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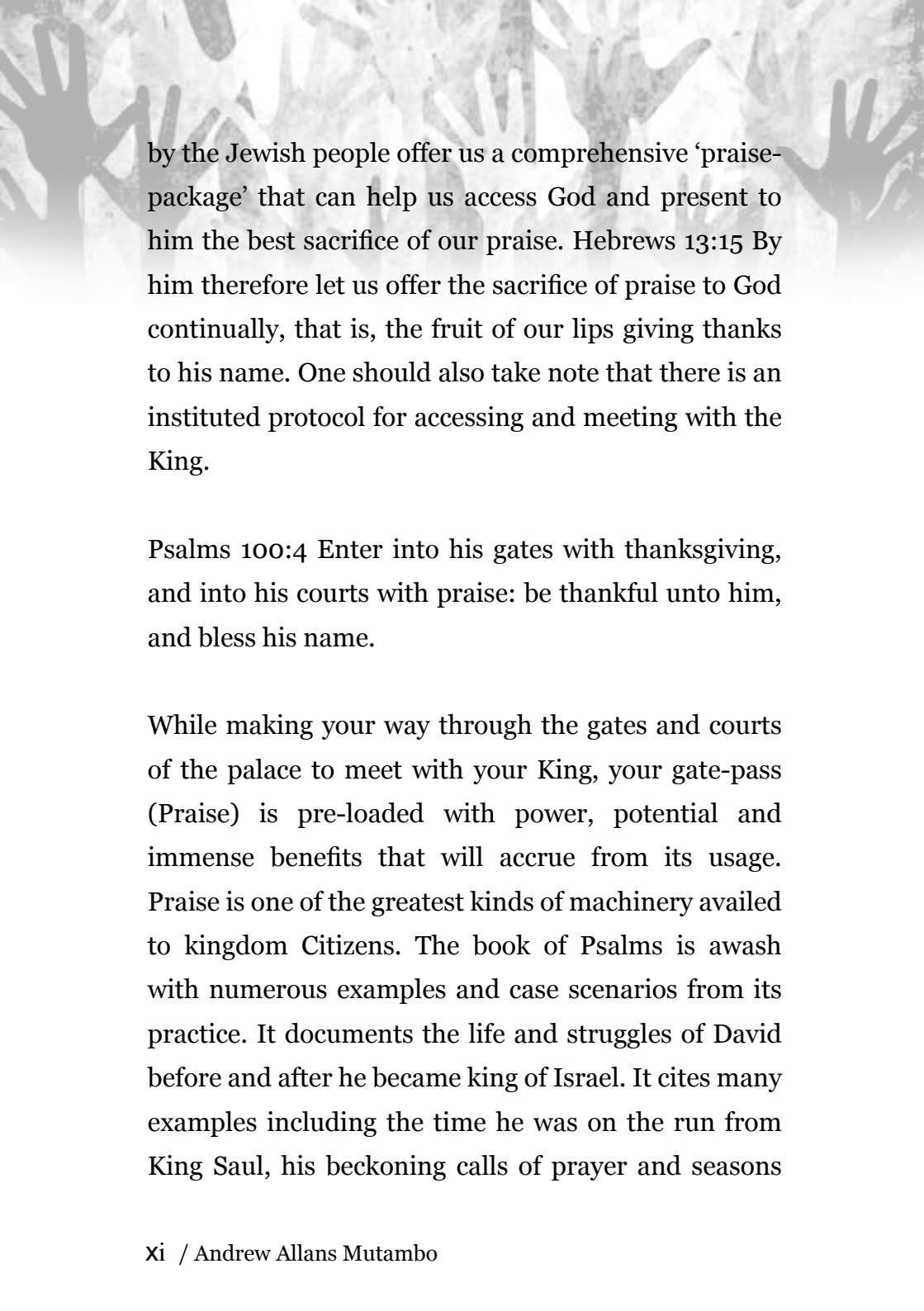
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Introduction



