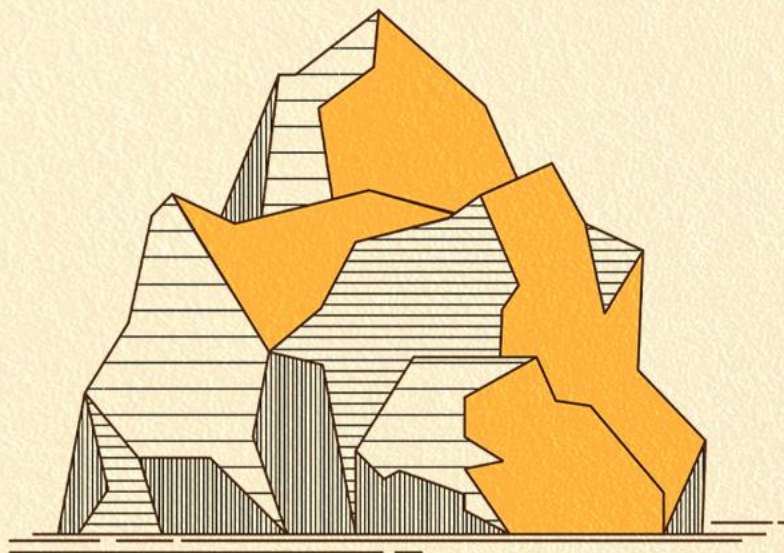
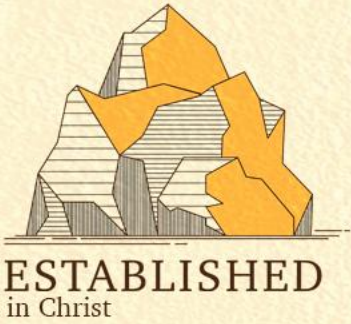




ESTABLISHED
in Christ

Preminent!

Colossians 1:15-20



Luke 19:37-40

As [Jesus] was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying,

“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

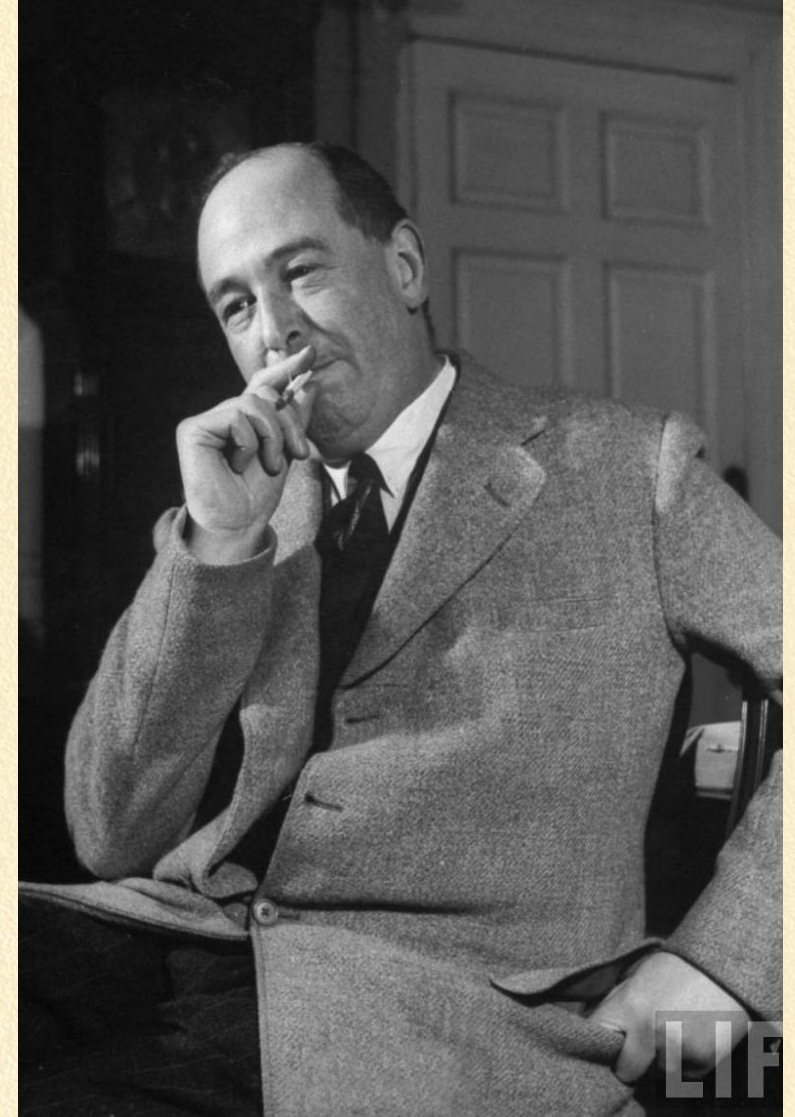
And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.”

