



Faith & Flourishing in Politics

Image of God / Mark 12:13-17

Rev. Jonathan M. Romig - Fall 2021

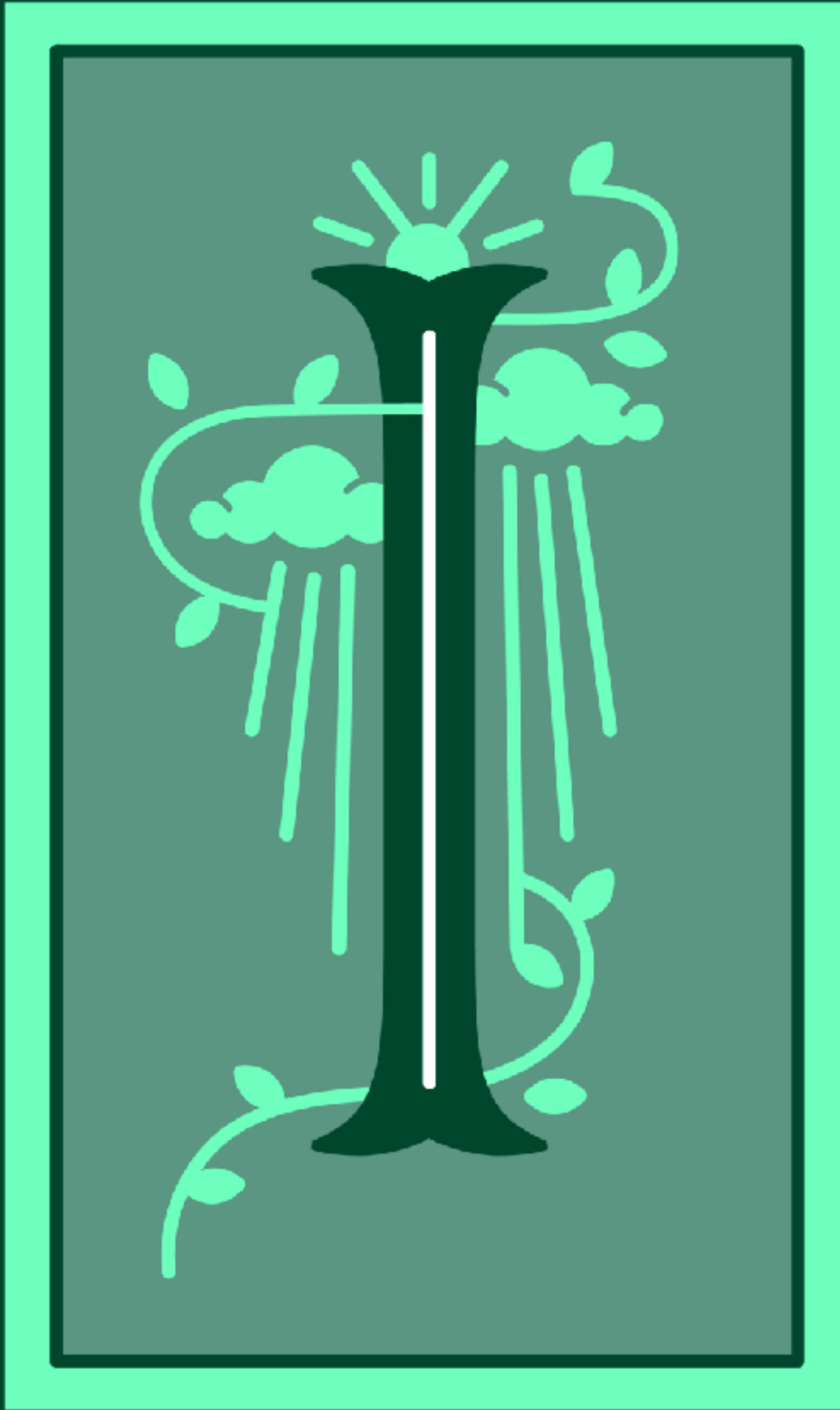


Image of God.

His biggest win yet.

Let's hear it for your [blank] champion

Twitter.com

Heads, we win.
Tails, you cheated.
Give me a break man.

Twitter.com

[Blank] is a rough old sport, sometimes
you win, sometimes you lose.
But you pick yourself up and get back out
there as hard as it is.
Don't give up and don't lose faith.

