

A photograph of a wind farm at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long shadows. Several wind turbines are visible, their silhouettes against the bright sky. The foreground is a field of tall grass, slightly out of focus.

Faith and our climate crisis

2020 @ Bessels Green Baptist Church

I am hugely enjoying and appreciating the BGBC sermon series. Honestly Charlie, I know your church isn't perfect but it certainly gives me hope! Thank you.

A list of dates and topics is displayed in white text against a background of a sunset with wind turbines. The text is arranged in a vertical list. The date '08/03 Hope' is highlighted with a white rectangular border.

05/01 Beauty

12/01 Stewardship

19/01 Facts (Rev Dr Dave Gregory)

26/01 Soil

02/02 Animals

09/02 Poverty (Ben Niblett - Tear Fund)

16/02 Technology

23/02 Jesus

01/03 Reality (Dave Nussbaum - The Elders)

08/03 Hope

15/03 Discussion

Climate change is scary



Climate change is scary

Adults keep saying: 'We owe it to the young people to give them hope.' But I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is.

*Thunberg, Greta. World Economic Forum
Davos, 25 January 2019*

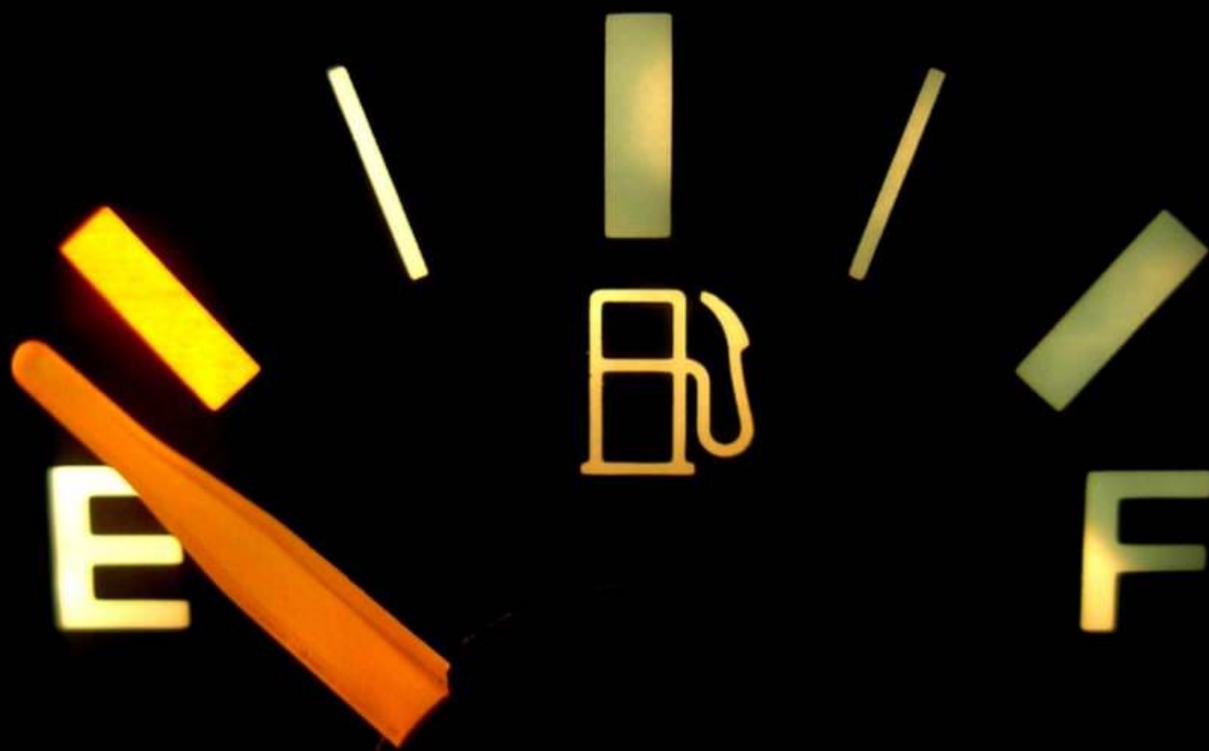


Climate change is scary



It is easy to feel hopeless

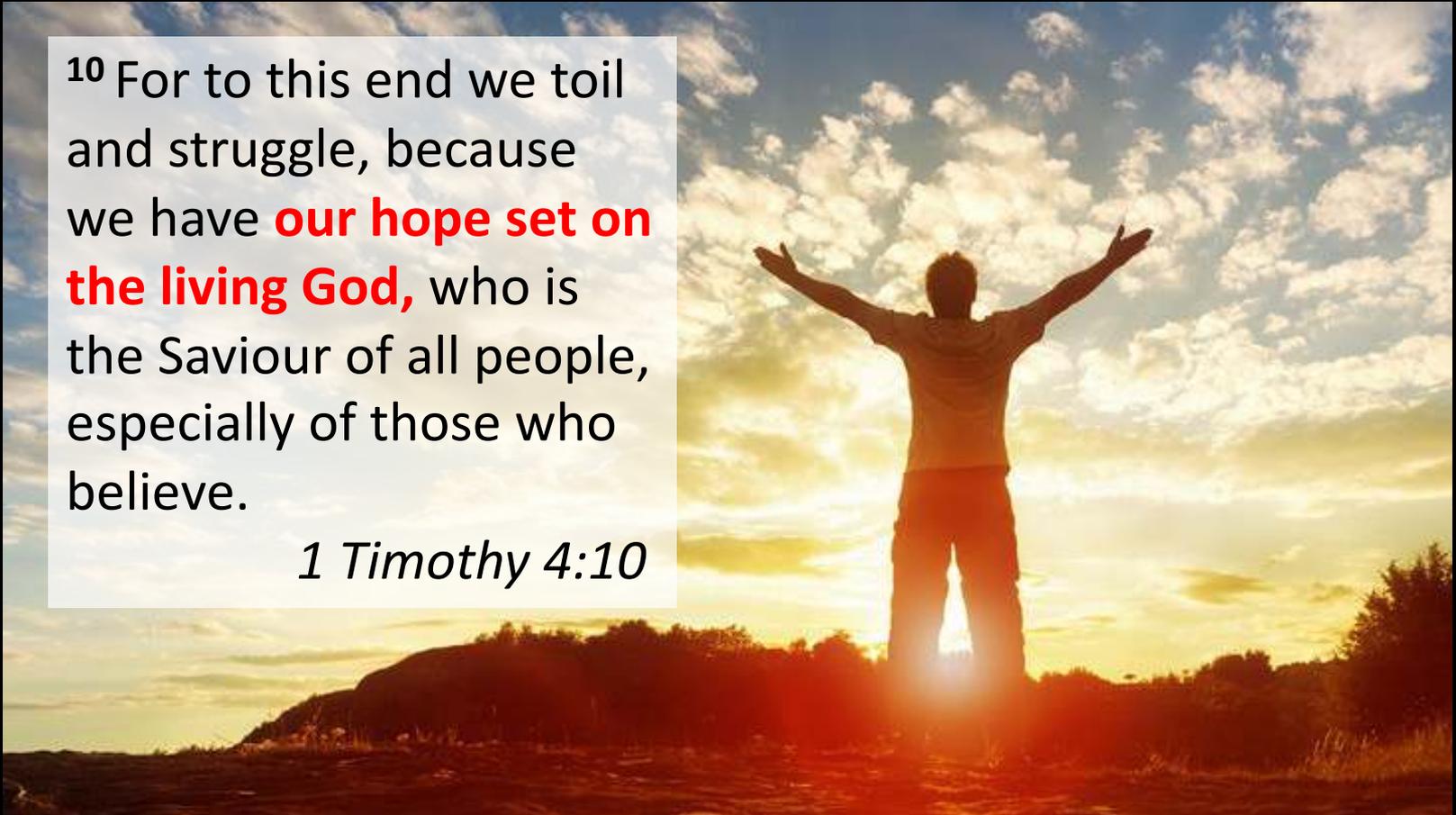
We run on faith, hope and love...



Christians are people of hope

¹⁰ For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have **our hope set on the living God**, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe.

1 Timothy 4:10



Hope in God's Future

“First, and most importantly, followers of Christ must hope in these days and not despair. ...

We cannot despair of what will be, because we are called to have faith in God and hope in God's promises.”



Hope in God's Future

"We ... can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us."

