

Consolation from a Profound Promise

Jeremiah 31:27-34



Jeremiah 31:27-30

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sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

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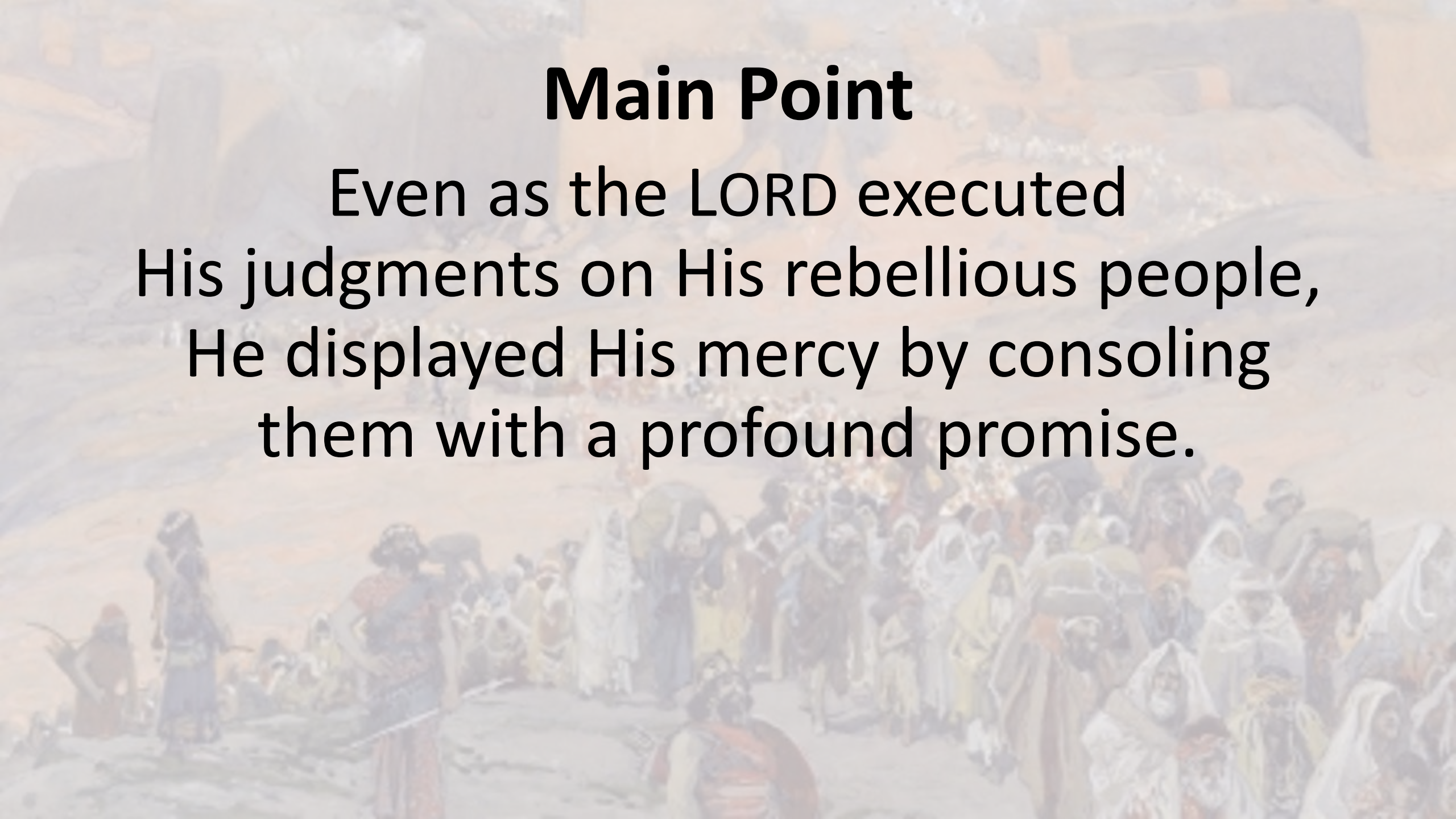
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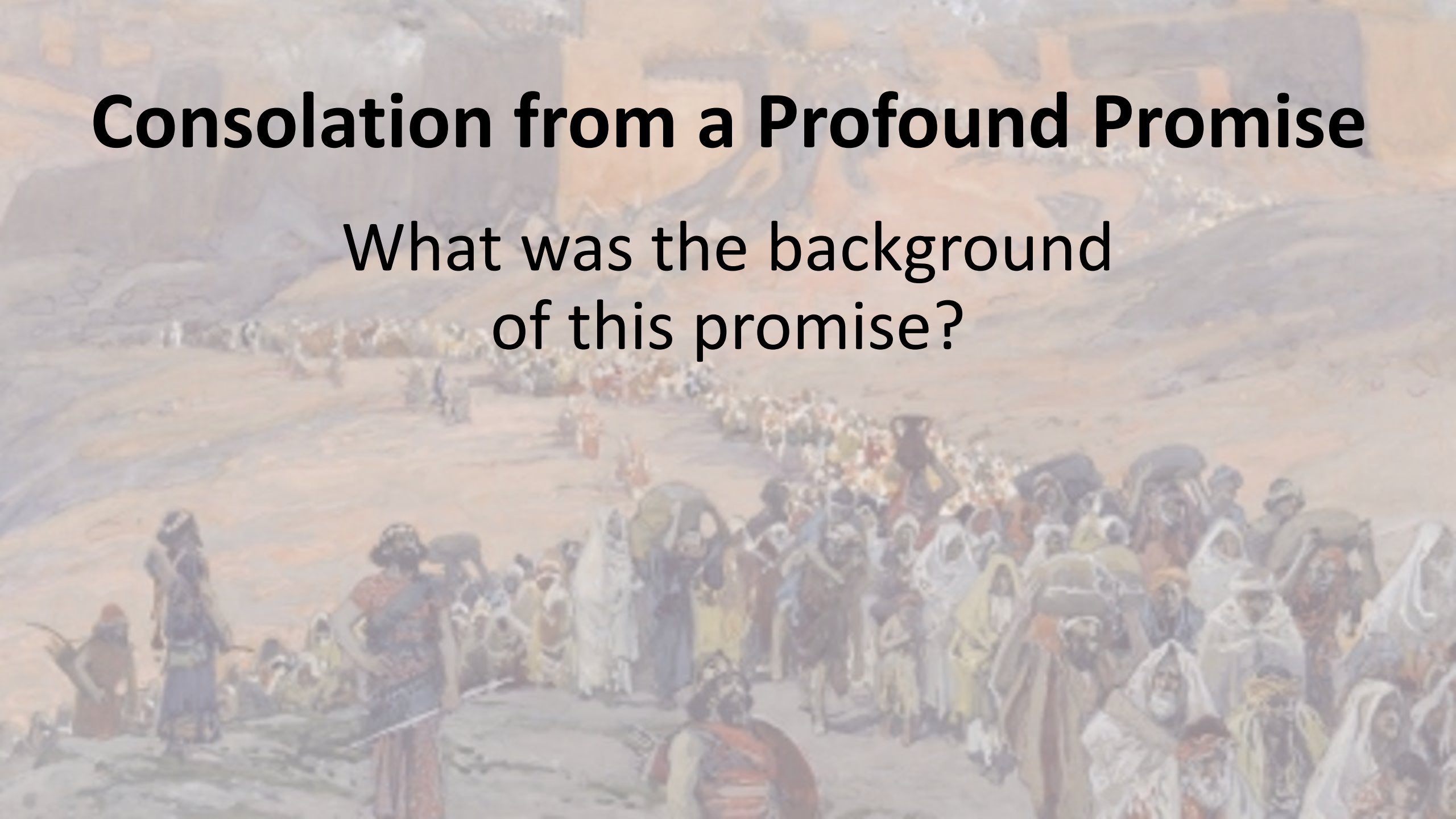
Main Point

