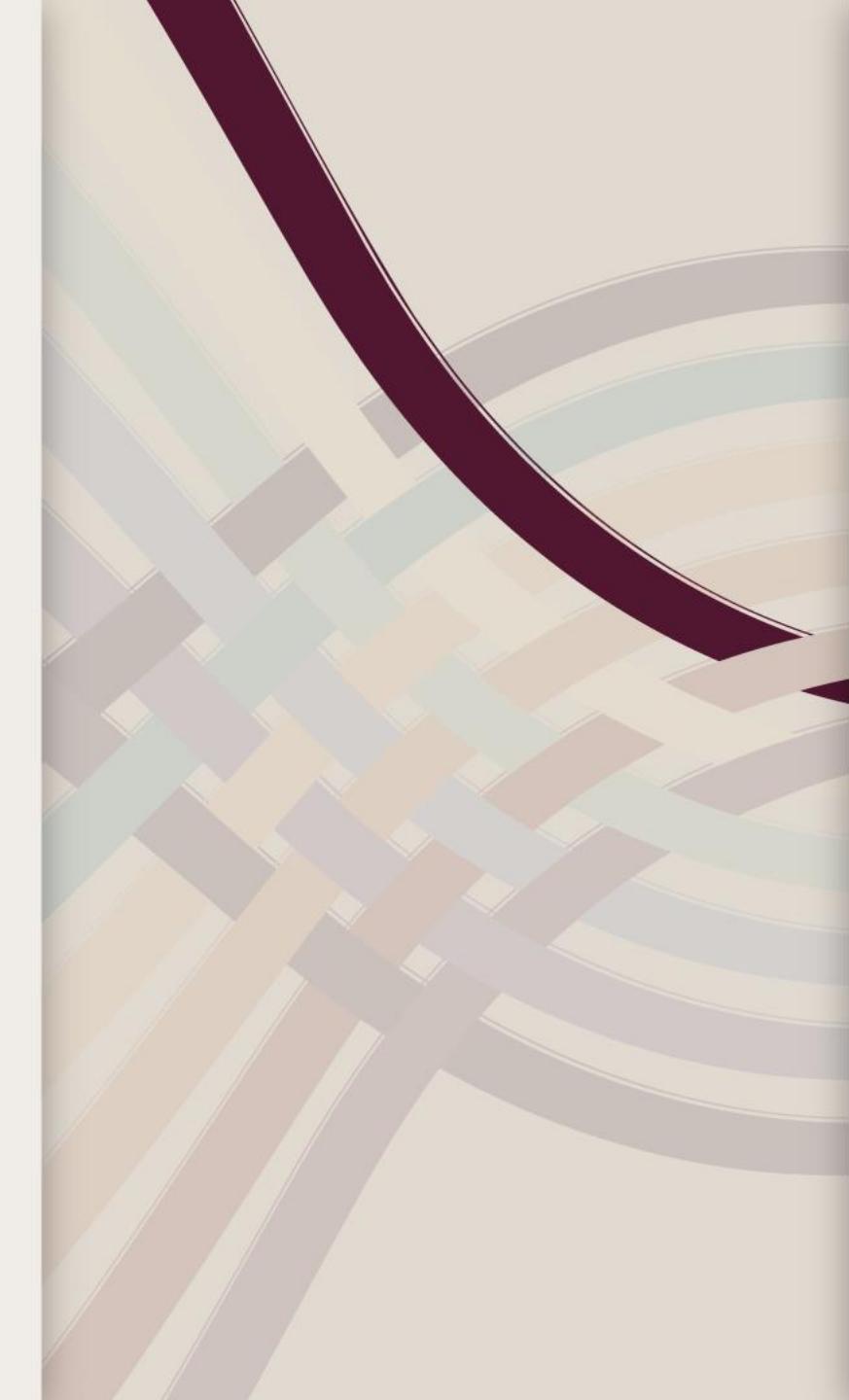
What are some good themes that Jude says he would not discuss but are discussed elsewhere in the canon?

Conclusion



LESSON TWO

The Glory of God the Father



Introduction

God's Glory in the Books of Genesis and Exodus

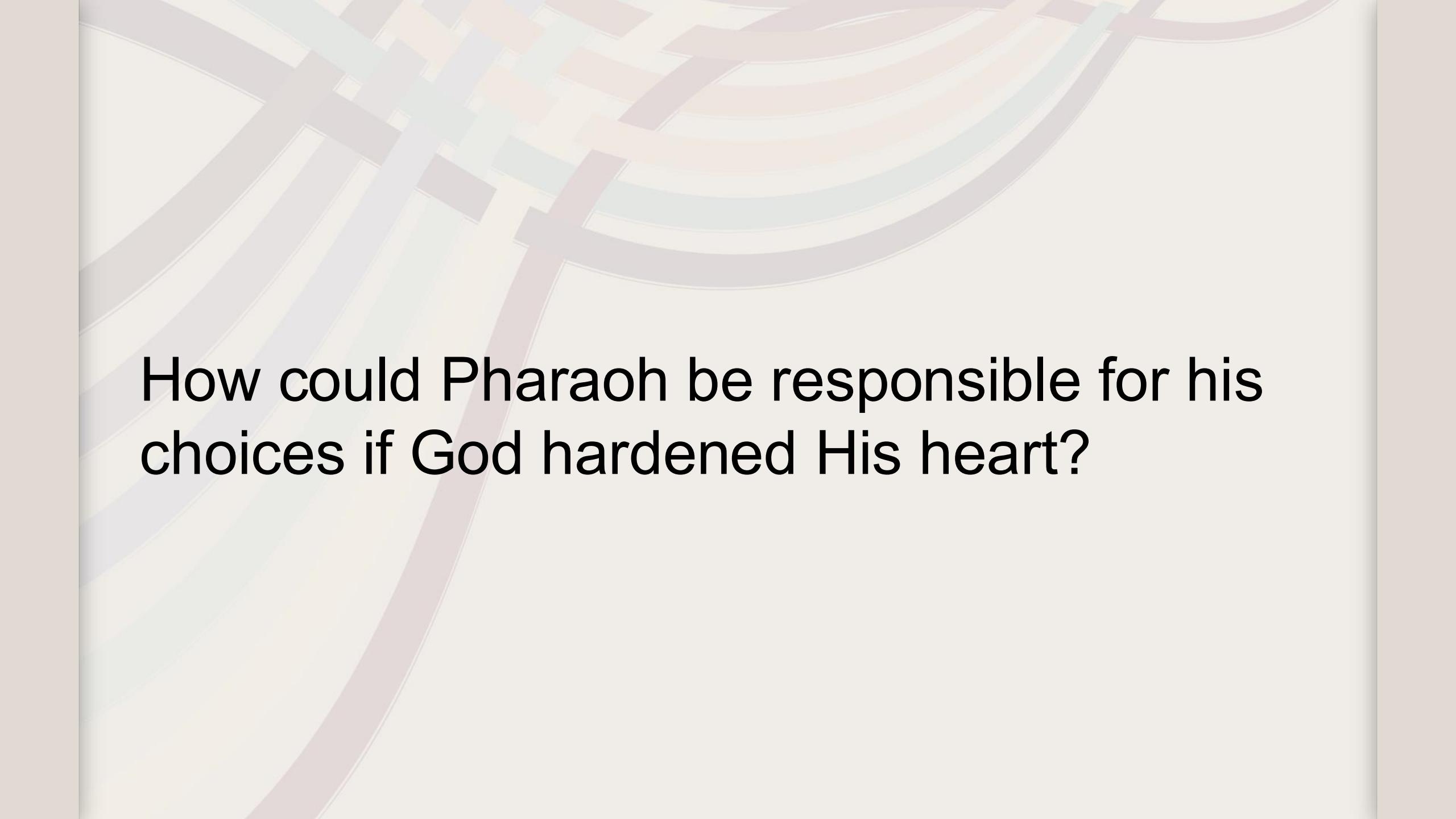
- ❖ God's glory is on display at the beginning of Genesis.

What does Tripp mean by “glory thieves”?

How were Adam and Eve trying to take for themselves the glory that properly belongs only to God?

God's Glory in the Books of Genesis and Exodus

- ❖ God's glory is on display at the beginning of Genesis.
- ❖ God's glory was on display in Egypt.



How could Pharaoh be responsible for his choices if God hardened His heart?

God's Glory in the Books of Genesis and Exodus

- ❖ God's glory is on display at the beginning of Genesis.
- ❖ God's glory was on display in Egypt.
- ❖ God's glory was on display after the Exodus.

The Glory Departs

- ◆ Ichabod and David are lessons on the importance of taking God's glory **seriously**.

Read 2 Samuel 7:22, 26.

In David's prayer, what does he say he believes about God?

What does David emphasize about God?

Think of some ways David's observations appear later in the New Testament.

The Glory Departs

- ◆ Ichabod and David are lessons on the importance of taking God's glory **seriously**.
- ◆ God's glory filled Solomon's **Temple**.

Read the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5:1–14.

How could Gentiles experience God's glory before the coming of the Messiah, even without becoming Israelites?

The Glory Departs

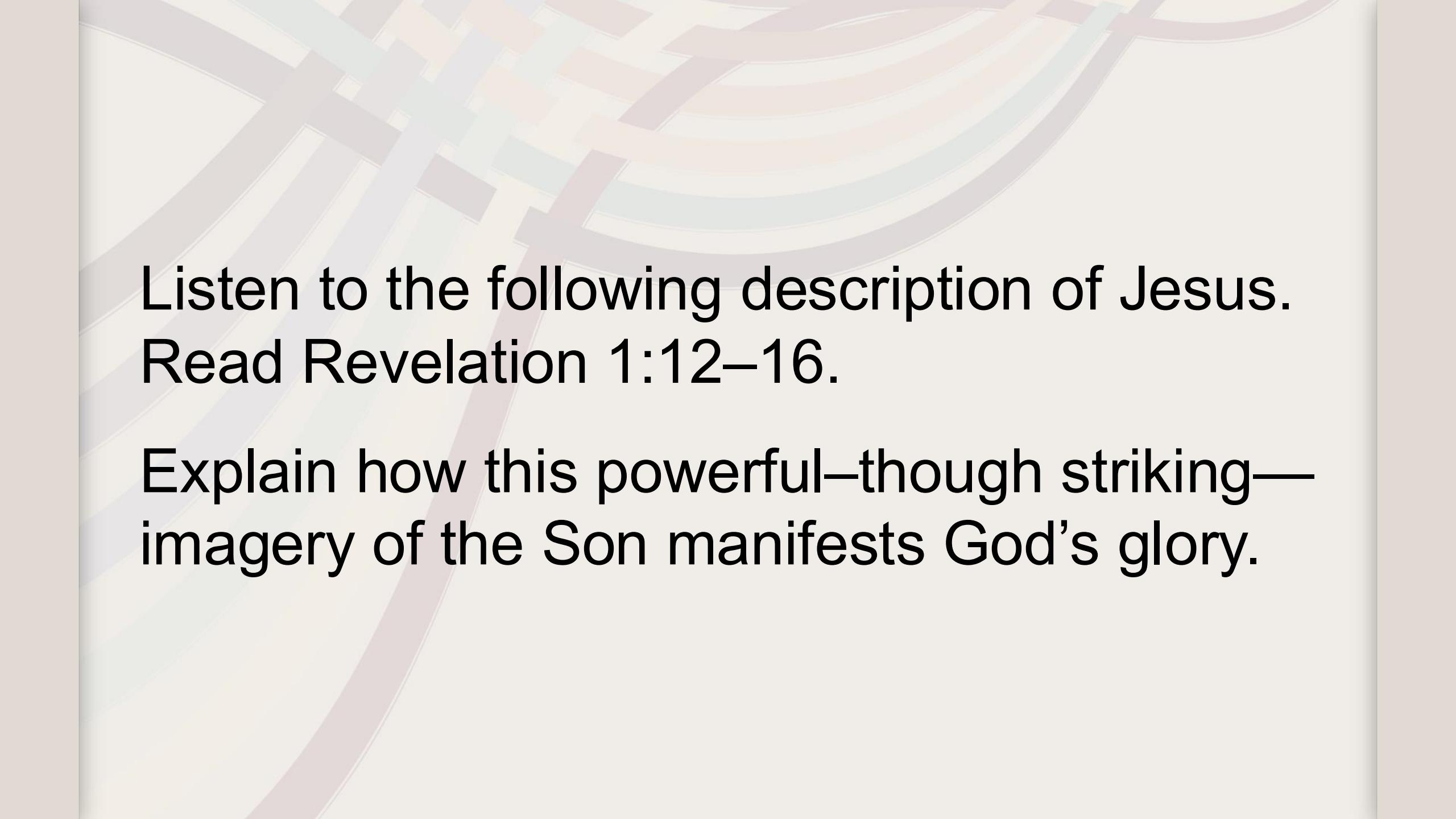
- ◆ Ichabod and David are lessons on the importance of taking God's glory **seriously**.
- ◆ God's glory filled Solomon's **Temple**.
- ◆ God's glory left Israel because of her **failure** and apostasy.

The Glory Returns

- ◆ God's glory is displayed in the eternal Logos.
- ◆ God's glory is displayed in “the Word became flesh.”

God's Glory in the Church Age and Beyond

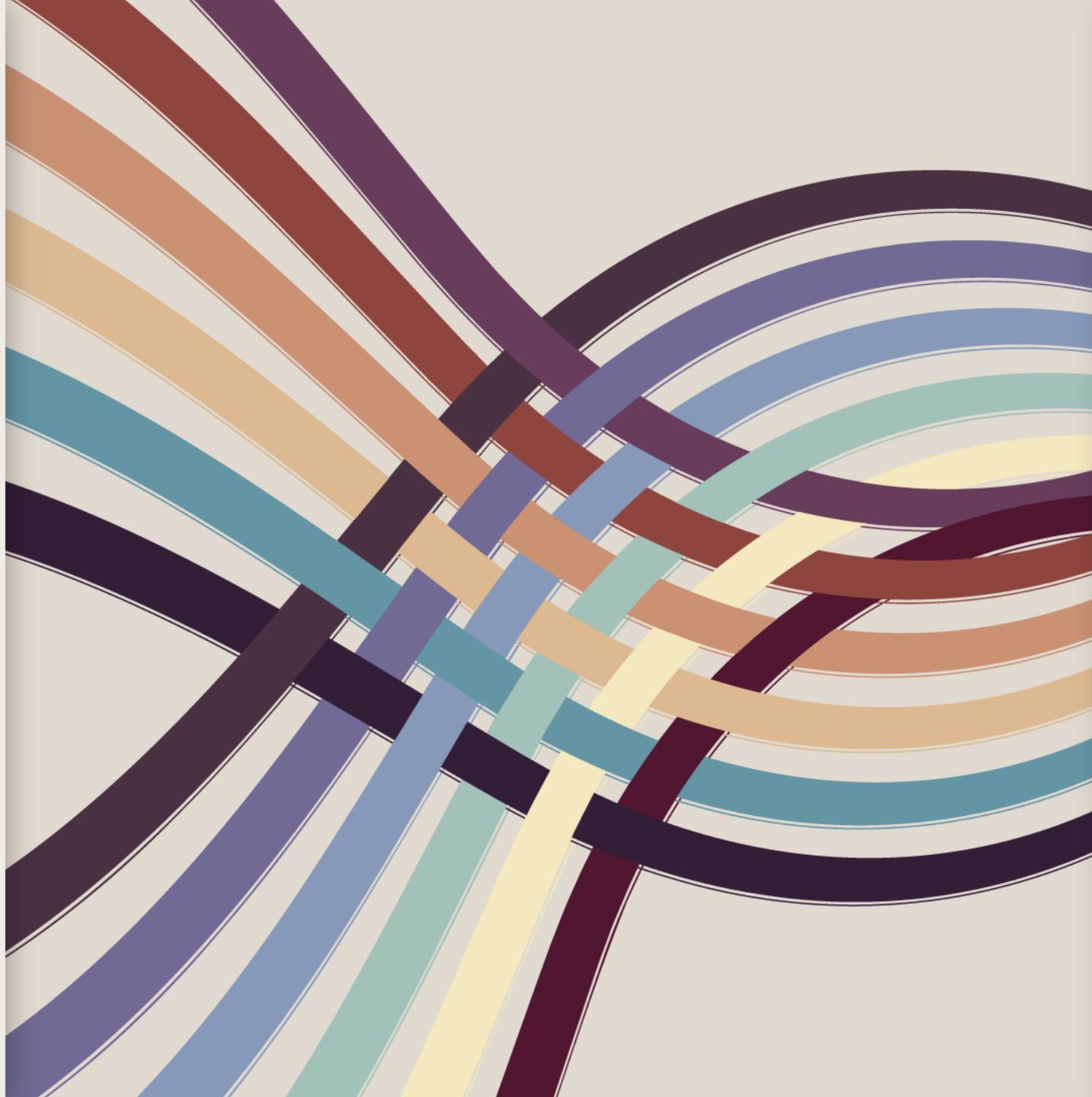
- ◆ In Acts, God's glory is put on display to the world.
- ◆ In the epistles, God's glory is put on display in believers.
- ◆ In Revelation, God's glory is put on display for all eternity.



