



Colossians

Why is this class important?

- 1). Every time one reads the Bible, they are interpreting the Bible.
- 2). Every time one reads a translation of the Bible, they are reading an interpretation of the Bible.
- 3). Therefore, we are doing interpretation, regardless if that's our intention.

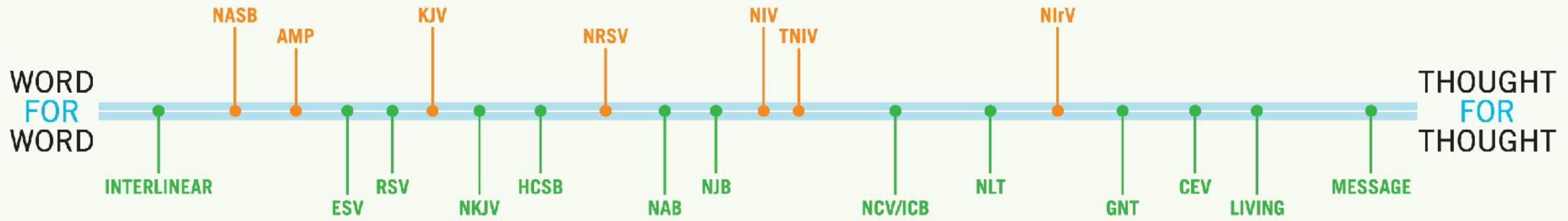
Terms

- **Autographs:** original documents (there are 1 of these)
- **Manuscripts:** Any copy of the original
- **Exegesis:** To explain and interpret: pulling the meaning from a text
- **Eisegesis:** To insert one's own interpretation/meaning into the text
- **Genre:** A category of composition
- **Biblical Studies:** The study of a biblical text/book in its original context
- **Theology:** Systematic study/harmonization of the biblical revelation of God

Translations

- **Formal Equivalent:** (word for word) (Interlinear-NASB-ESV-NRSV-KJV-NKJV)
- **Dynamic Equivalent:** (thought for thought) (TNIV-NIV)
- **Free Translation:** (Phrase for Phrase in modern/simple thought) (NLT-The Message)

TRANSLATION CONTINUUM



This continuum shows how different Bible translations fit into the word-for-word and thought-for-thought translation philosophies.

Remember

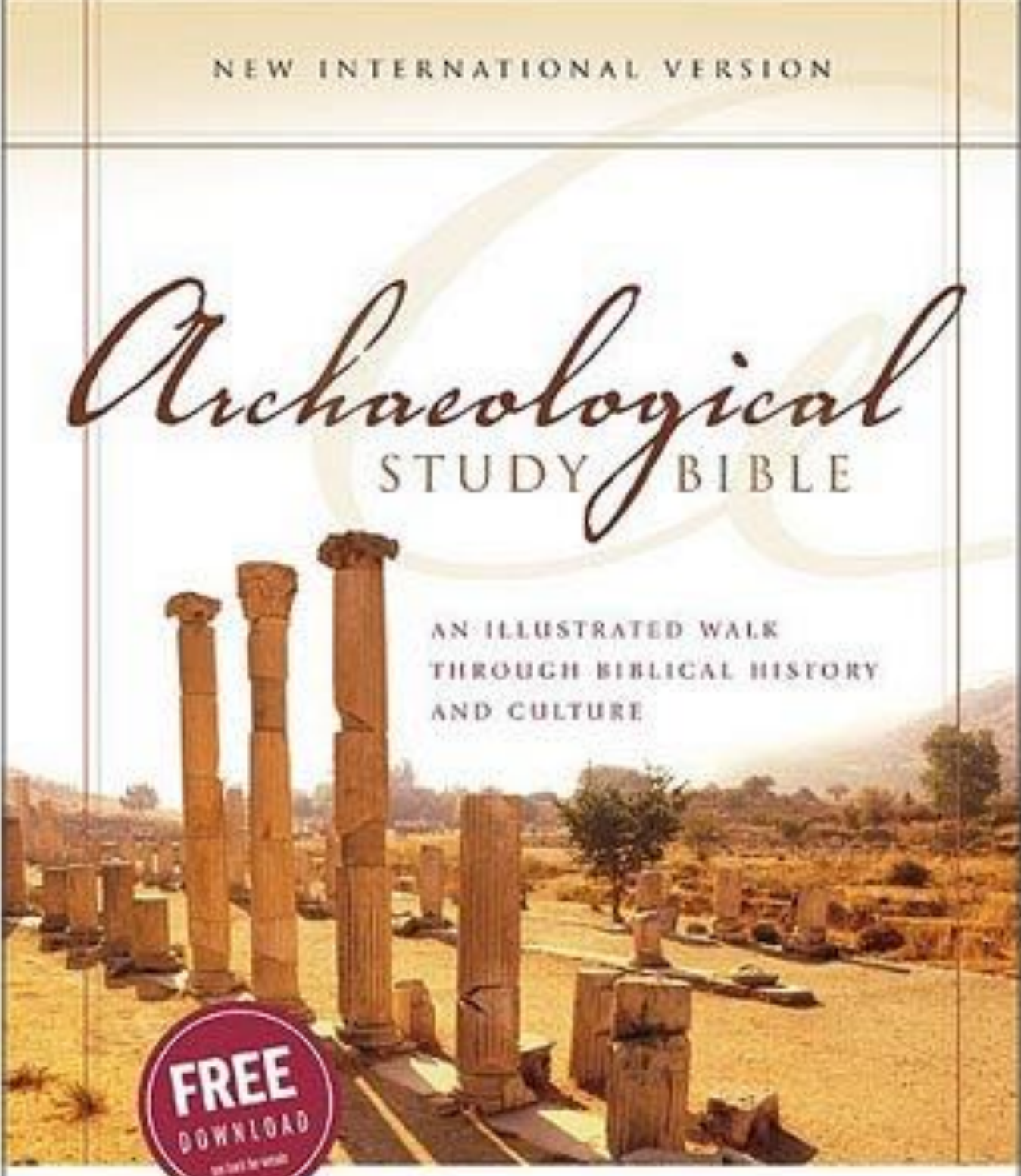
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- They are not part of the inspired text!

