

A white lamb is shown in profile, facing left. It is wearing a crown of thorns on its head. The background is a blurred green field. The text "Jesus" is written in large, bold, red letters across the middle of the image, and "OUR PASSOVER" is written in smaller, bold, white letters below it.

Jesus

OUR PASSOVER

A wooden cross stands on a small, rocky hill with sparse vegetation. The sky is a dramatic mix of deep blue and vibrant red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is made of weathered wood and has ropes tied to its horizontal beam. The text 'The Divine Necessity of the Cross of Christ' is overlaid on the image. 'The Divine Necessity of the' is in white, and 'Cross of Christ' is in a large, stylized red font.

The Divine Necessity of the
Cross of Christ

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THE ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE &
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST
IN GOD'S ETERNAL & REDEMPTIVE PURPOSES

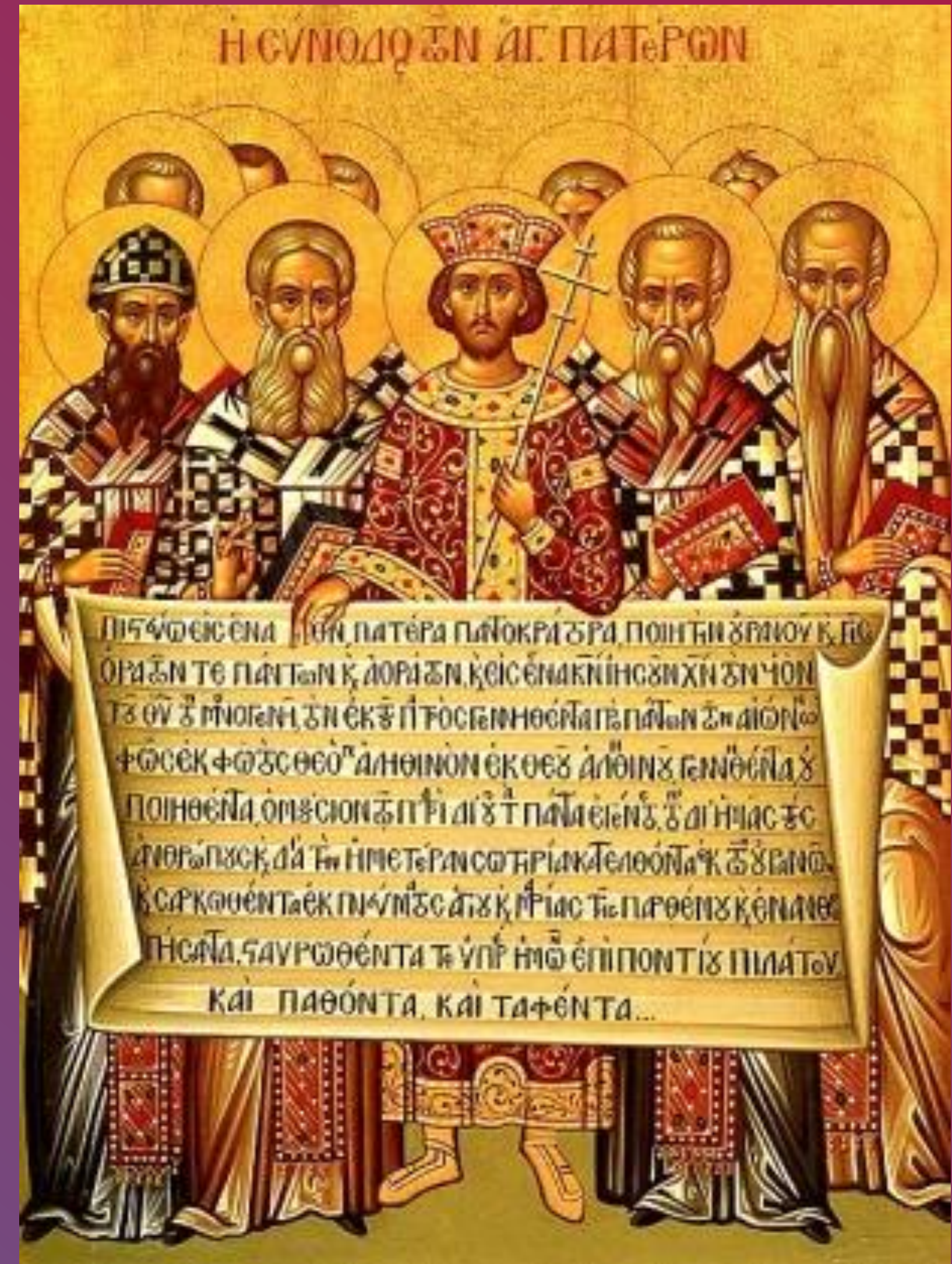
“ “

In the first place, it seems to everyone a most unworthy thing that we should follow the customs of the Jews in the celebration of this most holy solemnity, who, polluted wretches! having stained their hands with a nefarious crime, are justly blinded in their minds. It is fit, therefore, that rejecting the practice of this people (**the Feast of Passover**), we should perpetuate to all future ages the celebration of this rite, in a more legitimate order (**Easter**), which we have kept from the first day of our "Lord's" passion even to the present times. Let us then have nothing in common with the most hostile rabble of the Jews.

The Constantine Creed (325 AD) – Established by the Council of Nicaea

THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA (325 AD)

set a brand new holy day of Easter as the resurrection of Yeshua, distinct from the Biblical dates of Passover and First Fruits, His actual death and resurrection. This decree was read by Constantine and sent to churches everywhere.



Most people consider Passover a Jewish holiday and Easter a Christian one. Not so!

