



ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP



Part 1

Eli, Hophni, and Phinehas

Part 2

The Philistines

Part 3

David & Uzzah



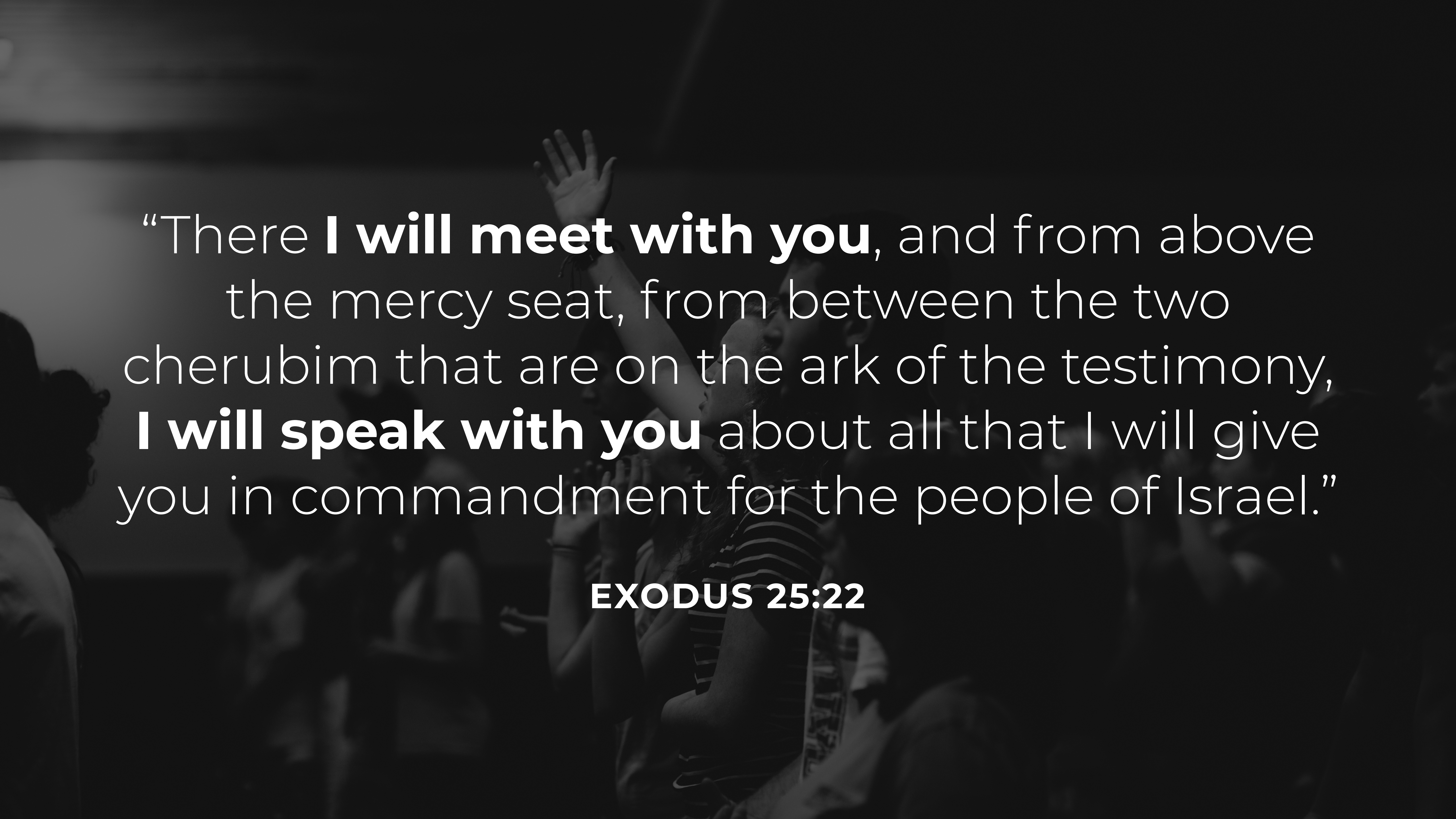
The Philistines
Blurring the Lines of Holiness

A dark, grayscale photograph of a crowd of people, likely in a church or worship setting. Many individuals have their hands raised in the air, suggesting a moment of prayer or praise. The lighting is low, creating a somber and focused atmosphere. The text "The Ark of the Covenant" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

The Ark of the Covenant



**What was the ark
to Israel?**



“There **I will meet with you**, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, **I will speak with you** about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.”

EXODUS 25:22



Who were the Philistines?



The Pentapolis

Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, Ekron





Megiddo

ISRAEL

Jordan

Lurci

Shechem

Joppa

Rabbath-ammon

PHILISTIA

Bethel

Jericho

Ashdod

Medeba

Ashkelon

Jerusalem

Gaza

Lachish

Hebron

Dibon

AMMON

JUDAH

Beersheba

Dead Sea

Kir Moab

MOAB

DESERT



They are **pantheistic**.



Who is Dagon?



