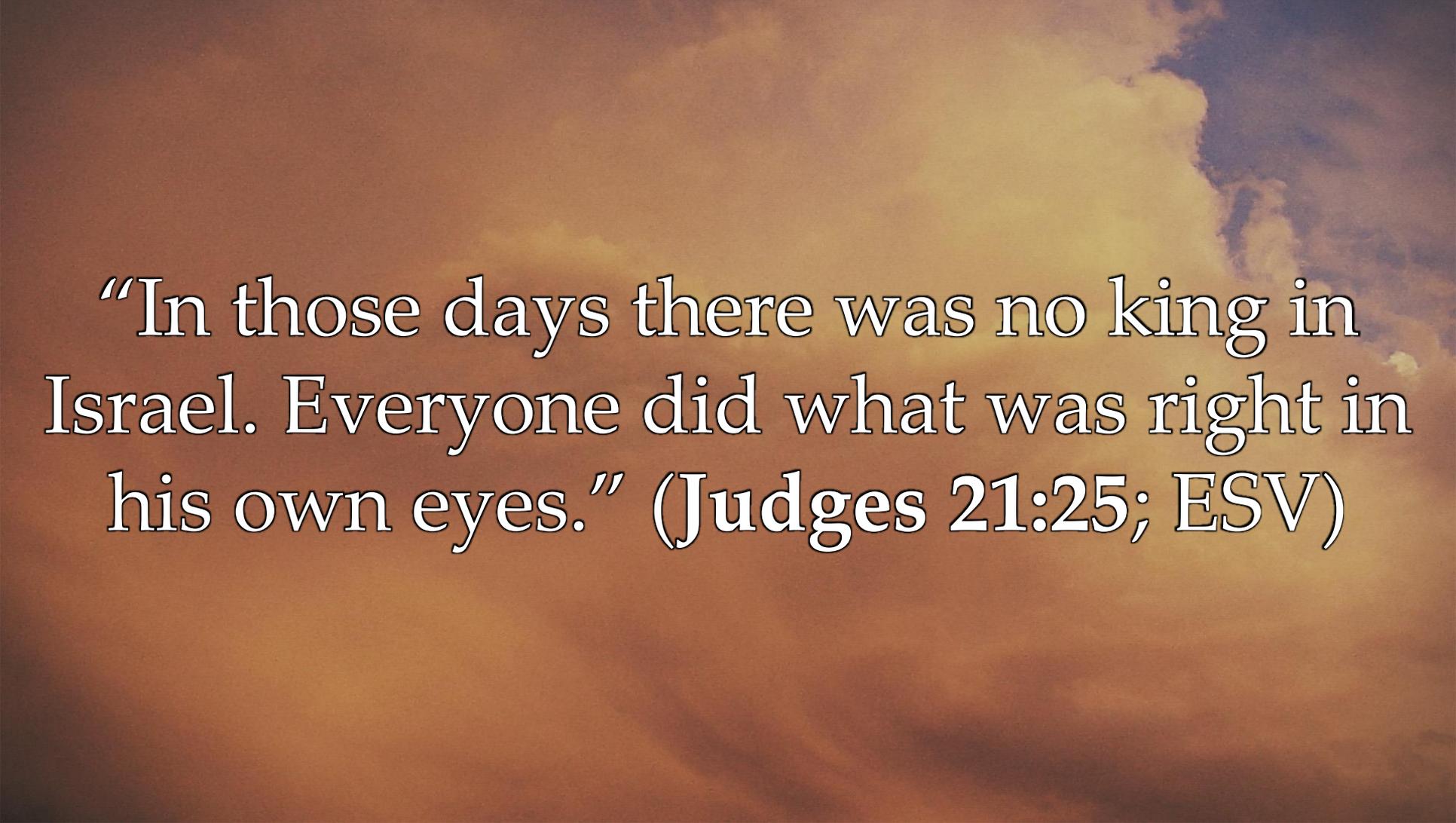


A dramatic landscape featuring rolling hills under a sky filled with large, golden clouds. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text "GIDEON'S COURAGE" is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a slight shadow, positioned across the middle of the image.

# GIDEON'S COURAGE



“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25; ESV)

