

God's
Protection

Psalms 43

March 11,

2025

Rev. Dillard

Do not fear

FOR I HAVE REDEEMED YOU,
I HAVE SUMMONED YOU BY NAME,

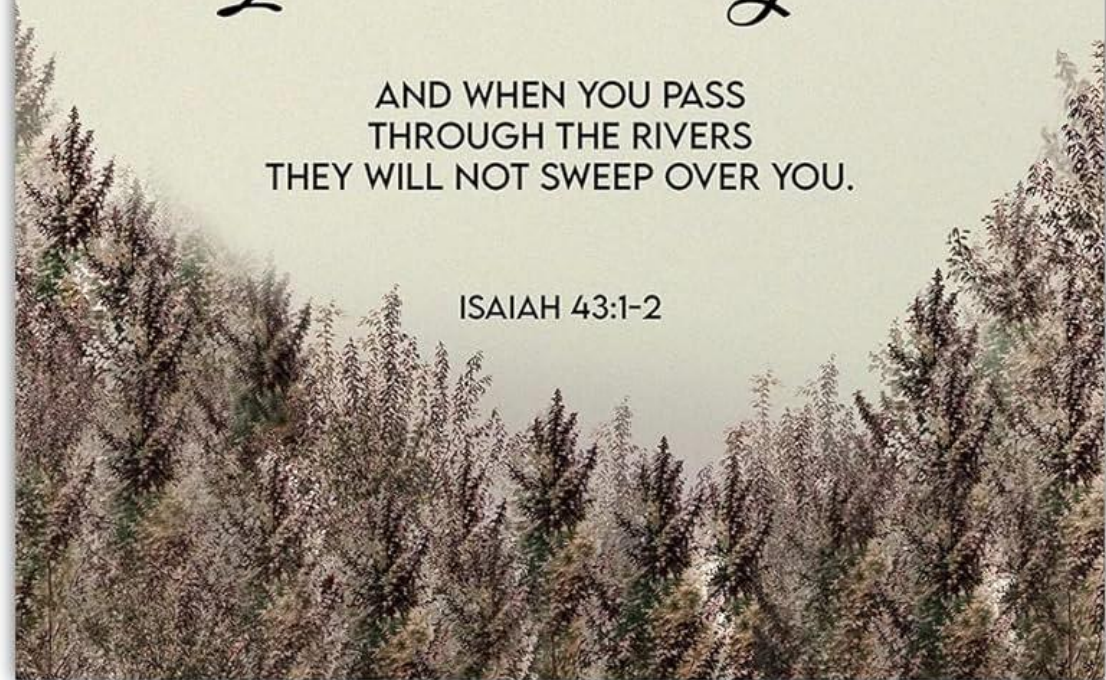
You are mine.

WHEN YOU PASS
THROUGH THE WATERS

I will be with you.

AND WHEN YOU PASS
THROUGH THE RIVERS
THEY WILL NOT SWEEP OVER YOU.

ISAIAH 43:1-2



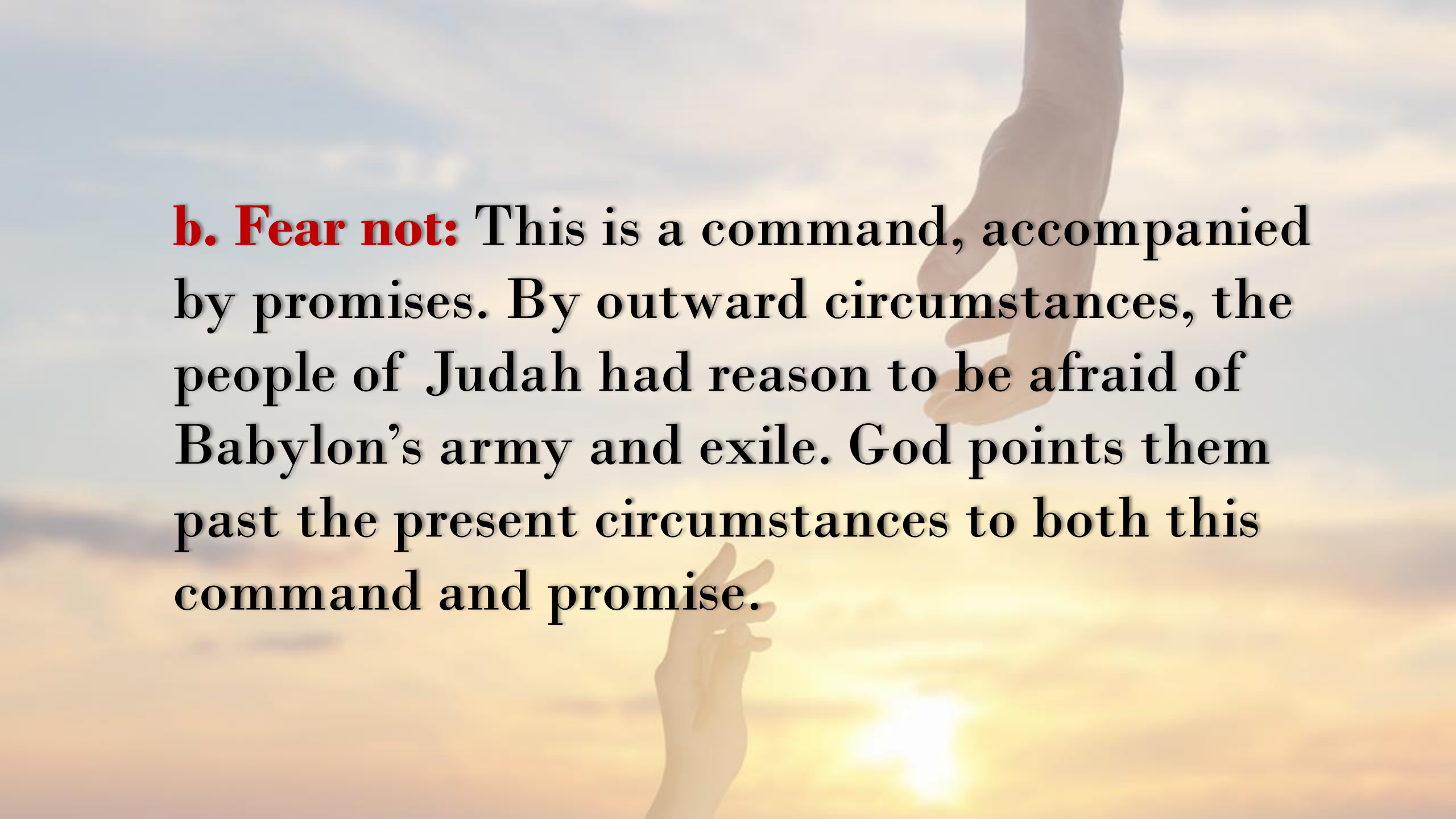
Isaiah 43

But now, thus says the Lord, who
created you, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called *you* by your name;
You *are* Mine. Isaiah 43:1 (KJV)