Hebrews 6:18



Hope in God's Future

We cannot, therefore, countenance a future in which God has abandoned the project of creation and redemption, in which climate change destroys all that God has established or in which human irresponsibility overwhelms God's ability to bring redemption to creation.

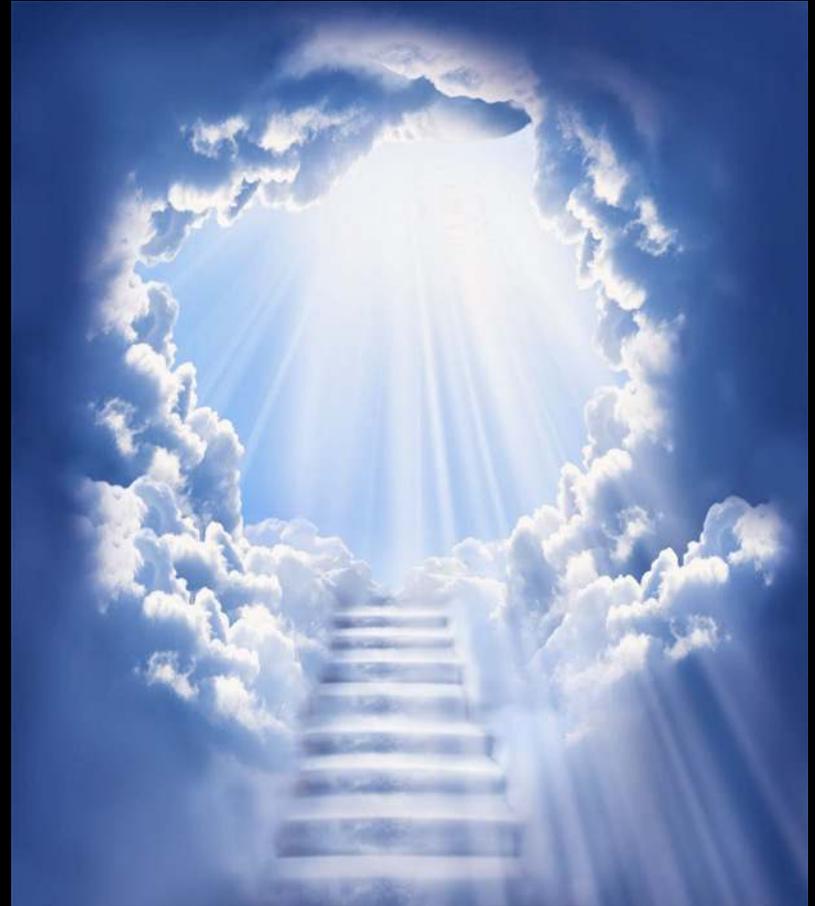
The basis for Christian responses to climate change is hope in the realization of the reign of God over a renewed creation.



Two potential problems...