- ▶ Passover is biblical in origin. There is no biblical reference for Easter
- ▶ Passover was instituted by God. Easter was instituted by Constantine
- ▶ Passover is celebrated on a fixed date set by God. Easter isn't
- ▶ Passover is a memorial of Jesus' death. Easter is a celebration of His resurrection
- ▶ Passover symbols are biblical & full of meaning. Symbols found at Easter do not have their roots in Scripture & have no biblical meaning

Exodus 12:1-4

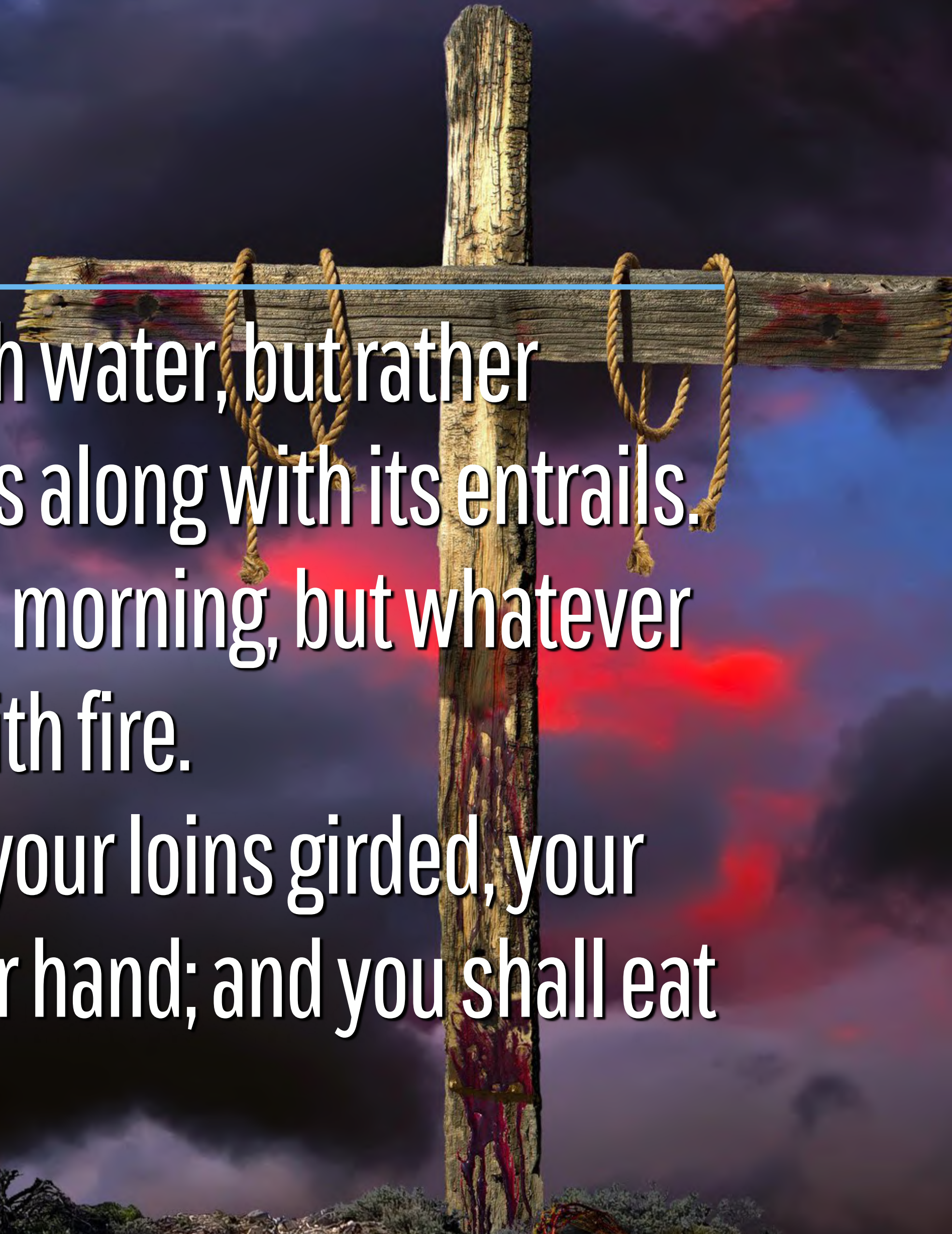
1. Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
2. “This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.
3. “Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers’ households, a lamb for each household.
4. Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons in them; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb.

Exodus 12:5-8

5. 'Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.
6. 'You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight.
7. 'Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.
8. 'They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Exodus 12:9-11

9. 'Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails.
10. 'And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire.
11. 'Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste – it is the LORD'S Passover.



