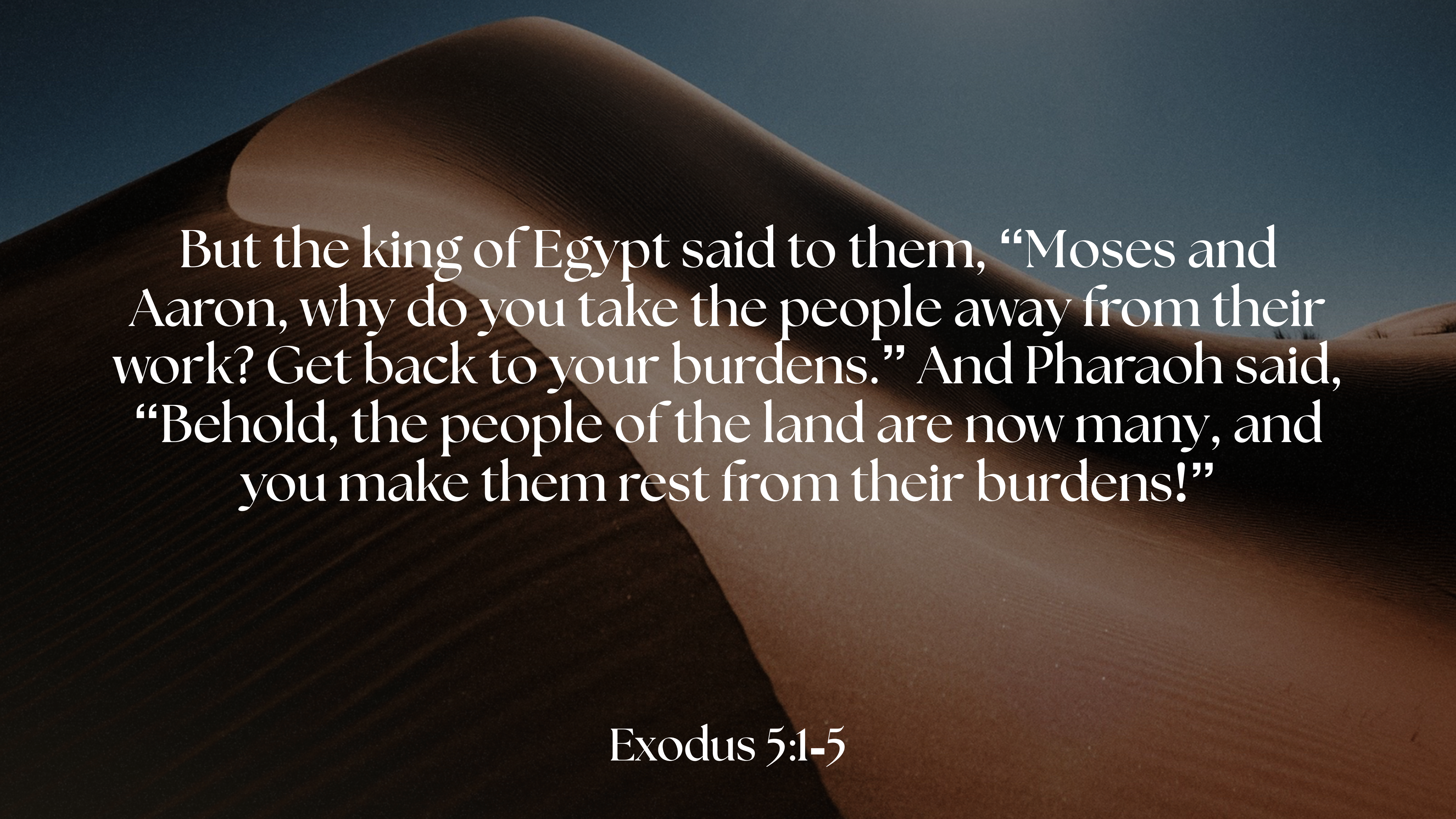


Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’” But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.” Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us.

Please let us go a three days journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”

Exodus 5:1-5

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The dunes are illuminated by warm, golden light, likely from a low sun, creating soft shadows and highlighting the texture of the sand. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall mood is serene and vast.

