

Life BALANCE

Finding Peace Amidst Chaos





INTRODUCTION TO THE

HOLY BIBLE

PART 4

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white button-down shirt, is shown from the waist up. She is looking upwards and to the left with a slight smile. Her right hand is raised, palm up, and a white dove is flying just above it. Her left hand is also raised, palm up, and is empty. The background is a brown, textured surface that looks like stone or wood. The text "How has the Bible endured so much denial and prosecution?" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

How has the Bible endured so much denial and prosecution?



There is only one answer: . . . **GOD.**

God has supernaturally protected His Word
and kept it alive and working upon the earth.

This is evidence --- strong evidence --- that
the Bible is the Word of God.





Heaven and earth will pass away, but my Word will never pass away (Matthew 24:35).

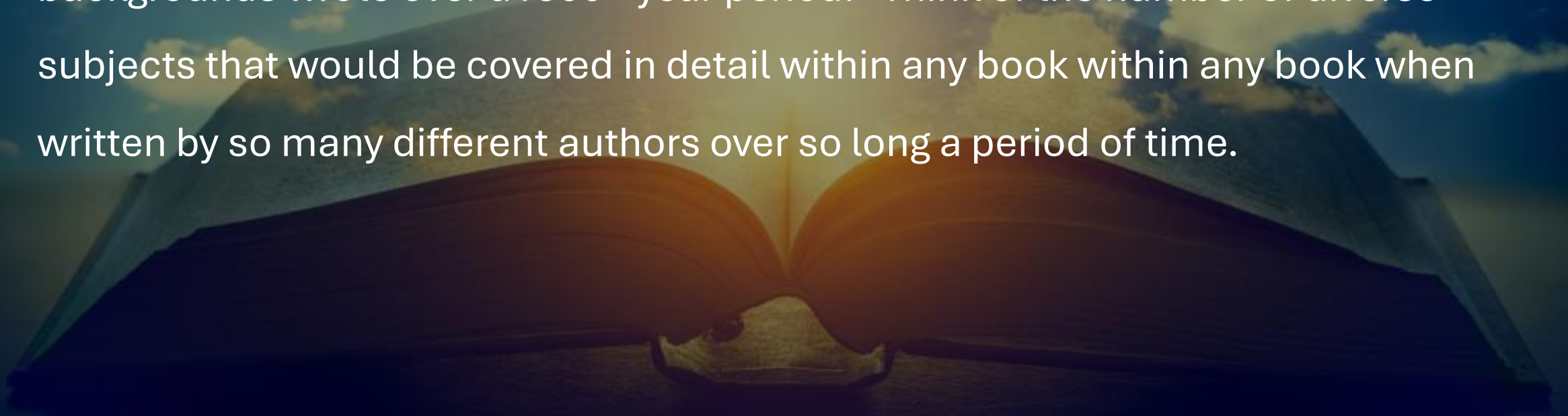
- **For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).**

“Is not my Word like fire,” declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29; 5:14).





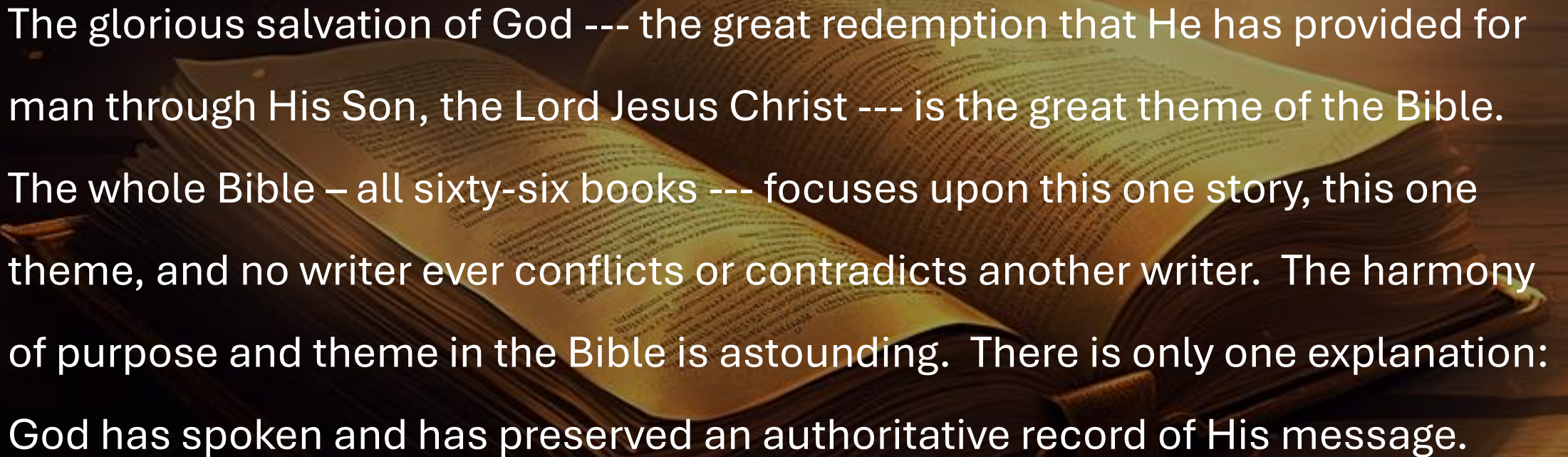

4. *The Unity of the Bible*: the Unity of the Bible is a miracle of God. Think of the facts: approximately forty different authors from a number of diverse backgrounds wrote over a 1500 - year period. Think of the number of diverse subjects that would be covered in detail within any book within any book when written by so many different authors over so long a period of time.





