



H E A V E N

UNFORGETTING THE GOSPEL'S GLORY



OVERVIEW

HEAVEN'S GLORY

- Creator
- Redeemer
- New Creation
 - Dualism, Platonism, Christoplatonism
 - Spiritual Vision Model (**SVM**) vs. New Creation Model (**NCM**)
- Better Than Creation

HEAVEN'S GOSPEL

- Eden
- The Fall and the Curse
- The Hope of the Gospel
 - The Importance of Incarnation and Resurrection
 - The Power of the Cross
 - Reversal of the Curse
 - Uplifting from the Fall
- Better Than Eden

HEAVEN'S KINGDOM

- A Kingdom of **Redemption**
- A Kingdom of **Righteousness**
- A Kingdom of **Relationships**
- **Better** Than A Kingdom

HEAVEN'S LIFE

- **Eternal Life**

- **Discontinuities**

- SIN
- Death
- Mourning, Weeping, Sorrow, Crying
- Pain
- Disease
- Insecurity and Fear

- **Continuities**

- Consciousness
- Personality
- Identity
- Individuality
- Diversity
- Knowledge
- Desires
- Feelings and Emotions
- Affections
- Relationships

HEAVEN'S LIFE

- **Our Relationships**
- **Our Bodies**
- **Our Occupations**
 - Enjoy **Worshiping** without Distraction
 - Enjoy **Working** without Exhaustion
 - Enjoy **Ruling and Reigning** with Christ
- Enjoy **Fellowship and Banqueting**
- Enjoy **Music**
- Enjoy **Learning**
- Enjoy **Building**
- Enjoy **Farming**
- Enjoy **Raising Livestock**
- Enjoy **Relief and Rest**

HEAVEN'S LIGHT

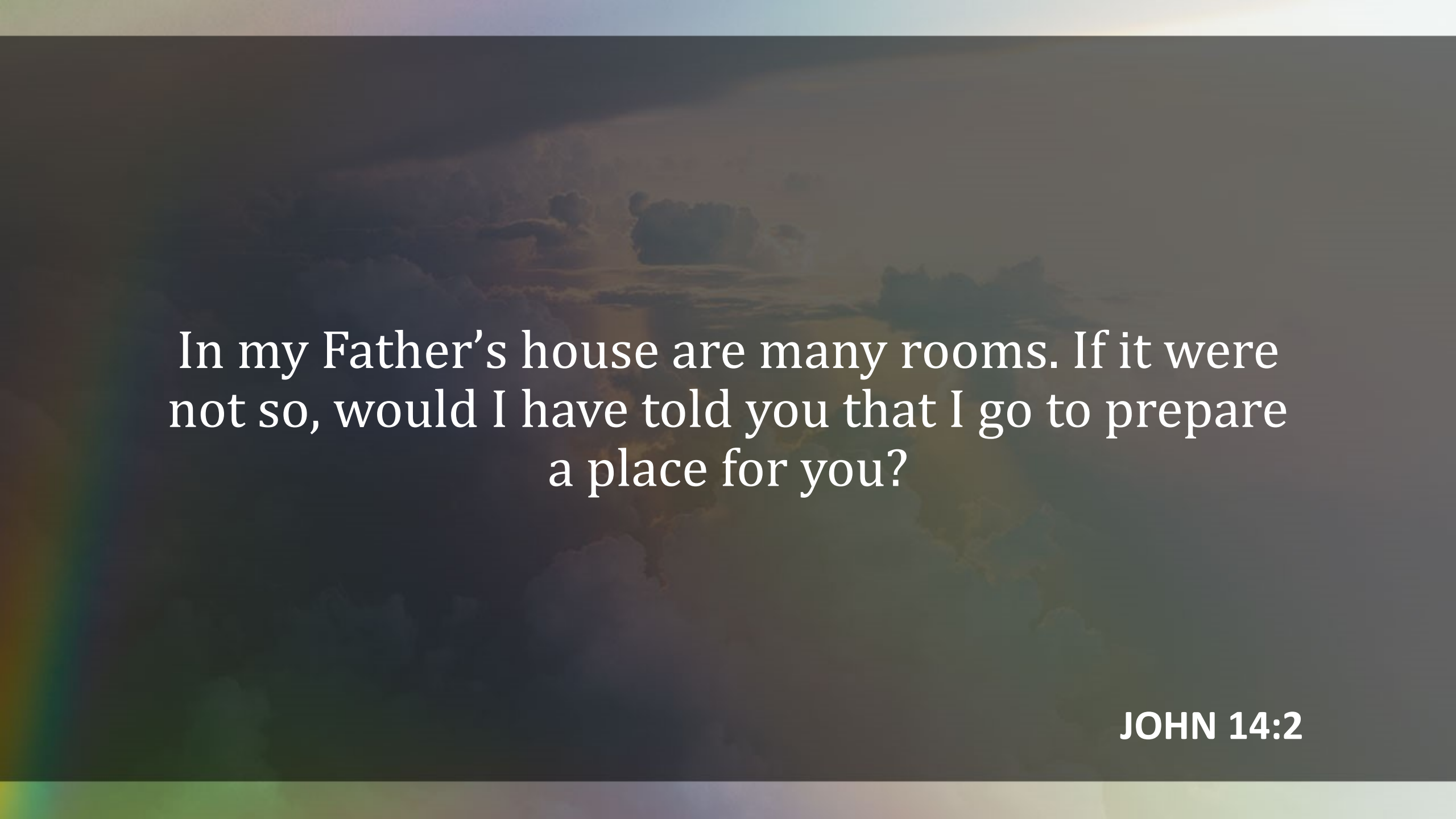
- Living in **Hope**
- Living in **Holiness**
- **Better** Than Better



PRESENT HEAVEN

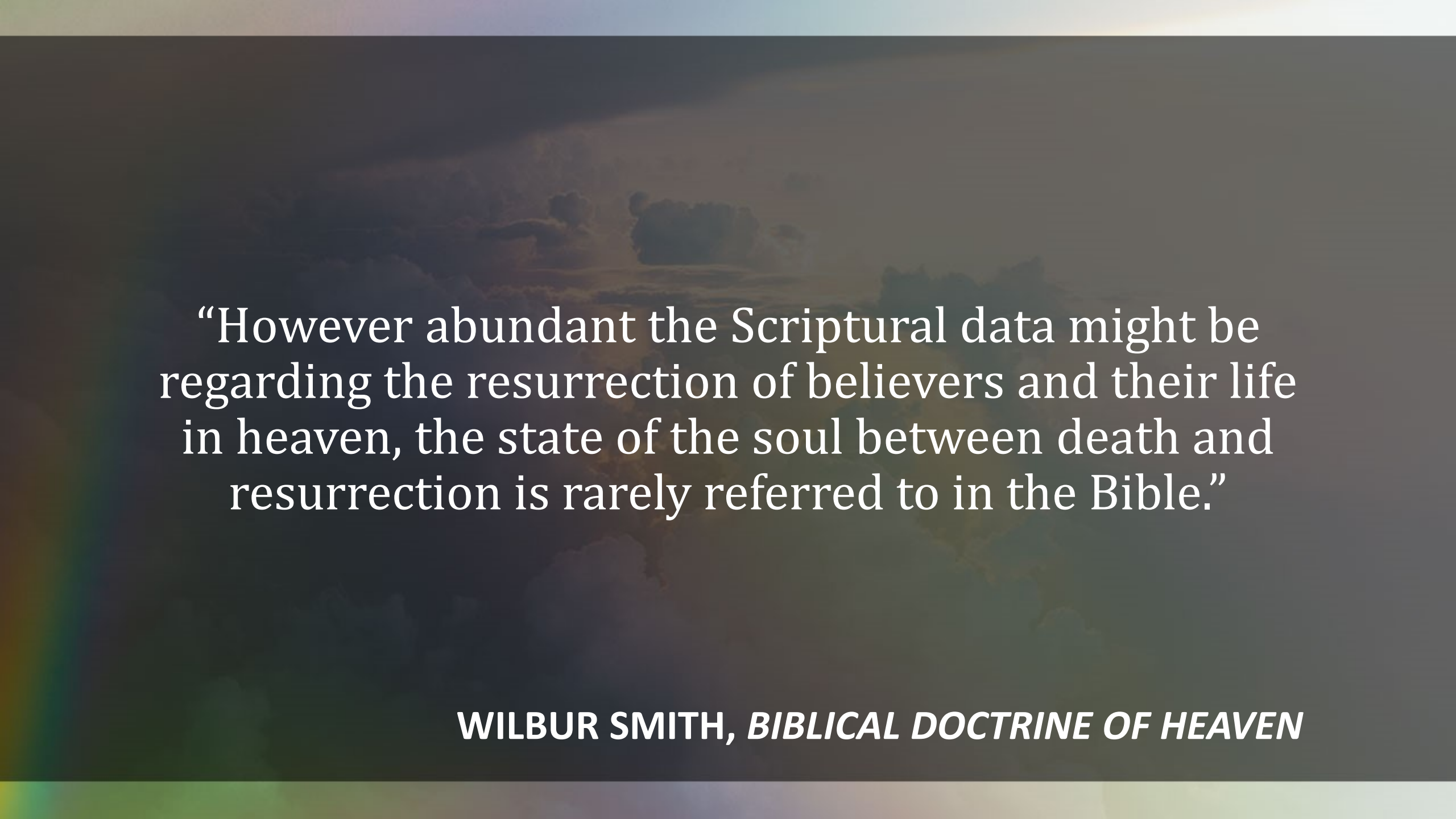
I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the **third heaven**—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2–3



In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

JOHN 14:2



“However abundant the Scriptural data might be regarding the resurrection of believers and their life in heaven, the state of the soul between death and resurrection is rarely referred to in the Bible.”

