

The background is a dark, atmospheric illustration of a city at night. The sky is a deep, textured blue with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper right corner, casting a soft glow. The city below is rendered in dark, muted tones, with some buildings and foliage visible. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

— HEAVEN —
When We Meet God

SEASON'S MEETINGS: A SERIES FOR ADVENT

The background is a dark, blue-toned night sky. In the upper right quadrant, there is a bright, multi-pointed starburst or comet-like object with a long, faint tail extending downwards. The lower portion of the image shows a dark silhouette of a cityscape with various buildings and structures. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

**What do you want for those you
love the most?**

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

¹⁹ “This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now **choose life**, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the **Lord is your life**, and he will give you **many years** in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Psalm 102:26-27

23 In the course of my life he broke my strength;
he cut short my days.

24 So I said: “Do not take me away, my God, in the midst of my days;
your years go on through all generations.

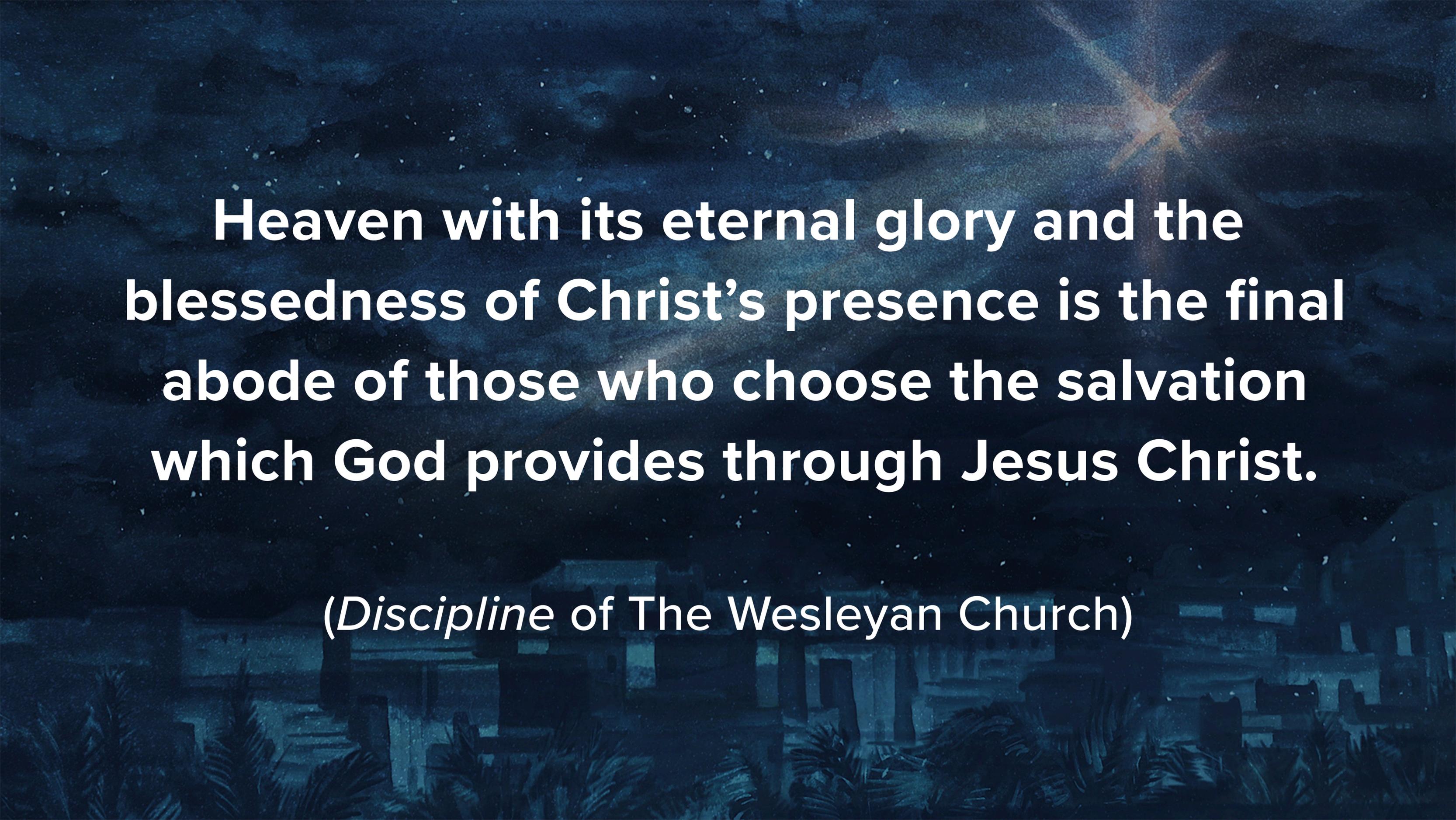
25 In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

26 They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

Like clothing you will change them
and they will be discarded.

**27 But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.**

**28 The children of your servants will live in your presence;
their descendants will be established before you.”**



Heaven with its eternal glory and the blessedness of Christ's presence is the final abode of those who choose the salvation which God provides through Jesus Christ.

(Discipline of The Wesleyan Church)

“The gospel ain't gospel until it is spread
But how can you share it where you've got your head
There's hands that reach out for a hand if you would
So heavenly minded, you're no earthly good.”

JOHNNY CASH, *No Earthly Good*

“When the church drops things,
the world picks them up.”

FULTON SHEEN

The background is a dark, textured blue with a grainy, painterly quality. In the upper right quadrant, there is a bright, multi-pointed starburst or lens flare effect in shades of orange and yellow. The lower portion of the image shows a faint, dark silhouette of a cityscape with various building shapes and some foliage in the foreground, all rendered in a monochromatic blue tone.

**The world has “picked up heaven” in its
technology.**

“After the fact, an AI version of the person is created post-death, with voicemails, text messages, recordings and videos from everyday life added in to help create **the everlasting version.**

Beyond providing comfort for his children and grandchildren after he’s gone, Michael Staenberg, a 73-year-old high-net-worth real estate developer in St. Louis, is excited to **leave behind a legacy of himself that could inspire others forever.**

“I want to provide future generations with the opportunity to ask me how I lived and how I succeeded.”

