

# ISAIAH

"A Light in the Darkness"

Isaiah 44.24-48.22

“Our Surprising Rescuer”





# Babylon



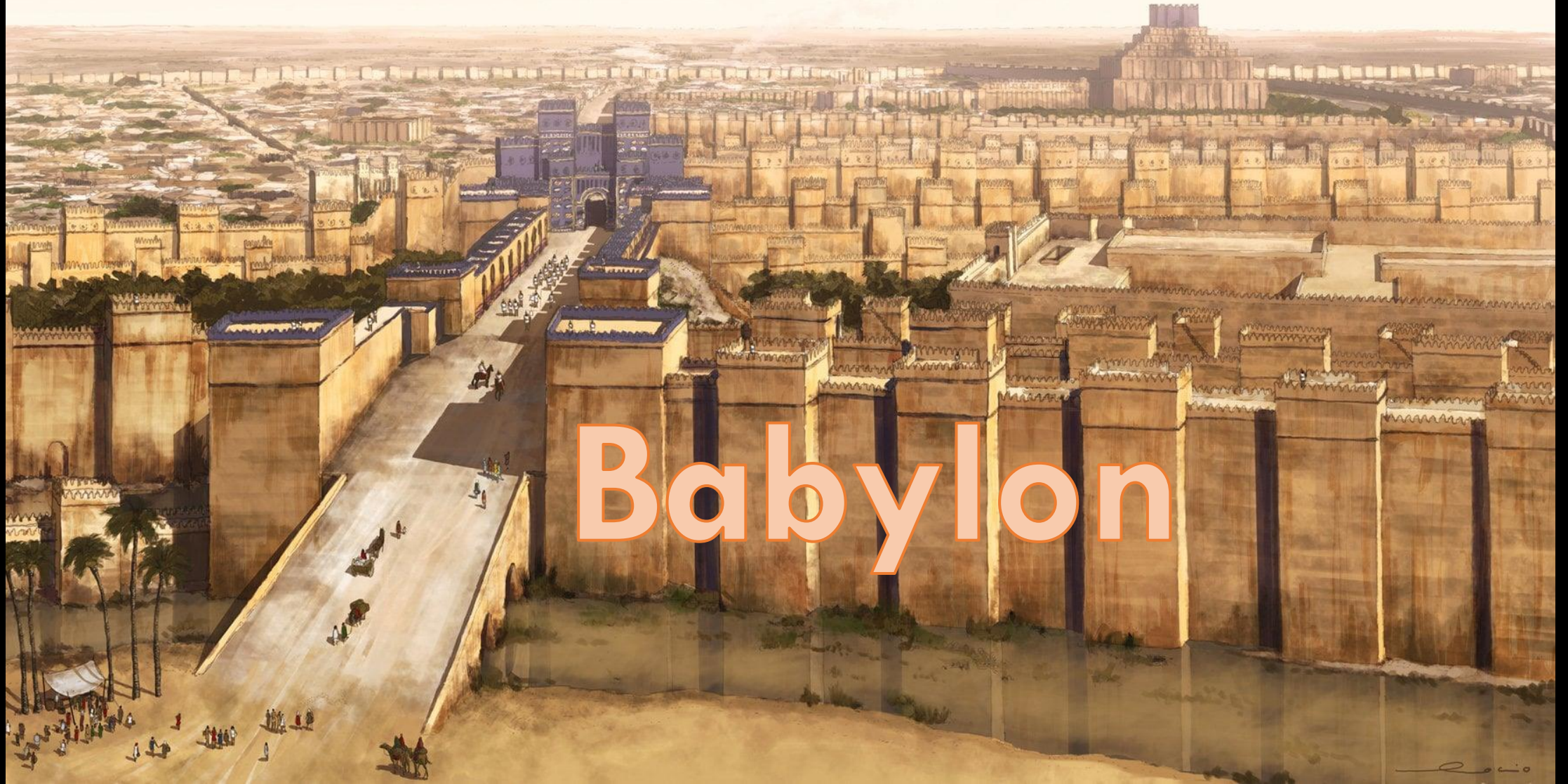
**Babylon** ~~Assyria~~





# Babylon

# King Cyrus of Persia





**Persia** ~~**Babylon**~~

**1879 discovery:**



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**Cyrus' "Edict of Restoration"**

# 200 year Persian Empire



THERES NO PLACE LIKE HOME...

1. Trust the only One who rules & redeems (44.24-45.15)

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  - 45.1 The LORD says this to Cyrus, his anointed (Messiah)





**Prophesied 150 years before Cyrus was born!**  
**710 BC – 560 BC**



Dried up rivers (44.27)

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Dried up rivers (44.27)

Brass & iron doors coming down (45.1-2)

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**The True King of the Hill: 45.1-6**

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<sup>4</sup> Let every survivor, wherever he resides, be assisted by the men of that region with silver, gold, goods, and livestock, along with a freewill offering for the house of God in Jerusalem.”

