



Godspeed

Cherry Creek
Presbyterian Church

Dr. Brad Strait
February 4-5, 2022
Genesis 35

Key Sources:
Matt Canlis, R.C. Sproul,
C. S. Lewis, Lee Eclov



Godspeed:
Place and
Presence



Godspeed

A person with long, wavy reddish-brown hair is walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a lush green forest. They are wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a dark brown vest, a blue and green plaid kilt, blue knee-high socks, and brown shoes. The path is surrounded by tall grass and dense trees. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

GODSPEED

The Pace of Being Known



“Learning to Live at 3 MPH”



Finding
Our Place

Godspeed

A photograph of a city street scene with several people walking. The image is overlaid with a large, stylized graphic consisting of diagonal stripes in shades of blue and yellow. The text 'Genesis 12:8' is positioned in the upper right, and 'Godspeed' is written in a large font across the lower right.

Genesis
12:8

Godspeed

Genesis 12:8

“From there Abram went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.”

A photograph of a city street scene with people walking. The image is overlaid with a large, stylized graphic consisting of several overlapping diagonal bands in shades of blue and yellow. The text is positioned on the right side of the image, within the blue areas of the overlay.

Genesis
13:1

Godspeed

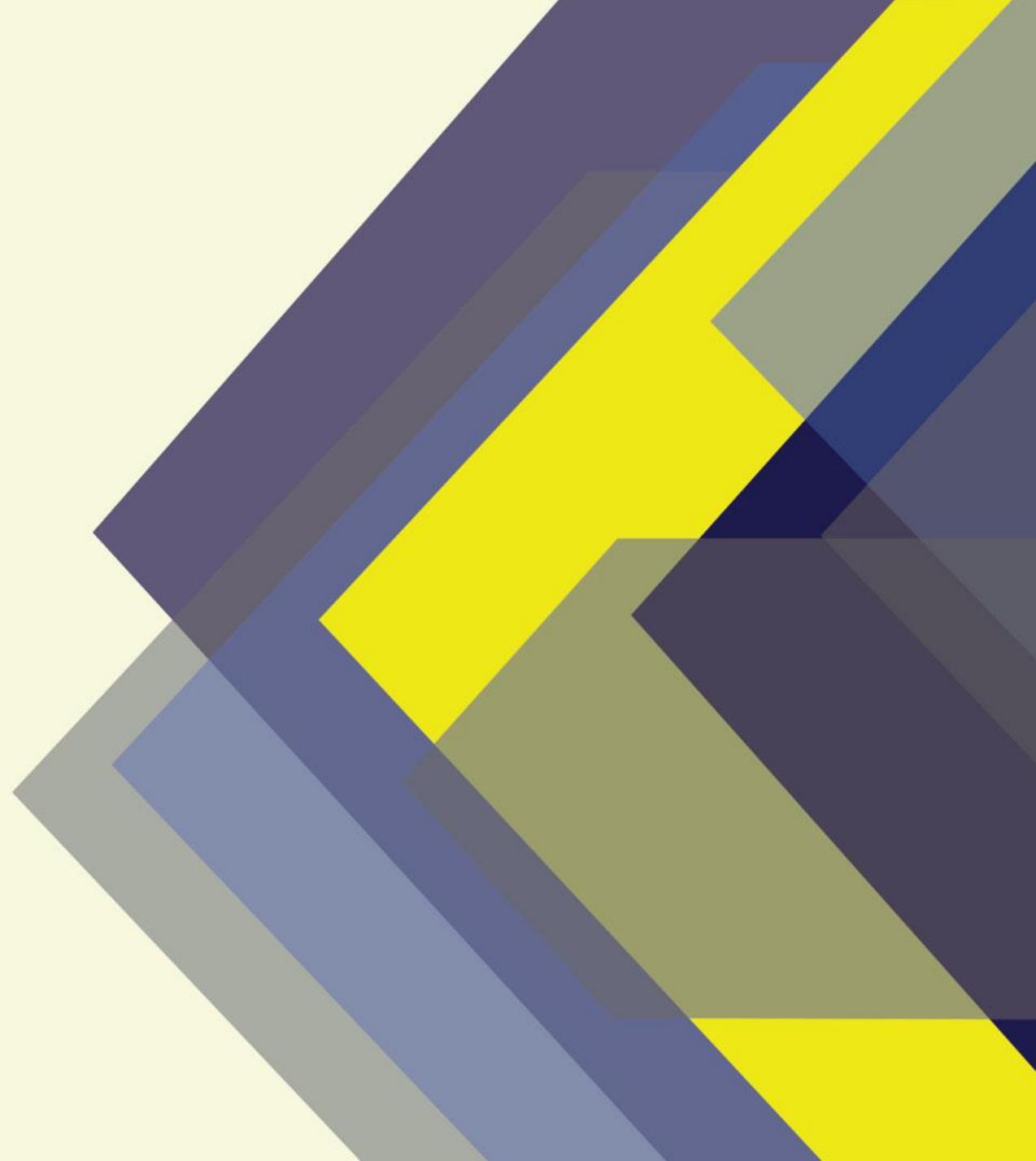
Genesis 13:1-4

¹ So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. ² Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

Genesis 13:1-4

³ From the Negev he went *from place to place until he came to Bethel*, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier ⁴ and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.

We are
always
looking for
our “place.”





Carl Lindley and Signpost Forest Watson Lake, Yukon



A photograph of a city street scene showing the lower legs and feet of several people walking on a crosswalk. The ground is asphalt with white painted lines. A manhole cover is visible in the bottom left corner. A large, semi-transparent graphic overlay in shades of blue and yellow is positioned on the right side of the image, containing text.

Genesis
28:13

Godspeed

Genesis 28:13, 15

13 There above it stood the Lord...

15 “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

A photograph of people walking on a city street, overlaid with a blue and yellow geometric graphic. The graphic consists of several overlapping shapes, including a large yellow chevron pointing right and various shades of blue and grey polygons. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Genesis
35:1-6

