

THE **ACTS** OF FAITH

A serene sunset scene over a body of water. A small sailboat is visible on the left side of the frame. The sky is a mix of deep blue and orange, with a large, glowing cloud formation in the center. The word "PIONEERS" is written in a large, white, stylized font across the middle of the image, with a decorative flourish at the end of the word. The entire scene is reflected in the calm water below.

PIONEERS

2020-21 SERMON SERIES

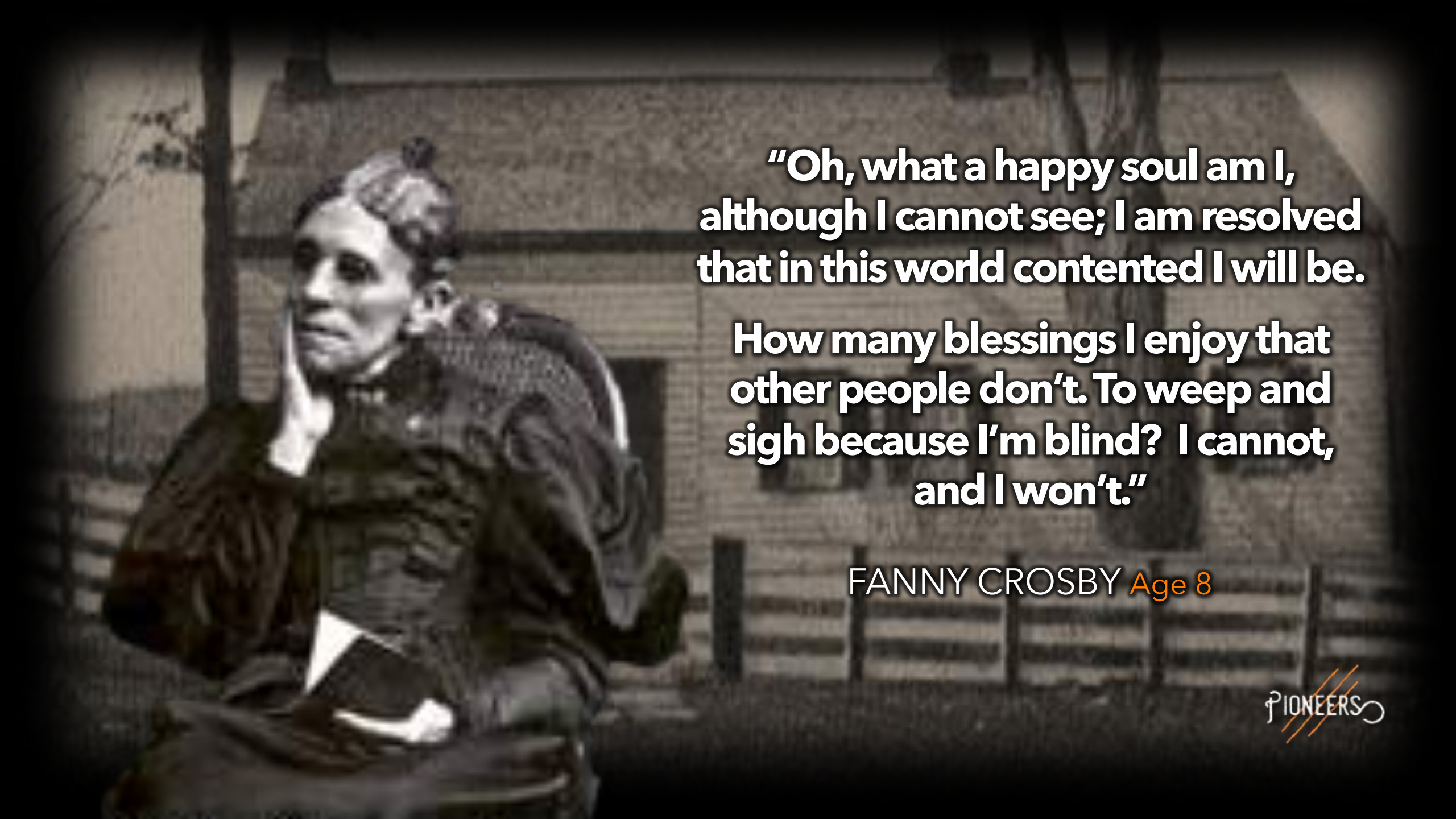


PIONEERS

WHATEVER
WHENEVER
HOWEVER



Putnam County, NY



**"Oh, what a happy soul am I,
although I cannot see; I am resolved
that in this world contented I will be.**

**How many blessings I enjoy that
other people don't. To weep and
sigh because I'm blind? I cannot,
and I won't."**

FANNY CROSBY **Age 8**



NY Institute of the Blind

OPENED 1835

PIONEERS

Blessed Assurance



9,000 Hymns

To God be the glory

Pass me not, O gentle savior

Safe in the arms of Jesus

Rescue the perishing

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!

He Hideth my soul

Tell me the story of Jesus



CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT

“If I had a choice,
I would still choose to
remain blind... for when
I die, the first face I will
ever see will be the face
of my blessed Savior.”


FANNY CROSBY



PIONEERS

CHOSEN INSTRUMENT

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**



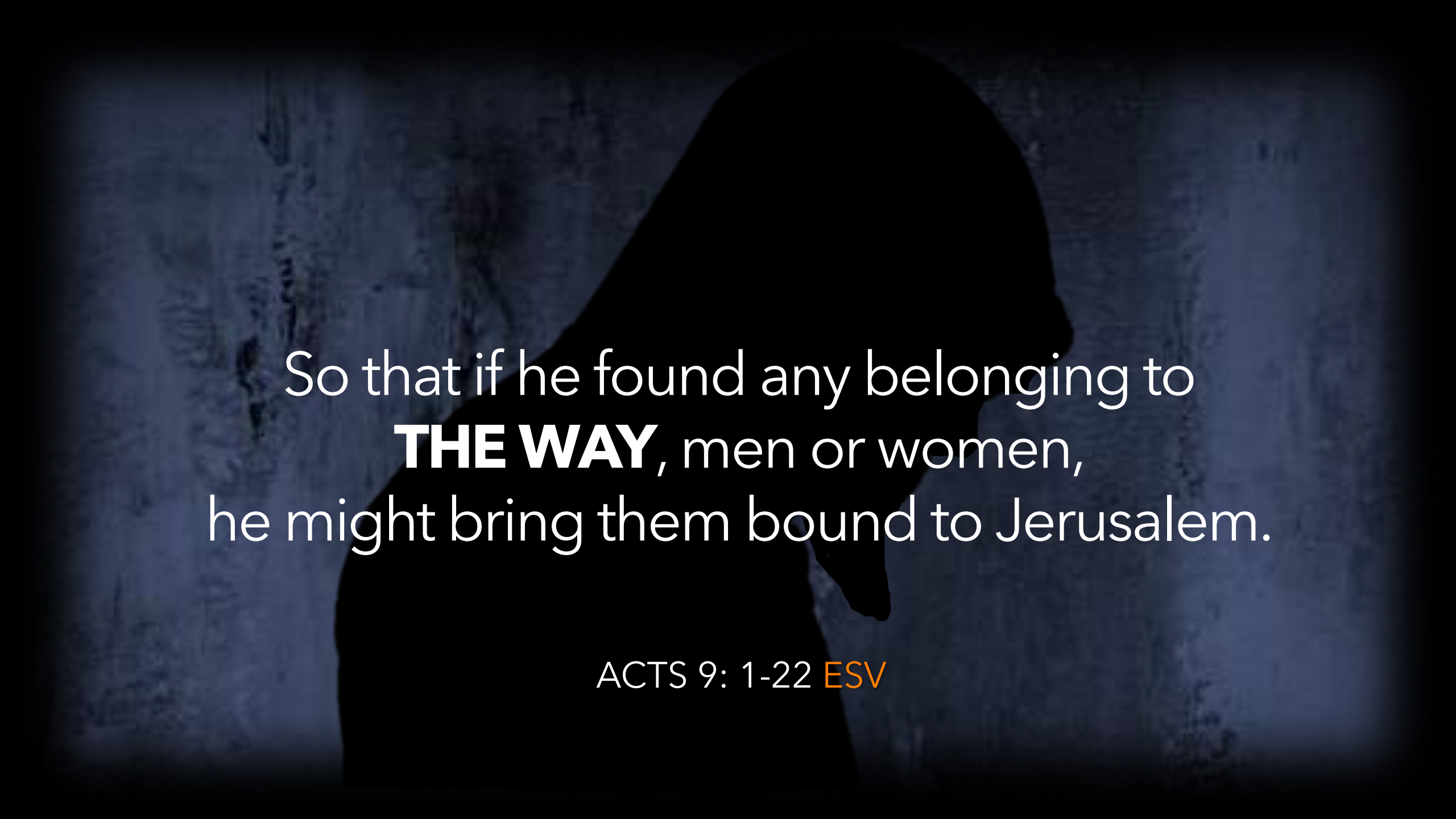
SAUL still breathing threats
and murder against the disciples of the Lord.

