

More Than Conquerors

Romans 8:17–39, David Geldart, 11/2/25, Tru Community Church

1. Welcome

- a. Connect Cards
- b. Giving
- c. **FUNDRAISER FINAL TOTAL: \$82,162.15!!!!**
 - i. Not only will this help us significantly pay down our building debt
 - ii. **But even with the higher** interest rates on our Refi, **we'll be able to lower our monthly payment** below what it was before it shot way up this year!
 - iii. **Thank you** for giving!
 - iv. **You're always still welcome to** give toward our building fund going forward
 - 1. But please don't neglect giving to general offerings to do so
- d. **More online**, including about Pie Night coming up: at Tru.Church

2. INTRODUCTION (FROM ADOPTION TO AFFLICTION)

a. [1] Walking in Victory Through Romans

- i. Today coming to the end of the middle section of the book: **THE GOSPEL WE WALK IN** – my fav section, Chs 5-8.
- b. [2] Last week we looked at Romans 8:1–17, where Paul told us that we who trust in Jesus are adopted and beloved children of God—co-heirs with Christ of the Kingdom of God itself!
 - i. **That sounds like the most victorious news possible!**
 - ii. But right after declaring that we're full heirs with Christ, Paul connects that incredible identity to something that, honestly, **doesn't *feel* like victory: suffering.**
- c. **"If indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."** (Romans 8:17)
 - i. It's like Paul turns a corner and says, **"Yes, you're beloved God's children. Co-Heirs with Jesus Himself, but that means you'll also walk the same road Jesus walked. -- Which includes suffering and pain."**
 - 1. We live in a world that's not right.
 - 2. In bodies that aren't right.
- d. Yet, we know—we *know*—that we are God's children right now, even living in a world we weren't made for.
 - i. But there's more: we're not only His children now—**we're destined for resurrection and glory.**
 - ii. That's the foundation of our hope!
 - iii. **PRAY**

3. GROANING & GLORY (vv. 17–22)

a. [3] Romans 8:17-25

- i. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that^[h] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

b. [4] Paul uses the word *glory* here many times, and we throw that word around a lot.

- i. But what does it mean?

c. Glory is God's majesty made visible—made tangible.

- i. The Hebrew word for “glory,” *kavod*, literally means *weight or heaviness*.

- 1. It's something *real, substantial*—the visible manifestation of God's beauty and power.

d. When Paul talks about our “future glory,” he's talking about the day in the future when that majesty fills creation completely and perfectly again

- i. **when all sin and death and brokenness is removed forever and everything radiates the visible beauty and presence of God.**

- 1. Not just our souls—but our resurrected bodies.
 - 2. Not just heaven—but the whole creation.

4. God's Glory In Creation

a. [5] As we've already talked about in Romans 1:20, Creation is a visible expression of God's glory and majesty.

- i. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made

b. God's Creation tells you the basics about his character and power!

- i. And when you pause to really look, **it shifts your perspective, and leaves you in awe.**

c. *Picture it:* A few memories come instantly to my mind:

- i. [6] Standing in Rocky Mtn National Park, driving the Trail Ridge Road, looking out at the Never Summer Range, ridgelines dotted with snow and the occasional elk. Clouds billowing around us.

- ii. [7] Or flying in over Alaska at sunrise—as I did in 2002 on my way back from East Asia, ten thousand streams reflecting blues and pink and purple light across snowcapped peaks.

- iii. [8] A wild shelf cloud rolling over the Tetons, a quick violent storm beside Oxbow bend in the car,
 - 1. [9] followed by the most majestic double rainbow I've ever seen – so bright and brilliant that it cast sunbeams off it!
- iv. [10] Or standing on the shore of the Atlantic at Cocoa Beach, watching sea turtles hatch and crawl out of the sand toward the surf.
- v. **What do you think of when you think of the MAJESTY of God revealed in our created world?**

d. **And then, you look up – at The night sky.**

- i. The wonders of the heavens.
- ii. [11] Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

1. They show us even GREATER PERSPECTIVE!

5. Let's pause and just wrap our minds around this for a second:

a. [12] **The Sun**

- i. So massive that The Sun **accounts for 99.86% of the total mass in our solar system.**
- ii. **Over one million Earths** could fit inside it.
- iii. The core is where **nuclear fusion** occurs,
 - 1. The crushing mass and gravity so intense that it fuses hydrogen into helium and releasing enormous amounts of energy.
 - 2. At temps of **over 27 million degrees** in the core
- iv. But thankfully it's not too close --- **about 93 million miles away!**
 - 1. So that it doesn't vaporize us instantly.
 - 2. 93 million miles away, and **still hot enough to burn your skin** in the summer!
- v. If you wanted to travel there, to our nearest star, it'd take **almost 18 years in a fast jet** running nonstop Just to the sun.
- vi. **Light** however travels fast, **over 186k mps!**,
 - 1. takes about **8 minutes** to get here from the Sun's surface

b. [13] **Majestic Saturn:** not quite as big as king planet Jupiter with it's great red spot

- i. But unarguably the most majestic thing in our solar system with its vast intricate and incredibly thin system of rings.
 - 1. Made of trillions of pieces of ice and rock
- ii. It's the moon king – boasting more moons than any other planet: With **82 confirmed moons**
 - 1. **Titan:** Its largest moon, Titan, is **larger than the planet Mercury** and has a **thick atmosphere** and super cold, rivers and lakes of liquid methane.
- iii. Saturn is incredibly not dense though, made mostly of hydrogen and helium.
 - 1. If you could place it in a big enough bathtub, **the planet would float.**

- iv. [14] One of my favorite pictures ever taken was taken by the Cassini probe on the far side of Saturn, looking back at the planet perfectly covering the sun in a **SATURN ECLIPSE**.
 - 1. **No human eyes had ever seen this beauty of God before!**
- v. To get to Saturn = **71 minutes for light**
 - 1. **186 years** if you tried to fly there **in a jet**.
- c. [15] **Neptune (farthest main planet– blue marble gas giant):**
 - i. Neptune boasts **the fastest winds in the solar system** --- with speeds reaching **over 1,200 mph**.
 - 1. Makes hurricane Melissa look like a gentle breeze
 - ii. These supersonic winds are driven by powerful storms, like the **Great Dark Spot** observed by the [Voyager 2 probe](#) in 1989 – the only spacecraft ever to visit Neptune!
 - iii. **4 hours for light** to get to Neptune,
 - 1. **549 years** for you to get there **in a jet**.
 - 2. To get there today in your jet, you'd have had to start off in your jet from earth **the same day Michaelangelo was born in Italy!**
 - a. **Years before Columbus** set sail to “discover” North America!
- d. [16] **Pluto – Everybody's favorite dwarf planet**
 - i. only visited for the first time by a space probe 10 years ago.
 - 1. **I remember it** – was listening to the live stream on my phone, praying that it would work correctly!
 - 2. **NASA's New Horizons** spacecraft reached Pluto on **July 14, 2015**, after a nine-and-a-half-year journey from earth.
 - 3. The robotic spacecraft made its closest approach to the dwarf planet that day, flying a little **less than 8k miles above its frozen surface** and sending back the first high-resolution images ever and data of Pluto and its moons.
 - ii. [17] **Beforehand our best image was this from Hubble (blob):**
 - 1. We expected to find a simple cold, frozen, dead rock
 - iii. [18] **But instead, New Horizons revealed a surprisingly complex new world with traveling glaciers,** ice volcanoes, and an odd hazy atmosphere.
 - 1. **Until 10 years ago, no one but God and the angels ever had seen this world HE CREATED.**
 - iv. To get to pluto, over **5 hours for light**
 - 1. **715 years in a jet**.
- e. [19] **Orion Nebula:**
 - i. A relatively **nearby star-forming region** visible to the naked eye where new stars and planets are being born in the midst of a gigantic cosmic CLOUD of dust and gasses.
 - ii. You can find it easily.