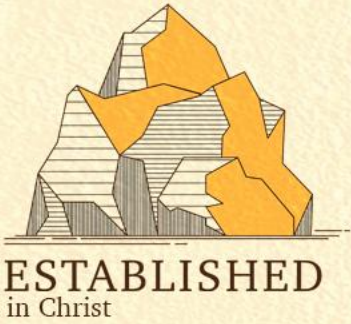
He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”



C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

“We have to be continually reminded of what we believe. Neither this belief nor any other will automatically remain alive in the mind. **It must be fed.**”





Colossians 1:15-20 (page 983)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



Colossians 1:15

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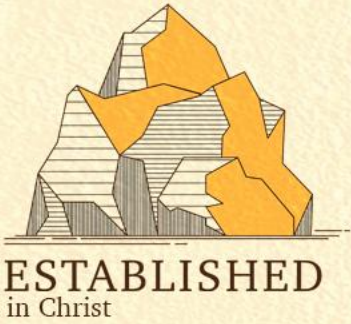
Hebrews 1:3

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.



John 1:18

No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.



John 14:6-9

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”
Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”



Colossians 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn of all creation.**



Colossians 1:16

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.



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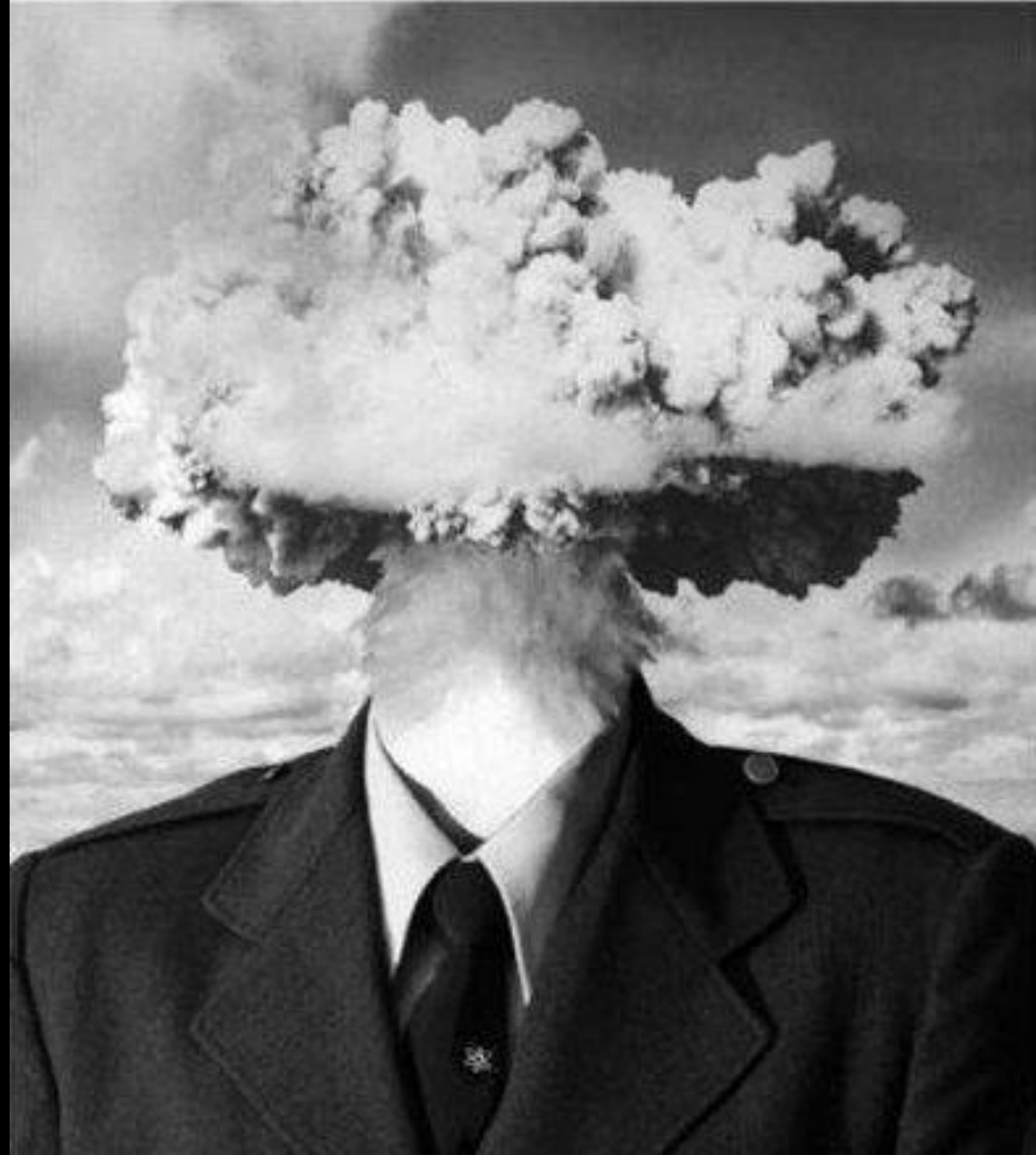
Romans 11:36