## Judges 6:1-2 (ESV)

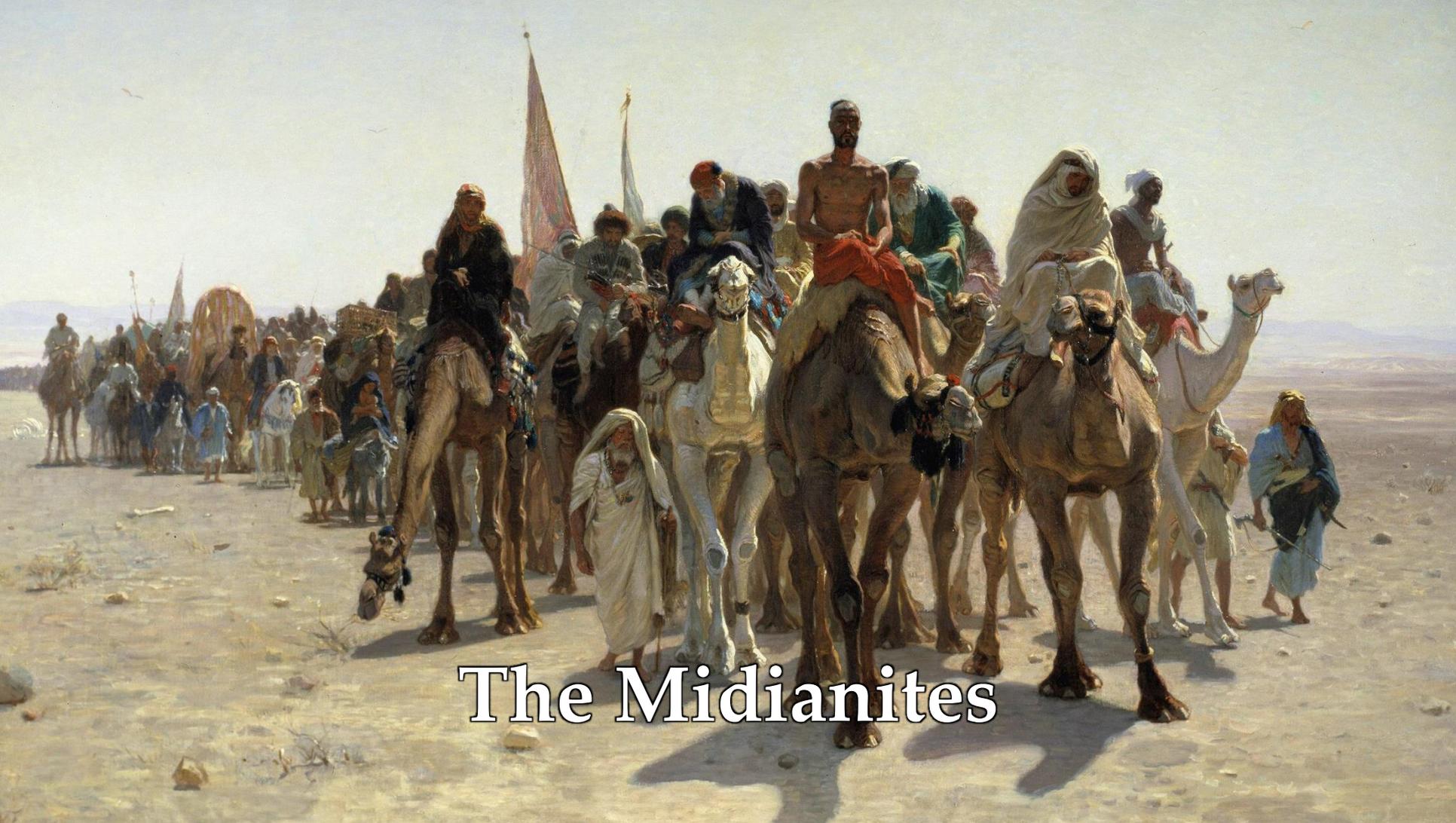
1 The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. 2 And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds.

## Judges 6:3-4 (ESV)

3 For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. 4 They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey.

## Judges 6:5 (ESV)

5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number — both they and their camels could not be counted — so that they laid waste the land as they came in.



# The Midianites

## Judges 6:6 (ESV)

6 And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.



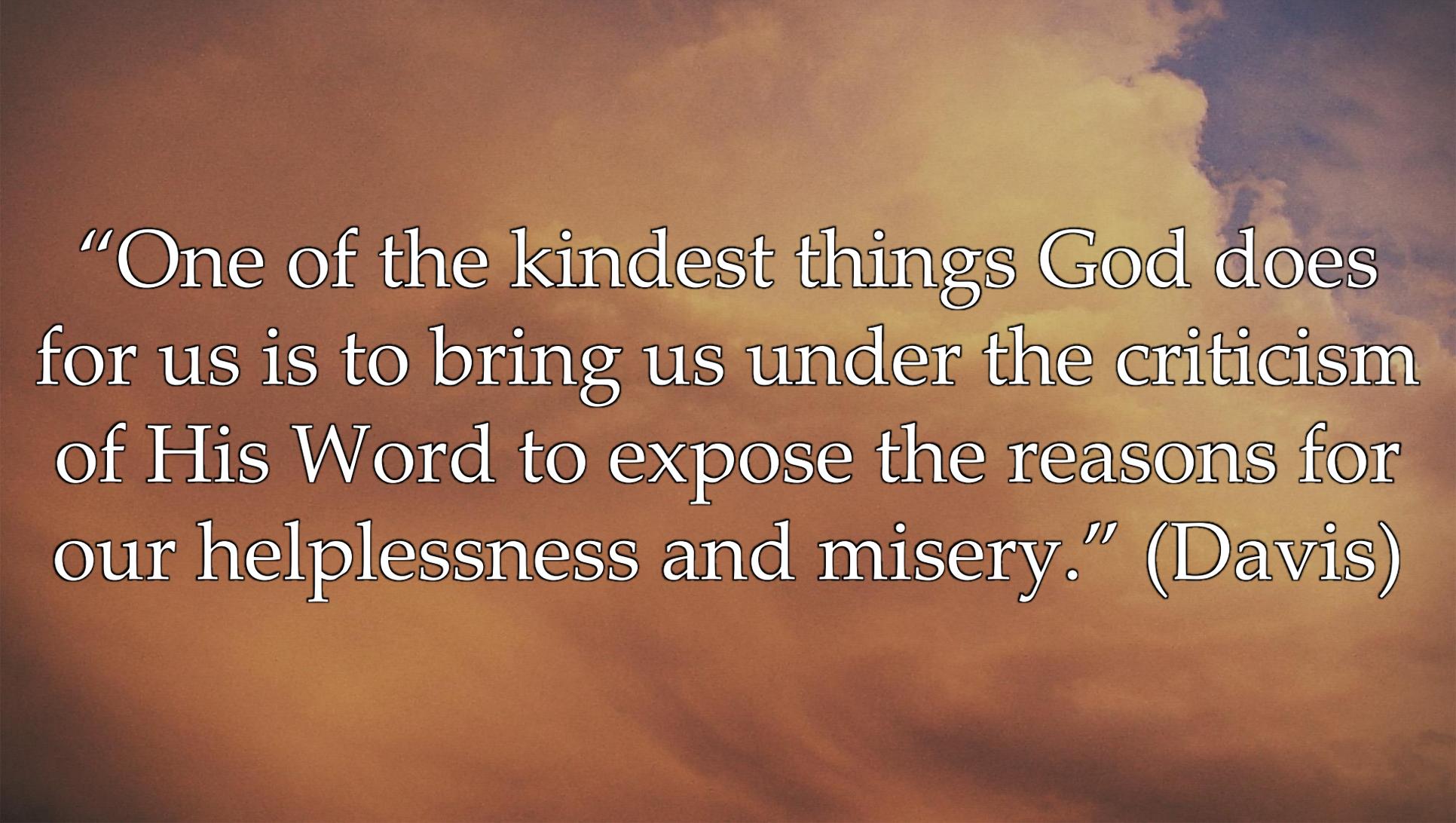
## Judges 6:7-8 (ESV)

7 When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites, 8 the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery.

