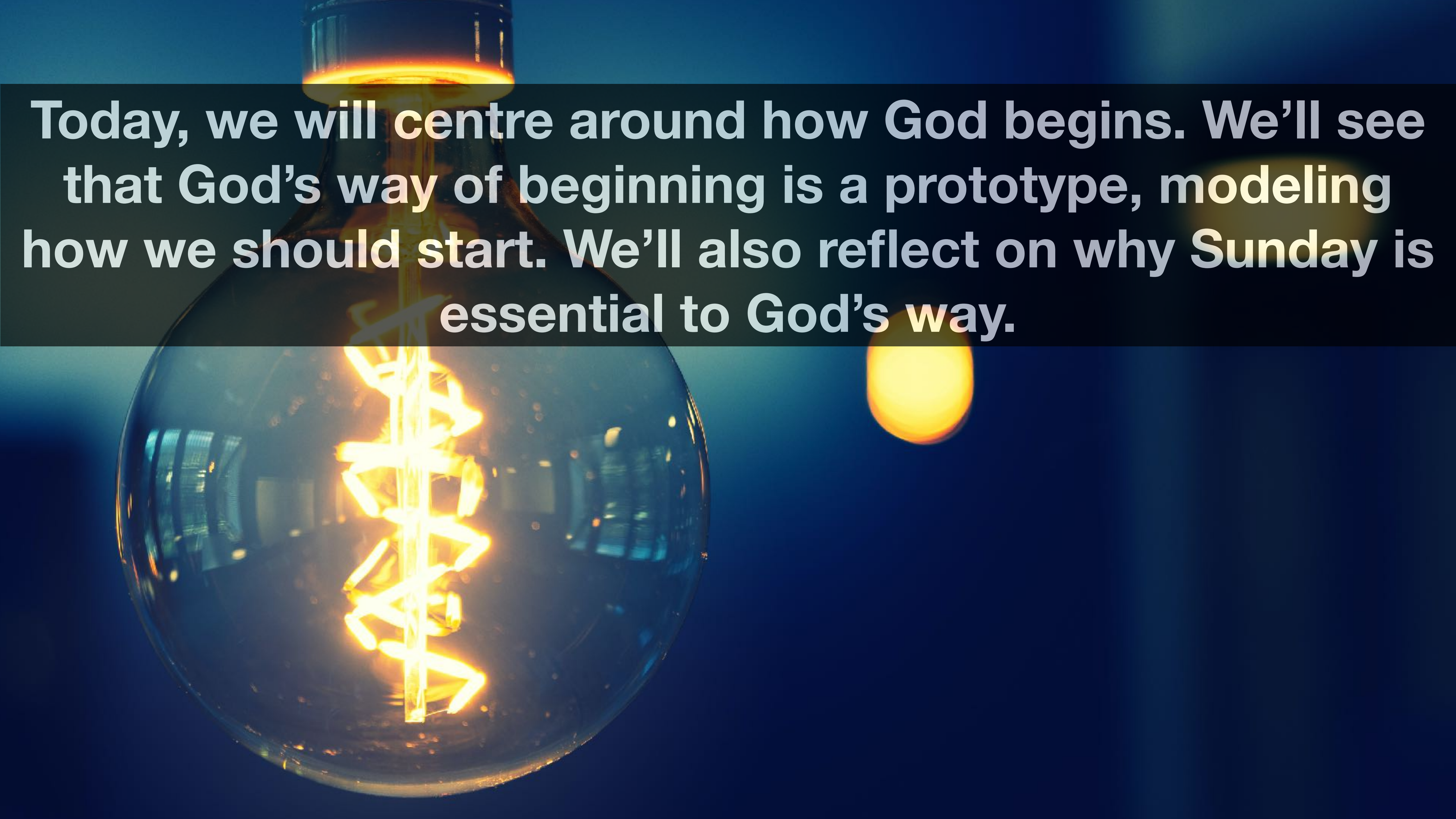


THE WAY GOD BEGINS

08 - Restoring the Soul

Glen Gerhauser | Church on the Park | Sunday, 26 MARCH 2023



Today, we will centre around how God begins. We'll see that God's way of beginning is a prototype, modeling how we should start. We'll also reflect on why Sunday is essential to God's way.

