



## Goodness and Faithfulness Will Pursue Me

Jeremy Mikeska

Psalm 23:6a

August 18, 2024

Life Change: That we embrace Jesus' hesed and bless others

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### The different effects of differing pursuers...

#### Goodness

#### Faithful Love

I AM's benevolences will pursue me as in a chase or hunt so as not to allow the beneficiary to escape I AM's unending desire and commitment to do him good.<sup>1</sup>

#### Pursue doing good

#### Pursue loving others well

<sup>1</sup>Bruce K. Waltke, James M. Houston, and Erika Moore, [The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary](#) (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010), 443-444

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# JOYFULLY

following the Shepherd

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



***The bears in the White Mountains are hungry, and they're looking to people for food.***

***The National Forest Service [release an advisory](#) to hikers about near daily reports of bears following hikers.***

***"Bears that have become habituated to humans are following campers and begging for food. In some instances, bears have destroyed tents and backpacks as they look for easy meals," the Forest Service said. "There have also been interactions between bears and dogs."***



**LOS ANGELES - A Friday morning high-speed pursuit of a wrong-way driver ended in a violent multi-vehicle crash on the 405 Freeway in West Los Angeles, in one of the wildest pursuits to occur in the city that is known for its chases.**

**Officials with the Los Angeles Police Department said they responded to a radio call around 4:22 a.m. about a woman who backed into a patrol car at 4th Street and Rose Avenue in Venice. The pursuit was initiated just before 4:50 a.m. after the suspect refused to stop.**



***While trying to escape authorities, the chase took a dangerous turn when the suspect made a U-turn and proceeded to drive in the wrong direction. A short time later, the suspect crashed at full speed into multiple vehicles near the Wilshire Boulevard exit.***



***Like many couples, Sydney and Andre met online.***

***In an interview with the Knot, the sprinter revealed the former football player slid into her DMs.***

***'We had a mutual friend who I went to high school with and he went to college with — but we didn't interact until he slid into my DMs,' she recalled.***

