

ORDER OF SERVICE

January 8, 2023

Worship in Fellowship
Worship in Music
Worship in Message
Worship in Giving

Wayne Braudrick

Flourishing in the Fallen World

Psalm 92

Flourishing for Good Series

Life Change: We thrive in the Lord

A tale of two start-ups...

Abraham

Gen 14

Ananias & Sapphira

Acts 5

Look beyond earthly understanding for lasting value

Ps 92:1-5

God's works are magnificent & His thoughts profound

The wise respond positively

False prosperity perishes

Cutting corners leads to getting cut

Ps 92:6-9

The wise stay on the ultimate winning team

God's anointed face opposition

Ps 92:10-11

Knowledge from God leads to understanding cultural antipathy

The wise see the mess, but they still care

Pr 24:10-12

God's chosen thrive:

Richly

Ps 92:12-15

12

In the Lord

13

Throughout life

14

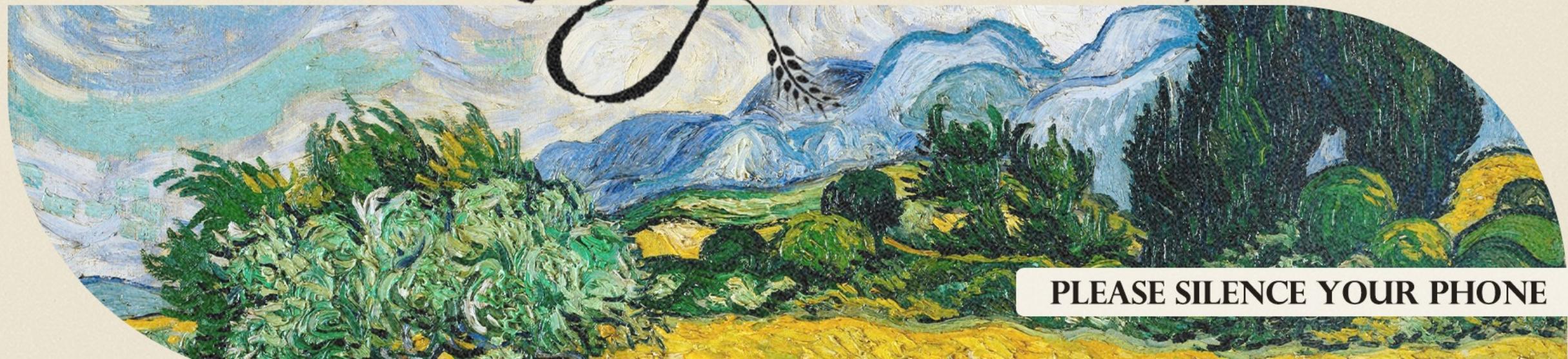
For God's glory

15

- What is one way I can respond more positively to God's works & words?
- What practice can keep me from unhealthy compromise with the ultimately losing side?
- How can I best live out biblical care?



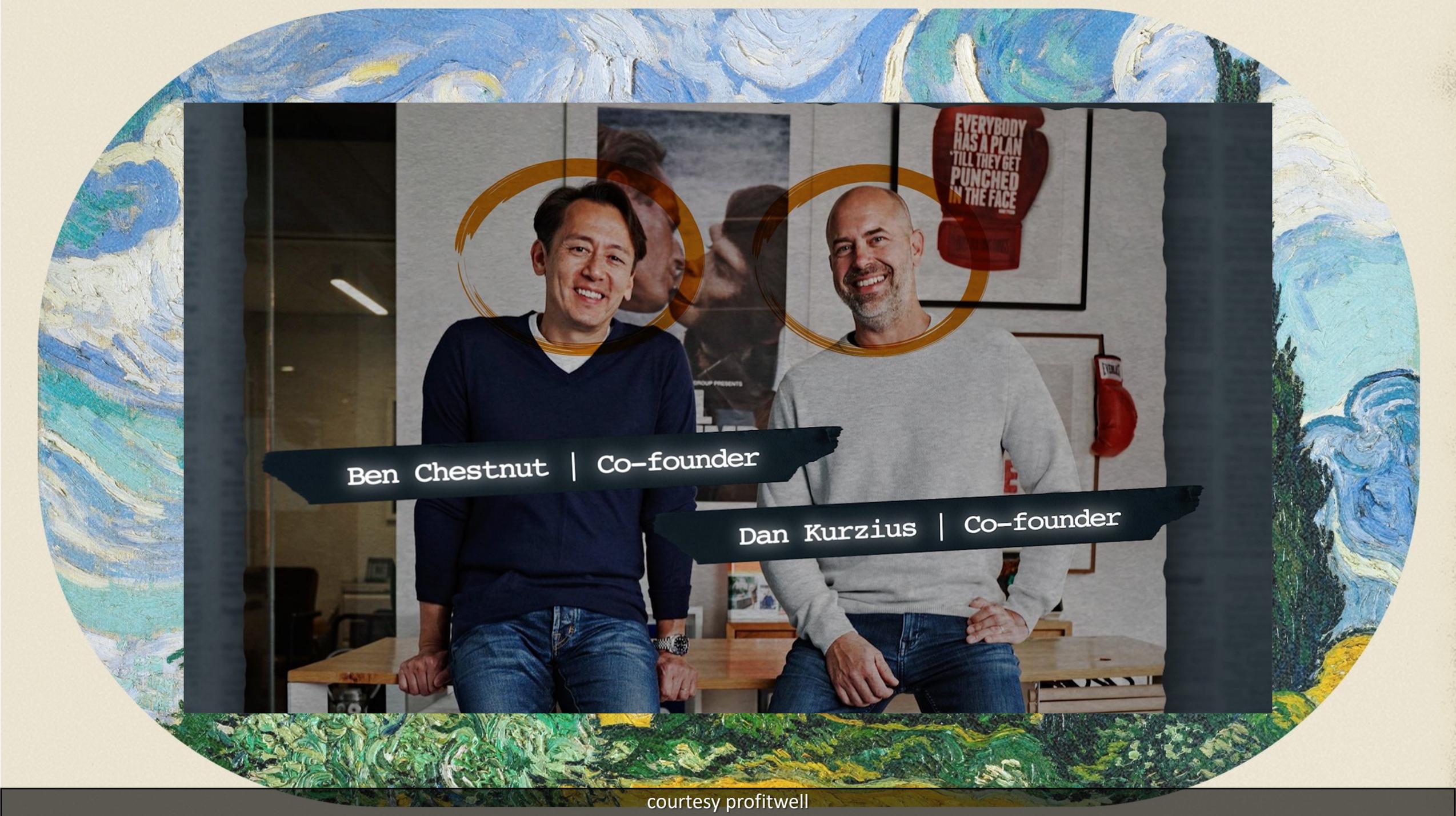
Flourishing For Good



PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

Story Time





Ben Chestnut | Co-founder

Dan Kurzius | Co-founder

Chestnut and Kurzius were very concerned about the get-rich-quick promises of outside venture capitalists, so they decided to accept no outside money. Instead, they took low salaries for years and plowed all profits back into the company. Mailchimp prospered.





Intuit has announced it will acquire Mailchimp in a \$12 billion cash and stock acquisition. Ben Chestnut and Dan Kurzius each own 50% of the Atlanta-based company. – Wall Street Journal, September 2021



**Tony Blair, Bill Clinton,
Sam Bankman-Fried (SBF)**

Possibly the most important aspect of SBF's persona was that he assiduously pretended to be altruistic, signaling great virtue while actually practicing little. Dubbed "effective altruism," the concept is a materialist formula of whitewashing that would make Machiavelli blush.





Piper: I'm sort of putting together a picture – you don't believe anyone is doing anything for good reasons...so why not make it big and then be the one who gets to decide what "good" is? And if you have to do sketchy stuff along the way, everyone else is doing it too, and plenty of them are worse, and people still like them as long as they win.

 **SBF** 

ya

Piper: you were really good at talking about ethics, for someone who saw it all as a game



ya. hehe. I had to be by this dumb game we woke westerners play where we say all the right shibboleths and so everyone likes us

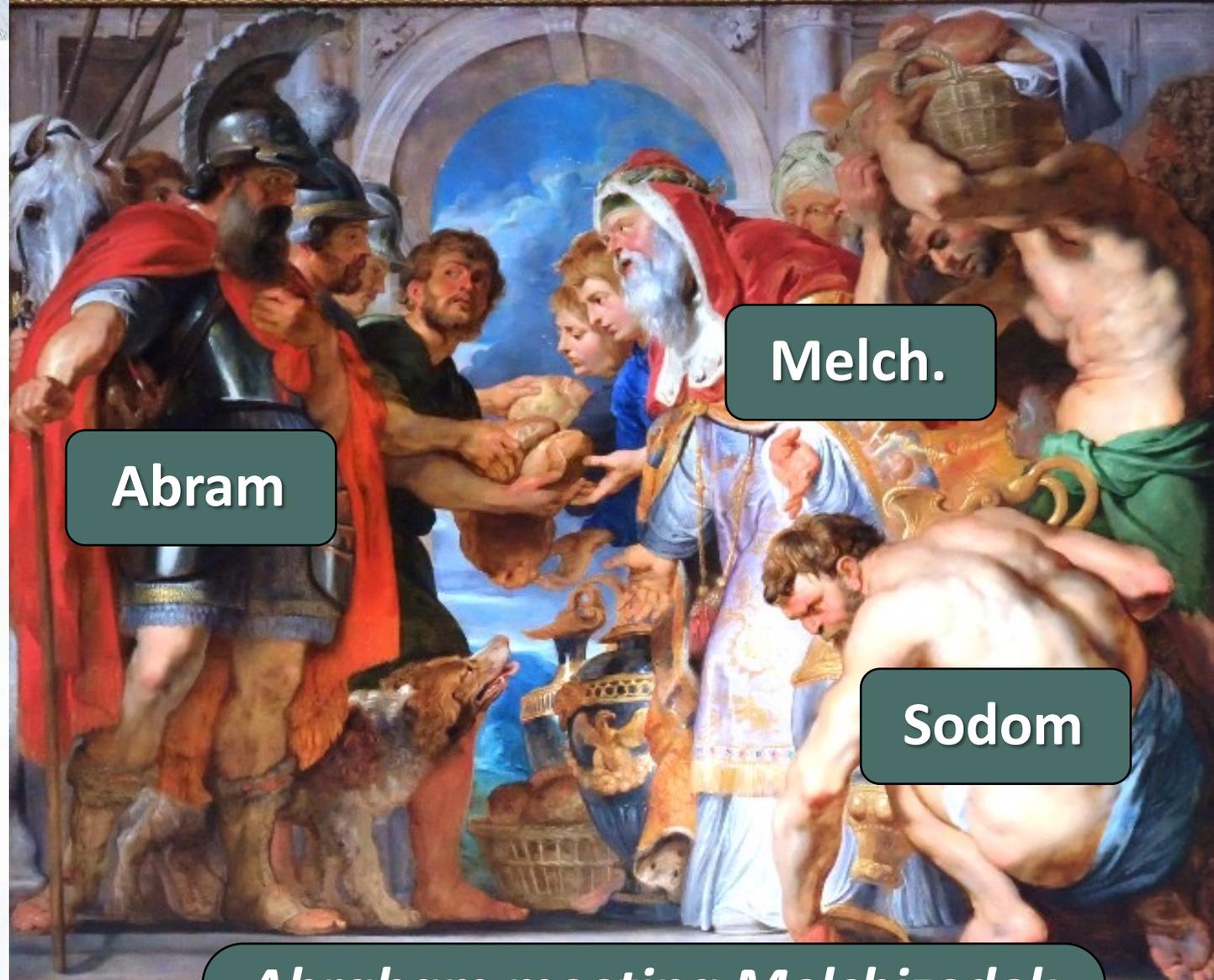
Embrace all shortcuts,
especially to be popular.



No shortcuts to value
creation.



Two kings come out to meet Abram and his war band on their triumphant return: Melchizedek of Salem, who worships YHWH and is ethical, and the ruler of Sodom. Unlike Melchizedek, the king of Sodom does not believe in YHWH and is an ethical relativist.

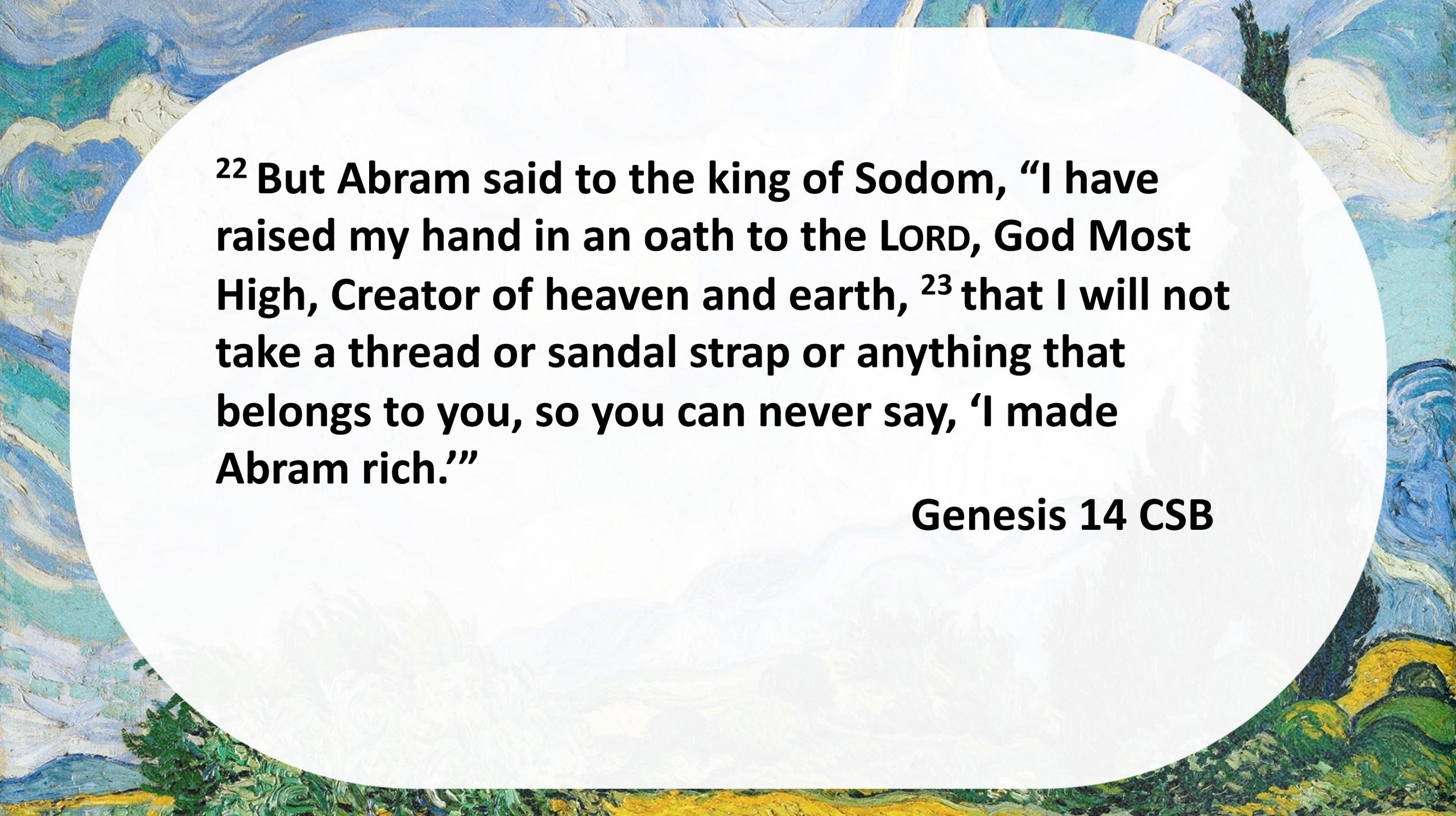


Abram

Melch.

Sodom

Abraham meeting Melchizedek
Peter Paul Reubens
1616-17



²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have raised my hand in an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³ that I will not take a thread or sandal strap or anything that belongs to you, so you can never say, ‘I made Abram rich.’”

Genesis 14 CSB

**Acts 5. Embrace all shortcuts,
especially to be popular.**



Death of Ananias
Raphael 1519

**Genesis 14. No shortcuts to
value creation.**



Abraham meeting Melchizedek
Peter Paul Reubens 1616-17

Psalm 92

¹ It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, Most High,
² to declare your faithful love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night,
³ with a ten-stringed harp
and the music of a lyre.

