



Serial stories at the movies...

“When we last saw our hero, things were bad”

17:5-7

“Go north, young man”
The place

17:8-15

The family

The situation

The faithful obedience

The provision

This demonstrates on Phoenician soil, where Baal is worshiped, that Yahweh has power over things in which Baal has failed. Since Baal worshipers explained the drought as a sign that Baal was dead, he could not help the widow and her son. In the absence of Baal who lies impotent in the Netherworld, Yahweh steps in to assist the widow and the orphan, and this is even done in the heartland of Baal, Phoenicia. – Frank Charles Fensham. “A Few Observations on the Polarisation between Yahweh and Baal in I Kings 17-19”

“But then the story takes a dark turn”

17:16-24

Humans seek to blame

Elijah cries out to the Lord

She now knows



FORERUNNER

ADVENT THROUGH ELIJAH'S EYES

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy Paramount

⁵ So he proceeded to do what the Lord commanded. Elijah left and lived at the Wadi Cherith where it enters the Jordan.

⁶ The ravens kept bringing him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening, and he would drink from the wadi. ⁷ After a while, the wadi dried up because there had been no rain in the land.

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1 Kings 17 CSB

“He proceeded to do what the Lord commanded.” That is a powerful statement worthy of reminder. – Greg Sapaugh



courtesy adobe

**My daughter Erin
needs to stop
reflexively whining
anytime life is hard
and start actively
obeying in faith.**



***Eeeerin, stop
whiiiining!***



**Elijah trusted
God to provide &
pointed to Jesus.**

**Elijah will return
to point hearts
toward Jesus.**

us now

**Jesus trusted the Father
& provided salvation.**

**Jesus will return to
provide perfection.**

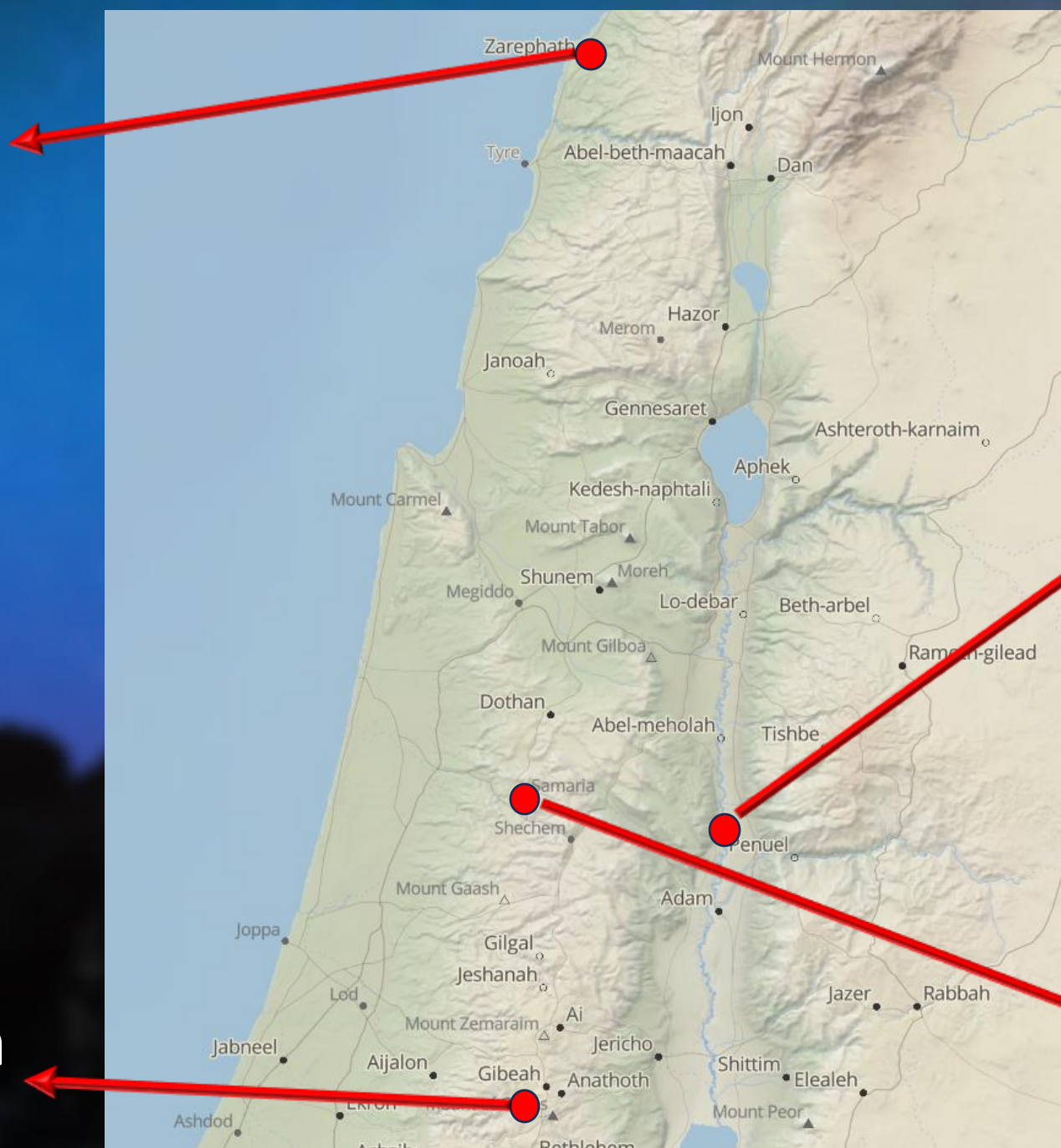
⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to him: ⁹ “Get up, go to Zarephath that belongs to Sidon and stay there. Look, I have commanded a woman who is a widow to provide for you there.” ¹⁰ So Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. When he arrived at the city gate, there was a widow gathering wood. Elijah called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup and let me drink.” ¹¹ As she went to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand.”

