

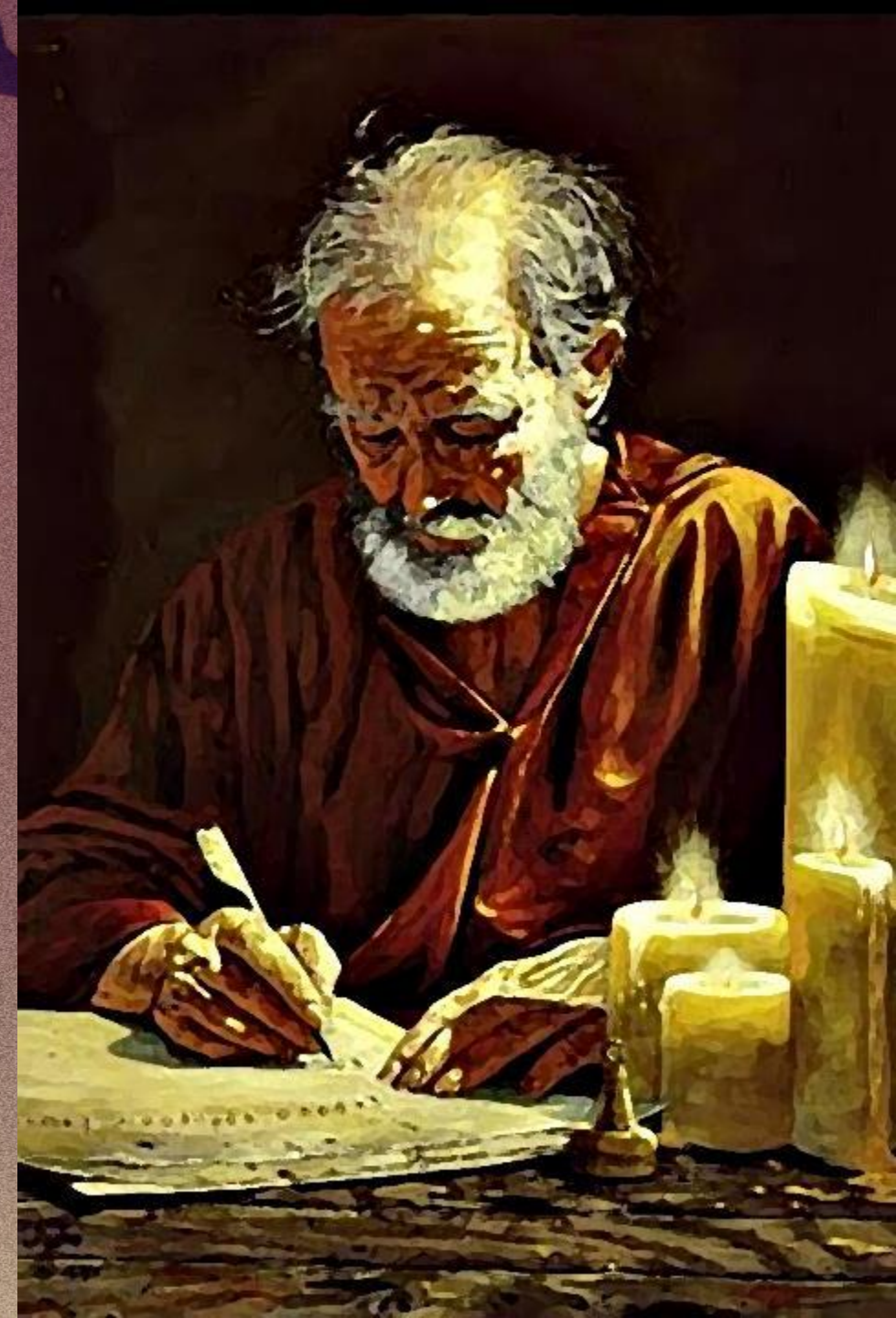
# The Apostle Paul

Saved by grace

*1 Timothy 1:12-16 (p 1362)*

A man of humility

*1 Corinthians 1:14-17; 2:1-5 (p 1311)*





# A THORN IN THE FLESH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

p 1335

# Paul's Vision

Jacob had a vision *Genesis 28:10-22*  
(p 31)

Moses had a vision *Exodus 33:17-23*  
(p 101)

The book of *Ezekiel* is filled with visionary images; consider the *Revelation* by John.

After Paul describes his great vision, he also tells of a condition that came because of his vision.

*2 Corinthians 12:7-10* (p 1335)



A THORN  
IN THE  
FLESH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

# Paul's Thorn In The Flesh

What was his thorn in the flesh?

"See with what large letters I have written  
to you with my own hand!"

*Galatians 6:11 (p 1342)*

"The ridiculous opinions of  
commentators is a melancholy  
attestation of their inclination to  
fanciful conjecture where it is  
impossible in the nature of the case to  
ascertain the truth."

*(Albert Barnes)*

A THORN  
IN THE  
FLESH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

# Paul's Thorn In The Flesh

THE SECRET THINGS BELONG TO THE LORD OUR GOD, BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE REVEALED BELONG TO US AND TO OUR CHILDREN FOREVER, THAT WE MAY DO ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LAW.

**Deuteronomy 29:29 (p 237)**

1. There was a reason why he was given the thorn.
2. There was his initial reaction to the thorn.
3. There was his reaction to the answer to the thorn.

