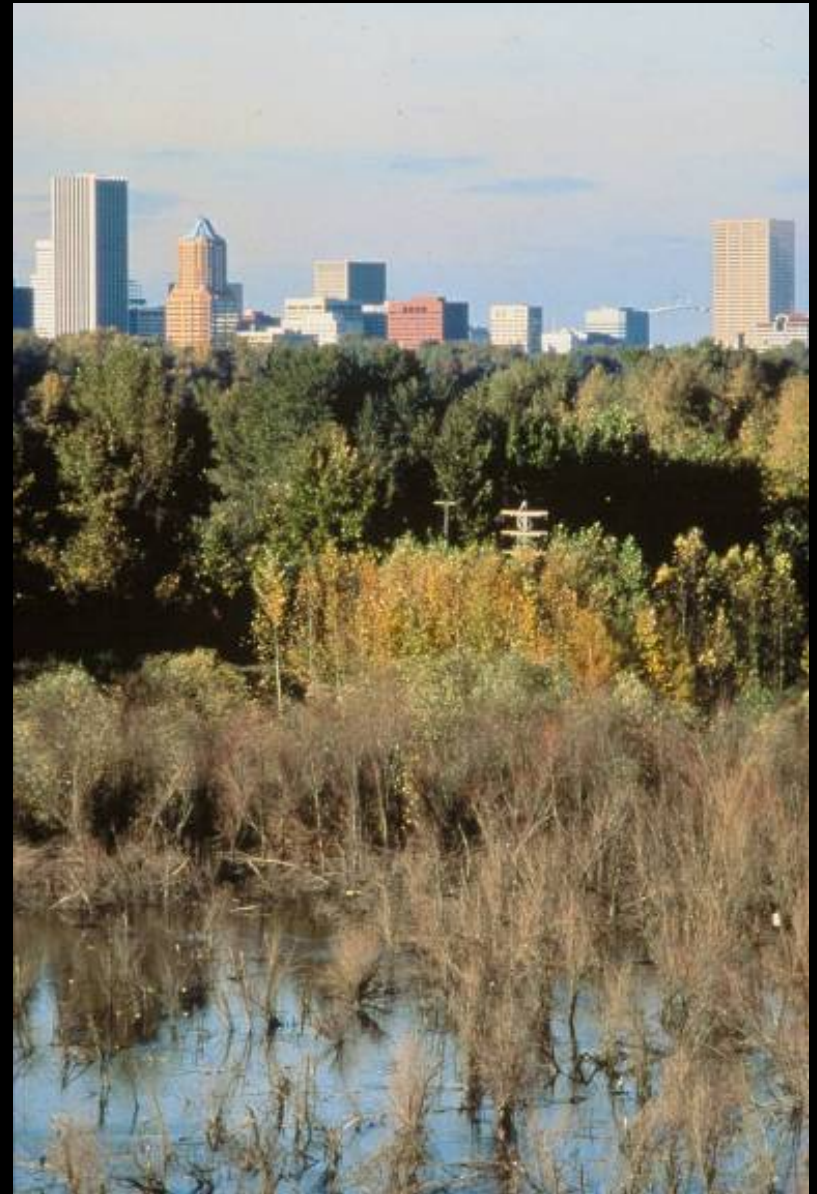


How Creation Care
Will Change
Your Faith, Your Life,
and Our World

Gardening Eden

Michael Abbaté, ASLA, APA, LEED®

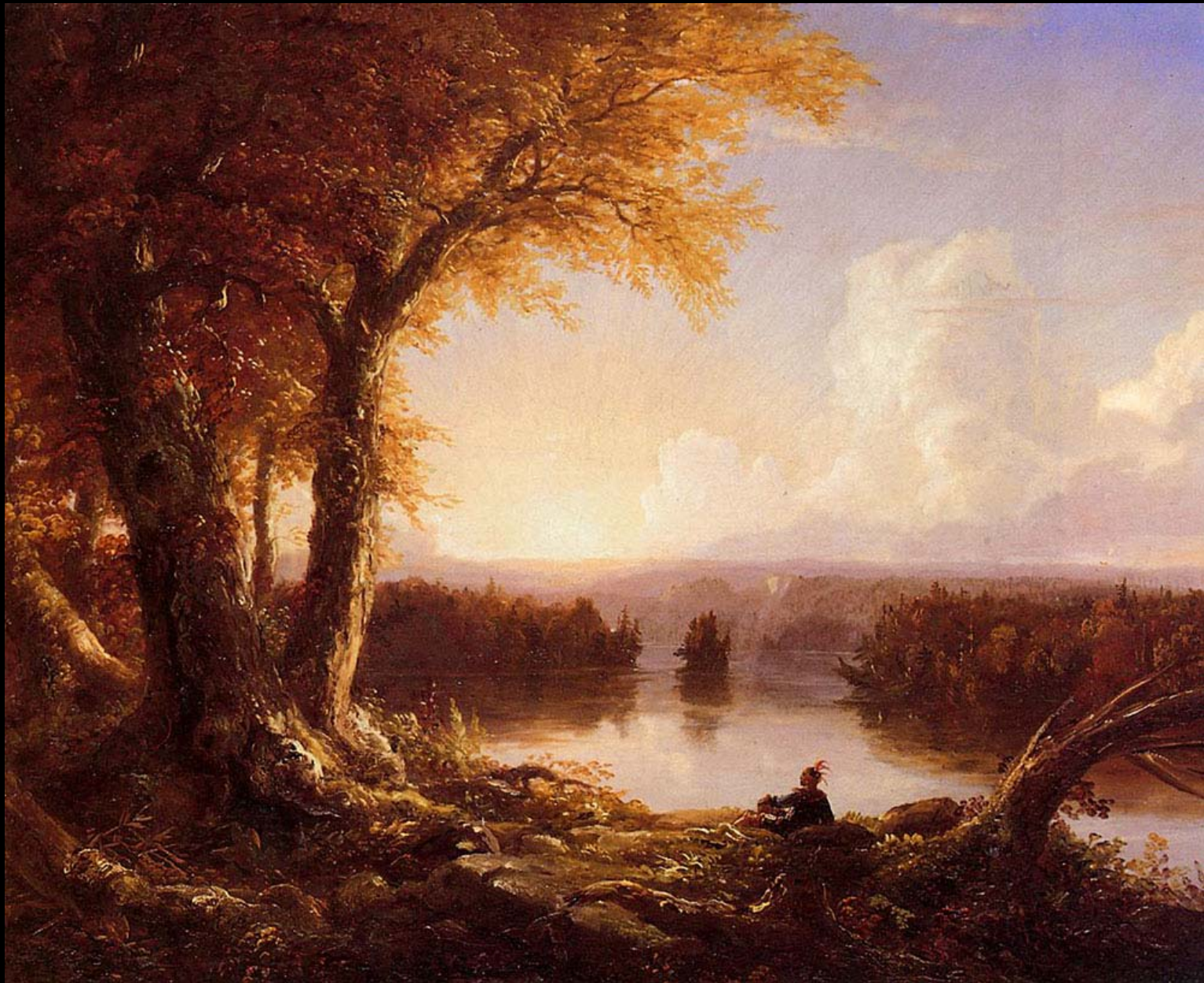
ma@michaelabbate.com







