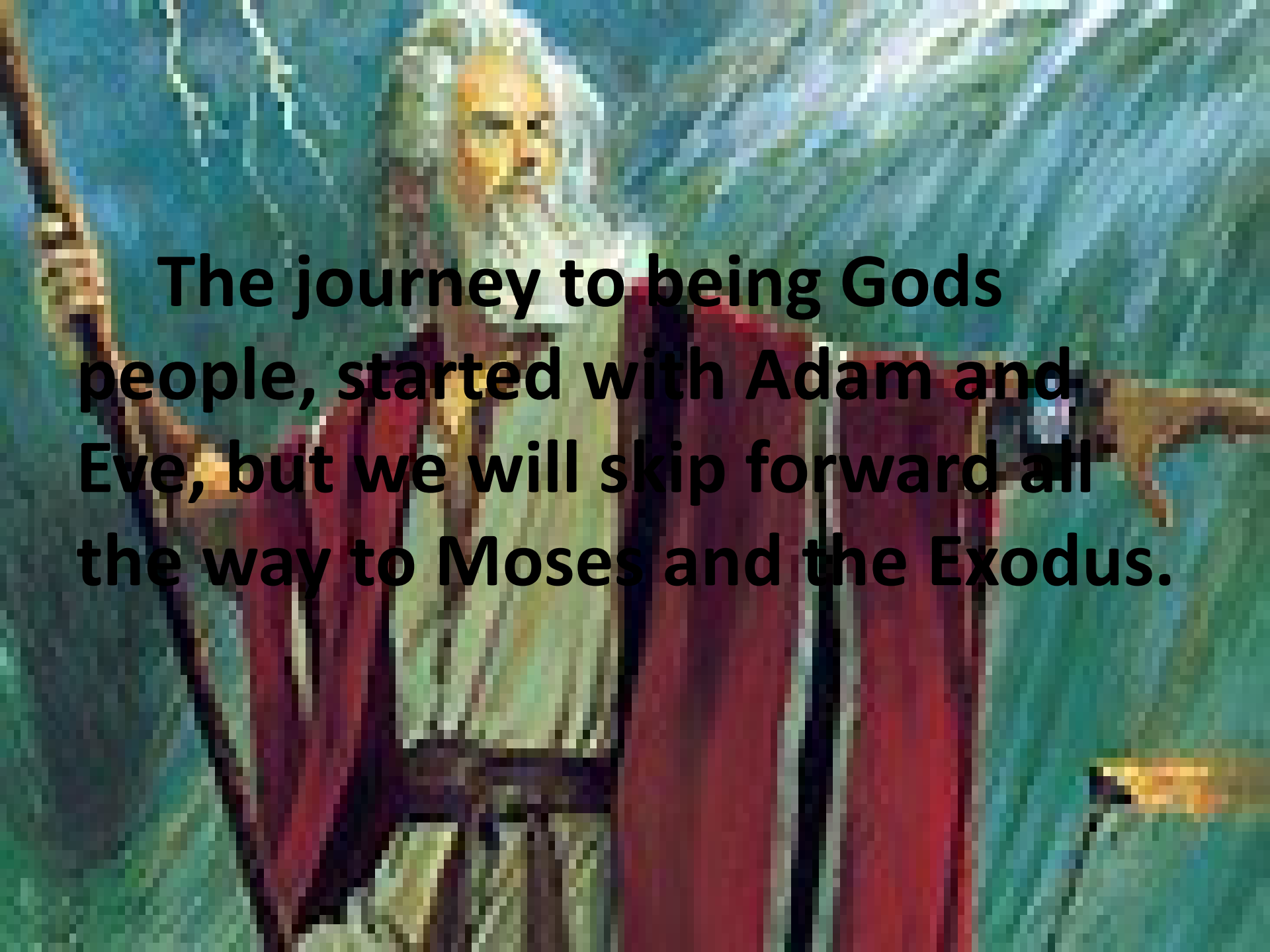


***THE JOURNEY TO THE  
BEGINNING***

**BY JOHN AMES**

# ***Jeremiah 30:22***

***“So you will be my  
people,  
and I will be your  
God.”***

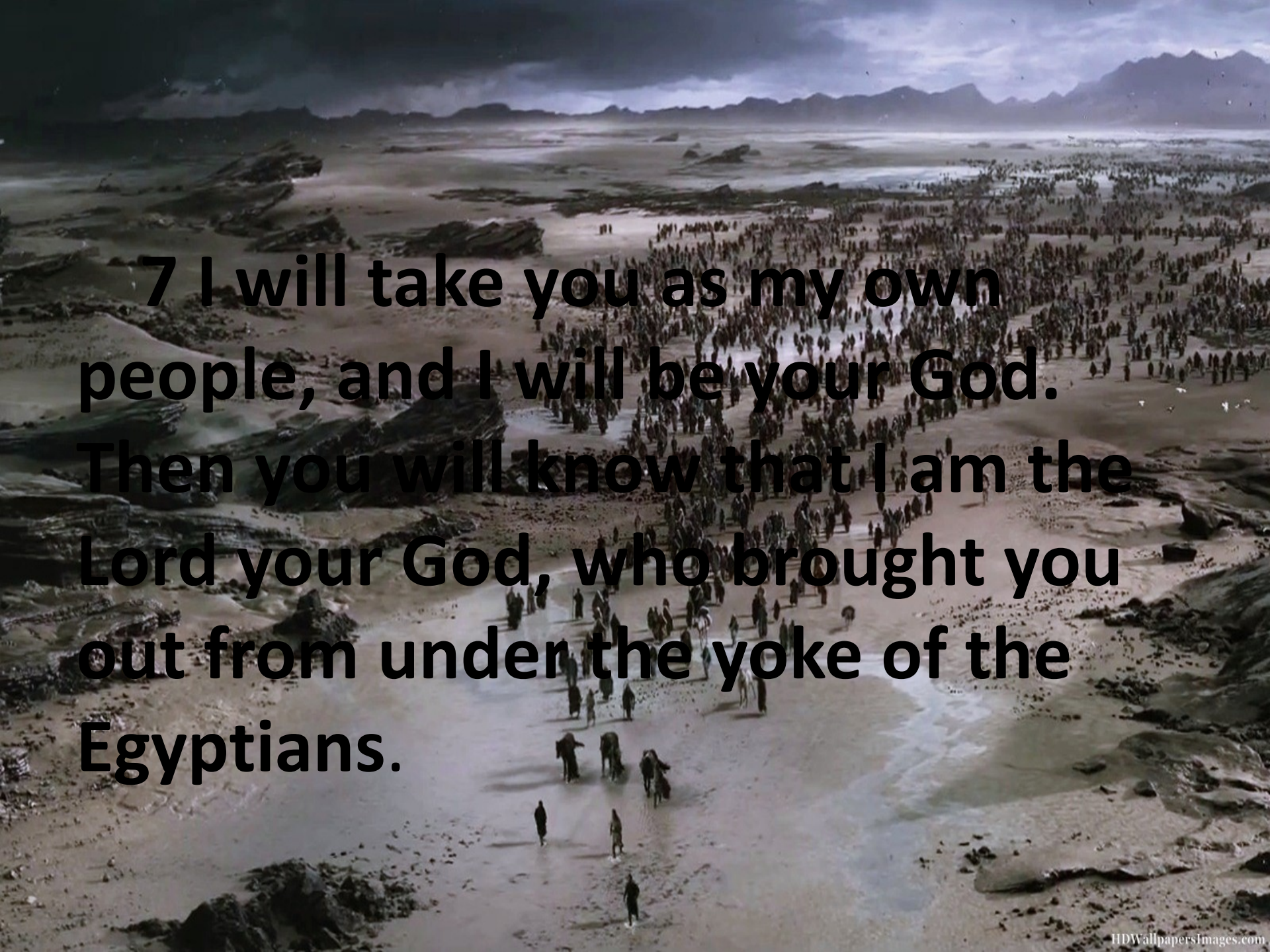


**The journey to being Gods  
people, started with Adam and  
Eve, but we will skip forward all  
the way to Moses and the Exodus.**

## Exodus 6:6-8

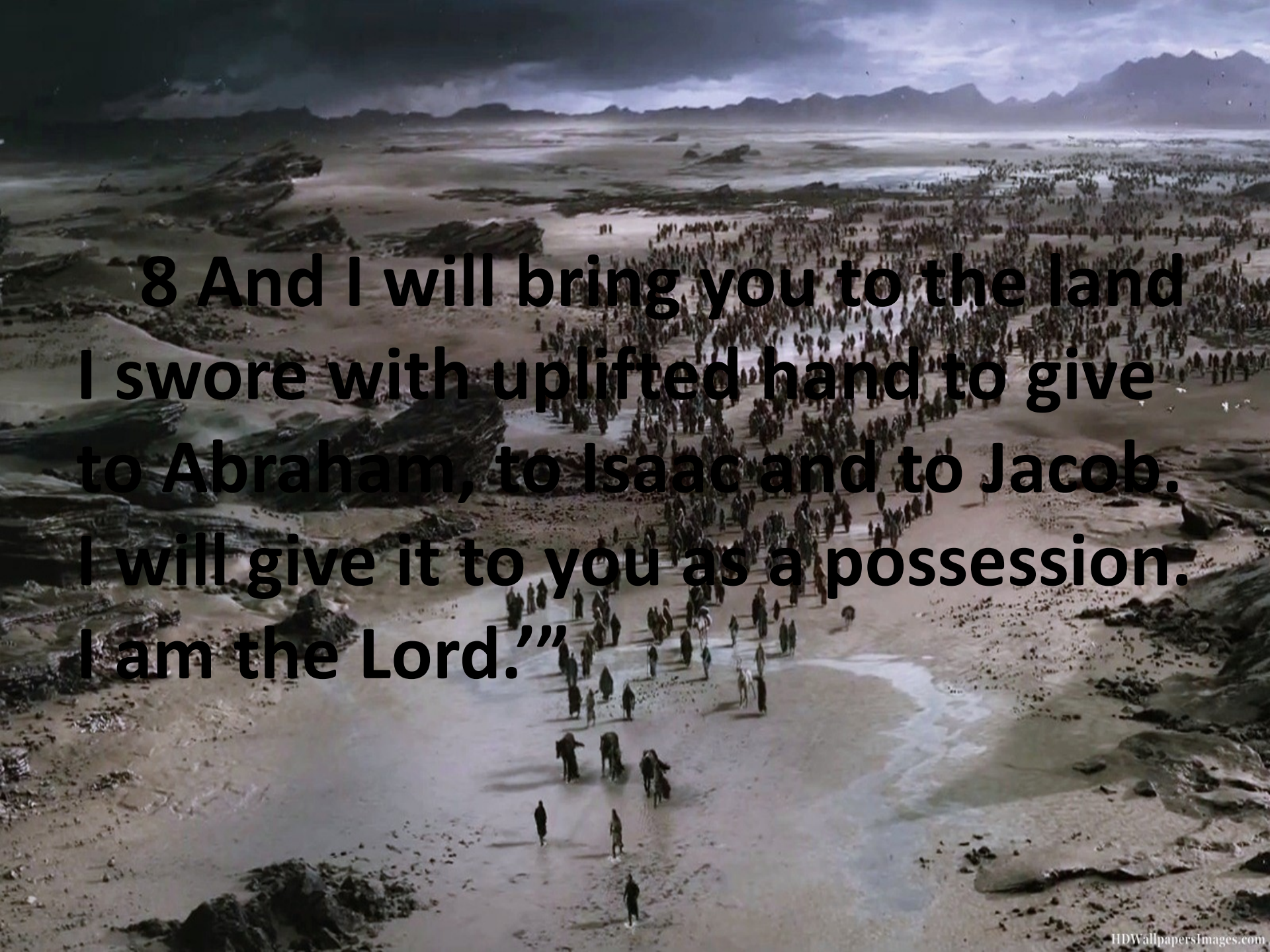
6 “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.’”