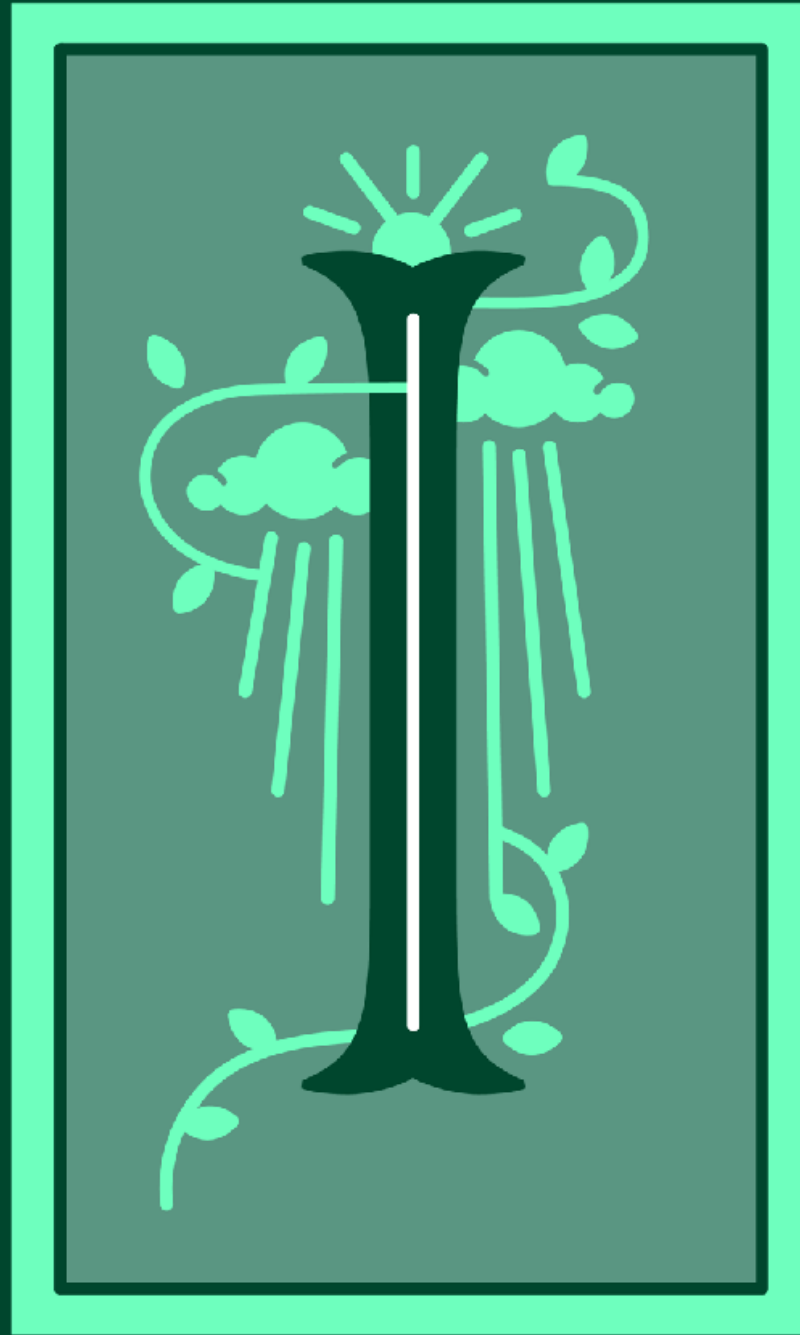
Twitter.com

PATRIOTS WIN!!! DOMINATION!!!

[Twitter.com](https://twitter.com)