1. Hope is sometimes understood as escaping this [evil] world and going to a [good] better place.

Plato not Jesus



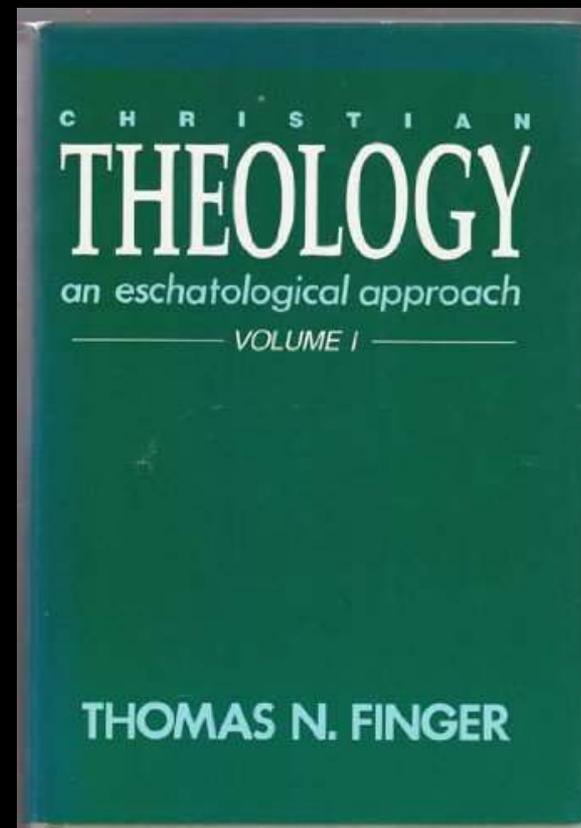
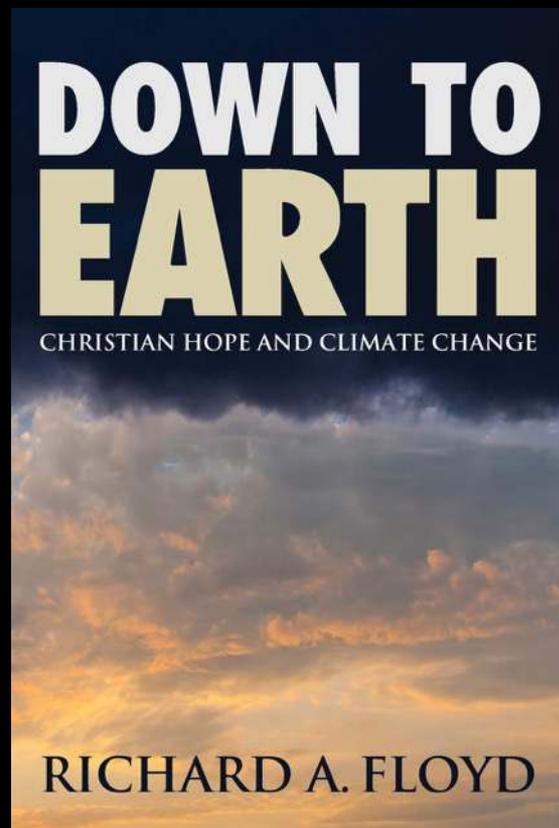
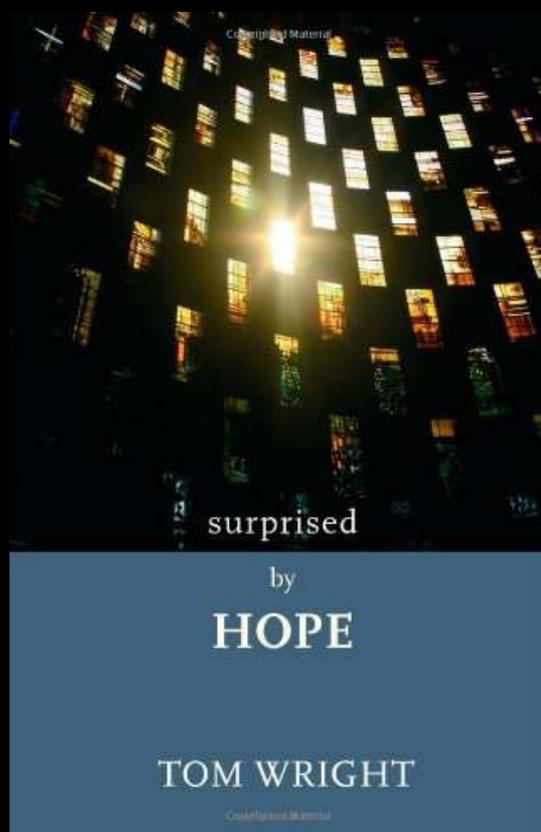
Two potential problems...

2. A lack of care for this world, because it is understood as temporary and disposable.

God will sort it all out for us anyway...



So what is our future hope...



