

God Values Respect — Exodus 20:13-14

Wayne Braudrick — November 8, 2026

Life Change: We respect what God respects

3-year-old was playing doctor…

Respect human life — **Exodus 20:13**

Don't kill human beings

Exception: capital punishment — Exodus 21

Exception: self-defense — Exodus 22

Exception: just war — Deuteronomy 20

Respect the marriage bed — **Exodus 20:14**

I will give my heart daily to God and spouse
[Rom 12:2; requires daily prayer]

I will harness my eyes
[1 Jn 2:16; often requires accountability partnership]

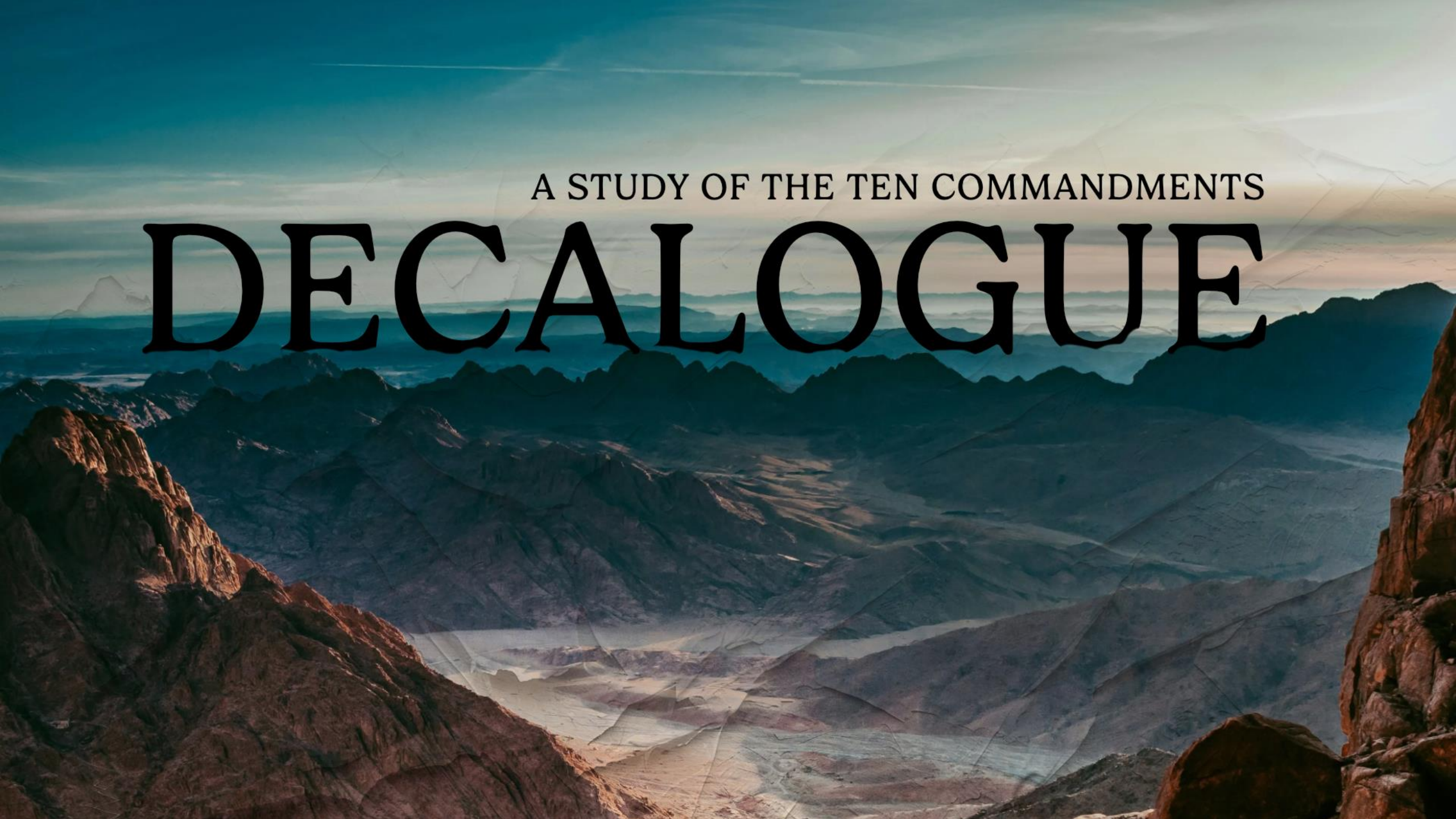
I will refuse to keep account of wrongs
[1 Cor 13:5; requires honest conversation]

I will guard other's marriages
[Heb 13:4; requires being above reproach]

I will mortify thoughts of "greener grass."
[Ex 20:17; requires one choose contentment]

I will commit my body to my spouse only
[1 Cor 7:3-5; requires other-focus]

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A STUDY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
DECALOGUE



courtesy Getty



courtesy istock



courtesy Aaron C

13 Do not murder.

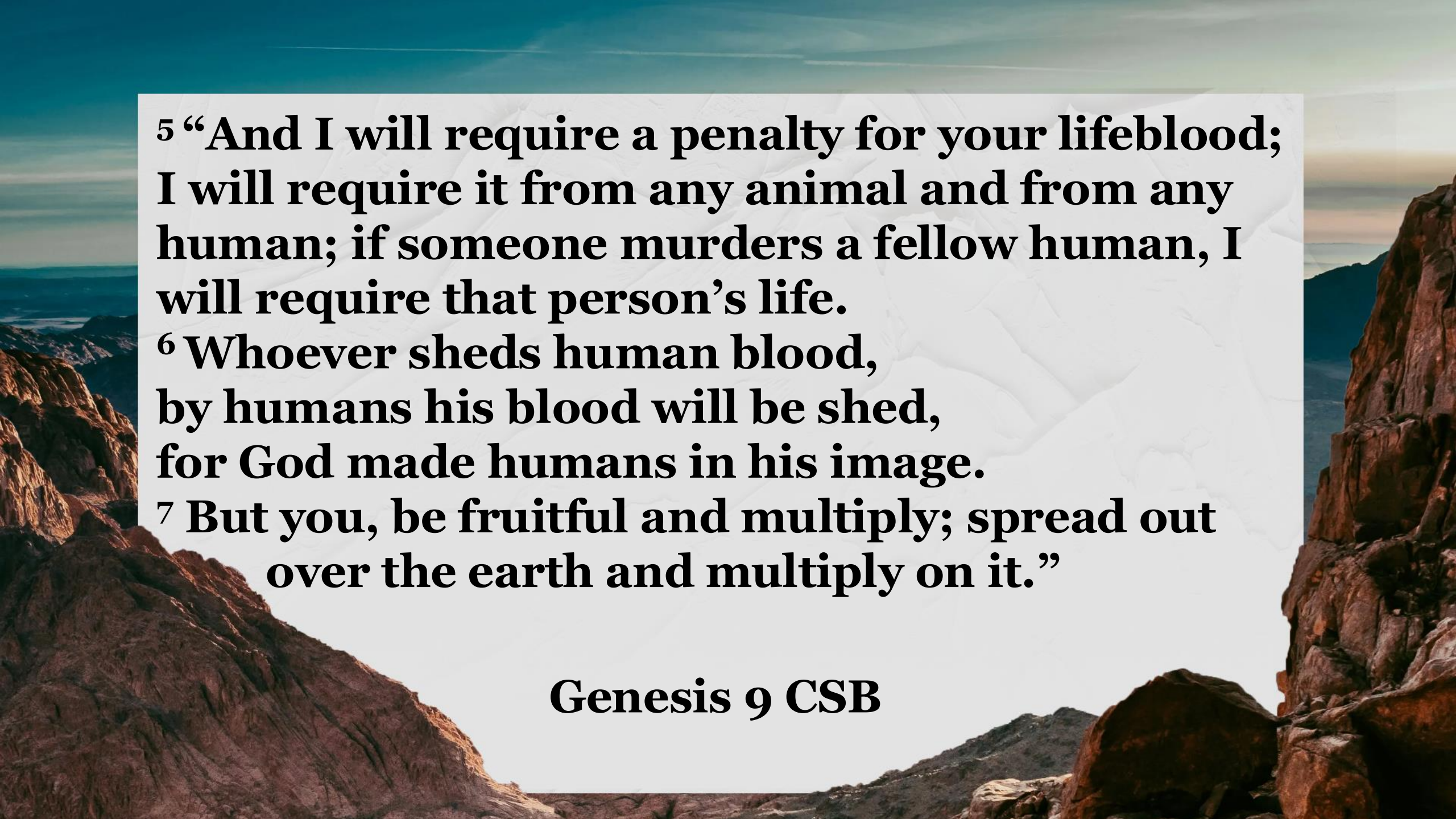
Exodus 20 CSB



courtesy simplythegospel



courtesy nationalge (AI generation)

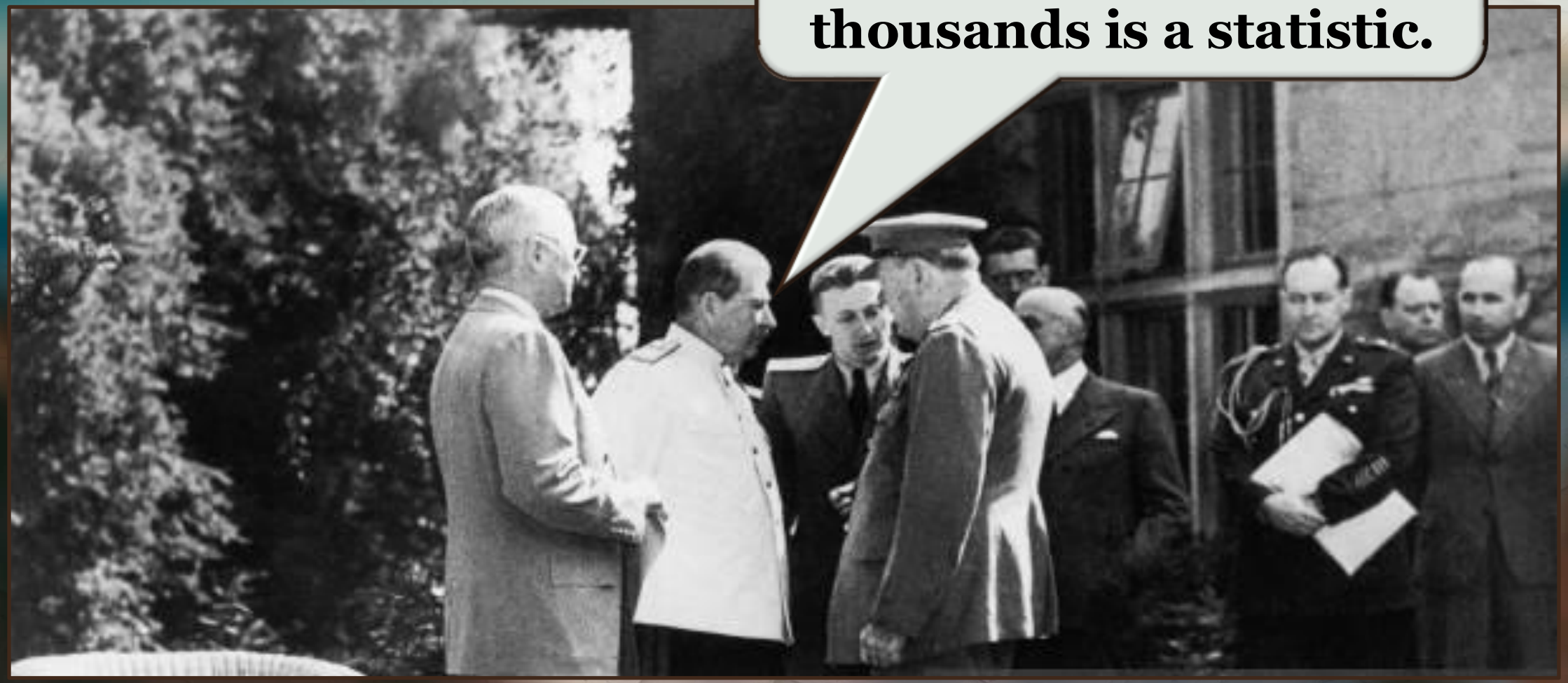


5 “And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood;
I will require it from any animal and from any
human; if someone murders a fellow human, I
will require that person’s life.
6 Whoever sheds human blood,
by humans his blood will be shed,
for God made humans in his image.
7 But you, be fruitful and multiply; spread out
over the earth and multiply on it.”

