

A person is walking away from the viewer on a wide, sandy desert path that leads towards a bright sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and casting long, golden shadows across the landscape. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds that are illuminated from below by the setting sun. In the background, a range of rugged mountains stretches across the horizon. The overall mood is one of solitude and contemplation.

# IT IS WRITTEN

Standing on God's Word

Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Eric Brown

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Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Eric Brown

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## Introduction

# STANDING ON THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD

Every believer will face moments of testing. Seasons will come when faith is challenged, temptation appears, and the enemy attempts to shake your confidence in God. In those moments, the question becomes: *How do we stand?*

Matthew 4 shows us the answer. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He did not debate the enemy or rely on personal strength. Instead, He responded the same way each time: **"It is written."** Jesus stood firmly on the authority of God's Word.

The enemy still uses the same strategies today—appealing to the flesh, the eyes, and human pride. But the believer still has the same weapon: **the Word of God**. When we know it, trust it, and declare it, we stand in the same victory Christ demonstrated in the wilderness.

This book explores how believers today can stand on Scripture, resist temptation, and remain faithful in every season of life.

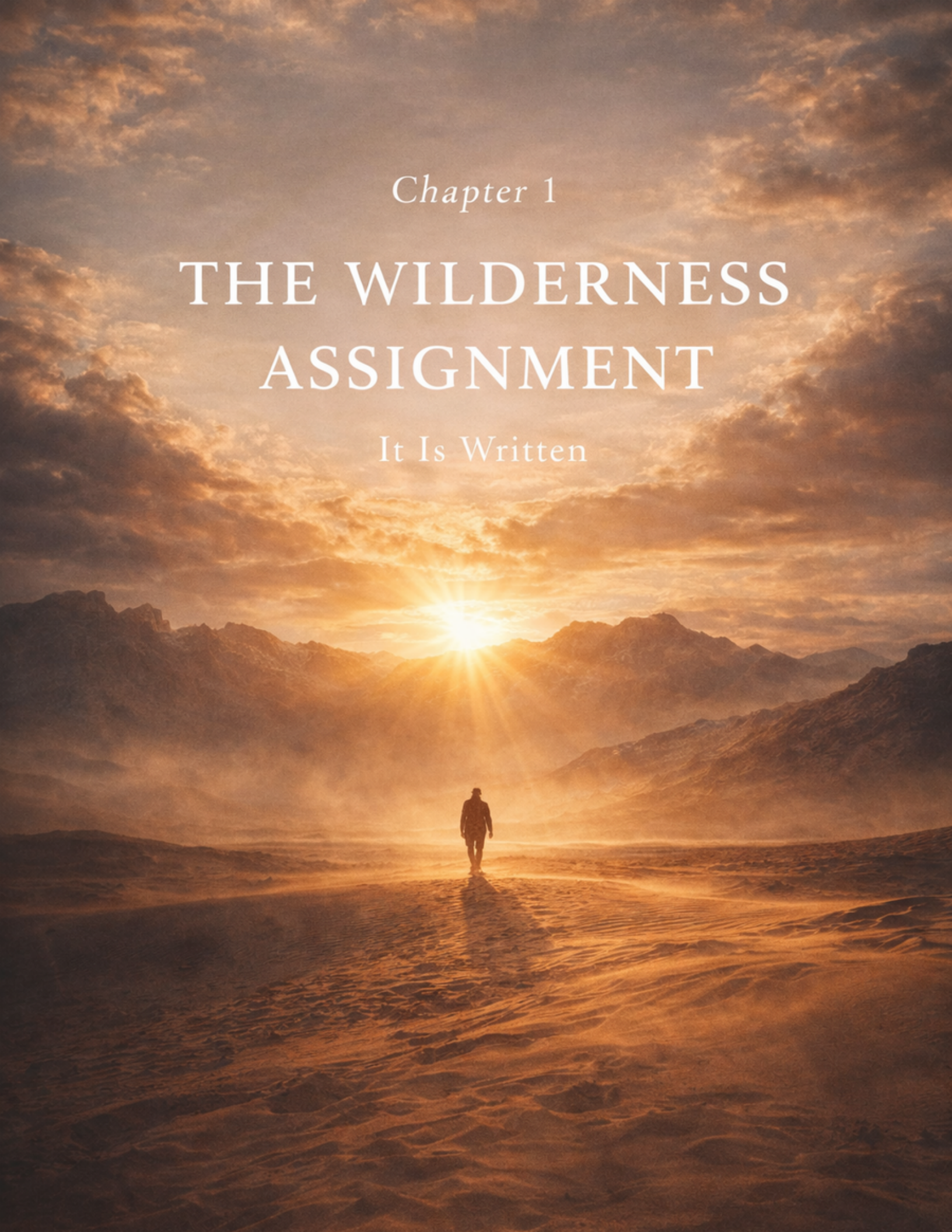
Because when the enemy attacks, the response of faith is simple:

## It Is Written.

*Chapter 1*

# THE WILDERNESS ASSIGNMENT

*It Is Written*



# CHAPTER 1

# THE WILDERNESS ASSIGNMENT

**God will sometimes lead you into places you would never choose—but those places are often where your faith becomes strongest.**

The Gospel of Matthew records that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. That single statement reveals a powerful truth: not every difficult season is the work of the enemy.

