

# The Mystery of Agony

A black and white photograph of a person sitting on the floor in a long, dark hallway. The person is silhouetted against a bright light source at the end of the hallway, which creates a strong contrast and casts long shadows. The person appears to be in a state of distress or contemplation, with their head resting on their hand. The hallway has a polished floor that reflects the light, and the walls are dark and textured.

Genesis 34, 35





# Genesis 34

<sup>1</sup> Now Dinah, the daughter Leah had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the women of the land. <sup>2</sup> When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the ruler of that area, saw her, he took her and raped her. <sup>3</sup> His heart was drawn to Dinah daughter of Jacob; he loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. <sup>4</sup> And Shechem said to his father Hamor, "Get me this girl as my wife."

<sup>5</sup> **When Jacob heard** that his daughter Dinah had been defiled, **his sons were in the fields** with his livestock; **so he did nothing** about it until they came home. ....

<sup>13</sup> Because their sister Dinah had been defiled, **Jacob's sons replied deceitfully** as they spoke to Shechem and his father Hamor. ...

v15 .. on one condition only: that you become like us by **circumcising all your males**.

<sup>18</sup> Their proposal seemed good to Hamor and his son Shechem. <sup>19</sup> The young man, who was the most honored of all his father's family, **lost no time in doing what they said**, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter. ....

# Genesis 34

<sup>25</sup> **Three days later**, while all of them were still in pain, two of Jacob's sons, **Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers**, took their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male. ..

26-28 ... and took Dinah from Shechem's house and left. <sup>27</sup> The sons of Jacob came ... and looted the city .. They seized their flocks .. and .. and everything else .. <sup>29</sup> They carried off all their wealth and all their women and children, taking as plunder everything in the houses.

<sup>30</sup> Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought **trouble on me** by making me a stench to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land. We are few in number, and if they join forces **against me and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed.**"

<sup>31</sup> But they replied, "**Should he have treated** our sister like a prostitute?"

# Genesis 35

<sup>1</sup> Then God said to Jacob, “Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.”

<sup>2</sup> So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. <sup>3</sup> Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.” <sup>4</sup> So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. <sup>5</sup> Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.

(Jacob and all the people ...came to Luz (that is, Bethel) )

<sup>8</sup> Now Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died and was buried under the oak outside Bethel. So it was named Allon Bakuth. (Oak of weeping)

# The Reasons of Misery

*"Ignorant, playful teen."*

- v2b, ",,, saw.. took.. and raped.."

*"unattended, unmarried girl  
could be a legitimate prey.."*

*"Carefree father."*

**"Unfaithful Jacob."**



## The Revenge of Atrocity



DECEPTION

# The Revenge of Atrocity



- Slaughter every male, looted the city, took away their flocks.. their wealth.. their women and children.. plunder everything !



