



Caravaggio 'The Call of Matthew'

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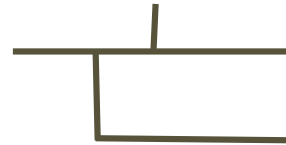
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Too busy - Iso gashii



Heart



Destruction

Jesus said to his apostles, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure ... And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

The Church's mission  
is to carry on Jesus' mission

So let us first look at Jesus

and then at his mission





Matthew 11:28-29

## 1John 1:1-3



‘We declare to you what we have heard,  
what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we have looked at and touched with  
our hands, concerning the word of life —  
this life was revealed, and we have seen it  
and testify to it, and declare to you the  
eternal life that was with the Father and  
was revealed to us.

We declare to you what we have seen and  
heard so that you may have communion  
with us;

and truly our communion is with the  
Father and with his Son Jesus the Messiah.’





‘In the beginning  
was the Word,  
and the Word was  
towards [pros] God,  
and the Word was God.

The Word was  
towards God  
in the beginning.



All things  
came into being  
through the Word,  
and without the Word  
not one thing  
came into being.

Everything comes from  
the Heart of God  
and there is a  
gravity of grace  
drawing everything into  
communion in God.





What has come into being in the Word was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.



God's **WORD** (self-gift) is experienced

- in nature
- in people & events
- in words spoken & written
- in works of art

They reveal something of the truth, beauty & goodness  
of the transcendent & mysterious God

There is light here when responding to grace

There is also darkness when we fail to respond



## Gerard Manley Hopkins : God's Grandeur (1877)

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?                      reckon: consider

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil  
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and ah! bright wings.



God's Word was  
in the world,  
and the world  
came into being  
through God's Word;  
yet the world did not  
know God's Word.

God's Word came to what was God's own,  
and God's own people did not accept God's Word.

We are reminded of the plea of God expressed by Isaiah chapter 65:

‘I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, ‘Here I am, here I am,’  
to a nation that did not call on my name.  
I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people’.