Sometimes the wilderness is a place God allows in order to shape us, prepare us, and reveal what is inside of us. The wilderness is uncomfortable, but it is not without purpose.

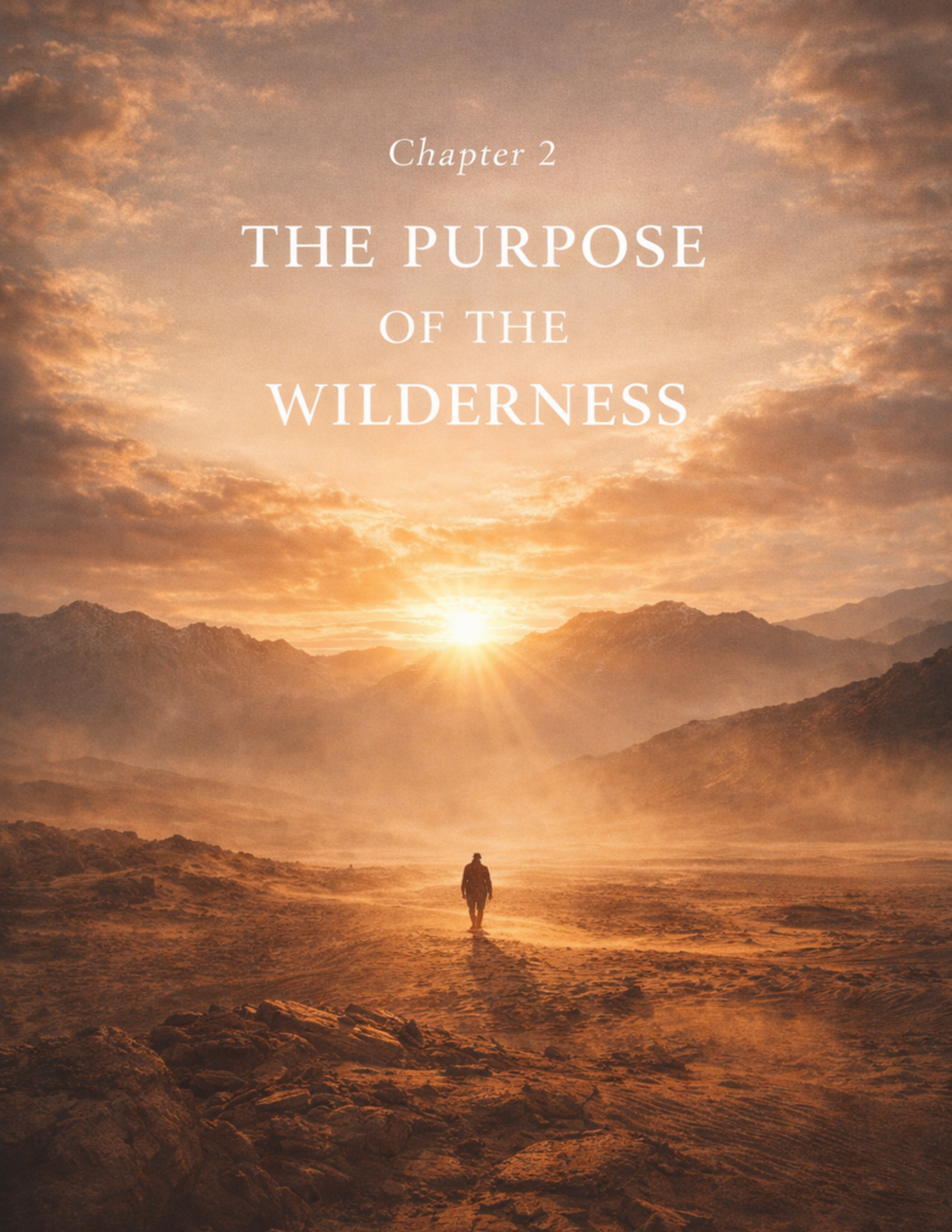
The Judean wilderness was a barren, rugged region near Jericho. In Jewish history it represented Israel's forty years of testing and dependence on God. Just as Israel was tested in the wilderness, Jesus entered the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. Yet where Israel struggled, Jesus stood strong.

Where their faith wavered, Christ remained faithful.

Many believers misunderstand difficult seasons. When life becomes challenging, we often assume that God has abandoned us. But Scripture reveals something different. The wilderness is not abandonment—it is preparation. It is the place where God proves the depth of our trust in Him.