Even as the LORD executed
His judgments on His rebellious people,
He displayed His mercy by consoling
them with a profound promise.



Consolation from a Profound Promise

What was the background
of this promise?





What was the background?

A fractured family.

Jeremiah 31:27-28

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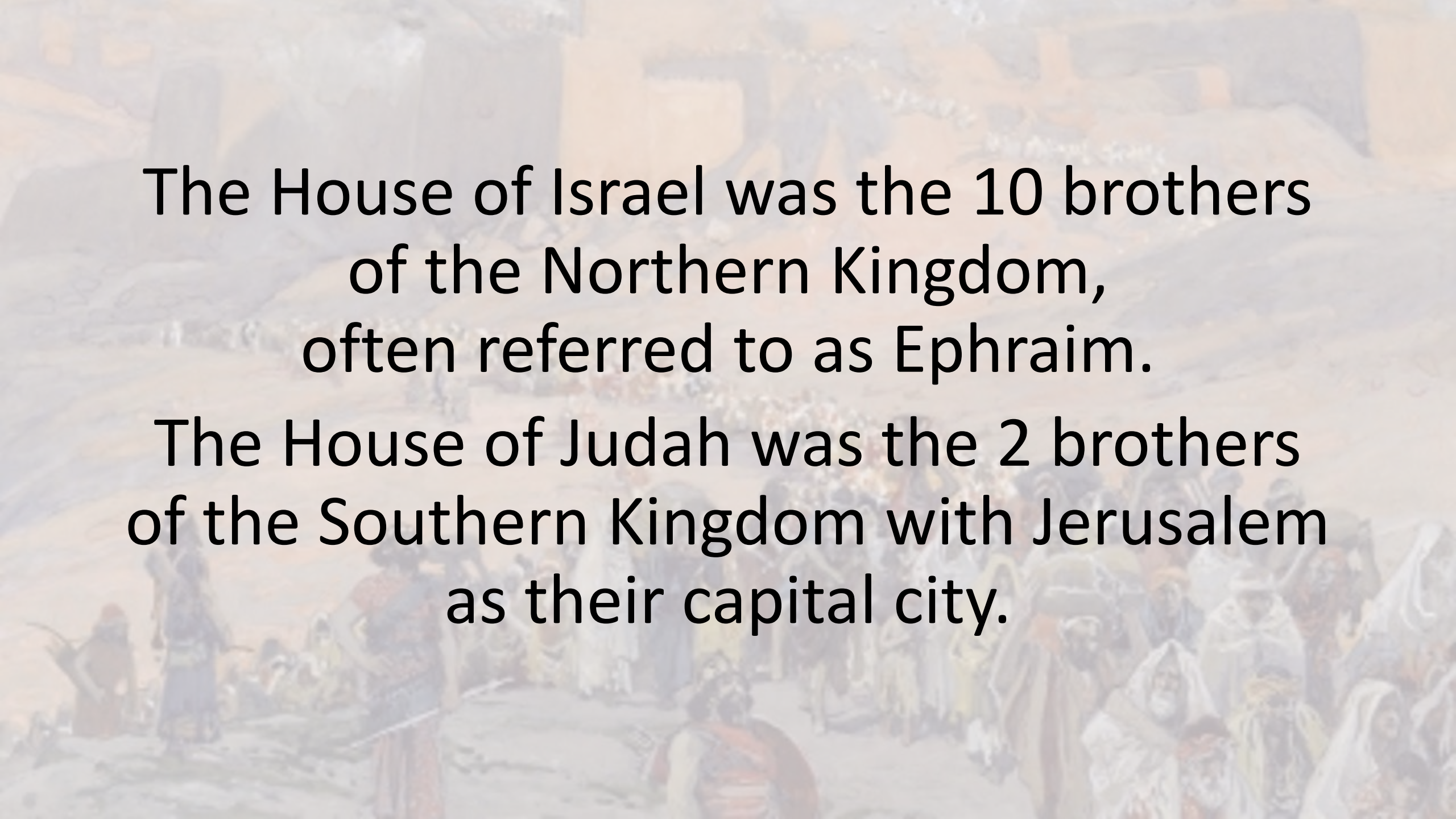
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It is easy to forget that Israel was a large family.



