



What is the  
true meaning of  
CHRISTMAS?











Jesus  
is born



## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace  
Hail, the Son of Righteous-ness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth

Hark! the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born King."

## What Child is This

Why lies He in such mean estate,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
Where ox and ass are fee-ding?<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners  
here<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him  
through,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
The cross be borne for me, for  
you.<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.



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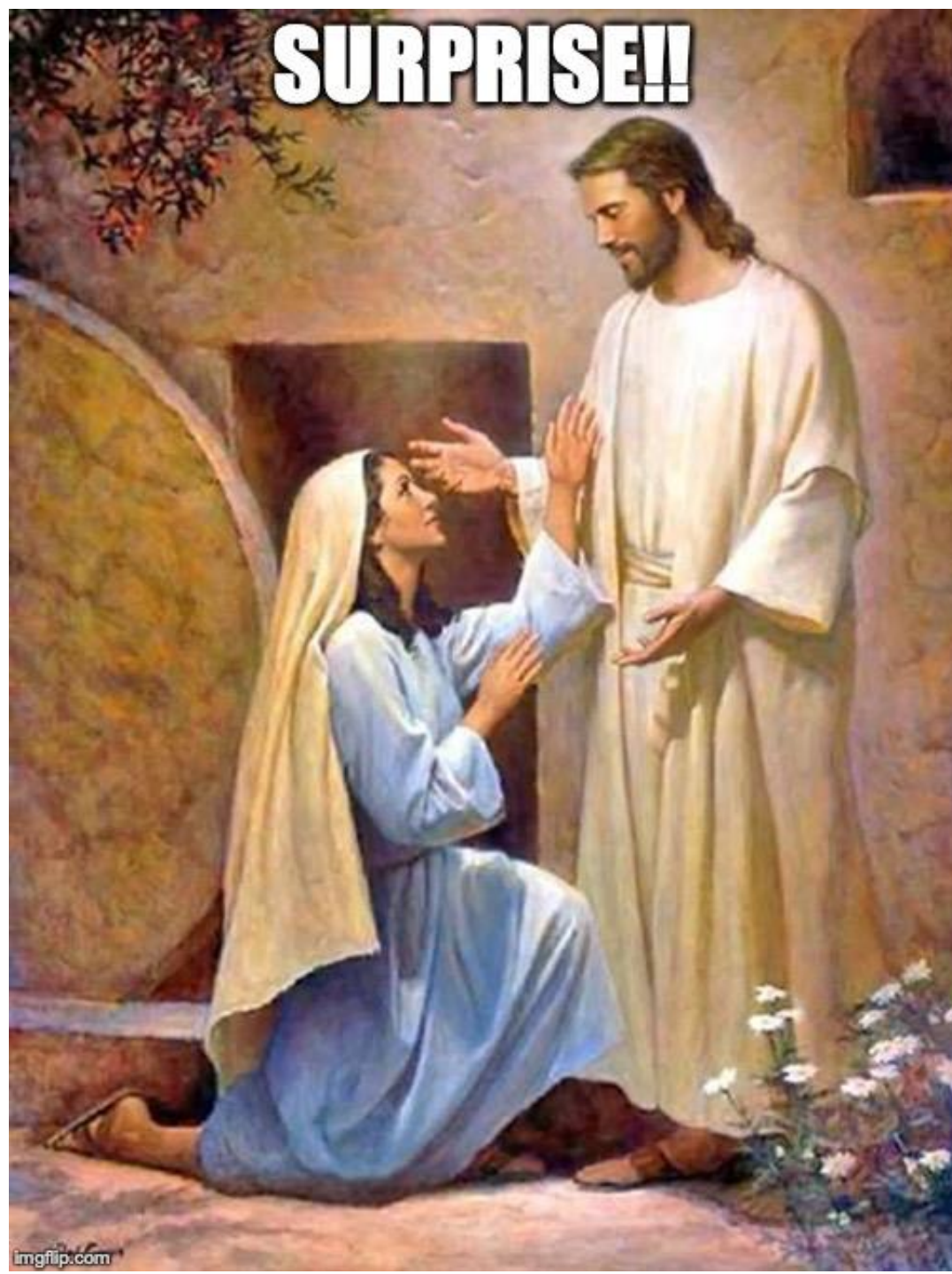
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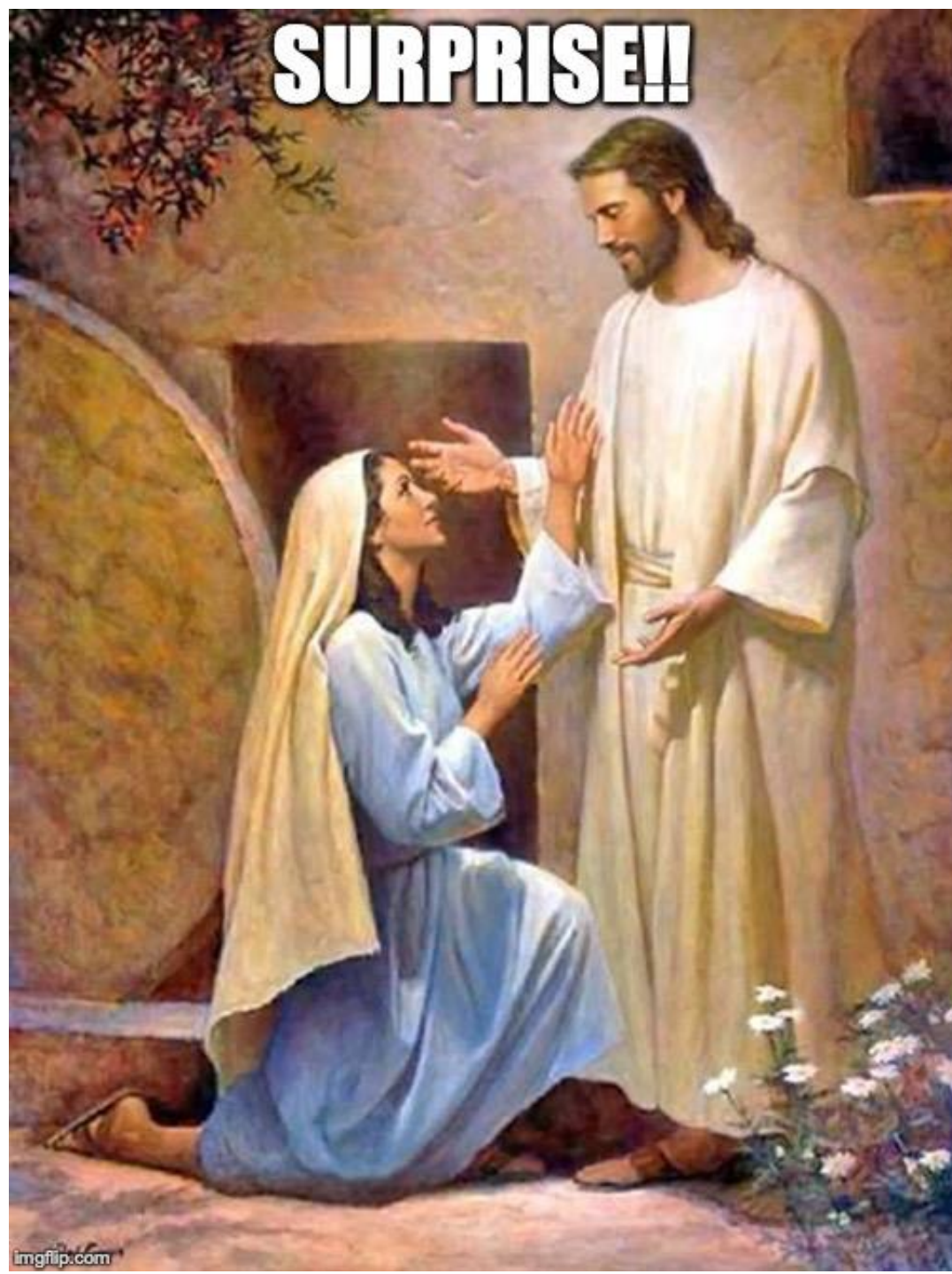
**SURPRISE!!**







**SURPRISE!!**





# JESUS!

THE ADVENT OF THE MESSIAH





## Discuss – read Luke 1-2

- What themes do you notice in the text overall?
- How do the different characters in Luke's narrative react?
- What themes do you notice in the way the different characters respond?
- Are these themes part of your thinking about Christmas? How would your thinking change if they were?

