


A dramatic landscape featuring a large, dark, jagged mountain peak in the background. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, with a bright light source, possibly the sun, breaking through on the right side. In the foreground, a vast, flat plain is covered with a dense crowd of people and numerous small, dark tents, suggesting a large gathering or a camp. The overall scene is rendered in a cinematic, high-contrast style with a warm, golden-brown color palette.

# Deuteronomy

## A Call to Covenant Renewal



**Word #2**  
**No Images or Idols**

**Deuteronomy 5:8-10**

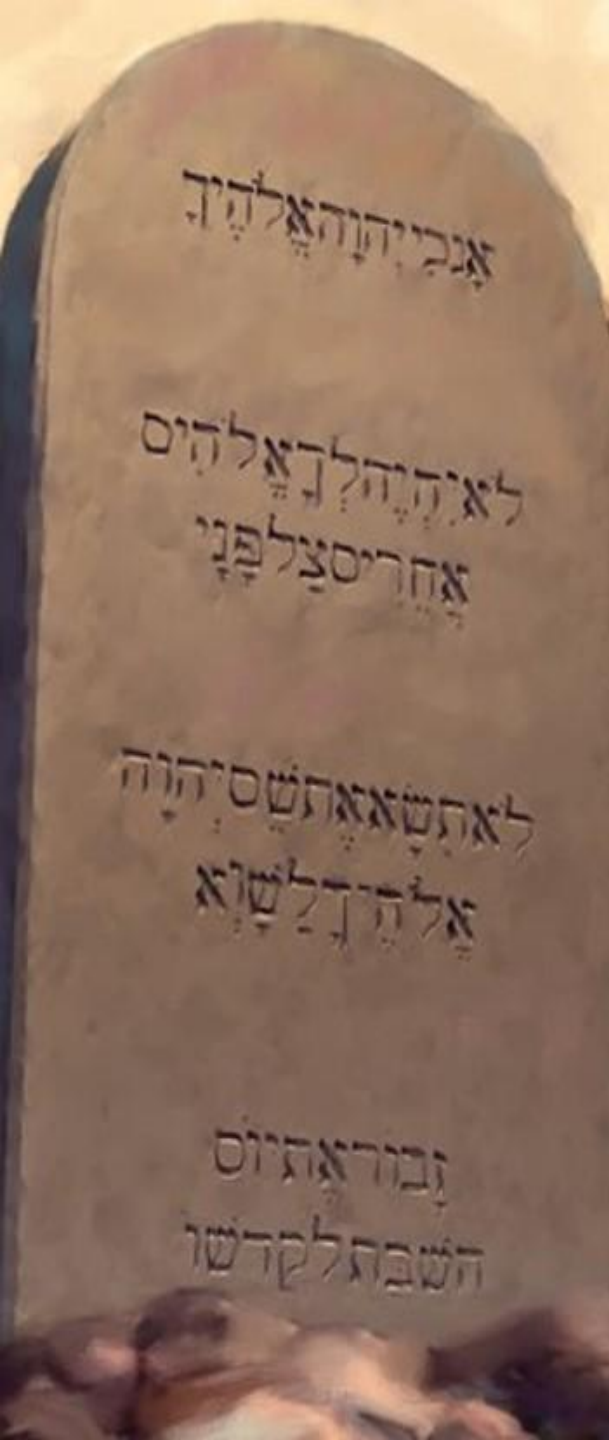
# Deuteronomy 5:8-10

You shall not make for yourself a carved image,  
or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above,  
or that is on the earth beneath,  
or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them or serve them;  
for I the LORD your God am a jealous God,  
visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the  
third and fourth generation of those who hate me,  
but showing steadfast love to thousands of those  
who love me and keep my commandments.

# Main Idea

The second Word reminds us of the pure and uncontainable nature of God and requires that we worship Him in spirit and in truth.



**No images or idols**

**What does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word teach about the LORD?**

**What does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word teach?**

**That God is immaterial**  
(He is spirit)

## **Deuteronomy 5:8**

You shall not make for yourself a carved image,  
or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above,  
or that is on the earth beneath,  
or that is in the water under the earth.

# **But why?**

# Why?

## Deuteronomy 4:12

Then the LORD spoke to you from the midst of the fire;  
you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form...

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# Why?

## Deuteronomy 4:12

Then the LORD spoke to you from the midst of the fire;

you heard the sound of words, but **you saw no form...**

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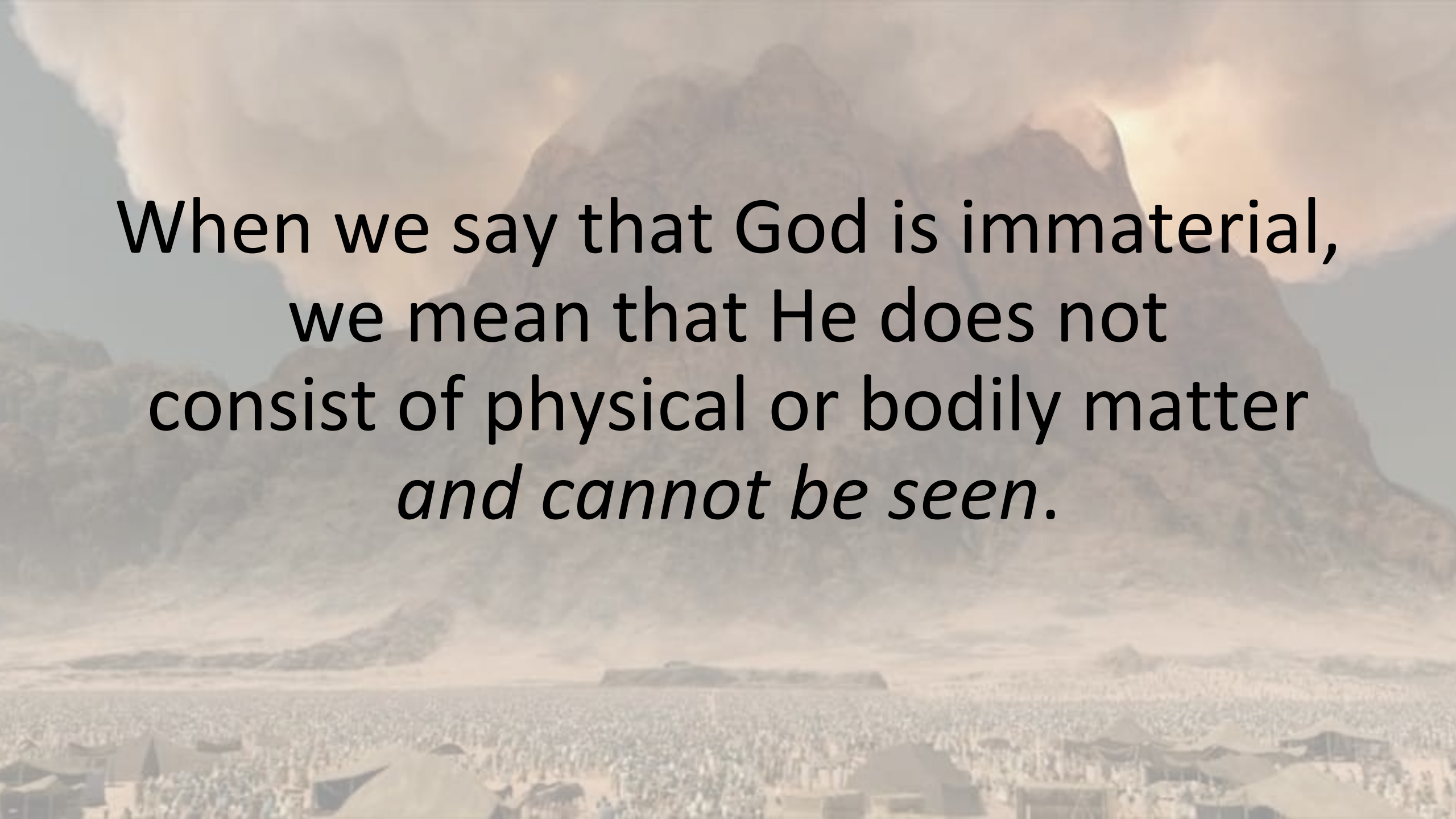
# Why?

## Deuteronomy 4:12

Then the LORD spoke to you from the midst of the fire;  
you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form...

## Deuteronomy 4:15-16

So watch yourselves carefully,  
**since you did not see any form** on the day the LORD  
spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire,  
lest you act corruptly and make a graven image  
for yourselves in the form of any figure...



When we say that God is immaterial,  
we mean that He does not  
consist of physical or bodily matter  
*and cannot be seen.*

### **1 Timothy 1:17**

Now to the King eternal, immortal, **invisible**, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

