



# HEAVEN MEETS EARTH

**VOL. 1: GOD'S STORY**



# **BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS**

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# Ephesians 2:11–12

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

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You can't fully appreciate where you are until  
you remember where you came from.

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# FIVE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF EXCLUSION:

1. Separate from Christ

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# FIVE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF EXCLUSION:

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1. Separate from Christ
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3. Foreigners to the covenants of the promise
4. Without hope



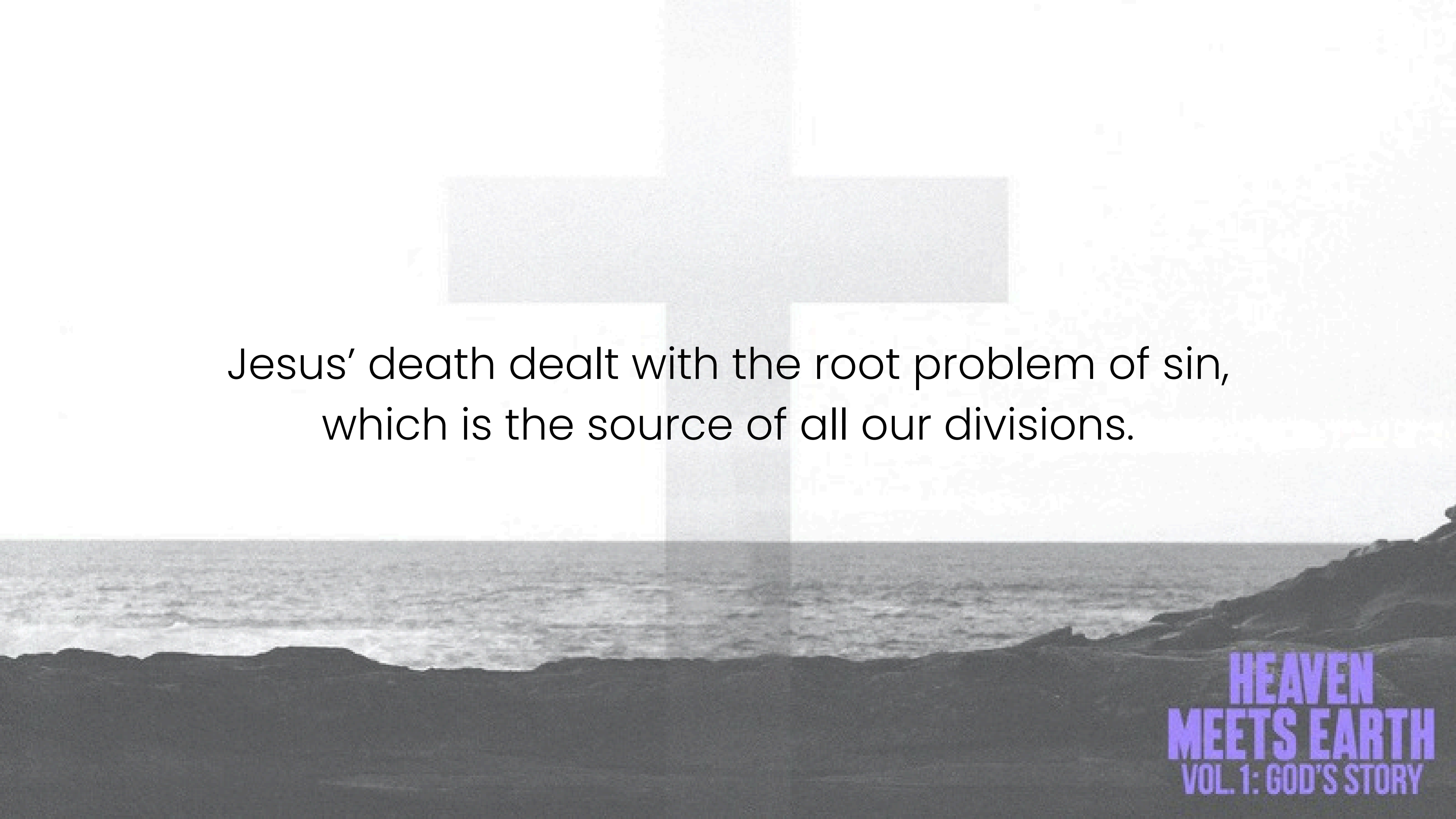
# FIVE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF EXCLUSION:

1. Separate from Christ
2. Excluded from citizenship in Israel
3. Foreigners to the covenants of the promise
4. Without hope
5. Without God in the world

# Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

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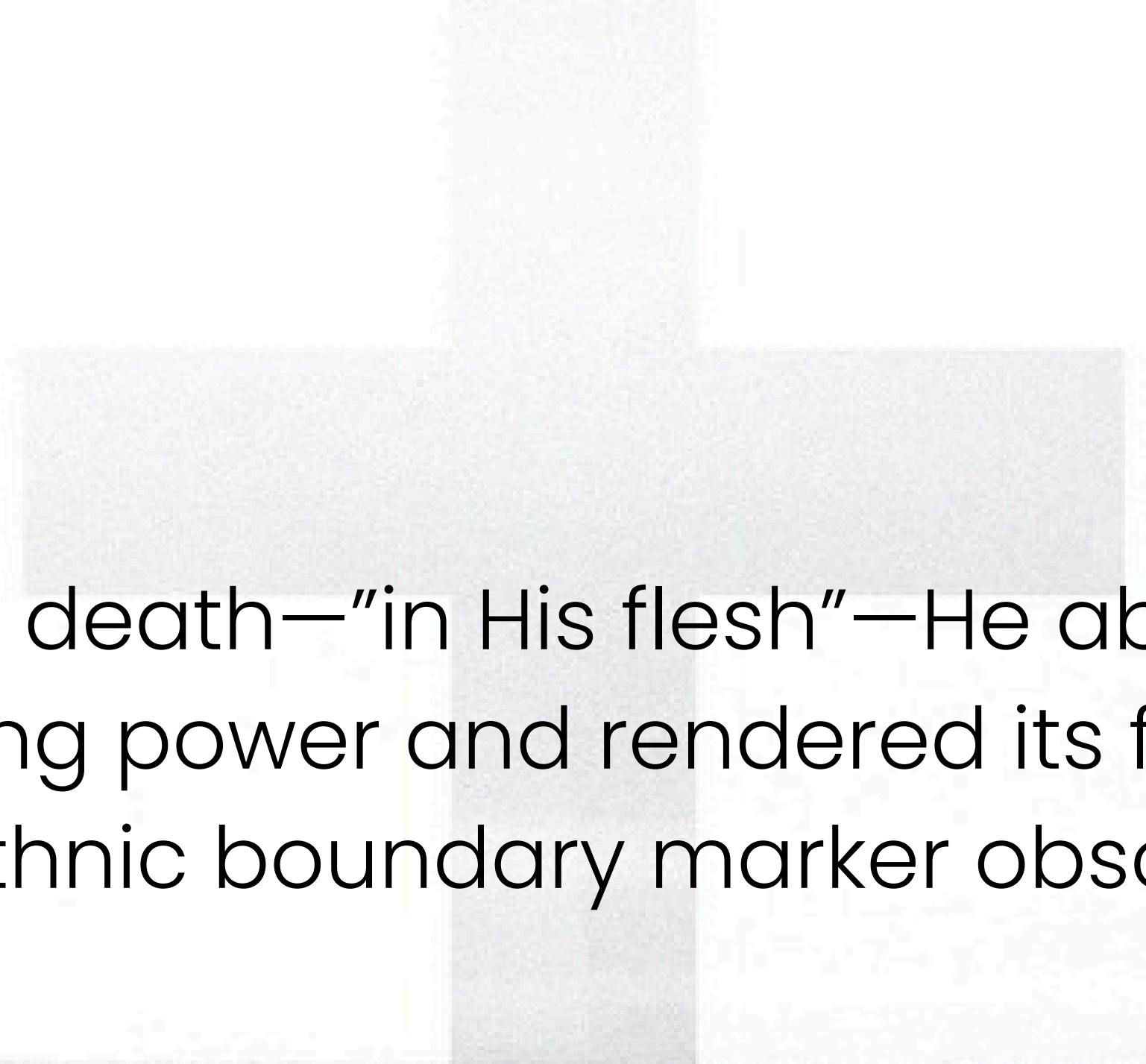


Jesus' death dealt with the root problem of sin,  
which is the source of all our divisions.

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# Ephesians 2:14–15a

For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations.



And by His death—"in His flesh"—He absorbed its  
condemning power and rendered its function as  
an ethnic boundary marker obsolete.