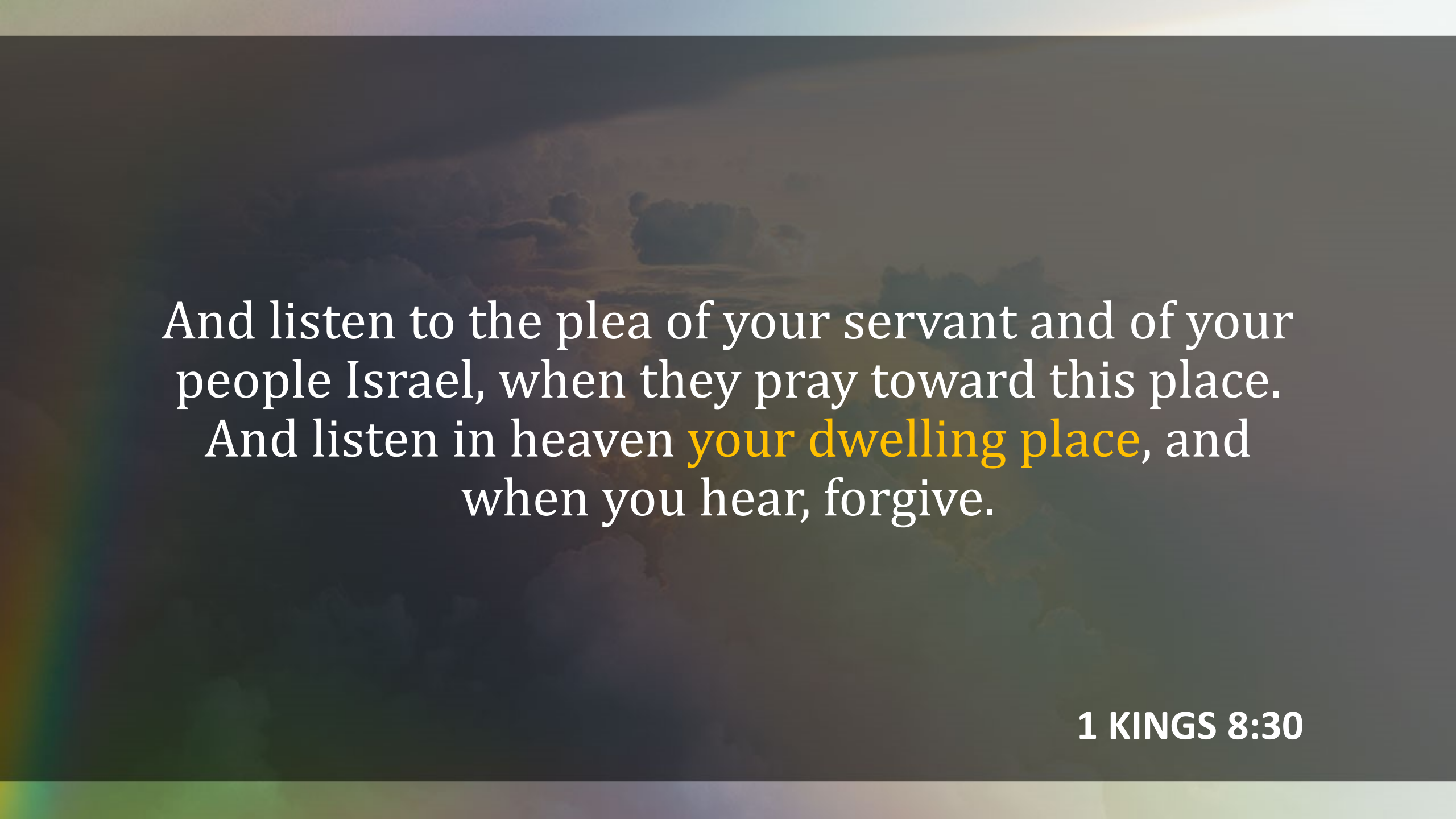
WILBUR SMITH, *BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF HEAVEN*

PRESENT HEAVEN

- Presence of God
- Immediate Experience
- Temporary Realm
- Temporary Bodies
- Incompleteness