Godspeed

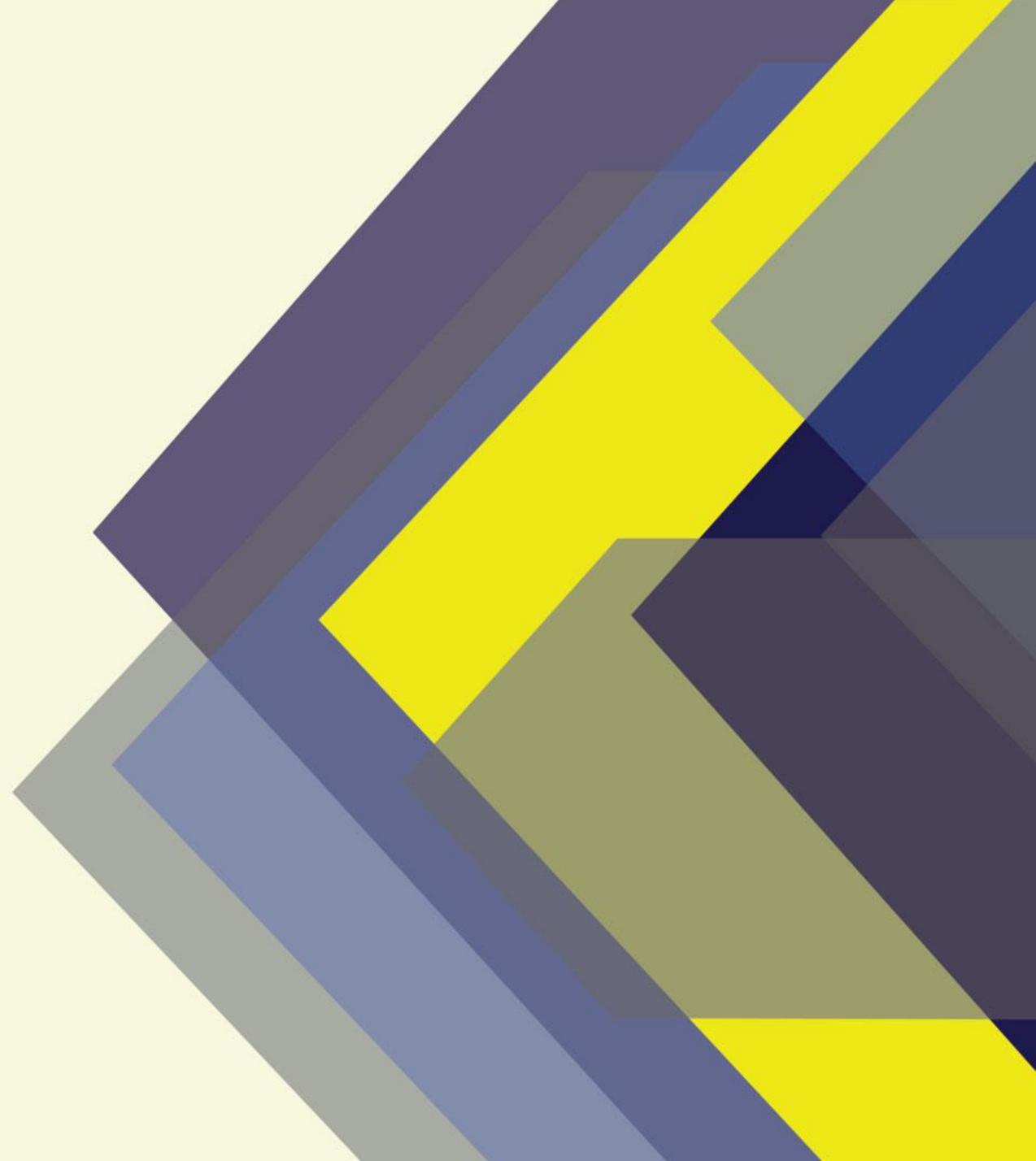
Genesis 35:1-7

¹ Then God said to Jacob,
“Go up to Bethel and settle there, and
build an altar there to God (YHWH), who
