



ADVENT

THROUGH THEIR EYES



Genesis 3:1-21

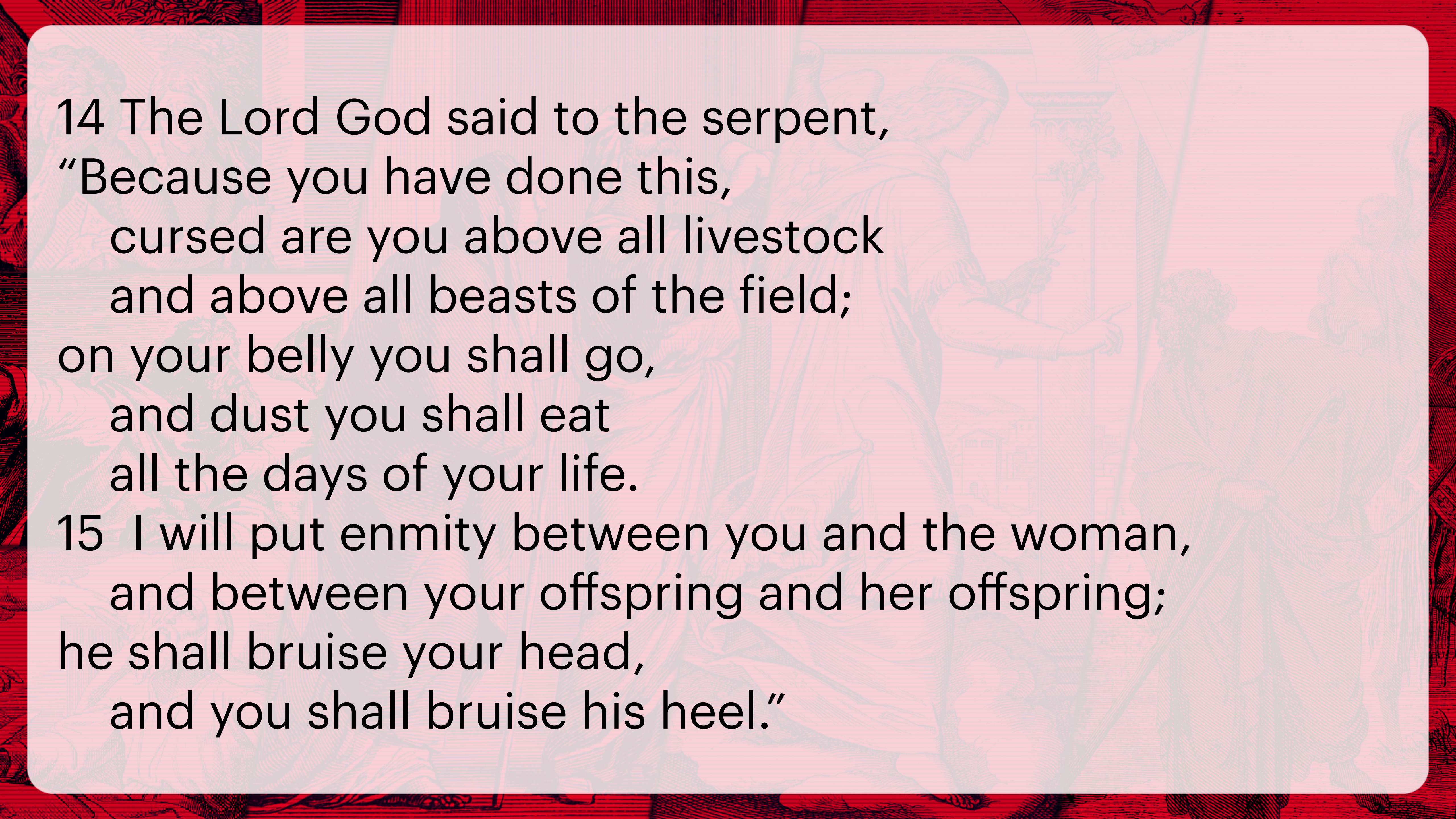
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