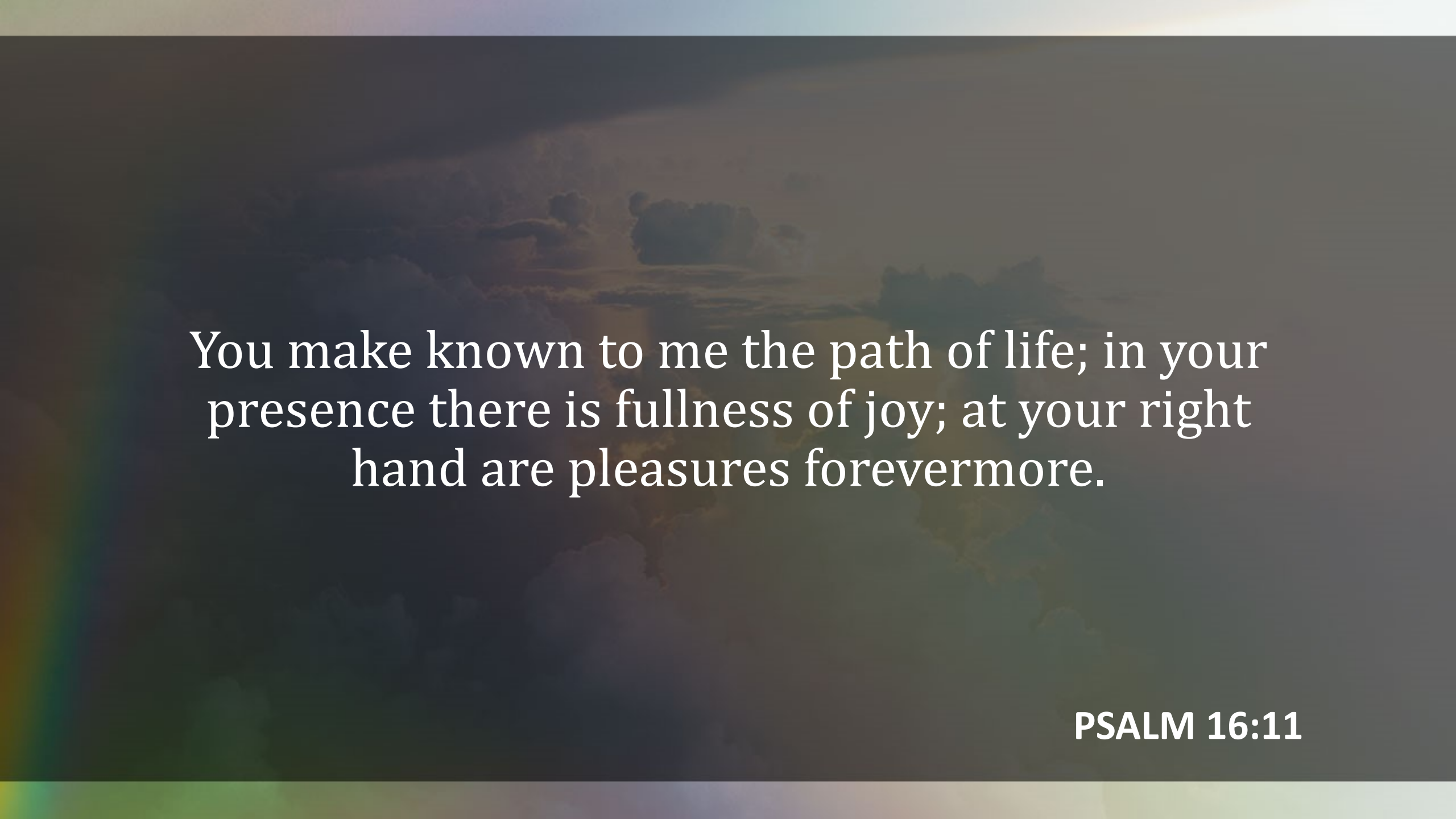


PRESENCE OF GOD



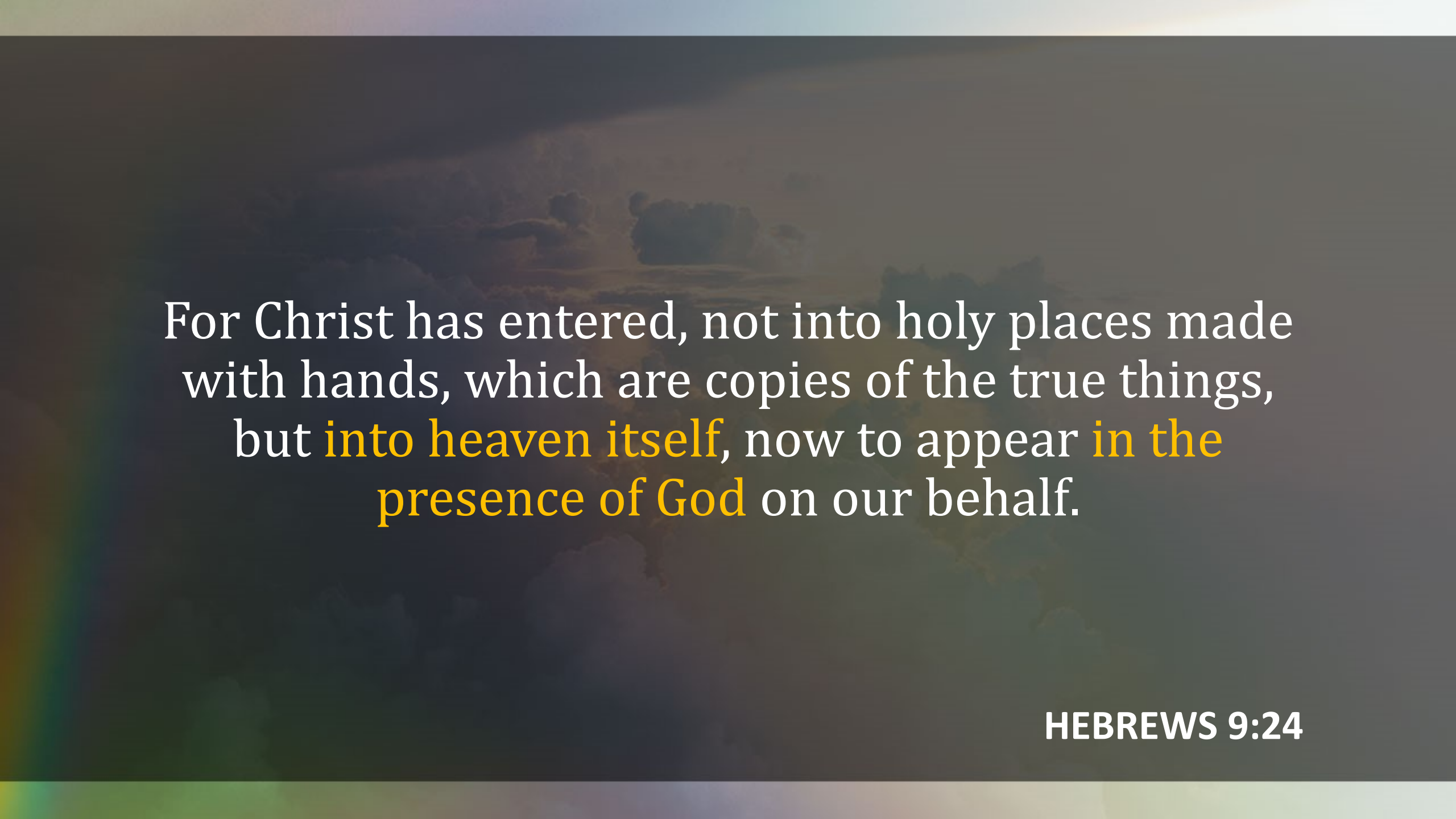
And listen to the plea of your servant and of your
people Israel, when they pray toward this place.
And listen in heaven **your dwelling place**, and
when you hear, forgive.

1 KINGS 8:30



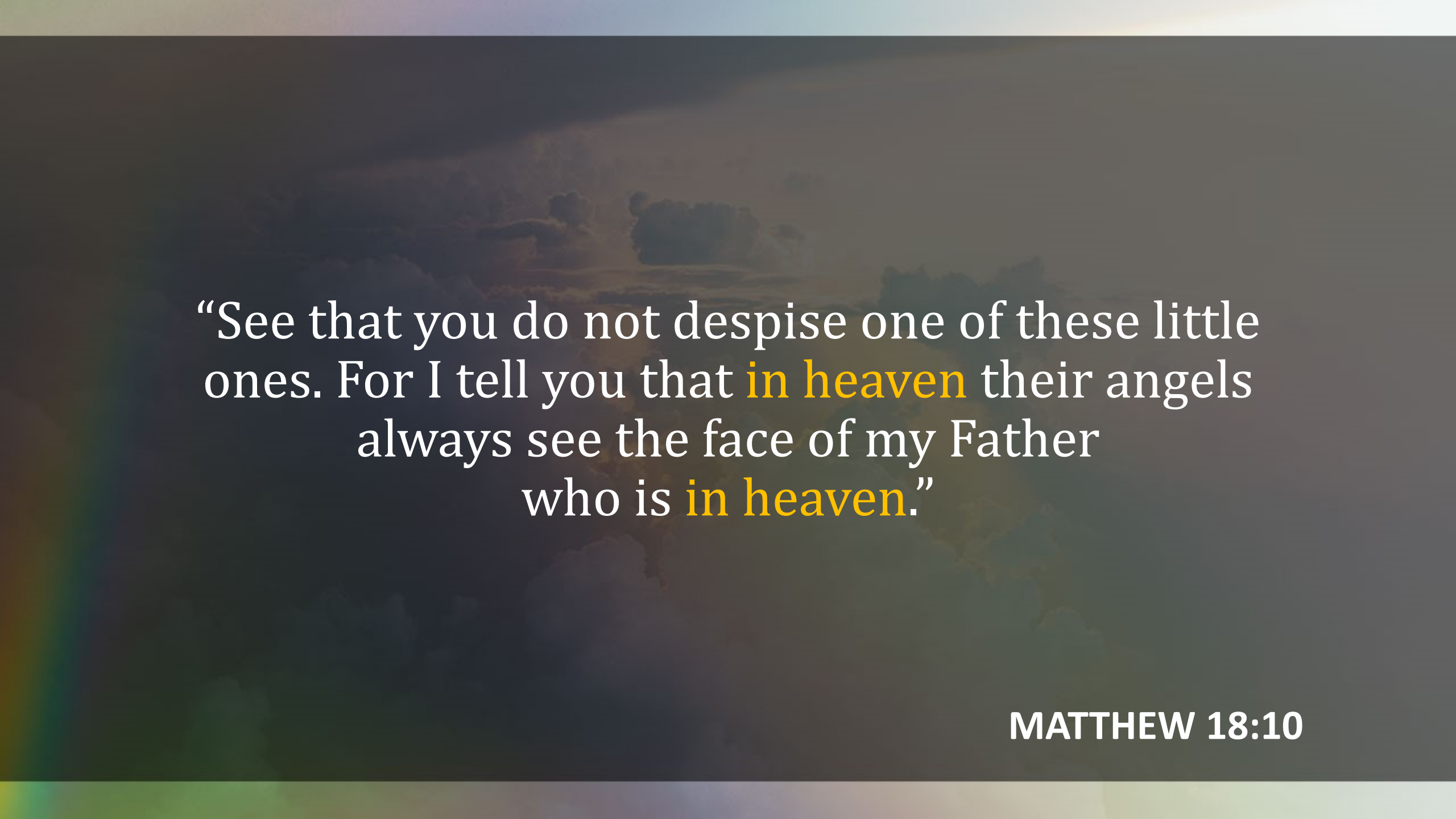
You make known to me the path of life; in your
presence there is fullness of joy; at your right
hand are pleasures forevermore.

PSALM 16:11



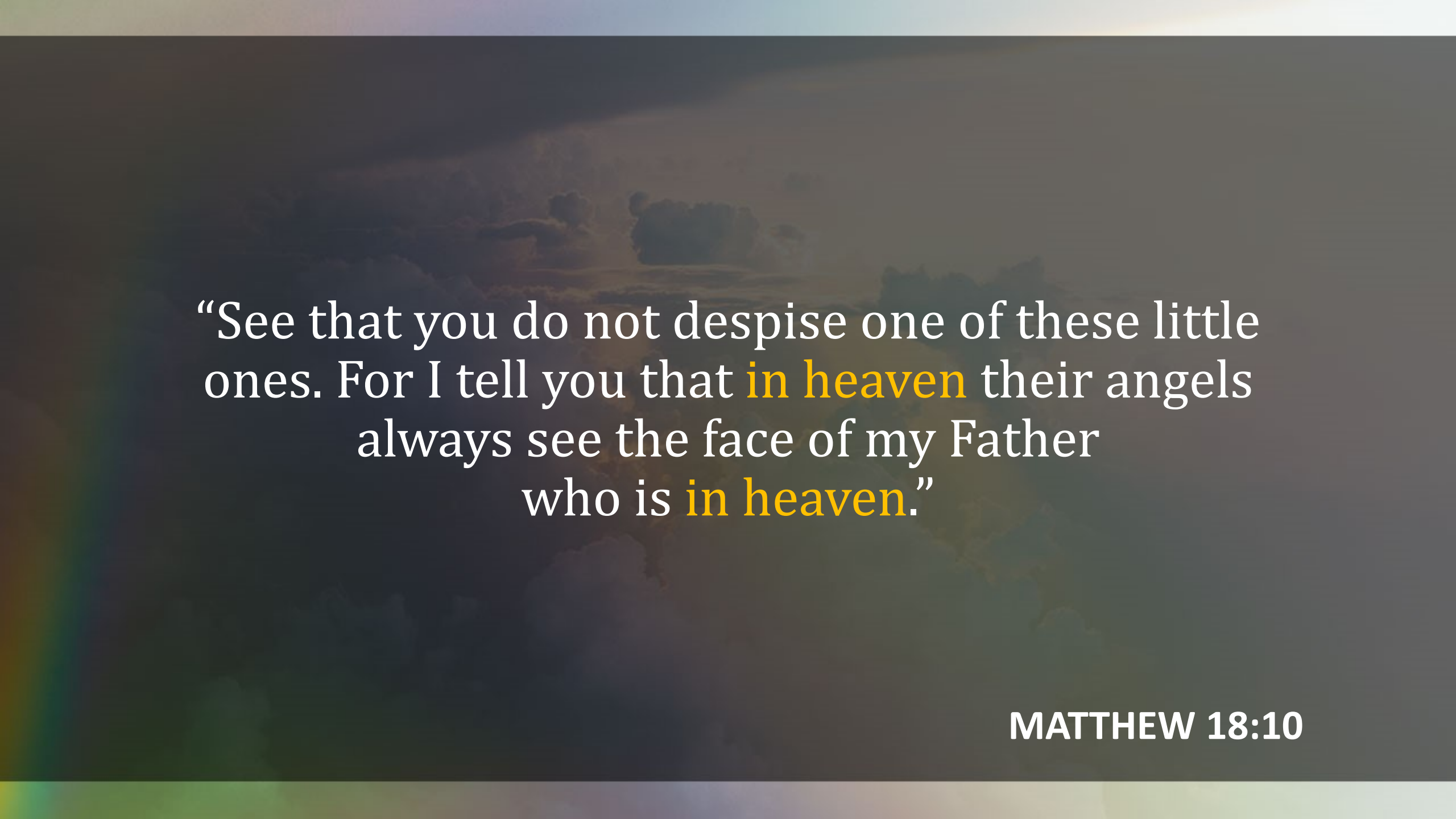
For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but **into heaven itself**, now to appear **in the presence of God** on our behalf.

