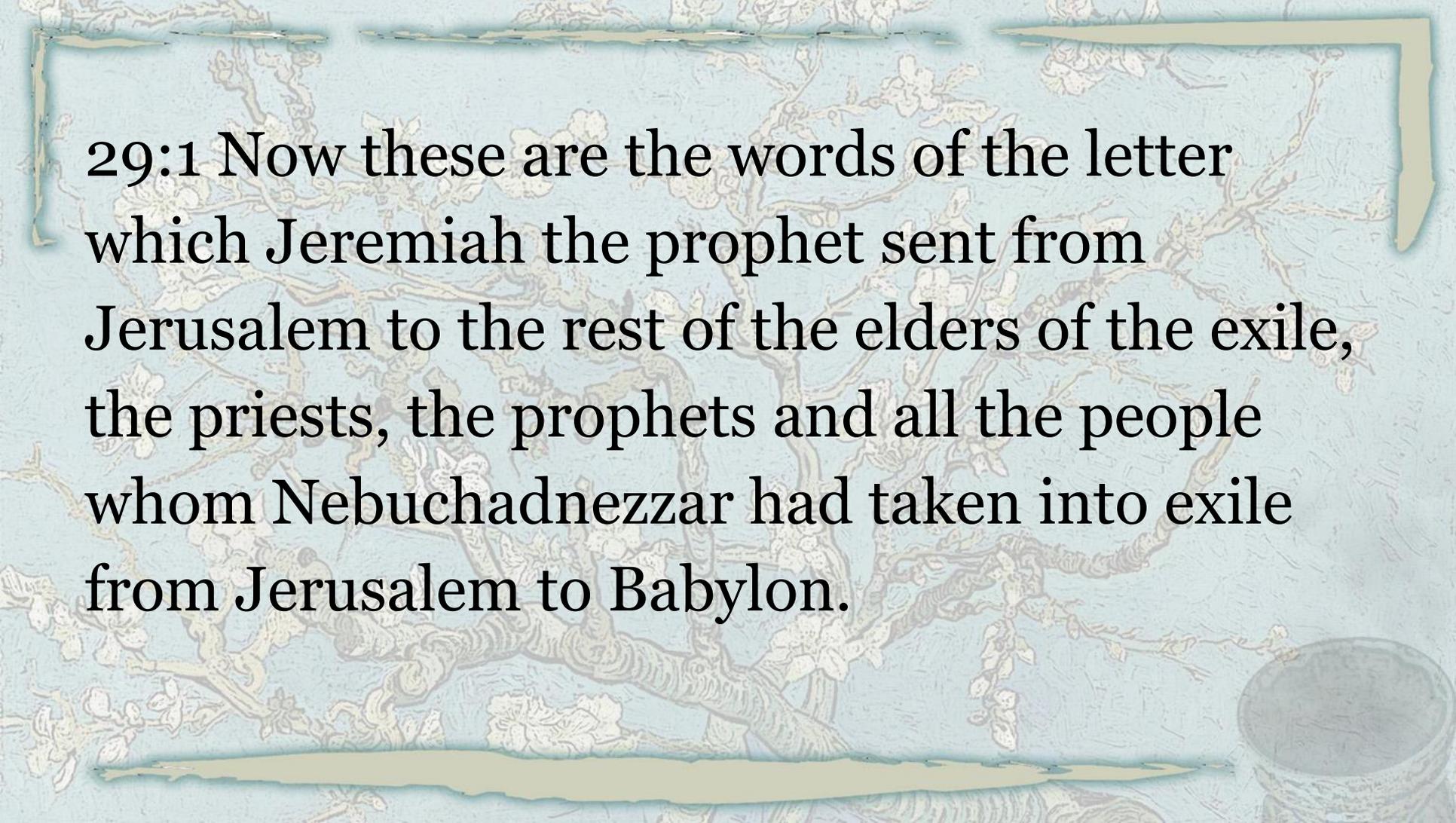
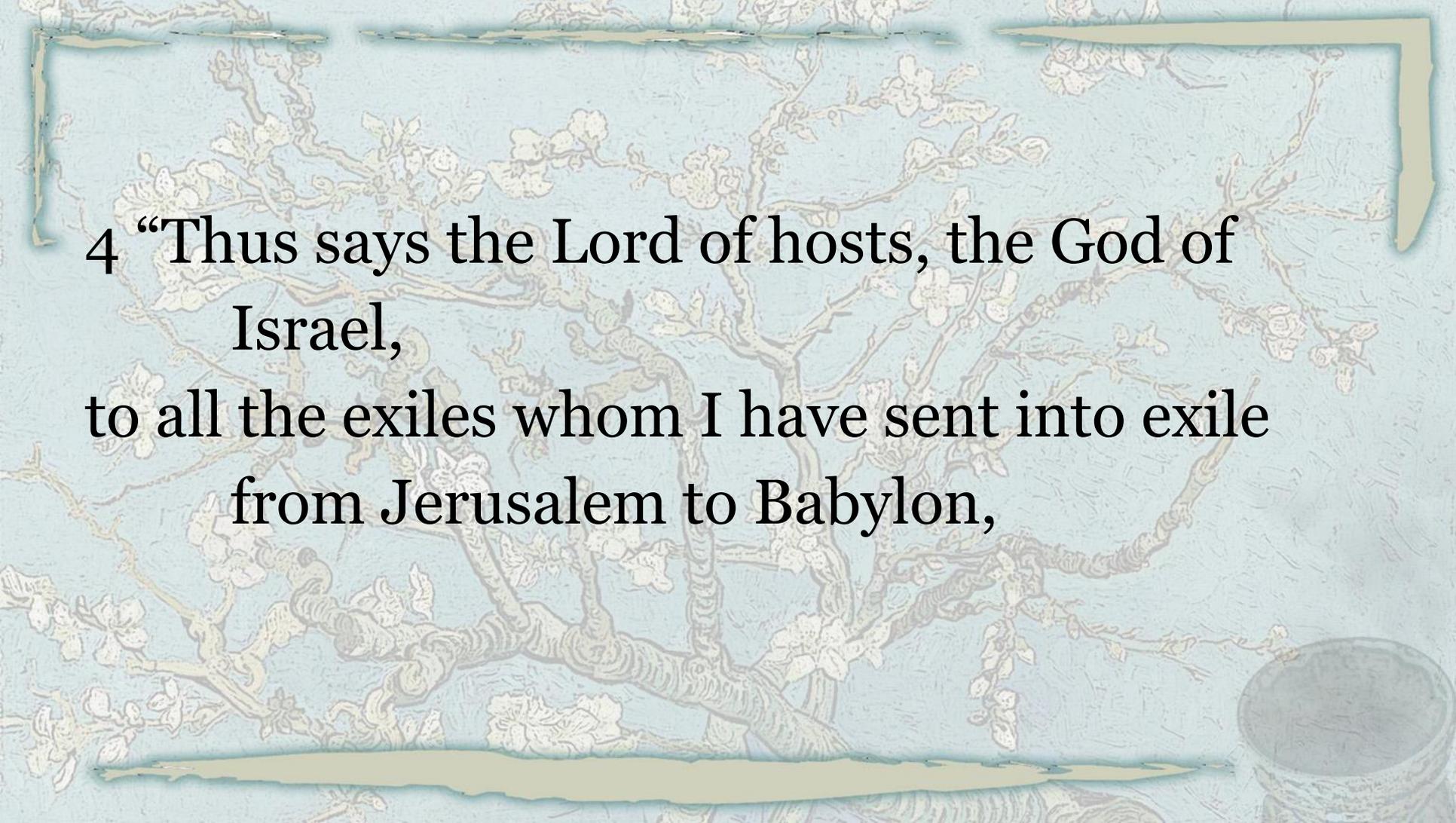
The background is a textured blue surface with a painting of a flowering branch. The branch is brown and gnarled, with several white flowers and green leaves. The painting style is thick and expressive, with visible brushstrokes. In the bottom right corner, there is a glass of water with a dark liquid inside, also rendered in a textured, painterly style.