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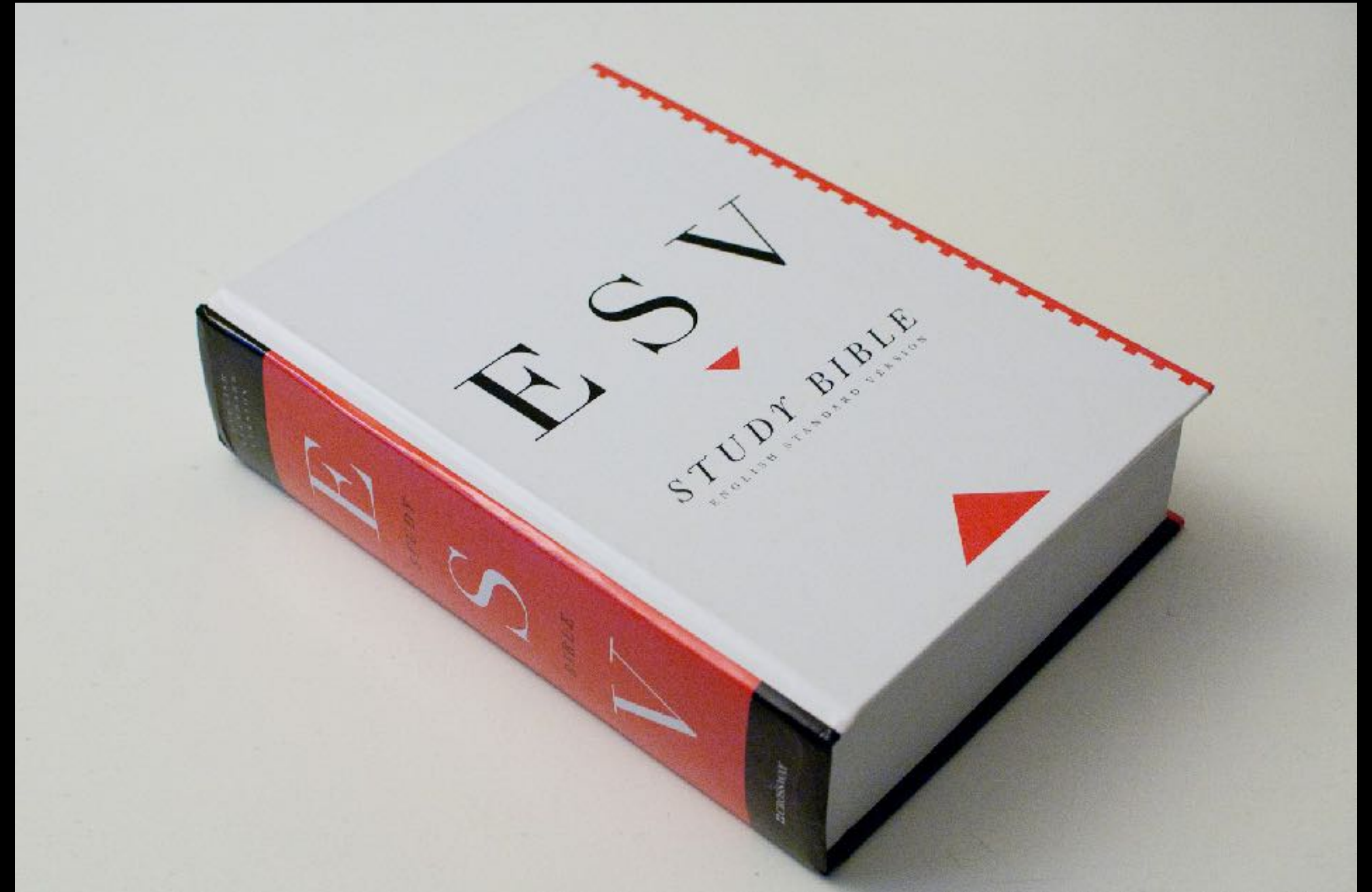
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