

A woman in a white dress stands in a field at sunset, with her arms raised in a gesture of worship. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds.

THE GOD
WE
WORSHIP

LET US

DRAW NEAR

A person's hand is raised in a gesture of worship or praise, set against a background of blurred, warm-toned lights, possibly from a church service or a concert. The lighting is soft and bokeh-like, creating a spiritual and reverent atmosphere.

Why study the “theology of worship”?

- What a “theology” is...
- What a “theology of worship” is...



The Importance of a Theology (Biblical Understanding) of Worship

1. GOD'S WORD tells us **who God is**.

- GOD is the *subject* of our worship.
 - Worship is *about* Him.
- We must worship Him *as He really is*.

The Importance of a Theology (Biblical Understanding) of Worship

2. GOD'S WORD tells us what God wants.

- GOD is the *object* of our worship.
- Worship is *for* Him, for His pleasure.
- We must worship Him *as He wants*.



The Importance of a Theology (Biblical Understanding) of Worship

3. **GOD'S WORD** is our guide.

**“Your Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.”**

(Psalm 119:105)

The Importance of a Theology (Biblical Understanding) of Worship

**4. GOD'S WORD is our only
unchanging standard.**

**“Forever, O Lord,
Your Word is settled in heaven.”**

(Psalm 119:89)

The Importance of a Theology (Biblical Understanding) of Worship

5. GOD'S WORD tells us that
all of life is to be worship.

“... present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

(Romans 12:1)

The Importance of a Theology (Biblical Understanding) of Worship

6. Only **GOD'S WORD** can give us a
unified understanding of worship.

What are the essentials?

What does *not* change?



