

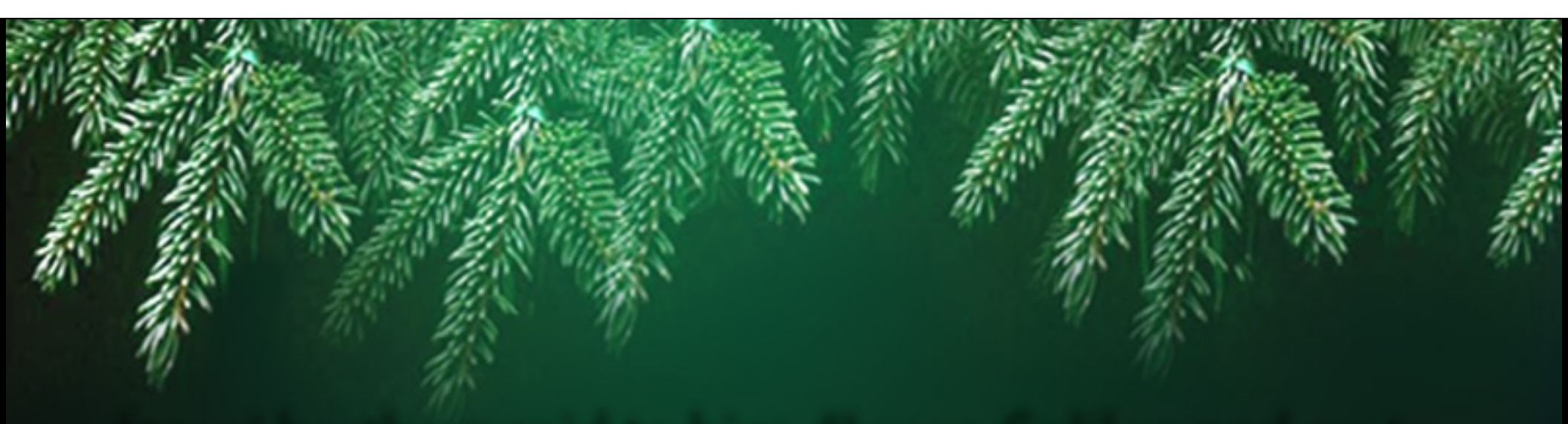


Merry Christmas

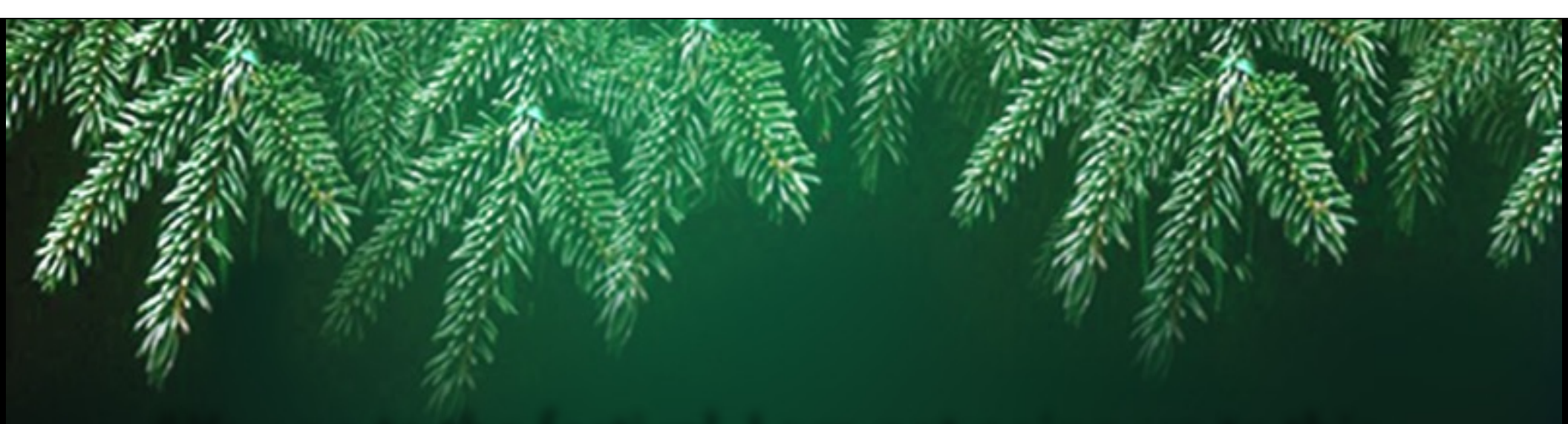
The great
GIFT
*of getting to
know Jesus*



