

1 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.

JOSHUA 24:1-13

JOSHUA

COURAGEOUS FAITH. FAITHFUL GOD.

WILL WE SERVE THE LORD? | JOSHUA 24



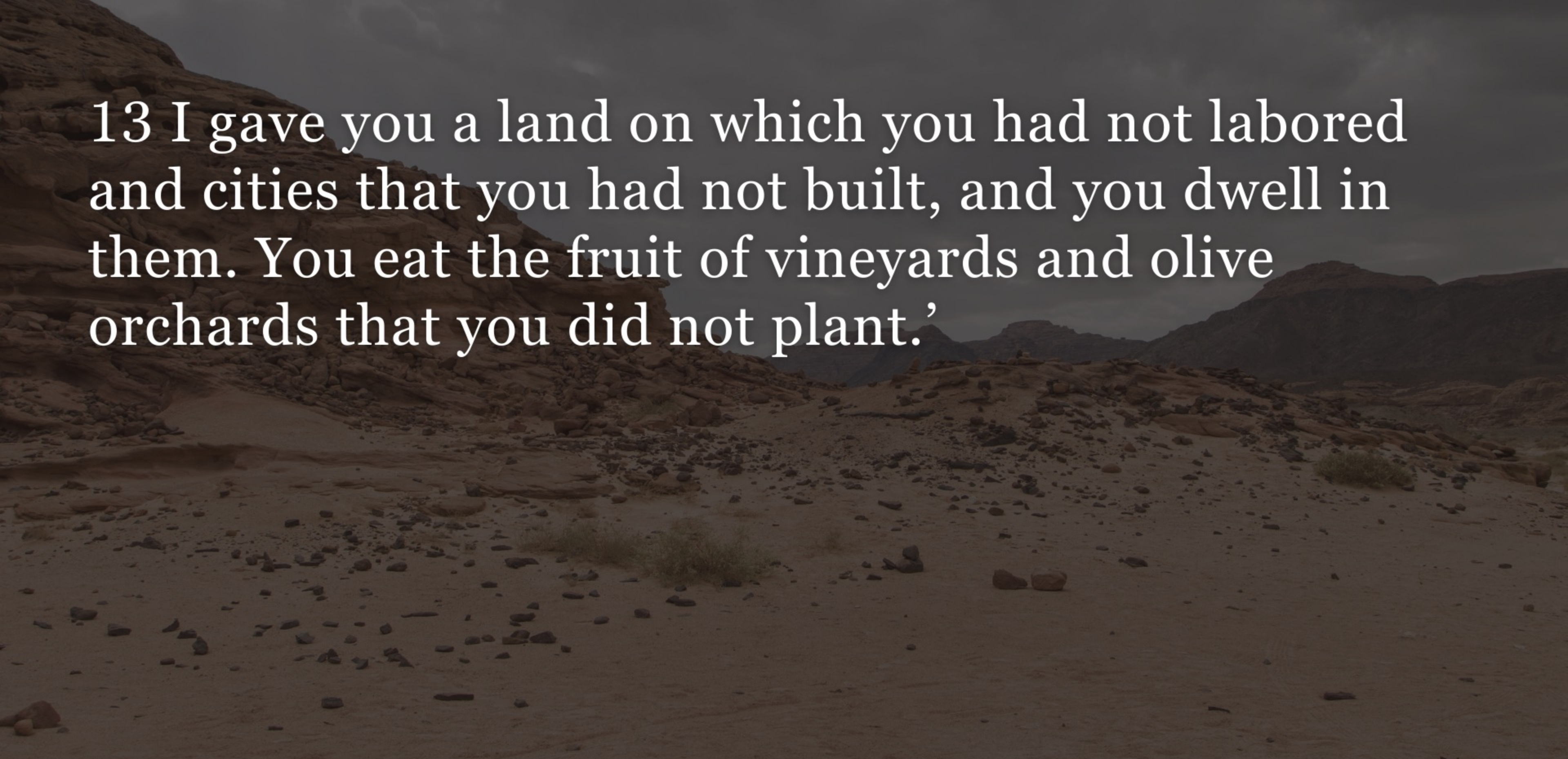
Will we serve the Lord?

3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. 4 And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. 5 And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out.

6 “Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 And when they cried to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness a long time.

8 Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. 9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, 10 but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand.

11 And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand.
12 And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow.



13 I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.'

JOSHUA 24:1-13



We must start with
what He's done for us

JOSHUA 24:1-13

Star with What He's Done for Us

1 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.

JOSHUA 24:1-2

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JOSHUA 24:3–8

Star with What He's Done for Us

- Balak sought to curse Israel (Numbers 22)

9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, 10 but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand.

