

¹ Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. ² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

⁵ because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶ You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ⁷ And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

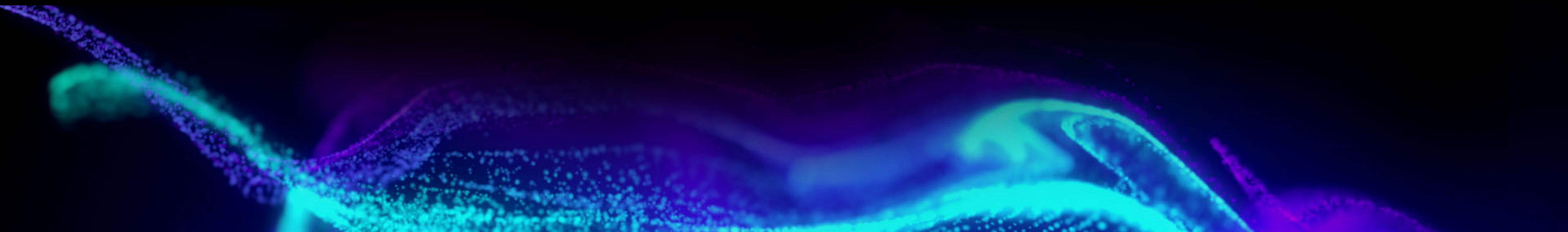
⁸ The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, ⁹ for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