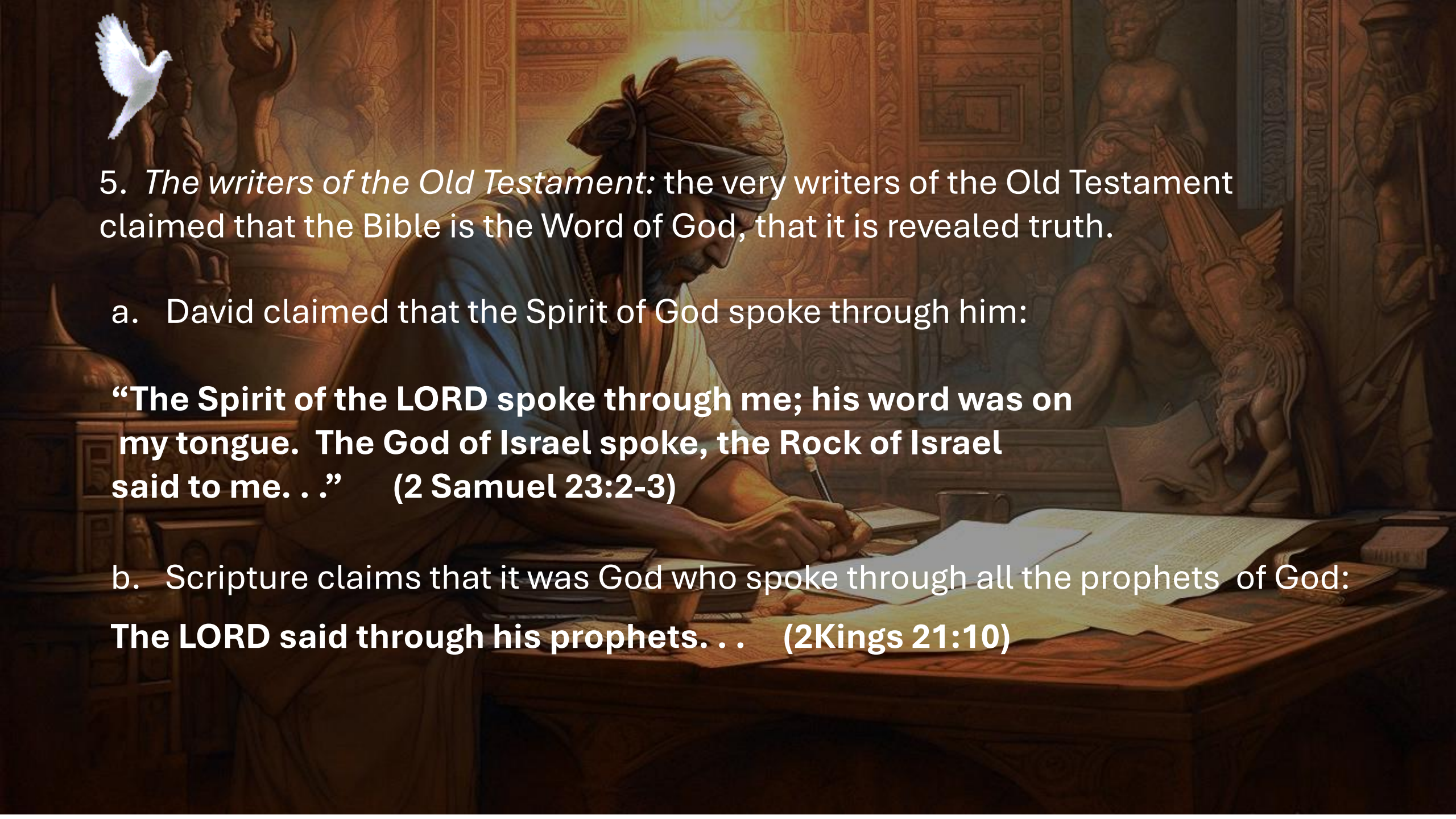

And think how much the subjects would change from generation to generation over a 1500 -year period. Yet, when we study the Bible, we find an amazing fact: The Bible follows one purpose and one theme. . .

- God's eternal program for the ages, His eternal Redemption and plan for the future of the universe and man.



The glorious salvation of God --- the great redemption that He has provided for man through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ --- is the great theme of the Bible. The whole Bible – all sixty-six books --- focuses upon this one story, this one theme, and no writer ever conflicts or contradicts another writer. The harmony of purpose and theme in the Bible is astounding. There is only one explanation: God has spoken and has preserved an authoritative record of His message.

Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:21).



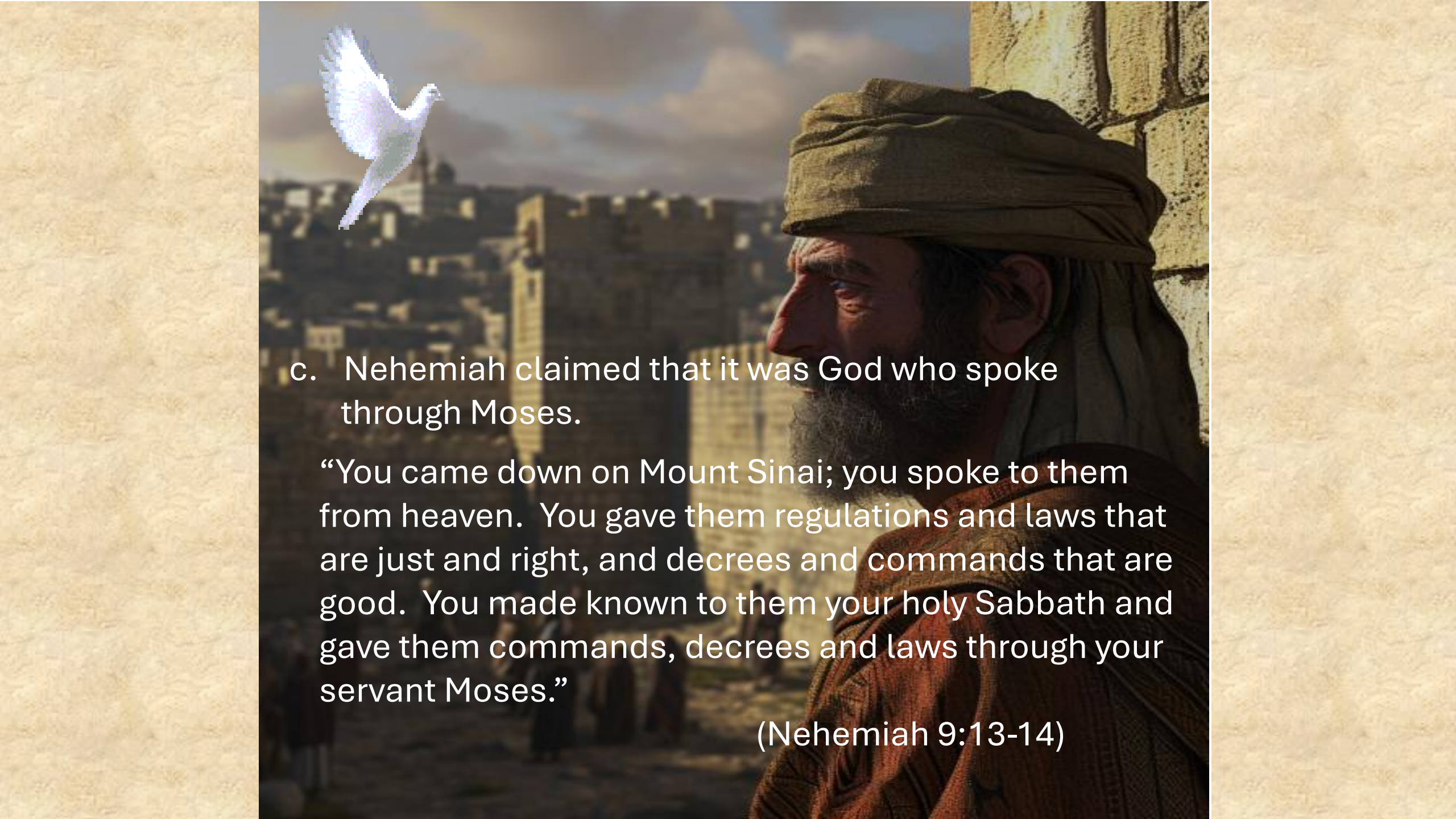
5. *The writers of the Old Testament:* the very writers of the Old Testament claimed that the Bible is the Word of God, that it is revealed truth.

a. David claimed that the Spirit of God spoke through him:

“The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me. . .” (2 Samuel 23:2-3)

b. Scripture claims that it was God who spoke through all the prophets of God:

The LORD said through his prophets. . . (2Kings 21:10)

A man with a grey beard and a brown turban is shown in profile, looking out over a city. A white dove is flying in the sky above the city. The background shows a city with many buildings and a large stone wall on the right.

c. Nehemiah claimed that it was God who spoke through Moses.

