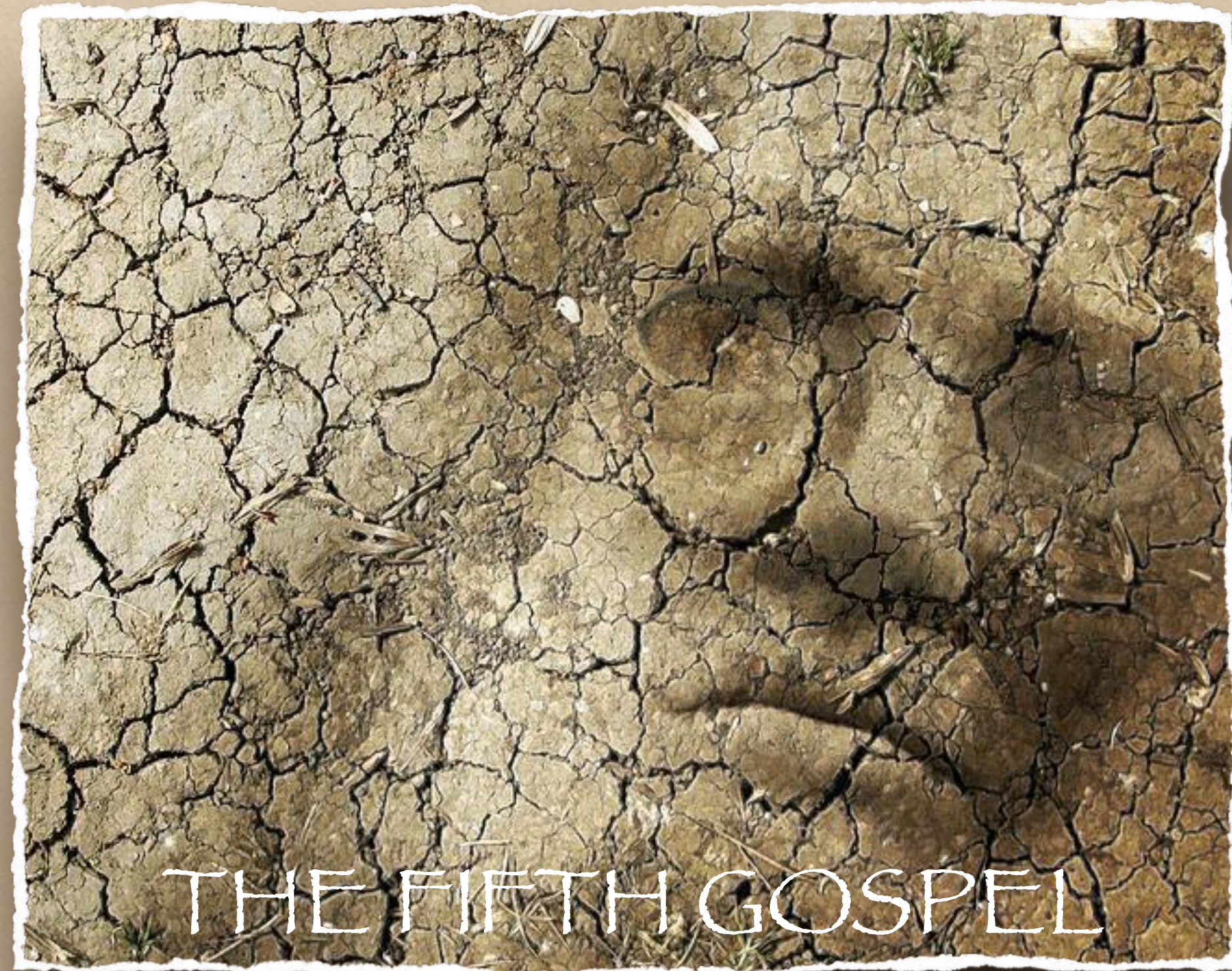




THE WATER WE SWIM IN

“No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it’s not the same river and he’s not the same man”. Heraclitus



“Isaiah has brought comfort and hope to the Jews in exile in all ages, down to and including the present century, but unfortunately it has often been used by some Christians as a vicious weapon to wound and damage them, warping the very heart of God and his love for all his lost & wandering children.”



THE SET UP

“Yahweh had assumed that some in Israel would accept responsibility for justice, which is Israel’s great reason for being. But no, none! Nobody cared; nobody bothered. Nobody took the trouble.

The community was in a deeply sorry state.”

Brueggemann

“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME”

- ◆ The Spirit of the Lord, the Eternal is on me. The Lord has appointed me for a special purpose. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to repair broken hearts, And to declare to those who are held captive and bound in prison, “Be free from your imprisonment!”

Isaiah 61:1



THE JUBILEE OF FORGIVENESS

- ◆ “He has sent me to announce the year of Jubilee, the season of the Lord’s favour: for our enemies it will be a day of God’s wrath. For those who mourn it will be a time of comfort.” Isaiah 61:2



- ◆ “They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the edge of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.” Luke 4:29

LUKE 4:14-24

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

Everyone was raving about Jesus, so impressed were they by the gracious words flowing from his lips. They said, "This is Joseph's son, isn't it?"

Then Jesus said to them, "Undoubtedly, you will quote this saying to me: 'Doctor, heal yourself. Do here in your hometown what we've heard you did in Capernaum.'"

He said, "I assure you that no prophet is welcome in the prophet's hometown.

"TODAY THE SCRIPTURE HAS BEEN
FULFILLED"



THE GREAT "INSTEAD"

- ◆ As for those who grieve over Zion, God has sent me to give them a beautiful crown *in exchange* for ashes, To anoint them with gladness *instead* of sorrow, to wrap them in victory, joy and praise *instead* of depression and sadness. People will call them magnificent, like great towering trees standing for what is right. *They stand in the glory of the Eternal who planted them.*