# JESUS!

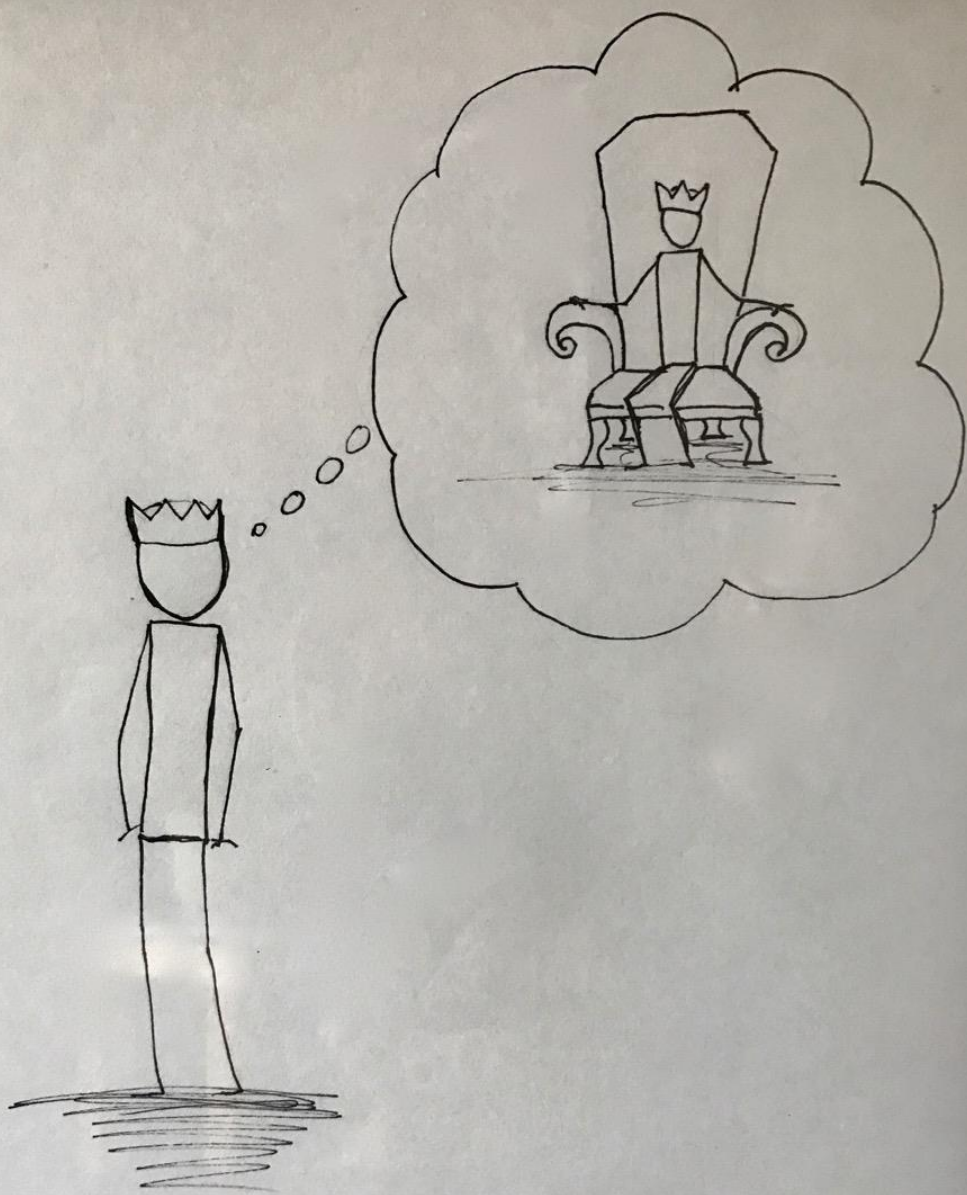
THE ADVENT OF THE MESSIAH





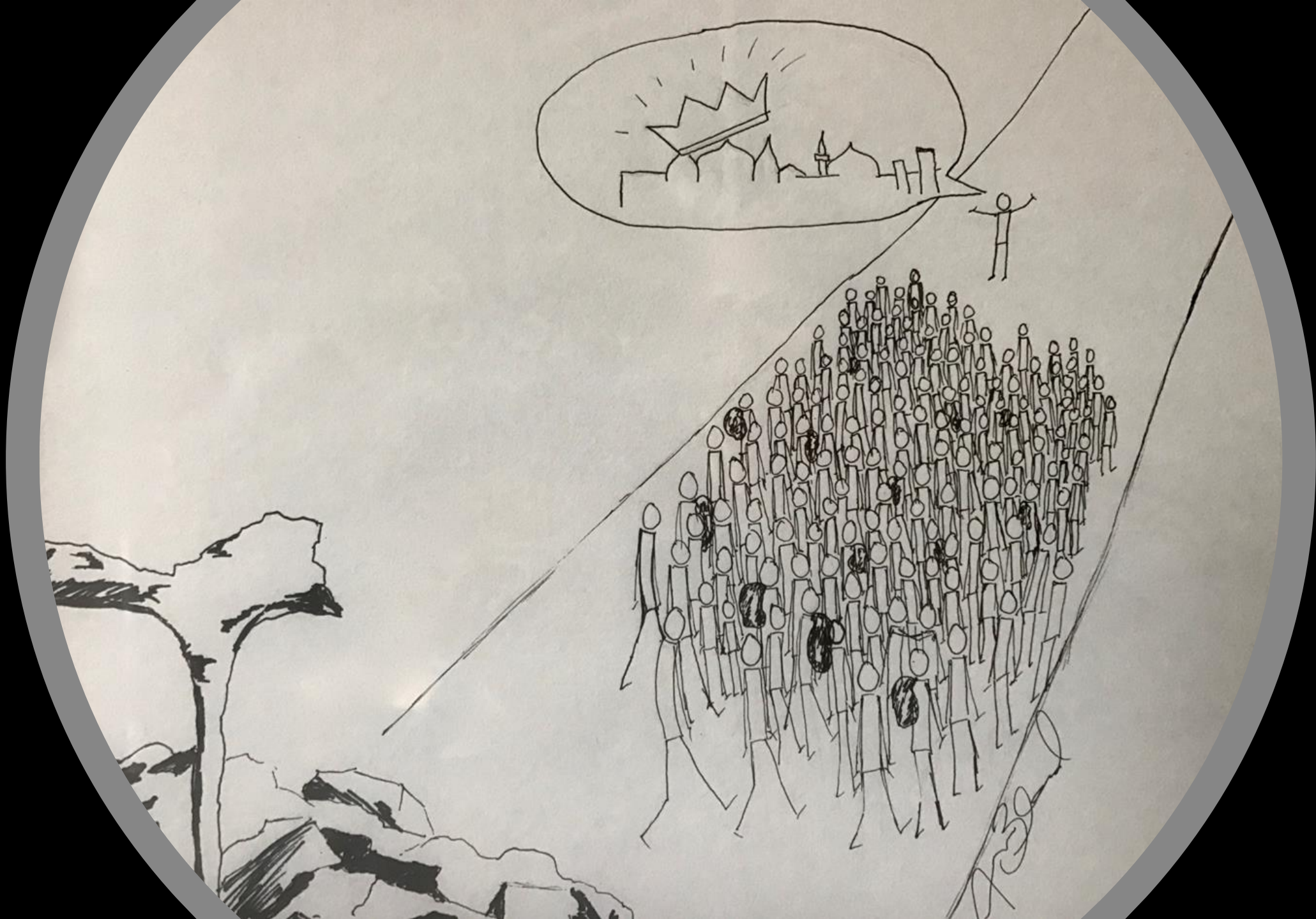






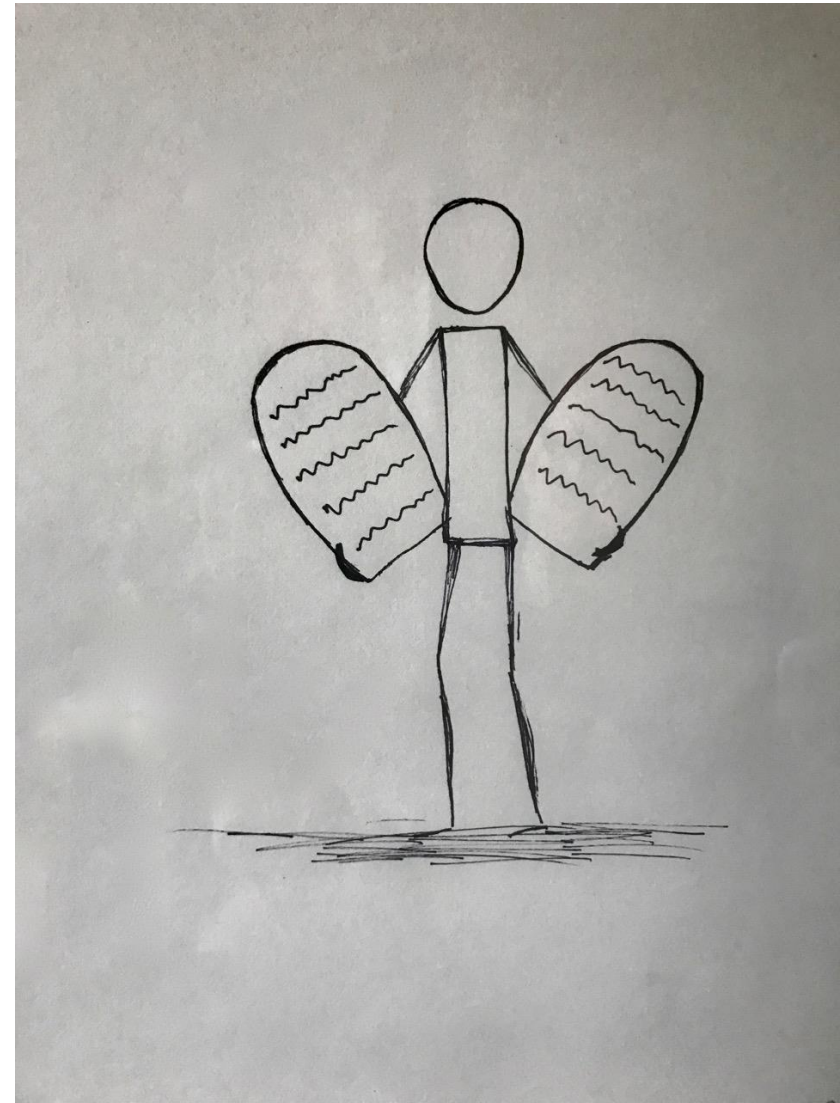
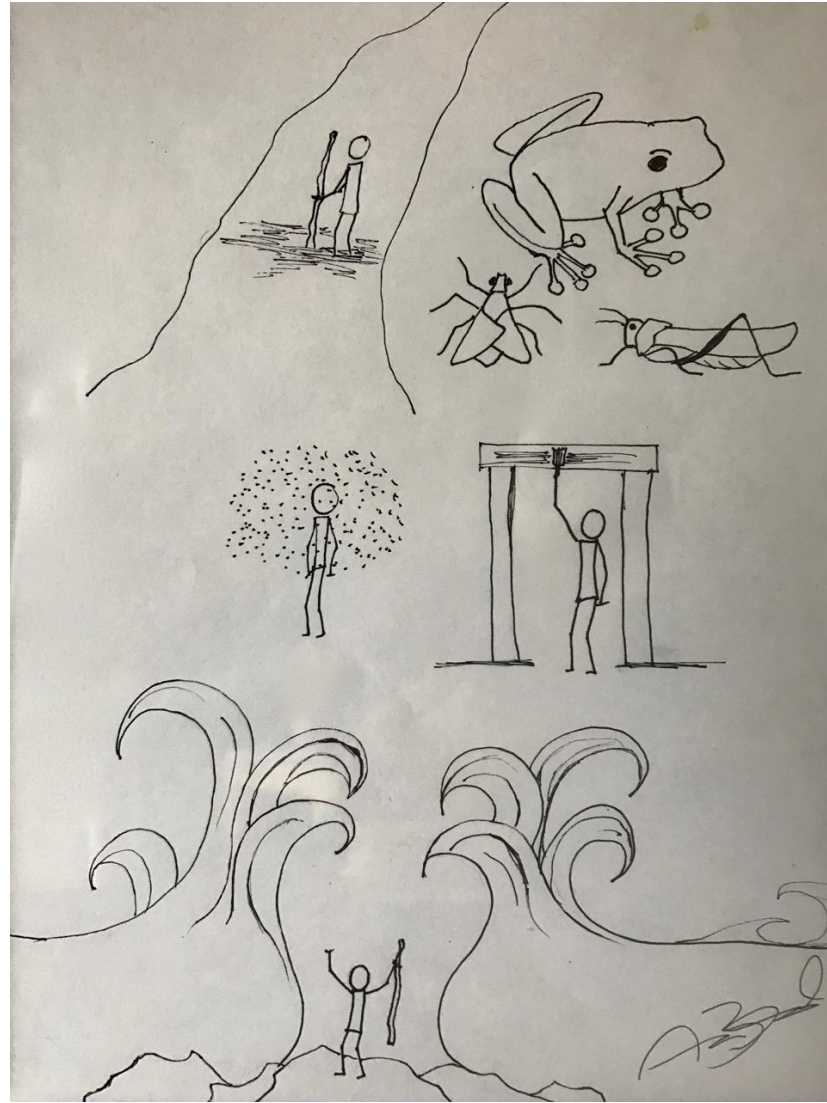
2 Sa 7.11b-16: “The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

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2 Ki 25.27-30: “In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of King Jehoiachin of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, King Evil-merodach of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, released King Jehoiachin of Judah from prison; he spoke kindly to him, and gave him a seat above the other seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes. Every day of his life he dined regularly in the king’s presence. For his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, a portion every day, as long as he lived.”



I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;  
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known  
through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,  
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant,

"I will establish your line forever  
and make your throne firm through all generations."

The heavens praise your wonders, Lord,  
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord?

Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?

In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared;  
he is more awesome than all who surround him.

Who is like you, Lord God Almighty?

You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

You rule over the surging sea;

when its waves mount up, you still them.

You crushed Rahab like one of the slain;

with your strong arm you scattered your enemies.



The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth;  
you founded the world and all that is in it.  
You created the north and the south;  
Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name.  
Your arm is endowed with power;  
your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.  
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;  
love and faithfulness go before you.  
Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,  
who walk in the light of your presence, Lord.  
They rejoice in your name all day long;  
they celebrate your righteousness.  
For you are their glory and strength,  
and by your favor you exalt our horn  
Indeed, our shield belongs to the Lord,  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.  
Once you spoke in a vision,  
to your faithful people you said:  
