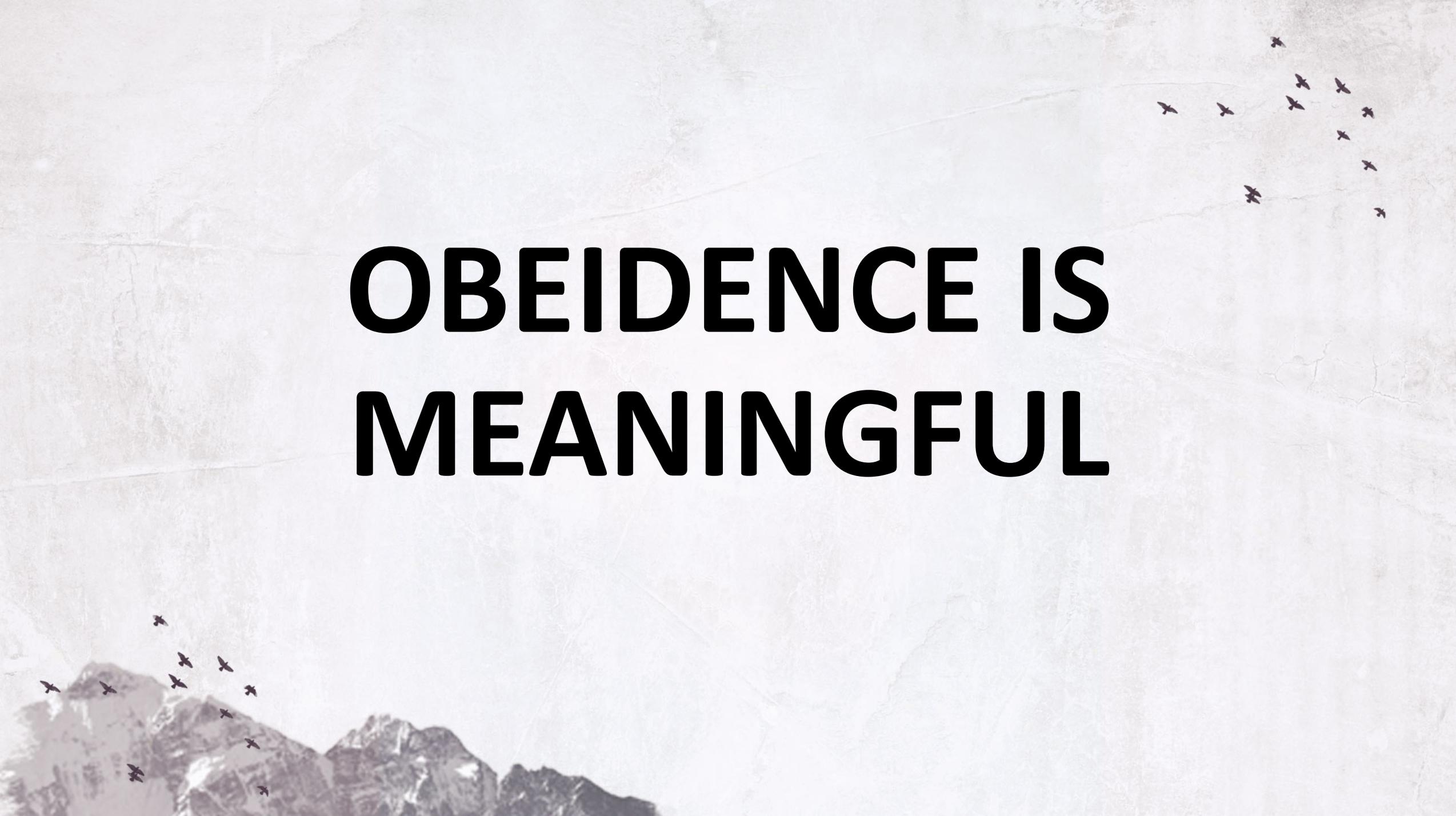




# ECCELESIASTES

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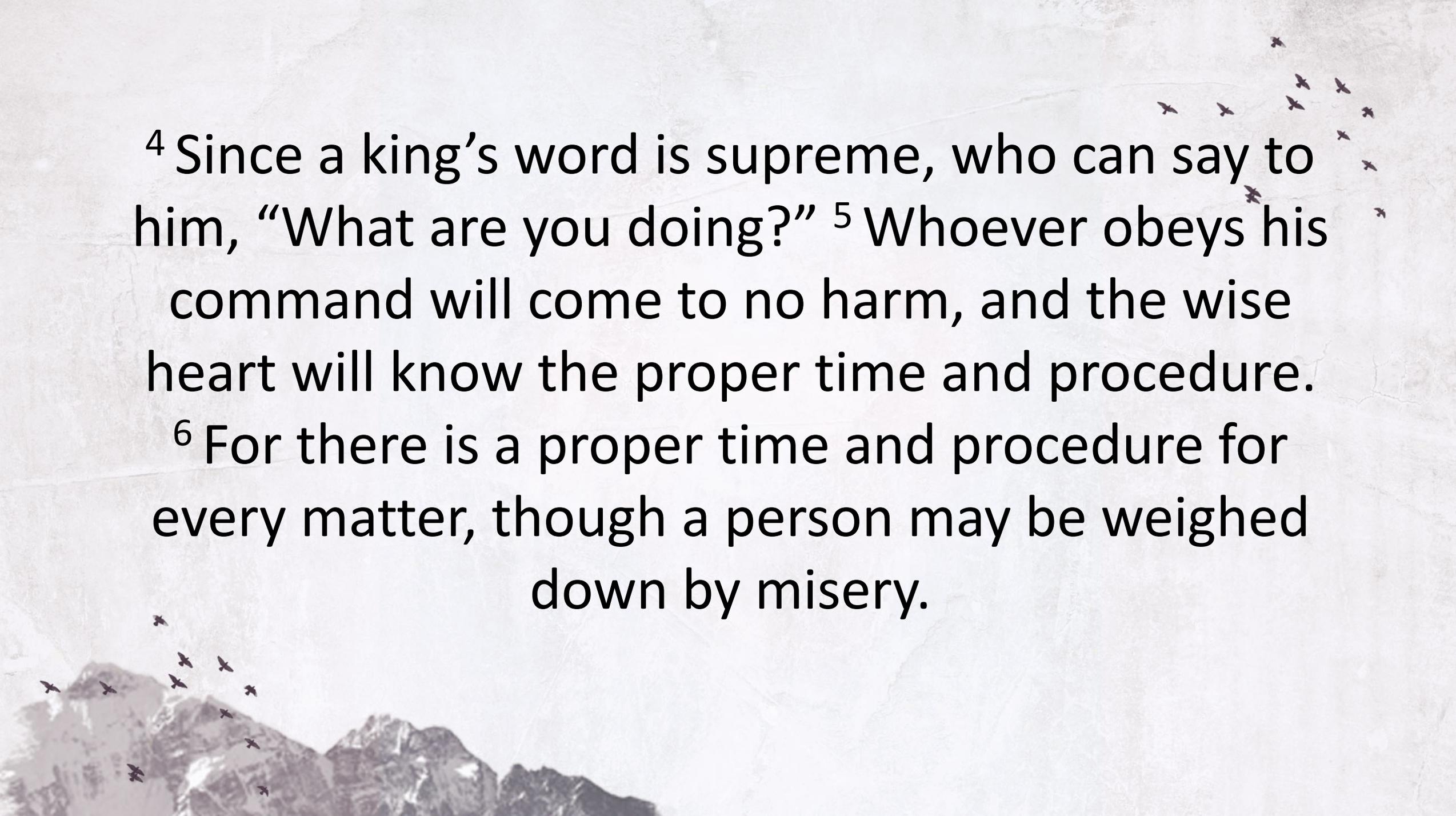
MEANINGLESS OR MISSIONAL?



**OBEIDENCE IS  
MEANINGFUL**

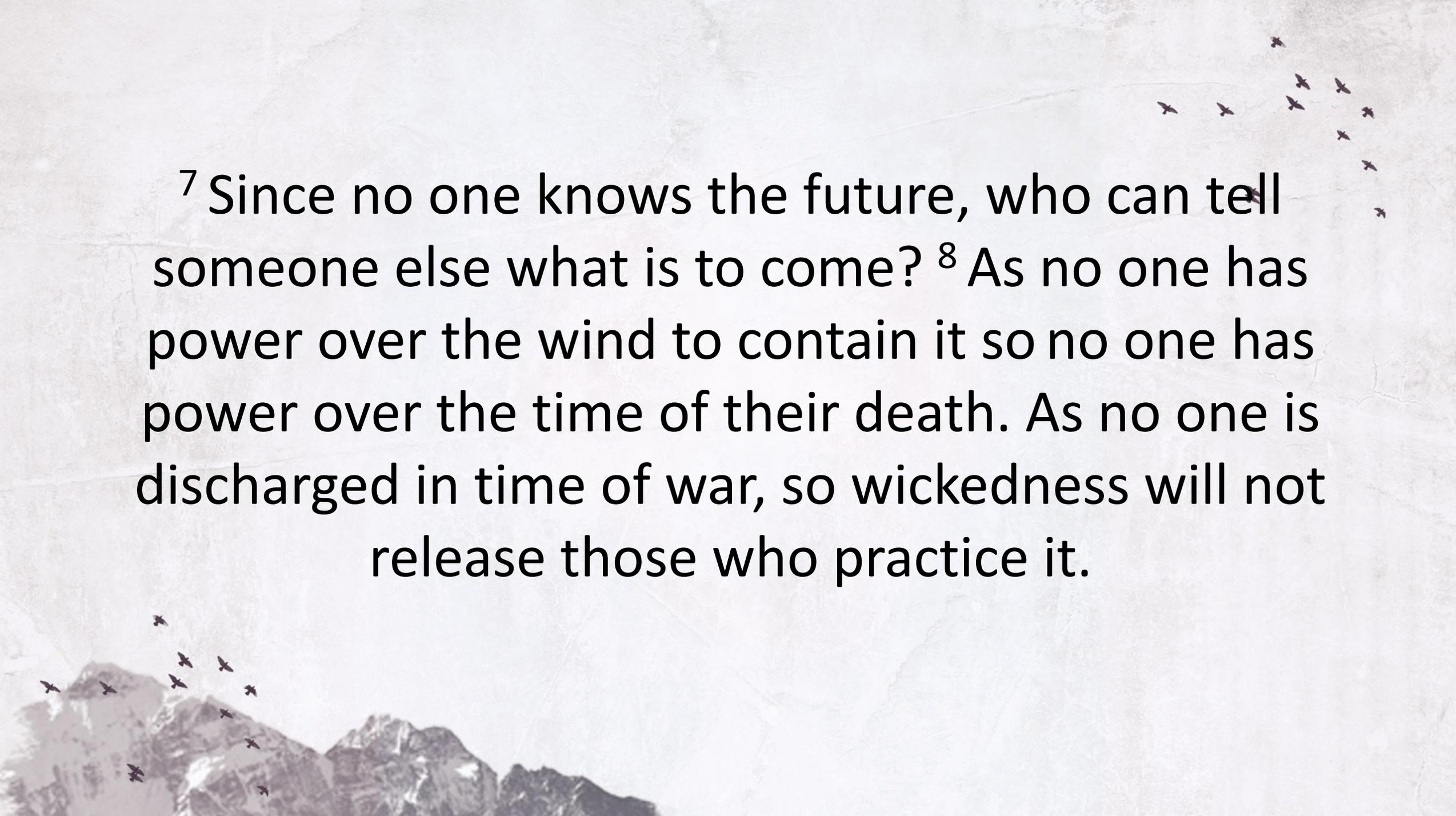
# Ecclesiastes 8:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Who is like the wise? Who knows the explanation of things? A person's wisdom brightens their face and changes its hard appearance. <sup>2</sup> Obey the king's command, I say, because you took an oath before God. <sup>3</sup> Do not be in a hurry to leave the king's presence. Do not stand up for a bad cause, for he will do whatever he pleases.

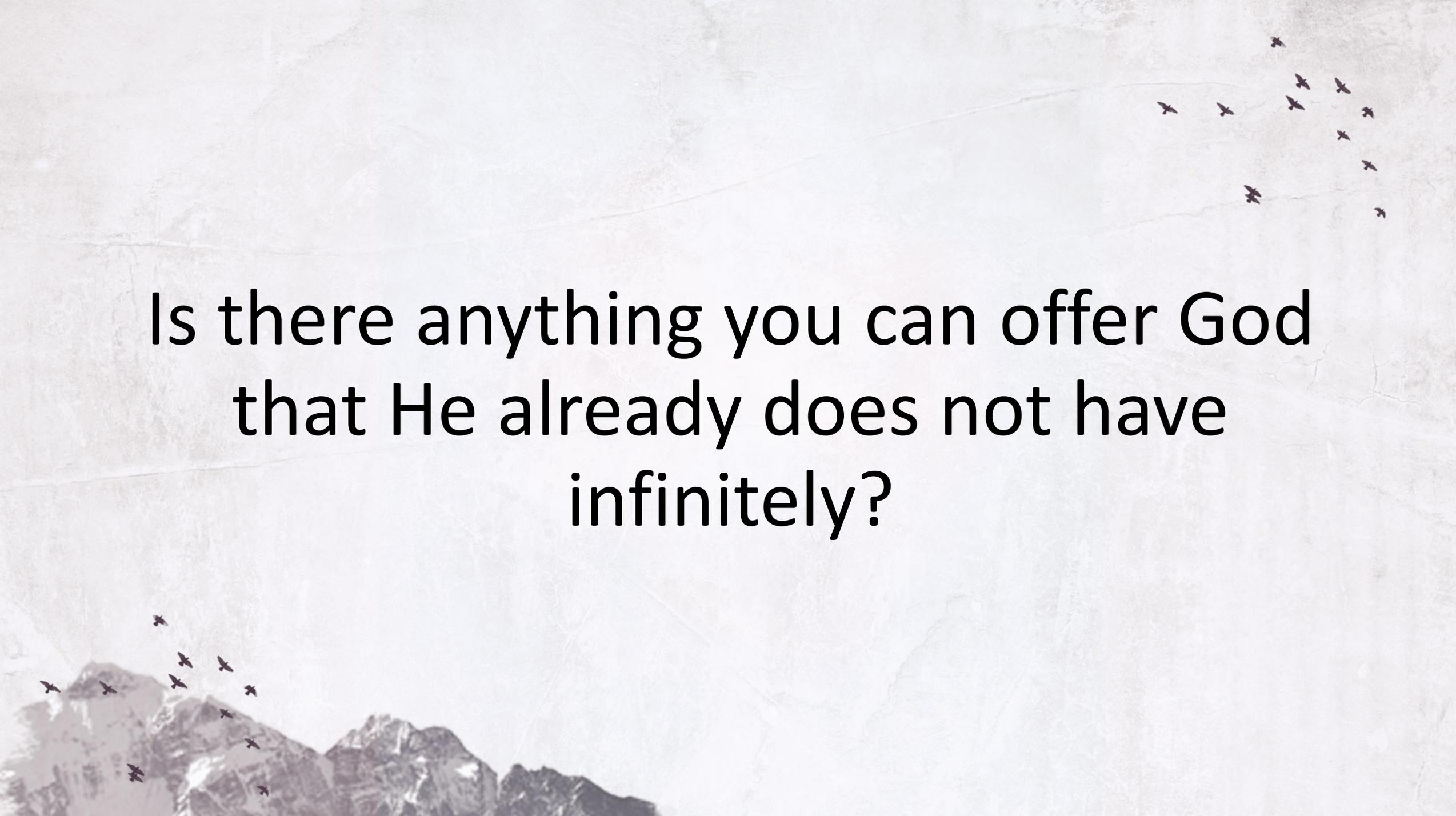


<sup>4</sup> Since a king's word is supreme, who can say to him, "What are you doing?" <sup>5</sup> Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure.

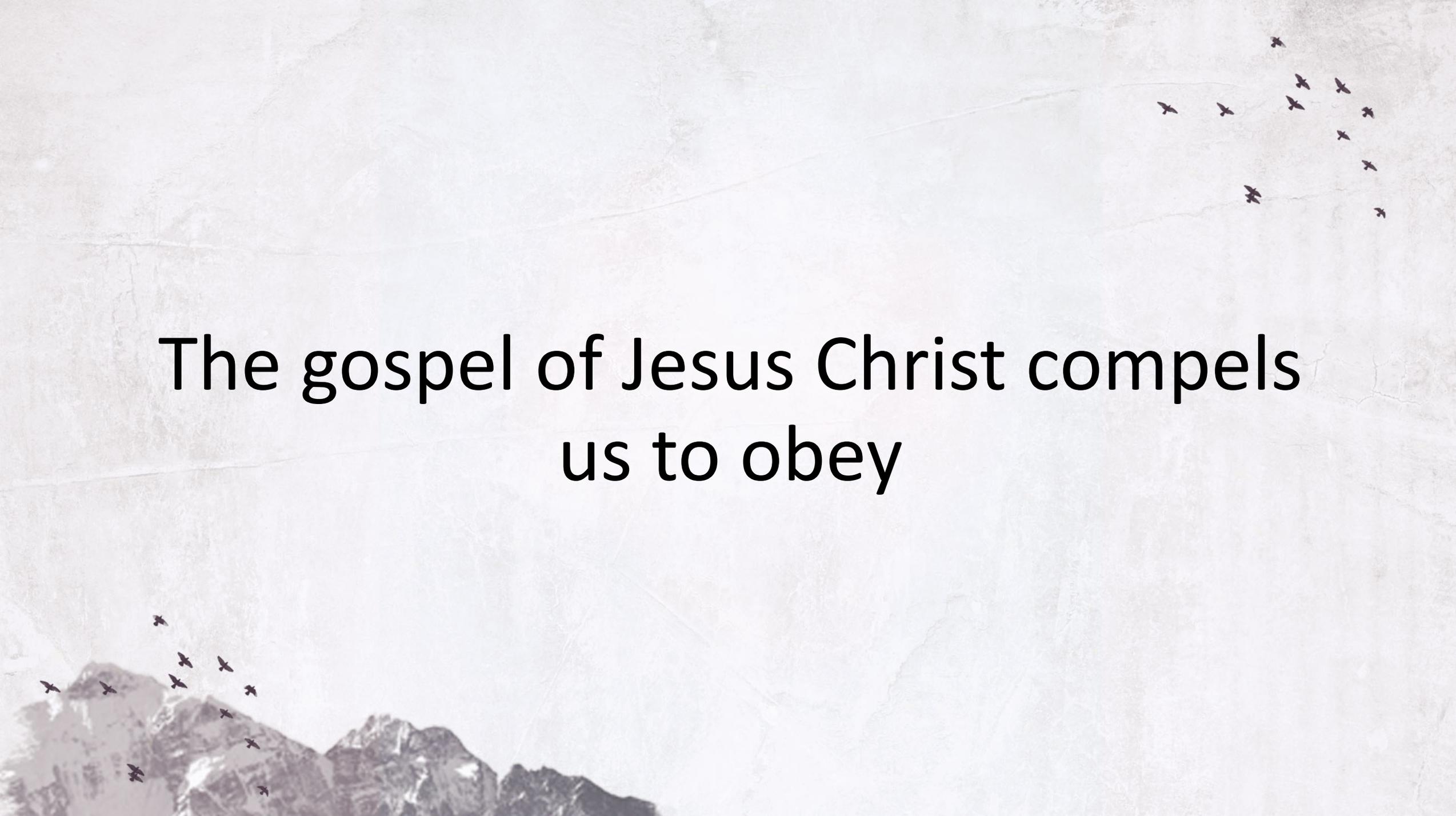
<sup>6</sup> For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a person may be weighed down by misery.



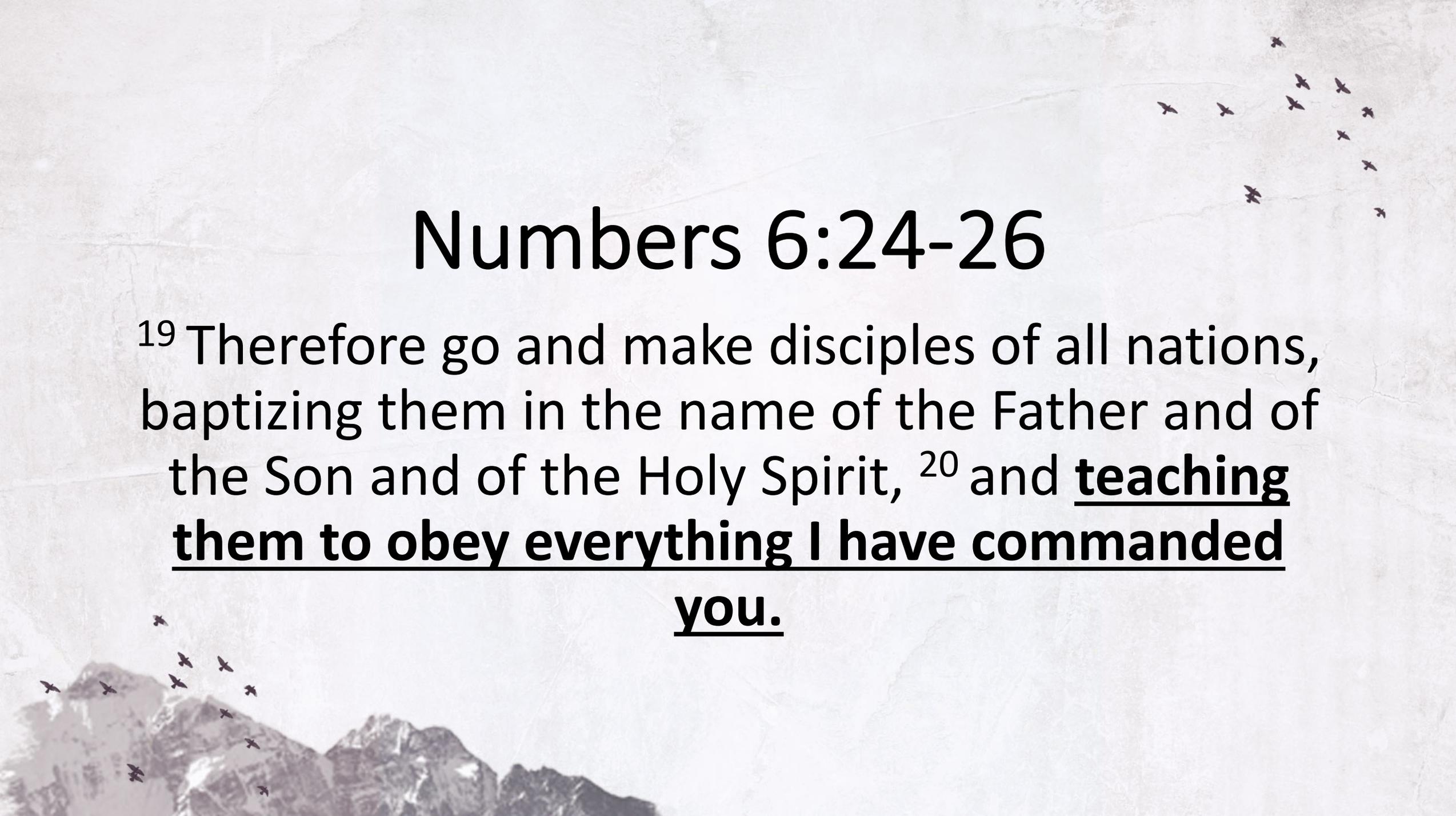
<sup>7</sup> Since no one knows the future, who can tell someone else what is to come? <sup>8</sup> As no one has power over the wind to contain it so no one has power over the time of their death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so wickedness will not release those who practice it.



Is there anything you can offer God  
that He already does not have  
infinitely?

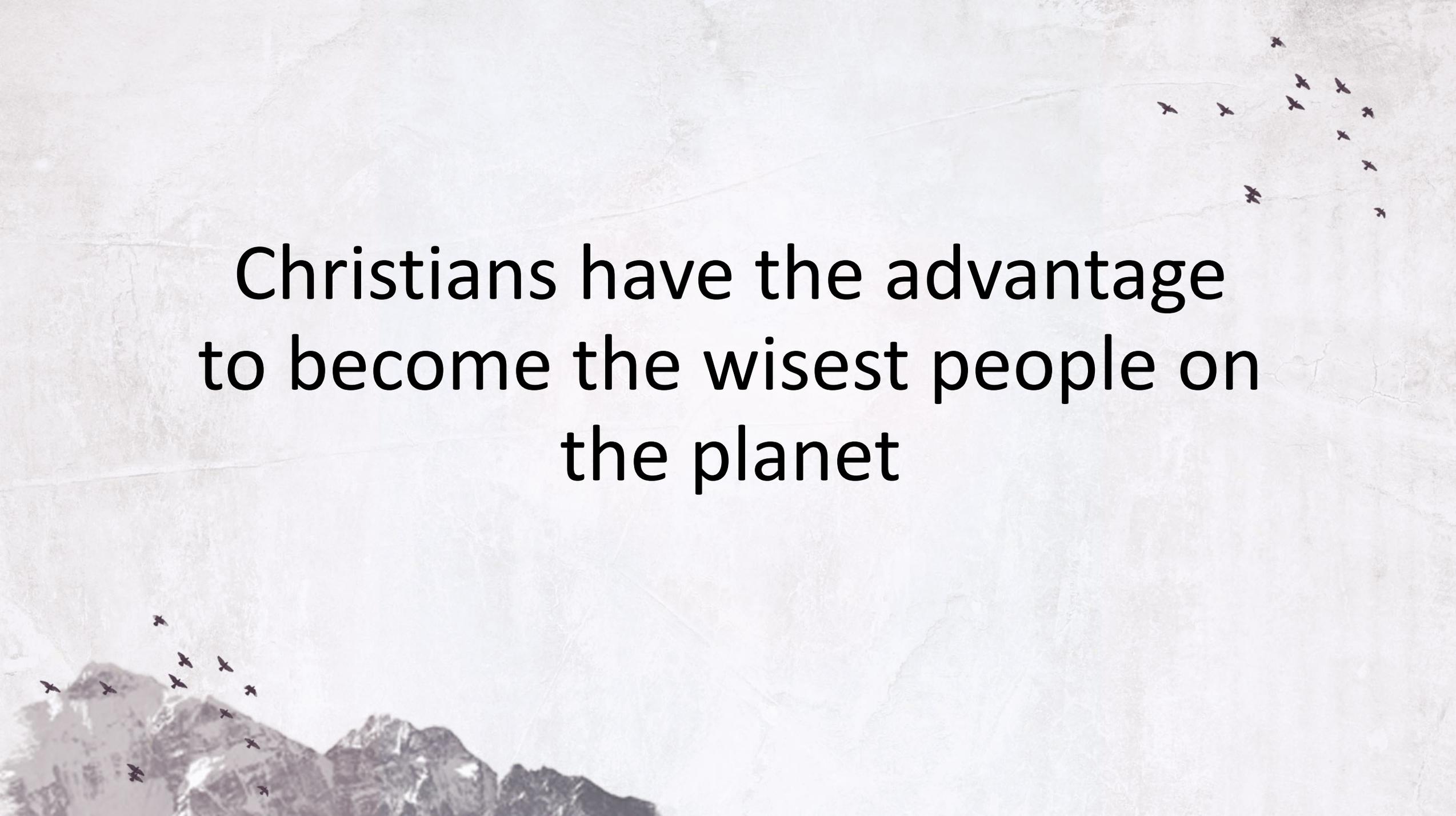


The gospel of Jesus Christ compels  
us to obey

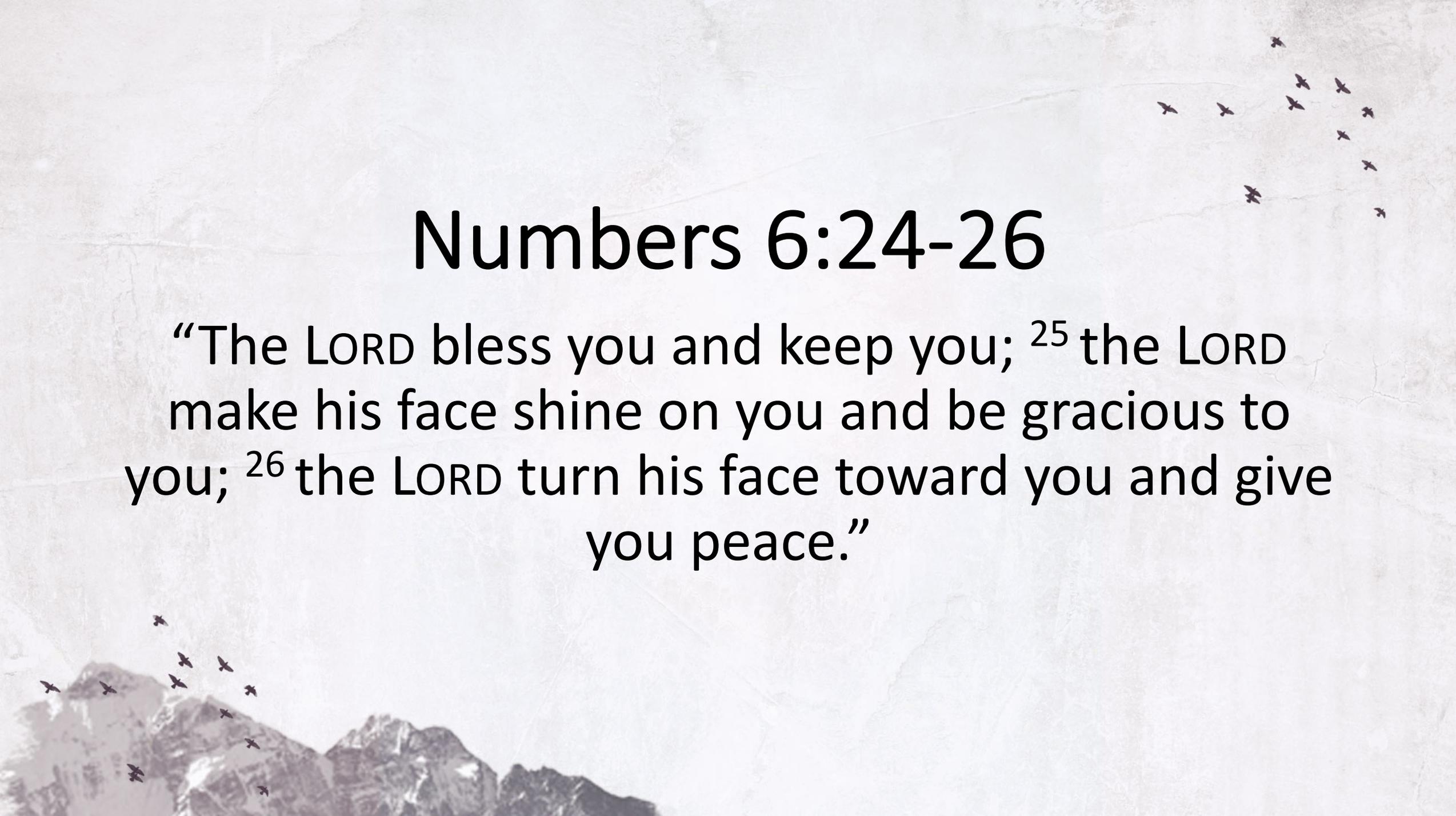


# Numbers 6:24-26

<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**

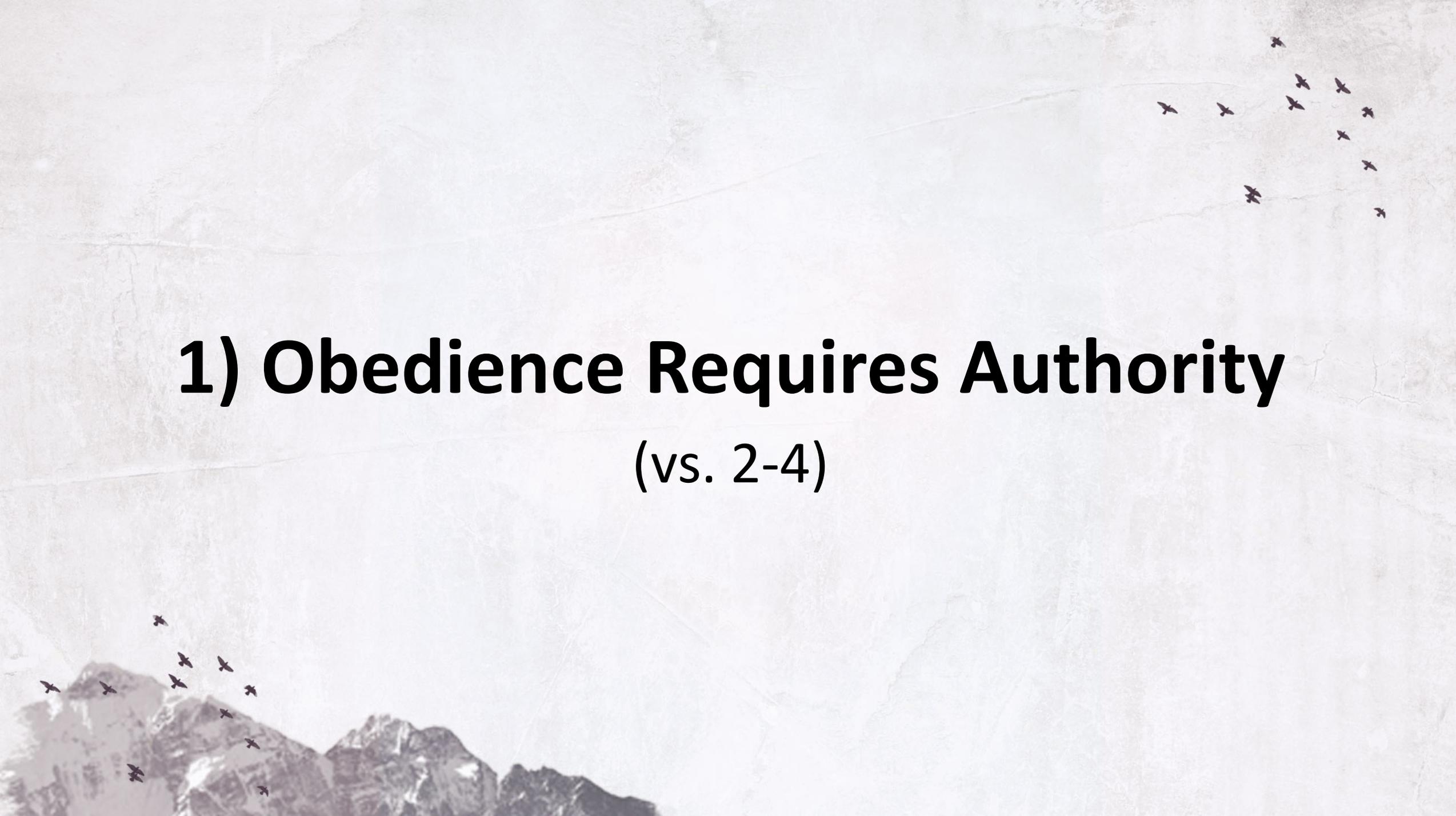
The background of the image is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a piece of paper or a wall, with a subtle mountain range visible at the bottom. The mountains are dark and jagged, with some snow or light-colored patches. In the sky above the mountains, there are several small, dark silhouettes of birds in flight, scattered across the upper and lower portions of the image. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

Christians have the advantage  
to become the wisest people on  
the planet

The background of the slide features a soft-focus, light-colored mountain range. In the upper right and lower left corners, there are clusters of small, dark silhouettes of birds in flight, scattered across the sky. The overall aesthetic is serene and natural.

# Numbers 6:24-26

“The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

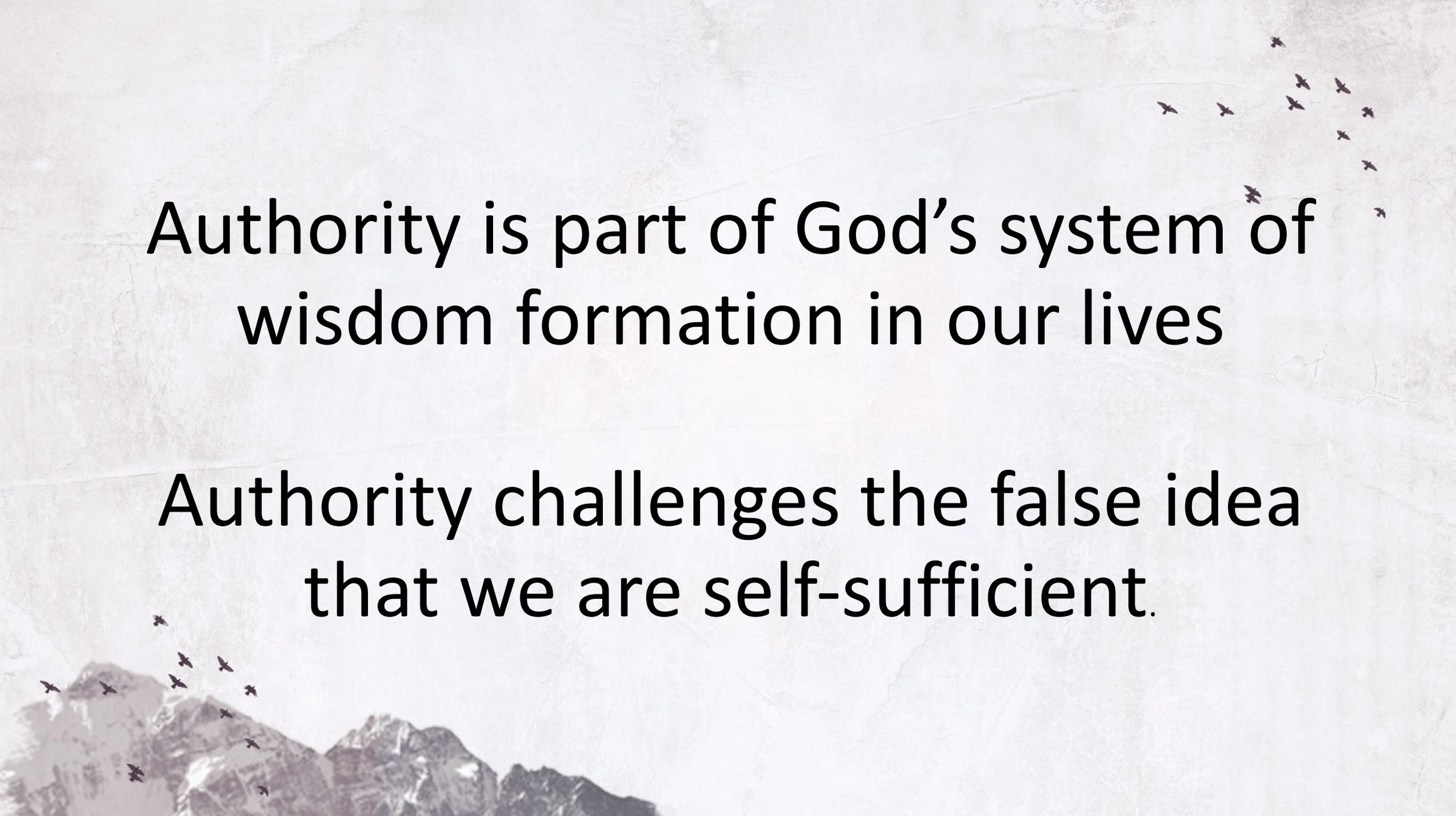
The background of the slide features a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a map or a piece of paper, with a faint mountain range visible at the bottom. Several small, dark bird silhouettes are scattered across the sky, some appearing to fly in a loose formation.

# 1) Obedience Requires Authority

(vs. 2-4)

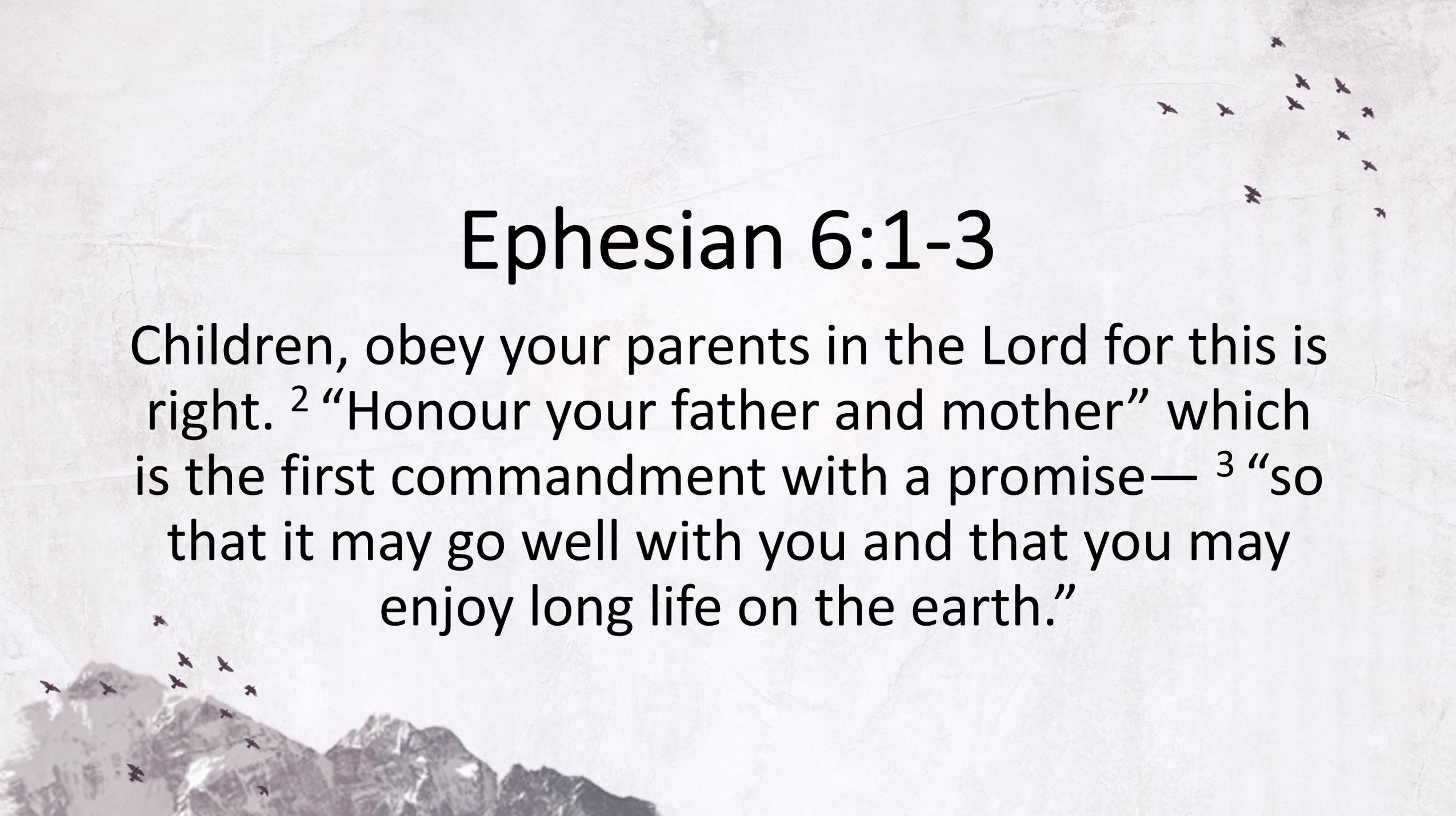
# Ecclesiastes 8:2-4

<sup>2</sup> Obey the king's command, I say, because you took an oath before God. <sup>3</sup> Do not be in a hurry to leave the king's presence. Do not stand up for a bad cause, for he will do whatever he pleases. <sup>4</sup> Since a king's word is supreme, who can say to him, "What are you doing?"

The background features a soft-focus landscape of snow-capped mountains under a pale sky. Numerous small, dark silhouettes of birds are scattered across the sky, some appearing to fly in a loose formation. The overall aesthetic is serene and natural.

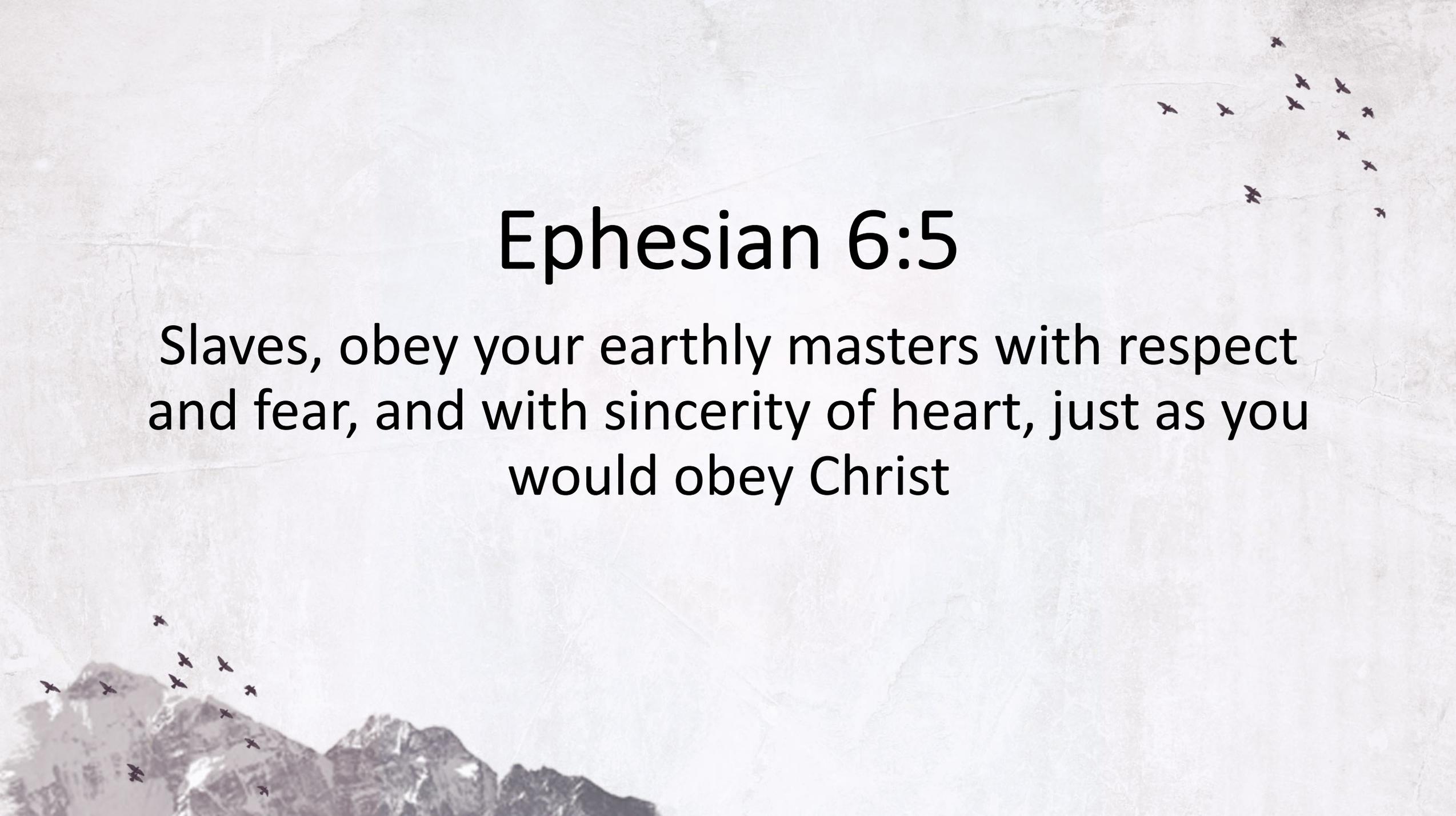
Authority is part of God's system of  
wisdom formation in our lives

Authority challenges the false idea  
that we are self-sufficient.



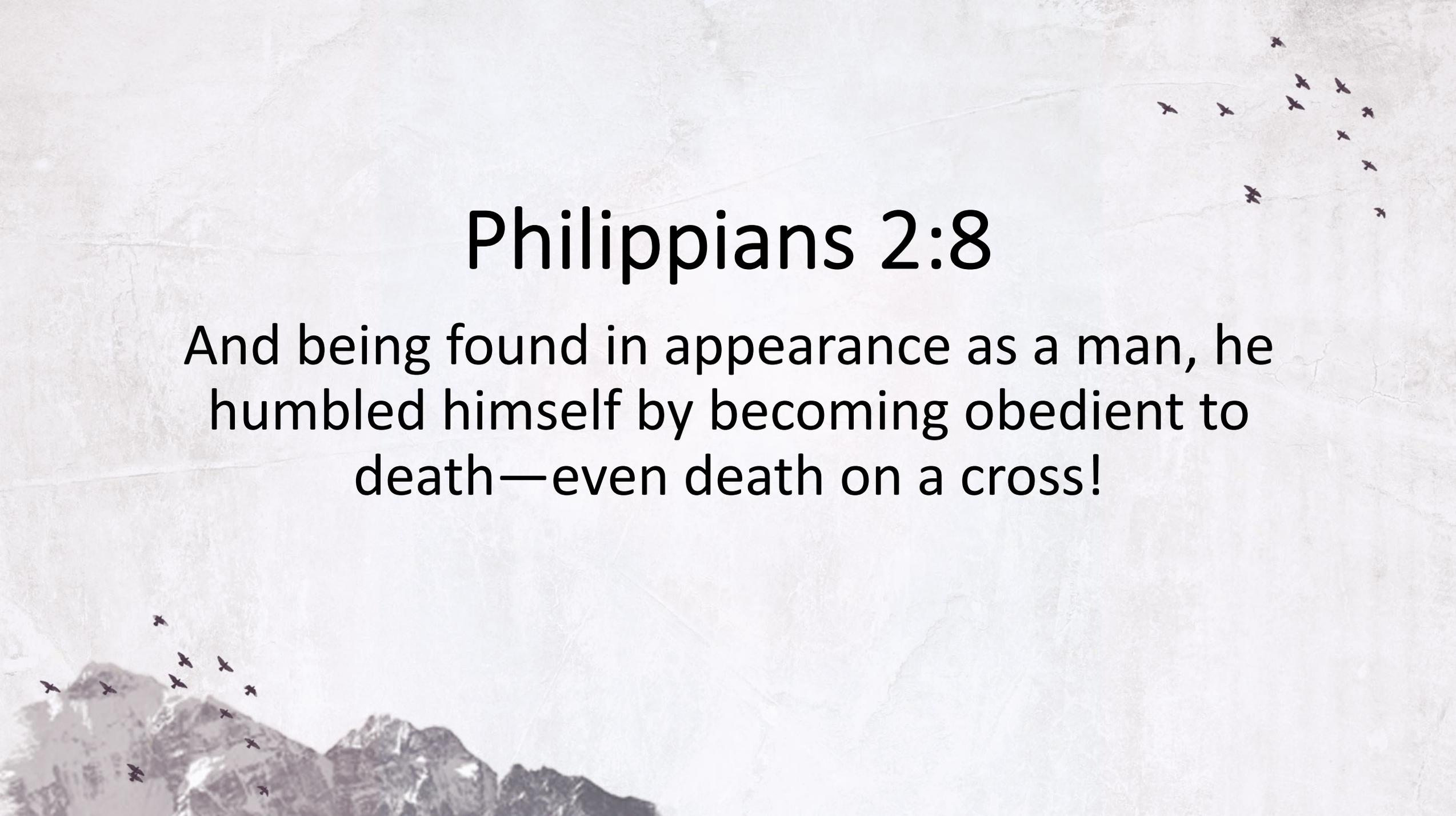
# Ephesian 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. <sup>2</sup> “Honour your father and mother” which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”



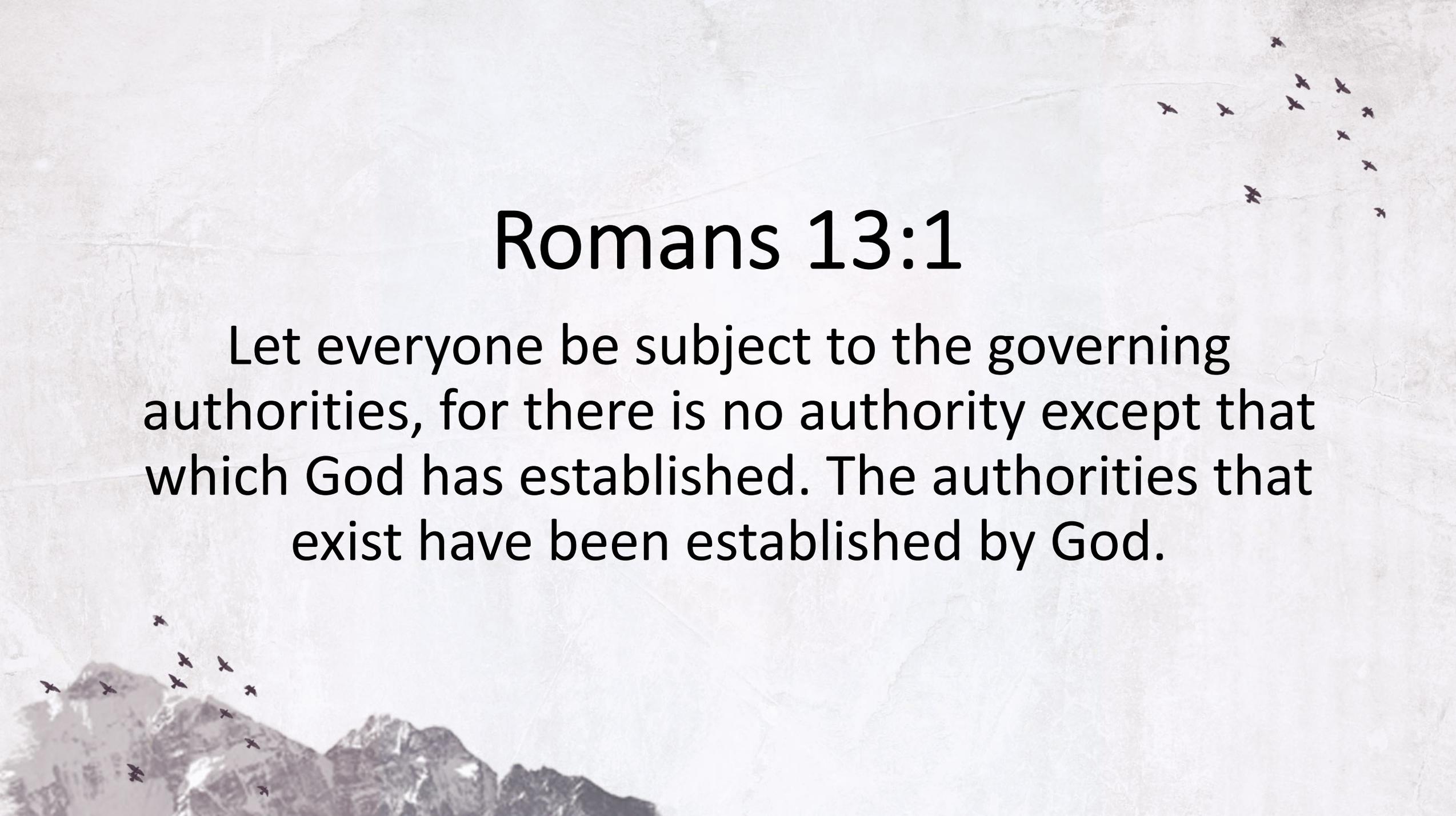
# Ephesian 6:5

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ

The background of the slide features a soft-focus, light-colored mountain range. The mountains are covered in patches of snow or light-colored rock. In the upper right and lower left corners, there are several small, dark silhouettes of birds in flight, scattered across the sky. The overall aesthetic is clean and minimalist, with a focus on the central text.

# Philippians 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

The background of the slide features a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of paper, with a faint, sepia-toned image of a mountain range at the bottom. Several small, dark silhouettes of birds are scattered across the sky, some appearing to fly in a loose formation.

# Romans 13:1

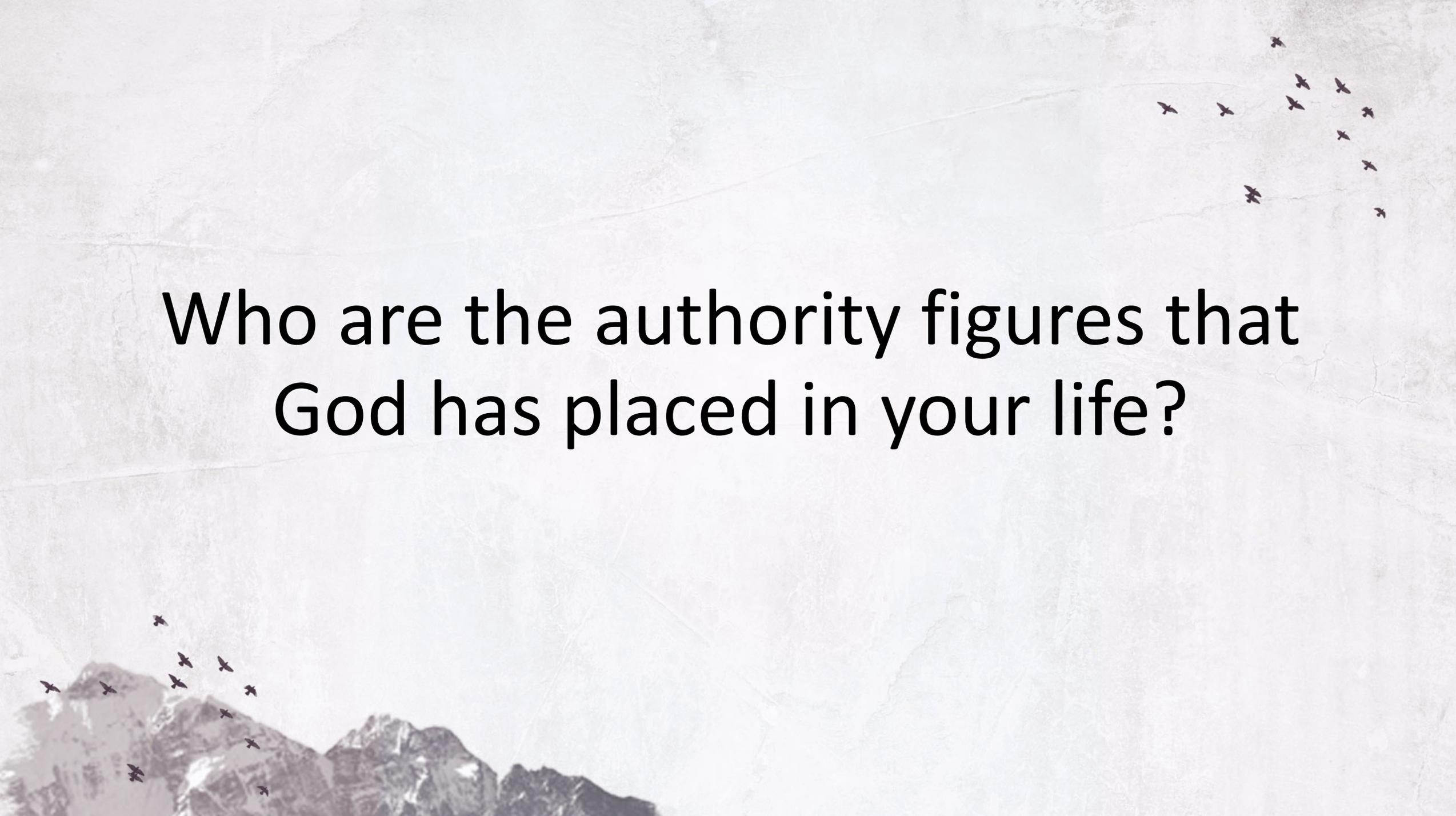
Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

# 1 Peter 2:13-17

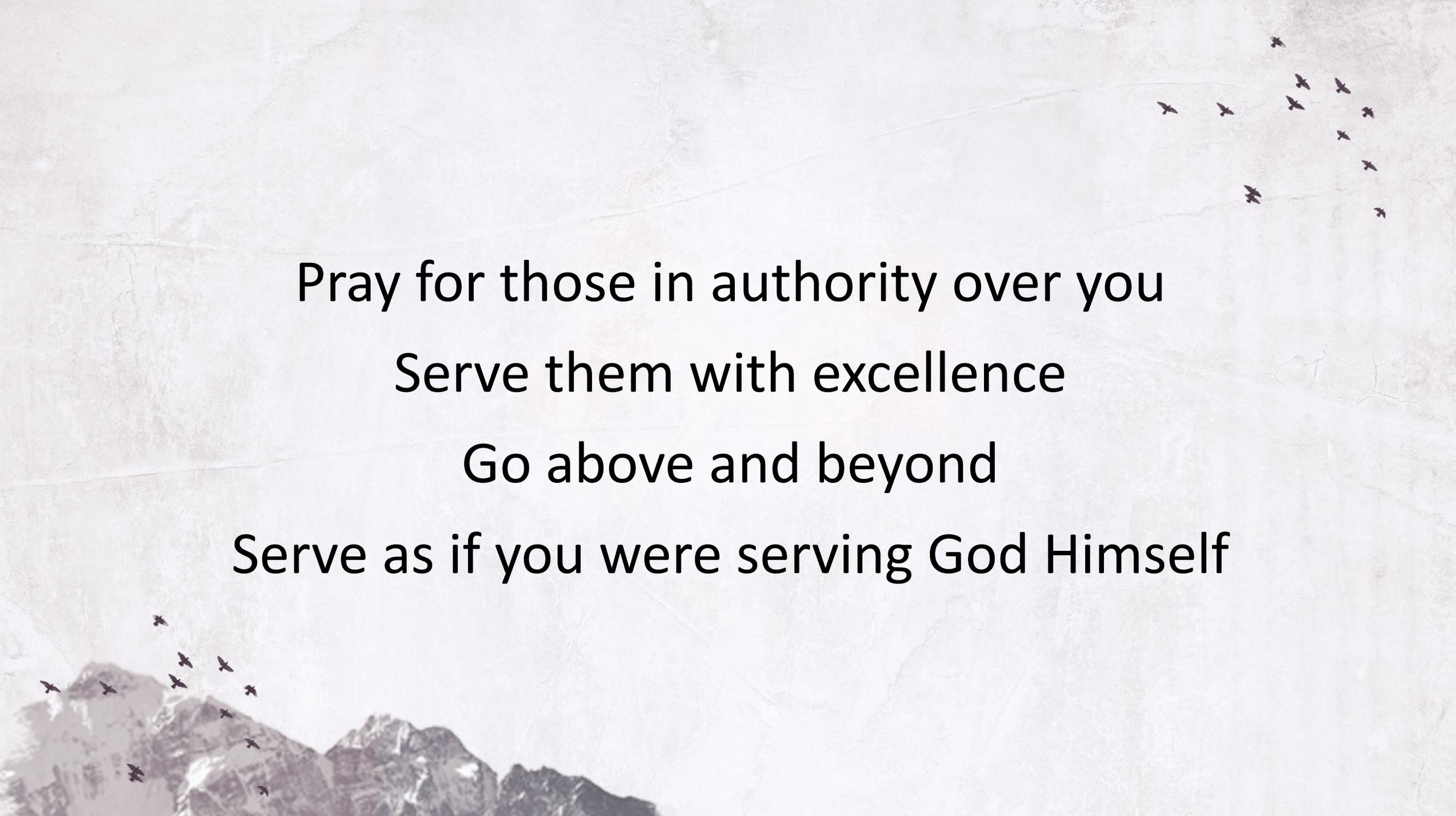
<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

# 1 Peter 2:13-17

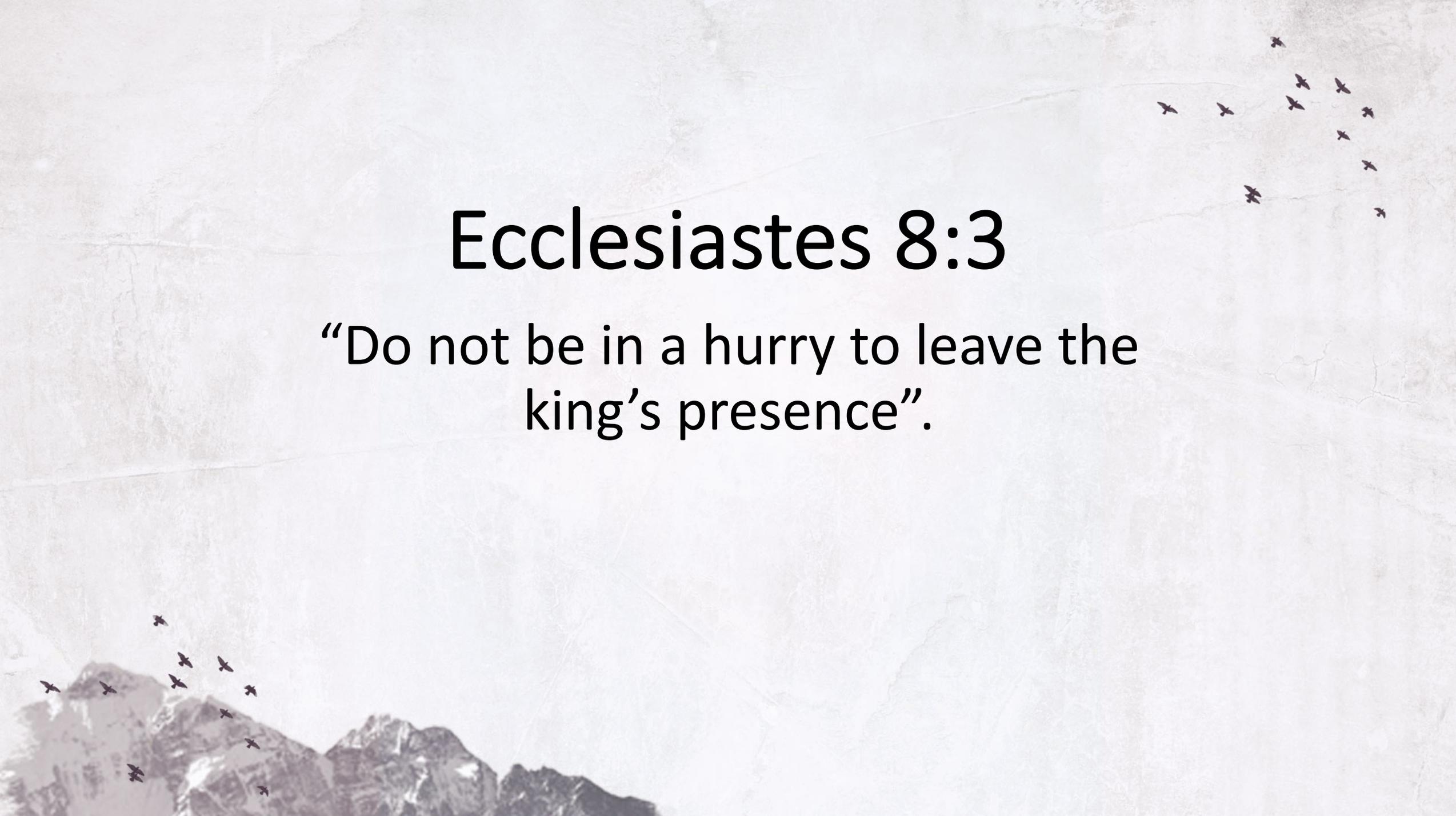
<sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.

The background features a soft-focus landscape of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, and several small, dark silhouettes of birds are scattered across it, some in flight and others perched on the mountain ridges. The overall aesthetic is serene and contemplative.

Who are the authority figures that  
God has placed in your life?

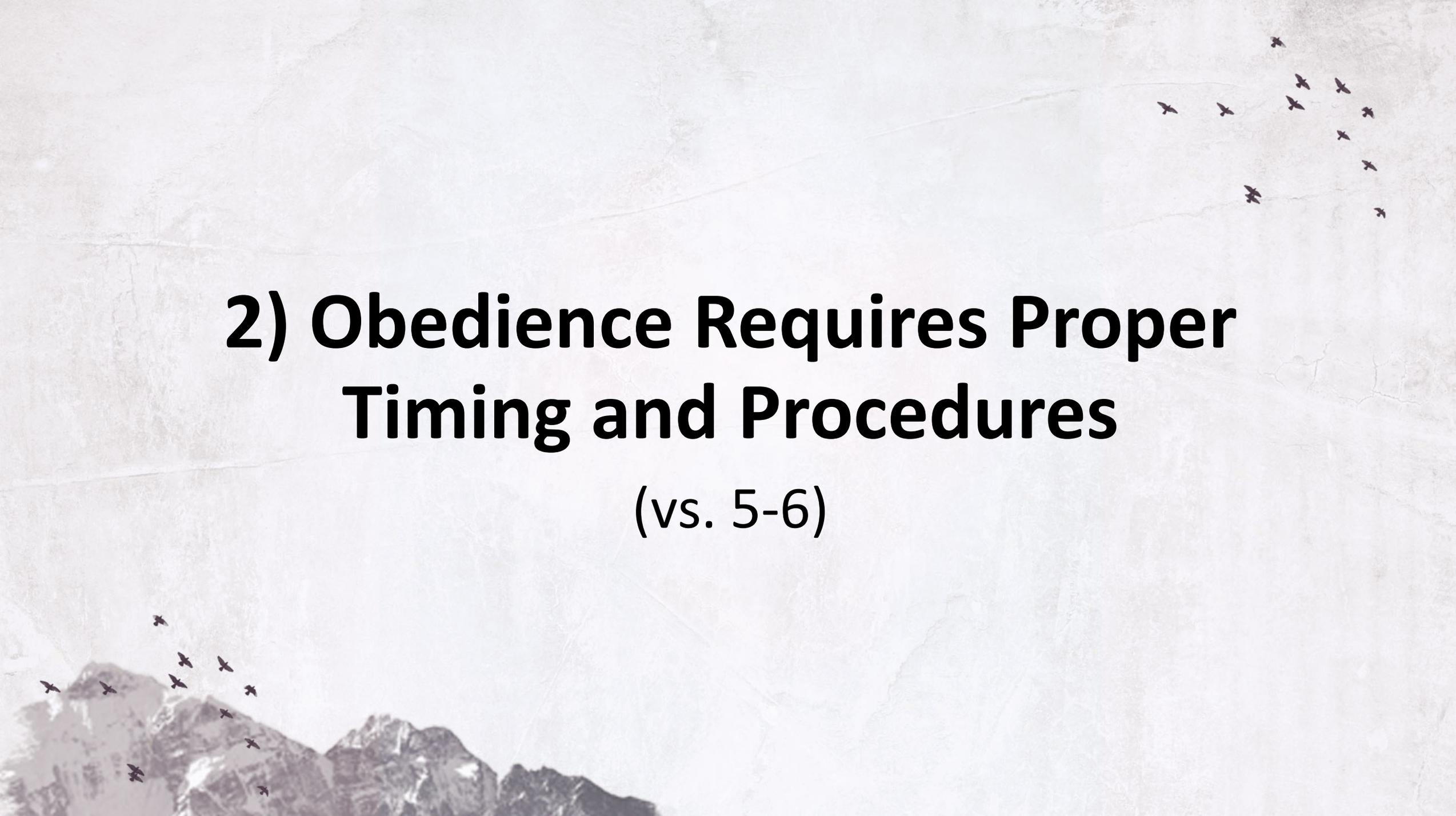
The background features a soft-focus landscape of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, populated by several small, dark silhouettes of birds in flight, scattered across the upper and lower portions of the frame. The overall aesthetic is serene and inspirational.

Pray for those in authority over you  
Serve them with excellence  
Go above and beyond  
Serve as if you were serving God Himself



# Ecclesiastes 8:3

“Do not be in a hurry to leave the king’s presence”.

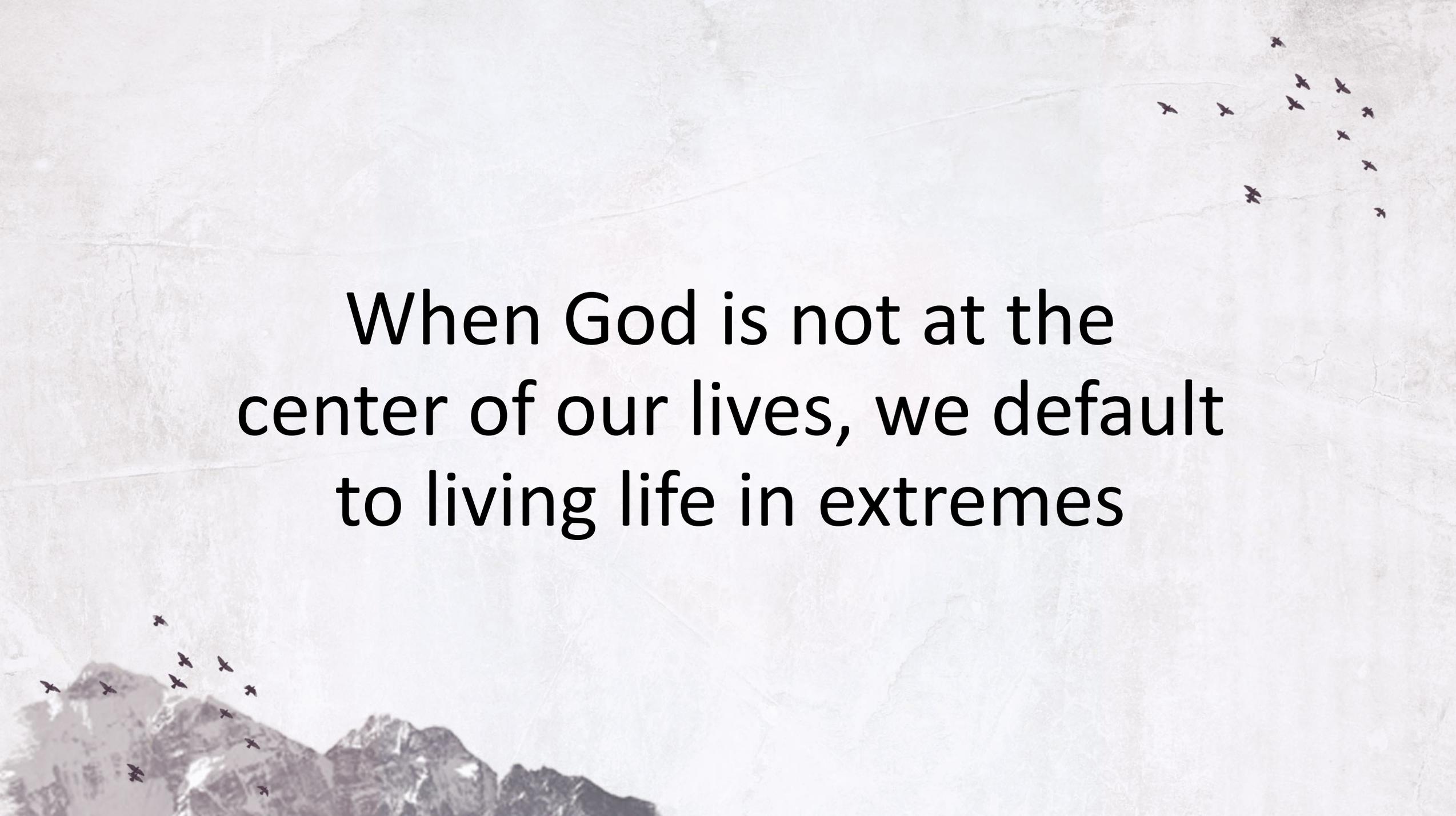


## **2) Obedience Requires Proper Timing and Procedures**

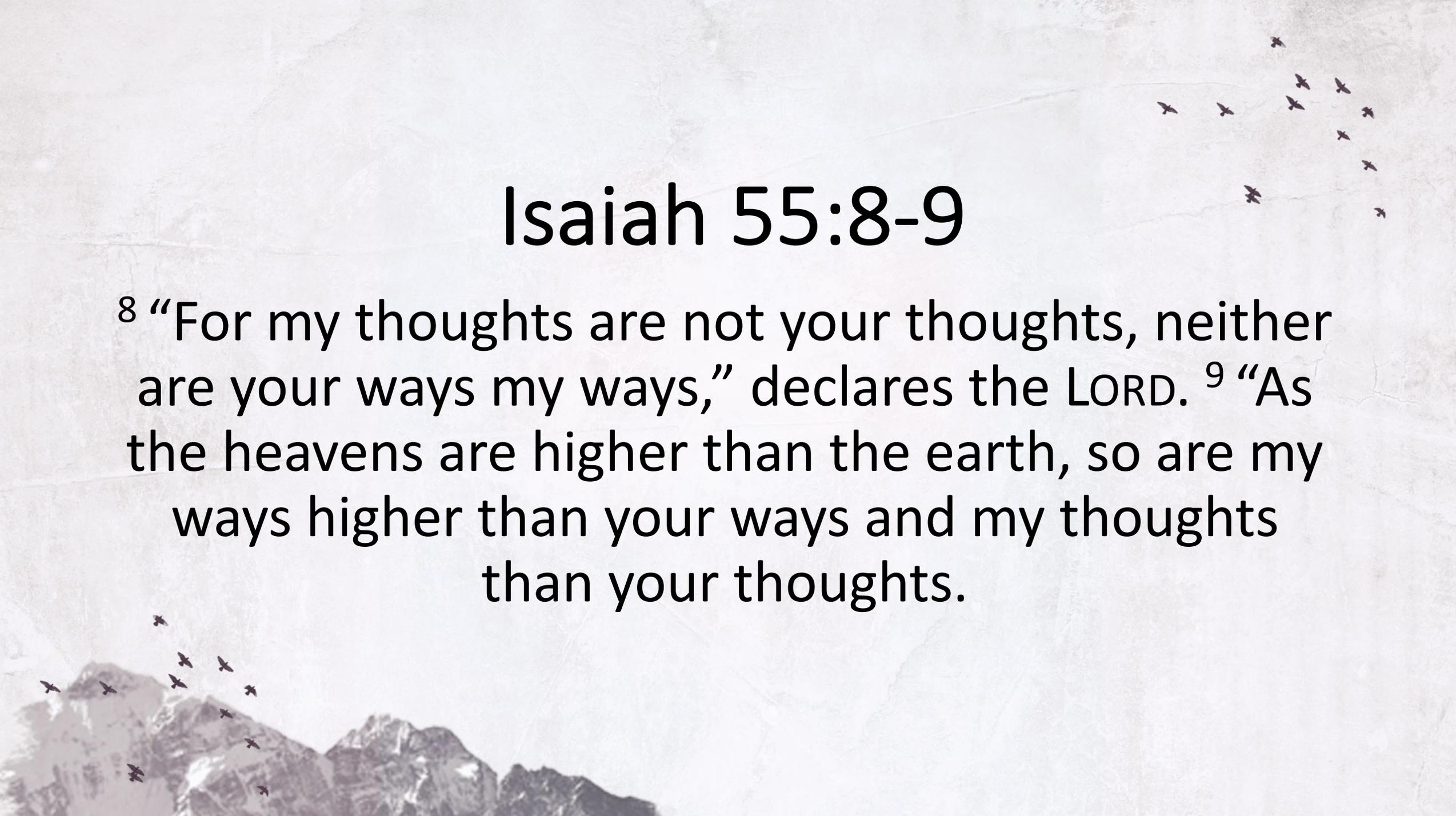
(vs. 5-6)

# Ecclesiastes 8:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. <sup>6</sup> For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a person may be weighed down by misery.

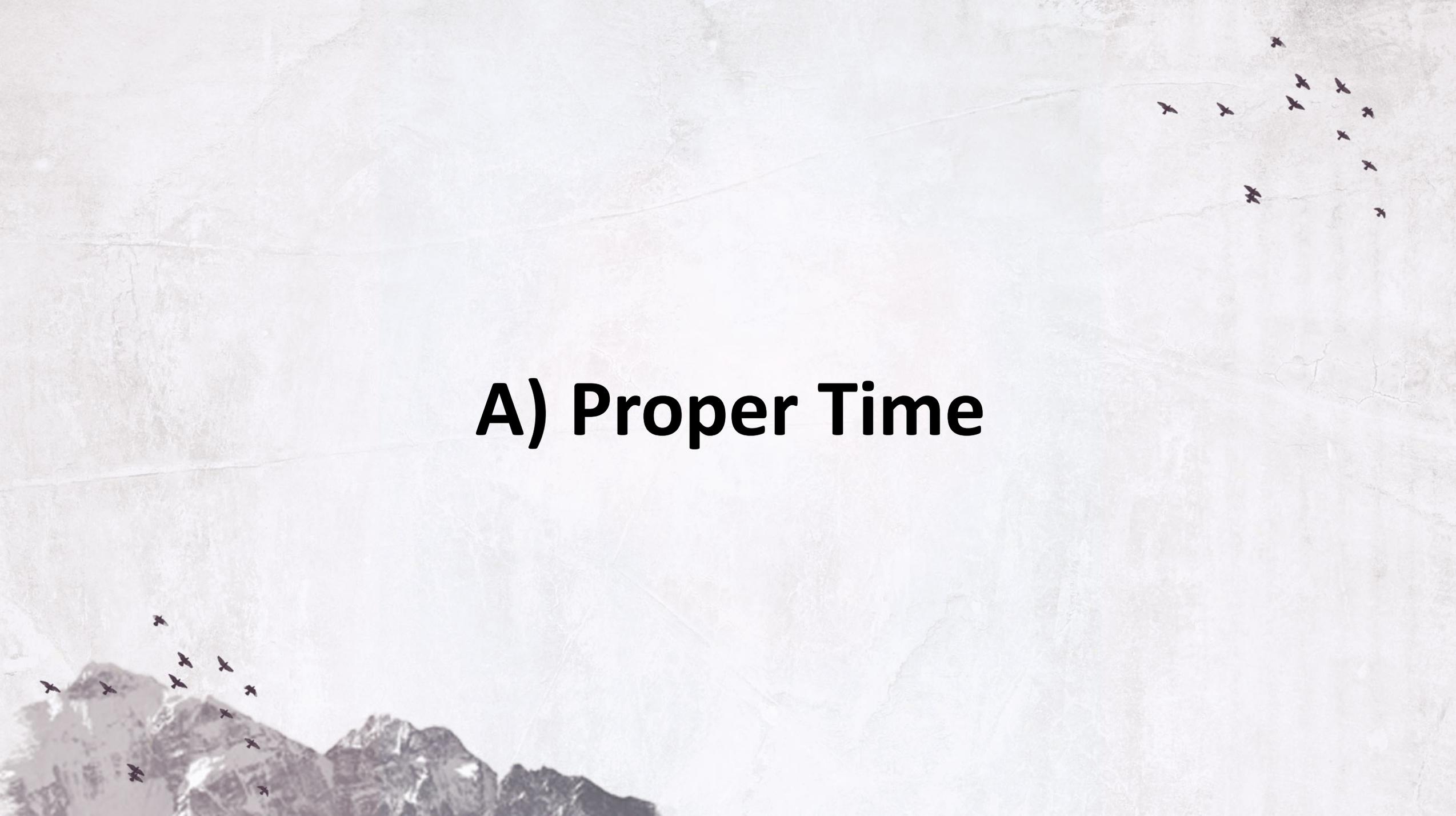
The background of the slide features a soft-focus, light-colored mountain range. The mountains are rendered in shades of pale grey and white, with some darker, rocky peaks visible. In the upper right and lower left corners, there are clusters of small, dark silhouettes of birds in flight, scattered across the sky. The overall aesthetic is minimalist and serene, with a focus on natural elements.

When God is not at the  
center of our lives, we default  
to living life in extremes

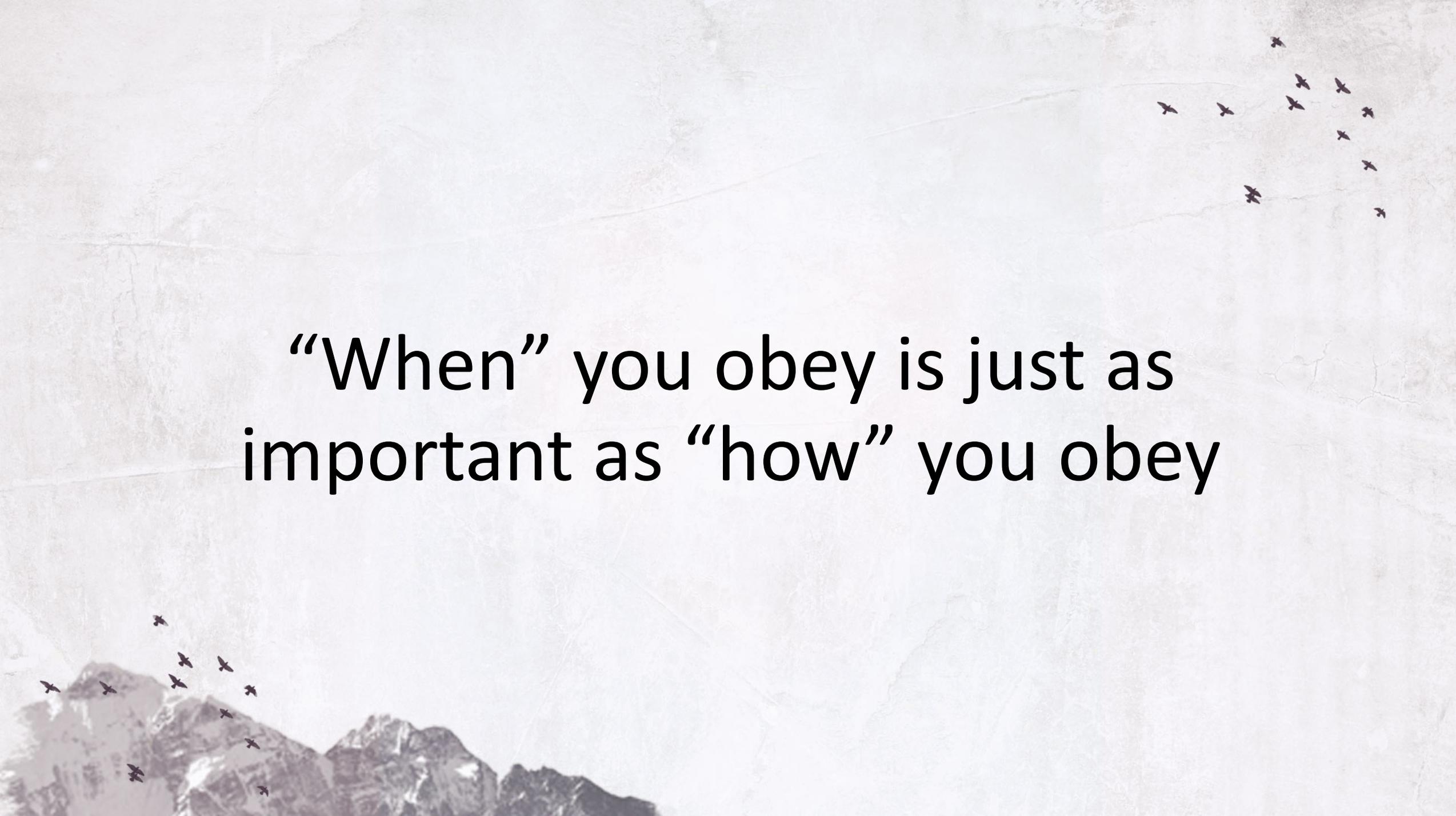


## Isaiah 55:8-9

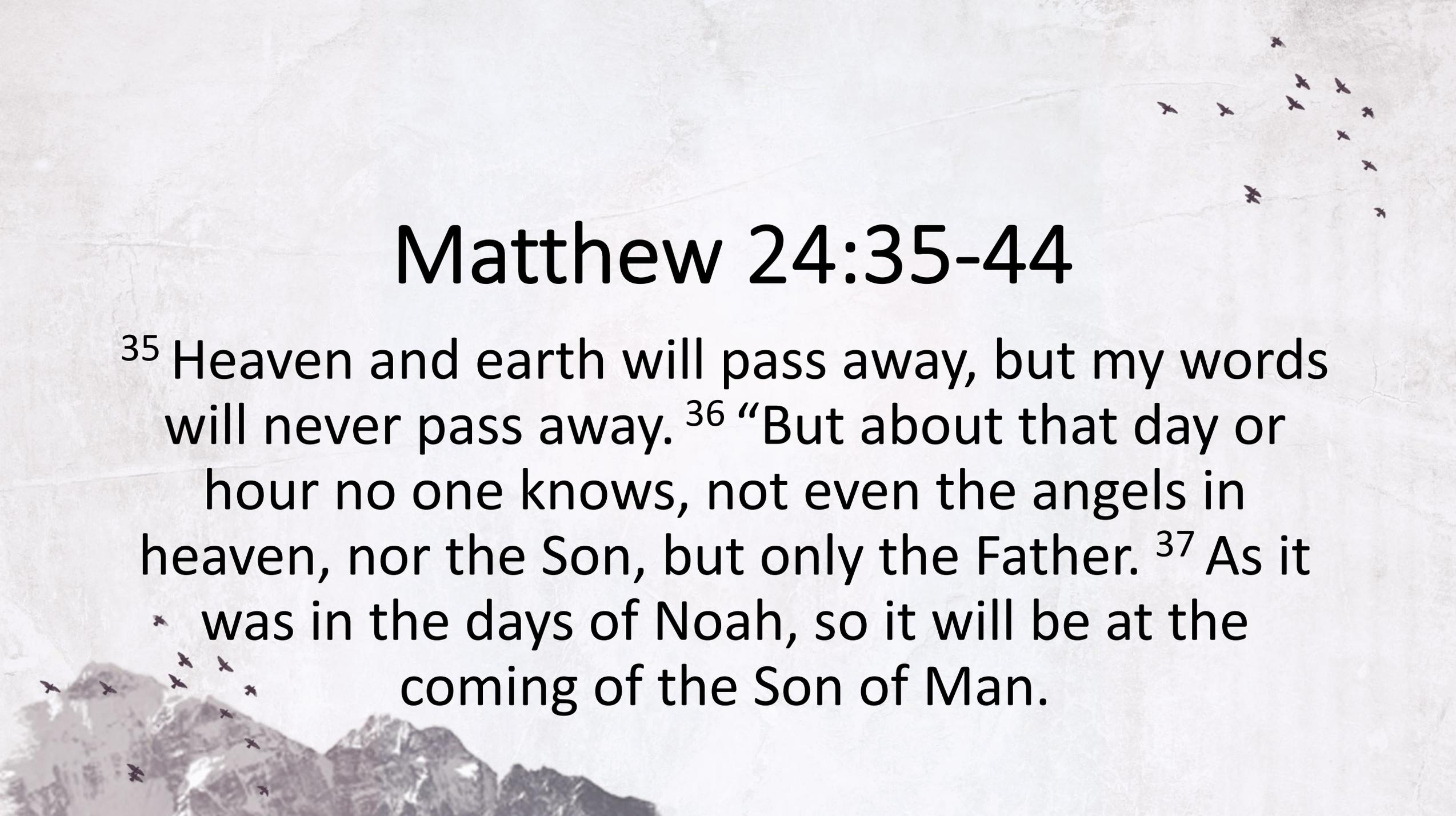
<sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

The background of the slide features a soft-focus, light-colored landscape of a mountain range. The mountains are rendered in shades of pale blue, green, and white, suggesting a misty or overcast day. In the foreground, the dark, jagged peaks of the mountains are visible. A flock of approximately 15-20 small, dark birds is scattered across the sky, some appearing to fly towards the right and others towards the left. The overall aesthetic is clean and minimalist.

# A) Proper Time

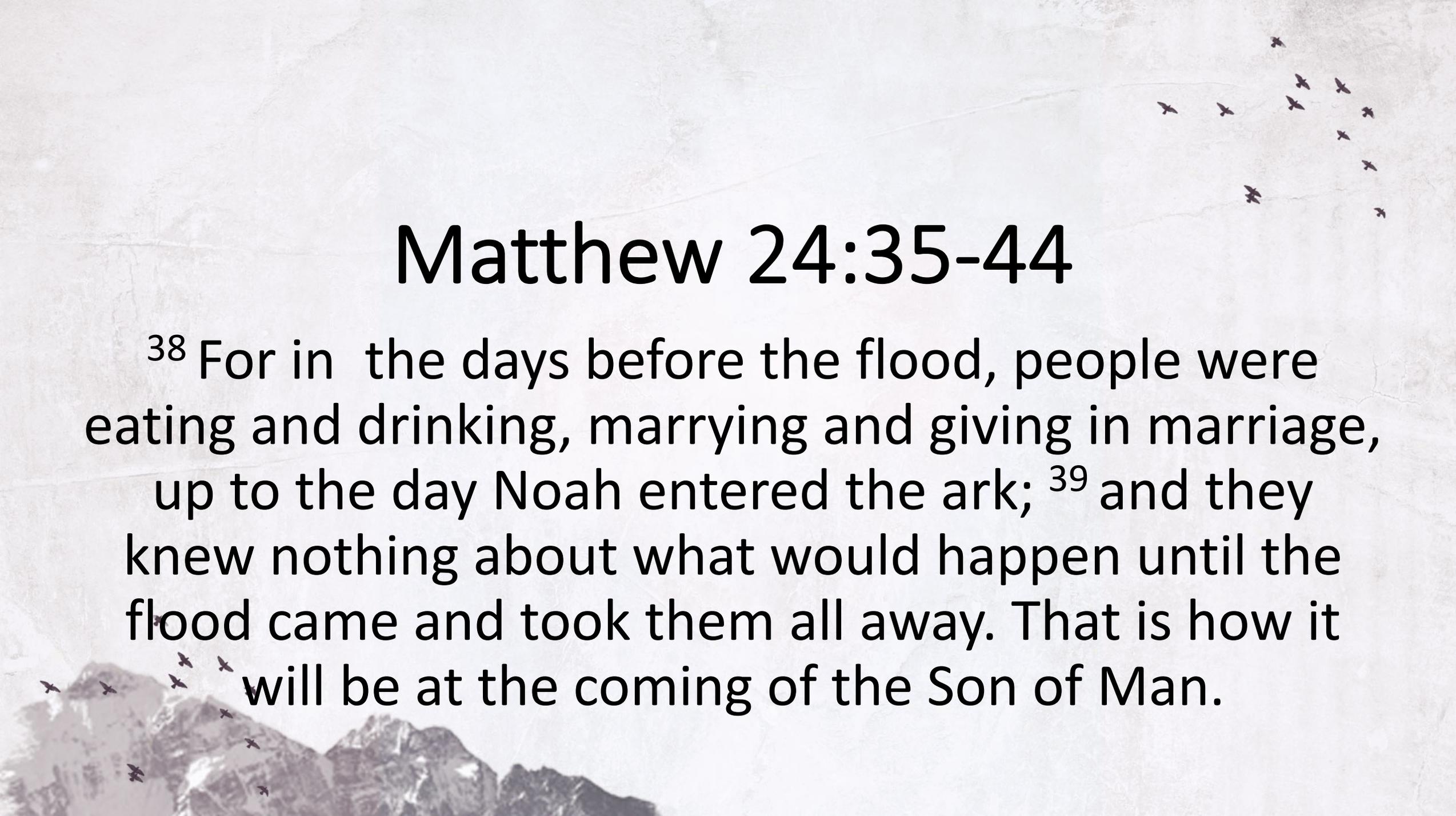


“When” you obey is just as important as “how” you obey



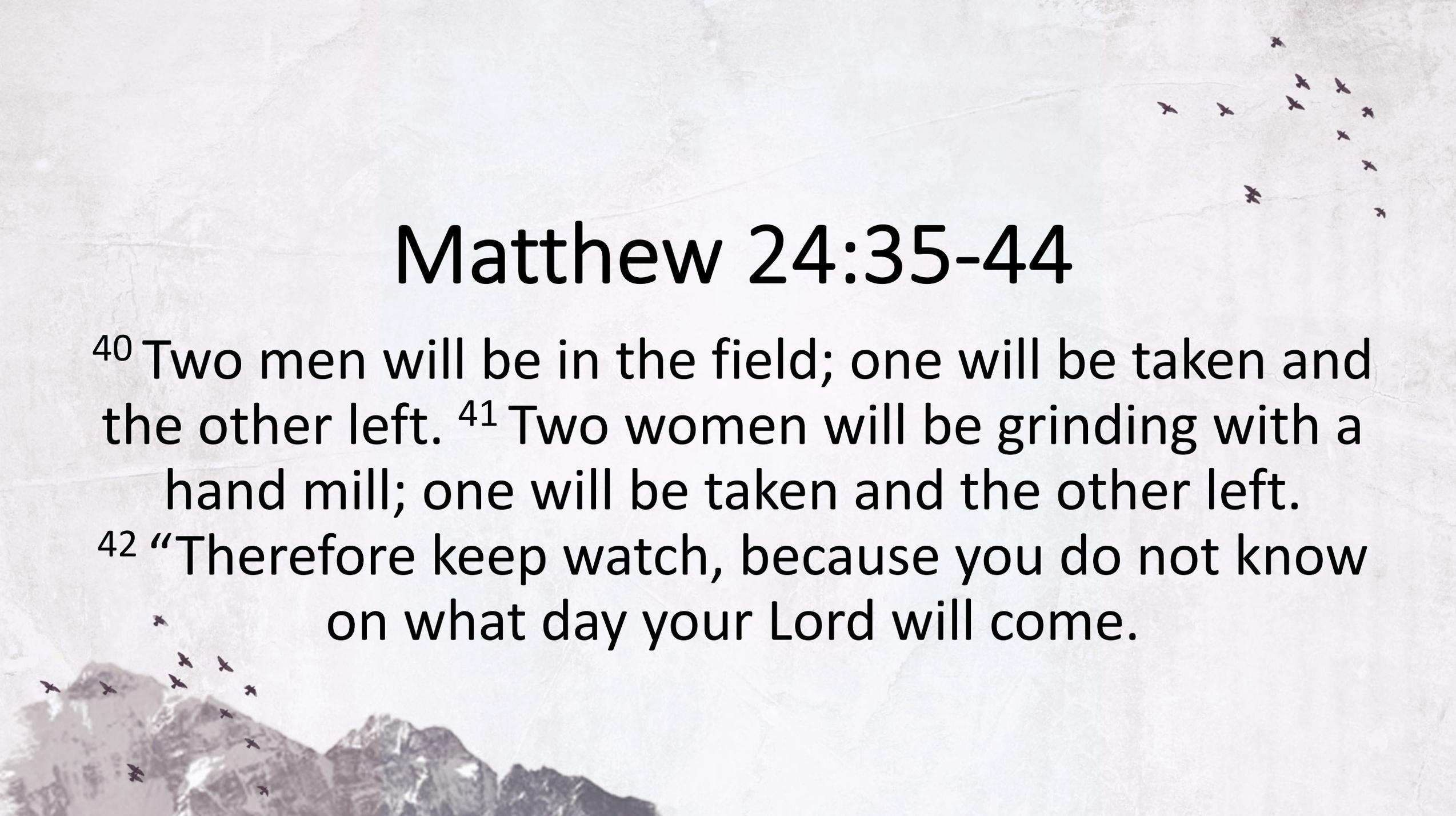
# Matthew 24:35-44

<sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. <sup>36</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.



# Matthew 24:35-44

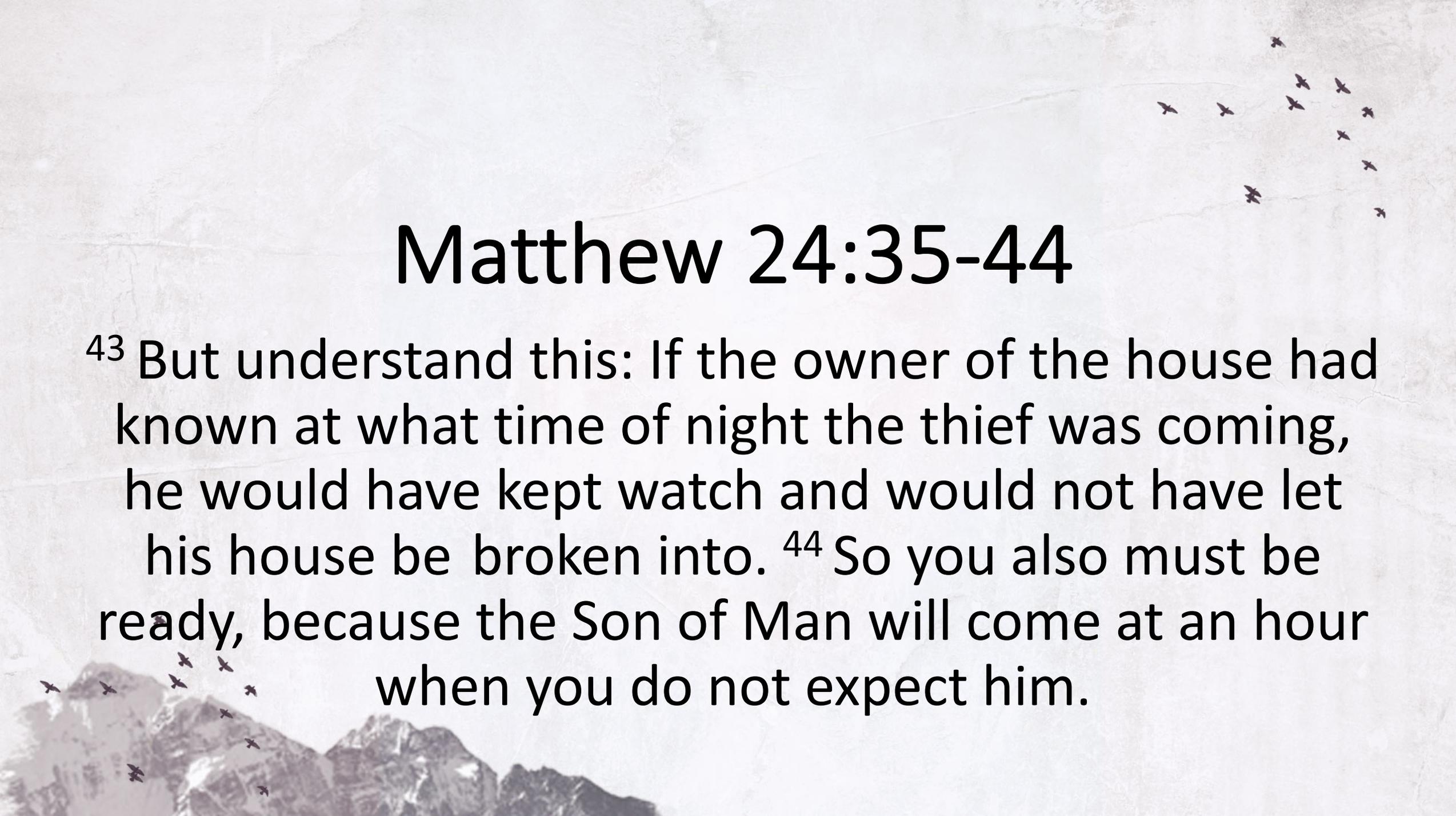
<sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.



# Matthew 24:35-44

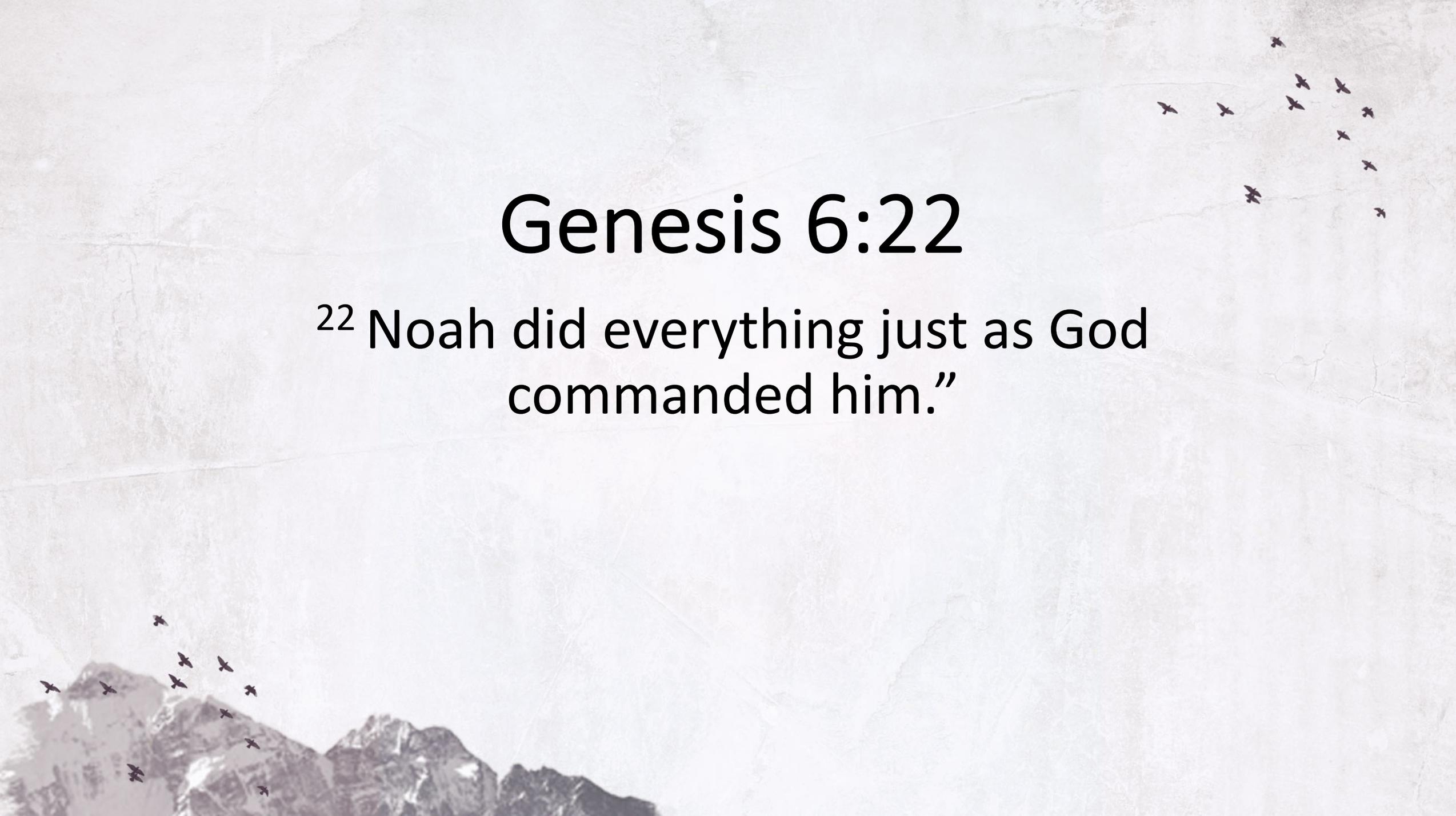
<sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>42</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.



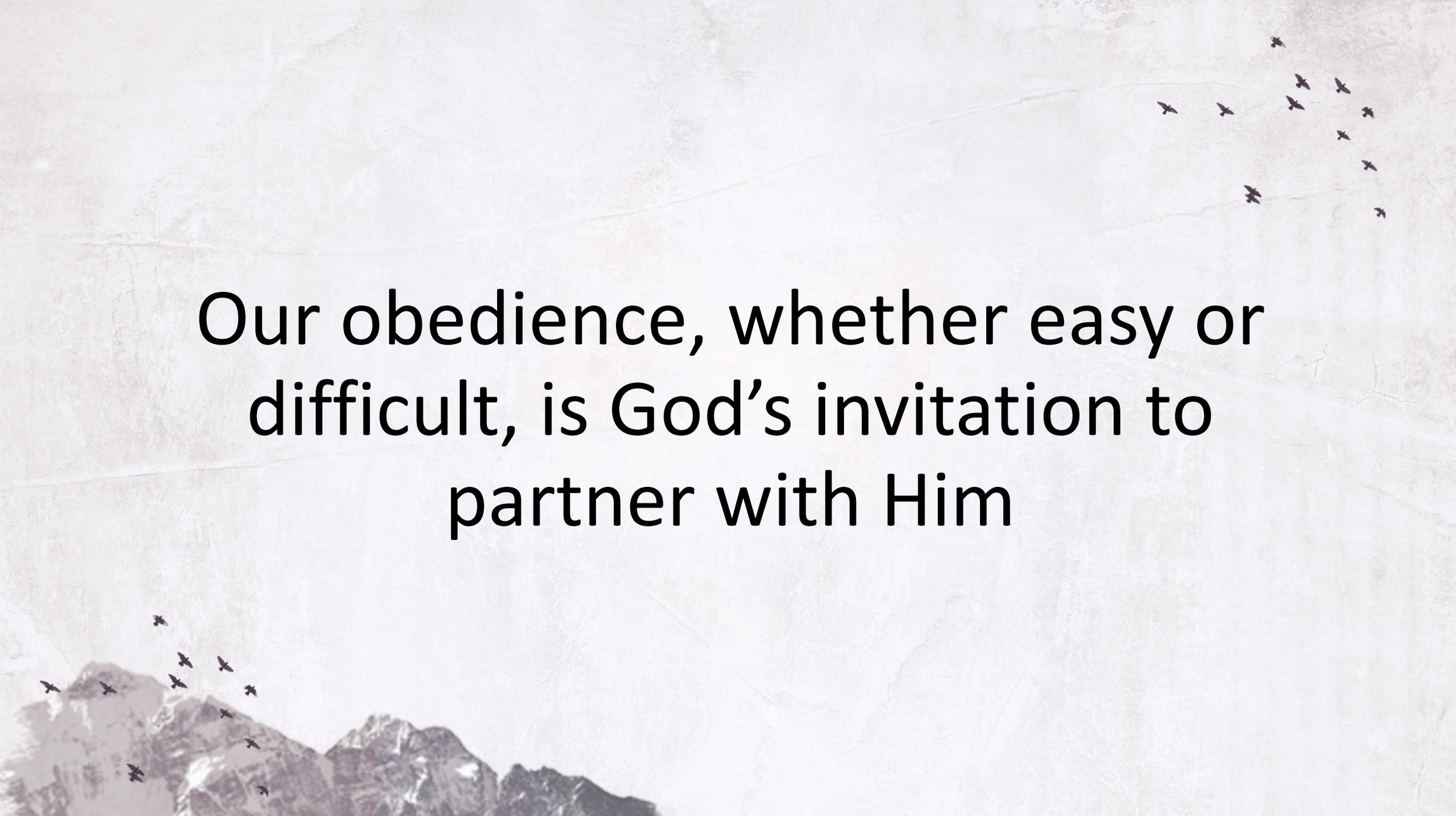
## Matthew 24:35-44

<sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

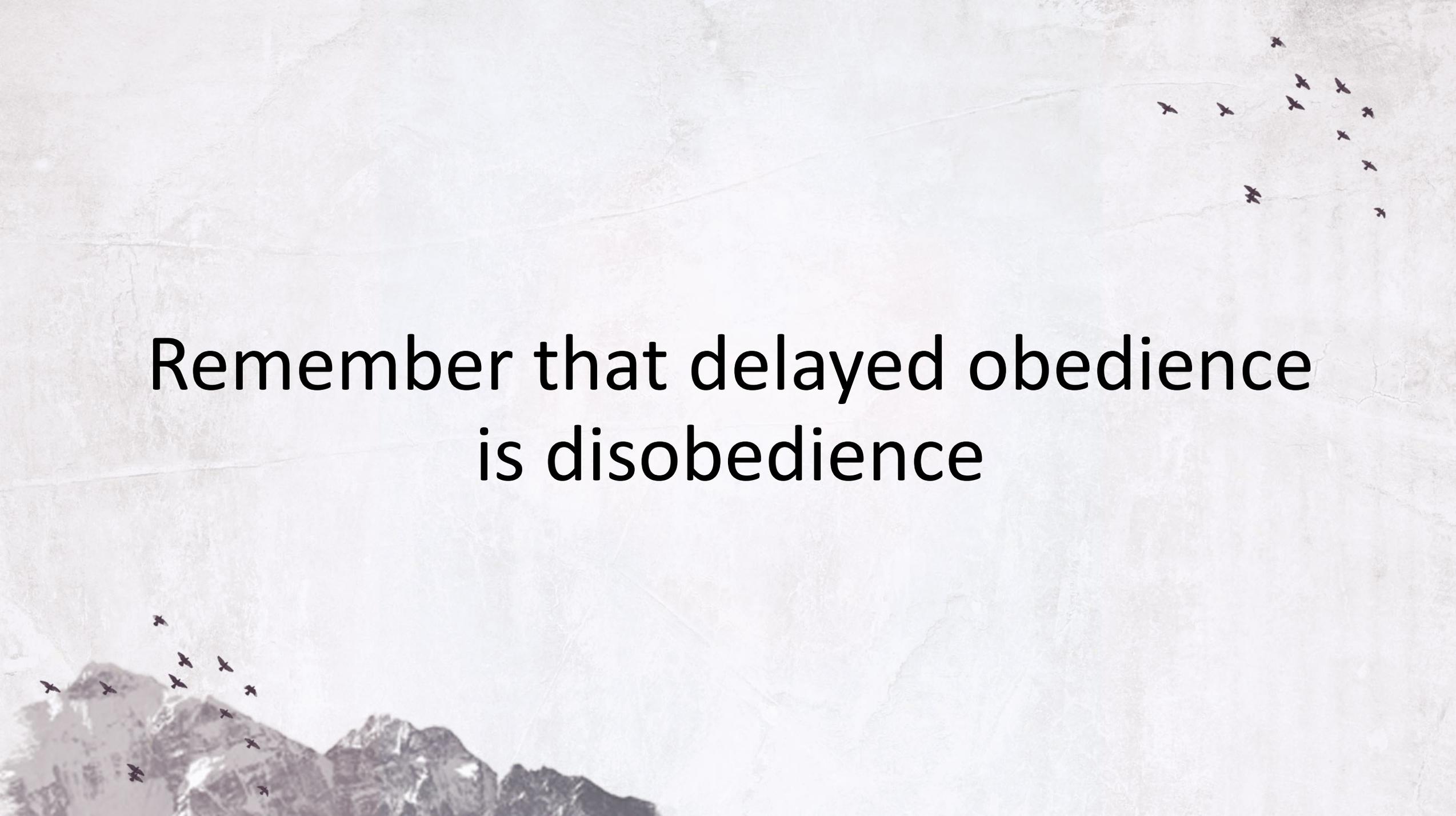
The background of the slide features a light-colored, textured surface, possibly representing a sky or a wall. In the upper right and lower left corners, there are clusters of small, dark, stylized bird silhouettes in flight. The overall aesthetic is clean and minimalist.

# Genesis 6:22

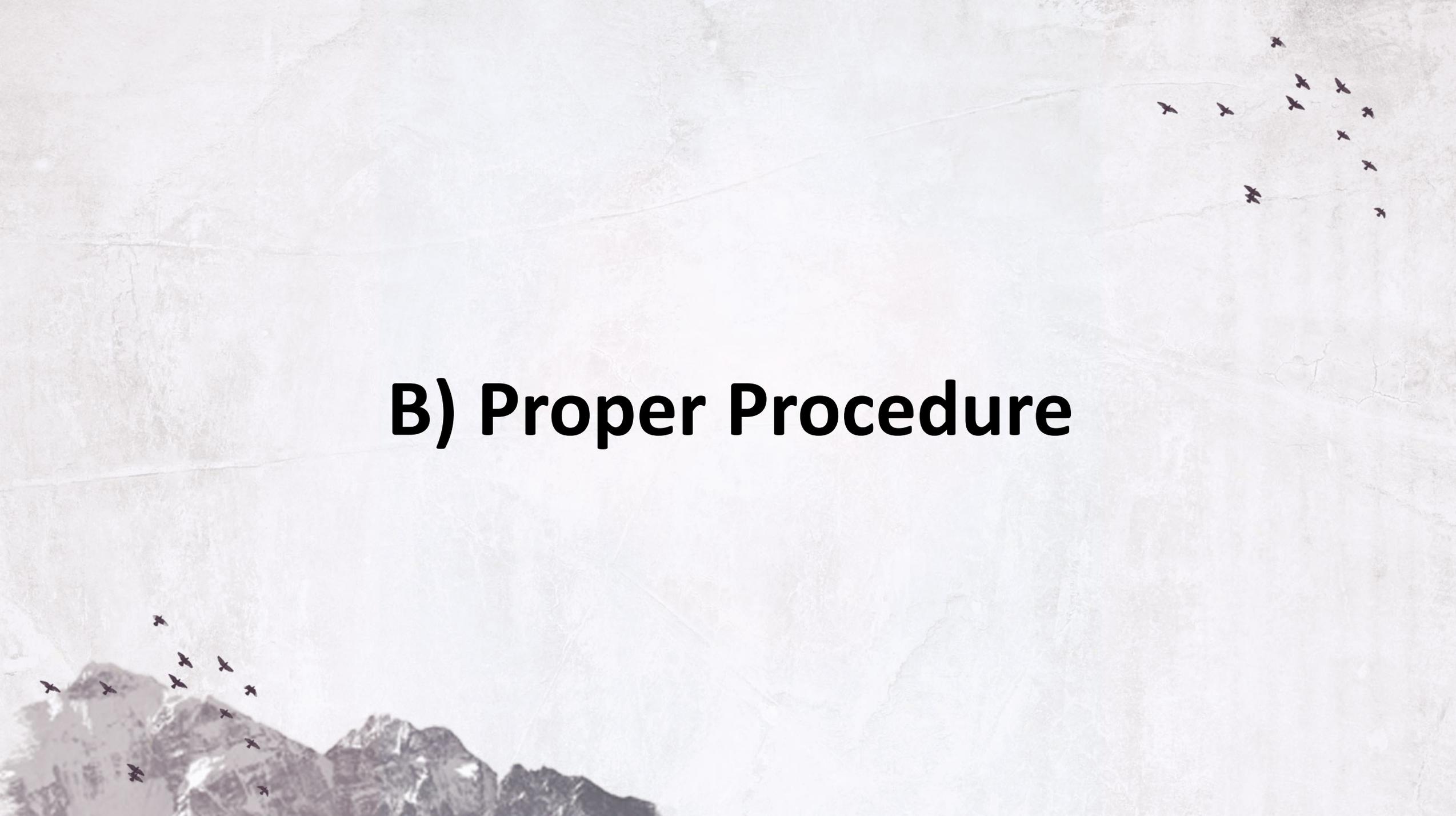
<sup>22</sup> Noah did everything just as God commanded him.”

The background of the image is a light, textured surface, possibly a piece of paper or parchment, with a subtle mountain range visible at the bottom. The mountains are rendered in a soft, muted purple and grey tone. In the sky, there are several small, dark silhouettes of birds in flight, scattered across the upper and lower portions of the frame. The overall aesthetic is clean and minimalist, with a focus on the central text.

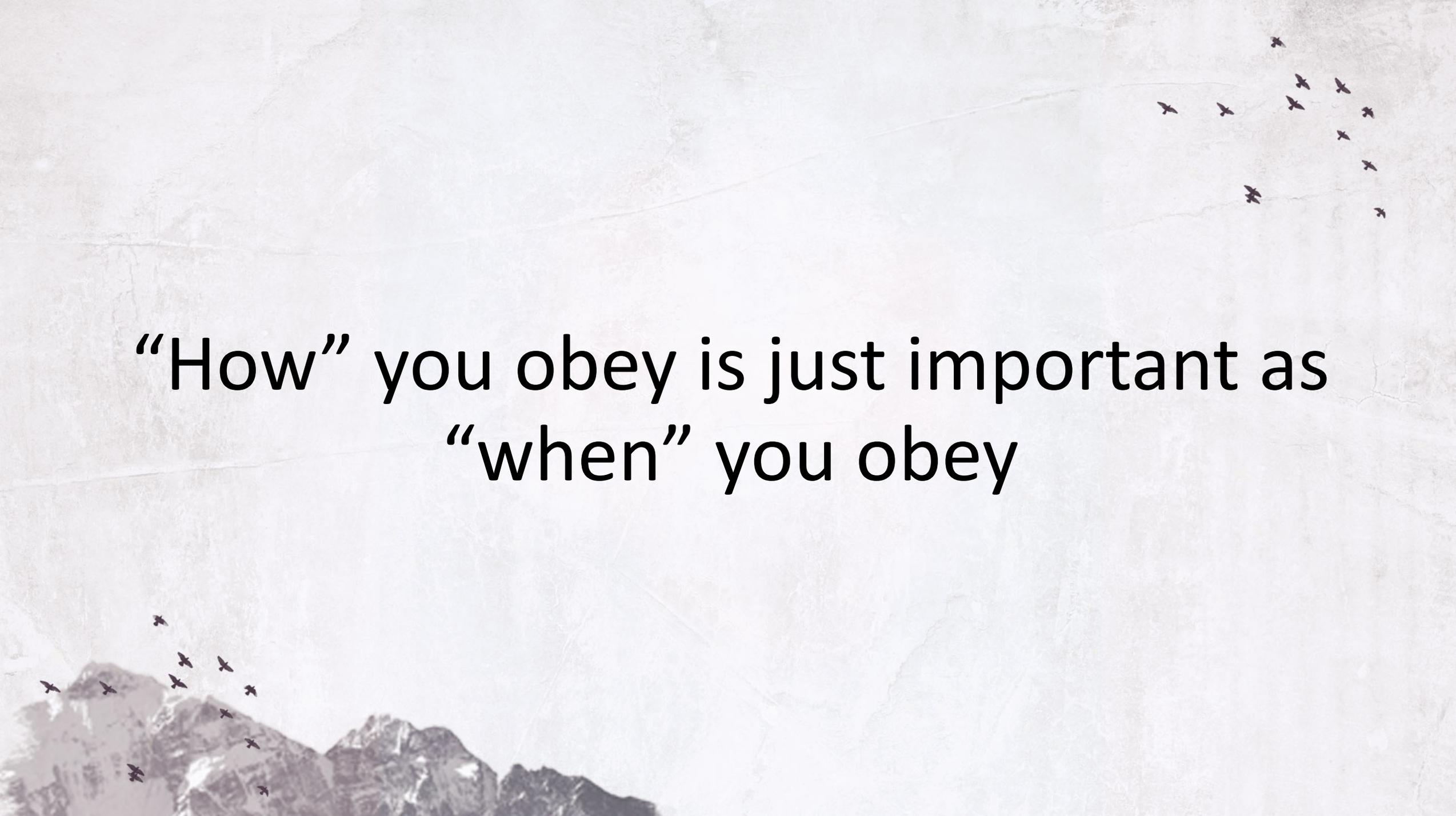
Our obedience, whether easy or  
difficult, is God's invitation to  
partner with Him



Remember that delayed obedience  
is disobedience

The background of the slide features a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a piece of paper or parchment, with faint, horizontal lines. In the lower-left corner, there is a dark, jagged silhouette of a mountain range. A flock of approximately 15-20 small, dark birds is scattered across the sky, with some flying near the mountains and others higher up in the upper right quadrant.

## **B) Proper Procedure**



“How” you obey is just important as  
“when” you obey

# 1 Samuel 15:17-23

<sup>17</sup> Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. <sup>18</sup> And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.’

# 1 Samuel 15:17-23

<sup>19</sup> Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?” <sup>20</sup> “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said.

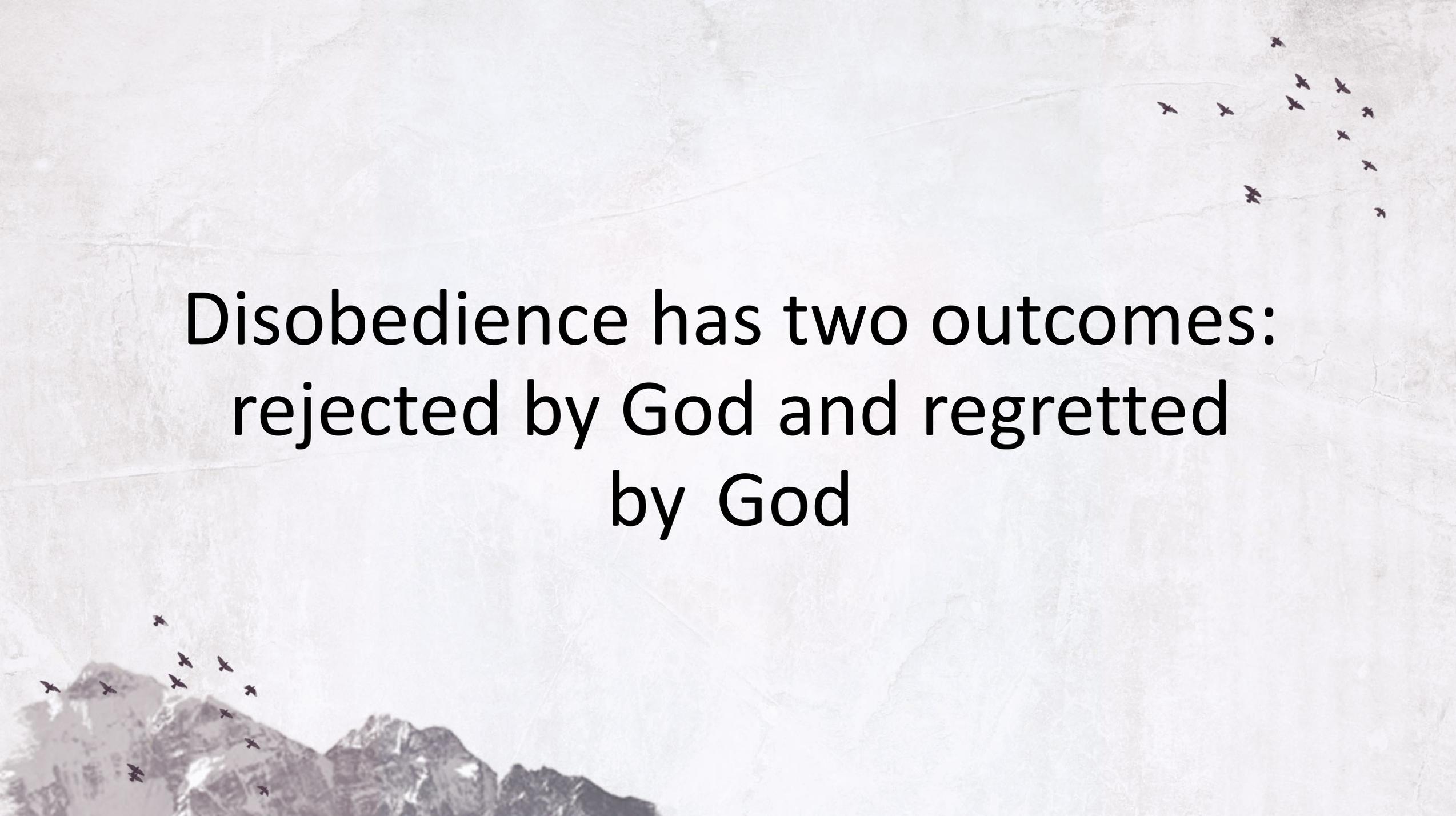
“I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king.

# 1 Samuel 15:17-23

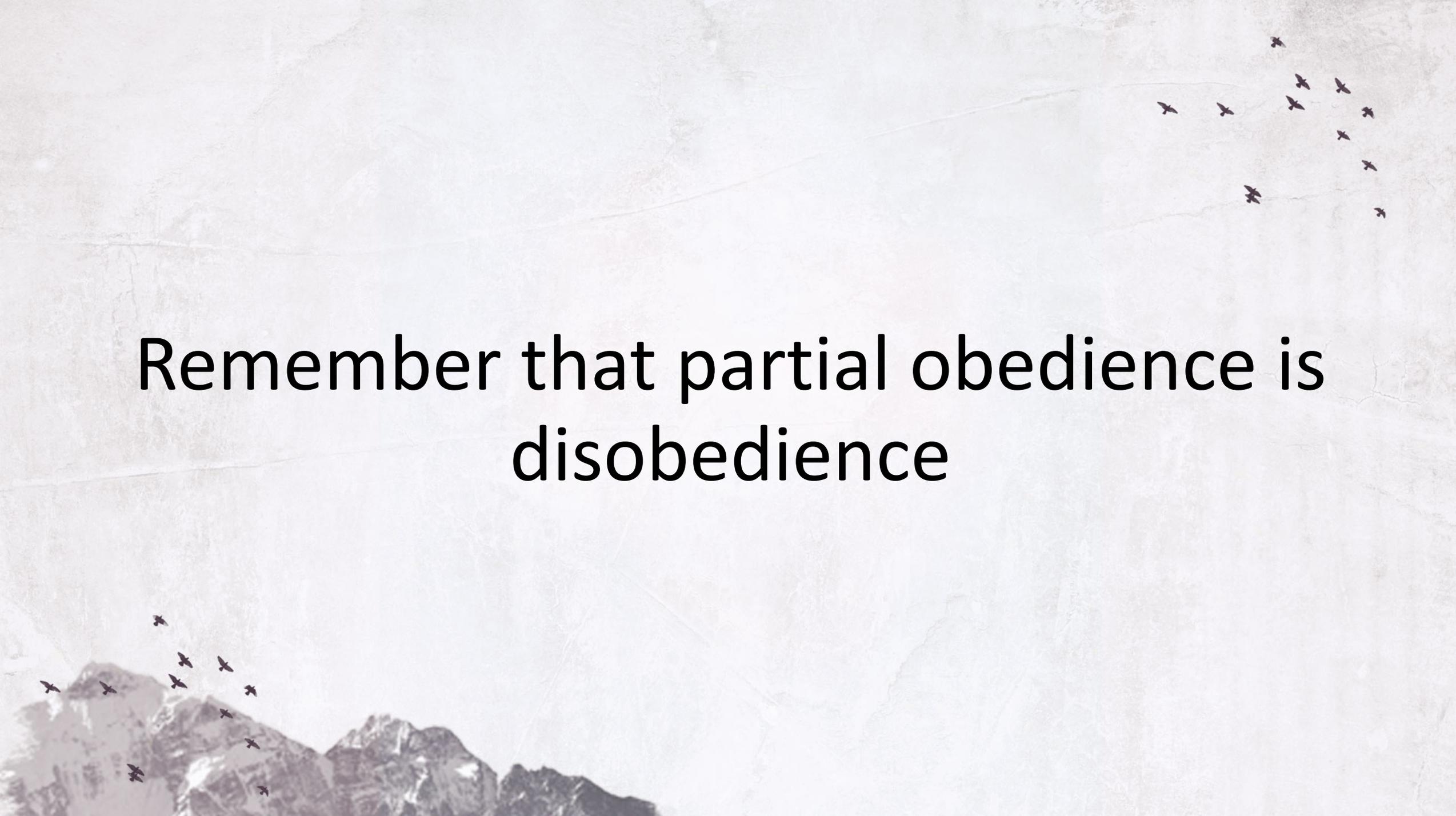
<sup>21</sup> The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.” <sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD?”

# 1 Samuel 15:17-23

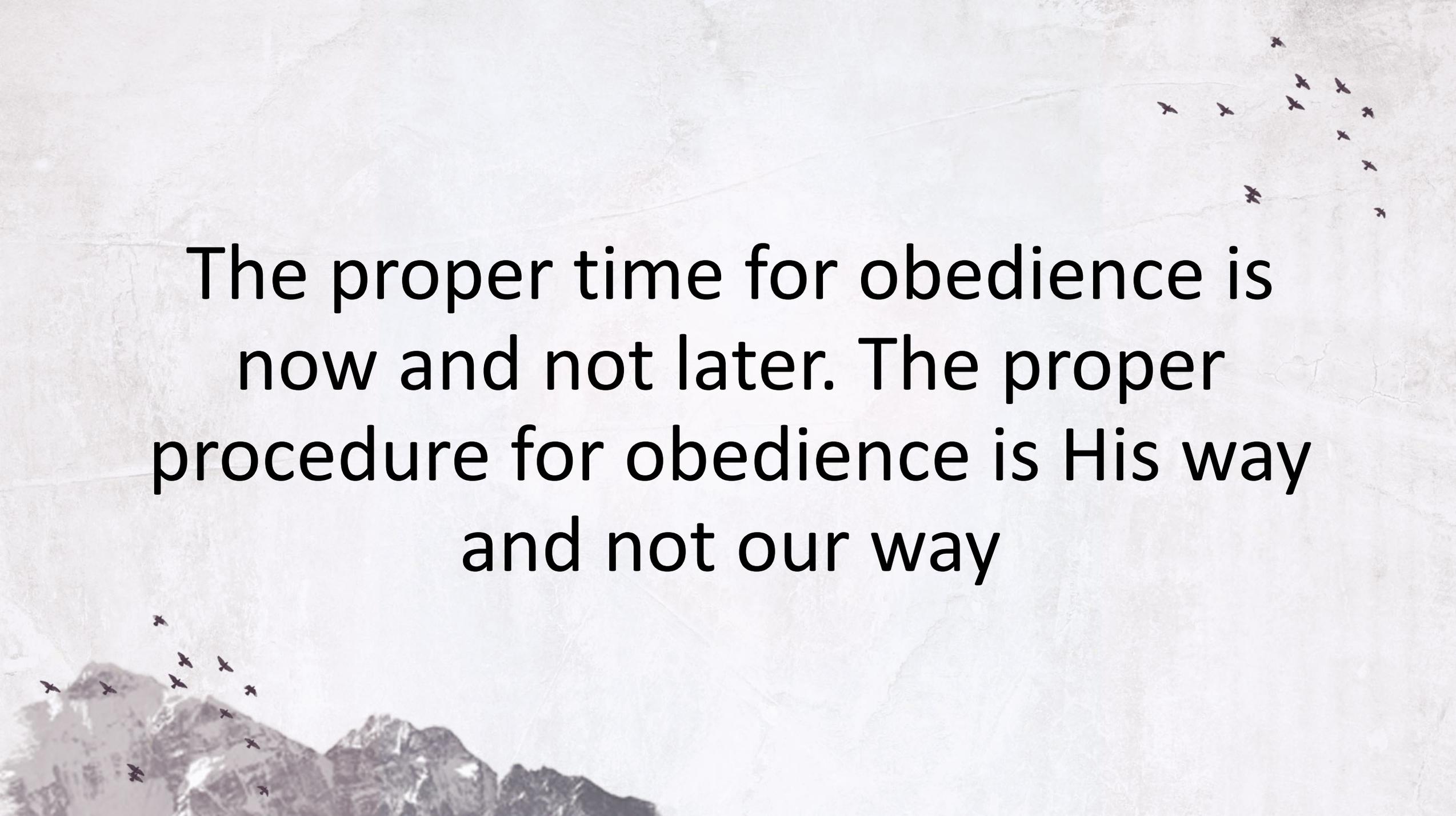
To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup> For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.”

The background of the slide features a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a piece of paper or parchment, with faint, sketchy outlines of a mountain range. In the upper right and lower left corners, there are clusters of small, dark, stylized bird silhouettes in flight. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

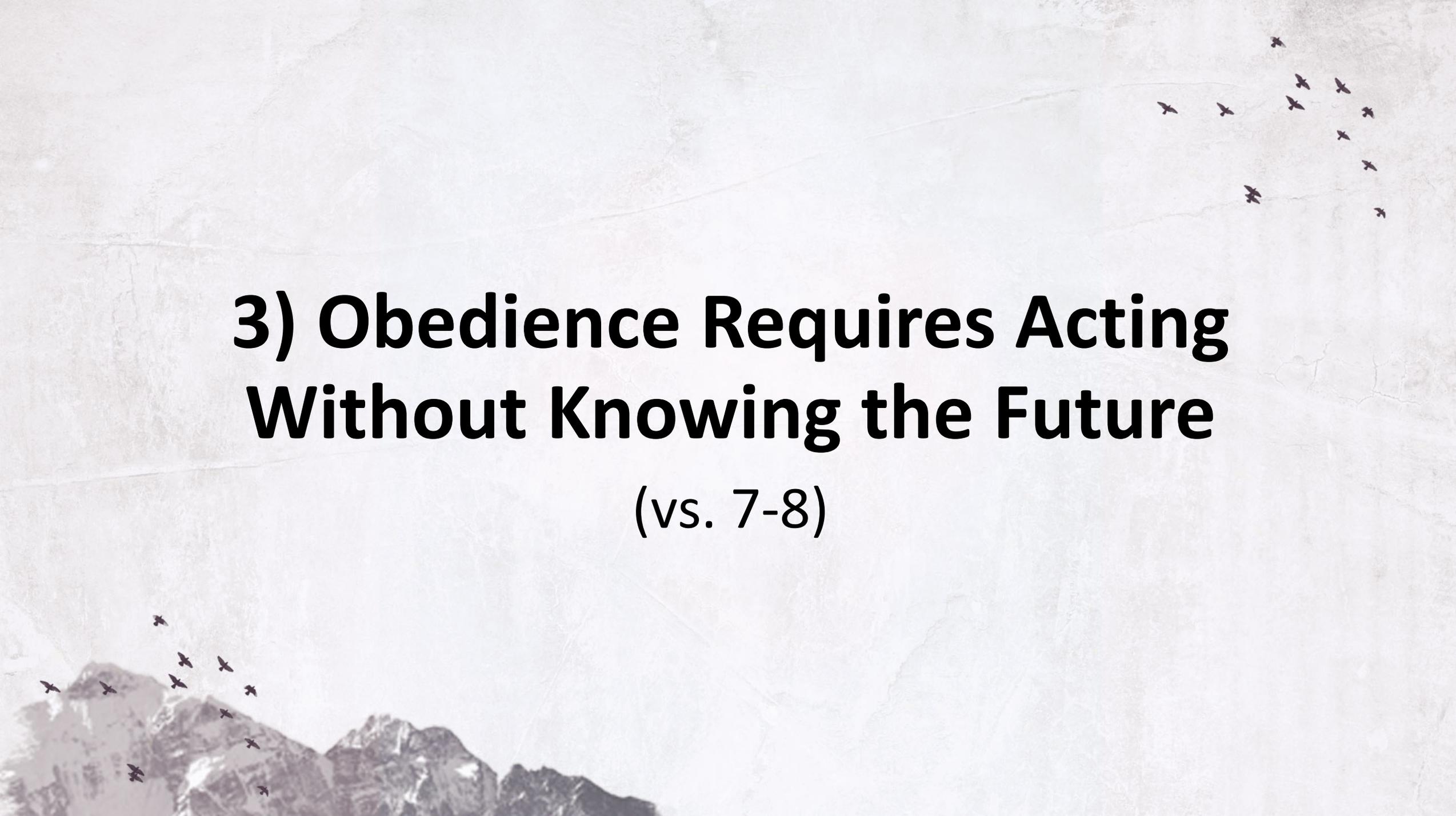
Disobedience has two outcomes:  
rejected by God and regretted  
by God

The background features a soft-focus, light-colored mountain range with some snow-capped peaks. In the upper right and lower left corners, there are clusters of small, dark birds in flight, scattered across the sky. The overall aesthetic is clean and minimalist.

Remember that partial obedience is  
disobedience

The background features a soft-focus landscape of snow-capped mountains under a pale sky. Numerous small, dark silhouettes of birds are scattered across the sky, some in flight and others perched on the mountain peaks. The overall tone is serene and ethereal.

