



[Move to Maturity](#)

Wayne Braudrick

[Life Change: We Mature in Jesus](#)

Psalm 68; Ephesians 4:7-16

January 14, 2024

The need to grow up...

Israel's move to national maturity is detailed
The awesome gifts of God developed His people

Psalm 68

Moses came down with the gift of the Law

He engages the people in building the tabernacle

Christians' move to maturity is detailed
Jesus gives gifts to develop His people

Ephesians 4:7-13

The church is edified (built up) through the Word of God (Acts 20:32 and 1 Cor. 14:4). Churches are not built up and strengthened through man-made programs, entertainment, recreation, or 'drives.' The church is a body and must have spiritual food; this food is the Word of God.
- Warren Wiersbe, Be Rich [Ephesians]

Christians' move to maturity is detailed
Jesus comes down bringing gifts of grace

Ephesians 4:7-13

He engages us in building the body of Christ

How we recognize maturity:
We learn to see through schemes

Ephesians 4:14-16

We practice (speak) the truth in love

We work together

We focus on the Head

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Upcoming
Events



Give



Connect Card
&
Prayer Request

how faith is...

→ forgive one another...

LIVED

...one body, one Spirit, one God

walk in love...

EPHESIANS

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy Meta



Please place video here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRpFKu](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRpFKu3mRL0)

[3mRL0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRpFKu3mRL0) Start at :52 (Why don't you tell me about...) and end at 2:22 (No, you can't!)

Keep subtitles if possible.



dreamstime

how faith is...

→ forgive one another...

LIVED

...one body, one Spirit, one God

walk in love...

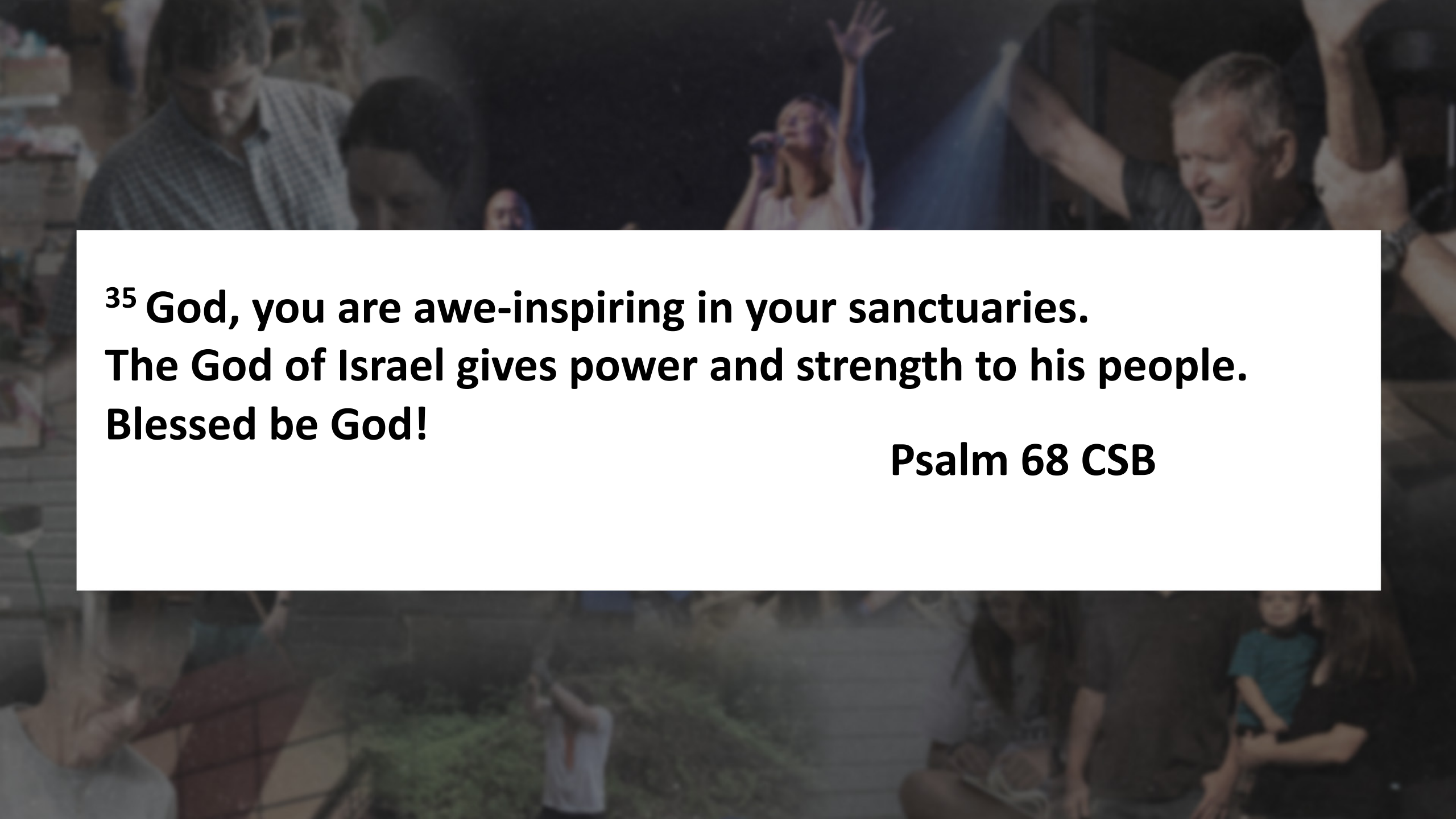
EPHESIANS

**28 Your God has decreed your strength.
Show your strength, God,
you who have acted on our behalf.**

Psalm 68 CSB

**28 God has decreed that you will be powerful.
O God, you who have acted on our behalf,
demonstrate your power**

Psalm 68 NET



**³⁵ God, you are awe-inspiring in your sanctuaries.
The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.
Blessed be God!**

