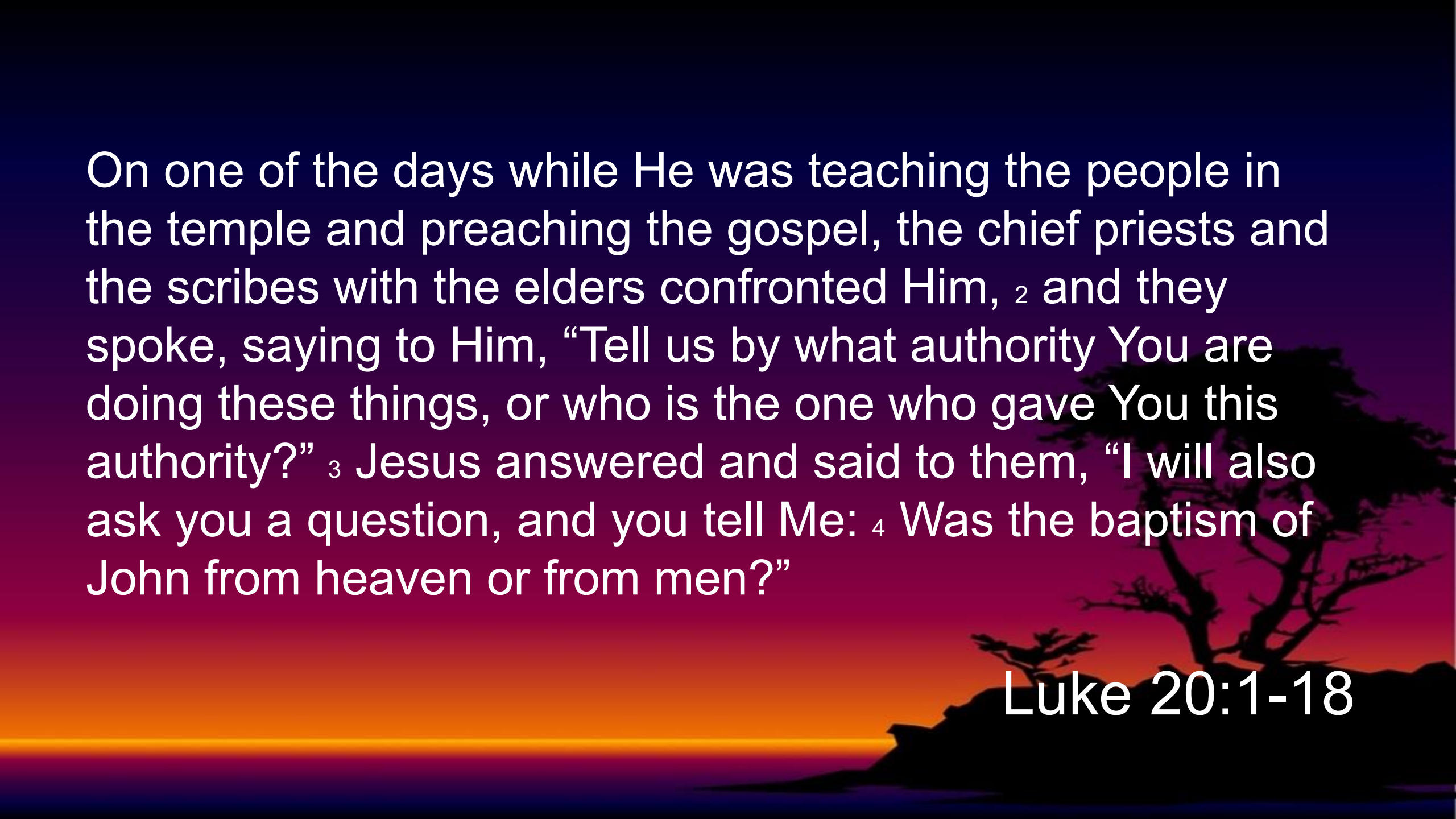


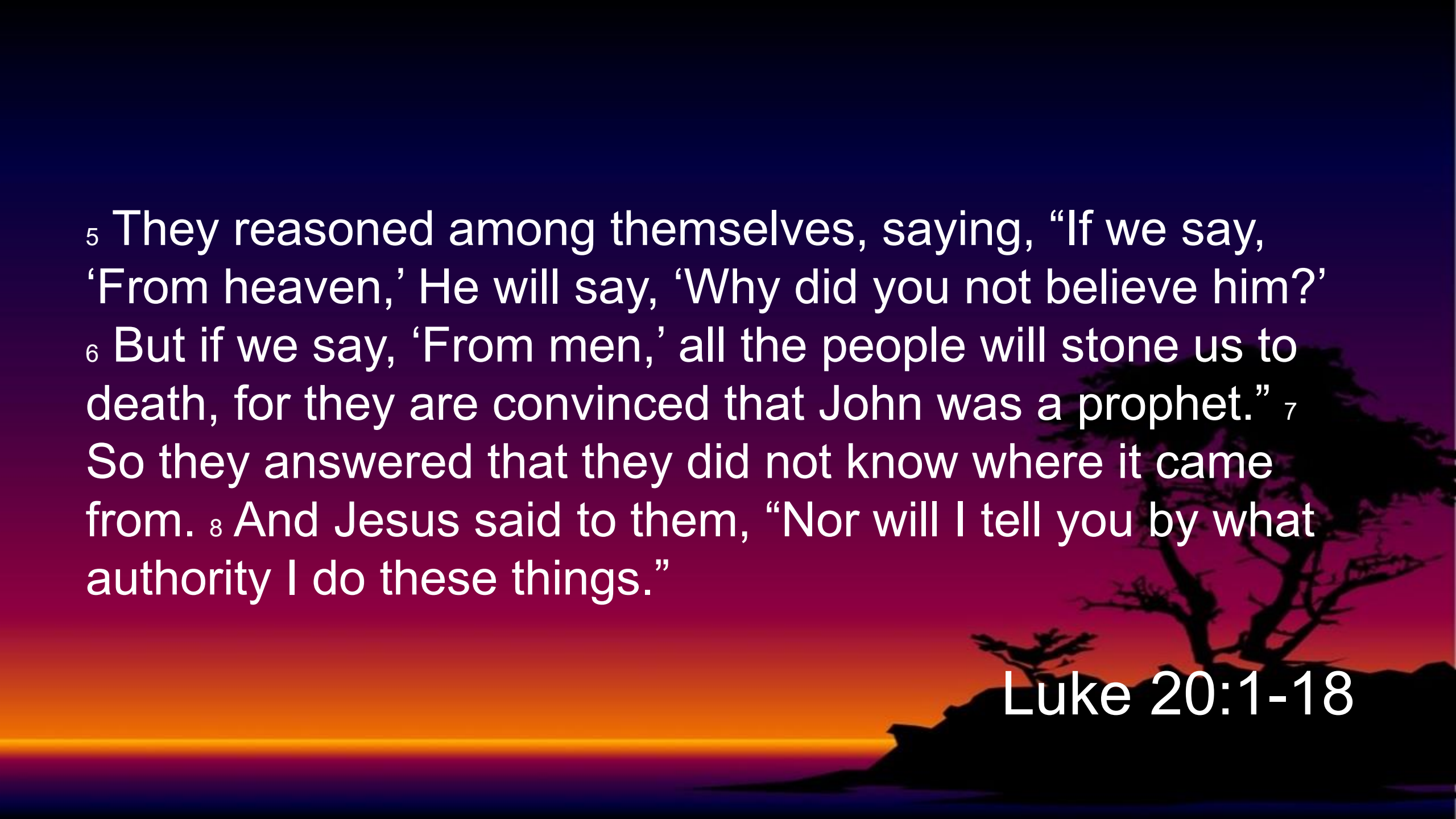
“May it never be!”





