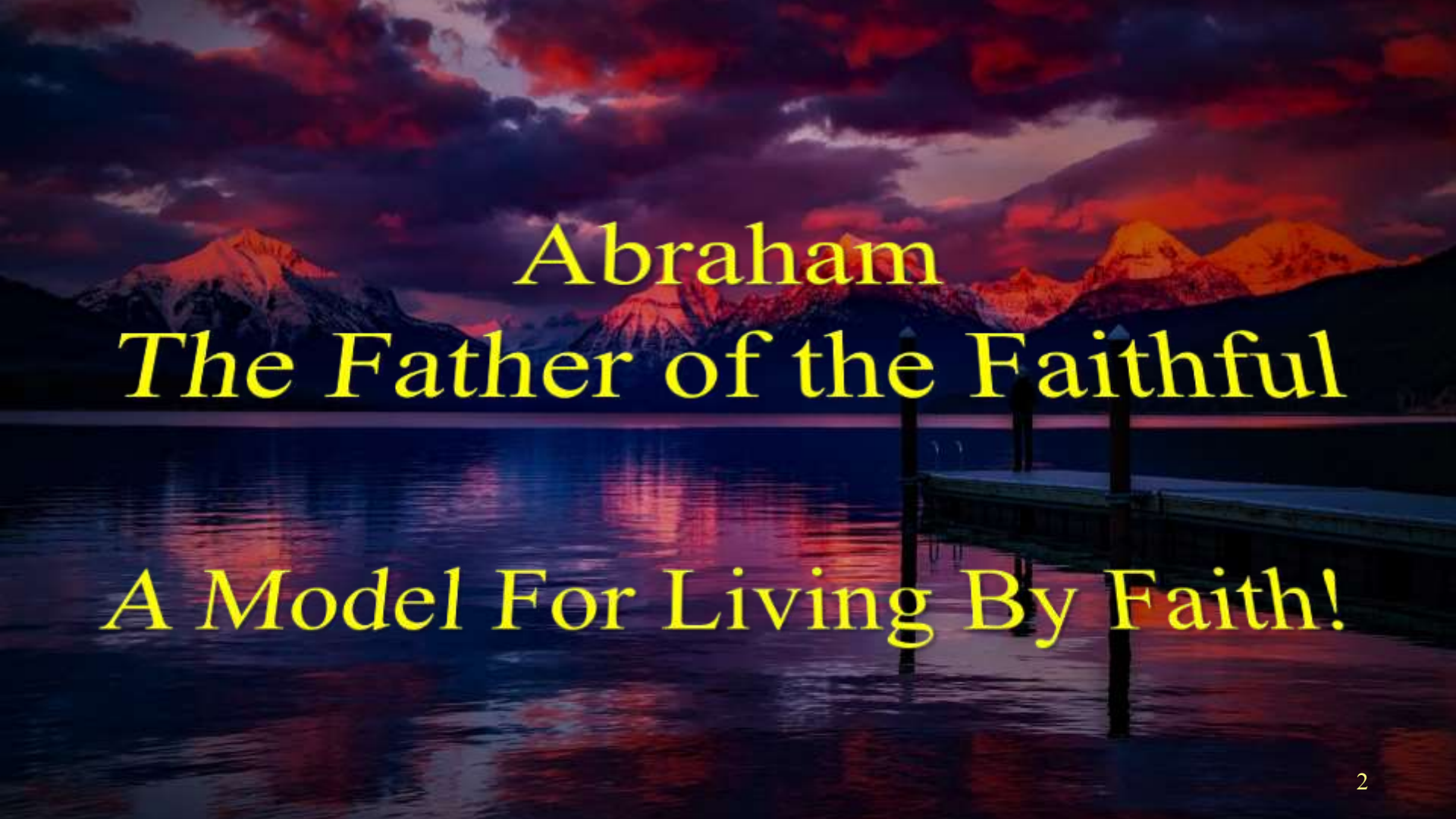




Genesis

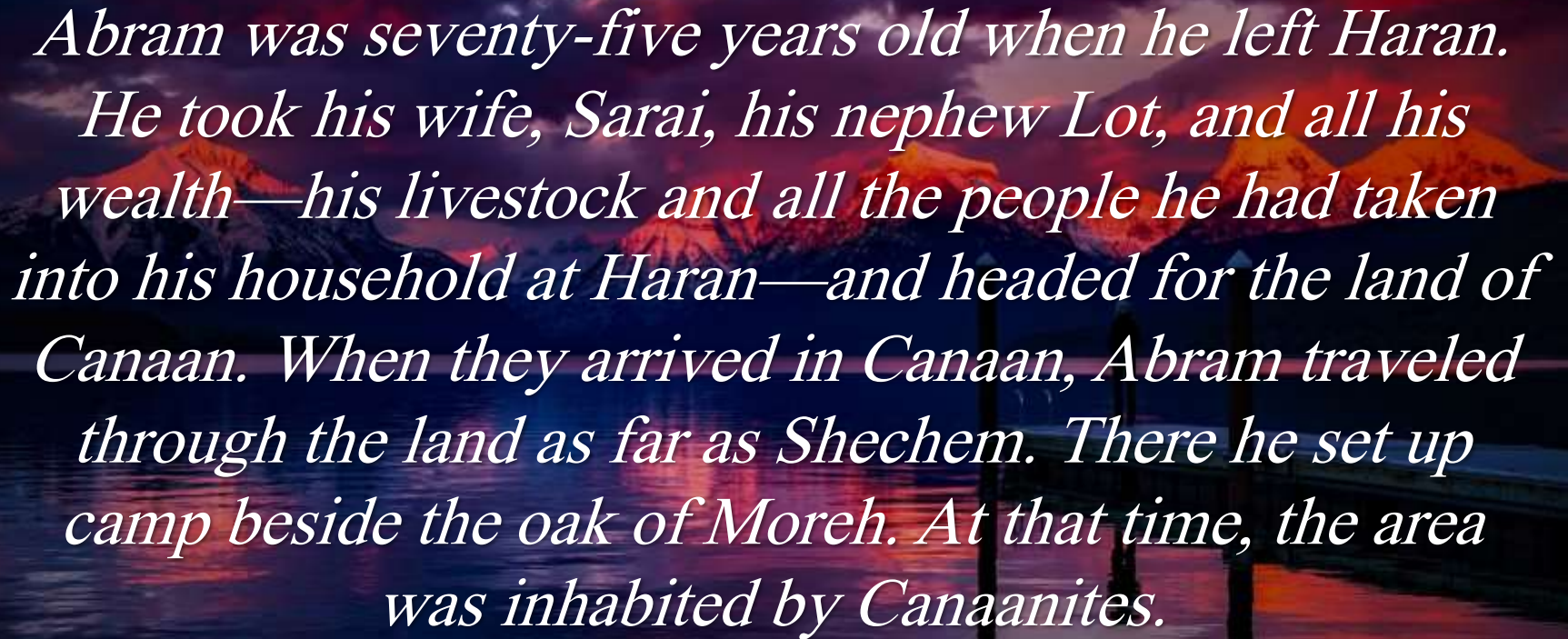
The Story of God And Humanity

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with their peaks and ridges also catching the low light of the sun. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. On the right side of the image, a wooden dock extends into the water, supported by several vertical posts. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

Abraham
The Father of the Faithful
A Model For Living By Faith!

The Call of Abram

The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him.