Listen to the following description of Jesus.
Read Revelation 1:12–16.

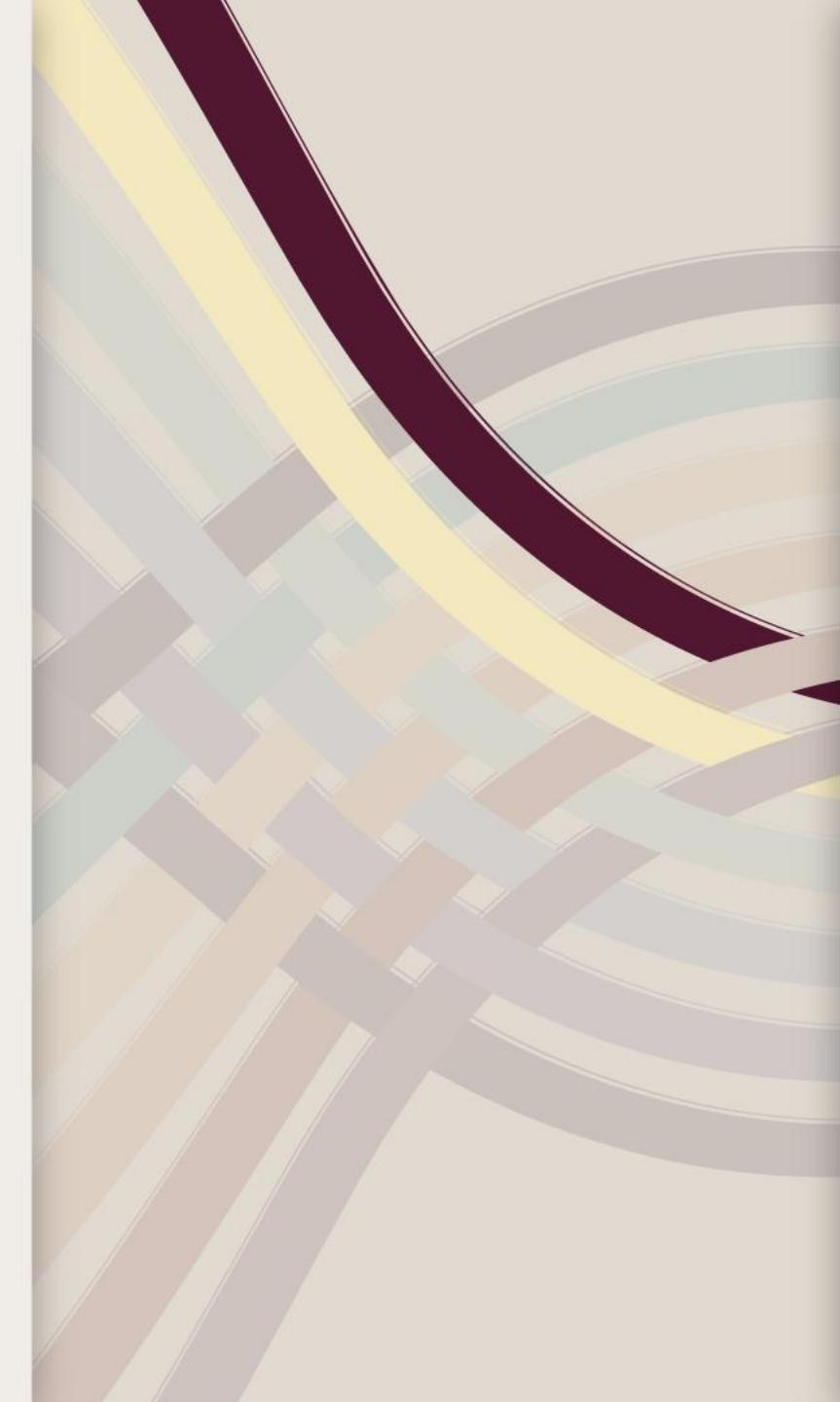
Explain how this powerful—though striking—
imagery of the Son manifests God’s glory.

Conclusion



LESSON THREE

The Triumphant Conquest of God the Son



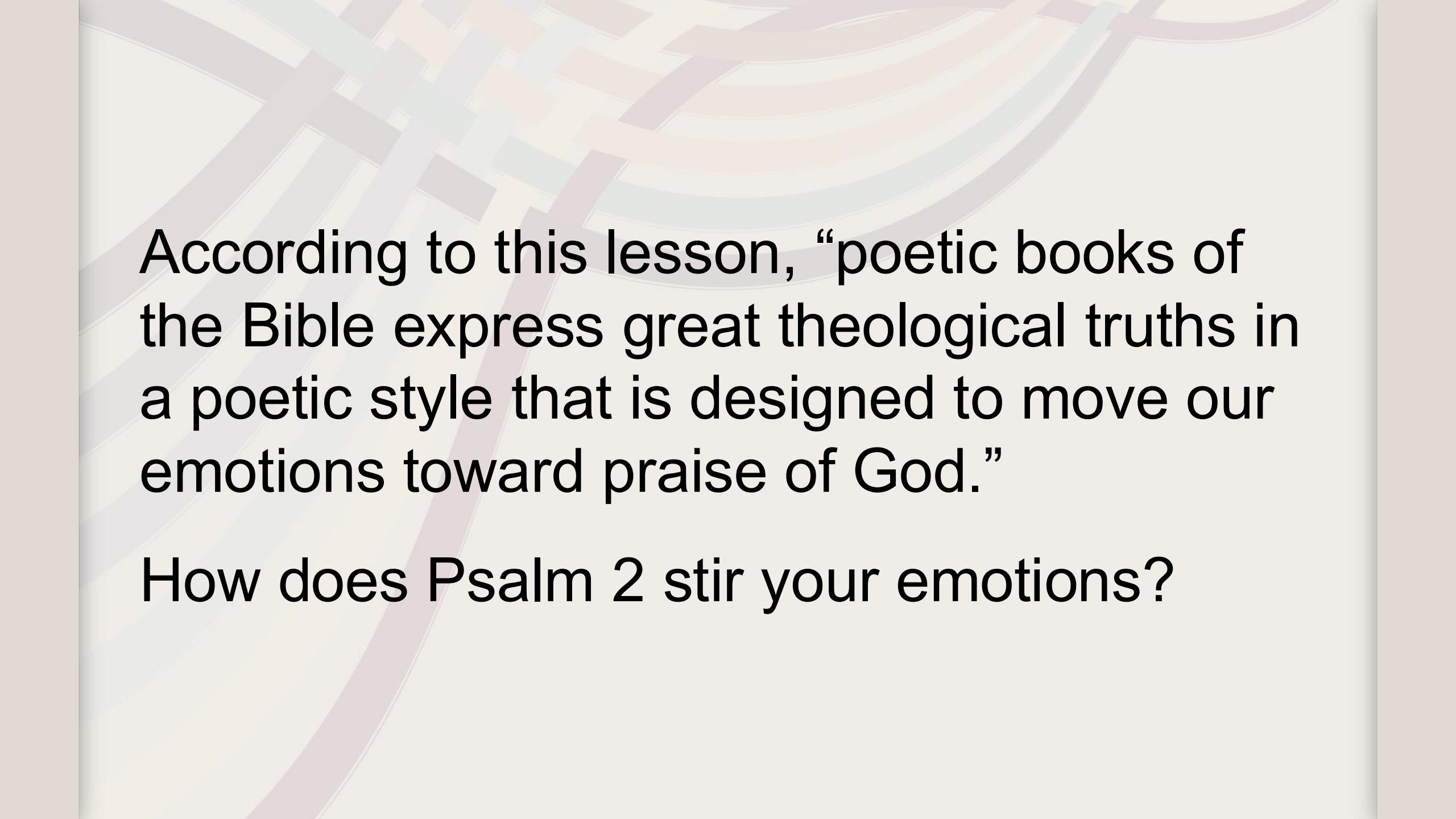
Introduction

The Conquering Messiah in Genesis

- ◆ The protoevangelium is a prophecy about the conquering Messiah.
- ◆ Jacob prophesied about the conquering Messiah.

The Conquering Messiah in the Psalms

- ◆ Psalm 2 foretells the “anointed one.”



According to this lesson, “poetic books of the Bible express great theological truths in a poetic style that is designed to move our emotions toward praise of God.”

How does Psalm 2 stir your emotions?

The Conquering Messiah in the Psalms

- ◆ Psalm 2 foretells the “anointed one.”
- ◆ Psalm 45 foretells the conquering Messiah’s triumph.
- ◆ Psalm 68 foretells the conquering Messiah’s coming down to earth.

How does this psalm describe the ideal King as a conqueror, to whom everybody will be subject?

In what ways does this psalm describe the ideal King as gracious and compassionate?

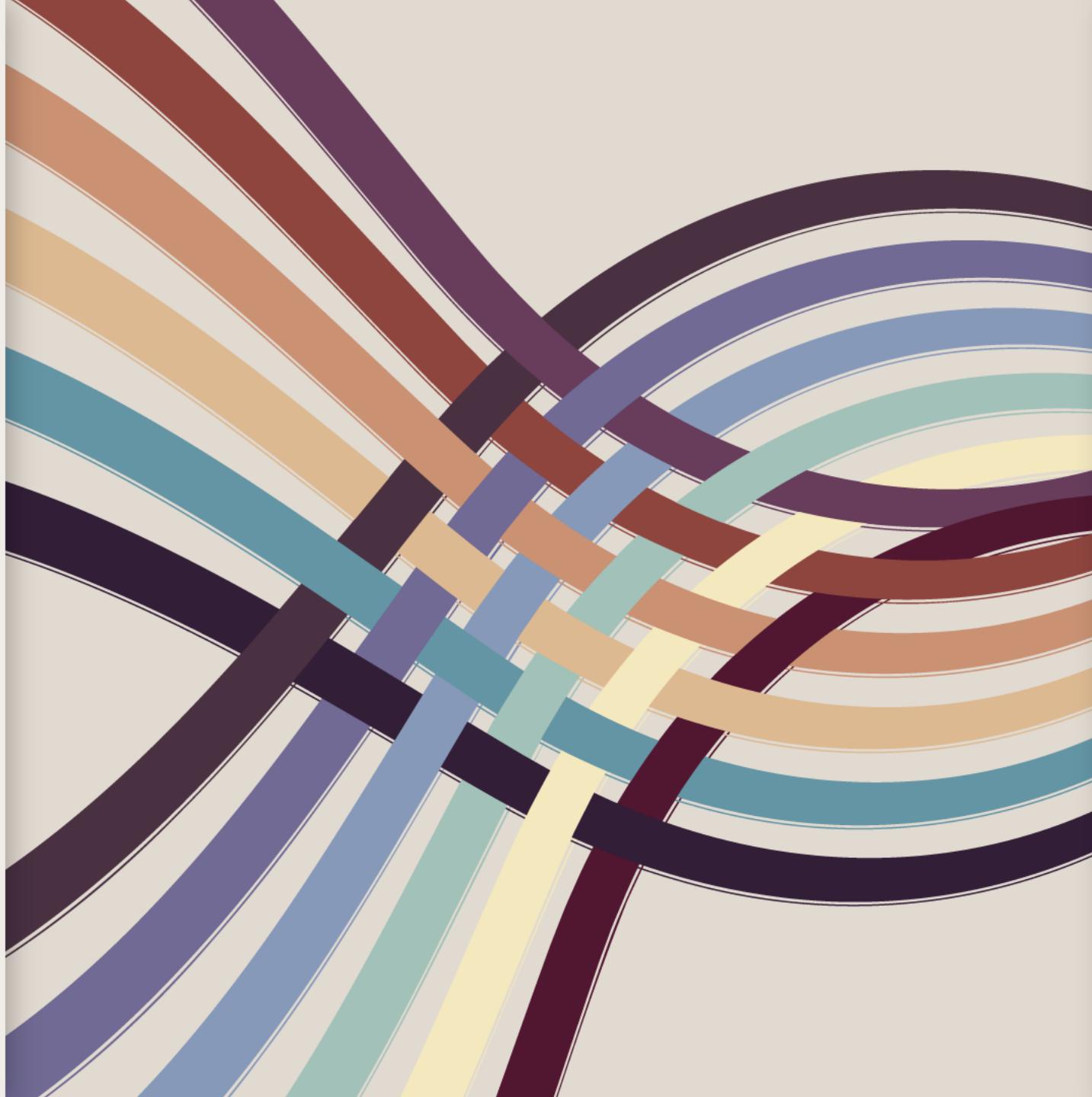
The Conquering Messiah in Ephesians and Colossians

- ❖ In Ephesians, the conquering Messiah gives **gifts**.
- ❖ In Colossians, the conquering Messiah defeated spiritual **powers**.

The Conquering Messiah in Revelation

- ❖ The conquering Messiah unleashes His **judgment**.
- ❖ The conquering Messiah **returns**.