the confusion



"Indian at Sunset", Thomas Cole, 1845



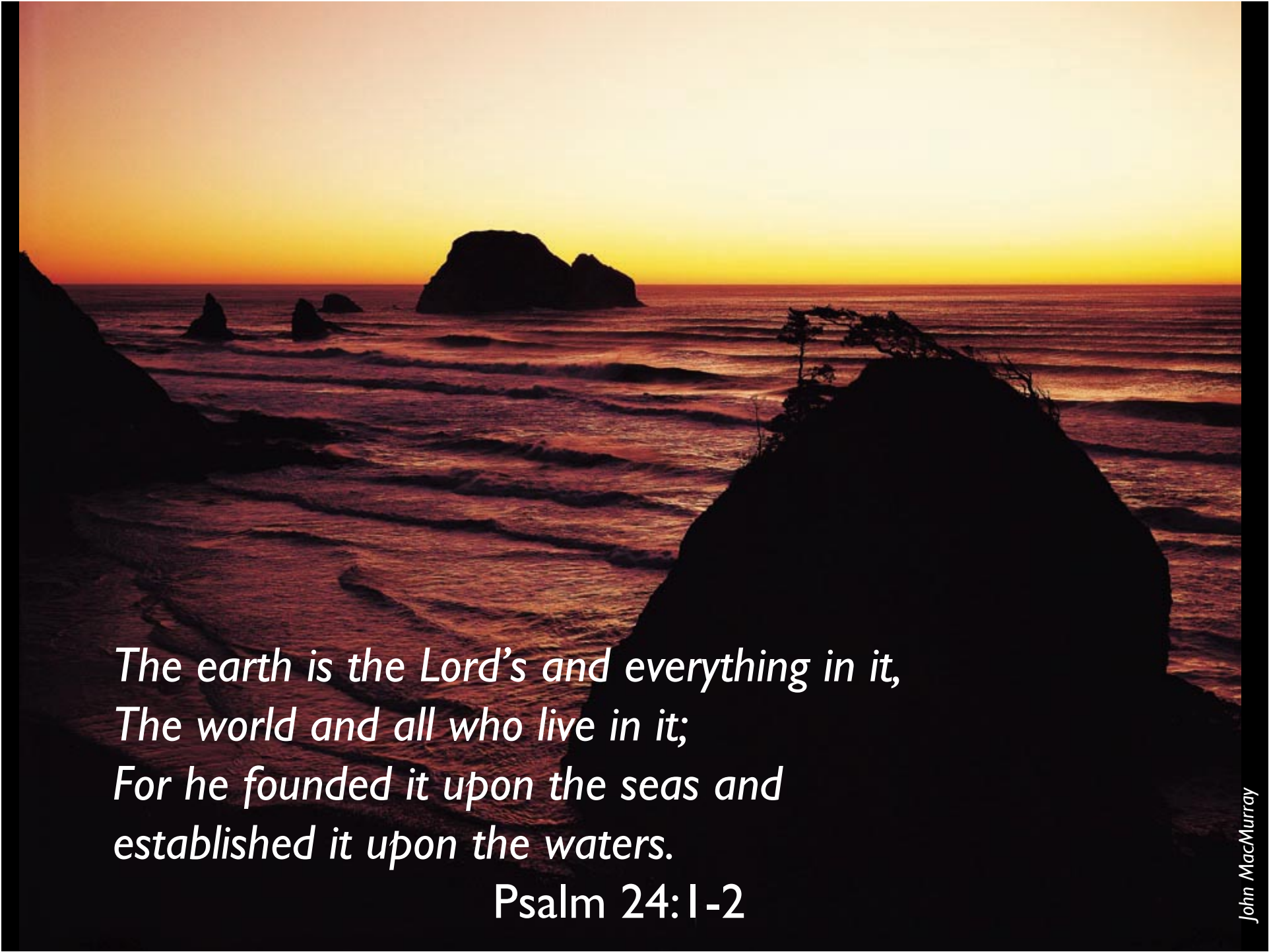
the biblical basis

The Bible Speaks on the Creation

I. What God made is good.

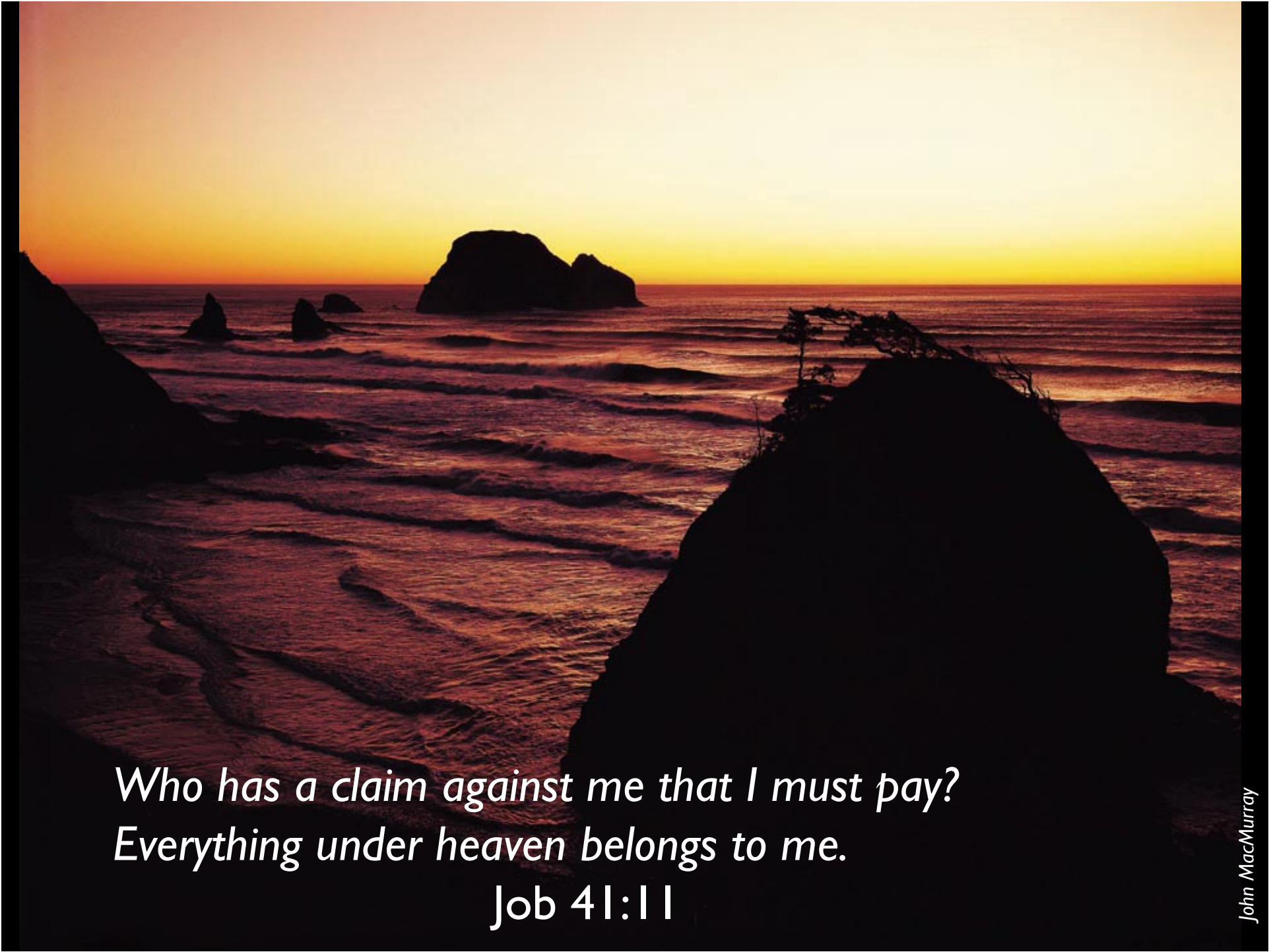
The Bible Speaks on the Creation

1. What God made is good.
2. What God made is God's.



*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
The world and all who live in it;
For he founded it upon the seas and
established it upon the waters.*