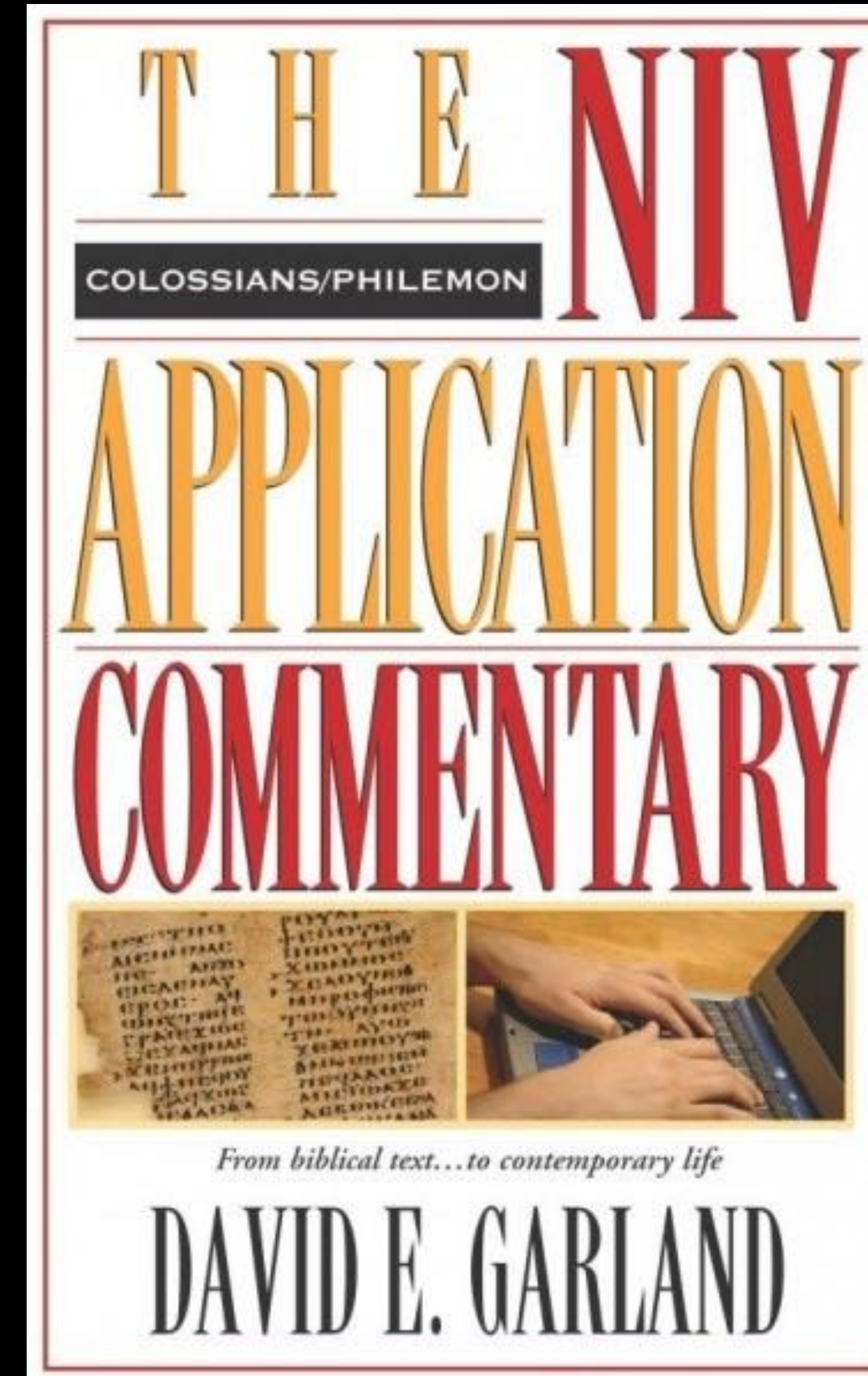
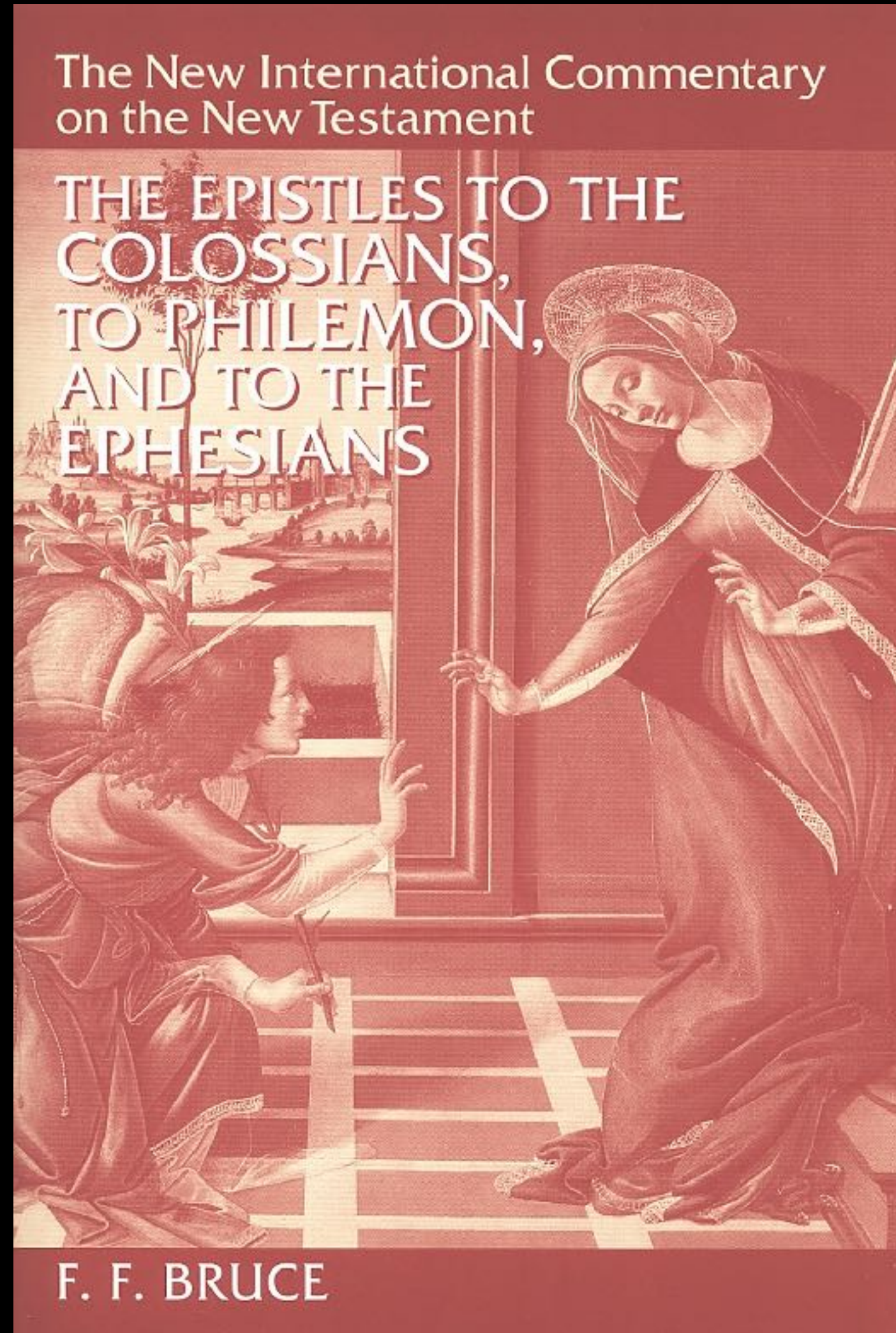
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