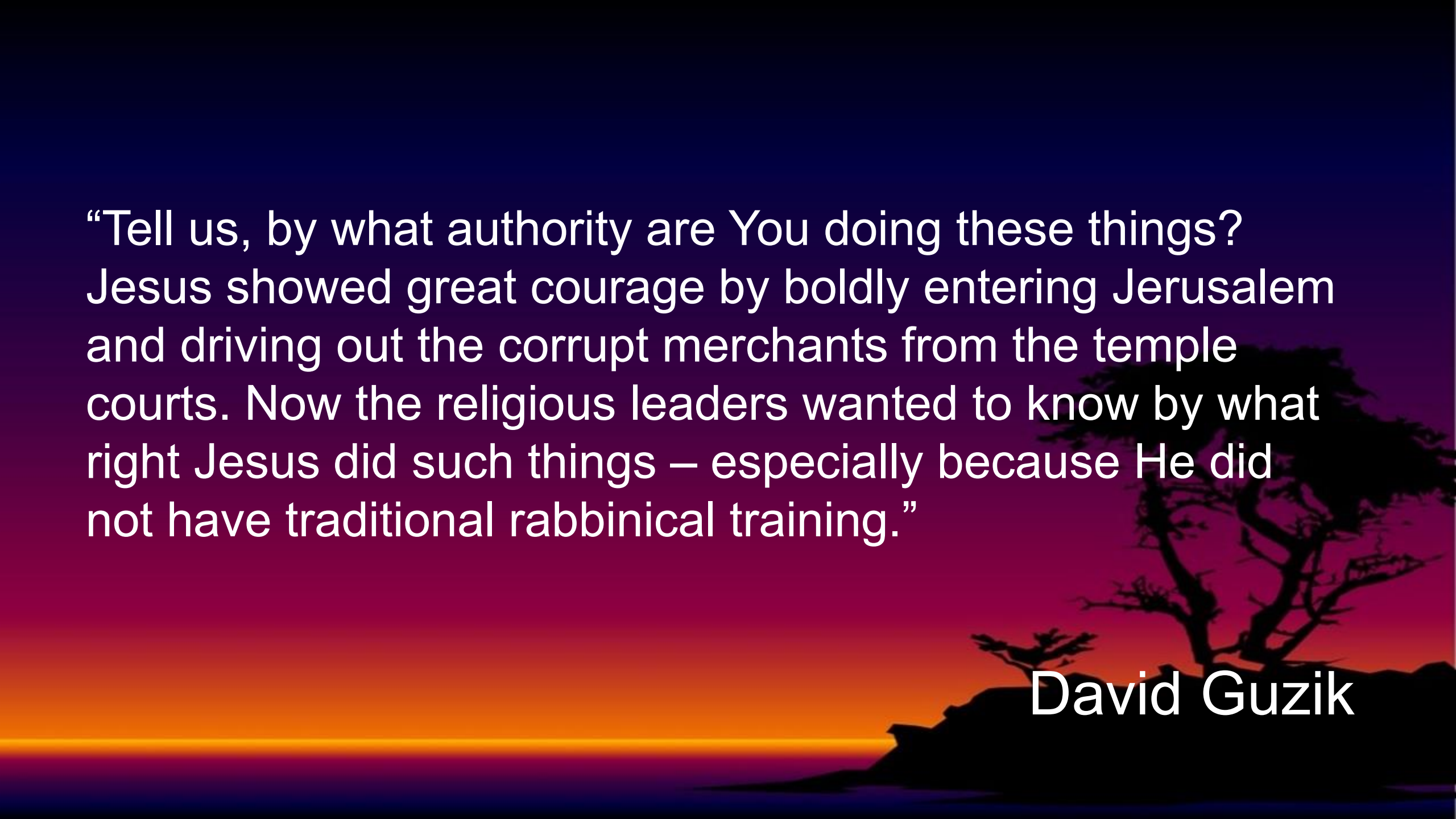
On one of the days while He was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders confronted Him, ² and they spoke, saying to Him, “Tell us by what authority You are doing these things, or who is the one who gave You this authority?” ³ Jesus answered and said to them, “I will also ask you a question, and you tell Me: ⁴ Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?”

Luke 20:1-18



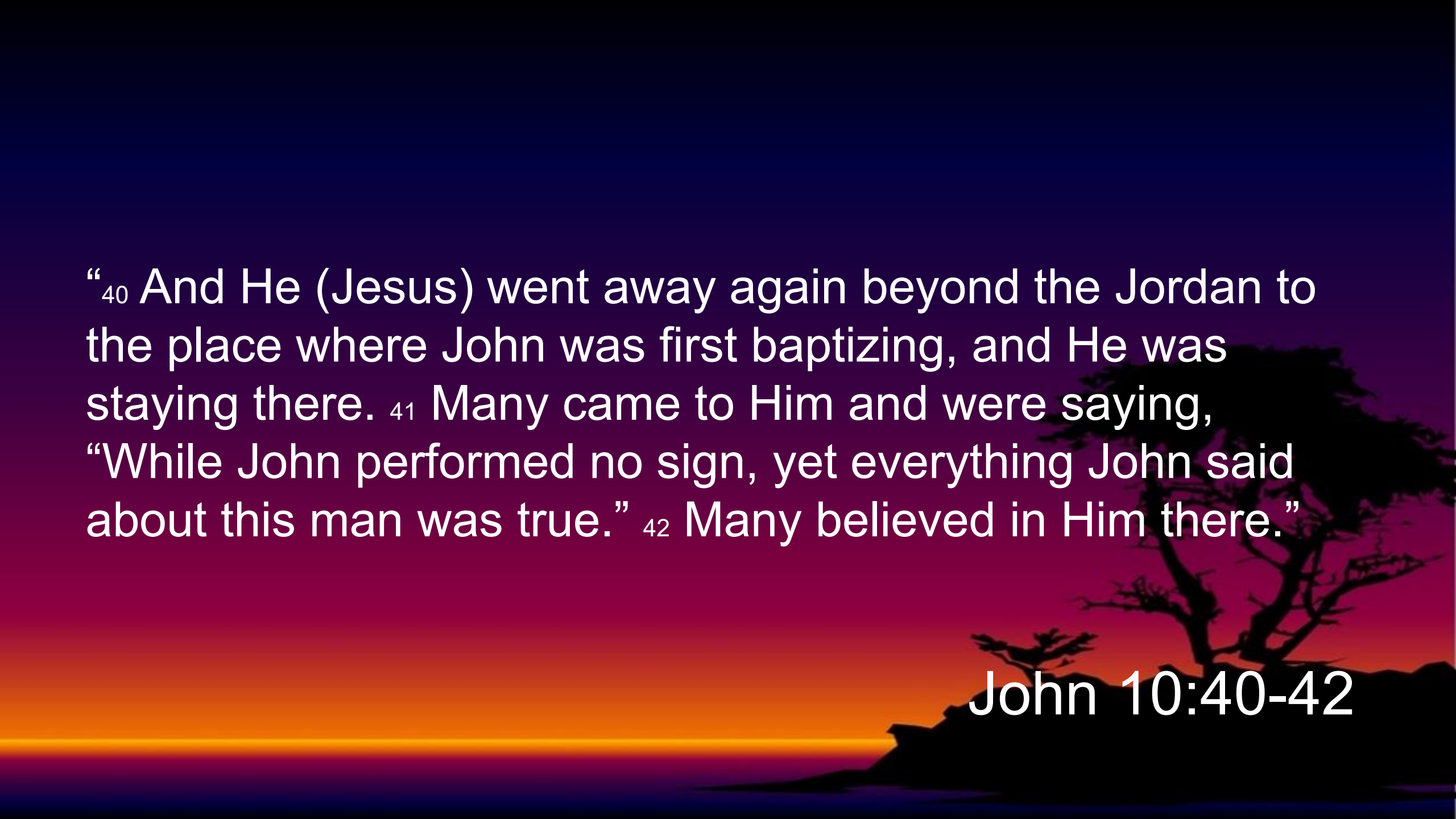
⁵ They reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’
⁶ But if we say, ‘From men,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.”⁷
So they answered that they did not know where it came from.⁸ And Jesus said to them, “Nor will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

Luke 20:1-18



“Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things? Jesus showed great courage by boldly entering Jerusalem and driving out the corrupt merchants from the temple courts. Now the religious leaders wanted to know by what right Jesus did such things – especially because He did not have traditional rabbinical training.”

