



When All Is Said and Done

Ecclesiastes 12:8-14

Ecclesiastes 12:8-12

“Hebel of hebels,” says the Preacher, *“all is hebel!”*
In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.

The words of wise men are like goads,
and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails;
they are given by one Shepherd.

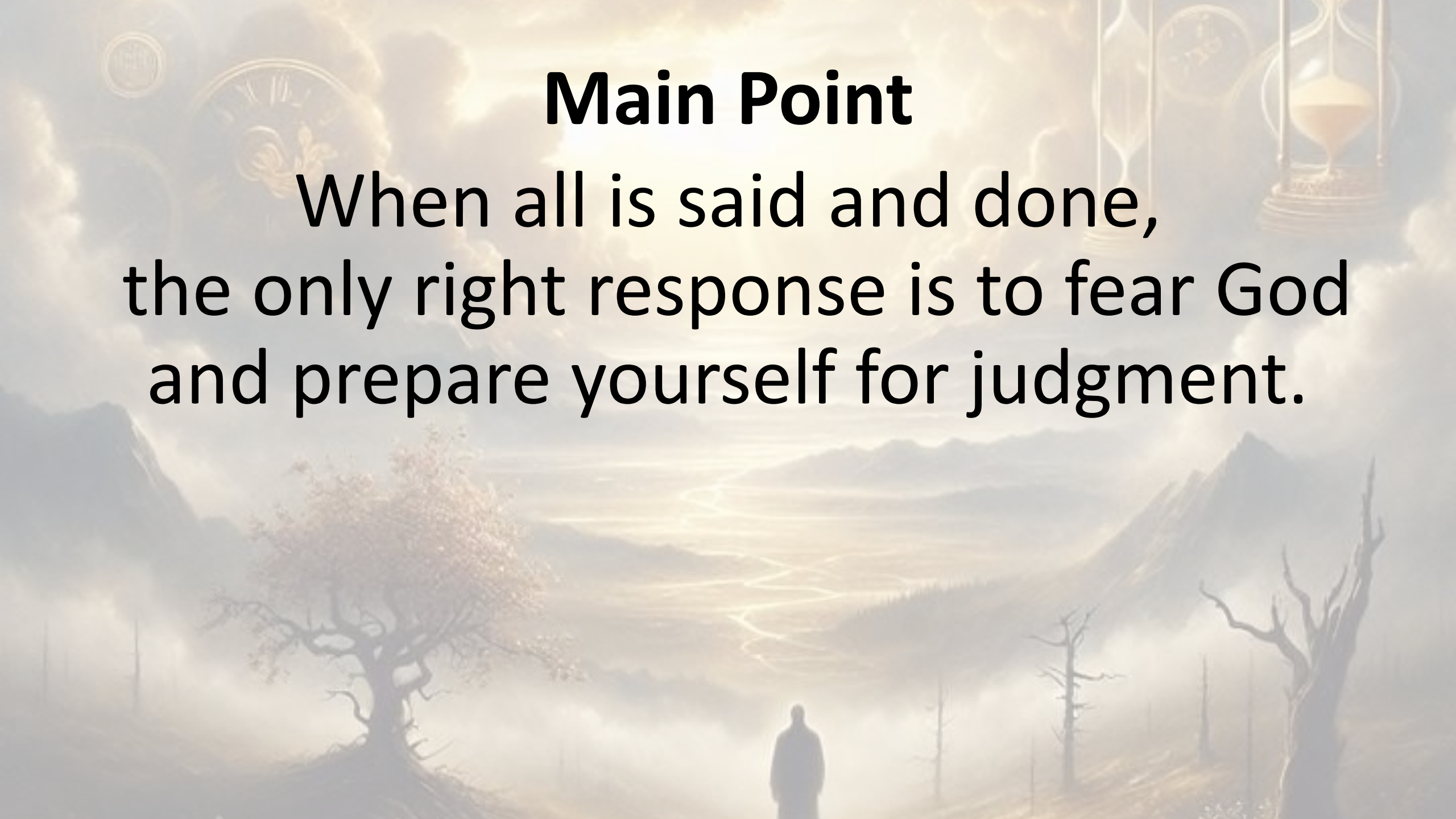
But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is:
fear God and keep His commandments,
because this applies to every person.
For God will bring every act to judgment,
everything which is hidden,
whether it is good or evil.