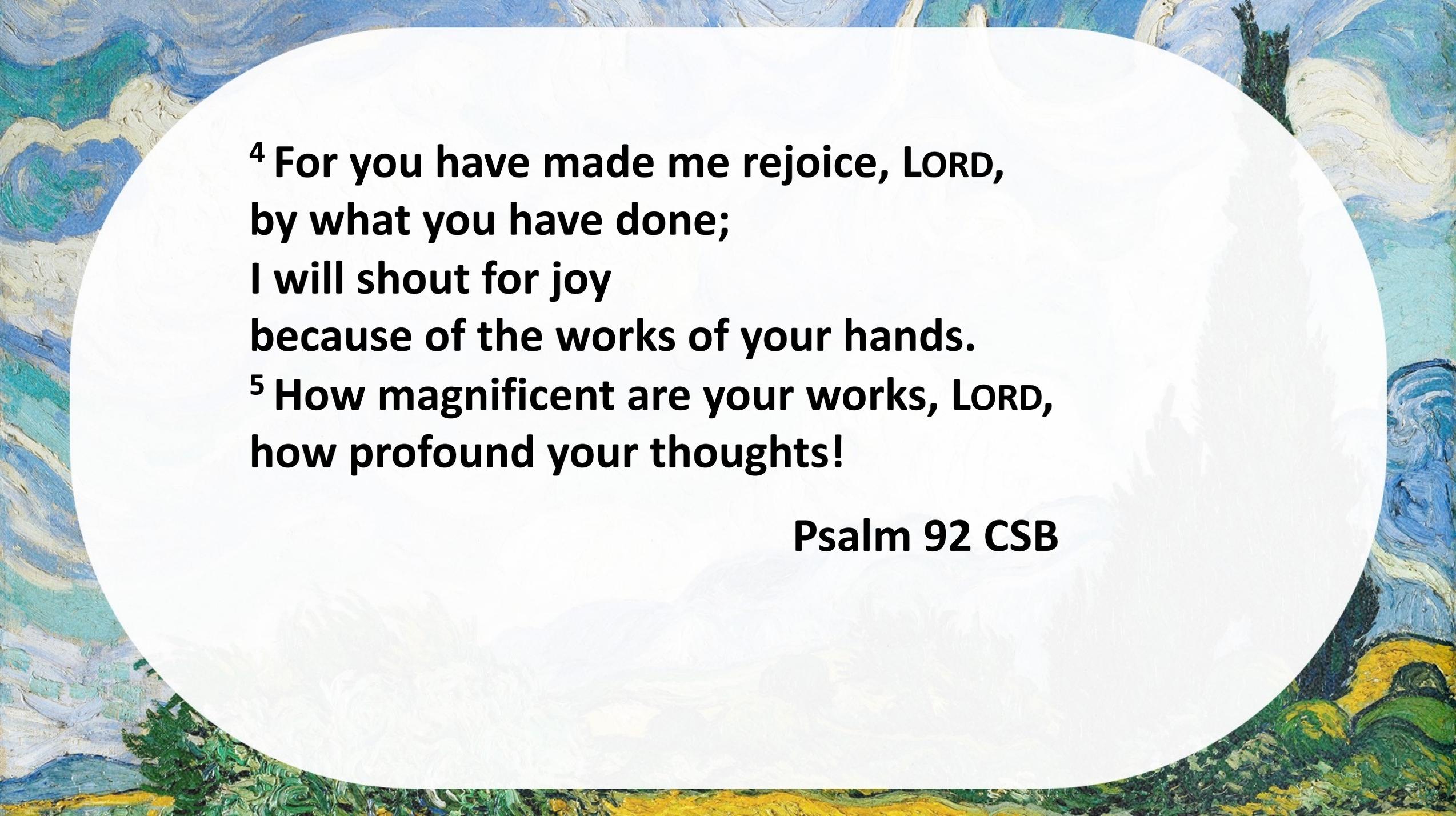
Psalm 92

**⁴ For you have made me rejoice, LORD,
by what you have done;
I will shout for joy
because of the works of your hands.**

**⁵ How magnificent are your works, LORD,
how profound your thoughts! ^{CSB}**

drawing their inspiration from earthly
understanding only





**⁴ For you have made me rejoice, LORD,
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Psalm 92 CSB



courtesy Janna Braudrick



courtesy middleearthminerals



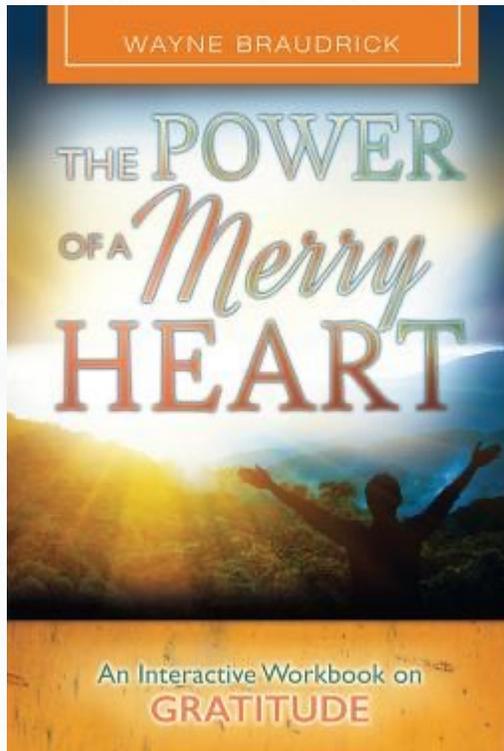
courtesy youtube

Psalm 92

⁵ How magnificent are your works, LORD,
how profound your thoughts! ^{CSB}

**“MY THOUGHTS ARE
NOT YOUR THOUGHTS,
AND MY WAYS ARE
NOT YOUR WAYS,”
DECLARES THE LORD.**

Is. 55:8

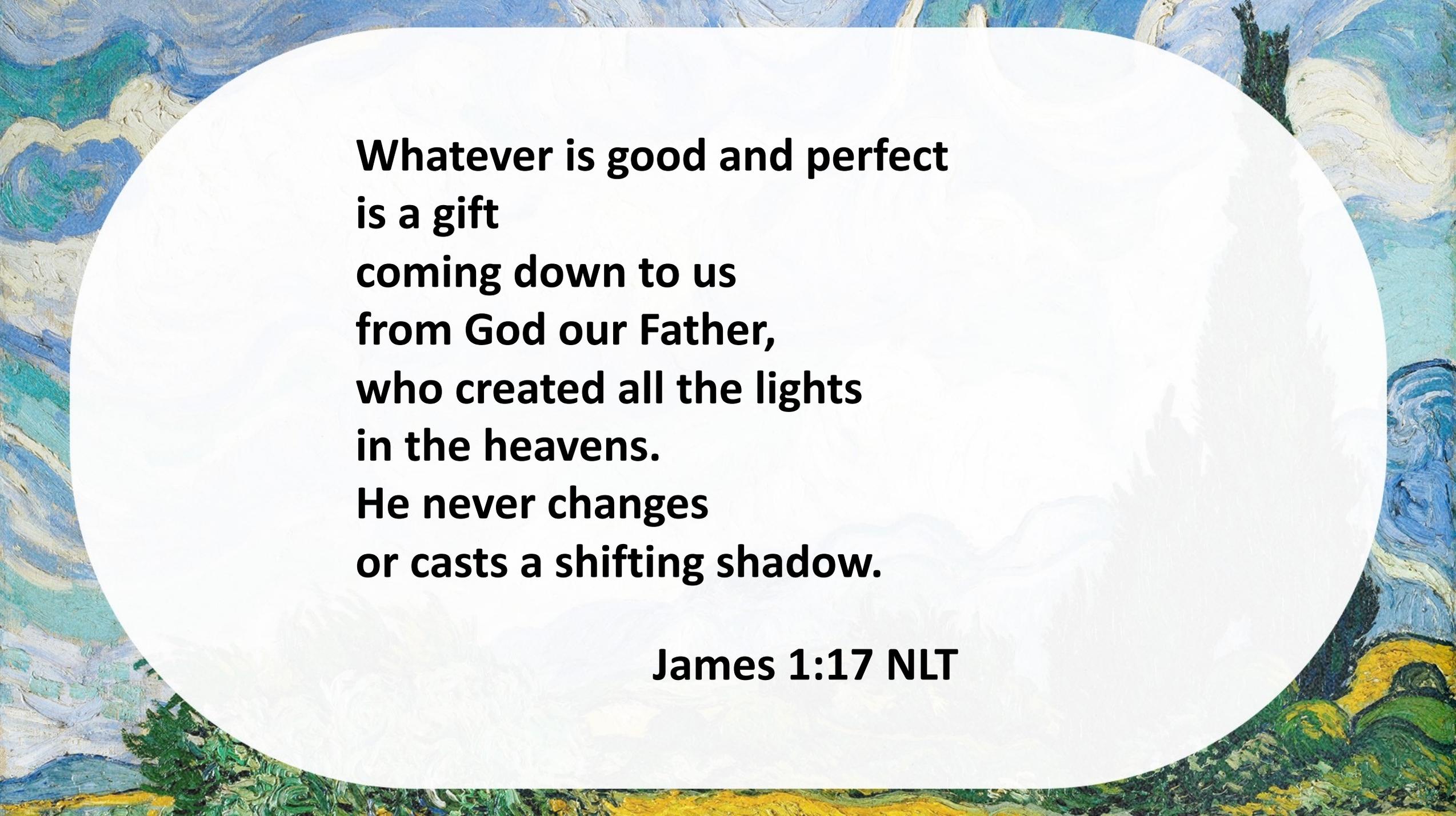


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Psalm 92 CSB



courtesy Nathan Gosvenor

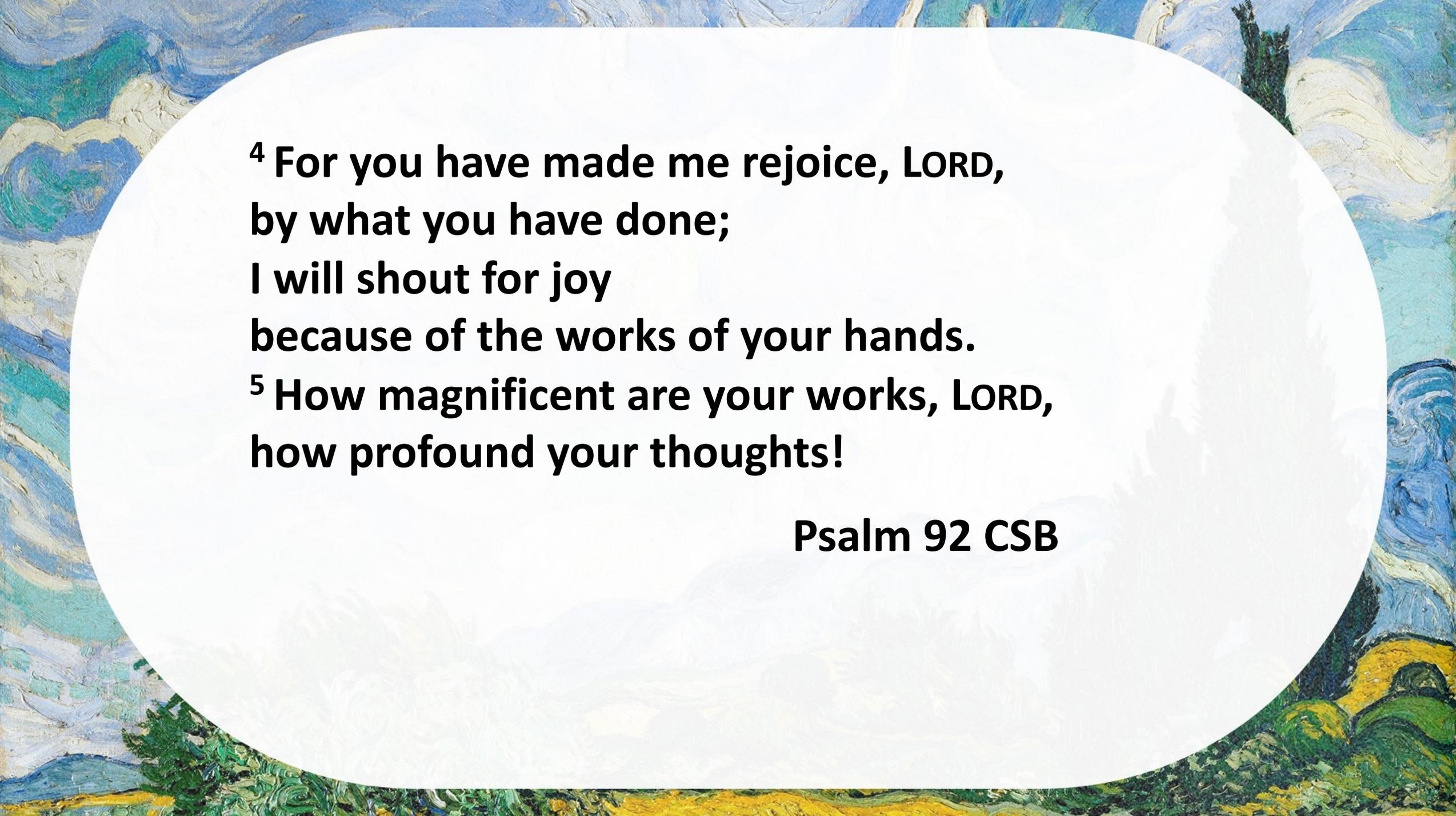


**Whatever is good and perfect
is a gift
coming down to us
from God our Father,
who created all the lights
in the heavens.
He never changes
or casts a shifting shadow.**

James 1:17 NLT



**GOD IS GOOD
ALL THE TIME**

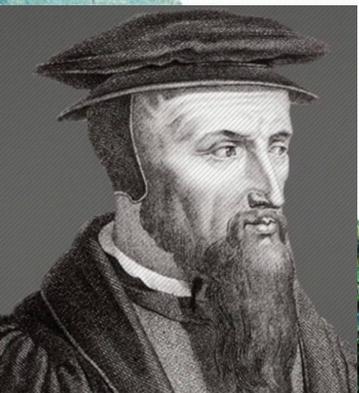


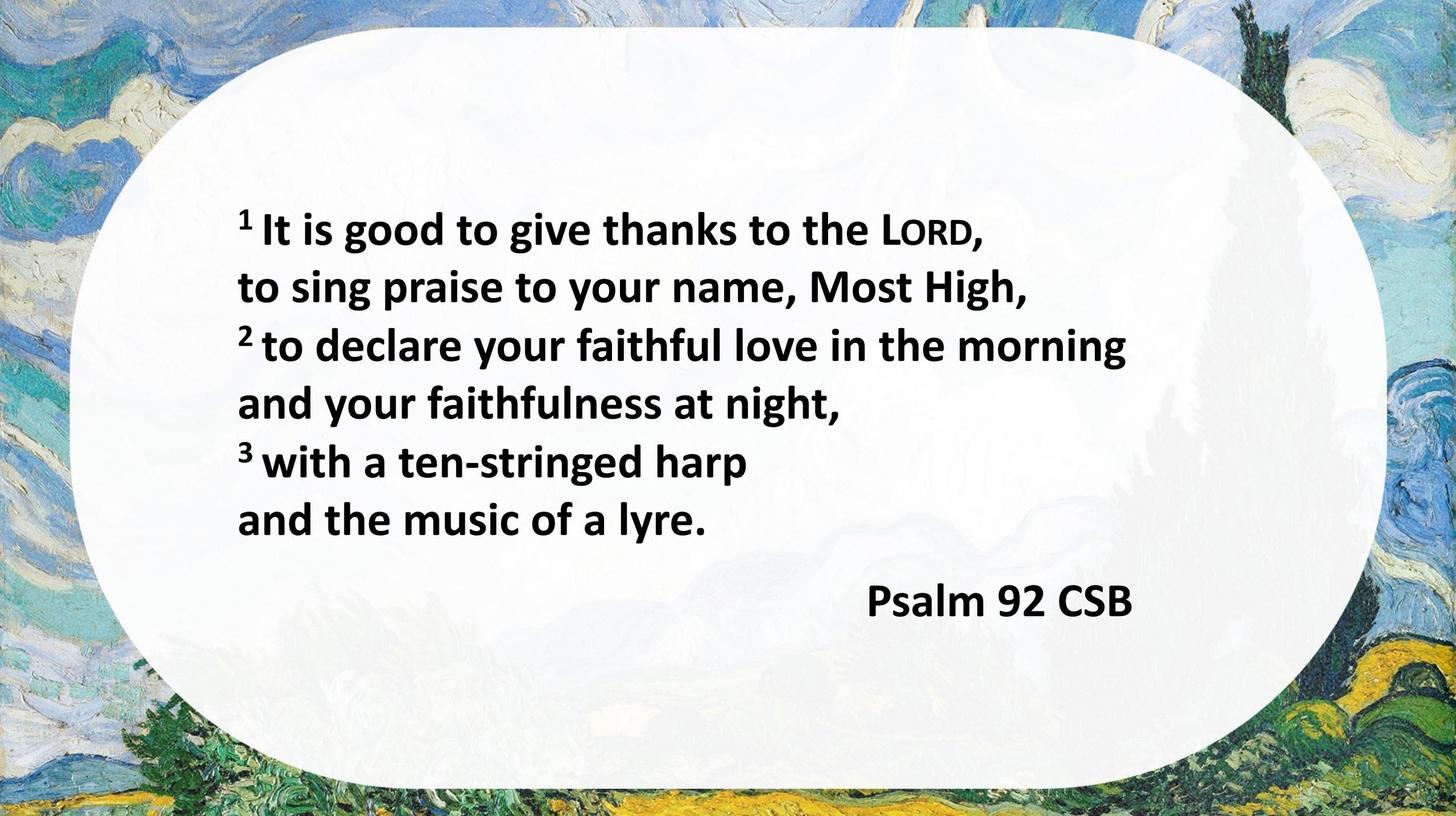
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because of the works of your hands.**

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Psalm 92 CSB

**What produces joy in our hearts is the exhibition which God gives of himself as a Father, and of his deep and watchful anxiety for our welfare; as, on the other hand, the cause of our brutish indifference is our inability to savour or relish the end designed in the works of God. As the universe proclaims throughout that God is faithful and good, it becomes us to be diligently observant of these tokens, and to be excited by a holy joy to the celebration of his praise. – John Calvin,
*Commentary on the Book of Psalms***





