



# JUDGES

*Lessons from*

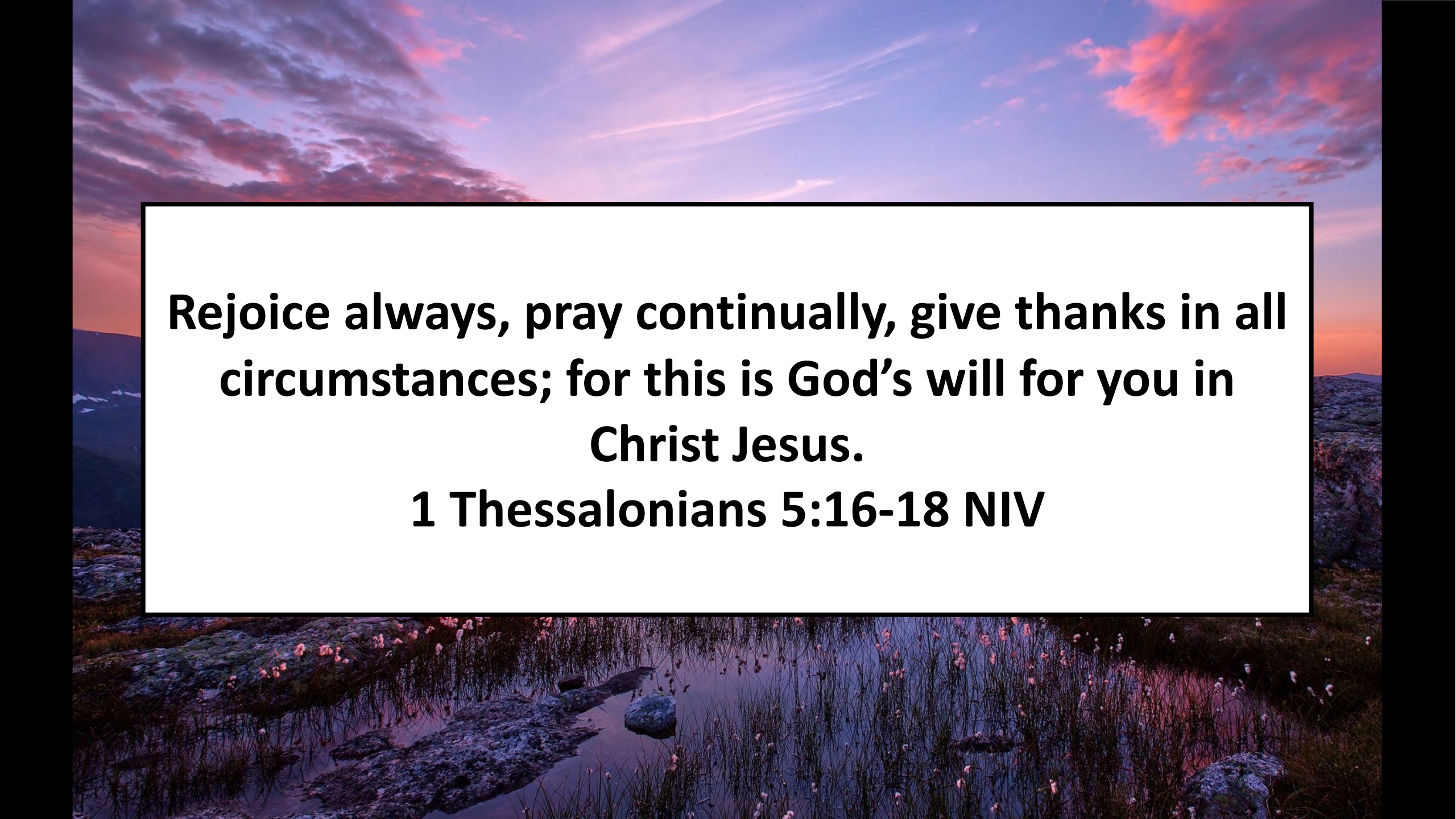
GOD'S CHOSEN LEADERS

**Deborah the Prophetess**

**Pastor Hayden Bewley**

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**First Congregational Church of Kokomo**



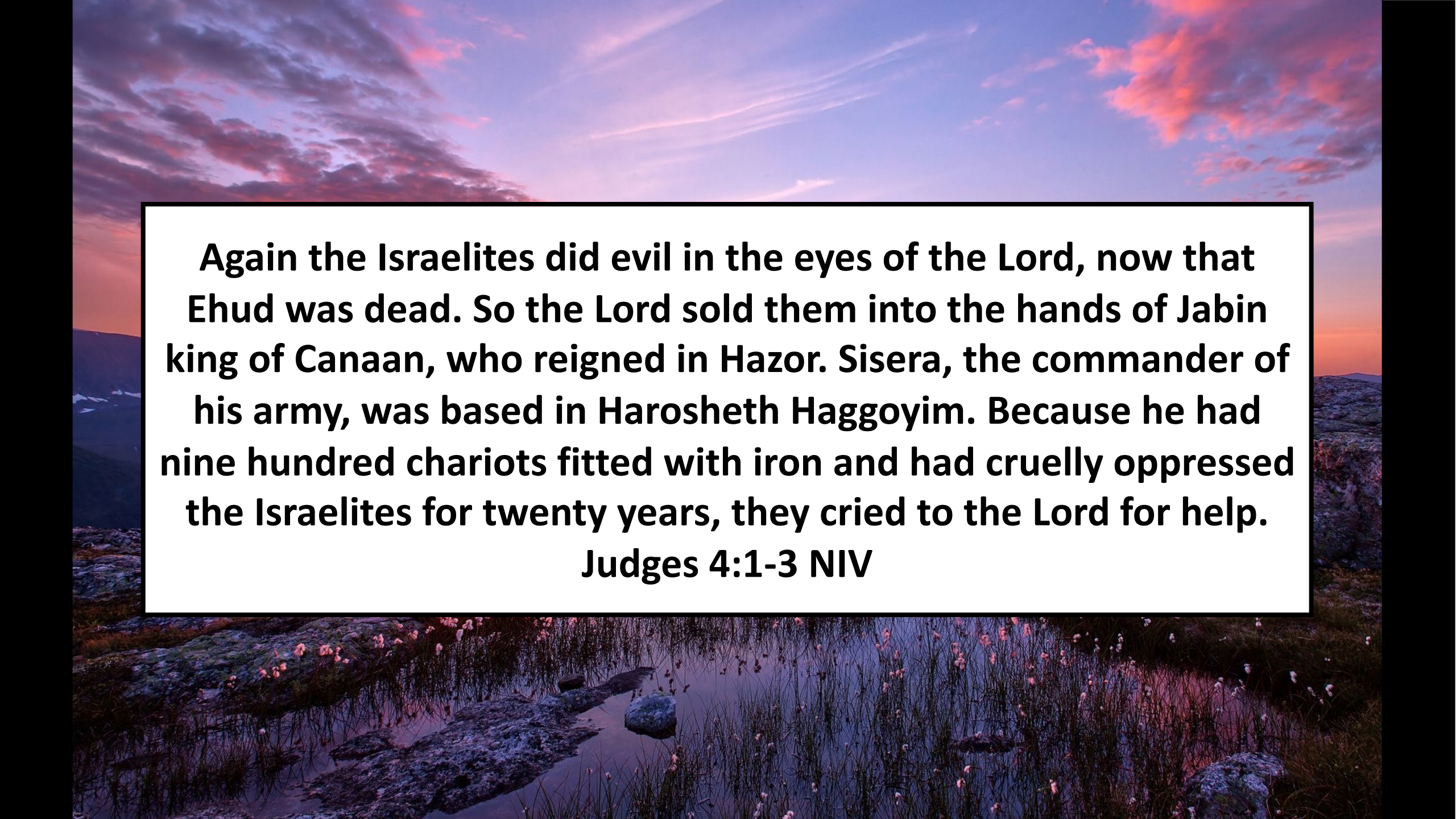
**Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all  
circumstances; for this is God's will for you in  
Christ Jesus.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV**