“You came down on Mount Sinai; you spoke to them from heaven. You gave them regulations and laws that are just and right, and decrees and commands that are good. You made known to them your holy Sabbath and gave them commands, decrees and laws through your servant Moses.”

(Nehemiah 9:13-14)



d. Isaiah claimed that his writings were what the LORD
had given him:

The LORD said to me, “Take a large scroll
and write on it with an ordinary pen.” (Isaiah 8:11)

The LORD spoke to me with his strong hand
(Isaiah 8:11).



e. Jeremiah claimed to be speaking and writing the Word of God itself:

Then the LORD reached out his hand, and touched my mouth, and said to me, “Now, I have put my Words in your mouth.”

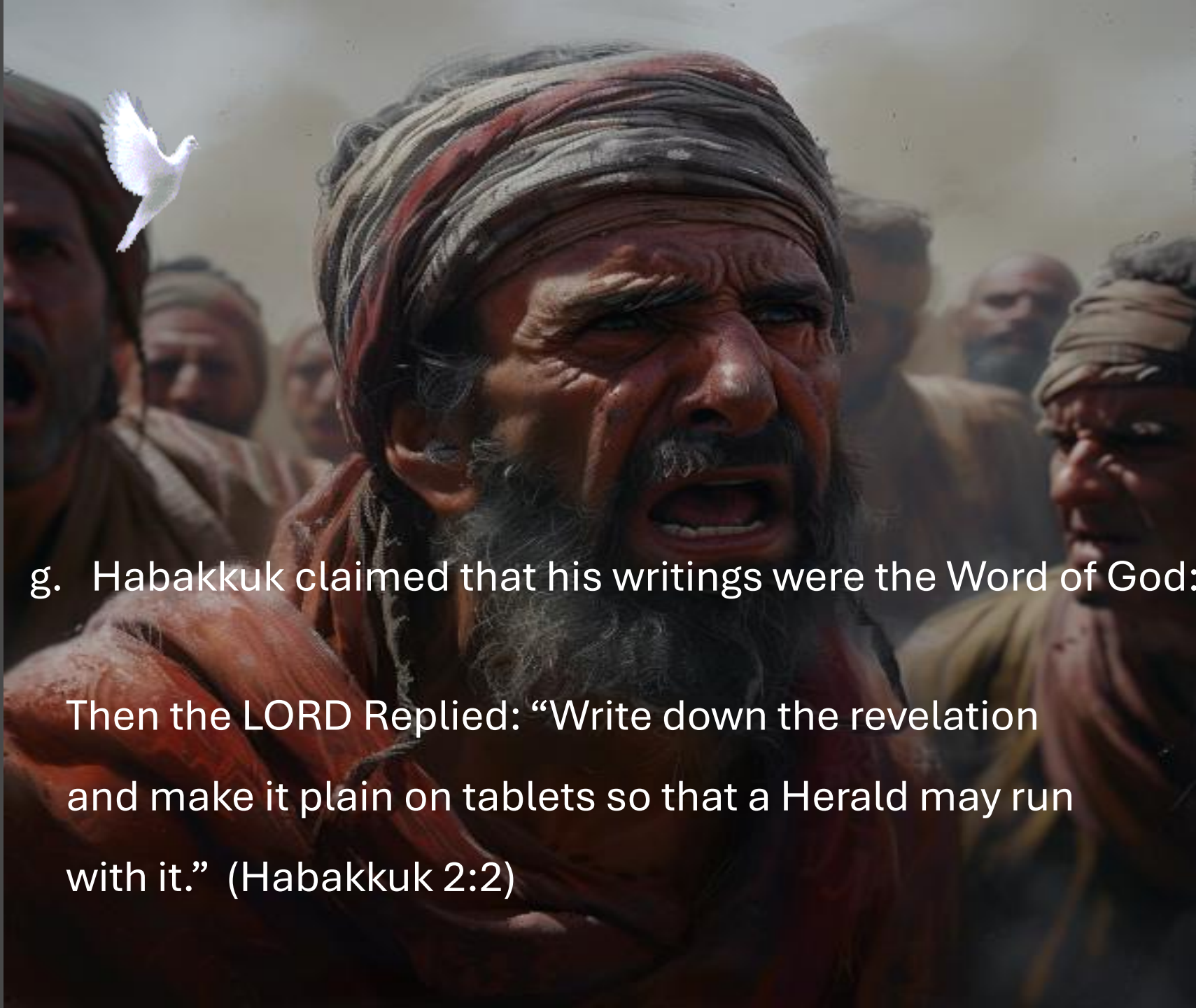
(Jeremiah 1:9)



f. Ezekiel claimed that his writing were the very word of God:

He then said to me: “Son of man, Go now, to the House of Israel, and speak my words to them.”

(Ezekiel 3:4)



g. Habakkuk claimed that his writings were the Word of God:

Then the LORD Replied: “Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets so that a Herald may run
with it.” (Habakkuk 2:2)



h. Zechariah claimed that God actually gave him His Word:

Then the Word of the LORD came to me. (Zechariah 4:8; 7:12)

i. The writers of the Old Testament used the phrase “this is what the LORD says,” or a similar expression over two thousand times.

j. The writers of the Old Testament referred to Scripture as “the Word,” “the Statutes,” “the Law,” and “the Testimony’s” claiming the authority of God for the Scriptures. (Psalms 19:1; 119:1)



6. *The Writers of the New Testament*: these writers confirmed the claims of the Old Testament authors.

a. The New Testament writers declared that the word and prophecies spoken by the Old Testament prophets had to be fulfilled.

All this took place to fulfill what the LORD had said through the prophet (Matthew 1:22).

And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet.
(Matthew 2:15)

“Brothers, the scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David.” (Acts 1:16)



b. Paul declared that the gospel itself was given to us by God through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures:

The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 1:2)

c. The New Testament writers actually claimed this: that the Old Testament was not written by the will of man, but by the guidance and inspiration of God and of His Spirit.

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21)



7. *The Writers of the New Testament*: these writers also claimed that their own writings are the Word of God.

a. Paul claimed that his writings are the Word of God:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you:

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread. . .

