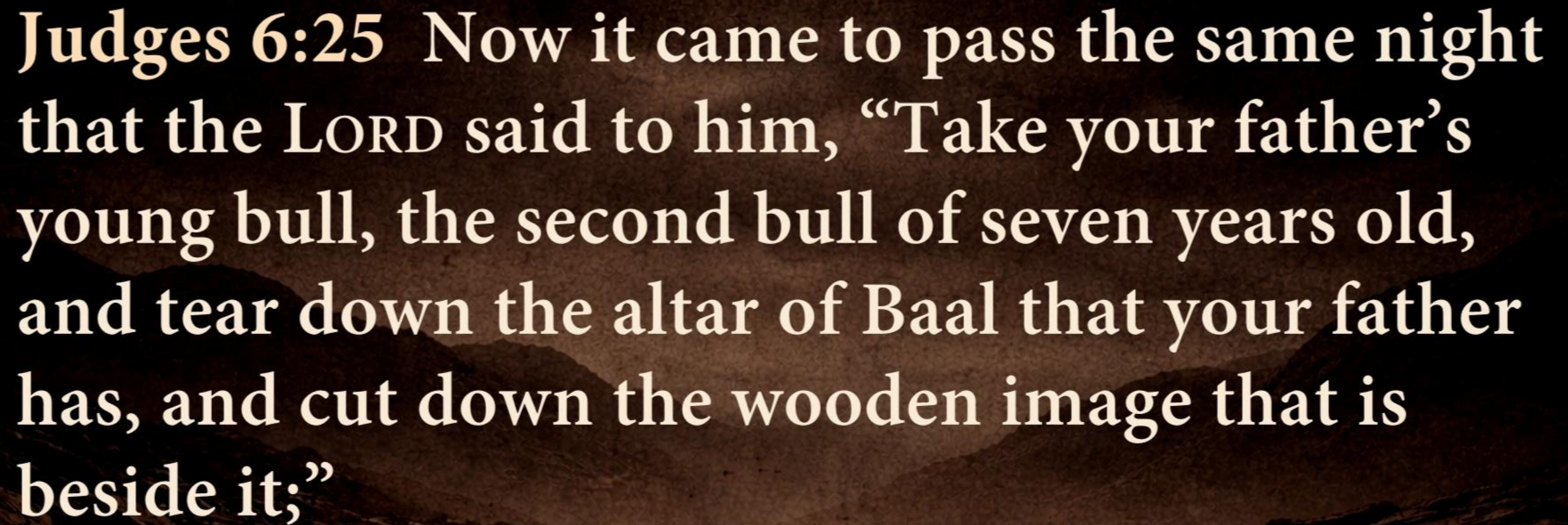


JUDGES

THE BLESSED AND THE BROKEN

— QUALIFYING THE CALLED —

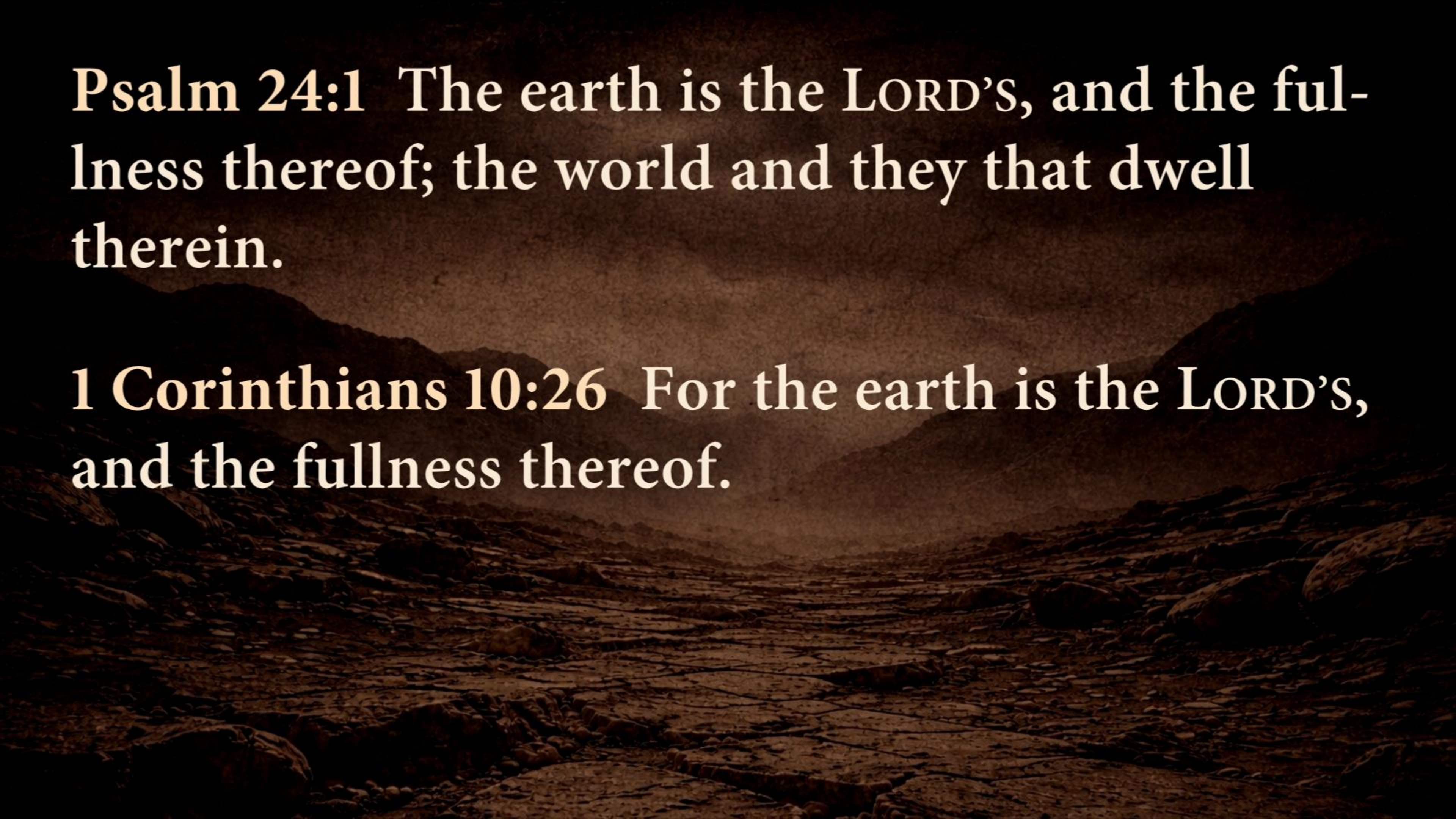
Judges 6:11 Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.¹² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!”¹³ Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”



Judges 6:25 Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, “Take your father’s young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it;”

Judges 6:1 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, ² and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains. ³ So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.

Judges 6:7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites, ⁸ that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; ⁹ and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ Also I said to you, “I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.” But you have not obeyed My voice.’”

A dark, atmospheric landscape with mountains and a rocky foreground. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, brownish-gold glow emanating from the sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The foreground is filled with large, dark rocks and boulders, leading up to a range of mountains in the distance. The overall mood is somber and majestic.

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein.

1 Corinthians 10:26 For the earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof.

—THE PLACE OF GIDEON'S CALLING—

Judges 6:11 And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

—THE PLACE OF GIDEON'S CALLING—

Judges 6:13 Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

—THE PURPOSE OF GIDEON'S CALLING—

Judges 6:14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?”¹⁵ So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.”

—THE PURPOSE OF GIDEON'S CALLING—

Judges 6:17 Then he said to Him, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. ¹⁸ Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.” And He said, “I will wait until you come back.”

Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. ⁶⁸ You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes.