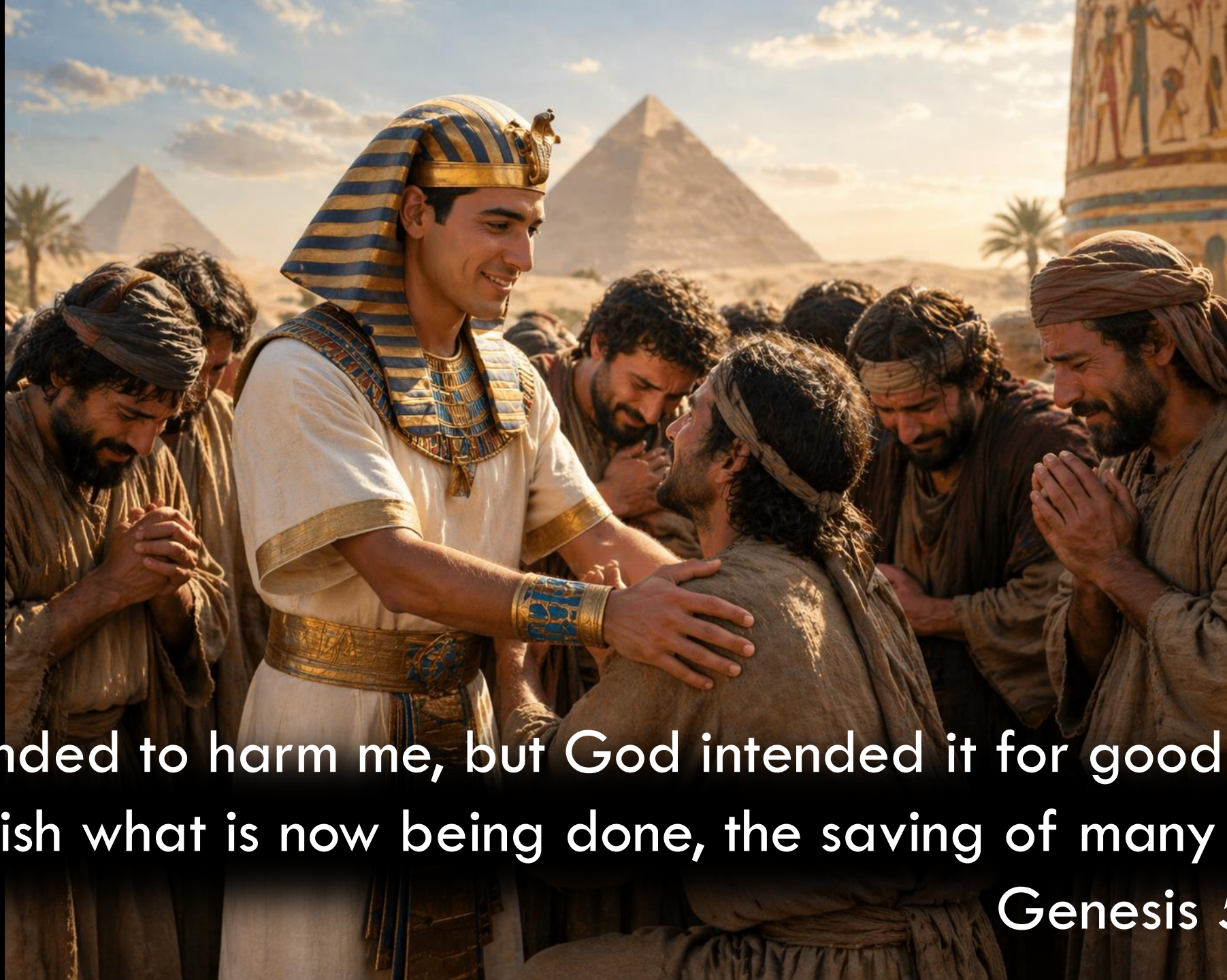
Ezra 1

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- **A. ...even when He surprises (44.24-45.8)**
- **Past: One Sovereign God 44.24**
- **Present: One Sure Word 44.25-26**
- **Future: One Saving Purpose 44.27-28**
  - **45.7 I form light and create darkness,  
I make success and create disaster;  
I am the LORD, who does all these things.**





You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50.20 (NIV)

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- **Past: One Sovereign God** 44.24
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  - **God's ultimate purpose for Israel:**  
**His glory & their good** 44.28, 45.4, 6, 8

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- Potter & clay: 45.9-10
- Making something beautiful: 45.11-13



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(45.14-46.13)

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- Bel: king of Babylon's gods (Belshazzar)

- Nebo: Bel's firstborn son; scribe of God (Nebuchadnezzar)