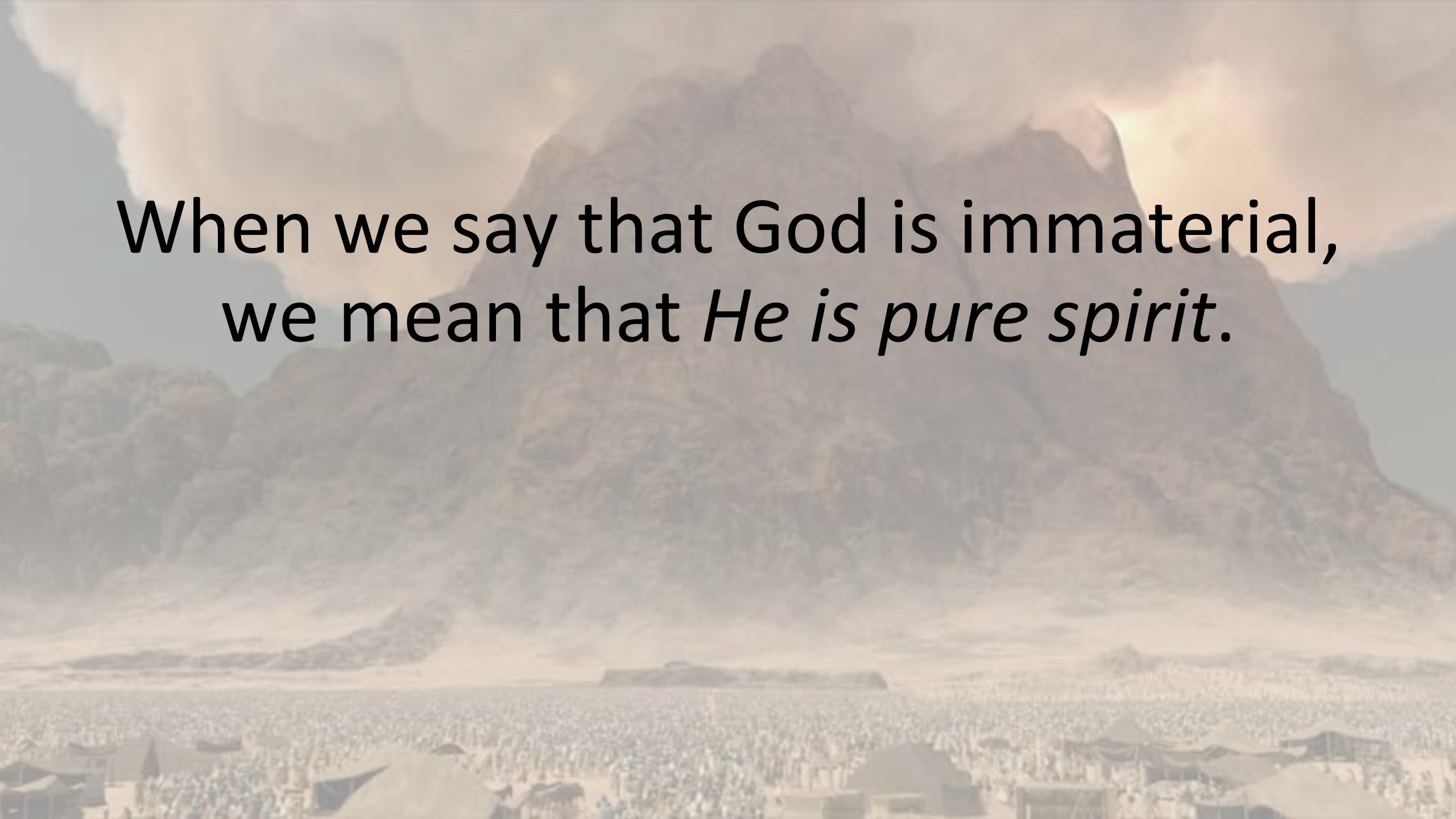
### **1 Timothy 6:15-16**

He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords; who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light;

**whom no man has seen or can see.**

To Him be honor and eternal dominion!

Amen.

A large crowd of people is gathered in a desert landscape, with a prominent mountain range in the background. The scene is hazy, suggesting a dusty or smoky atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

When we say that God is immaterial,  
we mean that *He is pure spirit.*

**John 4:24**

**“God is spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

This does not mean that God is less “real” in spite of what our materialistic world believes!

**What does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word teach?**

That God is immaterial (spirit)

**That God is indescribable**

## **Deuteronomy 5:8**

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or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above,  
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# **But why?**

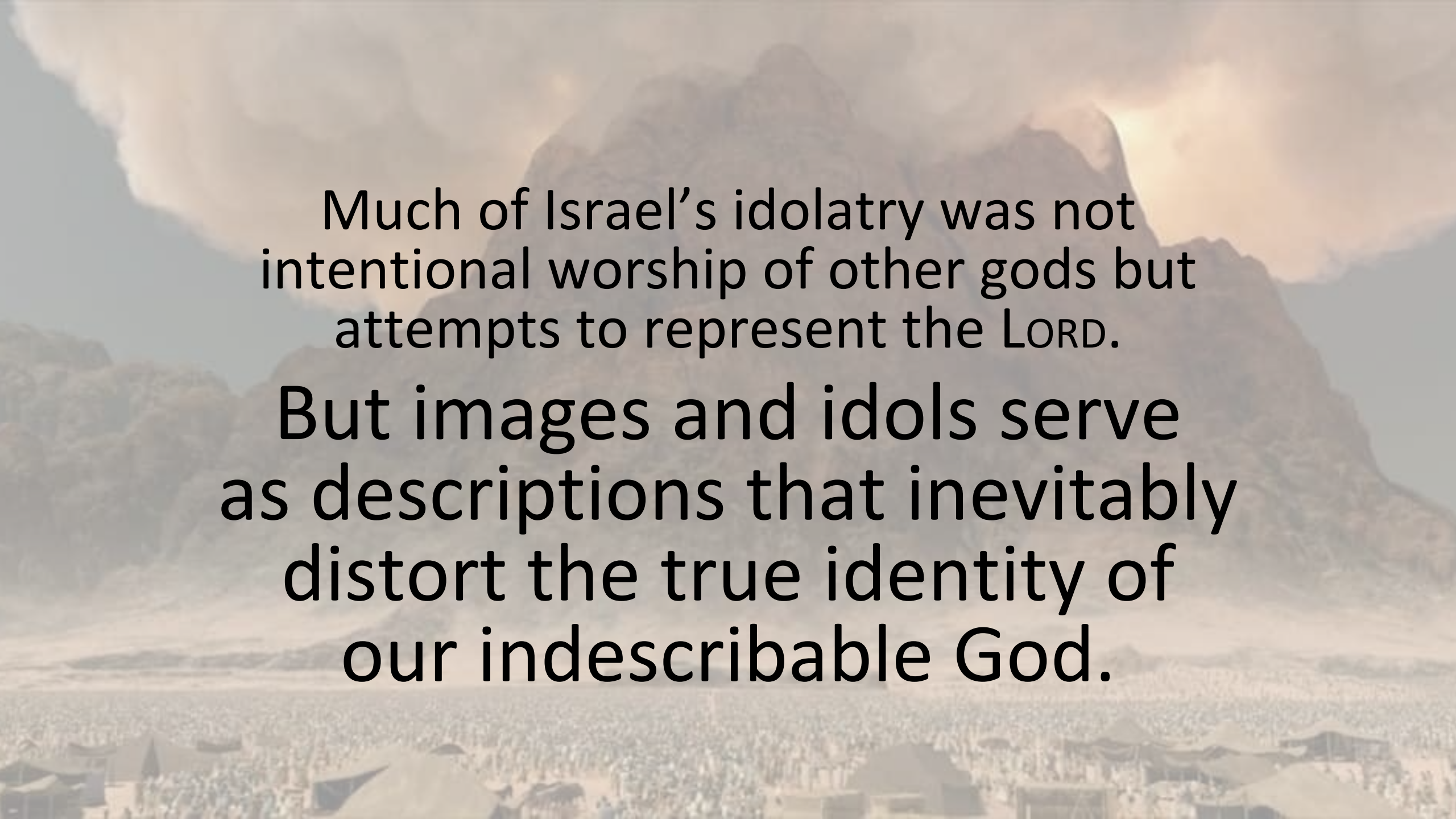


**Psalm 145:3**

Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised;  
And **His greatness is unsearchable.**

**Romans 11:33**

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and  
knowledge of God! **How unsearchable** are His  
judgments and **unfathomable** His ways!

The background image shows a vast, hazy landscape with mountains and a large crowd of people in the foreground. The scene is rendered in a desaturated, sepia-toned style, giving it a historical or biblical feel. The mountains are prominent in the mid-ground, and the crowd of people is visible in the lower portion of the frame, suggesting a large gathering or a significant event. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and scale.

Much of Israel's idolatry was not intentional worship of other gods but attempts to represent the LORD.

But images and idols serve as descriptions that inevitably distort the true identity of our indescribable God.

**Isaiah 40:25**

To whom then will you liken Me That I should  
be his equal?" says the Holy One.

# What does the 2nd Word teach?

That God is immaterial (spirit)

That God is indescribable

**That God is limitless**

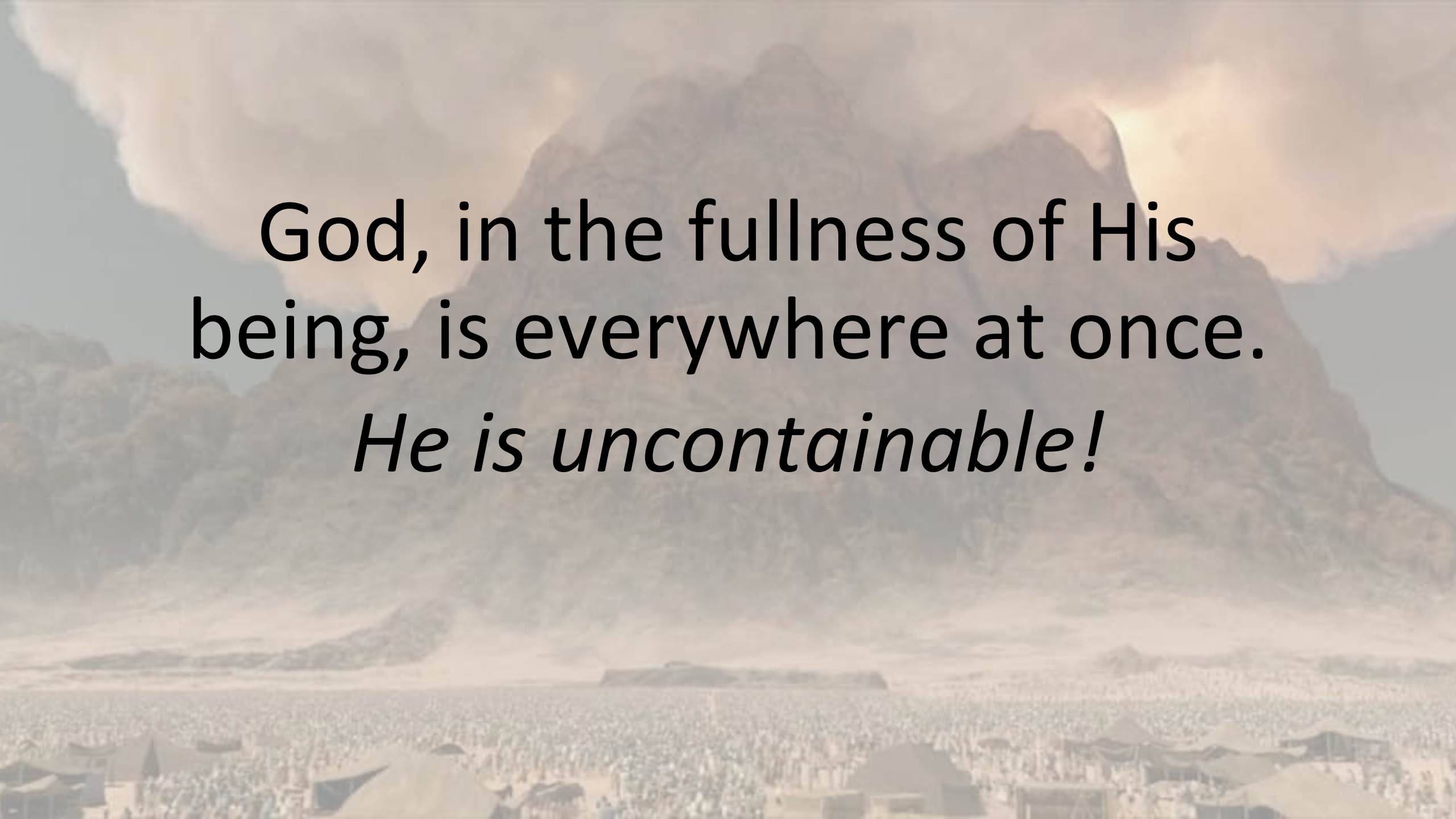
## **Deuteronomy 5:8**

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or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above,  
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or that is in the water under the earth.