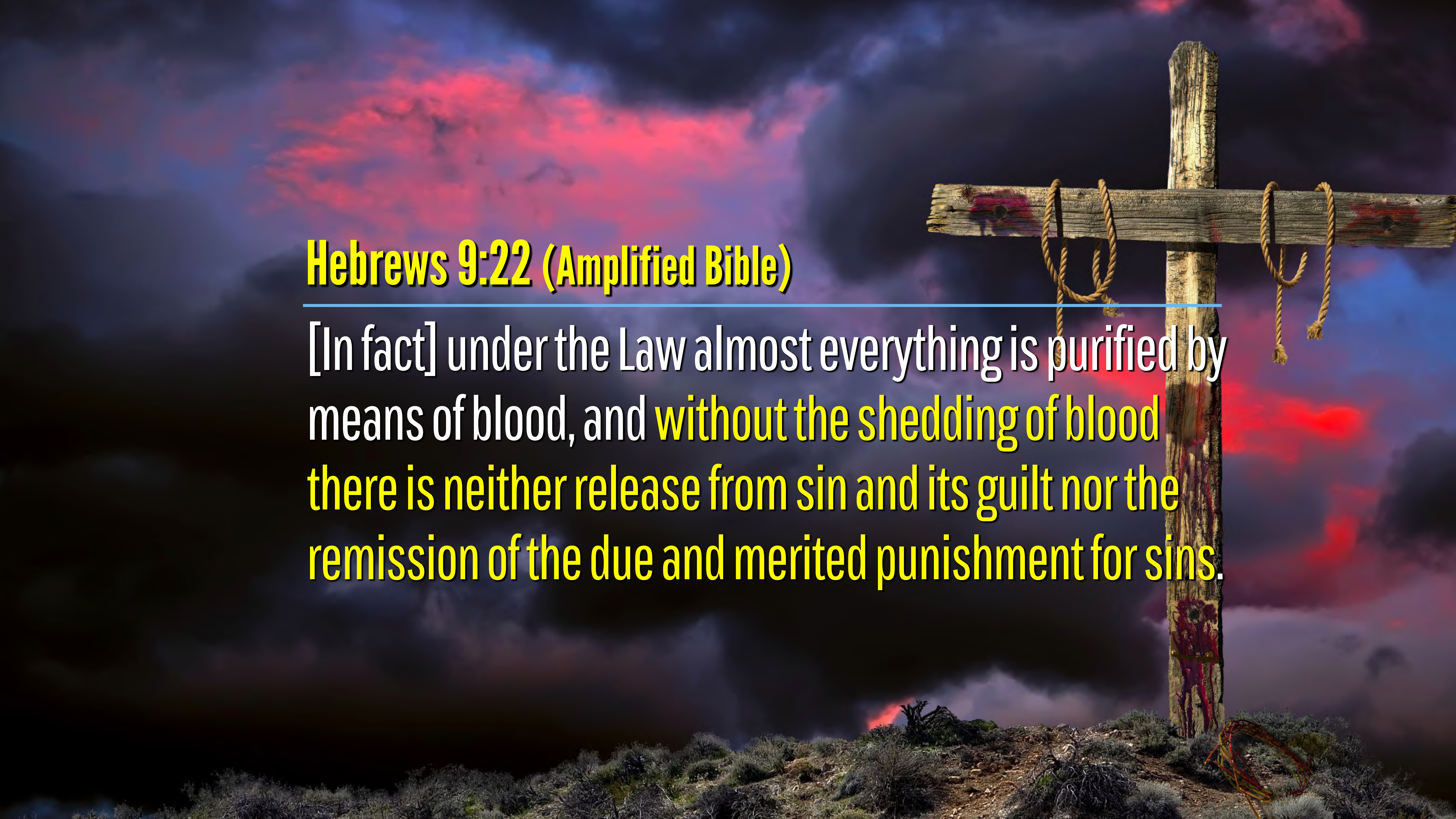
Exodus 12:12-13

12. For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments – I am the LORD.
13. 'The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

A wooden cross stands on a small, rocky hill with sparse vegetation. The sky is a dramatic mix of deep blue and vibrant red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is made of weathered wood and has two thick, braided ropes tied to the horizontal beam, hanging down. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

In this Exodus 12 account:

- ▶ what is God about to do in Egypt?
- ▶ what is God's instruction for the children of Israel so that they can escape His judgments?



Hebrews 9:22 (Amplified Bible)

[In fact] under the Law almost everything is purified by means of blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is neither release from sin and its guilt nor the remission of the due and merited punishment for sins.**



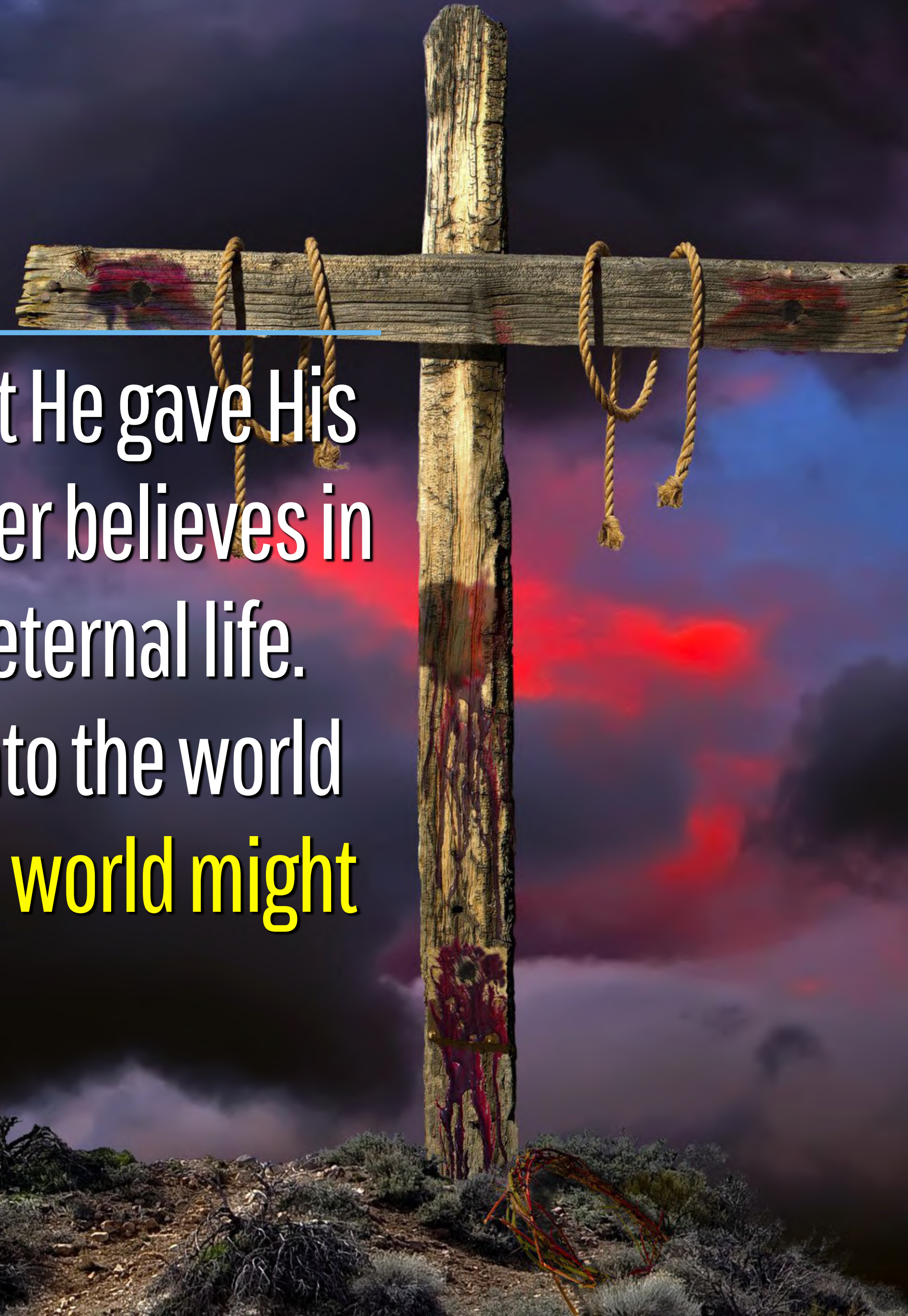
Behold the Lamb of God . . . who takes away the sin of the world

