



# The Fingerprints of God

— Ruth, Chapter 2 —



The Gospel According To

# Ruth

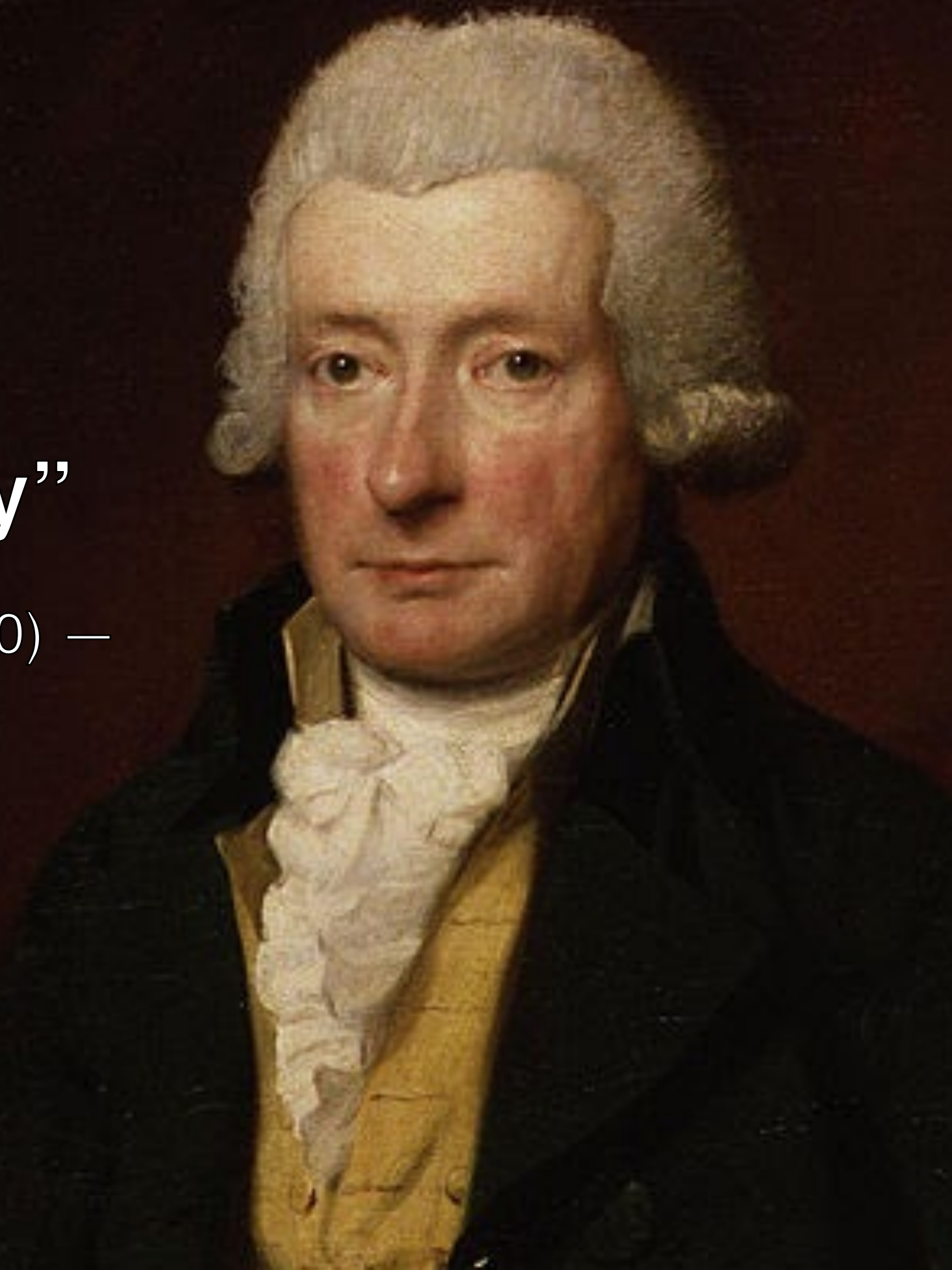
Learning to Trust God  
in the Messiness of Life



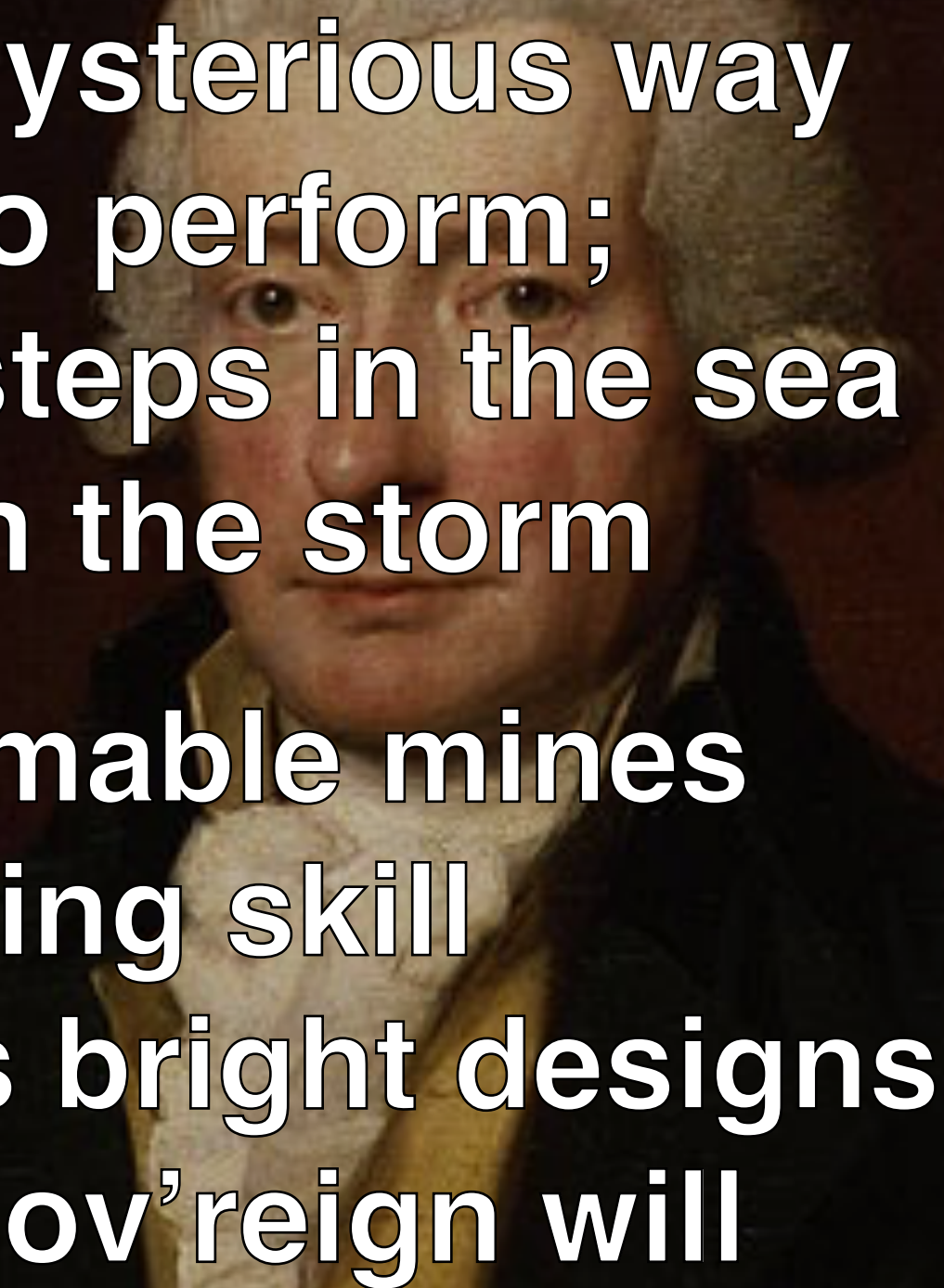


# **“God Moves In A Mysterious Way”**

— William Cowper (1731-1800) —

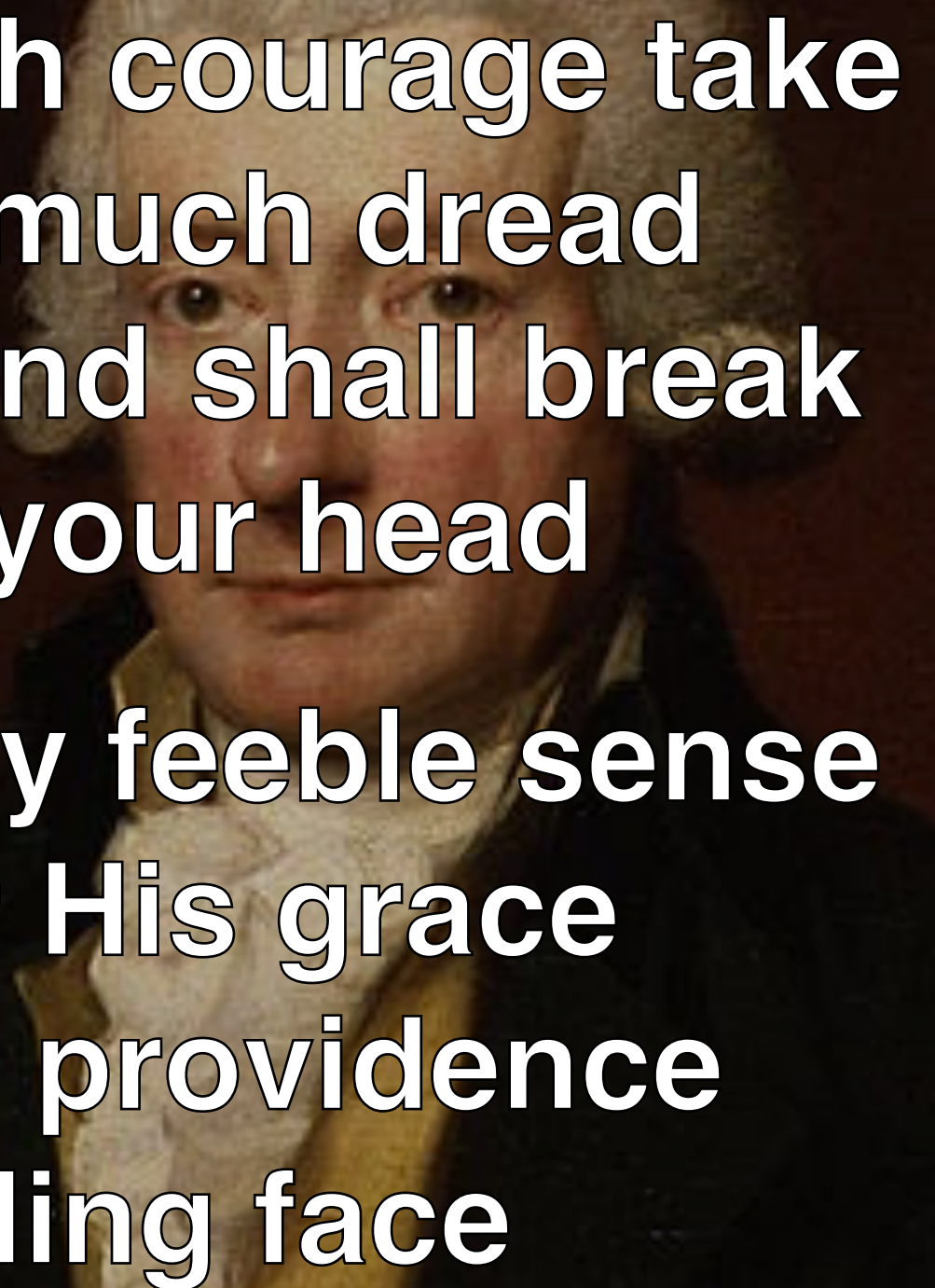




A portrait of a man with a powdered wig, wearing a dark coat and a light-colored cravat. The image is dark and serves as a background for the text.

