

An Incurable Condition

Jeremiah 17:9-10



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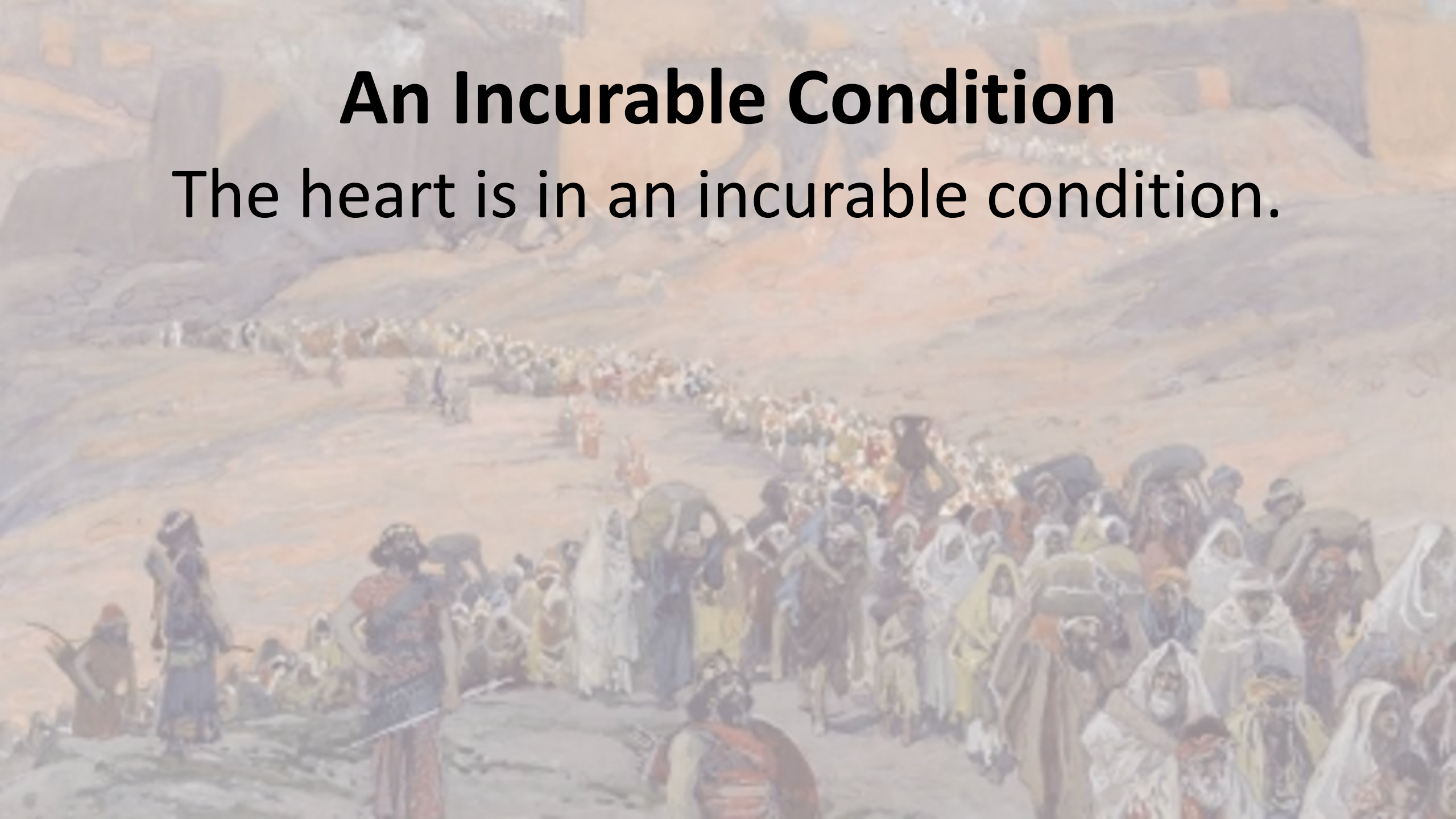
“The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick;
Who can understand it?
I, the LORD, search the heart,
I test the mind,
Even to give to each man according to his ways,
According to the results of his deeds.”

Main Point

Apart from grace, our hearts are in an incurable condition; and apart from Christ, we would face a terrifying conclusion.

An Incurable Condition

The heart is in an incurable condition.



Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else
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Who can understand it?”

The Heart's Incurable Condition.

It is more deceitful than all else.

