

THREE CLASSES

GENESIS:
A Jewish Origin
- 12/14/2025

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:
A Jewish Sect Syncretized
- 1/11/2026: TODAY

REVELATION:
End of Ego & Empire/Genesis of a New World
- 1/18/2026: Sunday, 1:00pm

BIBLE
IN CONTEXT
RETURNING GENESIS TO REVELATION

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
VS
NARRATIVE THEOLOGY

CP NOT A BIBLE STUDY

Which System? What is the System? Who governs it? How do we evaluate it?

What is the Bible?
Hermeneutics?
Orthodoxy?

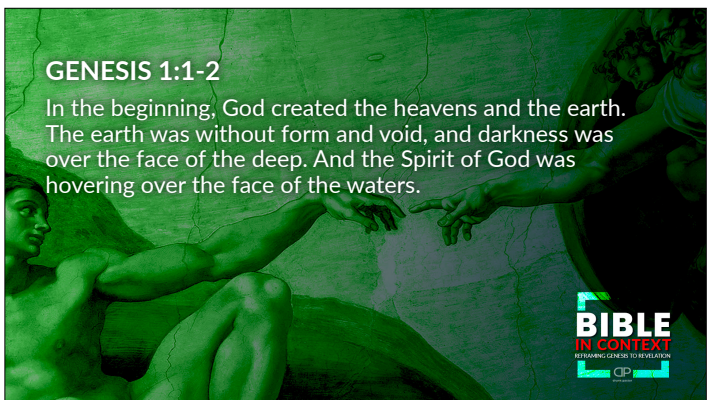
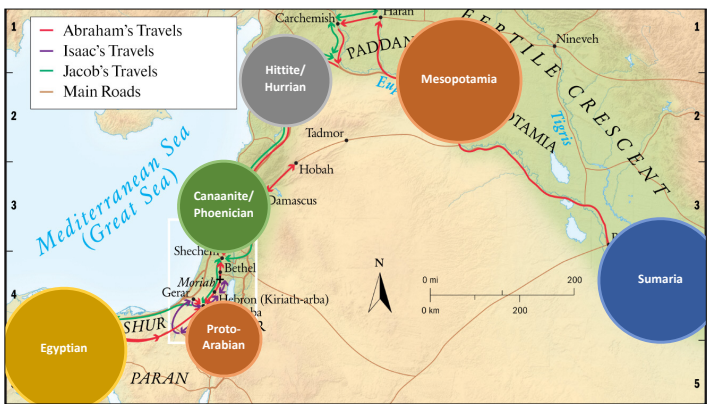
Narrative Integration? Empathetic Analysis, intrapersonal, personal, historical, scientific,

	Systematic Theology	Narrative Theology*
Primary Tool	Logic and Philosophy	Story and Literary Analysis
Goal	Coherence and Clarity	Meaning and Formation
Visual Metaphor	A Blueprint, Map, or Formula	The Hero's Journey
Risk	Can become dry or detached, abused	Can become subjective or vague, avoidant
*Paule's Take:	Systems are meant to be used, not gods.	It's both objective & subjective if done right. (Integrated/Ontological Theology?)

CP NOT A BIBLE STUDY



Ancient creation myths and kings: 7 days of creation and images of God



THE FIRST VERSE HAS 7 WORDS W/ 3 NOUNS

"God" - Appears 5X7 times

"Earth" - Appears 3x7 times

"Heavens" - Appears 3x7 times

10 STATEMENTS BROKEN INTO 7/3 7TH DAY OF CREATION

3X "the seventh day"

GENESIS 1:27

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

BIBLE
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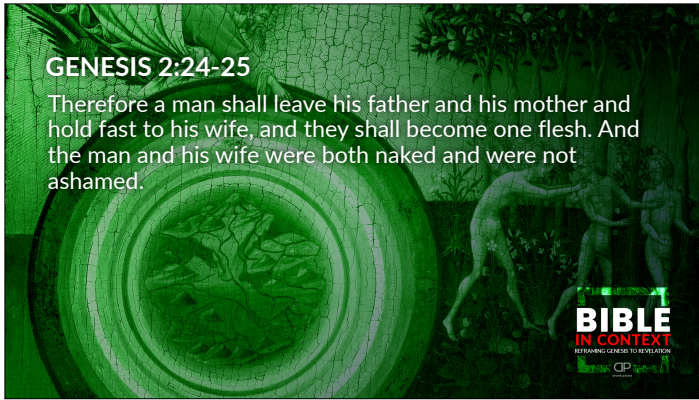
GENESIS 2:1-3

And on the *seventh day* God finished his WORK that he had done, and he rested on the *seventh day* from all his WORK that he had done. So God blessed the *seventh day* and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his WORK that he had done in creation.