JOSHUA 24:9–10

Star with What He's Done for Us

- Hebrew could mean "hornet" or "terror/panic"

-Fulfillment of Exodus 23:28 and Deuteronomy 7:20

12 And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow.

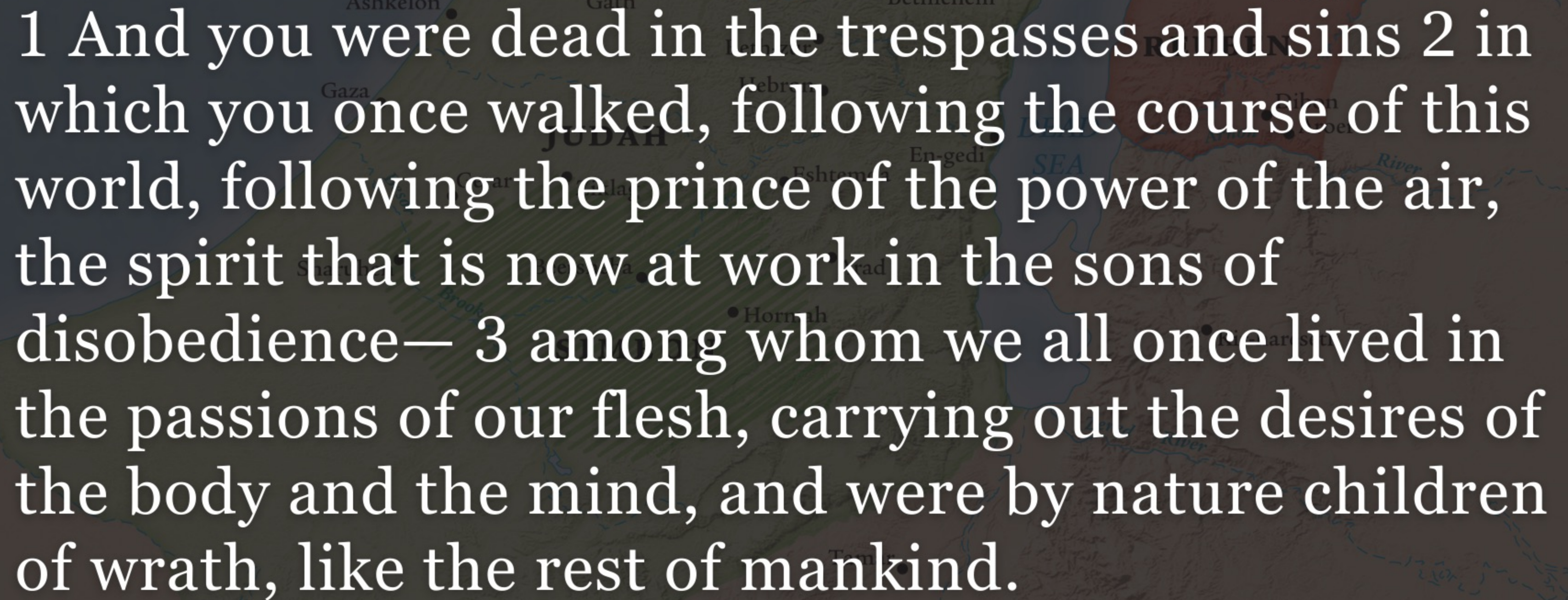
JOSHUA 24:12

Star with What He's Done for Us

- God did the work; they enjoy the benefit

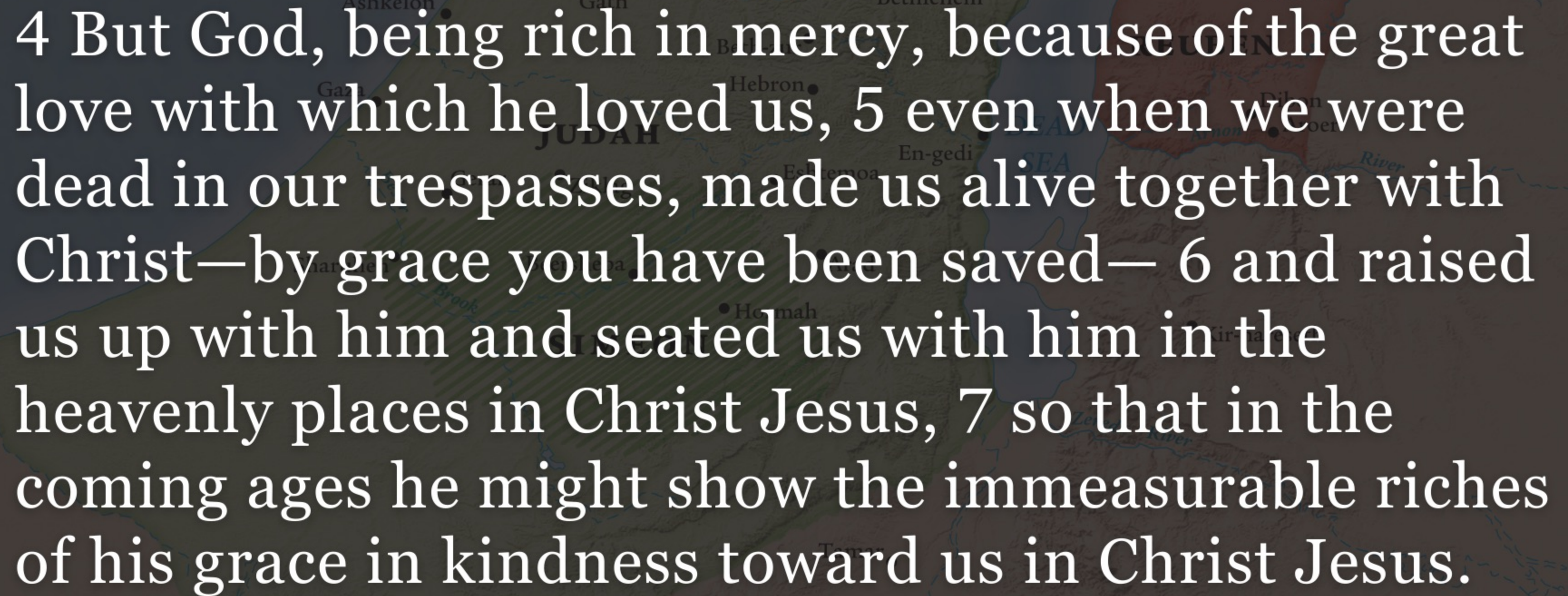
13 I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.