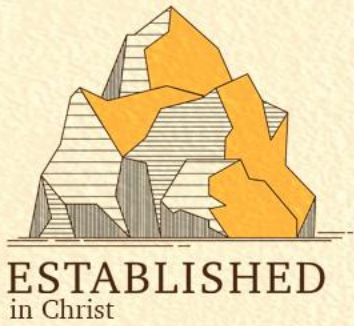
For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.



1 Corinthians 8:6

— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.





Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

“If you are really saved, brethren, not a hair of your heads belongs to yourselves: Christ’s blood has either bought you or it has not, and if it has, then you are altogether Christ’s, every bit of you, and you are neither to eat nor drink, nor sleep, but for Christ.”





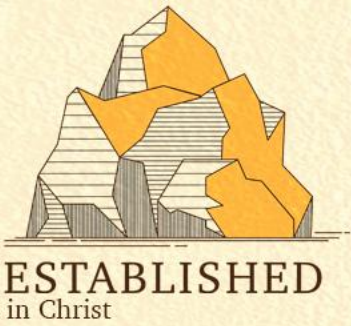
Jesus Created “All Things”

- He created all things in heaven and on earth.
- He created all things visible and invisible.
- He created all thrones dominions, rulers, and authorities.



Colossians 1:17

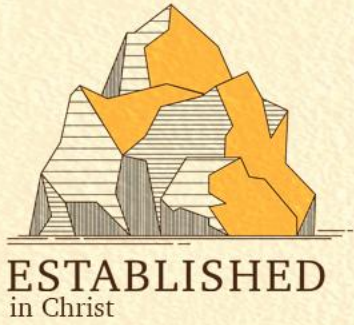
And **he is before all things**, and in him all things hold together.



Proverbs 8:27-31

("Wisdom" Personified)

When [God] established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.



Colossians 1:17

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.



Hebrews 1:3

He [Jesus Christ] upholds the universe by the word of his power.