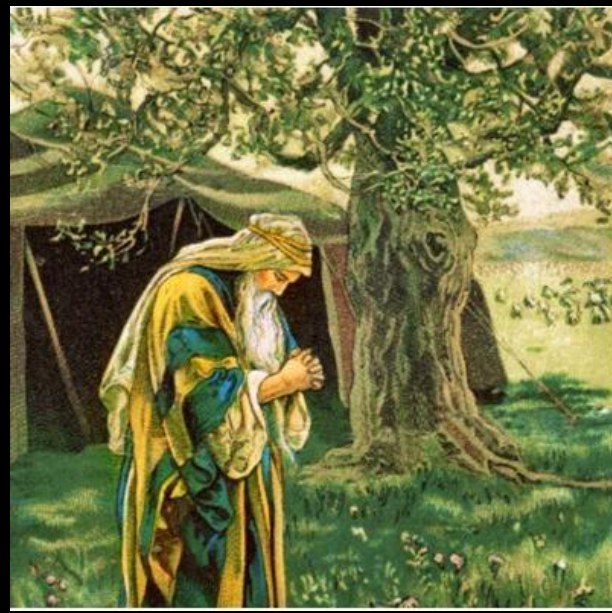
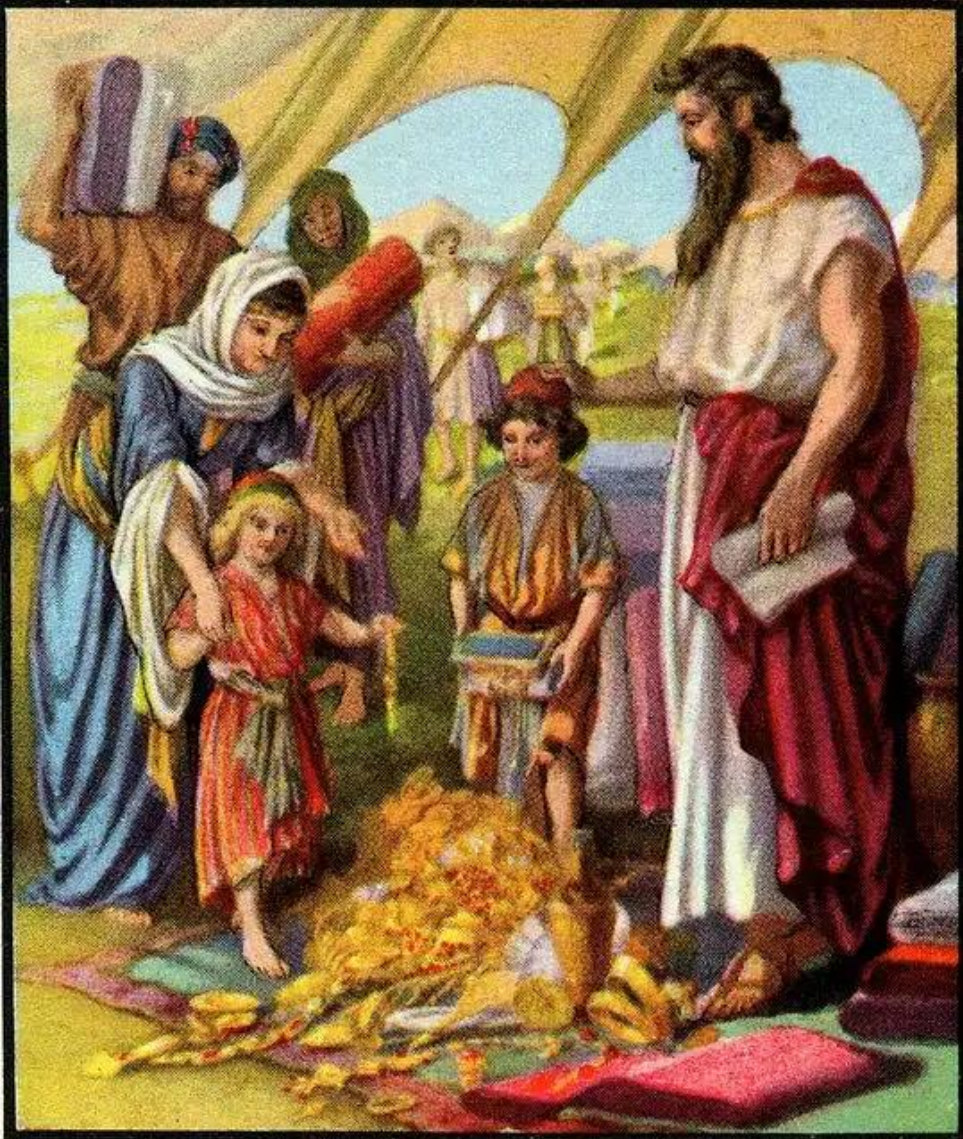
The Revenge of Atrocity

# The Regret of Laxity



- “You have brought trouble on me ..., and if they join forces against me and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed.”
- the silence of Jacob
  - “Why? Why me?”
  - “Why my daughter?”
- “Go up to Bethel..”

# The Regret of Laxity



## ■ Death of Deborah

And it came to pass, when Israel dwelled in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it...

