



THE HEART OF WORSHIP

GODLY WORSHIP IN A GODLESS CULTURE

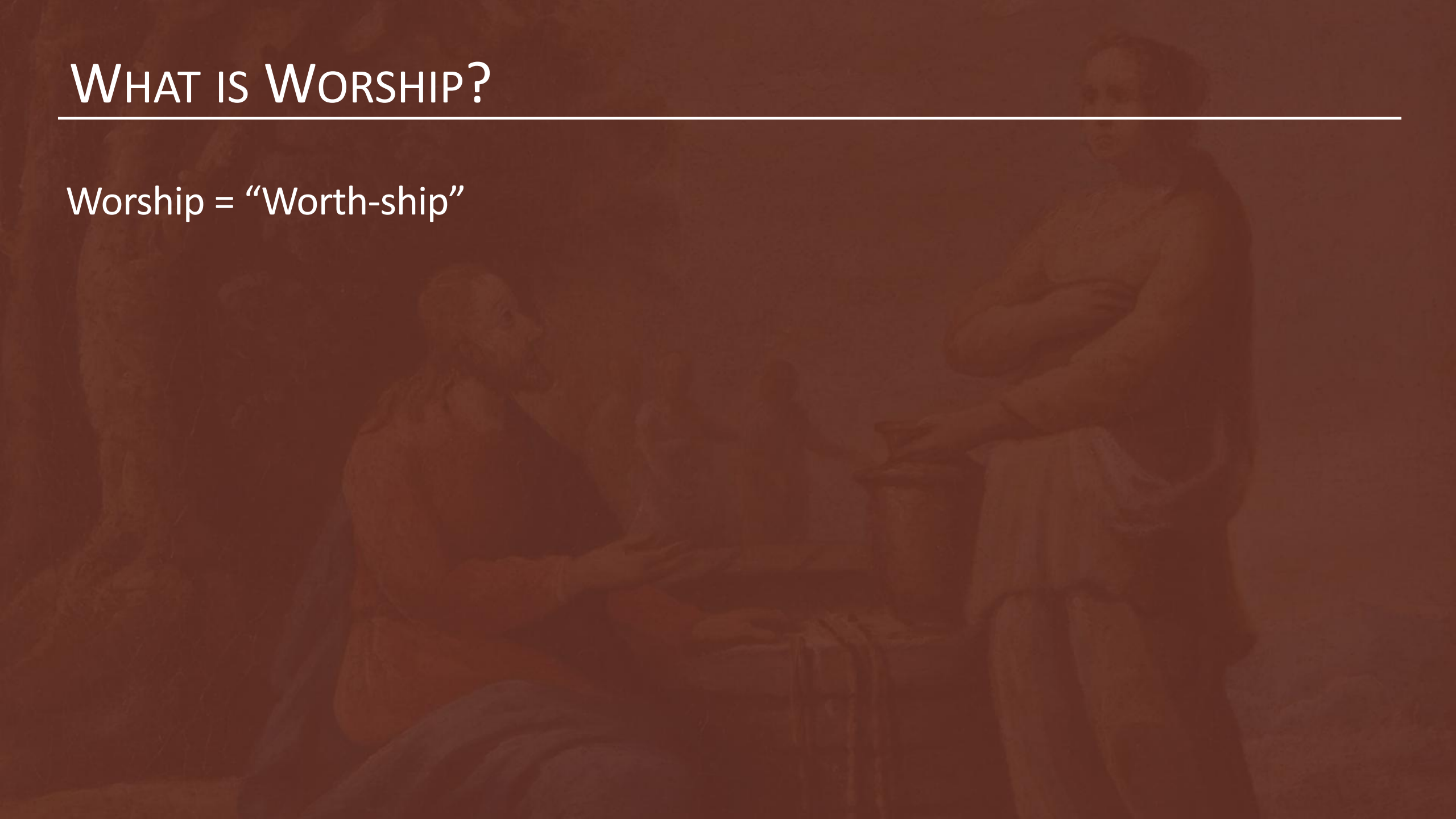
JOHN 4:19-26

WHAT IS WORSHIP?