REVELATION

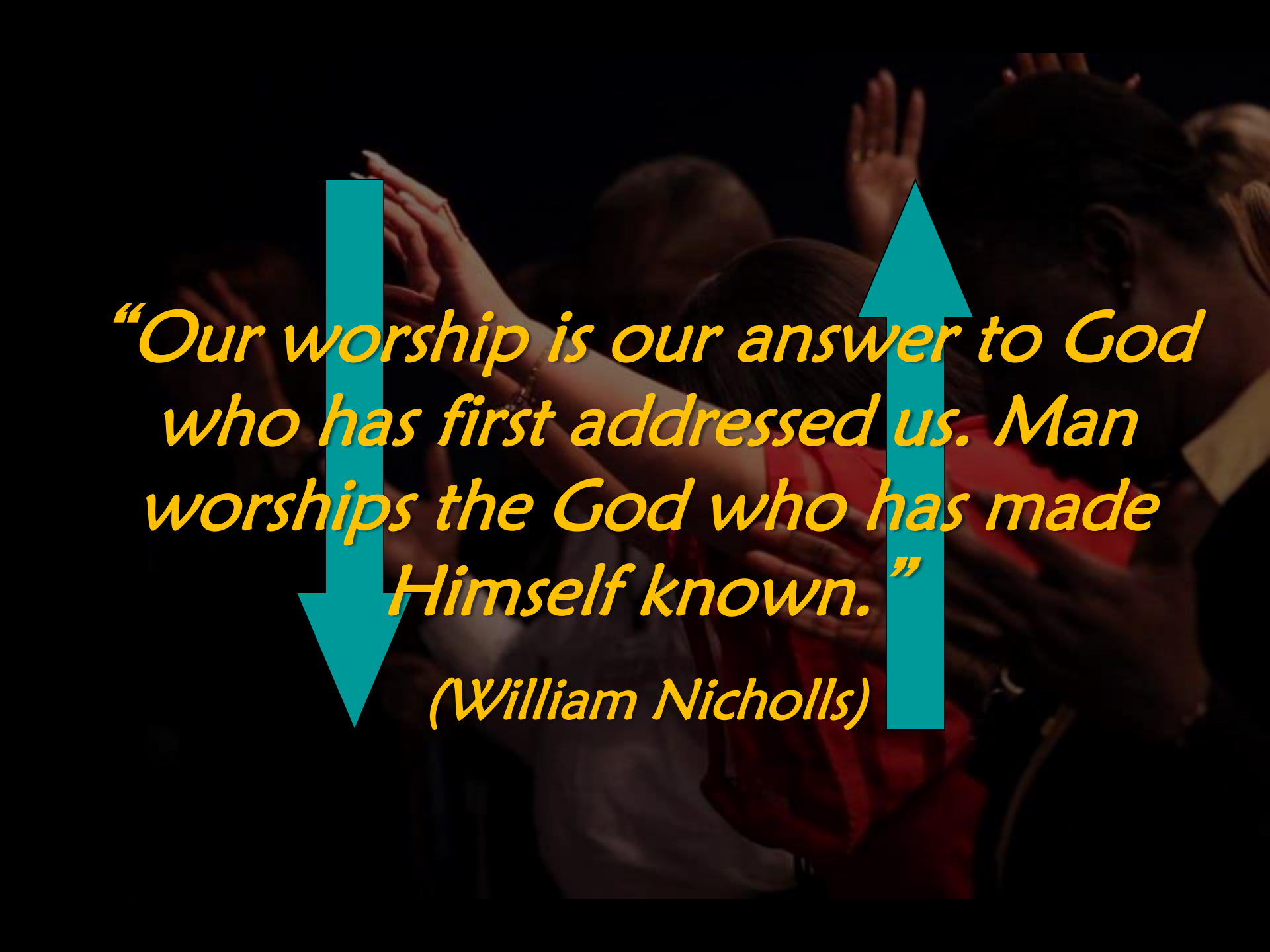
AND

RESPONSE





A Crucial Order!



“Our worship is our answer to God who has first addressed us. Man worships the God who has made Himself known.”

(William Nicholls)



religion / Pelagianism:

man's initiative



Christianity (Augustinianism):

God's initiative



the biblical pattern
of worship

Revelation

Response

**“WORSHIP is
our response
to the glory
of God.”**

Revelation

Response

PSALMS

1:2 “The Law of the Lord . . . is his delight.”

48:10 “As is Your Name, O God . . . so is Your
praise to the
ends of the earth.”

96:4 “Great is the Lord . . . and greatly to be
praised.”

150:2 “Praise Him . . .
according to His
excellent greatness.”

Revelation

Response

ROMANS 12:1

THEREFORE,
I urge you,
brethren,

by the mercies
of God
(chaps. 1–11)

to present your
bodies a living
and holy
sacrifice

Revelation

Response



Implications

The Word in Worship

More of the Word

Let God speak first (His invitation)

Scriptural evaluation of songs

Choose songs to go with Scripture, not
Scripture to go with songs!

Let Scripture give form to our worship
("thematic worship")

