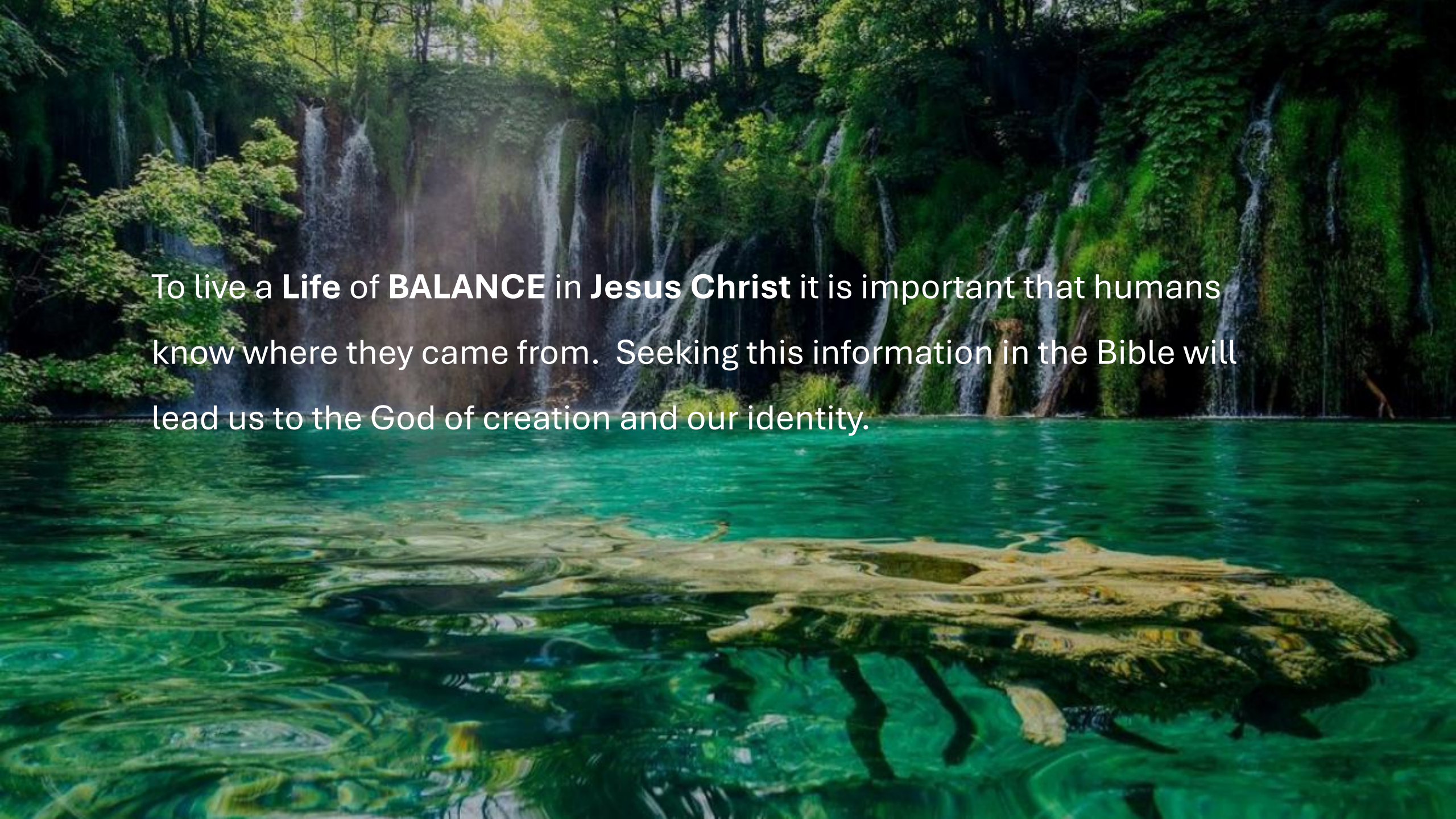


Life BALANCE

Man's Origin, Purpose and Destiny





To live a **Life of BALANCE** in **Jesus Christ** it is important that humans know where they came from. Seeking this information in the Bible will lead us to the God of creation and our identity.

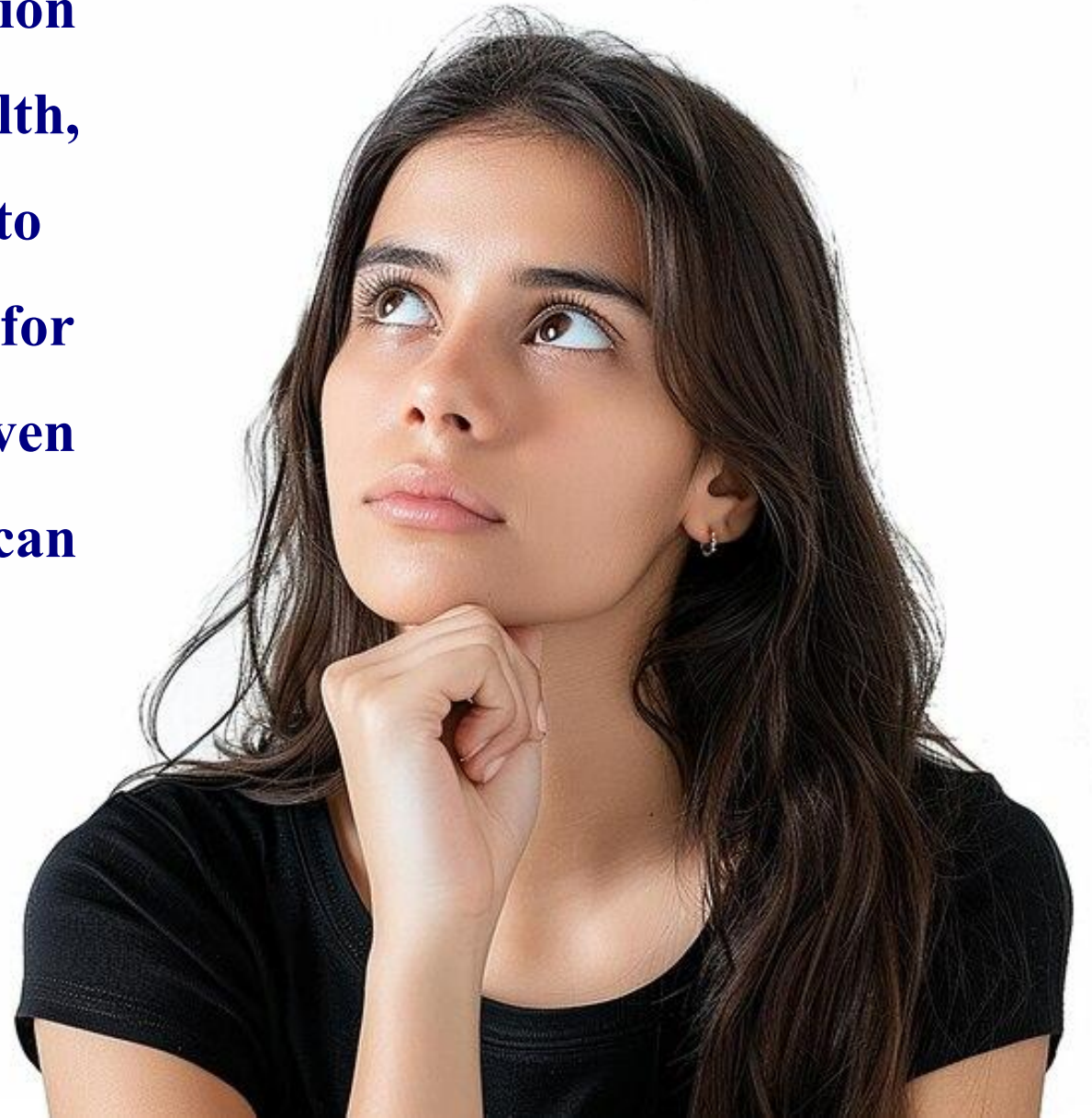
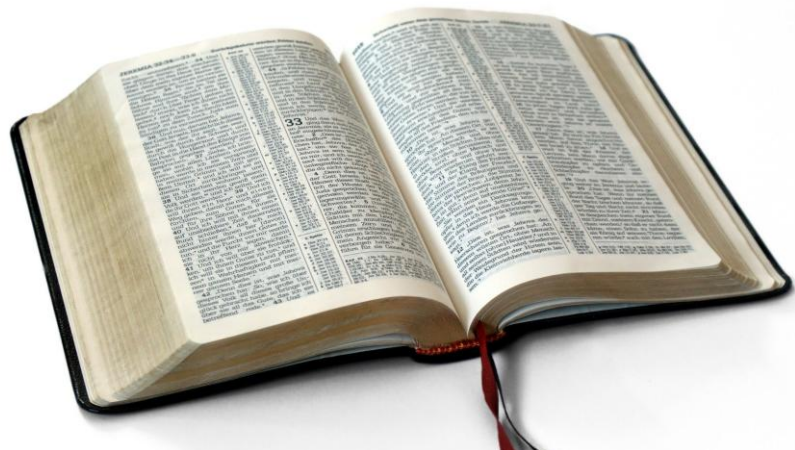
A newborn baby is lying on its back, crying with its mouth wide open and eyes closed. The baby's skin is pink and appears to have some dried blood or amniotic fluid on its chest and arms. It is being held by two people wearing white gloves and teal scrubs. The background is a solid teal color. The text "What is the Meaning and Purpose of Life?" is overlaid in white at the bottom of the image.

What is the Meaning and Purpose of Life?

What is Man's Origin, Purpose and Destiny?



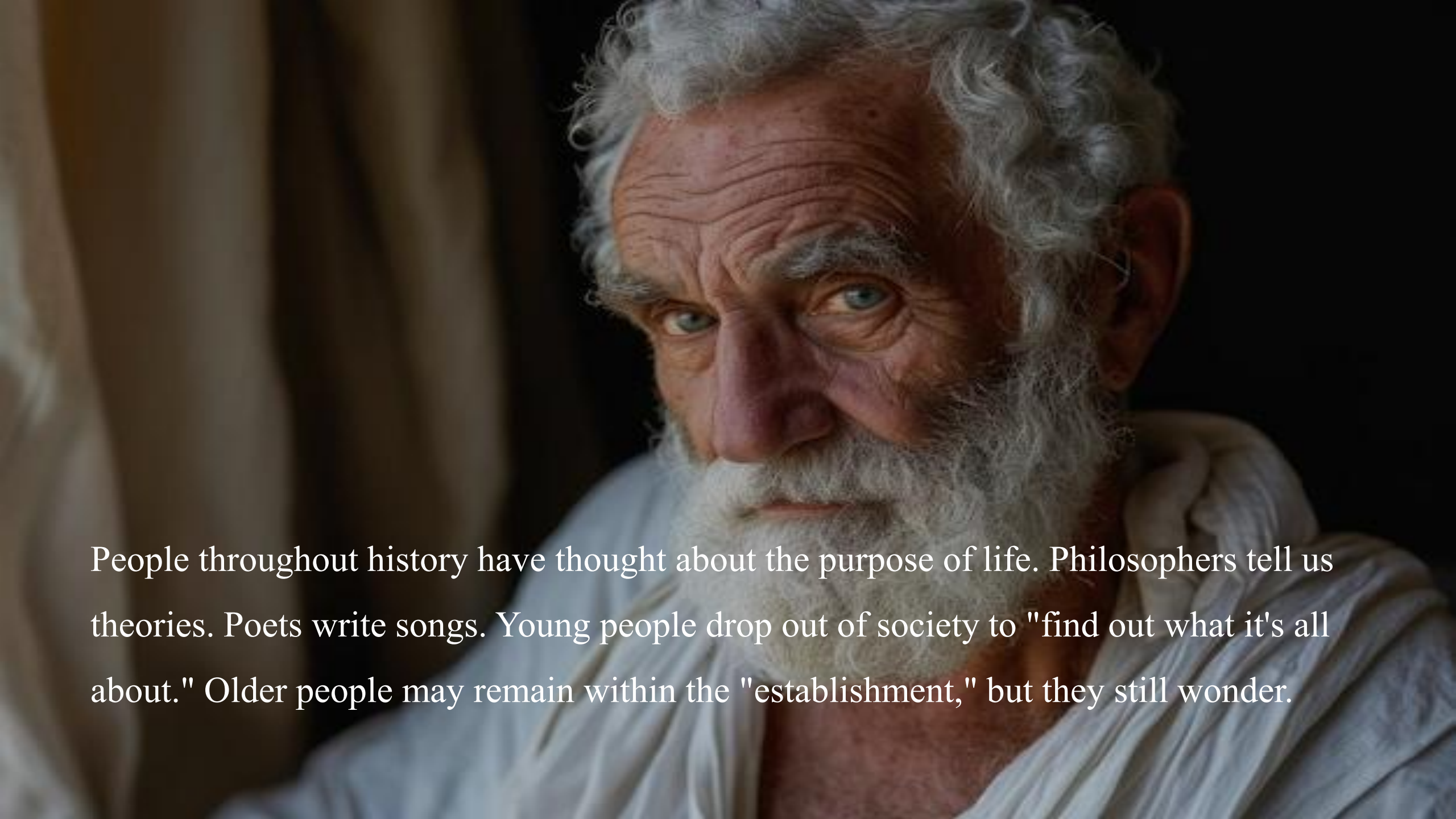
Everyone wonders about the meaning and purpose of life. What is our origin: evolution or creation? Should we seek material wealth, pleasure, and education, or are we here to serve and honor God? Will we be judged for our lives and face eternal destinies in heaven or hell? Please consider the answers that can be found only in the Bible.



Introduction

What is the meaning of life? Without doubt, this is one of the most challenging, and yet one of the most fundamental, questions the mind can consider.





People throughout history have thought about the purpose of life. Philosophers tell us theories. Poets write songs. Young people drop out of society to "find out what it's all about." Older people may remain within the "establishment," but they still wonder.



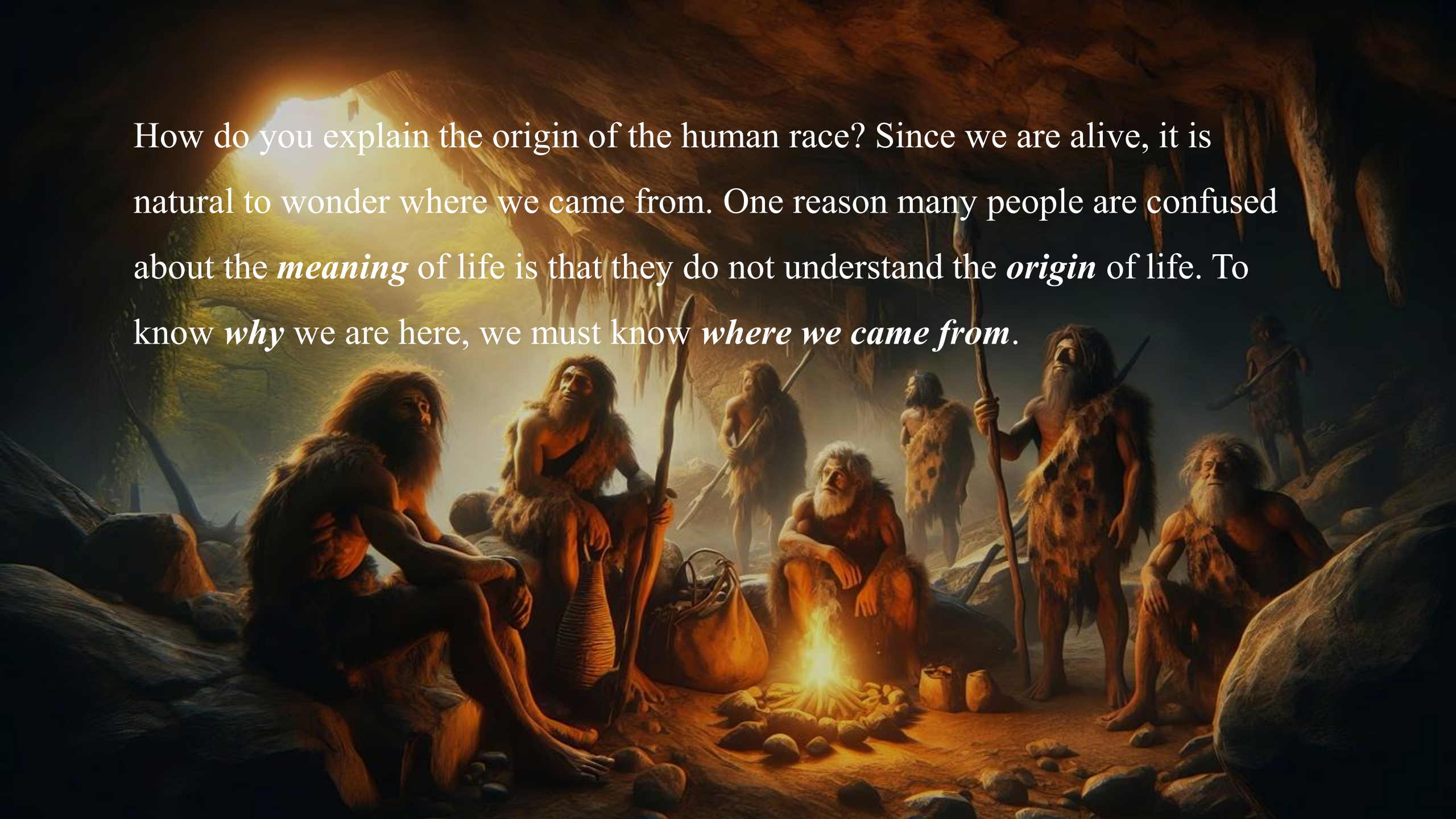
???

Obviously, life is *real*. No one can deny that the world exists, and people exist. You live, eat, sleep, breathe, and move. But do you understand *why* you exist? Please consider with me the challenging question of life. What is it really all about? To answer this question, we will look at **three specific questions.**

Question #1: Where Did You Come From?



How do you explain the origin of the human race? Since we are alive, it is natural to wonder where we came from. One reason many people are confused about the *meaning* of life is that they do not understand the *origin* of life. To know *why* we are here, we must know *where we came from*.