Jeremiah 17:9

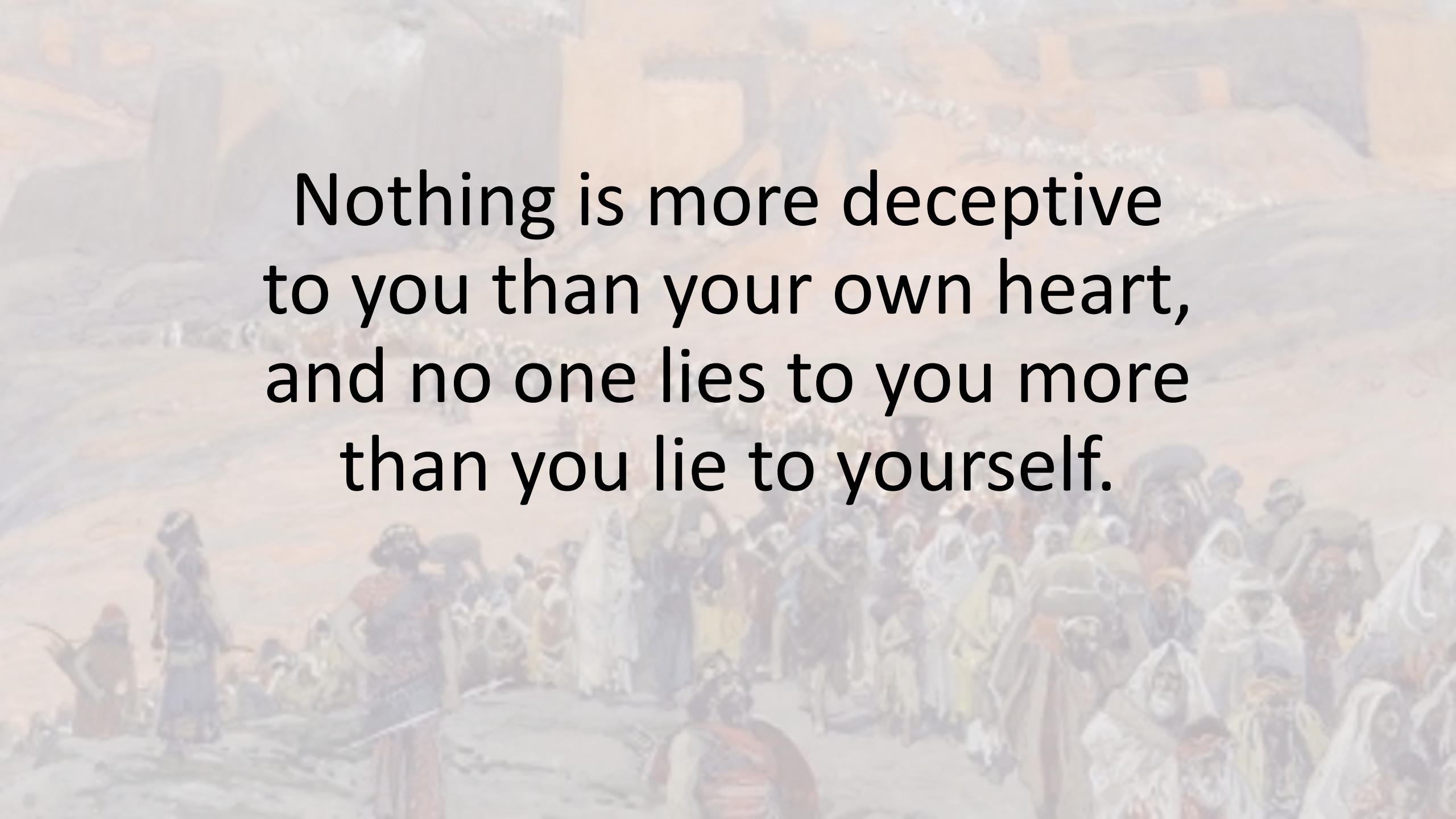
“The heart is more **deceitful** than all else.”

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more ***deceitful*** than all else.”

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is *more* deceitful **than all else.**”



Nothing is more deceptive
to you than your own heart,
and no one lies to you more
than you lie to yourself.

Ecclesiastes 9:3

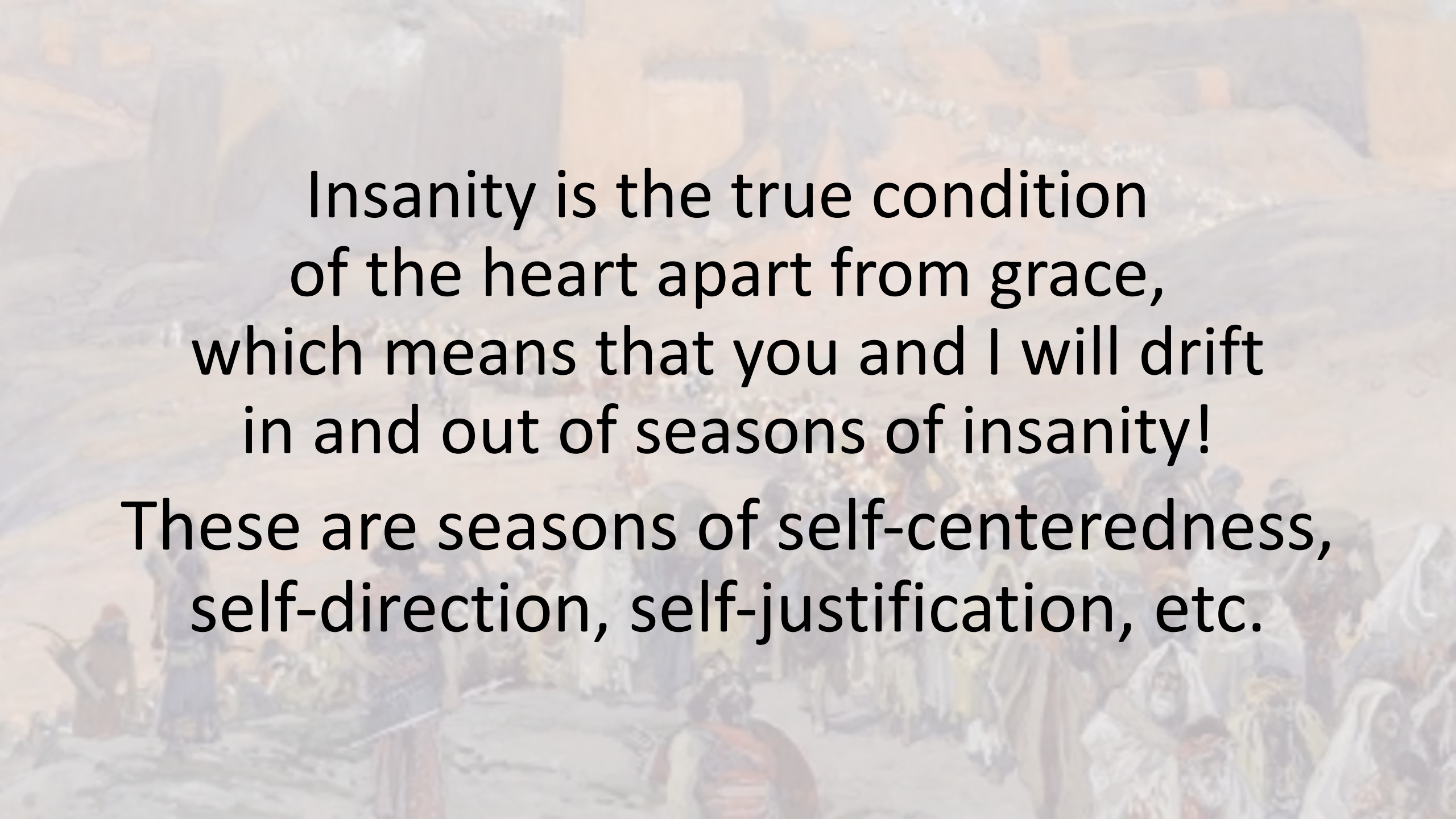
Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards they go to the dead.

