



SPIRITUAL DIGEST

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"GOD DOES NOT GIVE
US EVERYTHING WE
WANT, BUT HE DOES
FULFILL HIS
PROMISES, LEADING
US ALONG THE BEST
AND STRAIGHTEST
PATHS TO HIMSELF."

- DIETRICH BONHOEFFER -



DON'T ASK GOD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

Believing is substantiating the [spiritual] facts. Once we see something, we substantiate it. Once we believe, we substantiate the facts, and we have it... If you do not have faith, you will not substantiate the facts. The color of a painting can be substantiated only by the eyes, the sound of an organ can be substantiated only by the ears, and the texture of an object can be substantiated only by the hands. In the same way, God's Word and His promises can be substantiated only by faith. We do not have to hesitantly pray to God,

saying, "Lord, be my victory, be my life, and be my sanctification." Rather, we should say to Him, "God, You are my victory. I thank and praise You because You are my life and You are my sanctification. I thank and praise You!" Brothers and sisters, we encounter temptations all the time. Many difficulties confront us, and harsh words fall on our ears. Should we pray for God to give us the strength to overcome? No, we should say, "Lord, I thank and praise You because You are my victory! Lord, You are overcoming for me. I thank and praise You that You are withstanding everything for me. Thank You that You are my Head and I am Your member. You are the vine and I am a branch. You are supplying me everything." He is already supplying us everything according to His Word!



GENUINE FAITH IS UNSHAKABLE

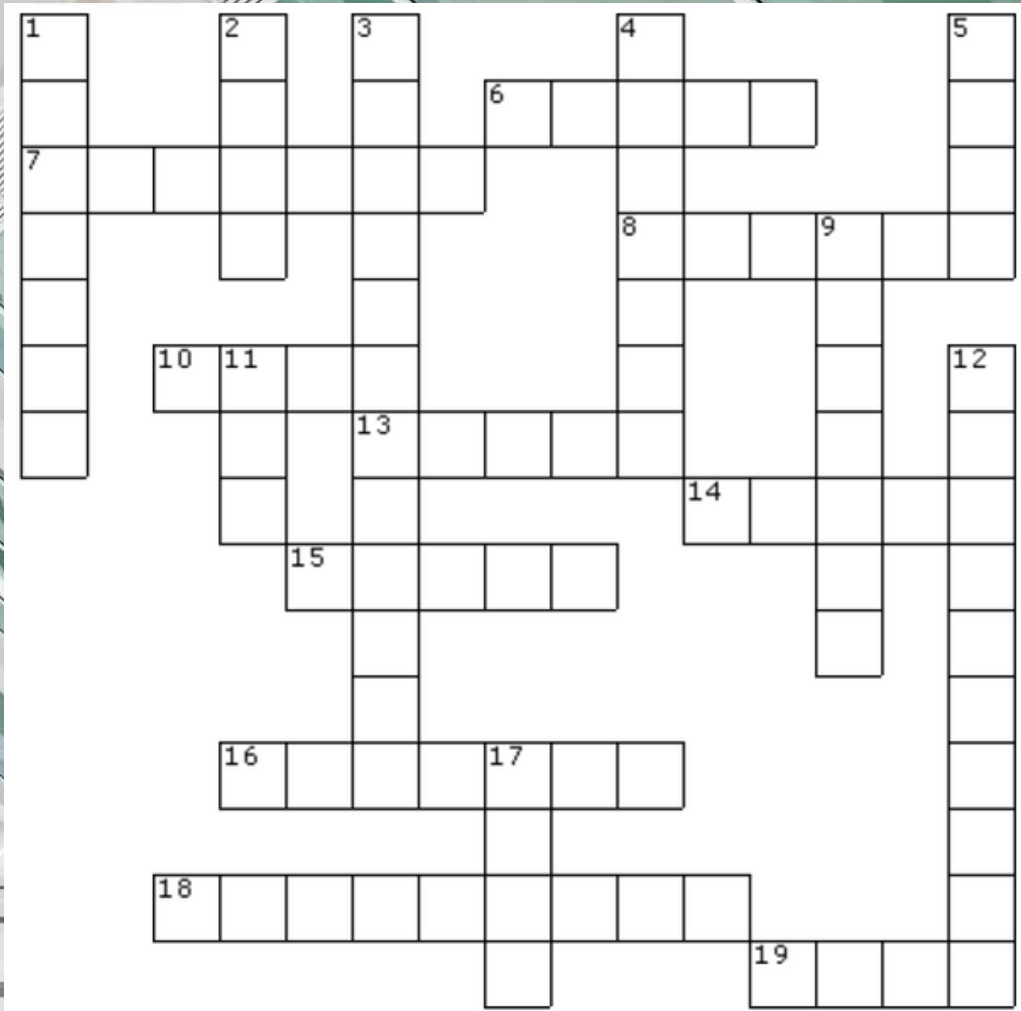
Heb 4:2 For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they [the Israelites] also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard. (3) For we who have believed enter into the rest...

