

COMPLETE

in

*jesus
Christ*



Pergamon

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Colossae

Laodicea

Patmos



The Church of Colossae – A house-church that Paul had never met.

- the congregation was one of many that grew out of Paul's time in Ephesus.
- the church was “founded” by Epaphras
- Philemon was a member of the Colossae church, hosting the congregation in his home.
- **the Christians of Colossae were struggling two issues:**
 1. Syncretism: worrying whether faith in Jesus alone is enough to know God, or whether something more is necessary.
 2. Gnosticism: debating whether people are divine souls trapped in evil physical bodies.

Chapter 1: Paul's Encouraging Prayer. 1:3-14

³ **We always pray for you**, giving thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for you ... ⁶ for the gospel, that is changing lives all over the world, has also changed your lives from the day you first heard it, understood it and believed it.

⁹ **We have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you.**

1. Asking God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. (v.v. 9-10)

2. ¹¹ Asking God to strengthen you with all his glorious power. (v.v.11-14)

The Point: - Paul believes that God is powerfully at work transforming the world (v.7), so he asks God to hold nothing back from them:

- a complete knowledge of His will.
- heavenly wisdom; supernatural understanding.
- **all of his glorious power!**

- The **false teachers** were telling the Colossians that “*deeper knowledge*” and “*alternative experiences*” were required to really know God.
- **Paul** knew that Jesus was enough ... and that He was all that they would ever need.
 - ... they didn’t need more “intellectual knowledge”, but transformed lives through what they had already received, believed & embraced.
- **So he prayed for them:** *continuously; specifically; confidently.*

Truth: When you are born into God’s family by faith in Jesus Christ, you receive everything you need for growth and maturity. You lack nothing ... except time & opportunity to grow up in Christ.

Warren Wiersbe

This Week: The Authority of Jesus ... Who He really is!
(Colossians 1:15-20)

***13** God has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

With this truth carefully stated: that they have been rescued, forgiven, redeemed & brought by God into a new kingdom – the Kingdom of His dear Son, Jesus – Paul now tells the Colossians about their new King ...

Who is Jesus?

15 Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

(Revised Standard Version)

Note: Colossians 1:15-20 is widely considered to be one of the early hymns of the 1st Century Church.

- others: Philippians 2:6-11
Ephesians 2:14-16
1 Timothy 3:16
2 Timothy 2:11-13
Hebrews 1:3
1 Peter 3:18-22

Who is Jesus ... He is the Supreme King!

1. He is supreme over Eternity (v.v. 15, 17)

*15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created ...*

17 He existed before anything else ...

God of creation - there at the start,
before the beginning of time.

With no point of reference, You spoke to the dark,
and fleshed out the wonder of light

And as You speak, a hundred billion galaxies are born;
In the vapour of Your breath the planets form.

If the stars were made to worship so will I.

I can see Your heart in everything You've made.

Every burning star a signal fire of grace.

If creation sings Your praises so will I.

2018 – Joel Houston

Who is Jesus ... He is the Supreme King!