# **But why?**

**1 Kings 8:27**

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth?  
Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain  
You, how much less this house which I have built!”

A vast landscape with a large crowd of people in the foreground and a massive mountain range in the background under a hazy sky. The scene is rendered in a desaturated, sepia-like color palette. The foreground shows a dense crowd of people, many with their backs to the camera, looking towards the mountains. The middle ground is a wide, flat plain. The background is dominated by a range of jagged, rocky mountains. The sky is filled with soft, diffused light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of awe and grandeur.

God, in the fullness of His  
being, is everywhere at once.

*He is uncontainable!*

### **Jeremiah 23:24**

Can a man hide himself in hiding places,  
so I do not see him?" declares the LORD.

"Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?"  
declares the LORD.

**Images and idols serve to contain  
and limit God in some way!**



What about God's jealousy?

### **Deuteronomy 5:9-10**

You shall not bow down to them or serve them;  
for I the LORD your God am a jealous God,  
visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the  
third and fourth generation of those who hate me,  
but showing steadfast love to thousands of those  
who love me and keep my commandments.

## **Deuteronomy 5:9-10**

You shall not bow down to them or serve them;

for **I the LORD your God am a  
jealous God,**

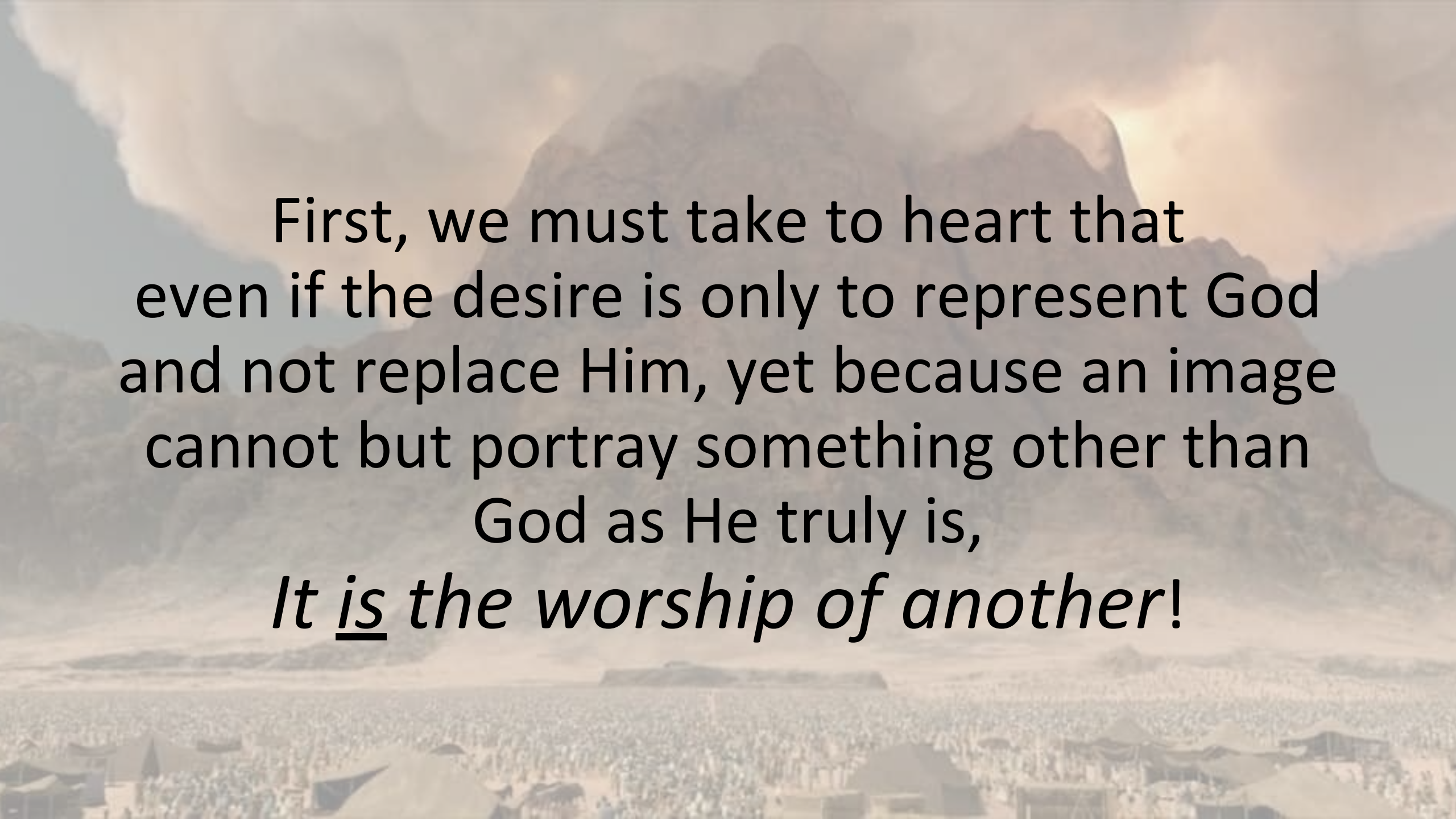
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**Deuteronomy 4:24**

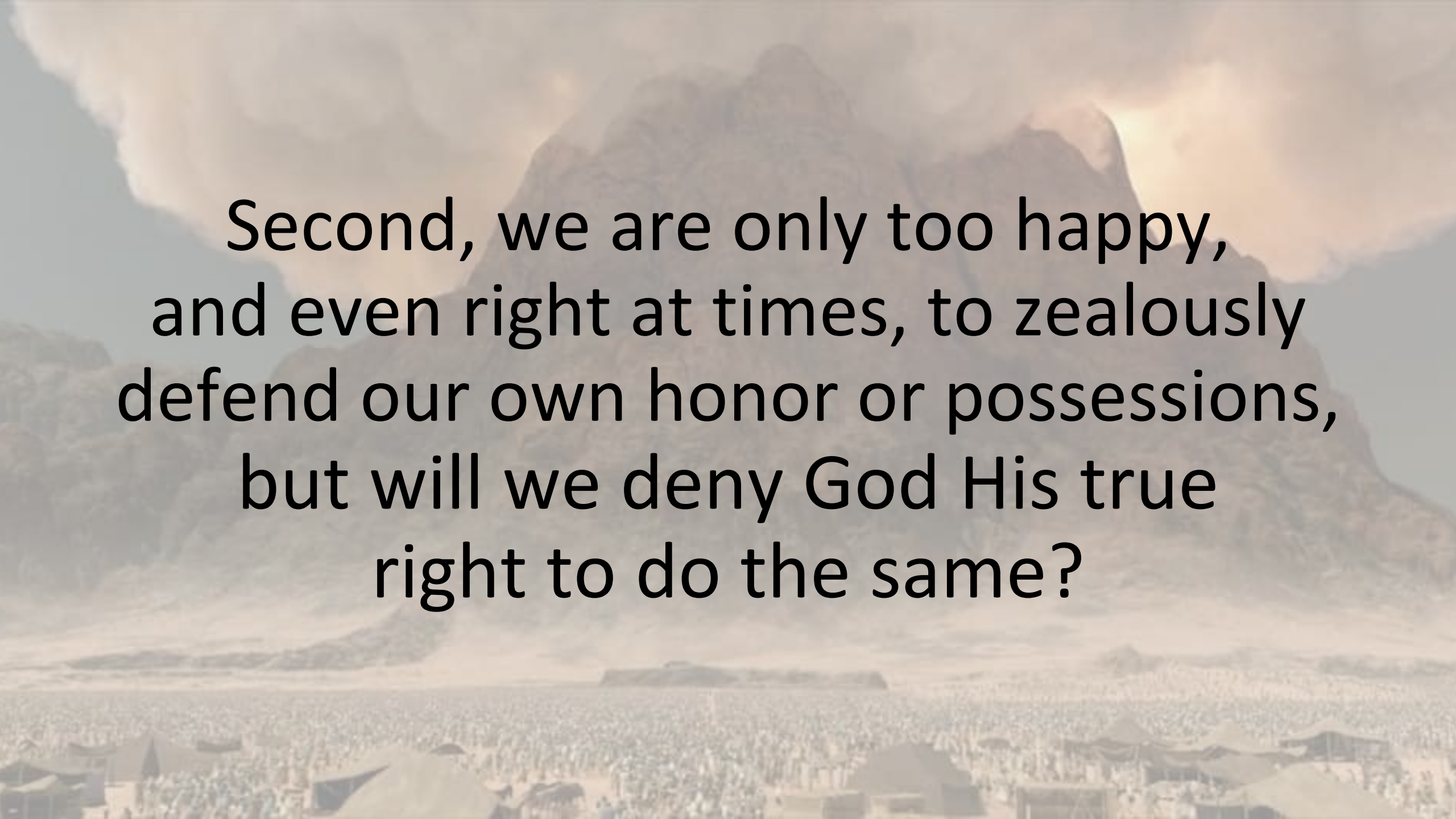
For the LORD your God is a consuming fire,  
**a jealous God.**

