


## **Fear, Folly, or Faith**

Deuteronomy 1:19-46

1. Fear
  - a. Fear is a \_\_\_\_\_ emotion.
  - b. But self-preservation is the \_\_\_\_\_ of fear.
  - c. Fear \_\_\_\_\_ the facts.
  - d. Fear \_\_\_\_\_ the truth.
2. Folly
  - a. Folly is a \_\_\_\_\_ of fear.
  - b. But self-reliance \_\_\_\_\_ folly.
3. Faith
  - a. Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Faith \_\_\_\_\_ fear.

The background of the slide is a sepia-toned stone relief. It depicts several figures, likely from an ancient civilization, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or agreement. The figures are carved in a classical style, with some wearing head coverings and draped garments. The overall scene suggests a moment of covenant-making or a significant religious event.

# **Deuteronomy**

**A Call to Covenant Commitment**

**1:19-46**

**FEAR**

**FOLLY**

Or

**FAITH**

# Pervasive Fear

Fear of sickness, disease, disability

Fear of accidents, injury

Fear of war, terror, violence

Fear of death, dying

Fear of losing a job, a friend,  
a child, a spouse

Fear of financial ruin

Fear of aging

Fear of change

Fear of rejection

Fear of abandonment

Fear of loneliness

Fear of failure, not measuring up,  
disappointment

Fear of the future

Fear of the past

Fear of exposure

Fear of judgment

# Deuteronomy 1:19-33

Then we set out from Horeb and went through all that great and terrifying wilderness that you saw, on the way to the hill country of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us.

And we came to Kadesh-barnea. And I said to you,  
“You have come to the hill country of the Amorites,  
which the LORD our God is giving us.

See, the LORD your God has set the land before you.  
Go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers,  
has told you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

# Deuteronomy 1:22-25

Then all of you came near me and said,

“Let us send men before us, that they may explore the land for us and bring us word again of the way by which we must go up and the cities into which we shall come.”

The thing seemed good to me, and I took twelve men from you, one man from each tribe. And they turned and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshcol and spied it out.

And they took in their hands some of the fruit of the land and brought it down to us, and brought us word again and said, “It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us.”

# Deuteronomy 1:26-28

Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. And you murmured in your tents and said, “Because the LORD hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. Where are we going up? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, ‘The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.’”