“I have bestowed strength on a warrior;  
I have raised up a young man from among the people.  
I have found David my servant;  
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.

My hand will sustain him;  
surely my arm will strengthen him.  
The enemy will not get the better of him;  
the wicked will not oppress him.  
I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down his adversaries.  
My faithful love will be with him,  
and through my name his horn will be exalted.  
I will set his hand over the sea,  
his right hand over the rivers.  
He will call out to me, 'You are my Father,  
my God, the Rock my Savior.'  
And I will appoint him to be my firstborn,  
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.  
I will maintain my love to him forever,  
and my covenant with him will never fail.  
I will establish his line forever,  
his throne as long as the heavens endure.  
'If his sons forsake my law  
and do not follow my statutes,  
if they violate my decrees  
and fail to keep my commands,

I will punish their sin with the rod,  
their iniquity with flogging;  
but I will not take my love from him,  
nor will I ever betray my faithfulness.  
I will not violate my covenant  
or alter what my lips have uttered.  
Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness—  
and I will not lie to David—  
that his line will continue forever  
and his throne endure before me like the sun;  
it will be established forever like the moon,  
the faithful witness in the sky.’

But you have rejected, you have spurned,  
you have been very angry with your anointed one.  
You have renounced the covenant with your servant  
and have defiled his crown in the dust.  
You have broken through all his walls  
and reduced his strongholds to ruins.  
All who pass by have plundered him;  
he has become the scorn of his neighbors.  
You have exalted the right hand of his foes;  
you have made all his enemies rejoice.



Indeed, you have turned back the edge of his sword  
and have not supported him in battle.

You have put an end to his splendor  
and cast his throne to the ground.

You have cut short the days of his youth;  
you have covered him with a mantle of shame.

How long, Lord? Will you hide yourself forever?  
How long will your wrath burn like fire?

Remember how fleeting is my life.

For what futility you have created all humanity!

Who can live and not see death,  
or who can escape the power of the grave?

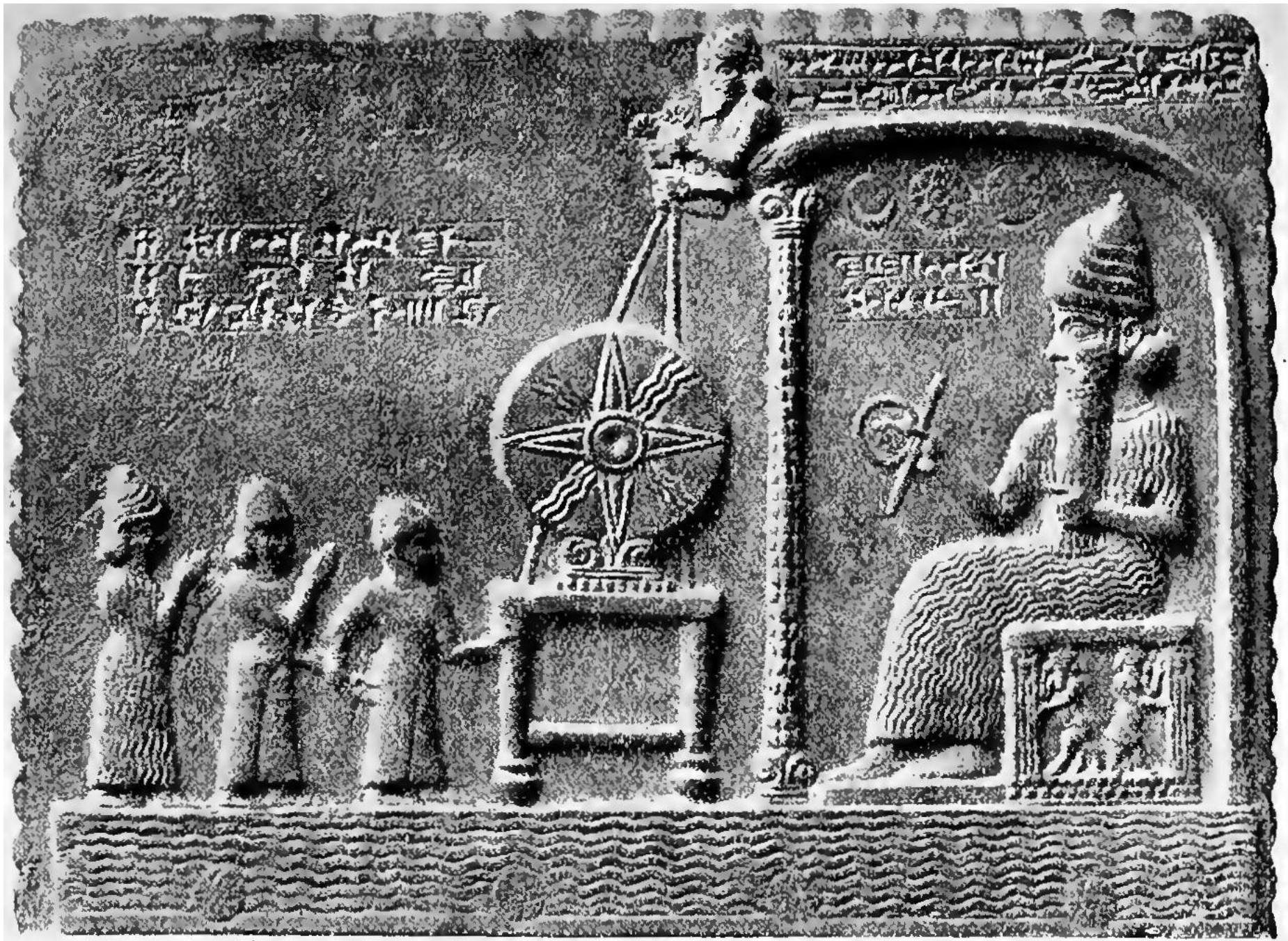
Lord, where is your former great love,  
which in your faithfulness you swore to David?