A large crowd of people, including men, women, and children, are walking through a dry, rocky landscape. The ground is uneven and appears to be a mix of sand and small stones. In the background, there are mountains under a cloudy sky. The overall scene suggests a journey or a migration.

**7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.**



A large crowd of people, including men, women, and children, are walking across a vast, desolate landscape. The terrain is rocky and uneven, with some patches of green grass. In the background, there are mountains under a cloudy sky. The overall scene suggests a journey or migration.

**8 And I will bring you to the land  
I swore with uplifted hand to give  
to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.  
I will give it to you as a possession.  
I am the Lord.”**

**Exodus 12 the death of the first born of Egypt.**

**The institution of the Passover,  
the sacrifice of the Passover lamb.**

**The release of  
bondage of Egypt!**



**Even though the Nation of Israel did not see it! This was a very big step that God took in the preparation for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross!**

**As the nation of Israel went through the mountains and valleys of following God and then backsliding, following God, then backsliding.**

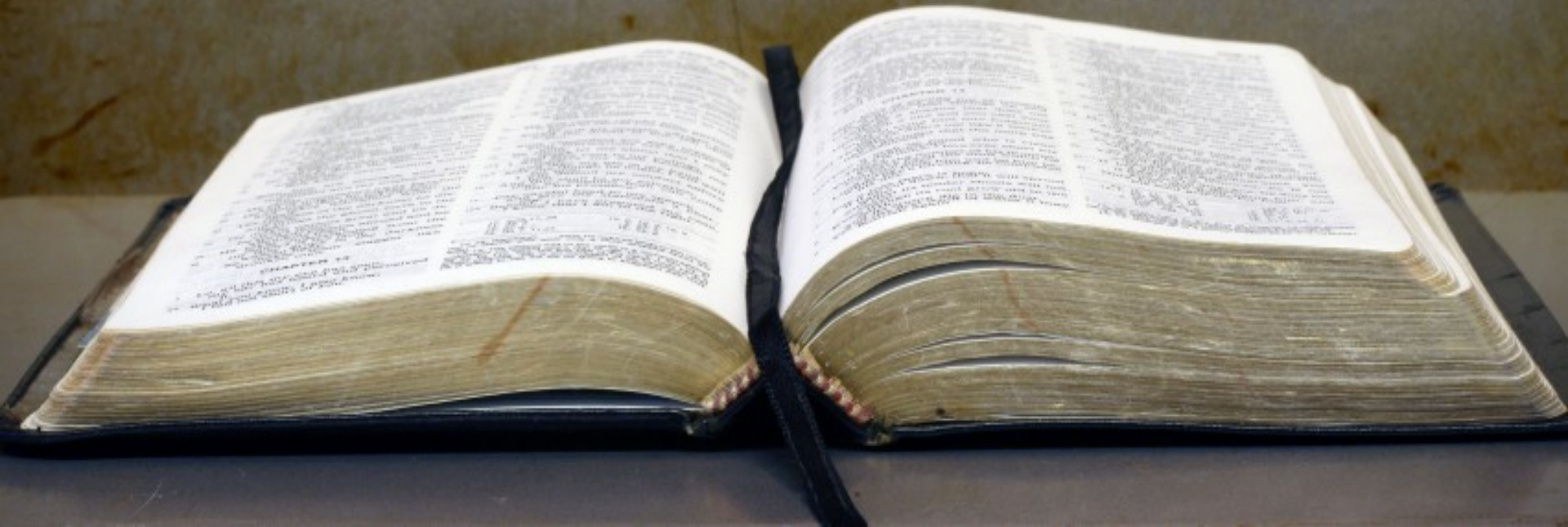
**And then another big move by  
God!**

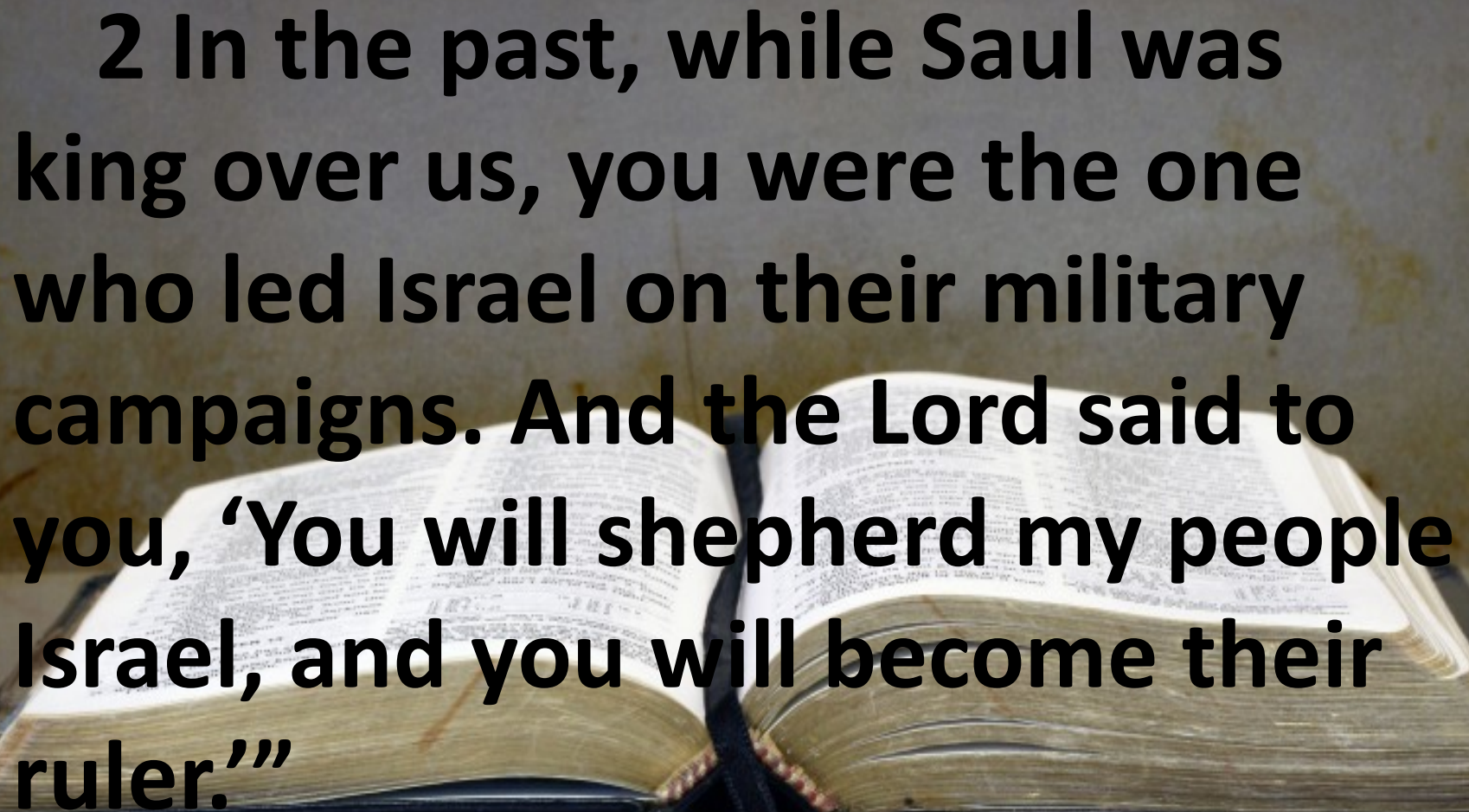
**David Becomes King  
Over Israel**



## **2 SAMUEL 5:1-5**

**All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood.**



An open Bible with a black cover is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are yellowed with age and contain printed text. Overlaid on the Bible is a large, bold, black text block. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

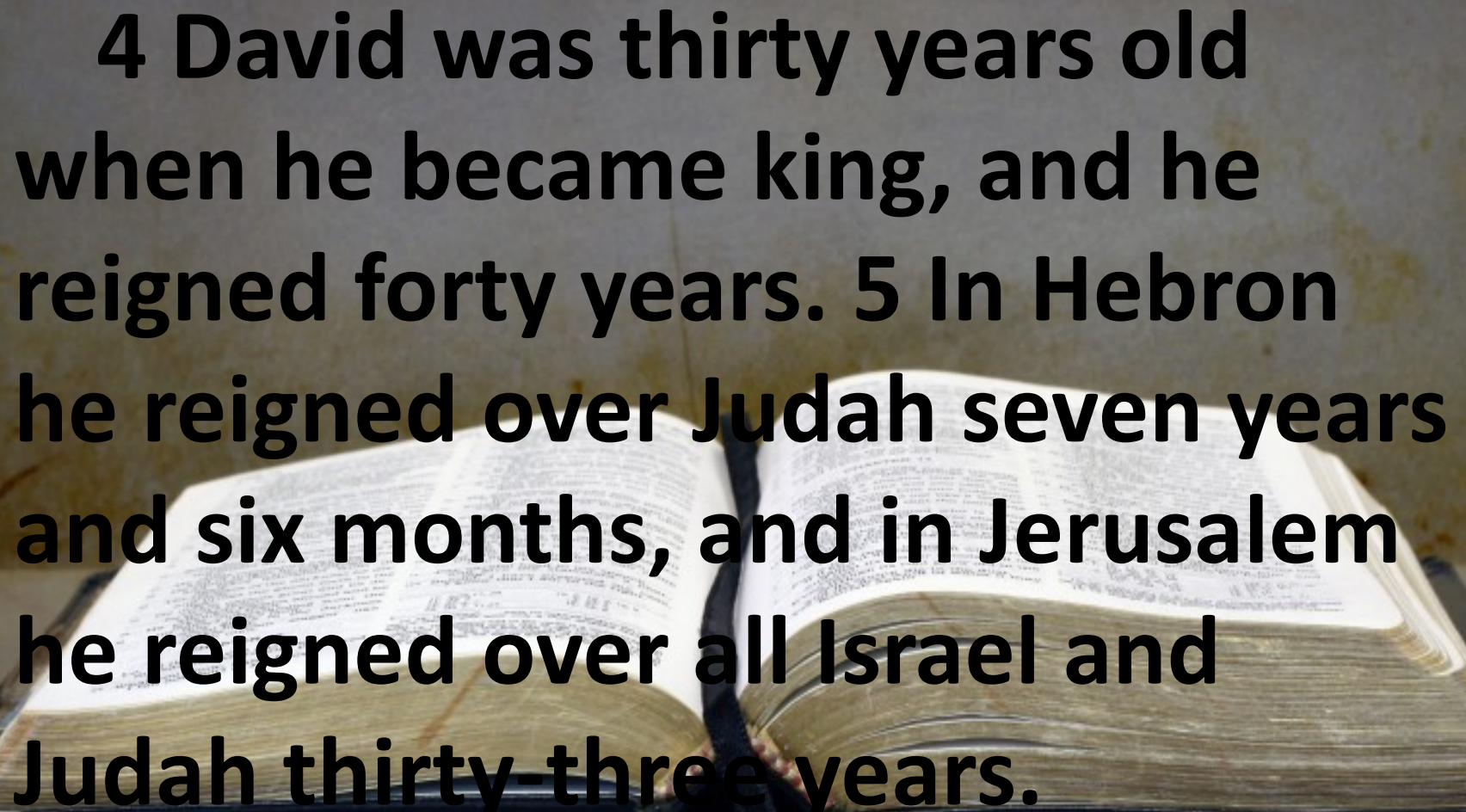
**2 In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”**