The word ‘Praise’ in the Bible (King James Version) first appears in the book of Genesis when Leah, one of Jacob’s wives, gives birth to Judah. She exclaims, ‘Now will I praise the Lord’. From that moment, throughout scripture, it is used with diverse applications. The Hebraic Old testament uses a variety of words to define Praise. The most commonly used are: (1) Barak, to kneel and bless God as an act of adoration; (2) Hillul, a celebration or thanksgiving to God for a harvest, (3) Halal, to make a show, to boast, to be clamorously foolish for God, (4) Zamar, to make music accompanied by a voice, to celebrate in song and music, (5) Yadah, to revere or worship God with extended hands, (6) Mahalal, to praise God for his fame, (7) Shabach, to address in a loud tone/voice in glory and commendation, and (8) Tehillah, laudation/extolling God specifically in a hymn.

Friends, these different avenues of praise as practiced



by the Jewish people offer us a comprehensive ‘praise-package’ that can help us access God and present to him the best sacrifice of our praise. Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. One should also take note that there is an instituted protocol for accessing and meeting with the King.

Psalms 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

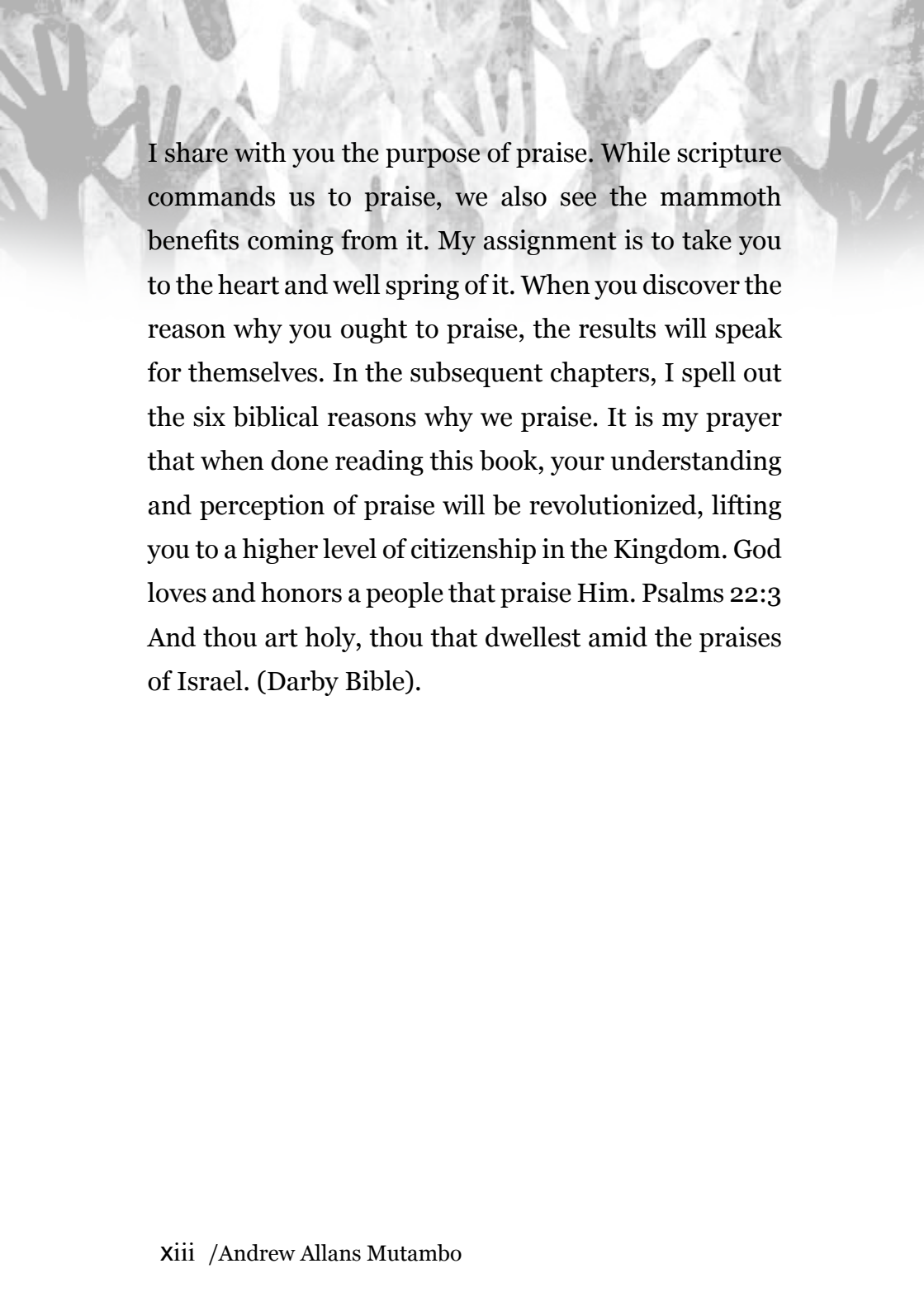
While making your way through the gates and courts of the palace to meet with your King, your gate-pass (Praise) is pre-loaded with power, potential and immense benefits that will accrue from its usage. Praise is one of the greatest kinds of machinery availed to kingdom Citizens. The book of Psalms is awash with numerous examples and case scenarios from its practice. It documents the life and struggles of David before and after he became king of Israel. It cites many examples including the time he was on the run from King Saul, his beckoning calls of prayer and seasons