Lampposts in the mist



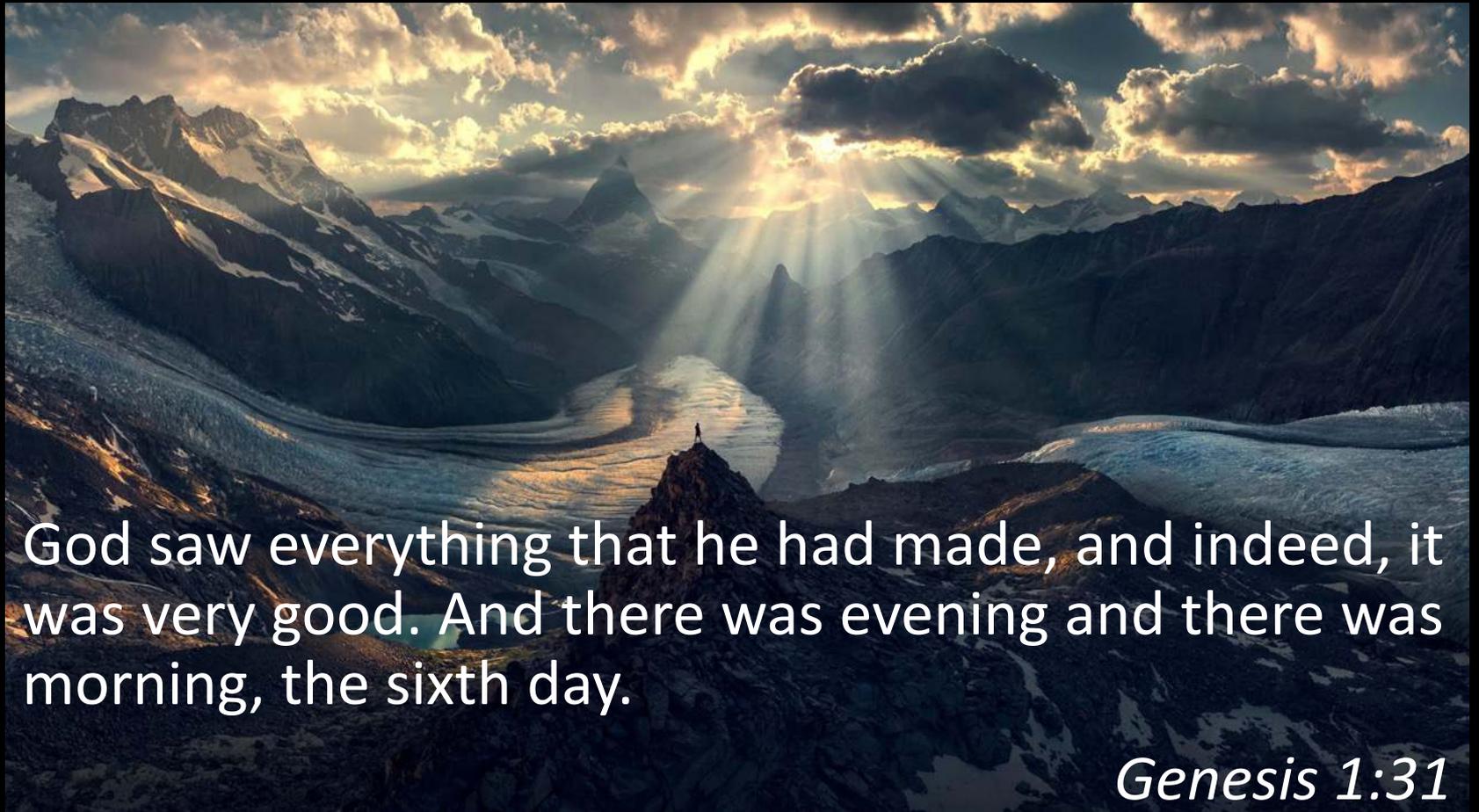
Humility in the face of Mystery



So what is our future hope

1. What is the basis for our hope?