THE FINE-TUNING OF THE UNIVERSE

COSMIC CONSTANTS

- Cosmological Constant: 1 in 10^{120}
- Gravitational Constant: 1 in 10^{60}
- Electromagnetic Force: 1 in 10^{40}
- Strong & Weak Nuclear Forces: 1 in 10^{38}

Extreme Precision

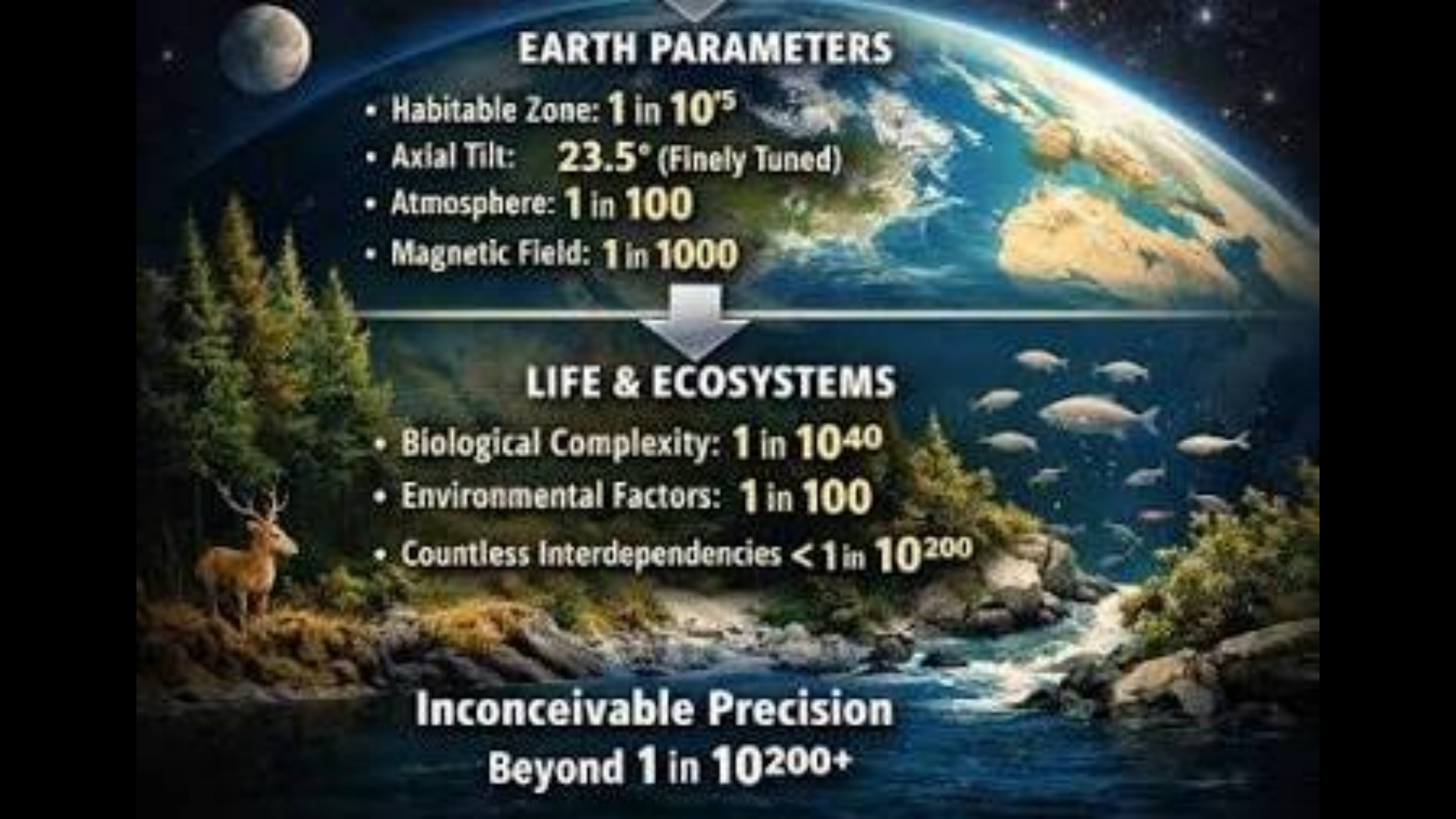
< 1 in 10^{120}

GALAXIES & STARS

1 in 10^{60}

SOLAR SYSTEM

1 in 10^{30}



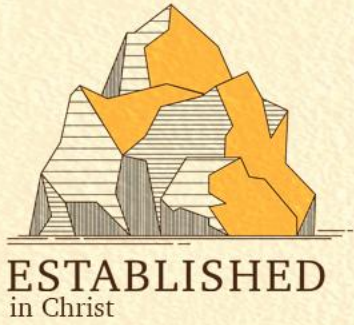
EARTH PARAMETERS

- Habitable Zone: **1 in 10^5**
- Axial Tilt: **23.5°** (Finely Tuned)
- Atmosphere: **1 in 100**
- Magnetic Field: **1 in 1000**

LIFE & ECOSYSTEMS

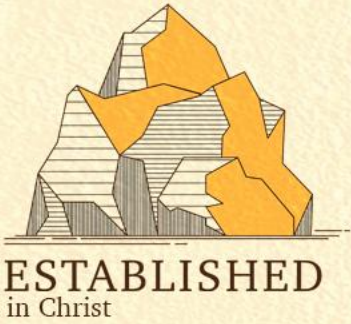
- Biological Complexity: **1 in 10^{40}**
- Environmental Factors: **1 in 100**
- Countless Interdependencies **< 1 in 10^{200}**

Inconceivable Precision
Beyond 1 in 10^{200+}



Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church.



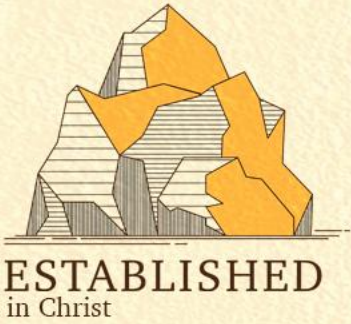
Colossians 2:18-19

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not **holding fast to the Head**, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.



Colossians 2:18

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.



1 Corinthians 15:20-24

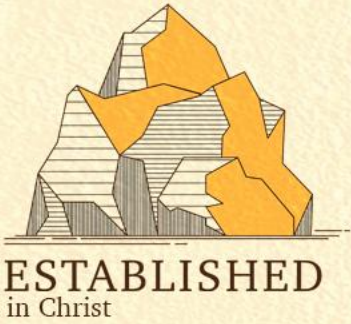
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.



Hebrews 2:8