BIBLE
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GENESIS 2:24-25

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



SERPENTS IN THE ANE

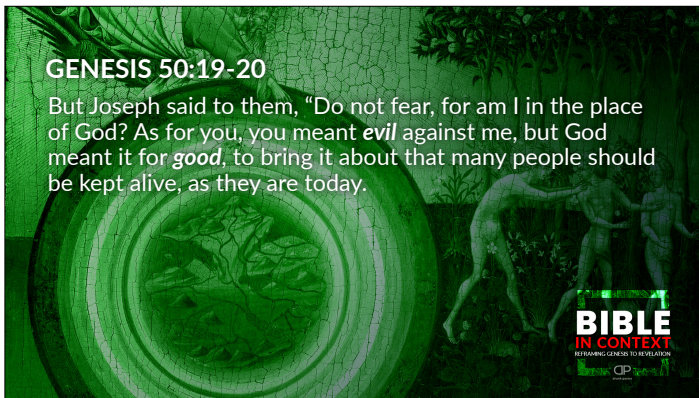


Serpents in the ANE: Asop of Egypt, the serpent of Gilgamesh, and Asclepius

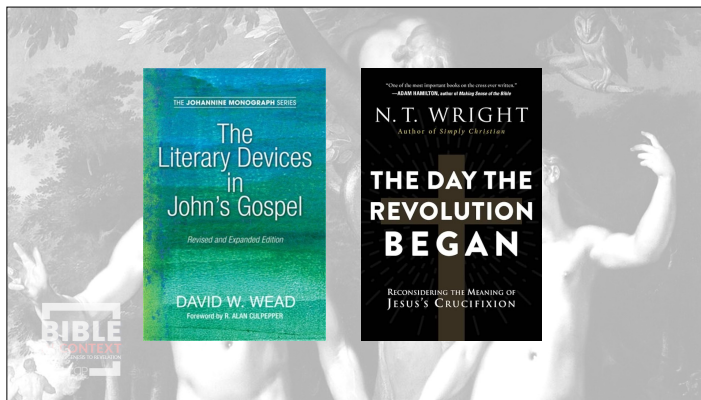
Gen 3: Shame enters, ego/shadow, now at enmity

GENESIS 50:19-20

But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant *evil* against me, but God meant it for *good*, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.



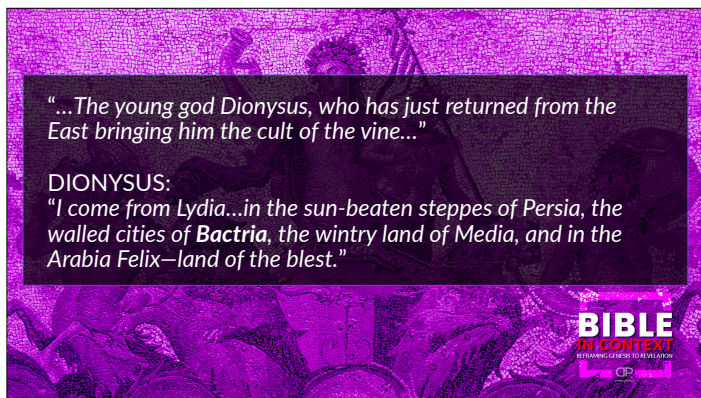
It took 40+ chapters for someone to finally get it



Influences include:

Philip Yancy, Francis Schaeffer, Kierkegaard, Carl Jung, N.T. Wright, C.S. Lewis, Mark Manson, Dallas Willard, Huberman, Derek Siver, NF, Arrested Youth, & Ted Lasso....potentially





Deciphered Linear B tablets from Pylos and Chania (c. 1300–1200 BCE) show Dionysus (written as di-wo-nu-so) already being worshipped as a god, often alongside Zeus.

During his eastern conquests, Alexander actively promoted the idea that he was following in the footsteps of Dionysus, who mythologically conquered India. This helped deify Alexander in the eyes of his subjects as a “new Dionysus.”