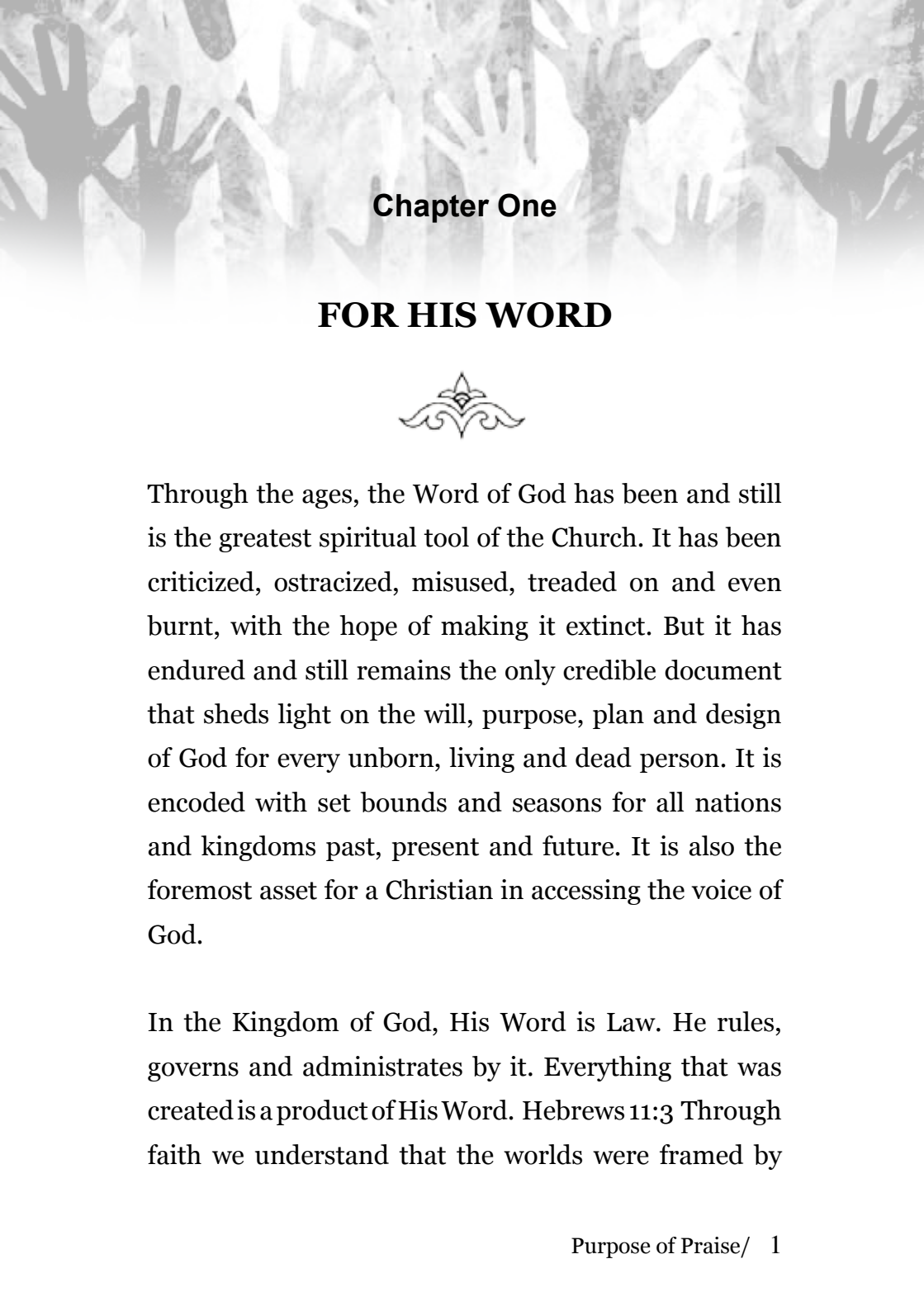
of praise for God's faithfulness, mercy and deliverance.