Genesis 9 CSB



courtesy orwelltoday



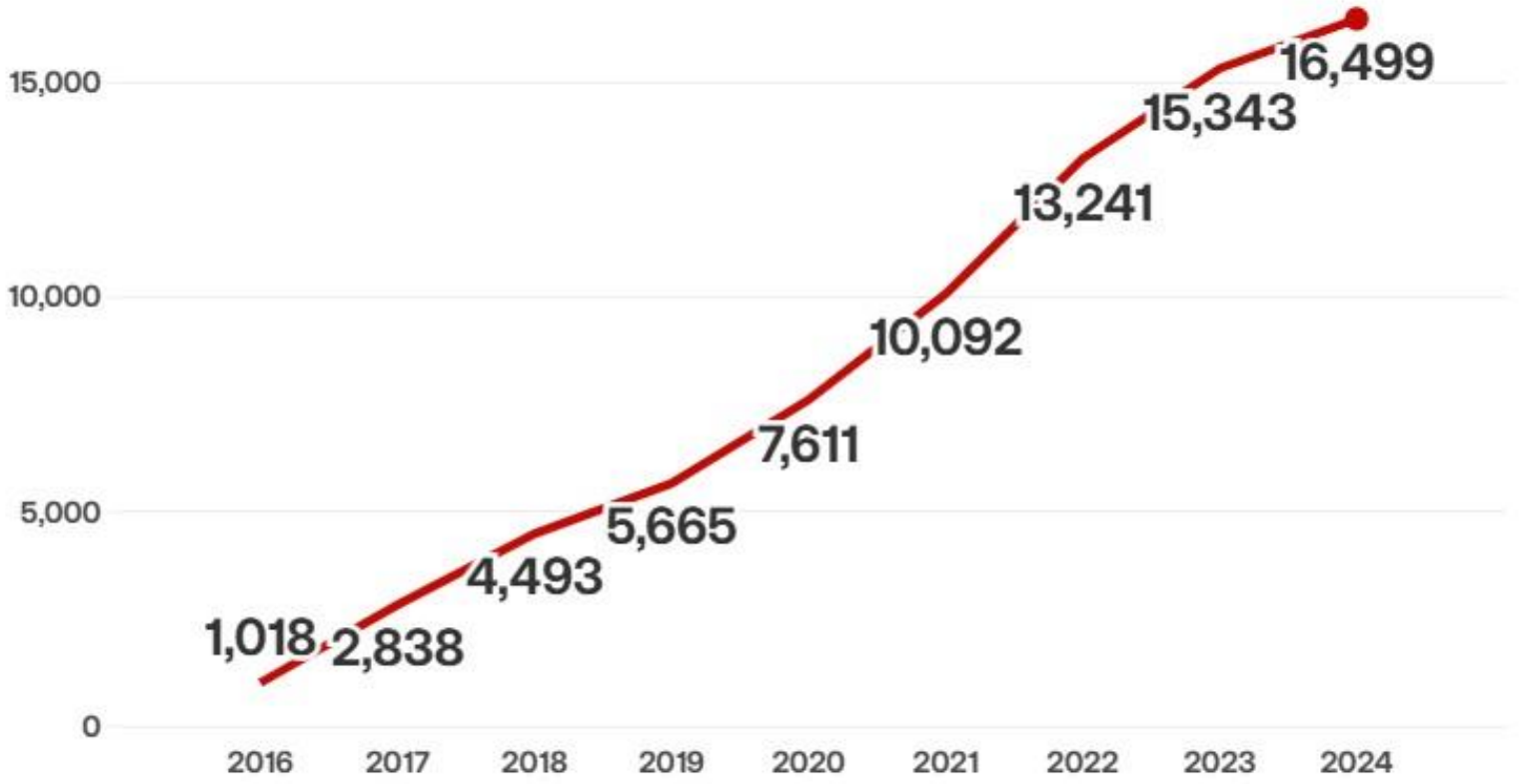
courtesy Truman Library



© Schulz estate

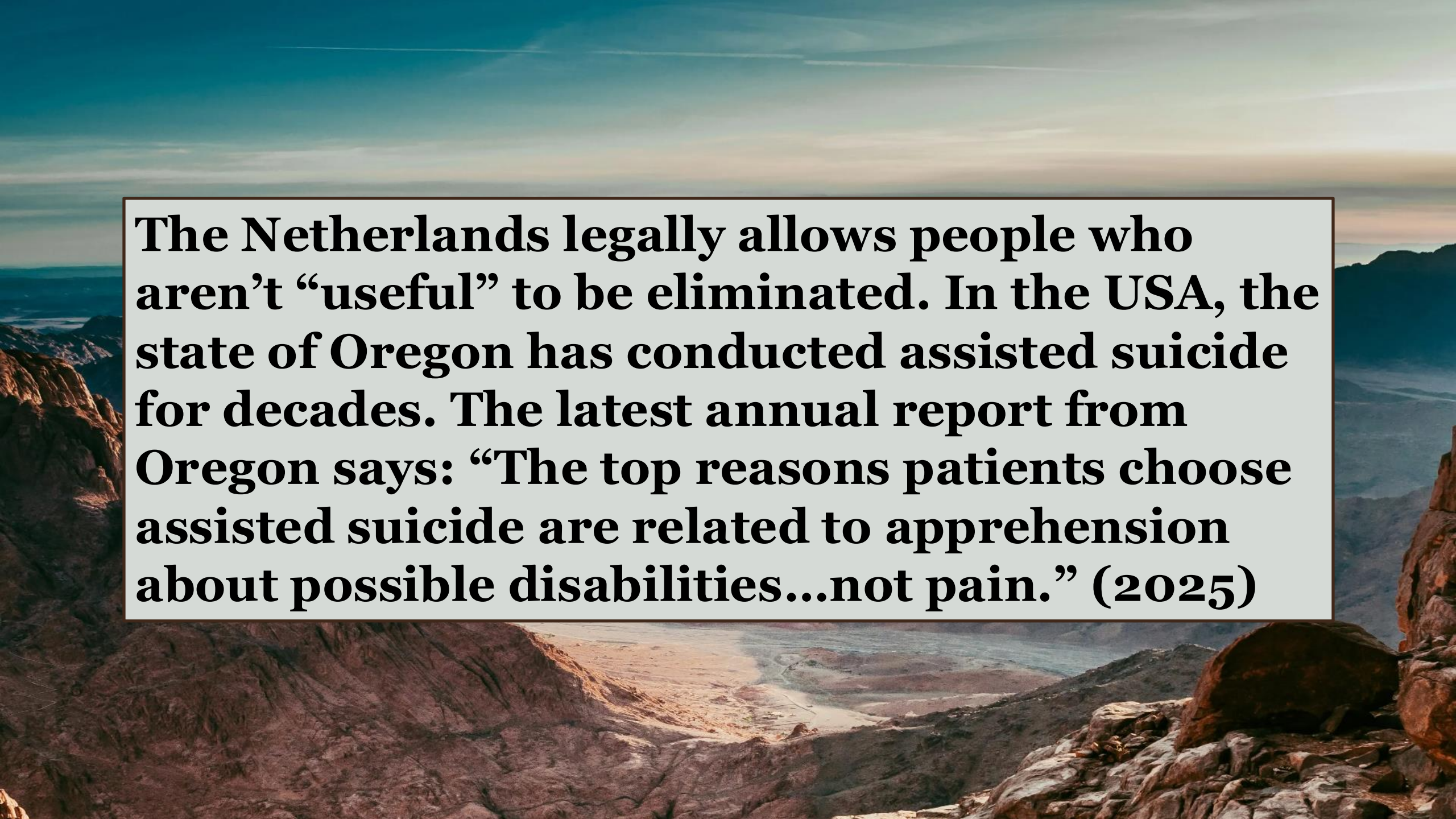
Assisted suicides make up 1 in 10 deaths in parts of Canada

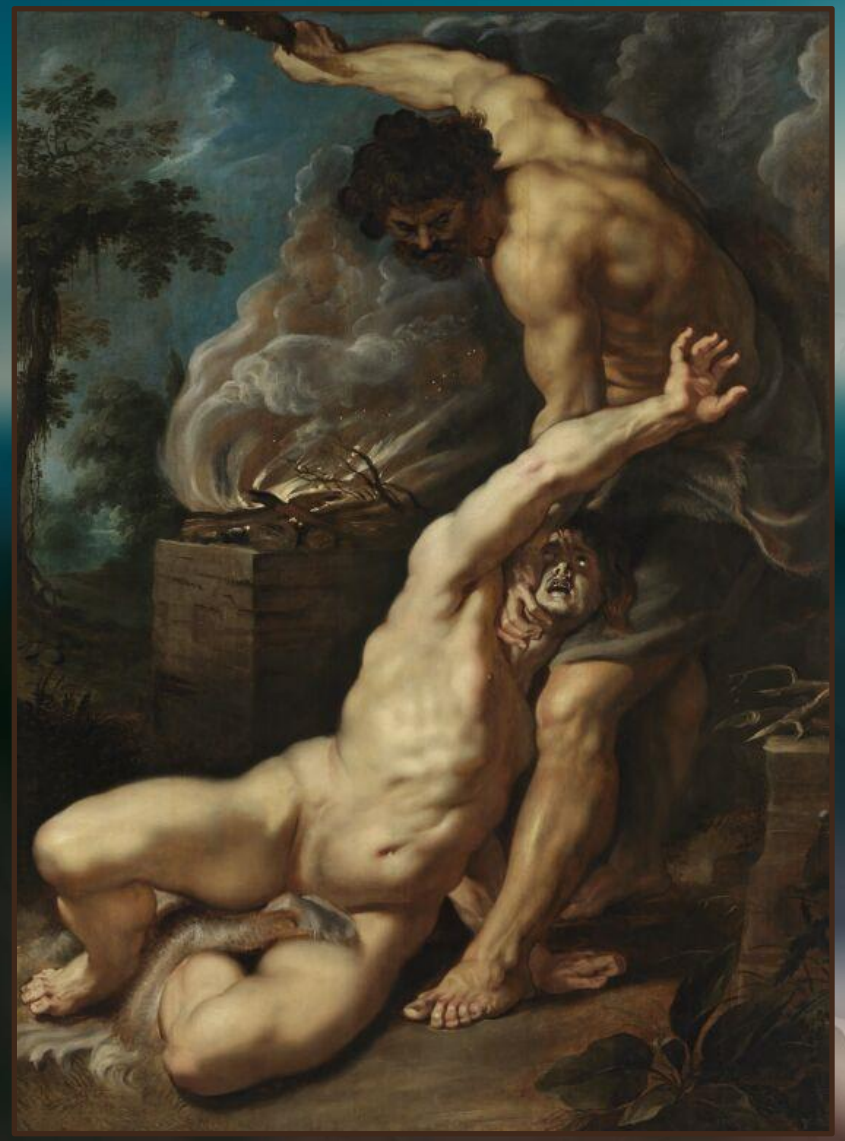
The practice has become a leading cause of death in the country, 10 years after it was legalized