But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens.” And Pharaoh said, “Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!”

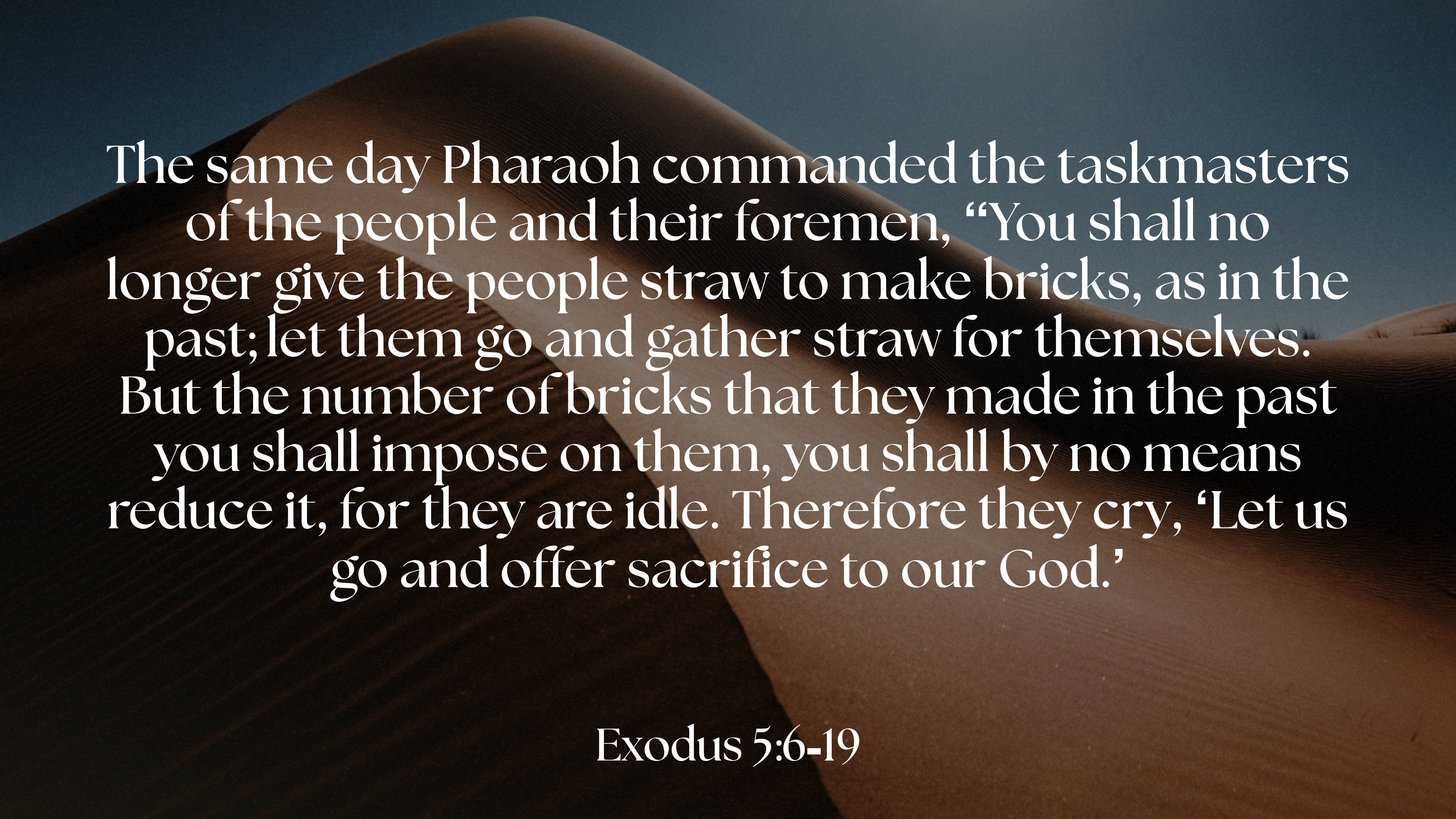
Exodus 5:1-5



