

NUMBERS 19

TOTALLY CLEAN &

TOTALLY WELCOME

All of us can feel at some level, that we are dirty,
and that we don't belong.

All of us need to be washed clean,
and welcomed in.

“The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”

Hebrews 9:13-14

- God's is present with his people in the tabernacle
- Contact with death makes you 'unclean', so you can't approach God in the tabernacle
- God provides a way to be cleansed
- A red cow is slaughtered outside the camp
- It's burned, and the ashes are collected
- Ashes are mixed with water and sprinkled on someone to make them clean, so they are welcome to approach God once more.

- **The problem we all face**
- **The solution Jesus has provided**
- **The outcome for us**

THE PROBLEM WE ALL FACE

uncleanness \neq sin

But uncleanness can't be mixed
with God's presence.

THE PROBLEM WE ALL FACE

Uncleanness was about being tangled up with sin and the effects of sin

THE PROBLEM WE ALL FACE

Uncleanness was a visual aid, a constant reminder that ordinary life is tangled up with sin **and the effects of sin**

THE PROBLEM WE ALL FACE

“God is light;
in him there is no darkness at all.”

1 John 1:5

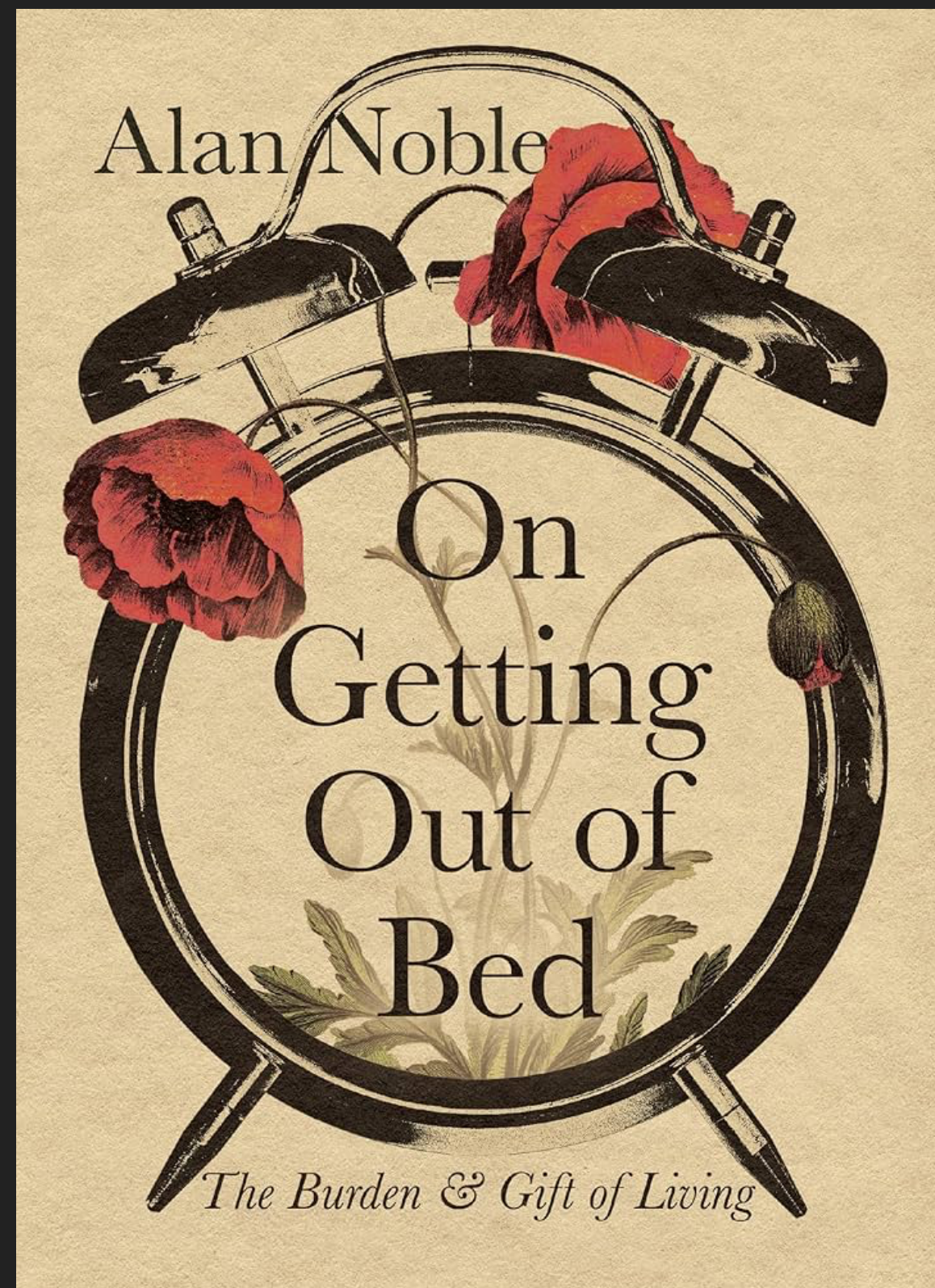
THE PROBLEM WE ALL FACE

- God is pure goodness, pure light, pure life.
- But not only are we sinners, we live in a sin-shattered, sin-polluted world.

THE PROBLEM WE ALL FACE

What Jesus offers to cleanse us from is broader than just our guilt.

THE PROBLEM WE ALL FACE



“Even when you are confident that you have a mental illness, there are no finely articulated lines, no clear objective markers, to tell you where your agency ends and your illness begins—where normal, reasonable sadness ends and your depression begins, for example. Or what is the result of some biochemical problem, and what is the result of a dour personality or self-centered negativity.”

Alan Noble

THE PROBLEM WE ALL FACE

What Jesus offers to cleanse us
from is broader than just our guilt.

THE SOLUTION JESUS HAS PROVIDED

- **Jesus's sacrifice is once and for all and it is enough.**

THE SOLUTION JESUS HAS PROVIDED

- Jesus's sacrifice is once and for all and it is enough.
- Jesus is the priest who goes out of the camp to bring us in.

“The cross itself was an emblem of shame ... It was deliberately designed to humiliate those being crucified ... So Jesus’ clothes were torn, his naked body was exposed, he was spat at by passers-by. Jesus was publicly shamed.

Yet even more than that, on the cross, Jesus willingly took the punishment from God that we deserved upon his own shoulders. The shame and condemnation that is rightly ours was willingly borne by Jesus.

And the fact that he took it all guarantees our eternal welcome, however messy the reality of our lives may be.”

THE OUTCOME FOR US

- We cannot approach God without receiving the cleansing he has provided.

THE OUTCOME FOR US

- We cannot approach God without receiving the cleansing he has provided.
- If we do receive it, we are fully welcome in God's presence.

“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”

Hebrews 9:13-14