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# Ephesians 2:15b–16

His purpose was to create in Himself **one new humanity** out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.

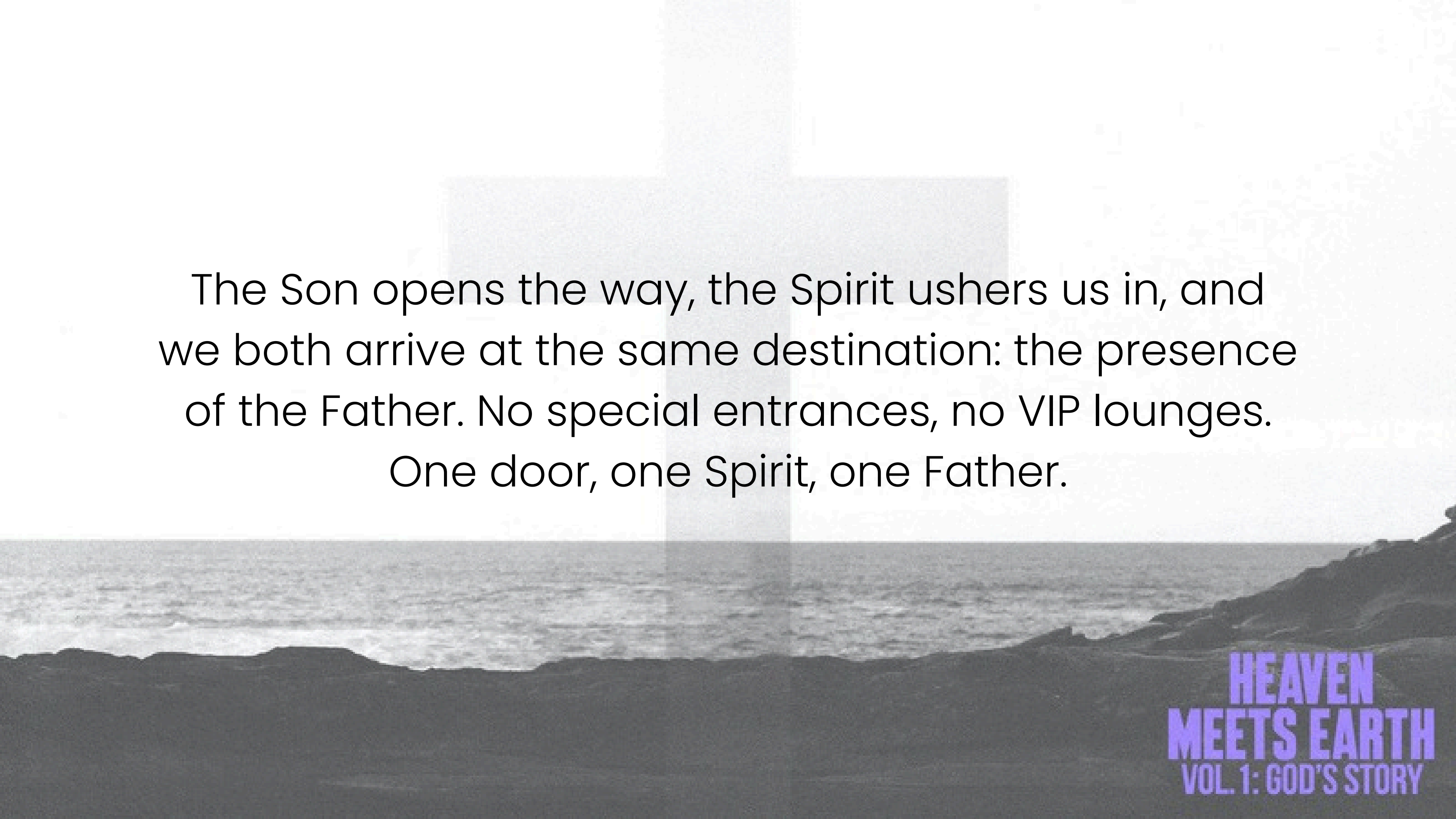
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# Ephesians 2:17–18

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

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The Son opens the way, the Spirit ushers us in, and we both arrive at the same destination: the presence of the Father. No special entrances, no VIP lounges. One door, one Spirit, one Father.

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# Ephesians 2:19

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers,  
but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of  
His household...