The House of Israel was the 10 brothers
of the Northern Kingdom,
often referred to as Ephraim.

The House of Judah was the 2 brothers
of the Southern Kingdom with Jerusalem
as their capital city.

The background is a faded, sepia-toned illustration of a large crowd of people in a desert setting. The figures are dressed in traditional, simple clothing, and some are carrying items on their heads or backs. The scene suggests a journey or a gathering in a vast, open landscape.

The divided kingdom represented
a family torn apart by bitter jealousy
and selfish ambition.

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A fractured family.

Expulsion and Desolation

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Jeremiah 1:10

“See, I have appointed you this day
over the nations and over the kingdoms,
To pluck up and to break down,
To destroy and to overthrow,
To build and to plant.”

Jeremiah had been appointed to proclaim
their expulsion and destruction.

Jeremiah 9:10-11

“For the mountains I will take up a weeping and wailing,
And for the pastures of the wilderness a dirge,
Because they are laid waste so that no one passes through,
And the lowing of the cattle is not heard;
Both the birds of the sky and the beasts have fled;
they are gone.
I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins,
A haunt of jackals;
And I will make the cities of Judah a desolation,
without inhabitant.”

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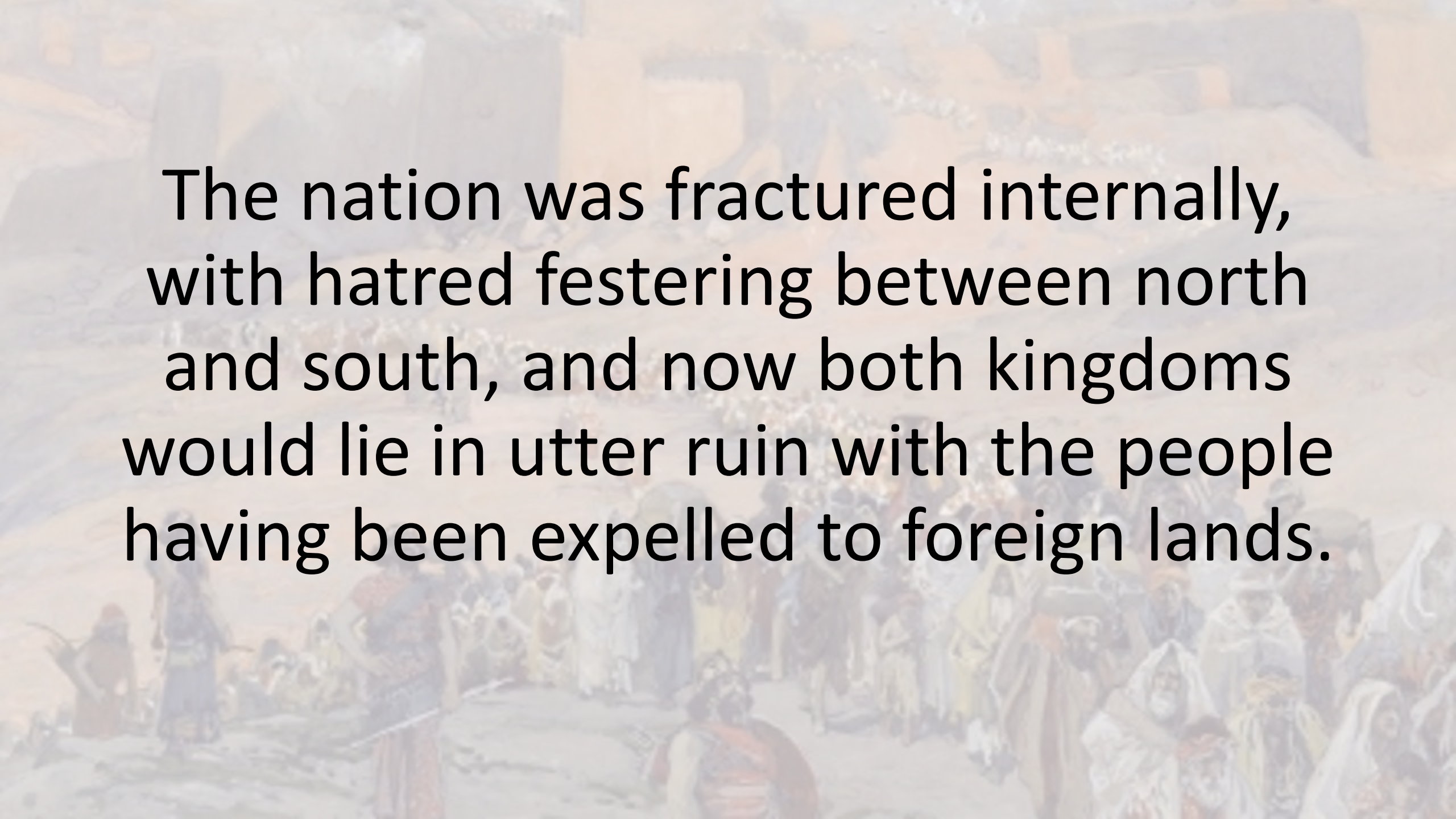
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without inhabitant.”



The nation was fractured internally, with hatred festering between north and south, and now both kingdoms would lie in utter ruin with the people having been expelled to foreign lands.

Lamentations 5:17-18

“Because of this our heart is faint,
Because of these things our eyes are dim;
Because of Mount Zion which lies desolate,
Foxes prowl in it.”