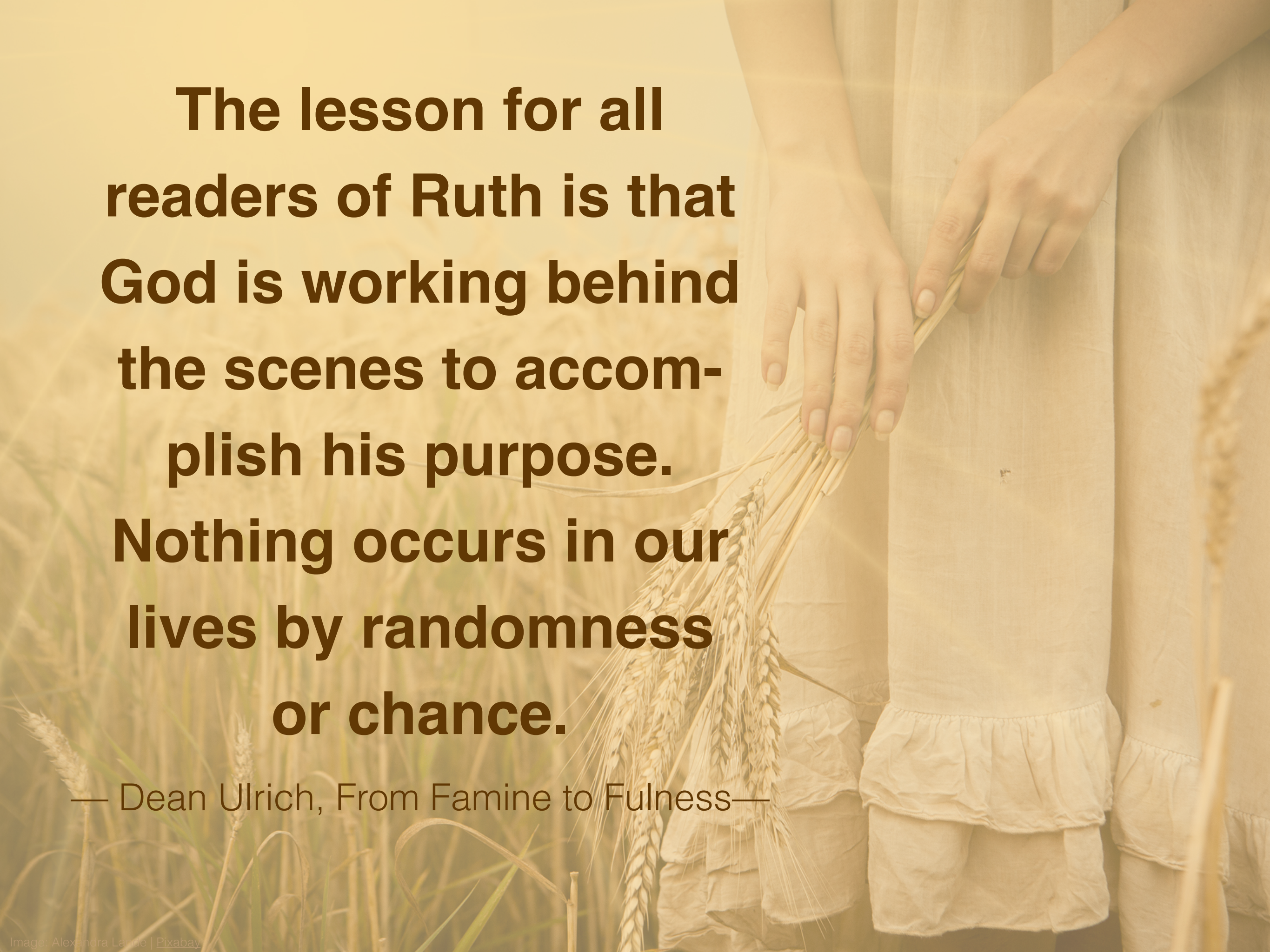
God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm  
  
Deep in unfathomable mines  
of never failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs  
And works His sov'reign will



A portrait of a man with a powdered wig, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat. He is looking slightly to the right with a neutral expression. The background is dark and indistinct.

**Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head  
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense  
But trust Him for His grace  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face**



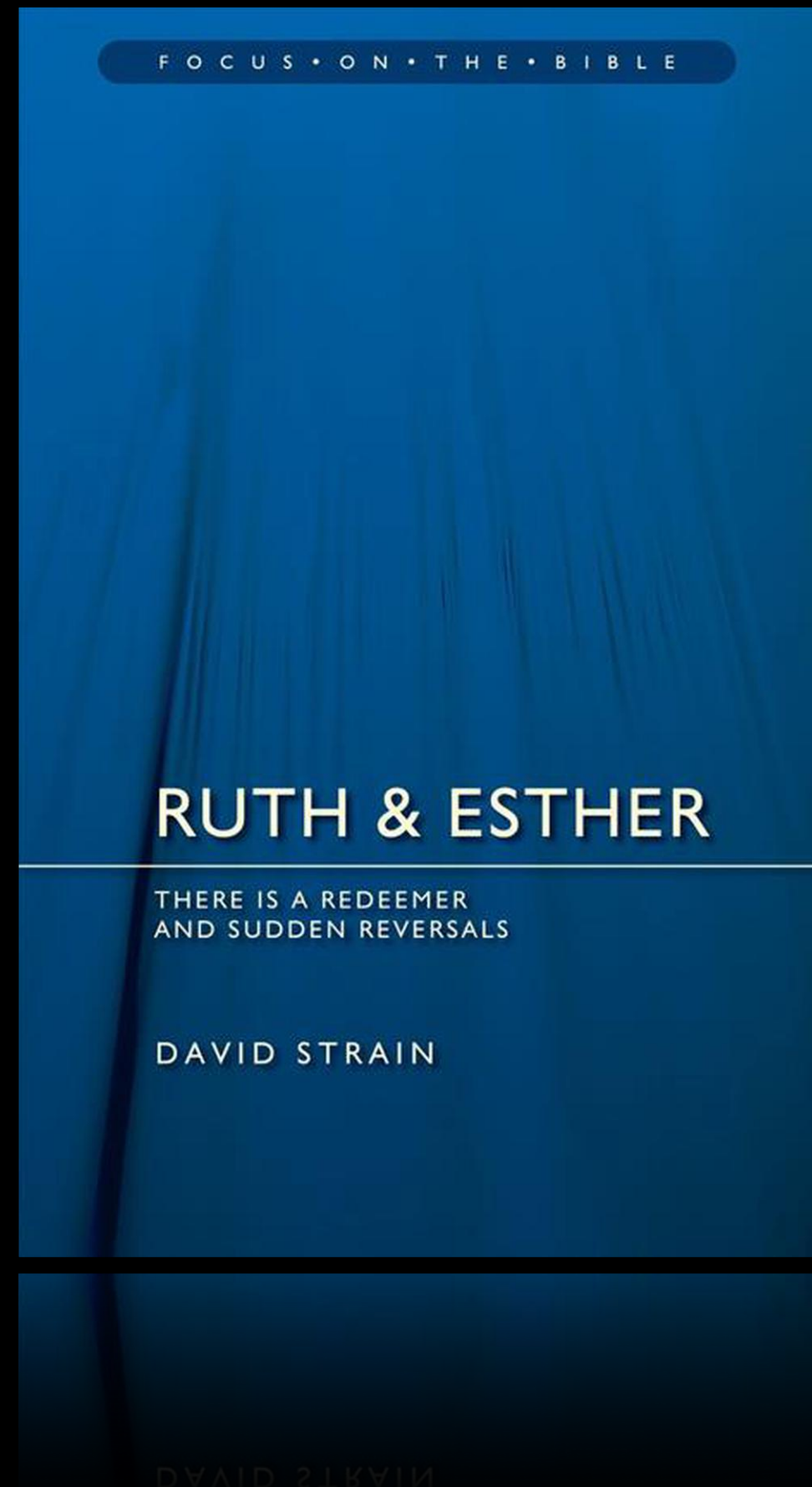
A person wearing a white, ruffled dress is standing in a field of tall, golden wheat. Their hands are visible, holding a bundle of wheat stalks. The background is a soft-focus field of similar wheat, creating a warm, golden atmosphere.

**The lesson for all  
readers of Ruth is that  
God is working behind  
the scenes to accom-  
plish his purpose.  
Nothing occurs in our  
lives by randomness  
or chance.**

— Dean Ulrich, *From Famine to Fulness*—

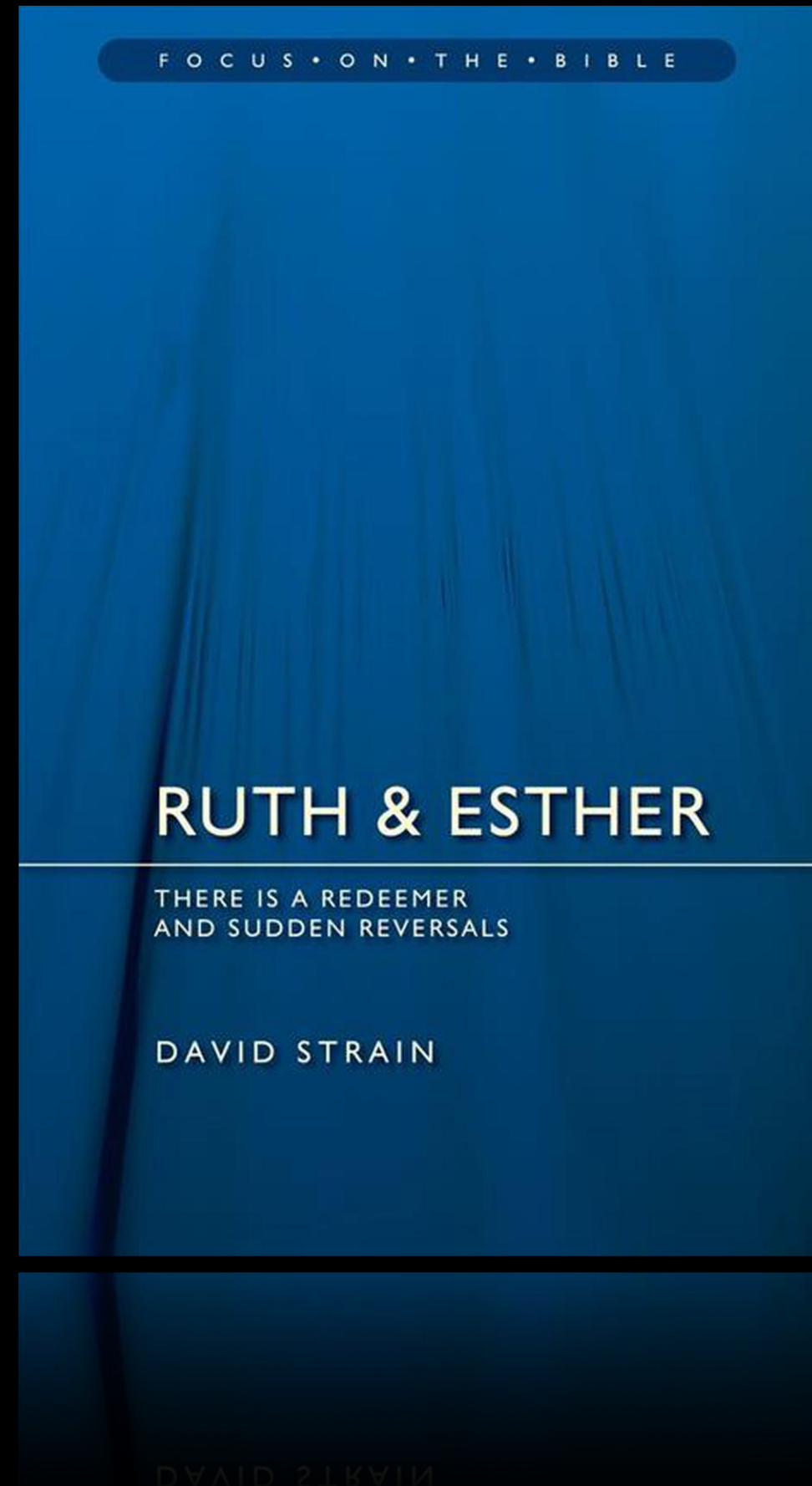


**The book of Ruth  
aims at the cultivation  
of a spiritual  
skill, taught by the  
biblical text to be  
sure, but practiced  
in the details of  
our daily lives.**





**Learning to read  
God's workmanship  
in the mundane  
particulars of the  
story is meant to  
help us see his  
fingerprints in  
your own circum-  
stances also.**







# The Fingerprints of God

— Ruth, Chapter 2—



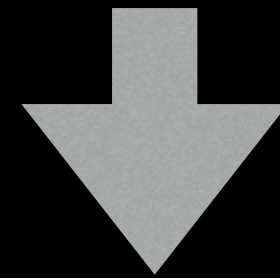




## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.**



**“strength”**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, **a worthy man** of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.