—Genesis 35:22

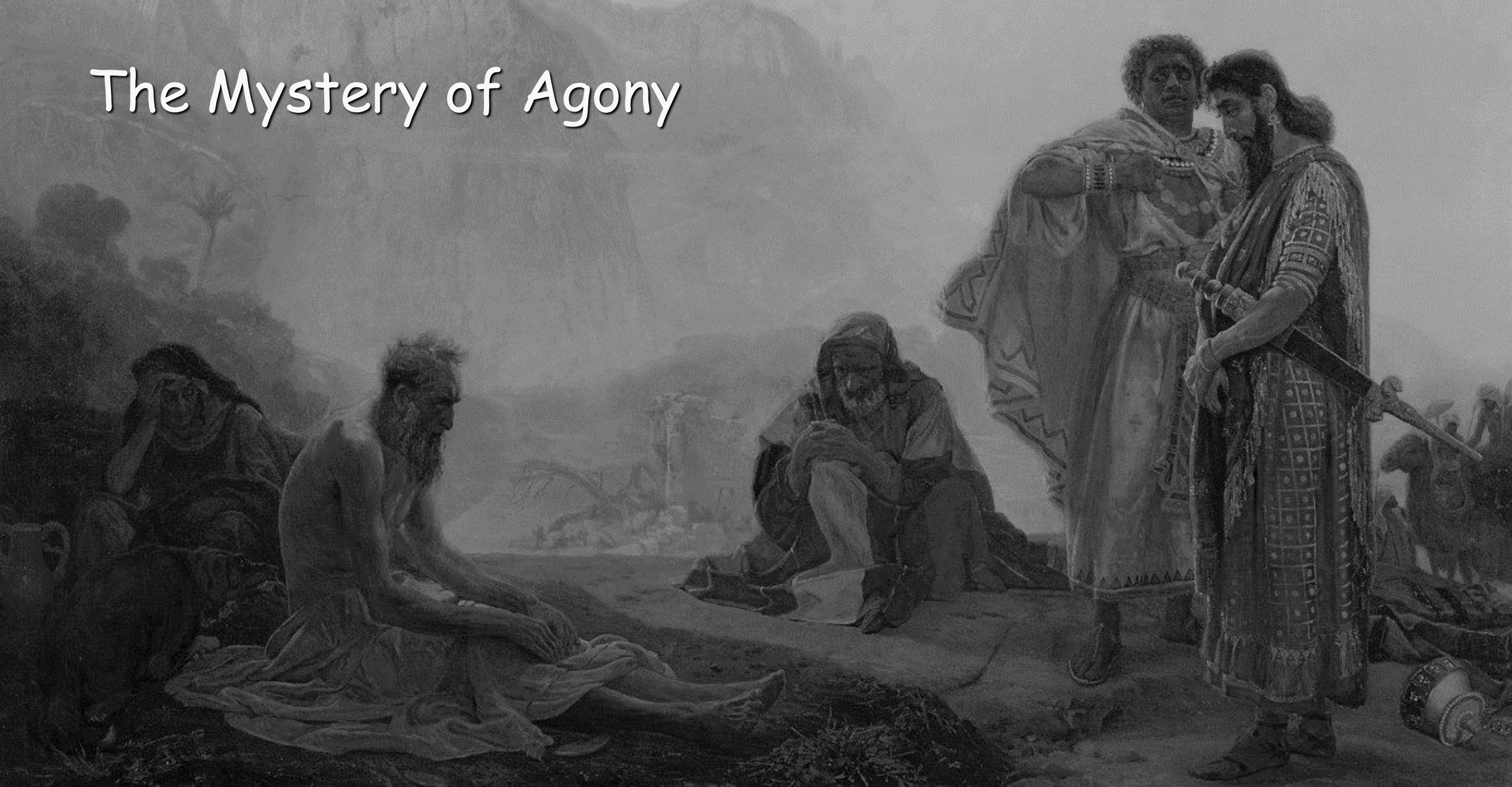
- Death of Rachel
- Benoni vs Benjamin



# The Mystery of Agony



# The Mystery of Agony





# Benoni Or Benjamin

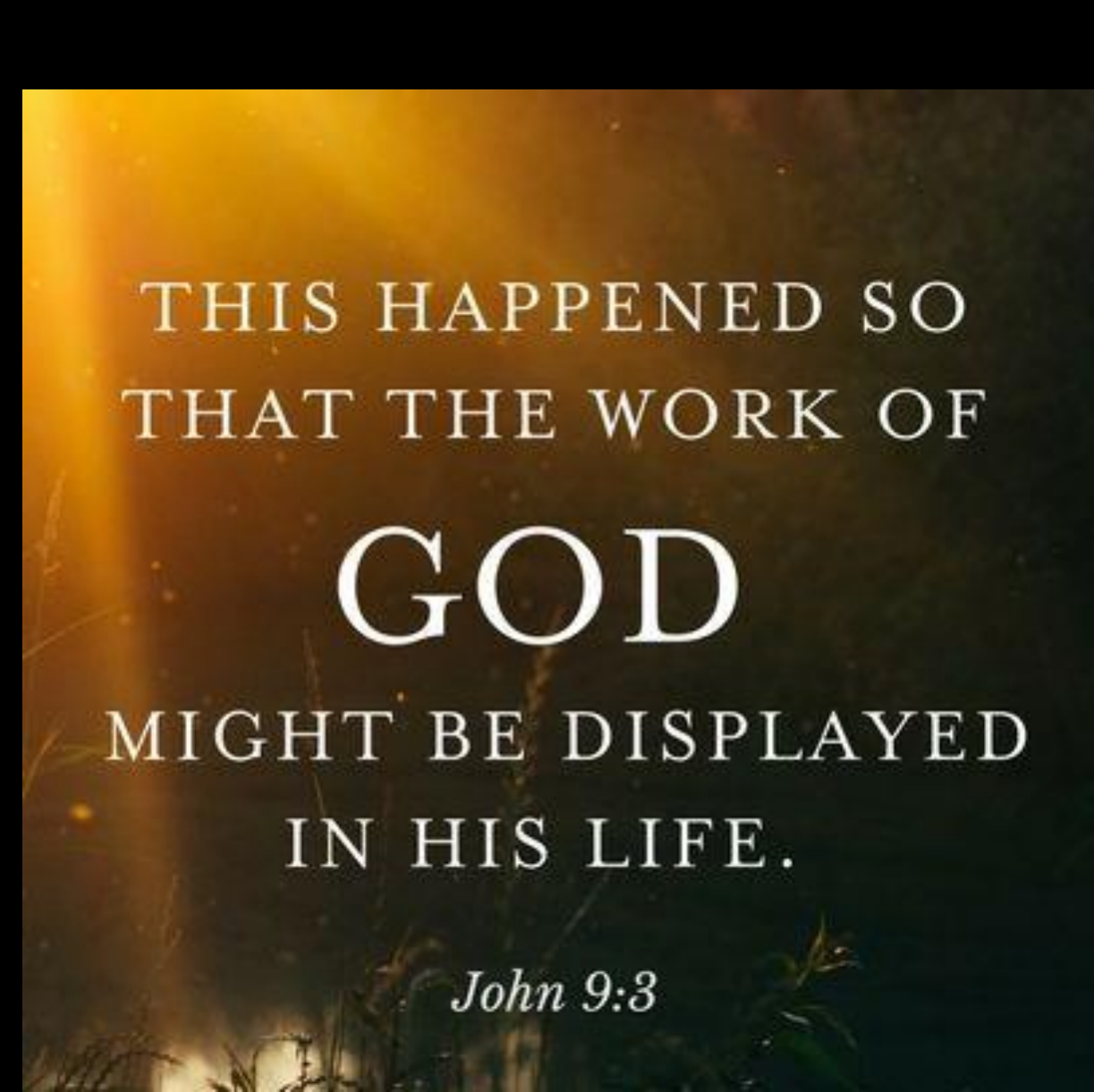
## **The Mystery of Agony**

# The Mystery of Agony

- Misery that has no plausible explanation
  - Asking why that never get any satisfactory answer
  - Looking for reasons that never help
  - Praying for divine intervention that may not happen

