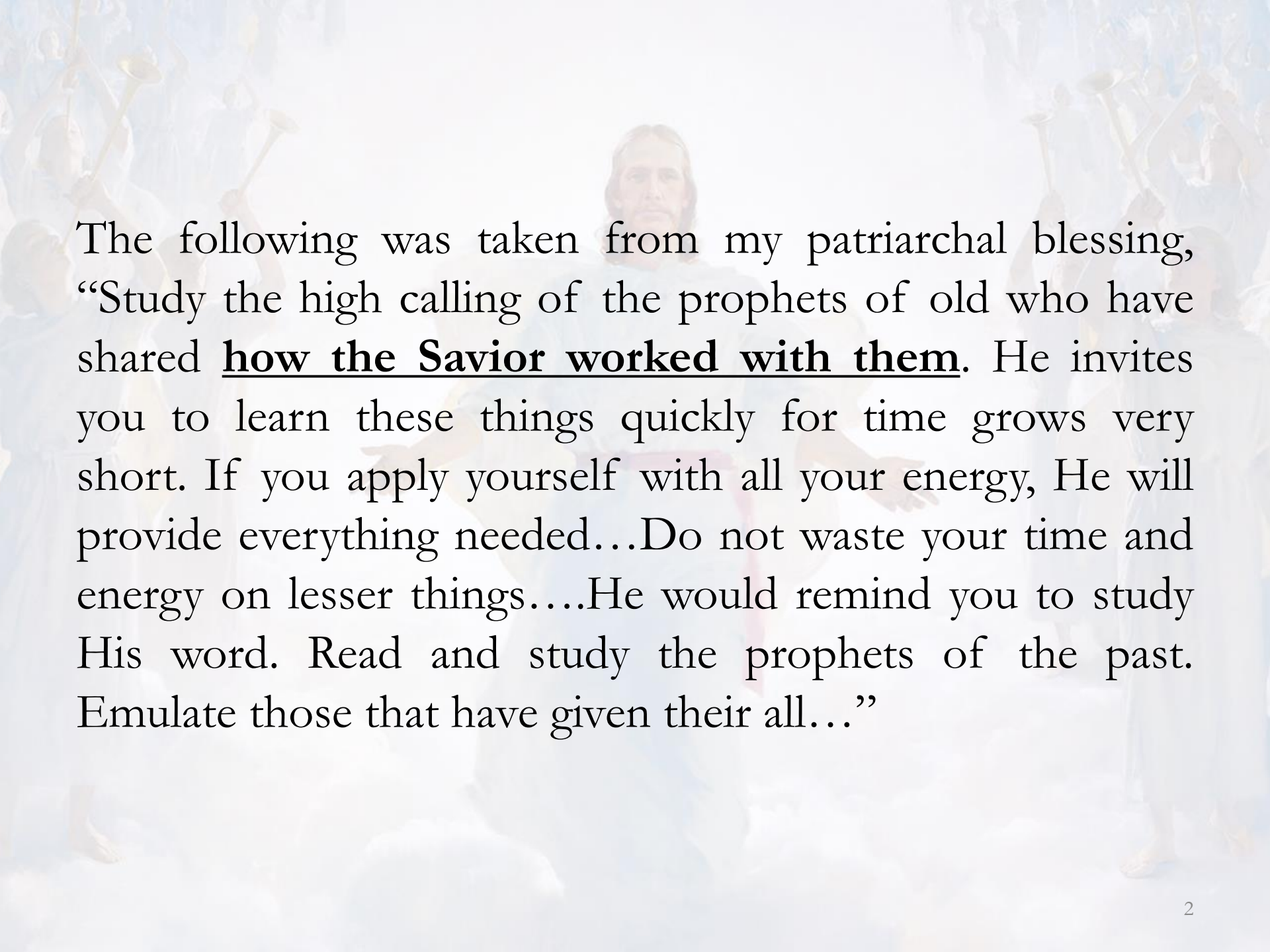


# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

How the Savior Worked with the Prophets



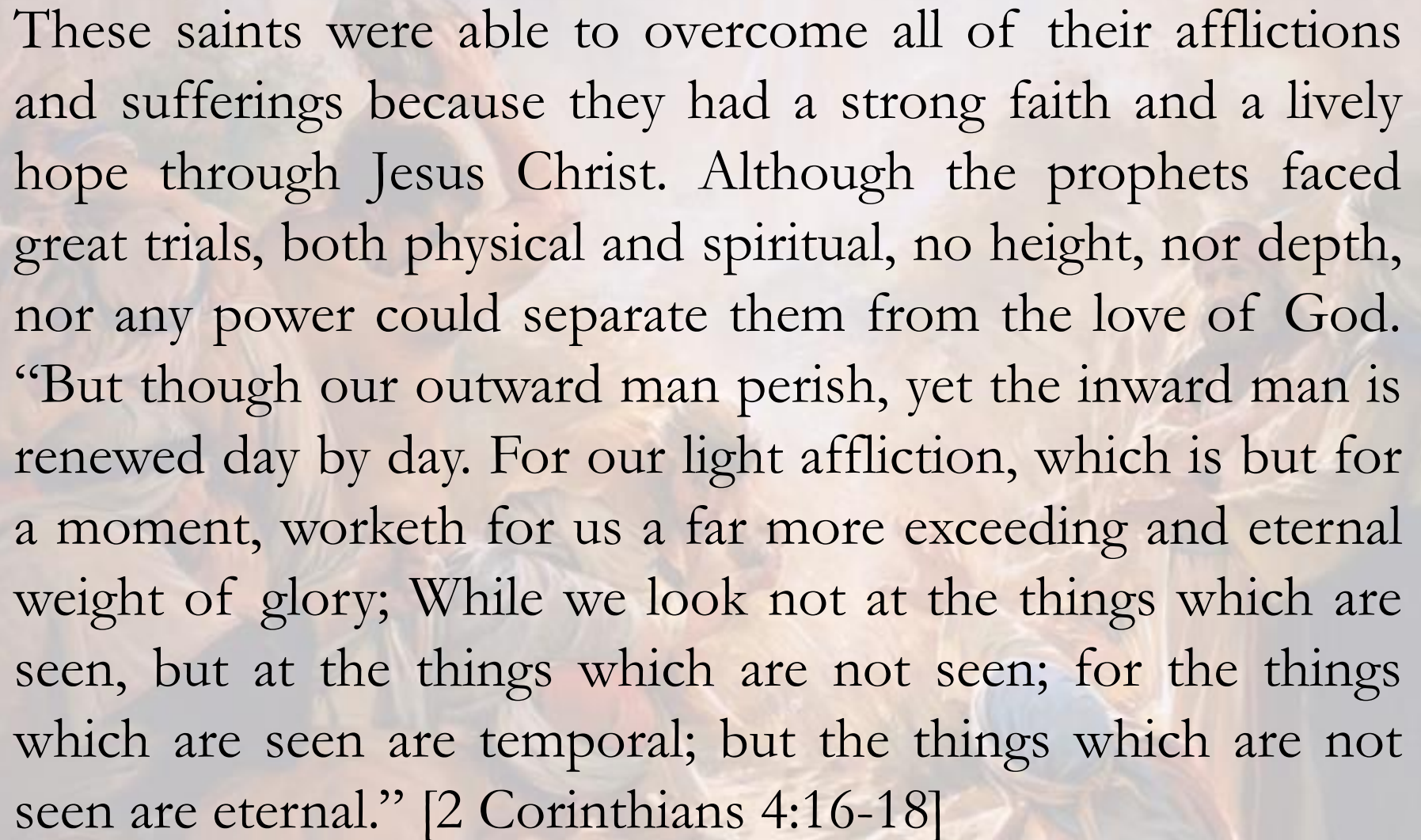
The following was taken from my patriarchal blessing, “Study the high calling of the prophets of old who have shared how the Savior worked with them. He invites you to learn these things quickly for time grows very short. If you apply yourself with all your energy, He will provide everything needed...Do not waste your time and energy on lesser things....He would remind you to study His word. Read and study the prophets of the past. Emulate those that have given their all...”

In Paul's second epistle to the Thessalonians, he wrote, "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power; That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." [2 Thessalonians 1:11-12].

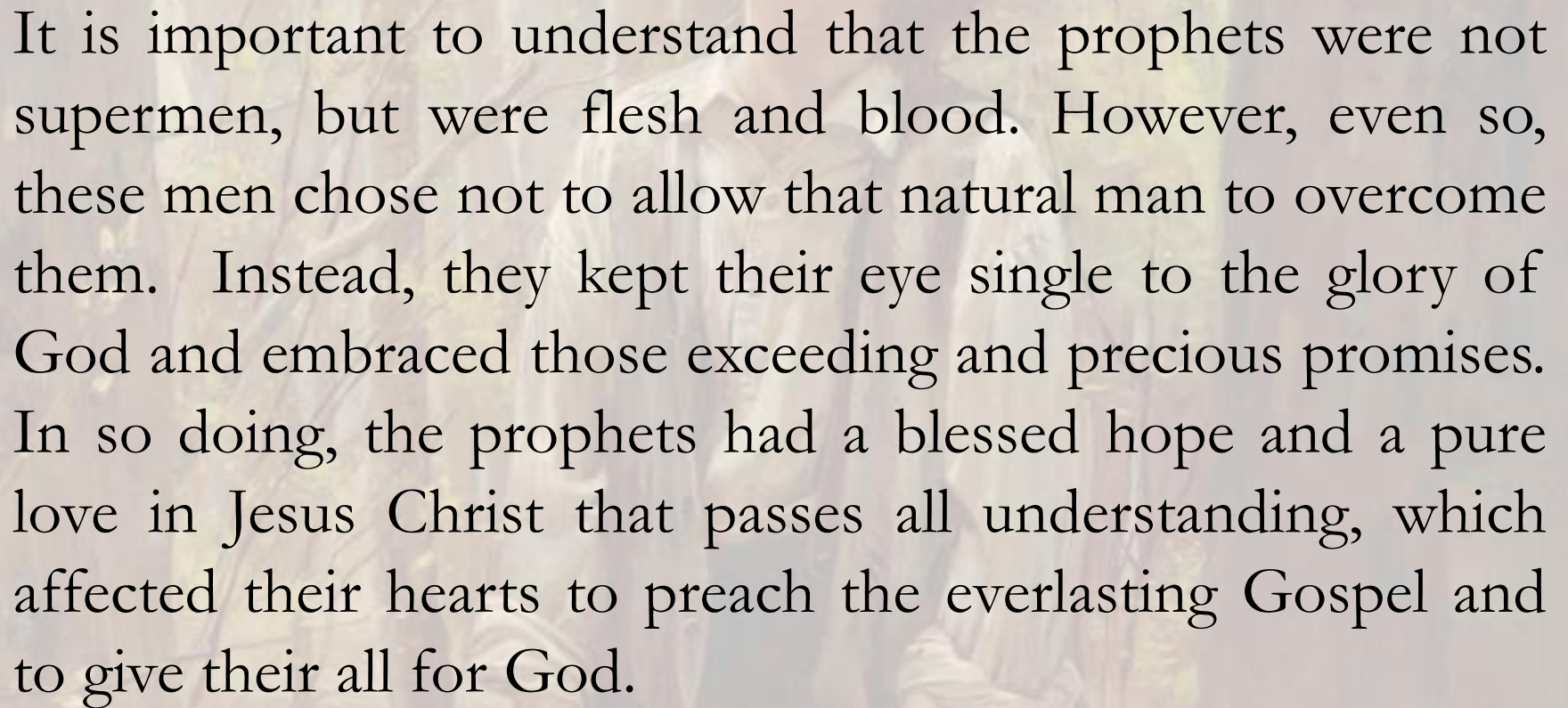
In His great love and mercy, God has prepared the way that we might fulfill this high calling by following the example of His Only Begotten Son. Nonetheless, both knowing and understanding our weaknesses, the Lord God has also given us examples to follow through the prophets who have shared how Jesus Christ worked with them in their lives, and that by emulating those that have given their all for God and Christ, we might be better able to live as Jesus Christ lived.

Throughout the Scriptures, many prophets have given their all for their Heavenly Father, which they were able to accomplish by following the example of Jesus Christ, who said, “For I can of mine own self do nothing; because I **seek not mine own will**, but the will of the Father who hath sent me.” [John 5:31]. Jesus did not live for himself, but for God, and the same can be said for the prophets. Paul wrote, “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, **we are the Lord’s.**” [Romans 14:7-8]

**11:36** And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment; **11:37** They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; **11:38** Of whom the world was not worthy; they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. **11:39** And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promises; **11:40** God having provided some better things for them through their sufferings, for without sufferings they could not be made perfect. [Hebrews 11:36-40]



These saints were able to overcome all of their afflictions and sufferings because they had a strong faith and a lively hope through Jesus Christ. Although the prophets faced great trials, both physical and spiritual, no height, nor depth, nor any power could separate them from the love of God. “But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” [2 Corinthians 4:16-18]

A person with long hair, wearing a light-colored shirt, is sitting in a field of tall grass or reeds. They are looking upwards with a contemplative expression. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with trees and a bright sky. The overall tone is peaceful and reflective.

It is important to understand that the prophets were not supermen, but were flesh and blood. However, even so, these men chose not to allow that natural man to overcome them. Instead, they kept their eye single to the glory of God and embraced those exceeding and precious promises. In so doing, the prophets had a blessed hope and a pure love in Jesus Christ that passes all understanding, which affected their hearts to preach the everlasting Gospel and to give their all for God.

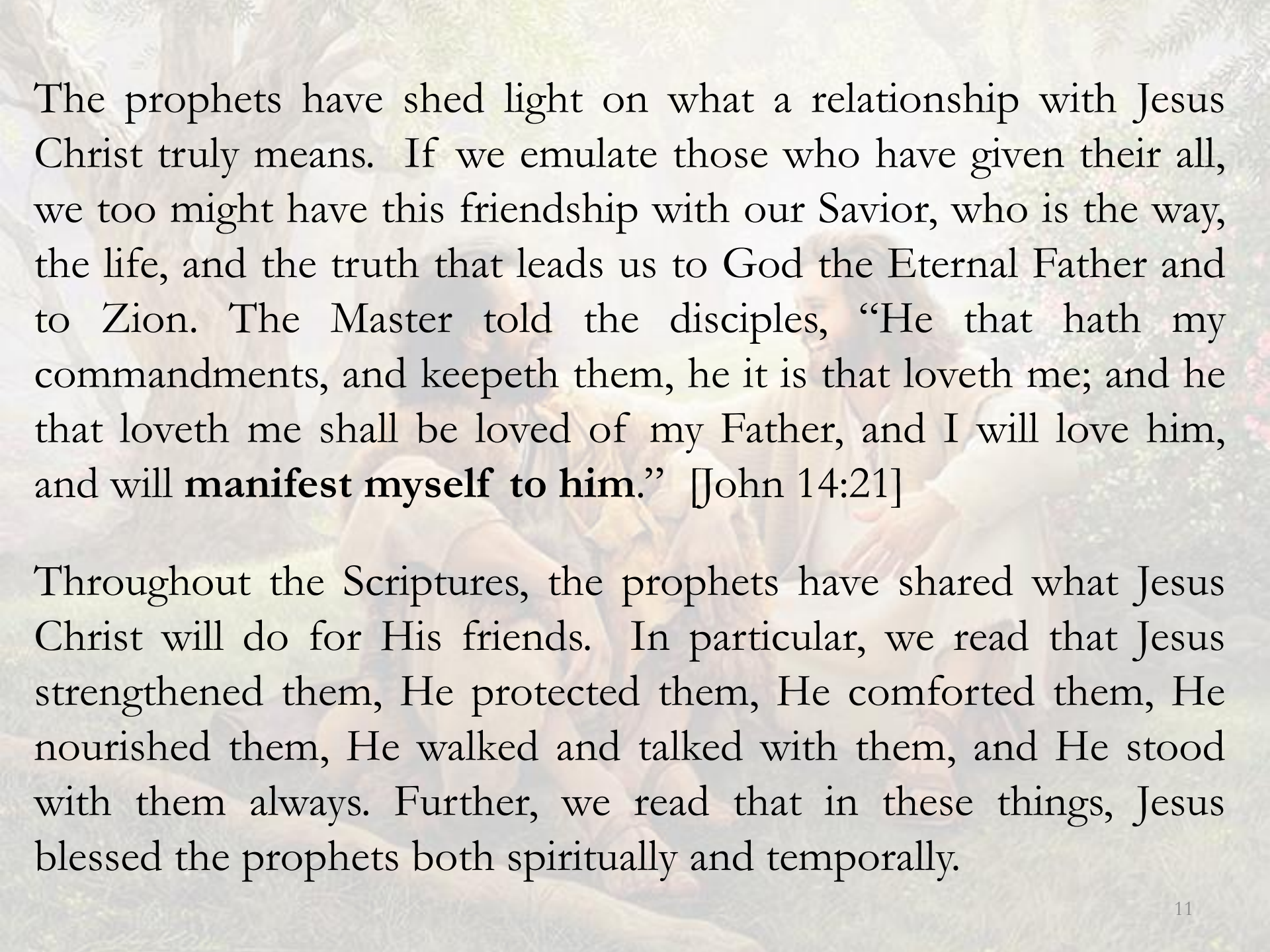
**3:13** Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. **3:14** For this caused I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **3:15** Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, **3:16** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; **3:17** That Christ may **dwelt in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, **3:18** May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; **3:19** And to **know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge**, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. [Ephesians 3:13-19]



In the Scriptures, we see that the Savior truly dwelt in the hearts of the prophets, and we know this because of the witness that they left behind and because of the works that they accomplished for God. In the fifteenth chapter of John, Jesus explained that He is the true vine and that we are the branches, and if we do not abide in Him we can do nothing. However, Jesus said, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that **ye bear much fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples.” [John 15:7-8]. The only way that the prophets could be a spokesman and watchman for God, is if they were abiding in Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, the prophets were not only Jesus’s disciples, but they were **His friends**.

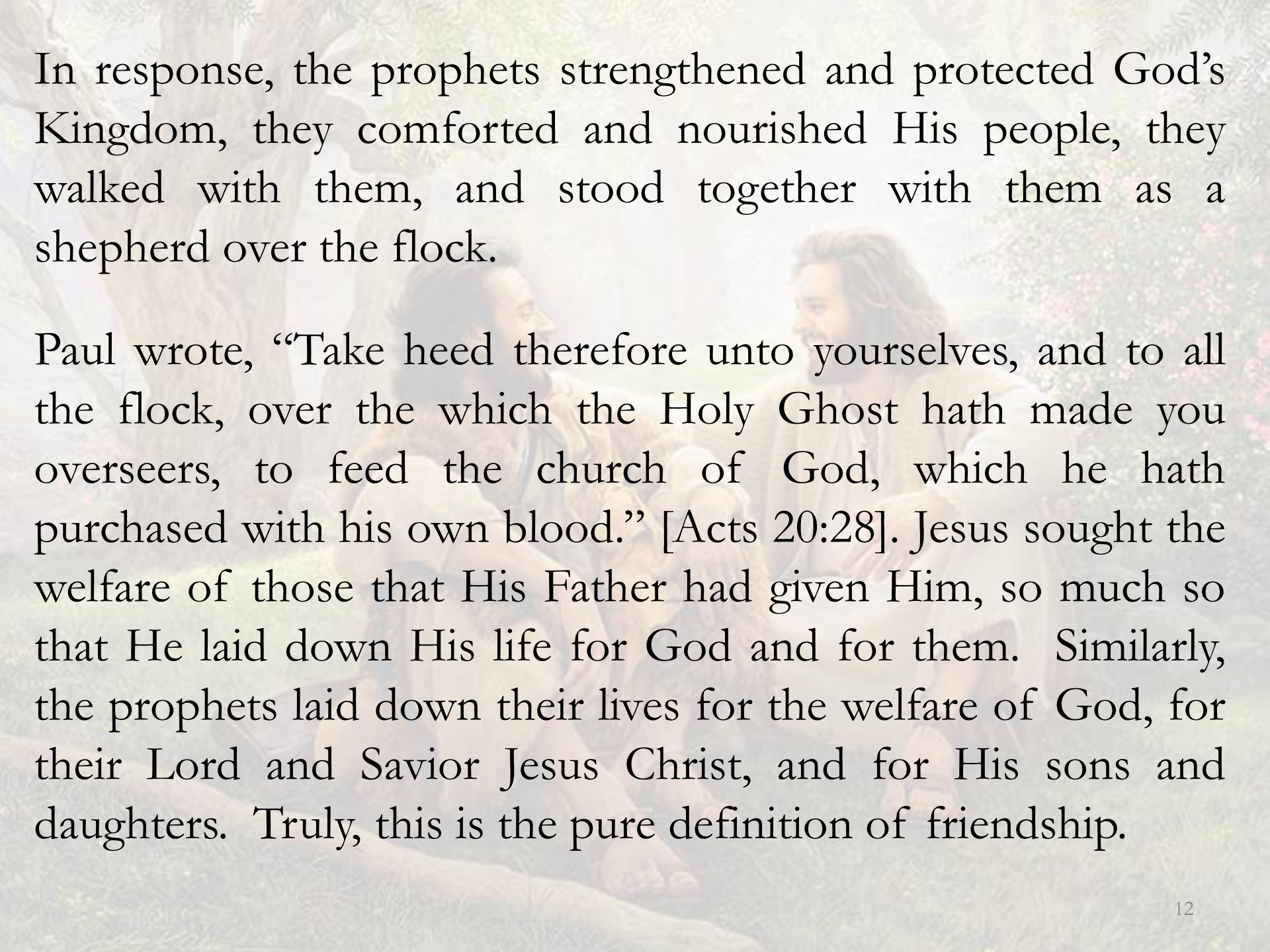
The 1828 Webster's Dictionary defines the word friend as, "One who is attached to another by affection; one who entertains for another sentiments of esteem, respect and affection, which lead him to desire his company, and to **seek to promote his happiness and prosperity**; opposed to foe or enemy." The prophets actively sought with their whole soul to promote the happiness and prosperity of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom on earth.

**15:12** This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. **15:13** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **15:14** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. **15:15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but *I have called you friends*; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. [John 15:12-15]



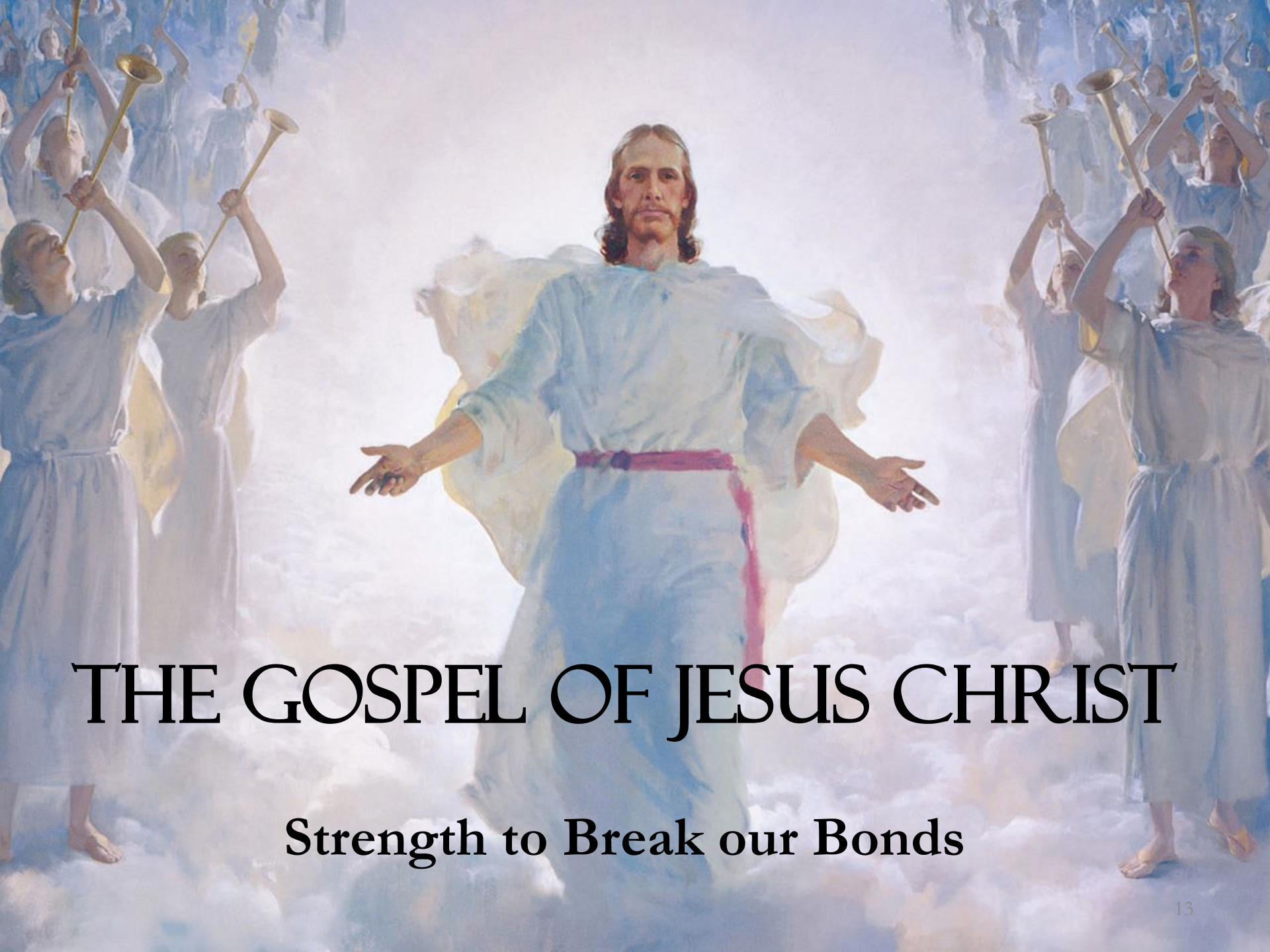
The prophets have shed light on what a relationship with Jesus Christ truly means. If we emulate those who have given their all, we too might have this friendship with our Savior, who is the way, the life, and the truth that leads us to God the Eternal Father and to Zion. The Master told the disciples, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will **manifest myself to him.**” [John 14:21]

Throughout the Scriptures, the prophets have shared what Jesus Christ will do for His friends. In particular, we read that Jesus strengthened them, He protected them, He comforted them, He nourished them, He walked and talked with them, and He stood with them always. Further, we read that in these things, Jesus blessed the prophets both spiritually and temporally.



In response, the prophets strengthened and protected God's Kingdom, they comforted and nourished His people, they walked with them, and stood together with them as a shepherd over the flock.

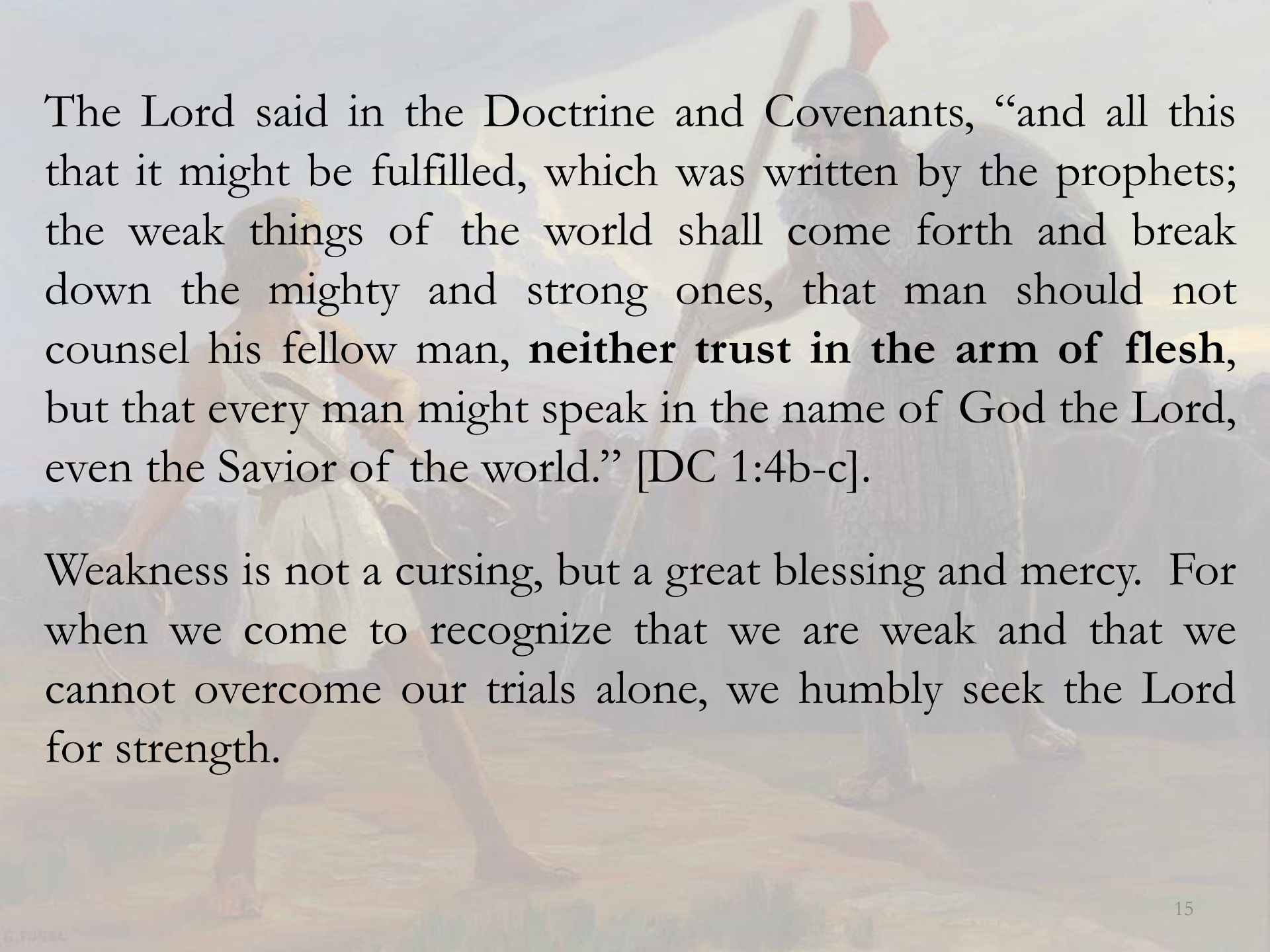
Paul wrote, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." [Acts 20:28]. Jesus sought the welfare of those that His Father had given Him, so much so that He laid down His life for God and for them. Similarly, the prophets laid down their lives for the welfare of God, for their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and for His sons and daughters. Truly, this is the pure definition of friendship.



# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

**Strength to Break our Bonds**

In Ether, chapter five, Moroni wrote that he beheld the weakness of his writing because he recognized that it was God, not man, that made his words powerful and great, and through this recognition Moroni feared that others would mock at the words of God because of his weakness. In response, the Lord told Moroni, “If men come unto me, I will shew unto them their weakness. ***I give*** unto men weakness, that they may be **humble**; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak thing **become strong** unto them...And because thou hast seen thy weakness, thou shalt be made **strong**, even unto the sitting down in the place which I have prepared in the mansions of my Father.”  
[Ether 5:27-28 and 38]



The Lord said in the Doctrine and Covenants, “and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets; the weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, **neither trust in the arm of flesh**, but that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world.” [DC 1:4b-c].

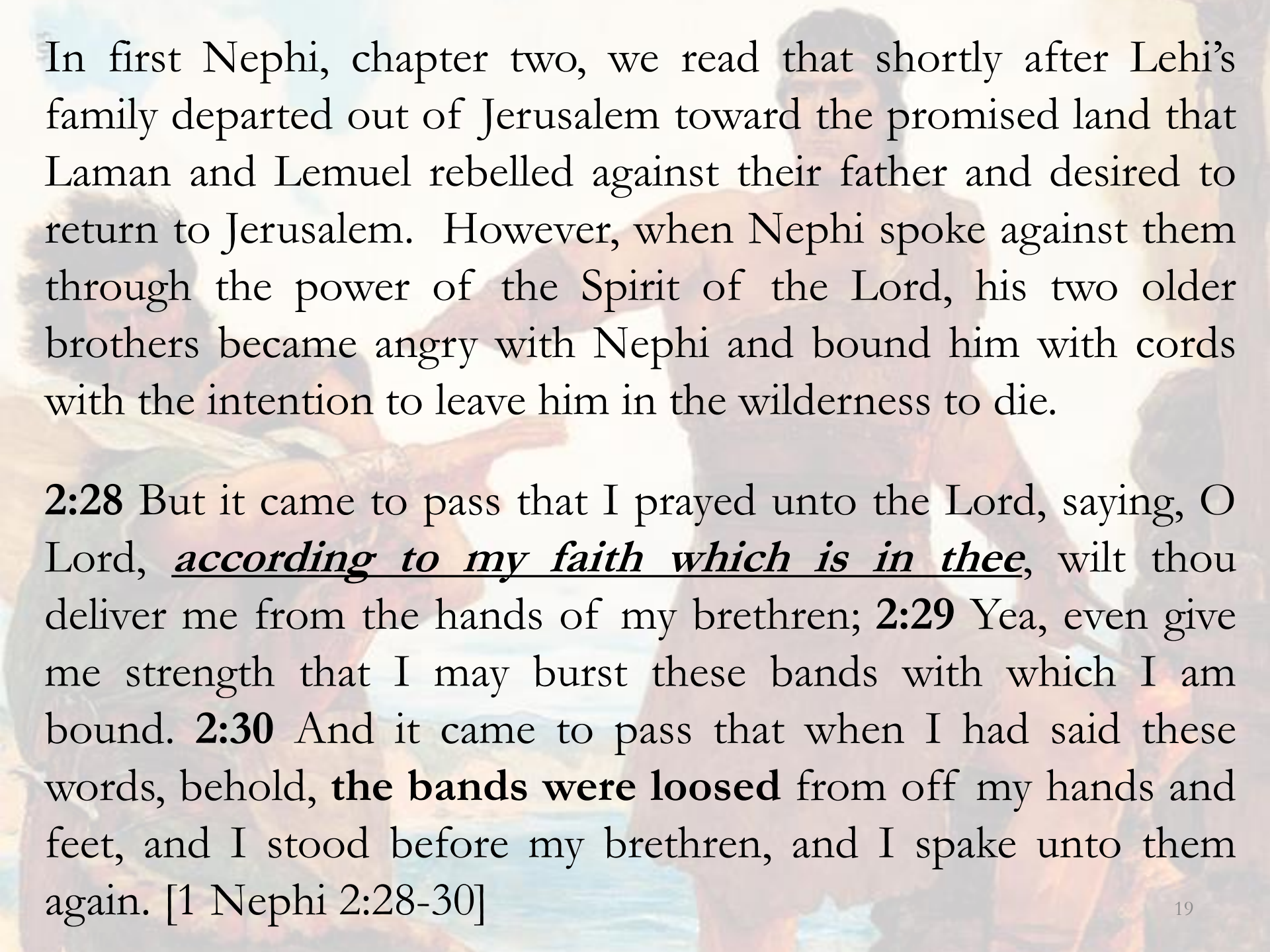
Weakness is not a cursing, but a great blessing and mercy. For when we come to recognize that we are weak and that we cannot overcome our trials alone, we humbly seek the Lord for strength.