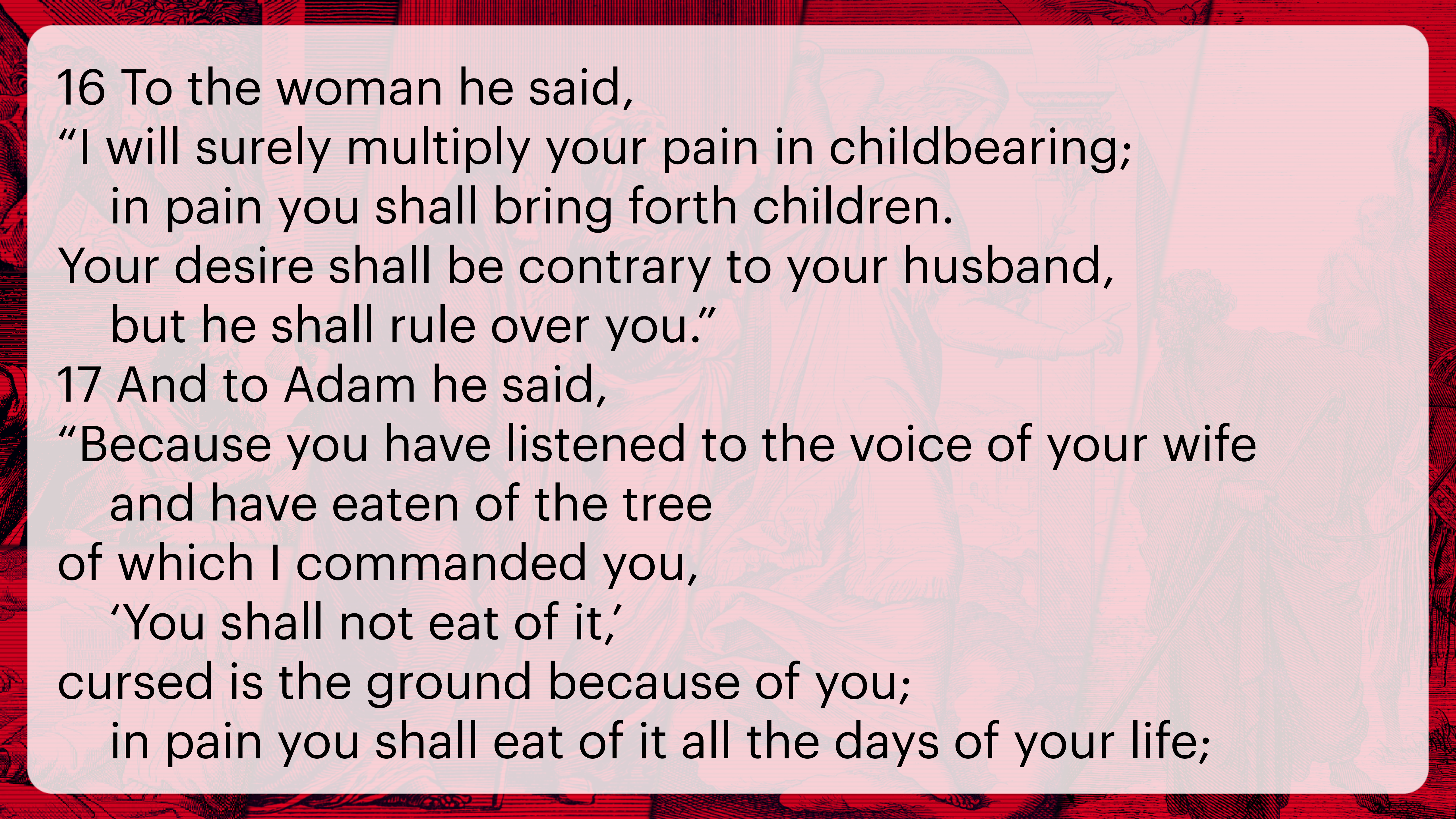
8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."



14 The Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”



16 To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you.”

17 And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it;’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

The background features a detailed illustration of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Adam is on the left, holding a staff and pointing towards the right. Eve is on the right, holding a staff and looking towards Adam. They are both wearing long, flowing robes. The scene is set in a lush garden with trees and foliage. The entire illustration is rendered in a monochromatic red and black style, with a fine, cross-hatched texture.

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;

for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was
the mother of all living. 21 And the Lord God made for
Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed
them.



Genesis 4:1-2

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." 2 And again, she bore his brother Abel.