Conclusion

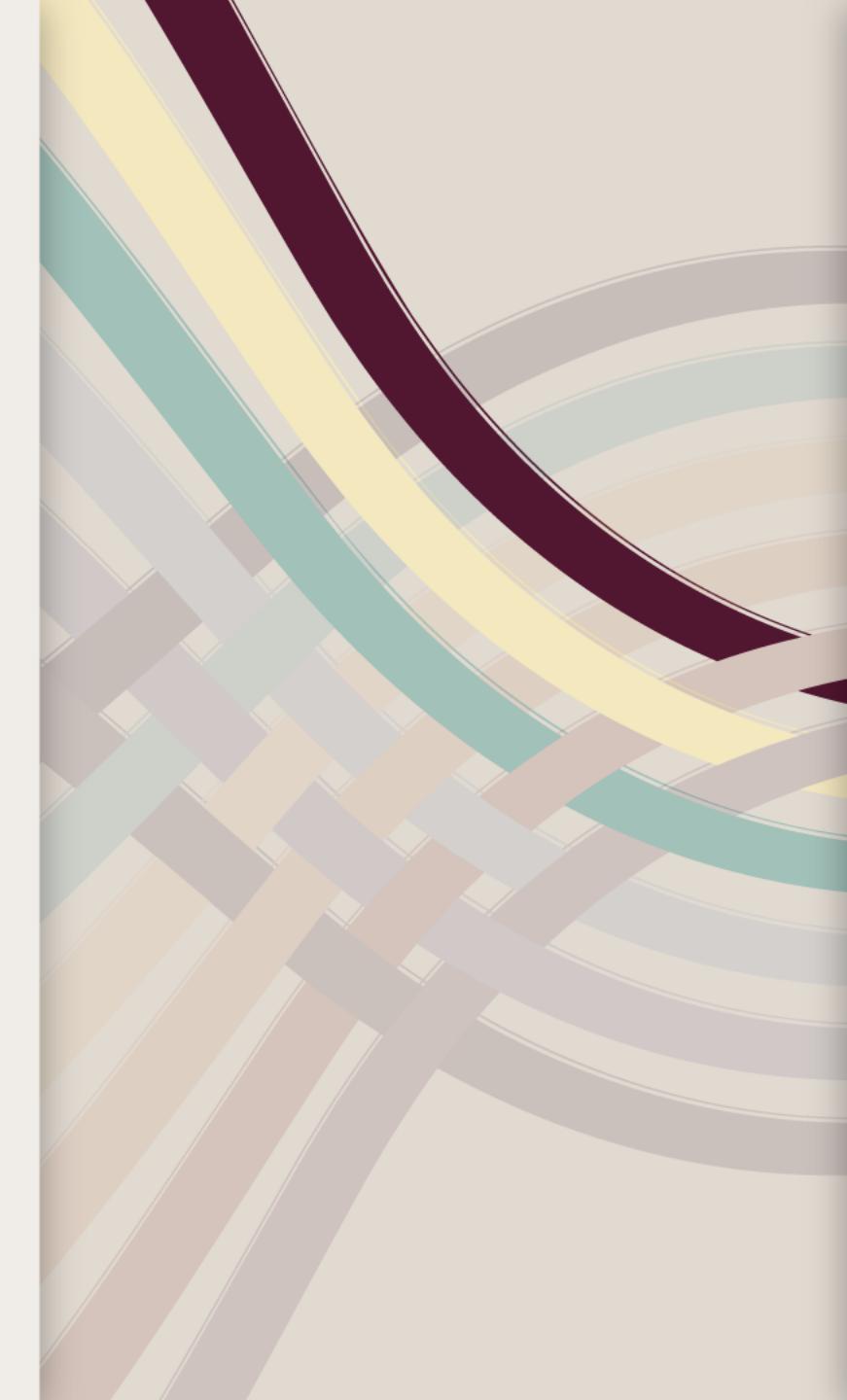


LESSON FOUR

Fellowship

through God the

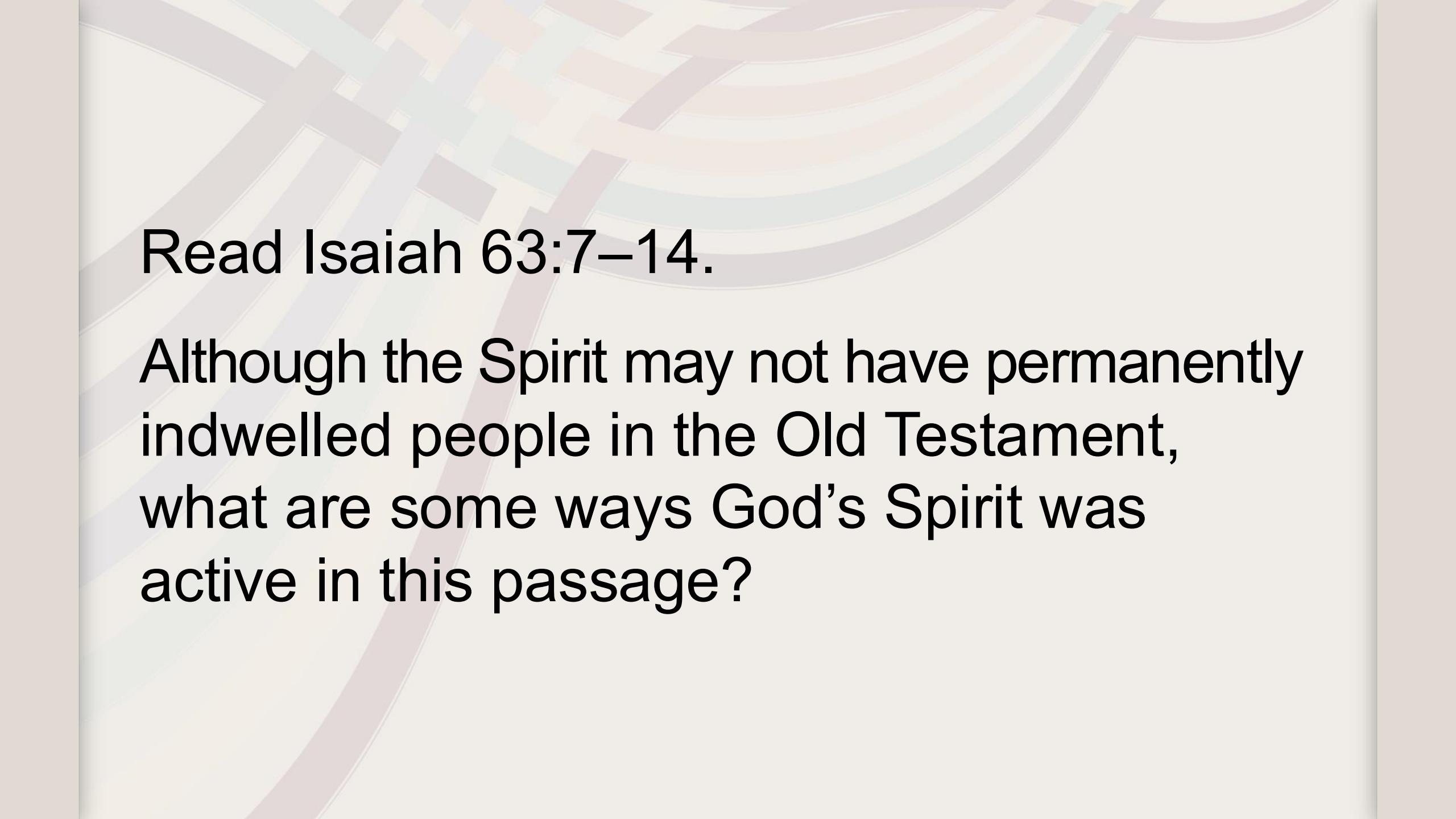
Holy Spirit



Introduction

The Spirit in the Old Testament

- ◆ The Spirit's empowerment in the Old Testament was usually temporary.



Read Isaiah 63:7–14.

Although the Spirit may not have permanently indwelled people in the Old Testament, what are some ways God's Spirit was active in this passage?

The Spirit in the Old Testament

- ❖ The Spirit's empowerment in the Old Testament was usually **temporary**.
- ❖ The Spirit would empower the coming **Messiah**.

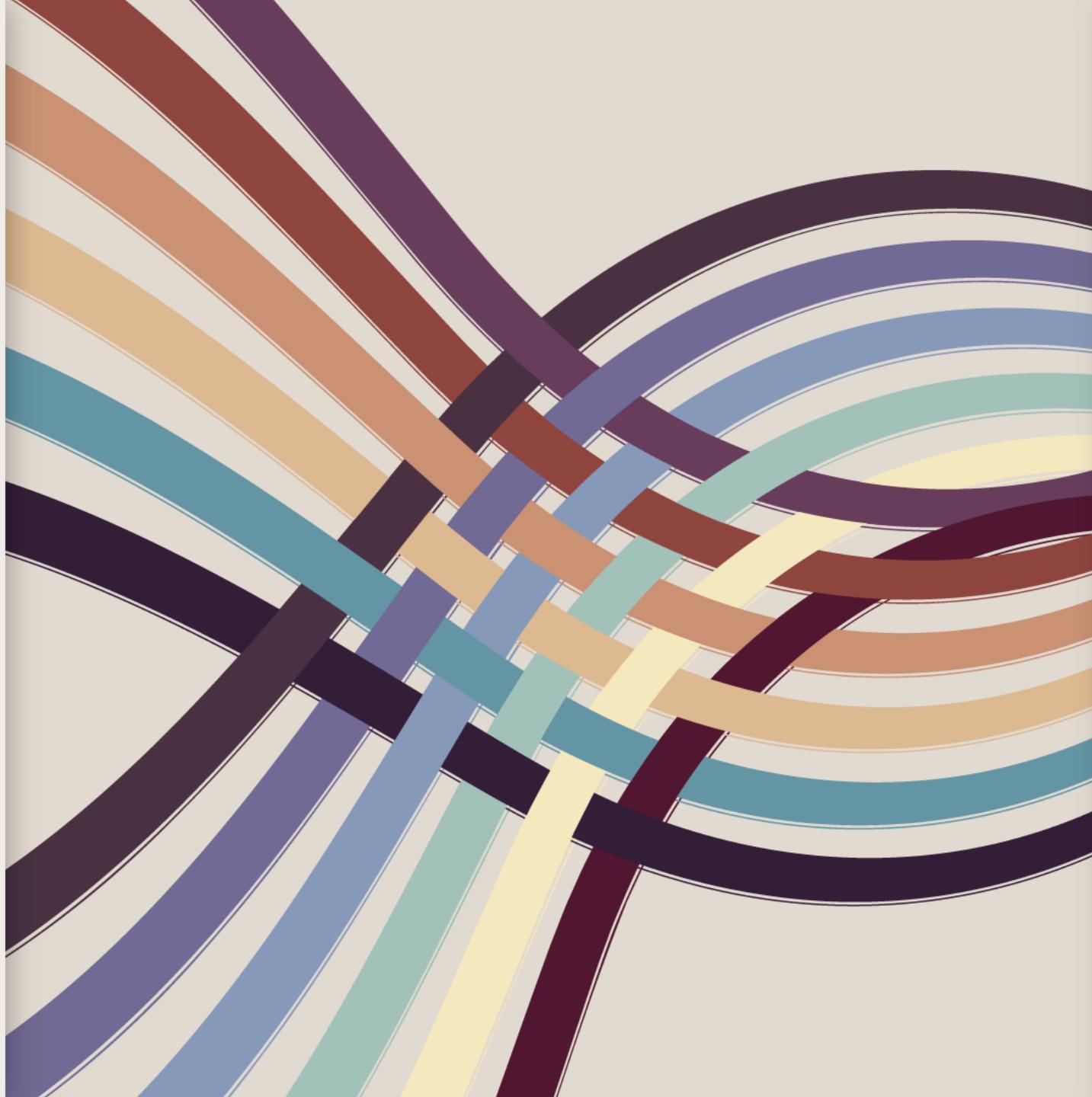
Acts: The Holy Spirit and the Unity of All Believers

- ◆ Believers received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
- ◆ Jews and Gentiles both received the Holy Spirit.

Romans: The Holy Spirit and God's Children

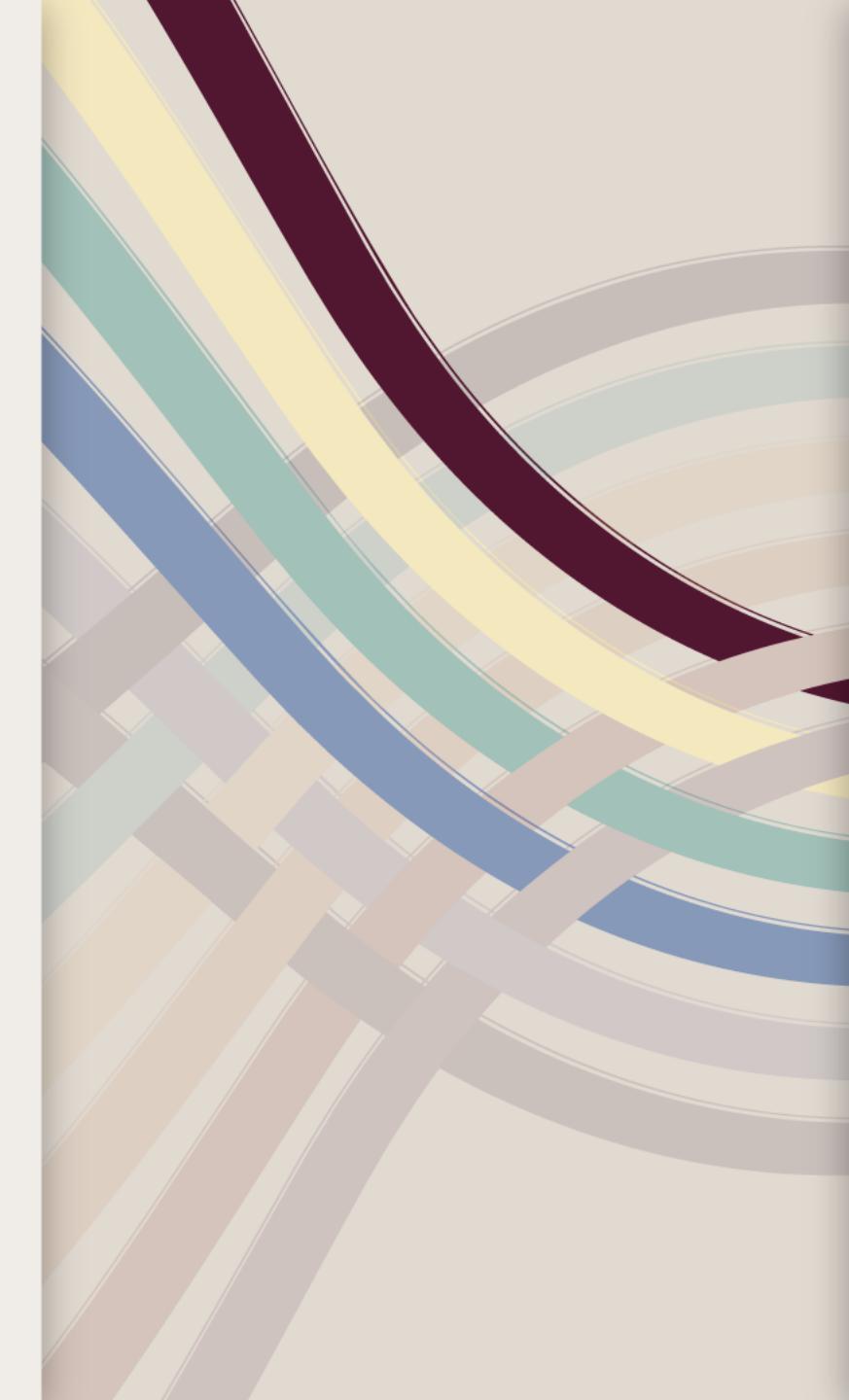
- ◆ The Holy Spirit is involved in our **justification**.
- ◆ People are either bound by the flesh or **freed** by the Spirit.
- ◆ The Spirit's presence means we are God's **children**.

Conclusion



LESSON FIVE

Israel and Her Purpose



Introduction

Israel and Her Mission

- ❖ In Genesis, God revealed that Abraham's descendants have a mission to bless all nations.
- ❖ In Deuteronomy, God emphasized His purpose for Israel's obedience.
- ❖ In the Psalms, God emphasized Israel's mission to praise God and make Him known.

Read Deuteronomy 14:2.

What else do we see in this verse regarding Israel's reason for existence?

In what way does this complement, rather than contradict, Israel's purpose in the previous passages?

Israel's Success and Failure

- ❖ Sometimes, Israel succeeded in her mission.
- ❖ Often, Israel failed in her mission.

Read Luke 15:11–32.

While this parable certainly applies to individual sinners, regardless of ethnicity (notice 15:10), is there a sense in which perhaps Jesus meant to apply it to the whole nation of Israel, as well?

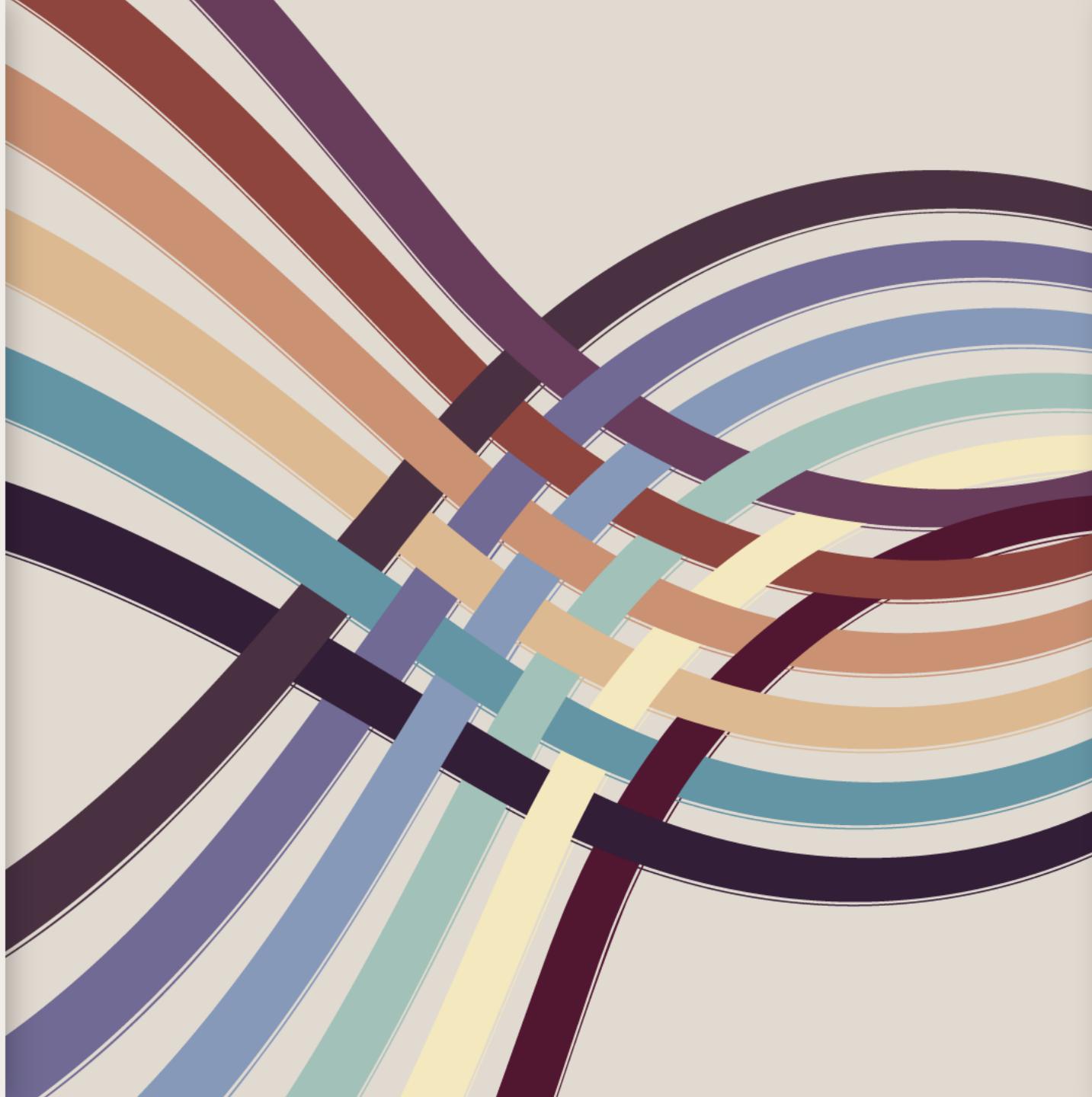
The Apostle Paul's Lament and Hope in Romans

- ◆ Paul was distressed over Israel's spiritual condition.
- ◆ Paul recognized that distress will eventually turn to joy.