1. **Find Orions Belt** (3 stars in a row), just below them is a “sword”like line, **the middle smudgy** star of that line is actually this vast nebula.
- iii. It's a well-observed object that has been **documented since at least 1610** and is **referenced in ancient cultures, such as the Maya.**
- iv. Well beyond our solar system, this one is **1,344 light-YEARS** away.
 1. That means **LIGHT** that you see today started out soon after **King Arthur would have lived.**
 2. You're going to do way worse in your **jet: 1.5 billion years**
- f. [20] **The Ring Nebula:**
 - i. Almost twice as far away again: **2,500 light-years—just shy of 3 billion years in a jet.**
 - ii. **It's not a simple ring but a three-dimensional shape**, like a donut wrapped around a football, and it contains a central white dwarf star.
 - iii. **The beautiful colors** are caused by different gases, with blue from helium and red from nitrogen.
 - iv. And it's **MASSIVE** – more than solar system sized – **2.6 LY across!**
 - v. All of this is caused by that central star dying, throwing off its outer layers in majestic beauty.
 1. In fact, if left to itself, this is what **OUR** sun will become in billions of years unless Jesus intervenes.
- g. [21] **Andromeda Galaxy:**
 - i. **The farthest thing you can see with the naked eye**
 1. On a clear night if you know where to look, you can see a smudge, (clearer with binoculars)
 2. Not a nebula, but an entire galaxy
 3. **2.5 million light-years away—3 trillion years in a jet!**
 - ii. Even so, the Andromeda Galaxy is our closest major galactic neighbor,
 - iii. It's beautiful. And big
 1. **About 2x as large as our Milky Way**
 2. It takes light **220,000 YEARS** to cross from one side to the other.
 3. with an estimated **one trillion stars.**
 - iv. It has a very **active galactic nucleus** with a supermassive **black hole** at its center, with a mass between around **200 million times that of the Sun.**
 - v. It is **hurtling towards us**, and the two galaxies are predicted to collide in about 4 billion years
 - vi. **And that's just our next-door neighbor**
- h. [22] **Our universe is literally BEJEWELLED with planets, stars, nebulas, and GALAXIES!**
 - i. *HUDF – Everything you see here is a mind bogglingly distant GALAXY*
- i. **The James Webb Telescope** has imaged galaxies **more than 13 billion light-years** away.
 - i. [23] **Show pic of JADES-GS-z14-0**
 1. Current record holder!
- j. Surely—surely—“The heavens declare the glory of God.”

i. **Perspective! → it changes everything**

6. **Creation's Groaning Now**

- a. But as glorious as Creation is—**it's also broken**. Twisted. Frustrated.
- b. Paul says creation itself has been **"subjected to frustration."**
 - i. Instead of a flourishing garden, we live in a world of weeds, disasters, and decay.
 - ii. **[23] Kudzu choking fruit trees**
 - 1. I GREW UP in the south – this vine was brought in originally from Japan by the Gov in the 1930s to fight soil erosion pleasingly cover the ground around HWYS.
 - 2. But it's taken over. Growing almost fast enough for the human eye to detect – a foot per day! -- and Choking everything in its path.
 - iii. **[24] Hurricanes destroying entire countries**
 - 1. Crazy to watch Hurricane Melissa
 - 2. my youth minister Brian Fellers was THERE in rural Jamaica on mission called Won by One when it hit!
 - a. Thankfully they're ok, but the devastation is unreal after 185mph sustained winds and 250+ mph gusts rip everything to shreds.
 - iv. **[25] Diseases and microbes that bring pain and death.**
 - v. Even little reminders of entropy—
 - 1. **like our fridge, washer, dryer, and HVAC system** that died in the last couple months
 - 2. **AND our water heater and softener that broke this morning**
- c. All of Creation groans because something has gone wrong. It's not working the way it was intended.

7. **Humanity's Glory and Groaning**

- a. **[26] Romans 8:23**
 - i. **²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.**
 - ii. no nebula galaxy or supermassive black hole, CRAZY beautiful and vast and powerful as they are, can do what a person can.
 - iii. We alone were created to reflect His likeness and relate to Him directly.
- b. **But we're broken too.**
- c. We warped ourselves when we rebelled against God.
 - i. Sin and death reigns over us.
 - ii. Selfishness, fear, and sorrow is our default
 - iii. Relationships fracture.
 - iv. Families fall apart.

- v. Even our own bodies betray us.
- d. **And yet—even in our brokenness—we’re still a flabbergasting marvel.**
 - i. Unparalleled in the world for our **Creativity. Personality. Intelligence. Imagination.**
- e. So if this is what we’re like broken, twisted, frustrated, an degraded, **just imagine what we’ll be when we’re fully freed from brokenness!!!**
 - i. **C.S. Lewis once mused that if we could see the glorified version of the most ordinary Christian now, we’d be tempted to fall down and worship them—** because the resurrected and redeemed humanity will be radiant with God’s glory.
 - ii. **IMAGINE IT! – BECAUSE it’s going to HAPPEN!**
- f. **God plans to resurrect *all of it*—to make everything right again.**
 - i. Not just restored—but *better than new*.
 - ii. **Creation and humanity—whole again.**
 - 1. **THAT IS OUR GREAT HOPE!**

8. THE HOPE THAT HOLDS US (vv. 26–30)

a. [27] Romans 8:26-30

- i. ²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

- ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[i] have been called according to his purpose. 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. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

- b. So what do we do now, in the waiting?
- c. **Paul says we *groan*.**
 - i. And it’s right that we do.
 - ii. We feel the pain and sorrow—we don’t numb out or live in denial.
- d. But unlike the world, **we don’t groan in despair. We groan in *hope*.**
 - i. Because we know something much better is coming.
 - ii. And it’ll make ALL THIS worth it!
- e. **Like a mother in labor, the pain is real—but so is the joy that’s coming.**
- f. **“Our hope isn’t that we’ll float away to some disembodied heaven.”**
 - i. **Our hope is physical resurrection.**
 - ii. On a New and resurrected Earth.
 - 1. Heaven and Earth merged – like in the garden

- 2. BUT Not just a garden, but THE WHOLE WORLD the nexus of God's presence.
- iii. **No more distance between us and God.**
- iv. We'll be there, you and I. One day. As real a day as this one right now.
- v. **Zoom Out --- and let this GRAND VISION give you perspective**
 - 1. **Perspective on your lives now**
 - 2. Including your suffering
 - 3. Considered against the incredible glory of what awaits us... when Jesus returns.
- g. **And while we wait, Paul says the Spirit helps us.**
 - i. When we don't know what to pray—when words fail—the Holy Spirit Himself **prays for us with groans too deep for words.**
 - ii. God's Spirit groans with us!
- h. So we can wait with endurance, knowing that nothing we suffer now is wasted.
- i. **God doesn't cause every pain, but He's able to co-opt every pain.**
 - i. He uses it -- bends it toward our good
 - 1. toward His purpose of making us like Jesus.
 - ii. **His goal: "to be conformed to the likeness of His Son."**
 - 1. And making all things new
 - 2. BETTER THAN NEW

