

Christ or Christianity

Seven Churches of Asia

Christianity?

Sorry, we didn't find any results for your search. Please try the following:

- **Double-check spelling, especially people and place names.**
- **Make sure there are spaces between words. Bible Gateway treats “nameoftheFather” and “name of the Father” differently.**
- **Use fewer words in your search, especially if you're unsure of the exact phrase. For example, “baptizing name Father” and “baptizing them in the name of the Father” will both return Matthew 28:19; however, the latter leaves a greater chance for spelling and syntax errors.**
- **Retry your search in another translation.**

Christianity?

- Christianity: major religion stemming from the life, teachings, and death of Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ, or the Anointed One of God) in the 1st century. It has become the largest of the world's religions and, geographically, the most widely diffused of all faiths. It has a constituency of more than two billion believers. Its largest groups are the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox churches, and the Protestant churches. The Oriental Orthodox churches constitute one of the oldest branches of the tradition but had been out of contact with Western Christianity and Eastern Orthodoxy from the middle of the 5th century until the late 20th century because of a dispute over Christology (the doctrine of Jesus Christ's nature and significance). Significant movements within the broader Christian world and sometimes transcending denominational boundaries are Pentecostalism, Charismatic Christianity, Evangelicalism, and fundamentalism. In addition, there are numerous independent churches throughout the world. See *also* Anglicanism; Baptist; Calvinism; Congregationalism; Evangelical church; Lutheranism; Oriental Orthodoxy; Presbyterian; Reformed and Presbyterian churches.

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What verse?

- **Hate the sin love the sinner.**

The exact phrase "hate the sin, love the sinner" is **not found in the Bible**. However, it reflects the overarching biblical concepts of despising evil while showing mercy and love to others. [GotQuestions.org](#) +1

The phrase itself is famously attributed to Mahatma Gandhi from his 1929 autobiography, though its roots are often traced back to the 4th-century church leader Saint Augustine. [Reddit](#) +1

Several scriptures capture the essence of this idea by balancing God's abhorrence of evil with His grace toward humanity:

What are you?

- **Baptist**
- **Methodist**
- **Pentecostal**
- **Christian**

Example

- **Pray to receive Christ to become a Christian**
- **Charles Finney (1830's): "The church has always felt it necessary to have something of this kind to answer this very purpose. In the days of the apostles, baptism answered this purpose. The gospel was preached to the people, and then all those who were willing to be on the side of Christ, were called out to be baptized. It held the place that the anxious seat does now as a public manifestation of their determination to be Christians"**
- **Later: Dwight Moody (1860's) and others adopted that same method. "Both Dwight Moody and Billy Sunday admitted they were somewhat ignorant of church history by the time they had already latched on to their perspectives. This is highly significant because the Anxious Seat phenomenon and offshoot practices were not rooted in Scripture nor in the early church." <https://disciplestoday.org/bible-study-teacher-s-corner-item-8589-teacher-s-corner-the-sinner-s-prayer-a-brief-history-of-a-novel-practice/>**
- **Others like Billy Graham, Bill Bright (Campus Crusade), Dawson Trotman (Navigators) and various denominations accepted the practice.**

Medals



Our Medals



Seven Churches of Asia



Ephesus

- **Possibly the most important city in Asia Minor**
- **Population 250k to 500k**
- **Major commercial center located on the coast**
- **Second only to Rome as a center of culture and commerce**
- **Had athletic events that rivaled the ancient Olympics**
- **Was the center of worship of the goddess Artemis, also called Diana**



Ephesus Church

(the Loveless Church)

Positive Medals

- **Verse 2: Deeds, hard work, and perseverance**
- **Cannot tolerate wicked people**
- **Have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.**
- **Verse 3: Persevered and have endured hardships for Jesus name**
- **Verse 6: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**

Negative Medals

- **Verse 5: You have forsaken the love you had at first (first love)**
- **If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.**

Ephesus church

The Warning

- **Acts 20:28-31** Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.



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Can we go to far?

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Ephesus

(the Loveless Church)

Revelation 2:1-7

- **You have forsaken the love you had at first (first love**

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(the Loveless Church)

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Verse 7: To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

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Smyrna

- Known as the “Garden city”
- Mixed use Market Village hub
- The city wealthy and a trade hub
- Destroyed and rebuilt by Alexander the Great



Smyrna

(the Impoverished church)

- These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ⁹ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.



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Pergamum

- Pergamum was a wealthy city of Asia Minor and was a combination of political power and pagan worship.
- City was the center of the Roman imperial cult. Official headquarters of Caesar-worship in the region. Pergamum was very political and supportive of the emperor.
- There were temples of Zeus, Athena, Apollo and others.
- Satan's Throne where he lives.