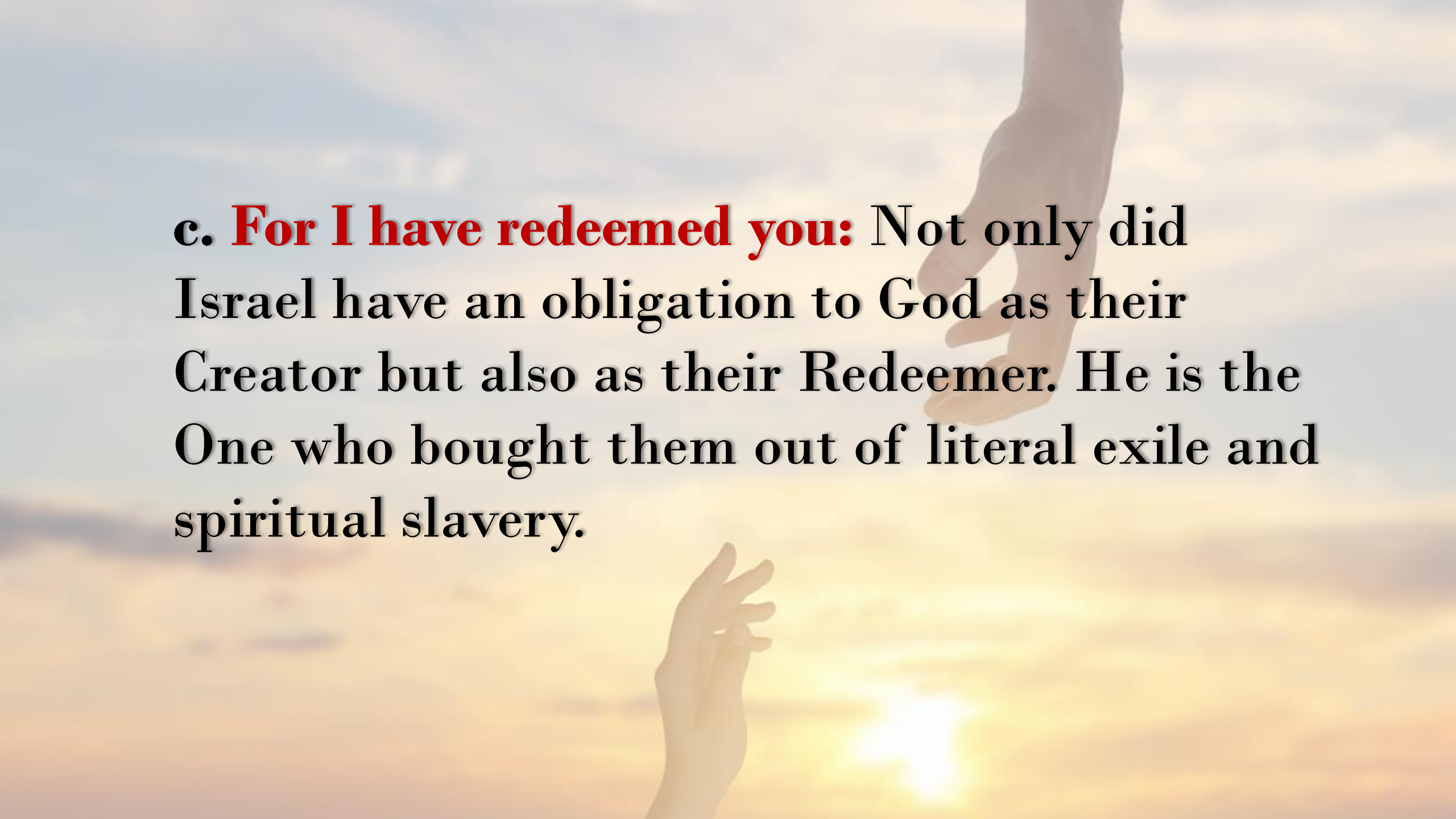
A. Reasons Not to Fear

1. Fear not, knowing you belong to the
LORD.

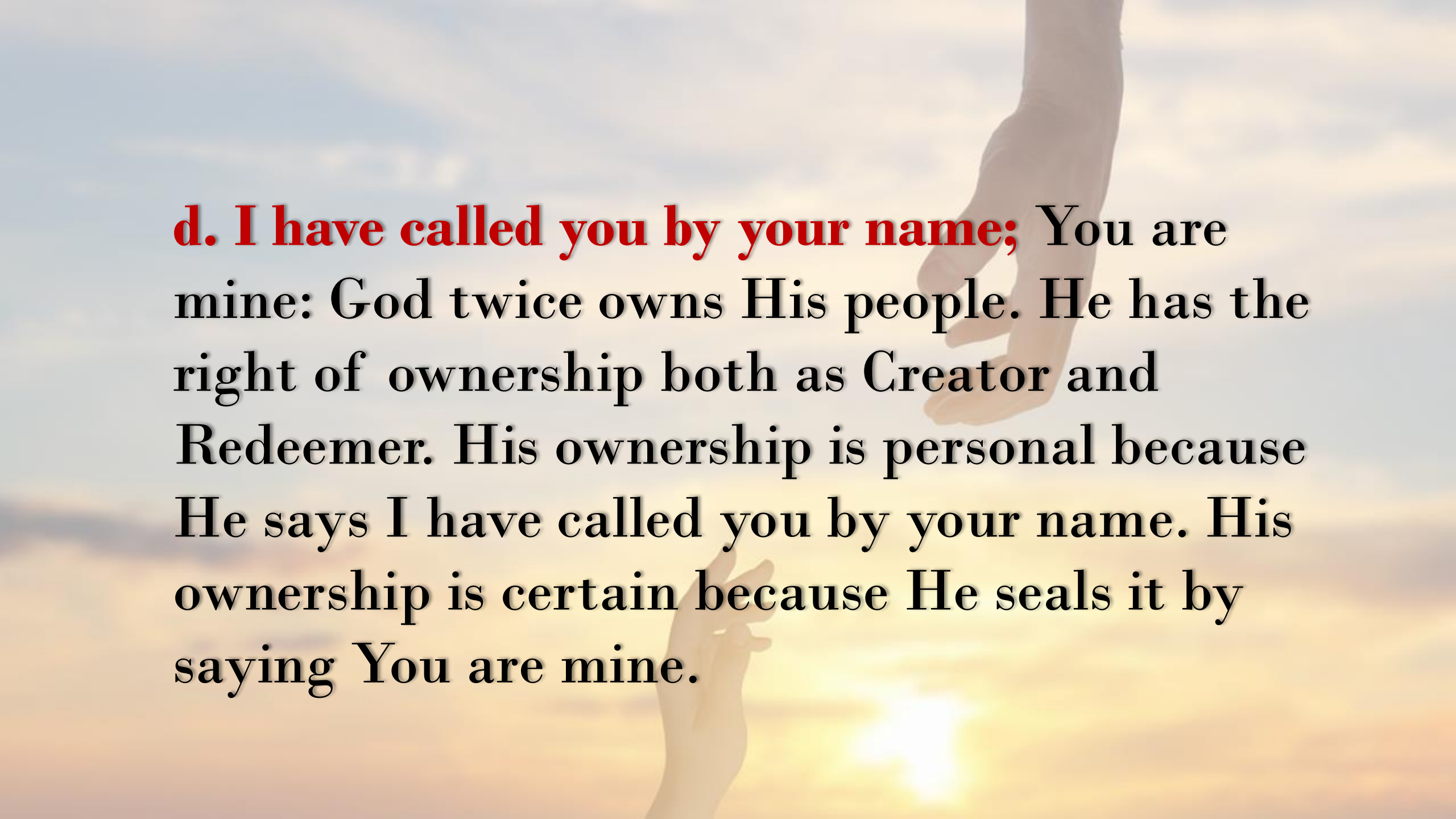
a. **Says the LORD, who created you...and He who formed you:** God speaks to His people as their Creator. God has a special and unique claim upon us because He is our Creator. When men forget or reject God as Creator, they fail in the most basic obligation they have to God.

The background of the slide features a soft, warm sunset sky with a bright sun low on the horizon. Two hands are visible, one from the top right and one from the bottom left, reaching towards each other in a gesture of support or guidance. The text is overlaid on this background.

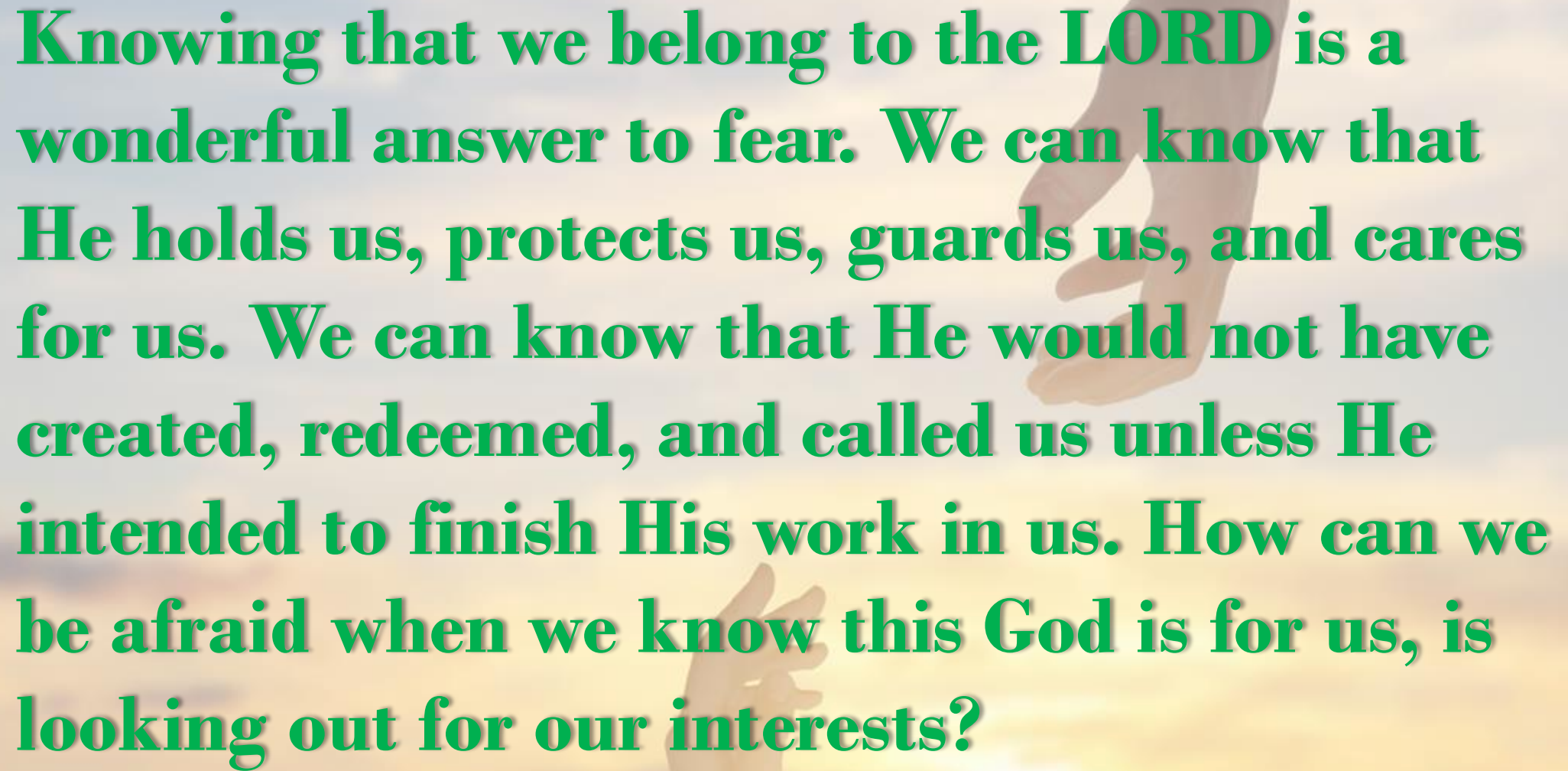
b. Fear not: This is a command, accompanied by promises. By outward circumstances, the people of Judah had reason to be afraid of Babylon's army and exile. God points them past the present circumstances to both this command and promise.