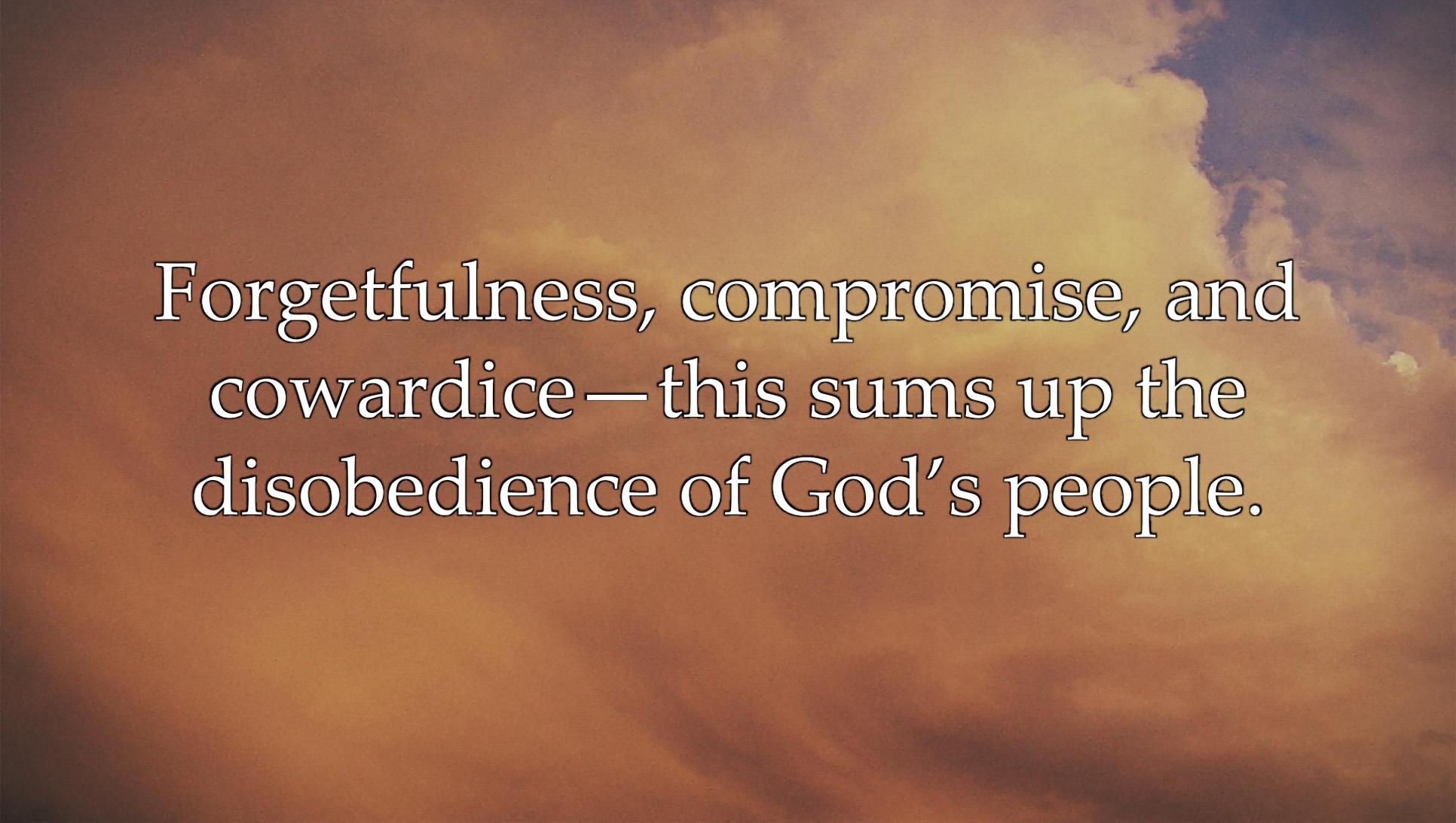
## Judges 6:9-10 (ESV)

9 And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 And I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.' But you have not obeyed my voice."

