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The image is a book cover for 'The Minor Prophets'. It features a central illustration of a prophet, likely Isaiah, standing on a rocky, blue-toned landscape. The prophet is depicted in a dark, textured robe, with a long white beard and hair. He holds a scroll in his left hand and points his right index finger towards the viewer. The background is a vibrant, textured red-orange sky with stylized, flame-like clouds. A large, stylized 'XIII' is superimposed over the scene, with the 'X' and 'I's in teal and the 'I' in orange. The title 'THE MINOR PROPHETS' is written in a white, gothic-style serif font, centered over the prophet's figure and the 'XIII'.

THE MINOR

PROPHETS



MALACHI

¹ “And now, you priests, this warning is for you. ² If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honour my name,” says the LORD Almighty, “I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honour me.

MALACHI 2:1-9

³ “Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it. ⁴ And you will know that I have sent you this warning so that my covenant with Levi may continue,” says the LORD Almighty.

MALACHI 2:1-9

⁵ “My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. ⁶ True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips.

MALACHI 2:1-9

He walked with me in peace and
uprightness, and turned many from sin.
7 “For the lips of a priest ought to preserve
knowledge, because he is the messenger
of the LORD Almighty and people seek
instruction from his mouth.

MALACHI 2:1-9

⁸ But you have turned from the way
and by your teaching have caused
many to stumble; you have violated
the covenant with Levi,” says the
LORD Almighty.

MALACHI 2:1-9

⁹ “So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.”

MALACHI 2:1-9



¹ A prophecy: The word of the LORD
to Israel through Malachi.

MALACHI 1:1

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

MALACHI 3:1-2



**“Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.”**

MALACHI 3:3



“Return to me, and I will return to you,”
says the LORD Almighty.

MALACHI 3:7



**“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has
come near.”**

MATTHEW 3:2



QUESTION LOVE

² “I have loved you,” says the LORD. “But you ask, ‘How have you loved us?’ “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob, ³ but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals.”

MALACHI 1:2-5

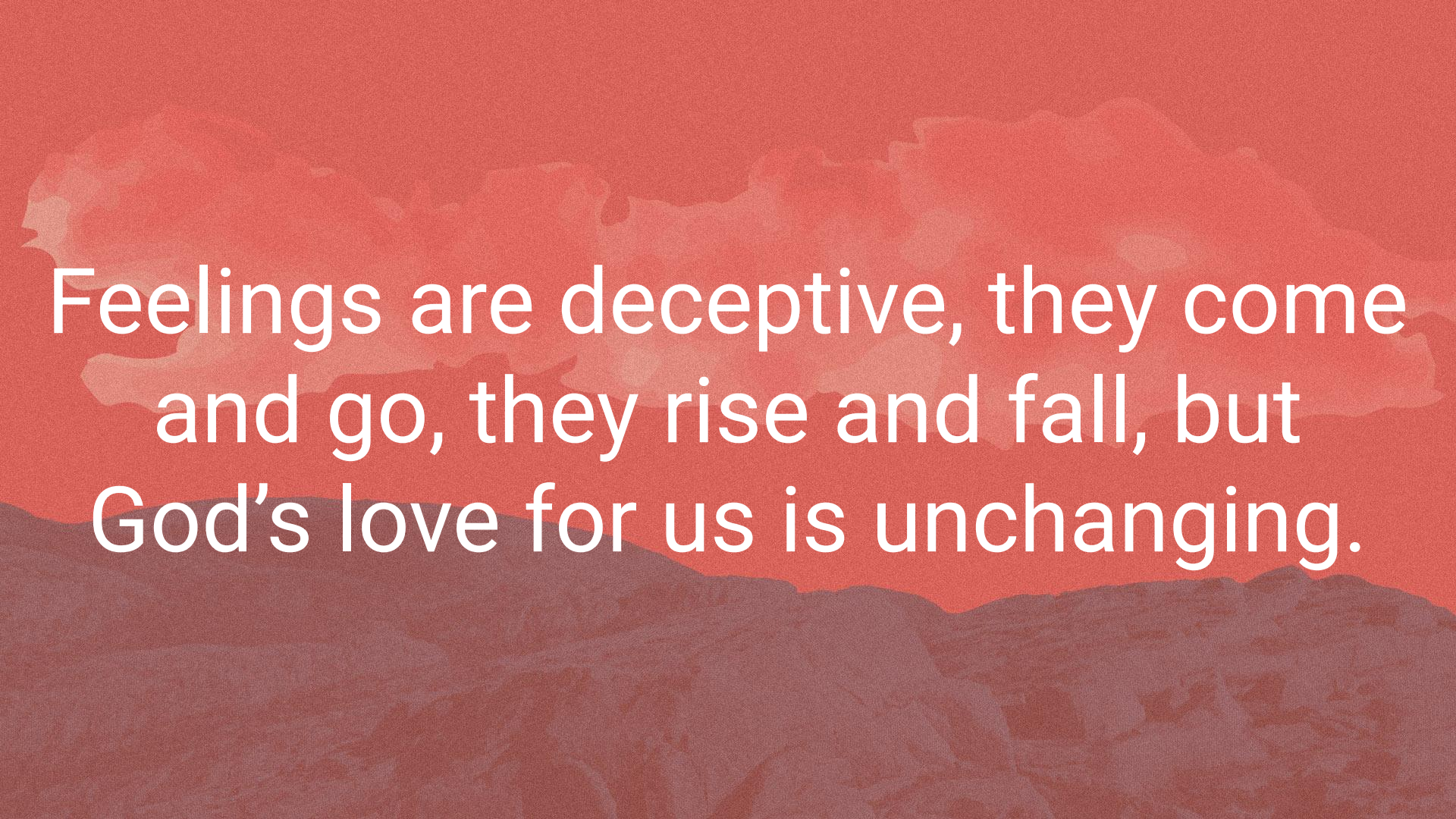
⁴ Edom may say, “Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins.” But this is what the LORD Almighty says: “They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the LORD.

MALACHI 1:2-5



⁵ You will see it with your own eyes and
say, “Great is the LORD—even beyond
the borders of Israel!”

MALACHI 1:2-5

The background of the image shows a landscape with dark, jagged rock formations in the foreground. Above the rocks, the sky is a deep, vibrant red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall image has a textured, slightly grainy appearance, and a semi-transparent red layer is applied over the entire scene to create a uniform color palette.

Feelings are deceptive, they come
and go, they rise and fall, but
God's love for us is unchanging.



¹² What shall I return to the Lord for all his
goodness to me?

PSALM 116:12



³ The LORD appeared to us in the past,
saying: “**I have loved you with an
everlasting love**; I have drawn you
with unfailing kindness.”

JEREMIAH 31:3



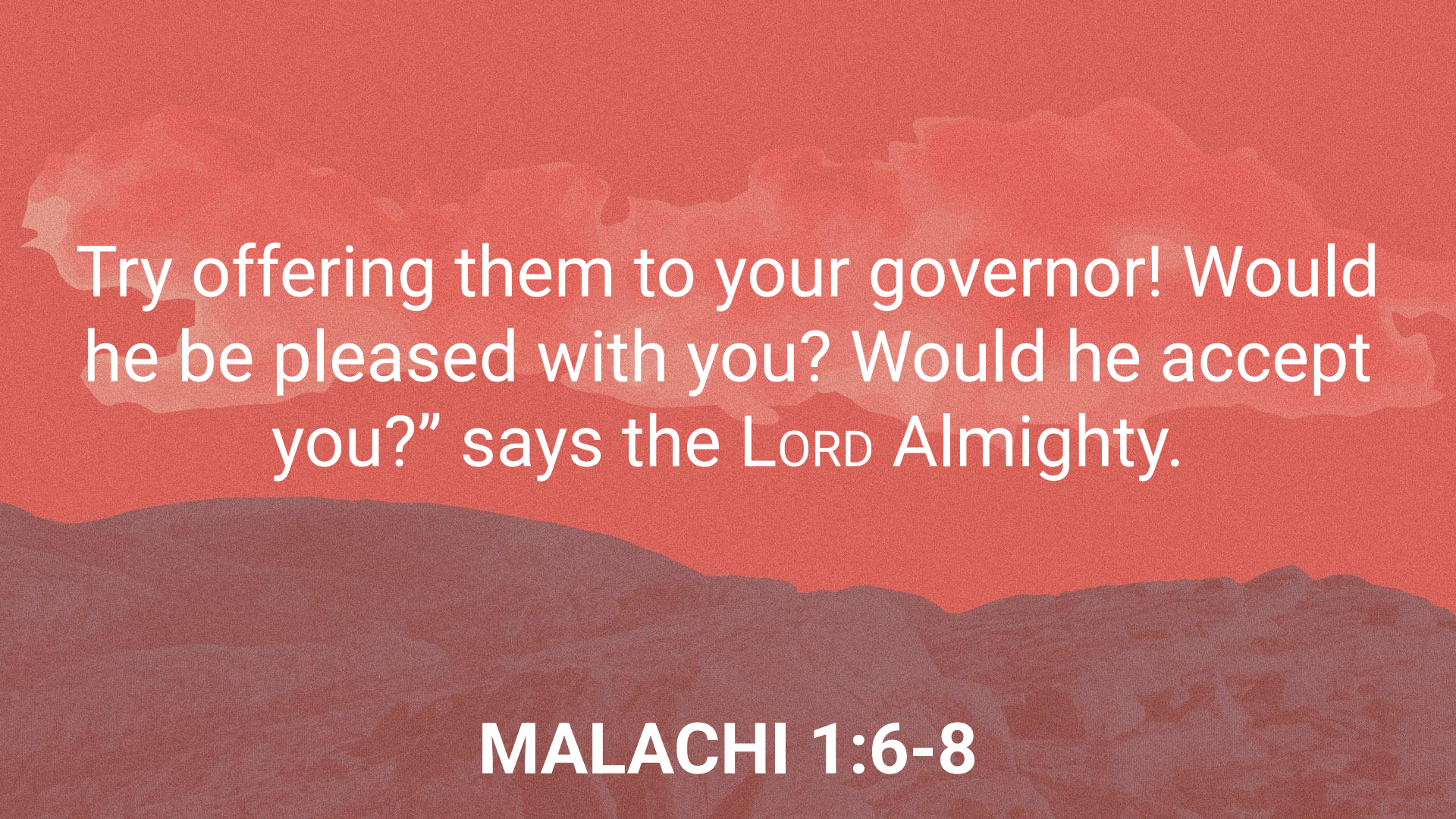
QUALITY SACRIFICES

⁶ “A son honours his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honour due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty. “It is you priests who show contempt for my name. “But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’

MALACHI 1:6-8

⁷ “By offering defiled food on my altar.
“But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’
“By saying that the LORD’s table is
contemptible. ⁸ When you offer blind
animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong?

MALACHI 1:6-8



Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the LORD Almighty.

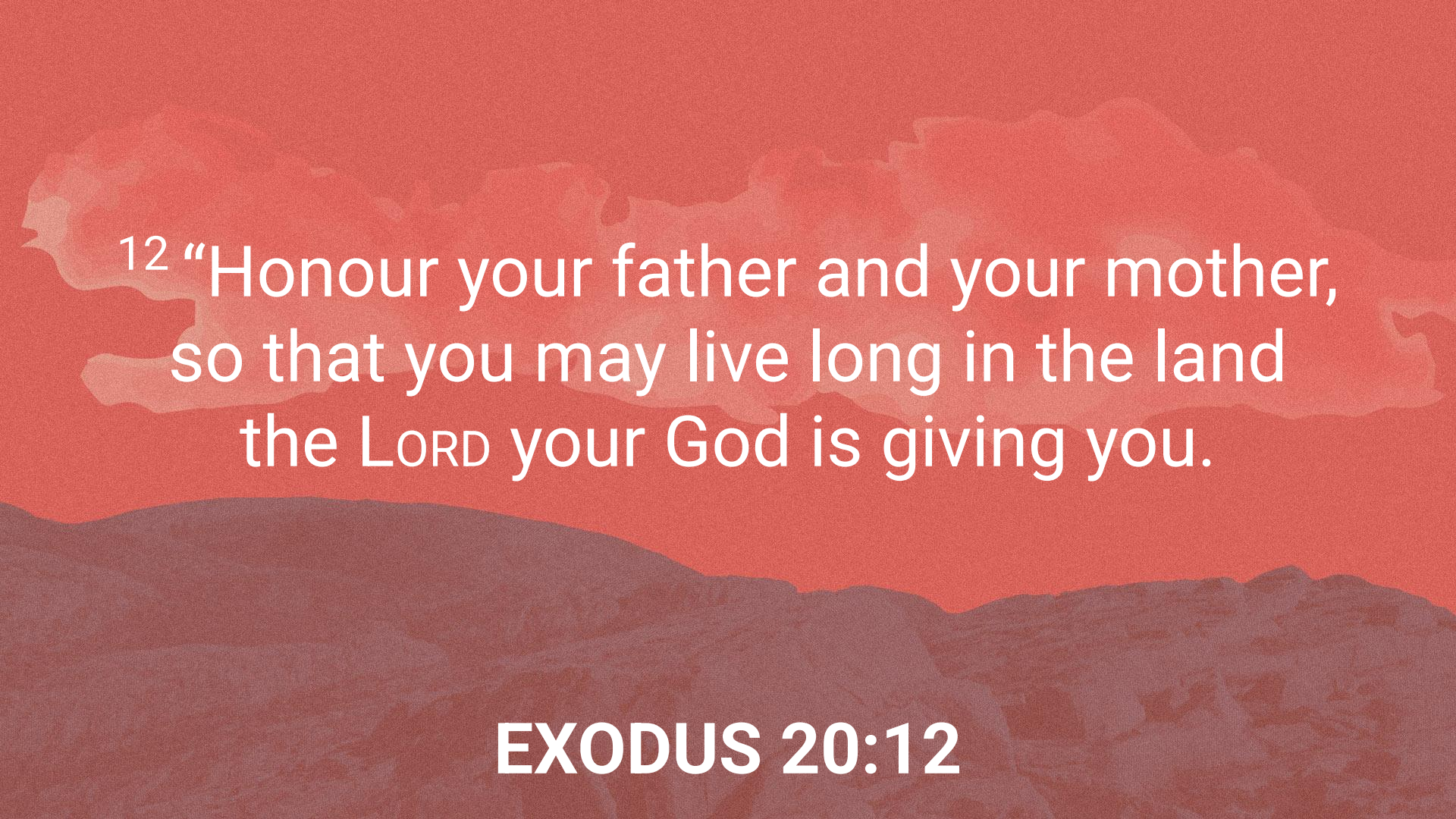
MALACHI 1:6-8

The background of the image is a textured, painterly style. The upper portion is a vibrant red-orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise sky. Below this, there are dark, silhouetted mountains with a rough, rocky texture. The overall composition is simple and evocative.

God deserves the best from us.

The background of the image is a textured, painterly style. The upper portion is a vibrant red-orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise sky, with soft, blended cloud-like shapes. The lower portion is a dark, muted brownish-grey, depicting a rugged, rocky landscape or mountain range. The overall texture is grainy and organic, like a watercolor or a textured print.

We have failed to foster an
honour culture.

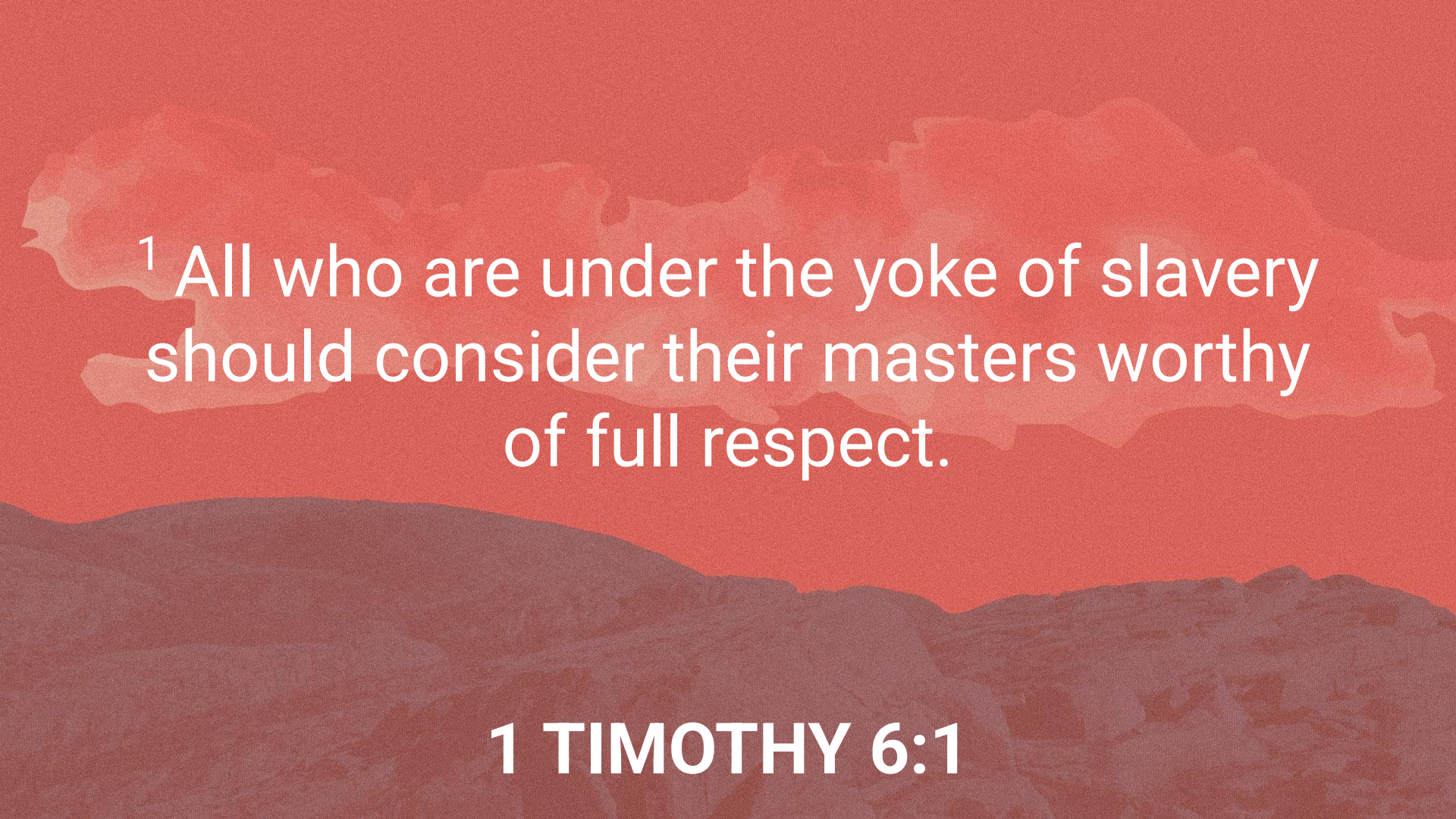


¹² “Honour your father and your mother,
so that you may live long in the land
the LORD your God is giving you.

EXODUS 20:12

The background of the image shows a landscape with dark, jagged rock formations in the foreground. Above the rocks, a bright, hazy sky is visible, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent red overlay, which makes the colors appear more saturated and gives it a dramatic, spiritual feel.

If you cannot honour your earthly
father, you will never honour God
as your Heavenly Father



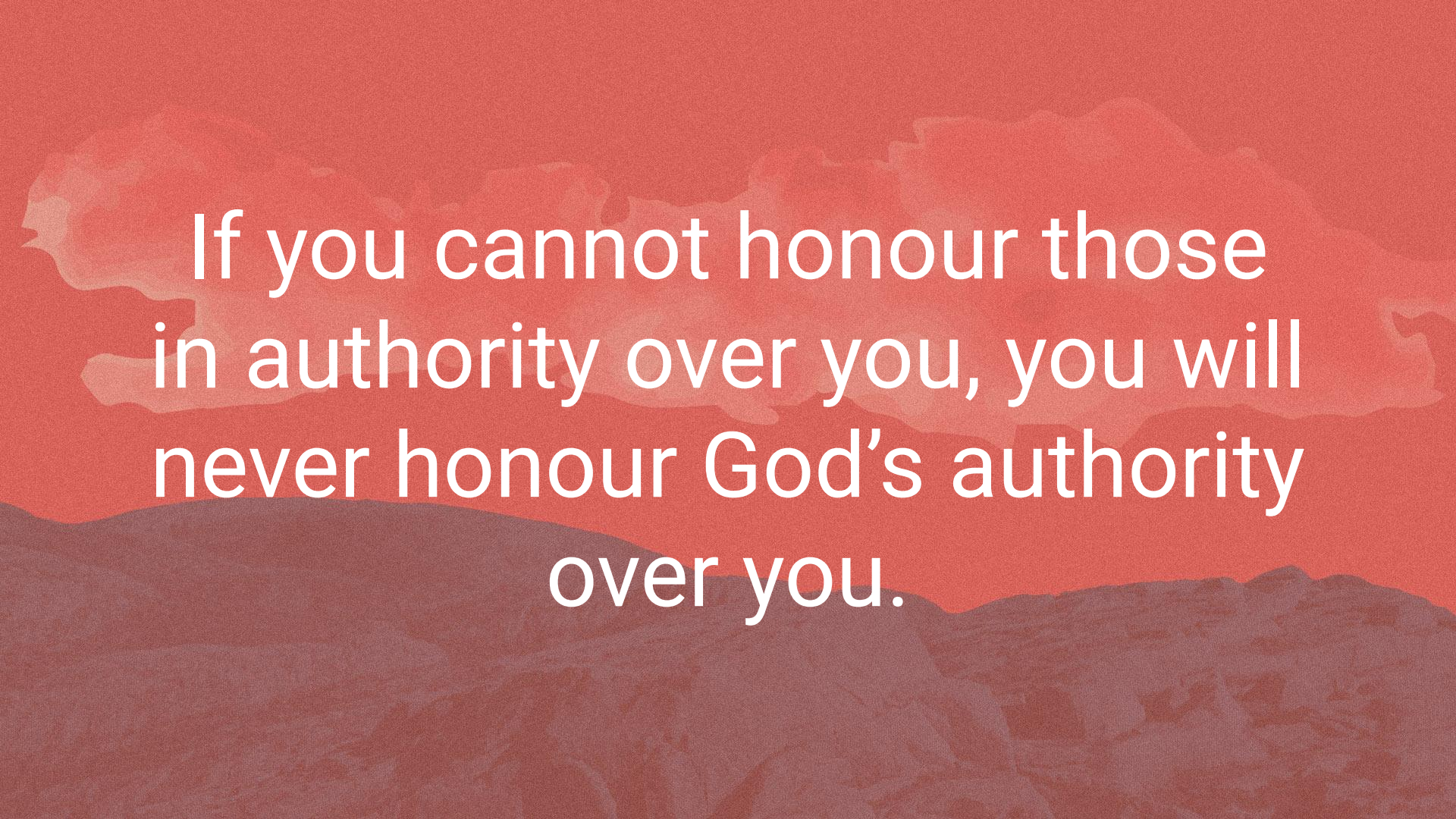
¹ All who are under the yoke of slavery
should consider their masters worthy
of full respect.

1 TIMOTHY 6:1

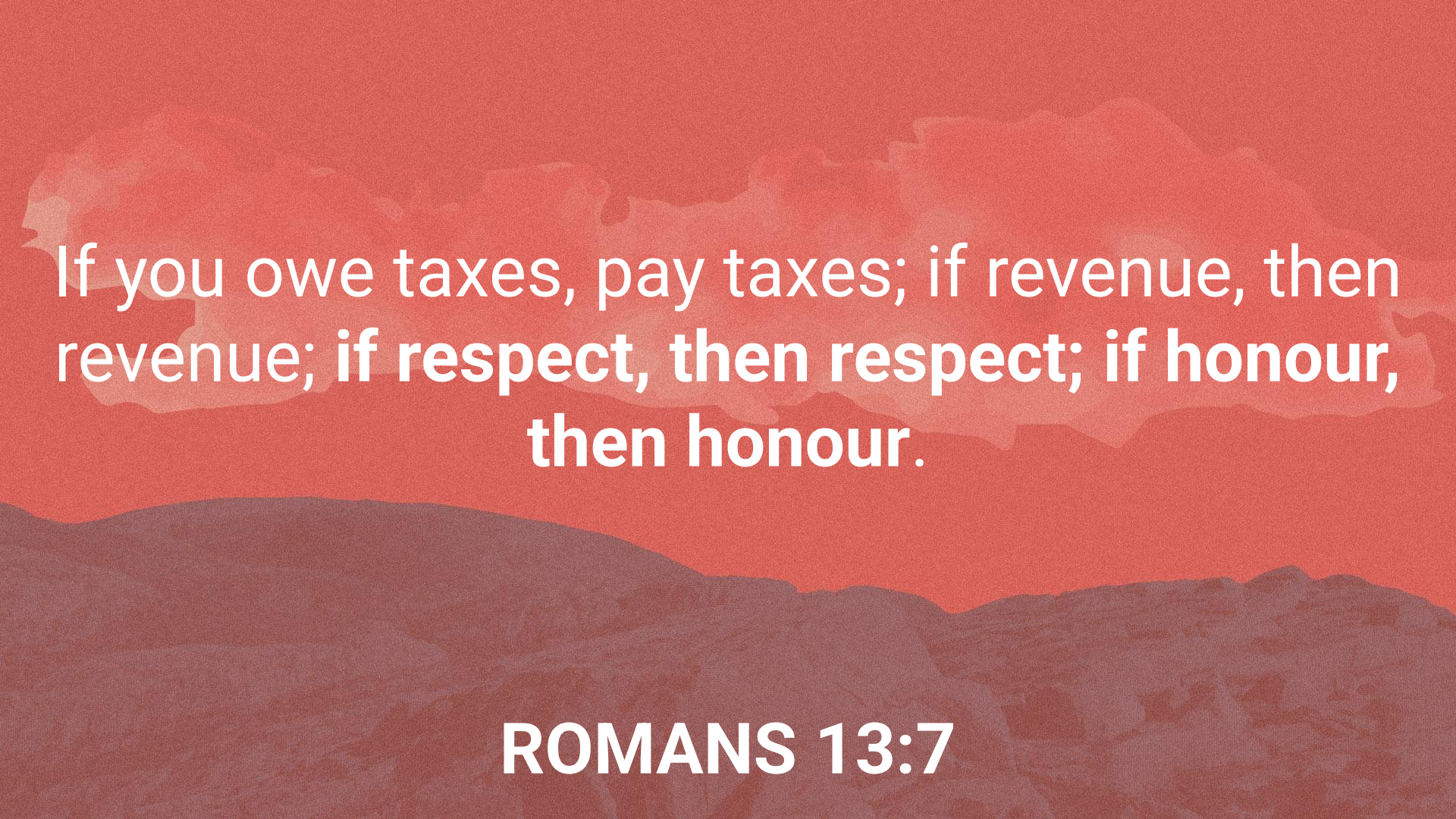


⁹ Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them.

TITUS 2:9

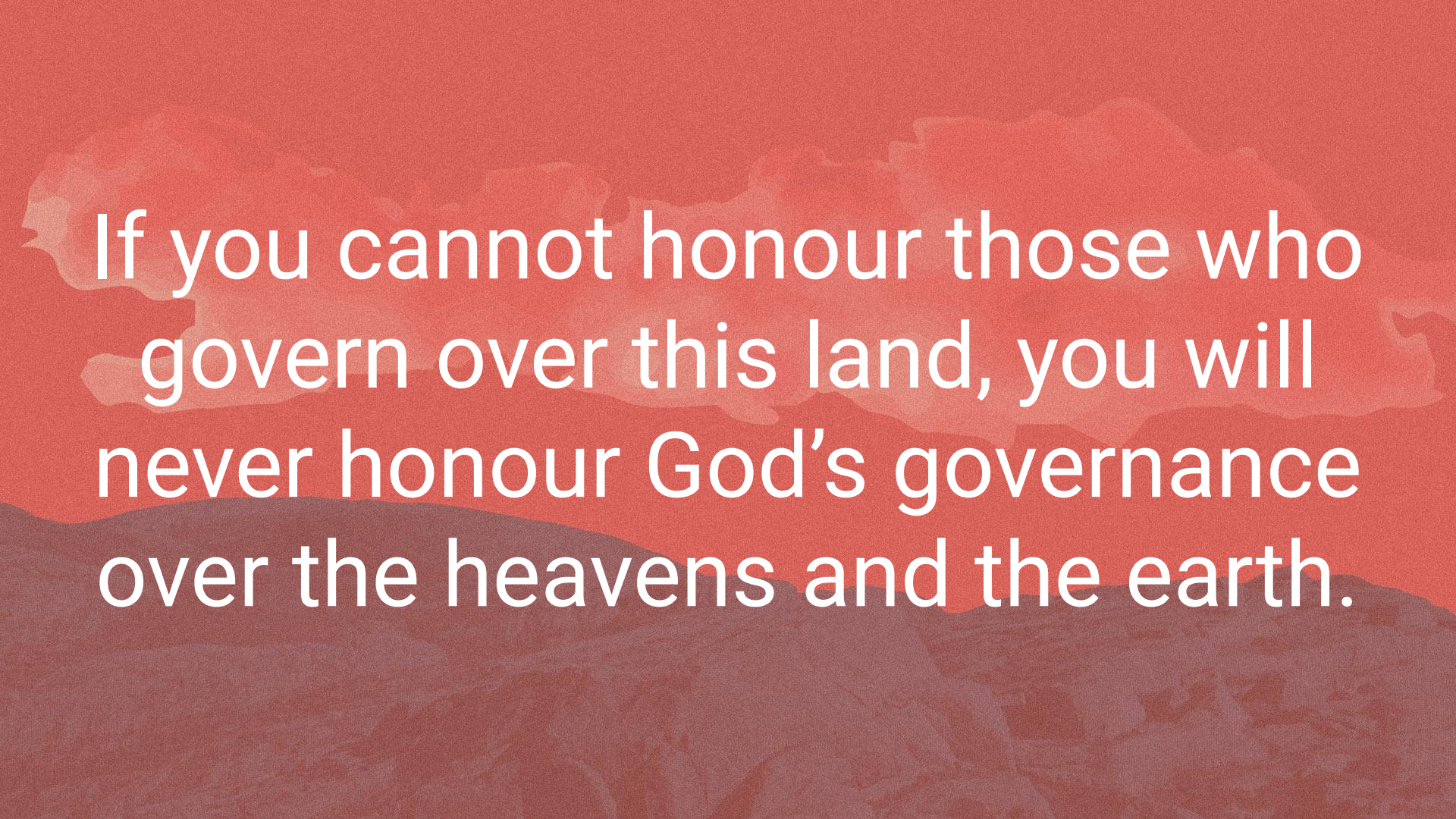


If you cannot honour those
in authority over you, you will
never honour God's authority
over you.



If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then
revenue; **if respect, then respect; if honour,
then honour.**

ROMANS 13:7

The background of the image shows a landscape with dark, jagged rock formations in the foreground. The sky above is a deep red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall image has a textured, slightly grainy appearance. A semi-transparent red layer is overlaid on the entire scene, making the colors more uniform and vibrant.

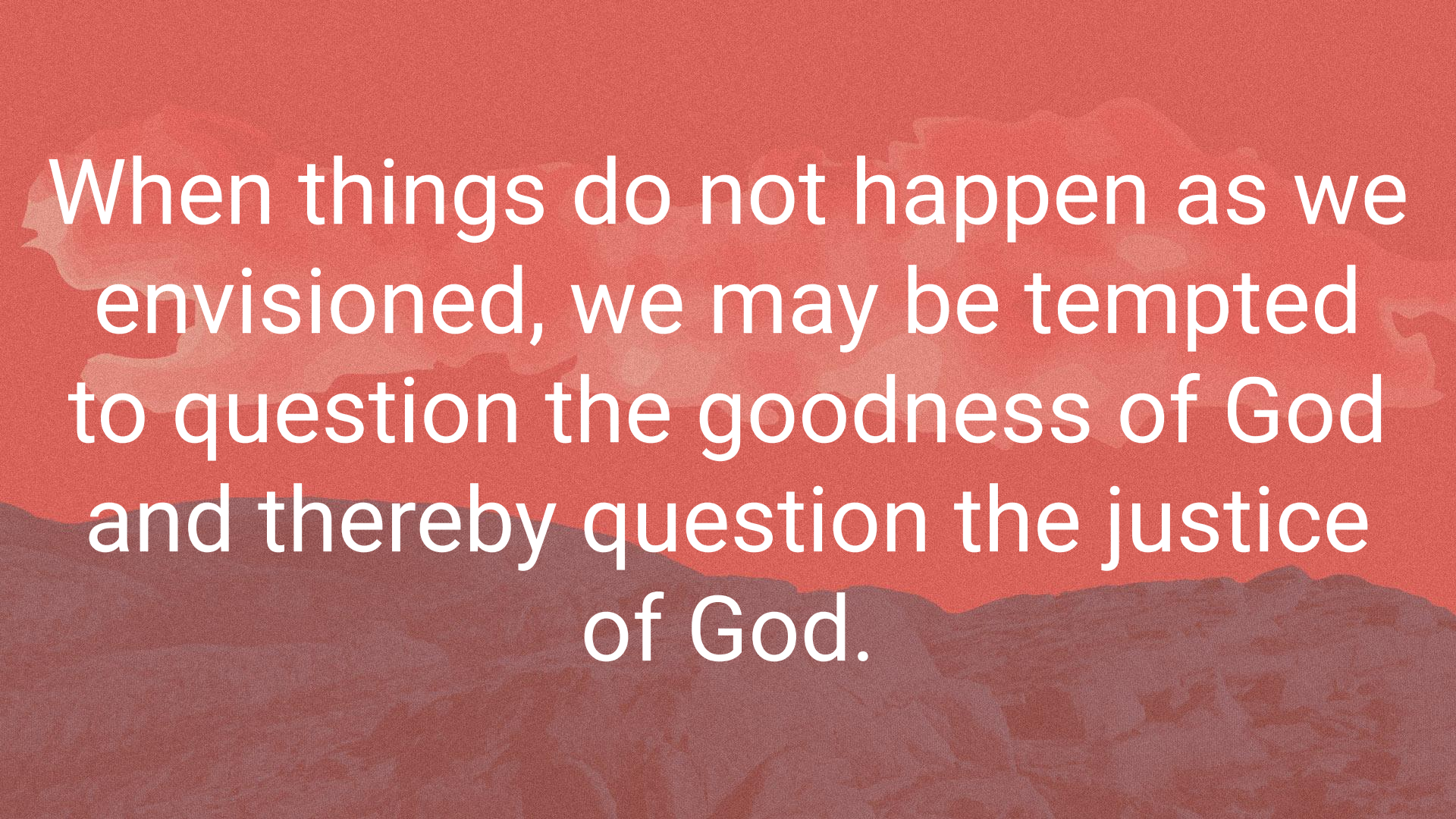
If you cannot honour those who
govern over this land, you will
never honour God's governance
over the heavens and the earth.



TWISTING TRUTH

¹⁷ You have wearied the LORD with your words. “How have we wearied him?” you ask. By saying, “All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them” or “Where is the God of justice?”

MALACHI 2:17



When things do not happen as we envisioned, we may be tempted to question the goodness of God and thereby question the justice of God.

⁷ Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power? ⁸ They see their children established around them, their offspring before their eyes. ⁹ Their homes are safe and free from fear; the rod of God is not on them.

JOB 21:7-16

¹⁰ Their bulls never fail to breed; their cows calve and do not miscarry. ¹¹ They send forth their children as a flock; their little ones dance about. ¹² They sing to the music of timbrel and lyre; they make merry to the sound of the pipe.

JOB 21:7-16

¹³ They spend their years in prosperity and go down to the grave in peace. ¹⁴ Yet they say to God, 'Leave us alone! We have no desire to know your ways. ¹⁵ Who is the Almighty, that we should serve him? What would we gain by praying to him?'

JOB 21:7-16



¹⁶ But their prosperity is not in their
own hands, so I stand aloof from the
plans of the wicked.

JOB 21:7-16

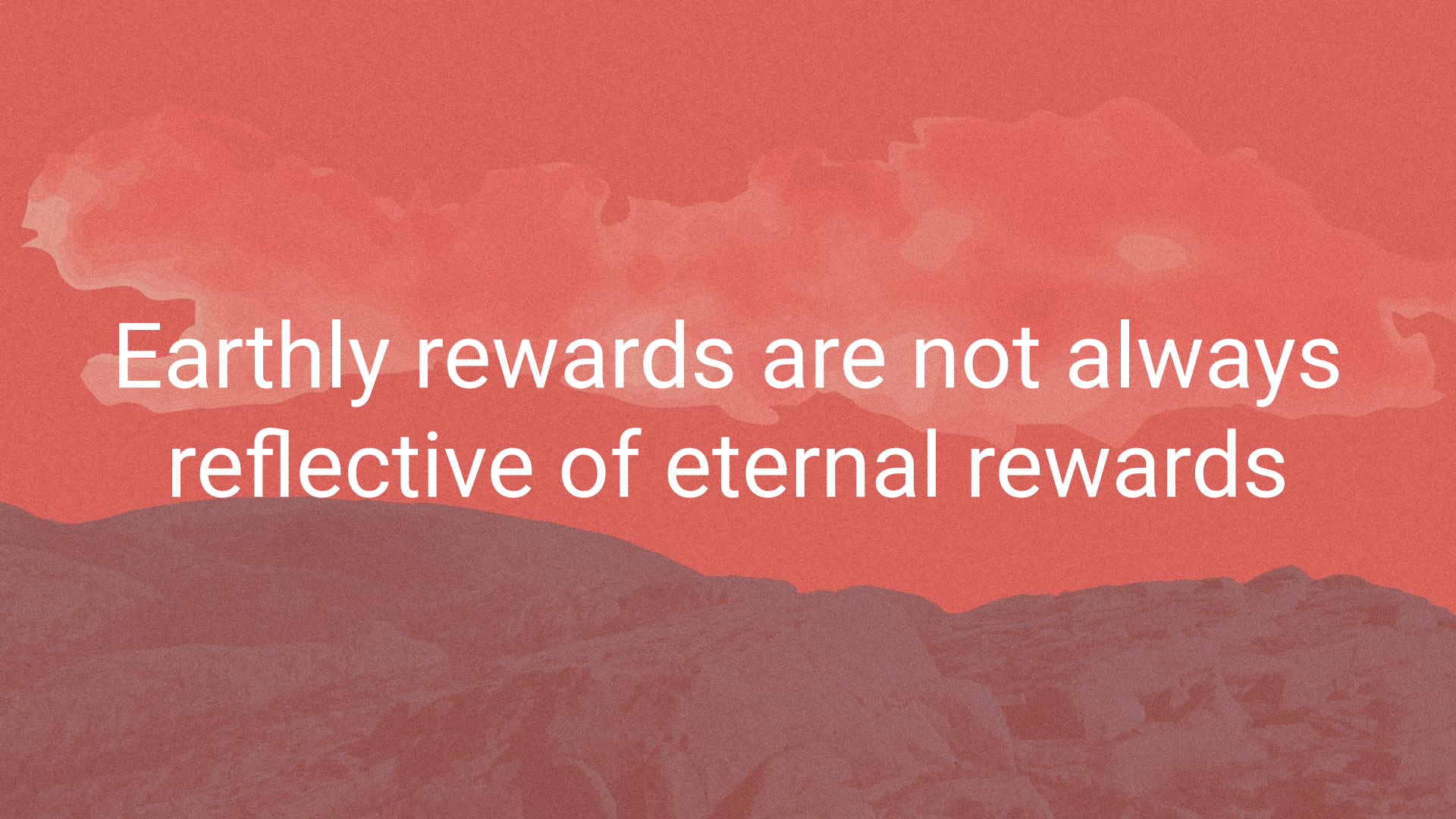
²² “Can anyone teach knowledge to God,
since he judges even the highest?
²³ One person dies in full vigor, completely
secure and at ease, ²⁴ well nourished in
body, bones rich with marrow.

JOB 21:22-26

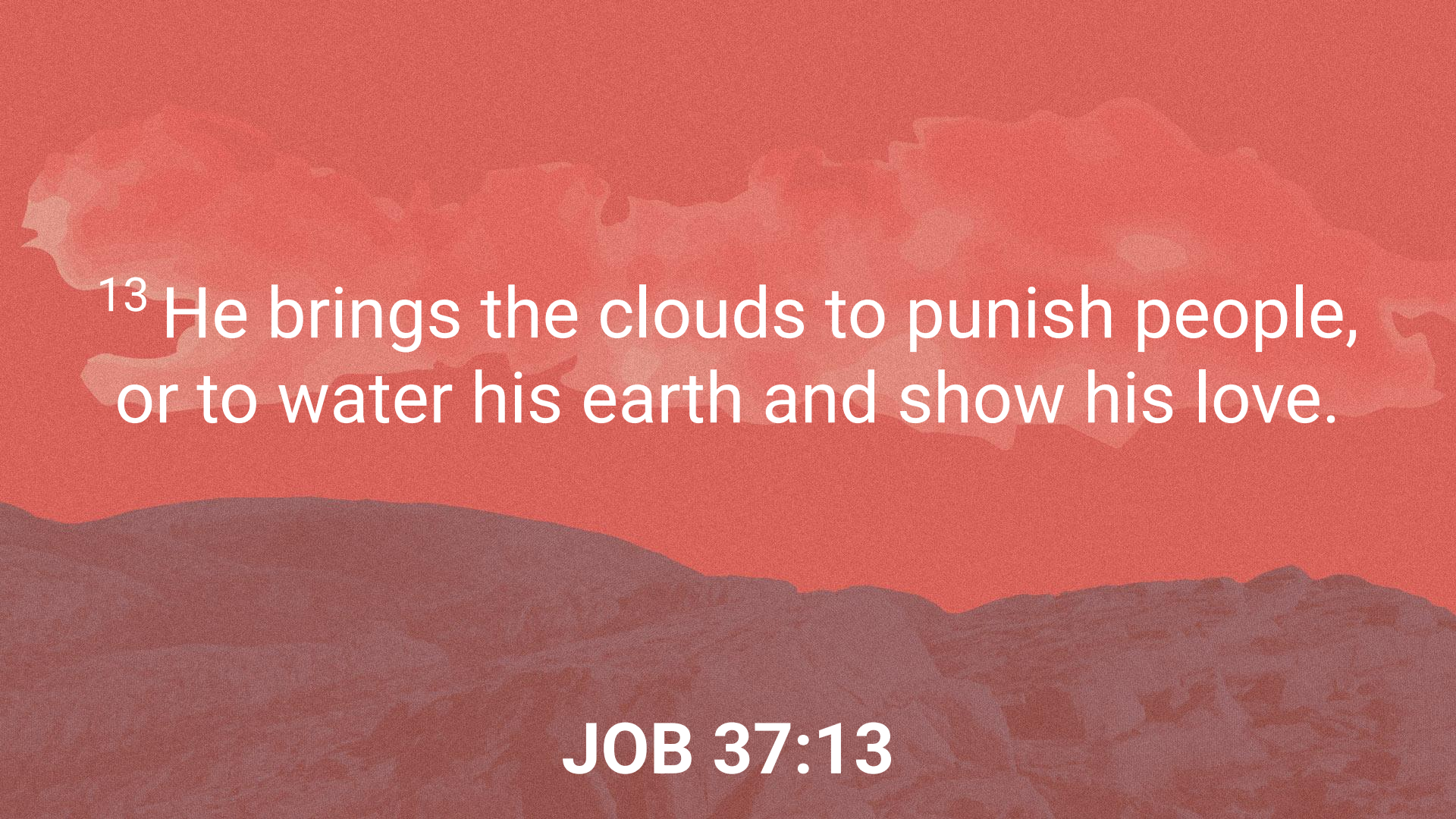
²⁵ Another dies in bitterness of soul,
never having enjoyed anything good.

²⁶ Side by side they lie in the dust,
and worms cover them both.

JOB 21:22-26

The background of the image is a textured, painterly style. The upper portion is a vibrant red-orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise sky, with soft, blended brushstrokes. The lower portion is a dark, muted brownish-grey, depicting a rugged, rocky landscape. The overall texture is grainy and artistic.

Earthly rewards are not always
reflective of eternal rewards



¹³ He brings the clouds to punish people,
or to water his earth and show his love.

JOB 37:13

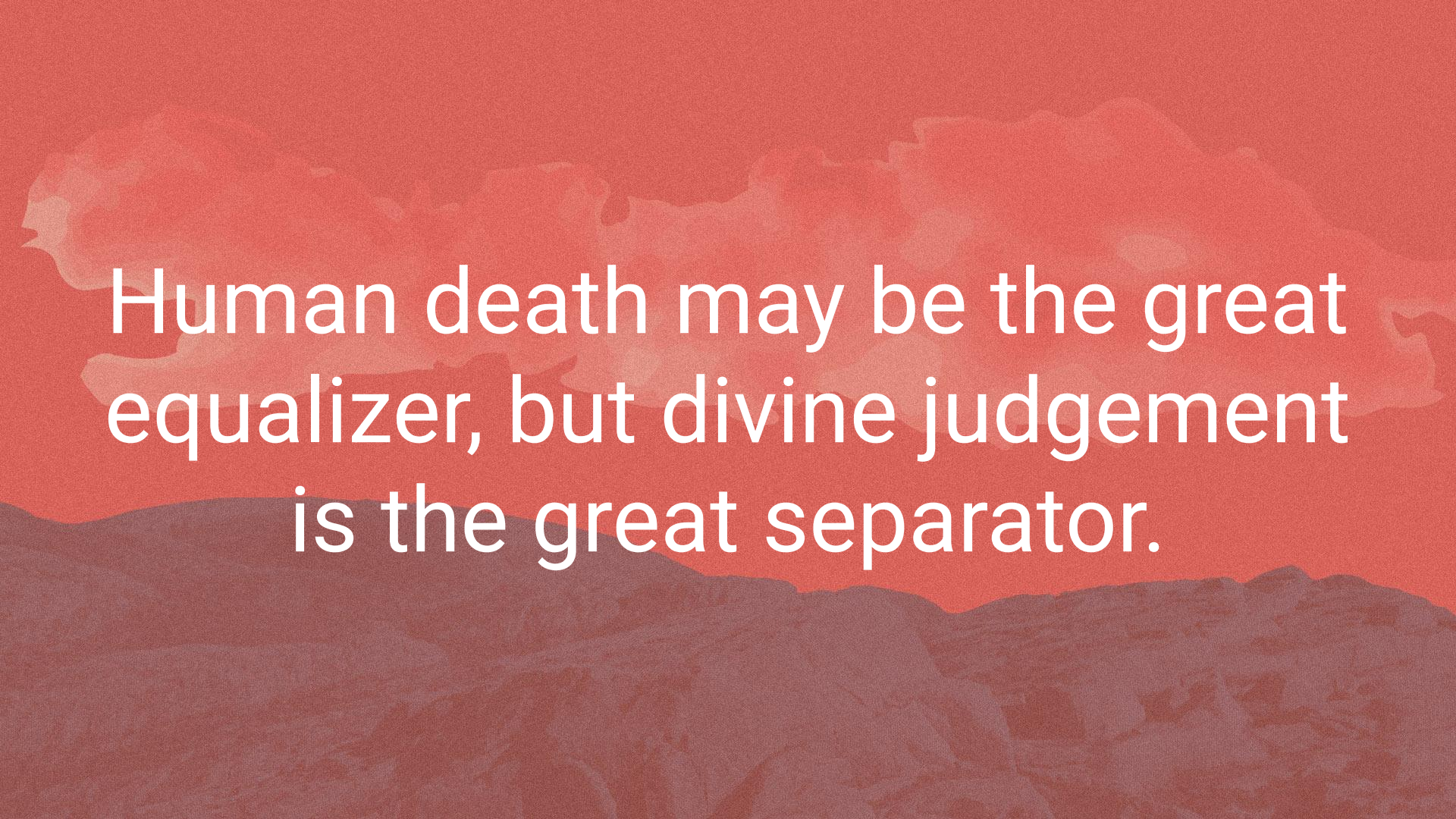


He causes his sun to rise on the evil
and the good, and sends rain on the
righteous and the unrighteous.

MATTHEW 5:45

² All share a common destiny—the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not. As it is with the good, so with the sinful; as it is with those who take oaths, so with those who are afraid to take them.

ECCLESIASTES 9:2

The background of the image is a monochromatic red-tinted landscape. In the foreground, there are dark, jagged mountain peaks. Above the mountains, there are lighter, wispy clouds. The overall composition is simple and evocative, with the text centered in the upper half of the frame.

Human death may be the great
equalizer, but divine judgement
is the great separator.



Now I know in part; then I shall know fully.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12



WITHHOLDING TITHES

⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ ⁸ “Will a mere mortal rob God?

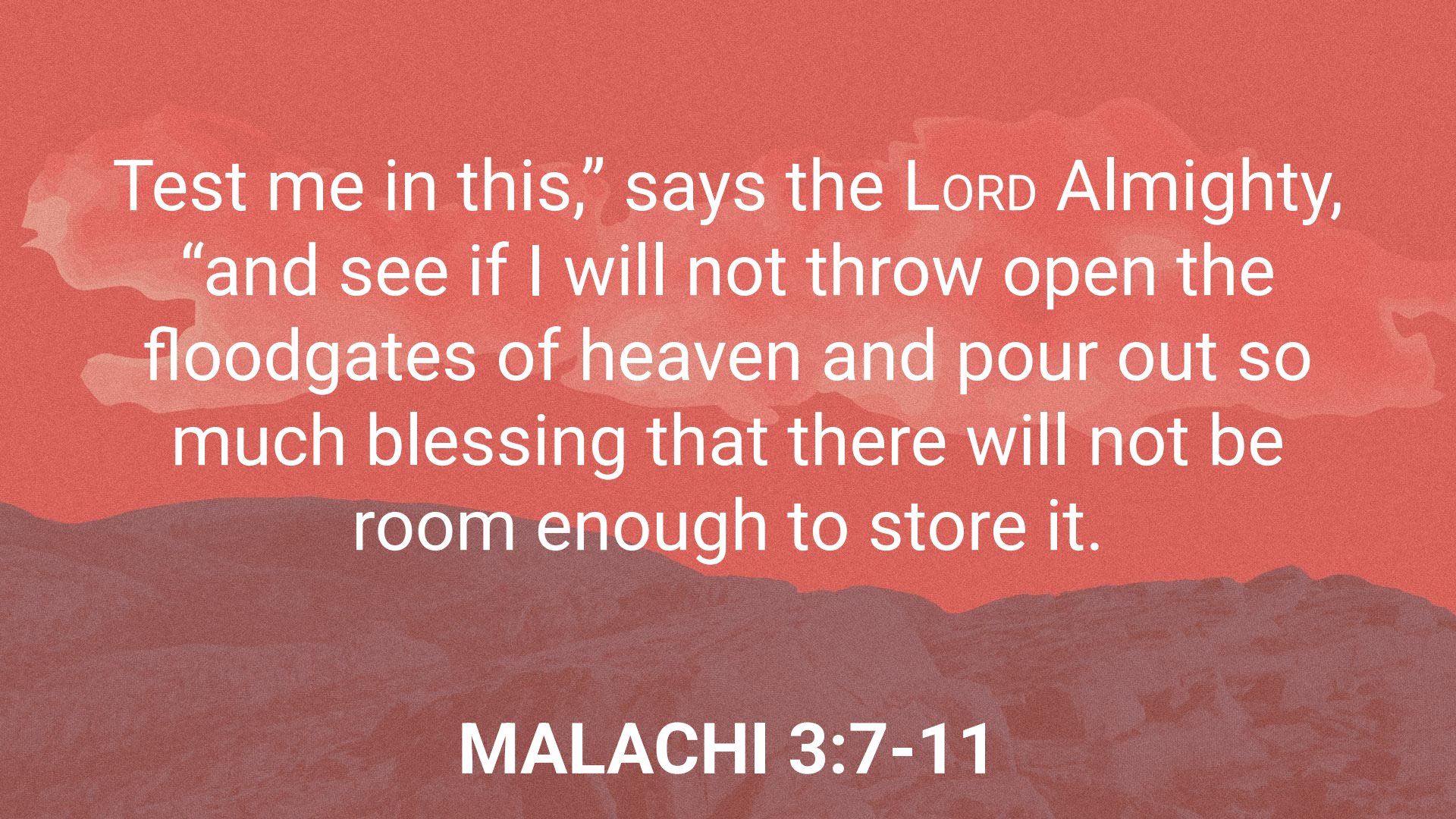
MALACHI 3:7-11

Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings.

⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

MALACHI 3:7-11



Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty,
“and see if I will not throw open the
floodgates of heaven and pour out so
much blessing that there will not be
room enough to store it.

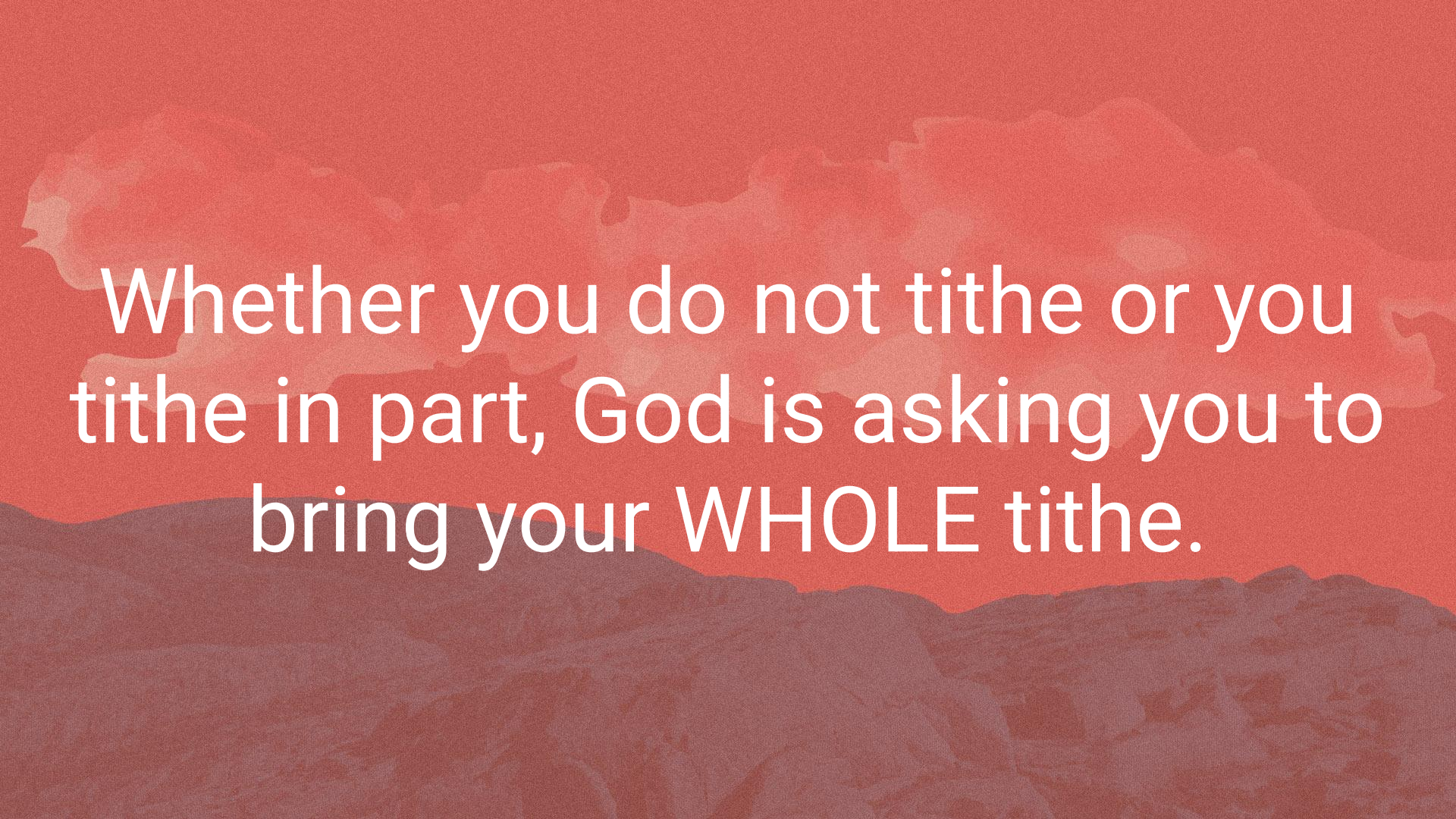
MALACHI 3:7-11

¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty.

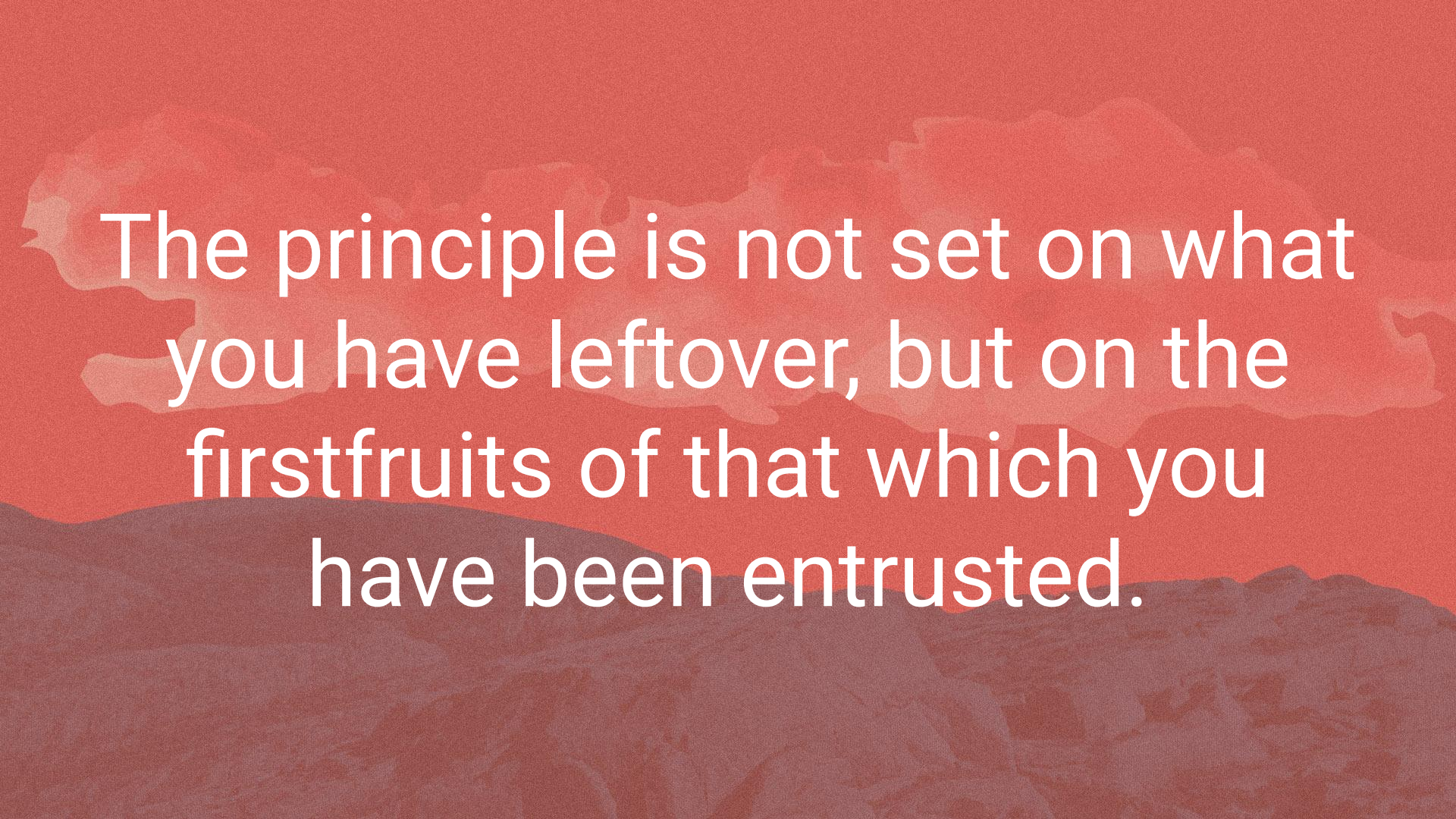
MALACHI 3:7-11

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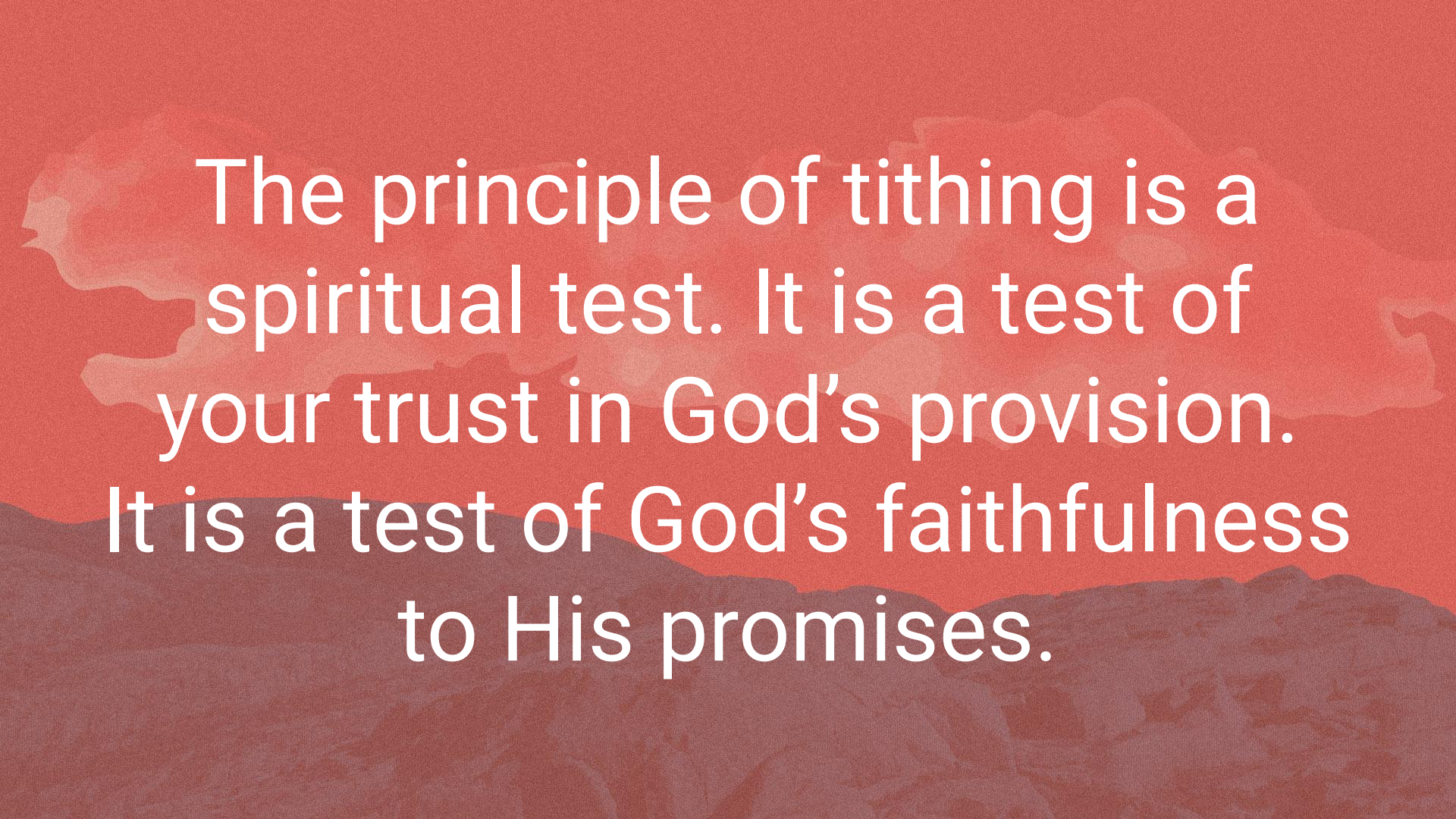
God deserves the first from us.



Whether you do not tithe or you
tithe in part, God is asking you to
bring your WHOLE tithe.



The principle is not set on what
you have leftover, but on the
firstfruits of that which you
have been entrusted.



The principle of tithing is a spiritual test. It is a test of your trust in God's provision. It is a test of God's faithfulness to His promises.



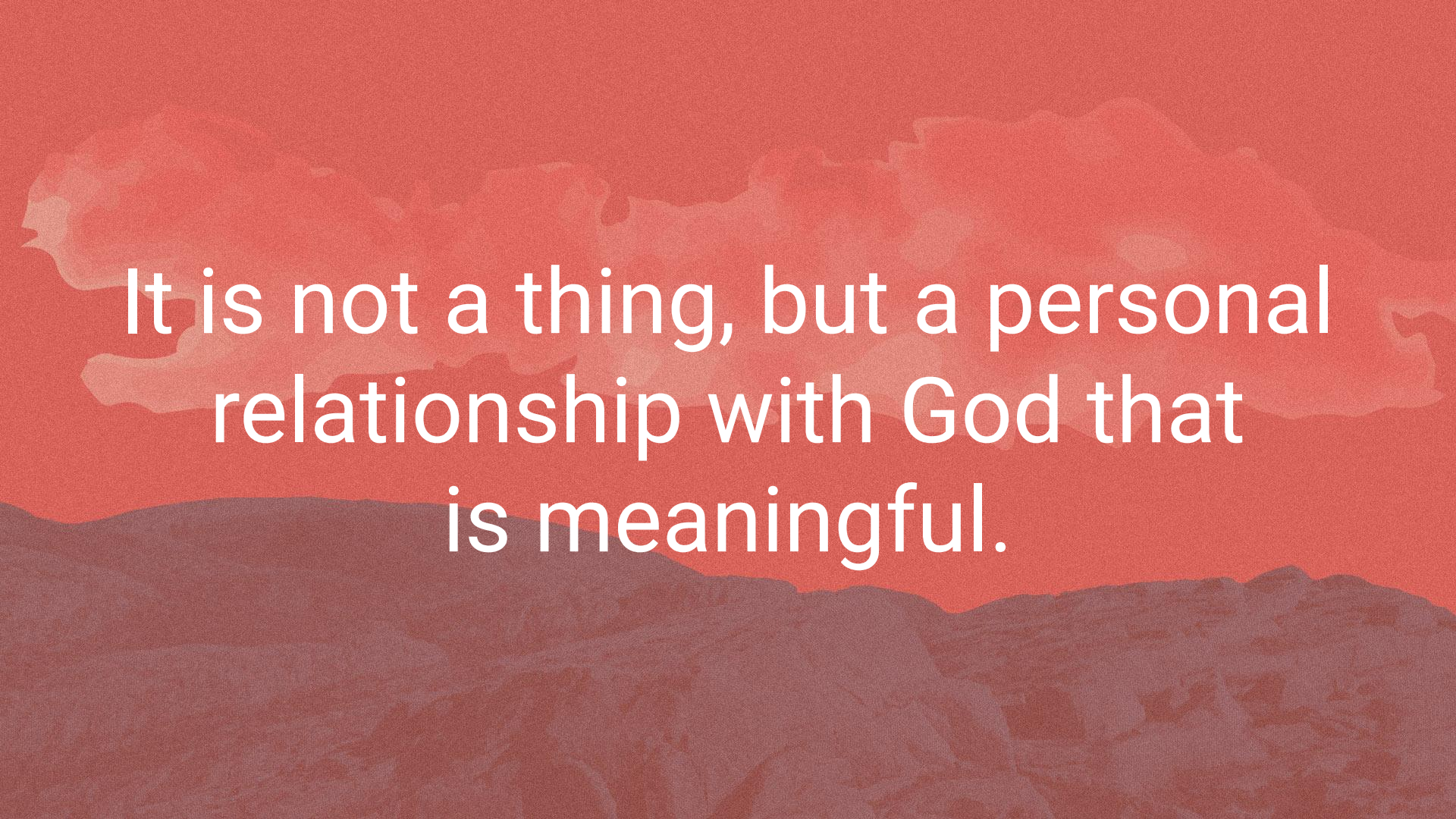
ARROGANT WORDS

¹³ “You have spoken arrogantly against me,” says the LORD. “Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’ ¹⁴ “You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty?”

MALACHI 3:13-15

¹⁵ But now we call the arrogant blessed.
Certainly evildoers prosper, and even
when they put God to the test, they get
away with it.”

MALACHI 3:13-15

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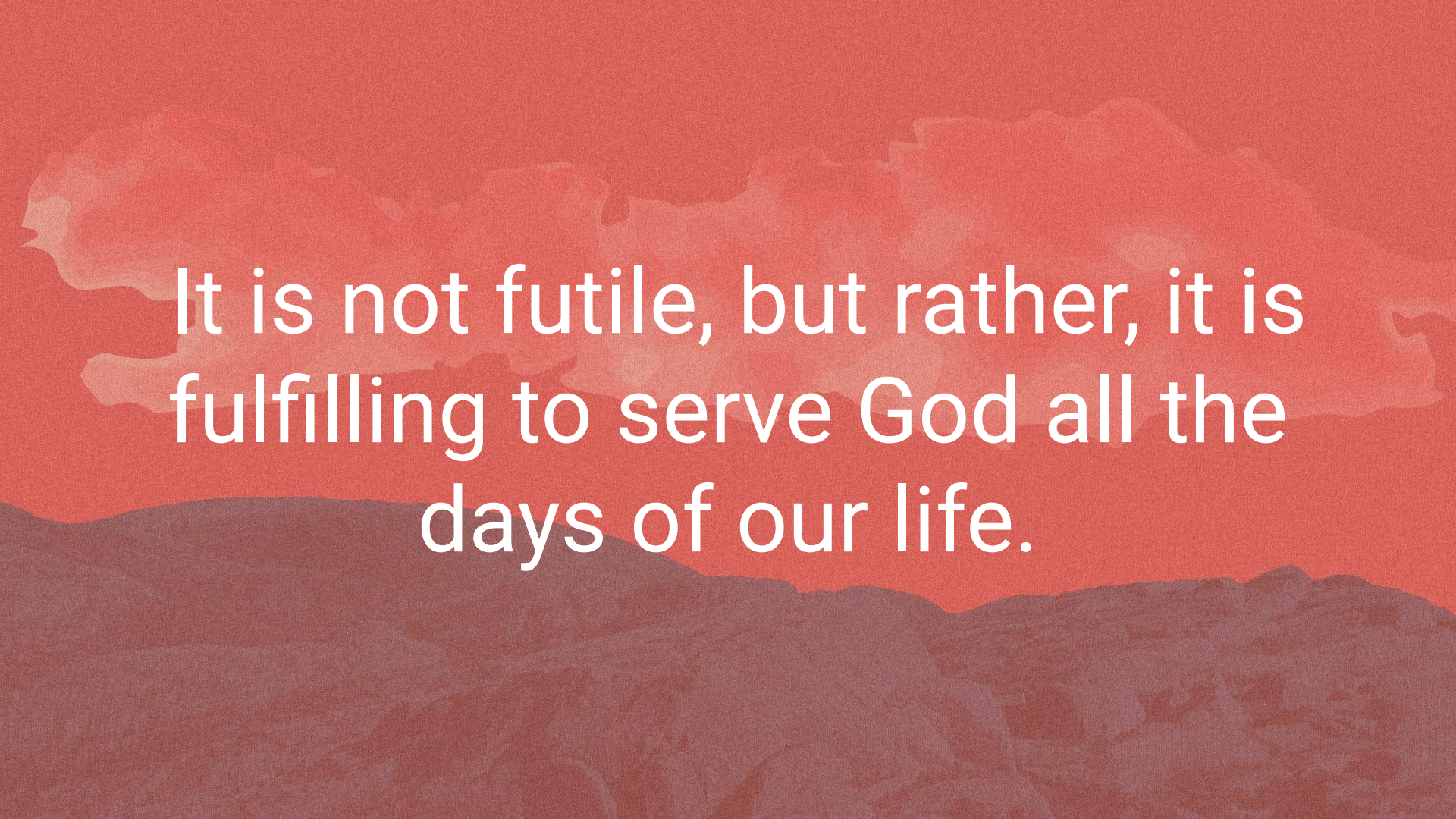
It is not a thing, but a personal
relationship with God that
is meaningful.

¹ Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.

ECCLESIASTES 5:1-2

² Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, **so let your words be few.**

ECCLESIASTES 5:1-2



It is not futile, but rather, it is
fulfilling to serve God all the
days of our life.

⁹ 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 2:9-10

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 PETER 2:9-10

SERMON REVIEW:

- 1) QUESTION LOVE
- 2) QUALITY SACRIFICES
- 3) TWISTING TRUTH
- 4) WITHHOLDING TITHES
- 5) ARROGANT WORDS

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THE MINOR
PROPHETS