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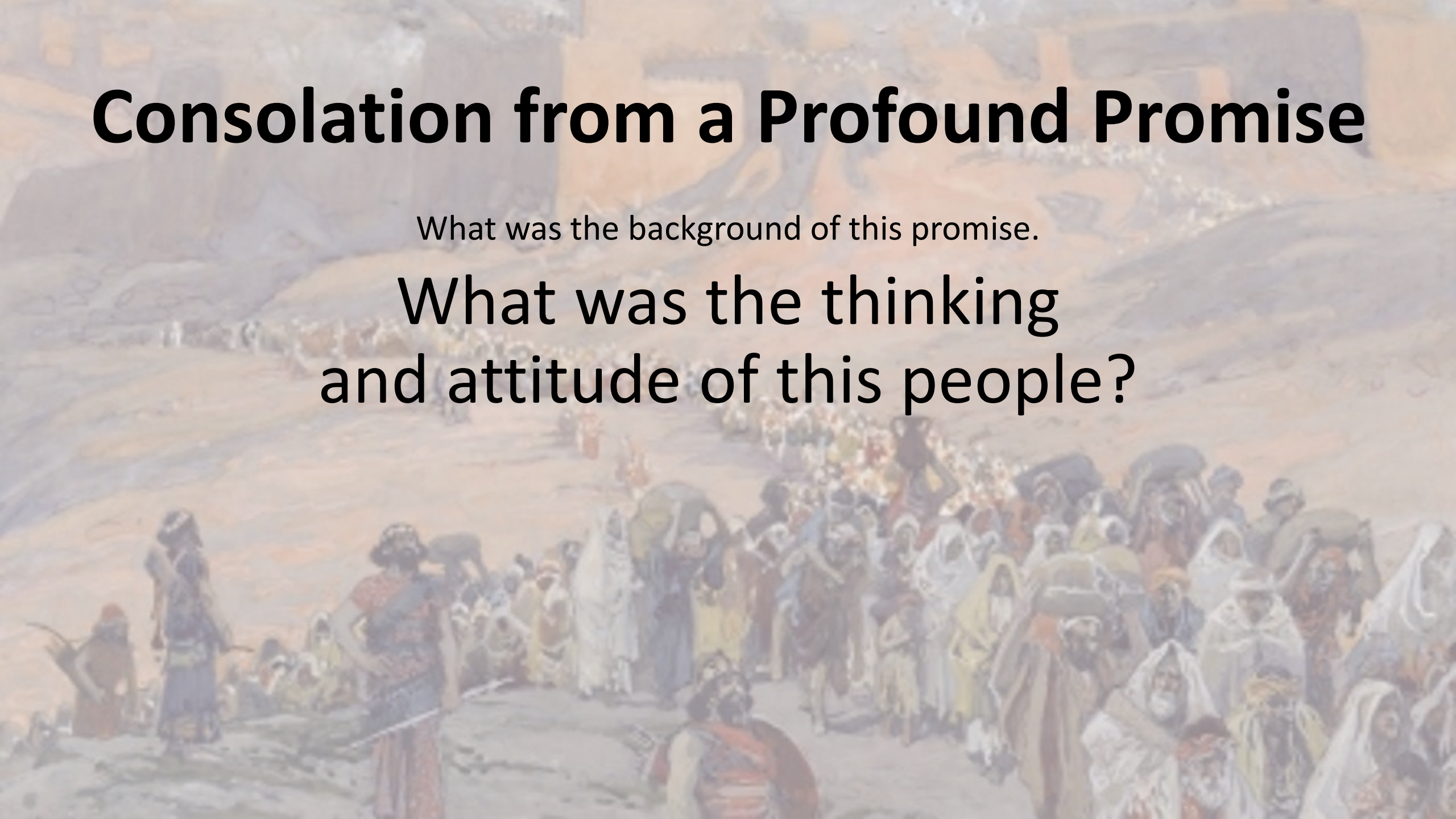
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Because of **Mount Zion** which **lies desolate,**
Foxes prowl in it.”

Consolation from a Profound Promise

What was the background of this promise.

What was the thinking
and attitude of this people?



Their Thinking and Attitude

“Our fathers did this to us.”

Jeremiah 31:29

“In those days they will not say again,
‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’”

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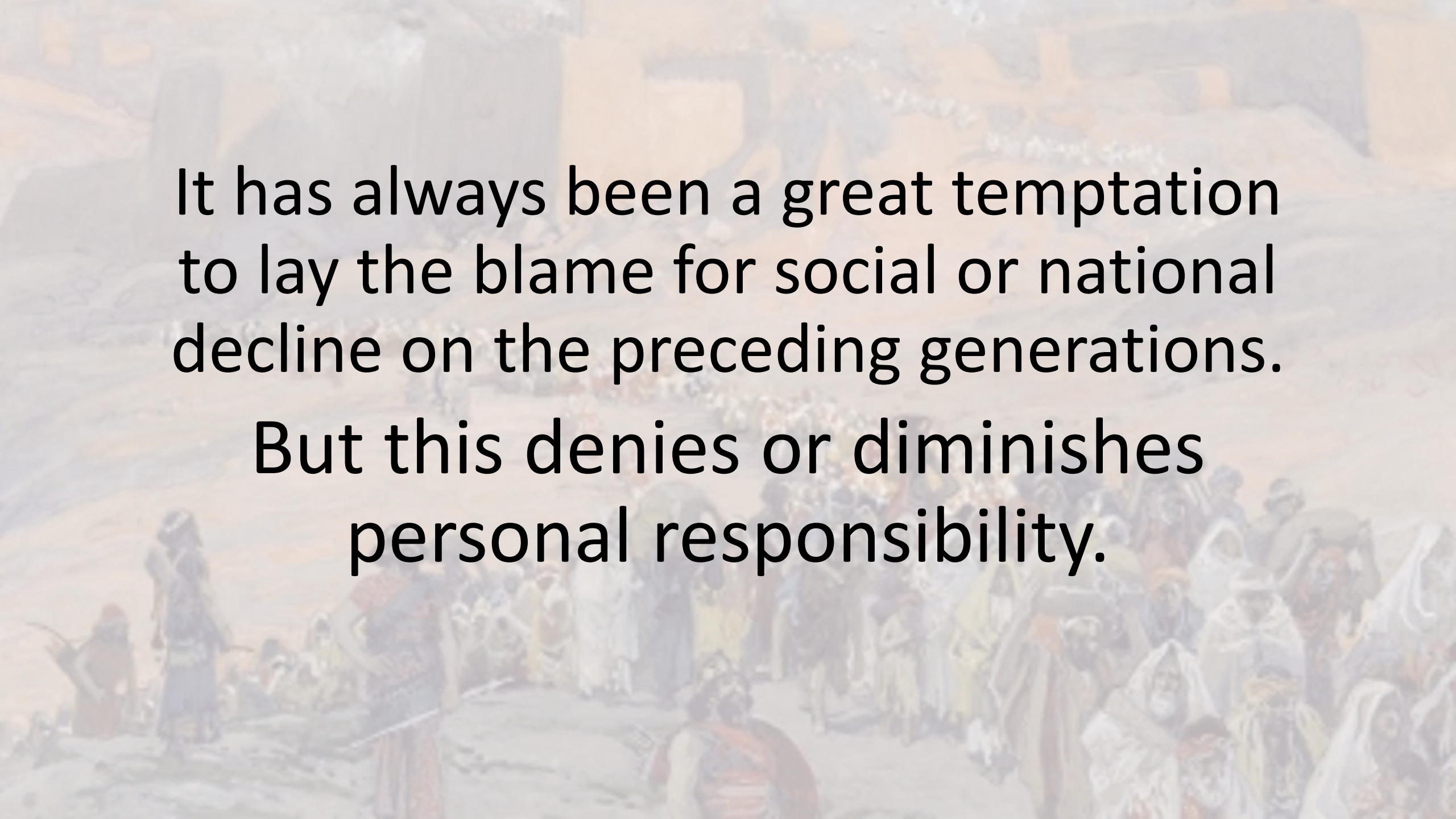
“In those days they will not say again,
‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes,