JOSHUA 24:13



1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

EPHESIANS 2:1-7

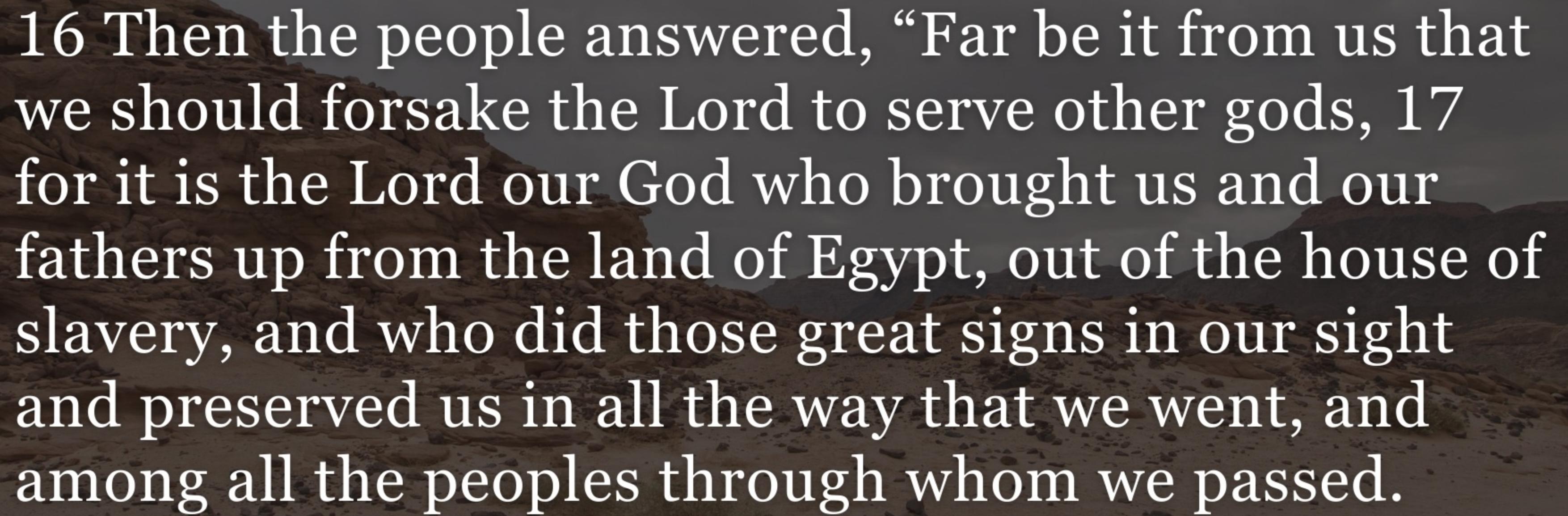


4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 2:1-7

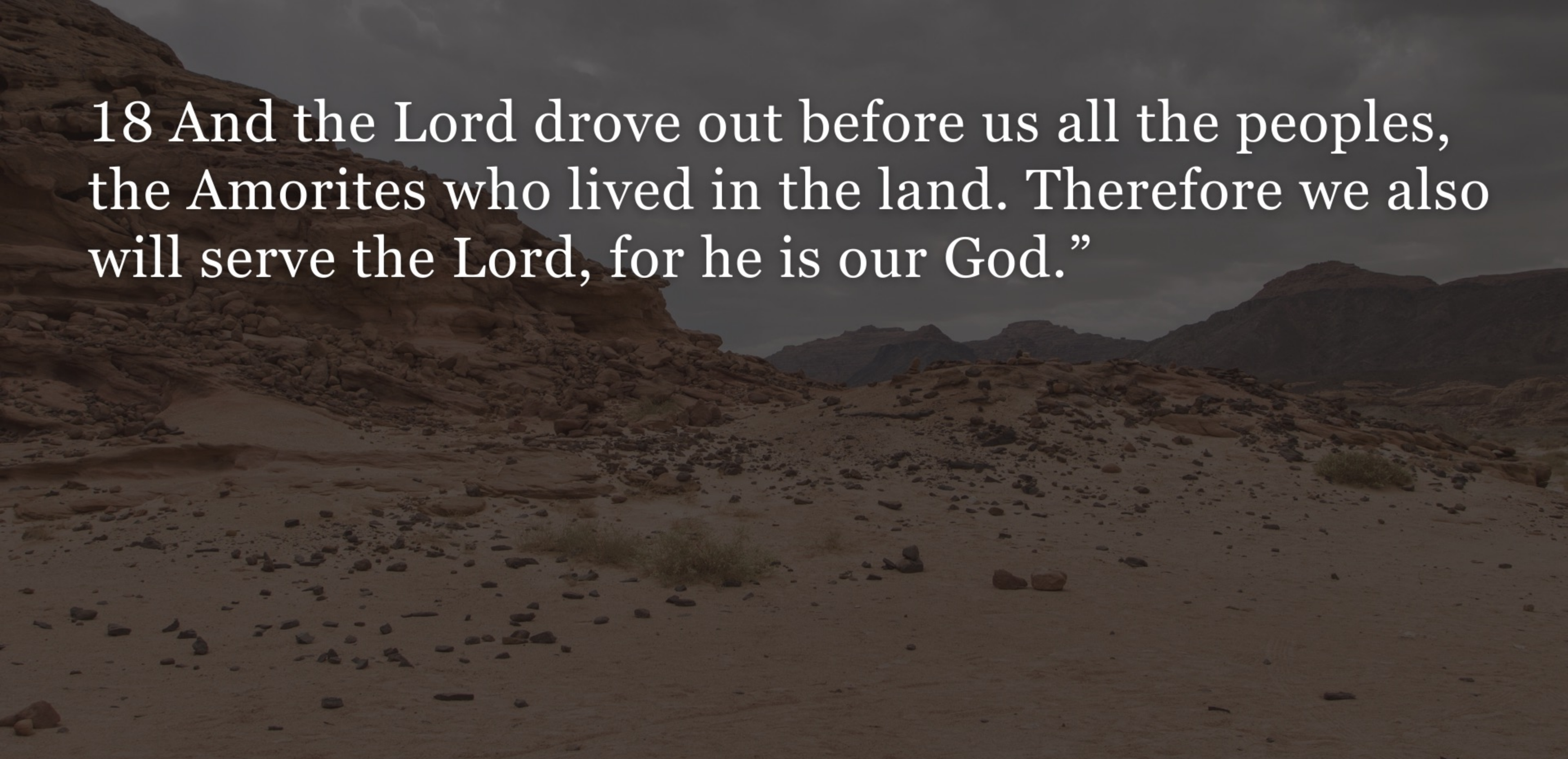
14 “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