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Psalm 92 CSB

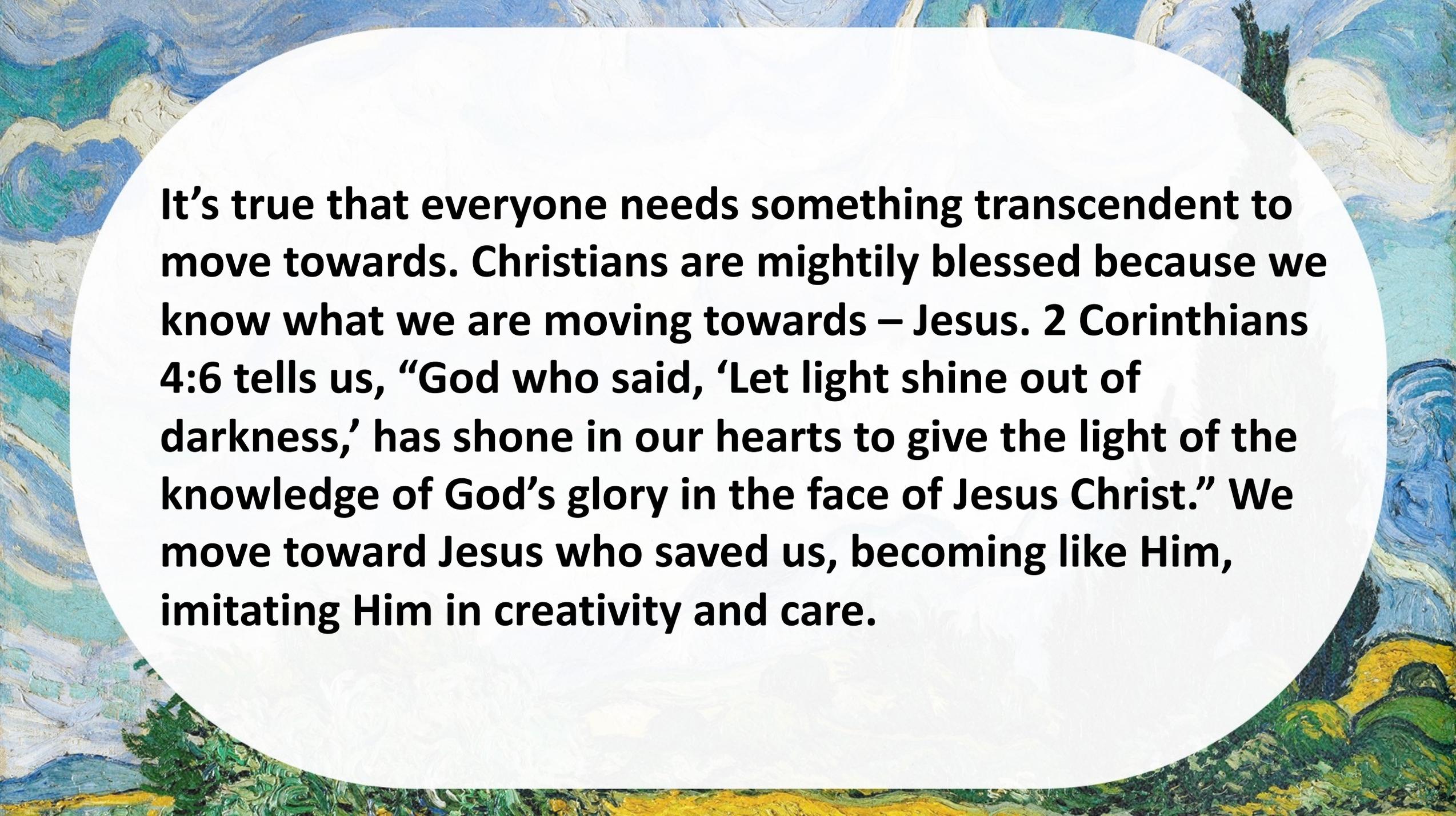


Psalm 92

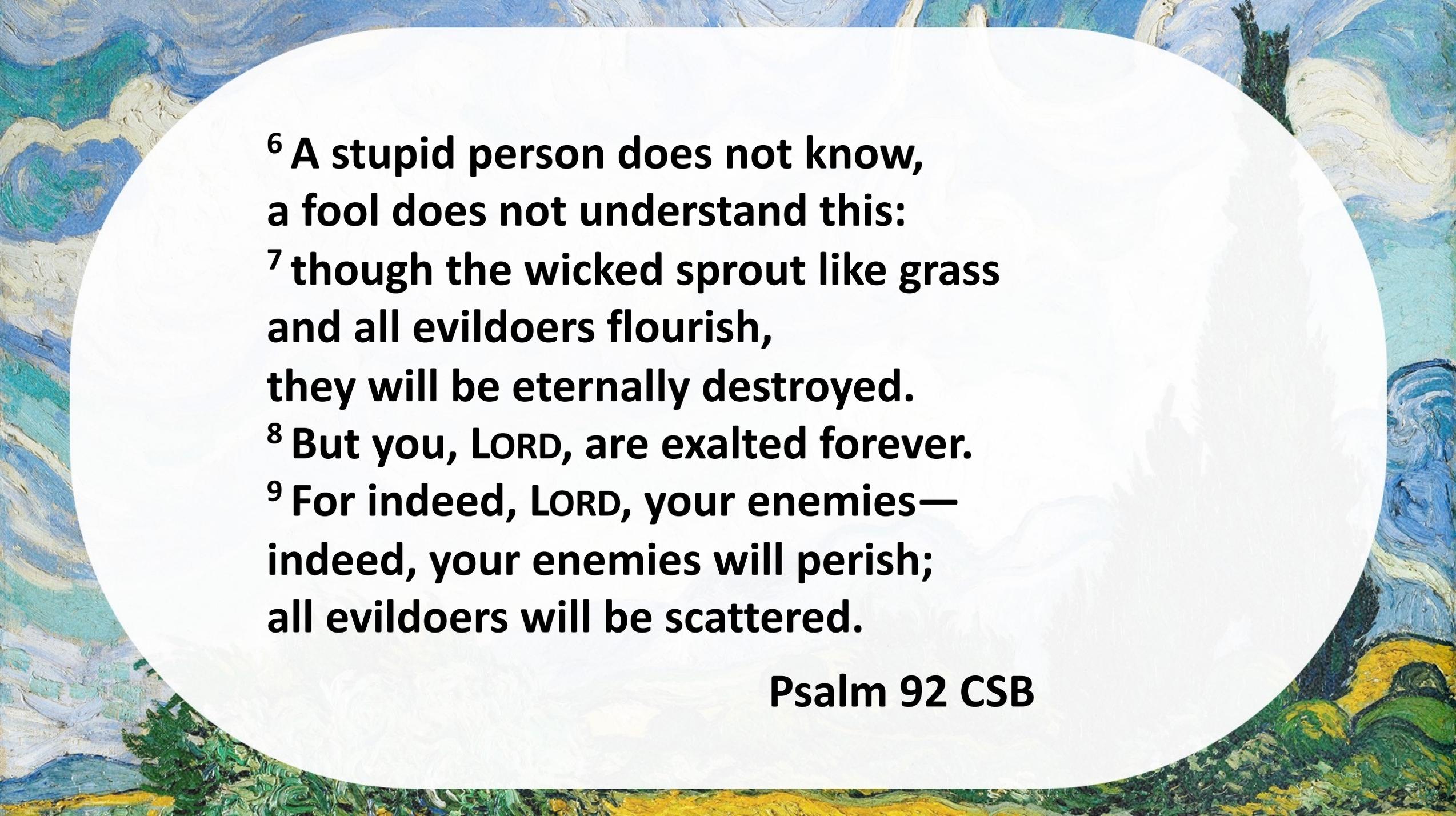
[Sing and declare]

**³ with a ten-stringed harp
and the music of a lyre.**

**WE HAVE
THE MIND
OF CHRIST.
1 CORINTHIANS
2:16**



It's true that everyone needs something transcendent to move towards. Christians are mightily blessed because we know what we are moving towards – Jesus. 2 Corinthians 4:6 tells us, “God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.” We move toward Jesus who saved us, becoming like Him, imitating Him in creativity and care.



**⁶ A stupid person does not know,
a fool does not understand this:
⁷ though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they will be eternally destroyed.
⁸ But you, LORD, are exalted forever.
⁹ For indeed, LORD, your enemies—
indeed, your enemies will perish;
all evildoers will be scattered.**

Psalm 92 CSB

**False prosperity perishes.
Cutting corners leads
to getting cut.**

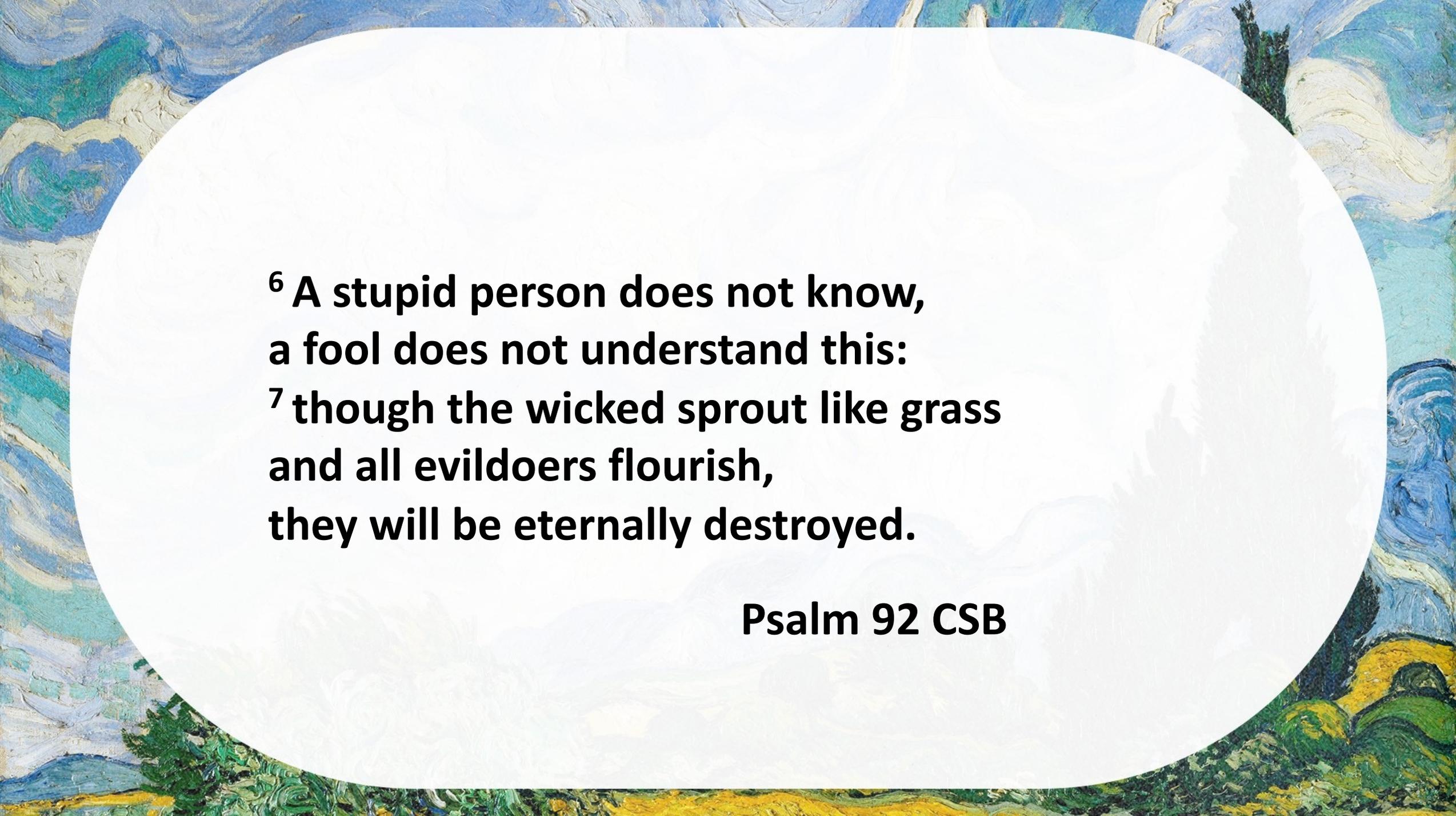




courtesy flowerbulbcrazy

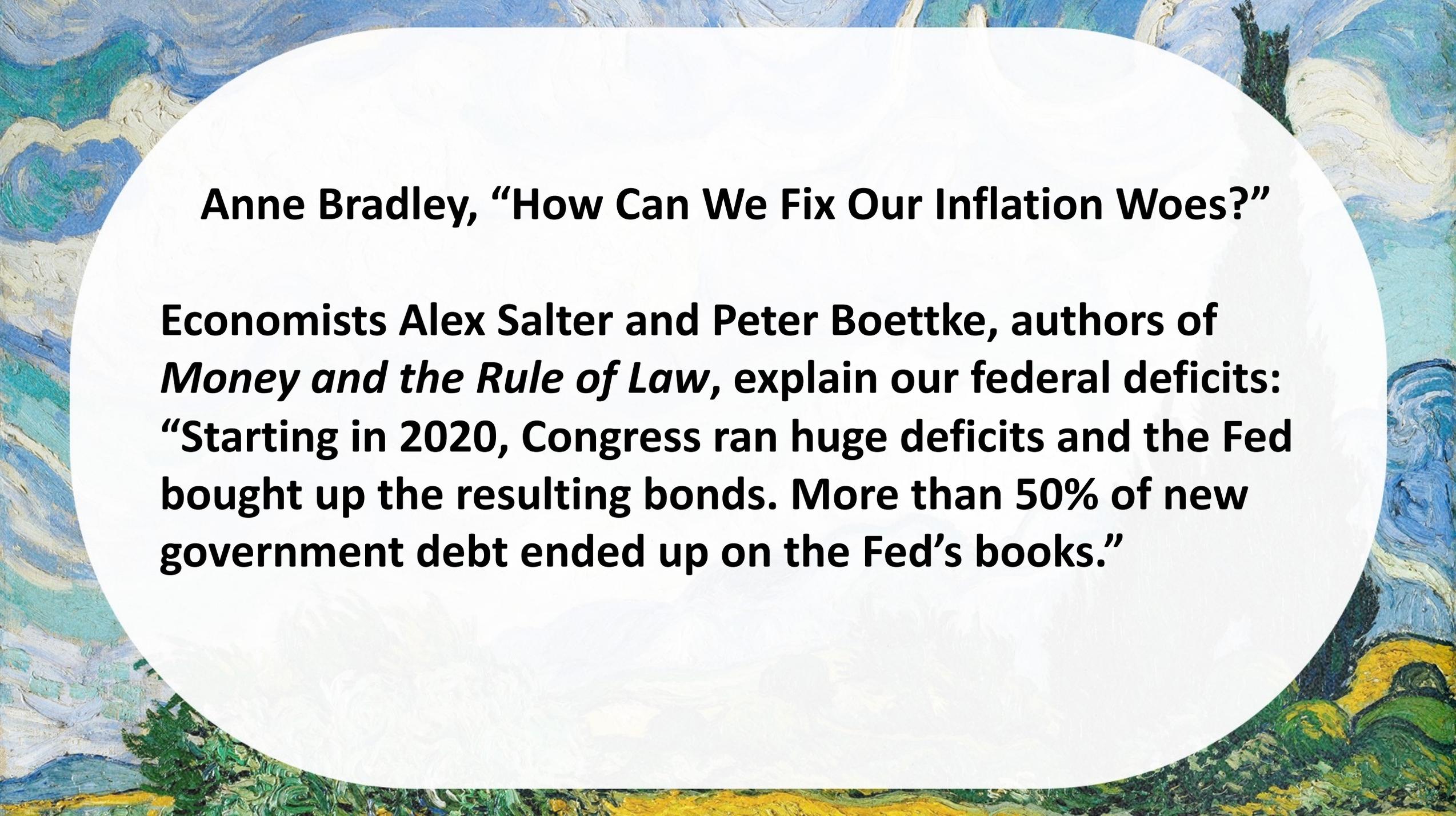


courtesy greenupside



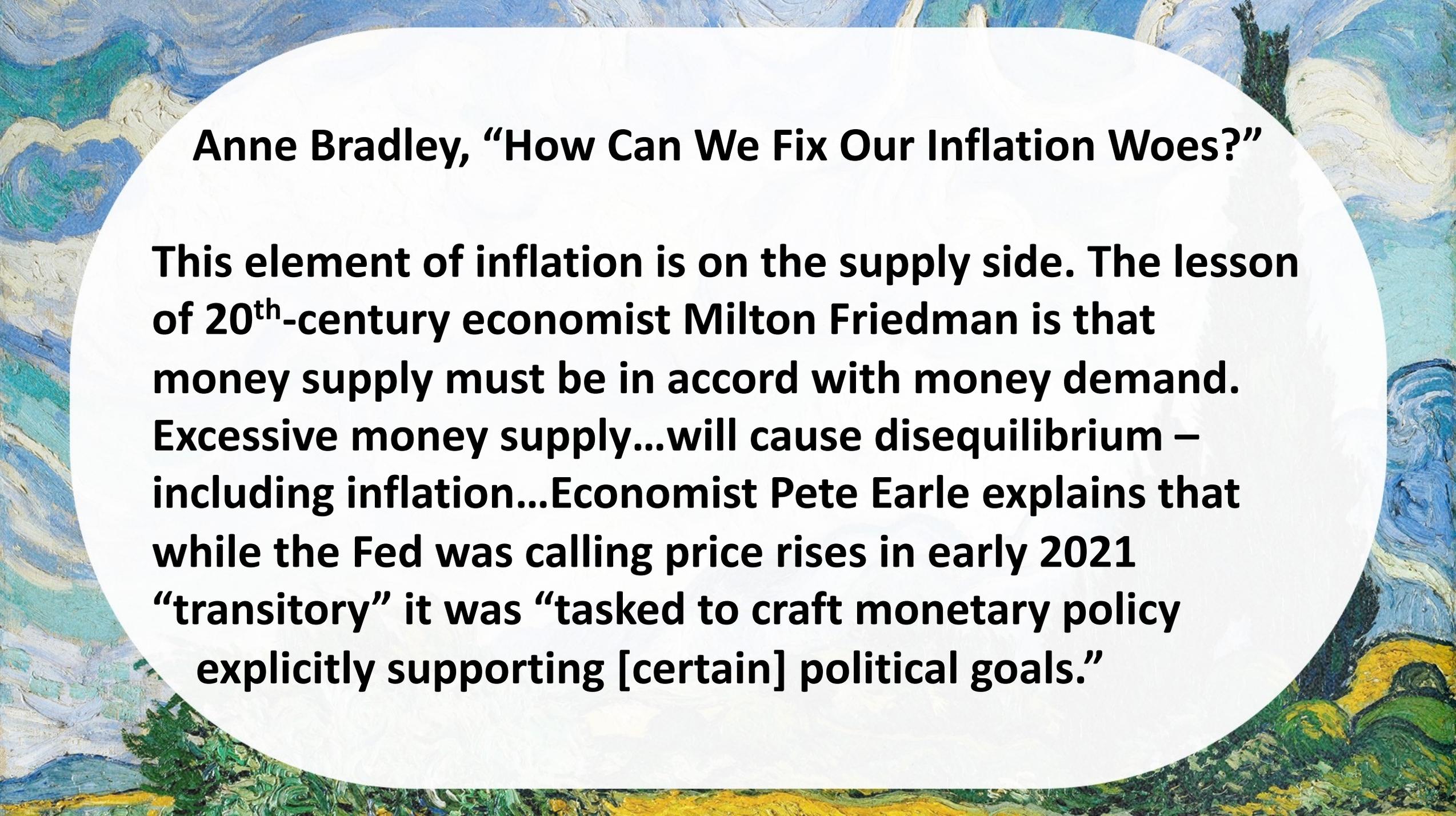
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Psalm 92 CSB



Anne Bradley, “How Can We Fix Our Inflation Woes?”