A THORN  
IN THE  
FLESH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

# The Reason Paul Was Given A Thorn In The Flesh

- ✓ On the road to Damascus - **Acts 9:3-6**
- ✓ In Jerusalem - **Acts 22:17-21**
- ✓ At Troas - **Acts 16:8-10**
- ✓ In Corinth - **Acts 18:9-11**
- ✓ In Jerusalem again - **Acts 23:11**
- ✓ On his way to Rome - **Acts 27:22-25**

The vision of Paradise  
**2 Corinthians 12:1-6**  
(p 1335)

A THORN  
IN THE  
FLESH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

# The Reason Paul Was Given A Thorn In The Flesh

**PRIDE** OVER THESE REVELATIONS  
**PRIDE**

Warnings to elders

*1 Timothy 3:6 (p 1363)*

Paul had a humble heart; a bondservant

*1 Corinthians 4:6-13 (p 1313)*

A **THORN**  
IN THE **FLESH**

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

# His First Reaction to The Thorn Was A Desperate Plea

Being human he wanted to get rid of it

*2 Corinthians 12:8 (p 1335)*

Pleaded with the Lord THREE TIMES!!!

Like Jesus in Gethsemane

*Luke 22:39-43 (p 1215)*

## PRAY

- Persistent *Luke 18:1-8 (p 1207)*
- Earnestly *Matthew 7:7 (p 1118)*
- Specifically, as Paul did!

A THORN  
IN THE  
FLESH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10



# Paul's Faith Is Found In His Acceptance Of What He Could Not And What God Would Not Change

My grace is sufficient for you

My strength is made perfect in weakness

How did Paul react?

*Romans 5:3-5*

What did he NOT do? *(p 1297)*

What did he do?

He reaffirmed his faith in God

“I will boast in my infirmities”

“I take pleasure in ...”

“When I am weak, I am strong”

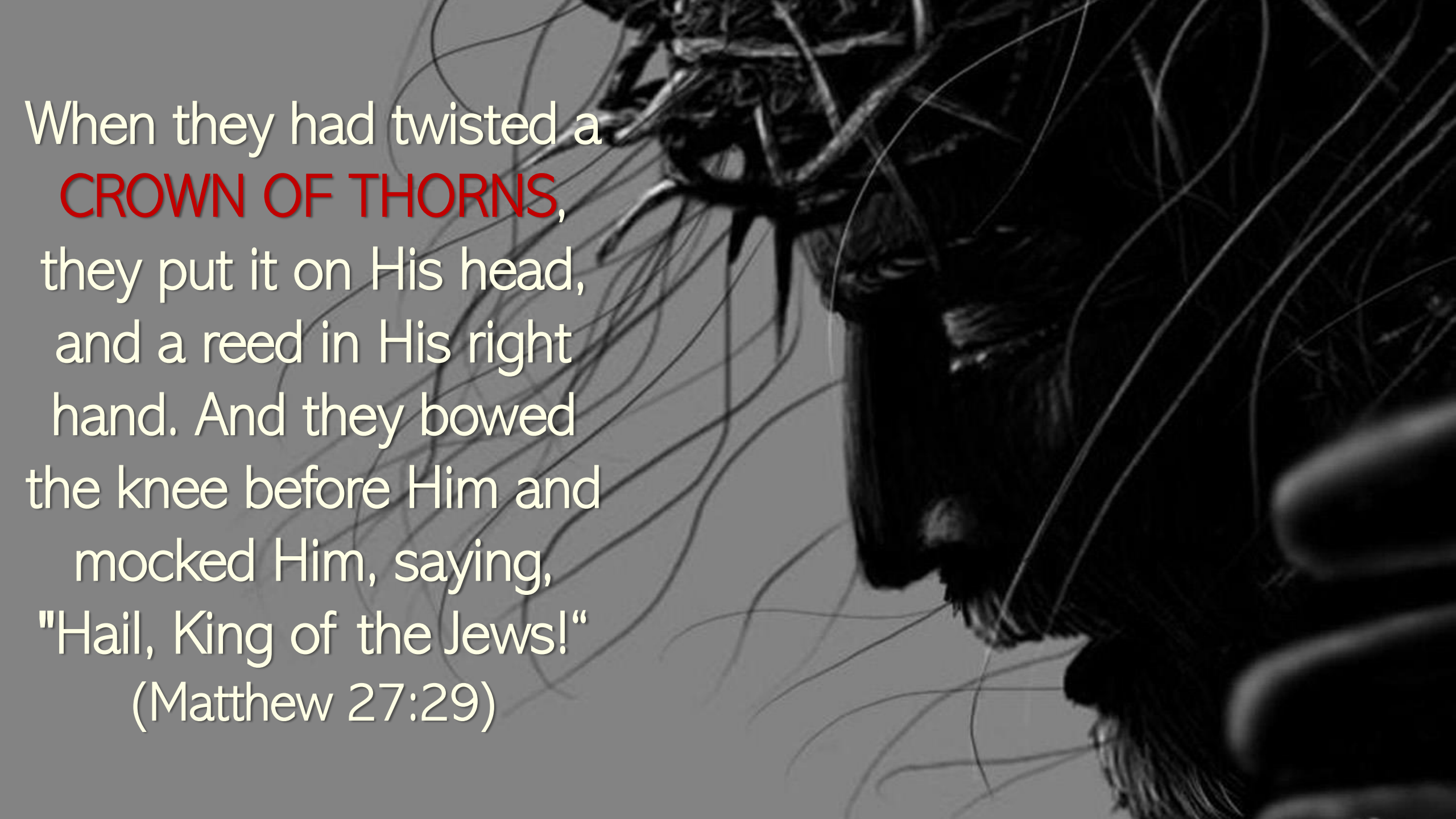
A THORN  
IN THE  
FLESH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10



**A THORN  
IN THE FLESH**

*2 Timothy 4:17-18 (p 1369)*



When they had twisted a  
**CROWN OF THORNS**,  
they put it on His head,  
and a reed in His right  
hand. And they bowed  
the knee before Him and  
mocked Him, saying,  
"Hail, King of the Jews!"  
(Matthew 27:29)