*Chapter 2*

THE PURPOSE  
OF THE  
WILDERNESS



## Chapter 2

# THE PURPOSE OF THE WILDERNESS

**The wilderness is not meant to destroy you—it is meant to develop you.**

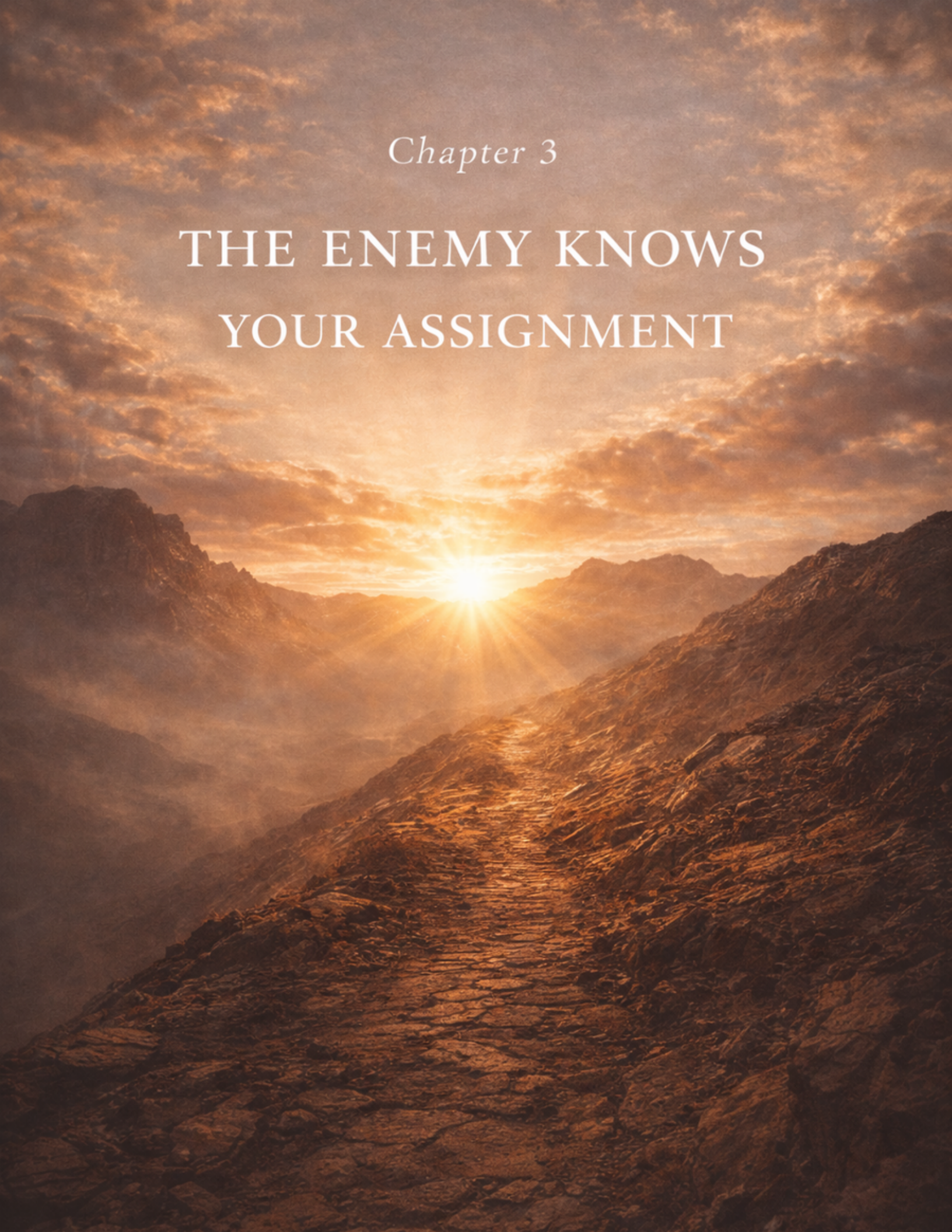
Throughout Scripture, God uses wilderness seasons to refine His people. Joseph experienced a wilderness when he was betrayed by his brothers and imprisoned. Job experienced a wilderness when he lost his possessions, his health, and his family. Yet in each situation, the wilderness revealed something powerful: their faith remained anchored in God.

The wilderness strips away distractions. When comfort disappears, we begin to realize what truly sustains us. In the wilderness there are no luxuries, no applause, and no shortcuts. There is only the reality of our relationship with God.

When Jesus fasted for forty days, His physical body became weak, but His spiritual authority remained strong. The enemy saw His hunger as an opportunity, but God saw the moment as a proving ground. Sometimes what the enemy sees as weakness becomes the stage for God's greatest victory.