Economists Alex Salter and Peter Boettke, authors of *Money and the Rule of Law*, explain our federal deficits: “Starting in 2020, Congress ran huge deficits and the Fed bought up the resulting bonds. More than 50% of new government debt ended up on the Fed’s books.”

The background is a vibrant, textured painting of a landscape, likely by Vincent van Gogh, featuring swirling blue and green hills under a bright sky. A large white circle is superimposed on the center of the image, containing the text.

Anne Bradley, “How Can We Fix Our Inflation Woes?”

This element of inflation is on the supply side. The lesson of 20th-century economist Milton Friedman is that money supply must be in accord with money demand. Excessive money supply...will cause disequilibrium – including inflation...Economist Pete Earle explains that while the Fed was calling price rises in early 2021 “transitory” it was “tasked to craft monetary policy explicitly supporting [certain] political goals.”

**The Fed didn't stay in its lane. Now we find ourselves in a position requiring painful correction...The Fed must take specific steps to curb inflation, but it also must stop engaging in...social justice, climate change, ESG, etc. To avoid future episodes of unexpected and persistent inflation, it must be restrained by rules and the rule of law. – Anne Bradley,
“How Can We Fix Our Inflation Woes?”**



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Psalm 92 CSB



**GET
RICH
QUICK!**

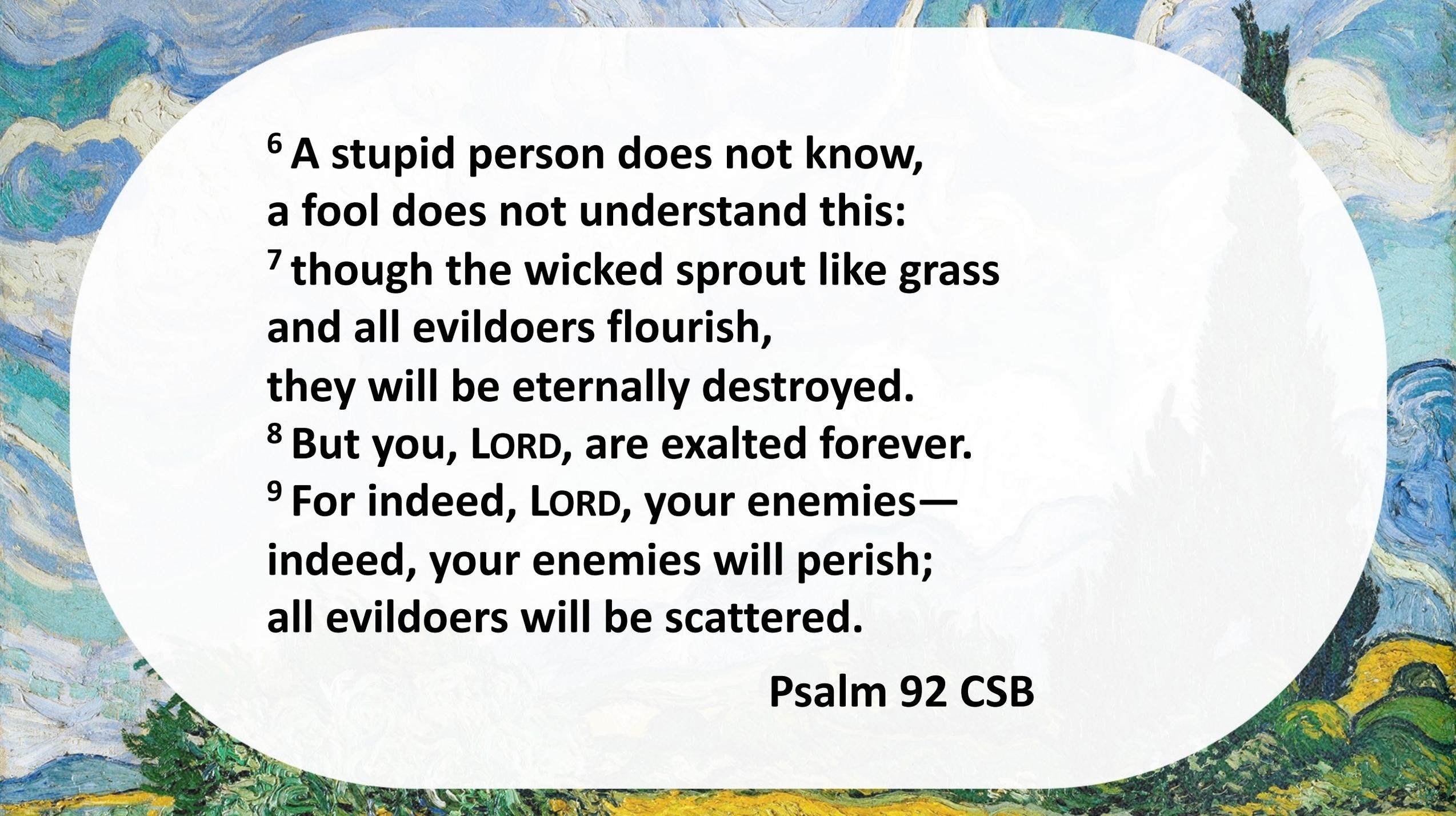
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Psalm 92 CSB

GO TO

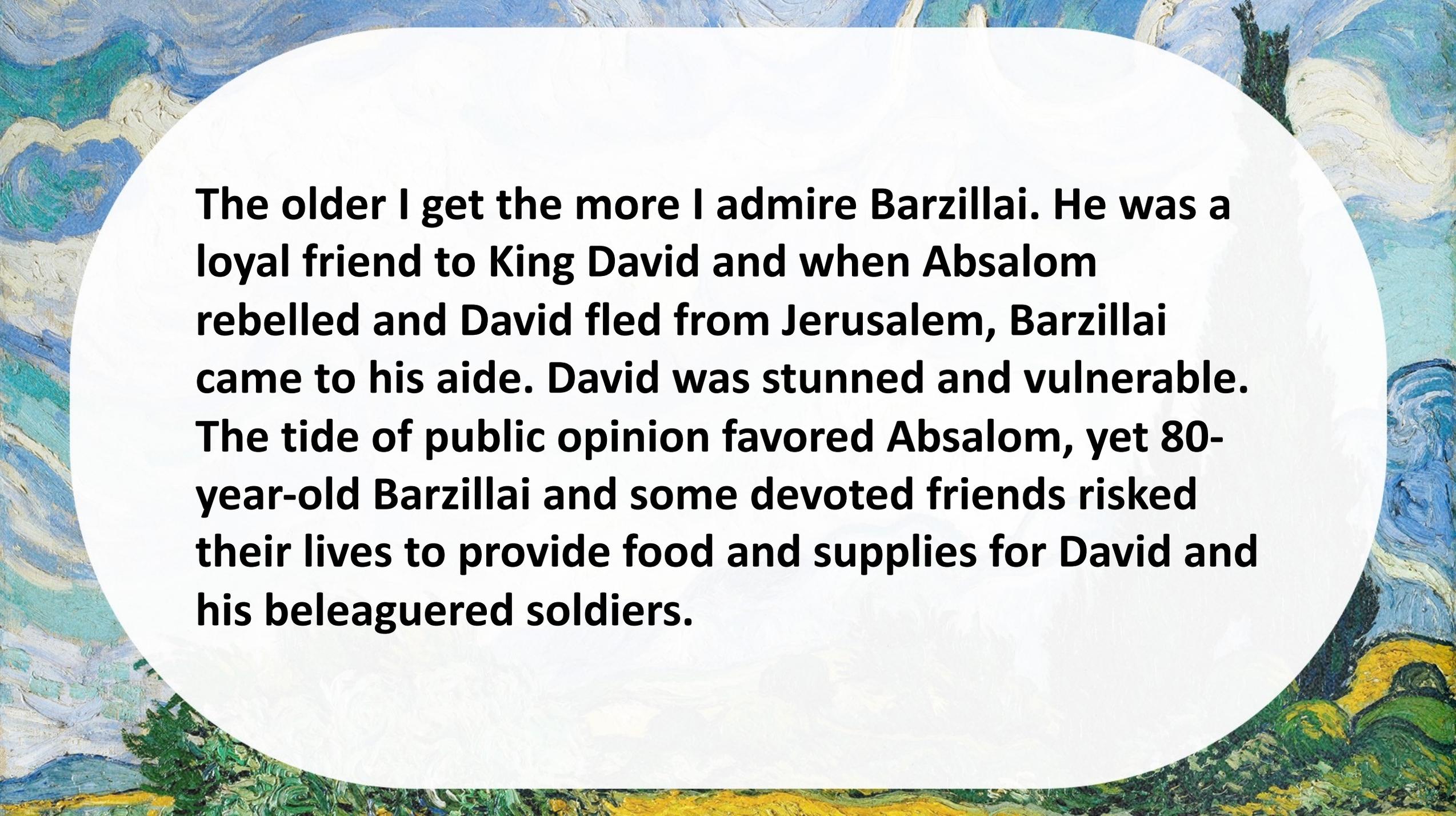


JAIL

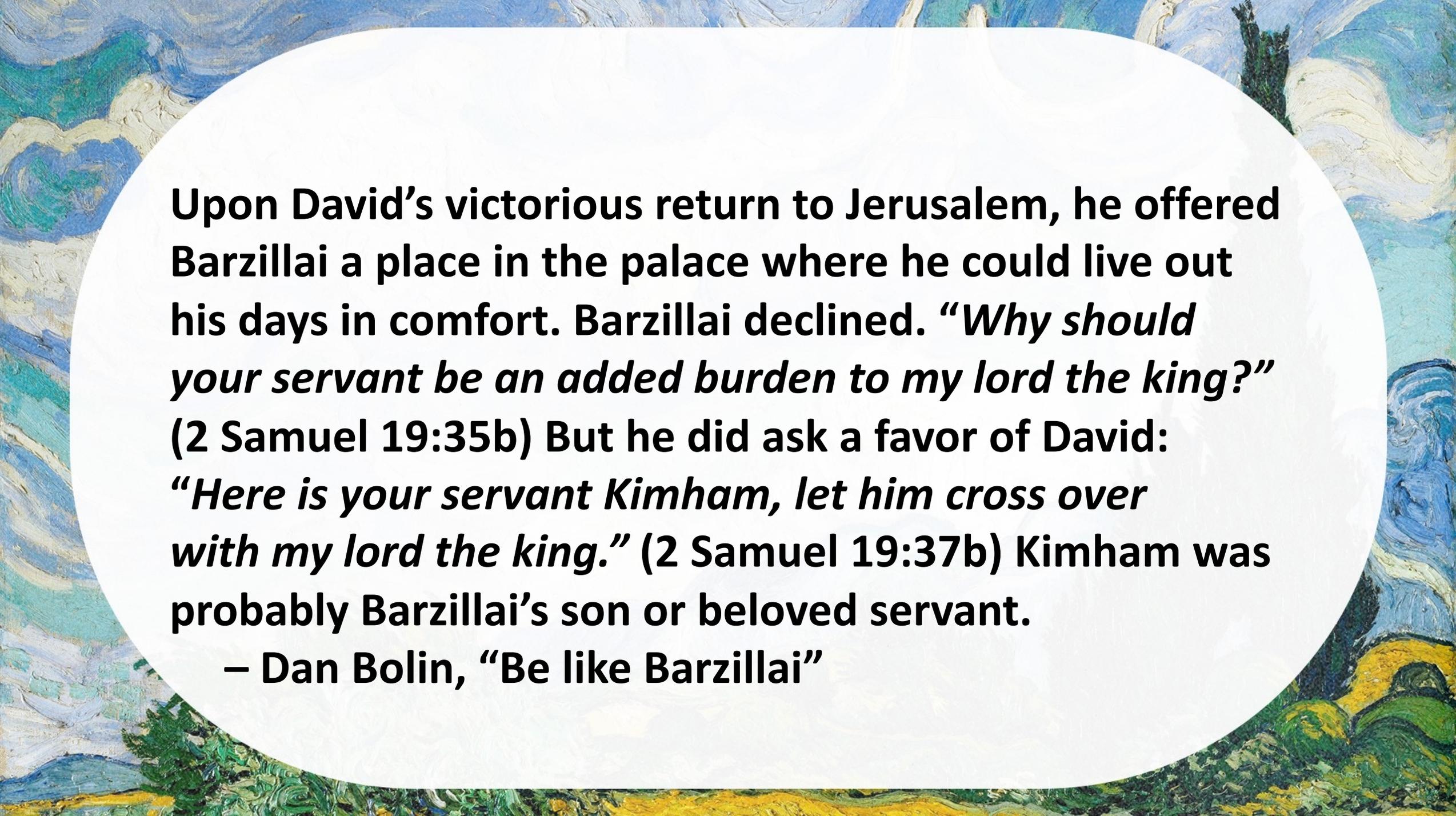


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Psalm 92 CSB



The older I get the more I admire Barzillai. He was a loyal friend to King David and when Absalom rebelled and David fled from Jerusalem, Barzillai came to his aide. David was stunned and vulnerable. The tide of public opinion favored Absalom, yet 80-year-old Barzillai and some devoted friends risked their lives to provide food and supplies for David and his beleaguered soldiers.



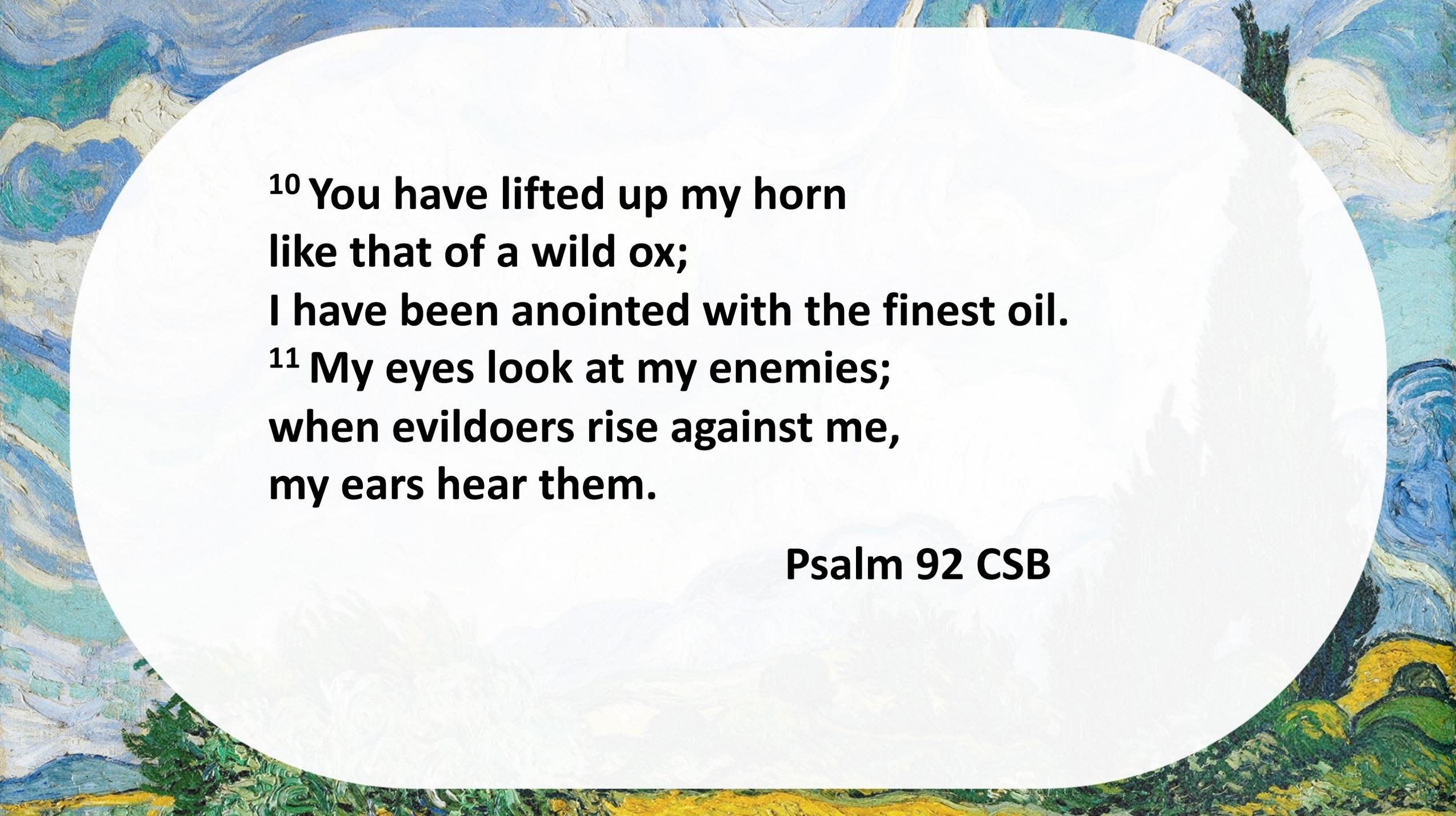
Upon David's victorious return to Jerusalem, he offered Barzillai a place in the palace where he could live out his days in comfort. Barzillai declined. *"Why should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?"* (2 Samuel 19:35b) But he did ask a favor of David: *"Here is your servant Kimham, let him cross over with my lord the king."* (2 Samuel 19:37b) Kimham was probably Barzillai's son or beloved servant.