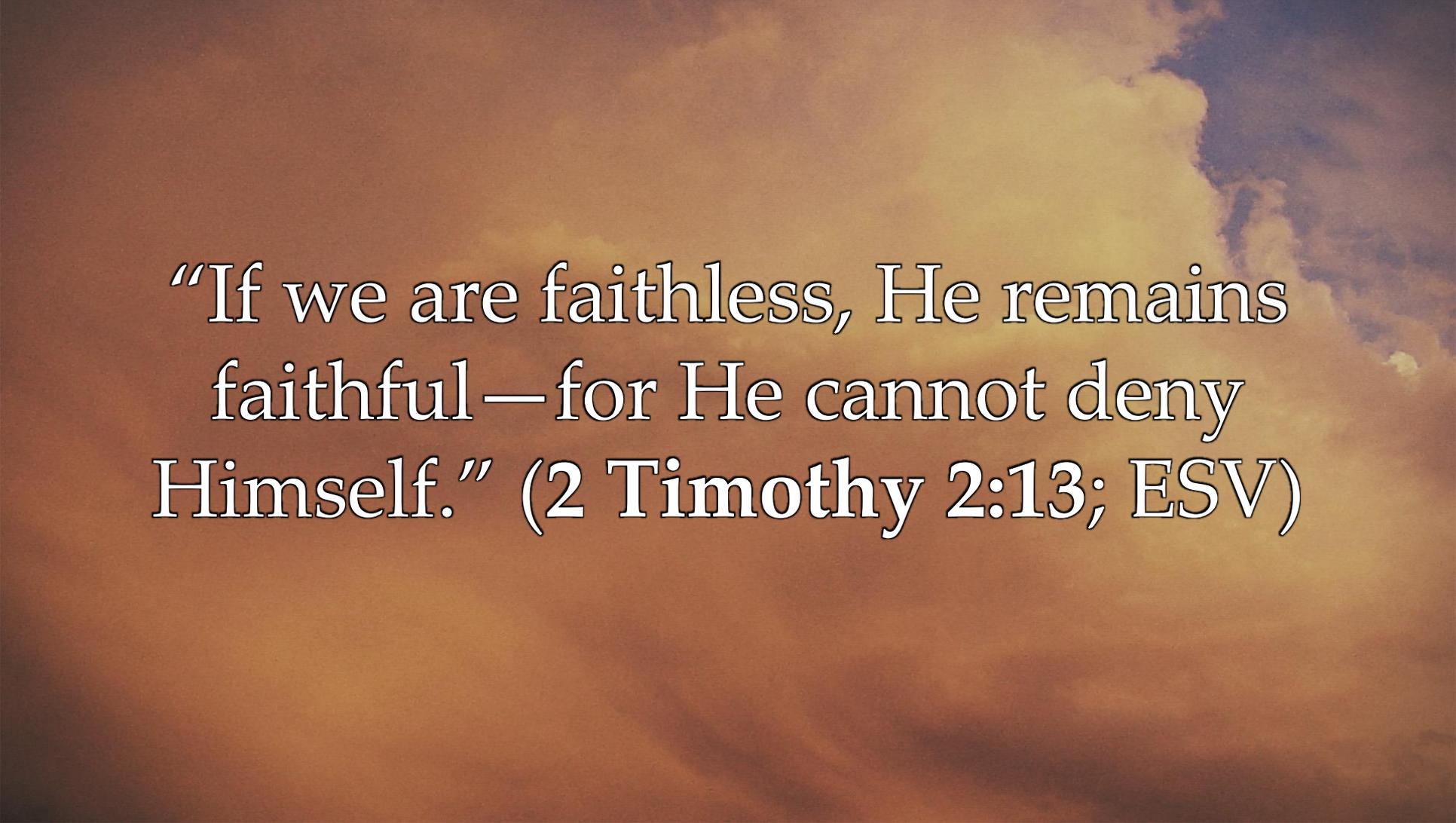
Israel cries for relief and the Lord sends a prophet to CRITICIZE them. He rehearses for them God's grace and faithfulness, reminds them of God's command, and levels God's accusation.



“One of the kindest things God does for us is to bring us under the criticism of His Word to expose the reasons for our helplessness and misery.” (Davis)



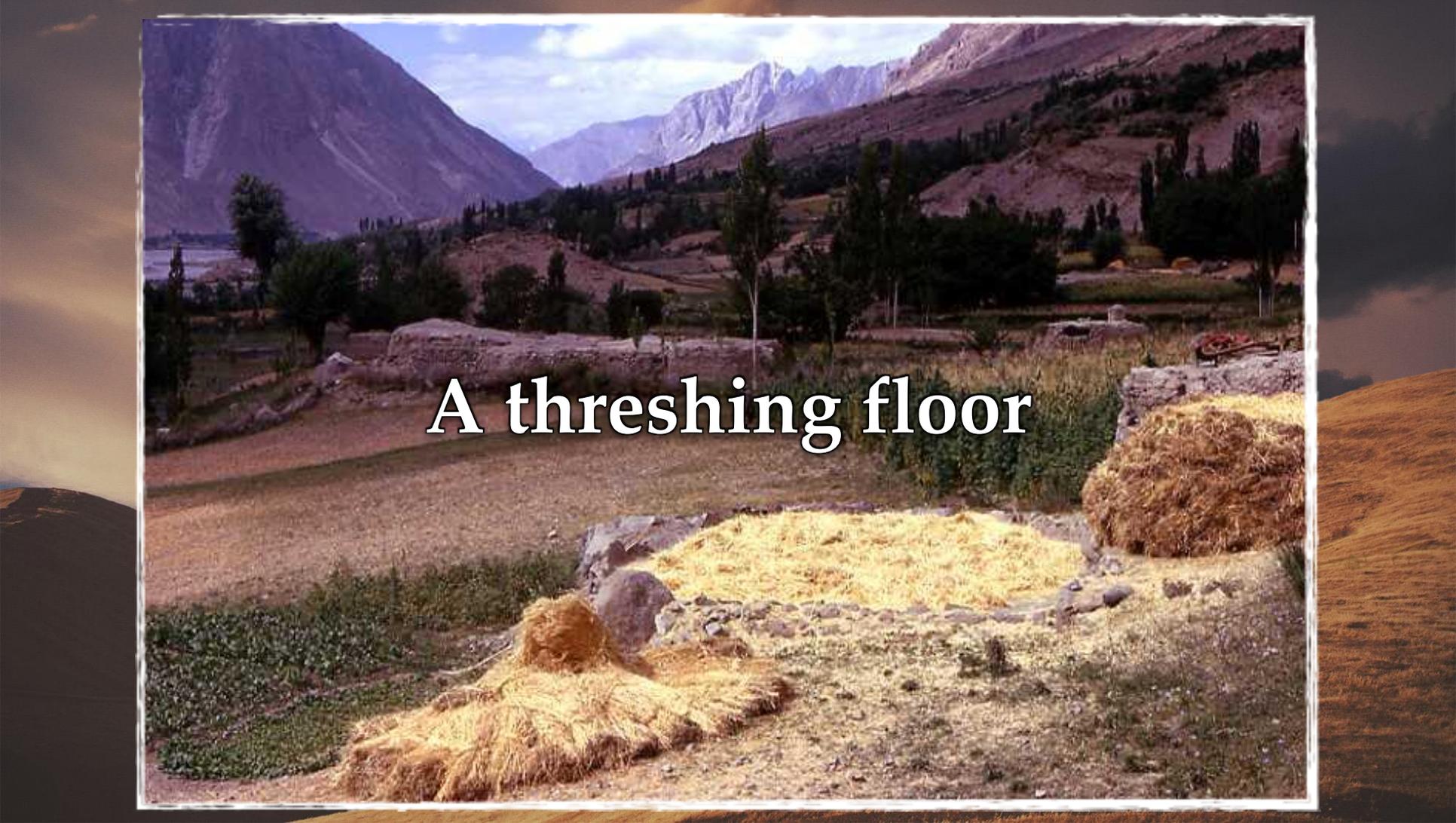
Forgetfulness, compromise, and  
cowardice — this sums up the  
disobedience of God's people.