Ecclesiastes 9:3

Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil

and **insanity is in their hearts** throughout their lives.

Afterwards they go to the dead.



Insanity is the true condition
of the heart apart from grace,
which means that you and I will drift
in and out of seasons of insanity!

These are seasons of self-centeredness,
self-direction, self-justification, etc.

Proverbs 21:2

“Every man’s way is right in his own eyes...
But the LORD weighs the hearts.”

The Heart's Incurable Condition.

It is more deceitful than all else.

It is desperately sick.

Jeremiah 17:9

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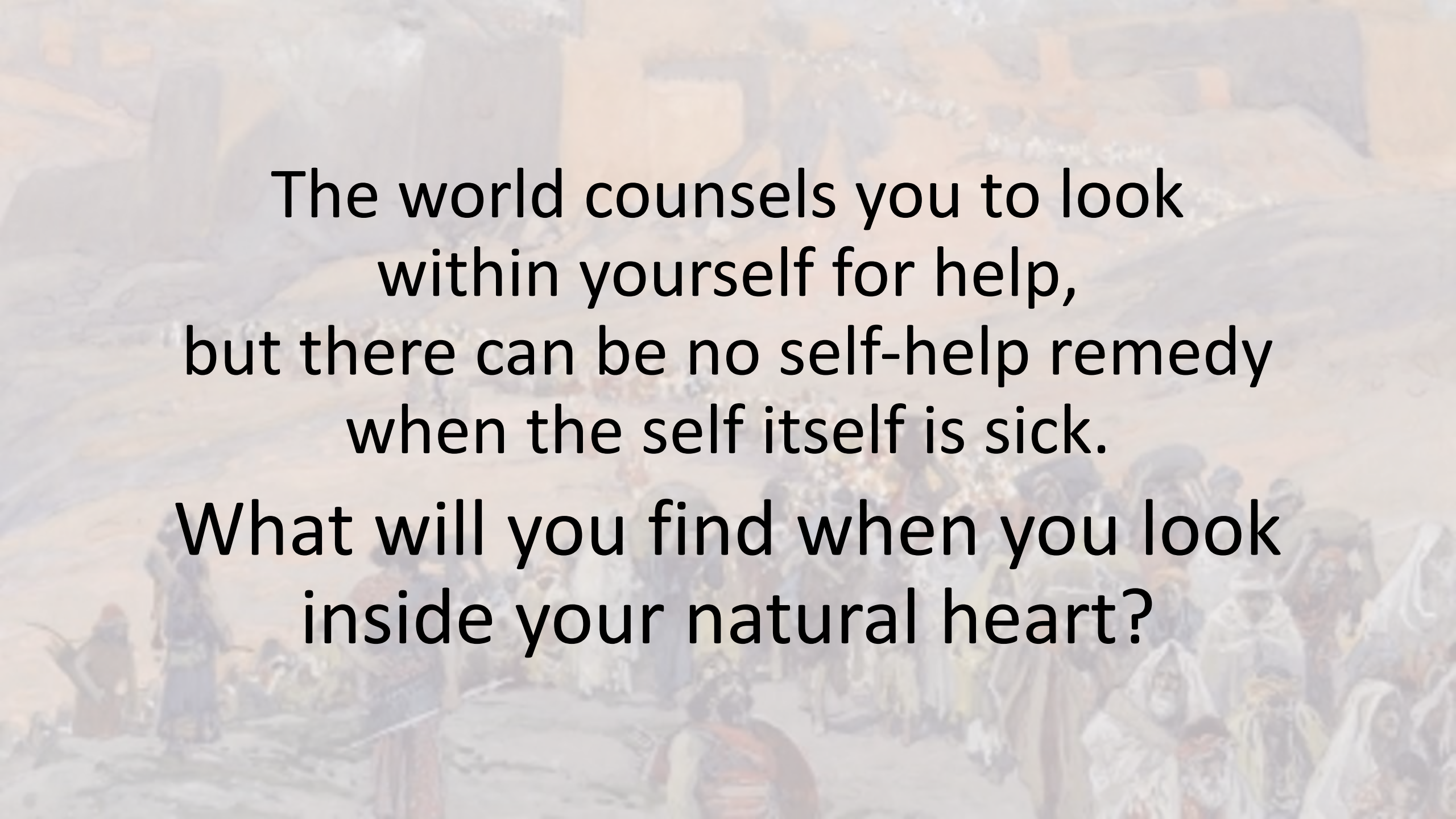
Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else
And **is desperately sick.”**

Jeremiah 17:9

“**The heart** is more deceitful than all else
And **is *incurable***.”

Apart from grace, there is no cure
for the corruption of your heart.



The world counsels you to look
within yourself for help,
but there can be no self-help remedy
when the self itself is sick.

What will you find when you look
inside your natural heart?

Mark 7:21-22

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.”

**A thorn bush has never yet
produced a fig!**

The Heart's Incurable Condition.

It is more deceitful than all else.

It is desperately sick.

It is ignorant and blind.