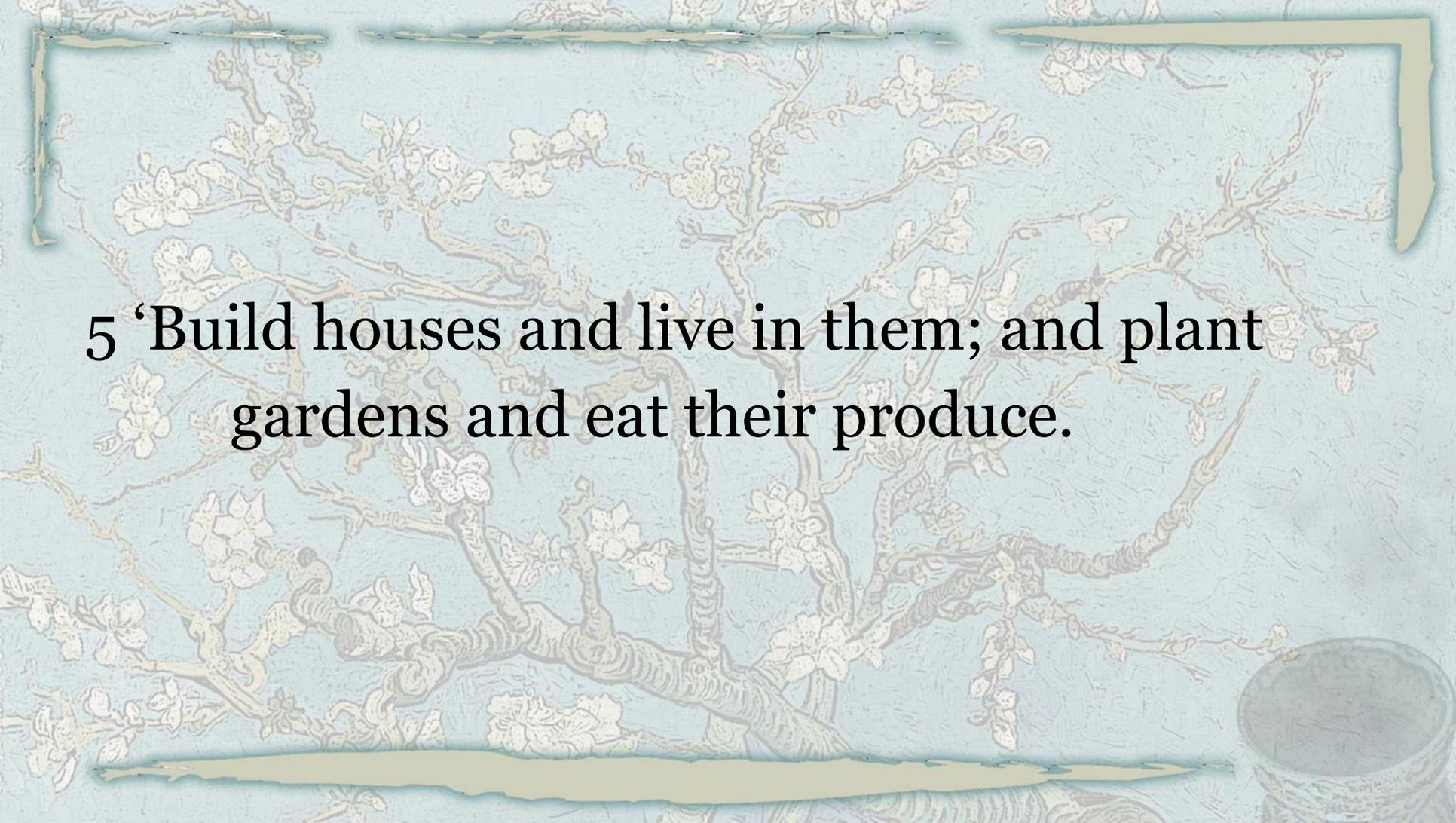
JEREMIAH



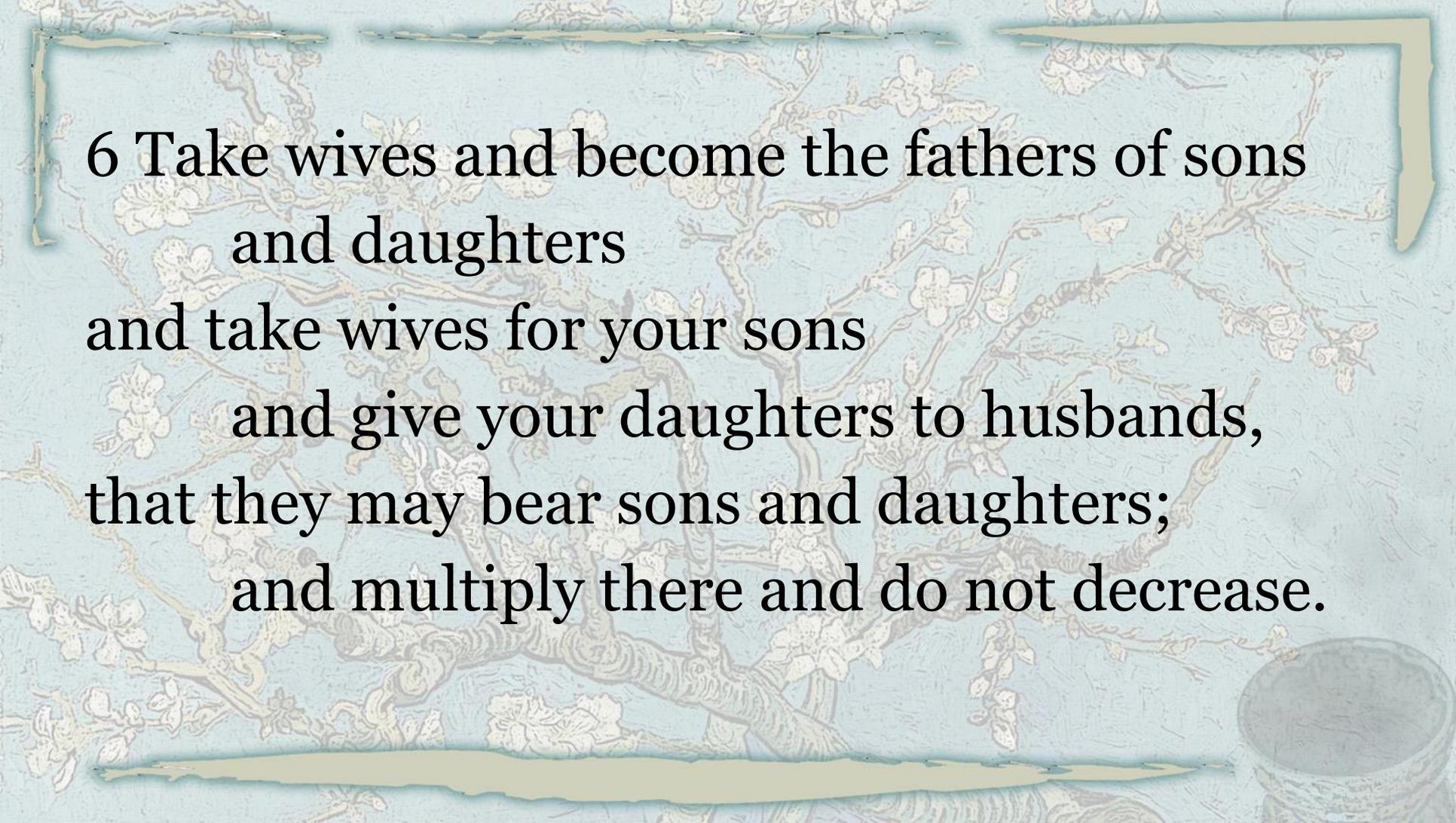
29:1 Now these are the words of the letter which Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exile, the priests, the prophets and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.



