

A person stands on a wooden pier extending into a body of water. They are holding up a large mirror that reflects their face and upper body. The reflection shows a person wearing a hard hat and holding a tool. The text 'THE MIRROR' is overlaid in large, white, outlined letters at the top of the image.

THE MIRROR

IN THE MAN

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

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Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: 13 And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: 14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. 16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. 17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 **But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

Image Is Everything

The background of the slide features silhouettes of a man and a woman in superhero costumes, likely Superman and Wonder Woman, standing against a warm, orange-hued sunset sky. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right, both facing forward. Their costumes include capes and masks, and they are standing on a dark, rocky surface.

Genesis 1:26 - And God said, Let us make man in our **image** after our **likeness** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

- The primary definition of man is God's image and likeness
- Image is the foundation for identity
- All action is based upon self-image / identity
- Self-image is derived by reflection / image returned back to oneself

Image Is Everything

The object that does this the best is a mirror without it we have no reflection and no self-image. When God created man he gave it a mirror to derive its self-image so that it knew its identity, function, and purpose. That mirror is his word

- Genesis 1:27 - **So God created man in his own image, in the image** of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful**, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and **subdue it**: and **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

The Image Destroyed

God defined man's image by the mirror of his word. Satan knew this so he replaced the mirror of God's word by introducing a lie.

Genesis 3:1 - Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said,** Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

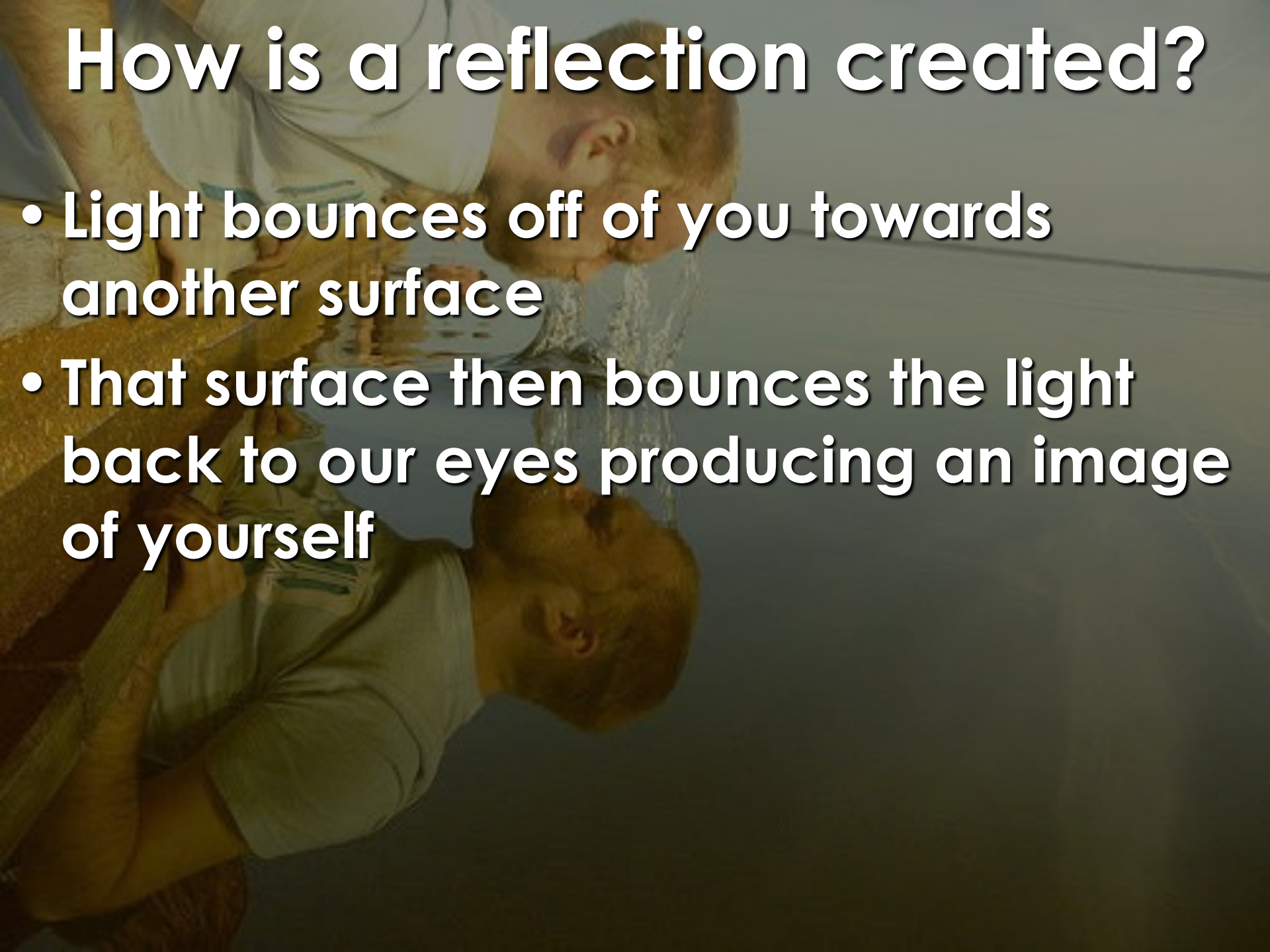
In the fall man lost the mirror, and in doing so lost his self-image, which then caused it to lose its identity, purpose and function. It's image became distorted. It not only lost its own image but God's image because man was made in his image. From that point onward man has tried to find its reflection by looking at everything around it.