– Dan Bolin, "Be like Barzillai"

I want to be like Barzillai because:

- **He was a loyal friend.**
- **He was generous.**
- **He stayed active throughout his life.**
- **He stood on God's side despite contrary opinions of his day.**
- **He was altruistic.**
- **He did not want to be a burden on others.**
- **He wasn't undone by opposition.**
- **He cared for the next generation. – Dan Bolin,
“Be like Barzillai”**





**¹⁰ You have lifted up my horn
like that of a wild ox;
I have been anointed with the finest oil.
¹¹ My eyes look at my enemies;
when evildoers rise against me,
my ears hear them.**

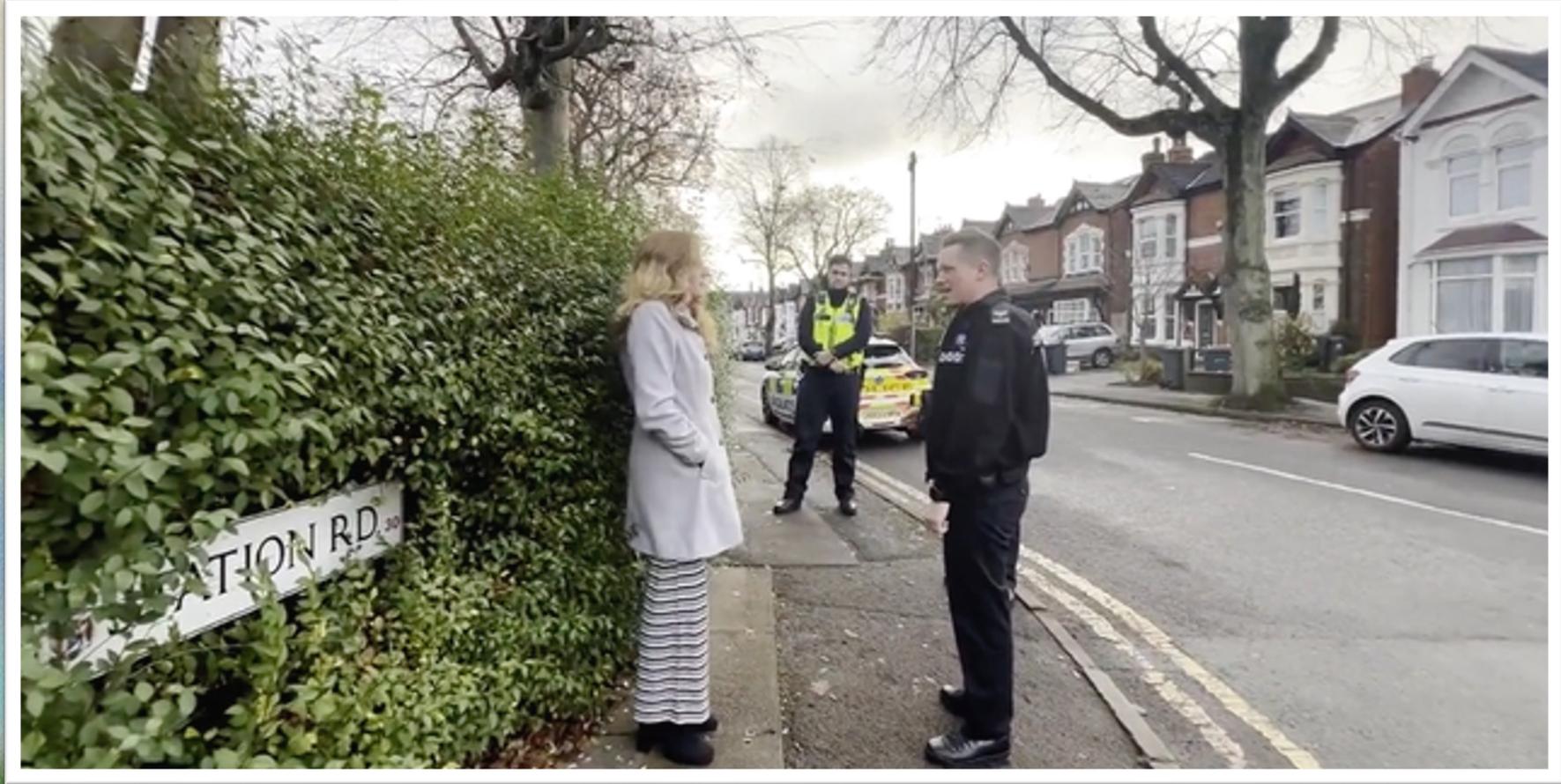
Psalm 92 CSB

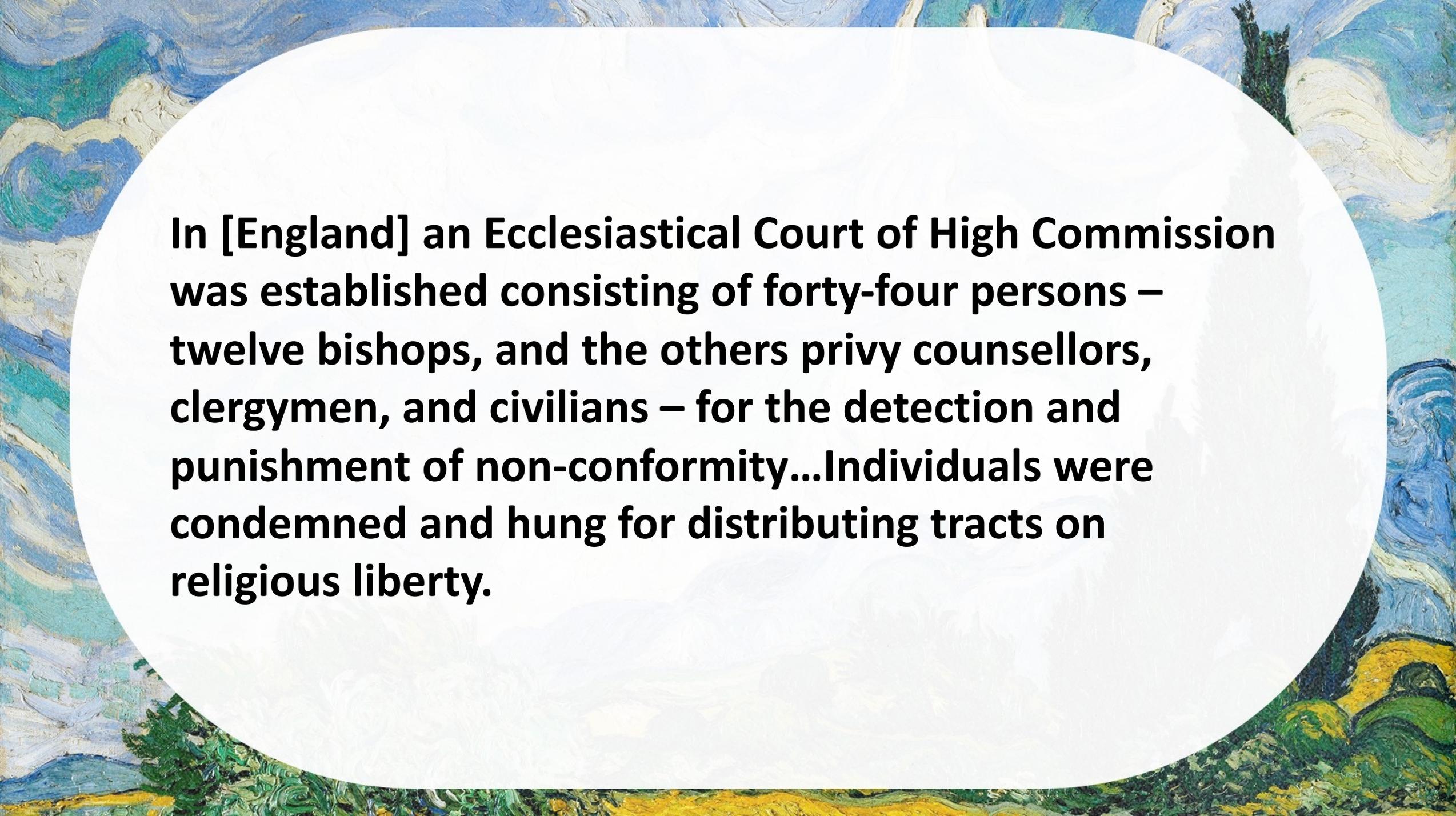
You are made acceptable to God?

Then, in jealousy I will attack you.

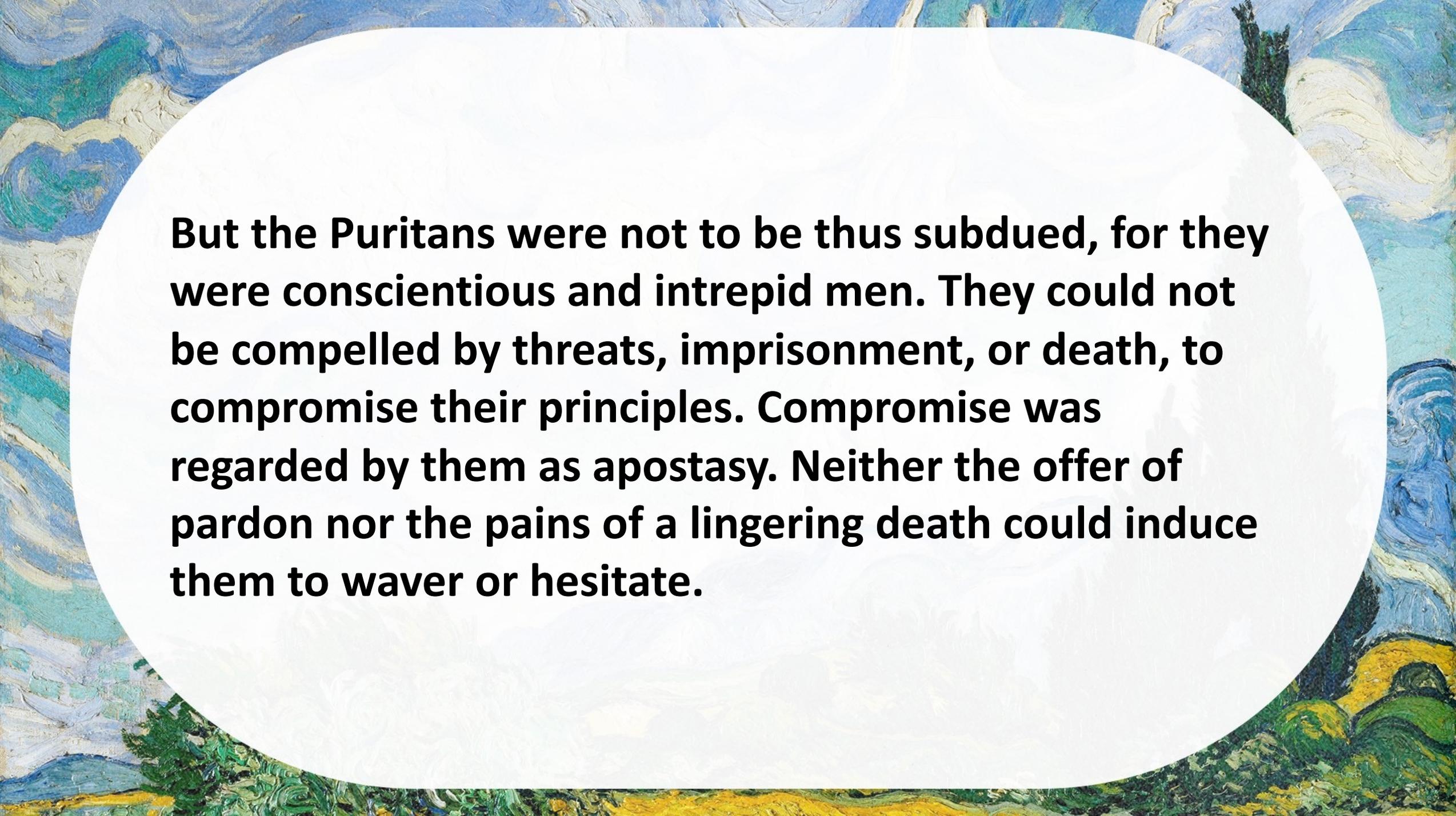
Cain & Abel
from
*Speculum
Humanae
Salvationis*
15th c.
Germany





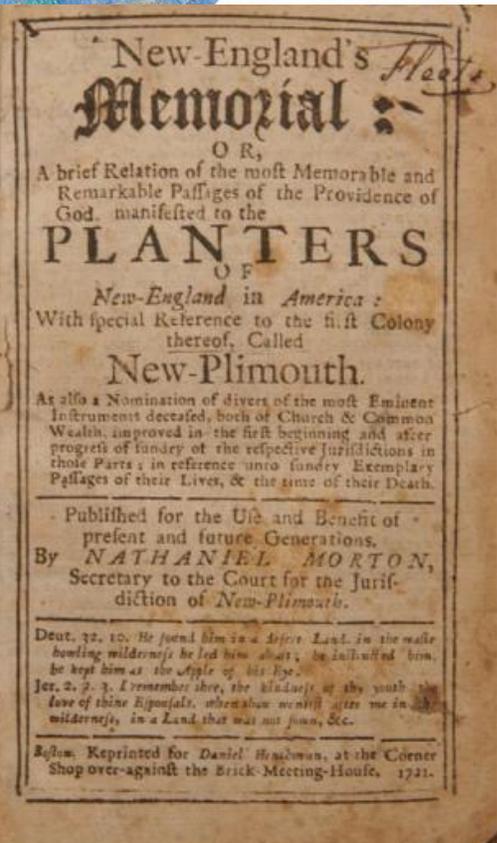


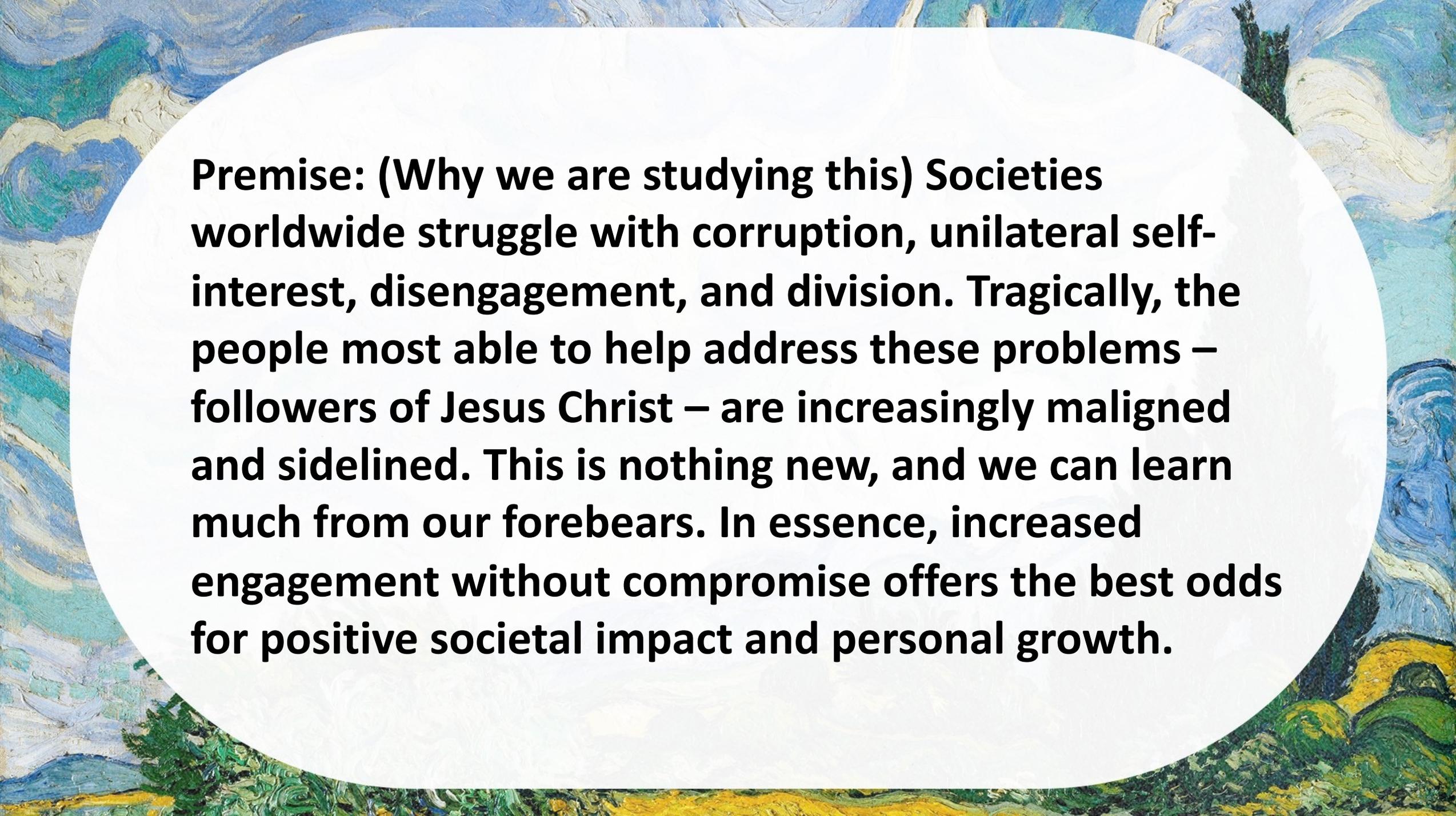
In [England] an Ecclesiastical Court of High Commission was established consisting of forty-four persons – twelve bishops, and the others privy counsellors, clergymen, and civilians – for the detection and punishment of non-conformity...Individuals were condemned and hung for distributing tracts on religious liberty.



