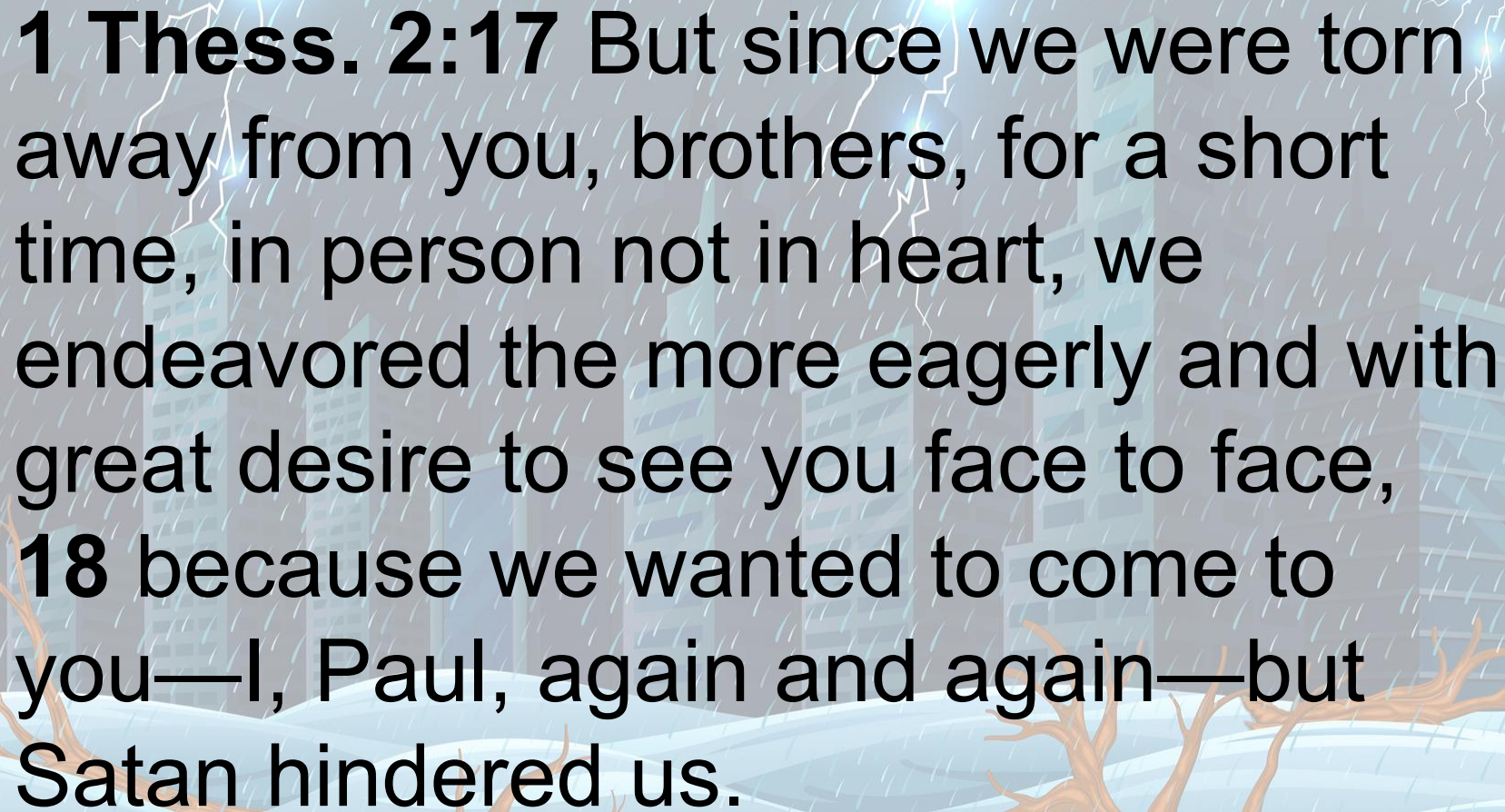


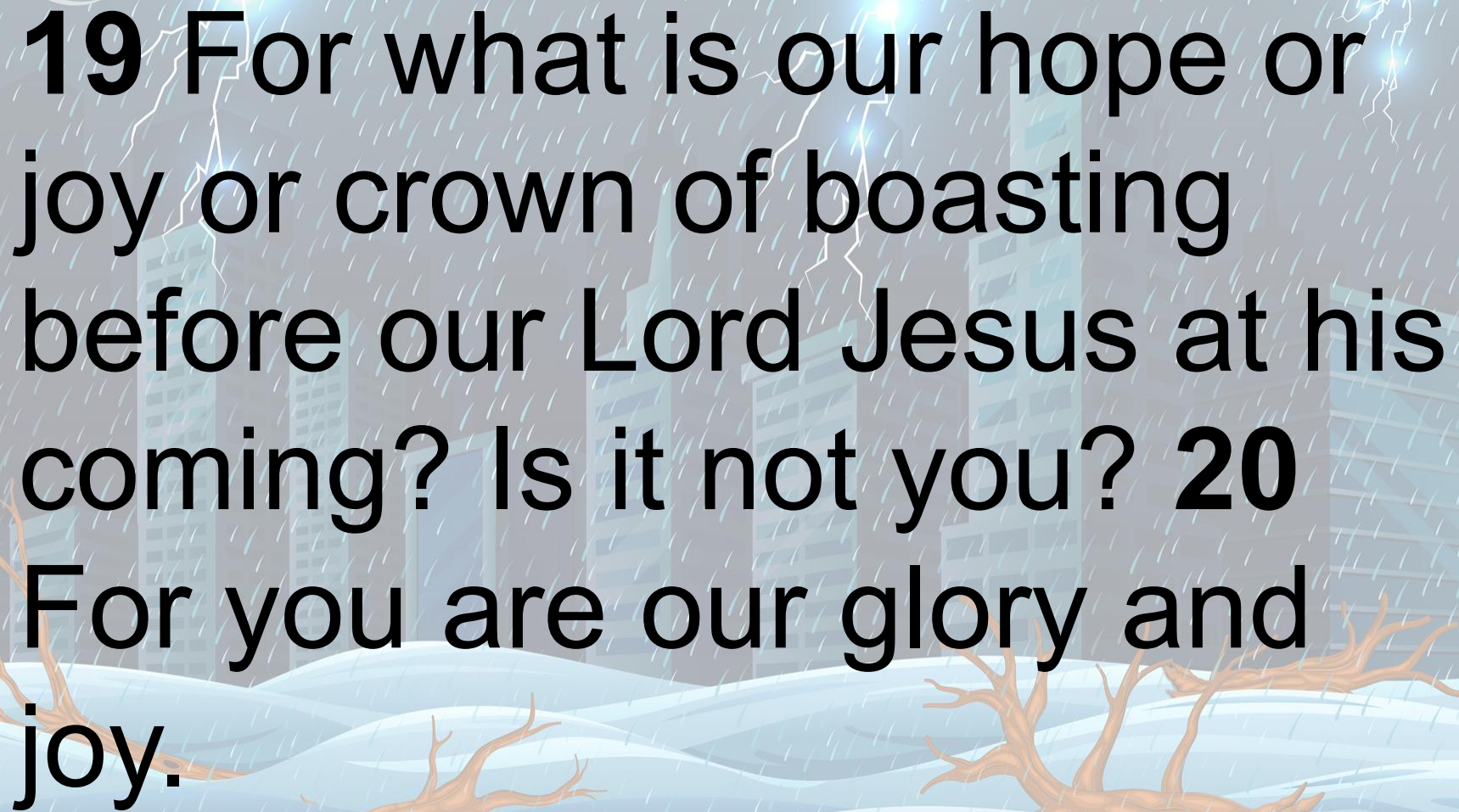


hold fast stand firm

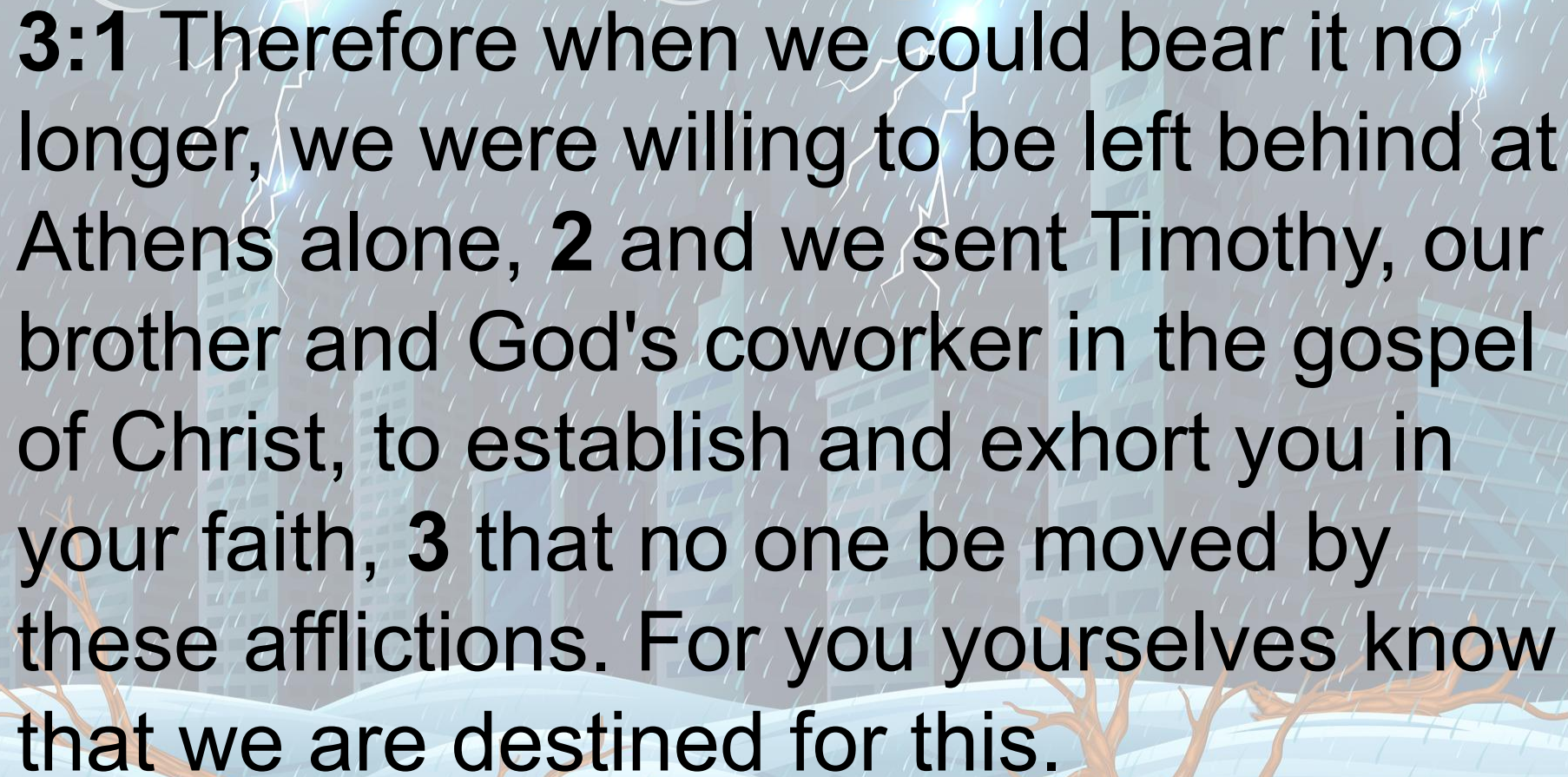
1 & 2 Thessalonians



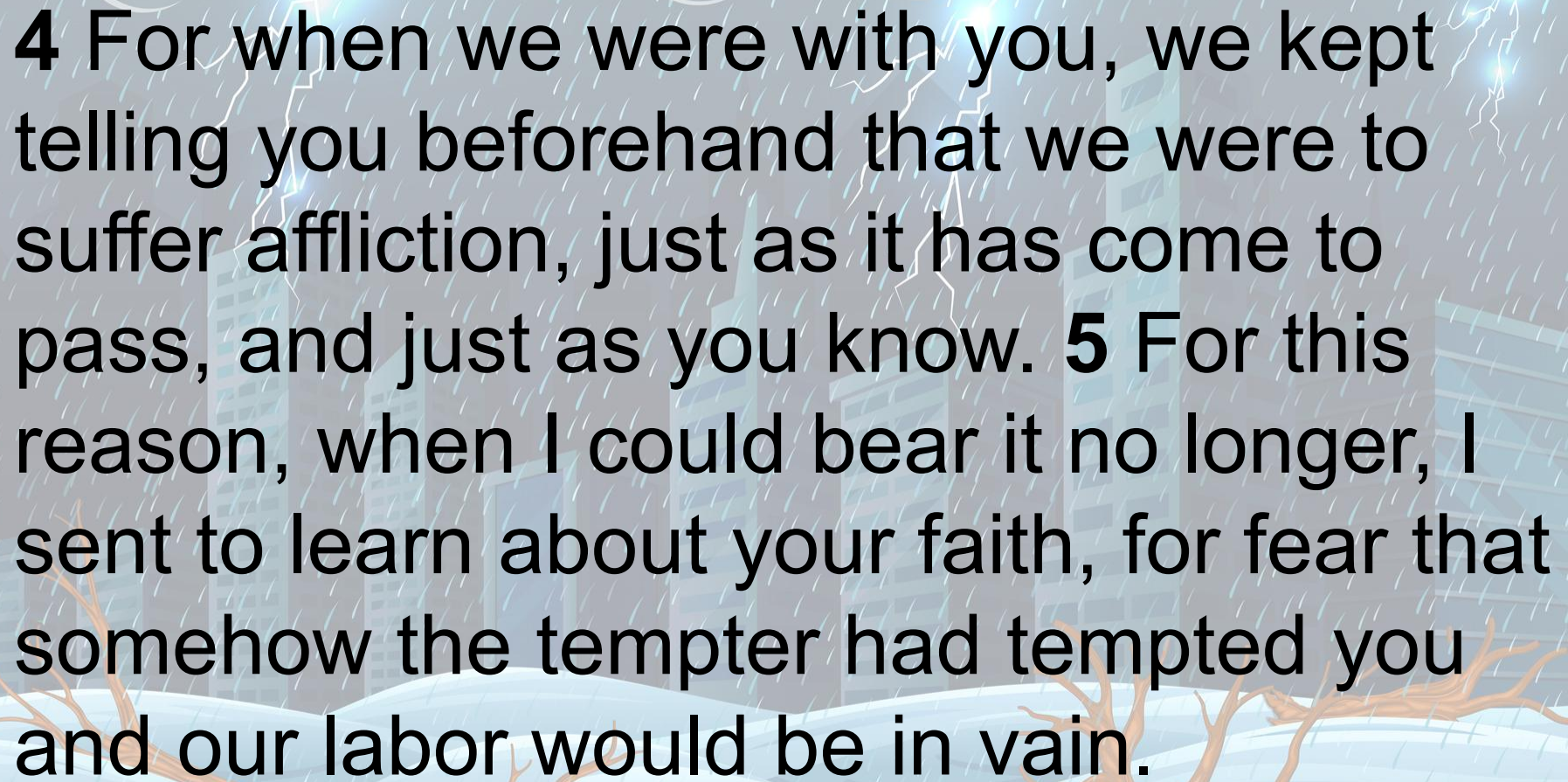
1 Thess. 2:17 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, **18** because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.

The background of the image is a dark, stormy cityscape at night. Several bright blue lightning bolts strike down from a grey, cloudy sky. Fine white rain streaks fall across the entire scene. In the foreground, the ground is flooded with blue water, and several dead, brown, skeletal trees are partially submerged. The overall mood is one of chaos and destruction.

19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? **20** For you are our glory and joy.

The background features a dark, stormy cityscape at night. Rain is falling heavily, and several bright lightning bolts strike down from a cloudy sky. In the foreground, several gnarled, brown tree trunks are lying on the ground, suggesting they have been uprooted or broken by the wind. The overall mood is one of adversity and hardship.

3:1 Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, **2** and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, **3** that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.



4 For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. **5** For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.