9. THE LOVE THAT HOLDS US (vv. 31–39)

a. [28] Romans 8:31-39

- i. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

**"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."**^[i]

[29] ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[k] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- b. **Paul crescendos here:** “If God is for us, who can be against us?”
- c. How do we know He’s for us? Because He didn’t spare His own Son.
- d. And if He gave us His Son, won’t He also give us everything else we need?
 - i. Christ died. Christ rose. Christ intercedes for us now.
- e. Nothing—absolutely nothing—can separate us from His love.
- f. **Paul lists all the possibilities we fear:**
 - i. trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, danger, sword, death, life, angels, demons, present, future, powers, height, depth
 - ii. **runs the gamut Of all the things we fear:**
 - iii. Marriage struggles
 - iv. Divorce
 - v. Relational loss
 - vi. Unfair reputational damage
 - vii. Losing your job
 - viii. Never finding a spouse
 - ix. Infertility
 - x. Loneliness
 - xi. Abuses
 - xii. Addictions
 - xiii. Family histories
 - xiv. Genetic conditions
 - xv. Cancer
 - xvi. dementia
 - xvii. Public humiliation
 - xviii. Mental illnesses
 - xix. Overweight bodies
 - xx. Physical attractiveness (or lack thereof)
 - xxi. Political parties
 - xxii. Human leaders
 - xxiii. Church hurt
 - xxiv. Depression
 - xxv. Anxiety
 - xxvi. Wars
 - xxvii. Natural disasters
 - xxviii. Tumultuous economies
 - xxix. Shrinking savings
 - xxx. Anything that’s happening now
 - xxxi. OR ANYTHING THAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE
 - xxxii. Not to mention
 - 1. Demonic opposition
 - 2. Or heavenly powers

- g. NONE OF THAT – nothing – can separate us from his love now that we’re adopted and beloved
- h. **These aren’t signs of God’s rejection.** They’re the arenas where His love proves unconquerable.
- i. **We are truly “more than conquerors.”**
 - i. Not because we avoid pain.
 - ii. **But because *Christ wins in the end.***
 - 1. *And we’re WITH HIM*
- j. And think of this: **just as nothing can pull the earth out of the sun’s gravitational pull, nothing can pull you out of the grip of God’s love through HIS SON.**
 - i. **Perspective makes a big difference!**

10. PRACTICAL APPLICATION — WALKING IN HOPE

- a. So how do we live this out?
- b. **[30] Reframe Your Pain**
 - i. Don’t see suffering as punishment.
 - 1. See it as participation in Christ’s story.
 - ii. We’re walking the same road He walked—
 - 1. Suffering comes with the territory for now
 - 2. and that means we’ll share in the same resurrection glory He received.
- c. **[31] Think about Heaven More**
 - i. We need to think more often—and more vividly—about heaven.
 - 1. **Not the pop culture conceptions we’ve swallowed, even in the church**
 - 2. **About a spirit only realm of floating baby angels thrumming harps**
 - a. **Boring, unrelatable, unphysical**
 - 3. But rather, the BIBLICAL view of heaven, at the end of the age, when heaven and resurrected earth merge in glorious consummation
 - 4. **A PHYSICAL WORLD, indeed this physical earth, with sky and grass and clouds – LIKE WE WERE MADE FOR**
 - a. **Of us EMBODIED WITH JESUS**
 - 5. Of fire pits and parties
 - 6. Of adventures and culture, discovery and hiking
 - a. REDEEMED completely
 - 7. **THAT’S WHAT WE NEED TO DREAM ABOUT** until our hope rests so strongly in it that it anchors us in hope through the struggles of our lives this side of eternity.
 - ii. **[32] Randy Alcorn’s book *Heaven* is an incredible resource for this – one of the top few life-changing books for me outside the Bible.**
 - iii. He invites us to discover how much the Bible actually says about what Heaven on Earth will be like

1. Teaches us to use a *redeemed imagination*—to picture what it will be like when Heaven and Earth are reunited, when we eat, laugh, work, and explore in resurrected bodies on a resurrected world.
2. [33] He writes, ***‘Nothing is wrong with imagining Heaven. In fact, our problem is that we imagine it too little. A redeemed imagination will whet our appetite for the world we were made for.’ ... When we begin to picture Heaven as a real place with real beauty, work, and joy, our desire for it grows—and that hope becomes fuel for endurance now.***
 - a. That kind of hope isn’t escapism—it’s *fuel*.
 - b. And it’s been that for me. Highly recommend.
- iv. In one of his most famous works, *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis remarked that some think that those who think too much about heaven end up “no earthly good.” But, Lewis says, in fact,
 1. [34] ***“If you read history, you’ll find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next....It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.” -- MERE CHRISTIANITY***
- d. [35] **Groan Honestly, But With Faith**
 - i. It’s okay to lament. To weep. To say, “God, this hurts.” God this is not right!
 1. In fact, it’s right and healthy!
 2. **We DO NEED to recover a biblical view and practice of lament!**
 - ii. **But do it with PERSPECTIVE** --- with faith and the confident hope that one day, every tear will be wiped away.
 1. And all things will be put right
 2. **Perspective Changes Everything**
- e. [36] **Anchor Yourself in God’s Love**
 - i. When the whisper comes—“God’s left you”—
 1. When the voices in your head tell you “God’s mad at you, that’s why you’re struggling with this”
 - ii. Answer firmly with Romans 8.
 1. Nothing can separate you from His love
 2. Not sickness. Not loss. Not fear. Not even your failures.
 3. Whatever it is: NOTHING
 - iii. **Learn to preach this GOSPEL to yourselves daily, as often as needed.**
 1. “I am beloved. I am his. Forever.”

11. CONCLUSION — FROM GROANING TO GLORY

- a. Creation groans. We groan. Even as God’s beloved Children
 - i. But the story ends with *glory*.
- b. Because of our great hope in our inheritance

- i. Our suffering now is like the labor pains before birth.
 - ii. **Painful, yes—but full of purpose.**
- c. **And when we finally see the new creation**, when we stand in resurrected bodies on a resurrected earth, and see the face of the resurrected Christ—we'll say, *It was all worth it. MORE THAN WORTH IT!*
- d. [37] C.S. Lewis said:
 - i. "They say of some temporal suffering, 'No future bliss can make up for it,' not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into glory."
 - 1. – THE GREAT DIVORCE
 - ii. That's a very biblical thought!
- e. **Perspective changes everything.**
 - i. Paul invites us in Romans 8 to **ZOOM OUT**, and see the bigger picture
 - ii. **We are not just conquerors.**
 - 1. [38] We are *more than conquerors*—through Him who loved us.
 - 2. Even when we experience suffering.
- f. So lift your eyes.
 - i. The story isn't over.
- g. And nothing—nothing—can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- h. [39] **Why do you need to hear that this morning?**
 - i. And What is God asking you to do in response to this sermon today?

12. PRAY

13.[40] Communion



WALKING IN **V**ICTORY
THROUGH ROMANS

ROMANS 8: CHILDREN OF GOD

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ROMANS 8: GROANING & GLORY

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¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.