2. What is the substance of our hope?
3. What is the outcome of our hope?

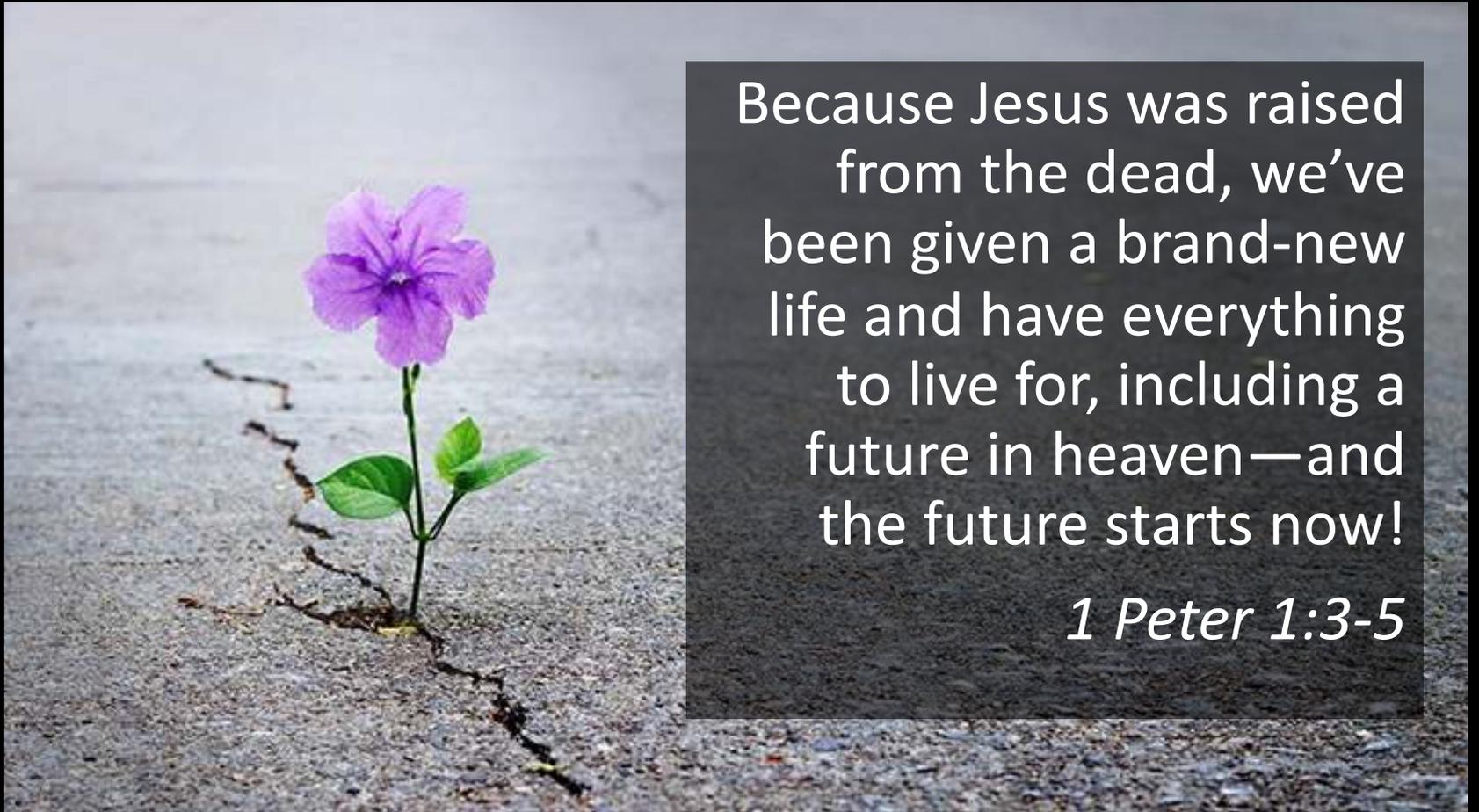
The basis for our hope - creation



God