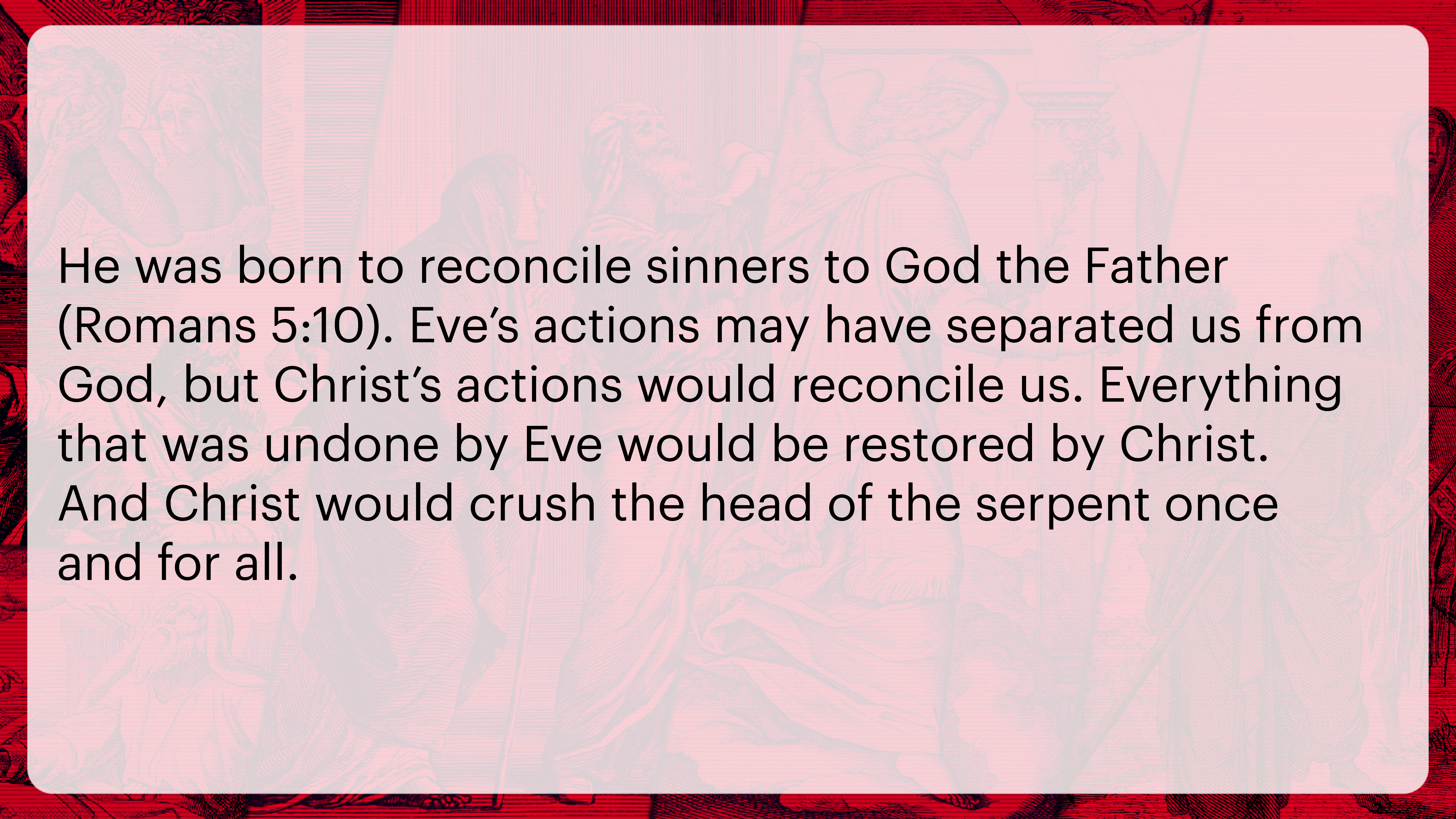
1. Fig Leaves To Christ's Righteousness

“Shame has plagued us since Adam and Eve bit into the fruit and realized they were naked. Their first instinct was to hide from each other and God (Genesis 3:7–11). And no wonder. They now stood guilty before God and were vulnerable to each other and Satan in a whole new horrible way. Suddenly, they were sinful, weak, damaged people living in a dangerous world. **They found themselves under God’s righteous judgment** (Genesis 3:17–19; John 3:19; Romans 6:23), **exposed to other sinners’ sinful judgment and rejection, and wide-open to the condemning accusations of the evil one** (Revelation 12:10).”

-Jon Bloom

“...people really can't stand to look closely at themselves and these patterns unless they understand justification by faith and union with Christ. According to her, it's pretty easy to say, “God, be merciful to me, the sinner,” and be thinking only of external actions while ignoring the darkness of the human heart. But if you want to look more deeply, begin by studying the gospel of the cross, know the meaning of Christ's atonement for you personally, and you will be able to take the deeper look. This deeper look can then lead to a more thoroughgoing repentance and a hearty confidence through the Spirit that I am not an orphan, but a living son of the heavenly Father through faith.”

-John C. Miller



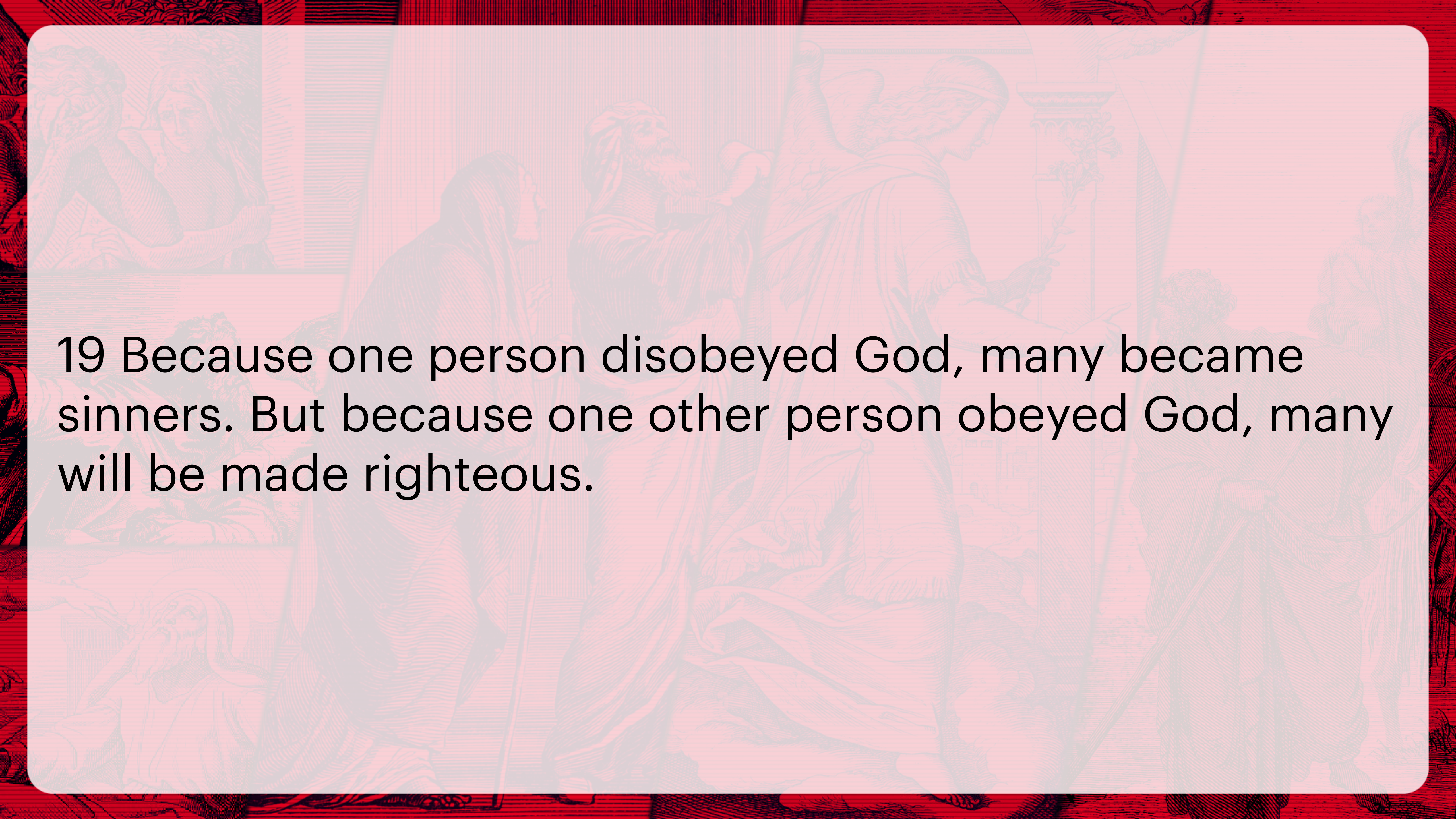
He was born to reconcile sinners to God the Father (Romans 5:10). Eve's actions may have separated us from God, but Christ's actions would reconcile us. Everything that was undone by Eve would be restored by Christ. And Christ would crush the head of the serpent once and for all.