IDENTITY

MISSION

John 3:16-17

16. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
17. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but **that the world might be saved through Him.**



Colossians 1:11-14

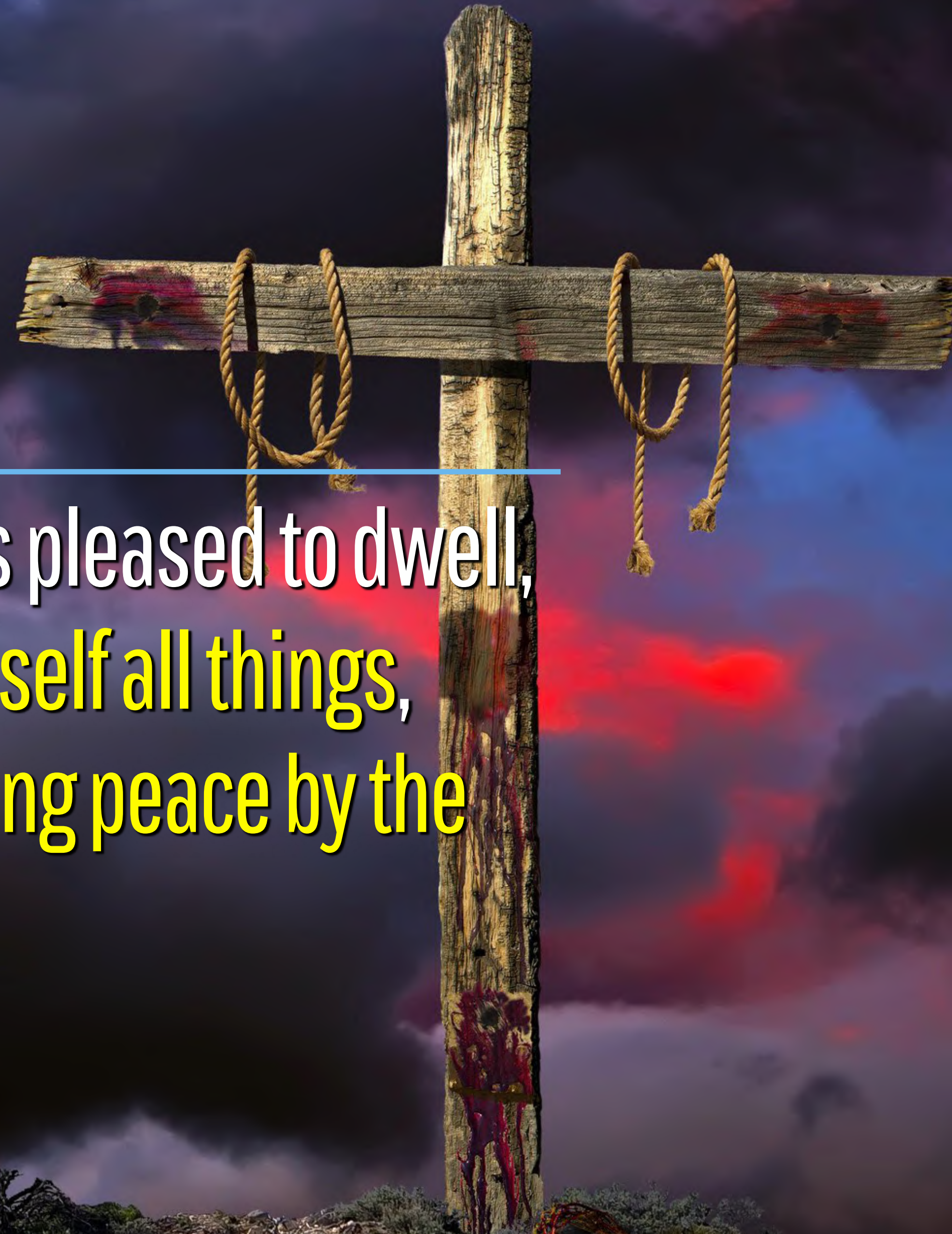
11. May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,
12. giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified you** to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
13. **He has delivered us** from the domain of darkness **and (He has) transferred us** to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
14. in whom **we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