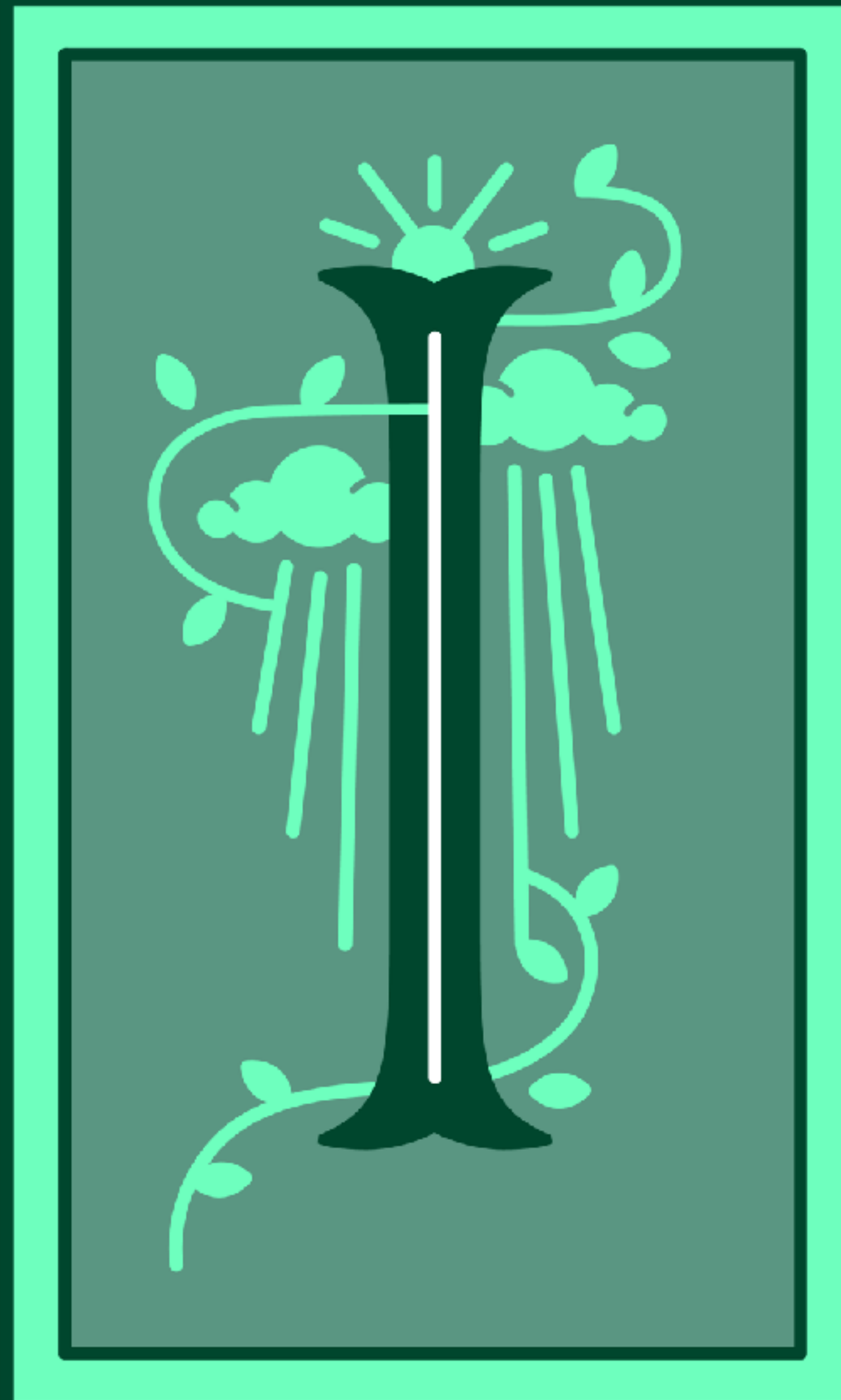


Photo source: Ted Eytan from Flickr: <https://cardiffstudentmedia.co.uk/gairhydd/us-election-2020-the-presidential-campaigns/>

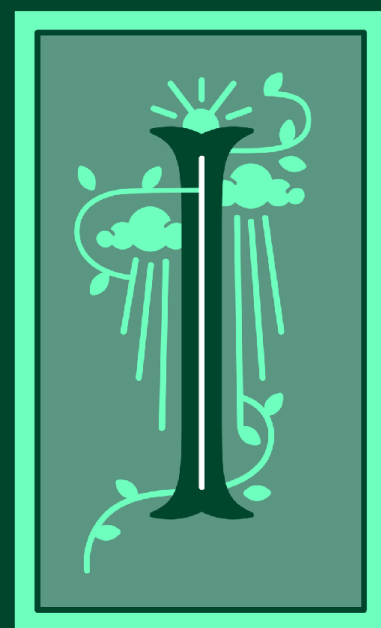


Joshua 5:13-14 (ESV)

When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” 14 And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?”