¹² But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I don’t have anything baked—only a handful of flour in the jar and a bit of oil in the jug. Just now, I am gathering a couple of sticks in order to go prepare

it for myself and my son so we can eat it and die.” ¹³ Then Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid; go and do as you have said. But first make me a small loaf from it and bring it out to me. Afterward, you may make some for yourself and your son, ¹⁴ for this is what the Lord God of Israel says, ‘The flour jar will not become empty and the oil jug will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the surface of the land.’”

¹⁵ So she proceeded to do according to the word of Elijah. Then the woman, Elijah, and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The flour jar did not become empty, and the oil jug did not run dry, according to the word of the Lord he had spoken through Elijah.

**Zarephath
(Sidon)**



**Likely spot
where Wadi
Cherith enters
Jordan R.**

**Jerusalem
(Judah)**

**Samaria
(Israel)**



Found in Samaria



Found in Zarephath





courtesy Pritchard/Princeton University Press



courtesy Pritchard/Princeton Press

**Gross! Pastor
Wayne, why did
they do that?**



courtesy Don LaFontaine



Baal dies (again)
ca. 1100 BC

Now Baal will provide his enriching rain,
provide a rich watering in a downpour;
and he will sound his voice in the clouds,
flash his lightning to the earth.

– Ugaritic *Baal*, tablet 4, column 5

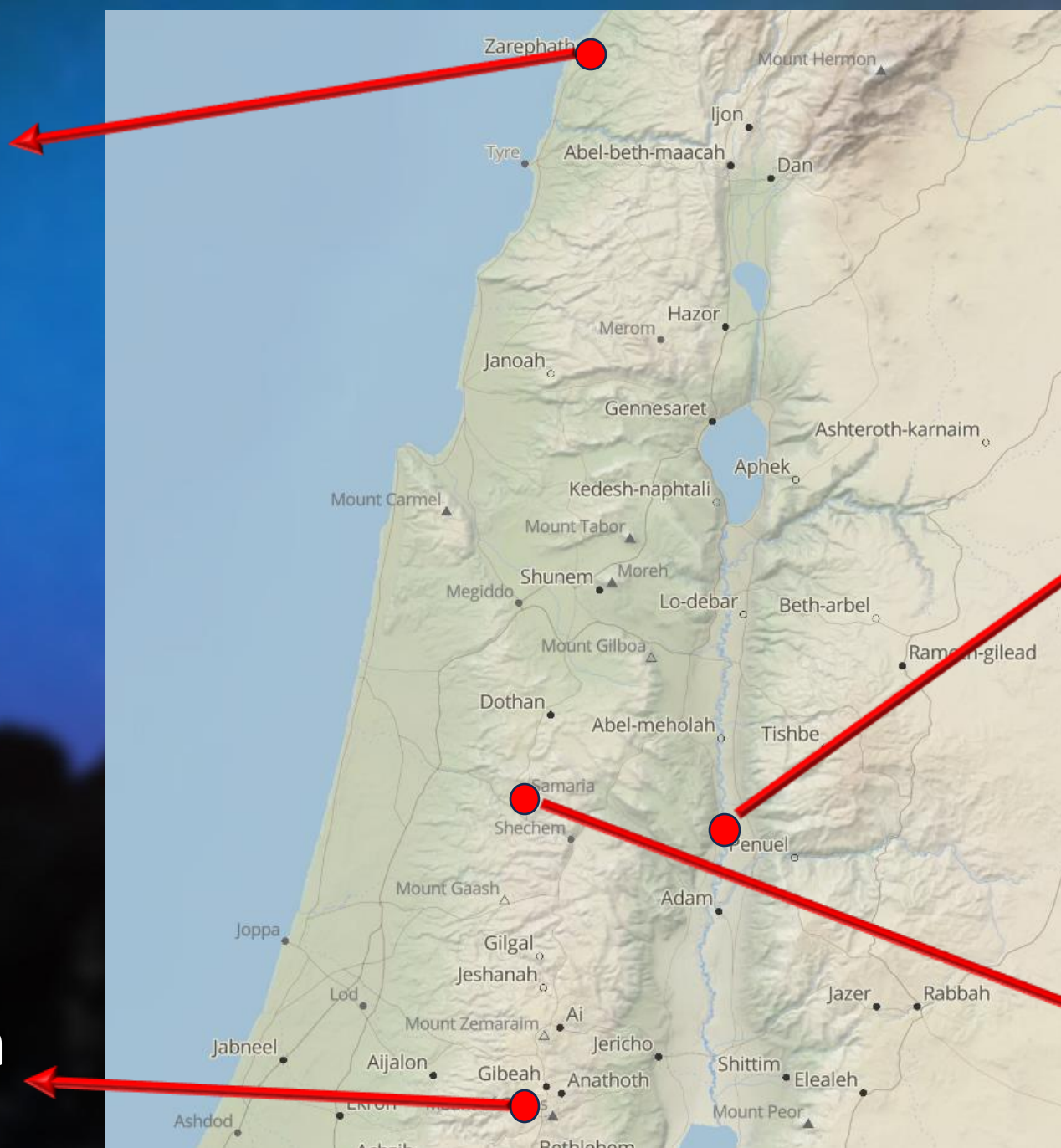
Asherah stitching Baal
ca. 1800 BC





But even when she was fully funded, Asherah/Astarte didn't always have the necessary life force to bring Baal back. So, the priests of Baal would utter magic incantations to turn Phoenician girls into the living embodiment of Asherah. By copulating, the men would "empower" Asherah to get her brother back so the earth could have rain. It was a gamble that didn't always work, so the temple was open most days.

**Zarephath
(Sidon)**



**Likely spot
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In Zarephath & greater Sidon:

- **god is dead so sex becomes the only way to enjoy life.**
- **human effort + gambling are key to making it rain.**