***'We started off as friends.'***



***She also recounted the story in her 2024 memoir, *Far Beyond Gold: Running from Fear to Faith*.***

***'One day, I posted a selfie with the caption "Attention," she recalled.***

***Her future husband took the opportunity to cheekily message her, 'You have my attention. How can I get yours?'***

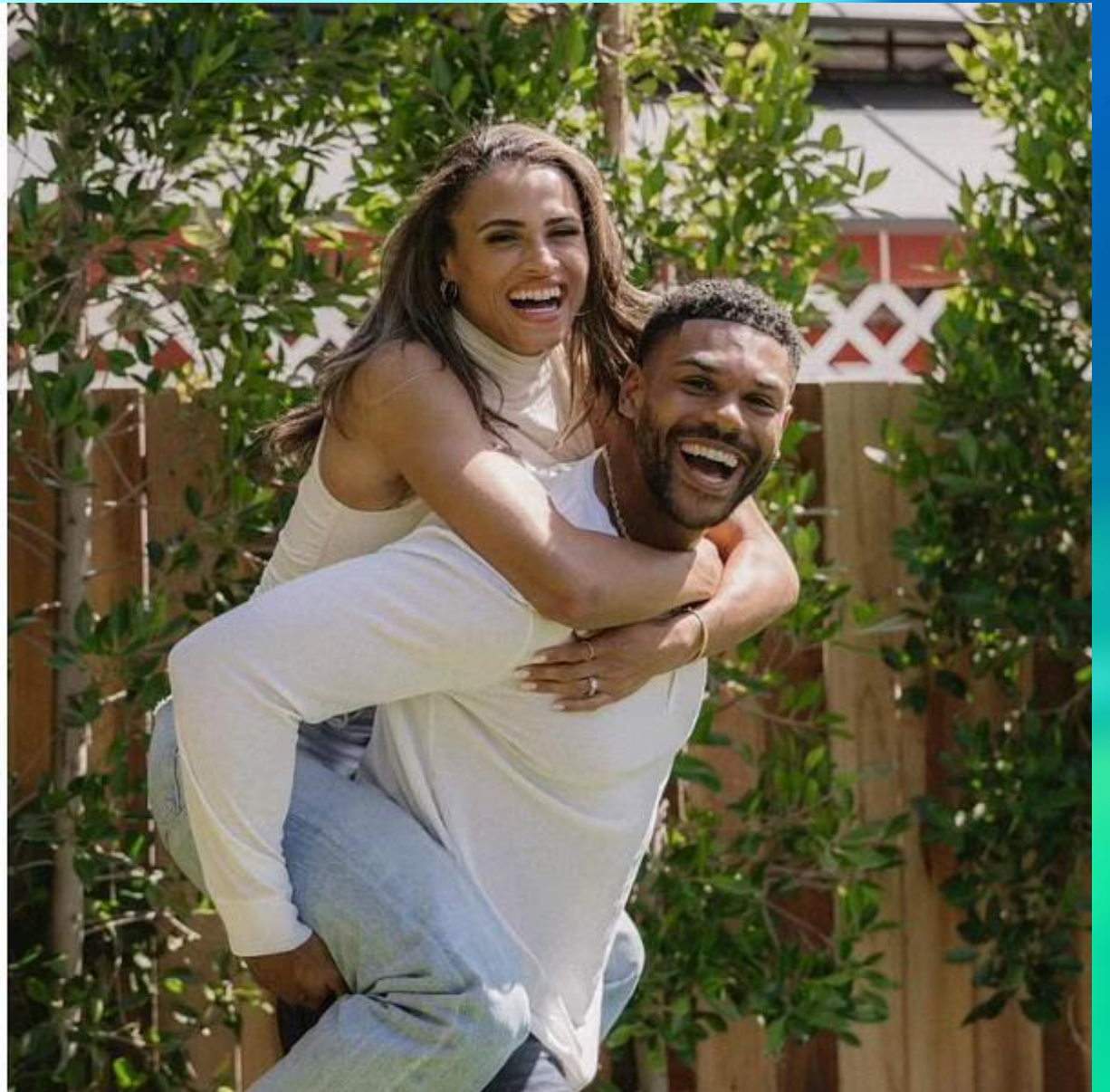








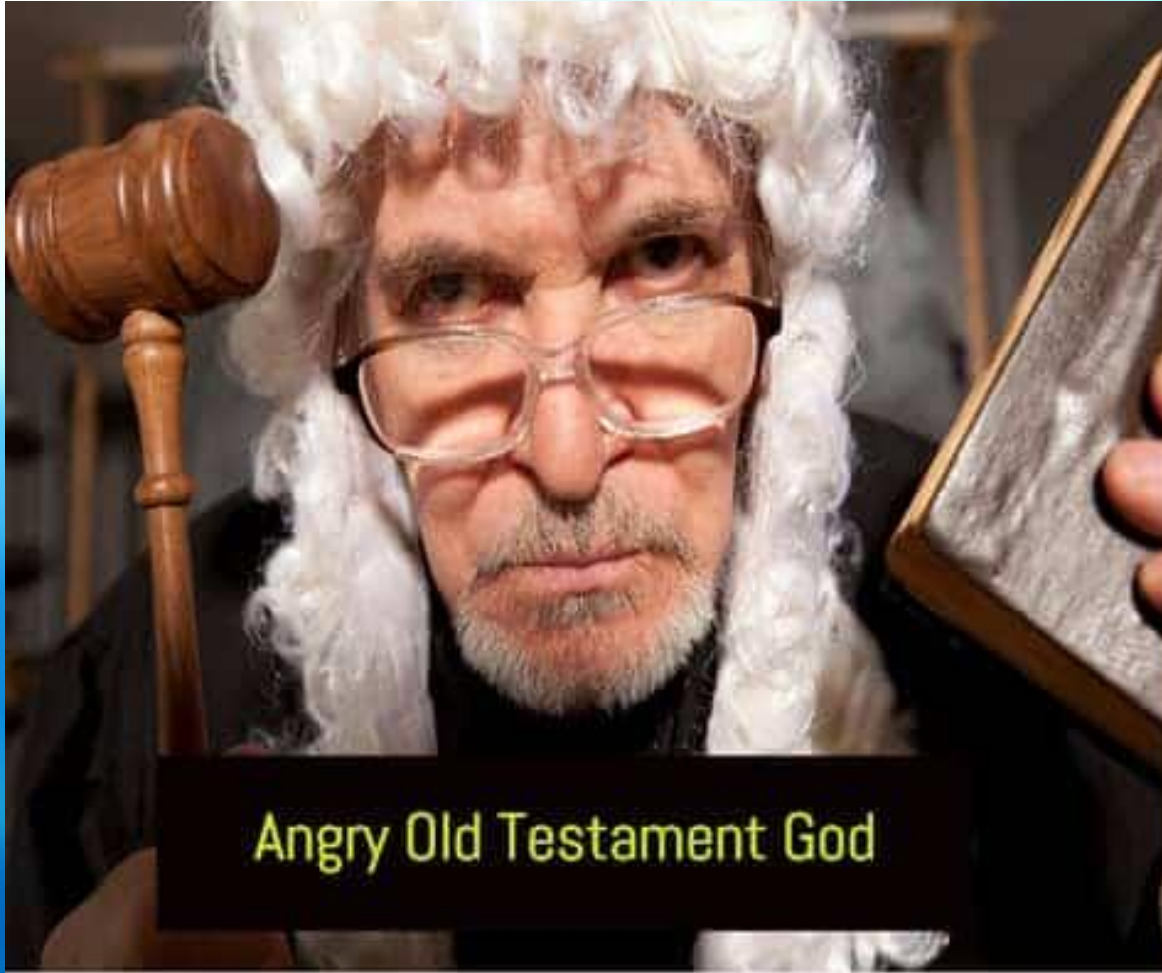




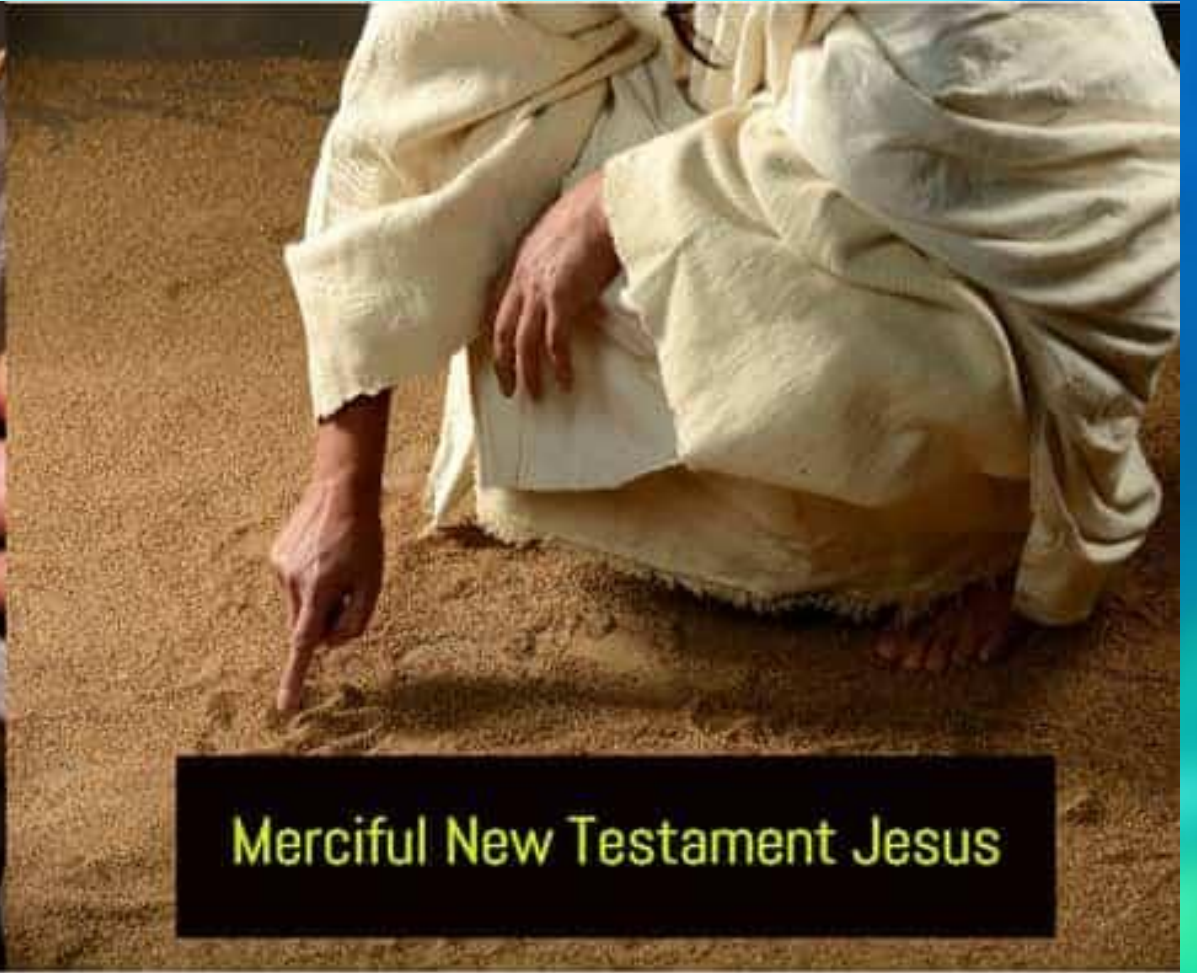








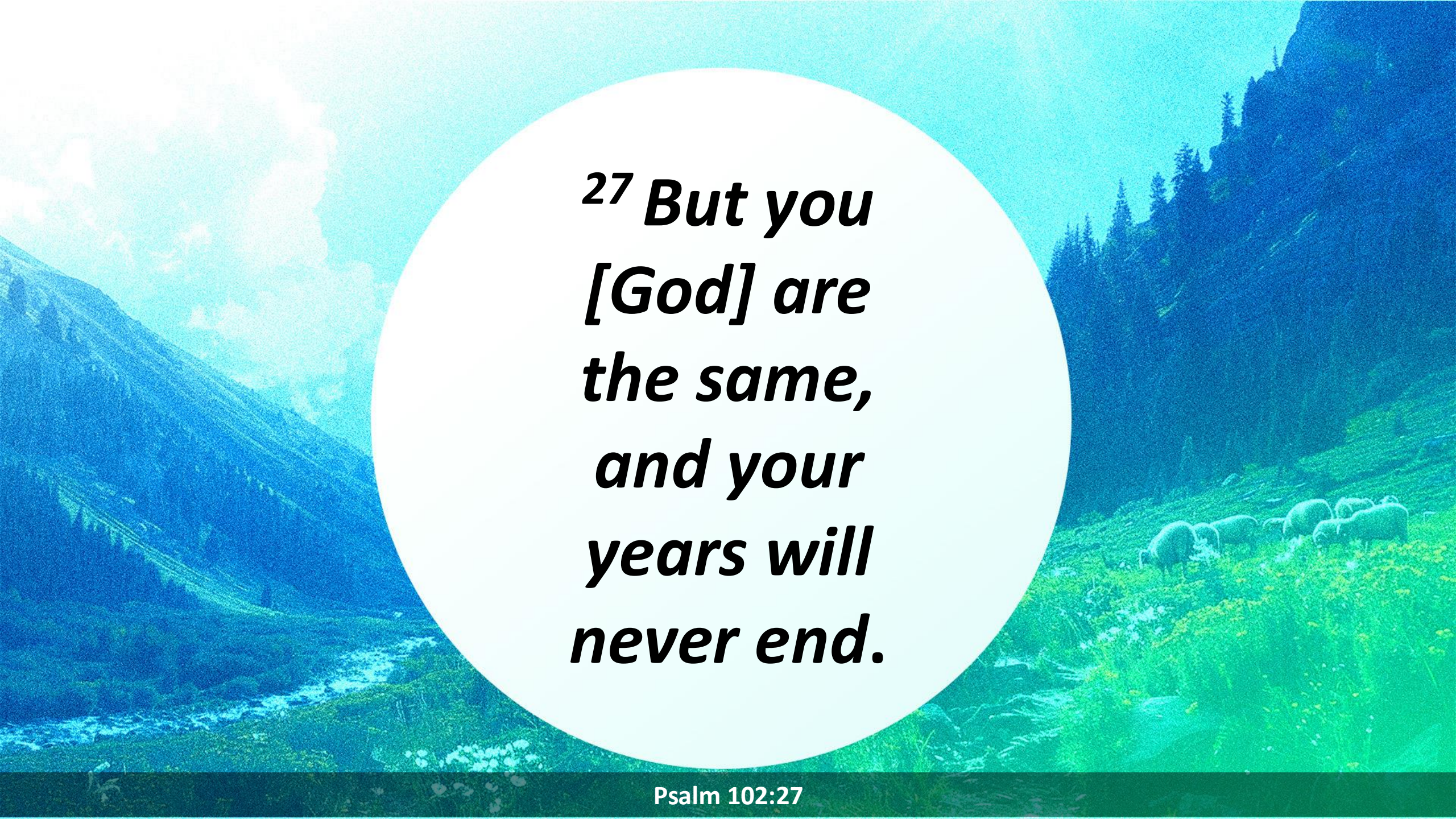
Angry Old Testament God



Merciful New Testament Jesus

Sure Am Glad We Have Jesus Instead of that Angry Old Guy  
in the Old Testament! Right? Well...