Main Point

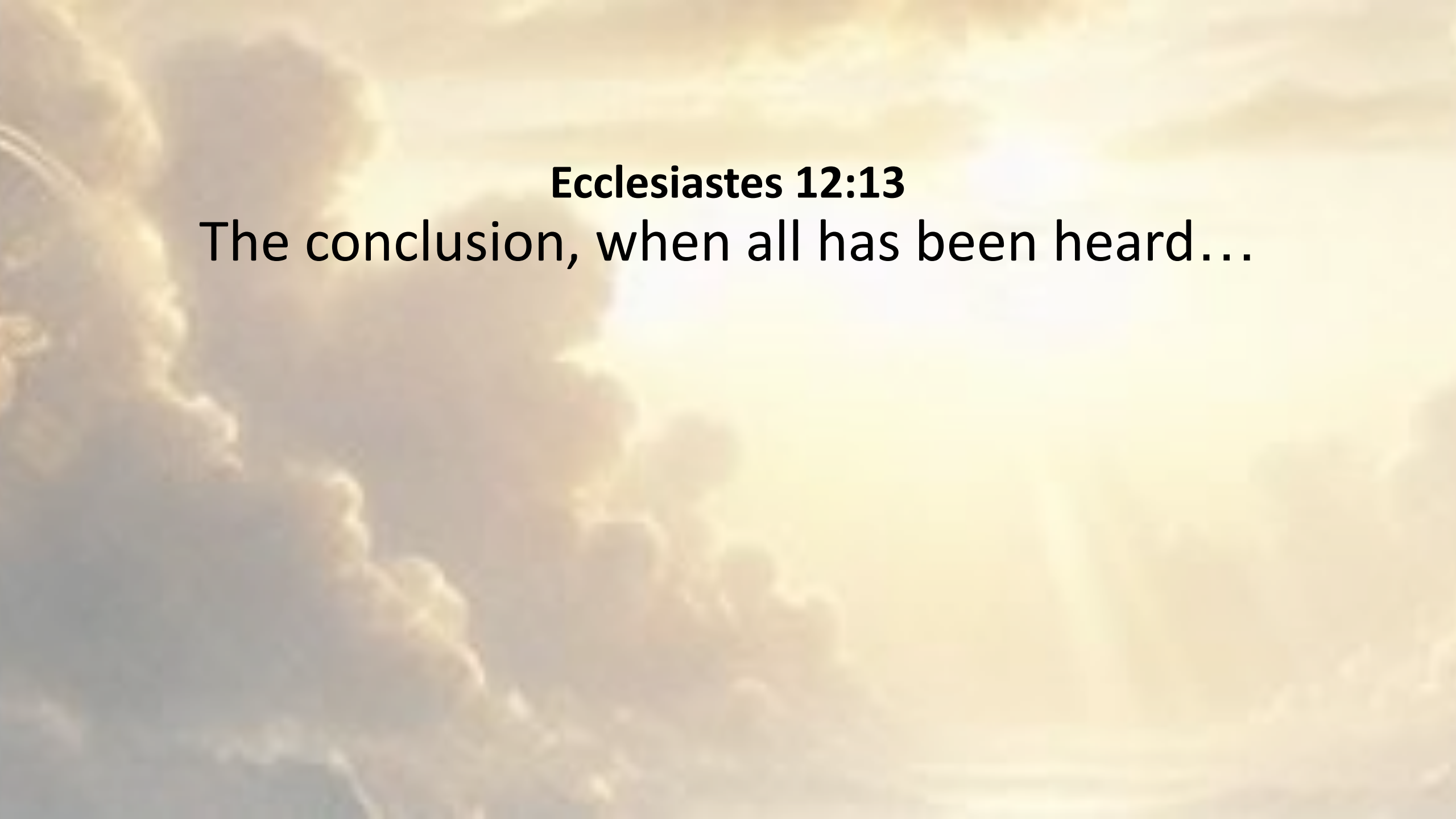
When all is said and done,
the only right response is to fear God
and prepare yourself for judgment.



When all is said and done...

The conclusion of it all.