and **the children’s teeth are set on edge.**”

This had become a proverb of the people.

Ezekiel 18:1-3

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.”



It has always been a great temptation
to lay the blame for social or national
decline on the preceding generations.

But this denies or diminishes
personal responsibility.

Psalm 106:6

“We have sinned like our fathers,
We have committed iniquity,
We have behaved wickedly.”

Their Thinking and Attitude

“Our fathers did this to us.”

“The LORD is mistreating us.”

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“In those days they will not say again,

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This amounted to an accusation
of injustice against the LORD.

It ***was*** the LORD who had done
these things!

Jeremiah 31:28

“I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to overthrow, to destroy and to bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,” declares the LORD.

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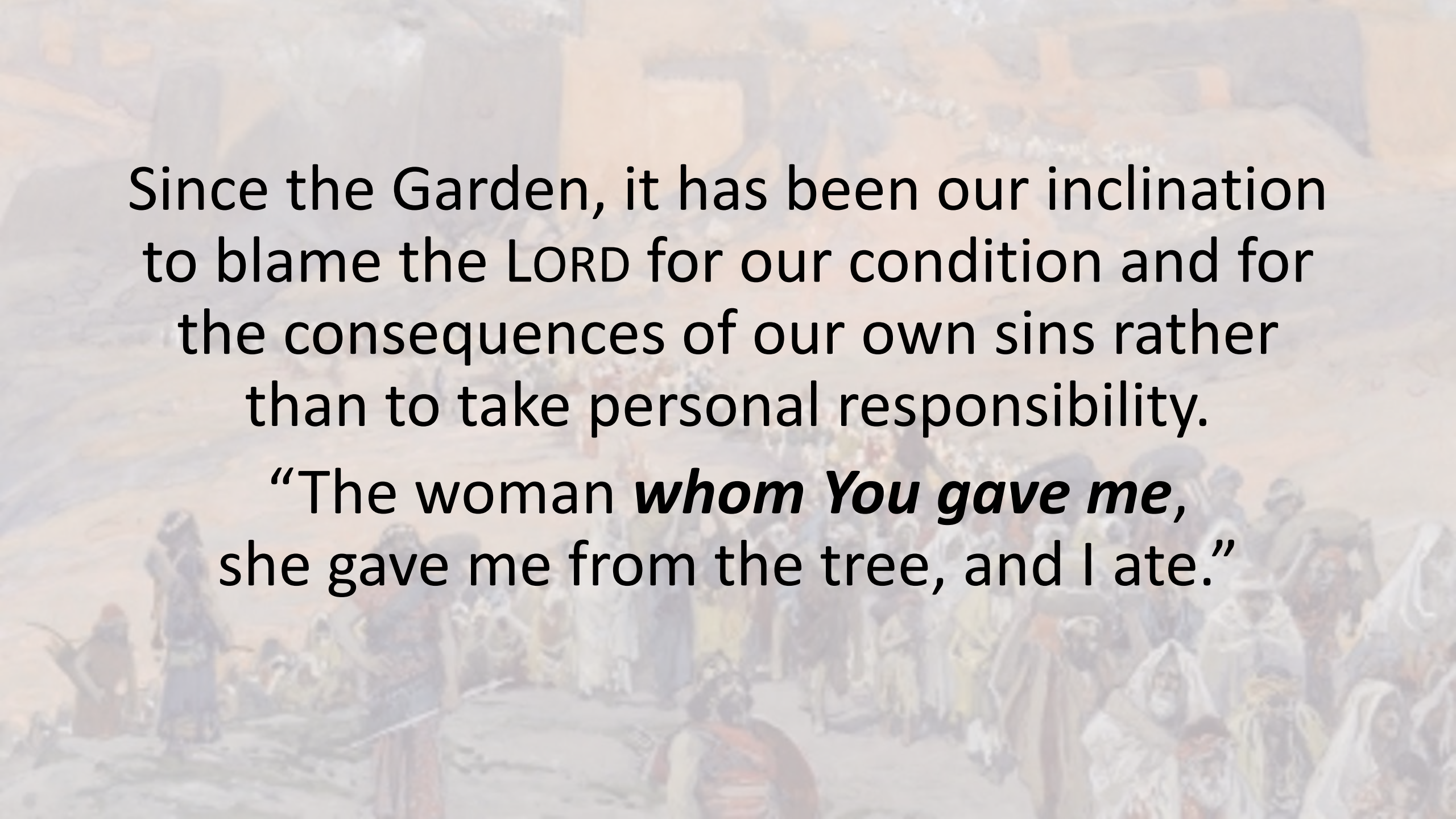
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But He had acted righteously!

