

AN UNDERSHEPHERD'S HEART

Equipping the Flock on Real Issues



LIBERTY
BAPTIST CHURCH
OF CLERMONT

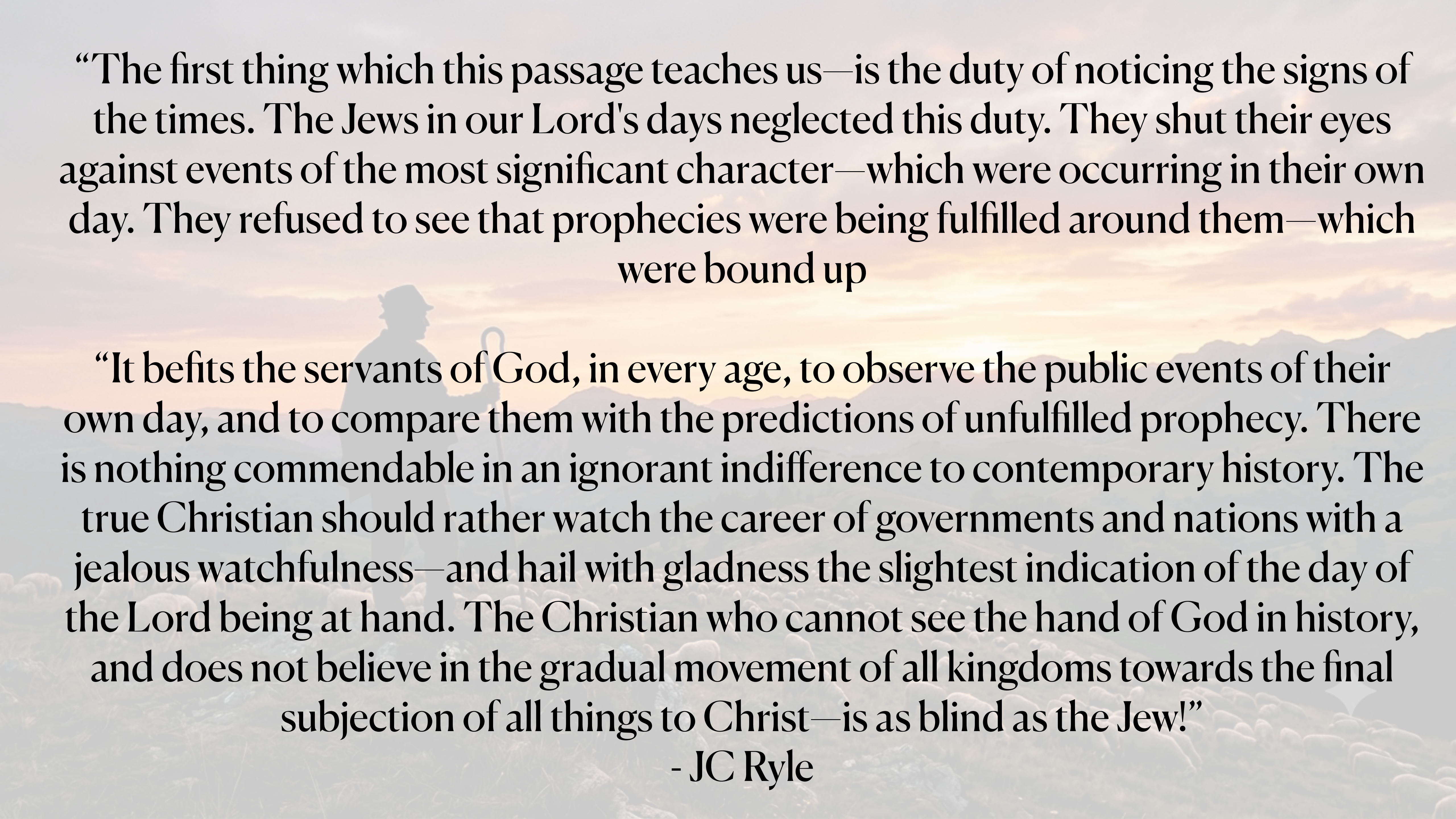
A silhouette of a shepherd stands on a grassy hill, holding a long staff. A large flock of sheep is gathered around him. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a dramatic sky with soft, orange and pink clouds from a low sun.