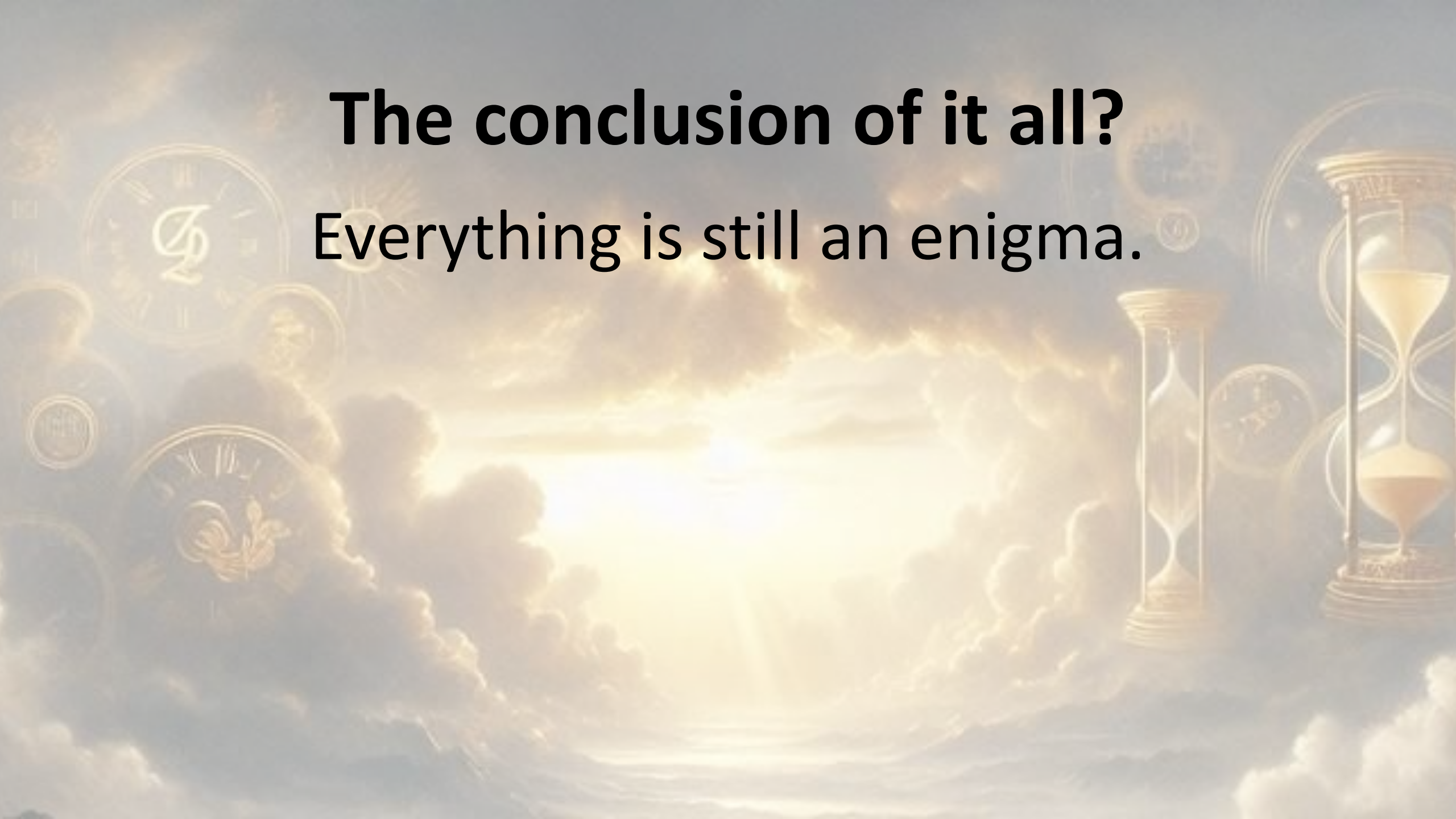




Ecclesiastes 12:13

The conclusion, when all has been heard...

The conclusion of it all?
Everything is still an enigma.



Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 and 13

The words of the Preacher, the son of David,
king in Jerusalem.

“Enigma of enigmas,” says the Preacher,
“Enigma of enigmas! Everything is an enigma.”

