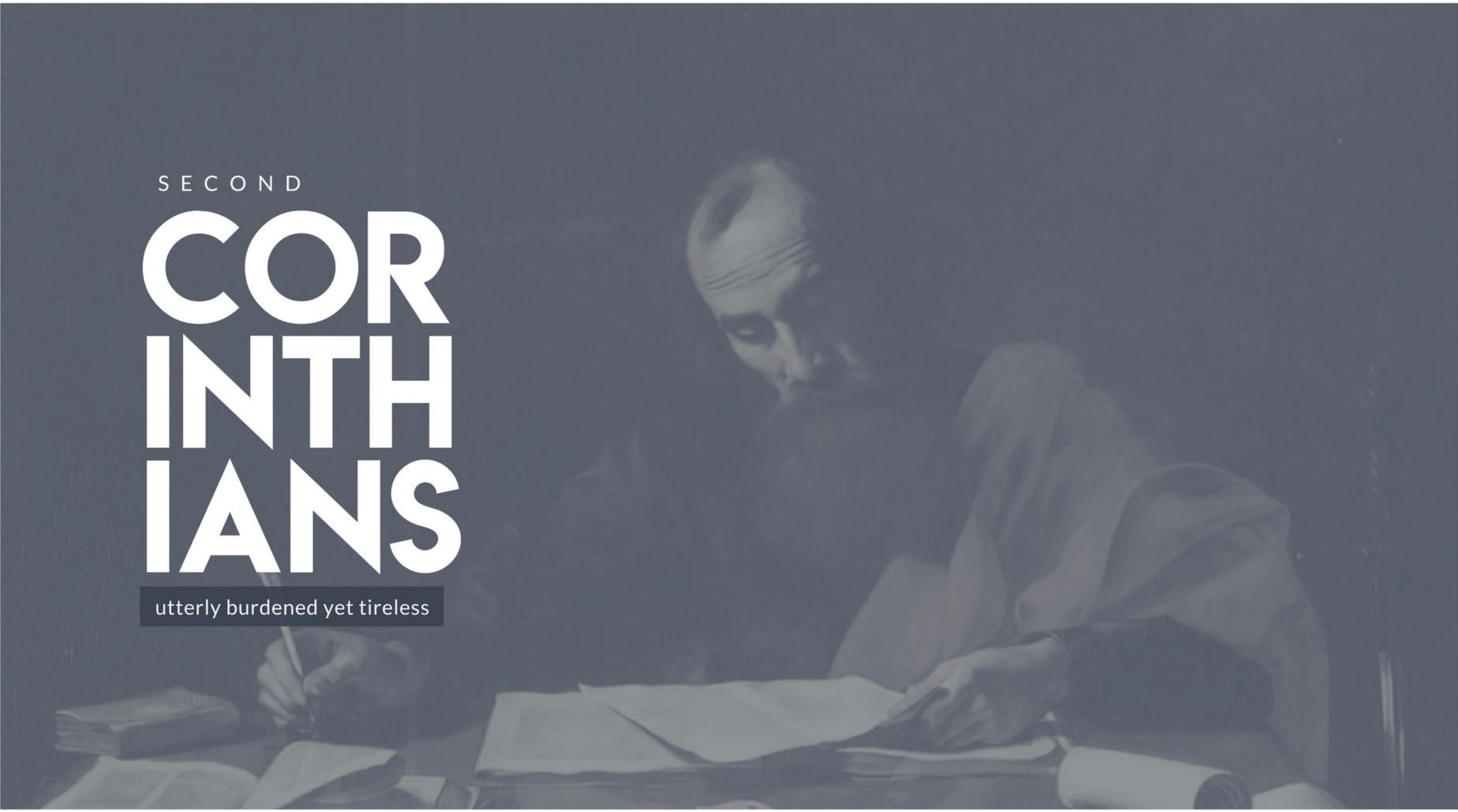


SECOND

CORINTHIANS

utterly burdened yet tireless





And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. [16] But rise & stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant & witness to the things in which you have seen Me & to those in which I will appear to you, [17] delivering you from your people & from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you [18] to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light & from the power of the Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins & a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