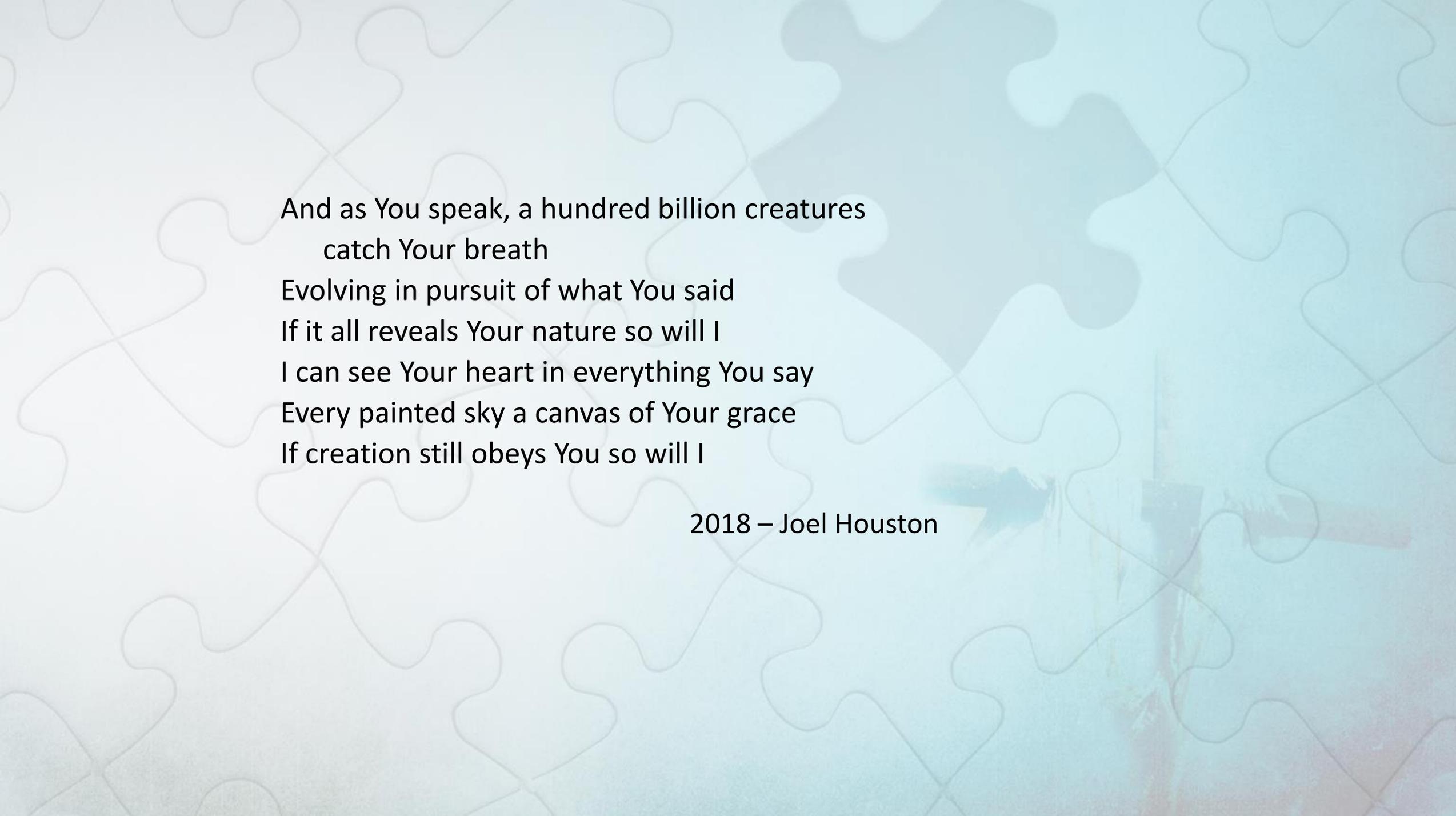
2. He is supreme over Creation (v.v. 15-17)

***15** Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.*

- *He ... is supreme over all creation,*
 - ***16** for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.*
 - *He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.*
- *Everything was created through him and for him.*
***17** ... and in him all creation holds together.*

In short, *nothing* – from subatomic particles to massive galaxies – exists apart from His creative power. This thought is similar to the opening lines of the Gospel of John: “*All things came into being through Him, and from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*” (John 1:3)

Charles Swindoll



And as You speak, a hundred billion creatures
catch Your breath
Evolving in pursuit of what You said
If it all reveals Your nature so will I
I can see Your heart in everything You say
Every painted sky a canvas of Your grace
If creation still obeys You so will I

2018 – Joel Houston

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder.
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

When through the woods & forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And see the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou Art.

1885 – Carl Boberg

Who is Jesus ... He is the Supreme King!

3. He is the Head of the Church (v. 18)

*18 Christ is also the head of the church,
which is his body.*

Christ – and Christ alone – is the head of the Church. Not a pastor or a pope. Not a council or a congregation. Not elders or deacons or bishops. Not an archbishop or a monarch. Though Christ has established undershepherds to carry out His earthly ministry, He is the “Chief Shepherd” and the Church must never surrender the headship to anyone but Christ alone.

Charles Swindoll

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord.
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth.
Her charter of salvation - one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

1866 – S.J. Stone

Who is Jesus ... He is the Supreme King!