*“a mighty man”*

HCSB: “a man of noble character”

NIV: “a man of standing”



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.**

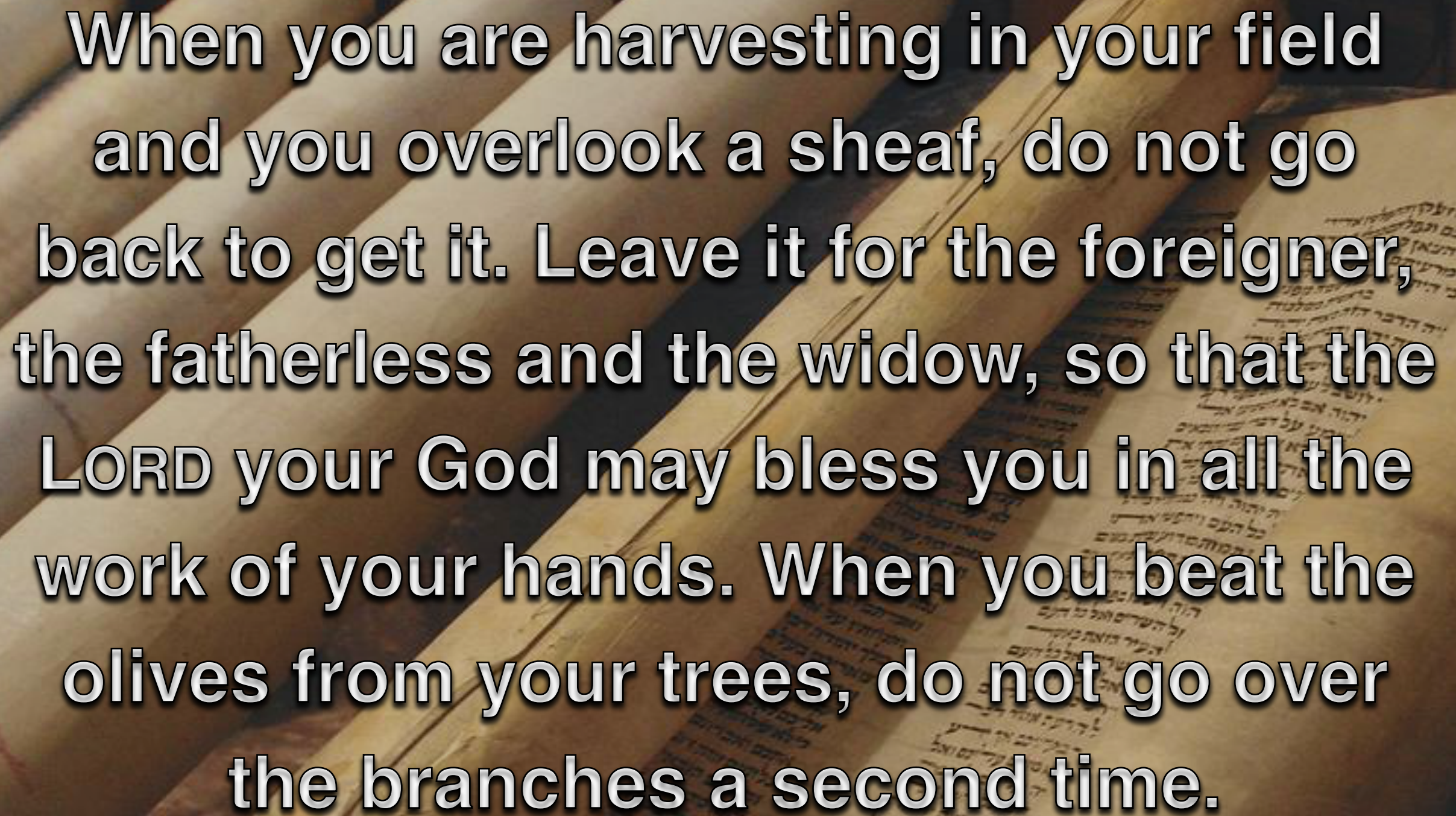


## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi,  
“Let me go to the field and glean among  
the ears of grain after him in whose  
sight I shall find favor.” And she said to  
her, “Go, my daughter.”**

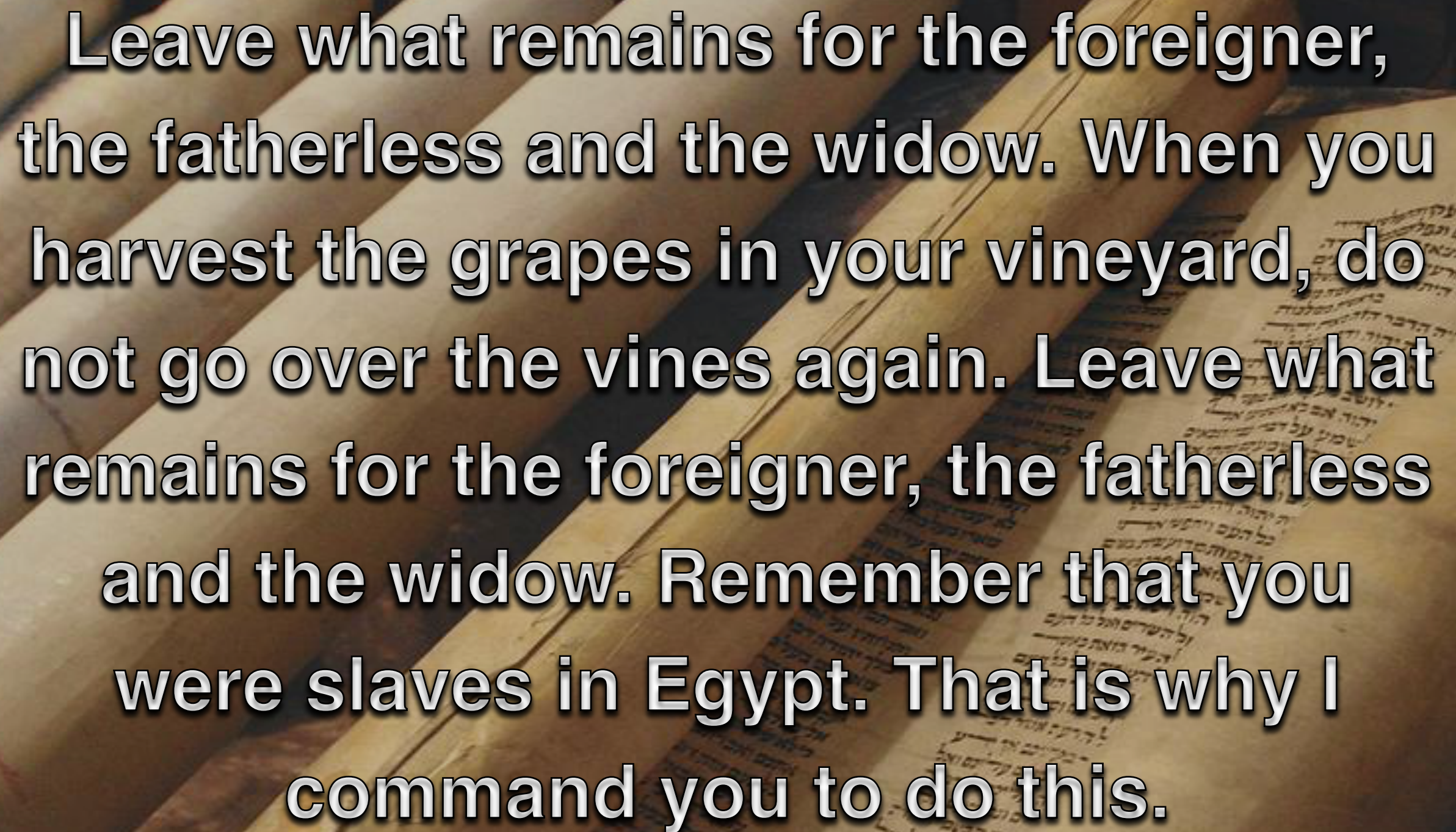




When you are harvesting in your field  
and you overlook a sheaf, do not go  
back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner,  
the fatherless and the widow, so that the  
LORD your God may bless you in all the  
work of your hands. When you beat the  
olives from your trees, do not go over  
the branches a second time.

— Deuteronomy 24:19-22 —





Leave what remains for the foreigner,  
the fatherless and the widow. When you  
harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do  
not go over the vines again. Leave what  
remains for the foreigner, the fatherless  
and the widow. Remember that you  
were slaves in Egypt. That is why I  
command you to do this.

— Deuteronomy 24:19-22 —



**For the LORD your God is God of gods  
and LORD of lords, the great God,  
mighty and awesome, who shows no  
partiality and accepts no bribes. He  
defends the cause of the fatherless  
and the widow, and loves the foreigner  
residing among you, giving them food  
and clothing. And you are to love  
those who are foreigners, for you  
yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.**

— Deuteronomy 10:7-9 —



# God's Heart is for the Vulnerable



The diagram features a large red heart at the top center. Four arrows originate from its base and point downwards to four smaller red hearts arranged in a horizontal row. Each of these four hearts contains text identifying a vulnerable group. The entire graphic is set against a solid black background.

**The  
WIDOW**

**The  
ORPHAN**

**The  
FOREIGNER**

**The  
POOR**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi,  
“Let me go to the field and glean among  
the ears of grain after him in whose  
sight I shall find favor.”**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi,  
“Let me go to the field and glean among  
the ears of grain after him in whose  
sight I shall find favor.” And she said to  
her, “Go, my daughter.”



# The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

2 **So she set out...**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---


**2 So she set out and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech.**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

2 So she set out and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and **she happened** to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech.



“as happenstance happened”

“as chance chance”

— “as luck would have it” —



**The heart of man plans his way,  
but the Lord establishes his steps.**

— Proverbs 16:9 —



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**3** So she set out and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and **she happened** to come to the part of **the field belonging to Boaz**, who was of the clan of Elimelech.