*Chapter 3*

THE ENEMY KNOWS  
YOUR ASSIGNMENT



## CHAPTER 3

# THE ENEMY KNOWS YOUR ASSIGNMENT

**The enemy often attacks where your purpose is strongest.**

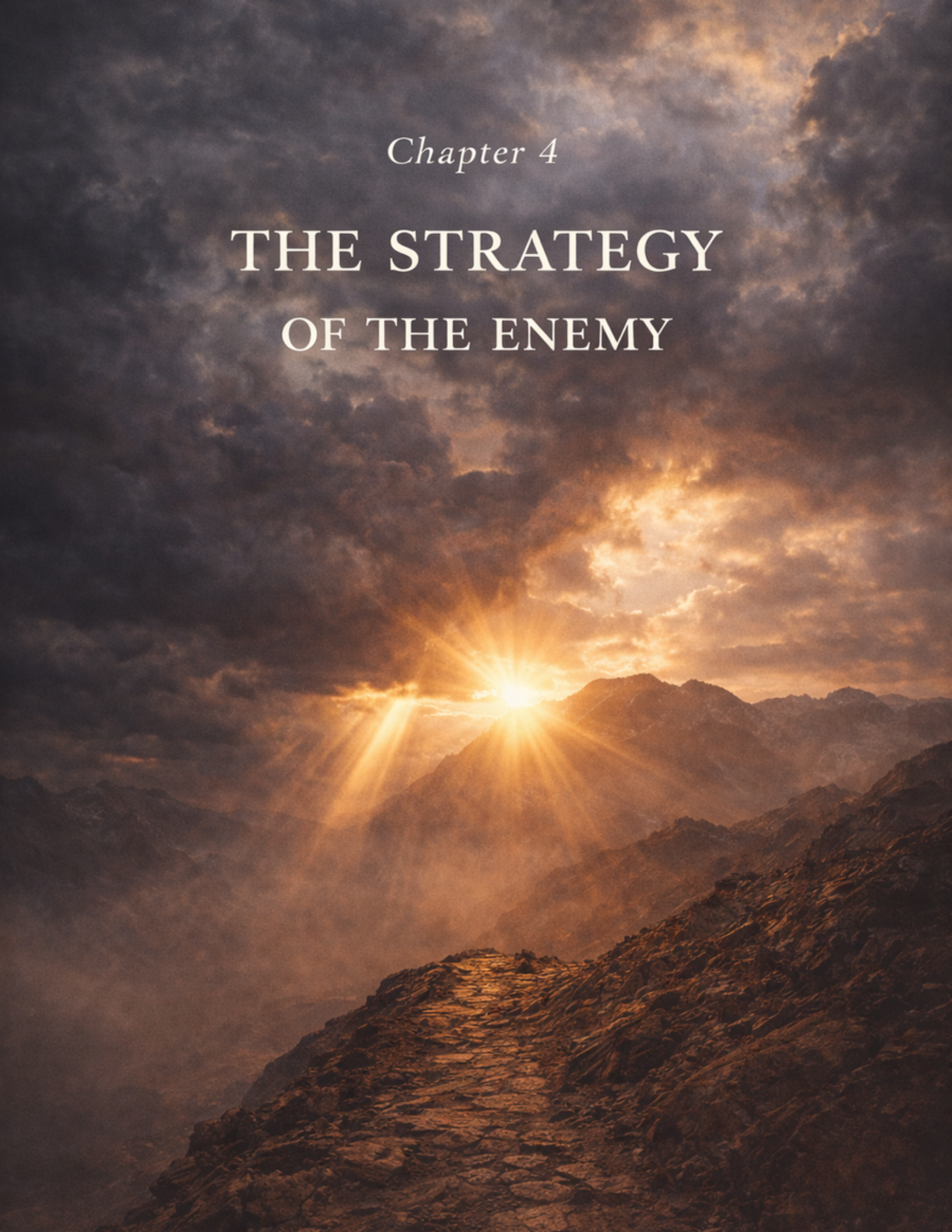
Satan approached Jesus immediately after His fast. This was not accidental. The enemy understood who Jesus was and what His mission would be. He knew that Christ had come to redeem humanity, and he attempted to derail that mission before it began.

Believers should understand something important: the enemy studies patterns. He observes weaknesses, vulnerabilities, and moments when we feel physically or emotionally drained. This is why spiritual vigilance is necessary. The enemy does not need new strategies because the old ones continue to work on those who are unprepared.

But while the enemy knows your assignment, he does not control your destiny. His attacks may be persistent, but they are not permanent. The authority of God's Word always outranks the strategies of the adversary.

*Chapter 4*

THE STRATEGY  
OF THE ENEMY



## CHAPTER 4

# THE STRATEGY OF THE ENEMY

**The enemy rarely invents new temptations—he simply repackages old ones.**

First John 2:16 describes three fundamental temptations that have existed since the Garden of Eden: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Every temptation humanity faces can be traced back to one of these three categories.

When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he used these same tactics. He attempted to appeal to physical appetite, visible desire, and personal pride. These strategies were the same ones used against Adam and Eve in the garden thousands of years earlier.

This reality should not discourage believers—it should empower them. If the enemy's strategy has not changed, then the solution has not changed either. God's Word remains the ultimate defense against every temptation.



