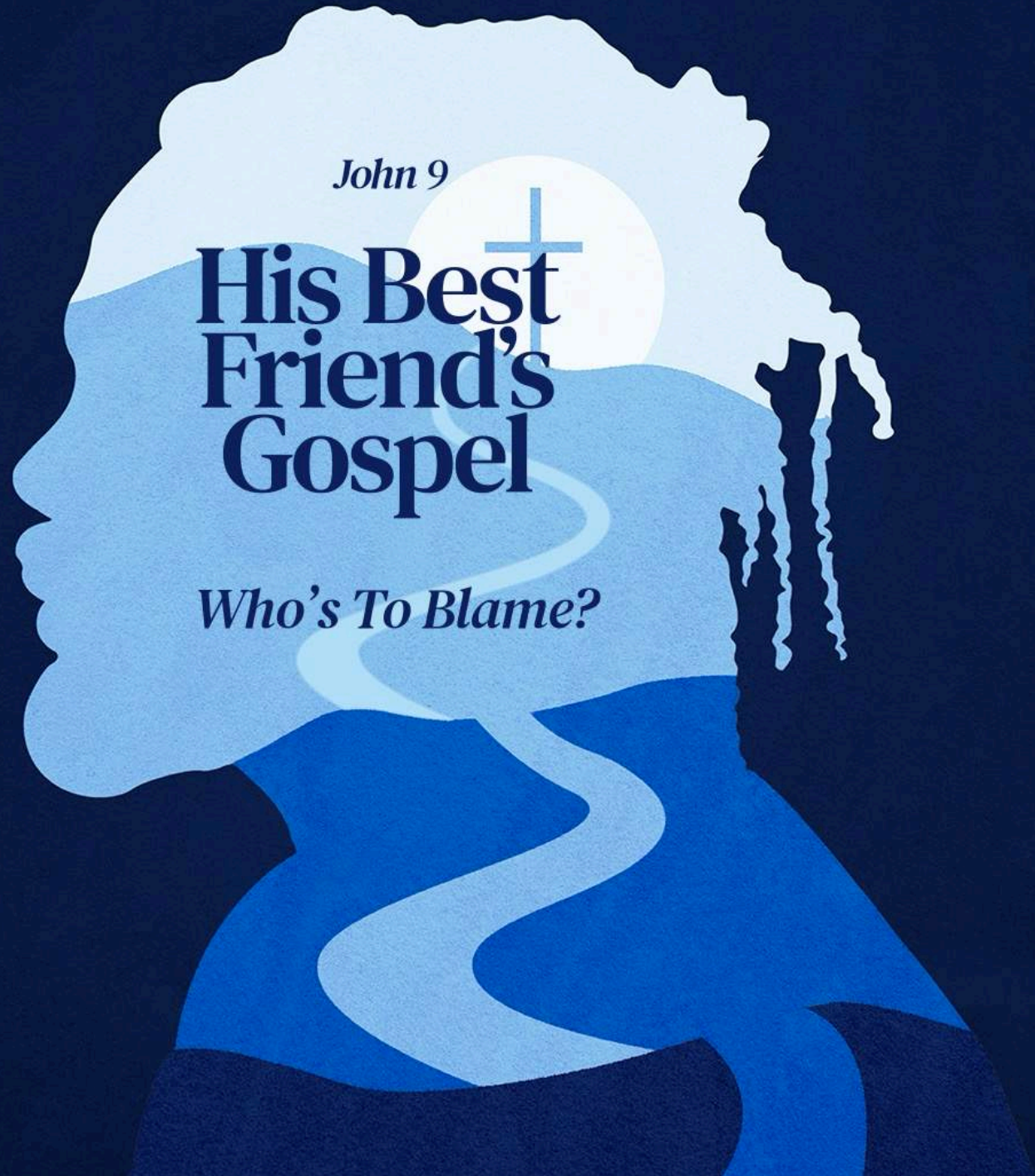