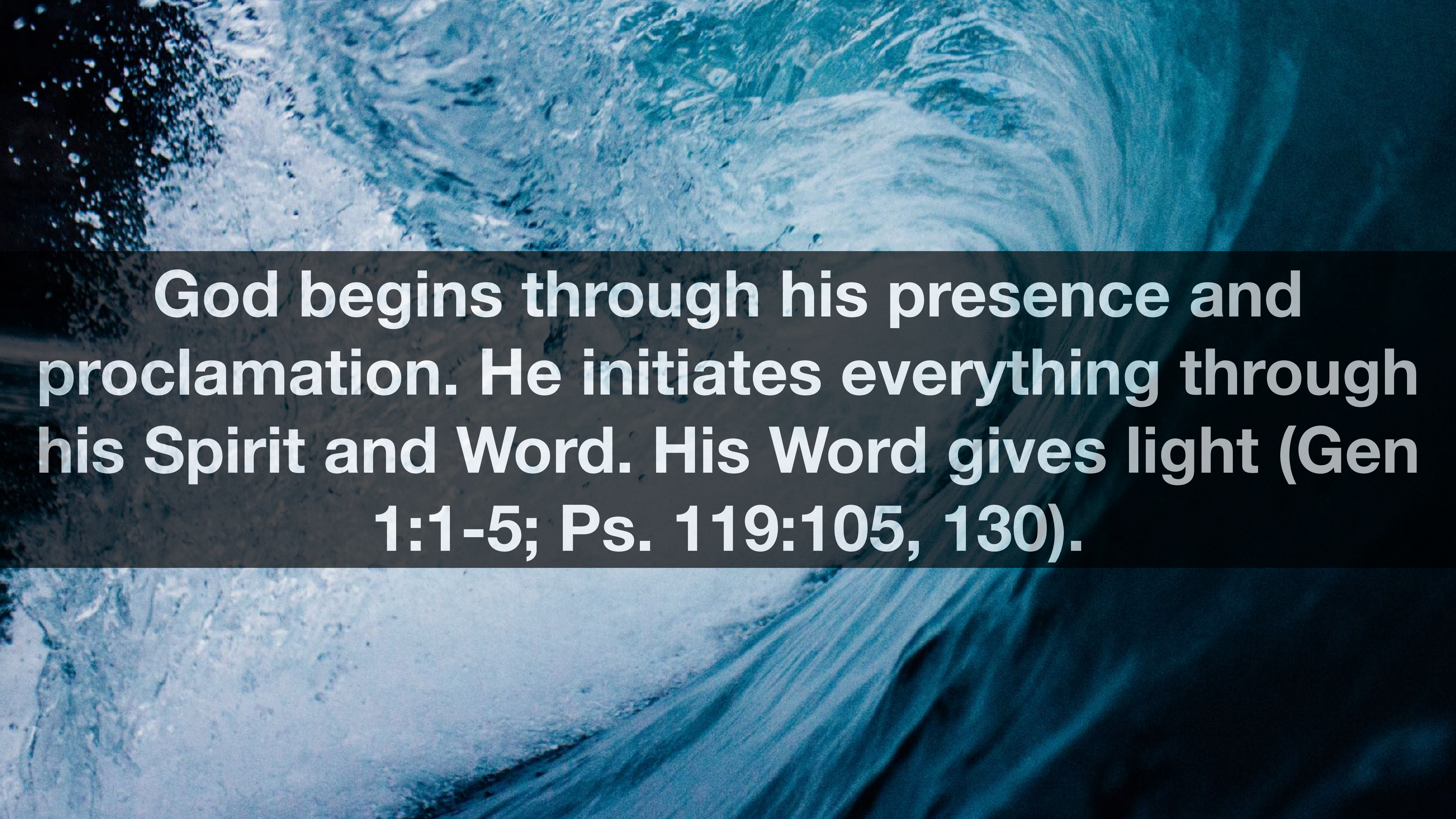
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day” (Gen. 1:1–5, NASB).

God works to restore us to his original design and purpose (2 Cor 4:5-6).