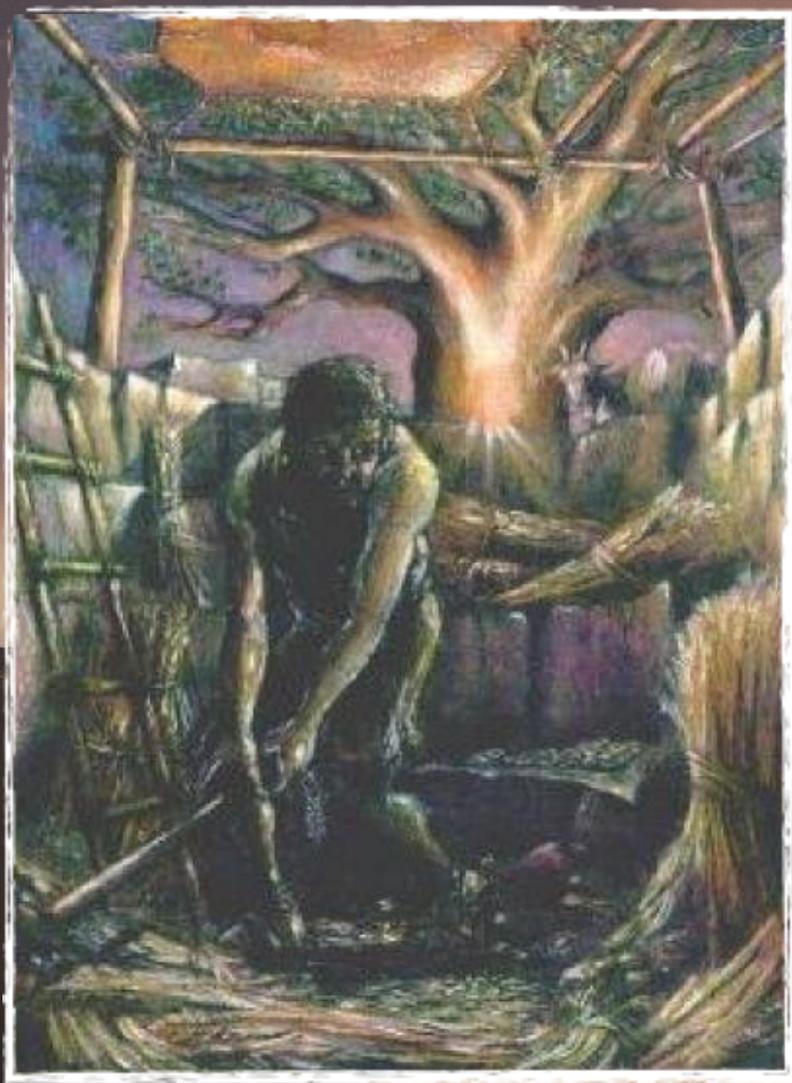
“If we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13; ESV)

## Judges 6:11-12 (ESV)

11 Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezerite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor."

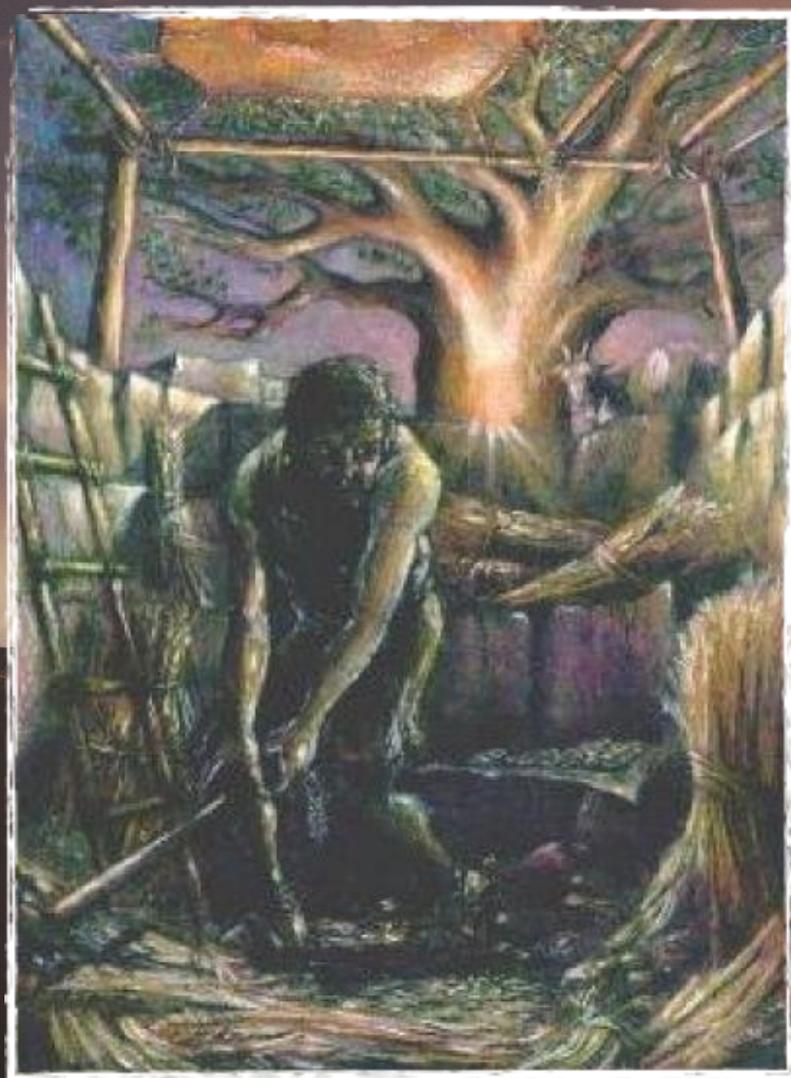


# A threshing floor



Gideon is  
threshing  
wheat in a  
winepress?