Israel in Acts and Revelation

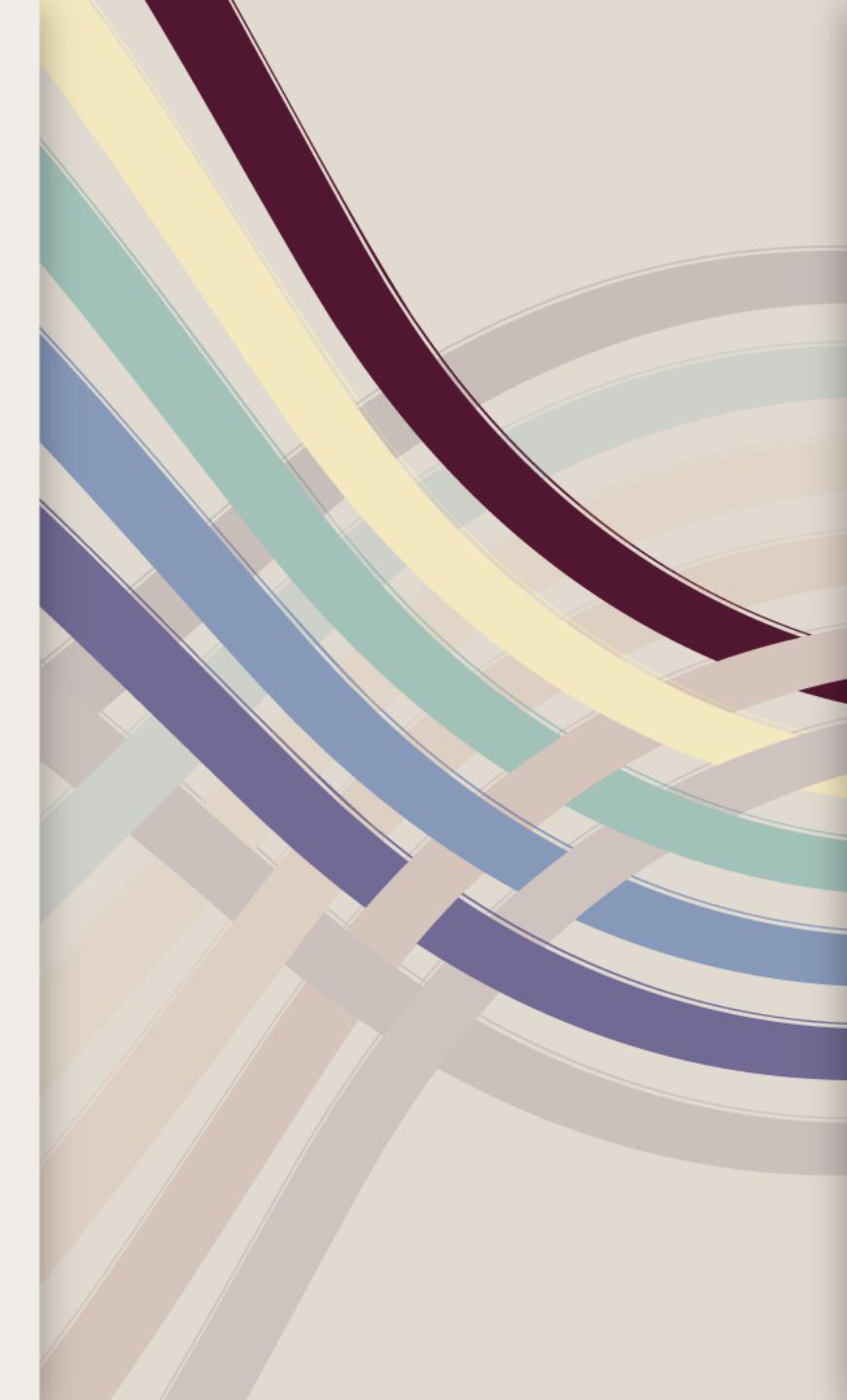
- ◆ In Acts, Jewish believers reached the world for Christ.
- ◆ In Revelation, Jewish believers completed their mission of drawing the world to God.

Conclusion



LESSON SIX

The Church as the Family of God



Introduction

What Makes Us Members of God's Family?

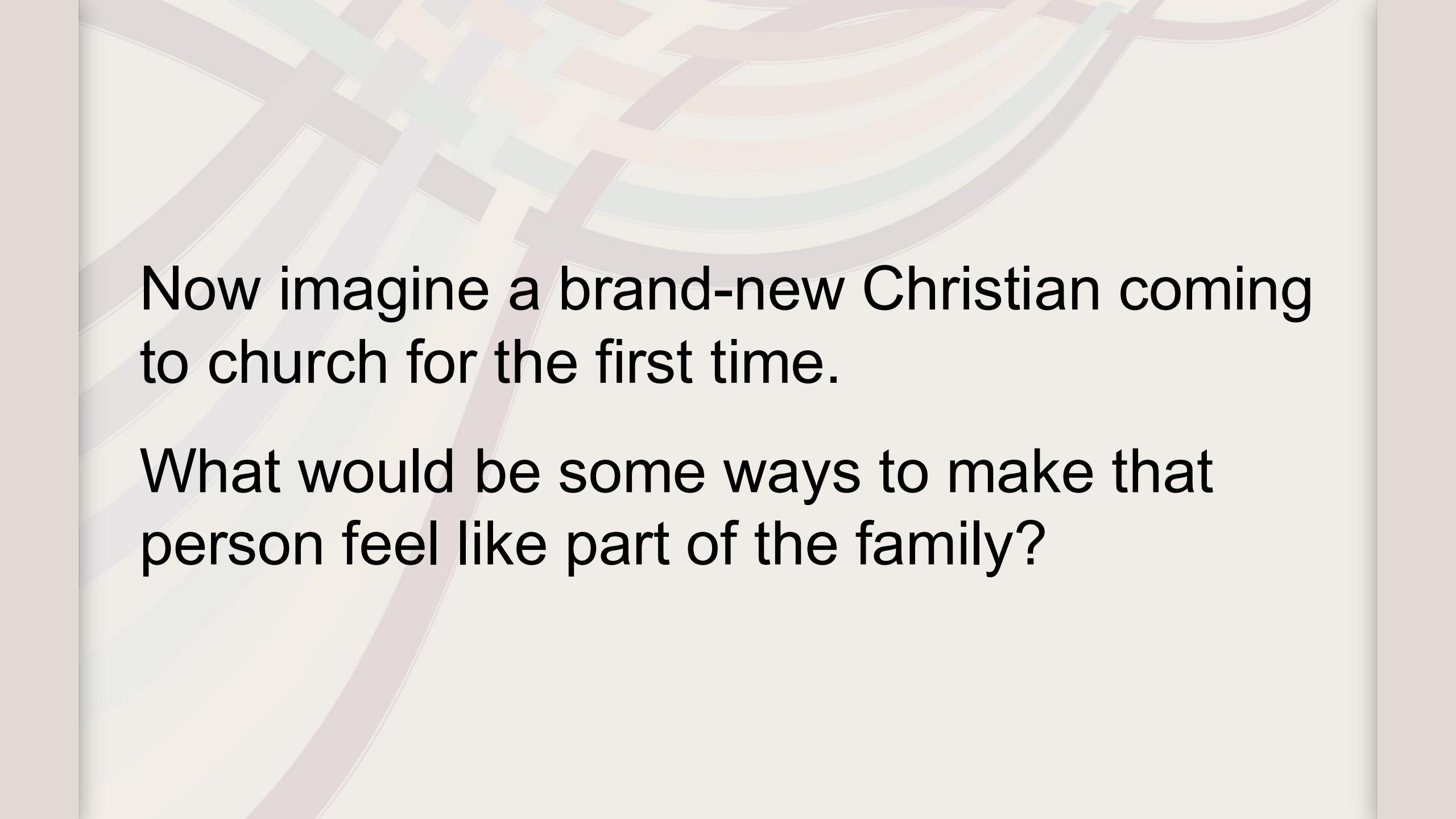
- ❖ Romans: Faith in Jesus makes us God's children.

Do you know anyone who was adopted?

How common is adoption?

What are some ways in which it might be easier for an adopted child to feel like a true part of the family?

What are some ways in which it could be difficult?

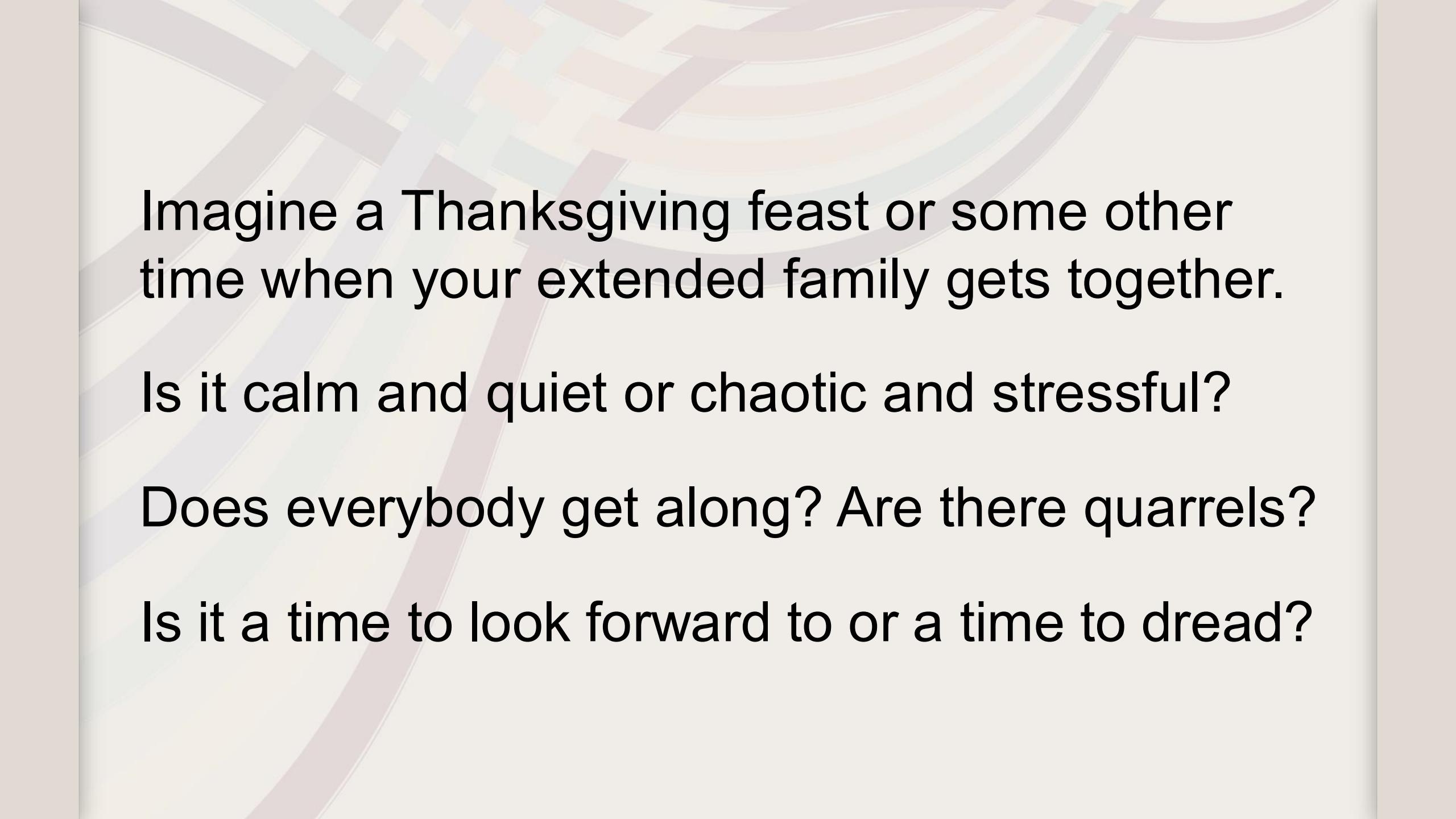


Now imagine a brand-new Christian coming to church for the first time.

What would be some ways to make that person feel like part of the family?

What Makes Us Members of God's Family?

- ❖ Romans: Faith in Jesus makes us God's children.
- ❖ Ephesians: God's children are united in the Church.

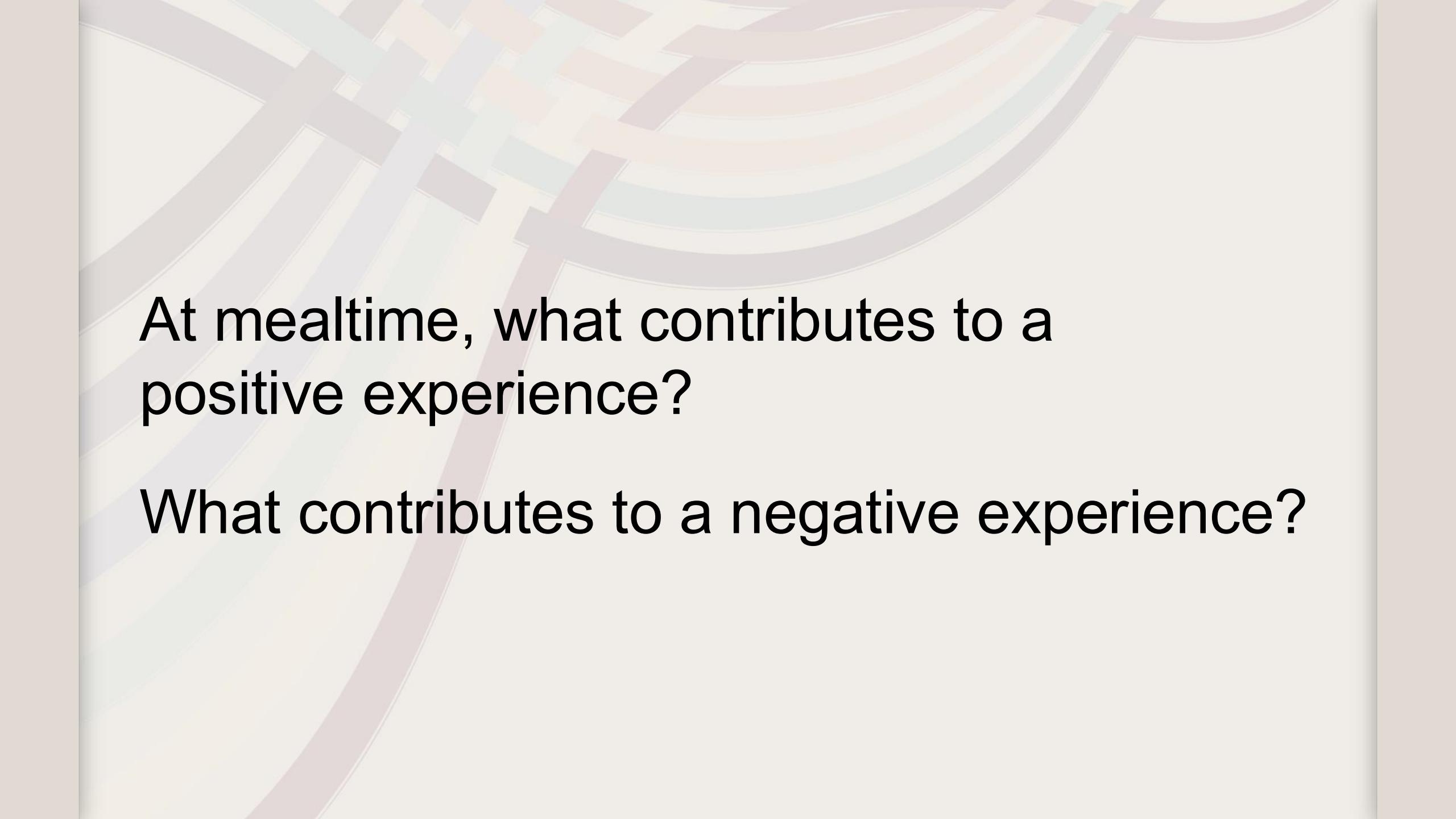


Imagine a Thanksgiving feast or some other time when your extended family gets together.