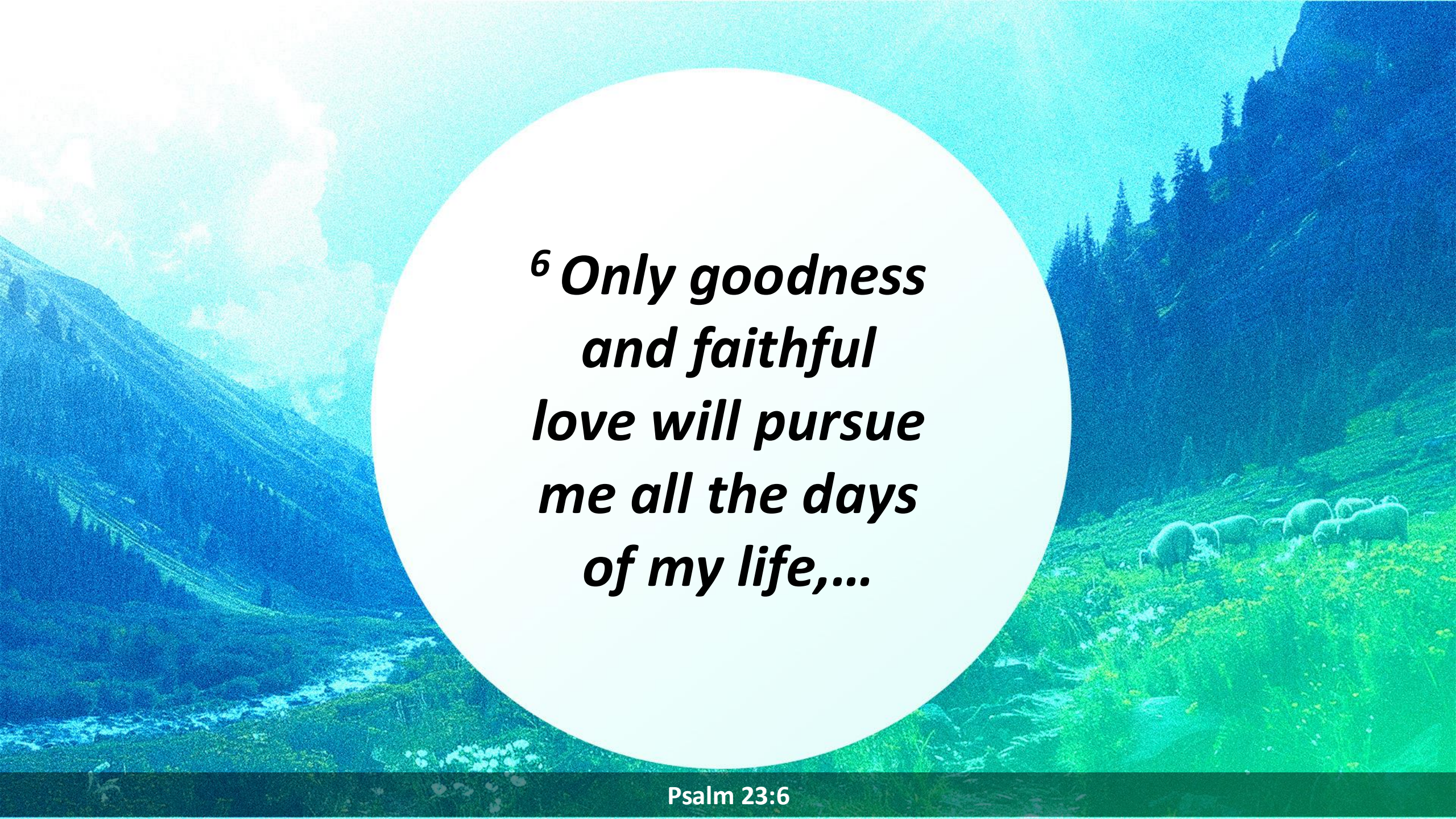
A scenic mountain landscape with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing, overlaid with a white circle containing text.

***27 But you  
[God] are  
the same,  
and your  
years will  
never end.***



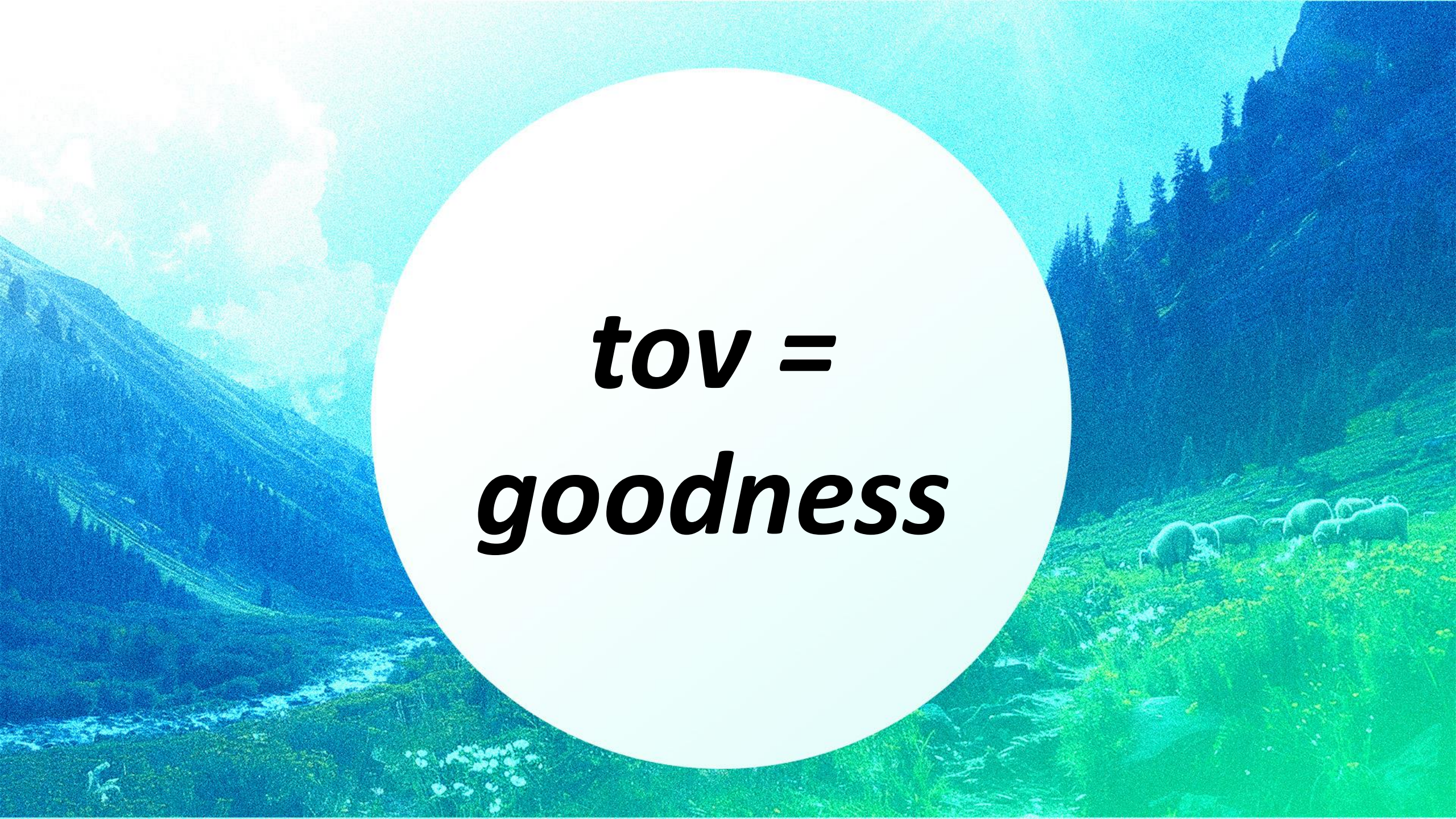
***89 LORD, your word is forever; it is firmly fixed in heaven.***



A scenic mountain landscape with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing, framed by a large white circle. The background shows a valley with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing, with mountains in the distance under a blue sky with clouds.

***<sup>6</sup> Only goodness  
and faithful  
love will pursue  
me all the days  
of my life,...***



A scenic mountain landscape with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing, overlaid with a large white circle containing text.

***toṽ =  
goodness***



***4 God saw that the light  
was good.***

***tov***

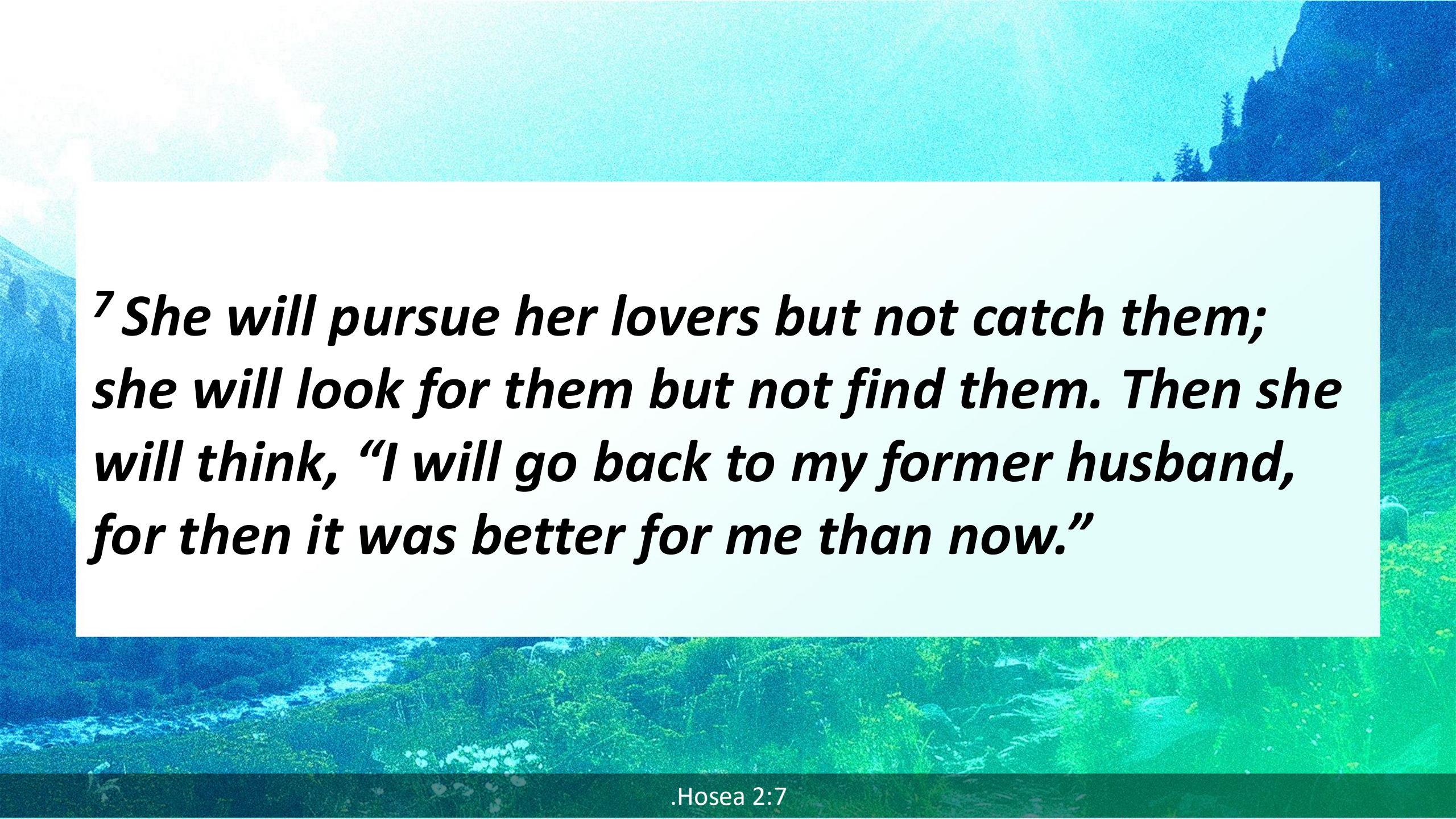




It is good!