David Guzik

A sunset scene with a silhouette of a tree on the right side. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The silhouette of a tree is prominent on the right side of the image.

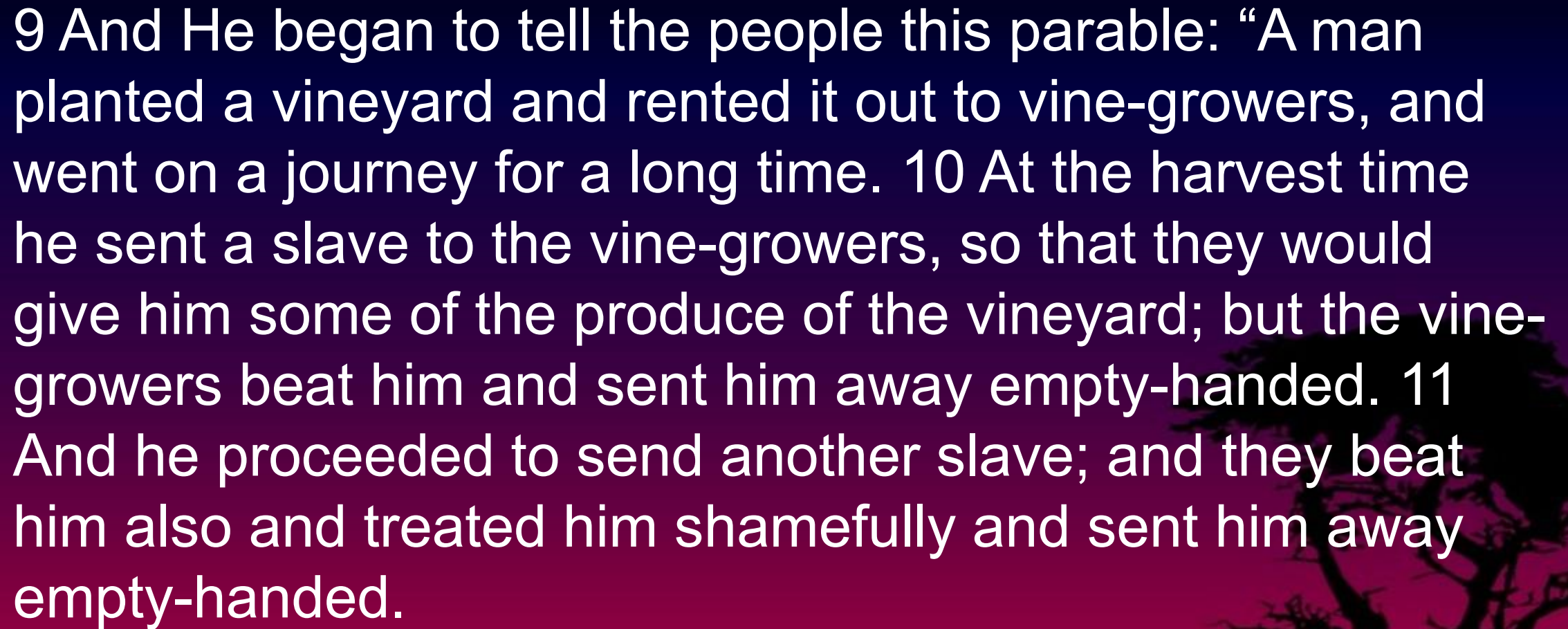
“⁴⁰ And He (Jesus) went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. ⁴¹ Many came to Him and were saying, “While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.” ⁴² Many believed in Him there.”

John 10:40-42

“Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet.”

Matthew 14:4

9 And He began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and rented it out to vine-growers, and went on a journey for a long time. 10 At the harvest time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, so that they would give him some of the produce of the vineyard; but the vine-growers beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 And he proceeded to send another slave; and they beat him also and treated him shamefully and sent him away empty-handed.

A sunset scene with a silhouette of a tree and a rocky outcrop against a gradient sky from orange to purple.

¹² And he proceeded to send a third; and this one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³ The owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do?' I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' ¹⁴ But when the vine-growers saw him, they reasoned with one another, saying, 'This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance will be ours.' ¹⁵ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What, then, will the owner of the vineyard do to them?