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**



Went to the high priest and asked him for
letters to the synagogues at Damascus,

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**



So that if he found any belonging to
THE WAY, men or women,
he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

Now as he went on his way,
he approached
Damascus.

ACTS 9:1-22 **ESV**





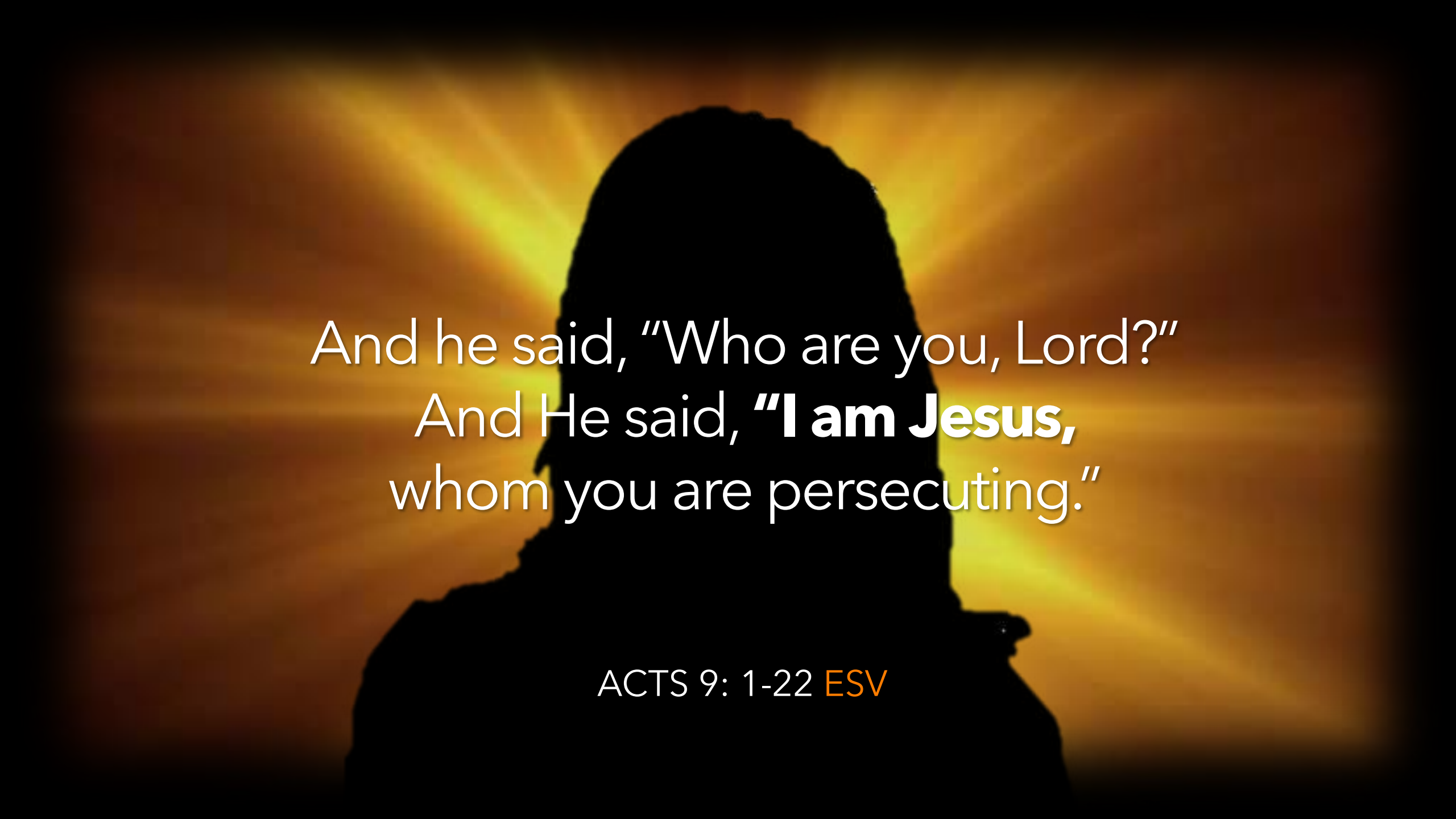
And **suddenly** a light from heaven
shone around him.

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**



And falling to the ground,
he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul,
why are you persecuting me?

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**



And he said, "Who are you, Lord?"
And He said, "**I am Jesus,**
whom you are persecuting."

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is centered against a bright, glowing background of orange and yellow light, resembling a sunrise or sunset. The light rays emanate from behind the person, creating a halo effect.

But rise and enter the city, and
you will be told what you are to do.

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**



PIONEERS

INTERRUPTED BY JESUS

Then men who were traveling
with him stood speechless,
hearing the voice but seeing no one.

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

Saul rose from the ground, and
although his eyes were opened,
he saw nothing.