Psalm 68 CSB

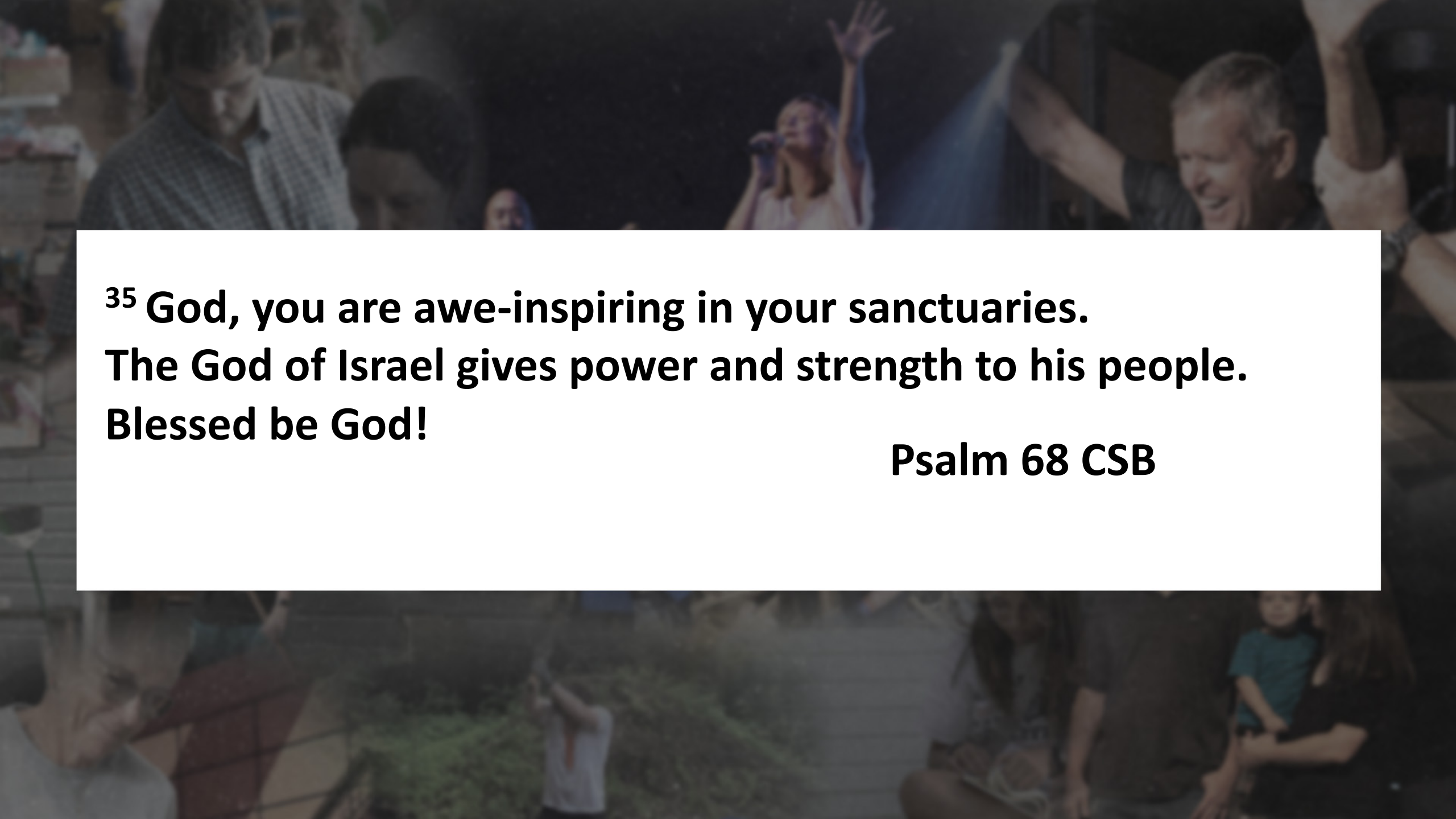


I am the
greatest!
I am a god.

We are a
team.







**³⁵ God, you are awe-inspiring in your sanctuaries.
The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.
Blessed be God!**

Psalm 68 CSB

35 God, you are awe-inspiring in your sanctuaries.

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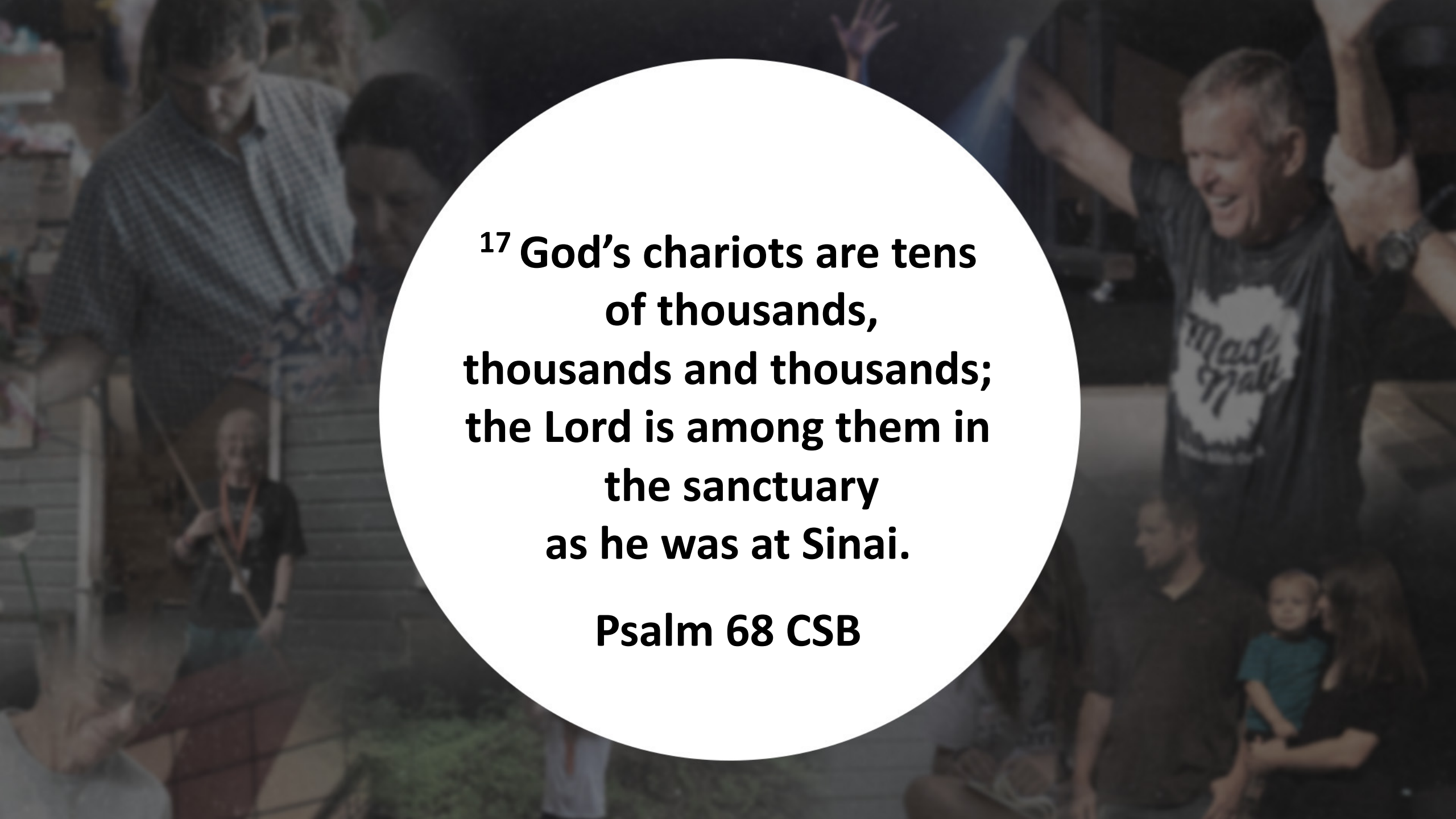
Psalm 68 CSB