<https://nypost.com/2025/08/07/us-news/an-ai-version-of-you-could-live-forever-but-who-would-you-really-be/>

A dark, atmospheric night scene. The sky is a deep, textured blue with a bright, multi-pointed starburst or comet-like light source in the upper right quadrant. Below the sky, a city skyline is visible, with various buildings and structures silhouetted against the dark background. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

**The world has “picked up heaven” in its
politics.**

Imagine there's no heaven

It's easy if you try

No hell below us

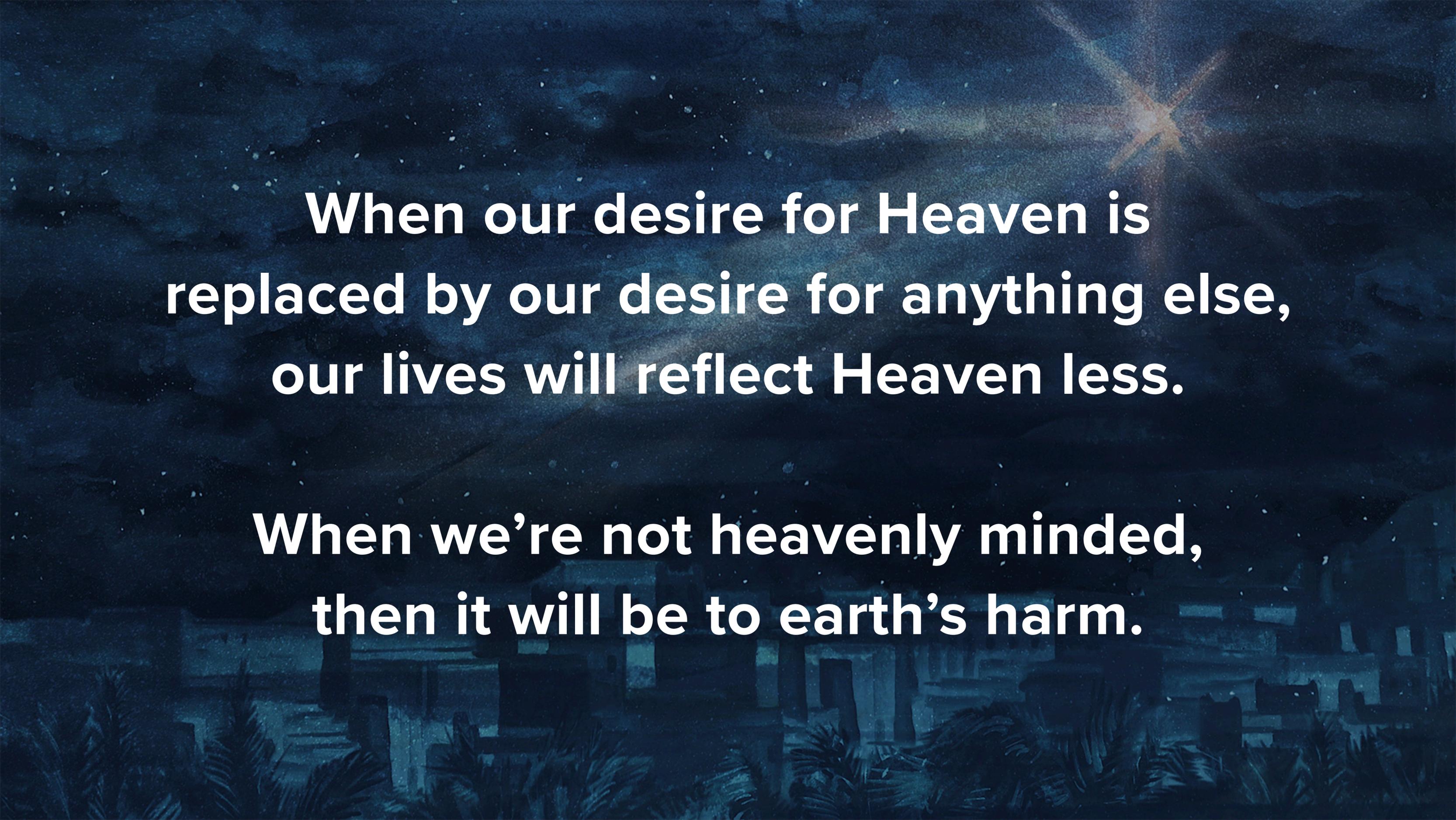
Above us, only sky

JOHN LENNON, *Imagine*

The background is a dark, atmospheric drawing of a city at night. The sky is a deep, dark blue with a faint, glowing cross in the upper right quadrant. The city below is rendered in dark, muted colors, with some lights visible in the windows of buildings. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

When Christian-based *virtues* (e.g., justice, hospitality, love) are practiced and promoted without Christian *reason* and when Christian-based reason is practiced promoted without Christian virtues, it's not heaven. It's hell.

(Drawing from G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, chapter 3.)

