

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. A narrow, light-colored path or streambed winds through the center of the image, curving from the upper left towards the lower right. The trees are tall and closely packed, creating a rich texture of green. The title text is overlaid on this image.

The Gospel of Mark

Curse fig trees, flip tables and pray

Mark 11:12-25

The rest of Mark covers:

Monday – Jesus curses a fig tree and clears the temple

Tuesday - Jesus goes to Jerusalem to teach the people one last time

Wednesday - Jesus spends it in Bethany to prepare for what is coming, and someone anoints His feet

Thursday - Jesus goes to Jerusalem for Passover, where He is betrayed and arrested

Friday - He goes on trial and is killed



Mark 11:12-14

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit.

When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs.

Then he said to the tree, 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again.' And his disciples heard him say it.



Mark 11:15-16

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there.

He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.



Mark 11:17-18

And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?’ But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.



Mark 11:12-14

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‘When I saw
your ancestors,
it was like
seeing the early
fruit on the fig
tree.’

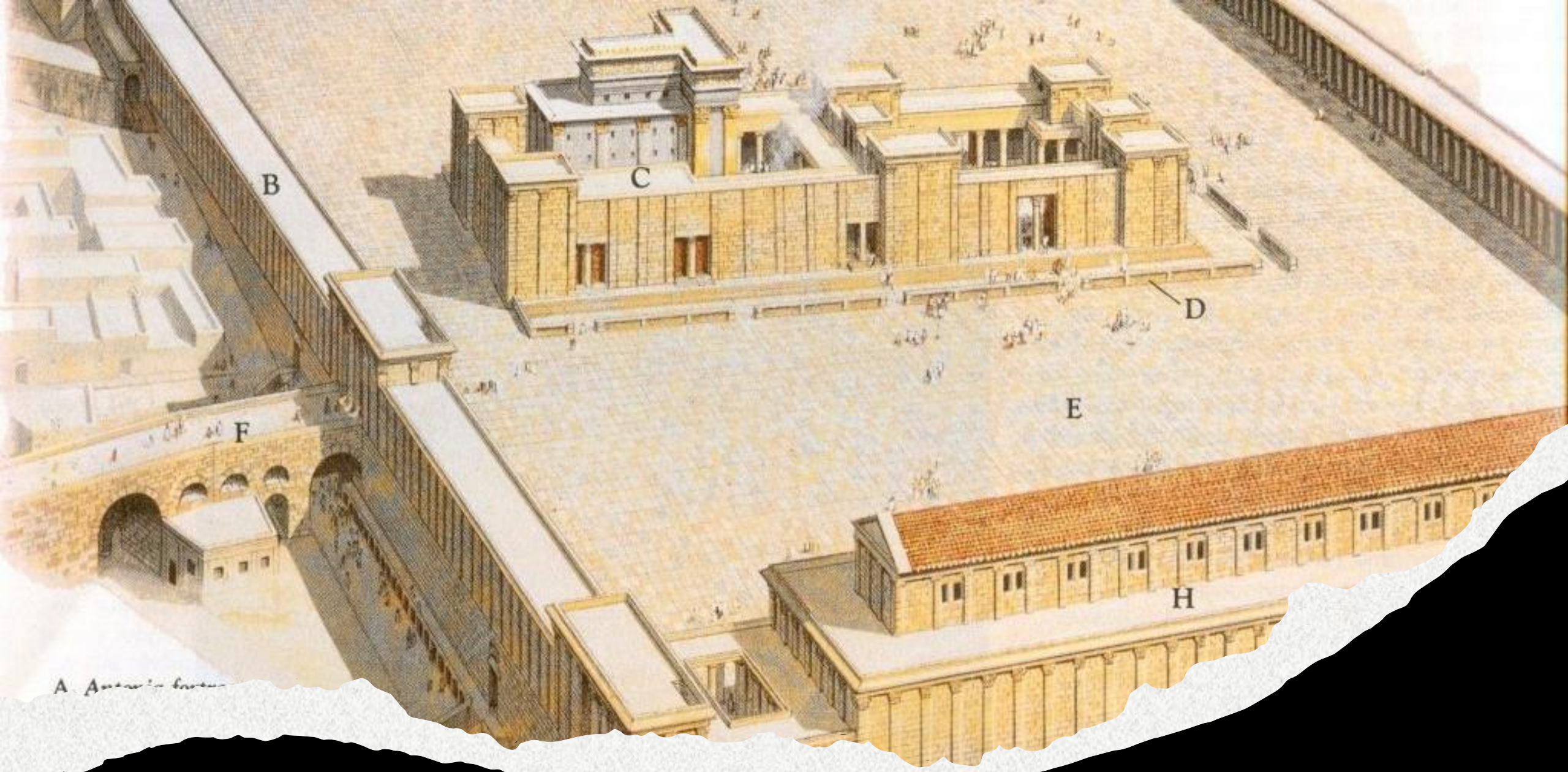
Hosea 9v10





**‘...are blighted,
their root is withered,
they yield no fruit.’**

Hosea 9v16



A Antae's fortification

B

C

D

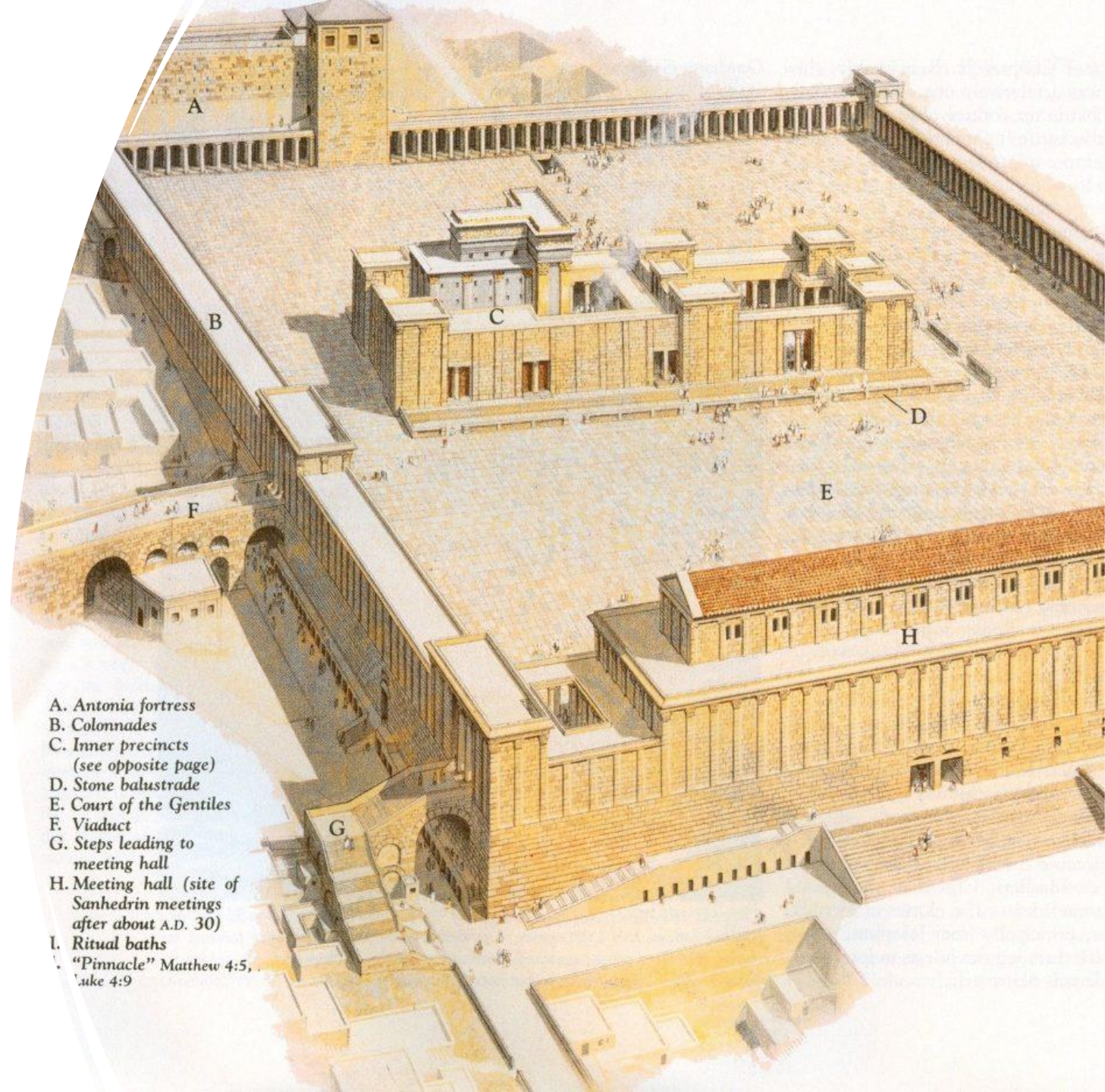
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H

The space that was meant
to represent the best of
God to *all* people

had been turned into
one of exploitation
and exclusion



Mark 11:15-16

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He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.



Jesus quotes the Old Testament

Isaiah 56:7

‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations’



Jesus quotes the Old Testament

Isaiah 56:7

‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations.’