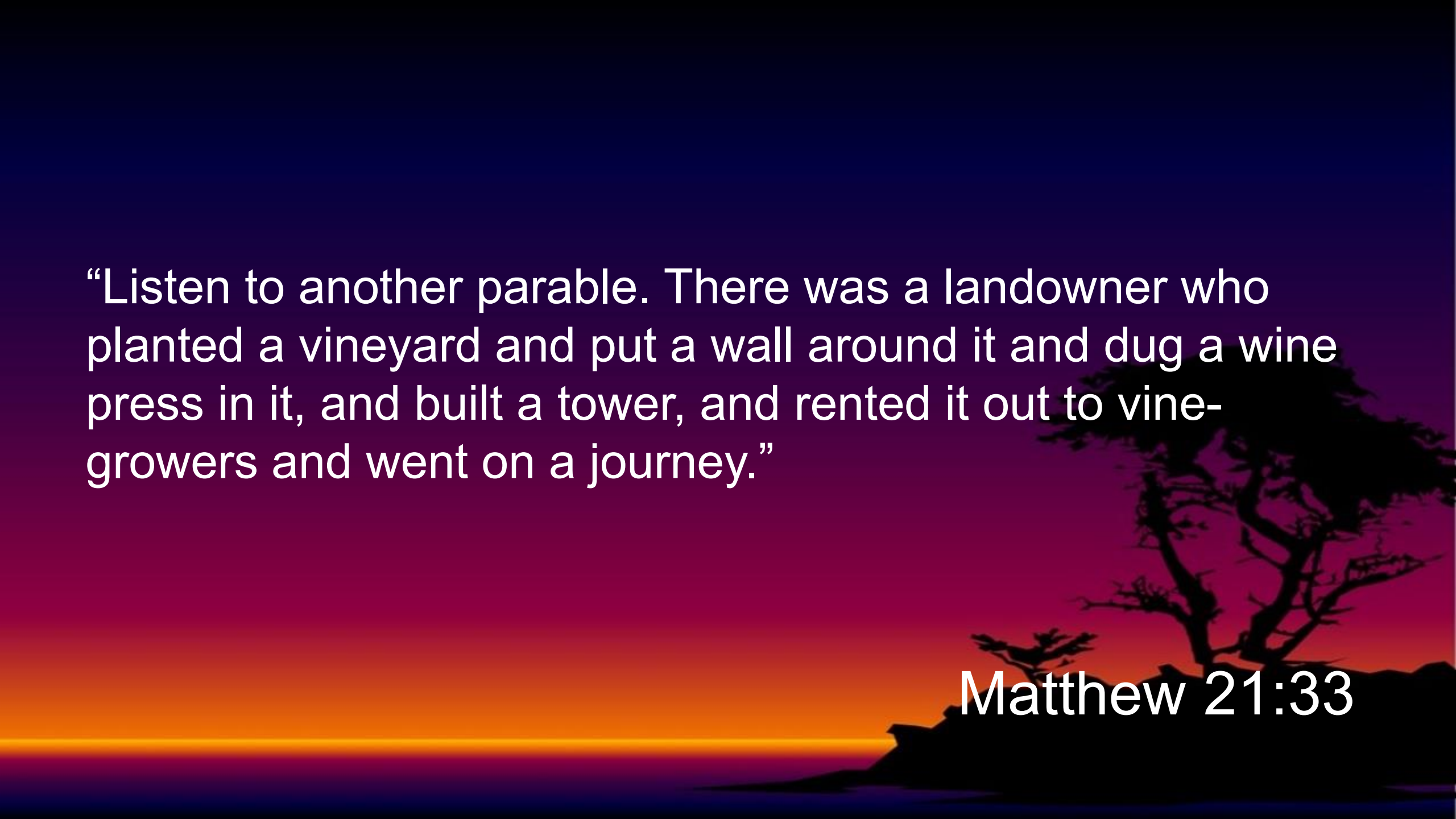
Luke 20:1-18

¹⁶ He will come and destroy these vine-growers and will give the vineyard to others.” When they heard it, they said, “May it never be!” ¹⁷ But Jesus looked at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

‘The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the chief corner stone’?

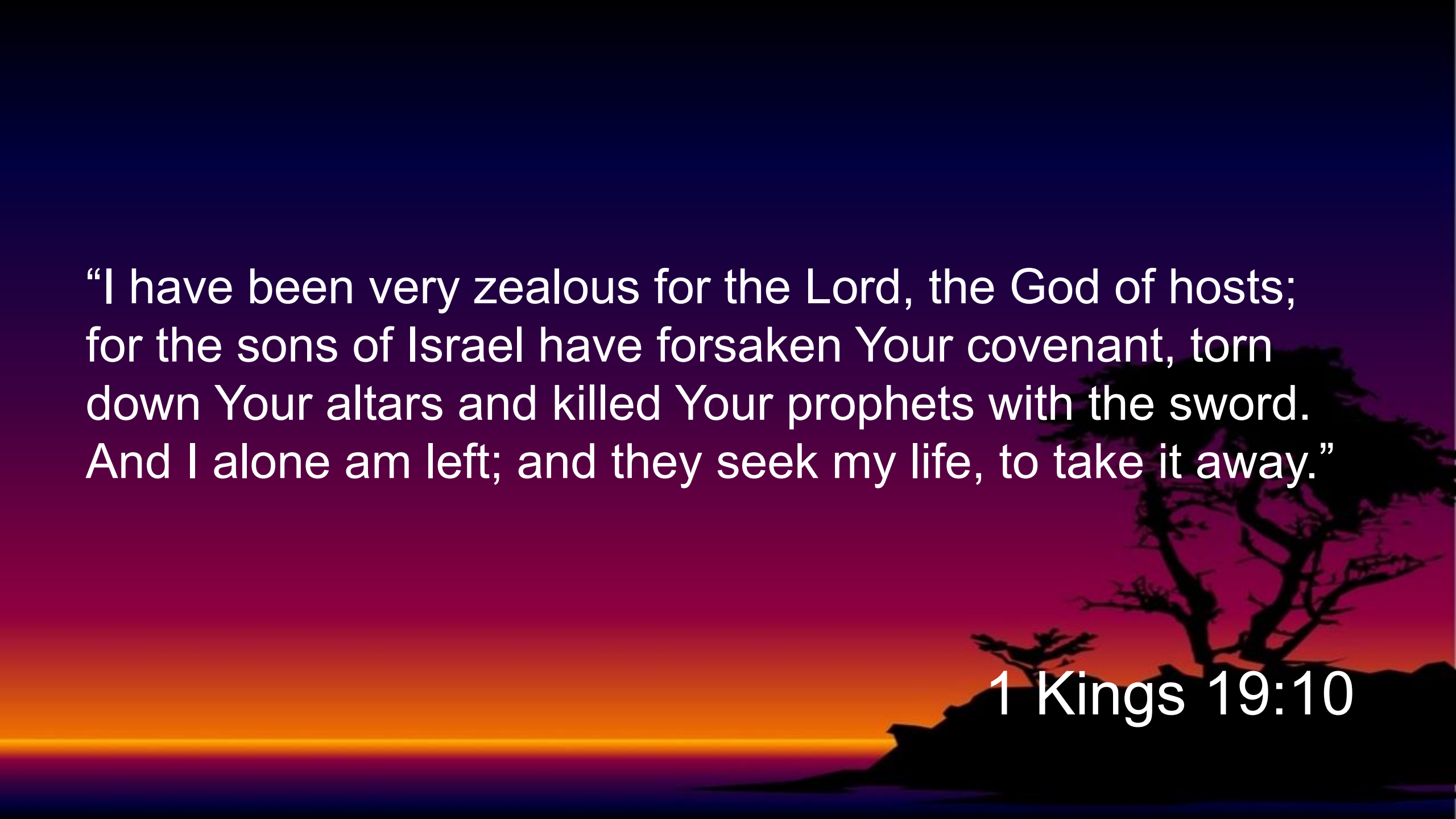
¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”

Luke 20:1-18



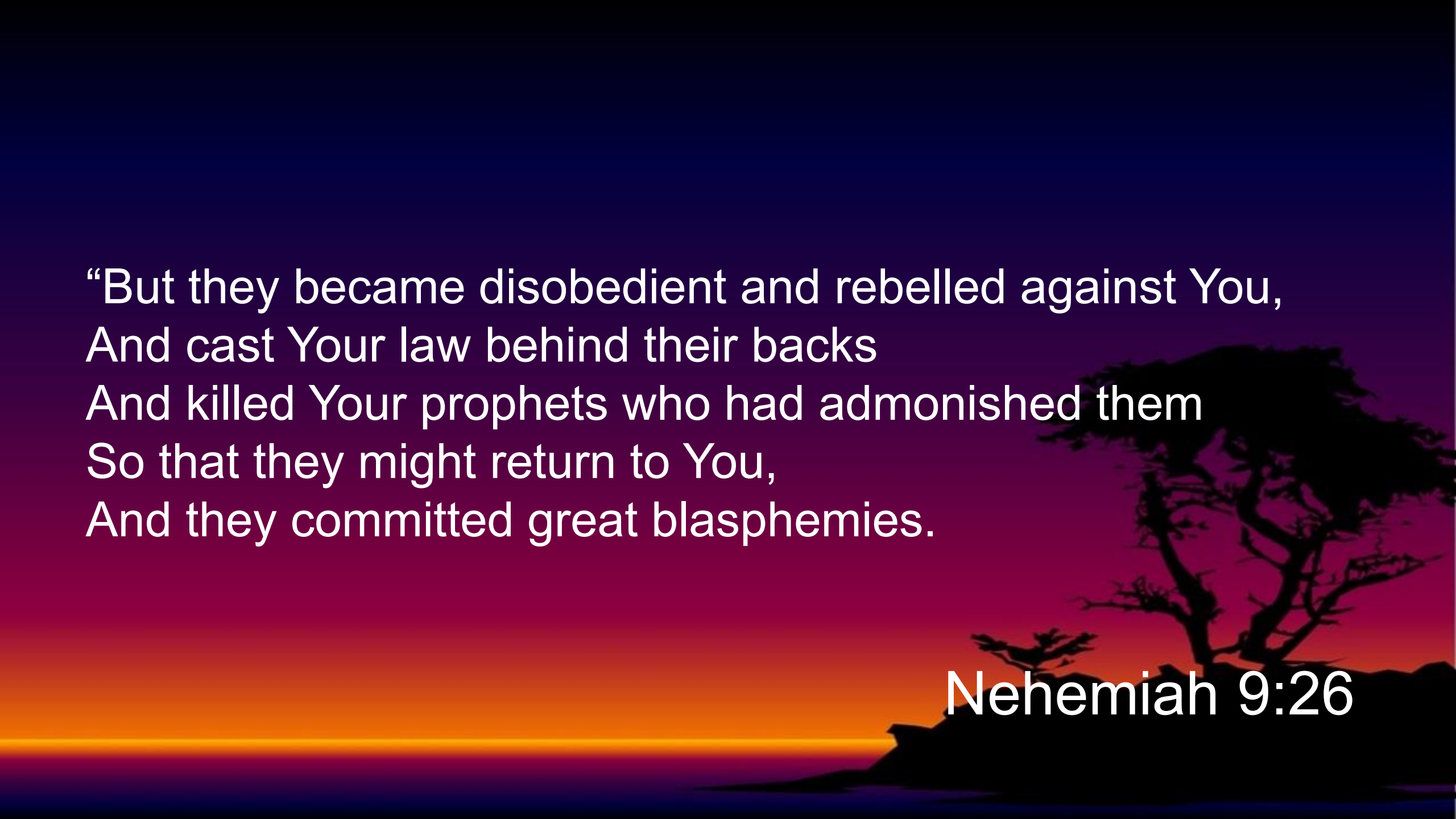
“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey.”