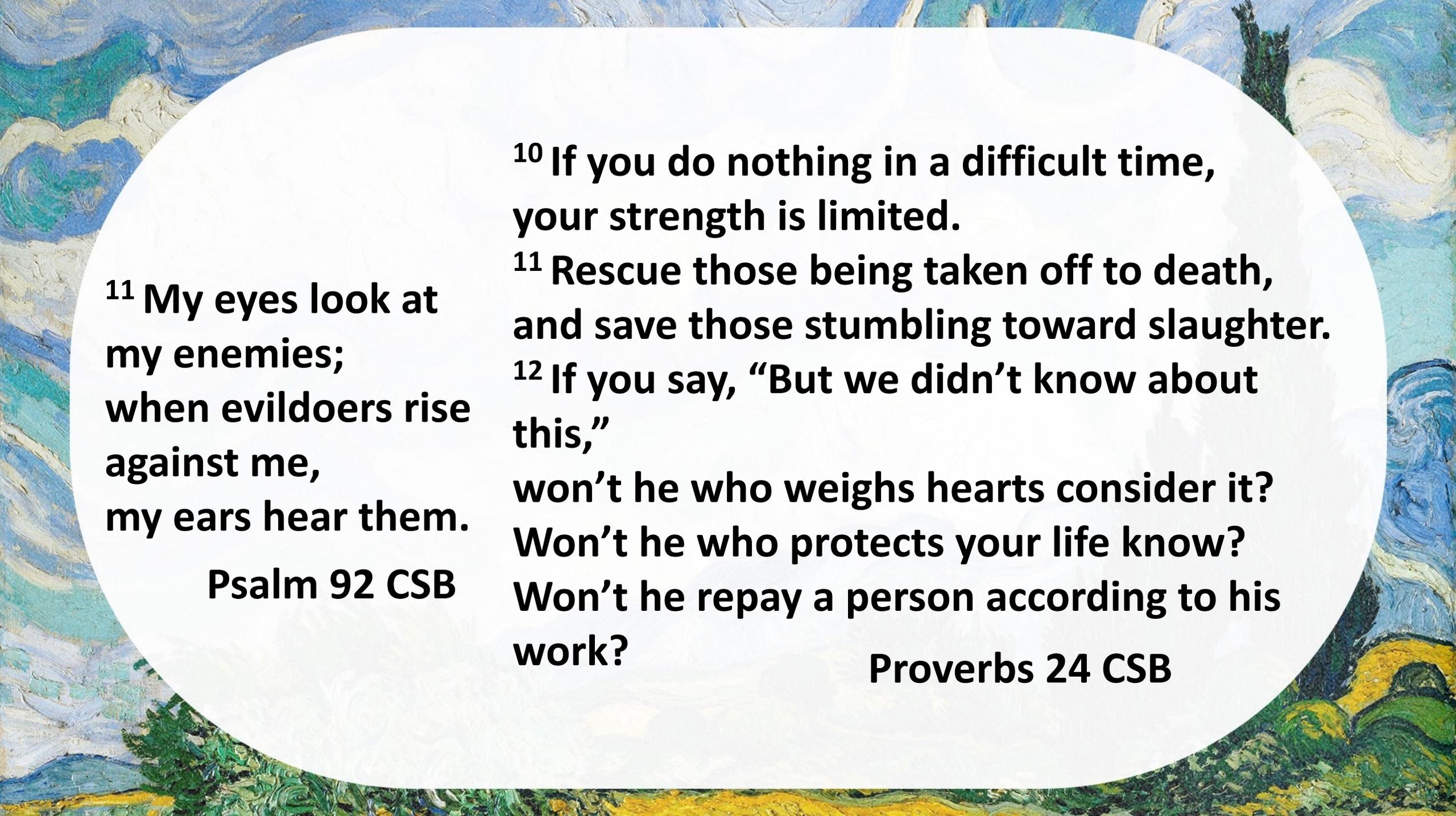
But the Puritans were not to be thus subdued, for they were conscientious and intrepid men. They could not be compelled by threats, imprisonment, or death, to compromise their principles. Compromise was regarded by them as apostasy. Neither the offer of pardon nor the pains of a lingering death could induce them to waver or hesitate.

They were the implacable adversaries of religious oppression. They admitted of no hierarchy in the church, of no parliament or king to interpret for them the word of God, which they made their only standard, and, under its guide, conformed their ecclesiastical discipline to republican productivity. – from the Congregational Board 1855 introduction to Nathaniel Morton’s 1669 *New England’s Memorial*





Premise: (Why we are studying this) Societies worldwide struggle with corruption, unilateral self-interest, disengagement, and division. Tragically, the people most able to help address these problems – followers of Jesus Christ – are increasingly maligned and sidelined. This is nothing new, and we can learn much from our forebears. In essence, increased engagement without compromise offers the best odds for positive societal impact and personal growth.



**11 My eyes look at
my enemies;
when evildoers rise
against me,
my ears hear them.**

Psalm 92 CSB

**10 If you do nothing in a difficult time,
your strength is limited.**

**11 Rescue those being taken off to death,
and save those stumbling toward slaughter.**

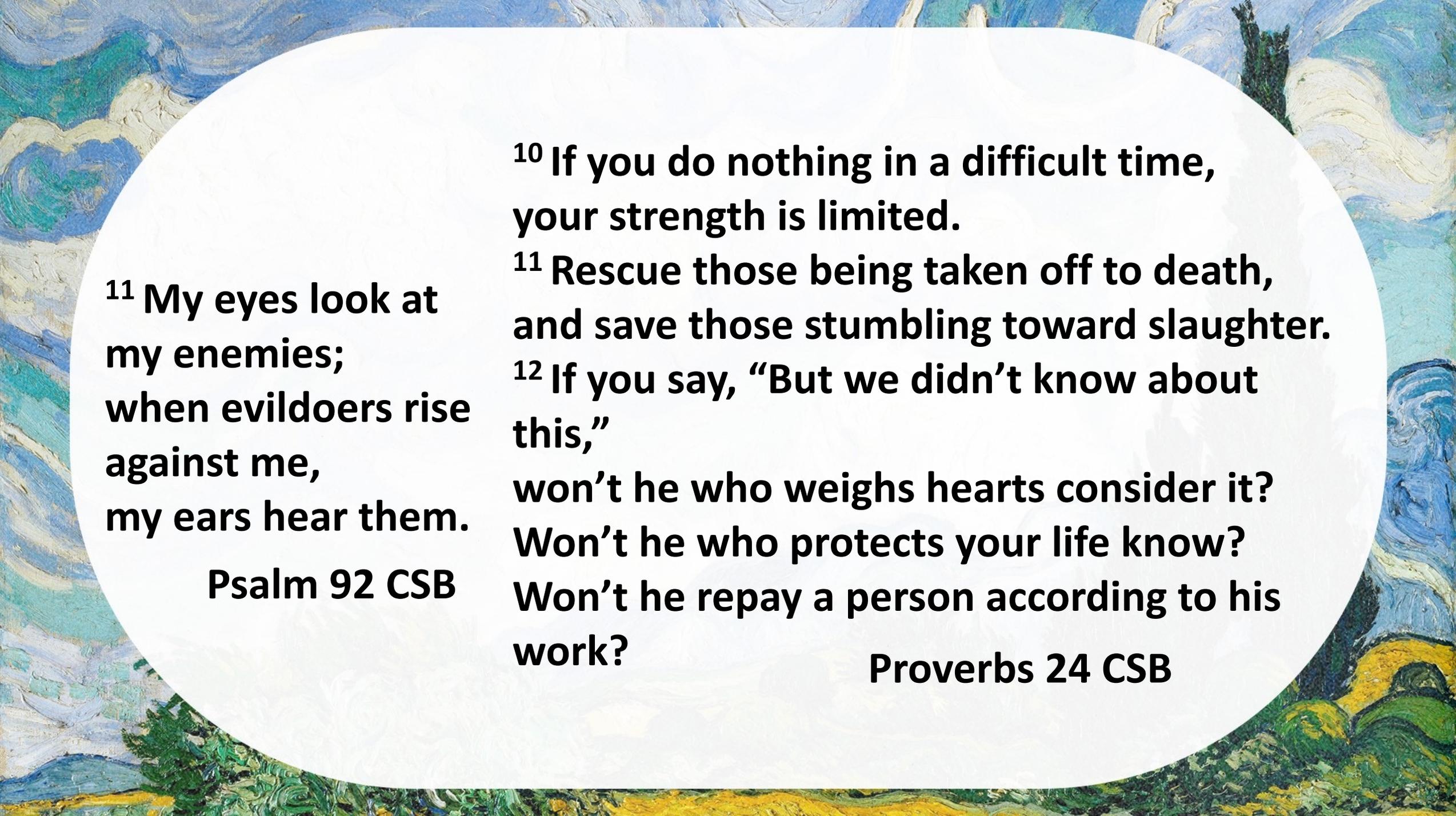
**12 If you say, “But we didn’t know about
this,”
won’t he who weighs hearts consider it?
Won’t he who protects your life know?
Won’t he repay a person according to his
work?**

Proverbs 24 CSB

How did we get here? How did we get to a place where insane ideas are not just popular, but sacred? How did we get to a point where it's considered hateful to tell the truth, even in jest? I think the answer is as simple and straightforward as this: instead of laughing at absurdity, we accepted it.

– Seth Dillon, “Dangerously Funny”





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Psalm 92 CSB

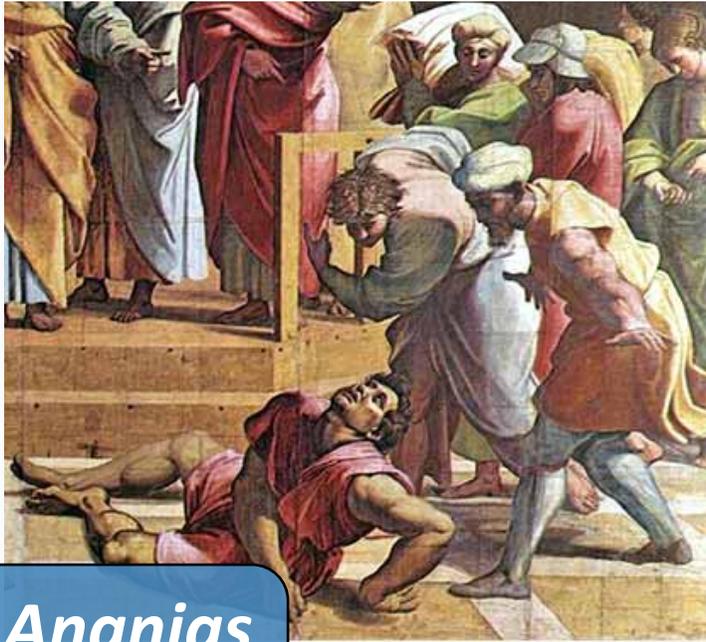
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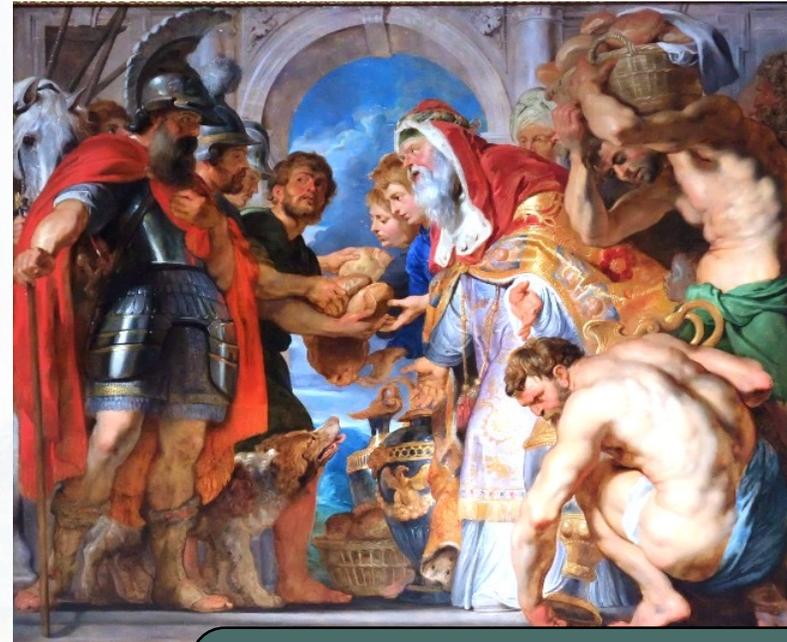
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Proverbs 24 CSB

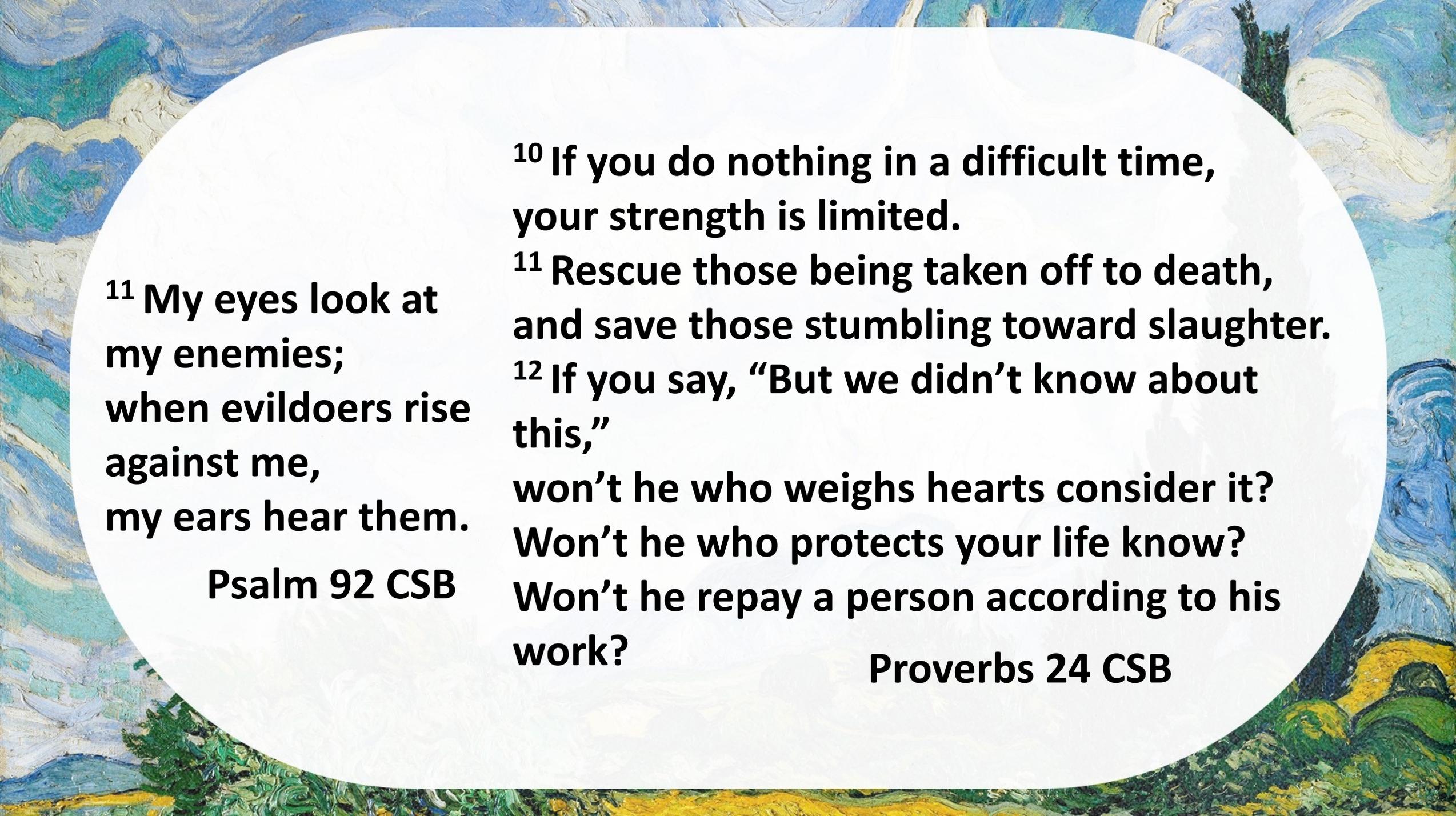
In order to prop up an insane worldview that can't be defended, or even coherently articulated, you have to insulate it from criticism. [Exposure] of foolishness...debilitates. – Seth Dillon, “Dangerously Funny”