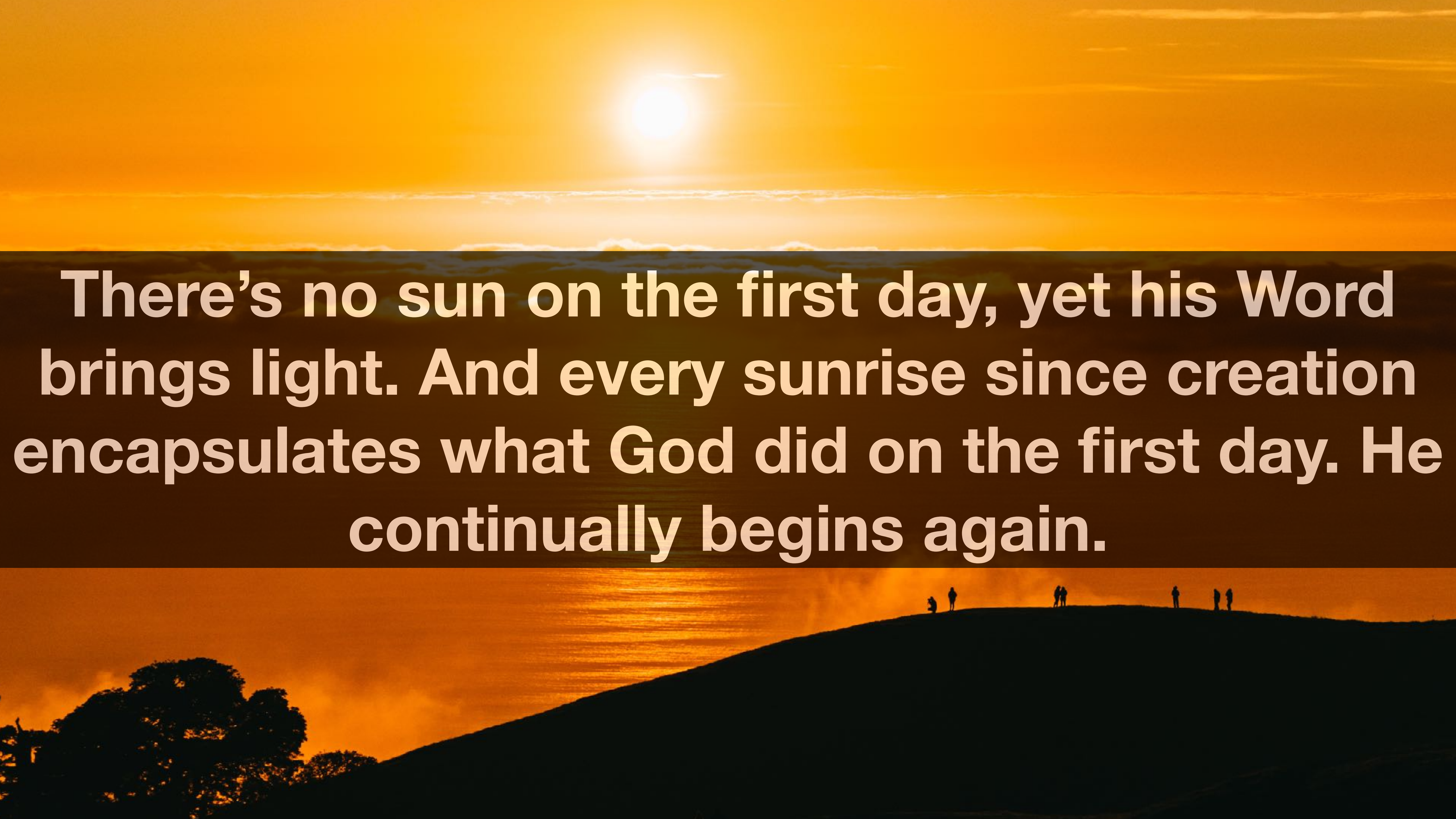




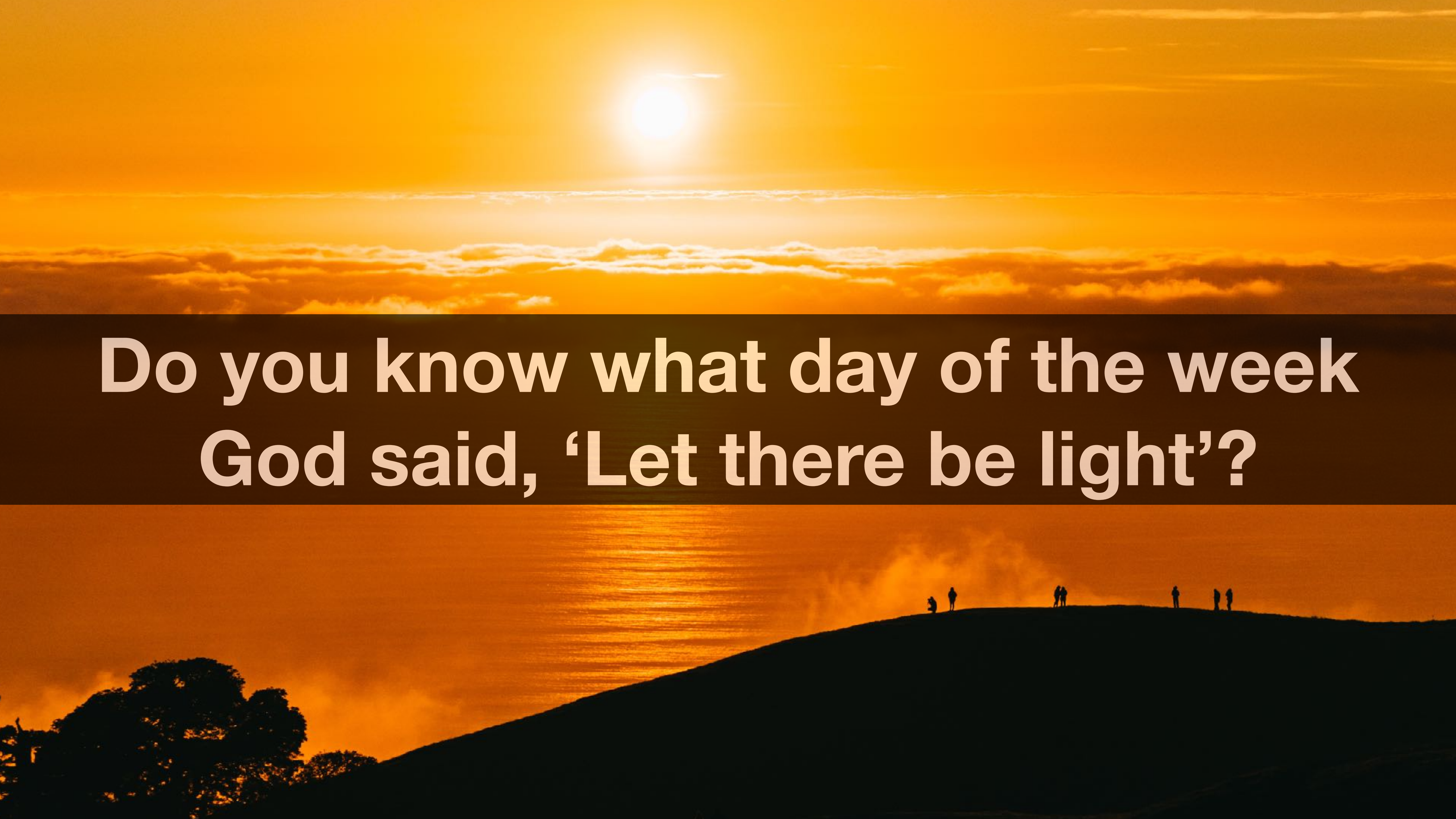
HOW DOES GOD BEGIN?

An aerial photograph of a river with a dark, semi-transparent overlay in the center containing white text. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right, with visible ripples and a slight bend. The background is a deep blue color.