Acts 26:15-18

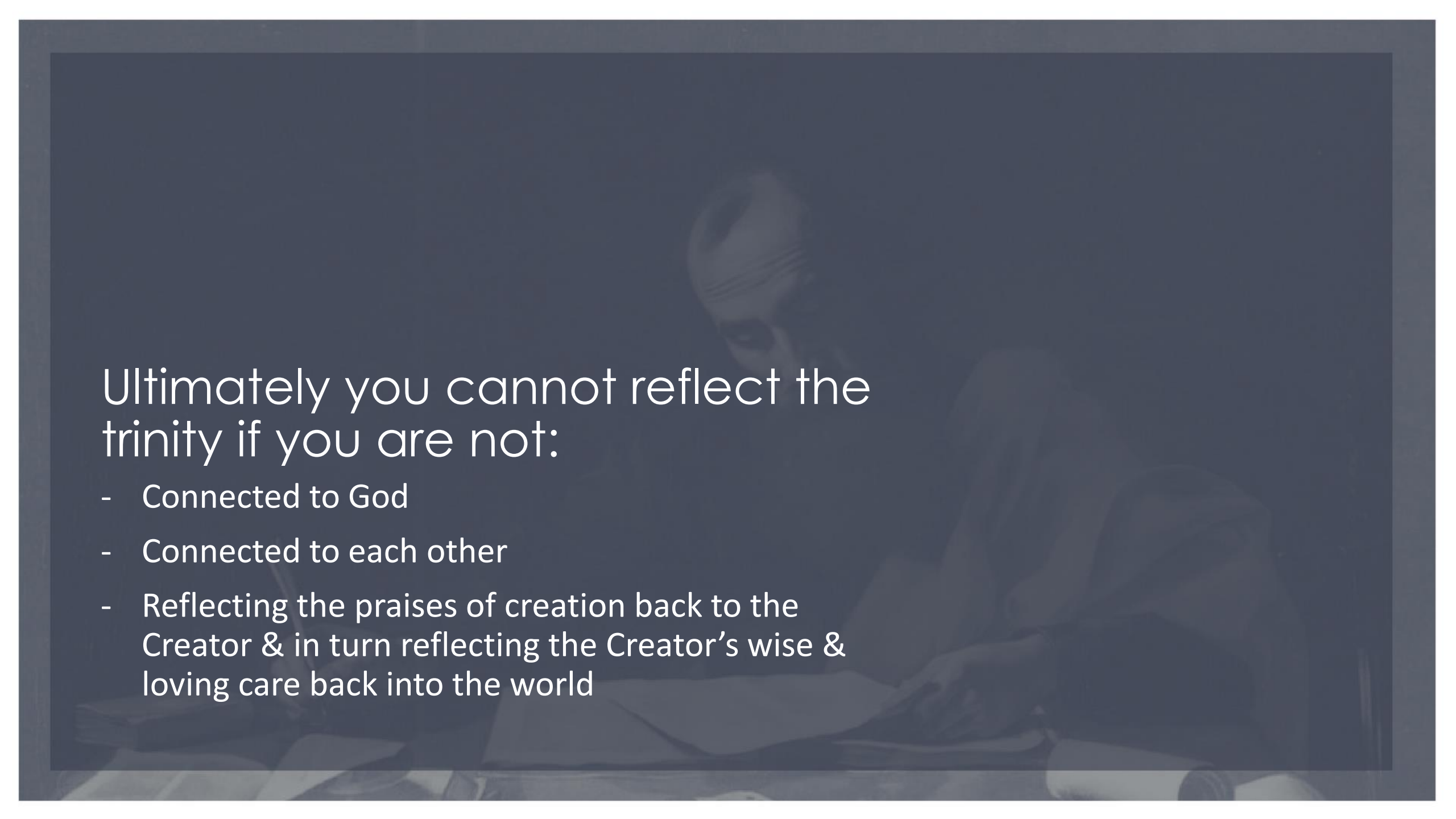


...that Messiah died for our sins in accordance with the
Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:3b