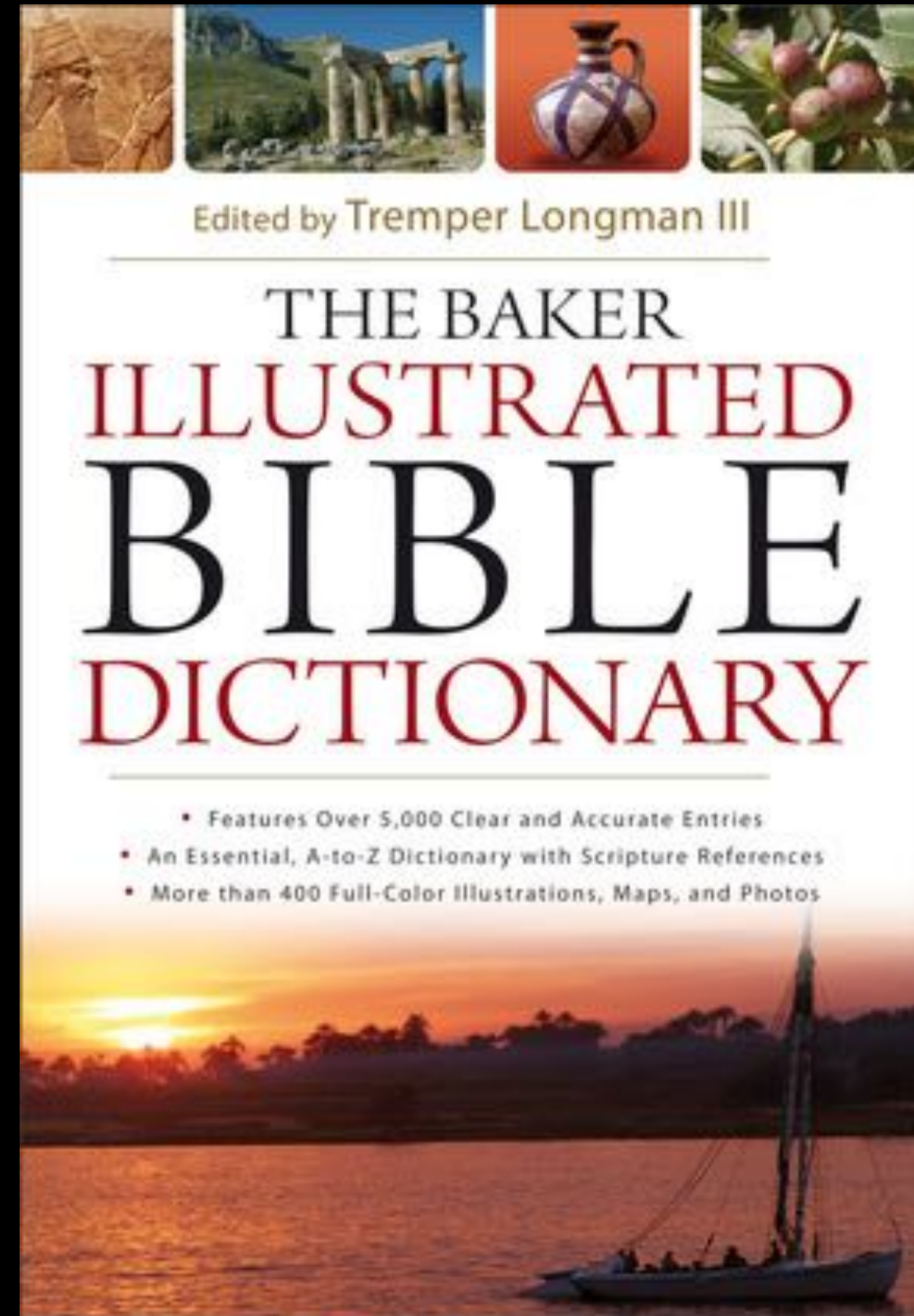
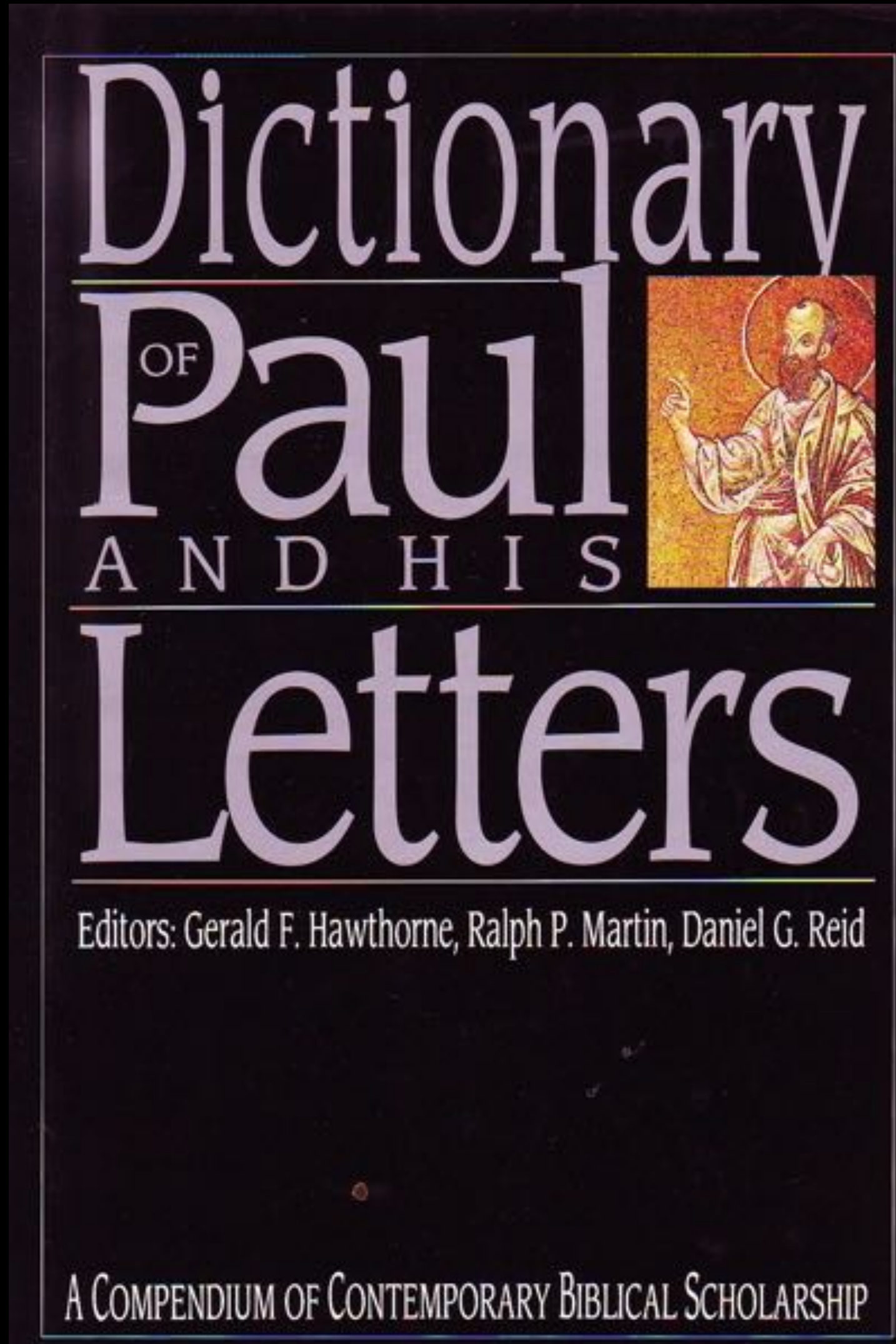
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Salutation