**3 When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.**





An open Bible with a dark cover is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white with black text. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

**4 David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.**

**A very important piece to God's  
plan**

**the Messiah (Jesus) would come  
from the lineage of king David  
approximately 1,000 years later**

**The descendants of king David would rule Judea and Jerusalem for over 400 years until being taken into captivity by the Babylonians**



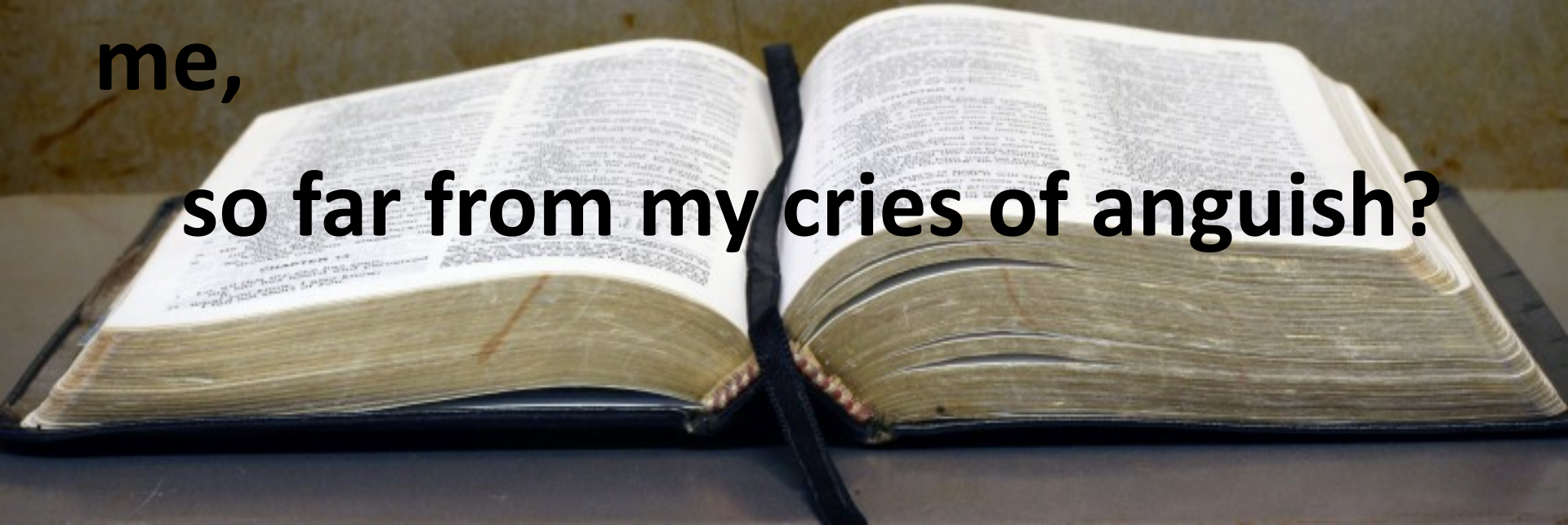
**We see God using David as a prophetic voice foretelling of the crucifixion of Jesus in psalm 22!**

**1,000 years before it happens!**

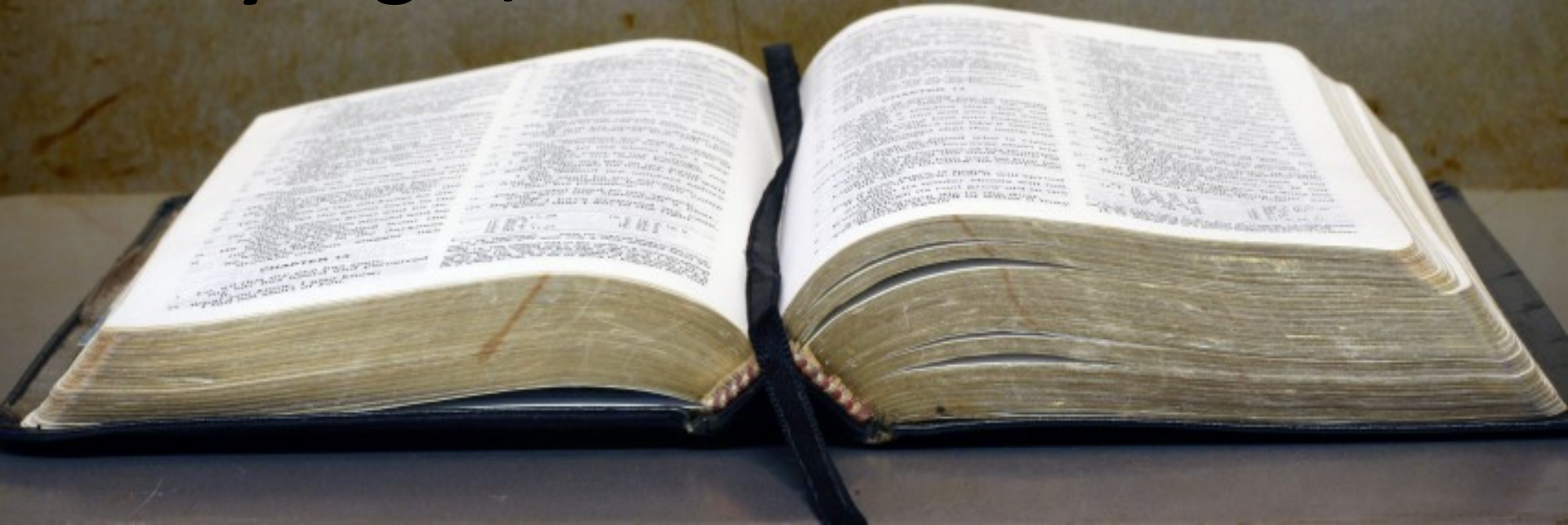
**1 My God, my God, why have  
you forsaken me?**