(1 Corinthians 11:23)

Did the Word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. (1 Corinthians 14: 36-37)



Peter and Paul both claimed that the writings of the New Testament writers are the word of God.

This is what we speak, not in words taught us in human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words (1 Corinthians 2:13). Note the word “we”.

I want you to recall the words spoke in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles (2 Peter 3:2).

Note how Peter ascribes to the apostles the same authority as the prophets.

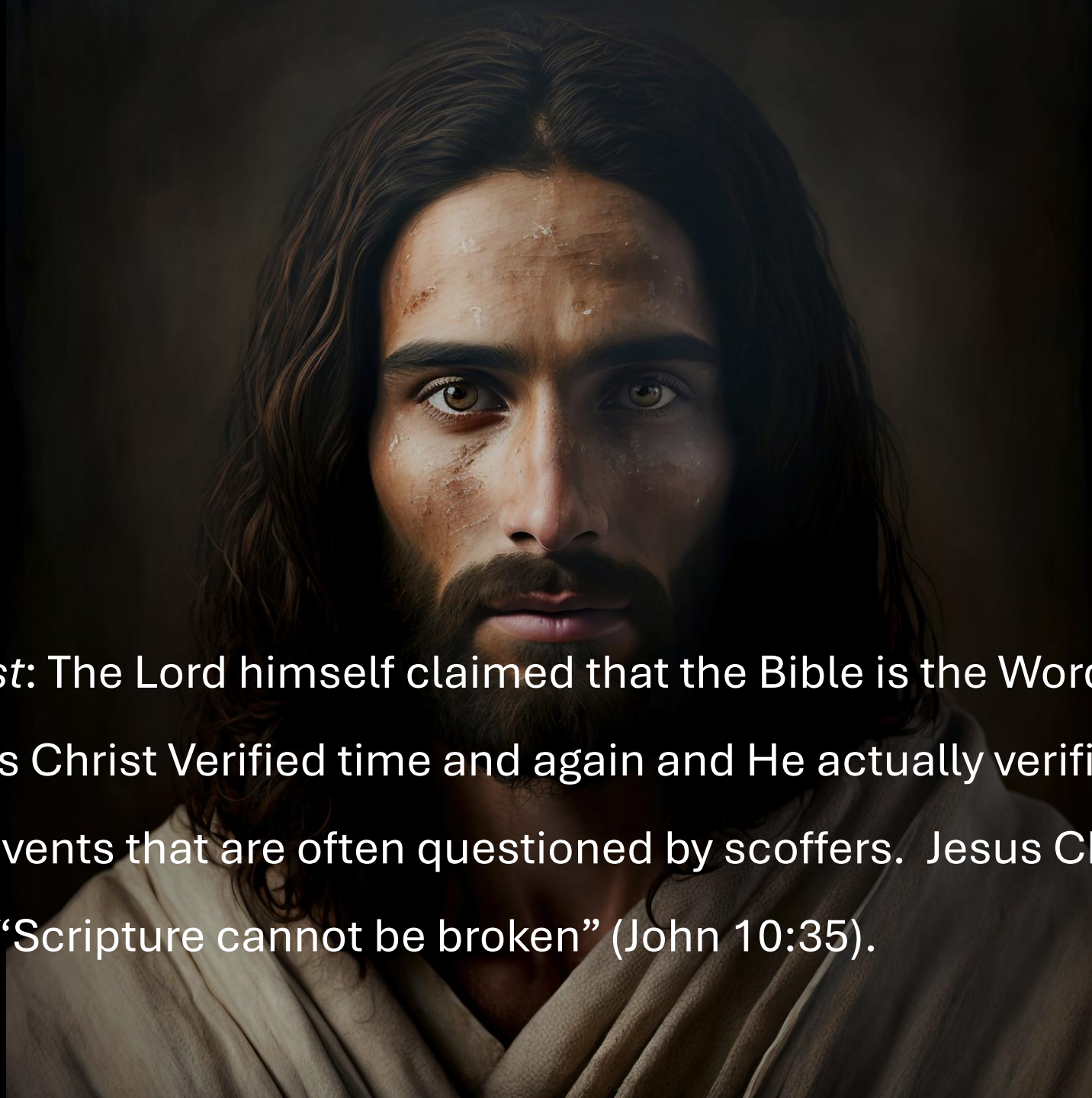


c. Paul claimed that all scripture, both the Old and New Testaments, is inspired by God.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

d. John claimed that what he wrote was the witness of God.

We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. (1 John 5:9)



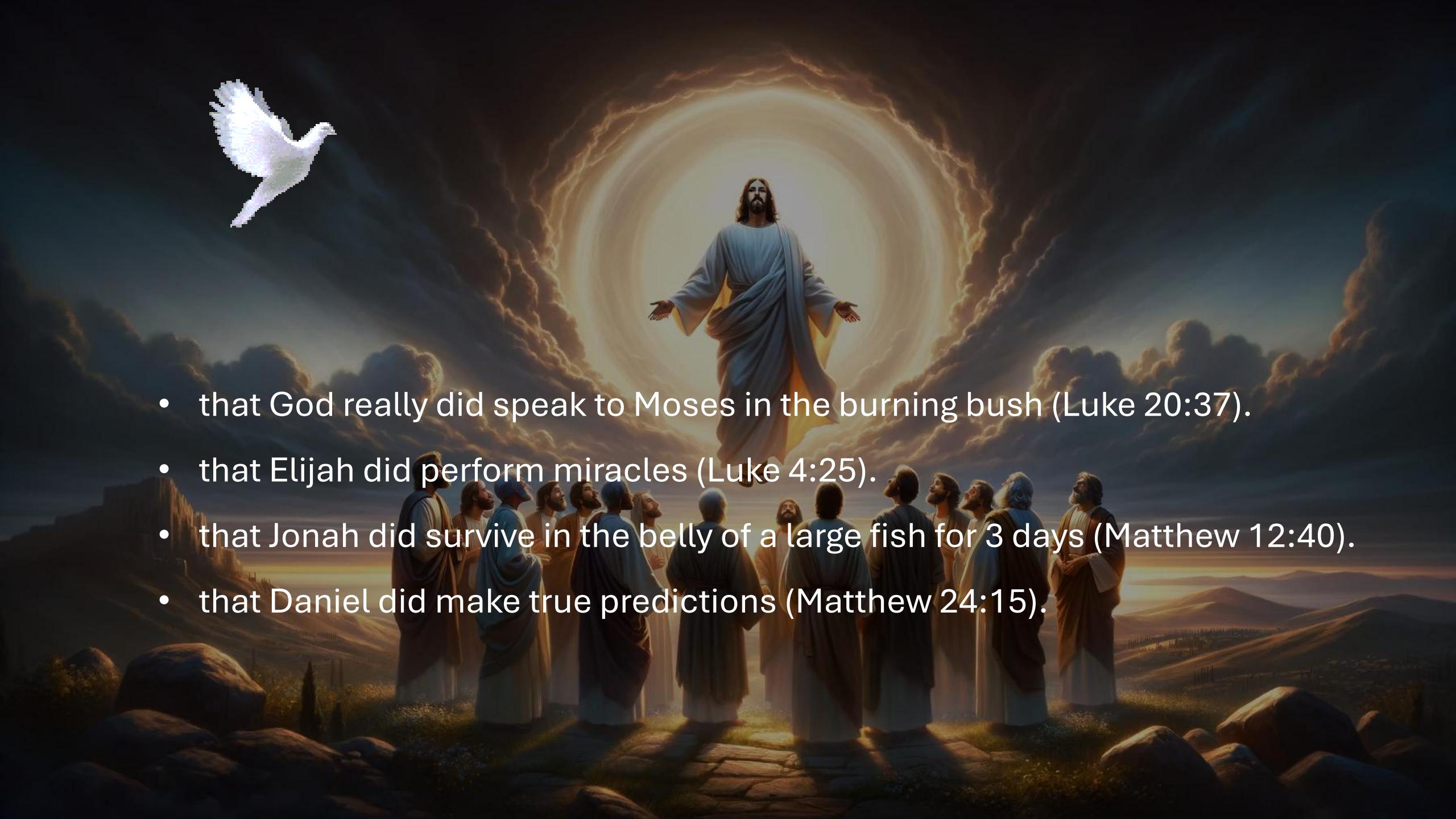
8. *Jesus Christ*: The Lord himself claimed that the Bible is the Word of God.
- a. Jesus Christ Verified time and again and He actually verified most of the major events that are often questioned by scoffers. Jesus Christ said. . .
 - that “Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).