The Foundation of Foundations for Worship: THE WORD OF GOD



Preached
Believed
Read
Sung
Prayed
Honored
Enacted



1. THE GOD WE WORSHIP

THE GLORY OF GOD

**Not an attribute; but rather the sum total of
ALL His attributes, all His perfections**

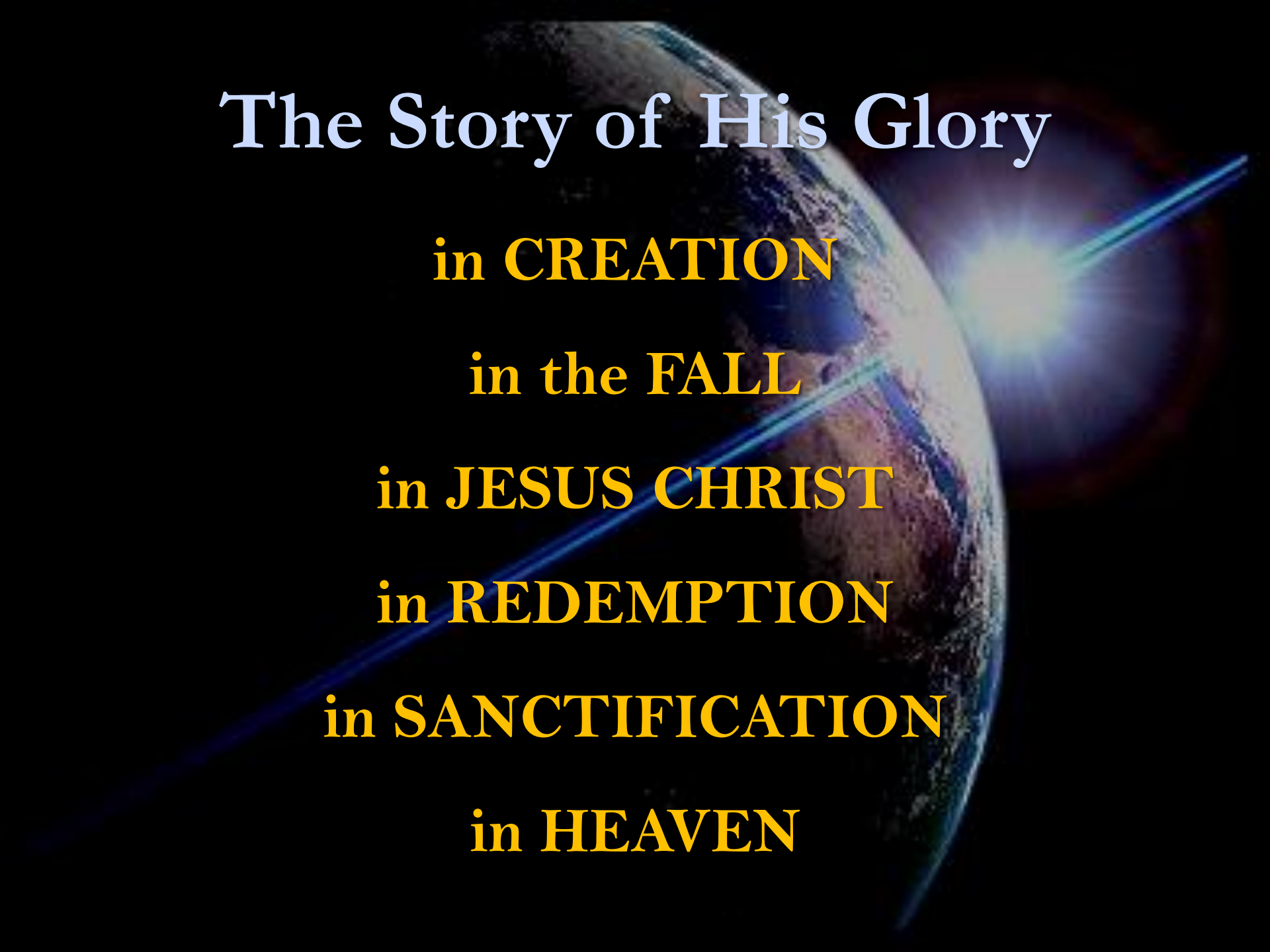
All that makes Him God

**His complete and utter perfection in
every way**

The greatest subject of all!

“The beauty of God’s manifold perfections”

(John Piper)



The Story of His Glory

in CREATION

in the FALL

in JESUS CHRIST

in REDEMPTION

in SANCTIFICATION

in HEAVEN

in Creation

"The heavens are telling of the glory of God."

(Psalm 19:1)

"Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory."

(Isaiah 43:6-7)

in the Fall

"Even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give thanks . . .

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for images . . .

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator."

(Romans 1:21,22-23,25)

in the Fall

*"For all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God."*

(Romans 3:23)

*"The essence of sin is the belittling
of God's glory."*

(John Piper)

in Jesus Christ

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

(John 1:14)

"God . . . has spoken to us in His Son . . . He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature."