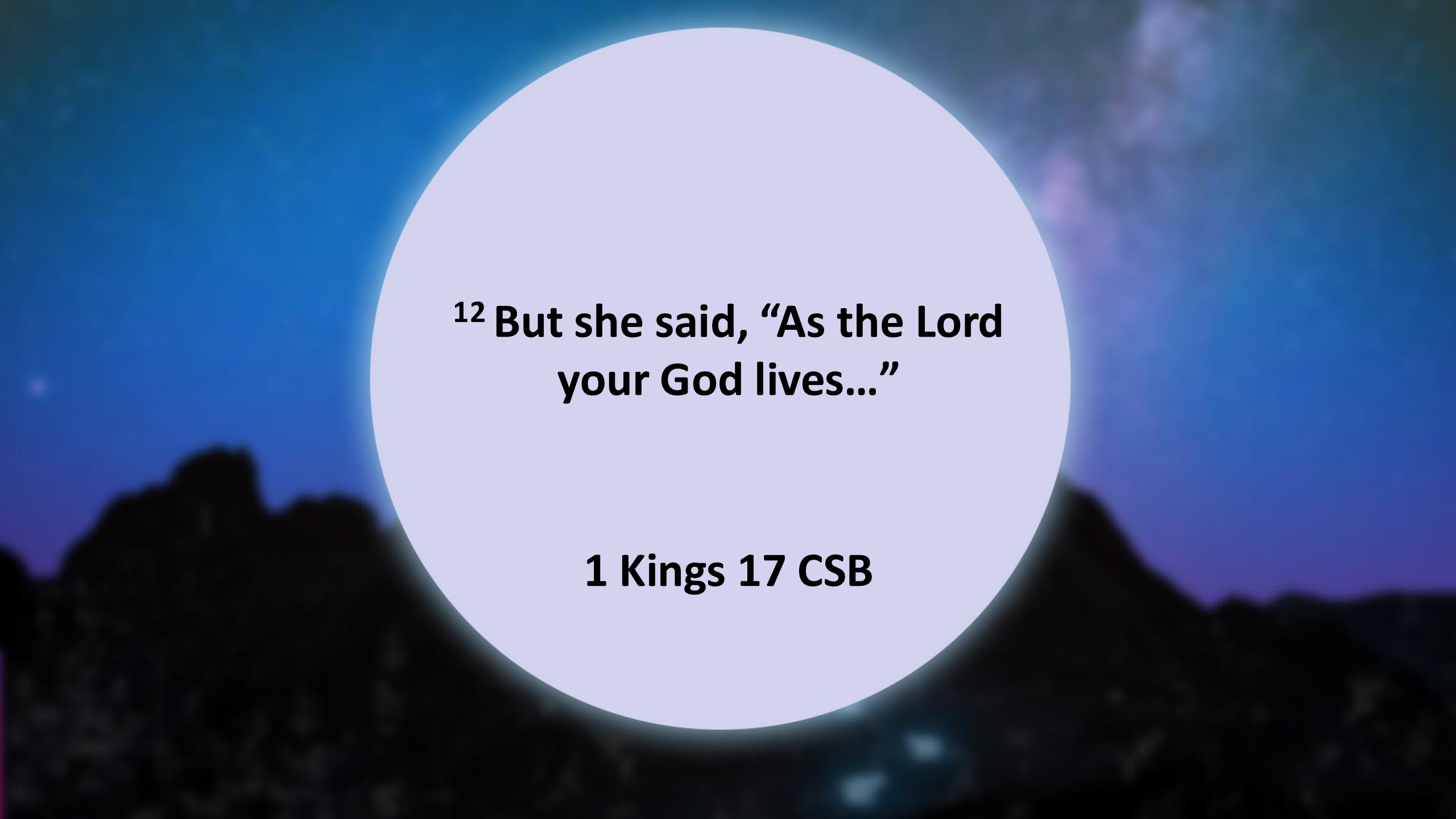
In our times, gambling + human effort puts us in position to trust our own wisdom, plans, or “luck,” instead of God’s provision. This is especially seen in stock trading and sports gambling where we still call big winners “rainmakers.”



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Hebrew: צִוִּיתִי siwwiti = a command which implies relationship that leads to action that is completed over time and outside time




**¹² But she said, “As the Lord
your God lives...”**

1 Kings 17 CSB