Jesus' opponents
try to force him
to pick a side.



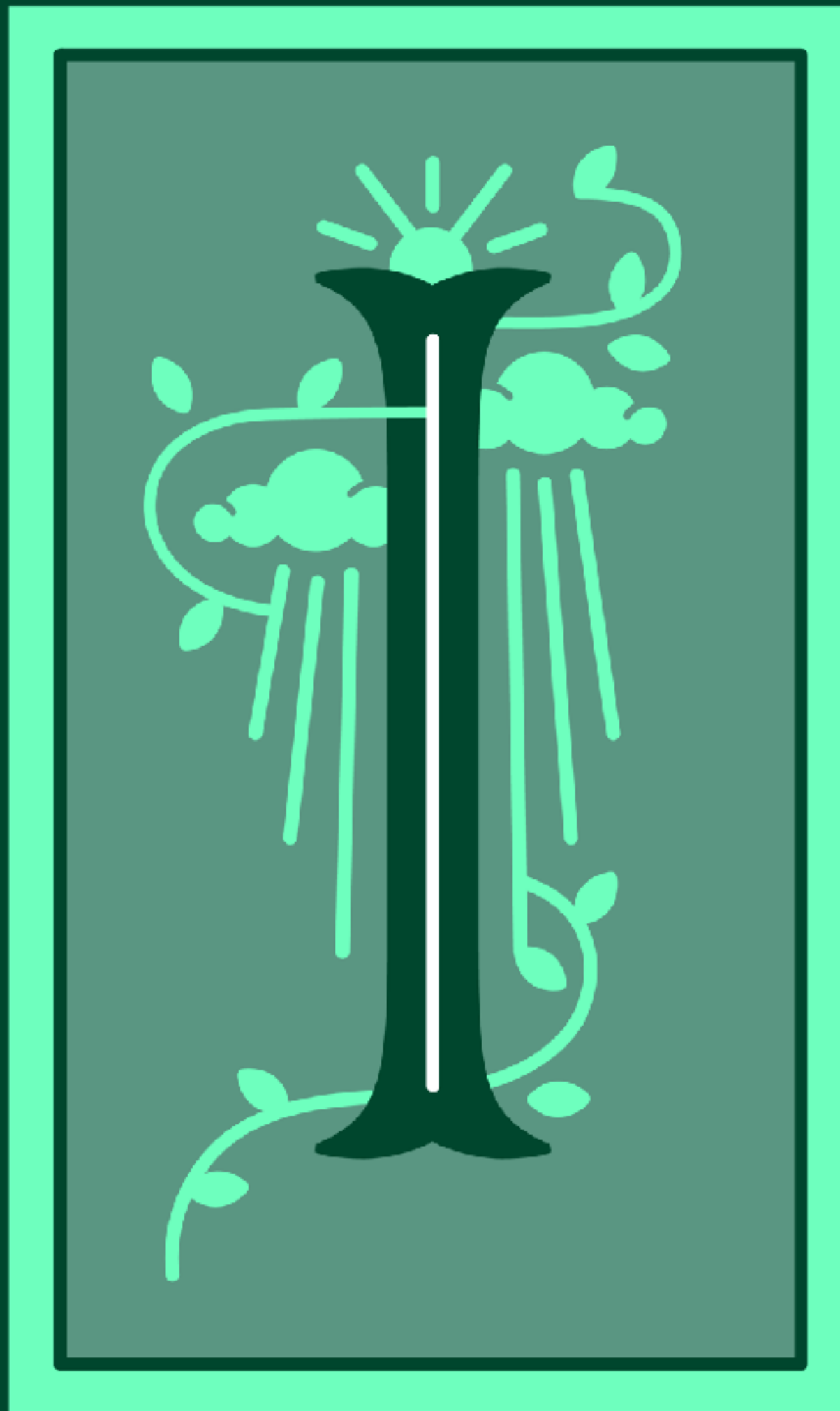
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Mark 12:13-14 (ESV)

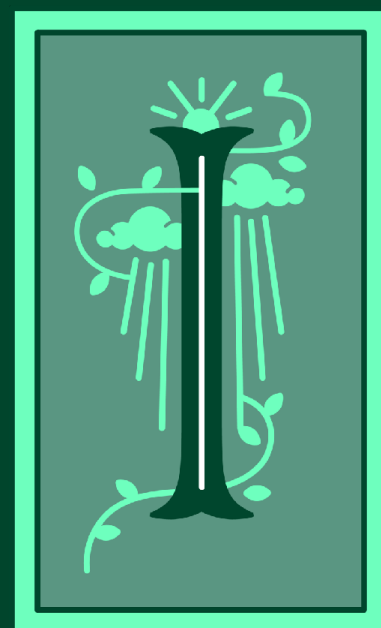
And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. 14 And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?"