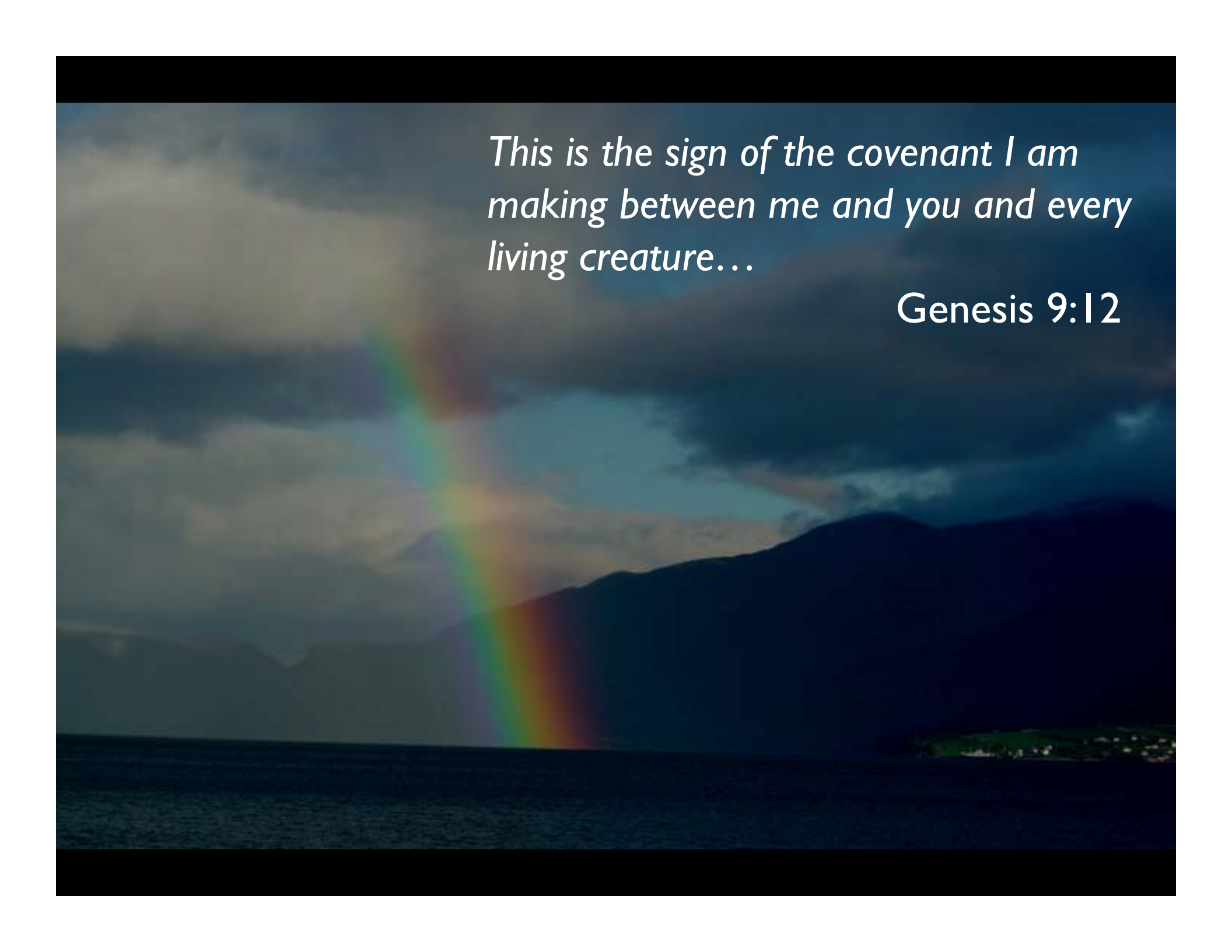
Psalm 24:1-2



*Who has a claim against me that I must pay?
Everything under heaven belongs to me.
Job 41:11*

The Bible Speaks on the Creation

1. What God made is good.
2. What God made is God's.
3. God loves the world he created.

A vibrant rainbow arches over a dark sea and mountains under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The rainbow's colors are clearly visible, transitioning from red at the top to violet at the bottom. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with some lighter patches where the sun is breaking through. The mountains in the background are dark and silhouetted against the sky. The sea in the foreground is dark and calm.

*This is the sign of the covenant I am
making between me and you and every
living creature...*

Genesis 9:12

The Bible Speaks on the Creation

1. What God made is good.
2. What God made is God's.
3. God loves the world he created.
4. Everything was created to glorify God.