a series from the book of John

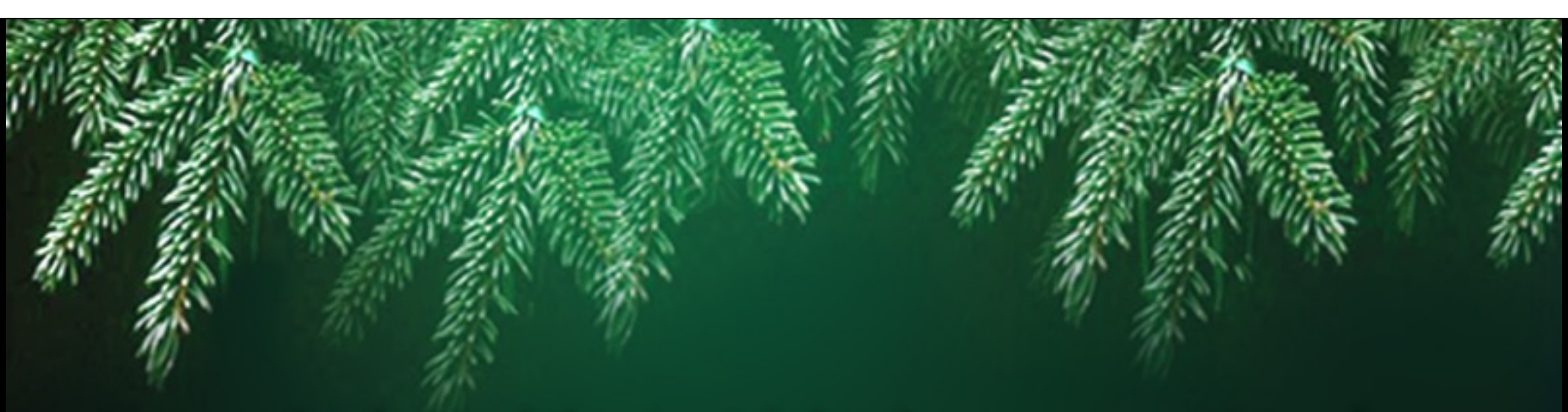


³Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. ⁴No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵For even his own brothers did not believe in him. John 7:3-5