Is it calm and quiet or chaotic and stressful?

Does everybody get along? Are there quarrels?

Is it a time to look forward to or a time to dread?



At mealtime, what contributes to a positive experience?

What contributes to a negative experience?

Now, in what ways should a Christian gathering, where most people are not related genetically, be a positive experience?

In what way should the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23) play a role?

Siblings in the Family of God in the New Testament

- ❖ The gospel prioritizes loyalty to Jesus over loyalty to family.

Read Luke 14:26. Although this is shocking language and meant to be understood in a comparative sense, this command cannot be dismissed.

In what way does this passage reinforce Jesus' points in Matthew 8 and 12?

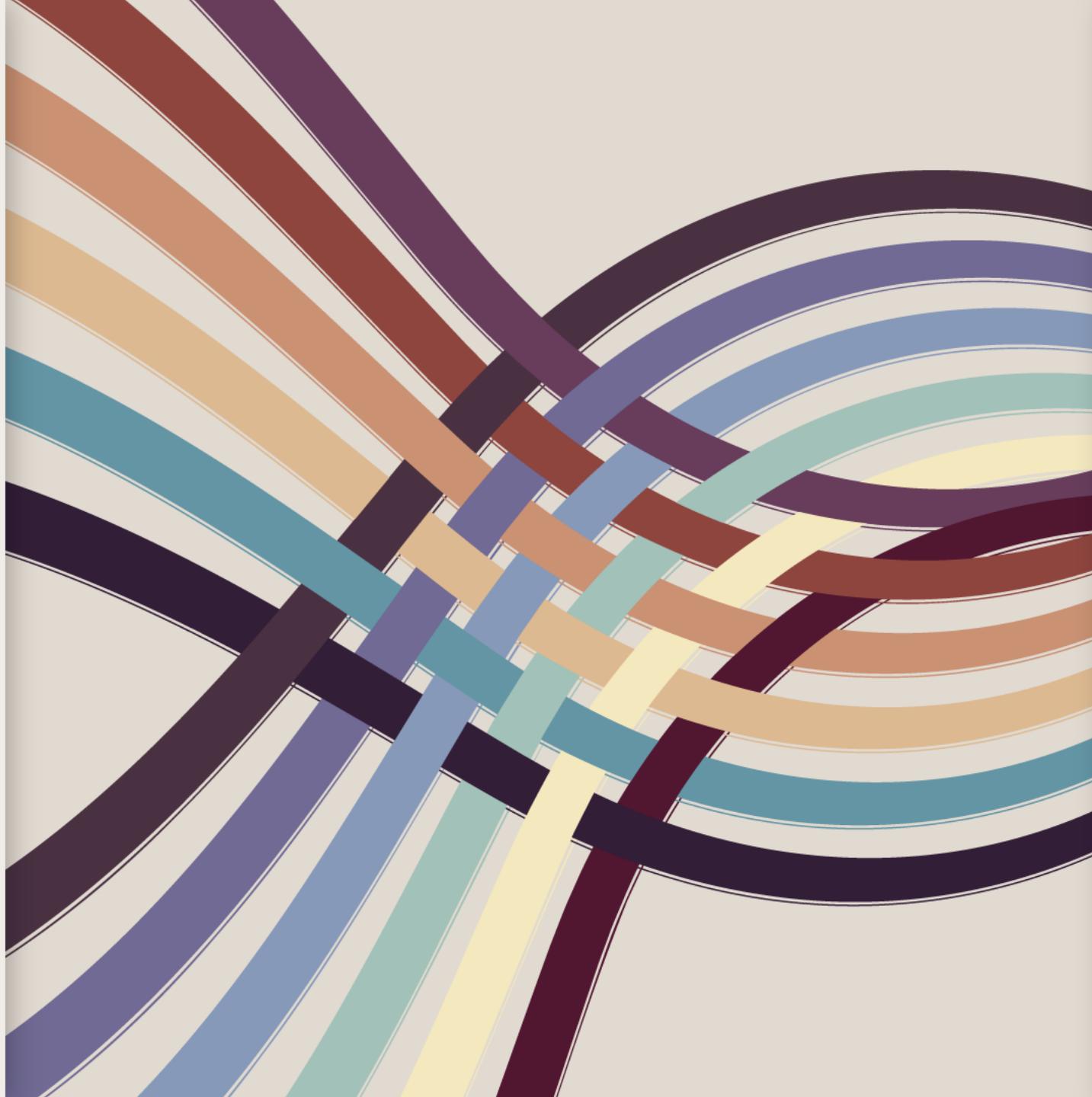
Siblings in the Family of God in the New Testament

- ◆ The gospel prioritizes loyalty to Jesus over loyalty to family.
- ◆ Romans: Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ.
- ◆ First Corinthians: God's family should not be divided.

What Difference Does It Make?

- ◆ A spiritual-siblings mindset changes the way believers interact with each other.

Conclusion

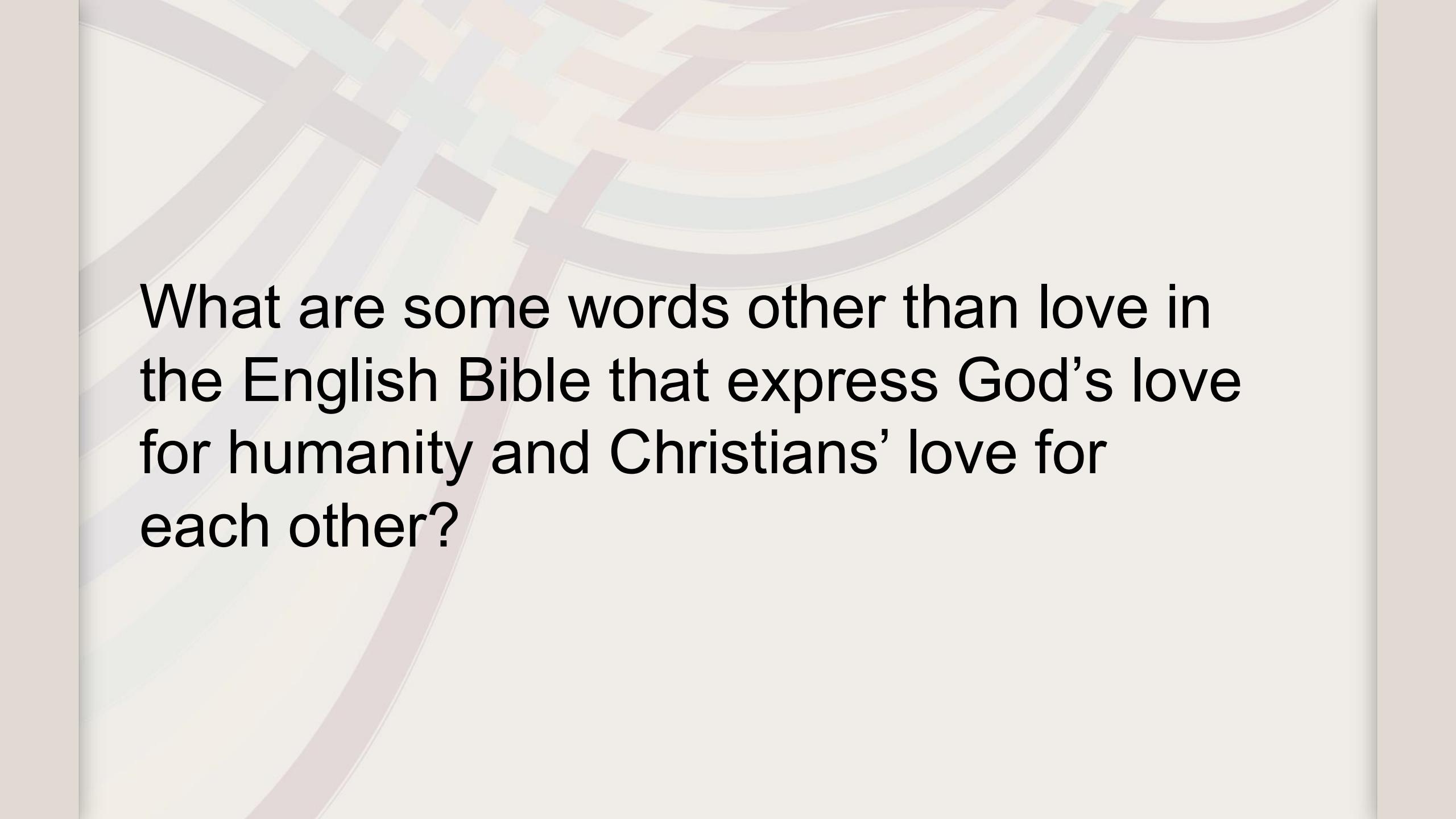


LESSON SEVEN

God's Love for Us



Introduction



What are some words other than love in the English Bible that express God's love for humanity and Christians' love for each other?

Ruth: Modeling God's Love

- ◆ Ruth was loyal to Naomi during a time of tragedy and **bitterness**.
- ◆ Naomi recognized that God's **love** had not disappeared.
- ◆ Love is characterized by unselfish **motives**.

Compare Ruth's selfless love (*chessed*)
with Samson's "love" in Judges 16.
(The Hebrew verb *ahav* occurs in v. 4.)

What is the difference?

In what ways does Samson's "love" mirror
the way most people use the word today?

The Gospel of John: Jesus Is God's Love

Jesus and the Cross

- ◆ Jesus suffered a humiliating death by crucifixion.
- ◆ Jesus' suffering was an act of love.

What Difference Does It Make?

- ❖ We should love others because God has loved us.

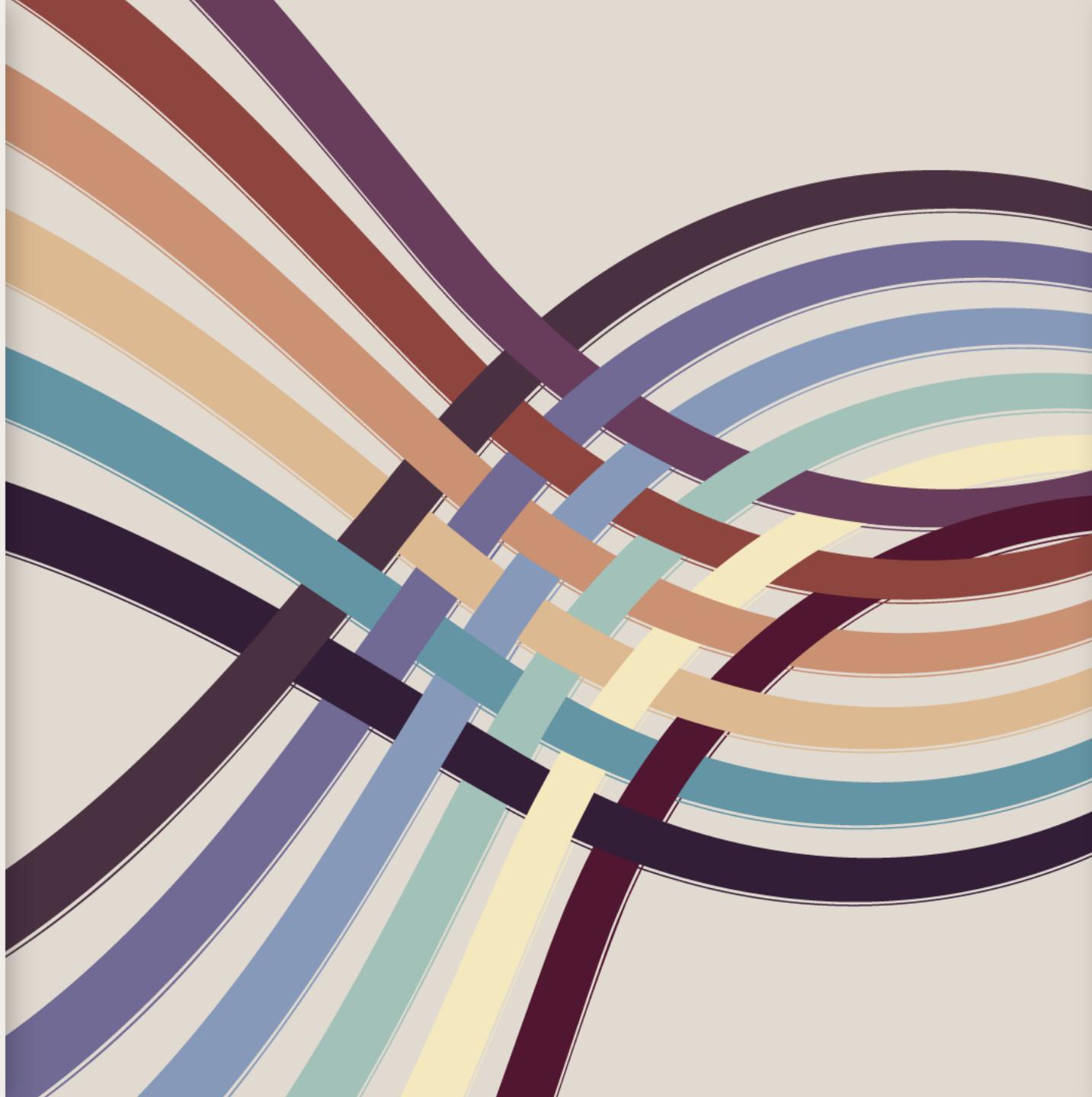
Read Matthew 22:36–40.

Now that you have spent time tracing the theme of love in the Bible, what new things can you see about the reason Jesus called these the two greatest commandments in the Law?

How do Jesus' comments show us that God always had the same goal in mind for His people?

How can you make this the ultimate goal in your life?

