

**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's special possession, that
you may declare the praises of him who called
you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

1 Peter 2:9

A photograph of a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a clear blue sky. The dunes are in the foreground and middle ground, with the sky occupying the upper half of the frame. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

DELETE
THE DRAMA
EXODUS 17:1-7

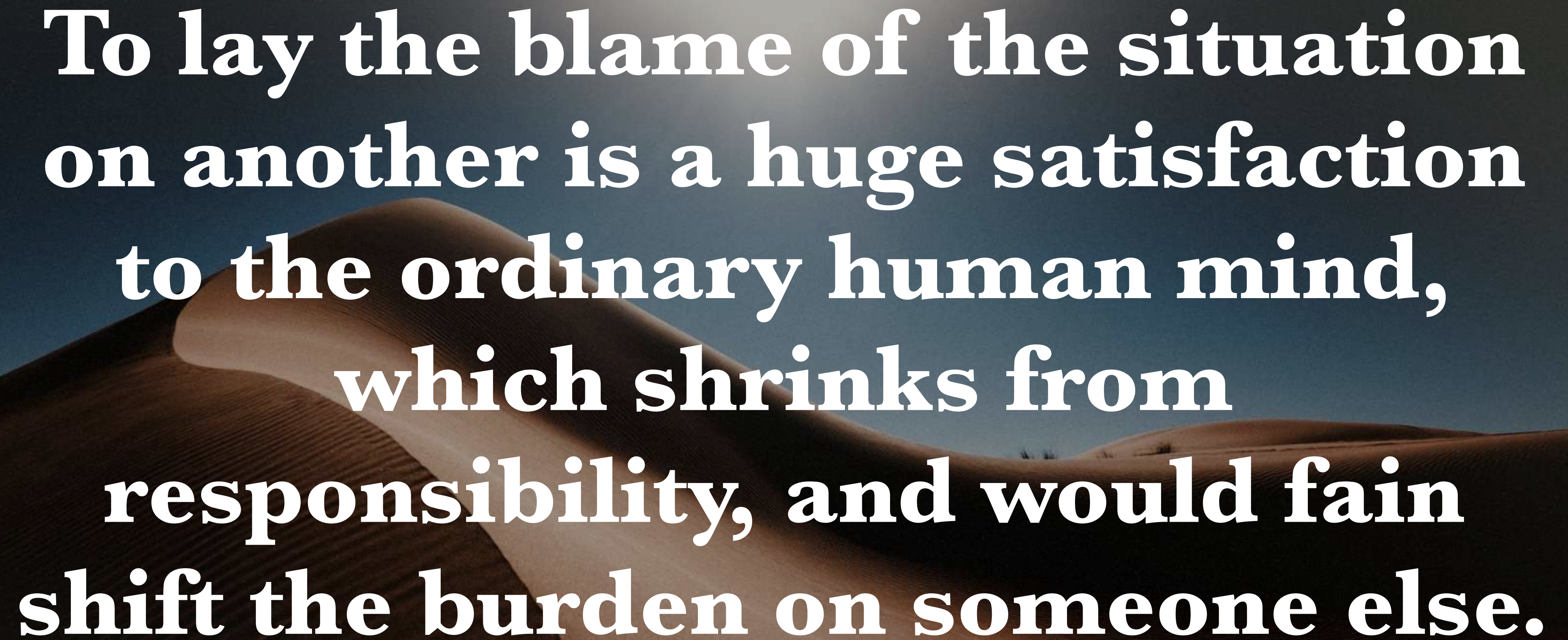
When I complain about my circumstances I confess that I am reluctant to rest in God's plan and I am hesitant to trust in God's provision.