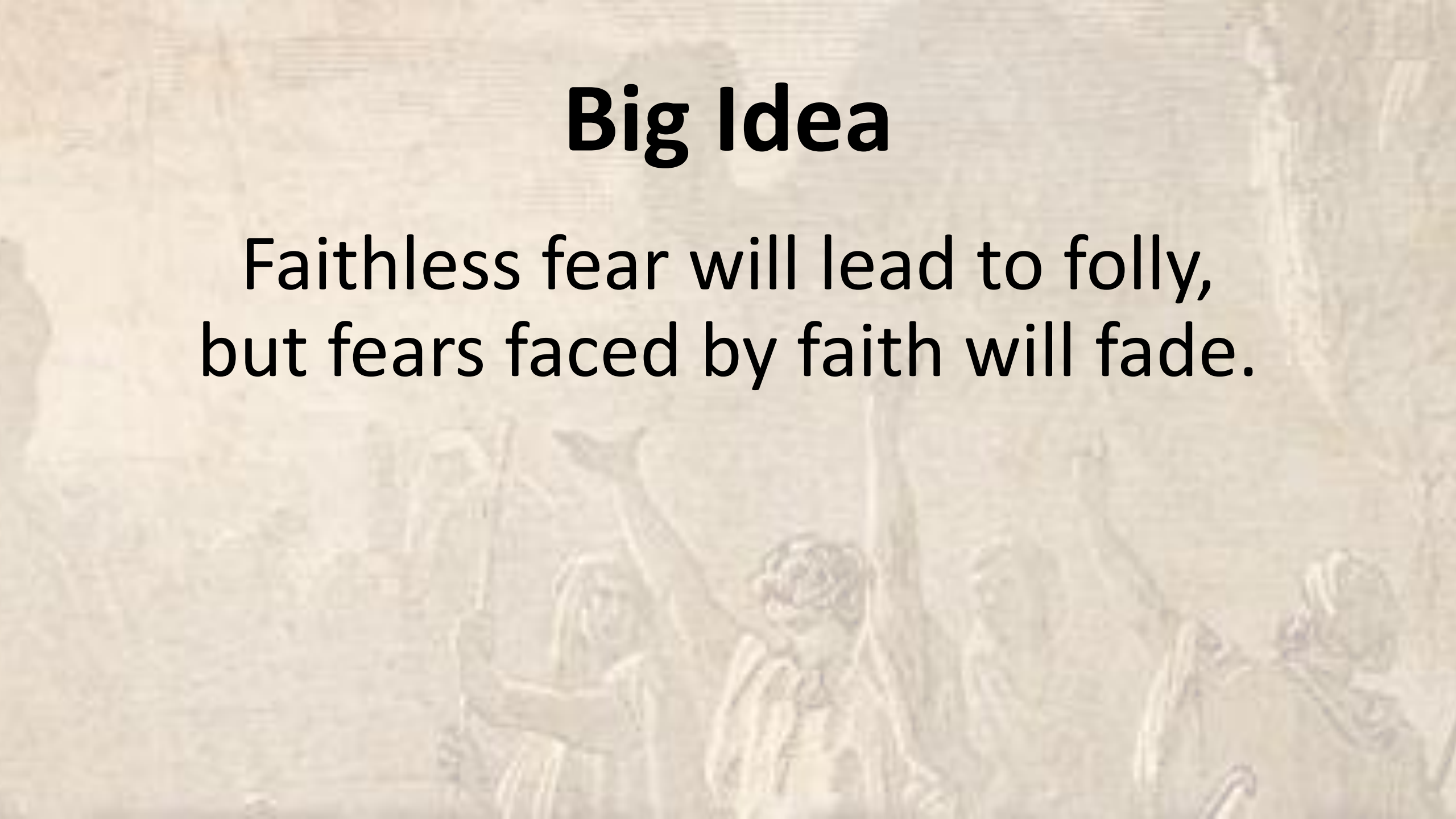
# Deuteronomy 1:29-33

Then I said to you, “Do not be in dread or afraid of them. The LORD your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.” Yet in spite of this word you did not believe the LORD your God, who went before you in the way to seek you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show you by what way you should go.



# Big Idea

Faithless fear will lead to folly,  
but fears faced by faith will fade.



FOLLY

FAITH

FEAR

**FEAR**

**Fear is a controlling emotion.**

**Deuteronomy 1:21**

See, the LORD your God has set the land before you.

Go up, take possession, as the LORD,  
the God of your fathers, has told you.

Do not fear or be dismayed.

**Deuteronomy 1:28-29**

“Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying,  
‘The people are greater and taller than we...’”

Then I said to you,

“Do not be **in dread** or **afraid** of them.”

# **Fear can be understandable.**

**Deuteronomy 20:3-4**

“Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing  
near for battle against your enemies:  
let not your heart faint.

Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them...

## **The threat was real!**



**FEAR**

Fear is a controlling emotion.