Tabernacle

Jerusalem Temple

Heavenlies

These become an important basis for a sanctuary revealed later in scripture: God dwelling in people who trust Messiah.



**¹⁷ God's chariots are tens
of thousands,
thousands and thousands;
the Lord is among them in
the sanctuary
as he was at Sinai.**

Psalm 68 CSB



**¹⁷ God's chariots
are tens of
thousands,
thousands and
thousands;
the Lord is among
them in the
sanctuary
as he was at Sinai.**

Psalm 68 CSB



courtesy Zondervan

³ Moses came and told the people all the commands of the LORD and all the ordinances.

Exodus 24 CSB



**17 the Lord is among them in
the sanctuary
as he was at Sinai.**

Psalm 68 CSB

**3 Moses came and told the
people all the commands of
the LORD and all the
ordinances.**

Exodus 24 CSB

- 1. This gift showed each
person's need for salvation.**
- 2. It revealed God's character.**



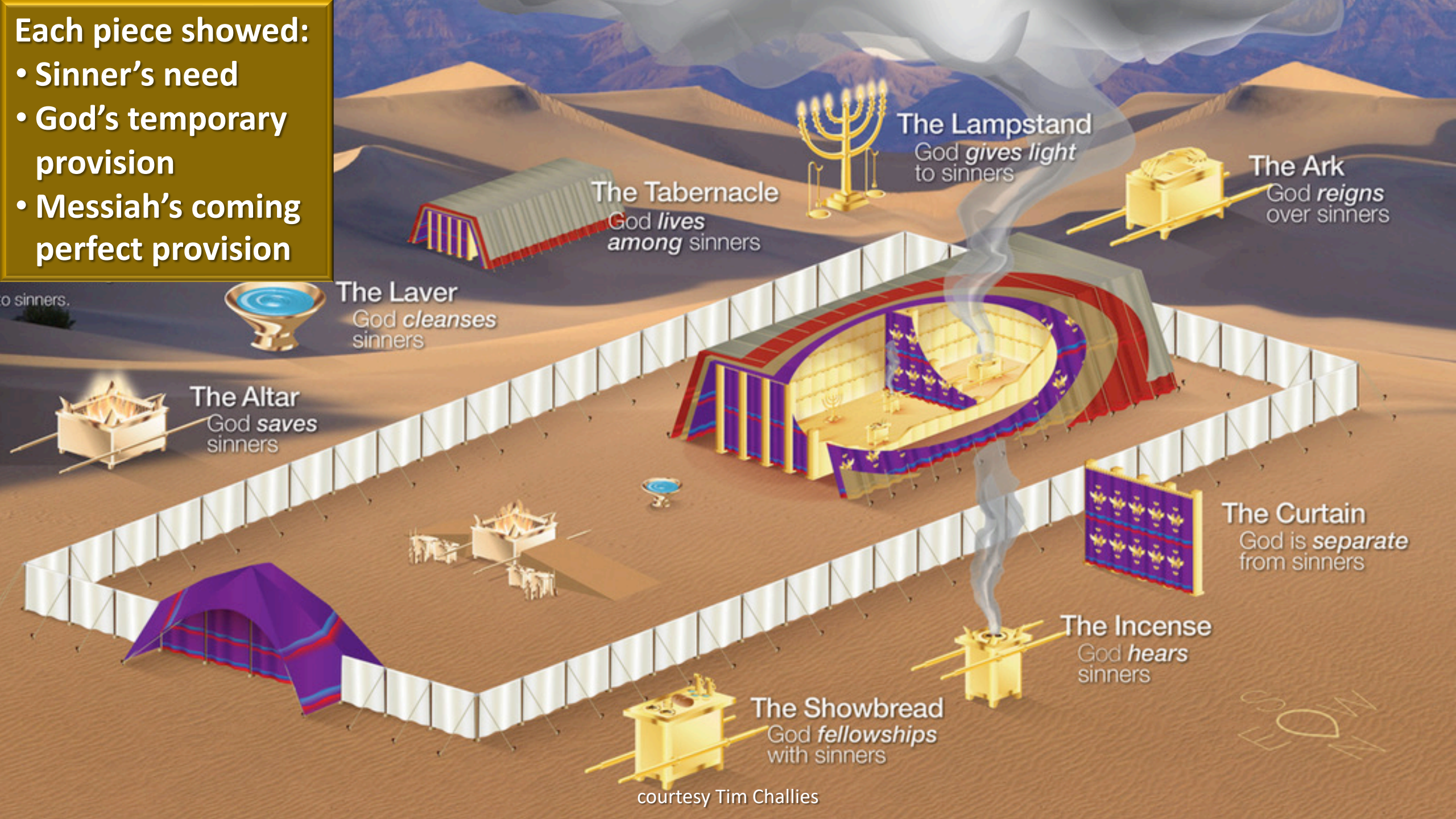
**17 God's chariots are tens of thousands,
thousands and thousands;
the Lord is among them in the sanctuary
as he was at Sinai.**

