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God's Plan for Humanity

The Humans Rebel

God Chooses a People
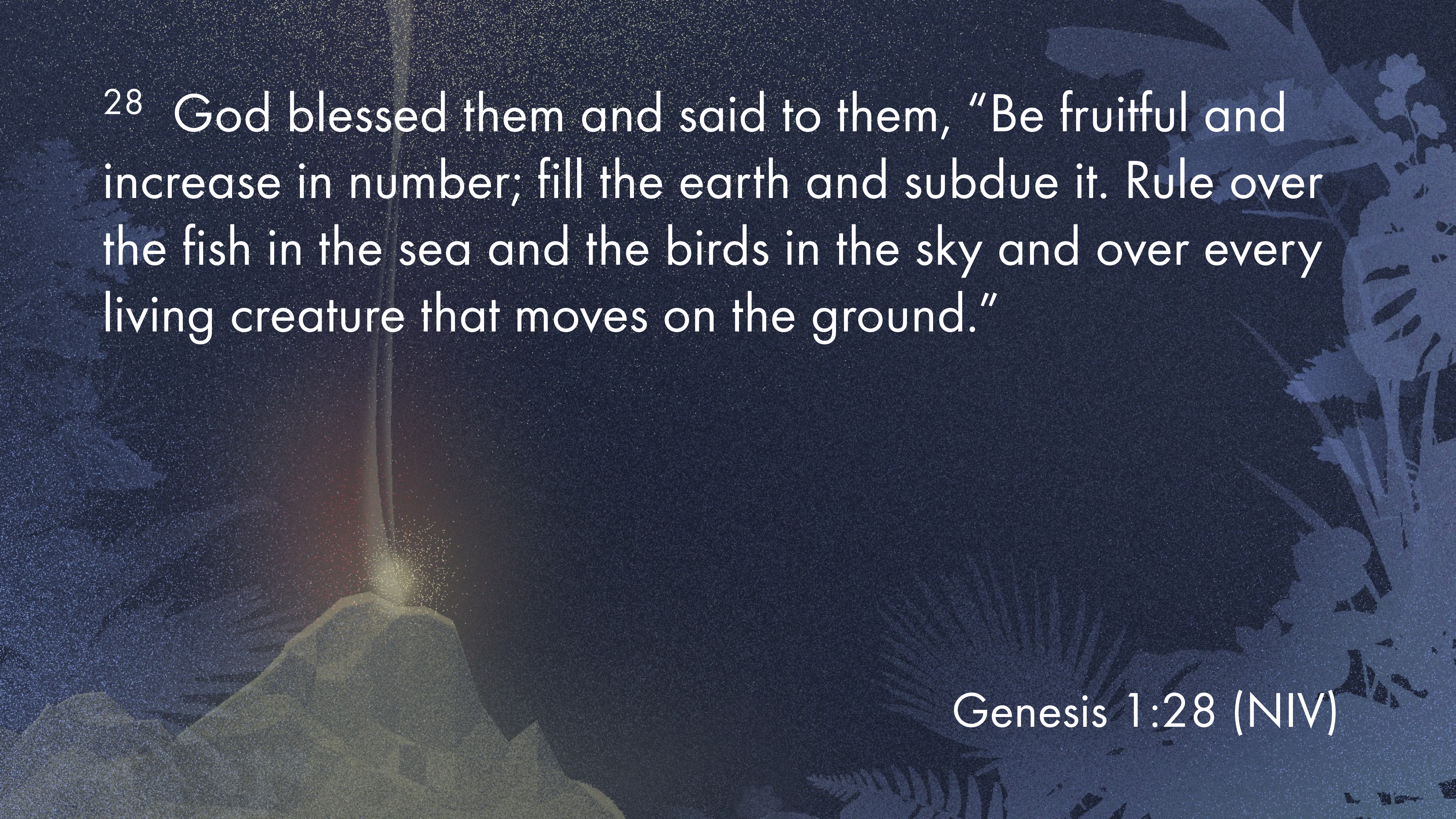
God's People Rebel

Jesus the King

The Empowered Church

God's Mission Accomplished

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
      in the image of God he created them;
      male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:28 (NIV)

We are created to run God's world.

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV)

Image of God

Imago Dei

צֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים (ṣelem ʾᵉlōhîm)

"A physical representation of a deity"

"Baal with thunder-bolt" stele
15th-13th century BC
Acropolis, Ras Shamra
(ancient Ugarit)
Musée de Louvre, Paris

"A [free] man is as the shadow of God, the slave is as the shadow of the [free] man; but the king, he is like unto the [very] image of God."

