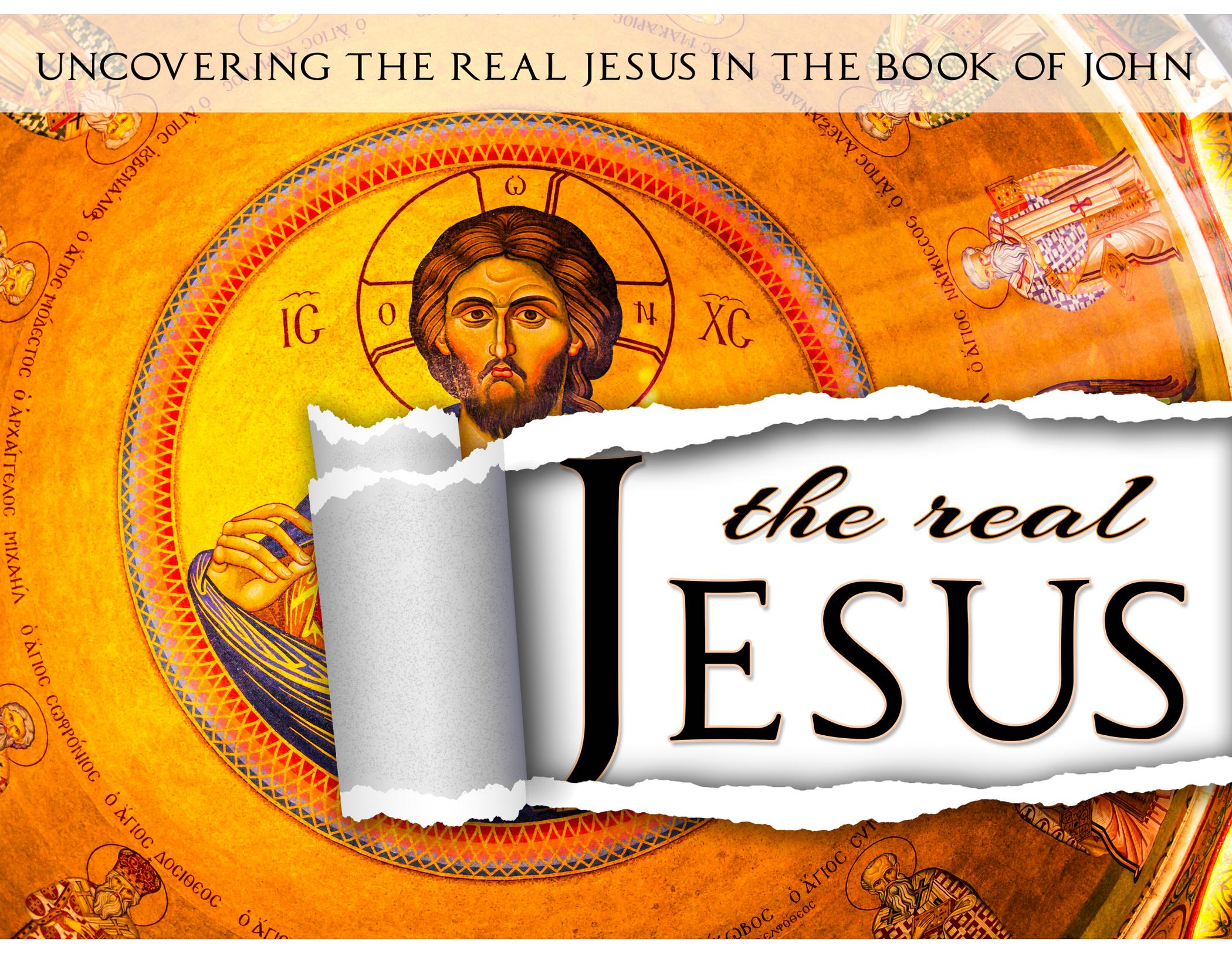


UNCOVERING THE REAL JESUS IN THE BOOK OF JOHN



the real
JESUS

JOHN 9:1-12

1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud **7** and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing."

8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” **8** Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.”