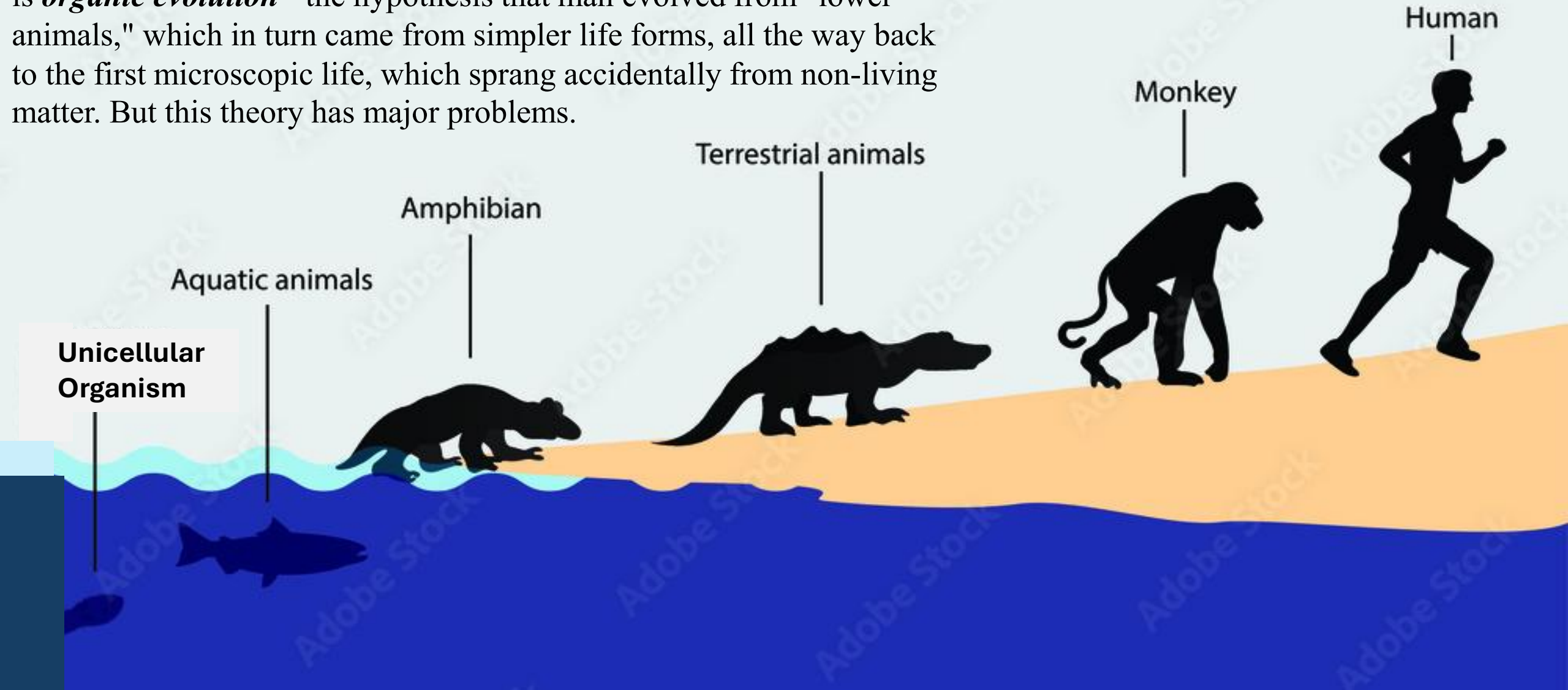


**Many People Hold Mistaken
Ideas about the Origin of Life.**



Evolution

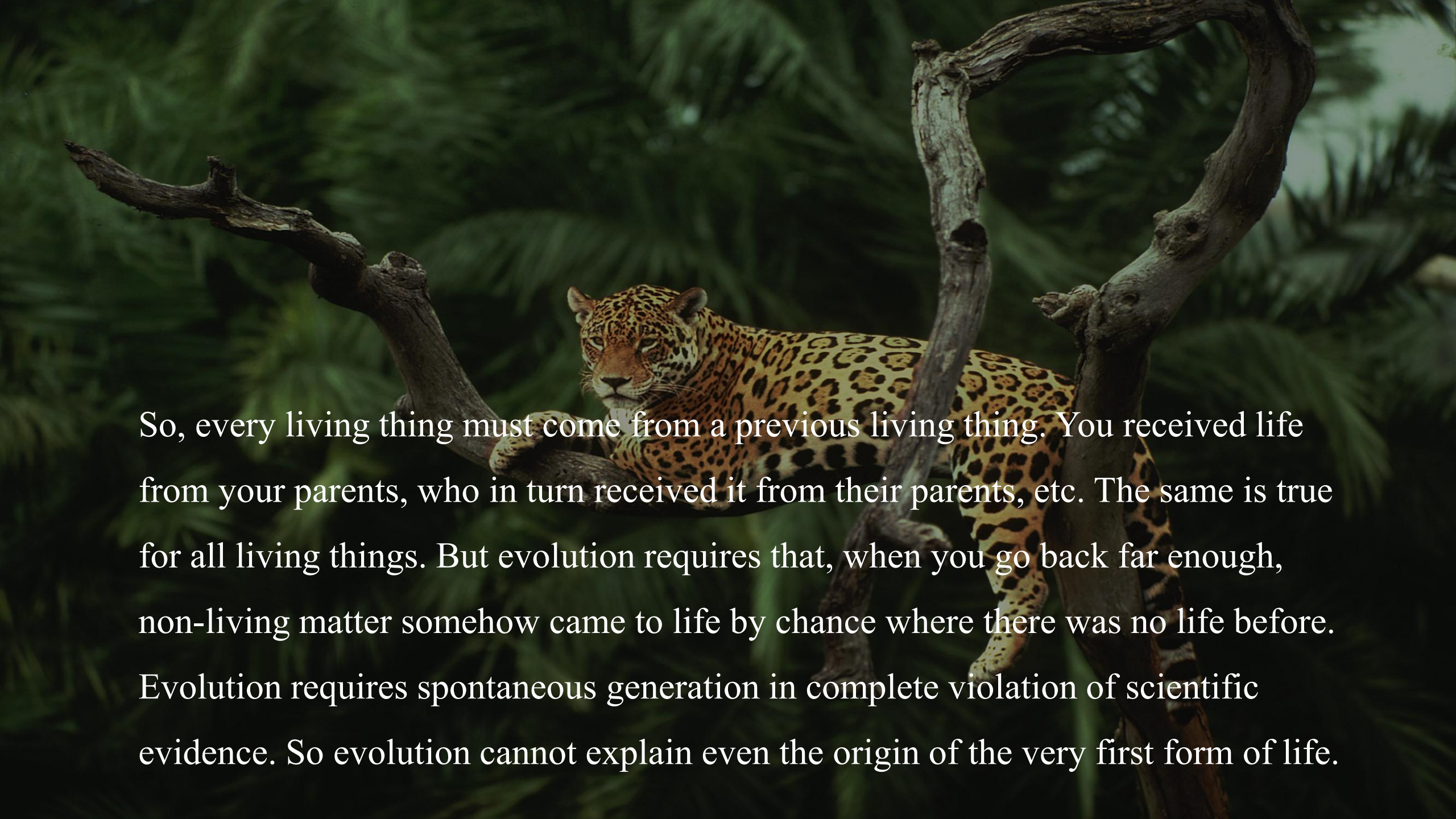
A commonly accepted explanation for the origin of life is **organic evolution** - the hypothesis that man evolved from "lower animals," which in turn came from simpler life forms, all the way back to the first microscopic life, which sprang accidentally from non-living matter. But this theory has major problems.



A detailed illustration of a prehistoric landscape. In the background, a large volcano with a red, rocky slope and a plume of dark smoke rising from its peak. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A single pterosaur is flying in the sky. The foreground and middle ground are filled with lush greenery, including tall palm trees, ferns, and various dinosaurs. On the left, a large blue sauropod is partially visible. In the center, several smaller dinosaurs, including a T-Rex and other theropods, are walking. On the right, a large brown sauropod is standing. The overall scene is a vibrant and detailed representation of a prehistoric world.

Where did the first living thing come from?

What caused life to begin where there had never been life before? Science has repeatedly demonstrated that life comes only from life. This is a law of science called the "*Law of Biogenesis.*" The opposite of this law would be spontaneous generation - life beginning spontaneously from non-living matter. But science has repeatedly proved this cannot happen.

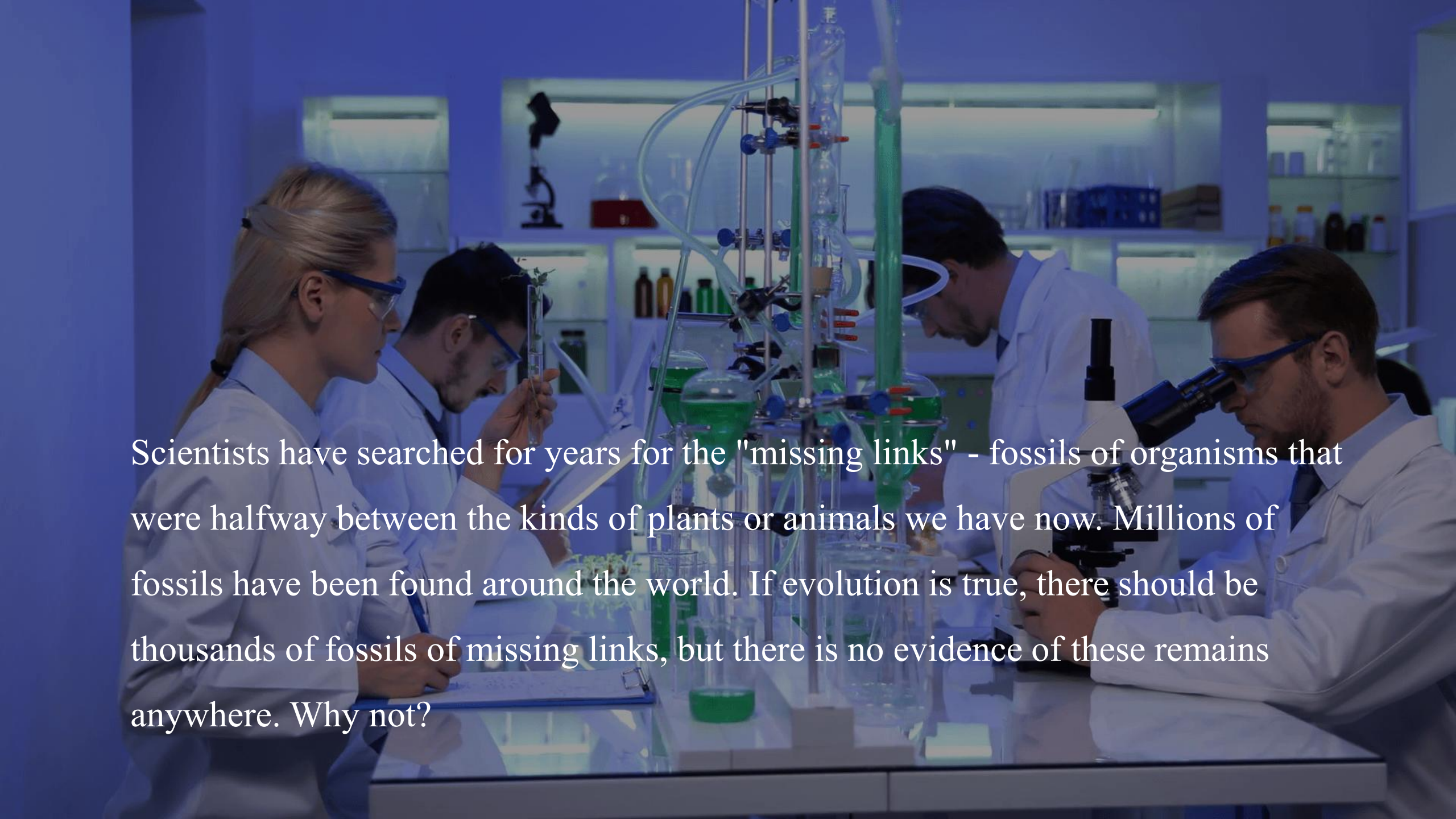
A leopard with a golden-brown coat and black rosette spots is perched on a thick, gnarled tree branch. The leopard is looking towards the left of the frame. The background is a dense, out-of-focus green jungle with various tropical plants and trees. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

So, every living thing must come from a previous living thing. You received life from your parents, who in turn received it from their parents, etc. The same is true for all living things. But evolution requires that, when you go back far enough, non-living matter somehow came to life by chance where there was no life before. Evolution requires spontaneous generation in complete violation of scientific evidence. So evolution cannot explain even the origin of the very first form of life.

Where is the evidence that all modern kinds of living things came from an original kind?

Living things can adapt to their environment, but where is the proof they can develop into entirely different kinds of organisms such that all kinds came from one original kind? Years of human experience and scientific experimentation confirm that living things reproduce "after their own kind." The offspring of a fish is another fish, not a snake, bird, or man.



A photograph of four scientists in a laboratory setting. They are wearing white lab coats and safety goggles. In the foreground, a woman on the left is looking at a clipboard, and a man next to her is holding a test tube. In the background, another man is looking at a piece of equipment, and a man on the right is using a microscope. The lab bench is cluttered with various glassware, including beakers and flasks, some containing green liquid. A complex piece of laboratory equipment with tubes and a vertical column is also visible. The background shows shelves with more lab equipment and bottles.

Scientists have searched for years for the "missing links" - fossils of organisms that were halfway between the kinds of plants or animals we have now. Millions of fossils have been found around the world. If evolution is true, there should be thousands of fossils of missing links, but there is no evidence of these remains anywhere. Why not?

Why is man so unique from animals?

If man evolved from animals and is really an animal but just slightly more complex, why do we have characteristics so vastly different from animals?



Why do people appreciate *beauty* in art, music, and poetry? Do animals create new paintings, sculptures, symphonies, and books of poetry that they and other animals can enjoy?



A man with short dark hair and a light beard is shown from the chest up, sitting down. He is wearing a light grey button-down shirt. His head is bowed, and he is holding his right hand to his forehead, with his fingers spread, suggesting a state of distress, worry, or deep thought. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue-grey. The overall mood is contemplative and somber.

Why do men have a *conscience and a sense of morals*? Why do we feel guilty when we have done wrong, even when we have not been caught or punished? Do animals naturally possess these spiritual qualities?

A close-up, profile shot of a woman with dark hair, looking off to the side with a contemplative expression. Her hand is resting near her chin, suggesting deep thought. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a window with light coming through.

Why do only people wonder about such issues as where we came from?

Do animals debate even such issues as creation vs. evolution?

Why do we possess *rational thought* so much higher than animals? We can find minute variations in degrees of "intelligence" among animals, but there is a vast gulf between any animal and man.

Physics

$$f_k = \mu_k N$$

$$f_{s, \max} = \mu_s N$$
$$F = \frac{G m_1 m_2}{d^2}$$

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = \frac{\Delta \vec{p}}{\Delta t}$$

$$\Delta \vec{p} = m(\vec{v}_f - \vec{v}_i)$$

A dramatic photograph of a Space Shuttle Columbia launching. The shuttle is positioned vertically in the center, ascending into a dark, cloudy sky. A massive, bright white plume of fire and smoke trails behind it, extending down to the launch pad. The launch pad structure is visible at the base of the shuttle. The sky is a mix of dark blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is one of power and achievement.

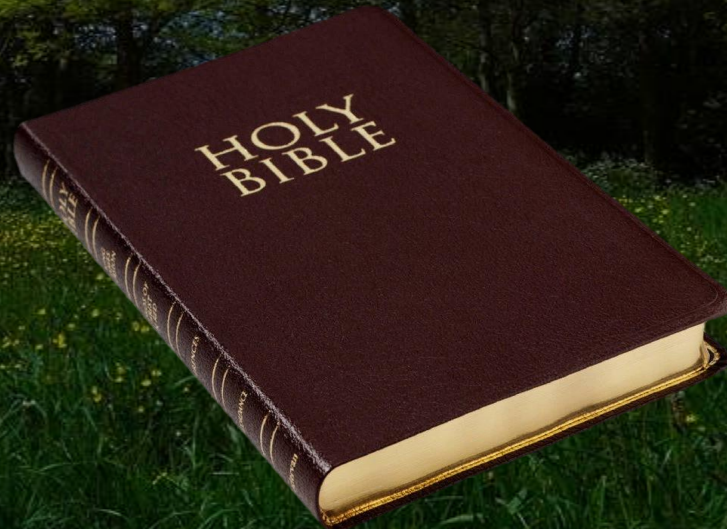
Men build machines and tools to work for us, train animals, use fire, perform mathematic and scientific calculations, read and write, and pass our knowledge on to others.



If we developed from the animals, why are there no animals that possess these characteristics almost as much as we do? If we develop from the animals, why are we so different from them? Evolution is not an adequate explanation.

Genesis 1:11-12

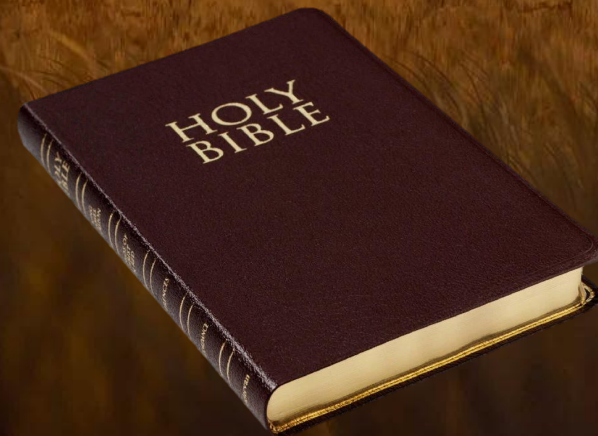
¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

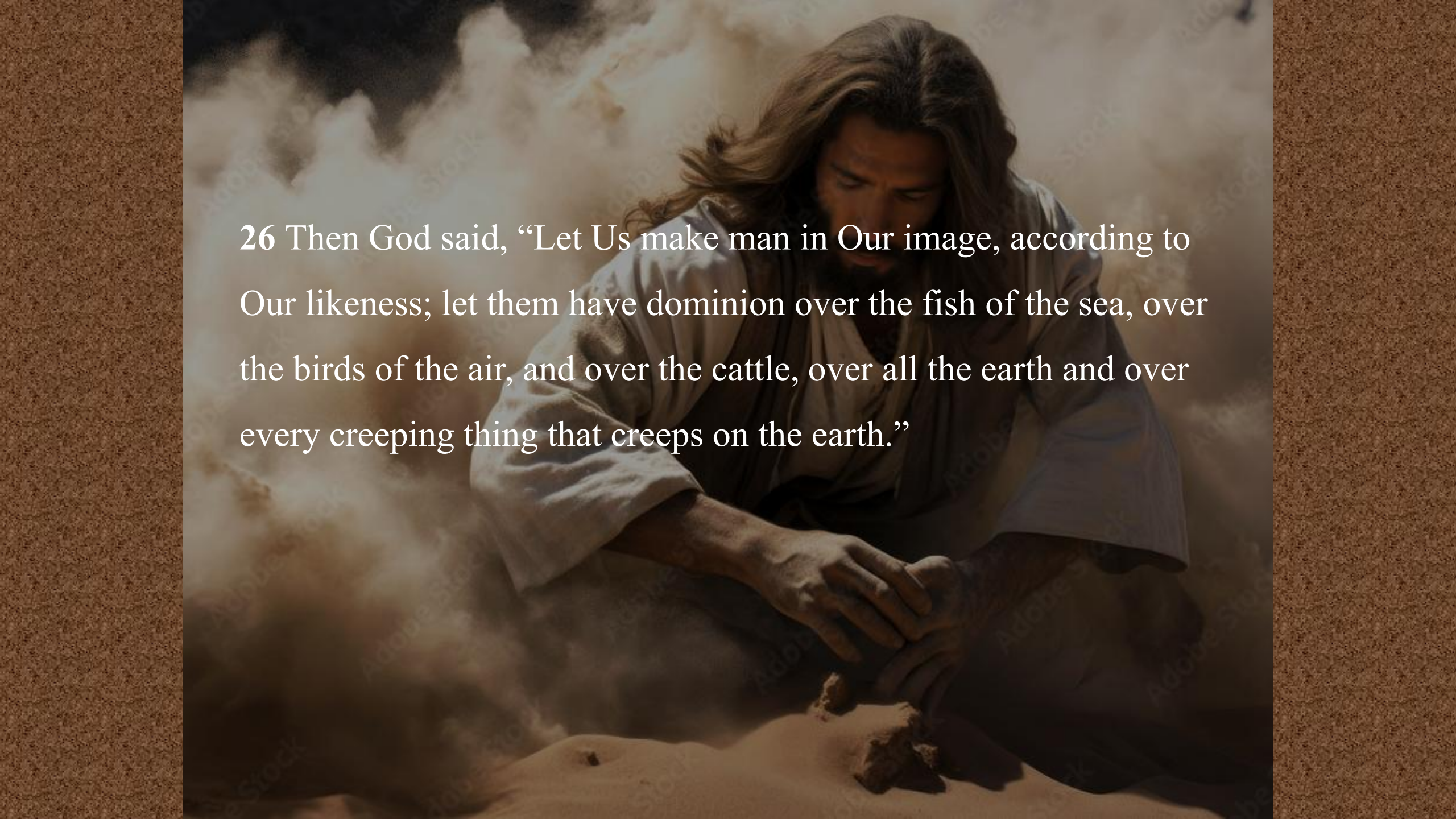


²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.