Pergamum

(the church that Compromised)

Positive Medals

- **Verse 13: Yet you remain true to my name.**
- **You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, who was put to death for his witness.**

Negative Medals

- **Verse 14: Some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam**
- **Likewise (like this) you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.**

The Nicolaitans

- Ireneus and Hippolytus believed that the “Nicolaitans” were spiritual descendants of Nicolas of Antioch (a convert to Judaism) mentioned as one of the deacons in Acts 6:5.
- “The name “Nicolaitans” is derived from the Greek word nikolaos, a compound of the words nikos and laos. The word nikos is the Greek word that means to conquer or to subdue. The word laos is the Greek word for the people. It is also where we get the word laity. When these two words are compounded into one, they form the name Nicolas, which literally means one who conquers and subdues the people. It seems to suggest that the Nicolaitans were somehow conquering and subduing the people (in the church).”

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The Nicolaitans

- “According to the writings of the Early Church leaders, Nicolas taught a doctrine of compromise.”
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- These teachings were causing the church in Pergamum to be conquered and controlled by people other than Christ.

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The Nicolaitans

- **3 John 9-10 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. ¹⁰ So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.**

Pergamum church

(the church that Compromised)

- **Verse 17: Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.**

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Has the same root word as the word Nicolaitans

Thyatira

- City famous for trade guilds and cloth dyeing
- Acts 16 Lydia: One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.



Thyatira church

(the church of Jezebel)

Positive Medals

- **Verse 19: Deeds**
- **Love and faith**
- **Perseverance**
- **Doing more now than at first**

Negative Medals

- **Verse 20-23: Does not like someone he calls Jezebel who calls herself a prophet**
- **Says that the church tolerates her and that he will no longer**
- **Really doesn't like Jezebel**
- **Along with things like sexual immorality seems to be teaching of Satan's so-called deep secrets.**

Thyatira church

(the church of Jezebel)

- **To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations**

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Sardis

- Capital of the Lydian empire
- Birthplace of the world's first gold and silver coins
- Wealthy City
- Sardis was famously captured twice by surprise. Enemy soldiers scaled the supposedly un-climbable cliffs at night, exploiting the complacency and laziness of the city's guards



Sardis church

(The Dead Church)

- **Chapter 3 verse 1: I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.**
- **Verse 2: Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.**

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Philadelphia

(The city of a brother's love)

- It was established in 189 BC by King Eumenes II of Pergamon (197-160 BC). Eumenes II named the city for the love of his brother, who would be his successor.



Philadelphia

(church of no rebuke)

- I know your deeds (seems to be positive)
 - Therefore Jesus leaves an open door that no one can shut
- Told they have little strength but they remained faithful
 - Kept His word and not deny him
- “Kept my command to endure patiently”
 - Church will be kept from what is about to happen to “test” the inhabitants of the earth.
- He will show their enemies that he loves them

Philadelphia

(church of no rebuke)

- The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. ¹³ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

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Laodicea

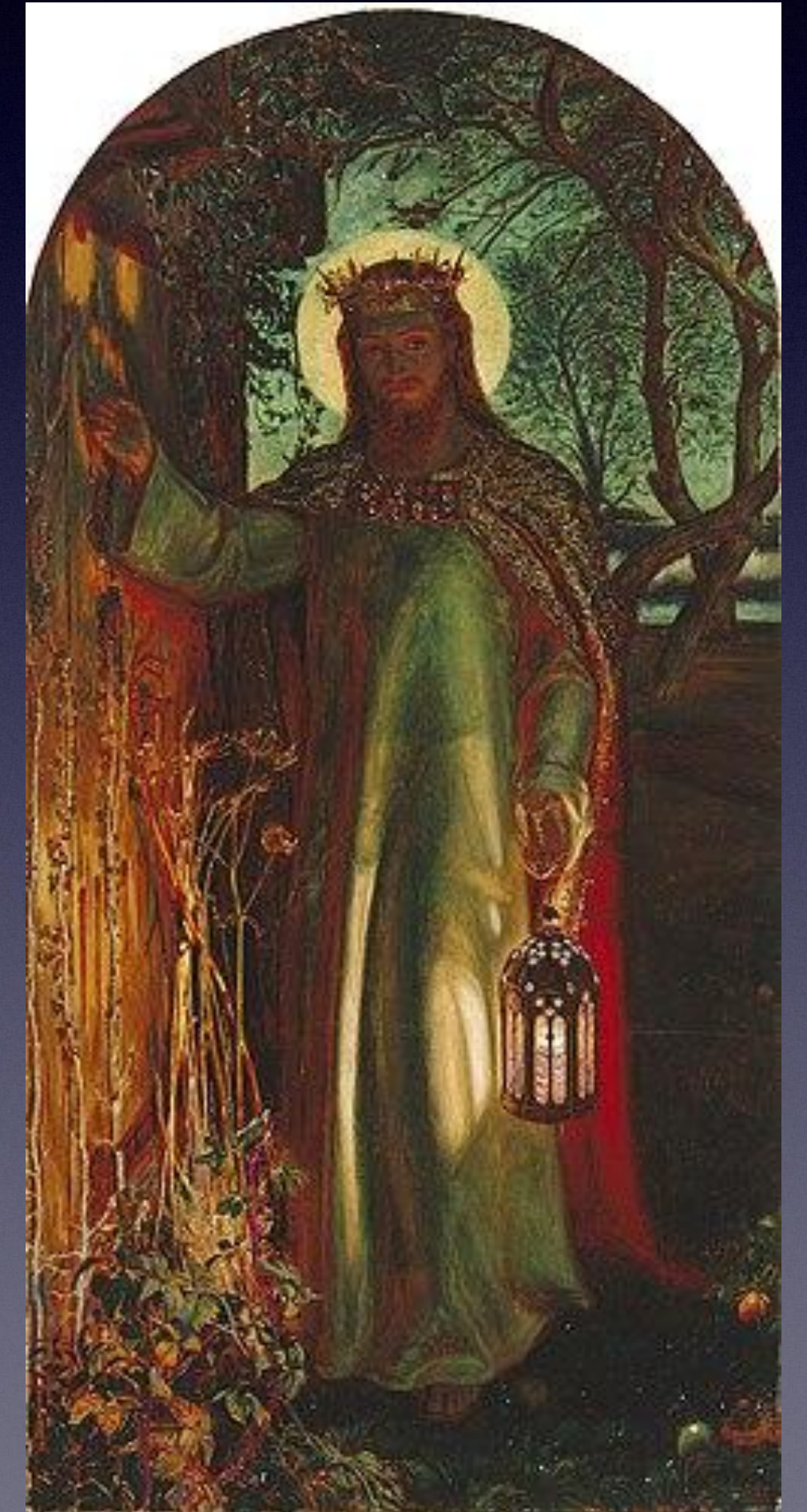
- Rich city
- Famous for banking, black wool, and medical school
- Self sufficient: Refused Roman financial help after massive earthquake in AD 60