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Worship = “Worth-ship”



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Worship = “Worth-ship”

*O could I speak the matchless worth,
O could I sound the glories forth
Which in my Savior shine!*

*I'd soar and touch the heavenly strings,
And vie with Gabriel while he sings...*

*I'd sing the precious blood He spilt,
My ransom from the dreadful guilt...*

*I'd sing the character He bears,
And all the forms of love He wears...*

- Samuel Medley, 1789.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

“Worship is...

what a person offers to God.”

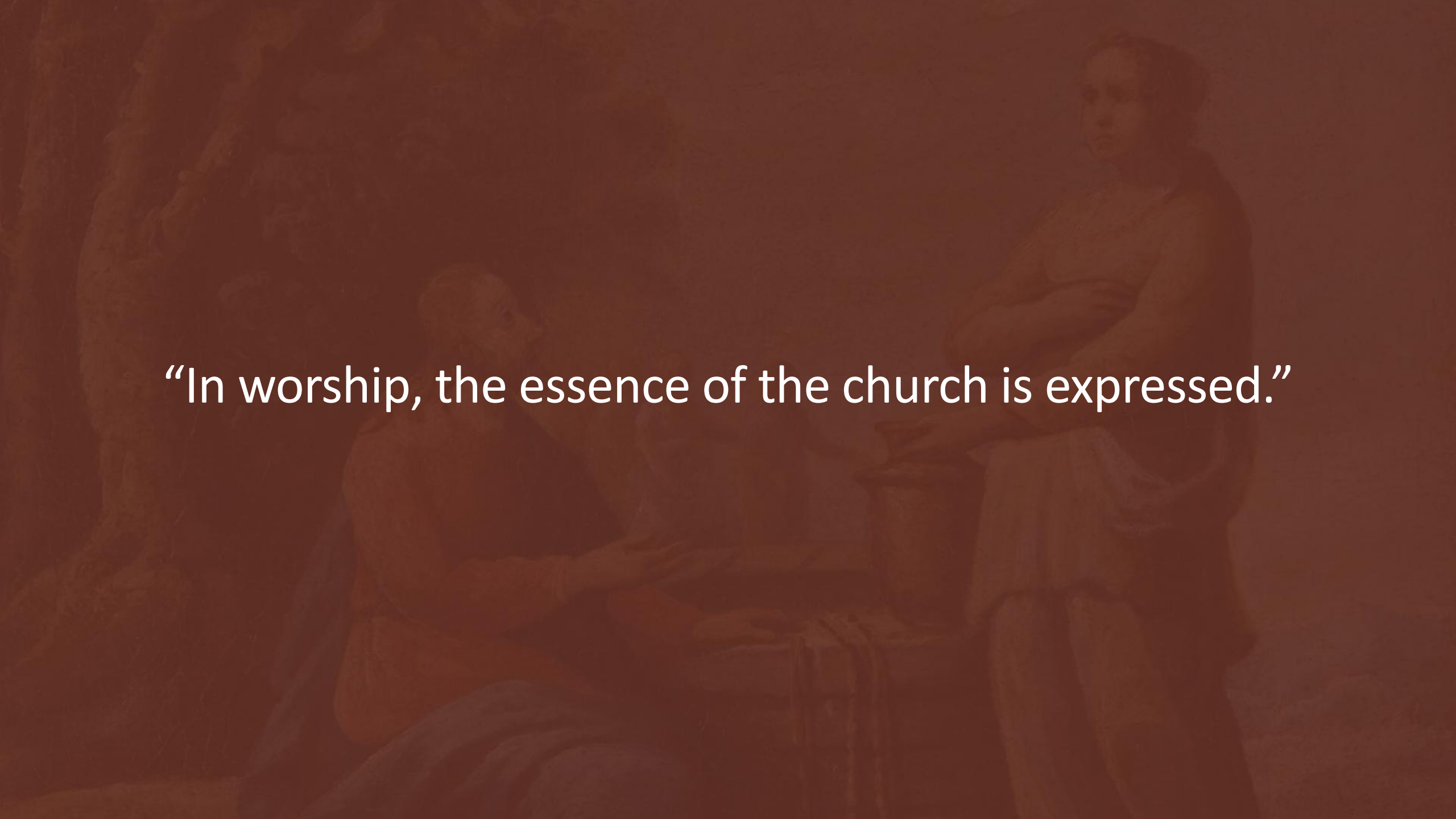
- Everett Ferguson, *The New Testament Church*.