OPENING TEXT

Matthew 16:1-4

Luke 12:54-56



The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph of a shepherd standing on a hill, holding a long staff, with a flock of sheep grazing below. The scene is set during a golden sunset or sunrise, with warm light and long shadows across the landscape.

“The first thing which this passage teaches us—is the duty of noticing the signs of the times. The Jews in our Lord's days neglected this duty. They shut their eyes against events of the most significant character—which were occurring in their own day. They refused to see that prophecies were being fulfilled around them—which were bound up

“It befits the servants of God, in every age, to observe the public events of their own day, and to compare them with the predictions of unfulfilled prophecy. There is nothing commendable in an ignorant indifference to contemporary history. The true Christian should rather watch the career of governments and nations with a jealous watchfulness—and hail with gladness the slightest indication of the day of the Lord being at hand. The Christian who cannot see the hand of God in history, and does not believe in the gradual movement of all kingdoms towards the final subjection of all things to Christ—is as blind as the Jew!”

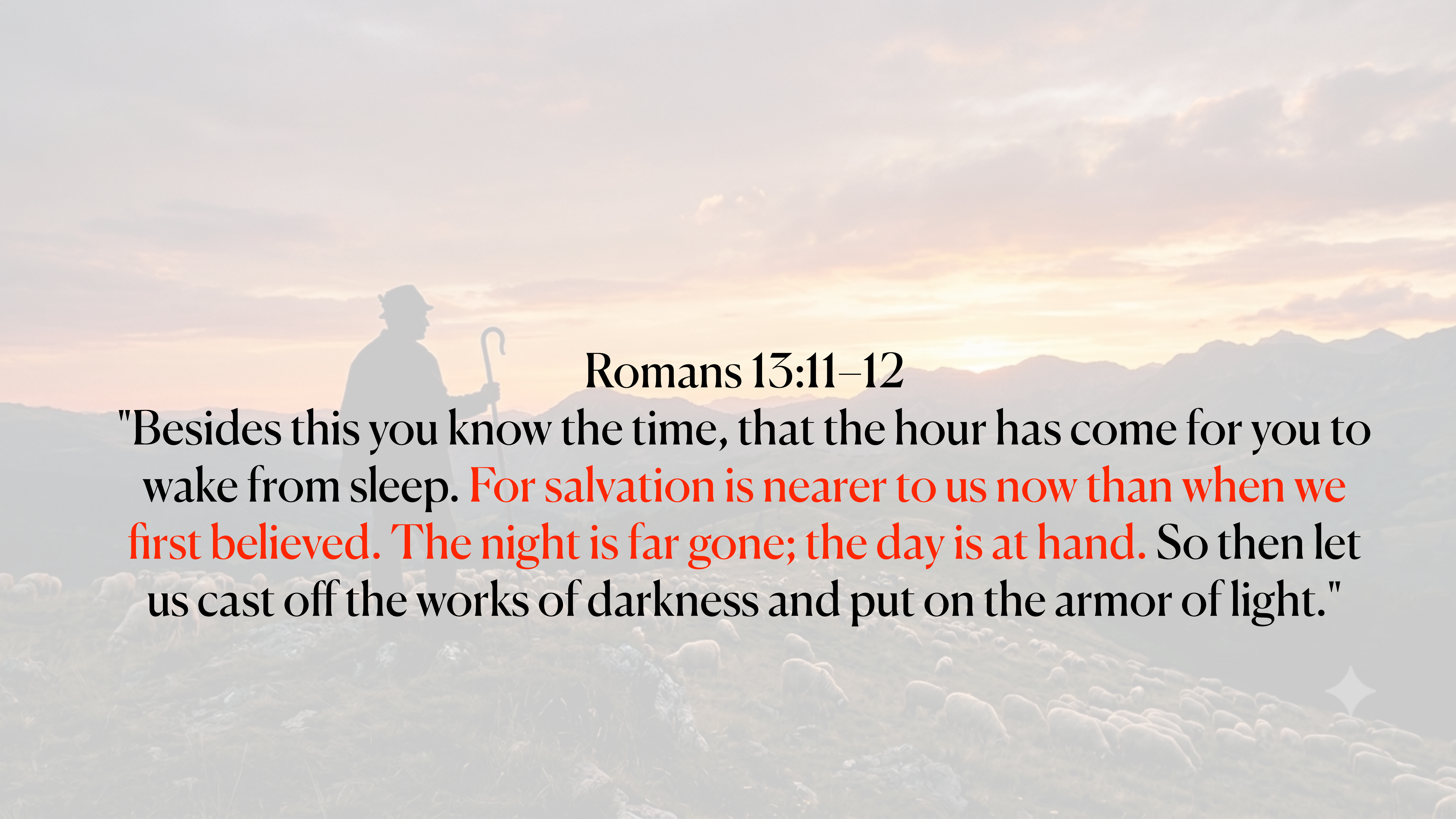
- JC Ryle

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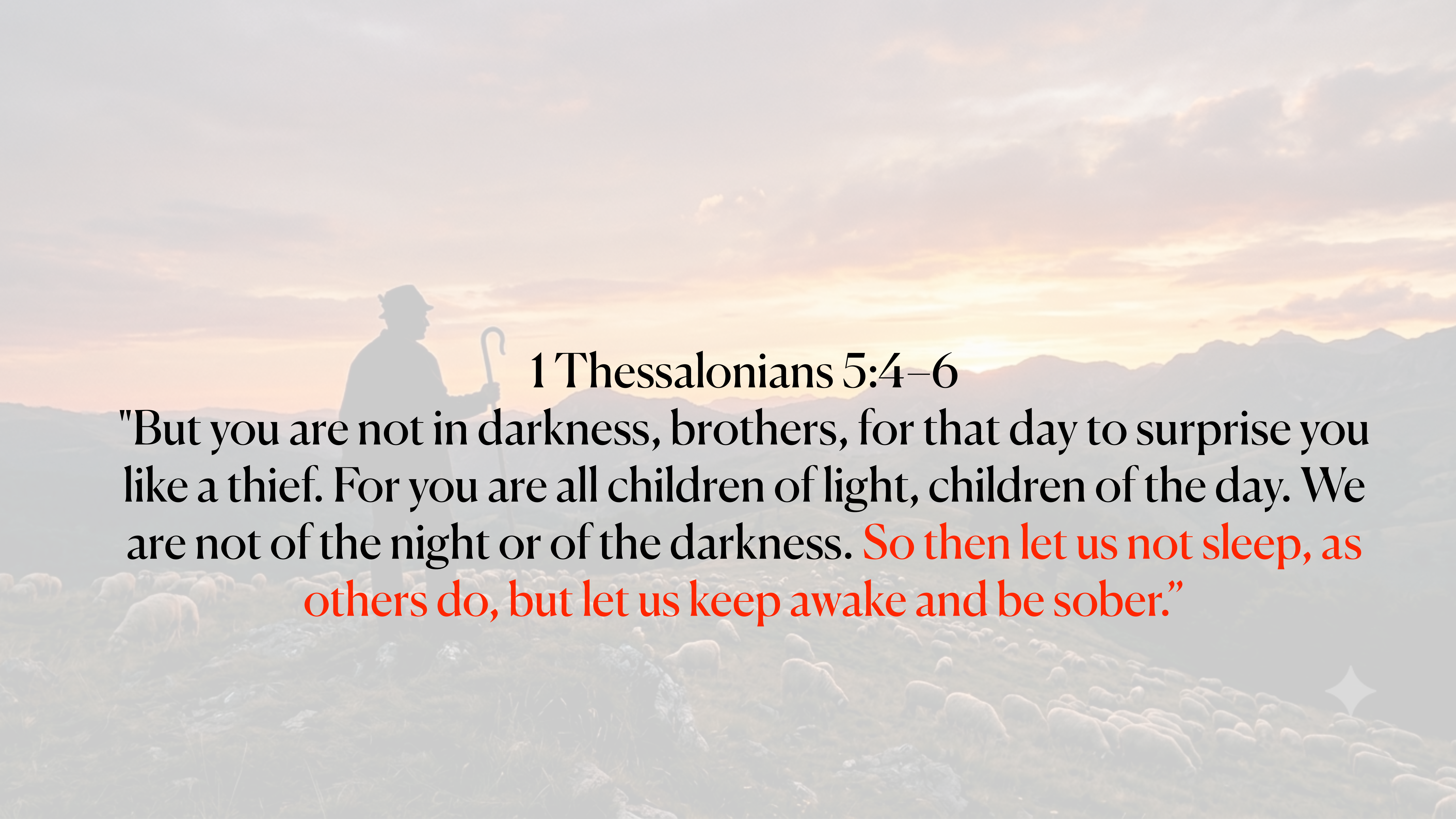
- The Problem of Pride
- The Action of Love
- The Instruction for Relationships
- The Call to Boldness
- **The Understanding of the Times (Today)**
- The Victory Over Addictions
- The Journey in Maturing



A shepherd with a staff stands on a hill overlooking a flock of sheep at sunset.