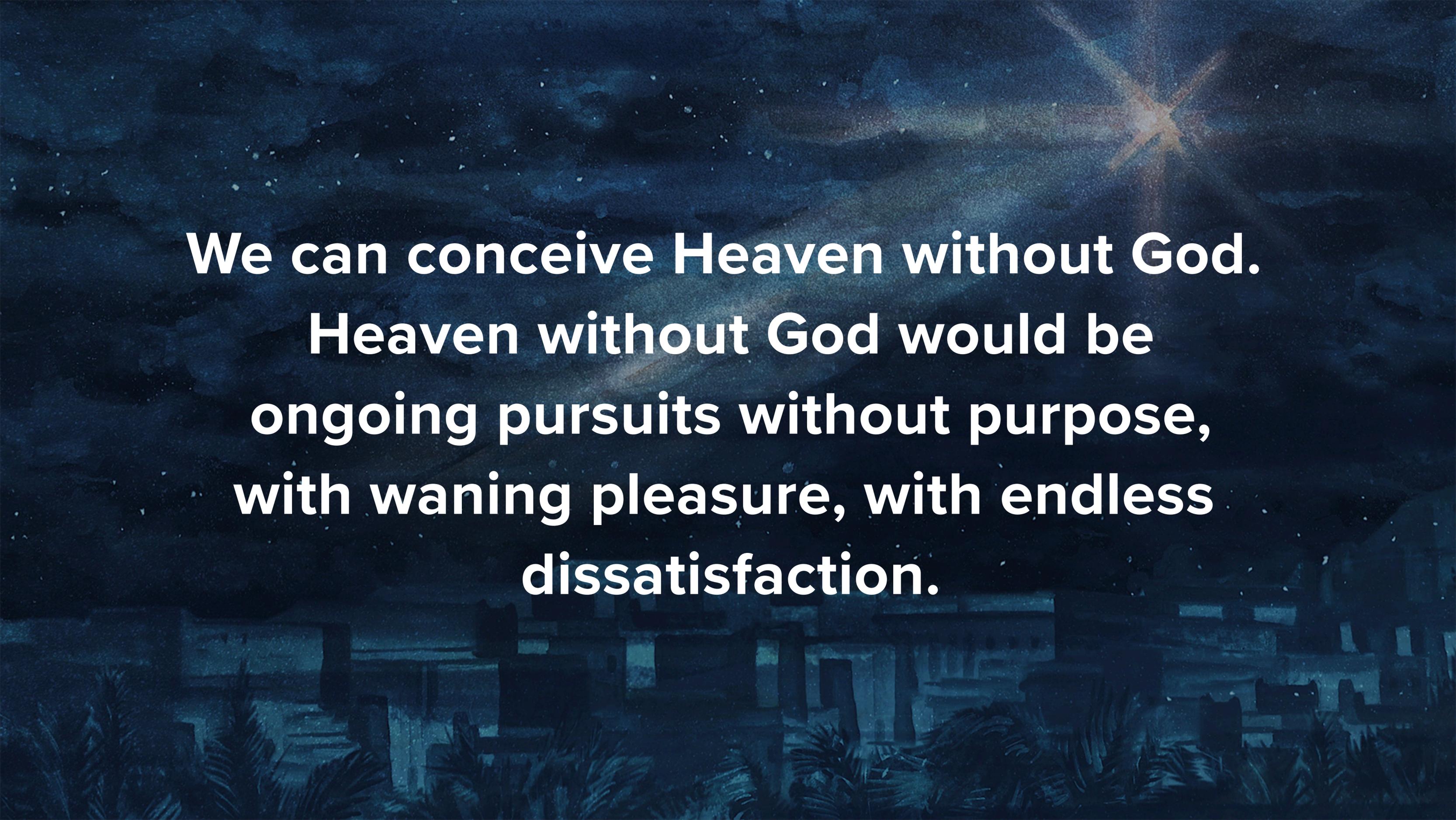


**When our desire for Heaven is
replaced by our desire for anything else,
our lives will reflect Heaven less.**

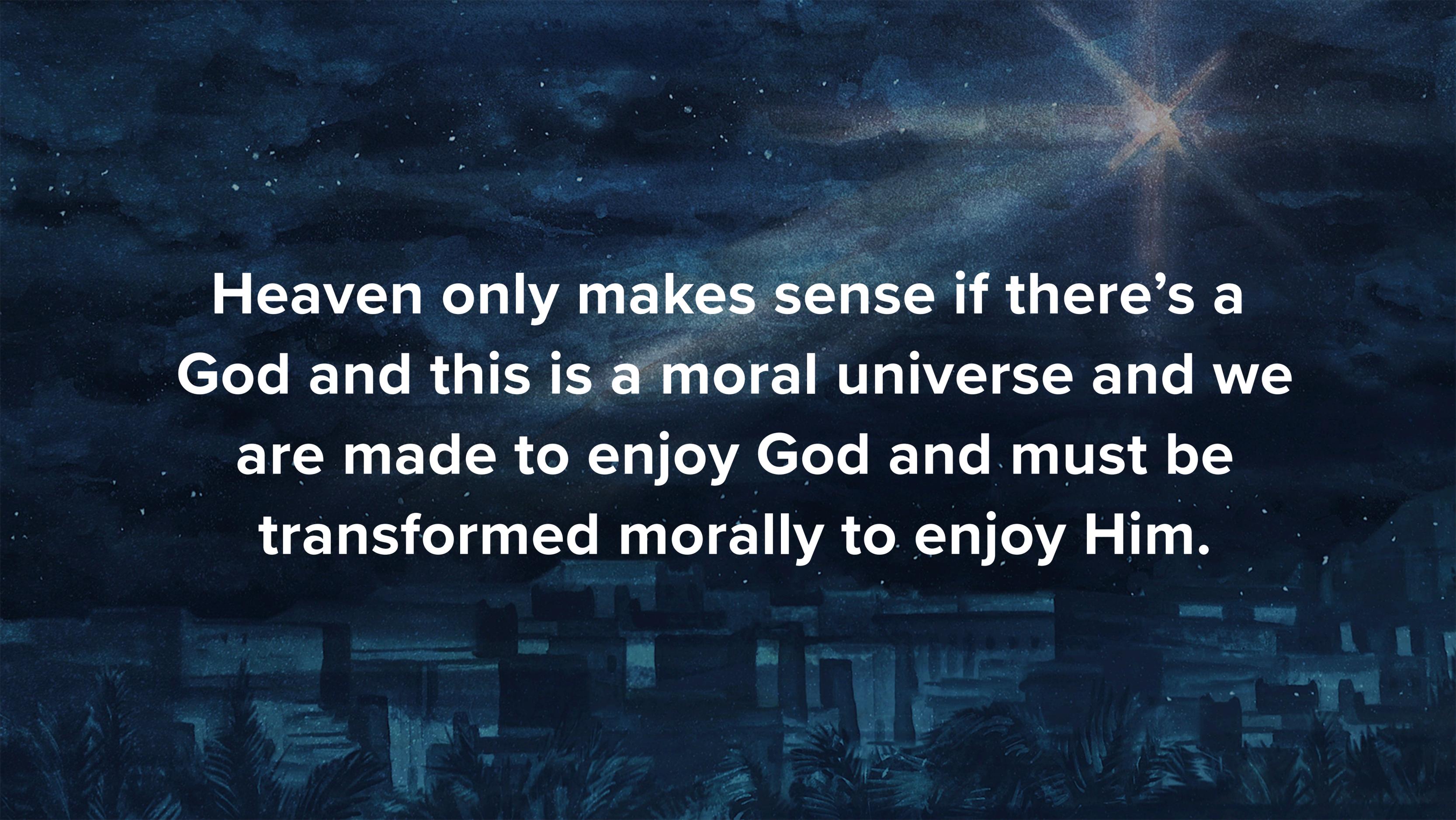
**When we're not heavenly minded,
then it will be to earth's harm.**

Romans 8

¹⁸ “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with **the glory that will be revealed** in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in **eager expectation** for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was **subjected to frustration**, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be **liberated from its bondage to decay** and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.