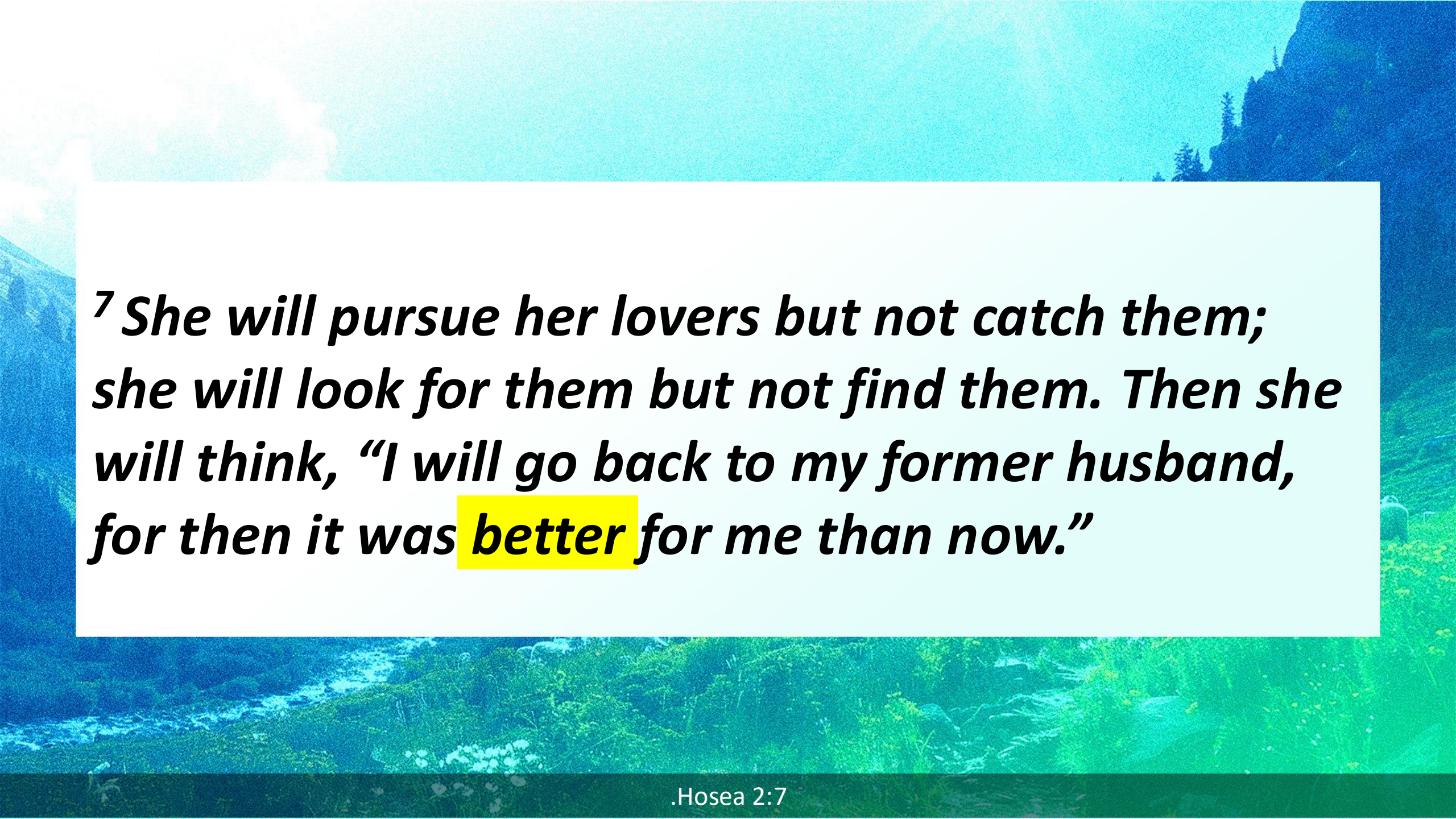
Jenni Mikeska





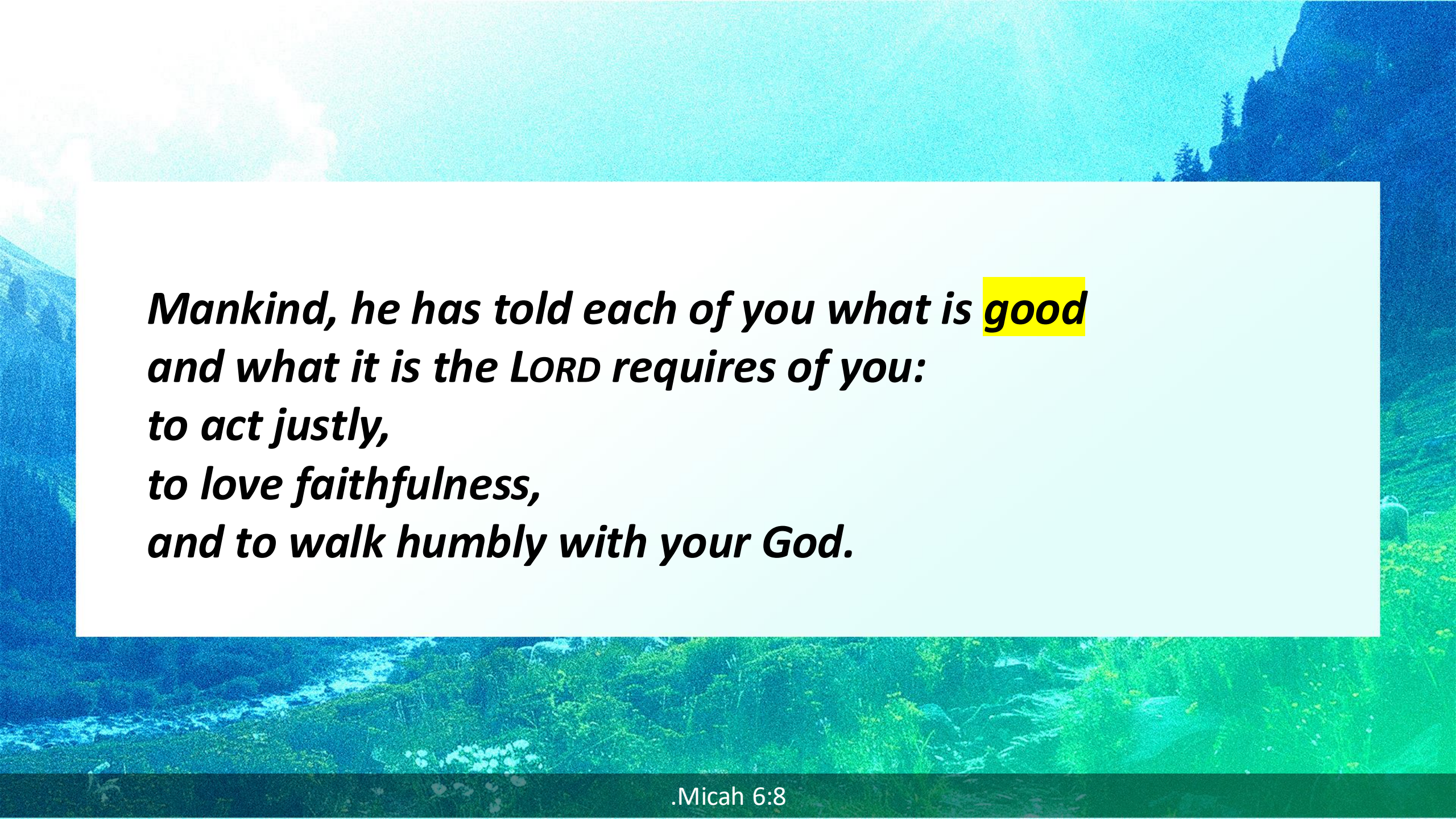
***7 She will pursue her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will think, “I will go back to my former husband, for then it was better for me than now.”***