ROMANS 8: GROANING & GLORY

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GOD'S GLORY IN CREATION

ROMANS 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made











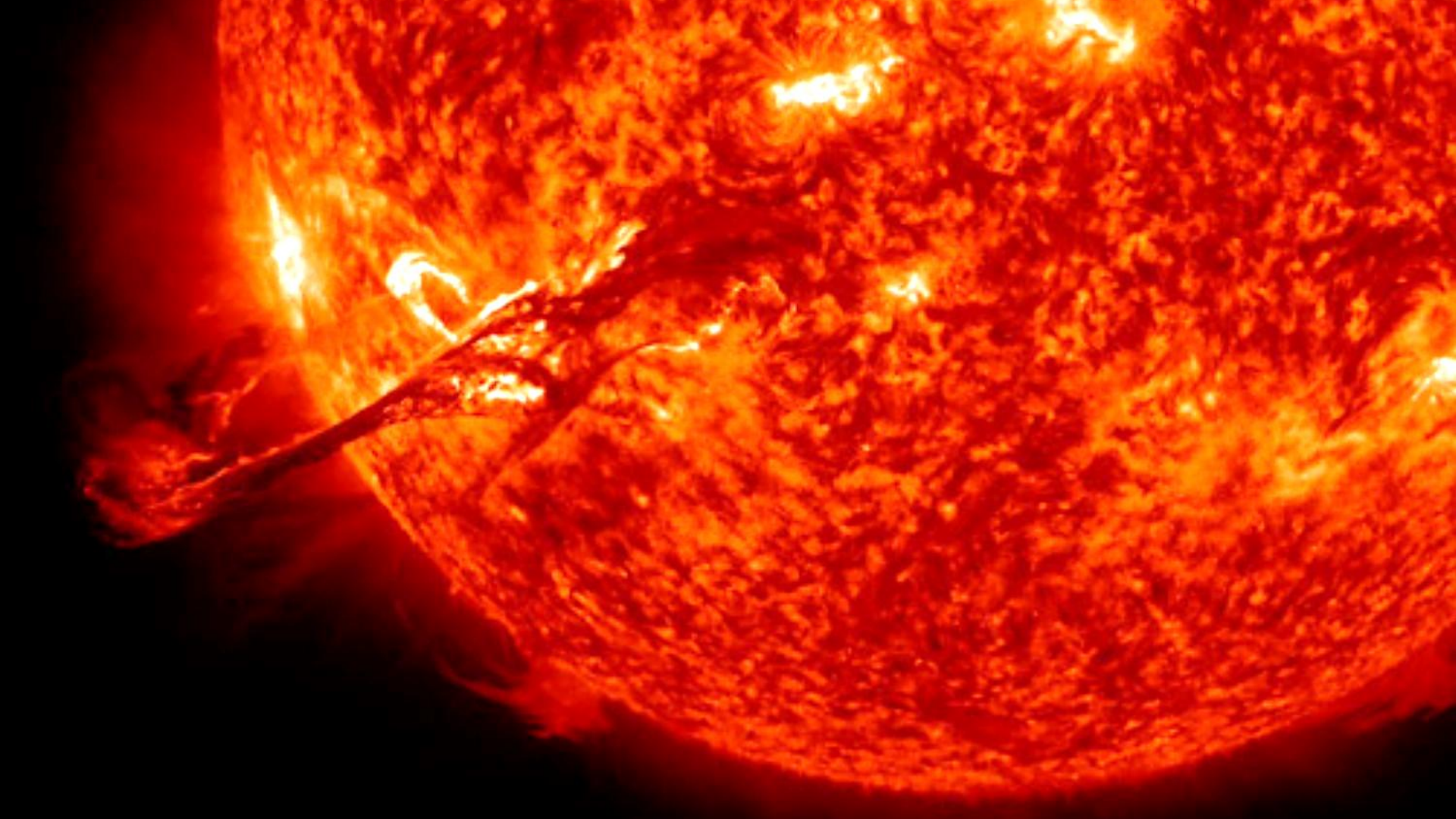


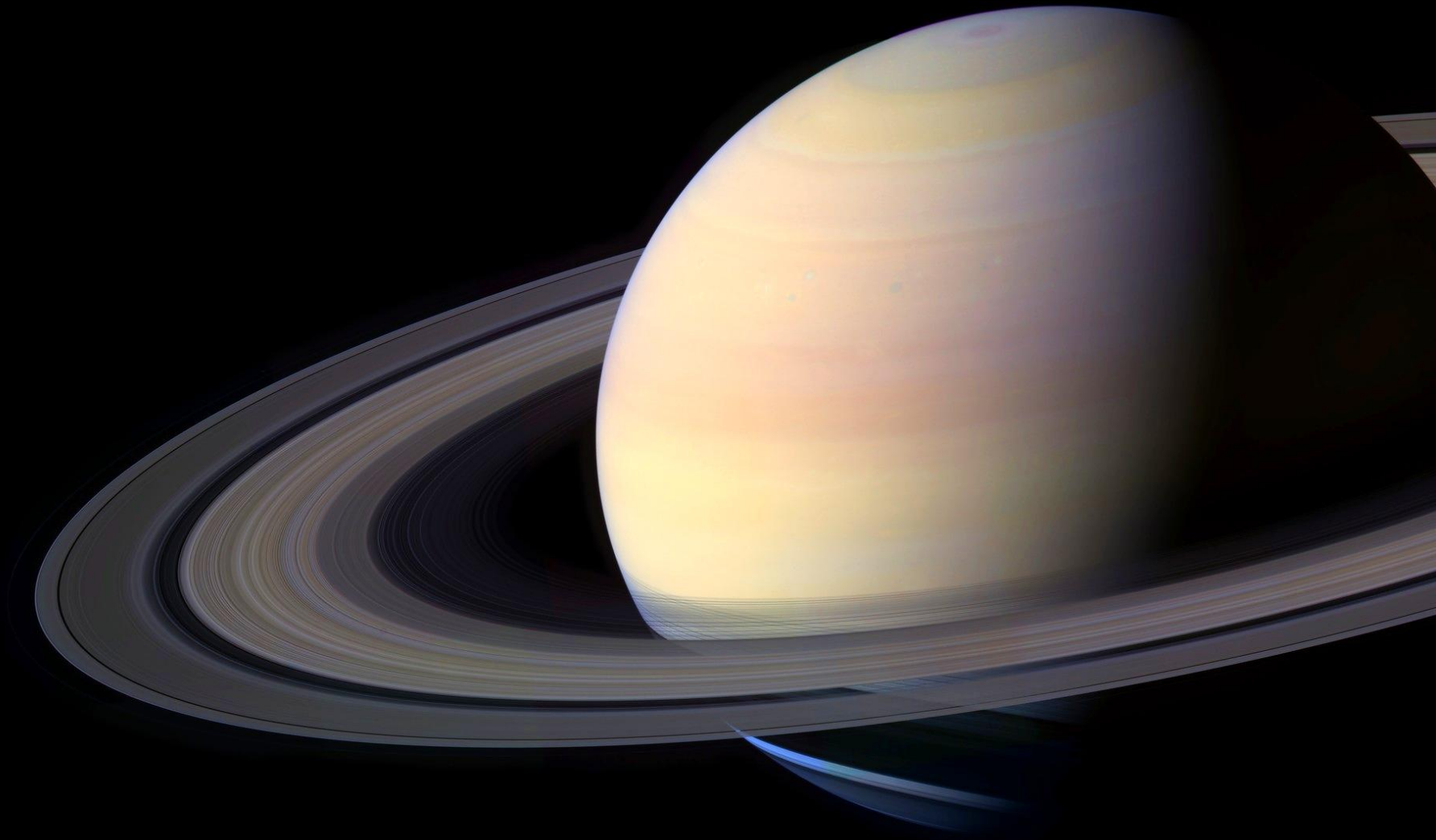