Source: Government of Canada

courtesy NY Post


The Netherlands legally allows people who aren’t “useful” to be eliminated. In the USA, the state of Oregon has conducted assisted suicide for decades. The latest annual report from Oregon says: “The top reasons patients choose assisted suicide are related to apprehension about possible disabilities…not pain.” (2025)

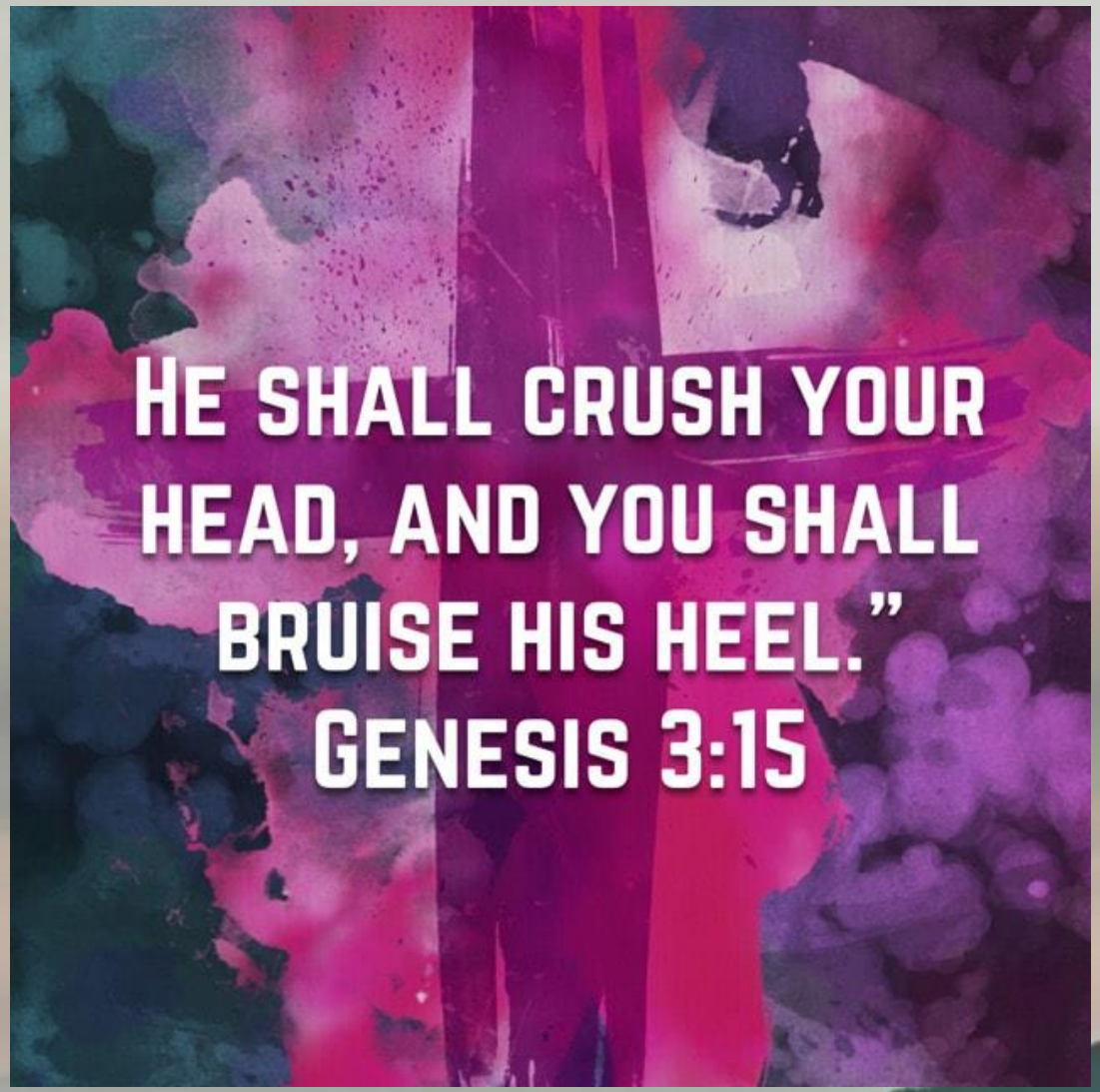


In summary, these are the two most oft-used rationalizations for killing people in defiance of God's command:

1) People only matter when you know them closely (or the opposite).
2) People only deserve life when they are useful and happy.

Cain Slaying Abel
Peter Paul Reubens
1608

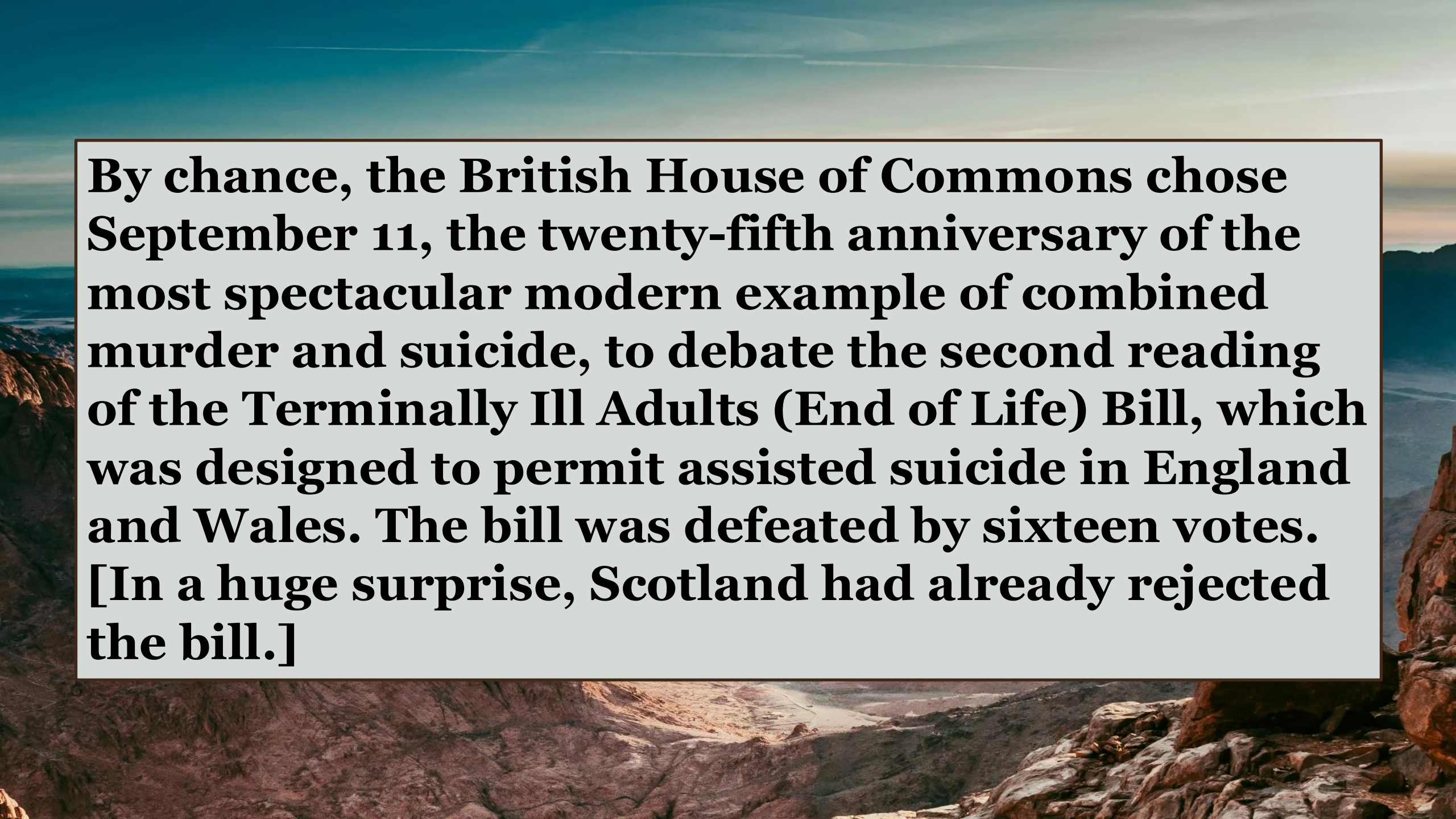
courtesy The Courtauld Institute of Art, London