- that “Scripture must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44).
- “Until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will by any means disappear from the Law (Scripture) until everything is accomplished (Matthew 5:18).



- that not knowing the scripture is a terrible mistake: “You are in error because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God” (Matthew 22:29).
- that Adam and Eve actually existed and were created by God (Matthew 19:4).
- that Cain really did kill Abel (Matthew 23:35).
- that the great flood really did happen in the days of Noah (Luke 17:27).



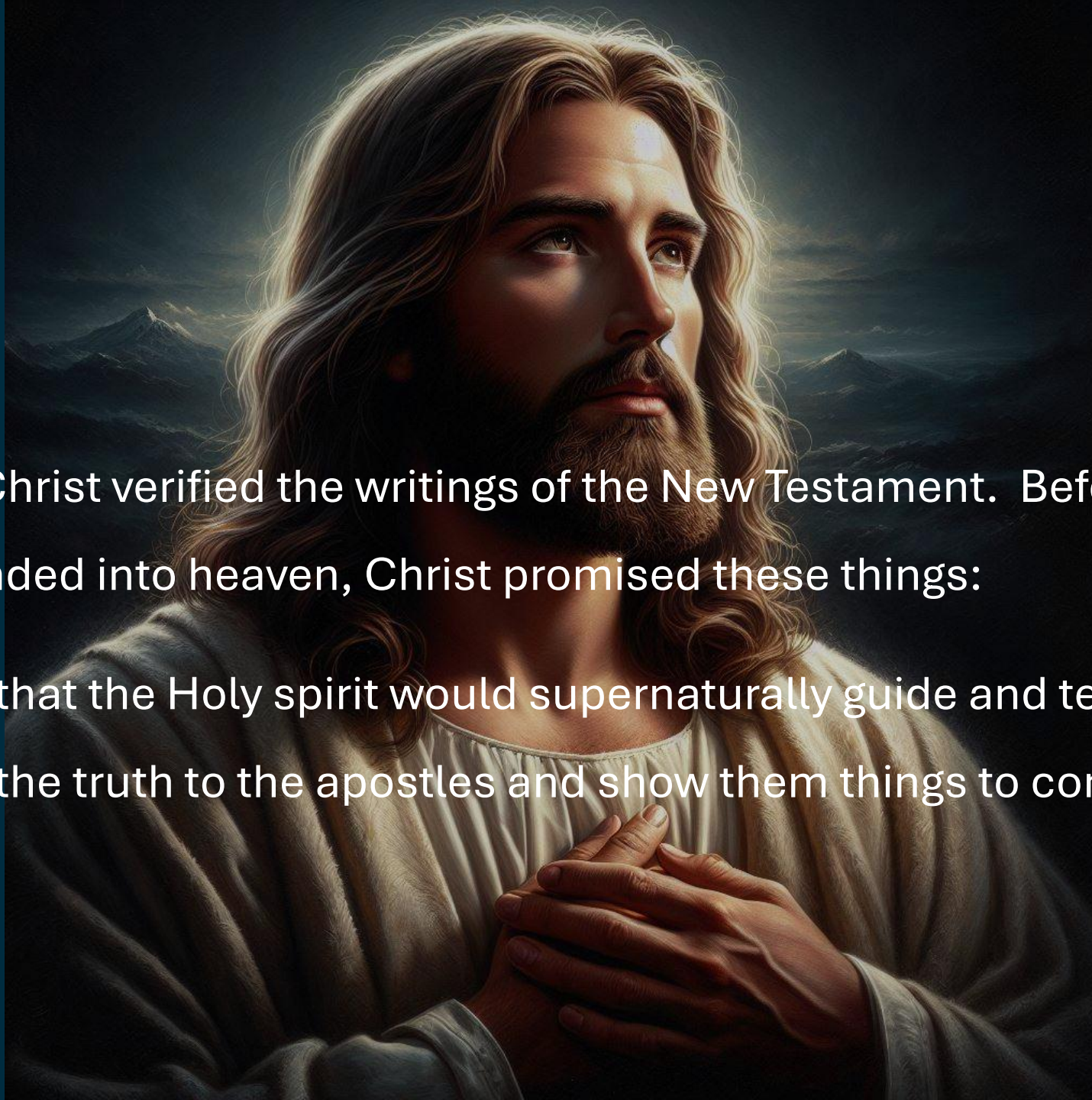
- that God really did speak to Moses in the burning bush (Luke 20:37).
- that Elijah did perform miracles (Luke 4:25).
- that Jonah did survive in the belly of a large fish for 3 days (Matthew 12:40).
- that Daniel did make true predictions (Matthew 24:15).



b. Jesus Christ verified the writings of the New Testament. Before He left the earth and ascended into heaven, Christ promised these things:



that the Holy spirit would supernaturally guide and teach the truth to the apostles and show them things to come.





But the Counselor the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you (John 14:26).