²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

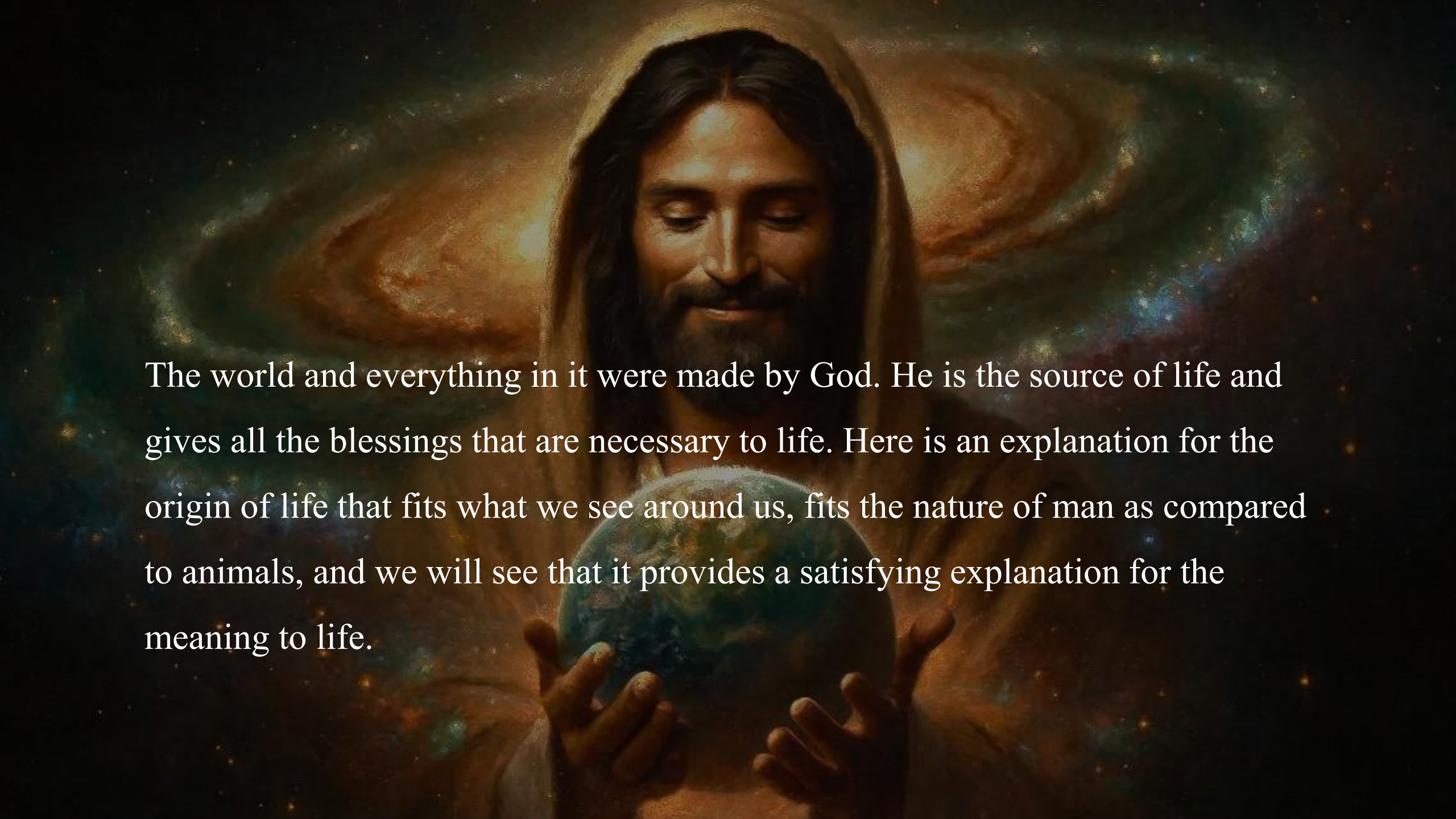




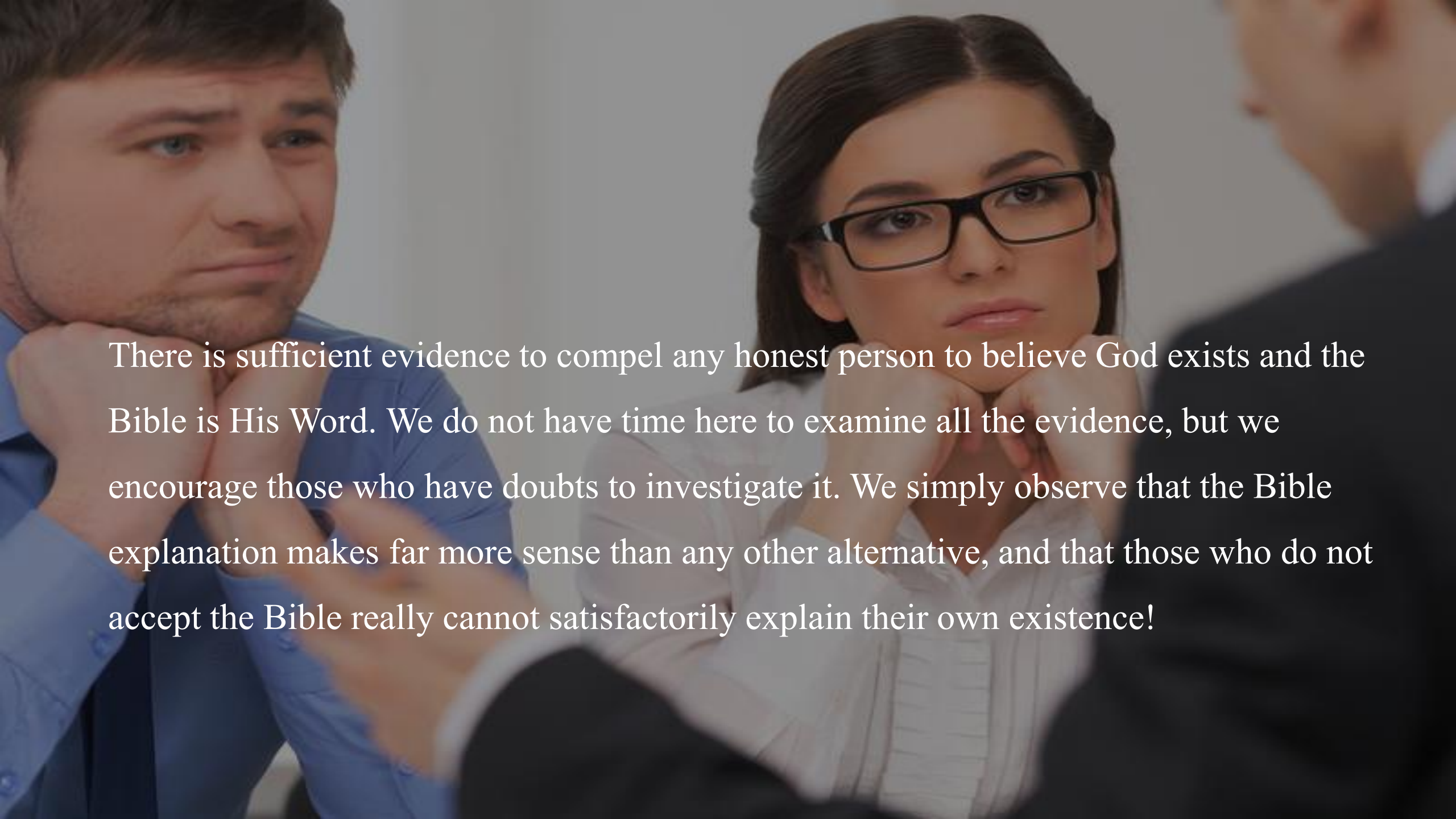
26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”



27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

A religious painting of Jesus Christ with a halo, holding the Earth in his hands against a cosmic background. The text is overlaid on the image.

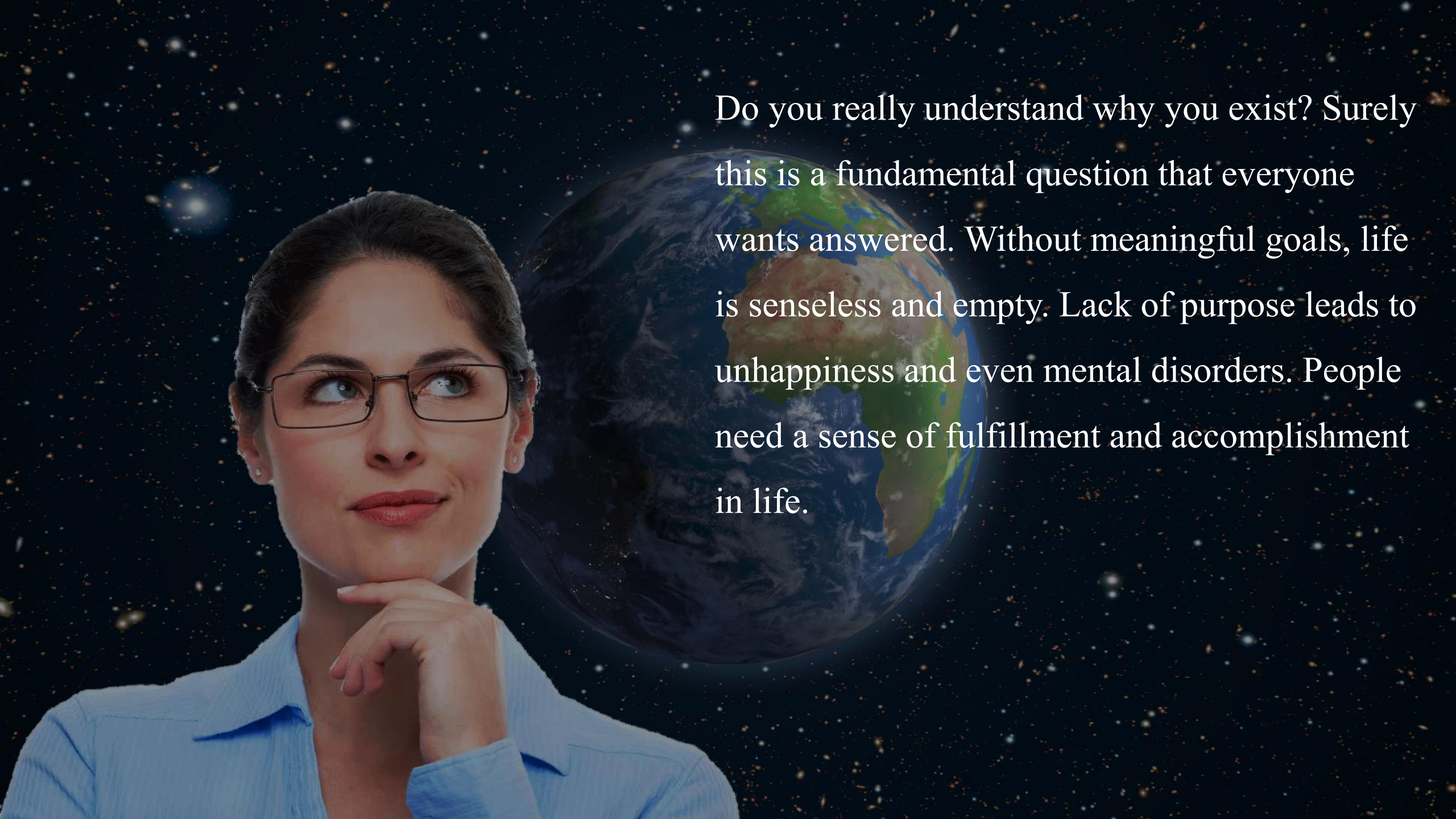
The world and everything in it were made by God. He is the source of life and gives all the blessings that are necessary to life. Here is an explanation for the origin of life that fits what we see around us, fits the nature of man as compared to animals, and we will see that it provides a satisfying explanation for the meaning to life.

A man and a woman are shown in a close-up, looking thoughtful. The man on the left has his hand on his chin, and the woman on the right wears glasses and also has her hand on her chin. They appear to be in a professional setting, possibly a meeting or a classroom. The background is blurred, showing another person partially on the right.

There is sufficient evidence to compel any honest person to believe God exists and the Bible is His Word. We do not have time here to examine all the evidence, but we encourage those who have doubts to investigate it. We simply observe that the Bible explanation makes far more sense than any other alternative, and that those who do not accept the Bible really cannot satisfactorily explain their own existence!

A person is silhouetted while sitting on a dark rock in the foreground, looking out over a calm body of water towards a bright sunset. The sun is a large, glowing orb in the center of the upper half of the frame, casting a shimmering reflection on the water. The background features rolling hills and a line of trees under a warm, orange-hued sky.

Question #2: Why Are You Here?



Do you really understand why you exist? Surely this is a fundamental question that everyone wants answered. Without meaningful goals, life is senseless and empty. Lack of purpose leads to unhappiness and even mental disorders. People need a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment in life.

A woman with dark, curly hair and a surprised or questioning expression is shrugging her shoulders. She is wearing a bright orange, textured sweater. The background is a solid, muted purple color. The image is framed by a dark purple border on the left and right sides.

Many People Are Mistaken about the Purpose of Life.

This is one consequence of evolution. If organic evolution is true, then there is no purpose in life. Life is an accident, and people search in vain for any meaning to it. So, many conclude that there is no higher purpose than to make life enjoyable for themselves and others.

Some pursue riches and material possessions.

They believe material things will make life happy and pleasant. But then they always want *more*: a bigger house, newer car, nicer clothes and furniture, etc.

They are never satisfied.

All people need is some material goods, but is this the highest goal of life?



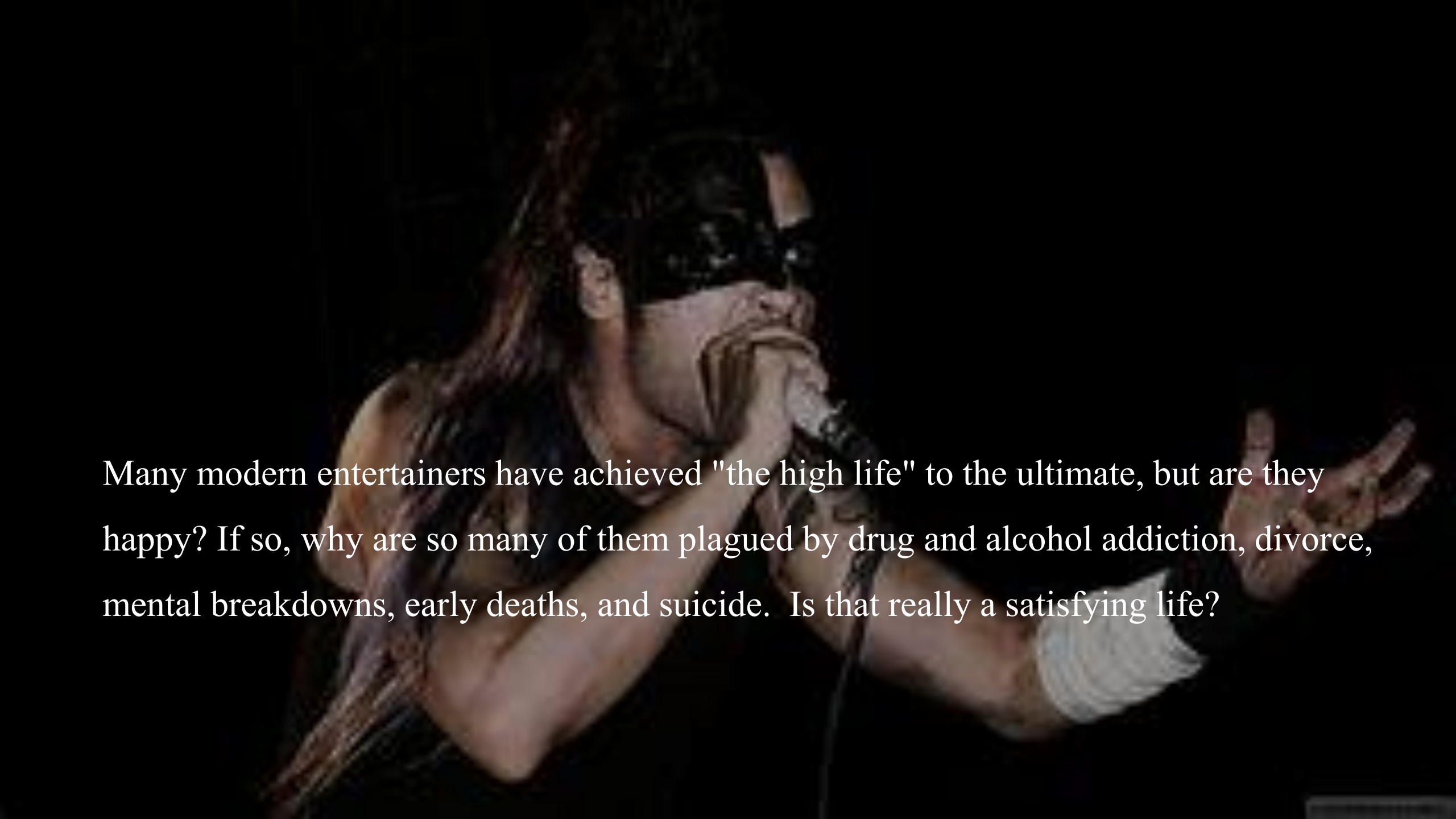
A man with grey hair and a goatee, wearing sunglasses and a pink button-down shirt, stands on the deck of a white yacht. He has his arms outstretched to the sides. The yacht has multiple decks and radar domes. The background is a clear blue sky.

Some pursue pleasure: entertainment, recreation, travel, etc.

Their goal in life is "fun, fun, fun." "Wine, women, and song" (or "drugs, alcohol, and free love"). "Be a party animal." "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die."