**Exodus 34:14**

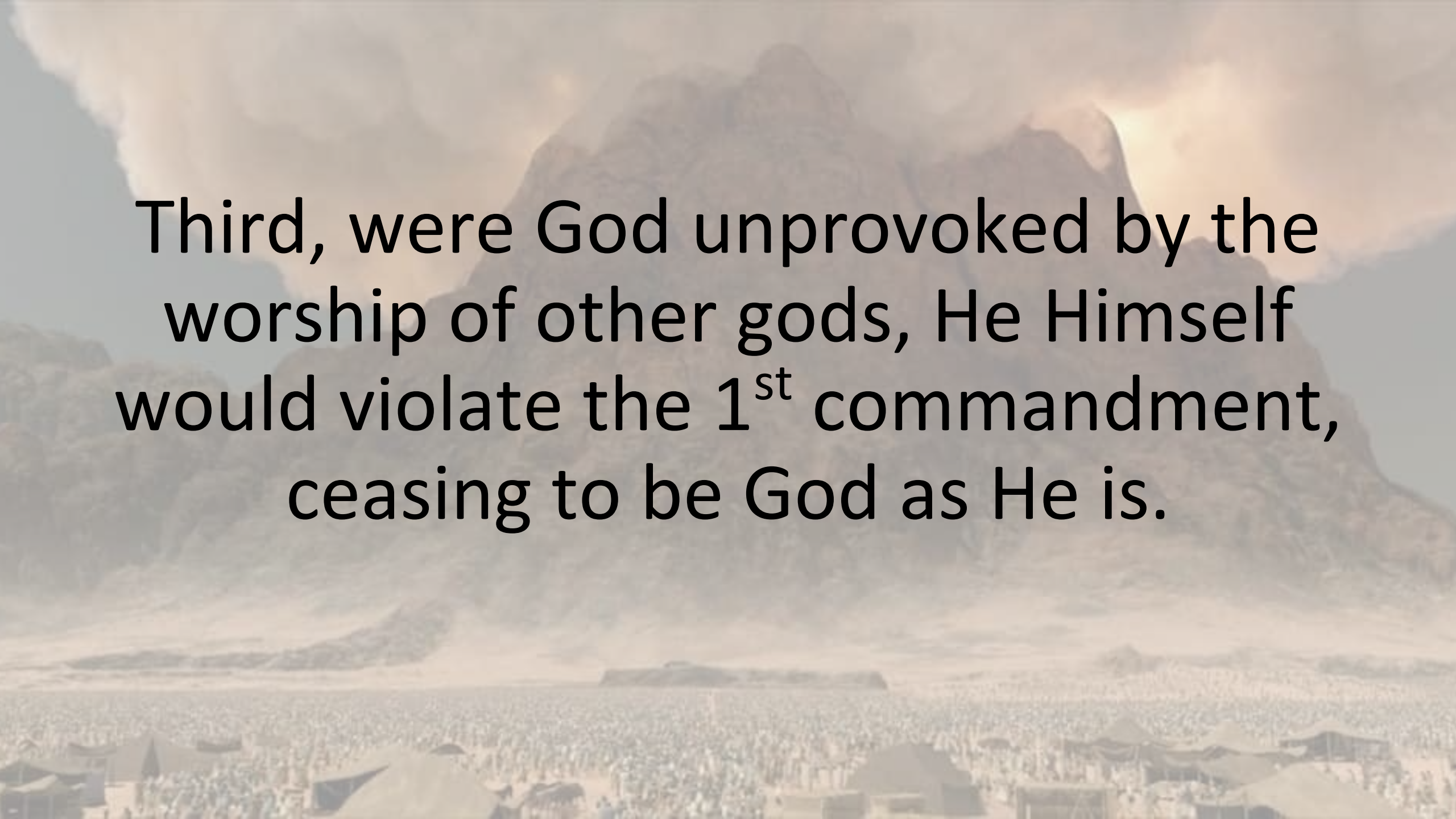
For you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD,  
**whose name is Jealous,** is a jealous God.

The background of the image is a hazy, sepia-toned landscape. In the foreground, there is a dense crowd of people, many of whom appear to be wearing tents or simple dwellings, suggesting a large gathering or a settlement in a desert or mountainous region. The middle ground shows rolling hills and valleys, while the background is dominated by large, jagged mountain peaks under a cloudy sky. The overall atmosphere is one of a vast, ancient, and somewhat somber scene.

First, we must take to heart that  
even if the desire is only to represent God  
and not replace Him, yet because an image  
cannot but portray something other than  
God as He truly is,  
*It is the worship of another!*



Second, we are only too happy,  
and even right at times, to zealously  
defend our own honor or possessions,  
but will we deny God His true  
right to do the same?

A large crowd of people is gathered in a desert landscape, with mountains in the background. The scene is hazy, suggesting a hot or dusty environment. The text is overlaid on the image.

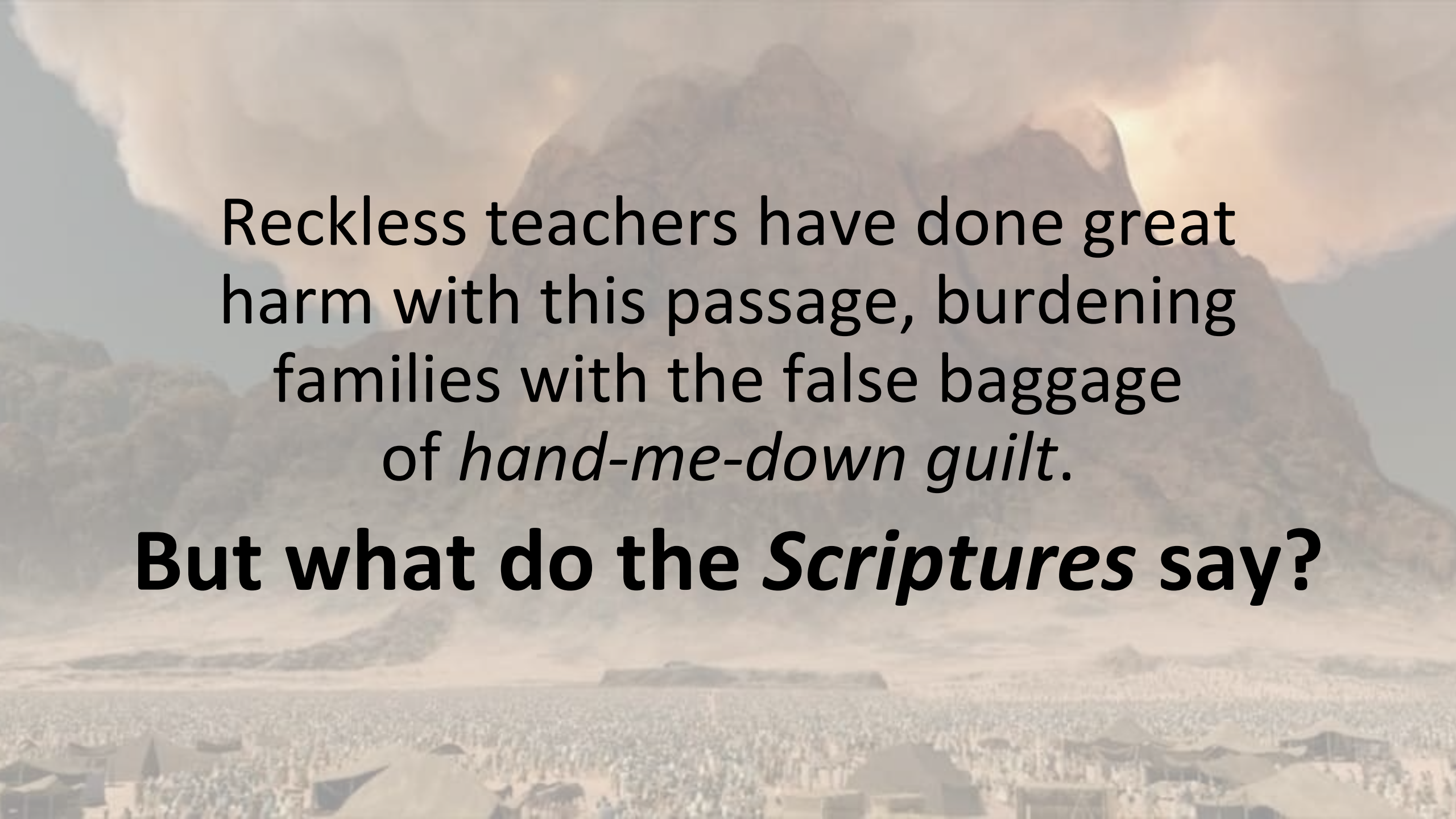
Third, were God unprovoked by the worship of other gods, He Himself would violate the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment, ceasing to be God as He is.

What about the  
“generational curse”?



## Deuteronomy 5:9-10

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**visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the  
third and fourth generation** of those who hate me,  
but showing steadfast love to thousands of those  
who love me and keep my commandments.



Reckless teachers have done great harm with this passage, burdening families with the false baggage of *hand-me-down guilt*.

**But what do the *Scriptures* say?**

# Listen to the LORD's rebuke:

**Ezekiel 18:1-4**

Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

“What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel saying,

*‘The fathers eat the sour grapes,*

*But the children's teeth are set on edge’?*

“As I live,” declares the Lord God, “you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore.

Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine.

**The soul who sins will die.”**

# And He goes on...

**Ezekiel 18:20**

The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

# But look again at our passage...

## Deuteronomy 5:9-10

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# What of these?

## Deuteronomy 5:9-10

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for I the LORD your God am a jealous God,  
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commandments.**

# And what about the cross?

## **Galatians 3:13**

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."



# And what about the cross?

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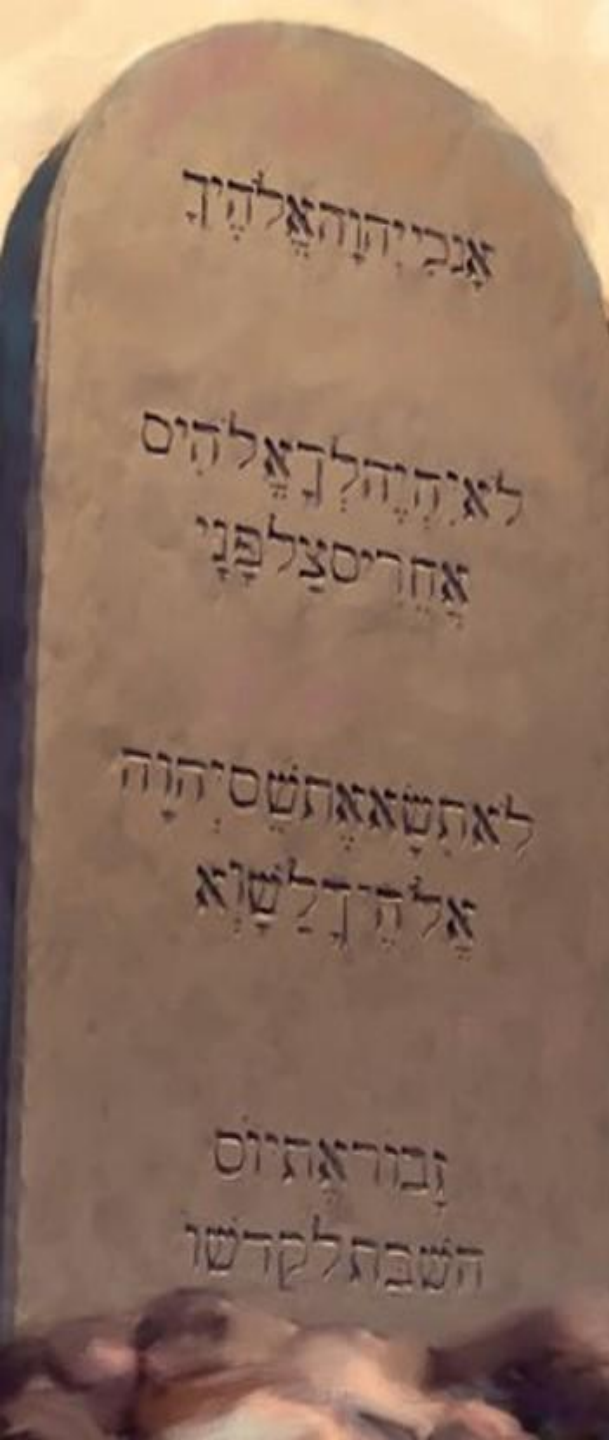
# And what about the cross?