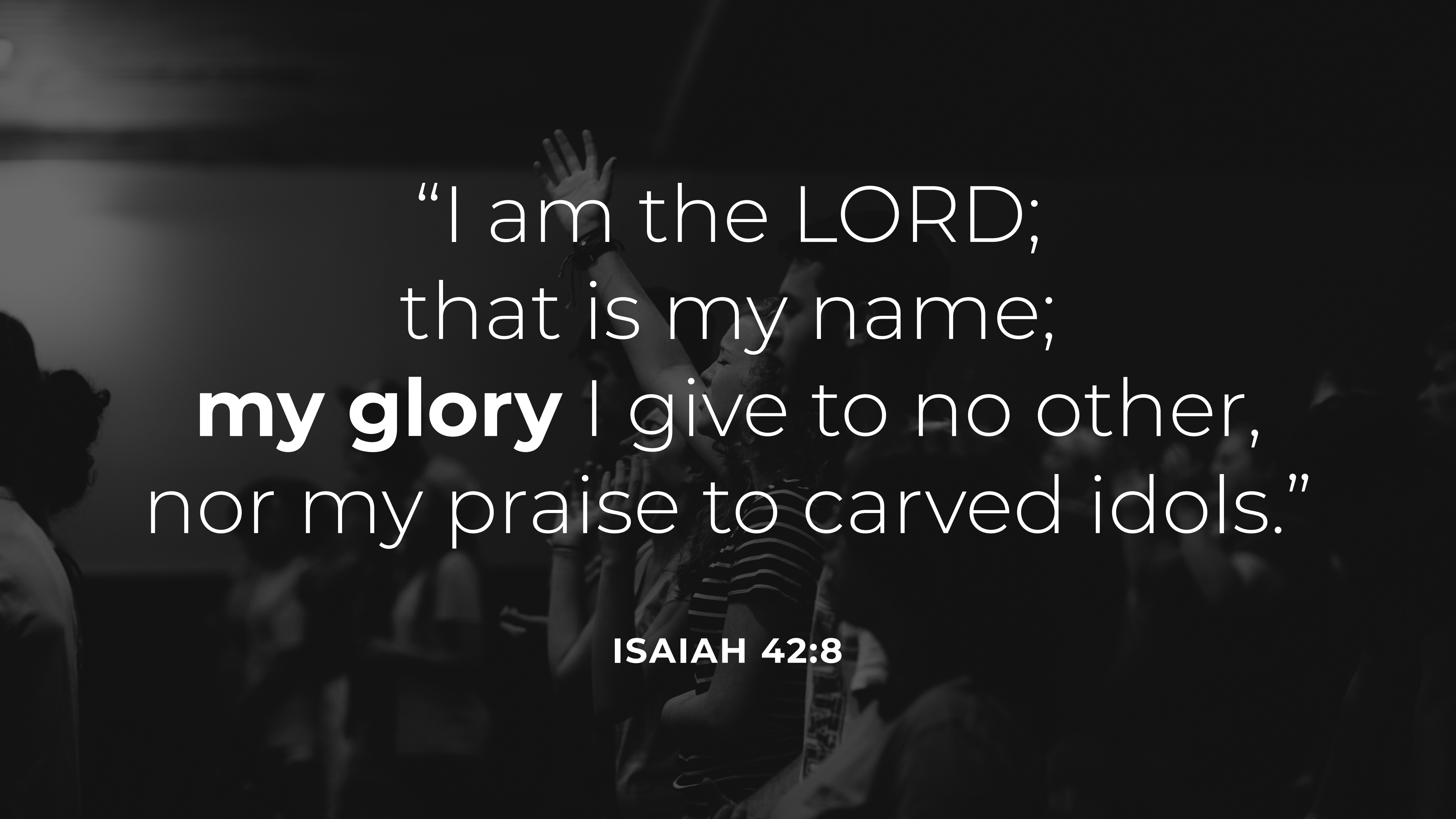
1 Samuel 5:1–5



**What application can
we make from this?**



**God will not be a
god among idols.**



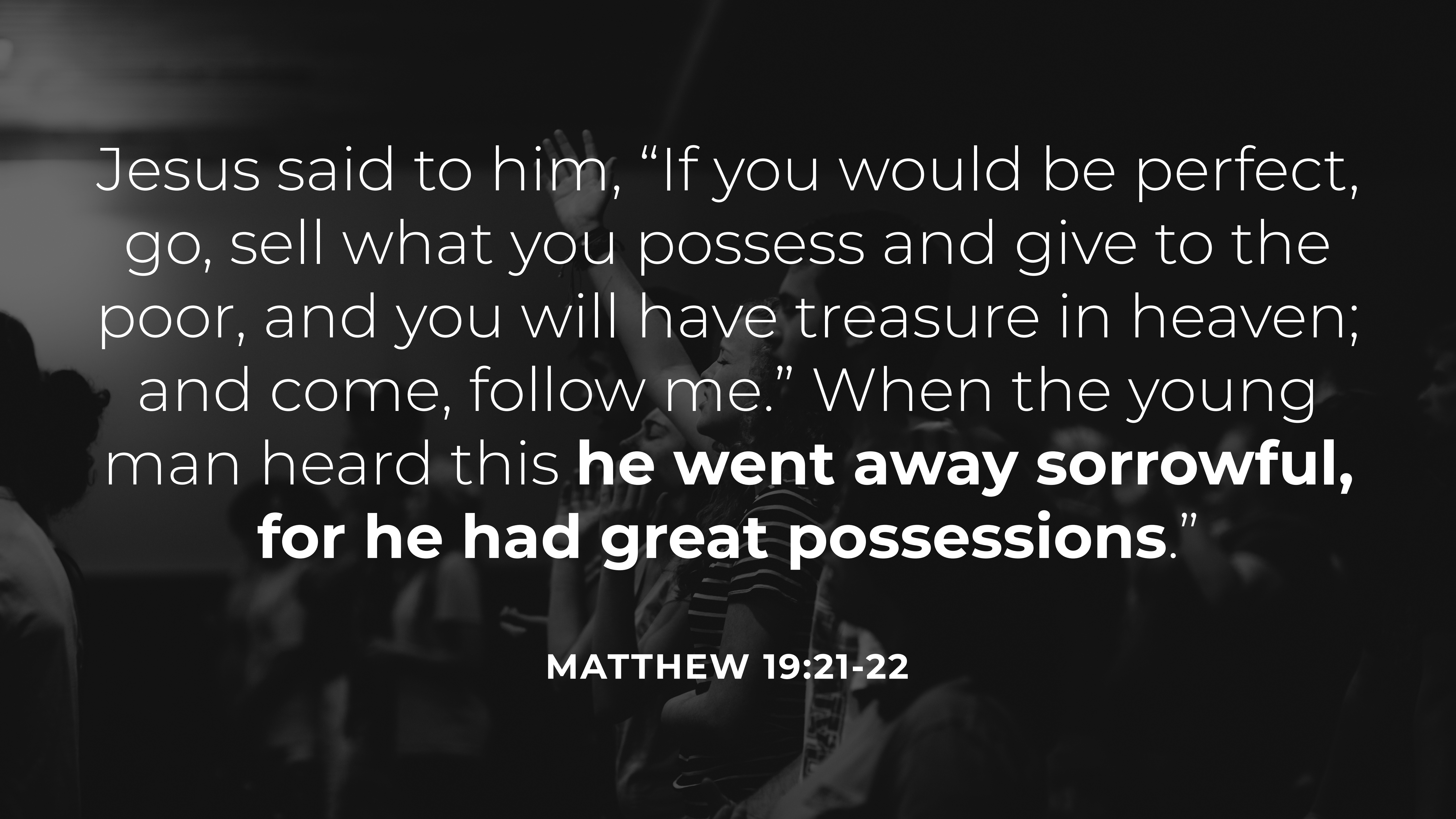
“I am the LORD;
that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.”

ISAIAH 42:8



QUESTION FOR THOUGHT

**Am I trying to make God
a god among idols in my life?**



Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this **he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**”

MATTHEW 19:21-22



“Man’s nature, so to speak,
is a perpetual factory of idols.”