1:1 From Paul,¹ an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 1:2 to the saints, the faithful² brothers and sisters³ in Christ, at Colossae. Grace and peace to you⁴ from God our Father!⁵

Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Church

1:3 We always⁶ give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 1:4 since⁷ we heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints. 1:5 Your faith and love have arisen⁸ from the hope laid up⁹ for you in heaven, which you have heard about in the message of truth, the gospel¹⁰ 1:6 that has come to you. Just as in the entire world this gospel¹¹ is bearing fruit and growing, so it has also been bearing fruit and growing¹² among you from the first day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth. 1:7 You learned the gospel¹³ from Epaphras, our dear fellow slave¹⁴ – a¹⁵ faithful minister who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

1 *tn* Grk "Paul." The word "from" is not in the Greek text, but has been supplied to indicate the sender of the letter.

2 *tn* Grk "and faithful." The construction in Greek (as well as Paul's style) suggests that the saints are identical to the faithful; hence, the καί (kai) is best left untranslated (cf. Eph 1:1). See ExSyn 281-82.

3 *tn* Grk "brothers," but the Greek word may be used for "brothers and sisters" or "fellow Christians" as here (cf. BDAG 18 s.v. ἀδελφός 1, where considerable nonbiblical evidence for the plural ἀδελφοί [adelfoi] meaning "brothers and sisters" is cited).

4 *tn* Or "Grace to you and peace."

5 *tc* Most witnesses, including some important ones (N A C F G I [P] 075 ̄ it bo), read "and the Lord Jesus Christ" at the end of this verse, no doubt to conform the wording to the typical Pauline salutation. However, excellent and early witnesses (B D K L Ψ 33 81 1175 1505 1739 1881 *al sa*) lack this phrase. Since the omission is

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Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To the saints and faithful brothers^[a] in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing – as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant.^[b] He is a faithful

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Goal

- 1. Understanding the Senders Intended Meaning (SIM)
 - Literary context (micro and macro)
 - Geographical context (gives the setting and audience)
 - Historical context
- 2. Recontextualize for today's audience

	A.D.	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Death, resurrection of Christ (A.D. 33 [or 30]) [†]		■										
Paul's conversion (33/34*)			●									
Paul's first Jerusalem visit (36/37*)				●								
Paul's second Jerusalem visit (famine relief) (44–47*)					■							
Paul's first missionary journey (46–47)					●							
Paul's third Jerusalem visit (apostolic council) (48–49*)					●							
Paul's second missionary journey (48/49–51*)						■						
Paul's third journey (incl. 3 years in Ephesus) (52–57*)							■					
Epaphras converted in Ephesus, evangelizes Colossae (52–57*)							■					
Paul under house arrest in Rome (62*)									●			
Paul hears from Epaphras, writes to Colossian church (62*)									●			
Paul martyred in Rome (64–67*)									■			

* denotes approximate date; / signifies either/or; † see *The Date of Jesus' Crucifixion*, pp. 1809–1810



Ancient Letter Structure

- **Letter Opening**
 - Standard: X to Y, greetings
 - Thanksgiving period
- **Body**
 - The purpose of the letter
- **Letter Closing**
 - Greetings (sister, mother, etc)
 - Blessing/doxology

Galatians 1:1-6

- Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel...



Love

- **Philia** (mental love-friends/family-loyalty)
- **Eros** (phystical/errotic)
- **Storge** (affection, parents/offspring)
- **Agape** (unconditional love)

Temple

- **Garden** (Gen 1-3)
- **Solomon/Herod's Temple**
- **Jesus** (Jn 2)
- **People of God** (1 Cor 6)
- **Whole Earth** (Rev 21-22)

inheritance of the saints

- Adam
- Abraham
- Israel
- Christ
- All those in Christ (The People of God)

Themes

- The spread of God's word
- The Gospel (instead of the Colossian heresy)
- The Christian hope, true wisdom & knowledge with a resulting behavior that pleases the Lord (contrast to the false wisdom)
- Thanksgiving to the Father
- Deliverance from bondage

Themes

- This is God's Kingdom, which we have inherited citizenship.

IV. 1:15–20 a hymn in honor of Christ

- 1 Cor 15:3-5
- For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Phil 2:3-11

- Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- 15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16For 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. 17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- 18And 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. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

OT background of image: Gen 1:26-27

- Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

The Son reveals the Father

- i. **Ontologically** (his nature/existence)
 - Having the same nature as the Father: eternal.
- ii. **Functionally** (representatively)
 - the second/new Adam, the one man who carried out a perfect representation of God's image to creation

C. "Firstborn of all creation" (1:15)

- Firstborn (*prototokos*)
- 1. Birth order
 - Ex 13:15
- “And when Pharaoh hardened his heart so as not to send us away, he slew every firstborn in the land of Egypt”

C. "Firstborn of all creation" (1:15)

- **2. Special status**

- Rm 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers
- Hb 12:23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect
- Col 1:18 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.