Now let us consider the relationship between the testing of our faith and overcoming. God wants to test our faith in order to make sure that our faith is indeed faith. All genuine faith is long-lived. All short-lived faith is not faith at all. Genuine faith is always long-lived. It will believe after three days, a month, a year, ten years, or even fifty years. Genuine faith can withstand one obstacle, five obstacles, or ten obstacles. Genuine faith will believe after it is tested once, five times, or seven times. Any faith that is short-lived and that falls and evaporates with a slight shake is

not faith at all. All faith is necessarily long-lived. In the Bible we see that overcoming is a matter of believing God's Word. God says that His Son is our life, our Head, our victory, our sanctification, and our power. We know that He has borne our burden and is responsible for all of our affairs. We know that He supplies us with endurance and meekness, and we know that He is supplying us within with everything that we need. Thank and praise the Lord! We know, and we believe. But such faith has to pass through the test.

BIBLICAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE

GENESIS



ACROSS

- 6 Tower site
- 7 Wife of Isaac
- 8 Where Noah's ark landed
- 10 He killed Abel
- 13 City destroyed by fire
- 14 Biblical unit of length
- 15 He dreamed of a stairway to heaven
- 16 Abraham's firstborn son
- 18 Adam's and Eve's garments (2 words)
- 19 Son of Adam and Eve

DOWN

- 1 Eden tempter
- 2 First murder victim
- 3 In the beginning God created the ___ and the ___.
- 4 First patriarch
- 5 Lot's wife became a pillar of ___
- 9 God's sign in the sky
- 11 Noah's ___
- 12 Oldest man in Bible
- 17 Father of Seth

(ANSWERS REVEALED
NEXT VOLUME)