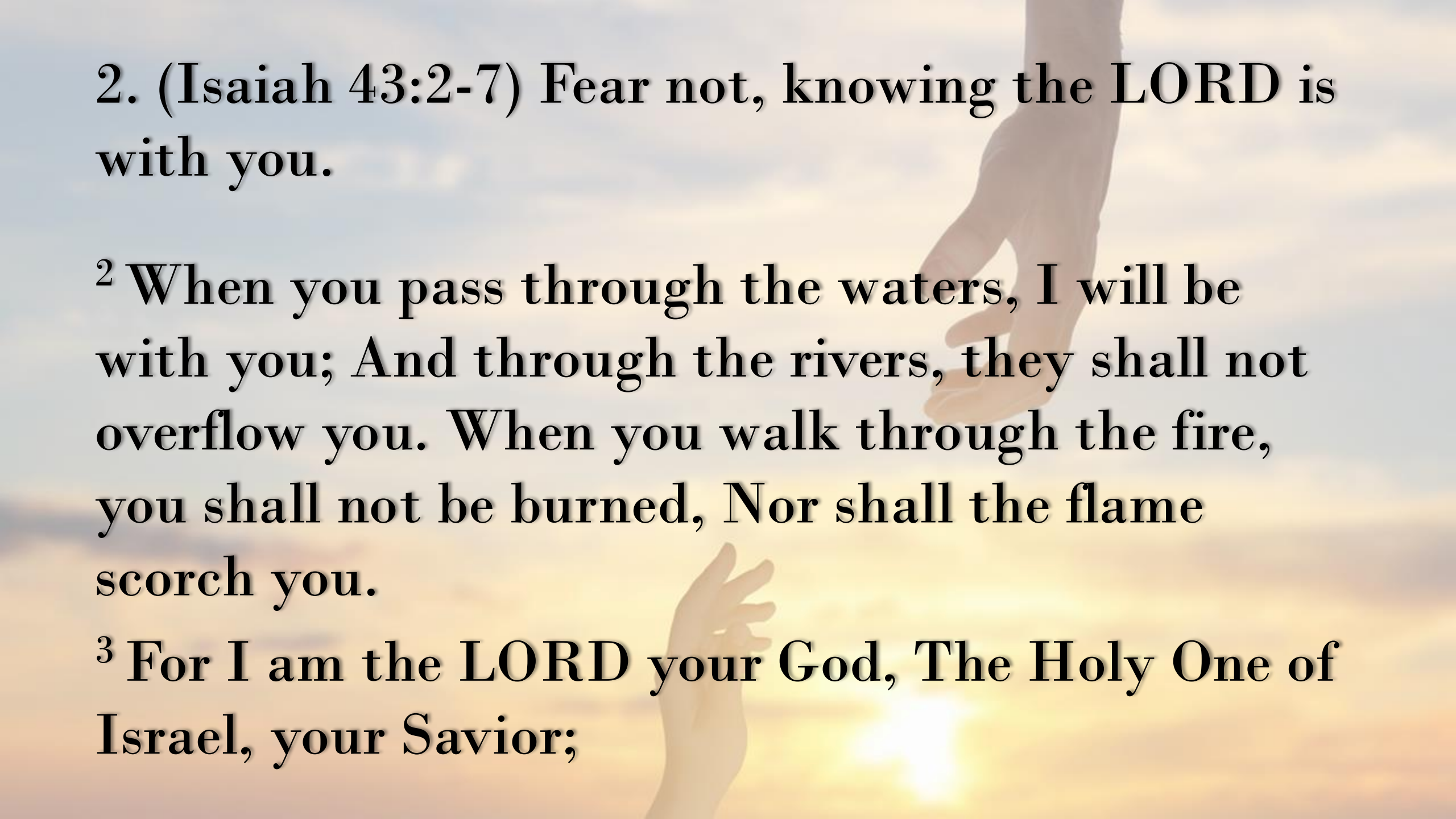
c. For I have redeemed you: Not only did Israel have an obligation to God as their Creator but also as their Redeemer. He is the One who bought them out of literal exile and spiritual slavery.

The background of the image shows two hands, one from the top right and one from the bottom left, reaching towards each other. The sky is a soft, hazy sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun visible near the bottom center. The overall tone is warm and spiritual.

d. I have called you by your name; You are mine: God twice owns His people. He has the right of ownership both as Creator and Redeemer. His ownership is personal because He says I have called you by your name. His ownership is certain because He seals it by saying You are mine.

The background of the image shows two hands, one from the top right and one from the bottom left, reaching towards each other. The hands are semi-transparent and appear to be holding or supporting each other. The background is a soft, warm sunset or sunrise sky with a bright sun low on the horizon, creating a golden glow. The text is overlaid on this background in a bold, green, serif font.

Knowing that we belong to the LORD is a wonderful answer to fear. We can know that He holds us, protects us, guards us, and cares for us. We can know that He would not have created, redeemed, and called us unless He intended to finish His work in us. How can we be afraid when we know this God is for us, is looking out for our interests?

The background of the image is a soft, warm sunset or sunrise sky. Two hands are visible, one in the upper right and one in the lower left, both reaching towards the center of the frame. The hands are semi-transparent, allowing the sky to be seen through them. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

2. (Isaiah 43:2-7) Fear not, knowing the LORD is with you.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

³ For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

2. (Isaiah 43:2-7) Fear not, knowing the LORD is with you.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

³ For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom,

2. (Isaiah 43:2-7) Fear not, knowing the LORD is with you.

Ethiopia and Seba in your place. ⁴ Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life. ⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; ⁶ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar,

2. (Isaiah 43:2-7) Fear not, knowing the LORD is with you.

And My daughters from the ends of the earth;

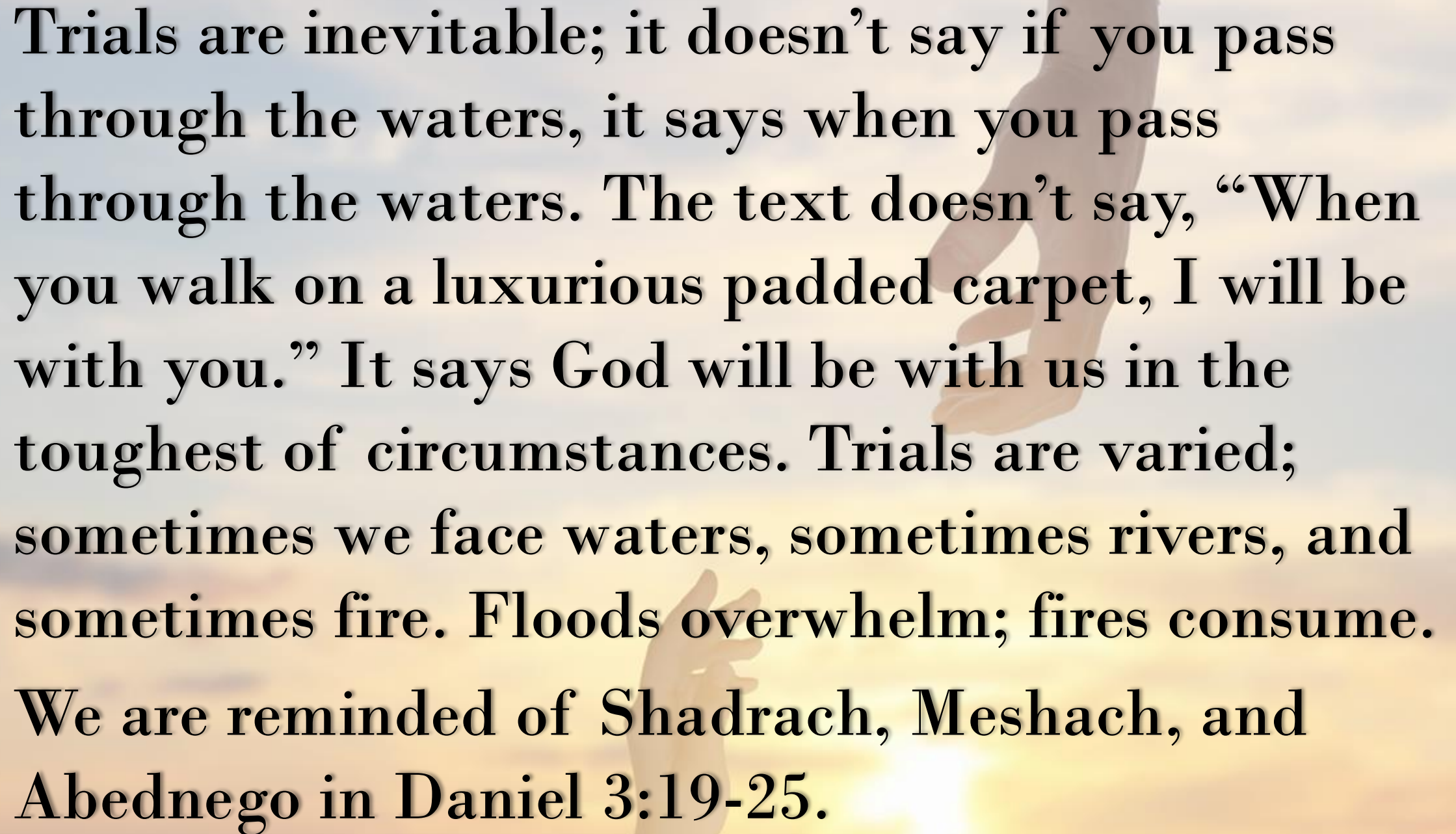
⁷ Even everyone who is called by My name,

Whom I have created for My glory;