²⁴ He also said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But I say to you, there were certainly many widows in Israel in Elijah’s days, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months while a great famine came over all the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them except a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

Luke 4 CSB

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1 Kings 17 CSB



courtesy Beirut Museum

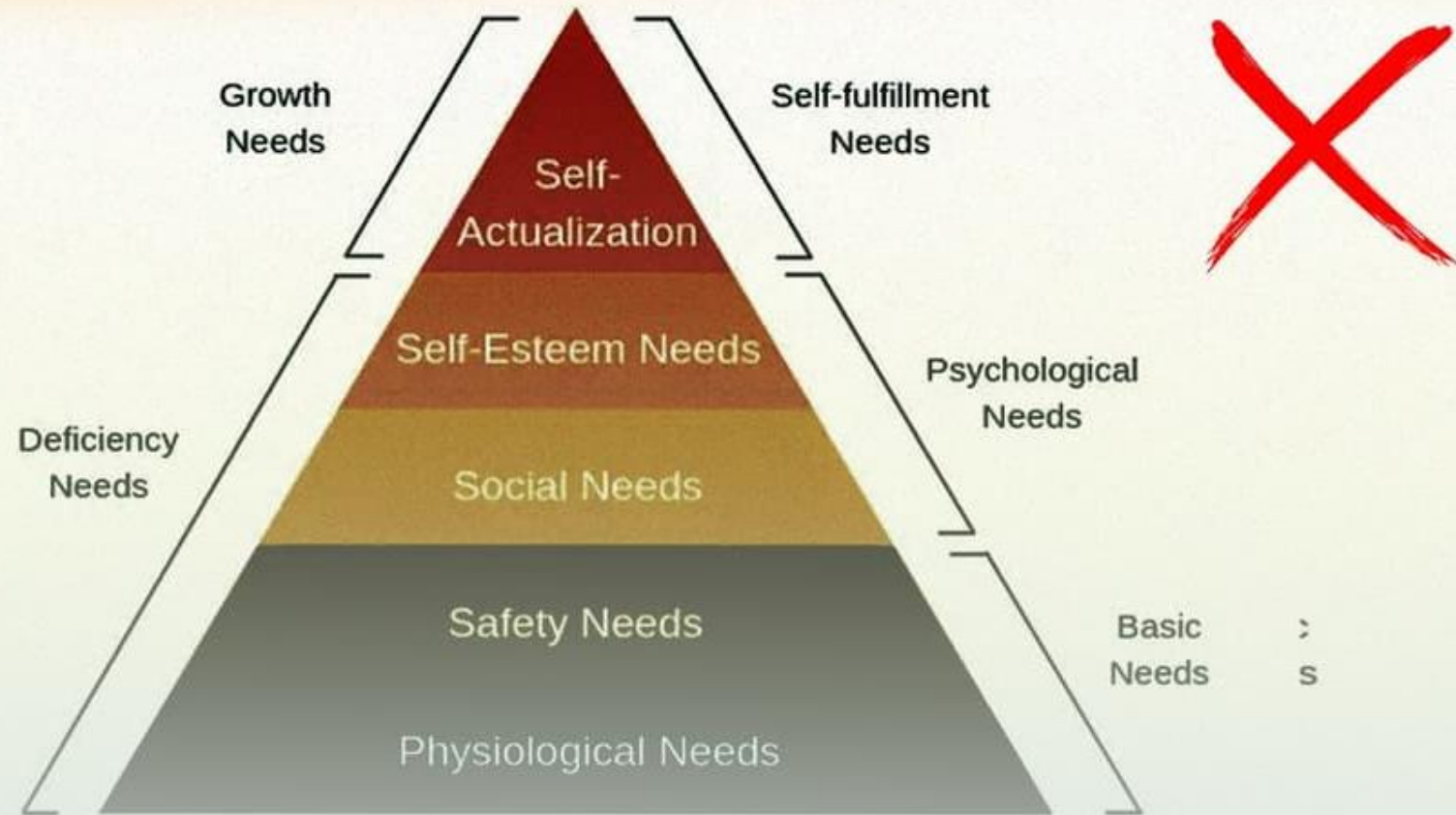
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1 Kings 17 CSB