Laodicea

(the church with the closed door)

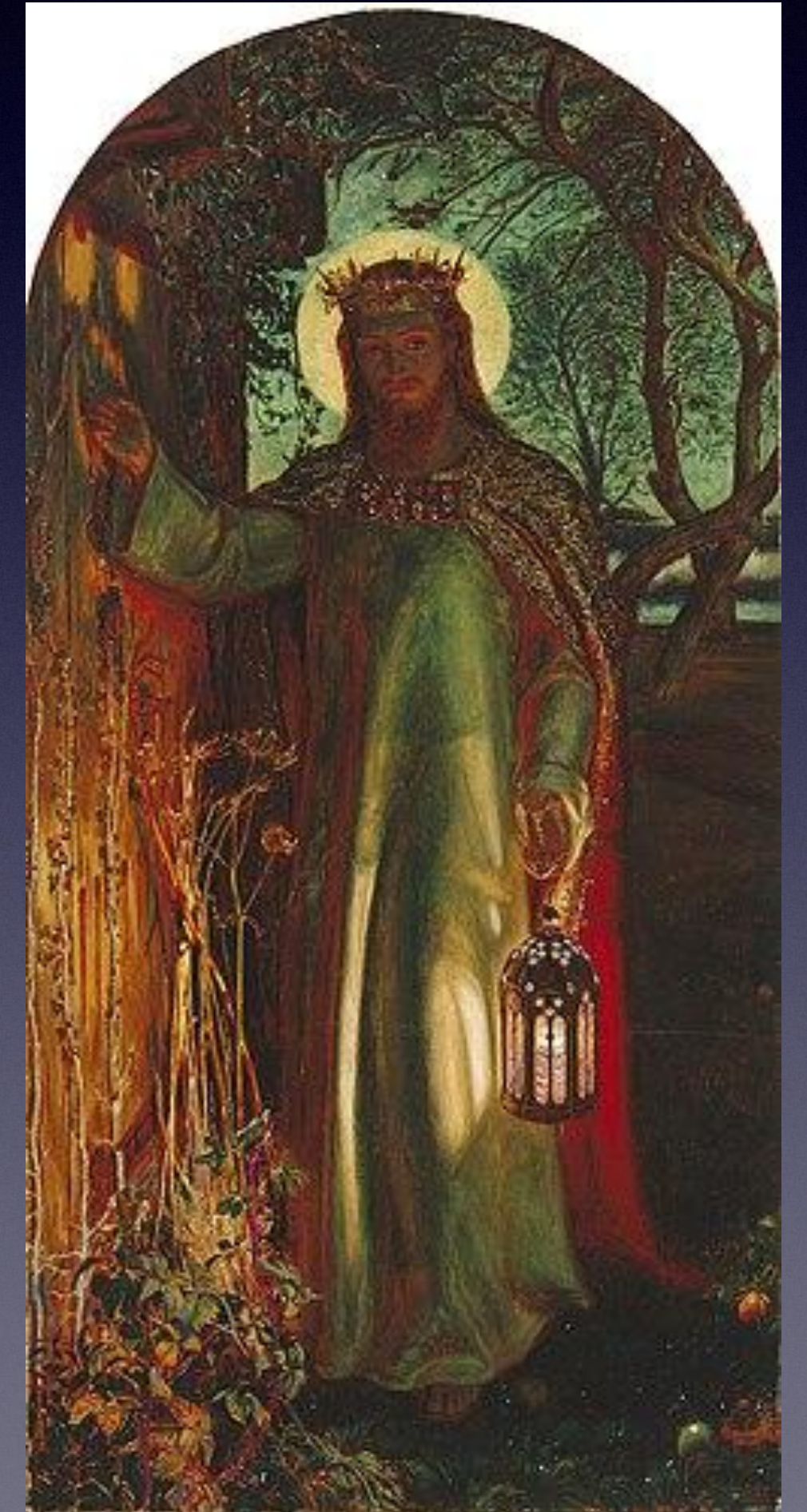
- **Verses 15-17 I know your deeds**
 - **that you are neither cold or hot**
 - **you are lukewarm**
 - **I'm about to spit you out of my mouth**
 - **You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked**