This philosophy is emphasized by modern entertainment. It is a beer-commercial mentality. “You only go around once, so reach for all the gusto you can”. “It doesn’t get any better than this!” One of them even names its beer “High Life.” But does life not have any better purpose than to booze it up?”

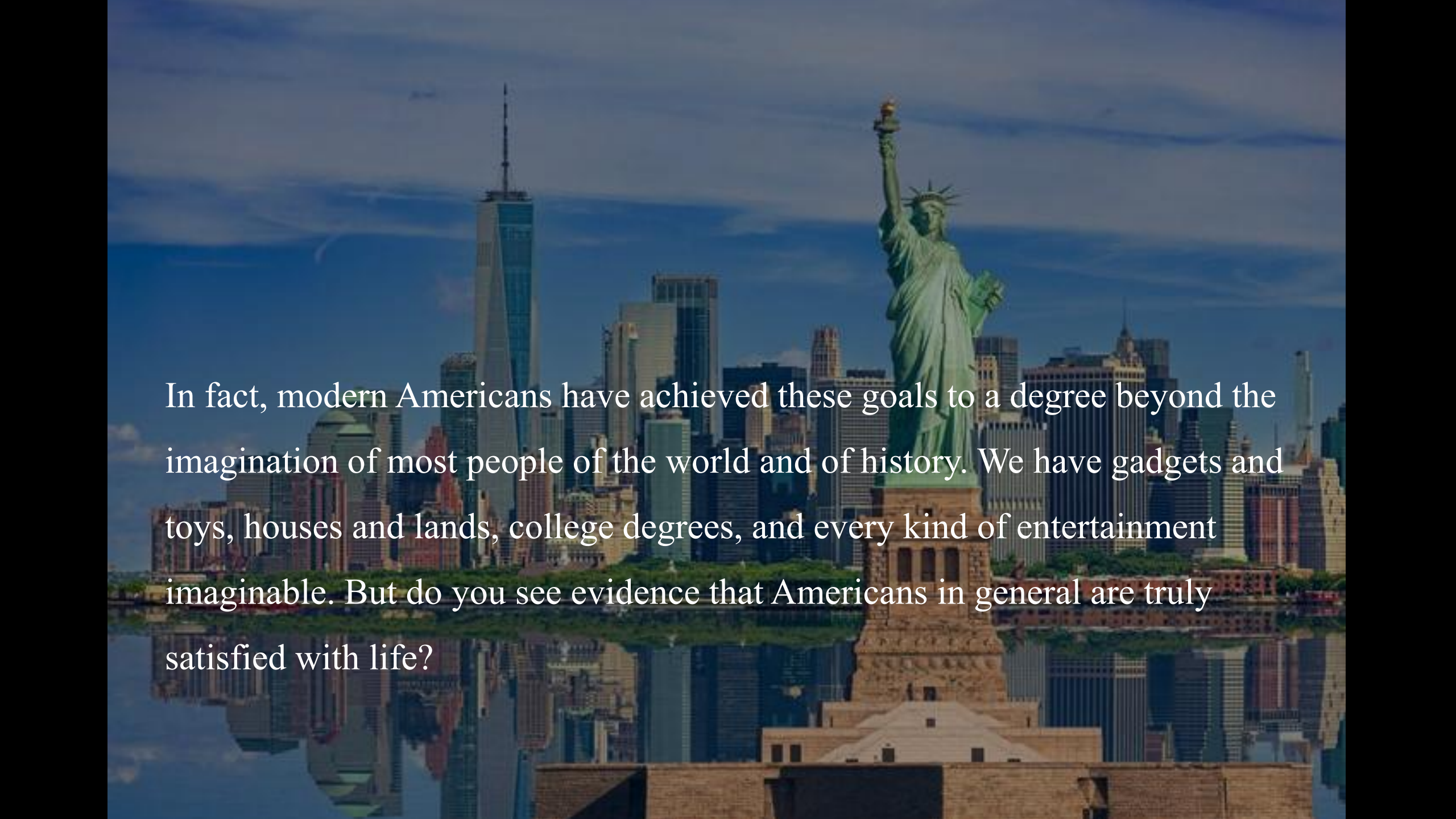
A person with long dark hair is singing into a microphone. They are wearing a dark, possibly sequined, top. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Many modern entertainers have achieved "the high life" to the ultimate, but are they happy? If so, why are so many of them plagued by drug and alcohol addiction, divorce, mental breakdowns, early deaths, and suicide. Is that really a satisfying life?

A person wearing a black graduation cap and gown is seen from behind, with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. They are standing in front of a vibrant sunset sky with orange, yellow, and blue hues. The person's long hair is visible, and the background shows some greenery and a distant horizon.

Some pursue education.

They want to accumulate knowledge and worldly wisdom. Like the Athenians, they spend their time in nothing else than to hear or tell some new thing. In all these areas, there may be some wholesome activities that may have some benefit. But is there really no higher goal in life than these? Whatever benefits these activities provide, they are temporary and incomplete at best. No matter how much you have, you always want more.

A photograph of the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island, with the New York City skyline in the background. The statue is green and stands on a brown stone pedestal. The skyline includes several tall skyscrapers, with the Freedom Tower being the most prominent on the left. The water of the harbor is visible in the foreground, reflecting the city and the statue. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

In fact, modern Americans have achieved these goals to a degree beyond the imagination of most people of the world and of history. We have gadgets and toys, houses and lands, college degrees, and every kind of entertainment imaginable. But do you see evidence that Americans in general are truly satisfied with life?

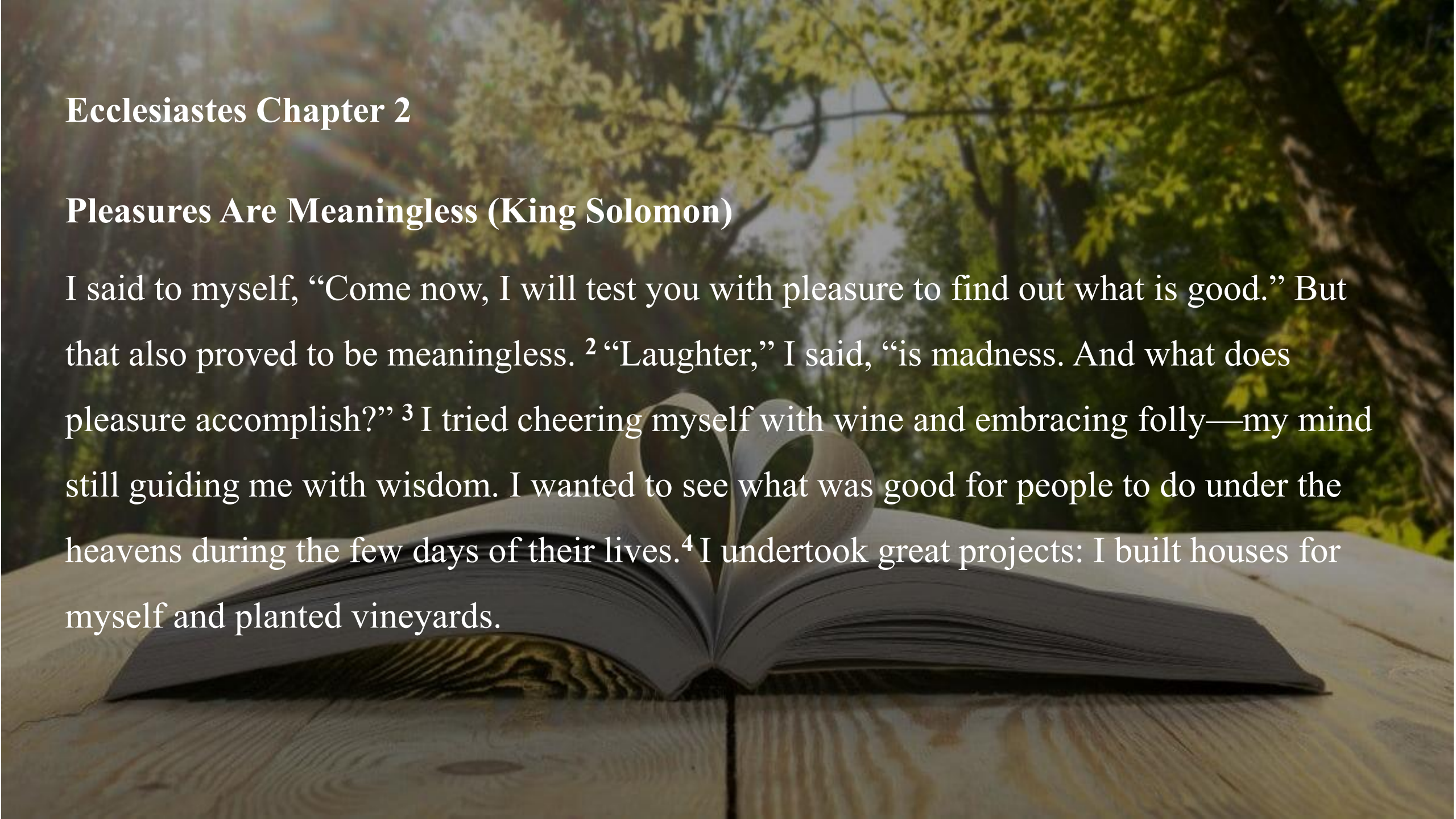
A religious illustration of Jesus Christ with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He is seated and holding an open Bible, looking down at it with a serene expression. The background is a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and a bright, golden light source behind him, creating a halo effect. The overall mood is peaceful and divine.

The Bible Teaches the One True Purpose in Life

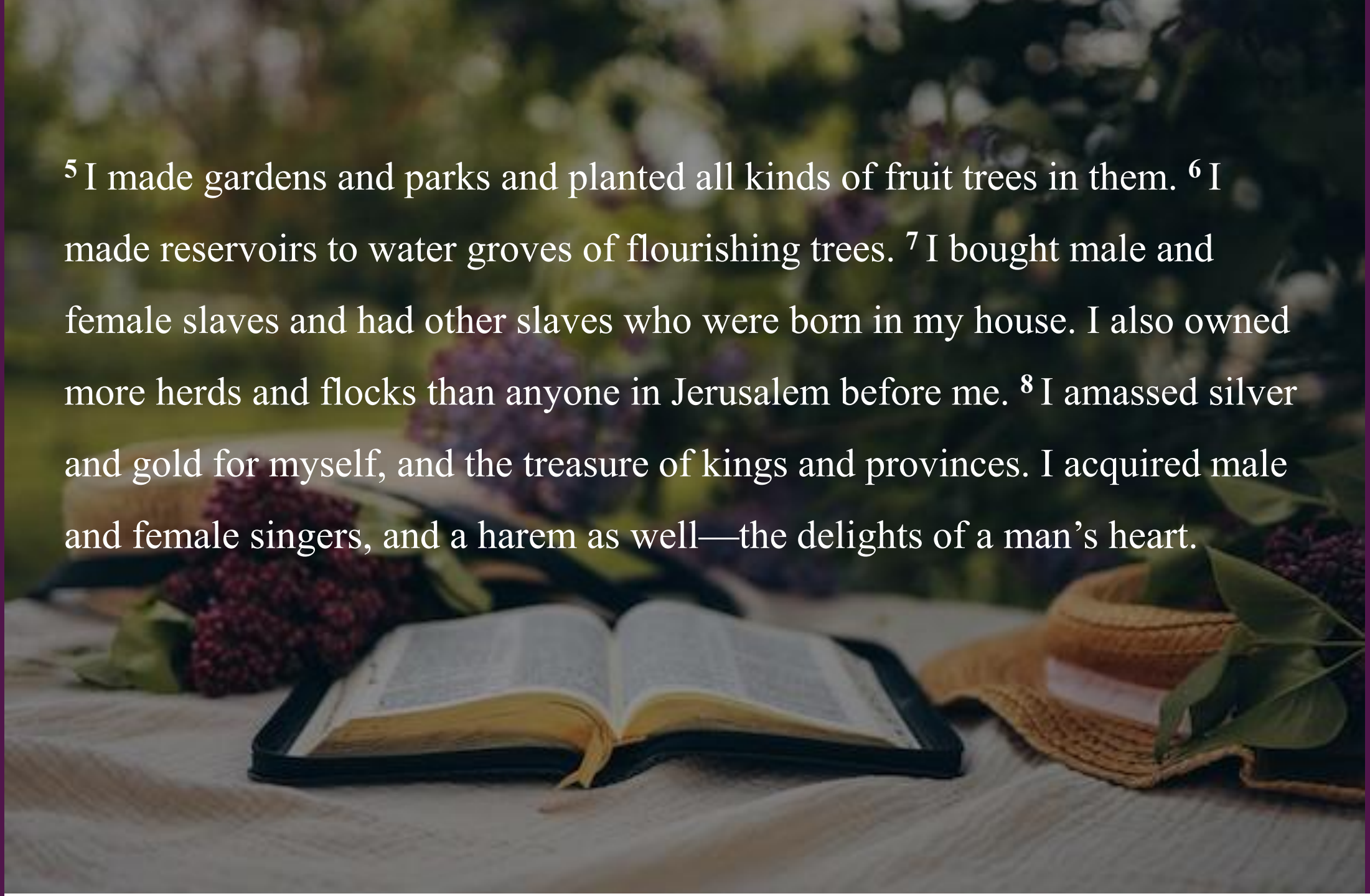
Ecclesiastes Chapter 2

Pleasures Are Meaningless (King Solomon)

I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. ² “Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?” ³ I tried cheering myself with wine and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives. ⁴ I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards.

An open book lies flat on a wooden surface. On top of the book, a white paper sculpture is shaped into a heart. The background is a soft-focus image of green trees, with a faint rainbow visible in the upper left corner.

⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart.



An open book lies on a bed of tall, dry grass. The background is a soft-focus landscape with hills under a warm, golden sunset sky. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.

My heart took delight in all my labor,
and this was the reward for all my toil.

¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.



King Solomon

Ecclesiastes 2:13-14

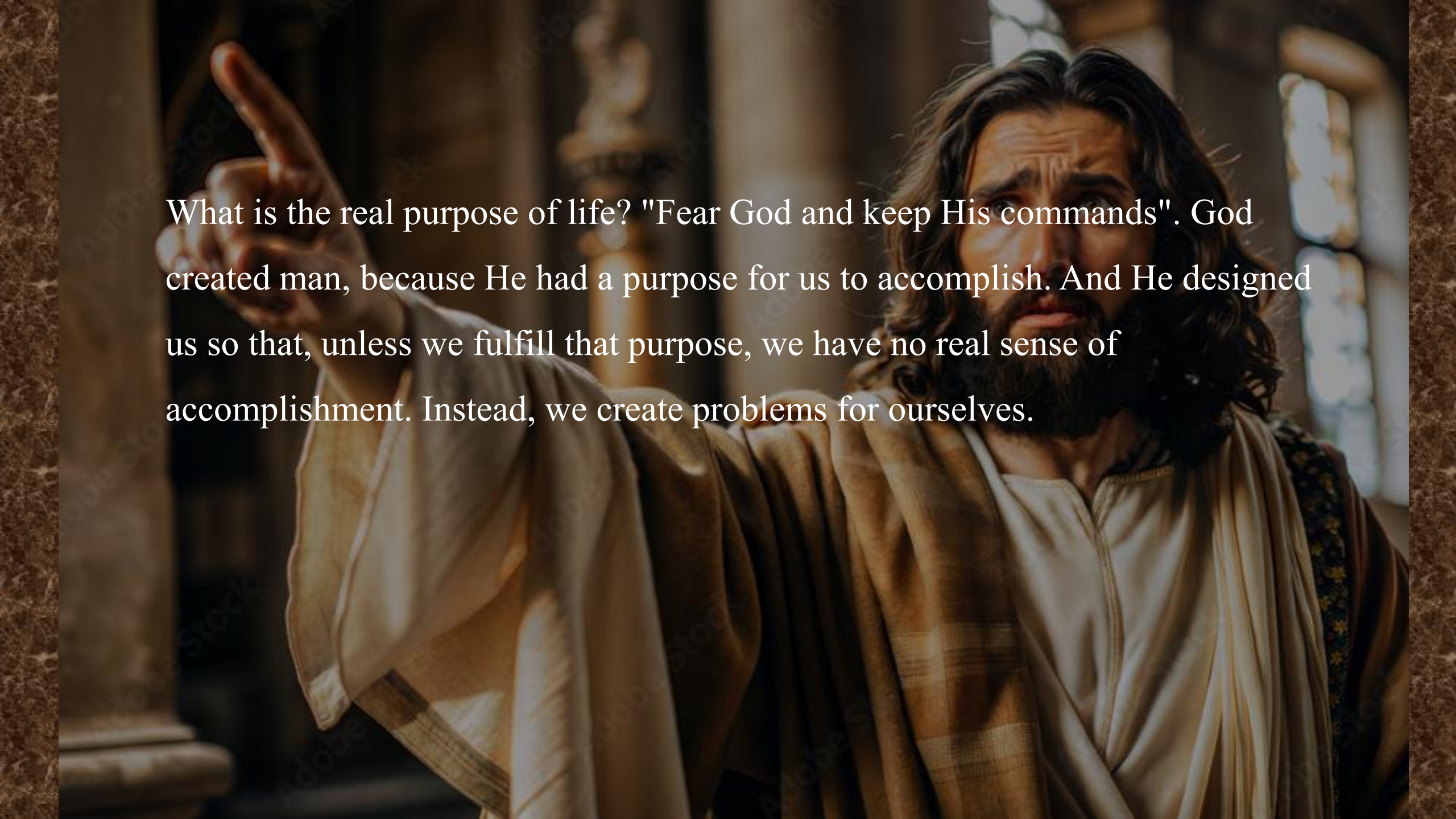
13 I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness. 14 The wise have eyes in their heads, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both.