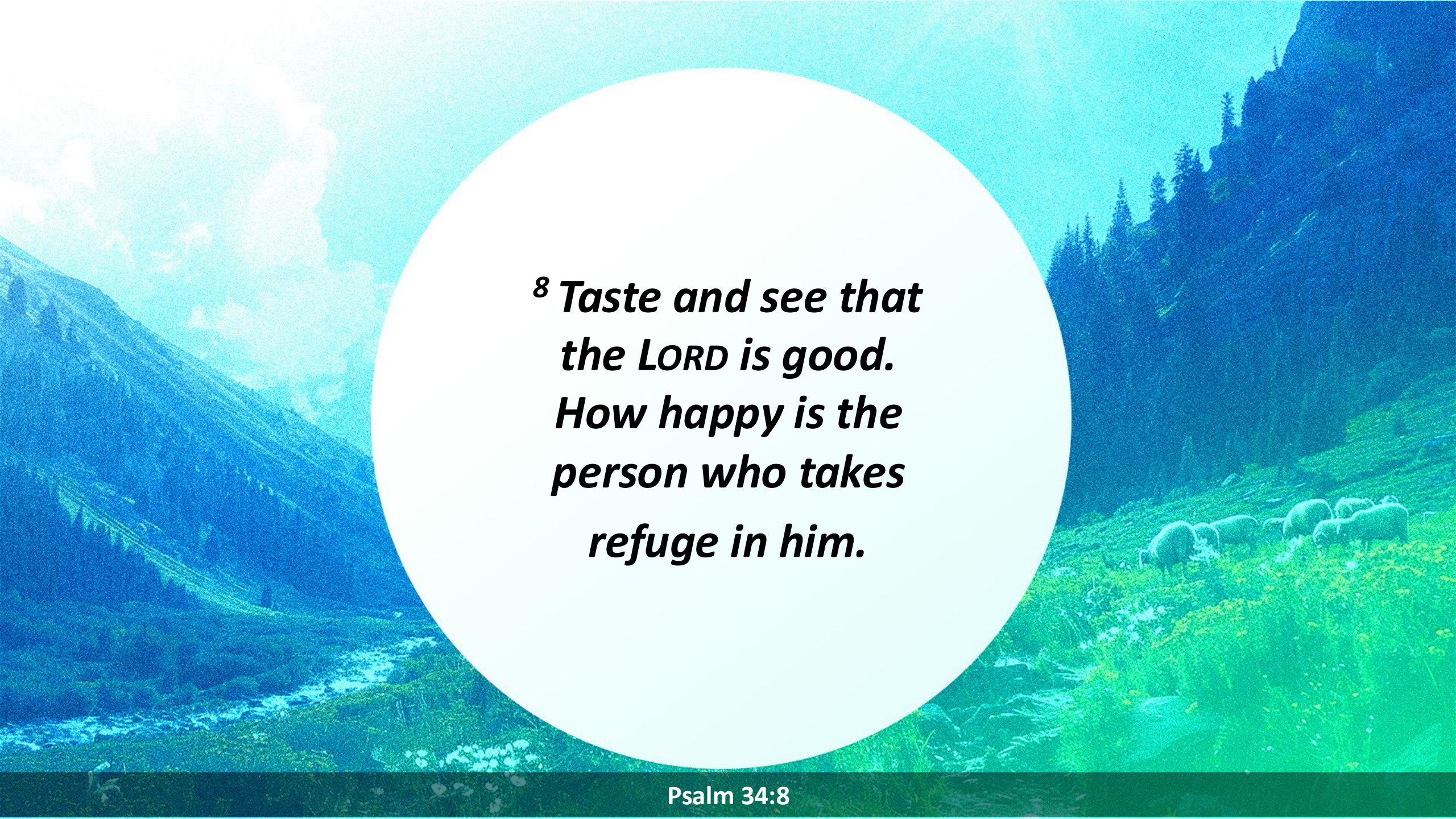
***7 She will pursue her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will think, “I will go back to my former husband, for then it was **better** for me than now.”***





***Mankind, he has told each of you what is good  
and what it is the LORD requires of you:  
to act justly,  
to love faithfulness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.***



A scenic mountain landscape with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing, framed by a large white circle. The background shows a valley with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing, with mountains in the distance under a blue sky with clouds.


***<sup>8</sup> Taste and see that  
the LORD is good.  
How happy is the  
person who takes  
refuge in him.***



A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing through a lush green valley. The foreground is filled with vibrant green grass and small white flowers. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

***<sup>9</sup> Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good.***



A scenic landscape with a blue sky, green mountains, and a field of yellow flowers. The text is centered in a white box.

***Too often we can be distracted from doing what is right because we are focused on what is wrong.***









***“It’s almost  
like those  
around me want  
me to stay sad.”***









***Just as the Israeli shepherd sealed with medicinal oil, so God seals His child. The maggots cannot get in to harm the sheep. Likewise, death cannot pierce the soul of the Christian.***



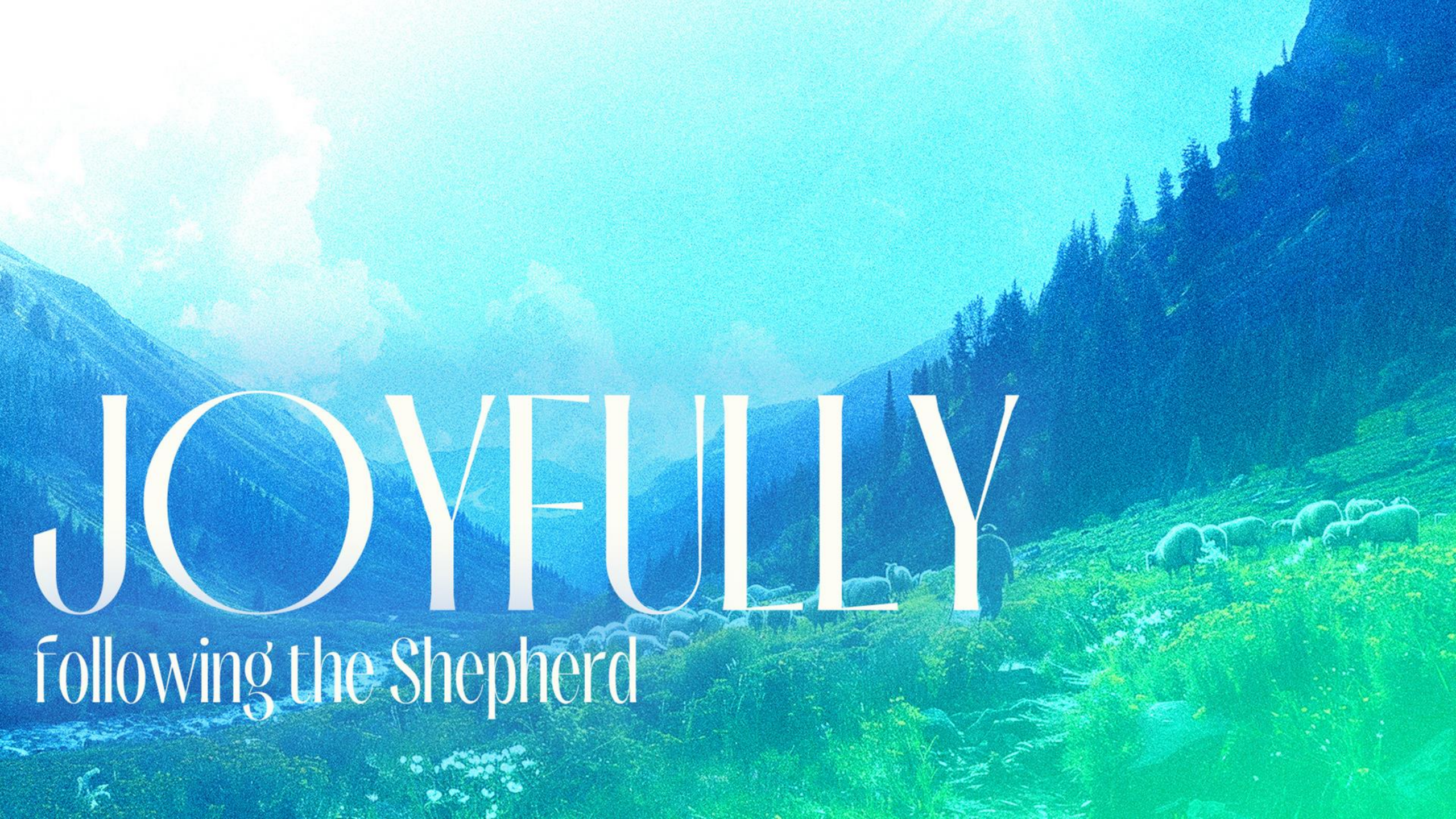
A scenic mountain landscape with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing, overlaid with a white circle containing text.