Esarhaddon, King of Assyria (680–669 B.C.)
DJA Clines, "The Image of God in Man, "
Tyndale Bulletin 19 (1968): 53–103
See also E. M. Curtis, "Man as the Image of God,"
Genesis in Light of Ancient Near Eastern Parallels (1984), 80-90

"The pressing of that huge, heavy crown on that small, young head was a symbol of the situation of all men."

C. S. Lewis
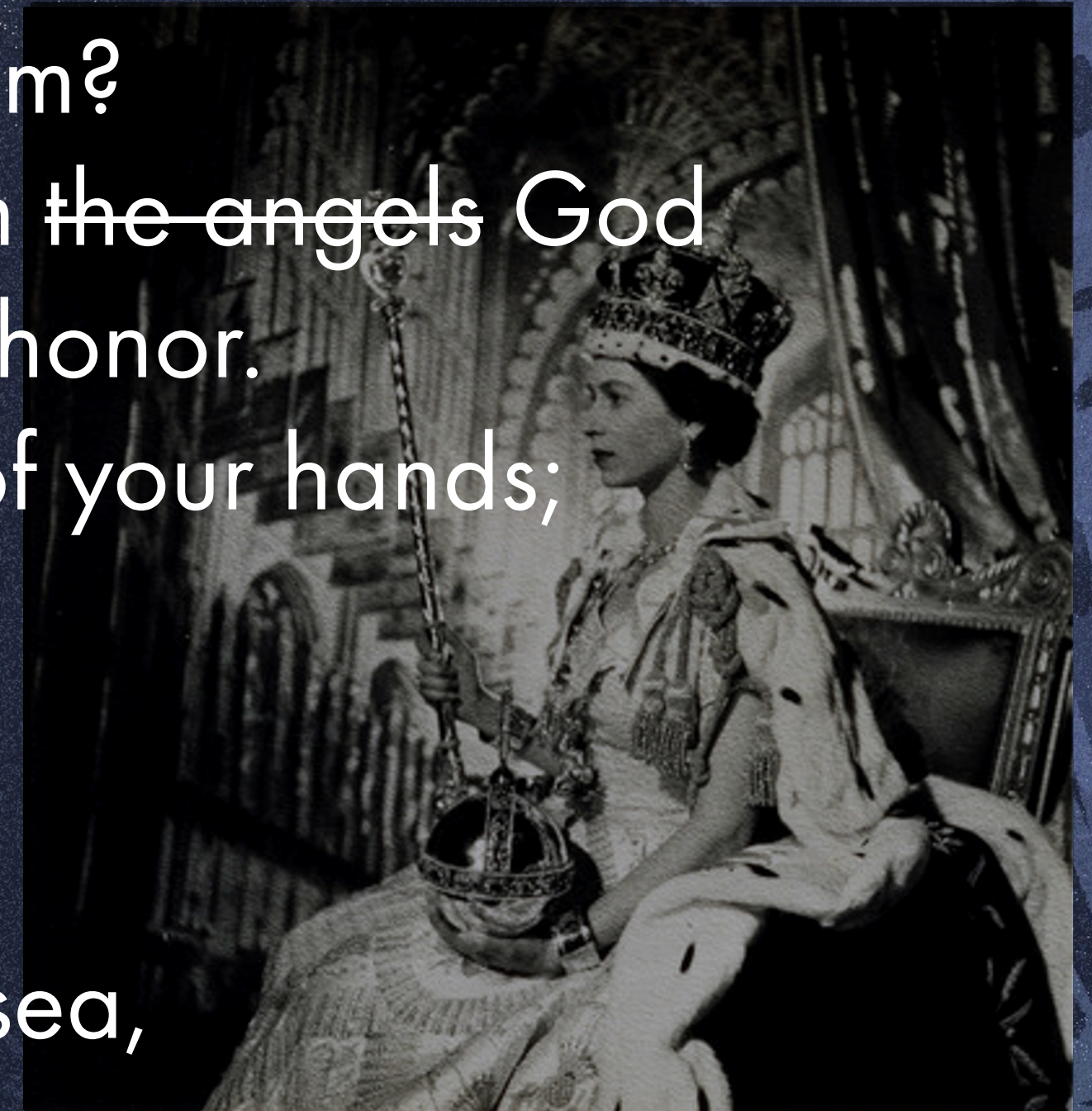British author and theologian (1898–1963)

⁴ What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
    human beings that you care for them?
⁵ You have made them a little lower than ~~the angels~~ God
    and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
    you put everything under their feet:
⁷ all flocks and herds,
    and the animals of the wild,
⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,
    all that swim the paths of the seas.

Psalm 8:4-8 (NIV)

We bear God's image.
We are created to run God's world.