**But *self-preservation*  
is the fuel of fear.**

# What were they afraid of?

**Deuteronomy 1:21**

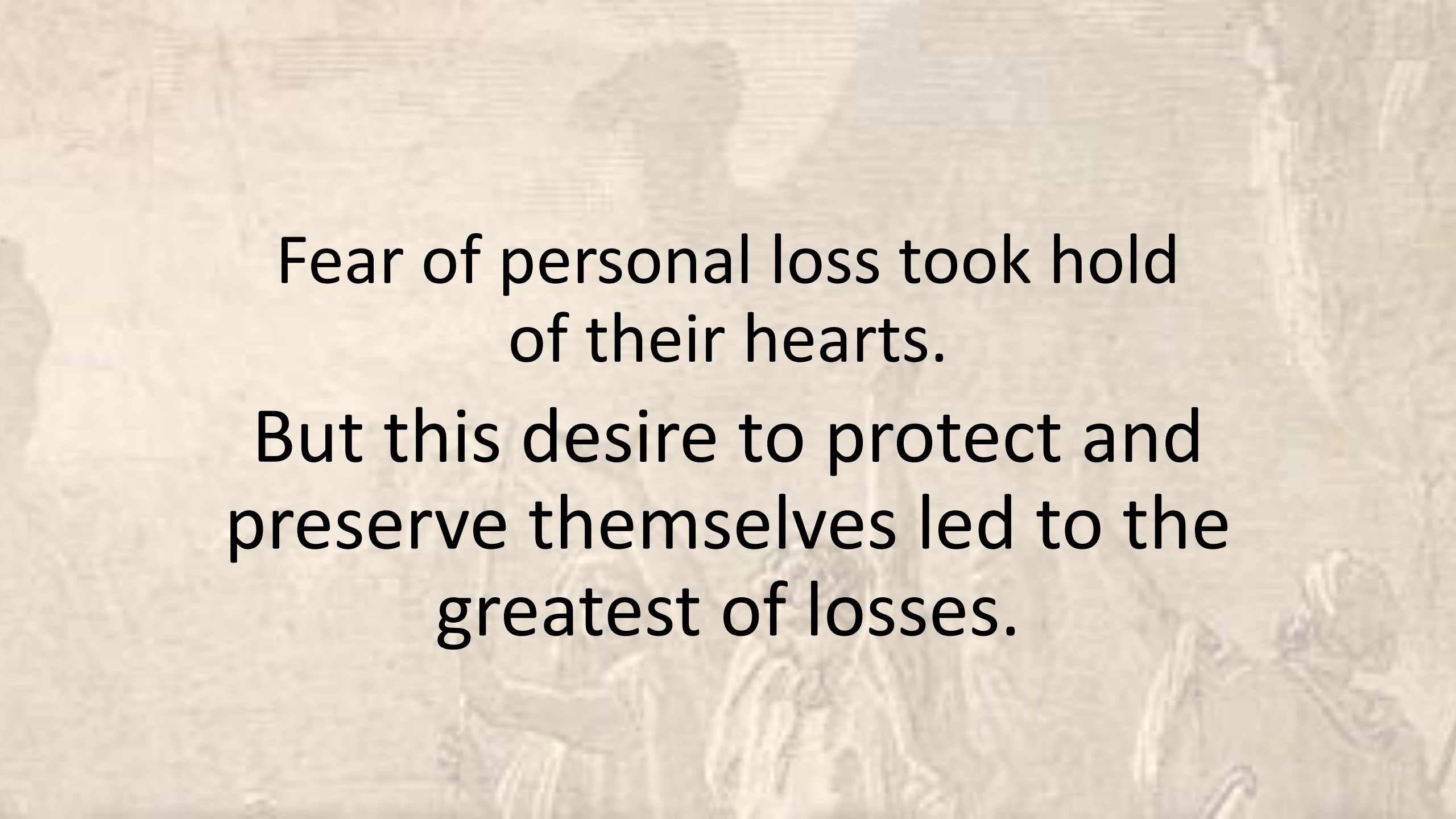
And you murmured in your tents and said,  
“Because the LORD hated us he has brought us out of  
the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites,  
to destroy us.



# What were they afraid of?

**Deuteronomy 1:21**

And as for your little ones,  
who you said would become a prey, and your children,  
who today have no knowledge of good or evil,  
they shall go in there.



Fear of personal loss took hold  
of their hearts.

But this desire to protect and  
preserve themselves led to the  
greatest of losses.

### **Deuteronomy 1:34-36**

And the LORD heard your words and was angered, and he swore, “Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh.”

# Self-preservation always leads to loss!

Luke 9:24

Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,  
but whoever loses his life for My sake,  
he is the one who will save it.

In what ways are you seeking  
to save your own life?

**The Effects of** 

**Fear darkens the facts.**

# What were the facts?

## Deuteronomy 1:25

And they took in their hands some of the fruit of the land and brought it down to us, and brought us word again and said, **“It is a good land** that the LORD our God is giving us.”