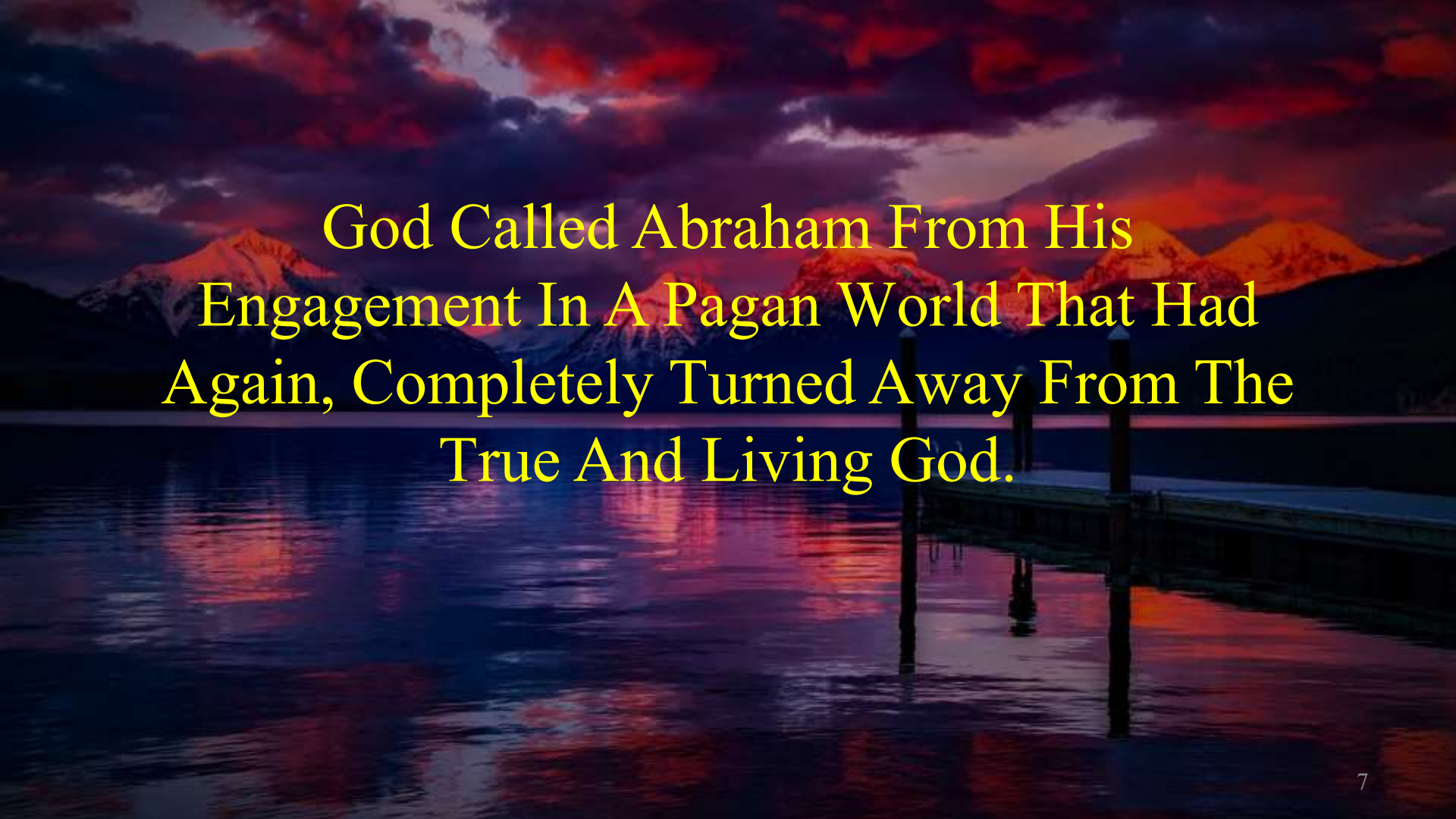


Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites.

Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the Lord, who had appeared to him. After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord. Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev

Why Call Abraham?

- Abraham was 75 years old when God called him.
- Abraham married Sarah, his half sister, who was unable to have children on her own.
- Yet, God promised to use them to start a great nation!
- Abraham served God with faith for 100 years.
- What can we learn about walking by faith from him?