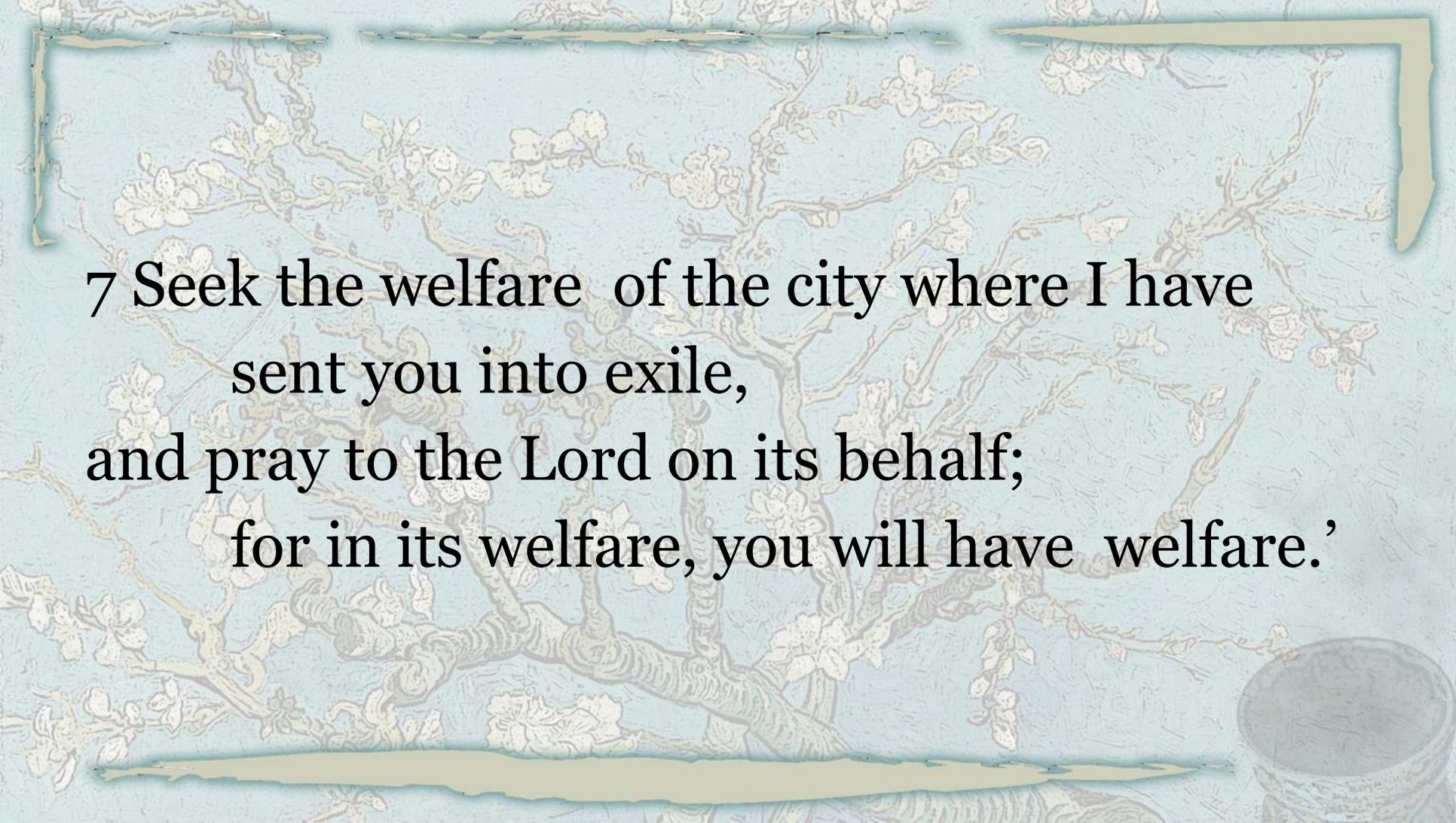
4 “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel,
to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile
from Jerusalem to Babylon,



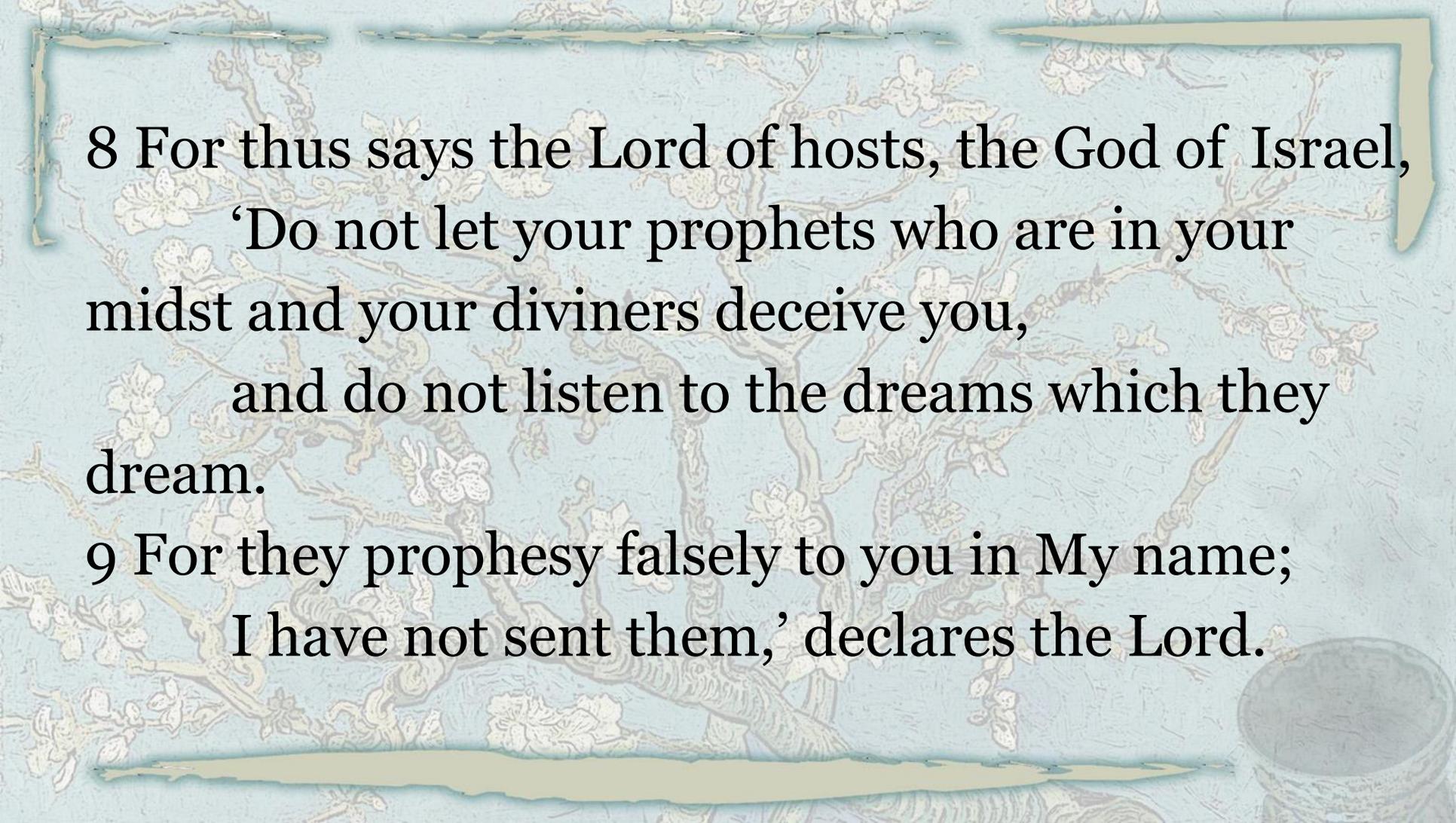
5 'Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce.



6 Take wives and become the fathers of sons
and daughters
and take wives for your sons
and give your daughters to husbands,
that they may bear sons and daughters;
and multiply there and do not decrease.