**18 You ascended to the heights, taking away captives;
you received gifts from people,
even from the rebellious,
so that the LORD God might dwell there.**

Psalm 68 CSB

Each piece showed:

- Sinner's need
- God's temporary provision
- Messiah's coming perfect provision



The Tabernacle
God *lives among* sinners

The Lampstand
God *gives light* to sinners

The Ark
God *reigns* over sinners

The Laver
God *cleanses* sinners

The Altar
God *saves* sinners

The Curtain
God is *separate* from sinners

The Incense
God *hears* sinners

The Showbread
God *fellowships* with sinners

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Psalm 68 CSB

Gifts to the Tabernacle
Miriam Vee
1967





Psalm 68: God grows people up through:

- **God's awesome gifts**
- **Moses coming down with the gift of the Law**
- **The people engage in building the Tabernacle.**

⁷ Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ For it says:

***When he ascended on high,
he took the captives captive;
he gave gifts to people. [Psalm 68]***

⁹ But what does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, to fill all things.

Ephesians 4 CSB

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPHESIANS

PHIL

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

¹¹ And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.

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Ephesians 4 CSB

Everyone else has
a spiritual gift.
Why don't I?





SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCOVERY

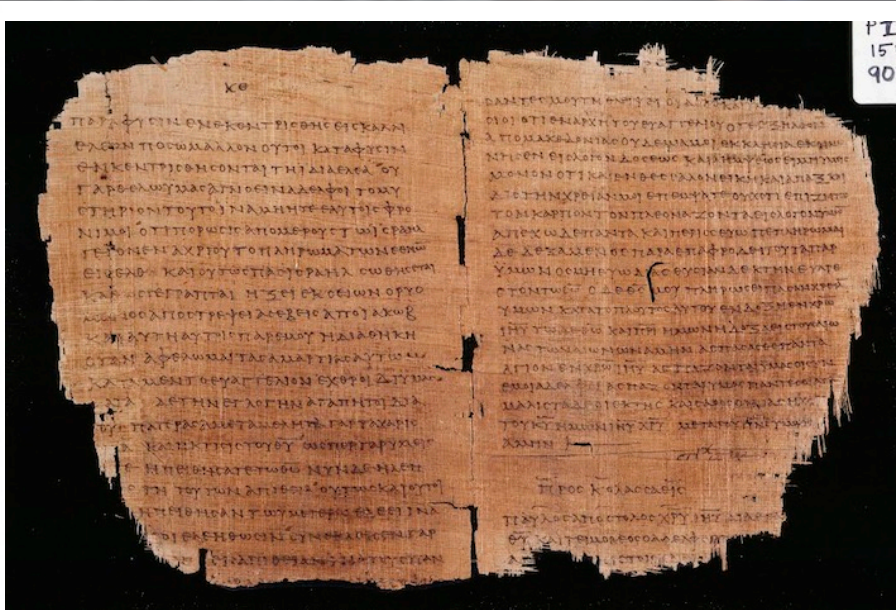
- **Published by ATS in 1996**
- **Made freeware in 2000**
- **Over 2 million Christians have taken some form of the assessment**



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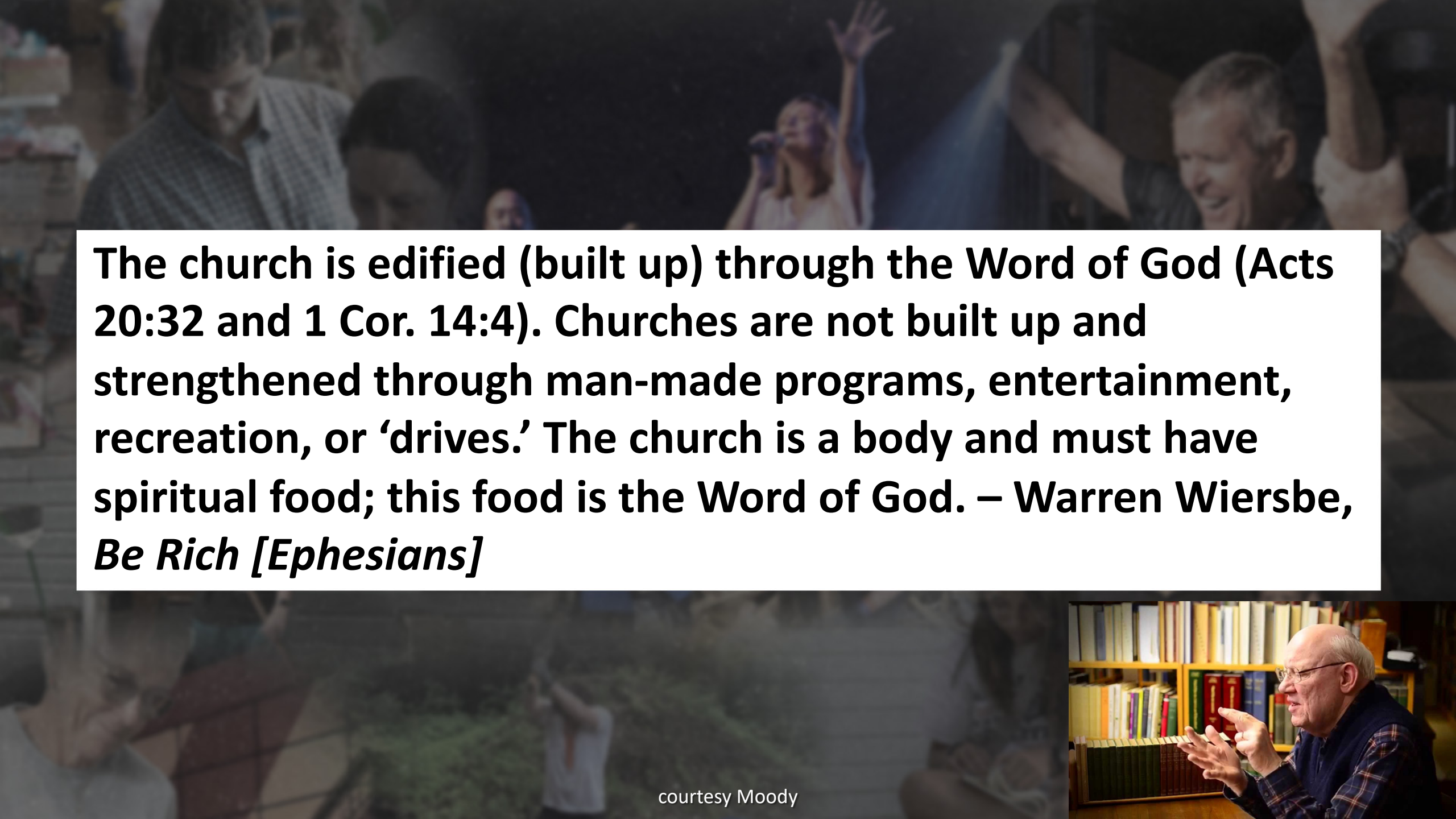
Ephesians 4 CSB