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with some peaks covered in snow. The foreground features a calm body of water that reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. On the right side of the image, a wooden pier or dock extends into the water, supported by several vertical posts. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

God Called Abraham From His
Engagement In A Pagan World That Had
Again, Completely Turned Away From The
True And Living God.

Romans 1:18-32 – Describes That World

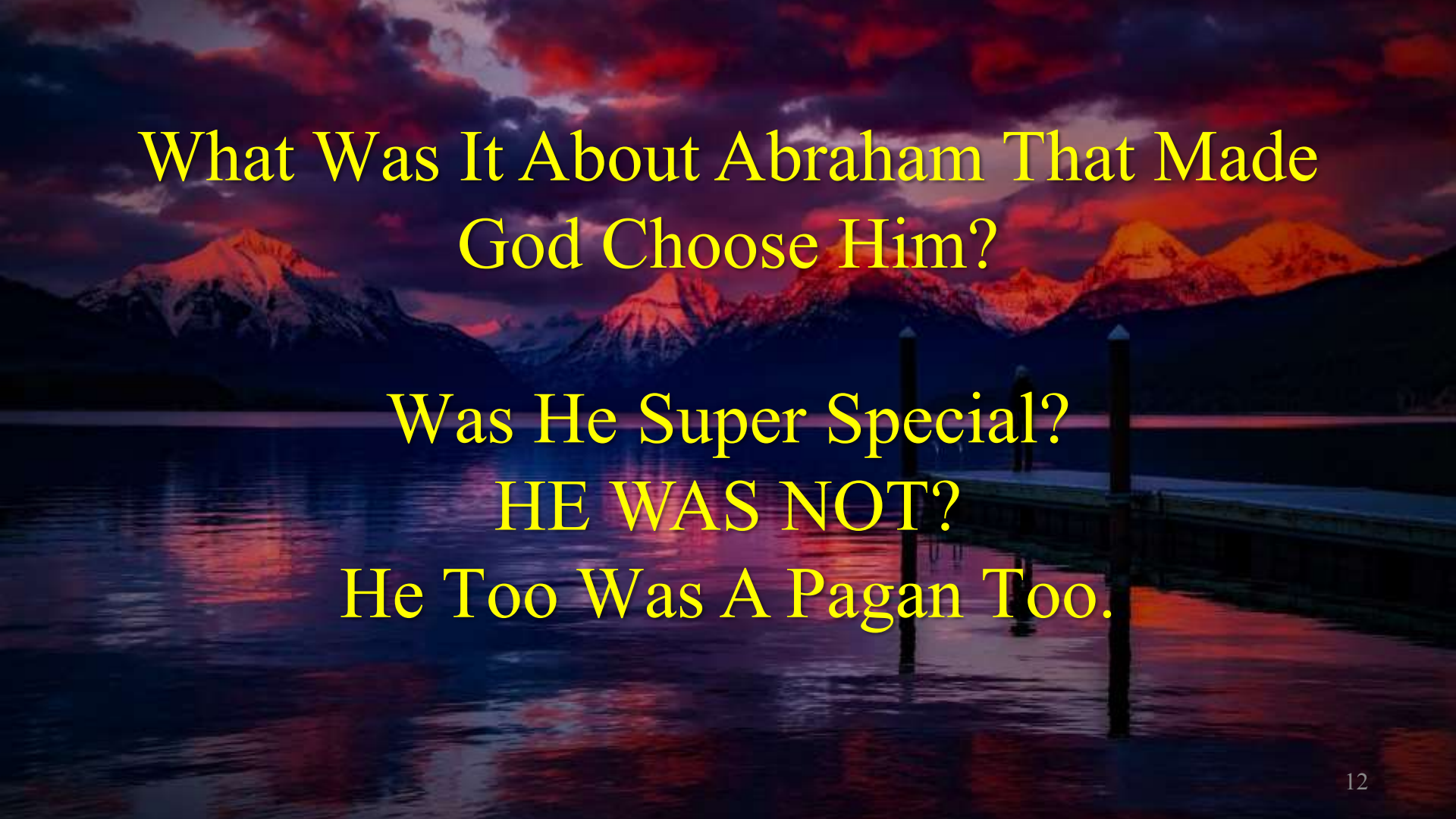
But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks.