I. Sometimes it gets worse before it gets better when others have no recognition of the Lord. (Ex. 5:1-5)

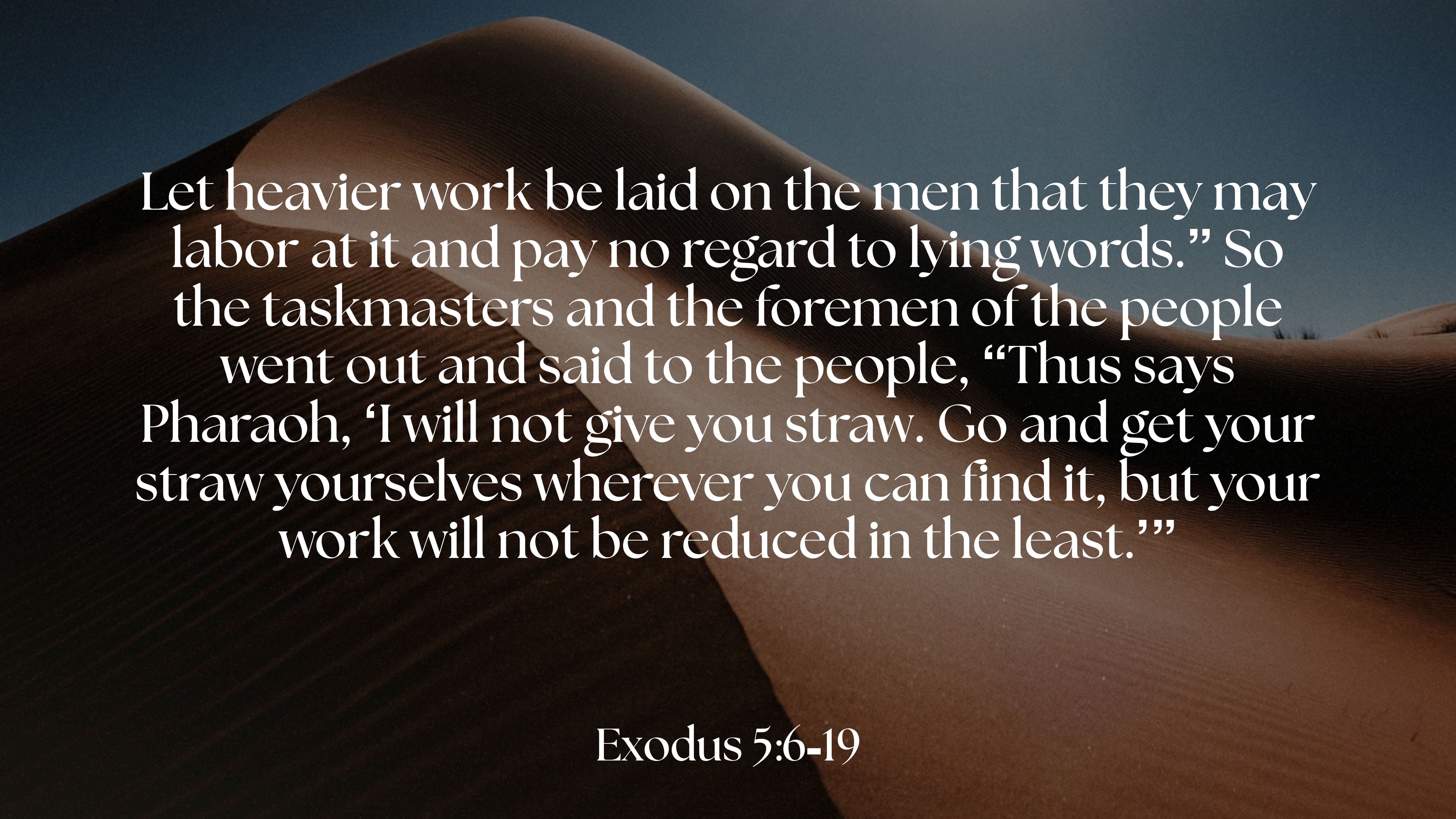
A. You will encounter some people who do not know the God of the Bible.