**Galatians 3:13**

**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law,**

having become a curse for us-- for it is written,  
“Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”

**Surely, this would include any  
so-called “generational curse”!**



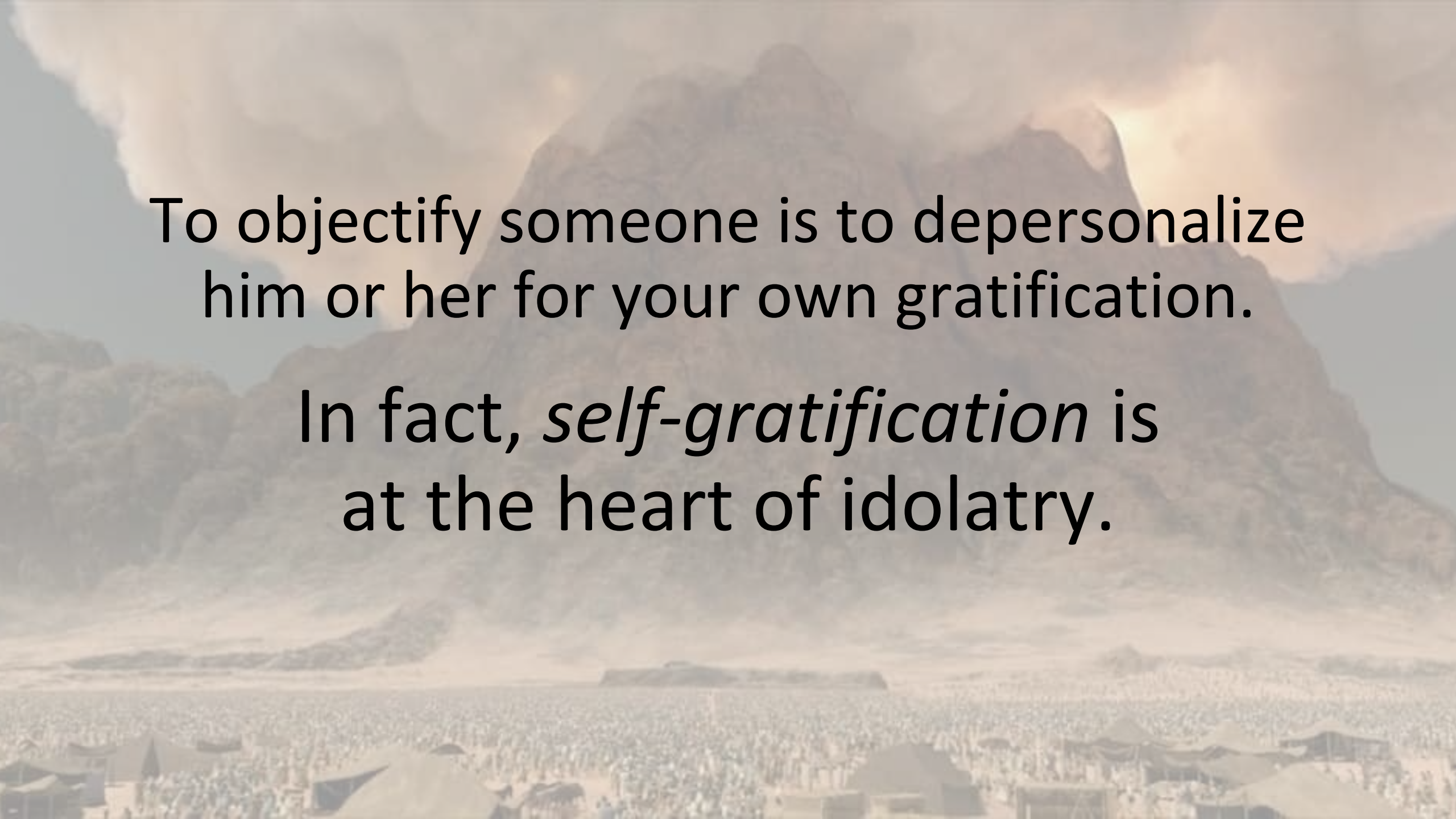
# No Images or Idols

What does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word teach about the LORD?

## How do you break the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word?

# **How do you break the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word?**

When you objectify God,  
you break this Word.

A large crowd of people is gathered in a desert landscape, with mountains in the background. The scene is hazy, suggesting a hot or dusty environment. The people are densely packed, and the overall atmosphere is one of a significant event or gathering.

To objectify someone is to depersonalize  
him or her for your own gratification.

In fact, *self-gratification* is  
at the heart of idolatry.

# Jeremiah 44:15-16

Then all the men who were aware that their wives were burning sacrifices to other gods, along with all the women who were standing by, as a large assembly, including all the people who were living in Pathros in the land of Egypt, responded to Jeremiah, saying, “As for the message that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we are not going to listen to you!”

# Jeremiah 44:17

“But rather we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths, by burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out libations to her, just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings and our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then we had plenty of food, and were well off, and saw no misfortune.”

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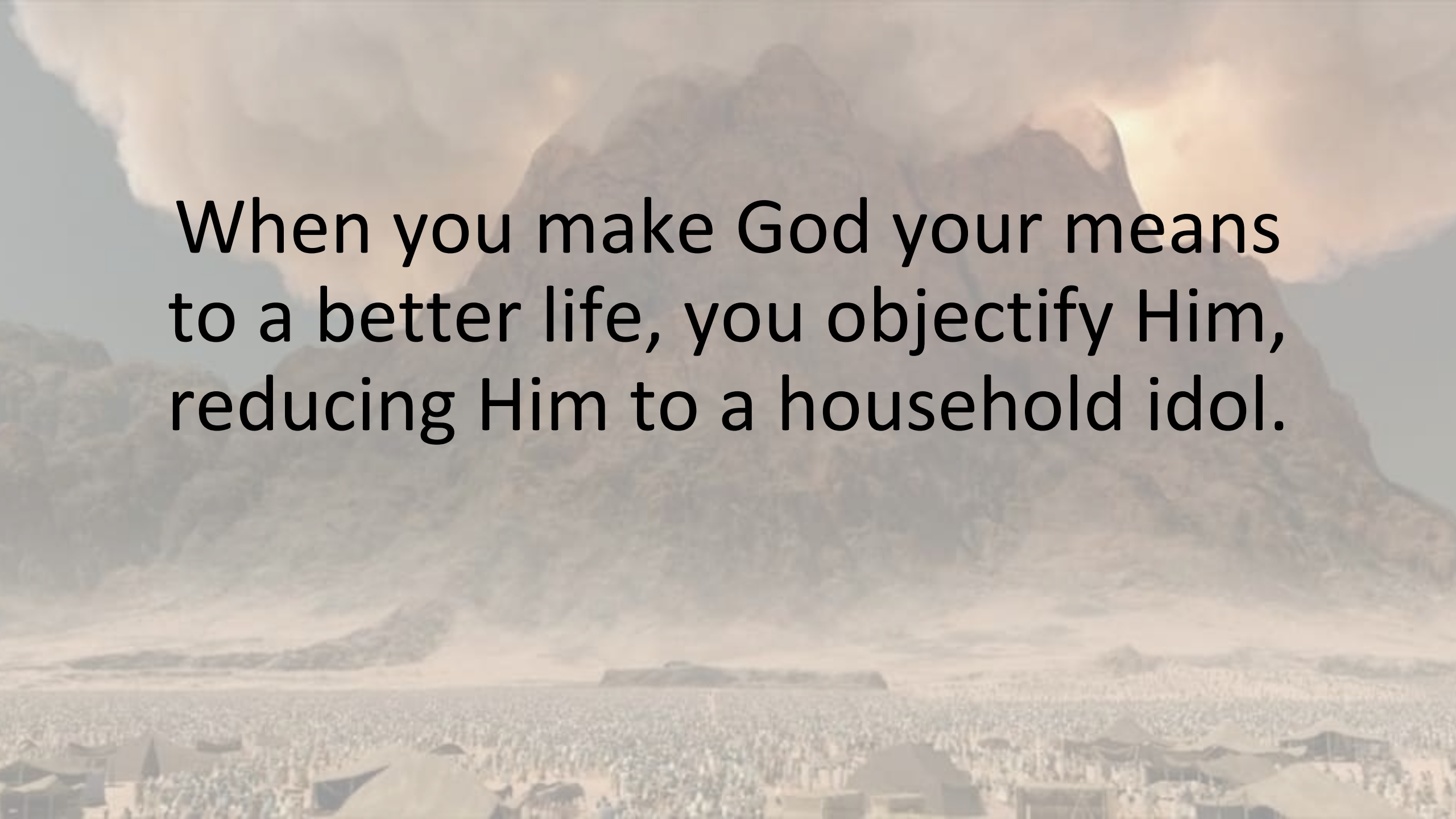
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and were well off, and **saw no misfortune.**”

A large crowd of people is gathered in a desert landscape, with a prominent mountain range in the background. The scene is hazy, suggesting a hot or dusty environment. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

When you make God your means  
to a better life, you objectify Him,  
reducing Him to a household idol.

## **Deuteronomy 5:8**

You shall not make for yourself a carved image,  
or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above,  
or that is on the earth beneath,  
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## **Deuteronomy 5:8**

You shall not make for yourself a carved image,  
or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above,  
or that is on the earth beneath,  
or that is in the water under the earth.

**You shall not even make God Himself  
into an object for your personal use.**

# How do you break the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word?

When you objectify God, you break this Word.