the work of acknowledging the greatness of our covenant Lord.”

- John M. Frame, *Worship in Spirit and Truth*.

the corporate action of the community in response to God’s acts of grace in history.”

- Alvin J. Beachy, *Worship as Celebration of Covenant and Incarnation*.



“In worship, the essence of the church is expressed.”

THREE FACETS OF BIBLICAL WORSHIP

1. Worship is homage or grateful submission to God.

Psalm 95:6-7

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

THREE FACETS OF BIBLICAL WORSHIP

1. Worship is homage or grateful submission to God.

Joshua 22:5

⁵ But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

2. **Worship is service to God**

THREE FACETS OF BIBLICAL WORSHIP

1. Worship is homage or grateful submission to God.

Deuteronomy 6:13

¹³ Fear the Lord your God, serve him only...

2. Worship is service to God.

Matthew 4:10

3. **Worship is reverence or respect for God.**

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, ... ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL - A PROPHET?

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.”

Jesus comes to her as the Revealer of:

- God’s gift of living water
- The true nature of worship
- His identity as Messiah
- Her hidden sin

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL - A QUESTION

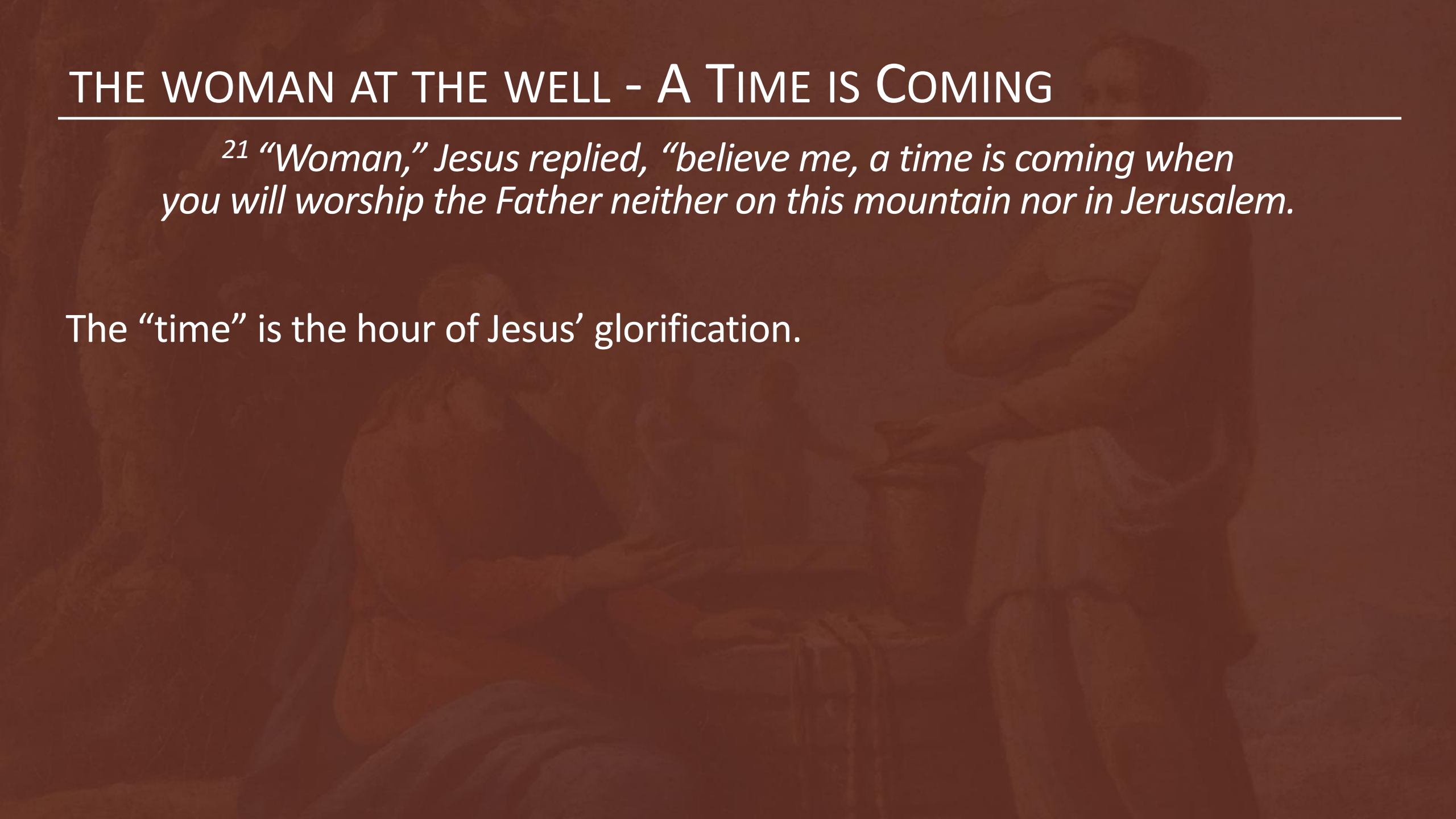
*²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain,
but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”*

