



Elijah and Foundations: Lean on Christ Alone
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2 Kings 1; John 18:1-9
December 28, 2025

Life Change: If it isn't God, it won't hold, so lean on Christ alone

What have I been leaning on for security, meaning, and hope?

When your foundation is false, life eventually exposes it (2 Kings 1:1-2)

God will not comfort you with the lie that you can live without Him (2 Kings 1:3-8)

You cannot control the God whose word rules over kings and outcomes (2 Kings 1:9-17)

Jesus bears the weight of His people, so lean on Him alone (John 18:1-9)

If it isn't God, it won't hold, so lean on Christ alone



FORERUNNER

ADVENT THROUGH ELIJAH'S EYES

The background of the image is a deep blue and black starry night sky, with a dense field of stars and a faint, glowing nebula or galaxy structure visible in the upper right corner. The text is centered in the white space between the top and bottom dark bands.

***If it isn't God, it won't hold,
so lean on Christ alone***

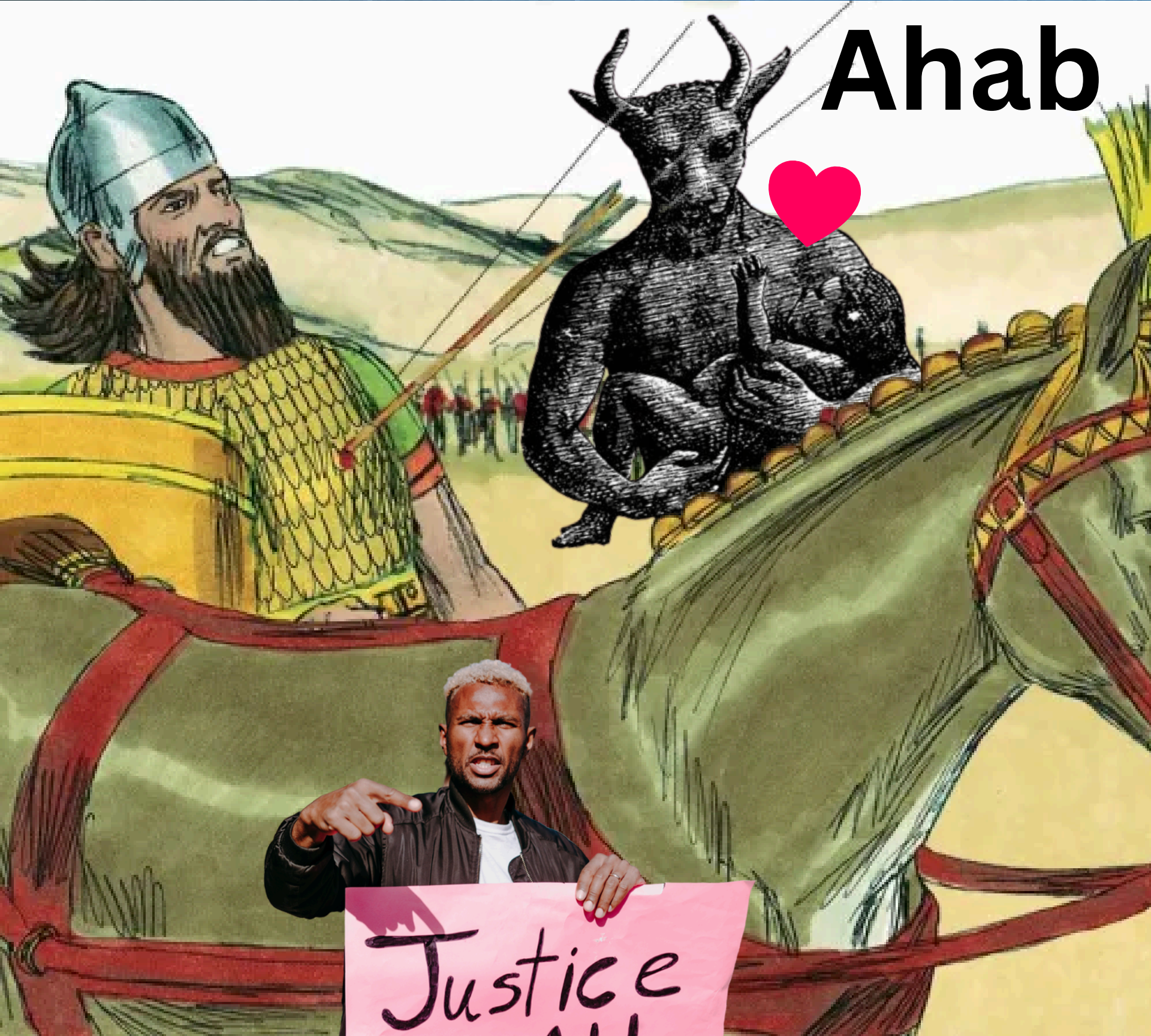
A background image featuring a deep blue and purple galaxy or nebula at the top, transitioning into a solid white central area where the text is located, and ending with a dark, starry space scene at the bottom.