**12:5** Of such a one will I glory; yet of myself I will not glory, but in **mine infirmities**. **12:6** For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth; but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth of me, or that he heareth of me. **12:7** And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, **lest I should be exalted above measure**. **12:8** For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. **12:9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; **for my strength is made perfect in weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **12:10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, **then am I strong**. [2 Corinthians 12:5-10]



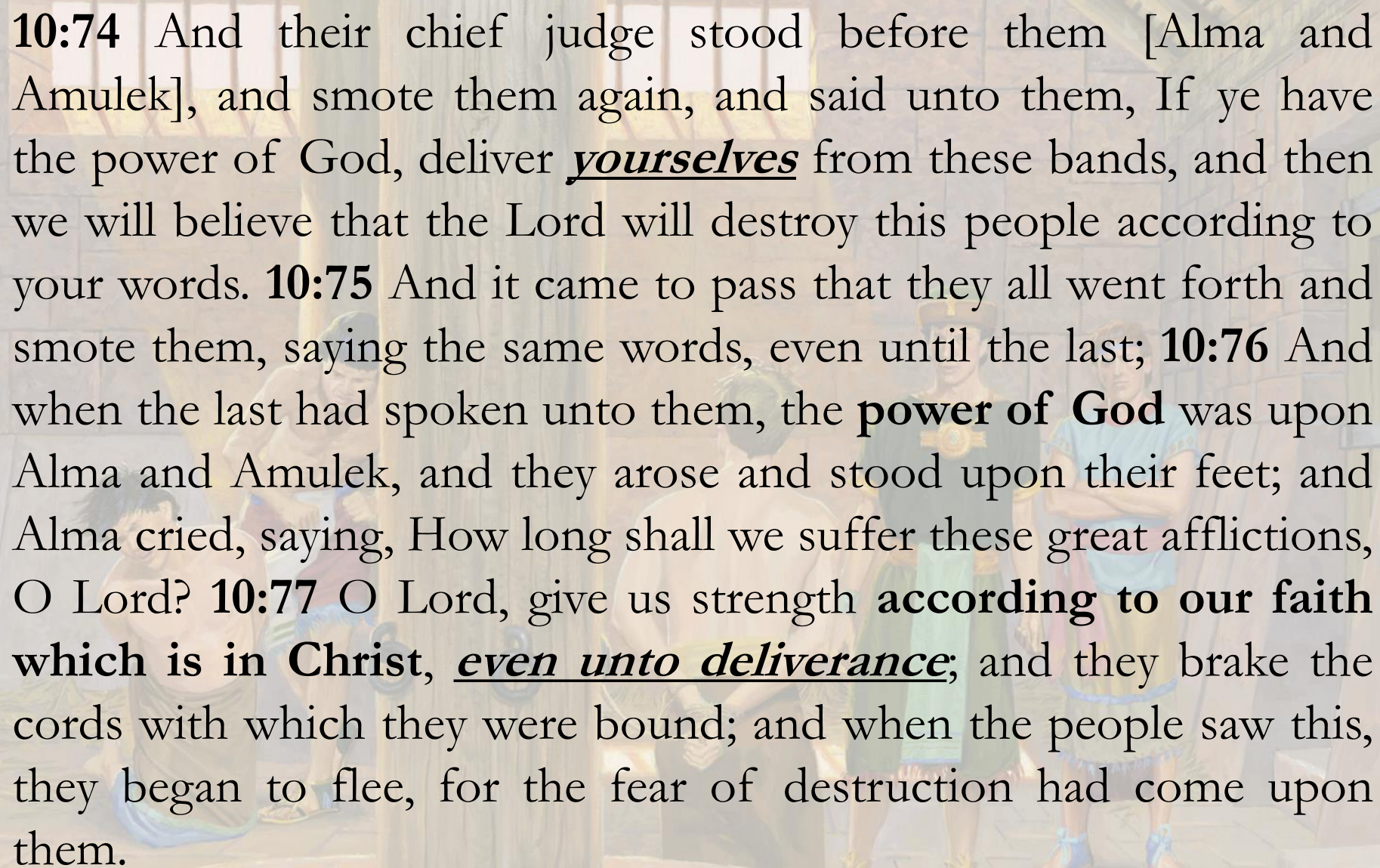
It appears to be the nature of the natural man to fight against our weaknesses instead of embracing them, such as David did. In the eighteenth Psalms, David wrote of what Jesus Christ did for him as he recognized that he was too weak for his enemies, saying, “He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me; for they were **too strong for me**. They prevented me in the day of my calamity; **but the Lord was my stay**. He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me. The Lord rewarded me **according** to my righteousness; **according** to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not **wickedly** departed from my God.” [Psalms 18:17-21]

Unfortunately, we as saints in the latter days often view the admitting of a weakness and the admitting of a defeat as one and the same. Therefore, instead of trusting and relying upon the Lord such as David did, we press onward with the strength of a man when we could press forward with the strength of God. In the many wars recorded in the Book of Mormon, the Nephites were almost always outnumbered by the Lamanites but because “the Lamanites knew nothing concerning the Lord, nor the strength of the Lord; therefore they depended upon their own strength. Yet they were a strong people, as to the strength of men.” [Mosiah 6:44-45]. Whereas the sons of Helaman relied upon Jesus Christ for their strength and not one soul fell in battle. “Yea, and they had fought as if with the **strength of God**; yea, never were men known to have fought with such miraculous strength.” [Alma 26:66]



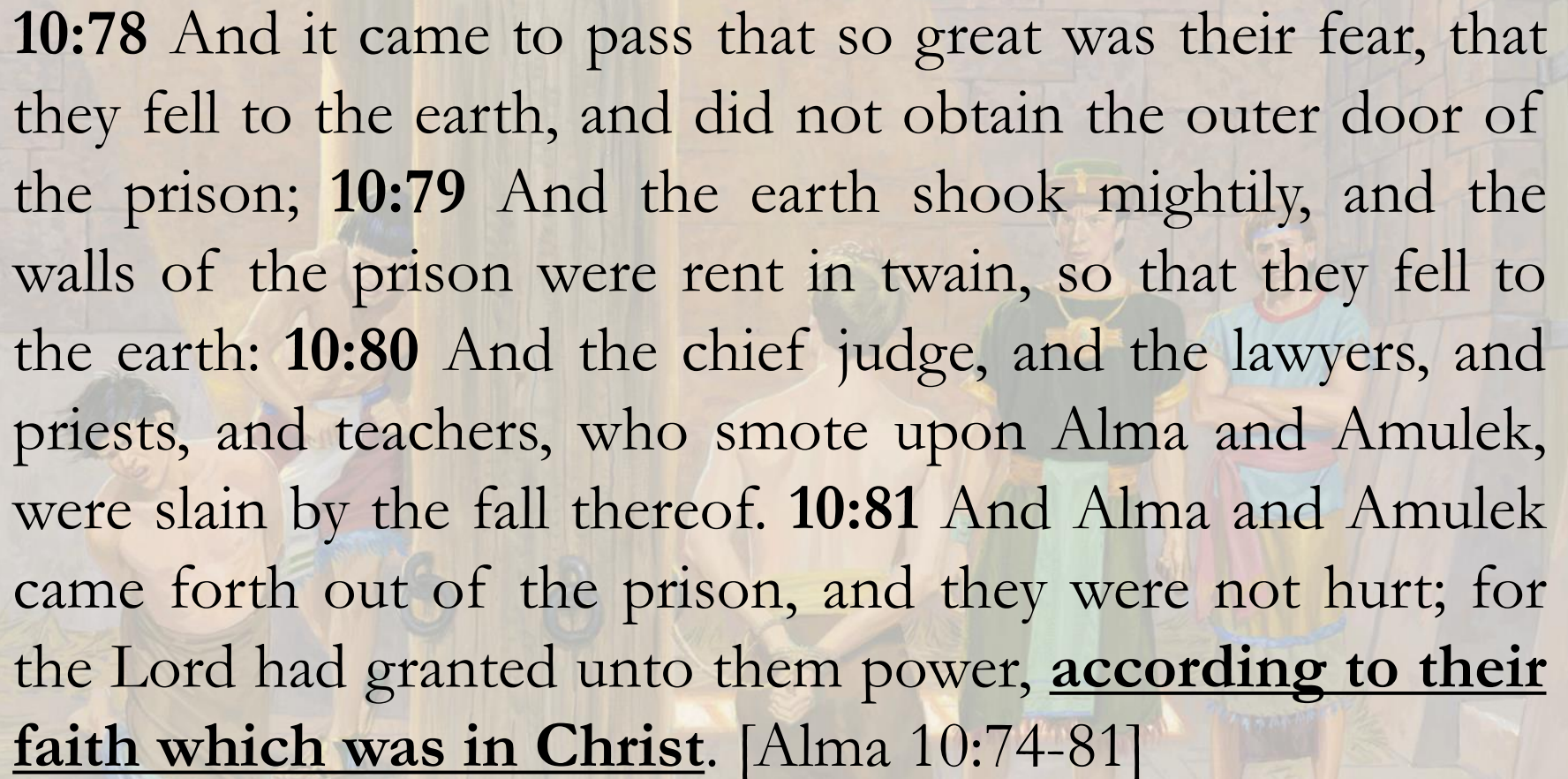
In first Nephi, chapter two, we read that shortly after Lehi's family departed out of Jerusalem toward the promised land that Laman and Lemuel rebelled against their father and desired to return to Jerusalem. However, when Nephi spoke against them through the power of the Spirit of the Lord, his two older brothers became angry with Nephi and bound him with cords with the intention to leave him in the wilderness to die.

**2:28** But it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord, saying, O Lord, *according to my faith which is in thee*, wilt thou deliver me from the hands of my brethren; **2:29** Yea, even give me strength that I may burst these bands with which I am bound. **2:30** And it came to pass that when I had said these words, behold, **the bands were loosed** from off my hands and feet, and I stood before my brethren, and I spake unto them again. [1 Nephi 2:28-30]

A background illustration of a courtroom scene. In the center, a man in a blue tunic and sandals stands with his arms crossed, looking towards the left. To his right, a man in a green tunic and sandals stands with his hands clasped. To the left, a man in a blue tunic and sandals is seated. In the background, several other figures are visible, including a man in a blue tunic and sandals standing near a pillar. The scene is set in a room with stone walls and pillars.

**10:74** And their chief judge stood before them [Alma and Amulek], and smote them again, and said unto them, If ye have the power of God, deliver ***yourselves*** from these bands, and then we will believe that the Lord will destroy this people according to your words. **10:75** And it came to pass that they all went forth and smote them, saying the same words, even until the last; **10:76** And when the last had spoken unto them, the **power of God** was upon Alma and Amulek, and they arose and stood upon their feet; and Alma cried, saying, How long shall we suffer these great afflictions, O Lord? **10:77** O Lord, give us strength **according to our faith which is in Christ, *even unto deliverance***; and they brake the cords with which they were bound; and when the people saw this, they began to flee, for the fear of destruction had come upon them.

**Continued...**



**10:78** And it came to pass that so great was their fear, that they fell to the earth, and did not obtain the outer door of the prison; **10:79** And the earth shook mightily, and the walls of the prison were rent in twain, so that they fell to the earth: **10:80** And the chief judge, and the lawyers, and priests, and teachers, who smote upon Alma and Amulek, were slain by the fall thereof. **10:81** And Alma and Amulek came forth out of the prison, and they were not hurt; for the Lord had granted unto them power, according to their faith which was in Christ. [Alma 10:74-81]

The prophets have shared that not only does Jesus Christ provide physical strength for His friends to break their bonds, but He also provides that spiritual strength to break the bands of death and the chains of hell that lead to everlasting destruction. We know that it is Satan's desire to encircle us about with these chains, and in fact, we can surmise from Scripture that Satan most likely thought that he had separated man from God forever because of the fall of Adam and Eve. "For behold, if the flesh should rise no more, our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more. And our spirits must have become like unto him, and we become devils, angels to a devil, to be shut out from the presence of our God, and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, **like unto himself.**" [2 Nephi 6:20-21]

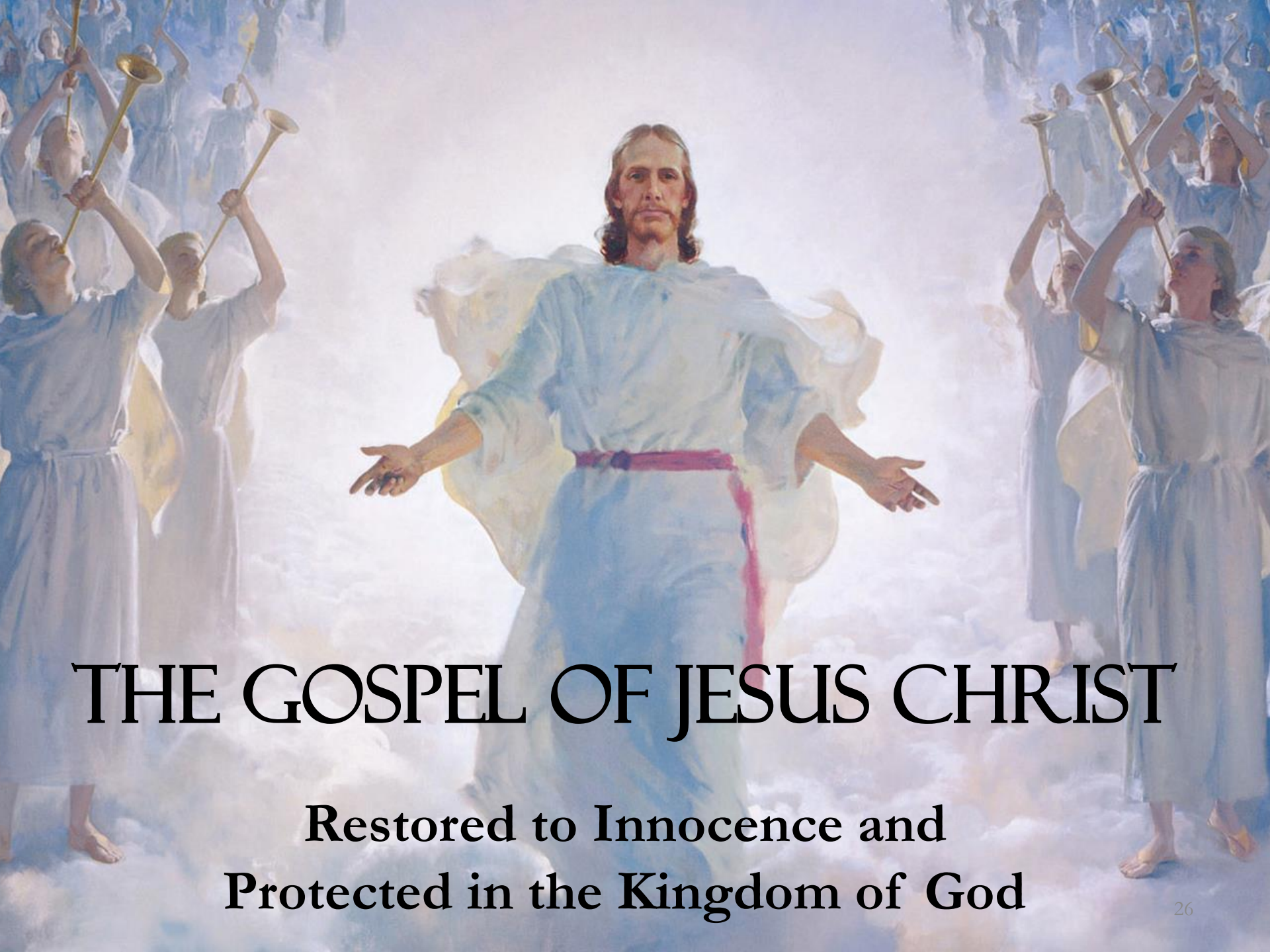
However, we know that this was not a part of God's wonderful plan. Instead, we read that because Jesus Christ came to die and to rise again that there was a redemption made, and that the grave should have no victory, thus Jesus broke the bands of death and hell, which man could never do alone. When Alma and Amulek were imprisoned and beaten, the chief judge said to them, "If ye have the power of God, deliver yourselves from these bands." It is important to understand that it is only through the power of Jesus Christ that we can break the bonds that keep us from living eternally with God. "And since man had fallen, he could not merit anything of himself; but the sufferings and death of Christ atoneth for their sins, through faith and repentance, etc.: And that he breaketh the bands of death, that the grave shall have no victory, and that the sting of death should be swallowed up in the hopes of glory." [Alma 13:46-47]

If we recognize that we are weak and understand that only through Jesus Christ can we know the joy of our redemption, Jesus will give His friends spiritual strength. Nonetheless, this promise requires more than just professing that we believe in Him, but also by keeping His commandments. David said, “The Lord rewarded me **according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands** hath he recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God.”

The prophets have shared that through our faith in the Son of God we might receive the strength to break the bonds of sin as well as overcome those many physical trials that we experience every day, which will help us to develop that friendship with Him. This friendship however is not only for our personal gain, but that we might lay down our life in order to seek the happiness and prosperity of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom on earth, and in this desire we shall surely be strengthened.

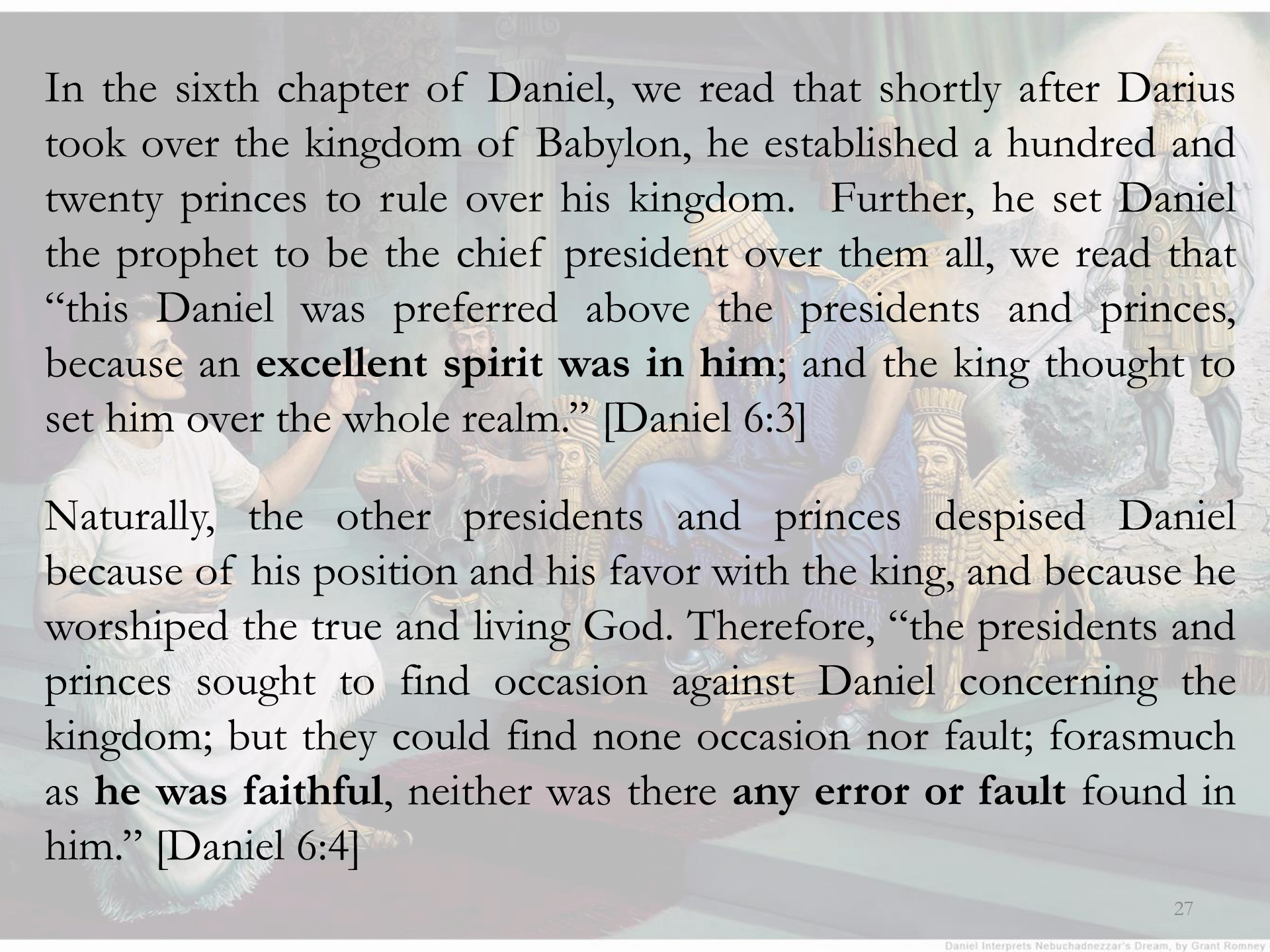


**10:27** And now my brethren, I wish from the inmost part of my heart, yea, with great anxiety, even unto pain, that ye would hearken unto my words, and cast off your sins, and not procrastinate the day of your repentance; **10:28** But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name, and watch and pray continually that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long suffering; having faith on the Lord; **10:29** Having a hope that ye shall receive eternal life; having the love of God always in your hearts, that ye may be lifted up at the last day, and enter into his rest; **10:30** And may the Lord grant unto you repentance, that ye may not bring down his wrath upon you, **that ye may not be bound down by the chains of hell**, that ye may not suffer the second death. [Alma 10:27-30]



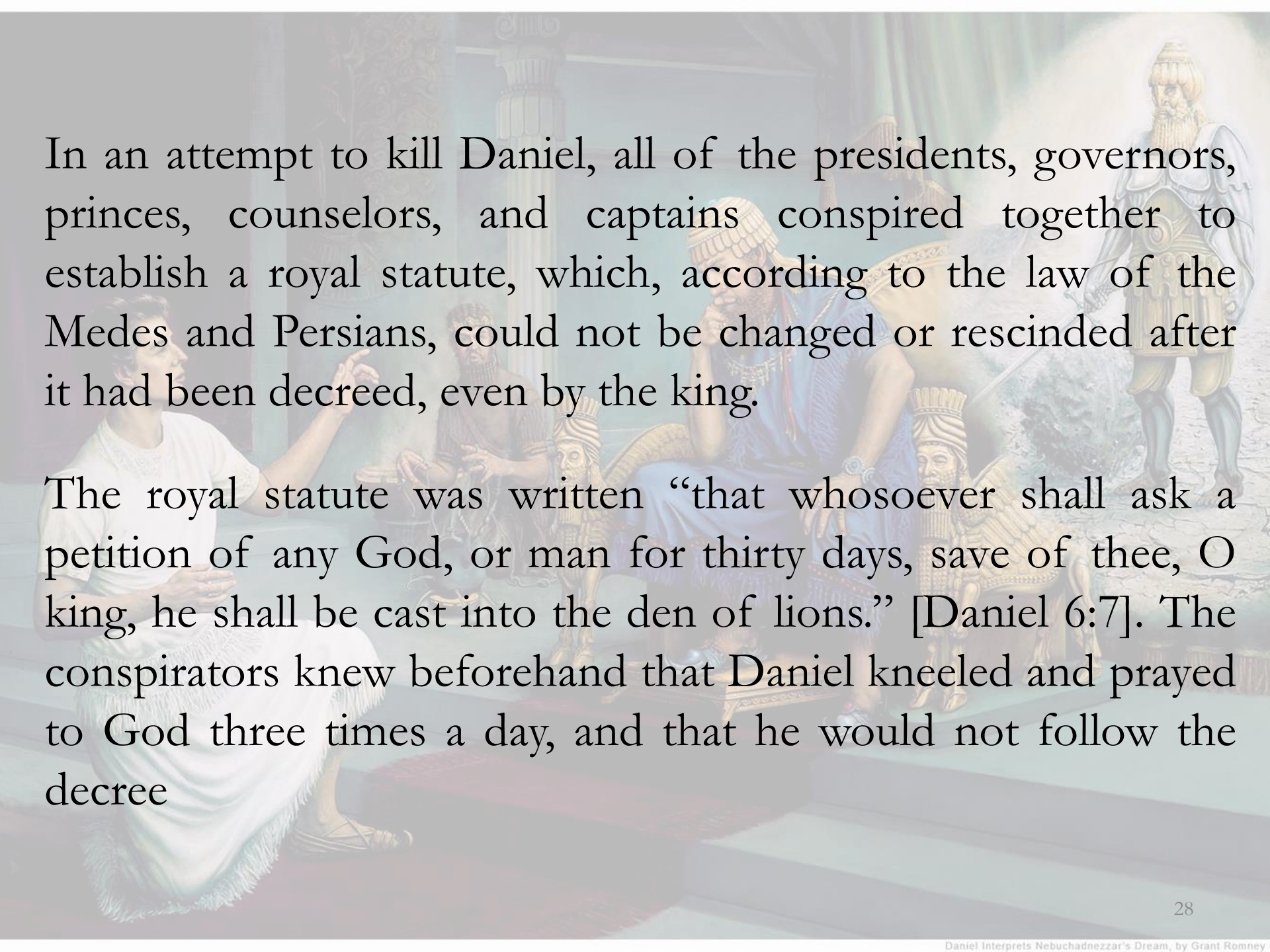
# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

**Restored to Innocence and  
Protected in the Kingdom of God**



In the sixth chapter of Daniel, we read that shortly after Darius took over the kingdom of Babylon, he established a hundred and twenty princes to rule over his kingdom. Further, he set Daniel the prophet to be the chief president over them all, we read that “this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an **excellent spirit was in him**; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.” [Daniel 6:3]

Naturally, the other presidents and princes despised Daniel because of his position and his favor with the king, and because he worshiped the true and living God. Therefore, “the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as **he was faithful**, neither was there **any error or fault** found in him.” [Daniel 6:4]



In an attempt to kill Daniel, all of the presidents, governors, princes, counselors, and captains conspired together to establish a royal statute, which, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, could not be changed or rescinded after it had been decreed, even by the king.

The royal statute was written “that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God, or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.” [Daniel 6:7]. The conspirators knew beforehand that Daniel kneeled and prayed to God three times a day, and that he would not follow the decree

**6:10** Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and, his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, **as he did aforetime. 6:11** Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. **6:12** Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of Medes and Persians, which altereth not. **6:13** Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

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**6:14** Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him. **6:15** Then these men assembled unto the king and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. **6:16** Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, **he will deliver thee.** **6:17** And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

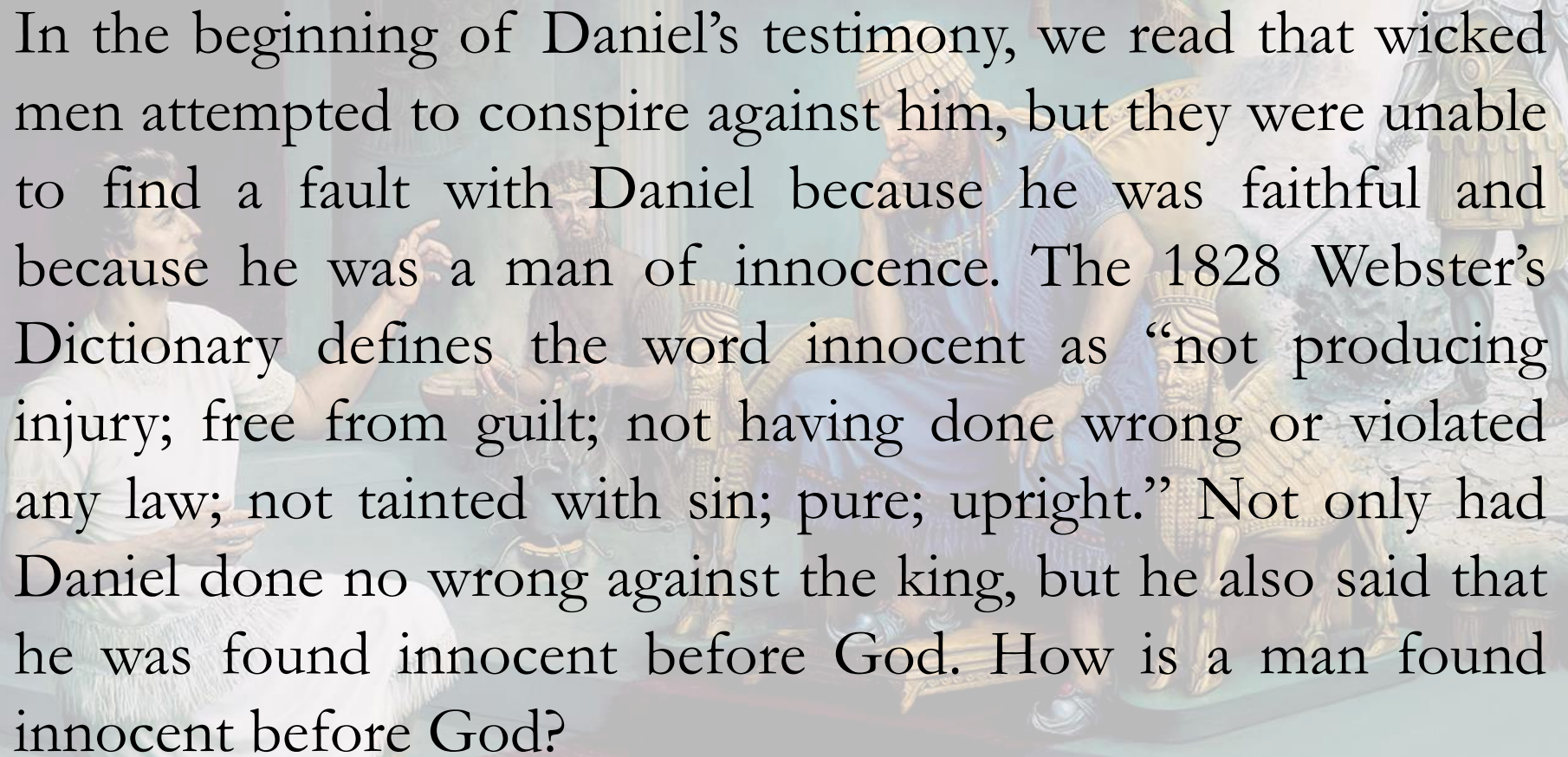
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**6:18** Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting; neither were instruments of music brought before him; and his sleep went from him. **6:19** Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. **6:20** And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel, and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, **servant** of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, **able to deliver thee from the lions?** **6:21** Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever. **6:22** My **God hath sent his angel**, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before him *innocency* was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. **6:23** Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

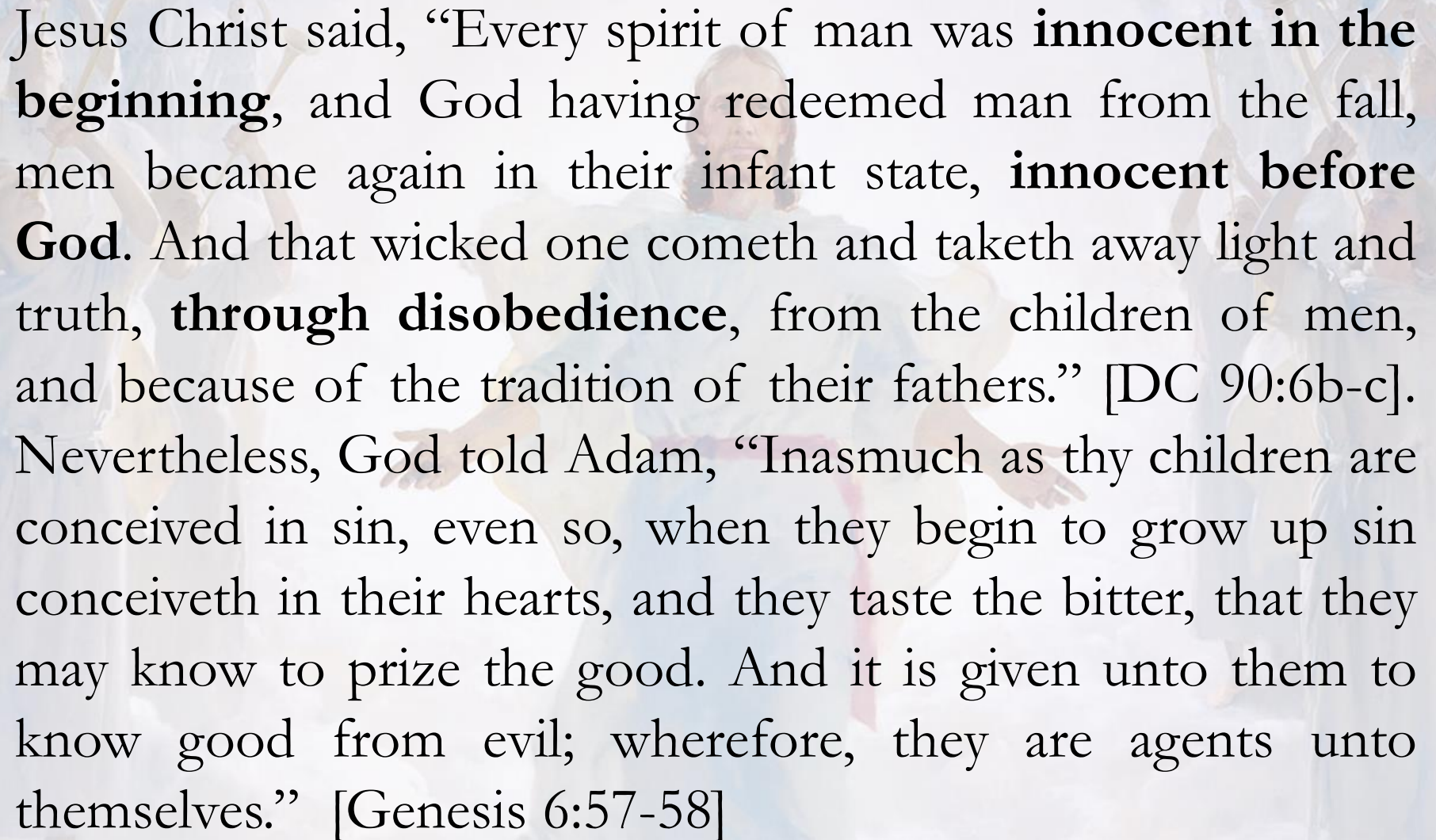
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**6:24** And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den. **6:25** Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. **6:26** I make a decree, That in every dominion of ***my kingdom*** men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and ***his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed***, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. **6:27** He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath ***delivered*** Daniel from the power of the lions. [Daniel 6:10-27]





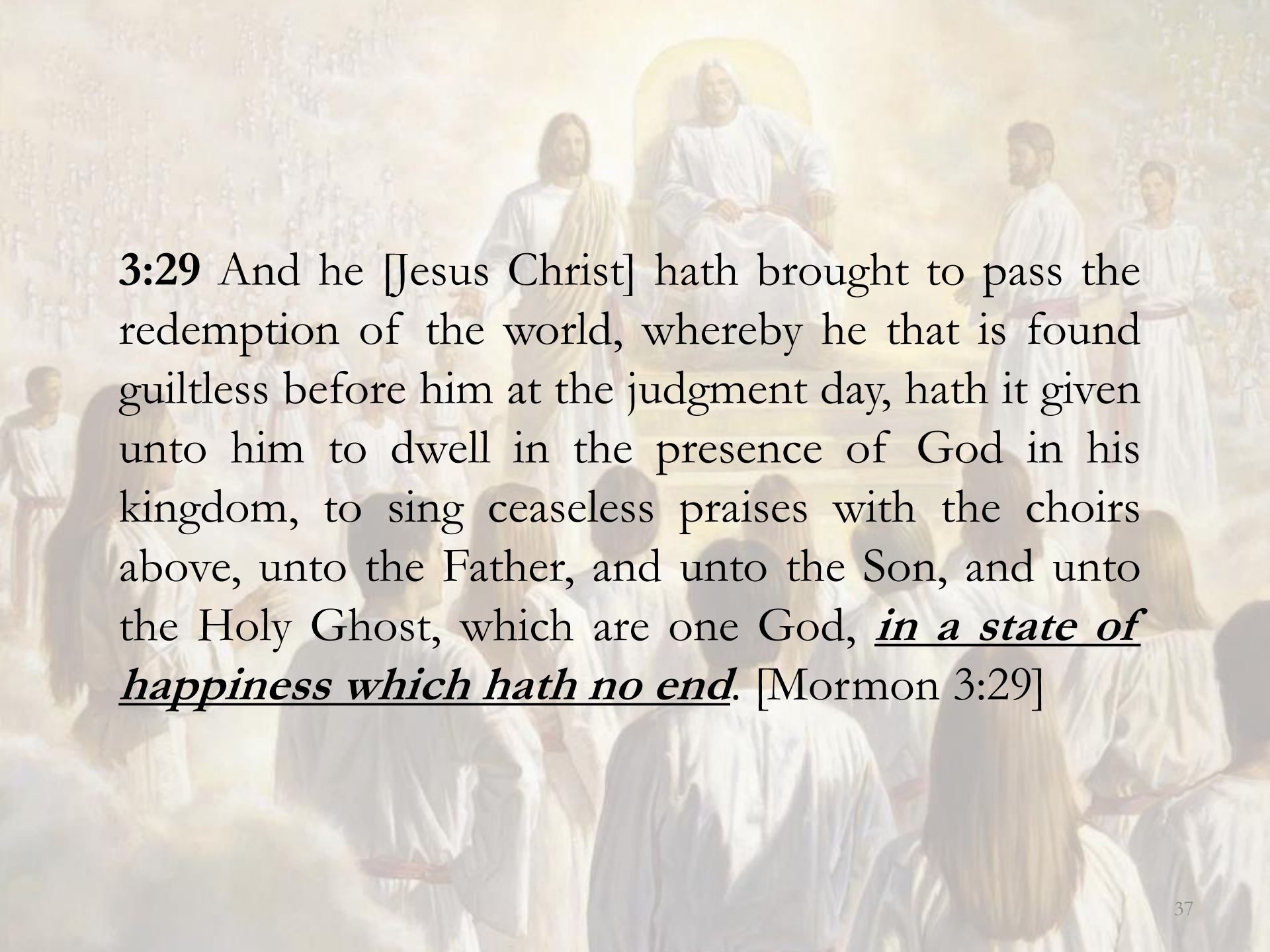
In the beginning of Daniel's testimony, we read that wicked men attempted to conspire against him, but they were unable to find a fault with Daniel because he was faithful and because he was a man of innocence. The 1828 Webster's Dictionary defines the word innocent as "not producing injury; free from guilt; not having done wrong or violated any law; not tainted with sin; pure; upright." Not only had Daniel done no wrong against the king, but he also said that he was found innocent before God. How is a man found innocent before God?