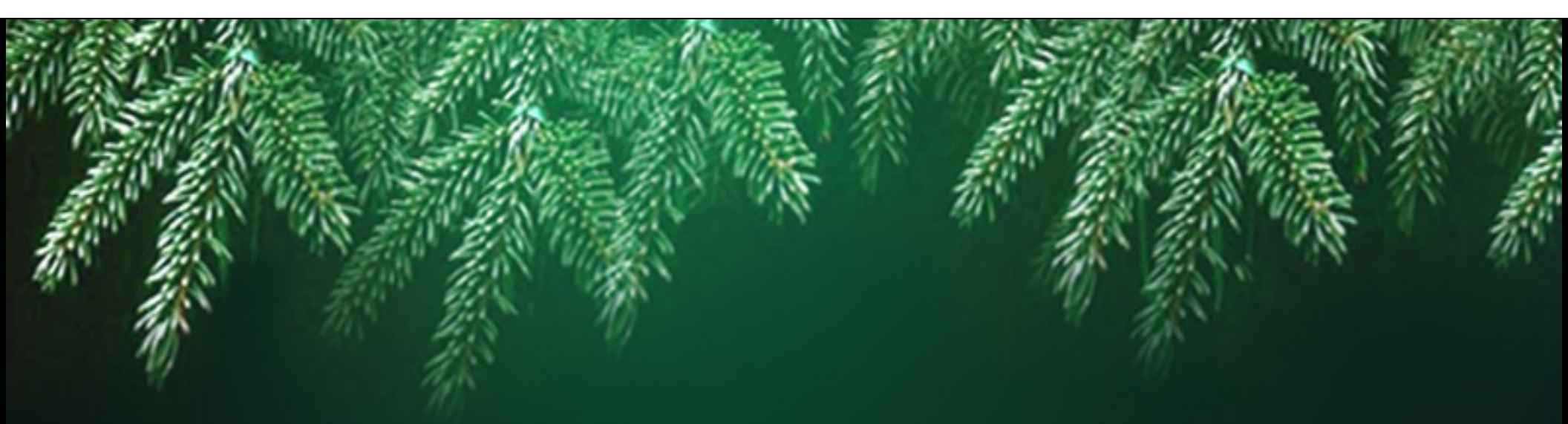
⁸ You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." ⁹ After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee. ¹⁰ However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret.

John 7:8-10



Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for
Jesus and asking, "Where is he?" John 7:11

Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the
temple courts and begin to teach. ¹⁵The Jews there were
amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning
without having been taught?" John 7:14,15



⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?" ⁴⁶ "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied.

John 7:45,46

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" ³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



⁵¹ "I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"



⁵⁴ Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."



⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" ⁵⁸ "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.



⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. **Who do you think you are?"**



To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. vs. 31



"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."



"We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"



³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family,
but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son
sets you free, you will be free indeed.



51 "I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word,
he will never see death."



⁵² At this the Jews exclaimed, ... Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"



⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."



57 "You are not yet fifty years old,"
the Jews said to him,
"and you have seen Abraham!"




⁵⁸ "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered,
"before Abraham was born, I am!"



⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.





¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am.
This is what you are to say to the Israelites:
‘I am has sent me to you.’”

Exodus 3:14

Merry Christmas



Up until the moment of Exodus 3,
the Hebrew name Elohim,
the generic word for God was used.



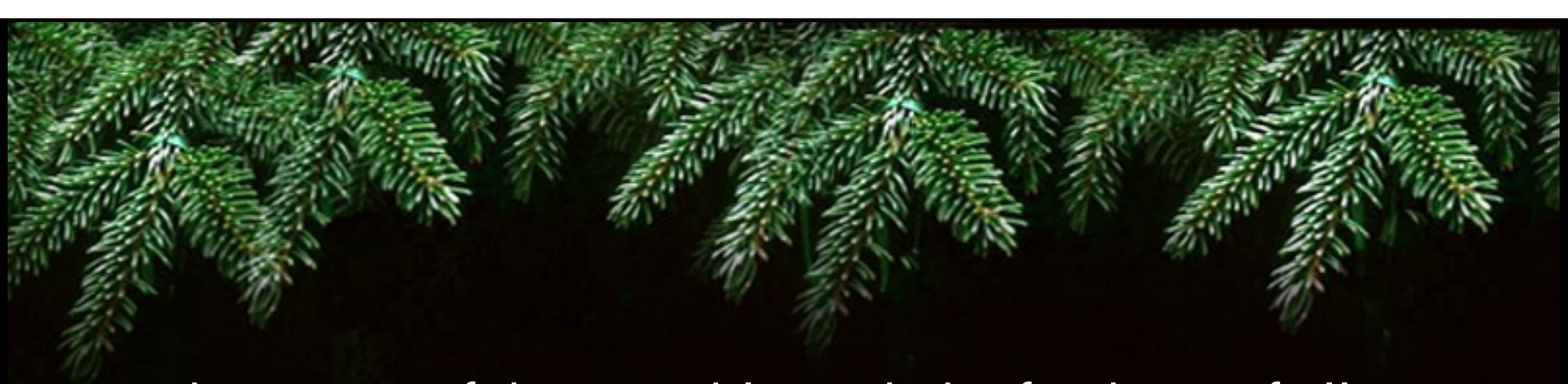
YHWH

(tetragrammaton)