*Chapter 5*

LUST  
OF THE  
FLESH

## CHAPTER 5

# LUST OF THE FLESH

**Temptation often begins with the desire to satisfy ourselves instead of obeying God.**

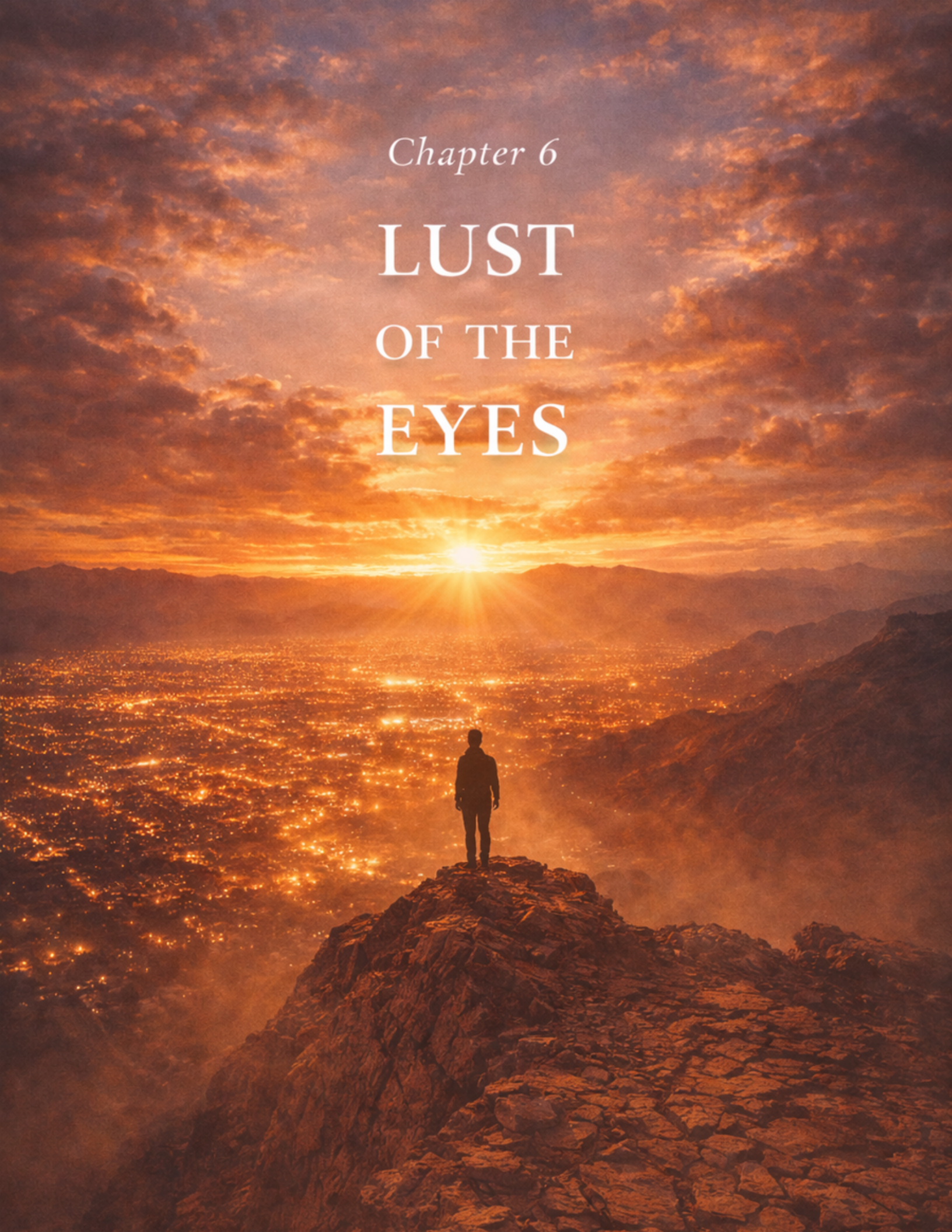
Satan's first temptation was simple: "Turn these stones into bread." After forty days of fasting, Jesus was physically hungry. The temptation appealed directly to His human need. Yet Jesus responded with a powerful declaration: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Lust of the flesh includes any desire that prioritizes personal gratification over obedience. It can appear in the form of addiction, immorality, overindulgence, or any behavior that places the flesh above the spirit.