¹ All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

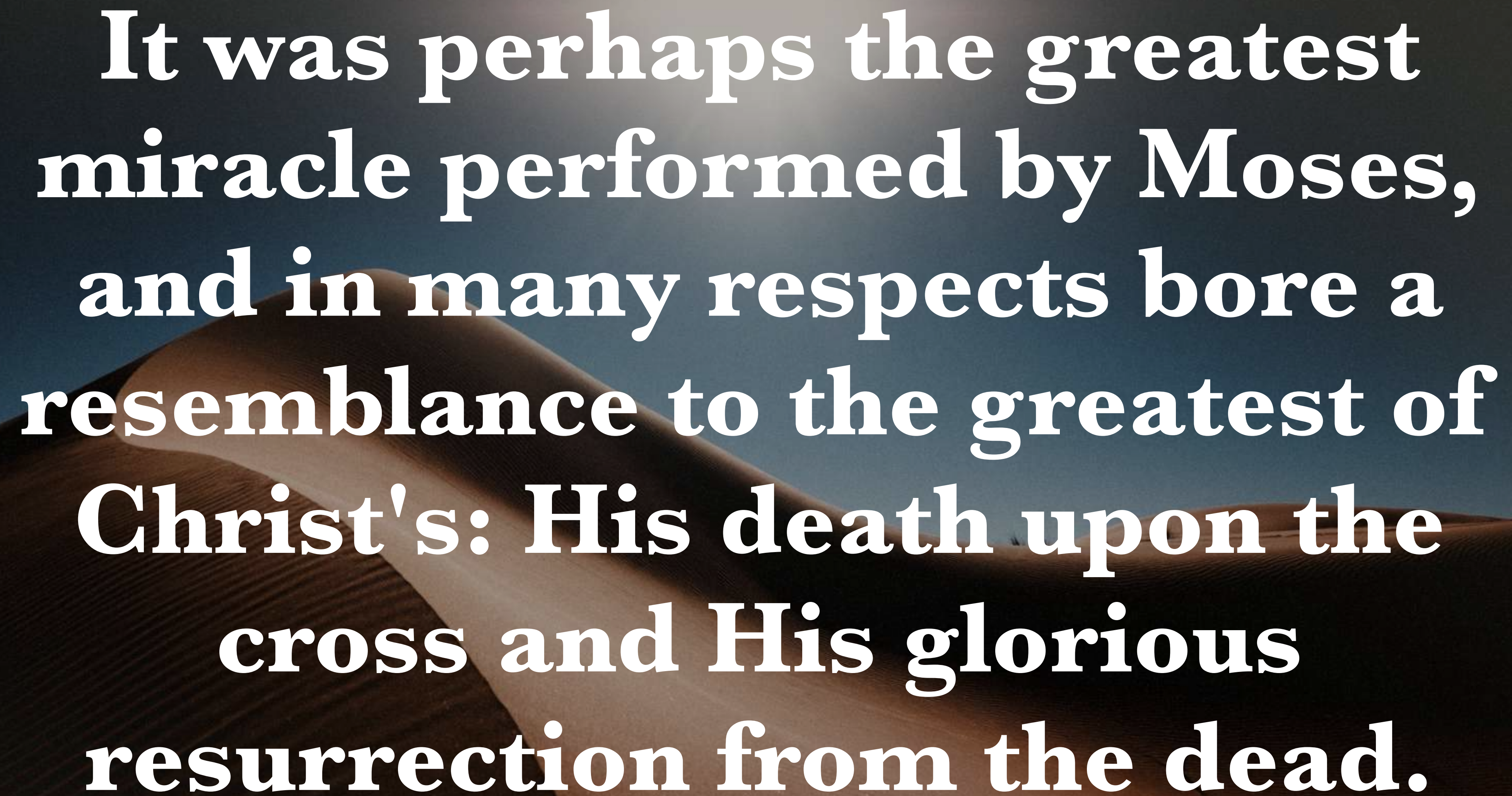
Exodus 17:1-7

⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Exodus 17:1-7

A photograph of a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a clear blue sky. The dunes are in the foreground and middle ground, with some sparse vegetation visible in the distance. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, white, serif font.

**To lay the blame of the situation
on another is a huge satisfaction
to the ordinary human mind,
which shrinks from
responsibility, and would fain
shift the burden on someone else.**



It was perhaps the greatest miracle performed by Moses, and in many respects bore a resemblance to the greatest of Christ's: His death upon the cross and His glorious resurrection from the dead.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The sun is high in the sky, creating a bright, hazy glow. The dunes are illuminated from the side, showing their texture and shadows. The overall scene is serene and vast.