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

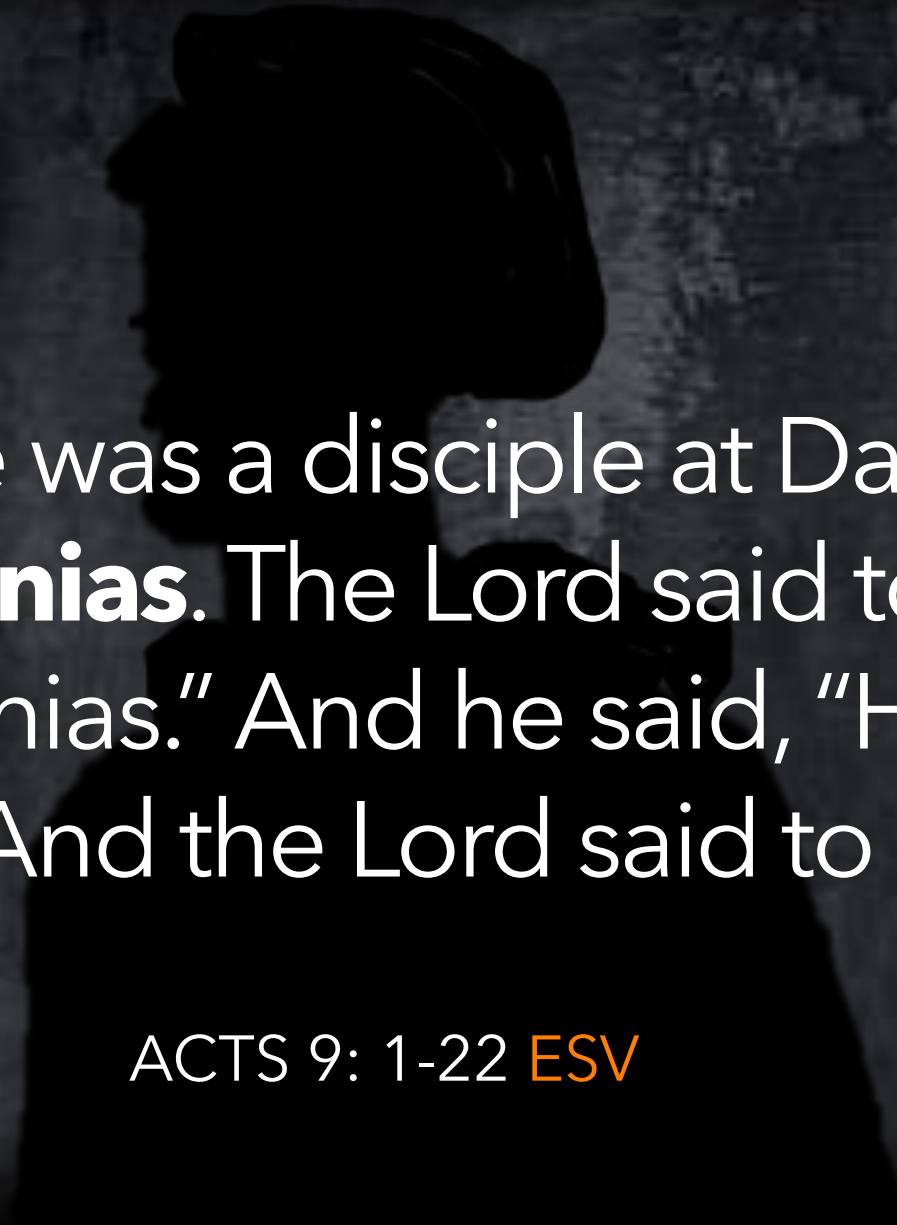
So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for **three days** he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**



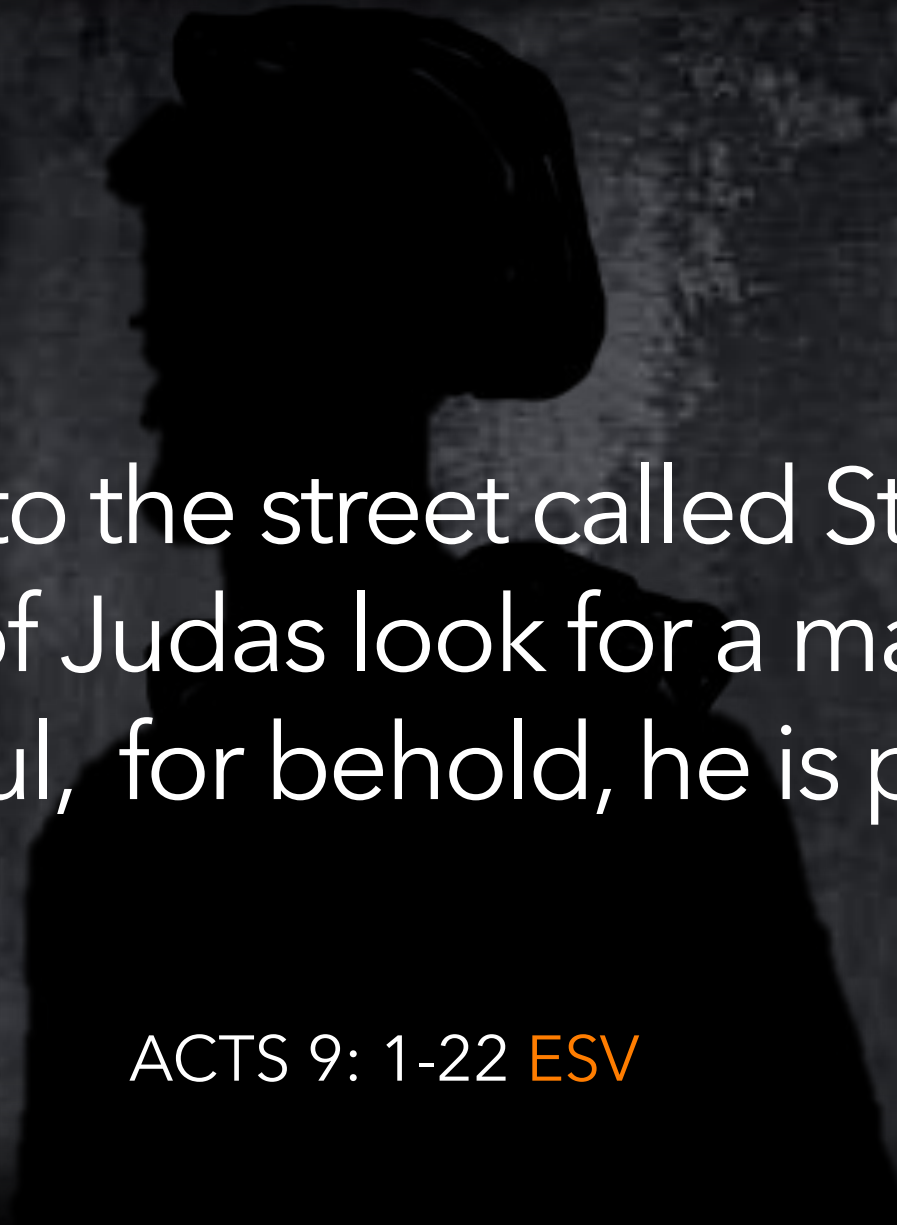
PIONEERS

HUMBLLED BY JESUS

A dark silhouette of a man's head and shoulders is centered in the background. The man appears to be looking slightly to the left. The background is a dark, textured grey with some faint, lighter patterns.