Matthew 21:33

A sunset scene with a silhouette of a tree on the right side. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The tree is dark and stands against the colorful background.

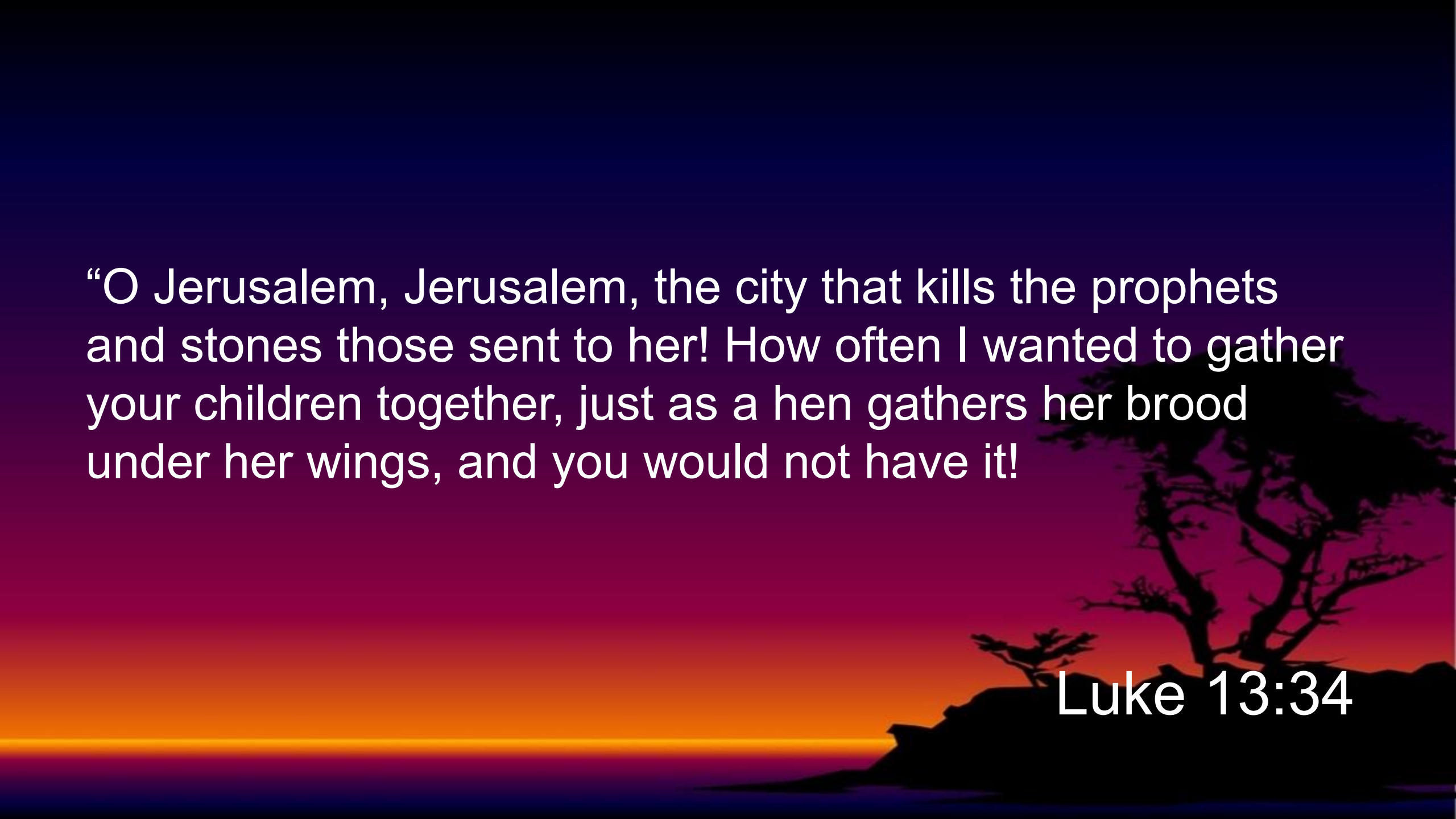
“I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

1 Kings 19:10



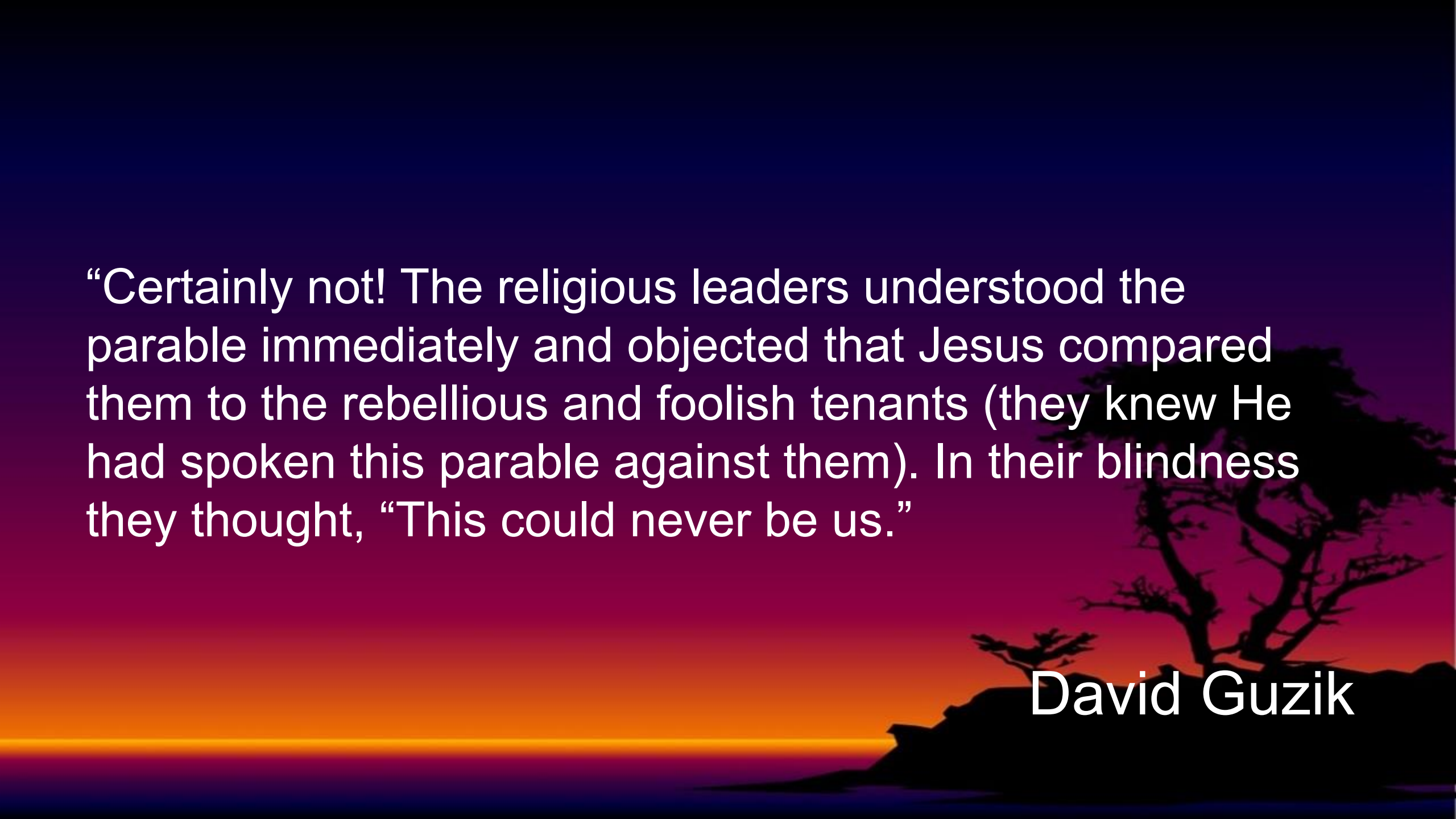
“But they became disobedient and rebelled against You,
And cast Your law behind their backs
And killed Your prophets who had admonished them
So that they might return to You,
And they committed great blasphemies.