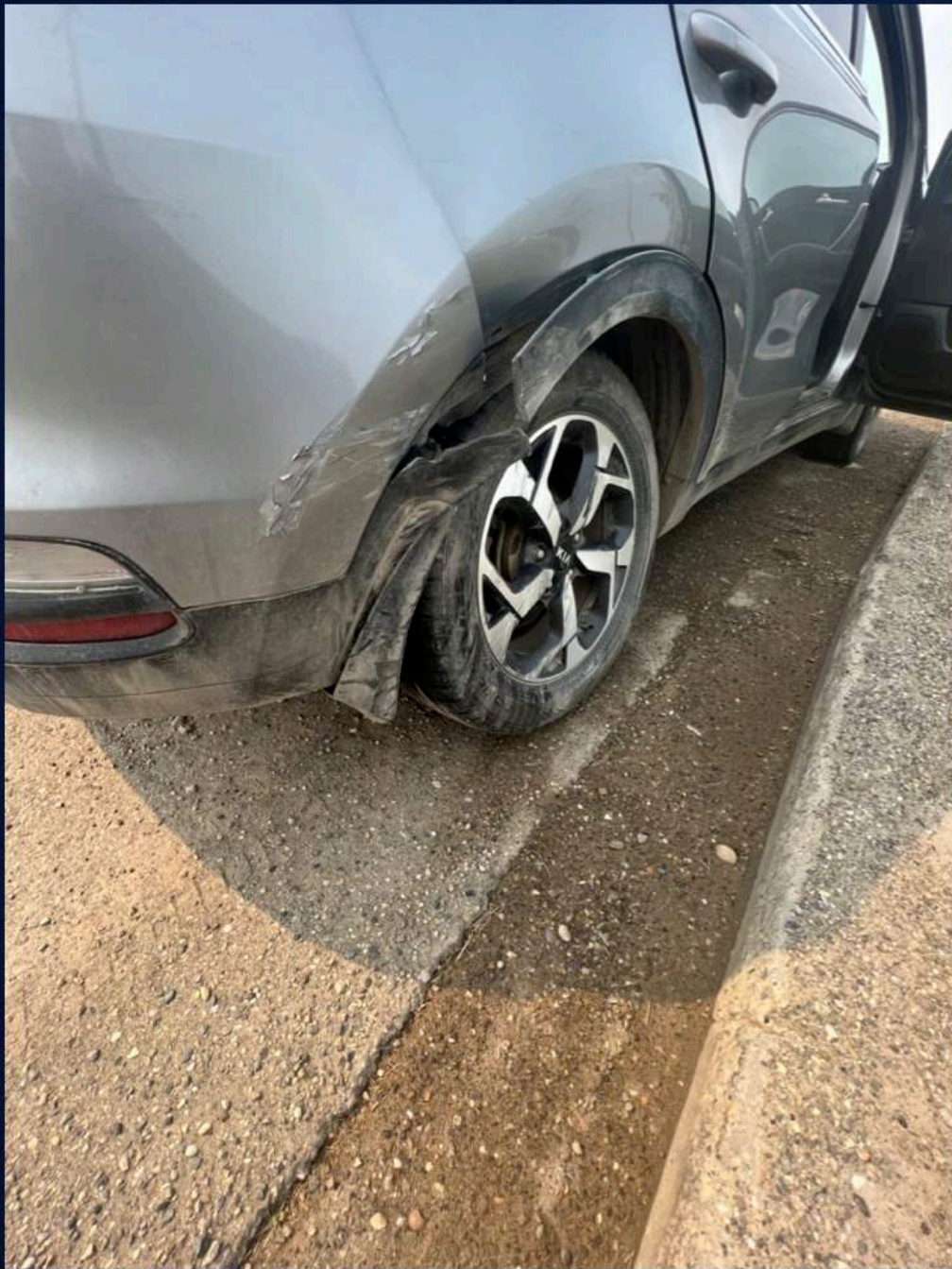