**When your foundation is false, life
eventually exposes it (2 Kings 1:1-2)**

(2 Kings 1:1-2)

1 After Ahab's death, Moab rebelled against Israel. 2 Ahaziah had fallen through the latticed window of his upstairs room in Samaria and was injured. So he sent messengers, instructing them, "Go inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will recover from this injury."

Ahab



Justice
4 ALL

Ahaziah



(2 Kings 1:1-2)

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Money and financial security

Career success and status

Control and planning (the schedule, the system, the routine)

Approval and reputation

Relationships (spouse, dating, friends, “my people”)

Comfort and entertainment (streaming, scrolling, gaming)

Food and indulgence

Fitness, health, and appearance

Politics and cultural power

Self-reliance (your willpower, discipline, intelligence)

**God will not comfort you with the
lie that you can live without Him
(2 Kings 1:3–8)**

(2 Kings 1:3-8)

3 But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Go and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? 4 Therefore, this is what the Lord says: You will not get up from your sickbed; you will certainly die.’” Then Elijah left.

5 The messengers returned to the king, who asked them, “Why have you come back?”

(2 Kings 1:3-8)

6 They replied, “A man came to meet us and said, ‘Go back to the king who sent you and declare to him, “This is what the Lord says: **Is it because there is no God in Israel that you’re sending these men to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?** Therefore, you will not get up from your sickbed; you will certainly die.’””

7 The king asked them, “What sort of man came up to meet you and spoke those words to you?”

8 They replied, “A hairy man with a leather belt around his waist.”



**You cannot control the God whose
word rules over kings and outcomes
(2 Kings 1:9–17)**

(2 Kings 1:9-17)

9 So King Ahaziah sent a captain with his fifty men to Elijah. When the captain went up to him, he was sitting on top of the hill. He announced, “Man of God, the king declares, ‘Come down!’” 10 Elijah responded to the captain, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men. 11 So the king sent another captain with his fifty men to Elijah. He took in the situation[b] and announced, “Man of God, this is what the king says: ‘Come down immediately!’” 12 Elijah responded, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” So a divine fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.

(2 Kings 1:9-17)

13 Then the king sent a third captain with his fifty men. The third captain went up and fell on his knees in front of Elijah and begged him, “Man of God, please let my life and the lives of these fifty servants of yours be precious to you. 14 Already fire has come down from heaven and consumed the first two captains with their companies, but this time let my life be precious to you.”

15 The angel of the Lord said to Elijah, “Go down with him. Don’t be afraid of him.” So he got up and went down with him to the king. 16 Then Elijah said to King Ahaziah, “This is what the Lord says: ‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron—is it because there is no God in Israel for you to inquire of his will?—you will not get up from your sickbed; you will certainly die.’”