Jeremiah 17:9

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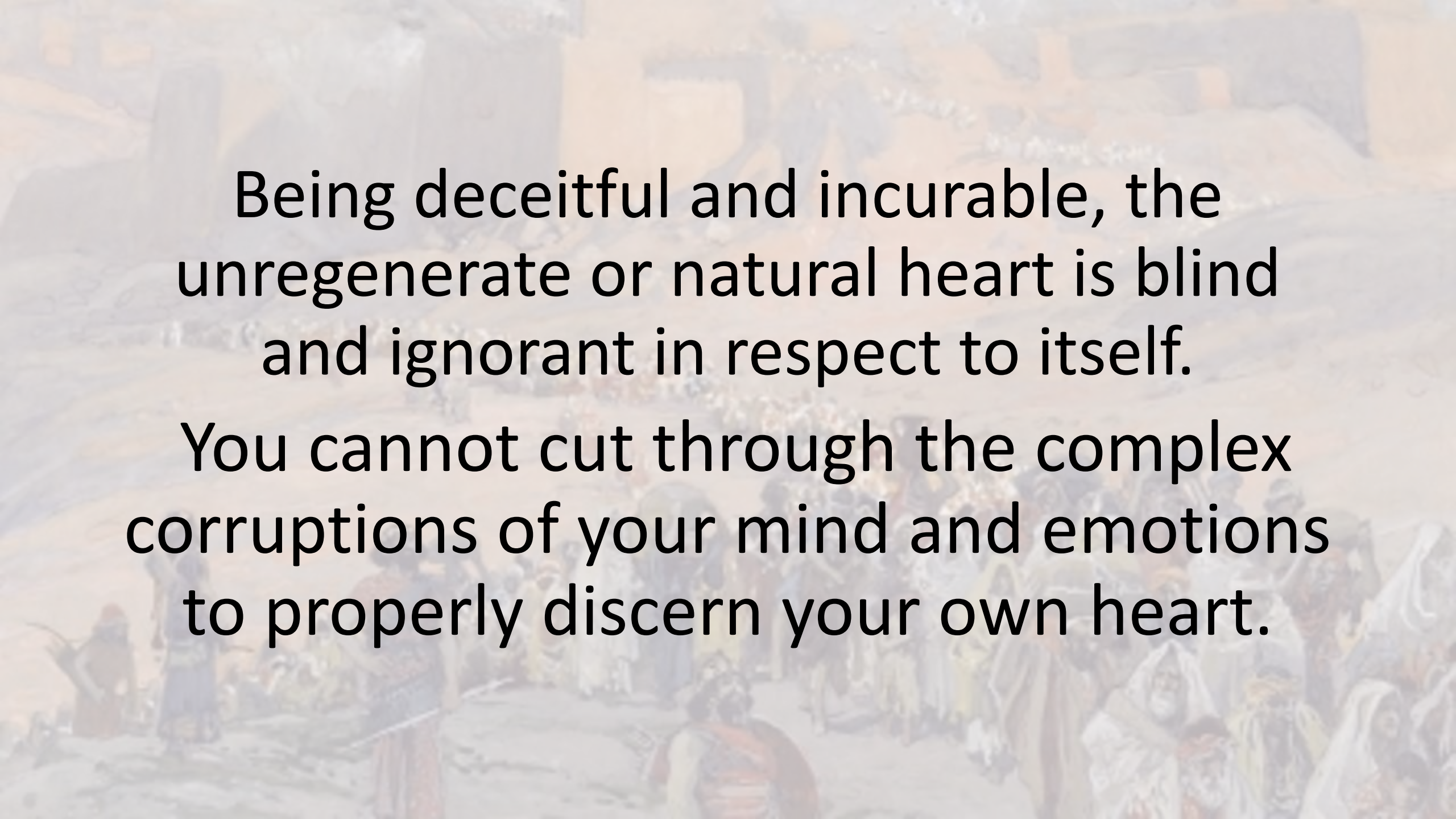
Who can understand it?”

Jeremiah 4:22

“For My people are foolish,
They know Me not;
They are stupid children
And have no understanding.
They are shrewd to do evil,
But to do good they do not know.”

Matthew 15:14

“Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.”



Being deceitful and incurable, the unregenerate or natural heart is blind and ignorant in respect to itself.

You cannot cut through the complex corruptions of your mind and emotions to properly discern your own heart.

So, how will you discern it?

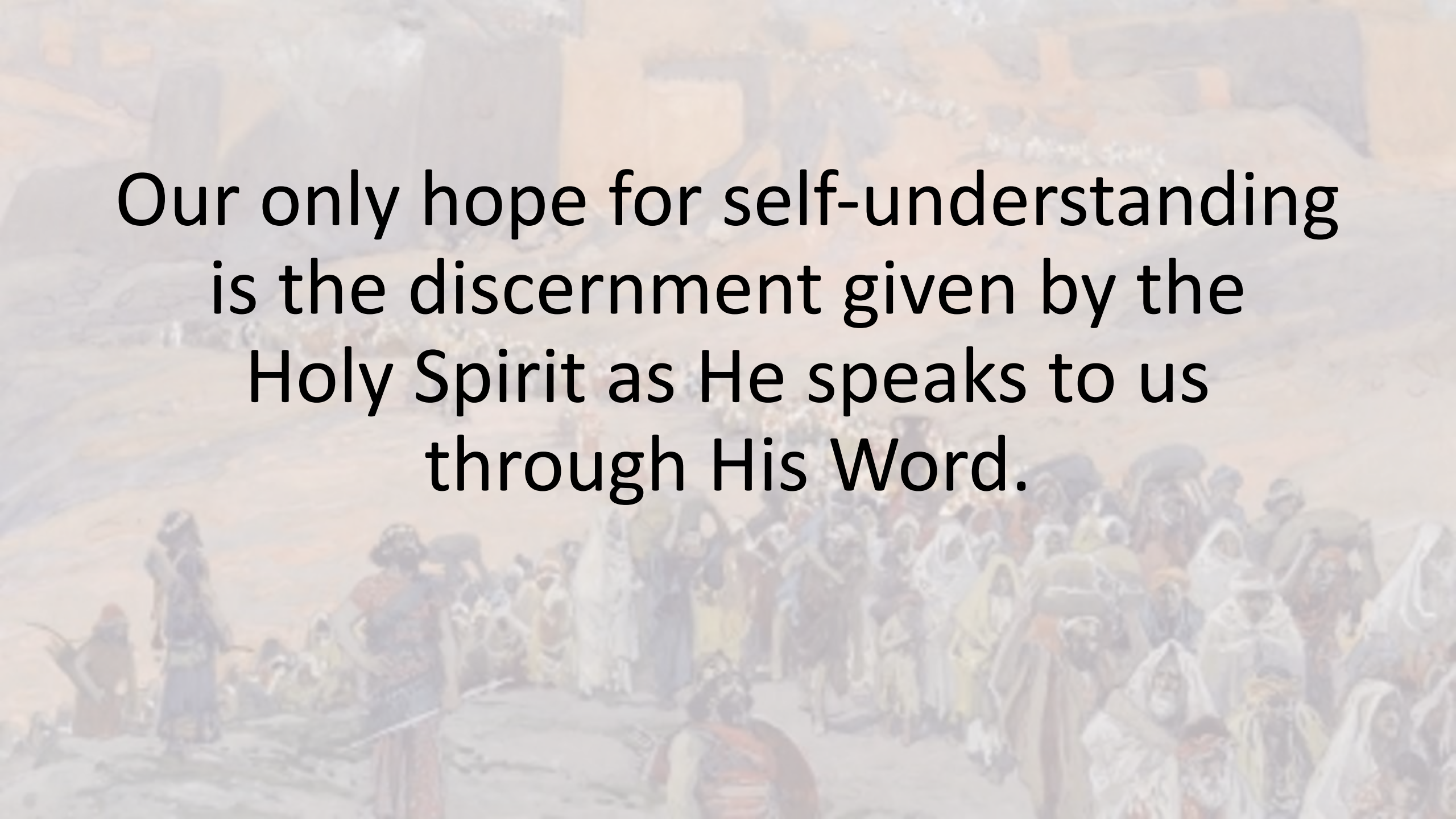
Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