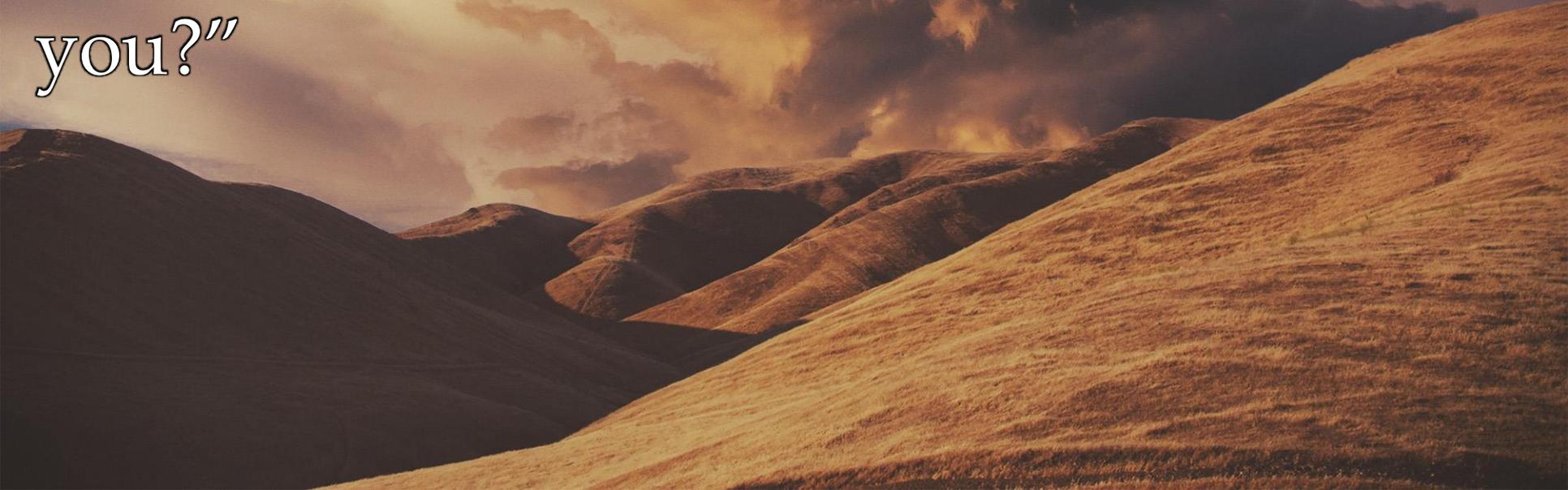
*"The LORD is  
with you, O  
mighty man of  
valor." (v. 12)*

## Judges 6:13 (ESV)

13 And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."

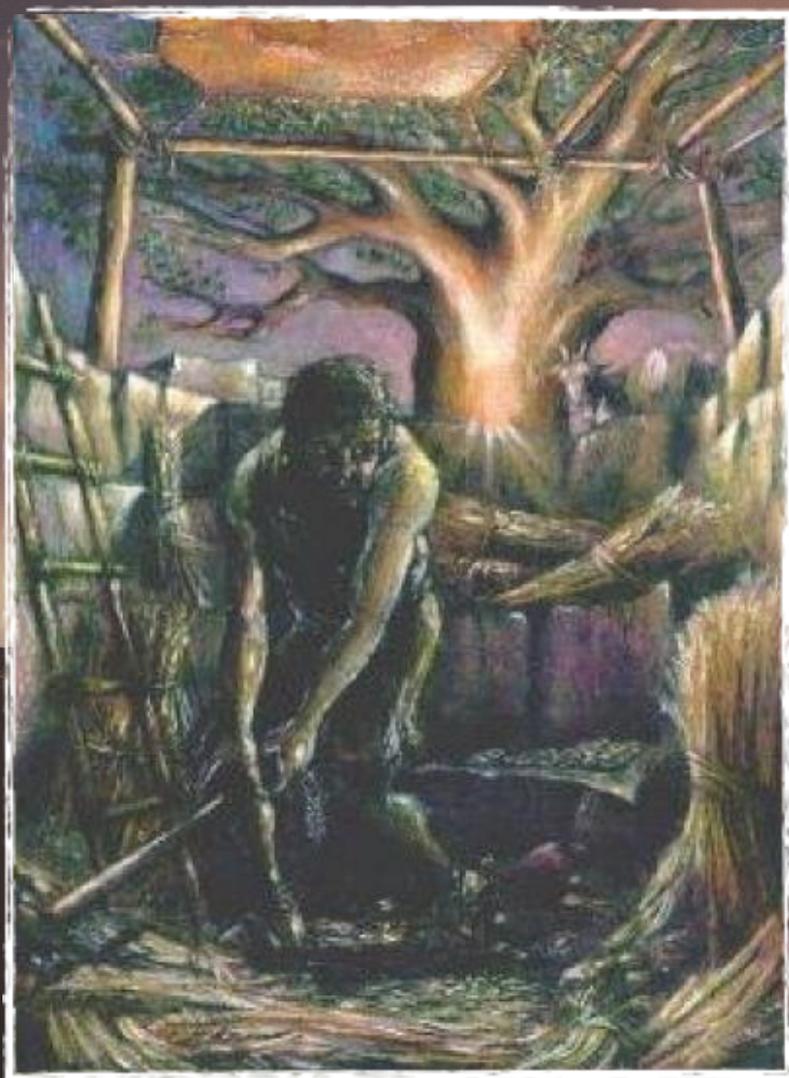
## Judges 6:14 (ESV)

14 And the LORD turned to him and said,  
“Go in this might of yours and save Israel  
from the hand of Midian; do not I send  
you?”