Colossians 1:15–18

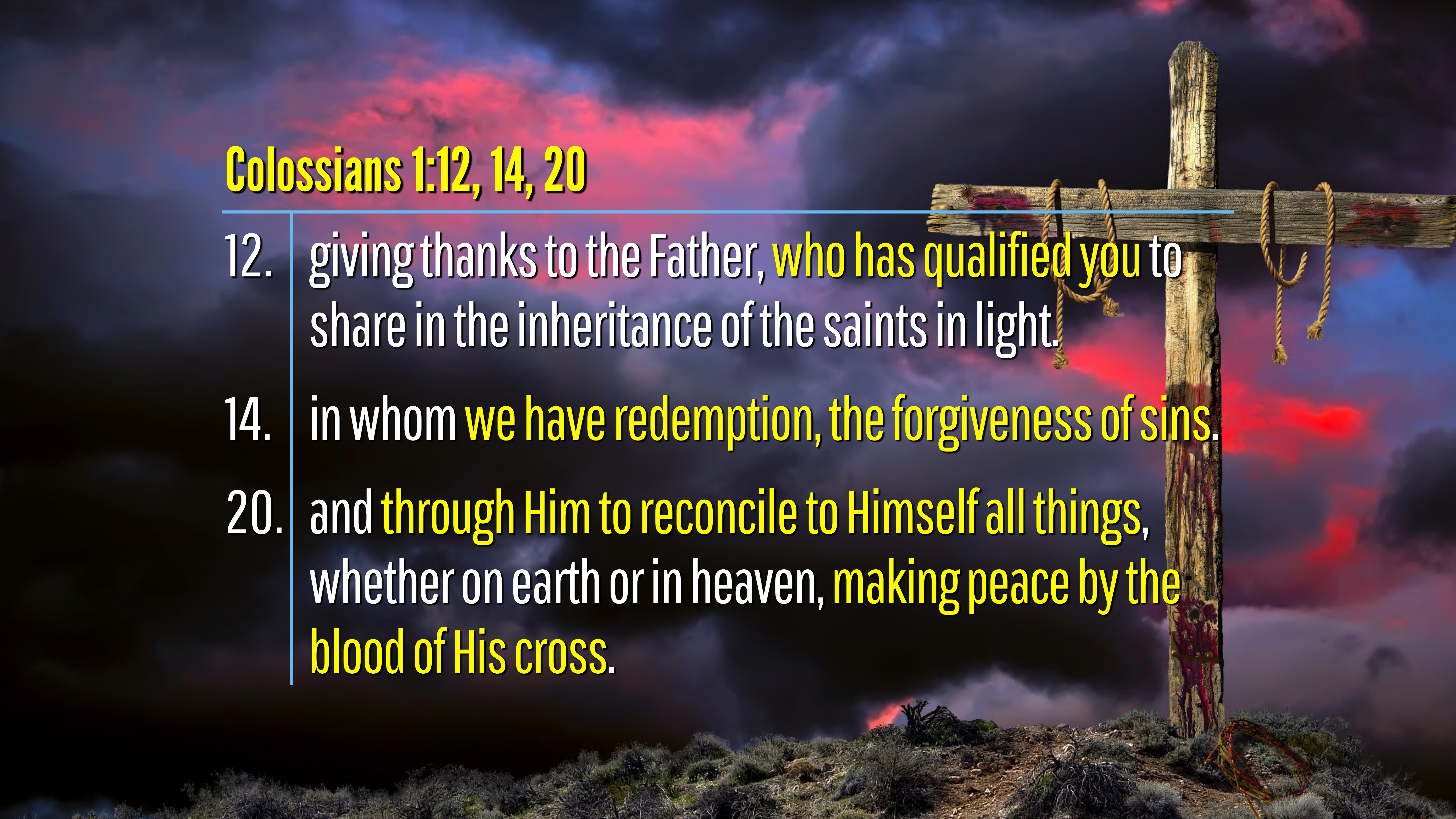
15. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
16. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him.
17. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
18. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

Colossians 1:19–20

19. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
20. and **through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,**
whether on earth or in heaven, **making peace by the**
blood of His cross.



Colossians 1:12, 14, 20

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12. giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**
14. in whom **we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**
20. and **through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.**

A wooden cross stands on a hilltop, set against a dramatic sky with swirling red and blue clouds. The cross is made of weathered wood and has ropes tied to its horizontal beam. The background is a mix of dark blue and vibrant red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The foreground shows some sparse vegetation on the hillside.