(Hebrews 1:1-3)

in Jesus Christ

His Preincarnate Glory

His Incarnate Glory Foretold

His Incarnation and Ministry

His Suffering and Death

His Resurrection

His Ascension

His Exaltation

His Second Coming

in Redemption

"He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, *to the praise of the glory of His grace . . .* to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be *to the praise of His glory . . .* with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, *to the praise of His glory.*

(Ephesians 1:5-6,12,14)

in Redemption

Christ redeemed us that we might:

- *Glorify God as God and give thanks*
- *Exchange images for the glory of the incorruptible God*
- *Exchange the lie for the truth of God*
- *Worship and serve the Creator rather than the creature*

(Romans 1:21-25)

in Sanctification

- "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).
- "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples" (John 15:8).
- "Whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 4:11).

in Heaven

- And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. (Rev 21:23)
- “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” (Rev 5:13)



The Story of His Glory

For from Him
and through Him
and to Him
are all things.

To Him be the glory forever.

Amen!

(Romans 11:36)



it's not about us

it's about God and His glory



It's not about you.

The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. . . . If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose. . . .

You cannot arrive at your life's purpose by starting with a focus on yourself. You must begin with God, your Creator. You exist only because God wills that you exist. You were made by God and for God. . . .

Many people try to use God for their own self-actualization, but that is a reversal of nature and is doomed to failure. You were made for God, not vice versa, and life is about letting God use you for his purposes, not your using him for your own purpose.

(Rick Warren, *The Purpose-Driven Life*, 17-18)

We need to see first and foremost that God is God—that he is perfect and complete in himself, that he is overflowingly happy in the eternal fellowship of the Trinity, and that he does not need us to complete his fullness and is not deficient without us.

Unless we begin with God in this way, when the gospel comes to us, we will inevitably put ourselves at the center of it. We will feel that our value rather than God's value is the driving force of the gospel. We will trace the gospel back to God's need for us instead of tracing it back to the sovereign grace that rescues sinners who need God.