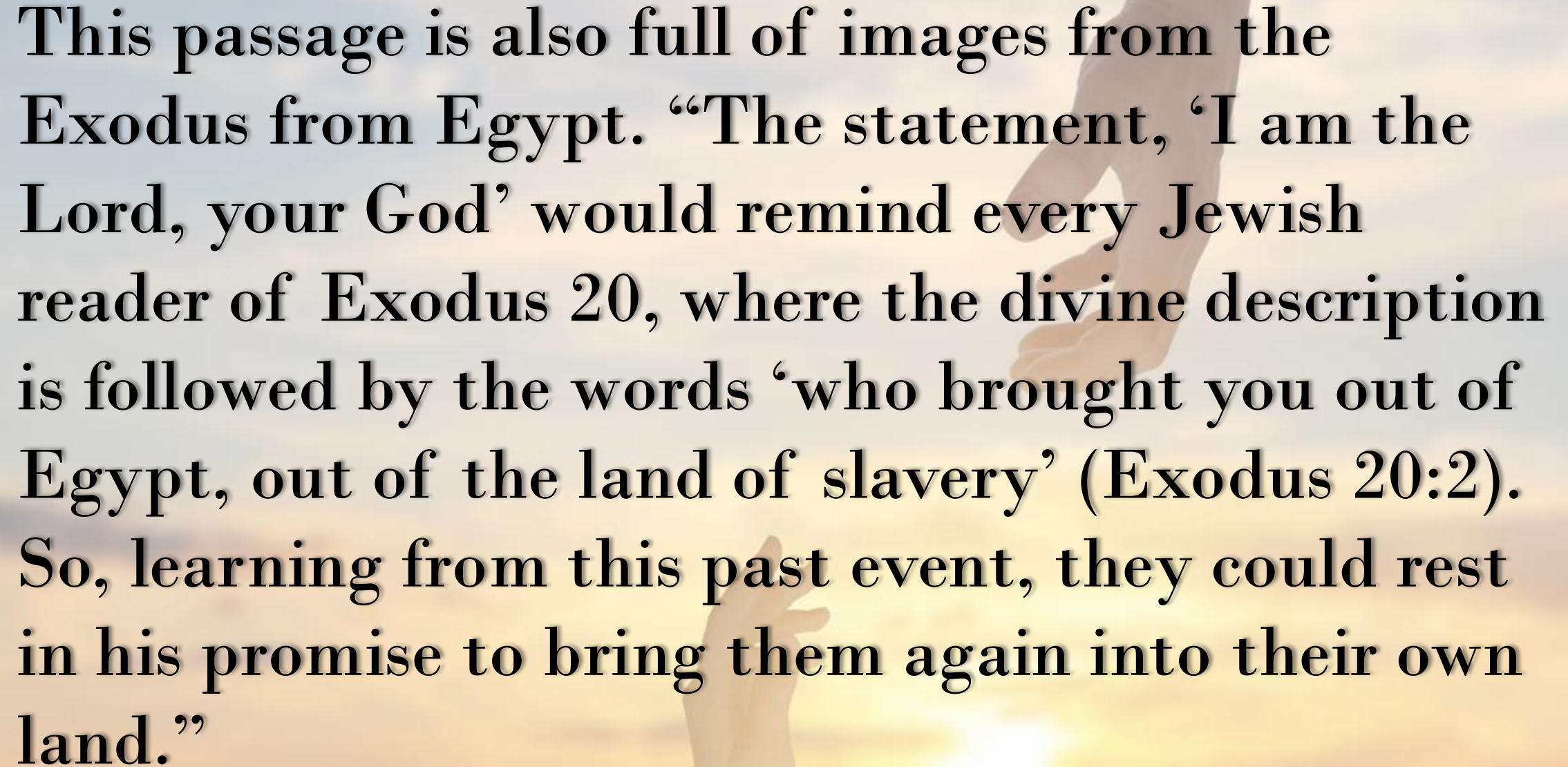
I have formed him, yes, I have made him.

2. (Isaiah 43:2-7) Fear not, knowing the LORD is with you.

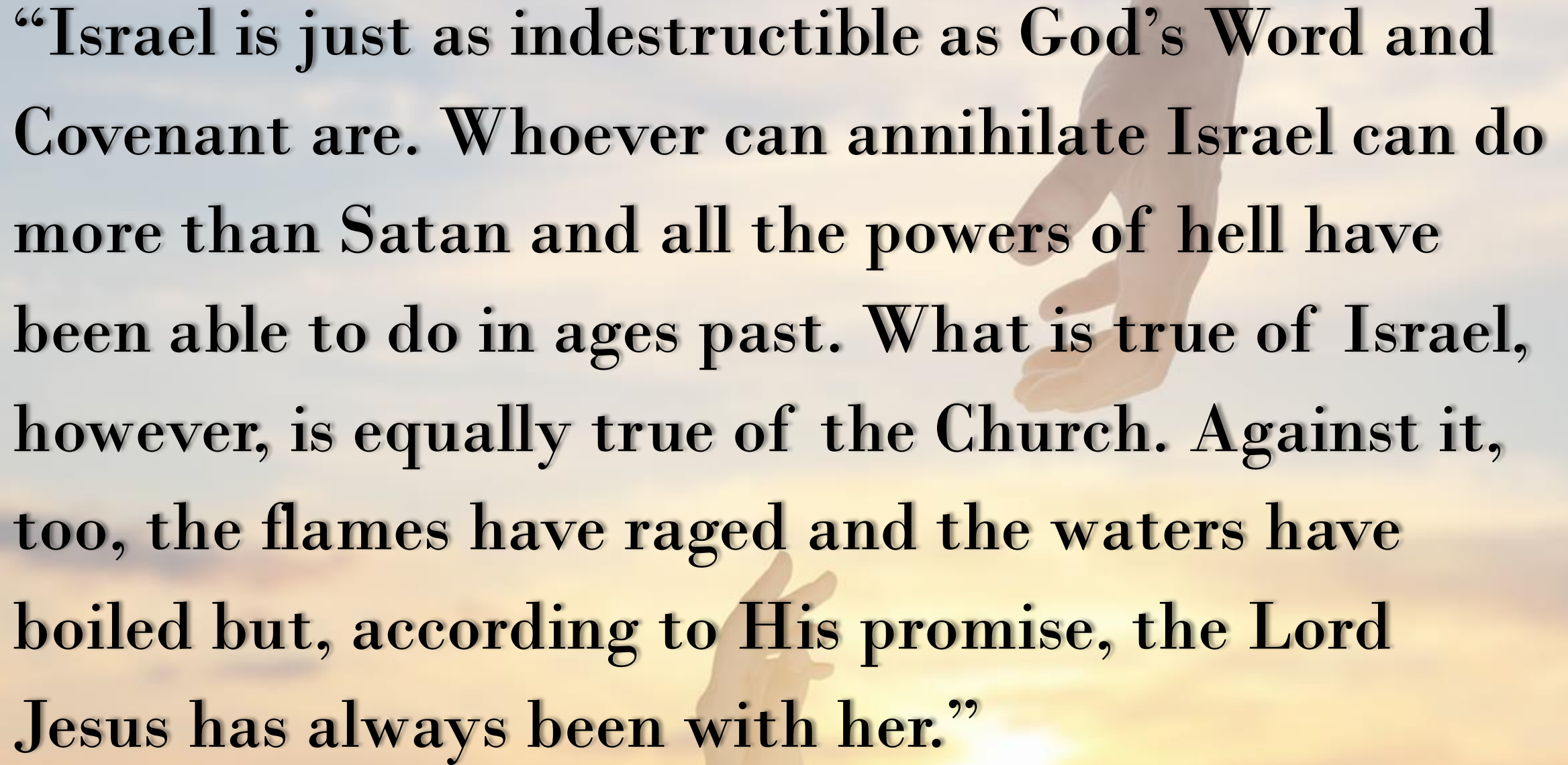
a. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you: Through any potential obstacle, God will be with us. Deep waters? I will be with you. Must you walk through the fire? Then you shall not be burned. When God is with us, He is for us, and who can be against us?



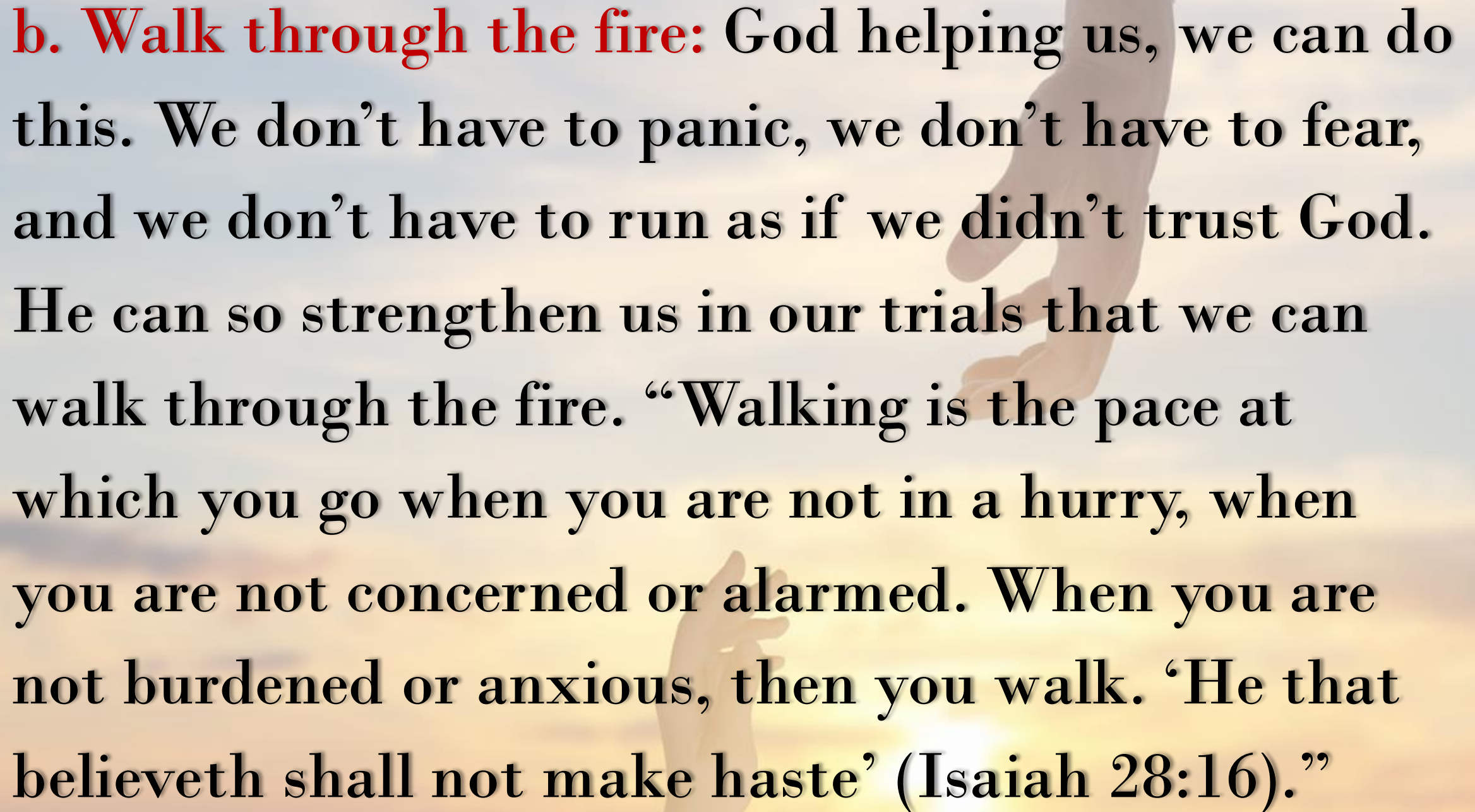
Trials are inevitable; it doesn't say if you pass through the waters, it says when you pass through the waters. The text doesn't say, "When you walk on a luxurious padded carpet, I will be with you." It says God will be with us in the toughest of circumstances. Trials are varied; sometimes we face waters, sometimes rivers, and sometimes fire. Floods overwhelm; fires consume. We are reminded of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3:19-25.