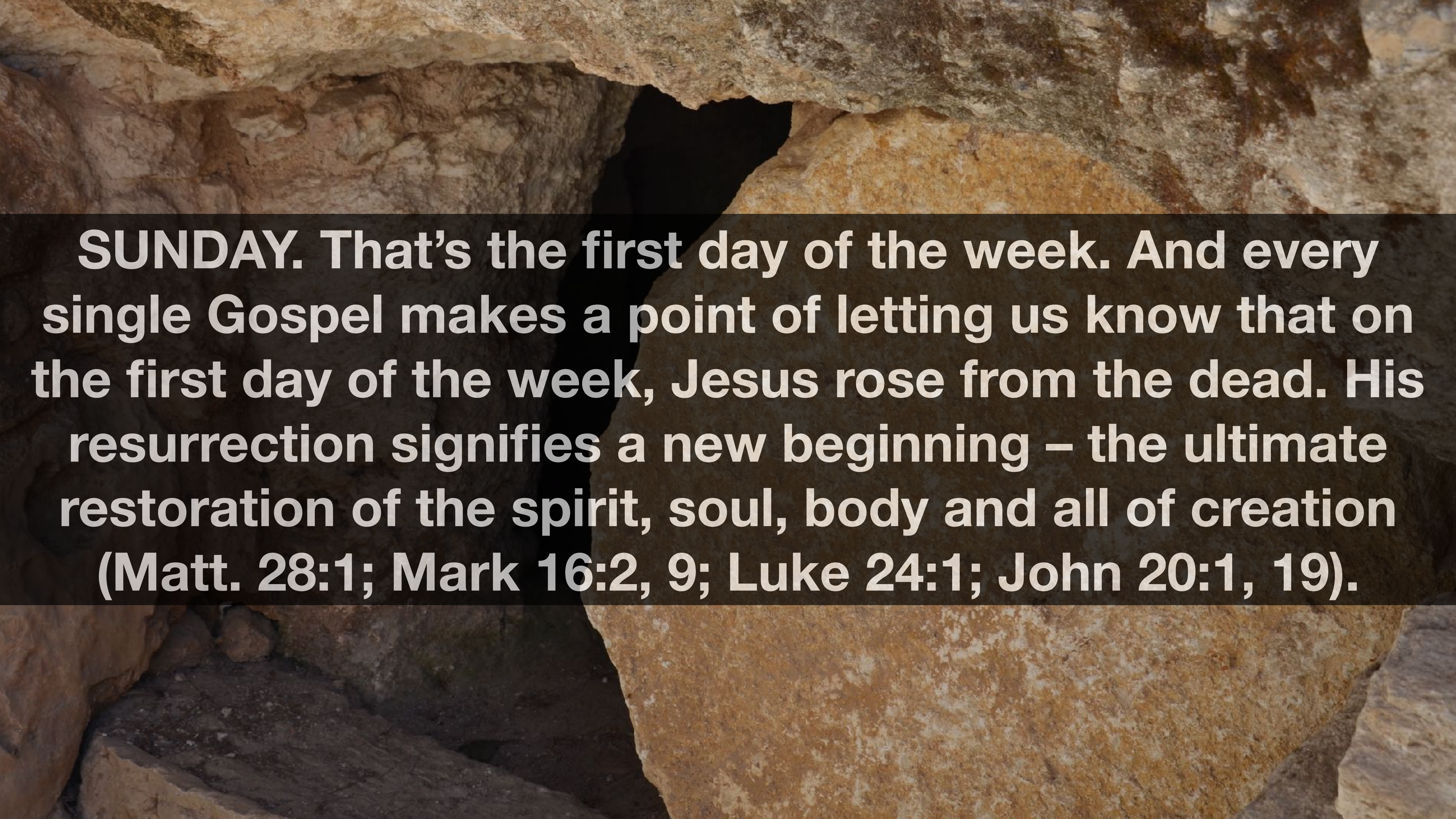
God begins through his presence and proclamation. He initiates everything through his Spirit and Word. His Word gives light (Gen 1:1-5; Ps. 119:105, 130).