Difficulty With Beliefs & Behaviors

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, ² and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

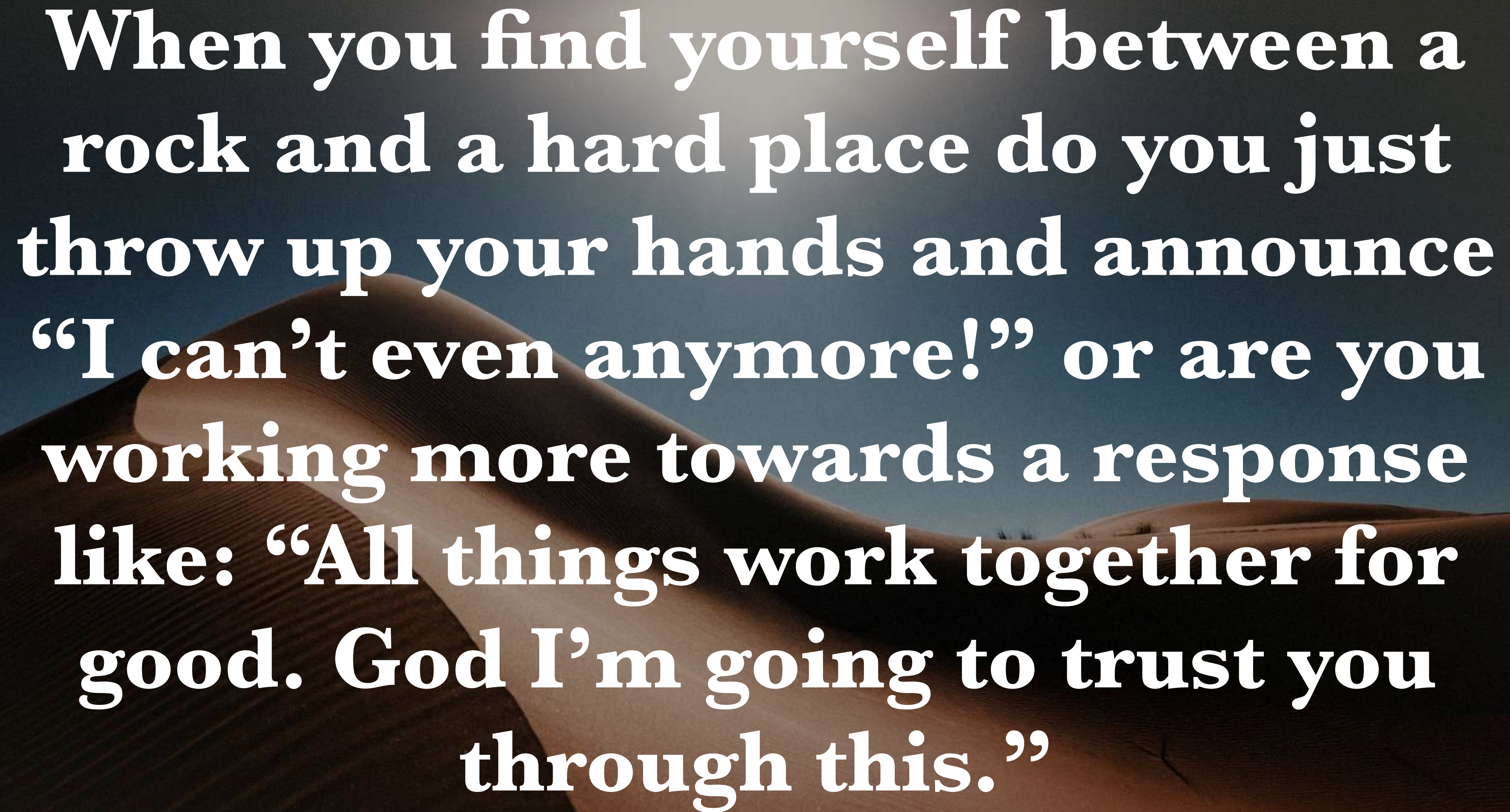
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The background is a soft, golden sunset over a desert landscape with sand dunes. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

When you find yourself between a rock and a hard place do you just throw up your hands and announce “I can’t even anymore!” or are you working more towards a response like: “All things work together for good. God I’m going to trust you through this.”

**Don't you think He would be happy
for us to accept Him just as He is?**

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