**We can conceive Heaven without God.
Heaven without God would be
ongoing pursuits without purpose,
with waning pleasure, with endless
dissatisfaction.**



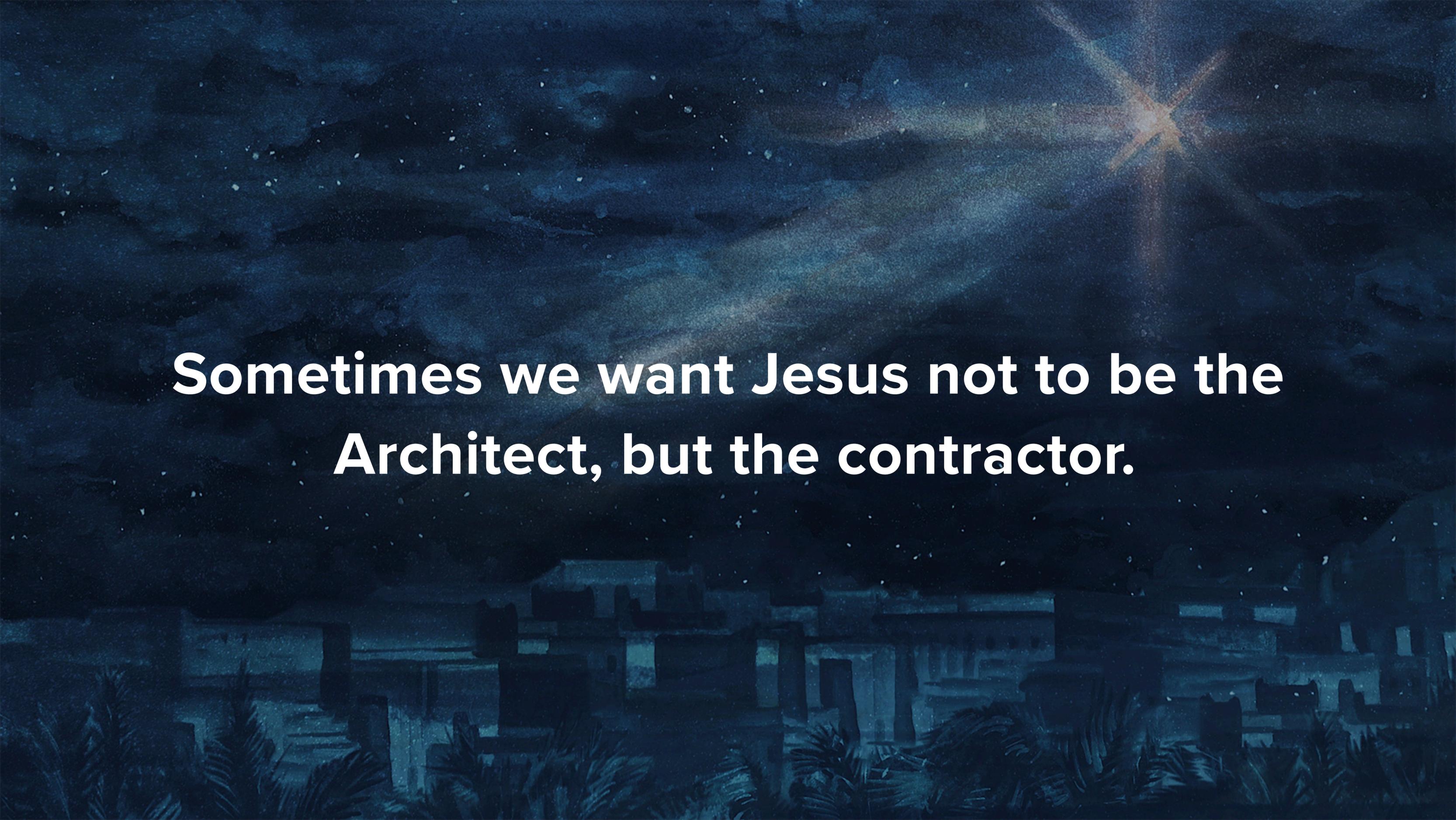
**Heaven only makes sense if there's a
God and this is a moral universe and we
are made to enjoy God and must be
transformed morally to enjoy Him.**

A dark, atmospheric night scene. The sky is a deep, textured blue with a bright, multi-pointed starburst or comet-like light source in the upper right quadrant. Below the sky, a city skyline is visible, with various buildings and structures silhouetted against the dark background. The overall mood is mysterious and celestial.

Jesus Christ is the *Architect* of Heaven.

John 14:1-3

¹“Do not let *your* hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told *you* that I am going there to **prepare** a place for *you*? ³ And if I go and **prepare** a place for *you*, I will come back and take *you* to be with me that *you* also may **be where I am.**”

A dark, blue-toned night scene of a city. The sky is filled with a bright, multi-pointed starburst or comet-like light source in the upper right quadrant, casting a soft glow over the scene. The city below is silhouetted against the dark sky, with some lights visible. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

**Sometimes we want Jesus not to be the
Architect, but the contractor.**

A dark, atmospheric night scene. The sky is a deep, dark blue, filled with numerous small, white stars. A prominent, bright star in the upper right quadrant emits a long, vertical beam of light that tapers as it descends. The lower portion of the image shows a dark, silhouetted cityscape with various buildings and structures. The overall mood is mysterious and celestial.

Jesus Christ is the *King* of Heaven.

Matthew 28:18

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

“[To make creation perfect] has begun irreversibly in Jesus Christ. The [perfection of creation] does not come by human action, political strategy, revolutionary planning, or evolution, but by God’s own completing activity.”

T O M O D E N

A dark, atmospheric night scene. The sky is a deep, dark blue, filled with numerous small, white stars. A prominent, bright starburst with a warm, golden-orange glow is located in the upper right quadrant, casting a soft, ethereal light across the sky. Below the sky, a city skyline is visible, with various buildings and structures silhouetted against the dark background. The foreground is dominated by dark, silhouetted foliage, possibly palm trees or similar tropical plants, which are also bathed in the soft light from the starburst. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Heaven is our *home city*.

Revelation 21:1-2

¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² **I saw the Holy City**, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ But our **citizenship is in heaven**. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Hebrews 11:8-10

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ **For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**

“No happiness can be complete if constantly dogged by the awareness that it might soon end; hence perfect happiness must be eternal happiness.”

TOM ODEN (drawing on St. Augustine)

A dark, blue-toned night sky with a bright starburst in the upper right and a cityscape silhouette at the bottom.