And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise!

Amen.

That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.

Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, a range of rugged mountains is visible, with their peaks and ridges also catching the low light. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the mountains. A wooden pier or dock extends from the right side of the frame into the water, supported by several dark posts. The overall mood is serene yet dramatic, with a strong contrast between the dark shadows and the bright highlights of the sunset.

What Was It About Abraham That Made
God Choose Him?

Was He Super Special?
HE WAS NOT?
He Too Was A Pagan Too.

Joshua 24:2 (NLT2)

*Joshua said to the people,
“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:
Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the
father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the
Euphrates River, and they worshiped other gods.”*

Abraham Had Enough Faith To Get Him
To Put One Foot In Front Of The Other
And Move In God's Direction.

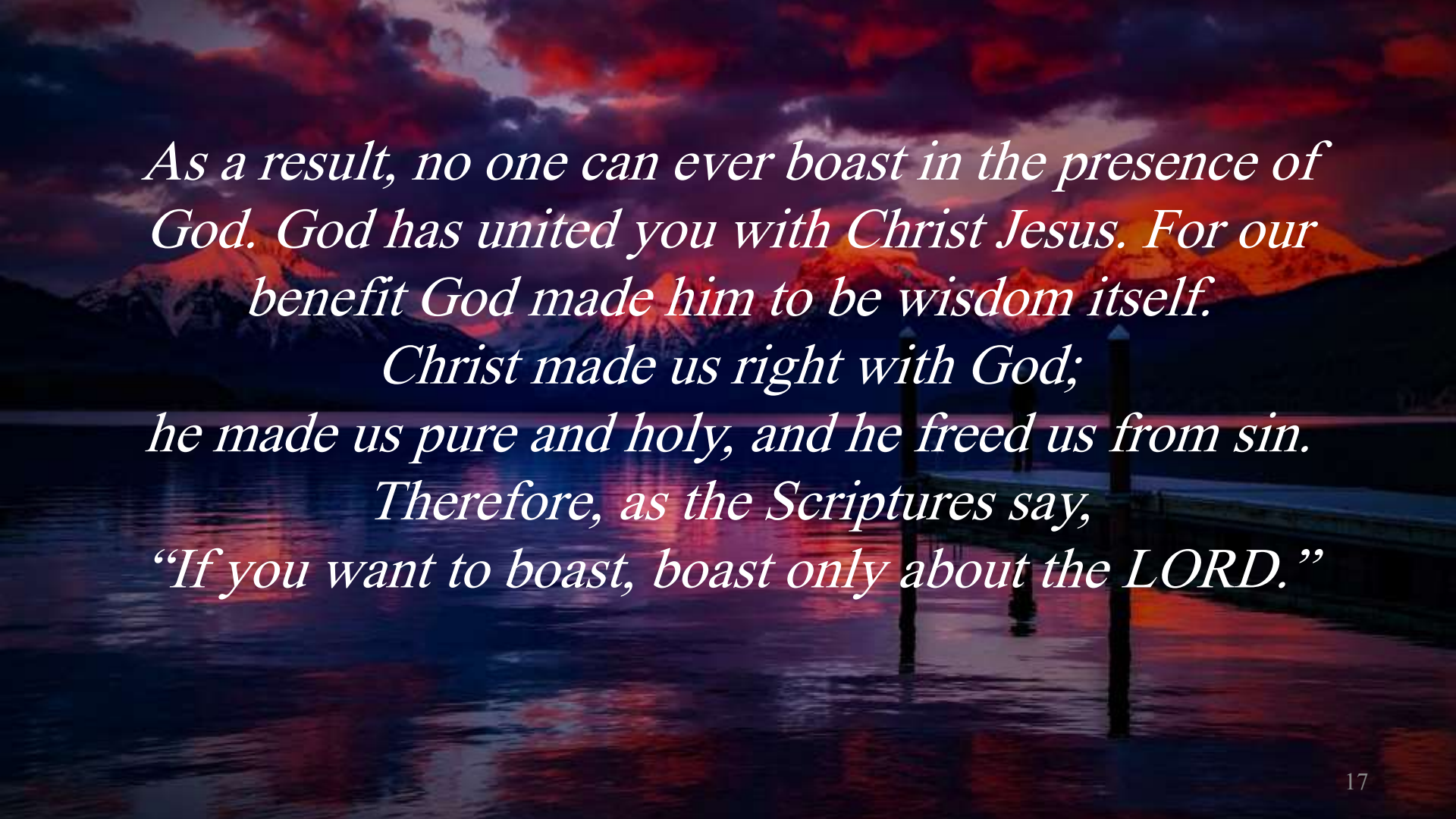


Hebrews 11:8-10 (NLT2)

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NLT2)

Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important.



As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself.

*Christ made us right with God;
he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.*

*Therefore, as the Scriptures say,
“If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD.”*

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What Did Abraham's Faithfulness Look Like?