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, **“The LORD be with you!”** And they answered, **“The LORD bless you.”**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

5 Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, **“Whose young woman is this?”** 6 And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, **“She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.”** 7 She said, **‘Please let me glean and gather among**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**the sheaves after the reapers.’ So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest.”**

## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

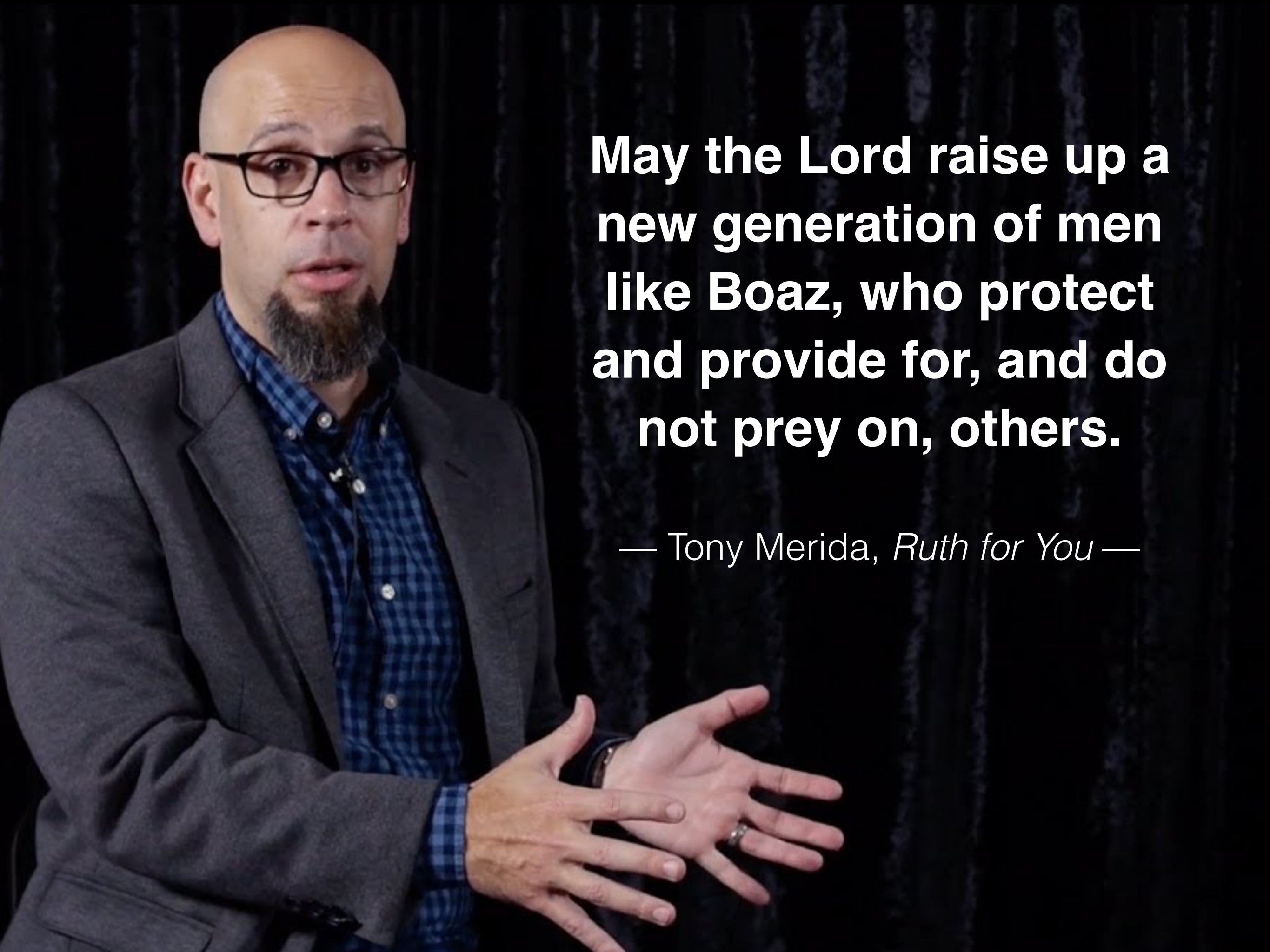
**8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**9 Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.”**



**May the Lord raise up a  
new generation of men  
like Boaz, who protect  
and provide for, and do  
not prey on, others.**

— Tony Merida, *Ruth for You* —



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---


**10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found **favor** in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a **foreigner?**”**

## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**11 But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before....”**



A woman in a white, ruffled dress stands in a field of tall, golden wheat. She is holding a bundle of harvested wheat stalks with both hands. The background is a soft-focus field of wheat under a warm, golden light.

**“...all my fellow  
townsmen know  
that you are a  
worthy woman.”**

— Boaz to Ruth in 3:11 —



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

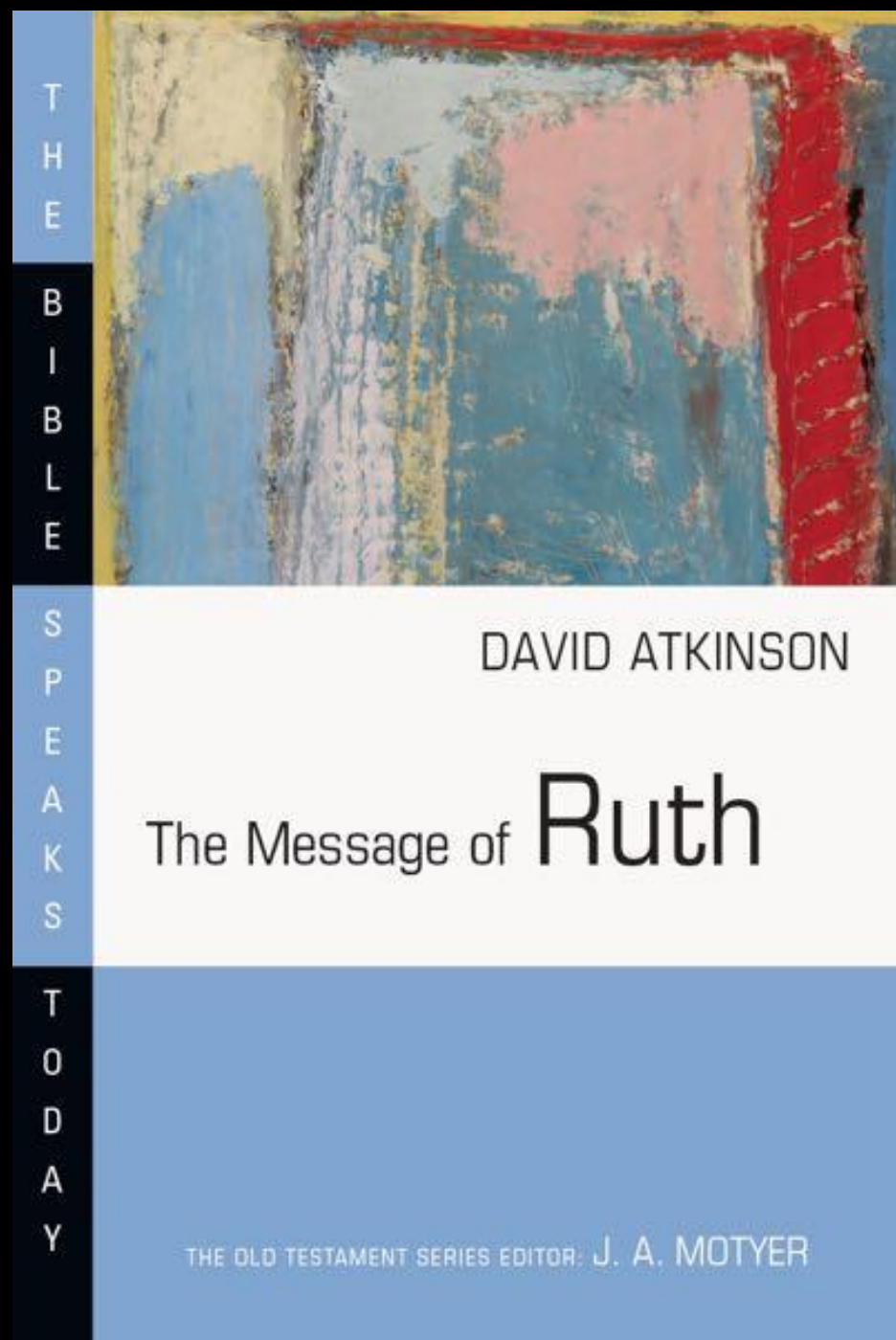
12 **“The LORD** repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the **LORD, the God of Israel,** under whose wings you have come to take refuge!”



He [the Lord] shielded him [Israel]  
and cared for him; he guarded  
him as the apple of his eye, like  
an eagle that stirs up its nest and  
hovers over its young, that  
spreads its wings to catch them  
and carries them aloft.

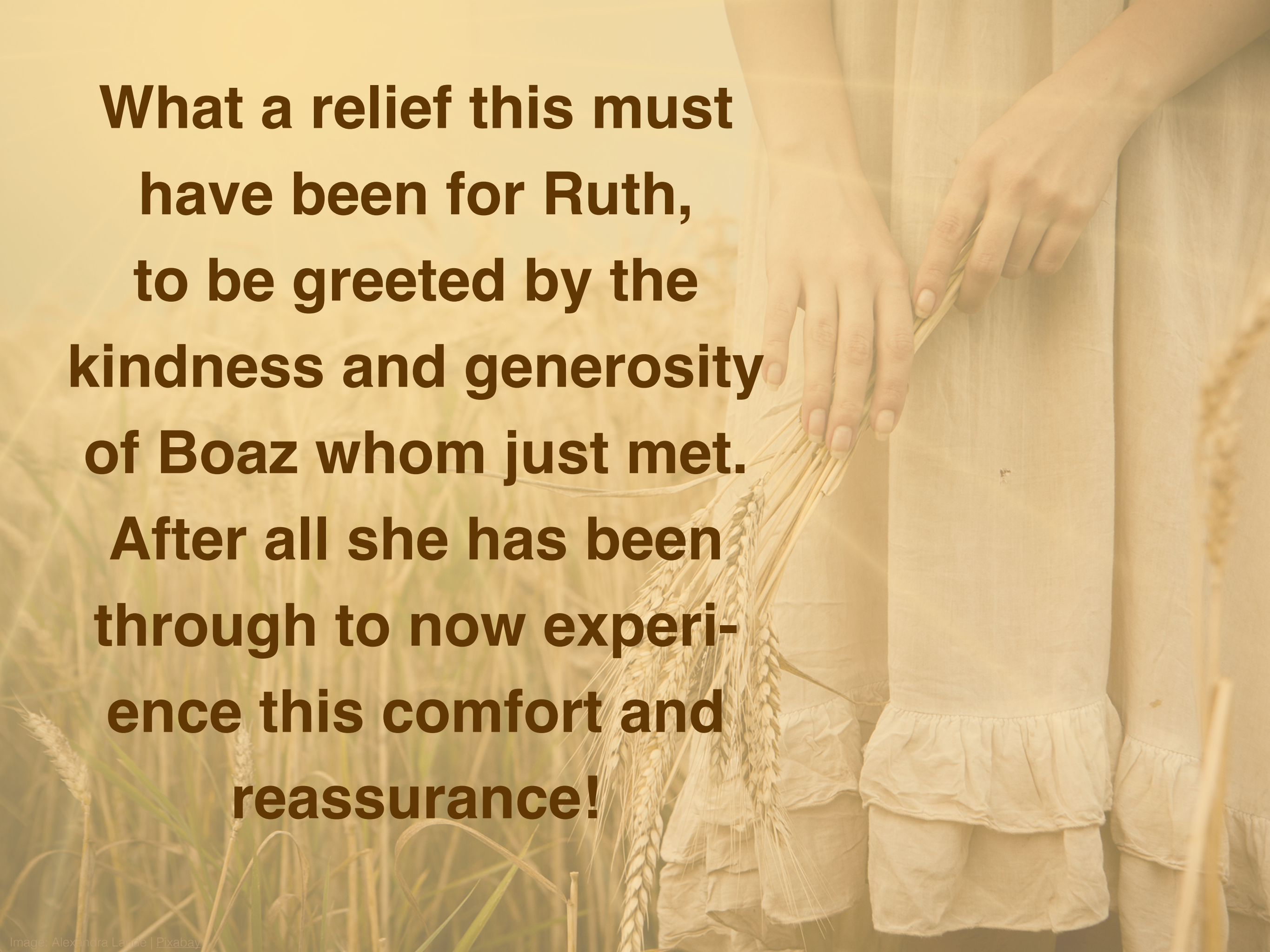
— Deuteronomy 32:11 —





**Though Ruth understands herself to be  
*a foreigner*, Boaz  
welcomes her as a  
member of the family  
of Yahweh, under  
whose wings she has  
*come for refuge.***



A person wearing a white, long-sleeved dress with a ruffled hem is standing in a field of tall, golden wheat. Their hands are visible, holding a bundle of wheat stalks. The background is a soft-focus field of similar wheat, creating a warm, golden atmosphere.