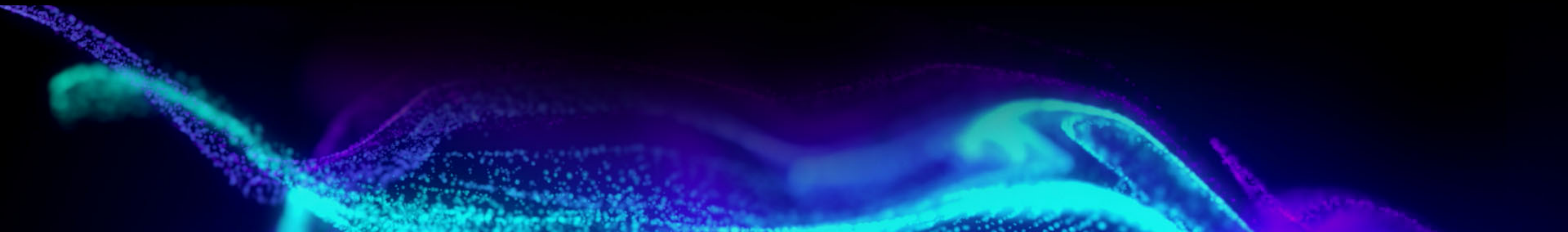


THE **STORY** OF THE BIBLE

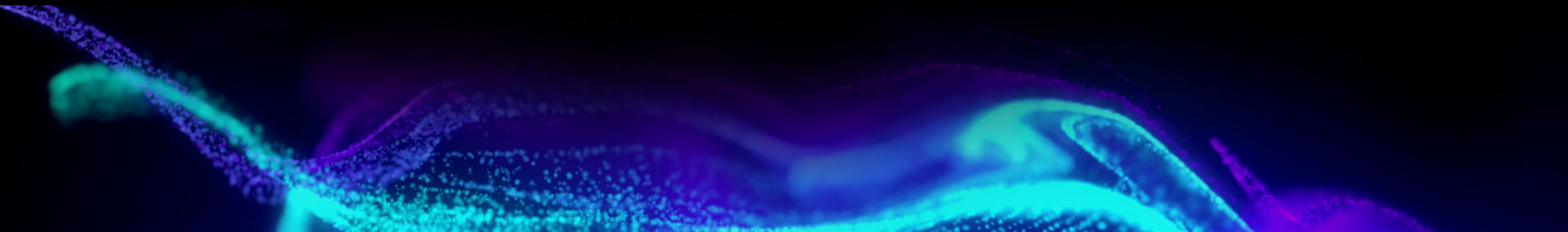
CREATION OF THE WORLD



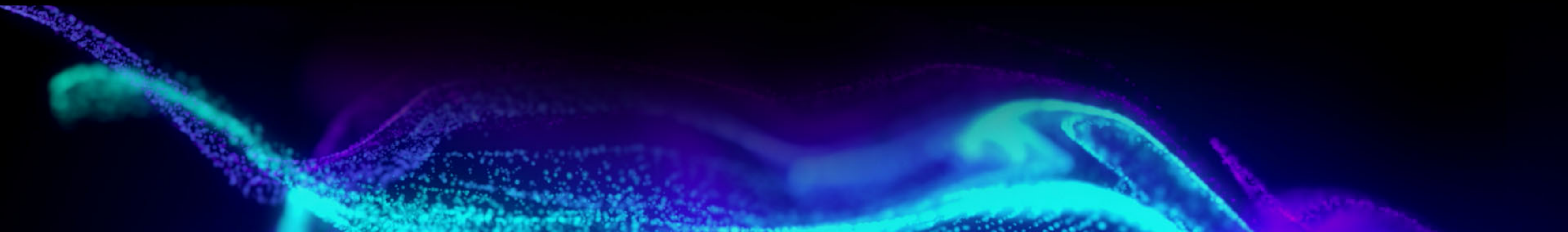
CATASTROPHE OF SIN



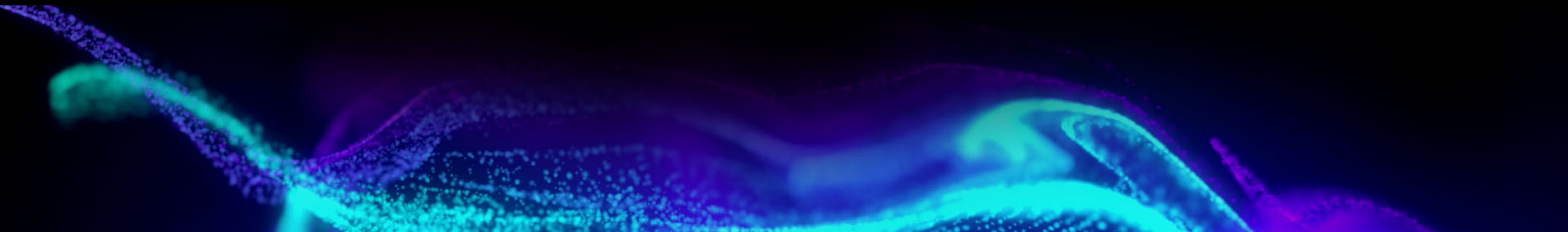
CALLING OF ABRAHAM



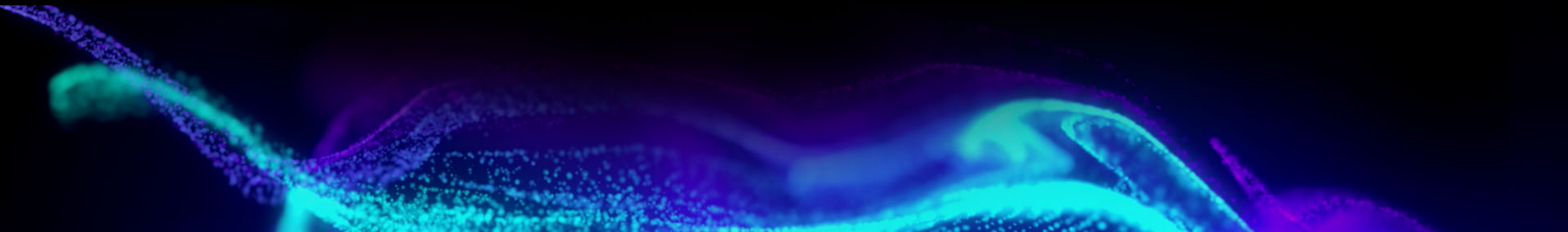
COMMUNITY OF ISRAEL



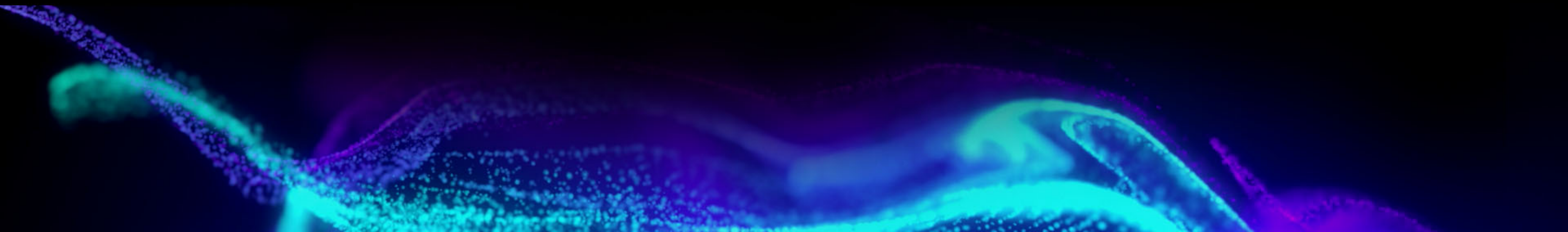
CONQUEST
OF THE PROMISED LAND



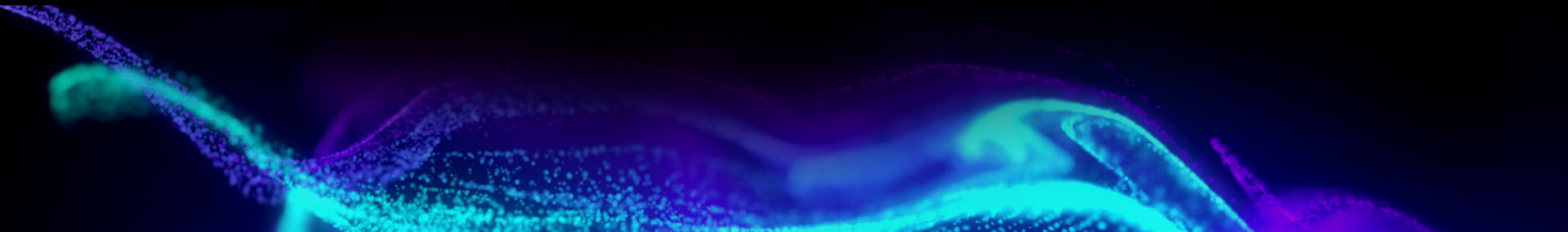
CROWN OF ISRAEL