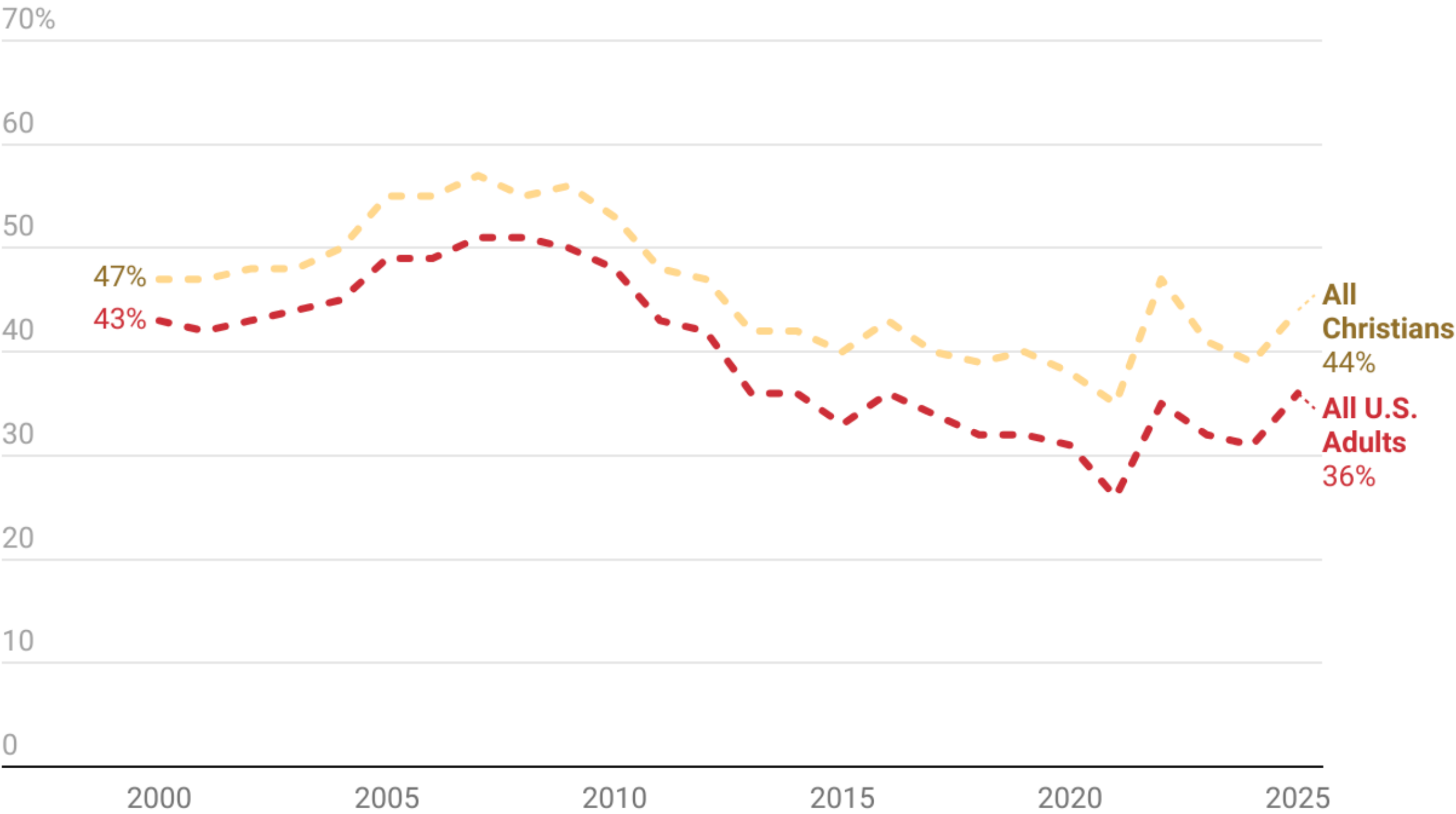
(2 Kings 1:9-17)

17 Ahaziah died according to the word of the Lord that Elijah had spoken. Since he had no son, Joram[d] became king in his place. This happened in the second year of Judah's King Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat.



Less Than Half of Christians Affirm Scripture's Teachings

% Agree Strongly: "The Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches"