Now there was a disciple at Damascus named **Ananias**. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him,

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

A dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, facing left, with hands clasped in prayer. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

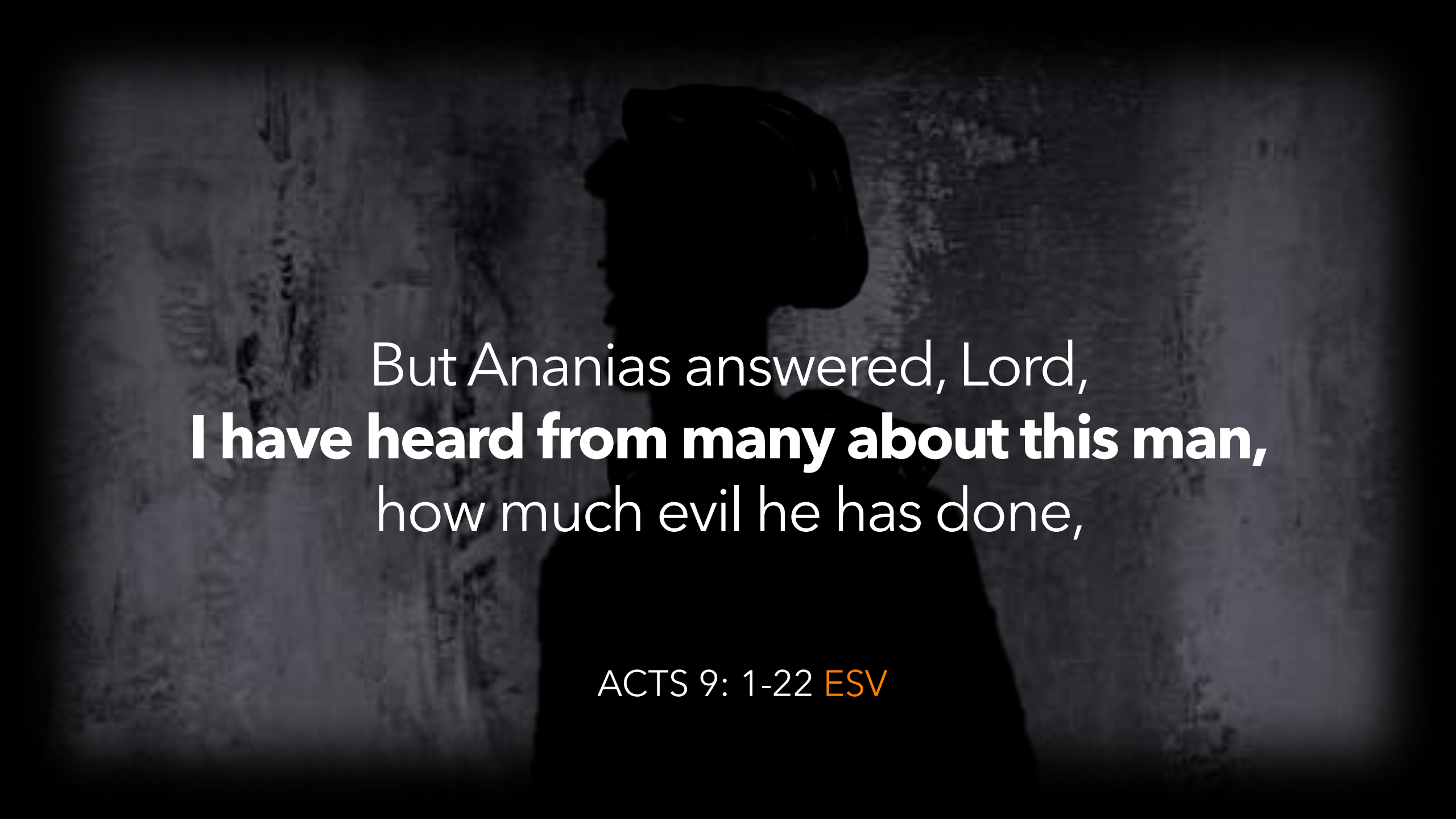
“Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,”

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

A dark, textured background with a silhouette of a man's head and shoulders in profile, facing left. The silhouette is solid black, contrasting with the lighter, grainy background. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

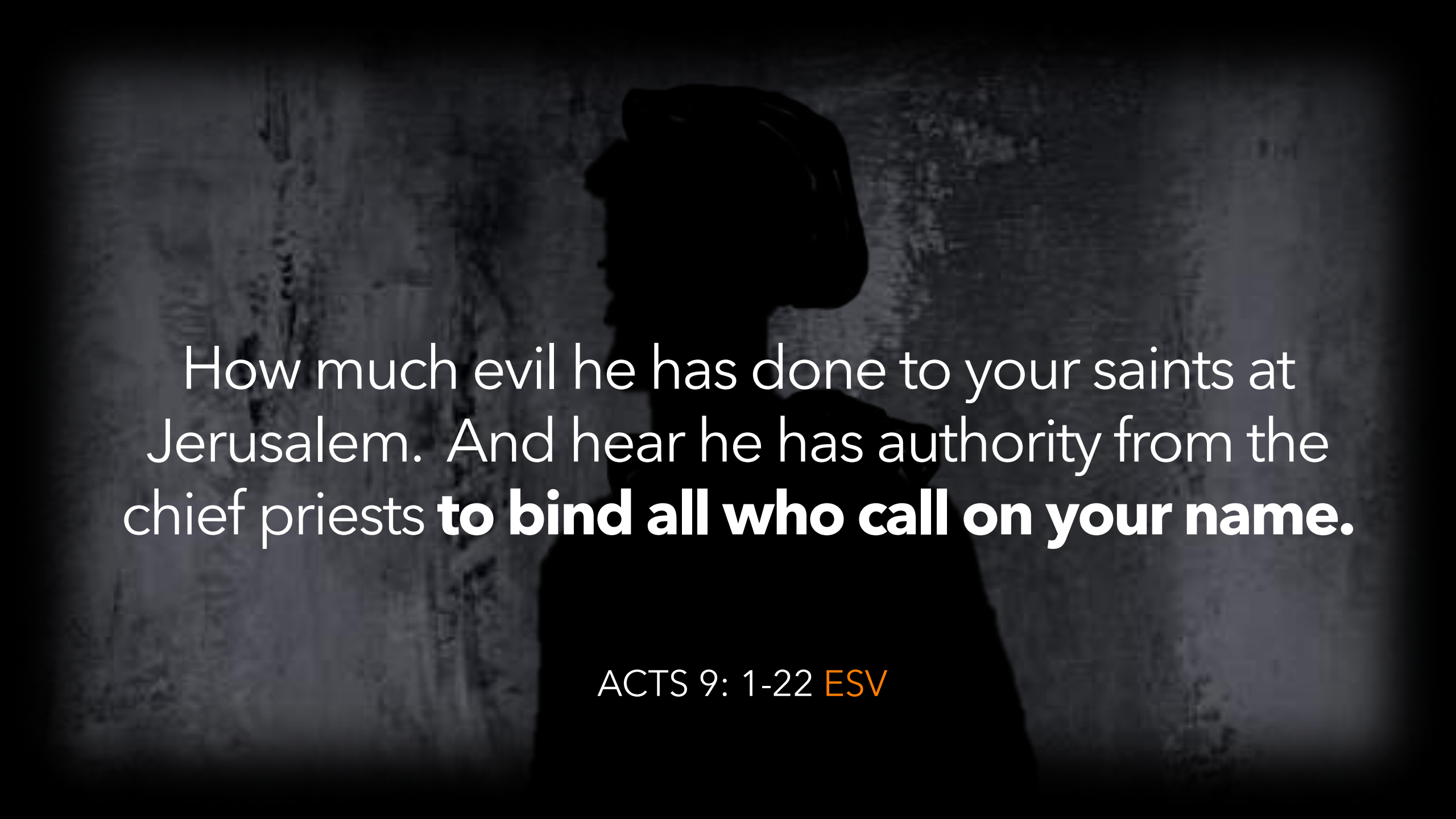
“And **he has seen in a vision** a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