Romans 5:12-19 (NLT)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.... everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. 15 But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ...

16 And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. 17 For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

18 Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.



19 Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.



Philippians 3:9

And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.



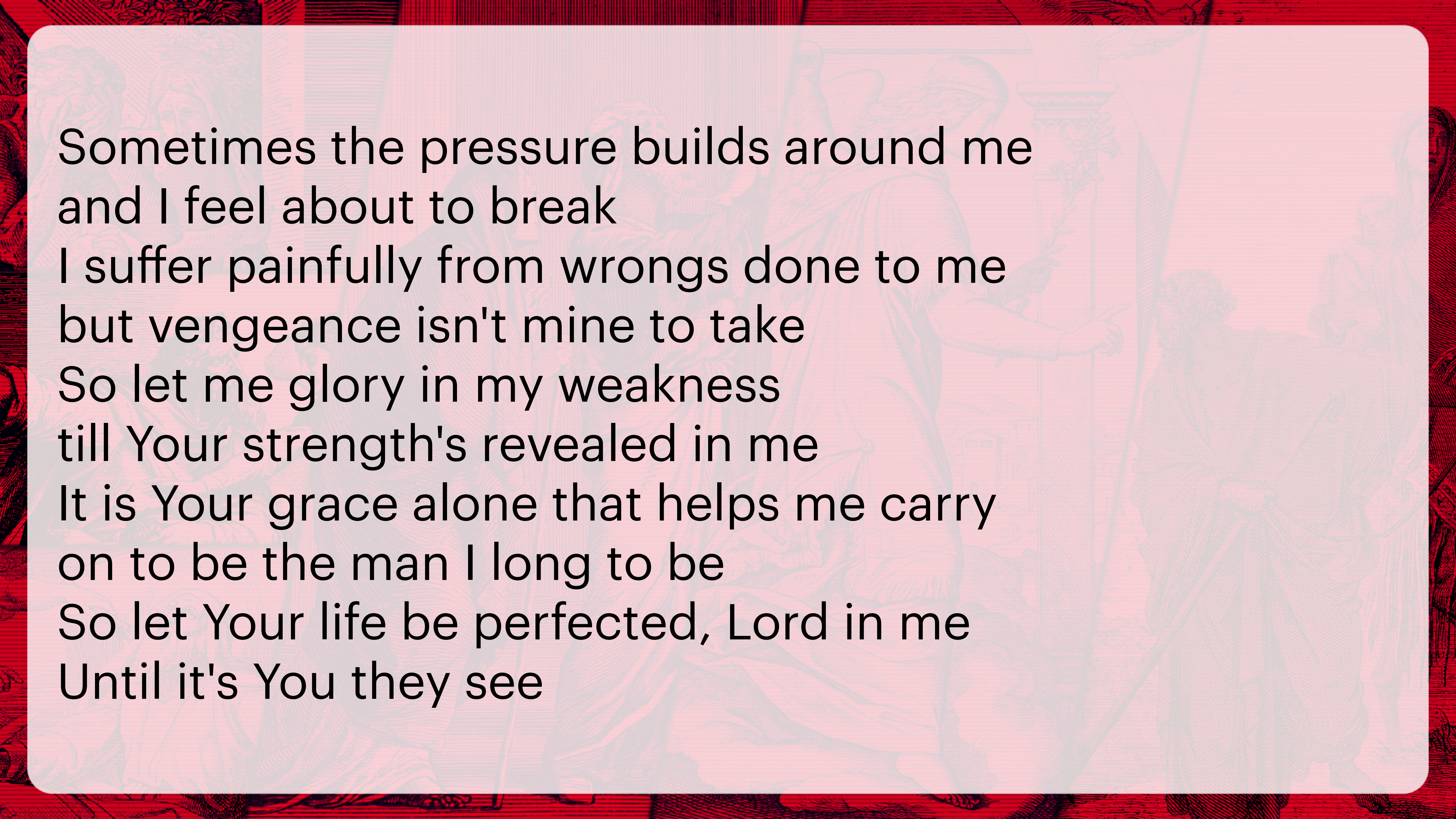
Steve Camp

Oh Lord, I feel so barren and ashamed of who I am
How I often felt I hid it well, it is a lie I cannot defend
So I lean upon Your mercy as I confess my sin to You
There is no easy way, no saving face, when I finally see the
truth. So let my life be filled with only You