appeared to you when you were fleeing
from your brother Esau.”

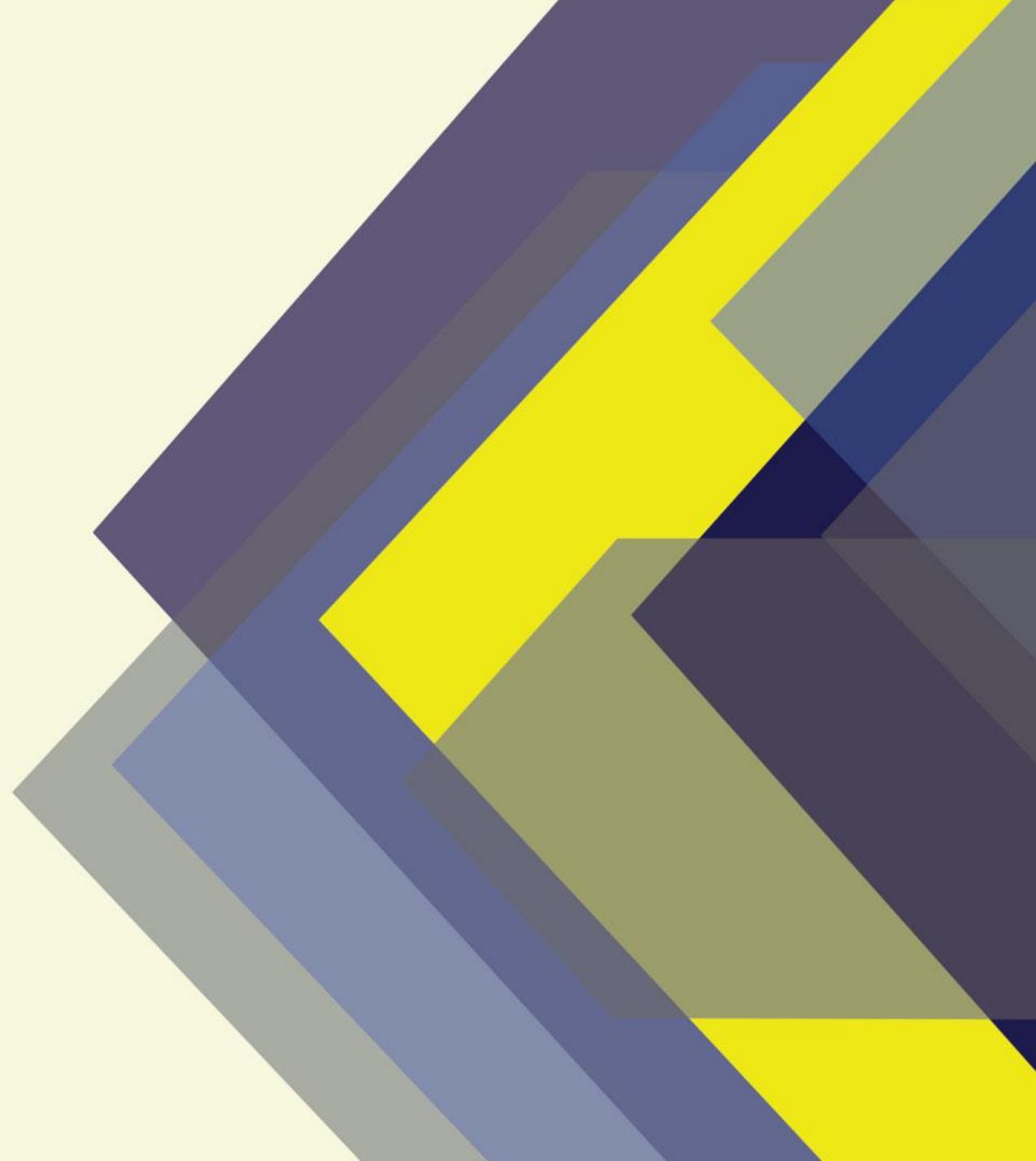
Genesis 35:1-7

² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes.”