10 So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” **11** He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” **12** They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”



**“The real problem is not why some pious,
humble, believing people suffer, but why
some do not...**

Let me implore the reader to try to believe, if only for a moment, that God, who made these deserving people, may really be right when He thinks that their modest prosperity and the happiness of their children are not enough to make them blessed.

**that all this must fall from them in the end,
and if they have not learned to know Him
they will be wretched. And therefore He
troubles them, warning them in advance
of an insufficiency that one day they will
have to discover.**

**The life to themselves and their families
stands between them and the recognition
of their need;”**

CS Lewis – The Problem of Pain

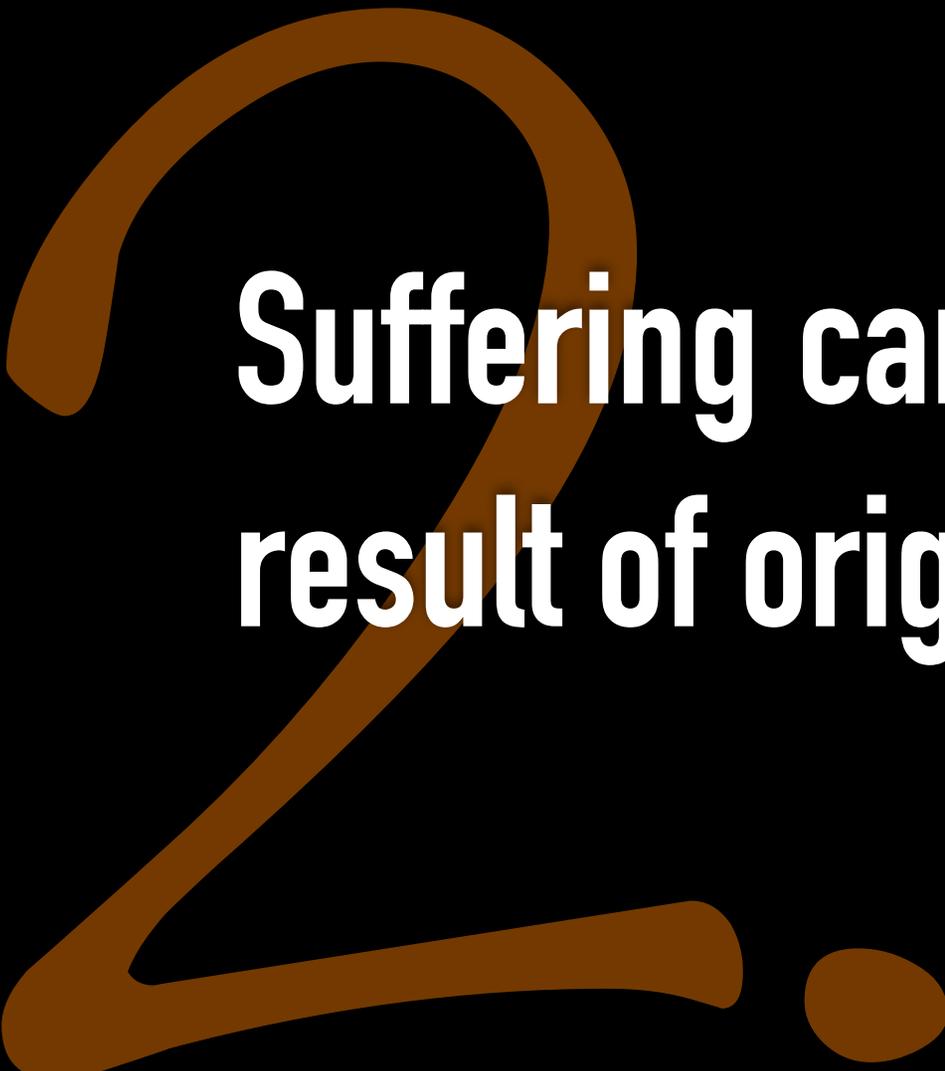


**God can use suffering
to get our attention**



Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

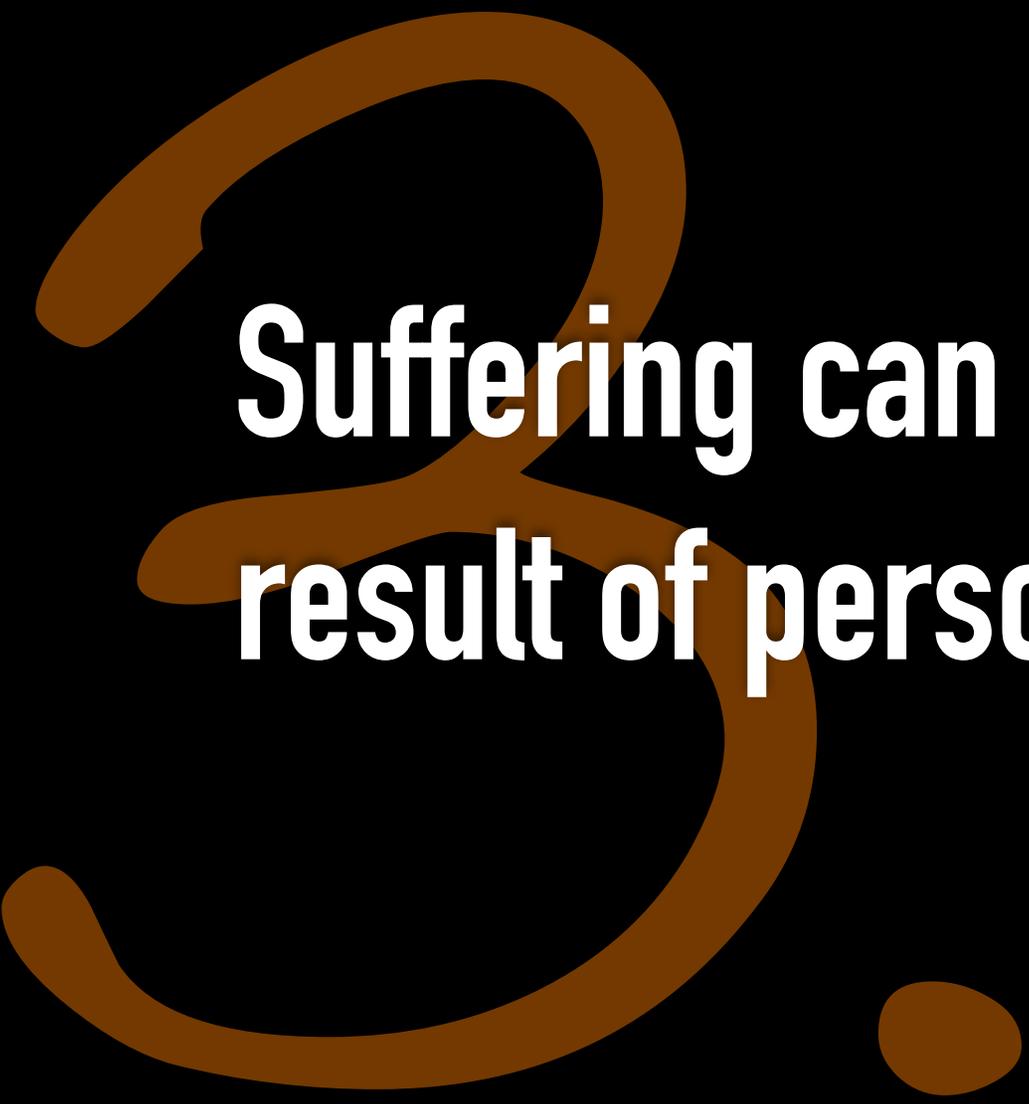


**Suffering can be the
result of original sin**

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Romans 8:20–22 (NLT)



**Suffering can be the
result of personal sin**

Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.”

2 Samuel 12:13-14



**Sometimes we will not
understand the reason
for suffering**

“I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

Exodus 20:5-6



After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has . . .

My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken the truth about me”

Job 42:7-9

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Deuteronomy 29:29



Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them — do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no!

Luke 13:2-5

**“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,”
said Jesus, “but this happened so that the
works of God might be displayed in him.
As long as it is day, we must do the works
of him who sent me.**

John 9:3-4

**“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,”
said Jesus, **“but this happened** so that the
works of God might be displayed in him.
As long as it is day, we must do the works
of him who sent me.**

John 9:3-4

**Neither this man nor his parents sinned
said Jesus but that the works of God might
be displayed in him as long as it is day we
must do the works of him who sent me.**

John 9:3-4

Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, “You did not make me”? Can the pot say to the potter, “You know nothing”?

Isaiah 29:16

“To blame a specific disability on a specific sin committed by specific persons is certainly beyond any man’s ability or authority.

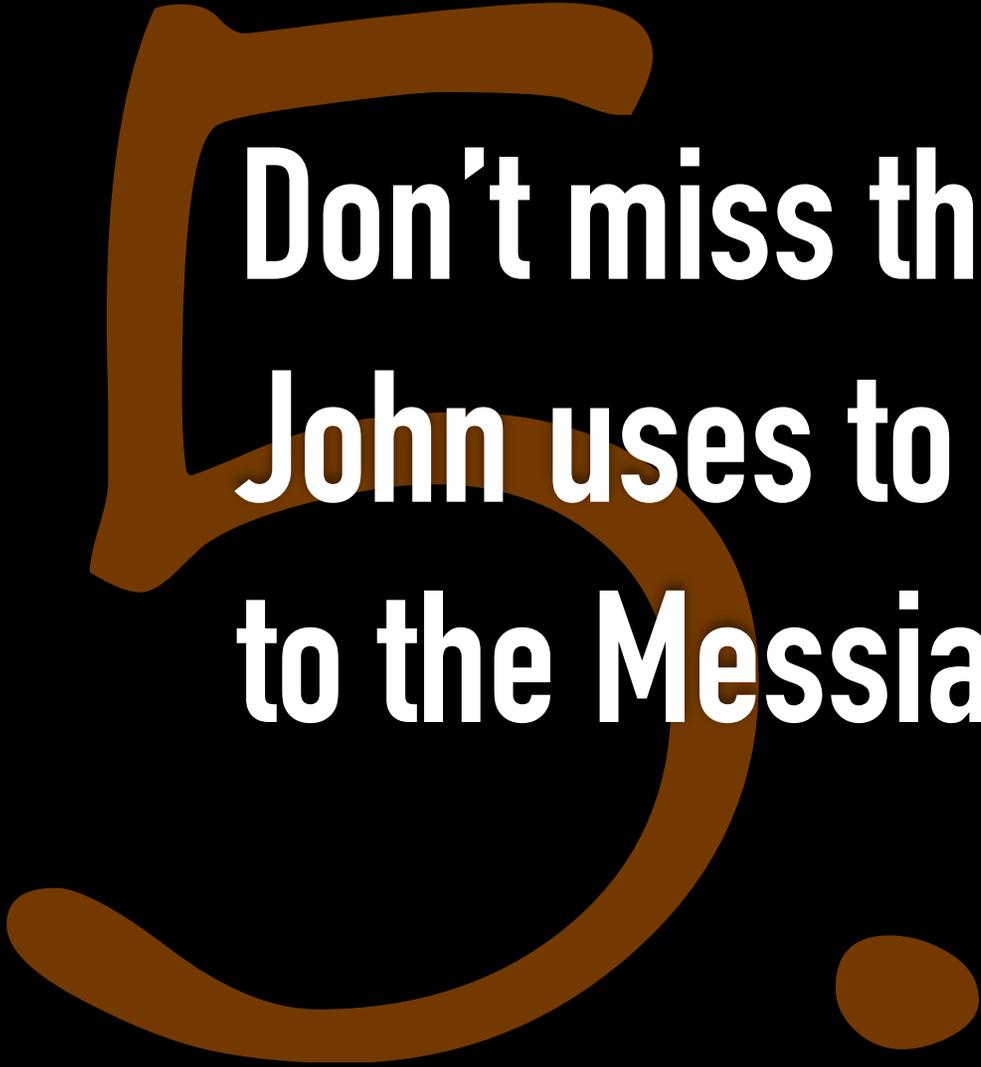
Only God knows why babies are born with handicaps, and only God can turn those handicaps into something that will bring good to the people and glory to His name.”