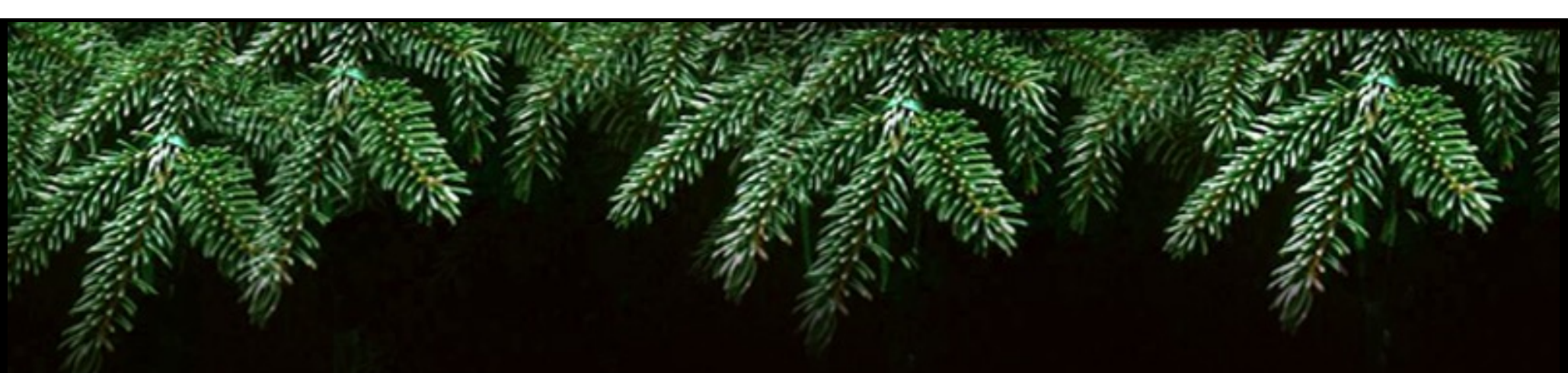
YHWH

YAHWEH



He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Colossians 1:15-17

Merry Christmas



The Father and I are one." ³¹ Once again the people picked up stones to kill him. ³² Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?" ³³ They replied, "We're stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God."

John 10:31-33

Merry Christmas

⁴⁸ Didn't we say all along that you were possessed by a demon?"

⁵² The people said, "Now we know you are possessed by a demon."

John 8:48, 52



I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: “I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. **A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher.** He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

You must make your choice.