Remember, Lord, how your servant has been mocked,  
how I bear in my heart the taunts of all the nations,  
the taunts with which your enemies, Lord, have mocked,  
with which they have mocked every step of your anointed one.

Praise be to the Lord forever!  
Amen and Amen.

And then . . . ? ? ?  
? ? ?  
?























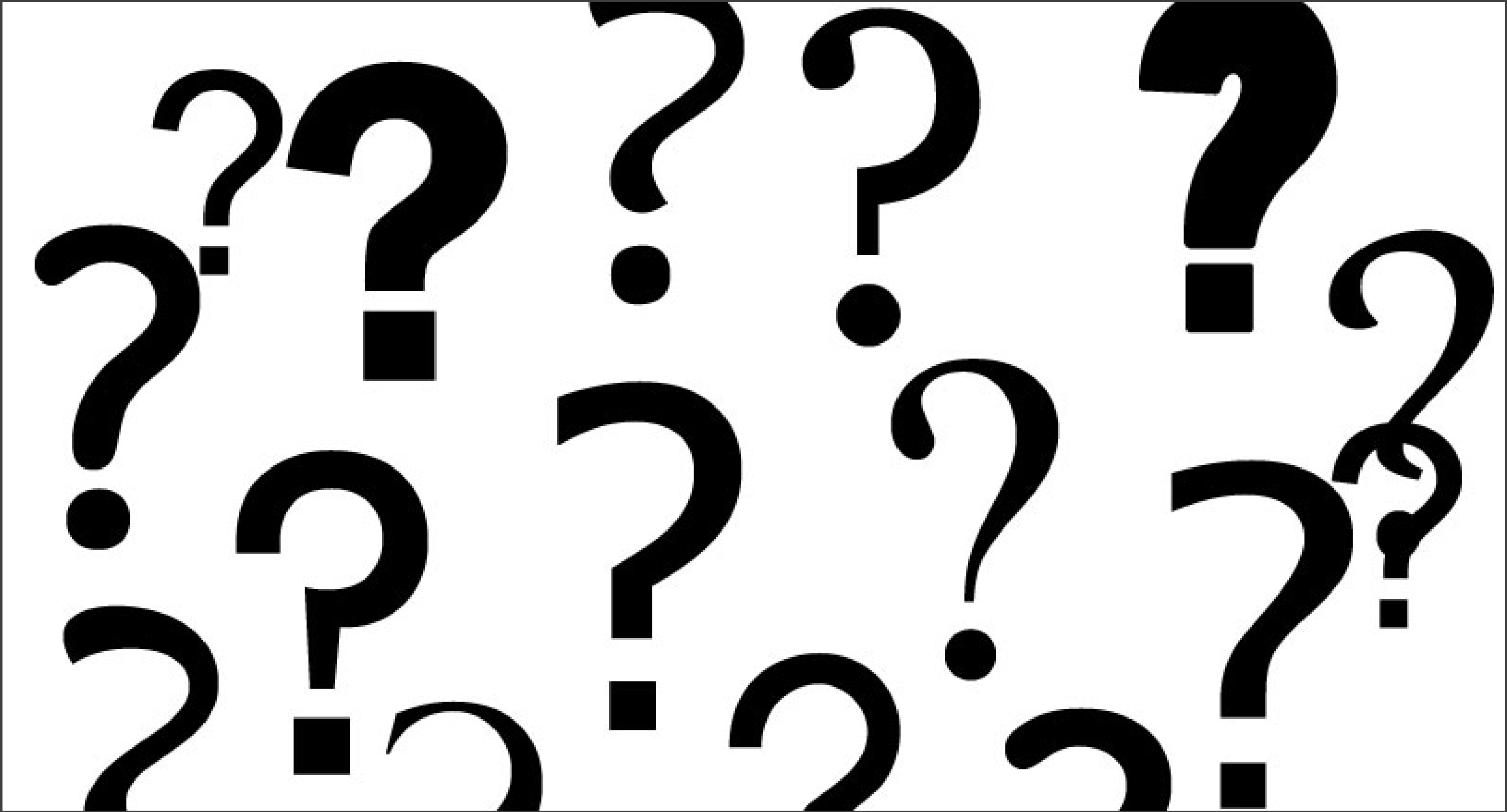


“Israel is estranged from God, under alien rule, oppressed. God’s covenant with his people has not been realized fully.” (Green 84)









SAINT

LUKE



BY THE HAND OF  
LINDA W. HAY

provide clarifying information as to why a word or phrase is used, or otherwise be apparent in the text; see Leviticus 13." Footnotes that would not otherwise be included in verses 1-5" (see Gen. 3:1). This information has been supplied in the text of the translation. Measures, and monetary values:

**Translation Notes.** Footnotes of this kind indicate how decisions have been made in the translation of difficult Hebrew and Greek passages. Such notes occasionally include technical terms. For an explanation of these terms the reader is referred to standard Bible study reference works. See further the section in the preface on "Textual Basis" for an explanation of the original-language texts used in the translation of the ESV Bible and how the translation of difficult passages has been resolved.

**CROSS-REFERENCE FOOTNOTES**

In addition to the numeric (textual) footnotes, the New Testament portion of this edition of the ESV Bible includes two kinds of cross-reference notes. These are identified alphabetically and follow the numeric notes at the bottom of each page. These include (1) direct quotations from the Old Testament (indirect quotations and allusions are not included), and (2) parallel passages in the four Gospels. These cross-references are included to help the reader understand the relationship of the New Testament to the Old Testament.

GENESIS

*The*

OLD TESTAMENT

**Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good, and God called the light "day," and the darkness "night." And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day.

And God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves on its belly, and every winged animal according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters of the sea, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—beasts and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And there was evening, and there was morning, the seventh day.

And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it, because that in it God rested from all his work which he had created and made.

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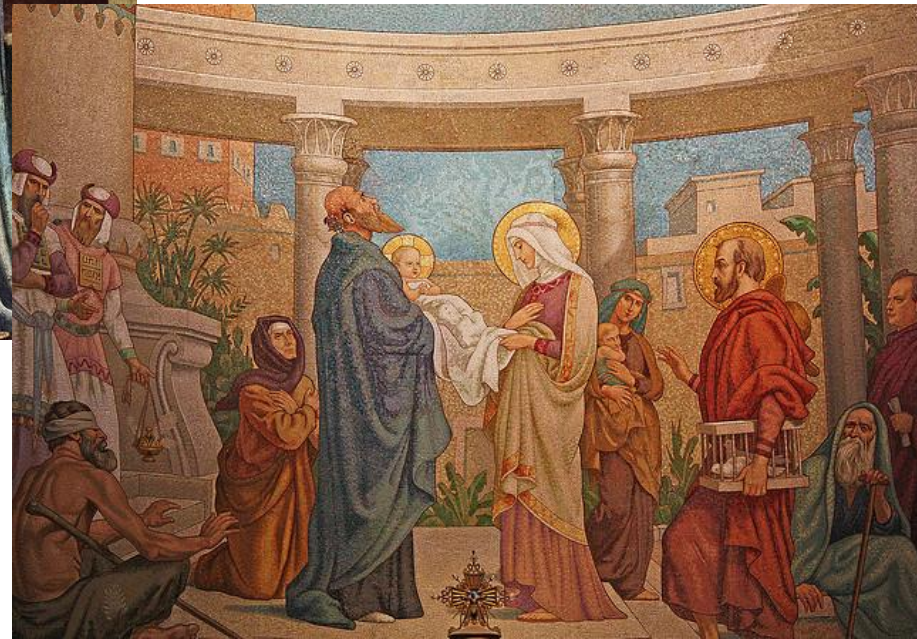


3

SONGS







Luke 1.39-56: "In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of **my Lord** comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'



And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’”

And Mary remained with her about three months and then  
returned to her home.



Luke 1:67-80: "Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel "

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“Those who first loved and used this [song] believed that the coming of Jesus Christ represented the ultimate victory of God in the long struggle against evil” (Farris 896a)

Lk 2.25-32: “Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen **the Lord’s Messiah**. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of **all peoples**,  
a light for **revelation to the Gentiles**  
and for glory to your people Israel.”