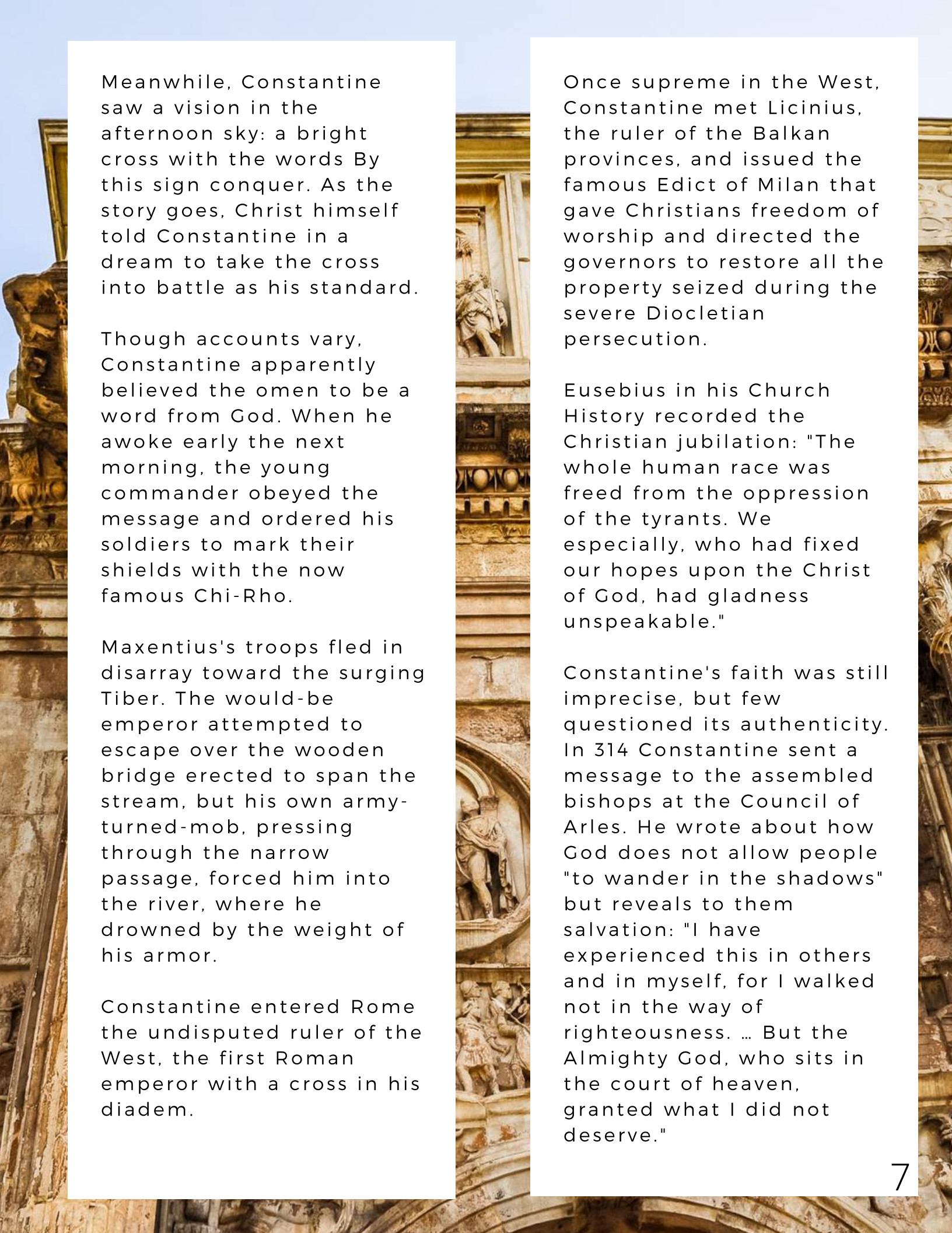


CONSTANTINE: FIRST CHRISTIAN EMPEROR

Of Constantine's early years, we know only that he was born in Illyria, a region in the Balkans. His father, Constantius Chlorus, was already a Roman official on the rise. Helena, the daughter of an innkeeper and Constantius's wife, gave birth to Constantine around A.D. 280 in Naissus, just south of the Danube. By the time Constantine was 31, he was in line to become emperor of the western empire—and more.

In the spring of 311, with 40,000 soldiers behind him, Constantine rode toward Rome to confront an enemy whose numbers were four times his own. Maxentius, vying for supremacy in the West, waited in Rome with his Italian troops and the elite Praetorian Guard, confident no one could successfully invade the city. But Constantine's army was already overwhelming his foes in Italy as he marched toward the capital.

Maxentius turned to pagan oracles, finding a prophecy that the "enemy of the Romans" would perish. But Constantine was still miles away. So, bolstered by the prophecy, Maxentius left the city to meet his foe.



Meanwhile, Constantine saw a vision in the afternoon sky: a bright cross with the words *By this sign conquer*. As the story goes, Christ himself told Constantine in a dream to take the cross into battle as his standard.

Though accounts vary, Constantine apparently believed the omen to be a word from God. When he awoke early the next morning, the young commander obeyed the message and ordered his soldiers to mark their shields with the now famous Chi-Rho.

Maxentius's troops fled in disarray toward the surging Tiber. The would-be emperor attempted to escape over the wooden bridge erected to span the stream, but his own army-turned-mob, pressing through the narrow passage, forced him into the river, where he drowned by the weight of his armor.

Constantine entered Rome the undisputed ruler of the West, the first Roman emperor with a cross in his diadem.

Once supreme in the West, Constantine met Licinius, the ruler of the Balkan provinces, and issued the famous Edict of Milan that gave Christians freedom of worship and directed the governors to restore all the property seized during the severe Diocletian persecution.

Eusebius in his *Church History* recorded the Christian jubilation: "The whole human race was freed from the oppression of the tyrants. We especially, who had fixed our hopes upon the Christ of God, had gladness unspeakable."

Constantine's faith was still imprecise, but few questioned its authenticity. In 314 Constantine sent a message to the assembled bishops at the Council of Arles. He wrote about how God does not allow people "to wander in the shadows" but reveals to them salvation: "I have experienced this in others and in myself, for I walked not in the way of righteousness. ... But the Almighty God, who sits in the court of heaven, granted what I did not deserve."

A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



Lord, You love me so immensely

Lord, You love me so immensely;
I would love You more intensely.
Every day and every moment,
O Lord, capture me.
Let my goal and my life's theme be,
Lord, to love You most supremely;
With all my heart, Lord Jesus,
Keep me faithful unto Thee.

Draw me, Lord, each day.
Take my veils away.
With a pure heart will I see You;
Lord I just love You.
Nothing else I seek;
No one else for me.
I would fully and absolutely
Give my whole being unto Thee.



<https://soundcloud.com/hymnstream/lord-you-love-me-so-immensely>

MATTHEW 28

WEEKLY BIBLE CHAPTER READS

Mt 28:1 Now late on the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary the Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.

Mt 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended out of heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.

Mt 28:3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow.

Mt 28:4 And for fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

Mt 28:5 And the angel answered and said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you are seeking Jesus, the crucified.