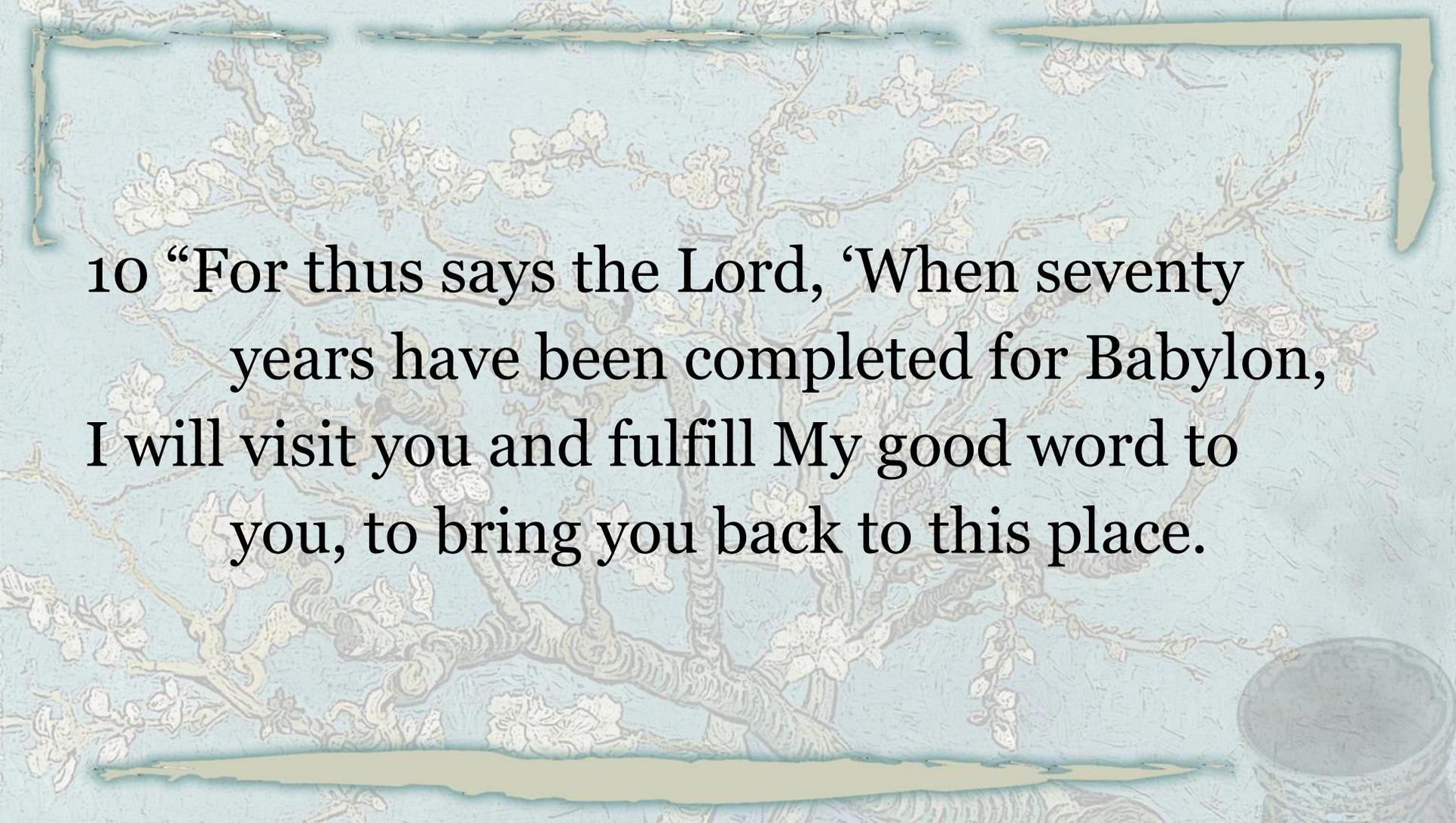
7 Seek the welfare of the city where I have
sent you into exile,
and pray to the Lord on its behalf;
for in its welfare, you will have welfare.’



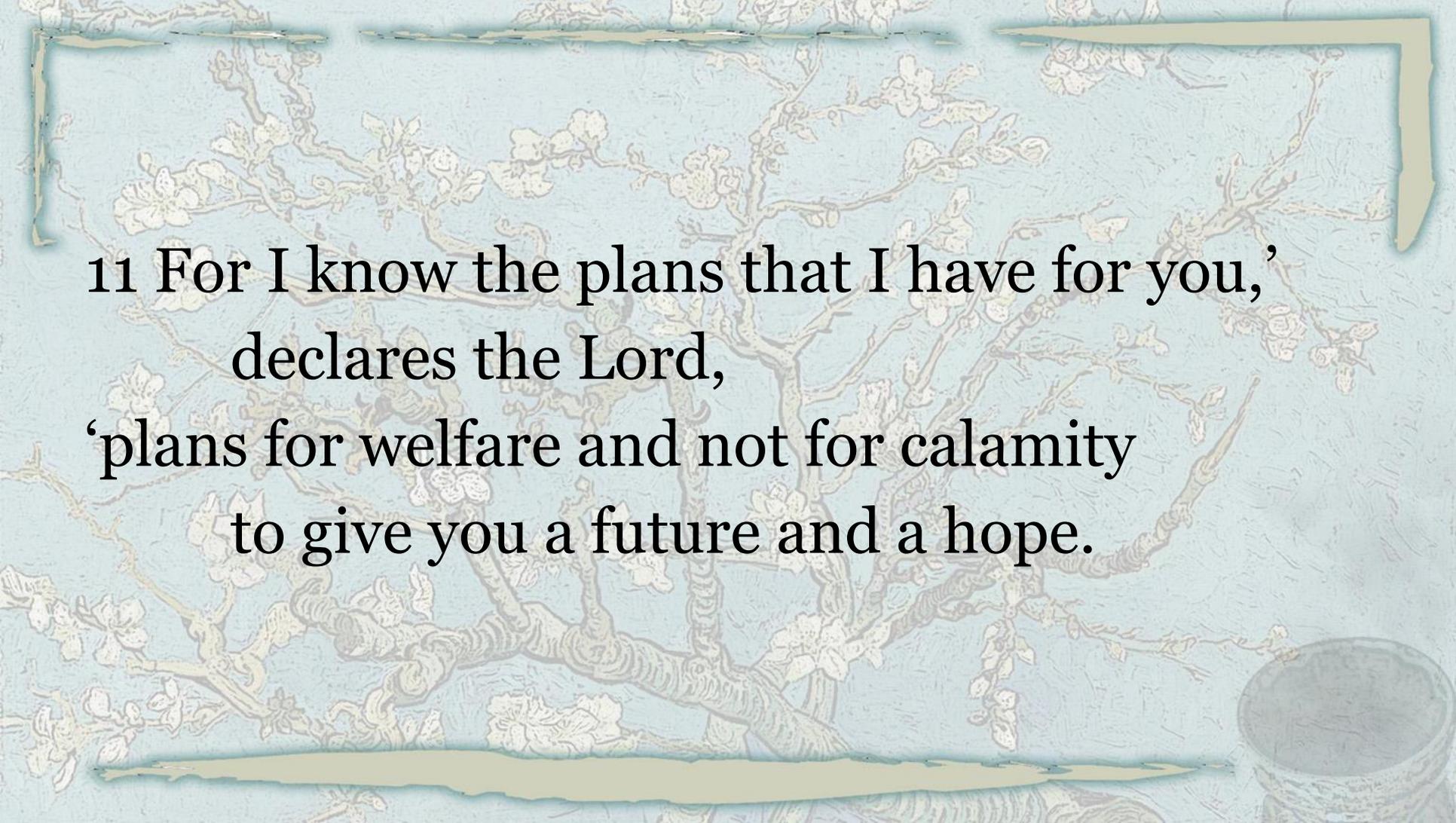
8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel,
‘Do not let your prophets who are in your
midst and your diviners deceive you,
and do not listen to the dreams which they
dream.