The goodness of the land was visibly confirmed by the fruit brought back by the spies for the people to see.

# What were the facts?

**Deuteronomy 1:30**

The LORD...goes before you...just as He did for you  
in Egypt before your eyes.

They had seen God's miraculous deliverance  
from the most powerful nation of their day.

# What were the facts?

## Deuteronomy 1:31

The LORD carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.

They had seen God's miraculous provision of all of their needs.

## Deuteronomy 8:4

Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.



# What were the facts?

## Deuteronomy 1:32

The LORD...went before you in the way to seek you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show you by what way you should go.

They visibly saw the presence of the LORD in the fire, cloud, and other manifestations throughout their journey.

# What were the facts?

**Deuteronomy 1:28**

The people are greater and taller than we.

The cities are great and fortified up to heaven.

We have seen the sons of Anakim there.

**These were true facts that the spies  
had seen and reported.**

# But fear darkens the facts!

The Lord delivered  
you from mighty  
Egypt

The people are  
greater and taller

**But fear darkens the facts!**

The Lord delivered  
you from mighty  
Egypt

**The people are  
greater and taller**

# But fear darkens the facts!

The Lord Himself  
has provided for you

The cities are great  
and fortified to heaven

**But fear darkens the facts!**

The Lord Himself  
has provided for you

**The cities are great  
and fortified to heaven**

# But fear darkens the facts!

The LORD is with you

The Anakim  
are there

**But fear darkens the facts!**

The LORD is with you

**The Anakim  
are there**



# The Effects of



Fear darkens the facts.

# Fear distorts the truth.

# The truth?

## **Deuteronomy 10:15**

The LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.