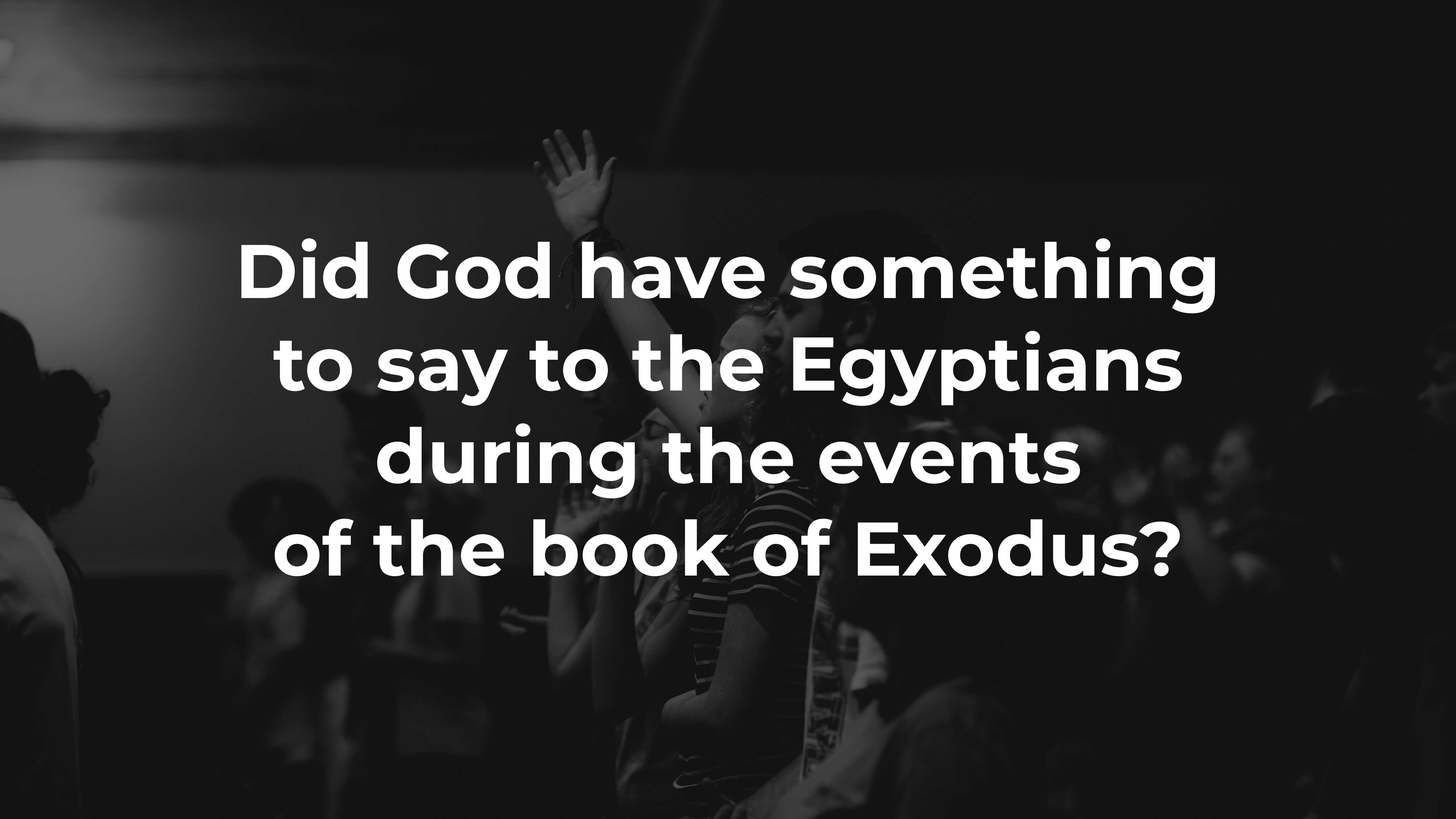
JOHN CALVIN



**Does God have something
to say to the Philistines?**

“But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, **Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord**, and the **head** of Dagon and **both his hands** were lying **cut off** on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.”

1 SAMUEL 5:4



**Did God have something
to say to the Egyptians
during the events
of the book of Exodus?**



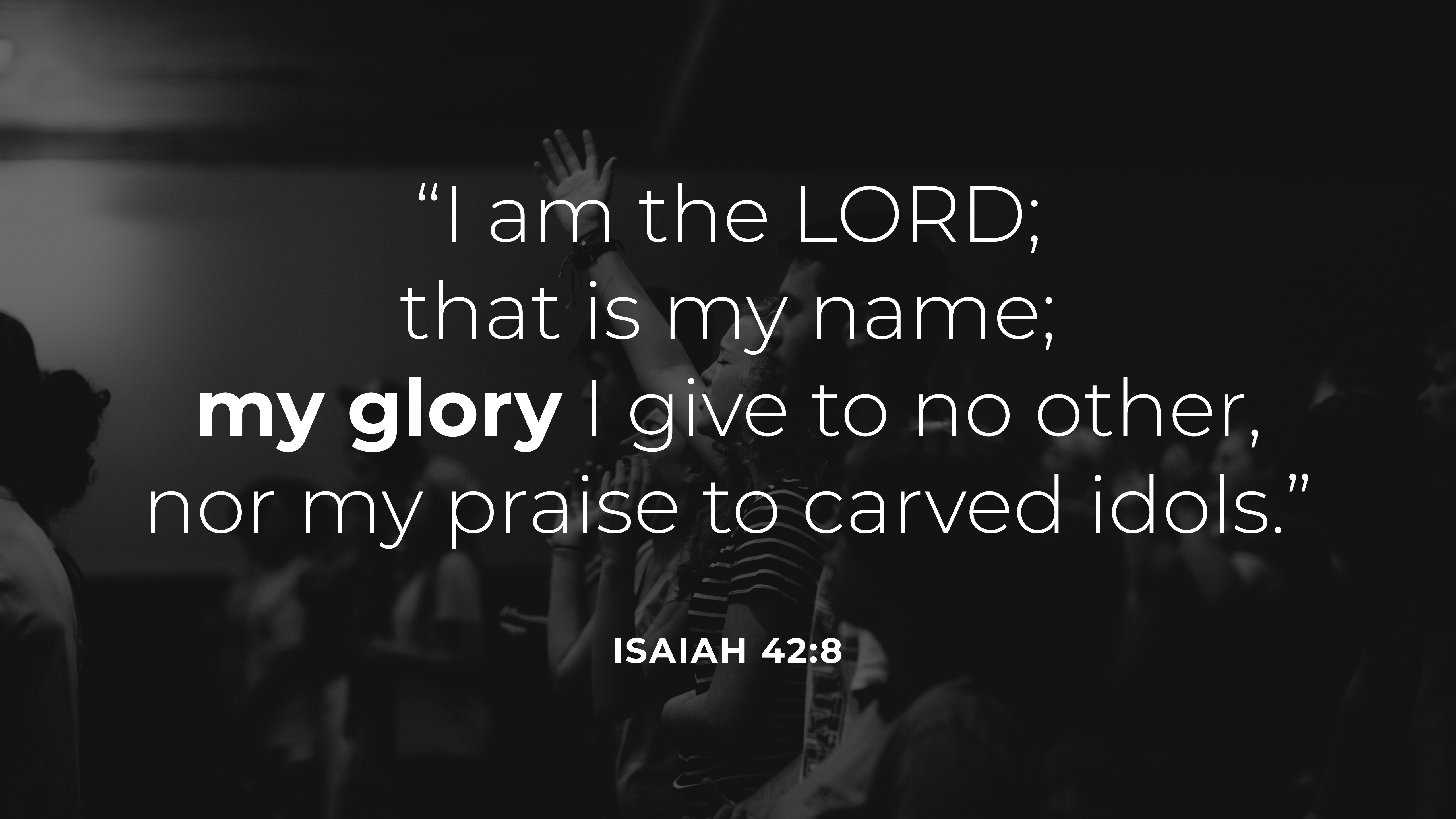
Wonder/Plague	Egyptian God	Description
1 Water Turned to Blood	Hapi	Egyptian God of the Nile
2 Frogs coming from the Nile River	Heket	Egyptian Goddess of Fertility, Water, Renewal (depicted with head of a frog)
3 Lice from the dust of the earth	Geb	Egyptian God of the Earth
4 Swarms of Flies	Khepri	Egyptian God of creation, movement of the Sun, rebirth (depicted with the head of a fly)
5 Death of Cattle and Livestock	Hathor	Egyptian Goddess of Love and Protection (depicted with the head of a cow)
6 Ashes turned to Boils and Sores	Isis	Egyptian Goddess of Medicine and Peace
7 Hail rained down in the form of fire	Nut	Egyptian Goddess of the Sky
8 Locusts sent from the sky	Seth	Egyptian God of Storms and Disorder
9 Three Days of Complete Darkness	Ra	The Sun God
10 Death of the Firstborn	Pharaoh	The Ultimate Power of Egypt, believed to be a son of Ra himself.