**Heaven is a marriage—a place of faithful,
fruitful love.**

Revelation 19:6b-8

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

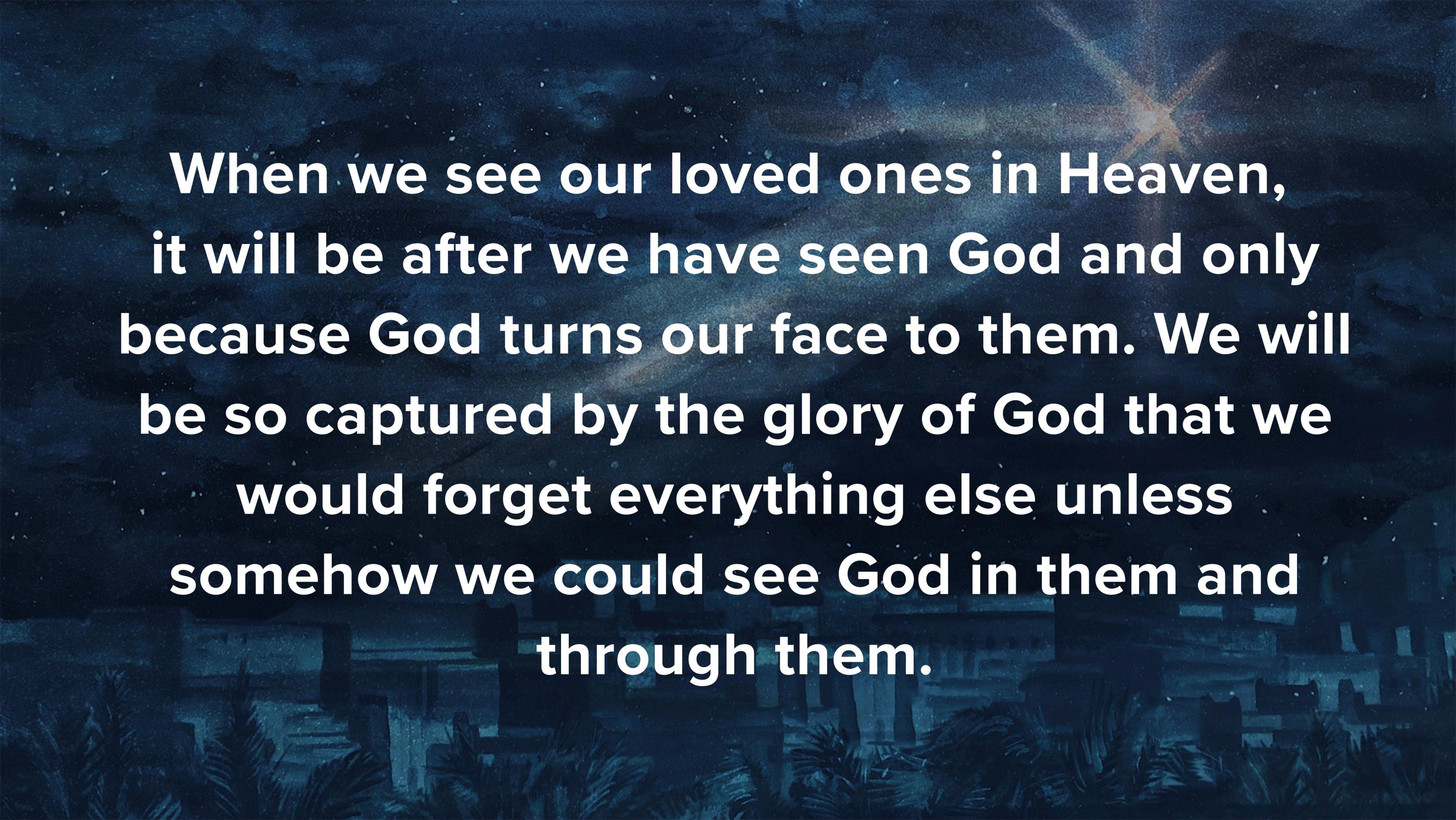
⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!

For the **wedding of the Lamb has come,**
and his bride has made herself ready.

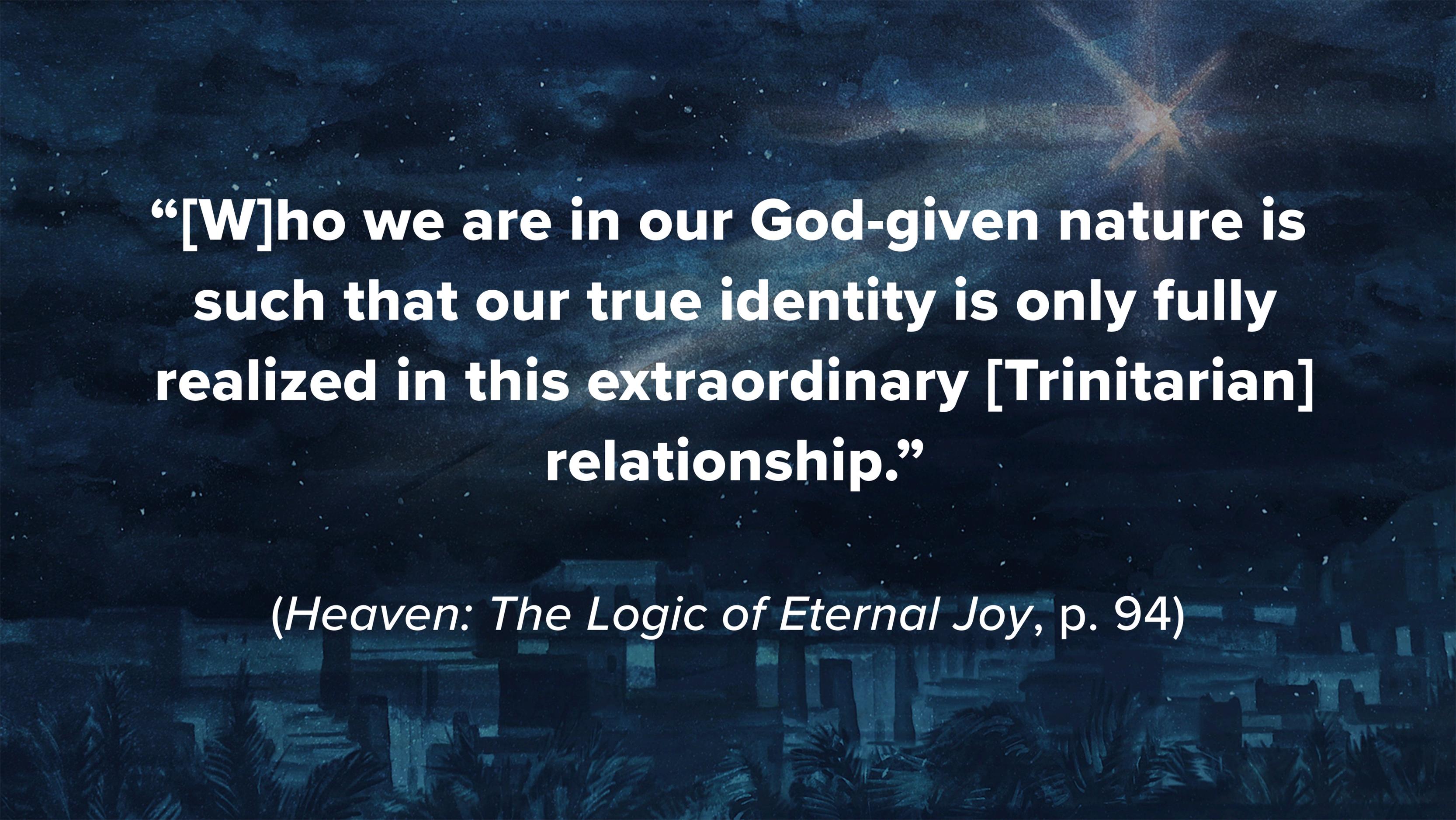
⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.”