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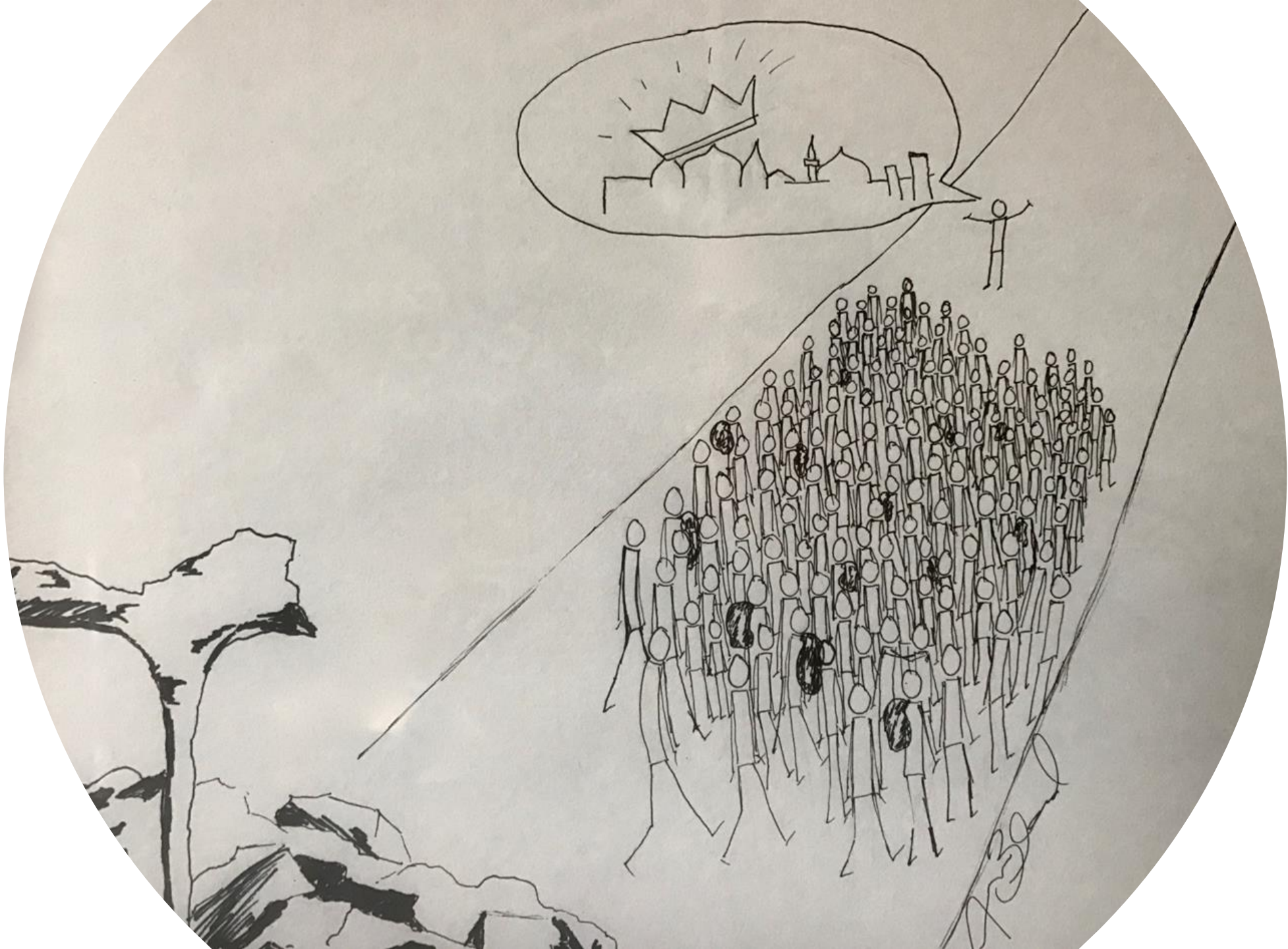
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for my eyes have seen **your salvation**,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

*Change*

**GET OUT  
OF HELL, FREE**



**THIS CARD CANNOT BE BOUGHT OR SOLD**



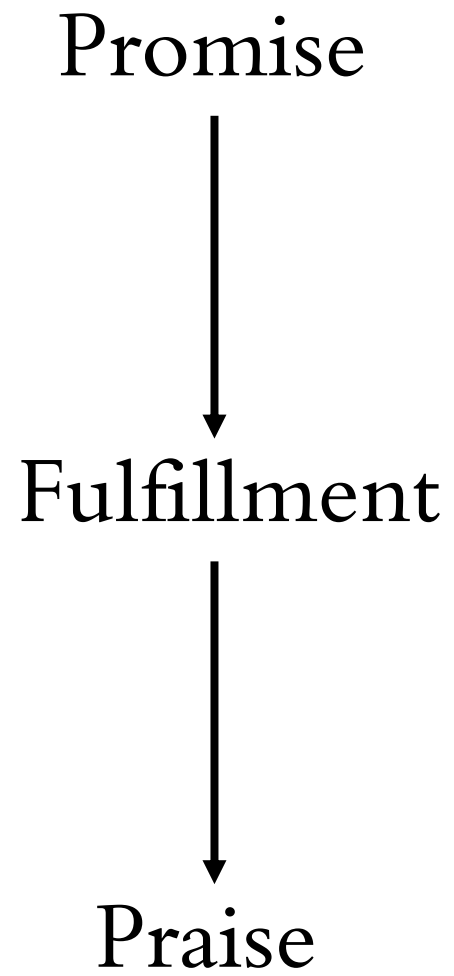


Return from Exile

















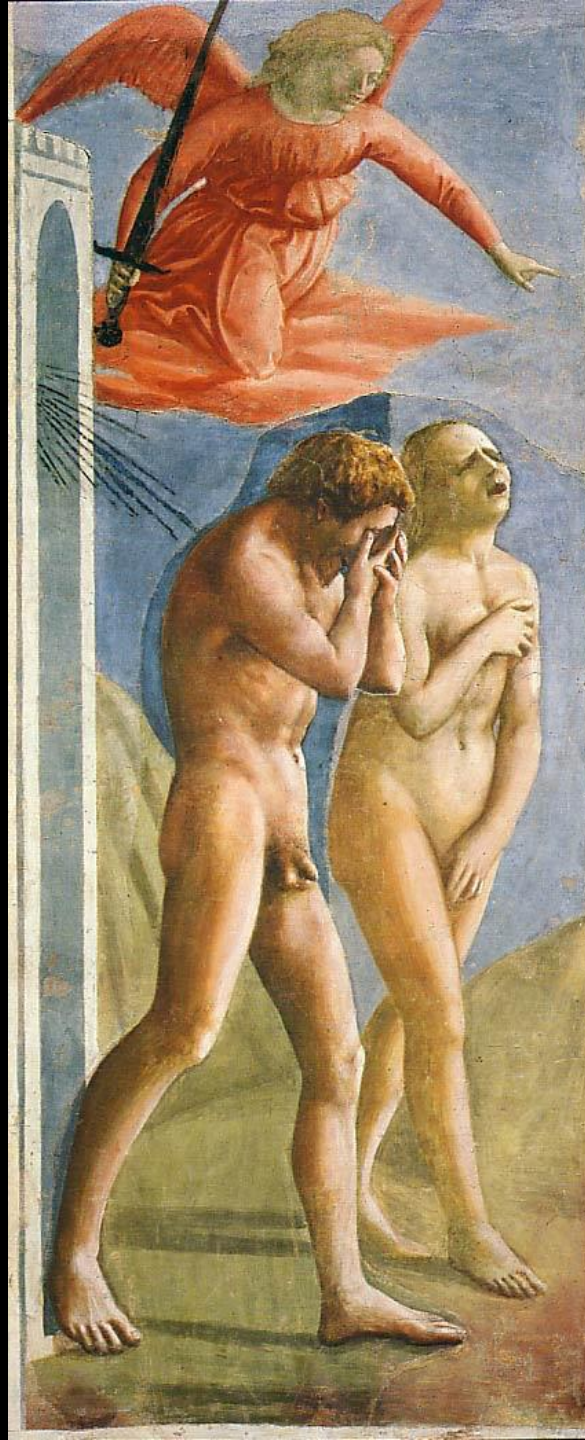
**Genesis 1.31**



Genesis ch. 3, Ro 1.22



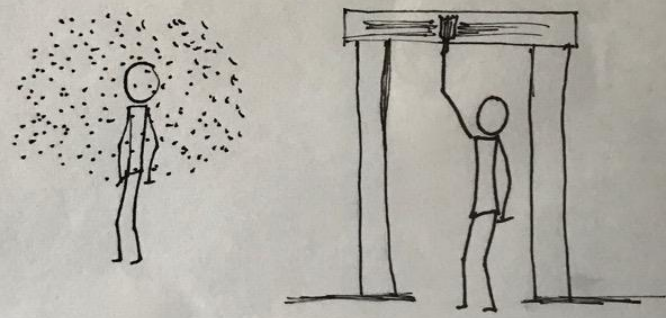
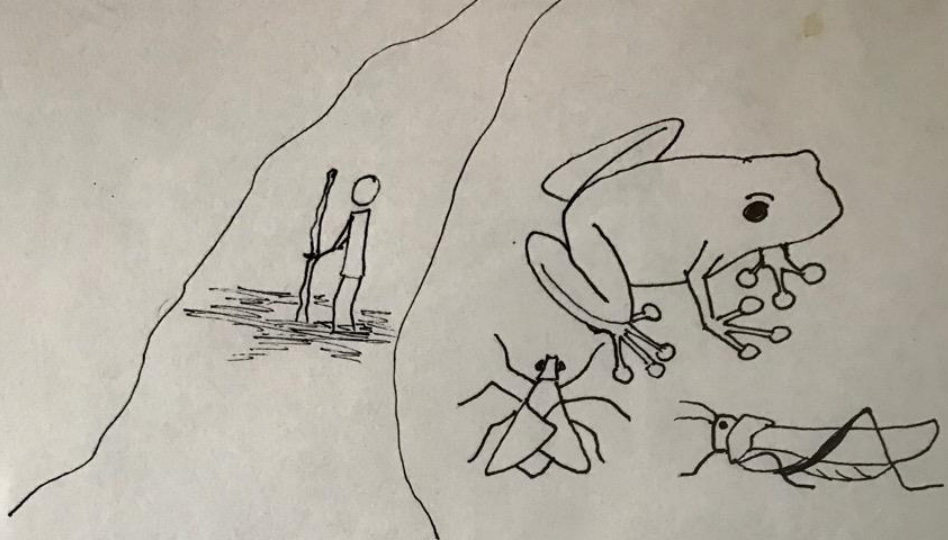
Ge 3.22-24



