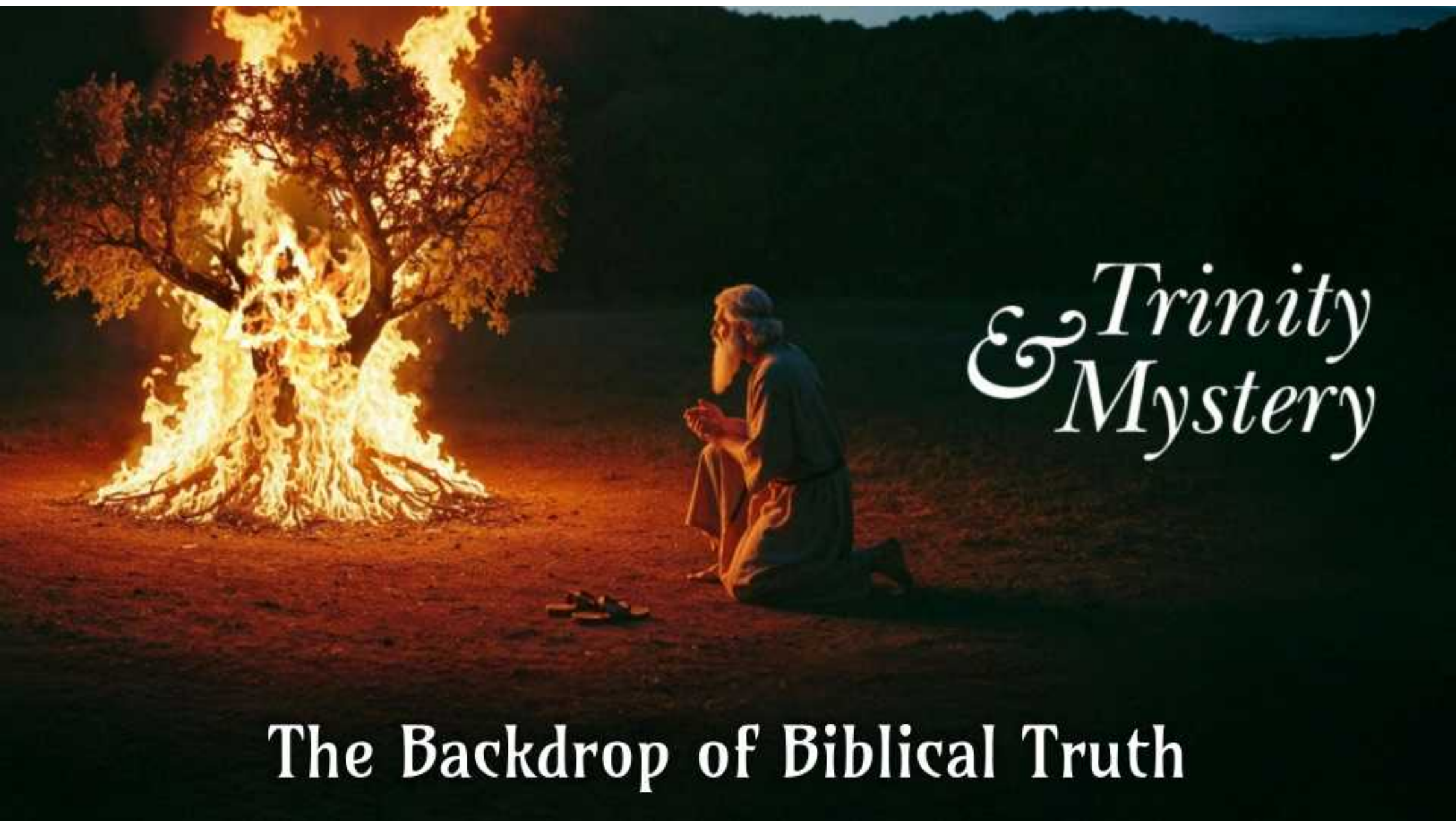
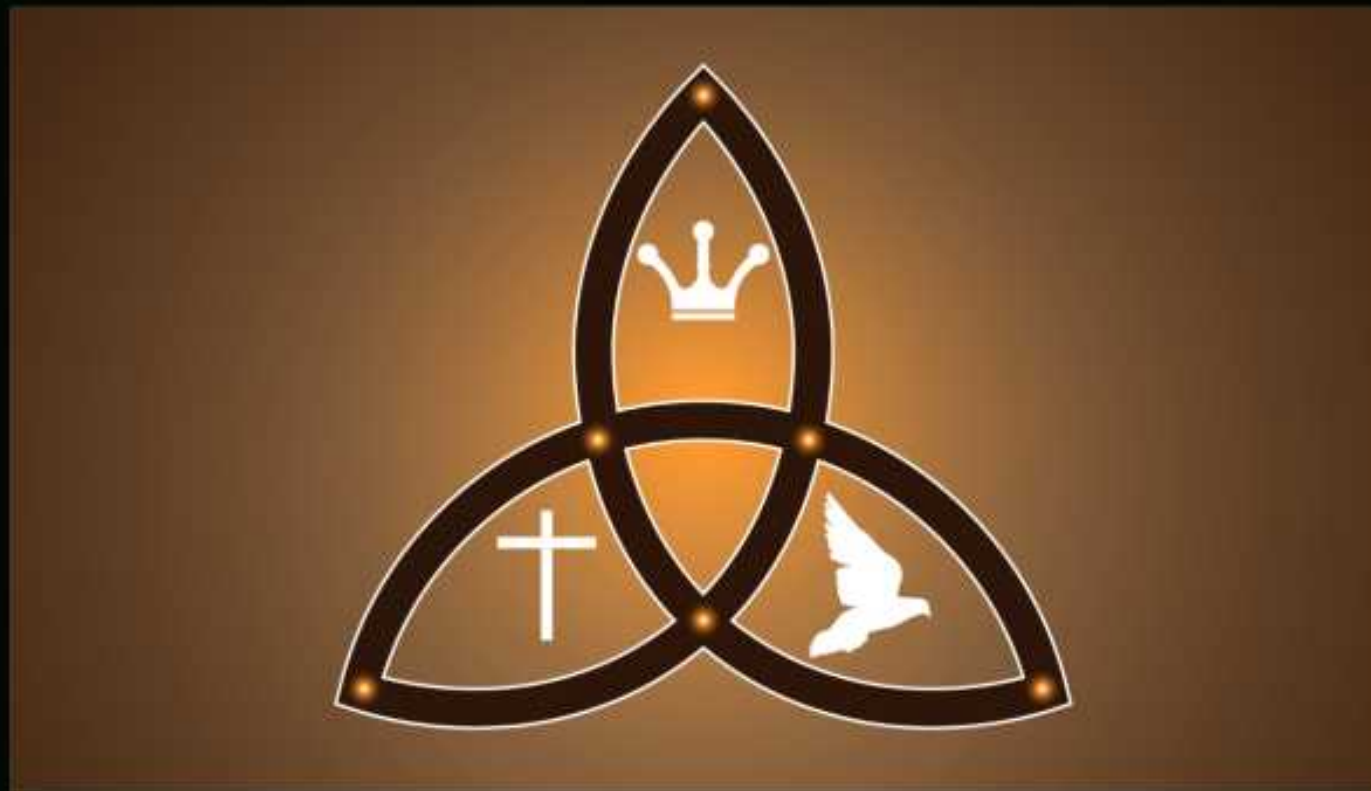