HEBREWS 9:24



“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that **in heaven** their angels always see the face of my Father who is **in heaven**.”

MATTHEW 18:10



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MATTHEW 18:10

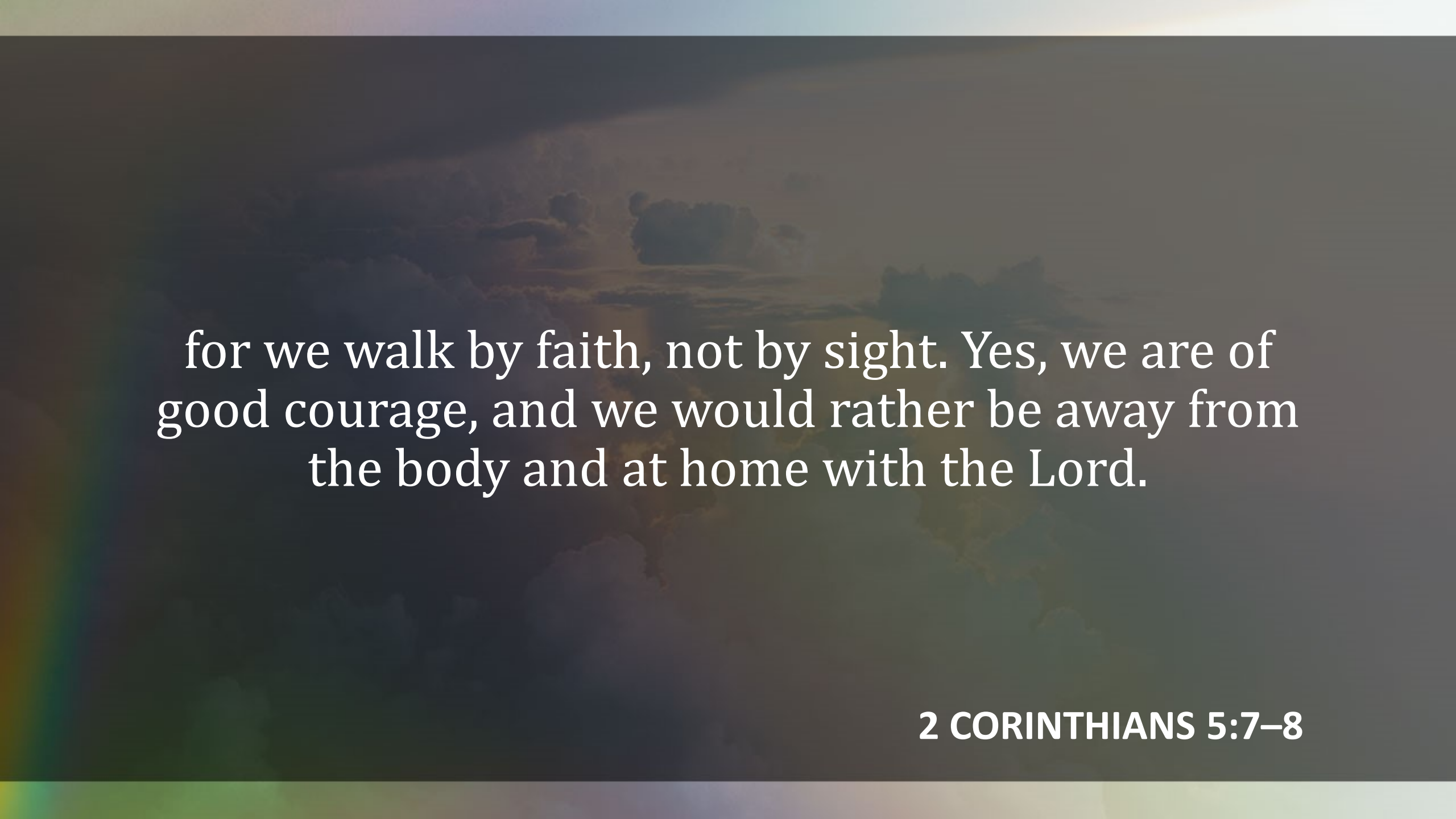
A dramatic, low-key photograph of a cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, textured clouds, and a bright light source is visible on the left, creating a rainbow effect. The overall mood is somber and atmospheric.

IMMEDIATE



I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to **depart and be with Christ**, for that is far better.

PHILIPPIANS 1:23

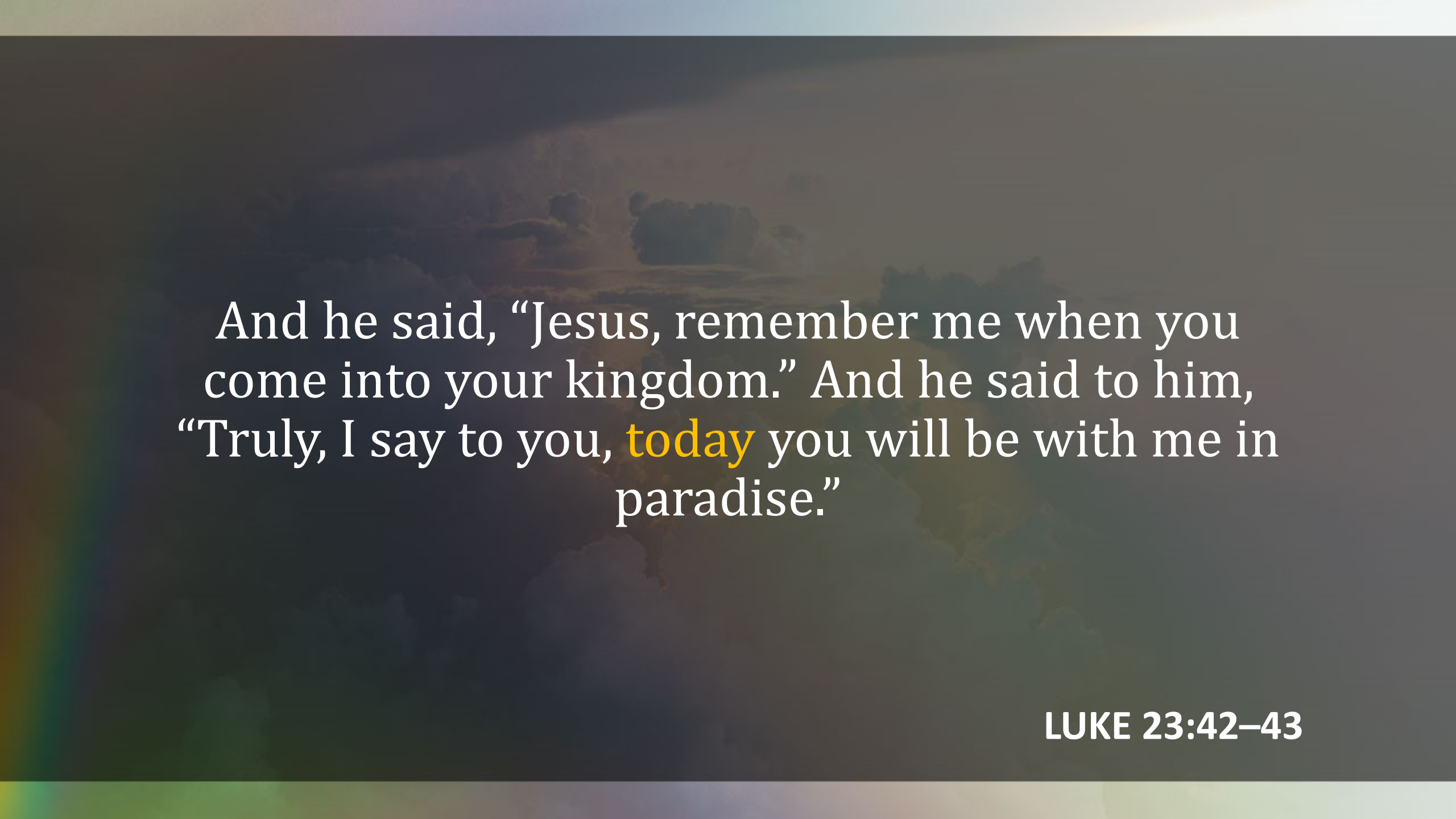


for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of
good courage, and we would rather be away from
the body and at home with the Lord.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7–8