***...Praise the Lord, all his works
everywhere in his dominion...***

Psalm 103:20-22

***The mountains and hills will burst into
song before you...***

Isaiah 55:12-13

***...Let the fields be jubilant, and
everything in them***

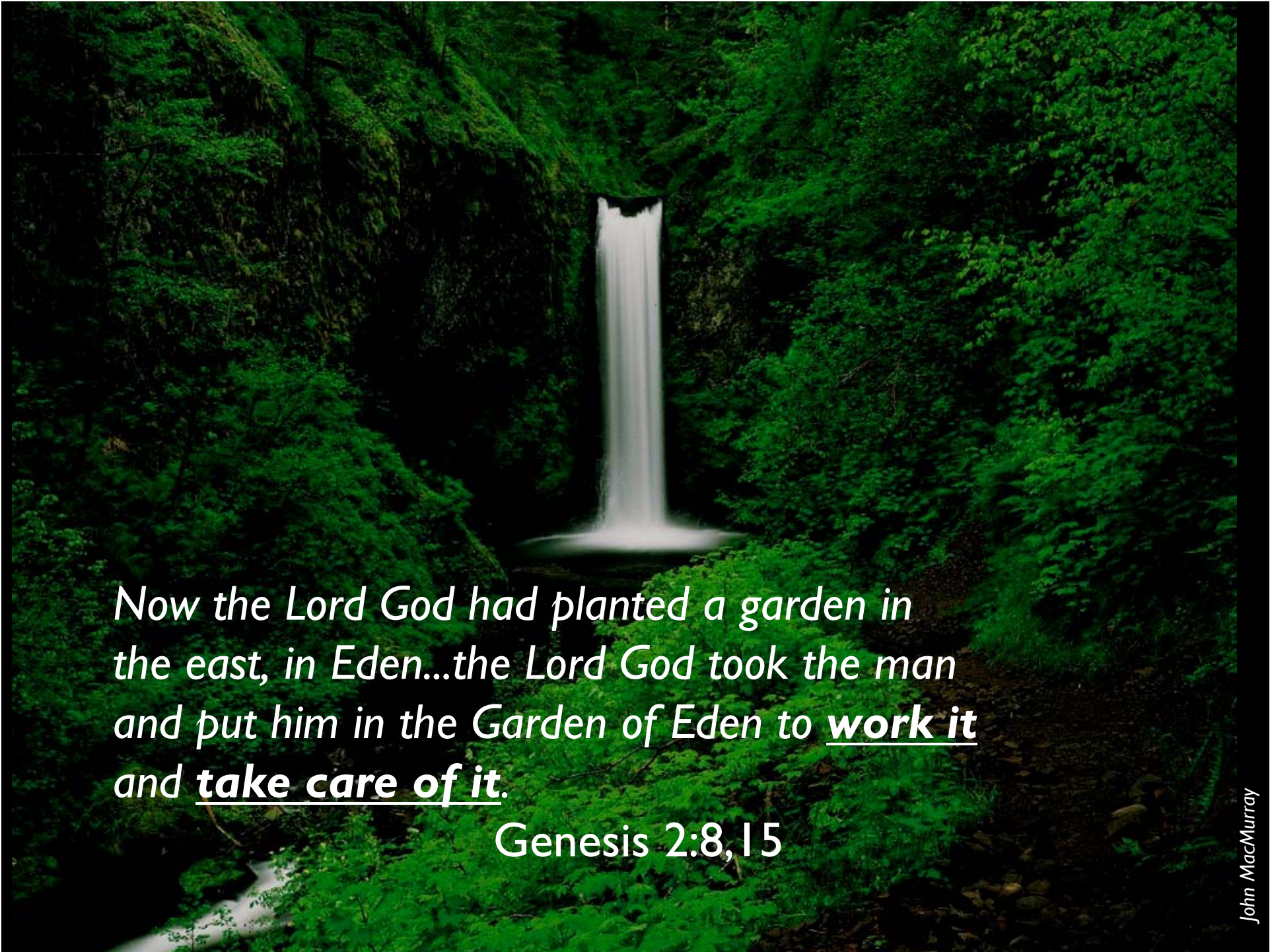
Psalm 96:11-13

***...Let every creature praise His holy
name forever and ever...***

Psalm 145:21

The Bible Speaks on the Creation

1. What God made is good.
2. What God made is God's.
3. God loves the world he created.
4. Everything was created to glorify God.
5. **He appointed us as stewards.**



*Now the Lord God had planted a garden in
the east, in Eden...the Lord God took the man
and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it
and take care of it.*

Genesis 2:8, 15


Gardening Eden was not Adam's punishment;

It was his purpose.