GOD'S GLORY IN CREATION

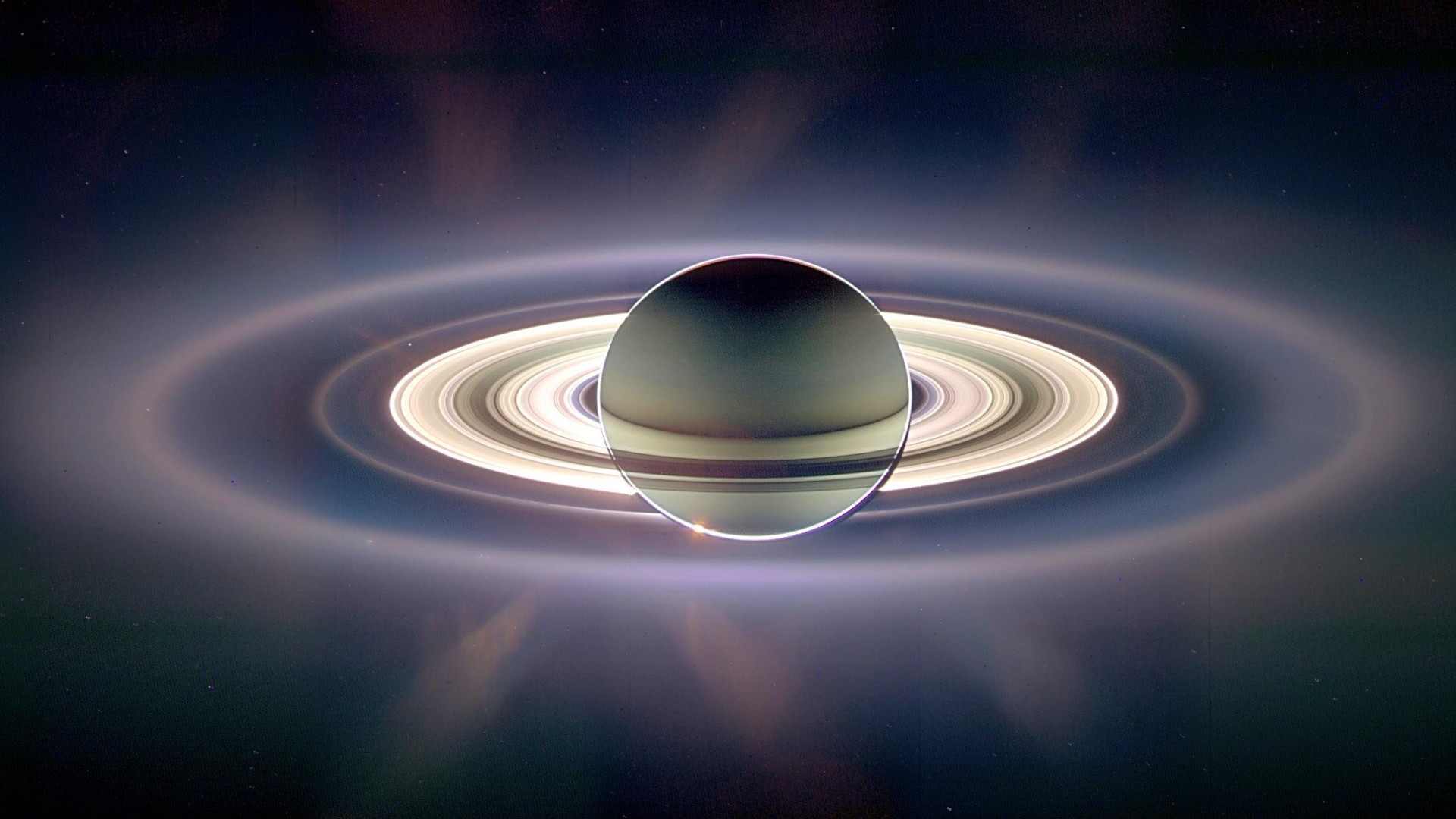
ROMANS 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made

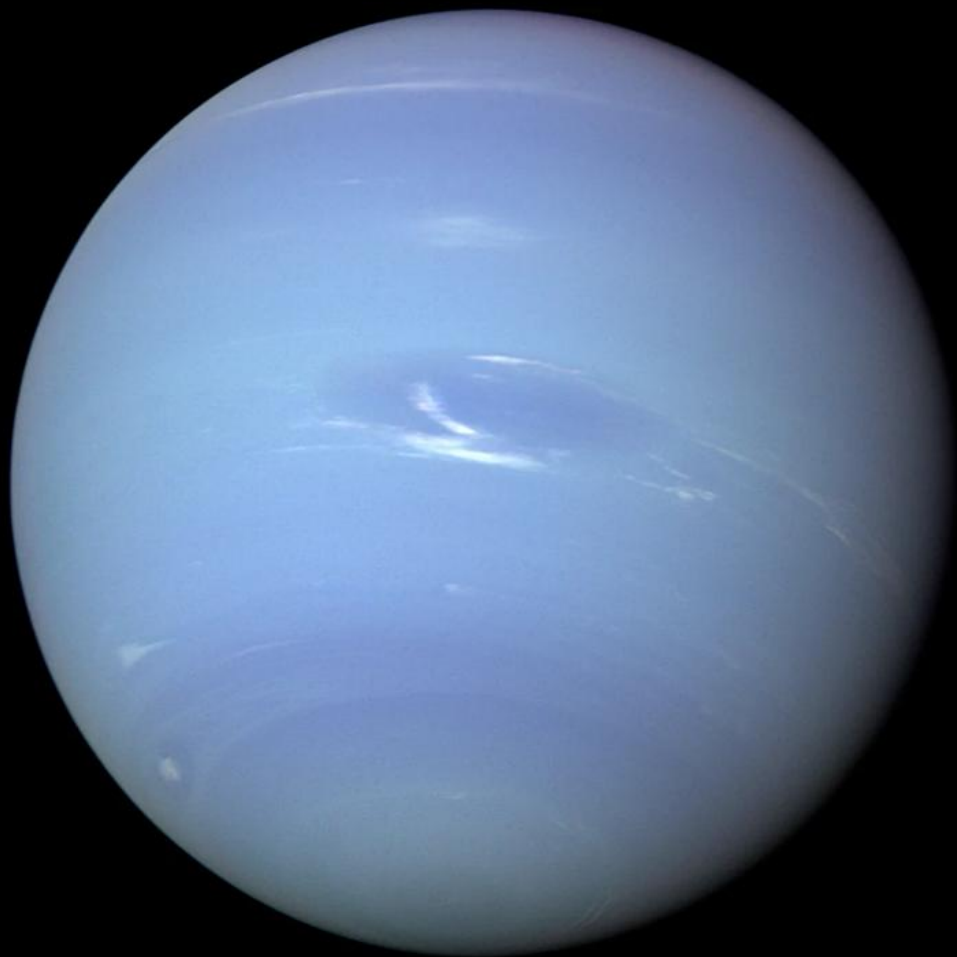
PSALM 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.