Death of Ananias
Raphael 1519



Abraham meeting Melchizedek
Peter Paul Reubens 1616-17



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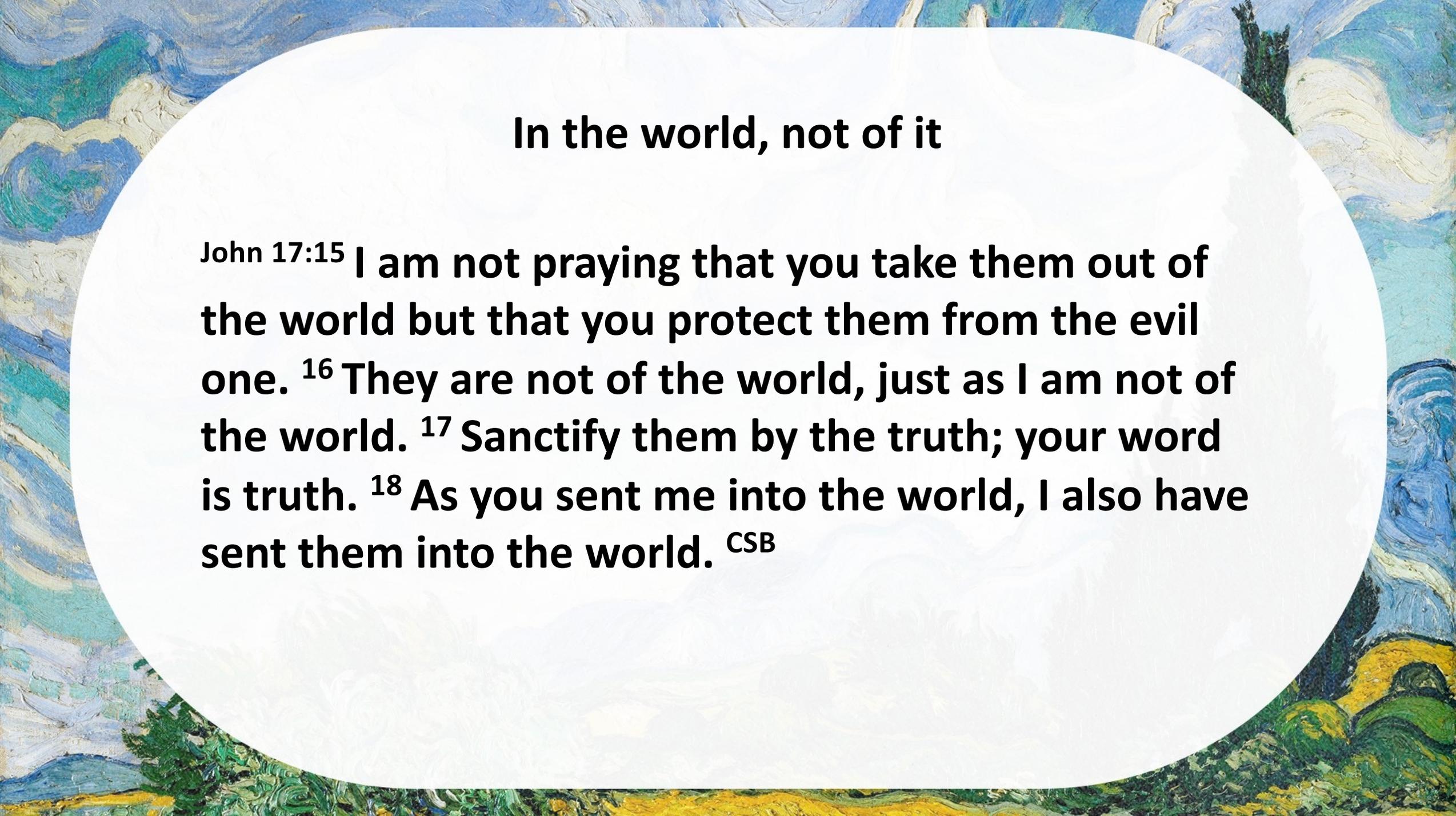
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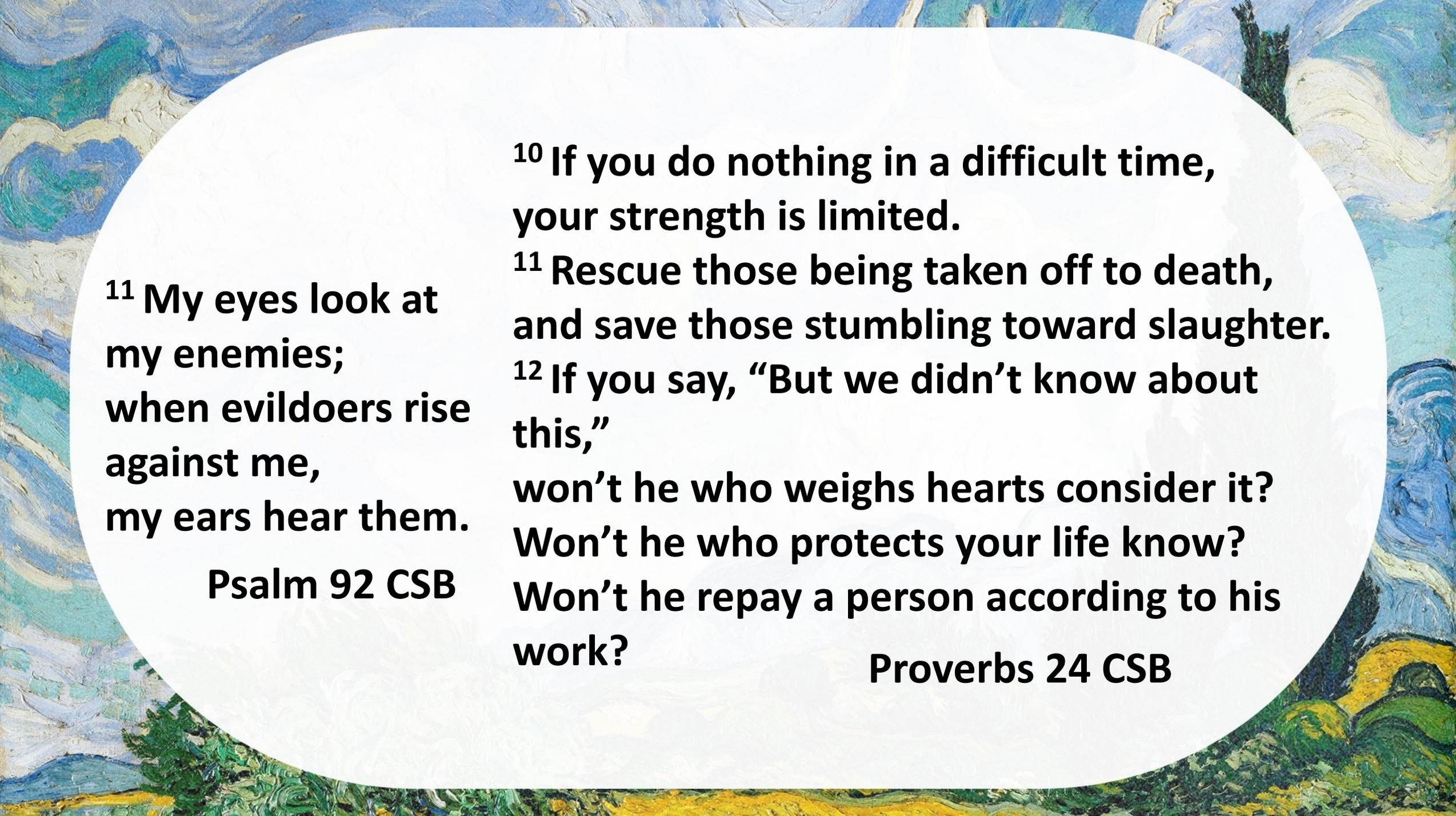
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work?**

Proverbs 24 CSB



In the world, not of it

John 17:15 I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ^{CSB}



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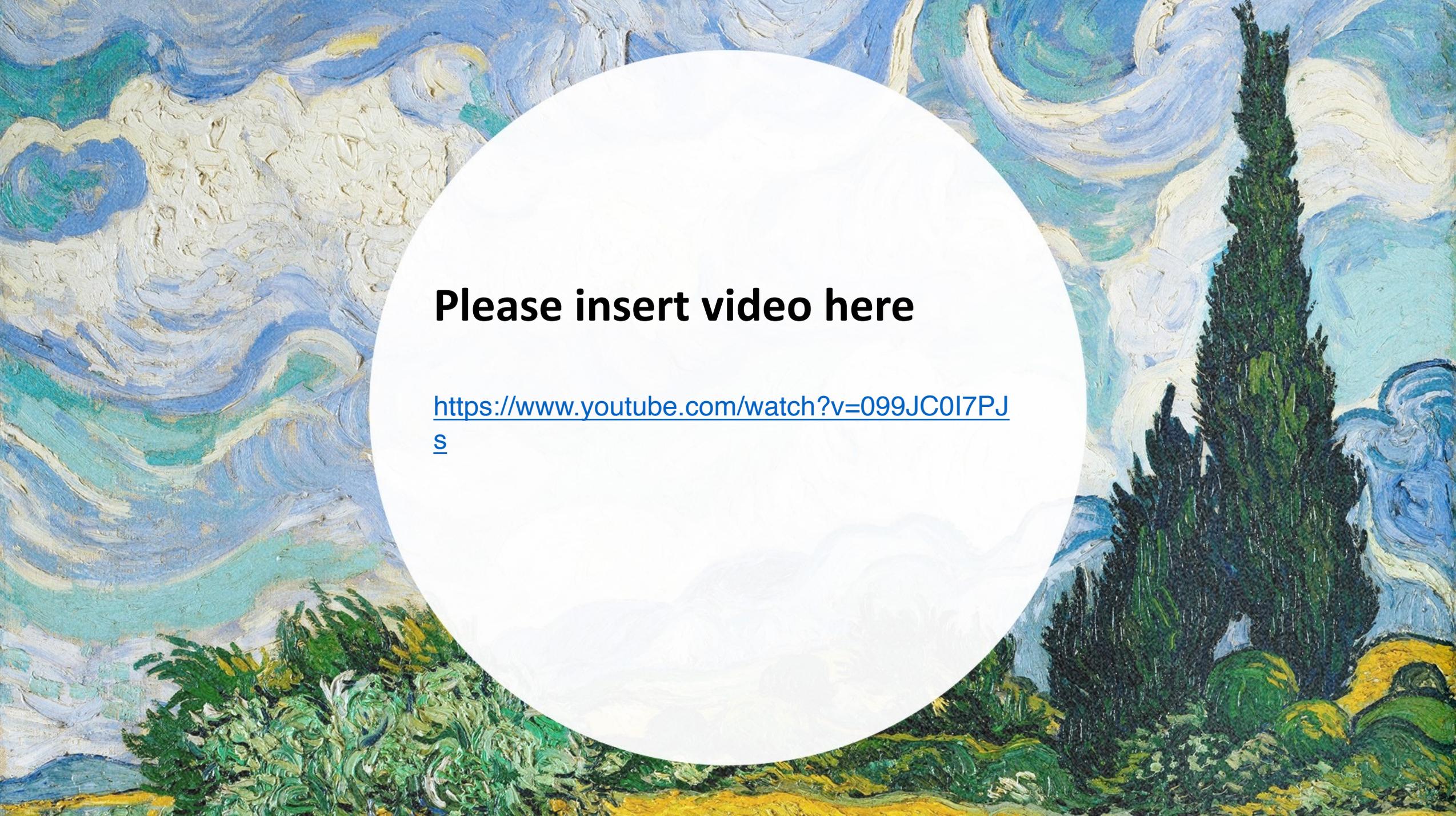
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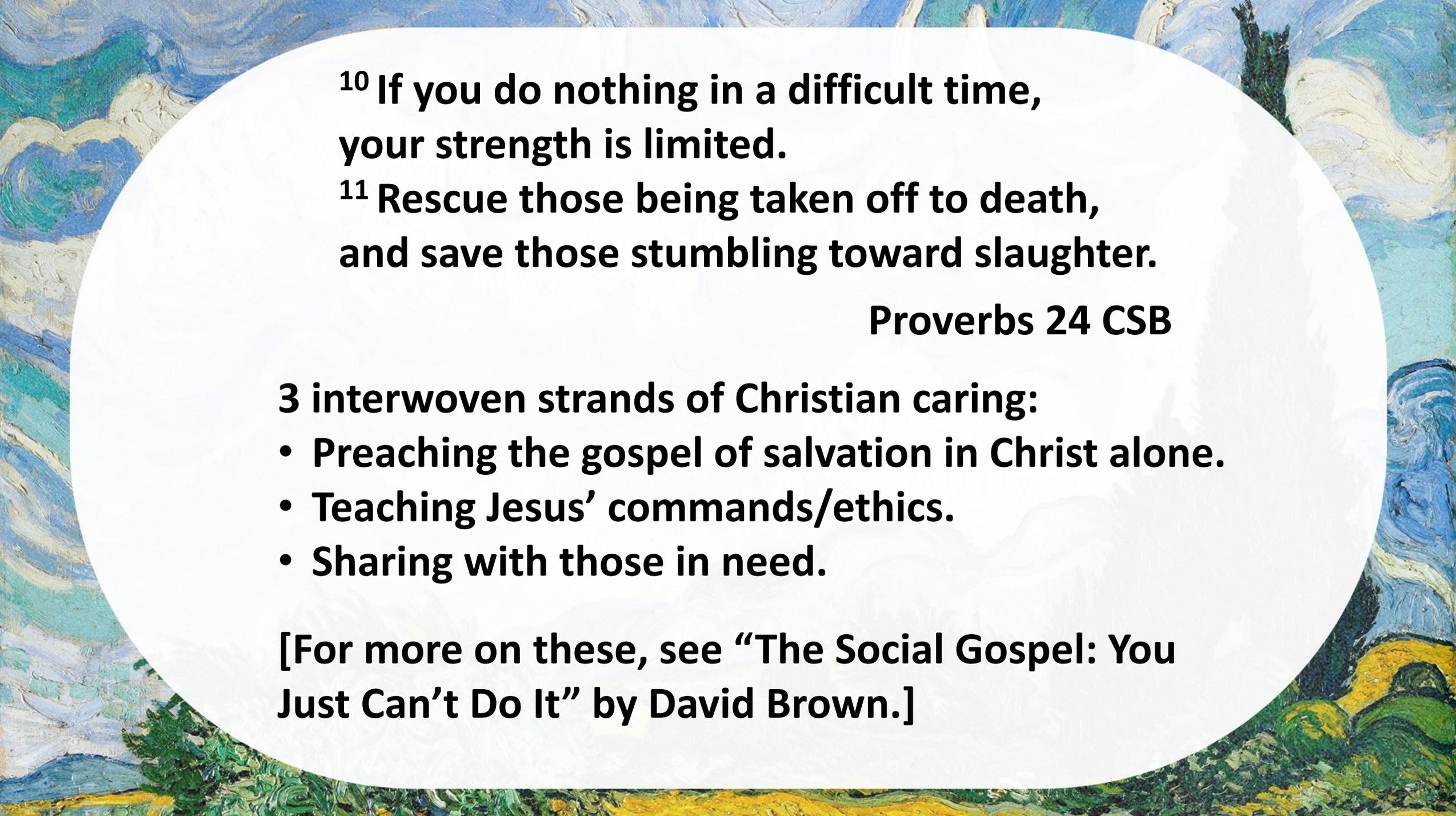
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Proverbs 24 CSB

The background is a reproduction of a painting, likely 'Olive Trees with Yellow Sky and Sea' by Vincent van Gogh. It features a vibrant, swirling sky in shades of blue, green, and yellow, with a prominent white circle in the center. The foreground shows dark green cypress trees and a yellow path. The overall style is characteristic of Impressionism with visible brushstrokes.

Please insert video here

[s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=099JC0I7PJ)



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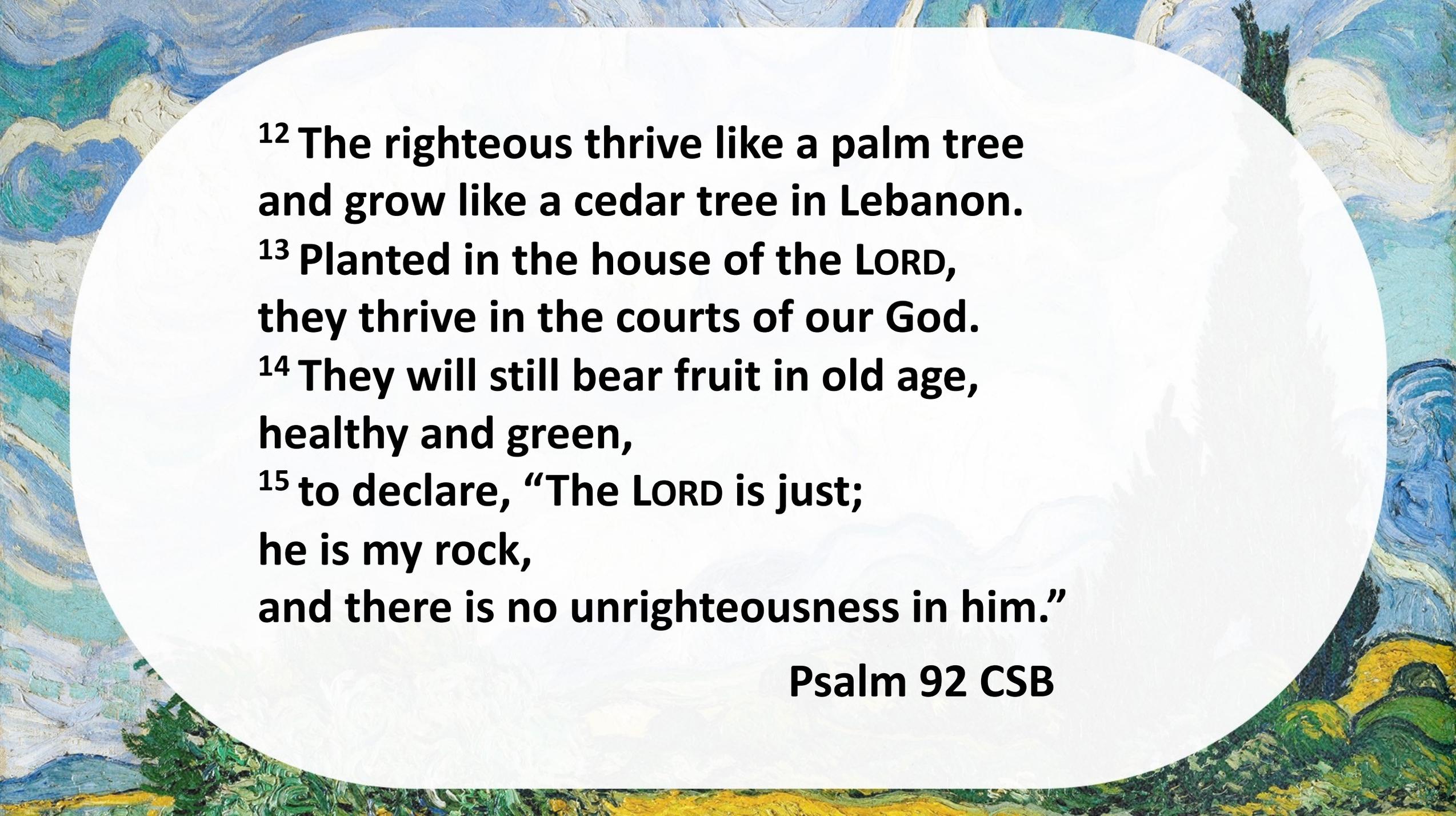
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Proverbs 24 CSB

3 interwoven strands of Christian caring:

- **Preaching the gospel of salvation in Christ alone.**
- **Teaching Jesus' commands/ethics.**
- **Sharing with those in need.**

[For more on these, see “The Social Gospel: You Just Can’t Do It” by David Brown.]