9 For they prophesy falsely to you in My name;
I have not sent them,’ declares the Lord.

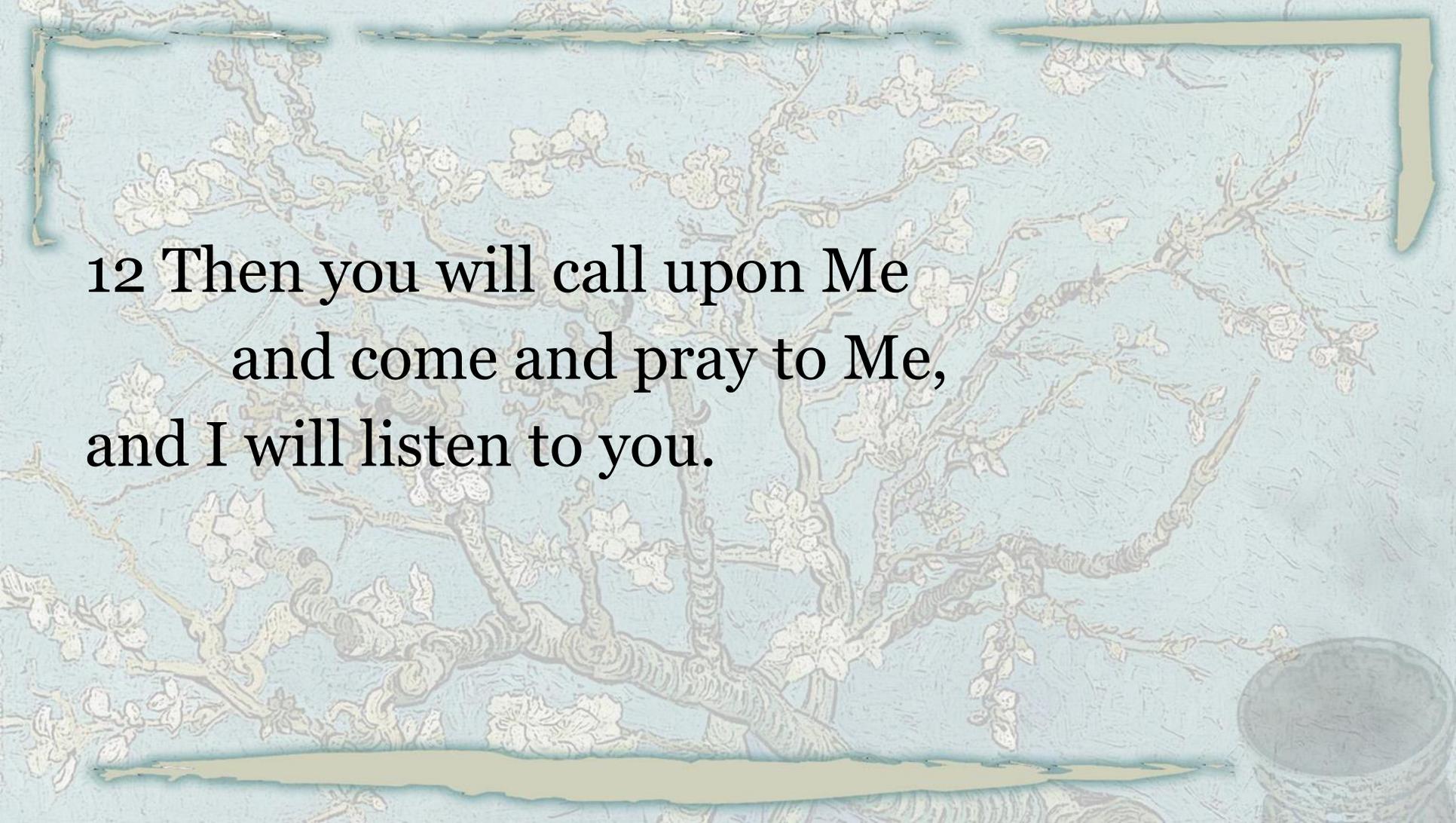




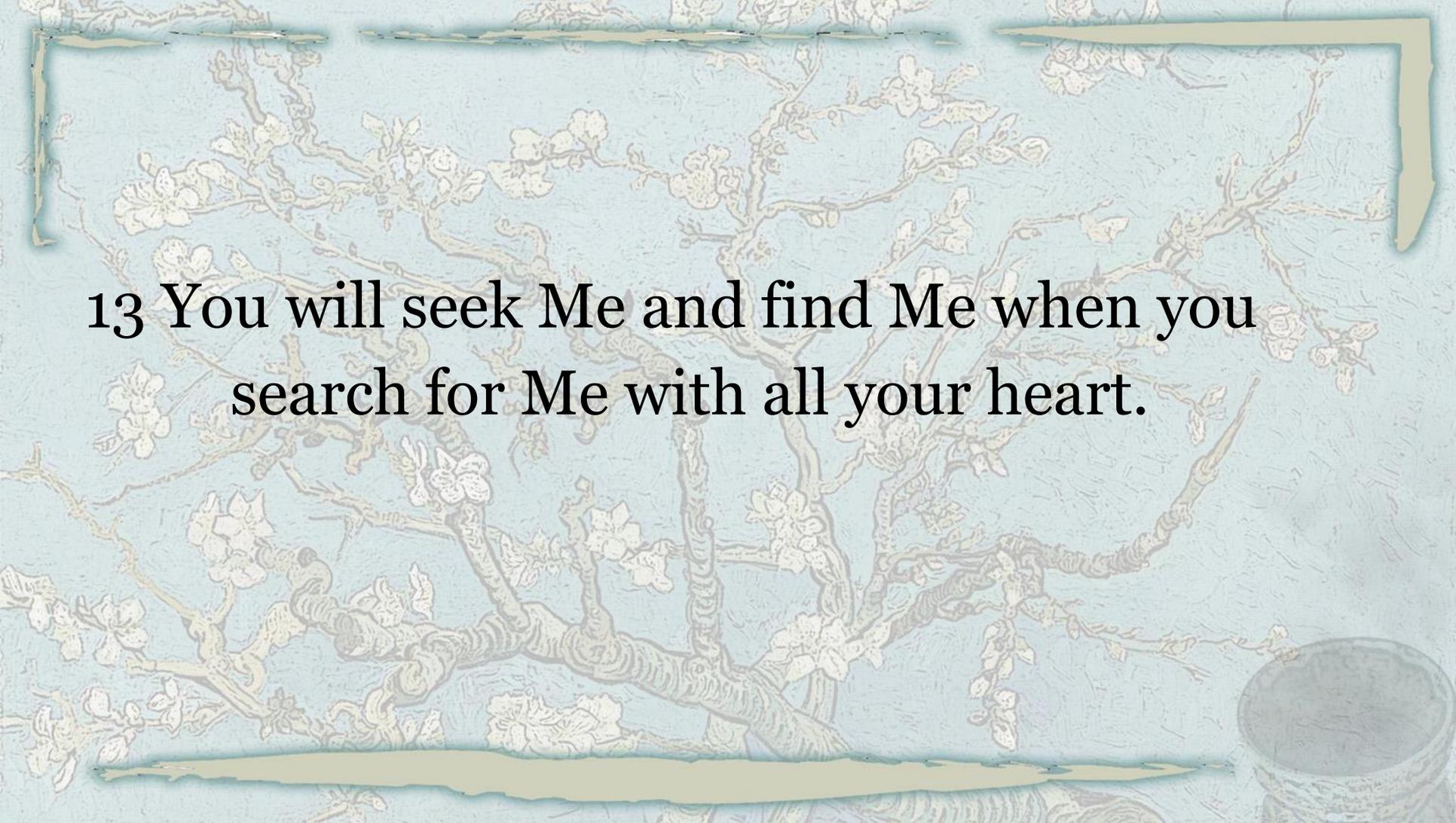
10 “For thus says the Lord, ‘When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.