A dark, textured background with a silhouette of a man's head and shoulders in profile, facing left. The silhouette is solid black, contrasting with the lighter, grainy background. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

But Ananias answered, Lord,
I have heard from many about this man,
how much evil he has done,

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

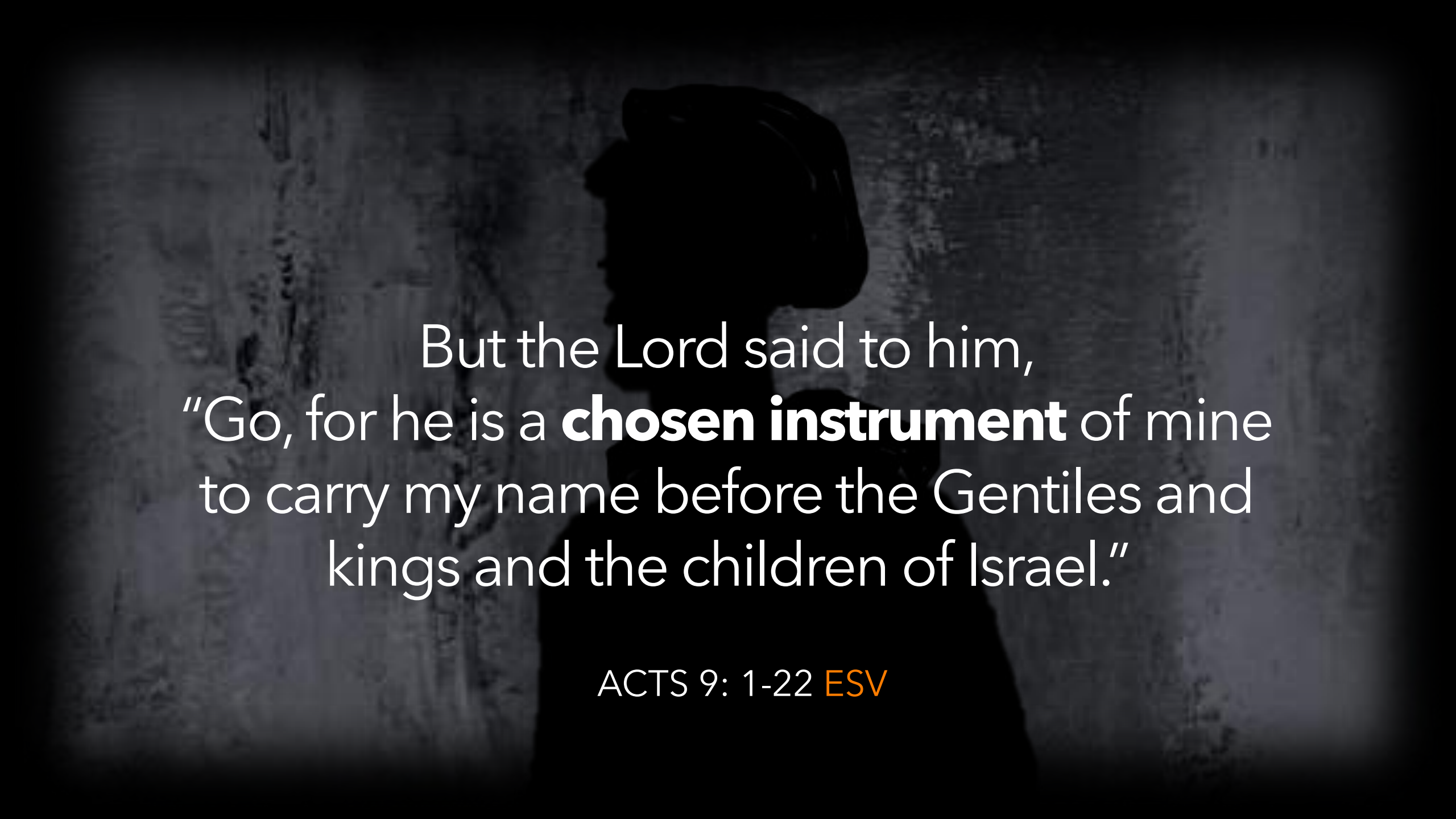
A dark silhouette of a man's head and shoulders in profile, facing left. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric, with some faint, lighter-colored markings. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

How much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And hear he has authority from the chief priests **to bind all who call on your name.**