Praise has been known to bolster the hearts of those who have grown weary. It is the music of our soul and fruit of our lips. It is a divine tree planted in us by God; whenever we praise, God feeds! Praise is meant to be an inherent practice of everything with breath. Scripture records 'let everything that hath breath praise the Lord'. It is the starter course on God's menu, we being His waitresses. Praise is also a declaration of His kingdom rule and influence on earth. Whenever we engage in a praise spree we are making public to the principalities and powers that the Kingdoms of this world are under the rule and influence of Jehovah God. It is also a celebration of His victories in our lives, past, present and future. The Bible attests to God showing up when His people praised him. Praise liberates the soul and creates the atmosphere for a divine encounter. It is a power shifter and a propellant to your place of freedom. Praise knows no barriers of race, gender, age and social status. It is a universal practice of every Child of God.

In this book, I come looking at it via a different angle.



I share with you the purpose of praise. While scripture commands us to praise, we also see the mammoth benefits coming from it. My assignment is to take you to the heart and well spring of it. When you discover the reason why you ought to praise, the results will speak for themselves. In the subsequent chapters, I spell out the six biblical reasons why we praise. It is my prayer that when done reading this book, your understanding and perception of praise will be revolutionized, lifting you to a higher level of citizenship in the Kingdom. God loves and honors a people that praise Him. Psalms 22:3 And thou art holy, thou that dwellest amid the praises of Israel. (Darby Bible).