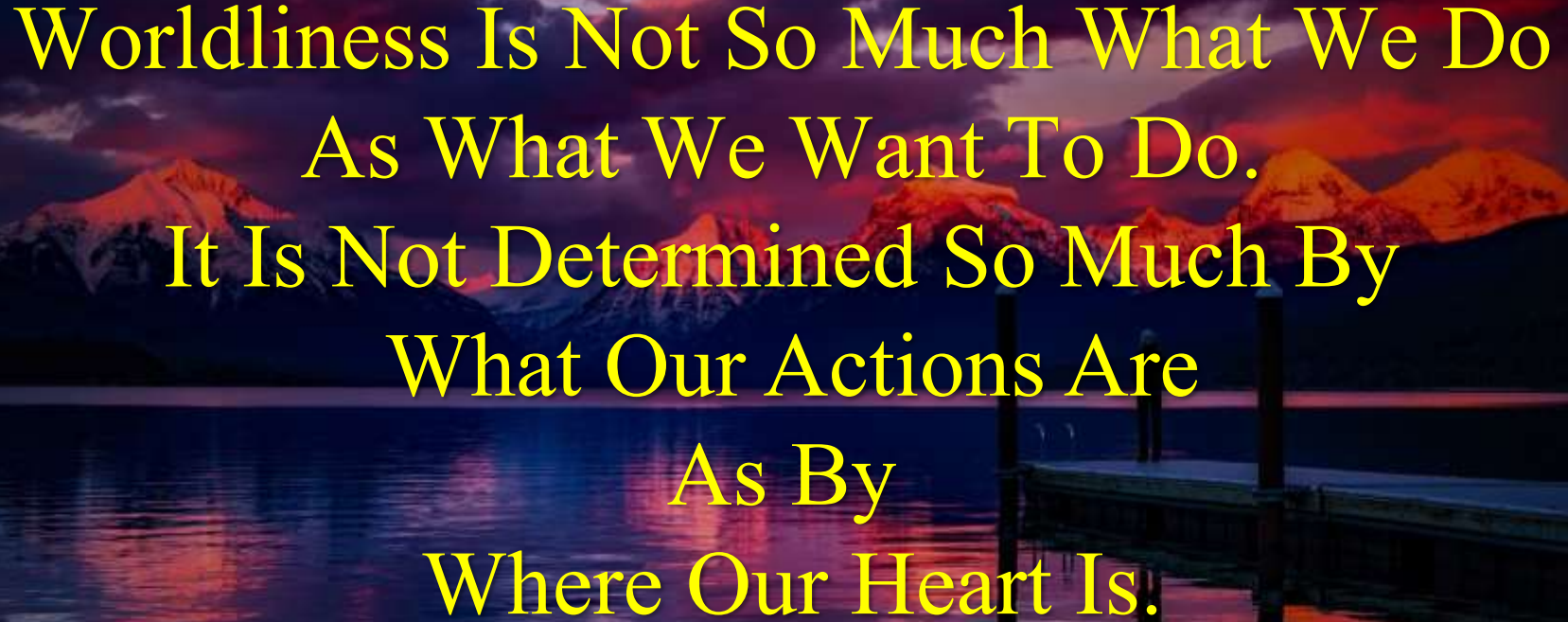


1.

He Left His Homeland,
But Not His Father's Family.

He Trusted God Enough To Start A Journey
Of Following God's Direction In Life.

This Started Him Toward A New Land And
A New Life.



Worldliness Is Not So Much What We Do
As What We Want To Do.