WORSHIP

is our response
to the Glory of God

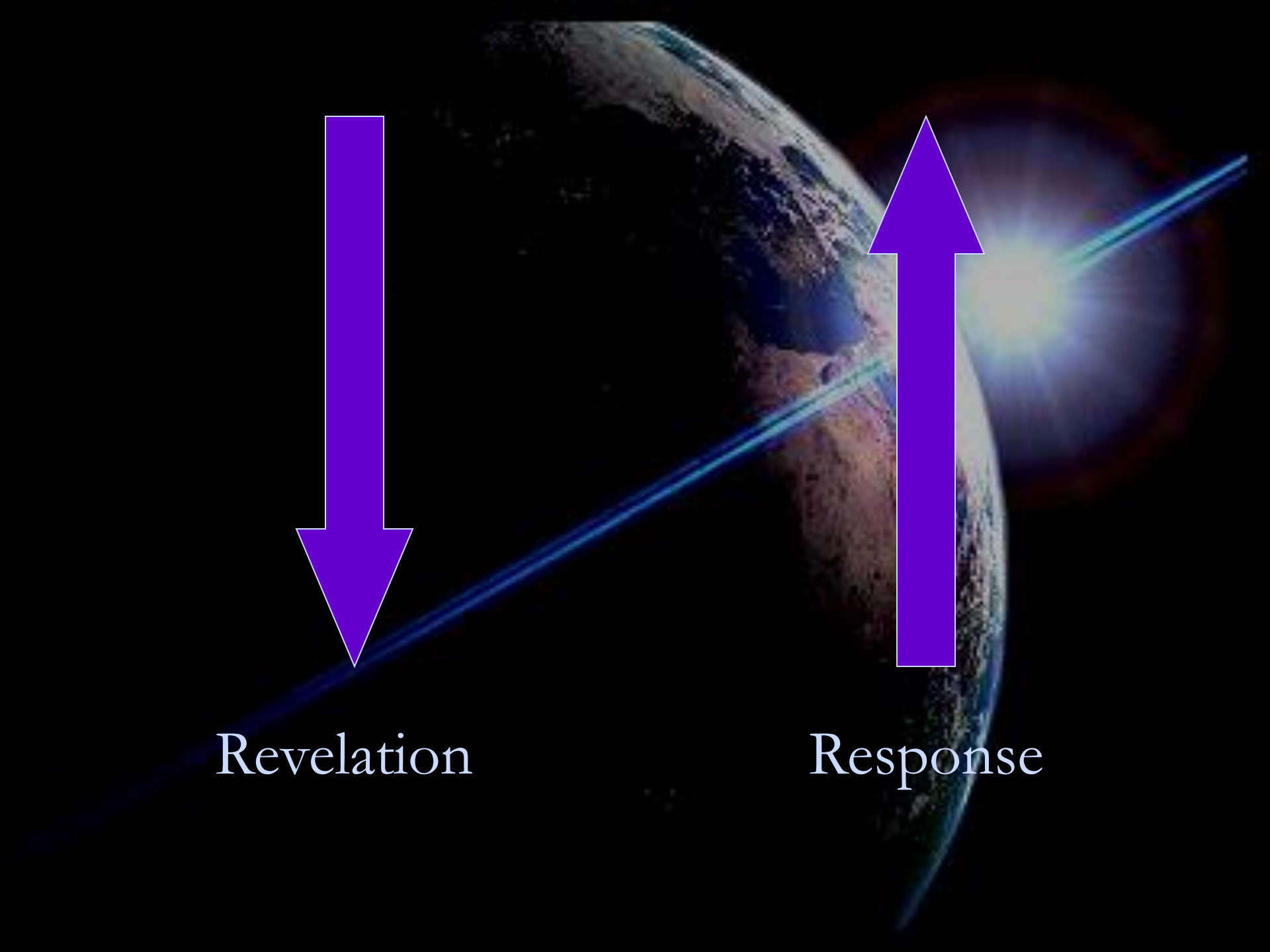
*all that we are
responding to all that He is*

A view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the atmosphere. A bright light source, likely the sun, is visible on the right side, creating a lens flare effect with blue and white rays. The text is overlaid on the image.

WORSHIP

is our response
to the Glory of God

- Recognizing the glory of God with our *minds*
- Cherishing the glory of God with our *hearts*
- Proclaiming the glory of God with our *mouths*
- Celebrating the glory of God in *all of life*



Revelation

Response



Worship is *about* God

(about His Glory)

Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness. (Psalm 29:1-2)

Praise Him according to His excellent greatness. (Psalm 150:2)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may *proclaim the excellencies* of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light
(1 Peter 2:9)

GOD:
the SUBJECT
of our
worship

(worship is
about God)

Revelation

GOD:
the OBJECT
of our
worship

(worship is
for God)