46.2-4



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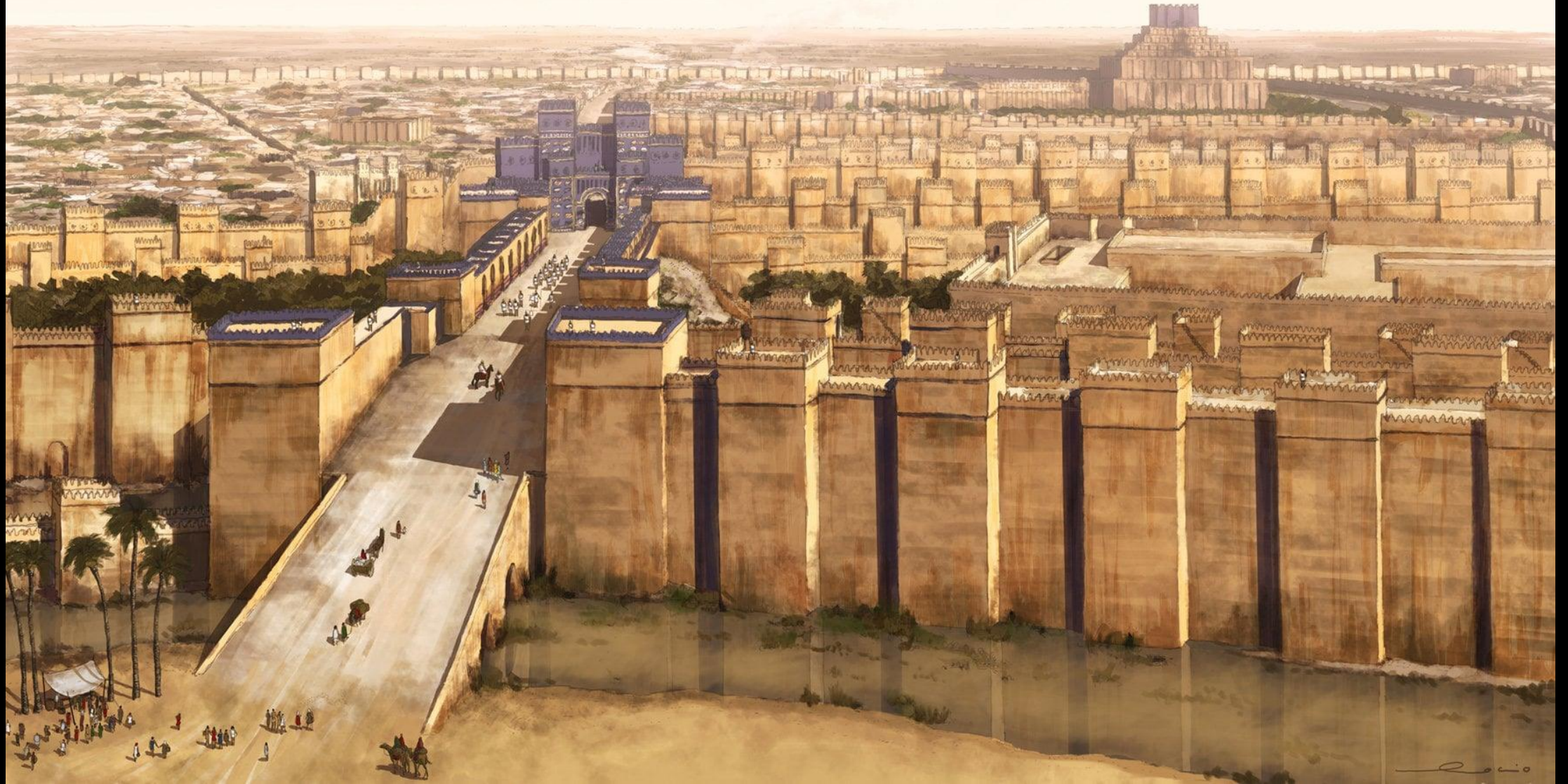
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- 47.1, 5-6
- Pride before the fall: 47.7-9





# Leave Babylon: 48.20-22



# 3. How do we leave Babylon?

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- 45.1 The LORD says this to Cyrus, his anointed  
*Hebrew: Messiah; Greek: Christos*



27 “For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed,

Acts 4

<sup>27</sup> “For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed,  
<sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your will had predestined to take place.