Romans 13:11–12

"Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. **For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand.** So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

A shepherd with a staff stands on a hill overlooking a flock of sheep at sunset.

1 Thessalonians 5:4–6

"But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. **So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.**"



Dispensationalism

- A theological system that emphasizes the literal interpretation of Bible prophecy, recognizes a distinction between Israel and the Church, and organizes the Bible into different dispensations or administrations.
- A way of ordering things—an administration, a system, or a management.
- In theology, a dispensation is the divine administration of a period of time; each dispensation is a divinely appointed age. Dispensationalism is a theological system that recognizes these ages ordained by God to order the affairs of the world.
- Holds to a **literal interpretation** of the Bible as the best hermeneutic.
- A system, results in a premillennial interpretation of Christ's second coming and usually a pre-tribulational interpretation of the rapture.

An Undershepherd's Heart: The Understanding of the Times



An Undershepherd's Heart: The Understanding of the Times

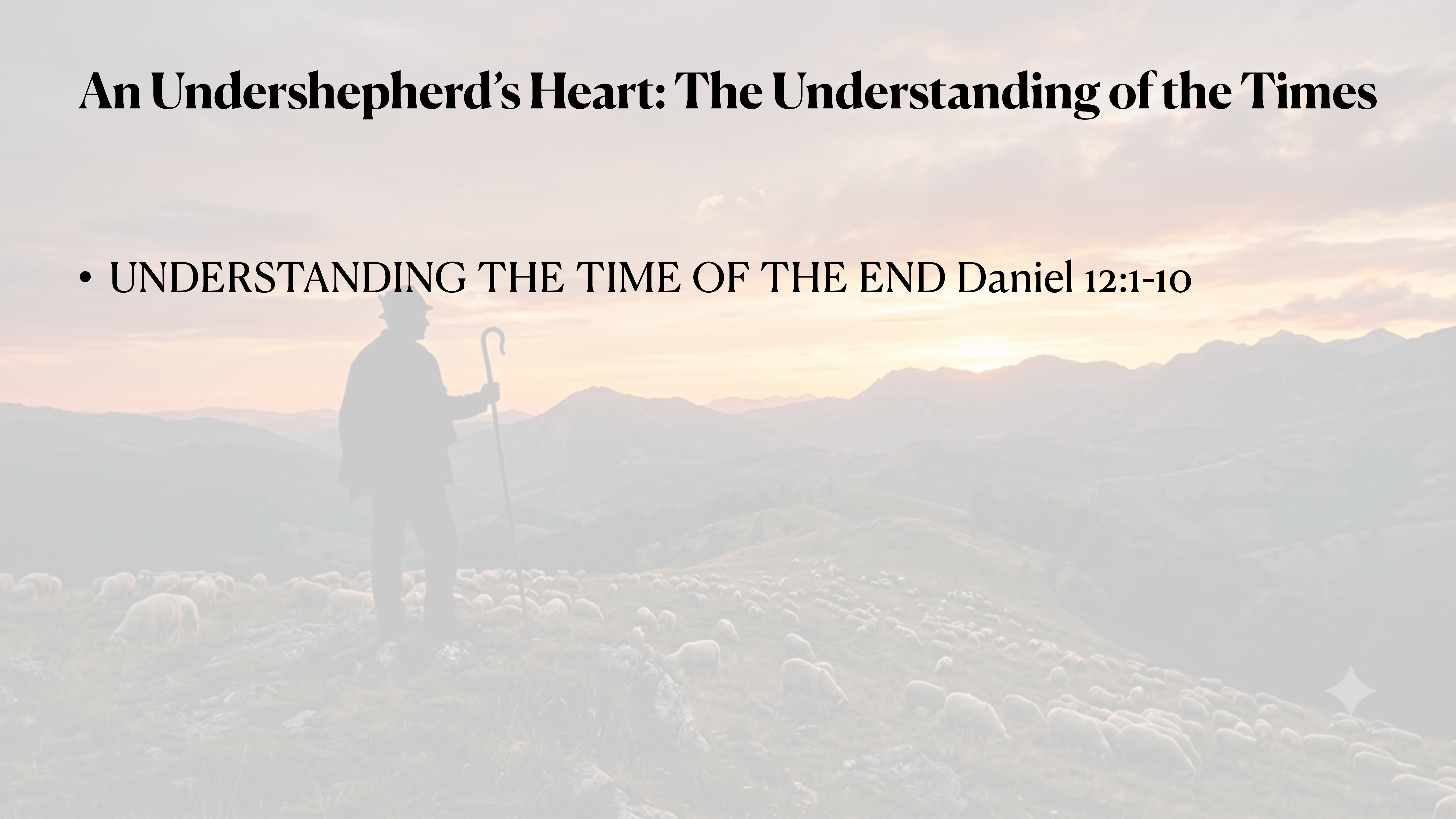
Defined

Understanding the Times refers to the ability to discern the current cultural, moral, and spiritual conditions in society, often in the context of Christian teachings and biblical prophecy. It emphasizes the importance of being aware of the changes in the world to effectively serve and live out one's faith.

- Compilation of various sources

An Undershepherd's Heart: The Understanding of the Times

- UNDERSTANDING THE TIME OF THE END Daniel 12:1-10



An Undershepherd's Heart: The Understanding of the Times