CHORUS:

I know someday I will be free
The weight of sin shall be released
But for now He covers me
And though the trials never end
I've learned to take them as my friend
For each day He covers me



Sometimes the pressure builds around me
and I feel about to break
I suffer painfully from wrongs done to me
but vengeance isn't mine to take
So let me glory in my weakness
till Your strength's revealed in me
It is Your grace alone that helps me carry
on to be the man I long to be
So let Your life be perfected, Lord in me
Until it's You they see

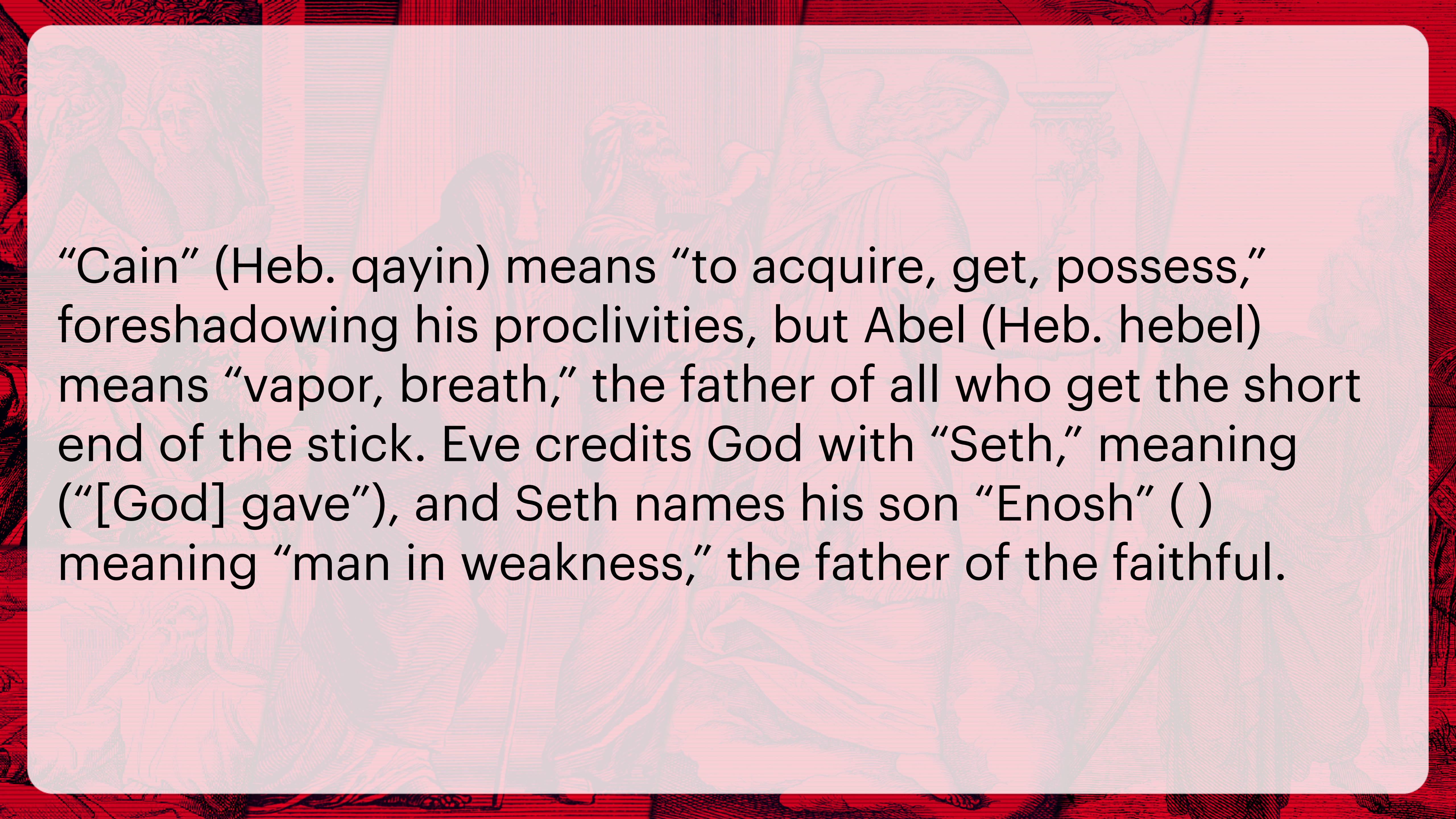


2. Human Arrogance To Humble Reception

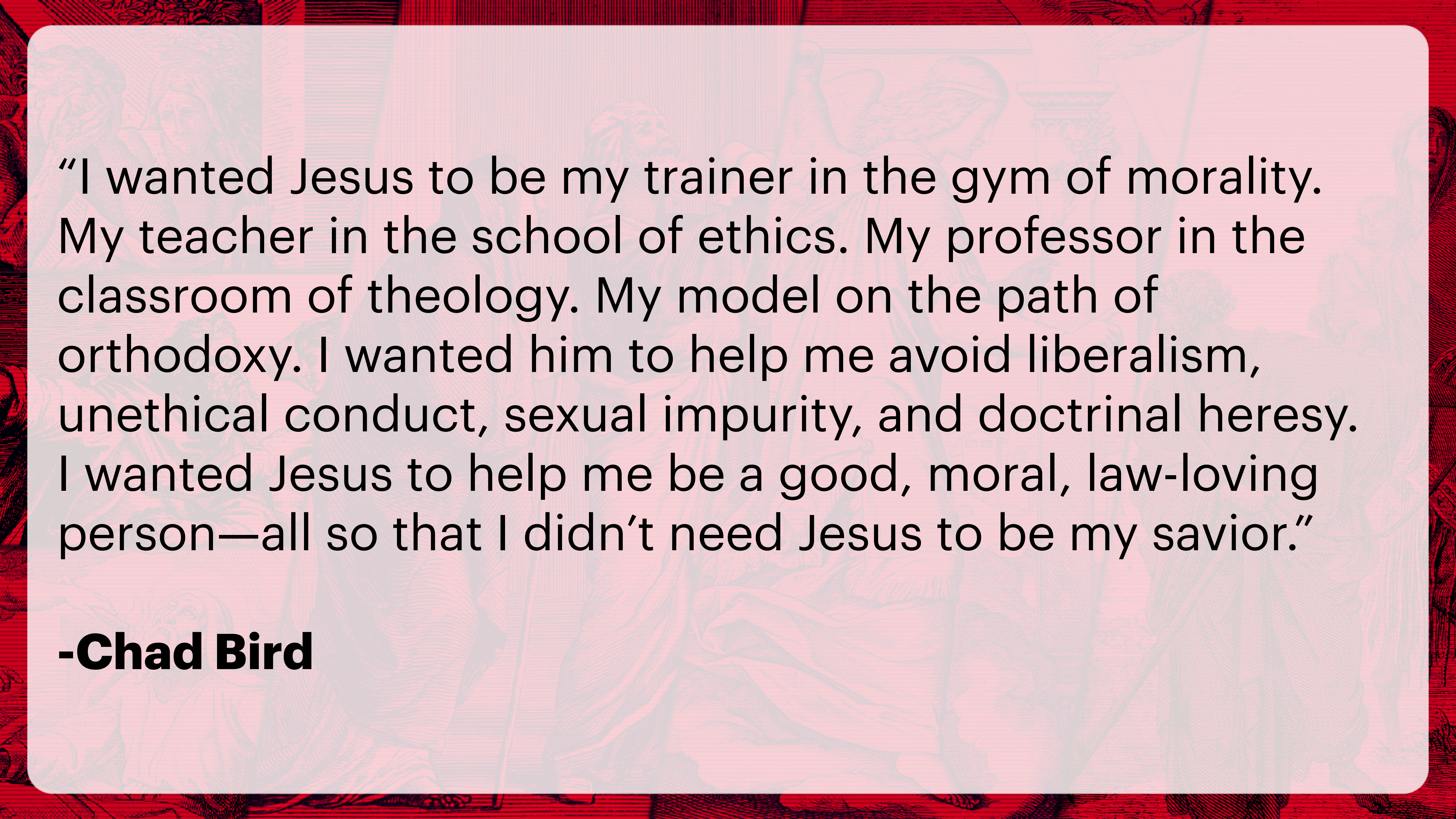
Titus 3:3-7

Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. 4 But— When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, 5 he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. 6 He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. 7 Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

Her boast “I have begotten a man [] with I AM” (4:1, translation mine) jars the spiritually attuned. It contrasts sharply with Hannah’s song at the birth of Samuel: “Do not keep talking so proudly ... I AM brings death and makes alive’ (1 Sam. 2:3, 6), and with Mary’s song at the birth of Jesus: “The Mighty One has done great things for me” (Luke 1:49). At the birth of Seth, Eve replaces her synergistic (i.e., putting her role in birthing on a par with God’s) boast from the birth of Cain with praise of God: “God has given me another seed” (4:25, translation mine). Moreover, the names she gives them show her developing understanding...



“Cain” (Heb. qayin) means “to acquire, get, possess,” foreshadowing his proclivities, but Abel (Heb. hebel) means “vapor, breath,” the father of all who get the short end of the stick. Eve credits God with “Seth,” meaning (“[God] gave”), and Seth names his son “Enosh” () meaning “man in weakness,” the father of the faithful.



“I wanted Jesus to be my trainer in the gym of morality. My teacher in the school of ethics. My professor in the classroom of theology. My model on the path of orthodoxy. I wanted him to help me avoid liberalism, unethical conduct, sexual impurity, and doctrinal heresy. I wanted Jesus to help me be a good, moral, law-loving person—all so that I didn’t need Jesus to be my savior.”