## Judges 6:15-16 (ESV)

15 And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." 16 And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."



*“But I will be  
with you, and  
you shall strike  
the Midianites  
as one man.”*

*(v. 16)*

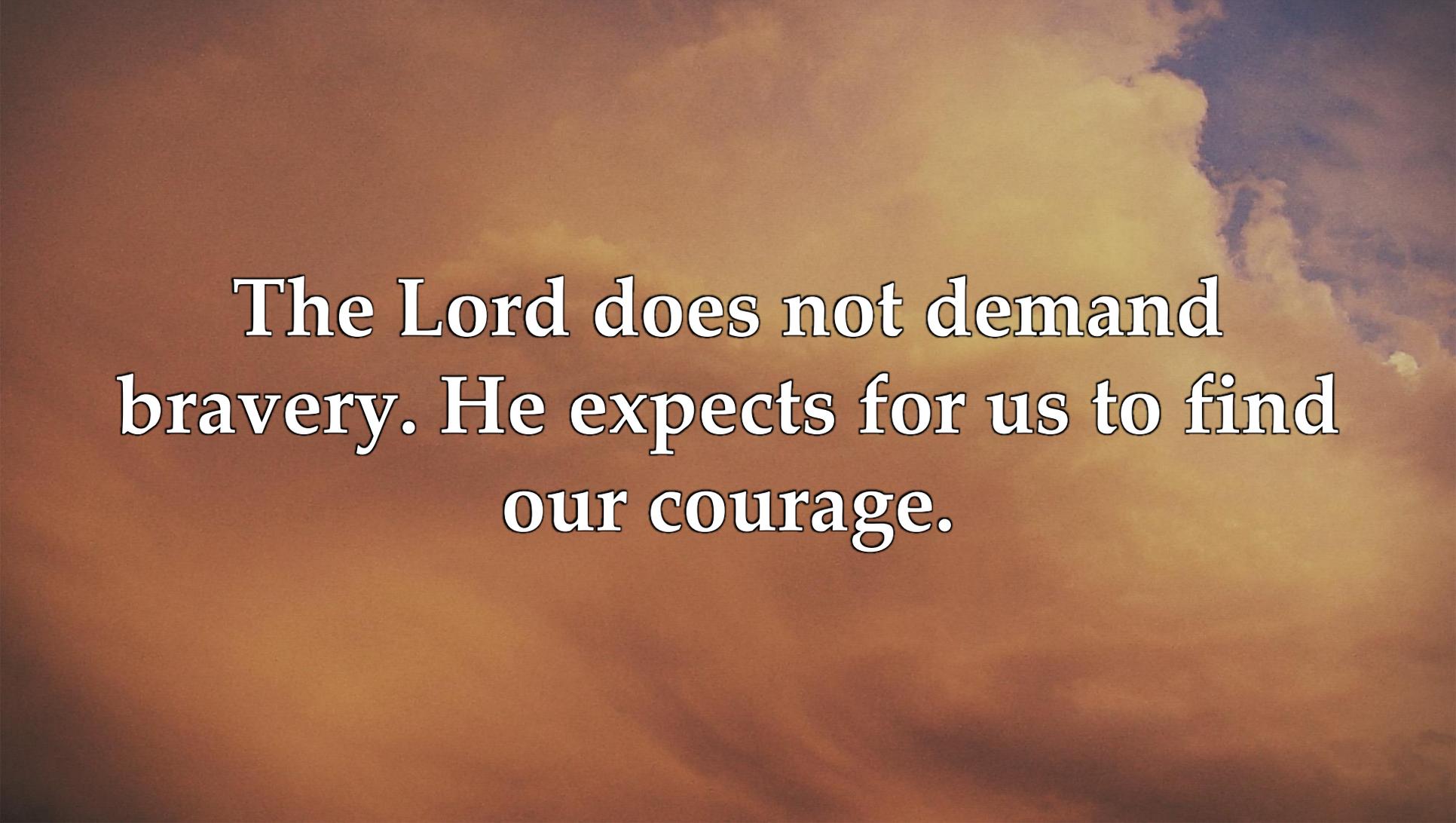
“BRAVERY is the ability to confront something painful or difficult or dangerous without any fear. It’s a quality, not a state of mind; it doesn’t need a cause to awaken it. Someone is brave—full stop. To the person who has it, it’s effortless.” (Warshaw)

## Joshua 1:6-7 (NLT)

6 Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do.