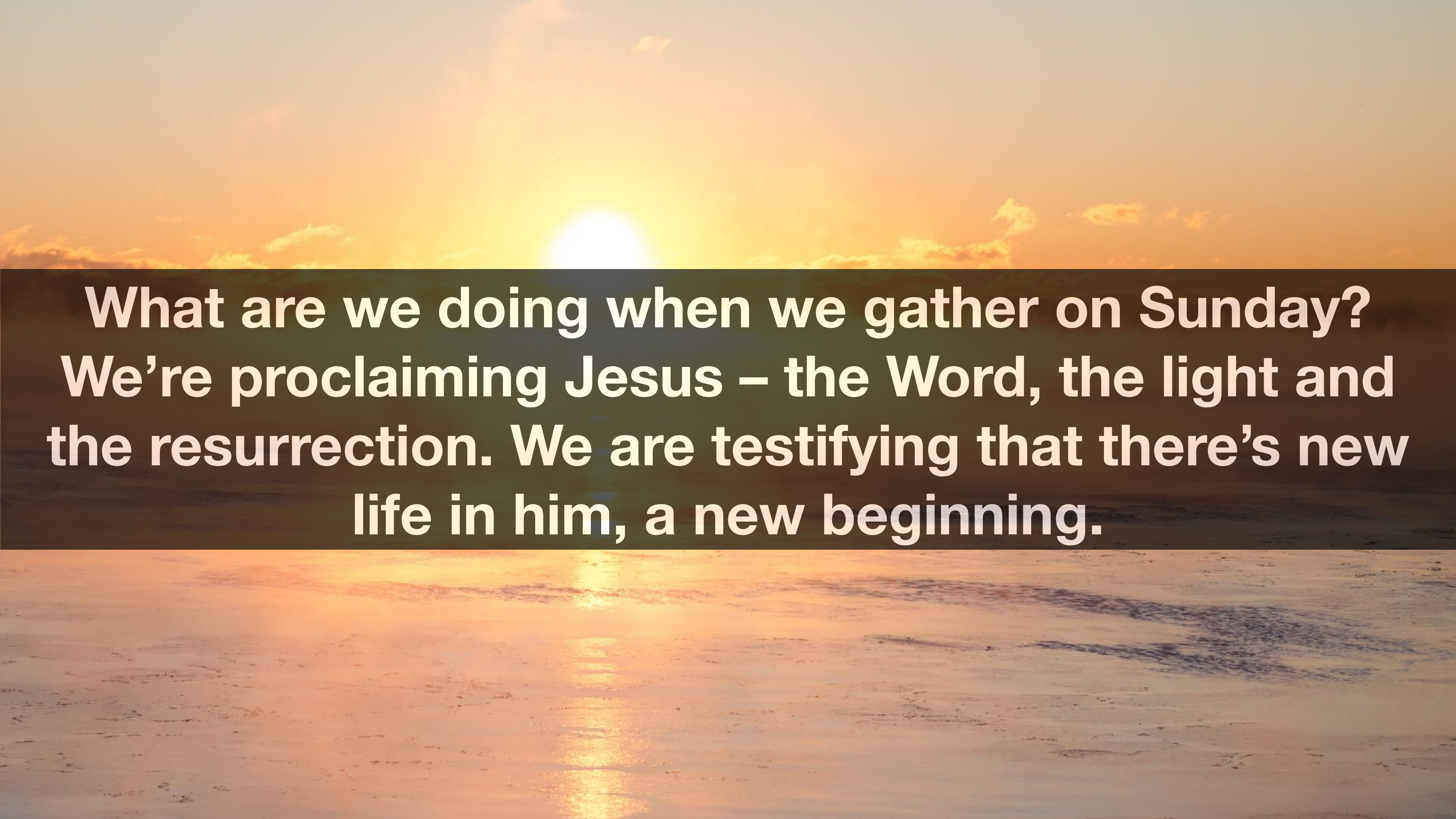
There's no sun on the first day, yet his Word brings light. And every sunrise since creation encapsulates what God did on the first day. He continually begins again.

A vibrant sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over a body of water. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a hill is visible, with several small figures of people standing on its crest. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

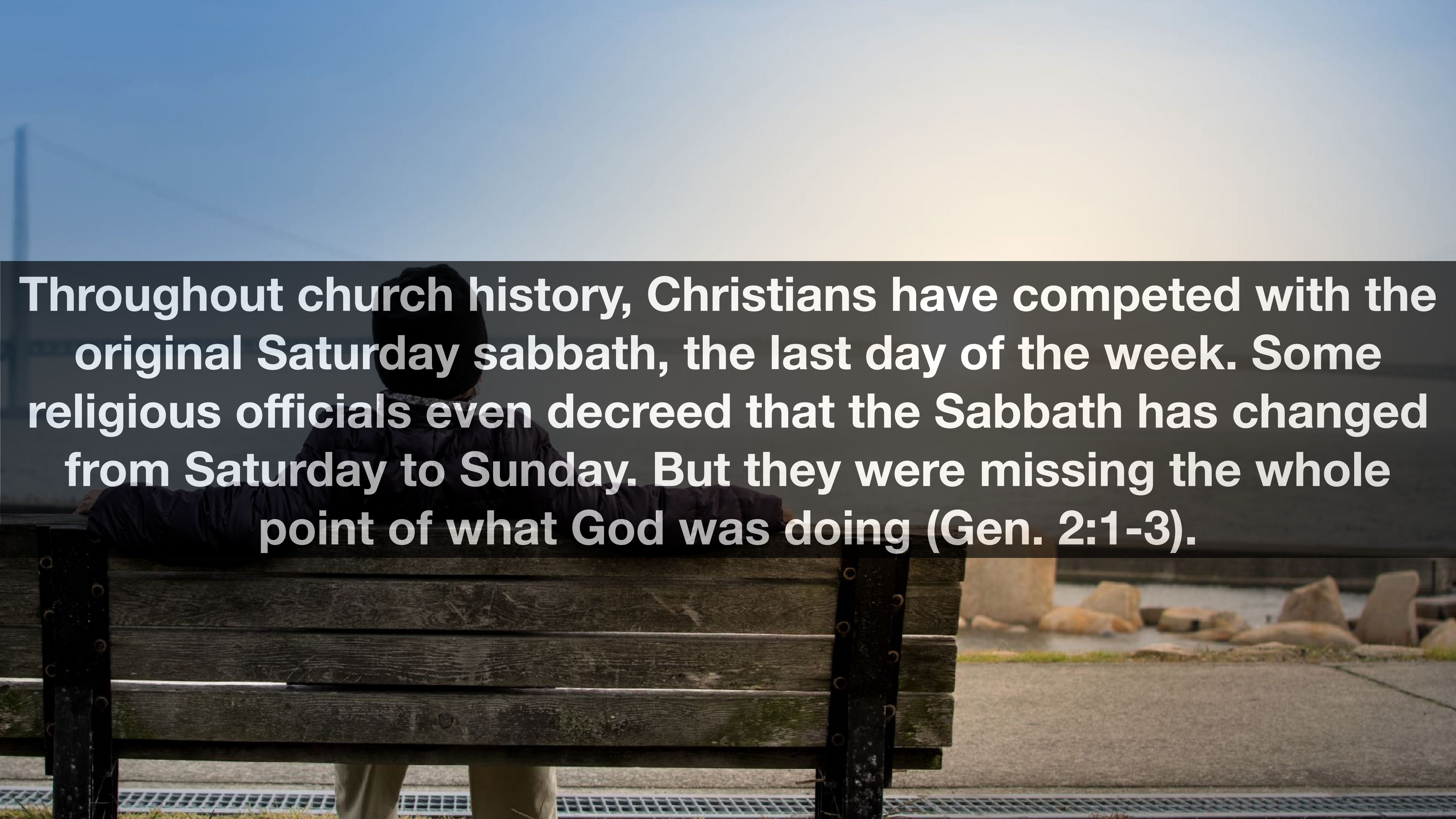
**Do you know what day of the week
God said, ‘Let there be light’?**