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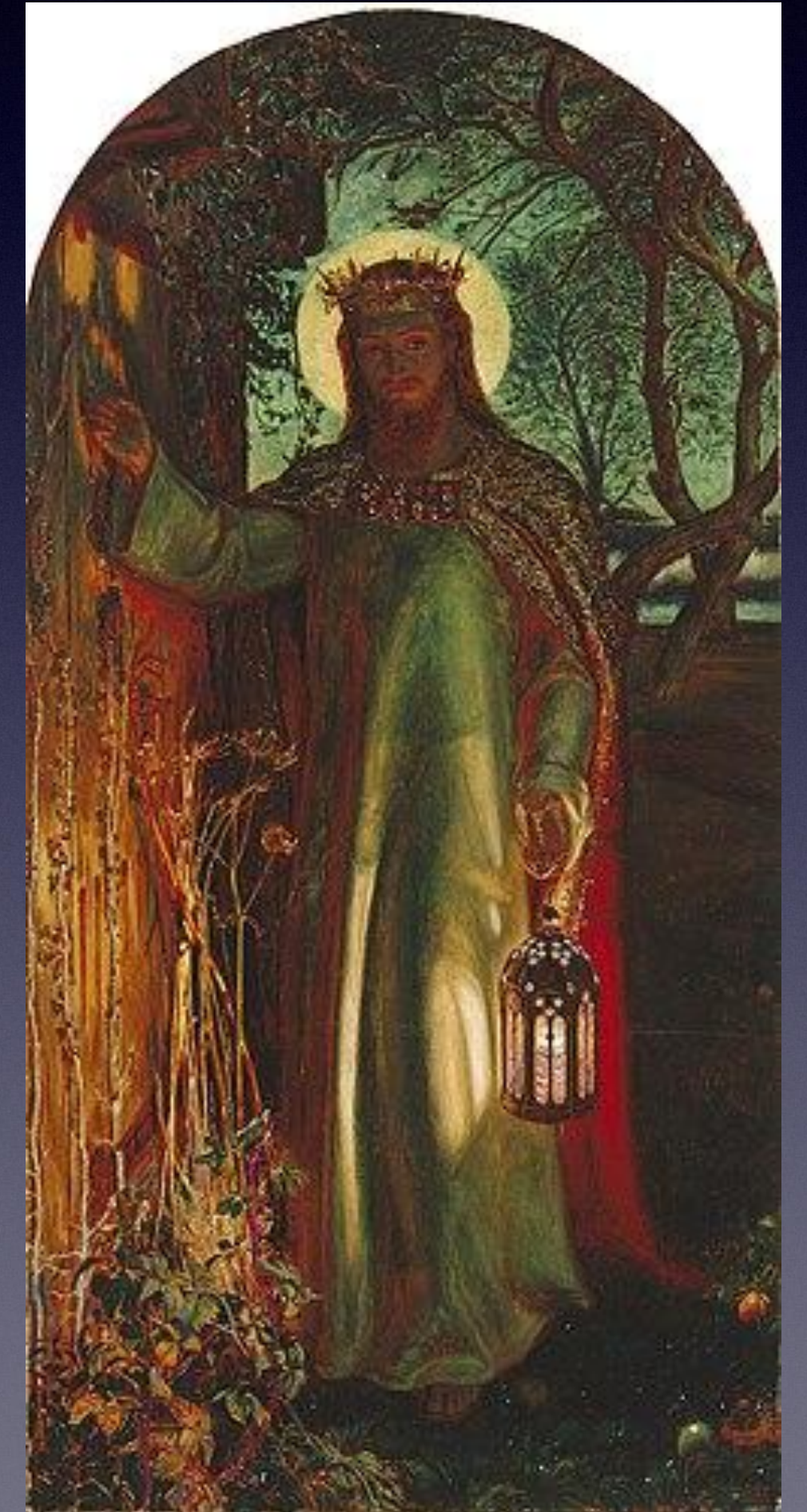
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