It Is Not Determined So Much By
What Our Actions Are
As By
Where Our Heart Is.

1 John 2:15 (NLT2)

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

1 John 2:15 (NLT2)

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.



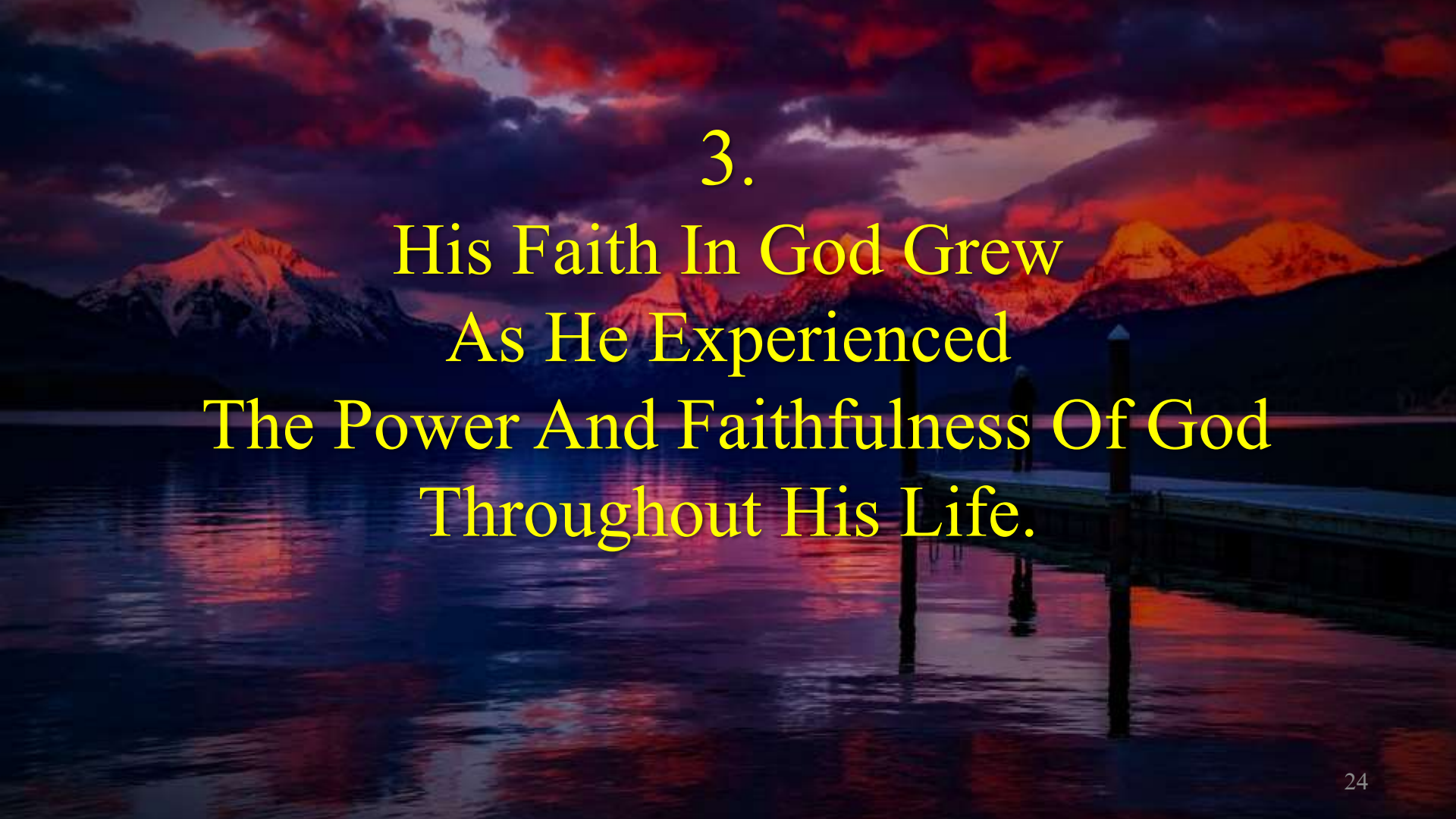
2.