Acts 4

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- B. Embrace God's surprising path to life:  
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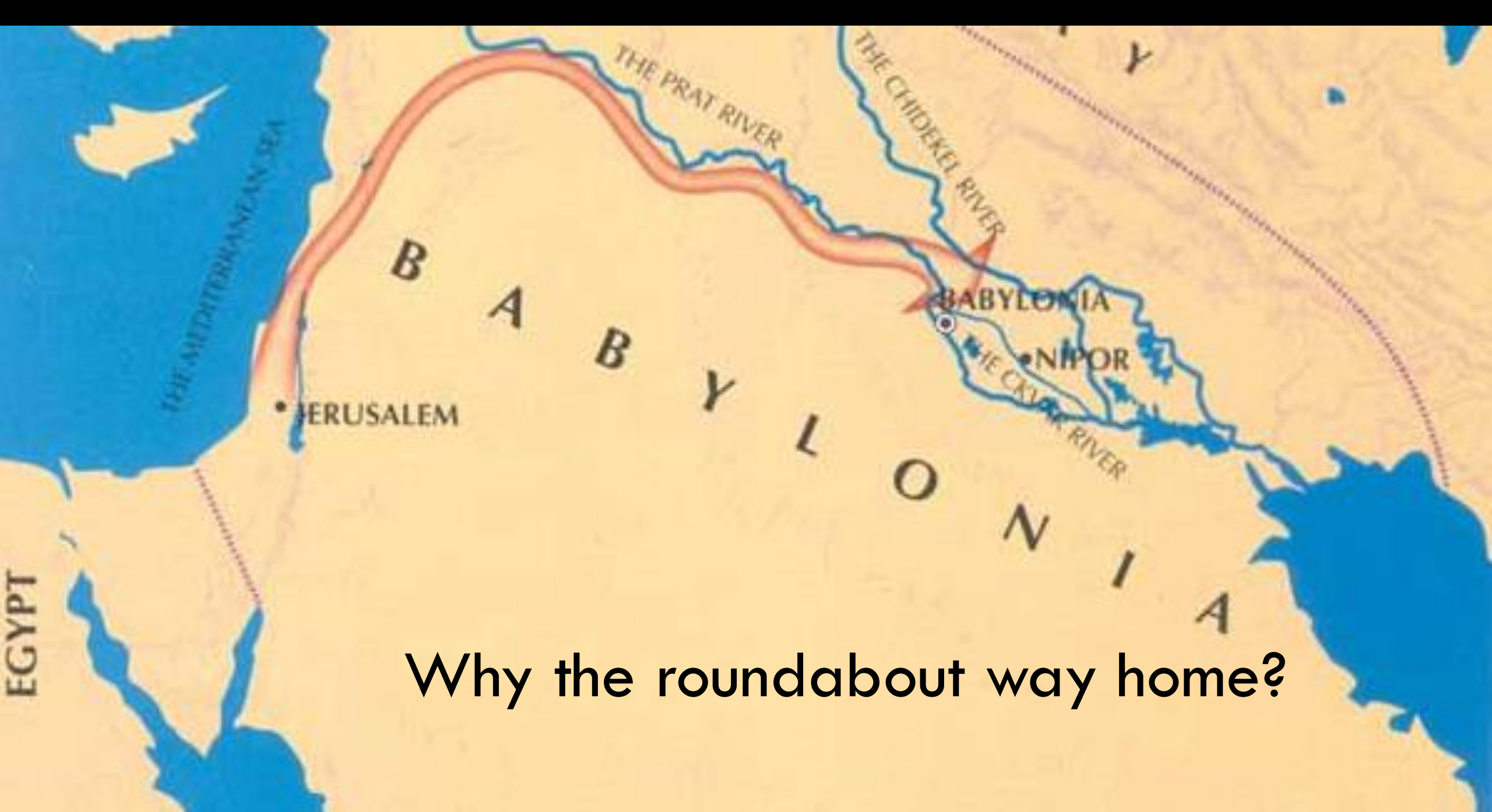
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- B. Embrace God's surprising path to life:  
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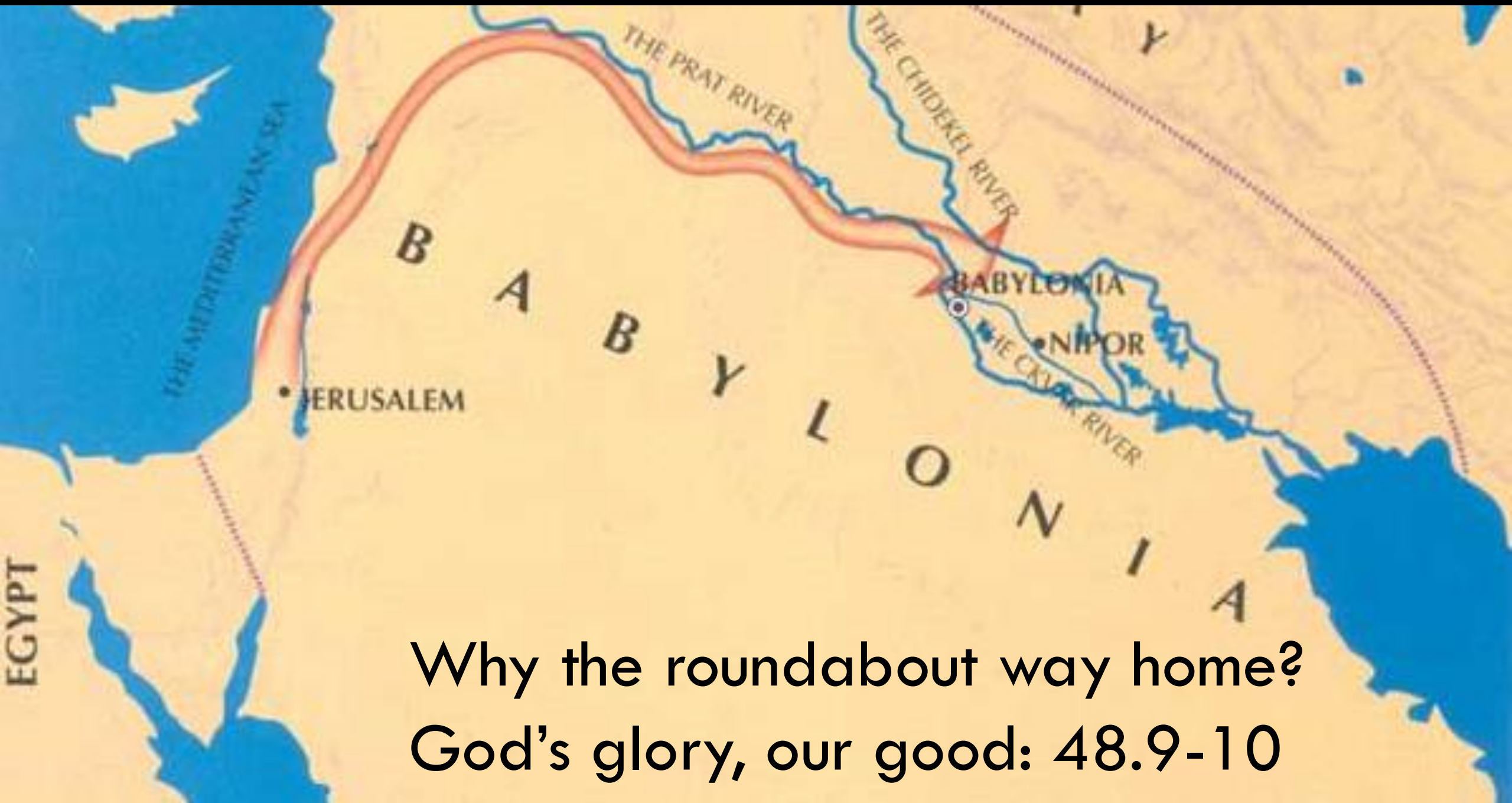