Conclusion



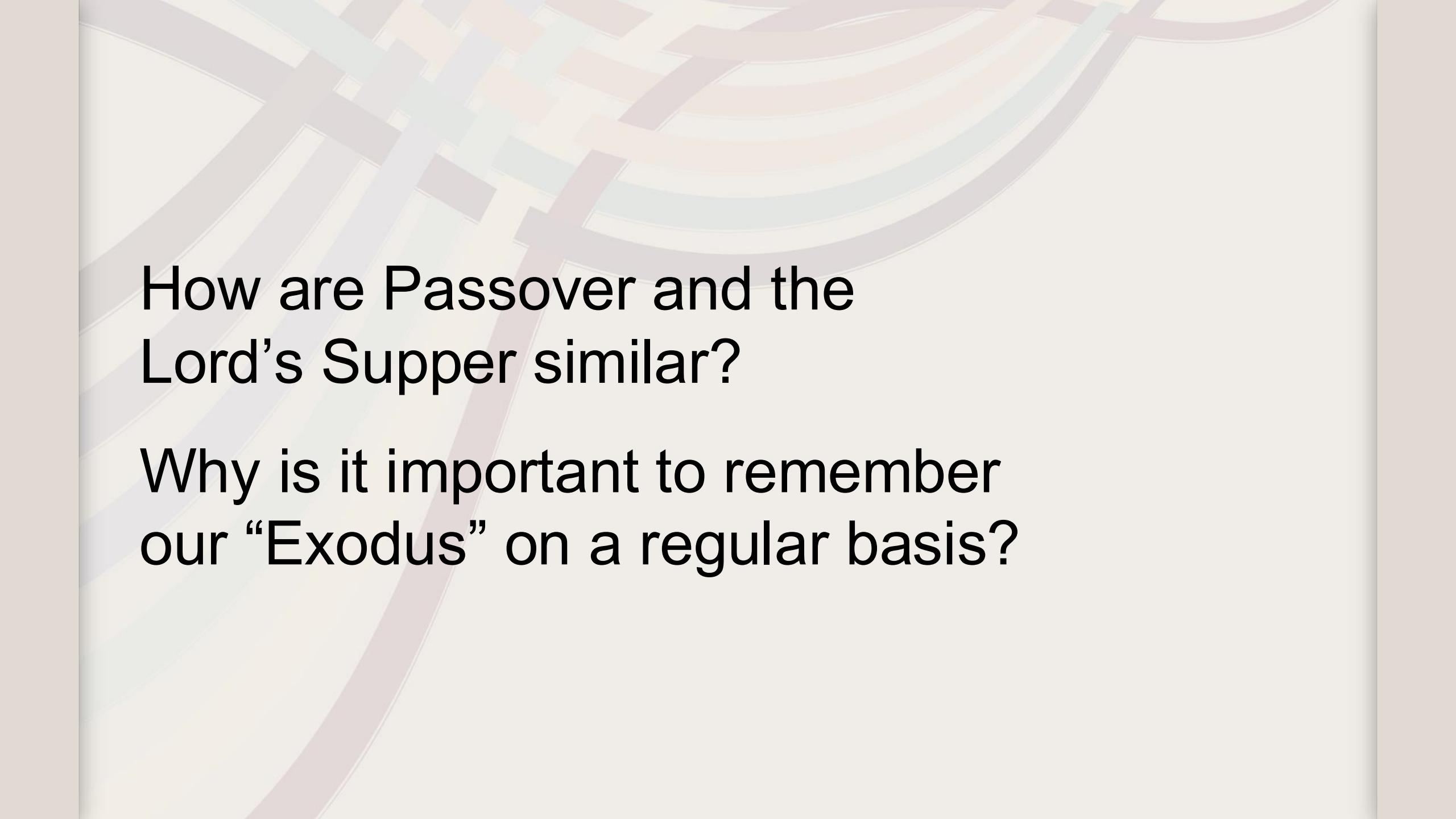
LESSON EIGHT

Rescue and Redemption



Introduction

Rescue and Redemption in Exodus



How are Passover and the
Lord's Supper similar?

Why is it important to remember
our “Exodus” on a regular basis?

Rescue and Redemption in Isaiah

- ◆ Isaiah offers hope to those mired in sin.
- ◆ God offers redemption through the Messiah.

Does this explanation resolve the difficulty, in your opinion?

What insights can these Old Testament examples give us about the value of Jesus' shed blood for us? (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.)

Rescue and Redemption in the Gospel of Mark

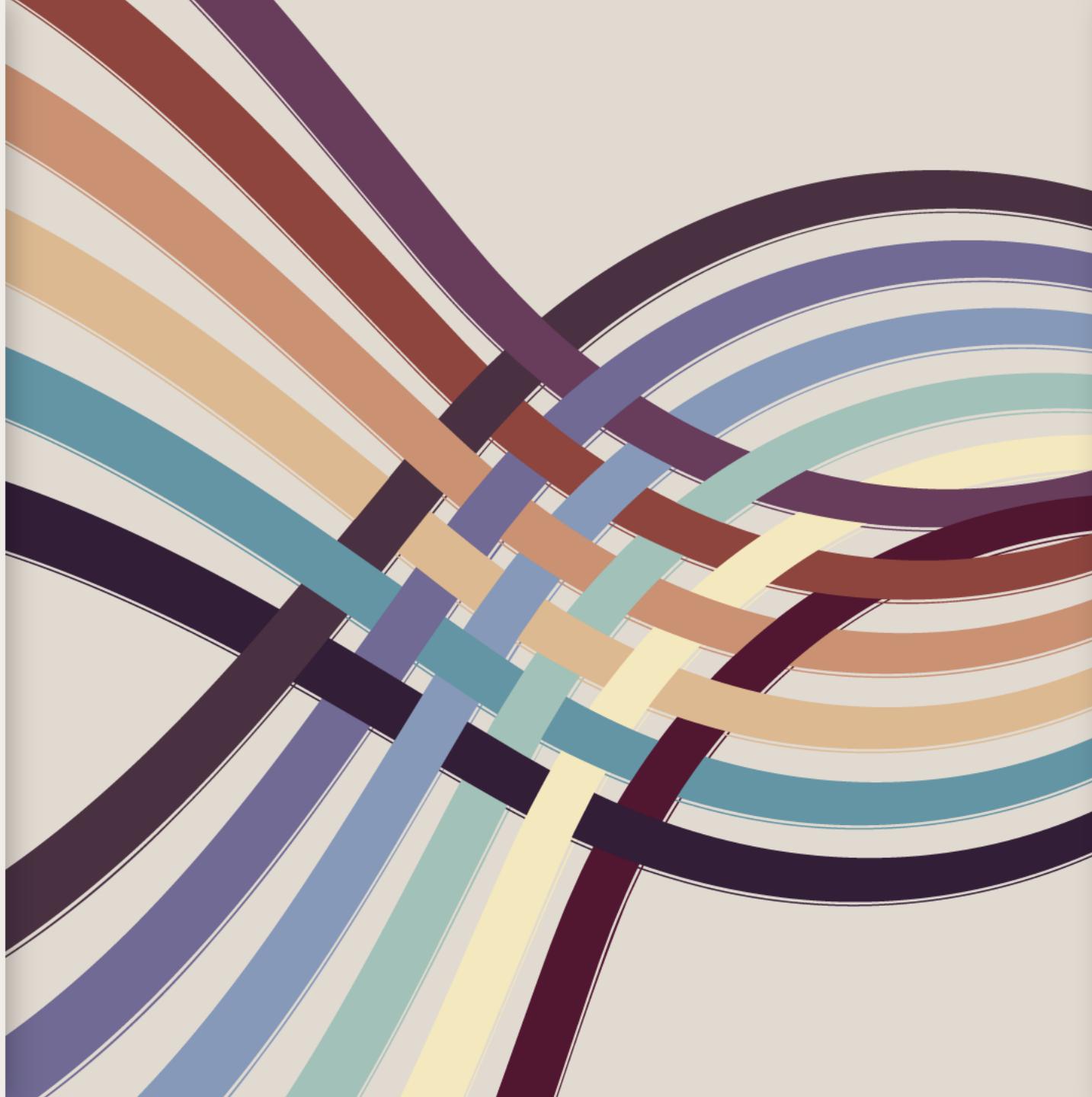
Rescue and Redemption in 1 Peter

Read Titus 2:11–14.

Notice how Paul weaves multiple theological themes together here.

How many themes can you identify that we've studied already?

Conclusion



LESSON NINE

The Resurrection of the Body



Introduction

The Resurrection in the Old Testament

- ◆ Abraham was counting on the resurrection.
- ◆ Hannah and Elisha offer glimpses of a resurrection.
- ◆ The poetic books offer glimpses of a resurrection.

What is the difference between redemption and resurrection? How are they similar? Can you have one without the other?

Explain how each of these insights into Christ's work on the cross should bring you hope and encouragement in your walk with God.

The Resurrection in the Old Testament

- ◊ Abraham was counting on the resurrection.
- ◊ Hannah and Elisha offer glimpses of a resurrection.
- ◊ The poetic books offer glimpses of a resurrection.
- ◊ The prophetic books offer glimpses of the resurrection.
 - *Ezekiel 37*
 - *Daniel 12*

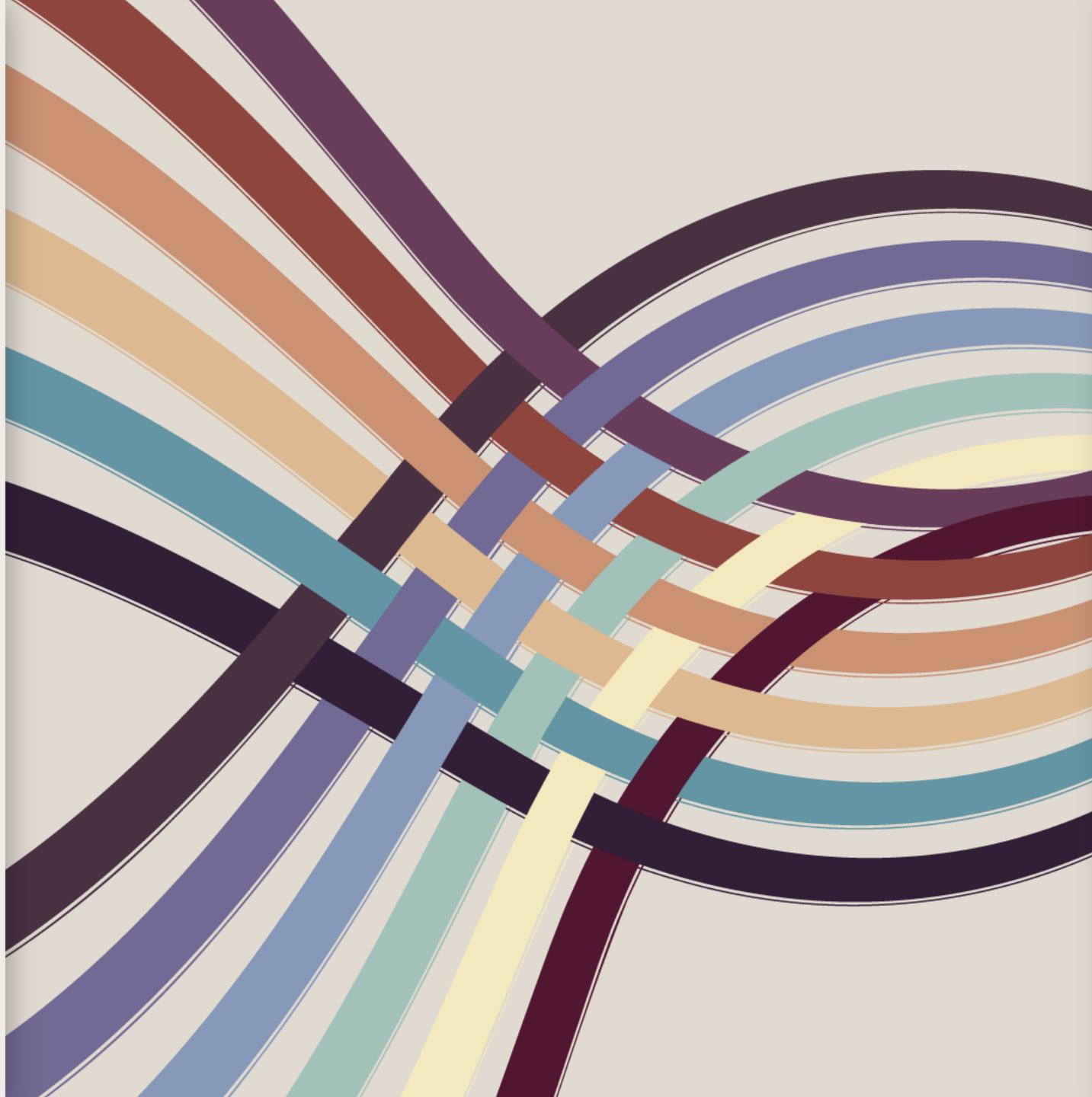
Paul's Logic of the Resurrection

- ❖ The resurrection of Jesus has a prominent place in the gospel.
- ❖ The afterlife requires the resurrection of our bodies.
- ❖ Our resurrected bodies will be uncorrupted by sin and energized by the Holy Spirit.

In what sense is Jesus' resurrection the most significant historical event for all of humanity? What would Christianity be without this historical event?

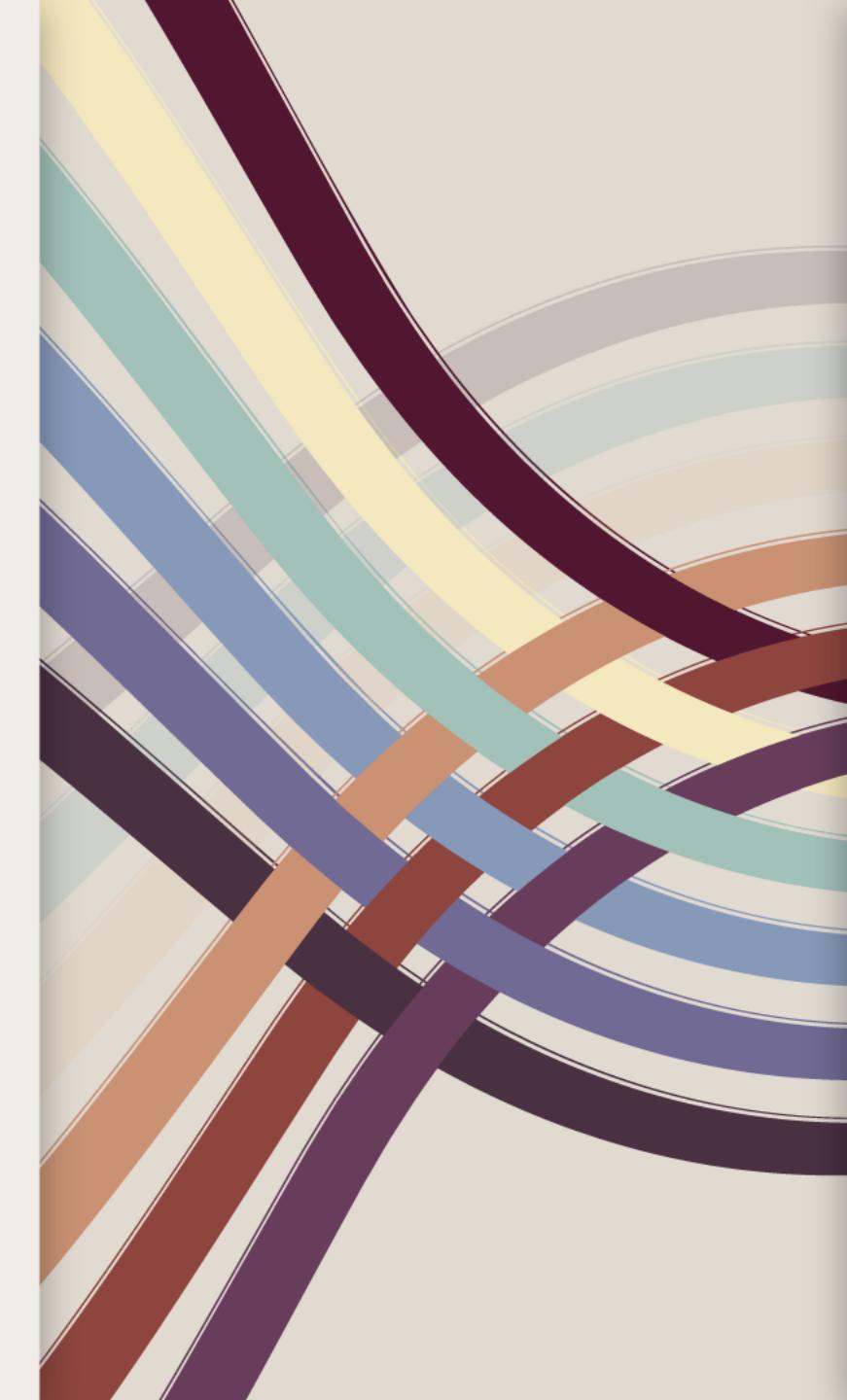
Would you see any value in being a Christian if we did not have the promise of a glorified body (see 1 Cor. 15:19)?

Conclusion



LESSON TEN

Who Am I?



Introduction

Each of Us Is God's Special Creation

- ◆ You are God's creation.
- ◆ You are special to God.
- ◆ God has called you for a special purpose.
- ◆ All of God's creation is good.