Warren Wiersby

**What does God ask
you to do in the midst
of suffering?**







**Don't miss the Signs
John uses to point us
to the Messiah Jesus**

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:7

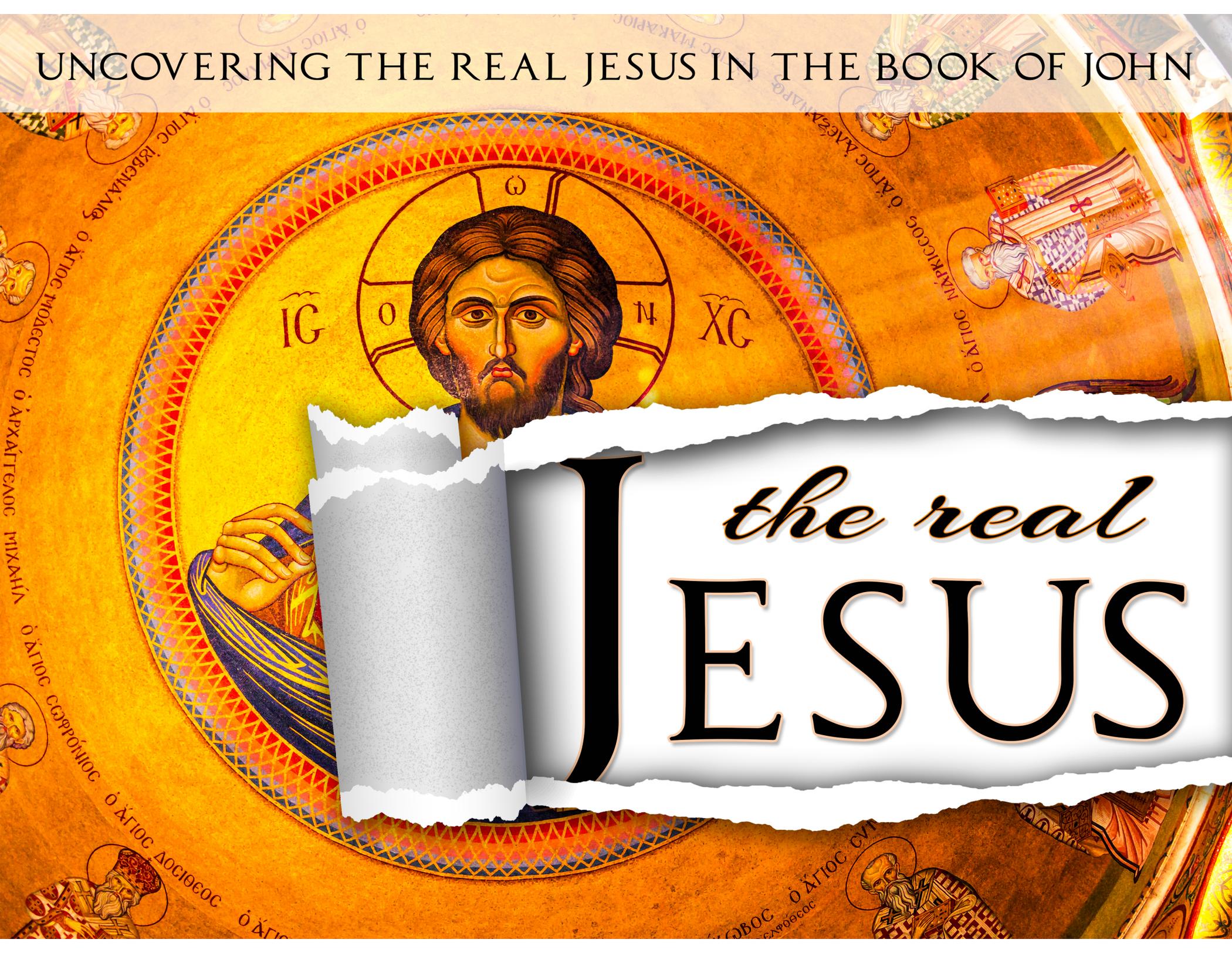


In the pursuit of joy through suffering, we magnify the all-satisfying worth of the Source of our joy. God himself shines as the brightness at the end of our tunnel of pain.

John Piper



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