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6–9

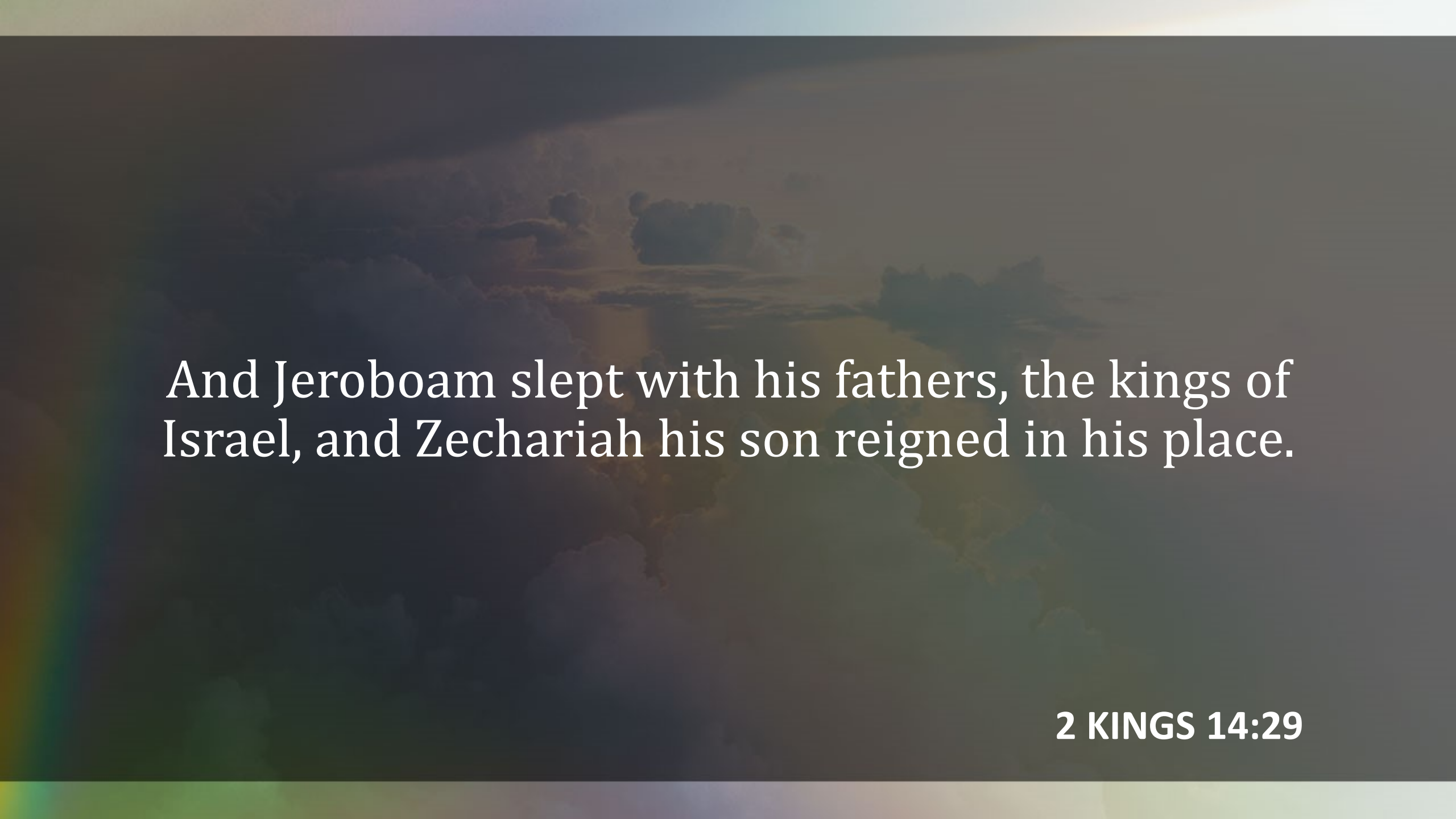


And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, **today** you will be with me in paradise.”

LUKE 23:42–43

A dramatic, low-key photograph of a cloudy sky at dusk or dawn. The clouds are dark and textured, with some lighter patches where the sun is low on the horizon. A faint rainbow is visible on the left side of the frame. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

SOUL SLEEP



And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, the kings of Israel, and Zechariah his son reigned in his place.

2 KINGS 14:29

After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has **fallen asleep**, but I go to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “**Lazarus has died**”

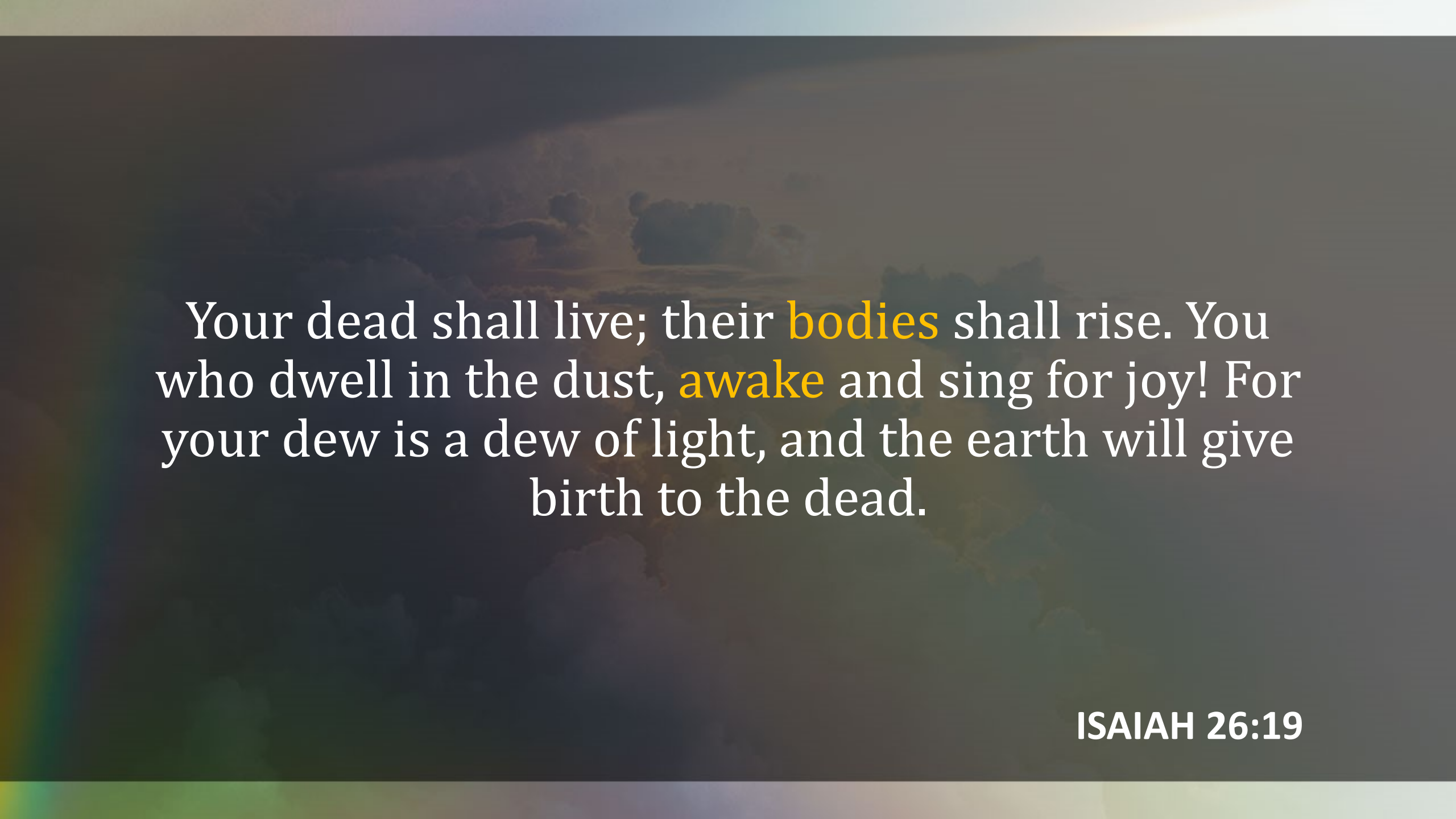
JOHN 11:11–14

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, **being in torment**, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'

LUKE 16:22–24

SOUL SLEEP

- Refers to the body, not the soul
- A euphemism for the bodily death of a saint
- The “rest” alluded to is a rest from pain, suffering, and toiling under the curse, not a rest of unconsciousness.



Your dead shall live; their **bodies** shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, **awake** and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

ISAIAH 26:19



The tombs also were opened. And many **bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep** were raised.

MATTHEW 27:52

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they **may rest from their labors**, for their deeds follow them!”