-Chad Bird



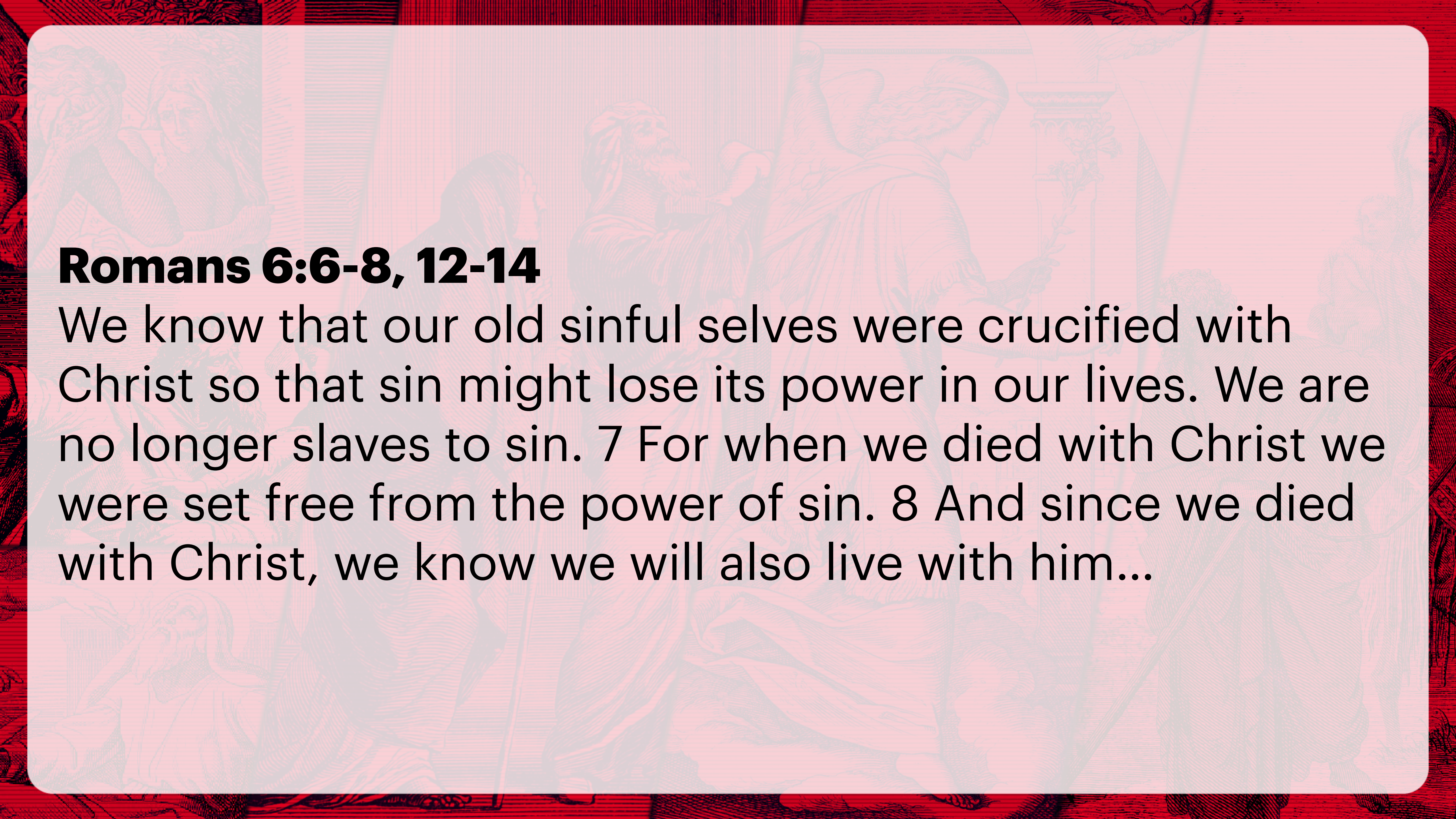
3. Inherited Sin To Overcoming Sin

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

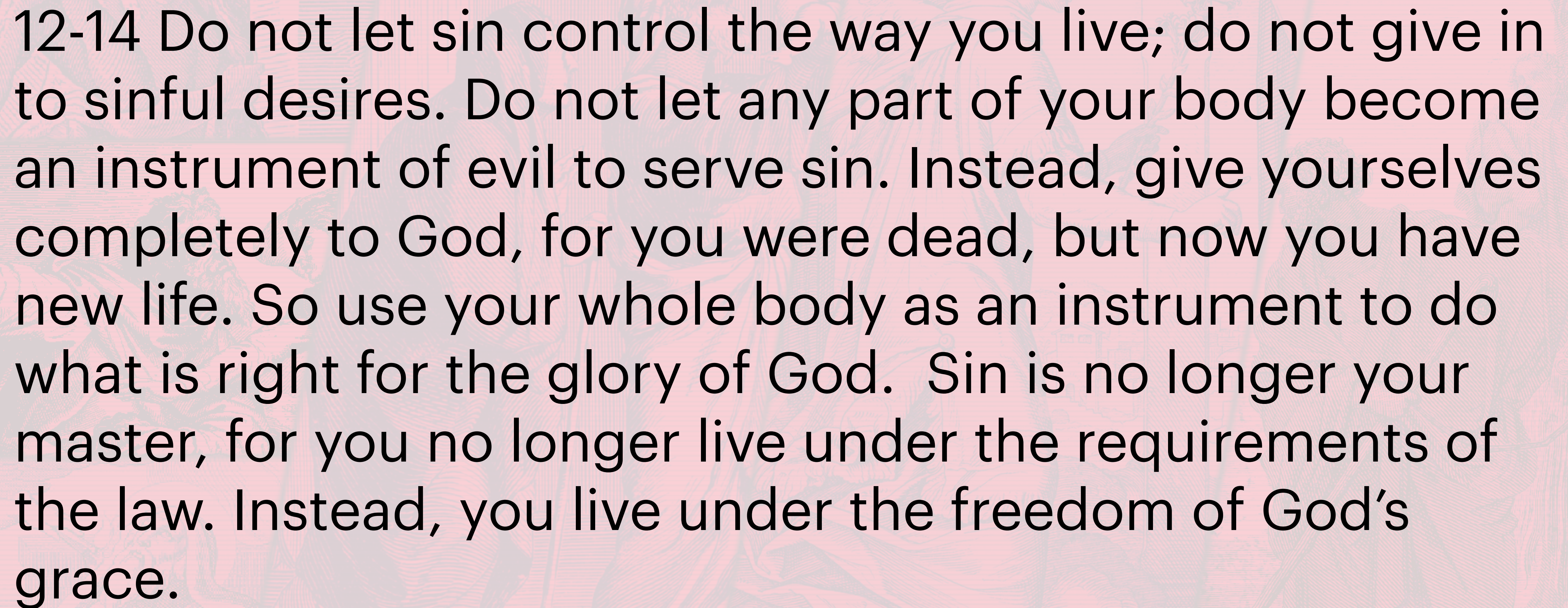
Genesis 8:21

The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart:
“Never again will I curse the ground because of humans,
even though **every inclination of the human heart is evil
from childhood**. And never again will I destroy all living
creatures, as I have done.



Romans 6:6-8, 12-14

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. 8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him...

The background features a faint, red-tinted illustration of a religious scene. It depicts several figures in traditional robes, possibly a biblical