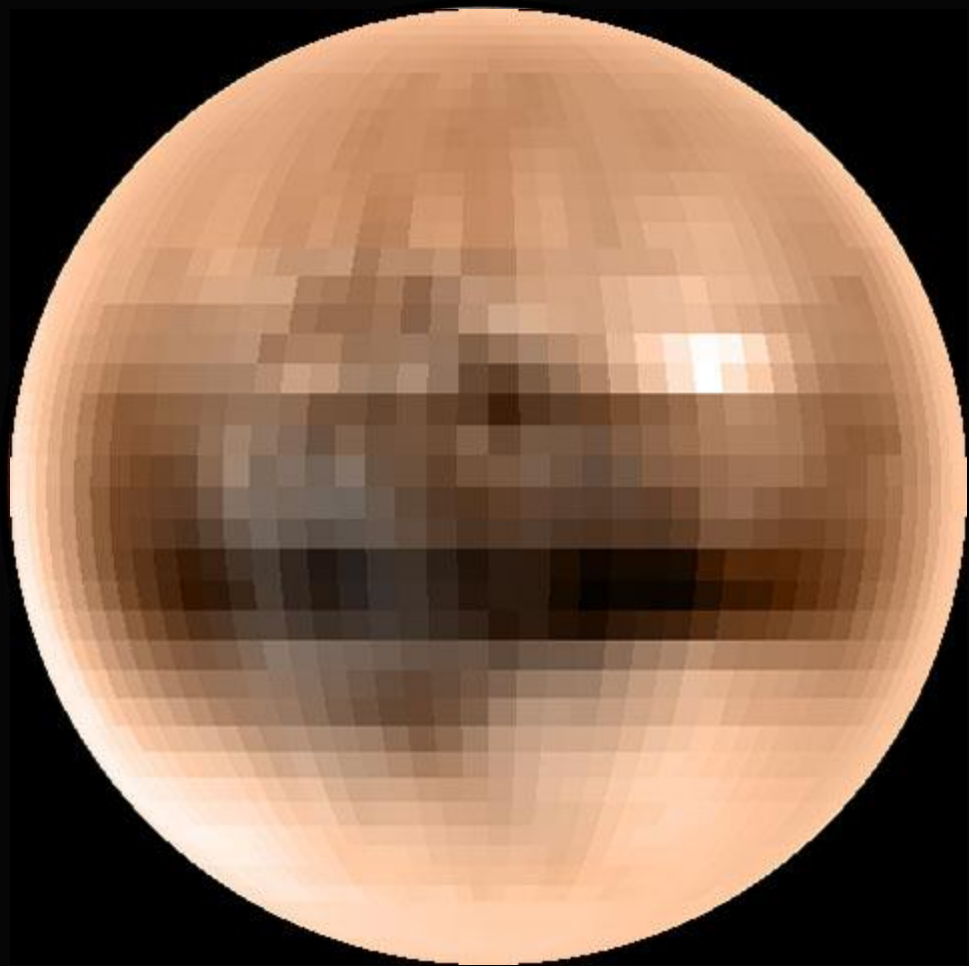








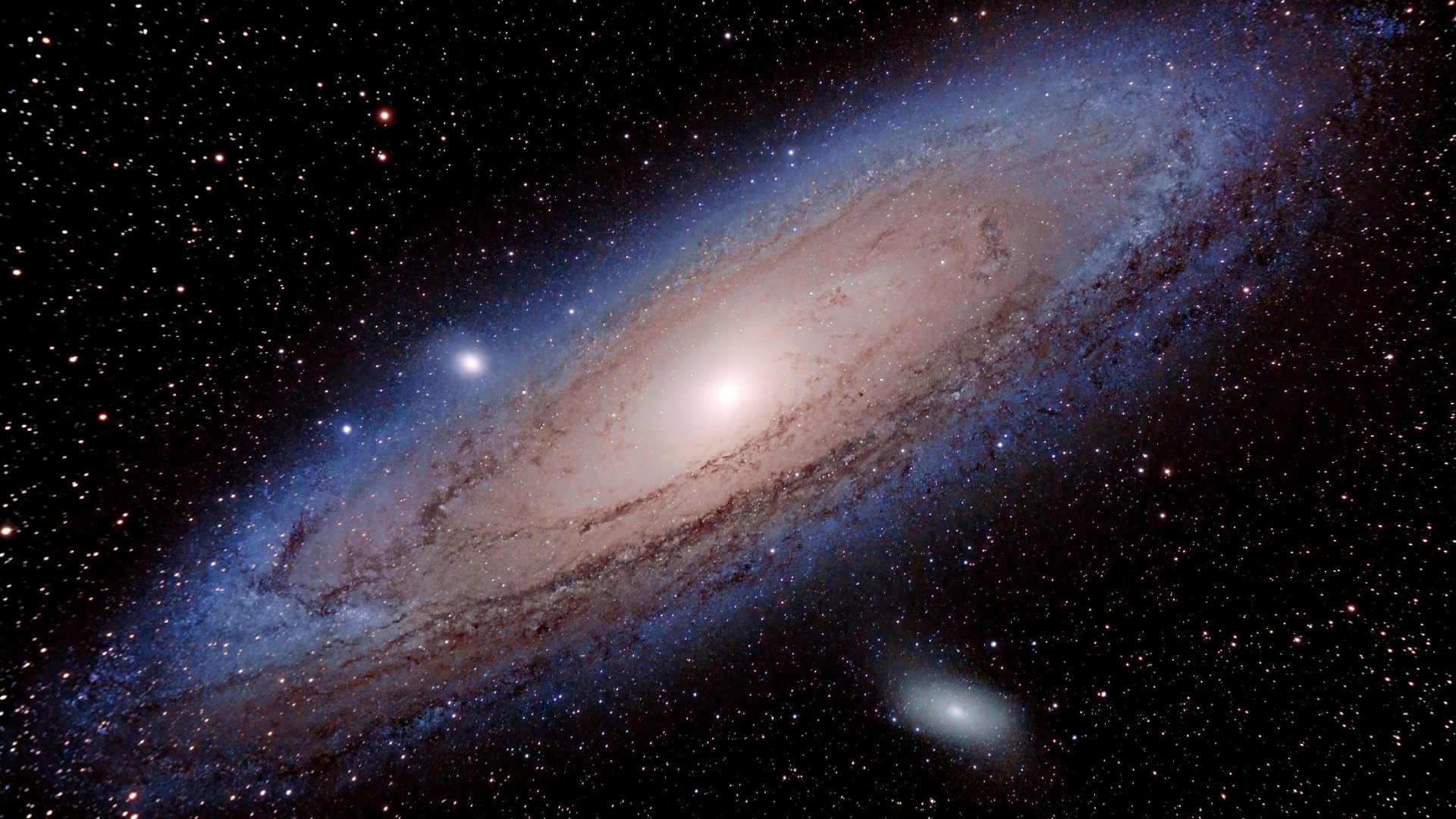


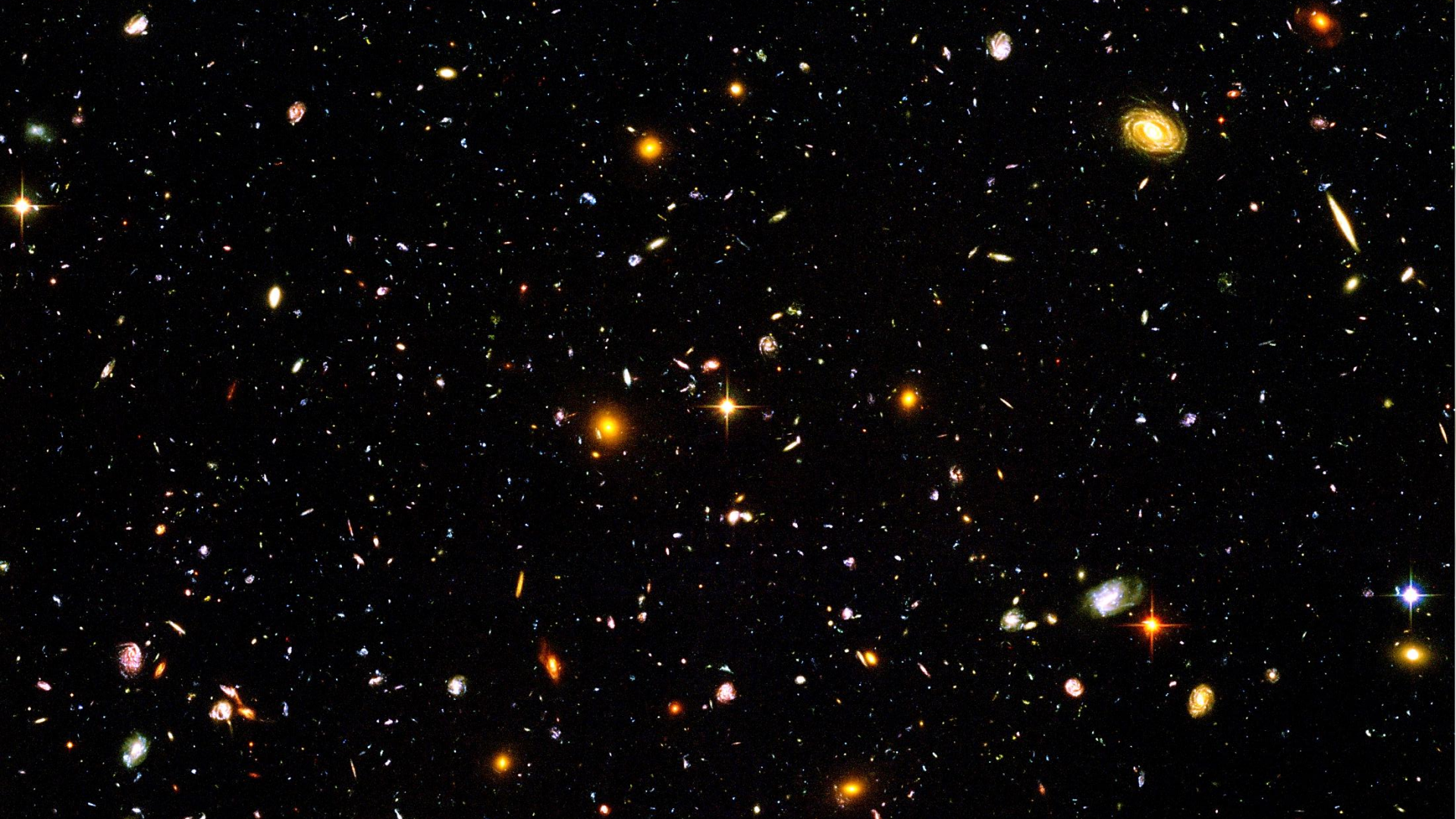


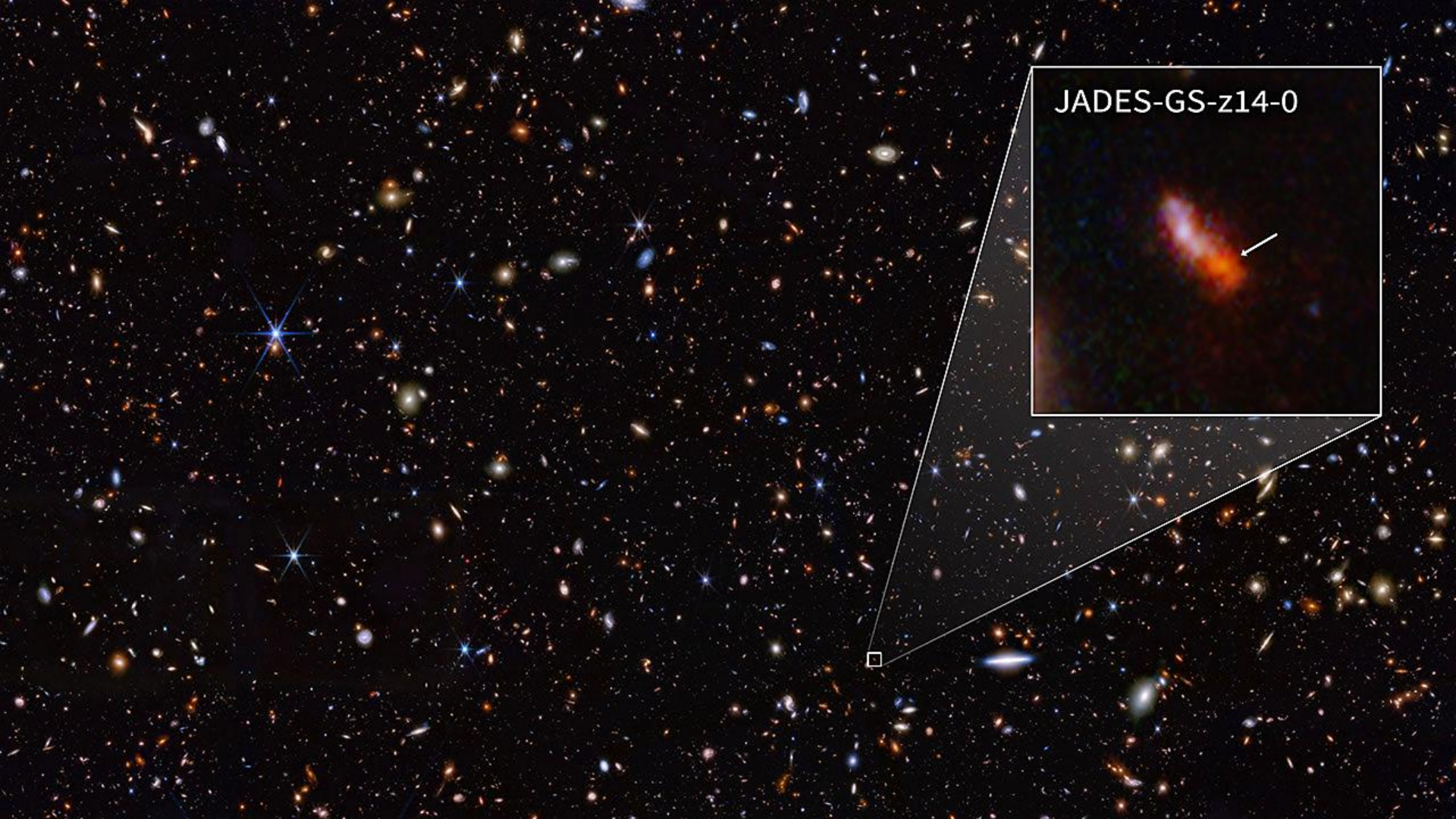










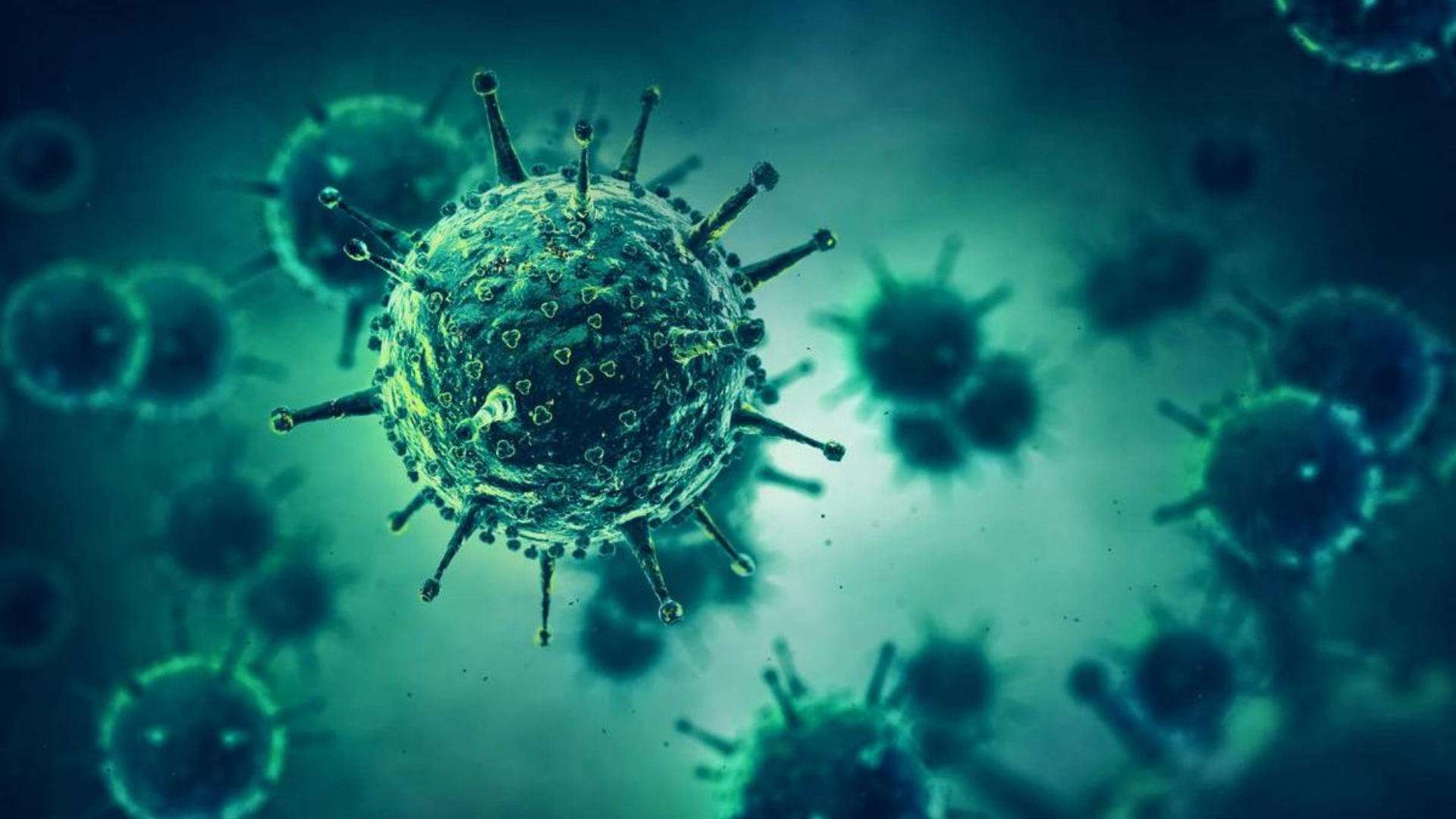


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ROMANS 8: GROANING & GLORY

²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.



ROMANS 8: HOPE THAT HOLDS US

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 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. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.



ROMANS 8: HOPE THAT HOLDS US

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”



ROMANS 8: HOPE THAT HOLDS US

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



WALKING IN HOPE

1. Reframe your pain



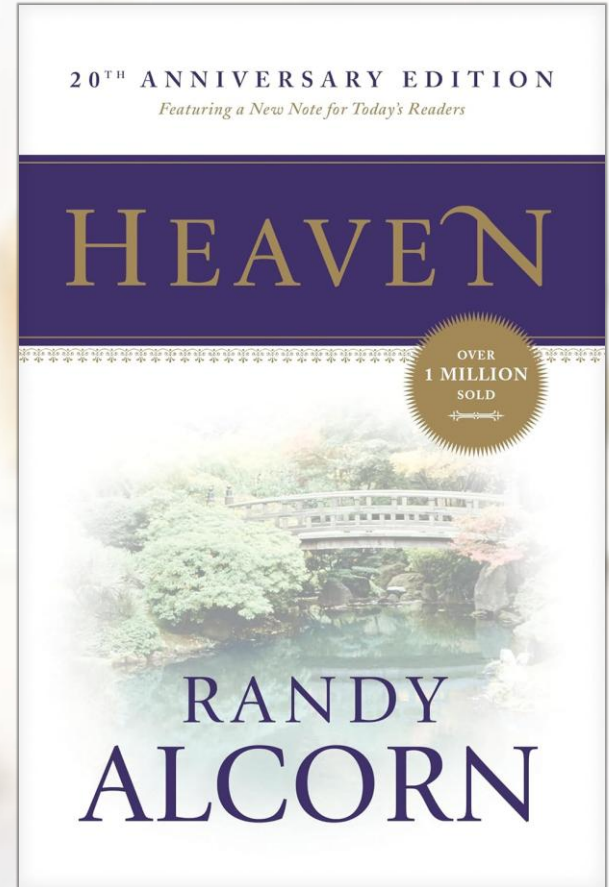
WALKING IN HOPE

1. Reframe your pain
2. Think about heaven more