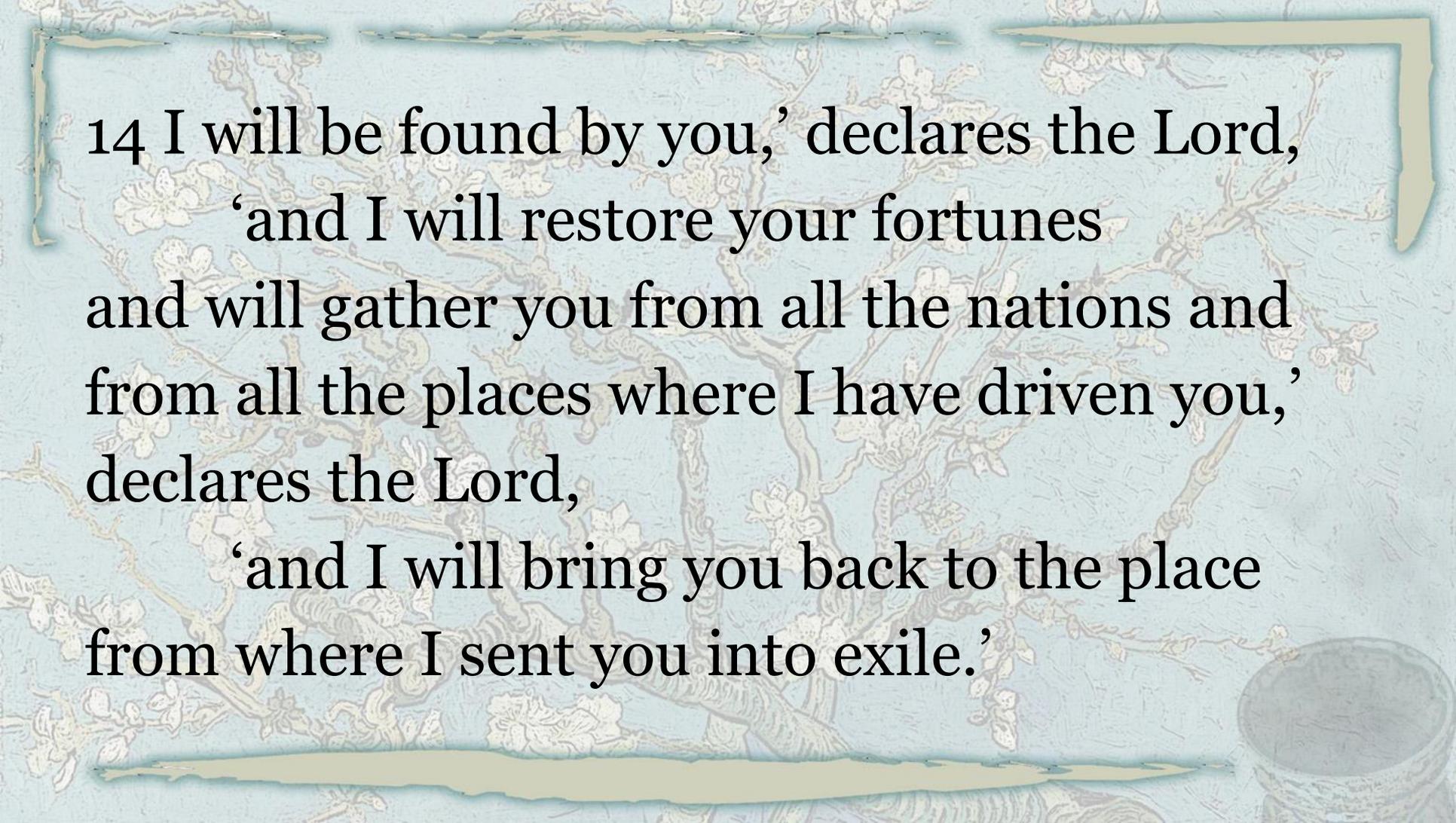
11 For I know the plans that I have for you,'
declares the Lord,
'plans for welfare and not for calamity
to give you a future and a hope.



12 Then you will call upon Me
and come and pray to Me,
and I will listen to you.

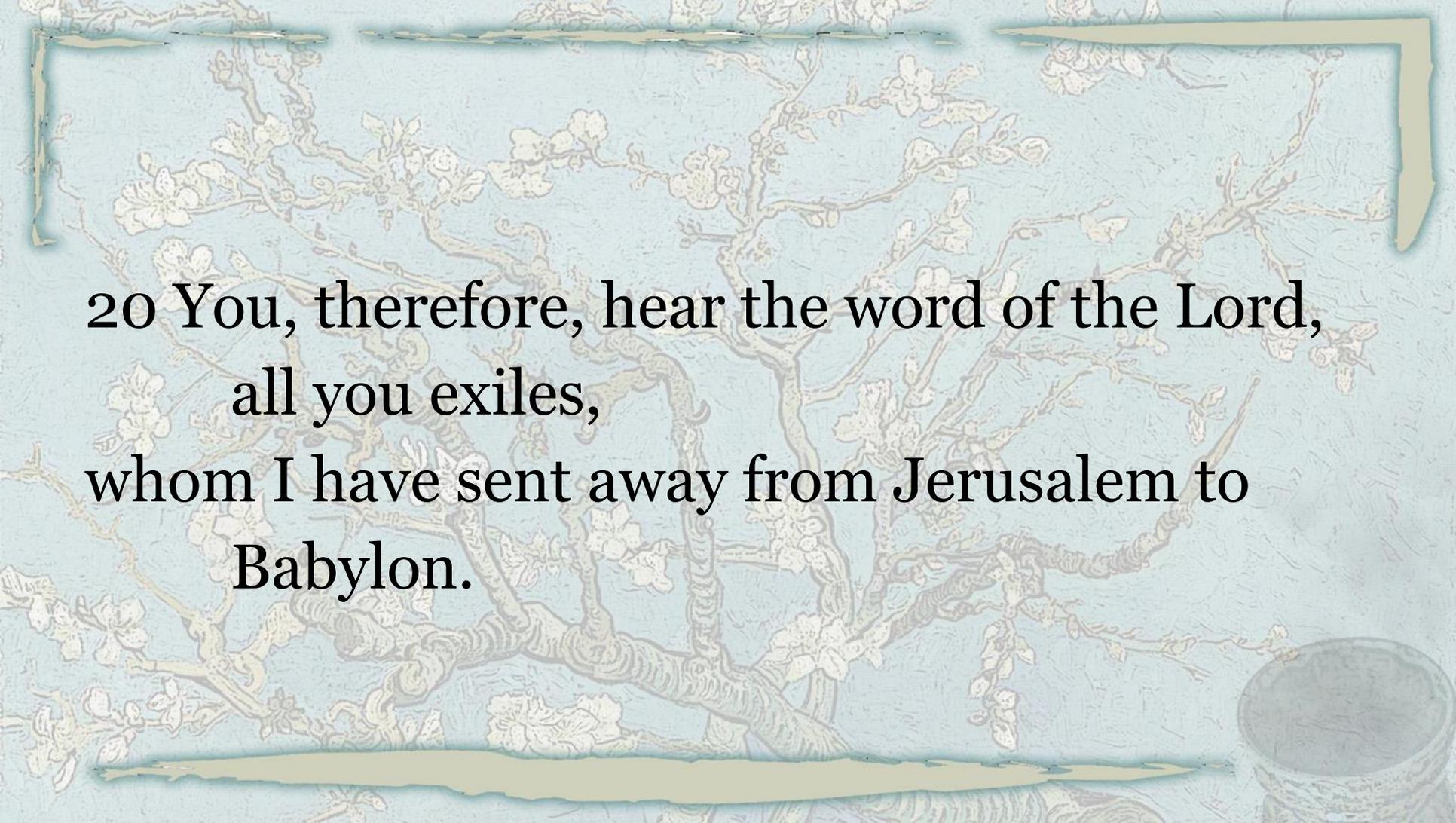


13 You will seek Me and find Me when you
search for Me with all your heart.



14 I will be found by you,' declares the Lord,
'and I will restore your fortunes
and will gather you from all the nations and
from all the places where I have driven you,'
declares the Lord,
'and I will bring you back to the place
from where I sent you into exile.'

15 “Because you have said, ‘The Lord has raised up prophets for us in Babylon’— 16 for thus says the Lord concerning the king who sits on the throne of David, **and concerning all the people who dwell in this city, your brothers who did not go with you into exile**— 17 thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘Behold, I am sending upon them the sword, famine and pestilence, and I will make them like **split-open figs that cannot be eaten due to rottenness**. 18 I will pursue them with the **sword, with famine and with pestilence**; and I will make them a **terror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse and a horror and a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations** where I have driven them, 19 **because they have not listened to My words,**’ declares the Lord, ‘which I sent to them again and again by My servants the prophets; but you did not listen,’ declares the Lord.