**There are roughly 300 years between Joshua's entry into Canaan and King David's establishment of Israel with Jerusalem as the capitol city.**

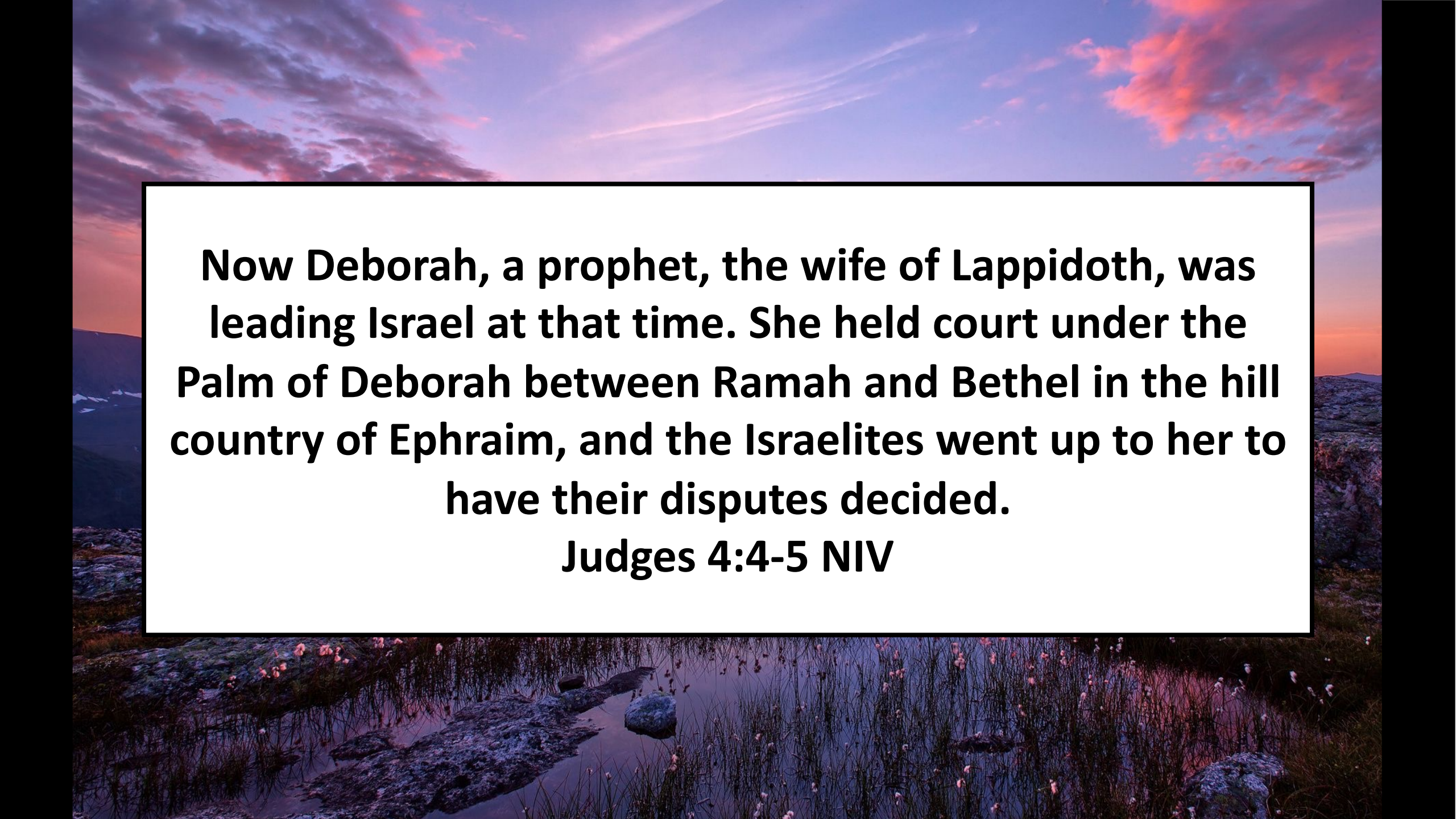


**Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help.**

**Judges 4:1-3 NIV**



**After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck  
down six hundred Philistines with an ox goad. He too  
saved Israel.  
Judges 3:31 NIV**




**Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided.**

**Judges 4:4-5 NIV**



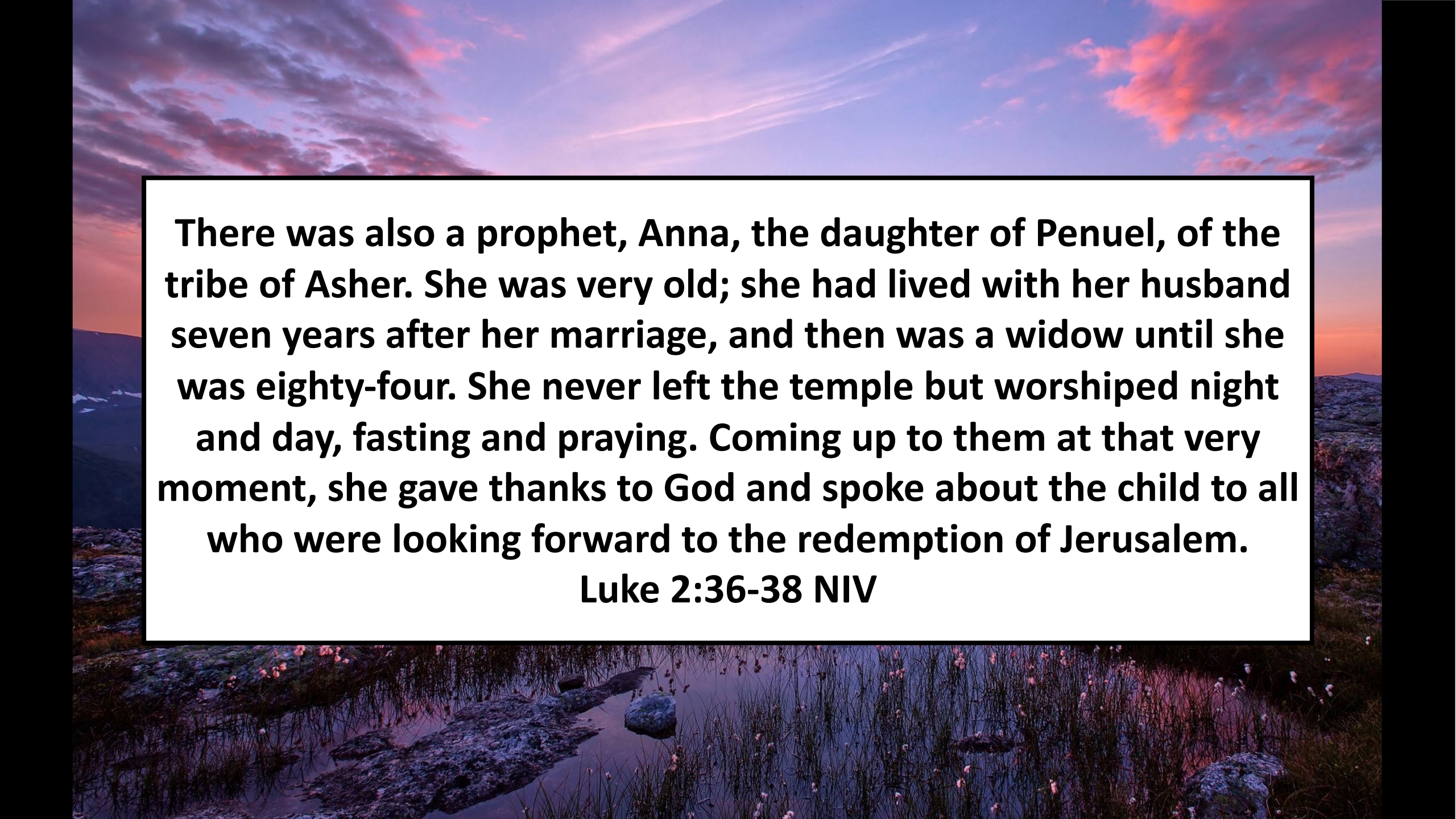
**Deborah was not the first or last woman to  
serve as a prophet**





**Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing.**

**Exodus 15:20 NIV**



**There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.**

**Luke 2:36-38 NIV**



**Deborah handled the disputes of God's children**

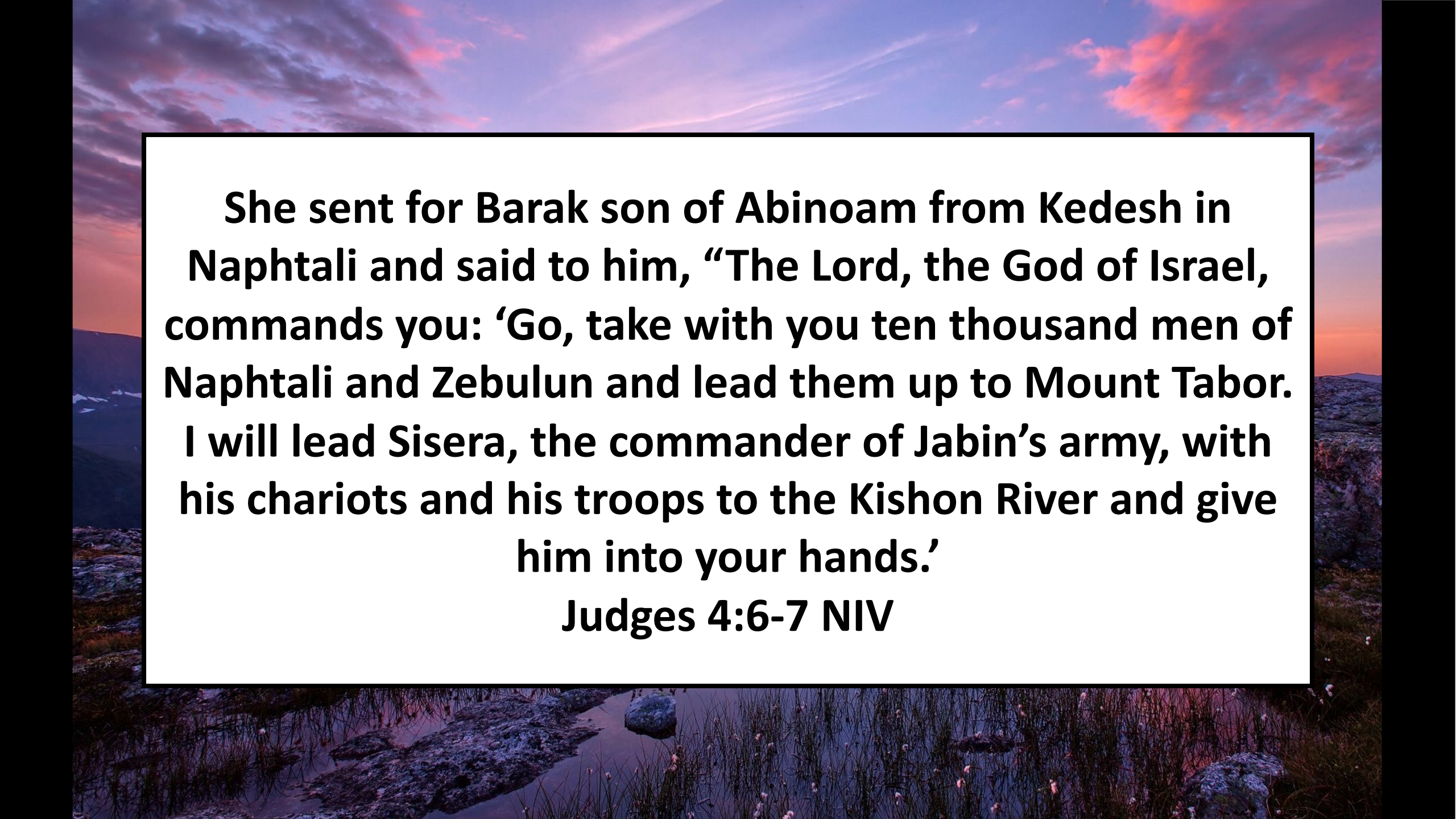


**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**

**“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”**

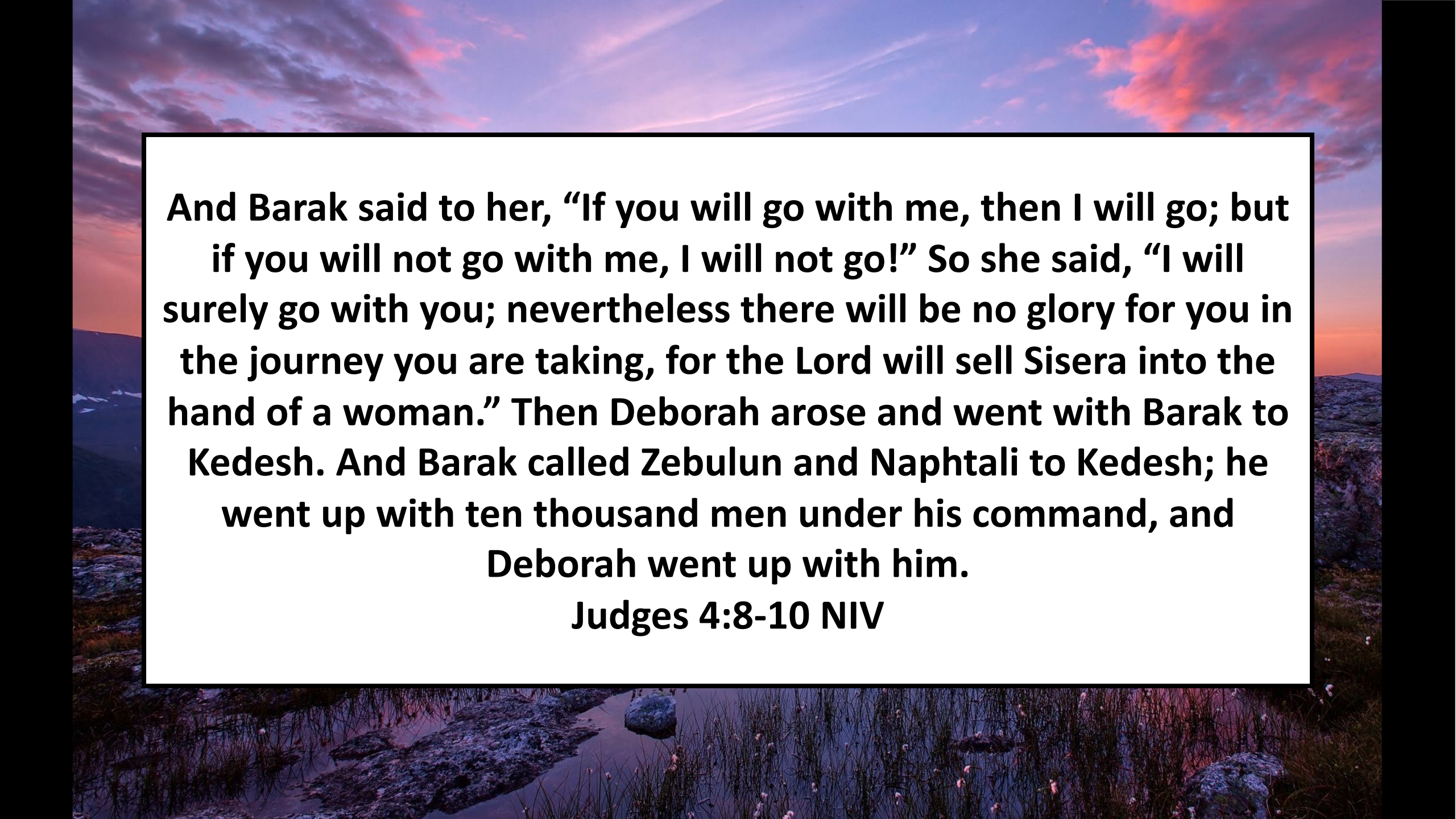
**Parents, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

**Ephesians 6:1-4 NIV**



**She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’**

**Judges 4:6-7 NIV**

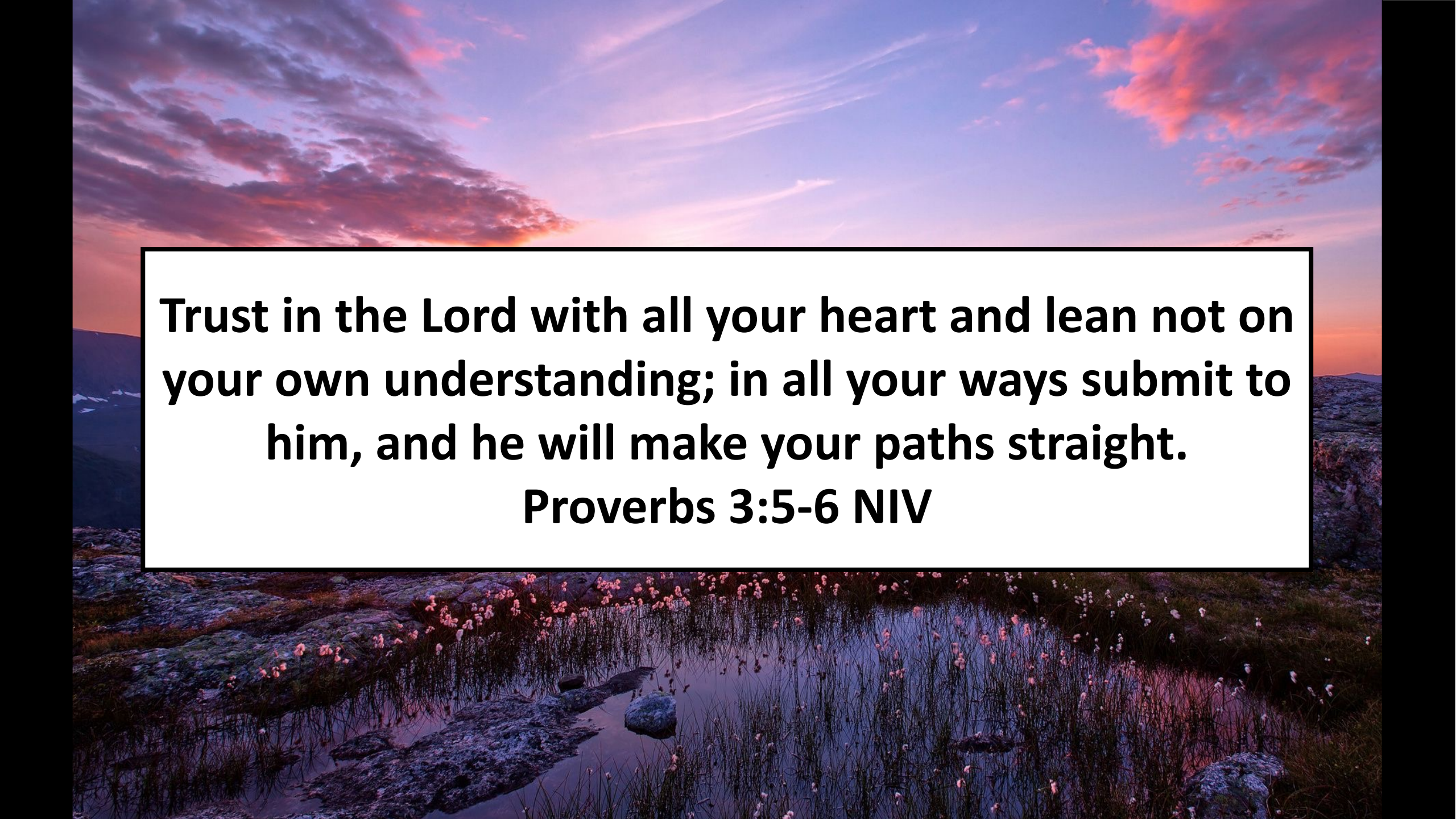


**And Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!” So she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him.**