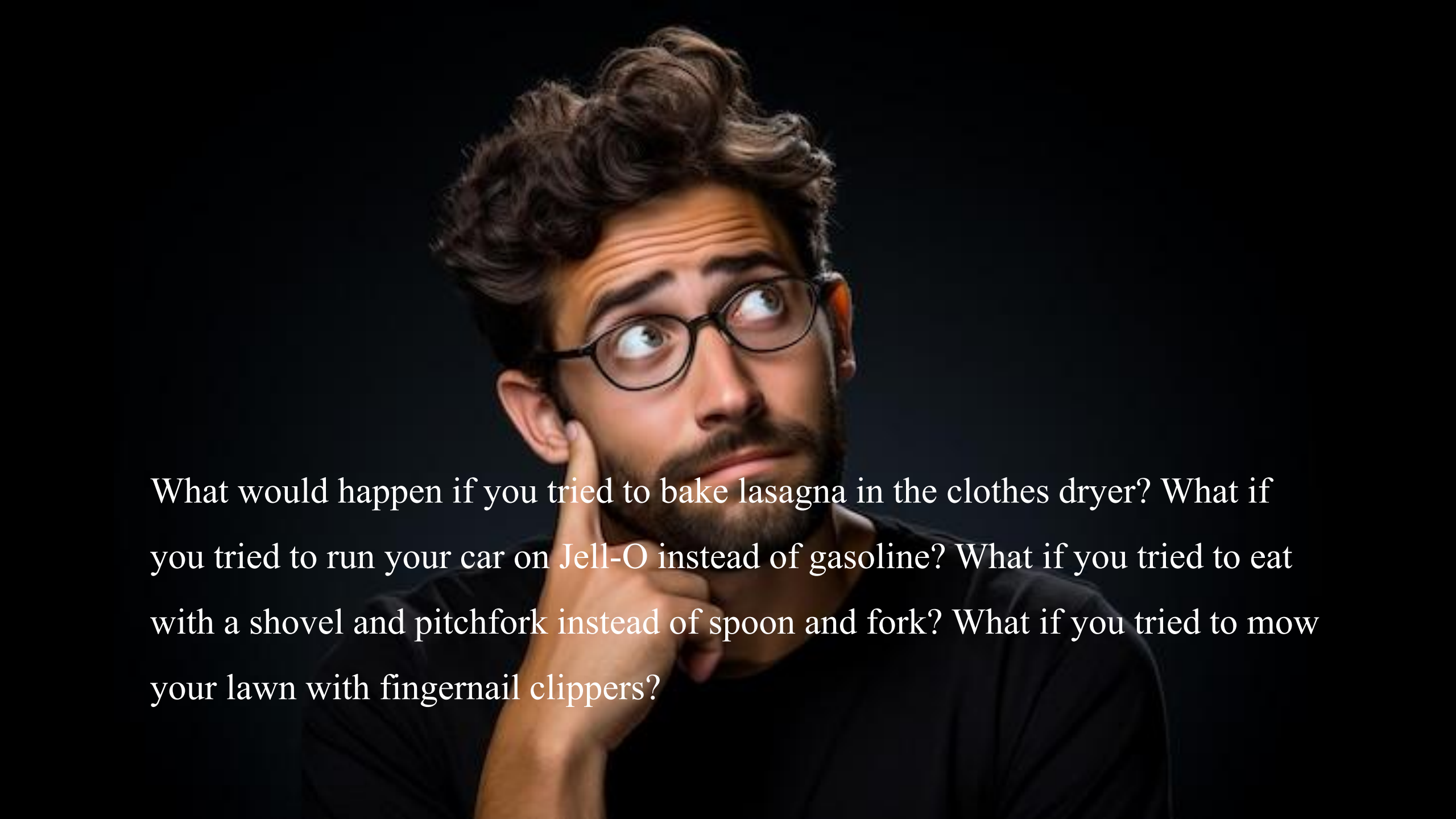
King Solomon

The author experienced every enjoyment of life that some people pursue: wealth, pleasure, and education as great as anyone who ever lived. Did it satisfy?


What was his conclusion? It was all “meaningless” (2:11). The earthly pursuits that most people emphasize simply do not satisfy in the end.



What is the real purpose of life? "Fear God and keep His commands". God created man, because He had a purpose for us to accomplish. And He designed us so that, unless we fulfill that purpose, we have no real sense of accomplishment. Instead, we create problems for ourselves.

A man with dark, curly hair and glasses is shown from the chest up. He has a beard and is looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. His right hand is resting on his chin. The background is dark and out of focus.

What would happen if you tried to bake lasagna in the clothes dryer? What if you tried to run your car on Jell-O instead of gasoline? What if you tried to eat with a shovel and pitchfork instead of spoon and fork? What if you tried to mow your lawn with fingernail clippers?

A woman with short, wavy brown hair is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a light blue button-down shirt. Her expression is one of worry or concern, with her eyebrows slightly furrowed and her mouth set in a small frown. She is resting her chin on her right hand, looking off to the side with a thoughtful or anxious gaze. The background is a plain, light gray.

Problems often result when things are created for one purpose, but we try to use them for a completely different purpose. Likewise, our lives are not satisfactory when we do not accomplish the purpose we were created for.

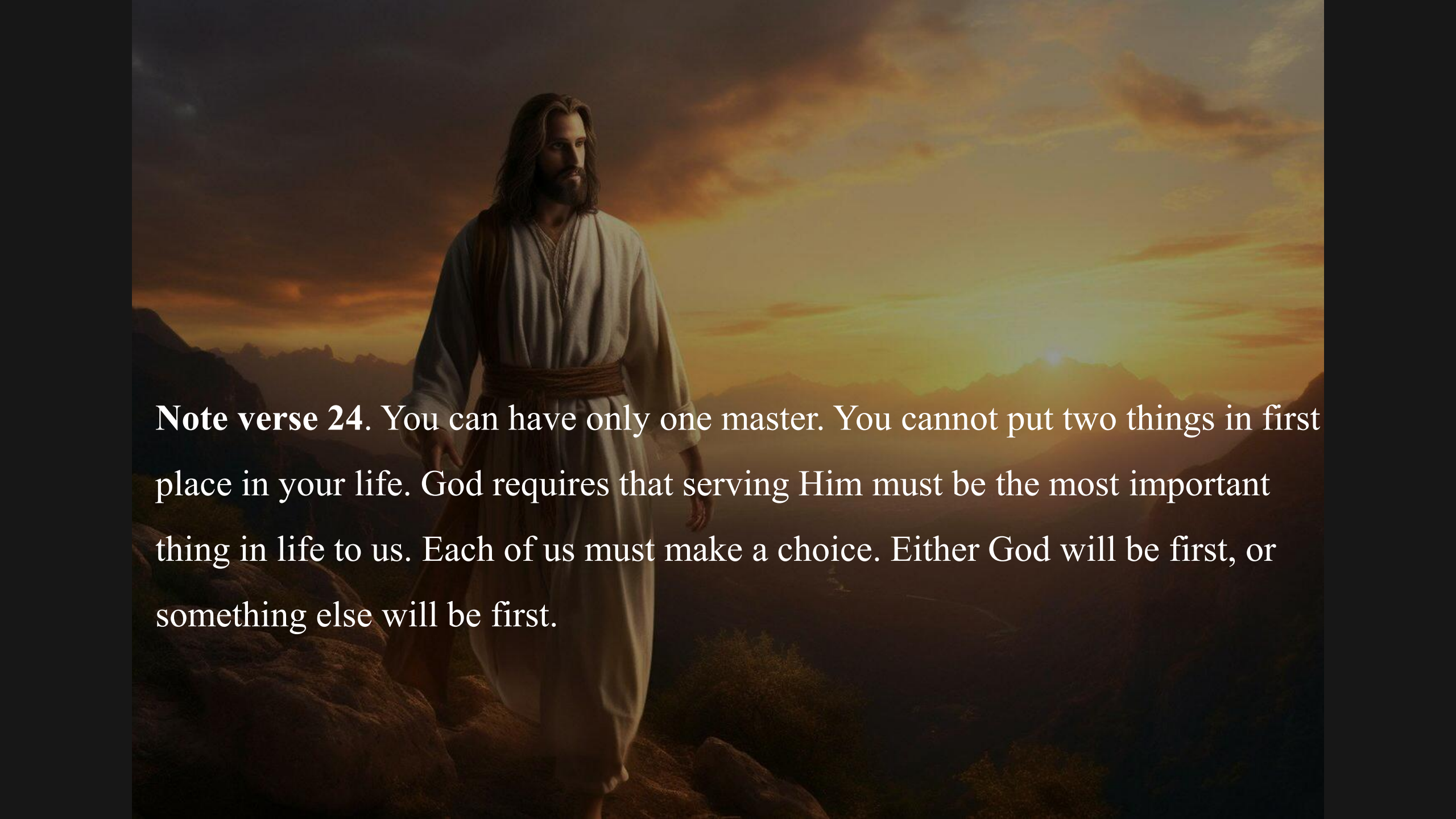
Our main concern in life must be to work in God's kingdom and have a right relationship with Him. Other concerns may have some value but are far less important.



Matthew Chapter 6 Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



Note verse 24. You can have only one master. You cannot put two things in first place in your life. God requires that serving Him must be the most important thing in life to us. Each of us must make a choice. Either God will be first, or something else will be first.



The most important work God intends for us to accomplish in life is to love God and love our fellowman.

Matthew 22:36-39

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’



John 14:15

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

15 “If you love me, keep my commands.”

But love for God requires us to obey Him.

1 John 5:2-3

² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

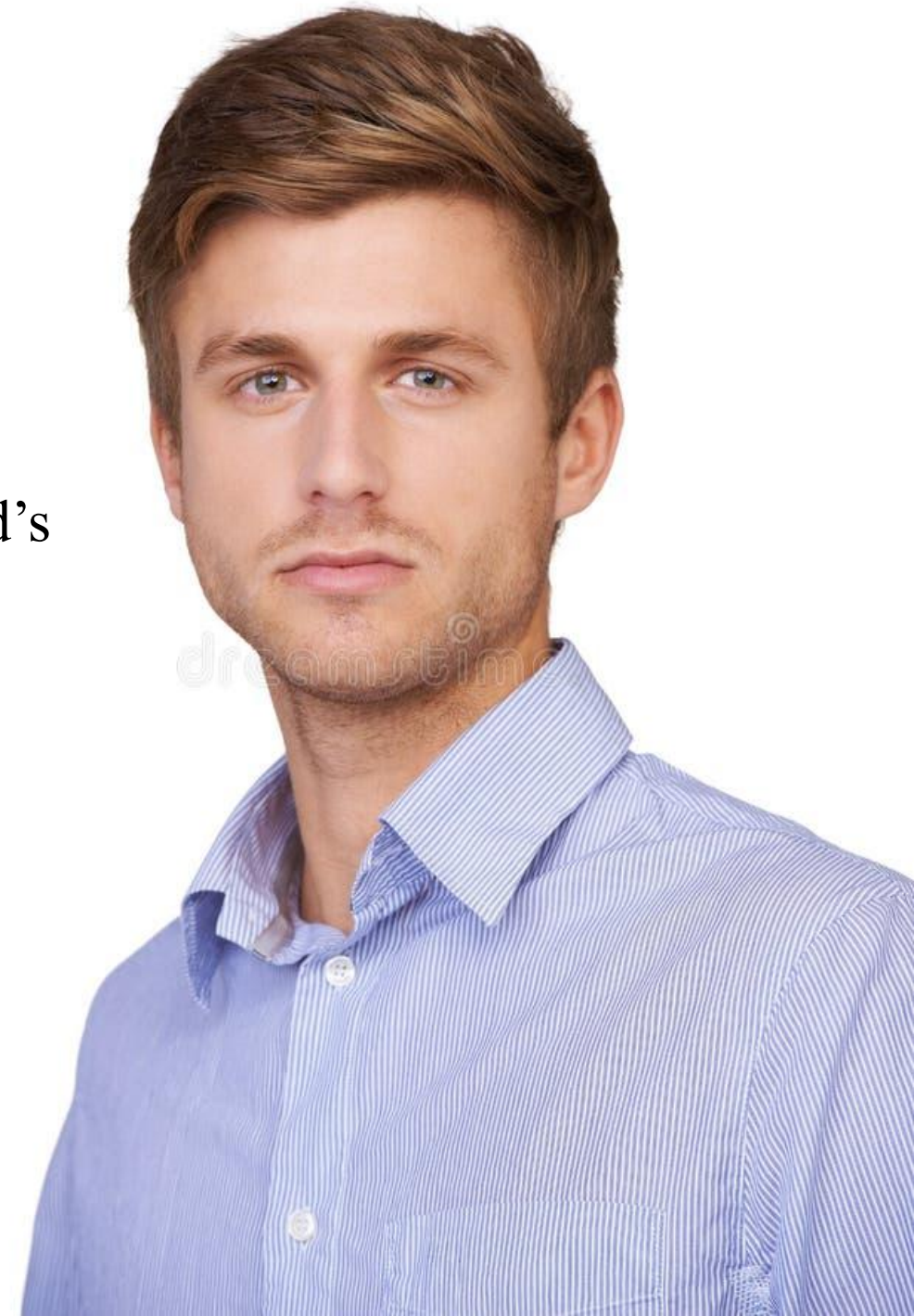
A man with short hair, seen from the side and back, is standing in a field of tall grass. He is holding an open Bible and looking down at it. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a body of water and hills under a warm, orange-hued sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

God's commands are revealed in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 14:37

³⁷ If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.

Lasting fulfillment in life comes only from obeying God's Word and thereby serving God and man. We will not discuss here all that is involved in serving God, but we simply emphasize the importance of understanding our purpose in life. Until you understand the teaching of the Bible, you do not really understand the purpose of life.




A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing through a valley. In the background, there are mountains under a sky with scattered clouds and several birds in flight. The foreground shows lush green grass and some small plants along the riverbank.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 Paul the Apostle

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Question #3: Where Are You Going?

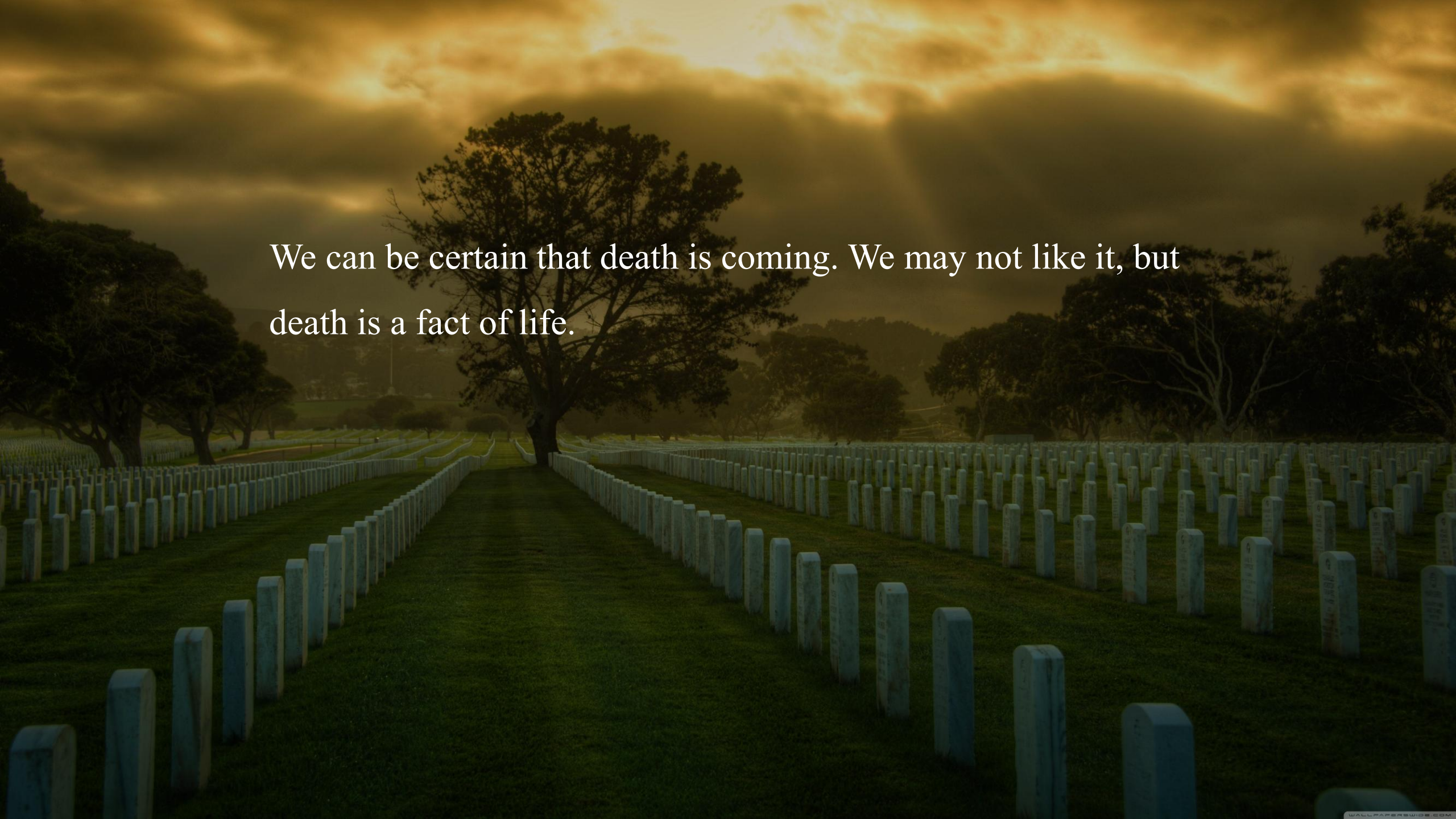


A young woman with long brown hair is shown in profile, looking upwards towards a starry night sky. The sky is filled with numerous stars and the Milky Way galaxy is visible. The woman has a contemplative expression. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a silhouette of a forest at the bottom.

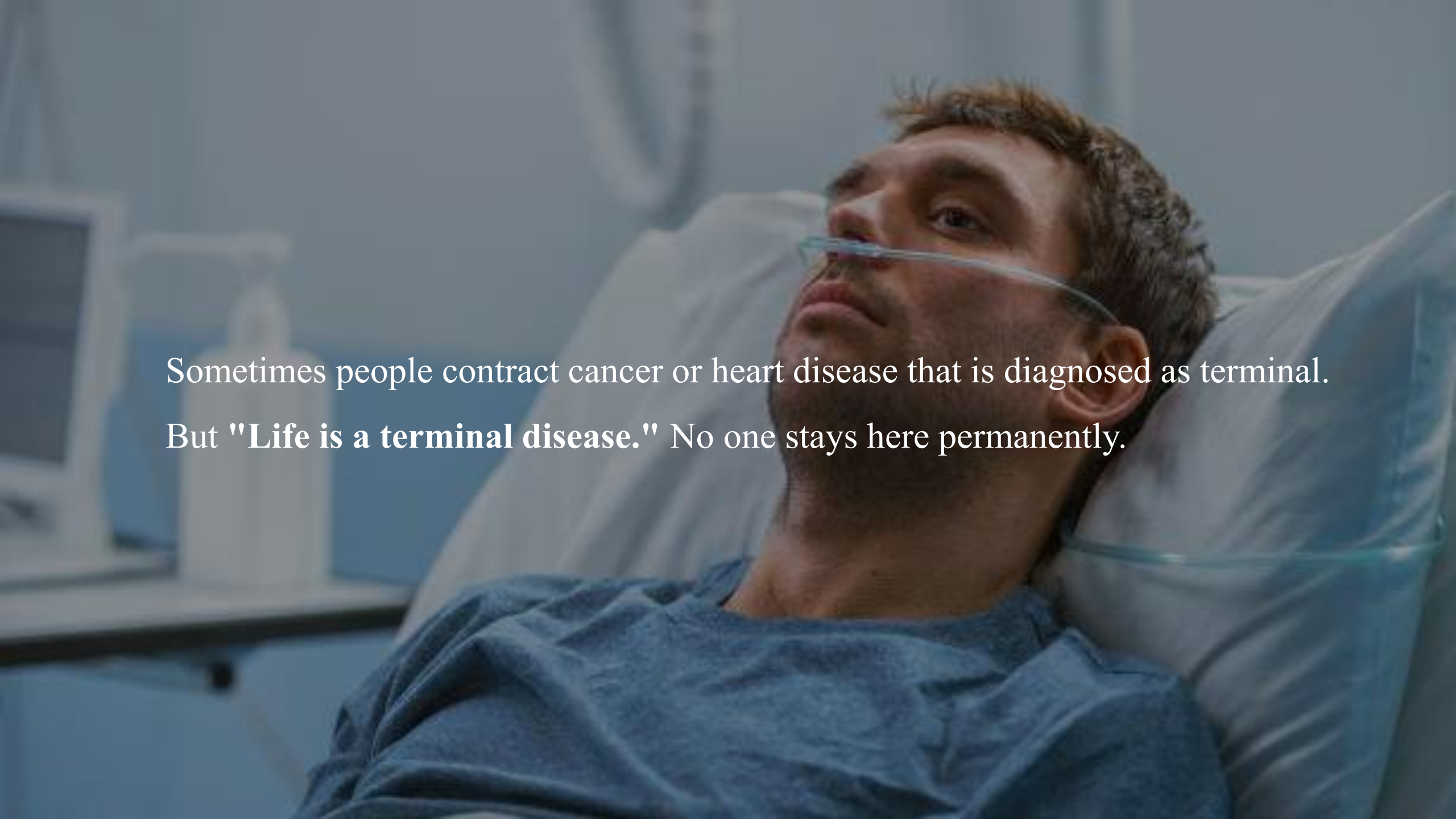
Do you understand what comes after death? You may or may not feel that your life on earth is secure, but what happens when you die? What will your destiny be when life is over?