¹ This is the written account of Adam's family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created. ³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

Genesis 5:1-3 (NIV)

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Genesis 5:1-3 (NIV)

³⁷ the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, ³⁸ the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.
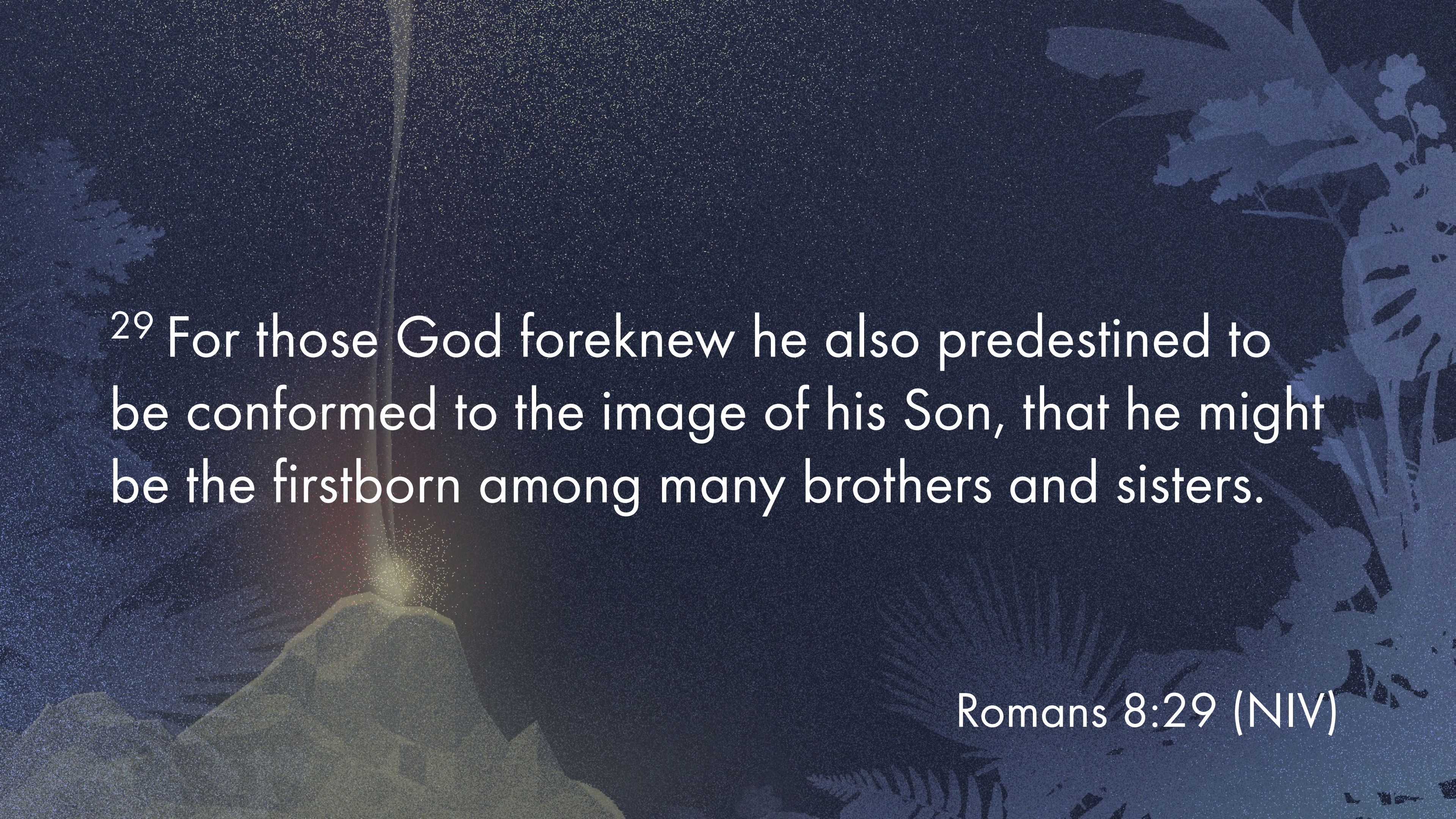
Luke 3:37-38 (NIV)

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

We are God's children.
We bear God's image.
We are created to run God's world.

²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 (NIV)

We are God's children.
We bear God's image.
We are created to run God's world.

We are God's children.
We bear God's image.
We are created to run God's world.

My Father knows me.
My Father loves me.
My Father wants me to know him and love him.

We are God's children.
We bear God's image.
We are created to run God's world.

I am created to represent God's presence in this world.
I am created to reveal God's character in who I am and
how I live.

We are God's children.
We bear God's image.
We are created to run God's world.

I am created to exercise authority.
I care about what God values.
I seek to establish his rule on his earth as his partner.

We are God's children.
We bear God's image.
We are created to run God's world.