***hesed =  
faithful love***



***The most frequent noun for “love” in the Old Testament, אַהֲבָה (chesed), occurs over 250 times in the Hebrew Bible. The term does not have a clear equivalent translation. The KJV translates it as “lovingkindness,” while newer translations use “steadfast love” (ESV) or “loyal love” (LEB). Some translators use “mercy,” following the Septuagint translation (ἔλεος, eleos). In context, “loyal love” (אַהֲבָה, chesed) refers to two people or groups of people who have previously formed a relationship.***





# JOYFULLY

following the Shepherd



***19 I will take you to be my wife forever.  
I will take you to be my wife in righteousness,  
justice, love, and compassion.  
20 I will take you to be my wife in faithfulness,  
and you will know the LORD.***



***19 I will take you to be my wife forever.***

***I will take you to be my wife in righteousness,  
justice, **love**, and compassion.***

***20 I will take you to be my wife in faithfulness,  
and you will know the LORD.***

**hesed**



L. 2762

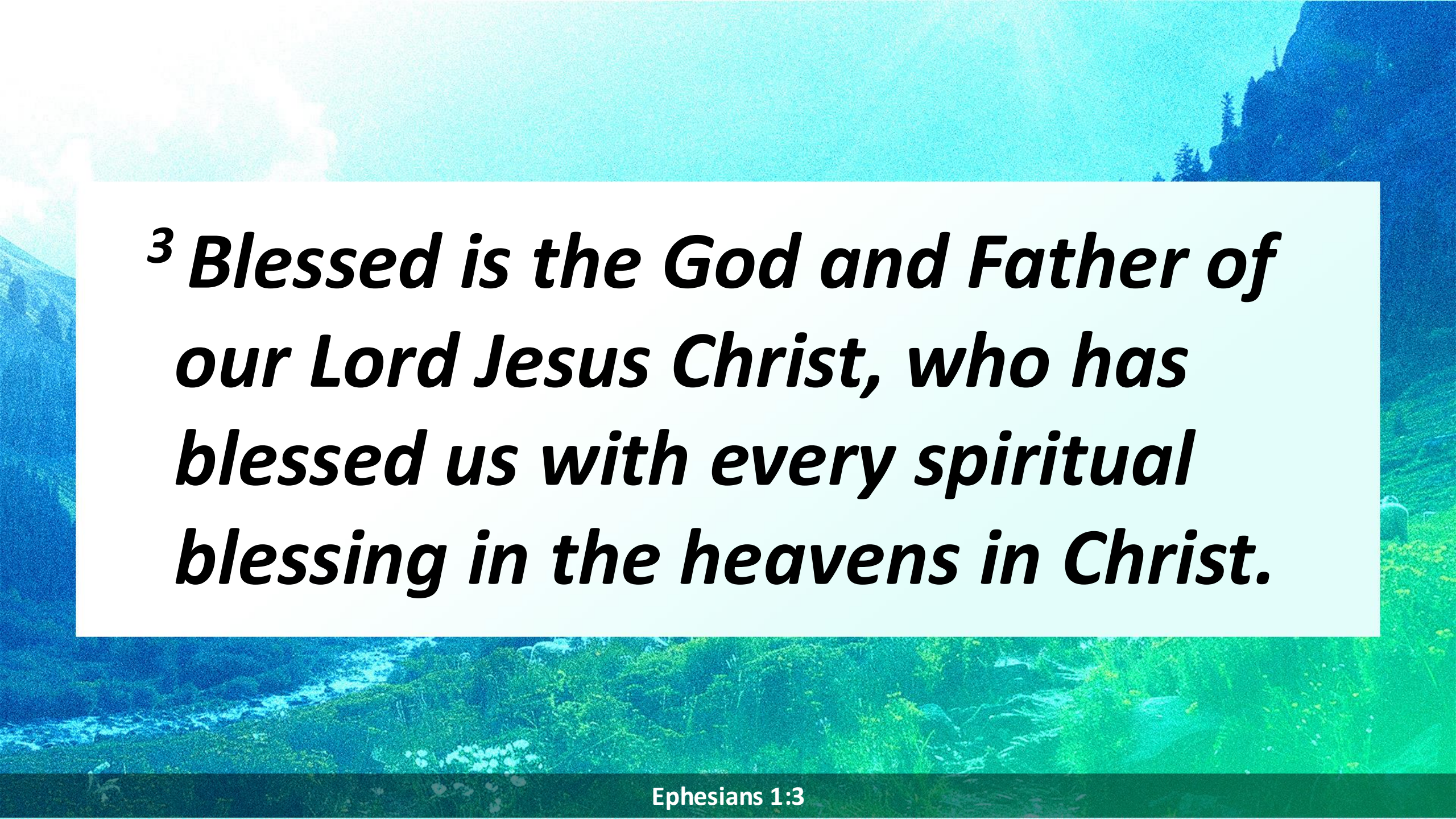
1817



GROUPES D'ANIMAUX VIVANS

(Mammifères, Oiseaux, Poissons, Reptiles, Insectes)





***<sup>3</sup> Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ.***



***The fact is that this grace is above all measure. Yet we have four measures for it-height, depth, breadth, length-and this mercy of God is so exceeding great that in each of these measures it baffles description. It is higher than our sin, though that be exceedingly heinous and proudly threatens the gates of heaven; it is higher than our thoughts, though our imagination sometimes takes a condor's flight. Oh, the height of divine mercy! It rises to the throne of the Eternal. As for the depths of grace, -the sea has immense depths, but the mercy of God is altogether unfathomable. Great sins sink into it and are lost; but grace is just as deep after it has swallowed up a worlds' sin as it was before.***



***There are inconceivably deep places in God's mercy where the blackest sins are lost. Out of these come the choicest pearls of grace. Oh the depths! As for the breadth of mercy, David says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." What greater breadth can be conceived? As for the length of it, it is from everlasting to everlasting. Can anybody tell me the length of that? My sins began less than fifty years ago; but the Lord's mercy began- ah, when did it begin? It was always with him, and his plans of mercy are from everlasting. There is a beginning to man's sin, but there is no beginning to pardoning love.***



***“pardoning love”***

***...riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding..***



A scenic landscape painting of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a lush green hillside is dotted with yellow wildflowers, and a small flock of sheep is grazing. A river flows through the valley floor. The background features steep, forested mountains under a bright, slightly cloudy sky. A large white circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing text.