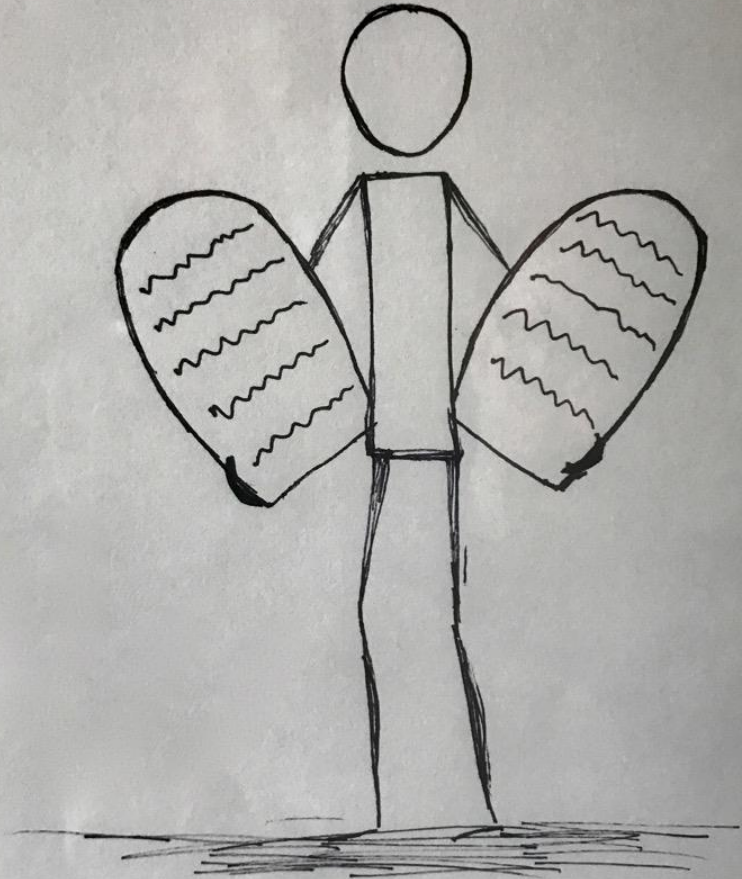
“The Lord God said, ‘Since man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever.’”

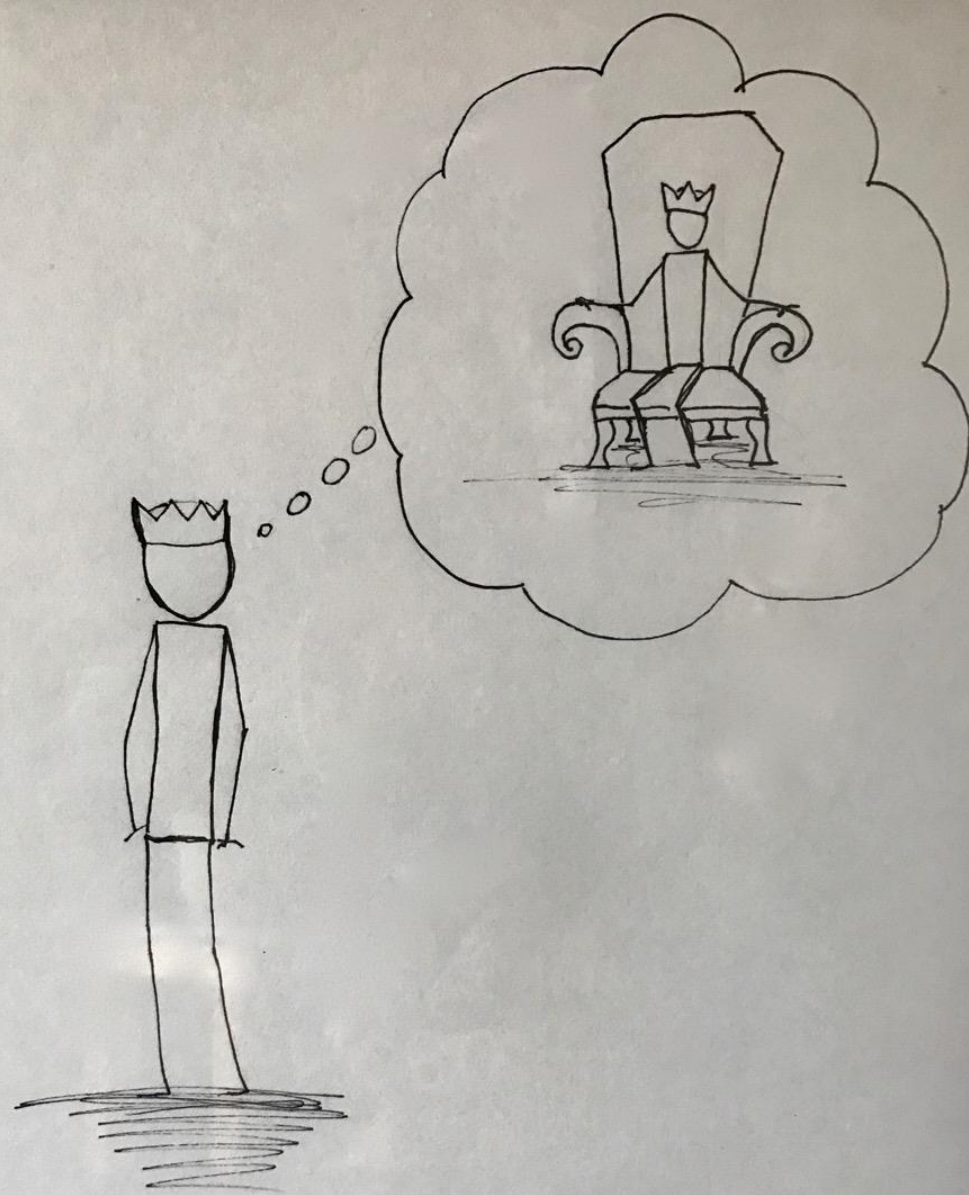


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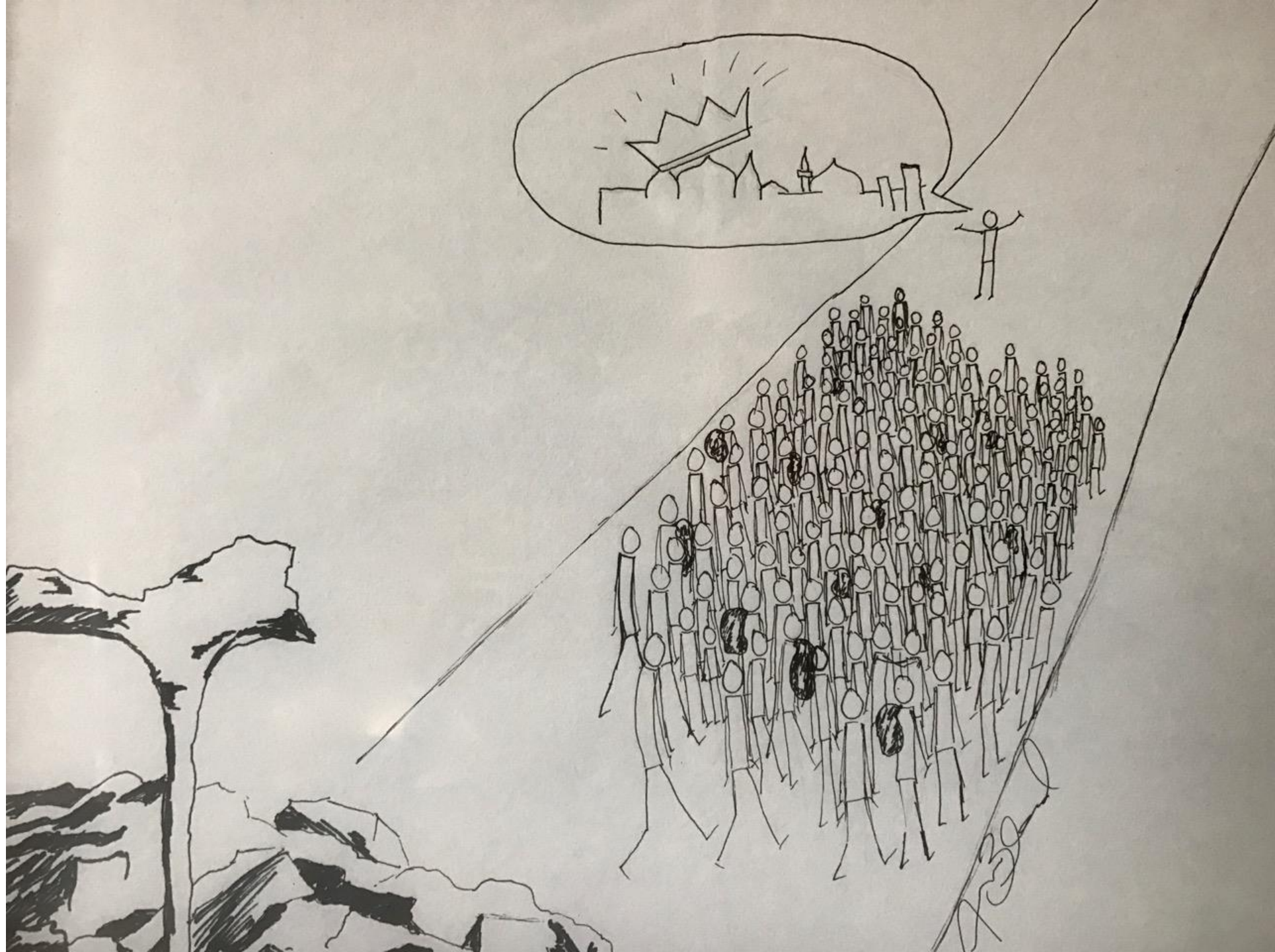




