

Advent

HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, CHRIST



“ADVENT HOPE”

Revealing Love’s Pure Light inside our Darkness

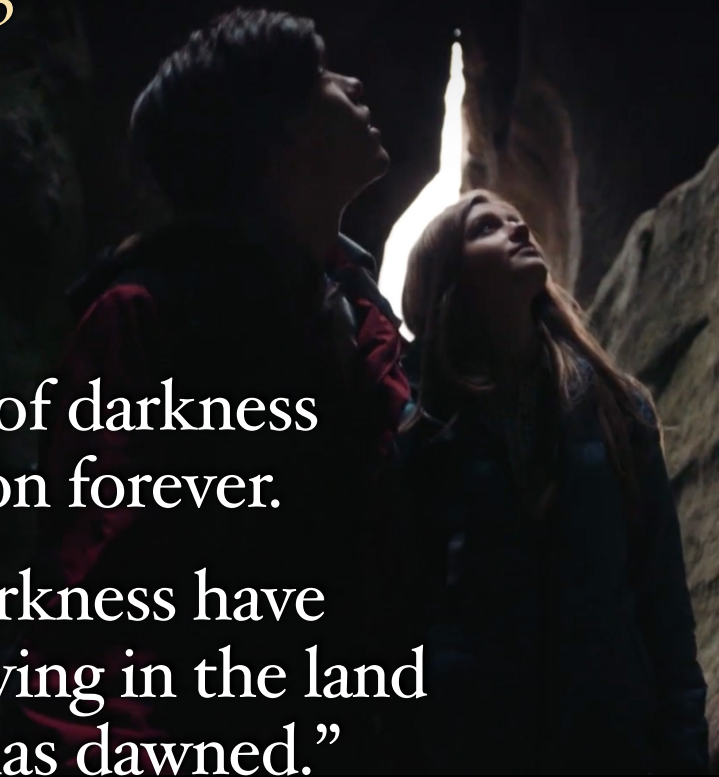
- December 3rd 2023 -

A SEASON OF
Hope

Isaiah 9:1-2

“Nevertheless, that time of darkness
and despair will not go on forever.

The people walking in darkness have
seen a great light; on those living in the land
of deep darkness, a light has dawned.”





HOPE IS BORN AS THE LIGHT DAWNS

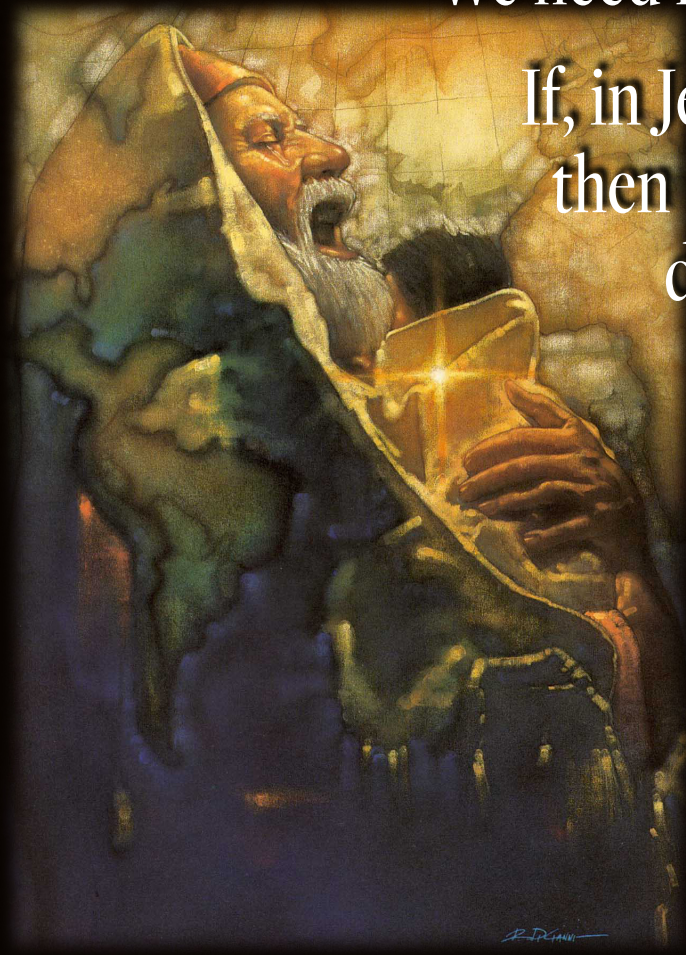
(to play "*HOPE IS BORN*" Advent video, click link below)