Revelation 21:1-2

¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.**



**When we see our loved ones in Heaven,
it will be after we have seen God and only
because God turns our face to them. We will
be so captured by the glory of God that we
would forget everything else unless
somehow we could see God in them and
through them.**

A dark, atmospheric night scene with a starburst in the sky and palm trees in the foreground. The text is overlaid in white.

“[W]ho we are in our God-given nature is such that our true identity is only fully realized in this extraordinary [Trinitarian] relationship.”

(Heaven: The Logic of Eternal Joy, p. 94)

The image features a dark, moody background with a deep blue and black color palette. In the upper right quadrant, a bright, multi-pointed starburst or light flare illuminates the scene, casting a soft glow. Below the text, the faint outlines of a cityscape are visible, including buildings and palm trees, suggesting an urban setting at night. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and contemplative.

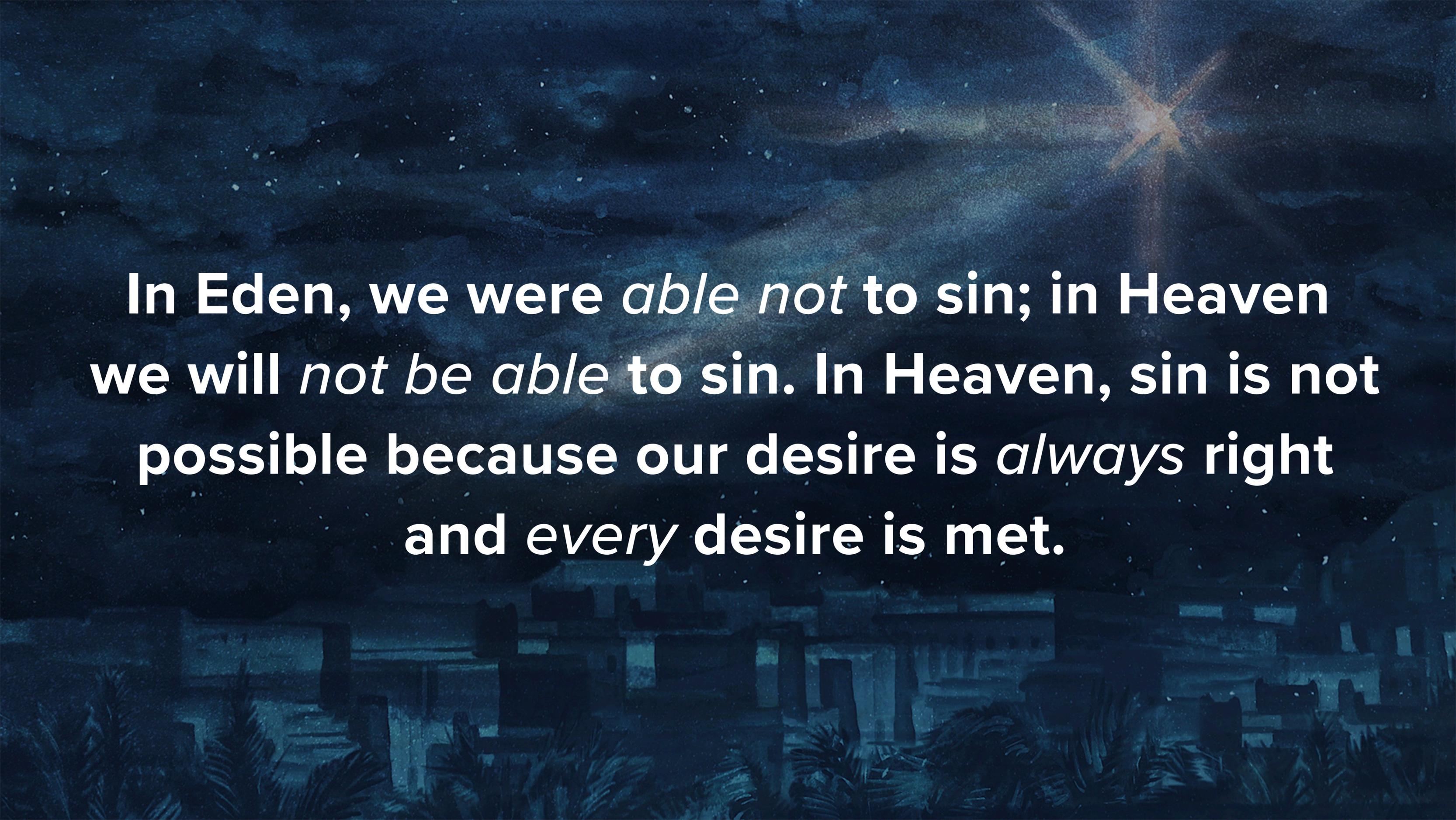
**Heaven is a temple—a place of
perfect worship.**

Revelation 21:1-3

¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “**Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**”

Revelation 21:1-3

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.



In Eden, we were *able not* to sin; in Heaven we will *not be able* to sin. In Heaven, sin is not possible because our desire is *always* right and *every* desire is met.

“For those who are weary, [Heaven] is everlasting rest; for the sorrowing, it is a place where God shall wipe away all tears; for the suffering, there shall be no more pain; for the mistakes and blunders of a sincere but imperfect service, the throne of God shall be there, and his servants shall serve him.”

H. ORTON WILEY

“I want to know one thing, the way to heaven—how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way: for this very end he came from heaven.”