Ptolemaic Rulers (3rd Century BCE): The early Ptolemies in Egypt heavily promoted the cult, claiming descent from the god to link their Greek heritage with Egyptian religious traditions (often equating him with Osiris).

Hadrian (Roman Emperor, 2nd Century CE): While Dionysus was long established by this time, Hadrian revitalized Dionysian themes through his deification of Antinous, often portraying the youth in the guise of Dionysus.



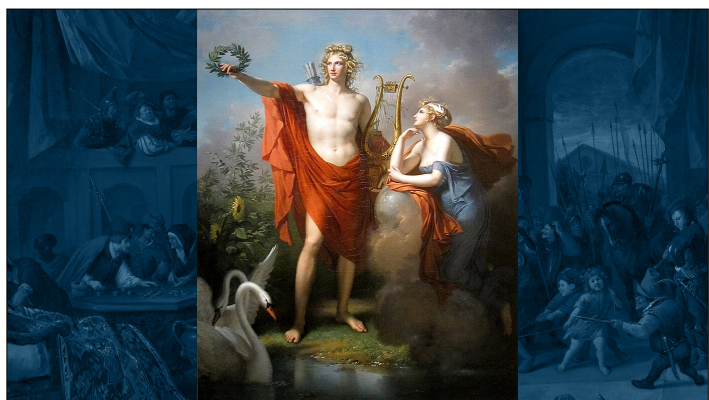
Dionysus:
"Elsewhere, everywhere, I have established my sacraments and dances: to make my godhead manifest to man."

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Apollo, god of light and prophesy, and Urania, the muse of astronomy



Ephesian Artemis



ISIS - Egyptian God, that was imported and popular



After the death of Alexander the Great, it fell to Seleucid

Bactria was a significant Buddhist center from roughly the 3rd century BC through the Kushan Empire (1st-3rd centuries CE), flourishing under Greco-Bactrian rulers and becoming a key hub for Greco-Buddhist art and the spread of the faith to East Asia, with pockets of Buddhism persisting until the Islamic conquests around the 7th century CE. Buddhism spread from India, especially after Emperor Ashoka, coexisting with Zoroastrianism



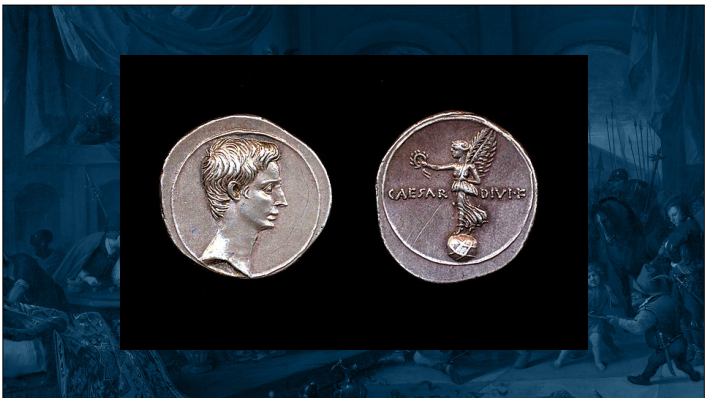
Star or Julius Caesar: Senate declared divine 42 BC
Apotheosis in Myth & Empire

Humans become divine after death (e.g., Heracles)
Reward for strength, conquest, endurance
In Rome: emperors declared divine to legitimize power
Divinity confirms hierarchy, control, and order

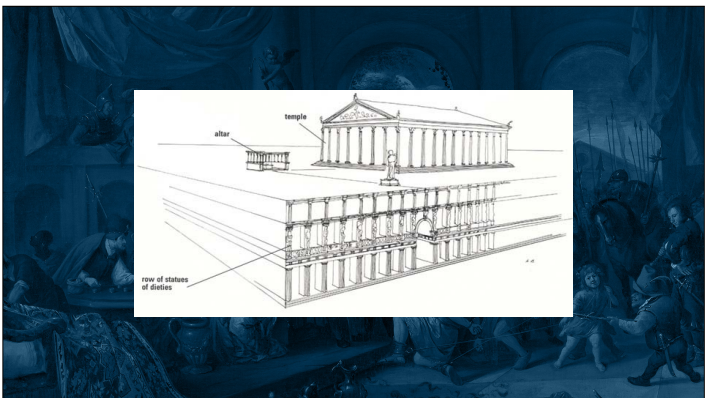
John's Radical Reframing:
Jesus is not apotheosized after death
Glory is revealed in the "hour"
The cross is not failure → later reward
The cross is the revelation of God



Caesar Augustus as Jupiter: Staff and globe in hand




Caesar Augustus as Jupiter: Standing on globe with "Caesar Divine Son"



Temple of Domitian built next to the agora of Ephesus




Gate of Mazaeus and Mithridates in Ephesus: "son of a god," "high priest," and "divine" (Caesar Divi)
It was erected under Emperor Vespasian in the 1st century AD, so both Paul and John would have walked through this gate.