...at present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.



Hebrews 2:8

...at present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

Psalms 110:1

The Lord says to my Lord [Jesus]: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”



Colossians 1:19

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased
to dwell,



John 17:3

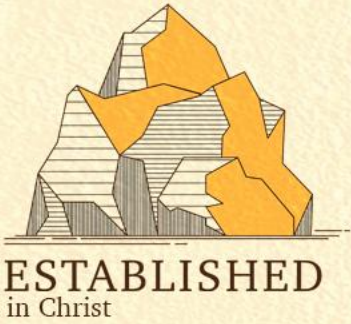
And this is eternal life, that they know you, **the only true God,**
and Jesus Christ whom you
have sent.



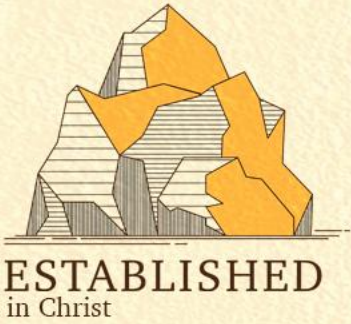
1. Notice Jesus did not say, “Only the Father is the true God.” This leaves room for the Trinity, where there is only one God, and Jesus and the Father are one.



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2. Jude 4 refers to Jesus as “our only Master and Lord.” But it would be nonsense to use this to claim that the Father is not also Master and Lord.



1. Notice Jesus did not say, “Only the Father is the true God.” This leaves room for the Trinity, where there is only one God, and Jesus and the Father are one.
2. Jude 4 refers to Jesus as “our only Master and Lord.” But it would be nonsense to use this to claim that the Father is not also Master and Lord.
3. 1 John 5:20 (probably the same John) wrote, “He [Jesus] is the true God and eternal life.”