He shall crush your
head, and you shall
bruise his heel."
Genesis 3:15


© CHANNEL 4



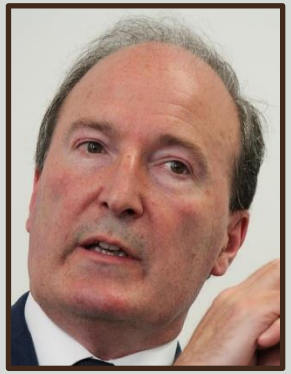
courtesy Washington Post



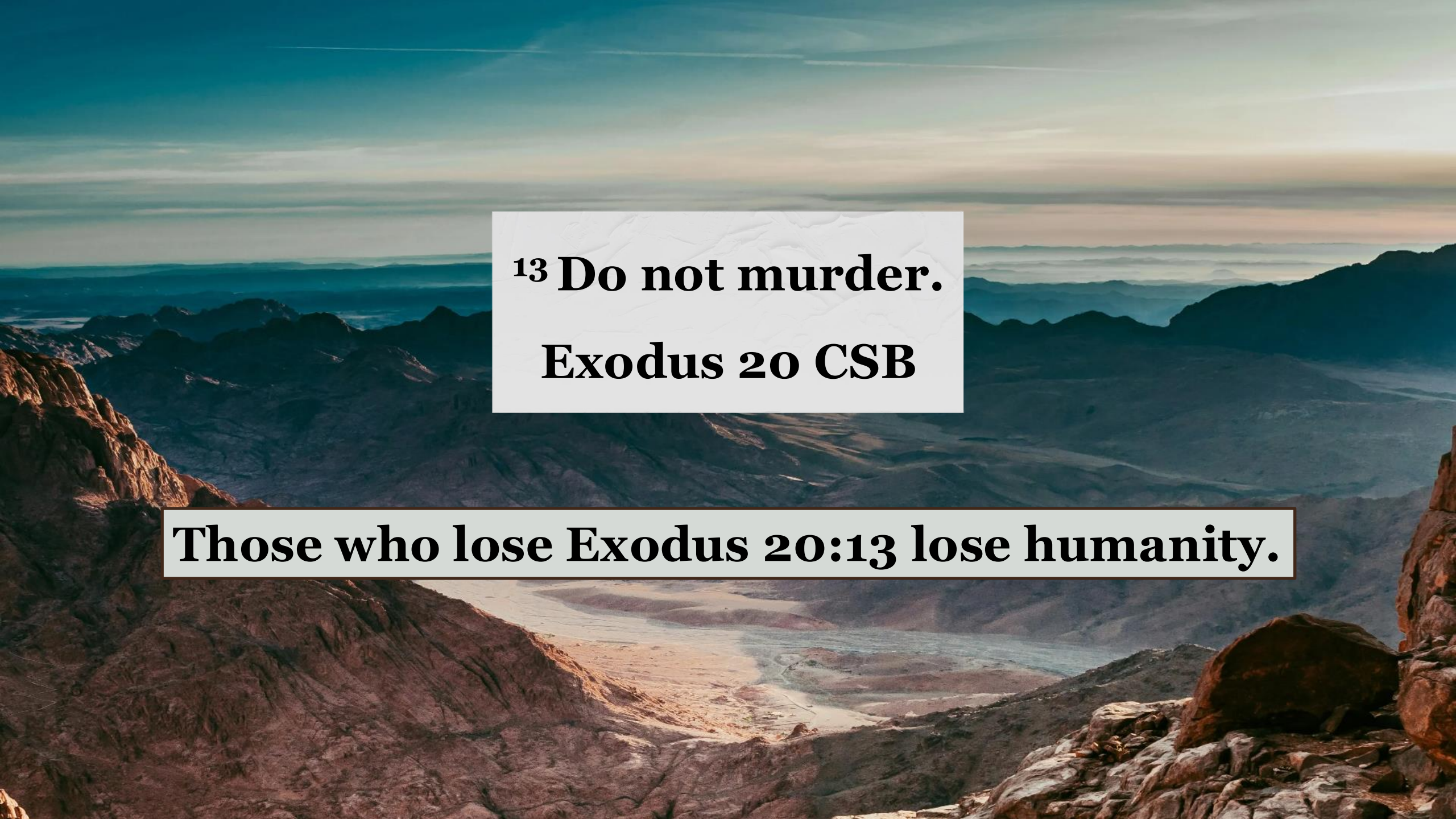
By chance, the British House of Commons chose September 11, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the most spectacular modern example of combined murder and suicide, to debate the second reading of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which was designed to permit assisted suicide in England and Wales. The bill was defeated by sixteen votes. [In a huge surprise, Scotland had already rejected the bill.]

The first lesson is that, although autonomy matters greatly, it cannot always have the last word in human society, because we all live together. If we think that one person's suicide is his or her business alone, we quite mistake human nature itself…If anyone near or dear to you has killed themselves, you will know that the action ripples outwards and affects others… "The sanctity of human life" [is] something which all decent people, at some level, feel. It is a binding principle of human society, based on our understanding of human dignity and human love. When suicide is assisted, that principle binds less well.

Another lesson is [that] organized religion does not take its views about human life from some technical, obscure, or superstitious provision in the theological small print, but from its understanding of the condition of all humanity. This is particularly true of Christianity because it is the only religion of the Incarnation, God in man. Christians…can show that their views on human life are essential for a flourishing society and apply to every human being, deriving from the life, death and resurrection of one Man. – Lord Charles Moore, Baron of Etchingham, "Rejecting Assisted Suicide" ***Plough Magazine*** **14 October 2026**

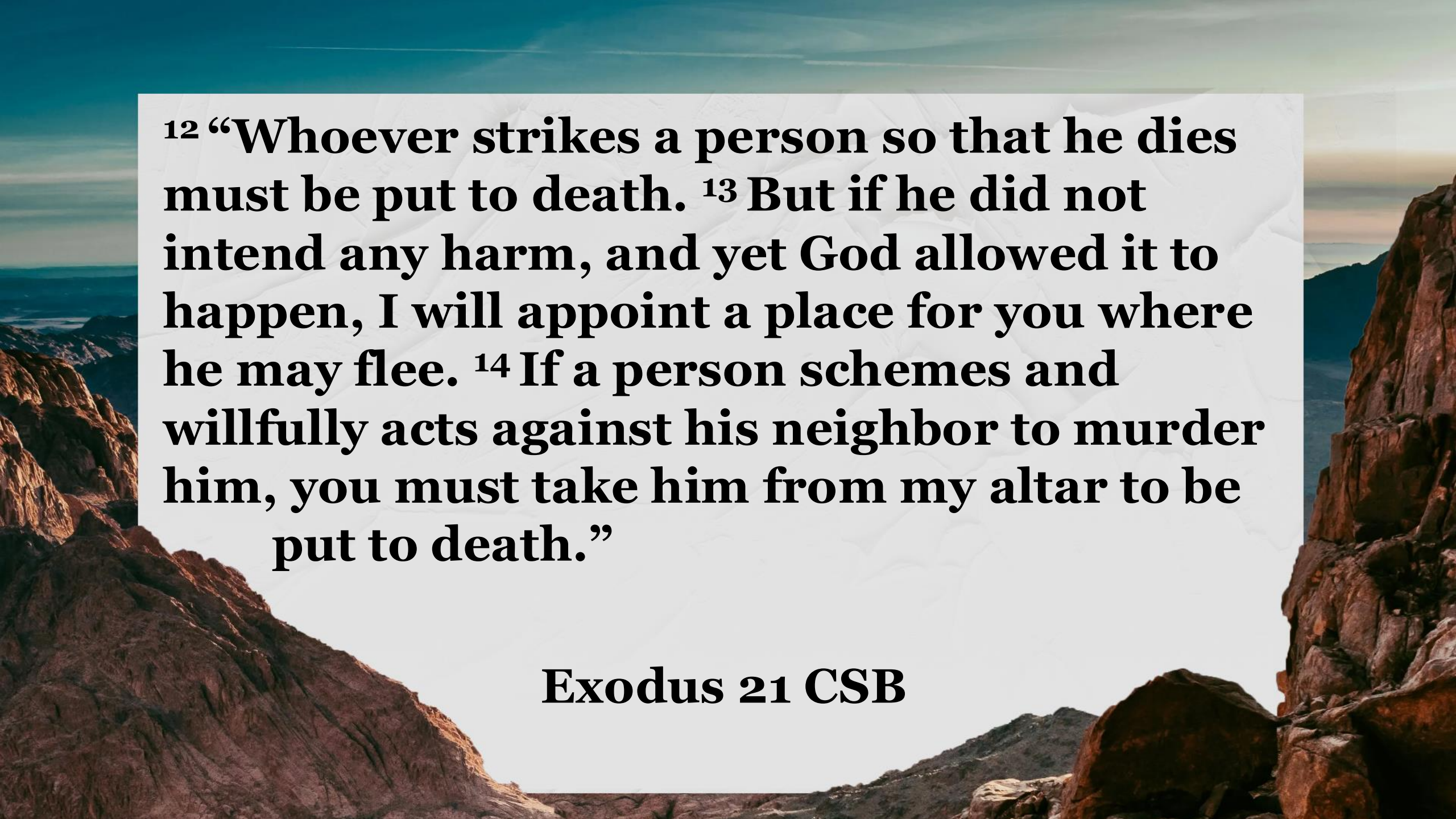


courtesy House of Lords


13 Do not murder.
Exodus 20 CSB
Those who lose Exodus 20:13 lose humanity.

21 “You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, *Do not murder [Ex 20]*, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. 22 But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment.”

Matthew 5 CSB



12 “Whoever strikes a person so that he dies
must be put to death. 13 But if he did not
intend any harm, and yet God allowed it to
happen, I will appoint a place for you where
he may flee. 14 If a person schemes and
willfully acts against his neighbor to murder
him, you must take him from my altar to be
put to death.”

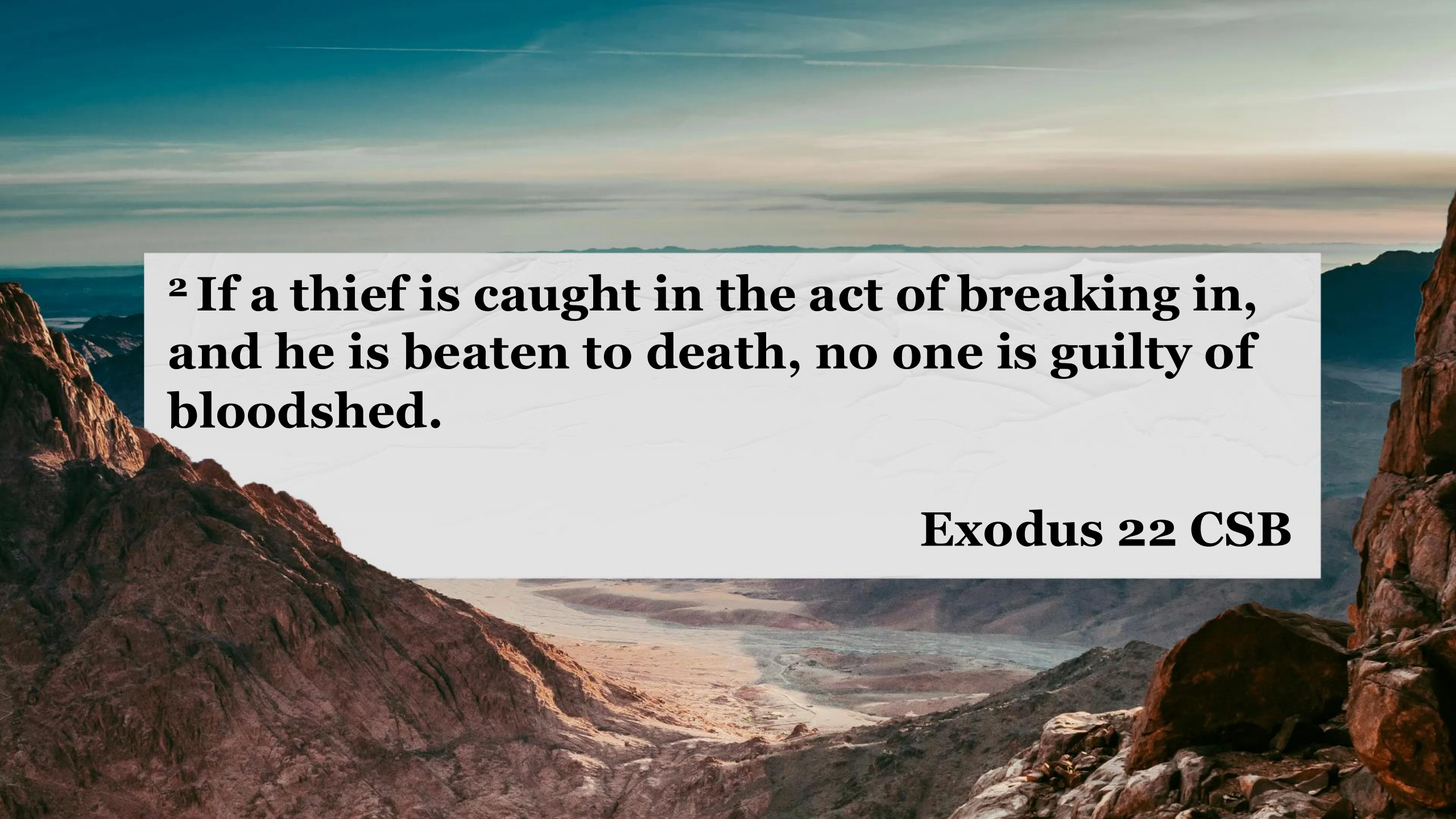
Exodus 21 CSB

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- **Allow for accidents and acts of God.**
- **Protect the offender during investigation.**
- **Investigate thoroughly, examining intent.**
- **Use capital punishment for capital crime.**

22 “When men get in a fight and hit a pregnant
woman so that her children are born
prematurely but there is no injury, the one who
hit her must be fined as the woman’s husband
demands from him, and he must pay according
to judicial assessment. 23 If there is an injury,
then you must give life for life, 24 eye for eye,
tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,
25 burn for burn, bruise for bruise, wound
for wound.”