I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning
all that has been done under heaven.

And after all is said and done?

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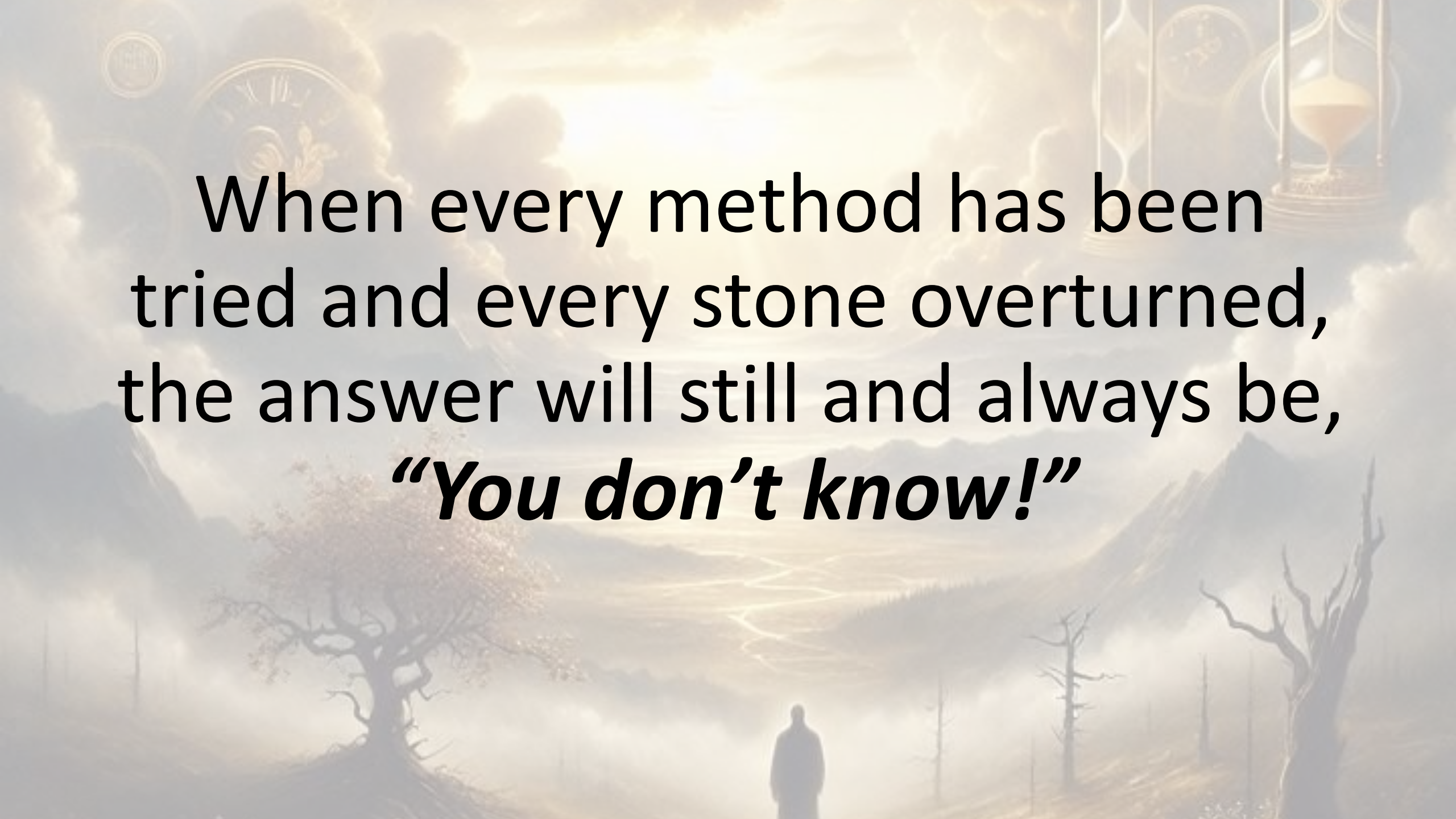
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When every method has been
tried and every stone overturned,
the answer will still and always be,
“You don’t know!”

Ecclesiastes 5:1 "...they do not know..."