Jesus Christ said, “Every spirit of man was **innocent in the beginning**, and God having redeemed man from the fall, men became again in their infant state, **innocent before God**. And that wicked one cometh and taketh away light and truth, **through disobedience**, from the children of men, and because of the tradition of their fathers.” [DC 90:6b-c]. Nevertheless, God told Adam, “Inasmuch as thy children are conceived in sin, even so, when they begin to grow up sin conceiveth in their hearts, and they taste the bitter, that they may know to prize the good. And it is given unto them to know good from evil; wherefore, they are agents unto themselves.” [Genesis 6:57-58]

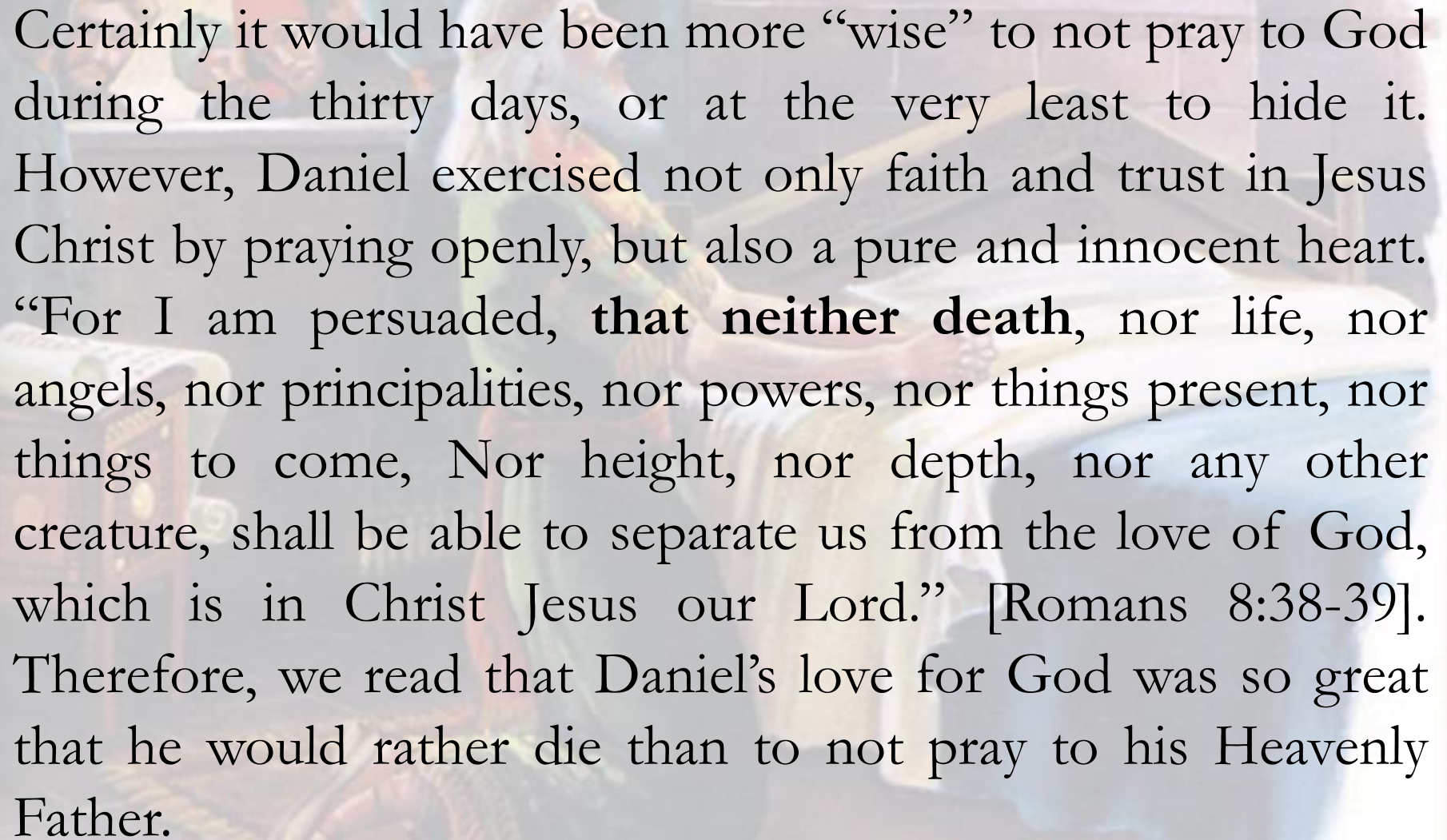
It is important to understand that God does not want to **reform** the children of men, but He wants to **restore** the children of men to be the sons and daughters of God. He wants to restore us to a state of innocence. However, not a state of innocence such as Adam and Eve had in the beginning, for all they understood was that God was their creator, but instead to one that has been washed clean before God and understands the everlasting joy of our redemption. “And unto him [Jesus Christ] who loved us, be glory; who washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, his Father. To him be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.” [Revelation 1:6]

**4:9** And in that day, the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam, which beareth record of the Father and the Son, saying, I am the Only Begotten of the Father from the beginning, henceforth and forever; that, as thou hast fallen, **thou mayest be redeemed**, and all mankind, even as many as will. **4:10** And in that day Adam blessed God, and was filled, and began to prophesy concerning all the families of the earth; saying, Blessed be the name of God, for, because of my transgression **my eyes are opened**, and in this **life I shall have joy**, and again, in the flesh I shall see God. **4:11** And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying, Were it ***not*** for our transgression, we never should have had seed, and never should have known good and evil, and **the joy of our redemption**, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient. [Genesis 4:9-11]



**3:29** And he [Jesus Christ] hath brought to pass the redemption of the world, whereby he that is found guiltless before him at the judgment day, hath it given unto him to dwell in the presence of God in his kingdom, to sing ceaseless praises with the choirs above, unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, which are one God, *in a state of happiness which hath no end.* [Mormon 3:29]

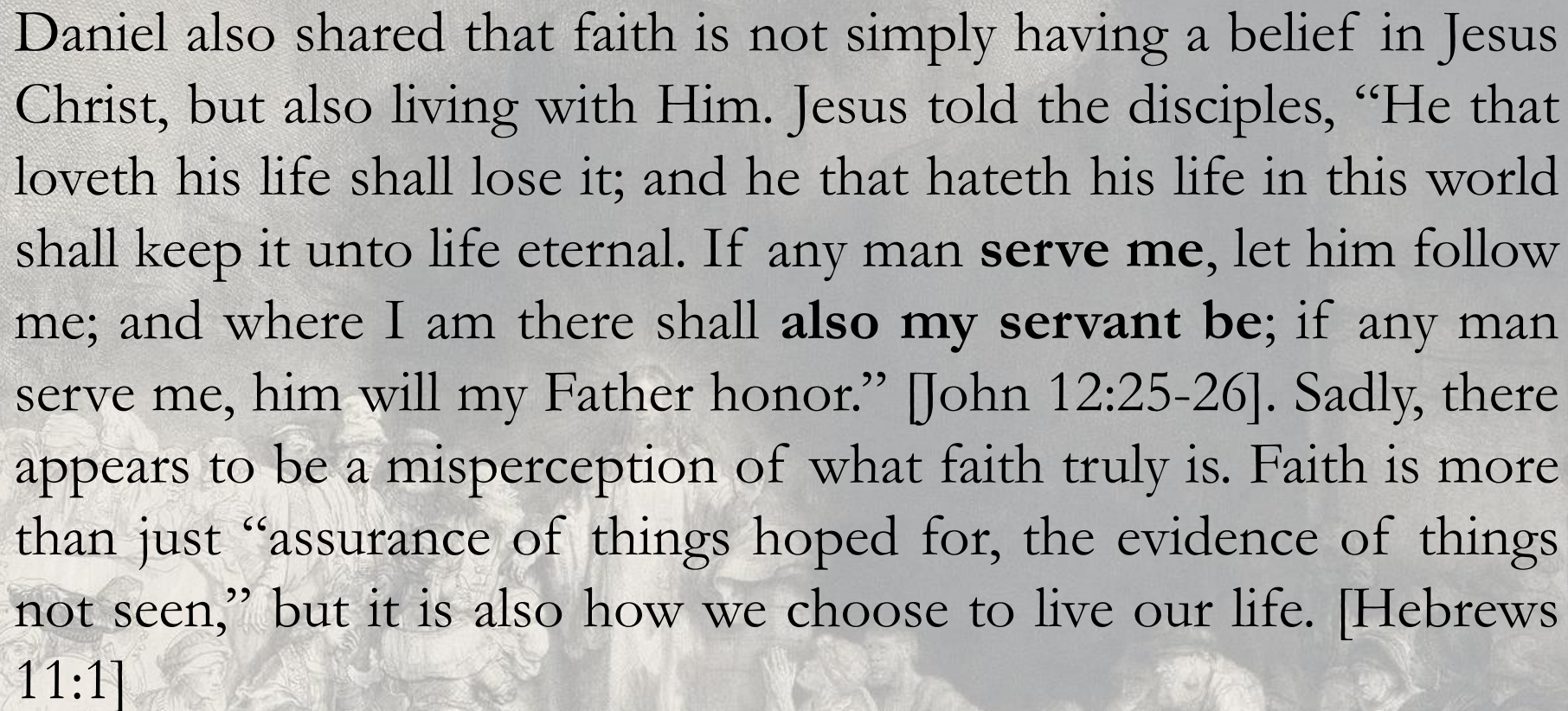
For Daniel to be found innocent before God he must have had a friendship with Jesus Christ. “And behold they are righteous for ever; for because of their **faith in the Lamb of God**, their garments are made white in his blood.” [1 Nephi 3:117]. Because the presidents and princes could find no fault in Daniel, they devised a plan to kill him by using his faith against him. Knowing and understanding that Daniel prayed to God daily, they established a decree that Daniel could not possibly follow. Nonetheless, Daniel was not ignorant of the royal statute, for we read, “Now when Daniel *knew* that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and, his windows being *open* in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, *as he did aforetime.*”



Certainly it would have been more “wise” to not pray to God during the thirty days, or at the very least to hide it. However, Daniel exercised not only faith and trust in Jesus Christ by praying openly, but also a pure and innocent heart. “For I am persuaded, **that neither death,** nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [Romans 8:38-39]. Therefore, we read that Daniel’s love for God was so great that he would rather die than to not pray to his Heavenly Father.

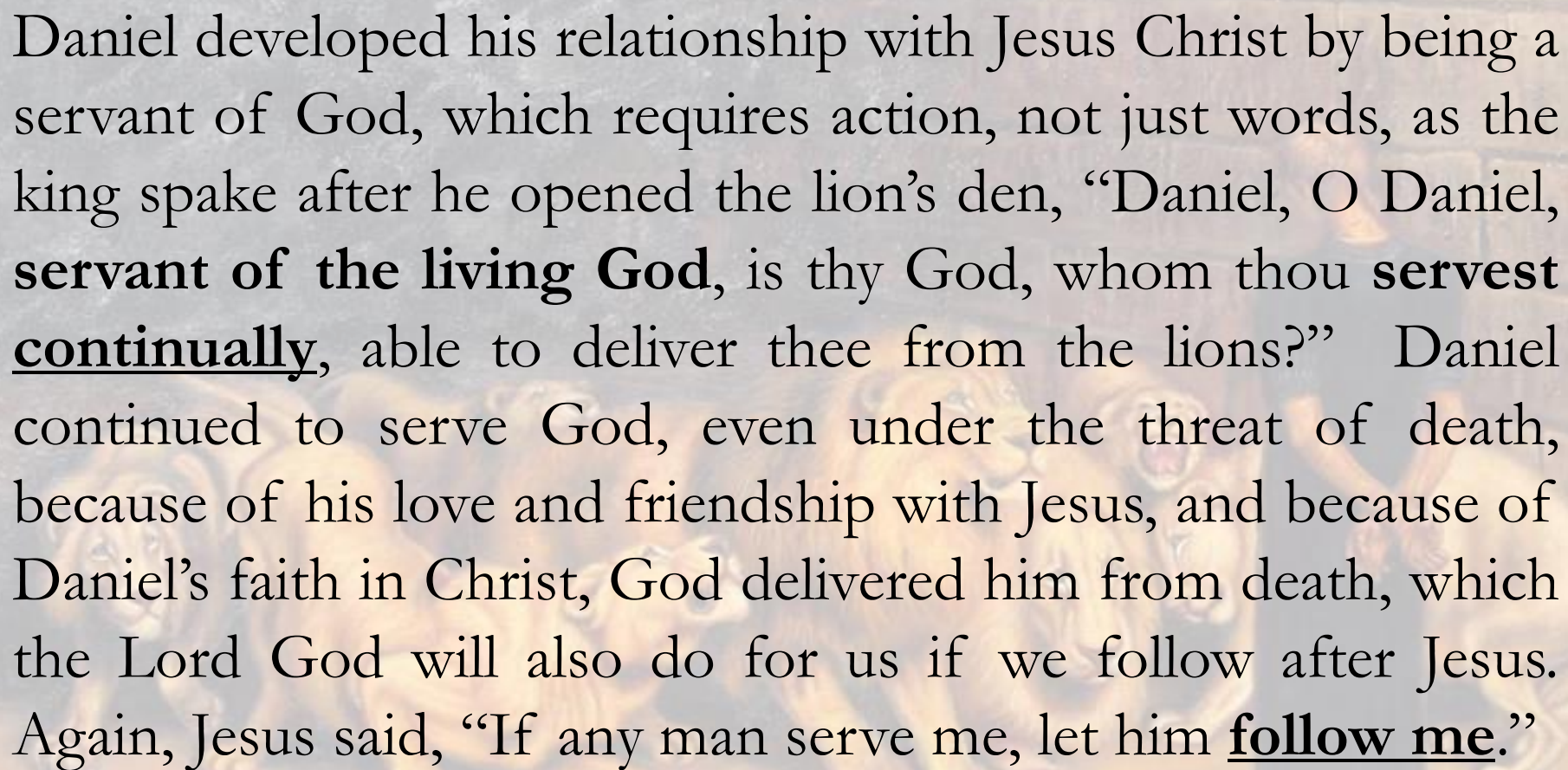
Daniel's love was not in vain, and the conspiracy of the presidents and princes was destroyed for God delivered Daniel from the lions by sending an angel to protect him. Daniel shared in his testimony that when we exercise our faith in Jesus Christ, that He restores us to a state of innocence by cleansing us of all our sins and that He protects us. "Behold, I say unto you, Go forth as I have commanded you; **repent of all your sins**; ask and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you: behold, **I will go before you**, and be your **rearward**; and **I will be in your midst**, and you shall not be confounded; behold, I am Jesus Christ, and I come quickly. Even so. Amen." [DC 49:5c-d]





Daniel also shared that faith is not simply having a belief in Jesus Christ, but also living with Him. Jesus told the disciples, “He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man **serve me**, let him follow me; and where I am there shall **also my servant be**; if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.” [John 12:25-26]. Sadly, there appears to be a misperception of what faith truly is. Faith is more than just “assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen,” but it is also how we choose to live our life. [Hebrews 11:1]

**2:14** What profit is it, my brethren, for a man to say he hath faith, and **hath not works**? can faith save him? **2:15** Yea, a man **may** say, I will show thee I have faith without works; but I say, show me thy faith without works, and I will show thee my faith **by my works**. [James 2:14-15]



Daniel developed his relationship with Jesus Christ by being a servant of God, which requires action, not just words, as the king spake after he opened the lion's den, “Daniel, O Daniel, **servant of the living God**, is thy God, whom thou **servest continually**, able to deliver thee from the lions?” Daniel continued to serve God, even under the threat of death, because of his love and friendship with Jesus, and because of Daniel's faith in Christ, God delivered him from death, which the Lord God will also do for us if we follow after Jesus. Again, Jesus said, “If any man serve me, let him **follow me.**”

**13:11** And again: It sheweth unto the children of men the straightness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he [Jesus Christ] having set the *example* before them. **13:12** And he said unto the children of men, **Follow thou me.** **13:13** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus, save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father? **13:14** And the Father said, Repent ye, repent ye, and be baptized in the name of my beloved Son. **13:15** And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying, He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, **follow me**, and do the things which ye have seen me do.

**Continued...**

**13:16** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye **shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart**, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father, that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism; yea, by ***following*** your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word; behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; **13:17** Yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel...**13:21** And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this, that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, **he can not be saved**; **13:22** Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen, that your Lord and your Redeemer should do: **13:23** For, for this cause have they been shewn unto me, that ye might know the **gate by which ye should enter**.

**13:24** For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost. **13:25** And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; **13:26** And ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye enter in by the way, ye should receive. **13:27** And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask, *if all is done?* [2 Nephi 13:11-17 and 21-27]

The Kingdom of God is the gate by which we should enter, and once we enter the Kingdom, or rather once we are spiritually born of God, we are adopted as the sons and daughters of God and become joint heirs of the promise with Jesus Christ. “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his son...To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive **the adoption of sons**. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the **Spirit of his son into your hearts**, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, **then an heir of God through Christ.**” [Galatians 4:4-7]. It was not because of Daniel himself that the king favored him and established him as president over the entire kingdom, but because “an excellent spirit was in him,” which was the Holy Ghost who testifies of God and Jesus Christ.

In order for the king to be able to recognize the Spirit in Daniel, Daniel must have taken the Holy Ghost to be his guide. Paul wrote in Romans, chapter eight, “For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, they are the **sons of God**. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of adoption**; whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, **that we are the children of God**; And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” [Romans 8:14-17]

The Holy Ghost bears record with our spirit that we are the sons and daughters of God if we keep the commandments and truly take upon us the name of Christ, for we know that the Holy Ghost is the voice of both God and Jesus Christ that speaks to our soul. “And now I say unto you, that the good shepherd **doth call after you**; and if you will hearken unto his voice, he will bring you into his fold, and ye are his sheep.” [Alma 3:105]. If we listen to the Lord’s still small voice and follow after Jesus, He will bring us into His fold, or in other words His Kingdom. In so doing, God will deliver us from death and hell just as He delivered Daniel from the lion’s den.



**3:8** And now, because of the covenant which ye have made, ye shall be called **the children of Christ**, his sons, and his daughters: **3:9** For behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed *through faith on his name*; therefore, ye are born of him, and have become his sons and his daughters. **3:10** And under this head ye are **made free**; and there is no other head whereby ye can be made free. **3:11** There is no other name given, whereby salvation cometh, therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God, that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives. **3:12** And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this, shall be found at the right hand of God, **for he shall know the name by which he is called**; for he shall be called by the name of Christ.

[Mosiah 3:8-12]

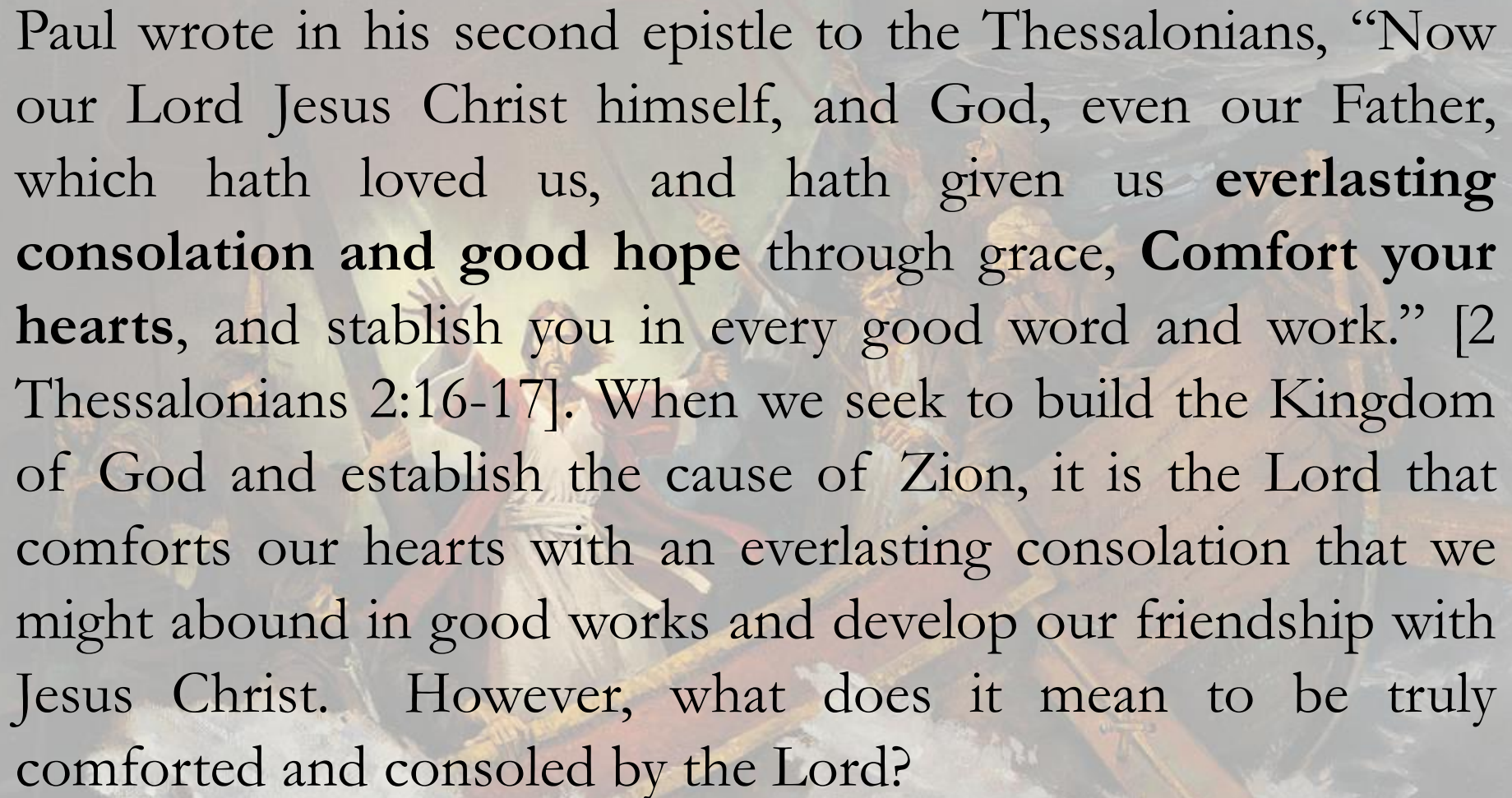
Daniel has shared that through faith, service, and the Holy Ghost we can be restored to innocence and be protected from spiritual death by entering into the Kingdom of God. Therefore, we know that by listening to the voice of the Lord we too can develop that friendship with Jesus Christ. However, as mentioned previously, it takes more than just a belief in Jesus, but also to follow after Christ and to serve Him, even when faced with tremendous trials, such as physical death. For we know that if we are called after the name of Jesus Christ we will be found at the right hand of God.

King Darius said, “I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and his kingdom that which **shall not be destroyed**, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath *delivered* Daniel from the power of the lions.”



# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

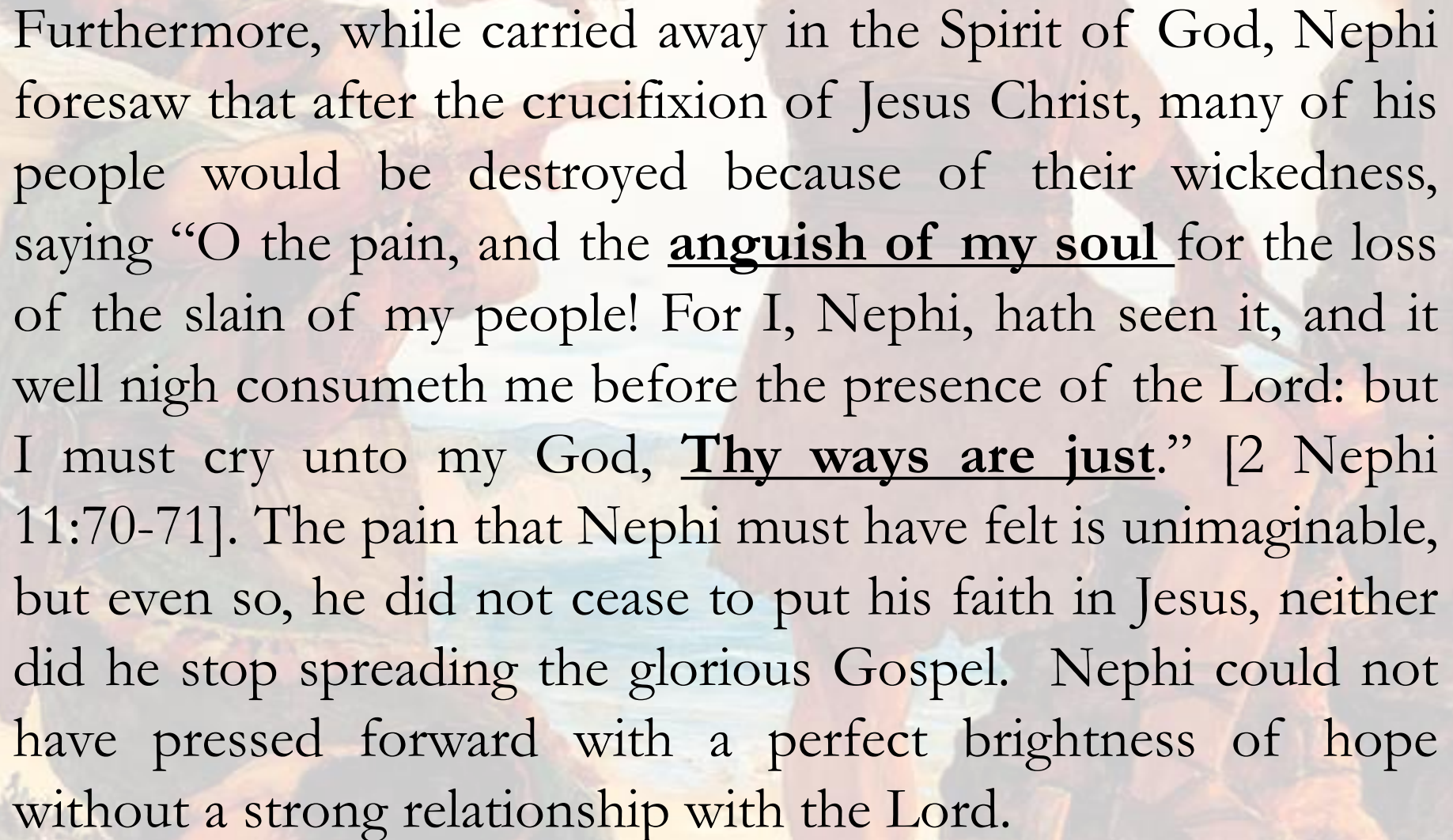
Comforted and Everlasting  
Consolation



Paul wrote in his second epistle to the Thessalonians, “Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us **everlasting consolation and good hope** through grace, **Comfort your hearts**, and stablish you in every good word and work.” [2 Thessalonians 2:16-17]. When we seek to build the Kingdom of God and establish the cause of Zion, it is the Lord that comforts our hearts with an everlasting consolation that we might abound in good works and develop our friendship with Jesus Christ. However, what does it mean to be truly comforted and consoled by the Lord?

The Scriptures explain that the work of the Lord is not grievous, nonetheless the prophets have shared that there are moments when the work can bring anguish to the soul, not necessarily because of our own sins, but because of the choices and actions of others. For example, while Lehi's family traveled to the promise land, Nephi was in almost constant struggle with his two elder brothers, Laman and Lemuel, and although they had witnessed the power of God on many occasions, they would not soften their hearts and turn to Christ. "And now I, Nephi, was **grieved** because of the hardness of their hearts, and also because of the things which I had seen, and knew they must unavoidably come to pass because of the great wickedness of the children of men. And it came to pass that I was **overcome** because of my afflictions, for I considered that mine afflictions were great above all, because of the destructions of my people; for I had beheld their fall." [1 Nephi 4:5-6]

**5:144** Ye [Laman and Lemuel] are swift to do iniquity, but slow to remember the Lord your God. **5:145** Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have heard his voice from time to time; **5:146** And he hath spoken unto you in a still, small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words; **5:147** Wherefore, he has spoken unto you like unto the voice of thunder, which did cause the earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder. **5:148** And ye also know that by the power of his almighty word he can cause the earth that it shall pass away; **5:149** Yea, and ye know that by his word he can cause the rough places to be made smooth, and smooth places shall be broken up. **5:150** O, then, why is it that ye can be so hard in your hearts? **5:151** Behold, **my soul is rent with *anguish* because of you, and my heart is pained:** I fear lest ye shall be cast off for ever. **5:152** Behold, I am full of the Spirit of God, insomuch that my frame has no strength. [1 Nephi 5:144-152]



Furthermore, while carried away in the Spirit of God, Nephi foresaw that after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, many of his people would be destroyed because of their wickedness, saying “O the pain, and the anguish of my soul for the loss of the slain of my people! For I, Nephi, hath seen it, and it well nigh consumeth me before the presence of the Lord: but I must cry unto my God, Thy ways are just.” [2 Nephi 11:70-71]. The pain that Nephi must have felt is unimaginable, but even so, he did not cease to put his faith in Jesus, neither did he stop spreading the glorious Gospel. Nephi could not have pressed forward with a perfect brightness of hope without a strong relationship with the Lord.

Alma the Younger experienced a similar anguish to that of Nephi when he preached to the Ammonihahites, as we read, “And it came to pass that while he [Alma] was journeying thither, being weighed down with sorrow, wading through much tribulation and **anguish of soul**, because of the wickedness of the people who were in the city of Ammonihah.” [Alma 6:17]. Nevertheless, we can surmise from the Scriptures that Alma perhaps experienced a greater anguish than Nephi because he understood firsthand the awful reality of a condemned soul and the consequences of sin.



“But I was racked with eternal torment, for my soul was harrowed up to the greatest degree, and racked with all my sins. Yea, I did remember all my sins and iniquities, for which I was tormented with the pains of hell...Yea, and in fine, so great had been my iniquities, that the very thoughts of coming into the presence of my God, did rack my soul with inexpressible horror. O, thought I, that I could be banished and become extinct both soul and body, that I might not be brought to stand in the presence of my God, to be judged of my deeds.” [Alma 17:10 and 12-13]

Alma's testimony did not end in the gall of bitterness, but continued forward into the comfort and everlasting consolation through Jesus Christ. We asked earlier, what does it mean to be truly comforted and consoled by the Lord? The Webster's Dictionary defines the word comfort as, "To strengthen; to invigorate; to cheer or enliven. To strengthen the mind when depressed or enfeebled; to give new vigor to the spirits," while the word consolation is defined as, "Comfort; alleviation of misery, or distress of mind; refreshment of mind or spirits; a comparative degree of happiness in distress or misfortune, springing from any circumstance that abates the evil, or supports and strengthens the mind, as hope, joy, courage and the like." Nonetheless, the true answer to this question is found in Alma 17

**17:14** And now, for three days and for three nights was I racked, even with the pains of a damned soul. **17:15** And it came to pass that as I was thus racked with torment, while I was harrowed up by the memory of my many sins, behold, I remembered also to have heard my father prophesy unto the people, concerning the coming of one Jesus Christ, a Son of God, to atone for the sins of the world. **17:16** Now as **my mind caught hold** upon this thought, **I cried within my heart**, O Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me, who art in the gall of bitterness, and art encircled about by the everlasting chains of death. **17:17** And now behold, when I thought this, ***I could remember my pains no more***; yea, I was harrowed by the memory of ***my sins no more***. **17:18** And O, what joy, and what marvelous light I did behold; yea, my soul was filled with joy as exceeding as was my pain; yea, I say unto you, my son, that there could be nothing so exquisite and so bitter as were my pains.

**Continued...**

**17:19** Yea, and again I say unto you, my son, that on the other hand, there can be nothing so exquisite and sweet as was *my joy*; **17:20** Yea, methought I saw even as our father Lehi saw, God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels, in the attitude of singing and praising their God; yea, and my soul did long to be there. **17:21** But behold, my limbs did receive their strength again, and I stood upon my feet, and did manifest unto the people that I had been born of God; **17:22** Yea, and from that time, even until now, I have *labored without ceasing*, that I might bring souls unto repentance; that I might bring them to taste of the exceeding joy of which I did taste; that they might also be born of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

**Continued...**

**17:23** Yea, and now behold, O my son, the Lord doth give me exceeding great joy in the fruit of my labors; for because of the word which he has imparted unto me, behold, many have been born of God, and have tasted as I have tasted, and have seen eye to eye, as I have seen; **17:24** Therefore they do know of these things of which I have spoken, as I do know; and the knowledge which I have is of God. **17:25** And **I have been supported under trials and troubles of every kind**, yea, and in all manner of afflictions; yea, God has delivered me from prison, and from bonds, and from death; yea, and I do put my trust in him, and he will still deliver me; **17:26** And I know that he will raise me up at the last day, to dwell with him in glory; yea, and **I will praise him for ever**... [Alma 17:14-26]

The Lord did not leave Alma comfortless, “It came to pass that while Alma was thus weighed down with sorrow, behold an angel of the Lord appeared unto him, saying, Blessed art thou, Alma; therefore **lift up thy head and rejoice**, for thou hast great cause to rejoice: For thou hast been **faithful** in keeping the commandments of God from the time which thou received thy first message from him.” [Alma 6:18-19]. Without the comfort of the Lord that Alma had received, how could Alma have been established in such a great and marvelous work?

It is important to remember that the Lord desires for the saints today to seek forth and establish the cause of Zion, and though the work itself is not grievous, we too might experience sorrow because of the choices of others. Nonetheless, the prophets have shared that no matter how much we might want to give up in despair; Jesus Christ will not leave us nor forsake us.

**5:90** Therefore, the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy and holiness shall be upon their heads; **5:91** And they shall obtain gladness and joy: sorrow and mourning shall flee away. **5:92** I am he; yea, *I am he that comforteth you.* [2 Nephi 5:90-92]

**3:187** And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; **3:188** And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and **shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb;** **3:189** And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be. [1 Nephi 3:187-189]

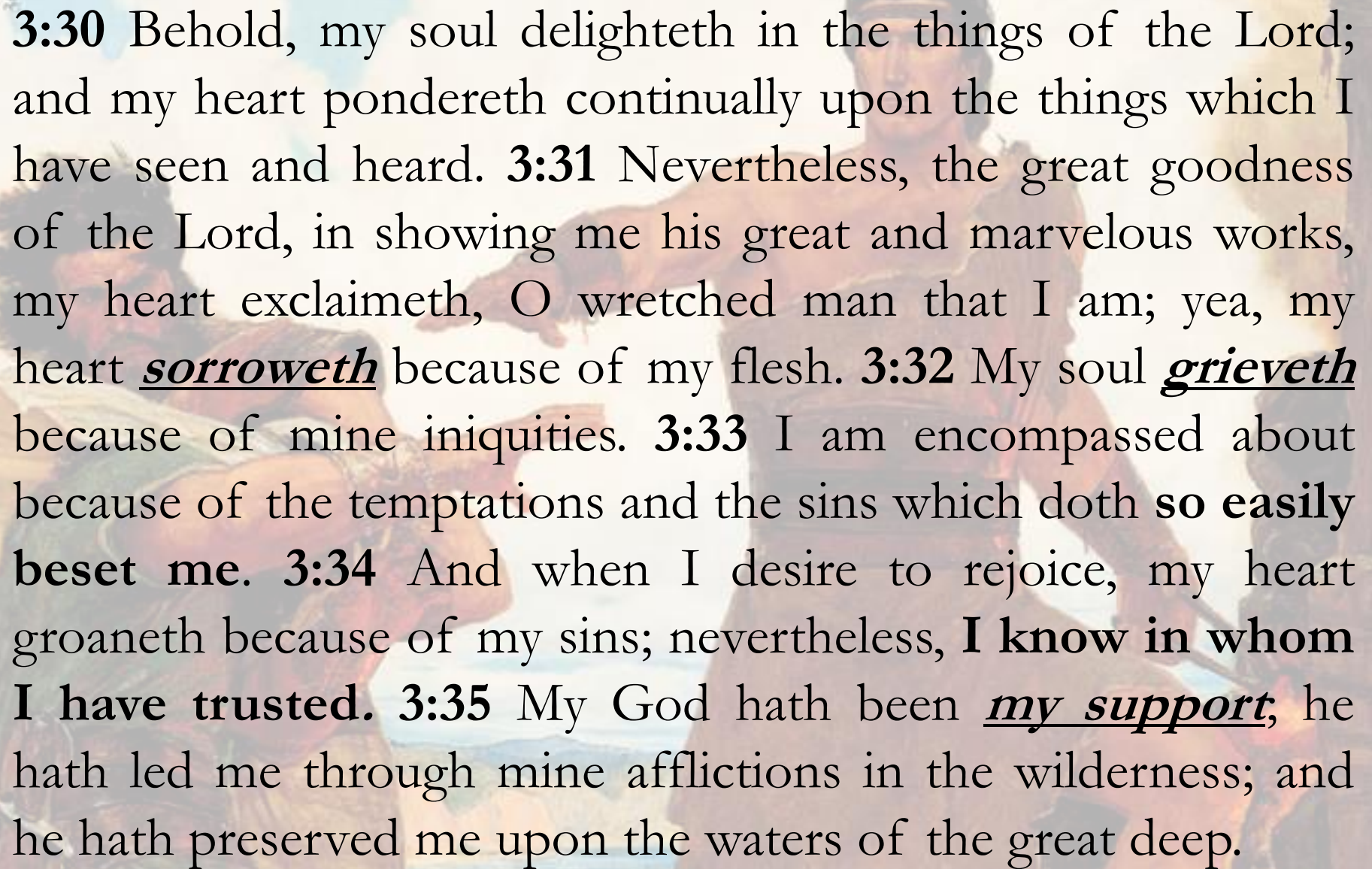
The prophets have shared that although we may have sorrow because of the choices of others, Jesus Christ will comfort our hearts and establish us in His good works. Further, we read through the testimony of Alma that there are also times when our own choices do cause us to experience anguish of the soul, and again it is the Lord that consoles us through the remission of sins and the pure love of Christ. Certainly there have been moments in each of our lives where our temptations and sins were too much for us to bear and they threatened to bring us down forever into misery and woe. However, it is important to remember at these times, “For God sent ***not*** his Son into the world to **condemn** the world; but that the world through him **might be saved**...Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” [John 3:17 and John 15:13]



**2:14** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Jesus Christ] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; **2:15** And deliver them, who through fear of death were **all their lifetime subject to bondage**. **2:16** For verily, he took not on him the likeness of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. **2:17** Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. **2:18** For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted. [Hebrews 2:14-18]

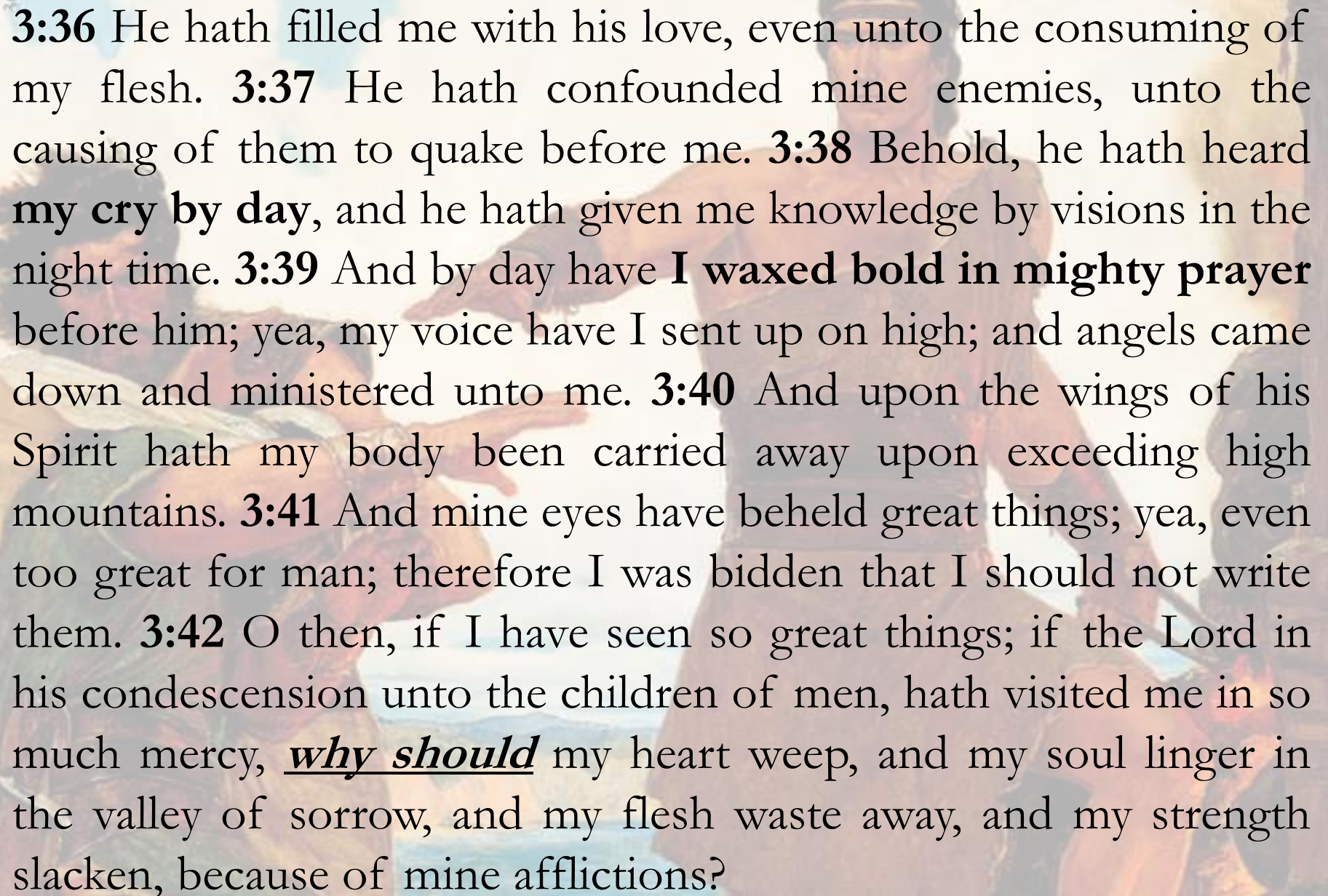
**4:14** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. **4:15** For we have not a high priest [Jesus Christ] which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was on all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. **4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. [Hebrews 4:14-16]

Jesus experienced the same trials and temptations that we experience today, and because He truly understands our pain and anguish, He is able to succor those that are tempted, meaning, “Literally, to run to, or run to support; hence, to help or relieve when in difficulty, want or distress; to assist and deliver from suffering.” We read through the testimony of Nephi, that Jesus Christ will deliver us in our time of need if we will but trust in Him.



**3:30** Behold, my soul delighteth in the things of the Lord; and my heart pondereth continually upon the things which I have seen and heard. **3:31** Nevertheless, the great goodness of the Lord, in showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth, O wretched man that I am; yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh. **3:32** My soul grieveth because of mine iniquities. **3:33** I am encompassed about because of the temptations and the sins which doth **so easily beset me**. **3:34** And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; nevertheless, **I know in whom I have trusted**. **3:35** My God hath been my support, he hath led me through mine afflictions in the wilderness; and he hath preserved me upon the waters of the great deep.