1 Corinthians 2:8

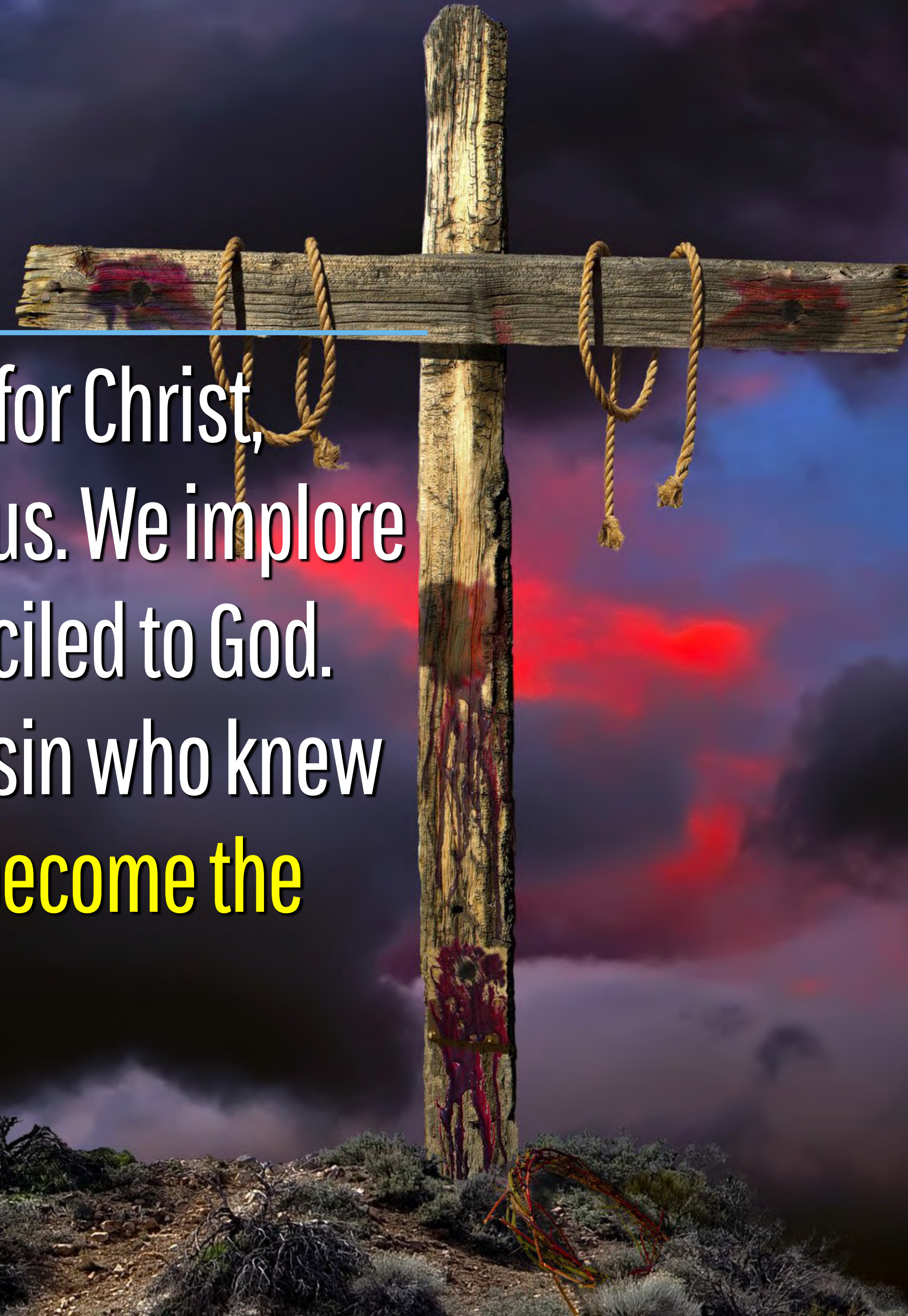
None of the rulers of this age understood this (the wisdom of God), for if they had, **they** would not have crucified the Lord of glory.


2 Corinthians 5:17–19

17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
18. All this is **from God, who through Christ reconciled us** to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;
19. that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them,** and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

20. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
21. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**



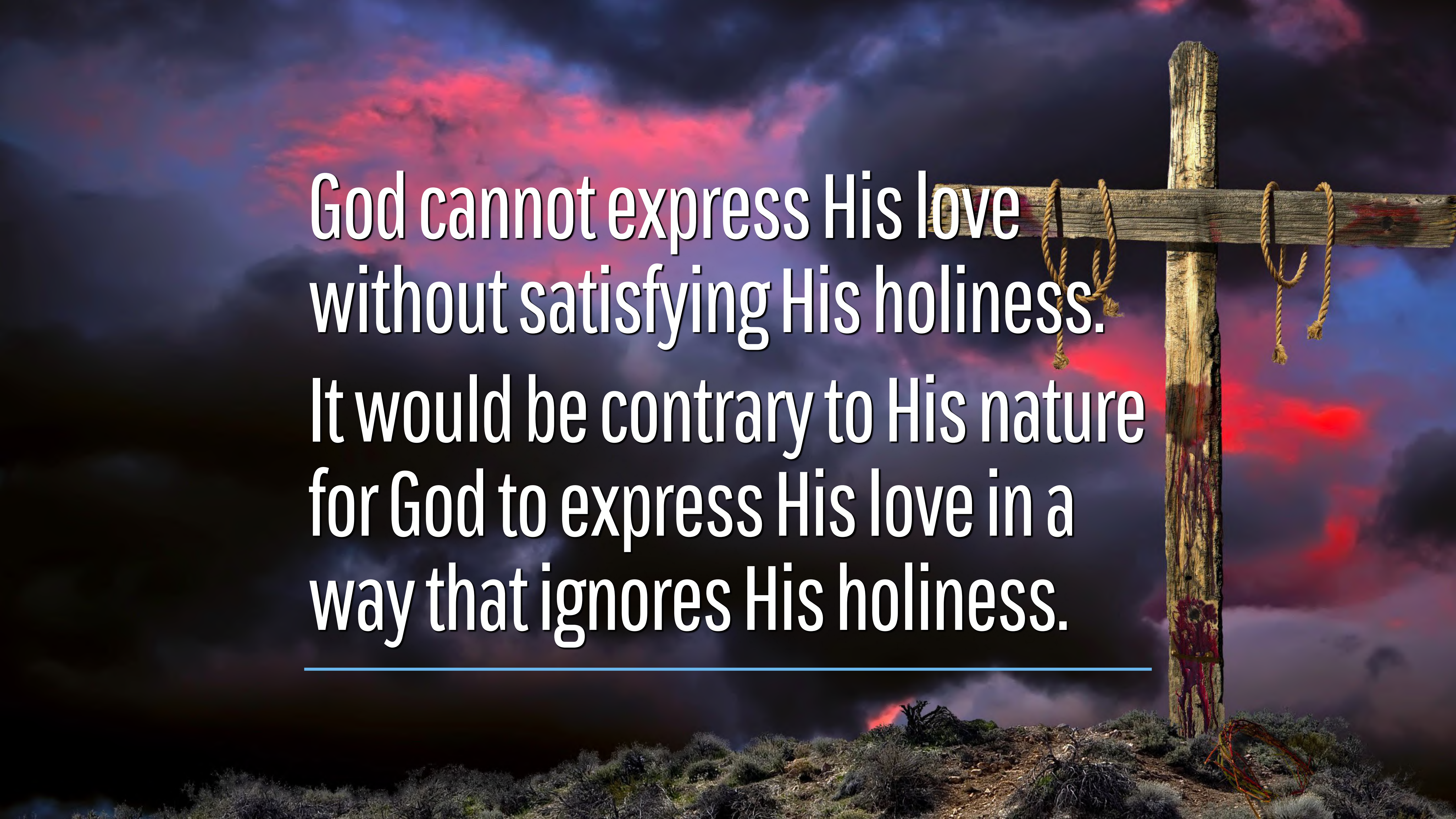
A wooden cross stands on a hilltop, with a dramatic sunset sky in shades of blue, purple, and red in the background. The cross is made of weathered wood and has ropes tied around its horizontal beam. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (Amplified Bible)