The woman falls back on a theological debate which puts her and Jesus on opposing sides.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL - A TIME IS COMING

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

The “time” is the hour of Jesus’ glorification.



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL - TRUTH OR TRADITION

*²² “You Samaritans worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.”*

Jesus rejects the Samaritans’ worship because they chose to follow the human traditions of their ancestors rather than God’s revelation through the Scriptures.

Jesus affirms that salvation through the Messiah comes through the covenant history of God’s chosen people, Israel.

People will worship on neither pattern—
the new pattern is coming through the Messiah.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL — TRUE WORSHIP

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

The spirit is the "Spirit of truth," who comes to bear powerful witness to that gospel.

The truth is the truth of the gospel, the good news of salvation in Jesus.

God is spirit, just as God is **light** (1 Jn. 1:5) and God is **love** (1 Jn. 4:8).

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL — RECOGNIZING MESSIAH

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

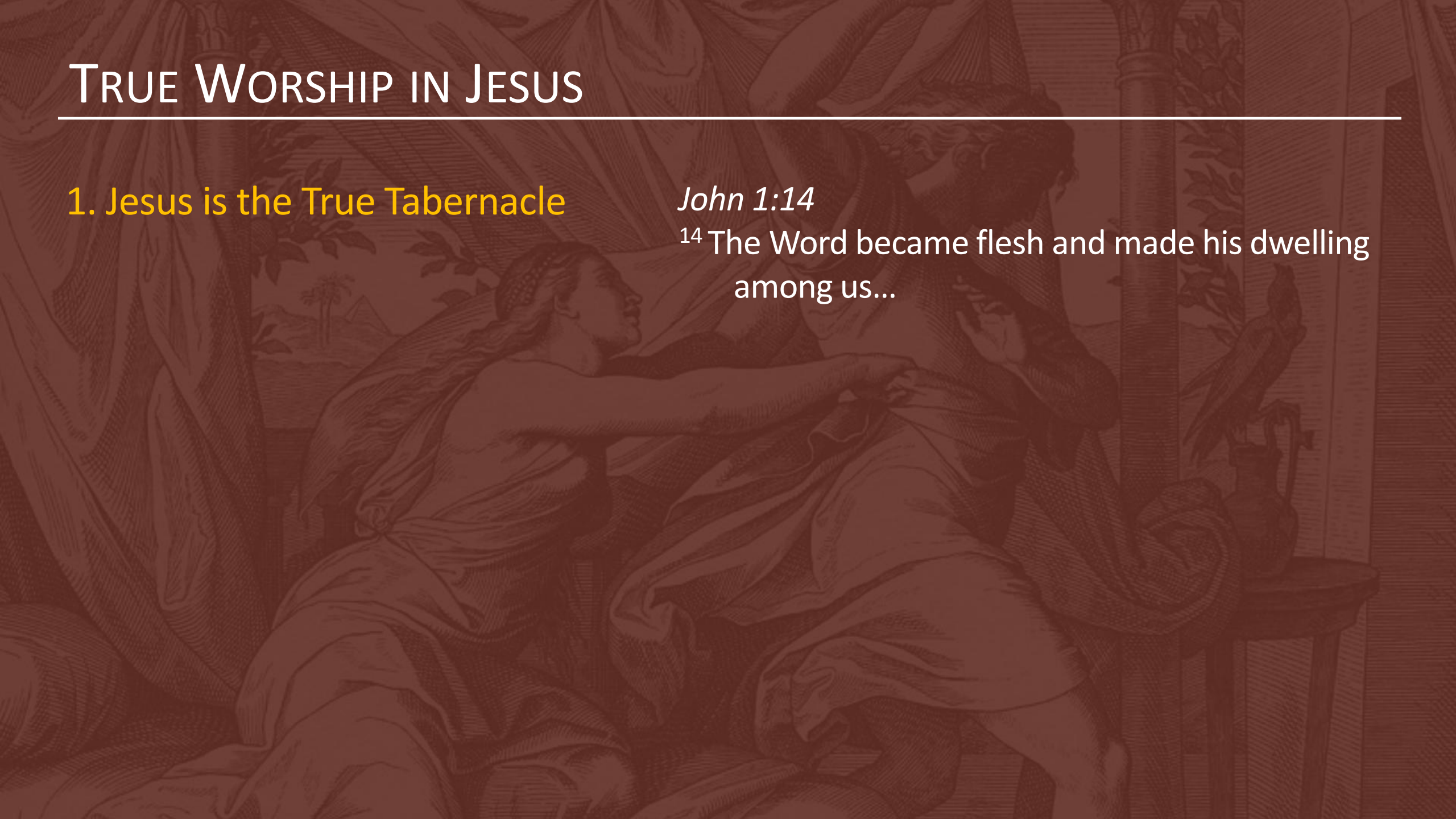
True worship is only possible for those who recognize the true identity of Jesus as Messiah and yield him their allegiance to Him as Lord.

TRUE WORSHIP IN JESUS

1. Jesus is the True Tabernacle

John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...