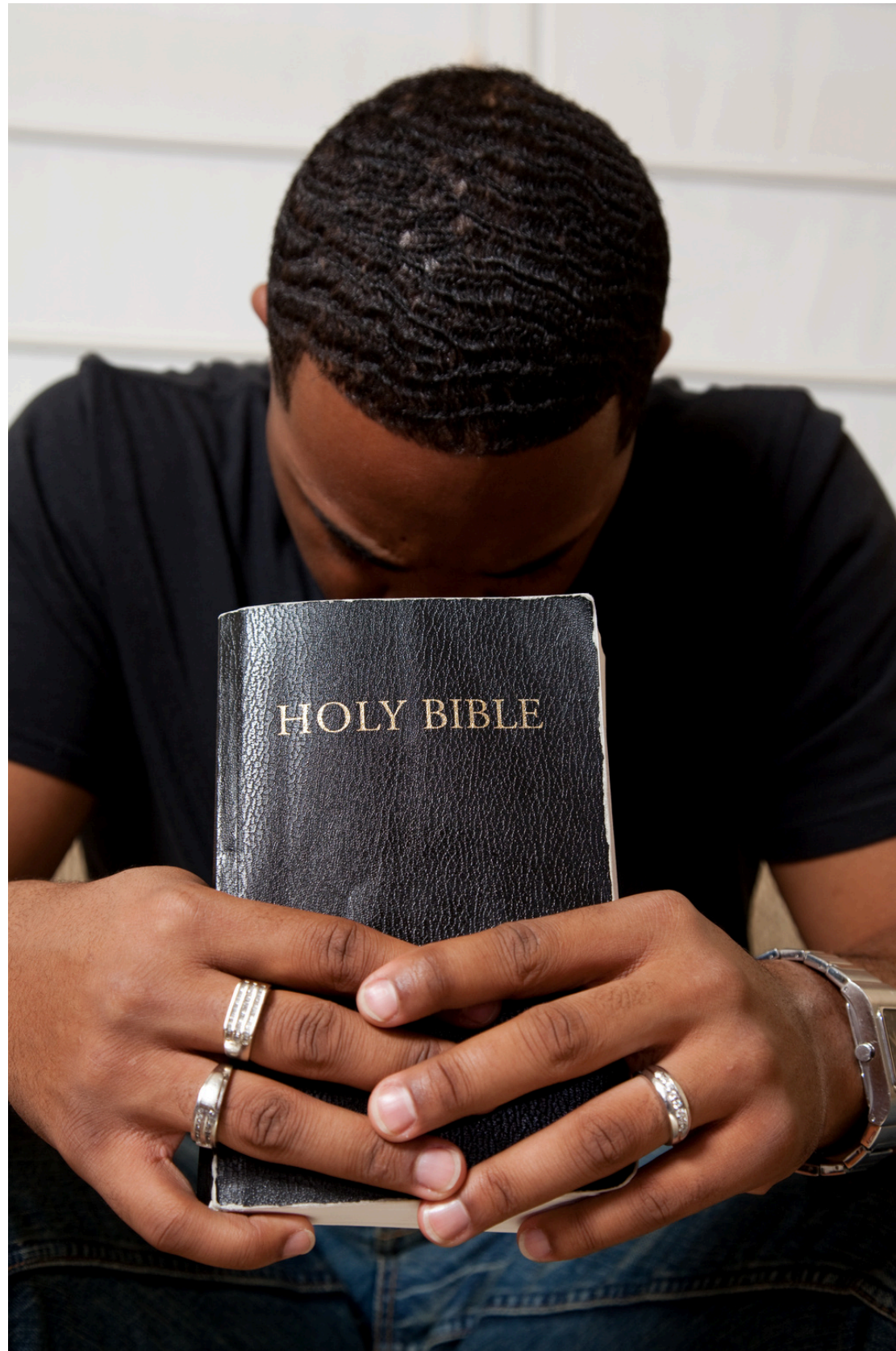
Barna Group | n=138,566 interviews with U.S. adults between 2000 and October 2025.

Source: Barna Group • Created with Datawrapper



“[Bible] Engagement is outpacing conviction. People are opening the Bible more often, but they’re still wrestling with what they believe about it. **That gap between reading and trusting is worth paying attention to.**”