The background of the image shows a soft, warm sunset sky with a bright sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, the silhouettes of two hands are visible, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other as if to hold or support one another. The overall mood is one of hope, support, and divine presence.

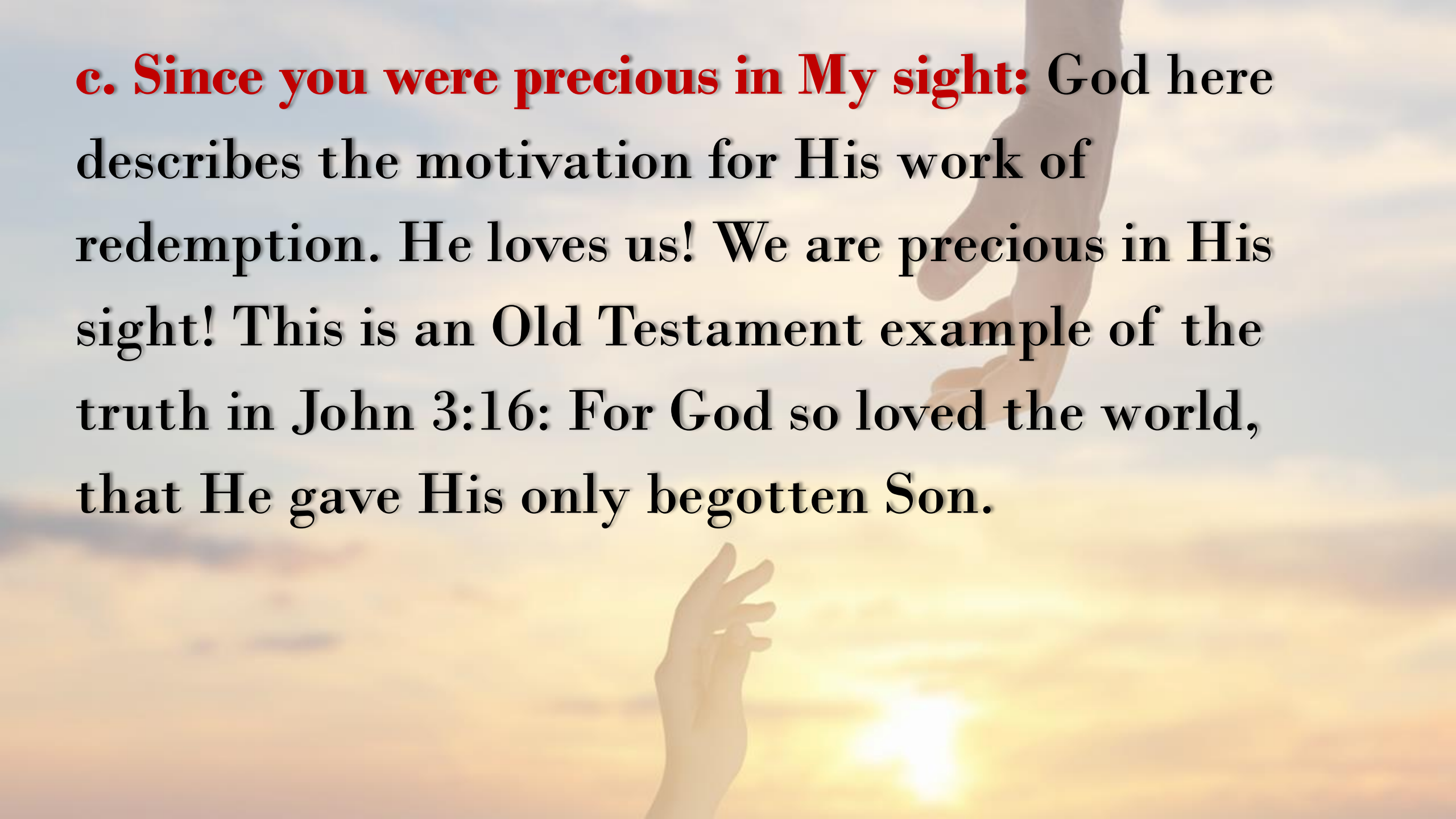
This passage is also full of images from the Exodus from Egypt. “The statement, ‘I am the Lord, your God’ would remind every Jewish reader of Exodus 20, where the divine description is followed by the words ‘who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery’ (Exodus 20:2). So, learning from this past event, they could rest in his promise to bring them again into their own land.”

A background image of a sunset with two hands reaching towards each other. The hands are positioned on the right and left sides of the frame, with fingers slightly curled as if about to clasp. The sky is a gradient of warm colors, from light yellow to a soft orange, with a bright sun visible in the lower right corner, creating a lens flare effect. The overall mood is hopeful and spiritual.

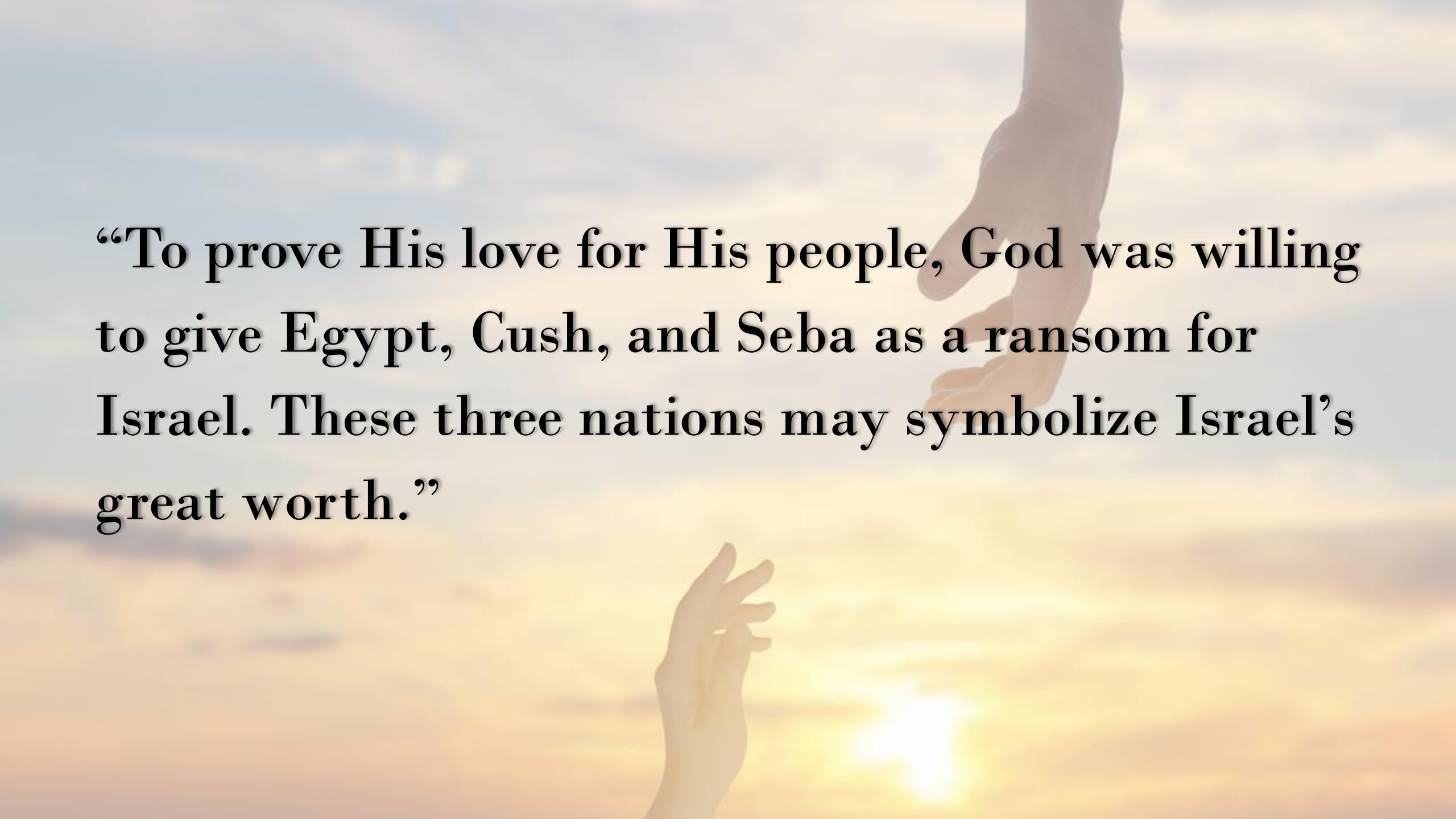
“Israel is just as indestructible as God’s Word and Covenant are. Whoever can annihilate Israel can do more than Satan and all the powers of hell have been able to do in ages past. What is true of Israel, however, is equally true of the Church. Against it, too, the flames have raged and the waters have boiled but, according to His promise, the Lord Jesus has always been with her.”