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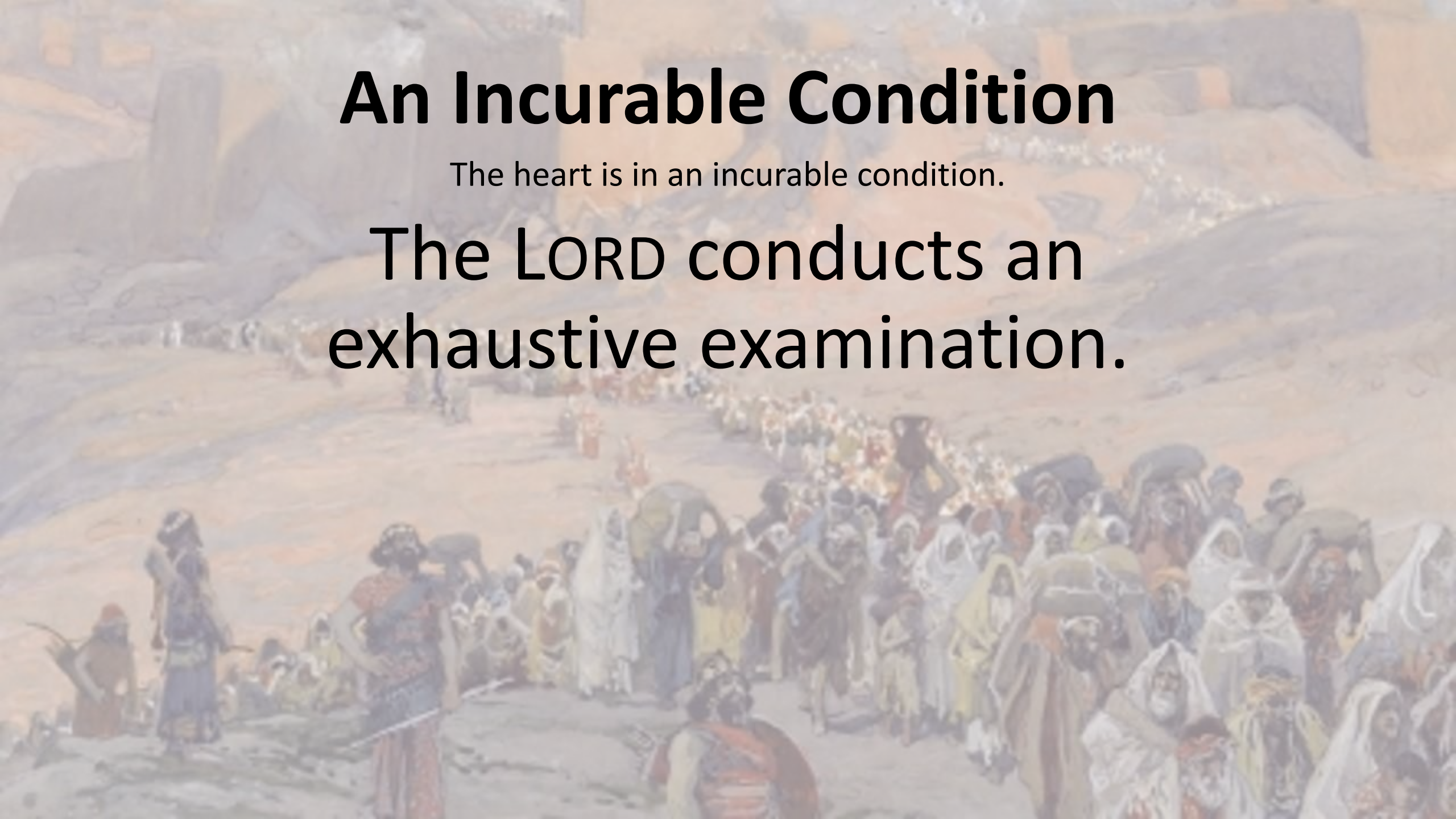


Our only hope for self-understanding
is the discernment given by the
Holy Spirit as He speaks to us
through His Word.

An Incurable Condition

The heart is in an incurable condition.

**The LORD conducts an
exhaustive examination.**



Jeremiah 17:10

“I, the LORD, search the heart,
I test the mind.”

An Exhaustive Examination

The LORD searches the heart.

Who can understand the heart?

Jeremiah 17:10

“I, the LORD, search the heart.”