Maslow's hierarchy of needs



IS FLAWED

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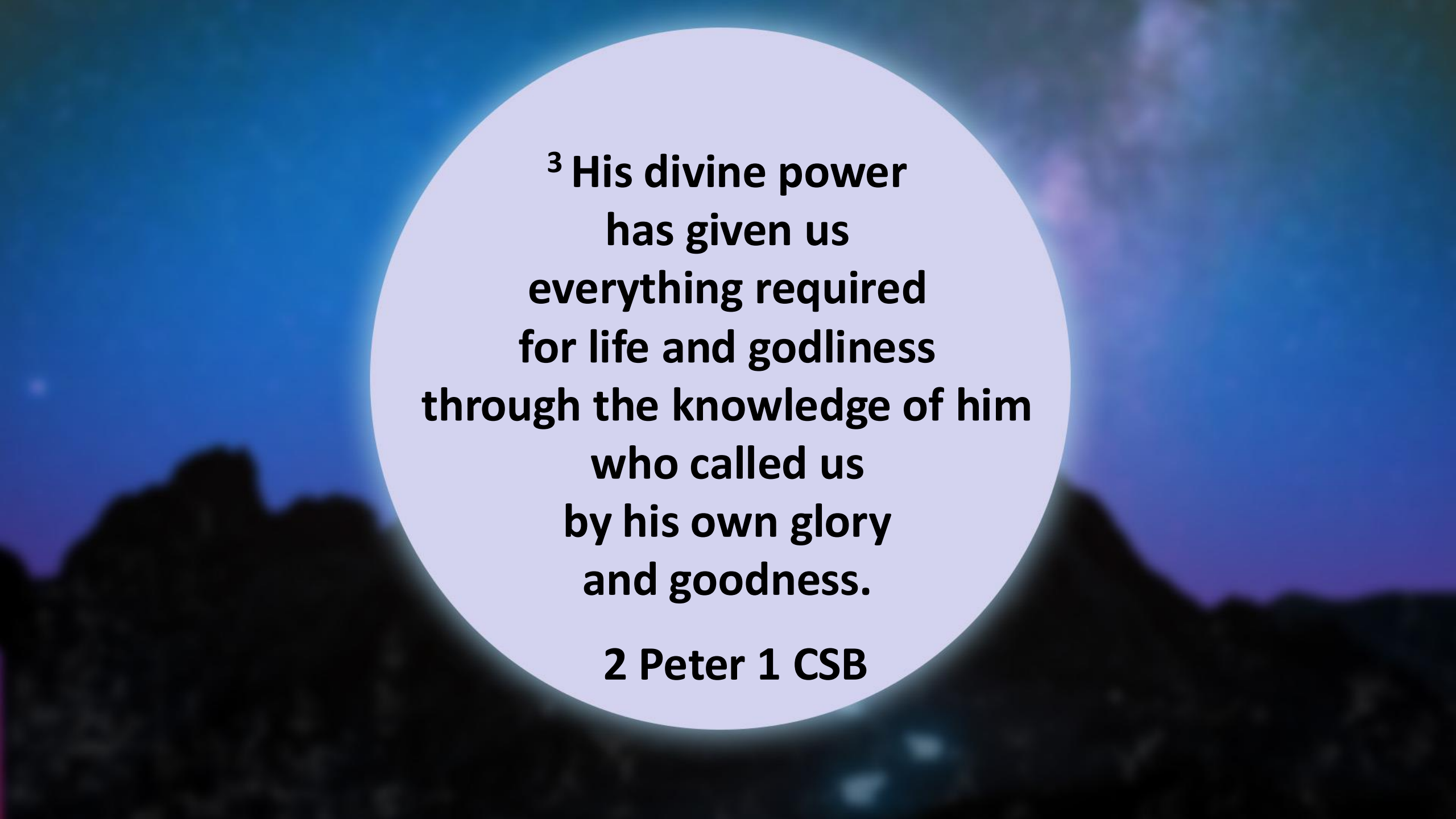
¹⁵ So she proceeded to do according to the word of Elijah.