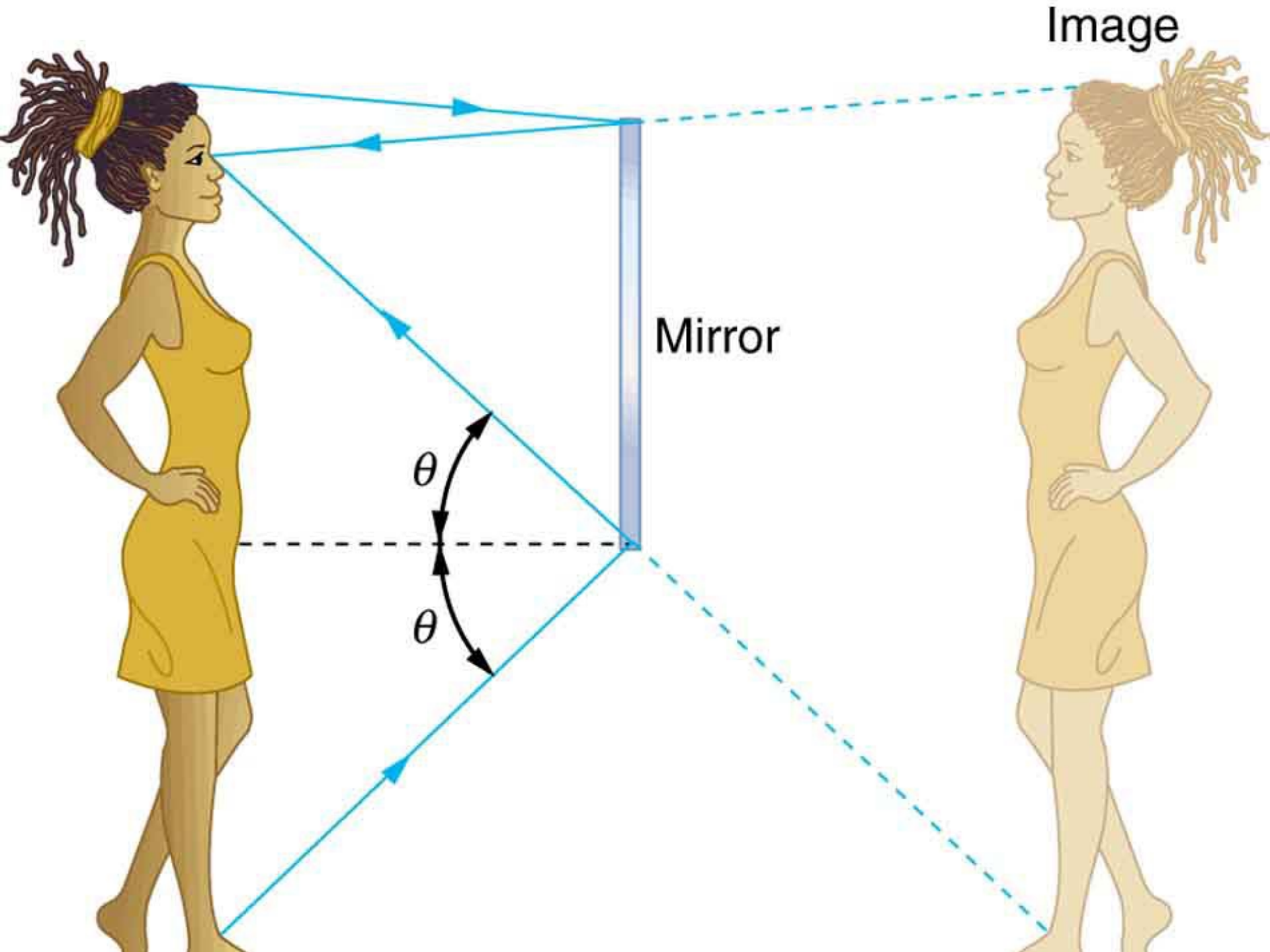
The Identity Crisis

- Man feared and hated the mirror because it no longer showed God's righteous beauty but instead its own hideous wickedness
- Since man still seeks to define itself or discover its identity it still needed a mirror
- Man embraced the distorted image that Satan created

How is a reflection created?

- Light bounces off of you towards another surface
- That surface then bounces the light back to our eyes producing an image of yourself





The Image Problem

Man was doomed to failure in finding its reflection in its surroundings because the reflection of an image can only be produced if the surface that the light contacts is smooth with no impurities otherwise the light is diffused or scattered and never returns to our eyes to reproduce the image.

Psalms 12:6 - **The words of the LORD are pure words:** as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.



Changing The Image

All visible objects have some reflectivity but not enough to reproduce the reflection of another image. Creation does show aspects of God's image or his glory but never the full picture. Nevertheless, man looked to creation to see itself.