JOSHUA 24:14-18



16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed.

JOSHUA 24:14-18



18 And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples,
the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also
will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

JOSHUA 24:14-18

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there is a sandy, rocky plain with scattered dark stones and small, dry bushes. To the left, a large, rugged, reddish-brown rock formation rises. In the background, a range of dark, jagged mountains stretches across the horizon under a heavy, overcast sky. The overall tone is somber and desolate.

We must make a decision

JOSHUA 24:14-18

14 “Now therefore fear the LORD and **serve** him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers **served** beyond the River and in Egypt, and **serve** the LORD. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to **serve** the LORD, choose this day whom you will **serve**, whether the gods your fathers **served** in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will **serve** the LORD.” 16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to **serve** other gods,

JOSHUA 24:14–16

We Must Make a Decision

- The people have to make a decision

15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

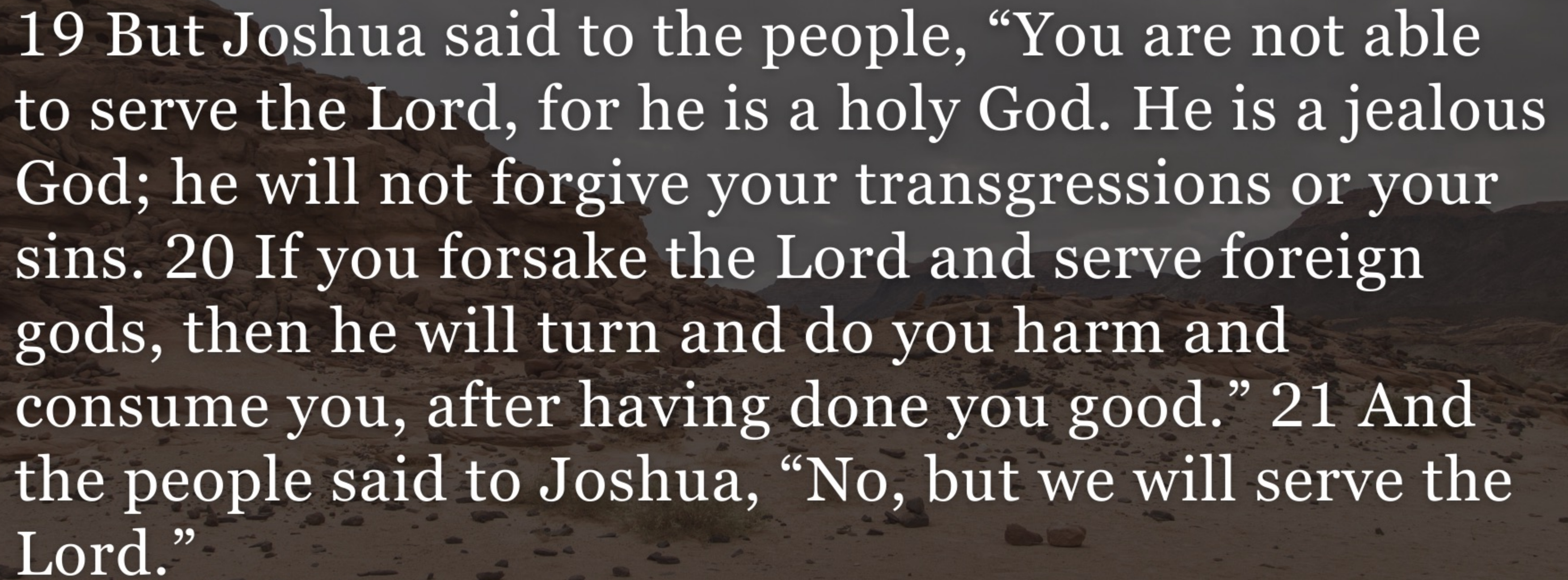
JOSHUA 24:15

We Must Make a Decision

16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, 17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