**Did God have something
to say to the Egyptians?**

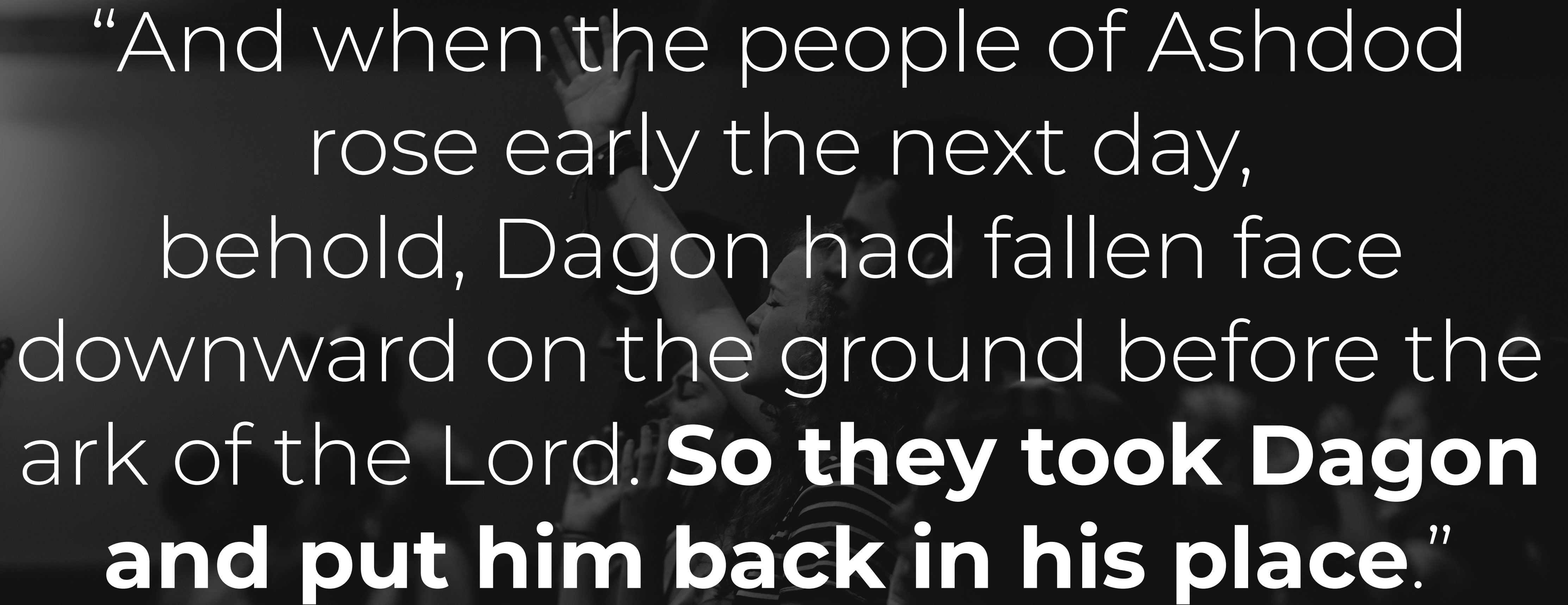


**Does God have something
to say to the Philistines?**



“I am the LORD;
that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.”