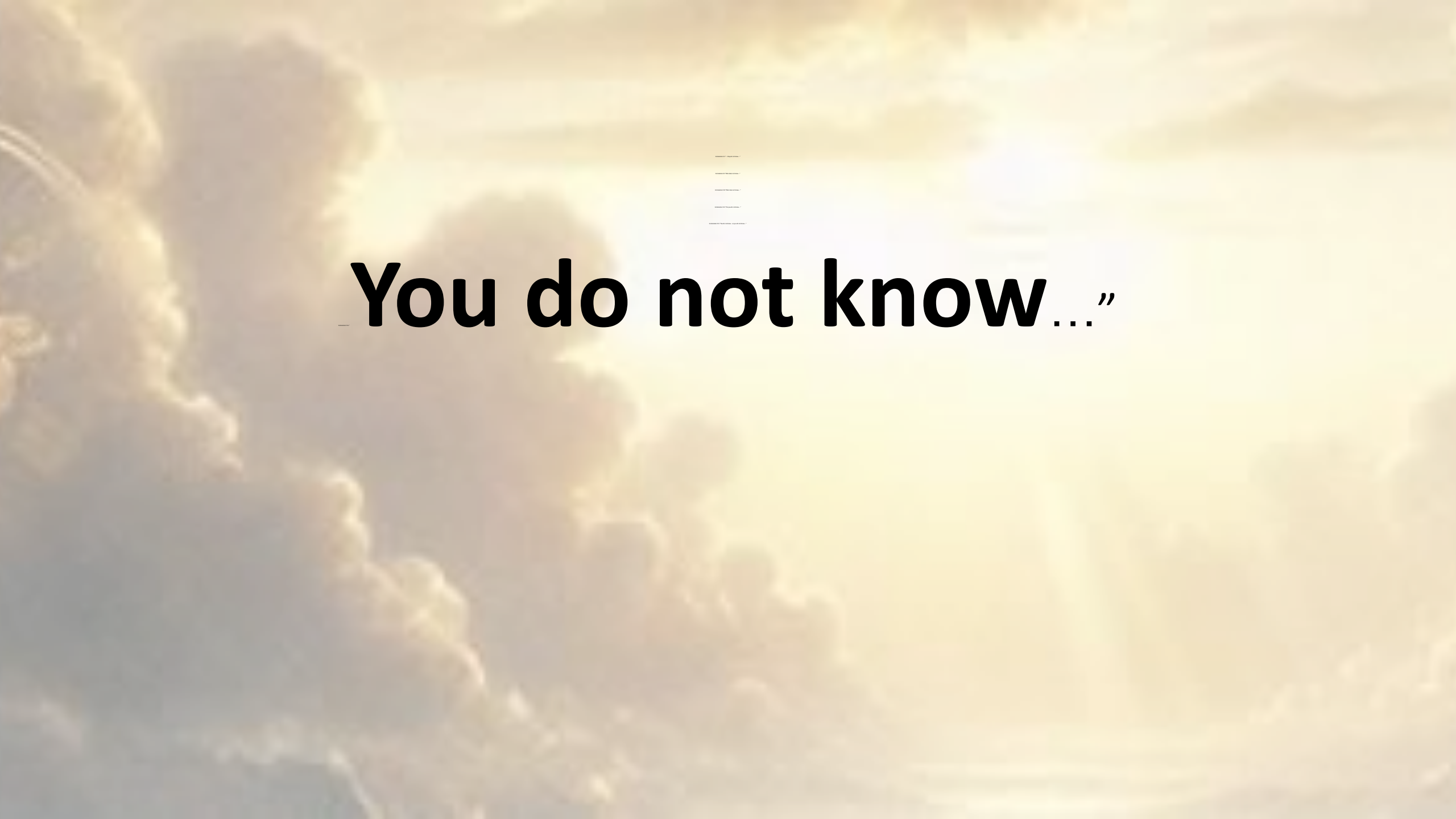
Ecclesiastes 9:1 "Man does not know..."

Ecclesiastes 9:12 "Man does not know..."

Ecclesiastes 11:2 "For you do not know..."

Ecclesiastes 11:5 "You do not know...so you do not know..."

Ecclesiastes 11:6 "You do not know..."