JOSHUA 24:16–18



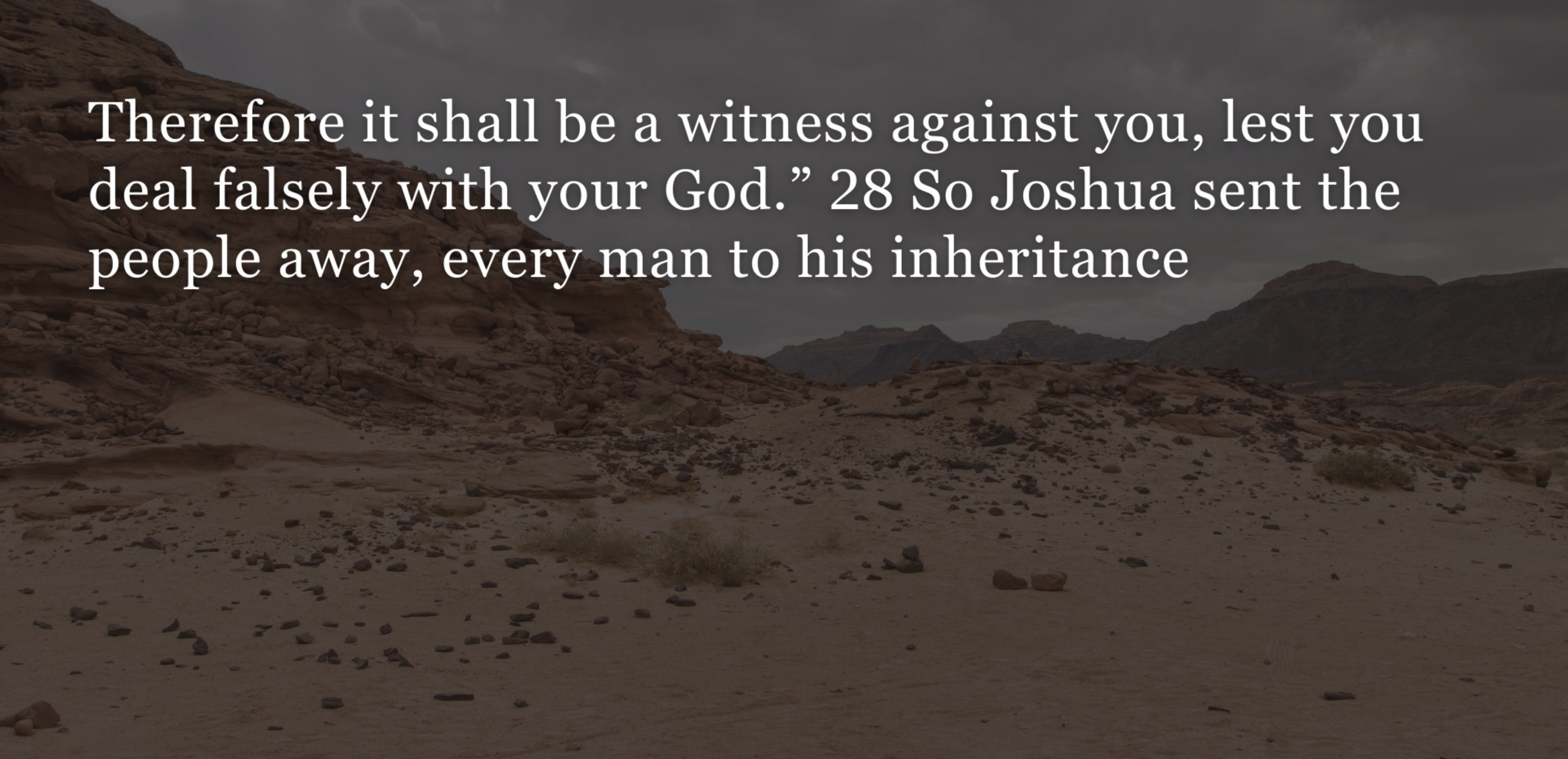


19 But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” 21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the Lord.”

JOSHUA 24:19-28

22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” 23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel.” 24 And the people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.”

25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. 26 And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. 27 And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us.



Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.” 28 So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance

JOSHUA 24:19-28



We must recognize He is
impassioned and active

JOSHUA 24:19-28

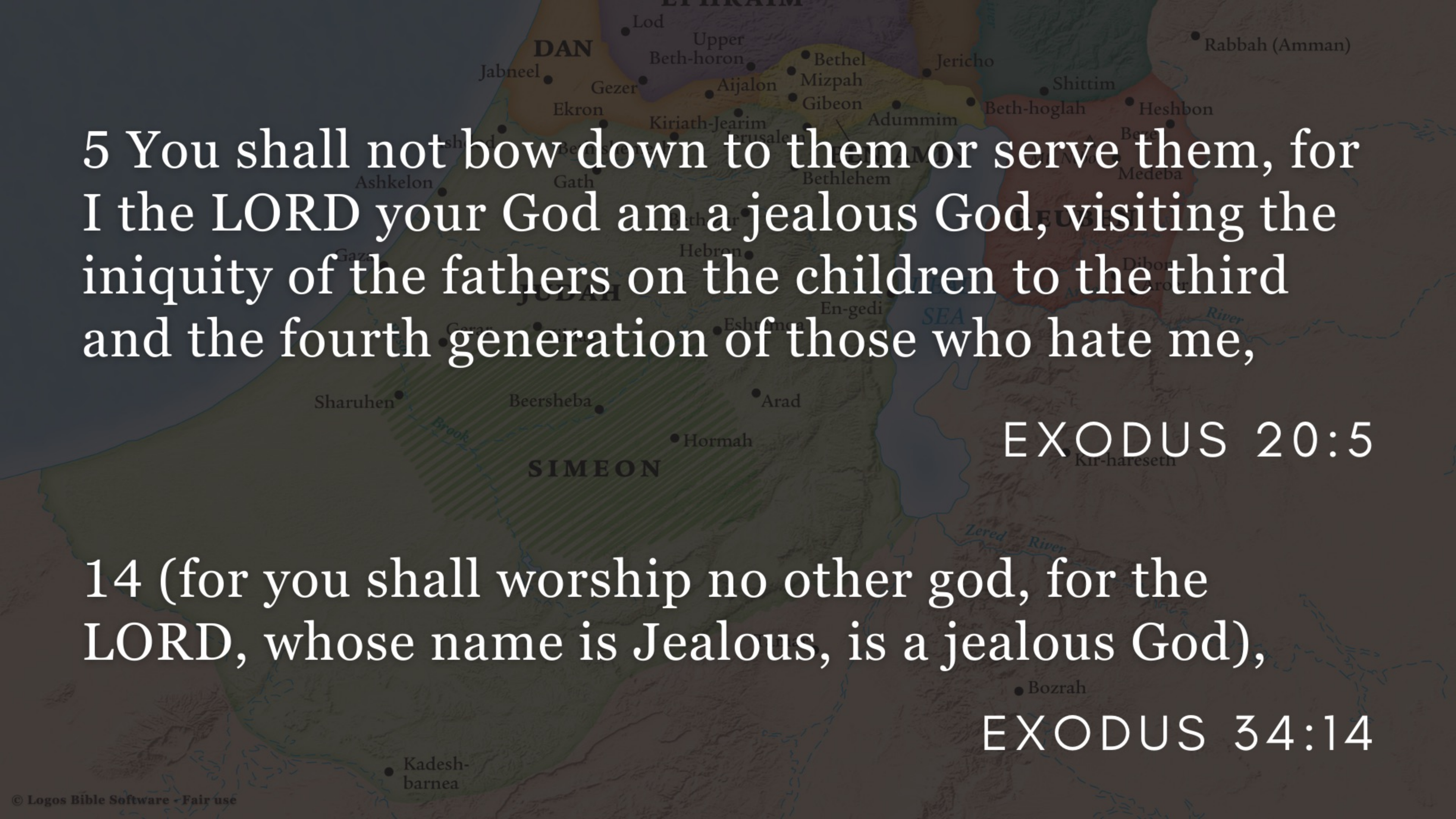
Recognize He Is Impassioned and Active

19 But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.

JOSHUA 24:19

Jealous

“The [Hebrew] word can occur both in a positive sense (advocate zealously for the benefit of someone else) and in a negative sense (bear a grudge against, resent). The various usages share the notion of an intense, energetic state of mind, urging towards action.”