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

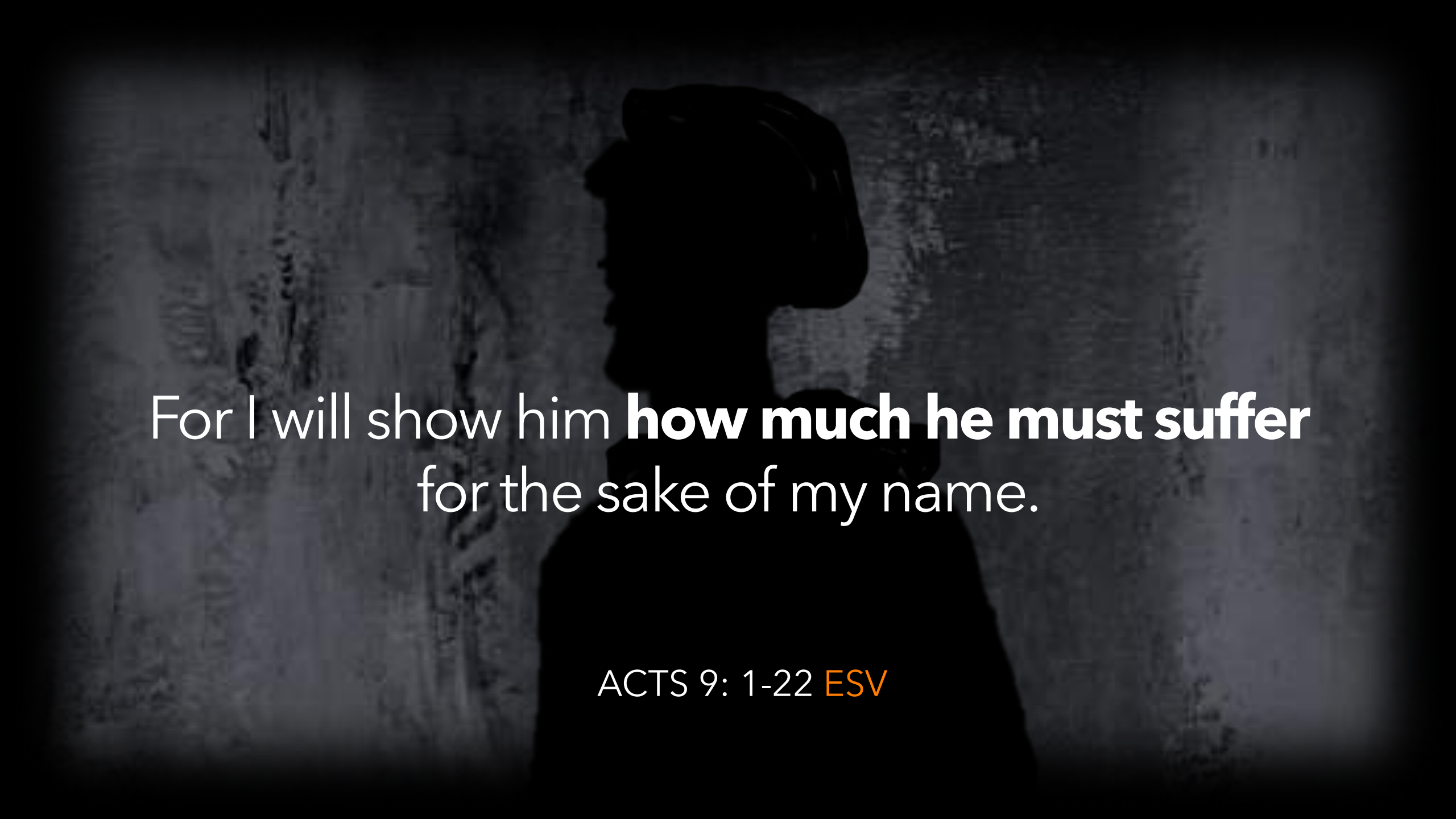
A dark, moody image featuring a black silhouette of a person's head and shoulders in profile, facing left. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric, with subtle variations in tone and texture. The overall atmosphere is somber and contemplative.

Who have you been writing off?

A dark silhouette of a man's head and shoulders in profile, facing left. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric, with some faint, lighter-colored markings. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

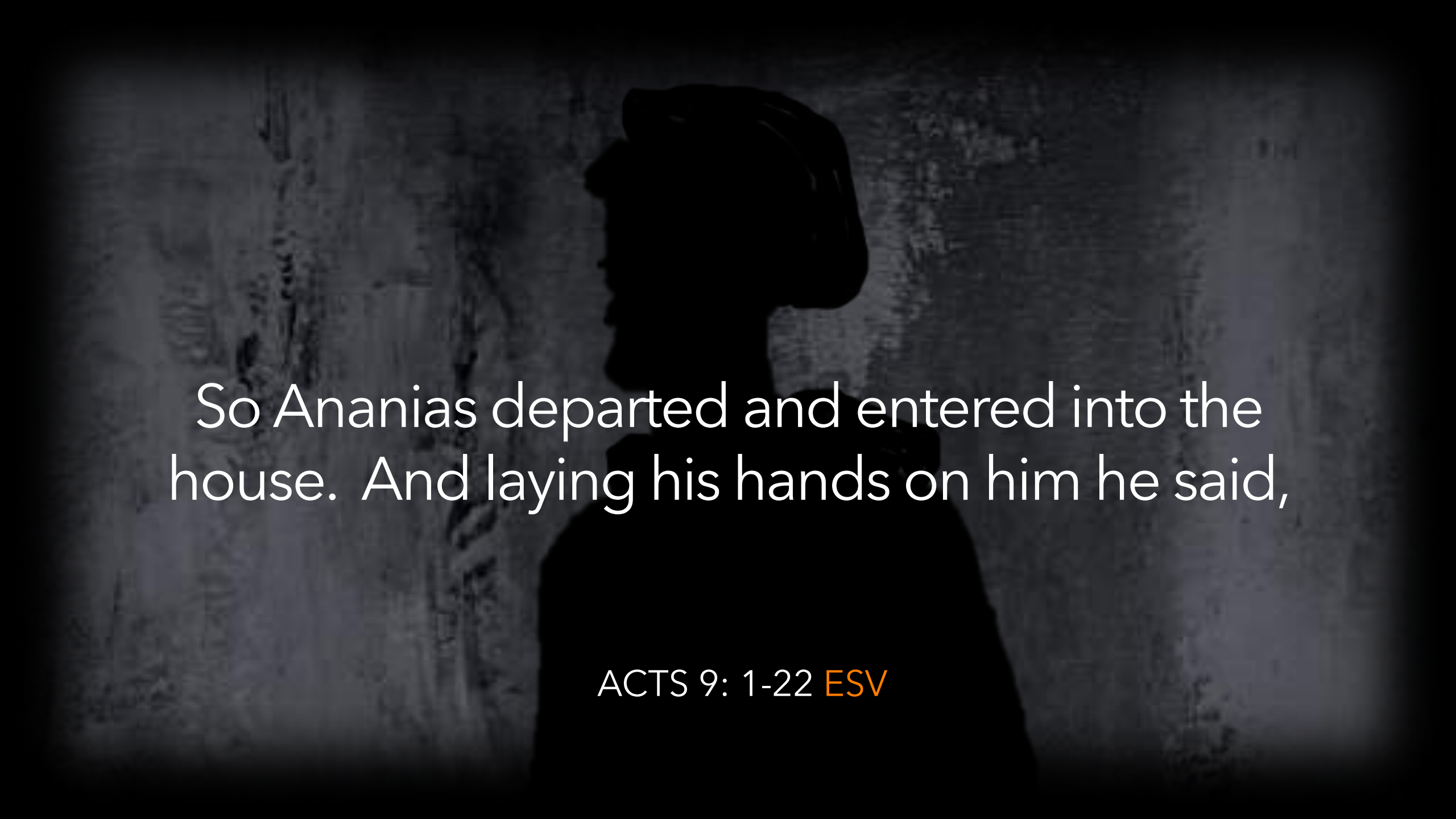
But the Lord said to him,
"Go, for he is a **chosen instrument** of mine
to carry my name before the Gentiles and
kings and the children of Israel."