**What a relief this must  
have been for Ruth,  
to be greeted by the  
kindness and generosity  
of Boaz whom just met.  
After all she has been  
through to now experi-  
ence this comfort and  
reassurance!**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

13 Then she said, “I have found **favor** in your eyes, my lord, for **you have comforted me** and **spoken kindly** to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over.**

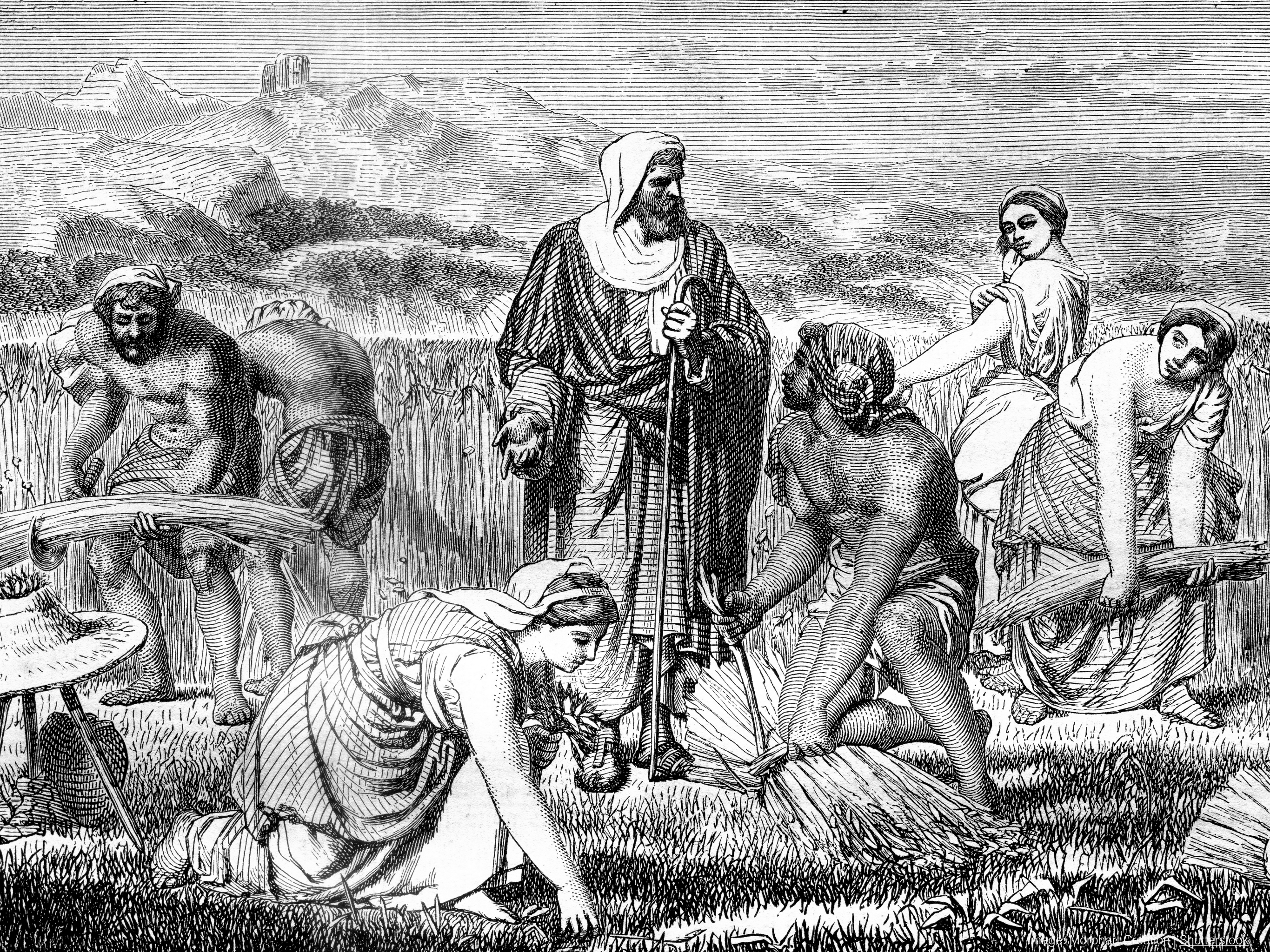
## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**15 When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.**

**16 And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”**









hesed | חֶסֶד

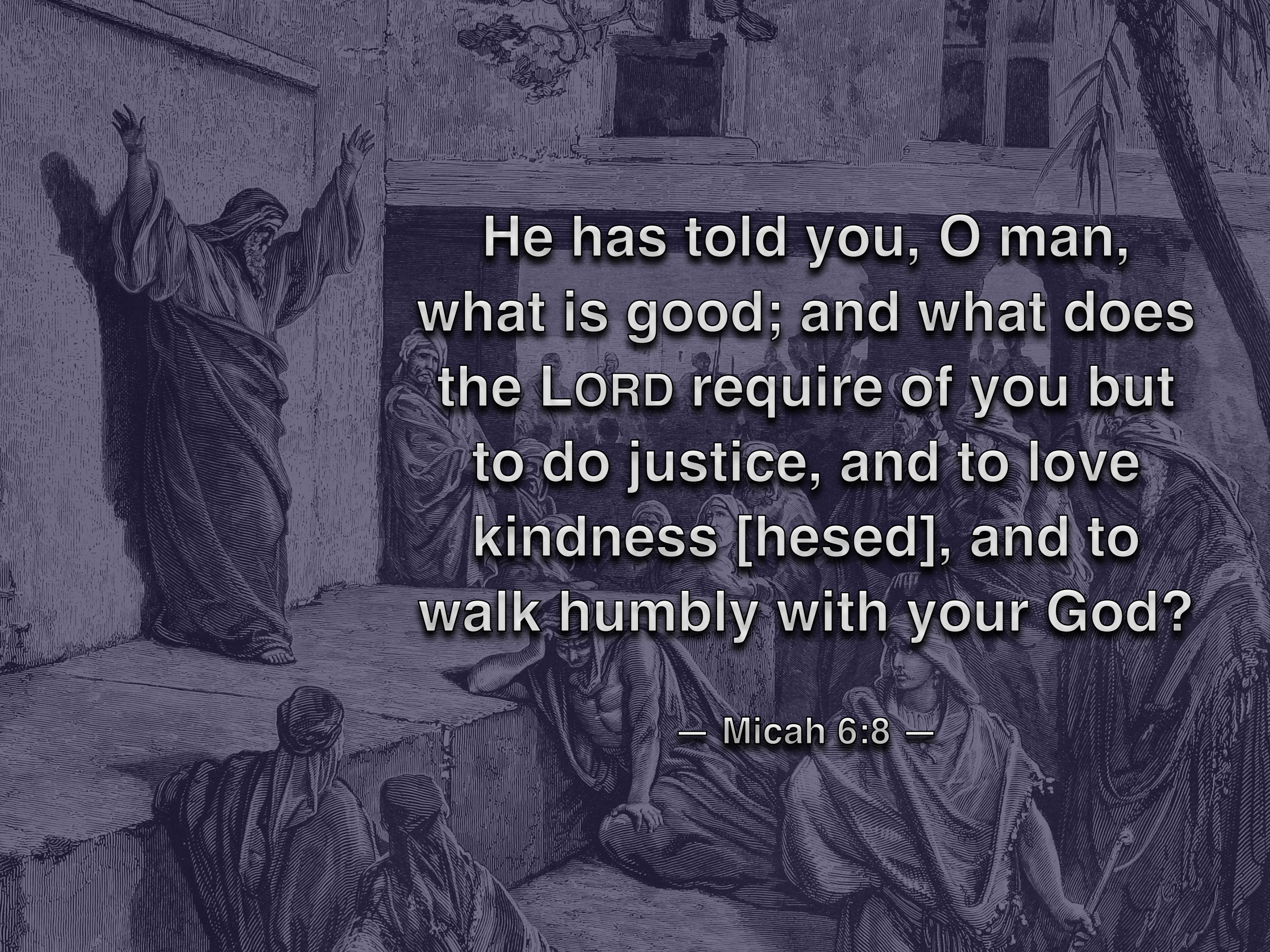
kindness, mercy, goodness,  
loyalty, faithfulness, etc.

Used 250x in the OT,  
usually referring to God's  
“loving kindness”

“...abounding in steadfast love...”

— Exodus 34:6 —





He has told you, O man,  
what is good; and what does  
the LORD require of you but  
to do justice, and to love  
kindness [hesed], and to  
walk humbly with your God?

— Micah 6:8 —



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied.**



Before looking at that conversation, we should stop and consider Ruth's ongoing kindness to her mother-in-law. She is still with her and still serving her. Ruth shows the same kindness to Naomi that Boaz has shown to her.

**TONY MERIDA**  
**THIS IS FOR YOU**  
TO READ, TO ENJOY GOD'S  
KINDNESS AND CARE.  
**THIS IS FOR YOU**  
TO FEED, HELPING YOU  
MEDITATE ON GOD'S  
WORD DAY BY DAY. THIS  
**IS FOR YOU TO**  
LEAD, EQUIPPING  
YOU TO TEACH  
THE BIBLE TO  
OTHERS. THIS IS



**RUTH**  
**FOR YOU**

**LOK YON**

I find Ruth example  
challenging. Do you  
find it hard to love  
bitter people? Is it  
challenging to serve  
difficult people? If so,  
then allow Ruth to  
instruct and inspire  
you! Love the “Na-  
omis” in your life in  
the way to Christ has  
shown love to you.

**TONY MERIDA**  
**THIS IS FOR YOU**  
TO READ, TO ENJOY GOD'S  
KINDNESS AND CARE.  
**THIS IS FOR YOU**  
TO FEED, HELPING YOU  
MEDITATE ON GOD'S  
WORD DAY BY DAY. THIS  
**IS FOR YOU TO**  
LEAD, EQUIPPING  
YOU TO TEACH  
THE BIBLE TO  
OTHERS. THIS IS



**RUTH**  
**FOR YOU**

**LOK YON**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**19 And her mother-in-law said to her,  
“Where did you glean today? And  
where have you worked? Blessed be  
the man who took notice of you.”**

## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**19 So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.”**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!”

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

FROM FAMINE  
TO FULLNESS

THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO

RUTH

DEAN R. ULRICH

DEAN R. ULRICH

**God's grace has a human face. Boaz was more than a kind and gentle philanthropist.... His actions must be understood in view of covenantal grace. Because God had dealt graciously with him, he treated others similarly....**



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

FROM FAMINE  
TO FULLNESS

THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO

RUTH

DEAN R. ULRICH

DEAN R. ULRICH

**Even so, Naomi properly recognized that Yahweh was the ultimate agent of blessing, and that Boaz was the instrument. God had used faithful Boaz (and Ruth) to restore, faithless Naomi to faith.**

## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**20 Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.”**



## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**21 And Ruth the Moabite said, “Besides, he said to me, ‘You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’”** 22 **And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted.”**

## The Book of Ruth, Chapter 2

---

**23 So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.**



**Seven weeks have  
now passed since the  
beginning of the barley  
harvest, and now it's  
time to celebrate the  
Festival of First Fruits.**





**Let's Reflect  
on How Boaz  
Points Us to  
the One who  
is Greater  
Than Boaz**







**Now the tax collectors and sinners  
were all drawing near to hear him.  
And the Pharisees and the scribes  
grumbled, saying, “This man re-  
ceives sinners and eats with them.”**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2