Nehemiah 9:26

The background of the image is a vibrant sunset or sunrise. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. In the lower right corner, the dark silhouette of a tree with a thick trunk and sparse branches is visible against the colorful sky. The overall mood is contemplative and dramatic.

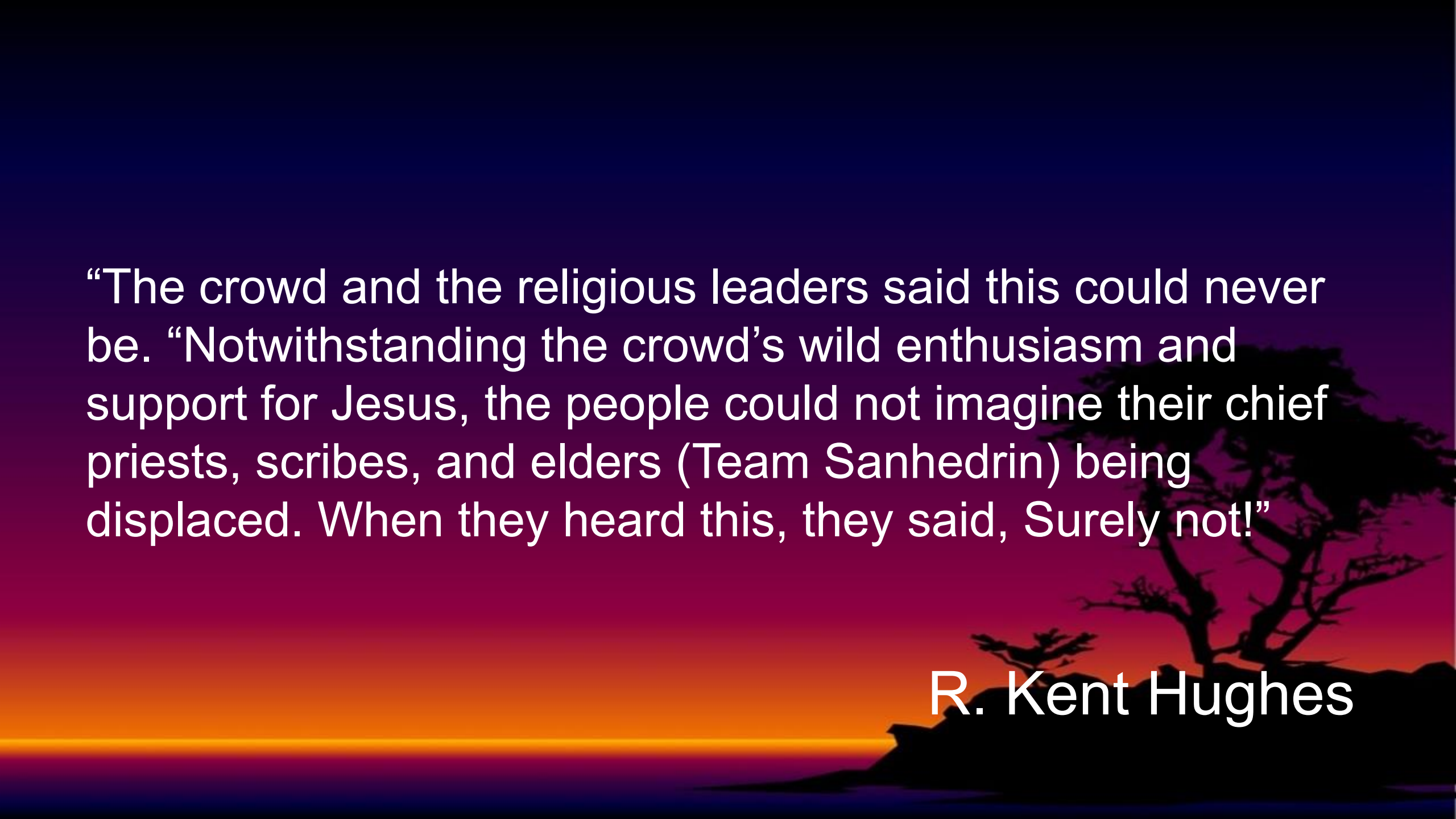
“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets
and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather
your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood
under her wings, and you would not have it!