**Why are you so far from saving  
me,**

**so far from my cries of anguish?**



**2 My God, I cry out by day, but  
you do not answer,  
by night, but I find no rest.**



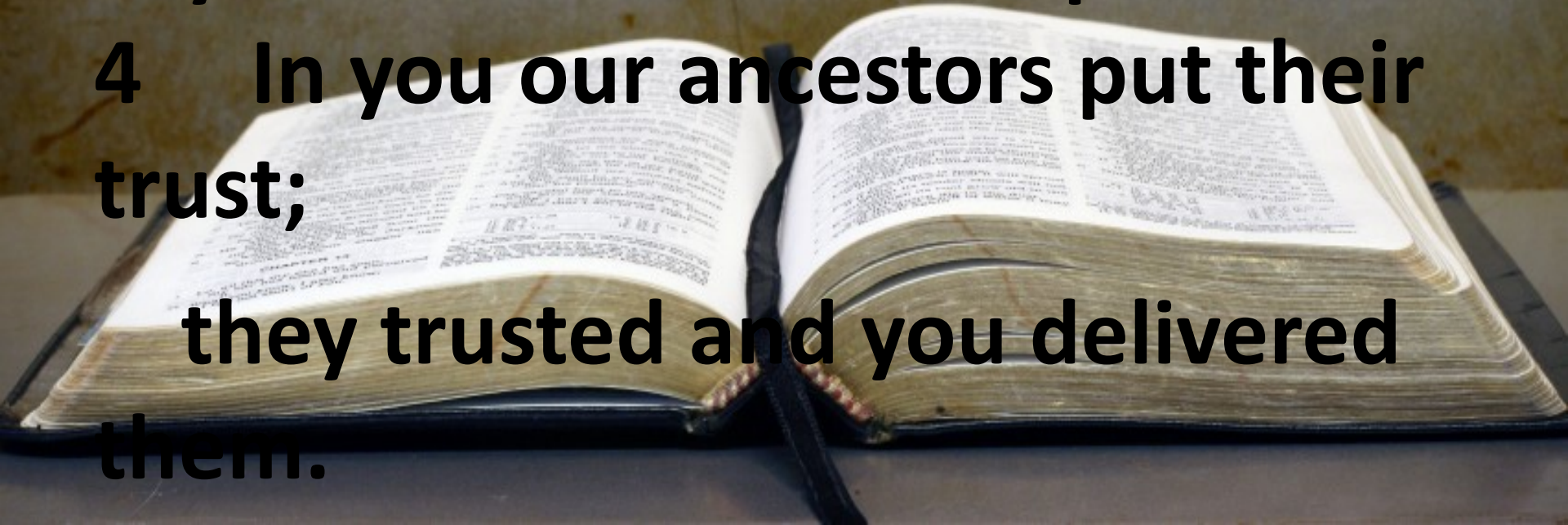


**3 Yet you are enthroned as the  
Holy One;**

**you are the one Israel praises.**

**4 In you our ancestors put their  
trust;**

**they trusted and you delivered  
them.**





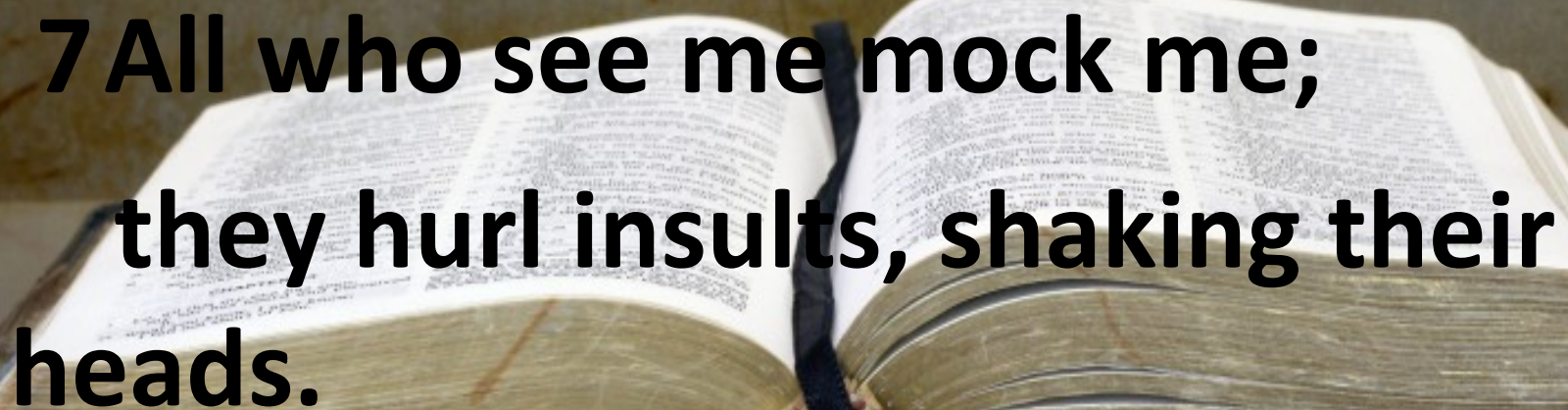
**5 To you they cried out and were saved;**

**in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**



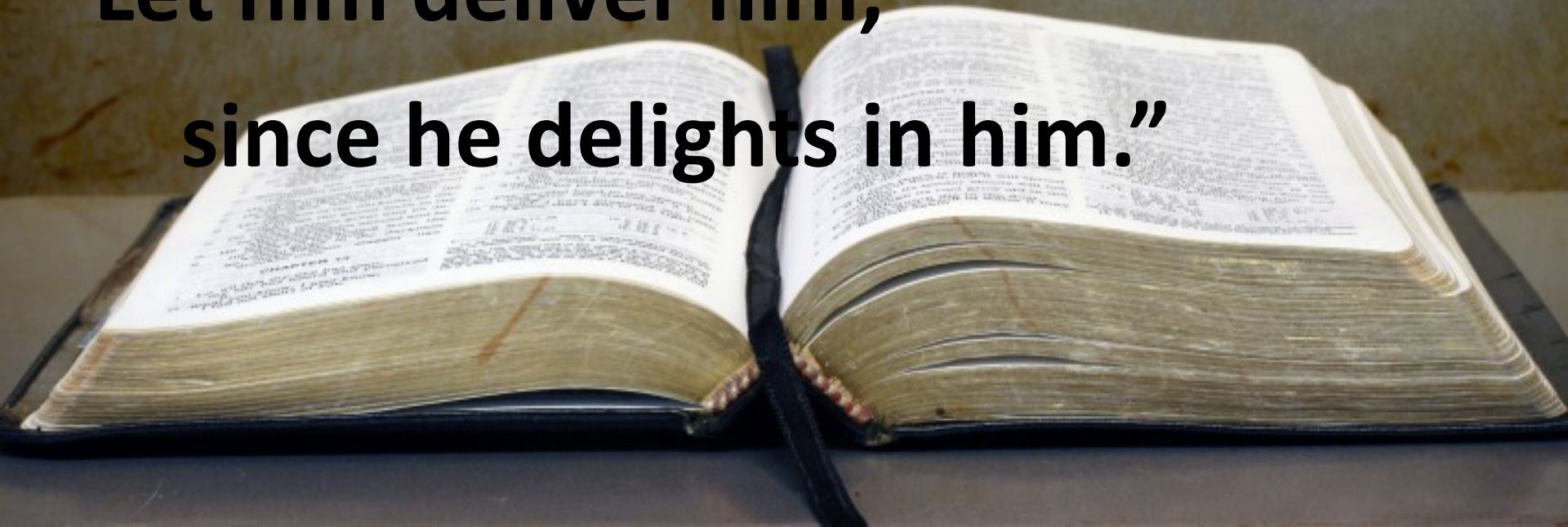
**6 But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by everyone, despised by  
the people.**

**7 All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their  
heads.**

An open book with a dark cover is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white with black text, and the book is open to two pages. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

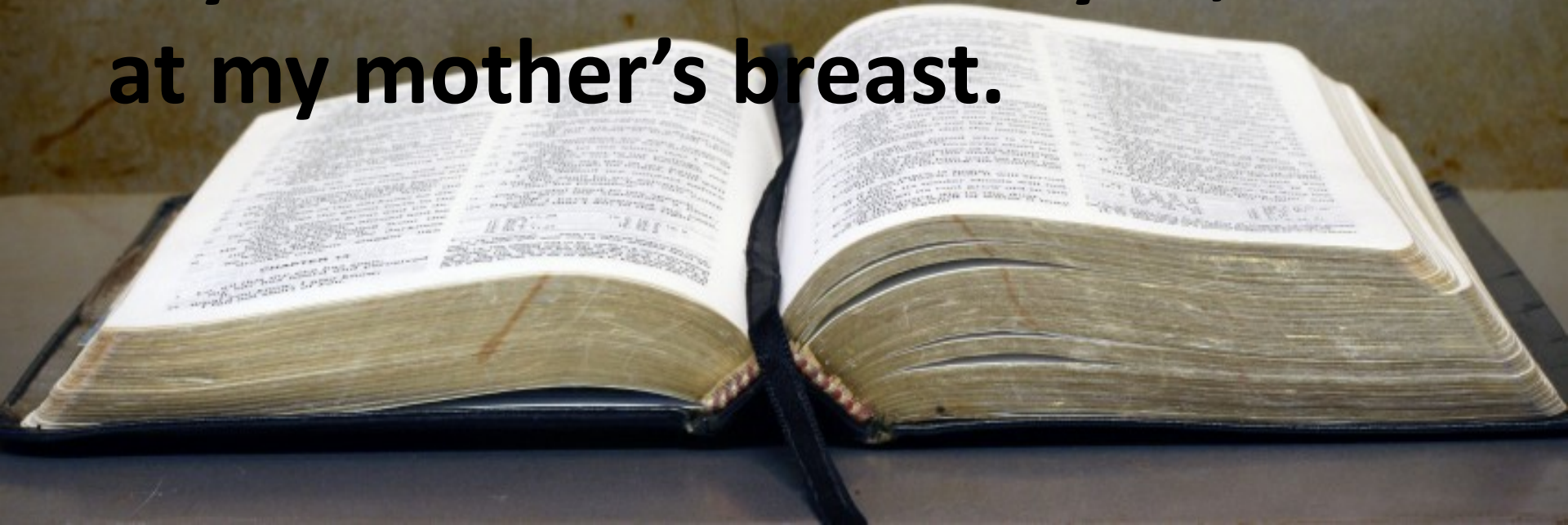


**8 “He trusts in the Lord,” they say,  
“let the Lord rescue him.  
Let him deliver him,  
since he delights in him.”**



**9 Yet you brought me out of the  
womb;**

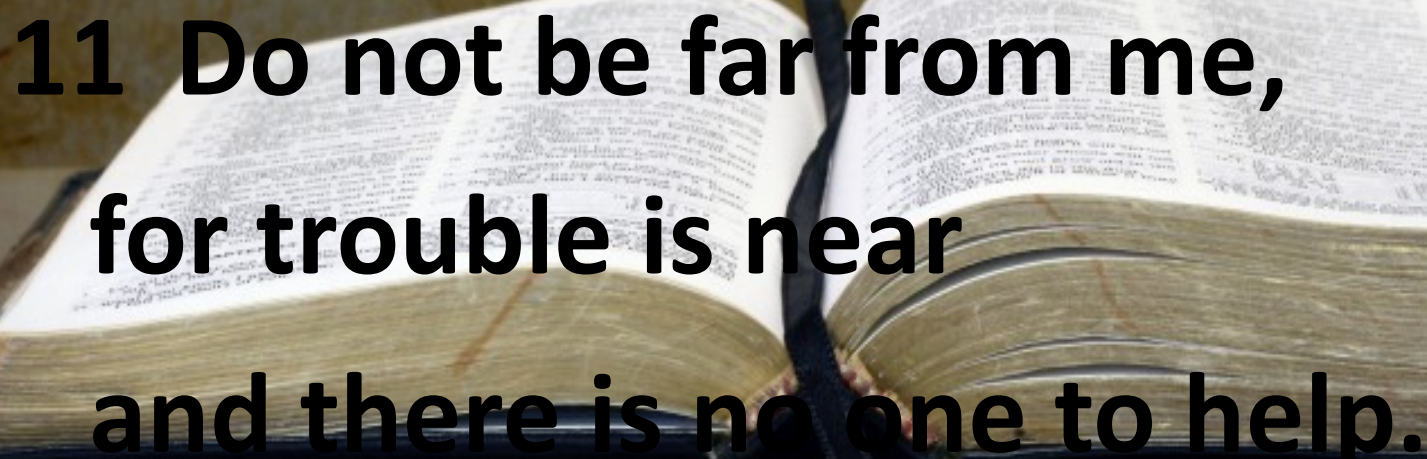
**you made me trust in you, even  
at my mother's breast.**





**10 From birth I was cast on you;  
from my mother's womb you  
have been my God.**

**11 Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near  
and there is no one to help.**

An open book with a dark cover is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white with black text. The book is open to two pages, and the text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