Place is
more about
inside than
outside.



Place is
more about
Who than
where.

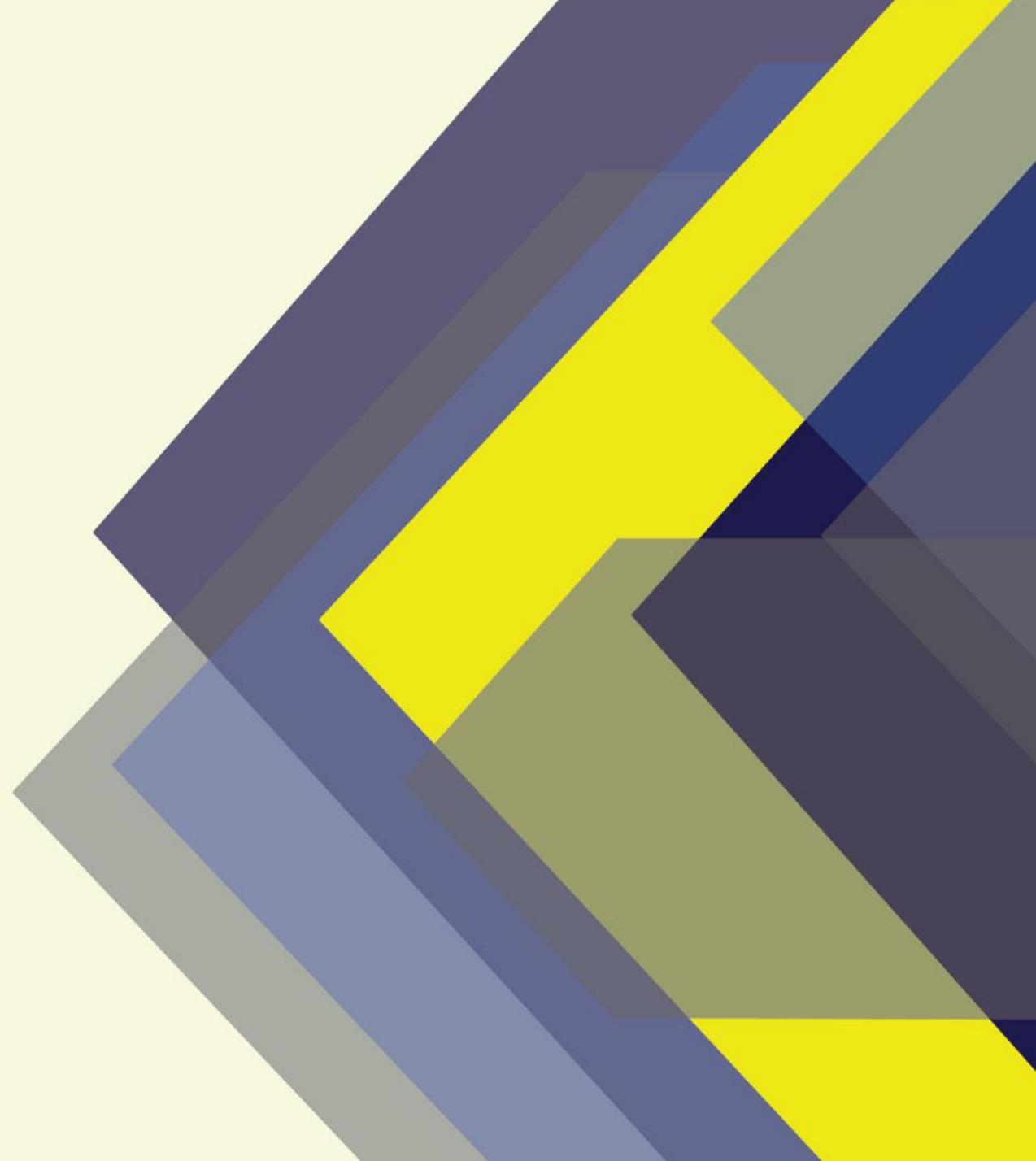


Genesis 35:1-7

³ “Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, ***who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.***” ⁴ So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem.