-David Kinnaman






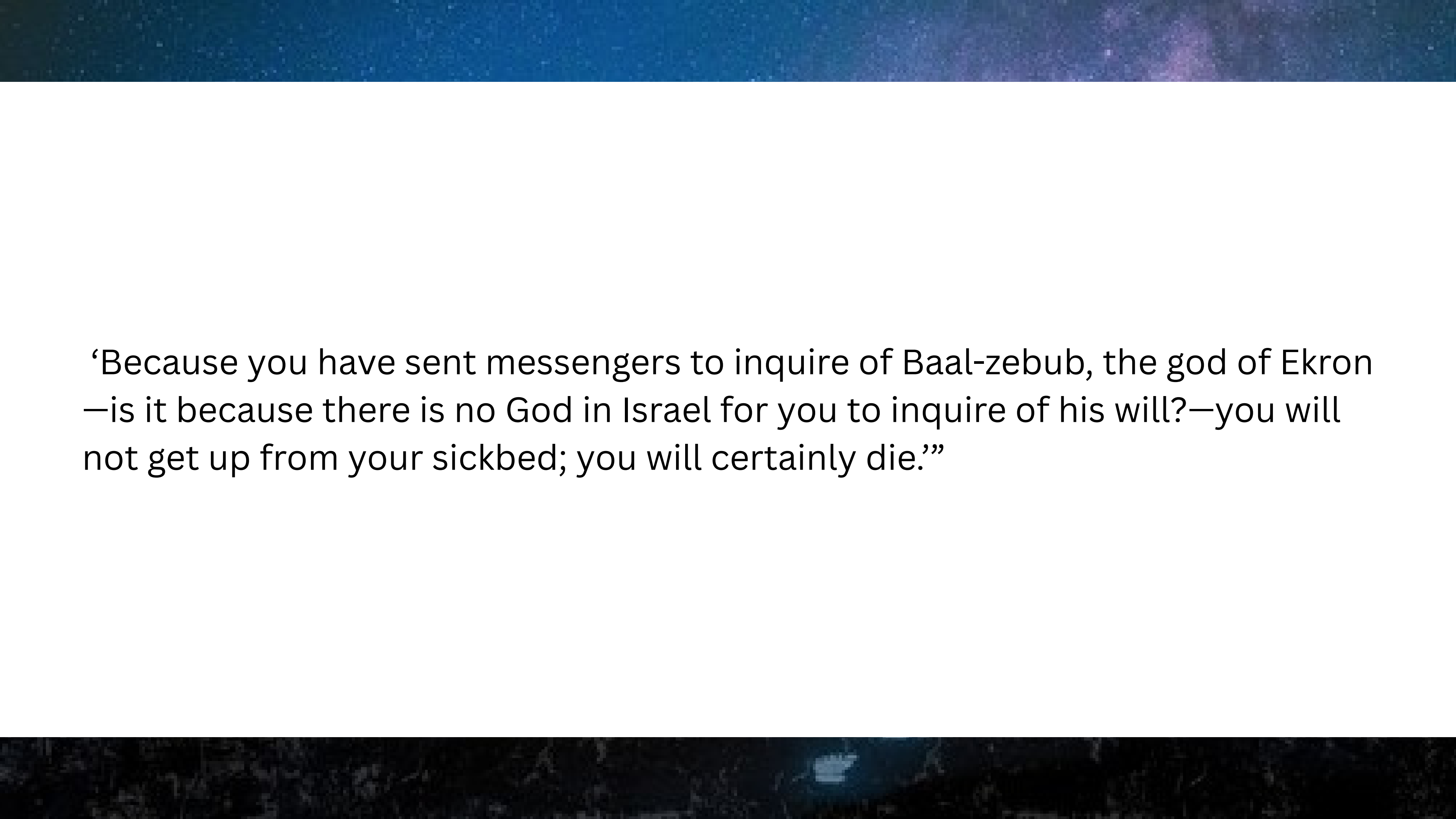


The captains in this passage were honest enough to say “man of God,” but not humble enough to obey God.

We can do the same. We can respect the Bible, quote the Bible, even read the Bible, and still expect it to come down and submit to us. We can try to get God to adapt to our lifestyle and get His Holy Word to get with the times and adapt to our culture, but God cannot be managed.