**12 Many bulls surround me;  
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.**

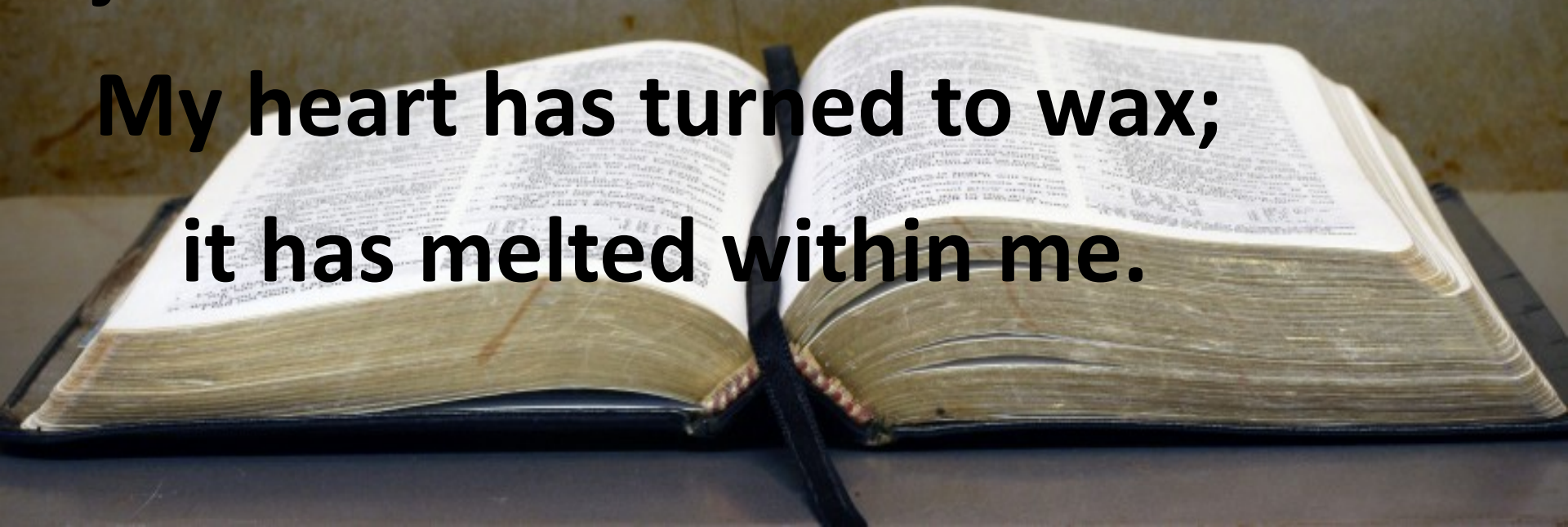
**13 Roaring lions that tear their  
prey  
open their mouths wide against  
me.**

An open Bible with a black cover is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white with black text. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.



**14 I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of  
joint.**

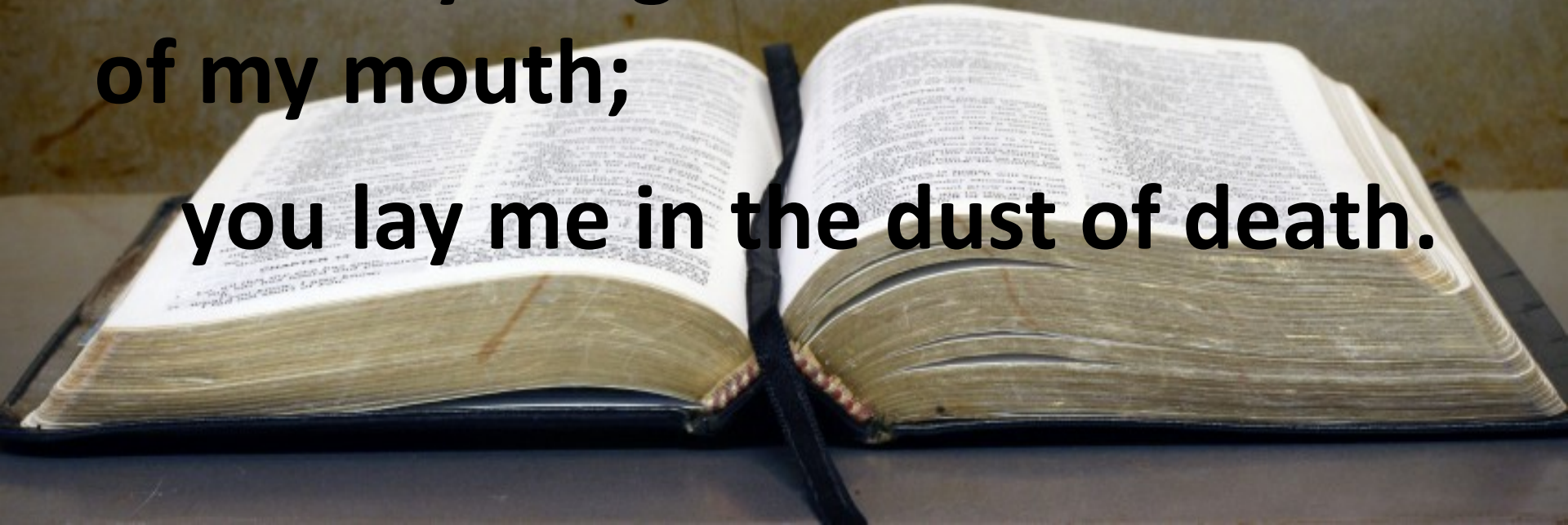
**My heart has turned to wax;  
it has melted within me.**



**15 My mouth is dried up like a  
potsherd,**

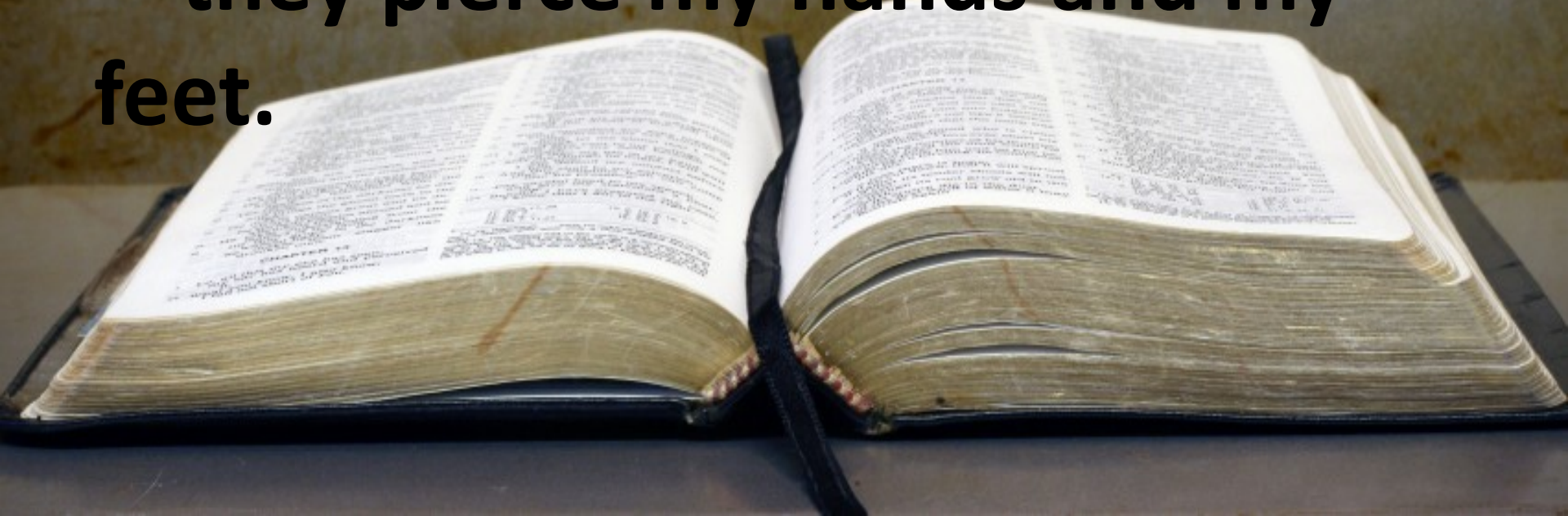
**and my tongue sticks to the roof  
of my mouth;**

**you lay me in the dust of death.**





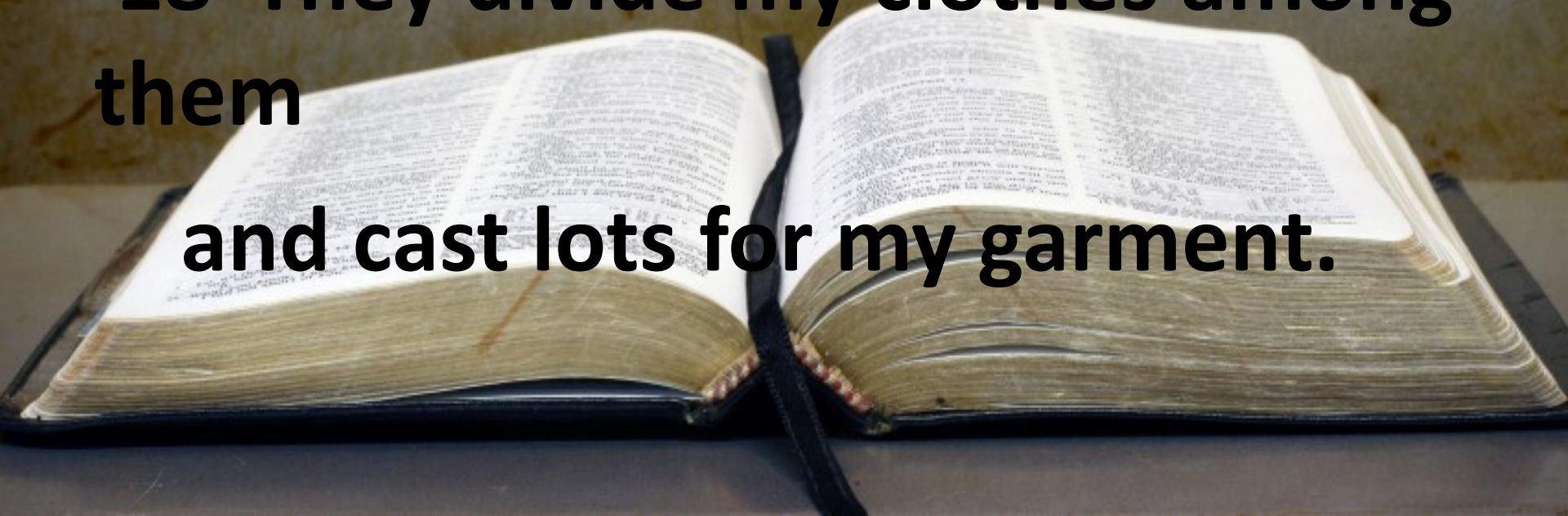
**16 Dogs surround me,  
a pack of villains encircles me;  
they pierce my hands and my  
feet.**