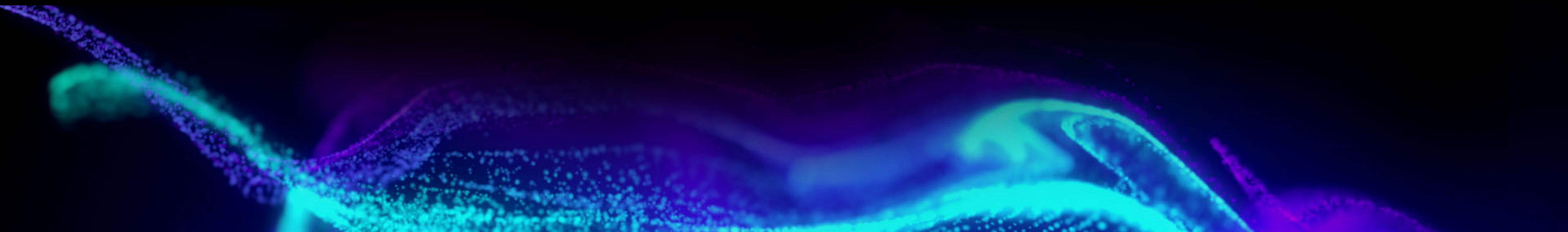
CORRUPTION & CAPTIVITY OF THE JEWS



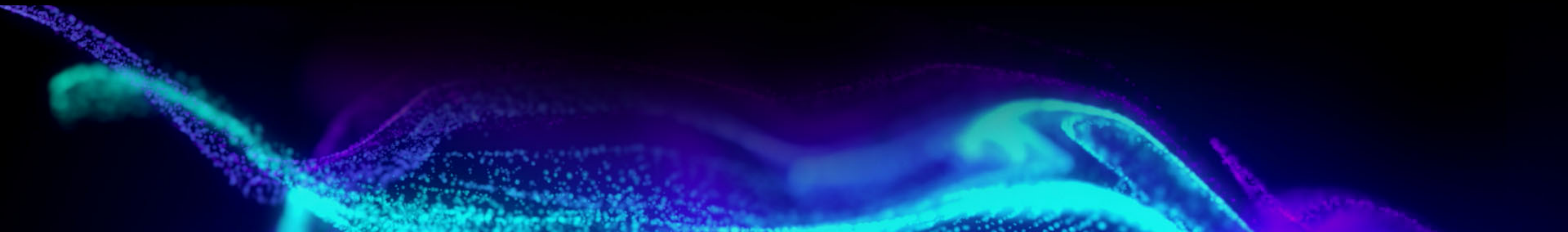
CHRIST



CROSS



CHURCH



EKKLESIAS



EKKLESIAS

THE CALLED OUT ONES

HOW MANY CHRISTIANS DO YOU
THINK THERE WERE **100 YEARS**
AFTER THE BIRTH OF JESUS?



THERE WERE ROUGHLY
25,000 CHRISTIANS IN 100 A.D.

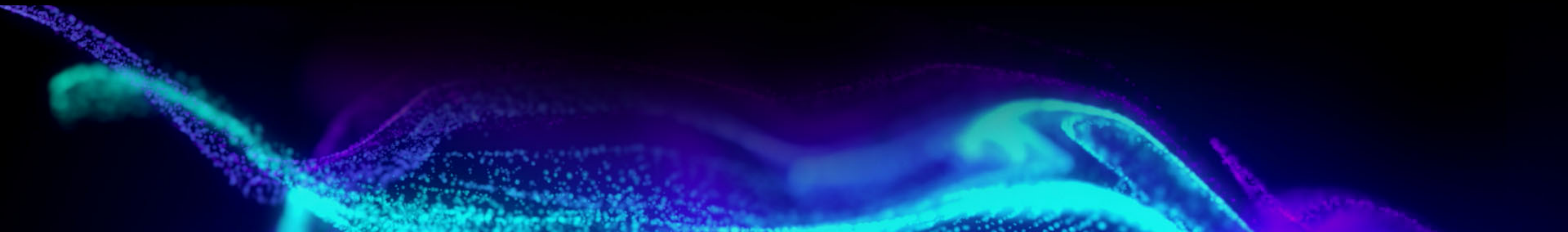
HOW MANY CHRISTIANS DO YOU
THINK THERE WERE **300 YEARS**
AFTER THE BIRTH OF JESUS?