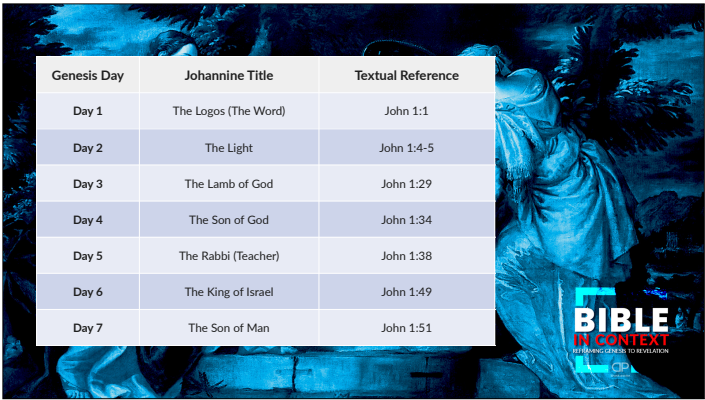


"It seemed good to the Greeks of Asia, in the opinion of the high priest Apollonius of Menophilus Azanitus: Since Providence, which has ordered all things and is deeply interested in our life, has set in most perfect order by giving us Augustus, whom she filled with virtue that he might benefit humankind, sending him as a savior, both for us and for our descendants, that he might end war and arrange all things; and since he, Caesar, by his appearance (excelled even our anticipations), surpassing all previous benefactors, and not even leaving to posterity any hope of surpassing what he has done, and since the birthday of the god Augustus was the beginning of the good tidings [εὐαγγέλιον] for the world that came by reason of him," which Asia resolved in Smyrna."

Priene Calendar Inscription:
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Concept	Roman Imperial Cult (Augustus)	Johannine Christology (Jesus)
Title	<i>Divi Filius</i> (Son of God)	<i>Monogenēs</i> (Only Begotten Son)
Gospel	Peace through Conquest (Pax Romana)	Peace through <i>Kenosis</i> (Self-Emptying)
Father	<i>Pater Patriae</i> (Father of the Country)	<i>Abba</i> (Intimate Father of Being)
Priest	Pontifex Maximus	High Priesthood of the Trusting (<i>Pistis</i>)
Lord	Imperial/Hierarchical	Inverted/Horizontal
Church	Political, Civil, Societal	Communal, Relational, Family
Salvation	Honor (Status), Power, and Order	Truth, Love, Forgiveness, and Union
Source	Imperial Decrees/Propaganda (human)	The Word made Flesh (<i>Eskenosen</i>)





Genesis Day	Johannine Title	Textual Reference
Day 1	The Logos (The Word)	John 1:1
Day 2	The Light	John 1:4-5
Day 3	The Lamb of God	John 1:29
Day 4	The Son of God	John 1:34
Day 5	The Rabbi (Teacher)	John 1:38
Day 6	The King of Israel	John 1:49
Day 7	The Son of Man	John 1:51



Diety	Predicate "I AM" Statements		Absolute Statement	
Ceres (Demeter)	1. The Bread of Life	6:35	1. "It is I; do not be afraid."	6:20
Apollo	2. The Light of the World	8:12	2. "Unless you believe that I am..."	8:24
Janus	3. The Door of the Sheep	10:7	3. "Before Abraham was, I am."	8:58
Hermes (Mercury)	4. The Good Shepherd	10:11	4. "The Who speaks, I am"	4:26
Asclepius	5. The Resurrection and the Life	11:25	5. "I told you that I am"	18:5
Hecate (or Athena)	6. The Way, the Truth, and the Life	14:6	6. "I am" (to the disciples)	13:19
Dionysus (Bacchus)	7. The True Vine	15:1	7. "I am" (at the arrest)	18:8

'I Am" s Jewish concept: God's nameless, and the closet thing there was "I am that I am." God would call his people to be holy as he was holy, a call back to Gen 2:1-3 and 2:25. For, in modern times, I can tetify that "I think therefor I am" as flawed, and even dumb. Awareness precedes thought is what thought dances within. I am. Period. And I'm grateful for it.