ISAIAH 42:8

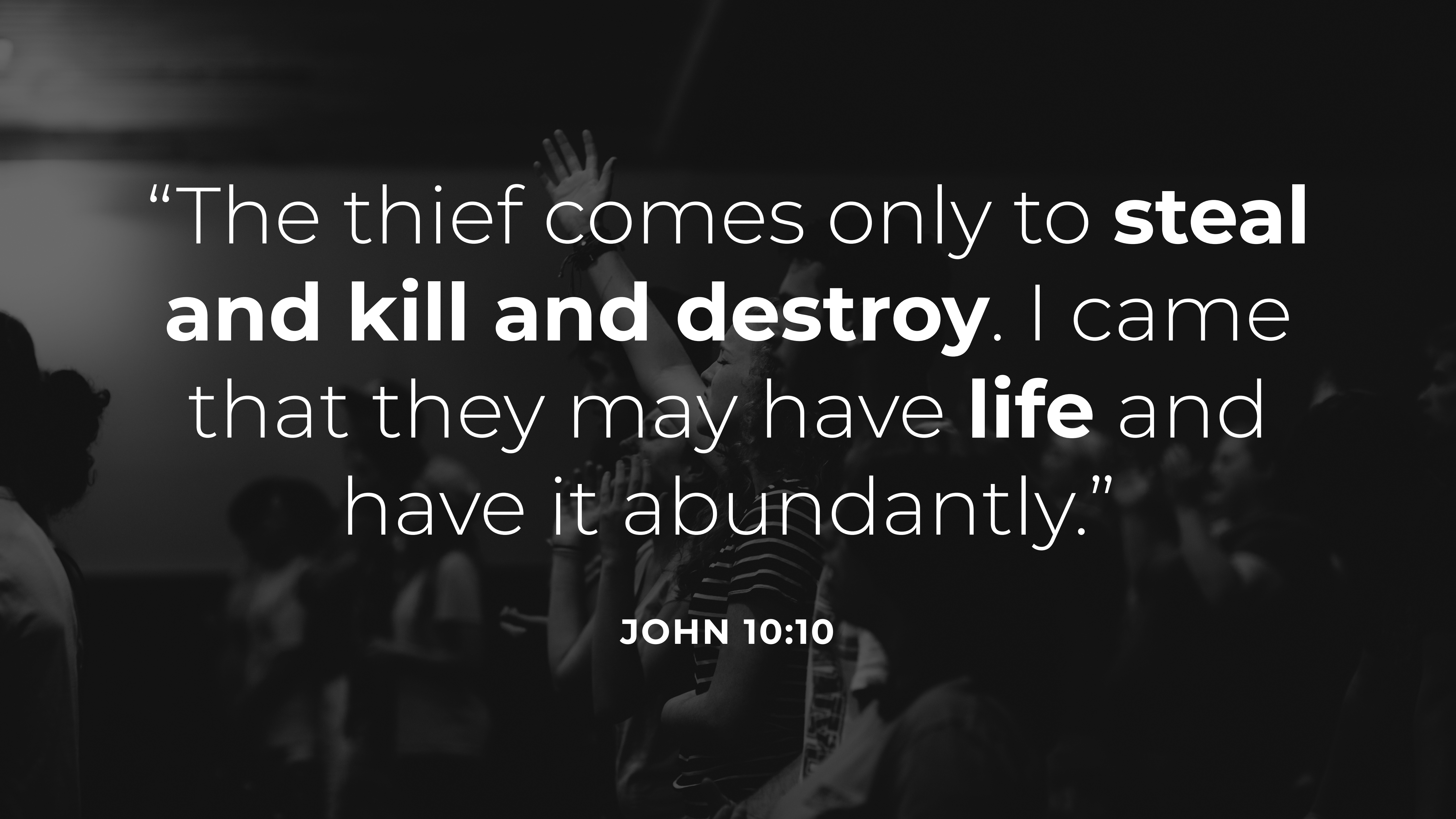


“And when the people of Ashdod
rose early the next day,
behold, Dagon had fallen face
downward on the ground before the
ark of the Lord. **So they took Dagon
and put him back in his place.**”

1 SAMUEL 5:3



**We're always propping
our idols back up.**



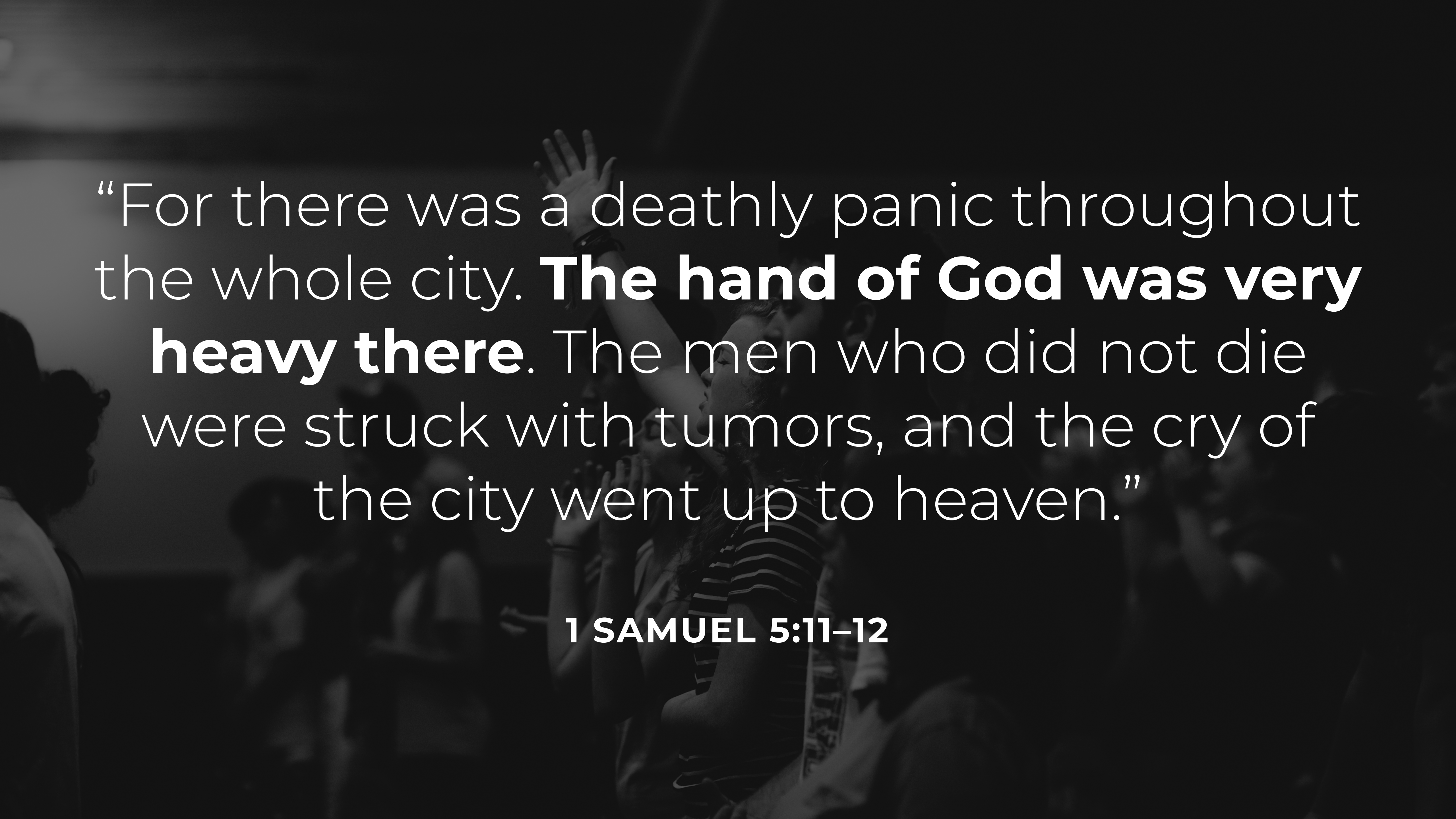
“The thief comes only to **steal and kill and destroy**. I came that they may have **life** and have it abundantly.”