He Trusted God To Make Possible,
What, For He And Sarah, Was Impossible.
~Have A Child~

Even Though Doubt Had Crept In.

Genesis 21:1-7 (NLT2)

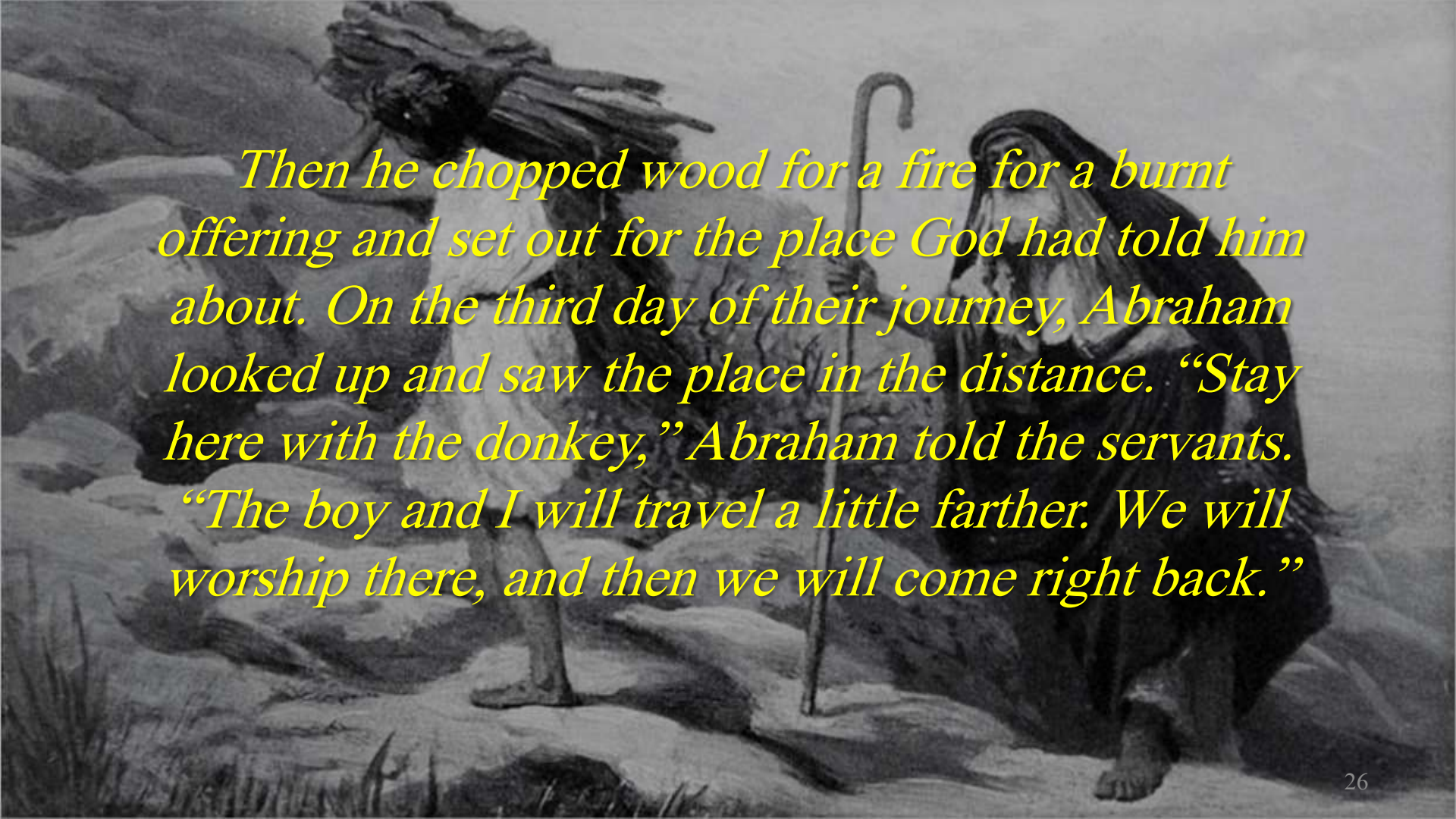
The LORD kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would. And Abraham named their son Isaac...Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. And Sarah declared, “God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me. Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse a baby? Yet I have given Abraham a son in his old age!”