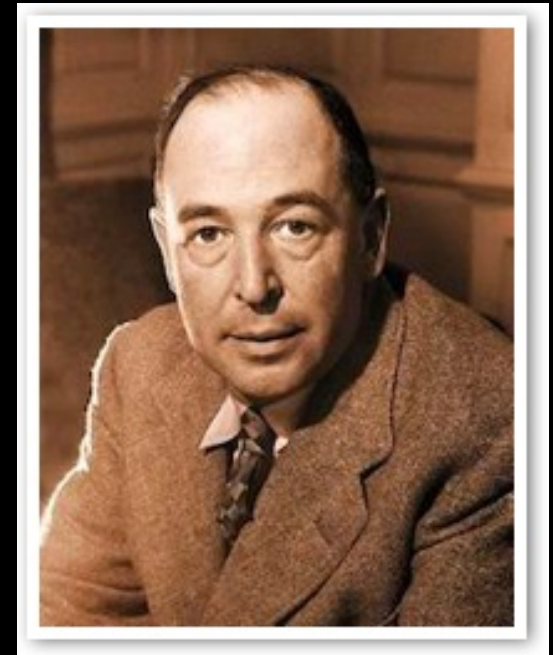


C.S. Lewis

Mere Christianity, pg. 54–56

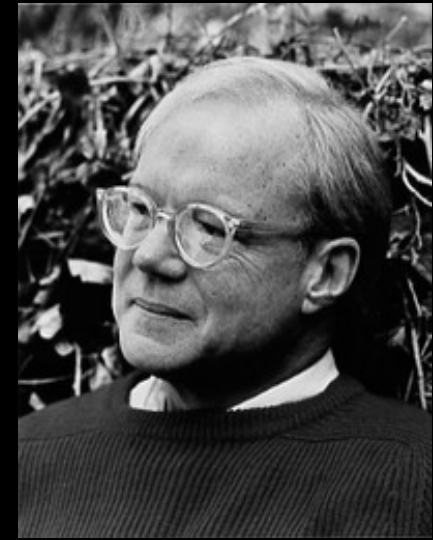
“You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

C.S. Lewis



M. Scott Peck

The Road Less Traveled



“I was absolutely thunderstruck by the extraordinary reality of the man I found in the Gospels. I discovered a man...constantly frustrated. [It] leaps out of virtually every page.”

M. Scott Peck

The Road Less Traveled



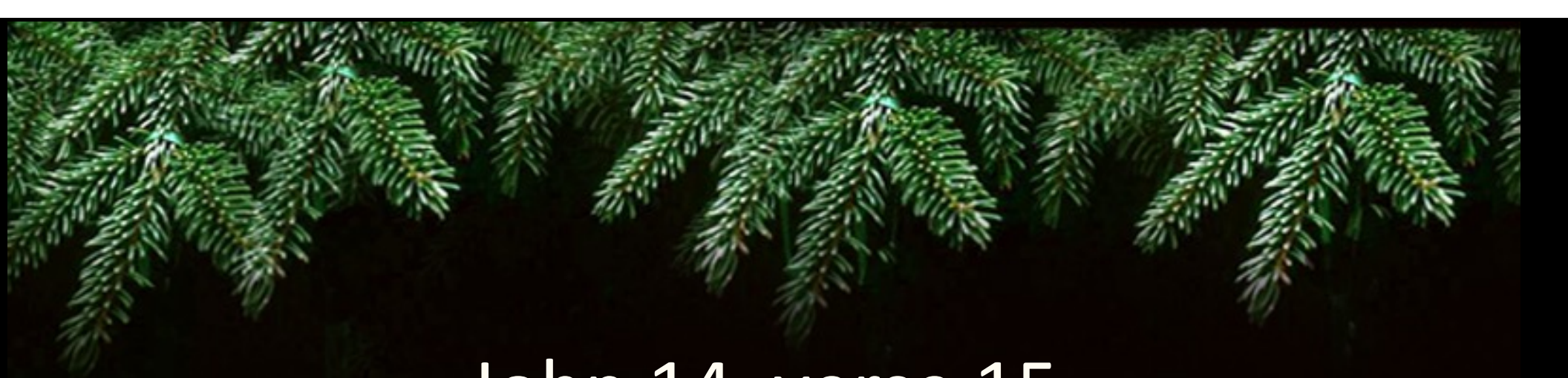
“He’s continually saying to people, “ ‘What do I have to say to you? How many times do I have to say it? What do I have to do to get through to you?’ ... I had assumed [a] Jesus ...with a sweet, unending smile on His face, patting little children on the head, just strolling the earth ... unflappable ... But the Jesus of the Gospels is the best-kept secret of Christianity ...”

Jesus said, "If you hold to my
teaching, you are really my disciples
³² Then you will know the truth, and
the truth will set you free." Vs.31,32



"If you hold to my teaching"





John 14, verse 15


“If you love Me, you will
keep My commandments.

Merry Christmas



Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.” John 14:21

Merry Christmas



Anyone who doesn't love me will not
obey me. And remember, my words
are not my own. What I am telling you
is from the Father who sent me.

John 14:24

Merry Christmas

³² Then you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.





Merry Christmas