JOHN 10:10



SUMMARY

1 Samuel 5:6–6:9



“For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. **The hand of God was very heavy there.** The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.”

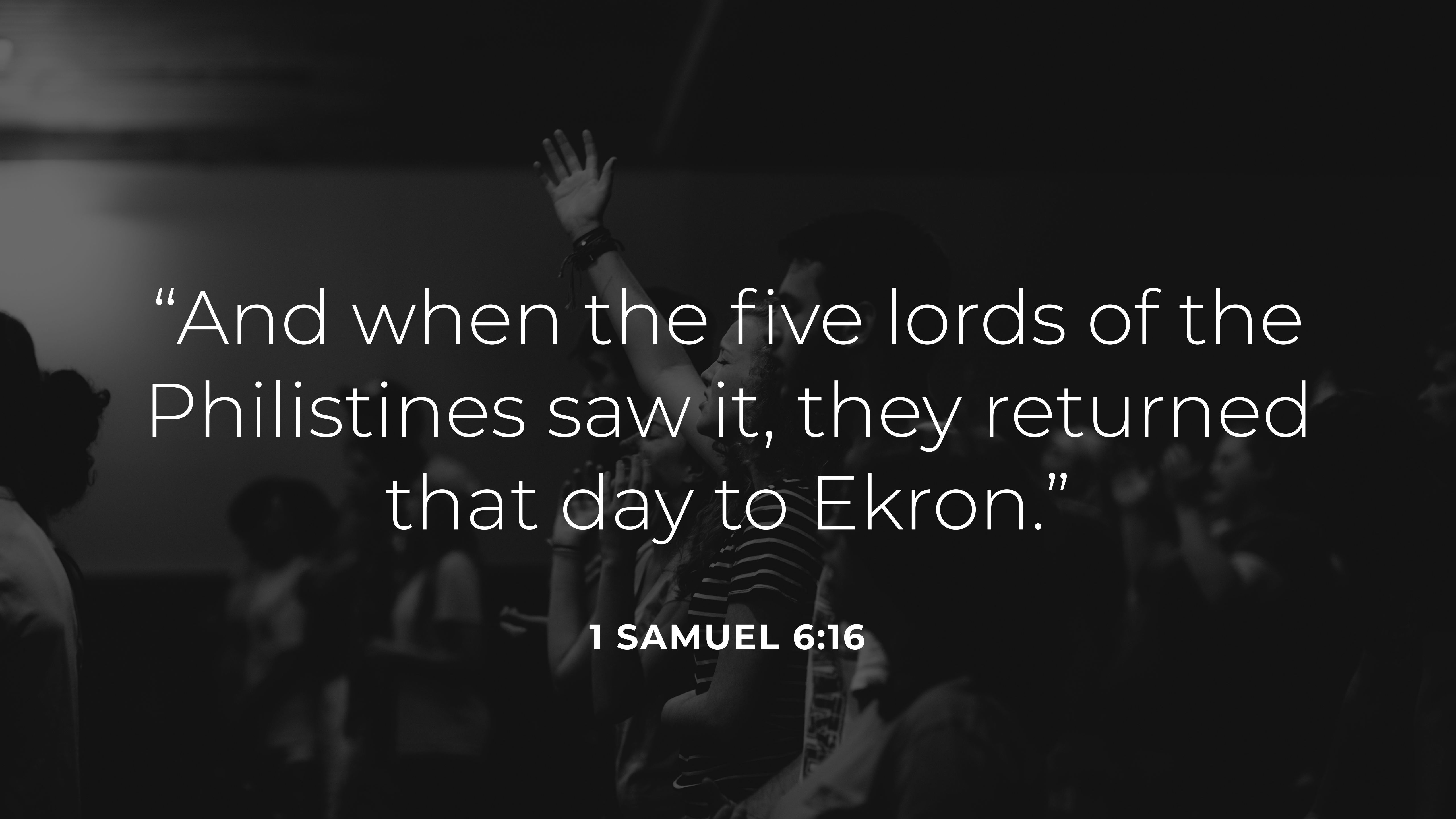
1 SAMUEL 5:11-12



**How does this story
end for the Philistines?**

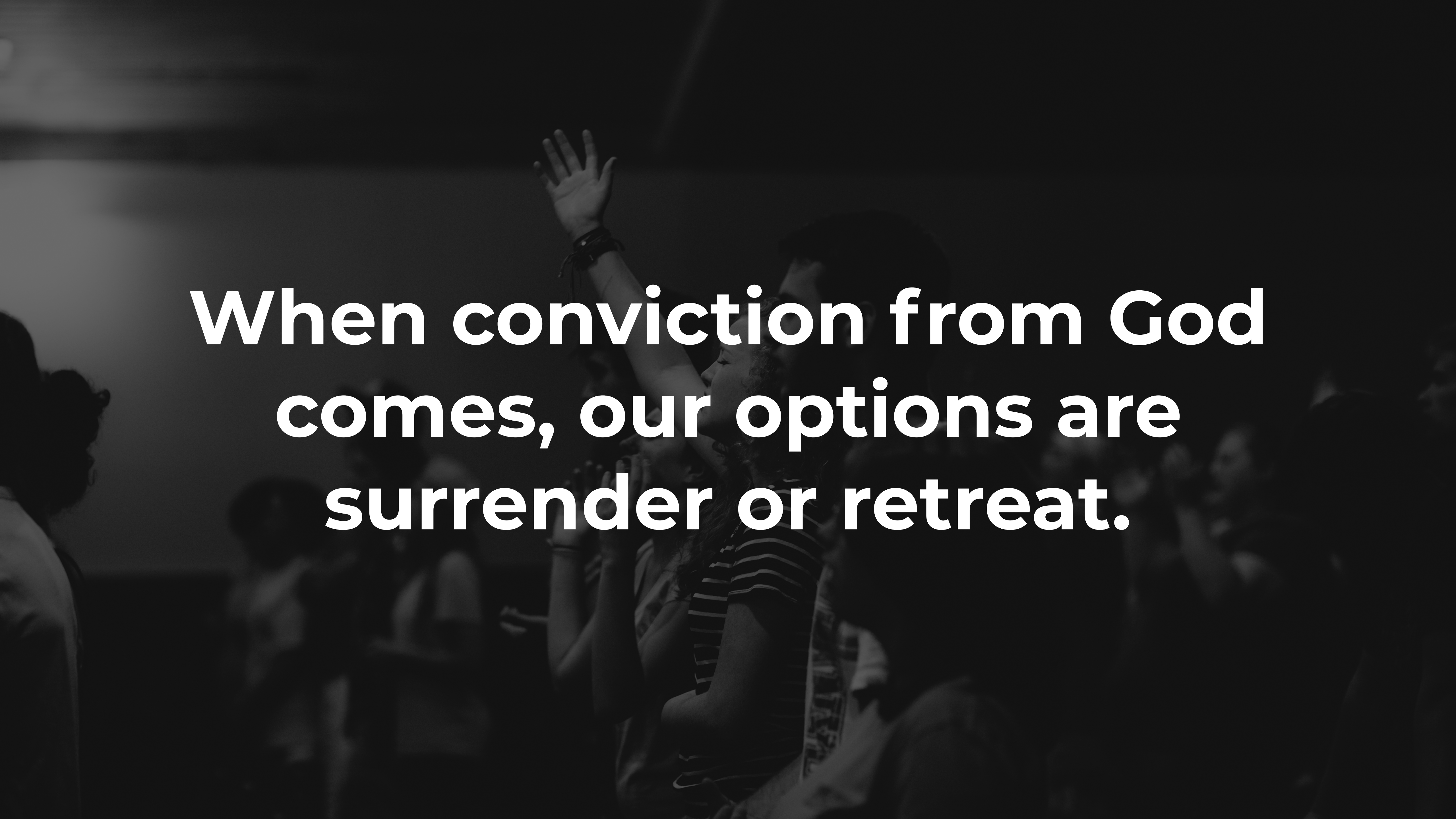
A black and white photograph of a church congregation. In the foreground, a woman with long hair, wearing a striped shirt, has her right hand raised in prayer. Behind her, a man is also visible with his hand raised. The background is filled with other people, some with their hands raised, creating a sense of a large gathering in prayer. The lighting is soft, and the overall atmosphere is one of devotion and worship.