4. The context of John 17 obliterates the idea that Jesus did not think he was God:

- We see mutual glorification of Father and Son which would be blasphemous if Jesus wasn't God.
- Jesus has authority over all flesh, which is also the Father's role.
- Jesus had a pre-existent glory with the Father before creation.



2 Corinthians 5:19 NASB

...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed to us the word of reconciliation.



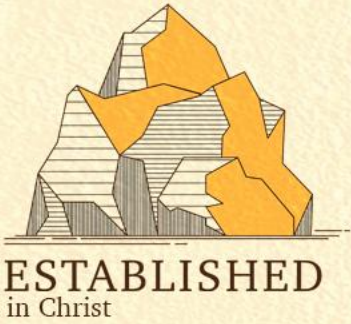
Colossians 1:20

...and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



John 3:16

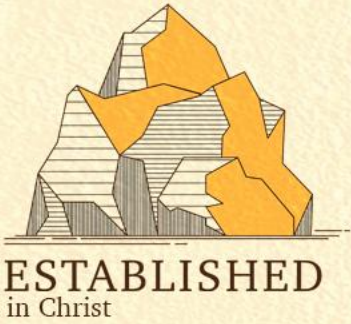
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him** should not perish but have eternal life.



Romans 8:20-22

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

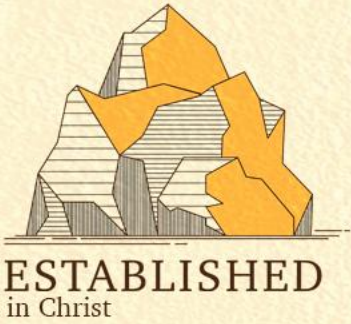
For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.



Compare Old & New Testament

Romans 14:11 (Old Testament quote from Isaiah)

...for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”