B. You will encounter some people who do not understand your desire to please God.

The background of the image is a photograph of a desert landscape. It features rolling sand dunes in shades of brown and tan, set against a clear, deep blue sky. The lighting suggests a bright day, with soft shadows on the dunes. The text is overlaid on this scene in a white, serif font.

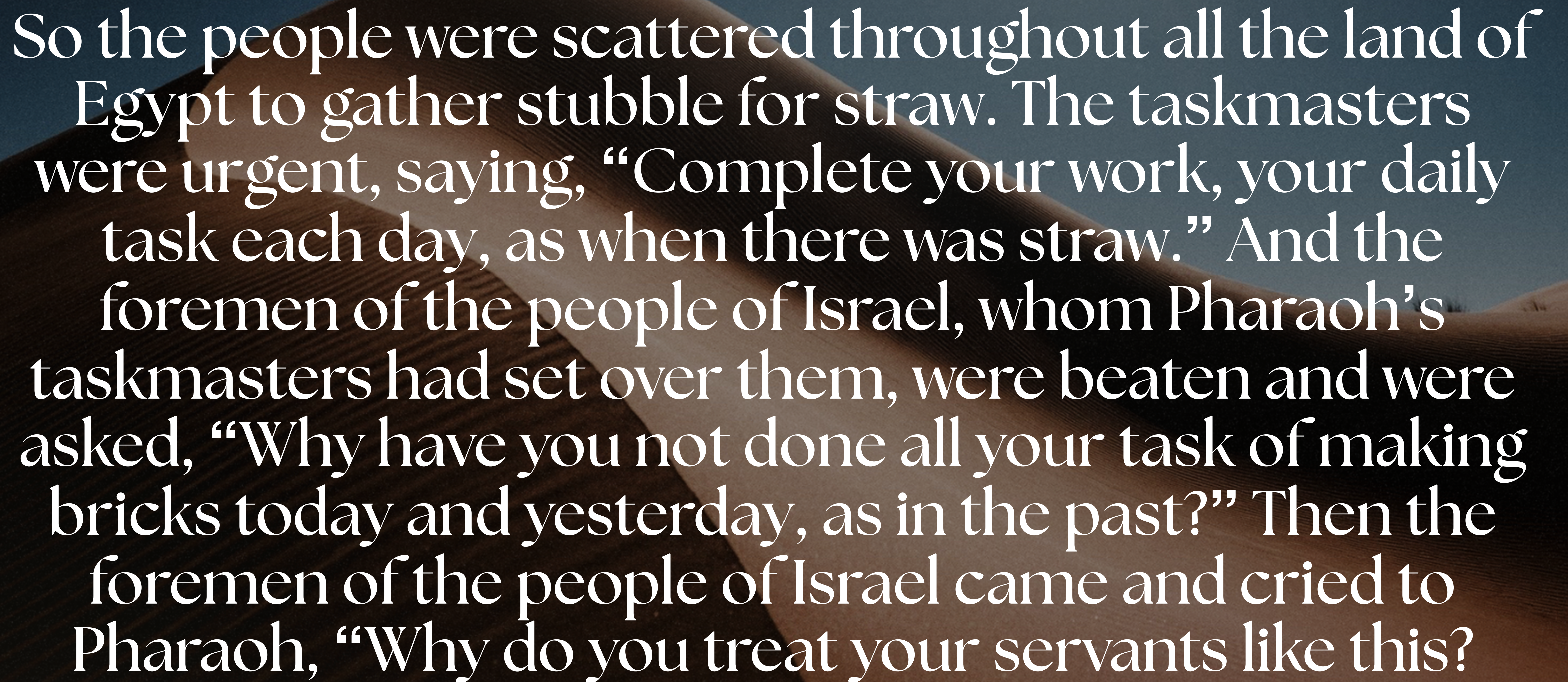
The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, “You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, ‘Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.’”

Exodus 5:6-19

A large, smooth sand dune dominates the foreground, its surface showing subtle ripples and shadows. The dune is set against a clear, deep blue sky. The overall scene is a vast, open desert landscape.

Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words.” So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, “Thus says Pharaoh, ‘I will not give you straw. Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.’”