***...his plans of  
mercy are from  
everlasting.***

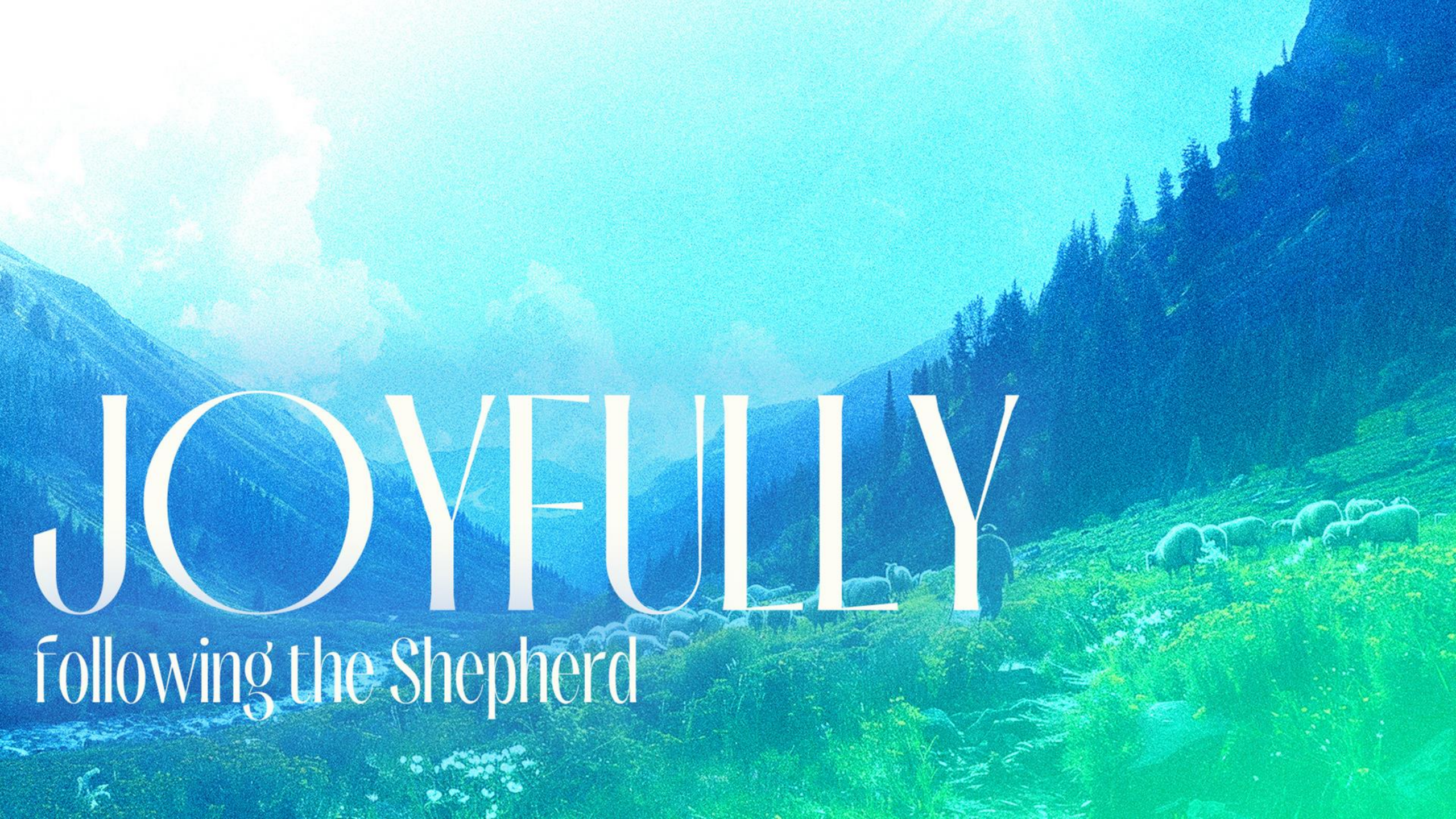












# JOYFULLY

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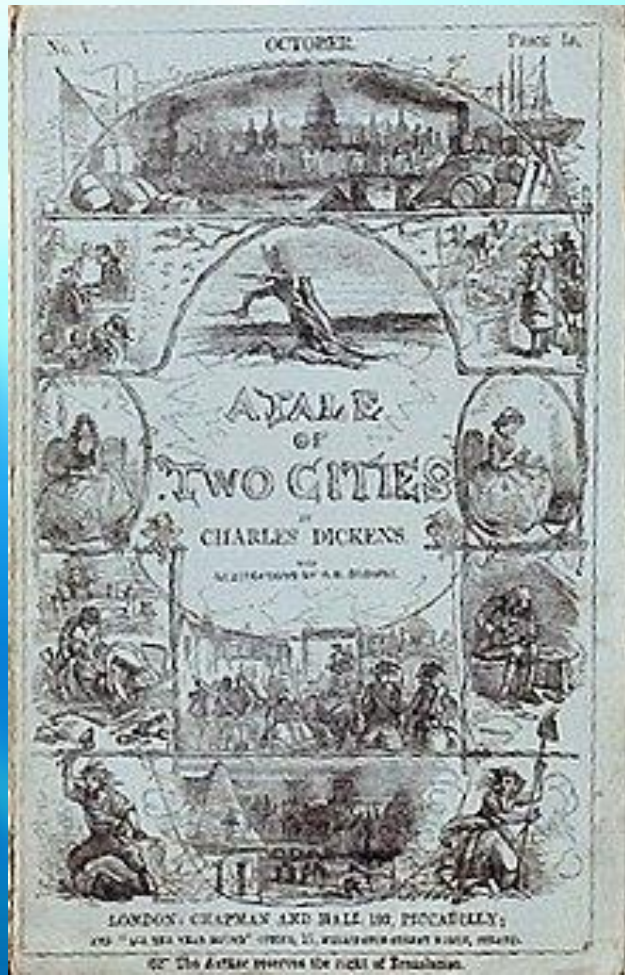


***I AM's benevolences will pursue me (yird<sup>e</sup>pûnî, cf. Hos. 2:7 [9]) as in a chase or hunt so as not to allow the beneficiary to escape I AM's unfailing desire and commitment to do him good. What a contrast is the pagan's conceptions of God with the Biblical. Many pagans imagine their gods as demonic, and/or hideous to look at—sometimes dragon-like in form—and demanding apotropaic sacrifices—even child sacrifice—to ward off their hostility. Instead of demanding human sacrifice the God of Israel sacrificed his own Son to satisfy his justice. No religion rivals God's revelation of himself as a God of sacrificial love.***

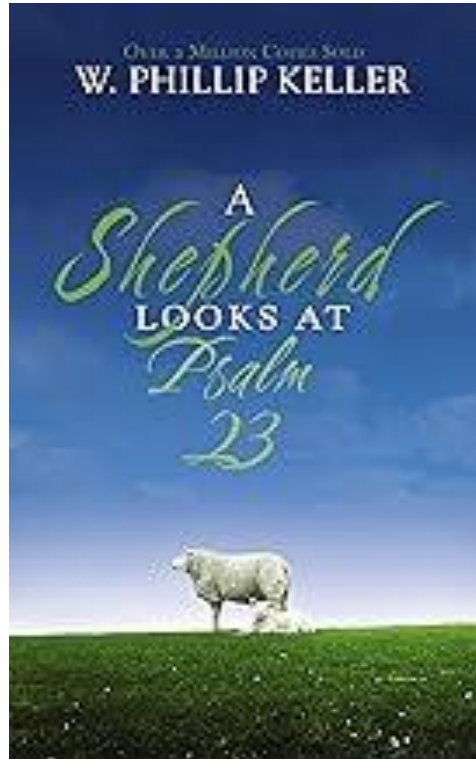


*David realized that the Lord's good loyal love (hesed) would go with him everywhere through all his life. God's blessings on His people remain with them no matter what their circumstance may be. (Cf. God's goodness in 27:13; 31:19; 69:16; 86:17; 109:21; 116:12; 142:7; 145:7.)*









***It is worth reiterating at his point that sheep can, under mismanagement, be the most destructive livestock. In short order they can ruin and ravage land almost beyond remedy. But in bold contrast they can, on the other hand, be the most beneficial of all livestock if properly managed.***



***Their manure is the best balanced of any produced by domestic stock. When scattered efficiently over the pastures it proves of enormous benefit to the soil. The sheep's habit of seeking the highest rise of ground on which to rest insures that the fertility from the rich lowland is redeposited on the less productive higher ground. No other livestock will consume as wide a variety of herbage. Sheep eat all sorts of weeds and other undesirable plants that might otherwise invade a field. For example, they love the buds and tender tips of Canada thistle, which, if not controlled, can quickly become a most noxious weed. In a few years a flock of well-managed sheep will clean up and restore a piece of ravaged land as no other creature can do.***



*For when David said earlier that in the shadow of death itself his eyes would be intently fixed on the providence of God, he showed well enough that he did not depend on things external; nor did he judge God's favor by his bodily senses. When all earthly aids failed, his faith remained, because it rested solely on the Word of God.*

*-John Calvin*



## **A psalm of thanksgiving.**

**<sup>1</sup> Let the whole earth shout triumphantly to the LORD!**

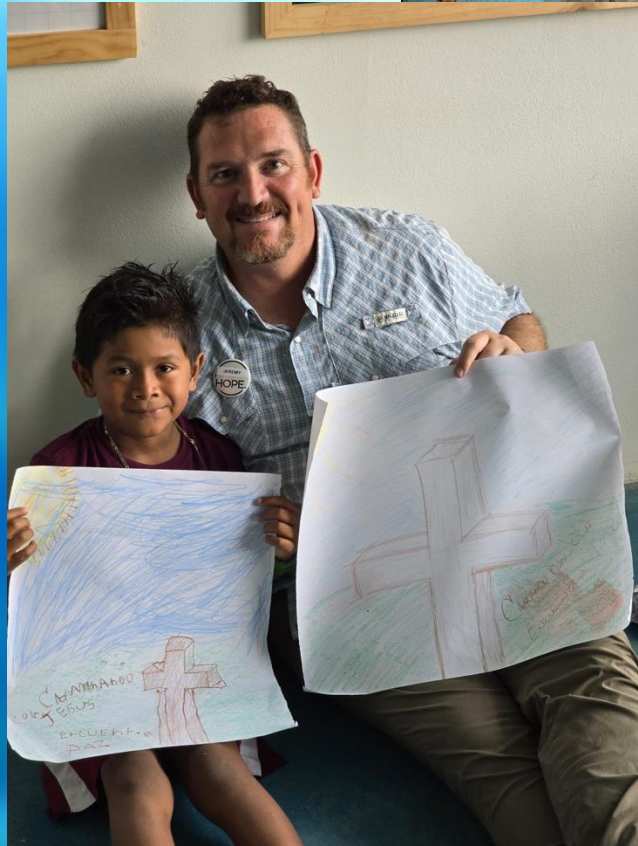
**<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.**

**<sup>3</sup> Acknowledge that the LORD is God.  
He made us, and we are his—  
his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

**<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him and bless his name.**

**<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good, and his faithful love endures forever;  
his faithfulness, through all generations.**







A scenic mountain landscape with a river, green fields, and sheep grazing, framed by a large white circle.