Mt 28:6 He is not here, for He has been raised, even as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

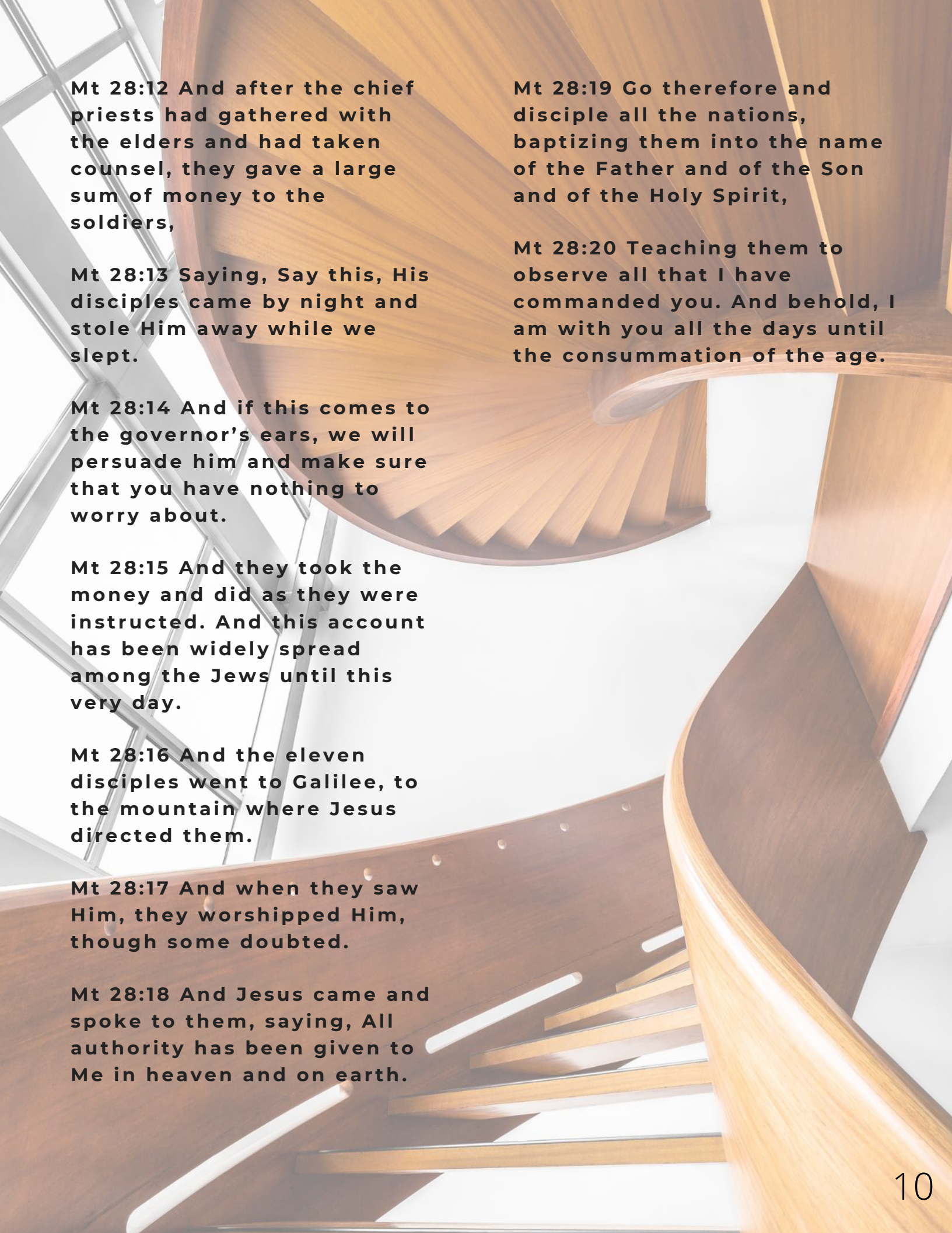
Mt 28:7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has been raised from the dead, and behold, He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.

Mt 28:8 And they went away quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to report this to His disciples.

Mt 28:9 And behold, Jesus met them, saying, Rejoice! And they came to Him and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him.

Mt 28:10 Then Jesus said to them, Do not be afraid. Go and report to My brothers that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see Me.

Mt 28:11 And as they were going, behold, some from the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened.



Mt 28:12 And after the chief priests had gathered with the elders and had taken counsel, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

Mt 28:13 Saying, Say this, His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we slept.

Mt 28:14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and make sure that you have nothing to worry about.

Mt 28:15 And they took the money and did as they were instructed. And this account has been widely spread among the Jews until this very day.

Mt 28:16 And the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus directed them.

Mt 28:17 And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him, though some doubted.

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Mt 28:20 Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.