- UNDERSTANDING THE TIME OF THE END
- UNDERSTANDING THE TIME OF THE PAST



OT Passages about the 1st advent of the Messiah fulfilled in Christ

- Descendant of Abraham- Genesis 12:3, 22:18
- From the Tribe of Judah- Genesis 49:10
- Heir to the throne of David- Isaiah 9:7, 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5
- Born of a virgin- Isaiah 7:14
- Born in Bethlehem- Micah 5:2
- Flight to Egypt- Hosea 11:1
- Massacre of the innocents- Jeremiah 31:15
- Preceded by a messenger (John the Baptist)- Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1
- Ministry based in Galilee- Isaiah 9:1-2
- A prophet like Moses - Deuteronomy 18:15, 18–19
- Ministered with healing and miracles- Isaiah 35:5–6, 61:1–2
- Spoke in parables- Psalm 78:2-4

OT Passages about the 1st advent of the Messiah fulfilled in Christ

- Rejected by His own people- Isaiah 53:1, 3; Psalm 69:8
- Entered Jerusalem on a donkey- Zechariah 9:9
- Betrayed by a close friend- Psalm 41:9, 55:12–14
- Sold for 30 pieces of silver- Zechariah 11:12
- Accused by false witnesses- Psalm 27:12, 35:11
- Mocked, beaten, and spit upon- Isaiah 50:6; Micah 5:1
- Hands and feet pierced- Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 12:10
- Crucified with criminals- Isaiah 53:12
- Lots cast for His clothing- Psalm 22:18
- No bones broken- Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20
- Resurrected from the dead- Psalm 16:10, 30:3; Hosea 6:2

An Undershepherd's Heart: The Understanding of the Times

- UNDERSTANDING THE TIME OF THE END
- UNDERSTANDING THE TIME OF THE PAST
- UNDERSTANDING THE TIME OF THE SIGNS



Signs....

- Natural Signs

- Luke 21:11

- 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.



Signs....

- Natural Signs
- Spiritual Signs
 - 2 Timothy 4:3–4
 - 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Signs....