Jeremiah 5:23

“But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart;
They have turned aside and departed.”



Since the Garden, it has been our inclination to blame the LORD for our condition and for the consequences of our own sins rather than to take personal responsibility.

“The woman ***whom You gave me***, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”

Hosea 7:13

“Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me!
Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me!
I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me.”

But even in judgment, there is grace!

Jeremiah 31:28

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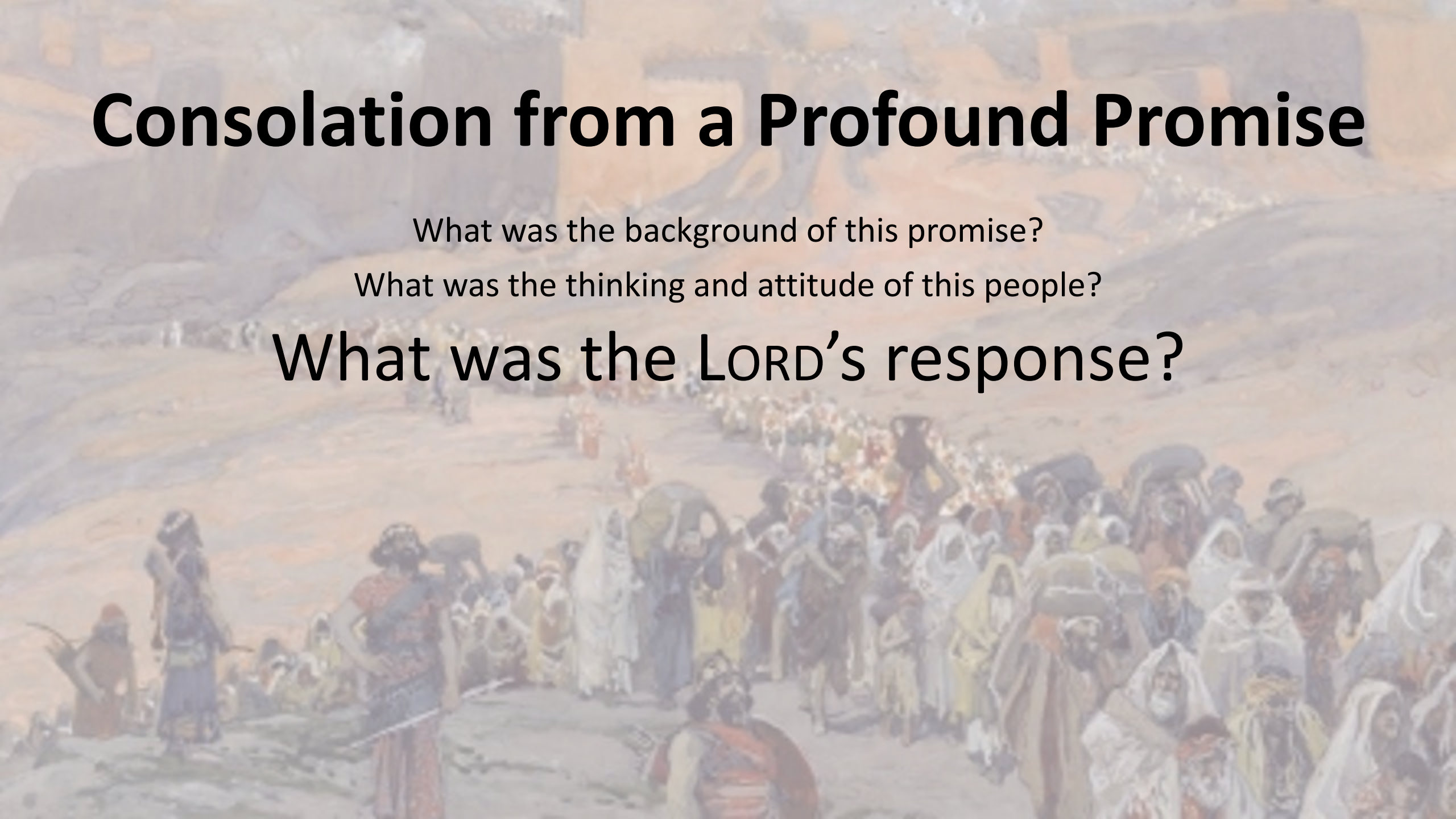
over them to build and to plant,” declares the LORD.

Consolation from a Profound Promise

What was the background of this promise?

What was the thinking and attitude of this people?

What was the LORD's response?



The LORD's Response

Correction and Rebuke

Jeremiah 31:29

“In those days they will not say again,
‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

“But everyone will die for his own iniquity;
each man who eats the sour grapes,
his teeth will be set on edge.”

The LORD was correcting them
by reminding them of His Law.

Deuteronomy 24:16

“Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons,
nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers;
everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.”

Ezekiel 18:1 and 3

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
“What do you mean by using this proverb...”

The LORD's Rebuke

Jeremiah 31:31-32

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant
which I made with their fathers in the day I took them
by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt,
My covenant which they broke,
although I was a husband to them,”
declares the LORD.