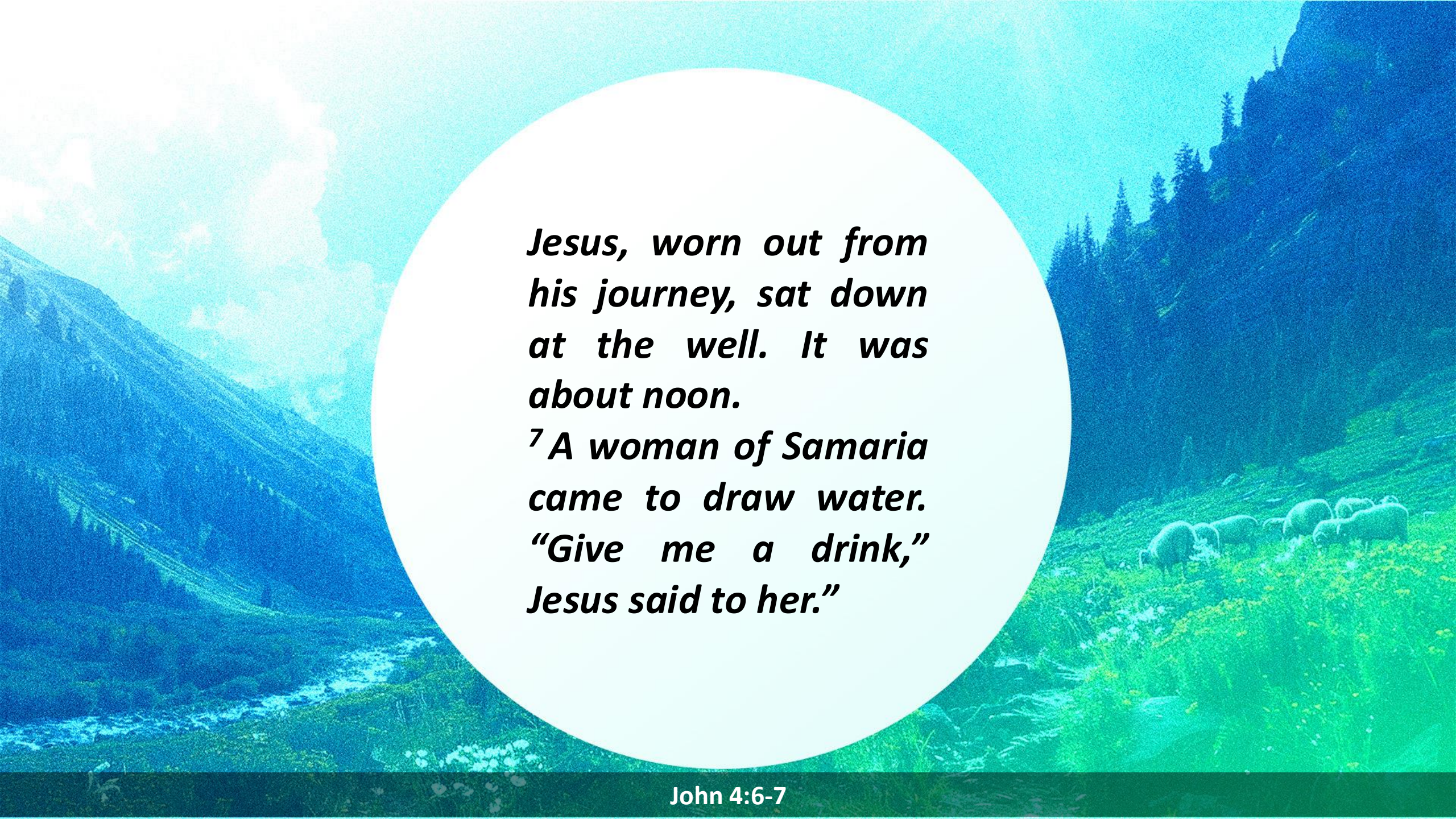
**hineni =**

**here I am**







A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing through a valley, surrounded by mountains and a forest. In the foreground, a grassy hillside is dotted with yellow flowers, and a flock of sheep is grazing. The sky is bright with scattered clouds.

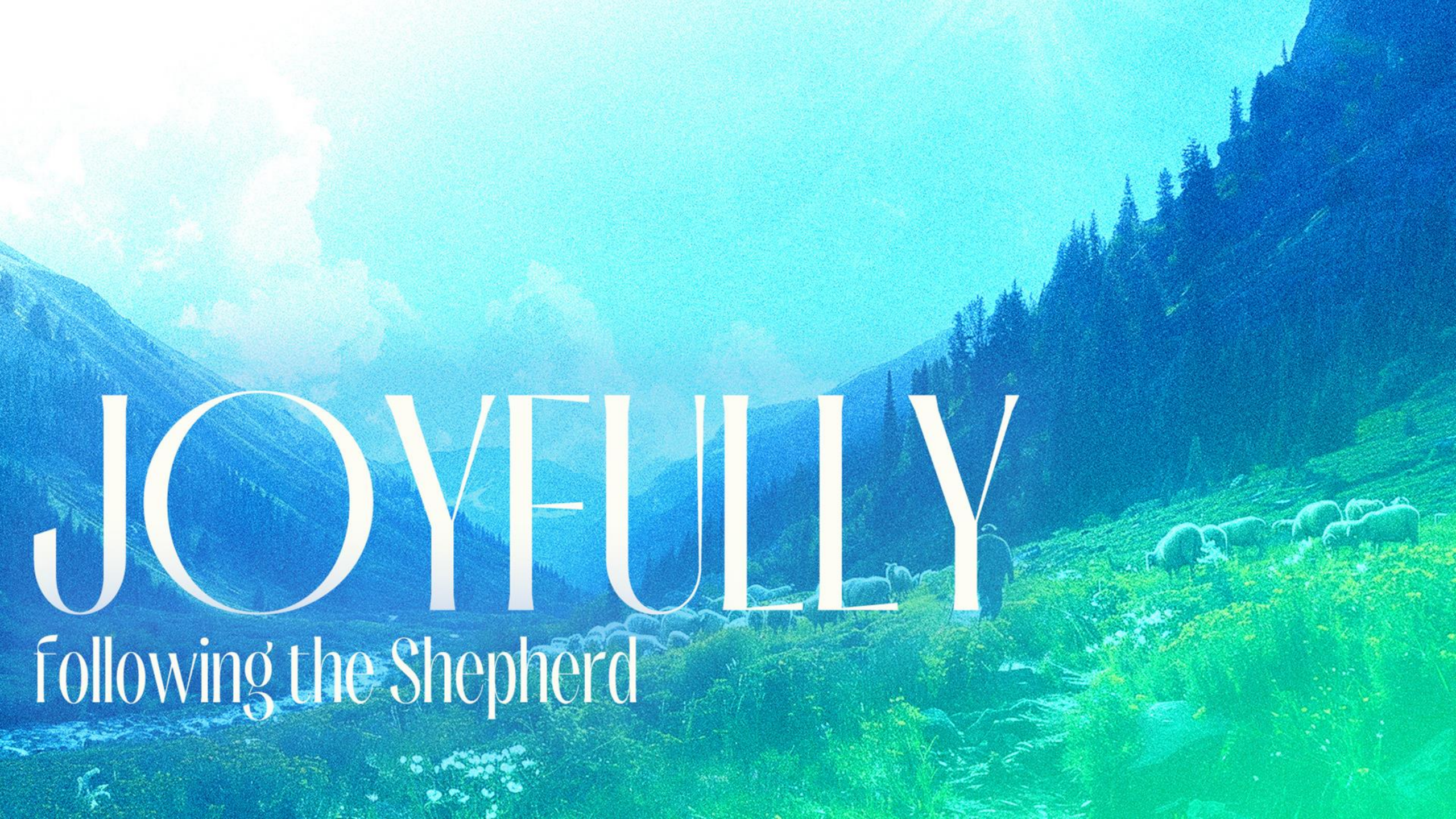
***Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon.***

***<sup>7</sup>A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give me a drink," Jesus said to her."***









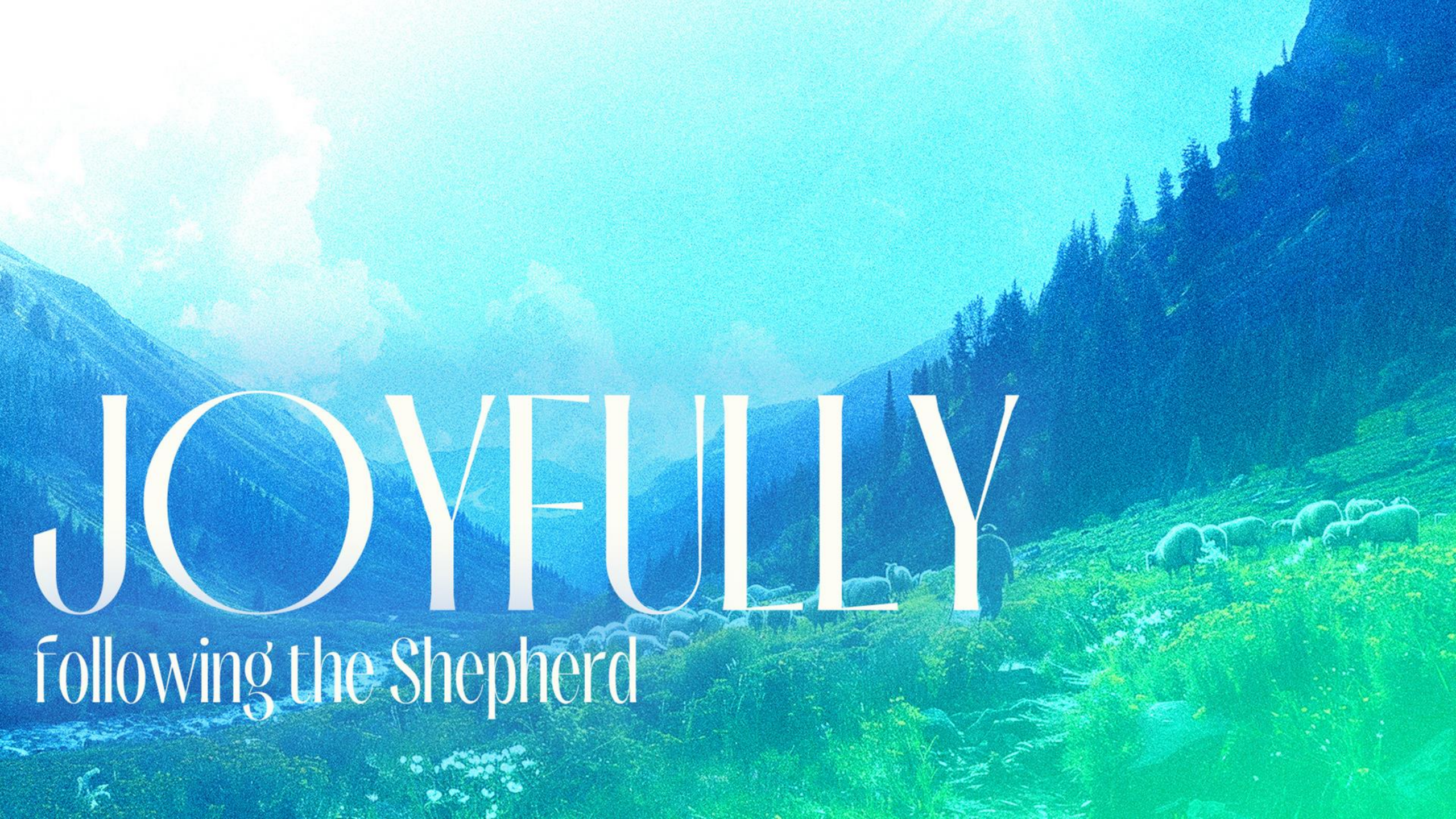
# JOYFULLY

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***<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.***





# JOYFULLY

following the Shepherd