Exodus 21 CSB



[2] If a thief is caught in the act of breaking in,
and he is beaten to death, no one is guilty of
bloodshed.

Exodus 22 CSB

911, what's your emergency?

You better get the police over here fast.

Ma'am, what is the problem?

Stranger broke into my house and is trying to steal from this old lady.

(To someone in the house) ***I got my shotgun and I knows how to use it. You need to git right now!***

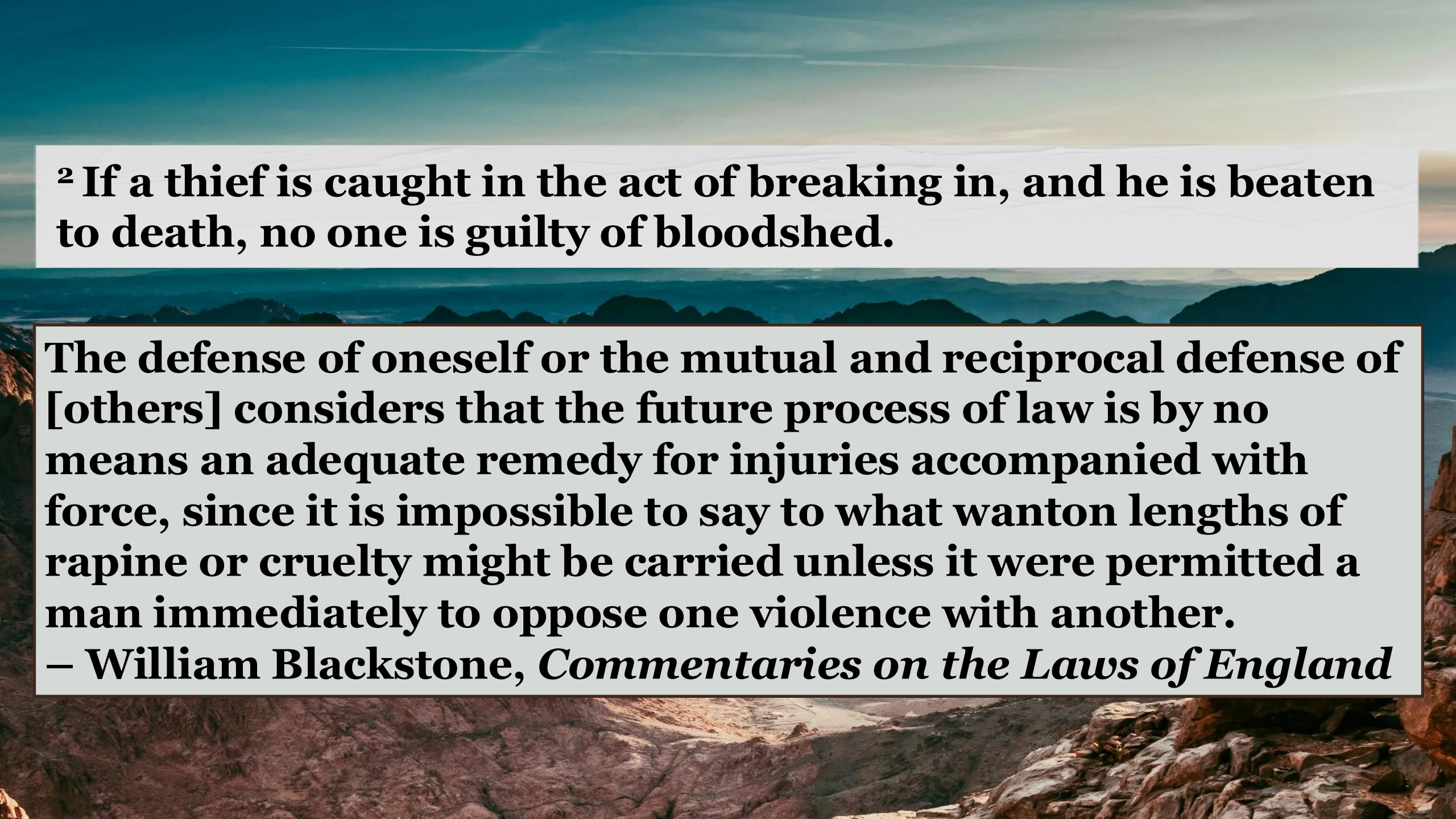
Stop! Do not come any closer!

Ma'am, please put down the gun…

- Loud blast –

Ma'am! Ma'am? Are you all right?

I'm fine. Y'all can take your time now.

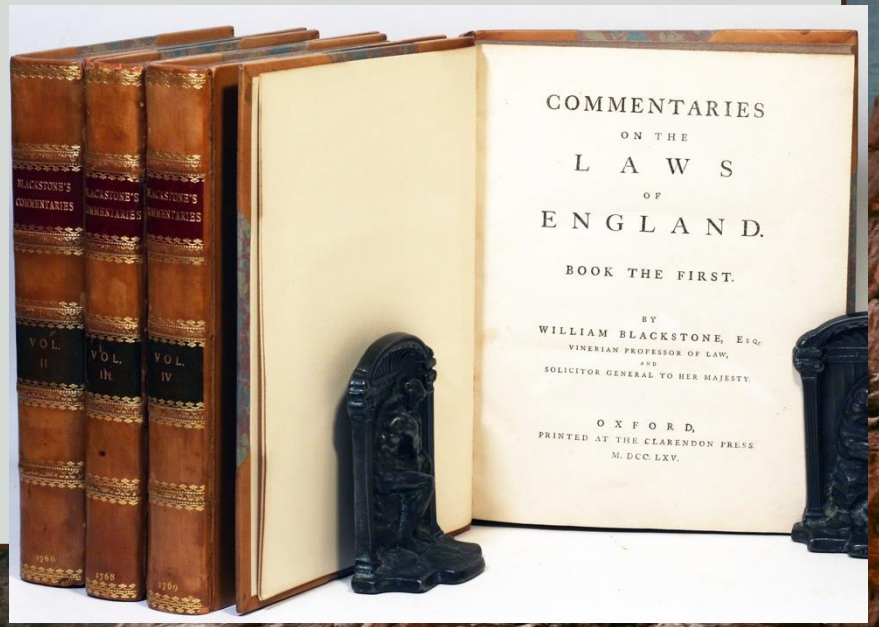


[2] If a thief is caught in the act of breaking in, and he is beaten to death, no one is guilty of bloodshed.

The defense of oneself or the mutual and reciprocal defense of [others] considers that the future process of law is by no means an adequate remedy for injuries accompanied with force, since it is impossible to say to what wanton lengths of rapine or cruelty might be carried unless it were permitted a man immediately to oppose one violence with another.
– William Blackstone, *Commentaries on the Laws of England*

[2] If a thief is caught in the act of breaking in, and he is beaten to death, no one is guilty of bloodshed.

Self-defense therefore is justly called the primary law of nature...In the English law particularly it is held an excuse for breaches of the peace, nay even for homicide itself; but care must be taken that the resistance does not exceed the bounds of mere defense and prevention for then the defender would himself become an aggressor.
– William Blackstone,
Commentaries on the Laws of England,
vol. 3, p. 3 [1768 from Oxford]