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

— The Gospel of Matthew 27:46 —





**The Son of God  
loved me and gave  
Himself for me.**

**The Apostle Paul**  
— Galatians 2:20 —





**As Great as  
Boaz Was, He  
Points Us to  
the One who  
is Greater  
Than Boaz**







**Let's continually  
ask how we can  
be the tangible  
expression of  
God's hesed  
in the lives  
of others.**



**How well do  
we welcome  
outsiders  
like Boaz  
welcomed  
Ruth?**



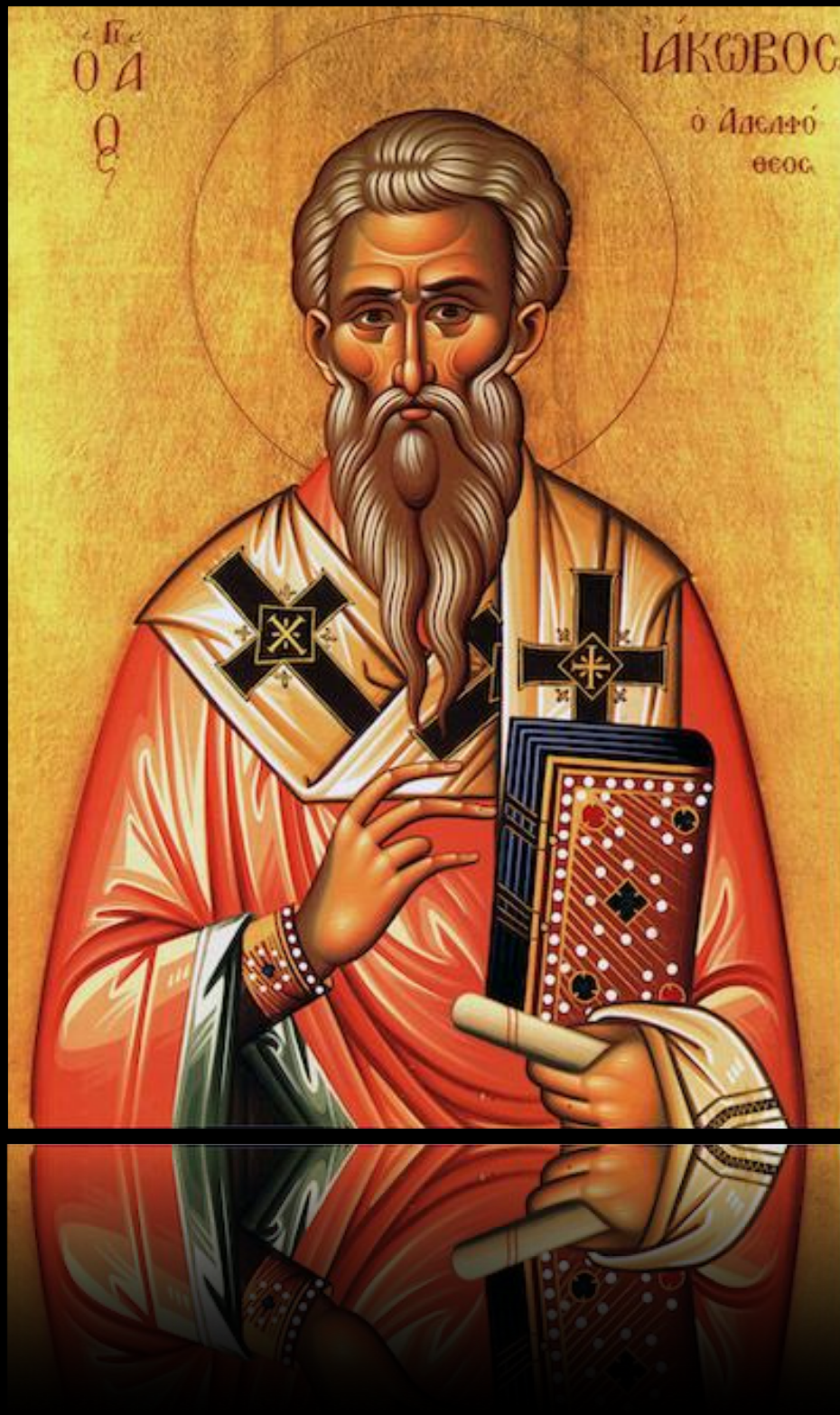


**“...the weightier matters of the law:  
justice and mercy and faithfulness.”**

— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of Matthew 23:23 —







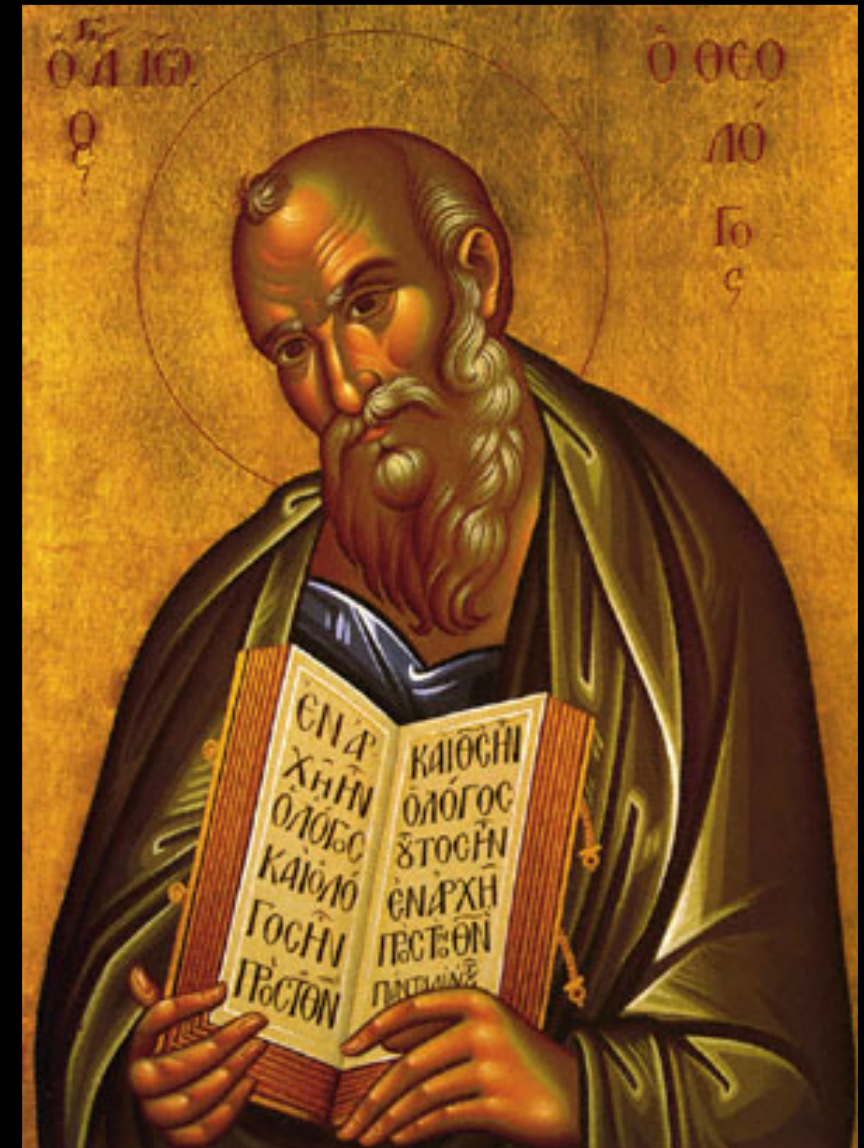
**Religion that is pure  
and undefiled before  
God the Father is  
this: to visit orphans  
and widows in their  
affliction...**

**James, the Brother of Jesus**

— James 1:27 —

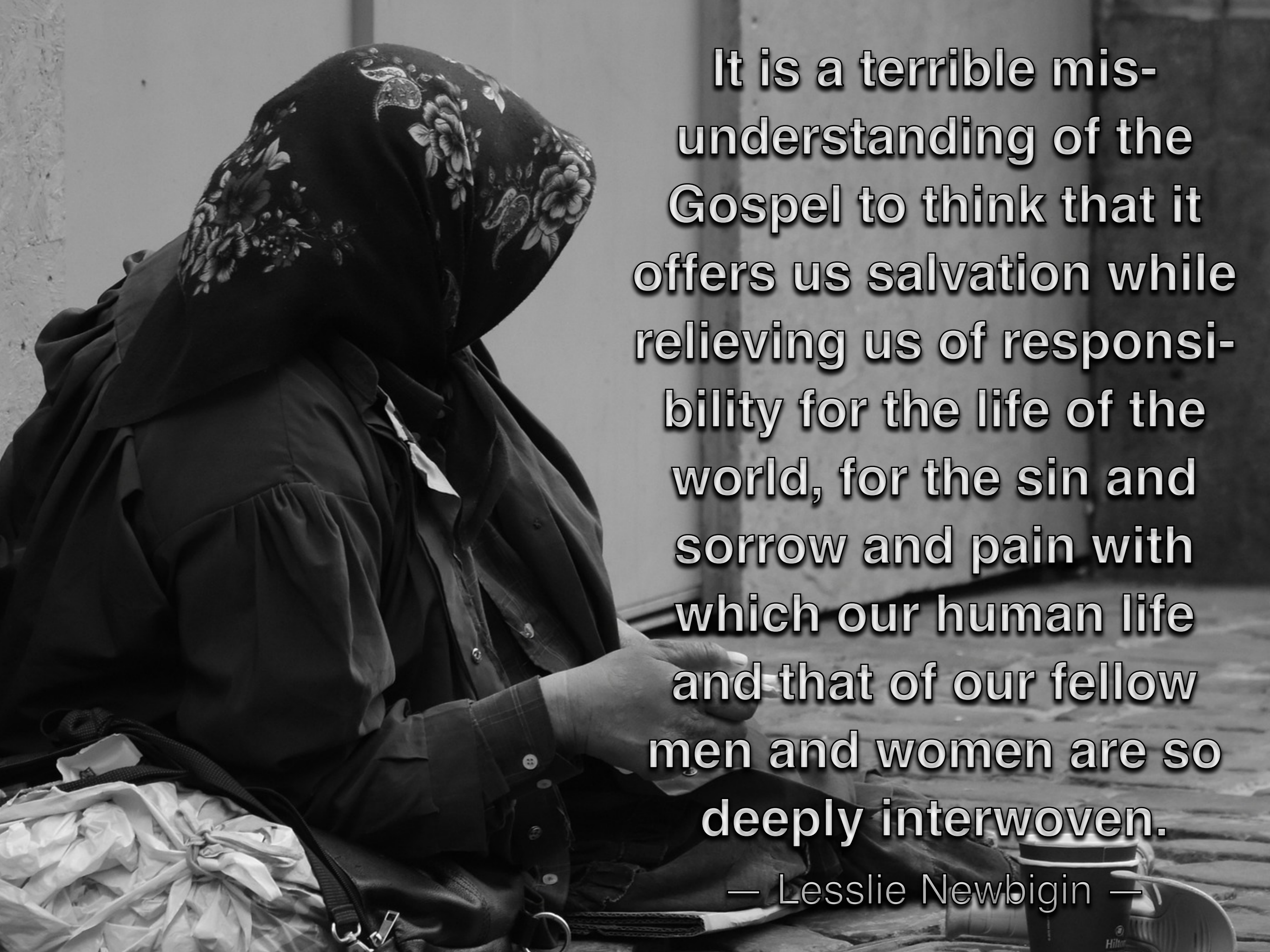


**But if anyone has the  
world's goods and  
sees his brother in  
need, yet closes his  
heart against him,  
how does God's  
love abide in him?  
Little children, let us  
not love in word or  
talk but in deed  
and in truth.**