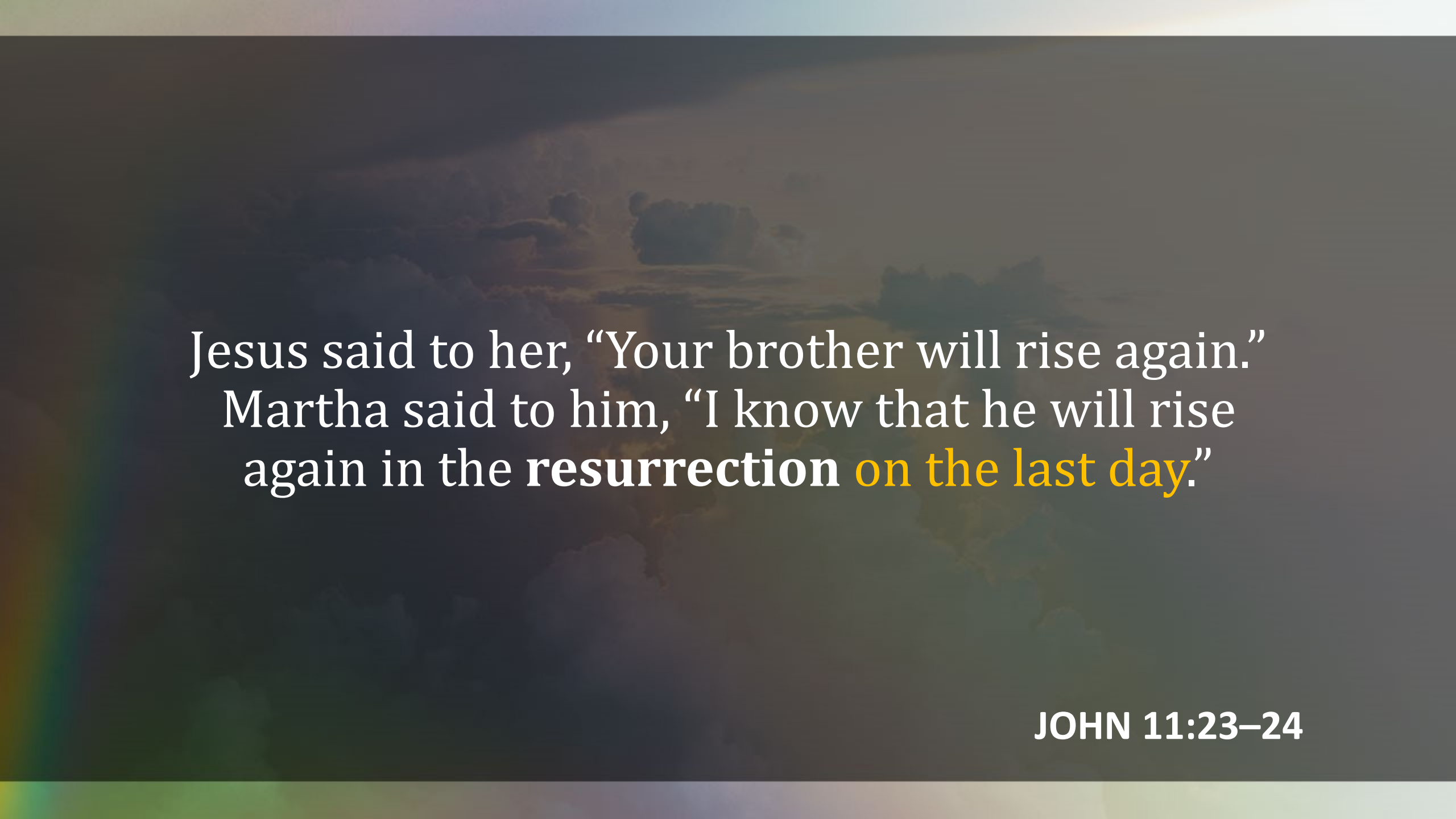
REVELATION 14:13

The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls, (**which neither die nor sleep,**) having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies.

WESTMINSTER CONFESSIOIN OF FAITH (32.1)



TEMPORARY REALM



Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”
Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise
again in the **resurrection** on the last day.”

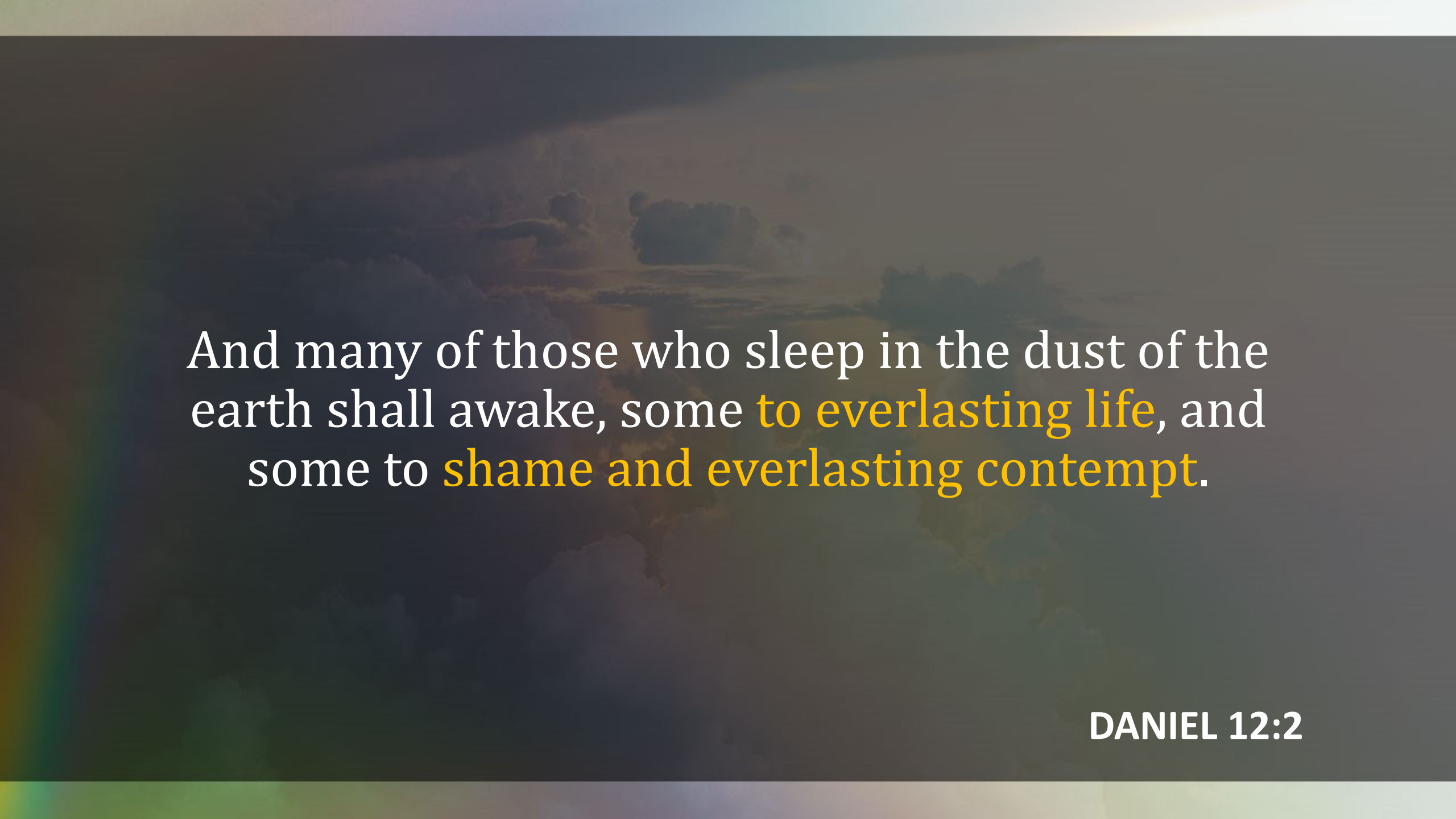
JOHN 11:23–24

And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all **who are in the tombs** will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the **resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil to the **resurrection of judgment**.

JOHN 5:27–29

But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that **there will be a resurrection** of both the just and the unjust.

ACTS 24:14–15

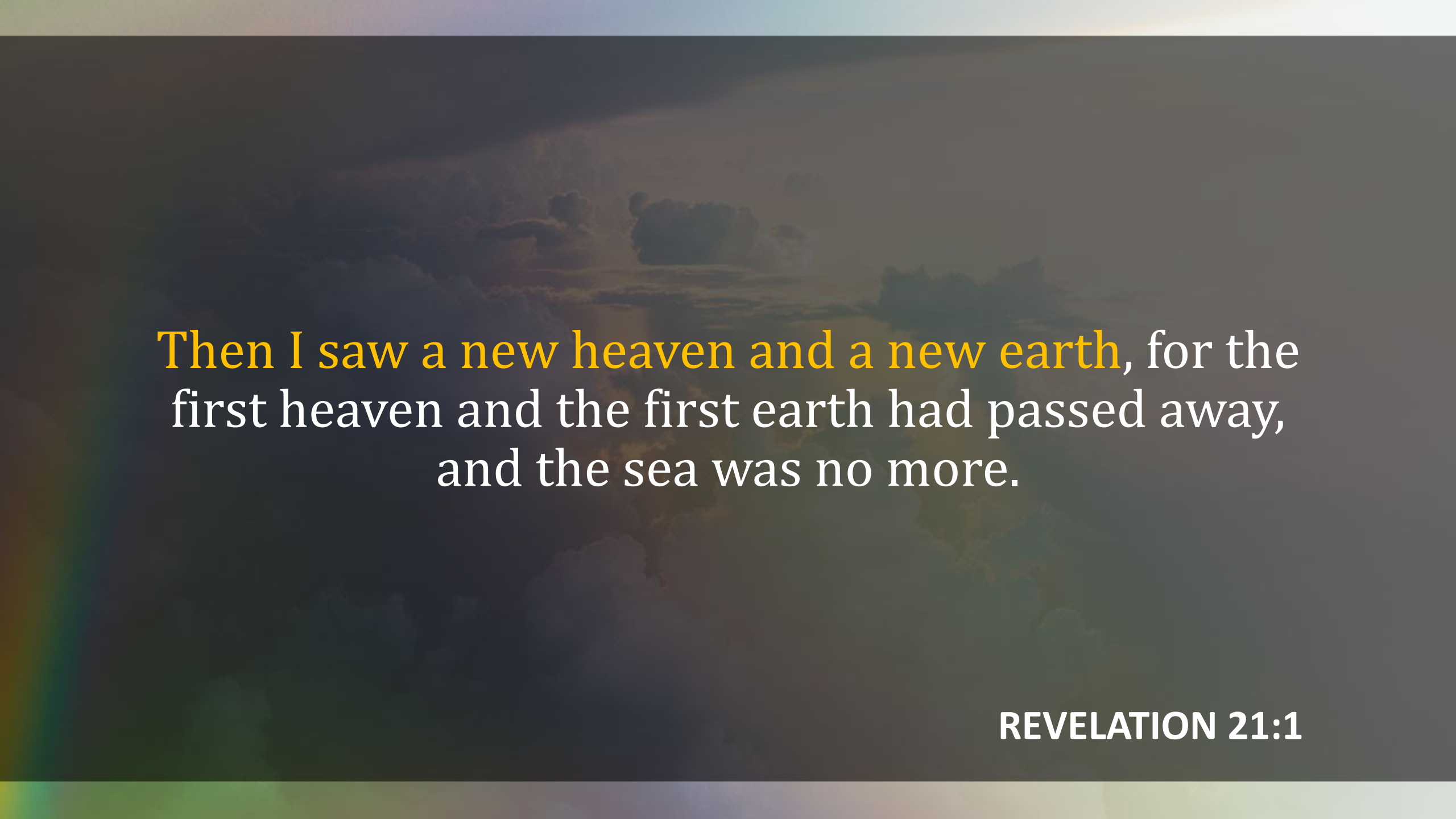


And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

DANIEL 12:2

And the sea gave up the dead who were in it,
Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in
them, and they were judged, each one of them,
according to what they had done. Then Death and
Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is
the second death, the lake of fire.