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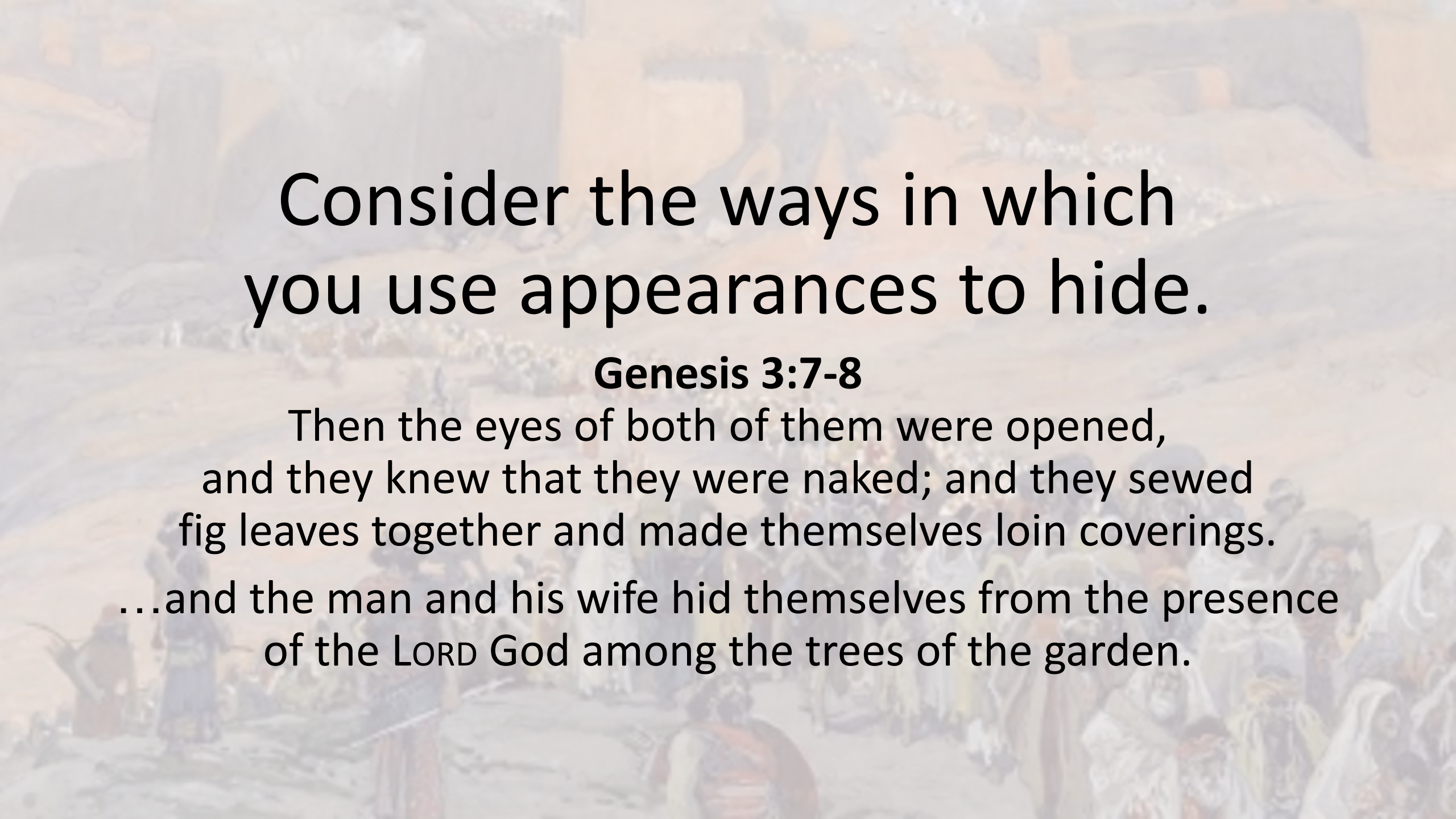
Jeremiah 17:10

“**I**, the LORD, **search the heart.**”

Where we see outward appearances,
the LORD sees the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel,
“Do not look at his appearance or at the height
of his stature, because I have rejected him;
for God sees not as man sees,
for man looks at the outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at the heart.”