Romans 1:19 - Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 **For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:** 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 **And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.**

Creating Its Image

When that failed man constructed its own mirrors in an attempt to see its reflection and its image. It did this by creating its own images.

Psalms 115:4 - Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: 6 They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: 7 They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. 8 **They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.**

Man and Himself

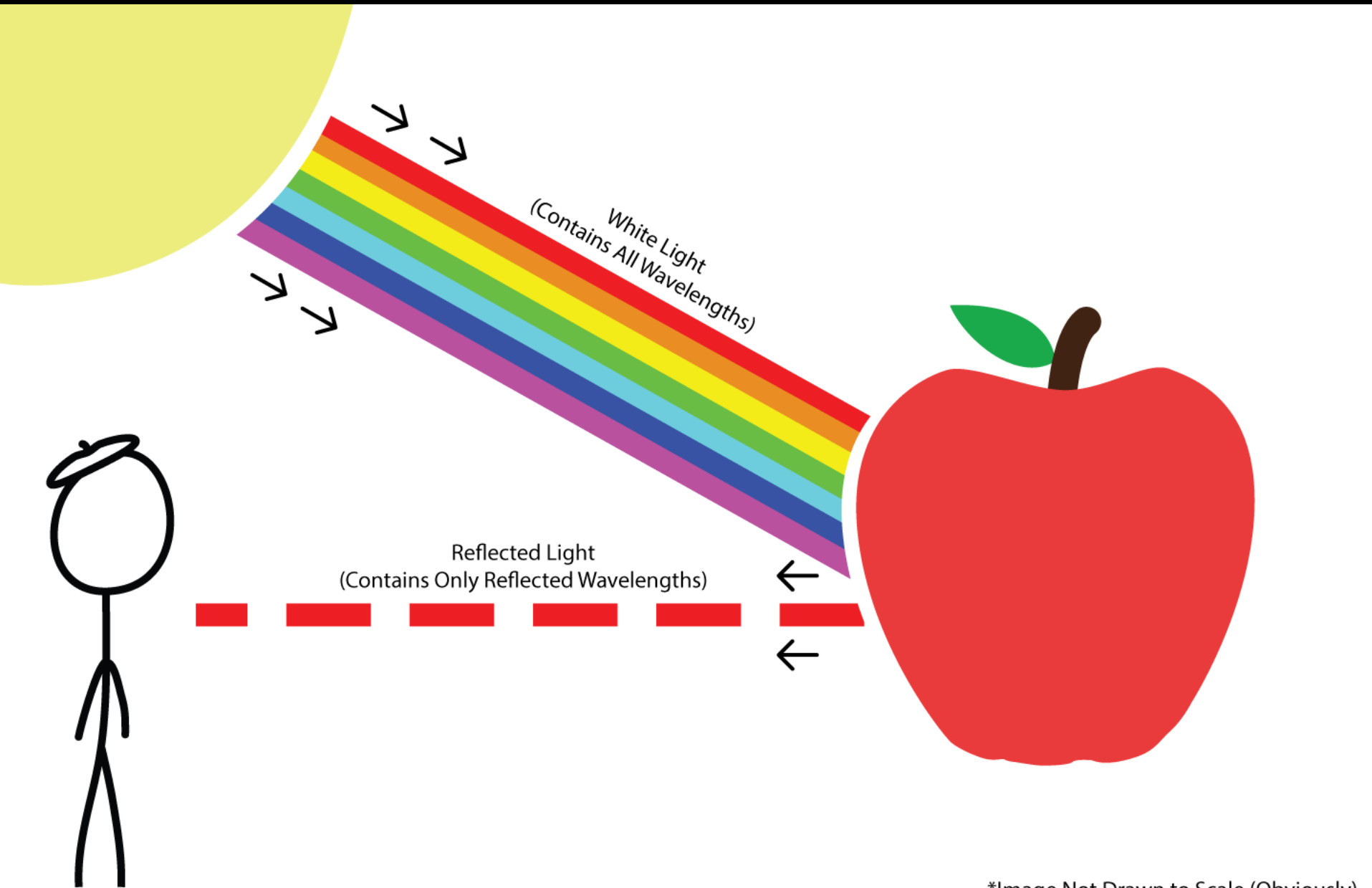
Jeremiah 10:23 - O LORD, I know **that the way of man is not in himself:** it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Jeremiah 10:14 - Every man is brutish in his knowledge: **every founder is confounded by the graven image:** for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.