**Judges 4:8-10 NIV**



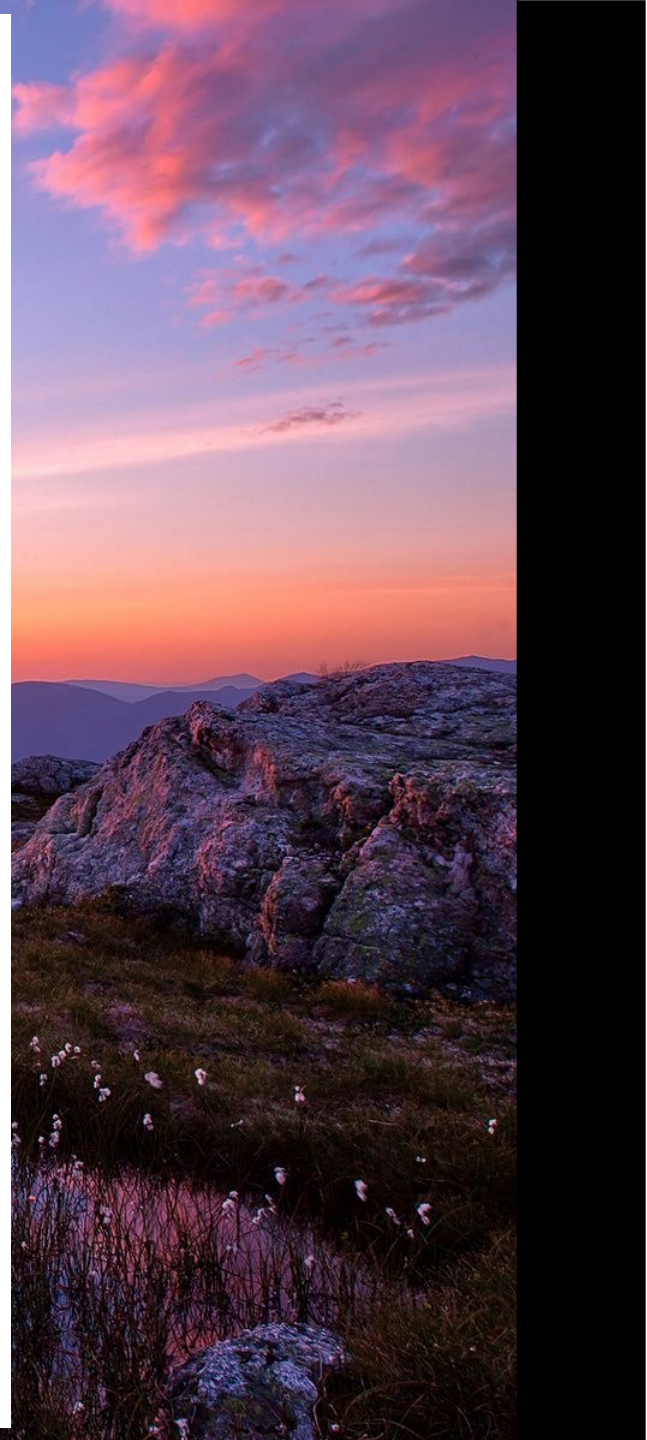
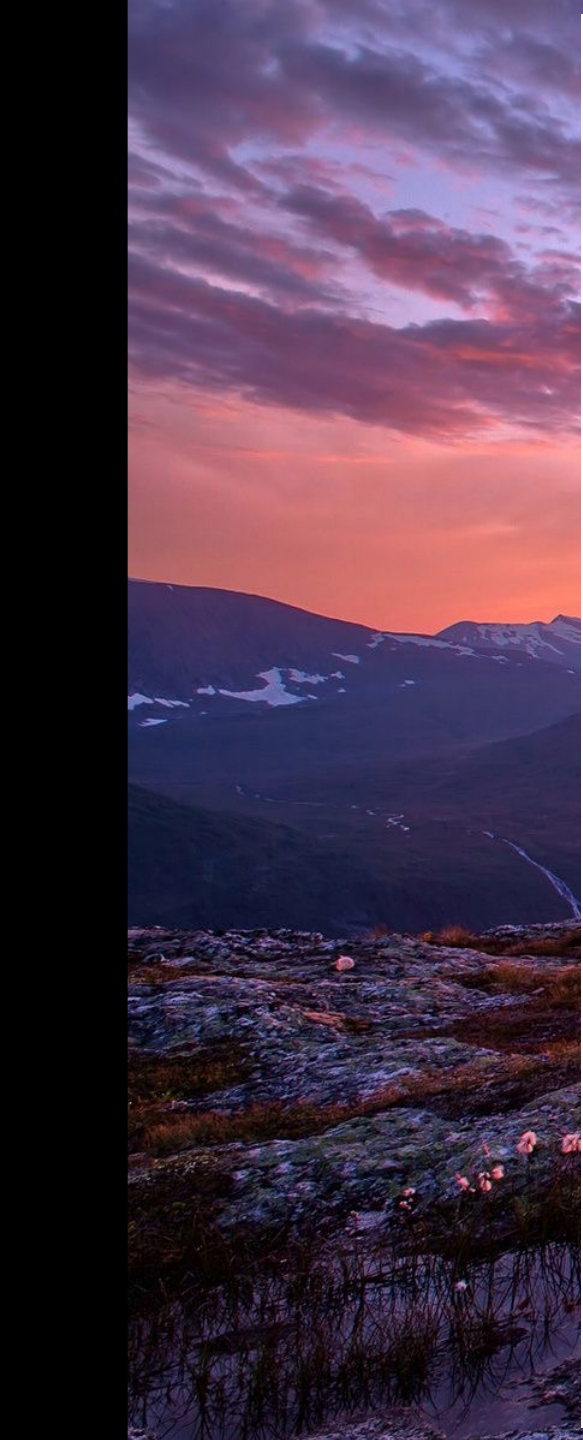
**Do you find yourself trying to add conditions  
to God's Will?**