THERE WERE ROUGHLY **20,000,000**
(20 MILLION) CHRISTIANS IN 310 A.D.

HOW DID THEY DO THIS?

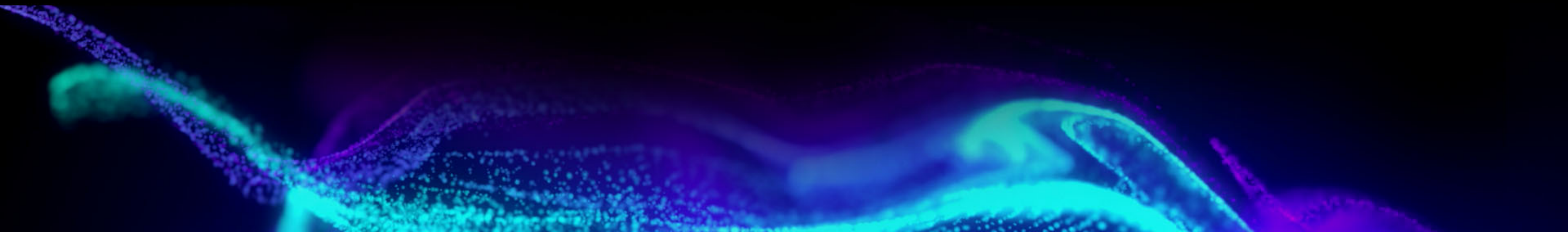


IN 1949



IN 1949

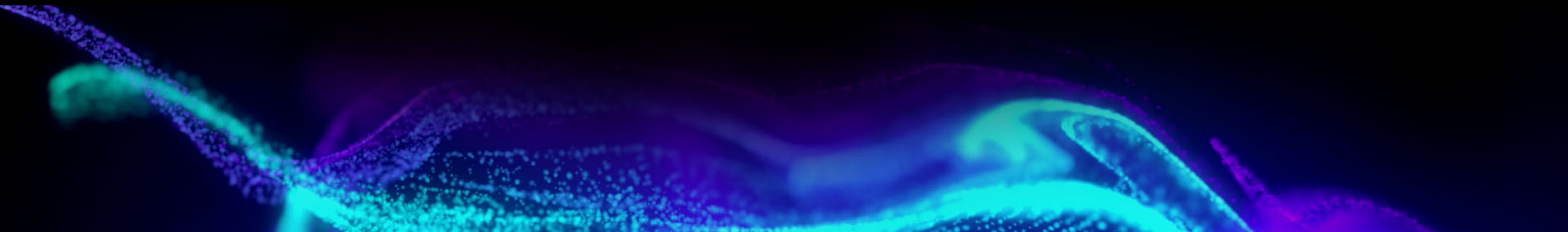
2 MILLION CHRISTIANS IN CHINA



DURING THAT **THIRTY YEAR PERIOD**,
THE CHURCH IN CHINA HAD GROWN FROM
2 MILLION CHRISTIANS TO 60 MILLION

An abstract graphic at the bottom of the page consists of a stream of glowing particles in shades of blue and purple, moving from the left towards the right. The particles are concentrated in a central horizontal band, with some trailing off to the sides, creating a sense of motion and energy.

AS OF 2016, THERE ARE NOW ESTIMATED
TO BE **120 PLUS MILLION CHRISTIANS**



HOW DID THEY DO IT?



*HOW DID **HE** DO IT?*



*HOW DID **THEY** DO IT?*



*HOW HAVE **WE** DONE IT?*



*WE ARE STILL **ON THE MARGINS** OF
THE BROADER AMERICAN CULTURE*

*OUR FACILITY **IS NOT** AT THE
CENTER OF OUR IDENTITY*

WE DON'T

OVER-PROFESSIONALIZE *MINISTRY*

*WE ACTUALLY **MAKE IT HARD**
TO JOIN THE CHURCH.*

Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-2

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:2

We remember before our God and Father your...

1 THESSALONIANS 1:3

We remember before our God and Father ***your work***
produced by faith,

1 THESSALONIANS 1:3

We remember before our God and Father your work
produced by faith, ***your labor prompted by love,***

1 THESSALONIANS 1:3

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and ***your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.***

1 THESSALONIANS 1:3

You became imitators of us and of the Lord

1 THESSALONIANS 1:6



THE **STORY** OF THE BIBLE