7 Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

11 And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers

Ephesians 4 CSB



The church is edified (built up) through the Word of God (Acts 20:32 and 1 Cor. 14:4). Churches are not built up and strengthened through man-made programs, entertainment, recreation, or 'drives.' The church is a body and must have spiritual food; this food is the Word of God. – Warren Wiersbe, *Be Rich [Ephesians]*



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***When he ascended on high,
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⁹ But what does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, to fill all things.

Ephesians 4 CSB



Thanks, Josh!



courtesy Piper Harris

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Ephesians 4 CSB

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***When he ascended on high,
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Psalm 68 was sung during the Israelite celebration known as Pentecost. Pentecost was a feast celebrating the wheat harvest that was held 50 days after the Passover & Firstfruits feasts.



By New Testament times, the rabbis held that Pentecost was also a celebration of Moses coming down Sinai; because, they said, Moses came down with the Law on the 50th day after they left Egypt.



*Descent of the Holy
Spirit at Pentecost*
Tiziano Vicellio
1545



⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷ Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ For it says:

***When he ascended on high,
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Ephesians 4 CSB

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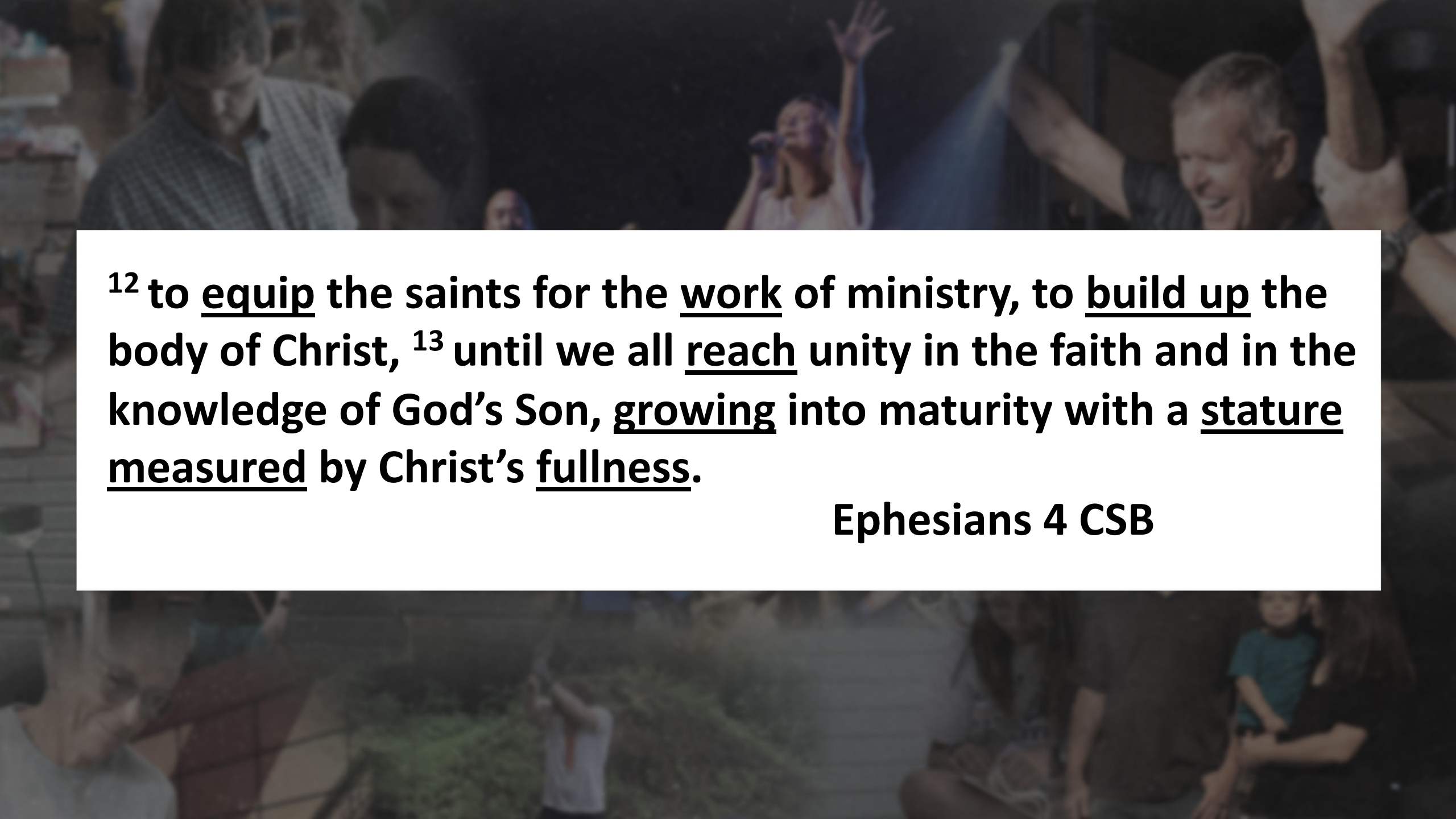
Ephesians 4 CSB