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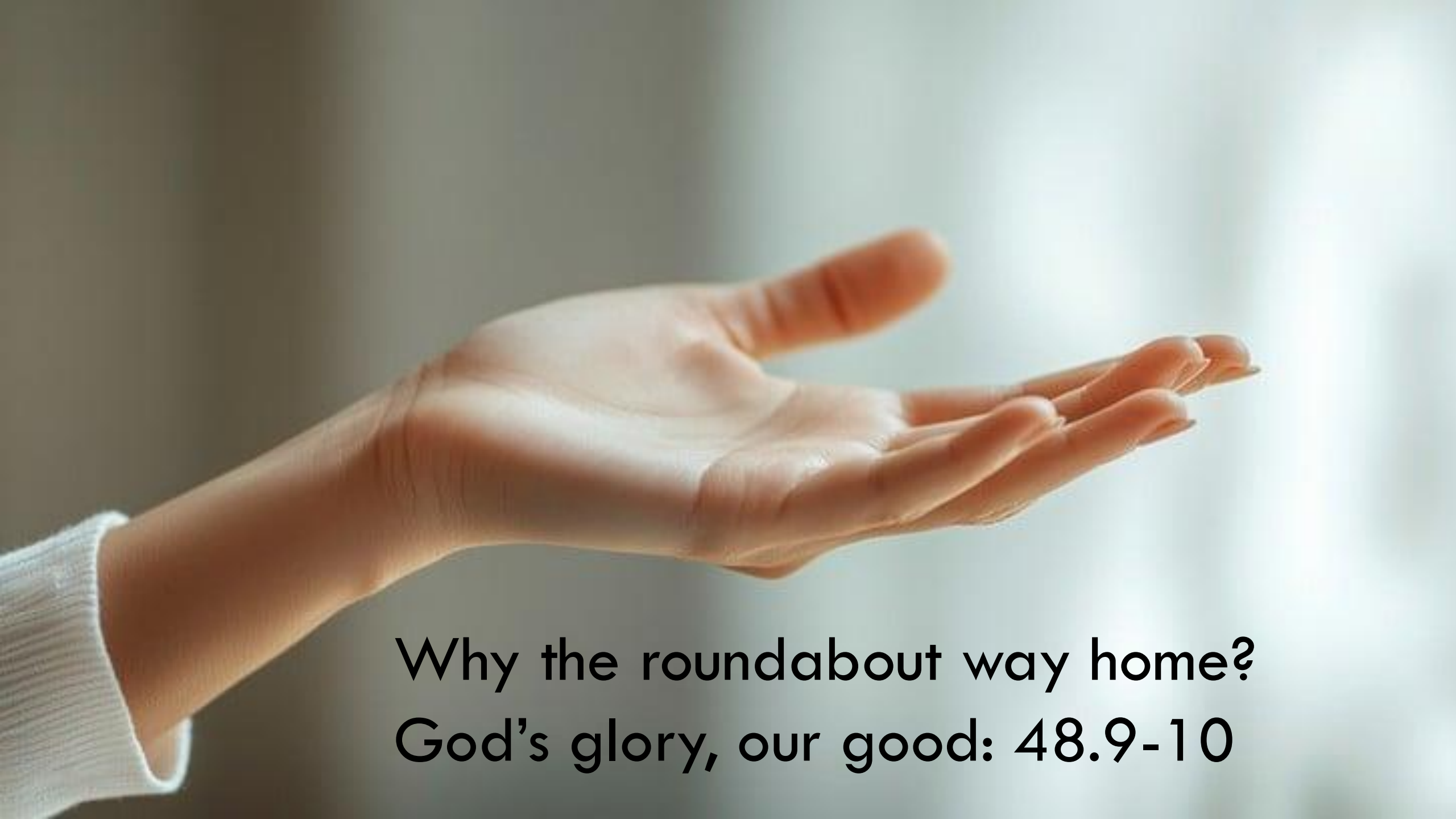
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- 46.13 I am bringing my justice near; it is not far away, and my salvation will not delay. I will put salvation ***in Zion***, my splendor ***in Israel***.