WALKING IN HOPE

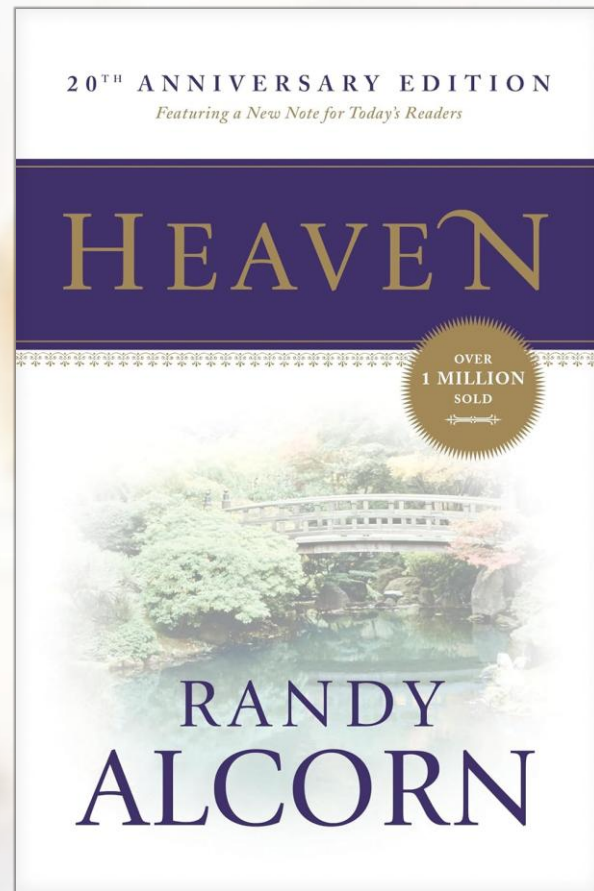
1. Reframe your pain
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WALKING IN HOPE

1. Reframe your pain
2. Think about heaven more

“Nothing is wrong with imagining Heaven. In fact, our problem is that we imagine it too little. A redeemed imagination will whet our appetite for the world we were made for. ... When we begin to picture Heaven as a real place with real beauty, work, and joy, our desire for it grows—and that hope becomes fuel for endurance now.”



WALKING IN HOPE

1. Reframe your pain
2. Think about heaven more

“If you read history, you’ll find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. ...It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.”

-- C.S. Lewis in *‘Mere Christianity’*



WALKING IN HOPE

1. Reframe your pain
2. Think about heaven more
3. Groan honestly, but with faith



WALKING IN HOPE

1. Reframe your pain
2. Think about heaven more
3. Groan honestly, but with faith
4. Anchor yourself in God's love



WALKING IN HOPE

1. Reframe your pain
2. Think about heaven more
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“They say of some temporal suffering, ‘No future bliss can make up for it,’ not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into glory.” – C.S. Lewis in *‘The Great Divorce’*



WALKING IN HOPE

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WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS!



WALKING IN HOPE

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WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS!

- Why do you need to hear that this morning?
- What's God asking you to do in response to this sermon?



WALKING IN VICTORY
THROUGH ROMANS
COMMUNION