Victory over the flesh does not come through willpower alone. It comes through surrender to the Holy Spirit. As Galatians teaches, when we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

*Chapter 6*

LUST  
OF THE  
EYES



## CHAPTER 6

# LUST OF THE EYES

### **What we see can influence what we desire.**

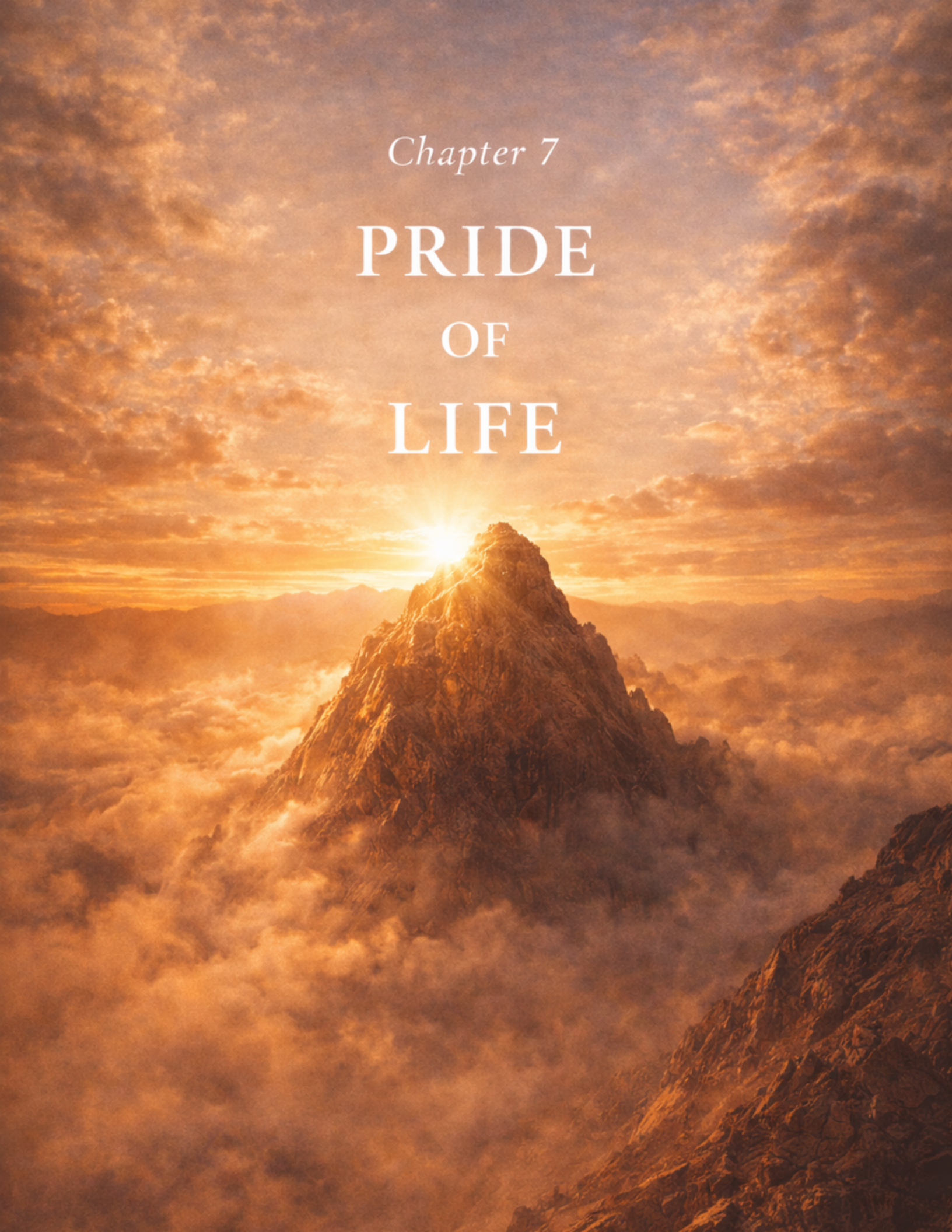
The enemy's second temptation involved spectacle. Satan took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and challenged Him to throw Himself down, quoting Scripture in an attempt to justify the act. The temptation was designed to create a dramatic display that would attract attention and admiration.

Lust of the eyes often begins with comparison. We look at what others possess and begin to question our own circumstances. We see lifestyles, possessions, or opportunities and begin to desire things that God has not given us.

Faith, however, chooses obedience over appearance. While the world chases what looks impressive, the believer pursues what honors God.

*Chapter 7*

PRIDE  
OF  
LIFE



# CHAPTER 7

# PRIDE OF LIFE

**Pride convinces people they can succeed without God.**

In the final temptation, Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for worship. It was a shortcut to glory without the cross. But Jesus rejected the offer and declared, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve."

Pride of life manifests when people believe their success comes solely from their own ability. Pride rejects correction, avoids accountability, and resists humility.

Yet Scripture teaches that God gives grace to the humble. True elevation comes not from self-promotion but from surrender to God's authority.