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

A dark, textured background with a silhouette of a man's head and shoulders in profile, facing left. The silhouette is solid black, contrasting with the lighter, grainy background. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

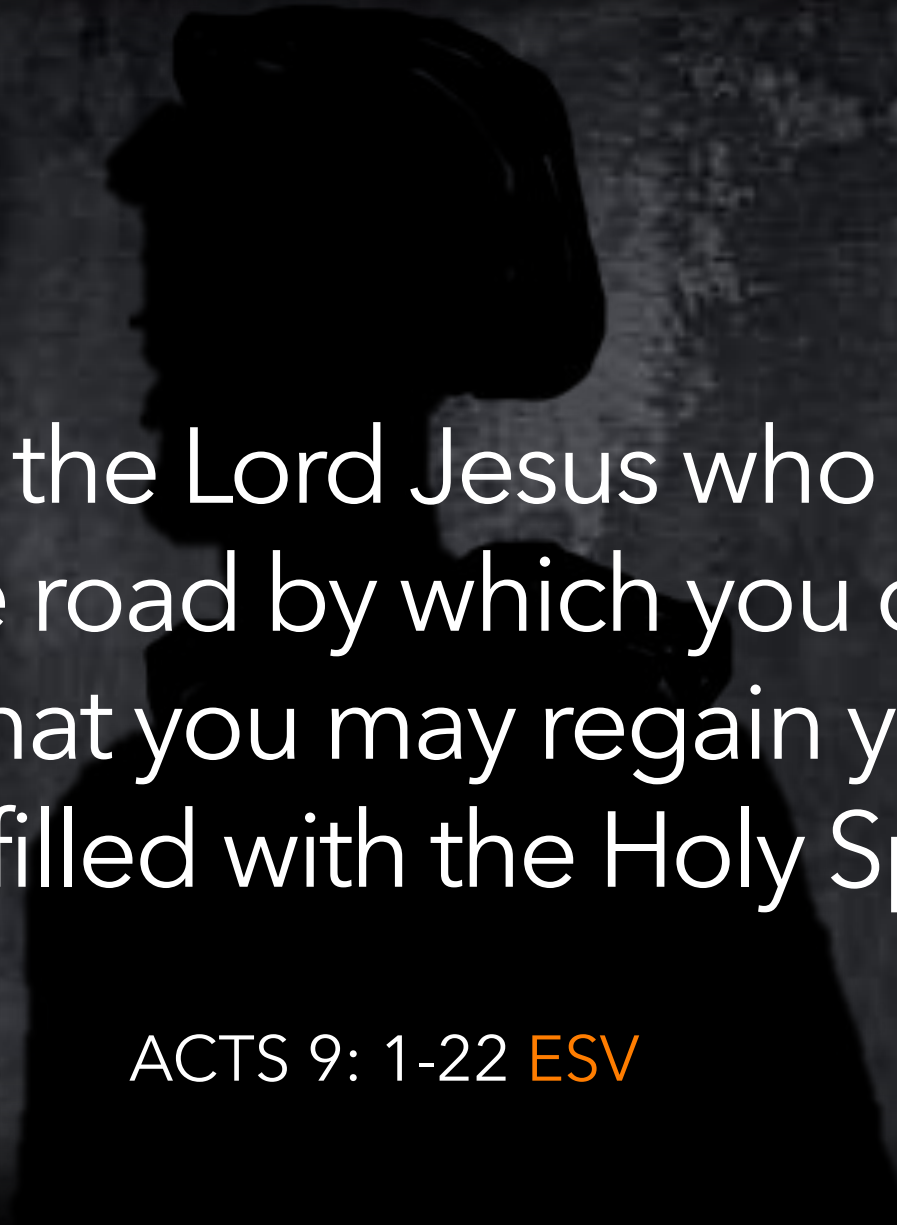
For I will show him **how much he must suffer**
for the sake of my name.

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

A dark, textured background with a silhouette of a man's head and shoulders in profile, facing left. The silhouette is solid black, contrasting with the lighter, mottled grey background. The man appears to be wearing a cap or a short haircut.

So Ananias departed and entered into the house. And laying his hands on him he said,

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

A dark silhouette of a man's head and shoulders is centered in the background. The man appears to be looking slightly to the left. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric, with some lighter, mottled areas.

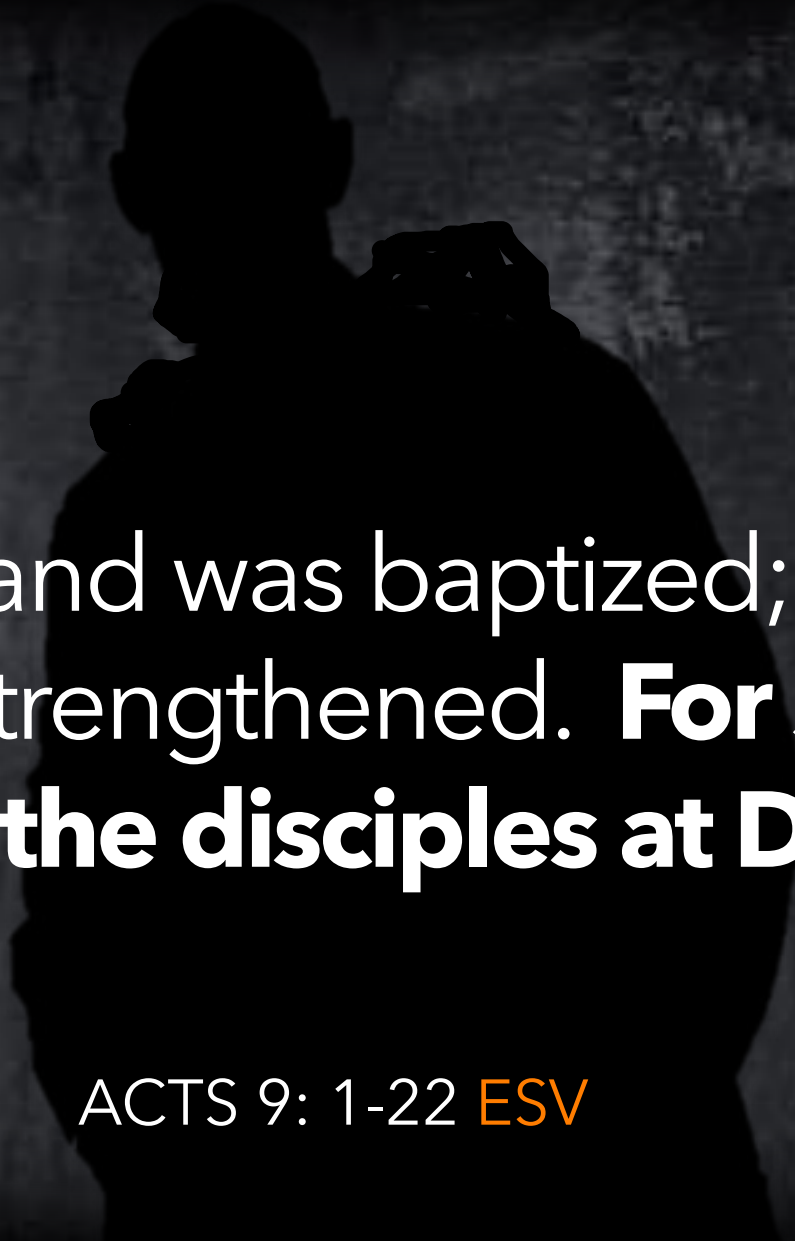
Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

A dark, textured background with a silhouette of a man's head and shoulders in profile, facing left. The silhouette is solid black, contrasting with the lighter, mottled grey background. The man appears to be wearing a cap or a short haircut.

And immediately something like scales fell
from his eyes, and **he regained his sight,**

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**

A dark silhouette of a person wearing a backpack, standing against a light, textured background. The person is facing slightly to the left.

Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. **For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.**

ACTS 9: 1-22 **ESV**



PIONEERS

EMPOWERED BY JESUS

The background of the image shows the dark silhouettes of two people standing in a snowy, wooded area. The person in the foreground is slightly to the right, and another person is behind them to the left. The scene is dimly lit, with a blueish-grey tint, suggesting a cold, overcast day.