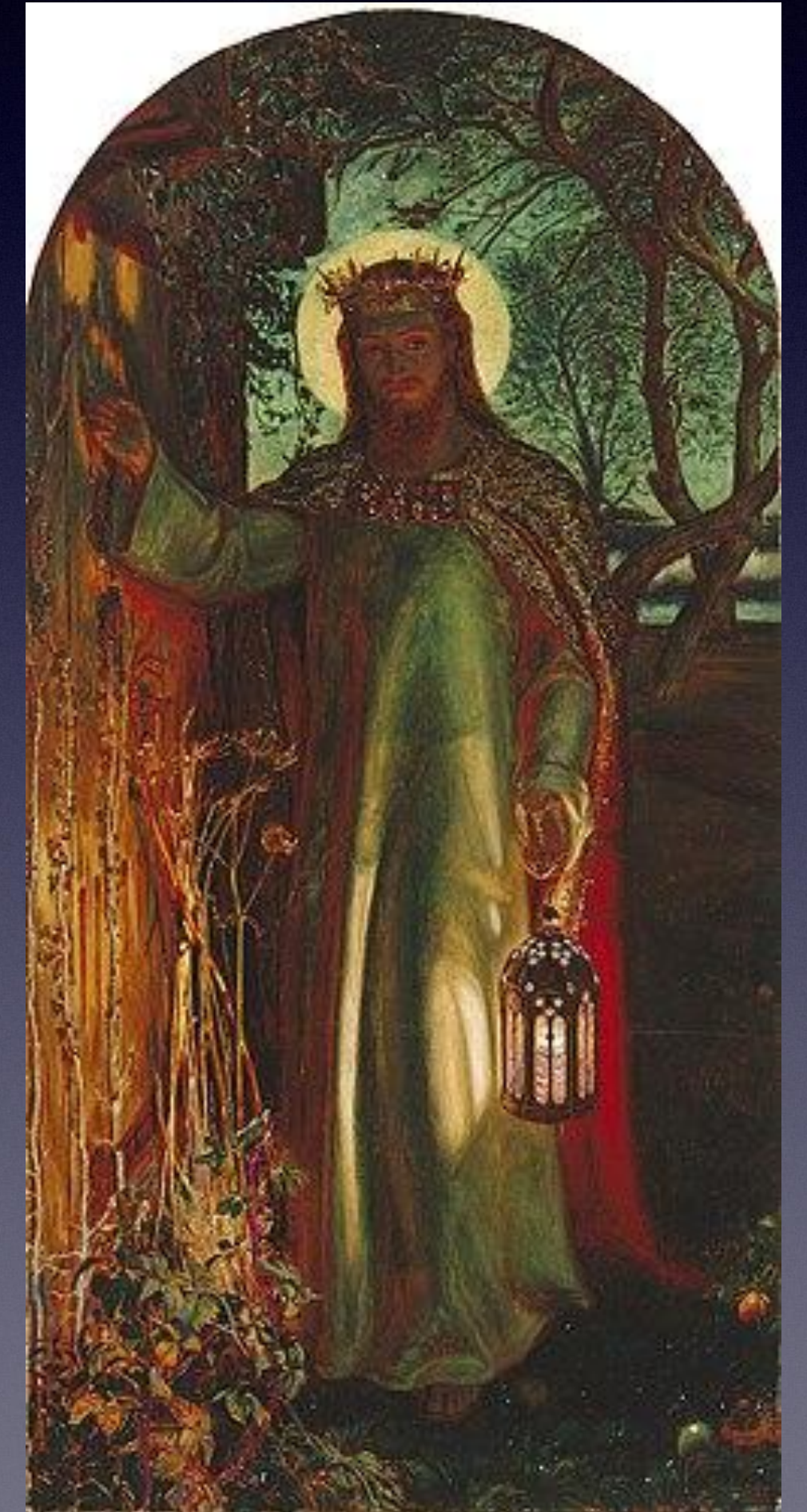
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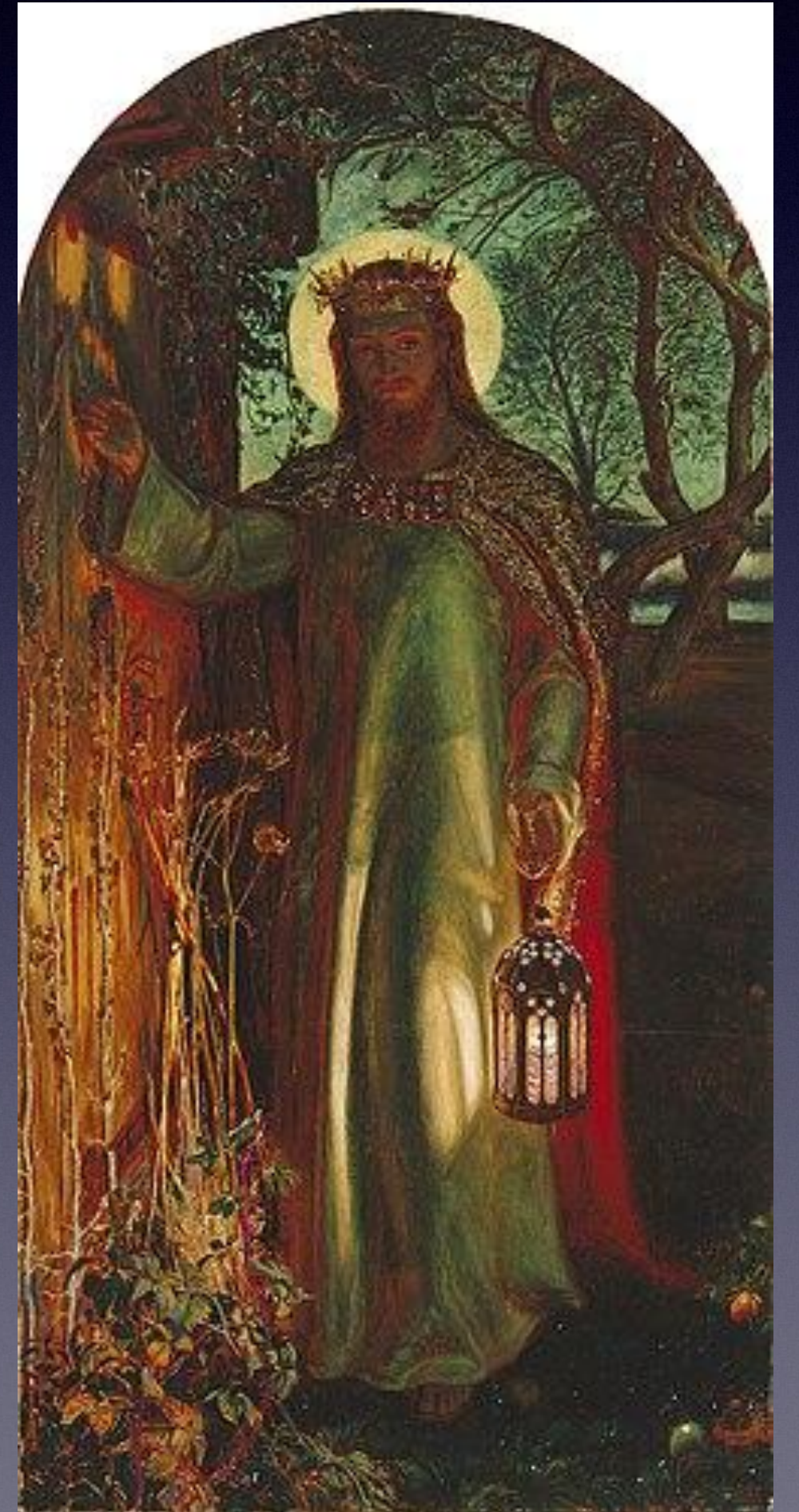