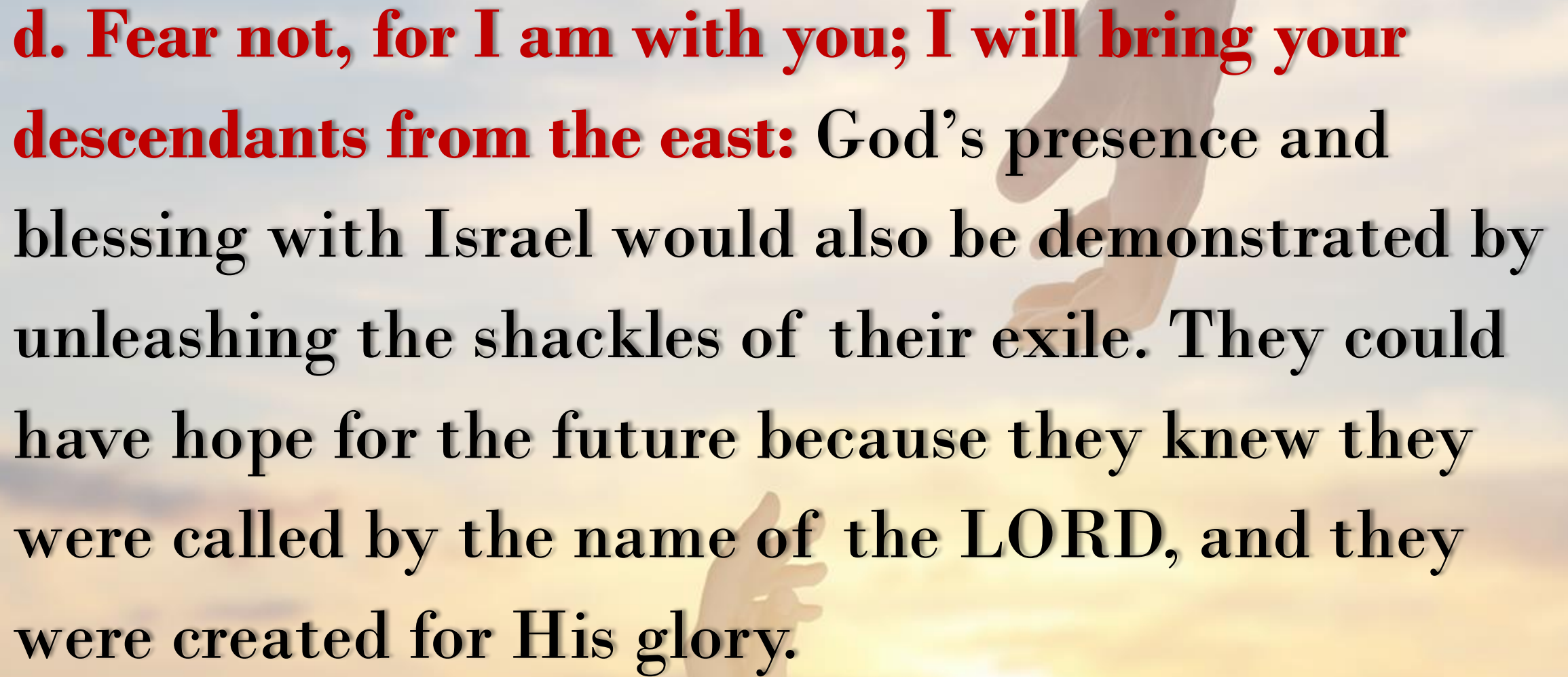
b. Walk through the fire: God helping us, we can do this. We don't have to panic, we don't have to fear, and we don't have to run as if we didn't trust God. He can so strengthen us in our trials that we can walk through the fire. "Walking is the pace at which you go when you are not in a hurry, when you are not concerned or alarmed. When you are not burdened or anxious, then you walk. 'He that believeth shall not make haste' (Isaiah 28:16)."

The background of the image shows two hands reaching towards each other against a soft, golden sunset sky. One hand is positioned higher and further to the right, while the other is lower and further to the left, creating a sense of upward movement and connection. The text is overlaid on this background.

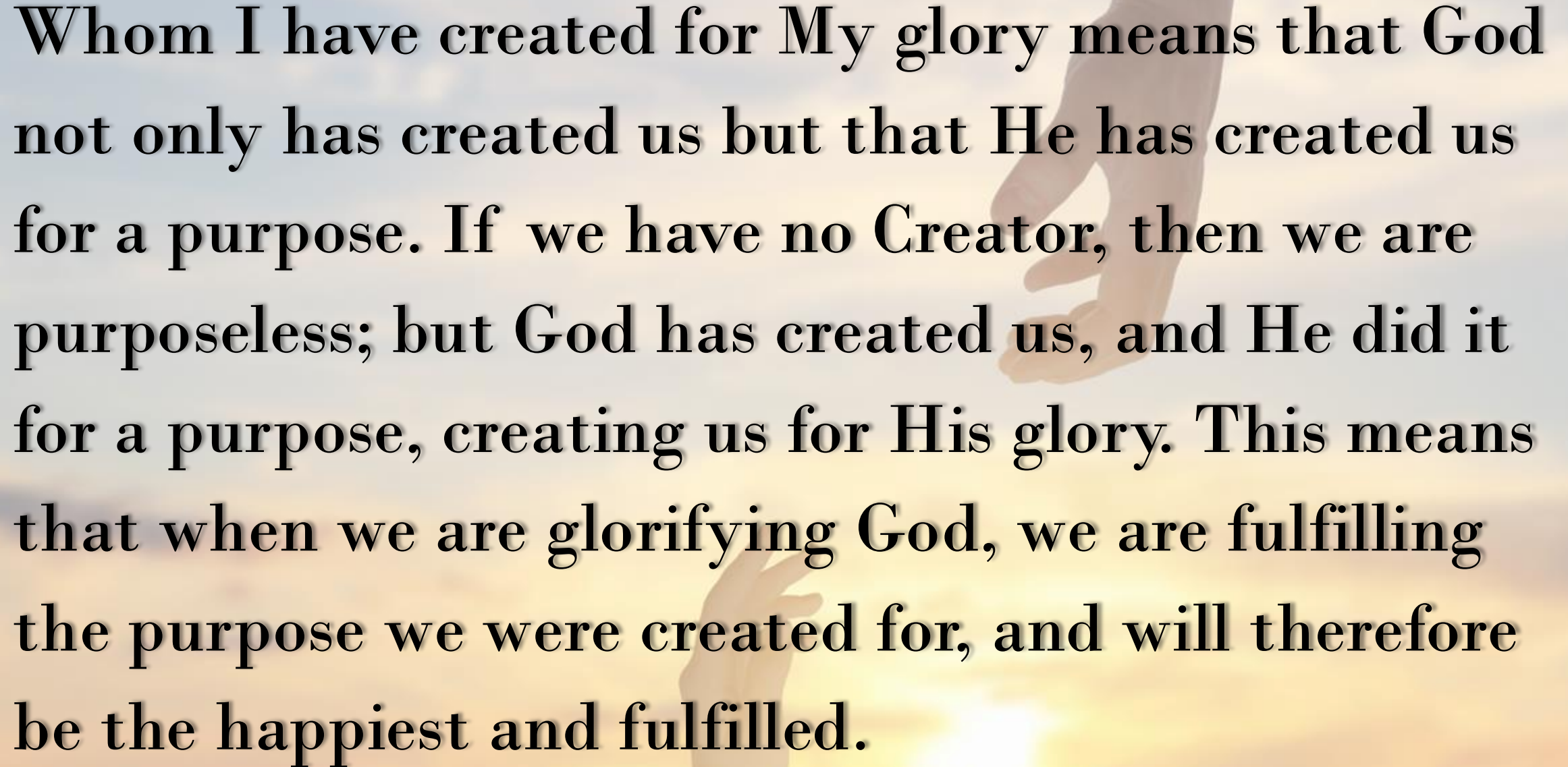
c. Since you were precious in My sight: God here describes the motivation for His work of redemption. He loves us! We are precious in His sight! This is an Old Testament example of the truth in John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.



“To prove His love for His people, God was willing to give Egypt, Cush, and Seba as a ransom for Israel. These three nations may symbolize Israel’s great worth.”

The background of the image shows two hands, one from the top right and one from the bottom left, reaching towards each other. The sky is a soft, warm gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid on this background.

d. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east: God's presence and blessing with Israel would also be demonstrated by unleashing the shackles of their exile. They could have hope for the future because they knew they were called by the name of the LORD, and they were created for His glory.

A background image showing two hands reaching towards each other against a sunset sky. The hands are positioned on the right and left sides of the frame, with fingers slightly curled as if about to grasp each other. The sky is a gradient of warm colors, from light blue at the top to bright yellow and orange near the bottom, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is hopeful and uplifting.

Whom I have created for My glory means that God not only has created us but that He has created us for a purpose. If we have no Creator, then we are purposeless; but God has created us, and He did it for a purpose, creating us for His glory. This means that when we are glorifying God, we are fulfilling the purpose we were created for, and will therefore be the happiest and fulfilled.

The background of the slide features a soft, warm sunset sky with a bright sun low on the horizon. Two hands are visible, one from the top right and one from the bottom center, both reaching towards each other in a gesture of connection or offering. The hands are semi-transparent, allowing the sky to be seen through them.