Self-Deception

Man created philosophies, religions, and ideologies that possess some reflectivity or righteousness and morality but not the full image. Man is doomed to frustration as it attempts to see its reflection in images that can not reflect its true image. It is doomed to deception as it fabricates a false image of righteousness in its sinful works.

Galatians 6:3 - For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, **he deceiveth himself.**



*Image Not Drawn to Scale (Obviously)

What We Really Look Like

So that man would see itself God sent a mirror called the law to expose our sinful estate.

Romans 7:12 - Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. 13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; **that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.**

The Perfect Image

That mirror wasn't enough because it only showed us what we are but not what we should be. It reflected our wicked image but didn't reflect his righteous image so he sent the perfect mirror that would show both

Hebrews 1:1 - God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,** and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

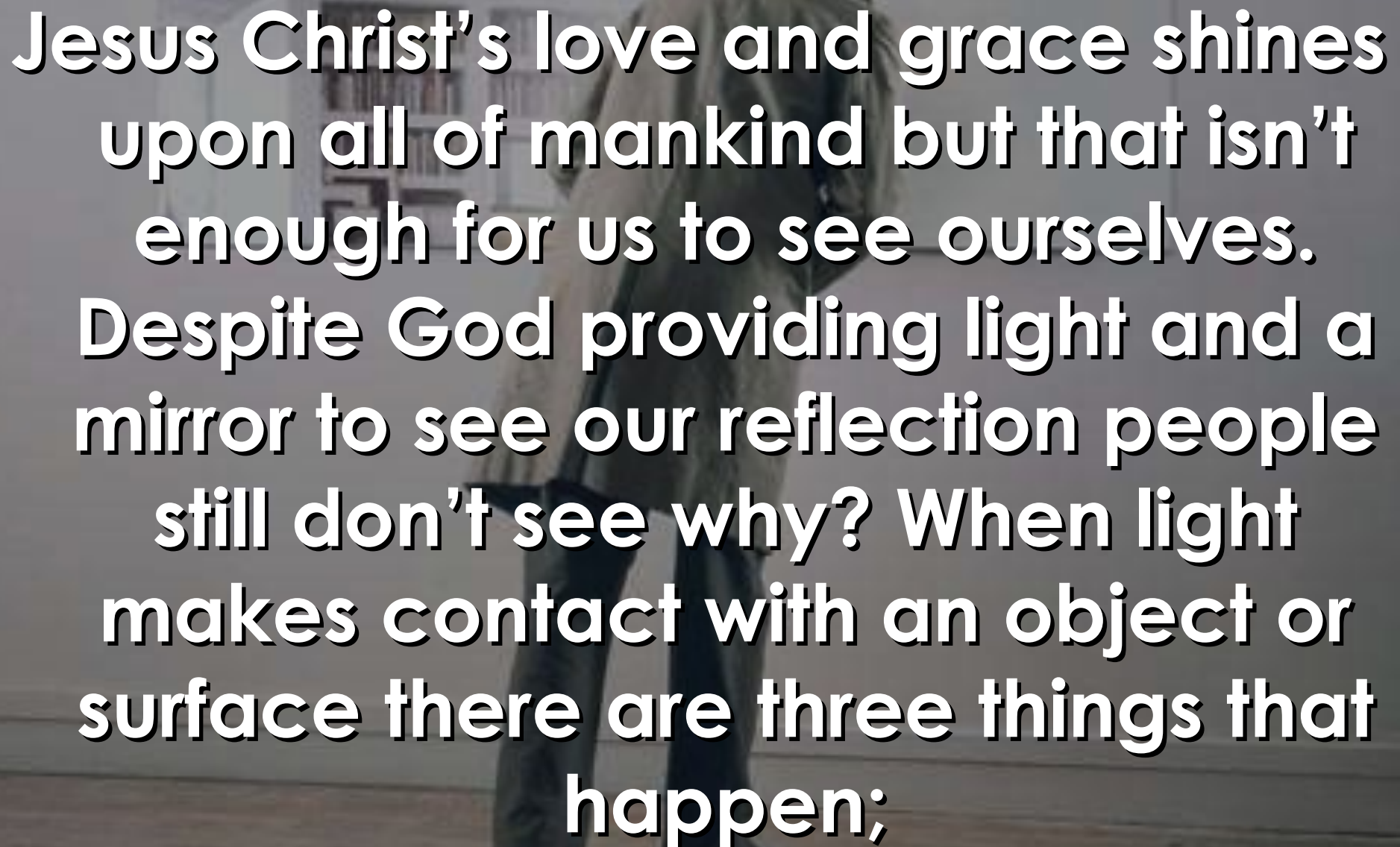
The Light Of The World

There are two things that you need to see anything. Firstly, you need a light source. Like the sun that illuminates the world, God's grace shines upon us all.

John 8:12 - Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world:** he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

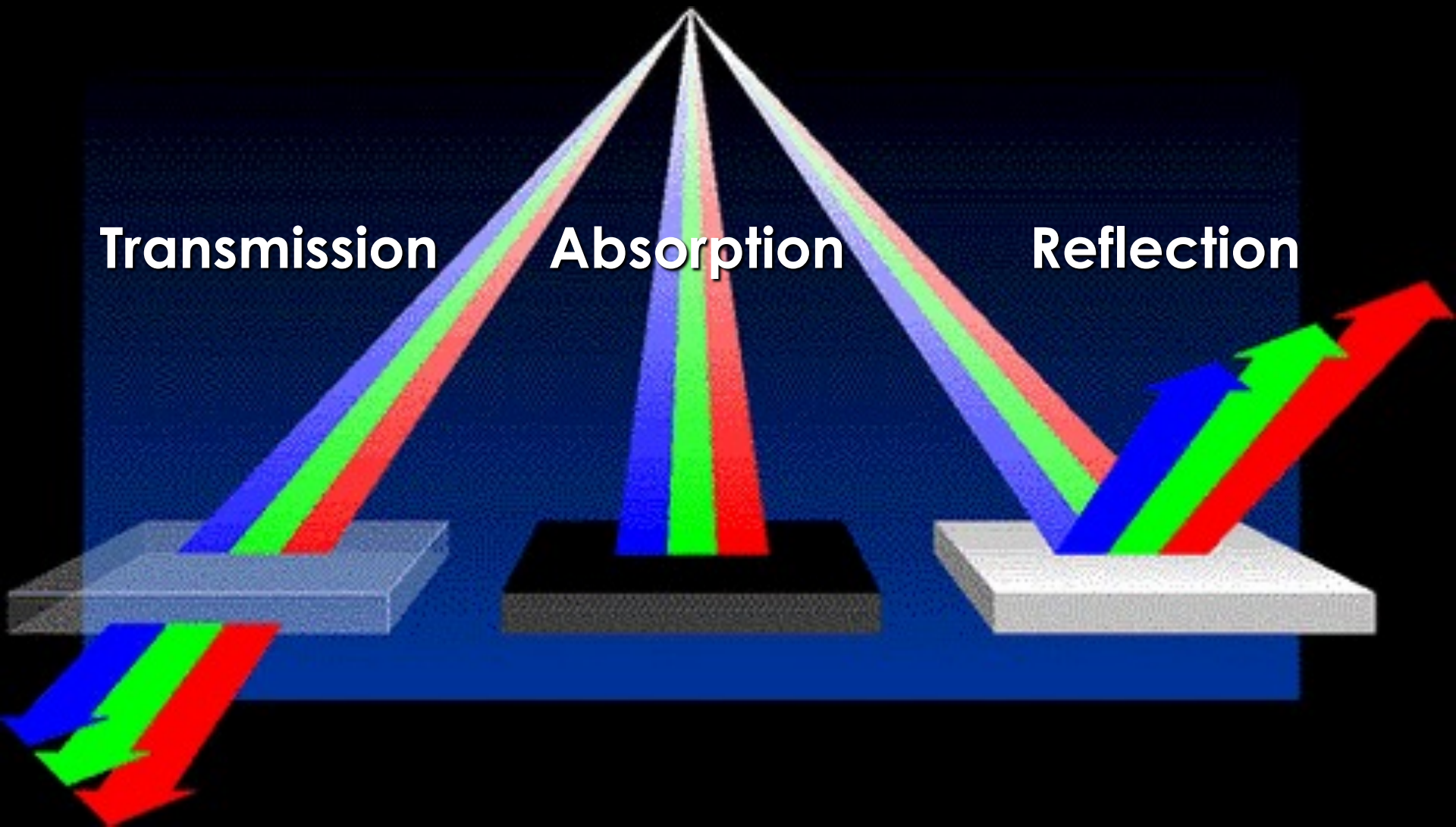
Titus 2:11 - **For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,** 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