5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,

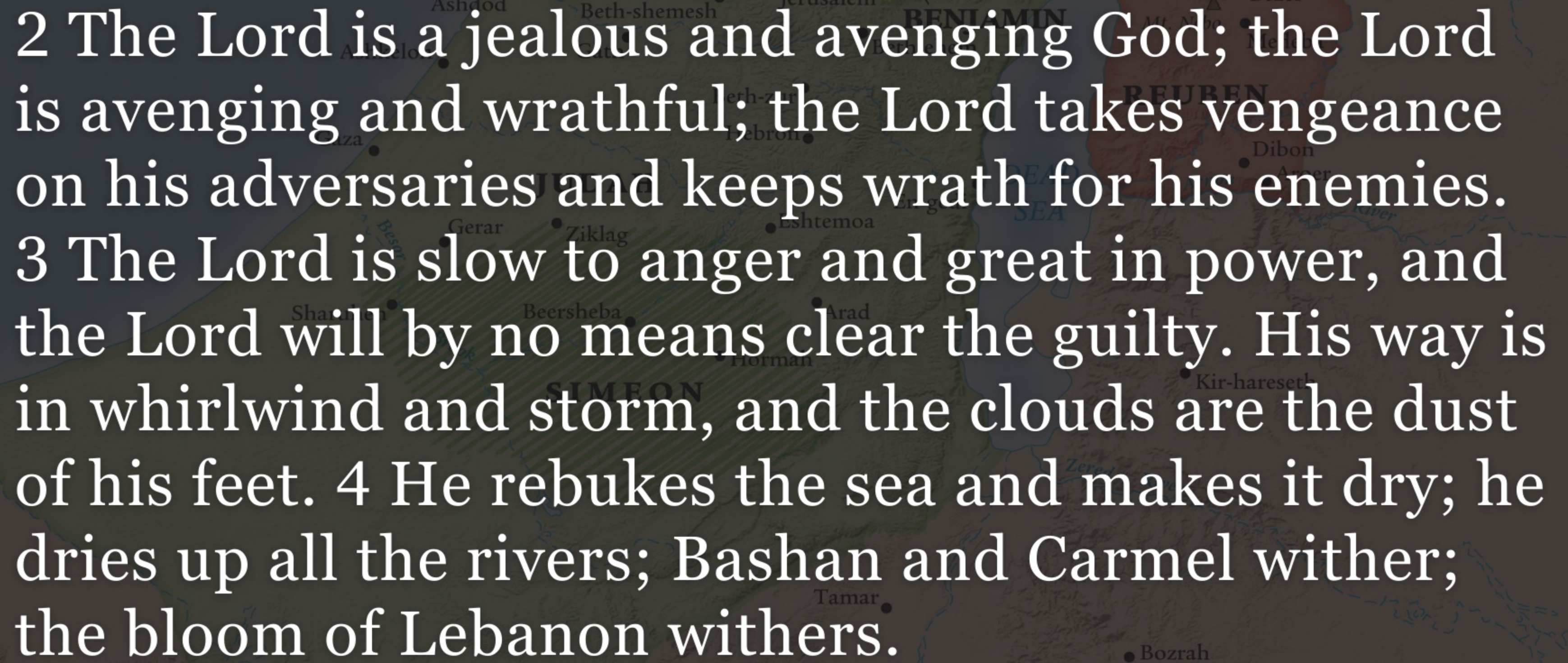
EXODUS 20:5

14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

EXODUS 34:14

He is not:

- God-Passive
- God-Meh
- God-Whatever
- God-Indifferent
- God-Apathetic

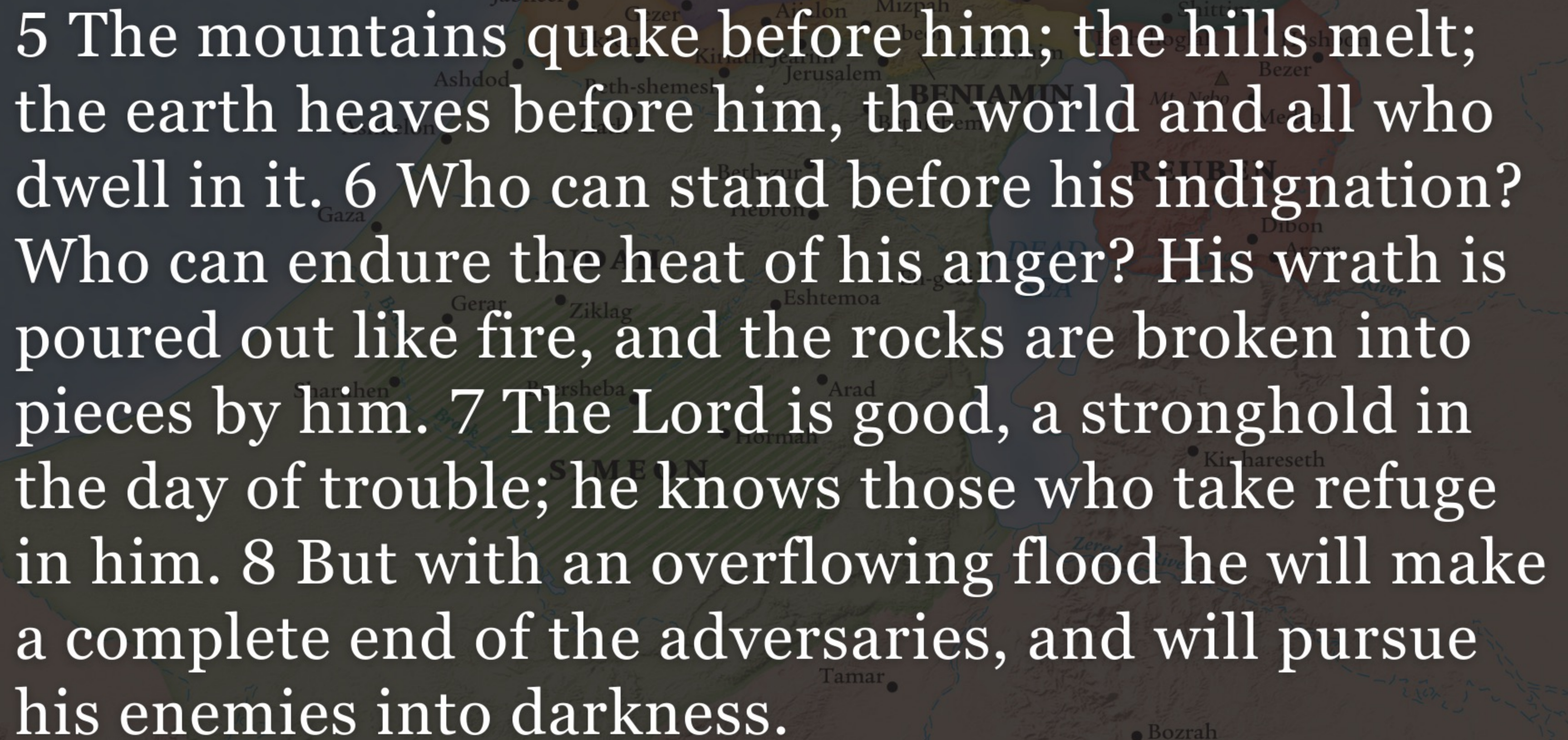


2 The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.

3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers.