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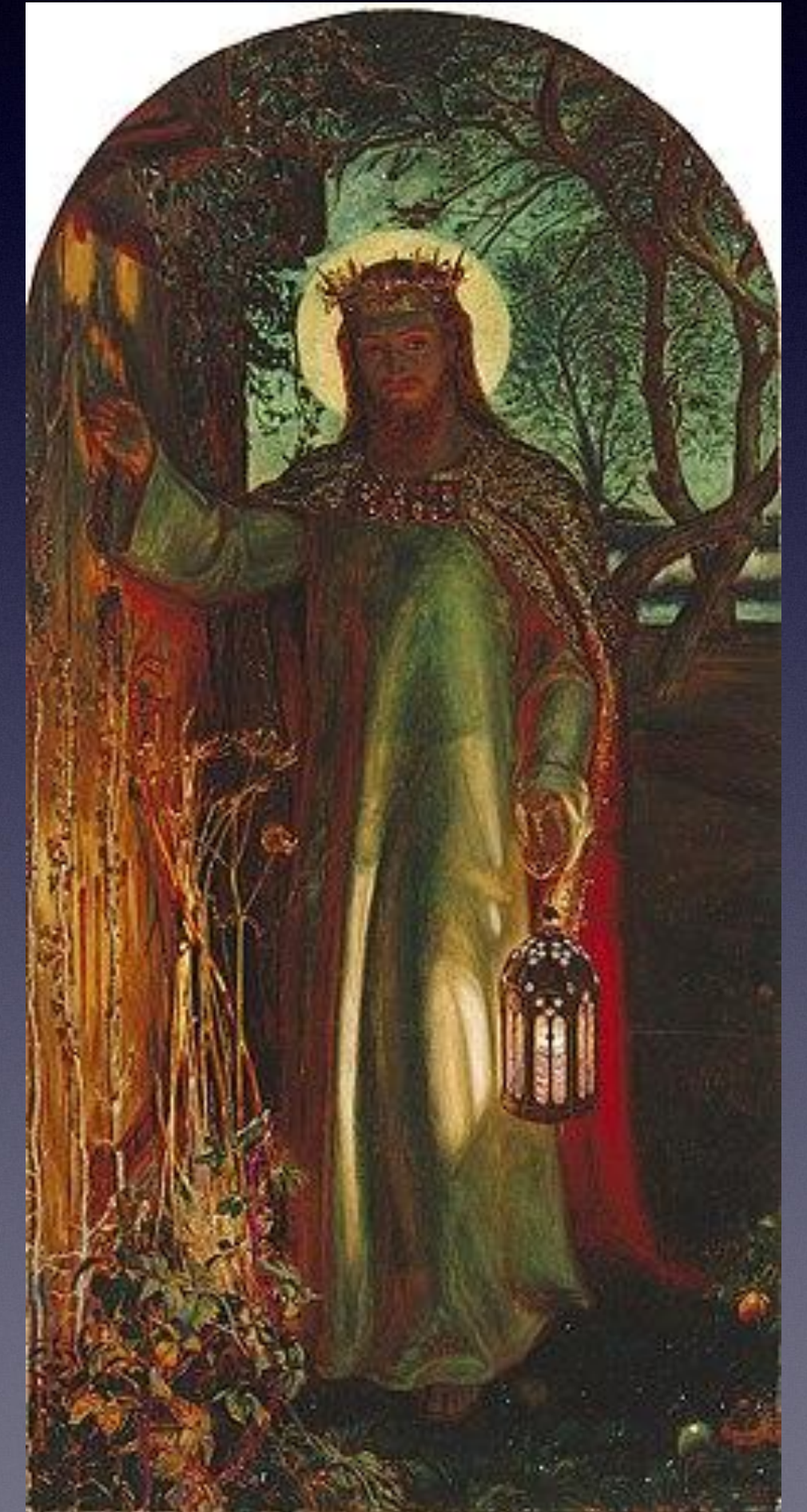
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