“Descended” describes how Jesus gave Himself to even sinful humanity on earth. He gave the Holy Spirit to permanently indwell those who receive Him as Savior. Descended is designed to show how Jesus is even greater than Moses who was merely human. Jesus came as God Himself, deigning to come down.



**Each
comes
down
twice.**



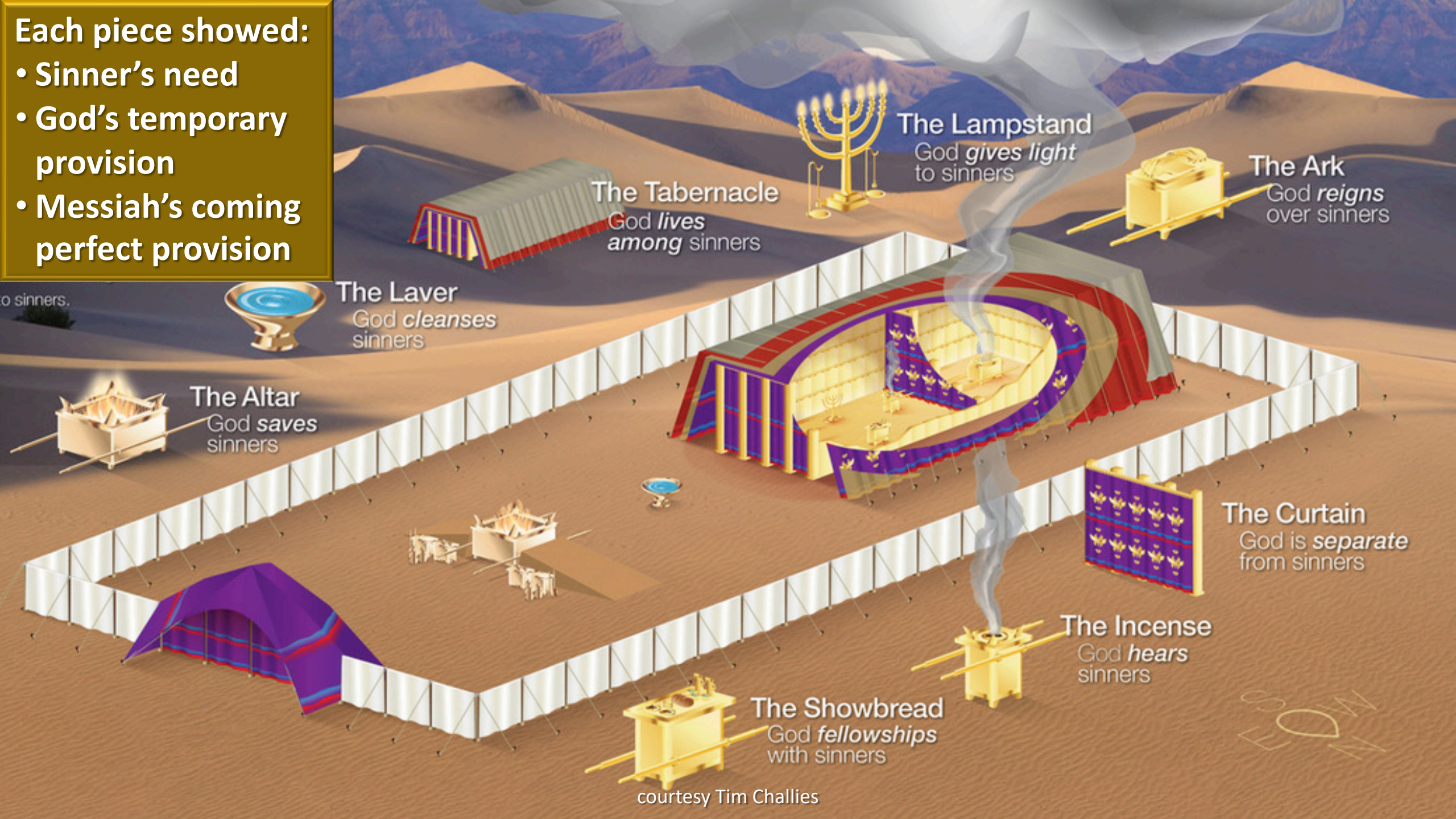


¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.

Ephesians 4 CSB

Each piece showed:

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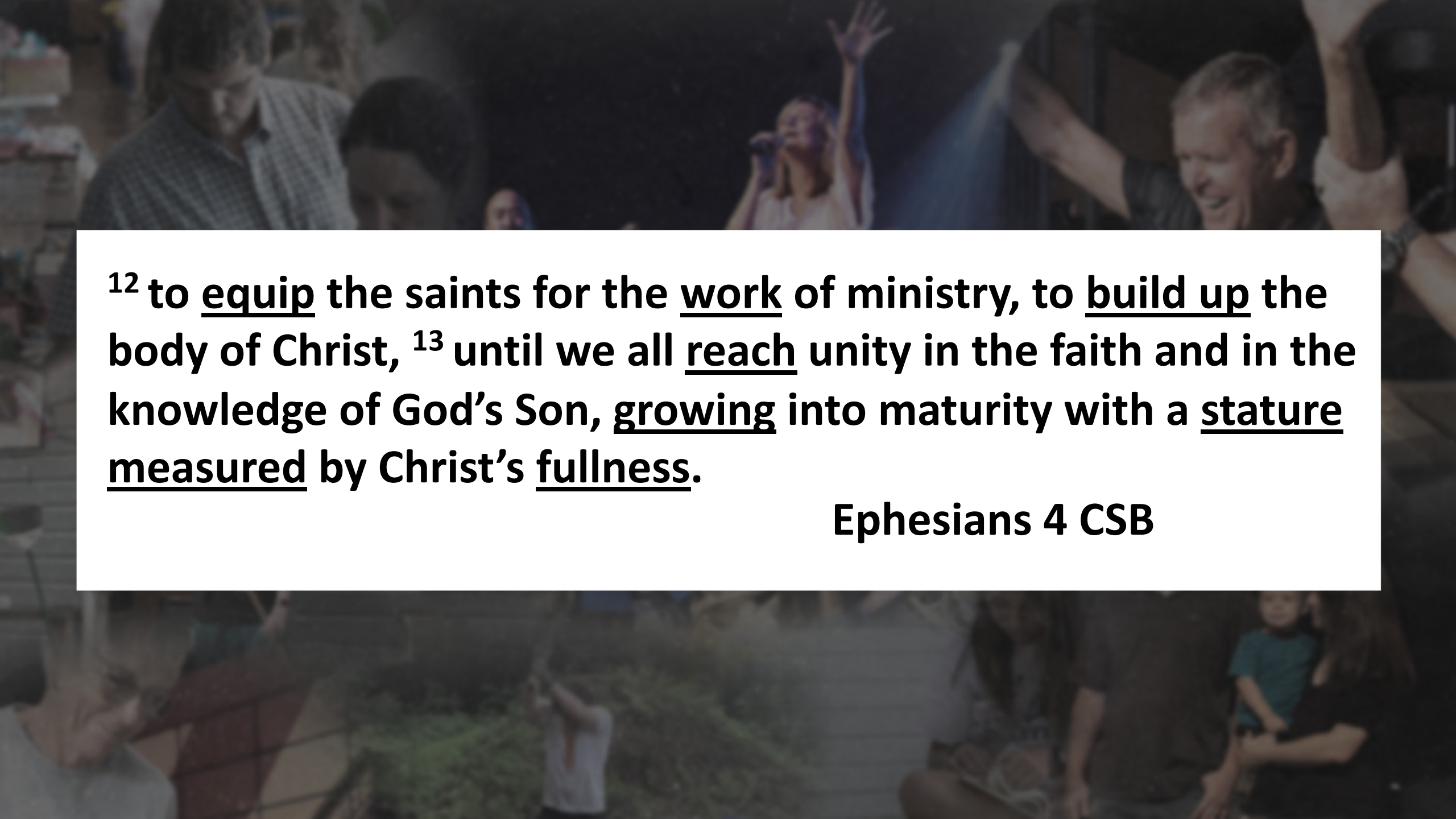
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Ephesians 4 CSB

...Thank you for being stones in the walls of our Abba's house. Thank you for saying 'yes' when saying 'no' might have been easier. Thank you for loving the congregation. I know them, and some of them are kind of prickly, me being chief among those. Thank you for sticking with it. I have never before had the privilege of observing Abba's house grow. Lives intertwine. Hearts and families weave together. People become the body. What a beautiful thing.



¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.

Ephesians 4 CSB

Ephesians 4 CSB

¹⁰ The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, to fill all things. ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.



**Greek: πληρώω pleroo = fullness;
brightness**



Herodotus used pleroo to describe a full moon, emphasizing that the moon reflects the power of the sun.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

Ephesians 4 CSB

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14 Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. **15** But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. **16** From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

 **Work Traits and Behavior Report** 

Name _____

Raises hand to speak during class lessons	1 2 3 4
Listens and participates	1 2 3 4
Talks at appropriate times	1 2 3 4
uses work time well	1 2 3 4
Follows directions	1 2 3 4
Acts respectfully	1 2 3 4

4: exceeds expectations
3: just right
2: needed some reminders
1: Needed several reminders/needs improvement

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Ephesians 4 CSB

courtesy US Army



"What you've volunteered for, Robinder, is to help us test a new concept, devised to cut the time it takes for a man to make his first jump."

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Ephesians 4 CSB





courtesy Rehoboth Beach, DE; Tyne and Wear



“God wants you to be happy.”

“That church called your sin what it is, sin? Well, that’s just spiritual abuse.”

“You should get what you want.”

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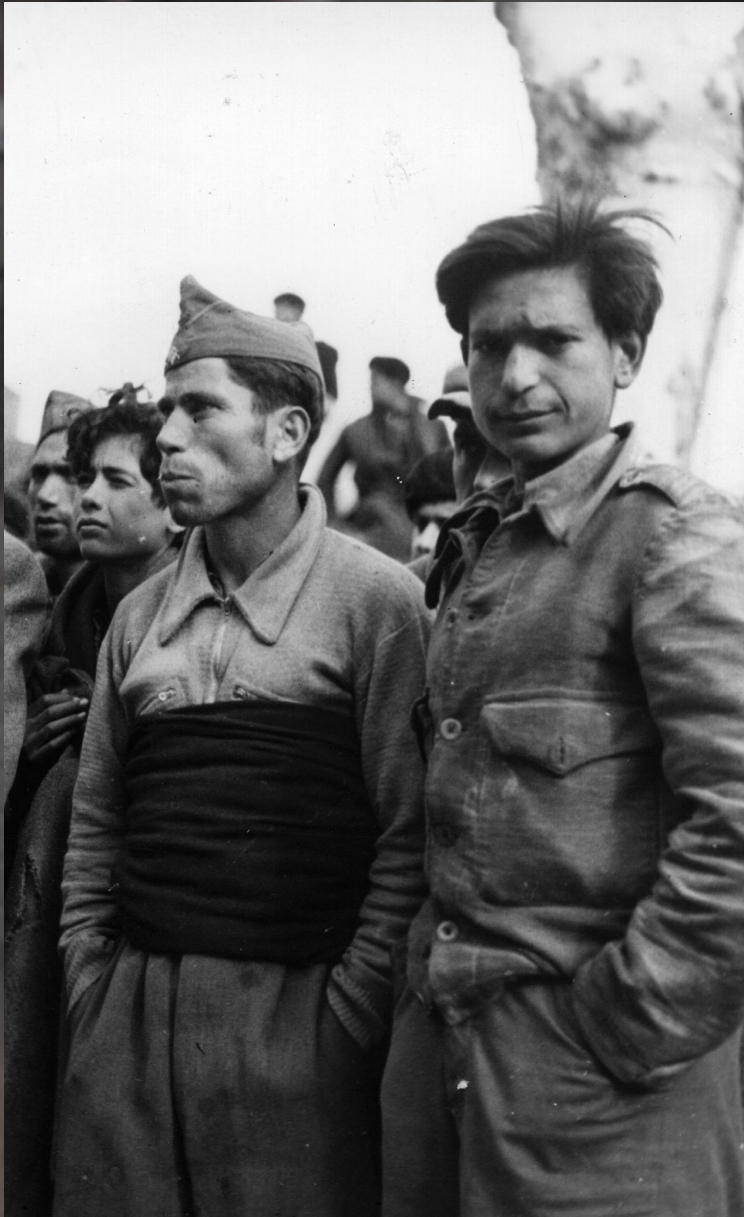
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Ephesians 4 CSB