Isaiah 61:3



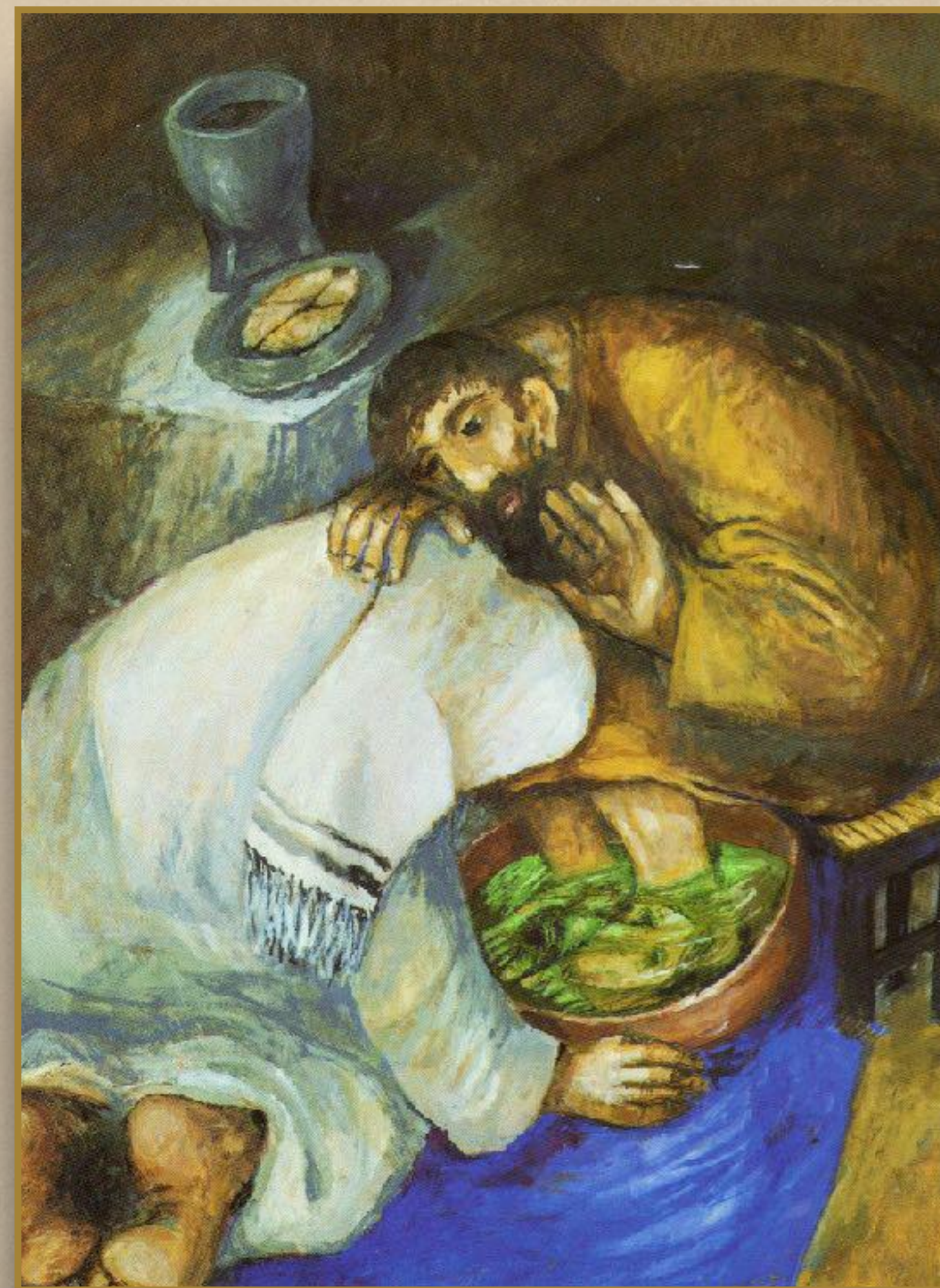
DAYANU: FROM RUINS TO REWARDS

- ◆ And they will rebuild this place from ancient ruins; they will restore the ages-old, once-splendid structures; They will renew Israel's ruined cities from the ashes and debris that laid untouched for many generations.
- ◆ And people will come from all over to serve you: Outsiders will tend your flocks, plough your fields, and prune your vines.
- ◆ You will be known as the ones specially chosen by the Eternal as priests; people will speak of you as ministers of our God. And the wealth of nations will come to you for your delight and enrichment.
- ◆ Many called you disgraced and defiled and said that shame should be your share of things. Yet you suffered doubly and lived in disgrace; So double will be your share, and with joy everlasting.
- ◆ For I, the Eternal, love justice. I hate stealing and all manner of wrongdoing. In faithfulness to those who do justice, I promise they will be rewarded for their work; and I will establish an everlasting covenant with them.
- ◆ Furthermore, I will promise them My support for their children, so that all nations and everyone around will see that they are the children blessed by the Eternal God.

Isaiah 61: 4-9

“NOT MY WILL BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE”

“Jesus trusted his heavenly Father at every turn and he offers that same assurance to us. Our merit, our ‘building projects’, our calculated victories and successes is not the source of our deliverance. All these misguided attempts at claiming the reward is only another form of captivity, blindness and exile. This very subversion of Jubilee consciousness ultimately drove Jesus out of his hometown and straight to the cross in true Suffering Servant style. In God’s strange upside-down vision of power, we find the road out of exile.”