“BUT SAUL INCREASED IN STRENGTH.”

ACTS 9: 20-22 **ESV**

CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT



SAUL

PIONEERS

INTERRUPTED BY JESUS

HUMBLED BY JESUS

EMPOWERED BY JESUS



CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT

PIONEERS

The background of the image shows the silhouettes of two people embracing. They are positioned in the center, with the person on the left having their arms around the person on the right. The background is a wall with faint, blue musical notes and staff lines. The overall lighting is dim, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere.

**"I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me."**

PAUL PHIL. 4:13

CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT

A silhouette of a man and a child embracing in a church. The man is on the left, and the child is on the right, with their arms around each other. The background is a warm, reddish-brown wall with faint blue musical notes and a cross. The text is overlaid on the scene.

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

PAUL ROM. 5:8

CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT

The background of the image shows the silhouettes of two people embracing in a room. The walls are covered in musical notes and staff lines, suggesting a music practice room or a rehearsal space. The lighting is dim, with the silhouettes being the most prominent feature.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old is passed away; behold, the new has come.”

PAUL 1 COR. 5:17

CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT

The background of the image shows the silhouettes of two people embracing in a church. The person in the foreground is seen from behind, with their arms around the shoulders of another person. The background is filled with the warm, colorful light of stained glass windows, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, purples, and oranges.

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.”

PAUL ROMANS 12:2

CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT

The background of the image shows the silhouettes of two people embracing. They are in a room with a wall that has musical notes and a treble clef painted on it. The lighting is dim, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere.

**"For to me to live is Christ,
To die is gain."**

PAUL PHIL. 1:21

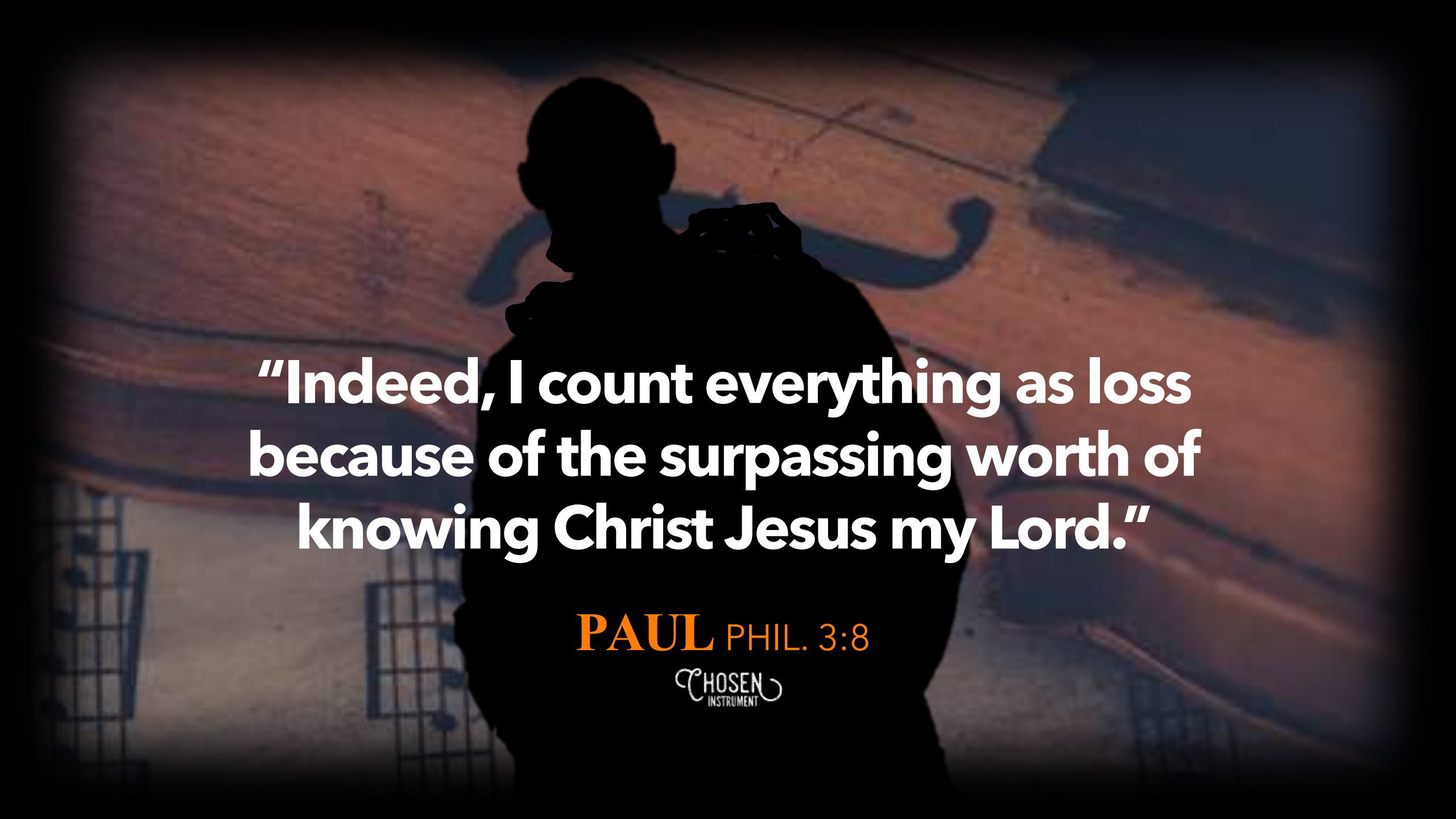
CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT

A silhouette of a man and a child embracing in a room. The background is a wall with musical notes and a large number '5'. The text is overlaid on the image.

**“Love is patient, love is kind, it does not
envy, it does not boast, it is not proud...
love never fails.**

PAUL 1 COR. 13:4

CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT

The background of the image shows the silhouettes of two people embracing in a room. The walls are covered in musical notes and staff lines, suggesting a music practice room or a studio. The lighting is dim, with the figures and text standing out against the slightly brighter background.

**“Indeed, I count everything as loss
because of the surpassing worth of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”**

PAUL PHIL. 3:8

CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT



PAUL

This is my story; this is my song.



JESUS can call anyone.

Gal. 1:15 "God set me apart even from my mother's womb."

JESUS can humble anyone.

Phil. 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow."

JESUS can forgive anyone.

Phil. 3:13 "Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward."

JESUS can use anyone.

1 Cor. 11:1 "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."

JESUS can change anyone.

Phil. 1:8 "How I long for you all with the affection of Christ."

How do you pray for a

SAUL

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may **OPEN TO US A DOOR** for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

PAUL

The Re-Enforcement Prayer

COL. 4:2-4 **ESV**





CHOSEN
INSTRUMENT

COLOSSIANS 4:2 **ESV**

PERSISTENTLY

Continue steadfastly in prayer,

SPECIFICALLY

being watchful in it

THANKFULLY

with thanksgiving.

PIONEERS

CHOSEN INSTRUMENT

ACTS 9: 1-31 **ESV**