**— The Apostle John —**  
The Letter of 1 John 3:17-18



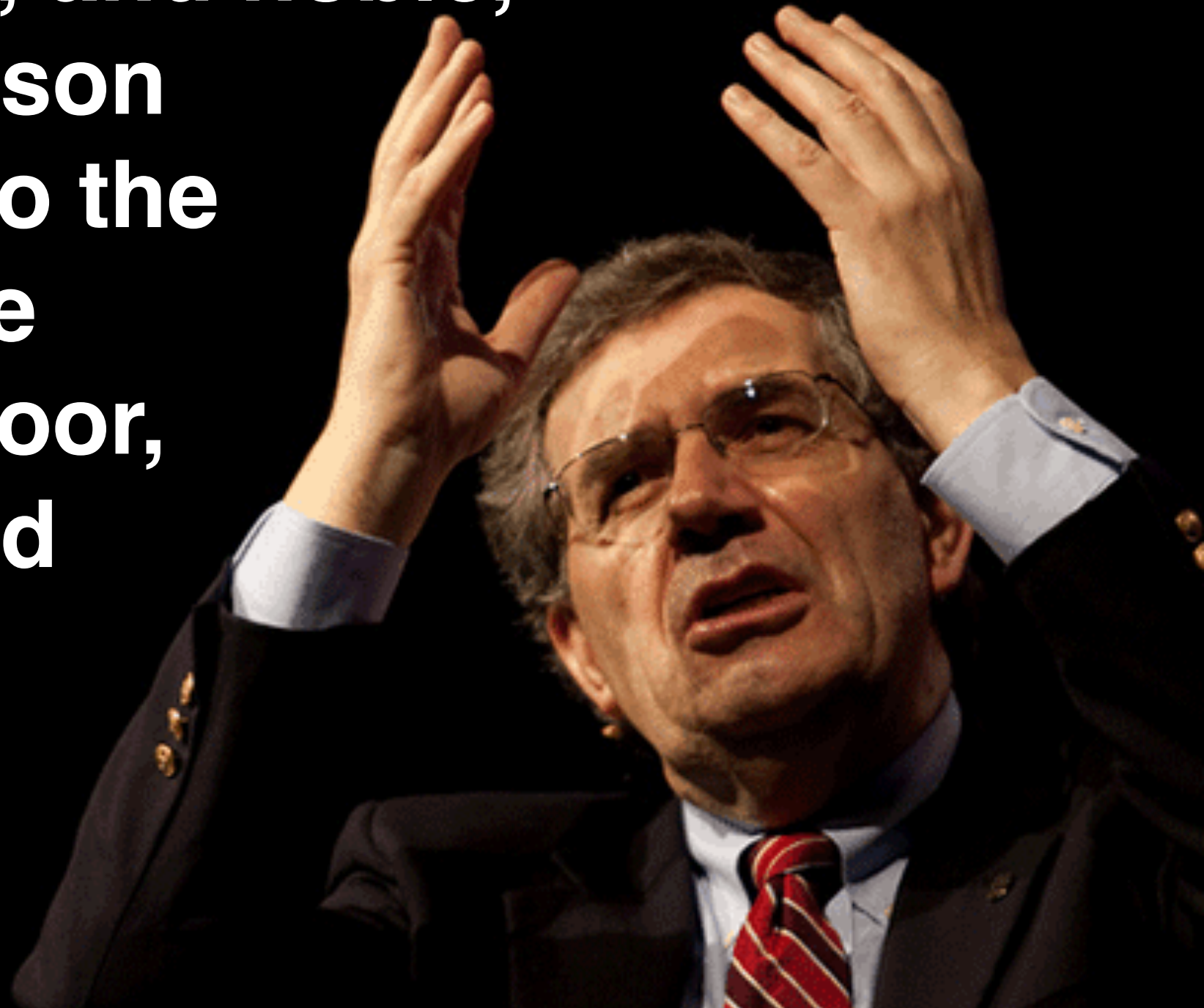


It is a terrible misunderstanding of the Gospel to think that it offers us salvation while relieving us of responsibility for the life of the world, for the sin and sorrow and pain with which our human life and that of our fellow men and women are so deeply interwoven.

— Lesslie Newbigin —



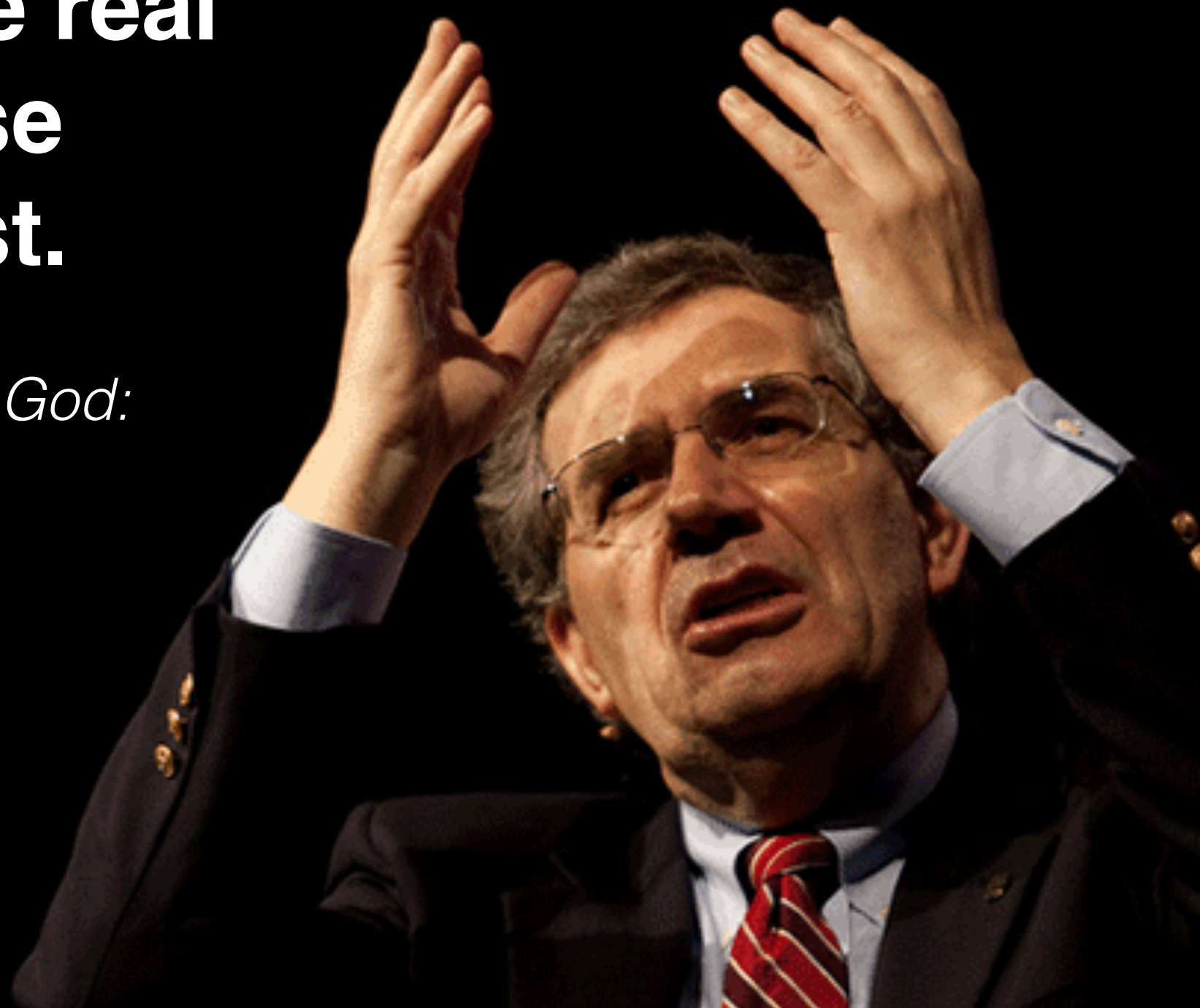
**The real evidence of character, and the ultimate test of spiritual maturity is not how someone reacts to the great, the famous, the rich, and noble, but how that person has responded to the marginalized, the unnoticed, the poor, the struggler, and the needy.**





**Not who you know, but the needy for  
whom you care, this is the real  
measure of men and women.  
It is certainly the real  
measure of those  
who serve Christ.**

Sinclair Ferguson, *Faithful God:  
An Exposition of Ruth*

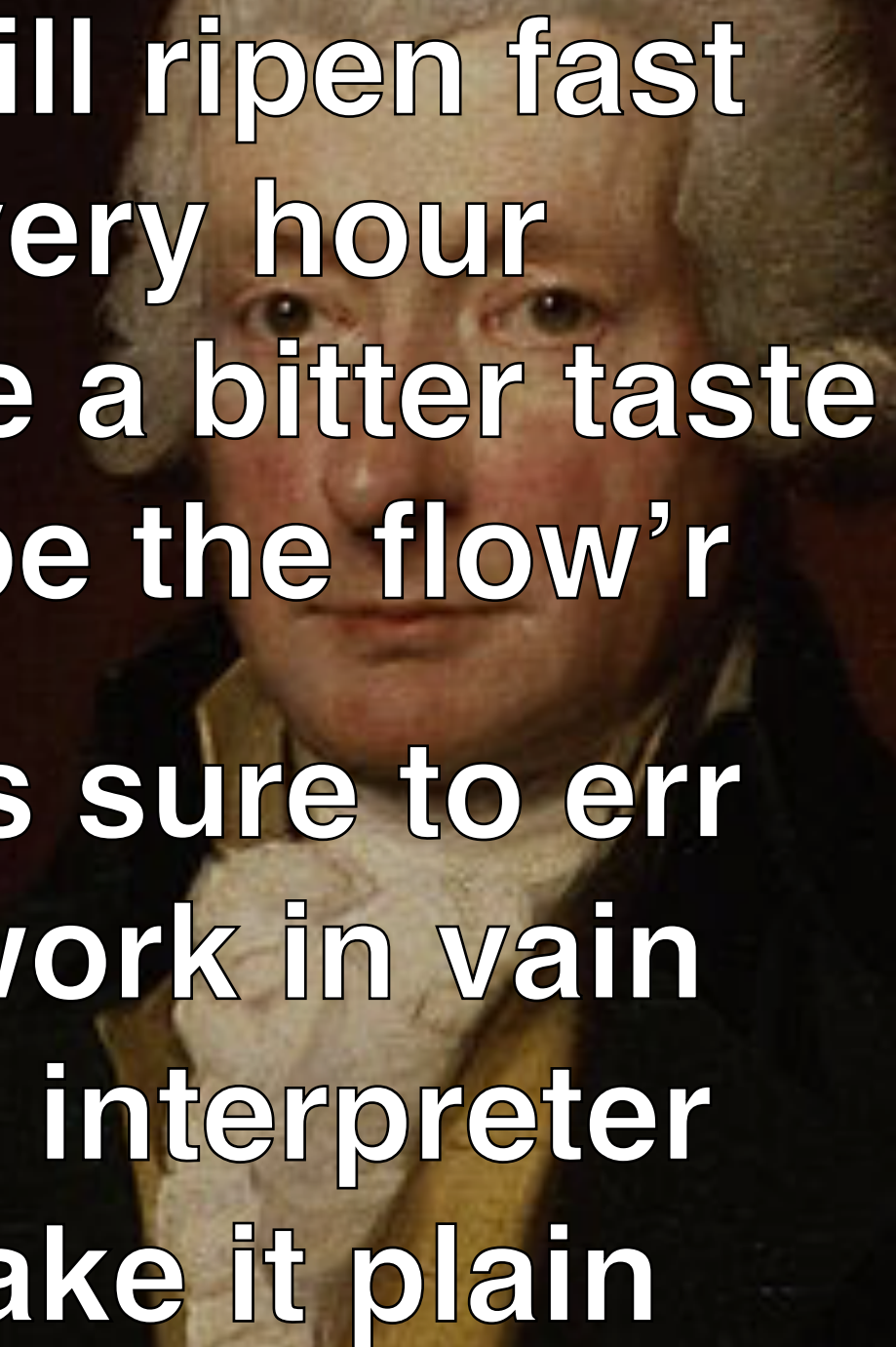






**Let's Learn To Trace The Divine  
Fingerprints In Our Lives**



A portrait of a man with a powdered wig, wearing a dark coat and a light-colored cravat. He is looking slightly to the right of the viewer.