*& Trinity
Mystery*

The Backdrop of Biblical Truth

What illustrations have you been given to try and help understand the mystery of the Trinity?



"There is no avoiding the fact that we live at the mercy of our ideas. This is never more true than with our ideas about God."

(Dallas Willard)



"I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit."

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You can't worship Jesus as divine unless you have a healthy Trinitarian theology.

“For too many, it is simply: ‘The Father is incomprehensible, the Son is incomprehensible, and the whole thing is incomprehensible. It’s something theologians put in to make things more difficult—and it has nothing to do with daily life.’”

(Dorothy Sayers)

Genesis 1:1-3, 26-27

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light...
²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

The Hebrew word for *God* in Genesis 1:1 is grammatically plural, but used with a singular verb.

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By verse 3, you essentially have Father (v. 1), Spirit (v. 2), and Word (v. 3).

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

The Hebrew word for God in Genesis 1:1 is grammatically plural, but used with a singular verb.

By verse 3, you essentially have Father (v. 1), Spirit (v. 2), and Word (v. 3).

When you get to verses 26-27, the “divine plural” is unavoidable: “Let *us* make mankind in *our* image...”

From the beginning... this human creature was built for relationship: "male and female he created *them*."

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We desperately yearn for relationships because we were created *by a community*.

Within the first *7 hours*, a newborn generally has an intense interest in finding the face of her mother.



What was God doing before God created the world?



"All sorts of people are fond of repeating the Christian statement that 'God is love,' But they seem not to notice that the words 'God is love' have no real meaning unless God contains at least two Persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God was a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love.

Of course, what these people mean when they say that 'God is love' is often something quite different: they really mean 'Love is God.' They really mean that our feelings of love, however and wherever they arise—and whatever results they produce—are to be treated with great respect.