A large, diverse crowd of people of various ages and ethnicities is shown from the chest up, all looking directly at the camera with serious or neutral expressions. The text is centered over the middle of the crowd.

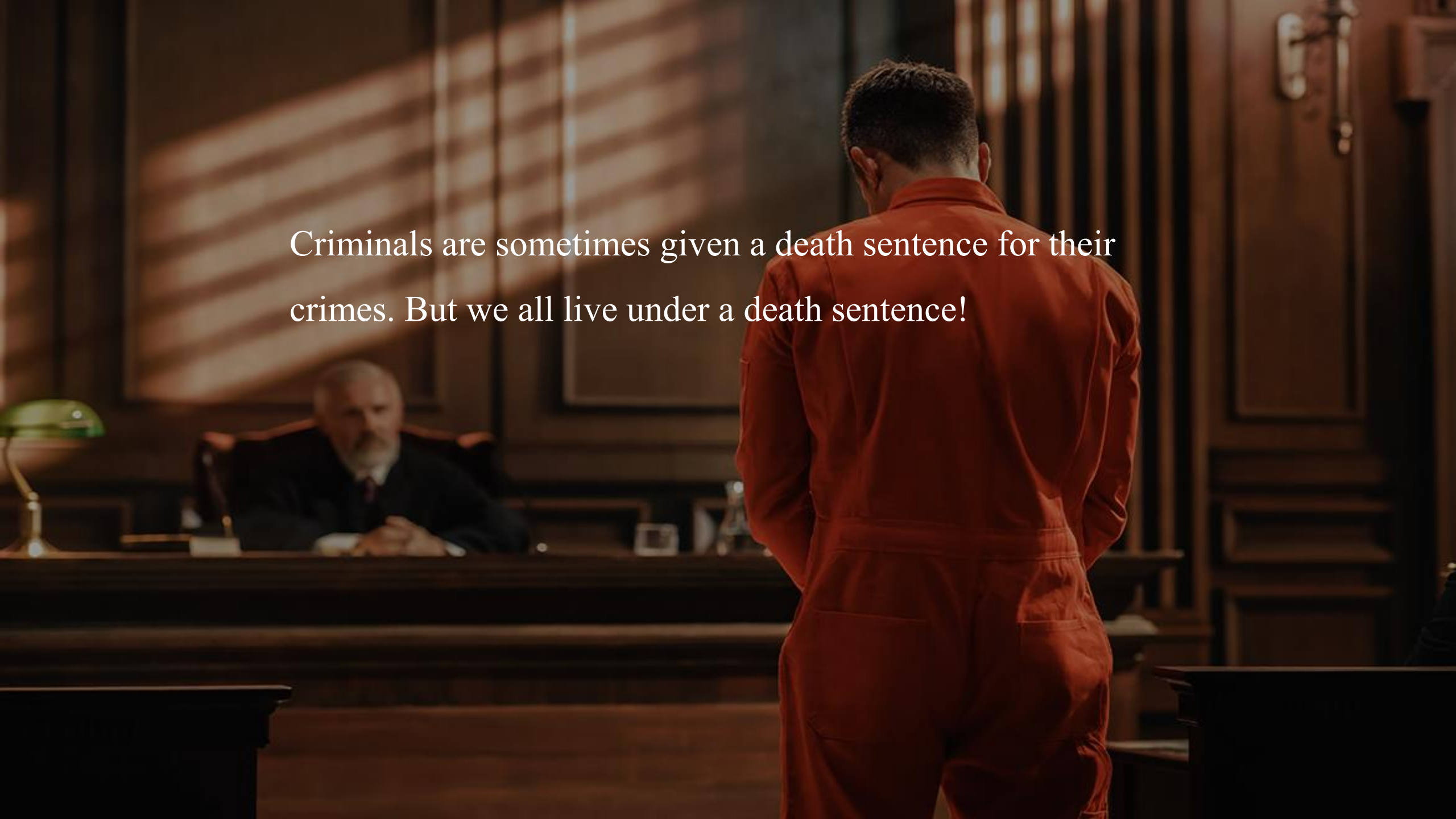
Many People Are Confused or Unsure about
What Comes after Death.

A photograph of a cemetery at sunset. Rows of white headstones are laid out in neat lines on a green lawn. A large, dark tree stands prominently in the center, casting a shadow over the graves. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, somber atmosphere.

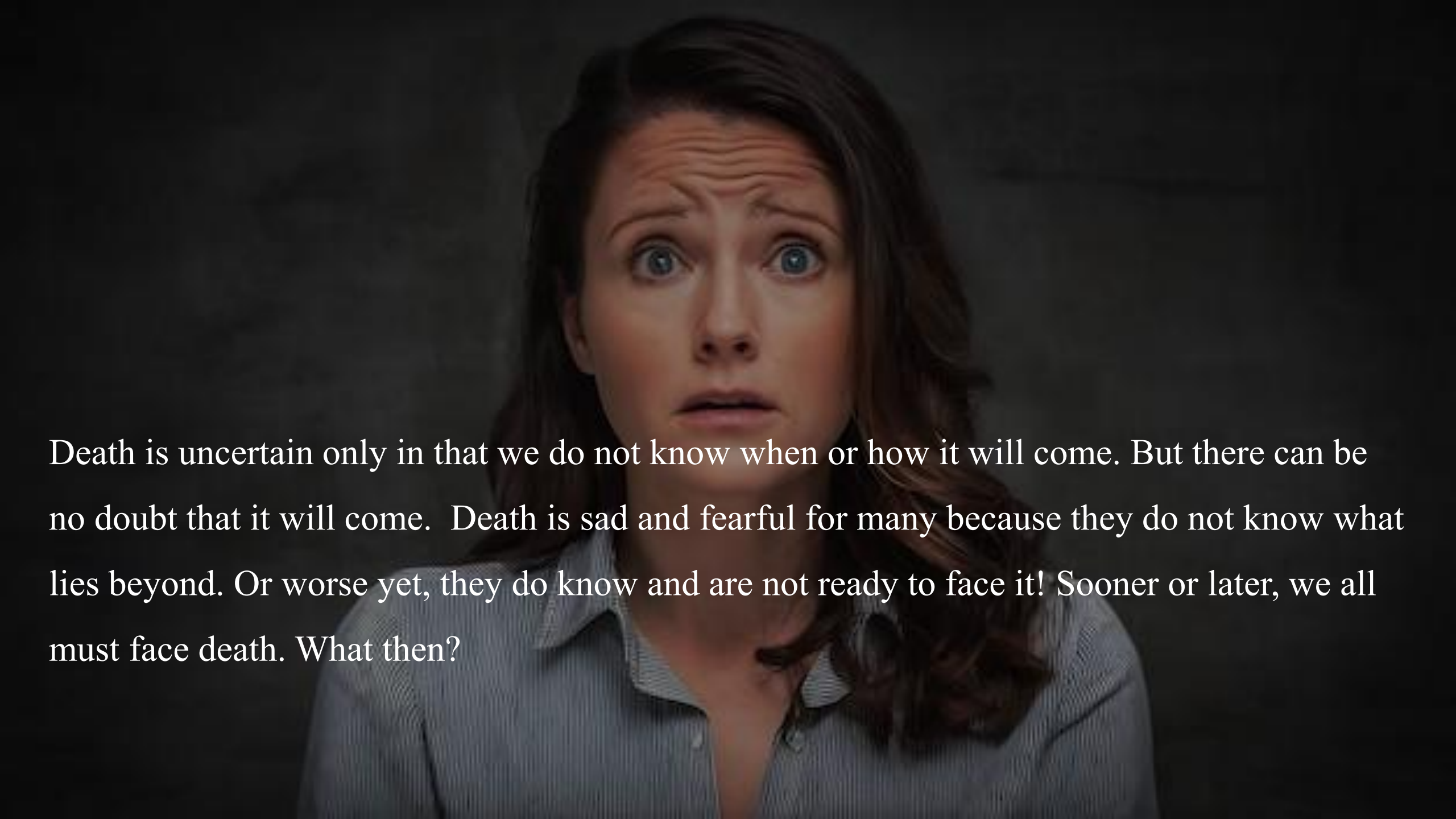
We can be certain that death is coming. We may not like it, but death is a fact of life.

A man with short brown hair and a light beard is lying in a hospital bed, looking upwards. He is wearing a blue hospital gown and has a clear oxygen tube in his nose. The background is a blurred hospital room with medical equipment.

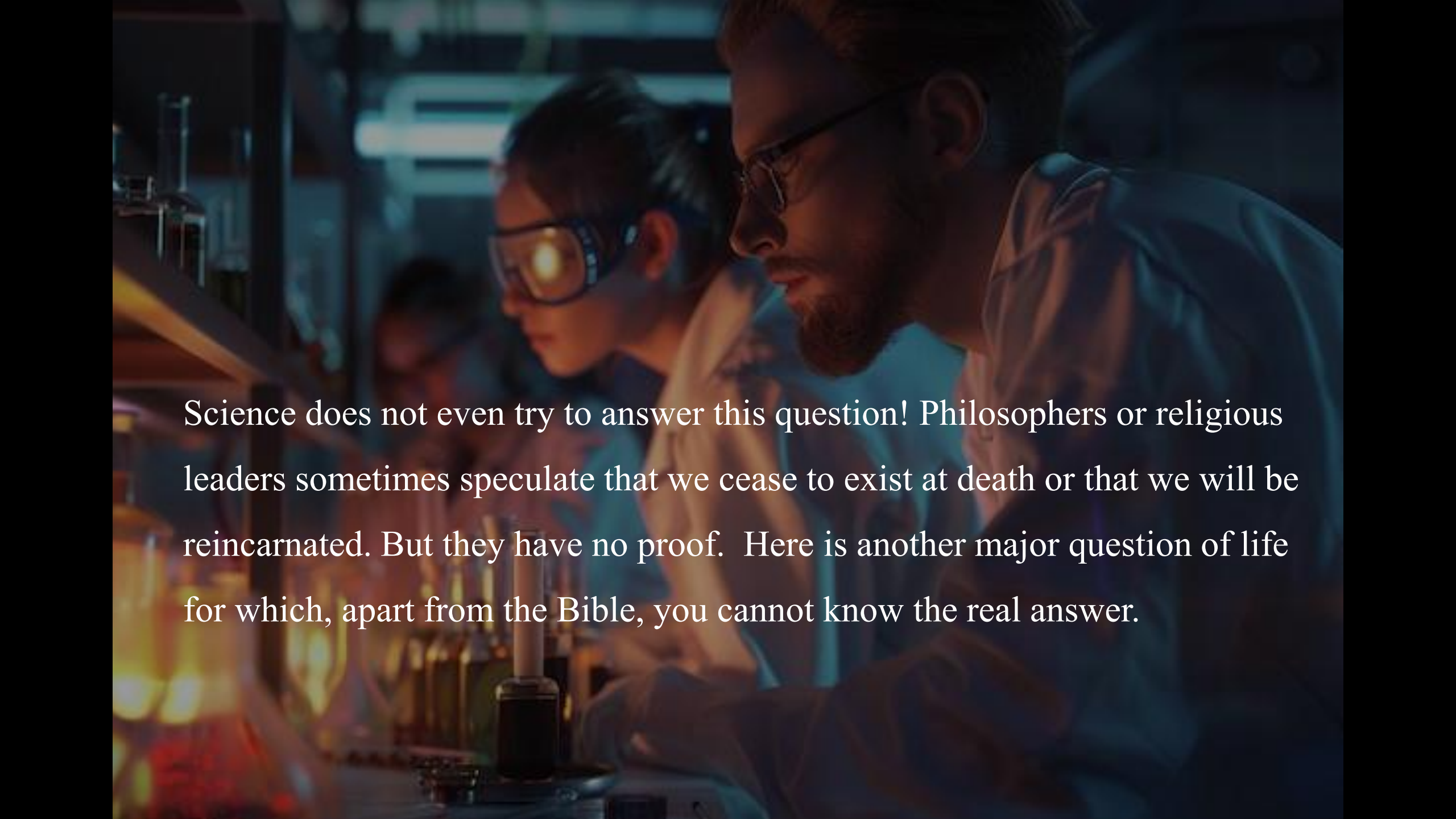
Sometimes people contract cancer or heart disease that is diagnosed as terminal.
But "**Life is a terminal disease.**" No one stays here permanently.

A cinematic still from a courtroom scene. In the foreground, a man wearing an orange jumpsuit stands with his back to the camera, looking towards a judge. The judge, an older man with a white beard, is seated at a high wooden bench in the background. The room is dimly lit, with strong diagonal shadows from blinds or curtains across the wall behind the judge. A green desk lamp is visible on the left side of the judge's bench.

Criminals are sometimes given a death sentence for their crimes. But we all live under a death sentence!

A woman with long brown hair and blue eyes is shown from the chest up, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. She has a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of shock or fear, with her eyebrows furrowed. The background is dark and out of focus.

Death is uncertain only in that we do not know when or how it will come. But there can be no doubt that it will come. Death is sad and fearful for many because they do not know what lies beyond. Or worse yet, they do know and are not ready to face it! Sooner or later, we all must face death. What then?

A photograph of two scientists in a laboratory. A man with a beard and glasses is in the foreground, looking down at a piece of equipment. A woman wearing safety goggles is behind him, also looking down. The lab is filled with various glassware and equipment, and the lighting is dim with some blue and yellow tones.

Science does not even try to answer this question! Philosophers or religious leaders sometimes speculate that we cease to exist at death or that we will be reincarnated. But they have no proof. Here is another major question of life for which, apart from the Bible, you cannot know the real answer.



The Bible Tells Us What Follows Death.

A black casket with a large bouquet of red roses on top, resting on a green cloth in a cemetery. The casket is positioned on a green cloth, and the background shows a grassy cemetery with various tombstones and trees.

It is appointed to man once to die, then comes the judgment. Jesus may come before we die; but if we die first, we will be raised from the dead when He returns. Either way, we will face God and be judged for our lives, good or bad.

Hebrews Chapter 9

²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

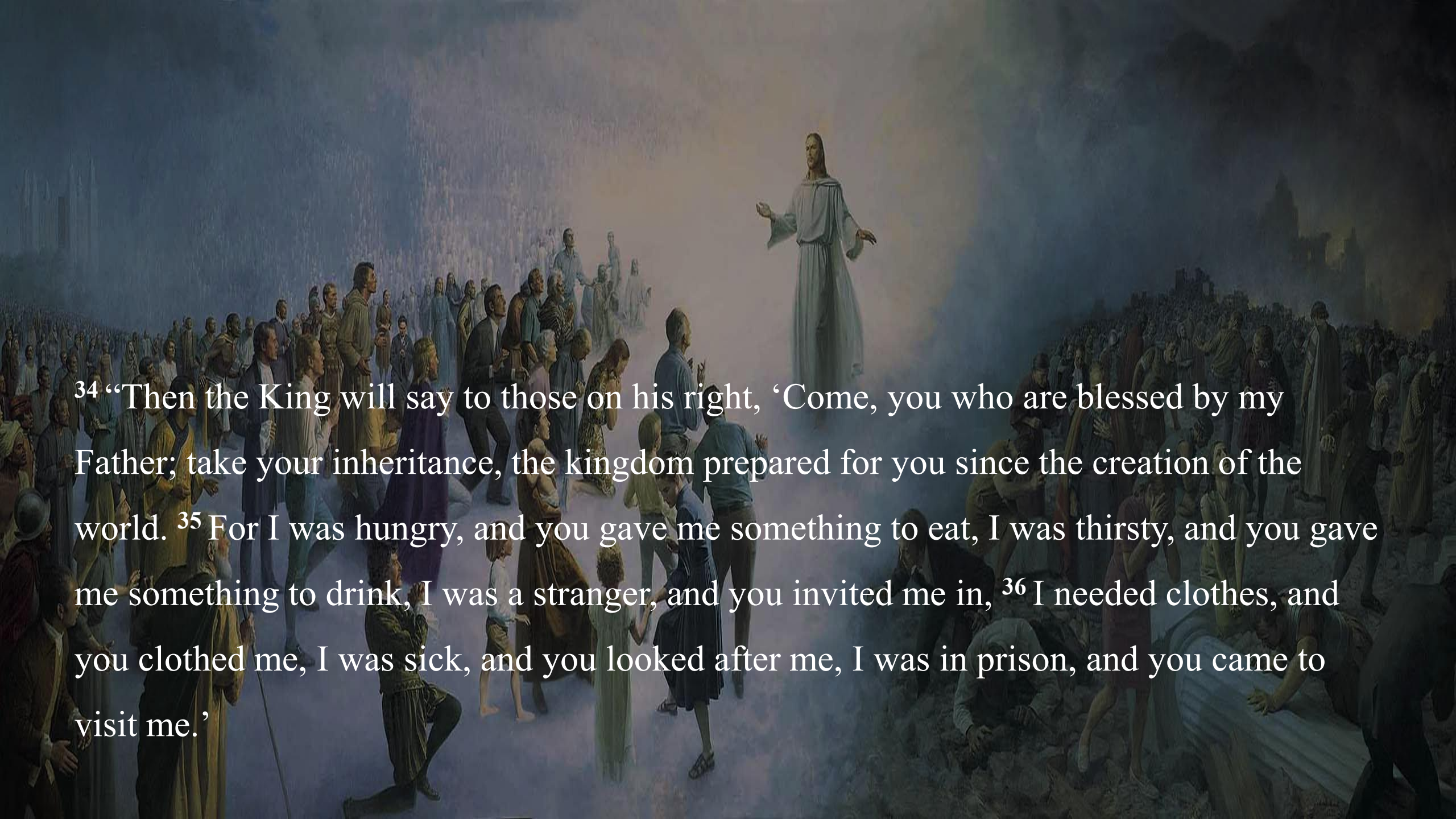
Someday, God will hold every one of us accountable for whether or not we have accomplished the purpose for which He created us.