When you form your conception of God to fit *your* thinking, purposes, or desires, you break this Word.

## **Deuteronomy 5:8**

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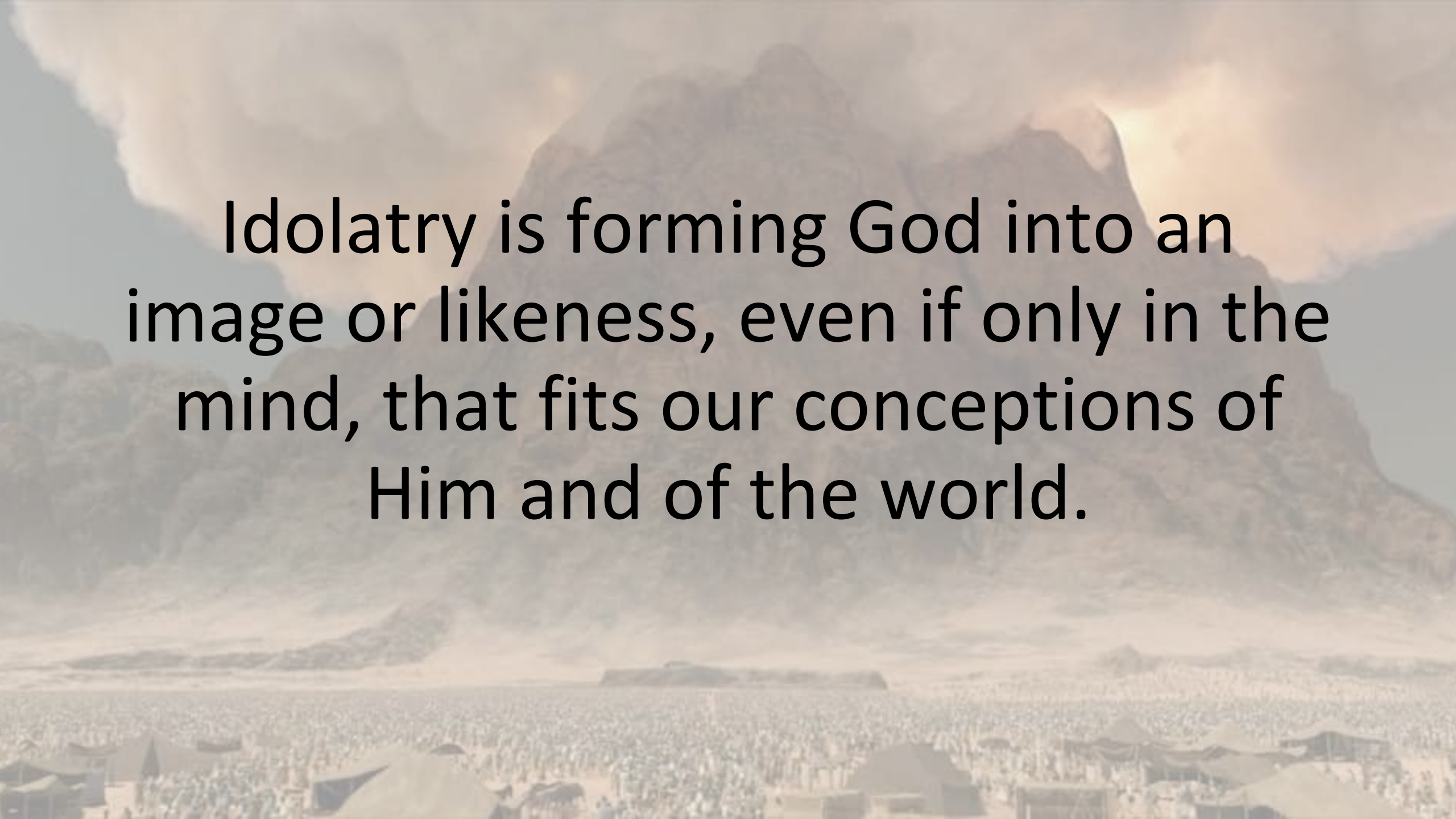
or that is in the water under the earth.

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You shall not make for yourself a carved image,

or **any likeness** of anything that is in heaven above,  
or that is on the earth beneath,

or **that is in the water under  
the earth.**

A large crowd of people is gathered in a desert landscape, with mountains in the background. The scene is hazy and has a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The text is overlaid on the image.

Idolatry is forming God into an image or likeness, even if only in the mind, that fits our conceptions of Him and of the world.

**Isaiah 40:18**

To whom then will you liken God?  
Or what likeness will you compare with Him?

Yet we will say, “I would never  
serve a god who...”

# How do you break the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word?

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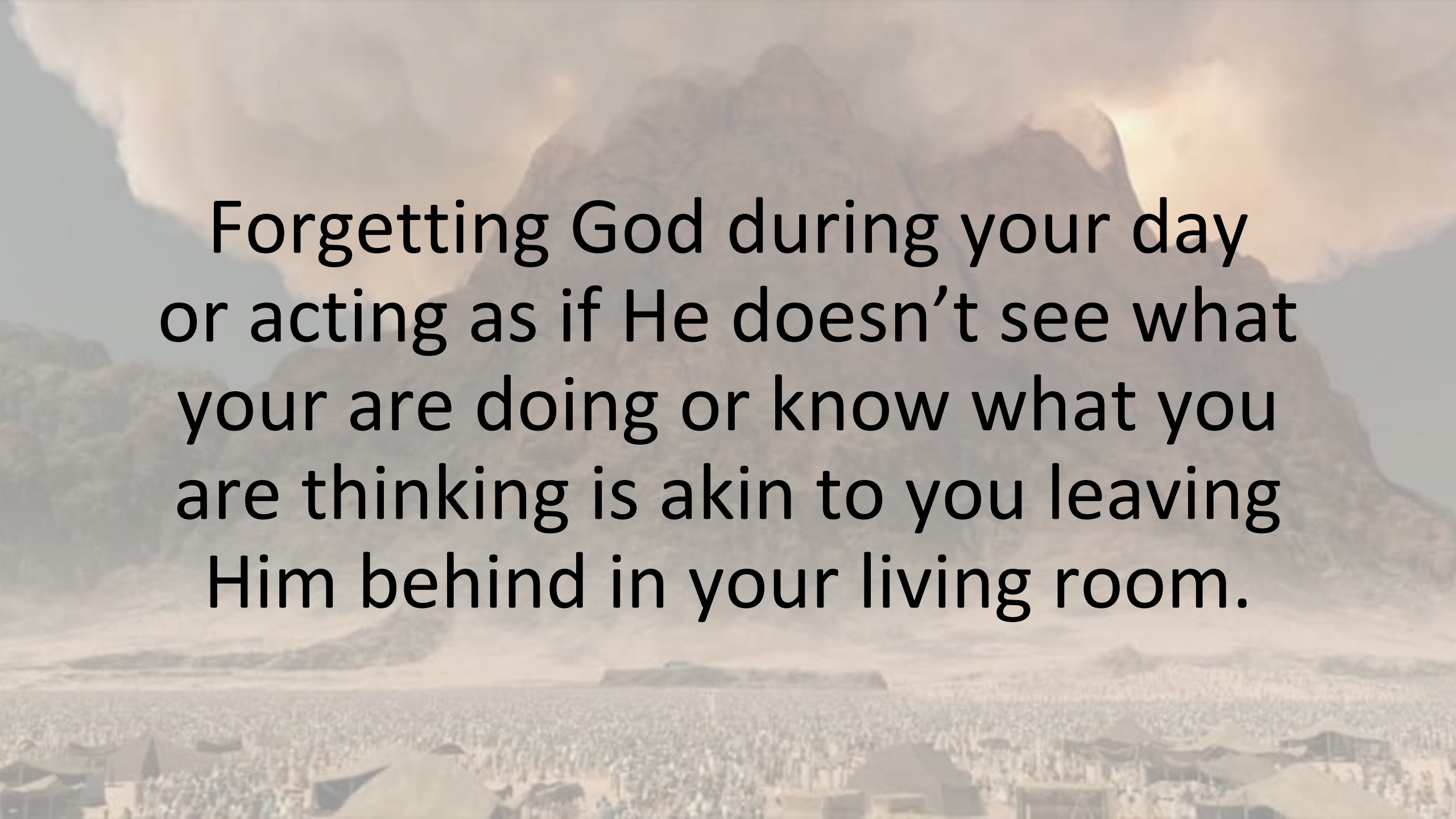
When you forget God or act  
as if He is not present with you,  
you break this Word.

**Psalm 139:7**

Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Yet idols are placed in a room  
and forgotten when left behind.



The background of the image is a hazy, sepia-toned landscape. In the foreground, there is a dense crowd of people, possibly a large gathering or a city. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills and a large, flat expanse that could be a plain or a field. In the background, there are several prominent, jagged mountain peaks. The sky is filled with soft, hazy clouds, and a bright light source, likely the sun, is visible on the right side, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall atmosphere is one of a vast, open, and somewhat desolate environment.

Forgetting God during your day  
or acting as if He doesn't see what  
you are doing or know what you  
are thinking is akin to you leaving  
Him behind in your living room.

# How do you break the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word?

When you objectify God, you break this Word.