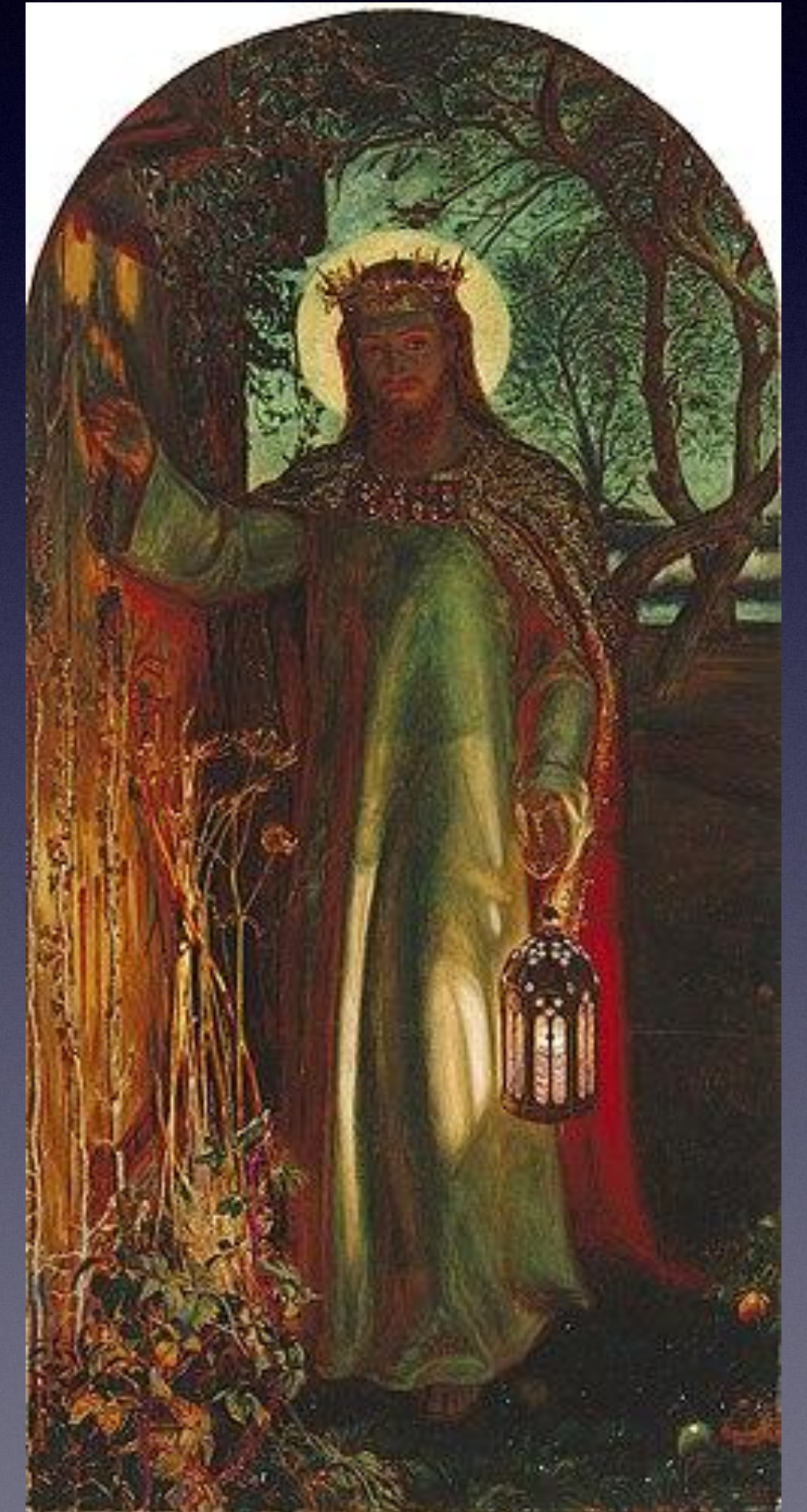
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What does Jesus speak about to the churches