Jeremiah 7:20

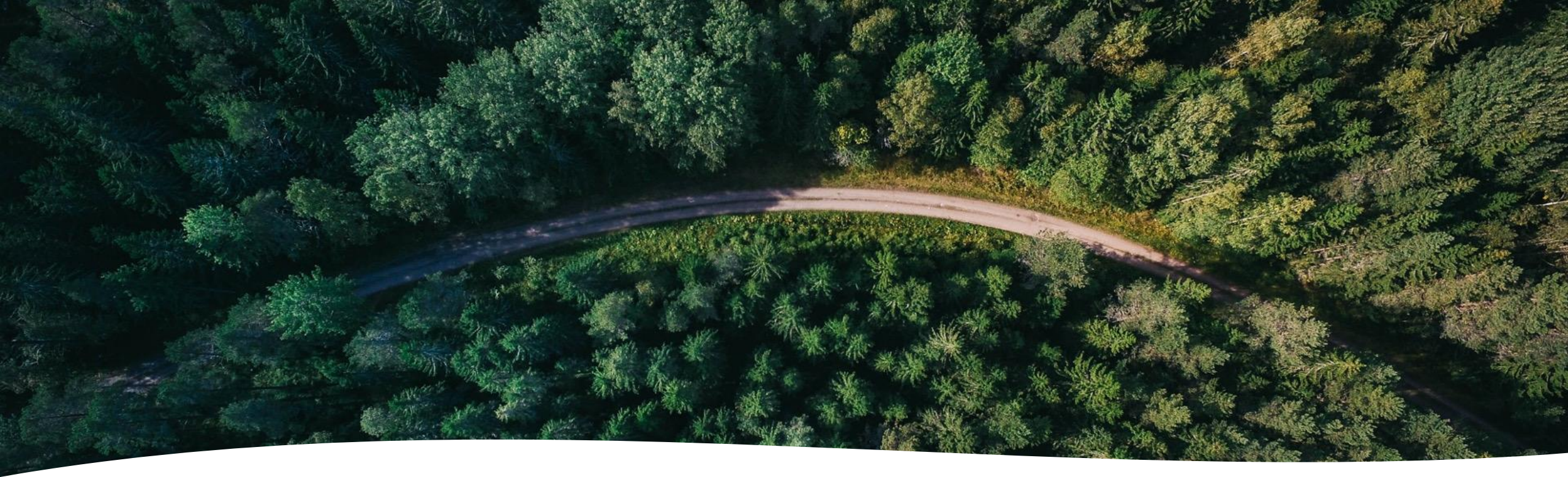
‘My anger and wrath will be poured on this place – on people and beast, on the trees of the field and on the crops of your land – and it will burn and not be quenched.’





Acts 10:34

‘I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.’



How are we, as individuals and as a church,
responding to God's call to welcome all
people who are hungry to know Him?

Mark 11:22-25

‘Have faith in God...truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, “Go, throw yourself into the sea,” and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.’



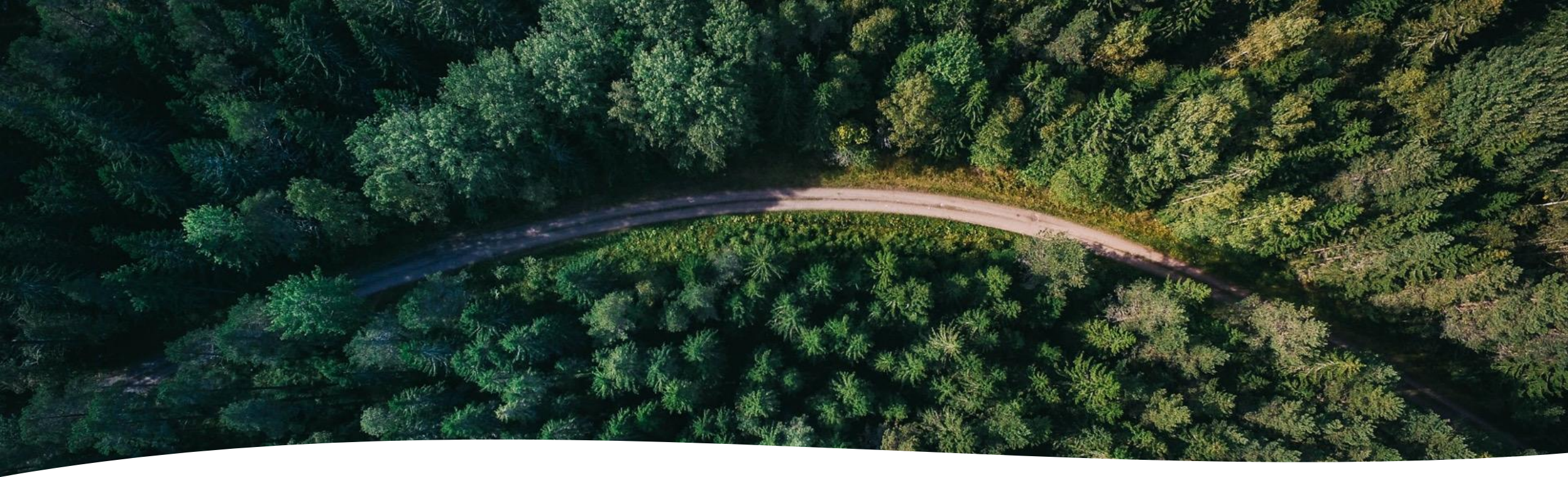


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Prayer and lives shaped by God's justice
and generous love cares about the
wellbeing and inclusion of all