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31

The basis for our hope - resurrection



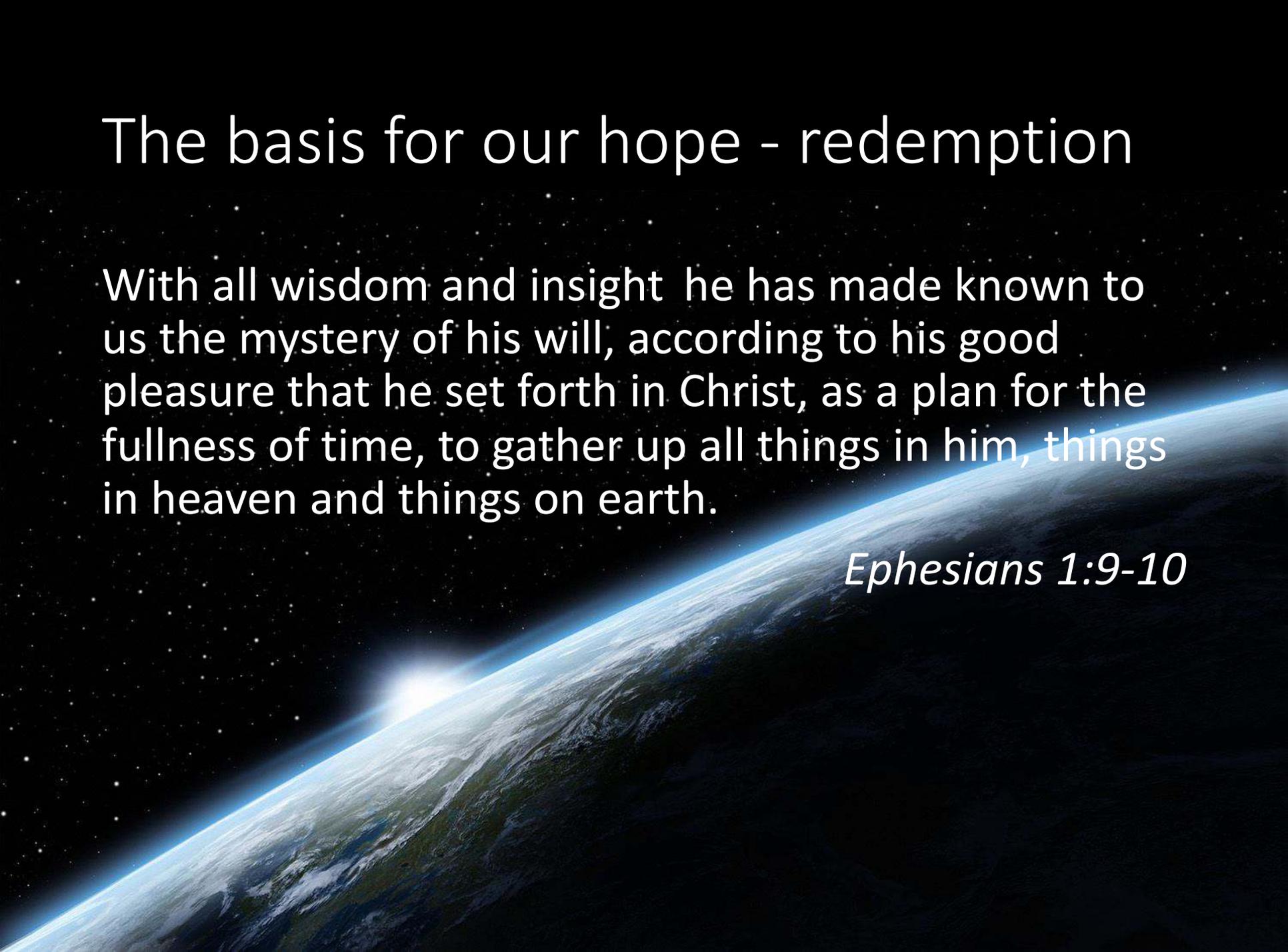
Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now!