*Chapter 8*

THE POWER OF  
IT IS WRITTEN



## CHAPTER 8

# THE POWER OF “IT IS WRITTEN”

**The most powerful response to the enemy is the Word of God.**

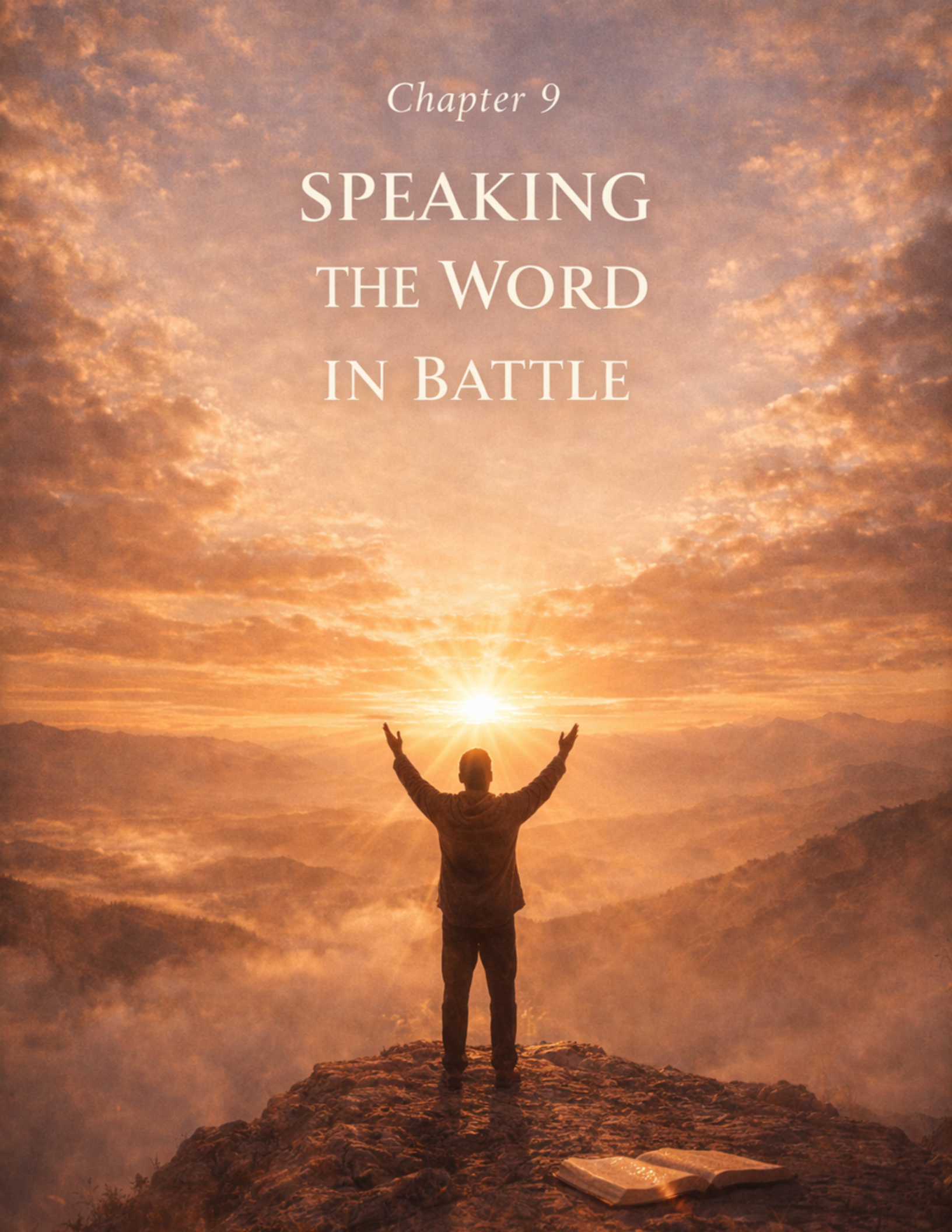
Jesus did not debate Satan. He did not argue or negotiate. Instead, He simply declared, “It is written.” Each response came directly from Scripture, specifically from the book of Deuteronomy.

This reveals an important principle for believers. Spiritual authority comes from alignment with God’s Word. When we speak Scripture, we are not relying on personal opinion—we are standing on divine truth.

God’s Word is not merely inspirational text. It is covenant truth. It carries authority, power, and permanence.

*Chapter 9*

SPEAKING  
THE WORD  
IN BATTLE



## CHAPTER 9

# SPEAKING THE WORD IN BATTLE

**Faith is not silent during spiritual warfare.**

Believers must learn to declare Scripture during moments of attack. When sickness appears, the Word reminds us that by His stripes we are healed. When fear arises, the Word declares that God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.

Speaking the Word realigns our thinking with God's promises. It replaces anxiety with assurance and doubt with faith.

When the enemy hears the Word spoken in faith, he is reminded that his authority has limits.

*Chapter 10*

WORSHIP  
AS  
WARFARE



## CHAPTER 10

# WORSHIP AS WARFARE

**Praise shifts our focus from the problem to the power of God.**

Throughout Scripture, worship becomes a weapon during spiritual conflict.