courtesy Manhattan Rare Books

early 20th c. Boston





early 19th c. old Southwest

early 21st c. Texas

BIPOC-ONLY

courtesy Bettman, polygon, christiansforsocialaction

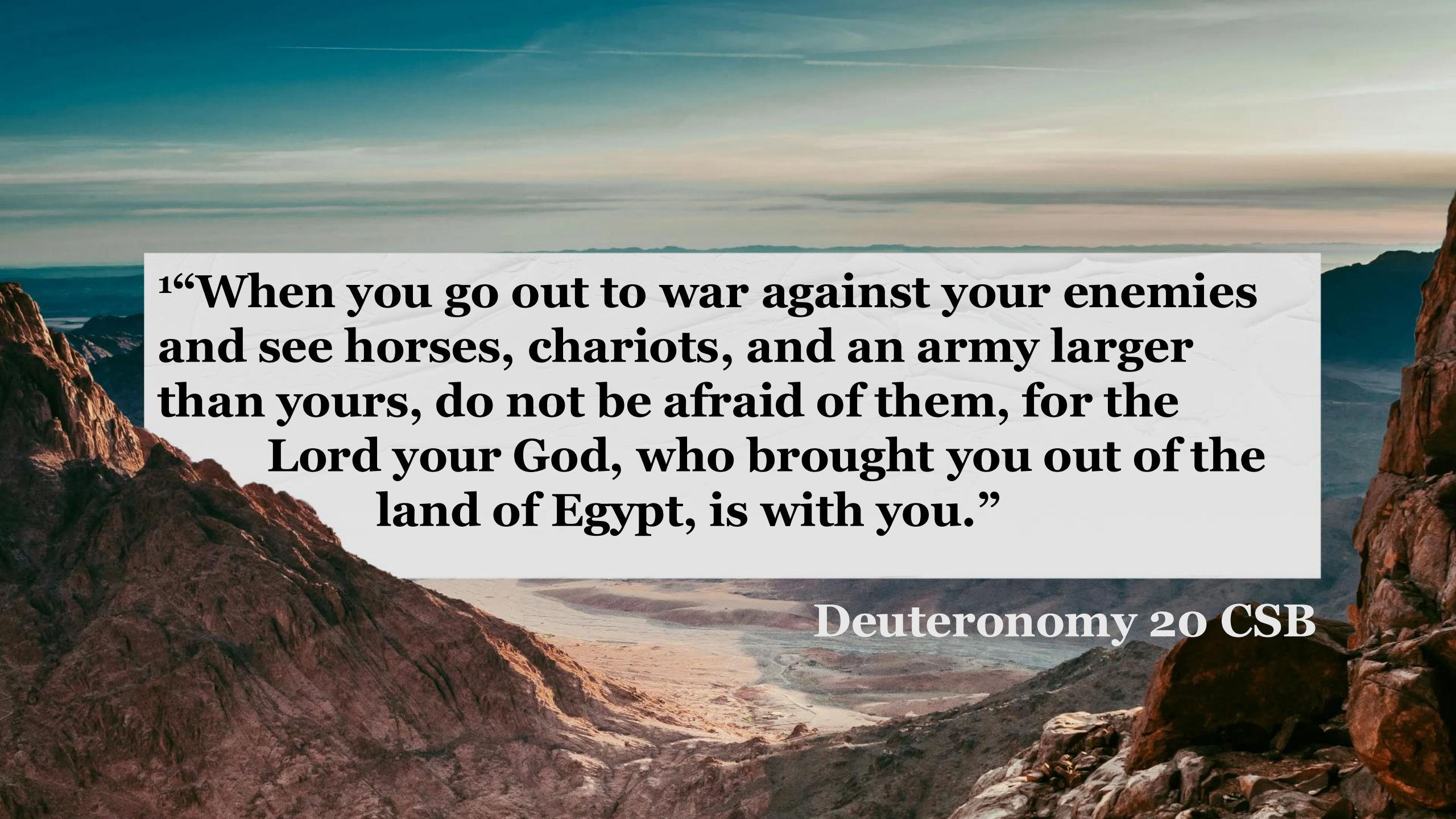
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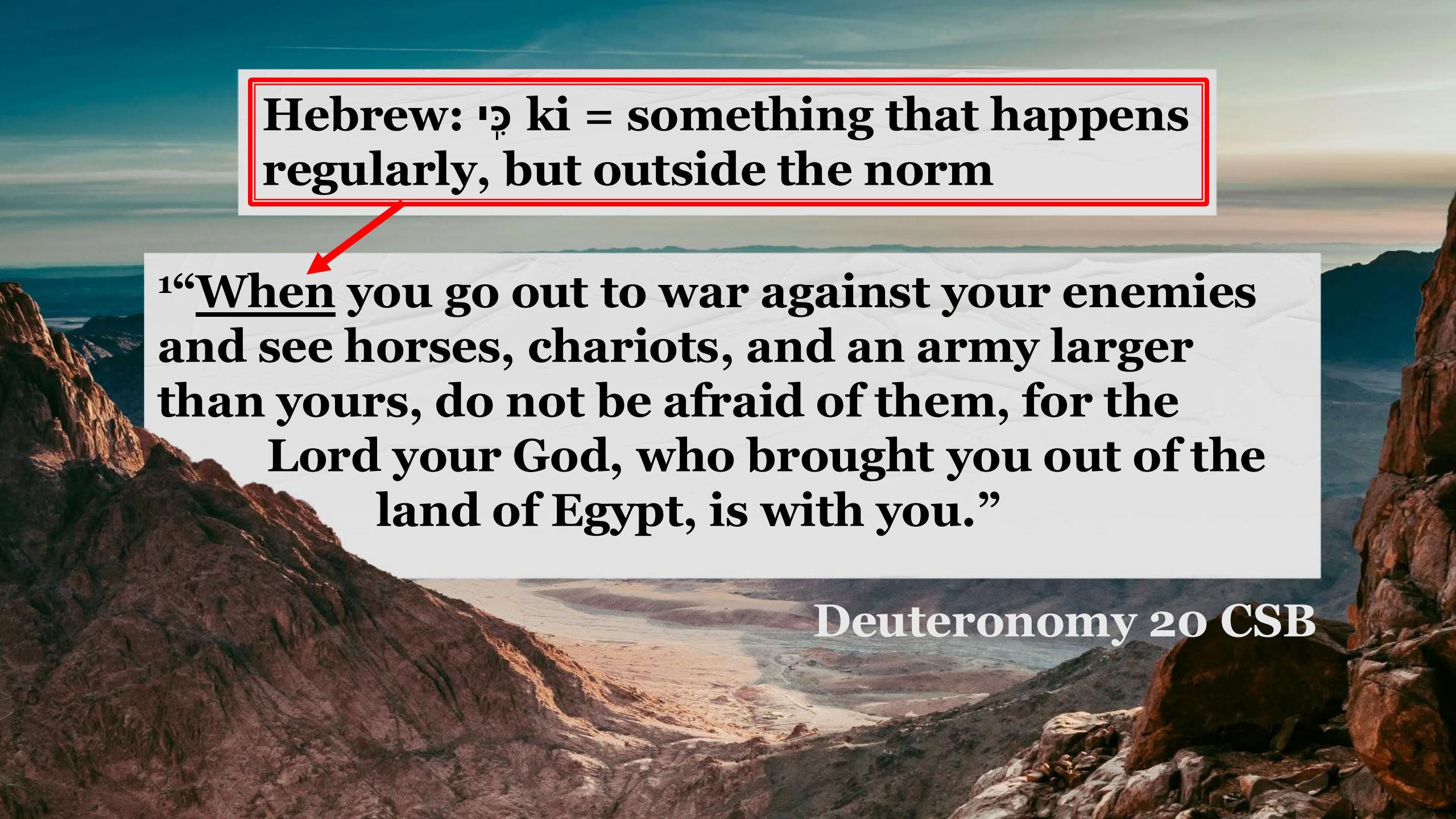
Exodus 22 CSB



courtesy Britannica

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– Sir William Blackstone,
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1“When you go out to war against your enemies
and see horses, chariots, and an army larger
than yours, do not be afraid of them, for the
Lord your God, who brought you out of the
land of Egypt, is with you.”
Deuteronomy 20 CSB



Hebrew: כִּי ki = something that happens regularly, but outside the norm

1“<u>When</u> you go out to war against your enemies and see horses, chariots, and an army larger than yours, do not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you.”

Deuteronomy 20 CSB

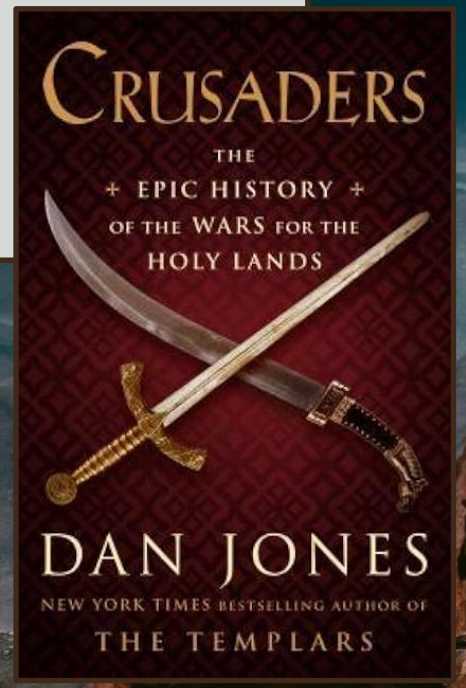
Aspects of just war drawn from scripture

- **Just cause, not mere greed**
  (Augustine detailed this well.)
- **Limited**
  (Just war is not like Muslim *jihad*.)
- **Openly declared**
  (This was brilliantly expanded by Cicero.)
- **Conducted justly with consideration for non-combatants**
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- **Approved by the highest human authority**
  (Adopted by modern UN.)

In 1230 [Pope] Gregory argued that God had put pagans on earth specifically so that people like the Teutonic Knights could save their own souls by killing [pagans as] "a means of atonement and salvation."
– Dan Jones, *Crusaders*, p. 306



courtesy goodreads

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courtesy science photo



courtesy Fox News

Whether directed against the Tutsis in Rwanda or against Israelis—now cast as genocidal colonizers by a cohort of anti-Zionist academics and nonprofit advocacy groups—portraying a people as foreign usurpers and inherent perpetrators isn't neutral. It is a well-recognized prelude to violence.
– Adam Louis-Klein, "Rwanda, Israel and the Inversion of 'Genocide'"
***Wall Street Journal* 22 July 2026**



courtesy timesofisrael

Big idea:

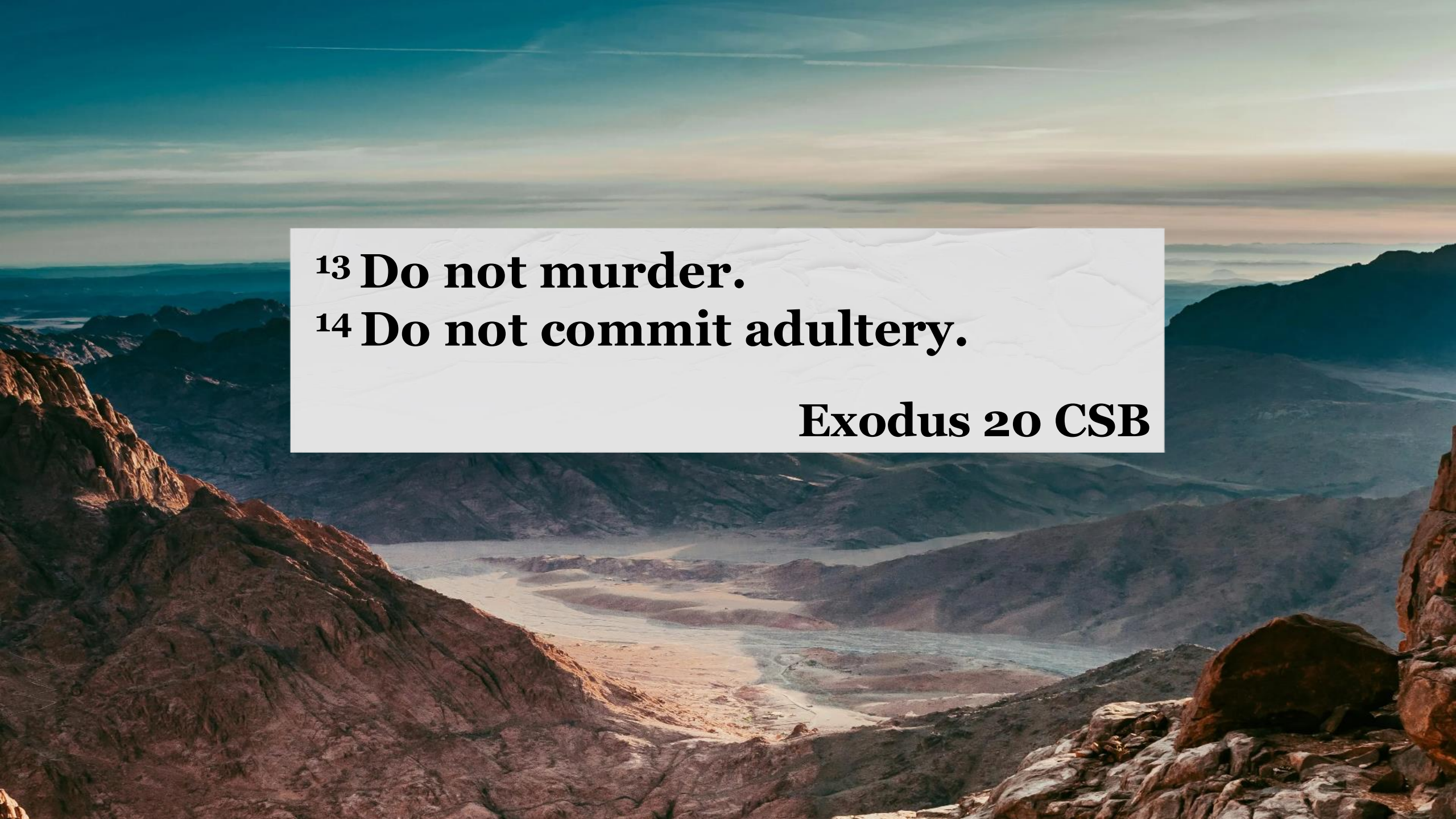
[13] Do not murder.