“There is no
place without
the potential
of unearthing
holiness.”

-Eugene Peterson,
in *Godspeed*

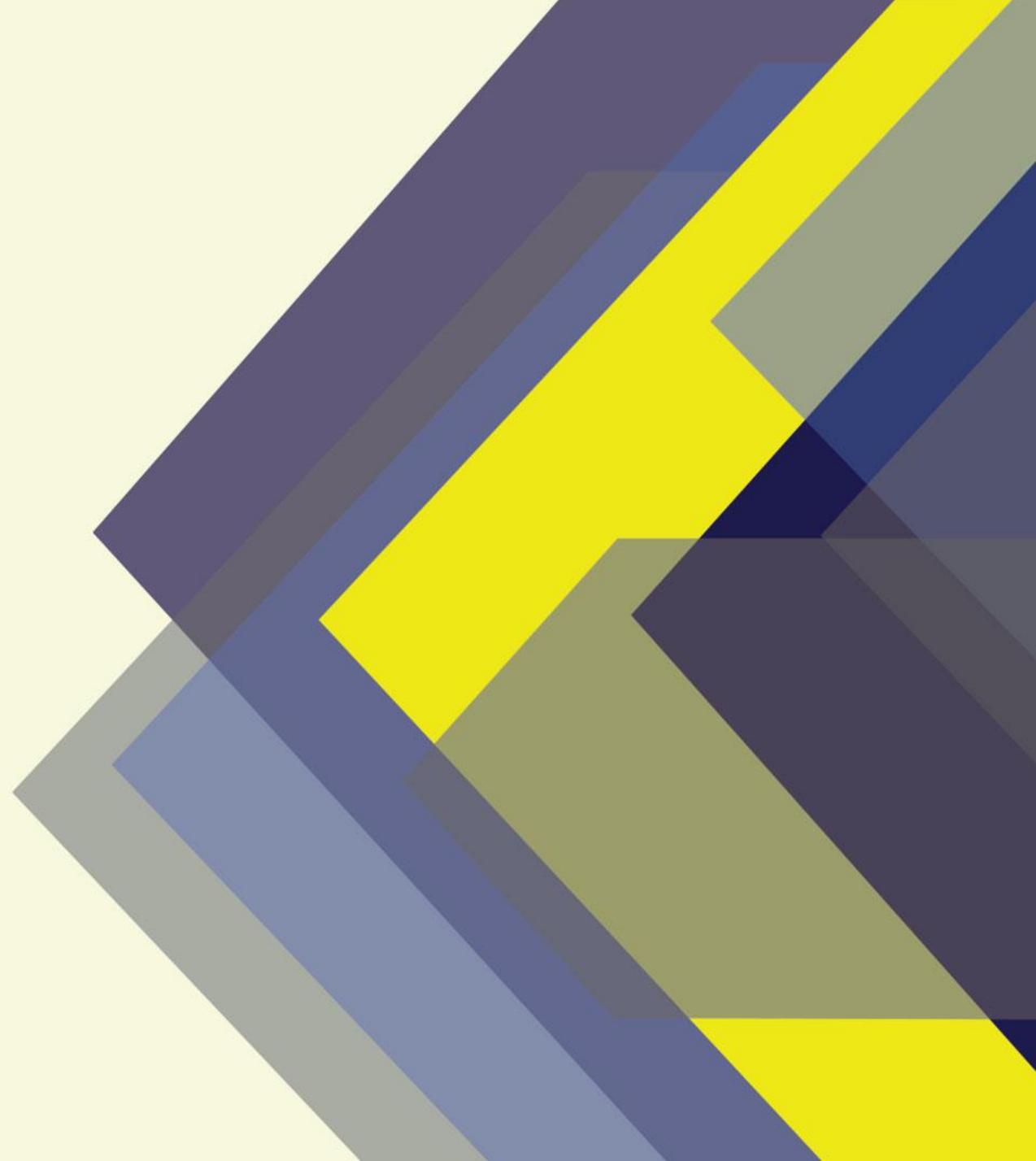




Finding
God's
Presence

Godspeed

Place is
more about
Who than
where.



1 Kings 12:28-30

²⁸ After seeking advice, the King Jeroboam made two golden calves. He said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” ²⁹ One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. ³⁰ ***And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one idol at Bethel...***

2 Kings 23:15

Even the altar at Bethel, the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin—even that altar and high place Josiah demolished. He burned the high place and ground it to powder, and burned the Asherah pole also.