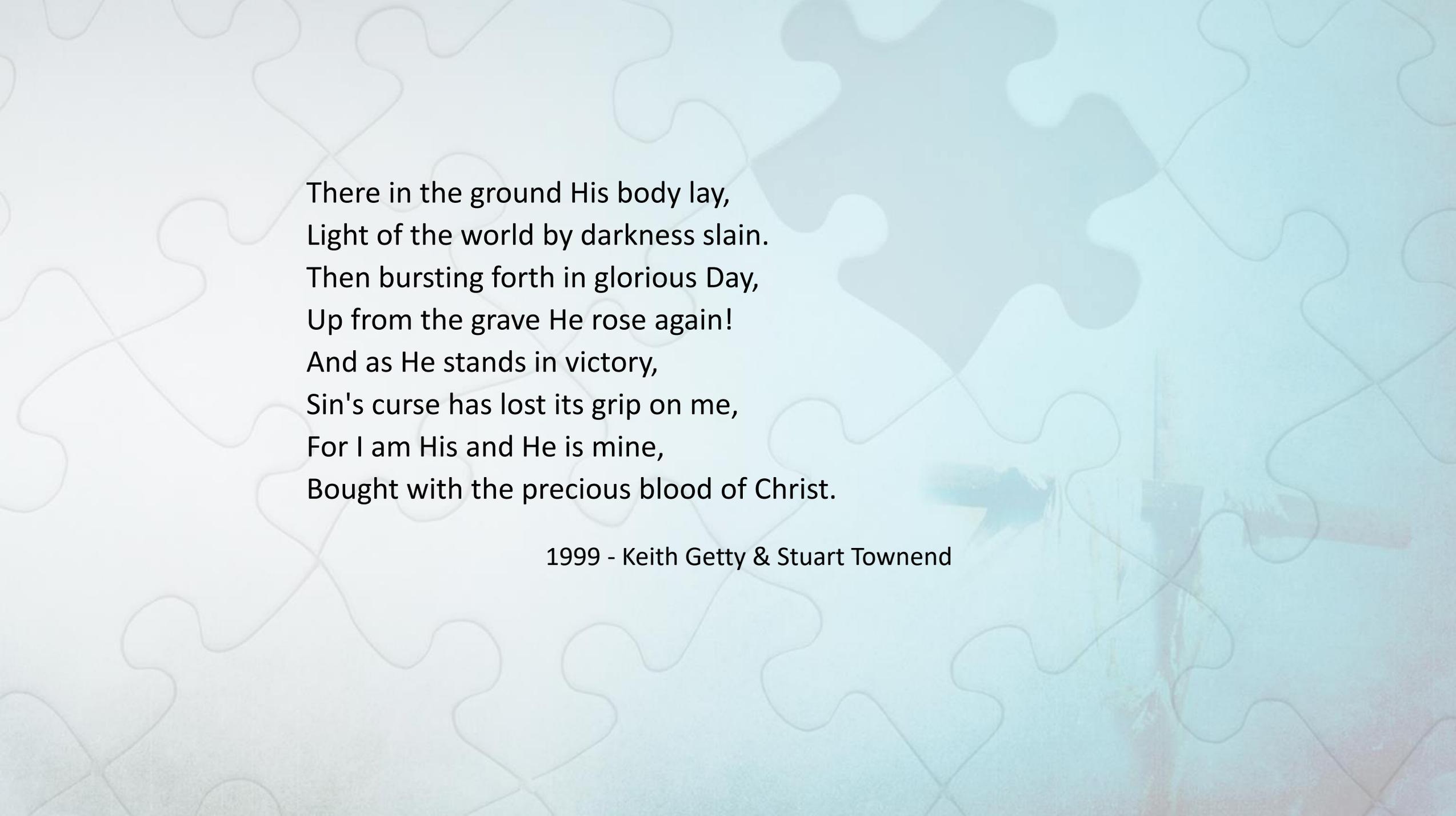
4. He is Supreme over death (v. 18)

*18 ...He is the beginning,
and the firstborn from among the dead,
So that in everything he might have the supremacy!*

Note: Others in the Bible were brought back to life prior to Jesus:

- Widow of Zarephath's son (1 Kings 17)
- Widow of Nain's son (Luke 7)
- Jairus' daughter (Luke 8)
- Lazarus (John 11)

But, unlike Jesus, they all died again!



There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

1999 - Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Who is Jesus ... He is the Supreme King!