1 Samuel 6:10–16

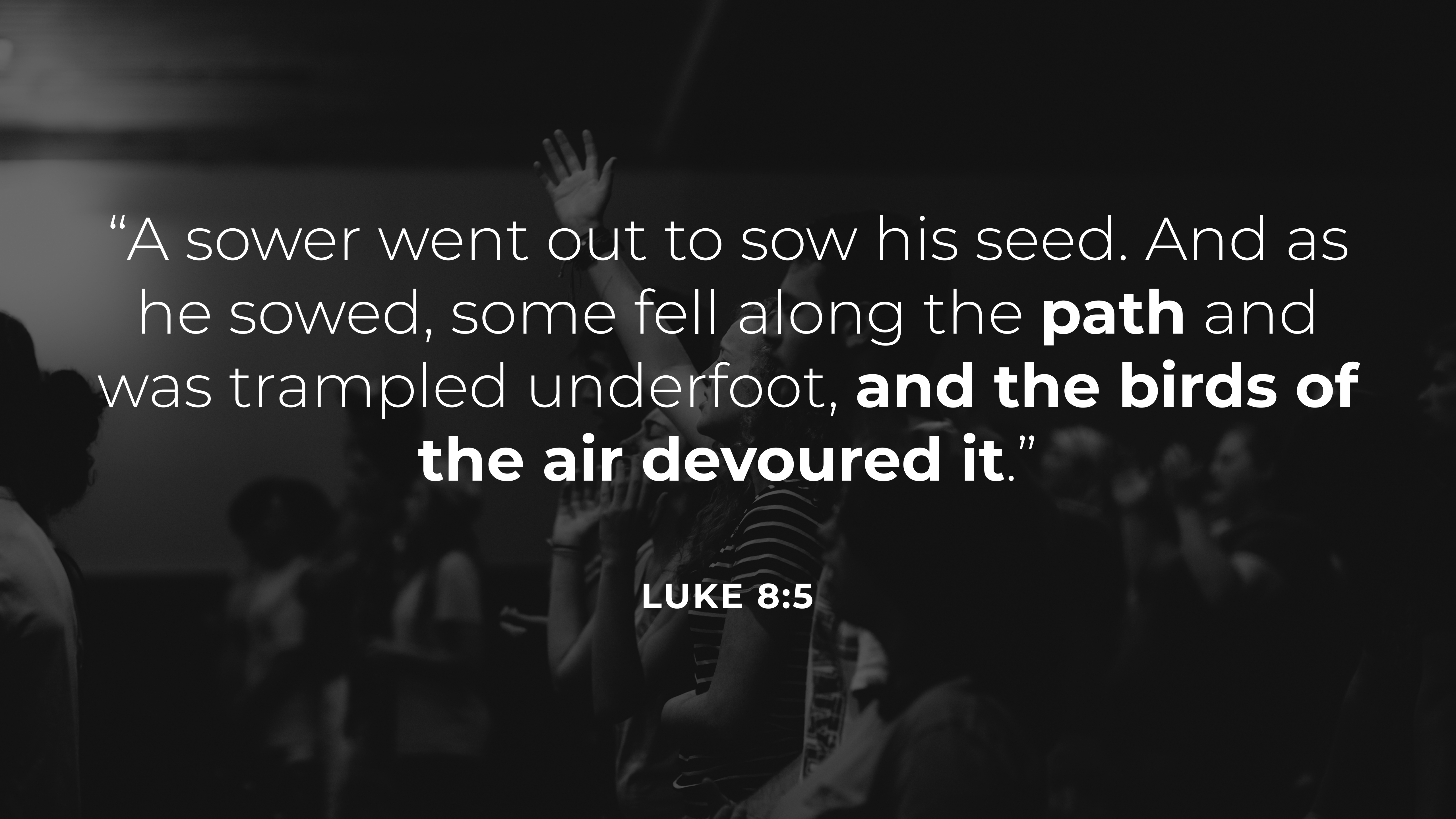


“And when the five lords of the Philistines saw it, they returned that day to Ekron.”