**17 All my bones are on display;  
people stare and gloat over me.**

**18 They divide my clothes among  
them**

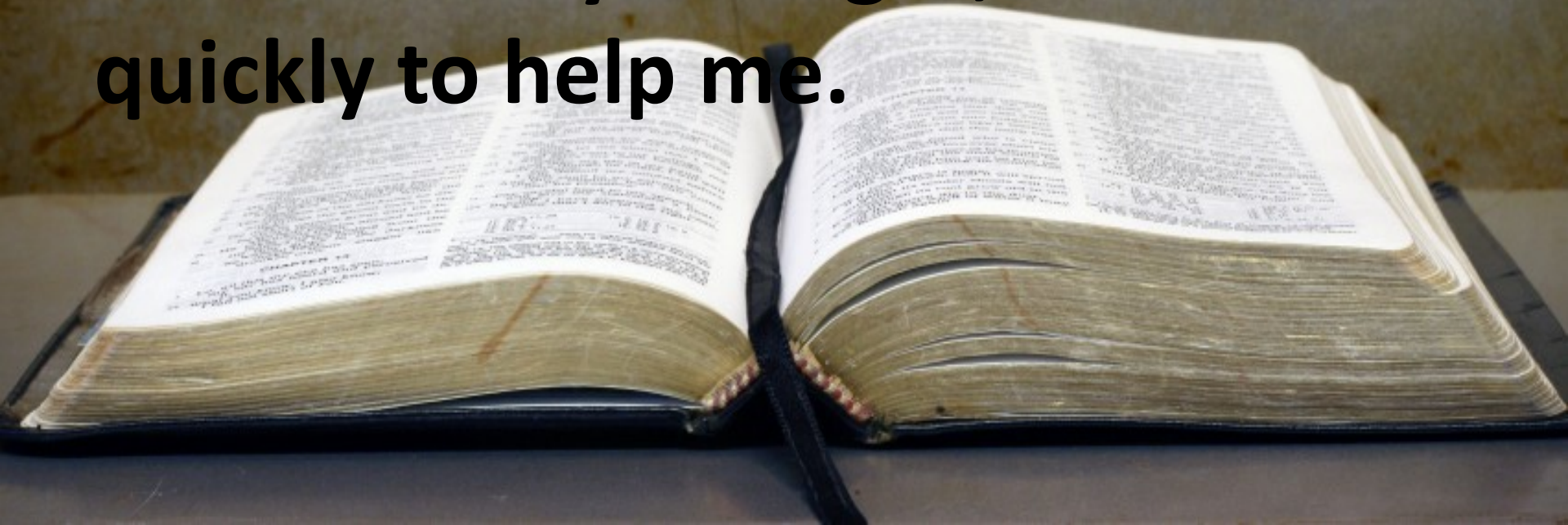
**and cast lots for my garment.**





**19 But you, Lord, do not be far  
from me.**

**You are my strength; come  
quickly to help me.**



**20 Deliver me from the sword,  
my precious life from the power  
of the dogs.**

**21 Rescue me from the mouth of  
the lions;**

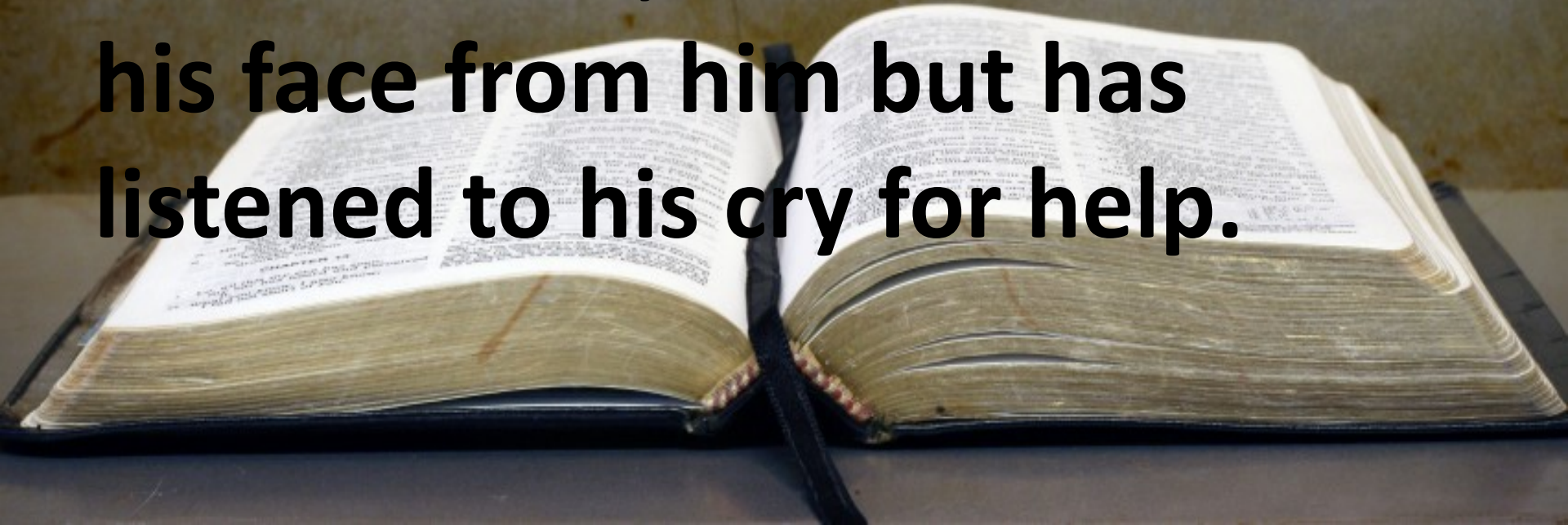
**save me from the horns of the  
wild oxen.**



**22 I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.**

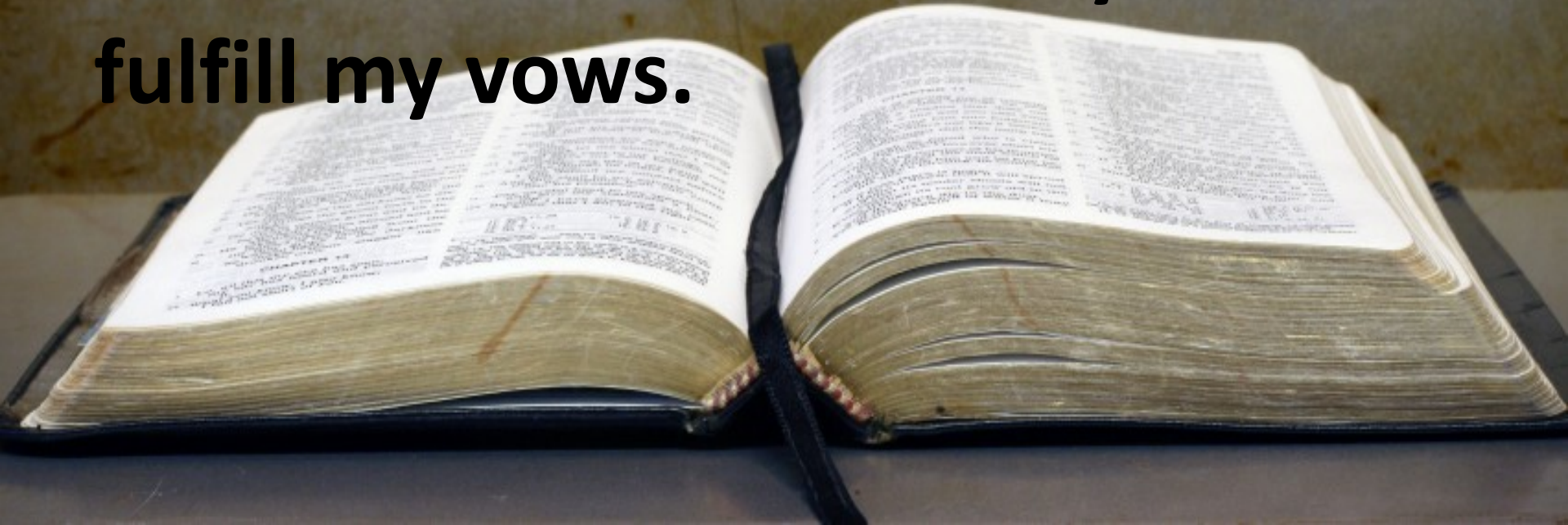
**23 You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!**

**24 For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**





**25 From you comes the theme of  
my praise in the great assembly;  
before those who fear you I will  
fulfill my vows.**