SUNDAY. That's the first day of the week. And every single Gospel makes a point of letting us know that on the first day of the week, Jesus rose from the dead. His resurrection signifies a new beginning – the ultimate restoration of the spirit, soul, body and all of creation (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19).



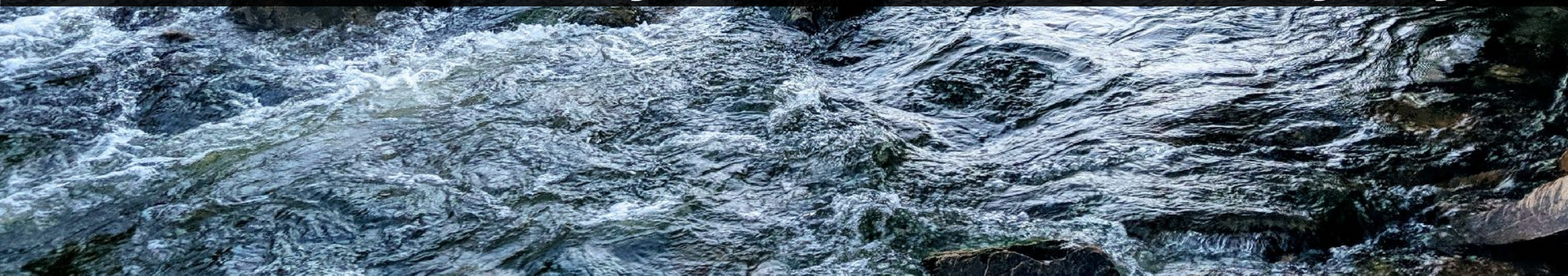
**What are we doing when we gather on Sunday?
We're proclaiming Jesus – the Word, the light and
the resurrection. We are testifying that there's new
life in him, a new beginning.**

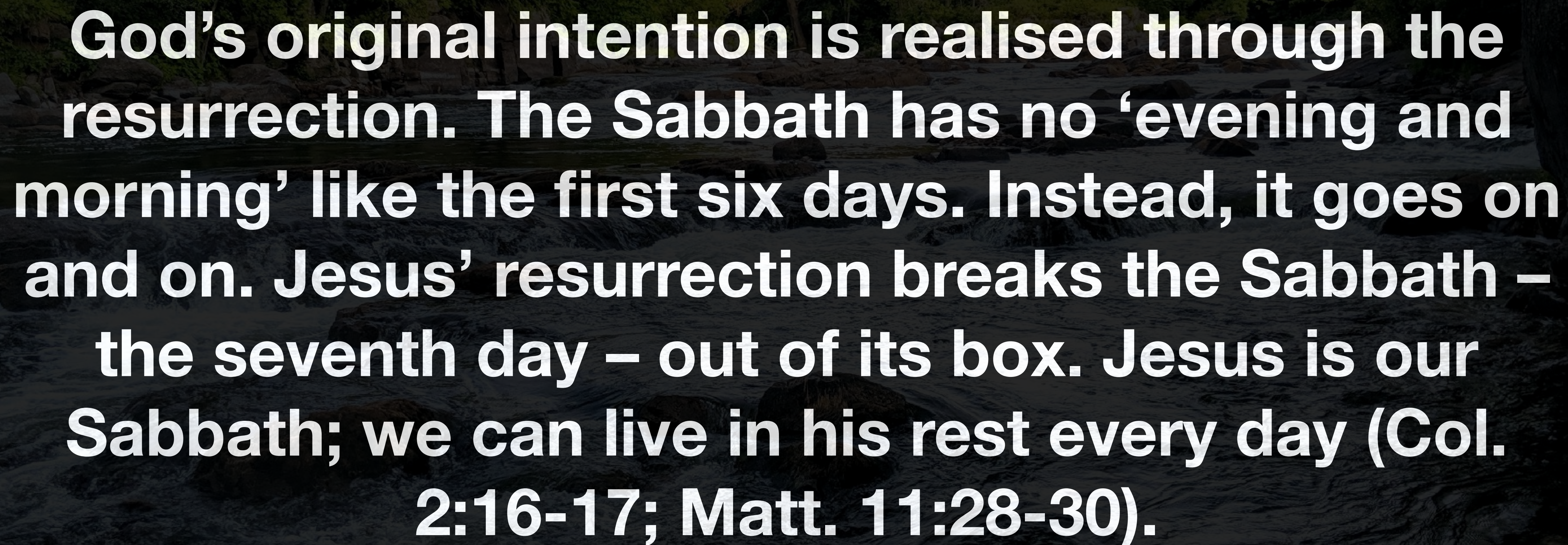
A person wearing a dark jacket and a black beanie is sitting on a wooden bench, viewed from behind. They are looking out over a body of water with several large rocks in the distance. The sky is a clear, pale blue. A semi-transparent black banner with white text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Throughout church history, Christians have competed with the original Saturday sabbath, the last day of the week. Some religious officials even decreed that the Sabbath has changed from Saturday to Sunday. But they were missing the whole point of what God was doing (Gen. 2:1-3).