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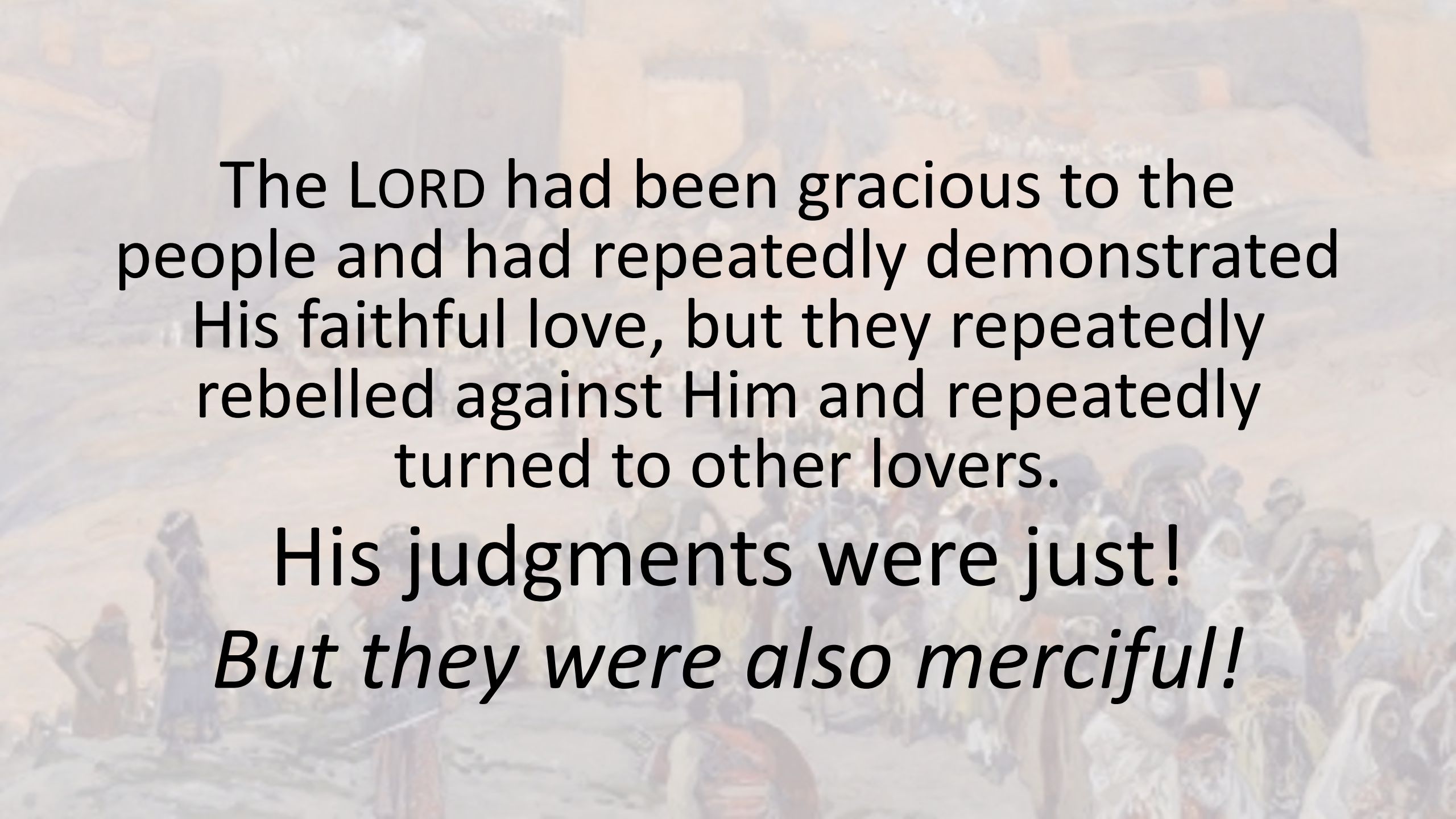
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The LORD had been gracious to the people and had repeatedly demonstrated His faithful love, but they repeatedly rebelled against Him and repeatedly turned to other lovers.

His judgments were just!
But they were also merciful!

Hebrews 12:6

“For those whom the LORD loves He disciplines,
and He scourges every son whom He receives.”

The LORD's Response

Correction and Rebuke

Consolation and Promise

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to overthrow, to destroy and to bring disaster**, so I will watch
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Remember that Jeremiah had been appointed
to proclaim their expulsion and destruction.

But he had also been appointed
to console and give hope.

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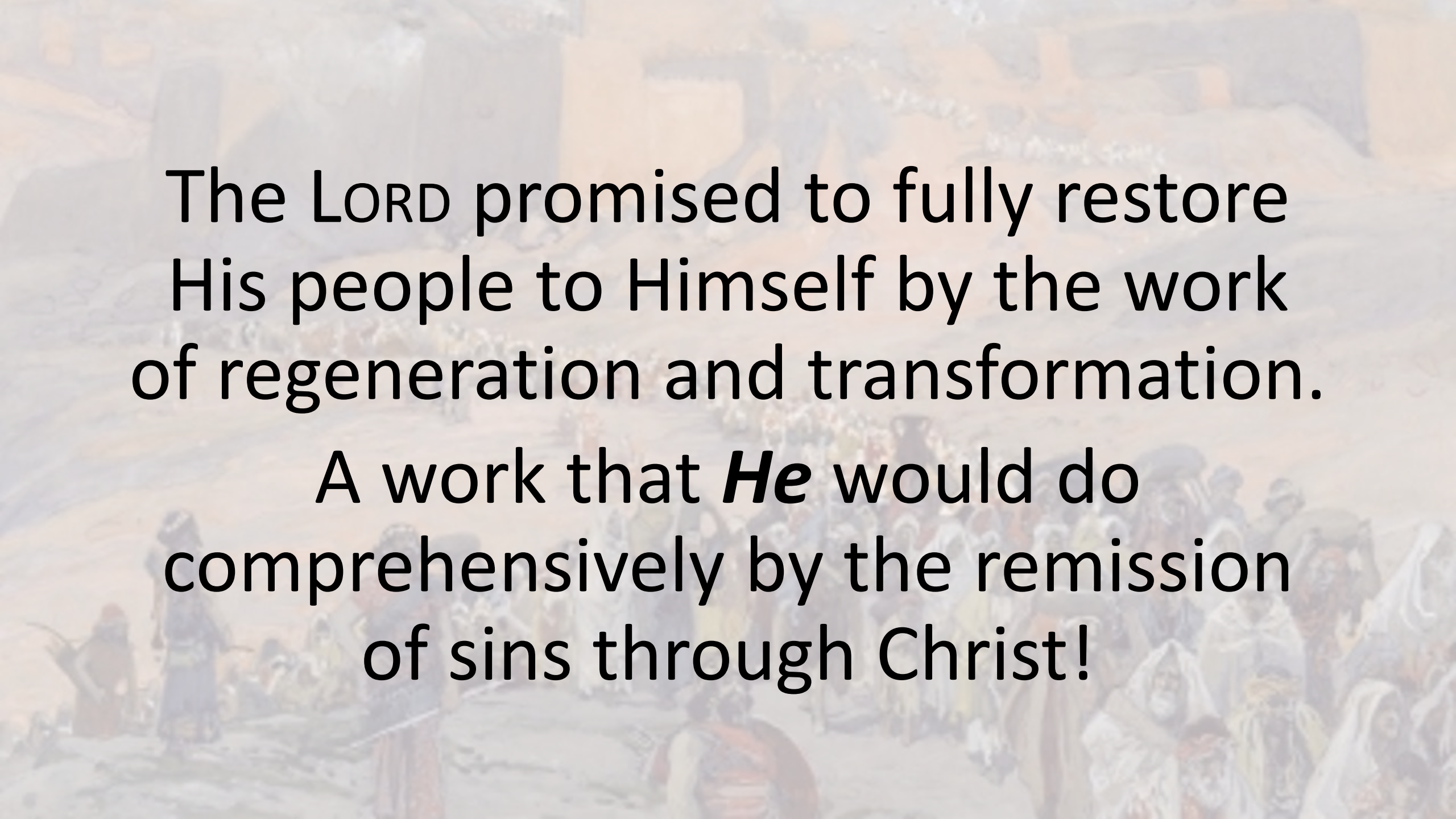
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The LORD promised to fully restore
His people to Himself by the work
of regeneration and transformation.