It was God personally present in Christ,
reconciling and **restoring** the world **to favour**
with Himself, not counting up and holding against
men their trespasses but **cancelling them.**



In it's initial essence & according to divine intent, the Cross was NOT an outworking of God's love & His grace & His mercy. It was firstly an outworking of His holiness.

A wooden cross stands on a hillside with sparse vegetation. The sky is a dramatic mix of deep blue and vibrant red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is made of weathered wood and has some red paint or blood-like stains on its vertical post. Two pieces of rope are tied around the horizontal beam. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

God cannot express His love
without satisfying His holiness.
It would be contrary to His nature
for God to express His love in a
way that ignores His holiness.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall
short of the glory of God.



Matthew 26:28

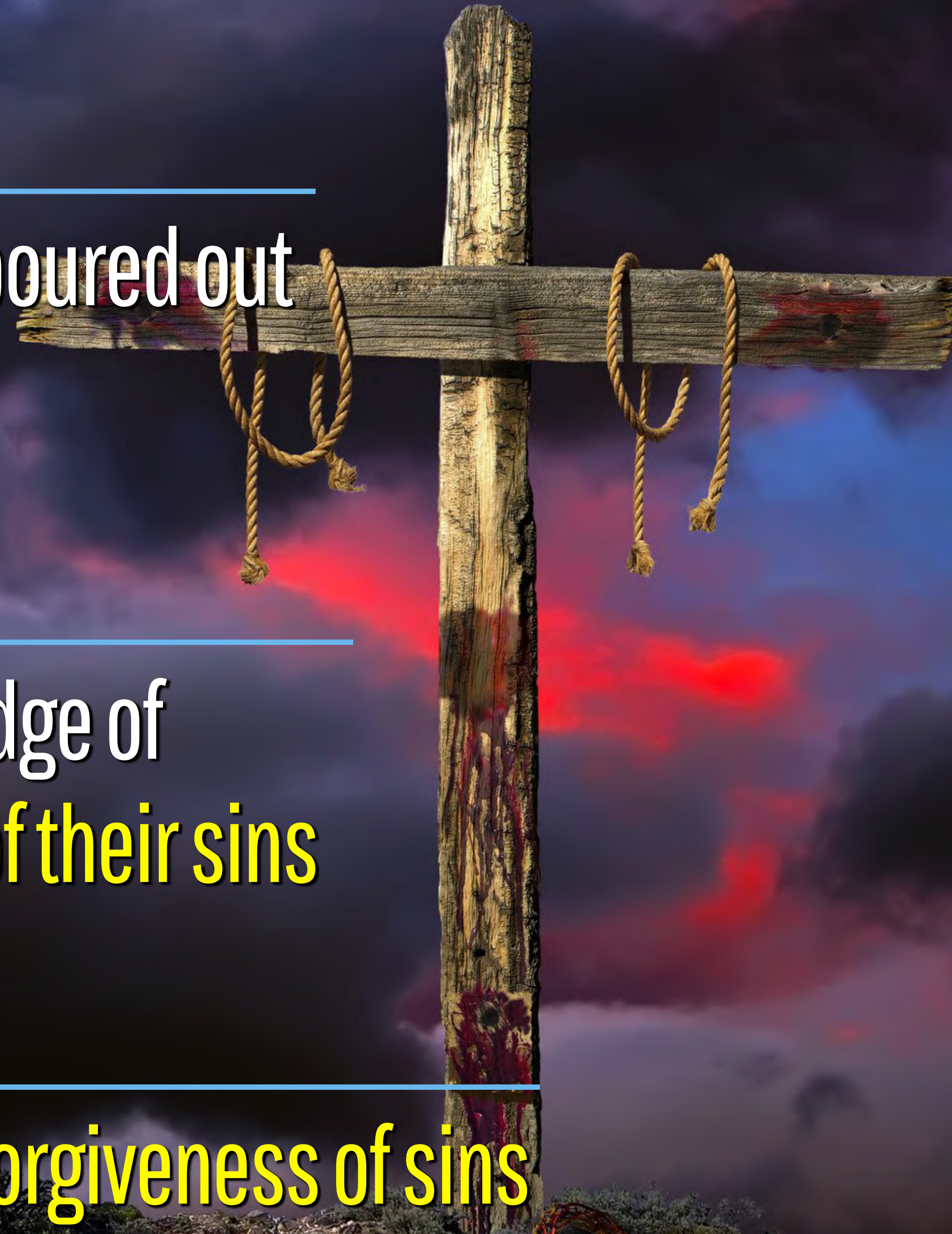
This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out
for many **for the forgiveness of sins**