The Sabbath (Shabbat) hasn't changed from Saturday to Sunday. Instead, God's rest is like a river that has broken its banks. It's no longer restricted to one day. The completed work of Christ revives the first day and re-sanctifies every day.





God's original intention is realised through the resurrection. The Sabbath has no 'evening and morning' like the first six days. Instead, it goes on and on. Jesus' resurrection breaks the Sabbath – the seventh day – out of its box. Jesus is our Sabbath; we can live in his rest every day (Col. 2:16-17; Matt. 11:28-30).

WHY SUNDAY?

Sunday has always been an important day for Christians. Here are a few reasons why.

by Glen Gerhauser



SUNDAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

We often think the first day is Monday, but it's Sunday. Gathering Sunday means we're starting our week right: with God and his people (Gen. 1:3-5; Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:23-25).



SUNDAY IS THE DAY JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD

Sunday was the day of Jesus' resurrection, revealing that Jesus is our new beginning. He is the first fruits of new life. On Sunday, we participate in the power of his resurrection (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).



SUNDAY IS ABOUT PUTTING GOD FIRST

Through Sunday, we put God above everything: relaxation, family, work, sports and entertainment. Jesus taught us to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33; 1 Cor. 16:2).



SUNDAY IS A TIME TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

On the first day of creation, God's Word broke into the darkness, bringing light to the world. On Sunday, we come to hear the Word again and let it break into our darkness, illuminating our hearts (Gen. 1:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:5-6).



SUNDAY IS A DAY TO SLOW DOWN, PAUSE AND FIND REST

The early Christian practice of gathering on the week's first day shows the Sabbath expanding. It's not that the Sabbath has changed from Saturday to Sunday. Instead, like a river, God's rest has broken its banks into every day (John 20:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).



SUNDAY IS THE LORD'S DAY

Even though John was exiled, he still was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. In the opening of his book of Revelation, we see the repetition of creation's first day. He hears God and experiences his light. Let John be an example of what the Lord's day is meant to be: a day for heaven to invade earth (Rev. 1:9-11).

For more, see
Church on the Park & Holy Fire Ministry Training School
www.brisbanefire.com



SUNDAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

We often think the first day is Monday, but it's Sunday. Gathering Sunday means we're starting our week right: with God and his people (Gen. 1:3-5; Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:23-25).



SUNDAY IS THE DAY JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD

Sunday was the day of Jesus' resurrection, revealing that Jesus is our new beginning. He is the first fruits of new life. On Sunday, we participate in the power of his resurrection (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).



SUNDAY IS ABOUT PUTTING GOD FIRST

Through Sunday, we put God above everything: relaxation, family, work, sports and entertainment. Jesus taught us to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33; 1 Cor. 16:2)

SUNDAY IS A TIME TO



SUNDAY IS A TIME TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

On the first day of creation, God's Word broke into the darkness, bringing light to the world. On Sunday, we come to hear the Word again and let it break into our darkness, illuminating our hearts (Gen. 1:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:5-6).



SUNDAY IS A DAY TO SLOW DOWN, PAUSE AND FIND REST

The early Christian practice of gathering on the week's first day shows the Sabbath expanding. It's not that the Sabbath has changed from Saturday to Sunday. Instead, like a river, God's rest has broken its banks into every day (John 20:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).



SUNDAY IS THE LORD'S DAY

Even though John was exiled, he still was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. In the opening of his book of Revelation, we see the repetition of creation's first day. He hears God and experiences his light. Let John be an example of what the Lord's day is meant to be: a day for heaven to invade earth (Rev. 1:9-11).

WHY SUNDAY?

Sunday has always been an important day for Christians. Here are a few reasons why.

by Glen Gerhauser



SUNDAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

We often think the first day is Monday, but it's Sunday. Gathering Sunday means we're starting our week right: with God and his people (Gen. 1:3-5; Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:23-25).



SUNDAY IS THE DAY JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD

Sunday was the day of Jesus' resurrection, revealing that Jesus is our new beginning. He is the first fruits of new life. On Sunday, we participate in the power of his resurrection (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).



SUNDAY IS ABOUT PUTTING GOD FIRST

Through Sunday, we put God above everything: relaxation, family, work, sports and entertainment. Jesus taught us to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33; 1 Cor. 16:2)



SUNDAY IS A TIME TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

On the first day of creation, God's Word broke into the darkness, bringing light to the world. On Sunday, we come to hear the Word again and let it break into our darkness, illuminating our hearts (Gen. 1:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:5-6).



SUNDAY IS A DAY TO SLOW DOWN, PAUSE AND FIND REST

The early Christian practice of gathering on the week's first day shows the Sabbath expanding. It's not that the Sabbath has changed from Saturday to Sunday. Instead, like a river, God's rest has broken its banks into every day (John 20:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).



SUNDAY IS THE LORD'S DAY

Even though John was exiled, he still was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. In the opening of his book of Revelation, we see the repetition of creation's first day. He hears God and experiences his light. Let John be an example of what the Lord's day is meant to be: a day for heaven to invade earth (Rev. 1:9-11).

For more, see
Church on the Park & Holy Fire Ministry Training School
www.brisbanefire.com

The Chief Shepherd restores us by empowering us to begin right. This means seeking his Kingdom first every day, week, and year. It's a life modelled after his own.