Exodus 5:6-19



So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. The taskmasters were urgent, saying, “Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw.” And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, “Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?” Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, “Why do you treat your servants like this?”

Exodus 5:6-19

No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people." But he said, "You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.' Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks." The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, "You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day."

Exodus 5:6-19

The background of the slide is a photograph of a desert landscape. It features rolling sand dunes in the foreground and middle ground, with a clear blue sky above. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning, with soft shadows on the dunes.

II. Sometimes it gets worse before it gets better because there seems to be no relief. (Ex. 5:6-19)

A. You may be placed in a more difficult situation when you trust in God.

B. You may have to put in more hours when you are doing the will of God.

C. You may be wrongly accused when you are only trying to do what is right.

They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh; and they said to them, “The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.” Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, “O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all.”

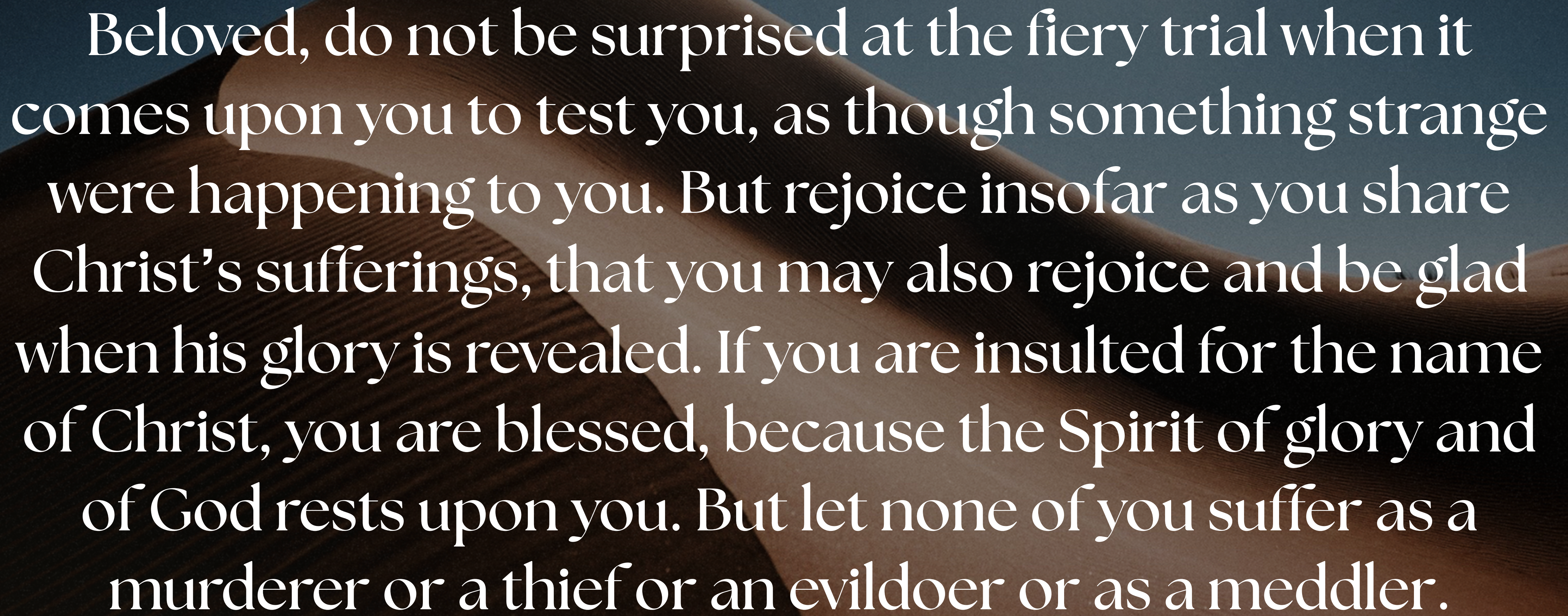
Exodus 5:20-23



III. Sometimes it gets worse before it gets better
and we begin to lose hope. (Ex 5:20-23)

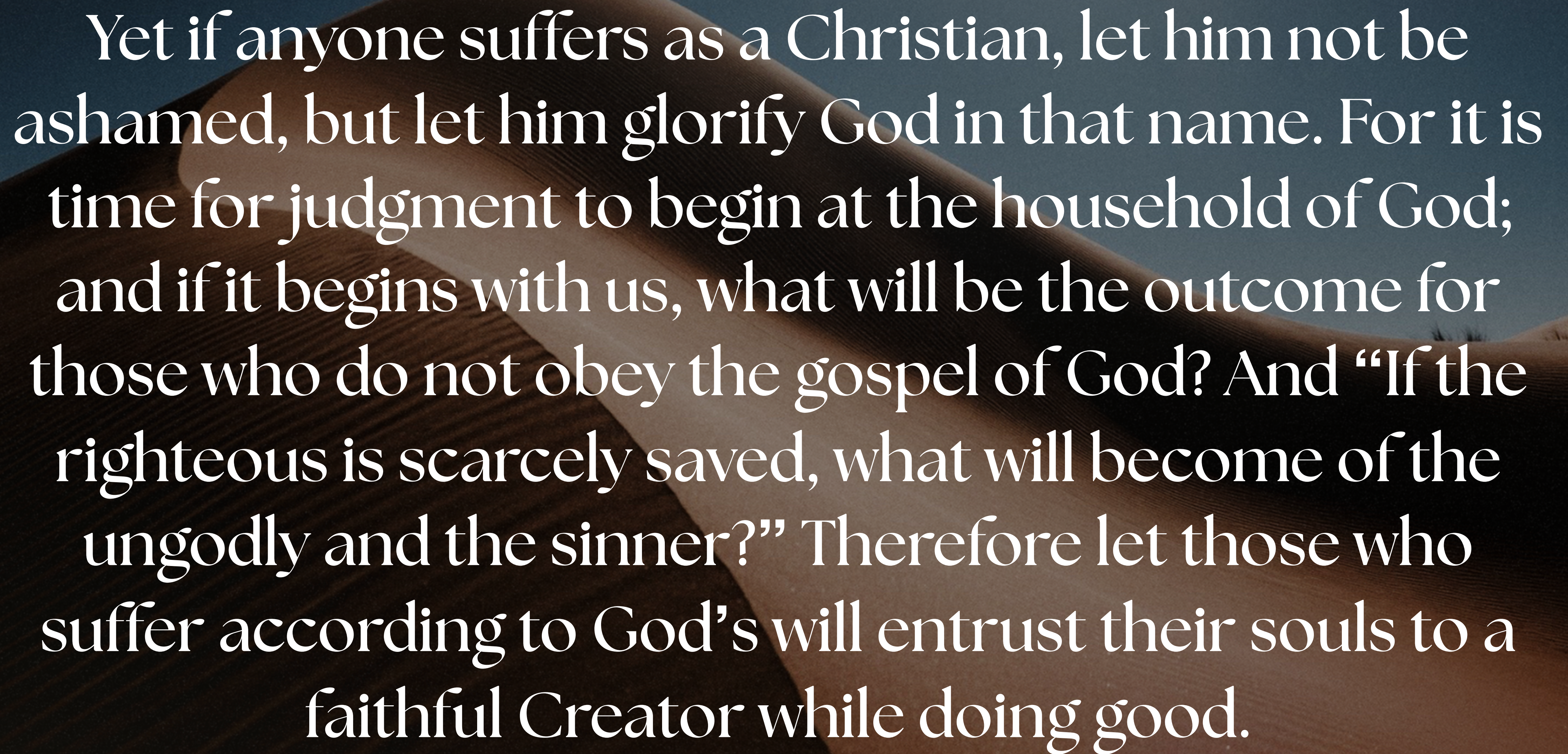
A. You may be belittled by other believers.

B. You may question God's intentions.

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages fanned out. The text is overlaid on the book in a white, serif font. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly the cover of the book or a similar material.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

1 Peter 4:12-19

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with a finger pointing to a specific line of text. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly the book's cover or a wall. The text is white and centered on the page.

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

1 Peter 4:12-19

Yes, sometimes it
gets worse before
it gets better...



Tough times come to force us to trust God completely.