## John 1:11-13



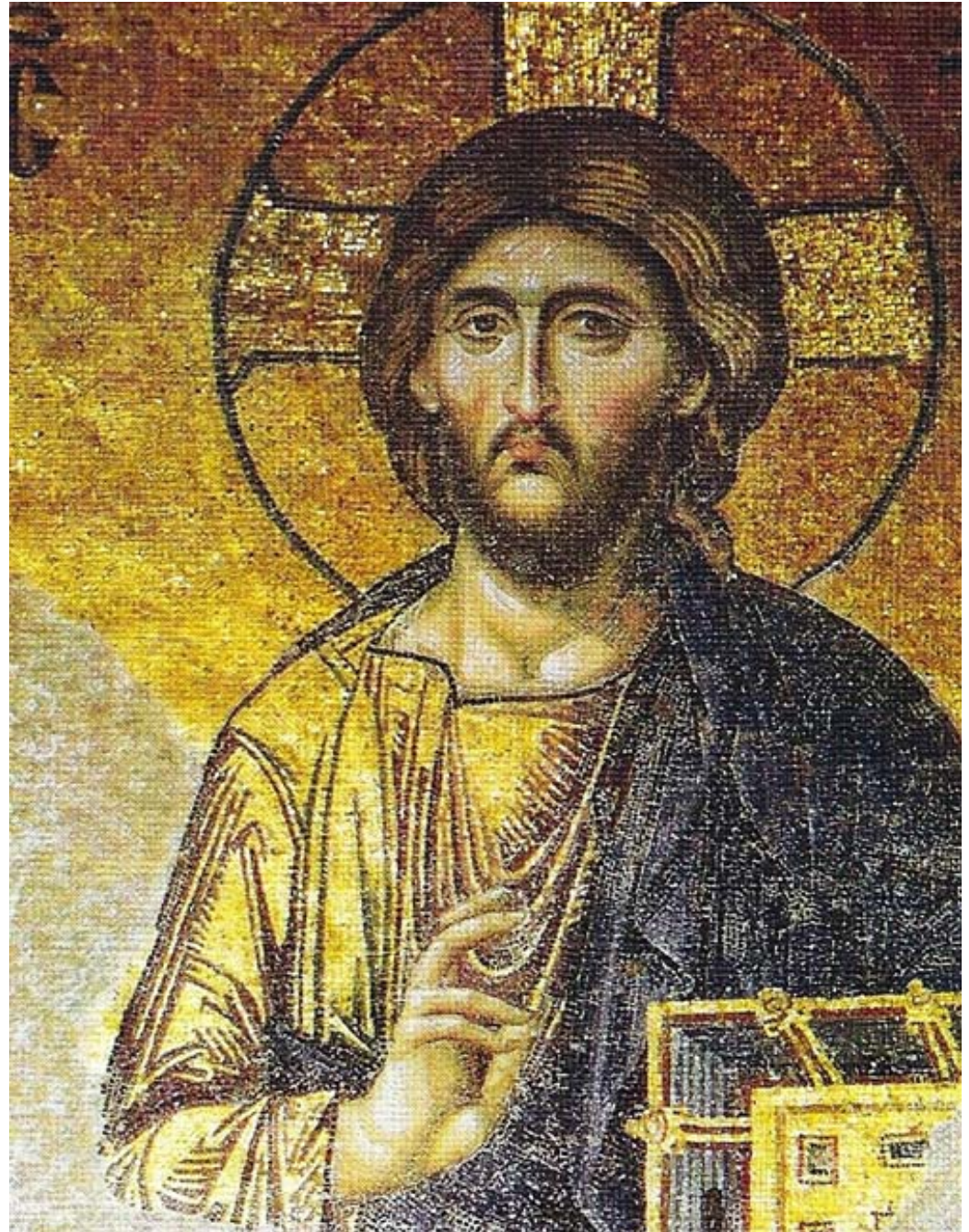
But to all who did welcome  
the Word, and believe,

the Word gave power to  
become children of God,

born not of human  
generation ['bloods']  
or of human striving  
['the will of the flesh']  
or of male power,  
but of God.

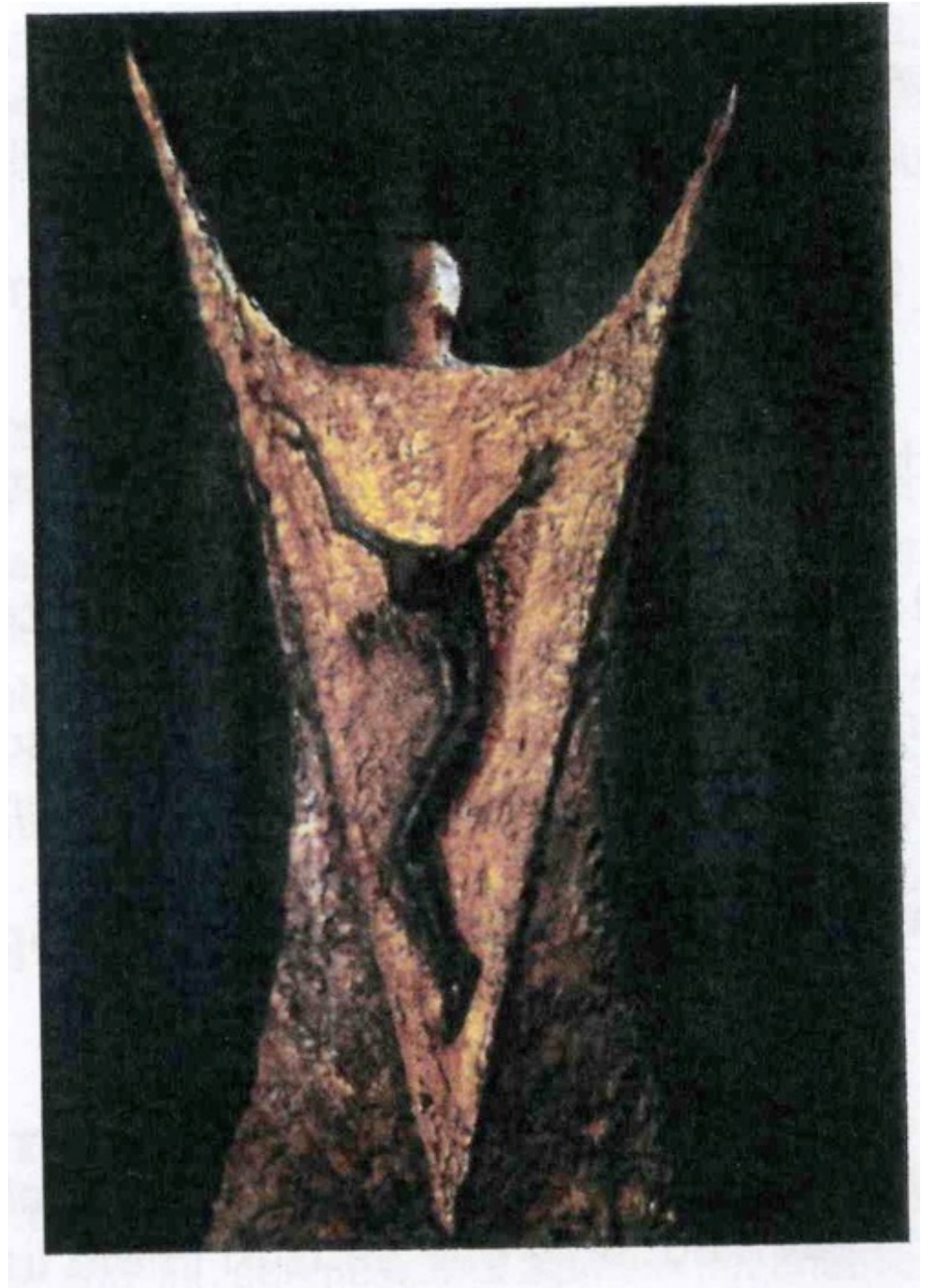


The Word became flesh  
and lived among us





and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a  
father's only son,  
full of the gift of truth.





God is Love. To enter the human condition Love must be welcomed

It was Jesus' grace-filled response that opened the way for God to enter fully into the human condition.



Jules Chevalier, 'The Heart of Jesus, page 76.

'The heart of God descends in haste to his creation,  
with the weight of an infinite love,

and the heart of creation rises towards God,  
drawn by an attraction that dominates all others in it.

It is in Jesus that these two hearts meet,  
and they unite so profoundly that the two hearts become one.'

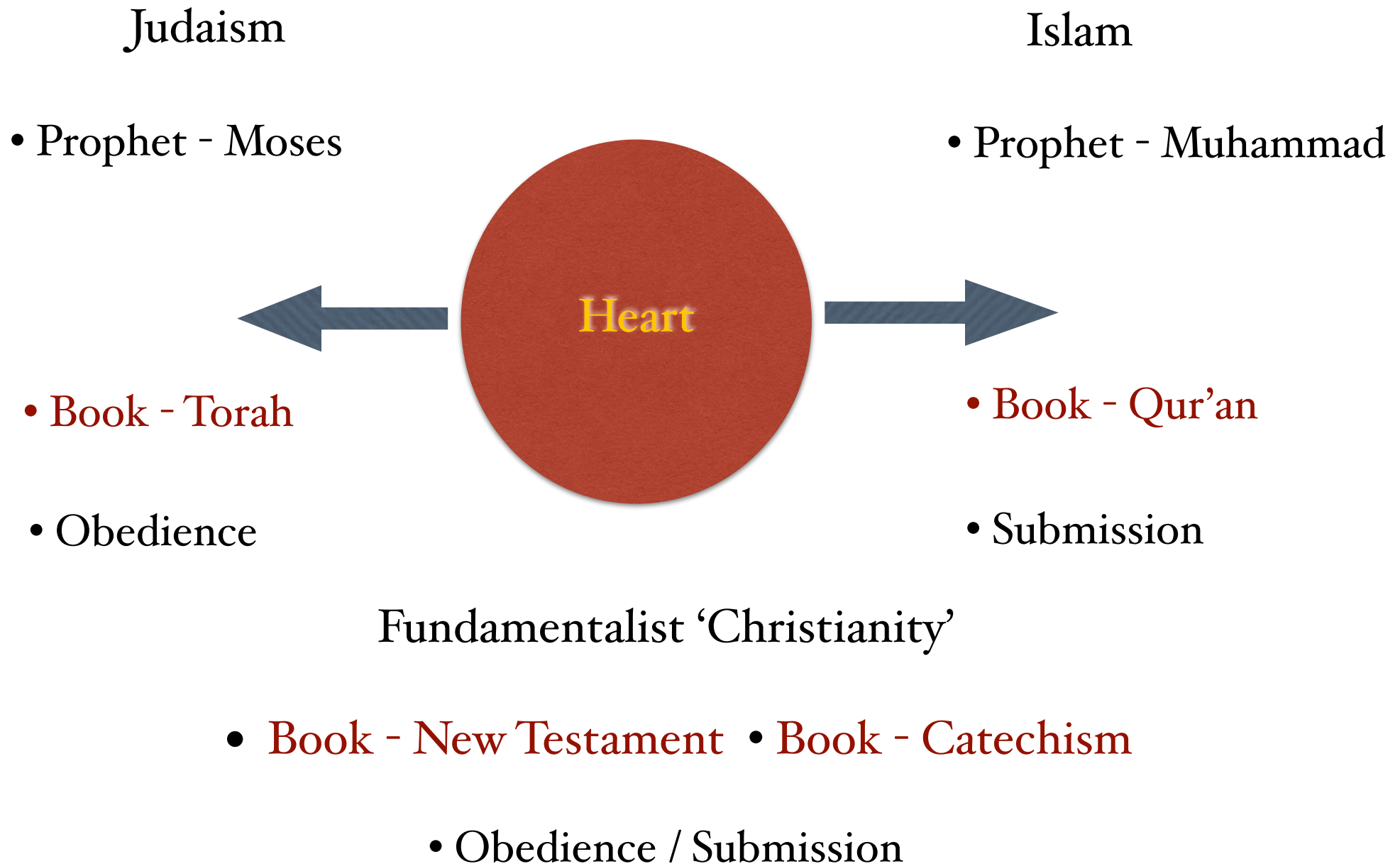


From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.





# Dangers in Institutionalised Religion



# Buddhism

points us to the heart



# Christianity



Spirit

Word



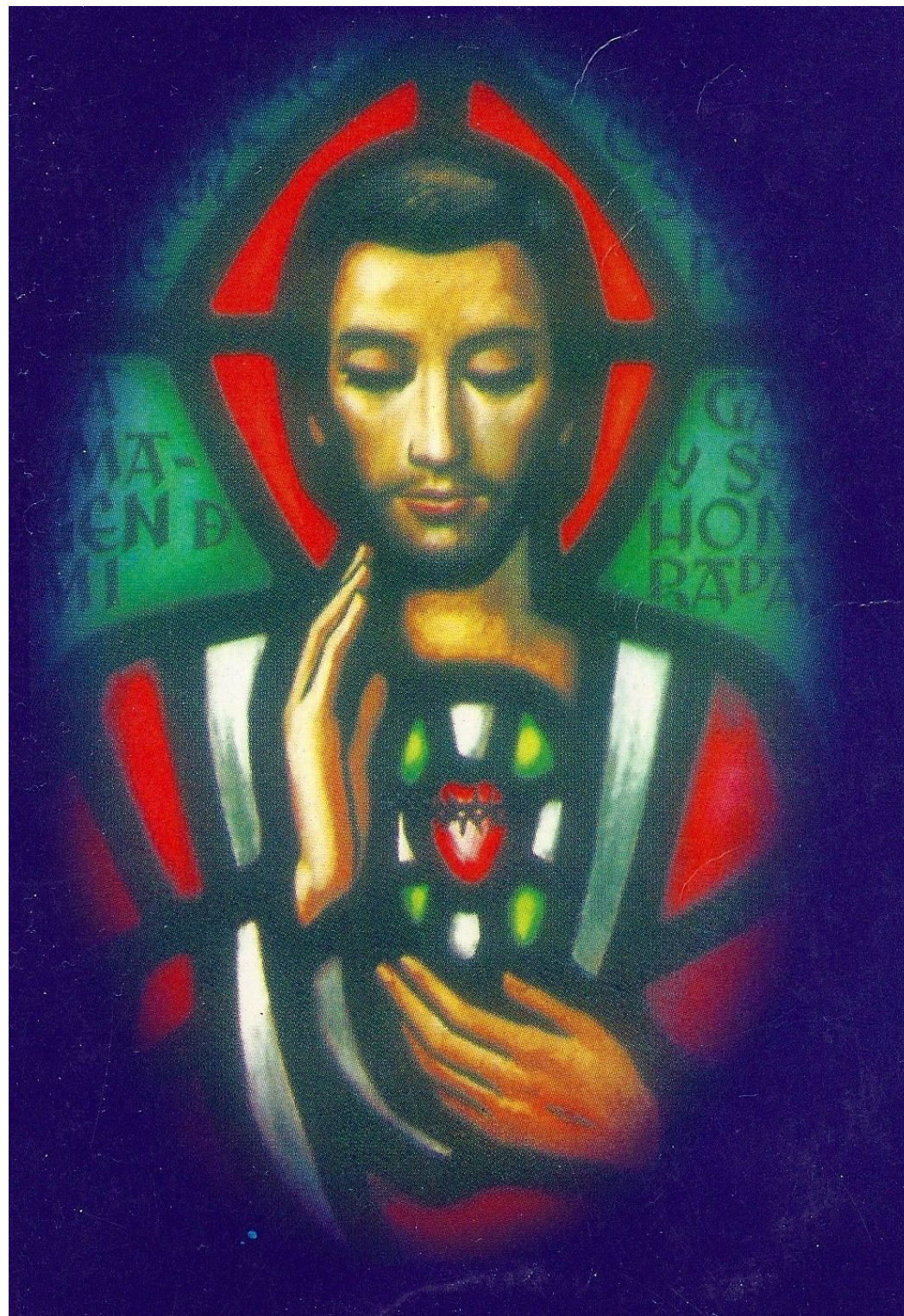
Heart  
Enlightenment

Heart

speaks to

heart

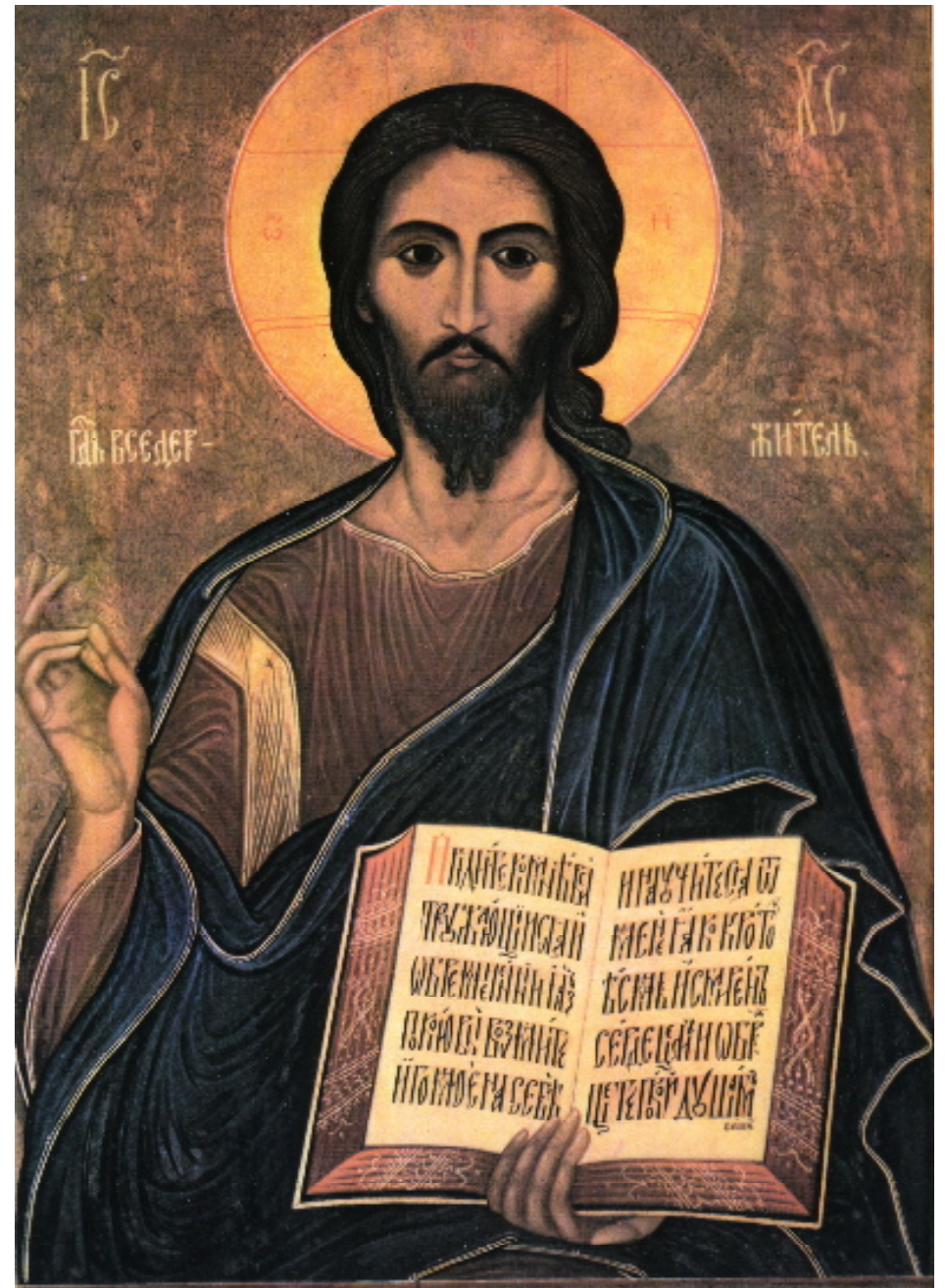






John 1:17

‘The Law [Torah] indeed was given through Moses; the gift of Truth came through Jesus the Messiah.’







## John 1:18

‘No one has ever seen God. It is God’s only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made Him known.’





John 3:34

‘He whom God has sent  
speaks the words of  
God;

he gives the Spirit  
without measure.’

Romans 5:5

‘God’s love has been  
poured into our hearts by  
the Holy Spirit who has  
been given to us.’



Jesus is THE **Sacrament** of God



Jesus is God's perfect, focal Word

‘In him all the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell bodily.’

(Colossians 1:19 & 2:9)

‘He is the image  
of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.’

(Colossians 1:15)

‘He is the reflection of God's glory  
and the exact imprint  
of God's very being,  
and he sustains all things  
by his powerful word.’

(Hebrews 1:3).





Open my eyes, Lord