John 9

His Best Friend's Gospel

Who's To Blame?



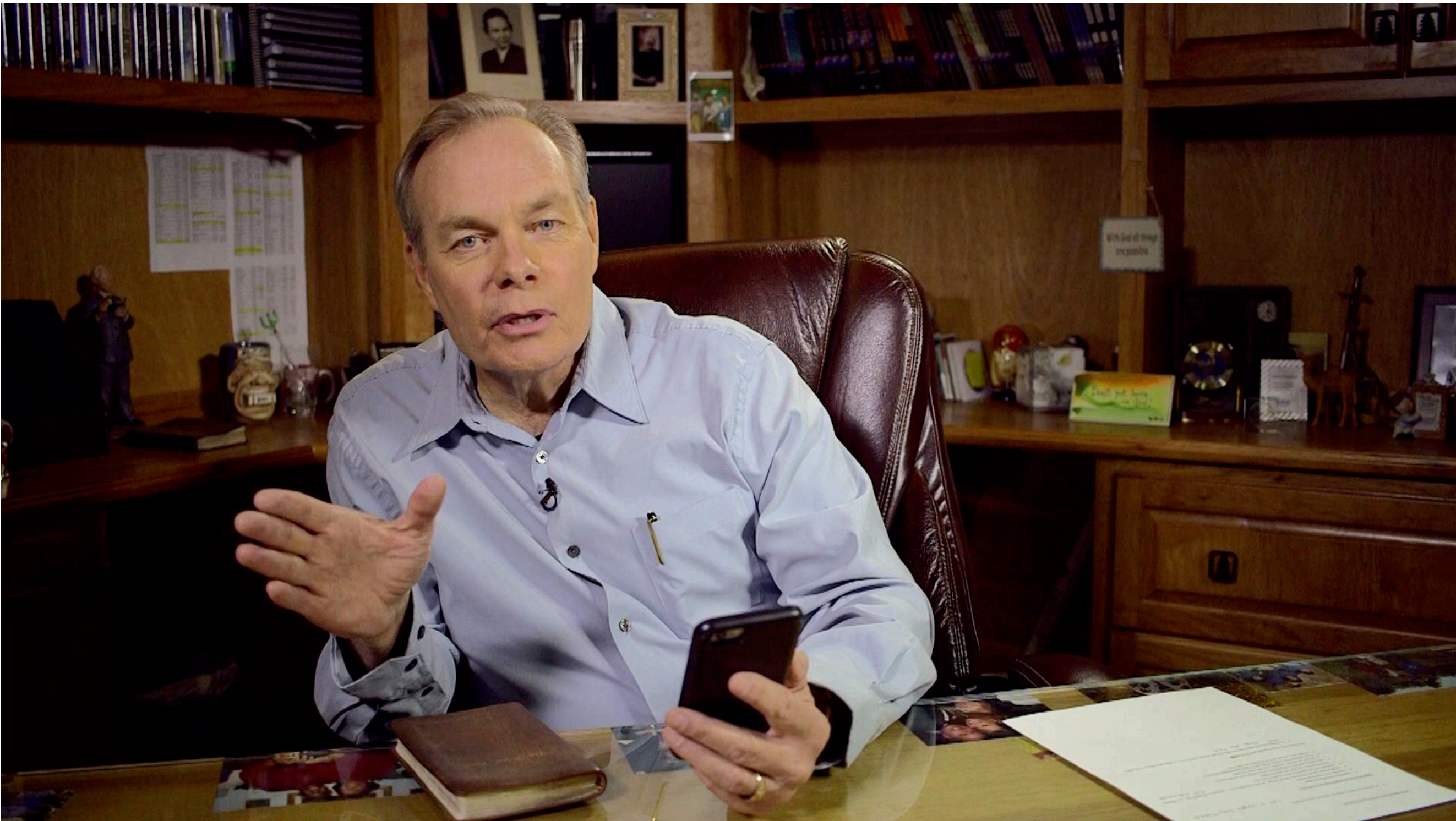


Whose fault is it?

When things go wrong, it's human nature to ask the question "who's to blame?"

Sin is the ultimate cause of all bad things, but does that mean every bad thing that happens is the result of some specific sin? Mine, or someone else's?





9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

John 9:1–7

ESV



⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.



Who is being punished?

“who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
— assumption is that there must be a reason, someone is being punished.

- They struggle with this though.
- He was blind from birth — how could it be his sin?
- They know the scriptures, eg, Ezekiel 18:1-4 and Jeremiah 31:29-30
- “The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father”
- Jesus refutes the premise of the question — it’s not about punishment at all.



Not Being Punished!

- Jesus rejects the premise. It's not about punishment at all.
- “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents...”
- For people who are in Christ, for those who are part of his people, the reason for suffering is never about punishment.
- Jesus came to take the punishment for our guilt. Sin is the cause of suffering, but when believers suffer, God is not punishing us for our Sin — he can't, Jesus has already taken our punishment.
- So is that all it is? Is suffering just something that happens?



It's never meaningless.

“It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

- There was a particular purpose in this man's blindness, and there is a purpose in all affliction.
- God uses this to display his Glory, to shape us as his people, and to create in us what Paul calls “an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
- This man was born blind. Lived perhaps two decades without sight. Was a beggar. And Jesus says, it wasn't his fault, nor his parents, but was so that this exact moment could happen!



³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

John 9:35–38

ESV



Two kinds of blindness.

- Easy to focus on his physical healing, but a greater healing actually happens here — spiritual blindness also healed.
- This man sees Jesus as his messiah, his saviour, and his response — the only proper response — is worship.
- Recognizes Jesus for who he is, and is saved from this darkness.
- Jesus has mercy on those who recognize their need for a saviour, their inability to do it themselves.
- But Jesus also proclaims judgment on those who claim to see, to be able to save themselves through their own effort and good work, and declares their guilt remains.