B. Witnesses to the Work of the LORD.

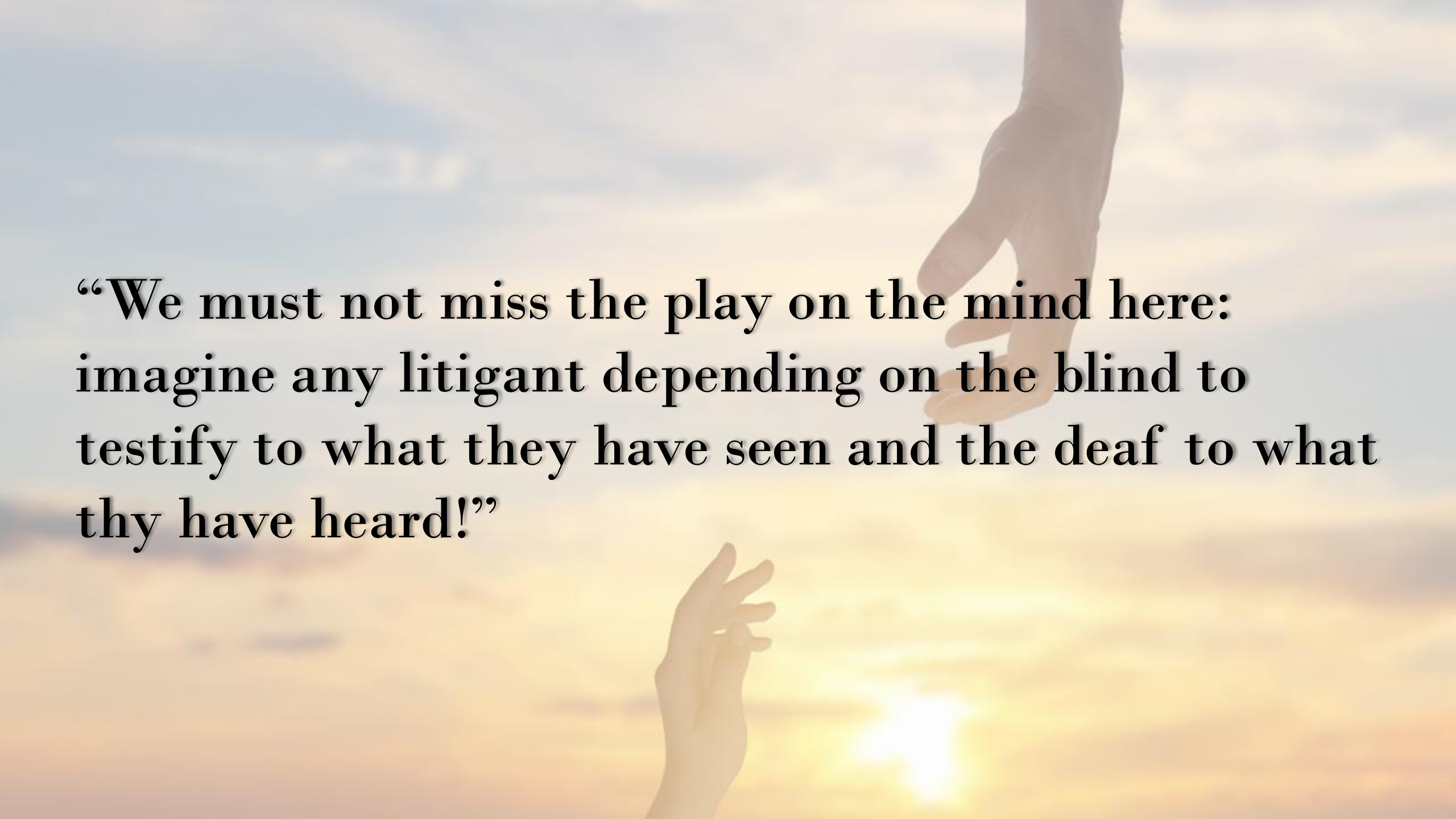
1. (Isaiah 43:8-9) The nations and the people of Israel are called to either prove their case or accept God's.

B. Witnesses to the Work of the LORD.

⁸ Bring out the blind people who have eyes, And the deaf who have ears. ⁹ Let all the nations be gathered together, And let the people be assembled. Who among them can declare this, And show us former things? Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified; Or let them hear and say, “It is truth.”

B. Witnesses to the Work of the LORD.

b. Who among them can declare this, and show us former things? Let them bring out their witnesses: God invites His people (who are blind and deaf) and the nations to testify: to prove Him to be wrong or to prove that they are justified in their rejection of Him. It is as if God is saying, “You have chosen to worship and honor other gods. Come before Me now and justify yourself. Bring plenty of witnesses.”



**“We must not miss the play on the mind here:
imagine any litigant depending on the blind to
testify to what they have seen and the deaf to what
thy have heard!”**

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

¹⁰ “You are My witnesses,” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

¹² I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you; therefore you are My witnesses,” Says the LORD, “that I am God.

¹³ Yea, before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?”

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

a. You are My witnesses: God's people had witnessed the greatness of God. If only Israel would remember the great things God had done among them, they would see each wonderful work of His as a witness to the truth that He is the only true God.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

The idol worshippers have nothing to say as witnesses because their gods can do nothing. But the people of God are witnesses of His greatness and power. They have seen it and experienced it.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

b. And My servant whom I have chosen that you may know and believe Me: A witness is a passive observer of what someone has done, and Israel had seen the great works of God. But they were more than passive observers; God called Israel to be His servant. That was why they were chosen — not to sit around and glory in their chosenness, but to serve the LORD, and to know the LORD and believe Him in every way.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

c. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me: In clear, certain words, God says that not only is He the most high God, but that there are no other gods beside Him. There are no “junior gods.” There are no “second class gods.” There was no God formed before the LORD, and there will be no God formed after Him.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Paul calls Satan the god of this age. Certainly, he does not mean Satan is a true god, a rival god to the Lord GOD. Satan can be called the god of this age because so many people regard him as god! But Paul made it clear in 1 Corinthians 8:4-5 that the idols the nations worship are merely so-called gods, and that there is no other God but one.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

This is an important point, because some — such as Jehovah's Witnesses — take the opinion that Jesus is indeed a god, but something of a “junior level god.” They will allow that He is mighty God (Isaiah 9:6), but not that He is Almighty God. But when the LORD says through Isaiah, before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me, it proves there is only one true God.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

There are figurative or metaphorical gods, such as the judges of Psalm 82. There are false gods such as the devil or the idols of the nations. But there are no true Gods apart from the LORD, Yahweh, who is One God in Three Persons. Ironically, the Jehovah's Witnesses took their title from this very passage which proves their doctrine regarding Jesus is wrong.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

d. And besides Me there is no savior: The LORD God is the only savior. Only He has declared and saved — there was no foreign god among you who did any good. He is our help and support. Sadly, we often turn to our only savior as a last resort, instead of as a first resource.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

Since Jesus is clearly our savior (Philippians 3:20, 2 Timothy 1:10), and there is no other savior beside the LORD, then Jesus must be the LORD. The LORD, Yahweh, is One God in Three Persons.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

e. Therefore, you are My witnesses: If Israel would remember that only the LORD has ever rescued them, they would not be so quick to turn to other gods and to turn away from the LORD. We should all be witnesses to the saving, rescuing, and healing work of the LORD.

2. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The LORD Commissions His Witnesses.

f. Indeed, before the day was, I am He: God's credentials go beyond His saving work on behalf of His people. He comes before time itself. Before there was ever a day, God was. So, His strength is infinitely greater than anyone else's; He can rightly say there is no one who can deliver out of My hand. When God does something, no one will reverse it.

C. The LORD Redeems a Hard-Hearted People.

1. (Isaiah 43:14-17) A promise to judge Babylon.

¹⁴ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon, And bring them all down as fugitives— The Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships. ¹⁵ I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King.”

C. The LORD Redeems a Hard-Hearted People.

1. (Isaiah 43:14-17) A promise to judge Babylon.

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea
And a path through the mighty waters, ¹⁷ Who
brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and
the power (They shall lie down together, they shall
not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched
like a wick):

C. The LORD Redeems a Hard-Hearted People.

a. For your sake I will send to Babylon: Isaiah prophesied before the Babylonians ever conquered Judah and sent the nation into a 70-year exile. Yet Isaiah prophesies, not only about the coming captivity but also beyond it to the eventual judgment upon Babylon for what they will do to Judah.