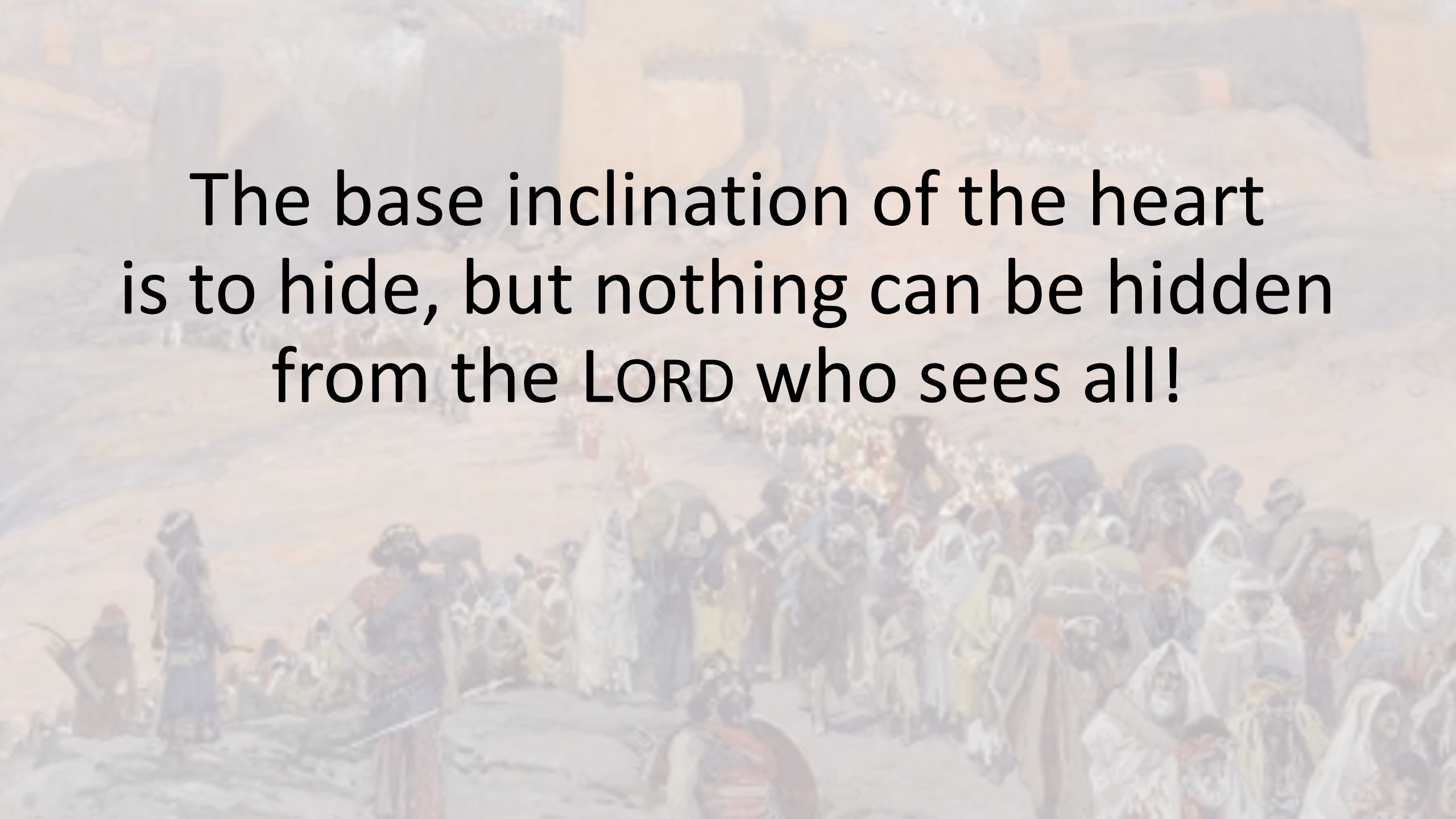


Consider the ways in which
you use appearances to hide.

Genesis 3:7-8

Then the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed
fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

...and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence
of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.



The base inclination of the heart
is to hide, but nothing can be hidden
from the LORD who sees all!

Job 34:21-22

“For His eyes are upon the ways of a man,
And He sees all his steps.

There is no darkness or deep shadow
Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.”

An Exhaustive Examination

The LORD searches the heart.

The LORD tests the mind.

Jeremiah 17:10

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Psalm 26:2

“Examine me, O LORD, and try me;
Test my mind and my heart.”

Proverbs 17:3

“The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,
But the LORD tests hearts.”

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The LORD tests with trials.

The heat of adversity will bring distorted thoughts and beliefs to the surface.

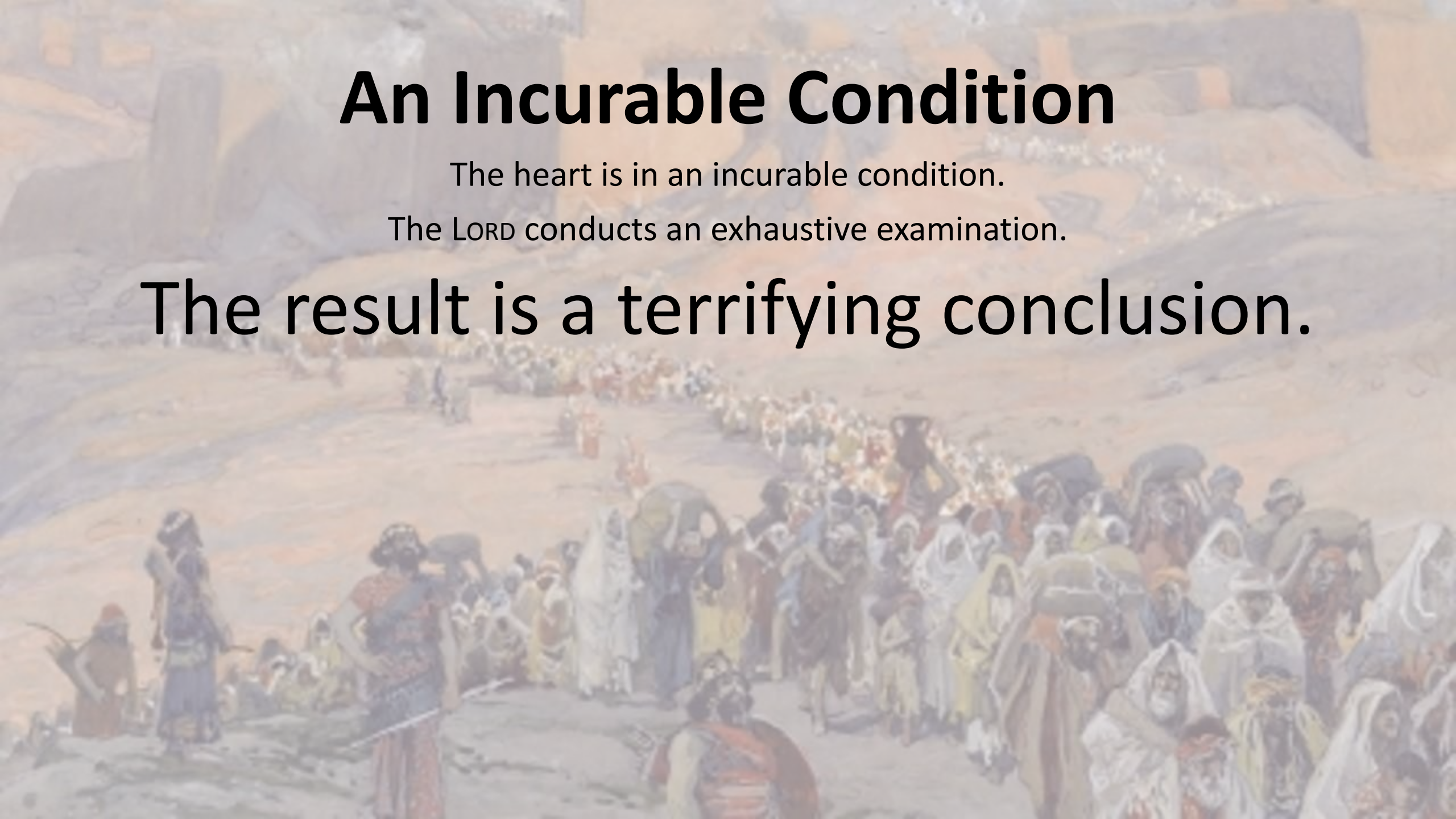
This is kindness to us because it helps us to understand ourselves and to identify our idols.