It is our purpose as well.



www.restoringeden.org



*Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*

Genesis 1:28 (KJV)



You put us in charge of everything you made,
When I look at the night sky and see the works of your fingers –
Giving us authority over all things –
The moon and the stars you have set in place –
The sheep and the cattle and the wild animals,
What are mere mortals that you should think of us,
The birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,
Mere humans that you should care for us?
And everything that swims the ocean currents
For you made us only a little lower than the angels,
O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!
And you crowned us with glory and honor
Psalm 8: 1,3-9



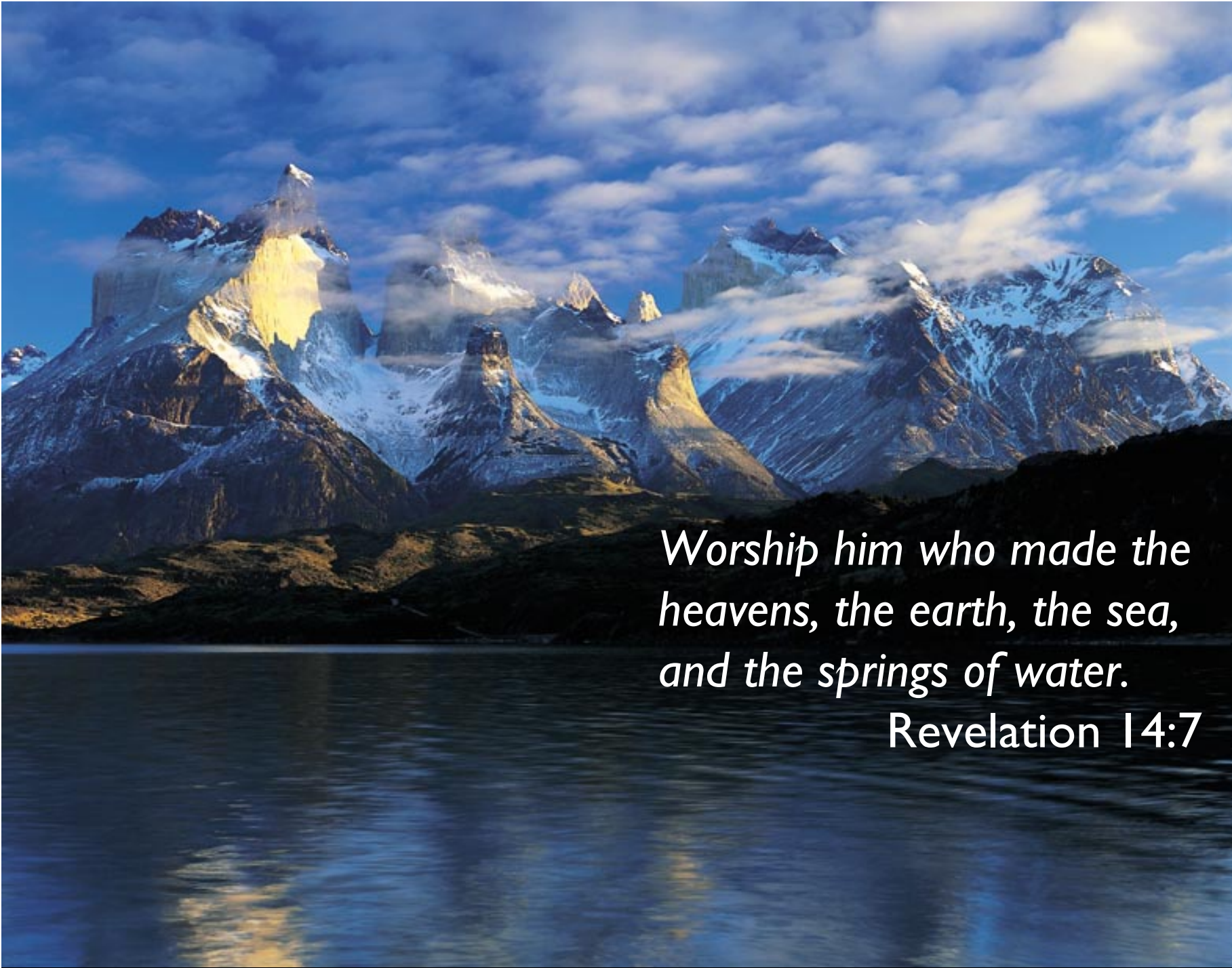
When we have dominion over nature, it is not ours. It belongs to God, and we are to exercise our dominion over these things not as though entitled to exploit them, but as things borrowed or held in trust.

Man's dominion is under God's Dominion and under God's Domain.

Francis Schaeffer, Pollution and the Death of Man, 1970

our response

worship



*Worship him who made the
heavens, the earth, the sea,
and the springs of water.*

Revelation 14:7

compassion

action

TOP TEN Ways to Green Your Church

10

form a church “Green Team”