Perhaps they are, but that is something quite different from what Christians mean by the statement 'God is love.' They believe that the living, dynamic activity of love has been going on in God forever and has created everything else."

(C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*)

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

Matthew 3:13-17

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Something in the Water



As soon as the Son comes up from the waters of baptism, the heavens are “ripped open.”

Isaiah 64:1 - Oh, that you would rend the heavens
and come down!

Psalms 144:5 - Part your heavens, Lord, and come
down!

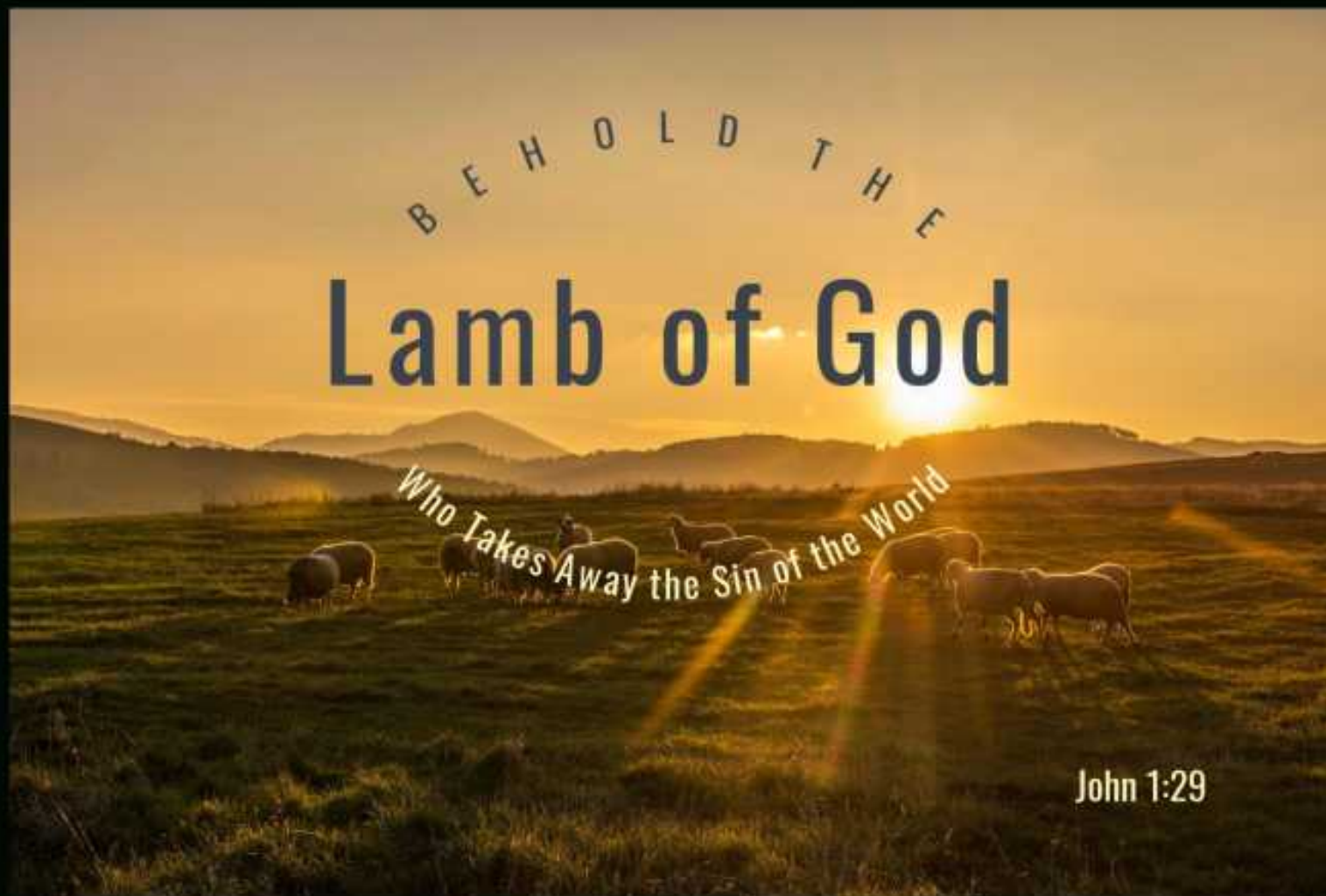
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And, the Spirit descends like a dove.

As soon as the Son comes up from the waters of baptism, the heavens are “ripped open.”

And, the Spirit descends like a dove.

And, in the same moment, the voice of the Father comes from heaven, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”



BEHOLD THE
Lamb of God

Who Takes Away the Sin of the World

John 1:29

The Father loves the Son before he does a single thing to deserve or earn this love and acceptance.