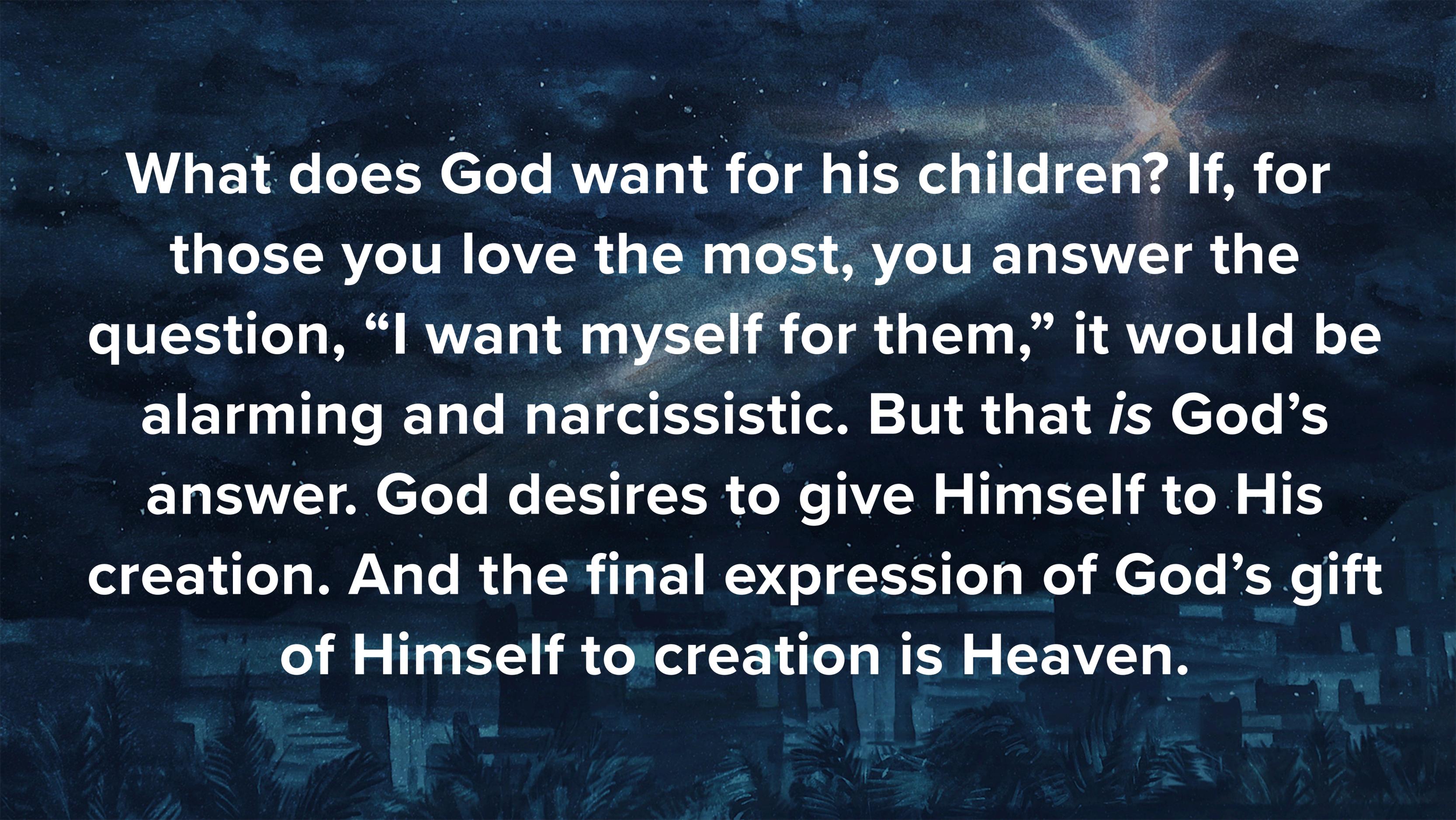
JOHN WESLEY

“God has granted my wish and more besides, for I now see you as his servant, spurning such happiness as the world can give. What is left for me to do in this world?”