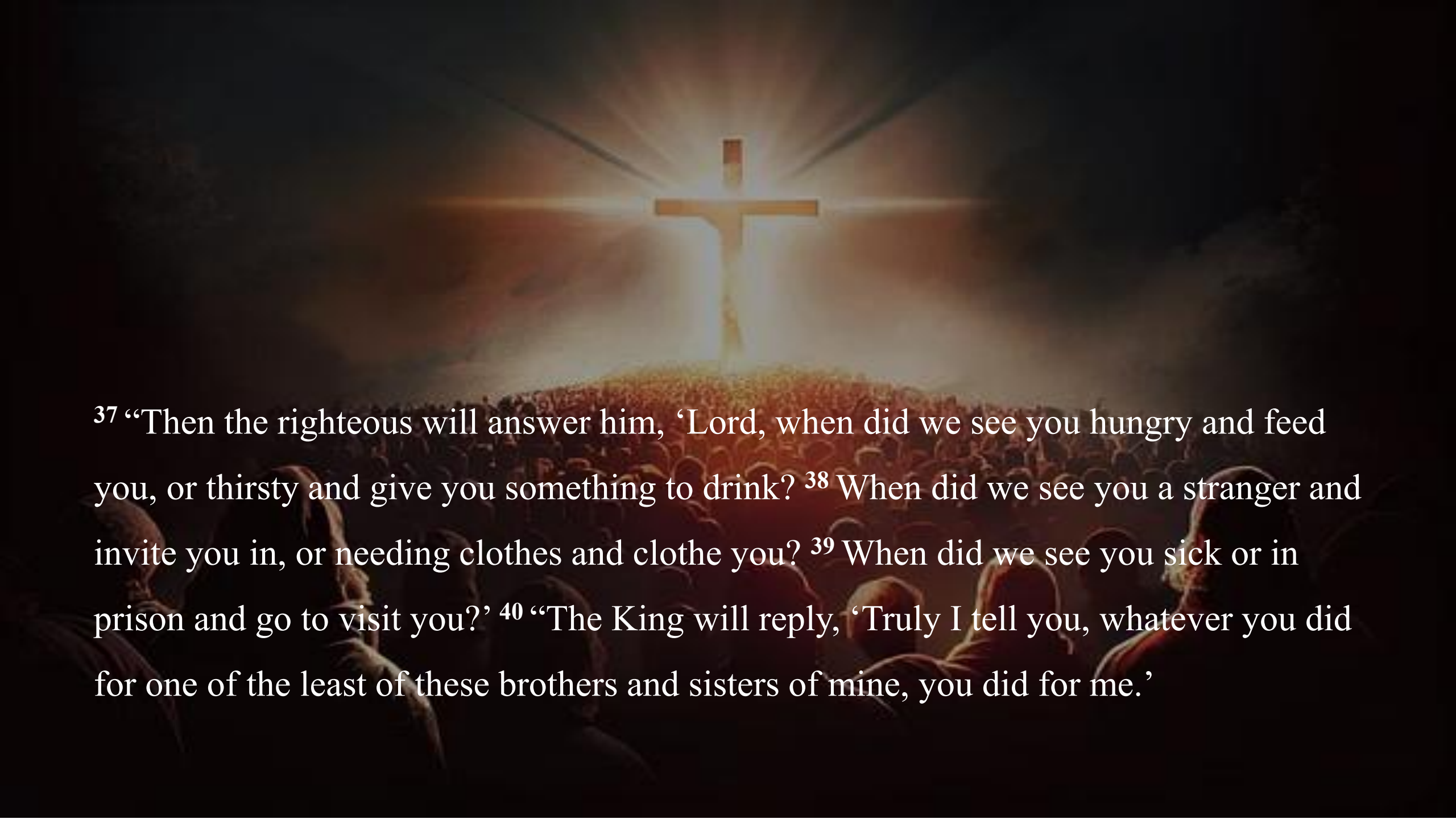
A dramatic illustration of Jesus Christ seated on a throne, holding a scepter, with a fiery background and celestial bodies. The scene is set in a cosmic environment with a dark, starry sky and several planets, including Jupiter and Saturn, visible in the background. The throne is ornate and sits on a circular platform with flames at its base. Jesus is depicted with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a crown. He holds a scepter with a sun-like emblem at the top. The overall atmosphere is one of divine glory and judgment.

Matthew 25:31-46

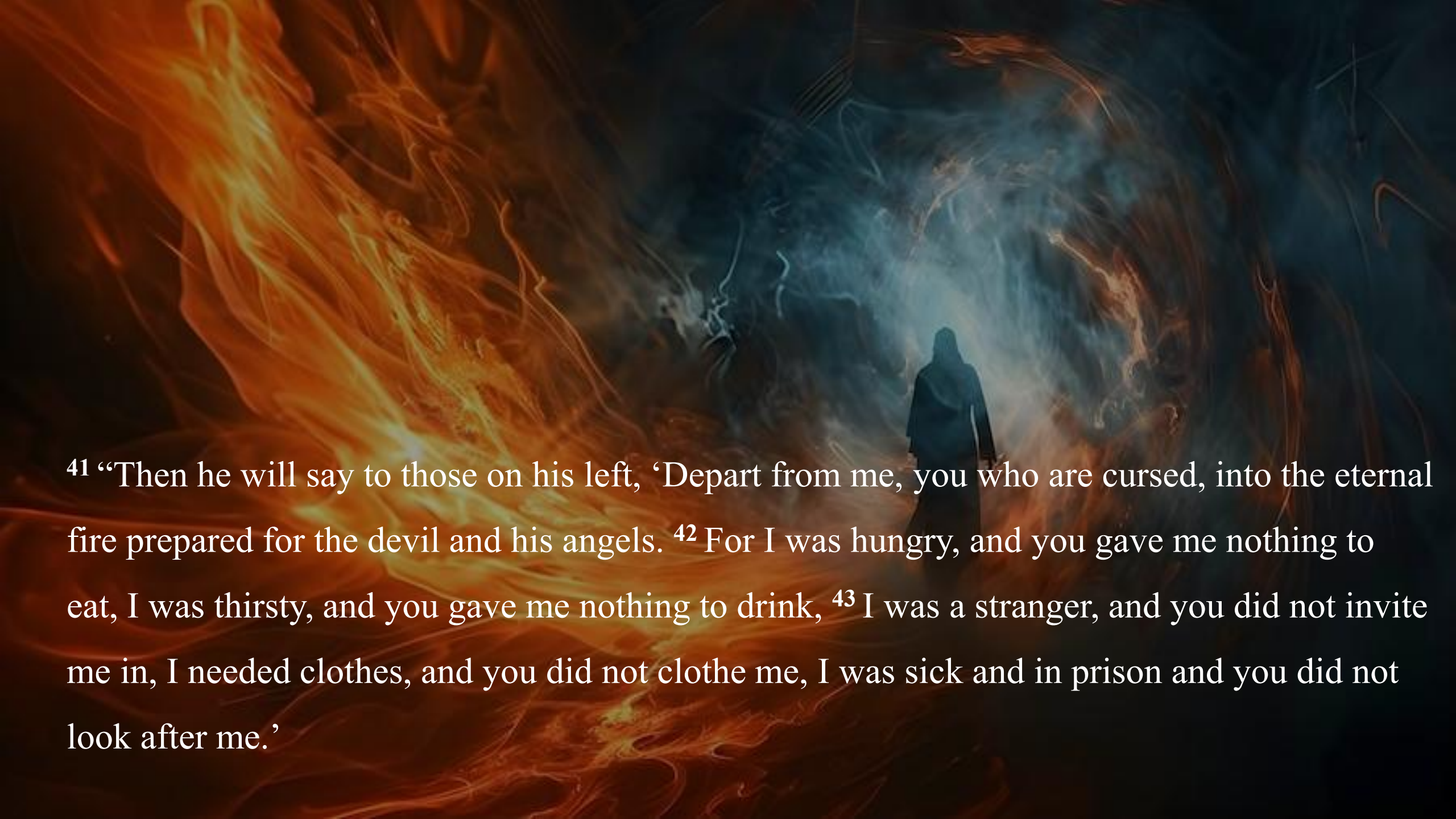
³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.



³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me.’

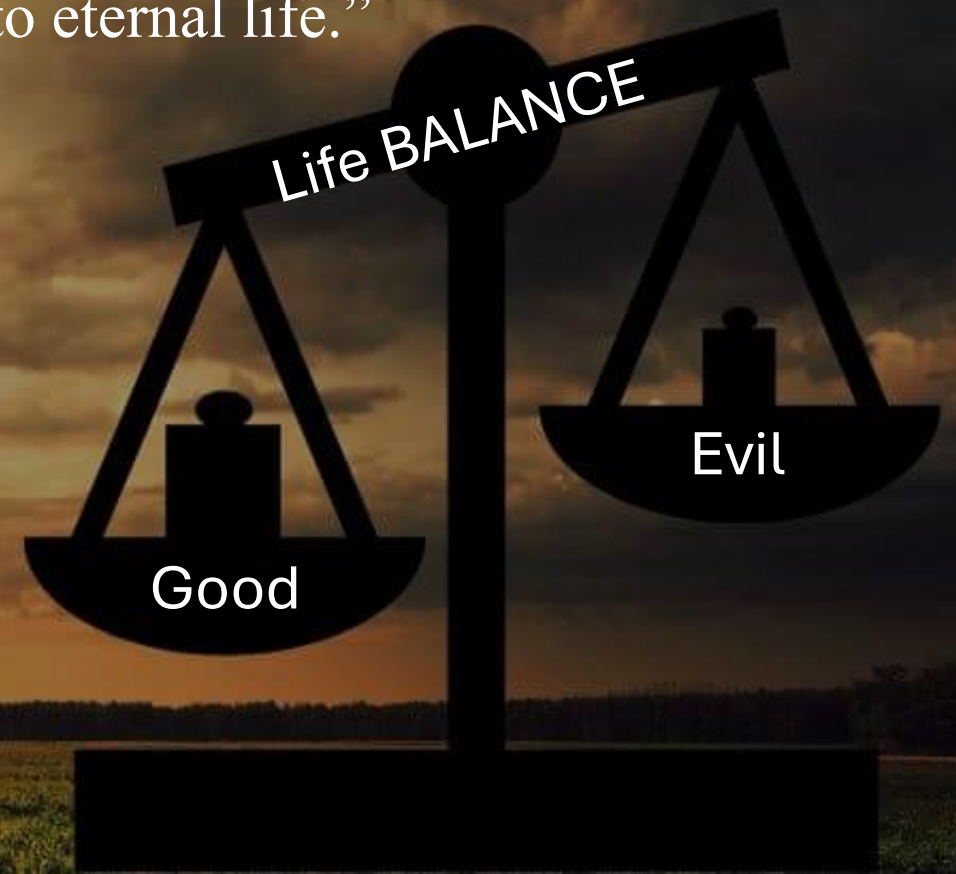
A dramatic scene featuring a large, glowing cross on a hill. The cross is the central focus, emitting a bright, golden light that illuminates the surrounding area. Below the cross, a large crowd of people is gathered, their silhouettes visible against the bright light. The foreground shows the backs of several people's heads, looking towards the cross. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and spiritual significance.

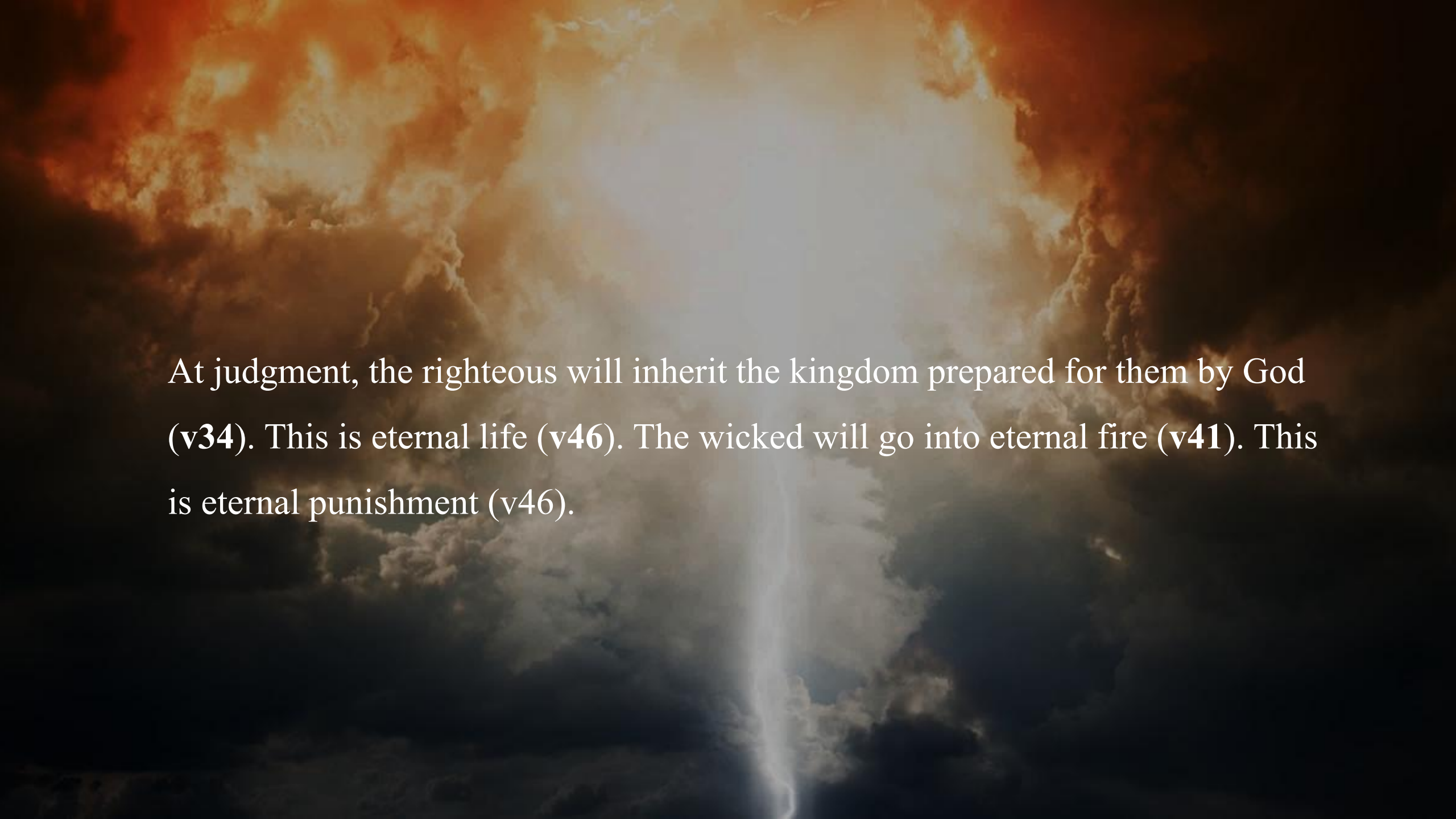
³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’



⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger, and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes, and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

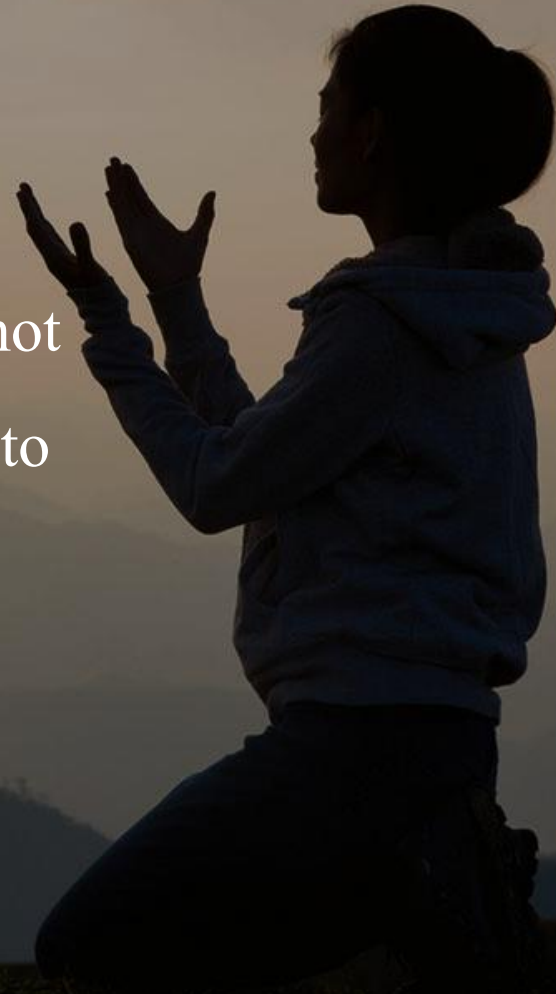
⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ ⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ ⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

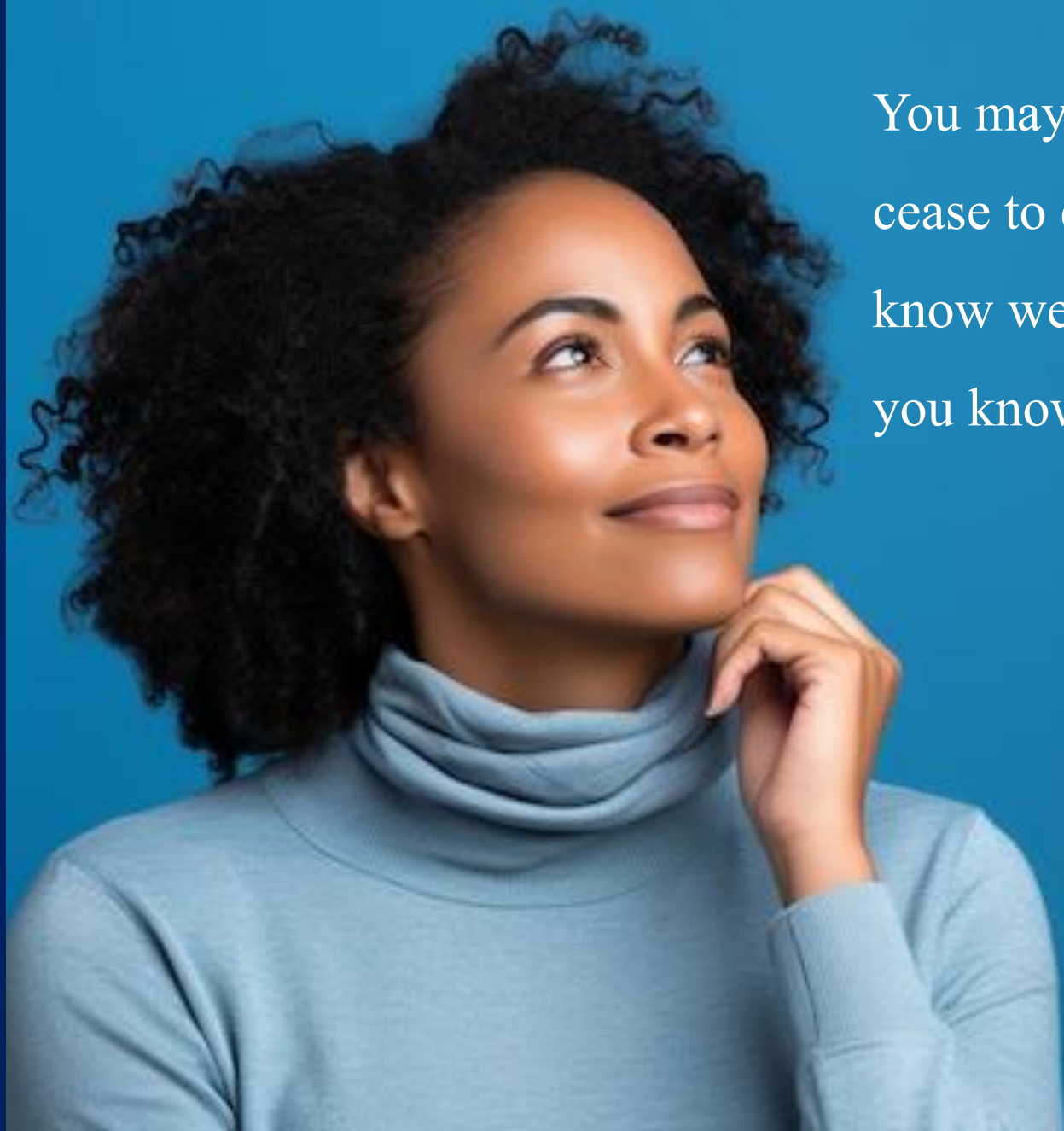




At judgment, the righteous will inherit the kingdom prepared for them by God (v34). This is eternal life (v46). The wicked will go into eternal fire (v41). This is eternal punishment (v46).