Why the roundabout way home?



Why the roundabout way home?  
God's glory, our good: 48.9-10



**Why the roundabout way home?  
God's glory, our good: 48.9-10**

The background features a cracked, textured surface in shades of brown and green. A road with a dashed center line leads from the bottom center towards a horizon. The sky above is filled with dramatic, layered clouds in shades of blue, green, and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

# FOLLOWING JESUS

Matthew 16



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<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16

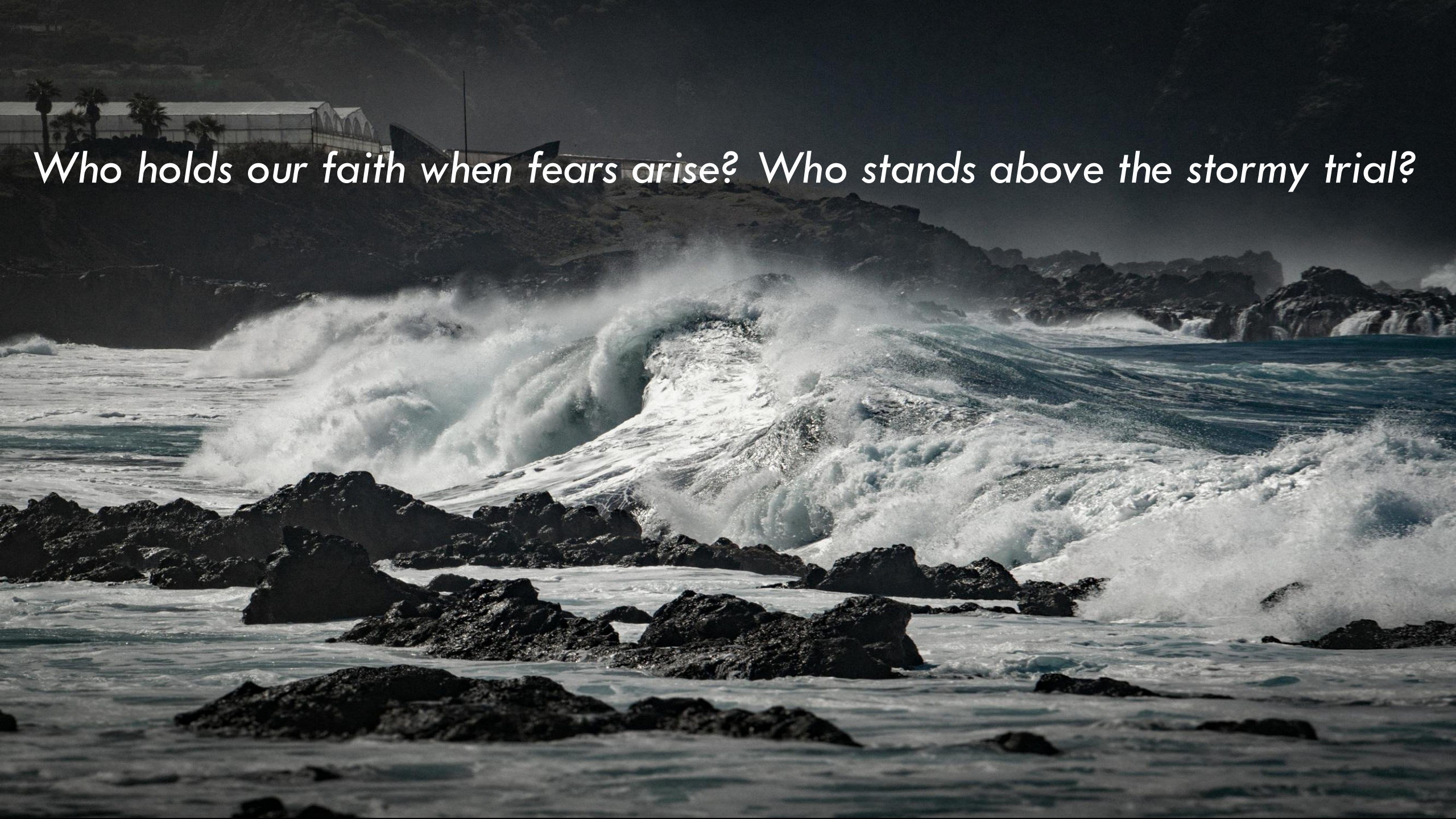
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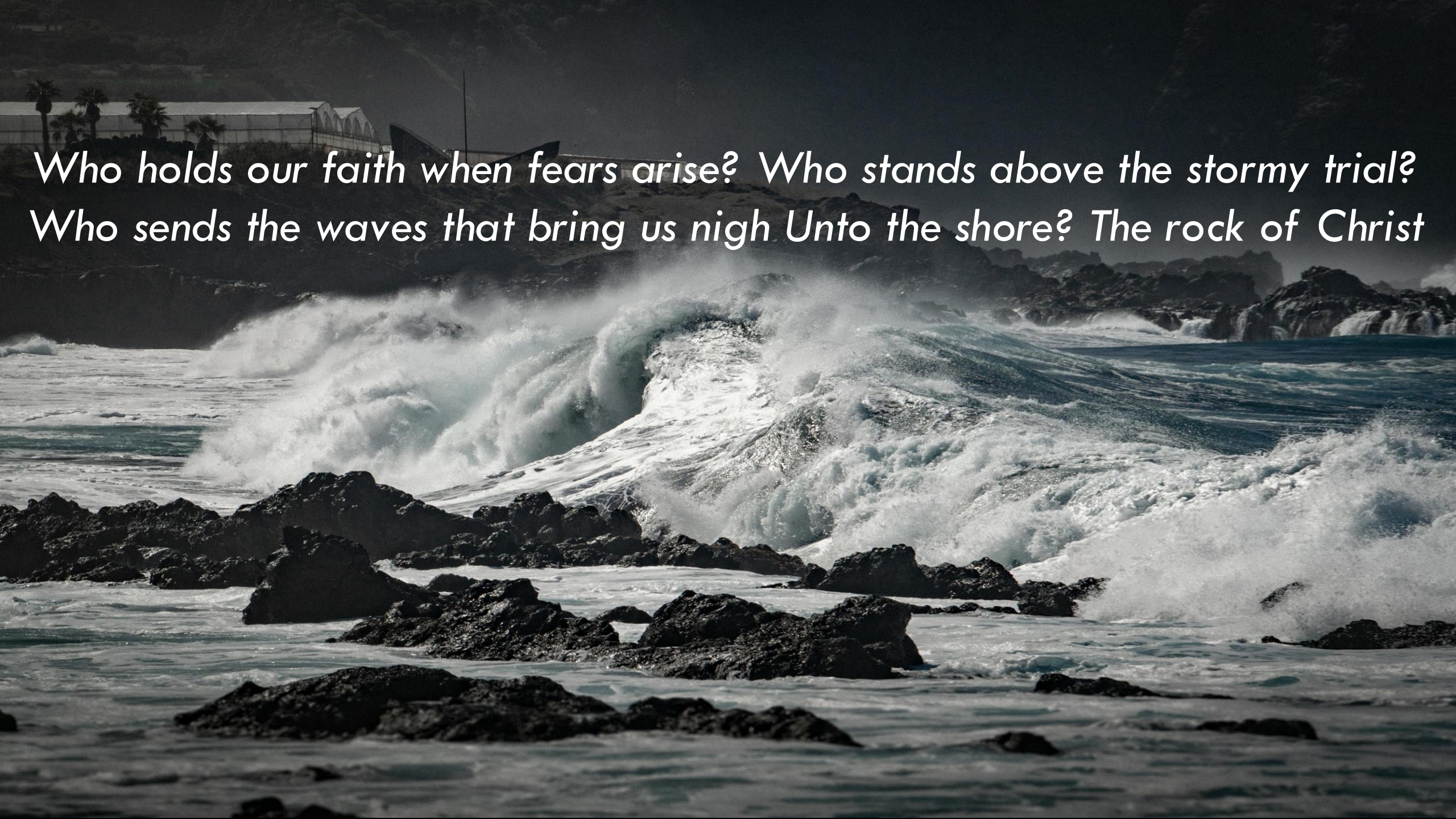
<sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it.