The background is a vibrant, textured painting of a landscape, likely by Vincent van Gogh, featuring rolling hills in shades of blue, green, and yellow. A large, white, semi-transparent circle is centered on the page, containing the text of Psalm 92. The text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**¹² The righteous thrive like a palm tree
and grow like a cedar tree in Lebanon.
¹³ Planted in the house of the LORD,
they thrive in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age,
healthy and green,
¹⁵ to declare, “The LORD is just;
he is my rock,
and there is no unrighteousness in him.”**

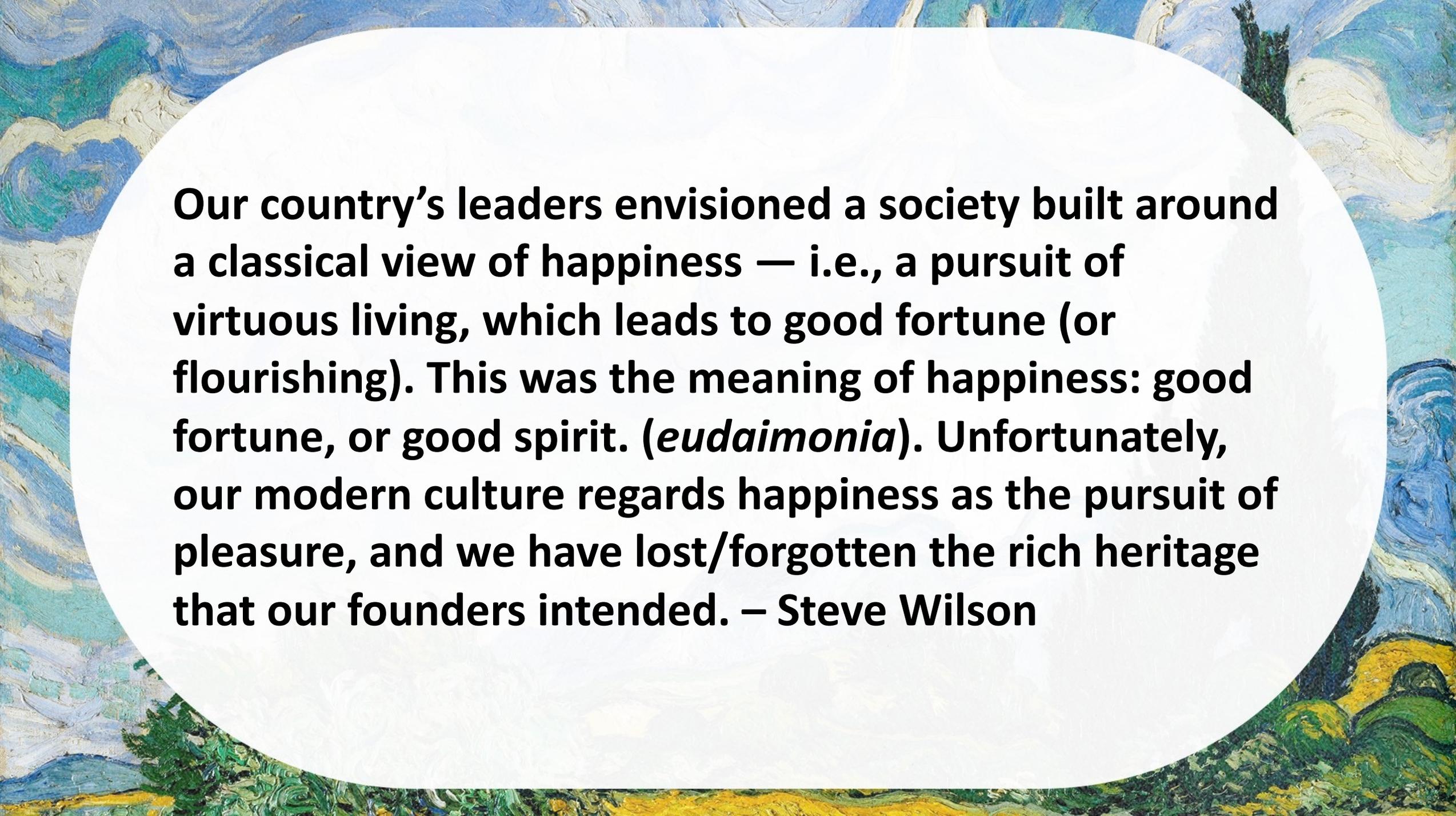
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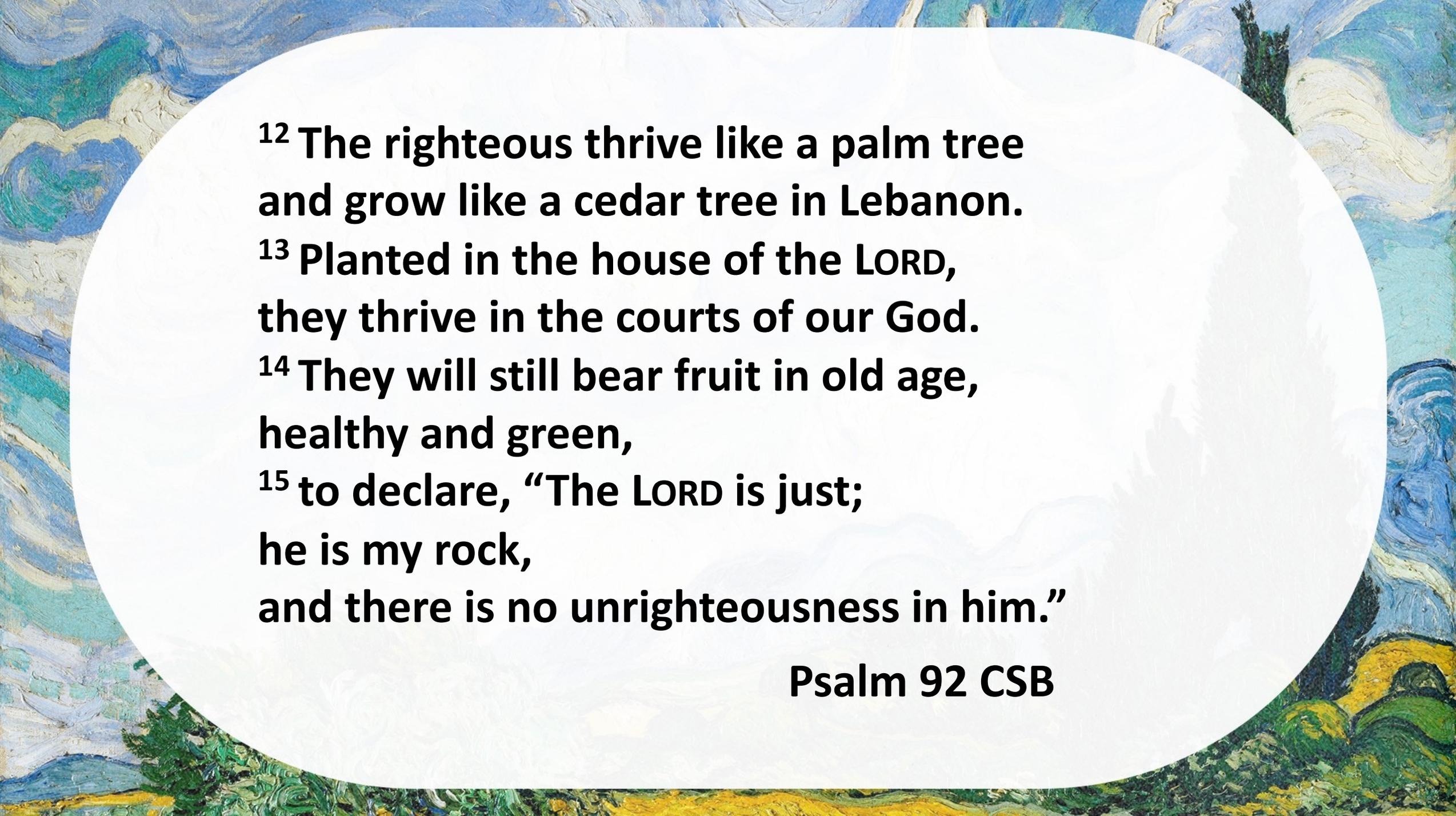
courtesy Wayne Braudrick



courtesy wallpapersg



Our country's leaders envisioned a society built around a classical view of happiness — i.e., a pursuit of virtuous living, which leads to good fortune (or flourishing). This was the meaning of happiness: good fortune, or good spirit. (*eudaimonia*). Unfortunately, our modern culture regards happiness as the pursuit of pleasure, and we have lost/forgotten the rich heritage that our founders intended. – Steve Wilson

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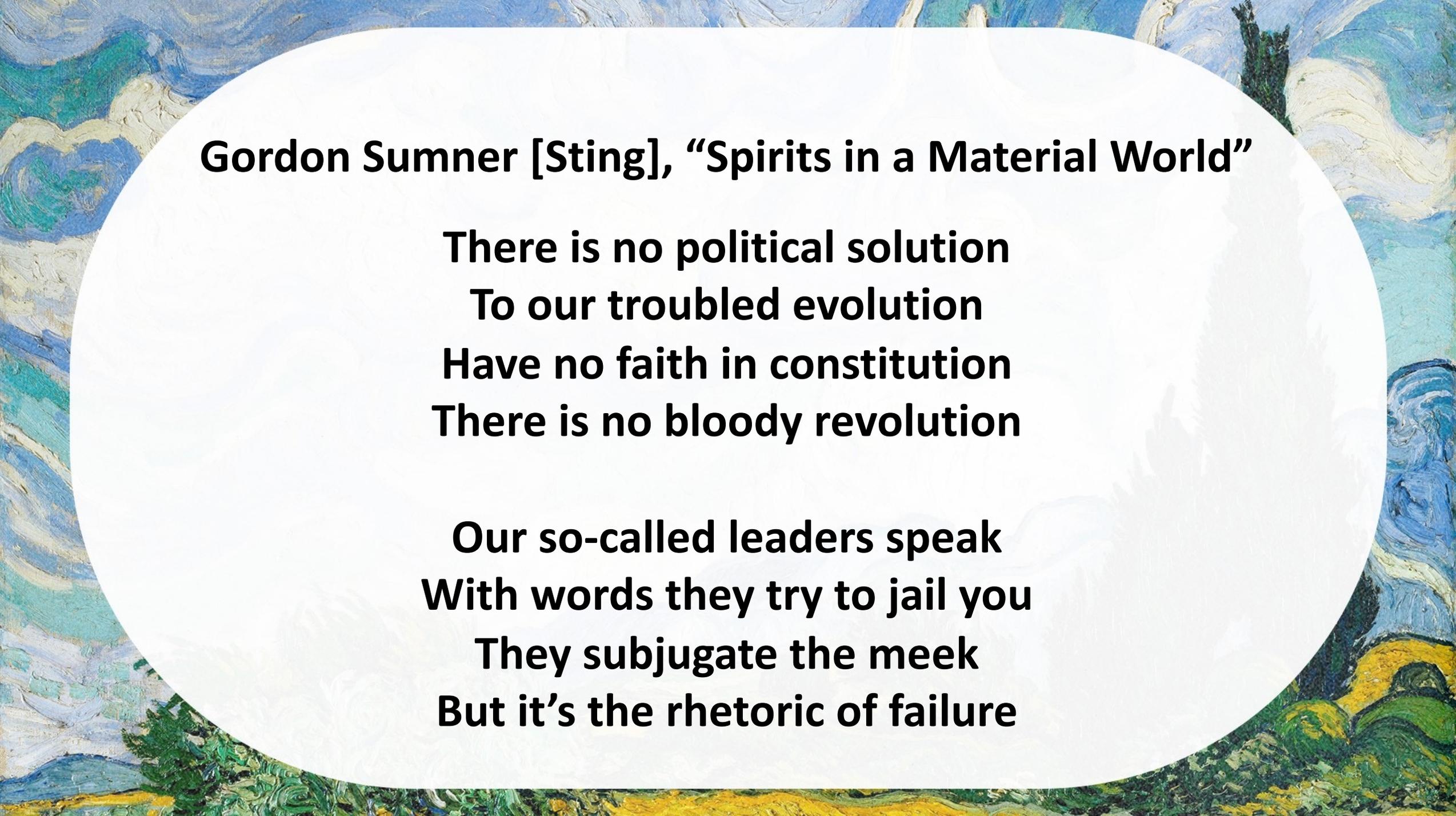
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Psalm 92 CSB



Gordon Sumner [Sting], “Spirits in a Material World”

**There is no political solution
To our troubled evolution
Have no faith in constitution
There is no bloody revolution**

**Our so-called leaders speak
With words they try to jail you
They subjugate the meek
But it’s the rhetoric of failure**

Gordon Sumner [Sting], “Spirits in a Material World”



**Where does the answer lie?
Living from day to day
If it's something we can't buy
There must be another way**

We are spirits in the material world

**12 The righteous thrive like a palm tree
and grow like a cedar tree in Lebanon.
13 Planted in the house of the LORD,
they thrive in the courts of our God.
14 They will still bear fruit in old age,
healthy and green,
15 to declare, "The LORD is just;
he is my rock,
and there is no unrighteousness in him."**

Psalm 92 CSB



Robinson Crusoe
NC Wyeth
1920

You have no idea
how hard my life is
right now.







**It's possible to feel exiled in
Big-Company Babylon...But
what if we view our work in
Babylon not as exile but
opportunity? – Loy Warren,
“Imagine the Prophet Daniel
at a Fortune 100”**

There are a few ways we can begin.

- **Recognize that you are in the middle of a community at work right now. [However difficult] these are your people and you should befriend them, pray for them, and serve them as you are able.**
- **Remember that the authorities above you are in place at God's pleasure. If the King of Babylon was "God's servant" (Jer. 25:29), then your CEO is no less subject to God's sovereignty.**
- **Look for opportunities to make a long-term difference.**
 - **Loy Warren, "Imagine the Prophet Daniel at a Fortune 100"**



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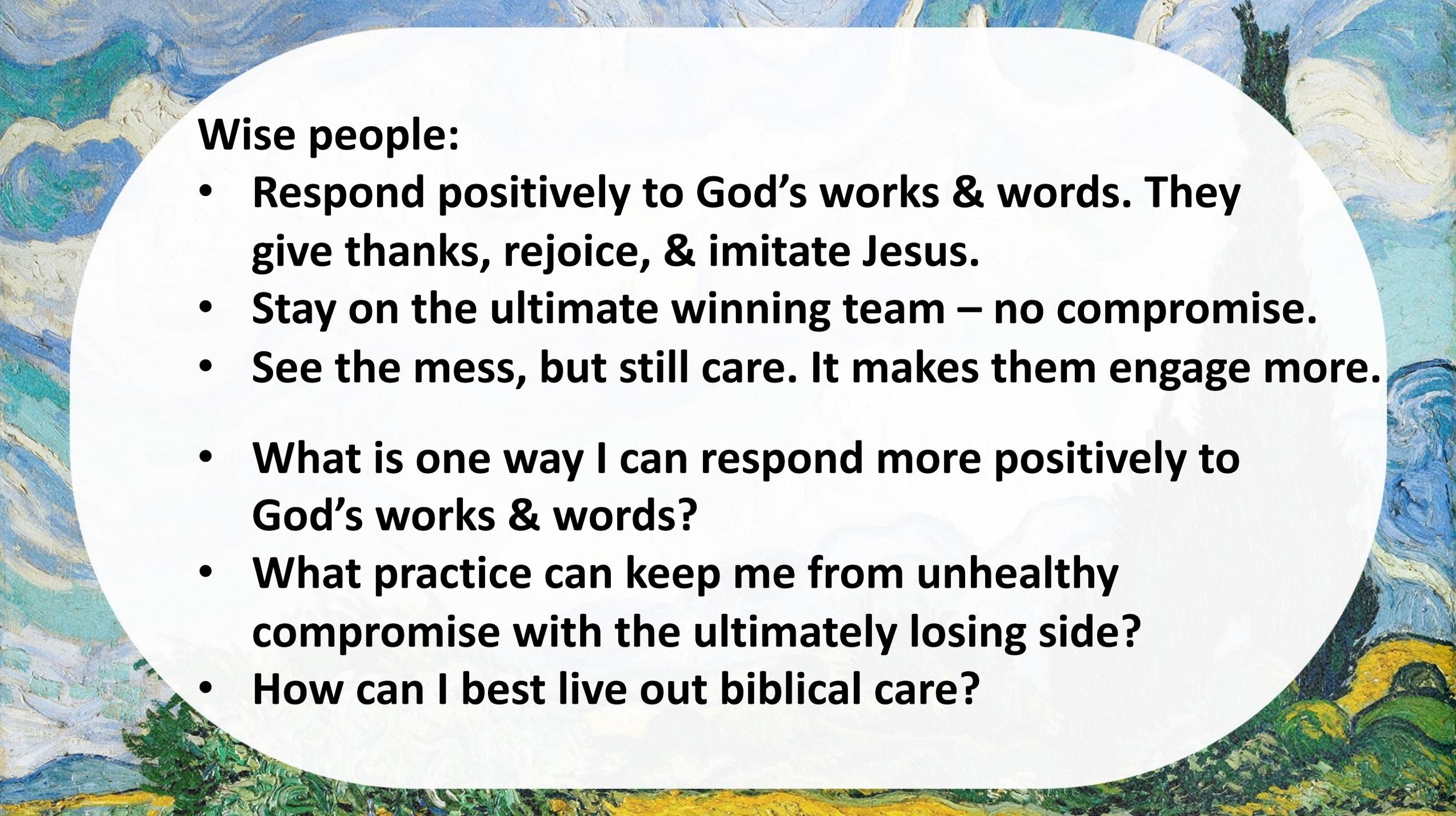
The Scythers
NC Wyeth
1908

**¹⁵ to declare, “The LORD is just;
he is my rock,
and there is no unrighteousness in him.”**

Psalm 92 CSB

Who are we? We are redeemed community.
Doing what? Doing the great commission.
How? By the power of the Holy Spirit.
Why? For the glory of God.





Wise people:

- **Respond positively to God's works & words. They give thanks, rejoice, & imitate Jesus.**
- **Stay on the ultimate winning team – no compromise.**
- **See the mess, but still care. It makes them engage more.**
- **What is one way I can respond more positively to God's works & words?**
- **What practice can keep me from unhealthy compromise with the ultimately losing side?**
- **How can I best live out biblical care?**



Flourishing For Good