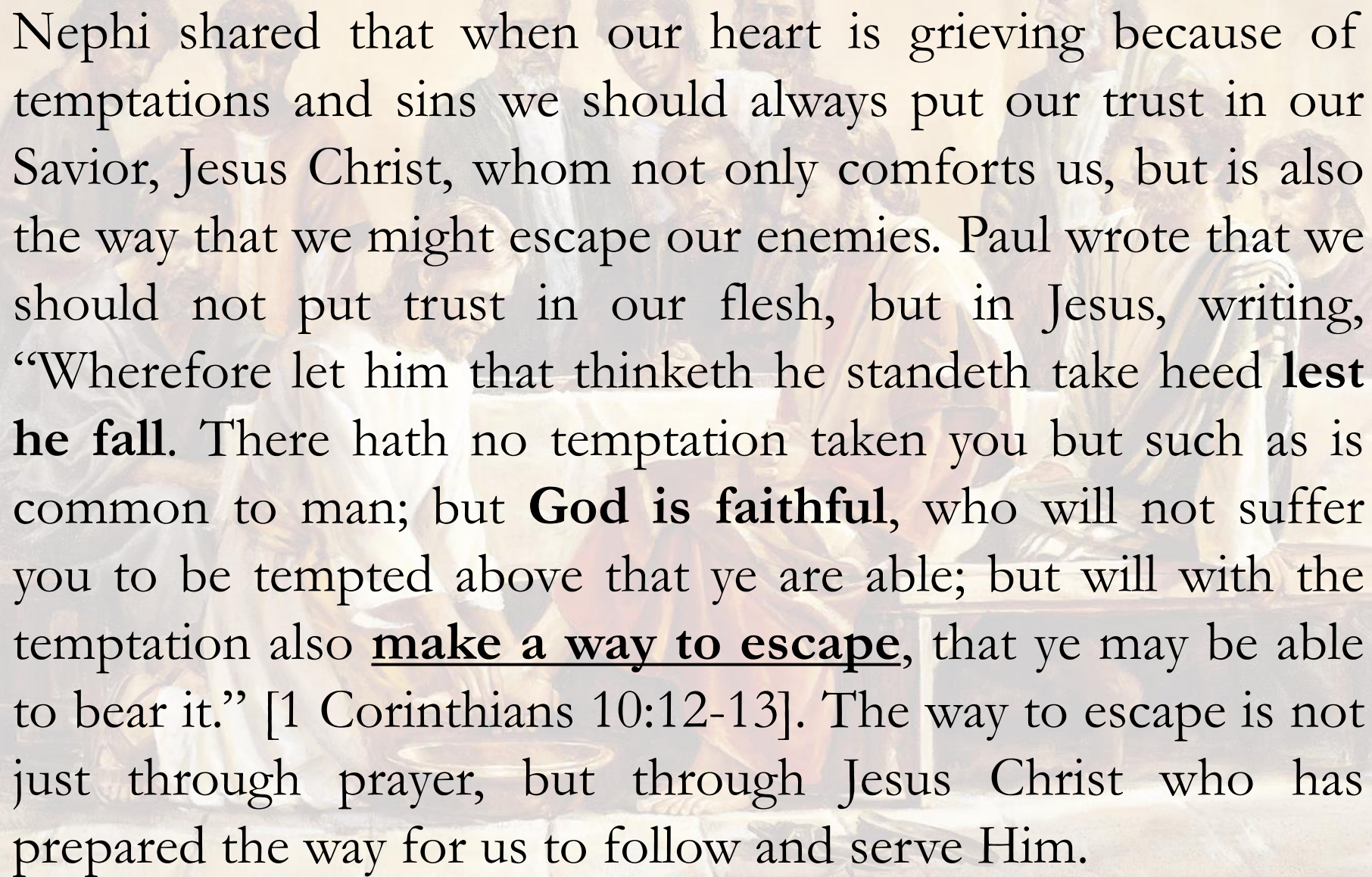
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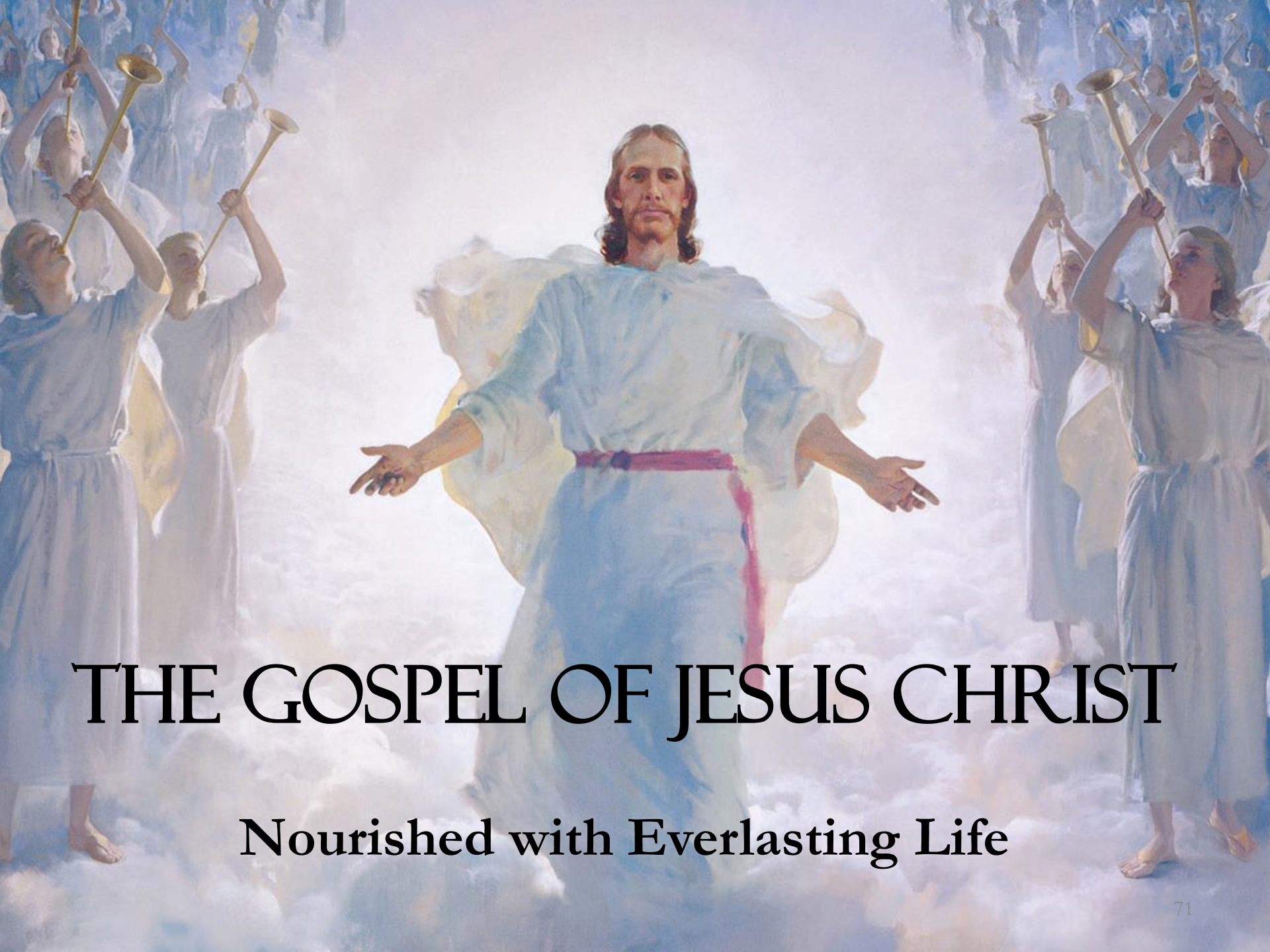
**3:36** He hath filled me with his love, even unto the consuming of my flesh. **3:37** He hath confounded mine enemies, unto the causing of them to quake before me. **3:38** Behold, he hath heard **my cry by day**, and he hath given me knowledge by visions in the night time. **3:39** And by day have **I waxed bold in mighty prayer** before him; yea, my voice have I sent up on high; and angels came down and ministered unto me. **3:40** And upon the wings of his Spirit hath my body been carried away upon exceeding high mountains. **3:41** And mine eyes have beheld great things; yea, even too great for man; therefore I was bidden that I should not write them. **3:42** O then, if I have seen so great things; if the Lord in his condescension unto the children of men, hath visited me in so much mercy, **why should** my heart weep, and my soul linger in the valley of sorrow, and my flesh waste away, and my strength slacken, because of mine afflictions?

**Continued...**

**3:43** And why should I yield to sin, because of my flesh? **3:44** Yea, why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart, to destroy my peace and afflict my soul? **3:45** Why am I angry because of mine enemy? **3:46** Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin. **3:47** Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul. **3:48** Do not anger again, because of mine enemies. **3:49** Do not slacken my strength, because of mine afflictions. **3:50** Rejoice, O my heart, and cry unto the Lord, and say, O Lord, I will praise thee for ever; yea, my soul will rejoice in thee, my God, and the rock of my salvation. **3:51** O Lord, wilt thou redeem my soul? **3:52** Wilt thou deliver me out of the hands of mine enemies? **3:53** Wilt thou make me that I may **shake at the appearance of sin**? **3:54** May the gates of hell be shut continually before me, because that my heart is broken and my spirit is contrite? [2 Nephi 3:30-54]

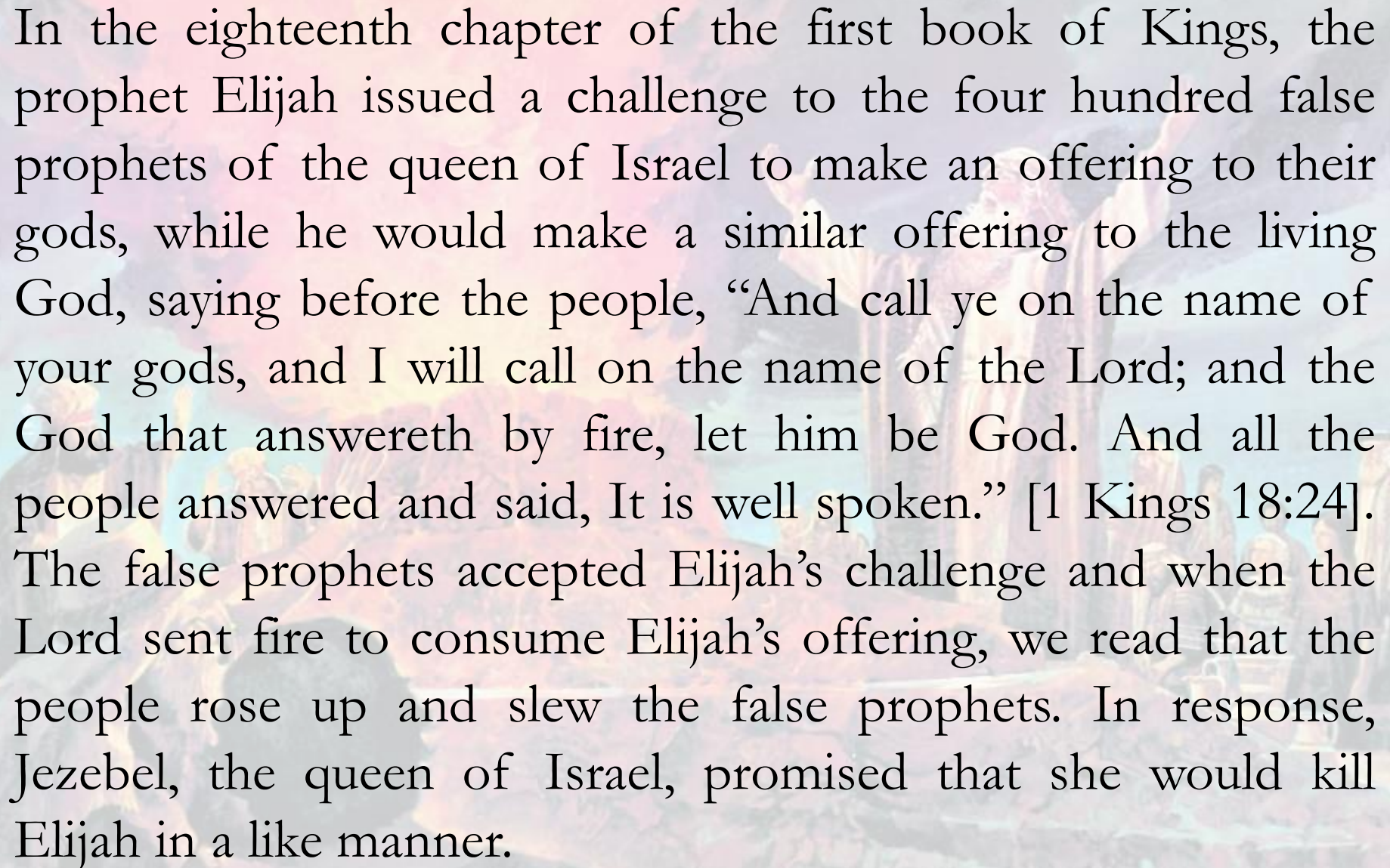


Nephi shared that when our heart is grieving because of temptations and sins we should always put our trust in our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom not only comforts us, but is also the way that we might escape our enemies. Paul wrote that we should not put trust in our flesh, but in Jesus, writing, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed **lest he fall**. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but **God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” [1 Corinthians 10:12-13]. The way to escape is not just through prayer, but through Jesus Christ who has prepared the way for us to follow and serve Him.



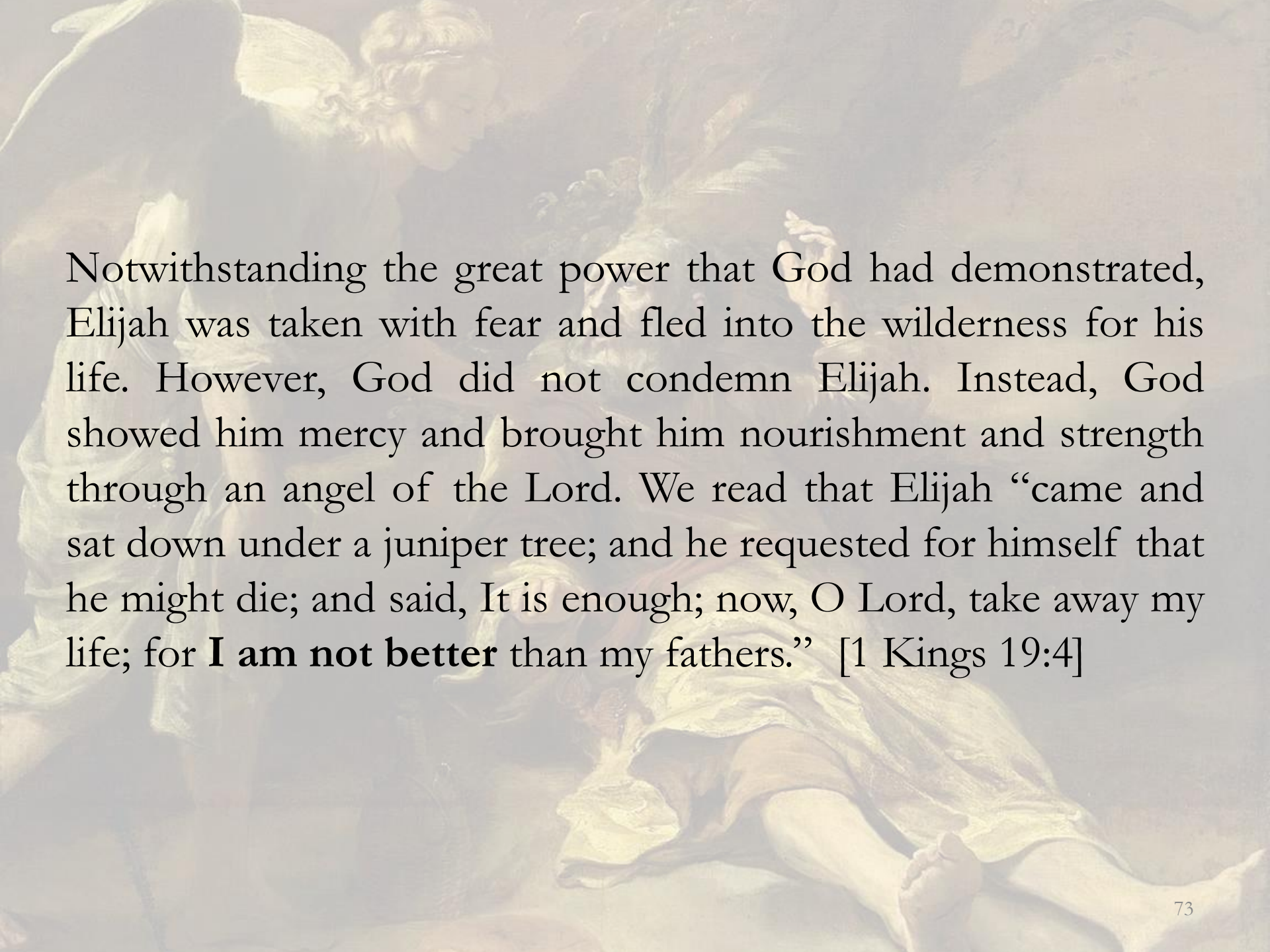
# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

**Nourished with Everlasting Life**

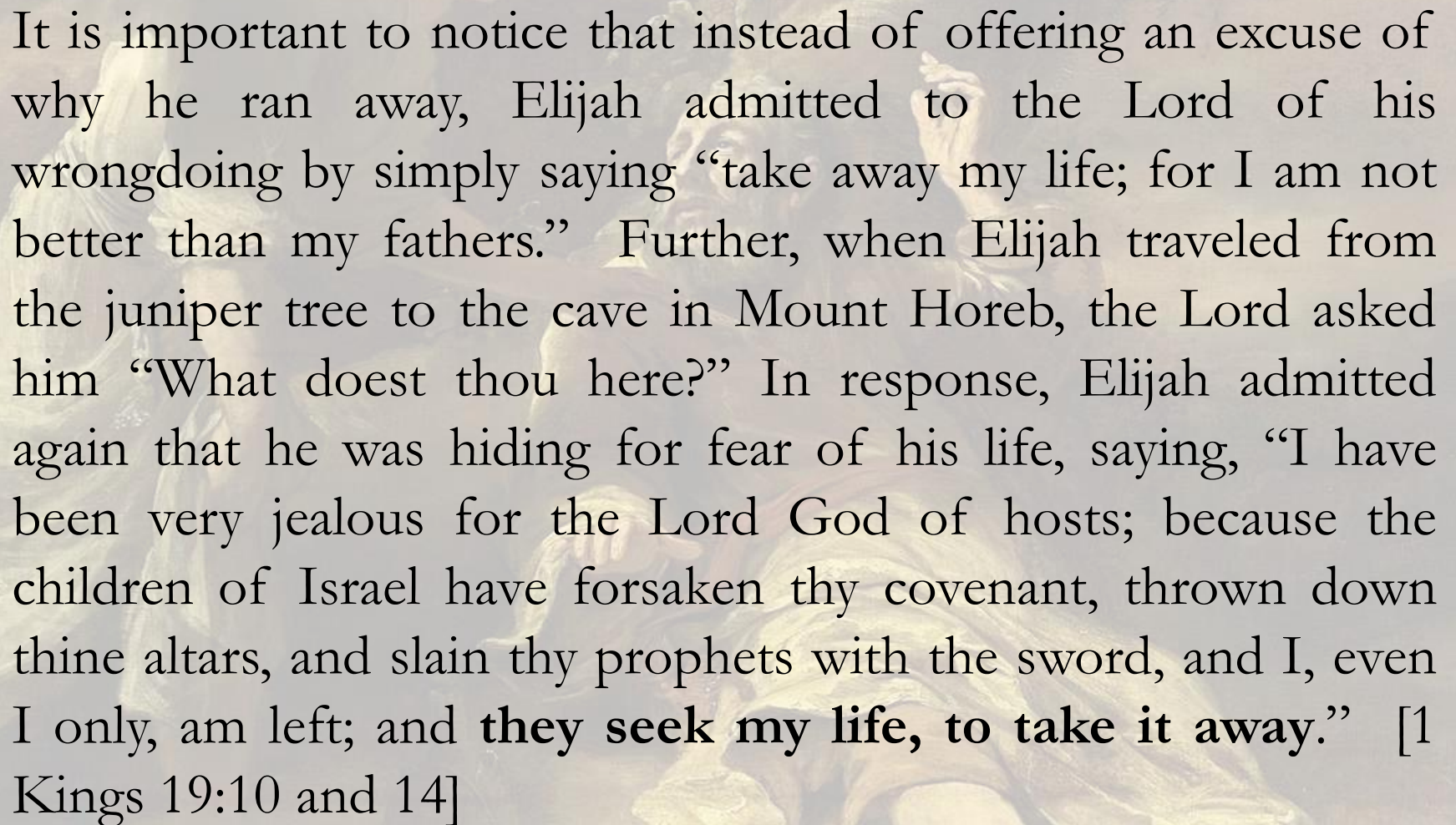


In the eighteenth chapter of the first book of Kings, the prophet Elijah issued a challenge to the four hundred false prophets of the queen of Israel to make an offering to their gods, while he would make a similar offering to the living God, saying before the people, “And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.” [1 Kings 18:24]. The false prophets accepted Elijah’s challenge and when the Lord sent fire to consume Elijah’s offering, we read that the people rose up and slew the false prophets. In response, Jezebel, the queen of Israel, promised that she would kill Elijah in a like manner.



A painting depicting the prophet Elijah being taken up to heaven by a chariot of fire, with an angel appearing to him. The scene is set in a dramatic, dark environment. An angel with large, feathered wings is shown in profile, looking down at Elijah. Elijah is lying on the ground, his body glowing with a golden light, suggesting he is being taken up. The background is dark and atmospheric, with a sense of divine presence.

Notwithstanding the great power that God had demonstrated, Elijah was taken with fear and fled into the wilderness for his life. However, God did not condemn Elijah. Instead, God showed him mercy and brought him nourishment and strength through an angel of the Lord. We read that Elijah “came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for **I am not better** than my fathers.” [1 Kings 19:4]



It is important to notice that instead of offering an excuse of why he ran away, Elijah admitted to the Lord of his wrongdoing by simply saying “take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.” Further, when Elijah traveled from the juniper tree to the cave in Mount Horeb, the Lord asked him “What doest thou here?” In response, Elijah admitted again that he was hiding for fear of his life, saying, “I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left; and **they seek my life, to take it away.**” [1 Kings 19:10 and 14]

Similar to how we struggle to acknowledge our weaknesses before the Lord, we also tend to struggle to confess our wrongdoings before God, fearing that in doing so they might become more real. However, true repentance, which is choosing to believe in Jesus Christ, requires confessing and forsaking our sins. In addition, repentance requires trusting in God that He will forgive us and not condemn us, for the Lord has said, “Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remembereth them **no more**. By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins. Behold, he will **confess them** and ***forsake them***.” [DC 58:9c-d]. Although Elijah was undoubtedly in misery because he feared for his life and ran away [read Matthew 16:25-28], he trusted in God enough to admit to Him that he did wrong. Nevertheless, Elijah did not simply stop at confessing his sins before the Lord, but he also sought to forsake them by serving God and obeying His commandments.

**19:5** And as he [Elijah] lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. **19:6** And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. **19:7** And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. **19:8** And he arose, and did eat and drink, and **went in the strength of that meat** forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. **19:9** And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him...**19:11** Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; **19:12** And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire **a still small voice.**

**Continued...**

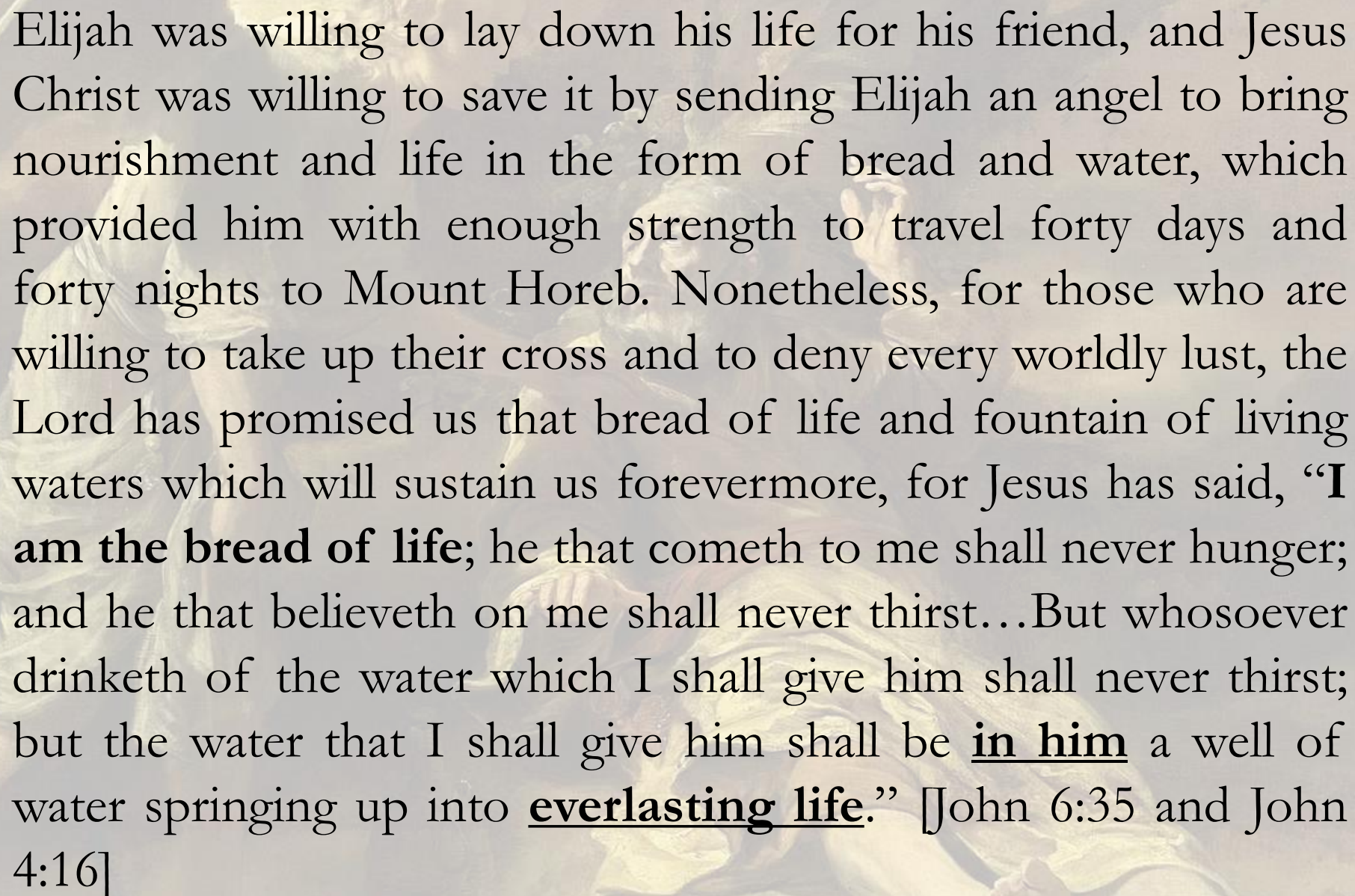
**19:13** And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? **19:14** And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. **19:15** And the Lord said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when thou comest, **anoint** Hazael to be king over Syria; **19:16** And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou **anoint** to be king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou **anoint** to be prophet in thy room...**19:19** So he departed thence. [1 Kings 19:5-19]

Elijah demonstrated that repentance is not just saying, “Please forgive me Lord.” Instead of remaining in misery and woe, Elijah went forth and did as God commanded, and in return, Elijah was ultimately caught up in to heaven by a chariot of fire. Unfortunately, it appears to be the instinct of the natural man to crawl and shrink into a corner when we know that we have transgressed God’s commandments. However, if we surrender to this desire, we will remain in that state, and though we may follow after Esau and seek carefully for repentance with tears [Hebrews 12:16-17], we will not receive that forgiveness until we **exercise** our faith in Jesus Christ. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, **he is faithful** and just to forgive us our sins, and to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.” [1 John 1:8-9]

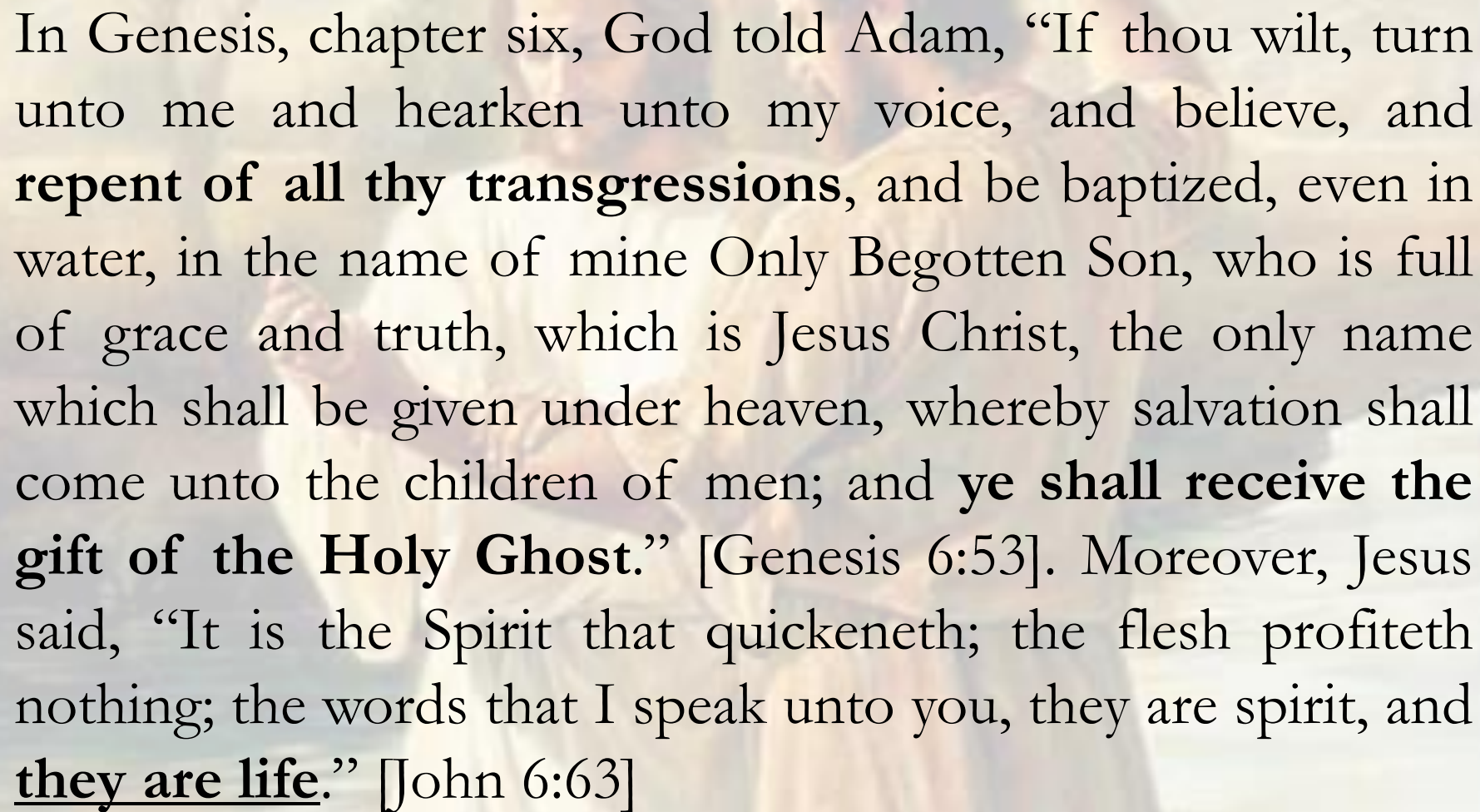
**1:3** And I will tell you of the wrestle which I had before God, **before** I received a remission of my sins; **1:4** Behold I went to hunt beasts in the forest; and the words which I had often heard my father speak, concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints, sunk deep into my heart. **1:5** And my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication, for mine own soul; **1:6** And all the day long did I cry unto him; yea, and when the night came, I did still raise my voice high, that it reached the heavens. **1:7** And there came a voice unto me saying, Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed. **1:8** And I, Enos, knew that God could not lie; wherefore, **my guilt was swept away.** **1:9** And I said, Lord, how is it done? **1:10** And he said unto me, **because of thy faith in Christ**, whom thou hast never before heard nor seen. [Enos 1:3-10]

It is only through Jesus Christ that we can receive a remission of sins, and because of Elijah's trust in the Son of God, he was able to repent by offering to lay down his life, not his physical life, but the life of the natural man. "And he [Elijah] requested for himself that he **might die**; and said, **It is enough**; now, O Lord, take away **my life**; for I am not better than my fathers." Jesus told the disciples in Mark, chapter eight, "For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it; or whosoever will save his life, shall be **willing to lay it down for my sake**; and if he is not willing to lay it down for my sake, he shall lose it. But whosoever shall be willing to lose his life for my sake, and the gospel, **the same shall save it.**" [Mark 8:37-38]

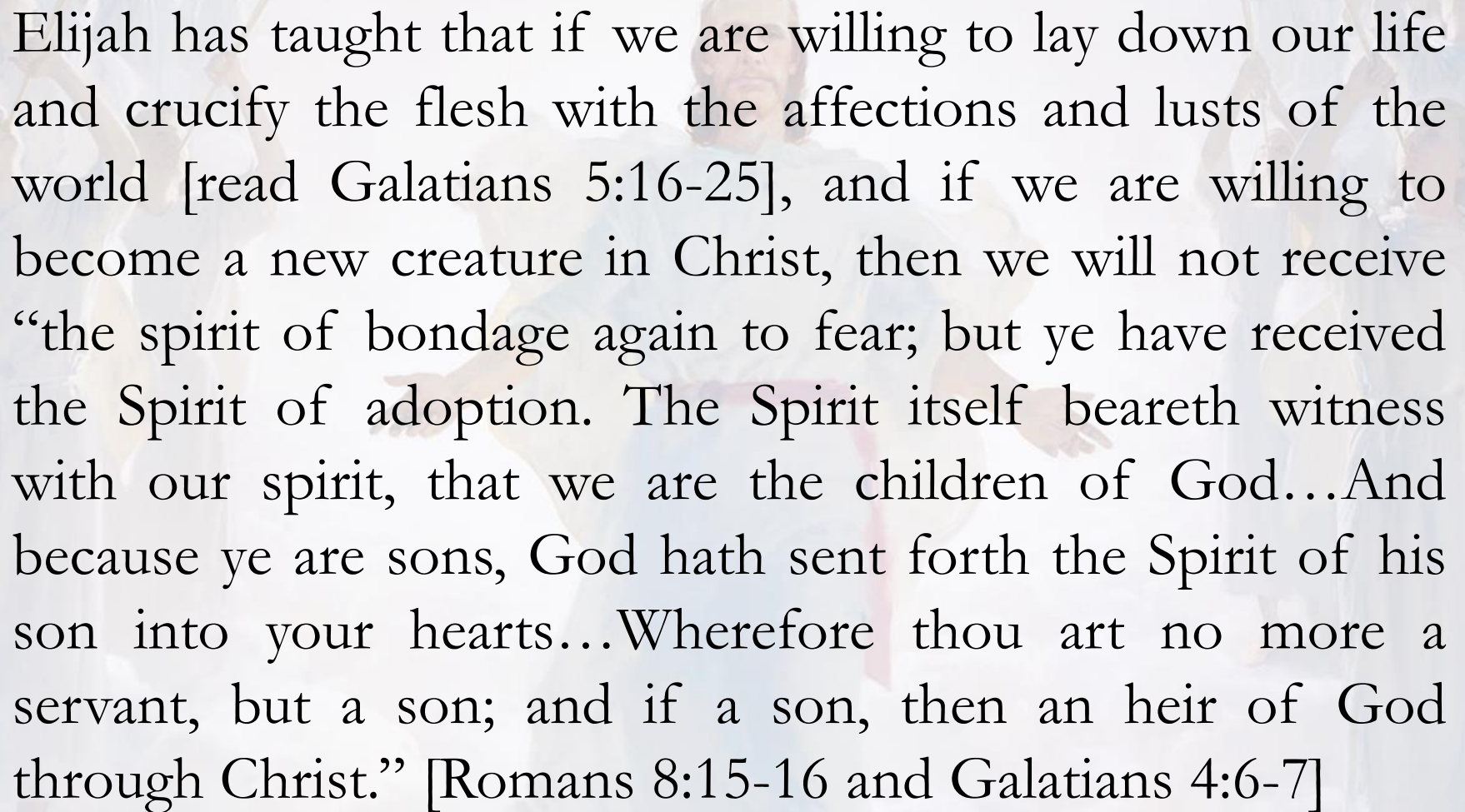




Elijah was willing to lay down his life for his friend, and Jesus Christ was willing to save it by sending Elijah an angel to bring nourishment and life in the form of bread and water, which provided him with enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb. Nonetheless, for those who are willing to take up their cross and to deny every worldly lust, the Lord has promised us that bread of life and fountain of living waters which will sustain us forevermore, for Jesus has said, “**I am the bread of life**; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst...But whosoever drinketh of the water which I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” [John 6:35 and John 4:16]



In Genesis, chapter six, God told Adam, “If thou wilt, turn unto me and hearken unto my voice, and believe, and **repent of all thy transgressions**, and be baptized, even in water, in the name of mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth, which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men; and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**” [Genesis 6:53]. Moreover, Jesus said, “It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and **they are life.**” [John 6:63]