HOLY FIRE FELLOWSHIP



Our mission is to seek the Father's heart, make disciples of Jesus and spread the Holy Spirit's fire. By partnering with us, you're helping to keep our light burning bright.

PayID: ABN 39 900 994 040

www.brisbanefire.com

We can't do this without you

Holy Fire Fellowship's Threefold Financial Strategy

TITHES & OFFERINGS



- Church on the Park members working as a family (Eph. 4:15-16)
- Tithing is giving 10% of your income (Gen. 14:18-20; 28:22)
- Offerings are giving over and above 10% (Mal. 3:8-12)
- Consistency
- Setting up reoccurring giving
- Checking if our giving is up-to-date and working



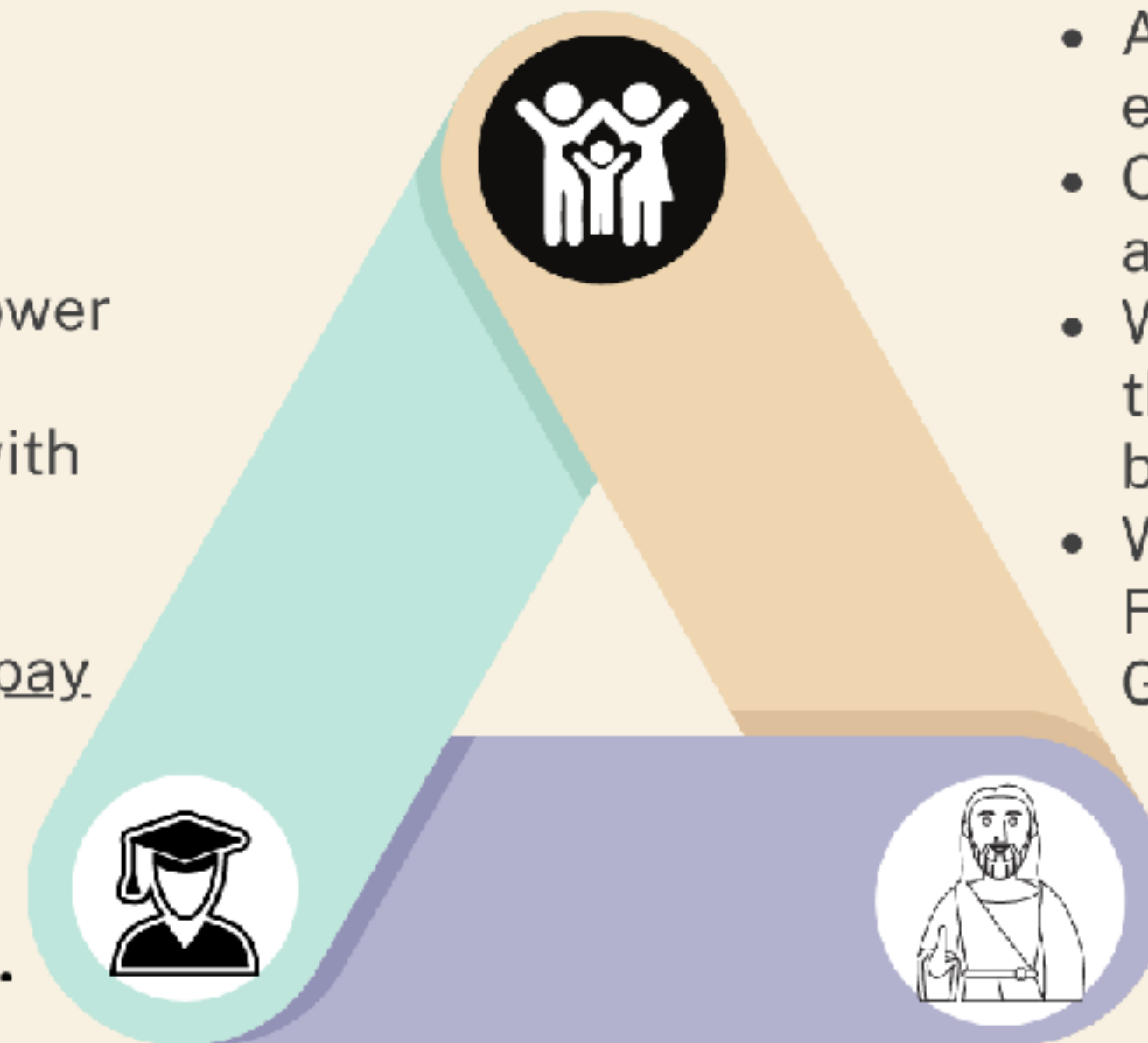
HOLY FIRE MINISTRY TRAINING SCHOOL

- Tuition timely paid
- Bible School donations
- We keep our tuition about 50% lower to help people from all incomes
- We need sponsors for students with extra financial needs
- See more at <https://www.holyfireschool.com/payments>



THE BODY OF CHRIST

- Awareness of the importance of our extended family
- Our ministry goes beyond our church and reaches interdenominationally
- We're continually working to raise up the next generation of leaders and bless as many churches as possible
- We need the financial support of Holy Fire Grads, churches, friends and God's family to make this work



To give, please use PayID: ABN 39 900 994 040
or www.bit.ly/givetoyourchurch

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE & SUPPORT



OUR FINANCIAL GOALS FOR 2023

1 - Awareness of the need

2 - Prayer to reach our target

3 - Stability & consistency

4 - Replenish Savings

5 - Increase support base

6 - Giving to poor & missions