Response



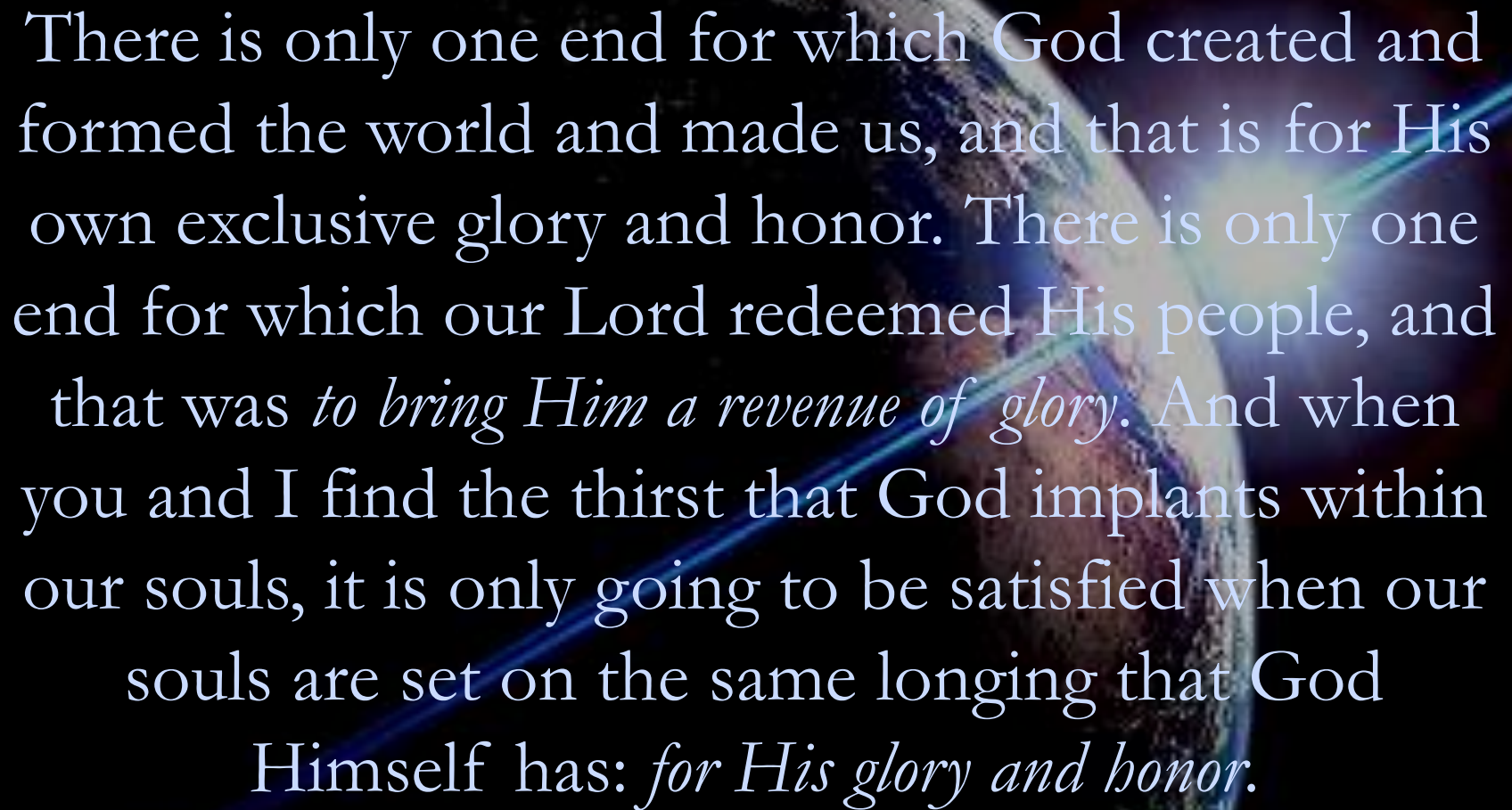
Worship is *for* God

(for His Glory)

I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever. (Psalm 86:12)


Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6)

Fear God, and give Him glory . . . ; worship Him who made the heavens and the earth and sea and springs of waters. (Revelation 14:7)



There is only one end for which God created and formed the world and made us, and that is for His own exclusive glory and honor. There is only one end for which our Lord redeemed His people, and that was *to bring Him a revenue of glory*. And when you and I find the thirst that God implants within our souls, it is only going to be satisfied when our souls are set on the same longing that God Himself has: *for His glory and honor*.

(Eric Alexander)

A view of the Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the blue atmosphere. A bright sun is visible in the background, creating a lens flare effect. The text is overlaid on the image.

For from Him
and through Him
and to Him
are all things.

To Him be the glory forever.

Amen!

(Romans 11:36)