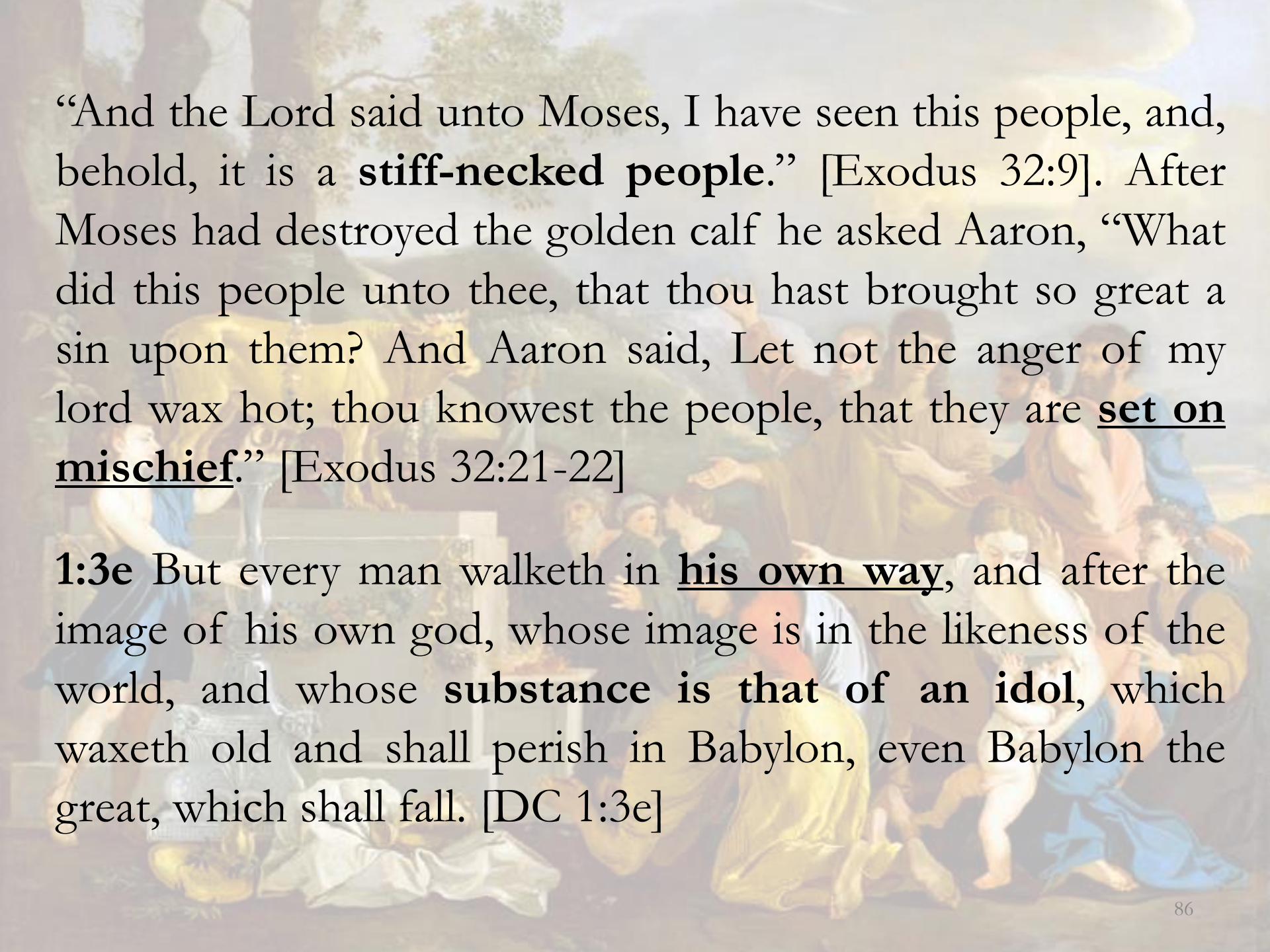
Elijah has taught that if we are willing to lay down our life and crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts of the world [read Galatians 5:16-25], and if we are willing to become a new creature in Christ, then we will not receive “the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God...And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his son into your hearts...Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” [Romans 8:15-16 and Galatians 4:6-7]



# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Directs our Steps to a better  
Land of Promise

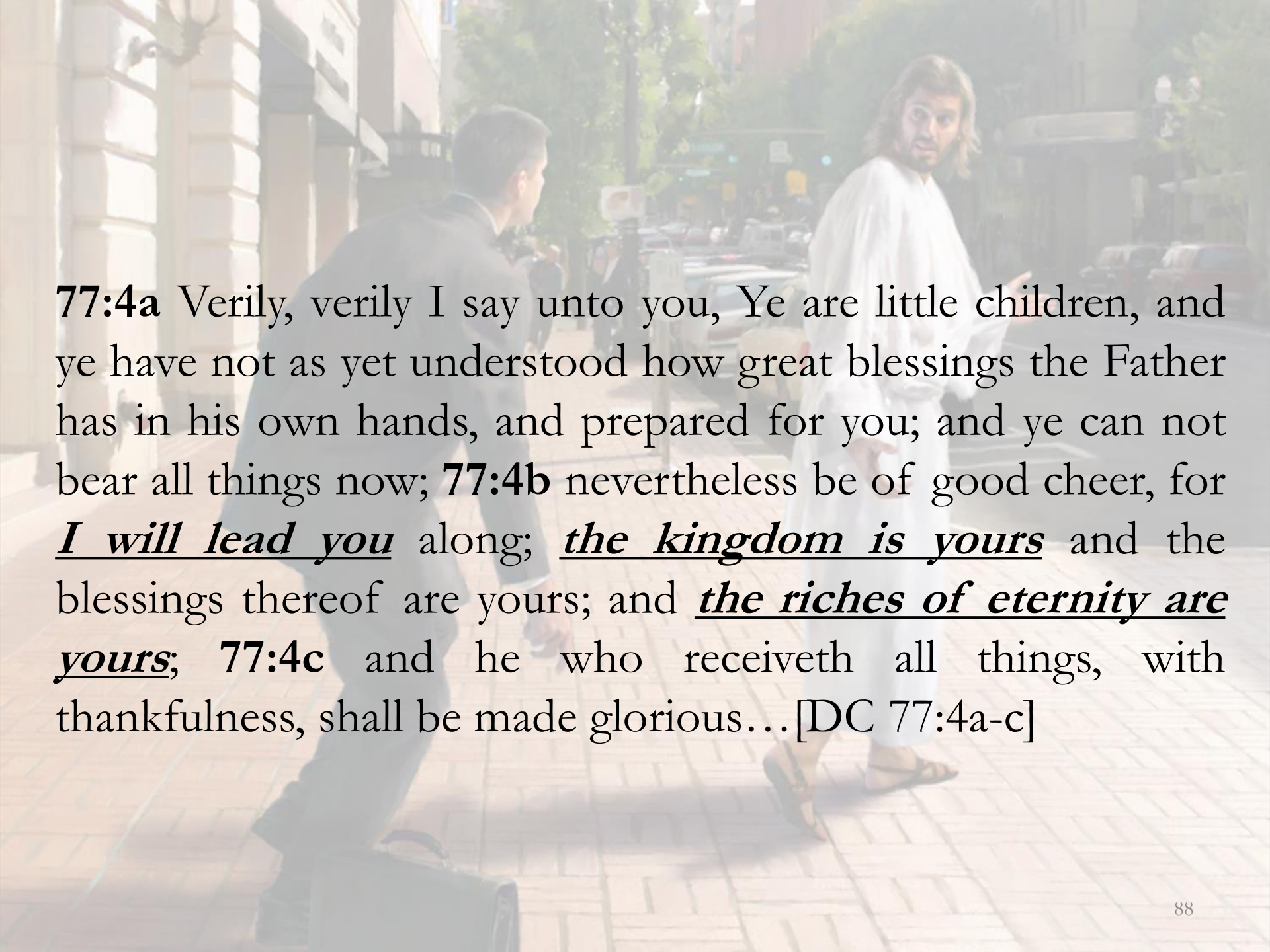




“And the Lord said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a **stiff-necked people.**” [Exodus 32:9]. After Moses had destroyed the golden calf he asked Aaron, “What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them? And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot; thou knowest the people, that they are **set on mischief.**” [Exodus 32:21-22]

**1:3e** But every man walketh in **his own way**, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose **substance is that of an idol**, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall. [DC 1:3e]

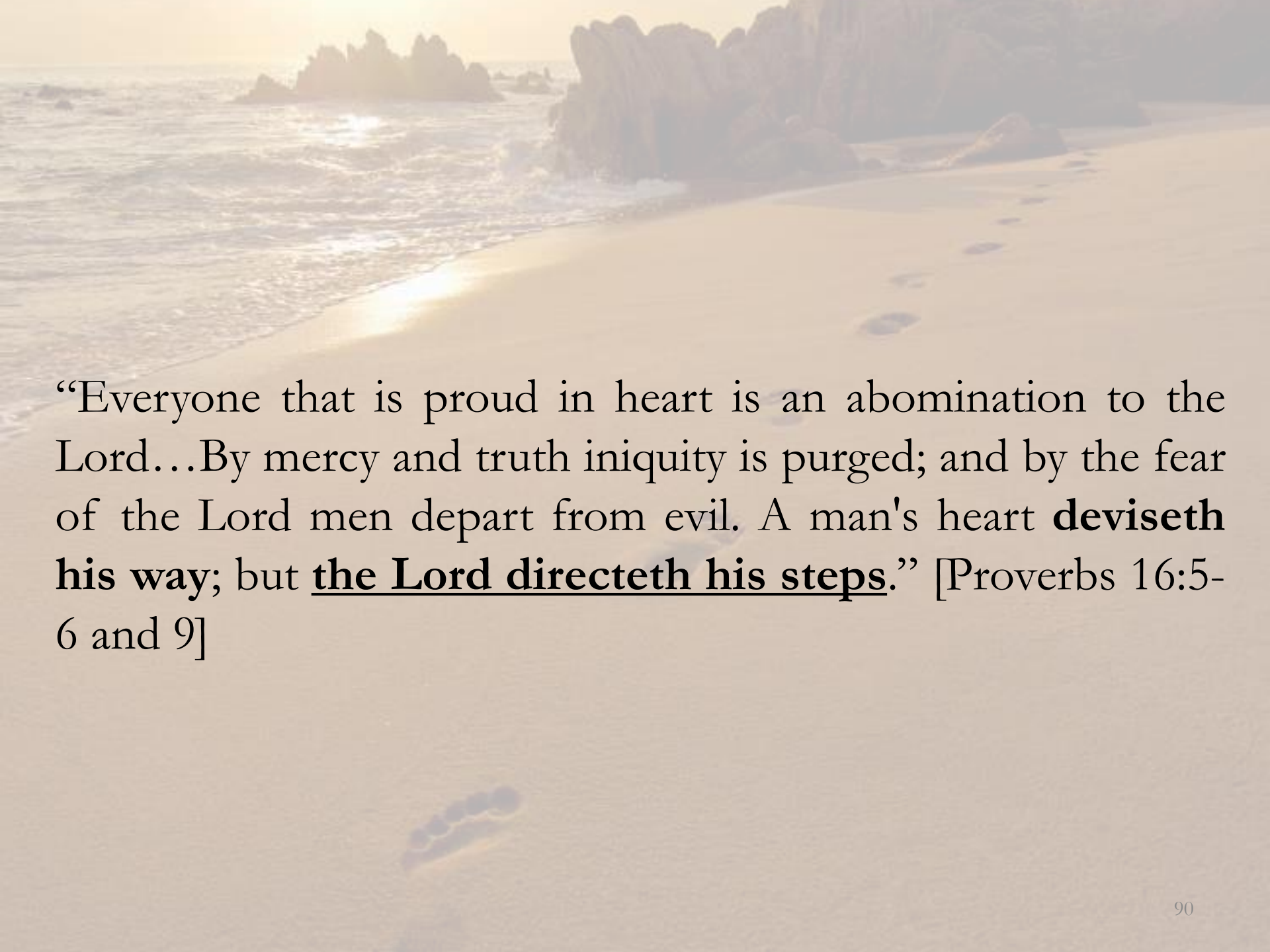




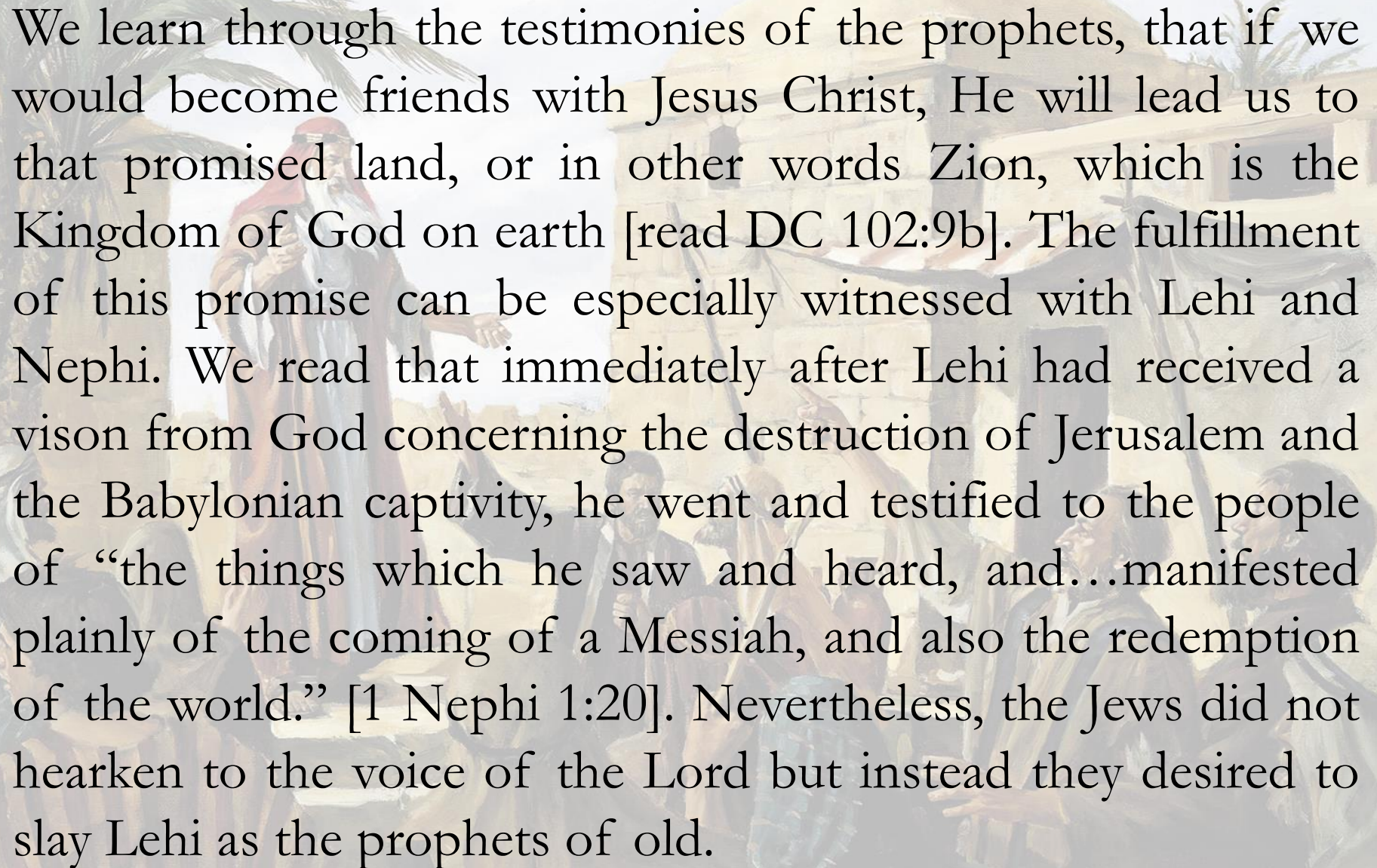
**77:4a** Verily, verily I say unto you, Ye are little children, and ye have not as yet understood how great blessings the Father has in his own hands, and prepared for you; and ye can not bear all things now; **77:4b** nevertheless be of good cheer, for *I will lead you* along; *the kingdom is yours* and the blessings thereof are yours; and *the riches of eternity are yours*; **77:4c** and he who receiveth all things, with thankfulness, shall be made glorious...[DC 77:4a-c]





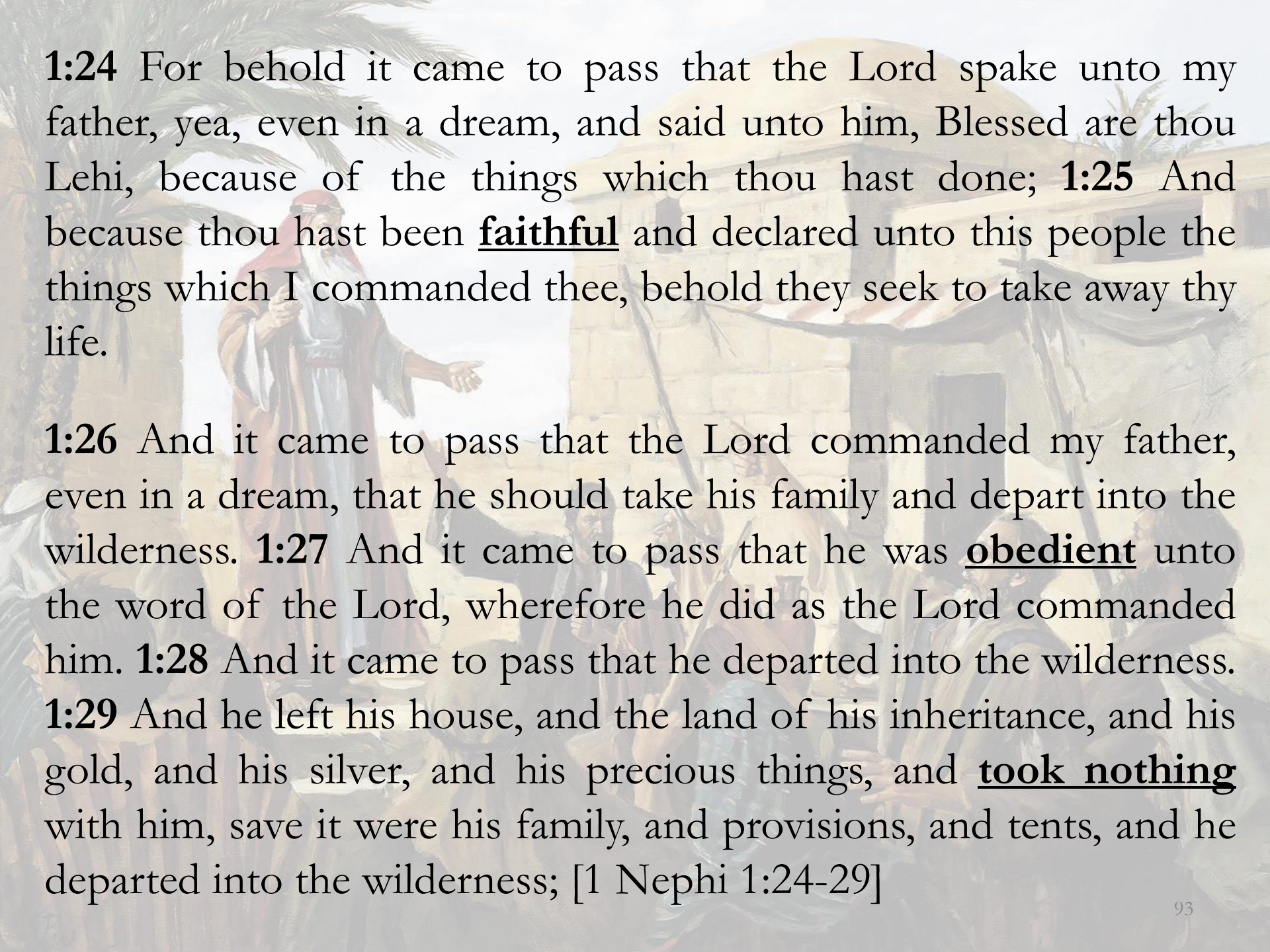


“Everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord...By mercy and truth iniquity is purged; and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil. A man's heart **deviseth his way**; but **the Lord directeth his steps.**” [Proverbs 16:5-6 and 9]



We learn through the testimonies of the prophets, that if we would become friends with Jesus Christ, He will lead us to that promised land, or in other words Zion, which is the Kingdom of God on earth [read DC 102:9b]. The fulfillment of this promise can be especially witnessed with Lehi and Nephi. We read that immediately after Lehi had received a vision from God concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian captivity, he went and testified to the people of “the things which he saw and heard, and...manifested plainly of the coming of a Messiah, and also the redemption of the world.” [1 Nephi 1:20]. Nevertheless, the Jews did not hearken to the voice of the Lord but instead they desired to slay Lehi as the prophets of old.

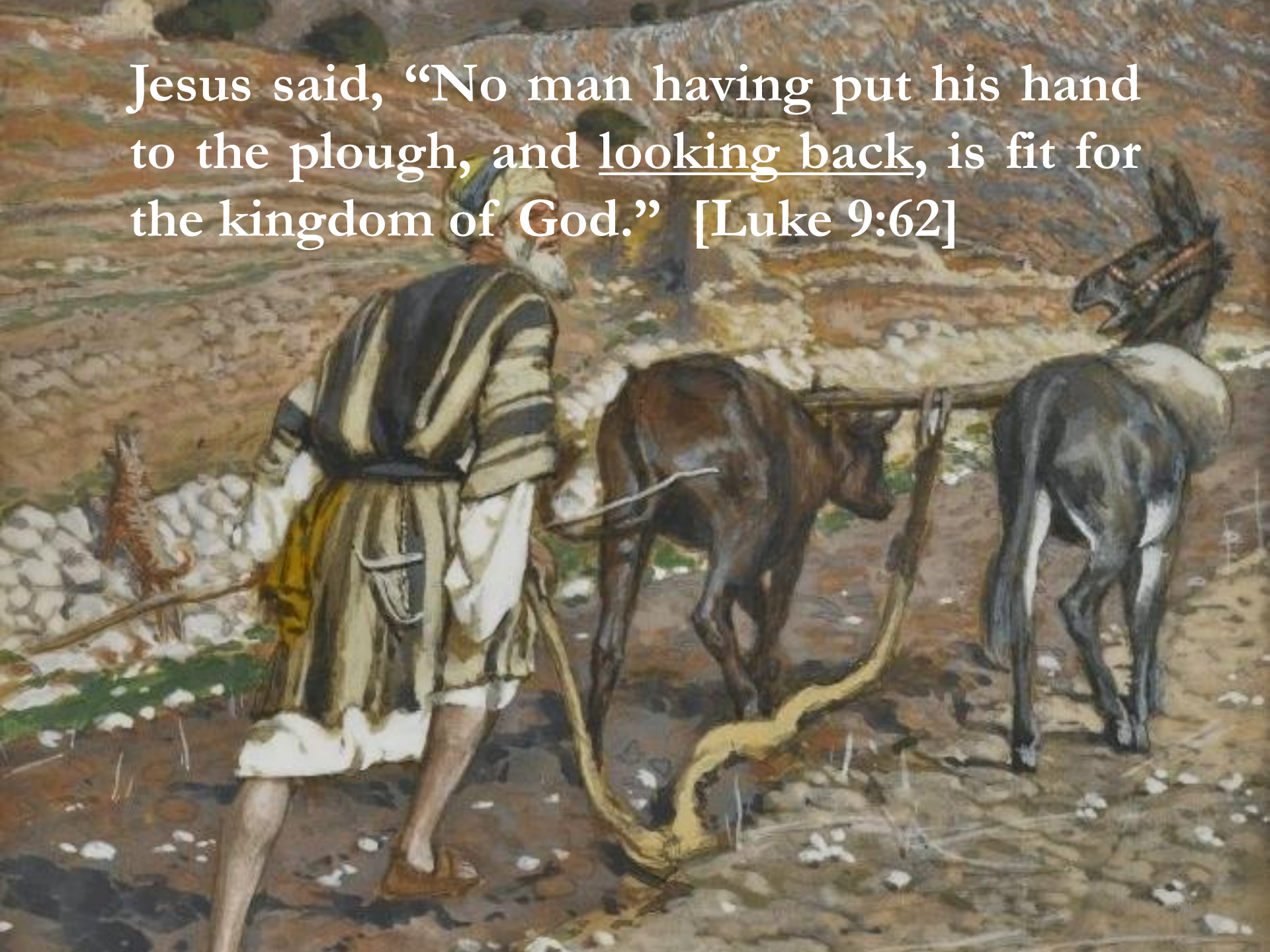




**1:24** For behold it came to pass that the Lord spake unto my father, yea, even in a dream, and said unto him, Blessed are thou Lehi, because of the things which thou hast done; **1:25** And because thou hast been **faithful** and declared unto this people the things which I commanded thee, behold they seek to take away thy life.

**1:26** And it came to pass that the Lord commanded my father, even in a dream, that he should take his family and depart into the wilderness. **1:27** And it came to pass that he was **obedient** unto the word of the Lord, wherefore he did as the Lord commanded him. **1:28** And it came to pass that he departed into the wilderness. **1:29** And he left his house, and the land of his inheritance, and his gold, and his silver, and his precious things, and **took nothing** with him, save it were his family, and provisions, and tents, and he departed into the wilderness; [1 Nephi 1:24-29]

Jesus said, “No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” [Luke 9:62]



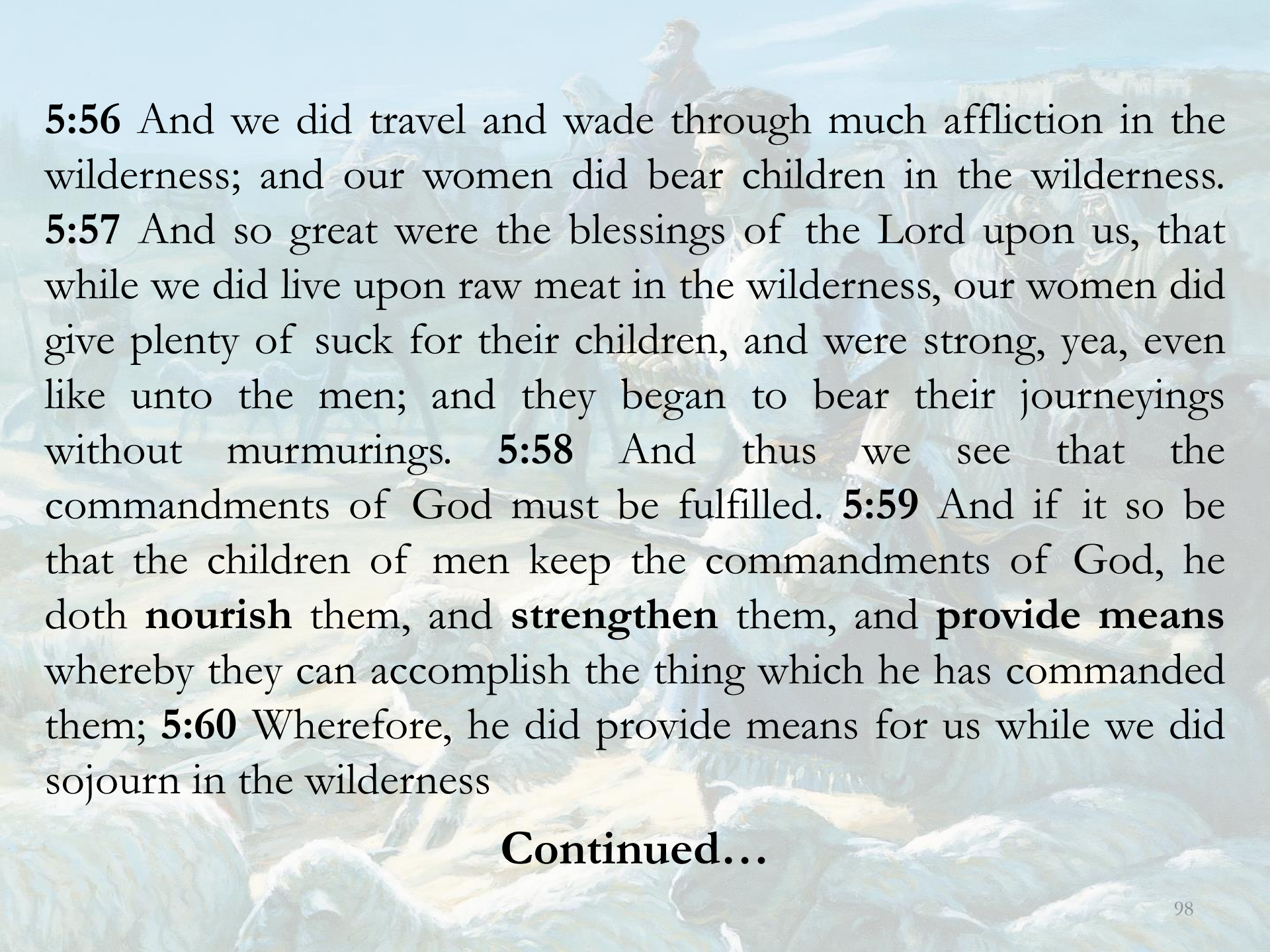
**14:28** Therefore, settle this in your hearts, that ye will do the things which I shall teach, and command you. **14:29** For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have money to finish his work? **14:30** Lest, unhappily, after he has laid the foundation and is not able to finish his work, all who behold, begin to mock him, **14:31** Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. And this he said, signifying there should not any man follow him, **unless he was able to continue**; saying, **14:32** Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand, to meet him who cometh against him with twenty thousand. **14:33** Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an embassy, and desireth conditions of peace. **14:34** So likewise, whosoever of you **forsaketh not all that he hath he cannot be my disciple.**

[Luke 14:28-33]





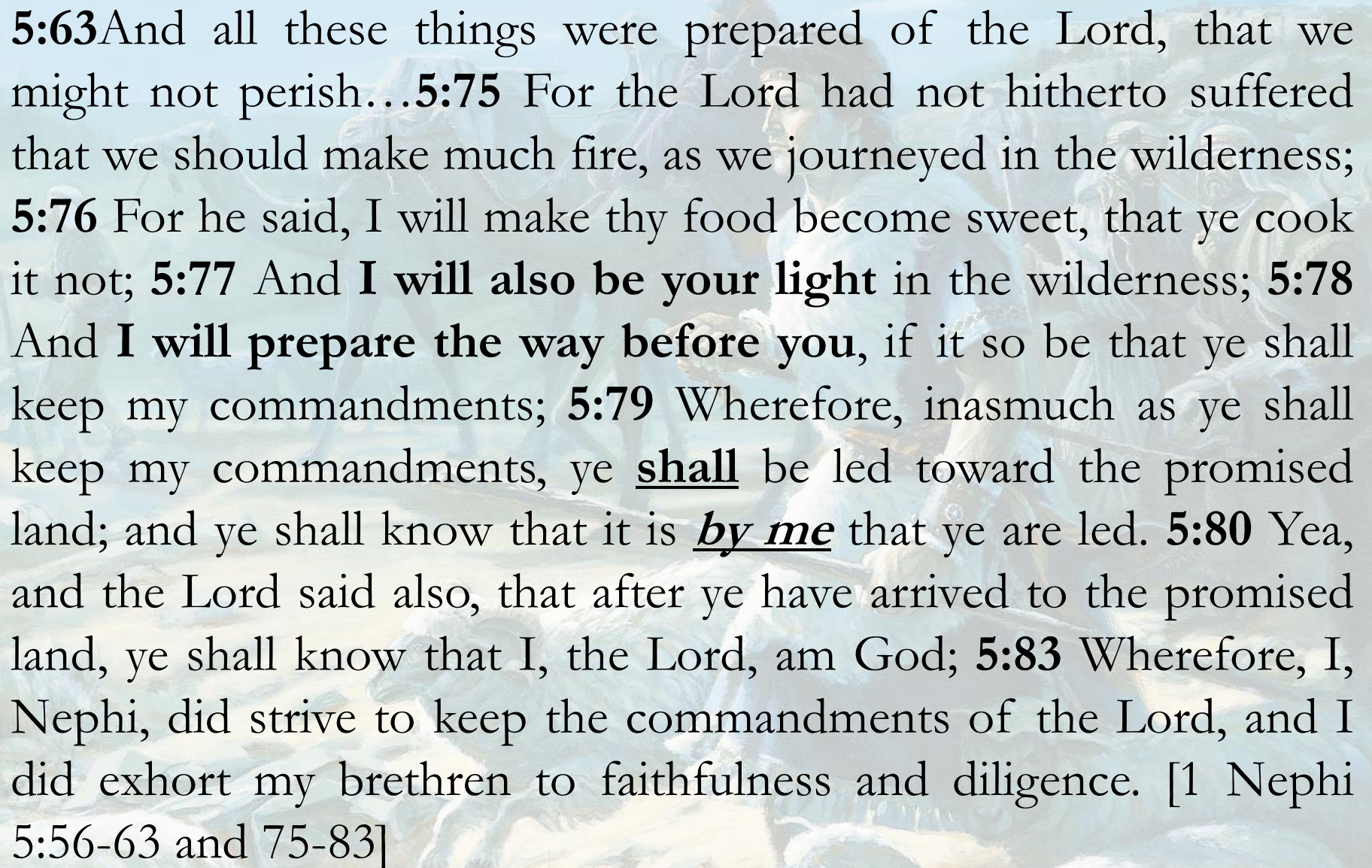


A background illustration of a man leading a caravan of people and animals through a desert landscape. The man is in the foreground, wearing a blue tunic and a brown hat, looking towards the right. Behind him, a group of people and animals, including a camel and a horse, are visible. The landscape is arid with some distant structures and mountains under a blue sky.

**5:56** And we did travel and wade through much affliction in the wilderness; and our women did bear children in the wilderness.

**5:57** And so great were the blessings of the Lord upon us, that while we did live upon raw meat in the wilderness, our women did give plenty of suck for their children, and were strong, yea, even like unto the men; and they began to bear their journeyings without murmurings. **5:58** And thus we see that the commandments of God must be fulfilled. **5:59** And if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God, he doth **nourish** them, and **strengthen** them, and **provide means** whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them; **5:60** Wherefore, he did provide means for us while we did sojourn in the wilderness

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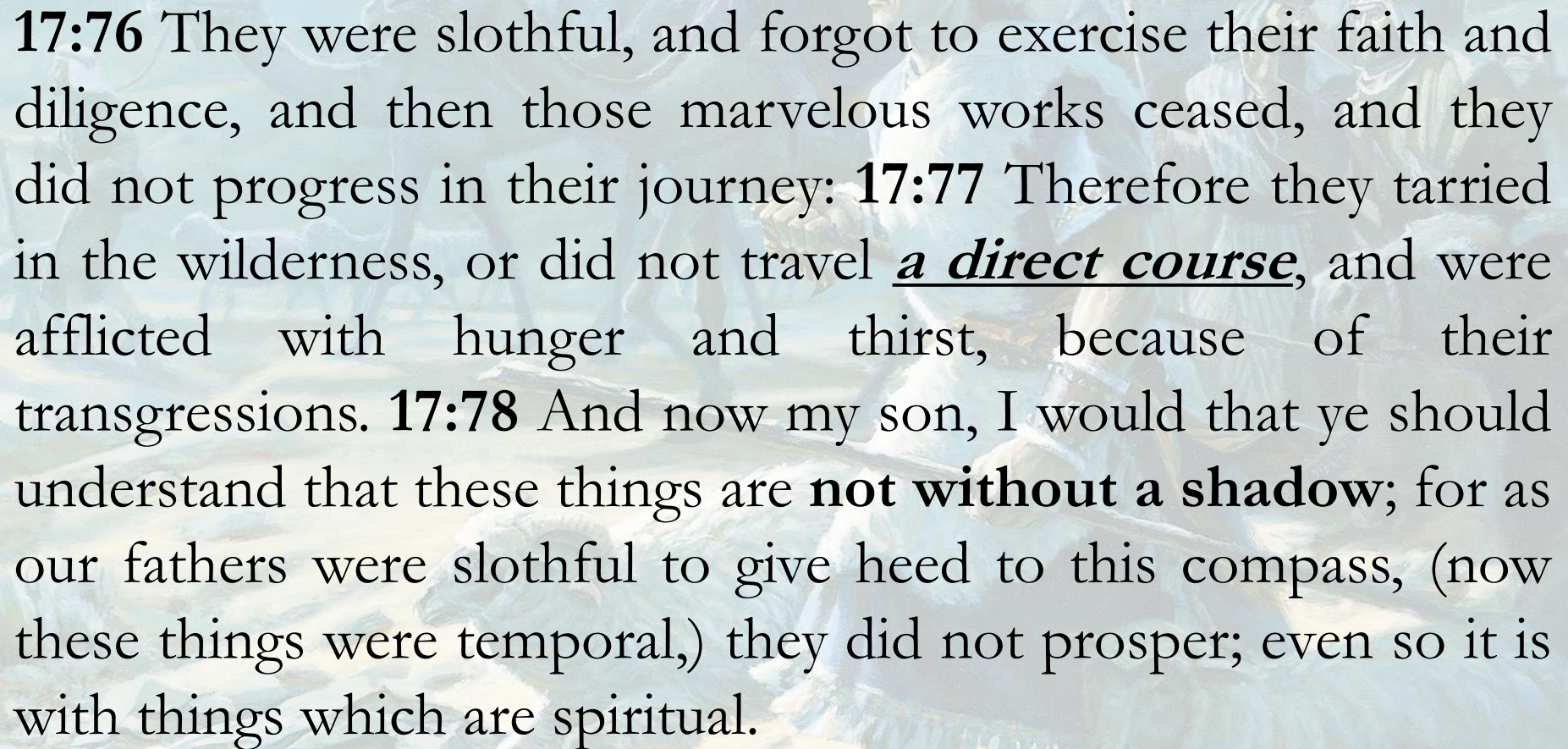


**5:63** And all these things were prepared of the Lord, that we might not perish...**5:75** For the Lord had not hitherto suffered that we should make much fire, as we journeyed in the wilderness; **5:76** For he said, I will make thy food become sweet, that ye cook it not; **5:77** And **I will also be your light** in the wilderness; **5:78** And **I will prepare the way before you**, if it so be that ye shall keep my commandments; **5:79** Wherefore, inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall be led toward the promised land; and ye shall know that it is by me that ye are led. **5:80** Yea, and the Lord said also, that after ye have arrived to the promised land, ye shall know that I, the Lord, am God; **5:83** Wherefore, I, Nephi, did strive to keep the commandments of the Lord, and I did exhort my brethren to faithfulness and diligence. [1 Nephi 5:56-63 and 75-83]

“Wherefore, because of their blindness, which blindness came by looking beyond the mark, they must needs fall: For God hath taken away his plainness from them, and delivered unto them many things which they can not understand, because they desired it. And because **they desired it**, God **hath done it**, that they may stumble.” [Jacob 3:23-25]

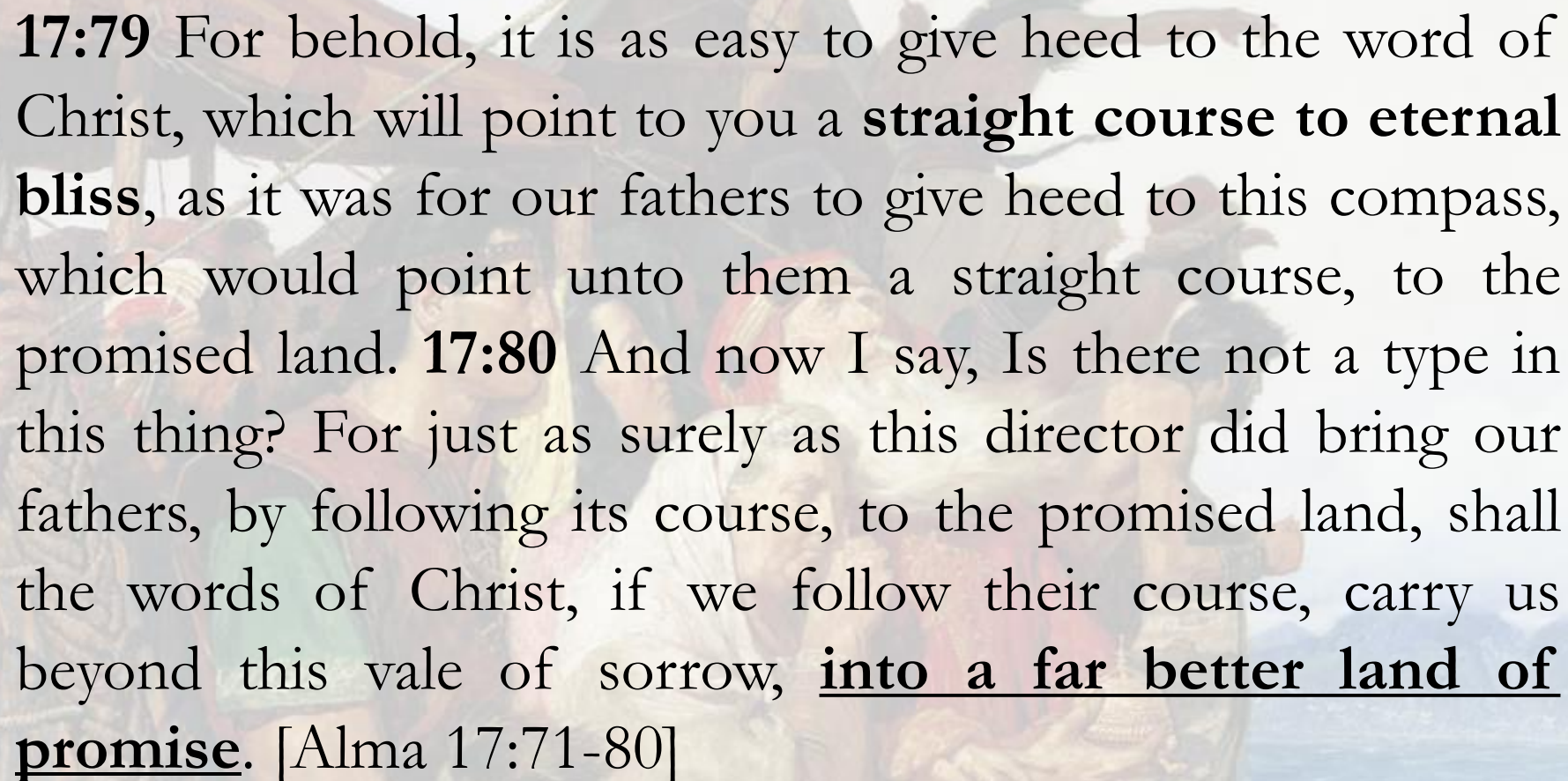
**17:71** And now my son, I have somewhat to say concerning the thing which our fathers call a ball, or director; or our fathers called it liahona, which is, being interpreted, a compass; and the Lord prepared it. **17:72** And behold, there can not any man work after the manner of so curious a workmanship. **17:73** And behold, it was prepared to shew unto our fathers the course which they should travel in the wilderness; and it did work for them according to their faith in God; **17:74** Therefore if they had faith to believe that God could cause that those spindles should point the way they should go, behold, it was done; therefore they had this miracle, and also many other miracles wrought by the power of God, day by day; **17:75** Nevertheless, because those miracles were worked by **small means**, it did shew unto them *marvelous works*.