3.
His Faith In God Grew
As He Experienced
The Power And Faithfulness Of God
Throughout His Life.

Genesis 22:1-5 (NLT2)

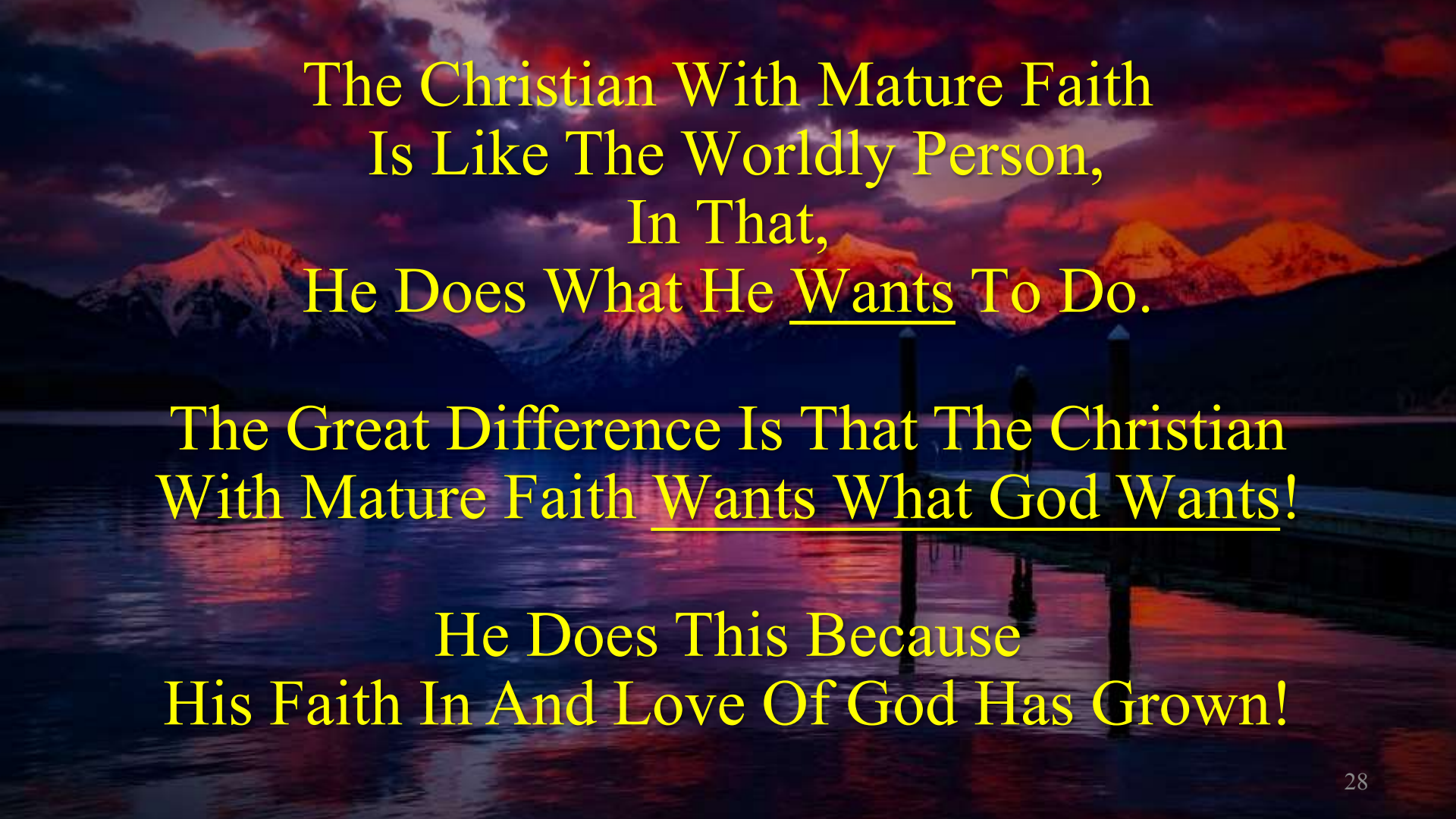
Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you." The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac.



Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.”

Hebrews 11:17-19 (NLT2)

It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.



The Christian With Mature Faith
Is Like The Worldly Person,
In That,
He Does What He Wants To Do.

The Great Difference Is That The Christian
With Mature Faith Wants What God Wants!

He Does This Because
His Faith In And Love Of God Has Grown!

Galatians 3:6-7 (NLT2)

“...Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”

The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.

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Where Are You In Your Journey Of Faith?

Have You Taken The First Steps
In God's Direction?

Do You Want What God Wants?