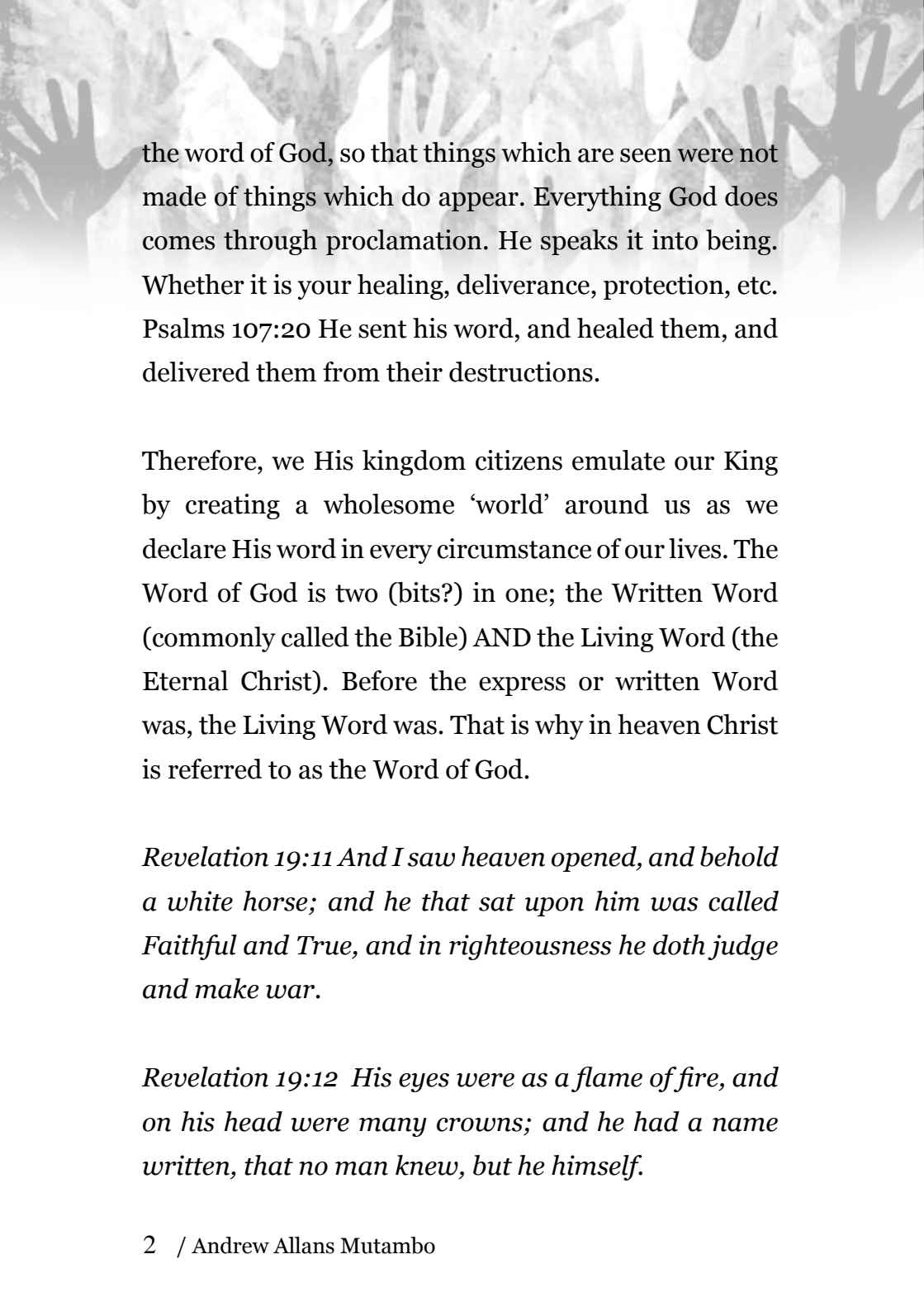
Chapter One

FOR HIS WORD



Through the ages, the Word of God has been and still is the greatest spiritual tool of the Church. It has been criticized, ostracized, misused, treaded on and even burnt, with the hope of making it extinct. But it has endured and still remains the only credible document that sheds light on the will, purpose, plan and design of God for every unborn, living and dead person. It is encoded with set bounds and seasons for all nations and kingdoms past, present and future. It is also the foremost asset for a Christian in accessing the voice of God.

In the Kingdom of God, His Word is Law. He rules, governs and administrates by it. Everything that was created is a product of His Word. Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by