John 1:14 - And the Word was made 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.**

A man in a light-colored trench coat and dark trousers is walking away from the camera towards a modern building with large glass windows. The scene is slightly blurred, giving a sense of motion. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline.

Jesus Christ's love and grace shines upon all of mankind but that isn't enough for us to see ourselves. Despite God providing light and a mirror to see our reflection people still don't see why? When light makes contact with an object or surface there are three things that happen;

The Three Types Of Reactions



Transmission

Transmission: The light passes through the object when it contacts the surface

James 1:22 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, **he is like unto a man beholding (Katanoeo) his natural face in a glass (Esoptron):** 24 For he **beholdeth (Katanoeo)** himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. James 25 **But whoso looketh (Parakupto) into the perfect law of liberty,** and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

- **Esoptron:** A mirror, the mirrors of the ancients were made, not of glass, but of steel.
- **Katanoeo:** Consider, behold, perceive, discover; to perceive, remark, observe, understand; to consider attentively, fix one's eyes or mind upon.
- **Parakupto:** Stoop down, look. To stoop to a thing in order to look at it; to look at with head bowed forward; to look into the with the body bent; to look carefully into, inspect curiously; of one who would become acquainted with something.

Absorption

Absorption: Some of the light is retained within the object and converted into another form of energy such as heat. This is exactly what happened to Satan who became the prince of darkness.

Satan used to reflect God's glory but then decided to retain it for himself. For thousands of years he has been absorbing God's light and glory but such absorption causes heat to build. Because of this he is going to burst into flames in the lake of fire.

Ezekiel 28:17 - Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; **therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth** in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Reflection

Paul writing to the Corinthian church explains to them that God's glory is hidden from the Jews because of a veil.

2 Corinthians 3:12 - Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: 13 **And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face**, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