2 Peter 1:1-4

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: ² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:1-4

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature...

Through the gracious righteousness and glorious goodness of the gift of faith in Jesus, we have been invited to “participate in the divine nature.”

The Trinity is a "divine dance." (*perichoresis*)



Rublev's Icon



Closing Reflections

When you consider the Trinity, what do you see?
Beauty and inspiration? Mystery? Confusion? A little of everything?

Closing Reflections

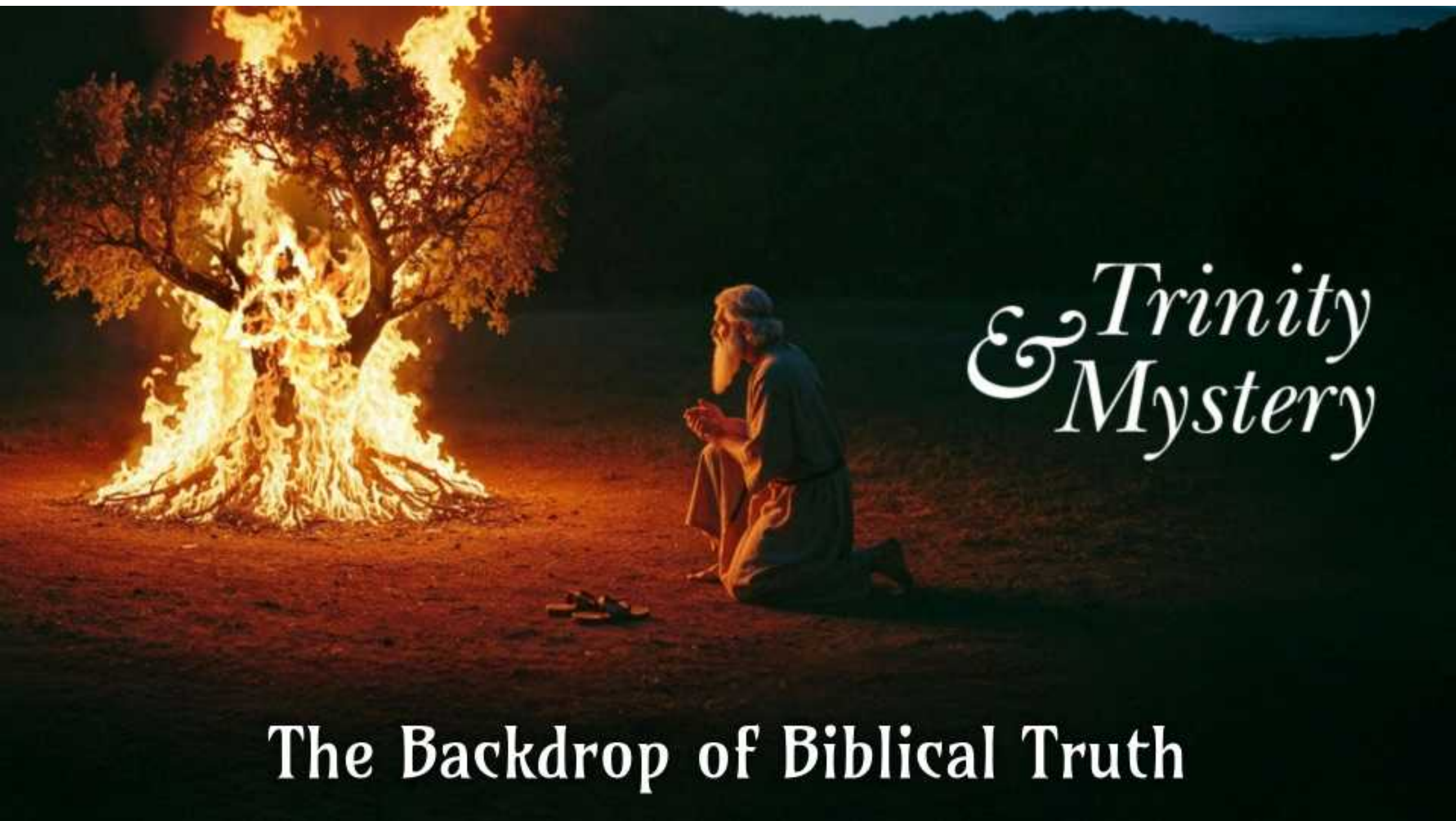
In what ways do you long for, or find fulfillment in, relationships? Have you ever considered that a reflection of the divine nature?

Closing Reflections

How deeply do you trust that, in Jesus, you have received an invitation into the divine nature—including all the benefits He shares with us that come with His Sonship?

Closing Reflections

Ask the Spirit to teach you what it looks like to dance
in the rhythm of the Trinity.



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