**But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you unto all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come
(John 16:13)**



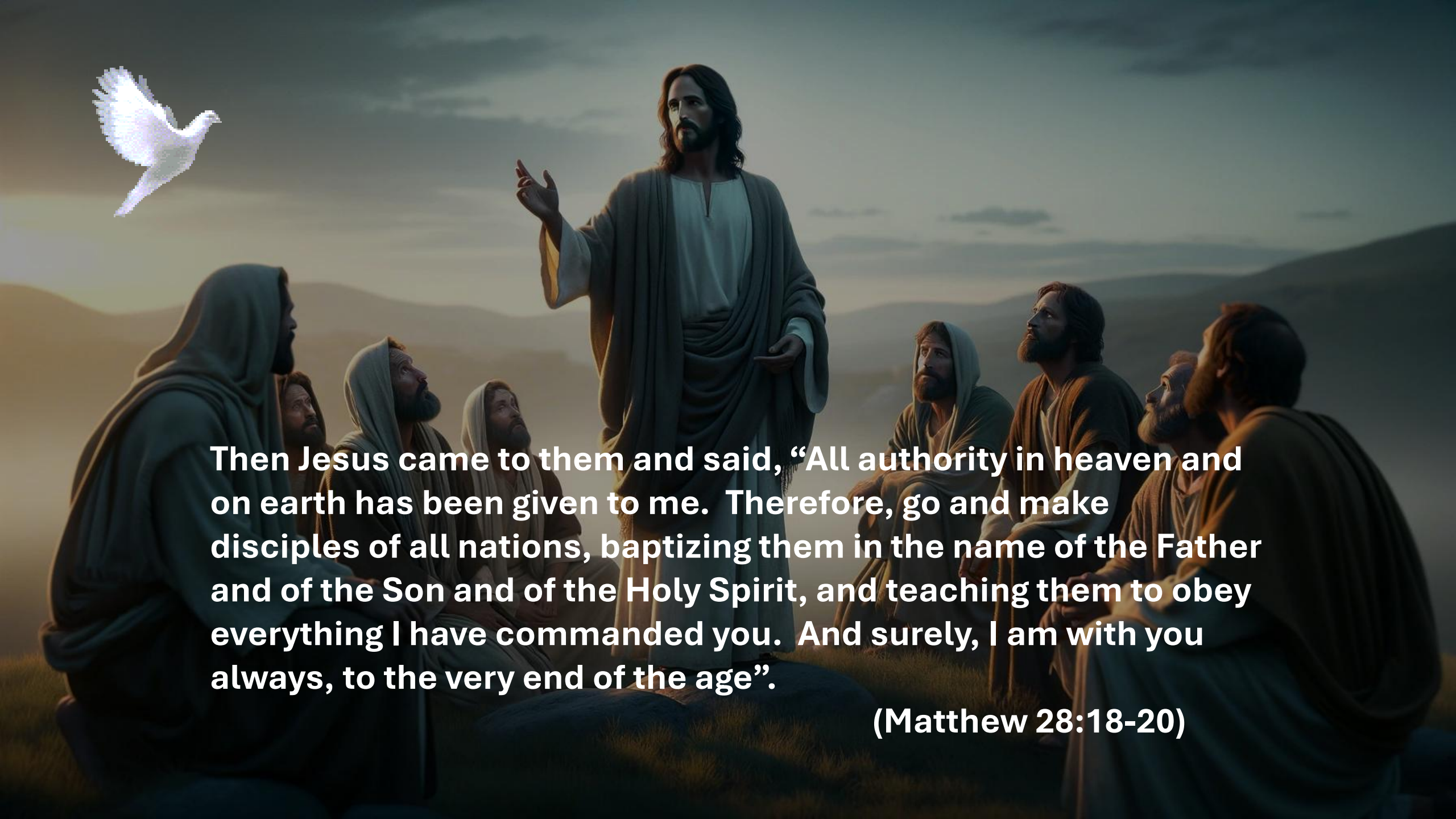
that the Holy Spirit would supernaturally speak through them.

For it will not be you thinking but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you (Matthew 10:20; Mark 13:11).



that they would have all the authority of heaven and earth in teaching men and that He (His presence and authority) would be with them until the end of the earth.





Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age”.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

9. *The Holy Spirit:* the Holy Spirit of God Himself is the Author of the Bible.

Scripture makes this clear.

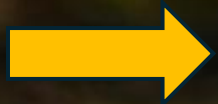
a. Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).

b. God inspired the Scripture by His Spirit.

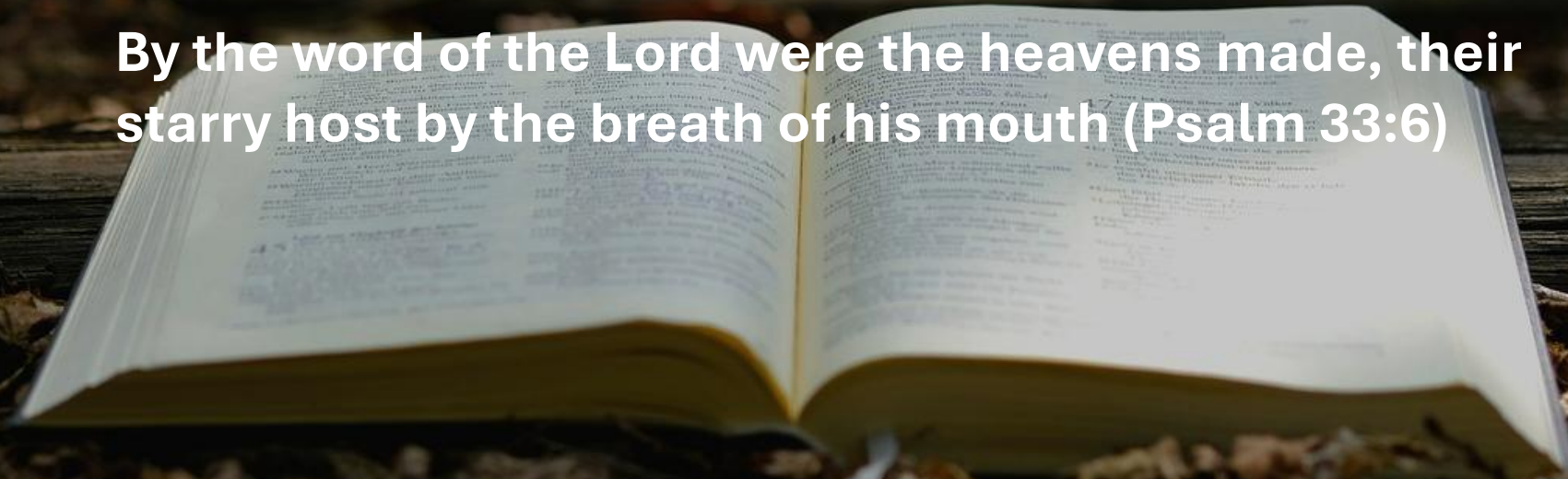
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteous (2 Timothy 3:16).

Scripture is inspired of God. The word (theopneustos) means *God-breathed*. What does this mean? What does it mean to say that *God breathed* the Holy Scriptures? No one can say for sure, but this much can be said.