REVELATION 20:13–14

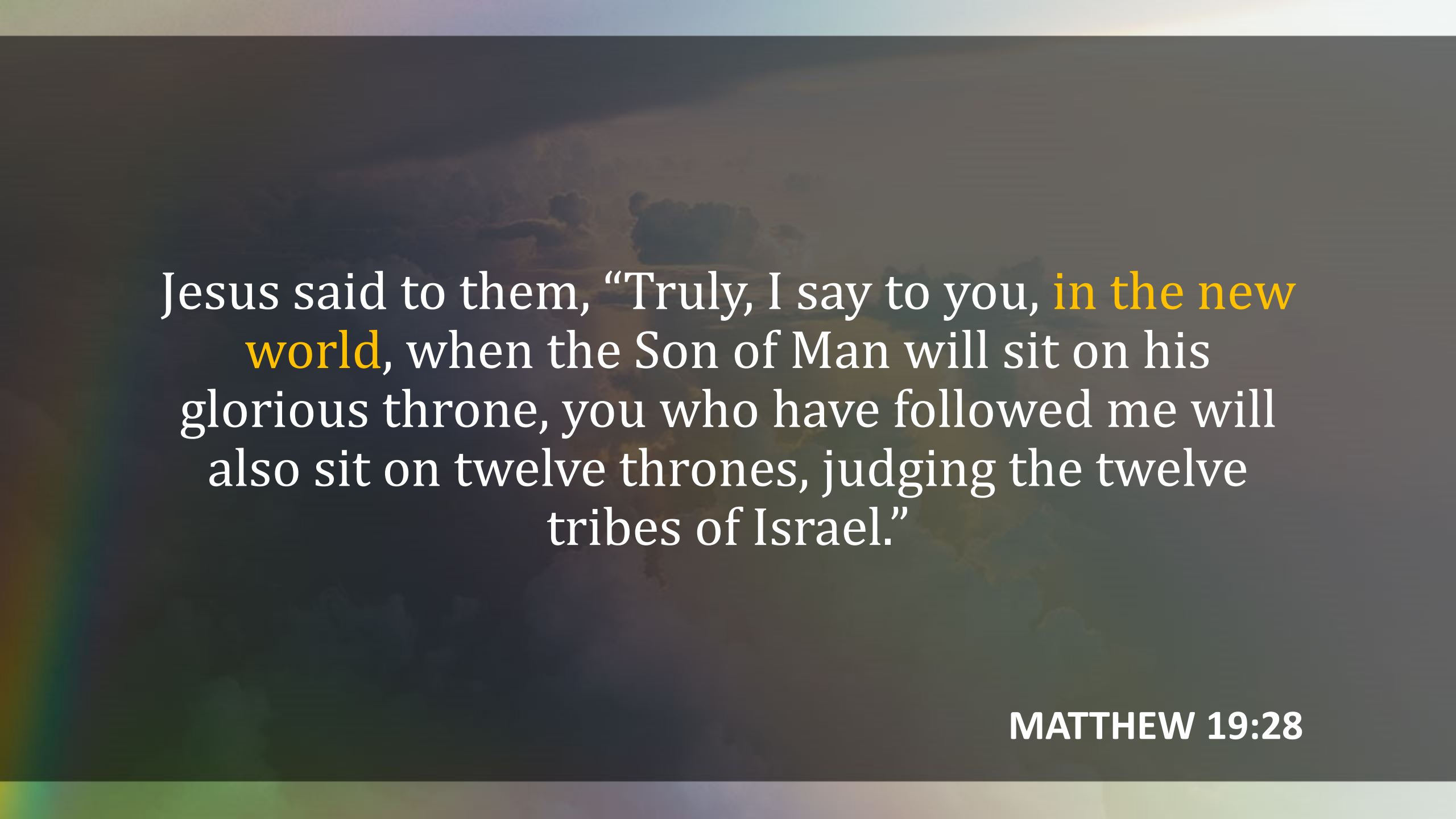


Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

REVELATION 21:1

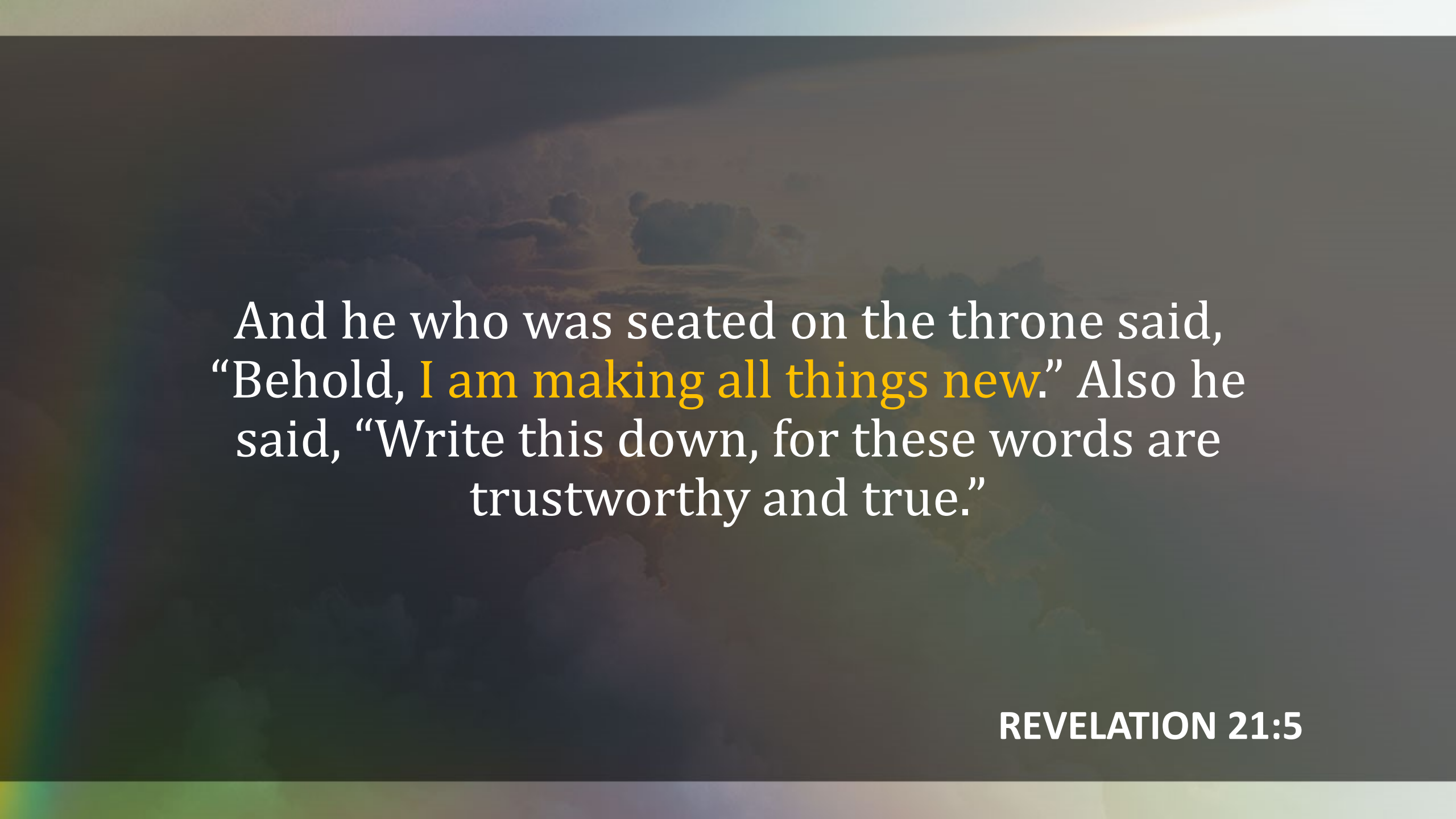
Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may **send the Christ** appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive **until the time for restoring all the things** about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