narrative, with one figure in the center appearing to be in a state of distress or being supported. The style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a detailed drawing. The entire scene is set against a dark red background with a fine, repeating pattern.

12-14 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.



4. Heavy Loss To Restoration

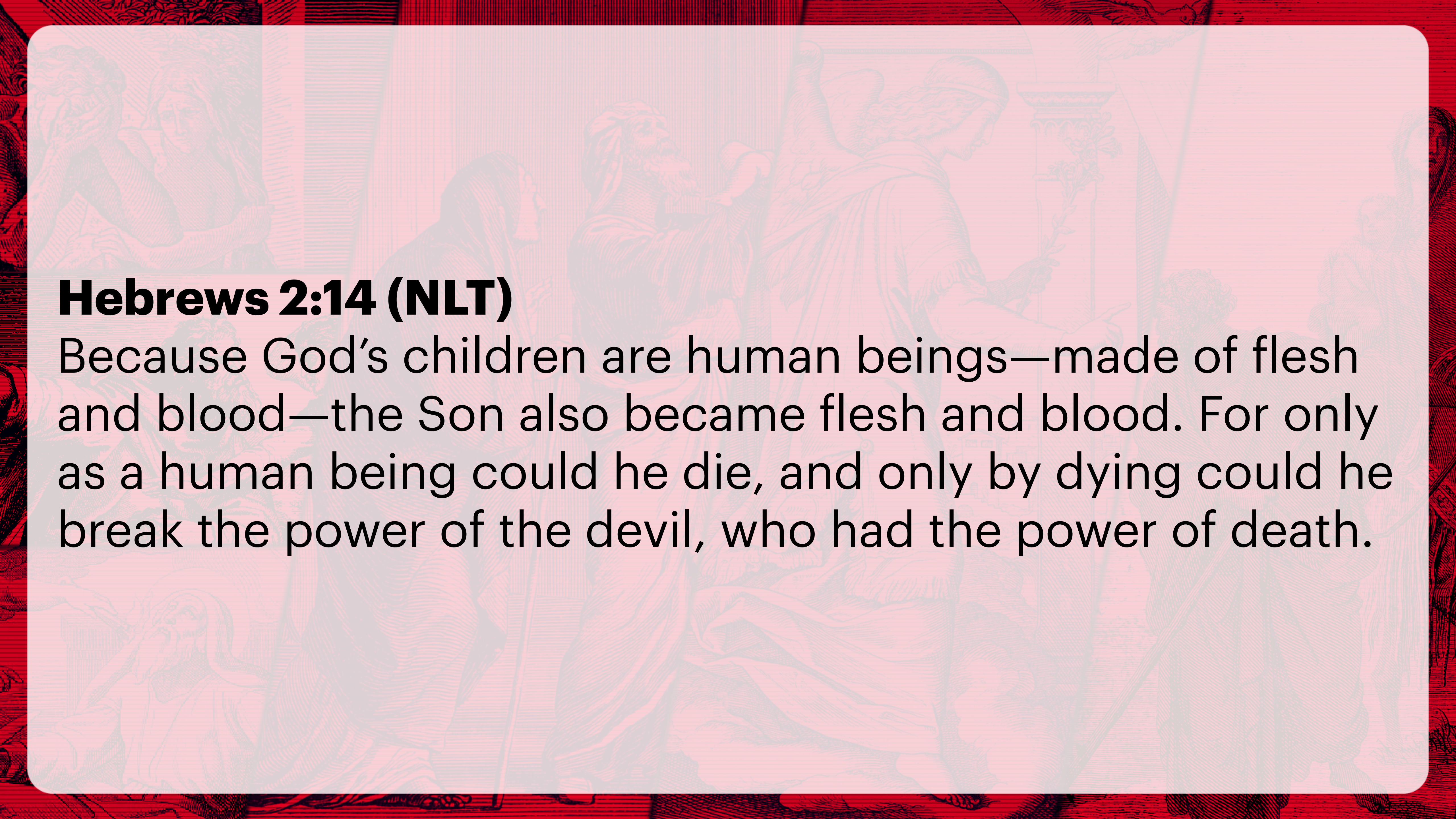


Hebrews 11:4 (NLT)

It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." **5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"**



Hebrews 2:14 (NLT)

Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.



Romans 16:20 (NLT)

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.



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