The idea is that *God breathed out* the Scripture or God *produced* the Scripture somewhat like He did creation,

**By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their
starry host by the breath of his mouth (Psalm 33:6)**

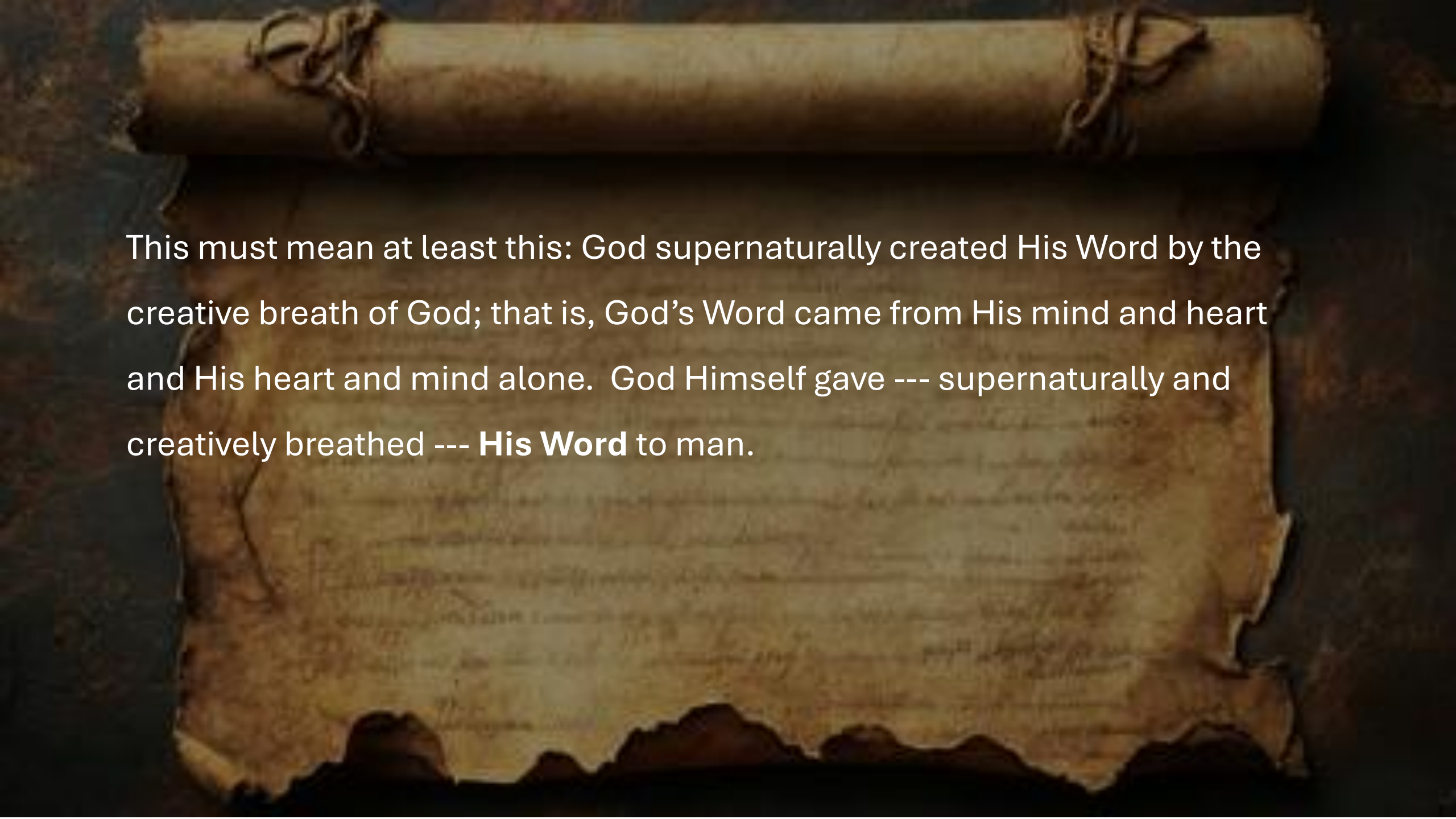


BREATH

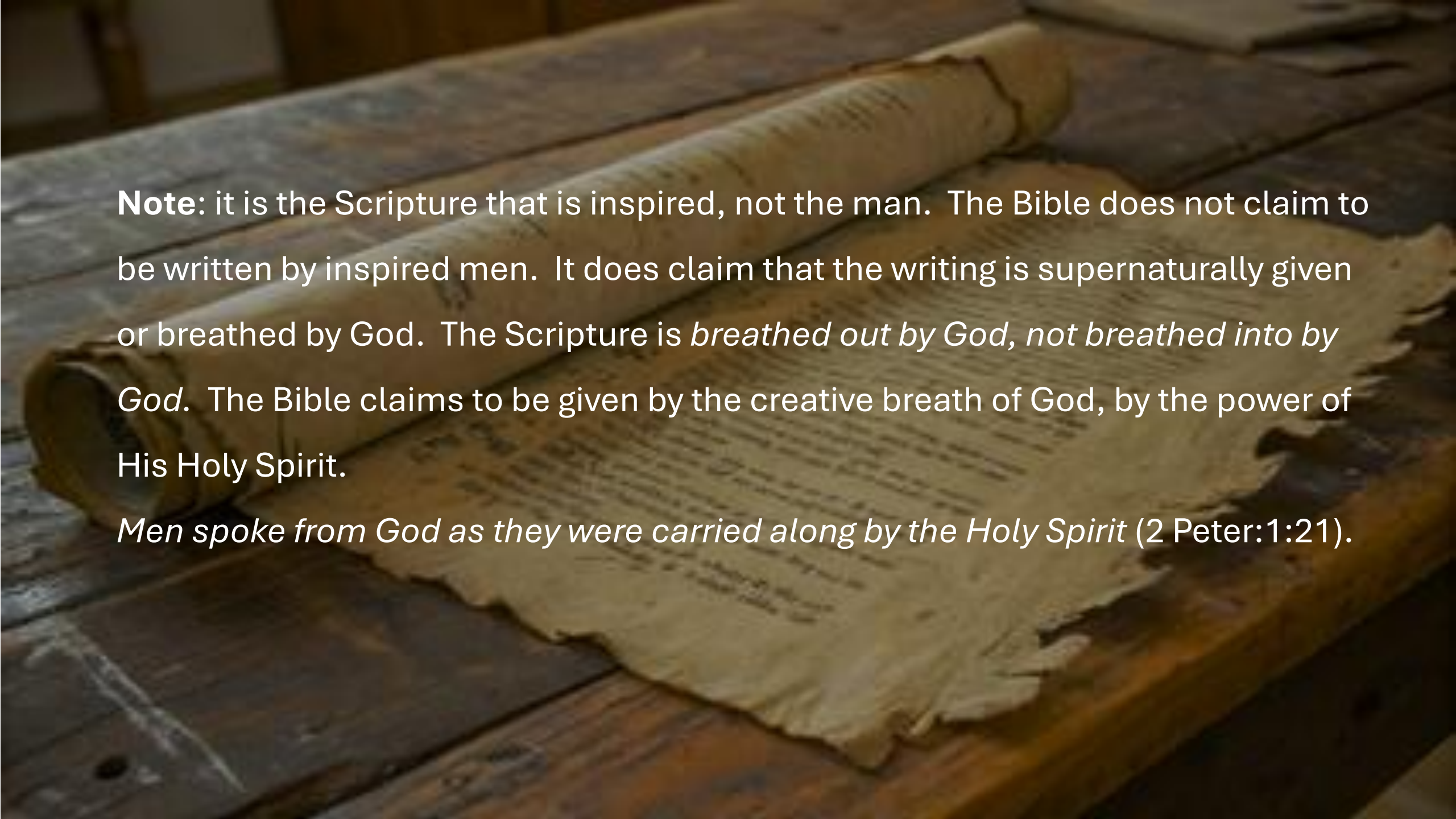
Beginning Respiration; Eternally Acknowledgment of True Holiness