<https://vimeopro.com/user2890445/inspiring-music-and-videos/video/650853276>

It is a poverty to imagine that God takes a human body only to die.
We need not reduce the Incarnation in this way.

If, in Jesus Christ, the Creator becomes what he makes, then God has bestowed on all human flesh unimaginable dignity simply in the great solidarity of becoming one of us, an embodied sentient animal (forever). At the heart of God's movement towards us as creatures is an unfathomable (and in materialist terms, impossible) love. We cannot become the things we make, but God can and God does.

- Kenneth Tanner (Feb 28th 2023 IG post)





God decides to become nothing in the universe but human.
He does not become a star, or a tree, or a dog.

When the son takes flesh from Mary, the most intimate connection is made between the divine life and the beautiful human nature every human shares.

God does not become what he does not love. God does not become what he hates. God becomes what he makes and this is a love, a solidarity exceeded only by God's willingness to die also for what he makes.

We do not get to the dying though, until we understand the infinite divine love involved in God sharing our contingent, vulnerable flesh.

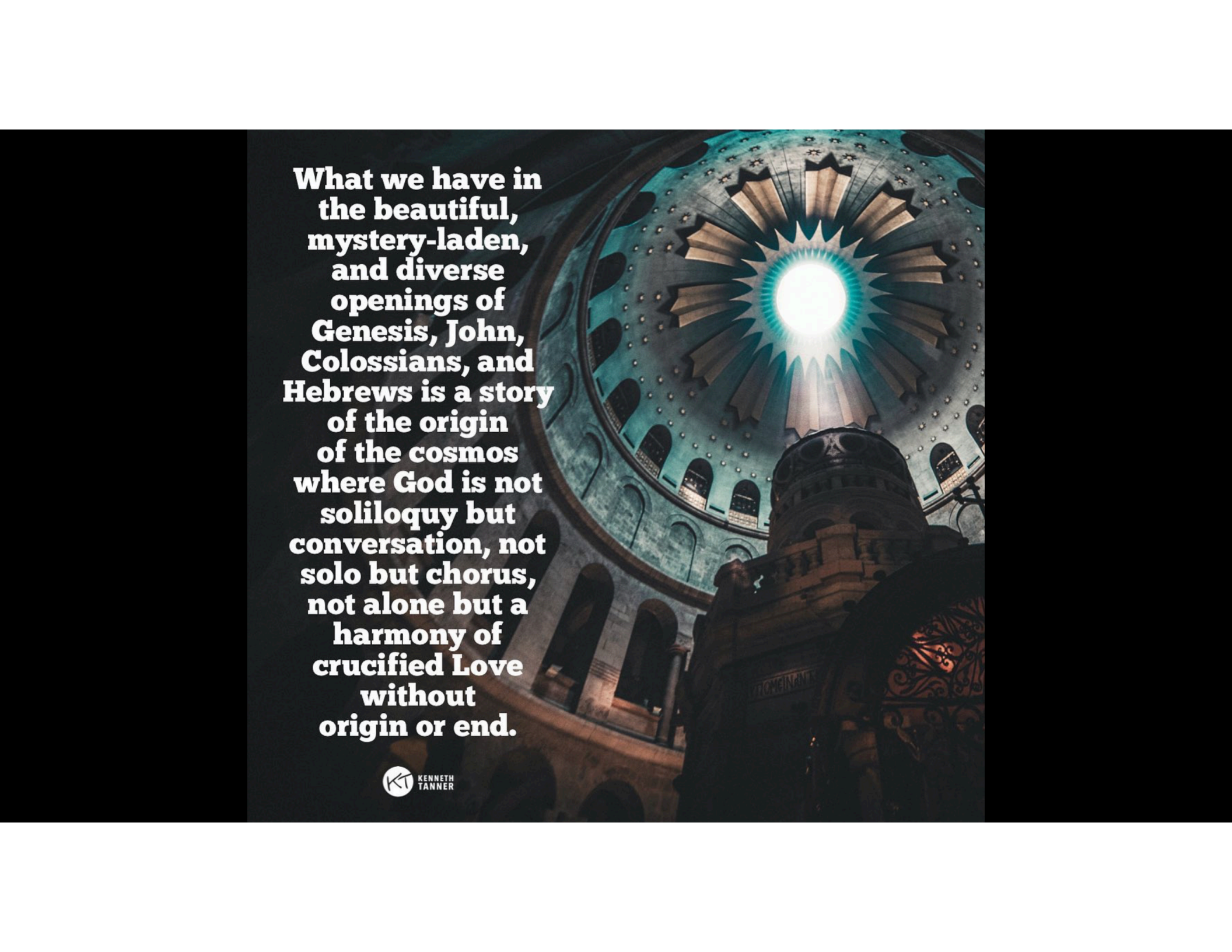
- Kenneth Tanner (Feb 28th 2023 IG post)