The Prototokos Christ

- As prototokos, Christ is unique, distinguished from all creation.
- Israel was a corporate Adam figure that was to accomplish the same purposes as Adam

A. For by him (1:16)

- For (*hoti*)
 - For, because of, since...
- by him
 - by means of him (Jesus)...

parallelism

- "in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible"
 - heaven/invisible
 - earth/visible

parallelism

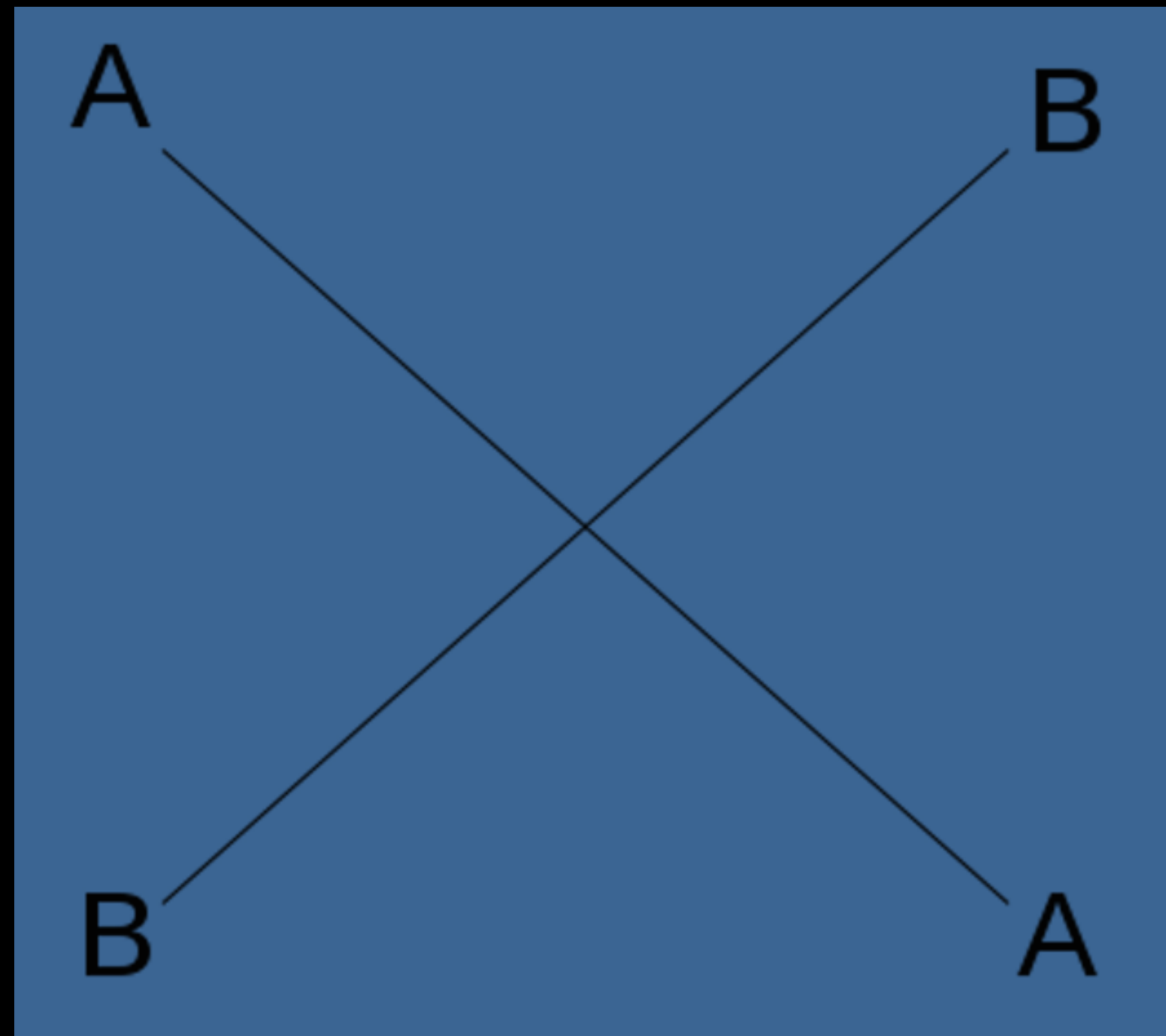
- **synonymous** (Ps 19:1-2)
 - The Heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
 - Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

parallelism

- **antithetical** (Ps 1:6)
- for the Lord knows the *way of the righteous*,
but the *way of the wicked* will perish.

parallelism

- **Chiasm (X)**
- “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country”



parallelism

- **Chiasm (X)**
- So God **created** man in his own image, in the image of God he **created** him
- A
 - B
 - B
- A

parallelism

- "in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible"
 - heaven/invisible
 - earth/visible

C. all things were created (1:16)

- 1. **were** created (*aorist*)...
- 2. **were** created (*perfect*)
- First time: historical act (aorist)
- Second time: creation's continuing existence (perfect)

**A. And he is before all things, and in him all things
hold together (1:17)**

- 1. He exists before "all things" (all the things that were created by him)
 - The universe is temporal, he is not
- 2. Holds all things together (συνιστημι)



Everything that's
been created

Anything that's
not created



Jesus



Yahweh is Creator

- 1. Genesis 1:1-2
 - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- 2. Isaiah 44:24
 - Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself”

Trinity

- 1. The Bible teaches one true God (Deut 6:4)
- 2. There are three distinct Persons identified as Yahweh
- 3. But the three are distinct
- 4. Yet there is only one God (Yahweh)

A. And he is the head of the body, the church (1:18a)

- Cosmological to Soteriological
- 15-17 Christ as the perfect sovereign
Lord of the universe
- 18-20 Christ as the perfect savior of the
universe

“Body” 1 Cor 12:21-26

- The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

B. The Church

- •εκκλησια (ekklesia): The called out ones (assembly)
- an "assembly of full citizens in the Greek city-state"

The Church

- Gen 3:15 (two seeds) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

The Church

- Gen 12:1-3, 7 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, ***so that*** you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed... Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “*To your offspring* I will give this land.”