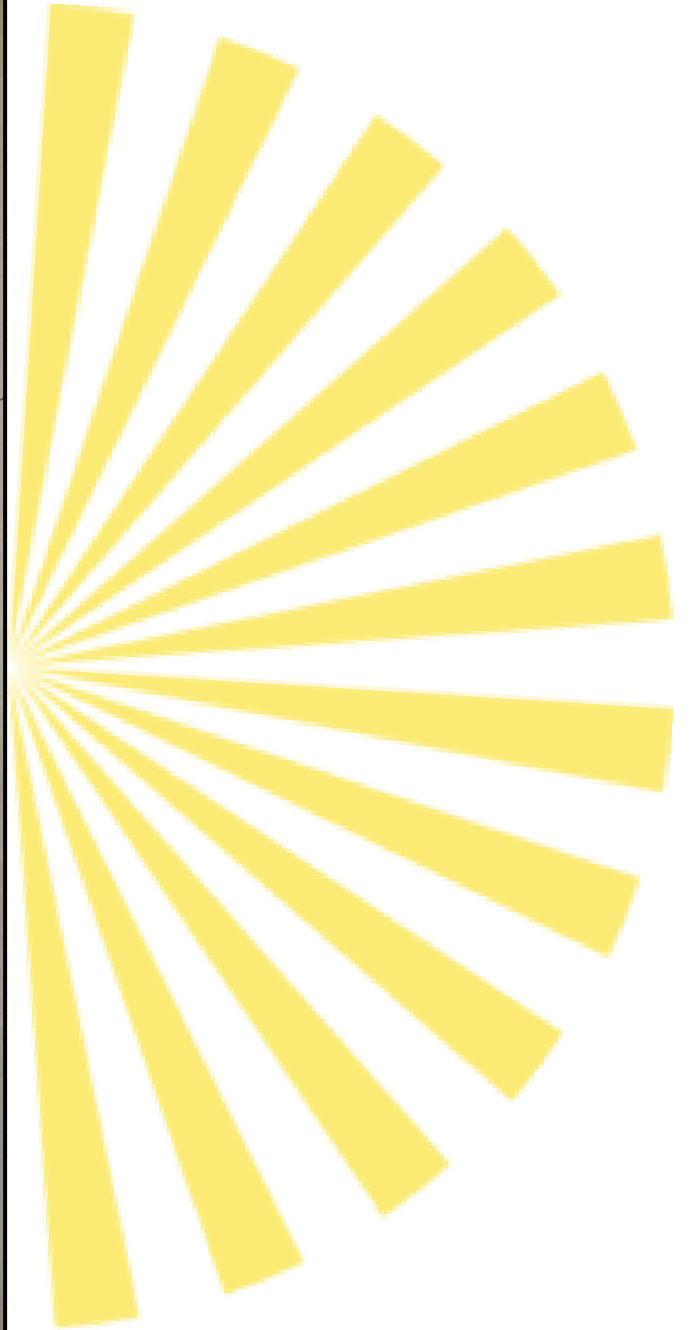
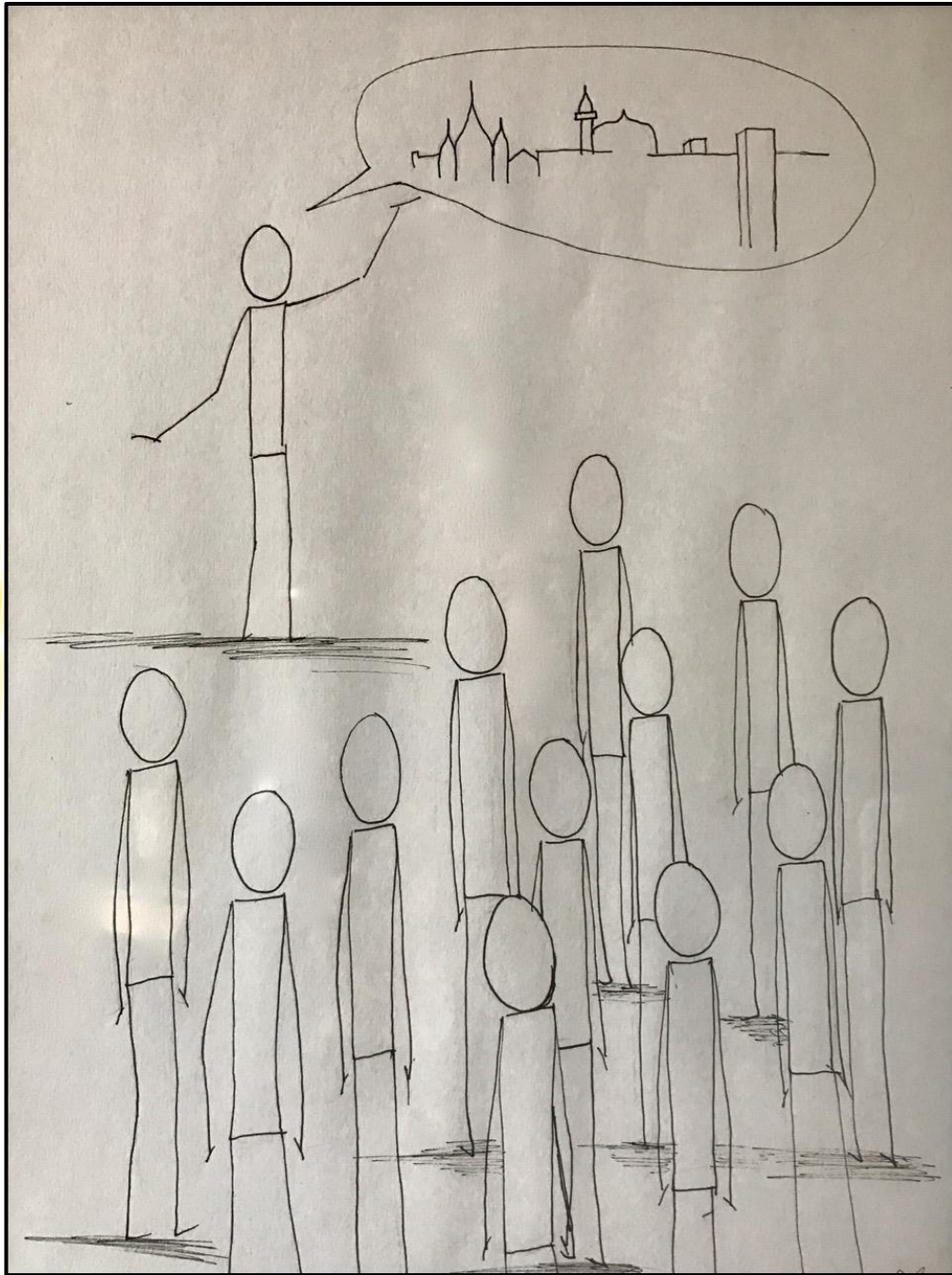
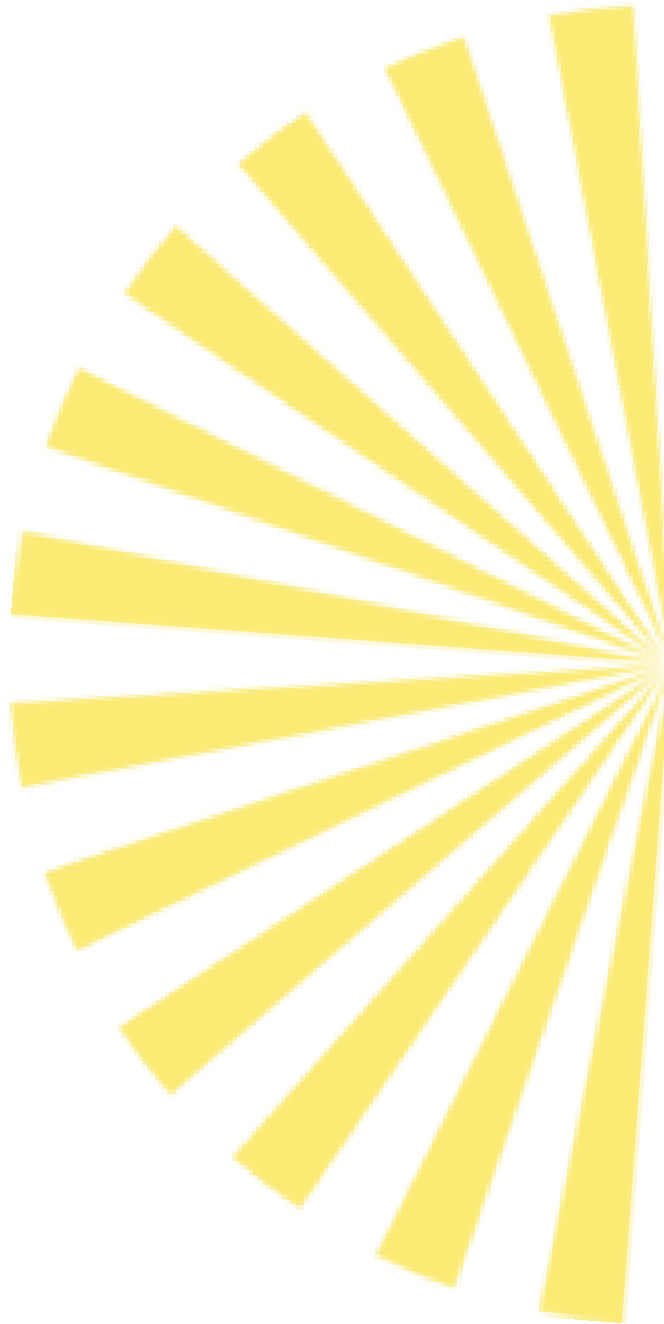