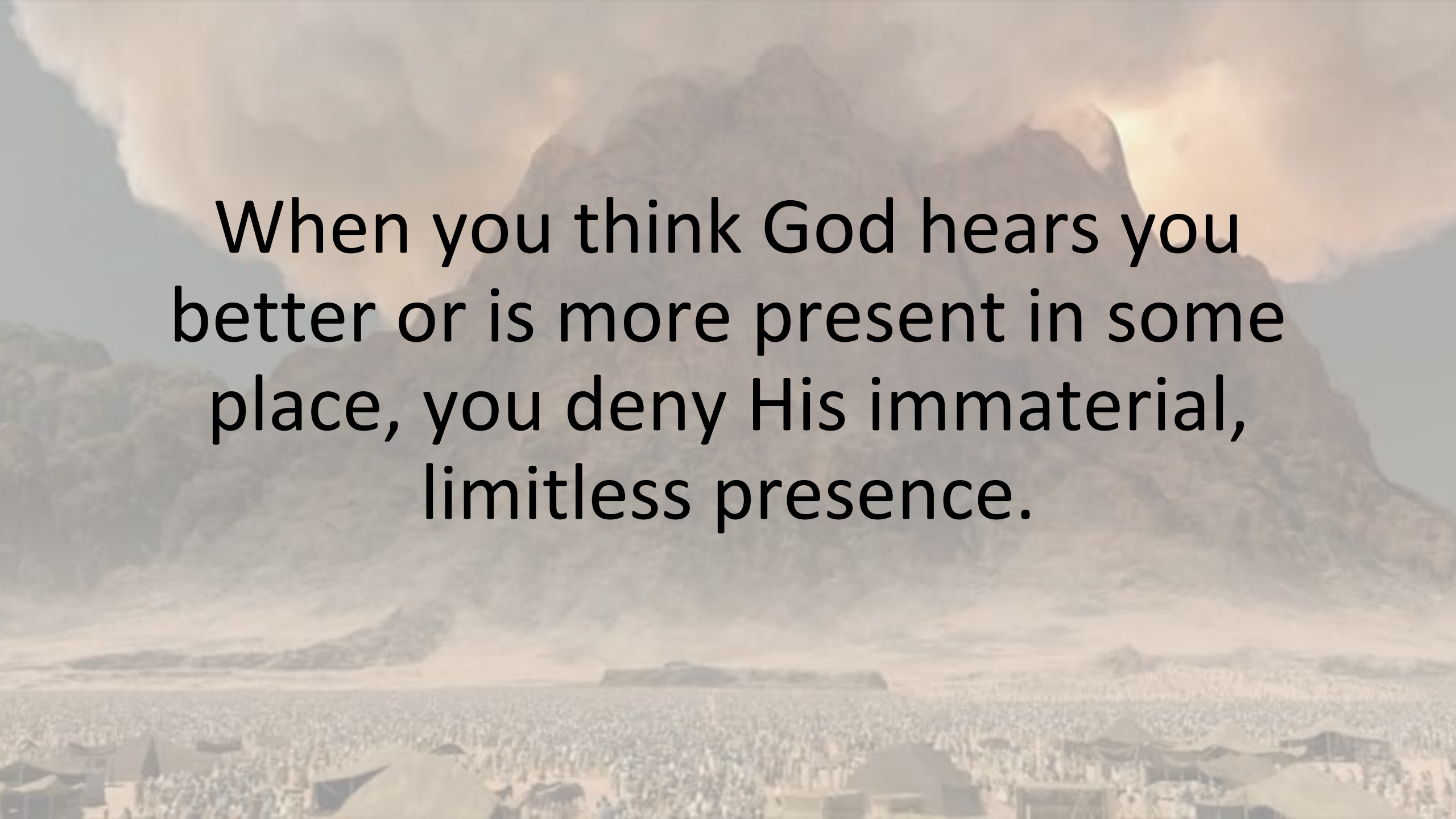
When you form your conception of God to fit *your* thinking, purposes, or desires, you break this Word.

When you forget God or act as if He is not present with you, you break this Word.

**When you think God is more present in one place than another, you break this Word.**

**1 Kings 8:27**

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth?  
Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain  
You, how much less this house which I have built!”

A large crowd of people is gathered in a desert landscape, with mountains in the background. The scene is hazy, suggesting a vast, open space. The text is overlaid on the image, centered and in a large, black, sans-serif font.

When you think God hears you better or is more present in some place, you deny His immaterial, limitless presence.

# How do you break the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word?

When you objectify God, you break this Word.

When you form your conception of God to fit *your* thinking, purposes, or desires, you break this Word.

When you forget God or act as if He is not present with you, you break this Word.

When you think God is more present in one place than another, you break this command.

**When you incorporate the practices  
or beliefs of other religions into your  
faith, you break this Word.**

### **Exodus 32:3-4**

Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it into a molten calf; and they said, “This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.”

## **Exodus 32:3-4**

Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it into a molten calf; and they said,

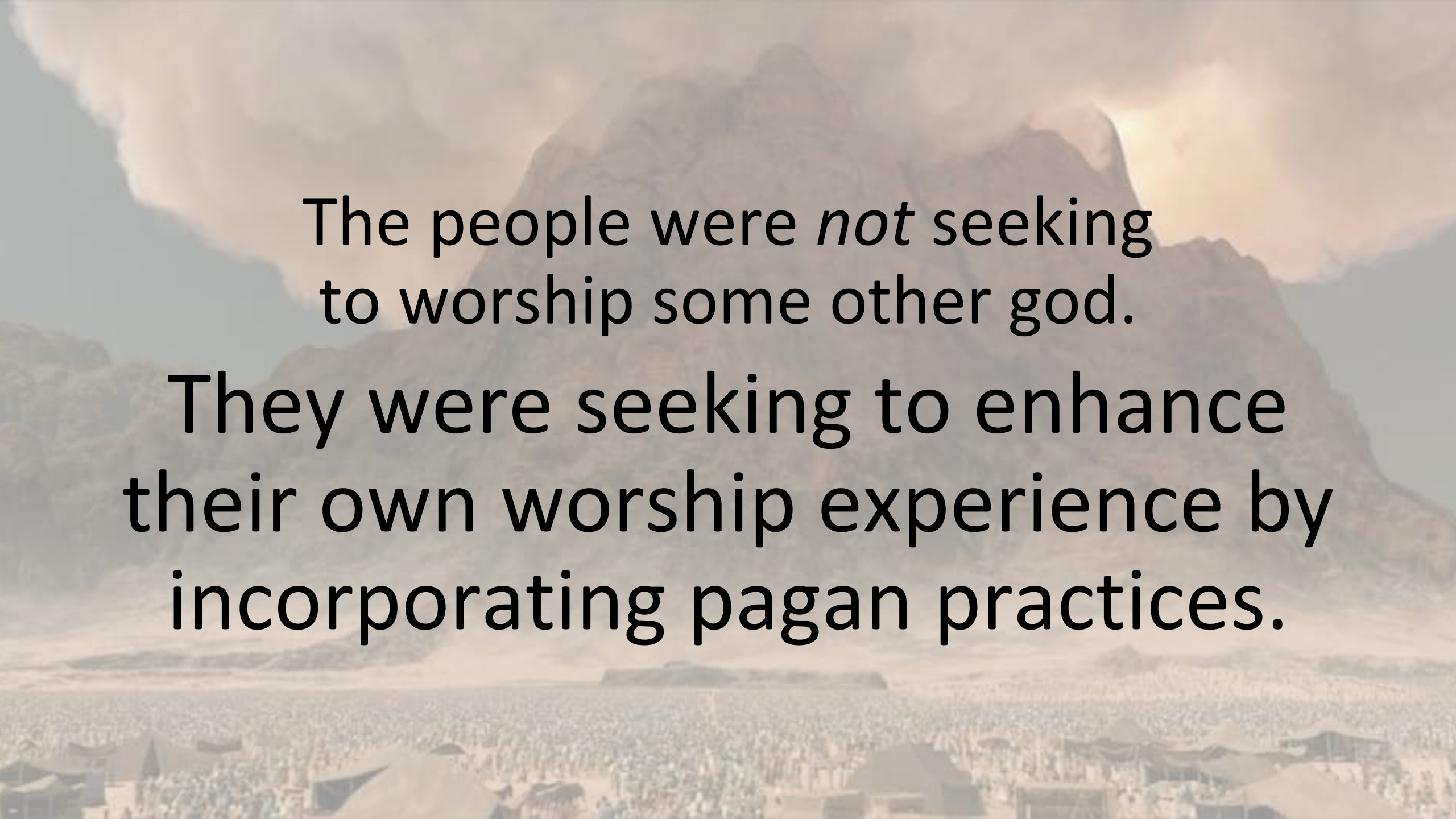
**“This is your god, O Israel,**  
who brought you up from the land of Egypt.”

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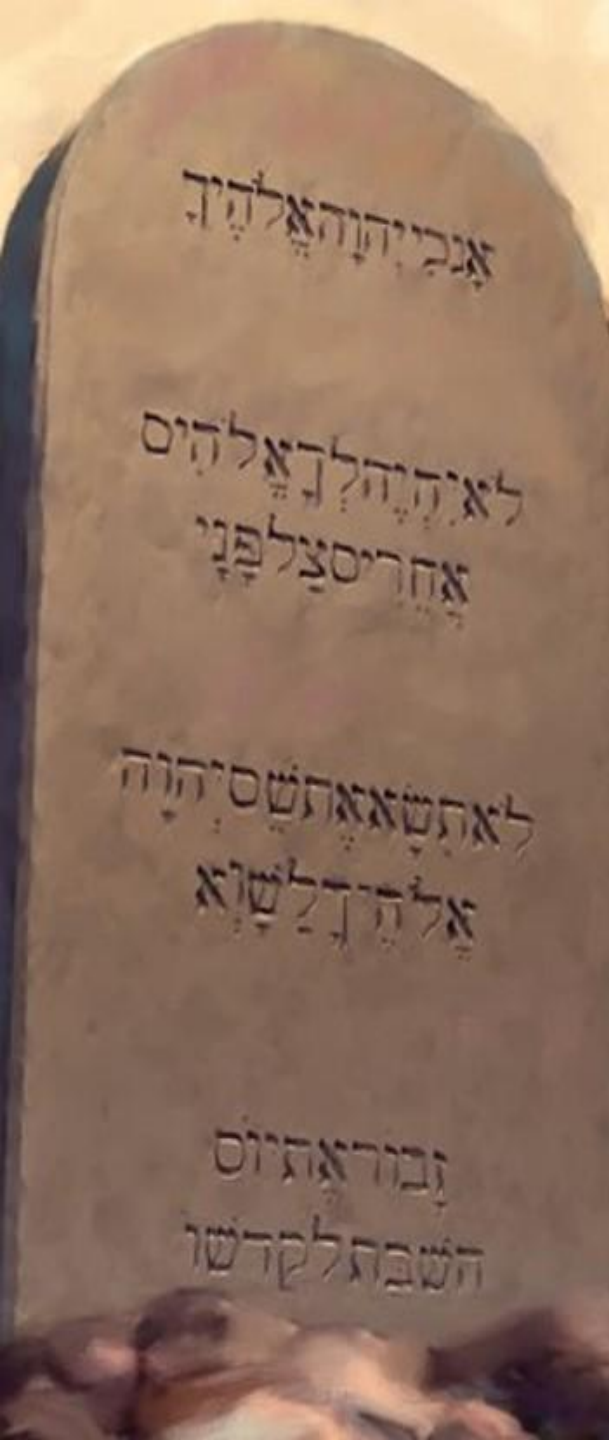
**who brought you up from the  
land of Egypt.”**





The people were *not* seeking  
to worship some other god.

They were seeking to enhance  
their own worship experience by  
incorporating pagan practices.



# No Images or Idols

What does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word teach about the LORD?

What does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word require of you?