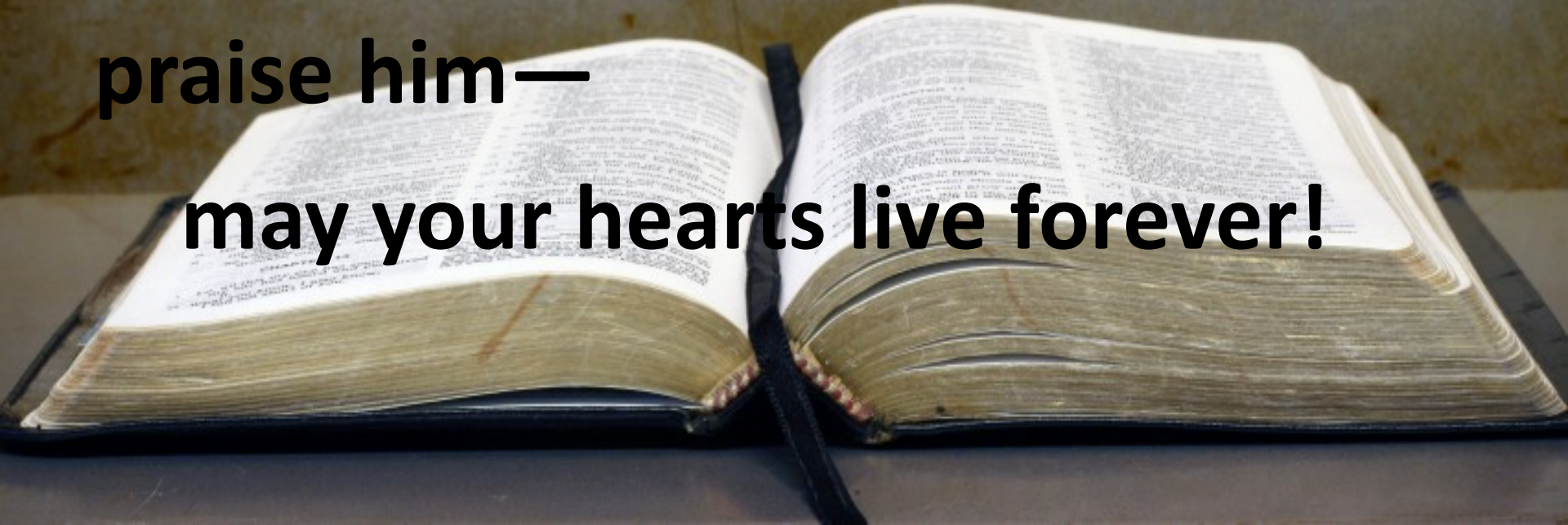




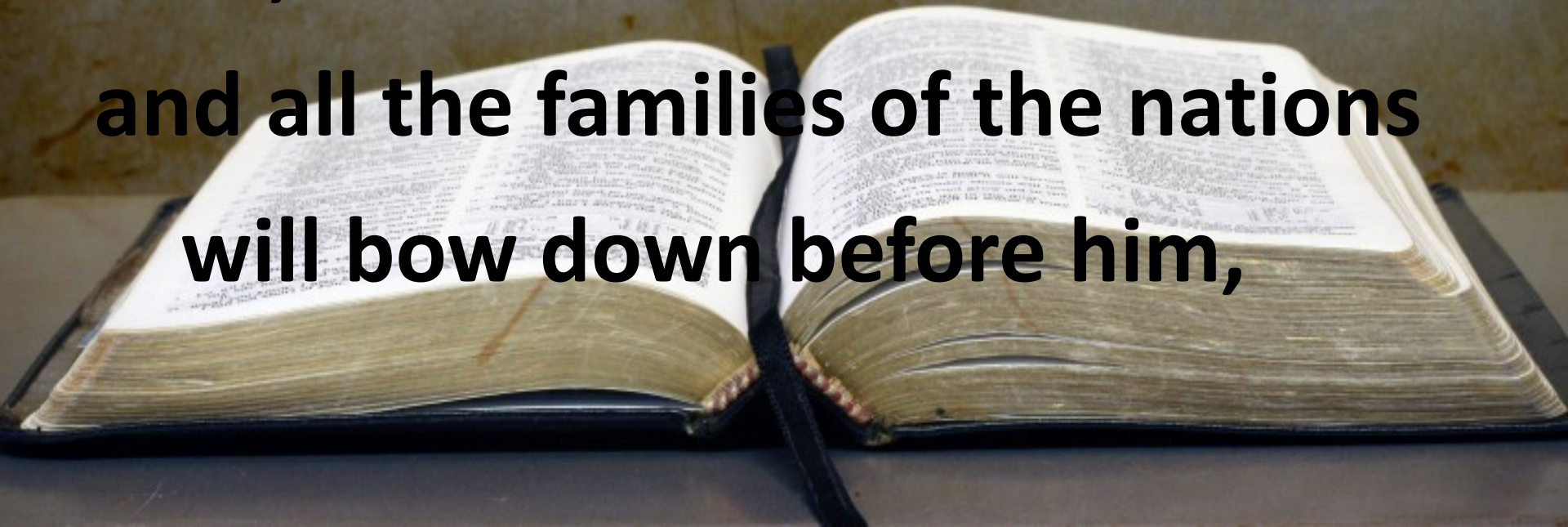
**26 The poor will eat and be satisfied;**

**those who seek the Lord will praise him—**

**may your hearts live forever!**



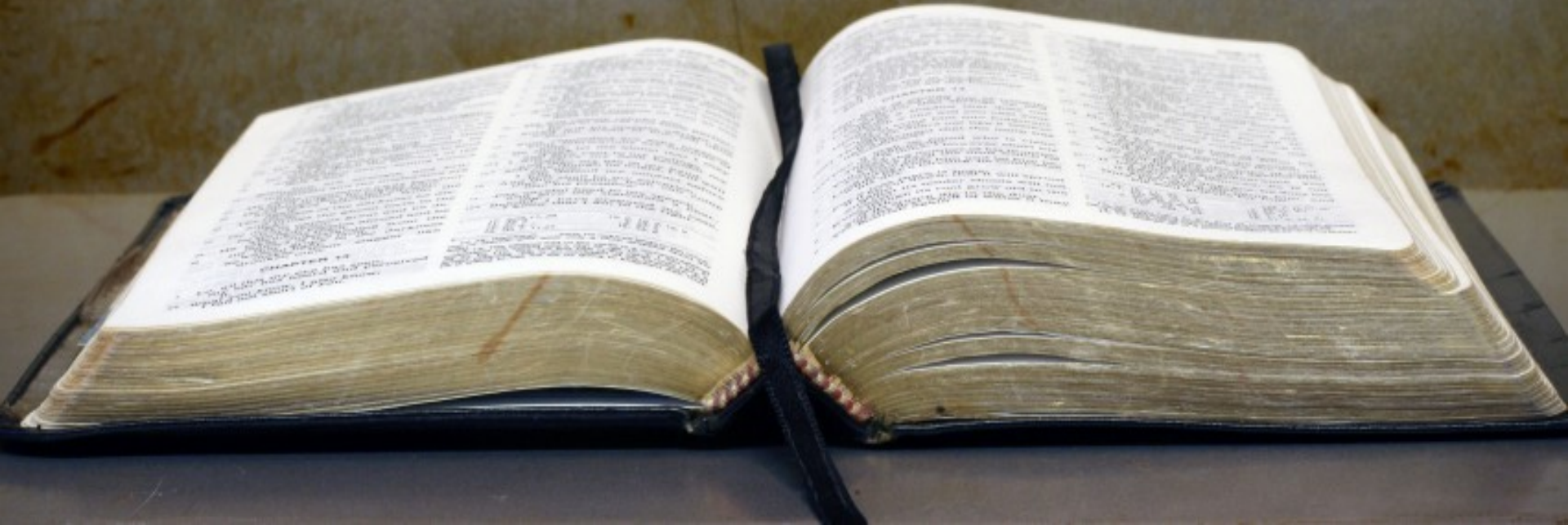
**27 All the ends of the earth  
will remember and turn to the  
Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
will bow down before him,**





**28 for dominion belongs to the  
Lord**

**and he rules over the nations.**

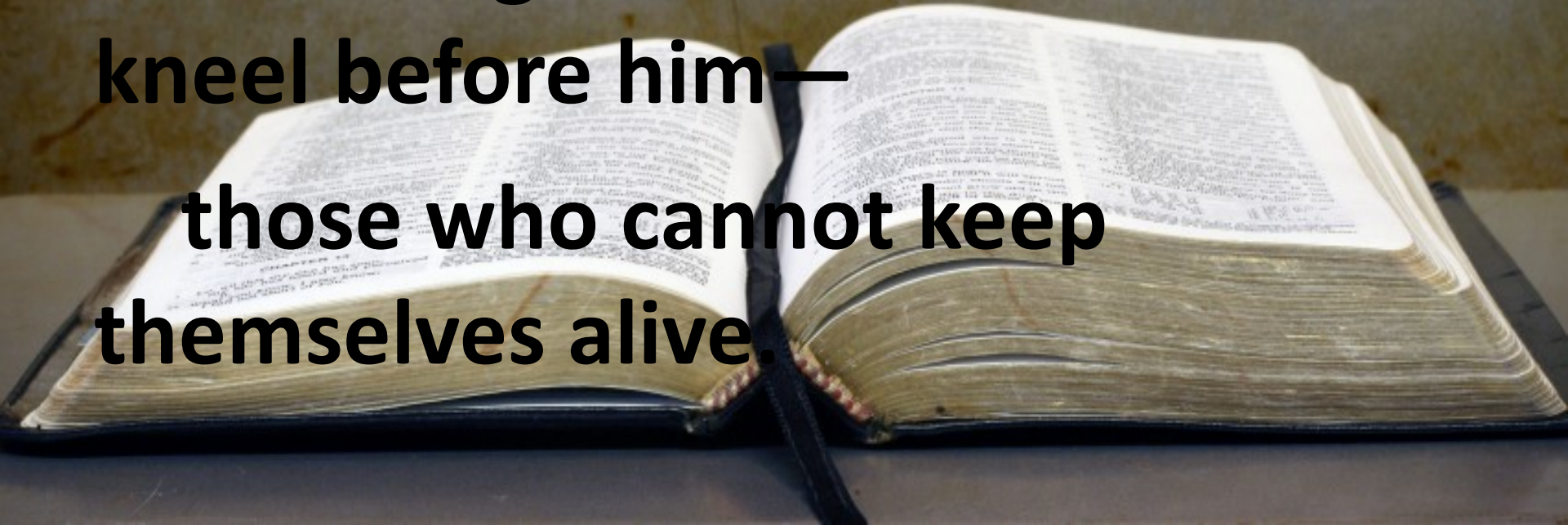




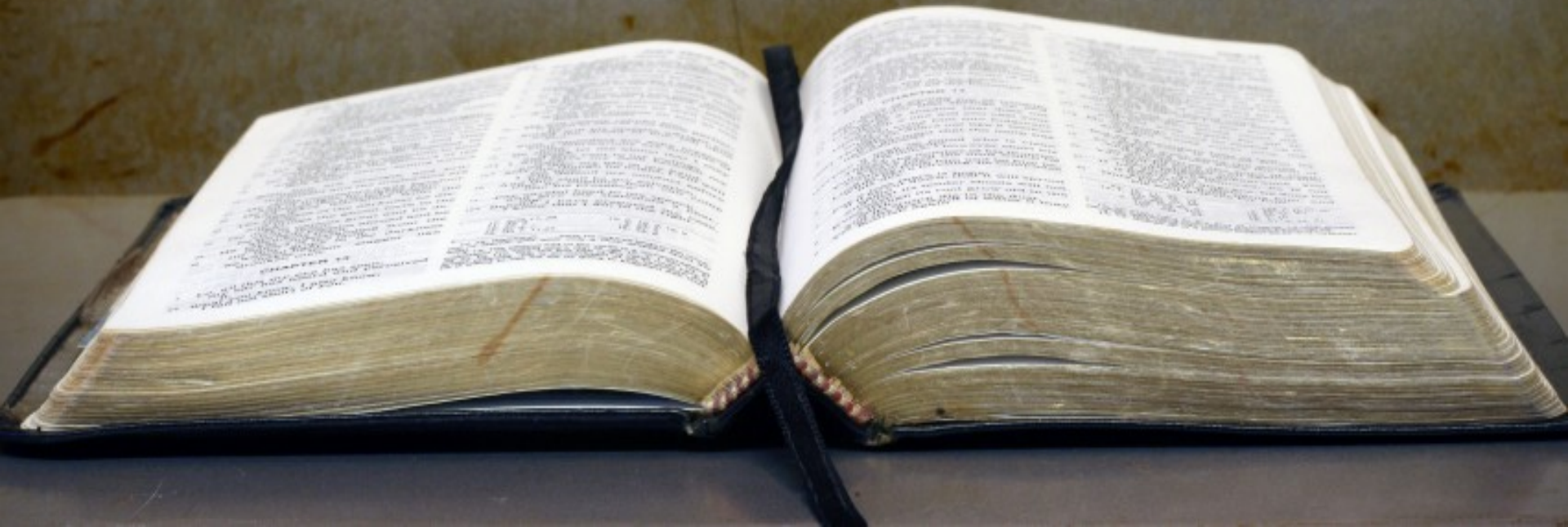
**29 All the rich of the earth will  
feast and worship;**