ACTS 3:19–21



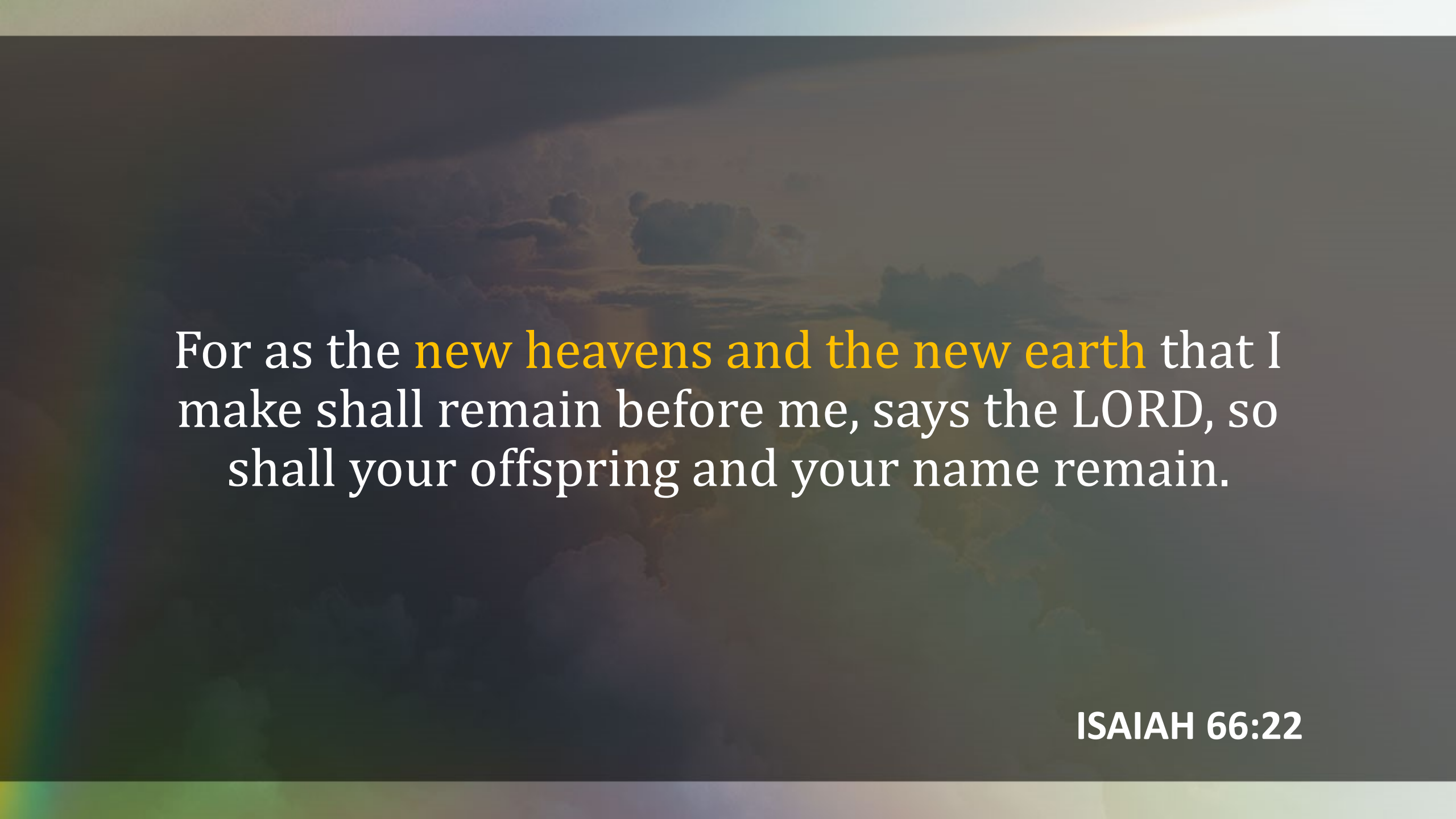
Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, **in the new world**, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

MATTHEW 19:28



And he who was seated on the throne said,
“Behold, **I am making all things new.**” Also he
said, “Write this down, for these words are
trustworthy and true.”

REVELATION 21:5



For as the **new heavens and the new earth** that I
make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so
shall your offspring and your name remain.

ISAIAH 66:22



But according to his promise we are waiting for
new heavens and a new earth in which
righteousness dwells.

2 PETER 3:13



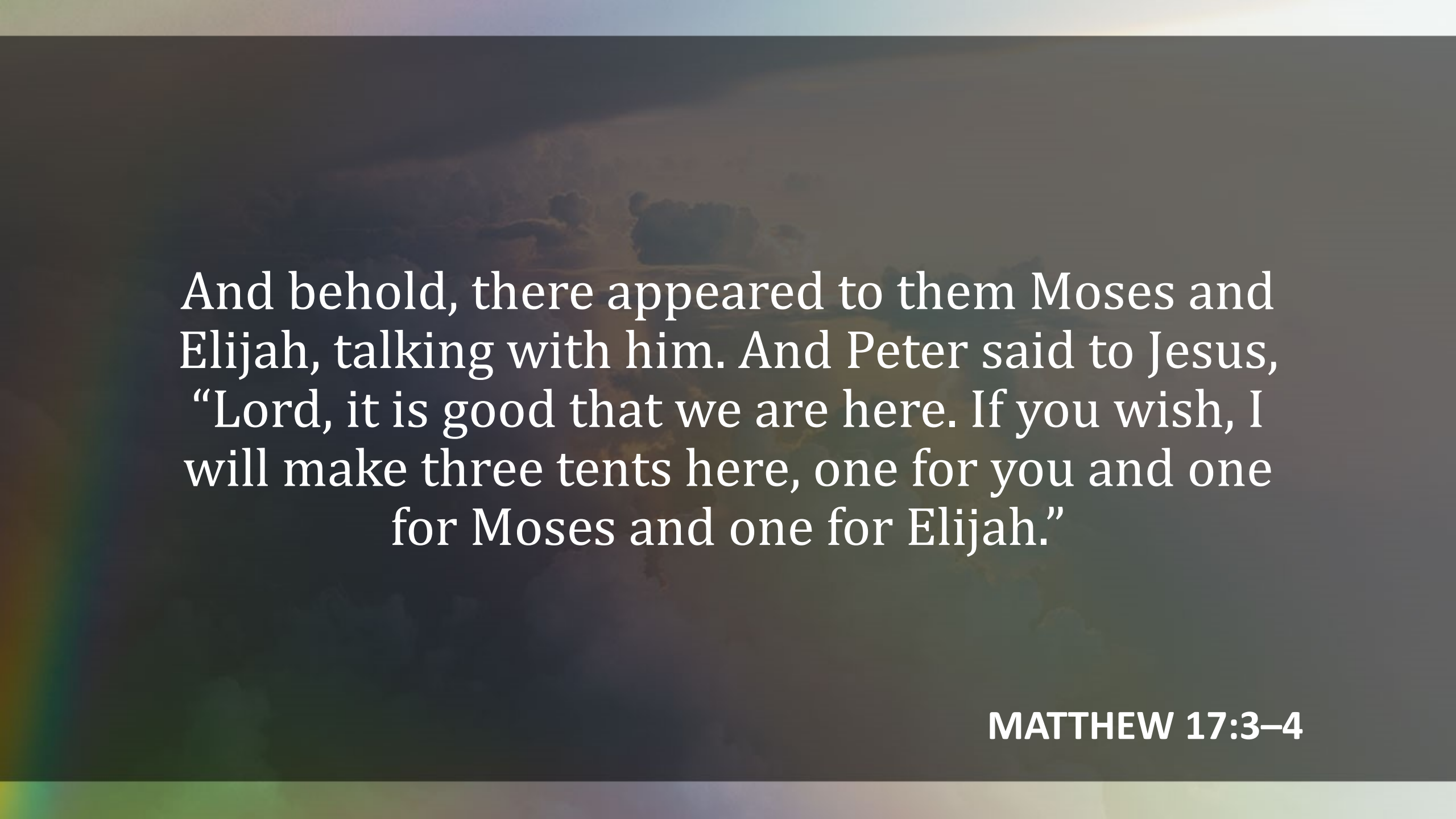
TEMPORARY BODIES

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16–17

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51–53



And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

MATTHEW 17:3–4

For we know that if the **tent** that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on **we may not be found naked**. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—**not that we would be unclothed**, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:1–5



INCOMPLETENESS

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, **how long** before you will judge and **avenge our blood** on those who dwell on the earth?”

REVELATION 6:9–10



RESURRECTION BODIES

OUR BODIES

1. Like Christ

1. Like Him in Soul
2. Like Him in Body

2. Same, Yet Different (1 Corinthians 15)

1. Raised **Imperishable** (42)
2. Raised in **Glory** (43)
3. Raised in **Power** (43)
4. Raised **Spiritual** (44)

The background of the image is a dramatic sky scene. It features dark, heavy, and swirling clouds that fill most of the frame. On the far left, a faint rainbow is visible, with its colors blending into the dark clouds. The overall lighting is dim, creating a moody and atmospheric effect. The text 'HEAVEN'S LIFE' is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

HEAVEN'S LIFE

OCCUPATIONS

- Enjoy **Worshipping** without Distraction
- Enjoy **Working** without Exhaustion
- Enjoy **Ruling** and **Reigning** with Christ
- Enjoy **Fellowship** and **Banqueting**
- Enjoy **Music**
- Enjoy **Learning**
- Enjoy **Building**
- Enjoy **Farming**
- Enjoy Raising **Livestock**
- Enjoy **Relief** and **Rest**

WHAT WILL LIFE BE LIKE?

- We will experience God in ever-increasing delight and love
- We will live in unending, undiminishing joy and happiness
- We will live in flourishing health
- We will live with complete peace and safety
- We will no longer cry, feel sad, or face death
- We will recognize each other
- Our desires and perceptions will be glorified