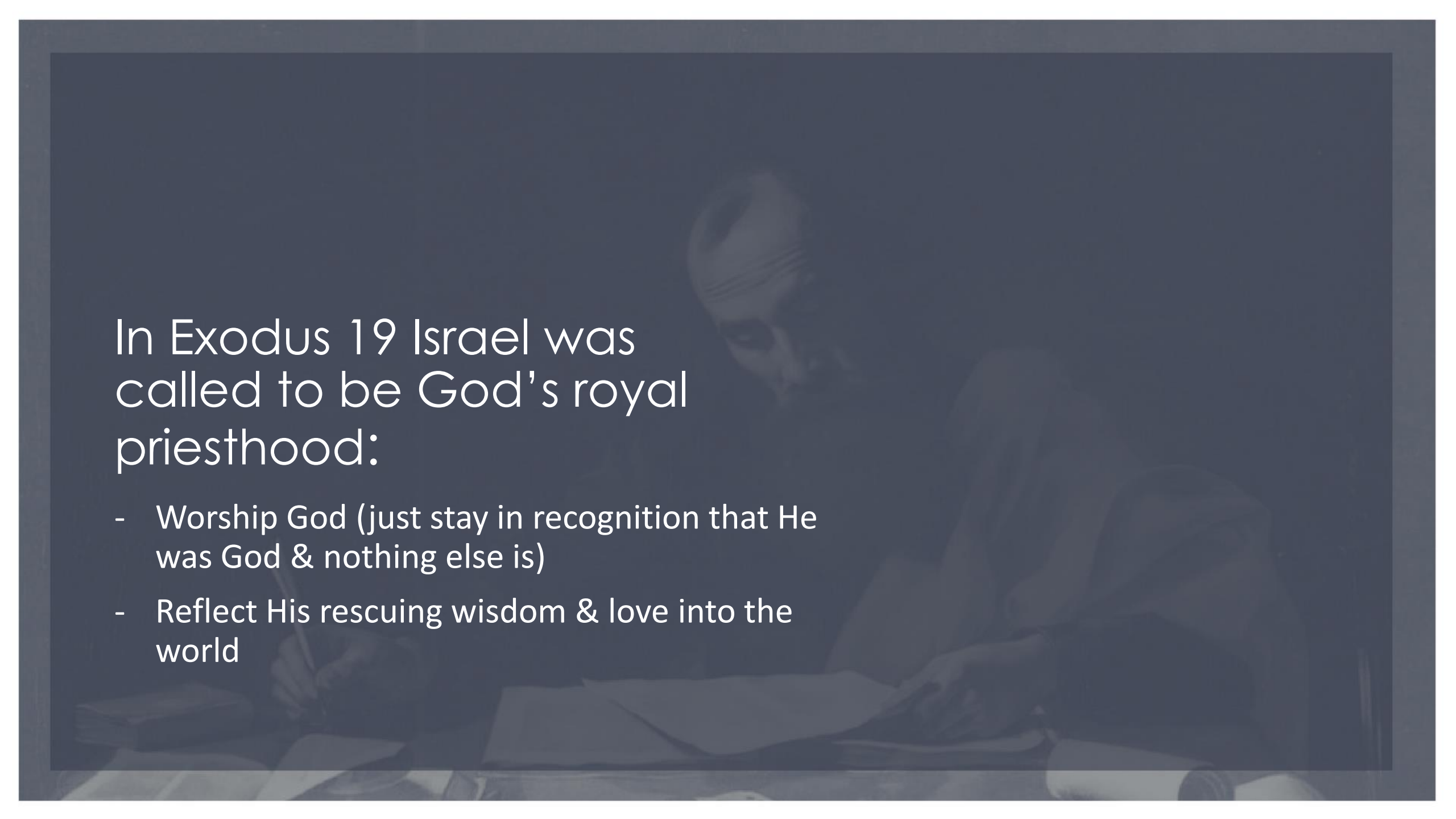


Greek = sin = hamartia = missing the mark

A dark, semi-transparent background image of a person reading a book. The person is seen from the side, looking down at the pages. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is muted and contemplative.

Ultimately you cannot reflect the trinity if you are not:

- Connected to God
- Connected to each other
- Reflecting the praises of creation back to the Creator & in turn reflecting the Creator's wise & loving care back into the world

A faint, dark background image of a person reading a book. The person is wearing a dark shirt and is looking down at the pages. The image is semi-transparent and serves as a backdrop for the text.

In Exodus 19 Israel was called to be God's royal priesthood:

- Worship God (just stay in recognition that He was God & nothing else is)
- Reflect His rescuing wisdom & love into the world



But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His Own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9



We were literally designed to reflect the majesty & wisdom & love of God:

- Back to Him so we remember who is God & who is not
- To all of creation through our dominion over creation



Again here is how this works:

- We turn the power of the Divine (who is the only One who will handle that power well) over to a thief, an idol whose only purpose it is to destroy & that is what we see in the world today



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- This produces slavery
- This also produces sin – the chain that binds us from being truly free & happy, from being truly human