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# YOU ARE NO LONGER FOREIGNERS. YOU ARE:

1. Fellow citizens with God's people

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# YOU ARE NO LONGER FOREIGNERS. YOU ARE:

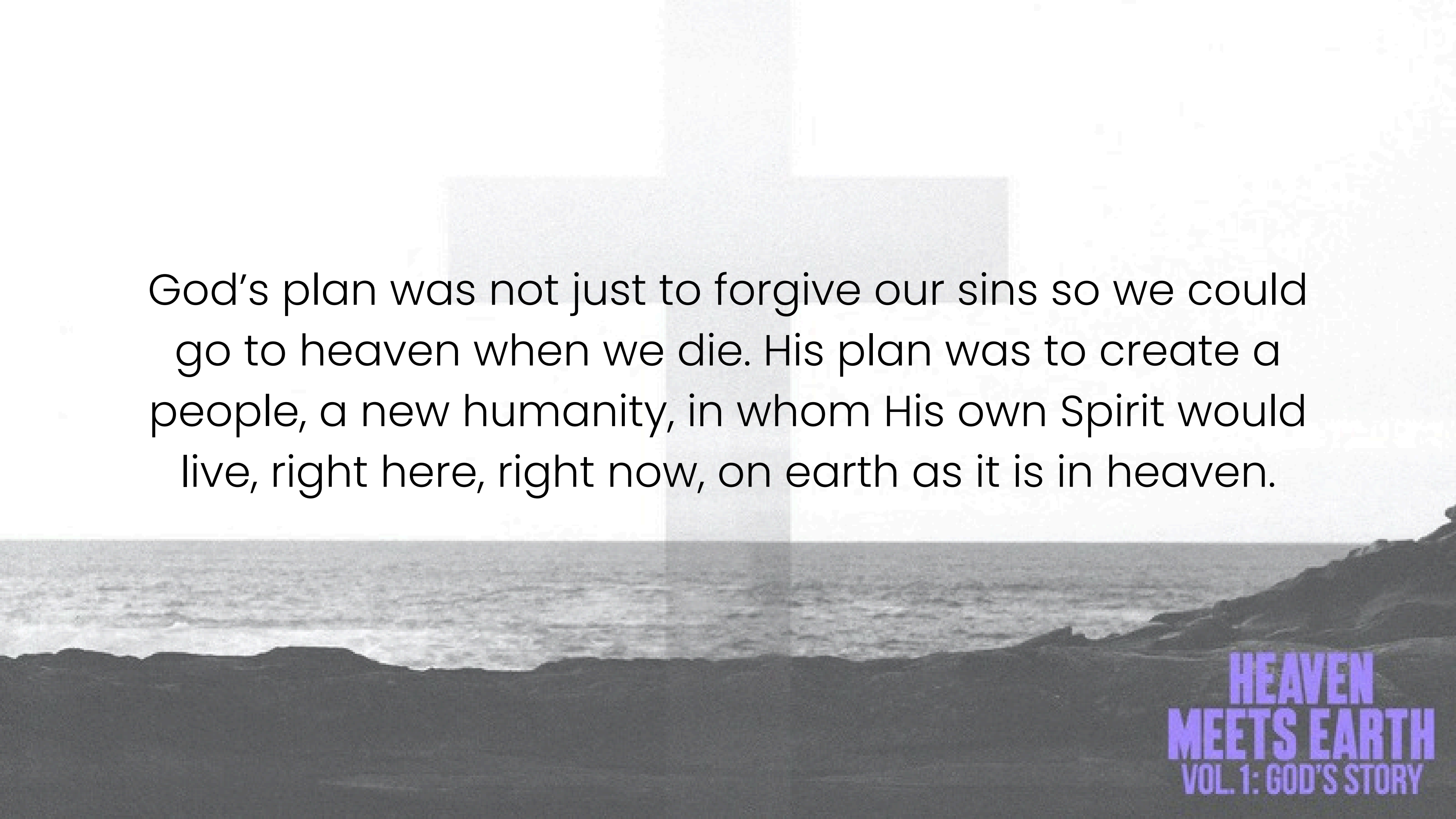
1. Fellow citizens with God's people
2. Members of His household

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# Ephesians 2:20–22

...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

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God's plan was not just to forgive our sins so we could go to heaven when we die. His plan was to create a people, a new humanity, in whom His own Spirit would live, right here, right now, on earth as it is in heaven.