1 SAMUEL 6:16

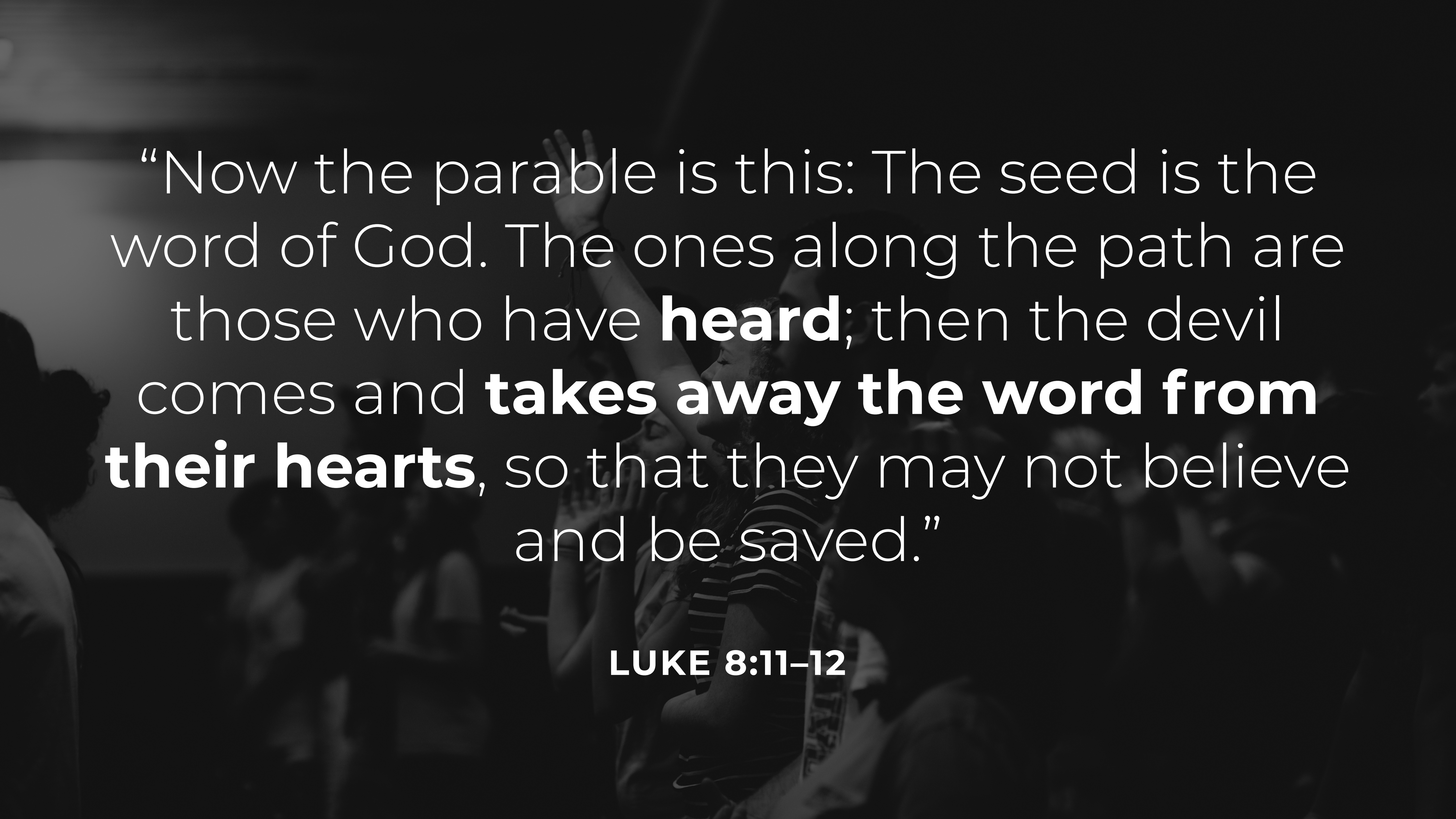


**When conviction from God
comes, our options are
surrender or retreat.**



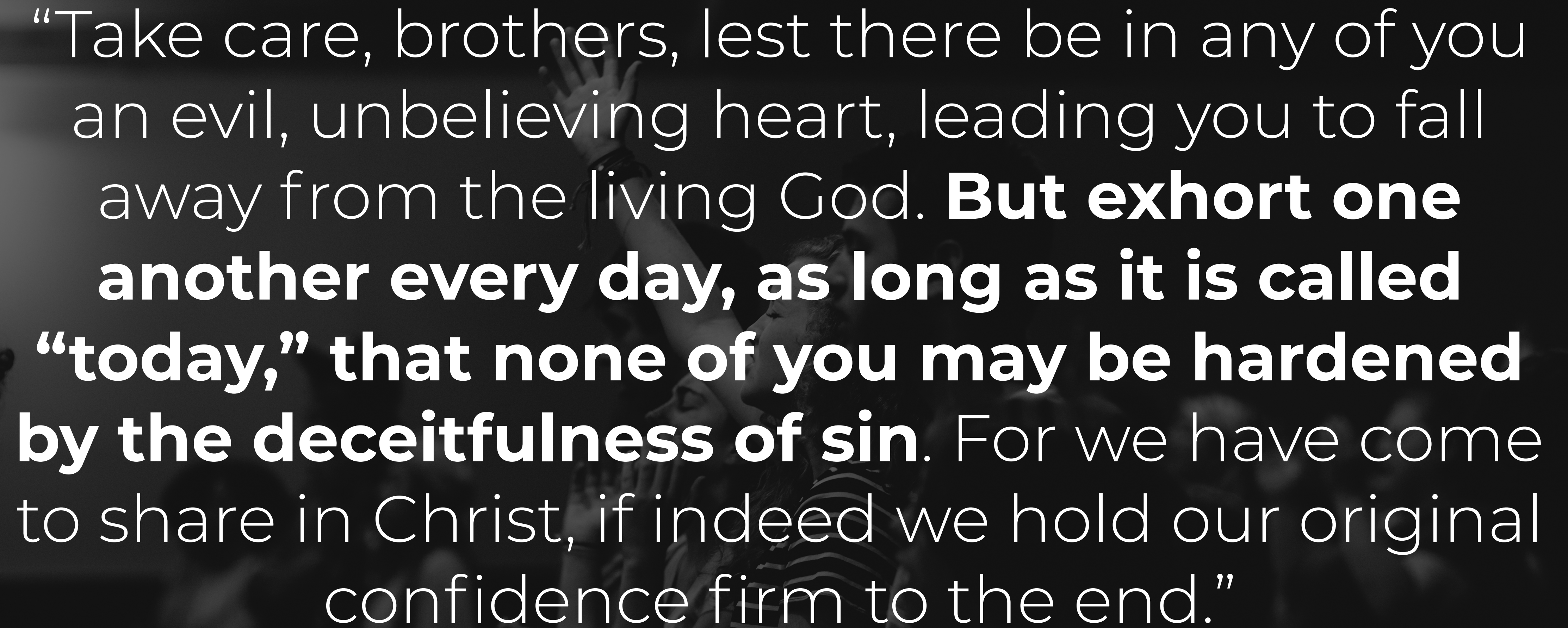
“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the **path** and was trampled underfoot, **and the birds of the air devoured it.**”

LUKE 8:5



“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have **heard**; then the devil comes and **takes away the word from their hearts**, so that they may not believe and be saved.”

LUKE 8:11–12



“Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.** For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”

HEBREWS 3:12–14



ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP