

The Intimate Atonement of Jesus Christ



Meanings of Atonement

- **Hebrew** – kaphar, *kaw-far'*; to cover; to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel: --appease, make (an) atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, purge (away), put off, (make) reconciliation. [Also: Kippur—expiation, (only in plural)]
- **Greek** – Katallage, *kat-al-lag-ay'*; restoration to (the divine) favor; reconciliation.
- **Aramaic or Arabic** – kafat; a close embrace

Meanings of Atonement

- **Atonement:** **1.** Satisfaction or reparation for a wrong or injury; amends. **2.** *Theol* the doctrine concerning the reconciliation of God and man, as accomplished through the life, suffering, and death of Christ. **3.** *Christian Science*, **the state of union with God in which man exemplifies the attributes of God.** **4.** *Archaic*, reconciliation; agreement, unity, at + one + ment



Mark 5:25-34

Sadly, in today's world, a person's importance is often judged by the size of the audience before which he or she performs.... Yet in the eyes of the Lord, there may be only one size of audience that is of lasting importance—and that is just one, each one, you and me, and each of the children of God.

M. Russell Ballard,
“The Atonement and the Value of One Soul,”
Ensign, May 2004, 84



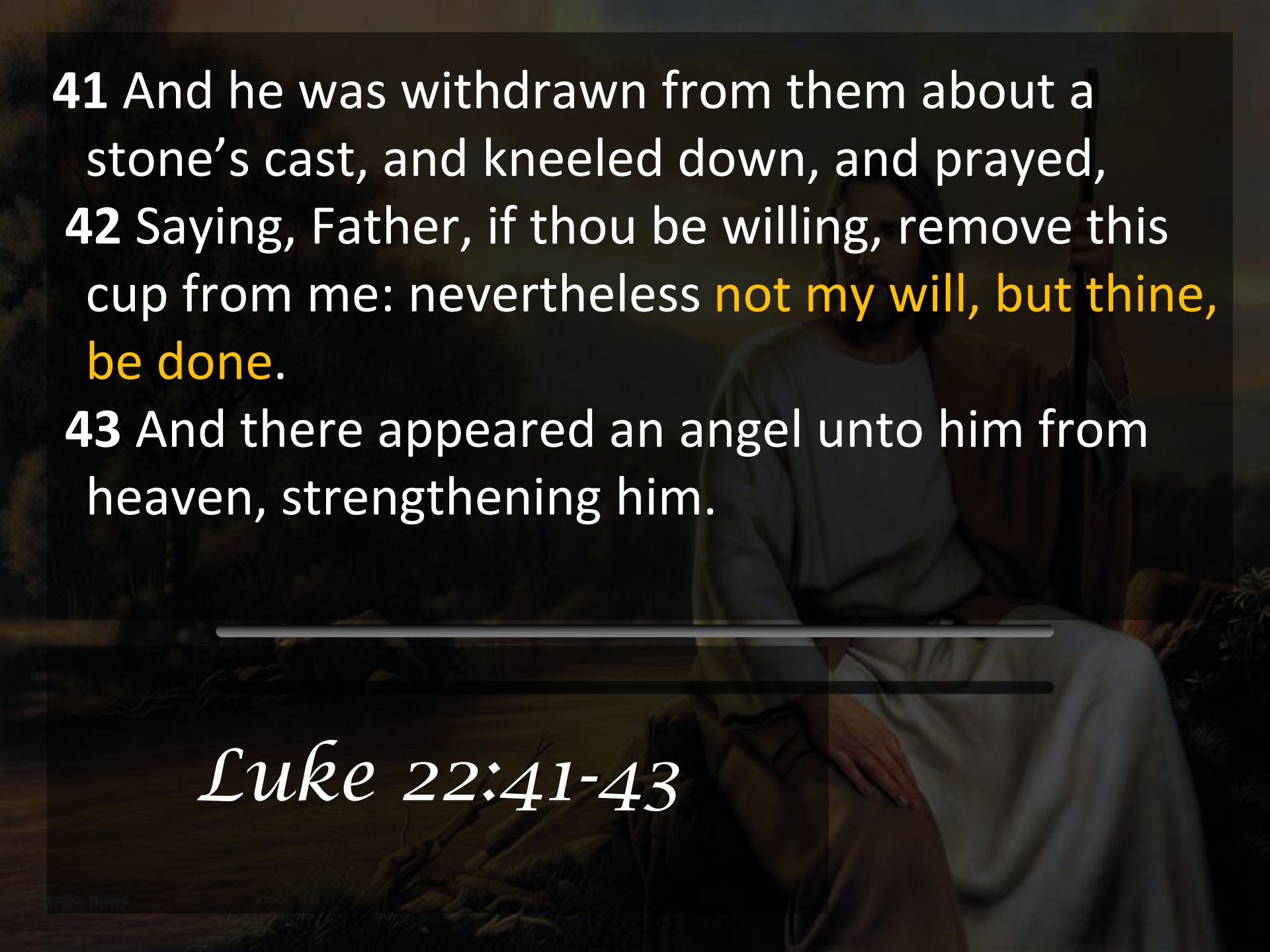
The irony of the atonement is that it is infinite and eternal, yet it is applied individually, one person at a time.

M. Russell Ballard,
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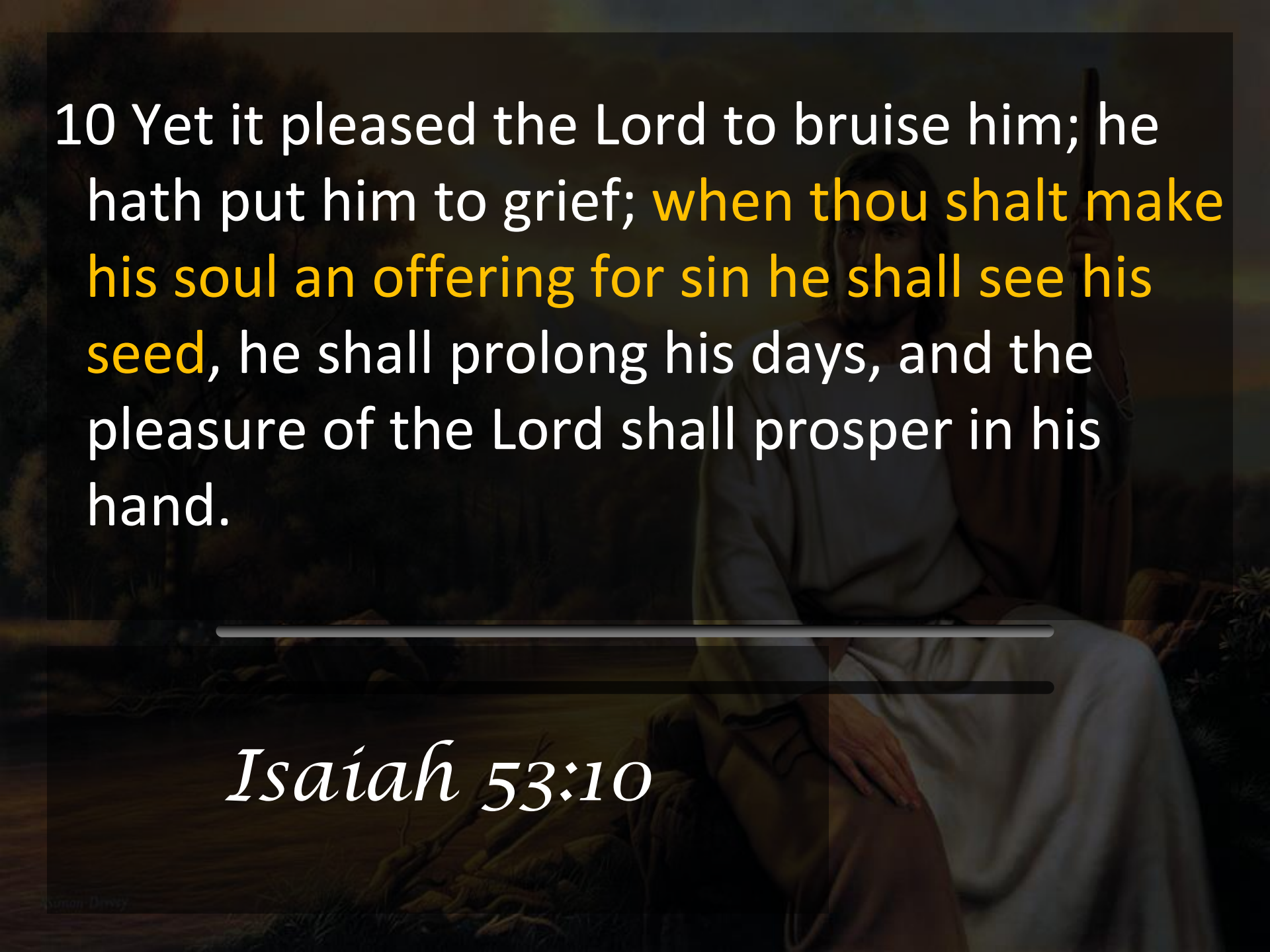
15 And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth **one by one** until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, that should come.

3 Nephi 11:11-17



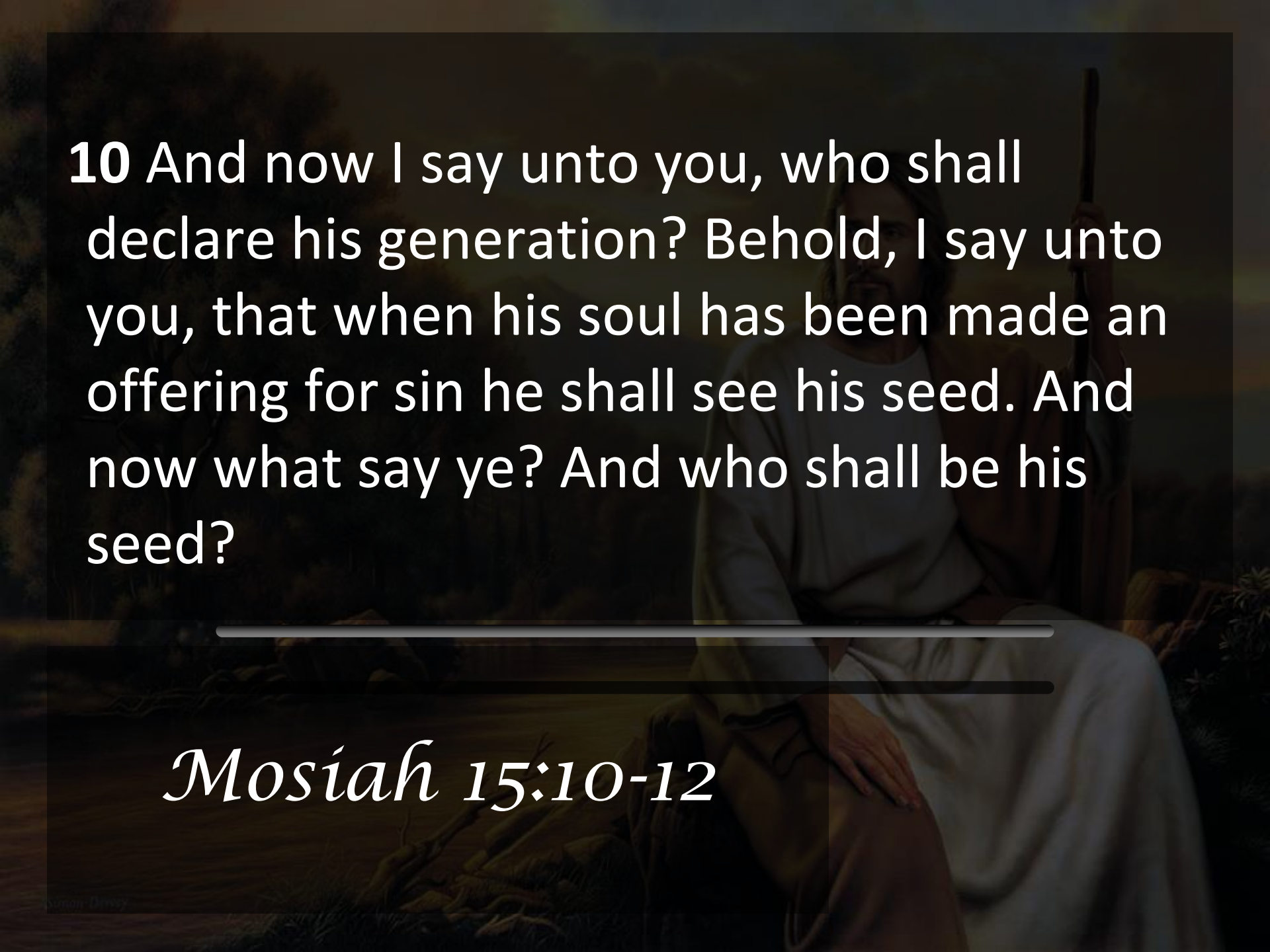
41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,
42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless **not my will, but thine, be done.**
43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Luke 22:41-43



10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; **when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin he shall see his seed**, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

Isaiah 53:10

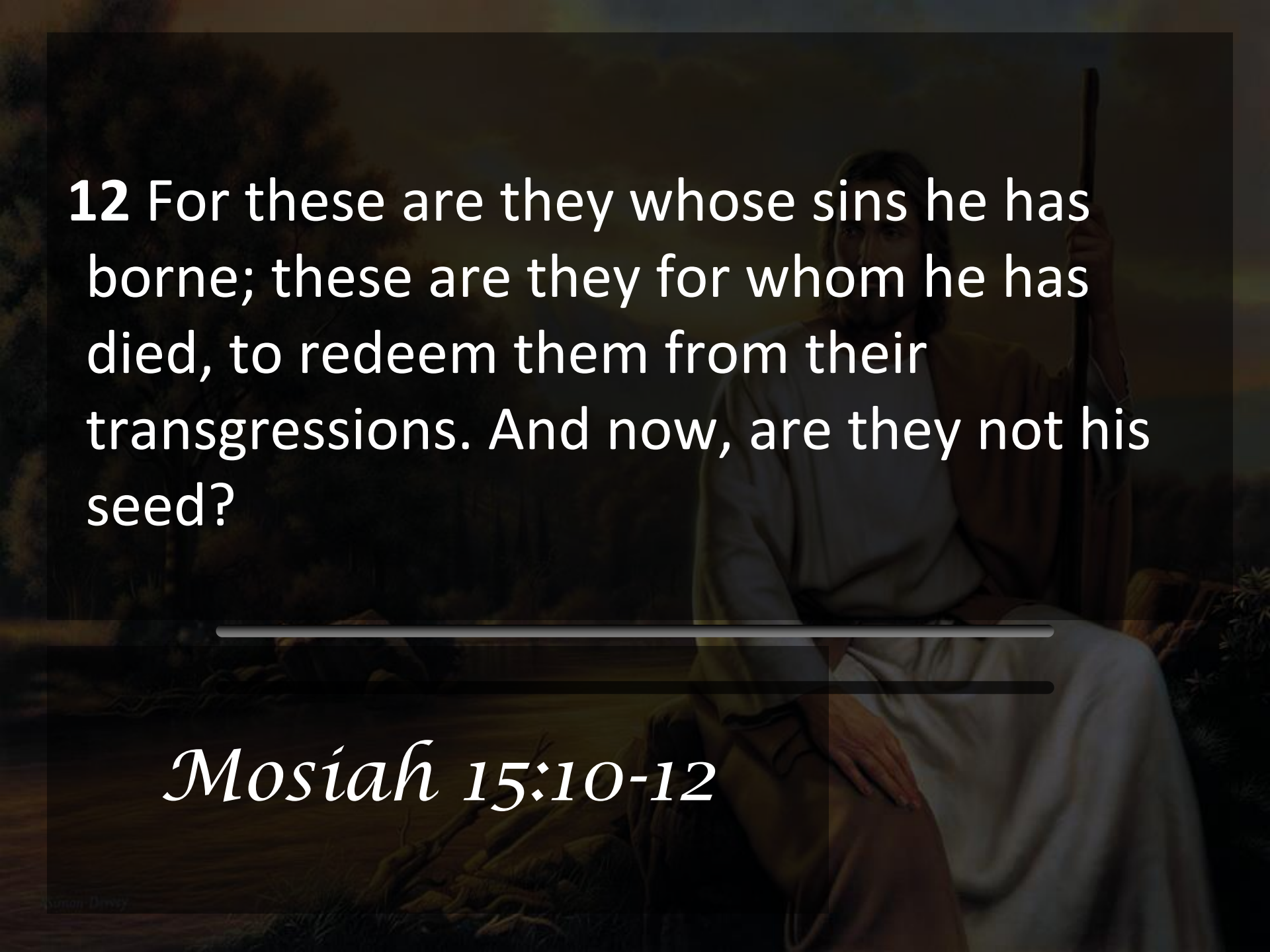


10 And now I say unto you, who shall declare his generation? Behold, I say unto you, that when his soul has been made an offering for sin he shall see his seed. And now what say ye? And who shall be his seed?

Mosiah 15:10-12

11 Behold I say unto you, that whosoever has heard the words of the prophets, yea, all the holy prophets who have prophesied concerning the coming of the Lord—I say unto you, that all those who have hearkened unto their words, and believed that the Lord would redeem his people, and have looked forward to that day for a remission of their sins, I say unto you, that these are his seed, or they are the heirs of the kingdom of God.

Mosiah 15:10-12



12 For these are they whose sins he has borne; these are they for whom he has died, to redeem them from their transgressions. And now, are they not his seed?

Mosiah 15:10-12

For many years I thought of the Savior's experience in the garden and on the cross as places where a large mass of sin was heaped upon Him. Through the words of Alma, Abinadi, Isaiah, and other prophets, however, my view has changed.

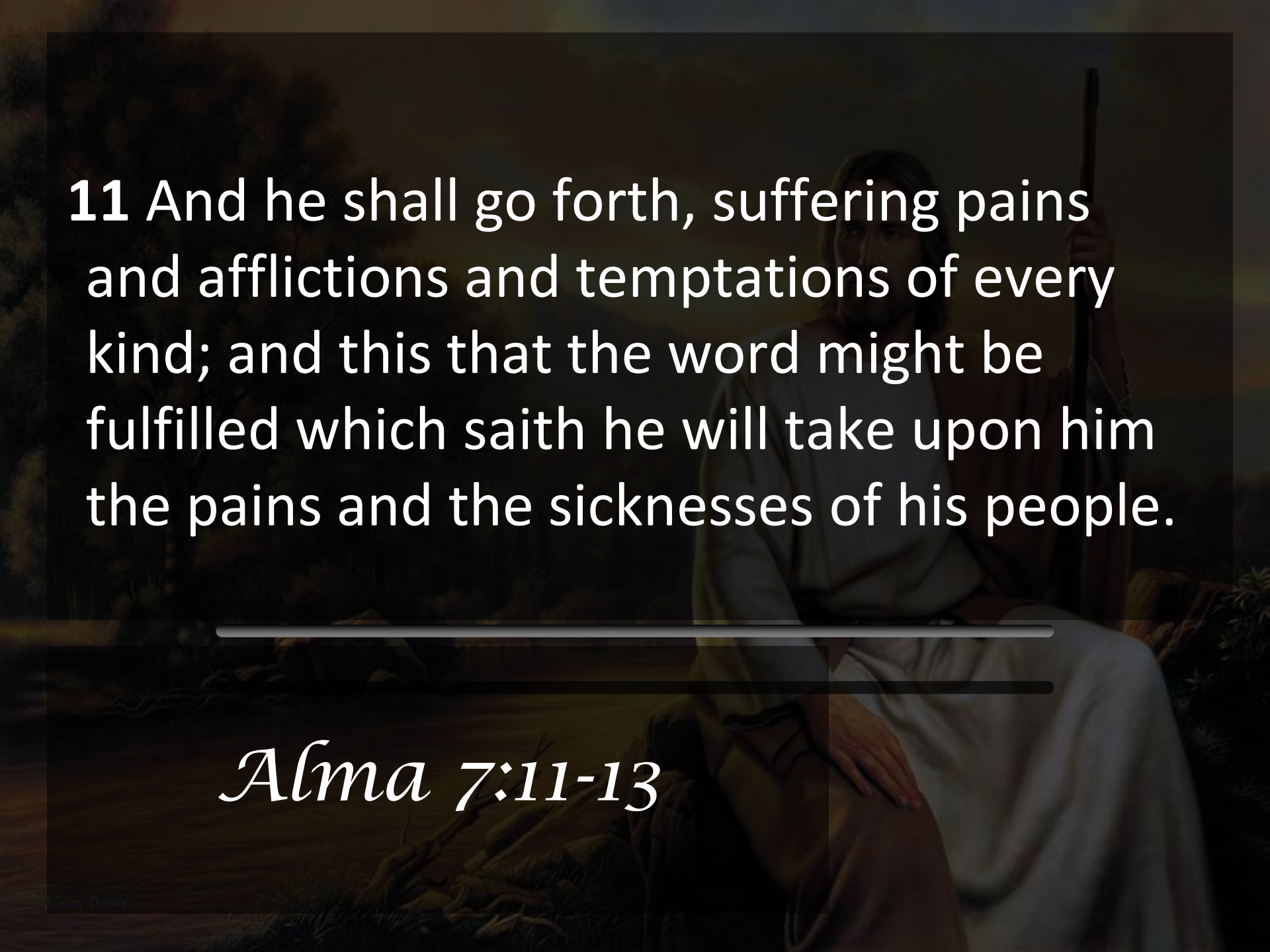
Merrill J. Bateman,
"A Pattern for All"
General Conference, October 2005



Instead of an impersonal mass of sin, there was a long line of people, as Jesus felt “our infirmities” (Heb. 4:15), “[bore] our griefs ... carried our sorrows ... and was bruised for our iniquities” (Isaiah 53:4-5). The Atonement was an intimate, personal experience in which Jesus came to know how to help each of us.

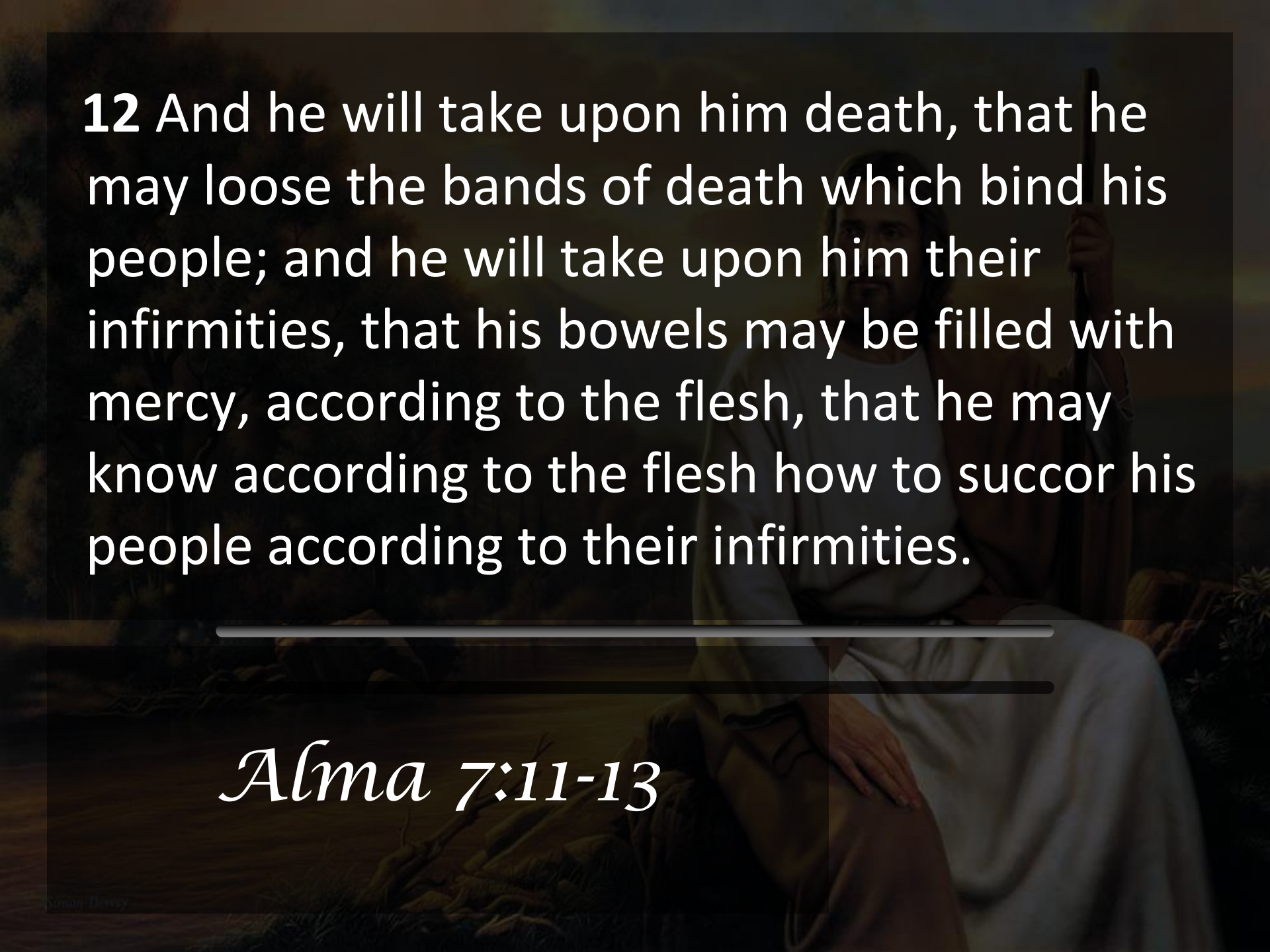
Merrill J. Bateman,
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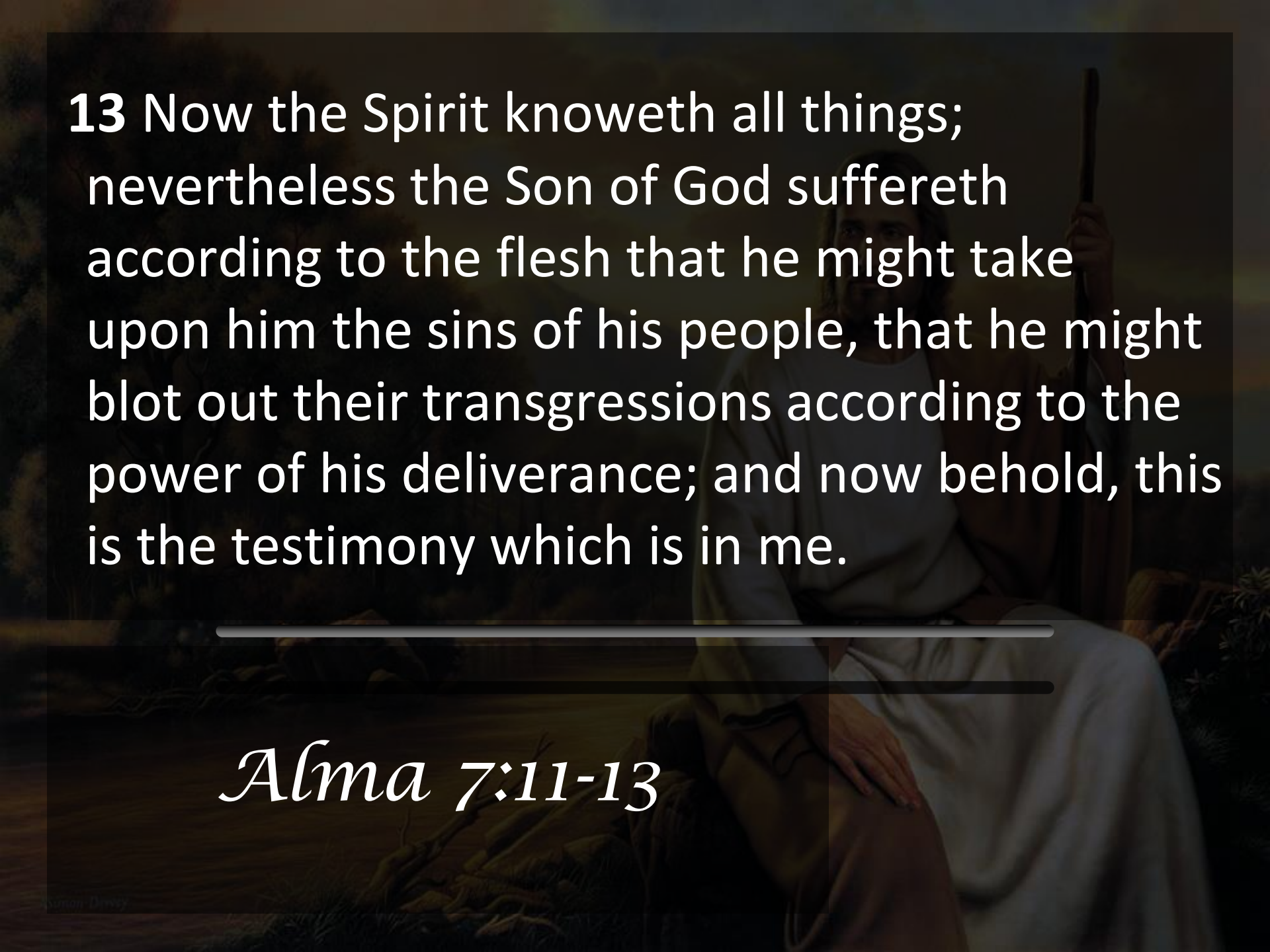
11 And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

Alma 7:11-13



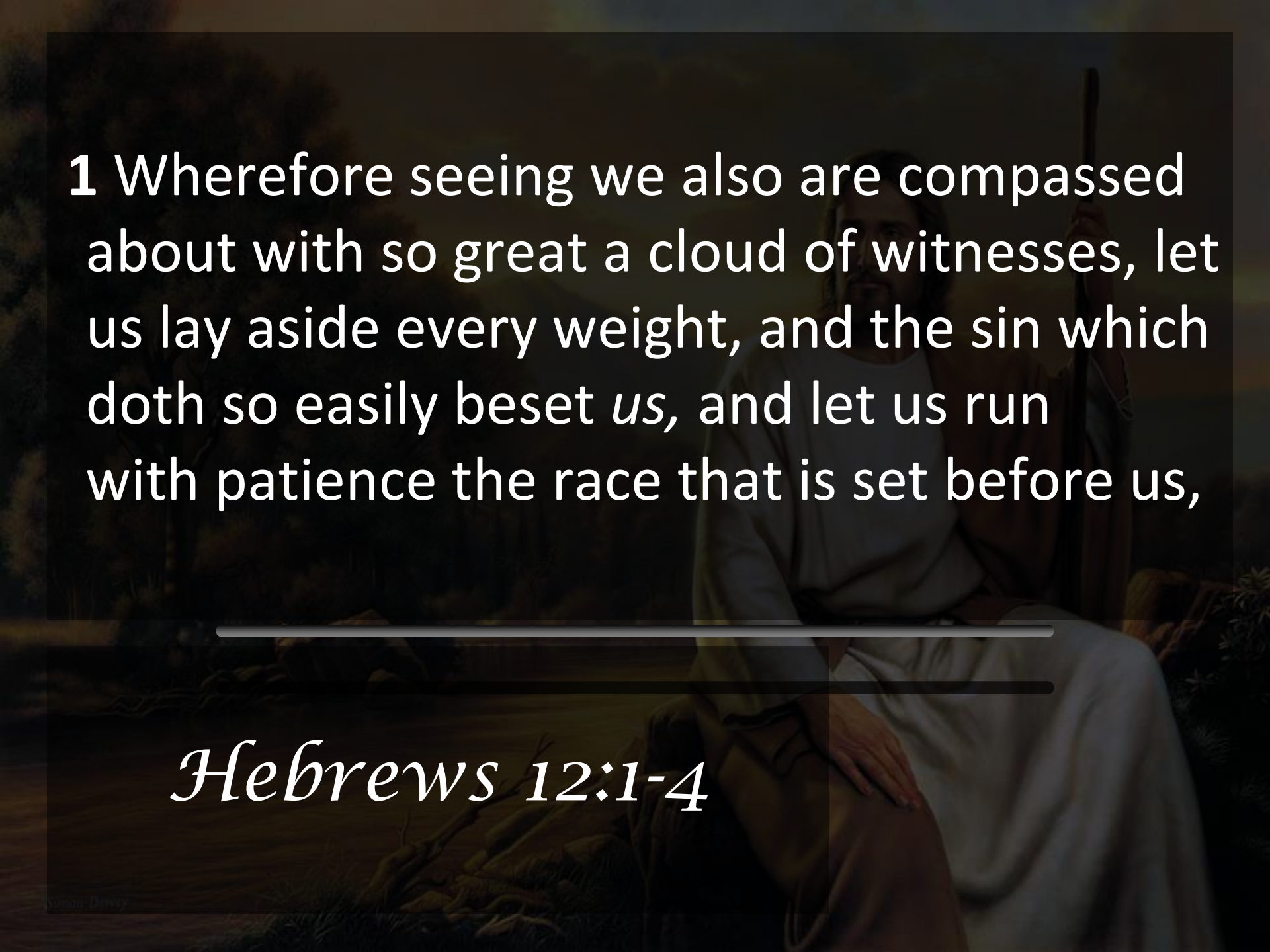
12 And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.

Alma 7:11-13



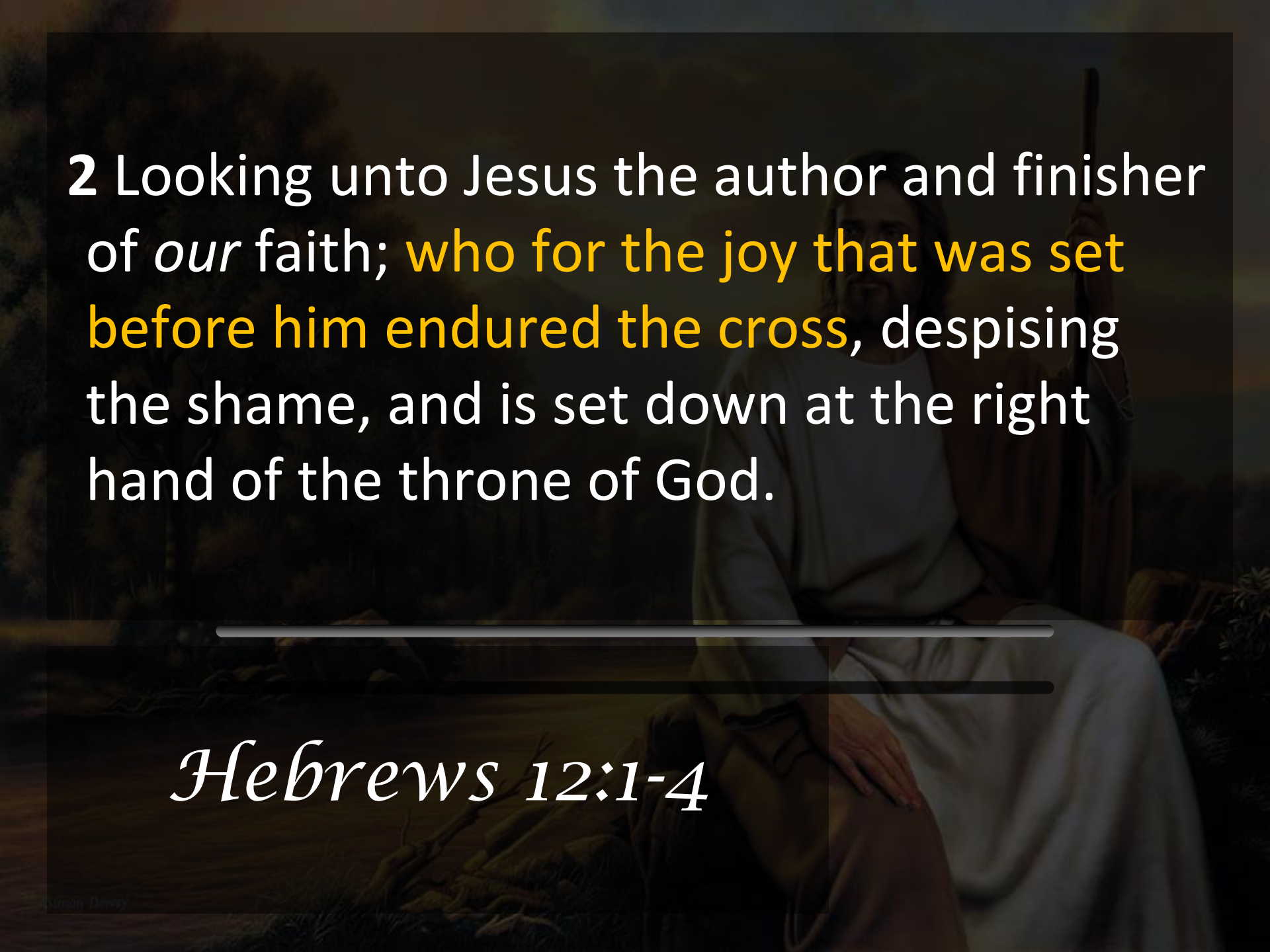
13 Now the Spirit knoweth all things; nevertheless the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions according to the power of his deliverance; and now behold, this is the testimony which is in me.

Alma 7:11-13



1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Hebrews 12:1-4



2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-4

As our Savior becomes more and more real to us and as we plead for His joy to be given to us, our joy will increase. Joy is powerful, and focusing on joy brings God's power into our lives. As in all things, Jesus Christ is our ultimate exemplar, "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross."

Russell M. Nelson,
General Conference,
October 2016.



Think of that! In order for Him to endure the most excruciating experience ever endured on earth, our Savior focused on joy! And what was the joy that was set before Him? Surely it included the joy of cleansing, healing, and strengthening us;

Russell M. Nelson,
General Conference,
October 2016.



the joy of paying for the sins of all who would repent; the joy of making it possible for you and me to return home—clean and worthy—to live with our Heavenly Parents and families. If we focus on the joy that will come to us, or to those we love, what can we endure that presently seems overwhelming, painful, scary, unfair, or simply impossible?

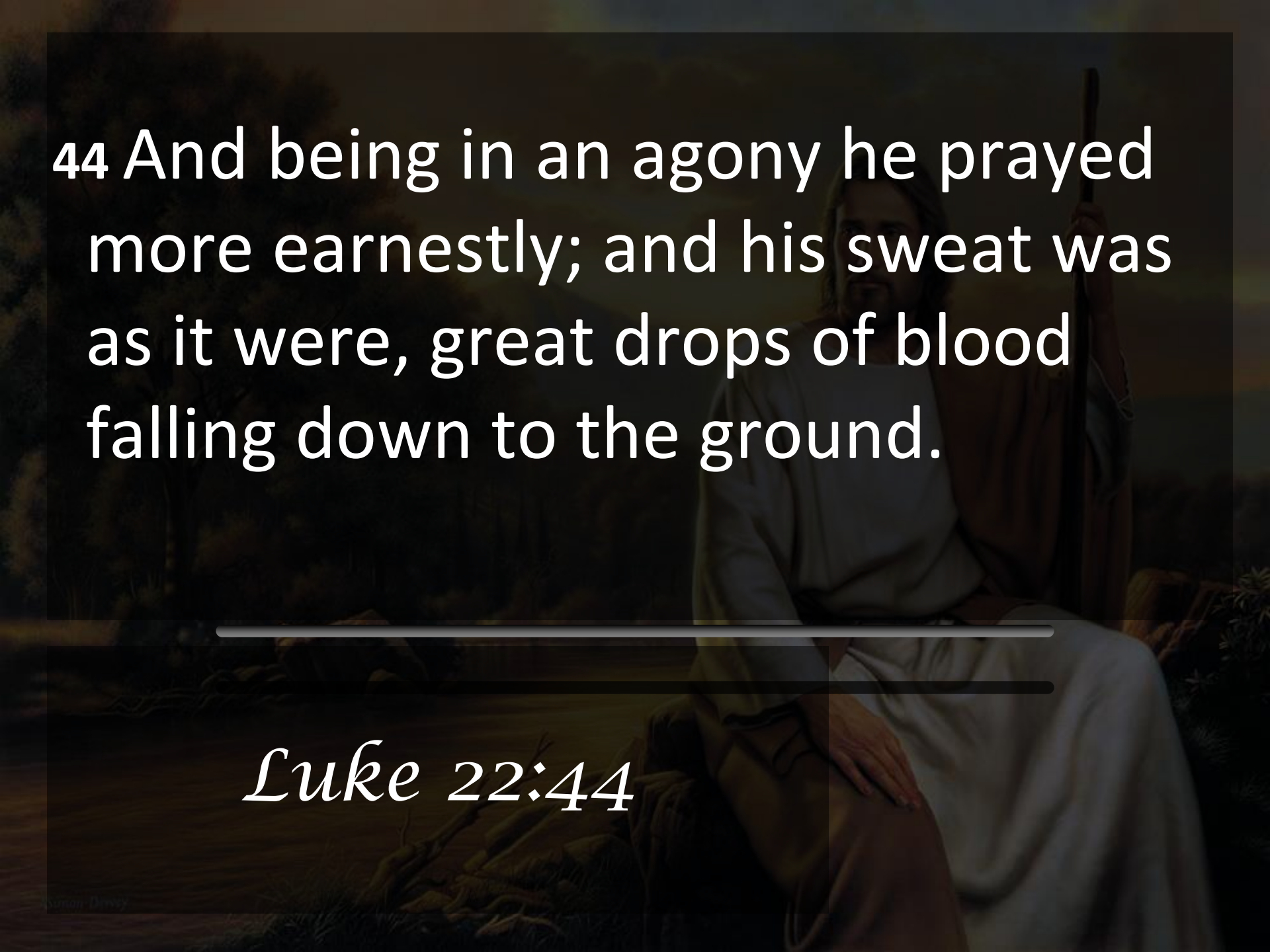
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3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

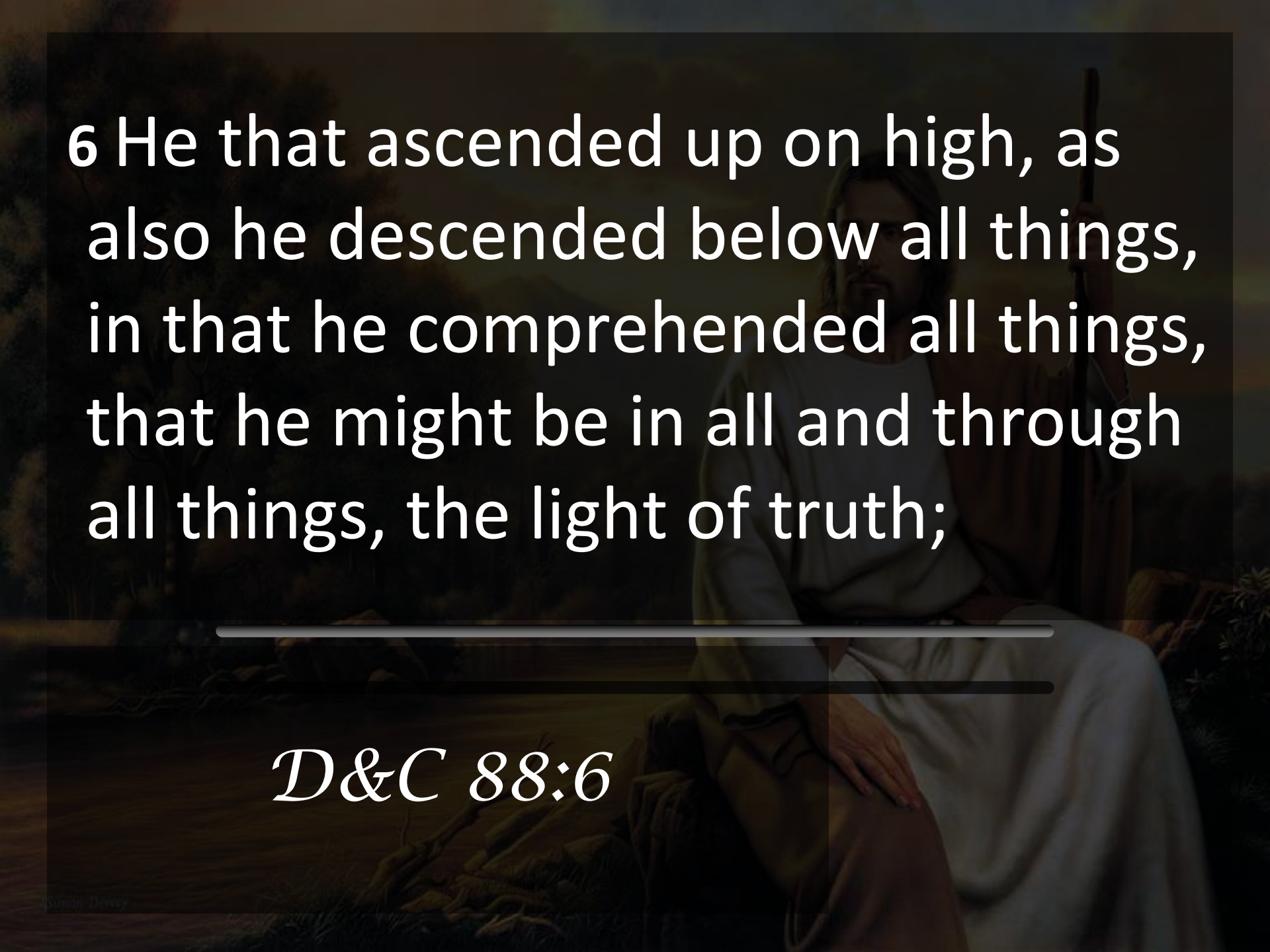
4 Ye have not yet **resisted unto blood**, striving against sin.

Hebrews 12:1-4



44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were, great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 22:44



6 He that ascended up on high, as
also he descended below all things,
in that he comprehended all things,
that he might be in all and through
all things, the light of truth;

D&C 88:6

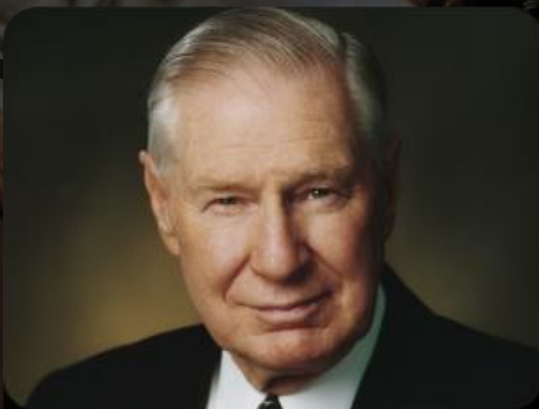
Any increase in our understanding of His atoning sacrifice draws us closer to Him. Literally, the Atonement means to be “at one” with Him. The nature of the Atonement and its effects is so infinite, so unfathomable, and so profound that it lies beyond the knowledge and comprehension of mortal man.....***We long for the ultimate blessing of the Atonement— ...***

James E. Faust,
“The Atonement: Our Greatest Hope,”
Ensign, Nov 2001, 18



... to become one with Him, to be in His divine presence, to be called individually by name as He warmly welcomes us home with a radiant smile, beckoning us with open arms to be enfolded in His boundless love.

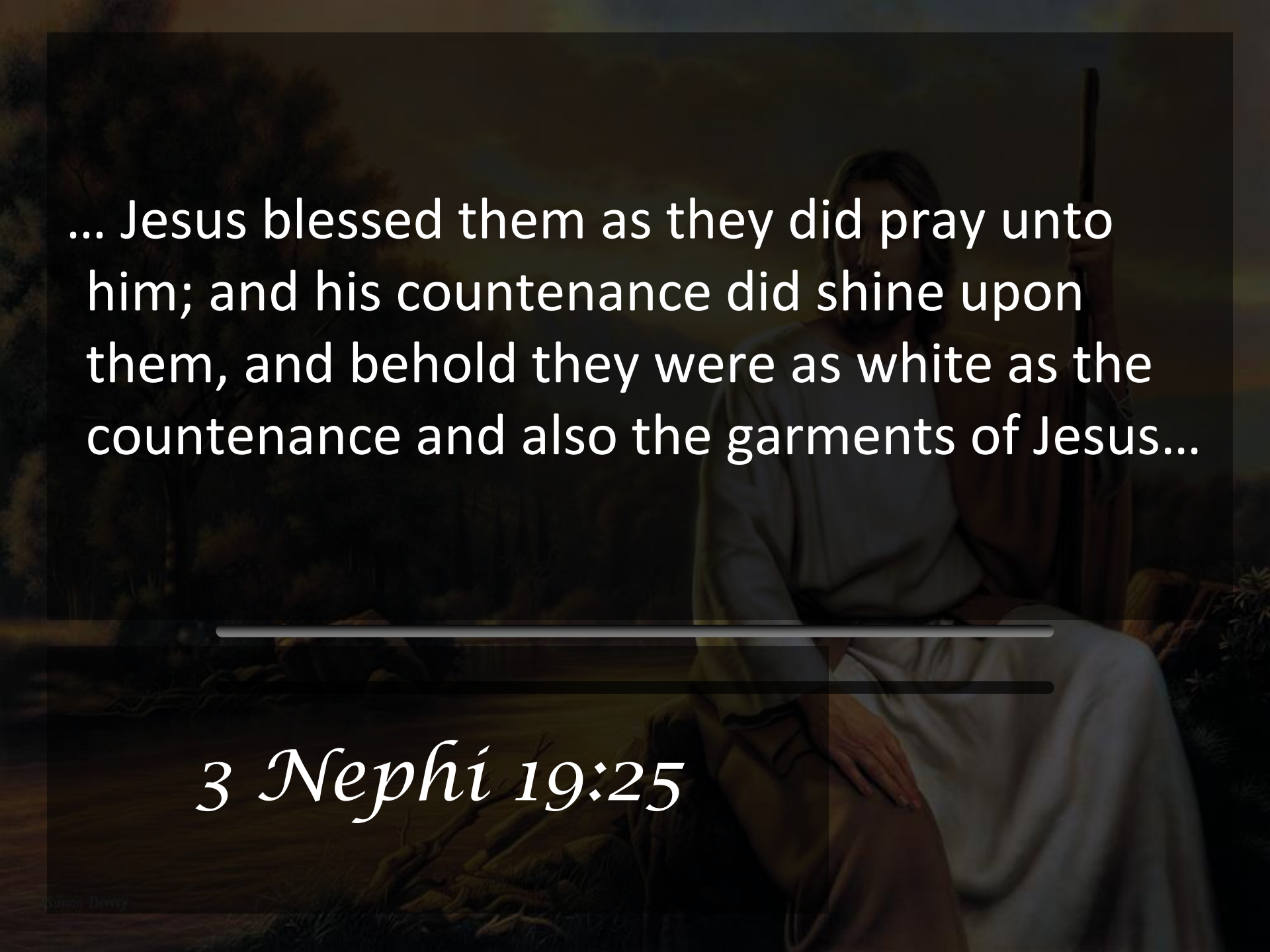
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The overwhelming message of the Atonement is the perfect love the Savior has for each and all of us. It is a love which is full of mercy, patience, grace, equity, long-suffering, and, above all, forgiving.