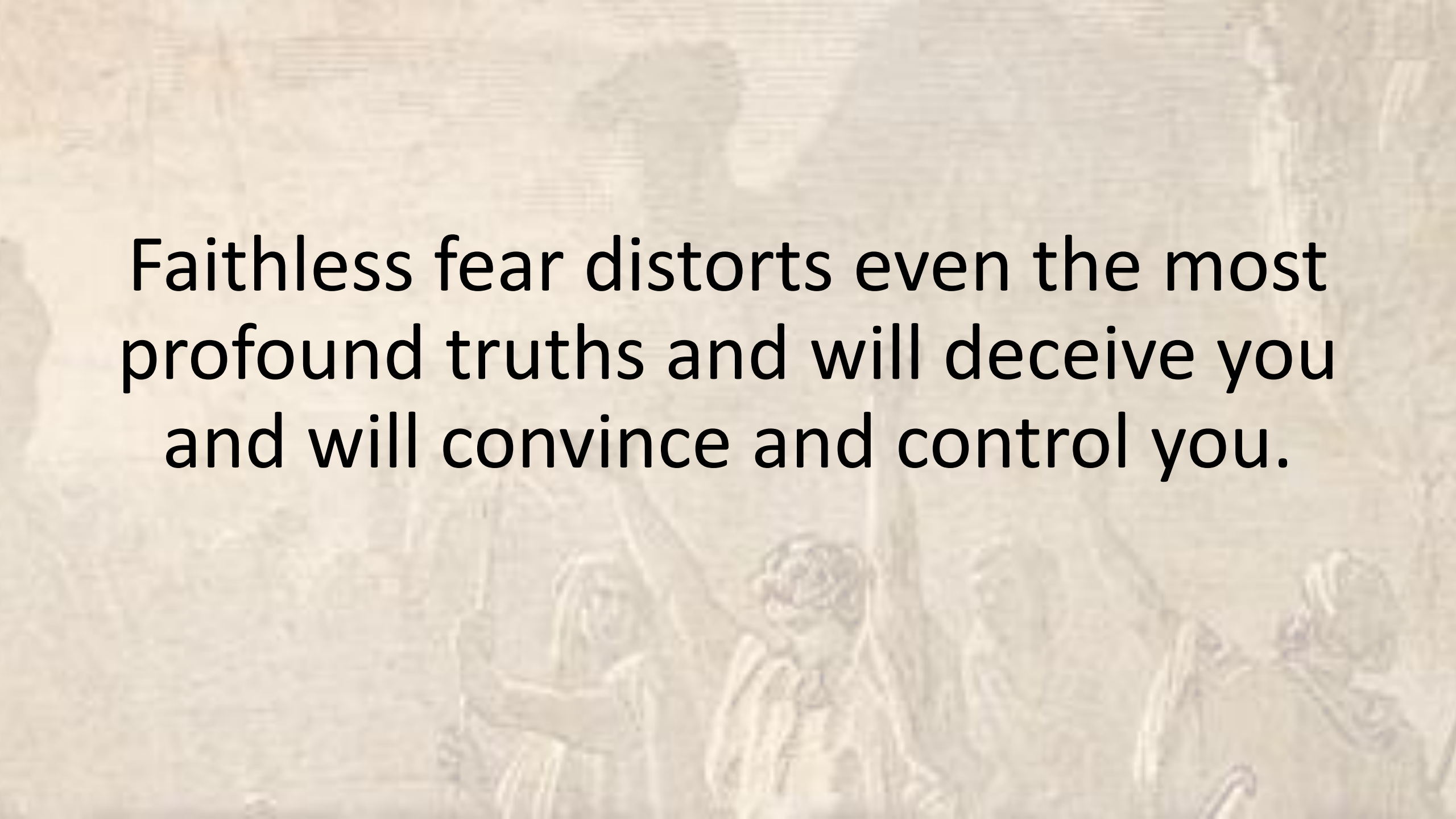
## **Deuteronomy 1:21**

**See**, the LORD your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has told you.

# Truth distorted by fear...

## Deuteronomy 1:27

And you murmured in your tents and said,  
“Because the LORD hated us he has brought us  
out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand  
of the Amorites, to destroy us.



Faithless fear distorts even the most profound truths and will deceive you and will convince and control you.

**FAITH**

**FEAR**

**FOLLY**

# FOLLY

**Folly is a fruit of fear.**

# What folly did their fear produce?

## Deuteronomy 1:26

“Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, ‘The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.’”

# Fear!

Deuteronomy 1:26

**“Our brothers have made our  
hearts melt,**

saying, ‘The people are greater and taller than we.  
The cities are great and fortified up to heaven.  
And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.’”



# Folly!

## Deuteronomy 1:26

“Our brothers have made our hearts melt,  
saying, ‘The people are greater and taller than we.  
The cities are great and fortified up to heaven.  
And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.’”

... **you** would not go up,

but **rebelled** against the command  
of the LORD your God.