Exodus 20 CSB

Exceptions:

Capital punishment.
Self-defense.
Just war.

courtesy simplythegospel



13 Do not murder.
14 Do not commit adultery.

Exodus 20 CSB



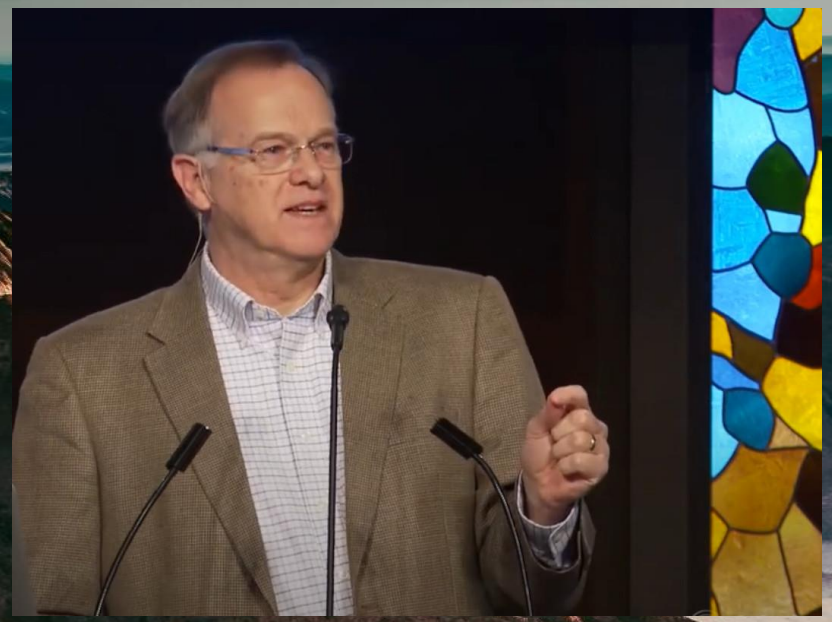
This is part of God's continuous creative work. A married couple is a new thing – a human triunity composed of God, man, and woman. To destroy a marriage is to destroy a living thing.

Adam and Eve in the Garden
Jan Breughel the Younger
ca. 1650



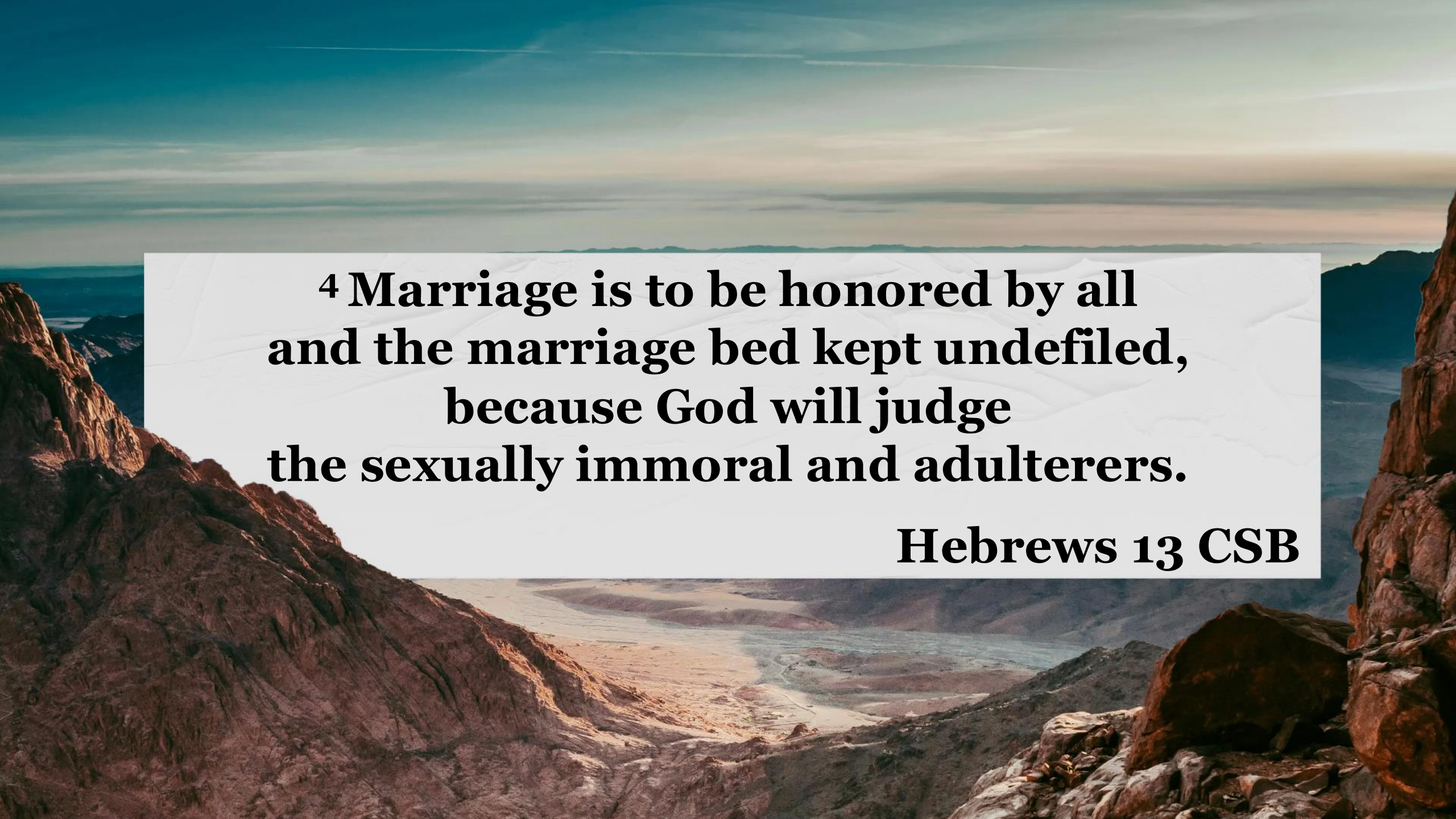
It’s a livin’ thing
It’s a terrible thing to lose
It’s a given thing
What a terrible thing to lose
Jeff Lynne, “Livin’ Thing”

courtesy Jet



The presentation of the command, like all in the Decalogue, is designed to tease out the tangled perplexities of our sin…Adultery reveals the wretchedness of our sin and, by implication, the mission of God to rescue us from sin.
– Chris Wright, "A Missional Reading of the Decalogue"

courtesy Christopher J Wright



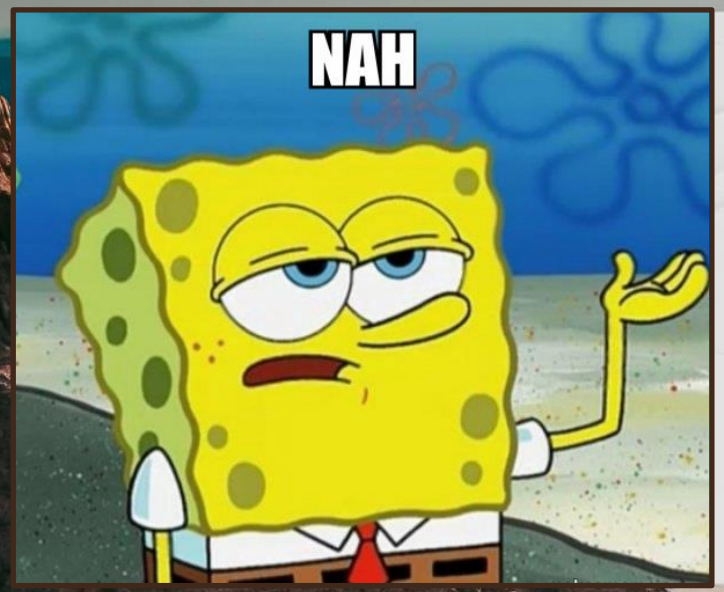
4 Marriage is to be honored by all
and the marriage bed kept undefiled,
because God will judge
the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Hebrews 13 CSB



***The bema in Corinth* – used by Apostle Paul to explain Jesus's judgment of Christians**

courtesy WB



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Hebrews 13 CSB

courtesy Universal

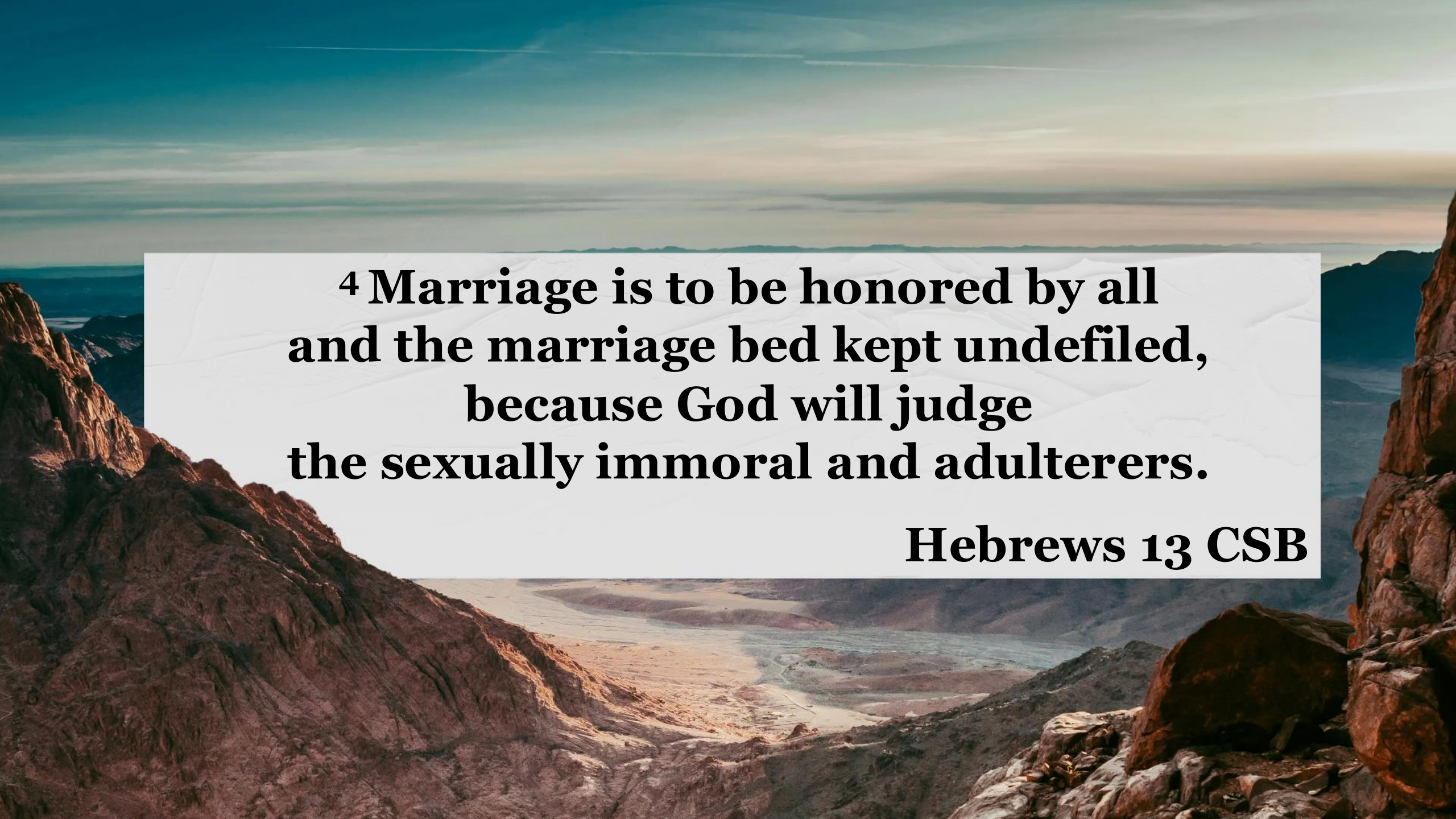
The Christian:

- **Convinces self that the action desired isn't really what God is talking about.**
- **Reasons that there is no judgment for this because of extenuating circumstances. (It's just who I am; But I love her/him; *They* are attracting me; No one is getting hurt; I deserve _____; God wants me to be happy, etc.)**
- **Plays a testing game of trying out small versions of the sin which of course (they justify) don't constitute real sin.**

The Christian:

- **Convinces self that the action desired isn't wrong.**
- **Reasons that there is no judgment because of circumstances.**
- **Plays a testing game.**

- **Capitulates into the sin pattern.**
- **Rewrites scripture to fit his/her understanding, conveniently noting that no one else can understand the pain they were in.**
- **Hides in a new church fellowship where no one knows about the sin.**



4 Marriage is to be honored by all
and the marriage bed kept undefiled,
because God will judge
the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Hebrews 13 CSB



This is part of God's continuous creative work. A married couple is a new thing – a human triunity composed of God, man, and woman. To destroy a marriage is to destroy a living thing.

Adam and Eve in the Garden
Jan Breughel the Younger
ca. 1650

I will give my heart daily to the Lord and my spouse.

2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Romans 12 CSB

I will harness my eyes.

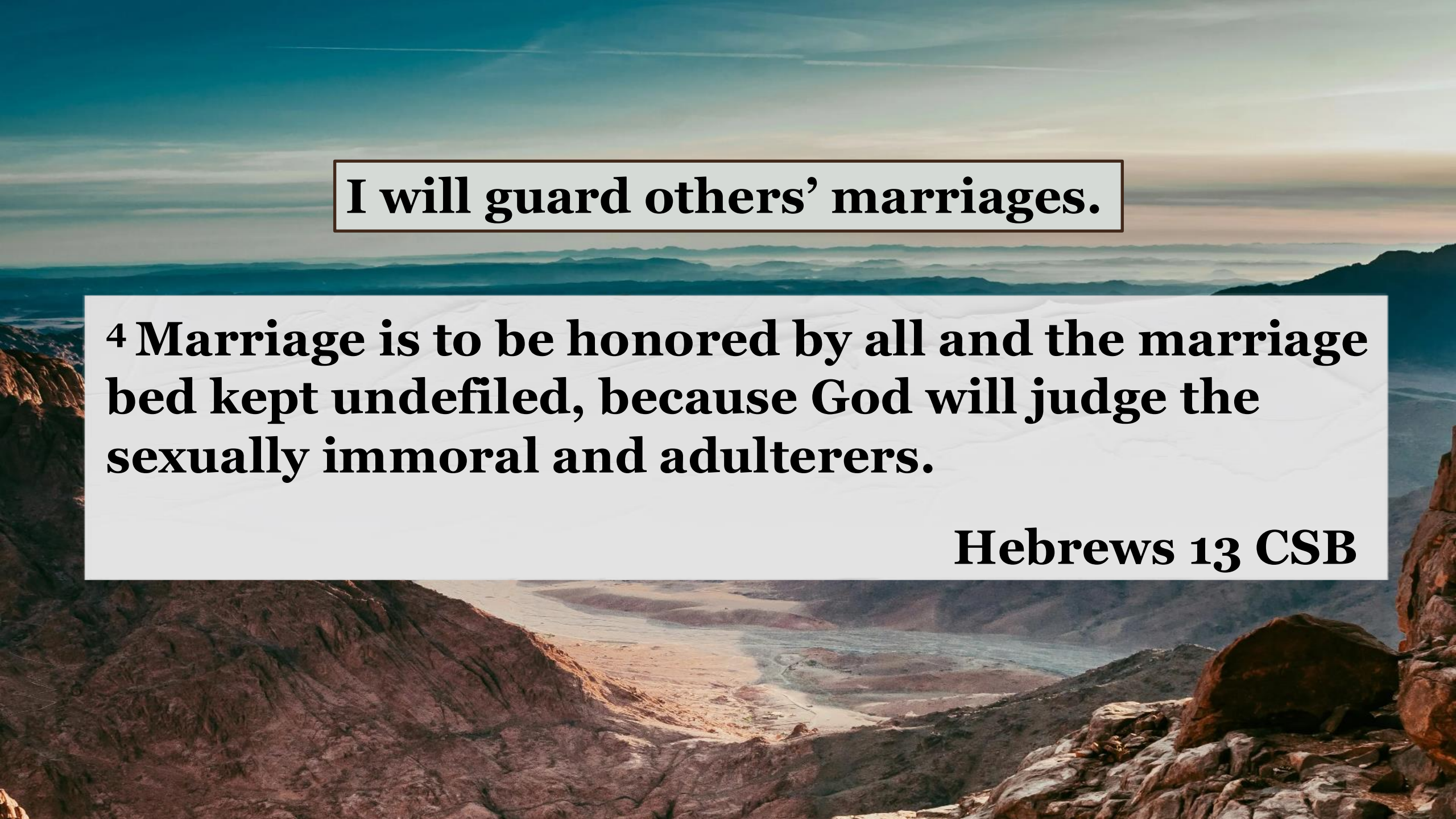
16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

1 John 2 CSB

I will refuse to keep an account of wrongs.

**4 Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy,
is not boastful, is not arrogant, 5 is not rude,
is not self-seeking, is not irritable,
and does not keep a record of wrongs. 6 Love finds
no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth.**

1 Corinthians 13 CSB



I will guard others' marriages.

4 Marriage is to be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Hebrews 13 CSB



courtesy US Army

“Son, I married my sweetheart, and there will be none of that. You drive this car anywhere near anything of ill repute and you will be the soldier responsible for his Commander in Chief jumping out of a moving vehicle.” The kid shut up. And he never drove Truman again.



courtesy Truman Library

I will mortify – take captive and kill – any thoughts about "greener grass" outside my marriage.

17 Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Exodus 20 CSB

I will commit my body to my spouse only.

3 A husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. 4 A wife does not have the right over her own body, but her husband does. In the same way, a husband does not have the right over his own body, but his wife does.

1 Corinthians 7 CSB

Will give my heart daily to God and spouse.

[Rom 12:2 requires daily prayer]

Will harness my eyes.

[1 Jn 2:16 often requires accountability partnership]

Will refuse to keep account of wrongs.

[1 Cor 13:5 requires honest conversation]

Will guard other's marriages.

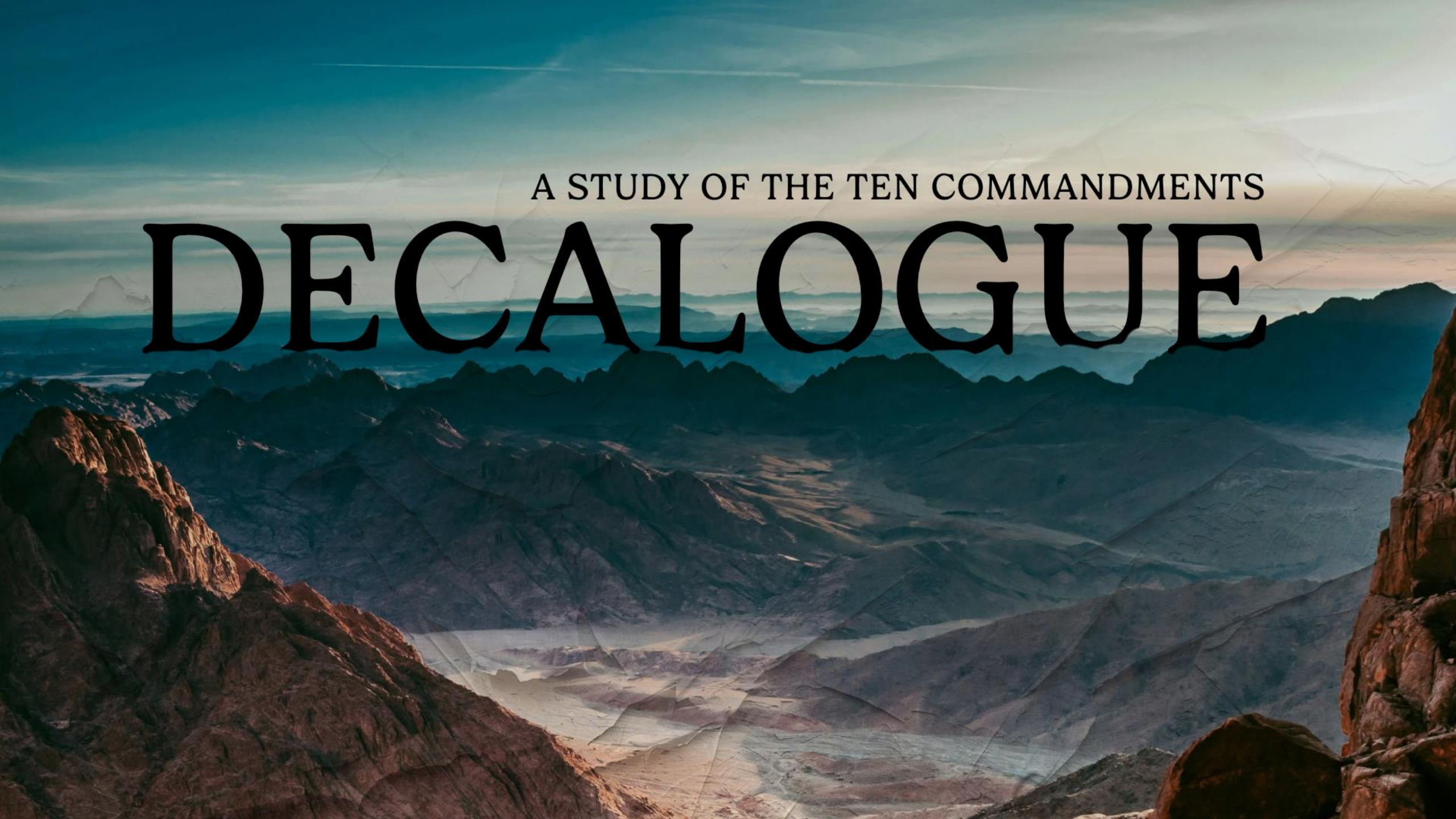
[Heb 13:4 requires being above reproach]

Will mortify thoughts of "greener grass."

[Ex 20:17 requires one choose contentment]

Will commit my body to my spouse only.

[1 Cor 7:3-4 requires other-focus]


A STUDY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
DECALOGUE