Now, Idientiy is real thing, and deep thing. Something marketing, politics, and tyrnats have known for a long time. Aristotle taught we think with ethos, pathos, and logos, all things marketing uses to convince you to buy something. Marketing uses stroytelling, and storytelling (and whatever shannigans they could get up. To) was all they had 2000 years ago, with media and literacy.

1. Ceres
2. Apollo
3. Janus
4. Hermes
5. Asclepius
6. Hecate (Athena of Truth, as well as Apollo)
7. Dionysus



Sign	Event	Significance
Sign 1	Sign 1: Water to Wine (Cana)	The Wedding Feast/Completion (2:1)
Sign 2	Healing the Official's Son	Life given by the Word (4:46)
Sign 3	Healing the Paralytic	Restored strength on the Sabbath (5:1)
Sign 4	Feeding the 5,000	Manna in the wilderness (6:1)
Sign 5	Walking on Water	Victory over the chaos/sea (6:16)
Sign 6	Healing the Man Born Blind	Restoring sight/Light of the world (9:1)
Sign 7	Raising Lazarus	The climax: Victory over death (11:1)
The 8th Day	The Resurrection	New Creation begins (Chapter 20)



JOHN 1:1-5

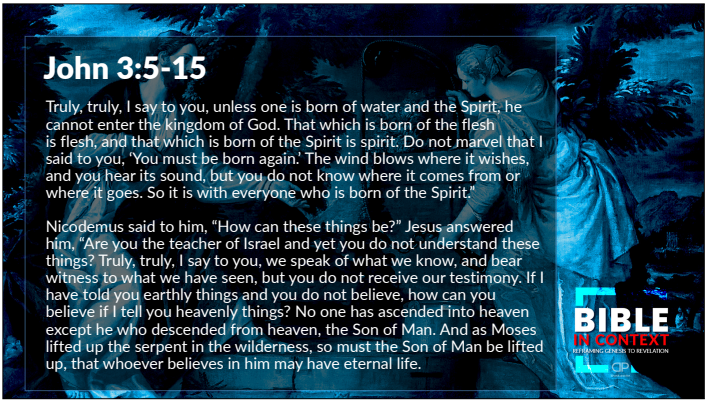
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

BIBLE
IN CONTEXT
GETTING GENESIS TO REVELATION

John 2:1-4

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

BIBLE
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GETTING GENESIS TO REVELATION

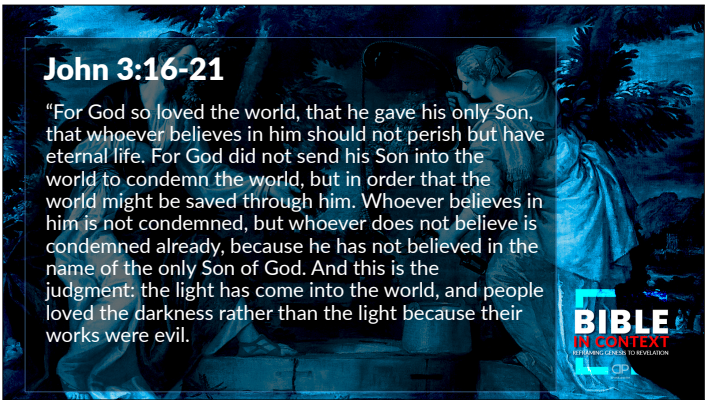


John 3:5-15

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

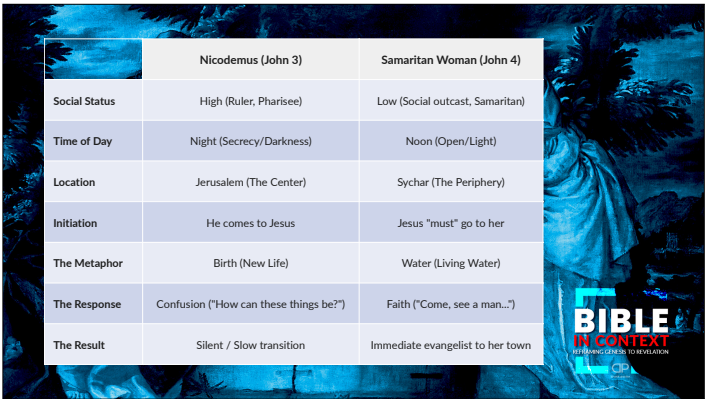
BIBLE IN CONTEXT
RETURNING GENESIS TO REVELATION



John 3:16-21

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."