**How does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word  
instruct *you* in worship?**

**How the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word instruct you?**

It instructs you to worship in spirit.

**Psalm 25:1**

To You, O LORD, **I lift up my soul.**

**Psalm 103:1**

Bless the LORD, **O my soul;**  
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

# Jesus' Instruction

**John 4:23-24**

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

# Jesus' Instruction

**John 4:23-24**

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

God is spirit, and **those who worship Him**  
**must worship in spirit** and truth.

A large crowd of people is gathered in a desert landscape, with a prominent mountain range in the background. The scene is hazy, suggesting a vast, open environment. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

# What does it mean to worship in spirit?

It is worship made possible only by  
the enlivening *of the Holy Spirit.*

### Isaiah 29:13

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

### Philippians 3:3

"...for we are the true circumcision, **who worship in the Spirit of God** and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.



# **What does it mean to worship in spirit?**

It is worship made possible only by the enlivening of the Holy Spirit.

It is worship generated, governed and directed by your heart or inner person.

**Psalm 103:1**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;

And **all that is within me**, bless His holy name.

**Matthew 22:37**

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

# **What does it mean to worship in spirit?**

It is worship made possible by the enlivening of the Holy Spirit.

It is worship generated, governed and directed by your heart or inner person.

It is the happy response of your soul to God Himself.

## **Psalm 95:1-2**

O Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;  
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

# How the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word instruct you?

It instructs you to worship in spirit.

It instructs you to worship in truth.

## John 4:23-24

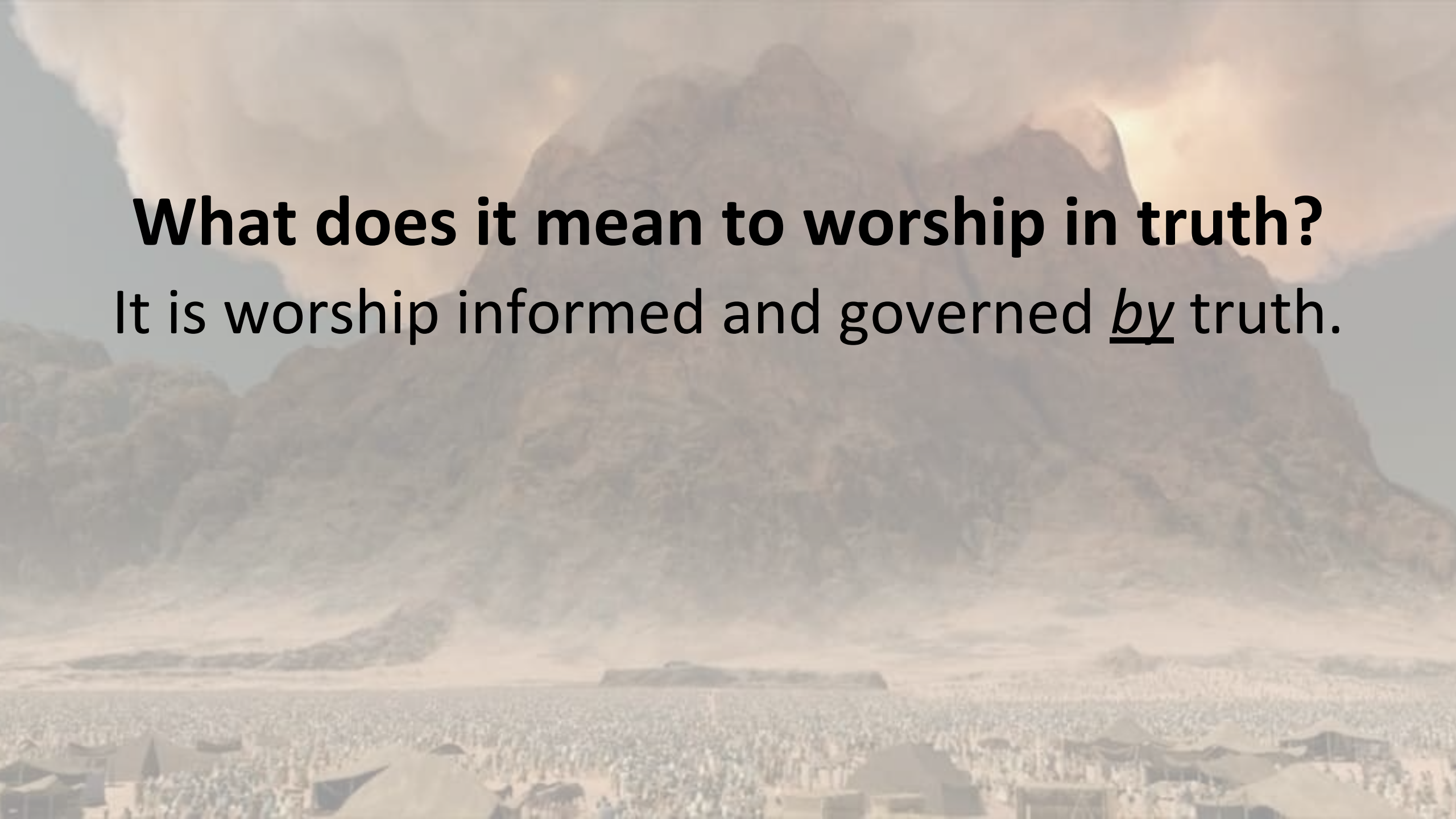
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God is spirit, and **those who worship Him**  
**must worship in** spirit and **truth.**

A large crowd of people is gathered in a desert valley, with a massive, rugged mountain in the background. The scene is set during a sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light illuminating the landscape. The crowd is dense and extends across the foreground, with many people wearing head coverings. The mountain in the background is a prominent feature, with a sharp peak and a textured surface. The overall atmosphere is one of a significant event or gathering in a vast, open landscape.

**What does it mean to worship in truth?**  
It is worship informed and governed by truth.



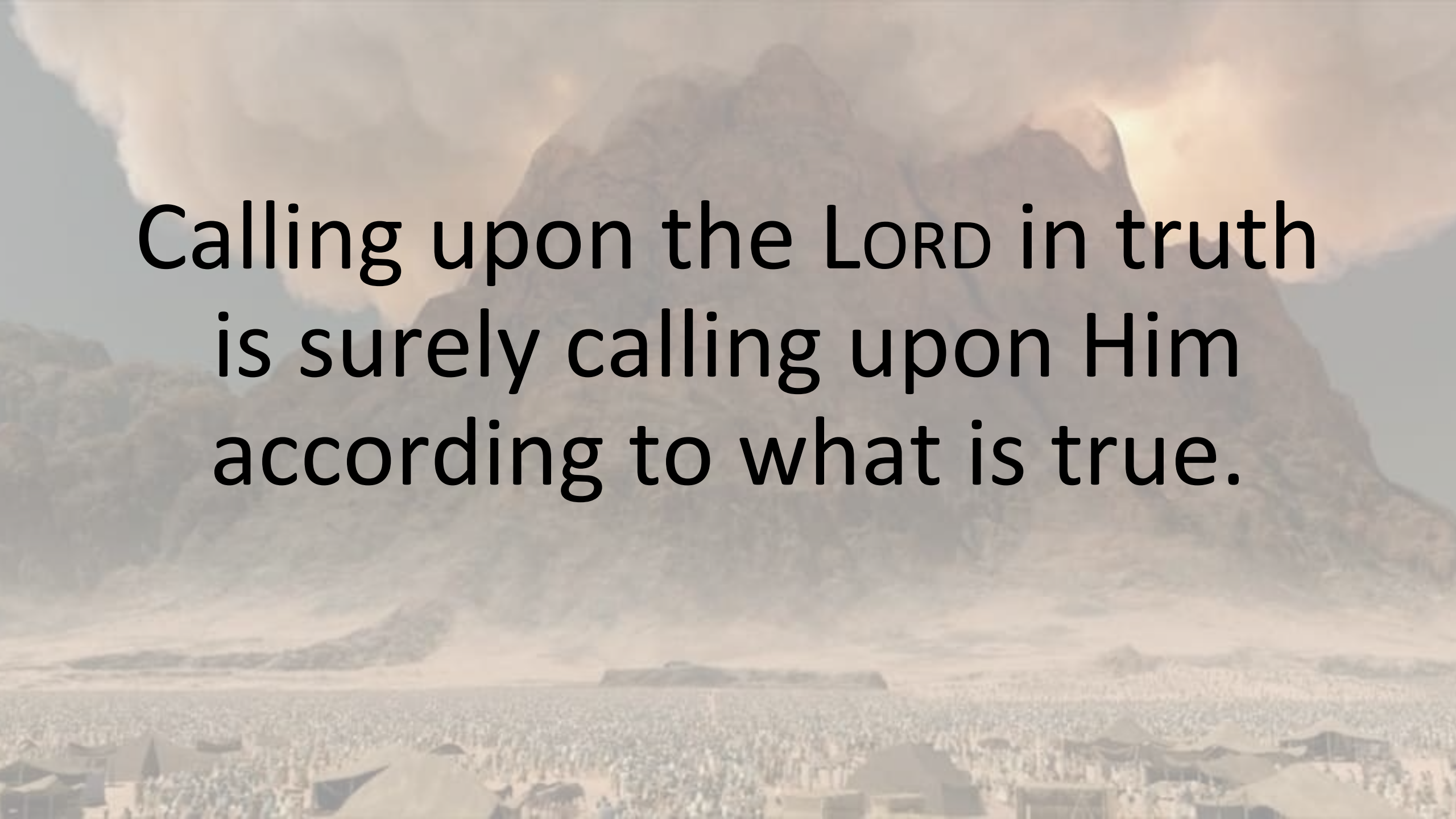
## John 4:23-24

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him

must **worship in** spirit and **truth**.

## Psalm 145:18

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,  
To all who call upon Him **in truth**.

A large crowd of people is gathered in a desert landscape, with mountains in the background. The scene is hazy, suggesting a hot or dusty environment. The text is overlaid on the image.

Calling upon the LORD in truth  
is surely calling upon Him  
according to what is true.

# What does it mean to worship in truth?

It is worship informed and governed by truth.

It is worship that flows out of  
what is *truly* in the heart.

**Mark 7:6-7**

And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.

Faith is not lived out by words  
or only in our head space;  
it is actually *lived out* in truth!

# Concluding Thoughts:

We must fight the temptation to form images or conceptions of God, even if only in our minds, in an effort to bring Him down to us.

We must labor to avoid intellectualism or emotionalism, keeping our worship tethered to truth while engaging our whole person.

We must remember that true worship is not manufactured; it is from and by the Spirit.