Viewing politics as sport means one “team” wins and one “team” loses. But the R/D political divide misses the fact that we are all actually on the same team. When our representatives vote as a way to punish or simply “deny a win” for the other side we all lose.

Twitter.com



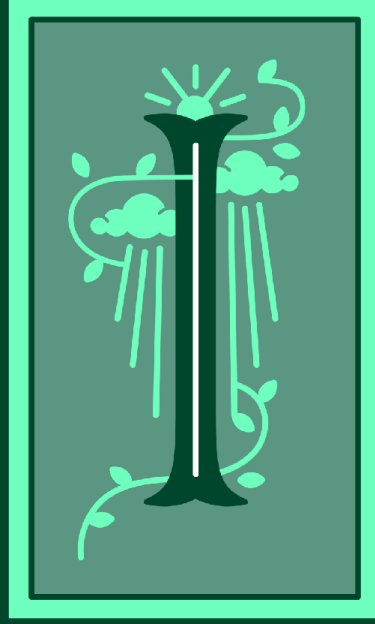
Jesus shows a different way with the image of God.



Jesus shows a different way with the image of God.

Mark 12:15-17 (ESV)

But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” 16 And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar's.” 17 Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they marveled at him.



Jesus shows a different way with the image of God.

1. Jesus challenges what we value and exposes our idolatry.



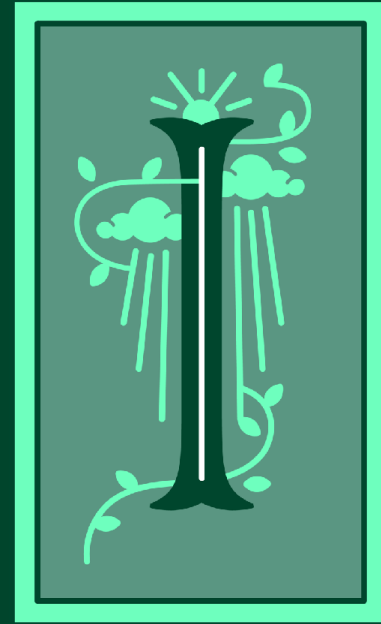
By William Robinson Leigh - McClure's Magazine, April 1900, p. 536.,
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If they dare to come out in the open field and defend the gold standard as a good thing, we will fight them to the uttermost. Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world, supported by the commercial interests, the laboring interests, and the toilers everywhere, we will answer their demand for a gold standard by saying to them: You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.

- Presidential Candidate, Williams Jennings



Denarius of Tiberius Caesar.

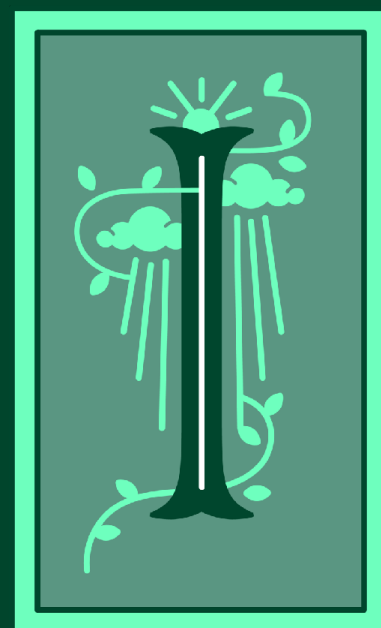


Jesus shows a different way with the image of God.

1. Jesus challenges what we value and exposes our idolatry.
2. Jesus affirms yet right-sizes human authority.



“Tiberius Caesar, Son of the divine Augustus.”