**all who go down to the dust will  
kneel before him—**

**those who cannot keep  
themselves alive.**



**30 Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told  
about the Lord.**





**31 They will proclaim his  
righteousness,  
declaring to a people yet  
unborn:**

**He has done it!**



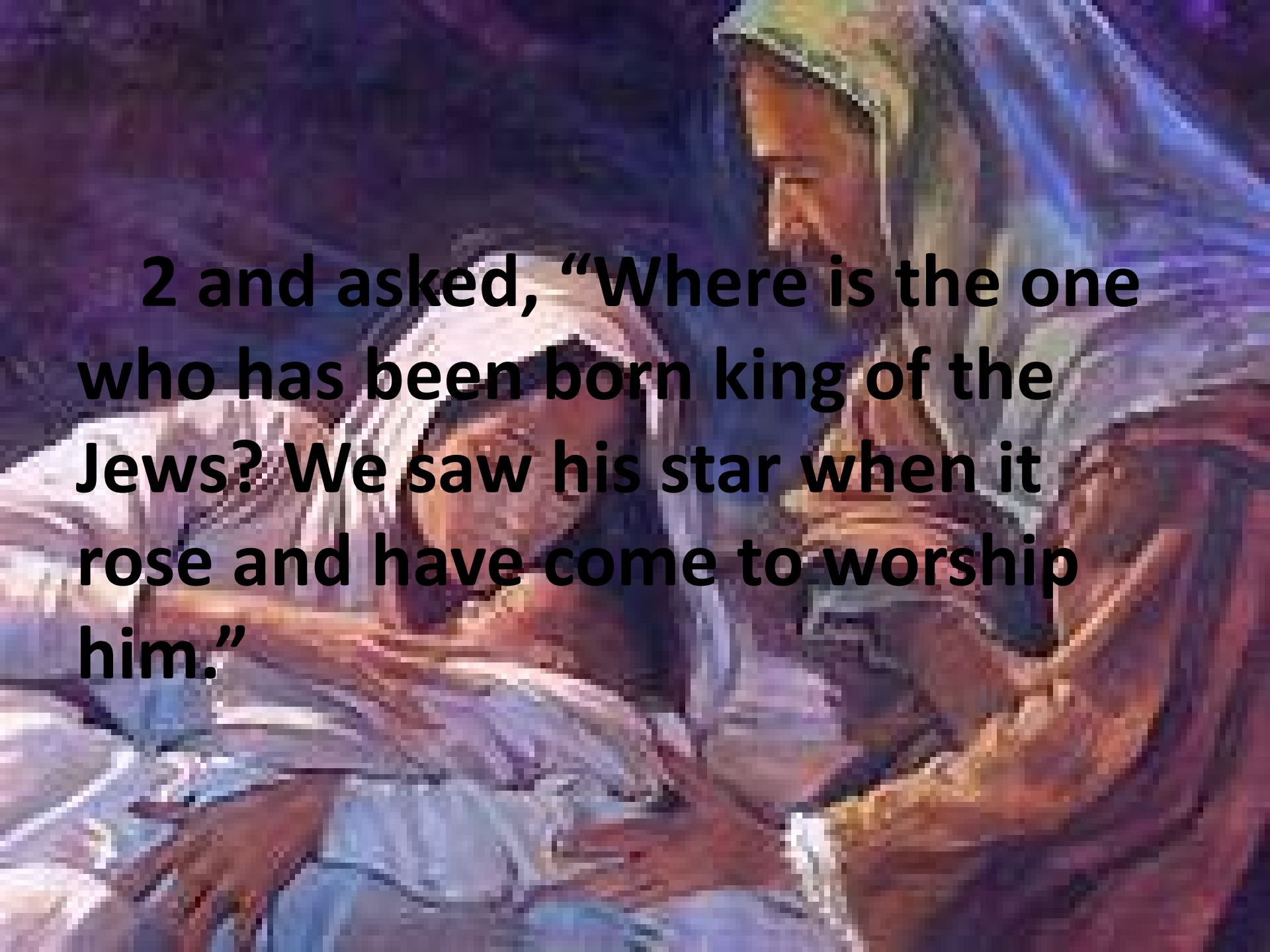


**The birth of Jesus! Both Joseph and Mary were descendants of king David, which made Jesus rightful heir to the throne of Judea**

## **Matthew 2:1-2**

**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem**



A painting depicting the scene of the Three Kings in a stable. A man in a blue robe and a green hooded cloak stands on the right, pointing towards the manger where the infant Jesus lies. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm glow emanating from the manger. The background shows the interior of a stable with wooden beams and a horse's head visible in the shadows.

**2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”**



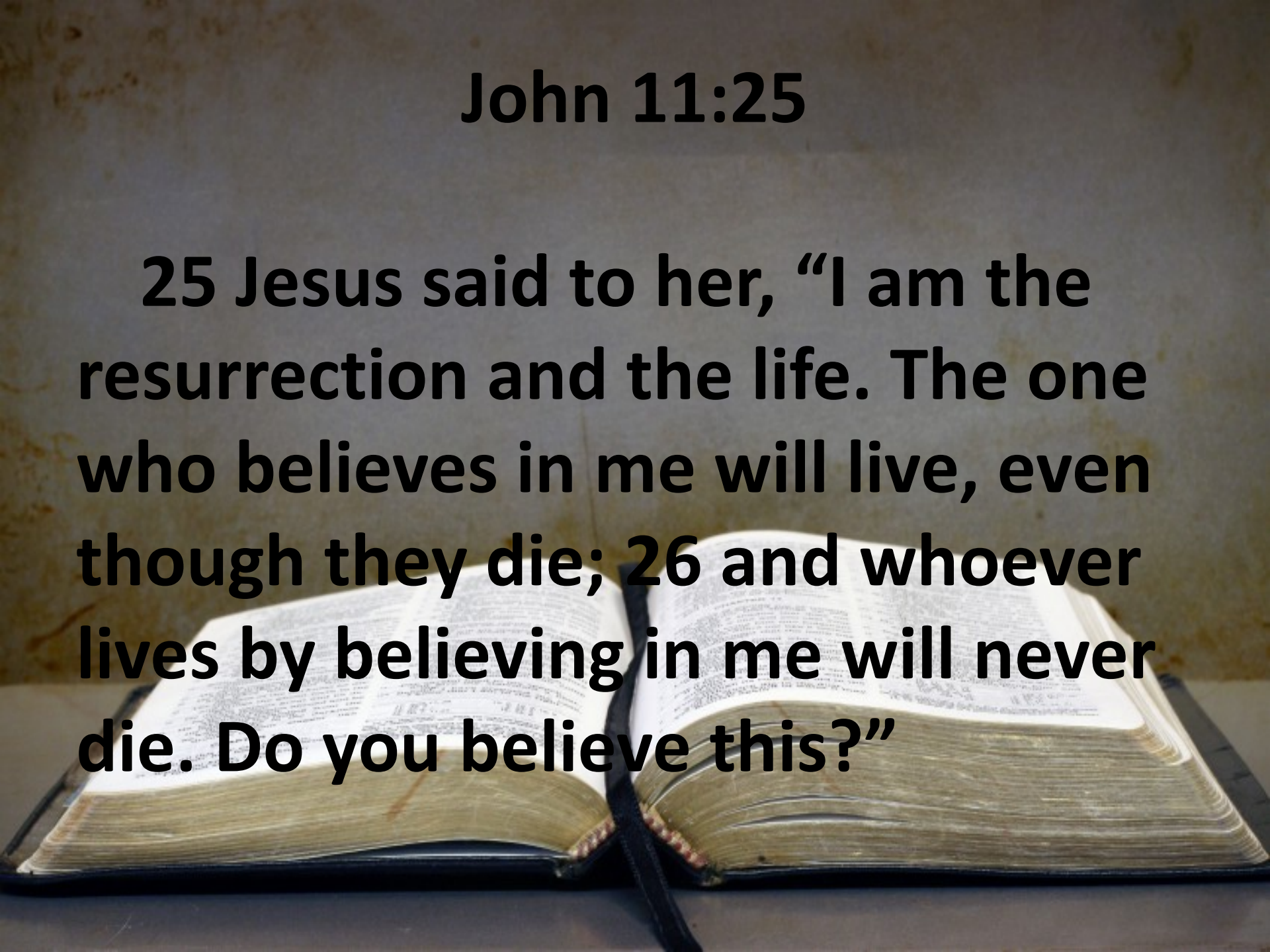
**Skipping all the way to the death of Lazarus.**

**I believe this is a big key to the mental preparedness of the resurrection of Jesus**

**This takes place in Bethany  
about 2 miles from Jerusalem,  
when Jesus arrives Lazarus had  
been dead 4 days.**

## John 11:25

**25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”**

An open Bible with a black cover is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white with black text. The text from John 11:25-26 is overlaid in a large, bold, black font across the center of the Bible. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.



**The next step is when Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb! It is a very public display, and the disciples and Jews from Jerusalem and many others see that Jesus had power over death.**

**I believe this was Gods plan to  
prepare people to accept the  
resurrection of Jesus!**

**Instead of fear, since this takes  
place just before the crucifixion of  
Jesus.**

**38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.**



**39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”**

**40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”**

**41 So they took away the stone.  
Then Jesus looked up and said,  
“Father, I thank you that you have  
heard me.**



**42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”**

**43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”**

**44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.**

**Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”**



**Then it goes on to the plot to kill Jesus, the crucifixion and the burial, and the placement of the guards, and the resurrection on Sunday morning**

**there is a great deal more to talk about, the prophecy of Caiaphas, the trial, those are things that you here about from so many preachers, I wanted this to be a broader picture of Gods plan.**

**to help you understand how special this years celebration of this years “Easter” is I will try to explain how Easter is decided on**

**An equinox is a date when night and day are exactly the same length. Two occur during the year, one signaling the beginning of spring**



**Easter is always the first Sunday  
after the first full moon after the  
spring Equinox, the Equinox in  
2018 was March 20th**

**the first full moon after March  
20th 2018 was March 31st**

**The Jewish Passover started  
March 30th at sundown**

**the full moon on March 31st  
known as the Paschal moon  
(Passover moon) was also a blue  
moon!**

**A blue moon is a rare occasion when we have 2 full moons in one month , the second full moon is called a blue moon! Blue moons happens about every 2.7 years**



**this has been a very special  
year! We will have 13 full moons  
this year ! And the month of  
February did not have a full moon.**

**we have had in 2018 two blue moons! One on January 31st and one on march 31st, the one on January 31st was also a total lunar eclipse!**

**The last time a blue moon was  
a total lunar eclipse was 1866**

**152 years ago!**

**As amazing as that all sounds  
that is not the best part of today!**



**in John 3:16 Jesus says**

**16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15 that the Resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our Christian faith, without believing in the resurrection of Jesus we have nothing**

## **John 20:29**

**29 Then Jesus told him,  
“Because you have seen me, you  
have believed; blessed are those  
who have not seen and yet have  
believed.”**