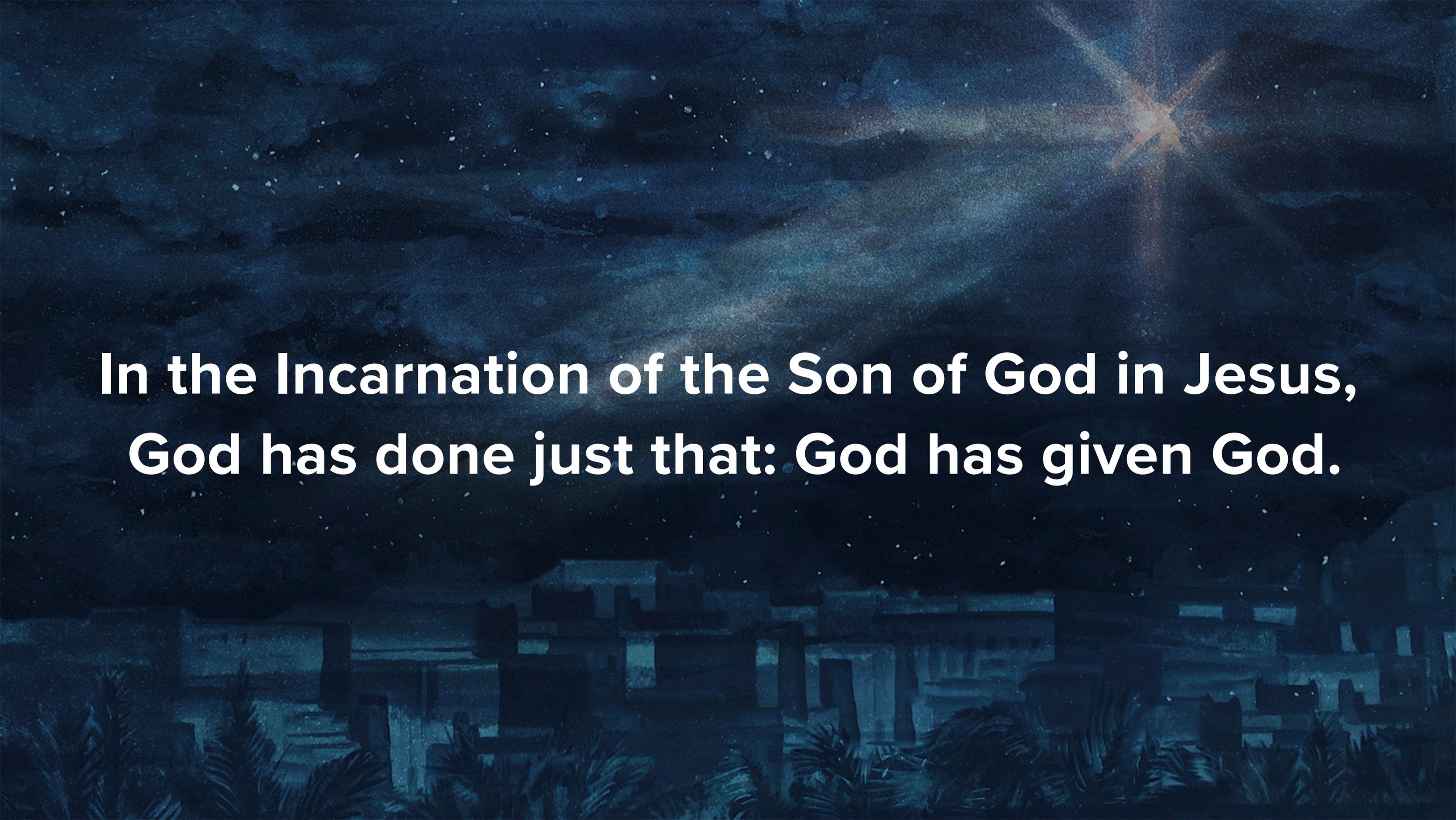
SAINT MONICA, to her son, Augustine

A dark, atmospheric night scene. The sky is a deep, dark blue, filled with numerous small white stars. A prominent, bright starburst with a multi-pointed, golden-yellow glow is located in the upper right quadrant. Below the sky, a city skyline is visible, with various buildings and structures silhouetted against the dark background. The overall mood is mysterious and celestial.

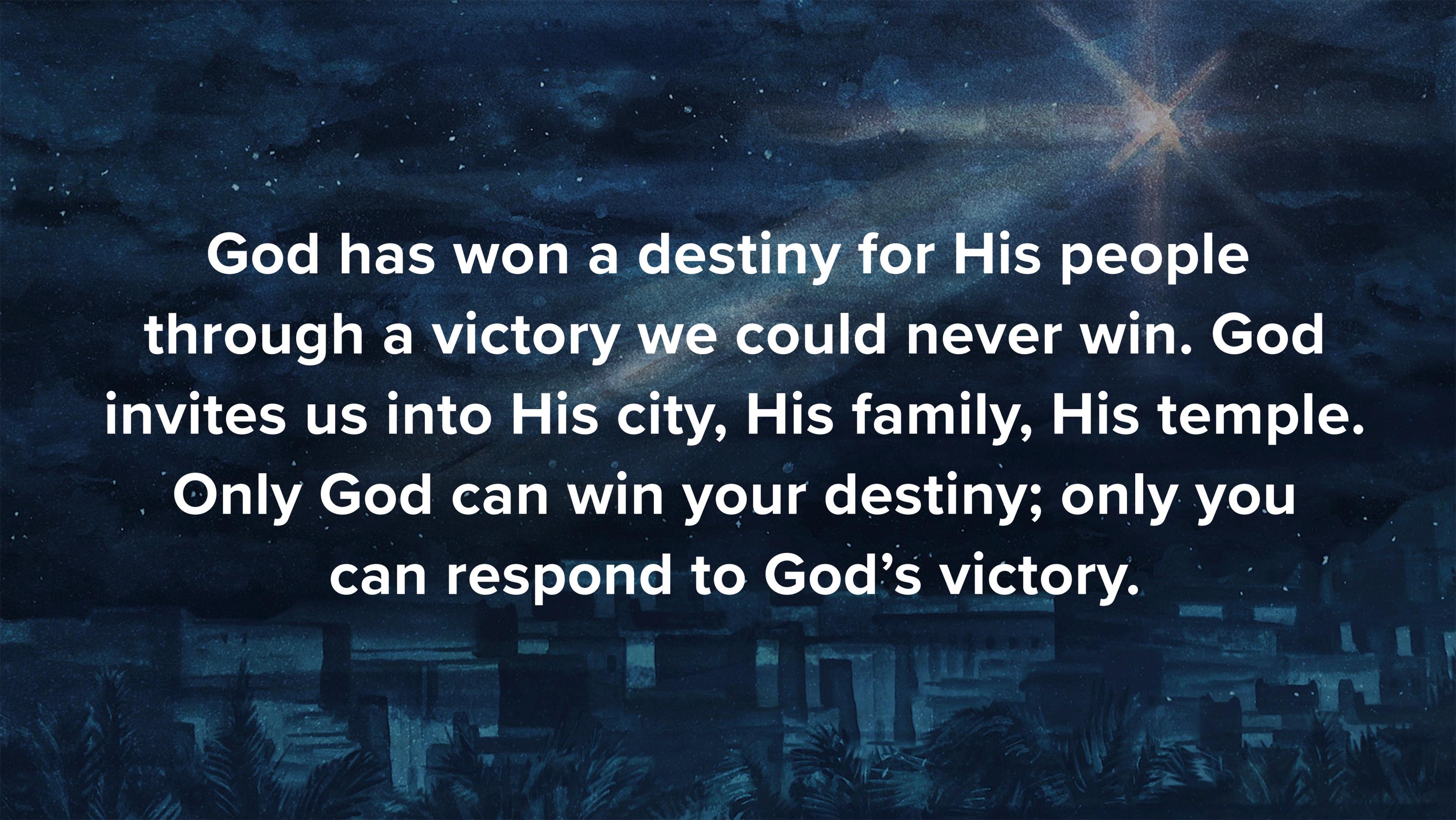
Heaven is yours to receive.



What does God want for his children? If, for those you love the most, you answer the question, “I want myself for them,” it would be alarming and narcissistic. But that *is* God’s answer. God desires to give Himself to His creation. And the final expression of God’s gift of Himself to creation is Heaven.

A dark, atmospheric night scene. The sky is a deep, textured blue with a bright, multi-pointed star or comet streaking across the upper right quadrant. Below the sky, a cityscape is visible, with buildings and structures silhouetted against the dark night. The overall mood is mysterious and celestial.

**In the Incarnation of the Son of God in Jesus,
God has done just that: God has given God.**



**God has won a destiny for His people
through a victory we could never win. God
invites us into His city, His family, His temple.
Only God can win your destiny; only you
can respond to God's victory.**

A dark, atmospheric night scene. The sky is a deep, textured blue with a prominent starburst light in the upper right corner, casting a soft glow. Below the sky, a cityscape is visible, with buildings and structures silhouetted against the dark background. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

**Your destiny has been won.
Has it been decided?**