Greek: ἀληθεύω alethia = practice truth; live out what's real in word and deed



courtesy socialist



**“Here are 200 wildly enthusiastic
volunteers for your army.”
“Please return the ropes.”**



Thank God our culture is not like that, where lies become standard.

These lies are so common employed that they make up an interwoven cultural fabric of lies:

- 1. I'm fine.**
- 2. I was stuck in traffic.**
- 3. I only had one beer.**
- 4. I have read the terms and conditions.**
- 5. I never got the message.**
- 6. I'll call you right back.**
- 7. I wasn't speeding.**
- 8. I'm on the way.**
- 9. I agree with the mandatory training.**
- 10. Thanks, it's just what I've always wanted.**
- 11. You haven't changed a bit.**
- 12. I'll return it when I'm done.**
- 13. I'll try to make it.**
- 14. I have a headache.**
- 15. I would never lie to you.**

– from Jay Reeves, *The Most Powerful Attorney in the World*



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Ephesians 4 CSB



courtesy allthat'sinteresting

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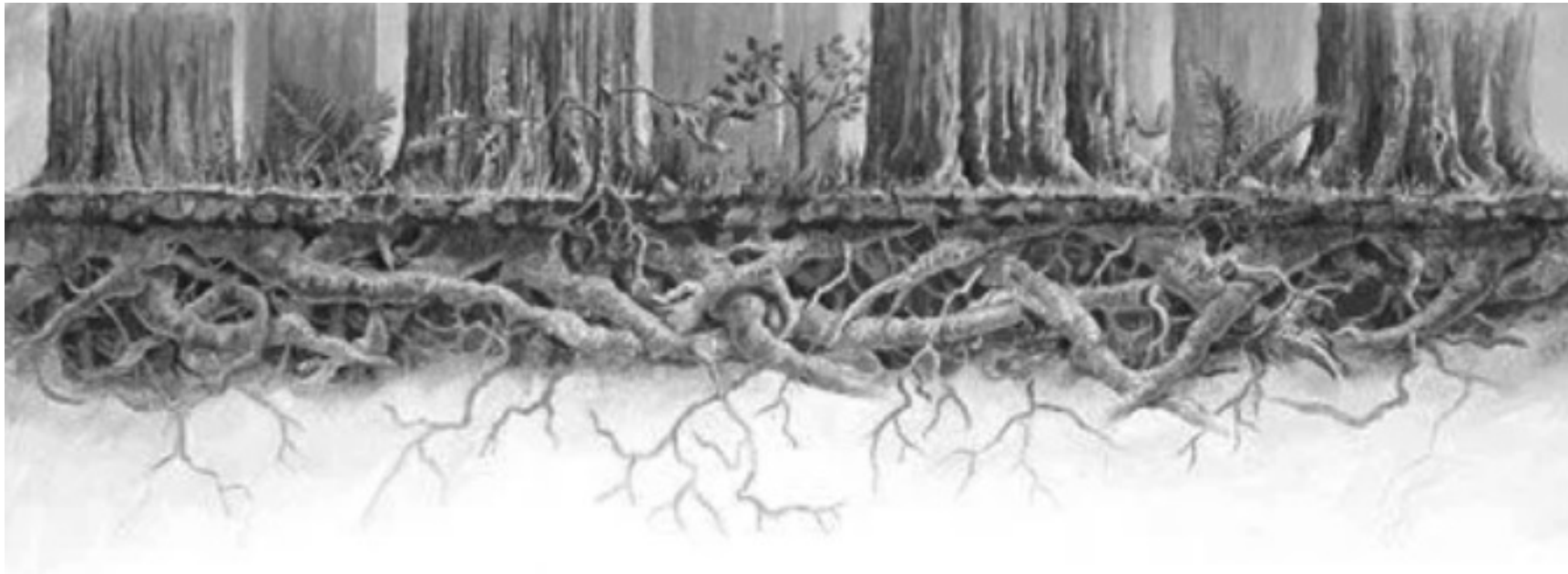
Ephesians 4 CSB



Please place video here

[https://fb.watch/prO_BYM9dB/?mibextid=6a
amW6](https://fb.watch/prO_BYM9dB/?mibextid=6aamW6)

It's just like Ephesians 4 says. The interconnected roots in Jesus hold us together even through violent storms. – Cindy Sharp



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Ephesians 4 CSB



courtesy natureofhome

If my focus is on:

Attention

Power

Wealth

Others' things

Pornography

Myself

Wrongs

Rights

I will become:

Enslaved to opinion

Pragmatically amoral

Insatiable

Greedy

Lustfully insecure

Self-centered

Bitter

Entitled

Ephesians 4 CSB

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How God measures maturity:

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