1 Peter 1:3-5

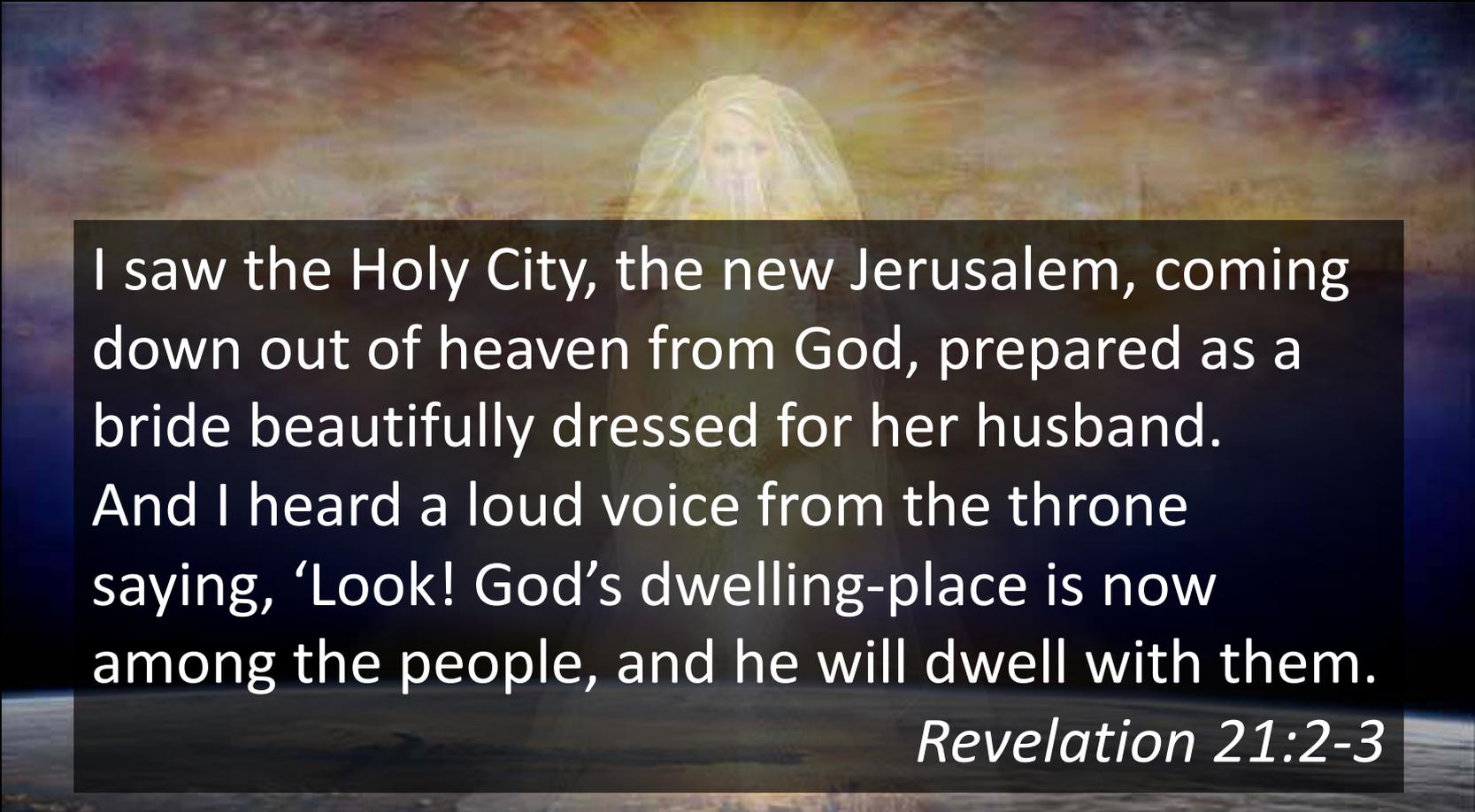
The basis for our hope - redemption

With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:9-10



The substance of our hope



I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 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.

Revelation 21:2-3

The substance of our hope

YOUR KINGDOM COME
YOUR WILL BE DONE
on earth
as it is in **HEAVEN**

MATTHEW 6:10

The outcome of our hope



What you do today matters

The outcome of our hope



What you do today matters

Hope in God's Future

“Christian hope guarantees that such faithful actions will not finally prove to be meaningless and ineffective but will find a place in God's purpose for the redeeming of the world.

Hope is thus a reason for bold action in the world in accordance with God's will for creation.”



Hope vs wishful thinking



Now is not the time for complacency



Scientists: You should wash your hands because of the coronavirus.

People: I'm gonna stop flying, hoard masks, work from home & totally rearrange my life.

Also Scientists: The Climate Crisis will kill millions - we must use clean power & change how we get to work.

People: No way

@NCStinn

What you do today matters



Reduce your carbon footprint



Two visions of the future...

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Wildlife Energy Pollution

'The only uncertainty is how long we'll last': a worst case scenario for the climate in 2050

Hell



Advertisement

▲ 'The air can taste slightly acidic, sometimes making you feel nauseated.' Photograph: Arctic-Images/Corbis

The Future We Choose, a new book by the architects of the Paris climate accords, offers two contrasting visions for how the world might look in thirty years (read the best case scenario [here](#))

● Christiana Figueres, author: 'This is the decade and we are the generation'

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Wildlife Energy Pollution

'Air is cleaner than before the Industrial Revolution': a best case scenario for the climate in 2050

Heaven



Advertisement

▲ 'The ambient feeling of living on what has again become a green planet has been transformative.' Photograph: Ichiro/Getty Images

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Do not loose hope... let it inspire you!