**Continued...**



**17:76** They were slothful, and forgot to exercise their faith and diligence, and then those marvelous works ceased, and they did not progress in their journey: **17:77** Therefore they tarried in the wilderness, or did not travel *a direct course*, and were afflicted with hunger and thirst, because of their transgressions. **17:78** And now my son, I would that ye should understand that these things are **not without a shadow**; for as our fathers were slothful to give heed to this compass, (now these things were temporal,) they did not prosper; even so it is with things which are spiritual.

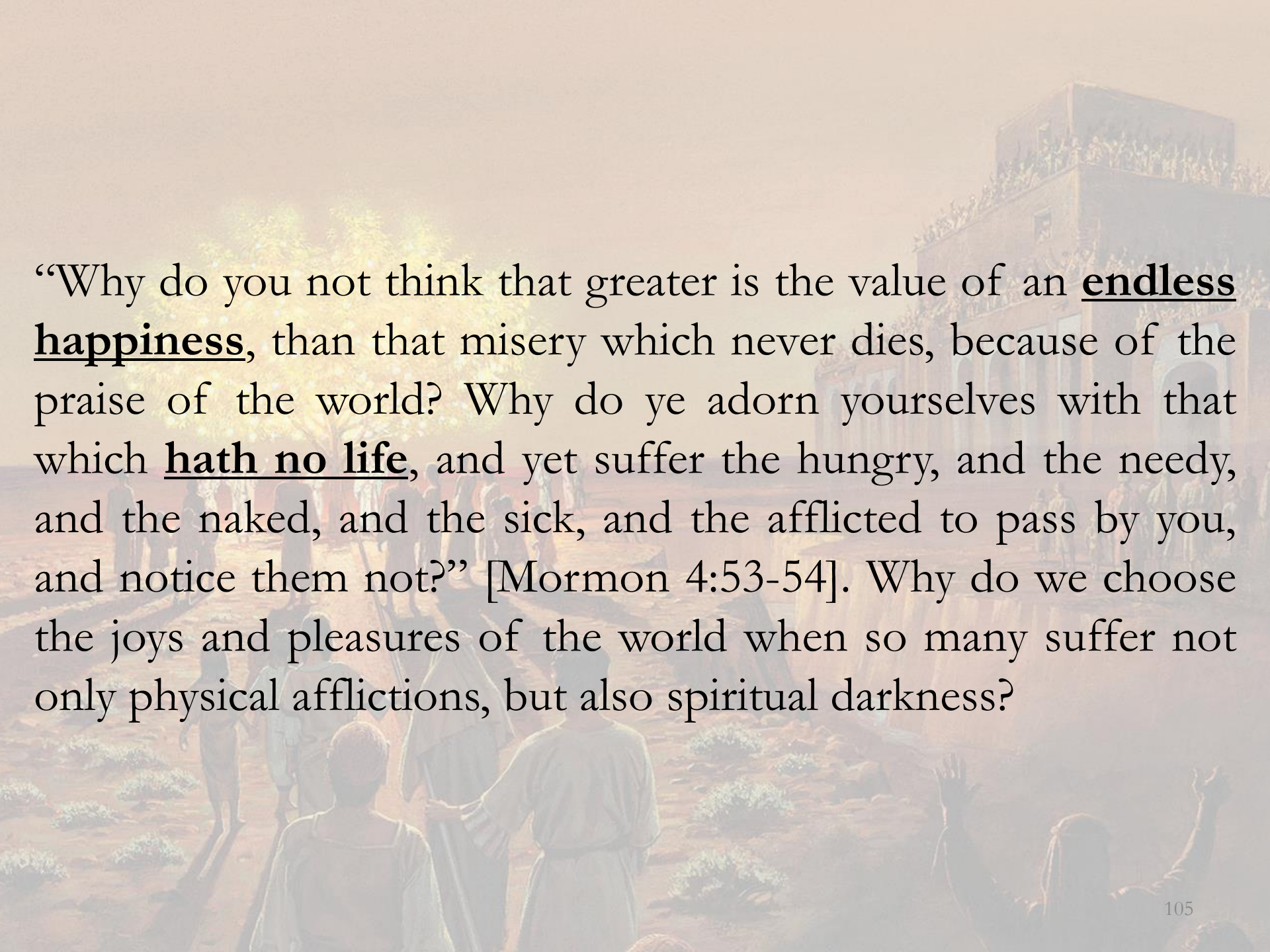
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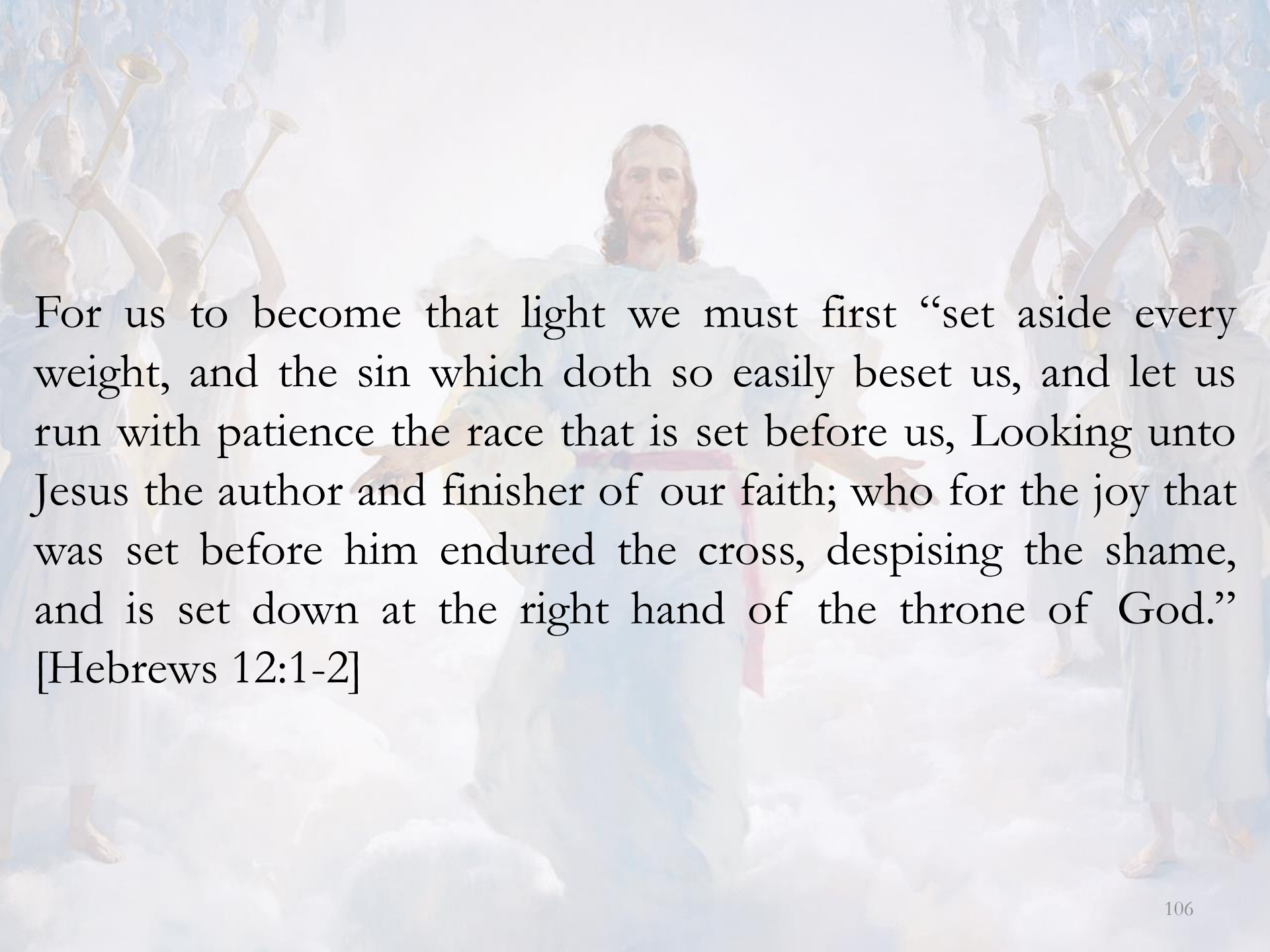
**17:79** For behold, it is as easy to give heed to the word of Christ, which will point to you a **straight course to eternal bliss**, as it was for our fathers to give heed to this compass, which would point unto them a straight course, to the promised land. **17:80** And now I say, Is there not a type in this thing? For just as surely as this director did bring our fathers, by following its course, to the promised land, shall the words of Christ, if we follow their course, carry us beyond this vale of sorrow, **into a far better land of promise.** [Alma 17:71-80]





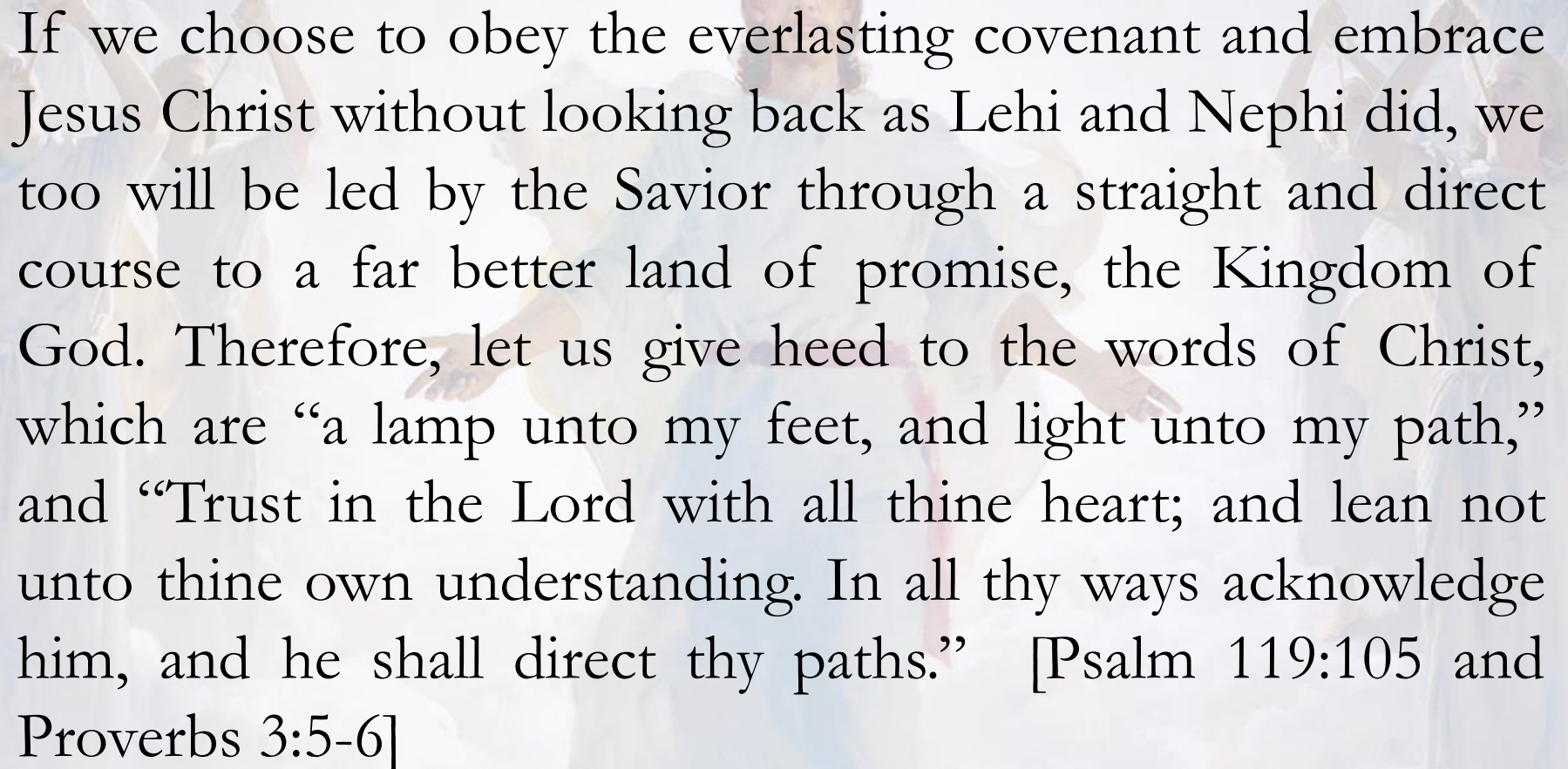
The background of the slide is a faded, artistic illustration. It depicts a city with a prominent, multi-tiered tower or temple structure on the right side. In the foreground, several figures are shown from behind, looking towards the city. The overall scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The text is overlaid on this background.

“Why do you not think that greater is the value of an **endless happiness**, than that misery which never dies, because of the praise of the world? Why do ye adorn yourselves with that which **hath no life**, and yet suffer the hungry, and the needy, and the naked, and the sick, and the afflicted to pass by you, and notice them not?” [Mormon 4:53-54]. Why do we choose the joys and pleasures of the world when so many suffer not only physical afflictions, but also spiritual darkness?

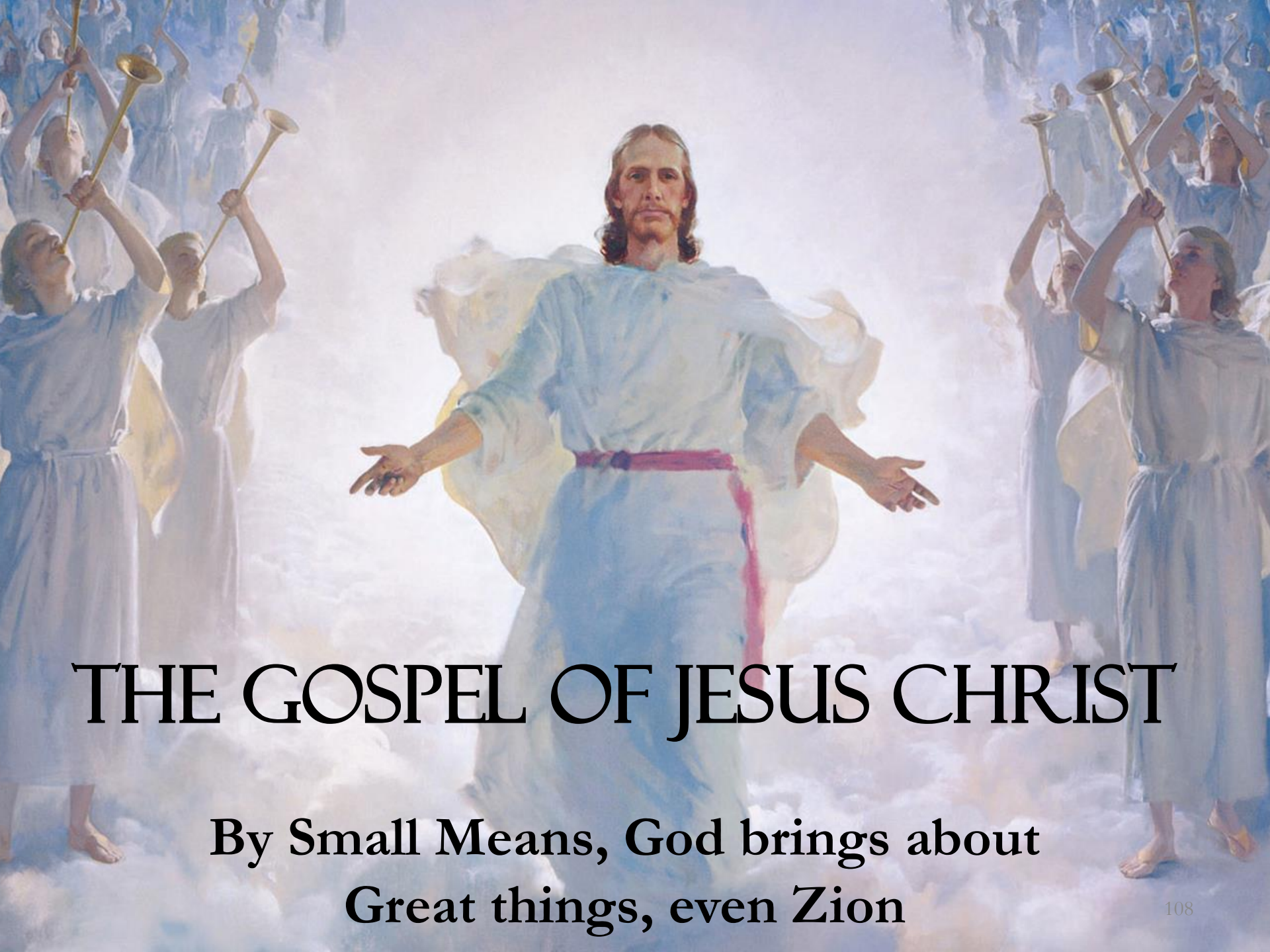


For us to become that light we must first “set aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

[Hebrews 12:1-2]

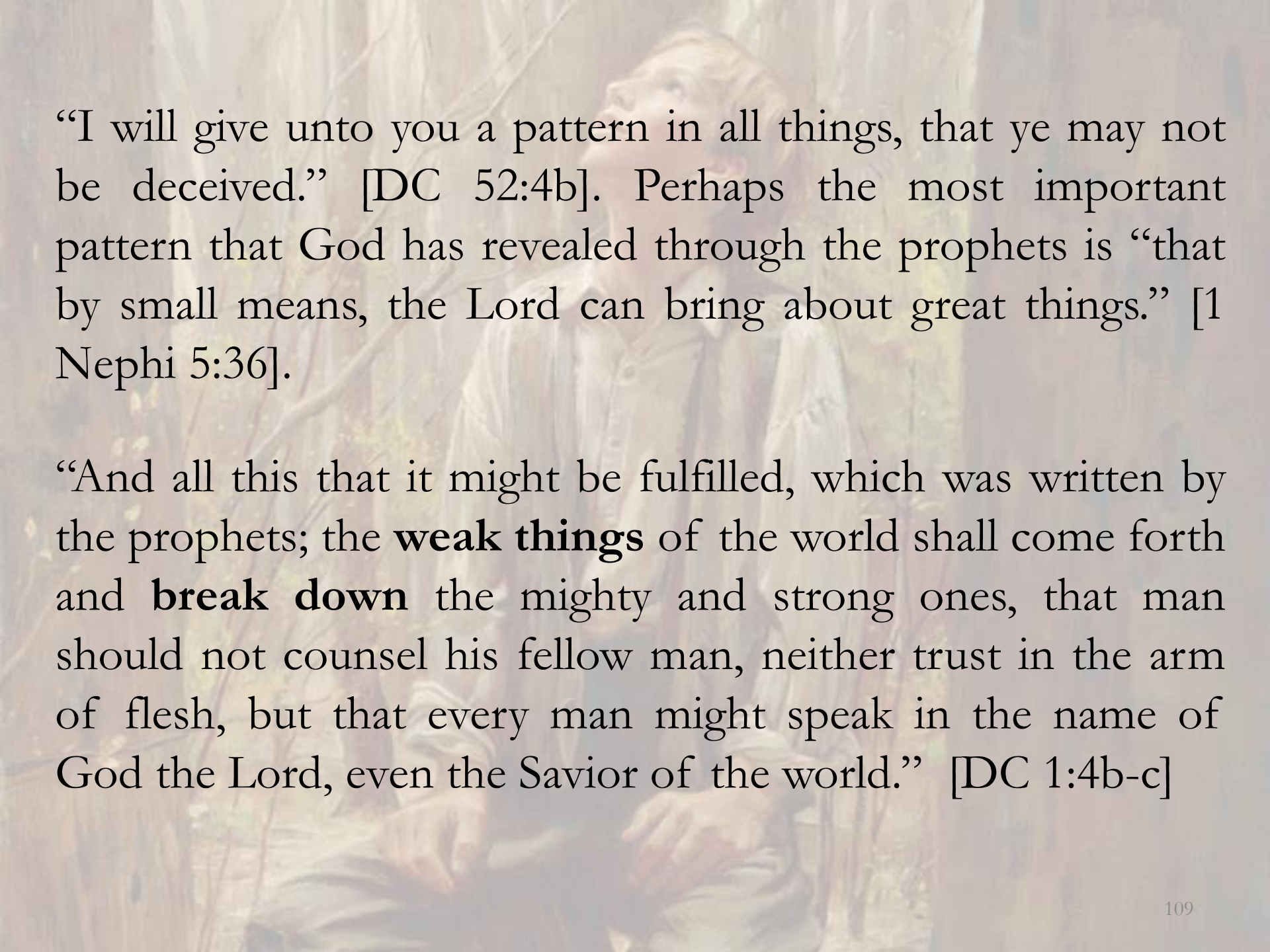


If we choose to obey the everlasting covenant and embrace Jesus Christ without looking back as Lehi and Nephi did, we too will be led by the Savior through a straight and direct course to a far better land of promise, the Kingdom of God. Therefore, let us give heed to the words of Christ, which are “a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path,” and “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” [Psalm 119:105 and Proverbs 3:5-6]



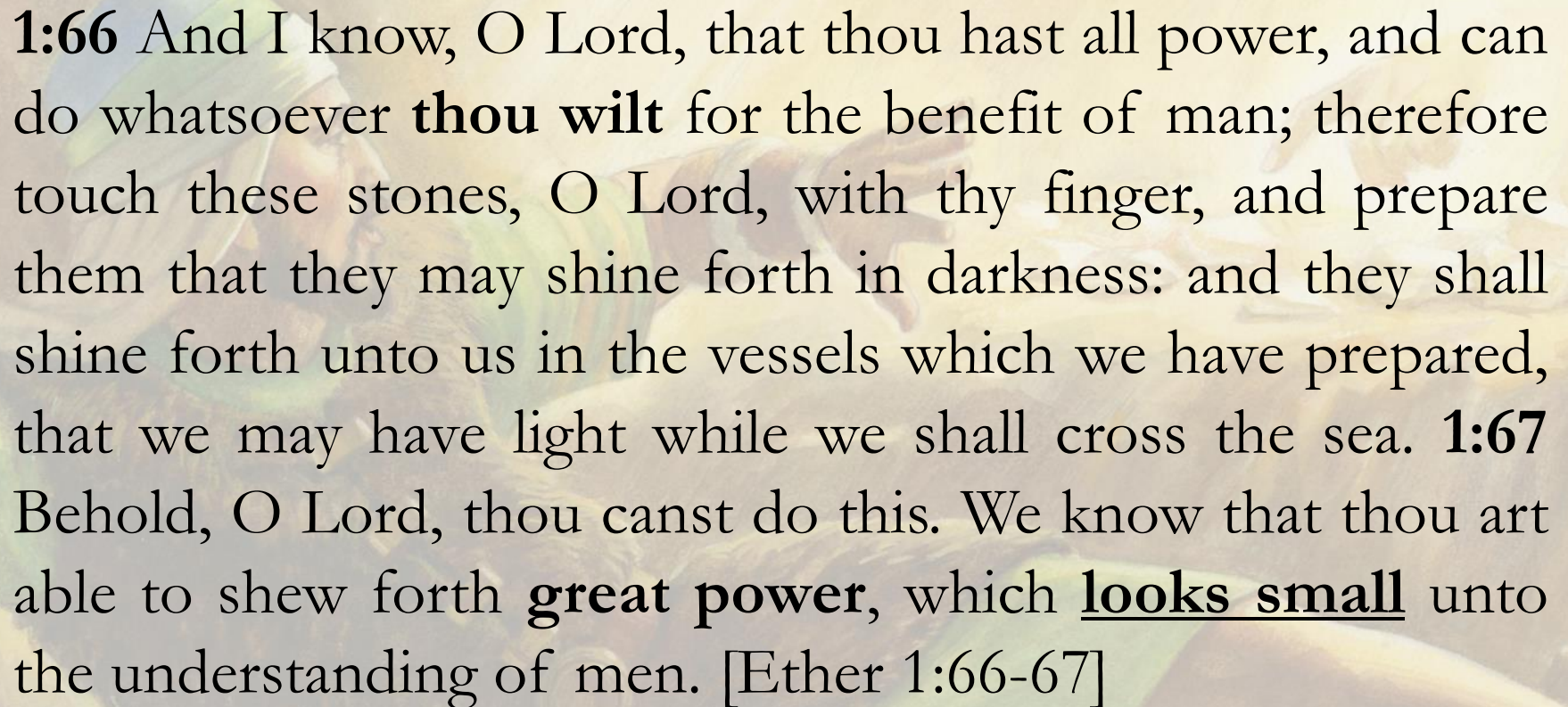
# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

**By Small Means, God brings about  
Great things, even Zion**

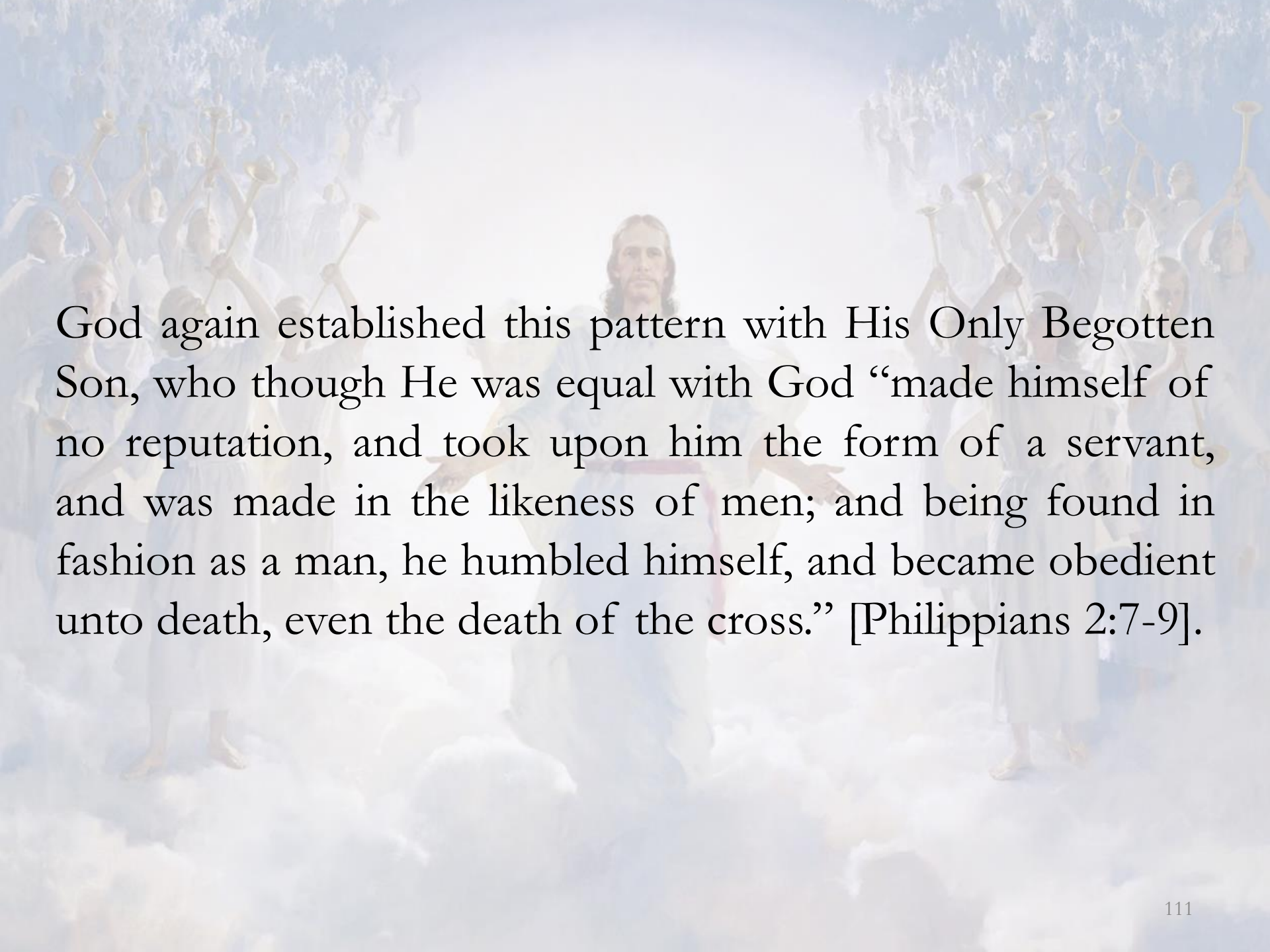


“I will give unto you a pattern in all things, that ye may not be deceived.” [DC 52:4b]. Perhaps the most important pattern that God has revealed through the prophets is “that by small means, the Lord can bring about great things.” [1 Nephi 5:36].

“And all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets; the **weak things** of the world shall come forth and **break down** the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh, but that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world.” [DC 1:4b-c]



**1:66** And I know, O Lord, that thou hast all power, and can do whatsoever **thou wilt** for the benefit of man; therefore touch these stones, O Lord, with thy finger, and prepare them that they may shine forth in darkness: and they shall shine forth unto us in the vessels which we have prepared, that we may have light while we shall cross the sea. **1:67** Behold, O Lord, thou canst do this. We know that thou art able to shew forth **great power**, which looks small unto the understanding of men. [Ether 1:66-67]

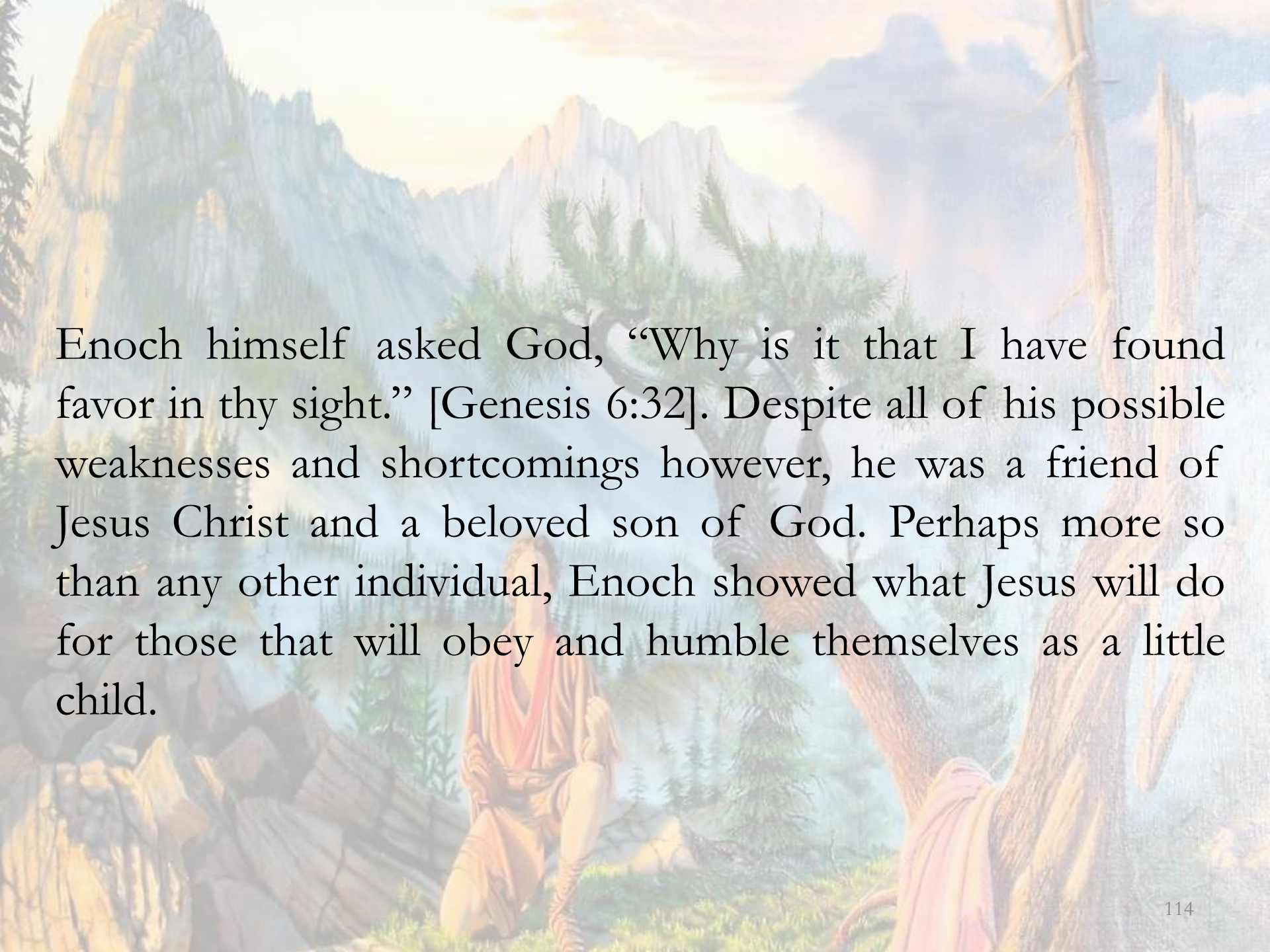


God again established this pattern with His Only Begotten Son, who though He was equal with God “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” [Philippians 2:7-9].