The Church

- Gal 3:16, 26-29 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ... for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.

A. "He is the beginning..." (1:18)

- (αρχη) beginning = arche
- **A. Time period:**
 - Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1 (in the beginning)
- **B. Beginning/Origin:**
 - Ps 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
 - Mk 10:6 But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'

A. "He is the beginning..." (1:18)

- **C. Political:**

- Gen 40:13 Pharaoh shall restore your office [arches]
- Luke 20:20 so as to turn him over to the government [arche]
- Col 1:16 thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities [archai]
- Rev 3:14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning [arche] of God's creation.'"

1 Cor 15:3-4, 12-20

- For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

- We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For *if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised*. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1:19 the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

- Jer 23:24 “Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.
- Ps 72:19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!
- Is 6:3 “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

B. Pleased to dwell

- Deut 14:23 And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there...
- 16:2 And you shall offer the Passover sacrifice to the Lord your God, from the flock or the herd, at the place that the Lord will choose, to make his name dwell there.
- 16:6 but at the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name dwell in it, there you shall offer the Passover sacrifice...

Ps 68:17-18

- The chariots of God are twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary.
- You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there.

Temple

- Garden
- Burning Bush
- Arc of Covenant
- Solomon's Temple
- Jesus
- The Church (by means of the Spirit of God)
- The whole earth in the New Jerusalem

Christ as Temple

- John 2:19-21 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body.
- Eph 2:20-22 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

A. and through him to reconcile to himself all things

- Rom 5:10-11 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation

A. and through him to reconcile to himself all things

- 2 Cor 5:18-20 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

A. and through him to reconcile to himself all things

- Eph 2:16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 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. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- 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. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

V. 1:21–23 Reconciliation of sinners to God

- Once were alienated
- pre-Christian past and present
- Rom 5:6-11 ...For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God...

Enemies of God

- 2 Offspring of Genesis 3
- Eph 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Reconciled

- i. The Colossians have been reconciled to the One whom they had previously been at enmity
- ii. This could only be achieved through divine intervention
- iii. That attention is focused upon that which marks the turning point for them:
 - the Christ Event

Paul's *Two Age* theology

- Mt 12:32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come
- 1 Cor 2:6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.
- Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

This Age/Present Age

- The time from Gen 3 (the Fall) - Messiah
- The prophets knew that they lived in the "Present Age" (aka: this world)
- John 18:36 "my kingdom is not of this world"

Age to come

- Messianic Age of Lordship, predicted by the prophets
 - Mark 1:1-15 “Kingdom is at hand” (near)

The Kingdom Has Arrived!

- i. *Jesus* is the temple (Jn 2:18-22)
- ii. The *church* is the temple (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- iii. The church will *never be destroyed* or come to an end (Mt 16:18)
- iv. Yet the Evil One still exists, and is allowed to function in the world (2 Cor 4:4)

1:23 Perseverance in the gospel

- Rom 6:1-12 Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life... We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin...So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.

John 6:35-51

- I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst... All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” ...No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day...Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

How do I know if I'm saved?

- Those who have sincerely repented and acknowledge Jesus as Lord
- One **WANTS** to be reconciled to God when their heart has been changed

A. I rejoice in my sufferings (1:24a)

- Acts 9:15-16 ...he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."
- With the death and resurrection of the Messiah, the "age to come" has been inaugurated.
- The *Present Age* continues: Christians live in two age overlap

B. for the sake of his body, that is, the church (1:24b)

- Acts 8:1 Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church...
- Acts 9:1-5 Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord...And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "*I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*"

Mt 25:31-46

- “When the Son of Man comes in his glory...he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another ...And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry...I was thirsty... I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked... I was sick/in prison and you visited me... Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry/thirsty/a stranger/naked/sick/in prison?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Mt 25:31-46

- “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

- "The People of God are to be the image of God to the world. We are the light of the world. We are the means by which the Prince of Peace brings peace into the world. Sure, true lasting peace may not come until Christ comes and with him the fullness of His Kingdom. But until that day arrives, we are not given the liberty to sit back and watch the world go to destruction. If the world goes to pot, so be it. But all of God's people are commanded to cry out, "not on my watch!" -Rob Dalrymple

Mystery

- Eph 3:3-10 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Mystery

- The mystery (Christ in you, the hope of glory, Col 1:27)
 - It's revealed to believers
 - The Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, partakers of the same promise
 - SO THAT the church can make this mystery known to all rulers and authorities

Mystery in OT

- Dan 2:27-30 “No wise men, enchanter, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar ... To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

Mystery

- 2:47 The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”

- As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces...But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth...And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold.

The Mystery

- 1. Christ Himself
- 2. Jews and Gentiles equally sharing in God's inheritance
 - Believers (Jews and Gentiles) have their identity in Jesus
 - Jesus IS the temple, and this temple will take over the whole world (the church)

B. "that their hearts may be encouraged...knit together in love"

- that: IN ORDER THAT
 - Hearts: the inner life of a person, the center of his personality
 - Encouraged = Form of the word parakaleo
 - Kaleo: (ek + kaleo = ekklesia)
- • Knit together in love

Conclusion

- Paul was concerned with the universal Church (he struggled for them)
- FIND UNITY! But not at the expense of false doctrines!
- The church is Jesus (Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?)
- The church reveals the Mystery of God to the world!

**A. "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells
bodily... and you have been filled in him, " (2:9-10)**

- *dwells*: present tense (is dwelling)
 - different than 1:19 (aorist)
 - “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell”
 - 1:19 is claiming that the fullness of God was dwelling in the Son's preincarnate state
- 2:9 tells of the whole fullness of God residing in Christ's (current) resurrected and exalted state

Christ as Temple

- Christ is the temple (God is dwelling in Christ)
- Jesus is the true temple (not a shadow, like in the old covenant)
- the church (collectively) is the earthly embodiment

New Covenant

- Jer 31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my *law within them*, and I will write it *on their hearts*. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

These are a shadow...