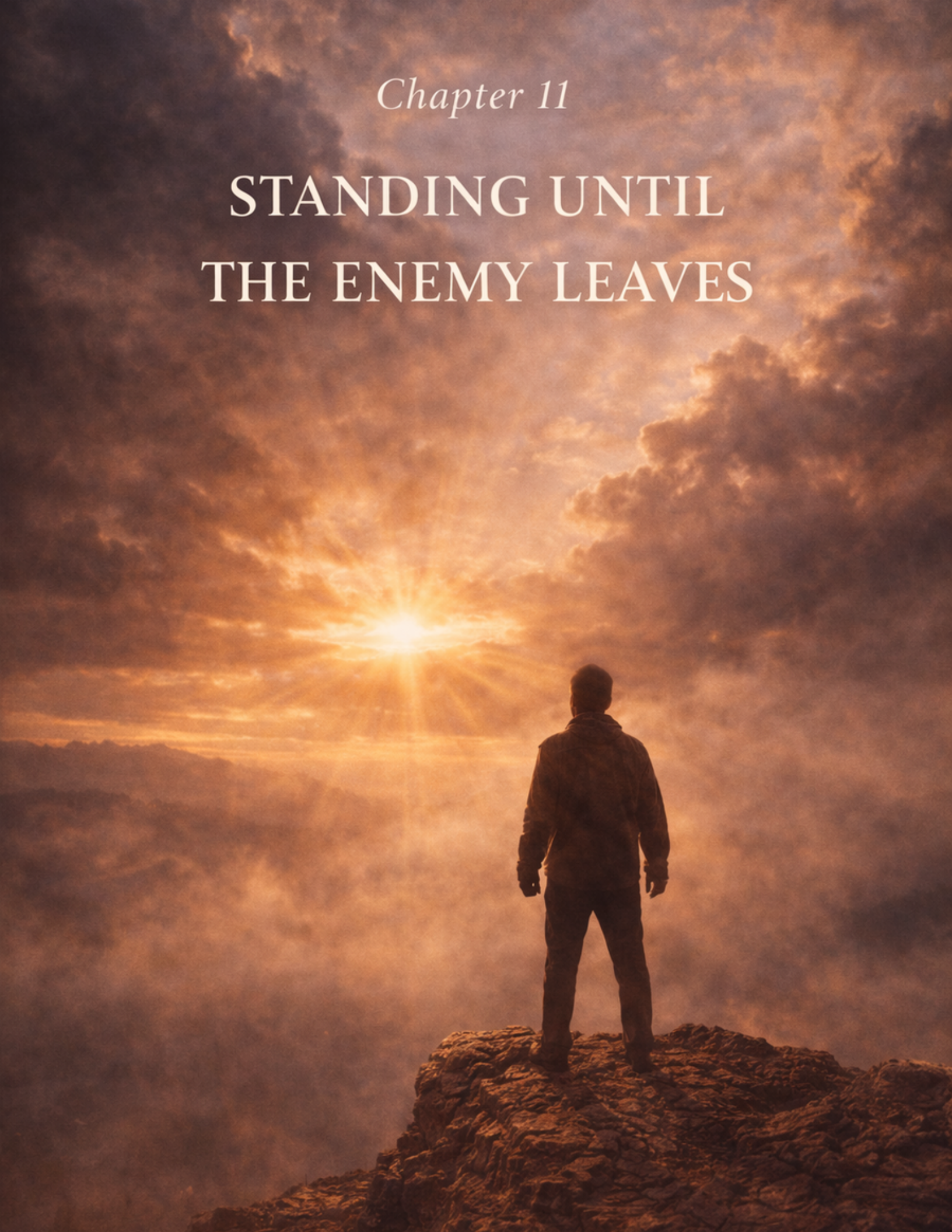
Praise silences the voice of the enemy because it magnifies God above every challenge.

When believers clap their hands, sing songs of faith, or lift their voices in worship, they are declaring victory before the battle is finished.

Worship is not simply emotional expression—it is spiritual declaration.

*Chapter 11*

STANDING UNTIL  
THE ENEMY LEAVES



## CHAPTER 11

# STANDING UNTIL THE ENEMY LEAVES

**Sometimes victory simply means refusing to move.**

After three temptations, the Bible records a powerful statement: "Then the devil left him." The enemy departed not because Jesus escaped the wilderness, but because He remained faithful to the Word.

There will be moments when believers must simply stand firm. Standing requires patience, perseverance, and trust in God's promises.

The enemy may test your faith repeatedly, but he cannot overcome a believer who stands firmly on Scripture.

*Chapter 12*

HELP COMES AFTER  
THE TEST



## CHAPTER 12

# HELP COMES AFTER THE TEST

God's help often arrives **after** faith has been proven.

After the enemy left, angels came and ministered to Jesus. Divine assistance arrived once the test was complete.

This pattern appears throughout Scripture. God allows the trial to reveal our faith, but He never leaves His people without help.

When believers stand on God's Word, they discover that the wilderness is not the end of the story. The same God who leads us into the wilderness also sends strength, provision, and victory.

# FINAL WORD

The enemy still uses the same three temptations.

But the church still has the same weapon:

**The Word of God.**

When the enemy attacks, the believer declares:

**"It is written."**