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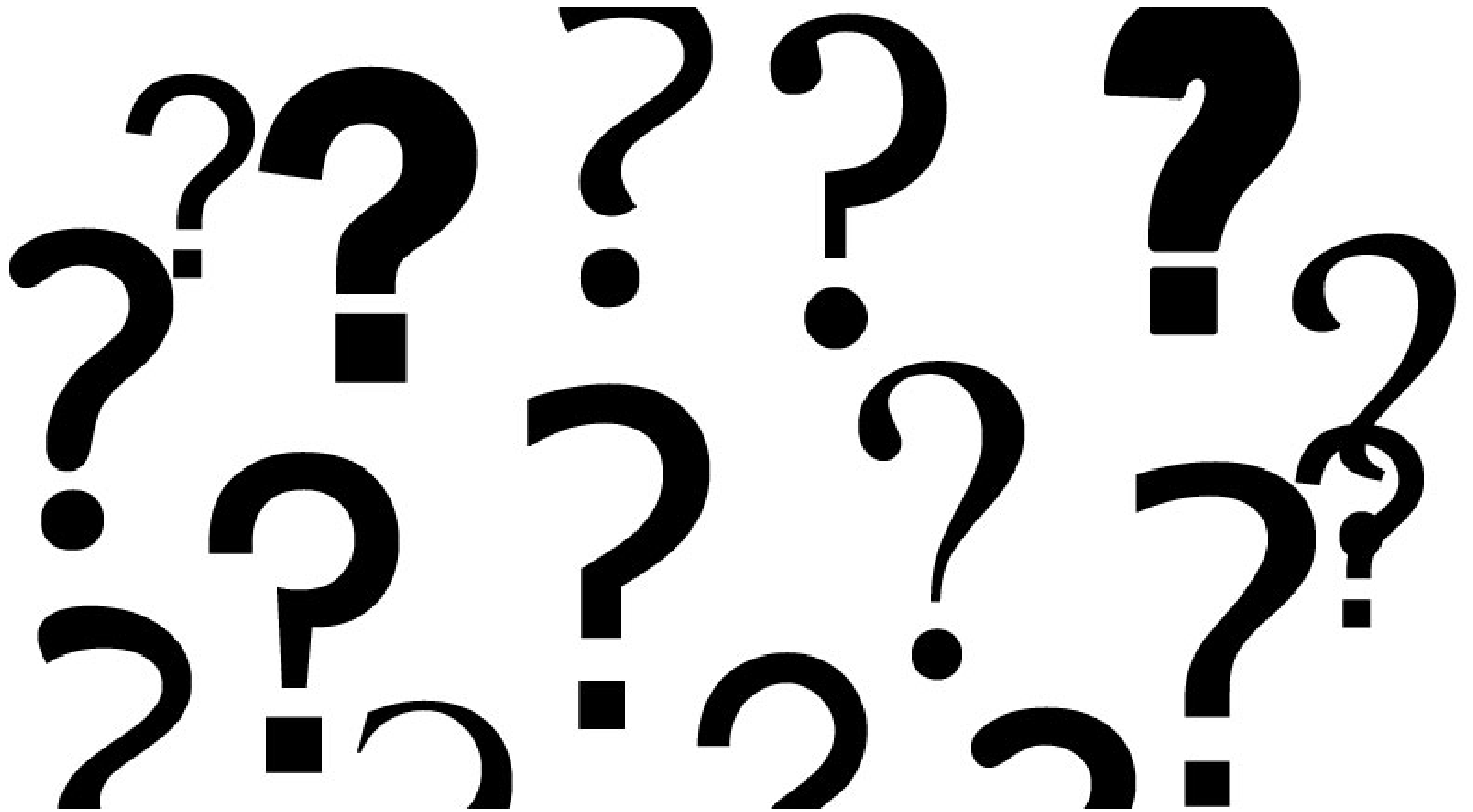












Promise

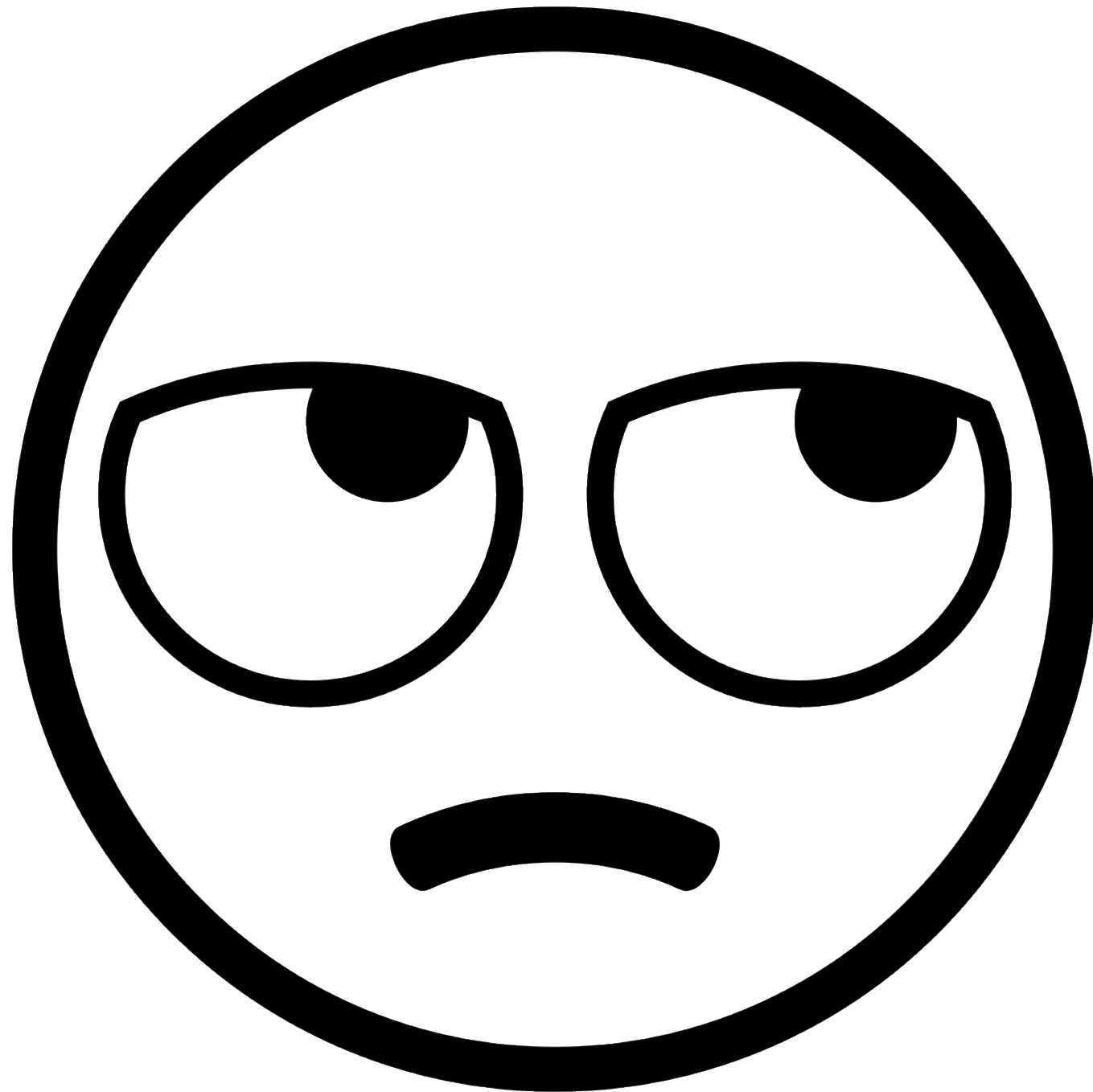


Fulfillment



Praise







SAINT

LUKE



SAINT

PAUL



9 SESSION JOURNEY  
THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES



# THE STORY

Grasping the Metanarrative  
in a Postmodern World  
BY JEFF REED



## From Jesus to the Gospels

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## Luke

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## John

That the World May Know We Are One

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