“YAH--WEH”
GOD






This must mean at least this: God supernaturally created His Word by the creative breath of God; that is, God's Word came from His mind and heart and His heart and mind alone. God Himself gave --- supernaturally and creatively breathed --- **His Word** to man.

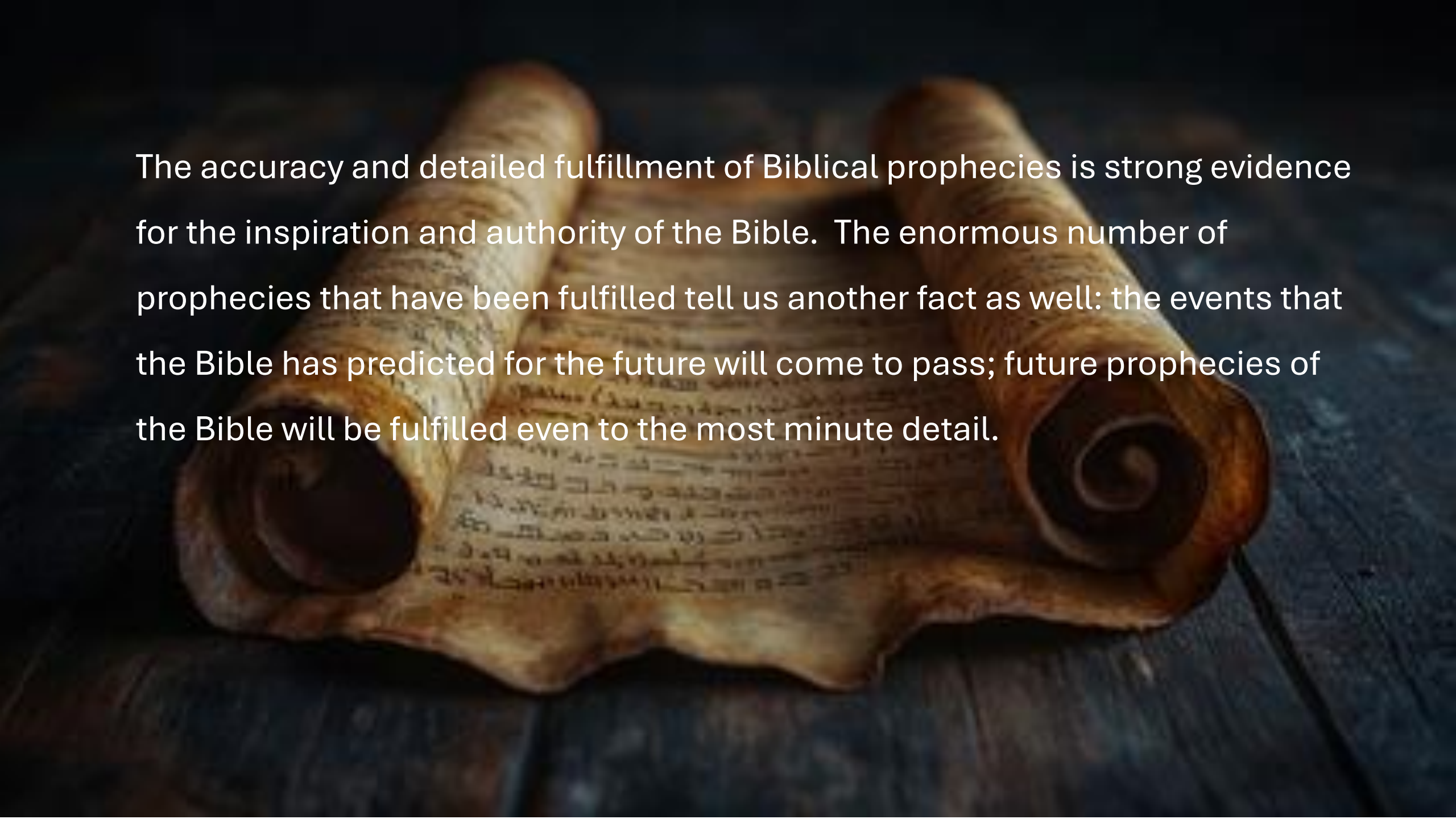


Note: it is the Scripture that is inspired, not the man. The Bible does not claim to be written by inspired men. It does claim that the writing is supernaturally given or breathed by God. The Scripture is *breathed out by God, not breathed into by God*. The Bible claims to be given by the creative breath of God, by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter:1:21).

An elderly man with a long, white beard and hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a white, textured robe. He is holding a large, thick, aged book with both hands, looking down at it with a focused expression. The book's pages are yellowed and show signs of wear. The background is dark and out of focus.

10. *Fulfilled prophecy*: there are over **eight thousand** prophecies in the Bible and over three hundred of these are Old Testament references to the Messiah. A prophecy is the prediction of some future event. Just imagine! The Bible has predicted over 8,000 future events, and the astounding fact is this: thousands have been fulfilled exactly as they were predicted by the Holy Scripture.



The accuracy and detailed fulfillment of Biblical prophecies is strong evidence for the inspiration and authority of the Bible. The enormous number of prophecies that have been fulfilled tell us another fact as well: the events that the Bible has predicted for the future will come to pass; future prophecies of the Bible will be fulfilled even to the most minute detail.

11. *Archaeology*: hundreds of archaeological discoveries have been made that verify various facts and events mentioned in the Bible. The accuracy of the Bible is being constantly supported by these discoveries, and although they do not prove the inspiration of the Bible, the findings do show how reliable the facts of the Bible are.



12. *The trustworthiness of the Bible:* The Holy Scripture is absolutely trustworthy.

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (1Thessalonians 2:13)



Resources

The following manuscript was especially helpful in preparing this study and will be helpful to you in further study:

The Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible; Genesis 1; New International Version

Slides were prepared through query and search of free photos from the internet.