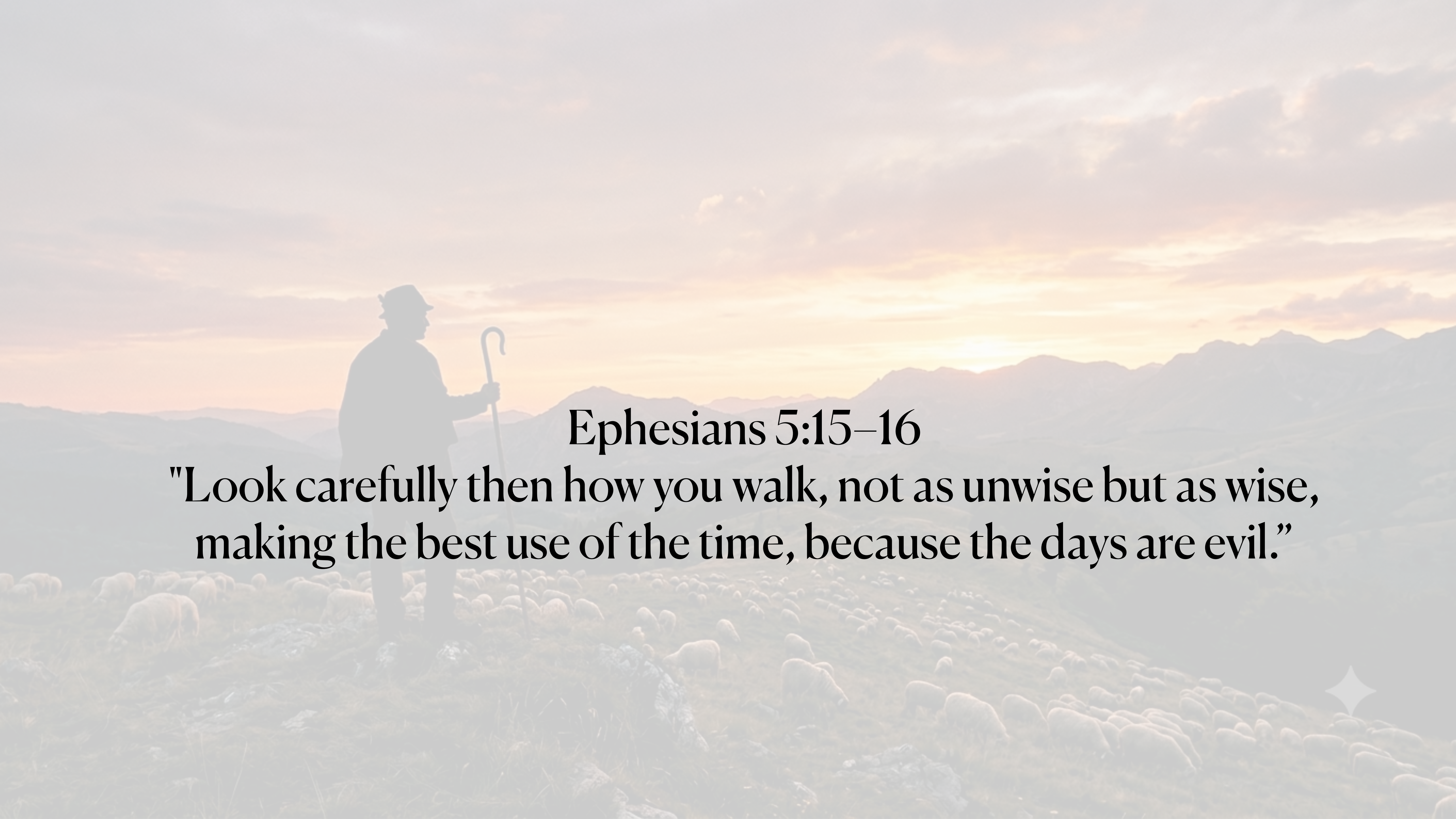
- Natural Signs
- Spiritual Signs
- Sociological and Societal Signs
 - 2 Timothy 3:1–5
 - 3 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Signs....

- Natural Signs
- Spiritual Signs
- Sociological and Societal Signs
- Technological Signs
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12
 - 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Signs....

- Natural Signs
- Spiritual Signs
- Sociological and Societal Signs
- Technological Signs
- Political Signs
 - Ezekiel 38:14–16
 - 14 “Therefore, son of man, prophesy, and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord God: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not know it? 15 You will come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great host, a mighty army. 16 You will come up against my people Israel, like a cloud covering the land. In the latter days I will bring you against my land, that the nations may know me, when through you, O Gog, I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ✧

A silhouette of a shepherd holding a staff, standing on a hillside overlooking a large flock of sheep. The background features a sunset sky with orange and pink clouds, and distant mountains. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent grey filter.

Ephesians 5:15–16

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."



Matthew 13:10–17

10 Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” 11 And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “ ‘ “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” 15 For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’ 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Gleanings and Practical Application...



Gleanings and Practical Application...

1. Watch and discern the season



Gleanings and Practical Application...