**Matthew 16**

*Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?*



*Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh Unto the shore? The rock of Christ*



# Gospel: ~~God prevents suffering~~

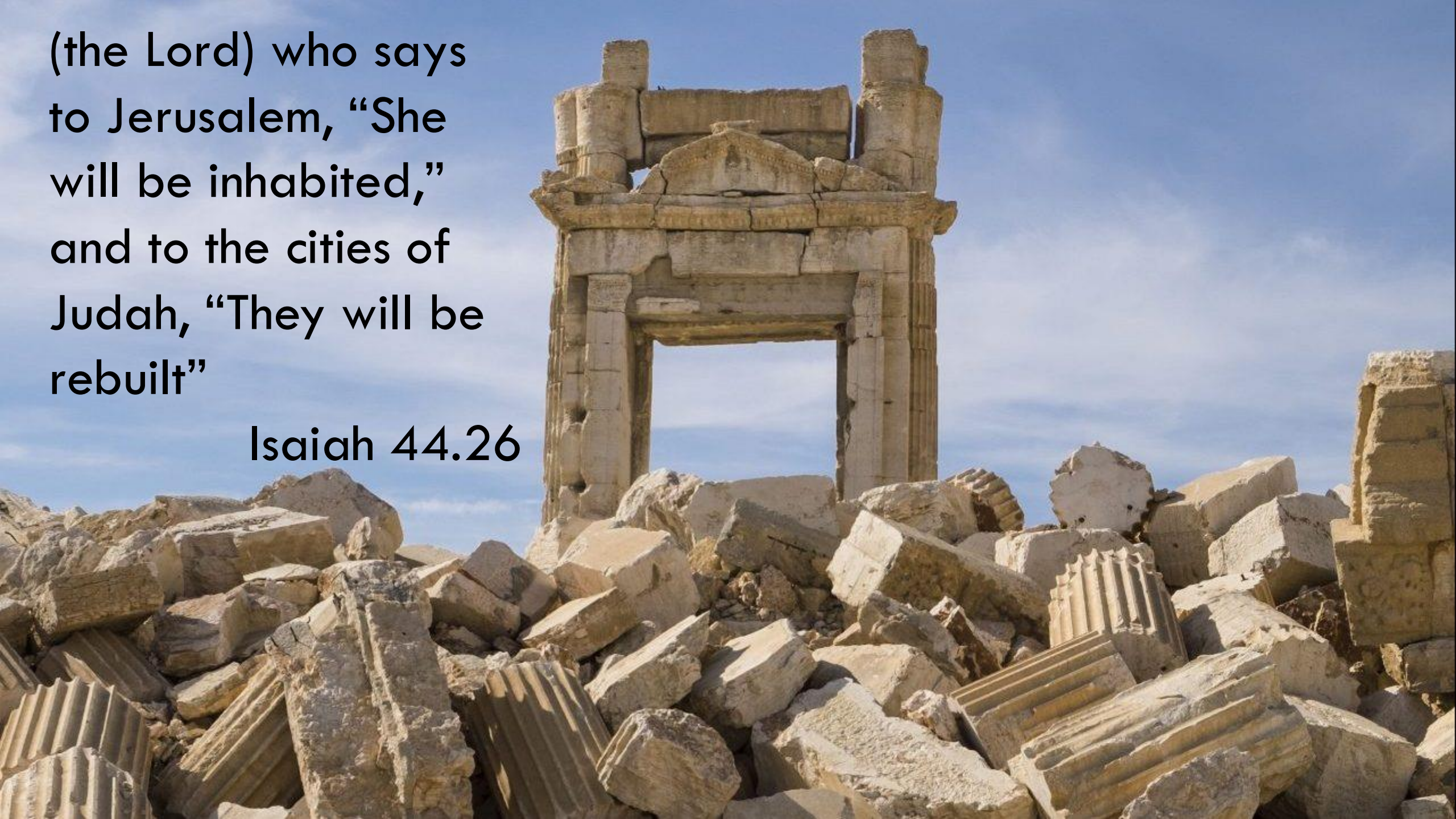


**Gospel: ~~God prevents~~ suffering**  
**God redeems suffering**




(the Lord) who says  
to Jerusalem, “She  
will be inhabited,”  
and to the cities of  
Judah, “They will be  
rebuilt”

Isaiah 44.26

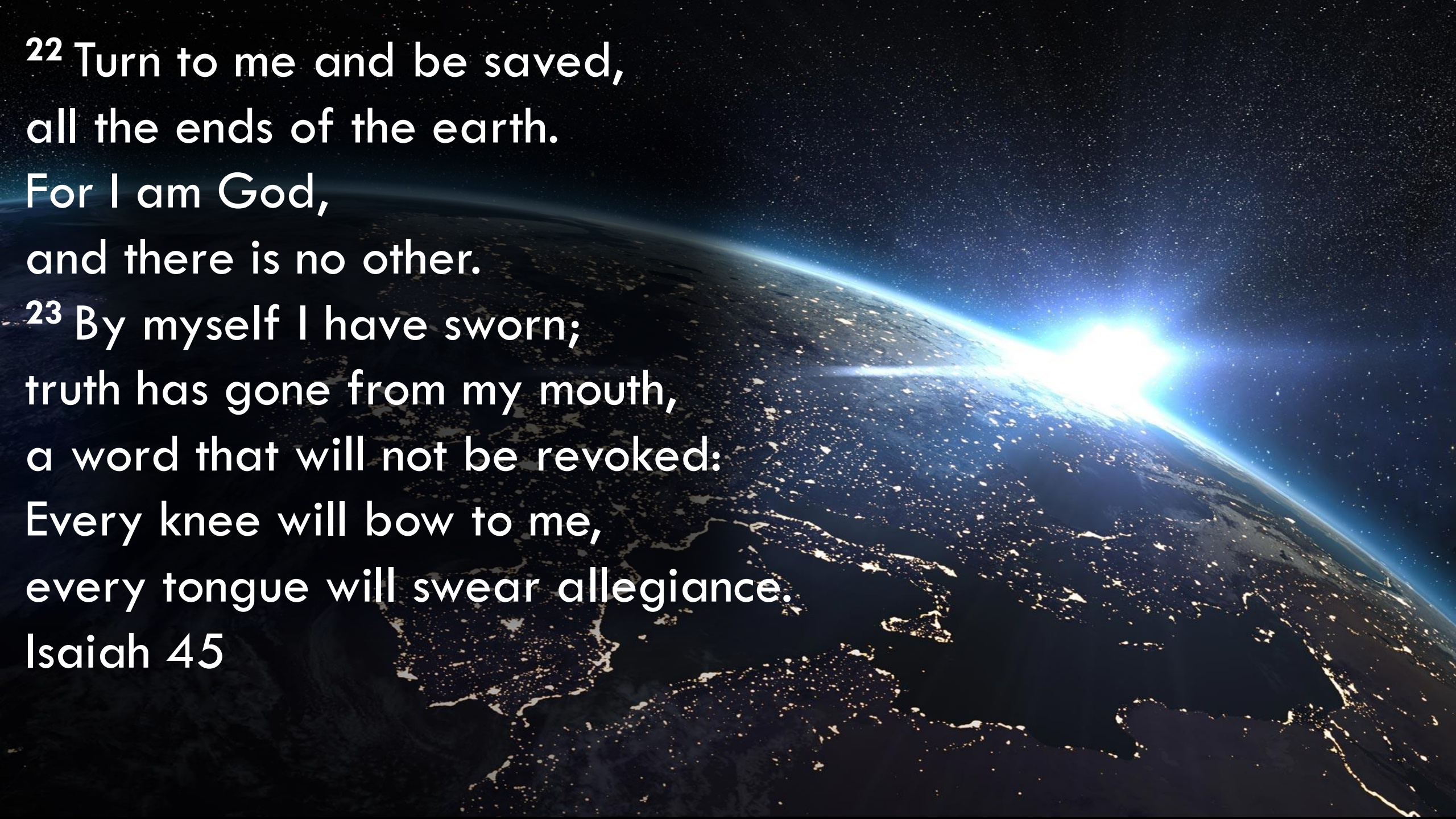




A view of Earth from space, showing the horizon and a bright sun or star in the distance, with a blue glow.

**22** Turn to me and be saved,  
all the ends of the earth.  
For I am God,  
and there is no other.

Isaiah 45



<sup>22</sup> Turn to me and be saved,  
all the ends of the earth.

For I am God,  
and there is no other.

<sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn;  
truth has gone from my mouth,  
a word that will not be revoked:  
Every knee will bow to me,  
every tongue will swear allegiance.

Isaiah 45