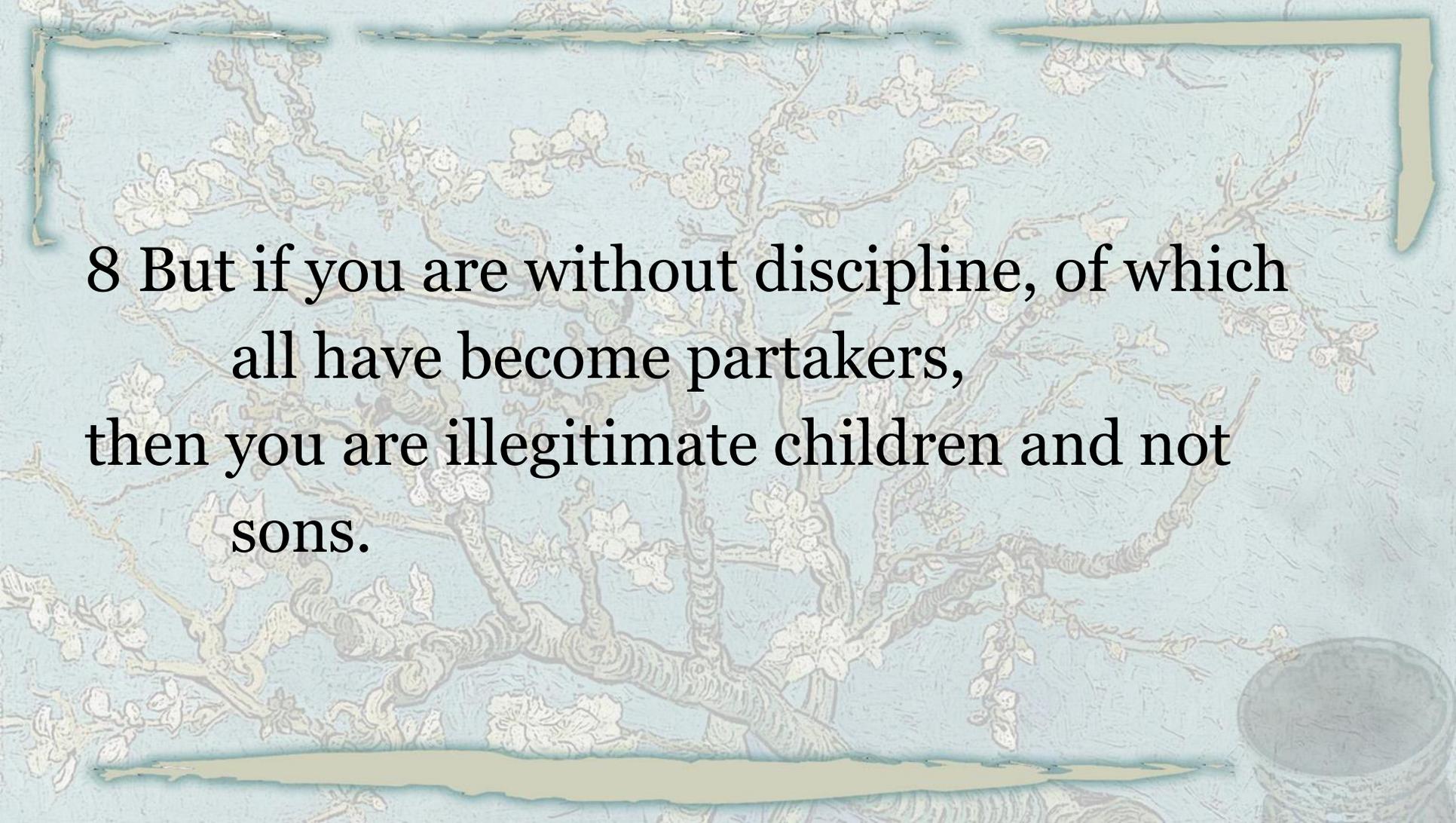
20 You, therefore, hear the word of the Lord,
all you exiles,
whom I have sent away from Jerusalem to
Babylon.

24 To ***Shemaiah the Nehelamite*** you shall speak, saying, 25 “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘Because ***you have sent letters in your own name to all the people who are in Jerusalem***, and to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest, and to all the priests, saying, 26 “The Lord has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, to be the overseer in the house of the Lord over every ***madman who prophesies, to put him in the stocks and in the iron collar***, 27 now then, ***why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who prophesies to you?*** 28 For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, ‘The exile will be long; build houses and live in them and plant gardens and eat their produce.’””

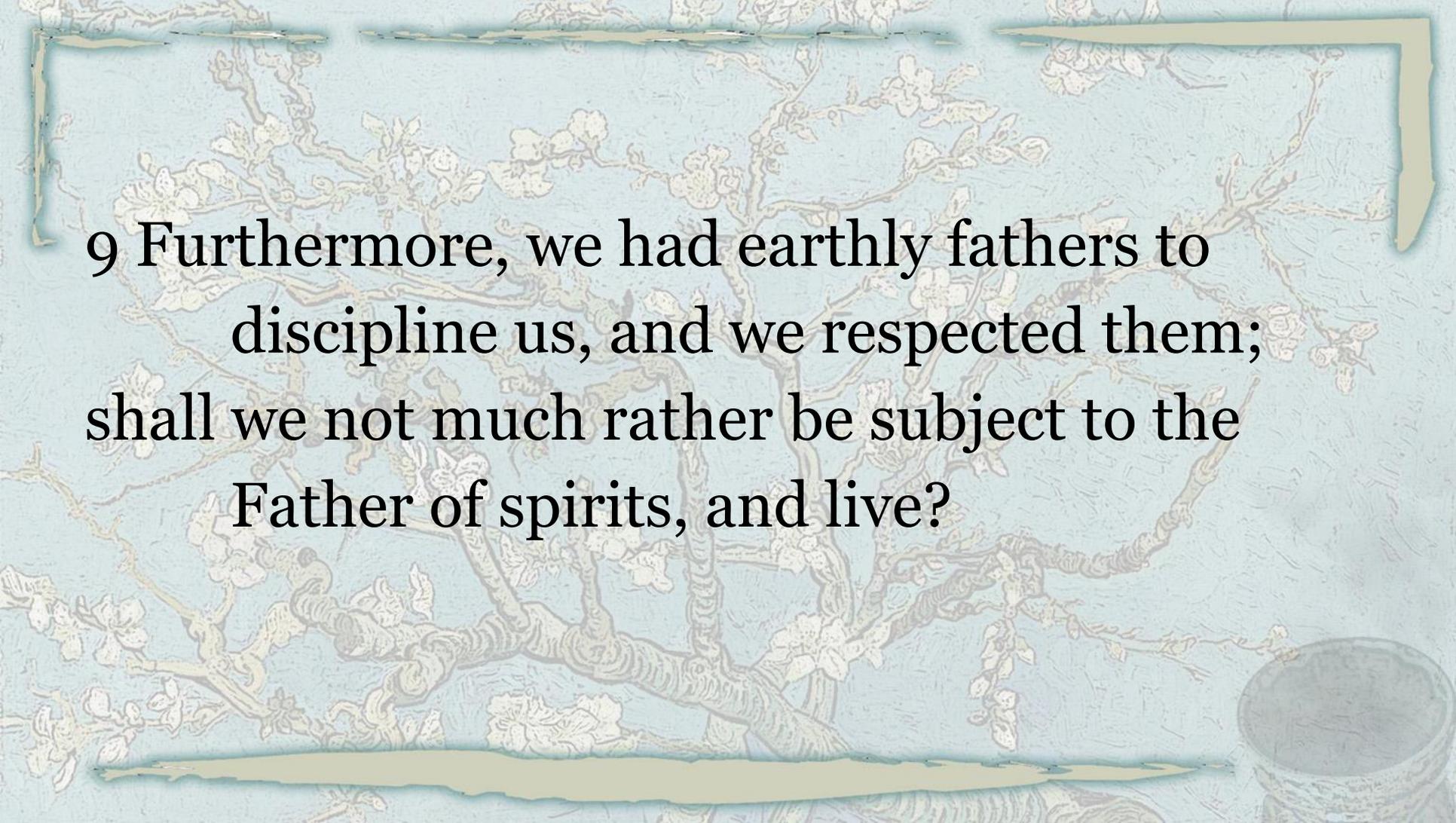
29 Zephaniah the priest read this letter to Jeremiah the prophet. 30 Then came the word of the Lord to Jeremiah, saying, 31 “Send to all the exiles, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite, “Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, although I did not send him, and he has made you trust in a lie,” 32 therefore thus says the Lord, **“Behold, I am about to punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his descendants; he will not have anyone living among this people, and he will not see the good that I am about to do to My people,”** declares the Lord, “because he has preached rebellion against the Lord.””