NAHUM 1:2-8



5 The mountains quake before him; the hills melt;
the earth heaves before him, the world and all who
dwell in it. 6 Who can stand before his indignation?
Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is
poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into
pieces by him. 7 The Lord is good, a stronghold in
the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge
in him. 8 But with an overflowing flood he will make
a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue
his enemies into darkness.

NAHUM 1:2-8

Recognize He Is Impassioned and Active

- God isn't going to overlook their turning from Him
- Nor sin in general

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JOSHUA 24:19-20

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21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD.” 22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” 23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel.” 24 And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.”

JOSHUA 24:21–24

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25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. 26 And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. 27 And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.”

JOSHUA 24:25–27



29 After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being 110 years old. 30 And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash. 31 Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.

32 As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph. 33 And Eleazar the son of Aaron died, and they buried him at Gibeah, the town of Phinehas his son, which had been given him in the hill country of Ephraim.



We must live and die
with the eyes of faith

JOSHUA 24:29-33

Live and Die with the Eyes of Faith

- Three burials: Joshua's, Joseph's, and Eleazar's

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JOSHUA 24:29–30

Live and Die with the Eyes of Faith

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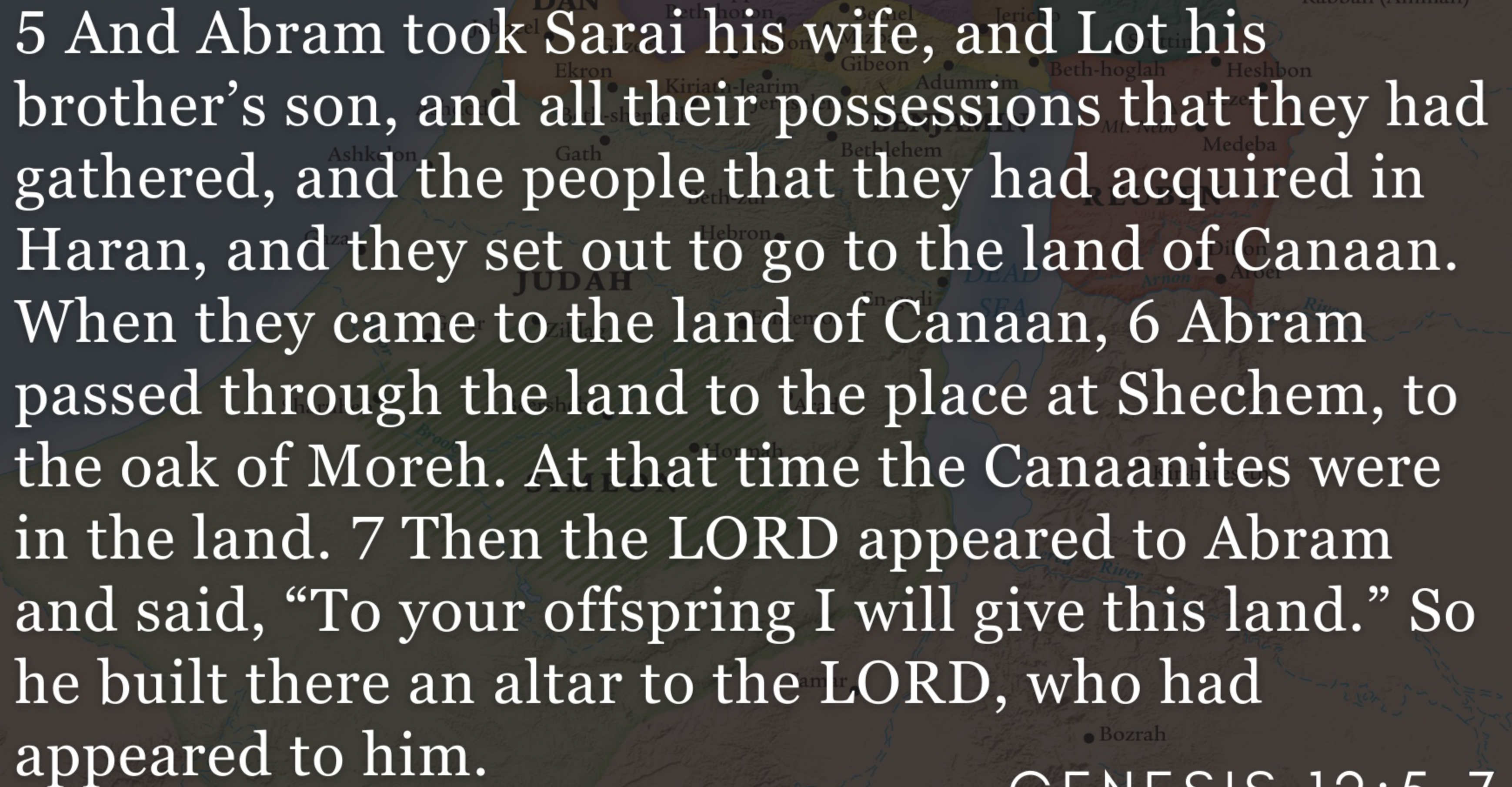
JOSHUA 24:33

Live and Die with the Eyes of Faith

- Joseph died in Egypt 450 years earlier (Gen. 50:22-26)

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JOSHUA 24:32



5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

GENESIS 12:5-7



"Then I slept one night
In Abraham's field
And dreamt there was no moon
The night he died
Counting stars"

Newsboys "The Orphan"



JOSHUA

COURAGEOUS FAITH. FAITHFUL GOD.