His purposes will ripen fast  
Unfolding every hour  
The bud may have a bitter taste  
But sweet will be the flow'r  
Blind unbelief is sure to err  
And scan His work in vain  
God is His own interpreter  
And He will make it plain



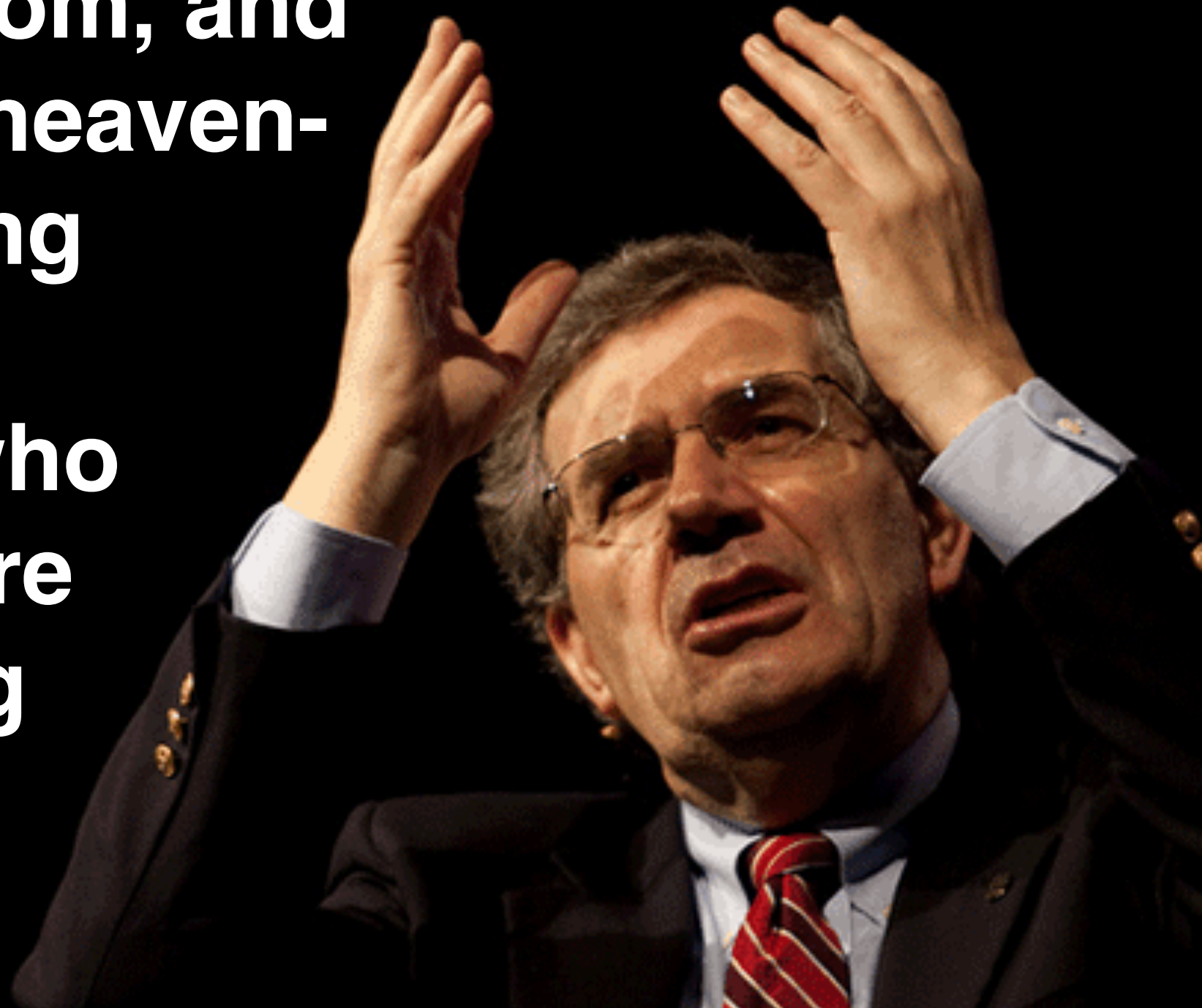
**...in the midst of our confusion and  
happenstances and surprises of life,  
there is a sovereign God in heaven,  
who's hand is upon us,  
every moment of the  
day, a God who reigns  
over every inch of  
the universe in  
which we live.  
So we know  
that nothing  
just happens.**



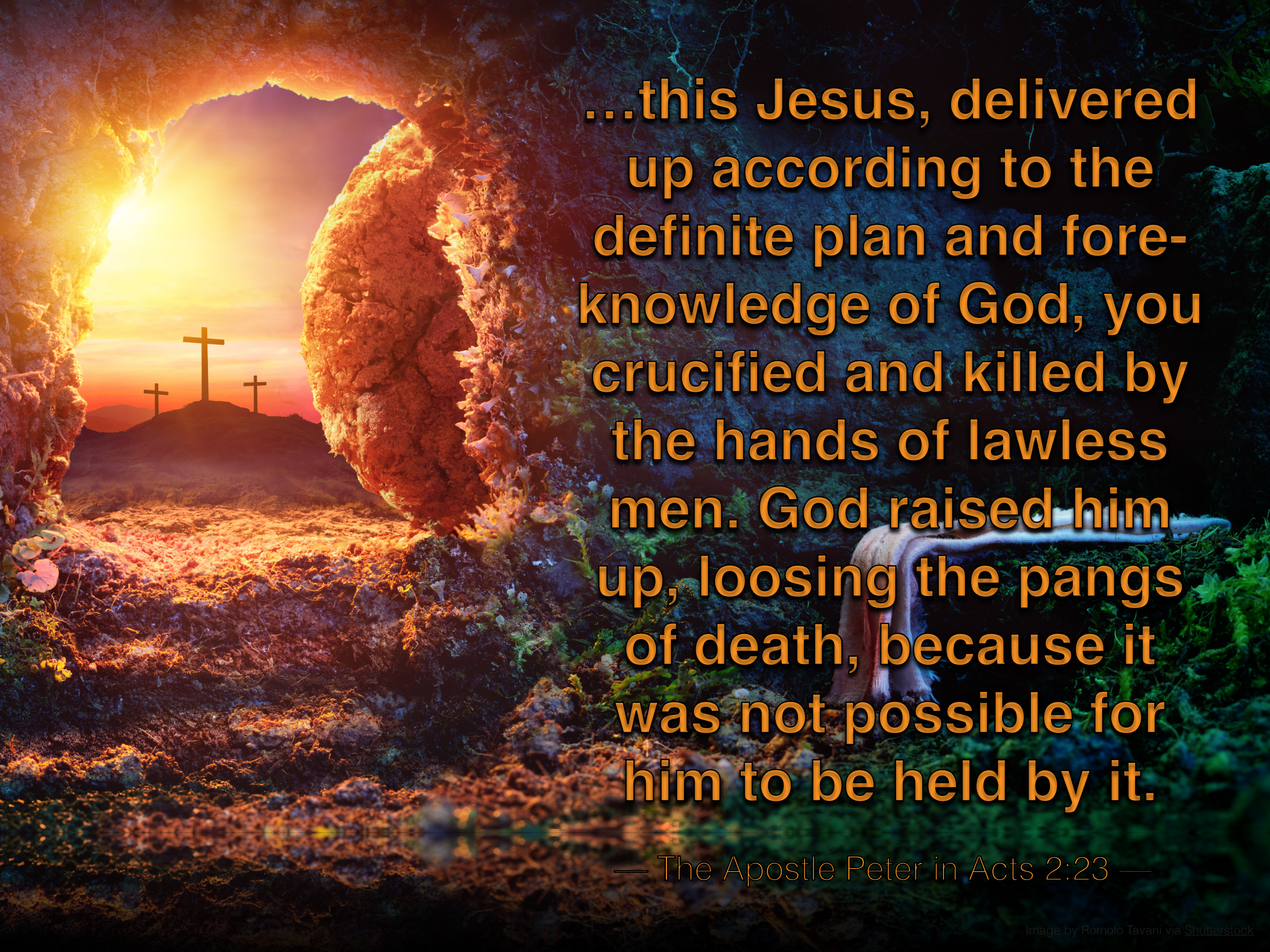


**Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without his knowledge, interest and rule. All things come to pass under the sovereign, wisdom, and purpose of our heavenly Father, working together for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.**

Sinclair Ferguson







...this Jesus, delivered  
up according to the  
definite plan and fore-  
knowledge of God, you  
crucified and killed by  
the hands of lawless  
men. God raised him  
up, loosing the pangs  
of death, because it  
was not possible for  
him to be held by it.

— The Apostle Peter in Acts 2:23 —



**God is always doing 10,000  
things in your life, and you  
may be aware of three of them.**

— John Piper —



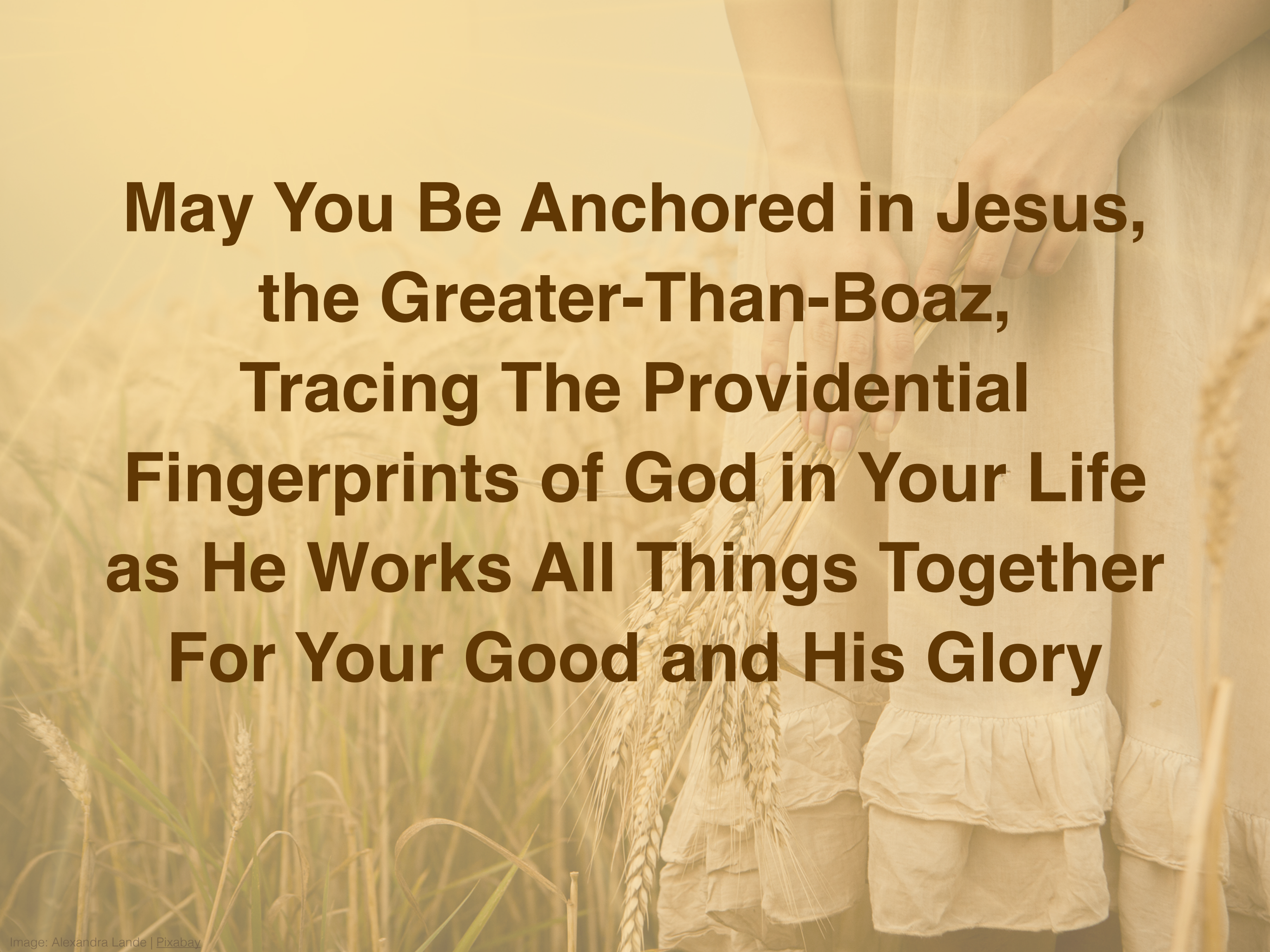




**I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.**

— Philippians 1:12-13 —



A person wearing a white, tiered dress stands in a field of tall, golden wheat. Their hands are visible, holding a bundle of wheat stalks. The background is a soft-focus field of similar wheat under warm, golden light.

**May You Be Anchored in Jesus,  
the Greater-Than-Boaz,  
Tracing The Providential  
Fingerprints of God in Your Life  
as He Works All Things Together  
For Your Good and His Glory**