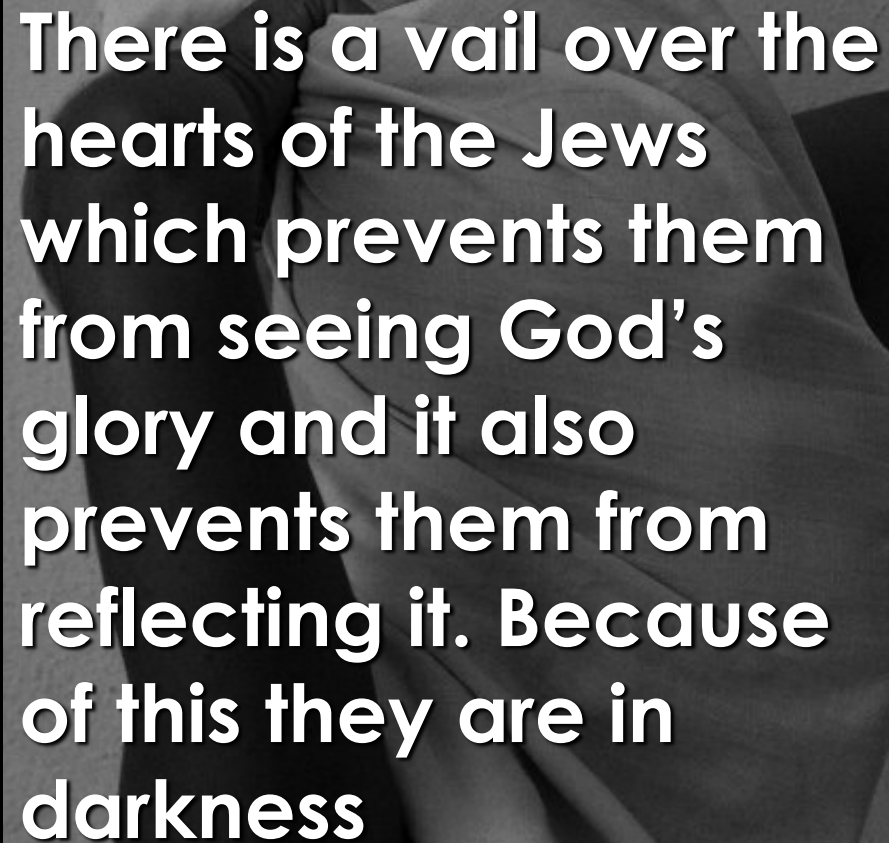
Moses spent so much time in God's presence that he himself became illuminated by reflecting God's glory. People were terrified of it so he put a veil over his face so that people wouldn't see it. Even so people hide and cover the glory of God that is within them so it doesn't offend anyone.

The Vail

The glory on Moses' face was fading away but people couldn't tell because of the vail. In the same sense we have Christians often put on outer coverings to provide the illusion that there is glory beneath the surface even though they are empty.

2 Corinthians 3:14 - **But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament;** which vail is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, **the vail is upon their heart.** 16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

The Vail Of The Heart

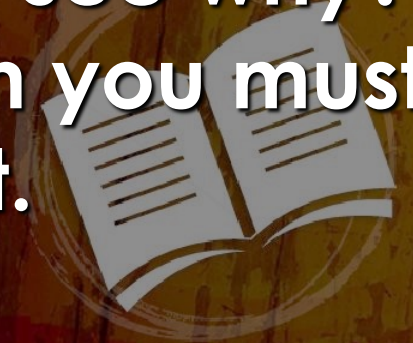
A grayscale image of a hand holding a white cloth, which is partially covering a dark object. The cloth is wrinkled and draped, creating a sense of mystery and concealment. The background is dark and textured.

There is a vail over the hearts of the Jews which prevents them from seeing God's glory and it also prevents them from reflecting it. Because of this they are in darkness

2 Corinthians 4:3 - But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, **lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

We Must Remove The Vail

In the same sense there is a vail over man's heart that prevents him from seeing God's glory. It absorbs the light and just like Satan that glory will eventually be converted to heat which will lead to the combustion and destruction of the person behind the vail. Despite God providing light and a mirror to see our reflection people still don't see why? Because in order to see a reflection you must have something to reflect.



The Mirror In The Man

2 Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (Katoptrizomai) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Katoptrizomai: To Show in a mirror, to make to reflect, to mirror, to look at one's self in a mirror, to behold one's self in a mirror.

We Are Made To Reflect

We have spent so much time dealing with the man in the mirror instead of the mirror in the man. Man's purpose is to reflect God's glory. That reflection occurs when we remove the veil from our hearts and expose the mirror of our spirit which is made in God's image. When we behold God's glory with our faces unveiled we are changed into the same image and properly reflect his glory.

Romans 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Luke 21:6

The time is coming
when all these things
will be so completely
demolished that not
one stone will be left
on top of another."

Title

Scripture

Picture

Signs Of The Times

1. Wars
2. Natural Disasters
3. Strange Diseases
4. Apostasy
5. Persecution
6. Extreme Moral Decay