The proper time for obedience is  
now and not later. The proper  
procedure for obedience is His way  
and not our way

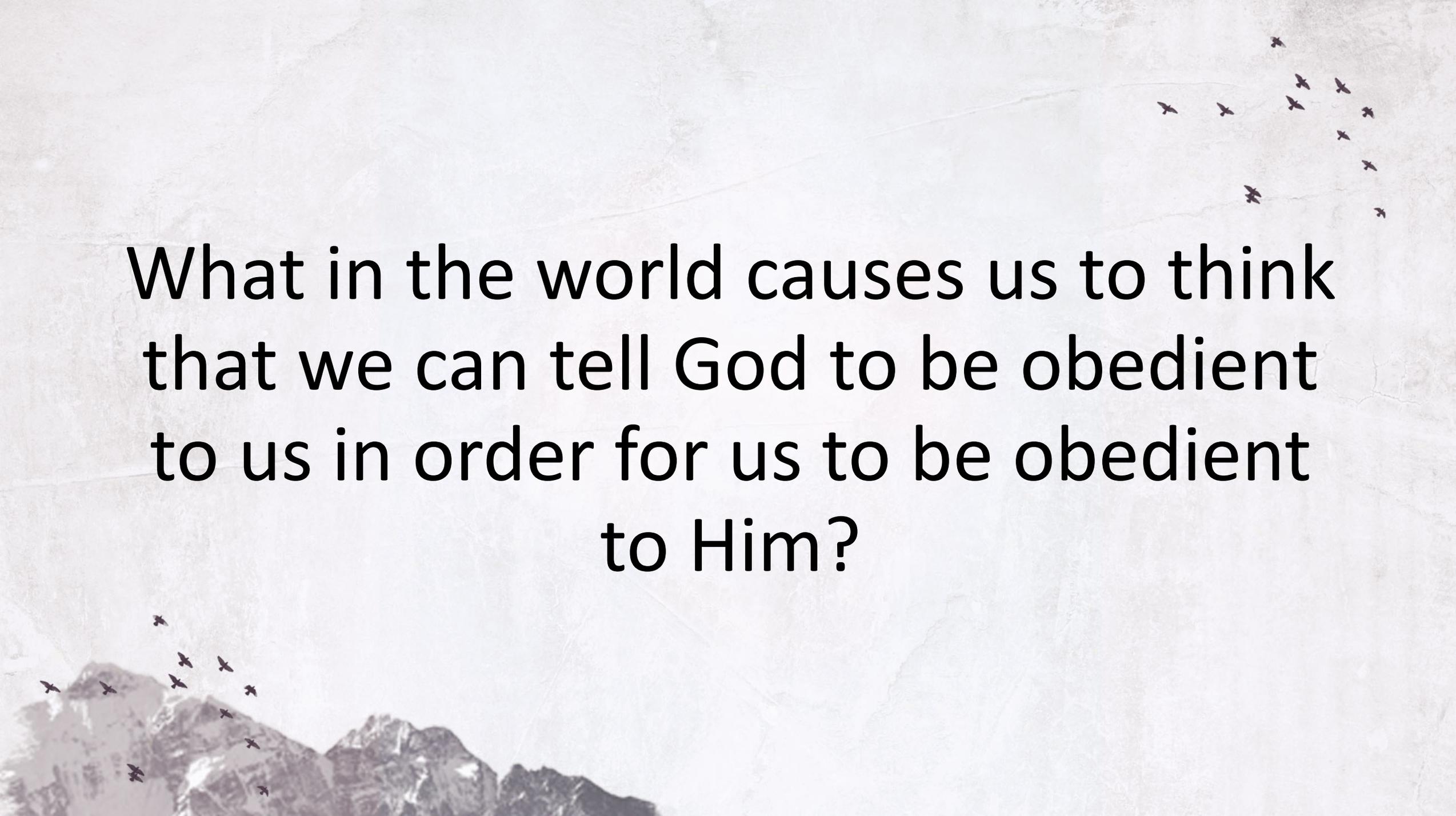
The background features a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a piece of paper or parchment, with faint, sketchy outlines of a mountain range. In the upper right and lower left corners, there are clusters of small, dark, stylized bird silhouettes in flight.

# **3) Obedience Requires Acting Without Knowing the Future**

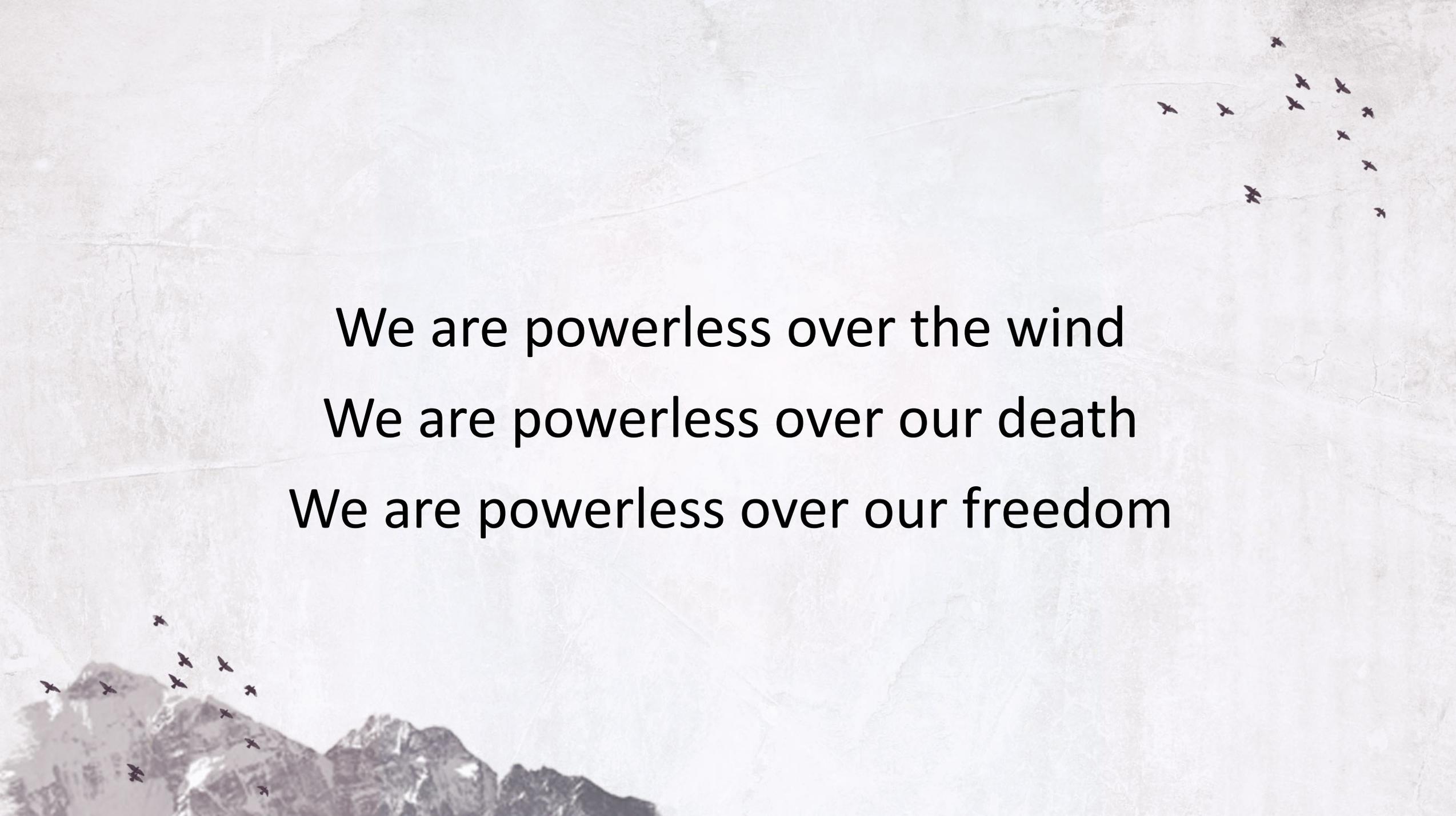
(vs. 7-8)

# Ecclesiastes 8:7-8

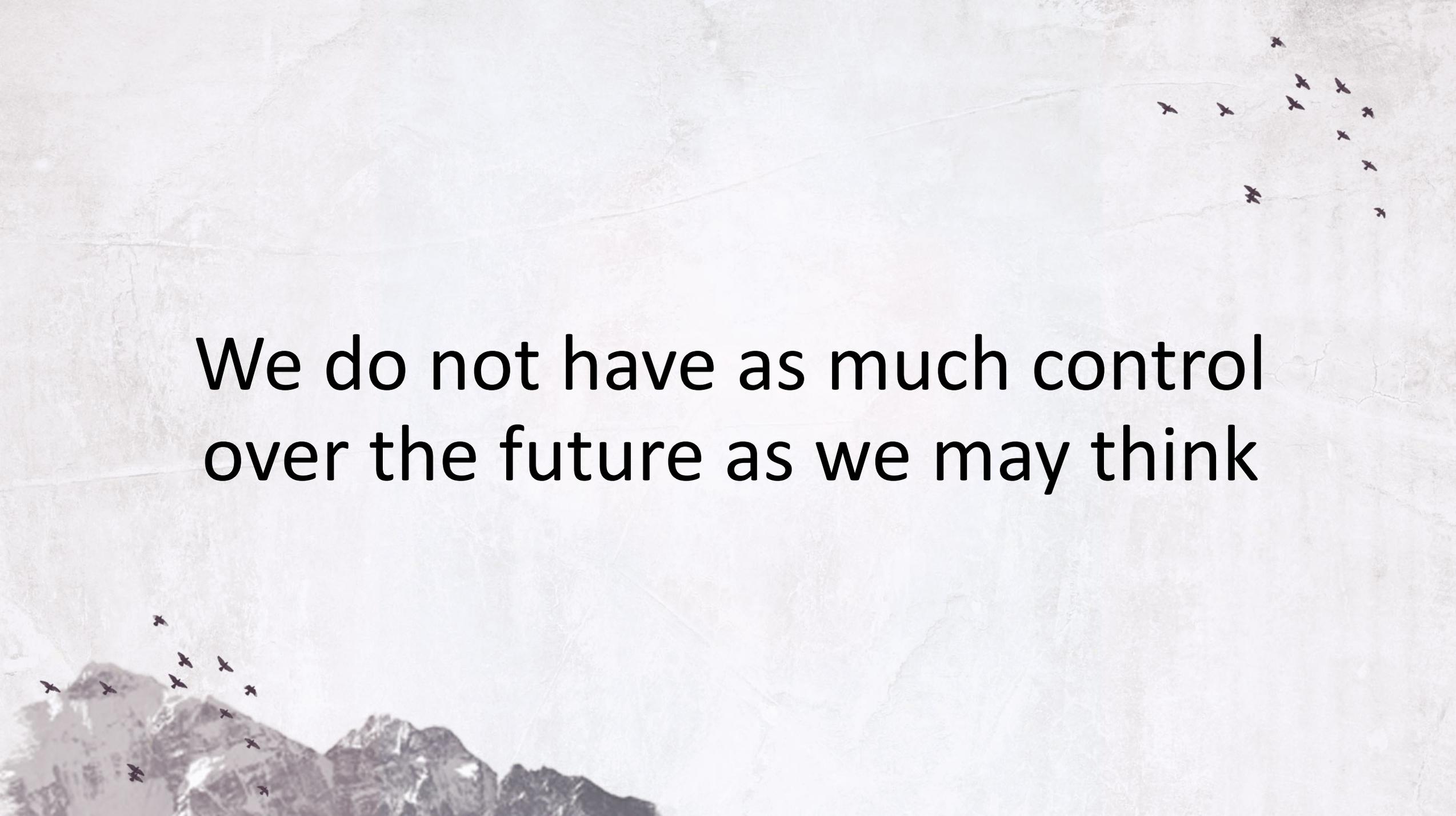
<sup>7</sup> Since no one knows the future, who can tell someone else what is to come? <sup>8</sup> As no one has power over the wind to contain it, so no one has power over the time of their death. As no one is discharged in time of war so wickedness will not release those who practice it.

The background features a soft-focus landscape of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, populated by several small, dark silhouettes of birds in flight, scattered across the upper and lower portions of the frame. The overall aesthetic is serene and contemplative.

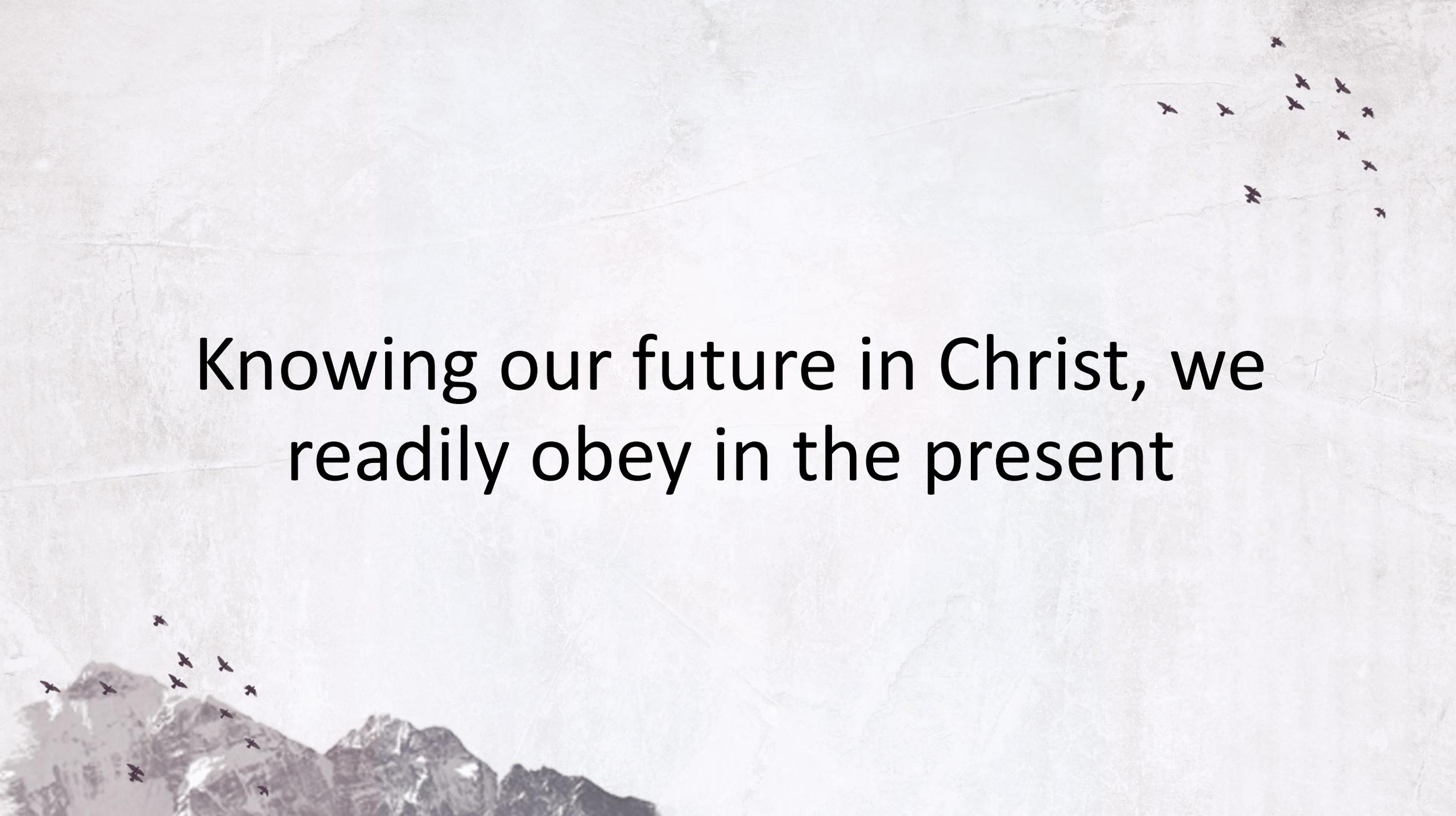
What in the world causes us to think  
that we can tell God to be obedient  
to us in order for us to be obedient  
to Him?



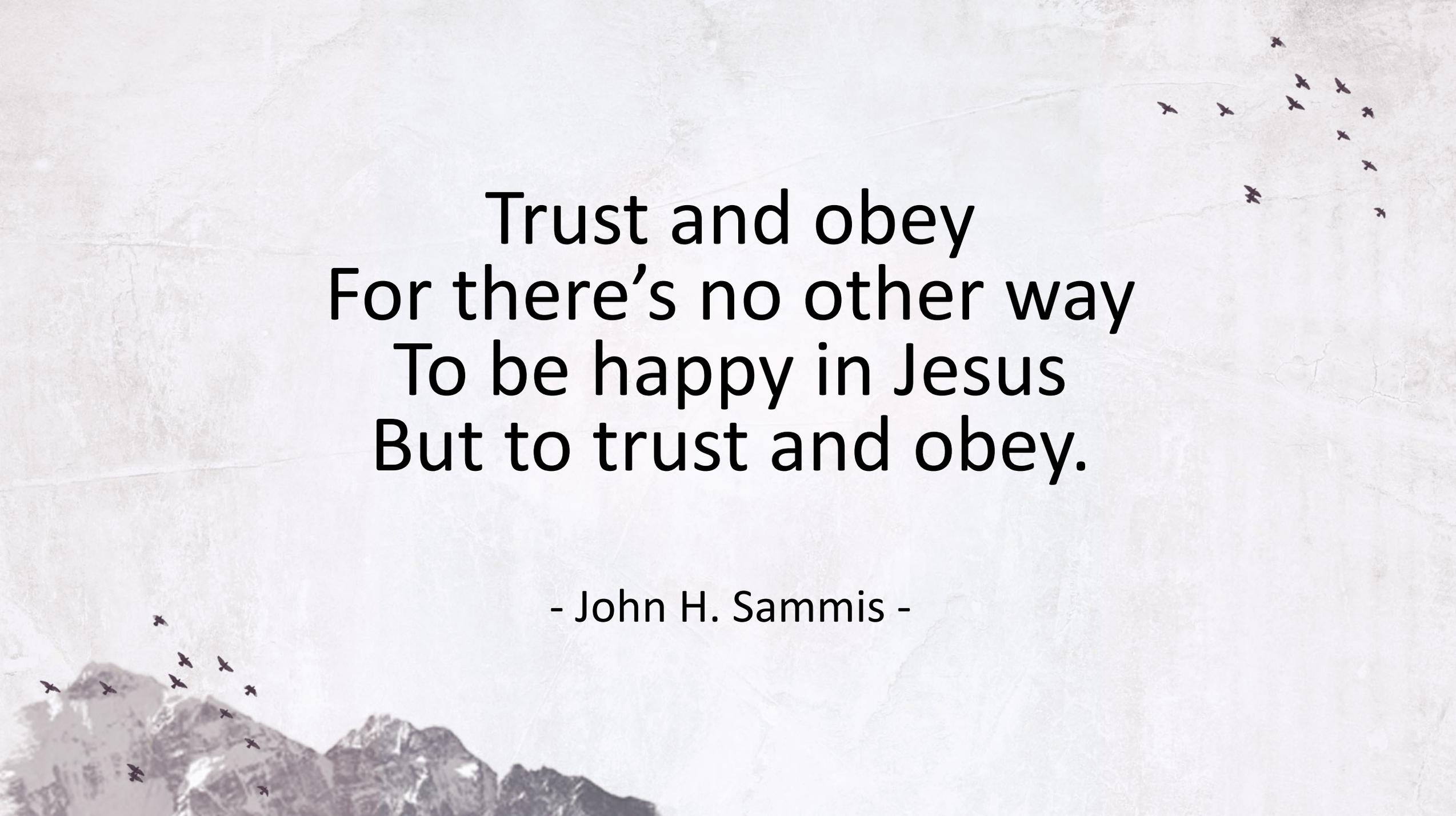
We are powerless over the wind  
We are powerless over our death  
We are powerless over our freedom

The background features a soft-focus, light-colored mountain range with a flock of birds in flight. The birds are scattered across the sky, with a larger group in the upper right and a smaller group in the lower left. The overall tone is serene and contemplative.

We do not have as much control  
over the future as we may think

The background features a soft-focus landscape of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, and several birds are depicted in flight, scattered across the upper and lower portions of the frame. The overall aesthetic is serene and contemplative.

Knowing our future in Christ, we  
readily obey in the present



Trust and obey  
For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus  
But to trust and obey.

- John H. Sammis -





# ECCELESIASTES

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MEANINGLESS OR MISSIONAL?