Luke 13:34



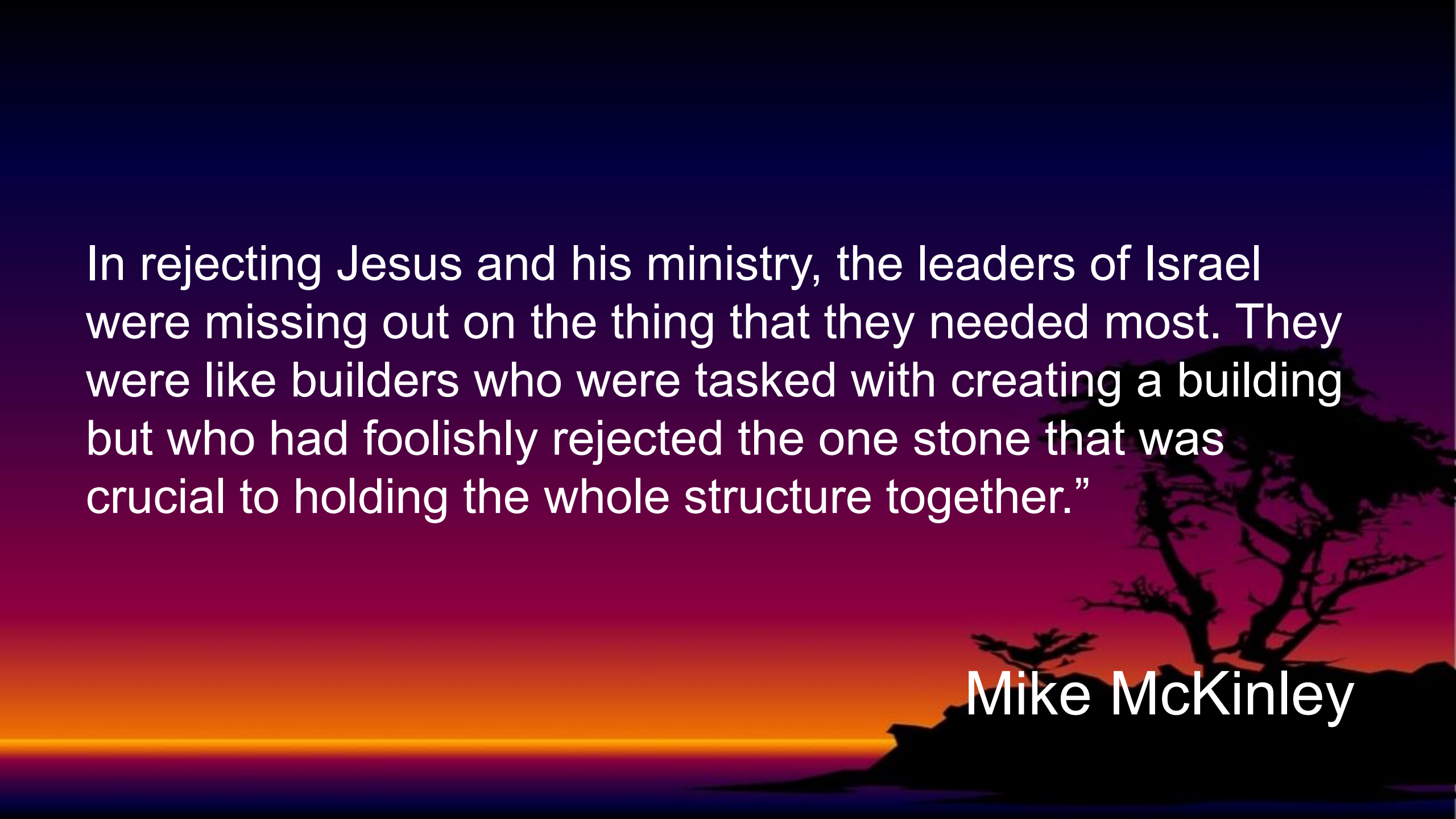
“Certainly not! The religious leaders understood the parable immediately and objected that Jesus compared them to the rebellious and foolish tenants (they knew He had spoken this parable against them). In their blindness they thought, “This could never be us.”

David Guzik



“The crowd and the religious leaders said this could never be. “Notwithstanding the crowd’s wild enthusiasm and support for Jesus, the people could not imagine their chief priests, scribes, and elders (Team Sanhedrin) being displaced. When they heard this, they said, Surely not!”

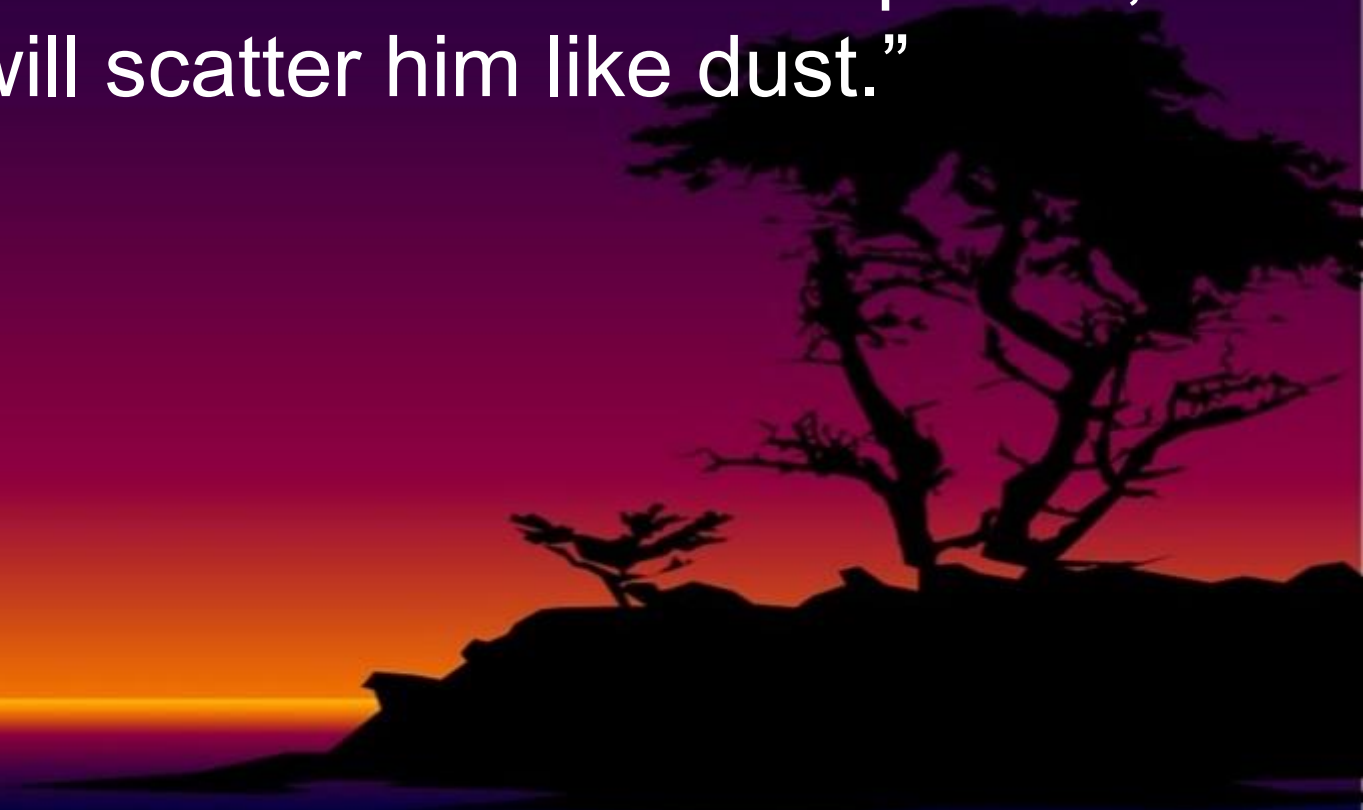
R. Kent Hughes




In rejecting Jesus and his ministry, the leaders of Israel were missing out on the thing that they needed most. They were like builders who were tasked with creating a building but who had foolishly rejected the one stone that was crucial to holding the whole structure together.”