Luke 1:77

... he (John the Baptist) would give knowledge of
salvation to his people **in the forgiveness of their sins**

Hebrews 9:22

without the shedding of blood there is no **forgiveness of sins**





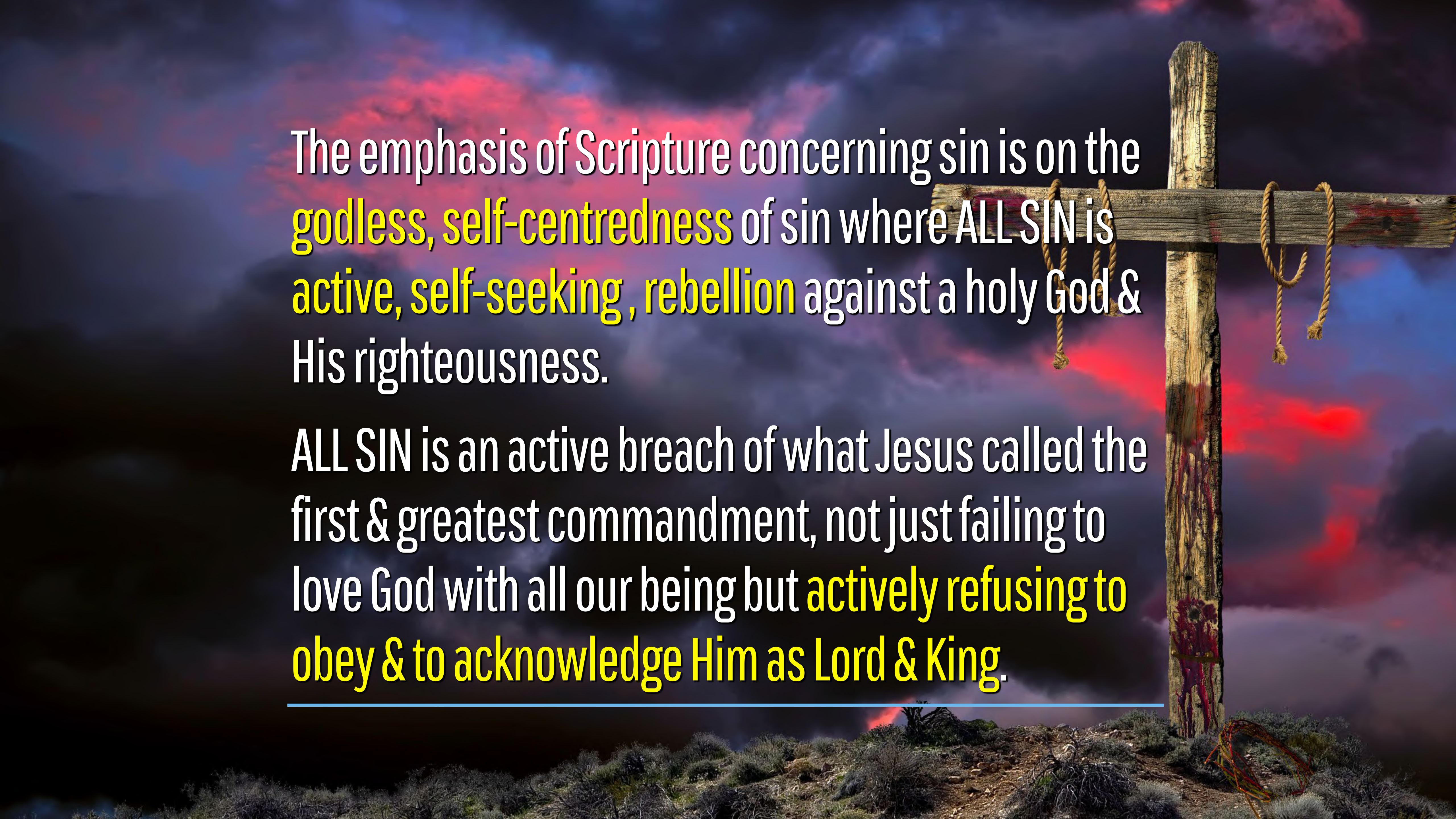
GOOD WORKS

SIN



✓
ME!!

~~X~~
Others

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The emphasis of Scripture concerning sin is on the **godless, self-centredness** of sin where ALL SIN is **active, self-seeking, rebellion** against a holy God & His righteousness.


ALL SIN is an active breach of what Jesus called the first & greatest commandment, not just failing to love God with all our being but **actively refusing to obey & to acknowledge Him as Lord & King.**

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Sin in Scripture is not a regrettable lapse from conventional standards. It's essence is hostility to God issuing, or resulting, in active rebellion against Him.

Every sin we commit is an expression (in differing degrees of self-consciousness) of this spirit of revolt against God.

John Stott (The Cross of Christ)

A wooden cross stands on a hilltop, set against a dramatic sky with vibrant red and blue clouds. The cross is made of weathered wood and has ropes tied around its horizontal beam. The background features a mix of dark blue and bright red hues, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The foreground shows some sparse vegetation on the hillside.

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