All theologies that do not marinate in this mystery —the message of embodied divine love that we are trying but failing to articulate— will distort the Incarnation and the Cross, will give us a false image of God and a false image of humanity.



The image of God and the image of all humans is this human God, Jesus, nailed to wood. This means that every human is made in the image of love, not hate, in the image of generosity, not greed, in the image of welcome, not exile, in the image of healing, not harm, in the image of good, not evil.

- Kenneth Tanner (Feb 28th 2023 IG post)

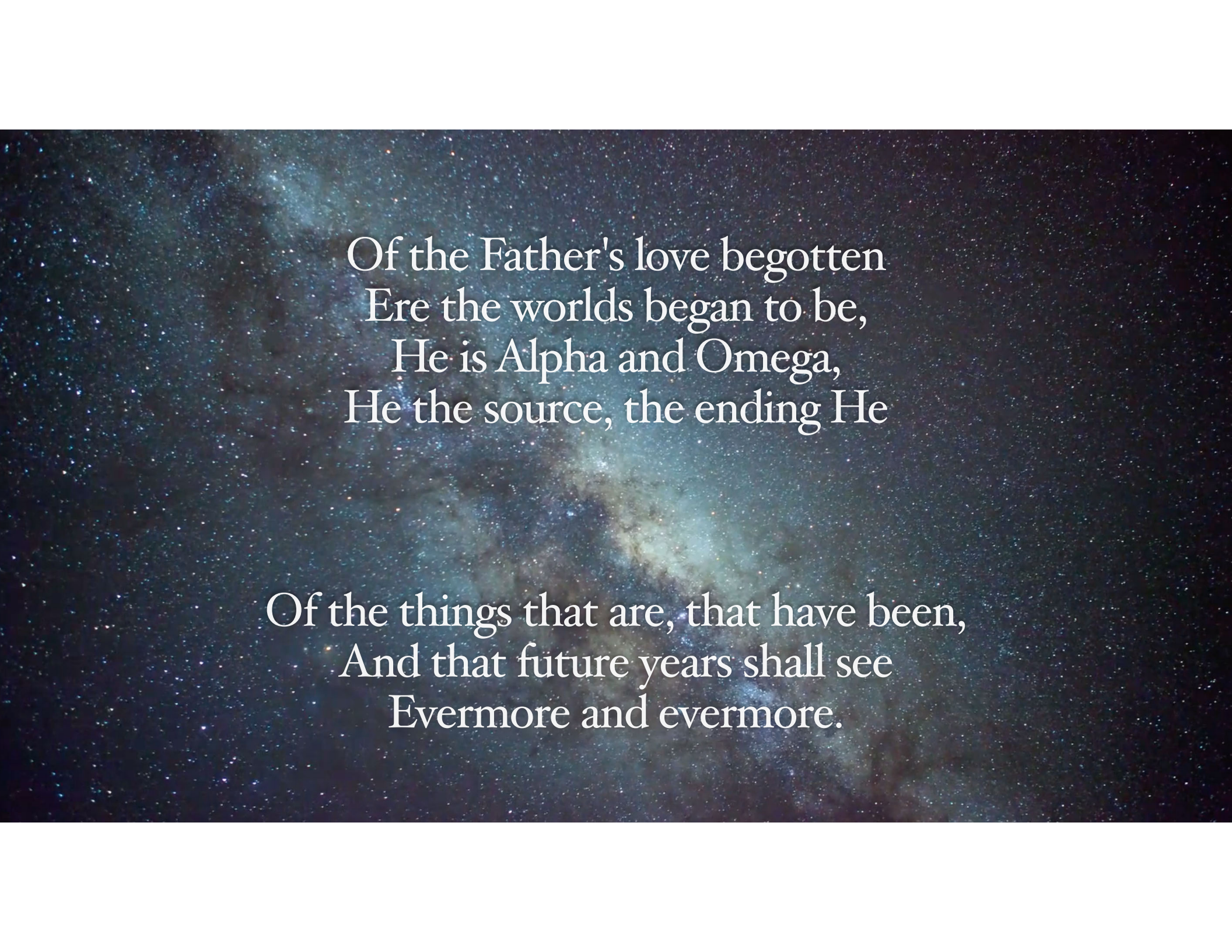


**What we have in
the beautiful,
mystery-laden,
and diverse
openings of
Genesis, John,
Colossians, and
Hebrews is a story
of the origin
of the cosmos
where God is not
soliloquy but
conversation, not
solo but chorus,
not alone but a
harmony of
crucified Love
without
origin or end.**

WHEN ISAIAH SAID, "HEAR, NOW, YOU HOUSE OF DAVID! IS IT NOT ENOUGH
WILL YOU TRY THE PATIENCE OF MY GOD ALSO? 14 THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF
SIGN: THE VIRGIN WILL BE WITH CHILD AND WILL GIVE BIRTH TO
HE WILL CALL HIM IMMANUEL." 15 HE WILL EAT CURDS AND

IMMANUEL GOD WITH US





Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He

Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.


What does 'only begotten Son' mean?

The Greek term translated "only begotten" is *monogenes*, a word used nine times in the New Testament that can mean **one of a kind or unique**.

For example, Luke uses the term three times to refer to an only child (Luke 7:12; 8:42; 9:38). The writer of Hebrews uses the term to refer to Isaac, the only son of Abraham and Sarah, the son of the promise (Hebrews 11:17).

Does this mean Jesus was somehow born or created by God?

It does not. Instead, the emphasis is on Jesus as one in unique relationship with the Father (Jn 1:14, 18).



and you will know the **TRUTH**,
and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32

Yet those who embrace Him, who trust in His name, experience His Light, His I AM setting them free to become their true selves, free to live as children of God in the darkness, discovering their origin beyond their earthly parents in the Word in the Father.

- John 1:12-13 Paraphrase by Baxter Kruger

John 1:14 MIRROR

“Suddenly the invisible, eternal Word takes on visible form - the Incarnation on display in a flesh and blood person as in a mirror! In him, and now confirmed in us! The most accurate tangible display of God’s eternal thought finds expression in human life!

The Word became a human being; we are his address; he resides in us!

He captivates our gaze! The glory we see there is not a religious replica; he is the authentic begotten son.

The glory (*that we lost in Adam*) returns in fullness! Only grace can communicate truth in such complete context!

John 1:18 (MIRROR)

“Until this moment God remained invisible; now the authentic, incarnate begotten Son, the blueprint of our design who represents the innermost being of God, the Son who is in the bosom of the Father, brings him into full view!

He is the official authority qualified to announce God!
He is our guide who accurately declares and interprets the invisible God within us.”