What determines the reward we receive? Our works. We receive wrath if we work evil and do not obey truth. We receive eternal life if we continue to work for good. Our eternal destiny depends on whether or not we accomplish our Maker's purpose!



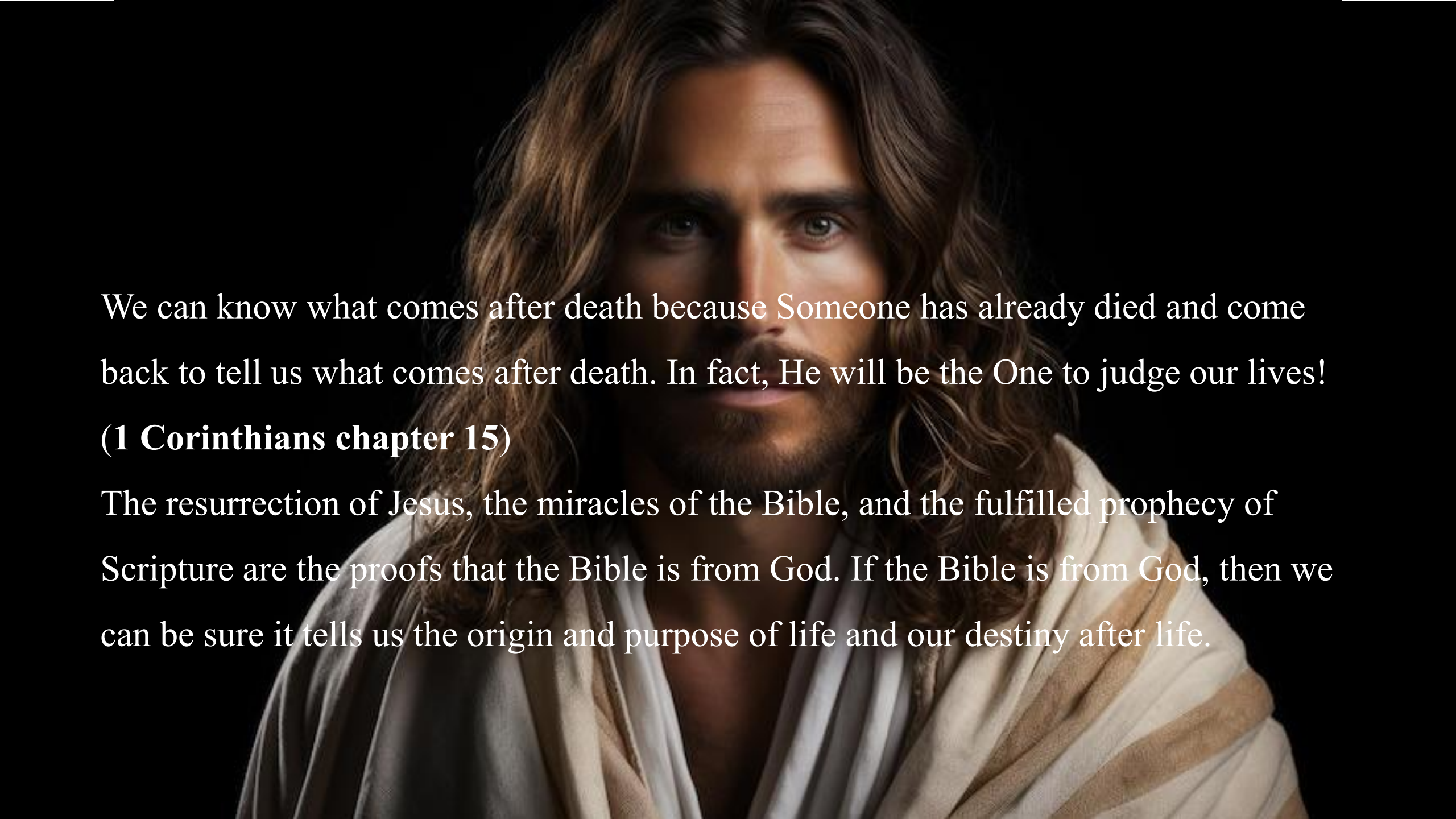


You may ask, "How do you know we don't cease to exist after death? How do you know we won't be reincarnated? How do you know we will be raised and judged?"



Acts 17:30-31 (Luke)

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”



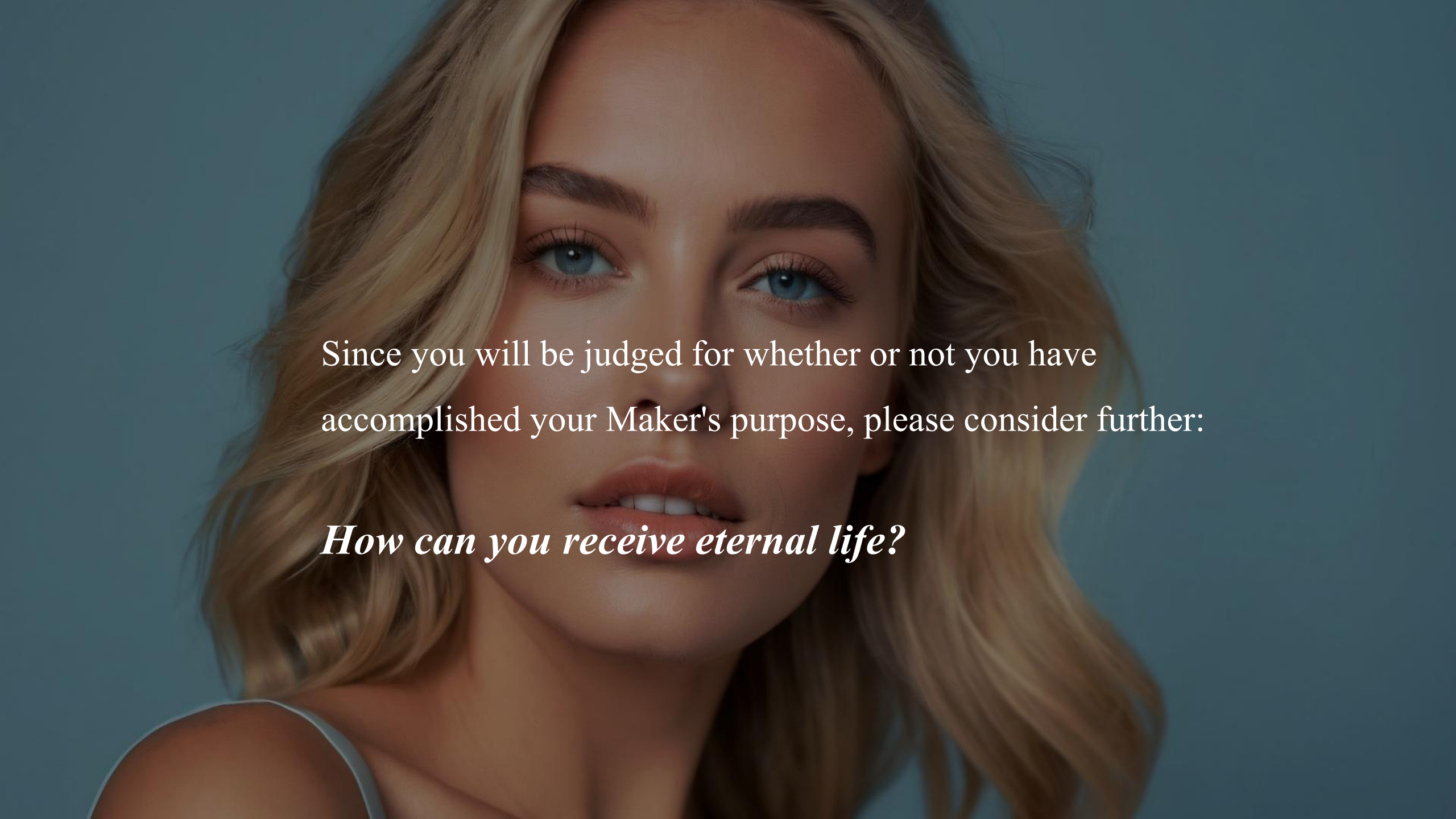
We can know what comes after death because Someone has already died and come back to tell us what comes after death. In fact, He will be the One to judge our lives!

(1 Corinthians chapter 15)

The resurrection of Jesus, the miracles of the Bible, and the fulfilled prophecy of Scripture are the proofs that the Bible is from God. If the Bible is from God, then we can be sure it tells us the origin and purpose of life and our destiny after life.



Conclusion



Since you will be judged for whether or not you have accomplished your Maker's purpose, please consider further:

How can you receive eternal life?

The problem we all have is that at times we have failed to do the Creator's will. We are all guilty of sin. What can be done about that?

Romans Chapter 3

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1 John 1:8-10

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

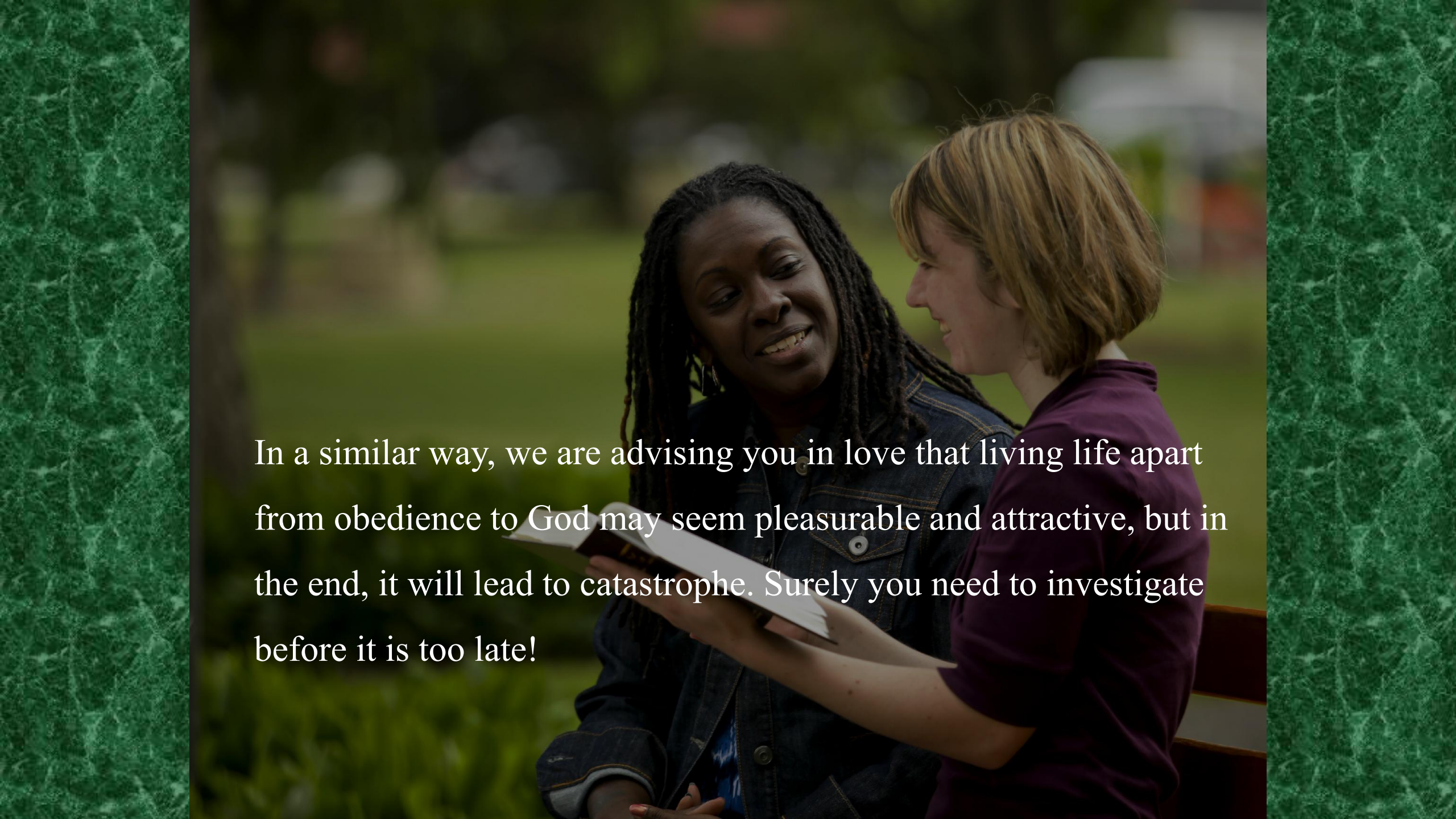
The good news is that *Jesus came and died to forgive your sins* (Romans 5:6 - 10; 6:23; John 3:16). To receive this forgiveness, you must be willing to live the rest of your life in His service - "Repent."

Acts 2:28; 22:16 - If you come to Christ believing in Him, confessing Him, and being baptized, He will forgive you and make you a new creature so you can have eternal life (Romans 6:3,4; Mark 16:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 15:58).



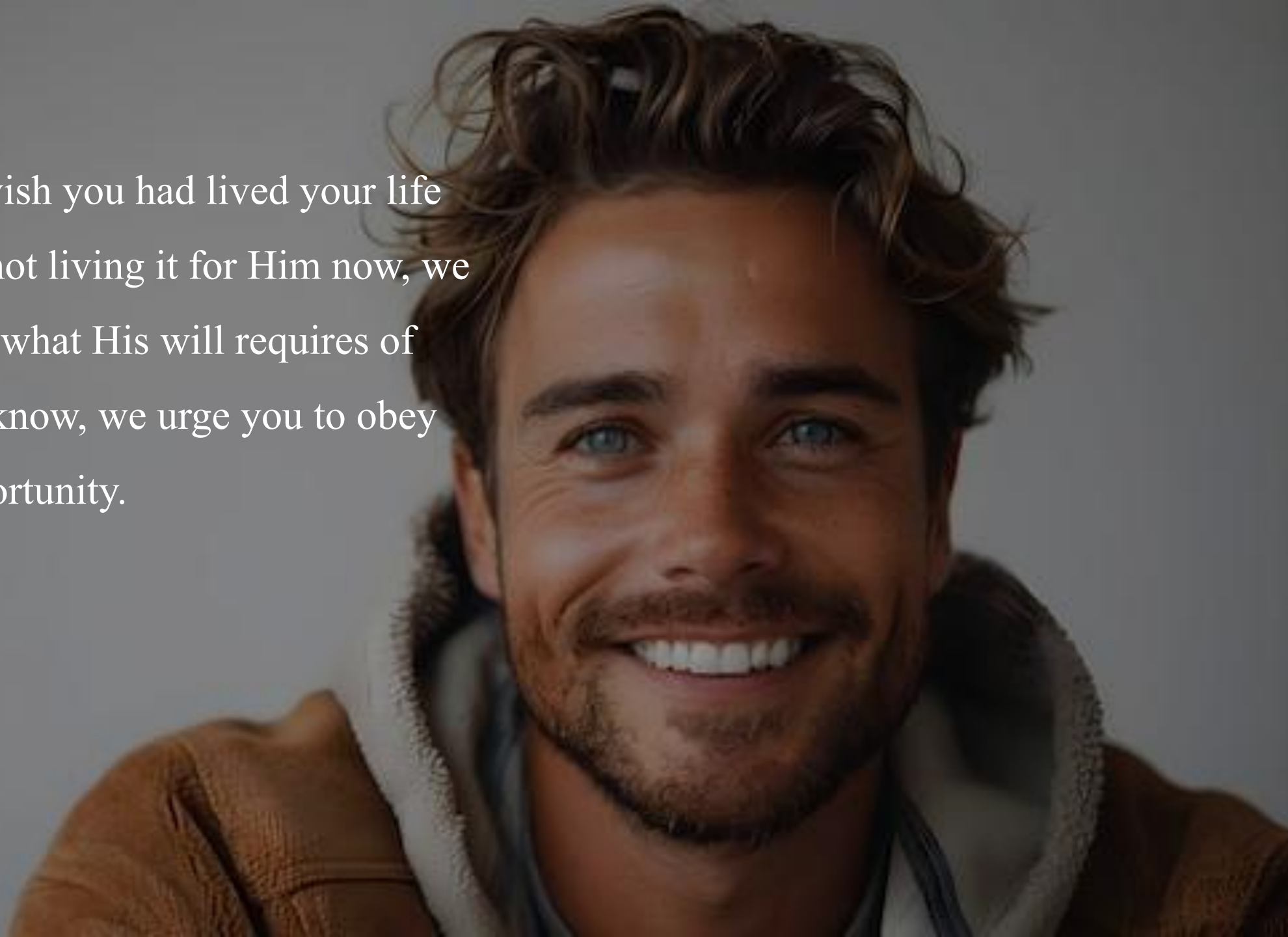
Why continue life without investigating God's way for your life?

Suppose you are about to buy a house, but a friend promises you that he knows that house and it is in terrible shape in ways that are not obvious. Suppose he assures you that you are about to pay thousands of dollars more than the house was worth. Would you ignore the friend's advice, or would you investigate?

A photograph of two women sitting outdoors, looking at an open book together. The woman on the left is Black with long dreadlocks, wearing a denim jacket. The woman on the right is white with short blonde hair, wearing a purple shirt. They are both smiling and looking at the book. The background is a blurred green field with some trees. The image is framed by a dark green, textured border on the left and right sides.

In a similar way, we are advising you in love that living life apart from obedience to God may seem pleasurable and attractive, but in the end, it will lead to catastrophe. Surely you need to investigate before it is too late!

Someday you will wish you had lived your life for God. If you are not living it for Him now, we urge you to find out what His will requires of you. If you already know, we urge you to obey while you have opportunity.



The Bible has the answer to the most important questions of life. There is no need to go through life wondering "what it is all about." Why not find out and begin to live according to the purpose for which you were made?



Resources

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

www.gospelway.com

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