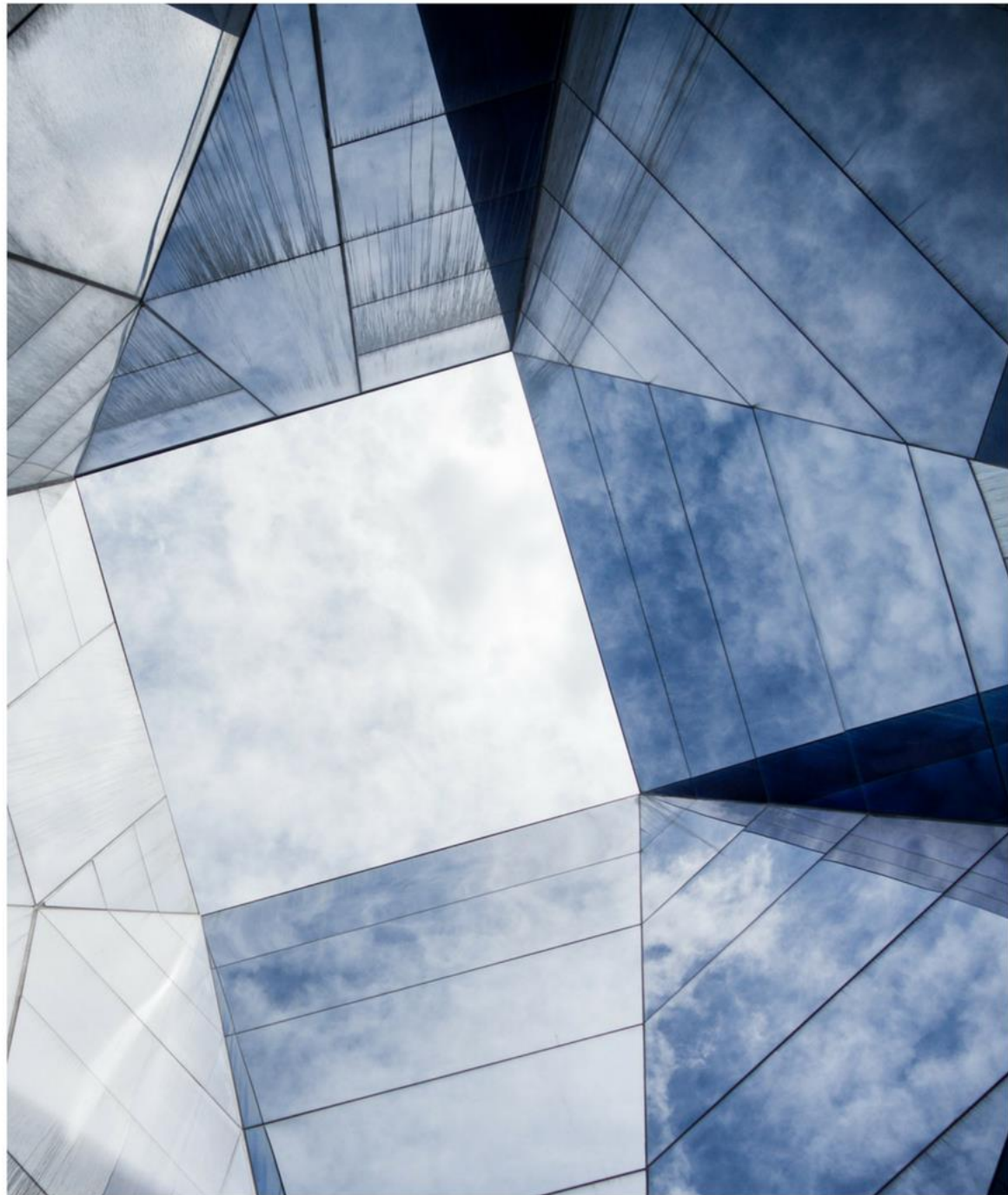
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- Which produces death/exile – just lifelessness & struggle & toil & bodies that break down over time & a world that works against us



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Acts 26:18



The forgiveness of sins in the OT meant several things all at once:

- Rescue from exile & slavery
- The return of God's Presence
- The conquering of the dark forces by removing their power that we by the way handed them

In the life of Jesus God moves to dwell amongst us again as it was in the garden



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

“dwelt” = to tabernacle, lived

”

The punishment of your iniquity, O daughter of Zion, is accomplished; He will keep you in exile no longer

Lam. 4:22a



He is the beginning, the
firstborn from the dead,

Col. 1:18b





He is the beginning, the
firstborn from the dead,

Col. 1:18b

Being free from the consequences of the
past **MEANS** being forgiven



Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving Spirit. [47] The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the Second Man (Jesus) is from heaven. [48] As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, & as is the Man of Heaven (Jesus), so also are those who are of heaven. [49] Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Man of Heaven.

1 Cor. 15:45-49

A man in a dark suit is leaning over a desk, writing on a document with a pen. The scene is dimly lit, with the man's face and hands illuminated. The background is dark and out of focus.

So the next question is:

For what?

Or maybe better, so what?

Stayed tuned for next week...