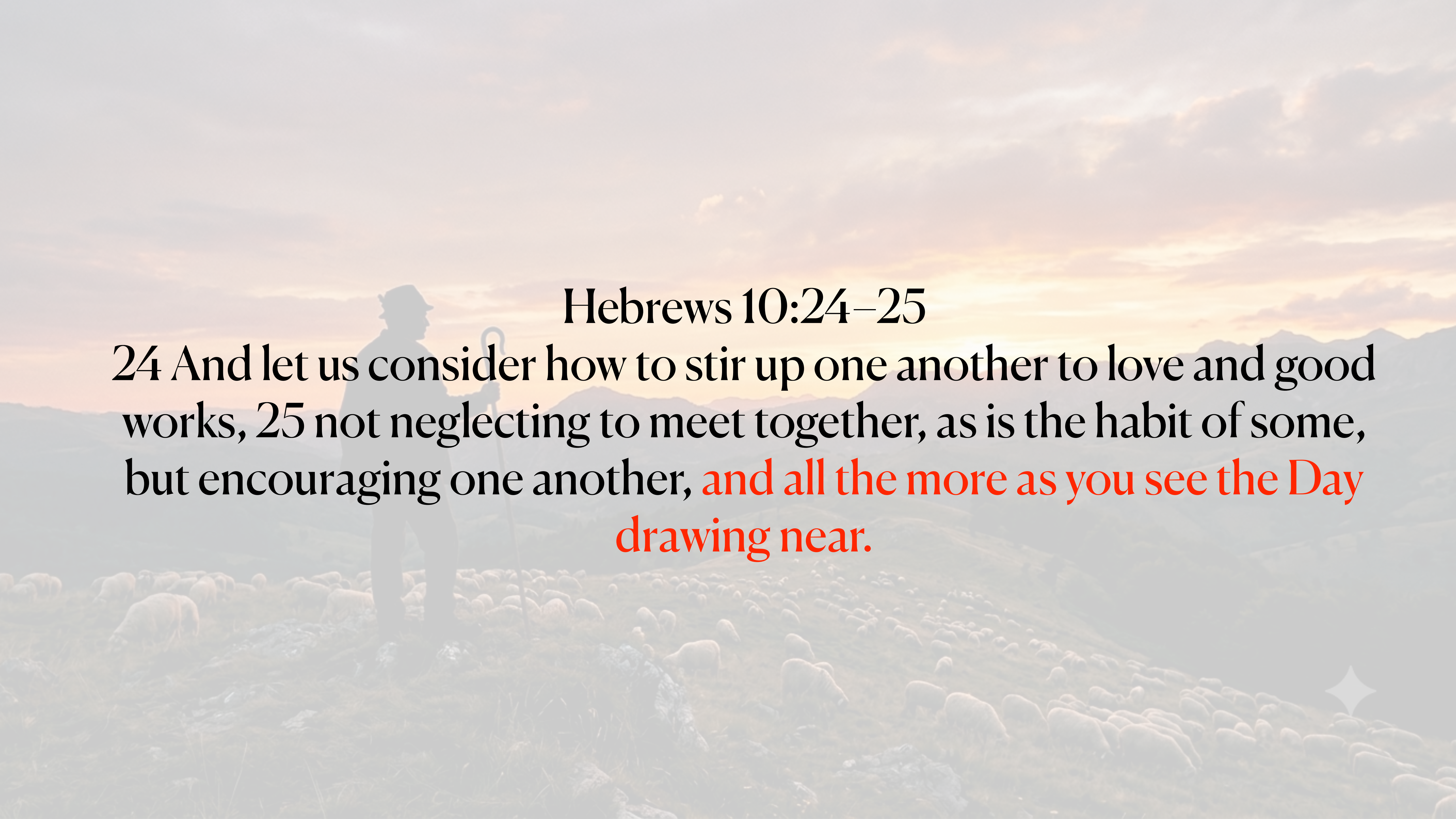
1. Watch and discern the season
2. Share the hope that we have with a world that desperately needs it



Gleanings and Practical Application...

1. Watch and discern the season
2. Share the hope that we have with a world that desperately needs it
3. Stay connected to a community of believers in the local church



A shepherd with a staff stands on a hill overlooking a large flock of sheep at sunset.

Hebrews 10:24–25

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, **and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**

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