## Joshua 1:8-9 (NLT)

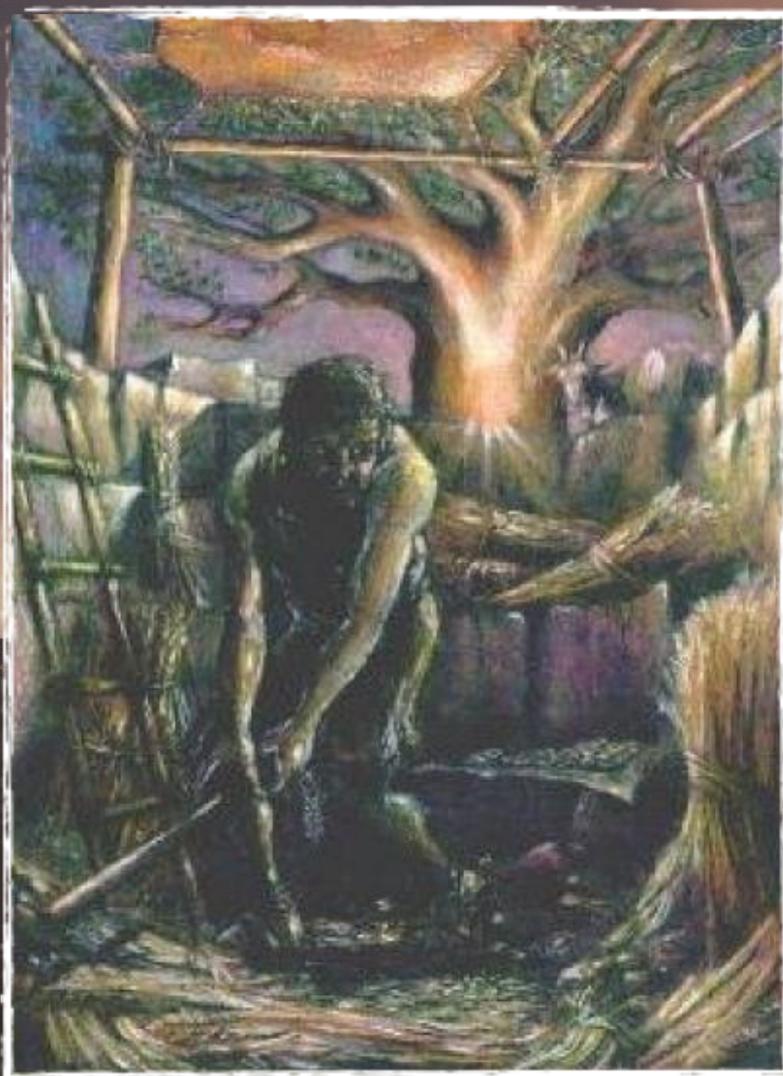
8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. 9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”



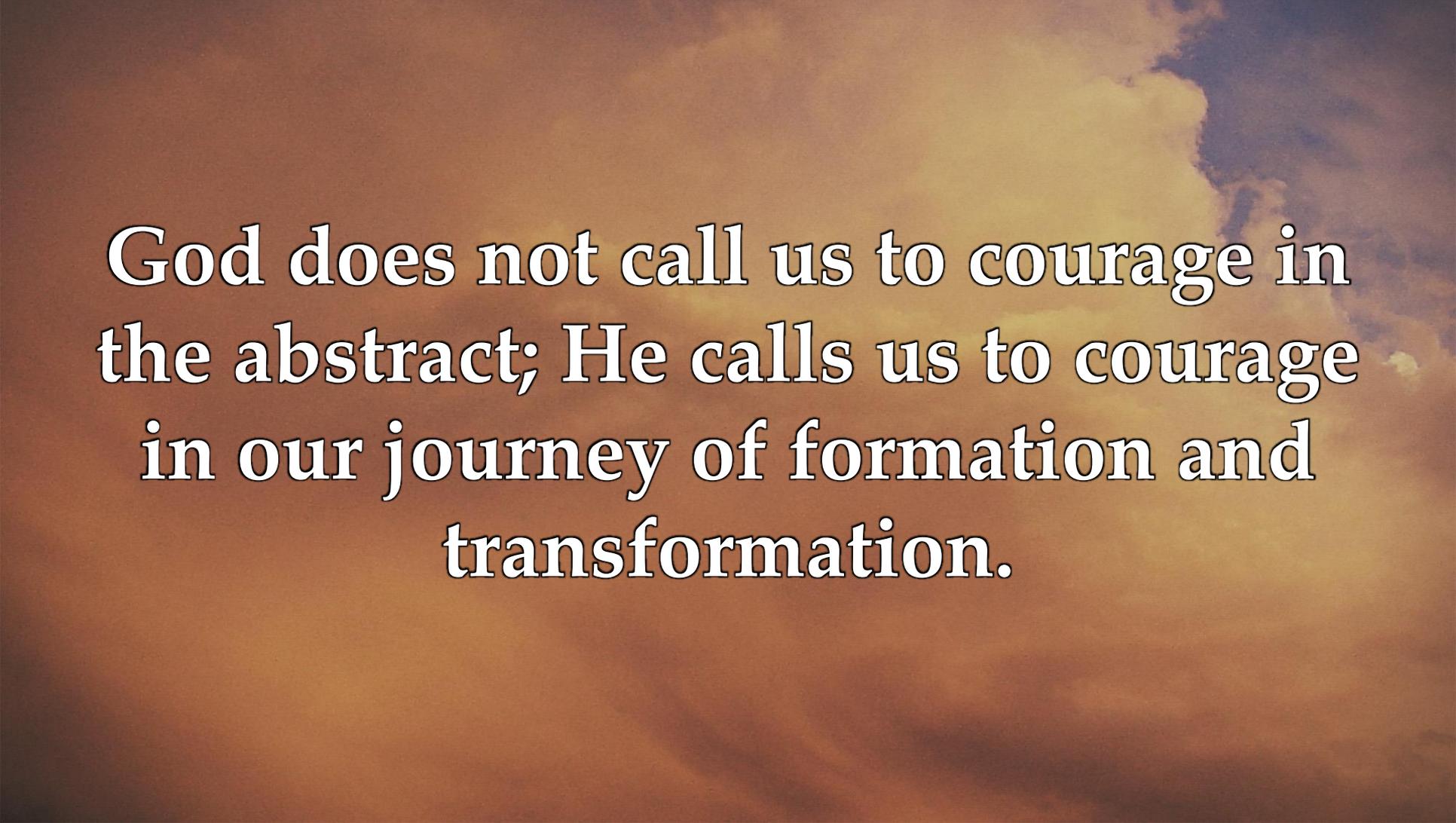
The Lord does not demand  
bravery. He expects for us to find  
our courage.

"COURAGE is the ability to confront something painful or difficult or dangerous *despite* any fear. It's not a quality, but a choice; a person feels the fear or pain or danger, but chooses to persevere anyway." (Warshaw)

*"I will be with you"* is the true  
SOURCE of our courage. It is the  
promise that EQUIPS us.



*“The LORD is  
with you, O  
mighty man of  
valor.” (v. 12)*



God does not call us to courage in  
the abstract; He calls us to courage  
in our journey of formation and  
transformation.