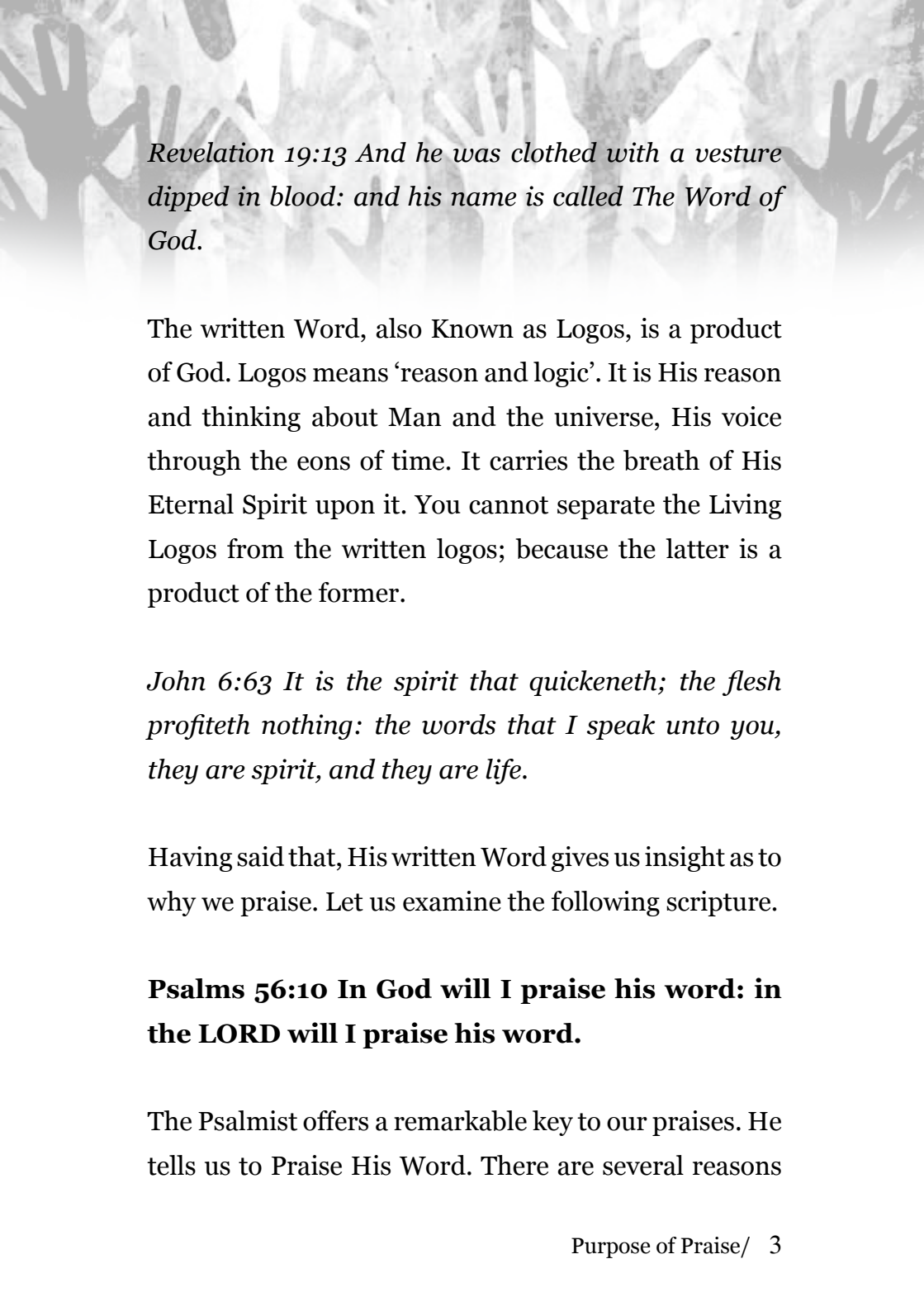


the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. Everything God does comes through proclamation. He speaks it into being. Whether it is your healing, deliverance, protection, etc. Psalms 107:20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Therefore, we His kingdom citizens emulate our King by creating a wholesome ‘world’ around us as we declare His word in every circumstance of our lives. The Word of God is two (bits?) in one; the Written Word (commonly called the Bible) AND the Living Word (the Eternal Christ). Before the express or written Word was, the Living Word was. That is why in heaven Christ is referred to as the Word of God.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.



Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

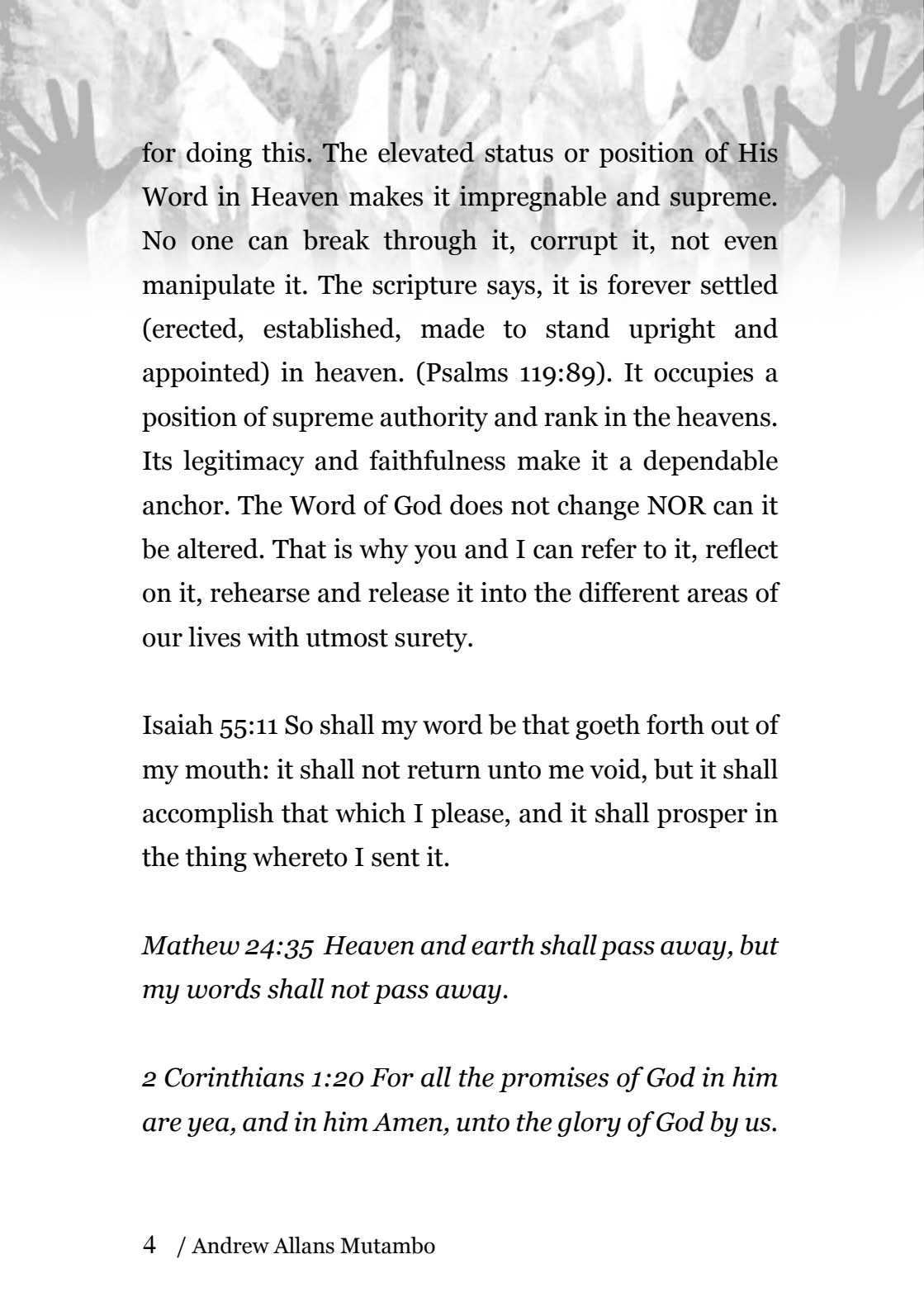
The written Word, also Known as Logos, is a product of God. Logos means ‘reason and logic’. It is His reason and thinking about Man and the universe, His voice through the eons of time. It carries the breath of His Eternal Spirit upon it. You cannot separate the Living Logos from the written logos; because the latter is a product of the former.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Having said that, His written Word gives us insight as to why we praise. Let us examine the following scripture.

Psalms 56:10 In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

The Psalmist offers a remarkable key to our praises. He tells us to Praise His Word. There are several reasons



for doing this. The elevated status or position of His Word in Heaven makes it impregnable and supreme. No one can break through it, corrupt it, not even manipulate it. The scripture says, it is forever settled (erected, established, made to stand upright and appointed) in heaven. (Psalms 119:89). It occupies a position of supreme authority and rank in the heavens. Its legitimacy and faithfulness make it a dependable anchor. The Word of God does not change NOR can it be altered. That is why you and I can refer to it, reflect on it, rehearse and release it into the different areas of our lives with utmost surety.

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Mathew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.