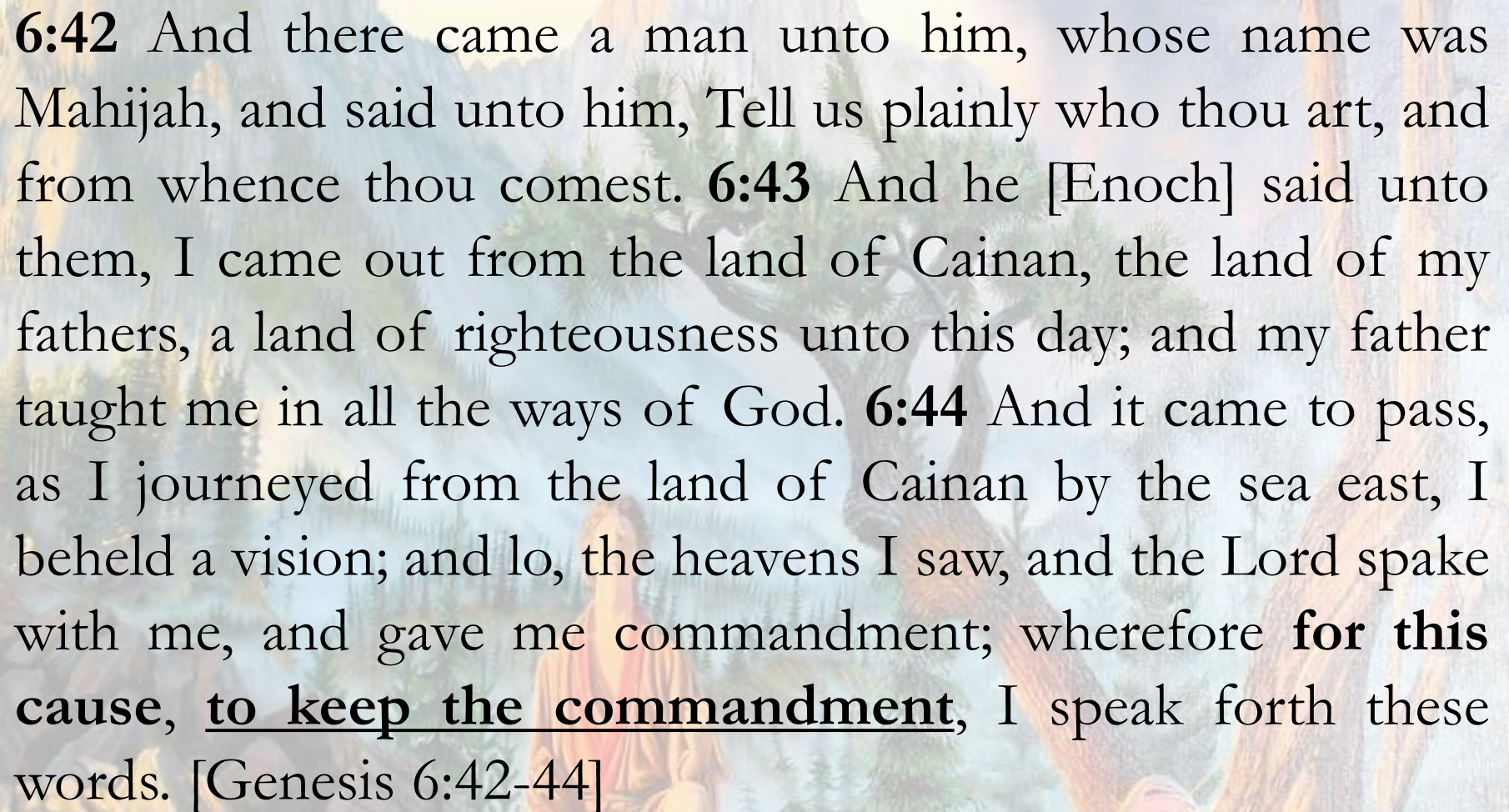
“For God hath chosen the **foolish things** of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the **weak things** of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and **base things** of the world, and things which are **despised**, hath God chosen, yea, and things which **are not**, to bring to naught the things that are mighty; That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him **are ye in** Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” [1 Corinthians 1:27-31]



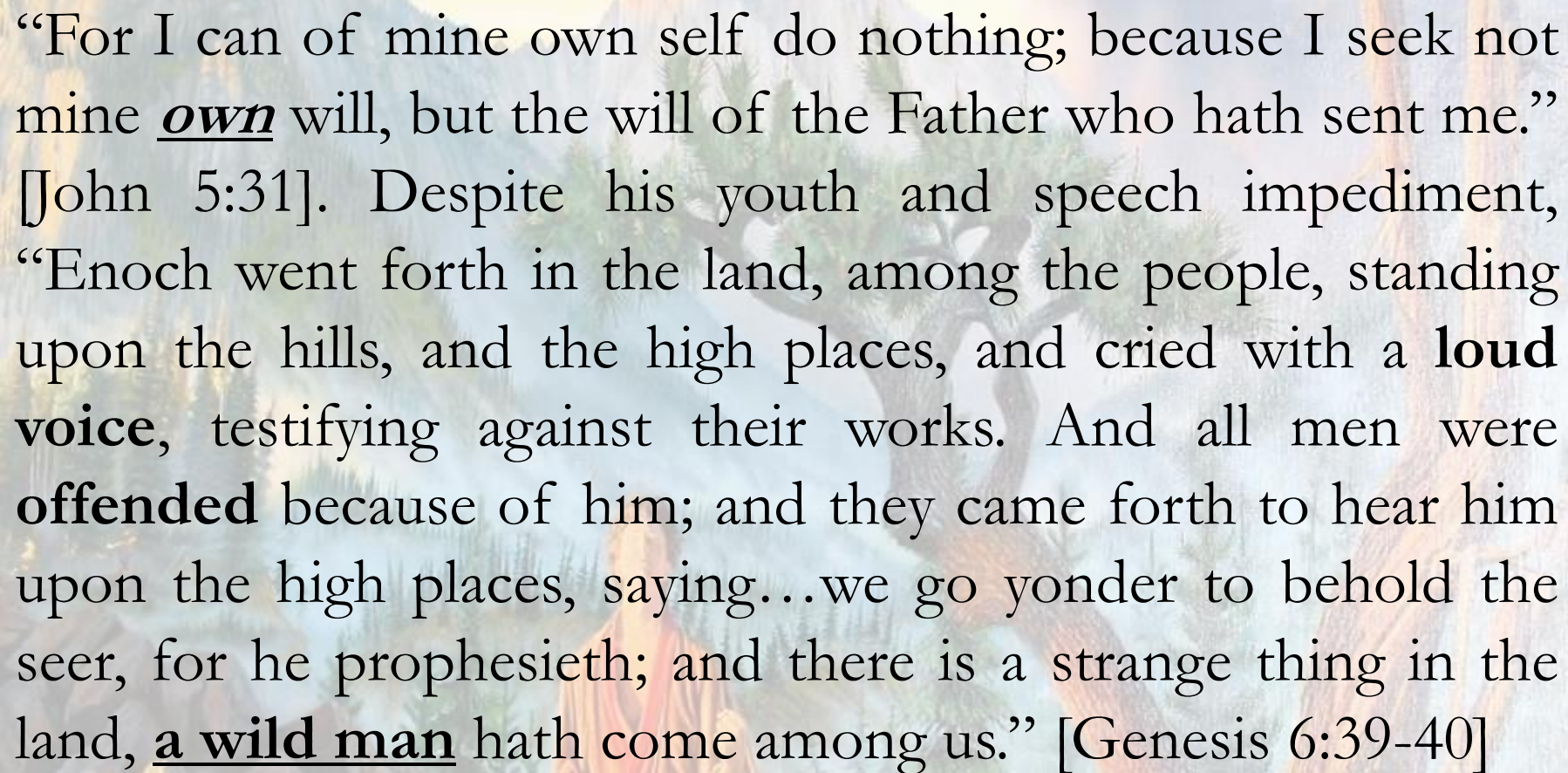


A person wearing a red robe is kneeling on a grassy slope in a mountainous landscape. The background features jagged, rocky mountains under a hazy sky. A large, gnarled tree trunk is visible on the right side of the frame. The overall scene is bathed in a soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

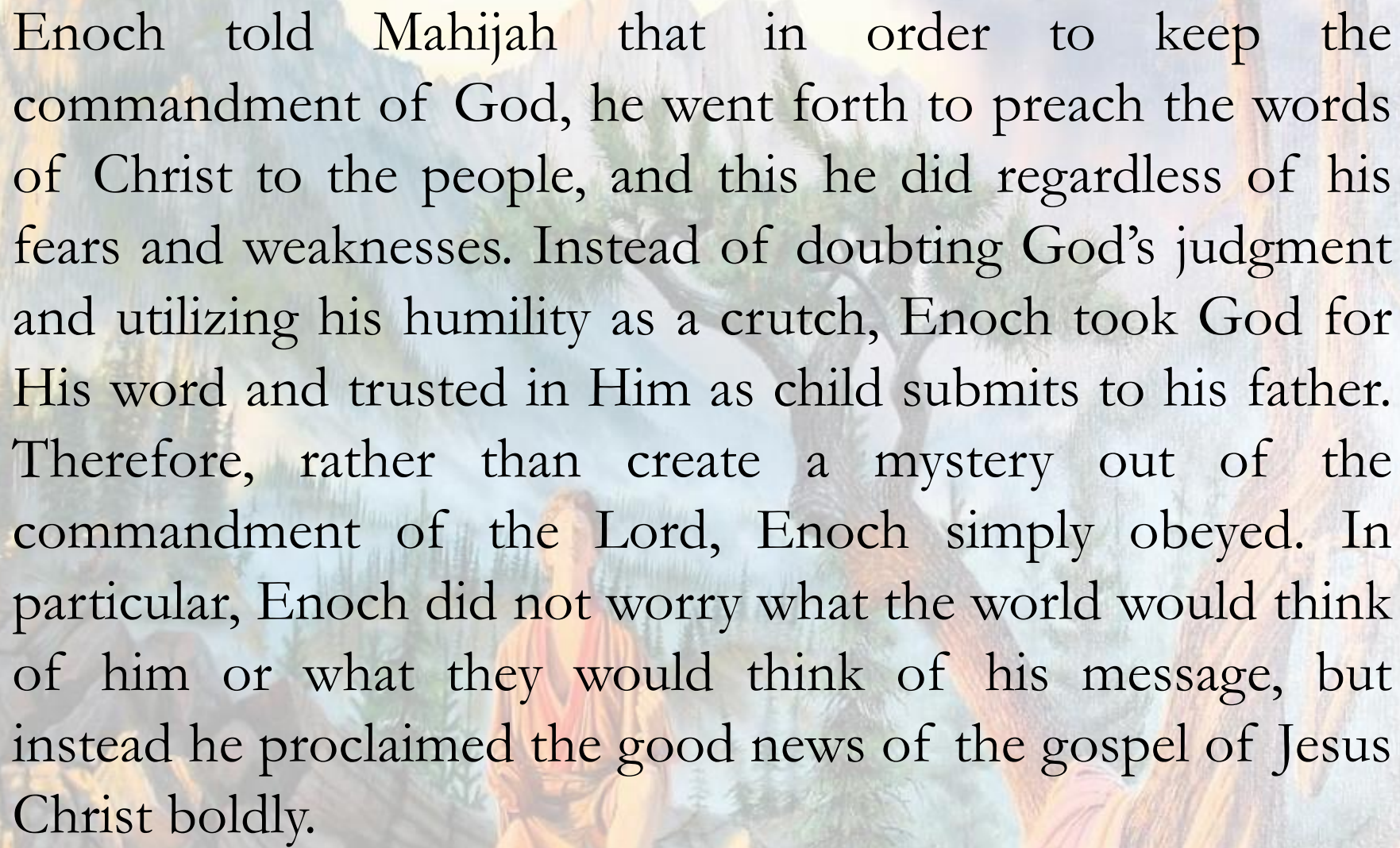
Enoch himself asked God, “Why is it that I have found favor in thy sight.” [Genesis 6:32]. Despite all of his possible weaknesses and shortcomings however, he was a friend of Jesus Christ and a beloved son of God. Perhaps more so than any other individual, Enoch showed what Jesus will do for those that will obey and humble themselves as a little child.

A scenic landscape with mountains, trees, and a person in the background. The scene is set in a lush, green environment with rolling hills and a large tree in the foreground. A person is visible in the background, standing near a large tree. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

**6:42** And there came a man unto him, whose name was Mahijah, and said unto him, Tell us plainly who thou art, and from whence thou comest. **6:43** And he [Enoch] said unto them, I came out from the land of Cainan, the land of my fathers, a land of righteousness unto this day; and my father taught me in all the ways of God. **6:44** And it came to pass, as I journeyed from the land of Cainan by the sea east, I beheld a vision; and lo, the heavens I saw, and the Lord spake with me, and gave me commandment; wherefore **for this cause, to keep the commandment**, I speak forth these words. [Genesis 6:42-44]

A scenic landscape with mountains, trees, and a person sitting on a rock. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The mountains in the background are rugged and covered in greenery. In the foreground, a person is sitting on a large rock, looking towards the viewer. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

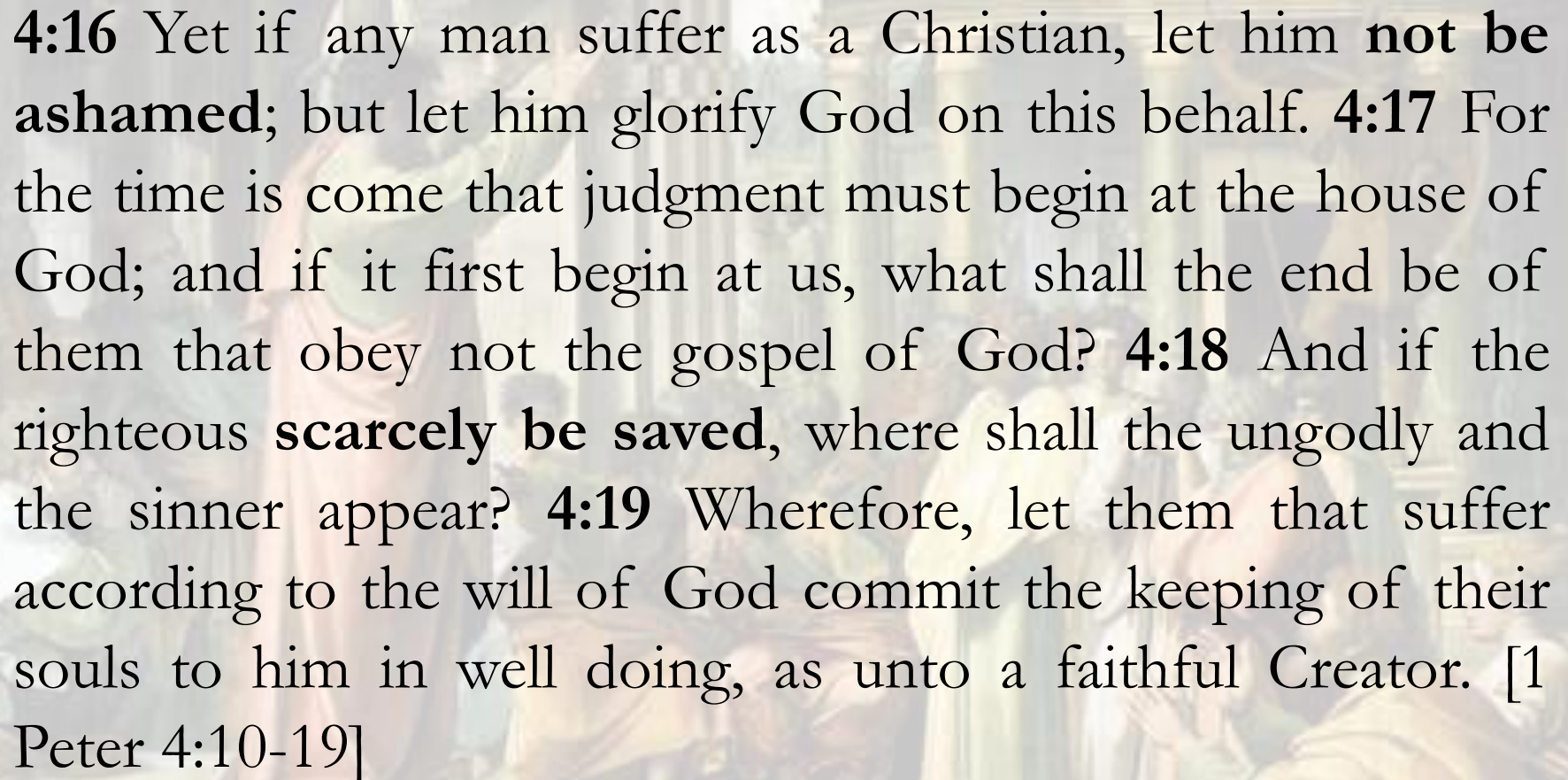
“For I can of mine own self do nothing; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father who hath sent me.” [John 5:31]. Despite his youth and speech impediment, “Enoch went forth in the land, among the people, standing upon the hills, and the high places, and cried with a **loud voice**, testifying against their works. And all men were **offended** because of him; and they came forth to hear him upon the high places, saying...we go yonder to behold the seer, for he prophesieth; and there is a strange thing in the land, a wild man hath come among us.” [Genesis 6:39-40]

A person wearing a red robe is kneeling in a lush, green forest. The background features tall, thin trees and a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is peaceful and contemplative.

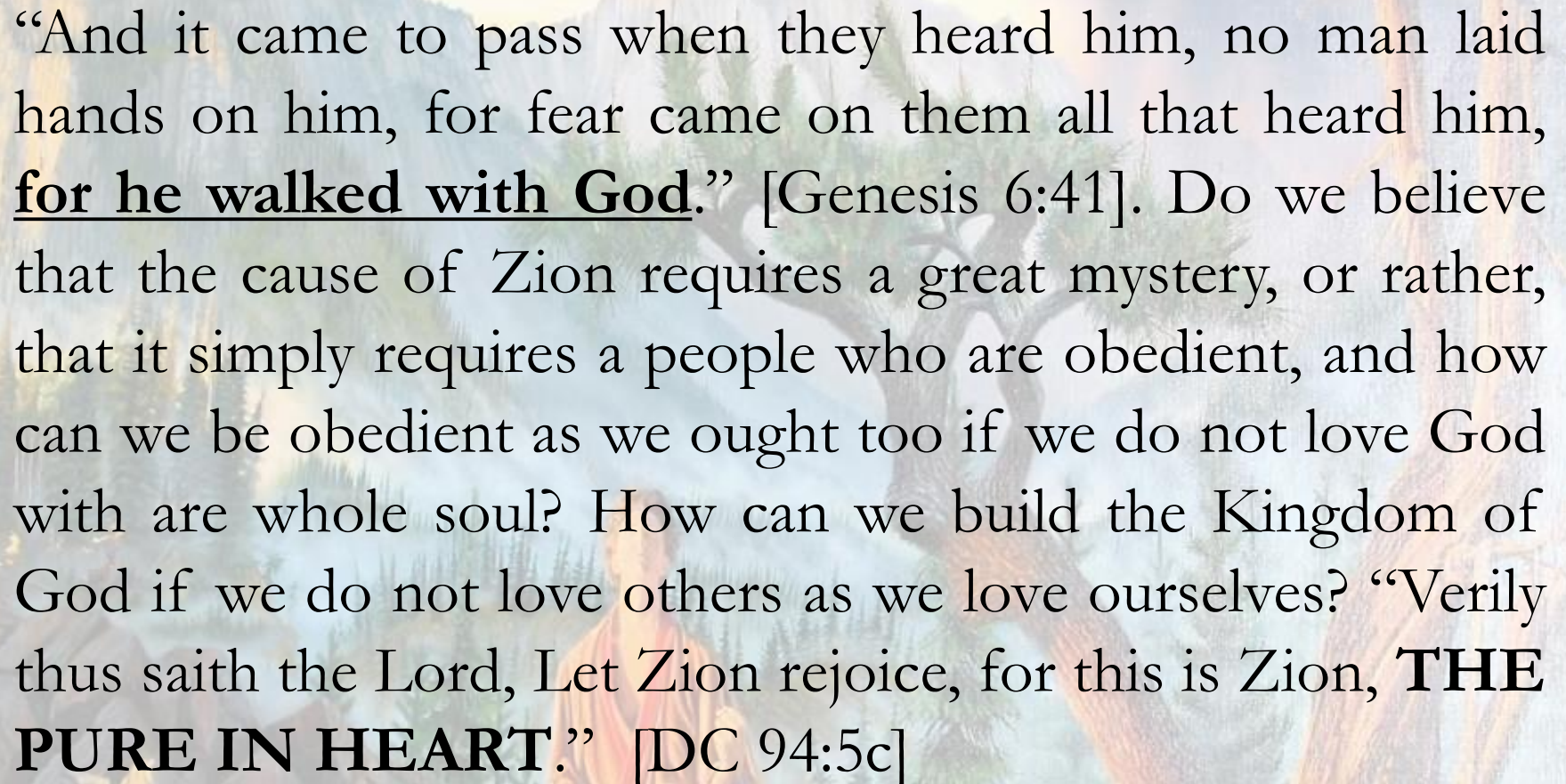
Enoch told Mahijah that in order to keep the commandment of God, he went forth to preach the words of Christ to the people, and this he did regardless of his fears and weaknesses. Instead of doubting God's judgment and utilizing his humility as a crutch, Enoch took God for His word and trusted in Him as child submits to his father. Therefore, rather than create a mystery out of the commandment of the Lord, Enoch simply obeyed. In particular, Enoch did not worry what the world would think of him or what they would think of his message, but instead he proclaimed the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ boldly.

**4:10** As every man hath received the gift [gospel of Jesus Christ], even so minister the same one to another, as **good stewards** of the manifold grace of God. **4:11** If any man speak, let him speak as an oracle of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth; that **God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ**; to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **4:12** Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; **4:13** But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. **4:14** If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you; on their part he [God] is evil spoken of, but on your part **he is glorified**.

**Continued...**



**4:16** Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him **not be ashamed**; but let him glorify God on this behalf. **4:17** For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? **4:18** And if the righteous **scarcely be saved**, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? **4:19** Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. [1 Peter 4:10-19]

A scenic landscape with mountains, trees, and a person in the foreground. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. In the foreground, a person wearing a red tunic and a brown hat is kneeling on a grassy slope, looking towards the viewer. The background features a range of mountains under a hazy sky, with several large trees scattered throughout the scene.

“And it came to pass when they heard him, no man laid hands on him, for fear came on them all that heard him, **for he walked with God.**” [Genesis 6:41]. Do we believe that the cause of Zion requires a great mystery, or rather, that it simply requires a people who are obedient, and how can we be obedient as we ought too if we do not love God with are whole soul? How can we build the Kingdom of God if we do not love others as we love ourselves? “Verily thus saith the Lord, Let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion, **THE PURE IN HEART.**” [DC 94:5c]



**1:118** But men drink damnation to their own souls, except they humble themselves, and become **as little children**, and believe that salvation was, and is, and is to come, in and through the **atoning blood of Christ**, the Lord Omnipotent: **1:119** For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; **1:120** But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and **becometh as a child**, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to **all things** which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father. [Mosiah 1:118-120]

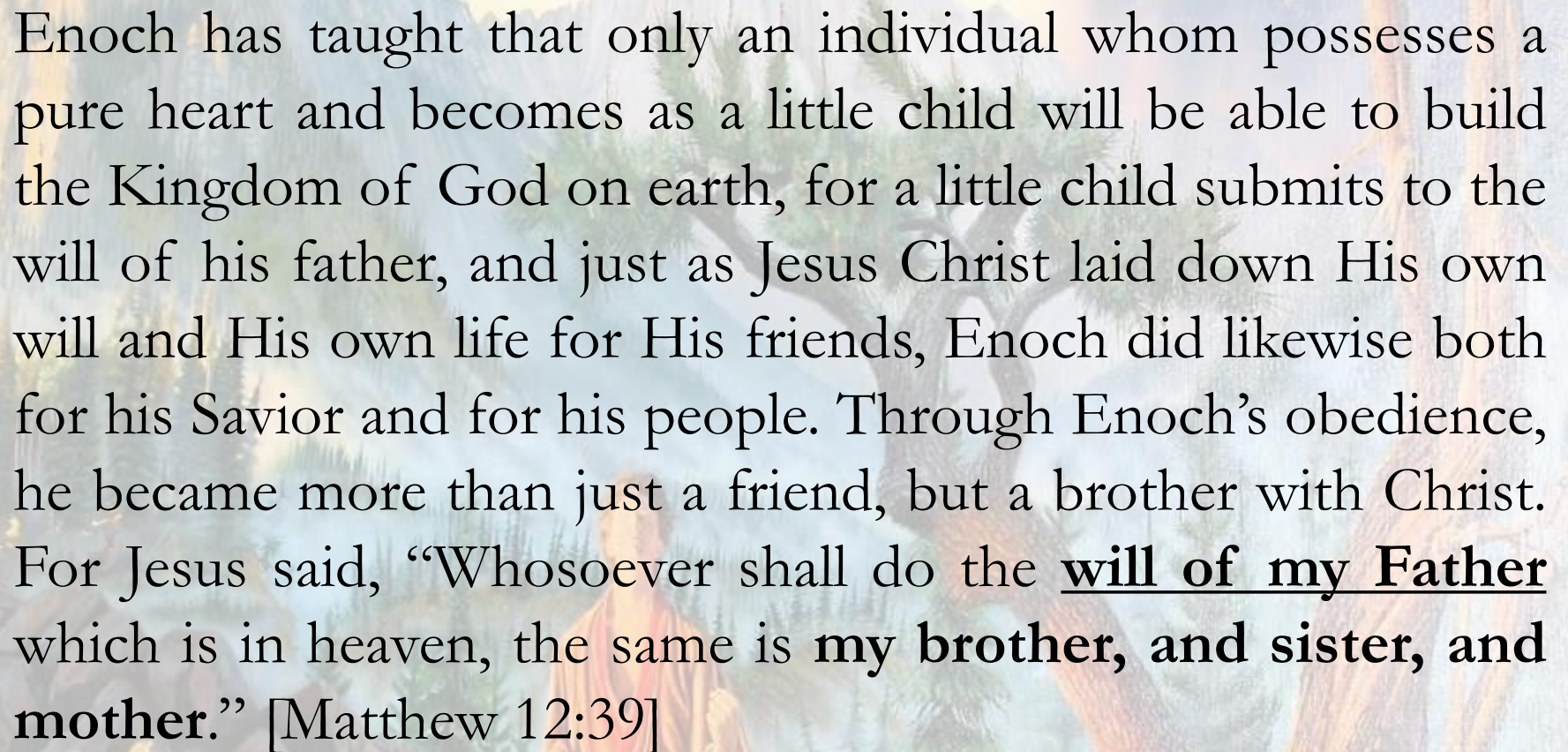
“Who is the Lord, that I should know him?” [Genesis 5:4].

“Here am I; send me.” [Exodus 3:4, 1 Samuel 3:4-8, and Isaiah 6:8].

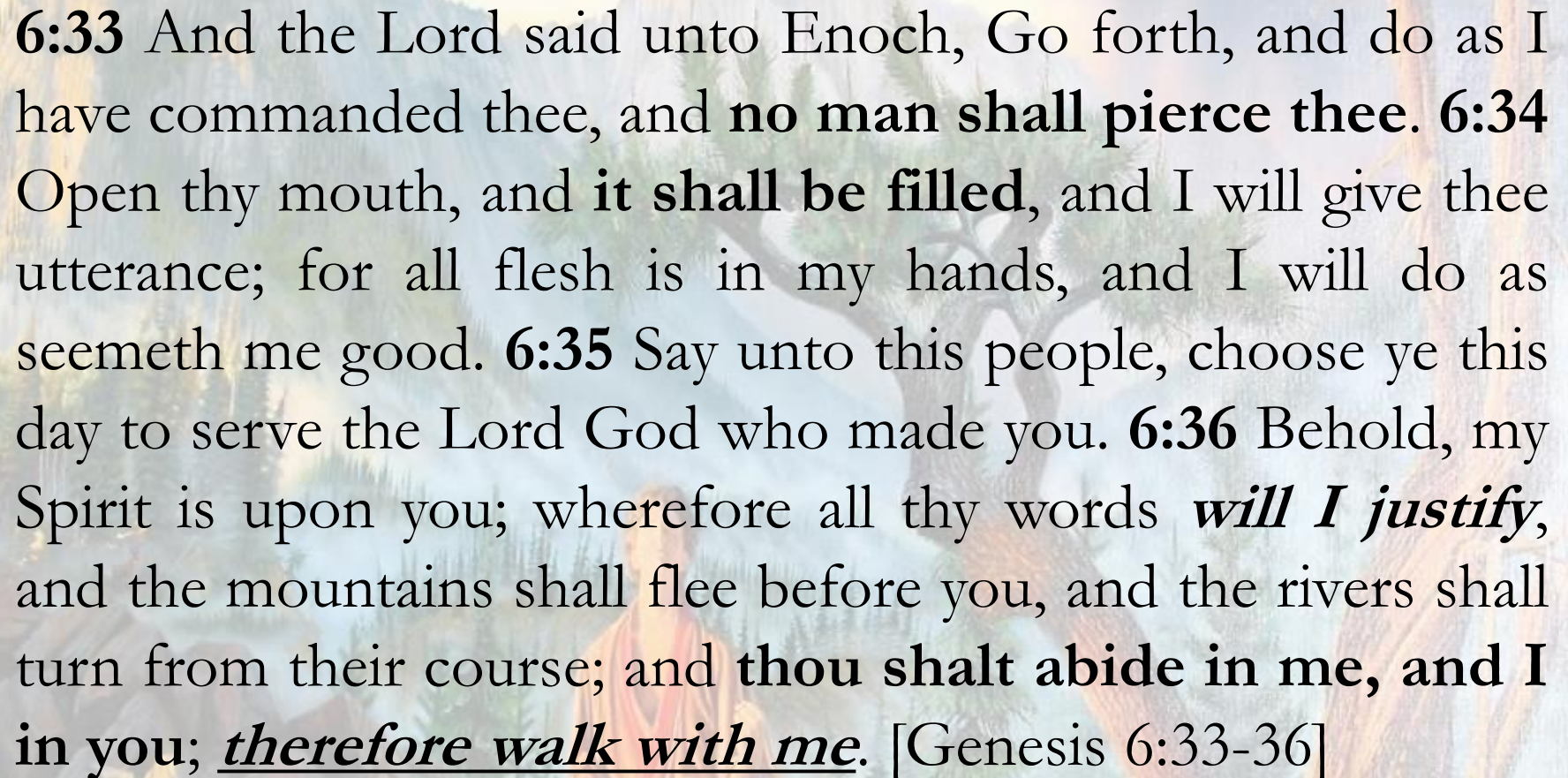
When God speaks, saying, “Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion,” [DC 11:3b] what is our honest response? What type of man are we?

“Behold, I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work; and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be intrusted to his care. Behold, I am the light and the life of the world, that speak these words; therefore, give heed with your might, and **then you are called.** Amen.” [DC 11:4-5]

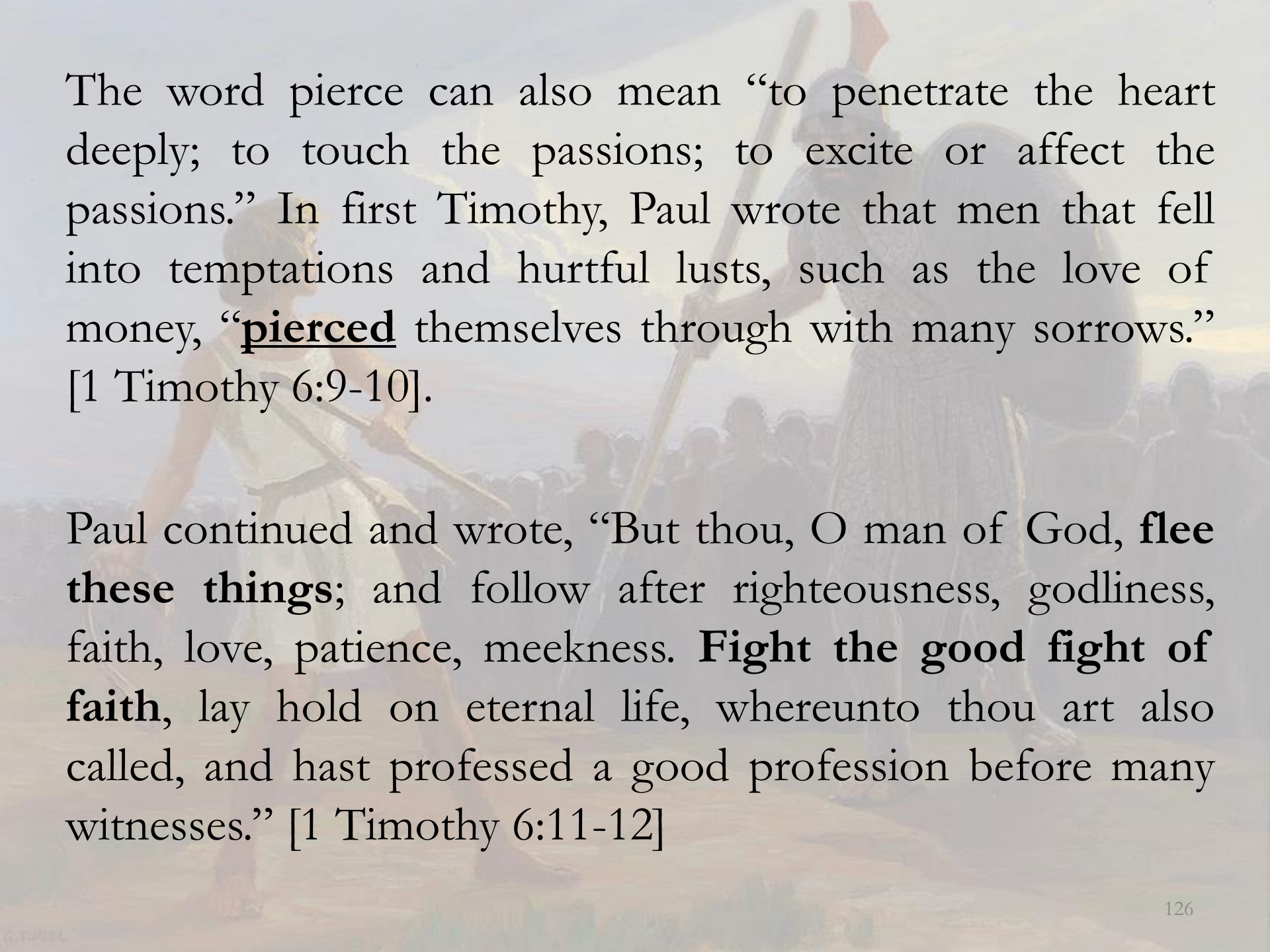
Do we have these traits? If not, then why not?

A soft-focus background image of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, a person wearing a red robe is kneeling in prayer on a grassy slope, with their hands clasped. They are positioned under the shade of a large, ancient tree. The background features misty, rolling mountains and a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a serene and spiritual atmosphere.

Enoch has taught that only an individual whom possesses a pure heart and becomes as a little child will be able to build the Kingdom of God on earth, for a little child submits to the will of his father, and just as Jesus Christ laid down His own will and His own life for His friends, Enoch did likewise both for his Savior and for his people. Through Enoch's obedience, he became more than just a friend, but a brother with Christ. For Jesus said, “Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is **my brother, and sister, and mother.**” [Matthew 12:39]

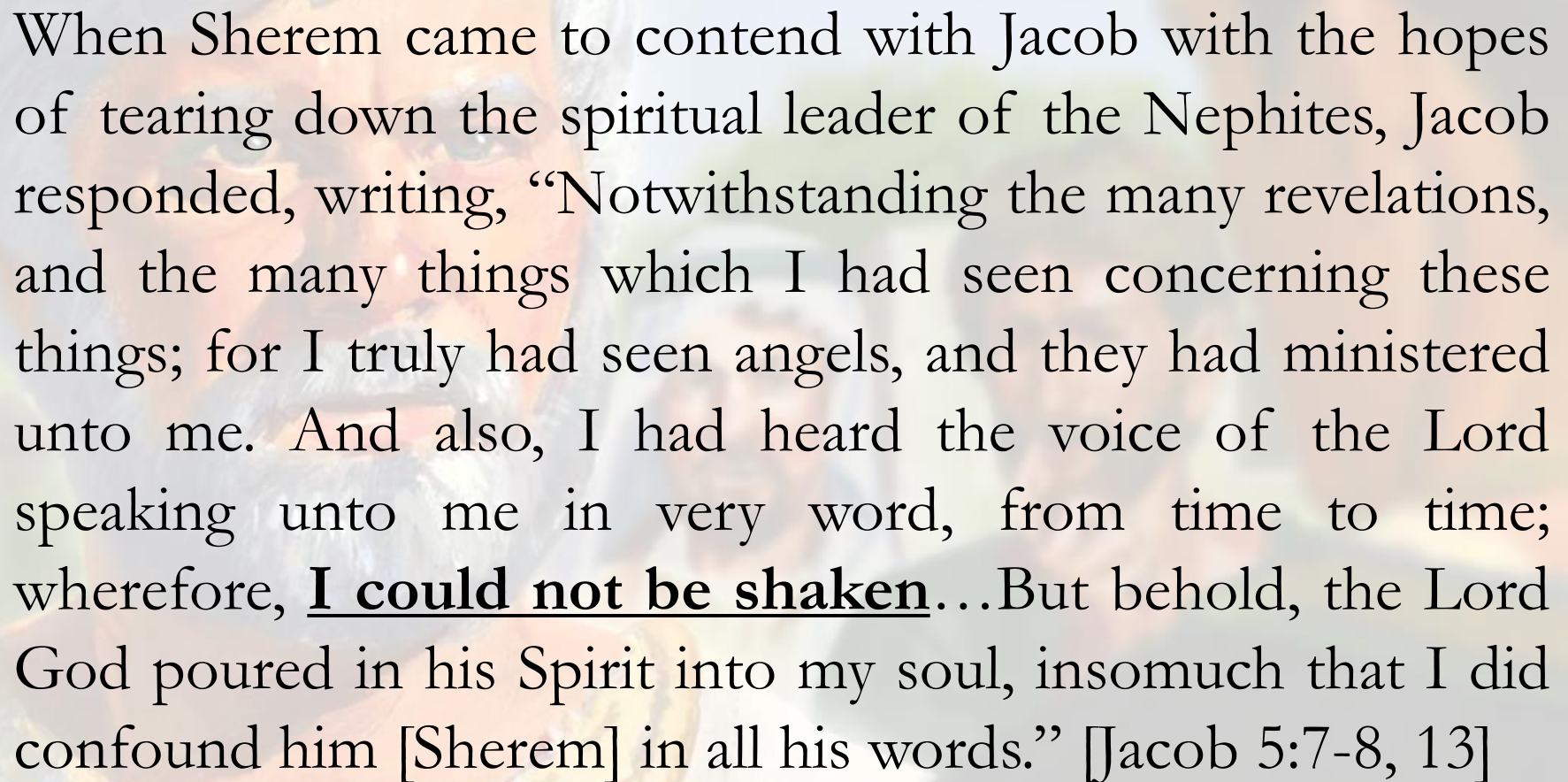
A scenic landscape with mountains, trees, and a person in the foreground. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. In the foreground, a person wearing a red tunic and a brown hat is kneeling on a grassy slope, looking towards the camera. The background features a range of mountains and a large, leafy tree. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

**6:33** And the Lord said unto Enoch, Go forth, and do as I have commanded thee, and **no man shall pierce thee.** **6:34** Open thy mouth, and **it shall be filled,** and I will give thee utterance; for all flesh is in my hands, and I will do as seemeth me good. **6:35** Say unto this people, choose ye this day to serve the Lord God who made you. **6:36** Behold, my Spirit is upon you; wherefore all thy words *will I justify,* and the mountains shall flee before you, and the rivers shall turn from their course; and **thou shalt abide in me, and I in you; therefore walk with me.** [Genesis 6:33-36]

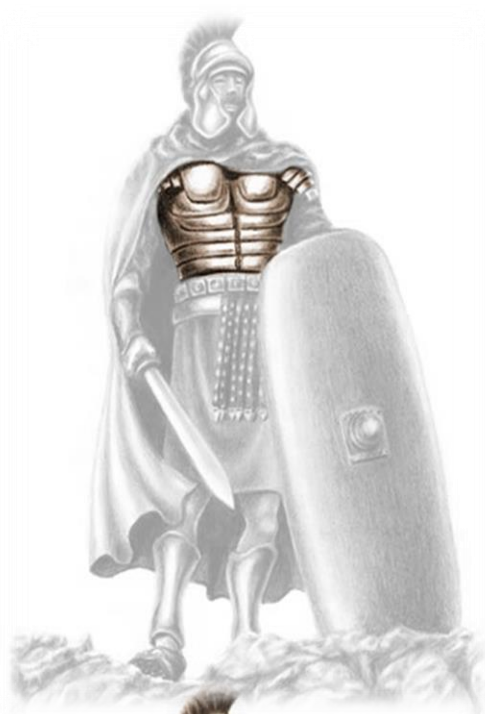


The word pierce can also mean “to penetrate the heart deeply; to touch the passions; to excite or affect the passions.” In first Timothy, Paul wrote that men that fell into temptations and hurtful lusts, such as the love of money, “**pierced** themselves through with many sorrows.” [1 Timothy 6:9-10].