TOP TEN

Ways to Green Your Church

9

conduct a creation care audit
of facilities, operations and
maintenance



TOP TEN

Ways to Green Your Church

8

develop a prayer garden



TOP TEN Ways to Green Your Church

7

use locally grown food



TOP TEN

Ways to Green Your Church

6

create a community garden



TOP TEN

Ways to Green Your Church

5

stop using disposables



TOP TEN

Ways to Green Your Church

4

become a recycling model



TOP TEN

Ways to Green Your Church

3

bike and walk to church





TOP TEN

Ways to Green Your Church

2

do a restoration project
as a congregation

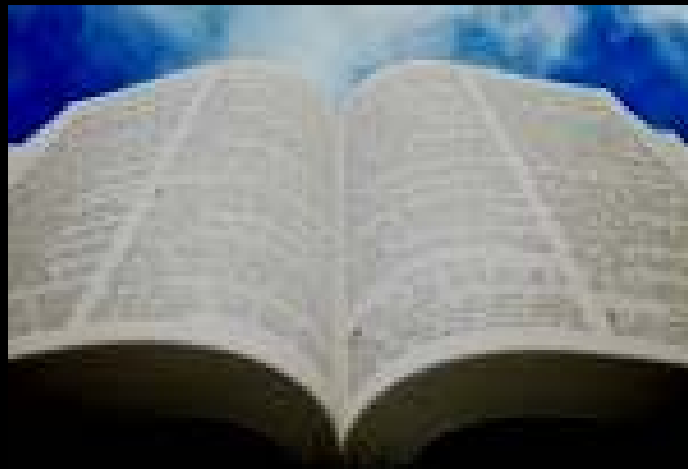


TOP TEN

Ways to Green Your Church

1

teach and model the biblical
basis for creation care





**support faith-based
environmental organizations**

www.asa3.org

www.flourishonline.org

www.creationcare.org

www.restoringeden.org

www.creationcareforpastors.org

www.ausable.org

www.plantwithpurpose.org

**Imagine the power of God that would be released
if His people agreed:**

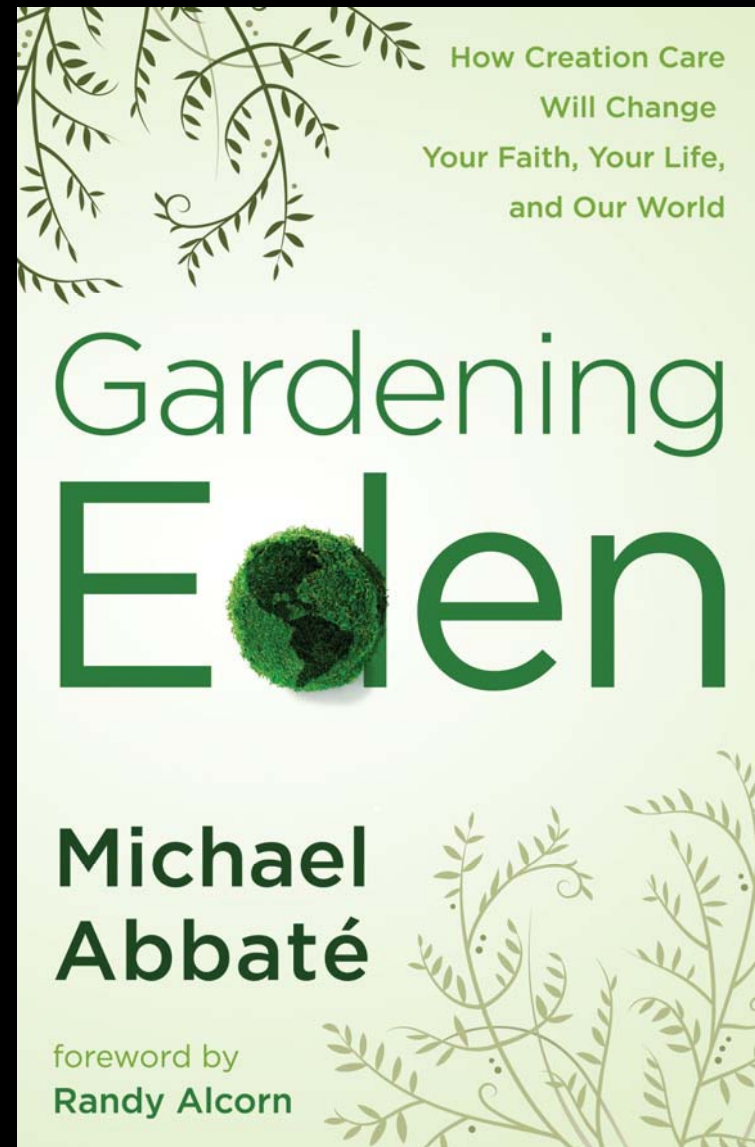
- **this world is a gift from God**
- **we want to pass it on to future generations in
better condition than we found it**
- **to accomplish this, we are willing to make
personal sacrifices**

We must learn to think and act ecologically. We repent of extravagance, pollution and wanton destruction. We recognize that human beings find it easier to subdue the earth than they do to subdue themselves.