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# WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US TODAY:

1. We must actively remember and cultivate gratitude.

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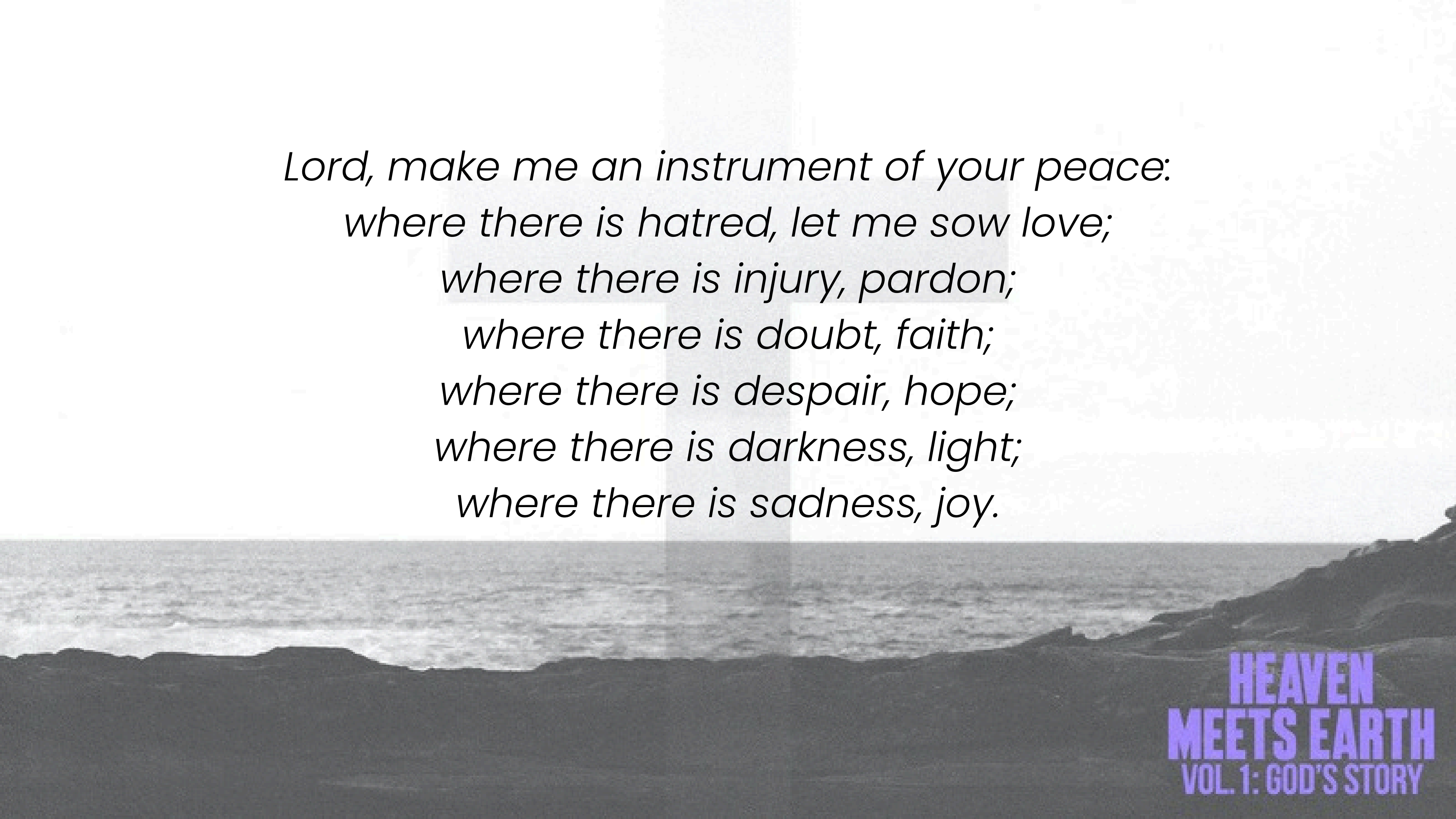
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3. We must submit to our Cornerstone.

# WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US TODAY:

1. We must actively remember and cultivate gratitude.
2. We must see our diversity as a feature, not a bug.
3. We must submit to our Cornerstone.
4. We must recognize that we are God's address on earth.



*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

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*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.*

**—Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi**

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