An Incurable Condition

The heart is in an incurable condition.

The LORD conducts an exhaustive examination.

The result is a terrifying conclusion.



Jeremiah 17:9-10

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A Terrifying Conclusion

The LORD will give to each
according to His ways.

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Even **to give to each man according
to his ways.”**



What were their ways?

What are your ways?

The LORD know all your ways and will judge them according to the standard of His righteousness!

This will be a terrifying reality if you are not found in Christ!

A Terrifying Conclusion

The LORD will give to each according to His ways.

The LORD will give to each according
to the fruit of his deeds.

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“I, the LORD, search the heart,
I test the mind.

Even to give to each man according to his ways,

According to the *fruit* of his deeds.”



What was the fruit of their deeds?

What is the fruit of your deeds?

What will the outcome be when
this fruit is laid up against the standard
of God's righteousness?

**Our only hope is to stand
on the merits of Christ!**

But what of the good fruit you bear?

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD...
He will be like a tree planted by the water,
That extends its roots by a stream
And will not fear when the heat comes;
But its leaves will be green,
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought
Nor cease to yield fruit.”

But what of the good fruit you bear?

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But its leaves will be green,

And **it will not** be anxious in a year of drought

Nor **cease to yield fruit.**”

The faithful man *will* yield fruit!

So, what of this fruit?

1 Corinthians 4:7

“What do you have that you did not receive?
And if you did receive it, why do you boast
as if you had not received it?”

*“The moon has no cause to be proud of her
light when she borrows it from the sun.”*

(Thomas Watson)

Conclusions, Cautions, and Cures.

Conclusion:

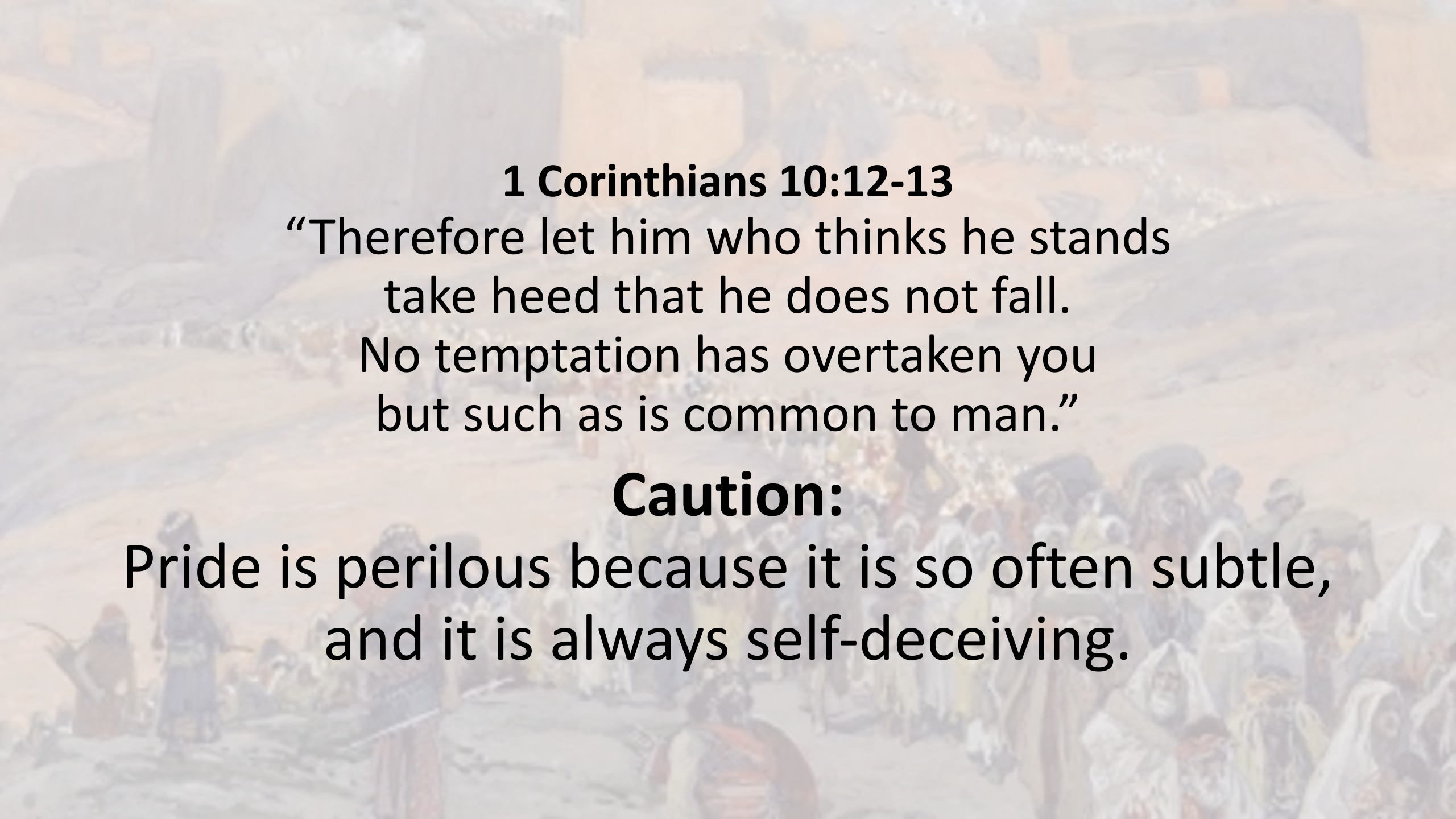
Your heart will deceive you; don't follow it!

Conclusion:

Don't count on your own merits; trust in Christ!

Caution:

When you think you are standing, take heed!



1 Corinthians 10:12-13

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands
take heed that he does not fall.
No temptation has overtaken you
but such as is common to man.”

Caution:

Pride is perilous because it is so often subtle,
and it is always self-deceiving.

Some Conclusions, Cautions, and Cures.

Cure:

Submit yourself to the examination of the Spirit through the means of His Word.

Cure:

Gaze at the glory of God and be transfixed.

Cure:

Confess your sins, and cling to the cross.