John Stott, Issues Facing Christians Today



**To keep in touch or to
dialogue about
Gardening Eden,
drop me an email or go
to my website:**



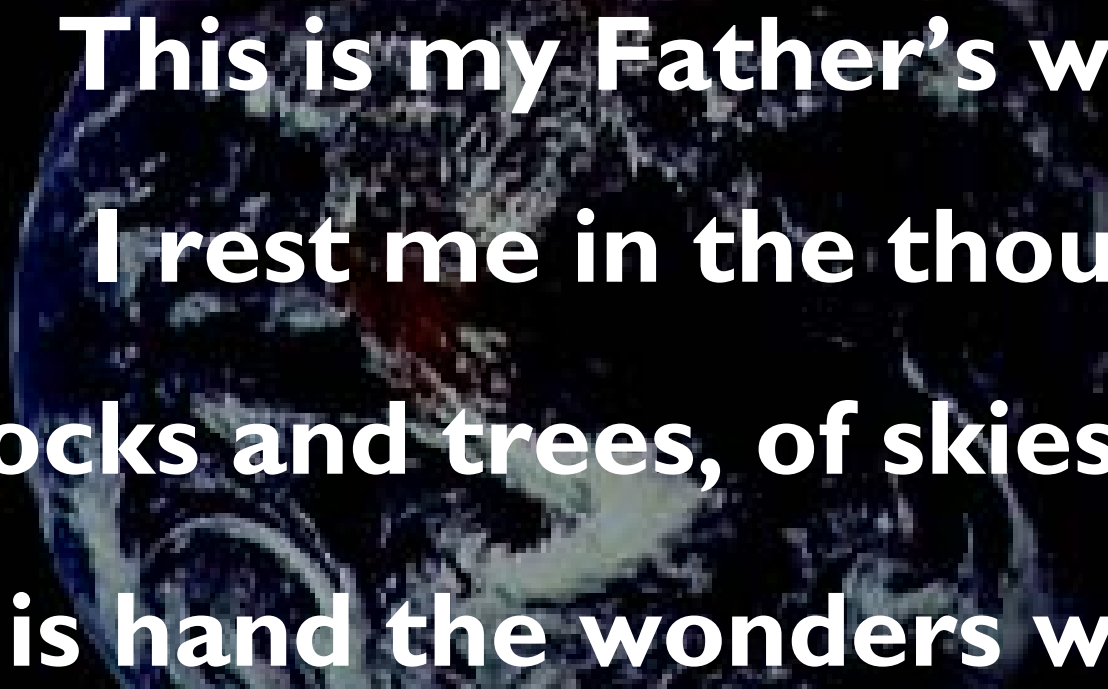
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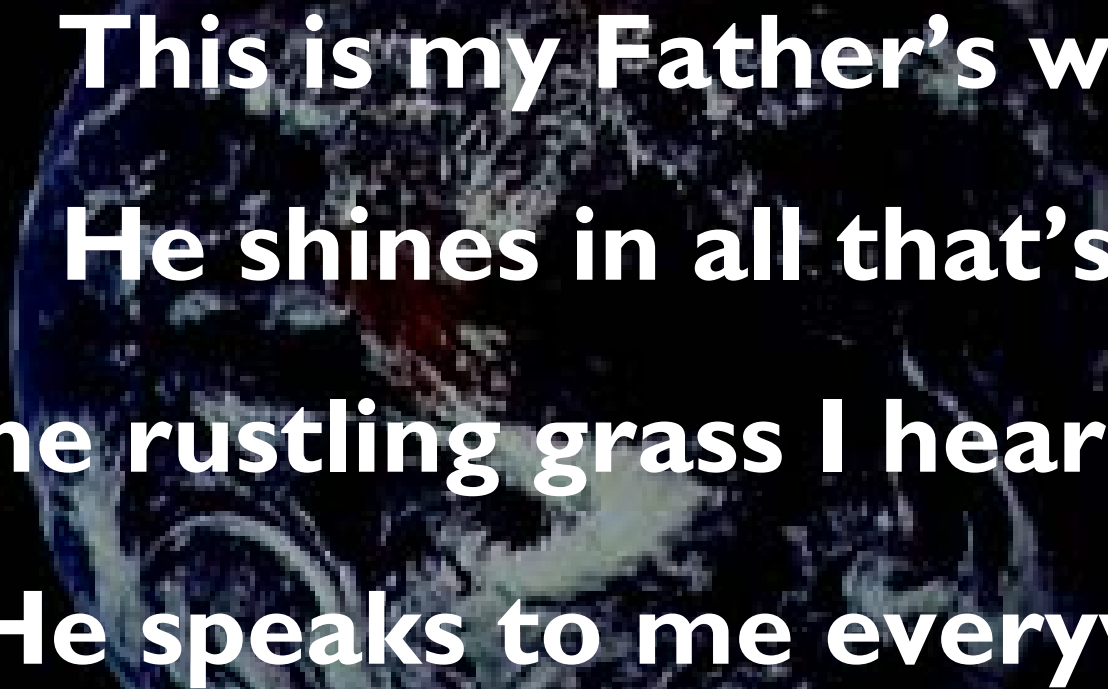
**This is my Father's world
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres**



**This is my Father's world
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas
His hand the wonders wrought**



**This is my Father's world
the birds their carols raise
the morning light, the lily white
declare their maker's praise**



**This is my Father's world
He shines in all that's fair
In the rustling grass I hear him pass
He speaks to me everywhere**