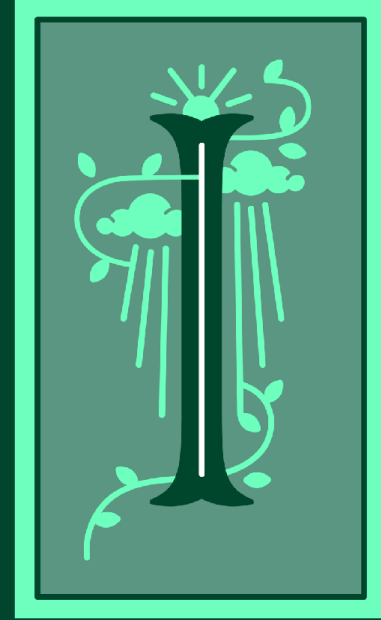


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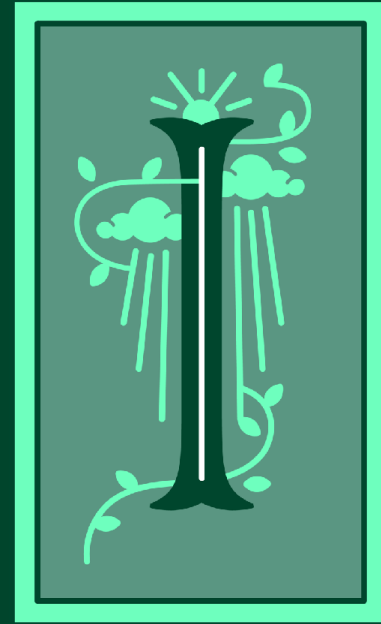
Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.



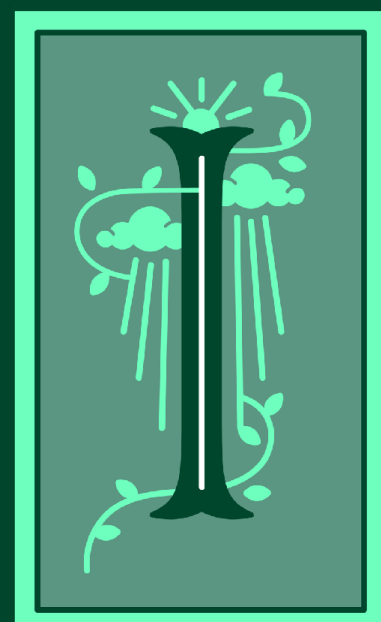
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3. Jesus affirms human dignity and worth.



Jesus shows a different way with the image of God.

1. Jesus challenges what we value and exposes our idolatry.
2. Jesus affirms yet right-sizes human authority.
3. Jesus affirms human dignity and worth.
4. Jesus unites us in the perfect image of God.

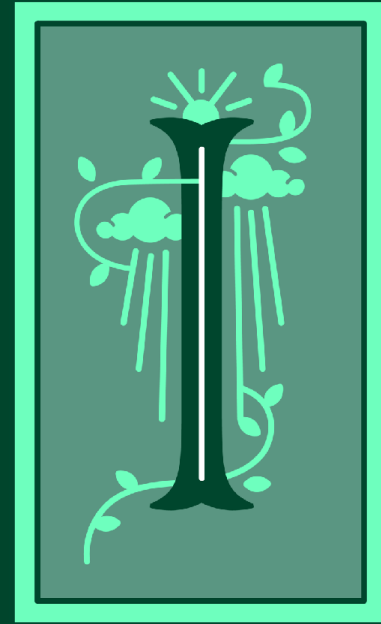


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Galatians 3:28 (ESV)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, [there is neither Republican nor Democrat,] for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

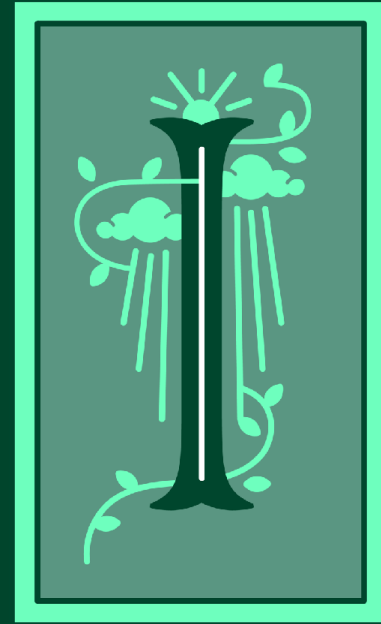


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Hebrews 1:3a (ESV)

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature . . .



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