⁵ So he proceeded to do what the Lord commanded.

1 Kings 17 CSB

“He [and she] proceeded to do what the Lord commanded.”

**That is a powerful statement worthy of reminder. – Greg
Sapaugh**



**³ His divine power
has given us
everything required
for life and godliness
through the knowledge of him
who called us
by his own glory
and goodness.**

2 Peter 1 CSB

³ His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, ⁶ knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, ⁷ godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

2 Peter 1 CSB

³ His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, ⁶ knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, ⁷ godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

“For this very reason” – because our only true need has been met in Jesus – we should proceed to do what God commands.

**God says debt is an anchor, an enslavement to avoid when possible.
(Proverbs 22)**

buying presents on credit

working to eliminate debt

(How can one know? Check if your debt is affordable, long-term, and tangible.)

God says it is a blessing to give before Him. (2 Corinthians 8-9)

hoard for self/estate

give from abundance to church

(How can one know? Ask self if giving is joyful, regular, planned.)

God says to trust Him. (Psalm 62)

continually find things to fear

actively cast my cares on Him

(How can one know? Check your social media & news intake.)

God says to be winsome in speech. (Ephesians 4)

curse, complain, whine

edify, encourage, witness

(How can one know? Ask your family & friends.)

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1 Kings 17 CSB

This demonstrates on Phoenician soil, where Baal is worshiped, that Yahweh has power over things in which Baal has failed. Since Baal worshipers explained the drought as a sign that Baal was dead, he could not help the widow and her son. In the absence of Baal who lies impotent in the Netherworld, Yahweh steps in to assist the widow and the orphan, and this is even done in the heartland of Baal, Phoenicia.

– Frank Charles Fensham, “A Few Observations on the Polarisation between Yahweh and Baal in I Kings 17–19”



In a world before the Bible was completed, that kind of miracle occurred. Surely not anymore.





STORYTIME



(Left to right: Betsie ten Boom, Nollie ten Boom, Corrie ten Boom c. 1905.)

Another strange thing was happening. The Davitamon bottle was continuing to produce drops. It scarcely seemed possible, so small a bottle, so many doses a day. Now, in addition to Betsie, a dozen others on our pier were taking it.

My instinct was always to hoard it-Betsie was growing so very weak! But others were ill as well. It was hard to say no to eyes that burned with fever, hands that shook with chill. I tried to save it for the very weakest-but even these soon numbered fifteen, twenty, twenty-five...And still, every time I tilted the little bottle, a drop appeared at the top of the glass stopper. It just couldn't be! I held it up to the light, trying to see how much was left, but the dark brown glass was too thick to see through.

"There was a woman in the Bible," Betsie said, "whose oil jar was never empty." She turned to it in the Book of Kings, the story of the poor widow of Zarephath who gave Elijah a room in her home: "The jar of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of Jehovah which he spoke by Elijah."

Well-but-wonderful things happened all through the Bible. It was one thing to believe that such things were possible thousands of years ago, another to have it happen now, to us, this very day. And yet it happened, this day, and the next, and the next, until an awed little group of spectators stood around watching the drops fall onto the daily rations of bread.