Consider the list of unlikely people that God blessed. Which example shocks you the most?

How would knowing about this person be helpful to someone who wrestles with feelings of inadequacy?

Is the theme that you are special to God enough to give you hope in your darkest hours?

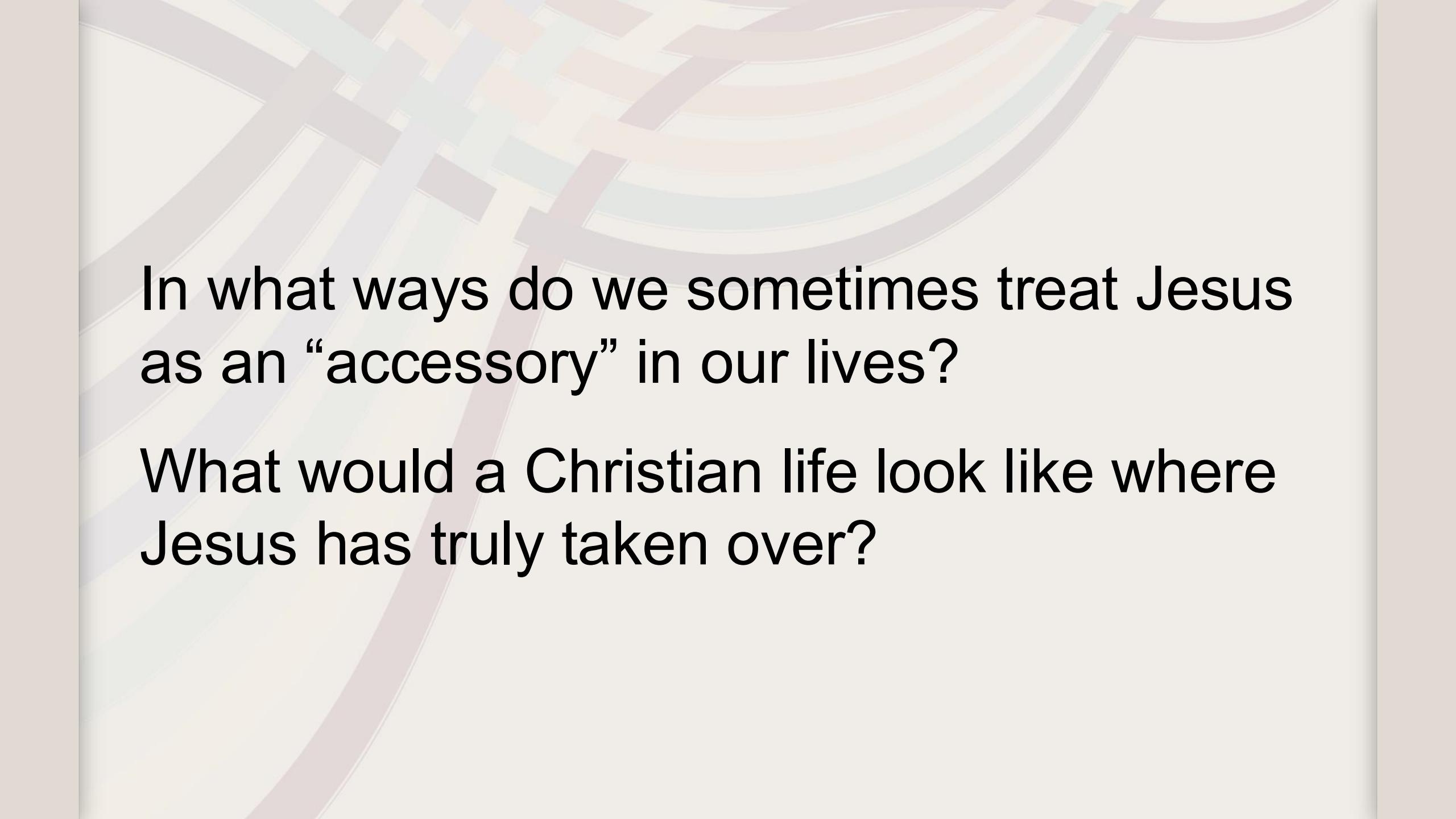
Which story would most help you—or someone you know—who struggles regularly with despair?

Believers Are God's Beloved Children

- ◆ God is our Father.
- ◆ We have responsibilities as God's children.
- ◆ Our spiritual birth gives us a special relationship with other Christians.

Believers Are One with Christ

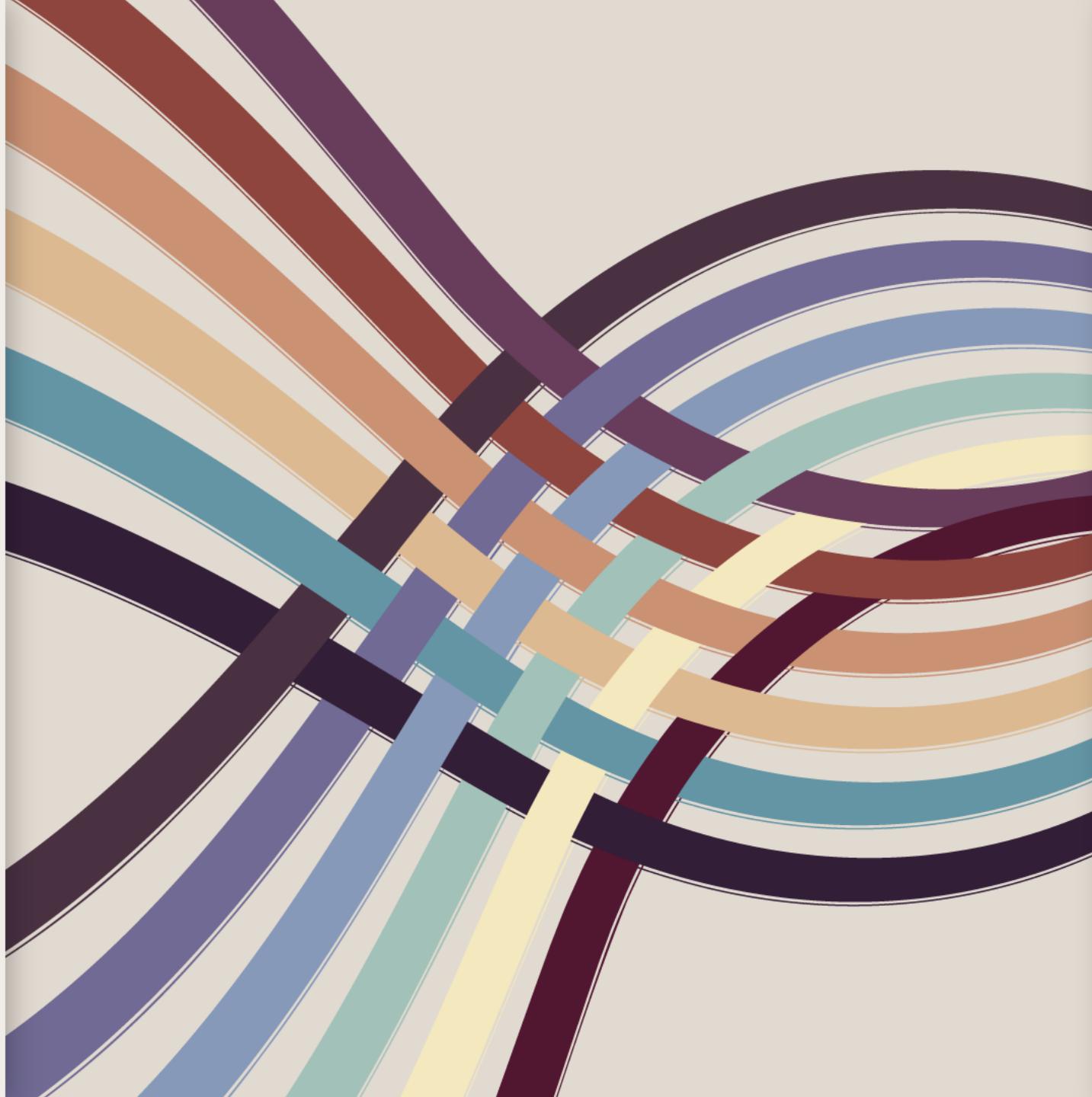
- ◆ Believers are established upon Christ.
- ◆ Believers are united in Christ.



In what ways do we sometimes treat Jesus as an “accessory” in our lives?

What would a Christian life look like where Jesus has truly taken over?

Conclusion



LESSON ELEVEN

Praising God



Introduction

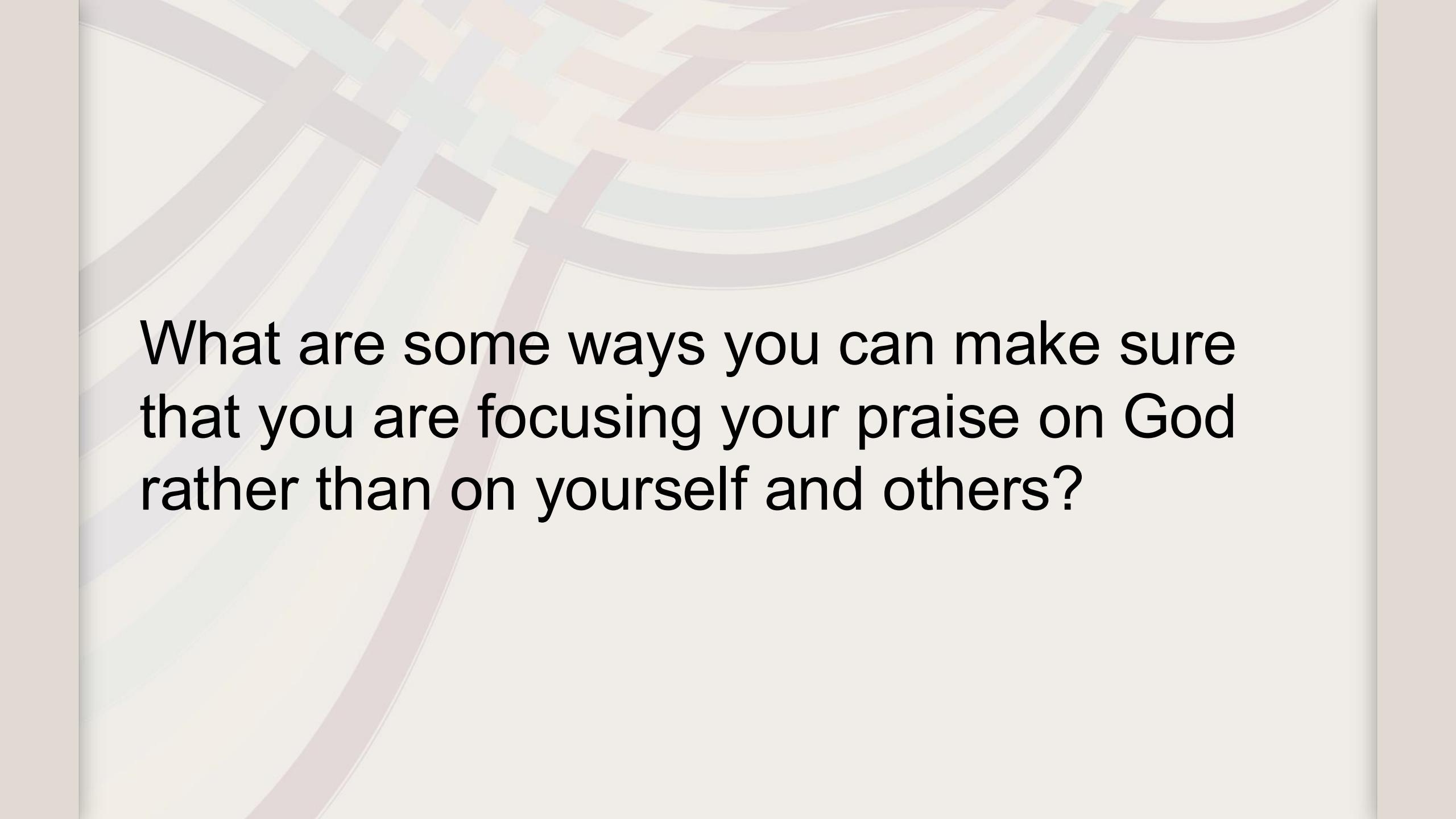
The Song of Moses and Israel

- ◆ The focus of the song is on the accomplishments of God.
- ◆ The song is about God's relationship with His people.

What are some of your favorite hymns and Christian songs?

How do they emphasize the glory of God?

Do any of them seem to overemphasize people instead of God's glory?



What are some ways you can make sure that you are focusing your praise on God rather than on yourself and others?

The Song of Deborah and Barak

- ◆ The song is about the greatness of God.
- ◆ The song is about believers cooperating with God.
- ◆ The song includes a rebuke for those who did not cooperate.

The Songs of Hannah and Mary

- ◆ The two songs share similar themes.
- ◆ The two songs also contain different themes.

Some Observations from the Psalms

- ◆ Psalm 8
- ◆ Psalm 47
- ◆ Psalm 150

Choose any psalm.

How do the three elements of parallelism, terseness, and imagery show up in the psalm you chose?

The New Testament

- ◆ Peter and John praised God in the midst of persecution.

Read Matthew 6:9–13.

Compare the disciples' prayer in Acts 4 with this passage. Remember, Matthew 6:9–13 (the Lord's Prayer) is an outline for prayer.

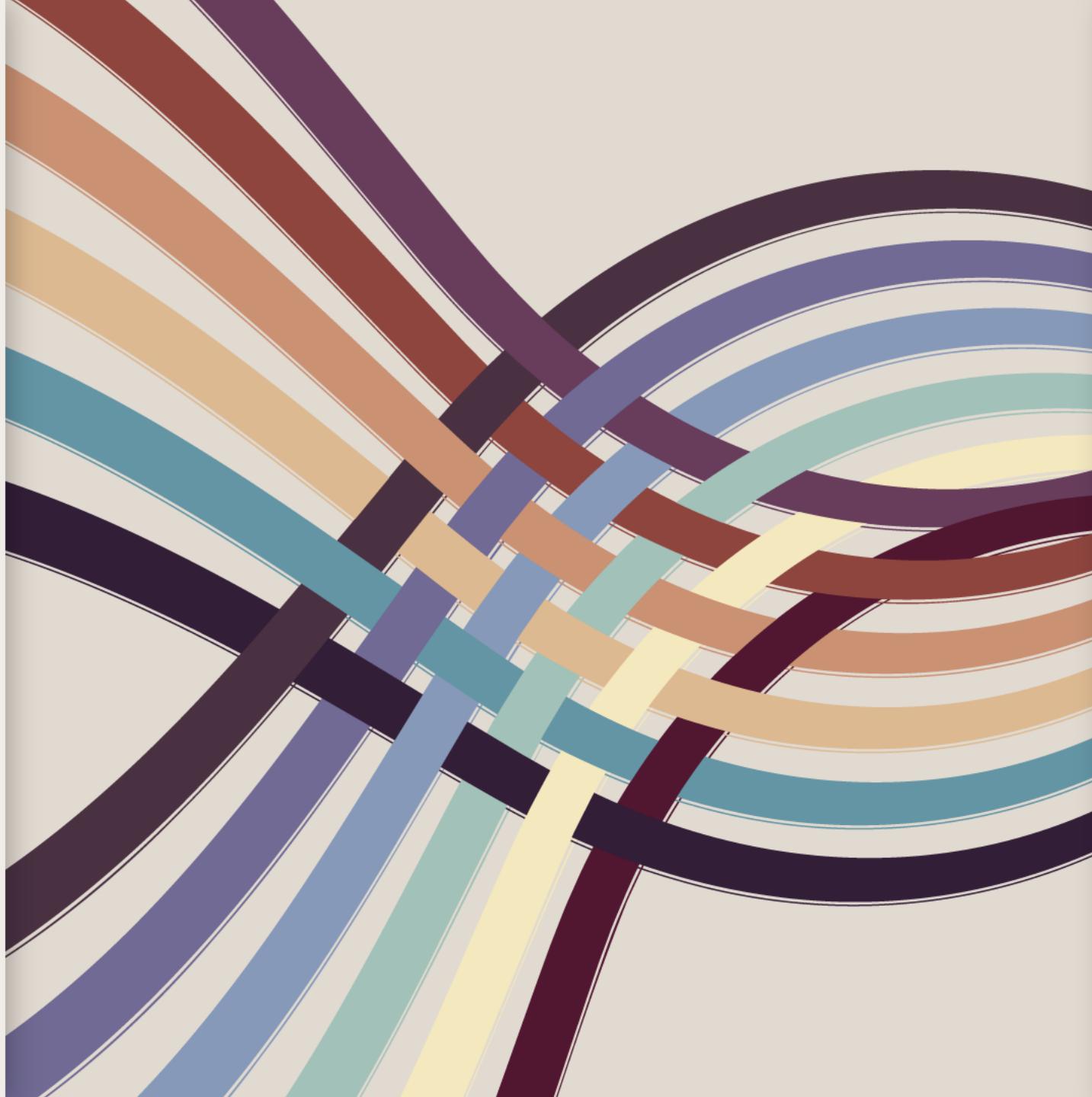
How does each form of prayer make sure that the focus is on God's glory?