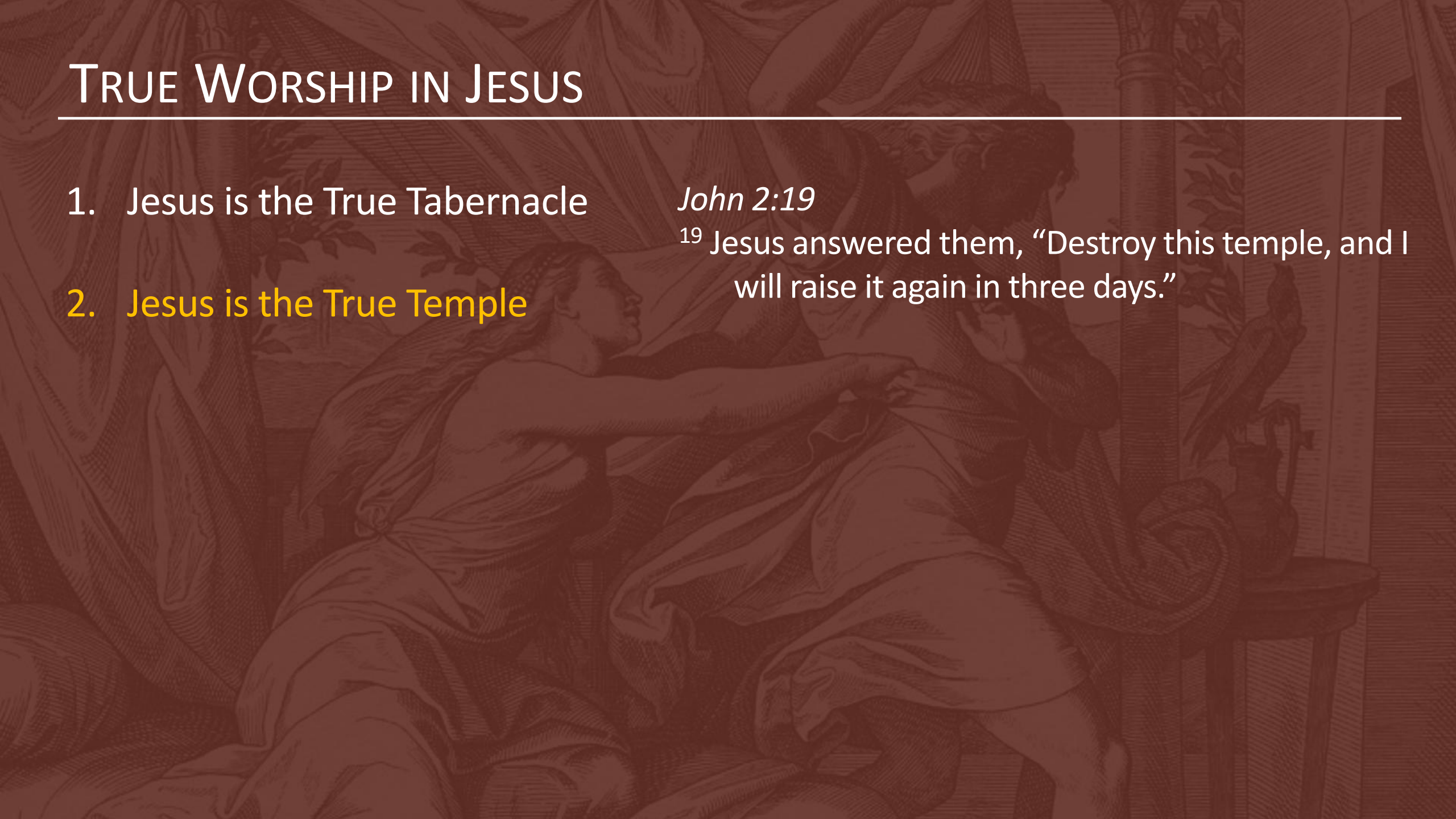
TRUE WORSHIP IN JESUS

1. Jesus is the True Tabernacle

John 2:19

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

2. Jesus is the True Temple



TRUE WORSHIP IN JESUS

1. Jesus is the True Tabernacle

Isaiah 2:2

² In the last days

2. Jesus is the True Temple

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established

3. Jesus is the True Holy Mountain of God

as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

John 12:32

³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS FOR OUR WORSHIP

1. Our worship will be active, *not passive*.
2. Our worship will be centered on God, *not ourselves*.
3. Our worship will be offered on God's terms, *not ours*.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Where are the “new Samaritans” for the church today?
2. What things do I use as an attempt to deflect Jesus from confronting my sin?
3. Do I spend more time thinking about how the songs we sing reflect: the preferences I have for certain musical styles/songs *or* the character and revelation of God?
4. What are the religious traditions that we would tend to defend? Are they firmly rooted in the Scriptures? If not, how will we respond if they become at odds with the work of the Holy Spirit?

TRUE WORSHIP IS ESCHATOLOGICAL

Revelation 15:3-4

“Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations.

⁴ Who will not fear you, Lord,
and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.



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