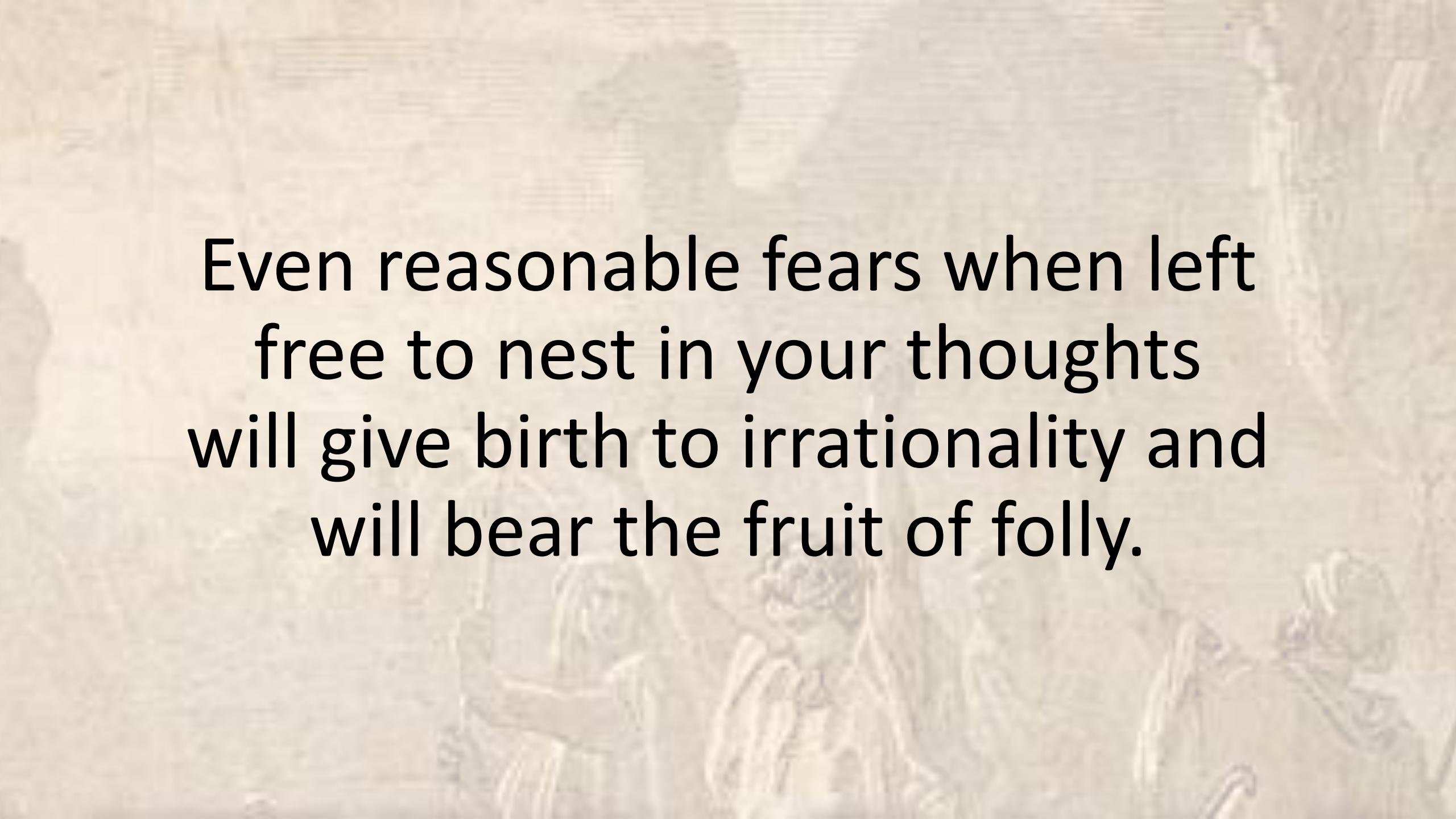
# Folly!

## Deuteronomy 1:26

“Our brothers have made our hearts melt,  
saying, ‘The people are greater and taller than we.  
The cities are great and fortified up to heaven.  
And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.’”

...**you would not go up,**

but rebelled against the command  
of the LORD your God.



Even reasonable fears when left  
free to nest in your thoughts  
will give birth to irrationality and  
will bear the fruit of folly.

**Deuteronomy 1:27**

And you murmured in your tents and said,  
“Because the LORD hated us he has brought us  
out of the land of Egypt.”

**They let fear nest in their thoughts.**

**Deuteronomy 1:27**

And **you murmured in your tents** and said,

“Because the LORD hated us he has brought us  
out of the land of Egypt.”

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**Fear gave birth to irrationality.**

**Deuteronomy 1:27**

And you murmured in your tents and said,

**“Because the LORD hated us** he has brought us  
out of the land of Egypt.”

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# **Irrationality bore the fruit of folly!**

## **Deuteronomy 1:27**

And you murmured in your tents and said,  
“Because the LORD hated us he has brought us  
out of the land of Egypt.”

**“You rebelled and would not go up!”**

(v26)

# **Beware, God will judge your folly!**

## **Deuteronomy 1:34-36**

And the LORD heard your words and was angered, and he swore, “Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh. He shall see it, and to him and to his children I will give the land on which he has trodden, because he has wholly followed the LORD!”



# Deuteronomy 1:37-40

Even with me the LORD was angry on your account and said,  
“You also shall not go in there. Joshua the son of Nun,  
who stands before you, he shall enter.

Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

And as for your little ones, who you said would become a prey,  
and your children, who today have no knowledge of good or evil,  
they shall go in there. And to them I will give it,  
and they shall possess it. But as for you, turn,  
and journey into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea.”