A work that *He* would do
comprehensively by the remission
of sins through Christ!

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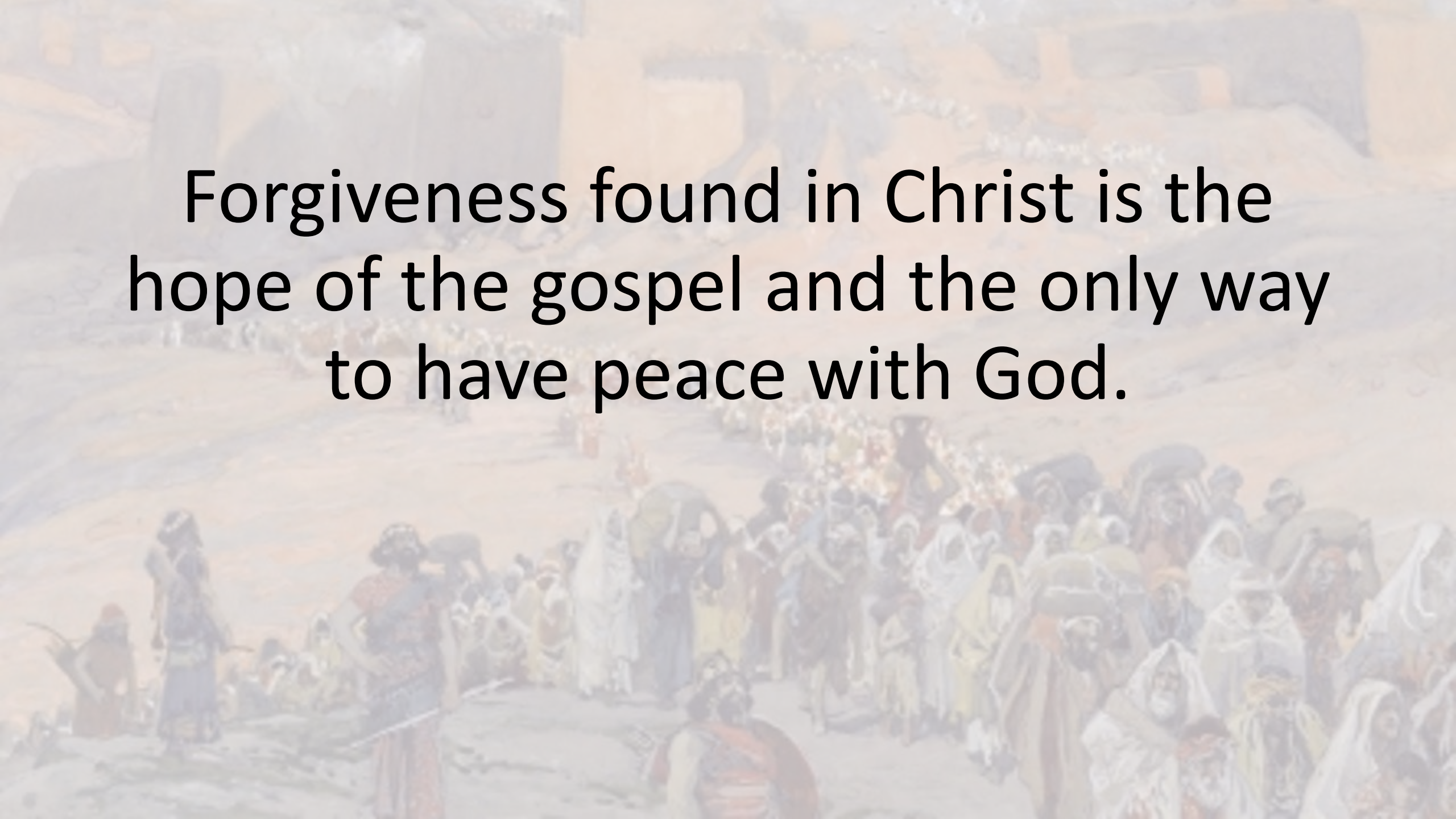
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Forgiveness found in Christ is the hope of the gospel and the only way to have peace with God.

Concluding Questions:

Have you owned your sins or are you still shifting the blame away from yourself?

Have you come to know Christ and to know His forgiveness?

Are you receiving His consolation and resting in the hope of His salvation?