***Dutch women forced to
labor in Ravensbrück.***

Mien was a pretty young Dutch woman we had met in Vught. She was assigned to the hospital and often managed to bring to Barracks 28 some stolen treasure from the staff room-a sheet of newspaper to stuff in a broken window, a slice of bread left untouched on a nurse's plate. Now we peered into the small cloth sack she carried.

"Vitamins!" I cried..."Yes!" she hissed back. "There were several huge jars. I emptied each just the same amount."

We gulped the thin turnip water, marveling at our sudden riches. Back at the bunk I took the bottle from the straw. "We'll finish the drops first [before taking the vitamins]" I decided.

But that night, no matter how long I held it upside down, or how hard I shook it, not another drop appeared. – *The Hiding Place*,
Corrie ten Boom



17 After this, the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. His illness got worse until he stopped breathing.

18 She said to Elijah, “Man of God, what do you have against me? Have you come to call attention to my iniquity so that my son is put to death?”

19 But Elijah said to her, “Give me your son.” So he took him from her arms, brought him up to the upstairs room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord and said, “Lord my God, have you also brought tragedy on the widow I am staying with by killing her son?”

²¹ Then he stretched himself out over the boy three times. He cried out to the Lord and said, “Lord my God, please let this boy’s life come into him again!”

²² So the Lord listened to Elijah, and the boy’s life came into him again, and he lived. ²³ Then Elijah took the boy, brought him down from the upstairs room into the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, “Look, your son is alive.”

²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know you are a man of God and the Lord’s word from your mouth is true.”

1 Kings 17 CSB



Tragende
Will Lamert
1959

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1 Kings 17 CSB

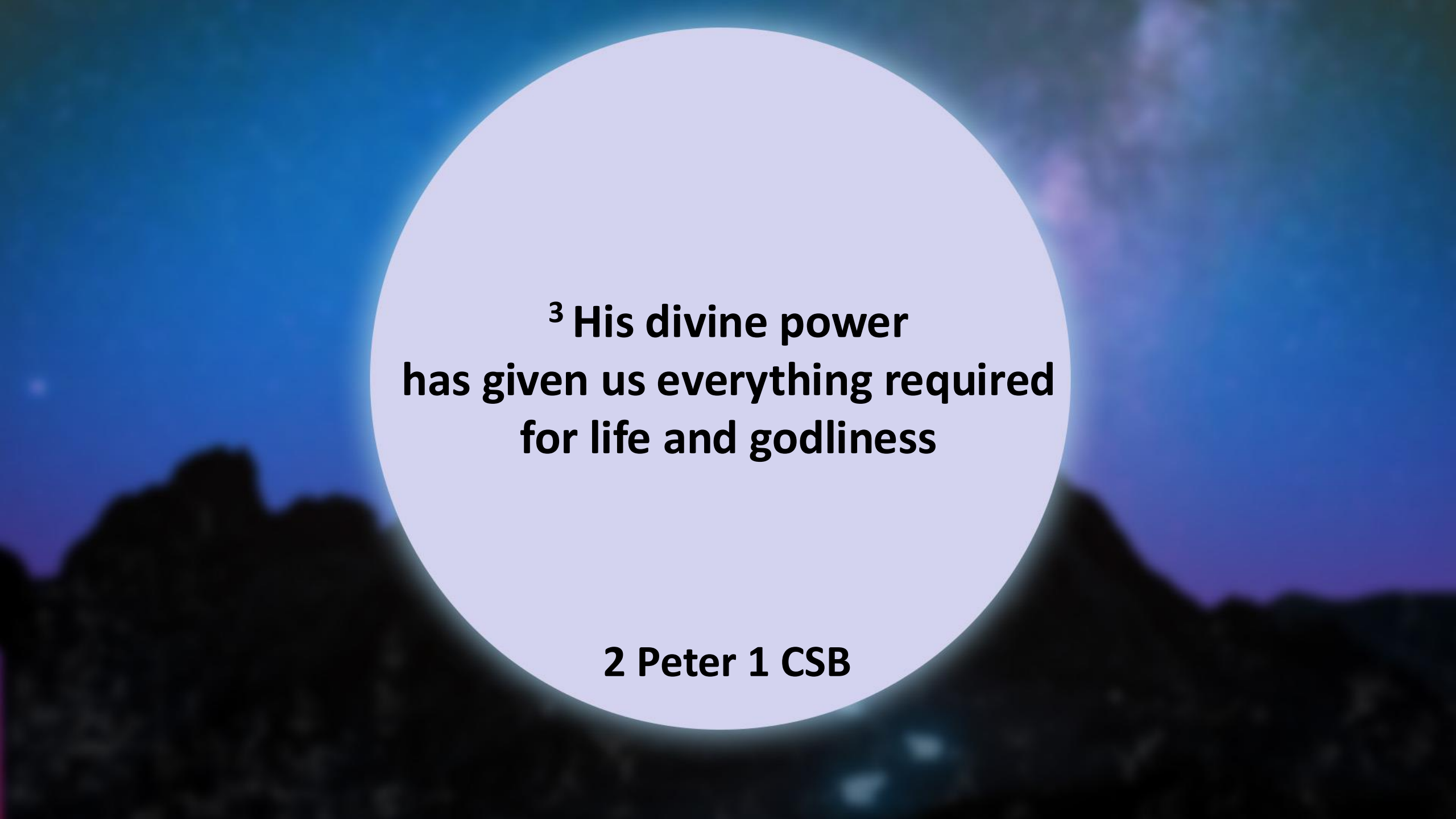
¹ As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” Jesus answered. “This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him.”