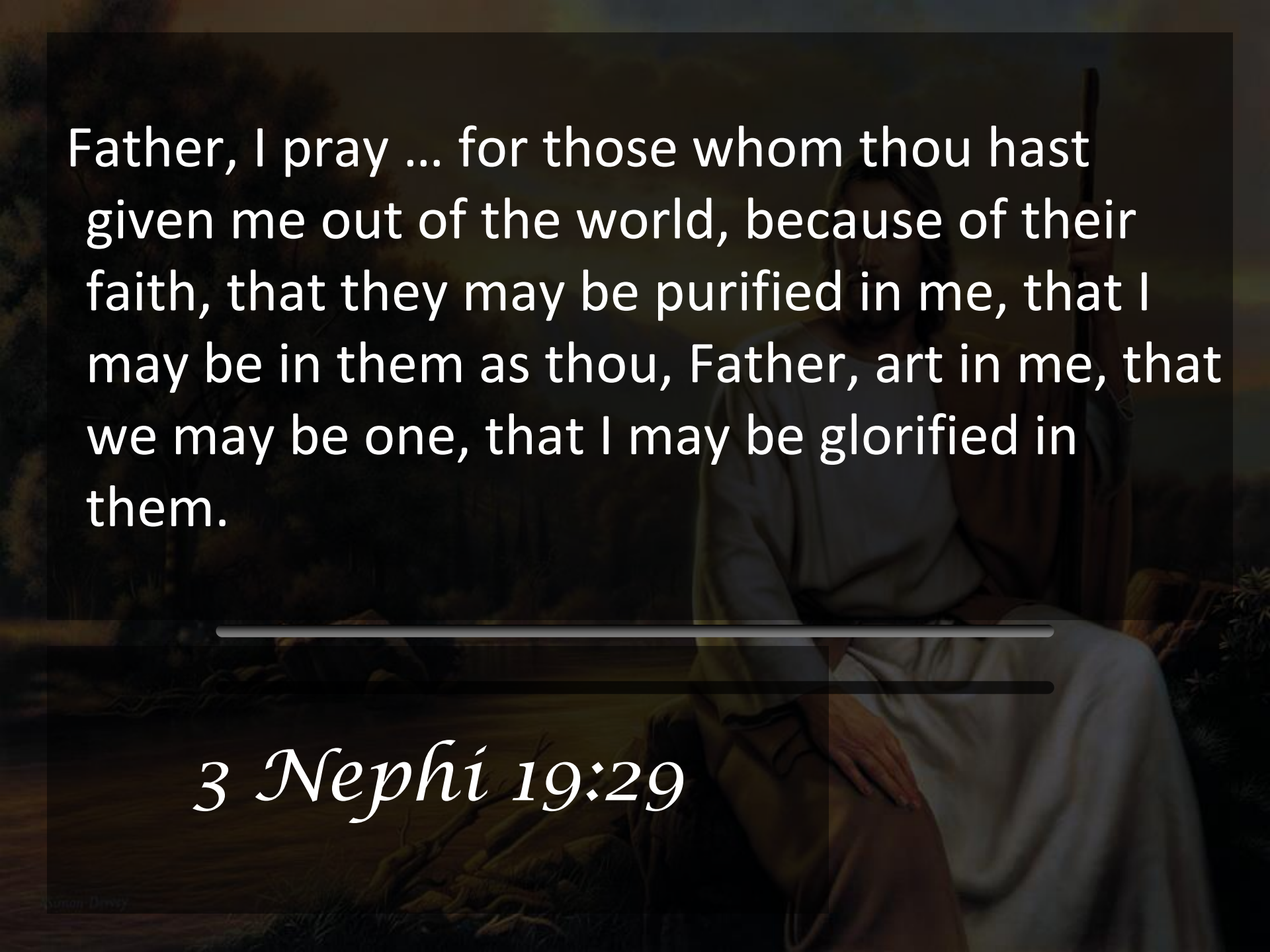
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... Jesus blessed them as they did pray unto him; and his countenance did shine upon them, and behold they were as white as the countenance and also the garments of Jesus...

3 Nephi 19:25



Father, I pray ... for those whom thou hast given me out of the world, because of their faith, that they may be purified in me, that I may be in them as thou, Father, art in me, that we may be one, that I may be glorified in them.

3 Nephi 19:29

Brothers and sisters, I believe that if we could truly understand the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, we would realize how precious is one son or daughter of God. I believe our Heavenly Father's everlasting purpose for His children is generally achieved by the small and simple things we do for one another. ***At the heart of the English word atonement is the word one.***

M. Russell Ballard,
"The Atonement and the Value of One Soul,"
Ensign, May 2004, 84



If all mankind understood this, there would never be anyone with whom we would not be concerned, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, or social or economic standing. We would strive to emulate the Savior and would never be unkind, indifferent, disrespectful, or insensitive to others.

M. Russell Ballard,
“The Atonement and the Value of One Soul,”
Ensign, May 2004, 84



If we truly understood the Atonement and the eternal value of each soul, we would seek out the wayward boy and girl and every other wayward child of God. We would help them to know of the love Christ has for them.

M. Russell Ballard,
“The Atonement and the Value of One Soul,”
Ensign, May 2004, 84



Like the Apostles of old, this knowledge and belief [of the atonement] should transform all of us to be confident, settled, unafraid, and at peace in our lives as followers of the divine Christ. It should help us carry all burdens, bear any sorrows, and also fully savor all joys and happiness that can be found in this life.

James E. Faust,
"The Supernal Gift of the Atonement,"
Ensign, Nov1988, 12