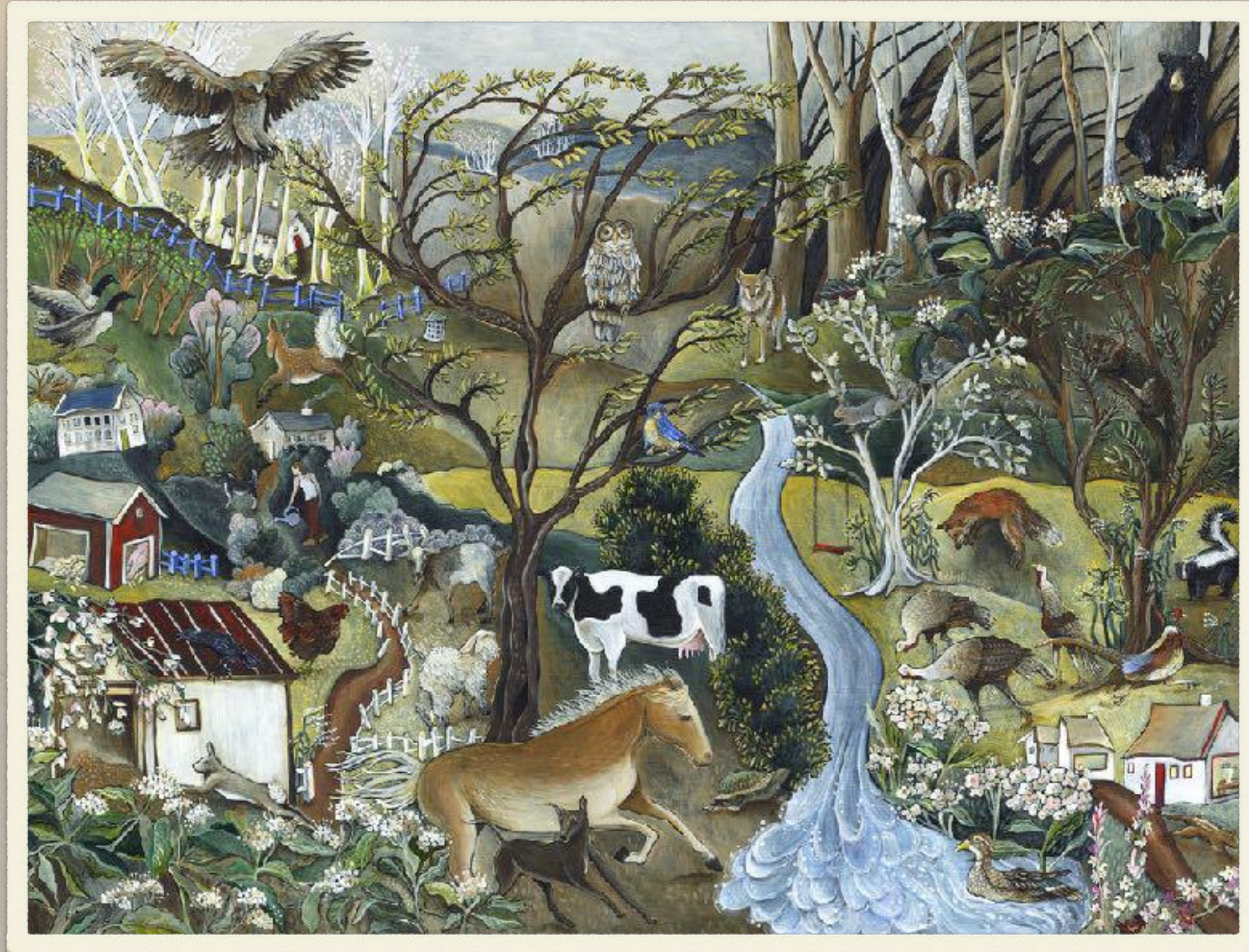
YAHWEH'S MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

- ◆ I am filled with joy and my soul vibrates with exuberant hope, because of the Eternal my God; For He has dressed me with the garment of salvation, wrapped me with the robe of righteousness. It's as though I'm dressed for my wedding day, in the very best: a bridegroom's garland and a bride's jewels.
- ◆ The whole earth sprouts newness and life in the springtime, and green shoots break through the well-seeded garden soil. That's what it is like with the Eternal's victory - the Lord will cause justice and praise to sprout up before all the nations, for all peoples to see.

Isaiah 61:10-11



PRAYERS OF YEARNING, CONFESSION & GRATITUDE



“... may it be fulfilled in your sight.”

THE TIME FOR FLOWERS

Chorus (twice):

The time for flowers will come again,
Maybe in one year, Maybe in ten
There are days despair will win,
But the time for flowers will come again

Chorus (third time):

And the time for flowers has come again,
I know it seemed the world would end
There were days despair did win,
But the time for flowers has come again
The time for flowers has come again



For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61: 11