

AN INVITATION



An Invitation

This quilt is an invitation. The Bible is the inspired word of God. Its message is beautifully simple, yet its subtleties and complexities can keep even the most zealous Bible student engaged for a lifetime. Of course it is impossible to capture the breadth and depth of life-changing Scripture. The quilt does, however, attempt to reflect both the simplicities and complexities of the Bible. Therefore there are various levels of meaning woven into this Bible quilt. Some are straightforward, obvious to any viewer; others are more subtle, as explained below. Any effort to reflect something divinely inspired will have shortcomings, but the quilt’s purpose will be accomplished if viewers are encouraged to immerse themselves regularly and deeply in the inspired word of God.

Soli Deo Gloria!

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“AT FIRST GLANCE”

- Book Titles

For the dedicated student of God’s word, even a simple listing of the 66 books of the Bible is exciting, with each book title bringing to mind another episode in the grand unfolding drama we know as the “Bible.”

- Book Themes

Beyond book titles, it is essential to understand what each book is about. For this quilt, a self-imposed limitation was that no theme could be repeated. (“Love” would have recurred multiple times!) Selecting a single theme can be challenging. Students of the Bible may disagree with the book themes selected for some of the quilt blocks; that may be a good thing. The goal is for everyone to read and meditate upon each book and develop a personal concept of its theme.

- Representative Verses

Identifying a verse which is representative of an entire book is a daunting task. The point is not to select a “favorite” verse, but one which best summarizes that book. Looked at another way, reading the verses sequentially ought to result in a sort of Scriptural continuum—a sequential set of spiritual milestones (positive and negative). These verses should therefore provide a broad panorama of the Bible’s sweeping—and ultimately encouraging—story.

- Illustrative Art

The artwork illustrates an important event or pivotal concept from each book. Brief explanations occur with each book in the next section. Quilting was customized—both with designs and colors—for all 72 blocks. In certain blocks, the quilting is an integral part of the art itself, reinforcing the artwork or theme. This is noted as appropriate for each block/book. Some groups of blocks have interrelated artwork, which is explained in the final narrative section below, entitled “Scriptural Ensembles.”

- The Bible Story's Big Picture: A Short Scriptural Summary
Pure Scripture block pairs occur at the beginning, between the Old and New Testaments, and at the end. Together, these 6 blocks provide a summary of the Bible story.

BE STILL

In the cacophony of today's life, we may find that Bible study is best started if we first spend some time in contemplation—to “be still,” and know God.

CREATION

God created us and an absolutely magnificent universe; He is worthy of glory and honor, and should be Lord of our lives.

PURPOSE

Refusing His lordship has ruined our relationship with God and His wonderful creation—thereby causing us to lose sight of God's plan for us to grow, inclining us to succumb to fear, and robbing us of our faith in the future. But God has a plan, our growth is fundamental to His purpose, and we can be secure in Him, having a confident hope in our future.

GOD'S LOVE

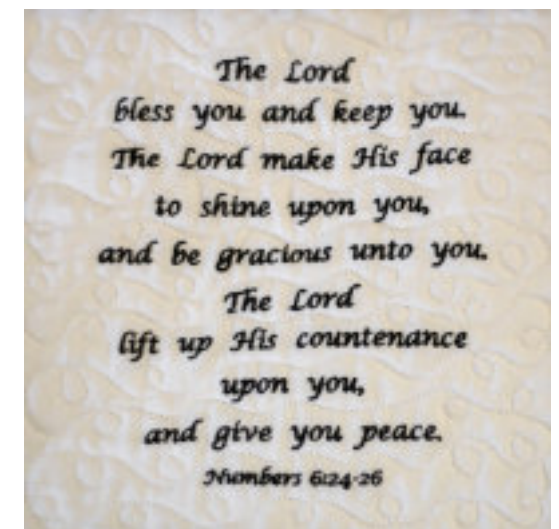
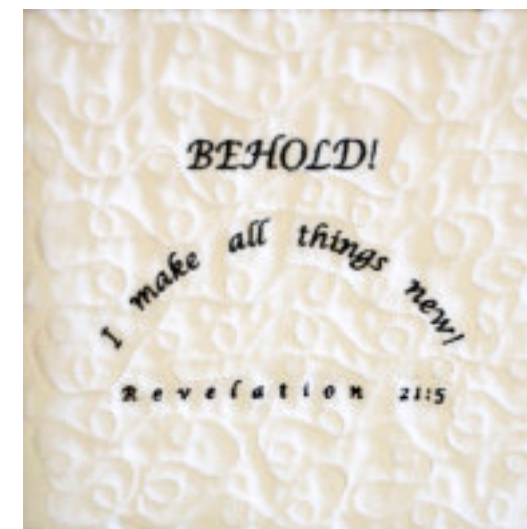
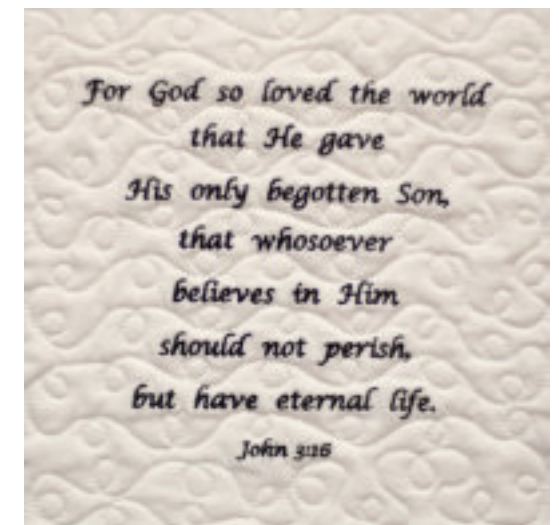
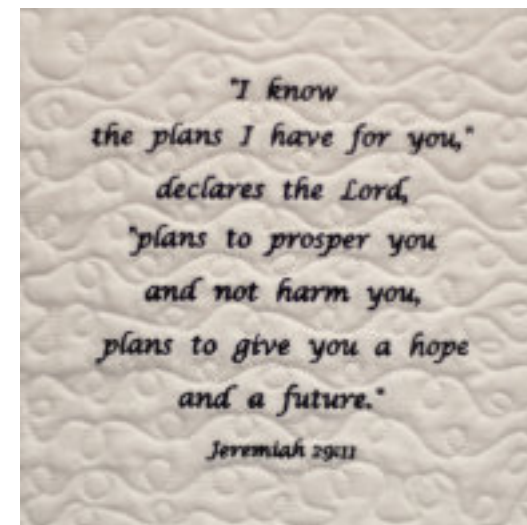
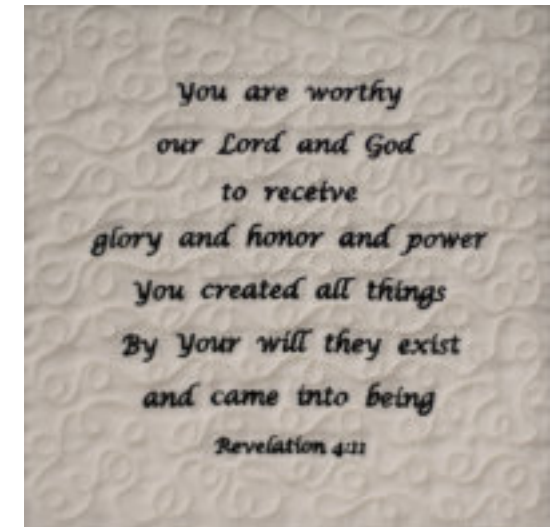
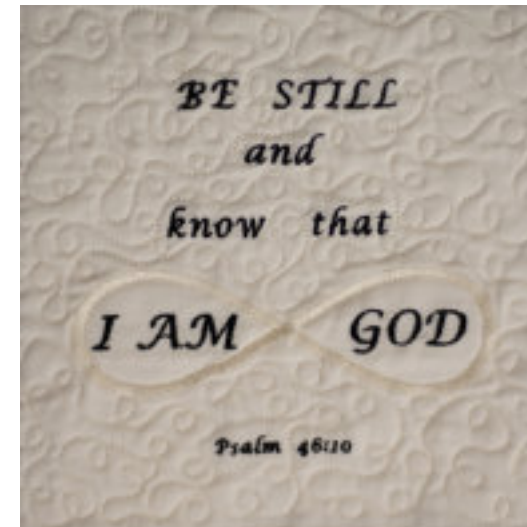
God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus as our Savior. Through His sacrifice, we can receive the forgiveness of sins, enjoy a gracefully restored relationship with our heavenly Father, and embrace the gift of eternal life. This promise of spiritual healing and a restored relationship is extended to all.

ALL THINGS NEW

Christ has the power to renew all things—including a fallen creation. Renewing transformation is coming with Christ, but the “Good News” is that our own renewing transformation can start right now.

BLESSINGS

Fundamentally, our Lord offers His blessings, protection, light, grace, acceptance, and peace. We should in turn be a channel of blessings to others, reach out to protect the helpless, reflect His light into a dark world, be gracious because of the grace we have mercifully received, welcome seekers who are diligently pursuing truth, and be an active peacemaker.



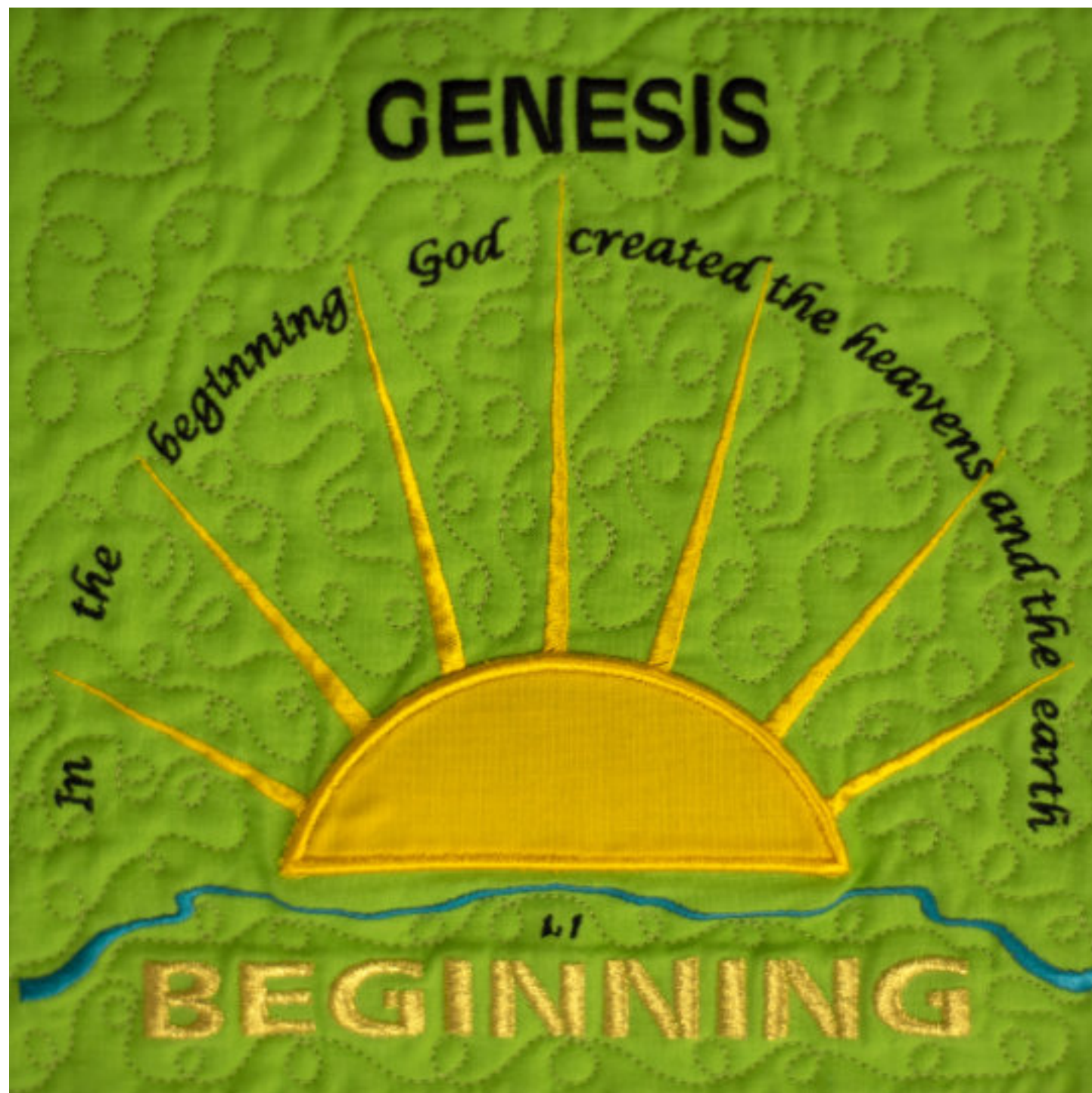
*BE STILL
and
know that*

I AM GOD

Psalm 46:10

*You are worthy
our Lord and God
to receive
glory and honor and power
You created all things
By Your will they exist
and came into being*

Revelation 4:11



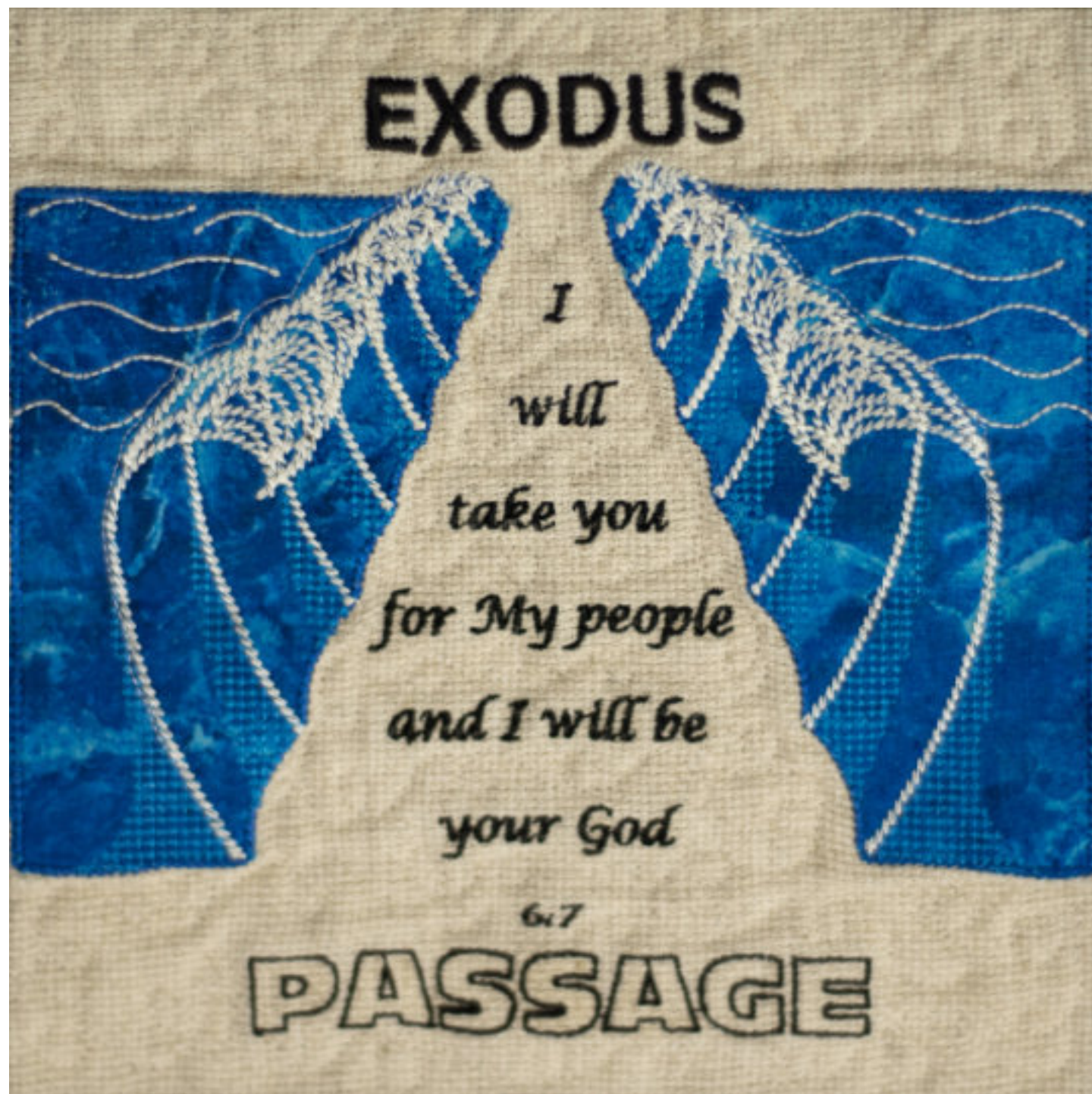
GENESIS

Theme: *BEGINNING*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1

50 chapters. The events occurring in Genesis are pivotal to understanding the rest of the Bible. “Genesis” means “beginning.” Genesis is a book of beginnings. The first part describes God’s creation of the world, the beginning of mankind’s sin in disobeying God, the flood and new beginning, and continued sin. The events occurring in the later chapters underscore the importance of God’s plan and diversity of family. Here we find the “genesis” of the Hebrew nation: The selection of Abraham & his children to be God’s chosen people— chosen not for special favors, but for a special purpose. It is an imperfect family which will be shaped for God’s purpose over centuries.

Art/Symbolism: The green background symbolizes new life, while the rising sun represents overall new creation. The 6 rays to each side signify the magnificence of the 6 days of creation. The 7th ray pointing upward reminds us that God rested on the 7th day, and the importance of pausing to lift praise and thanksgiving to our Creator. The river is the river which ran through Eden (it split into 4 large rivers after it exited Eden). The quilting reminds us of the lush, paradisiacal Garden.



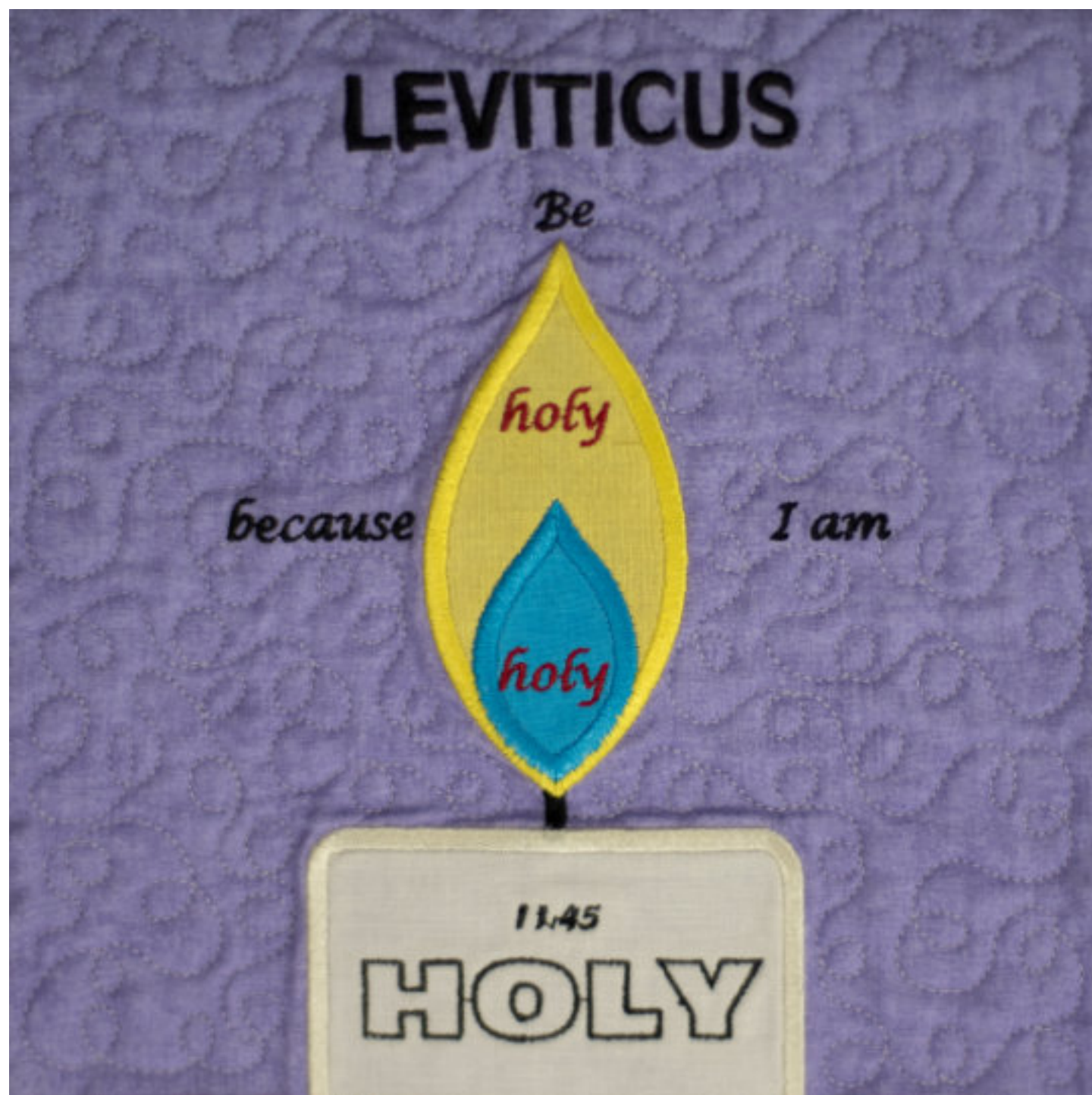
EXODUS

Theme: *PASSAGE*

“I will take you for My people, and I will be your God.” – Exodus 6:7

40 chapters. “Exodus” means “going out.” It is not just about a journey; it is about rescue from captivity and a passage to a whole new life. Moses is chosen by God to lead the Israelites to freedom from their oppression in Egypt. This is accomplished through a series of miracles. After a relatively short trip to Mt. Sinai, there is a one year pause as the covenant is established with the Ten Commandments, laws to govern the nation, and details about the Tabernacle. A covenant is a solemn promise between two parties. The latter part of Exodus covers that covenant – what both God and Israel promise, and what will happen if Israel breaks its part of the promise.

Art/Symbolism: Most of Exodus takes place in sandy regions, and the background has unusual material to reflect that. The dramatic crossing of the Red Sea is pictured. Early in the book, God makes 4 important promises. The first 3 are more immediate, regarding freedom from bondage. The 4th culminating Scripture was chosen for this block. It is by far the most far-reaching in its implications.



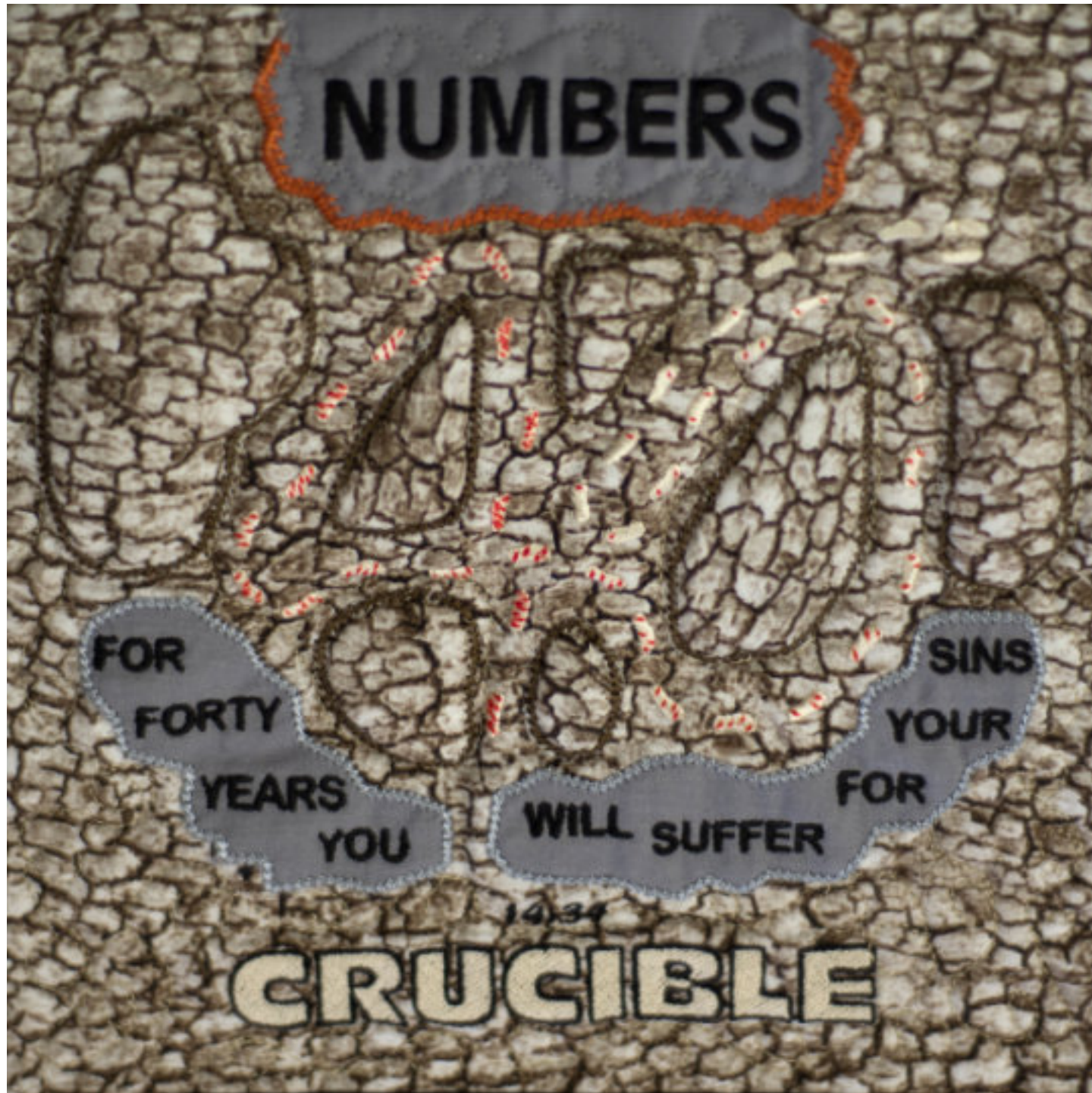
LEVITICUS

Theme: *HOLY*

“Be holy, because I am holy.” – Leviticus 11:45

27 chapters. God wanted His people to live holy lives—set apart from other nations for His purposes. This book provides laws governing both how to acceptably worship the true God, and how to live cleaner, healthier lives than other nations. What makes us holy makes us different; what makes us holy can also make us whole.

Art/Symbolism: The lavender background is used throughout the quilt as a theme: chosen for a purpose. Biblically, being chosen is not so much for special favors as for special responsibilities. Holiness means separate from the commonplace, and dedicated to divine purposes. Hebrews would not have candles during this time period, but a candle has historically symbolized holiness so it was chosen for this illustration. Note the dual nature of holiness: The people are called to be holy, because God is holy. The word “holy” for the people is present in the outer flame, while God’s holiness is seen in the parent inner flame. Thus, the people are not called to be holy of their own nature, but rather are to be refined so as to form their own sort of reflection of the pure flame of God’s holiness.



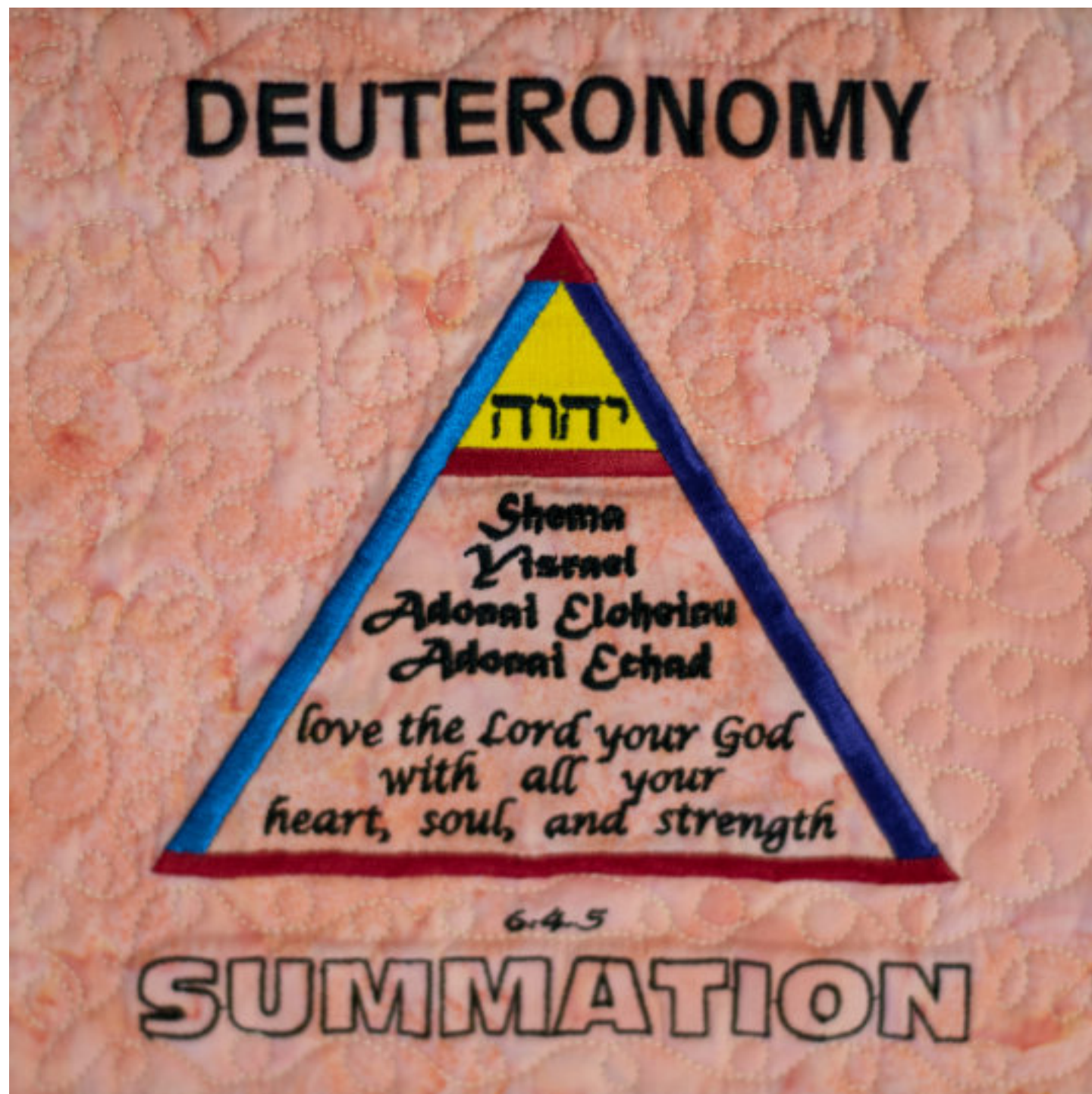
NUMBERS

Theme: *CRUCIBLE*

“For forty years you will suffer for your sins.” – Numbers 14:34

36 chapters. “Numbers” comes from a census taken near the beginning and end of the book. But its Hebrew name is “In the Wilderness” or “Wanderings,” and those are far better descriptors of the events occurring in the book. The Israelites move quickly from Sinai to the edge of the Promised Land, but then are forced to take a much more circuitous and extremely lengthy route. There is a very specific reason why: Decisions have consequences.

Art/Symbolism: The barren earth of desert wanderings forms the background. This illustration alludes to those wanderings. The quilting reinforces the wandering portrayed. Note the 40 years are reflected not only in the number “40” traced by the steps, but also in the number of steps. Each of the 40 steps is meant to illustrate the gradual cleansing from a sinful generation with flimsy faith to a new generation ready to enter the Promised Land. The wandering is caused by the sins of the people. According to ancient tradition, there are “seven deadly sins.” Hence there are 7 mountainous impediments forcing the lengthy wandering. Finally the nation of Israel arrives at the threshold of the Promised Land at the end of the book. This is symbolized by the 2 footsteps metaphorically standing on the edge of the next block, prepared for the next chapter in Hebrew history.



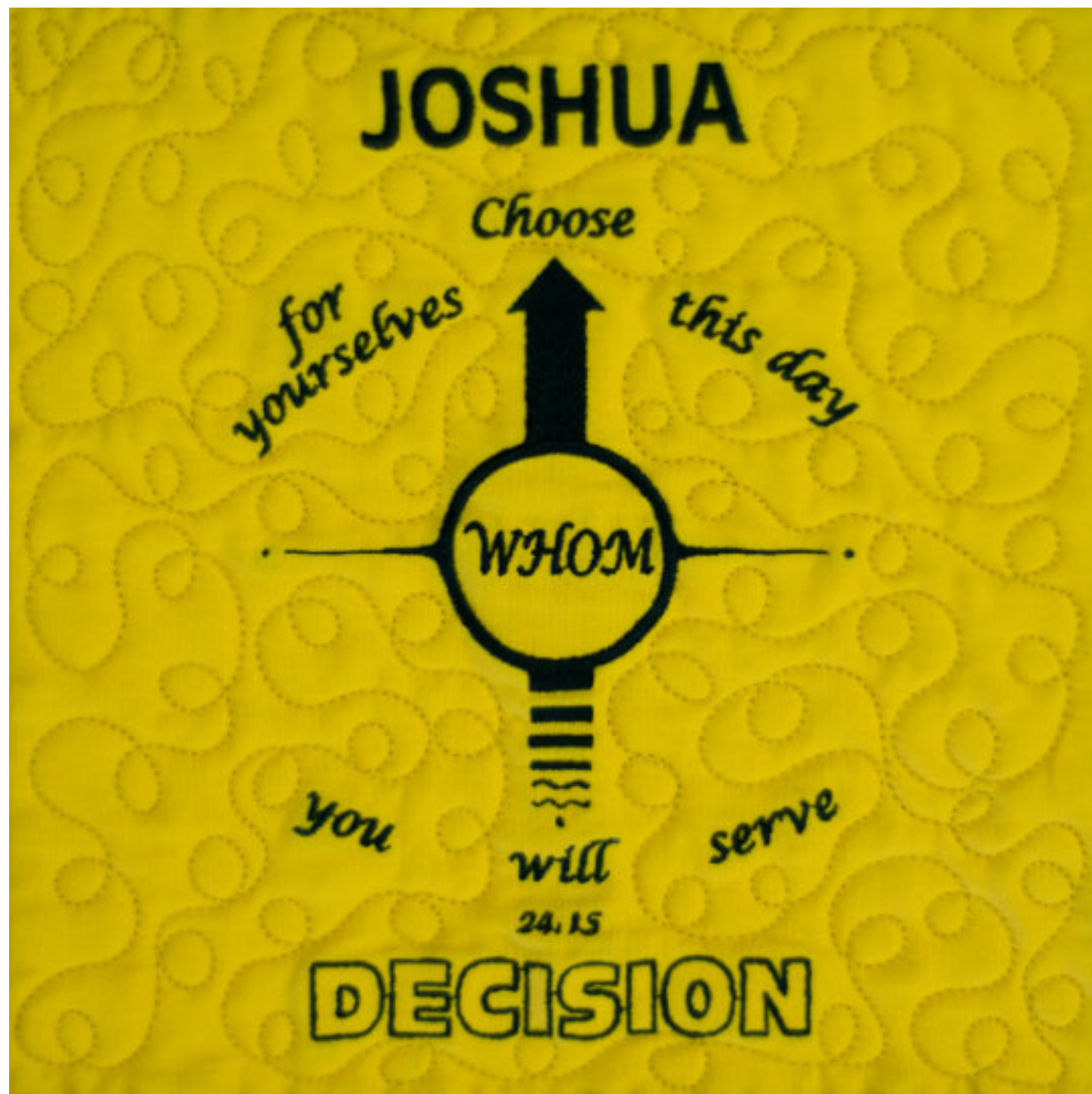
DEUTERONOMY

Theme: *SUMMATION*

Shema Yisrael: Adonai Eloheinu. Adonai Echad.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength.
– Deuteronomy 6:4 – 5

34 chapters. At any major turning point in life, there is great value in stopping to reflect about who you are, where you've been, where you're going, who you're following, and why. Just before his death, Moses made 3 farewell speeches, reminding the Israelites of their history, admonishing them that they must obey God in their daily lives, and looking forward to all the good things that will result. Moses says his final farewell and dies; Joshua is appointed their new leader.

Art/Symbolism: The triangle recalls the 3 final speeches of Moses to the people, Mt. Sinai where the law was given which Moses summarizes in Deuteronomy, and also Mt. Nebo from which Moses will gaze on the Promised Land before he dies. The colors are that of the Levitical priesthood: Red for loving God with the whole heart, purple for loving Him with the whole spirit, and blue for loving Him with the whole strength. The "Shema," declared by Jesus to be the greatest commandment, is stated. The first portion is stated in Hebrew, reminding us of the essential role played by the Hebrew nation in the spiritual history of the world. The second portion is stated in common language, reminding us that this commandment applies to everyone. The Tetragrammaton (the 4 letter Hebrew name of God) is in brilliant yellow applique at the apex; God must be the sole object of our worship and first in our lives.



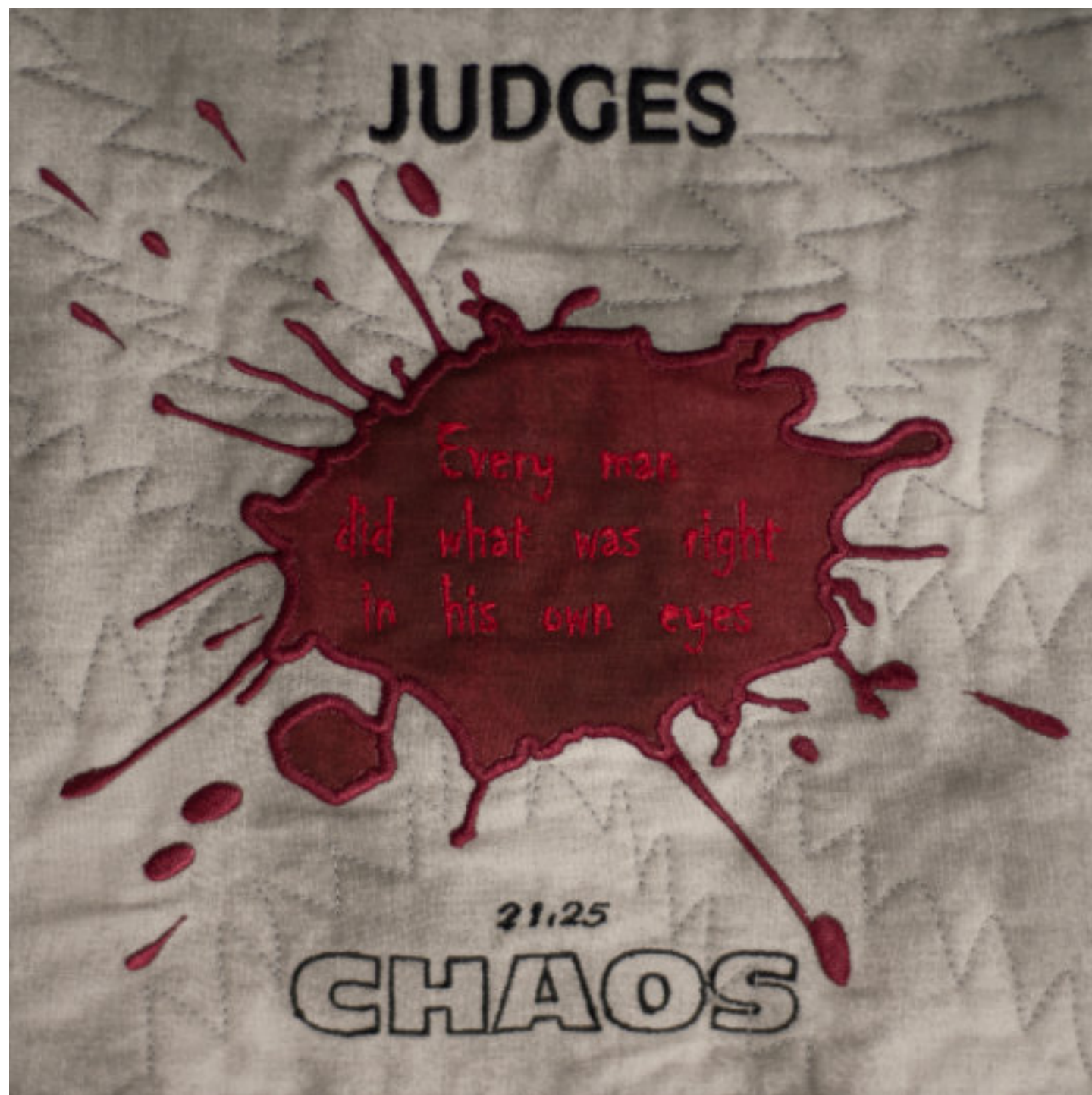
JOSHUA

Theme: *DECISION*

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. – Joshua 24:15

24 chapters. Joshua prepares the Israelites to enter the Promised Land. They cross the Jordan River, then quickly conquer the inhabitants and divide up the land by tribes. Swift military victories now lead decisions which will have long-term ramifications—will they try to assimilate the sinful culture of the people they have just conquered, or pledge faithful service to the Lord? Before he dies, Joshua reminds them of critical choices the people must make and the consequences of those choices.

Art/Symbolism: The background color is one of joy, which may seem peculiar for a book primarily about conquest. But the conquest was the “easy” battle. The more difficult and meaningful struggle is about the choice we must all make. The last verse of Joshua perfectly presents this choice. Like the Israelites, although we have been freed from bondage, we can go back “across the river,” lapsing back into the slavery from which we have been delivered. We have a past just waiting to ensnare us. Or we can choose to assimilate into the current culture. But then we become slaves to that culture, driven not by truth but by what is culturally acceptable. As symbolized in the sign, we fade right or left into insignificance, our identities and values subsumed by a chameleon culture. Hopefully we choose to serve the Lord, as Joshua and his family did. It is this freedom to choose wisely, and to embrace the joy of the journey, which makes the background color of joy appropriate.



JUDGES

Theme: *CHAOS*

Every man did what was right in his own eyes. – Judges 21:25

21 chapters. This a very dark 300+ year period in the history of Israel. The people did not fully drive out the inhabitants of Canaan, but assimilated them, repeatedly abandoning God and adopting the gods of the Canaanites. When they did so, God allowed the Israelites to be oppressed, they cried out for deliverance, and God raised up “judges.” These were not courtroom judges but leaders – usually leading battles. Although there are a few memorable stories, many will find this to be one of the most disturbing books in the Bible—the contents are violent, and the cycle repeats, with God’s people never seeming to learn their lesson. Their refusal to be faithful to God resulted in truly chaotic times.

Art/Symbolism: The confused and chaotic atmosphere is seen in both the foggy background material and the unusual scattered quilting pattern. These were brutal and violent times as the blood spatter illustrates. The moral anarchy which ensues when God is abandoned is perfectly stated in the scarlet verse, which closes the book of Judges.



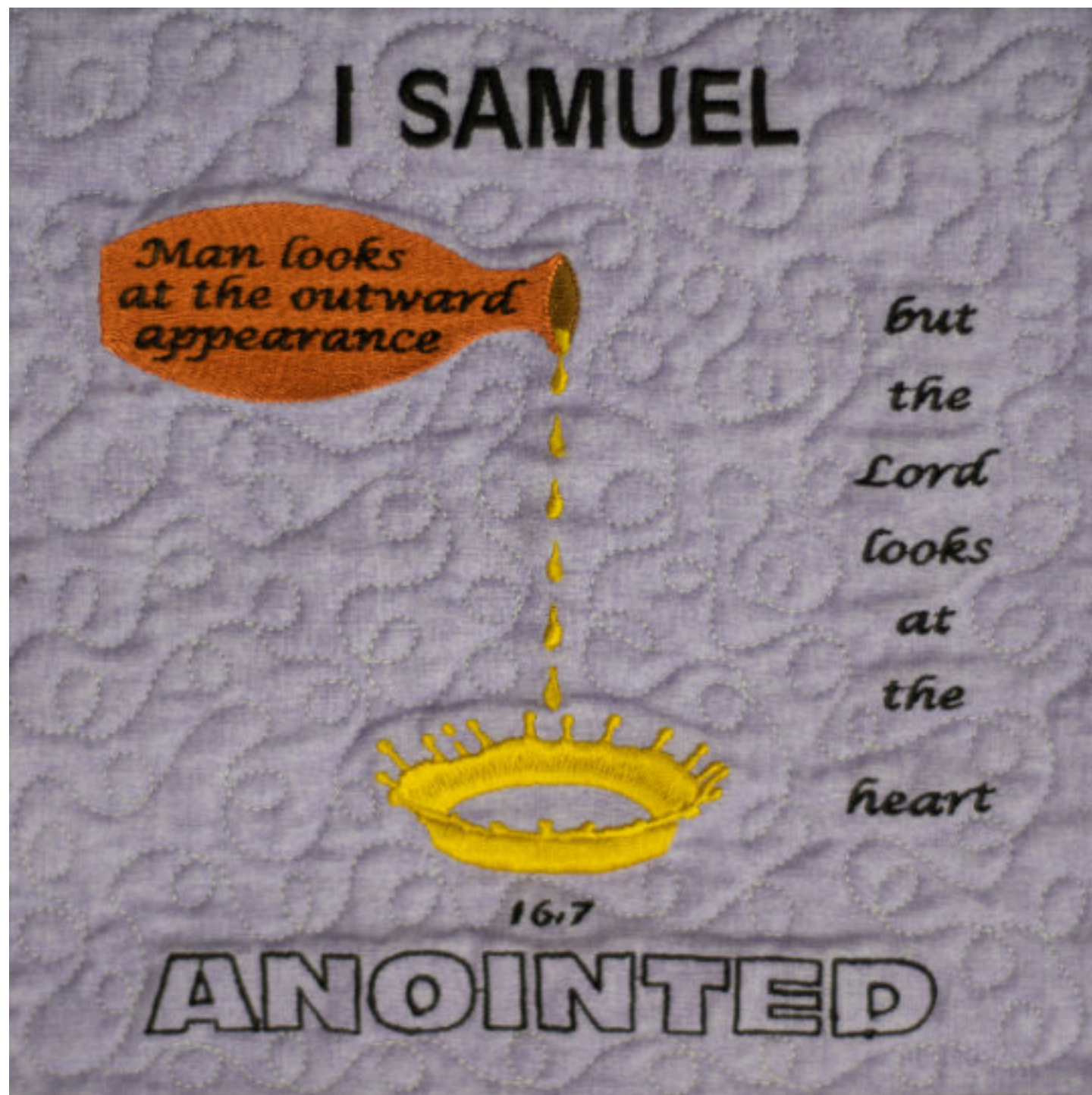
RUTH

Theme: *REDEEMED*

Where you go, I will go. Where you stay, I will stay. Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God. – Ruth 1:16

4 chapters. A family migrated from Bethlehem to Moab during a famine. Tragedy left the mother and her 2 Moabite daughters-in-law as widows with no children. The mother, Naomi, decided to return home and suggested that her daughters-in-law remain in their native Moab. One did, but Ruth pledged to stay with Naomi. Upon their return, Ruth met Boaz. He fell in love with her and resolved to fulfill his role as a “kinsman redeemer.” After they were married they had children, becoming the great-grandparents of King David and part of the family tree of Jesus.

Art/Symbolism: The pink background material reflects the charming nature of this love story. The 2 wheat stalks represent Ruth and Boaz, and how they met. Although the verse is Ruth’s promise to her mother-in-law Naomi, its declaration of love and loyalty is frequently quoted at weddings. *Note the orientation*—half the verse is read left to right, but the other half is read right to left. Successful relationships require us to see things from the other person’s perspective. The four common focal point words are “go,” “stay,” “people,” and “God.” Loving couples are united by a common journey, a shared home, the value of family and friends, and their devotion to God.



I SAMUEL

Theme: *ANOINTED*

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” –
I Samuel 16:7

31 chapters. Israel’s transition from the period of judges to kings was difficult. Samuel is called by God, and is the last of Israel’s “judges.” The people wanted an earthly king like all the other nations, so God guides Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel’s first king. Saul has some success, but disobeys God. David is anointed as Saul’s replacement. David actually grows up in Saul’s service, and he is befriended by Saul’s son Jonathan. But Saul is consumed with jealousy regarding David, and the last portion of Saul’s life is spent in futile attempts to eliminate David. The book ends with the tragic death of Saul.

Art/Symbolism: Anointing is portrayed, with the golden oil splashing to create a crown. (The image is based on slow-motion photography of a drop splashing into a pool of liquid.) More subtly, the interior of the oil jar is a different color than its exterior, an allegorical reference to the words of the Lord. We are still trying to apply that simple principle today of looking at a person’s heart and not judging based on outward appearance.



II SAMUEL

Theme: *KING*

“One rules over men righteously who rules in the fear of God.”
– II Samuel 23:3

24 chapters. David is regarded as Israel’s greatest king, a “man after God’s own heart,” a great warrior and poet—but a man with serious flaws. This book is an honest look at his life. David unites the kingdom after Saul’s death, subdues Israel’s enemies, and brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Amidst overwhelming success comes his disastrous adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband. The last half of the book is filled with a roller coaster of consequences.

Art/Symbolism: The Star of David is a relatively modern symbol of Judaism. It appeared in medieval times, but was not widely adopted for use as a Jewish symbol until a little over 200 years ago. Still, it was chosen for this block for its virtually universal recognition by viewers today. This book deals almost exclusively with King David, hence the “Star of David” is appropriate. Also, most Jews look back on this period—for all of David’s flaws—as Israel’s proudest time. It was an age of victory, respect for Israel, and a sense of power.



I KINGS

Theme: *WISDOM*

“I will give you a wise and discerning heart.” – I Kings 3:12

22 chapters. David dies at an old age, and Solomon becomes king. Solomon is anointed king, but must deal with a leadership rebellion—which he does swiftly and decisively. He asks God for wisdom and is granted that, plus wealth and fame. He builds a magnificent temple for the worship of God, and it is consecrated with a lavish ceremony. He acquires 700 wives and 300 concubines. The Bible says he “loved many strange women.” Sadly, he tries to accommodate his many women by permitting idolatry. The result sows the seeds of his kingdom’s split (and ultimate demise) after his death, beginning in the second part of I Kings. Solomon had everything the world regards as important, plus wisdom and the blessings of Almighty God. Therefore, his story is very interesting.

Art/Symbolism: The Temple Solomon constructed was breathtakingly beautiful. An orange background always suggests construction or engaged activity throughout the quilt. Solomon’s wealth was also legendary, hence the gold applique weighing pans. But it is his wisdom for which he is most famous, and so the beam balance—frequently seen as symbolic of justice—is the main focus of this block’s illustrative art. God promised to give Solomon “a wise and discerning heart.” Wisdom is notably rare today; its sister, discernment, is perhaps rarer still. Yet the two are essential for a balanced perspective of life, as evidenced by their complementary placement on the two balanced pans.



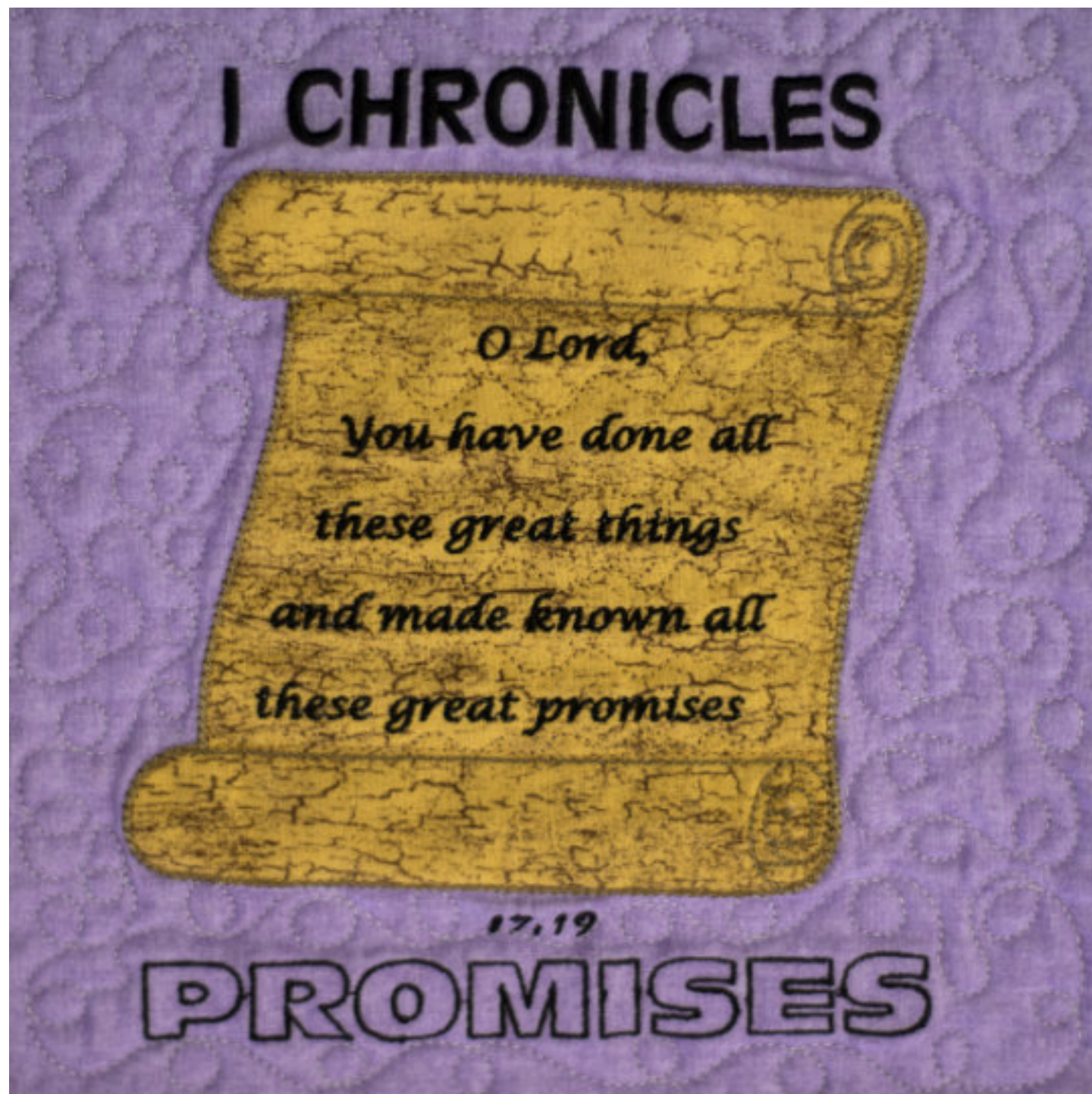
II KINGS

Theme: *DIVIDED*

The Lord warned Israel and Judah... but they would not listen.
– II Kings 17:13 – 14

25 chapters. The kingdom of Israel divides midway through I Kings. The narrative of II Kings completes the sad story. The northern 10 tribes are called “Israel” and the southern 2 tribes are known as “Judah.” None of the subsequent kings of Israel were faithful to God, and Israel is eventually conquered by Assyria in 721 B.C. Judah’s kings alternated—some were faithful to God, but many were not. Many prophets warn both Israel and Judah, but neither fully repents of their ways. Finally, in 586 B.C., Babylon conquers Judah and pillages Jerusalem. Most of the people are carried away in what is commonly referred to as the “Babylonian Captivity.”

Art/Symbolism: The confused and sad nature of these times is reflected in the background material. A simple division sign signifies the situation. More subtly, the quilting in the top and bottom halves of the block is similar, but with some differences. This is reflective of the fact that, although the northern and southern kingdoms chose somewhat different paths, the end result was similar.
Hank You



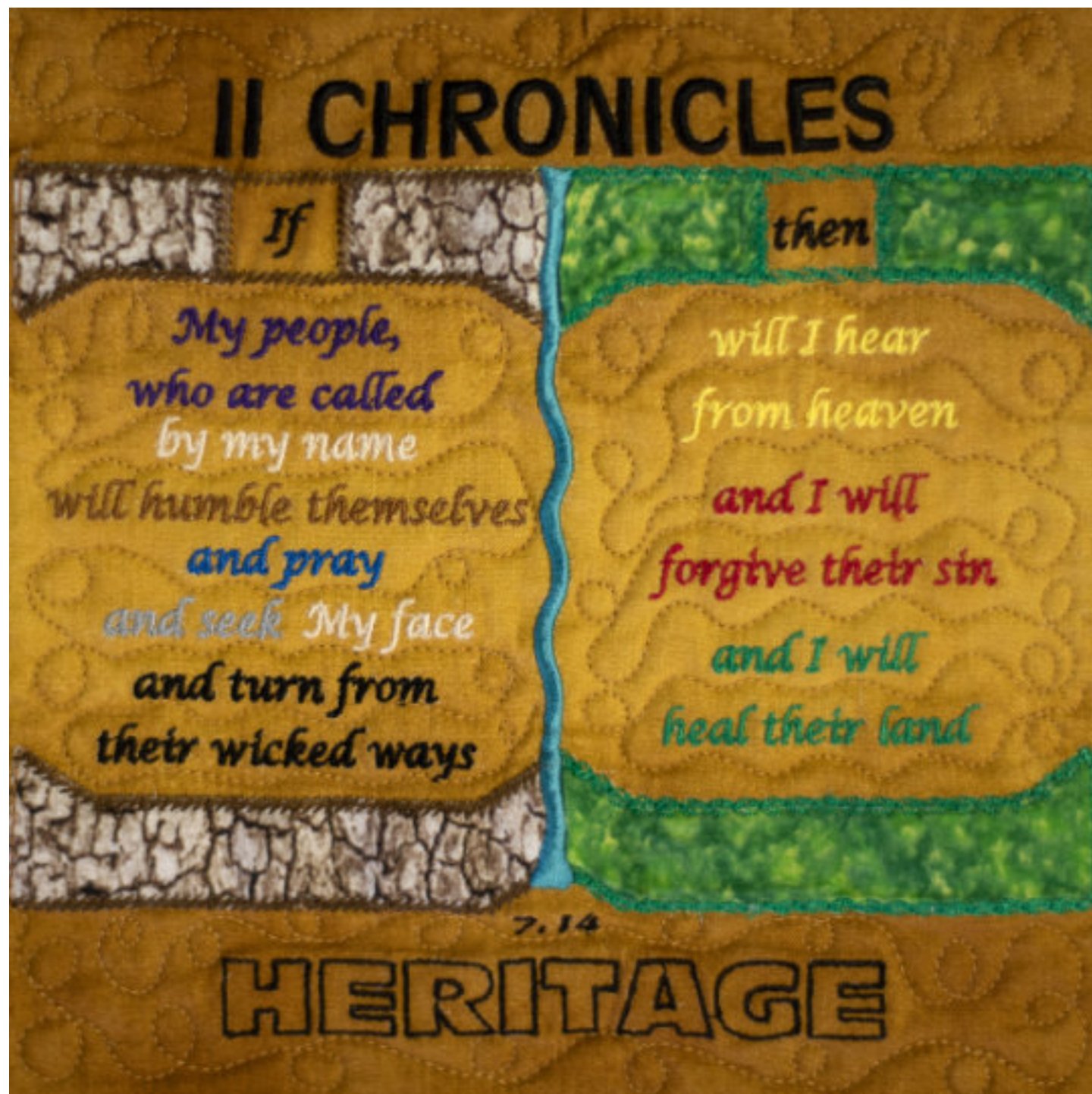
I CHRONICLES

Theme: *PROMISES*

*O Lord, You have done these great things
and made known all these great promises. – I Chronicles 17:19*

29 chapters. I & II Chronicles cover much of the same time frame as I & II Kings, but from a very different perspective. Kings reads more like a straightforward history of both northern Israel and southern Judah, the good and the bad. In distinct contrast, Chronicles was written more from a priestly or religious perspective, emphasizing more of the good, with a goal of inspiring the people to return to faithful worship of God. I Chronicles starts with a careful tracing of lineage back to Adam, and then proceeds to cover the pinnacle period of the rule of David.

Art/Symbolism: The books of I & II Chronicles through Ezra and Nehemiah are a voyage of spiritual rediscovery for the Jews. Key to this rediscovery was finding and reading the word of God in the Sacred Books. It reminds the people of the awesome power of the Lord they serve, and the great promises He made. The artwork simply portrays one of the old scrolls which help the people rediscover who they are and the hope they can have in their future. The lavender background is reminiscent of the very specific worship requirements given in Leviticus; it is a holy and sacred trust to serve the Lord.



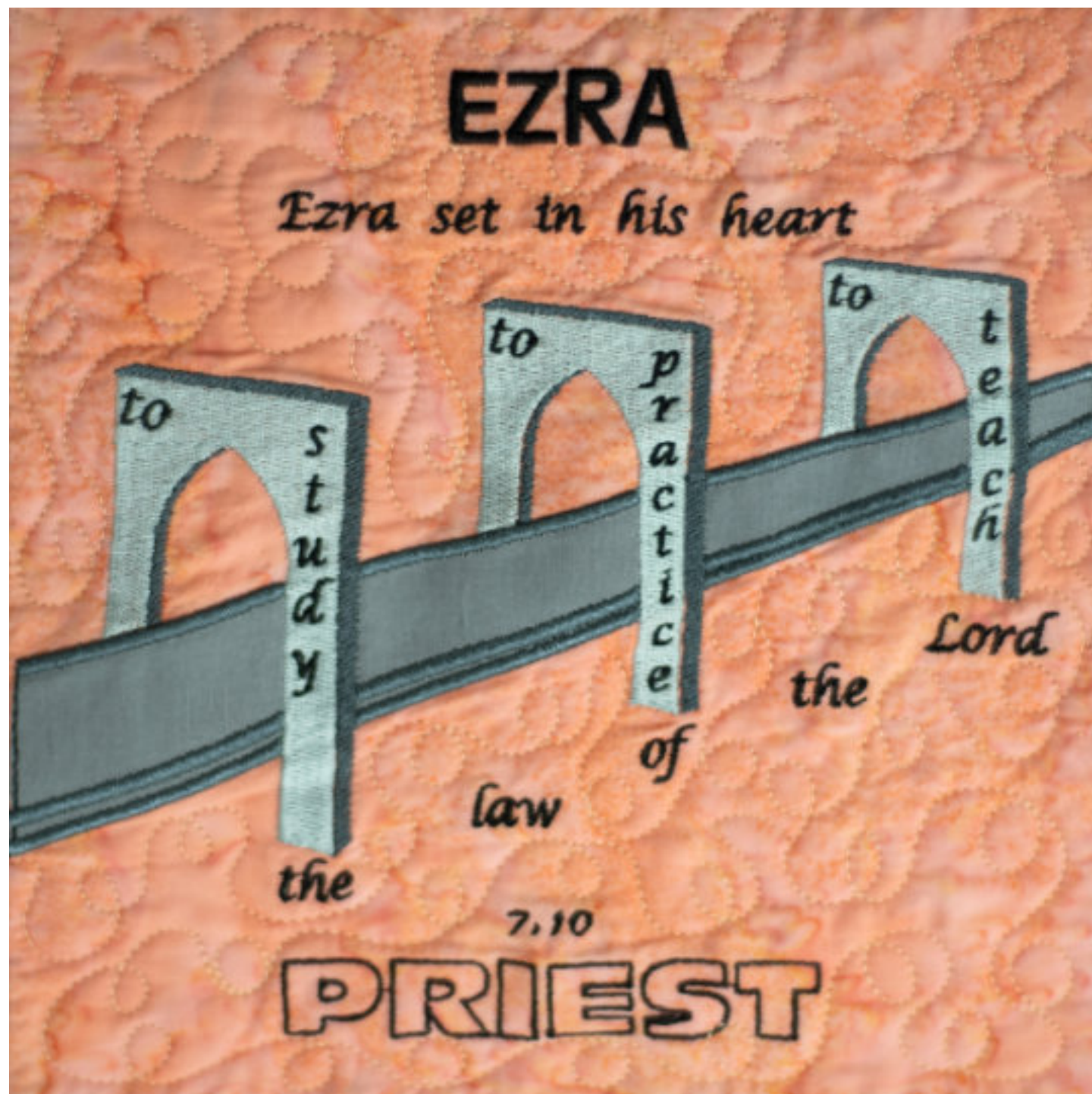
II CHRONICLES

Theme: *HERITAGE*

“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins, and I will heal their land.” – II Chronicles 7:14

26 chapters. Both I & II Chronicles were completed after the 70 years of exile in Babylon. They were written to remind the Jews of their heritage and the promises God made to them. II Chronicles focuses exclusively on the kingdom of Judah from Solomon’s reign and the period after the split following Solomon’s death right up until Babylonian Captivity. This 70 year period of captivity is not addressed, but the book closes with a reference to Cyrus—the King of Persia who conquered Babylon and who would soon allow the Jews to return to their homeland.

Art/Symbolism: To the Jews, their heritage is critical to understanding their place in spiritual history. Amongst the roller coaster ride of faithful and unfaithful kings, this is a popular summary verse. Acknowledging that the faithlessness of the Jews and their evil disobedience has led to a crushing time of severe chastisement, this verse also presents the wonderful promise that God will forgive and restore His people if they will humbly repent of their evil ways and spiritual infidelity. The barren result of sinful choices and the verdant life possible with the blessings of God are depicted in direct juxtaposition, separated by a river reminiscent of Eden and a similarly fateful choice made there. The fawn background occurs throughout the quilt when a strong need for humility is a central message of that book.



EZRA

Theme: *PRIEST*

*Ezra set in his heart to study, to practice,
to teach the law of the Lord.*

– Ezra 7:10

10 chapters. In 539 B.C. Persia conquers Babylon; 3 years later, in 536 B.C., the King of Persia (Cyrus) allows the first group of captive Jews to return to their homeland. Hence they were held captive for 70 years, exactly as Jeremiah had prophesied. The first group to return rebuilt the temple over a period of 20 years. But true spiritual revival of the Jewish religion and stricter observance of the Law did not occur until Ezra led a second group back from Babylon in 458 B.C. He realized that it was not enough to modestly rebuild the temple. Ezra devoted himself to the spiritual revival of the Jews.

Art/Symbolism: A priest is essentially a bridge by means of which common people can approach God. A coral background throughout the quilt signifies consecration for the sacred privilege of directly approaching Almighty God. This yearning to approach God is not simply irreverent curiosity; it is rather an aspirational condition of the heart. The opening phrase therefore appears in the sky over the bridge. Note that 3 pillars form the basis of Ezra's priesthood: studying, teaching, and practicing. These pillars may well be said to form the basis for anyone aspiring to priesthood in many spiritual systems. What is special about Ezra and those who would follow in his footsteps is that the foundation of the bridge is the word of God. Hence that phrase appears as the foundation in which the pillars find their bedrock stability.



NEHEMIAH

Theme: *RESPONSIBILITY*

*We rebuilt the wall. The people worked with all their heart,
each to our own work. – Nehemiah 4:6, 15*

13 chapters. Nehemiah led a third group returning from Babylon in 445 B.C., arriving while Ezra was still active leading a spiritual revival. But Nehemiah realized that, though the temple had been rebuilt as best they could and Ezra had inspired the people spiritually, the physically necessary protection of Jerusalem could not be assured without rebuilding the wall. So Nehemiah led the people in that essential task.

Art/Symbolism: The building of the wall under Nehemiah would seem like an impossibly daunting task. It was achieved simply by everyone taking responsibility for their own portion of the wall. So often we are overwhelmed by a task, when in reality all we need to commit to is doing our own part. That concept is exemplified by thousands of bees in the hive, each committed to doing its own part. Hence the artwork's honeycomb represents that dedication and a focus on individual responsibility which is vital to collectively achieve something truly remarkable. The honey swirl batik background is used throughout the quilt to call to mind the blessings of working together in harmony.



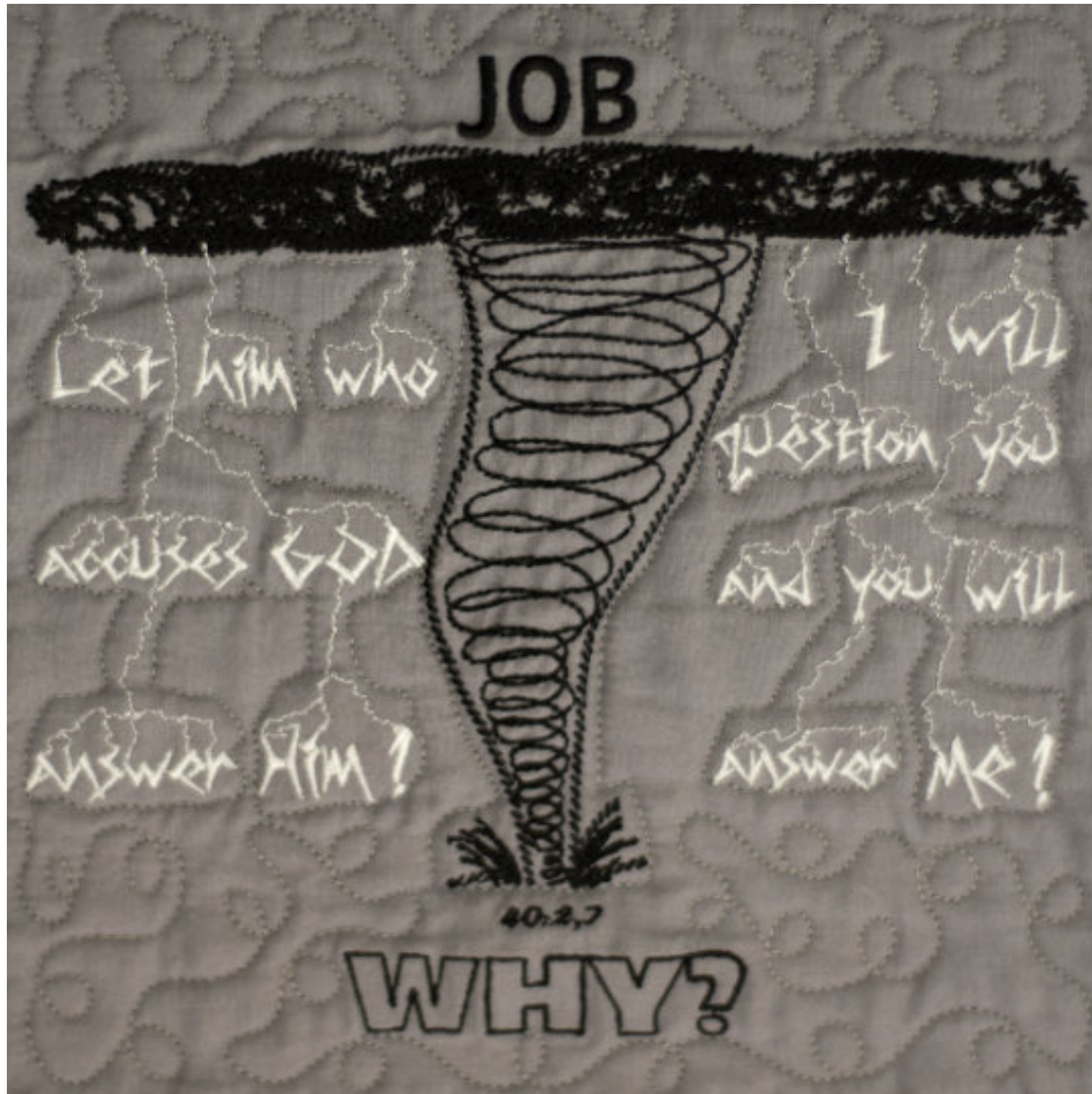
ESTHER

Theme: *OPPORTUNITY*

*Who knows but that you have come to your royal position
for such a time as this? – Esther 4:14*

10 chapters. The real life history surrounding this book makes its story fascinating. The same Cyrus who allowed the Jews to return from exile started a quest for world domination. This quest continued with later kings. Darius got as far as Marathon in Greece, before being famously defeated by the Greeks. The next king, Xerxes, marshalled an enormous army to defeat the Greeks. Six months of planning is the event mentioned in the first chapter of Esther, at the end of which Queen Vashti is banished. Starting out in 480 B.C., Xerxes' army is held at bay by the incredible bravery of the Greeks to include the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae. Breaking through on land, eventually Xerxes is lured into a naval battle. He seats himself on a high promontory to view his final victory, and instead sees his fleet suffer a crushing defeat. Another land defeat follows, and he is forced to return to Persia. For a man determined to conquer the world, this has been absolutely humiliating. As he returns, his minions, fearing his displeasure, decide what the king needs to cheer him up is a beautiful girl. The story of Esther starts at this point in chapter 2.

Art/Symbolism: The symbolism is quite straightforward. The crown calls to mind the tiara which might have been worn by Esther as queen. Although the exact design is lost to antiquity, a silver and diamond tiara with a prominent sapphire reflects the known colors associated with royalty of the Persian Empire: blue and white/silver. Opportunities to fulfil a role may result in different types of crowns.



JOB

Theme: *WHY?*

*“Let Him who accuses God answer Him!
I will question you and you will answer Me!” – Job 40:2, 7*

42 chapters. Why do bad things happen to good people? That is the theme of this book. Job is a righteous man who is also very prosperous. He is afflicted with a series of catastrophic events, losing his wealth, his children, and finally his health. Although Job remains faithful to God, he wants to know why bad things have happened to him. Friends arrive to console him, but their answers to his question are not helpful. Job wants to talk to God. Eventually God answers him out of an enormously powerful whirlwind. At the end of the story, Job is healed, has more children, and is more prosperous at the end than at the beginning of the story.

Art/Symbolism: God does not answer Job out of a minor desert whirlwind. His appearance is preceded by a fierce storm with thunder and lightning. Searing heat is followed by radically colder temperatures. The “whirlwind” is probably an EF-5 tornado, hence the depiction. God’s thunderous voice is so powerful that Job falls face down on the ground. Note how the quilting parallels the story—it starts out at the top peacefully, then it shifts to a striking emphasis on the storm from which God speaks, and the end returns to a peaceful pattern. Job has been asking the wrong question. It is not a matter of God explaining Himself, but of us trusting Him. The correct question is therefore not “Why?” but “Who?”



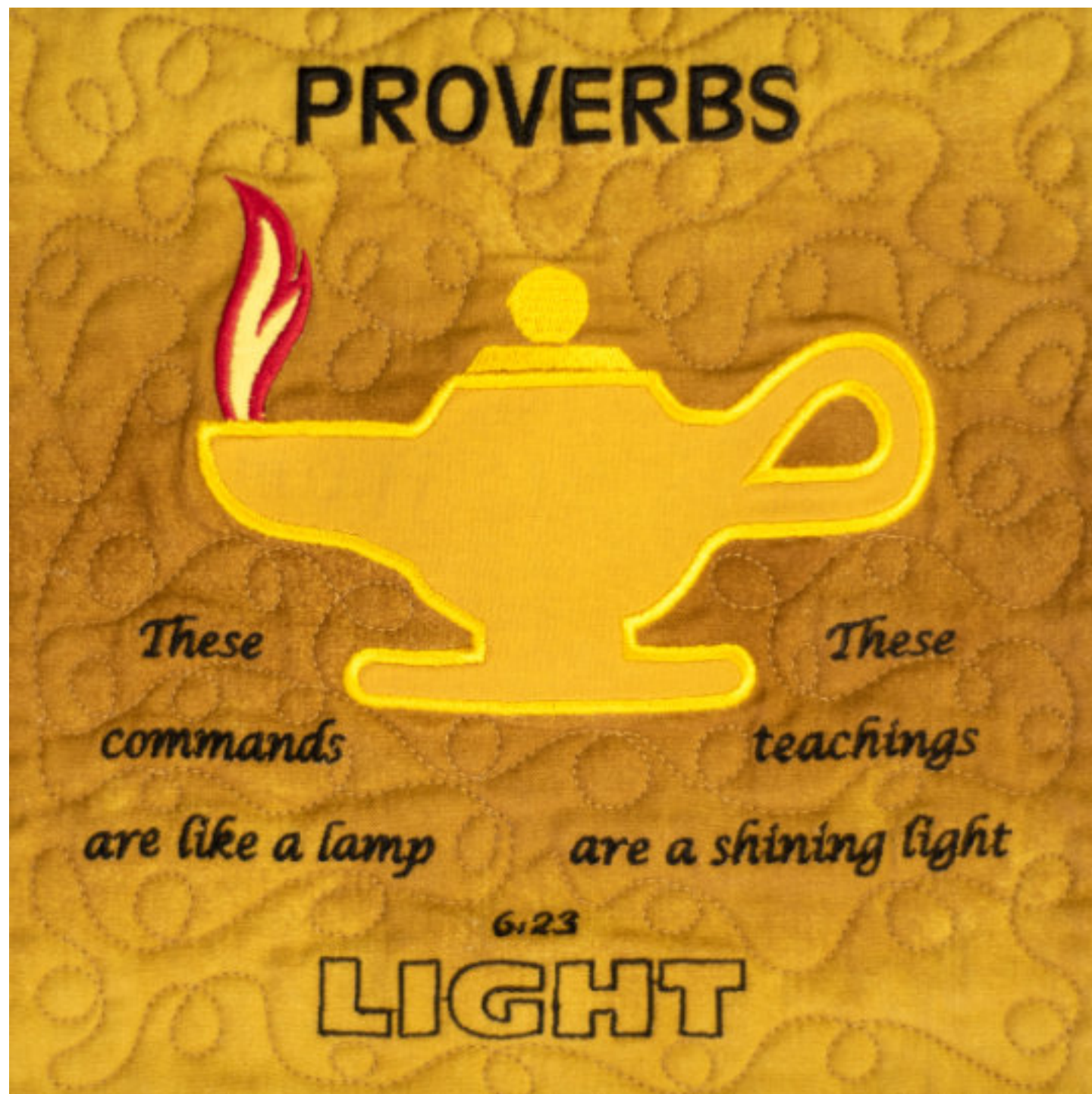
PSALMS

Theme: *PRAISE*

*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His love endures forever! – Psalm 136:1*

150 chapters. This is the songbook of the Bible, and probably the most popular. There are psalms giving voice to almost every human emotion: praise, honor, celebration, thanksgiving, faith, hope, love, awe, humility, mourning, lament, fear, anger, disgust, our longing for justice, and even the desire for revenge.

Art/Symbolism: Clearly a “songbook” should be represented by music, so musical symbols are used throughout the block. The treble clef is the most familiar musical symbol and thus starts “Give.” Two eighth notes create the “n” of “thanks.” The “o” of “To” is a natural note mark, while the “h” of “the” is a flat mark. The “L” of “Lord” gets special treatment—it is a major arpeggio chord with a trill. On the next line, the “F” of “For” is formed by the bass clef and a sharp mark. “He” has 2 vertical lines, joined by the symbol for a 7 measure rest, recalling that the Lord rested on the 7th day of creation. A fermata sign dots the “i” of “is,” while 2 whole notes are the “oo” of “good.” “His” has the recurring vertical lines of “He,” but this time connected by 3 accent marks, an echo of the Trinity. A crescendo mark denotes God’s great love for us. The “s” of “endures” is a “segno,” part of a repeating musical passage; God’s love is enduring even when we must start over. “Forever” starts with 2 symbols indicating fortissimo—the strongest dynamic mark to indicate the surpassing joy God has planned for us. And the dual repeat marks clearly show His love goes on forever and ever.



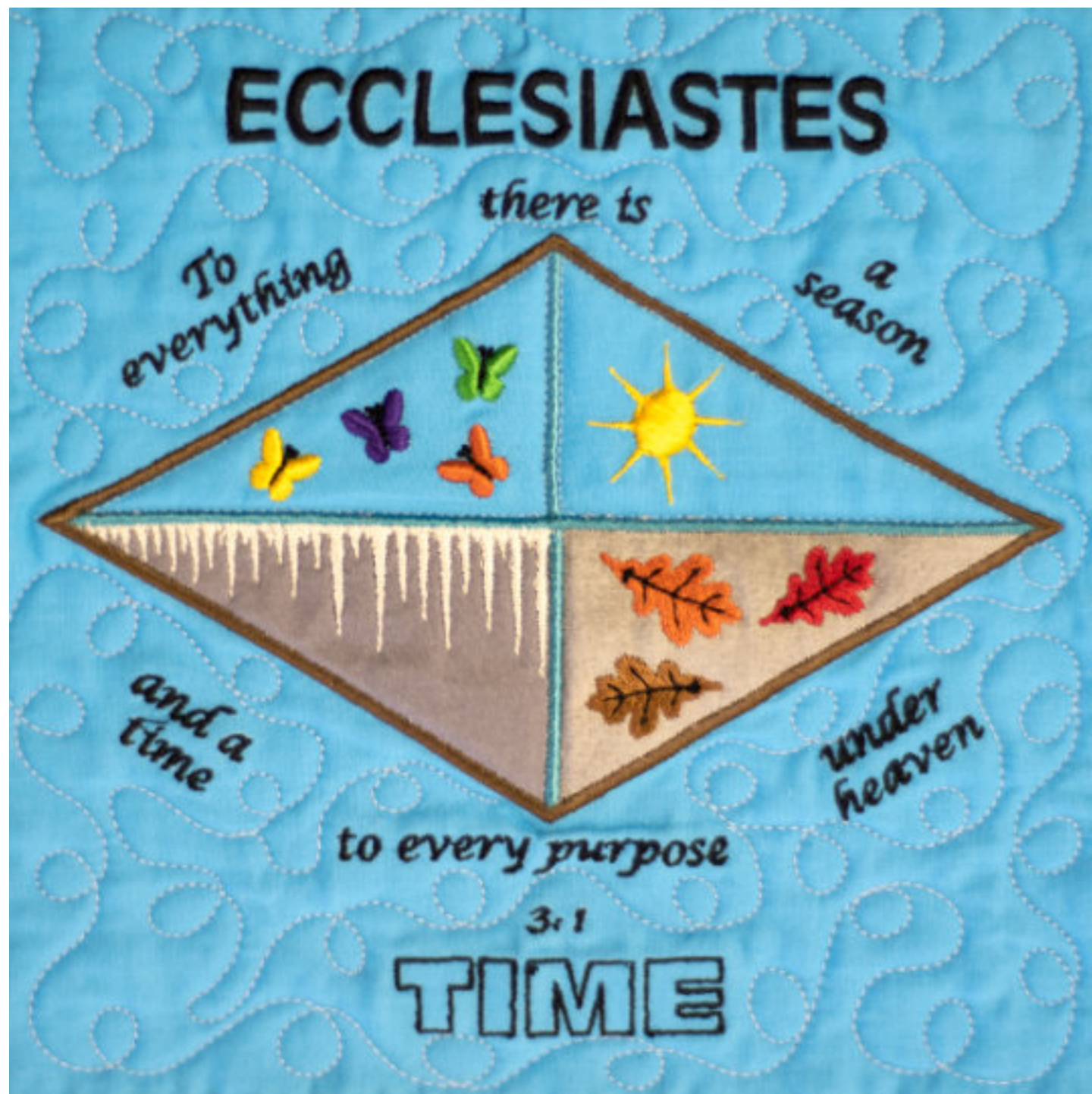
PROVERBS

Theme: *LIGHT*

These commandments are a lamp. These teachings are a shining light.
– Proverbs 6:23

31 chapters. Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings from a number of people, but Solomon is the primary contributor. While quite practical in nature, there is a spiritual basis for each bit of wisdom shared. Some of these sayings resemble similar wisdom sayings in other cultures. This is to be expected if the extremely international nature of Solomon's court is taken into account. (Re-read the first part of I Kings.) Readers should take note: Large sections of the history books of the Old Testament do indeed read like history, and can be read in that fashion. The Psalms are best read one psalm (chapter) at a time. Most chapters in the book of Proverbs are so packed with wisdom that it may be best to read only a few verses at a time, or carefully trace related themes and verses throughout the book.

Art/Symbolism: The bronze lamp is widely recognized as a symbol for learning. Note that the background is fawn, representing humility, since humility is essential for those who sincerely seek truth and wisdom. Remember that respect for the truth of God is a foundational principle in Old Testament writings. It should therefore be no surprise that the flame of the wisdom lamp illustrated in the block on Proverbs is very similar to the flame of the Spirit in the block of II Timothy.



ECCLESIASTES

Theme: *TIME*

*To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under heaven. – Ecclesiastes 3:1*

12 chapters. Simply put as a colloquial phrase, a summary of this book might be: “I’ve tried it all.” Solomon had great power, enormous wealth, worldwide fame, and his choice of women. He vigorously pursued knowledge. Yet he found that all of the above were empty in the end. Furthermore, justice and fairness in life seem elusive. He catalogues all of this throughout the book, and many have concluded that the book is therefore pessimistic. But its closing is a much better summary. Instead of trying to gain everything the world says we should want; instead of trying to figure everything out; instead of expecting fairness and justice in a fallen creation, he declares there is a much wiser and simpler way forward. “Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

Art/Symbolism: The deep sky blue background brings to mind a sense of long term perspective, both here and throughout the quilt. The window illustrates one of the book’s most famous verses, and reminds the viewer of this book’s emphasis on life’s “big picture.”



SONG of SOLOMON

Theme: *CHERISHED*

I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.

– Song of Solomon 6:3

8 chapters. This book is about the beauty of romantic love between a groom and his bride. Some object to the explicit extolling of physical love, but it is our Creator who made us male and female, blessed us, told us to multiply, and said of His creation, “Behold! It is very good.” Others see this as allegorical for other more spiritual types of love, but the book’s unabashed imagery leads to the conclusion that it is first and foremost a book about the beauty of married love.

Art/Symbolism: The pink background provides the setting for endearing devotion. The gold ring is a nearly universal symbol of committed love. Flowers are a gift frequently given as a sign of romantic love. White is used to symbolize purity. A closer look reveals there are actually two types of white in the applique flower. The petals, the most visible part of the flower, have a white-on-white design. Their purpose is to reflect the bride and groom, the most visible part of a marriage union. There are 8 petals; the love of the bride and groom continues to reflect the glory of their Creator, and their participation in the ongoing process of creation beyond the original 7 days. The center is less prominent, but metaphorically represents that God alone is at the vital center of this covenantal relationship. This union uses white satin as the center. A different sort of union, with analogous but different types of white material, will be presented later in I Timothy.



ISAIAH

Theme: *PROPHET*

“Whom shall I send?” Here am I. Send me! – Isaiah 6:8

66 chapters. Two things are necessary to understand the prophets of Almighty God: their purpose and their circumstances. Prophets of the Lord had a two-fold purpose: 1) to speak out about the moral turpitude of the people and their leaders, to include hollow or even detestable worship; 2) to provide a vision of the future—sometimes shatteringly fearful, and sometimes triumphantly hopeful. In the case of Isaiah, he spoke in the period when the demise of the northern kingdom of Israel at the hands of Assyria was imminent, and Judah was also on the wrong path (although the trajectory of its demise would be a little over a century longer). The first 2/3 of Isaiah is concerned more with purpose #1 above. The last 1/3 of the book is more dedicated to purpose #2, with prophecies of both defeat and eventual triumph. It is the latter which leads to many of the famous Messianic prophecies.

Art/Symbolism: The foggy background represents the sad circumstances in which Isaiah found himself immersed. To this lost and confused people, Isaiah stands out much like a lighthouse—both as a warning of impending mortal danger, and to serve as a beacon to light the way to safety in stormy, confusing times.



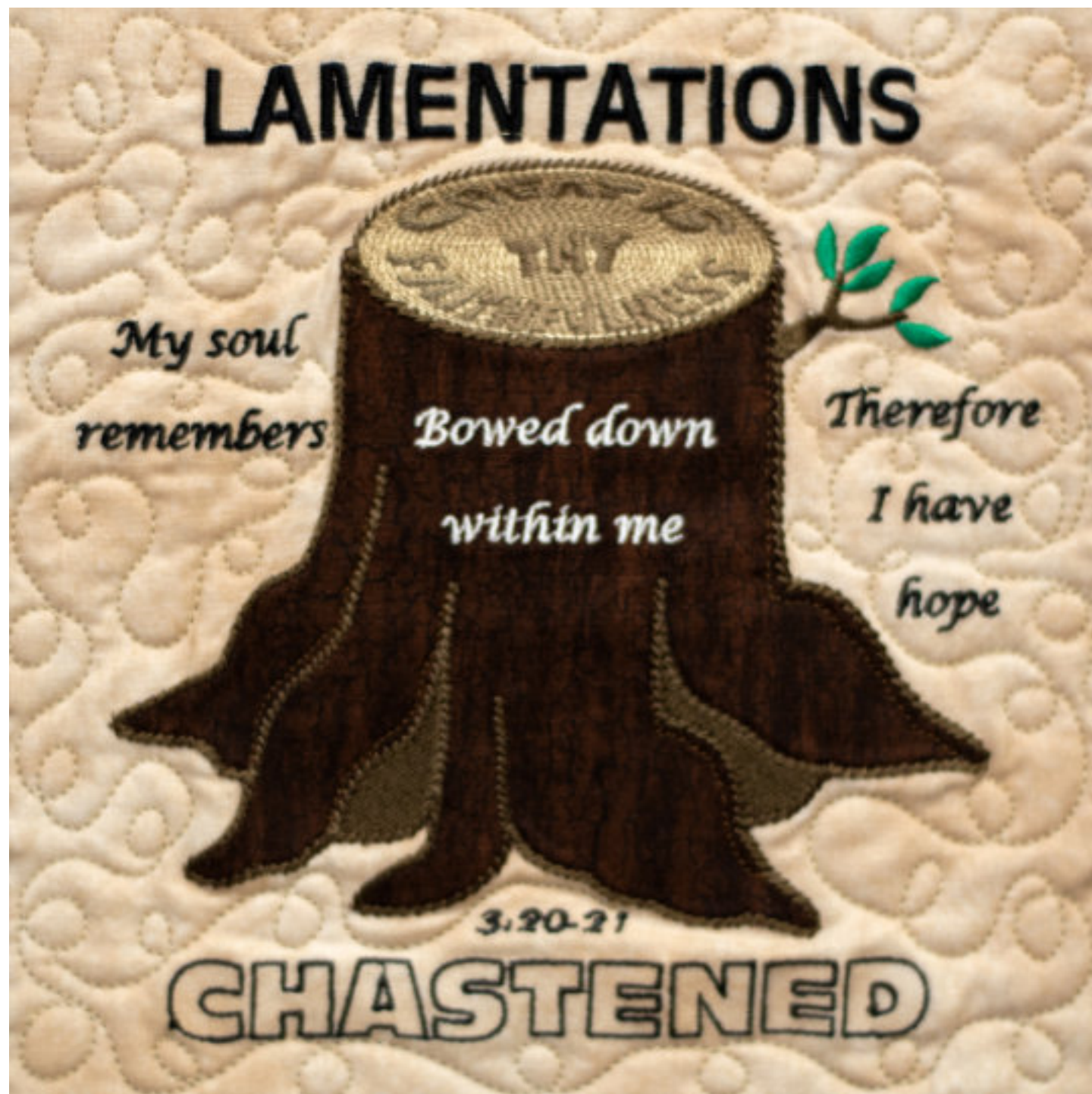
JEREMIAH

Theme: *REPENT*

Behold! You are trusting deceptive words that are worthless.
– Jeremiah 7:8

52 chapters. Jeremiah prophesied to Judah in the period leading up to it being conquered by the Babylonians, and in the time immediately after the destruction of Jerusalem. Jeremiah is called “the weeping prophet.” He endured a life of persecution inasmuch as he fulfilled the usual thankless prophetic duty of what is known today as “speaking truth to power.” Unfortunately, his warnings to both the leaders and the people went unheeded, with sadly predictable results.

Art/Symbolism: Jeremiah’s message was straightforward, but it required humility to heed it. He simply asked the people to repent of their sins. The simplicity of Jeremiah’s message is reflected by the simplicity of block’s artwork. A stop sign is not an impediment; it is designed to help assure a safe flow of traffic. Those who ignore it make things unsafe for everyone. Similarly, stopping sinful behavior to get back on the right track—repenting—is not “backward” behavior at all. It is in fact the surest way to ensure safe progress forward. The tight, intense quilting on the stop sign metaphorically suggests that ignoring the sign will lead to dissolution, which is exactly what happened when beautiful Jerusalem was destroyed. Finally, the serpentine quality of the verse font “deceptive words” recalls a similar deception made in the Garden of Eden. Listening to the Great Deceiver then had similarly catastrophic results, with paradise lost.



LAMENTATIONS

Theme: *CHASTENED*

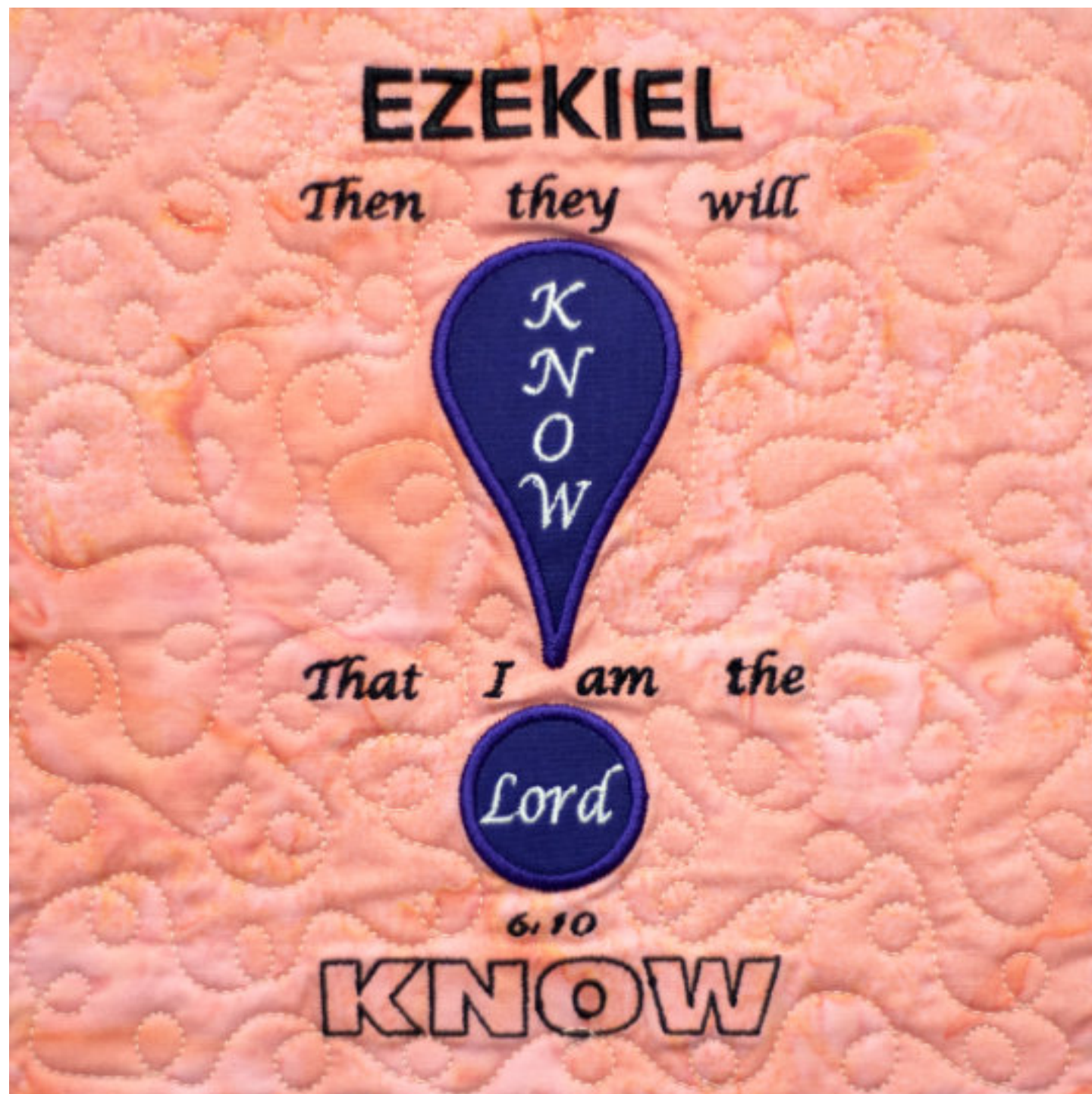
My soul remembers, bowed down within me; therefore I have hope.

– Lamentations 3:20 – 21

(Great is Thy faithfulness – Lamentations 3:23)

5 chapters. As its name suggests, this short book is a series of laments over fallen Jerusalem. It was written by Jeremiah. Although the vast majority of the verses are understandably sorrowful, there are wonderful glimpses of hope near the middle of the book.

Art/Symbolism: The background is reminiscent of soft earth or fine sand. Unlike the cracked barren earth in other blocks, this region was once fertile, and can be so again. The once mighty tree that was Judah has been felled, but the sprouting branch on the right side holds the promise of new growth in the future. This symbol of the promise of new life was used by Michelangelo in his famous *Pieta* sculpture. The fallen Christ is held in the arms of Mary. One of His feet has no support in the main body of the statue, which is very precarious. Michelangelo cleverly used a sprouting branch to both support the foot and to symbolize that new life is coming. Finally, note the partial verse ingrained in the tree rings. Taken together, the three symbols form a continuum. The felled tree of course represents fallen Jerusalem. The sprouting branch looks forward to its eventual rebirth and restoration. And the ingrained Scripture is indicative of the fact that God's faithfulness is inherent in every part of His creation; what dies will be born again.



EZEKIEL

Theme: *KNOW*

“Then they will know that I am the Lord!” – Ezekiel 6:10

48 chapters. Babylon actually conquered Judah in 3 waves over a lengthy period. Ezekiel was carried off in the second wave when he was a young man. At first his prophecy joins the chorus of warnings directed at Jerusalem and what remained of Judah following the first and second Babylonian waves. After stubbornly ignoring warnings from multiple prophets, Jerusalem is eventually conquered by Babylon and the city left in ruins. Ezekiel also prophesied during this troubling time. The final chapters are devoted to the promise of a future glorious restoration. Unlike the straightforward prophetic language of Isaiah and Jeremiah, Ezekiel’s visions are full of strange but vivid imagery.

Art/Symbolism: Not unexpectedly for a prophet of God, the phrase, “the word of the Lord came to me” is found 49 times in the book of Ezekiel. But there is a phrase that actually occurs much more often; it is repeated a truly remarkable 70 times in 48 chapters! That is the declaration, “Then they will know that I am the Lord!” When the Lord emphasizes something that much, its representation by the simplest possible symbol seems very appropriate. Hence the verse is stated here with the simple symbol of one large exclamation point.



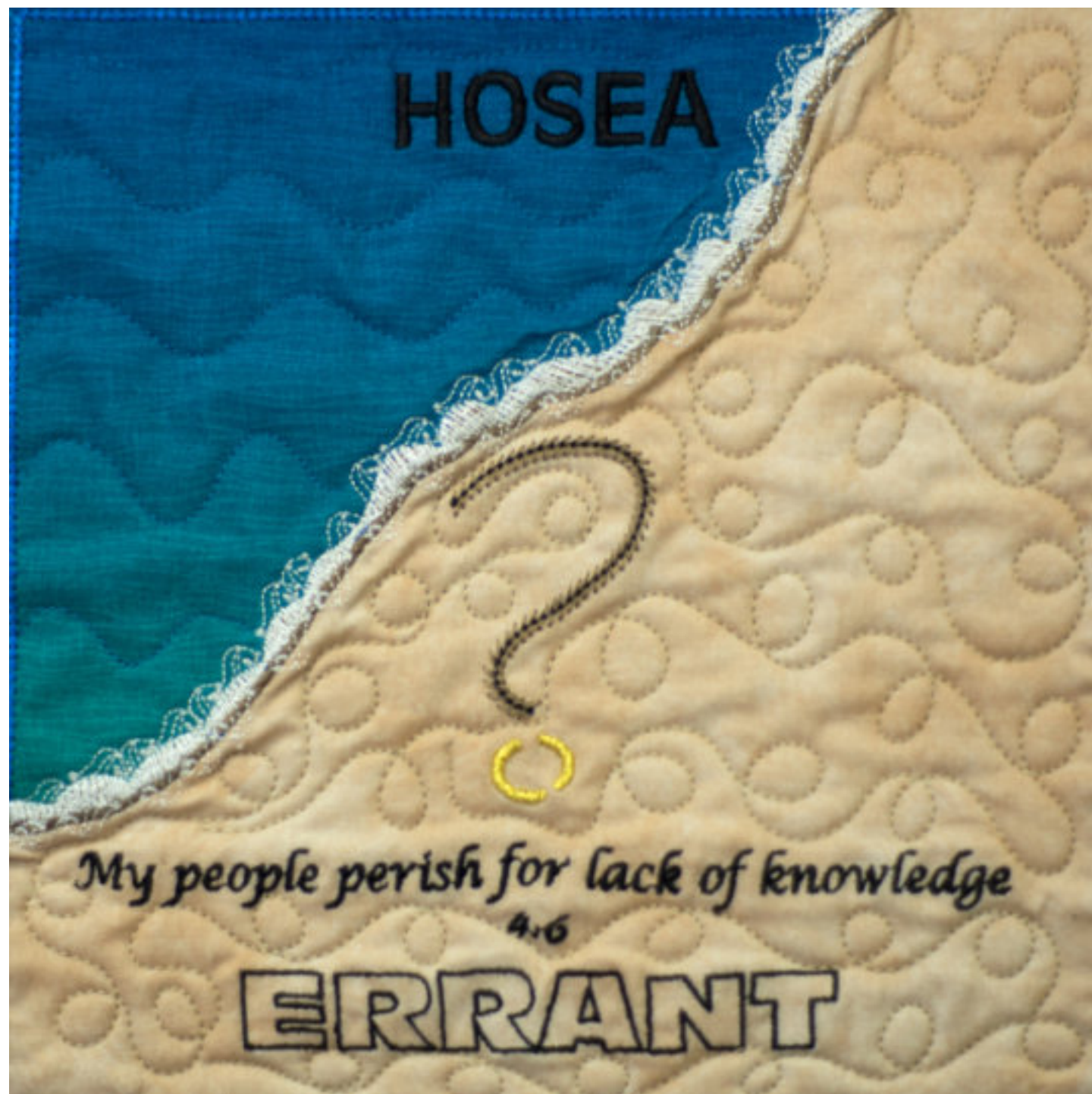
DANIEL

Theme: *REVEALED*

God reveals deep, secret things; He knows what lies in darkness; light dwells with Him. – Daniel 2:22

12 chapters. Daniel was carried away in the first Babylonian wave of captivity, so the time of his prophecy is not drastically different from Ezekiel. Yet the books are dramatically different. The first half of the book contains the memorable stories of young men who are determined to remain true to Almighty God despite their captivity. The last half of the book has visions of coming kingdoms. It seems to reveal quite clearly the ebb and flow of the Babylonians, the Persians, Alexander the Great's Empire, the Roman Empire, and the coming of Christ and His church. It therefore shows with welcome clarity the scope and sweep of kingdoms for at least the next few hundred years.

Art/Symbolism: The background is midnight blue, indicative that normal insight into the future is not opaque, but veiled, like a moonless night. The lion's paw calls to mind the familiar story of Daniel in the lion's den. But the claws tear away at the curtain of midnight, revealing the beauty of heaven. The 4 claws suggest the 4 kingdoms about which Daniel prophesied. Yet these kingdoms are only a prelude to the revealing of the kingdom of heaven. The opening phrase captures this: "God reveals deep, secret things." Within the lion's paw is the phrase "He knows what lies in darkness." This foretells that the Lion of Judah shines light into darkness. Finally, "Light dwells with Him" explains the fundamental nature of prophecy—it is insight into the eternal light of God and reveals things from His perspective.



HOSEA

Theme: *ERRANT*

"My people perish for lack of knowledge." – Hosea 4:6

14 chapters. Hosea prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel. Many prophets endured persecution and personal hardship, but Hosea's assignment was peculiarly difficult. God tells him to marry a woman who is not only an adulteress, but a prostitute. This is a startling illustration of a central theme of the prophets. God established a covenantal relationship with the nation of Israel when He brought them out of Egypt. But the Israelites repeatedly betrayed that covenant at various times in their history. In the case of Hosea the northern kingdom had not been faithful to this covenantal relationship, and in fact had spiritually prostituted itself to the gods of the culture in which they lived. The call for repentance is set forth in the rest of the book. Despite their despicable behavior, God will forgive and take back His unfaithful children if they will completely repent.

Art/Symbolism: The block symbolism matches the book. The people have broken their vows, as seen in the broken wedding ring. God is ready to forgive, washing away their grievous sins if they repent, much as waves from the sea can wash clean the shore. The question mark in the sand indicates that the choice is up to the people—will they learn from this prophet and repent from their spiritual prostitution? The contrast between sea and shore is reinforced by contrasting quilting patterns.



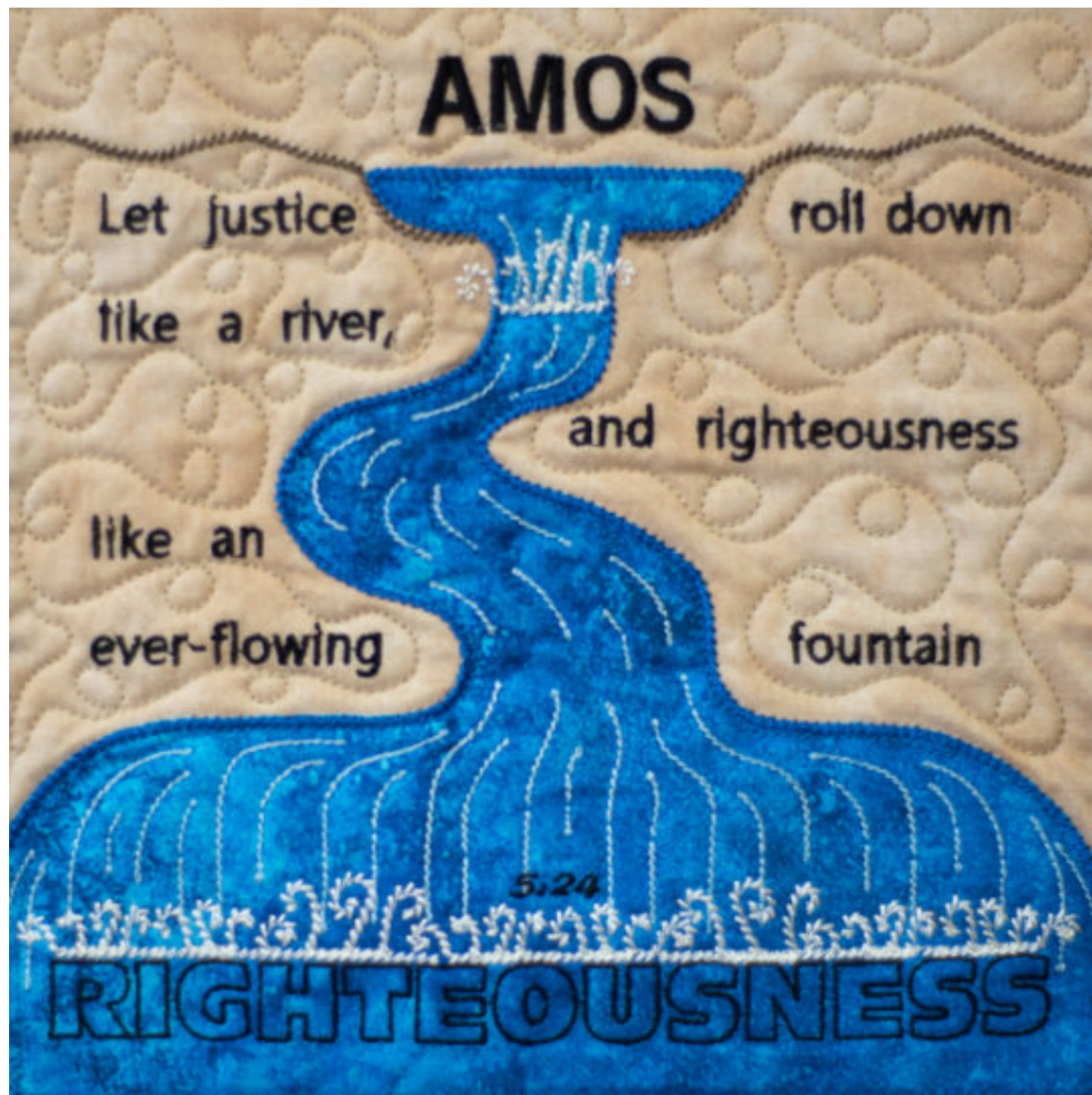
JOEL

Theme: *HEART*

*“Return to Me with all your heart...
rend your heart and not your garments.” – Joel 2:12 – 13*

3 chapters. Joel’s short book is highly regarded as an excellent example of refined Hebrew literature. Although it may not be apparent in the English translation, its style is very polished and it flows smoothly from one thought to another. Multiple threads of thought are woven together quite well. The immediate calamity of a great swarm of locusts, vividly captured in the first chapter, is seen as allegorical for the coming fearful Day of Judgment for Judah. Joel earnestly pleads for the people to repent, proclaiming the blessings which would follow. He then closes with the prophecy of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the resultant great blessings which will be shared as a result of this prophesied event.

Art/Symbolism: The block’s artwork metaphorically parallels the book’s literary structure as it presents the representative verse. Each symbol recalls various representations of the heart while incorporating specific words which are appropriate for representation by that symbol. Zigzag embroidery stitching is used to capture the idea of rending the heart. A different technique illustrates the comparative idea of the superficial act of rending garments. As portrayed, this rending is more dramatic and highly visible, but it is “for show.” Its meaning is more superficial by far than the sincere and spiritually meaningful rending of the heart.



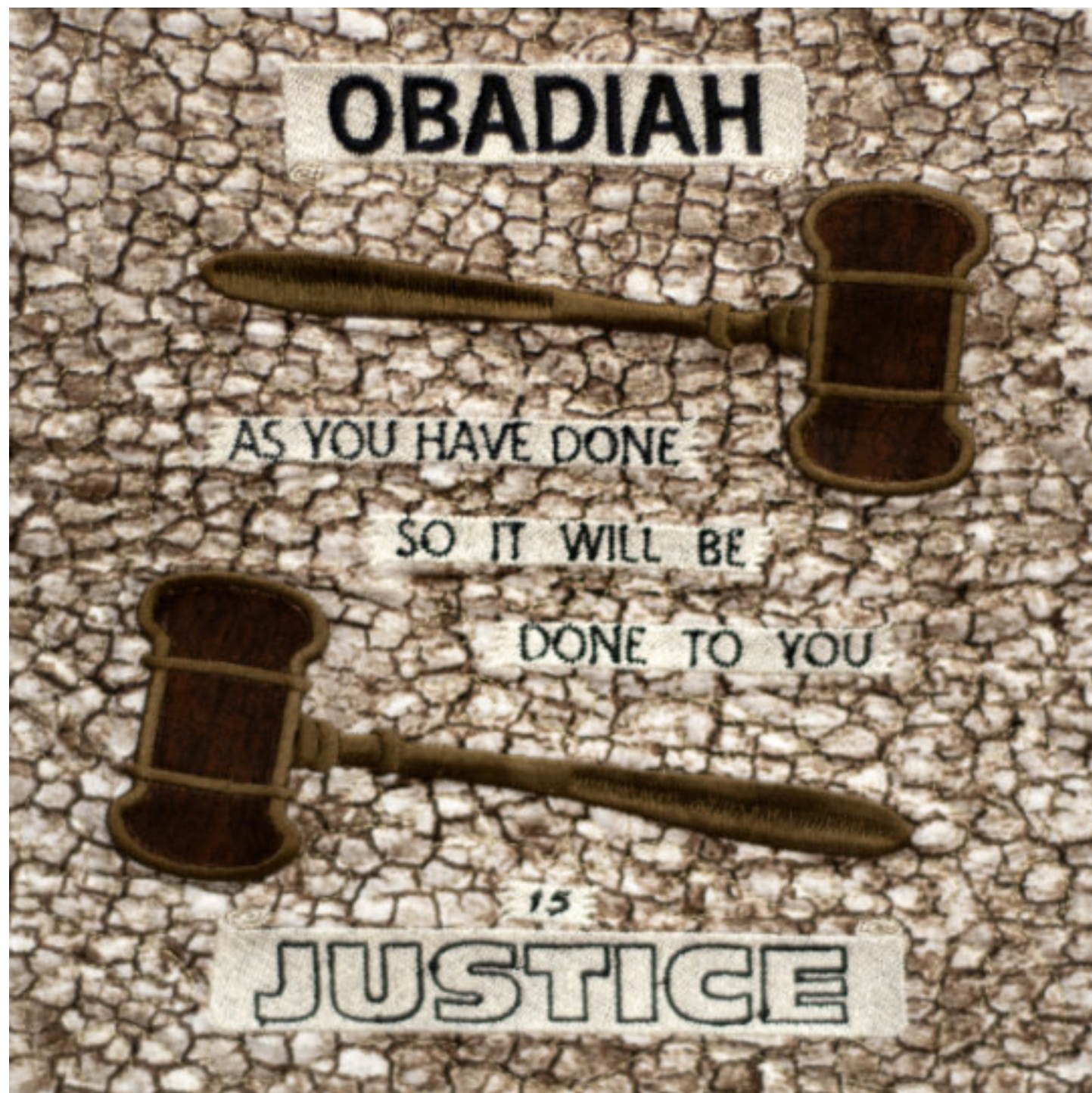
AMOS

Theme: *RIGHTEOUSNESS*

*Let justice roll down like a river,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing fountain. – Amos 5:24*

9 chapters. Amos was a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. They had entered into a brief period of great prosperity, but severely neglected the poor. The leaders are called out as thieves, and it goes downhill from there. There are five visions of the coming judgement of Israel. The style is vastly different from the polish of Joel. Amos had little formal training and came from a remote rural area. He comes across as a fiery country preacher demanding social justice.

Art/Symbolism: This block's art parallels Exodus, not for safe passage through a sea but for full engagement in the river of justice and righteousness. Their affluence has bred apathy. Freed from Egyptian servitude, the people have been overtaken by an even more dangerous form of bondage. Physically, they have been incarcerated by indifference, neglecting the poor and those in need. They need to drink deeply from the river of justice, opening their eyes to see the less fortunate and ministering to those who are thirsty for respect and justice. Spiritually, the people are slaves of self-righteousness. They need to immerse themselves in the fountain of the true righteousness of Almighty God. This is illustrated in the block by the roaring waterfall, washing away smug surface illusions and spiritual pretension to show the powerful cleansing needed to even approach a supremely righteous Lord.



OBADIAH

Theme: *JUSTICE*

As you have done, so it will be done to you. – Obadiah 15

1 chapter. The shortest book in the Old Testament is directed towards one of Judah's neighboring states, Edom. Edom occupied mostly rocky mountainous terrain and became rather smug about any possible vulnerability. They could venture out when they wanted, but retreat to the forbidding terrain of their homeland whenever necessary. In the case which precipitated this prophesy, the Edomites not only failed to help their distant cousins when Judah was in trouble; they actually gloated over its downfall. The prophetic message is swift and blunt: Edom will be obliterated. (This prophesy was later fulfilled—not by some huge empire pursuing world domination, but by a minor power which was more nimble than huge armies and to whom the relatively modest wealth of Edom was worth pursuing.)

Art/Symbolism: The gavels represent the twin principles of justice: As you have done, so it will be done to you. Hence, the gavels are placed so that they can fall each way as justice requires. The arid earth presages the prophesied fate of Edom.



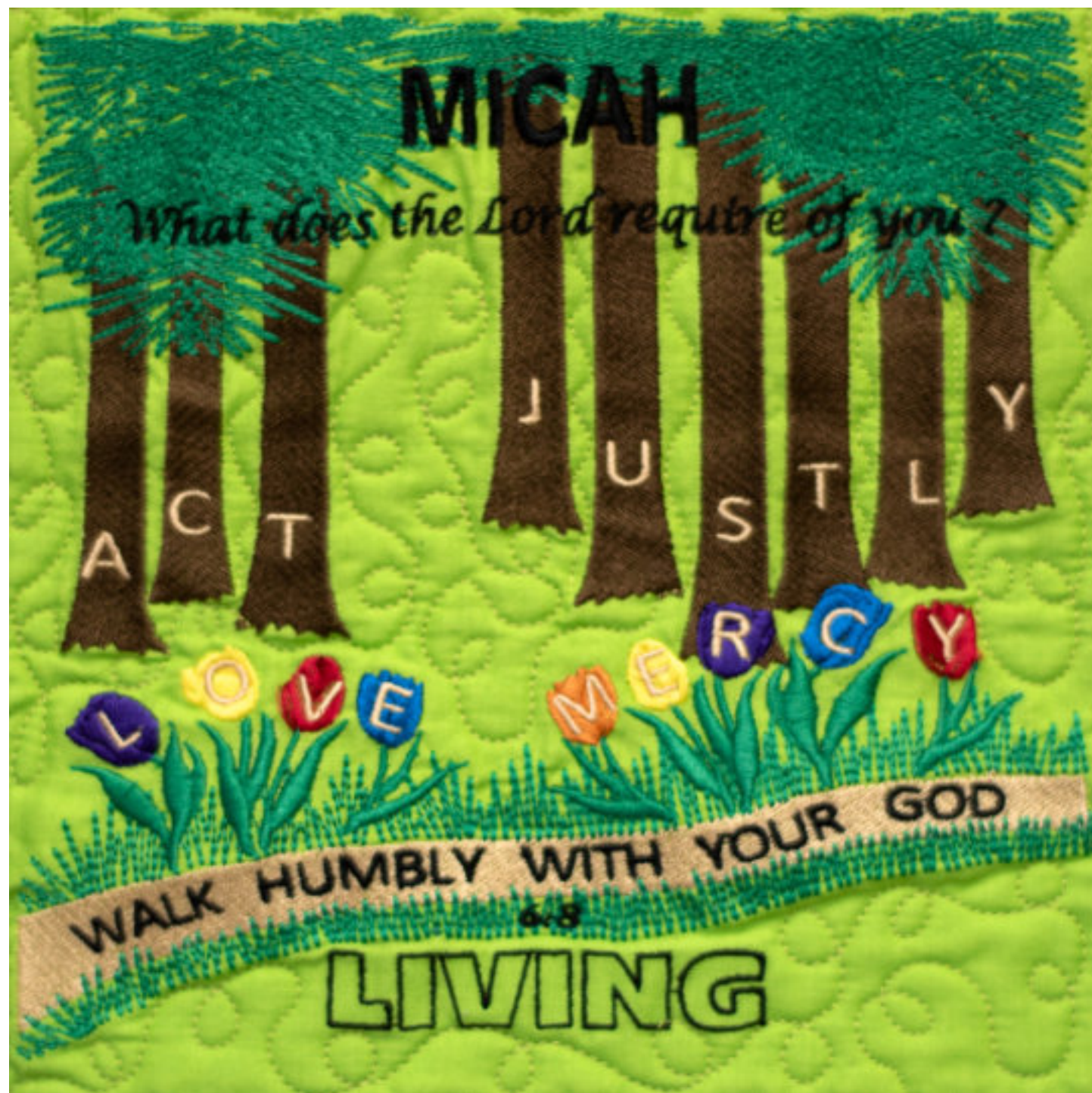
JONAH

Theme: *DIRECTION*

He was running away from the Lord. – Jonah 1:10

4 chapters. Jonah was called to preach repentance to Nineveh, the enormous capital city of Assyria. The Assyrian Empire was in its ascendancy and the enemy of Israel (actually, the enemy of almost everyone). The Assyrians were perhaps the fiercest and cruelest of the various empires who attempted to rule “the world.” Jonah flees on a ship in the opposite direction of Nineveh. He does not fear personal harm; he fears the people of Nineveh will actually listen to him and repent. The story of the storm at sea, Jonah being tossed overboard, and his 3 days in the belly of the “fish” are well known. After he relents and is deposited on land, he goes to Nineveh. His preaching is covered in just one verse. Yet the entire city—more than 120,000 people—repents. Jonah then pouts that he was successful. God chides him and affirms that He is willing to give all people a chance to repent. So, beyond the famous story of the storm and the belly of the fish, Jonah’s story is even more remarkable: His sermon is briefly synopsised in 1 verse. He preaches literally the most immediately successful sermon in history. Then he pouts about his success.

Art/Symbolism: Jonah’s fundamental problem is stated in the block’s verse. His foolish attempt to go the wrong direction is illustrated by the ship’s wheel in the center. The drops represent not only the storm’s rain, but the tearful repentance of a giant city with a notorious past. Finally, “the Lord” is in a font indicative of His patient authority. He is ready to receive penitent sinners. The Lord is also patiently waiting for those running away—He is right where they left Him.



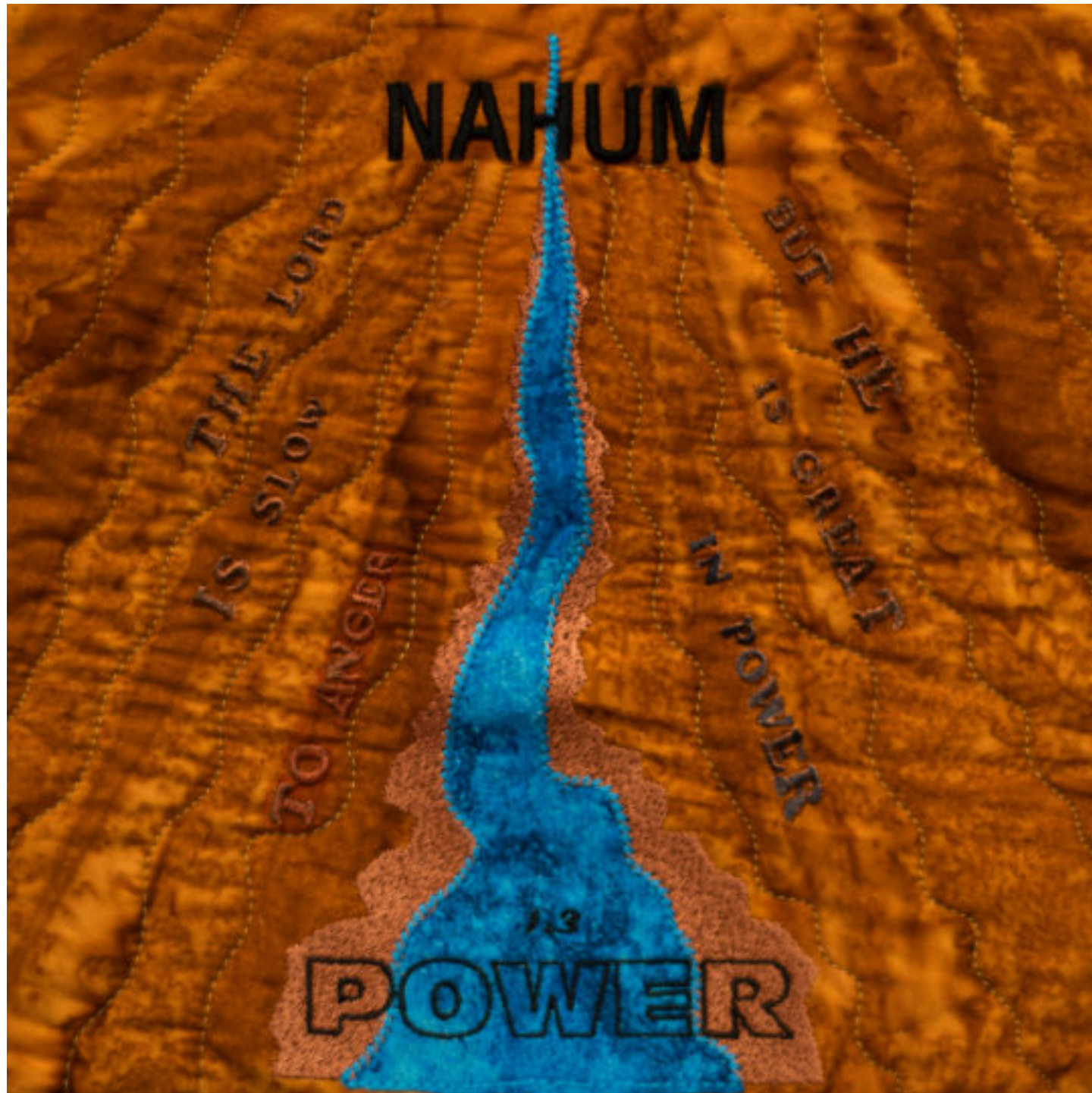
MICAH

Theme: *LIVING*

“Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.”
– Micah 6:8

7 chapters. Micah was a prophet at about the same time as Isaiah. He warns of the punishment from God against the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. They were going through the religious motions, but their sacrifices and worship ceremonies were hollow pretenses.

Art/Symbolism: The Lord succinctly proclaims what is required of everyone on a daily, practical basis. “Act justly” is written in the trees, calling to mind that there are basic principles which must stand as an inviolable part of a person’s daily living if that person is to be known as a person of fairness and integrity. “Love mercy” appears to blossom amongst the flowers. Mercy is not instinctive; it must be cultivated to bloom. But, like a flower, a merciful person can make life more pleasant for all who encounter him or her. “Walk humbly with your God” is shown as a humble footpath. The embroidery material used for life’s path in this block is the same as the footprints in Numbers and III John. The contrast in journeys between the crucible footsteps of Numbers and the gentle pathway of Micah is starkly evident. The road of life is best trod by humbly inviting the Creator of Life to guide the journey.



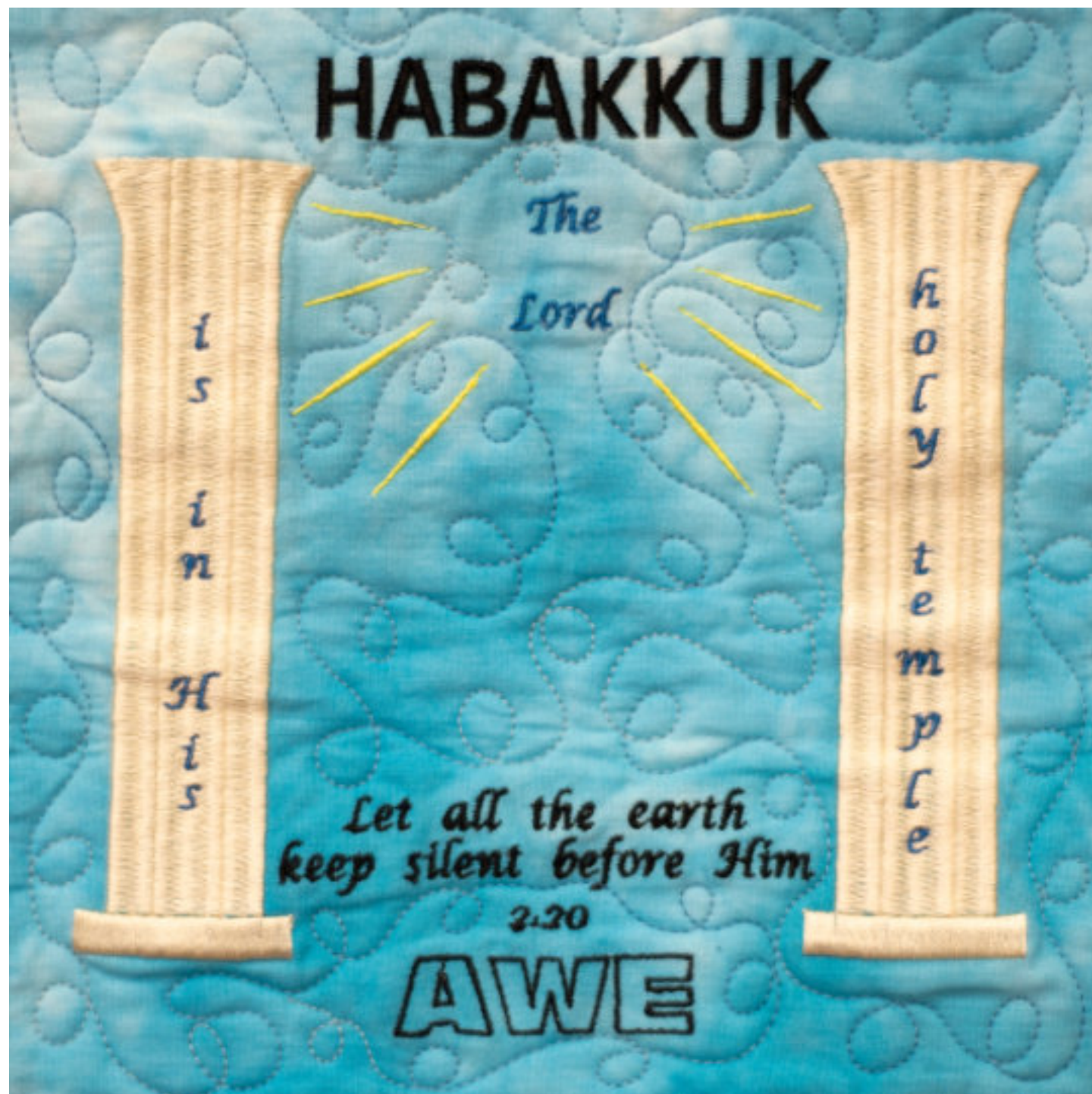
NAHUM

Theme: *POWER*

The Lord is slow to anger, but He is great in power.
– Nahum 1:3

3 chapters. Although Nineveh had repented when Jonah preached there, they subsequently reverted to their abominable ways. Nahum forcefully and quickly sets forth the message of the Lord: He has been slow to anger, but Nineveh is about to be suddenly and utterly overthrown.

Art/Symbolism: The cinnamon batik background represents an underlying theme of power whenever it occurs in the quilt. Here it is specially oriented (cut on the bias) to give the impression of a slot canyon. This is reinforced by the diagonal alignment of the quilting in the walls of the “canyon.” A slot canyon is carved out by the powerful action of water over a period of time. It therefore illustrates the truth of the verse. As the water inexorably carves out the canyon it reveals the fundamental truth of both the remarkable patience and overwhelming power of Almighty God, subtly evident in the walls. The verse font is not set off by unique coloring; it is revealed as an integral part of the canyon walls—a central truth about the Creator which is inherent in His creation. The river symbolizes the life-changing power of our patient and powerful Lord. It parallels the rolled back Red Sea in Exodus and the river of justice and righteousness in Amos.



HABAKKUK

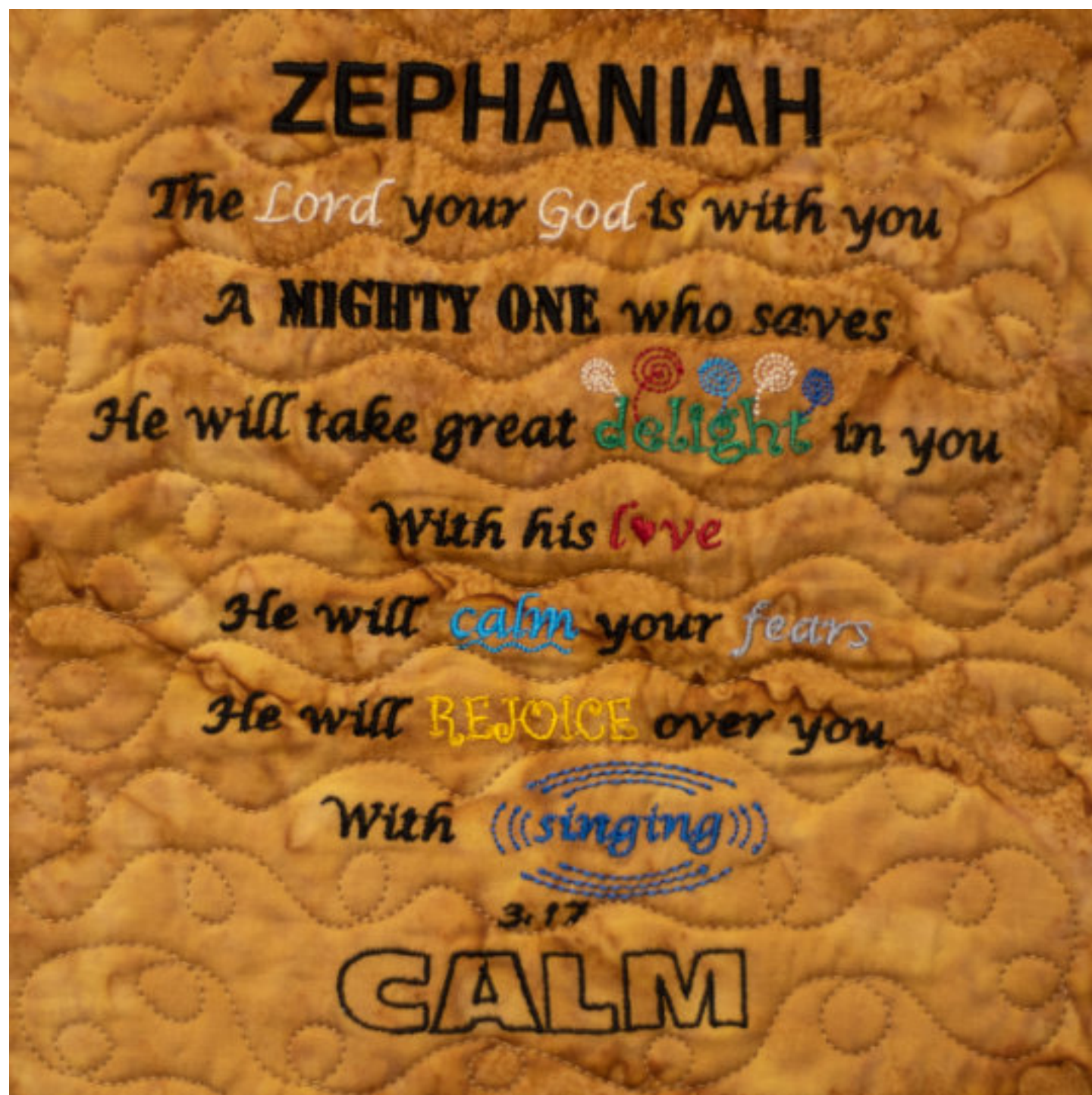
Theme: *AWE*

“The Lord is in His holy temple.

Let all the earth keep silent before Him.” – Habakkuk 2:20

3 chapters. This book is unique amongst the prophets. The “standard” prophetic form is for the prophet to call out the people for their sinful ways, announce what will happen if they do not change, and hold out hope for a better distant future. These prophets speak to the people on behalf of God. In contrast, Habakkuk is a short dialogue between the prophet and God. This dialogue occurs after the Babylonians have conquered the Assyrians, but before they have invaded Judah. Part 1: Habakkuk decries the moral decay in Judah. Part 2: God replies that He will use the Babylonians to wreak havoc on the Jews because of Judah’s sinfulness. Part 3: Habakkuk admits that Judah has earned this sort of divine wrath, but why should exceptionally evil people be the means by which it happens? Part 4: The Lord tells him that the Babylonians are temporary tools for a purpose, and will in turn be wiped out. It closes with Part 5 (the final chapter): A song of Habakkuk in which he praises the omnipotence and omniscience of Almighty God.

Art/Symbolism: A uniquely dyed background reflects heaven. The Lord is not pictured; only His radiance is seen. The pillars represent “His holy temple.” The final grouping of the verse resembles the people on earth, bowed in silence at the entry to the Lord’s holy temple. The empty space in the center shows that God’s holiness precludes the people from approaching Him any closer. This image will be repeated with a dramatic change in I Timothy.



ZEPHANIAH

Theme: *CALM*

*The Lord your God is with you, a Mighty One who saves.
He will take great delight in you; with His love He will calm your fears.
He will rejoice over you with singing.
– Zephaniah 3:17*

3 chapters. Zephaniah speaks to Judah before its fall to the Babylonians. He returns to a standard form—decrying the sins of the people and predicting the downfall of Judah (and surrounding nations). The closing looks forward to the restoration of a people dedicated to their Lord. Of great interest is the nature of this restoration. Rather than the Jews’ return from exile, Zephaniah presents a vision of people gathering from all over the earth, serving the Lord “shoulder to shoulder,” a comforting picture of God’s special care for all people who gather to serve Him.

Art/Symbolism: Paralleling the image of many different people coming together, this block does not have a single artistic image. Instead it presents the verse with a series of 8 mini-vignettes: White font for the holiness of our Lord and our God, all caps military stencil saluting the Mighty One, the green of new life and celebratory fireworks for a people reborn, the scarlet of a sacrificially loving Lord, the calming blue waters flowing for the spiritually thirsty, gray for fears which will flee, joyous yellow font reflecting a rejoicing God on high, and royal blue for the singing of a sovereign Creator over His gathering children—a song echoing throughout His creation as it surrounds them. The background of honey swirl batik sets the tone of appreciation for the blessings of a God with a personal interest in His children.



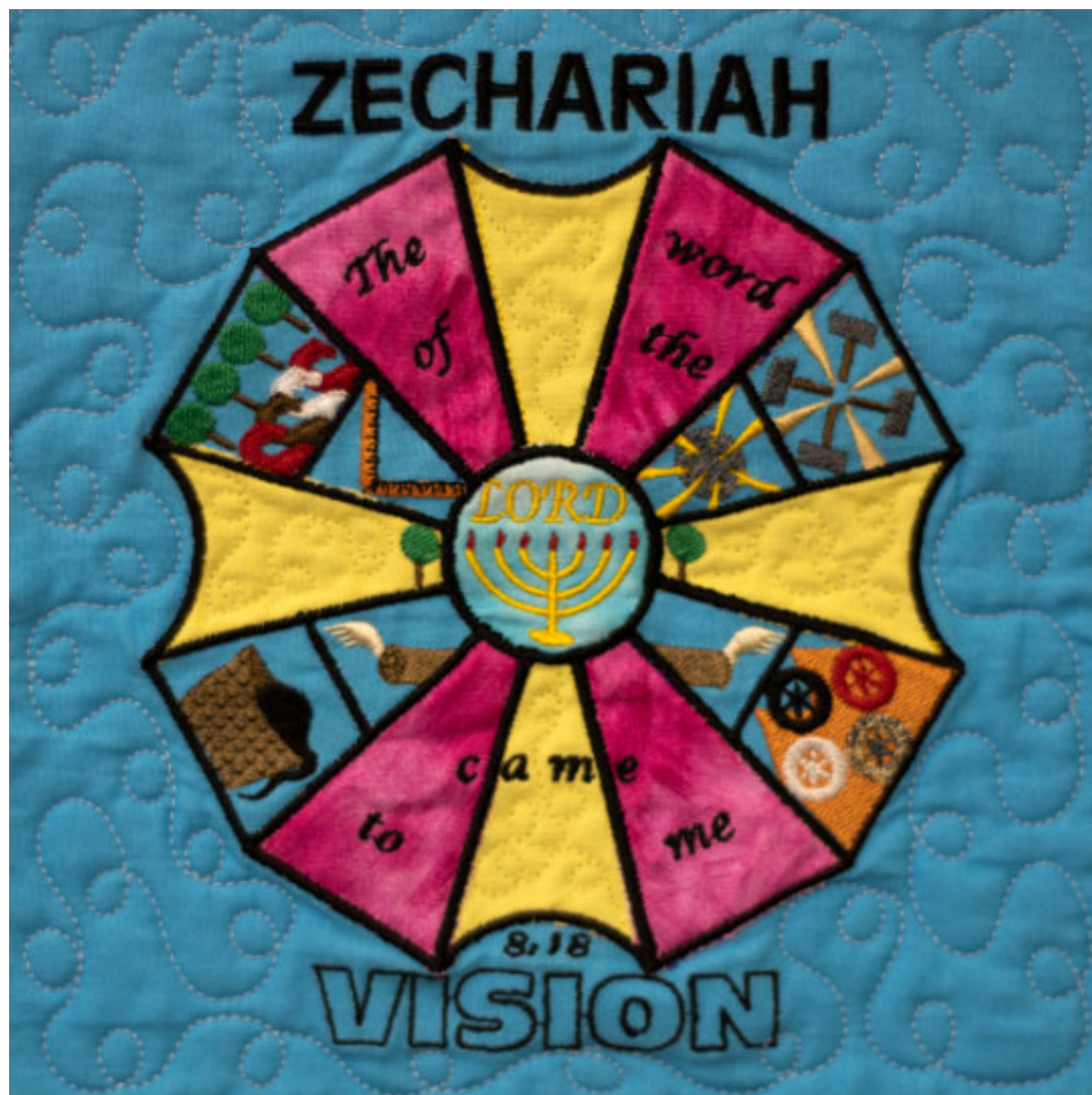
HAGGAI

Theme: *CHALLENGE*

*“Be strong, all you people of the land, and work,
for I am with you.”*
– Haggai 2:4

2 chapters. This is the second shortest book in the Old Testament—only 2 chapters and 38 verses, total. Haggai is very matter-of-fact and gets straight to the point. The first group of exiles returning from Babylonian captivity started to rebuild the temple but got diverted as they began to take care of their own needs. He exhorts them to finish the temple. The people listen to Haggai and the temple is rebuilt.

Art/Symbolism: The orange background is ideally suited for a message centered around construction work. A familiar sign shape and font type serve to further underscore the short and simple message of this book.



ZECHARIAH

Theme: *VISION*

The word of the Lord came to me. – Zechariah 8:18

14 chapters. Zechariah is a post-exile prophet contemporaneous with Haggai. While Haggai is very practical; Zechariah's book exhibits unusual imagery. This can be extremely challenging. The book's last portion focuses more on Messianic prophecies. This is a book of vivid visions—some applicable to the immediate future of the post-exilic Jews, some concerning the rise and fall of future empires, and closing prophecies relating to the coming Messiah and His spiritual kingdom.

Art/Symbolism: The deep sky blue background represents perspective, and this book gives unique perspectives. Its focus is spiritual; therefore, the main artwork is a stained glass window (calling to mind spirituality). The fuchsia applique panes capture the verse. Fuchsia is only used twice in this quilt, signifying the word of the Lord guiding lives. Zechariah's many visions cannot all be depicted, but the clear panes (through which can be seen the blue sky) do show 8 of these visions: 4 horses in a myrtle tree grove, 4 horns and 4 craftsmen with hammers, a measuring line/square, a stone with 7 eyes/rays appearing after Joshua's cleansing ("I will remove the sin of the land in a single day." See the stone in the block on the Gospel of Mark.), 2 olive trees with a golden lampstand, a flying scroll, a woman in a basket, and 4 colored chariots represented by chariot wheels. Finally, the yellow applique windows have no imagery or words, but simply form a cross emblematic of the book's closing Messianic prophecies. The same applique forms the holy flame in Leviticus, the beacon in Isaiah, and the flame of the Holy Spirit in II Timothy.



MALACHI

Theme: *BLESSING*

“Test Me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven.”
– Malachi 3:10

4 chapters. Malachi uses an interesting device, the didactic – dialectic method. First, a statement is made; second, an objection to it is raised; third, the objection is refuted. He prophesied about 100 years after Haggai and Zechariah. Religious observances of the priests and people had lapsed into hollowness. Three examples: Their sacrificial offerings were no longer the best; they brought crippled and diseased animals to the altar. They had become faithless to their sacred wedding vows; divorce was commonplace. Their tithing was no longer God-honoring; they are accused of “robbing” God. The Lord explains that by trying to cheat God the people are really robbing themselves of blessings.

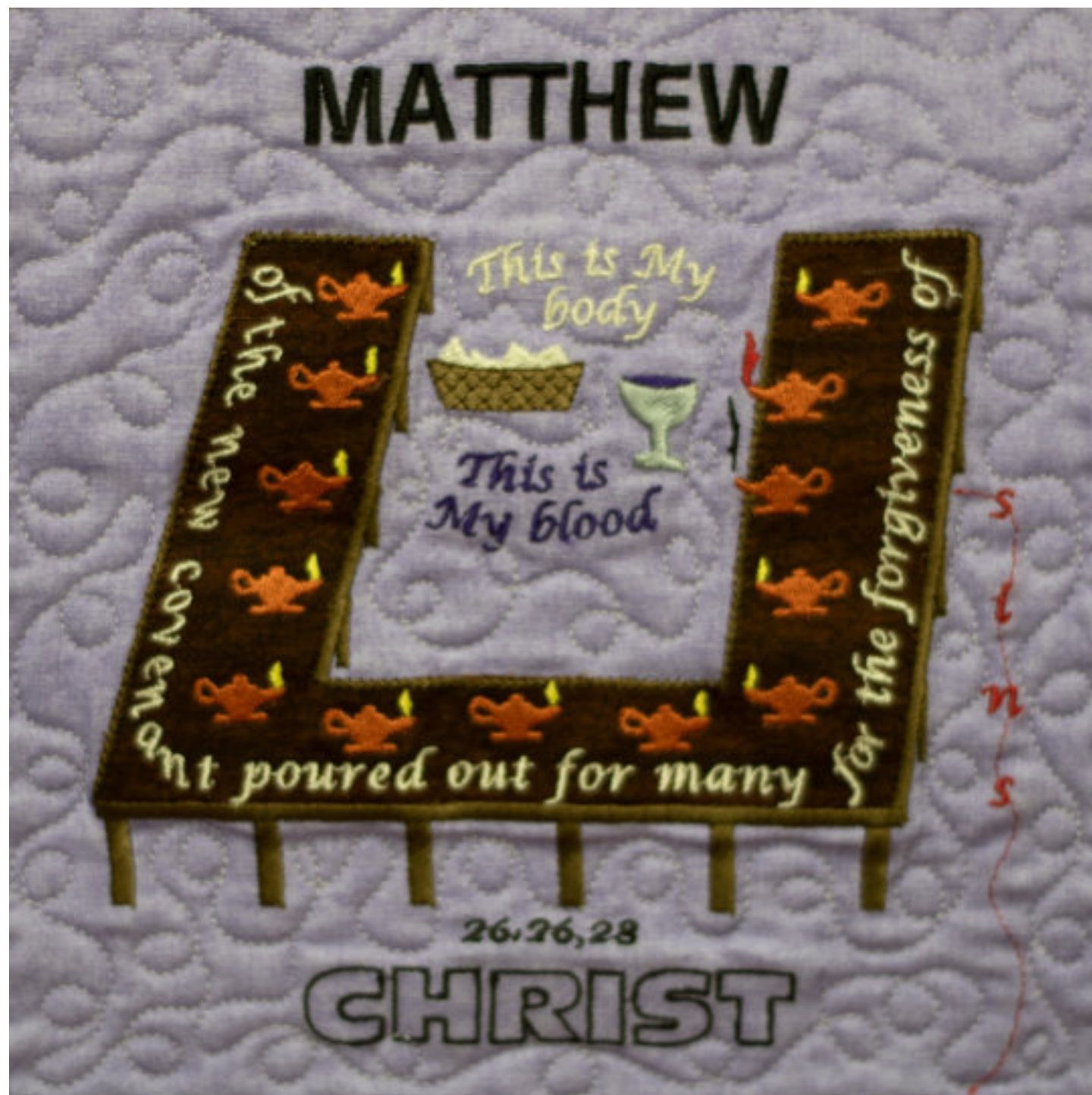
Art/Symbolism: The verse is God’s challenge to the people regarding His blessings and their behavior. The tree grows from the left, a symbolic regrowth of a massive tree from the sprout seen in Lamentations. The small sprouting branch of the tree calls this to our remembrance. God’s faithfulness is great indeed. The stone altar is the place of sacrifice where the priest should offer the very best. It echoes the bridge of Ezra. The wheat and grapes are fruits of a bounteous harvest. They also suggest what is required to produce them. For grapes, a vine which must be pruned, then carefully cultivated. For wheat, seed which must be planted. These symbols will recur in a different form in Matthew.

*"I know
the plans I have for you,"
declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you
and not harm you,
plans to give you a hope
and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11

*For God so loved the world
that He gave
His only begotten Son,
that whosoever
believes in Him
should not perish,
but have eternal life.*

John 3:16



MATTHEW

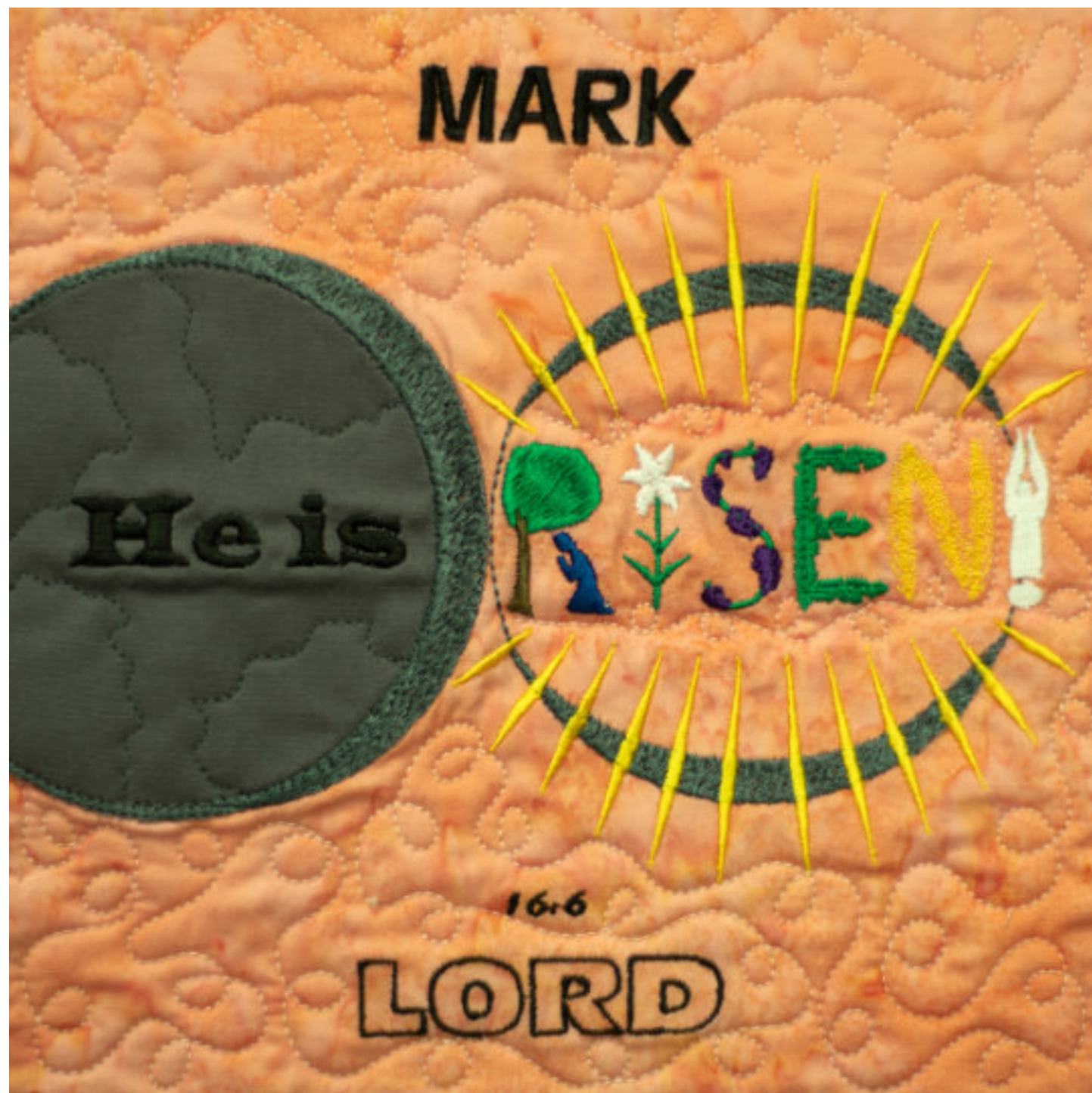
Theme: *CHRIST*

“This is My body. This is My blood of the new covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

– Matthew 26:26, 28

28 chapters. Matthew presents Jesus as the Christ—the Messiah—who fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament. Written from a Jewish perspective, this is a teacher’s gospel. It is full of parables and sermons, such as the Sermon on the Mount.

Art/Symbolism: The artwork of the 4 Gospels each present a pivotal moment in the life of Christ. For Matthew, the Lord’s Supper is pictured. A lavender background and flames recall the priesthood and holiness in Leviticus. The central statement of Communion is the focal point. The surrounding verse completion captures its worldwide promise. The lamp of each apostle except Judas is aglow. The lamp of Christ has a red flame, emblematic of His impending sacrifice, the same color as “sins.” The blessings flowing through Christ are mirrored from the blessings in Malachi’s block. The regrown tree has been cut down again to become a table around which Christians will reflect on sacrifice and resurrection. The wheat has become the unleavened bread; the grapes are now the wine. That wine, emblematic of Christ’s blood being offered as the perfect sacrifice, is contained in a simple chalice composed of the same thread outlining the altar of sacrifice in Malachi. The basket holding the unleavened bread is the same as that used to collect the grapes in Malachi. Matthew presents Christ as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, so this block brings in imagery from O. T. blocks to depict the reverence and blessings of this sacred memorial.



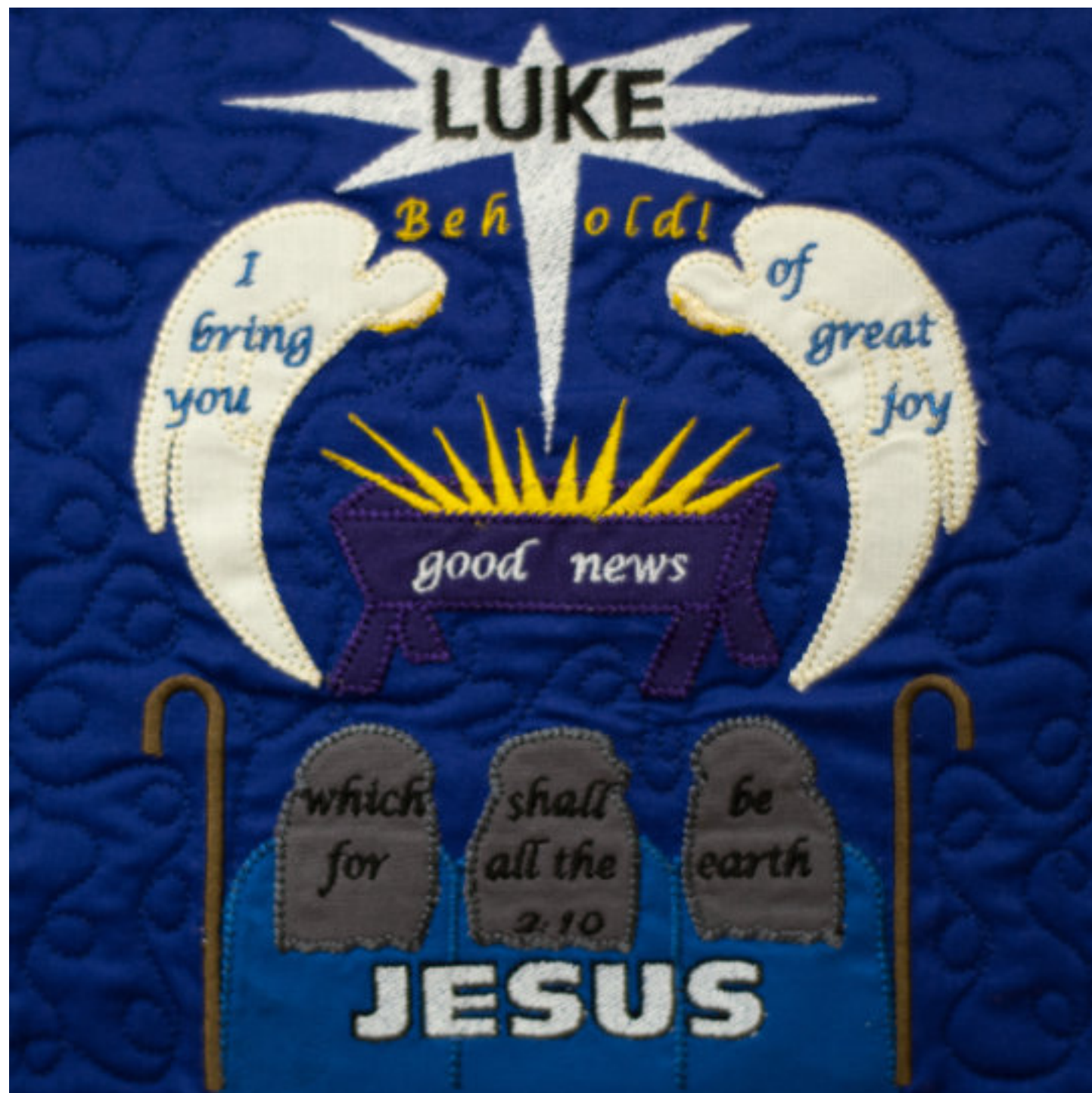
MARK

Theme: *LORD*

He is risen! – Mark 16:6

16 chapters. The Gospel of Mark presents Jesus as Lord—the ruler of heaven and earth. This perspective, plus Mark’s straight-to-the-point style, makes it not only appealing to the Romans, but to everyone who appreciates the directness of this shortest of all the gospels.

Art/Symbolism: The most prominent feature is the stone rolled away to reveal an empty tomb—“He is risen!” All the letters of “Risen” are reminders of what some call “Passion Week.” The “R” is a scene from the Garden of Gethsemane. The “I” is an Easter Lily, symbolic of the glorious resurrection. The “S” is a grapevine, a remembrance of the chalice of wine in the Lord’s Supper. “E” is formed by palm branches, a part of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. “N” is formed by wheat stalks, a remembrance of the bread of the Last Supper. The “!” is formed by an angel, recalling the angel’s stunning proclamation. The 24 rays shine from the empty tomb since the light that burst forth at the Resurrection offers hope and joy for the whole world—all the tribes of Israel as well as all the people over all the earth. The embroidery thread bordering the empty tomb and the stone rolled away is the same as the stone with rays appearing in Zechariah. (“I will remove the sin of the land in a single day.”) The dark gray applique forming the stone is used only twice in the quilt to portray events changing the world forever. The quilting shows cracks in the stone; death has been conquered. The Lord Jesus is supremely triumphant, and His disciples know death is not the final word.



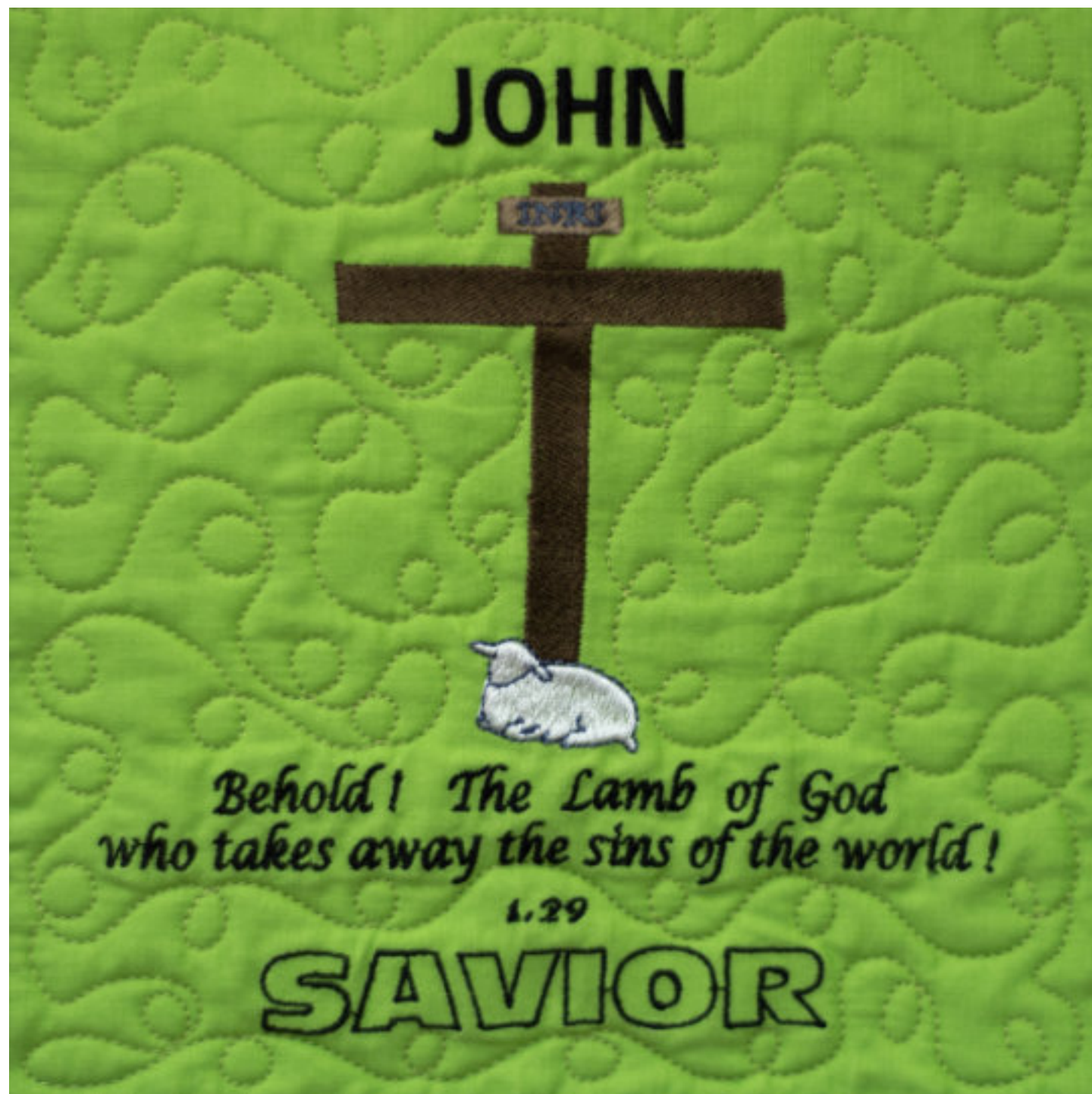
LUKE

Theme: *JESUS*

Behold! I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the earth. – Luke 2:10

24 chapters. Luke shows Christ our Lord and Savior is fully human; whatever other names are apt, it should always be remembered that Jesus was a man. He can empathize with His creation because—in a staggering demonstration of humility—He became a part of His own creation. His incarnation as an infant is best covered by Luke. The value of human touch and the pathos of the human condition comes across very clearly in Luke.

Art/Symbolism: Luke's special coverage of the birth of Jesus made the Incarnation a great match for this block's artwork. The midnight sky uses the same material as the background curtain in Daniel. But now God's bold plan is not presented in prophetic visions, but revealed in the Incarnation of Jesus. The celebratory angels fill the sky above. As a counterpoint, the overwhelmed shepherds see the blessed event from the humble position of the bottom of the picture. The angelic hosts above as well as the humble shepherds below are united in joy by a single figure: a baby in a manger. The Lord of the universe whose design provides for the animals of His creation to be nourished now lies in a lowly manger specifically used to feed animals. But the purple applique manger hints that the precious child who lies inside is royalty of the highest order. The Lamb of God appropriately lies in a place where lambs are kept. The Good Shepherd's first visitors are quite naturally shepherds—with their dark gray applique symbolizing this world-changing event.



JOHN

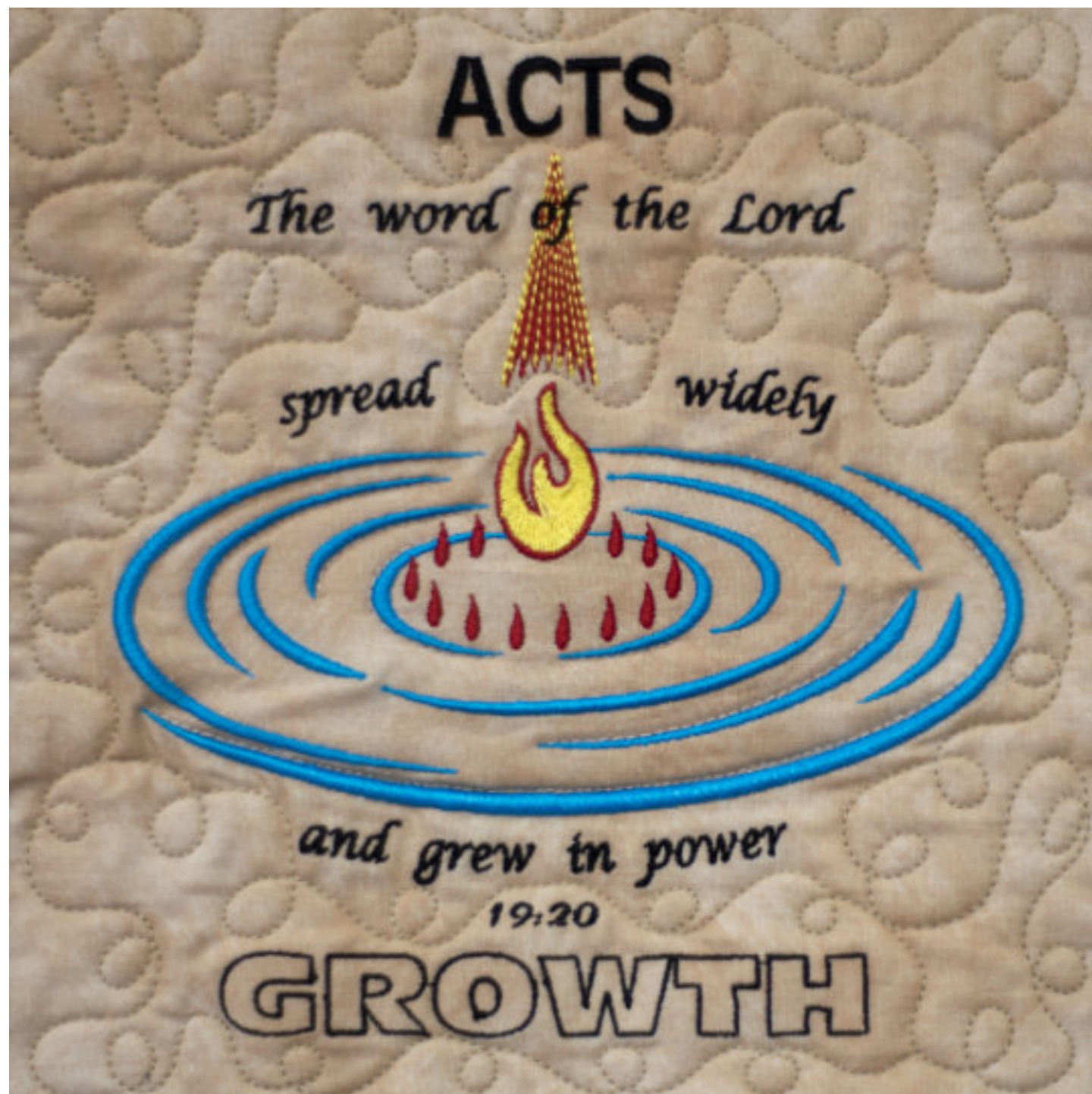
Theme: *SAVIOR*

Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

– John 1:29

21 chapters. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as “synoptic gospels.” Synoptic means “seen together.” They tell a similar biographical story from different perspectives. The Gospel of John is unique. Its opening verses are a classic statement of basic Christian doctrine. One third of the book is devoted to a 24 hour period in the life of the Savior. The excitement of Peter and John racing to find an empty tomb is not told as a narrative—it is told by a participant. Love dominates its pages, and it is highly relational. Jesus is not only divine; He is a personal Savior.

Art/Symbolism: The Cross is a universally recognized symbol. At the foot of the Cross, a lamb calls to mind that Jesus was the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice. Those two images are presented against a green background which symbolizes growth, a reminder that the Savior conquered death and offers new life. At the top of the cross, “INRI” is an abbreviation for “Jesus Nazareus Rex Iudaeorum,” a Latin phrase meaning “Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews.” (The sign affixed at the top of the cross was actually in 3 languages: Latin, Hebrew, and Greek. By tradition, only the Latin initials are written. The full 3 language inscription would be unreadable in almost all artistic renderings.) Many labels have been put on Jesus. The key question is not what public labels others have attached to Jesus, but rather what He is to each of us personally. Inherent in the Christian image of death on the Cross is the certainty of final victory over death by the Savior.



ACTS

Theme: *GROWTH*

The word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power – Acts 19:20

28 chapters. The Acts of the Apostles is essentially a history of the early church. It starts with the risen Jesus ascending into heaven, and the replacement of Judas so that there are 12 apostles again. Then the dramatic events on Pentecost are covered. Subsequent chapters describe the church at Jerusalem and its expansion into all Judea and Samaria. Peter is guided to take the hugely important step of sharing the gospel with Gentiles. The last part of the book describes how the church grew, expanding across Asia Minor, then into Greece, and finally to Rome itself. Despite persecution, in just 30 years the gospel has swept across the Roman world.

Art/Symbolism: Pentecost is depicted. The Holy Spirit descends from heaven upon the apostles. The same flame motif is used for the Spirit in the II Timothy block. The “tongues of fire” come to rest over all 12 apostles. Previously, in Matthew, at the Last Supper, the apostles’ oil lamps had a yellow flame—only Jesus’ flame was red. Now the apostles are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the hands and feet of Jesus, as their red flames imply. The rapid growth of the church is reflected in the expanding concentric circles, just as a single drop of water creates ever-expanding waves. The 12 apostles at Pentecost are soon joined by the apostle Paul, resulting in 13 total apostles. Hence there are 13 waves. The background is reminiscent of soft earth or fine sand. The people in all the lands are hungry for truth and grace; the good news will blossom in this soil, with its transforming spiritual growth.



ROMANS

Theme: *GRACE*

*Being justified by His grace as a gift
through redemption in Christ Jesus – Romans 3:24*

16 chapters. Romans can be challenging, but it is a superb summary of Christian doctrine. It covers faith, the importance of the Old Law in bringing us to Christ, the mercy and grace of Jesus' love, redemption, sacrifice, and salvation. Paul fiercely denounces the futility of sin and its resulting defeat and death. Yet he also proudly proclaims that in Christ Jesus—and only in Him—victory is assured; we can be “more than conquerors.” The “wages of sin” is contrasted with the grace of Christ.

Art/Symbolism: The artwork specifically mirrors the verse. “*Being justified*”: The dark red applique on the reverse side of the bow points to sin’s chaos, depicted in Judges. Justified is a legal term. We are guilty, but absolved from guilt by the extraordinary intervention of our Advocate. “*By His grace*”: The gospel is indeed “good news,” the best of news. It must be told with an ambiance of joy as seen in the bright yellow background. “*As a gift*”: The gift of grace—priceless yet free—is symbolized by the bow. “*Through redemption*”: That incalculable price to redeem us—to “buy us back”—is reflected in the crimson embroidery fill stitch emblematic of the blood of the Lamb. “*In Christ Jesus*”: The cross in the center is indicative of the fact that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the only reason this magnificent gift of eternal life is available to us. The bright yellow satin stitch embroidery is the same as the rays found in the creation of life in Genesis and the rays from the Resurrection which conquered death as seen in Mark.



I CORINTHIANS

Theme: *MERCY*

You were washed, sanctified, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
– I Corinthians 6:11

16 chapters. The city of Corinth was infamous for its immorality even in the pagan world. The people of the church at Corinth continued to struggle with sins from their past. The first 11 chapters address a sad litany of sins. Paul is shocked and dismayed that he must rebuke sins of this nature and prevalence amongst Corinthian Christians. The final chapters turn to the more uplifting messages of unity, love, worship, and resurrection.

Art/Symbolism: Within the context of dealing with extensive sin, Paul lists some of the appalling sins of which the people of the church were guilty in the past. He then immediately follows it with the verse in this block, reminding them of the cleansing which comes from fully embracing the Lord Jesus Christ. The church has many functions. The artwork in this block pictures it as a spiritual hospital, a place to recover from a sinful past. The hospital sign refers to this function. But Christians cannot simply retreat into convalescence; their mission is to spread the good news of a loving Lord—hence the pink background. Finally, the river symbol reminds us that with our cleansing comes the responsibility to bear the name of Christ.



II CORINTHIANS

Theme: *FREE*

*If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creature,
the old has gone, the new has come! – II Corinthians 5:17*

13 chapters. False teachers had come to Corinth, challenging Paul's gospel teachings and his authority as an apostle. Paul spends considerable time defending himself, and exposing these people as false teachers. In so doing we get a much better picture of what sufferings Paul endured to share the gospel. He segues from his own sufferings to the fact that all Christians will suffer, and that as a minimum we will endure the frailties of our physical bodies, which he refers to at one point as "jars of clay." Nevertheless, we can be confident that our spiritual bodies will never decay because we have been transformed by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Art/Symbolism: One of the most basic concepts in Christianity is that people can change—and to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, we *must* change. This is not a mere superficial change, but a spiritual transformation. One of the clearest analogous physical examples of this sort of transformation is the metamorphosis of the butterfly. That makes the beautiful image of a butterfly the perfect choice to illustrate this verse. The embroidery technique used was far different than standard embroidery. The butterfly had to be built up in sequential layers. Only in this way could the complex multi-colored image of a butterfly in flight be convincingly created.



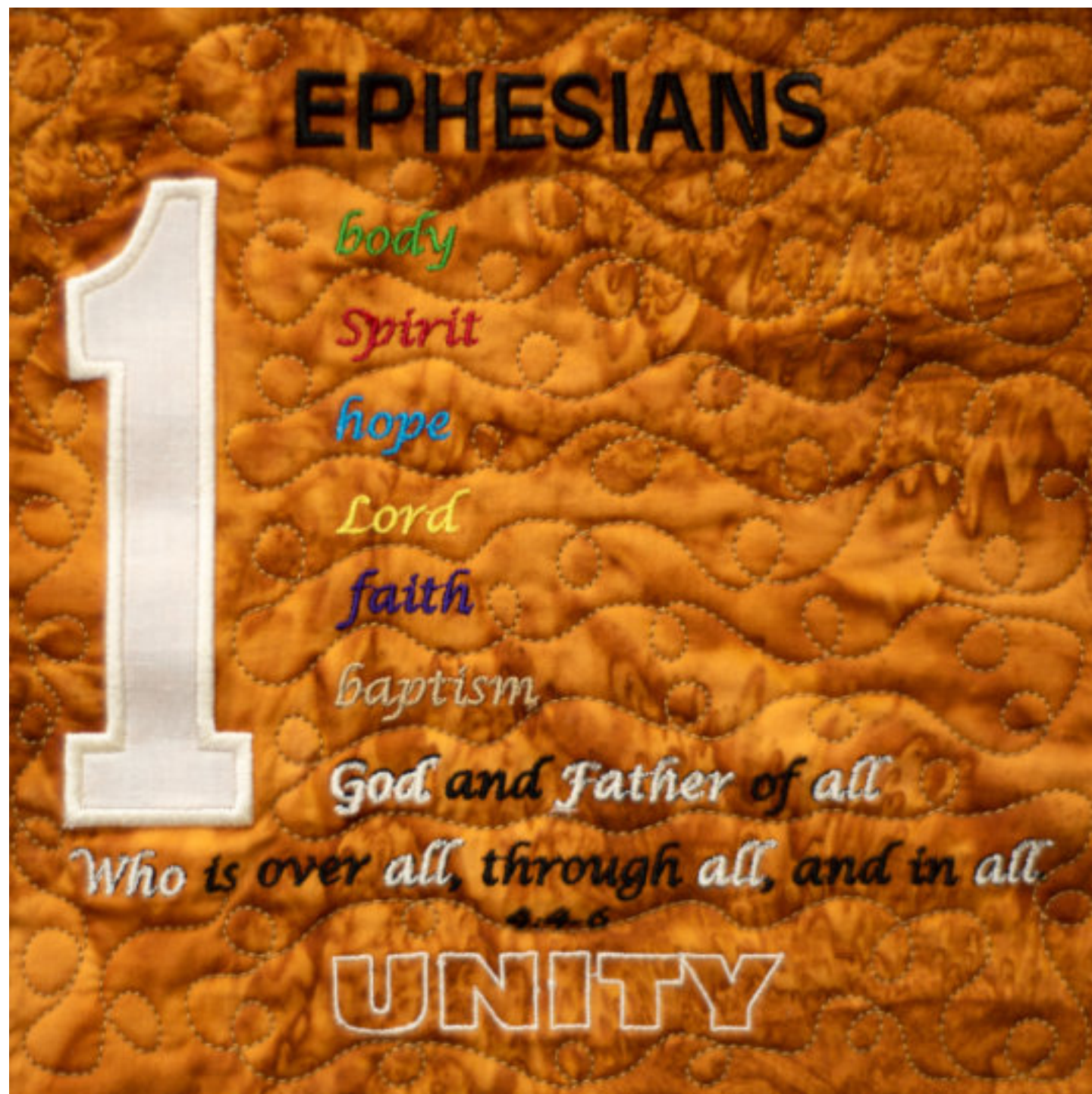
GALATIANS

Theme: *HARMONY*

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female. You are all one in Christ Jesus – Galatians 3:28

6 chapters. The book of Galatians is about Christian freedom. The first part of the book is about freedom from religious legalism. But the polar opposite of unfettered license creates its own form of tyranny. The key is Christian liberty, which is the subject of the last part of Galatians. We are not called to adhere to a strict set of rules and regulations, but rather we should be led by the Spirit in love. This leads to a life of true spiritual freedom, wherein we are able to achieve a balance between hollow, rigid religious ritual and vapid, accommodative spiritual ambivalence.

Art/Symbolism: The artwork seeks to capture 3 essential truths from Galatians. The first is stated in the verse itself. The trio listed breaks down every important wall of that time (and our time); Christ can unite us all. To be led by the Spirit is to produce the fruit of the Spirit listed here. Finally, we unite in harmony as each of us seeks to glorify God. To illustrate the blending inherent in Christian freedom, every color of embroidery thread from the entire quilt is used in this block. The applique of the theme banner is representative of heaven. The song is “Holy, Holy, Holy”—the phrase sung around the throne of Almighty God in both the Old and New Testament. Thus, the artwork together symbolizes the Trinity. The eternal beauty of freedom in Christ is that it produces not a coerced chant but a collective harmony. Harmony is not achieved by everyone being compelled to sing the same note; it is achieved by everyone being committed to sing for the same purpose.



EPHESIANS

Theme: *UNITY*

*One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith,
one baptism, one God and Father of all Who is over all,
through all, and in all. – Ephesians 4:4-6*

6 chapters. Ephesians is a succinct statement of the principles uniting all Christians. The opening makes clear we are united by the plan prepared for us by God the Father, the price of salvation paid by Christ the Son, and the powerful guidance of the Holy Spirit. The basis of Christian unity in the Body of Christ is the clear focus of the middle of the book; the phrase “in Christ” occurs 11 times. Believers are encouraged to live an exemplary life of purity and love. Our relationships are to be based on our more fundamental relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The book closes with instructions on arming ourselves for spiritual warfare.

Art/Symbolism: The dominant “1” declares unity; a cream colored applique shows its divine nature. Each unifying word has its own color. “Body” = green; the body of Christ is not contained in a building but in His people joined together—growth is essential to its mission. “Spirit” = red, reminiscent of the flames of Pentecost and the confidence of II Timothy. “Hope” = blue for clarity—our shared perspective is what gives us hope. “Lord” = flame yellow for light—we must reflect His light. “Faith” = purple; our faith and worship creates a special communion. “Baptism” = cinnamon; this color represents the power available through humble obedience which should unite all disciples. All of this is placed against a cinnamon swirl batik background which reminds us of the power of unity.



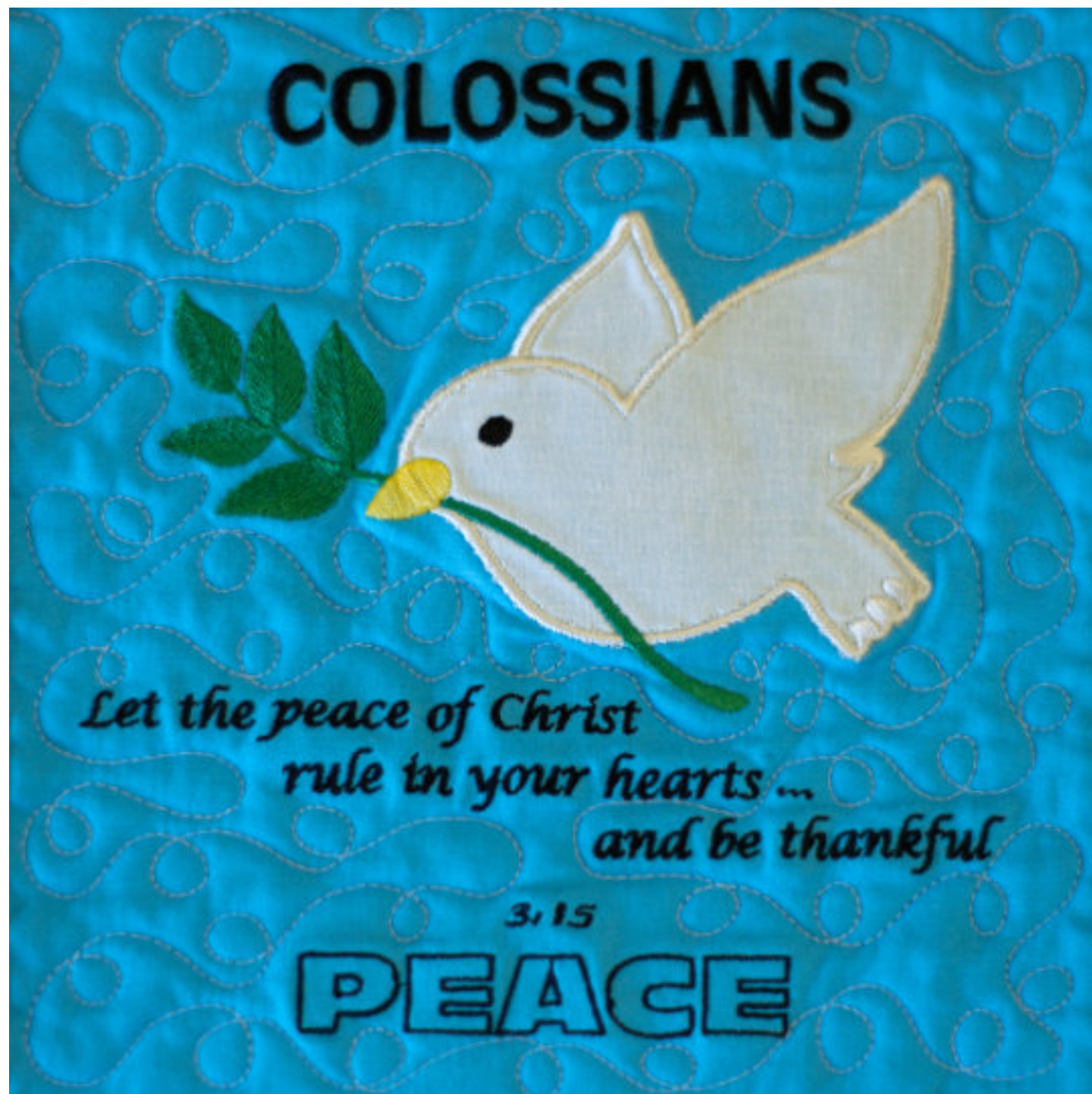
PHILIPPIANS

Theme: *JOY*

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! – Philippians 4:4

4 chapters. Philippians is called “The Epistle of Joy.” In this short book, the words “joy” or “rejoice” are found 16 times. This is remarkable when we consider it was written from a Roman prison cell. It contains a beautifully written passage about the humility of Christ and how our attitude should be like His. Some believe that this may have been the lyrics to a song of the very early church. Christians are encouraged to shine like stars in a universe which is all too familiar with darkness. They should hold onto their faith and “press on toward the goal.” We are reminded of the transcendent peace of God which can guard our hearts. In a world in which negativity is common, those who follow the Lord should be known for dwelling on positive things— what is true, right, pure, lovely, etc. Many are well-acquainted with the verse, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” It is easy to see why this short, joyful book is so inspiring.

Art/Symbolism: A popular and straightforwardly joyous book deserves a similarly straightforward and popular symbol of happiness and joy. The smile shows the source of our joy—a crucified but risen Savior, and the privilege of reflecting the good news of His salvation.



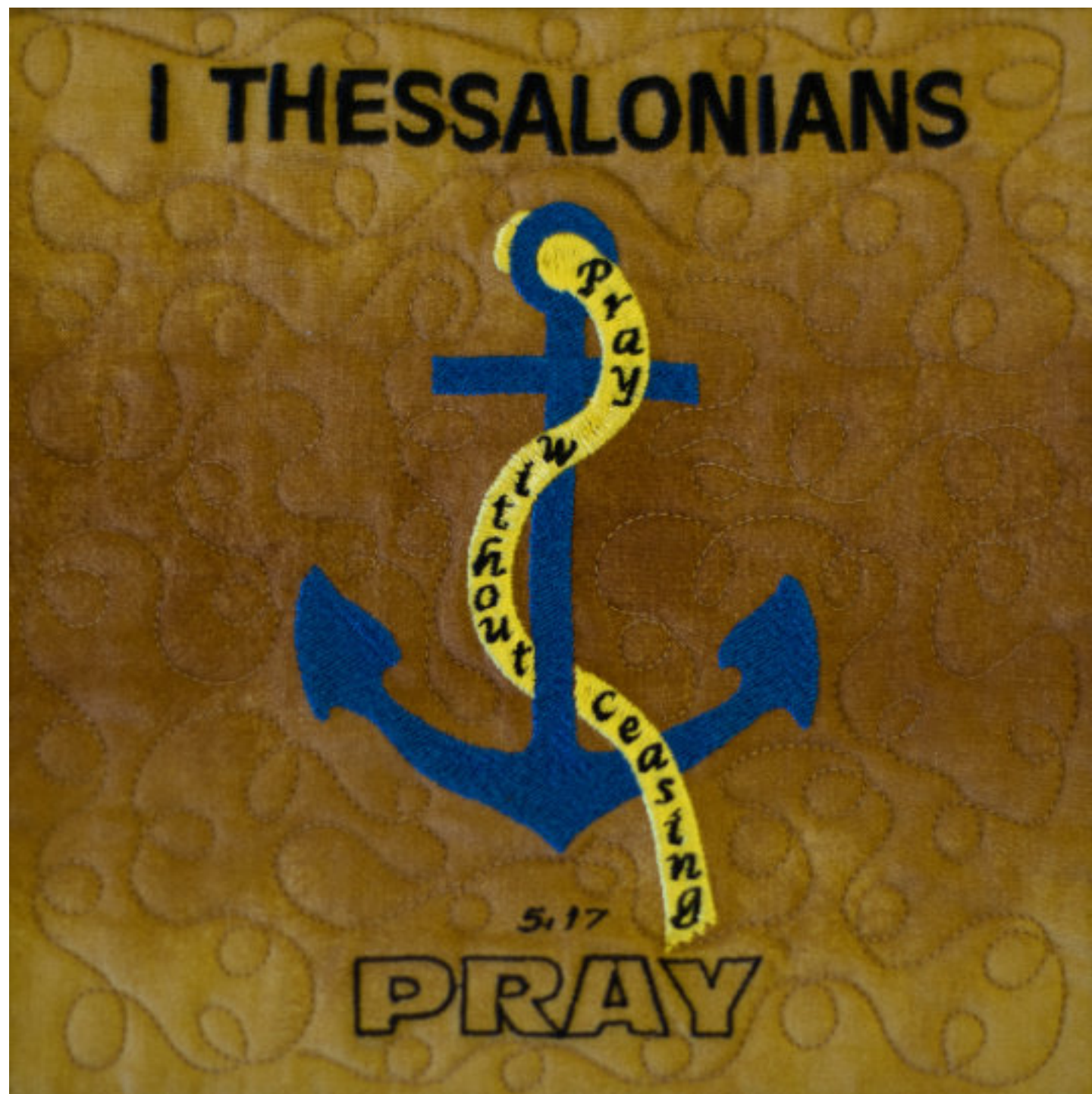
COLOSSIANS

Theme: *PEACE*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... and be thankful
– Colossians 3:15

4 chapters. Colossians declares the supremacy of Jesus Christ. At least two teachings were disturbing the church at Colossae. Judaizers taught a person is required to become a Jew before becoming a Christian. Second, a new teaching emerged that was almost the polar opposite of Judaizing. It taught that there are great mysteries associated with the spiritual world of Christianity. Judaic observations were unimportant. But what was important spiritually could only be understood by the intellectually advanced. This is an early form of what would later be the fully developed belief system called Gnosticism. These two belief systems caused strife at the Colossian church. Paul wrote this letter to state plainly that Christ is supreme, and all people can have peace in Him. He is the head of the Body, the Church. What is required of Christians is neither adherence to old rituals nor elitist access/advanced insight. Christ is supreme over all, and with His peace in our hearts, Christians should embody compassion, humility, patience, and love.

Art/Symbolism: The dove is a universal symbol of peace, particularly a dove with an olive branch, recalling the receding waters of the Flood. Colossians was written partially to combat the ideas of legalistic ritualism and esoteric intellectualism with a simple yet profound concept: Christ is supreme. Simple and easily recognized artwork emphasizes the profound peace available to all through Christ our Savior.



I THESSALONIANS

Theme: *PRAY*

Pray without ceasing – I Thessalonians 5:17

5 chapters. Paul remained for a considerable time at most churches established on his missionary journeys. Thessalonica was an exception. Over half the book gives us insight into the planting of the church in that city, Paul's departure and subsequent desire to return, his concern for the spiritual welfare of that church, and Timothy's excellent report on their progress and situation. The main problem was a misunderstanding about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, which is addressed. The book ends with a collection of very short daily living instructions designed to help keep the faith. Each is a small gem; together they could be considered a crown of victory for believers in Christ.

Art/Symbolism: The anchor is representative of faith in God. Its royal blue embroidery thread is emblematic of loyalty to the Lord. The strong rope keeping us connected to our faith is prayer. It is yellow in that prayer is a privilege whereby we open a window to the source of light, talking directly to God. This ability to communicate with our Lord and thereby solidify our attachment to our anchor may be the most neglected blessing we have been afforded. Superficial, perfunctory, or infrequent prayer can lead to drifting from the anchor. The fawn background once again represents humility—the simple bowing of the head to talk to Almighty God.



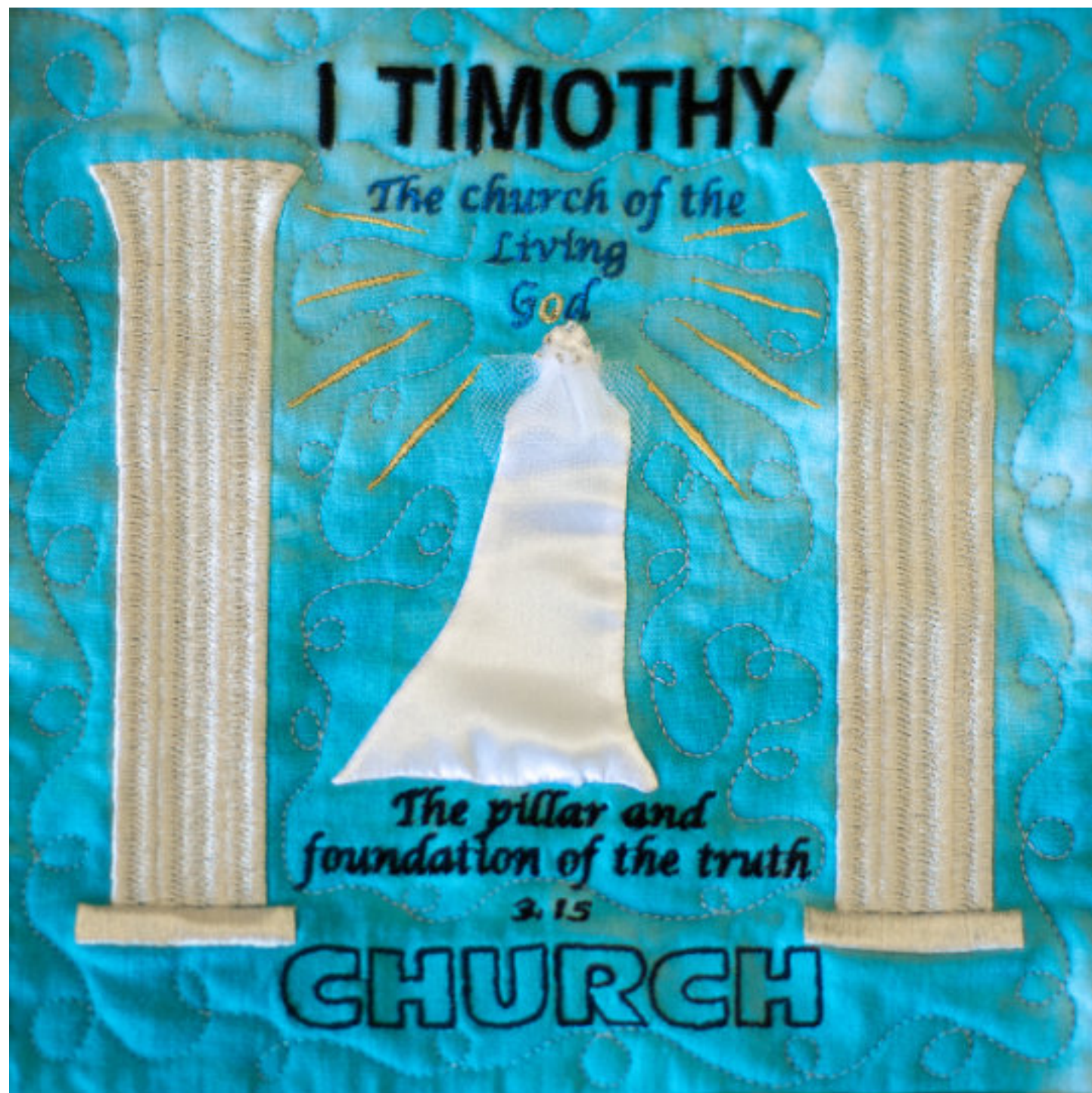
II THESSALONIANS

Theme: *ENCOURAGE*

*May the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father
encourage your hearts and strengthen you – II Thessalonians 2:16-17*

3 chapters. Despite his first letter to the church at Thessalonica, Paul finds it necessary to follow it up with a second letter, dealing with similar subject matter. Continuing uncertainties have caused them to be discouraged. This is a letter to both set the matter straight and to offer great encouragement for the future.

Art/Symbolism: Each artistic element has a double meaning. The background is cinnamon, which is used throughout the quilt to stand for power. Christians draw power provided by God, and by each other. As this epistle makes quite clear, death/the end of the world is really just the beginning for believers in the Resurrection. Therefore sunset on earth is only a precursor to the Sunrise which will usher in eternity. A different font is used for the verse, arranged to resemble birds. Birds fly in a “V” formation because it is aerodynamically more efficient, thereby increasing the group’s power. The birds also call to one another during flight to give encouragement. Analogously, we can draw on the power of God’s word and Jesus’ example, and we can be encouraged by our brothers and sisters sharing the same flightpath. The dove stands for the Holy Spirit, a guiding gift from God. A dove also represents peace and hope, qualities which encourage Christians to follow their loving Lord into the future, regardless of current difficulties. Note the dove’s direction. The hope of the present will be realized as illustrated in the next block.



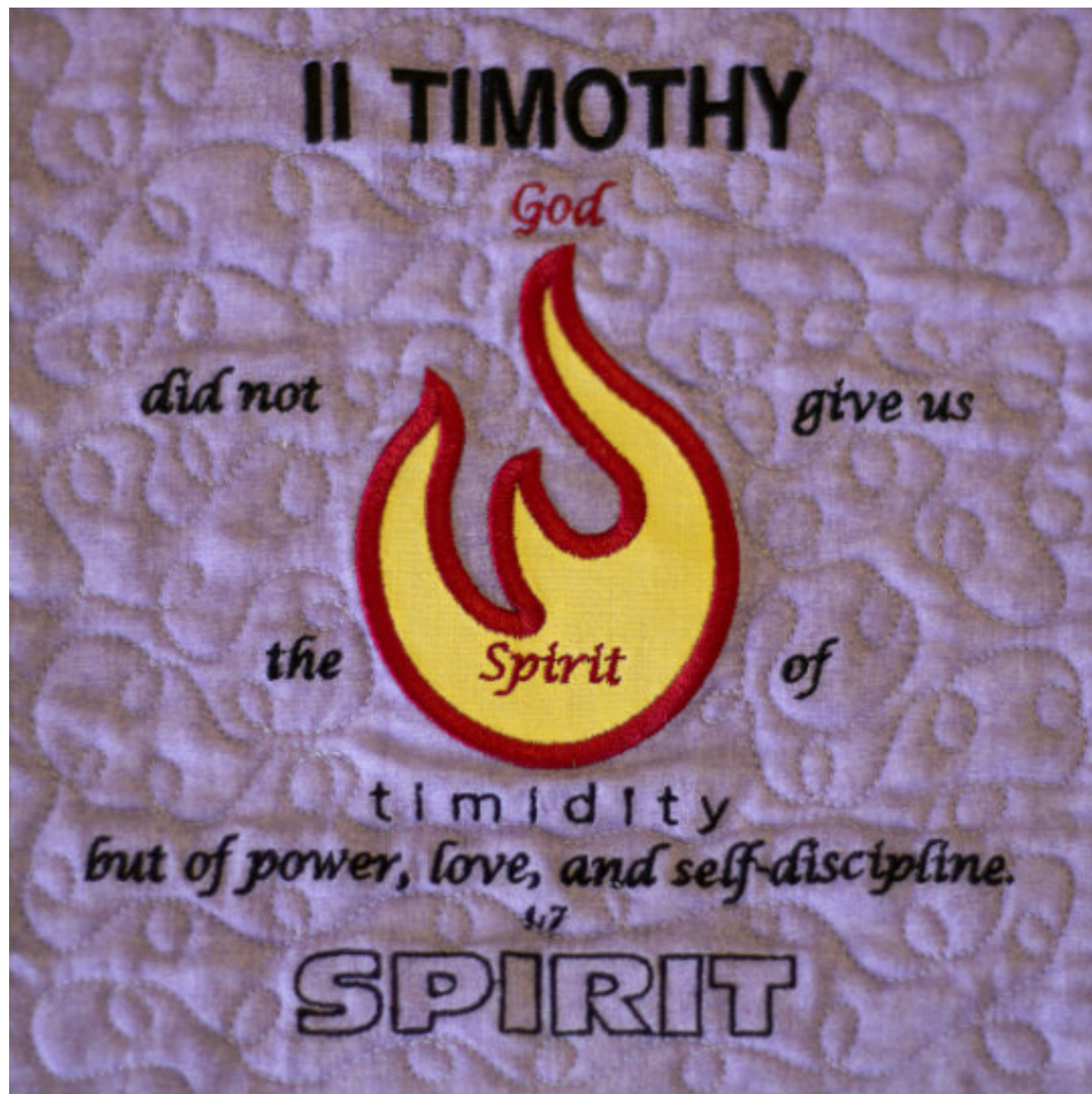
I TIMOTHY

Theme: *CHURCH*

The church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth
– I Timothy 3:15

6 chapters. I Timothy is all about the church. Paul writes to a young minister with extremely practical instructions as well as using exalted language about the church and its importance.

Art/Symbolism: The art is identical to Habakkuk with the same meaning. The verse has of course changed. The gold ring is that of the groom for His bride, echoing the cherished ring of Song of Solomon. The bride's gown and veil also echo that book, with important changes: The less expensive satin center of the flower is replaced with the most expensive silk available—the Bride of Christ was bought with the supreme price, and her robes are washed pure white by the blood of the Lamb. The decorative material of the flower's petals is replaced with a veil of tulle; when the Groom returns in the clouds with His angels and eternity bursts forth in light, the veil of the Bride will be lifted. Her crown is formed by seven French knots of silver. Seven symbolizes her being made perfect by His sacrifice. Her silver tiara recalls the silver crown of Esther. The bride consists of all who responded to the call over all the ages "for such a time as this."



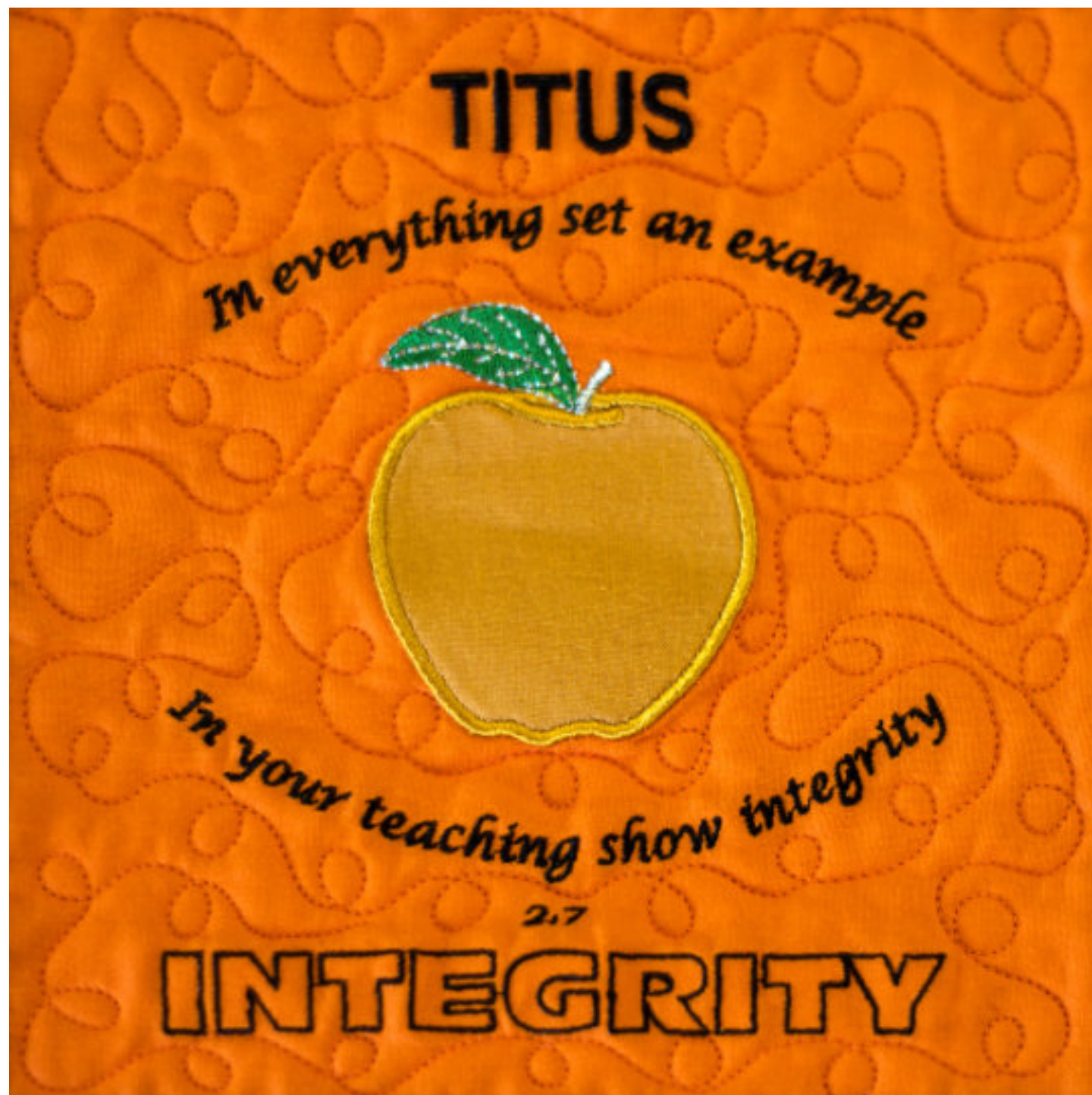
II TIMOTHY

Theme: *SPIRIT*

*God did not give us the Spirit of timidity
but of power and love and self-discipline – II Timothy 1:7*

4 chapters. Paul writes this letter near the very end of his life; he will soon be executed in Rome. The first part of the book overflows with energy, encouraging Timothy to step forward and be bold and strong. It is in this section the representative verse appears. The need for this encouragement is obvious later, when severe trials and persecution are seen as inevitable. Timothy is told to study so that he can be “a workman approved by God.” Despite the evil around him, Timothy is told to be an example of good. The value of Scripture is extolled, and a charge is given to share the Word. Paul concludes with a classic statement to which many disciples of the Lord Jesus could aspire at the close of their lives: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Art/Symbolism: In the verse, “timidity” is embroidered sparingly to show the futility of fear. All symbolism clearly points to the Holy Spirit. The flame of Pentecost is seen again. Both the yellow applique in which the “Spirit” appears and the lavender background are the same as that in Leviticus—reminding us of our call to holiness if the Spirit is to truly live in us.



TITUS

Theme: *INTEGRITY*

In everything set an example... In your teaching show integrity – Titus 2:7

3 chapters. Titus is a minister on the island of Crete who is busy establishing the church there. Paul's letter is very similar to his letter to Timothy. He gives instruction on church leadership as well as how various members of the church should conduct themselves. The church is not a building, but people. Therefore this book talks about building the church by building up people. He tells Titus that he must basically practice what he preaches if he is to be effective. That is the subject of the representative verse selected.

Art/Symbolism: Since this book is about building up the church, the orange background with its building motif is used. Both the applique and embroidered outline are the same as that found in Proverbs. Note the silver trim on the leaf. The image of a golden apple with a silver setting is from Proverbs where it characterizes speaking the right words in the right circumstances. If Titus is to be heard when sharing the gospel, he must exhibit exemplary behavior and maintain integrity in his teaching. This is very true for us today, when we are hypersensitive to hypocrisy.



PHILEMON

Theme: *FAMILY*

*That you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave,
but better than that—as a brother. – Philemon 15-16*

1 chapter. Slavery was commonplace in the Roman Empire—at least 1/3 of the people were in servitude. Onesimus is a runaway slave whom Paul converted to Christianity. Runaway slaves could be subject to severe punishment. Paul sends Onesimus back to his owner, Philemon, who is also a Christian. Paul appeals to Philemon on the basis of love to welcome Onesimus back as a brother in Christ.

Art/Symbolism: “That you might have him” is in brown thread—it resembles an approaching boat coming across the sea under a blue sky as Onesimus returns. “Back forever” is the same turquoise thread as used in Galatians for the fruit of the Spirit. It signifies that Onesimus has changed forever by embracing the gospel. “No longer as a slave” has a double meaning. Onesimus is no longer a slave to sin. Paul implies Philemon should also free Onesimus from earthly slavery in the name of love. As the verse traces the path of Onesimus entering the gate to Philemon’s property, there is the opportunity for a new relationship, a better relationship. Hence “better than that” is at the gate, where the wall does not separate Philemon’s family from outsiders. The verdant fields suggest the abundant life available to all through the Savior. Approaching Philemon, the phrase “as a brother” is in different font and in scarlet embroidery. This is emblematic of the blood of Christ which unites all Christians as part of the same family.



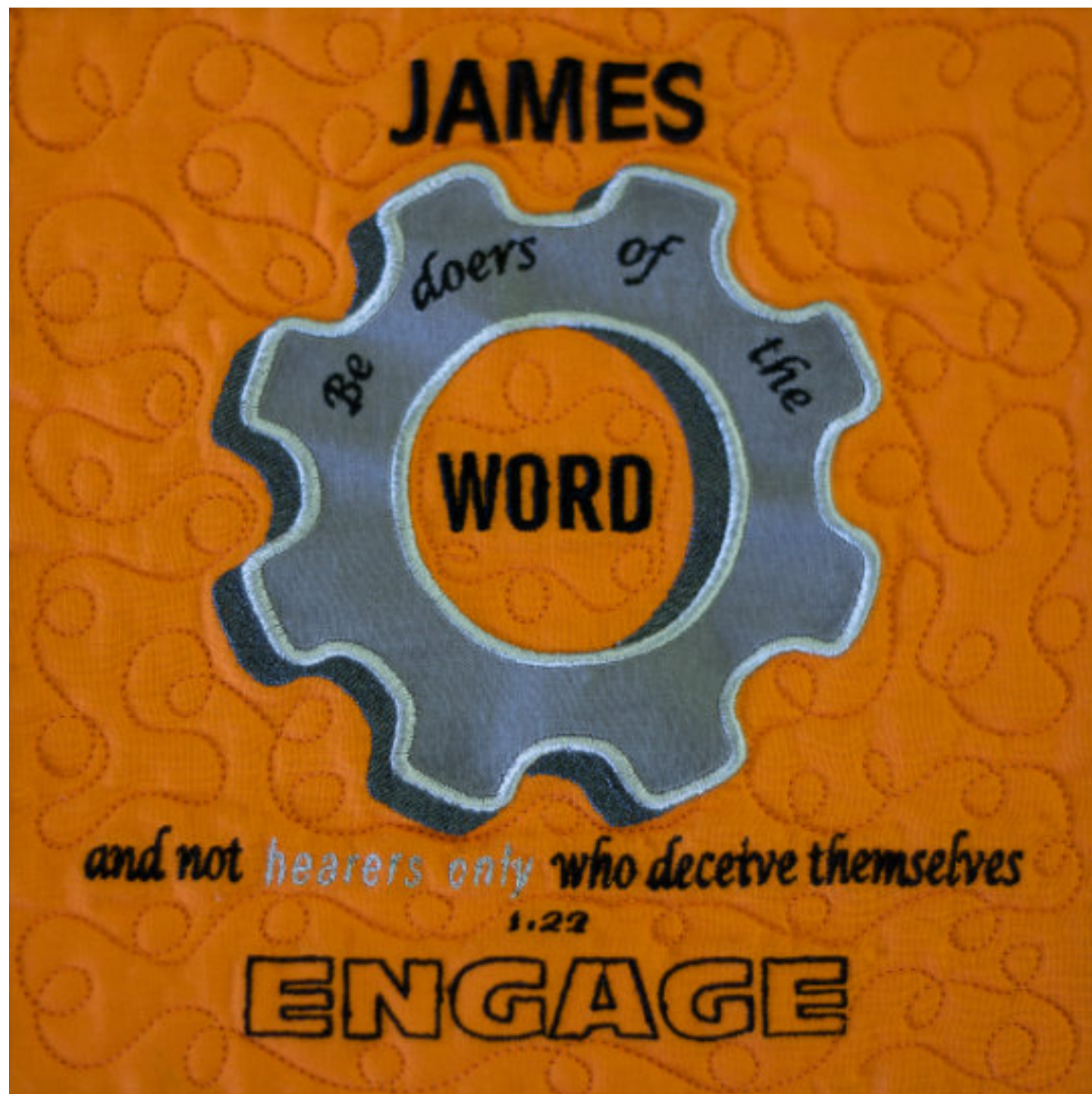
HEBREWS

Theme: *FAITH*

*Those who come to God must believe He exists
and rewards those who seek Him. – Hebrews 11:6*

13 chapters. As its name implies, this book is written to those very familiar with the Old Testament. The first part shows the superiority of Christ to the old ways. Christ is superior to prophets, angels, Moses, and the old priesthood, to include His ultimate sacrifice. He brings a superior covenant. The last part of the book is all about the Christian faith. Even then it speaks of what has been called faith's Old Testament "Hall of Heroes." The book paints wonderful pictures of the rewards of an active faith, to include the concept that those who have gone before us are like a stadium full of faithful people, cheering us on through our doubts and difficulties.

Art/Symbolism: Almost everyone will spend time in the spiritual "desert." In this quilt, the cross stitch material used recreates both the look and feel of the desert. In a desert, the key is direction. Exodus shows a people being led by God in a startling new direction to a new life. Jonah is going in the wrong direction until a dramatic turn of events turns him around. The Hebrews block illustrates that seeking spiritual direction may be a longer and less dramatic process. It may necessitate dying to an old way of life, symbolized by the fallen leaves. But the acorns are a sign that new life awaits. When in the desert, there is a huge difference between wandering and seeking. The former is the dead end of hopeless despair. The latter is the arduous path of a seeking faith, which this block's artwork strives to convey.



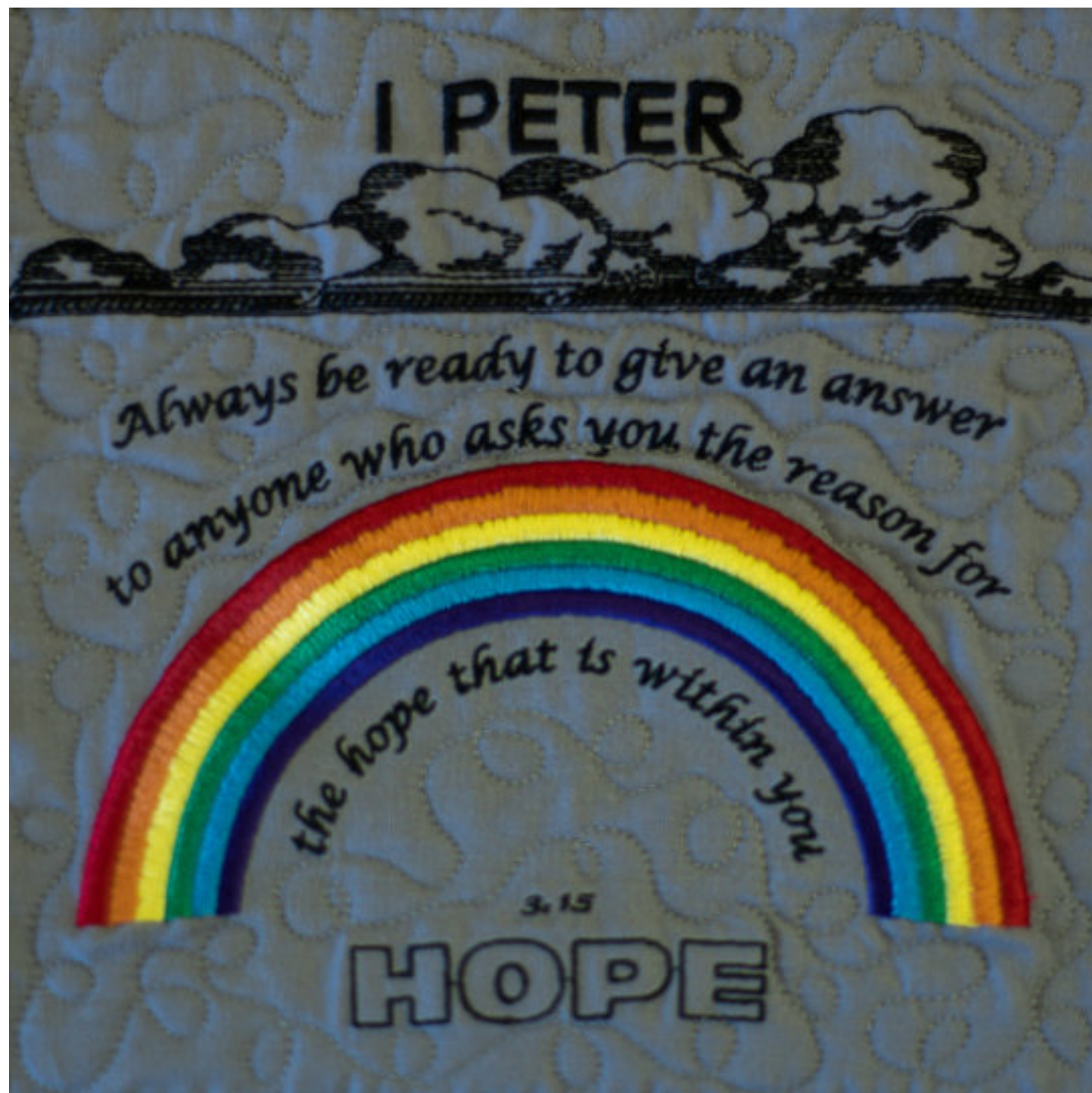
JAMES

Theme: *ENGAGE*

Be doers of the word and not hearers only who deceive themselves
— James 1:22

5 chapters. James is a short, practical guide to daily Christian living. It does not contain ethereal theology, but is more like a daily user's guide. Some have compared it to Proverbs. It is so packed with practical directives that it is hard to summarize. Its basic premise is: This is what Christianity looks like in daily practice. Much has been made of its declaration that "faith without works is dead." But this does not imply that anyone can "work" or "earn" their way into heaven. Instead, it states that Christian discipleship requires more than mental assent or verbal affirmation. It must be life-changing obedience so that the radically different behavior of a Christian serves as an open invitation for others to seek and embrace the Lord.

Art/Symbolism: The orange background once again stands for action. The gear represents a Christian's engagement in the world. The gray applique stands for separation, as seen in Numbers (sin) and I Kings (discernment). In this case, it refers back to Jesus' declaration that the world will see His disciples' good works and glorify the Father. Christian behavior should separate them from unbelievers. Christians do good things not to BE saved, but because they ARE saved. Finally, the embroidery of "hearers only" matches that of the perimeter of the gear. "Belief" without living the life of a disciple is a like a hollow outline—it has the form of a gear, but not its productive function.



I PETER

Theme: *HOPE*

Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is within you. – I Peter 3:15

5 chapters. Peter encourages Christians who will soon be persecuted for their beliefs. He gives them a divine perspective and reminds them of the hope all believers have in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Such hope in the face of apparent hopelessness will be remarkable to those not in the church (and frankly perhaps to some who are in the church)—hence the representative verse.

Art/Symbolism: The background material is shared only with Job. In both cases, severe affliction/persecution has/will befall good people. The question is how they will react to it. In Job, the storm which brought God to speak with Job is pictured. In the book of I Peter, a storm has broken upon God's people, but has moved on as the receding clouds show. In its aftermath, we see the beautifully familiar rainbow, a symbol of hope that first appeared in Genesis after the Flood.



II PETER

Theme: *PATIENCE*

The Lord is not slow keeping His promises as some count slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but wanting everyone to repent. – II Peter 3:9

3 chapters. II Peter's division into 3 chapters closely matches the 3 topics it deals with. The first chapter is about keeping things in perspective. To do that, Peter lists positive qualities a Christian should pursue, without which he or she is "blind." He also stresses the important of Scriptures in gaining the proper perspective. The next chapter deals with false teachers. In I Peter, a warning was given about persecution from pagans. In II Peter, an alarm is sounded about the more insidious threat from within. Returning to perspective, Peter closes with a discussion of what is formally known as eschatology—a study of the last things and end of time. It is in this context that the representative verse is to be taken. Some were scoffing at the idea of Christ coming again. Peter explains the divine concept of time, and emphasizes that the patient love of God is not something to be ignored; time is a gift, and we waste it at our own peril.

Art/Symbolism: The blue background signifies perspective as it does throughout the quilt. The outer verse traces the outline of a clock for the first half of the verse. The hourglass is reminiscent of the window in Ecclesiastes, but with another view of time. The verse continues at the top of the hourglass. The arid earth signifies those who are still wandering. The narrowing echoes Jesus' referral to the narrow way. Cream colored fill stitch sand symbolizes those who have been saved.



I JOHN

Theme: *LOVE*

*God is love. He who abides in love abides in God,
and God in him. – I John 4:16*

5 chapters. I John deals with numerous issues, but the overarching theme is love. It is mentioned at least 35 times in 5 short chapters. Greek has 4 words for “love,” and the “love” John speaks of is “agape,” or the highest, godly love. A fundamental characteristic of God, this is a love which ardently desires the ultimate good of the loved one. It is not focused on happiness of the loved one in the near-term future, but rather joy eternally. It is warmly accepting but not blindly unprincipled. It is a love capable of astounding sacrifice on our behalf, but a love which requires our very best. John’s most scathing words are aimed at those who have known such love but rejected it. Agape love meets us where we are but calls us inexorably upward to where we should be.

Art/Symbolism: The heart clearly stands for love. This applique material is only used twice—here and in Jeremiah. In Jeremiah, it is a plea to stop and turn around, signifying a heart-felt warning of the dangers of deception. In I John, it celebrates God’s fundamental character, and how we can be fundamentally changed forever by embracing that love in our lives. So, taken together, the red applique material stands for two vital choices in the spiritual life cycle of every person. It first appears as a warning to turn around from deception, and thereby avoid the path to destruction. It then appears as an encouragement to embrace the light, and thereby follow a path which nourishes growth.



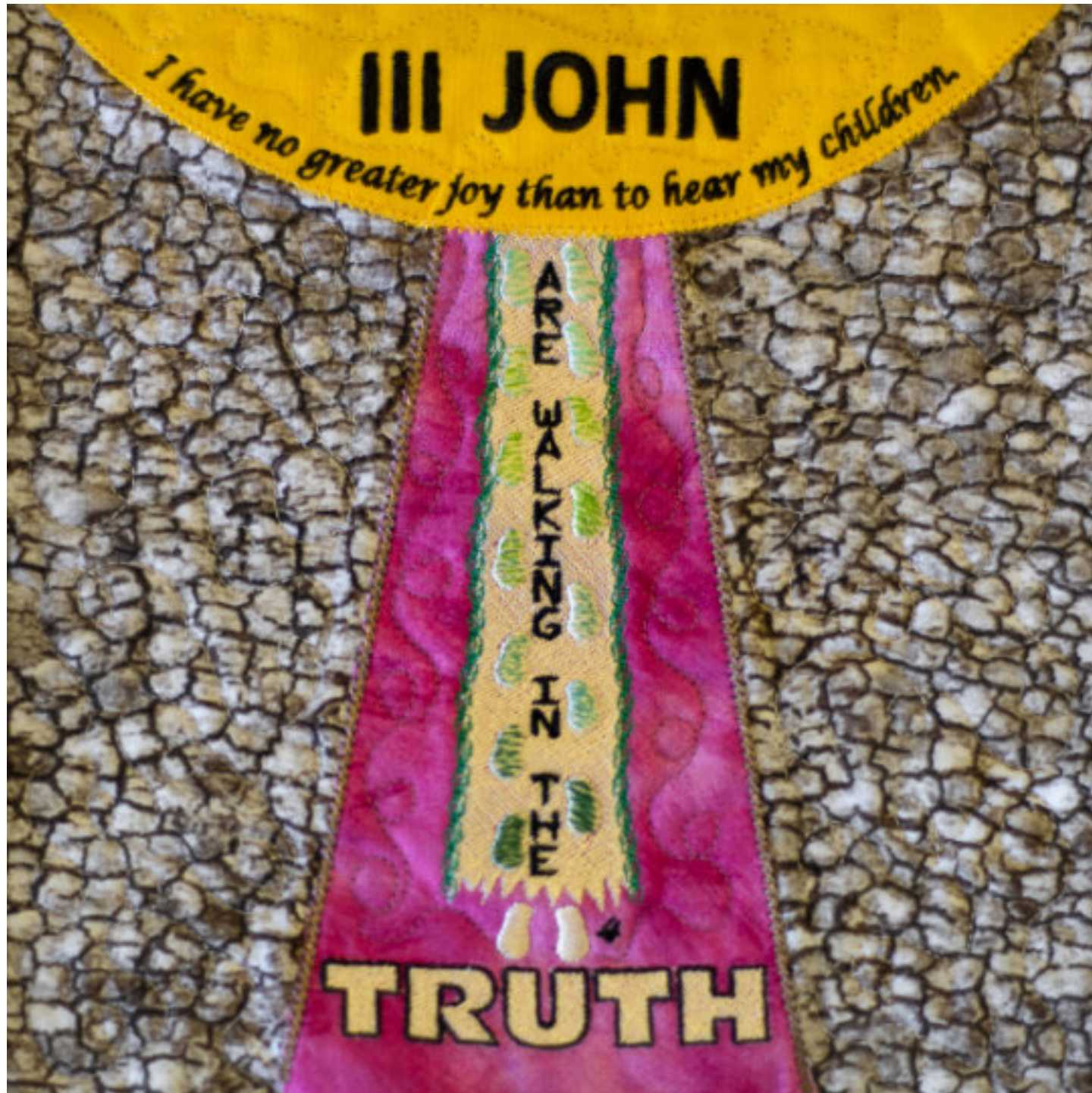
II JOHN

Theme: *OBEY*

This is love: That we walk in obedience to His commands.
– II John 6

1 chapter. This very brief letter continues the theme of love, but with an emphasis on truth. Five times in the first 4 verses the importance of truth is emphasized. God’s love is truly immeasurable, but His truth is also immutable—John says that it “will be with us forever.” Jesus’ love for us is not meant to be received passively. It is an energizing love which compels an active response in all of His disciples. The representative verse captures this thought.

Art/Symbolism: The artwork shows those who are obedient to the commands of God, and those who are disobedient to His commands, preferring instead to follow Satan. The background is cross-stitch material, once again with its underlying motif of choosing a direction. The seawater is the same applique as was used in Hosea where it depicted the ability of God to wash away the sins of the repentant. In the image of this block, some have chosen to repent, change direction, and be cleansed; some have not. Note that the more closely each fish is following the satanic shark, the darker their image. The two fishes swimming the opposite direction are followers of Jesus, as depicted by the image of the ichthus. Their outline is the embroidered light of Christ, and their bodies are the same applique as the honeycomb in Nehemiah—they are encouraged if they swim together. The quilting within the water applique reinforces the aquatic theme.



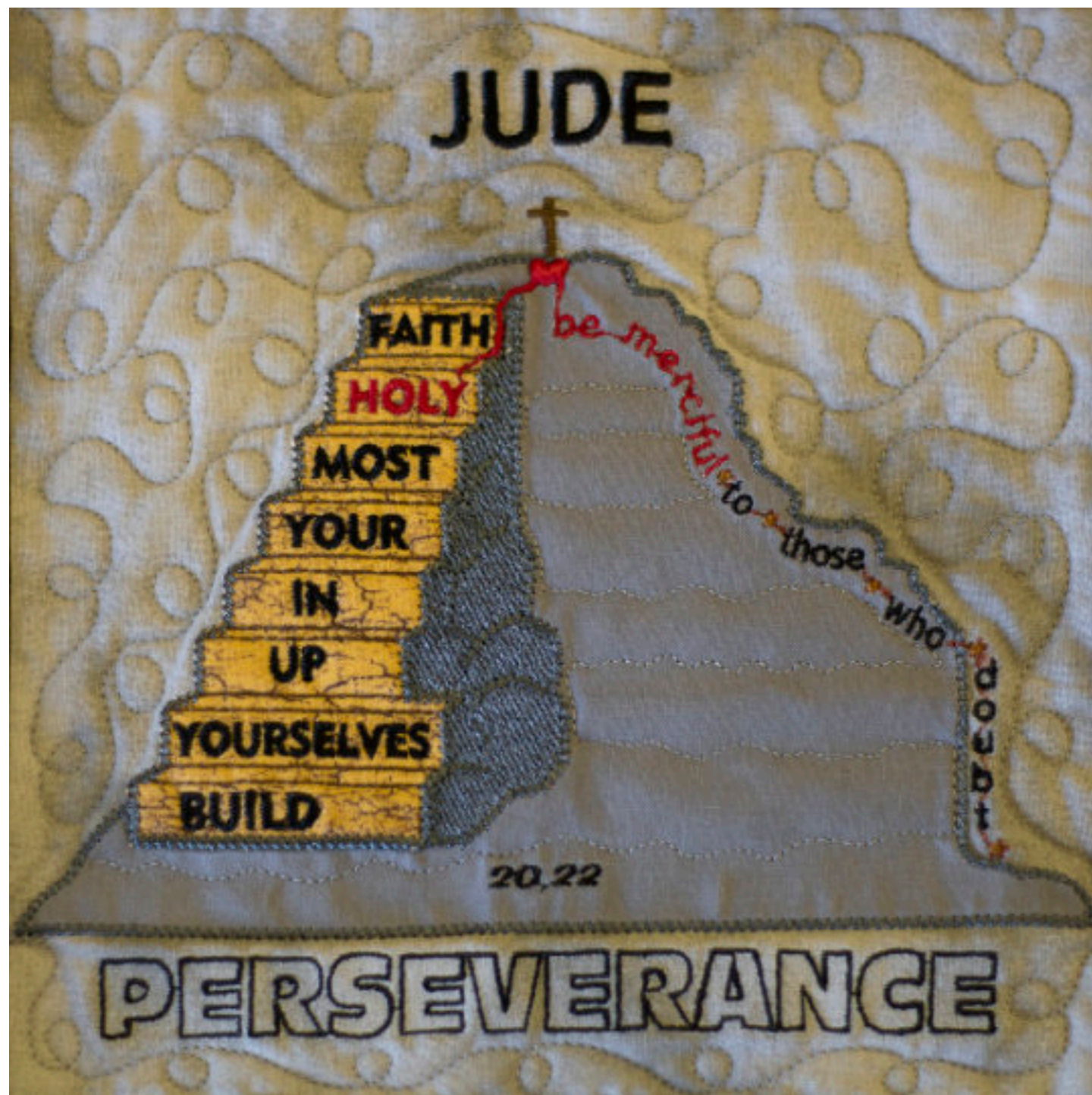
III JOHN

Theme: *TRUTH*

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children
are walking in the truth. – III John 4*

1 chapter. Continuing John's emphasis that truth matters, he again makes the point 4 times in the first 4 verses of this short letter. Truth has ultimate consequences.

Art/Symbolism: The block brings in an abundance of recurring motifs. The arid earth harkens back to Numbers; there is a big difference between wandering and seeking. The sun disc reminds us of the joy expressed in Philippians. The fuchsia applique panes of Zechariah capture the verse "The word of the Lord came to me." It is only by following the word of the Lord that God's children can walk in truth. The outer border of the fuchsia is the same border as the scroll of I Chronicles. Those who walk in the truth will rediscover the power and promises of the Lord. The pathway is identical to the path in Micah. The verdant borders of the path are somewhat similar to Micah, but with more modest vegetation. Those faithfully following the pathway which God has set before them will bear fruit along the way, even if it is neither immediate nor dramatic. The footsteps are the same as Numbers, but this time they are purposeful, not wandering. Also, instead of gradual cleansing from sin's stain, the increasing green is emblematic of increasing spiritual growth. The "TRUTH" theme at the bottom is highly reminiscent of the thematic label of "JUSTICE" in Obadiah. But followers of Christ must rely on mercy by the grace of their Savior. Therefore, Christian "TRUTH" is not simple "JUSTICE," but rather justification brought about only by Jesus.



JUDE

Theme: *PERSEVERANCE*

*Build yourselves up in your most holy faith.
Be merciful to those who doubt. – Jude 20, 22*

1 chapter. This short book contains one of the most withering denunciations of false teachers in the entire Bible. After this condemnation, Jude has special words of encouragement for those who are honestly persevering in their pursuit of truth and faith. The representative verse comes from these encouraging words. The closing benediction of Jude is one of the most beautiful of the New Testament, a welcome contrast to the fiery words aimed at those who dismiss or distort truth.

Art/Symbolism: The foggy background sets the tone for those seeking the truth of God amidst today's confusing din of moral cacophony. All must engage in the climb up Calvary, which serves as a bridge by which we can approach God—hence the gray applique from James & Ezra. Two paths are shown. One is the step-by-step gradual advance available to those raised in the knowledge of Scripture or who seek the truth systematically. It is shown in the Scripture applique from I Chronicles. Yet some struggle up a steep, uneven path from a dark place of depression and hopelessness. It is not a gradual advance but an intense rope climb, sometimes vertical. Those who emerge from a mental or physical dark place usually endure cruel labels. The quilting of Calvary suggests there are numerous levels as we “take up our cross.” Whatever the approach, all paths meet at the foot of the Cross. The cleansing blood of Christ is the great equalizer. No matter which path we follow, we must conclude our climb on our knees and be united by His love.



REVELATION

Theme: *FOREVER*

“I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” – Revelation 22:13

22 chapters. Revelation’s opening 3 chapters contain letters to 7 churches. Then it turns to John’s vision of heaven, conflict on earth, and ultimate victory – culminating in “new heavens and a new earth.” The closing chapters paint a spectacular image of eternity.

Art/Symbolism: This block purposely parallels Genesis. The green background stands for renewed life. The infinity symbol with the same applique and embroidery as the sun in Genesis represents an eternity in the light of heaven. The River of Life reappears, also mirroring Genesis. In a sense, the story ends as it begins; it is complete. In another sense, the glorious truth is that the story never ends, proclaimed by the gold embroidered theme “FOREVER.” Creation is renewed, never again to be fallen. The Holy Spirit invites us to live with Jesus Christ—our Savior, Lord, and Lamb, immersed forever in the ultimate joyous presence of the Almighty Creator, God our Father.

BEHOLD!

I make all things new!

R e v e l a t i o n 21:5

*The Lord
bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face
to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.*

*The Lord
lift up His countenance
upon you,
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

Block Scripture Verses

Psalm 46:10 BE STILL and know that I am God

Revelation 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and Power. For You created all things. By Your will they exist and came into being

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

Exodus 6:7 I will take you for My people, and I will be your God

Leviticus 11:45 Be holy, because I am holy

Numbers 14:34 For forty years you will suffer for your sins

Deuteronomy 6:4 – 5 Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength

Joshua 24:15 Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve

Judges 21:25 Every man did what was right in his own eyes

Ruth 1:16 Where you go, I will go, where you stay, I will stay.
Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God

I Samuel 16:7 Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart

II Samuel 23:3 One rules over men righteously who rules in the fear of God

I Kings 3:12 I will give you a wise and discerning heart

II Kings 17:13 – 14 The Lord warned Israel and Judah... but they would not listen.

I Chronicles 17:19O Lord, You have done these great things and made known all these great promises

II Chronicles 7:14 If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land

Ezra 7:10 Ezra set in his heart to study, to practice, to teach the law of the Lord

Nehemiah 4:6,15We rebuilt the wall. The people worked with all their heart, each to our own work

Esther4:14 Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

Job 40:2,7Let him who accuses God answer Him!
I will question you and you will answer Me!

Psalms 136:1 Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever!

Proverbs 6:23 These commands are like a lamp. These teachings are a shining light

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven

Song of Solomon 6:3 I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine

Isaiah 6:8 “Whom shall I send?” Here am I. Send me!

Jeremiah 7:8 Behold! You are trusting deceptive words that are worthless

Lamentations 3:20 – 21 My soul remembers, bowed down within me, therefore I have hope.

Ezekiel 6:10 Then they will know that I am the Lord

Daniel 2:22 God reveals deep, secret things; He knows what lies in darkness; light dwells with Him.

Hosea 4:6 My people perish for lack of knowledge

Joel 2:12 – 13 Return to Me with all your heart...
rend your heart and not your garments

Amos 5:24 Let justice roll down like a river,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing fountain

Obadiah 15 As you have done, so it will be done to you

Jonah 1:10 He was running away from the Lord

Micah 6:8 What does the Lord require of you?
Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God

Nahum 1:3 The Lord is slow to anger but He is great in power

Habakkuk 2:20 The Lord is in His holy temple.
Let all the earth keep silent before Him.

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God is with you, a Mighty One who saves
He will take great delight in you; with His love He will calm your fears
He will rejoice over you with singing

Haggai 2:4 Be strong all you people of the land, and work, for I am with you

Zechariah 8:18 The word of the Lord came to me

Malachi 3:10 Test Me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven

Jeremiah 29:11 “I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Matthew 26:26, 28 This is My body. This is My blood of the new covenant
poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins

Mark 16:6 He is risen!

Luke 2:10 Behold! I bring you good news of great joy
which shall be for all the earth

John 1:29 Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

Acts 19:20 The word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power

Romans 3:24 Being justified by His grace as a gift through redemption in Christ Jesus

I Corinthians 6:11 You were washed, sanctified, justified in the name
of the Lord Jesus Christ

II Corinthians 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creature, the old has gone,
the new has come!

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female;
you are all one in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 4:4 – 6 One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say: Rejoice!

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... and be thankful

I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing

II Thessalonians 2:16 – 17 May the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father
encourage your hearts and strengthen you

I Timothy 3:15 The church of the Living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth

II Timothy 1:7 God did not give us the Spirit of timidity, but of power, love,
and self-discipline.

Titus 2:7 In everything set an example. In your teaching show integrity.

Philemon 15 – 16 that you might have him back forever no longer as a slave, but better
than that—as a brother

Hebrews 11:6 Those who come to God must believe He exists and rewards those who
seek Him

James 1:22 Be doers of the word and not hearers only who deceive themselves

I Peter 3:15 Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason
for the hope that is within you

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow keeping His promises as some count slowness
He is patient with you not wanting anyone to perish but wanting
everyone to repent

I John 4:16 God is love. He who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

II John 6 This is love: That we walk in obedience to His commands

III John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are
walking in the truth

Jude 20,22 Build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Be merciful to those who doubt

Revelation 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,
the Beginning and the End

Revelation 21:5 “BEHOLD! I make all things new!”

Numbers 6:24 – 26 The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine
upon you, and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

A WORD OF WARNING

Please read and heed before you proceed!

You may choose to stop here. Certainly the main purpose has been accomplished if people are encouraged to read the Bible for themselves by what they have seen so far. But as mentioned in the opening invitation, this work also attempts to reflect the deeper layers of meaning awaiting those who wish to pursue it. There is nothing wrong with avoiding these additional layers. In fact, they may be a distraction to some, and anything which distracts from the main message should be avoided. It is a bit like loving a fine piece of music. Studying the structure and theory of the composition may enrich the listener’s enjoyment, or it may simply be an unnecessary impediment to that enjoyment. Each listener must decide for him/herself.

In the same way, what follows is an explanation of deeper meanings woven into the quilt. You may find these very helpful or an unwanted distraction, intriguing or intimidating, fascinating or frustrating. If anything which follows is not beneficial, just ignore it. Intricacies and complex interrelationships are simply not of interest to many people who are nevertheless deeply spiritual. Therefore do NOT let anything be an impediment to your thorough appreciation of and engagement in the inspired word of an Almighty and Loving God.

But if you are so inclined, what follows is a multilayer “deep dive” into certain quilt subtleties.

DEEP DIVING: ALLEGORICAL MEANINGS

- Old Testament / New Testament Fulfillment

The New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Therefore, every quilt item in the Old Testament is found again in the New Testament: block backgrounds, applique materials, and embroidery thread. There are very few exceptions and these are for very specific reasons, as explained in the applicable portion of this narrative.

- The Creation Context

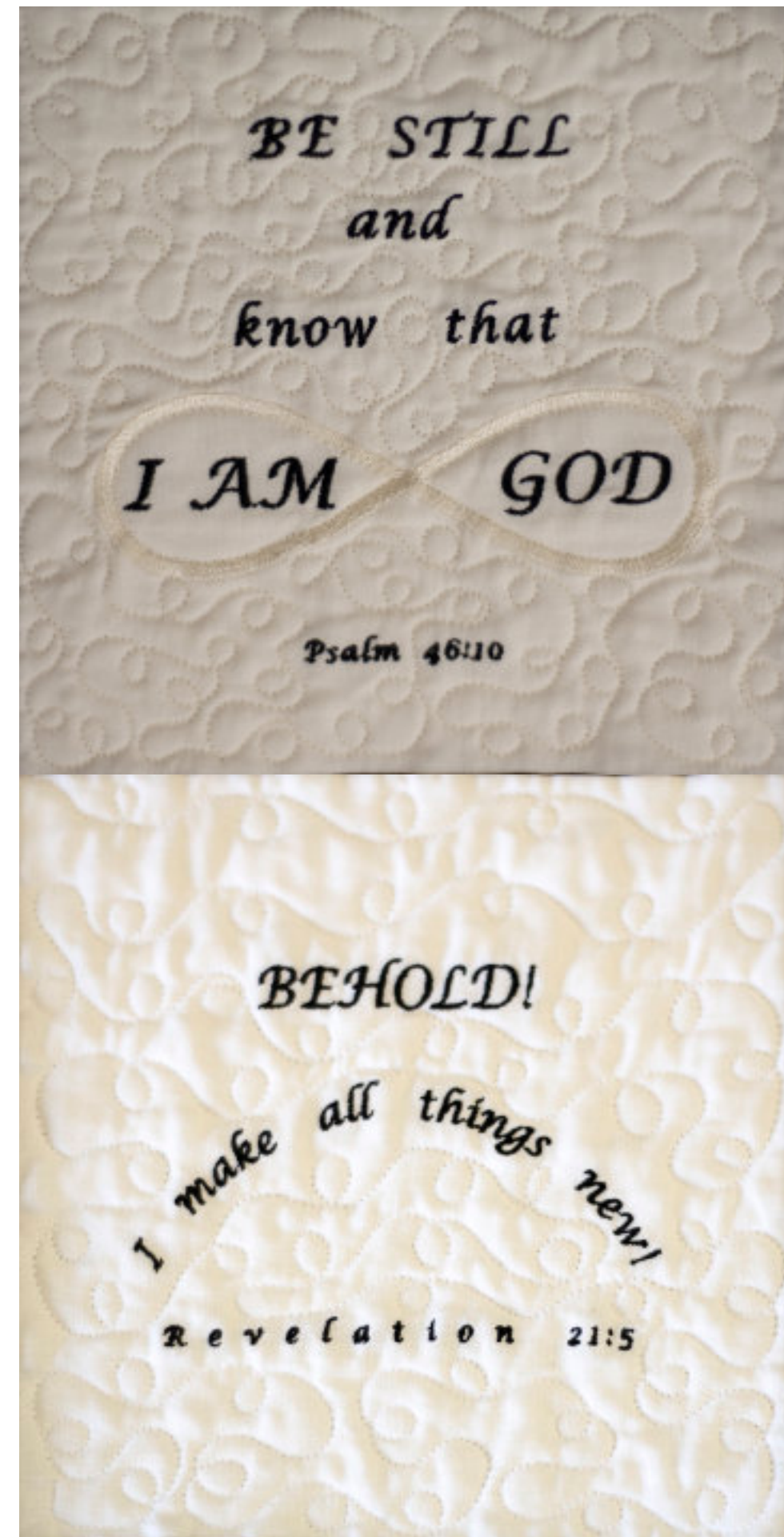
The overall quilt layout was chosen especially to reflect the magnificence of Almighty God's creation presented in Genesis 1:1 – 2 and John 1:1 – 3, including our part in the Master's plan. The quilt "macro" layout presents this in a series of allegories:

- 1) The outer border is not pure black, but rather is symbolic of unformed potential: “and the earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep.”
- 2) The inner border reflects the spectacular first day. It is the speaking of light into chaos, and the fleeing chaos is thus included in the material. God said, “Let there be light!”
- 3) In the Gospel of John, “the Word,” is clearly Jesus. He is not only present at creation, but is the one “through Whom all things were made.” The Word of God (Jesus) is represented by the word of God (Bible books). These quilt blocks stand out in sharp contrast to the dark sashing—“the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.”
- 4) Finally, the small tiles represent believers throughout the centuries. The tile material is white, marbled with gray. The various tiles symbolize each believer as perhaps the first “bible” which seekers may “read.” Every believer is a small but important part of The Story; it is the duty and honor of believers to serve as a living invitation for seekers to read and study the word of God. The marbling is metaphorical—every Christian is surely a most imperfect reflection of the Light (and thus, the Word), but our faith allows us all to be polished by the Master.



- The Story that Never Ends

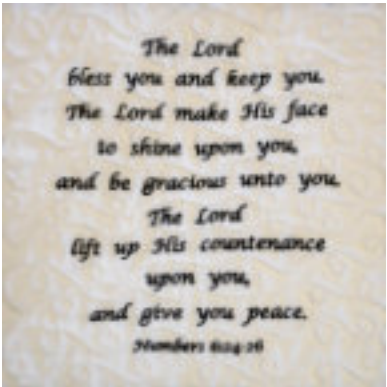
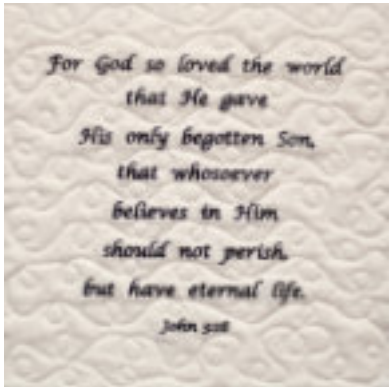
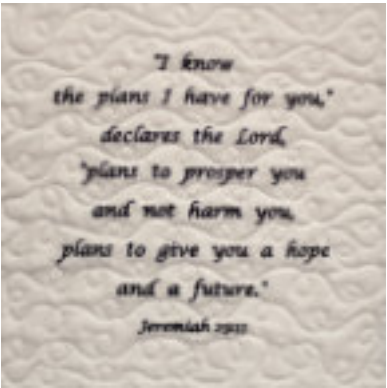
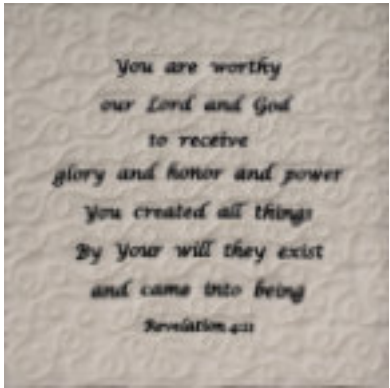
We know that God exists outside the 3 dimensions of space, but must remember that we actually exist in a “space – time continuum.” That is to say, we live not only in 3 dimensions, but also in the 4th dimension of time. God exists outside time; hence, He is infinite and endless, without a beginning or end. It is almost impossible for us to conceive of Someone who exists outside of our 4th dimension. Yet this is a fundamental attribute of God. He can see the beginning and the end, because He exists outside both. With God, the “end of time” is clearly in view from the “beginning” and vice versa. This concept can be difficult to grasp—see II Peter 3:8. To incorporate this challenging but essential biblical truth, the opening and closing Scripture blocks subtly portray it. The lightly outlined infinity symbol of the first block, anticipates the strong gold infinity sign in Revelation. Likewise, the sunray verse presented in the penultimate quilt block echoes the image of the dawn sunrise of Genesis. The beginning thus anticipates the end, just as the end reflects the beginning. With a timeless Creator, we would expect precisely that.



- Background Material Motifs
The Holy Spirit was present “in the beginning”, inspired all Scripture, is a constant help for us through all situations now, and invites us into heaven eternally. Each type of background block material evokes different ways in which the Spirit moves, and the fruit we bear when we let the Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts (Galatians 5:22-23).

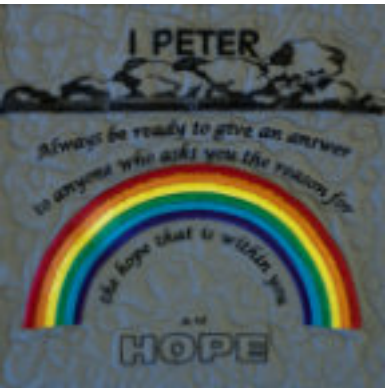
CREAM
Inspiring Scripture

6 Scripture blocks: Psalm 46 & Revelation at the beginning, Jeremiah & the Gospel of John between the O.T. and N.T., and Numbers & Revelation at the end.



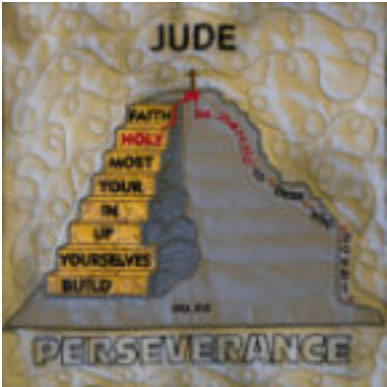
THUNDER
Comfort and kindness to weather life's storms

Job: when the storm is all we see, hear, and feel
I Peter: when the Light shines through the storm



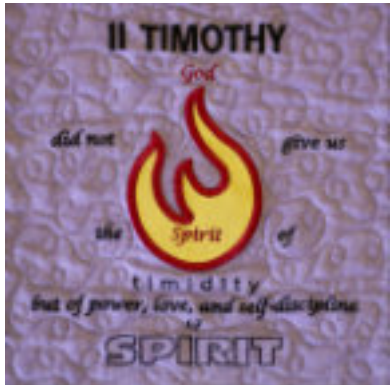
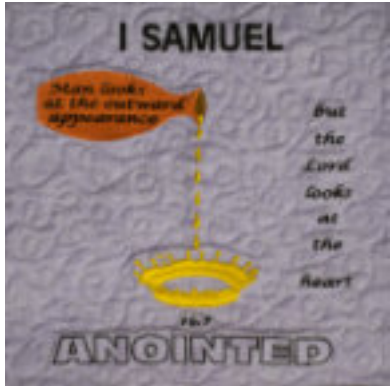
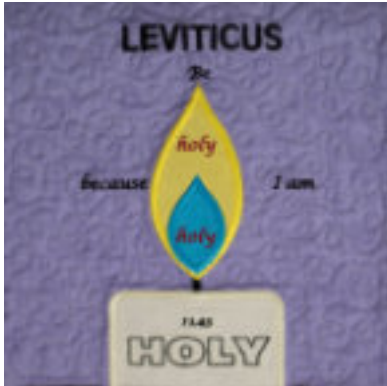
FOG
Guidance to navigate through confusion

Judges: individual moral anarchy
II Kings: failed leadership; collective moral anarchy
Isaiah: bravely answering the call [reflecting light to a confused world]
Jude: finding our way up Calvary to the Cross [paths differ, but all must meet at the Cross]



ORCHID
Chosen purposefully
for service

Leviticus: chosen as priest
I Samuel: chosen as king
I Chronicles: chosen as prophet
Matthew: Jesus is the ultimate Prophet, Priest, and King
II Timothy: all 3 offices in us
[royalty – adopted as children of the King]
[priests – approaching God directly
because of the Great High Priest]
[prophets – speak by relying upon the Spirit’s truth
and cognizant of the future via Scriptures]



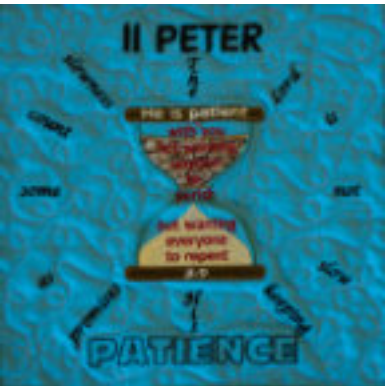
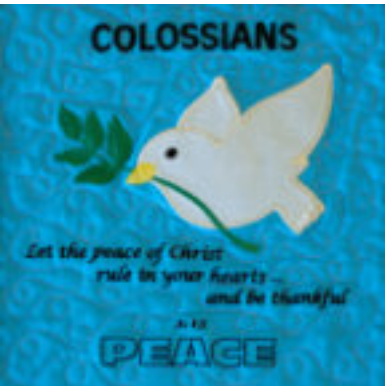
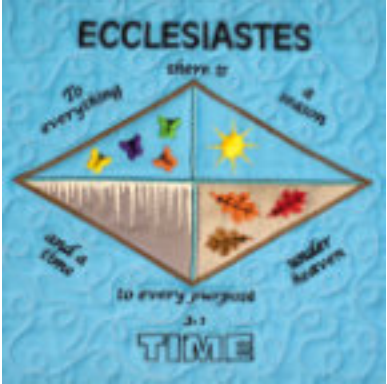
INDIGO
Revealing plans

Daniel: God has a Master plan
Luke: Jesus is the plan’s Master



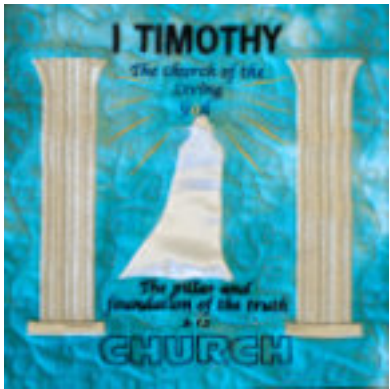
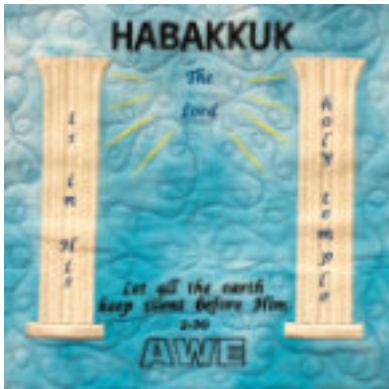
CERULEAN
Peace and patience

Esther: Why am I here?
Ecclesiastes: What is the bottom line?
Zechariah: Where are we going?
Colossians: Who will bring peace?
II Peter: When will we accept the truth?



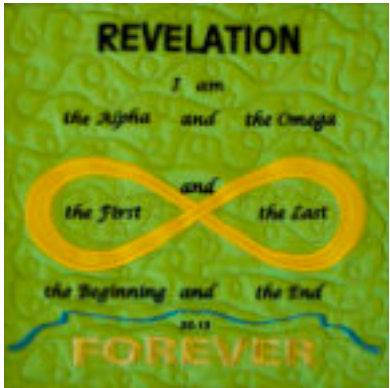
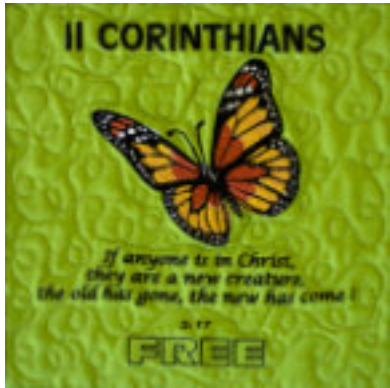
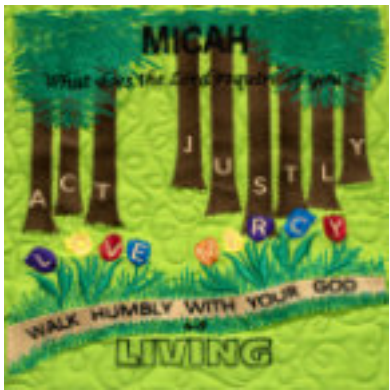
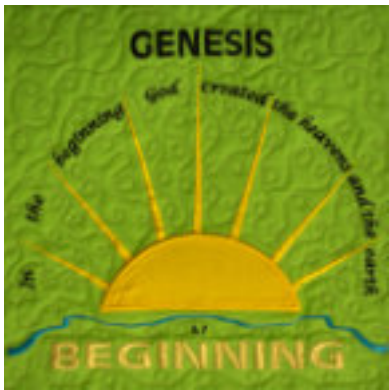
HEAVENS
An invitation to eternity

Habakkuk: A glimpse into eternity
I Timothy: A welcome into eternity



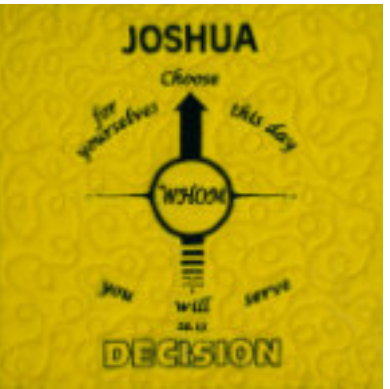
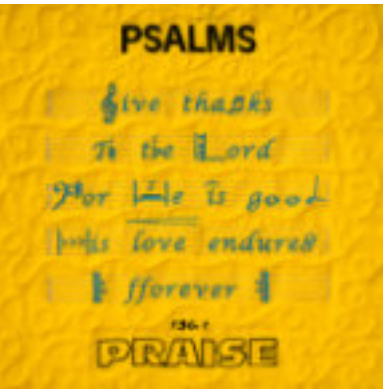
FIELD GREEN
Creating and nourishing the gift of abundant life

Genesis: the gift of life
Micah: the gift of living
John: the gift of new life through salvation
II Corinthians: the gift of a transformed life
Revelation: the gift of eternal life



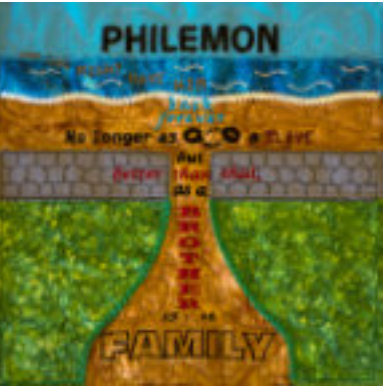
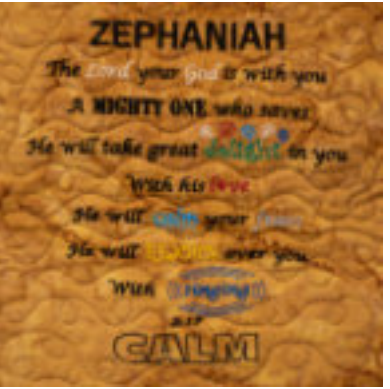
SUNSHINE
Embracing joy

Joshua: the joy of freedom
Psalms: the joy of creating
Romans: the joy of grace
Philippians: the joy of the journey



HONEY
Harmony, blessings, and thanksgiving

Nehemiah: harmony when we all embrace our responsibilities
Zephaniah: remain calm, thankfully reflecting on your blessings
Malachi: enjoy and share blessings; quietly do what's right
Galatians: we are unique but harmonious when praising Christ
Philemon: be thankful; evolving relationships can be a blessing



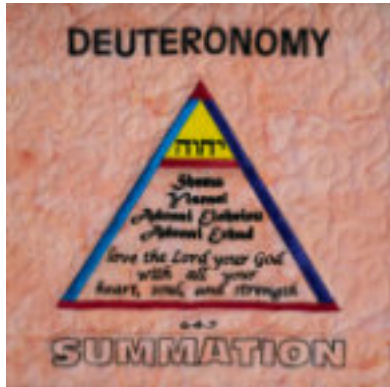
“WORKING” ORANGE
*Discipline and self-control
are required for building*

- I Kings: building based on practical wisdom
- Haggai: building by returning to the foundation
- Titus: building by uniting a diverse body of believers
- James: building based on a powerful personal example



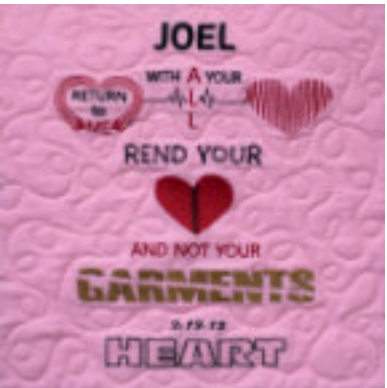
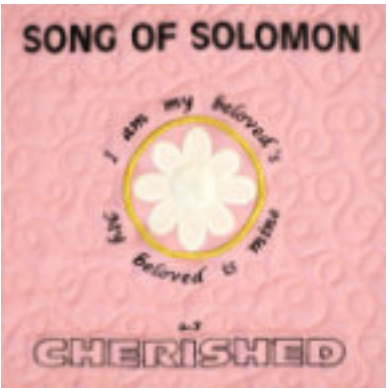
CORAL
*Consecration: complete
devotion to goodness*

- Deuteronomy: all in—loving the one God
- Ezra: all in—study/practice/teach the word of the Lord
- Ezekiel: all in—sharing the wonder of knowing the Lord
- Mark: all in—worshiping and serving the risen Christ



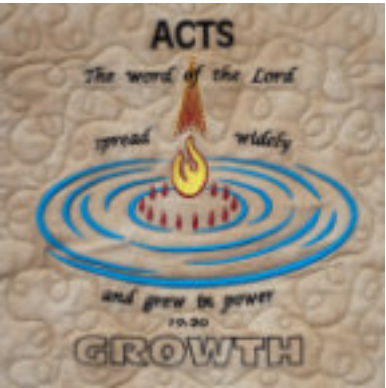
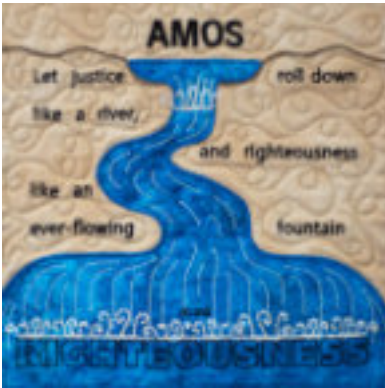
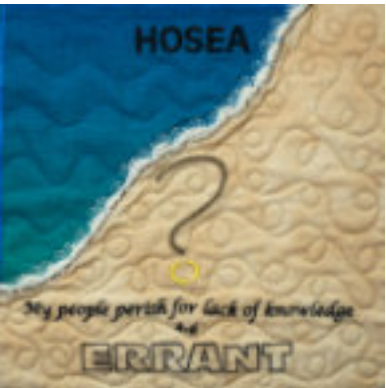
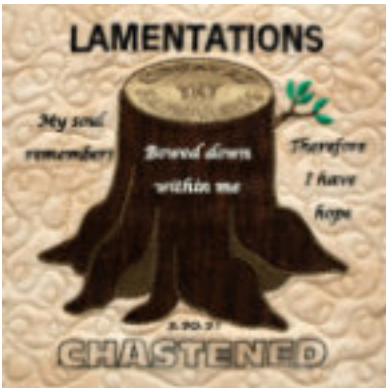
PINK
*Love creates hearts brave
enough to show gentle
compassion*

- Ruth: redeemed by love
- Song of Solomon: committed in love
- Joel: sensitive to our heart's need for humility/healing
- I Corinthians: healed in the hospital of our Lord Jesus Christ
- I John: God is love, so we must love



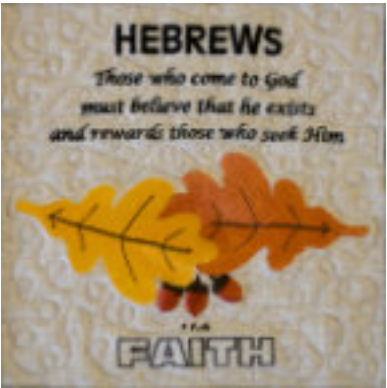
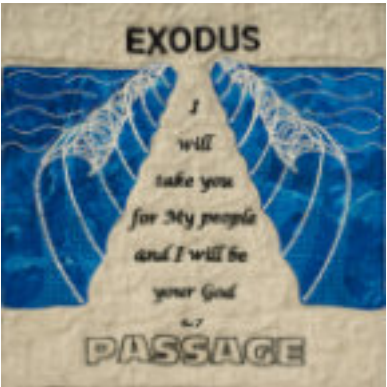
BEACH
Metamorphic rebirth
and divine adoption

Lamentations: rebirth after destruction
[sometimes pruning precedes growth]
Hosea: rebirth after betrayal
[sometimes we need to be washed clean and start over]
Amos: rebirth after arrogance
[the river of righteousness refreshes only the humble]
Acts: rebirth is for anyone
[receiving the amazingly graceful gift of the Spirit of adoption]



GRIT SAND
Seeking direction
faithfully

Exodus: seeking freedom—escaping an enslaving past
Jonah: running away—going the wrong direction is foolish
Hebrews: God rewards those who seek Him
II John: the right direction does NOT mean the popular path



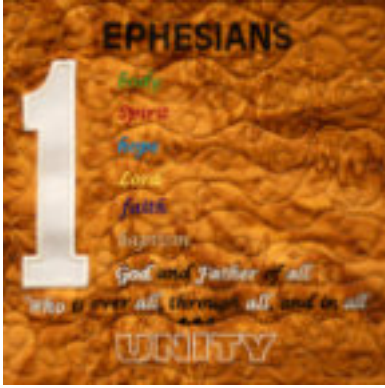
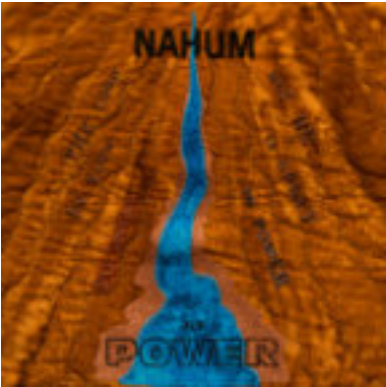
FAWN
Humility precedes healing

II Chronicles: healing starts with humility
Proverbs: listen and humbly follow wise counsel
Jeremiah: repenting is progressive; it's the way forward
I Thessalonians: start all healing with a humble prayer in faith



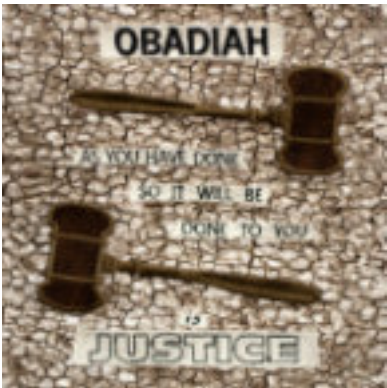
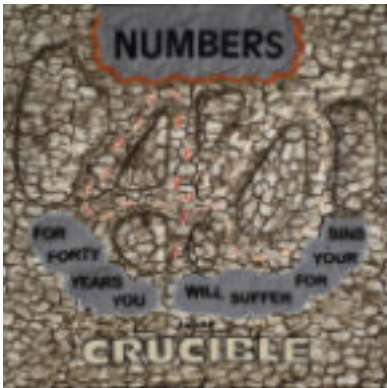
CINNAMON
Powerful encouragement

II Samuel: we're courageous— our King leads us to victory
Nahum: we're confident in the power of God
Ephesians: we're boldly united by Truth
II Thessalonians: we're encouraged daily by the Father, Son, Spirit



DESERT
Interaction choices:
Indecision
Ignoring
Intercession

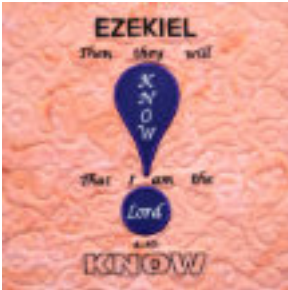
Numbers: we can wander & grumble, struggling with God and resisting guidance of the Spirit
Obadiah: we can strut & brag, opposing God and rejecting the presence of the Spirit
III John: we can walk & pray, relying on the truth of God and welcoming the intercession of the Spirit



• Applique Allegories

Each of the 26 types of applique material corresponds to some facet of Jesus: His names, a prominent element of His ministry (e.g. parables & miracles, teaching highlights), or a pivotal moment in His life. Excluded from any of these allegories are names covered in the 4 Gospels quilt blocks: the names “Lord,” “Savior,” “Jesus,” “Christ,” and events such as the Last Supper and Crucifixion. These appliques occur (and recur) throughout the quilt since Christ was present at Creation, the Old Testament points to Him as the coming Messiah, and the New Testament is all about Christ and His Kingdom.

Violet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” – Matthew 1:23



Ezekiel: By His many mighty works Almighty God should be known; in the coming Incarnation, God will make Himself known in the most powerful way possible: in person.



Luke: In the manger lies God’s greatest miracle—He has become part of His own creation as an infant. It is the ultimate demonstration of the true humility of Immanuel, “God with us”— Divine Royalty is born with the lowly lambs, foreshadowing the sacrificial death of the of the spotless Lamb of God.

True Blue: “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.” – John10:11



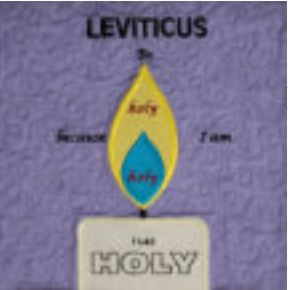
Isaiah: The Good Shepherd stays true to His sheep; He does not flee when danger threatens, but is a haven for sheep depending upon Him. He is a rock solid source of protection, with unwavering light.



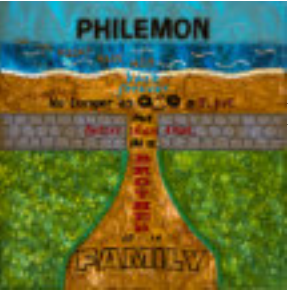
Luke: The shepherds were first guided to Christ’s manger by a star. So it is that shepherds at night who may be raising sheep for sacrifice witness the star of Bethlehem and the newborn perfect Lamb.

Sky Blue:
Prodigal Son
Parable

“There was a man who had two sons...the younger son squandered his wealth in sinful living in a far country... when he came to his senses... he got up and went home to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father was filled with compassion, ran to his son, and threw his arms around him... ‘This son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost, but now he is found.’” – Luke 15:11 - 32



Leviticus: Perhaps Jesus’ most popular parable is the prodigal son. On one hand we see the father, searching daily with unwavering love for his son’s return. Allegorically we see the unchanging blue flame of God, a Father calling us to holiness. His children have squandered their inherited gift of freedom, yet He waits patiently with open arms to welcome the prodigals back home.



Philemon: On the other hand we see the prodigal son who has run away from home, shirking his duties and making disastrous decisions. He comes to his senses and resolves to go home to face the consequences, to be welcomed home by a loving father. In allegorical parallel, Onesimus has run away from his home and his duties, becomes a Christian, and resolves to return home and face the consequences. We can picture Philemon searching the blue horizon, anxious for Onesimus’ return and ready to greet him not with punishment, due to a runaway, but with love for a brother in Christ.

Heavenly Sky: “I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God.” – John 1:34
Son of God



Daniel: The Son of God lets us see what heaven is like and God’s plans for our future.



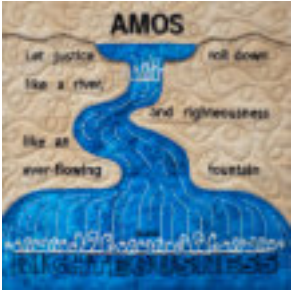
Galatians: Jesus attracted a wide diversity of followers, a sort of harmony of humanity, coalescing into a song of love to the Son of God.

Deep Waters:
Master of
Stormy Water

“...even the winds and waves obey Him” – Mark 4:35 - 41
Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.
– Matthew 14:22 - 33



Exodus: Jesus is the passage to future freedom when we feel trapped by the slavery of the past. He is the Way through the deepest water.



Amos: Christ's life demonstrates walking in true righteousness and justice when we are mired in our own self-righteousness complacency.



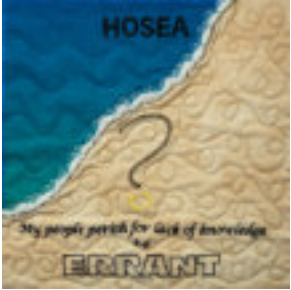
Jonah: Our Lord can dramatically point us in the right direction, when a foolish decision we have made to run away has put us in a storm. He can show us the way to calmer waters, following God's will.



Philemon: He shows us the way that sinful chains / broken relationships can be transformed into loving bonds / restored relationships.

Gradient Sea:
Living Water

“If you knew the gift of God and Who it is that asked you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water.... Whoever drinks the water I give Him will never thirst. Indeed the water I give will become a spring of water within, welling up to eternal life.”
– John 4:11 - 14



Hosea: All have sinned, breaking a sacred relationship with our loving God; we need the Living Water to wash over us and begin anew.



II John: The Living Water is available to all; it our choice to avail ourselves of it to swim in the right—but not popular—direction.

Verdant Green:
True Vine

“I am the true vine and you are the branches. If you remain in Me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit.” – John 15:5



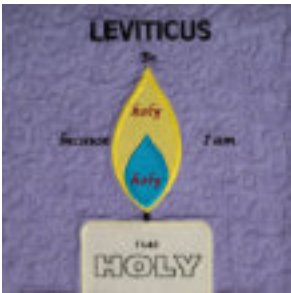
II Chronicles: However mistaken our past decisions, Jesus extends an invitation to turn from the arid path of life apart from Him and live a fruitful life as part of the True Vine.



Philemon: The True Vine awaits those courageous enough to come home and seek His sustaining nourishment.

Flame Yellow:
Light of the World

“I am the Light of the world—those who follow Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” – John 8:12



Leviticus: The source of our holiness can only be the Light of the World.



Proverbs: Knowledge we can acquire on our own; wisdom’s lamp of guidance requires a different source of oil.



Isaiah: We are not The Light; we are called for the privilege of reflecting the Light to illuminate a world confused by moral fog.



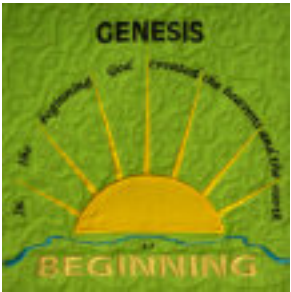
Zechariah: The clearest window to The Light is the Word of the Lord.



II Timothy: The Spirit dwells in us to the extent the Light dwells in us.

Sunshine:
“I AM”

Jesus said unto them, “Truly, truly, I say unto you: Before Abraham was, I AM.” – John 8:58



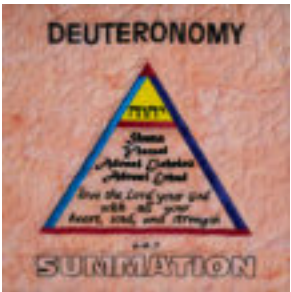
Genesis: The eternal Great “I AM” exists outside time, and so was present at creation’s dawn of time, as symbolized by the rising sun.



Revelation: “I AM” also will bring the end of time, calling us to an infinity of “now” with the Great “I AM.”

Apex Yellow:
The Truth

“For this purpose I have been born, and for this I have come into the world: to testify to the truth. Everyone who loves the truth listens to Me.” – John 18:37



Deuteronomy: The apex of spiritual truth in the Old Testament is this Scripture. God exists and there is only one God. He loves us immeasurably and wants us love Him completely.



III John: God sent His Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. He said, “For this reason I came—to testify to truth.” We must embrace Him as Lord, follow the path He illuminates for us as His disciples, and fulfil His command to share the shining truth He proclaims.

Honey: *“I am the bread of life. Those who come to Me shall never hunger.” – John 6:35*
The Bread of Life



Nehemiah: People united to build the wall, like bees work in a productive honeycomb. The Bread of Life unites us; energized by His spiritual nourishment, we can work together for His purpose.



II John: Christians go against the flow, emboldened by the Bread of Life within us.

Bronze: *When Jesus had finish speaking, the multitudes were amazed at His teaching, because he taught with powerful authority. – Matthew 7:28*
Teacher



Proverbs: Those who follow the Teacher hold sacred the lamp of learning, the word of God.

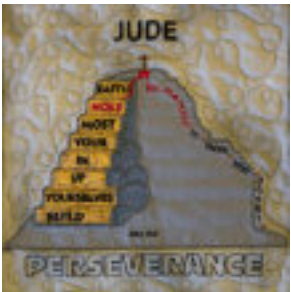


Titus: The apple has long been a symbol of teachers, and even more so for the Master Teacher whose students are encouraged to bear fruit.

Parchment: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” – John 14:6*
The Way



I Chronicles: The parchment scroll symbolizes the word of God, with its promises and a reminder of all of His magnificent works. It is the way forward, a plan of action.

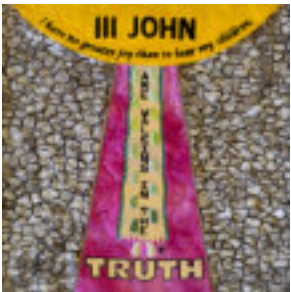


Jude: Early Christians were said to be followers of “The Way.” The steps symbolize the word of God, leading the way to Calvary, where His most magnificent work was done. Its promise is for followers of The Way, and for all whose path, whose way, culminates at the foot of the cross.

Fuchsia Fusion: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14*
The Word

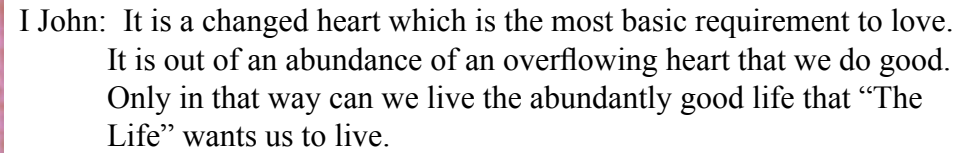
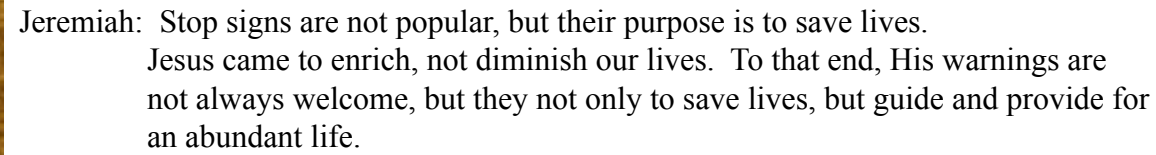


Zechariah: The complex visions of this book are united by the recurring phrase, “the word of the Lord came to me.” The Word is the bedrock truth guiding our progress towards God’s purposes.

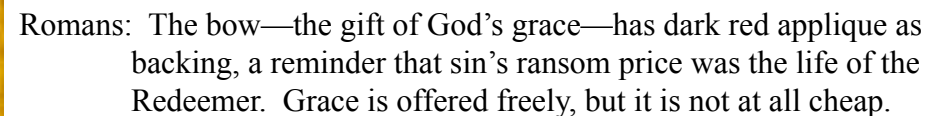
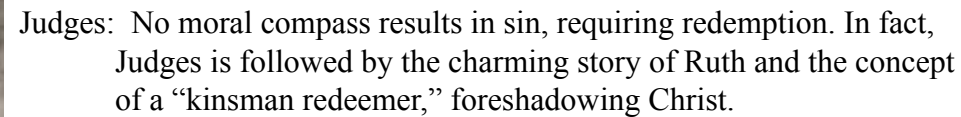


III John: The Word illuminates the Way to the Truth.

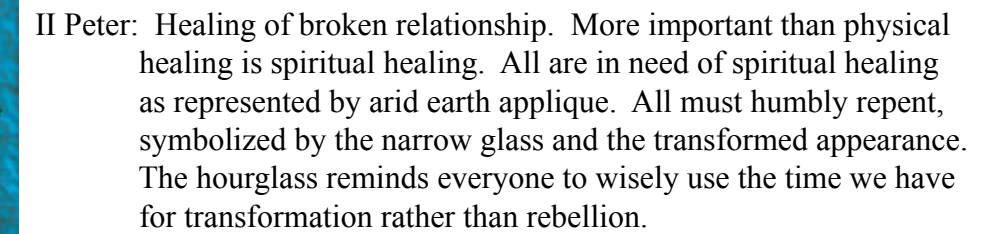
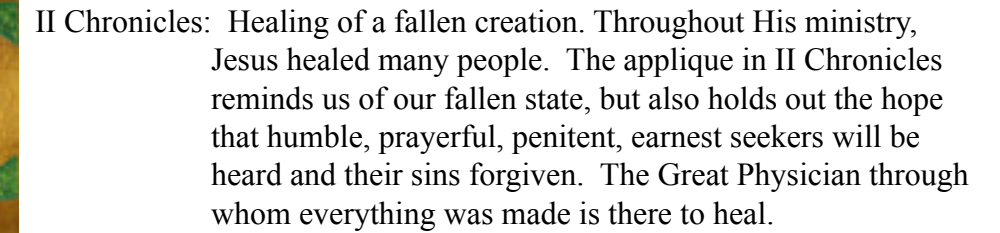
Scarlet: *"I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* – John 10:10



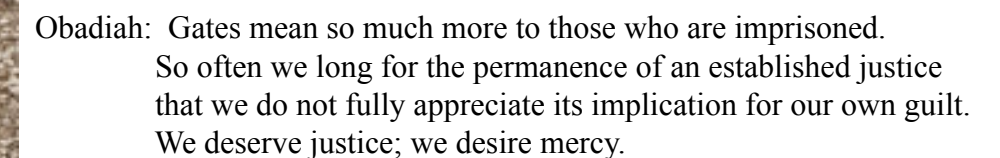
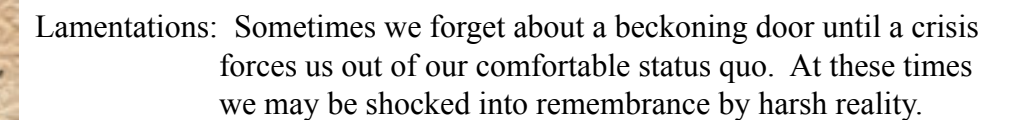
Dark Red: *“For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:45*



Arid Earth: *“Jesus said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*
Great Physician
– Mark 2:17



Wood Grain: *"I am the door (gate) of the sheep. If anyone enters by Me, he shall be saved and go in and out and find pasture." – John 10:7 - 9*





Malachi: Blessings are meant to be shared. We must invite others to the Gate so that blessings are multiplied to all who enter. This is represented by the tree whose shade overarches the depiction of the altar of offerings and blessings.



Matthew: The communion table is also a door. In sacred remembrance we enter the Door, renewing our shared faith, declaring our common hope, and rededicating our hearts to reflect His love.

Charcoal: *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me, though he may die, they shall live"* – John 11:25
Pivotal—
Incarnation & Resurrection
This applique is used only twice in this quilt—once at the birth of Jesus and once at His Resurrection. This applique material is reserved for these two pivotal moments in all of human history.



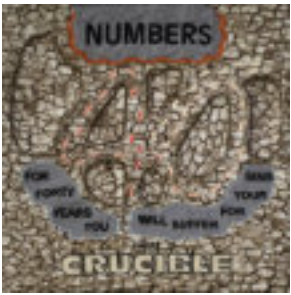
Luke: The most lowly are the first witnesses of baby Jesus, God Incarnate. So shepherds are privileged to see the newborn Good Shepherd.



Mark: Jesus led an exemplary life and taught masterfully. His horrific death is well-known. But the Resurrection is the essential point of Christian belief. The question is: Did He rise from the dead? A dramatic stone applique represents the pivotal, life-changing decision we all must make.

Gray:
Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3-10, Luke 11:28, John 20:29



Numbers: *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."*
Sometimes we feel boxed in by our poor decisions. We must be truly sorry—not for our situation, but for our sin. Only then can we be comforted by our Savior.



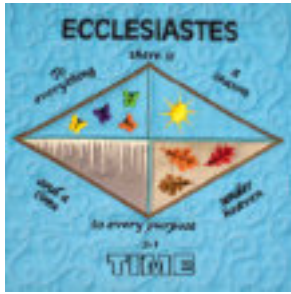
I Kings: *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."*
We are truly wise when we balance justice with mercy. Jesus put it succinctly in the golden rule—treat others the way we would wish to be treated.



II Kings: *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*
Sadly, those who choose to do the right thing will frequently be persecuted for that choice—a decision which can lead to division. Only if we are willing to demonstrate our allegiance to the King are we part of His kingdom. High risk; high reward.



Ezra: *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."*
We see what we have prepared ourselves to see. The atheist cannot see God anywhere. The Christian can see God everywhere. Our Great High Priest is our bridge, but no one can be forced to cross it.



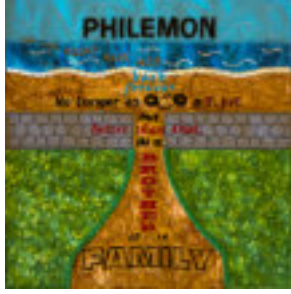
Ecclesiastes: *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*
It is those who most feel winter’s chill who most value the warmth of spring. Analogously, those who suffer the heart-felt cold of spiritual poverty will be the most likely to embrace the attractive warmth and love available in the abundant life offered by a loving Savior who calls Himself “the Life.”



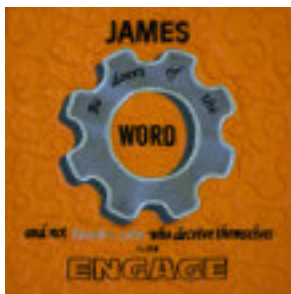
Malachi: *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”*
It is not enough to have a vague desire to be “good.” We must have a craving hunger and burning thirst to obtain fulfilling blessings. That is the point of the statement in Malachi—bring the best to the altar, an offering to show what matters most to us.



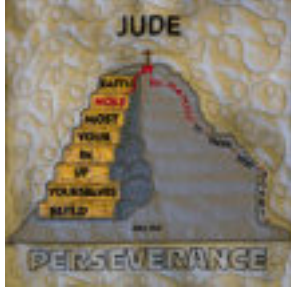
Luke: *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”*
Meekness is not weakness; it is complete self-control and is essential to success. The Good Shepherd leads the meek to greener pastures.



Philemon: *“Blessed are the peacemakers; they will be called sons of God.”*
We partner with the Prince of Peace to create a place where good can thrive, and where destructive forces are excluded.

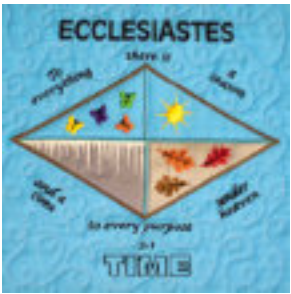


James: *“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”*
It is not enough to simply nod or pay lip service to the gospel. We must put it into action as disciples of our Lord.



Jude: *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*
This blessing is for us—however we climbed to find our Redeemer.

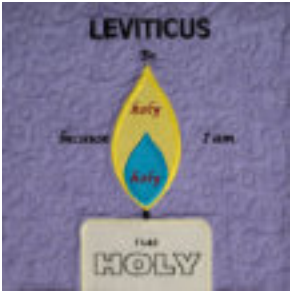
Fog:
Woes



“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!...” – Matthew 23:13 - 33
Ecclesiastes: Jesus’ fiercest denunciation is directed at the religious leaders.

Hypocrisy, superficiality, and hollow ritual do far more harm to the cause of the kingdom than the criticism of unbelievers. False followers of hypocritical leaders are the greatest threat to the health of the kingdom of God; hence, Christ’s scathing rebuke of these people throughout His ministry. In our fallen world, they are at best a confusing fog, or worse, a deadly malady in the Body—
v.13 Stroke; some are blockages, paralyzing the Body’s natural function of growth by becoming self-righteous impediments.
v.15 Cancer; some covet showy, insincere growth—salvation becomes a cheap numbers game to these merchants of metastasis.
v.16-22 Malnutrition; a great danger to the Body is insufficient nourishment from those who parse out partial, convenient truths.
v.23 Heart Disease; superficial sacrifices are caused by a hardened heart. Christian sacrifice must be a whole-hearted living sacrifice.
v.25-26 Mental Health; some mask or hide embarrassing problems. We must courageously deal with what is unseen, on the inside.
v.27-28 Gangrene; we require a radical cure from a fatal, grotesque disease—sin. Dressing in a coat and tie will not cure gangrene.
v.29-32 Second Opinion; never be afraid of a challenging message. Prophets were persecuted because they challenged the status quo. A spiritual second opinion should only reinforce life-giving truth.

Cream:
The Lamb of God



Leviticus: The most special sacrifice in the priesthood was the pure white lamb; the cream candle foreshadows the future Lamb of God.



II Samuel: The star of David suggests the future Bethlehem star and the birth of the Son of David, the Lamb of God, in a stable with other lambs and celebrating shepherds in attendance.



Isaiah: The lighthouse is a beacon of hope to those who are lost; the Lamb of God seeks lost sheep because He knows what sheep are like.

White:
Kingdom

The kingdom of heaven is mentioned about 120 times in the Gospels, the theme which recurs most often. John the Baptist prepared people for it, Christ opens His ministry proclaiming its nearness, and in His teachings, a picture of this kingdom emerges. We are told how important it is to seek it, that it will be proclaimed everywhere, that it will grow and attract many people, who will enter it, how to enter, that its primary principle is service, that it is a spiritual kingdom, and that it is eternal. Four different types of white applique materials represent this kingdom:



Luke: The angels sing in celebration of the birth of the Lamb.



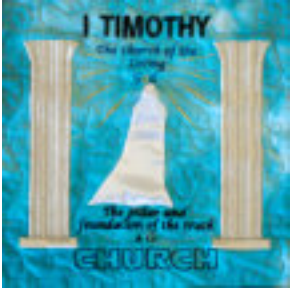
Ephesians: The Lamb of God prayed for unity in His flock.



Colossians: The Lamb of God was sacrificed, but so were doves after His birth. The peace He brings is primarily the reconciled peace between mankind and our heavenly Father.



*Song of Solomon (2:1): Christ is pictured as the Rose of Sharon, a white flower, not a red rose. He is also called the Lily of the Valley. The white satin flower center resembles a pearl—emblematic of the pearl of great price which is to be sought first. The seeds for beautiful flowers are found in many places, but Jesus said growth depends on how it is received. Floral applique petals remind us of the attraction of the Lily of the Valley, to whose beauty many are drawn.



*I Timothy: The Bride is not facing us, but her groom. Jesus said we must repent to enter the kingdom. Repenting can be turning around from past sin, but more positively is turning around to face our Lord. The Bride does not turn her back on reality; she is turning to face eternity. The bridal gown is made of the finest silk, symbolizing being born again, having our robes washed white as snow by the blood of the Lamb. Millions of born again believers form a thread of the Bride's long pure white train, made pure for this purpose by the mercy of our Redeemer. The veil of tulle covers the Bride's face. The Bride of Christ is the kingdom—a spiritual kingdom—and, like the veiled Bride, her face is not always clear at first glance. It's what's behind the veil—her spirit—wherein her true beauty can be found. At the Great Wedding Day, the first day of an unspeakably joyous eternity, the Groom will lift the veil, and all who comprise the Bride of Christ will see their Redeemer, Lord, and Savior face to face. (Revelation 19:7-9, 21:1-3)

•	<u>Embroidery Thread Symbolism</u>	
	<i>The variety of colors symbolizes different facets Almighty God and of our corresponding relationship with Him. We are not the incidental product of a distant impersonal deity; we are created in the image of a loving heavenly Father. The wide palette of embroidery thread colors in the quilt blocks tells the story of our relationship, just as this relationship is ubiquitously woven into the story of all life.</i>	
Basic Black:	God is unchanging; He is our rock and firm foundation	
IMMUTABLE:	<i>He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just.</i> – Deuteronomy 32:4	
Foundation:	<i>The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer. My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; The LORD lives, and blessed be my Rock! And may the God of my salvation be exalted.</i> – Psalm 18:2-3, 46 Found in all blocks.	
Bright White:	Our God is perfectly good; we must trust Him to refine us, changing us for good.	
PERFECTLY:	<i>Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!</i>	
GOOD	– Psalm 34:8	
Changed for good:	<i>“And I will bring them through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’”</i> – Zechariah 13:8-9 Exodus (foam), II Chronicles (verse – My name, My face), Job (lightning), Ecclesiastes (ice), Lamentations (verse – bowed down within me), Ezekiel (“KNOW” & “Lord”), Daniel (verse – He knows what lies in darkness; light dwells with Him), Hosea (foam), Amos (spray), Zephaniah (Lord, God, fireworks), Zechariah (wheel, horse), Matthew (verse – this is My body, of the new covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of...), Mark (lily & angel), Luke (star, “good news” in manger), I Corinthians (“H”), II Corinthians (butterfly), II Thessalonians (dove & entire verse), Philemon (waves & foam) Selected examples:	
Cream:	God is absolutely holy, He calls us to be distinctly different in our behavior.	
HOLY:	<i>“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”</i> – Isaiah 6:3	
Called:	<i>Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.</i> – I Peter 1:15 Leviticus (candle), Isaiah (lighthouse), Jeremiah (“BEHOLD!”), Obadiah (banners), Habakkuk (pillars), Zechariah (wings), Matthew (bread), Luke (angel trim), John (lamb), Ephesians (“1” outline), Colossians (dove outline), I Timothy (pillars), II Peter (lower sand & verse – He is patient)	
Nickel Gray:	Our heavenly Father is the source of all blessings; we must be thankful.	
BLESSING:	<i>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.</i> – James 1:17	
Thankful:	<i>Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting.</i> – Psalm 100:4-5 I Kings (vert balance), II Kings (÷), Ezra (bridge vert), Zephaniah (verse – fears), Malachi (altar trim), Matthew (cup), James (gear trim), II John (wrong way fish)	

Slate Gray:	God is jealous; He must be first in our lives, requiring our complete commitment.	
JEALOUS:	<i>“You shall not worship any other god, because I, the LORD, am a jealous God.”</i> – Exodus 34:14	
Commitment:	<i>“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.”</i> – Matthew 6:24 I Kings (balance horz), II Chronicles (verse – and seek), Ezra (bridge trim), Zechariah (hammers, stone, wheel), Mark (stone and grave trim), Luke (shepherd head covering trim), John (“INRI”), James (gear trim), II John (wrong way fish), Juke (Calvary outline)	
Violet:	God can be present anywhere; it is our choice when to commune with God.	
IMMANENT:	<i>If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast.</i> – Psalm 139:8-10	
Communing:	<i>“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”</i> – Matthew 18:20 Deuteronomy (triangle), II Chronicles (verse – if My people, who are called), Ecclesiastes (butterfly), Ezekiel (“!” trim), Micah (flower), Malachi (grapes), Matthew (wine), Mark (grapes), Luke (manger trim), Ephesians (“faith”), I Peter (rainbow)	
Midnight Blue:	The fullness of God is beyond our knowing; we must keep our sense of wonder.	
MYSTERY:	<i>“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”</i> – Isaiah 55:8 – 9	
Wonder:	<i>“Be still, and know that I am God.”</i> – Psalm 46:10 Daniel (sky outline), Mark (praying Jesus)	
True Blue:	God is eternal, beyond time—this must be the vantage point of our perspective.	
ETERNAL:	<i>From everlasting to everlasting You are God.</i> – Psalm 90:2	
Hopeful perspective:	<i>I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.</i> – Ephesians 1:17-19 Exodus (water trim), Deuteronomy (triangle), II Samuel (star of David), II Chronicles (verse – and pray), Esther (sapphire), Isaiah (lighthouse), Amos (river trim), Jonah (water drops/sea trim), Micah (flowers), Nahum (river), Habakkuk (verse – The Lord is in His holy temple), Zephaniah (fireworks /“singing”), Luke (shepherd robes trim & verse – I bring you; of great joy), I Thessalonians (anchor)	
Sky Blue:	Our Father is a God of peace; His children can be filled with inner peace.	
PEACE:	<i>Now may the God of peace give you peace at all times in every way.</i> – II Thessalonians 3:16	
Peaceful:	<i>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.</i> – Philippians 4:7 Leviticus (inner flame), Zephaniah (“calm”), Acts (waves), I Corinthians (“H” & waves), Ephesians (“hope”), Philemon (horizon & verse – back forever), I Peter (rainbow), II John (horizon)	

Turquoise: We serve one God, a united Trinity; we should live in complementary harmony.
UNITY “*I pray also for those who will believe in me... that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You.* – John 17:20-21

Harmony: *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts,yet one body. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*
– I Corinthians 12:12-14, 18-20, 27
Genesis (river), II Chronicles (river), Psalms (verse & music), Ecclesiastes (window panes), II Peter (hourglass), Revelation (river)

Green: Our Father encourages us to live and grow; we honor Him by being fruitful.
NOURISHING: *Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the Lord.* – Deuteronomy 32:2-3

Fruitful: *This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit.* – John 15:8
II Chronicles (field outline & verse – and I will heal their land), Ecclesiastes (butterfly), Lamentations (new leaf sprout), Micah (trees & grass), Zephaniah (“delight”), Zechariah (trees), Malachi (tree outline, new leaf sprouts, grape leaves), Mark (olive tree, grapevine, palm fronds, lily stem), Ephesians (verse – body), Colossians (branch in beak), Titus (leaf), Philemon (field edge), I Peter (rainbow), III John (inner path edge, footprints)

Flame Yellow: God is the source light; we must reflect that light
LIGHT: *God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.* – I John 1:5
Reflection: *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* – Matthew 5:16
Leviticus (outer flame outline), II Chronicles (verse – will I hear from heaven), Isaiah (light beam outline), Micah (flowers), Malachi (wheat), Matthew (apostles’ flames), Acts (descending rays & Holy Spirit flame), Ephesians (verse – Lord), Colossians (dove beak), I Thessalonians (anchor rope), I Peter (rainbow)

Radiant Yellow: The Father rejoices over His children; He wants us to be joyful, not just happy.
JOY: “*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are delights forevermore.*” – Psalm 16:11

Joyful: *The joy of the LORD is your strength.* – Nehemiah 8:10
Genesis (sun rays & border), Ruth (wheat), I Samuel (oil & crown), I Kings (pans & chains), Proverbs (lamp outline), Ecclesiastes (sun & butterfly), Habakkuk (rays), Zephaniah (“REJOICE”), Zechariah (“LORD”, menorah, stone rays), Mark (rays & wheat), Luke (“Behold!”, manger rays, angel glow), Romans (cross), II Corinthians (butterfly wings), I Timothy (rays), Titus (apple brdr), Hebrews (leaf), II John (ichthus brdr), III John (sun outline), Revelation (∞ border)

Straw: Our heavenly Father is patient, waiting for His children to find their way home.
PATIENT: “*May the God of patience and encouragement help you live in complete harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus.* – Romans 15:5

Renewed: *But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.* – Isaiah 40:31
Numbers (footprints), Lamentations (tree rings), Micah (pathway & verse – act justly), Zechariah (horns), Ephesians (“baptism”), III John (pathway & footsteps)

Orange: Our Creator made us in His image; sinners must transform to reflect that image.
CREATOR: *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*
– Genesis 1:26-27

Image: *Put on the new self, created in the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*
– Ephesians 4:24
Micah (flower), Zechariah (measuring sqaure & mtns), Hebrews (leaf), I Peter (rainbow)

Burnt Sienna: Our heavenly Father cares for us as His children; He is engaged, not indifferent.
FATHER *God is treating you as His children; for what children are not disciplined by their Father?*
– Hebrews 12:7

Children: *Because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.”* – Galatians 4:6
Numbers (mtn outline), I Samuel (jar exterior), Ecclesiastes (leaf & butterfly), Daniel (paw), Nahum (verse & riverbank), Matthew (lamps), II Corinthians (butterfly wings), II Thessalonians (sun), Hebrews (acorns)

Scarlet: Because we are surrounded by God’s love, we must share that love.
LOVE *We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.* – I John 4:16
Loving *We love, because He first loved us.* – I John 4:19
Numbers (footprints), Deuteronomy (triangle), Judges (verse), II Chronicles (verse), Proverbs (flame), Ecclesiastes (leaf), Jeremiah (stop sign edge), Joel (hearts), Micah (flower), Zephaniah (fireworks & verse), Zechariah (horses, flames, wheel), Matthew (Jesus’ flame & “sins”), Acts (descending ray & flames), Romans (bow), Ephesians (“Spirit”), II Timothy (“God”, “Spirit”, flame outline), Philemon (verse), I Peter (rainbow), I John (heart outline), Jude (“HOLY”, “be merciful”, and blood)

Burgundy: Our Creator gave us the gift of freedom; we are obligated to use it wisely.
FREEDOM: *The LORD God took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it. And the LORD God commanded him, “You may eat freely from every tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die.”* – Genesis 2:15-17

Accountability: *You are free, but do not use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Rather, live as servants of Almighty God.* – I Peter 2:16
Judges (bloodspatter outline), Romans (ribbon backing outline), Philemon (“slave”)

Cinnamon: We serve a God of infinite power Who delights to empower the truly humble.
OMNIPOTENCE: *I heard the voice of a great multitude, like the crashing of many waters, Like reverberating peals of thunder, exclaiming, “Hallelujah! For the Omnipotent Lord God reigns!”* – Revelation 19:6

Humility: *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*
– James 4:10
I Samuel (jar interior), II Chronicles (verse – will humble themselves), Nehemiah (honeycomb outline), Ecclesiastes (falling leaf), Joel (“GARMENTS”), Philemon (verse – that you may have him)

Cedar: God’s faithfulness to us is beyond measure; therefore we have confident hope.
FAITHFUL: *I call this to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.* – Lamentations 3:21-23

Hope: *The Lord is my portion, says my soul; therefore will I hope in Him.*
– Lamentations 3:24

I Chronicles (scroll outline), Lamentations (embedded verse – Great is Thy Faithfulness), Hosea (shoreline & “?”), Daniel (claws), Zechariah (scroll & basket), Malachi (wheat tie & basket), Matthew (basket), III John (fuchsia wedge trim)

Brown: Our Father always keeps His promises; we have faith in Him.
GOD’S PROMISE: The promise is for you, and your children, and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call. – Acts 2:39
Faith: Your faith should not rest in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. – I Corinthians 2:5
Numbers (hill outlines), II Chronicles (arid earth outline), Ecclesiastes (window frame), Lamentations (tree outline, bark tracing, branch), Obadiah (gavel outline), Jonah (ship’s wheel), Micah (tree trunks), Zechariah (horse, tree trunks, hammer handles), Malachi (tree outline), Matthew (table outline), Mark (olive tree trunk), Luke (shepherd staffs), John (cross), Hebrews (acorn caps & leaf veins), II Peter (top and bottom of hourglass), Jude (cross)

Silver: As God’s creation, we derive our glory from our Creator.
OUR GLORY: When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that You care for him? For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. – Psalm 8:3-5
Respect: Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. – I Corinthians 3:16-17
Esther (tiara), I Timothy (tiara), Titus (leaf trim) (refined to see His own image)
Tiara – our crown is not bejeweled with symbols of notoriety and achievement; it is gradually forged in the refining fire of humble service.

Gold: God’s majestic glory is absolute; we must worship Him and spirit and truth.
GOD’S GLORY: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth! Thy glory dwells beyond the heavens. – Psalm 8:1
Worship: “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.” – John 4:24
Genesis (“BEGINNING”), Song of Solomon (ring), Hosea (ring), I Timothy (ring), Revelation (“ETERNITY”)

- Block Ensemble Parallelism
 - Hebrew poetry (e.g., the Psalms) does not rhyme like traditional English poetry.
 - Instead, it is arranged in specific forms. There are at least 4 types:
 - making a statement, then repeating it in parallel form
 - making a statement, then making a sharply contrasting statement
 - making a statement, then amplifying or expanding it
 - making a statement, then completing it with a following statement
 - These book ensembles are grouped into 26 couplets, 3 triplets, and 1 quartet.
 - Like Hebrew poetry, there are 4 ensemble types: parallel, contrasting, amplifying, completing.

PARALLEL
Exodus & Amos: *through the river lies renewed life*
I Kings & Proverbs & Titus: *living life with wisdom, discernment, and integrity*
I Chronicles & Hebrews: *faith is not blind faith, but is built on a firm foundation*
II Chronicles & Philemon: *the humility to change; the importance of being able to go home*
Psalms & Galatians: *harmony does not occur when we are compelled to sing the same note, it occurs when we are committed to sing for the same purpose*
Isaiah & I Thessalonians: *salvation: the call of a lighthouse and the stability of an anchor*
Jonah & II John: *direction is critical*
Haggai & James: *action is essential*

CONTRASTING
Numbers & III John: *wandering vs. purposeful pathway*
Judges & Colossians: *strife vs. peace*
II Kings & Ephesians: *divided vs. united*
Obadiah & I Corinthians: *what we deserve vs. what we need*
Hosea & Zechariah: *blindness vs. perspicacity*

MAGNIFYING
Leviticus & II Timothy: *keepers of the flame—without and within*
Joshua & Jeremiah: *free to choose, but choose wisely*
I Samuel & Acts: *anointing an earthly king; being anointed as children of the Heavenly King*
II Samuel & Nahum: *superiority vs. supremacy*
Nehemiah & II Thessalonians: *encouragement from each other; encouragement from God*
Ecclesiastes & II Peter: *time for each season; time to turn to God*
Daniel & Luke: *mystery revealed in a vision; mystery revealed in an Incarnation*
Zephaniah & Philippians: *Our Lord rejoices over us; we rejoice in the Lord*

COMPLETING
Genesis & Revelation: *creation story – beginning and end (and beginning again)*
Deuteronomy & Ezekiel & Mark: *returning to foundational truth*
Ruth & Romans: *seeking redemption from a kinsman – adopted into the family by a Redeemer*
Ezra & Jude: *approaching the Almighty – the single essential destination*
Esther & Song of Solomon & Habakkuk & I Timothy: *bride, groom, church, wedding*
Job & I Peter: *questioning in the fierce storm – faith in the final resolution and closure*
Lamentations & Malachi & Matthew: *pruning → production/growth → perfection/fruition*
Joel & I John: *opening our hearts to love*
Micah & John & II Corinthians: *the progressive path to free and abundant living*

Bible Quilt Factoids

- The quilt took 5 years from initial concept to finished product
 - Two years to read through the Bible, then re-read each book (sometimes multiple times) to identify the best single word theme summary and representative verse
 - The design took a year and a half; it was done on engineering graph paper
 - Once designed, it was reviewed for 3 months to ensure the design was worthy in its portrayal of the word of God
 - Material selection for both the background and applique material took 3 months (in each case, material was not selected from what was already on hand, but rather in order to address what was specifically was needed for that purpose; this necessitated lengthy searches from sources both local and international)
 - Block embroidery took 9 months (it was an iterative process where the original designs were digitized and then various versions were modified numerous times to achieve the desired effect with specifically chosen thread colors)
 - Piecing the blocks together and then quilting them took 3 months (a normal king sized quilt can be quilted in 3 days, but this quilt called for constant quilting thread color changes to match the blocks) (also, each block had to be custom quilted so that the quilting did not interfere with the art work) (finally, in many cases the quilting actually subtly reinforces the message of each block)
- 7,786 feet of bobbin and 26,061 feet of thread—over 6.4 miles just for the embroidery
- 1,497,906 embroidery stitches were used to create the quilt blocks (additional stitching for piecing the quilt together, careful block-by-block custom quilting, and the final binding brings the grand total to over 1 ¾ million stitches for the entire quilt)