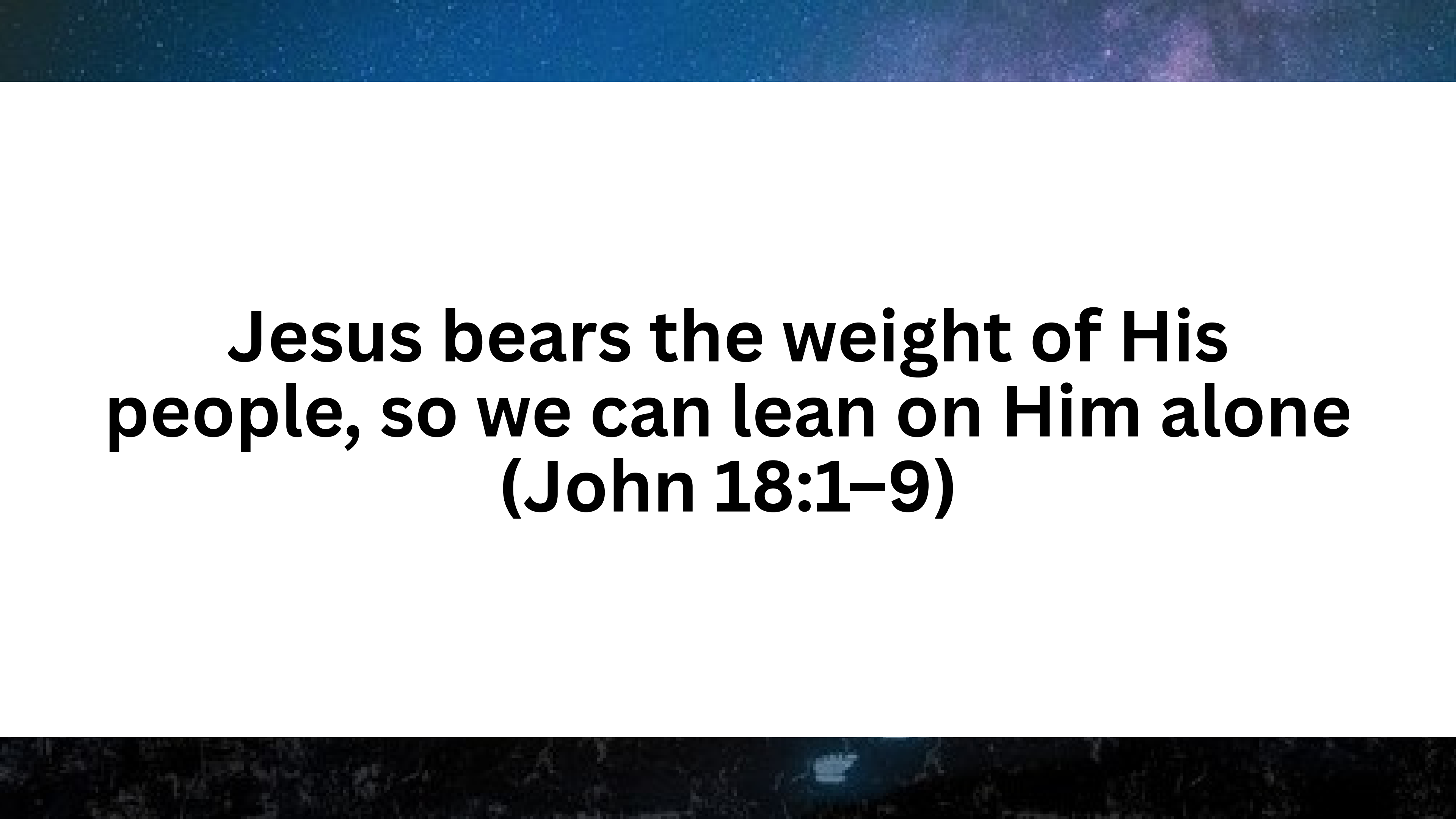
‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron—is it because there is no God in Israel for you to inquire of his will?—you will not get up from your sickbed; you will certainly die.’”



**Is there no God for you to inquire
of His will?**





The background of the slide features a cosmic theme. The top portion is a dark blue gradient with a faint, wispy pattern of light blue and purple, resembling a nebula or the Milky Way. The bottom portion is a solid black band. The text is centered in the white space between these two bands.

**Jesus bears the weight of His
people, so we can lean on Him alone
(John 18:1–9)**

(John 18:1-9)

1 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. 4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?” 5 “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

(John 18:1-9)

“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?” “Jesus of Nazareth,” they said. 8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” 9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”







Words cannot even begin to describe the emotions of this week. Although my heart is so broken and I feel like I'm missing the best half of me, I also stand thankful and in awe. I am so encouraged by the amount of people who showed up to celebrate the most amazing man I've ever known. I am thankful for all the stories and laughs we were able to share in the midst of such heartbreak. I'm thankful for everyone's kind words and support during this time. I'm thankful for the hope the Lord has given us. I've said it so many times, I'm so thankful to have a love and bond with someone so strong that it's been this painful. What an honor.

I know this is going to take time and I know there are so many hard days and nights ahead. I don't think I'll ever really be complete again. BUT I DO KNOW, I do not grieve without hope. & the Lord is faithful and near in the midst of it all. I will continue to plead with the Lord to return soon, but until then, I will take it moment by moment. This is by the far the most painful thing. My heart is in a million pieces. I miss Brett more than I could ever imagine.

and if not...He is still good.

The background of the image is a dark, starry night sky with a visible band of the Milky Way galaxy stretching across the top. The stars are small, bright points of light, and the overall color palette is deep blues and blacks.

***If it isn't God, it won't hold,
so lean on Christ alone***

- This week, when stress hits, let's pause before we react.
- Name the default thing that you lean on.
- Pray, even if it's just 15 seconds: "Lord, I'm tempted to lean on ___, but I lean on You."
- This will help you take that next step in God's wisdom and strength.