- ***Plato***: World of Forms
- the world of forms has greater reality than sensory experience

Plato's Cave

The fire

shadows cast
on wall

Prisoners

Roadway where
puppeteers perform

The tabernacle/sacrifices are a shadow

- Heb 8:5 They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things...”
- Heb 10:1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:

sexual immorality

impurity

passion

evil desire

and covetousness

which is idolatry

On account of these the wrath of God is coming

In these you too once walked, when you were living in them

But now you must put them all away:

anger

wrath

malice

slander

and obscene talk from your mouth

Do not

lie to one another

seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

and have put on the new self

which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of
its creator

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved (3:12-17)

compassion

kindness

humility

meeekness

patience,

bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another

forgiving each other

as the Lord has forgiven you

so you also must forgive

And above all these put on love

which binds everything together in perfect harmony

For the *wrath* of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them... For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or *give thanks* to him, but they *became futile* in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the *dishonoring of their bodies* among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

...God gave them up to a *debased mind* to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of *unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice*. They are full of *envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness*. They are *gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless*. Though they *know God's decree* that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but *give approval* to those who practice them.

present *your bodies as a living sacrifice*, holy and acceptable to God, which is your *spiritual worship*. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the *renewal of your mind*, that by testing you may *discern what is the will of God*, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you *not to think of himself more highly* than he ought to think, but to think with *sober judgment*, each *according to the measure of faith* that God has assigned... Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if *prophecy*, in proportion to our faith; if *service*, in our serving; the one who *teaches*, in his teaching; the one who *exhorts*, in his exhortation; the one who *contributes*, in generosity; the one who *leads*, with zeal; the one who does *acts of mercy*, with cheerfulness. Let *love* be genuine. *Abhor what is evil*; hold fast to what is *good*. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in *showing honor*. Do not be *slothful* in zeal, be fervent in spirit, *serve the Lord*.

Bless those who *persecute* you; bless and do not curse them. *Rejoice* with those who rejoice, *weep* with those who weep. Live in *harmony* with one another. Do *not be haughty*, but associate with the *lowly*. Never be *conceited*. Repay no one *evil* for evil, but give thought to do what is *honorable* in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, *live peaceably with all*. Beloved, never *avenge* yourselves, but leave it to *the wrath of God*... “if your enemy is hungry, *feed* him; if he is *thirsty*, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Passage	Romans 1	Romans 12	Passage
1:18	For the <i>wrath</i> of God is revealed from heaven	never avenge yourself, but leave it to the <i>wrath</i> of God	12:19
1:21	but they became <i>futile</i> in their thinking	but be <i>transformed</i> by the <i>renewal</i> of your <i>mind</i>	12:2
1:24	to the dishonoring of their <i>bodies</i> among themselves	For as in <i>one body</i> we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are <i>one body</i> in Christ, and individually members of one another.	12:4-5
1:25	<i>worshiped</i> and <i>served</i> the creature rather than the Creator	present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your <i>spiritual worship</i>	12:1

Passage	Romans 1	Romans 12	Passage
1:28	God gave them up to a <i>debased mind</i> to do what ought not to be done	Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the <i>renewal of your mind</i>	12:2
1:29	covetousness	if your enemy is hungry/thirsty feed them/give them drink	12:20
1:30	Slanderers	the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; love one another with brotherly affection	12:8, 10
1:30	<i>haughty</i>	Do not be <i>haughty</i> , but associate with the lowly	12:16
1:30	boastful	the one who exhorts, in his exhortation	12:8

Passage	Romans 1	Romans 12	Passage
1:30	inventors of <i>evil</i>	do not be overcome by <i>evil</i> , but overcome evil with good.	12:21
1:31	foolish	Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the <i>renewal of your mind</i>	12:2
1:32	Though they know God's decree	by testing you may <i>discern what is the will of God</i> , what is good and acceptable and perfect	12:2
1:32	but <i>give approval</i> to those who practice them	Abhor what is evil, hold fast to what is good	12:9

3:18–4:1 Living in the Christian household

- A. Household codes: general principles of Christian behavior applied to the Roman-Christian home
- B. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.
- 1 Cor 7:3-4 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

- 1:4, 6 love for the saints; it's bearing fruit and growing
- 1:10 walking in a manner worthy of the Lord
- 1:13 transferred into the kingdom of His son
- 3:1-3 If you've been raised with Christ, set your minds on things above
- 3:5-11 Put away evil desires
 - sexual immorality, impurity, covetousness, anger, malice, wrath, slander, lying,
- 3:12-17 Put on good desires
 - compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiving, love, let the peace of Christ rule your hearts

C. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged

- Torah (5th Command)
- Ex 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
- when one takes care of their parents, (and parents are reproducing and building a strong family) they are ensuring that their family will live on forever.

E. Slaves, obey your masters...Masters, be just!

- Slaves who are believers are brothers with their masters
- Masters are to treat their slaves fairly and justly
- They are masters on earth, but themselves have a master in heaven

4:2–4 Persistence in prayer

- preaching the "Mystery of Christ (4:3) is identical with the gospel
- 1 Cor 2:1-2, 7
- ...when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified... But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

XI. 4:5–6 Good behavior toward those outside the community



YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT I JUST BLESSED MYSELF WITH.

Church Sex Abuse Scandal



EXCLUSIVE
HLN HAGGARD WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF BUYING & USING METH

XI. 4:5–6 Good behavior toward those outside the community

- Redeeming the time: Dan 2:8
 - The king answered and said, “I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time (buying up time), because you see that the word from me is firm

XII. 4:7–17 Personal Greetings and Instructions

- Workers FOR the Kingdom of God (4:11)
 - future kingdom AND present kingdom
 - the already, but not yet
 - the present age, and age to come
- THE KINGDOM IS HERE!