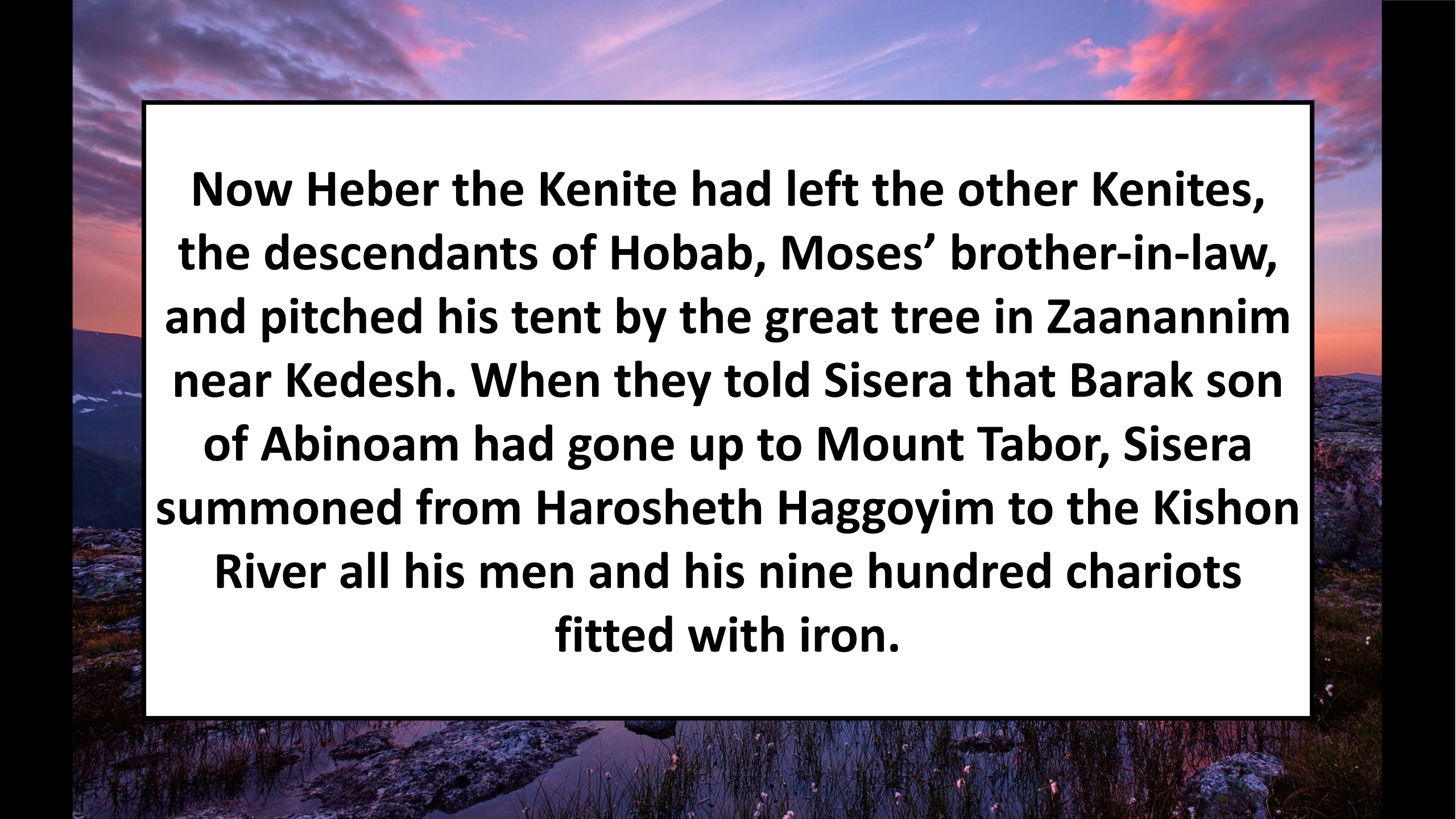


**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

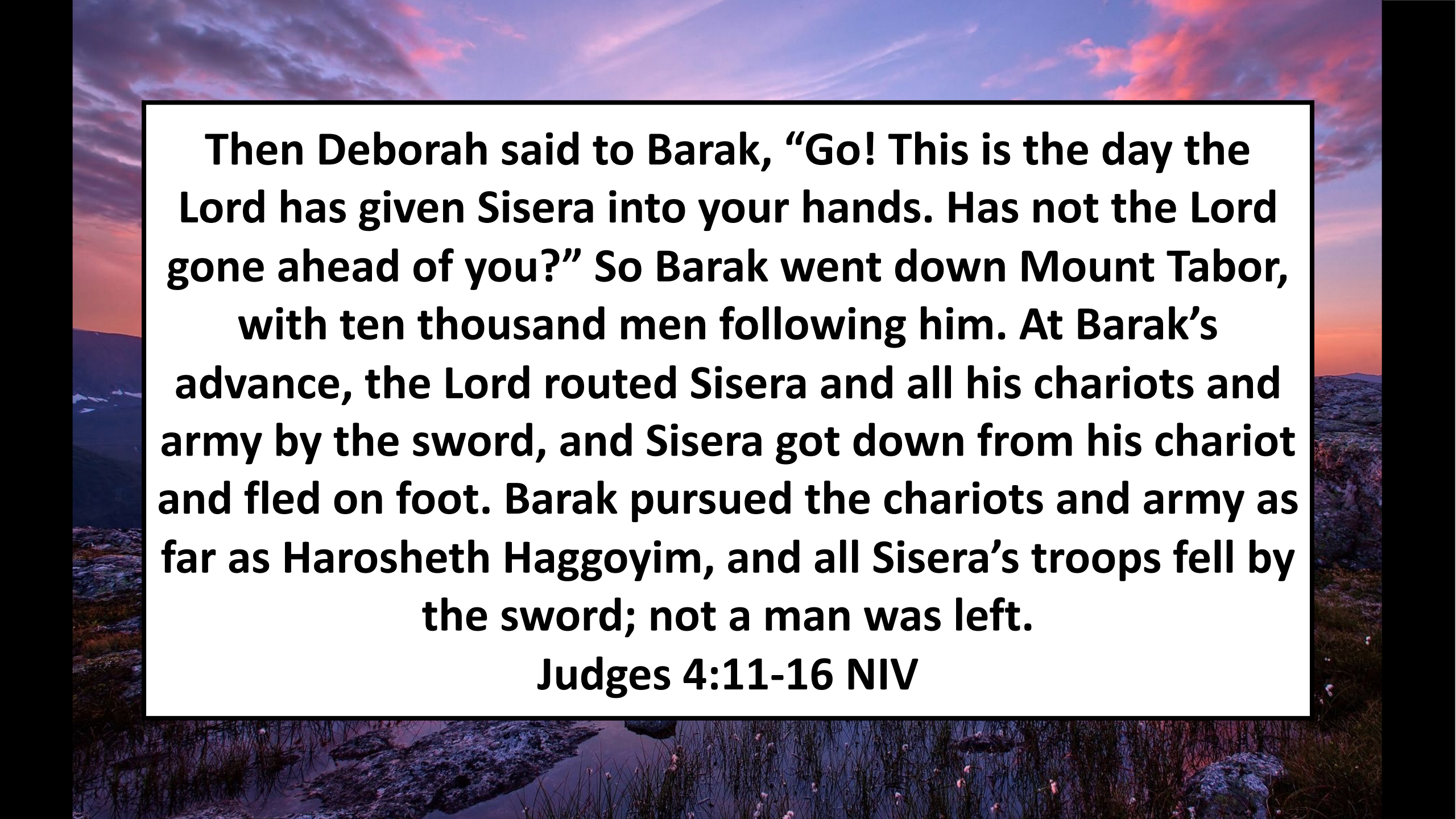
**Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV**







**Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh. When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men and his nine hundred chariots fitted with iron.**



**Then Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?” So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. At Barak’s advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot. Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera’s troops fell by the sword; not a man was left.**

**Judges 4:11-16 NIV**



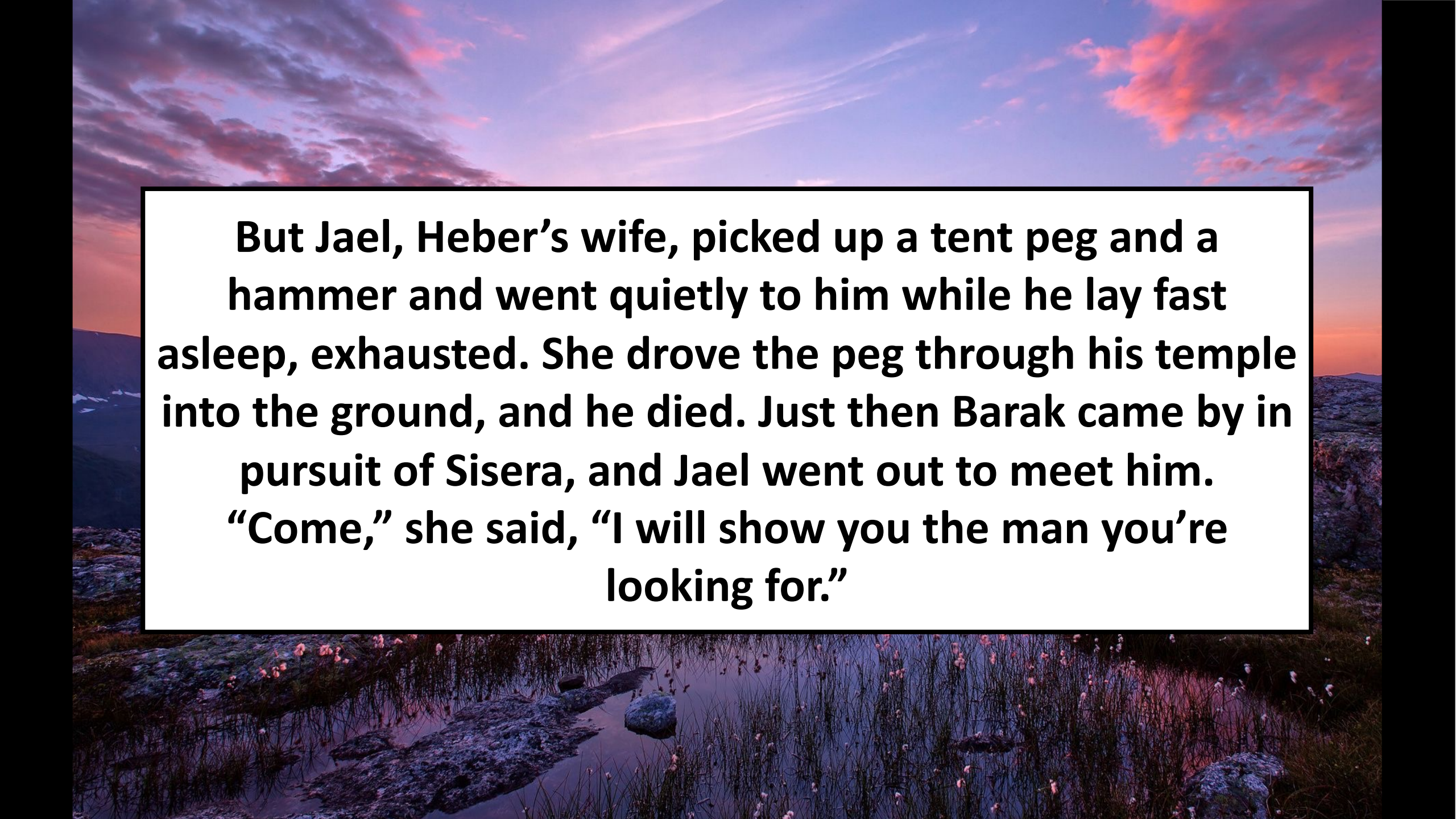
**God kept His Word**



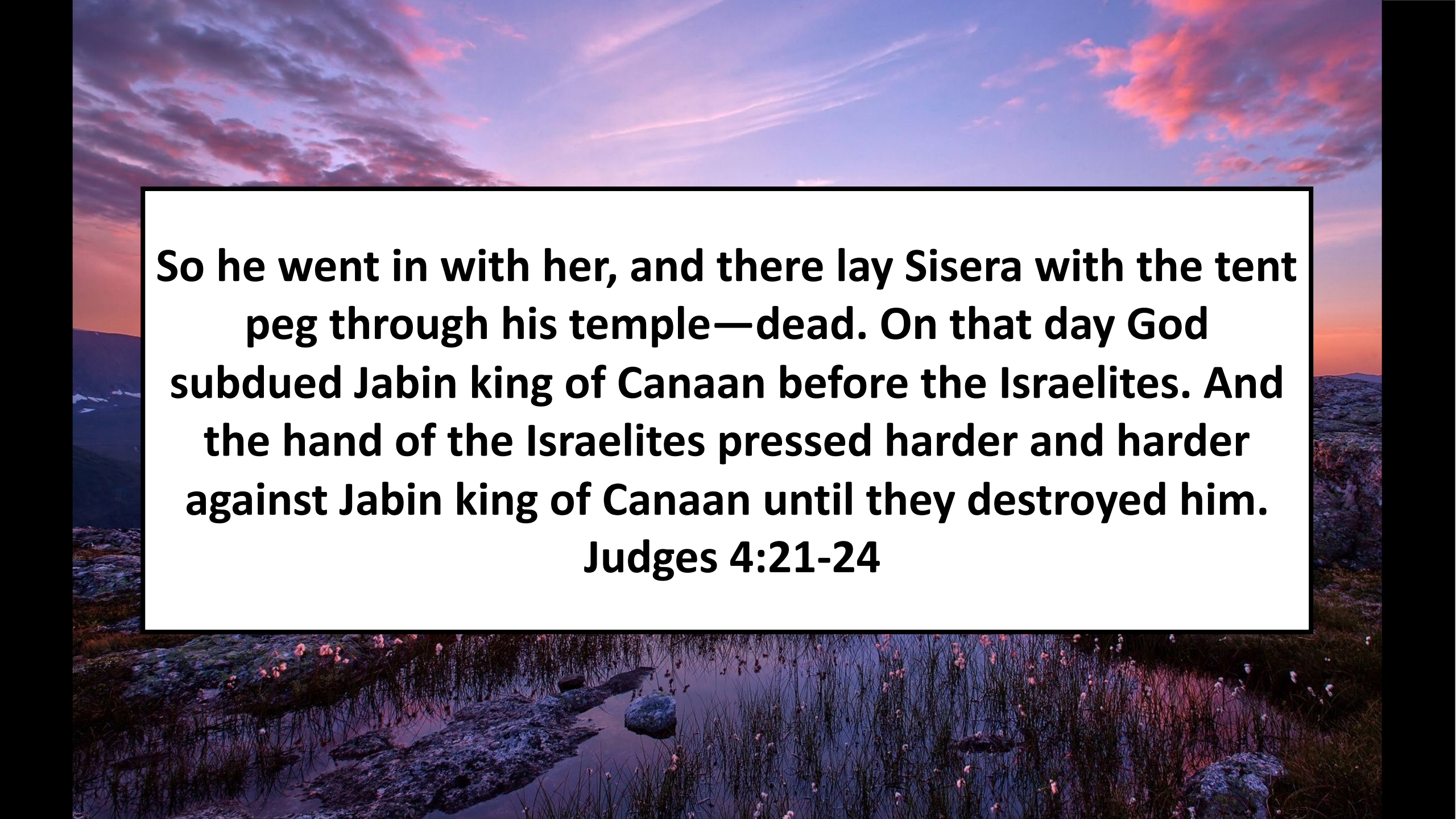
**God was faithful to Deborah and Barak.  
God will be faithful to complete the  
victory in you.**

**Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite. Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, “Come, my Lord, come right in. Don’t be afraid.” So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket. “I’m thirsty,” he said. “Please give me some water.” She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up. “Stand in the doorway of the tent,” he told her. “If someone comes by and asks you, ‘Is anyone in there?’ say ‘No.’”**

**Judges 4:17-20 NIV**



**But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died. Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. "Come," she said, "I will show you the man you're looking for."**



**So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent  
peg through his temple—dead. On that day God  
subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. And  
the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder  
against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.**

**Judges 4:21-24**



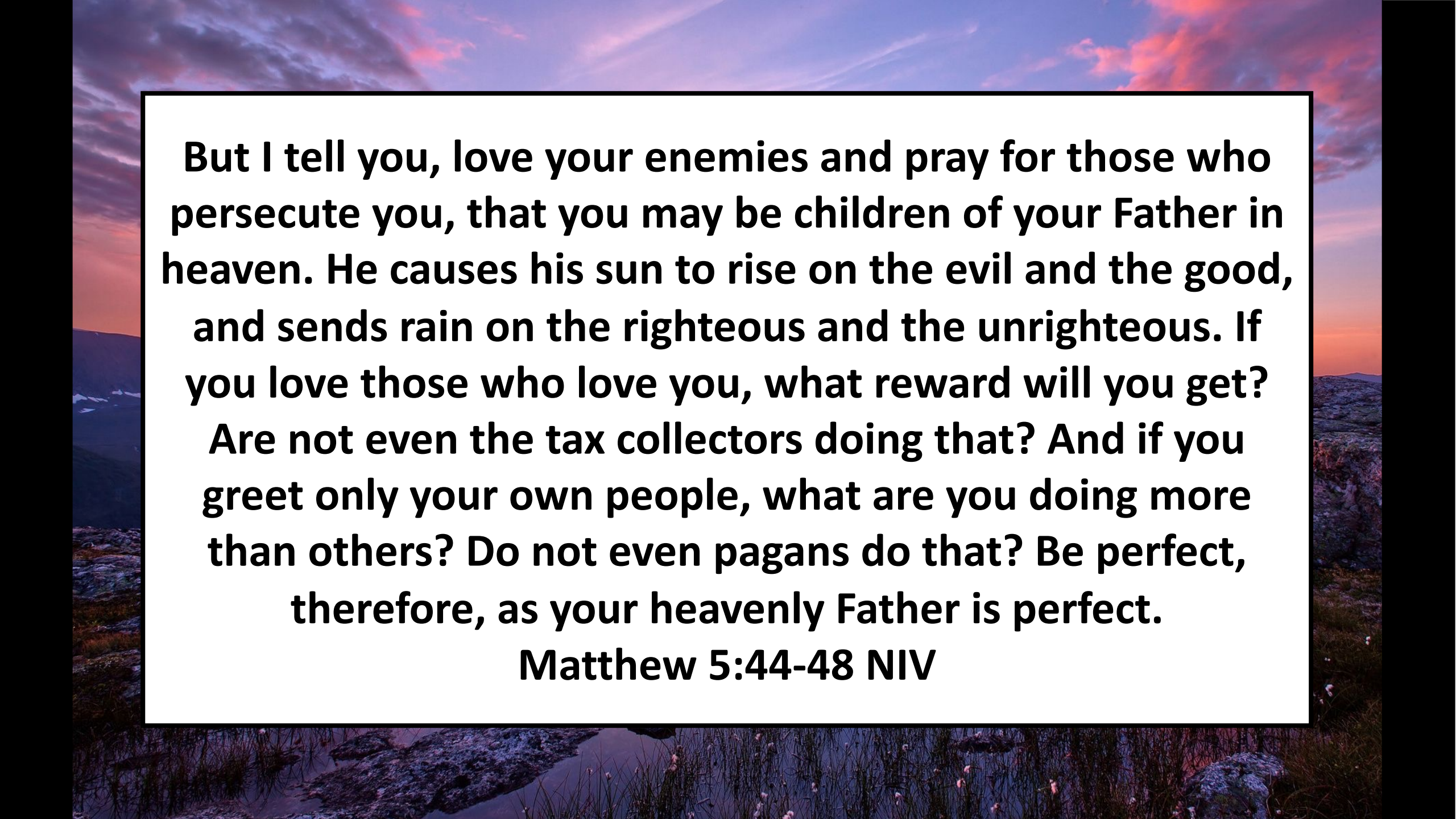


**“Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the  
Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women.”**

**Judges 5:24 NIV**



**Jael acted with courage and faith**



**But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

**Matthew 5:44-48 NIV**

## Application

- 1. Recognize the importance of your role. As mothers, fathers, or just people caring for the physically and spiritually immature.**
- 2. Don't add conditions to obedience, have a Proverbs 3 amount of faith. Lean not on your own understanding.**
- 3. God is faithful, even in our weakness. God achieved amazing things through Barak in his imperfection.**
- 4. Have courage and faith to love/pray for your enemies.**



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