

A dense forest of tall evergreen trees, possibly spruce or fir, filling the frame. The trees are dark green and appear to be in a misty or overcast environment. A white rectangular frame is overlaid on the image, containing the text "WHY WORSHIP?".

WHY **WORSHIP?**

# The Presence of God

- Ps. 22:3 – “You are holy, you who inhabit the praises of your people.”
- Omnipresent
- Where two or three are gathered....
- 2 Chron. 5 – Cloud of Glory filling Solomon’s Temple

# The Presence of God

- Manifest Presence of God
- When God comes, He usually comes to touch lives.
- J. Hayford: “The Scriptures consistently show God calling His people to worship in His presence, that He might release, redeem, renew, and restore them.”

# 1. His presence brings Redemption

- Ps. 40:3 – “He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and will put their trust in the Lord.”
- John 12:32 – “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to me.”

## 2. His presence brings Revelation

- Ps. 40:3 – “He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see....”
- See him high and lifted up.
- Who we are in Him, and who we are to Him.

# A.W. Tozer

“Worship is an opportunity for man to invite God’s power and presence to move among those worshipping Him. Worship is the atmosphere where the saved and unsaved alike discover: their royal calling in Christ, their high destiny in life, and their fullest personal worth.”

# Psalm 40:5

Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which you have done, and your thoughts toward us. There is none to compare with you. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count.

# 2 Kings 3:11-16

But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there no prophet of the Lord here, through whom we may inquire of the Lord?” An officer of the king of Israel answered, “Elisha son of Shaphat is here. He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah.” Jehoshaphat said, “The word of the Lord is with him.” So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

Elisha said to the king of Israel, “Why do you want to involve me? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.” “No,” the king of Israel answered, “because it was the Lord who called us three kings together to deliver us into the hands of Moab.” Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not pay any attention to you. But now bring me a harpist.” While the harpist was playing, the hand of the Lord came on Elisha and he said, “This is what the Lord says....”

# 3. His Presence Brings Joy.

- Divine impartation of joy
- Ps. 16:11 – “You will show me the path of life. In your presence is the fullness of joy.”

# Isaiah 61:3

To grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion – to give them an ornament [a garland or diadem] of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit – that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God]...

# 4. His presence destroys the works of the devil.

- We are engaged in a battle.
- Principalities and powers
- Armor of God
- Psalm 8:2 Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

# Psalm 149:5-9

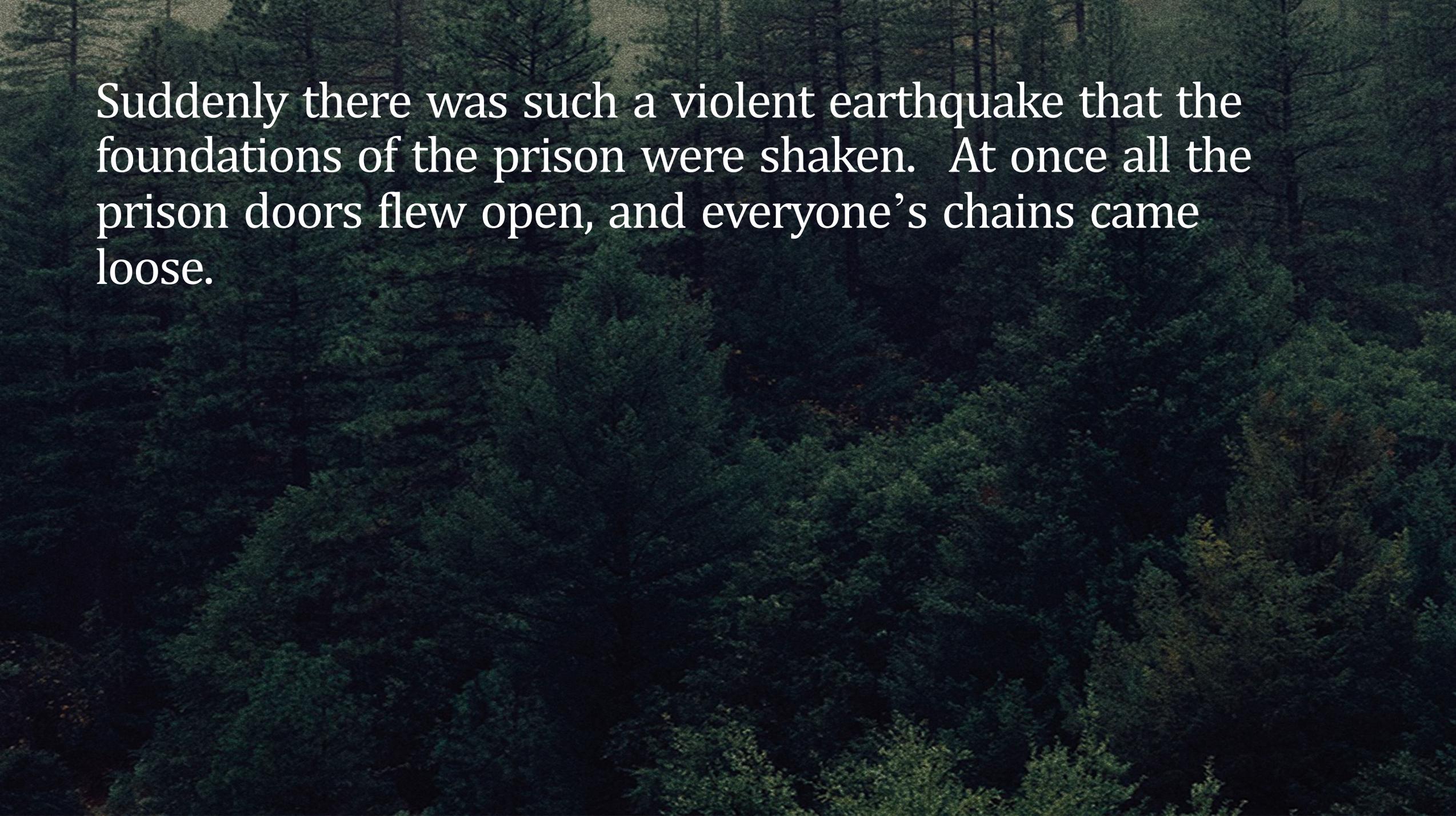
Let the godly ones exult in glory; Let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishment on the peoples, To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written; this is an honor for all His godly ones. Praise the Lord!

# 2 Chron. 20:22

When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, and they were destroyed.

# Acts 16:22-26

The Philippian magistrates ordered Paul and Silas to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

A dense forest of tall, thin trees, likely pines or firs, with a dark, moody atmosphere. The trees are closely packed, and the lighting is low, creating a sense of mystery and depth. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

# His Presence Brings

- Brings redemption
- Brings revelation
- Brings joy
- Destroys the works of the devil

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