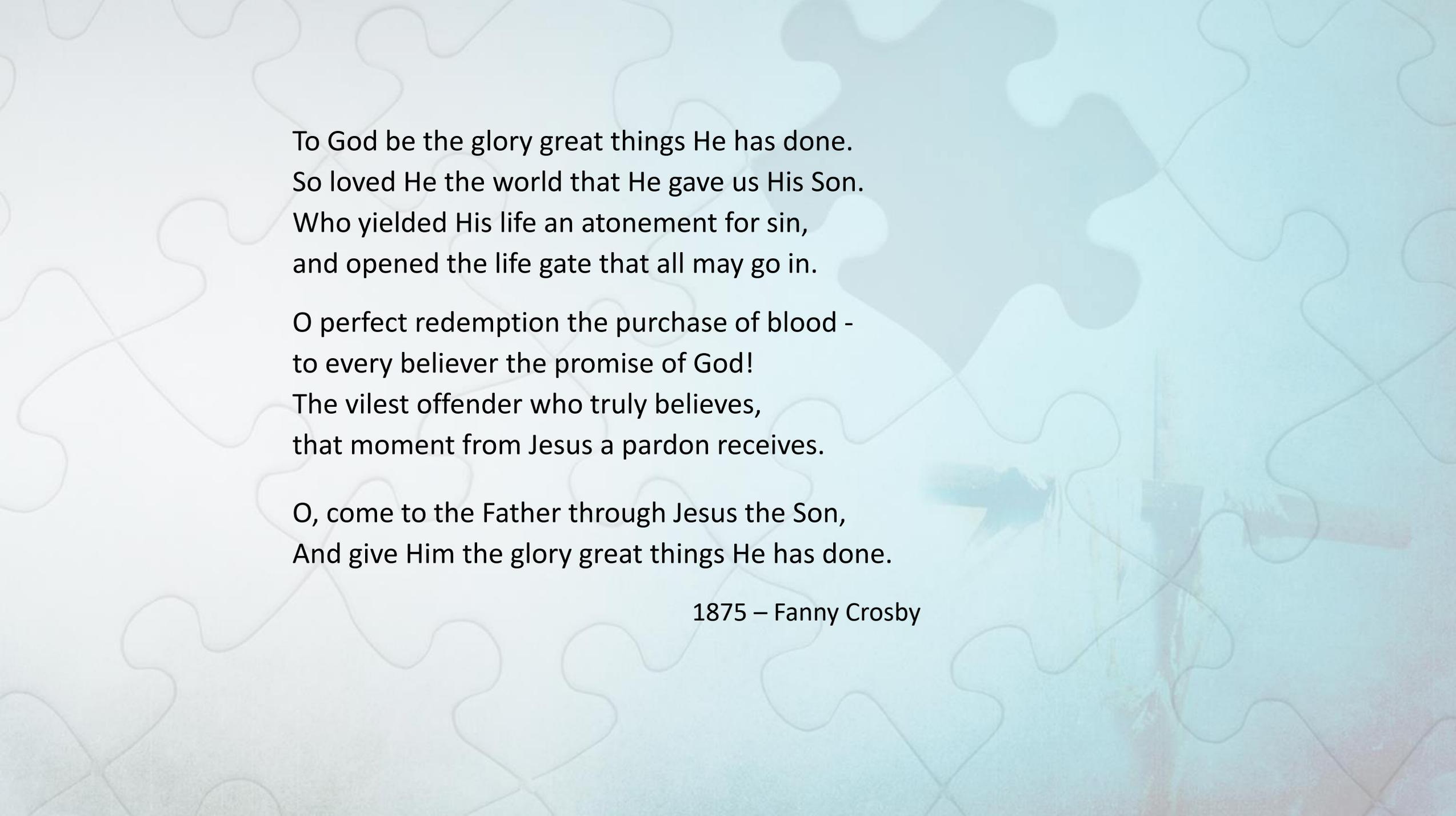
5. He is responsible for the Creation's redemption (v.v. 19-20)

*19 For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,
20 and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.*

*He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.*

The Gnostics were wrong in their speculation that only spiritual, invisible, heavenly things could be saved. Just as all things – in heaven & earth were created by Christ, all things in heaven & earth are reconciled through Christ.

Charles Swindoll



To God be the glory great things He has done.
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son.
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in.

O perfect redemption the purchase of blood -
to every believer the promise of God!
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

O, come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory great things He has done.

1875 – Fanny Crosby

Summary:

13 God has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15-20 This King, Jesus, is Supreme:

- *over eternity,*
- *over creation,*
- *over the Church,*
- *over death,*
- *over redemption.*

*21 **This includes you** who were once far away from God ...*

Christ is my reward and all of my devotion;
There's nothing in this world that could ever satisfy.
Through every trial my soul will sing;
No turning back – I've been set free!

Christ is enough for me, Christ is enough for me.
Everything I need is in You – everything I need.

Christ my all in all, the joy of my salvation;
And this hope will never fail – Heaven is our home.
Through every storm my soul will sing
Jesus is here - to God be the glory!

I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back ...

2013 – Joseph Myrin, Reuben Morgan