How can we make sure we focus on seeking the honor of God as the primary goal of all our prayers?

The New Testament

- ◊ Peter and John praised God in the midst of persecution.
- ◊ Paul included words of joyous praise in his writings.
- ◊ The Book of Revelation includes many songs of praise.
 - Revelation 5
 - Revelation 7
 - Revelation 19

Conclusion



LESSON TWELVE

The Great Commission



Introduction

Abraham and Israel's Reason for Existence

- ◆ God's blessing upon Abraham includes all nations.
- ◆ God's purpose for Israel was to lead all nations in glorifying God.

Read Genesis 3:15, 22:17–18, and 50:20–21.

What do these verses teach us about the role of Israel in God's plan for history?

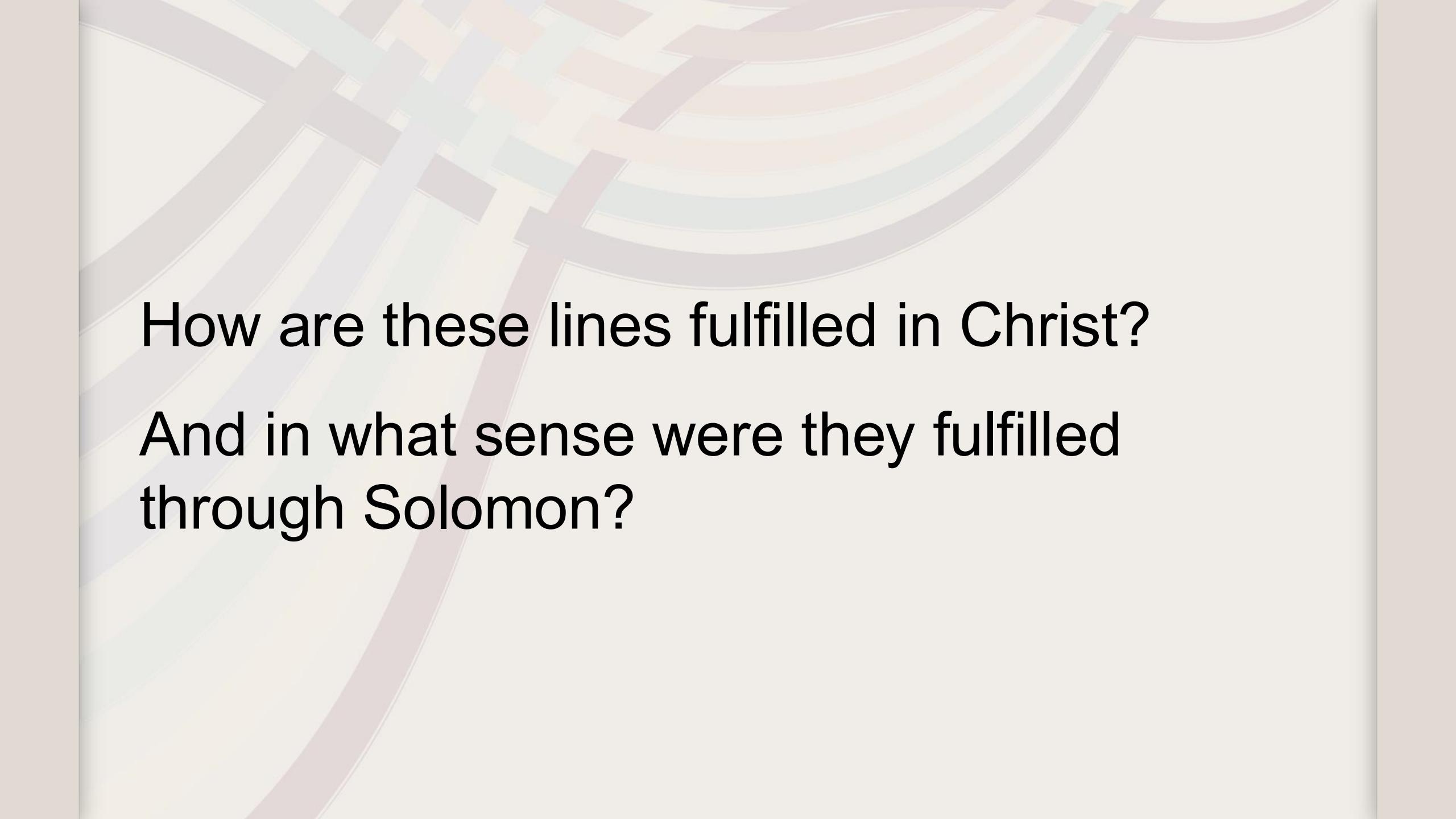
Israel's Special Role in the Psalms

- ◆ Psalm 2
- ◆ Psalm 57
- ◆ Psalm 67

Read Psalm 72.

If you were there to hear this psalm sung about Solomon, what lines would sound like an exaggeration?

What common aspirations of all people, both Jew and Gentile, would your heart gravitate toward in these lines?



How are these lines fulfilled in Christ?

And in what sense were they fulfilled
through Solomon?

The Gospels

- ◆ The Great Commission in Matthew
- ◆ The Great Commission in Mark
- ◆ The Great Commission in Luke

Read John 1:11–13, 11:49–52, and 20:22–23.

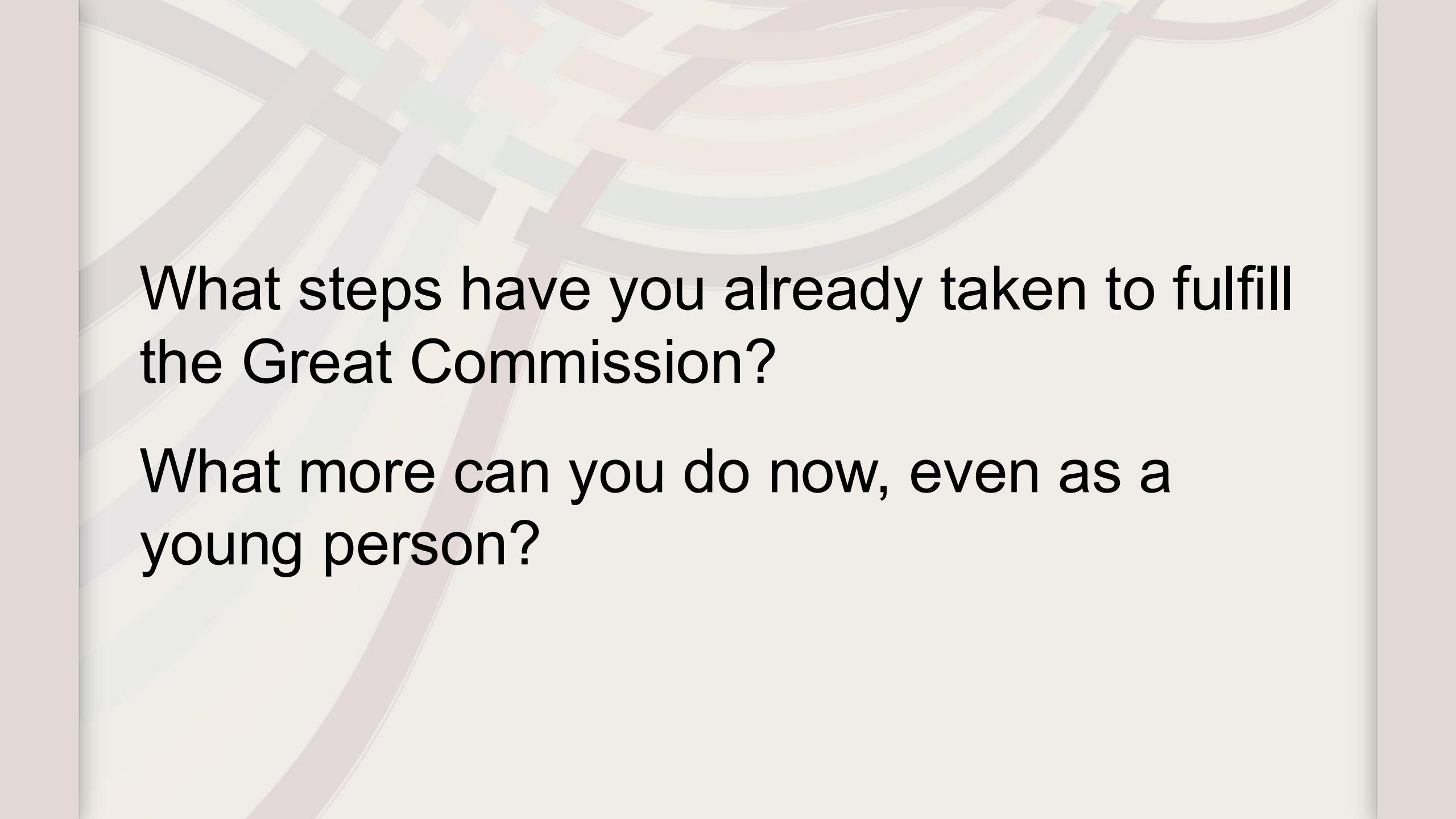
How does John also teach the Great Commission?

How is it similar to and different from the commission in the other Gospels?

Why is this fitting for the unique emphasis of John's Gospel?

The Great Commission in Acts

The Great Commission in the Epistles

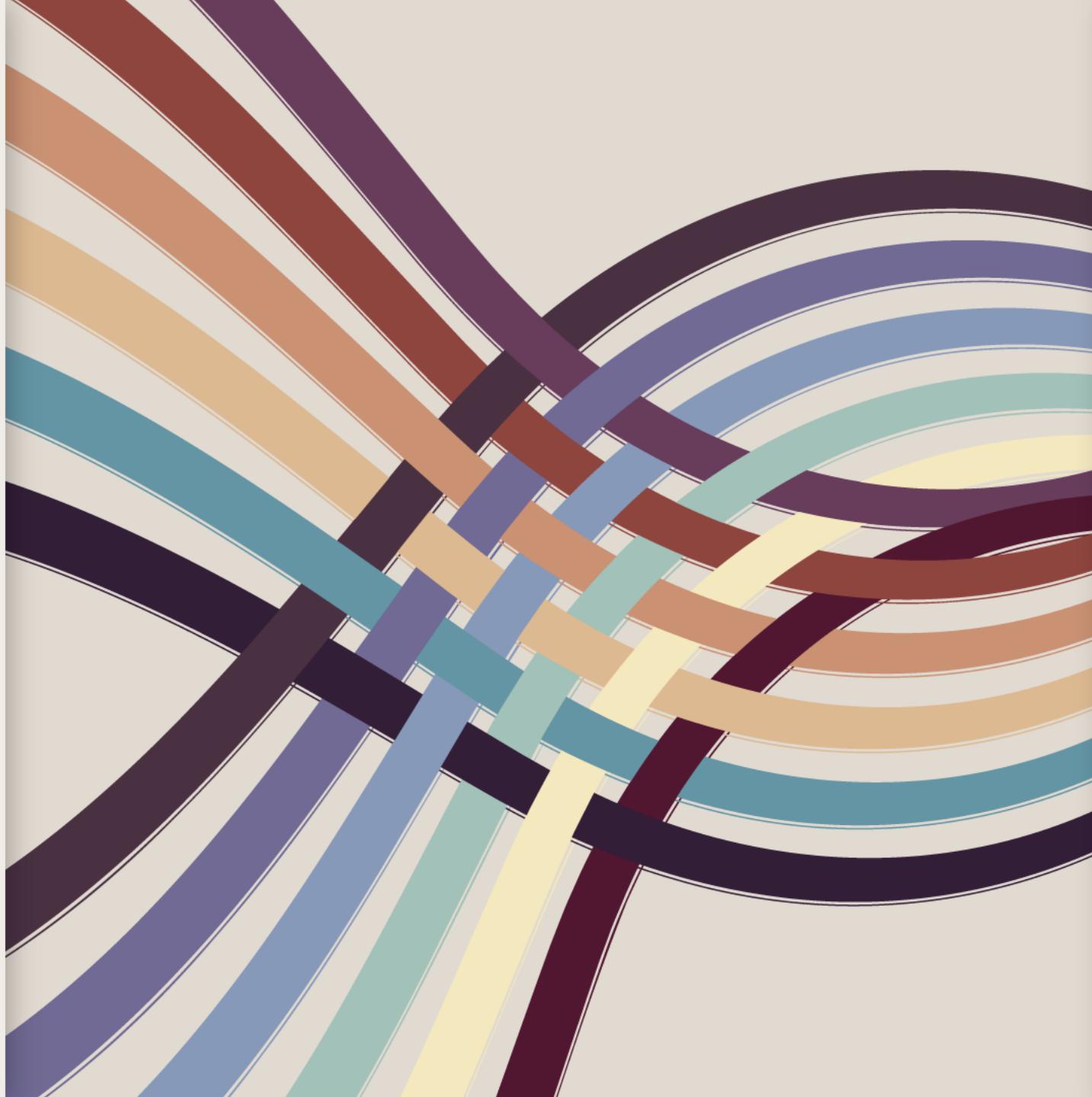


What steps have you already taken to fulfill the Great Commission?

What more can you do now, even as a young person?

Revelation and the Culmination of the Great Commission

Conclusion



LESSON THIRTEEN

The New Jerusalem



Introduction

Jerusalem in the Torah

- ◆ Melchizedek was priest and king of Salem, the same location as Jerusalem.
- ◆ Jerusalem was called “the place that God will choose.”

What is the capital of your country? What benefits does the capital provide the rest of the country (when it is functioning properly)? How is this similar to Jerusalem's benefit to ancient Israel?

What other benefits did Jerusalem provide Israel?

Now give some reasons you believe God wanted to make heaven a big city rather than a natural landscape.

Jerusalem in the Historical Books

- ◆ Jerusalem was inhabited by the pagan **Jebusites**.
- ◆ David gained **control** of Jerusalem.
- ◆ Solomon **built** God's Temple in Jerusalem.
- ◆ Jerusalem was destroyed and **restored**.

God's Glory Left Jerusalem, and Jerusalem Rejected the Incarnate Glory

- ◆ Ezekiel records the departure of God's glory from Jerusalem.
- ◆ The Gospel of John records the rejection of God's glory in Jesus.

Jerusalem Launched God's Mission

- ❖ The Church began in Jerusalem.
- ❖ The Church went out from Jerusalem to reach the world.
- ❖ Church leaders met in Jerusalem for an important council.
- ❖ Events in Jerusalem resulted in Paul taking the gospel to Rome.

Take a moment to consider the value of tracing themes, using Jerusalem as an example.

Which has been the most beneficial theme you have studied?

What did you learn, and how does it change your view of the Old Testament?

In what sense did Jerusalem finally fulfill its chosen mission before God sent destruction in A.D. 70?

How did the early spread of the Church fulfill the longings of the psalmists and prophets?

The New Jerusalem

- ◆ In Isaiah, the new Jerusalem is the future gathering place of God's people.

Have you ever talked to fellow Gentiles about heaven, especially when describing the benefits of becoming a Christian?

Did you talk about a city when you described heaven?

Given what Jesus said about the main purpose of life (loving God and loving others to God's glory), why might a city—ruled by the Messiah—be the ideal place to live for eternity?

Does this change what you will think about your future home in heaven?

The New Jerusalem

- ◆ In Isaiah, the new Jerusalem is the future gathering place of God's people.
- ◆ In Revelation, the new Jerusalem is the place of blessing for all nations.

Conclusion