BIBLE IN CONTEXT
RETURNING GENESIS TO REVELATION



	Nicodemus (John 3)	Samaritan Woman (John 4)
Social Status	High (Ruler, Pharisee)	Low (Social outcast, Samaritan)
Time of Day	Night (Secrecy/Darkness)	Noon (Open/Light)
Location	Jerusalem (The Center)	Sychar (The Periphery)
Initiation	He comes to Jesus	Jesus "must" go to her
The Metaphor	Birth (New Life)	Water (Living Water)
The Response	Confusion ("How can these things be?")	Faith ("Come, see a man...")
The Result	Silent / Slow transition	Immediate evangelist to her town

BIBLE IN CONTEXT
RETURNING GENESIS TO REVELATION

Marriage metaphor is going on too, using Jewish men at wells



John 12:20-23

"Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip... and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.'... Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'"

BIBLE
IN CONTEXT
RETURNING GENESIS TO REVELATION

John 12:32-34

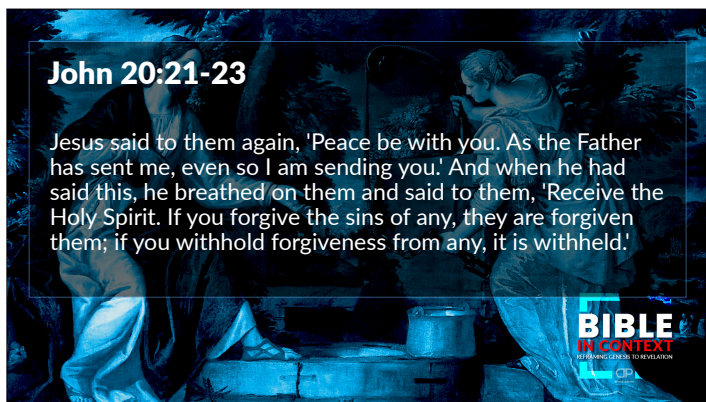
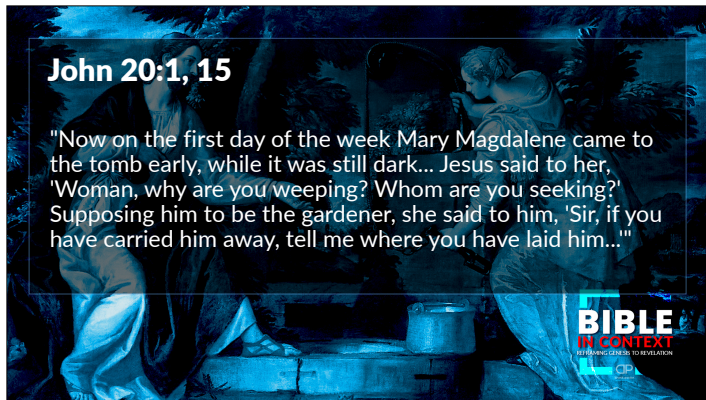
"'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So the crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?'"

BIBLE
IN CONTEXT
RETURNING GENESIS TO REVELATION

The Son of Man Archetype

- DANIEL 7:13-14:
"I SAW IN THE NIGHT VISIONS, AND
BEHOLD, WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN
THERE CAME ONE LIKE A SON OF MAN...
AND TO HIM WAS GIVEN DOMINION AND
GLORY AND A KINGDOM, THAT ALL
PEOPLES, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES
SHOULD SERVE HIM."

BIBLE
IN CONTEXT
RETURNING GENESIS TO REVELATION



Same ending as Genesis 50, when good and evil are resolved through forgiveness and blessing, when Joseph refused to place himself in God's position. This is more crucial than we realize.



The Kingdom of God is in you, in your midst, Heaven is here and now, Hell is that which we carry and spread unnecessarily, it's that we can be in the light, vulnerable, and ourselves, free from those things we don't want to do and can do what we want to do, that there is forgiveness...and the key to it all is if we're willing to forgive.