- Love (Ephesus, Thyatira)
- Testing False Prophets/teachers (Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira)
- Persecution (Smyrna, Pergamum)
- Deeds (Thyatira, Ephesus, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea)
- Faith (Thyatira,)
- Poverty/Wealth (Smyrna, Laodicea)

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Example for Today

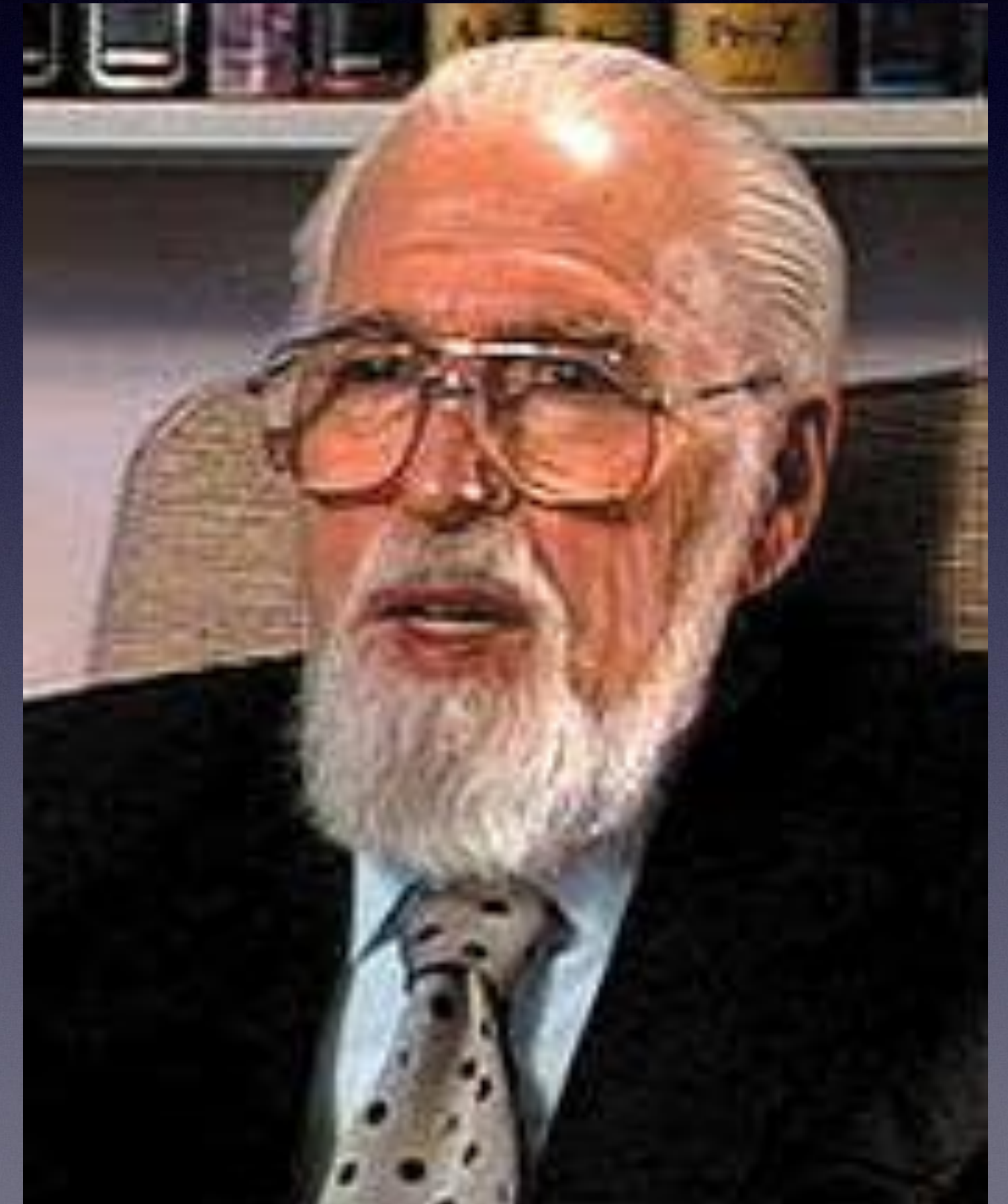
(Christianity not Christ)

- Reconstructionism

- Started in 1950's
- Lead by R. J. Rushdoony
- More accepted in 70's
- Became a accept theology in 90's for some leaders of the evangelicals churches
- Early 2000's in American politics and most evangelical churches

- Dominionism

- Reconstructionism even more radical



Example for Today

(Christianity not Christ)

- **Seven Mountain Mandate**
 - Popularized by Lance Wallnau and Bill Johnson
 - Christians must take over the world through seven aspects of society
 - Religion
 - Family
 - Government
 - Education
 - Media
 - Arts and Entertainment
 - Business



Websites

- https://fatherrichv.substack.com/p/have-you-ever-noticed-this-in-the?r=4pbicb&utm_medium=ios&triedRedirect=true
- <https://theconversation.com/what-is-christian-reconstructionism-and-why-it-matters-in-us-politics-266915>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/seven-mountain-mandate/>



Next Week

Living an old story in modern times