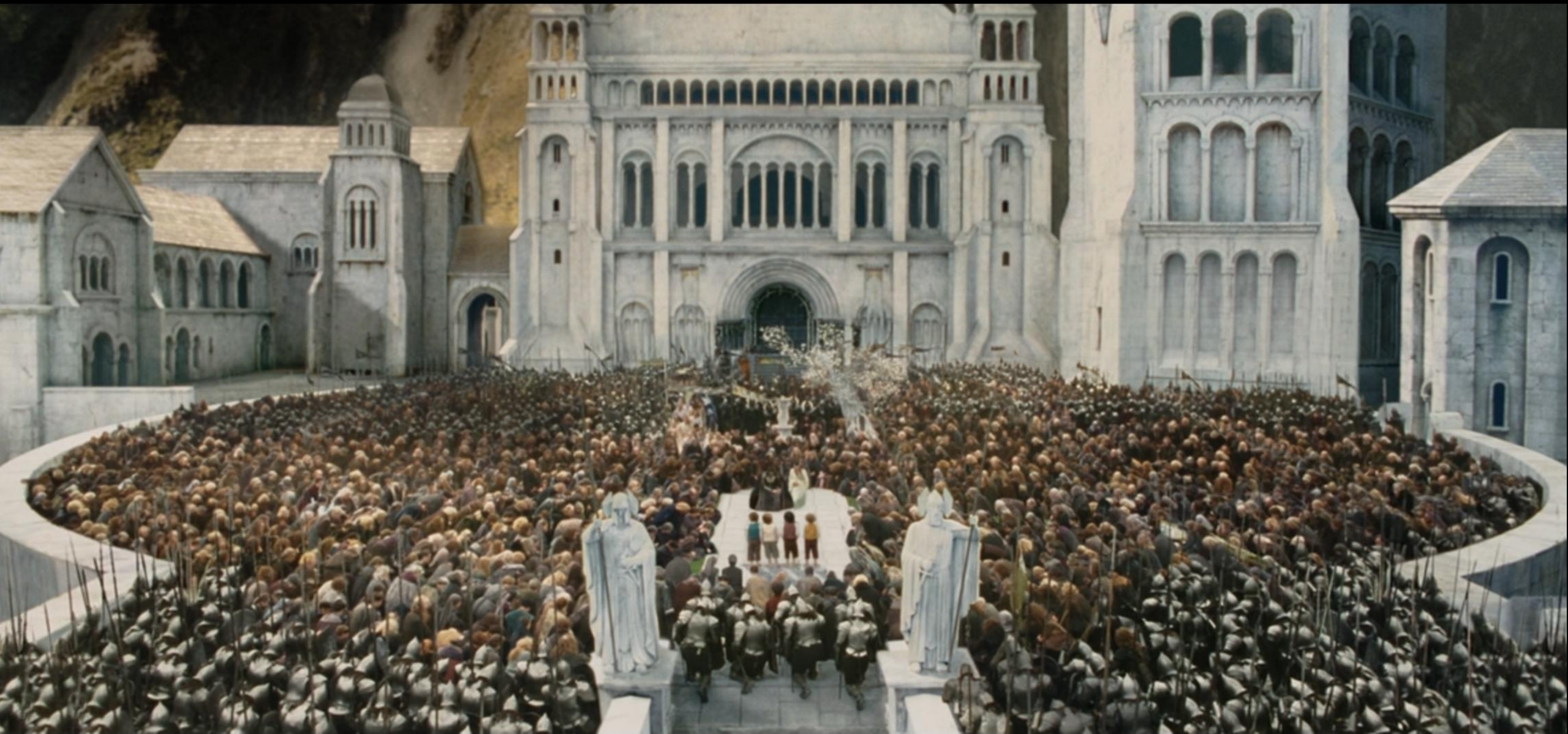
Compare Old & New Testament

Romans 14:11 (Old Testament quote from Isaiah)

...for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

Philippians 2:9-11 (New Testament quote by Paul)

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



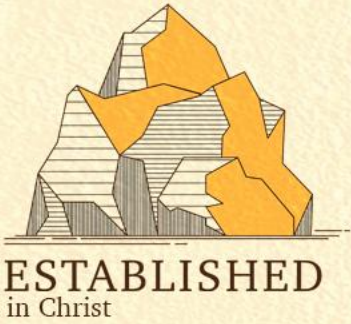




**“God has two thrones: one in the highest heavens,
the other in the lowliest heart.”**

- Dwight L. Moody





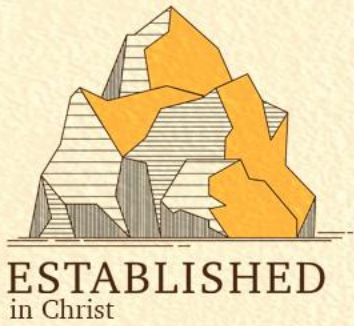
Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place...

and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Kids' Question of the Week



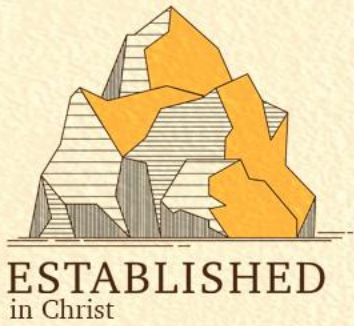


What word does Paul use to describe Christ that means: of supreme rank, dignity, and importance?



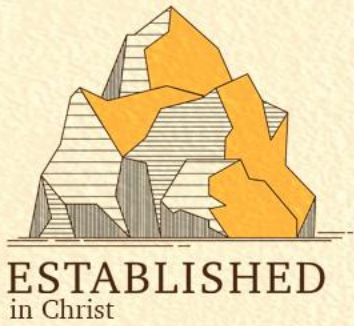
What word does Paul use to describe Christ that means: of supreme rank, dignity, and importance?

PREEMINENT!



Jesus is Worthy of:

1. **Our Highest Devotion:** He should be first in our love, time, thoughts, and choices.
2. **Our Complete Dependence:** We look to him as the ultimate source of life, strength, and spiritual wisdom.
3. **Our Ultimate Focus:** Every part of life and worship centers on honoring his supreme worth.



On St. Patrick's Breastplate:

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.