Mike McKinley

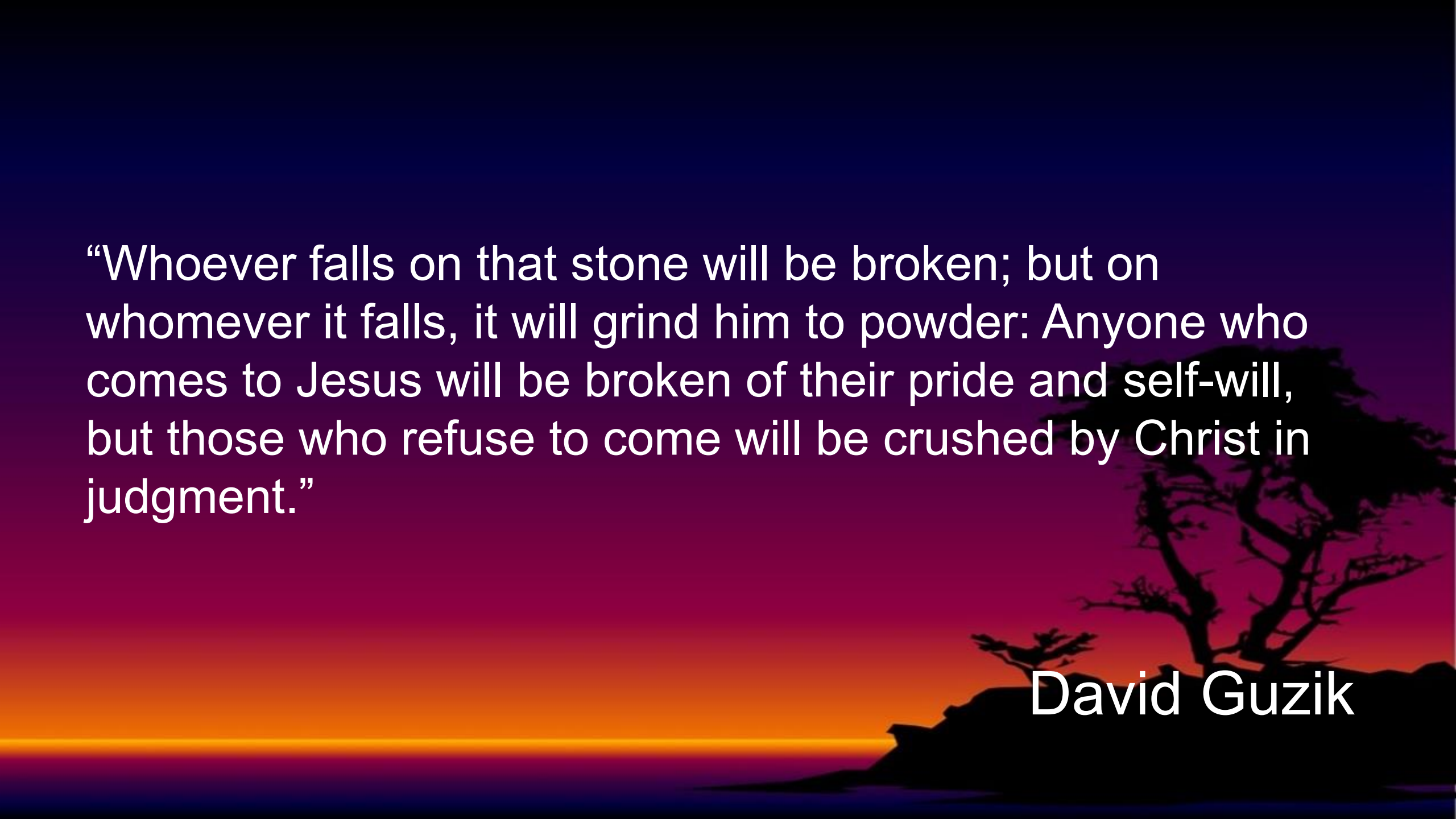
“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces;
but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”





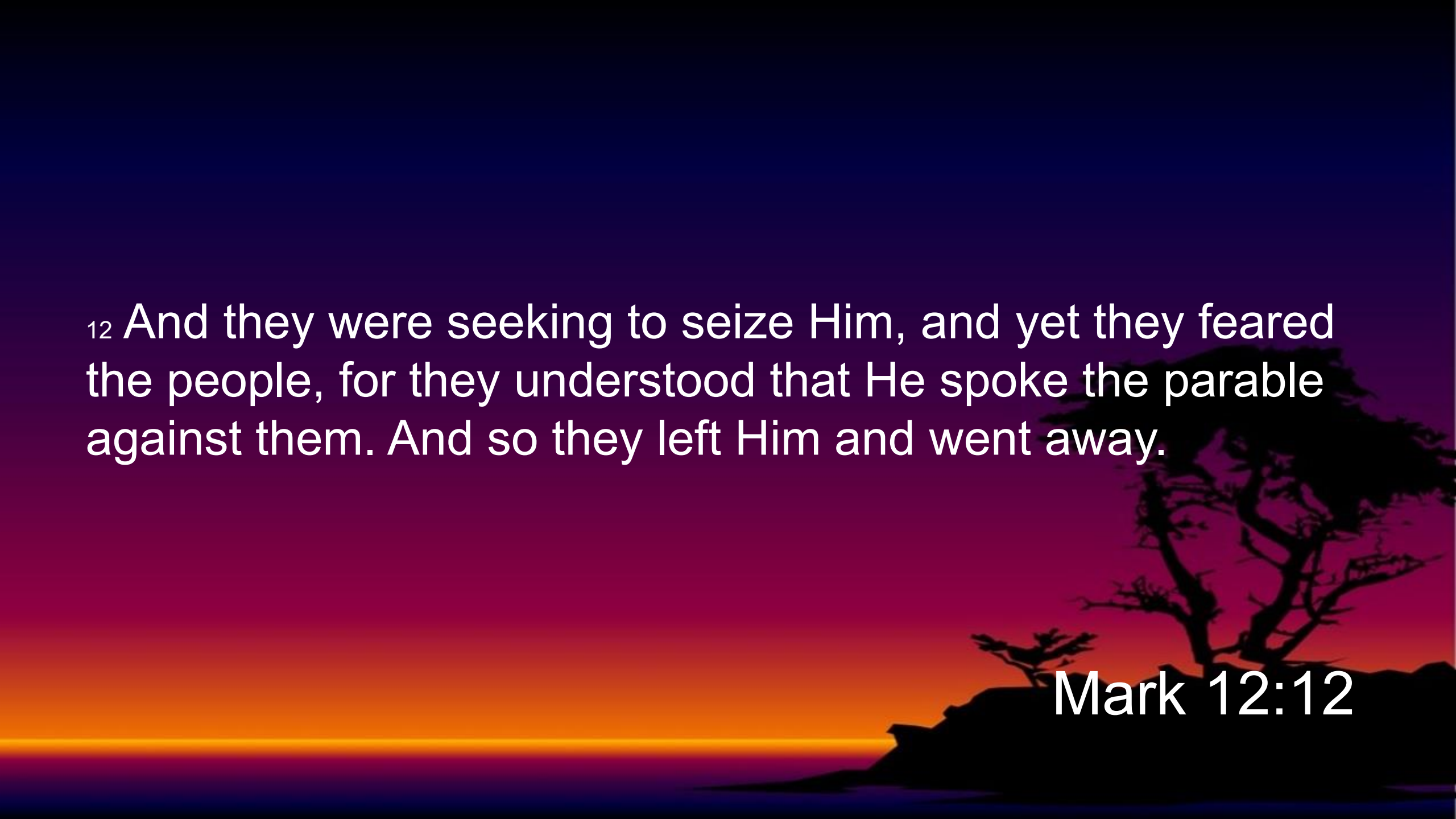
“⁴³ Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it. ⁴⁴ And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”

Matthew 21:43-44

The background of the image is a vibrant sunset or sunrise. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. In the lower right corner, there is a dark silhouette of a tree with a thick trunk and several branches, set against the colorful sky. The overall mood is contemplative and dramatic.


“Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder: Anyone who comes to Jesus will be broken of their pride and self-will, but those who refuse to come will be crushed by Christ in judgment.”

David Guzik

A sunset scene with a silhouette of a tree on the right side. The sky transitions from a bright orange at the horizon to a deep purple at the top. The tree is dark and stands against the colorful background.

¹² And they were seeking to seize Him, and yet they feared the people, for they understood that He spoke the parable against them. And so they left Him and went away.

Mark 12:12

A peach tree with several ripe, orange-red peaches hangs in the foreground on the left. The background shows a vast landscape with rolling hills and a bright sunset or sunrise over a valley, with the sun low on the horizon and a warm, golden glow across the sky.

“May it never be!” I pray that we never hear Jesus say that we are not doing what He asked of us. It is time to replace us because we are not producing fruit. “May it never be!”



“May It Never Be!”

The religious leaders have a question for Jesus, but Jesus has a question for them to answer first. If these religious men answer the question honestly, they will answer their own question. As was His custom, Jesus told a parable to make a point and closes out the conversation with a prophecy.

Luke 20:1-18