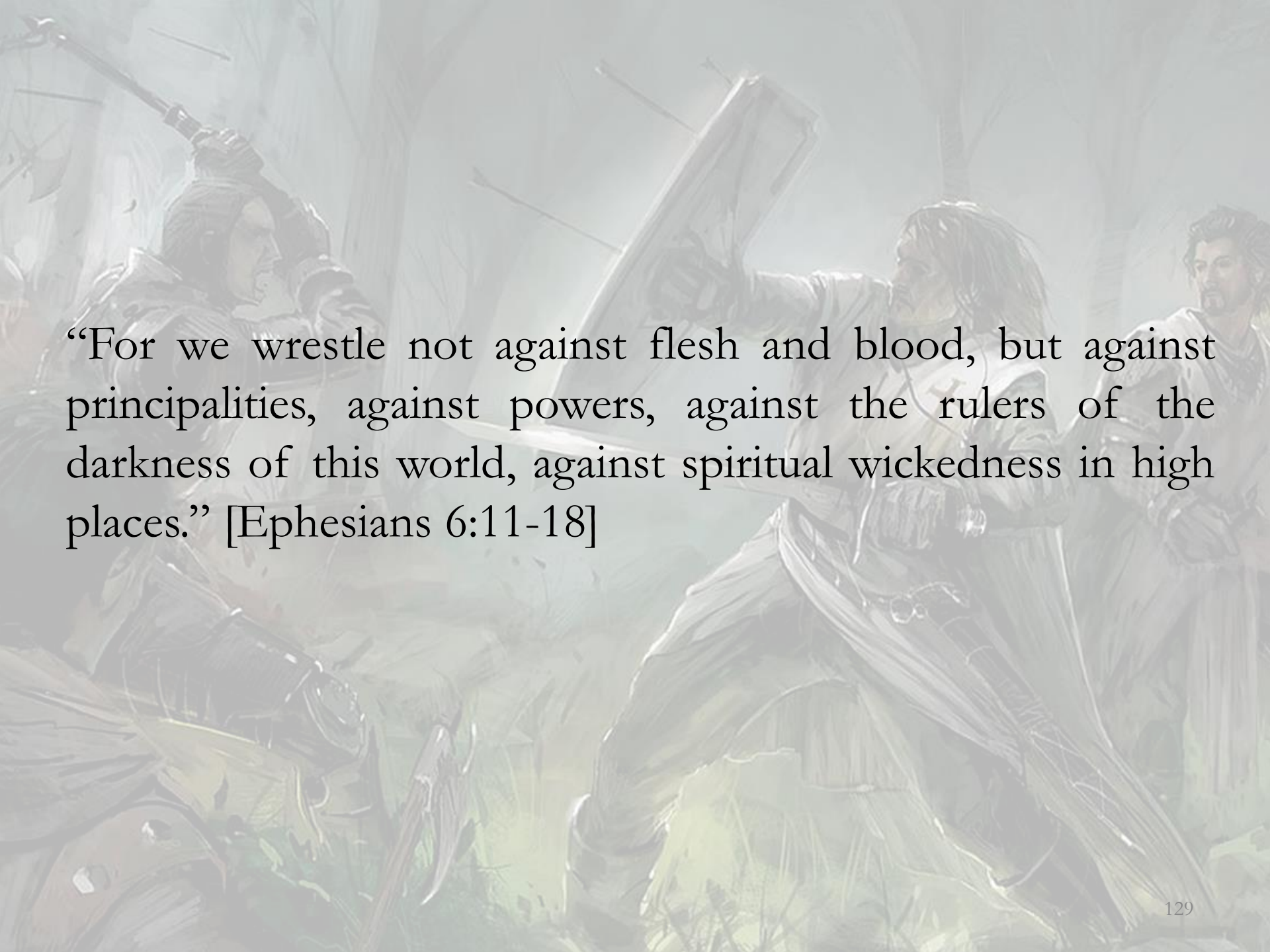
Paul continued and wrote, “But thou, O man of God, **flee these things**; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. **Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” [1 Timothy 6:11-12]



When Sherem came to contend with Jacob with the hopes of tearing down the spiritual leader of the Nephites, Jacob responded, writing, “Notwithstanding the many revelations, and the many things which I had seen concerning these things; for I truly had seen angels, and they had ministered unto me. And also, I had heard the voice of the Lord speaking unto me in very word, from time to time; wherefore, **I could not be shaken**...But behold, the Lord God poured in his Spirit into my soul, insomuch that I did confound him [Sherem] in all his words.” [Jacob 5:7-8, 13]





A faded, artistic illustration of a warrior in a forest. The warrior is in the foreground, wearing a dark, hooded cloak and holding a sword aloft in his right hand and a shield in his left. He is looking towards the right. In the background, another figure is visible, also in a similar style. The scene is set in a misty, wooded area with tall, thin trees and some foliage in the foreground. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” [Ephesians 6:11-18]

“Hereafter I will not talk much with you; for the prince of darkness, who is of this world, cometh, but hath no power over me, but **hath power over you**... These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye **shall** have tribulation; but be of **good cheer**; I have overcome the world... Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them [the world and spirit of antichrist]; because **greater is he that is in you**, than he that is in the world.” [John 14:30, John 16:33, and 1 John 4:4].

If we stand fast and immovable with clean hands and a pure heart, we too will be able to overcome as Enoch did, for Jesus told the disciples, “Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.” [Matthew 5:10]

**4:14** Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. **4:15** Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away....**4:18** But the path of the just is as the *shining light*, that shineth more and more unto the **perfect day**. **4:19** The way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble. **4:20** ...attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. **4:21** Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the **midst of thine heart**. **4:22** For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. **4:23** Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life... **4:25** Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. **4:26** Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. **4:27** Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil. [Proverbs 4:14-27]

“That which is of God is light, and he that receiveth light and continueth in God, receiveth more light, and that light groweth brighter and brighter, until the perfect day. And again, verily I say unto you, and I say it that you may know the truth, that you may chase darkness from among you,” [DC 50:6b-c].



**7:15** And so great was the *faith* of Enoch, that he led the people of God, and their enemies came to battle against them, and he spake the *word of the Lord*, and the earth trembled, and the mountains fled, even according to his command. **7:16** And the rivers of water were turned out of their course, and the roar of the lions was heard out of the wilderness. **7:17** And all nations feared greatly, so powerful was the word of Enoch, and so great was the power of the language **which God had given him.** **7:18** There also came up a land out of the depths of the sea; and so great was the fear of the enemies of the people of God, that *they fled* and stood afar off, and went upon the land which came up out of the depths of the sea. **7:21** And the fear of the Lord was upon all nations, so **great was the glory of the Lord which was upon his people.**

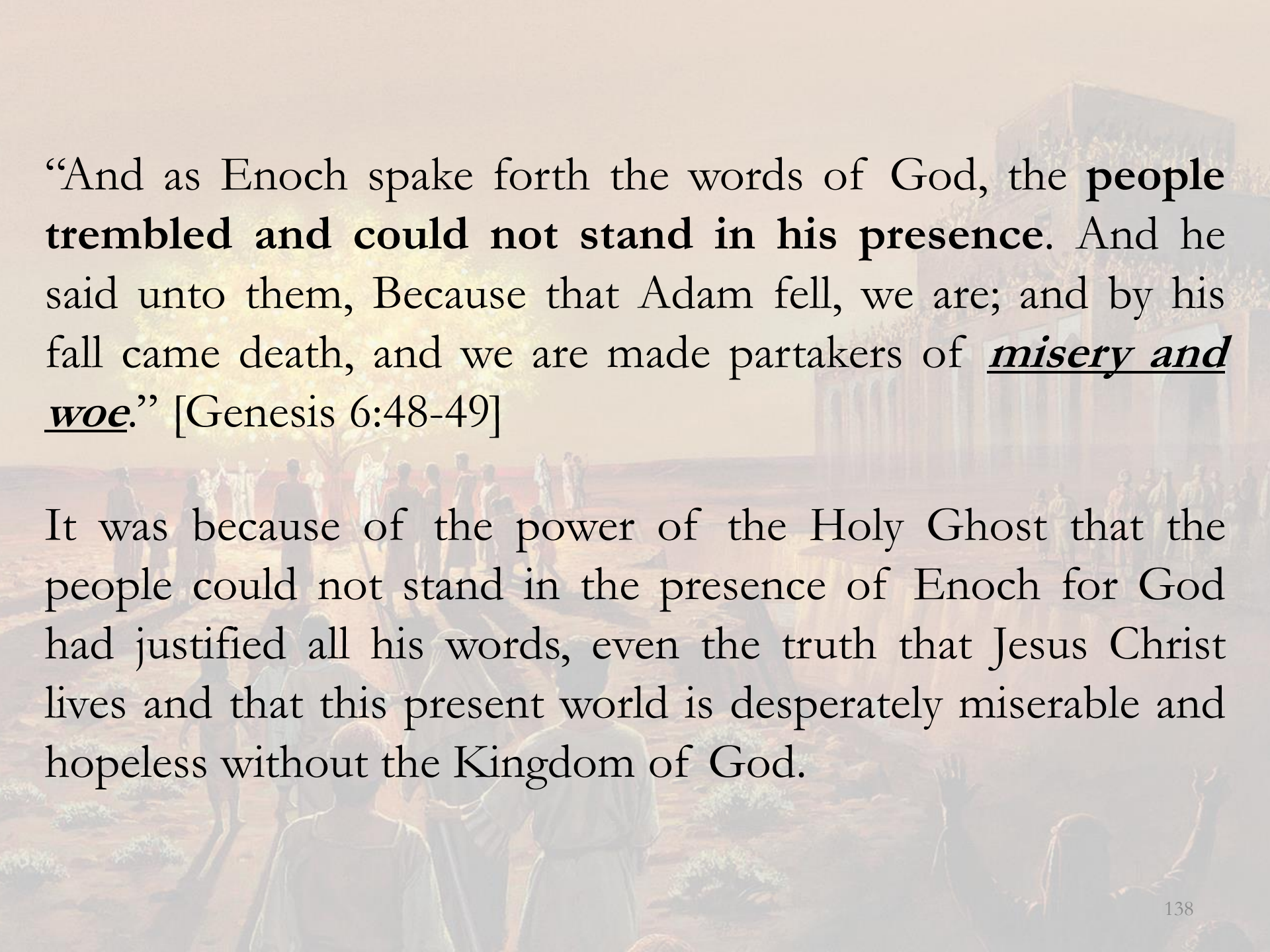
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“If God had commanded me to do all things, **I could do them.** If he should command me that I should say unto this water, Be thou earth, it should be earth; and if I should say it, **it would be done.** And now, if the Lord has such great power, and has wrought so many miracles among the children of men, how is it that **he can not instruct me** that I should build a ship?” [1 Nephi 5:157-159]. If God has such great power, and has wrought so many miracles among the children of men, and if Jesus Christ has such great power that He might redeem all men, how is it that God cannot fulfill all of His promises, even Zion, if we would but keep His commandments and believe in Jesus Christ?

**3:7** Wherefore, we search the prophets; and we have many revelations, and the spirit of prophecy, and having all these witnesses, we obtain a hope, and our **faith becometh unshaken**, insomuch that we truly can command in the *name of Jesus*, and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea; **3:8** Nevertheless, the Lord God sheweth us our weakness, that we may know that it is by his grace, and his great condescensions unto the children of men, that we have power to do these things. [Jacob 3:7-8].



**3:9** Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord.  
**3:10** How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways. **3:11** And no man knoweth of his ways, save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God. **3:12** For behold, by the power of his word, man came upon the face of the earth; which earth was created by the power of his word. **3:13** Wherefore, if God, being able to speak, and the world was; and to speak, and man was created, O then, why not able to command the earth, or the workmanship of his hands upon the face of it, according to his will and pleasure. **3:14** Wherefore, brethren, seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his hand. [Jacob 3:9-14]



“And as Enoch spake forth the words of God, the **people trembled and could not stand in his presence.** And he said unto them, Because that Adam fell, we are; and by his fall came death, and we are made partakers of *misery and woe.*” [Genesis 6:48-49]

It was because of the power of the Holy Ghost that the people could not stand in the presence of Enoch for God had justified all his words, even the truth that Jesus Christ lives and that this present world is desperately miserable and hopeless without the Kingdom of God.

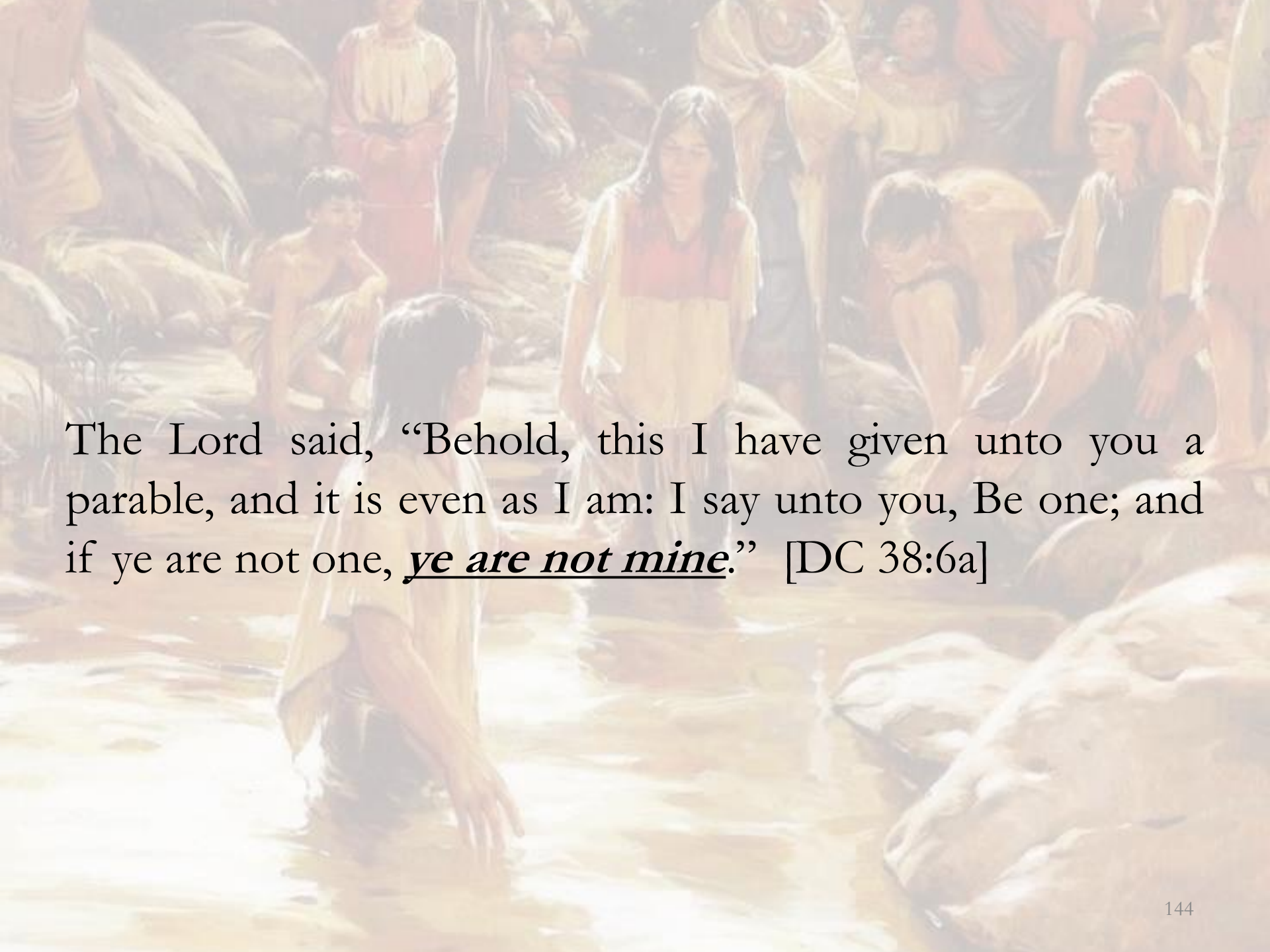
Enoch and his people believed in all of the words of the Lord and desired a better world, even a heavenly place at the right hand of God. They understood “that by faith all things are fulfilled,” and that with such a faith comes a hope which “maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God.” [Ether 5:3-4] Enoch and his people united with a singleness of purpose through their friend and brother, Jesus Christ, and “the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of **one heart and of one mind**, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them. And Enoch continued his preaching in righteousness unto the people of God. And it came to pass in his days, that he built a city that was called the city of Holiness, even Zion. And Enoch and all his people walked with God, and he dwelt in the midst of Zion.” [Genesis 7:23-25 and 77]





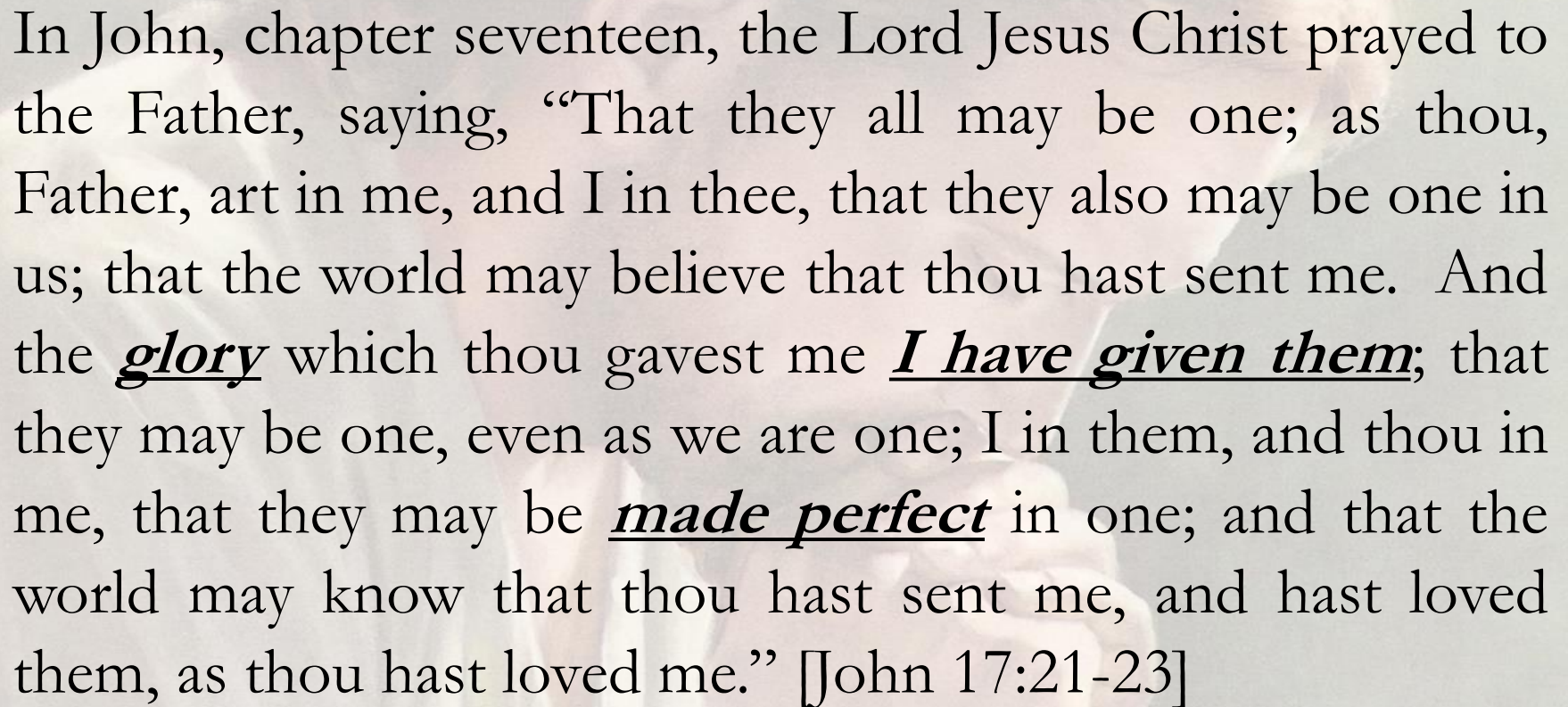
**83:8a** And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation. **83:8b** And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all, and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, **83:8c** that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay. [DC 83:8]



A painting depicting a group of people in a river. In the foreground, a person is wading in the water, looking towards the others. In the background, several people are standing or sitting on rocks, some looking towards the person in the water. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment with rocks and water.

The Lord said, “Behold, this I have given unto you a parable, and it is even as I am: I say unto you, Be one; and if ye are not one, *ye are not mine.*” [DC 38:6a]





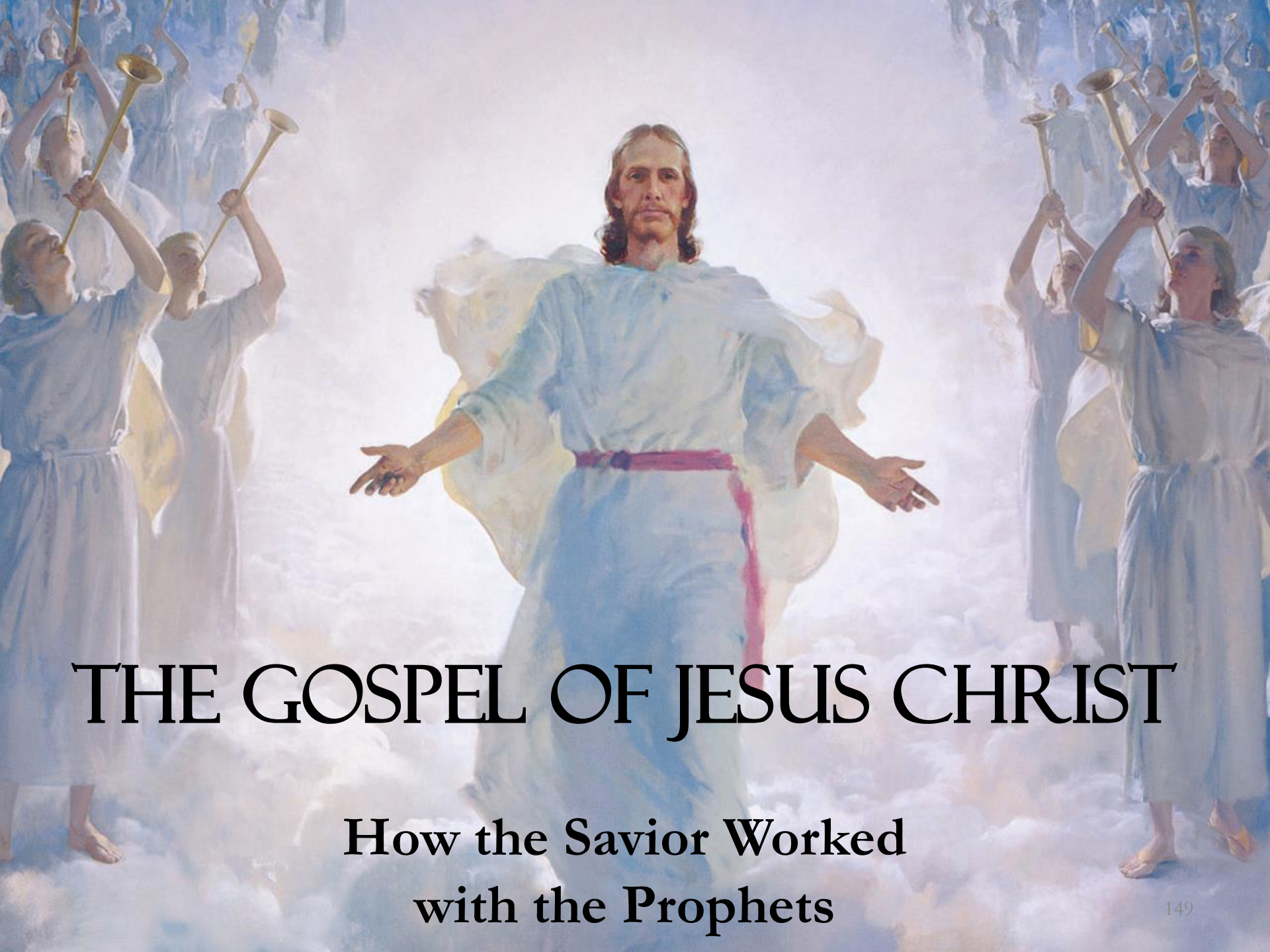
In John, chapter seventeen, the Lord Jesus Christ prayed to the Father, saying, “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the *glory* which thou gavest me *I have given them*; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be *made perfect* in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” [John 17:21-23]

“The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth.” [DC 90:6a]. It is this light and truth which testifies that God is, that He sent His Only Begotten Son into the world to be the light and life of the world, and that He will send His Son again to restore all things, even this earth “that it may be prepared for the celestial glory; for after it hath filled the measure of its creation, it shall be crowned with glory, even with the presence of God the Father.” [DC 85:4c].

9:54 And he commanded them that there should be *no contention* one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism; *having their hearts knit together in unity and in love,* one towards another. [Mosiah 9:54]

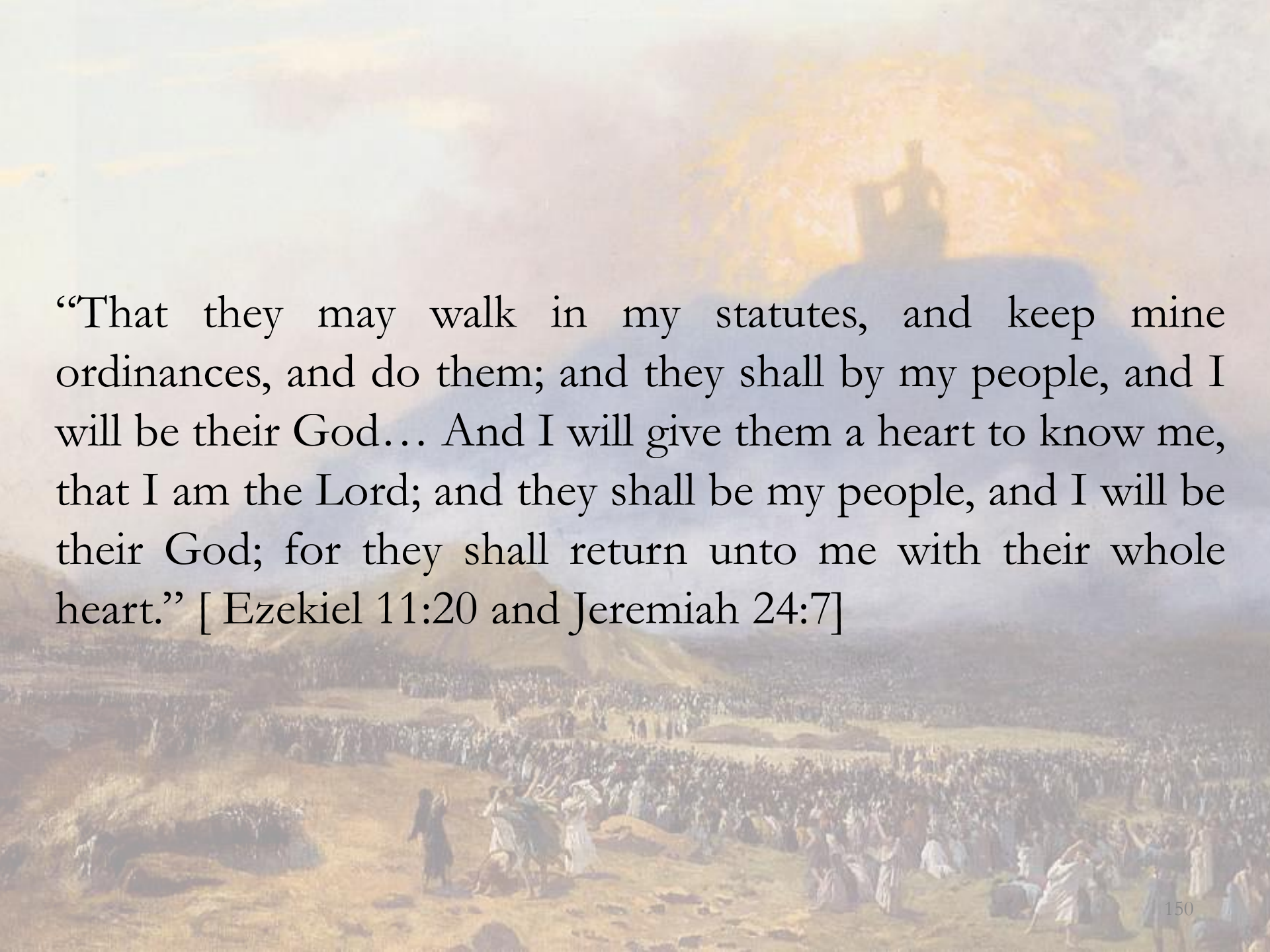
1:17 And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, *because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people.* 1:18 And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; 1:19 And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God [4 Nephi 1:17-19]





# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

How the Savior Worked  
with the Prophets

A large crowd of people is gathered in a hazy, golden landscape. In the background, a bright light source, possibly the sun or a divine presence, illuminates the scene, creating a silhouette of a figure on a throne. The people in the foreground are dressed in simple, light-colored clothing, and some are carrying bundles on their heads or backs. The overall atmosphere is one of a significant event or gathering.

“That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them; and they shall by my people, and I will be their God... And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God; for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.” [ Ezekiel 11:20 and Jeremiah 24:7]

**42:1a** Hearken, O ye elders [and people] of my church, who have assembled themselves together, in my name, even Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, the Savior of the world, inasmuch as they believe on my name and keep my commandments; **42:1b** again I say unto you, Hearken and hear and obey the law which I shall give unto you; for verily I say. **9:21** ...that, *when men should keep all my commandments, Zion should again come on the earth*, the city of Enoch which I have caught up unto myself. **9:22** And this is mine everlasting covenant, that when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; **9:23** And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with thy father Enoch.

**Continued...**

**45:2d** And even so I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard for my people and for the Gentiles to seek to it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me. **17:1** ..., give ear to my words; *for I swear unto you*, that inasmuch as ye shall keep the commandments of God, ye shall prosper in the land.

**Continued...**

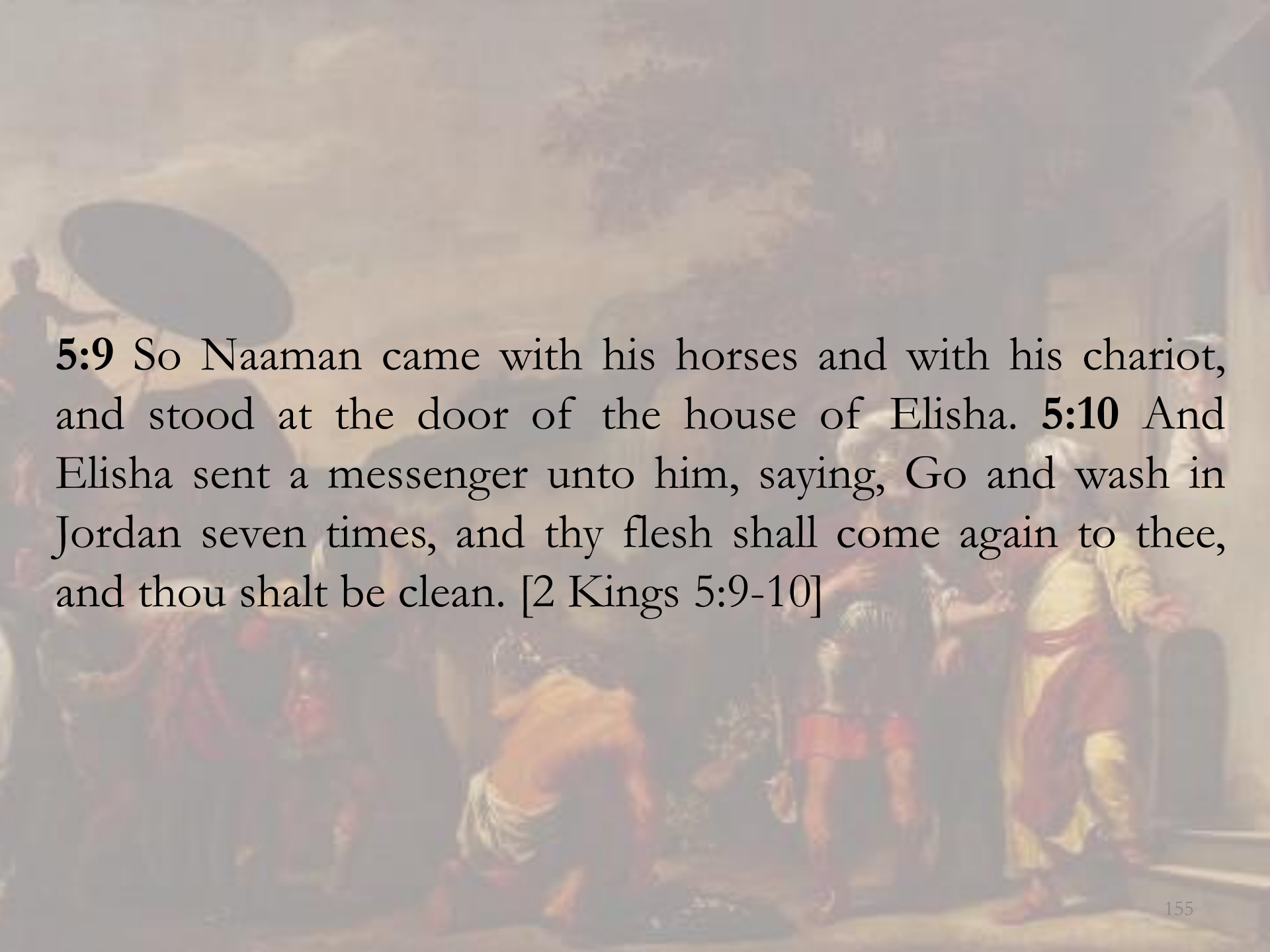


**17:45** And now remember... that God has entrusted you with these things, which are sacred, which he has kept sacred, and also which he will keep and preserve for a wise purpose in him, that he may shew forth his power... **17:46** And now behold, I tell you by the spirit of prophecy, that if ye transgress the commandments of God, behold, these things which are sacred, **shall** be taken away from you by the power of God, and ye shall be delivered up unto Satan, that he may sift you as chaff before the wind; **17:47** But if ye keep the commandments of God, and do with these things which are sacred, according to that which the Lord doth command you (for you must appeal unto the Lord for all things whatsoever ye must do with them), behold **no power of earth or hell can take them from you**, for God is powerful to the fulfilling of all his words: **17:48** For he will fulfill all his promises which he shall make unto you...

**Continued...**

**5:38** And now my beloved brethren, I have said these things unto you, that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may walk blameless before him; that ye may walk after the holy order of God, after which ye have been received. **5:39** And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive, and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long suffering; being temperate in all things; **being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times;**

**11:3a** Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, **11:3b** Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. [DC 42:1a-b, Genesis 9:21-23, DC 45:2d, Alma 17:1 and 45-48, Alma 5:38-39, and DC 11:3a-b]



**5:9** So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. **5:10** And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. [2 Kings 5:9-10]

**5:11** But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, **I thought**, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. **5:12** Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. **5:13** And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? *how much rather then*, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? **5:14** Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, *and he was clean.* [2 Kings 5:11-14]

Sadly, it appears that we are very much like Naaman. In our hearts and minds we desire great miracles and workings of the Lord, which we often view as impossible, and we spend much time searching for the secret that will unlock the mystery to Zion. We go about asking questions such as why do we not have Zion, why we are not one heart and one mind, and how do we go about establishing the cause of Zion. However, God has shared through His servants the prophets that if we will simply do as He has commanded, He will fulfill all of His words.

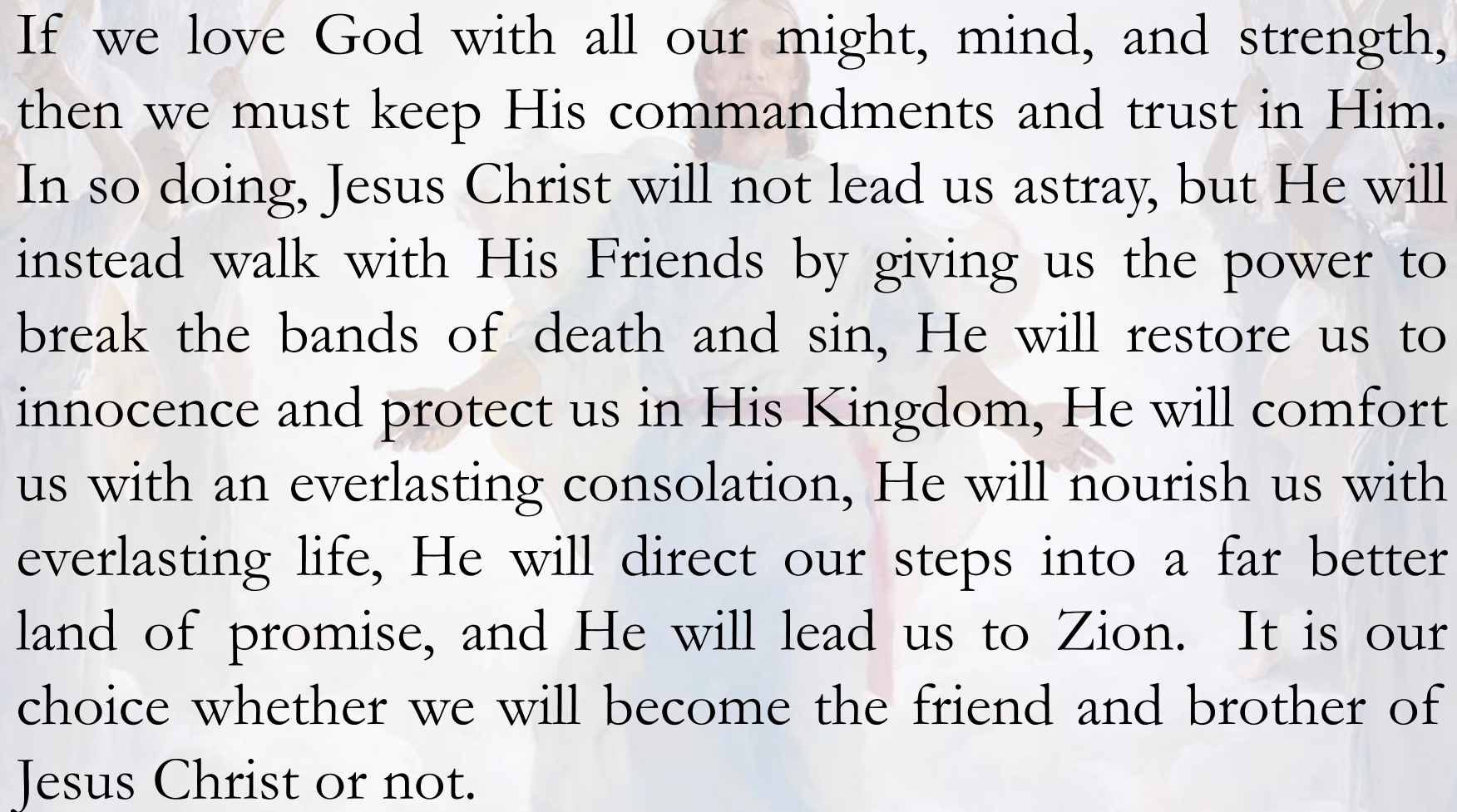
**26:16** This day the Lord thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments; thou shalt therefore keep and do them with **all thine heart**, and with **all thy soul**.

**26:17** Thou hast avouched the Lord this day to be thy God, and to walk in his ways, and keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and to hearken unto his voice;

**26:18** And the Lord hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as *he hath promised thee*, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments;

**26:19** And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honor; and that thou mayest be a holy people unto the Lord thy God, *as he hath spoken*.

[Deuteronomy 26:16-19]

A woman in a blue dress is the central figure, holding a trumpet. She is surrounded by other people, some of whom are also holding trumpets, suggesting a celebratory or musical event. The background is a soft, light blue with a subtle pattern of clouds or smoke.

If we love God with all our might, mind, and strength, then we must keep His commandments and trust in Him. In so doing, Jesus Christ will not lead us astray, but He will instead walk with His Friends by giving us the power to break the bands of death and sin, He will restore us to innocence and protect us in His Kingdom, He will comfort us with an everlasting consolation, He will nourish us with everlasting life, He will direct our steps into a far better land of promise, and He will lead us to Zion. It is our choice whether we will become the friend and brother of Jesus Christ or not.