C. The LORD Redeems a Hard-Hearted People.

b. Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea:

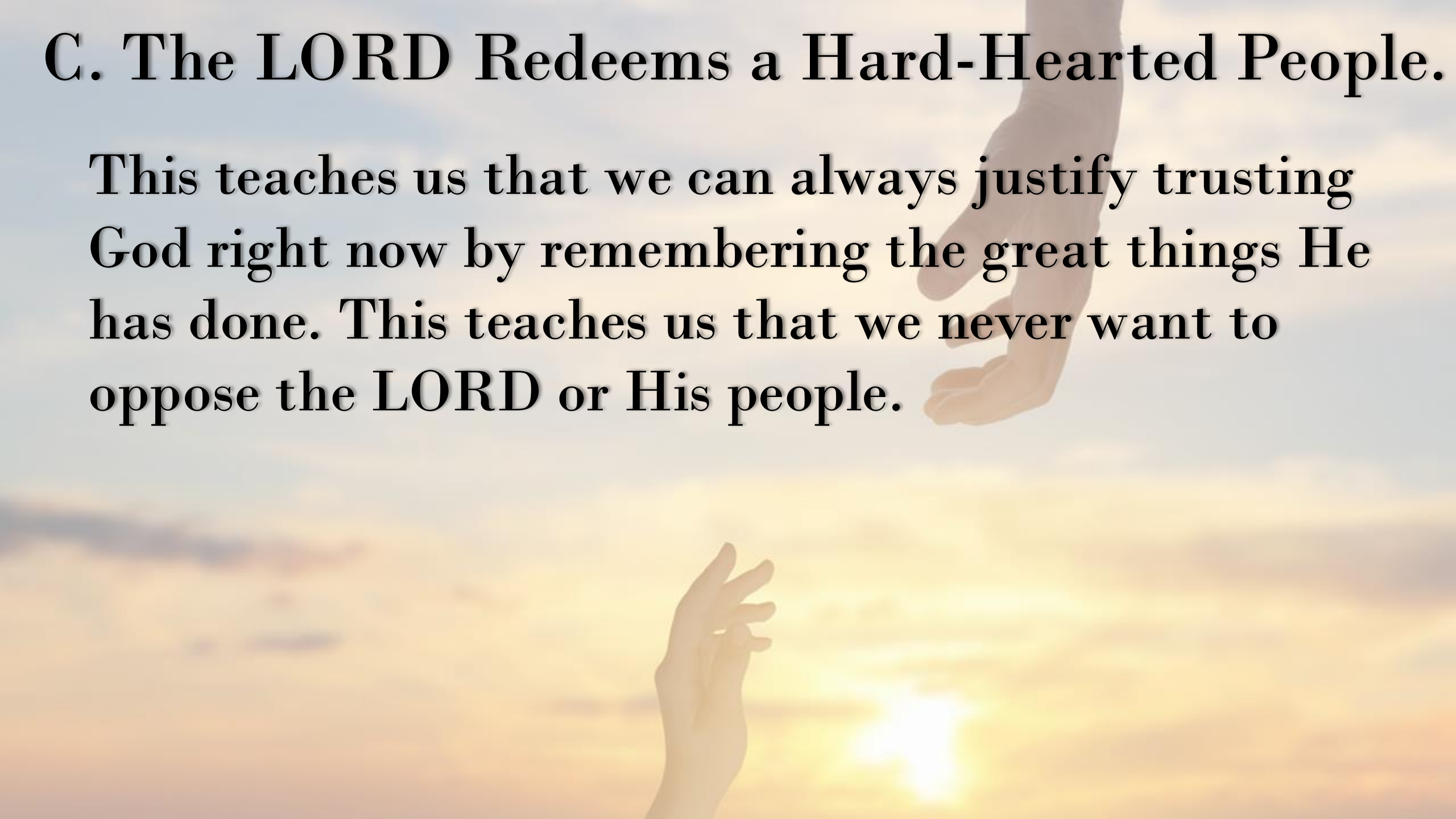
At the time Isaiah prophesied, Babylon was an up-and-coming world power. Before they would be judged, they would be a world dominating superpower. How could Israel be confident that God was up to the job of delivering them and judging Babylon? All they had to do was look at God's great works in the past, such as when He made a way in

C. The LORD Redeems a Hard-Hearted People.

the sea — when He parted the Red Sea so Israel could cross and escape the Egyptian armies (Exodus 14). Isaiah powerfully brings up these images when he writes of the chariot and the horse, the army and the power of these enemies of God's people, and how they shall lie down together...they are extinguished. Just as God overwhelmed the Egyptian armies that had enslaved Israel, so would He judge the Babylonians also.

C. The LORD Redeems a Hard-Hearted People.

This teaches us that we can always justify trusting God right now by remembering the great things He has done. This teaches us that we never want to oppose the LORD or His people.

The background of the image is a soft, warm sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is filled with golden and orange hues, and the sun is visible as a bright, glowing orb near the horizon. In the foreground, two hands are visible, reaching towards each other in a gesture of prayer or seeking help. One hand is positioned higher and further to the right, while the other is lower and further to the left, creating a sense of reaching up or out.

C. The LORD Redeems a Hard-Hearted People.

c. The LORD your Redeemer...the Holy One of Israel...your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King: In just these few verses, look at the glorious titles of God. In this passage, prophetically intended to comfort Israel in the midst of their Babylonian captivity, God powerfully put forth images of His own strength and power.

C. The LORD Redeems a Hard-Hearted People.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

¹⁸ Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. ¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

C. The LORD Redeems a Hard-Hearted People.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

²⁰ The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. ²¹ This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

a. Do not remember the former things: As Isaiah wrote prophetically to Israel, they were mired in the desperate circumstances of captivity and exile. God wanted to put their eyes on the new work He would do, so He began with a reminder to not remember the former things. If they were stuck in the failure and sin and discouragement of the past, they would never go forward to the new thing God had for them.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

It is a fascinating — and instructive — switch between Isaiah 43:16-17 and Isaiah 43:18. In Isaiah 43:16-17, Israel was told to look to the past by remembering the great things God did for them at the Red Sea. But in Isaiah 43:18, they were told, do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

This shows us that there is a sense in which we must remember the past, in terms of God's great work on our behalf. There is also a sense in which we must forsake and forget the past, with all its discouragement and defeat, and move on to what God has for us in the future.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

b. Behold, I will do a new thing: Staying stuck in the past can keep us from the new thing God wants to do. If Israel stayed stuck in the discouragement and seduction of Babylon, they would never look for the new thing of release from exile.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

We can make an idol out of the “new.” We can err as the people of Athens did who spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing (Acts 17:21). We can be tossed about by every wind of doctrine. But we can also err on the other side of the balance, and work against the new thing God wants to do.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

Shall you not know it? God asks the same question today. “Will you stay in step with My Spirit? When He leads into something new, shall you not know it?”

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

c. I will even make a road in the wilderness: Between the captivity in Babylon and the return to Israel lay hundreds of miles of wilderness. God's people didn't need to be afraid because God would make a road in the wilderness, provide rivers in the desert, and even protect His people from animals, because the beast of the field will honor Me, the LORD says.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

Often, when God makes a promise, we worry about the details or the obstacles for the fulfillment of the promise. God replies to us, “Don’t worry about it at all. I will even make a road in the wilderness. I have resources and plans you don’t know about. Leave those problems to Me.”

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

d. They shall declare My praise: This is part of fulfilling the purpose God created us for, as mentioned in Isaiah 43:7 (Whom I created for My glory). When we declare our praise for God, we are giving Him glory and fulfilling one of the purposes we were created for.

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

This passage has in view Israel's prophesied deliverance from Babylon, but also more than that. It also has in mind the ultimate deliverance, brought by the Messiah. "From all which texts laid together, it appears that this latter deliverance, compared with that out of Egypt, is not to be confined to their freedom from the Babylonian captivity,

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

but to be extended to the consequences of it, and especially to the redemption by Christ, because otherwise that Egyptian deliverance was more glorious and wonderful in many respects than the Babylonian.”

2. (Isaiah 43:18-21) God Promises His Exiled People a New Work.

but to be extended to the consequences of it, and especially to the redemption by Christ, because otherwise that Egyptian deliverance was more glorious and wonderful in many respects than the Babylonian.”

God's Protection

Psalms 43

PART 2

Next Week

Do not fear

FOR I HAVE REDEEMED YOU,
I HAVE SUMMONED YOU BY NAME,

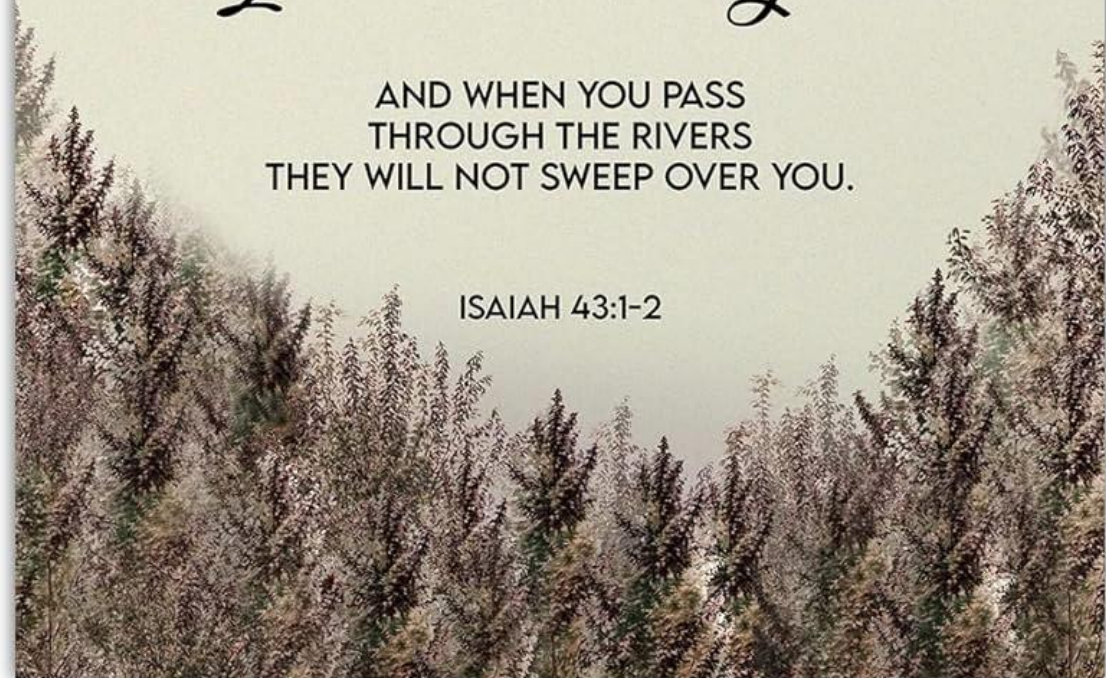
You are mine.

WHEN YOU PASS
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THEY WILL NOT SWEEP OVER YOU.

ISAIAH 43:1-2



SOMETIMES

REJECTION

IS

GOODS

PROTECTION

BE THANKFUL
AND NEVER COMPLAINING
APPRECIATE WHAT YOUR HAVE