# FOLLY

Folly is a fruit of fear.

**But *self-reliance* feeds folly.**

# Deuteronomy 1:41-43

**Then** you answered me, “We have sinned against the LORD.

We ourselves will go up and fight,  
just as the LORD our God commanded us.”

And every one of you fastened on his weapons of war  
and thought it easy to go up into the hill country.

And the LORD said to me, “Say to them, Do not go up or fight, for I  
am not in your midst, lest you be defeated before your enemies.’

So I spoke to you, and you would not listen;  
but you rebelled against the command of the LORD  
and presumptuously went up into the hill country.

# Deuteronomy 1:44-46

Then the Amorites who lived in that hill country came out against you and chased you as bees do and beat you down in Seir as far as Hormah.

And you returned and wept before the LORD, but the LORD did not listen to your voice or give ear to you.

So you remained at Kadesh many days, the days that you remained there.

# Their Self-Reliant Folly

Verse 30

The LORD your God will  
**HIMSELF** fight for you.

Verse 21

Do not fear or be dismayed  
**God is with you.**

Verse 41

We **OURSELVES** will  
go up and fight.

Verse 41

**Everyone thought**  
**it easy** to go up.

# Two Examples of Our Self-Reliant Folly

Romans 8:13

If **by the Spirit** you are putting sin to death...

Galatians 3:1

Jesus **was crucified** for you...

Verse 41

We **OURSELVES** will go up and fight.

Verse 41

**Everyone thought it easy** to go up.

**FEAR**

**FOLLY**

**FAITH**

# **FAITH**

**Faith is the issue.**

**FAITH**



## **Deuteronomy 1:29-**

Then I said to you, “Do not be in dread or afraid of them. The LORD your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.” Yet in spite of this word you did not believe the LORD your God...

## **Deuteronomy 1:29-**

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The LORD your God who goes before you will himself fight for you,  
just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes,  
and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD  
your God carried you, as a man carries his son,  
all the way that you went until you came to this place.”

Yet in spite of this word **you did not believe the**  
**LORD your God...**

### **Deuteronomy 9:23**

And when the LORD sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, “Go up and take possession of the land that I have given you” then you rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God **and did not believe him** or obey his voice.

### **Jude 1:5**

Now I desire to remind you... that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those **who did not believe.**

# What was to be the ground of their faith?

## Deuteronomy 1:29-32

Then I said to you, “Do not be in dread or afraid of them.”

## Why?

The LORD your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.”

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# What was to be the ground of their faith?

**Deuteronomy 1:29-32**

Then I said to you, “Do not be in dread or afraid of them.”

**The LORD** your God who **goes before you** will himself fight  
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your God carried you, as a man carries his son,  
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# What was to be the ground of their faith?

**Deuteronomy 1:29-32**

Then I said to you, “Do not be in dread or afraid of them.”

**The LORD** your God who goes before you **will himself fight**  
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just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes,  
and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD  
your God carried you, as a man carries his son,  
all the way that you went until you came to this place.”

# Can you relate?

## Deuteronomy 1:29-32

Then I said to you, “Do not be in dread or afraid of them.”

The LORD your God who goes before you will himself fight for you,  
just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes,  
and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD  
your God carried you, as a man carries his son,  
all the way that you went until you came to this place.”

**Yet in spite of this word you did not  
believe the LORD your God...**

# FAITH

Faith is the issue.