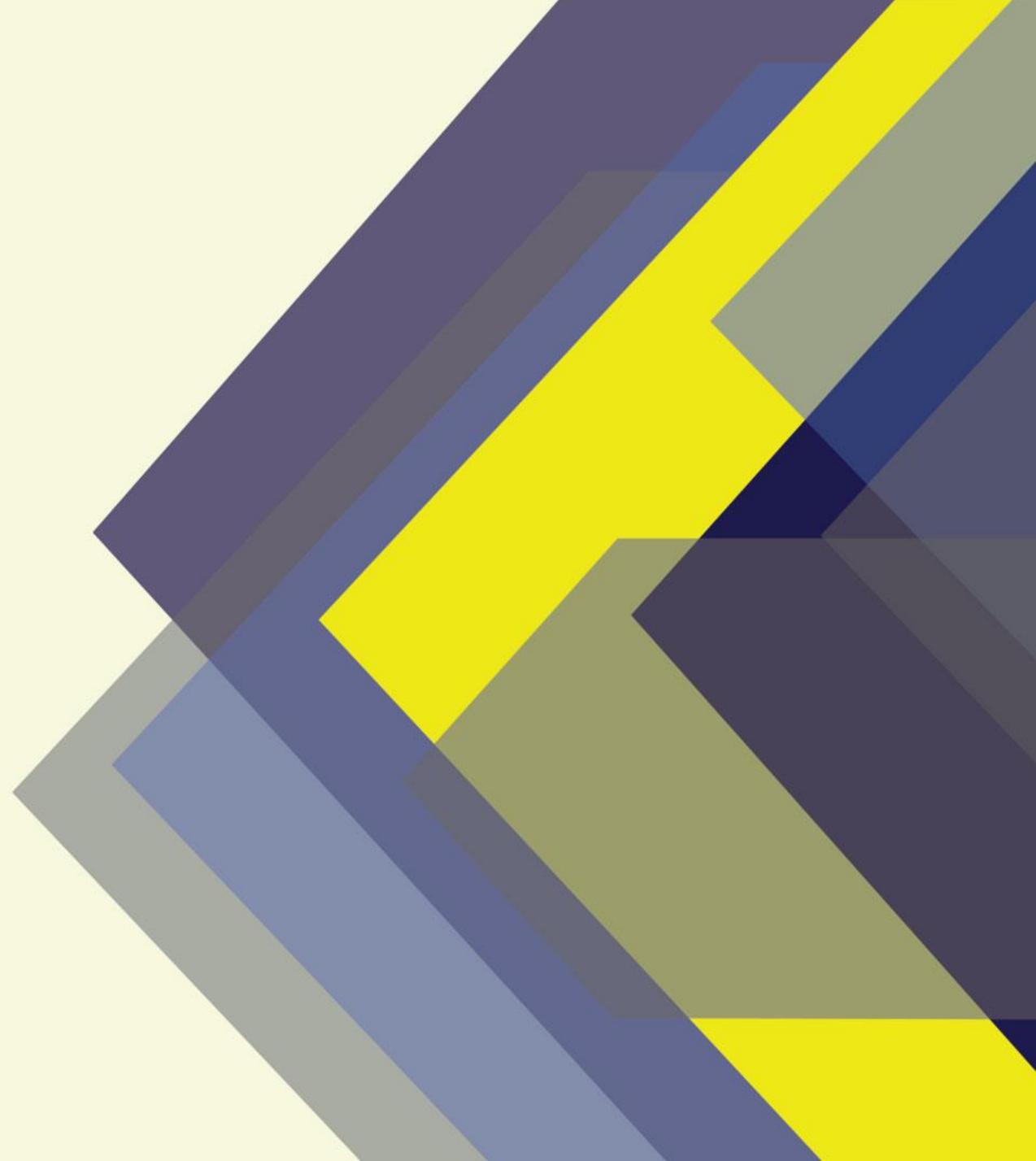
Godspeed

Genesis 35:1-7

⁵ Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.

⁶ Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan. ⁷ There he built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was ***there that God revealed himself*** to him when he was fleeing from his brother.

Place is
more about
Who than
where.



John 1:49-51

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”



Godspeed

“I have been wandering to find *him* and my happiness is so great that it even weakens me like a wound. And this is the marvel of marvels, that he called me Beloved...”

-Emeth in C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*



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