John 9 CSB

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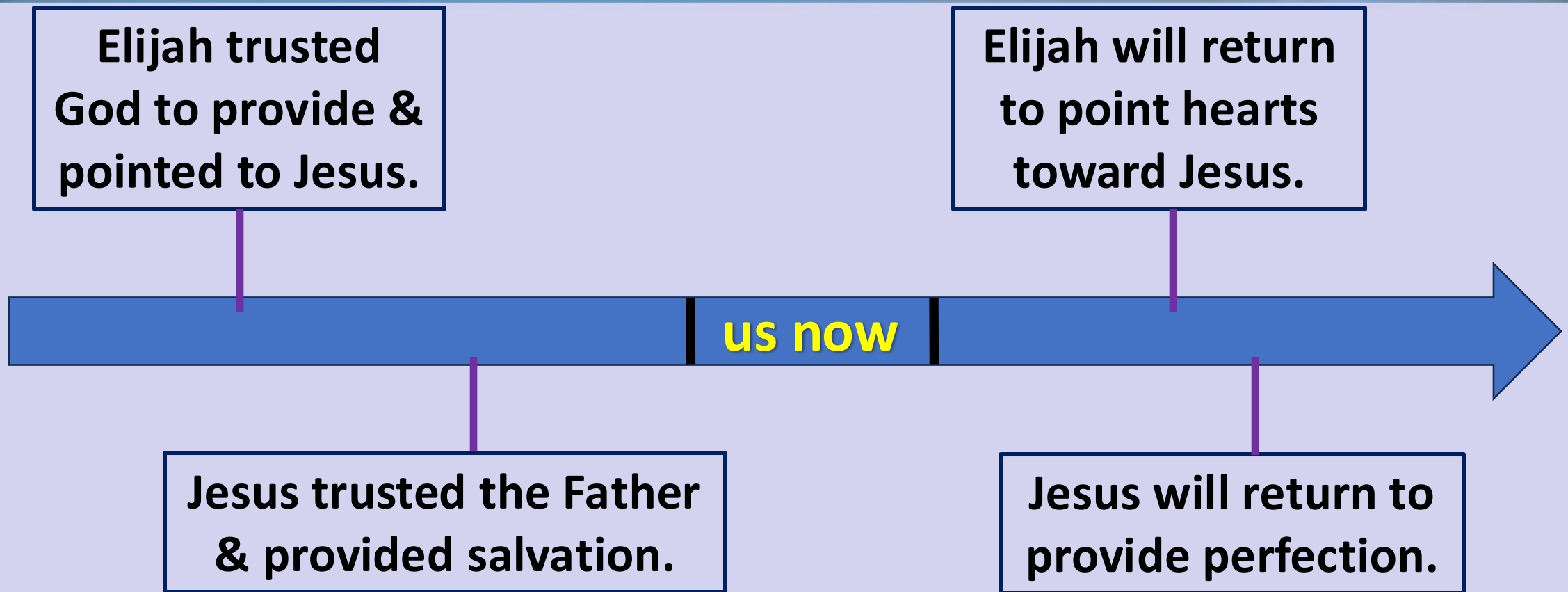
2 Peter 1 CSB

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Advent principle: Jesus is the bread of life, the living water, and the resurrection. Like Elijah, Jesus also traveled in Phoenicia, healing and teaching of the Kingdom. This candle is lit to celebrate resurrection life in Jesus.

Hebrew: יָדָע yada = know
fully or in a complete sense



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1 Kings 17 CSB



FORERUNNER

ADVENT THROUGH ELIJAH'S EYES