**Faith is what will foil fear.**



**Faith foils Fear**

**The people are  
greater and taller**

# Faith foils Fear

**The LORD  
your God goes  
before you.**

The people are  
greater and taller

# Faith foils Fear

The cities are **great**  
and **fortified** to heaven

# Faith foils Fear

**The LORD Himself  
will fight for you**

The cities are great  
and fortified to heaven

**Faith foils Fear**

**The Anakim  
are there**

# Faith foils Fear

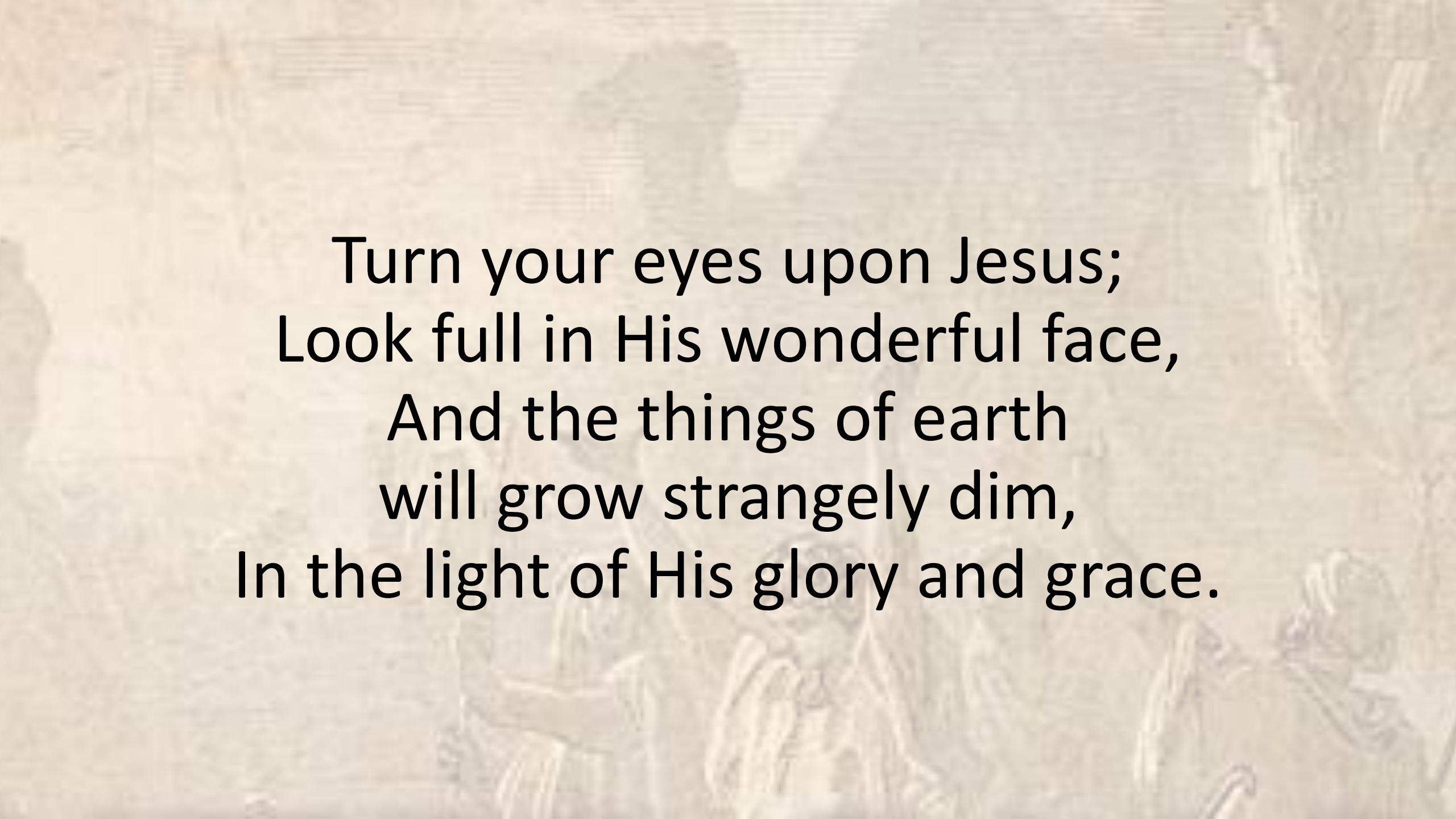
**The LORD will  
be with you**

The Anakim  
are there



Faith *itself* will not  
shrink your problems.

It is the **Person**, the object of  
your faith, who will foil your fear!



Turn your eyes upon Jesus;  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth  
will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.



What fears are you allowing  
to make a nest in your thoughts?

**What would change if you took  
your thoughts captive with the  
Person and work of your Savior?**