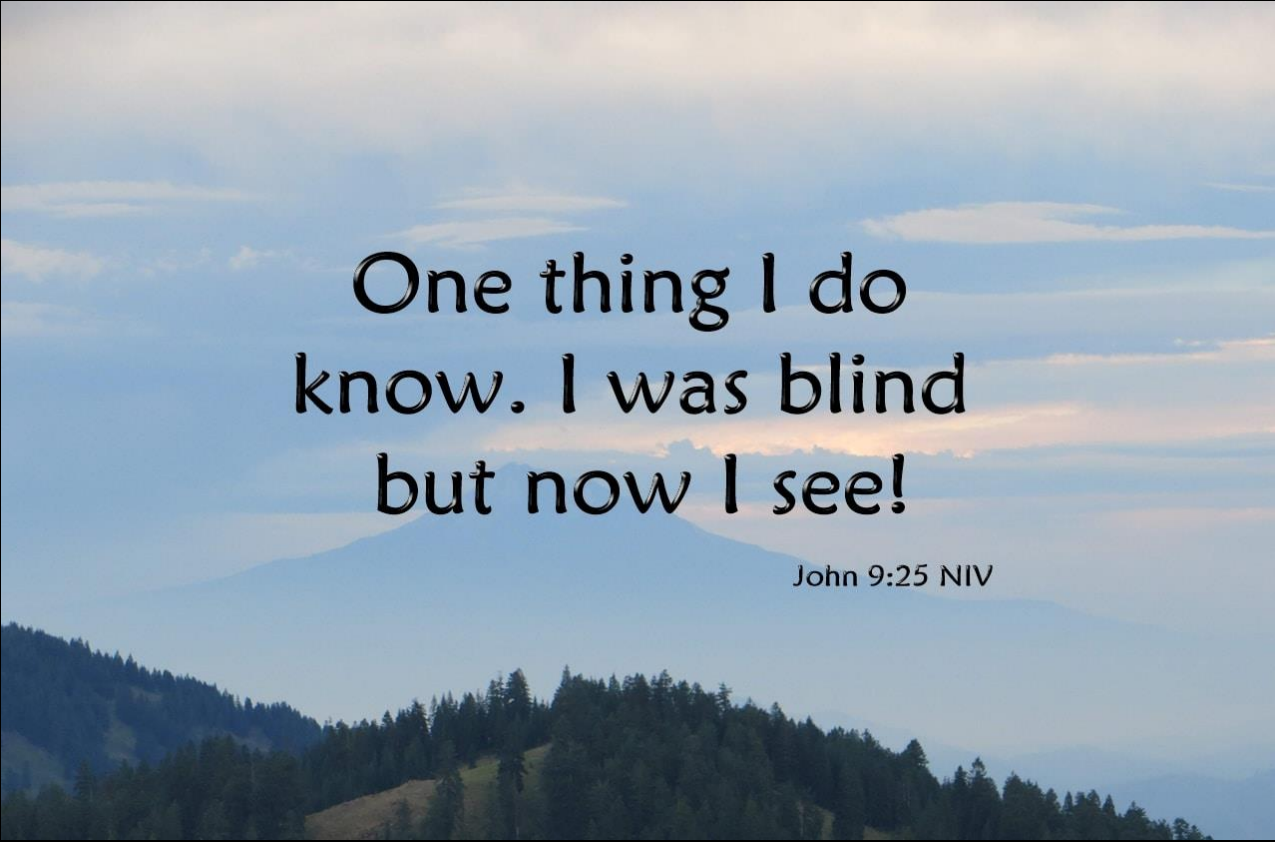






THIS HAPPENED SO  
THAT THE WORK OF  
**GOD**  
MIGHT BE DISPLAYED  
IN HIS LIFE.

*John 9:3*



One thing I do  
know. I was blind  
but now I see!

John 9:25 NIV

# The Hope of Depravity



The Mystery of Agony







The Depravity of man