Hebrews 12

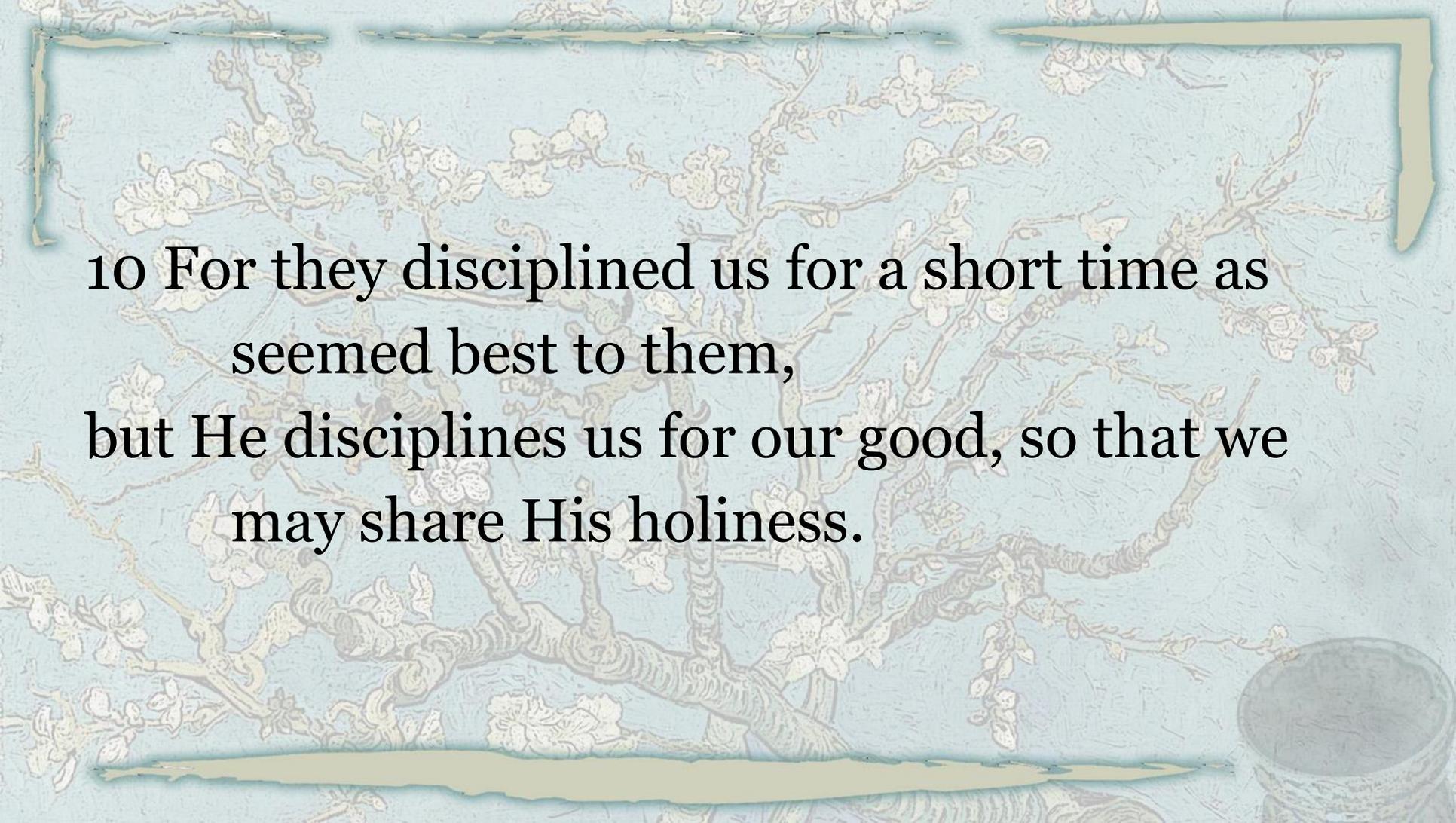
7 It is for discipline that you endure;
God deals with you as with sons;
for what son is there whom his father does not
discipline?



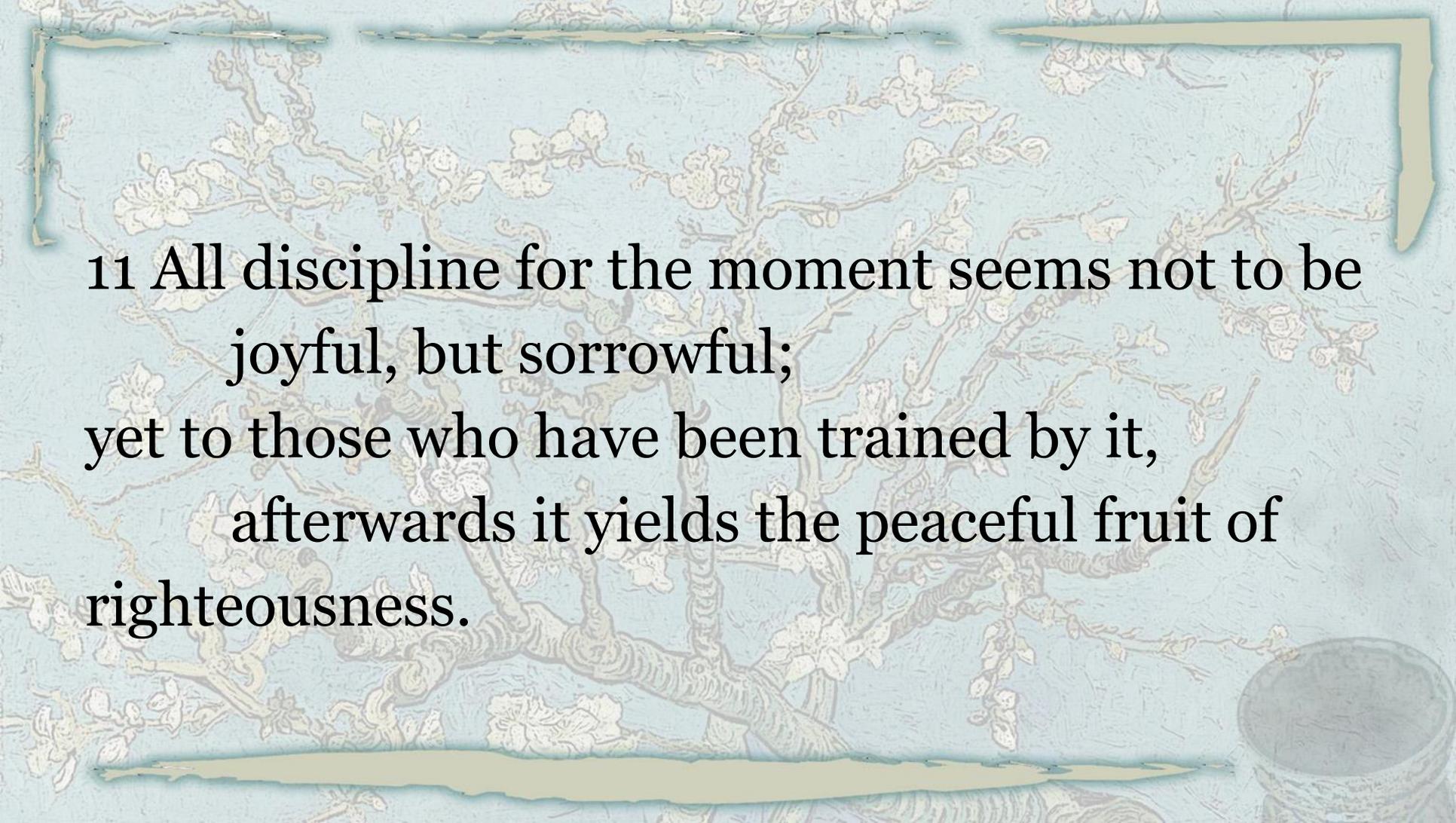
8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.



9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?



10 For they disciplined us for a short time as
seemed best to them,
but He disciplines us for our good, so that we
may share His holiness.



11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.