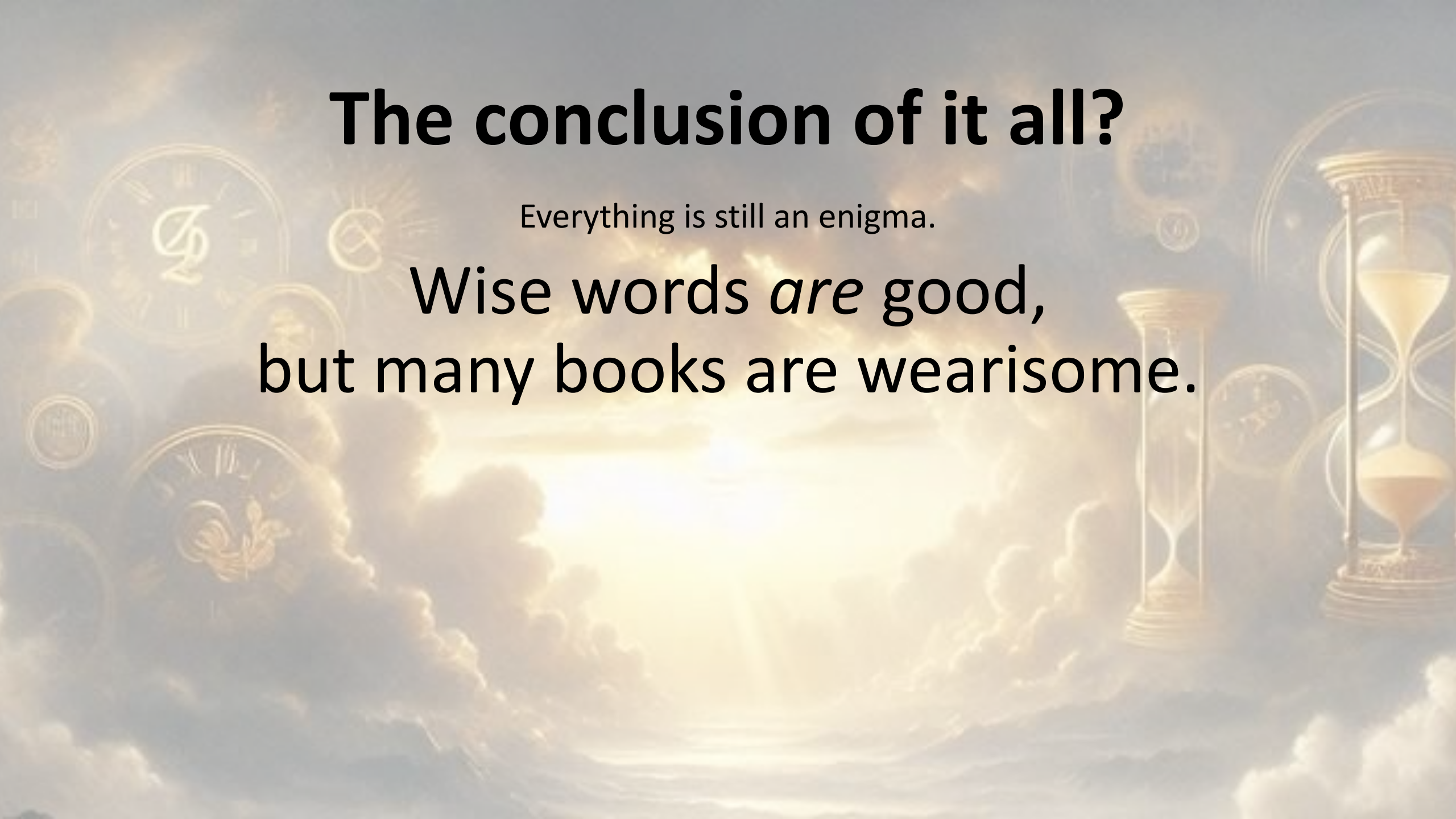


You do not know..."

The conclusion of it all?

Everything is still an enigma.

Wise words *are* good,
but many books are wearisome.



Ecclesiastes 12:9-12

In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.

The words of wise men are like goads,
and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails;
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But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing
of many books is endless, and excessive devotion
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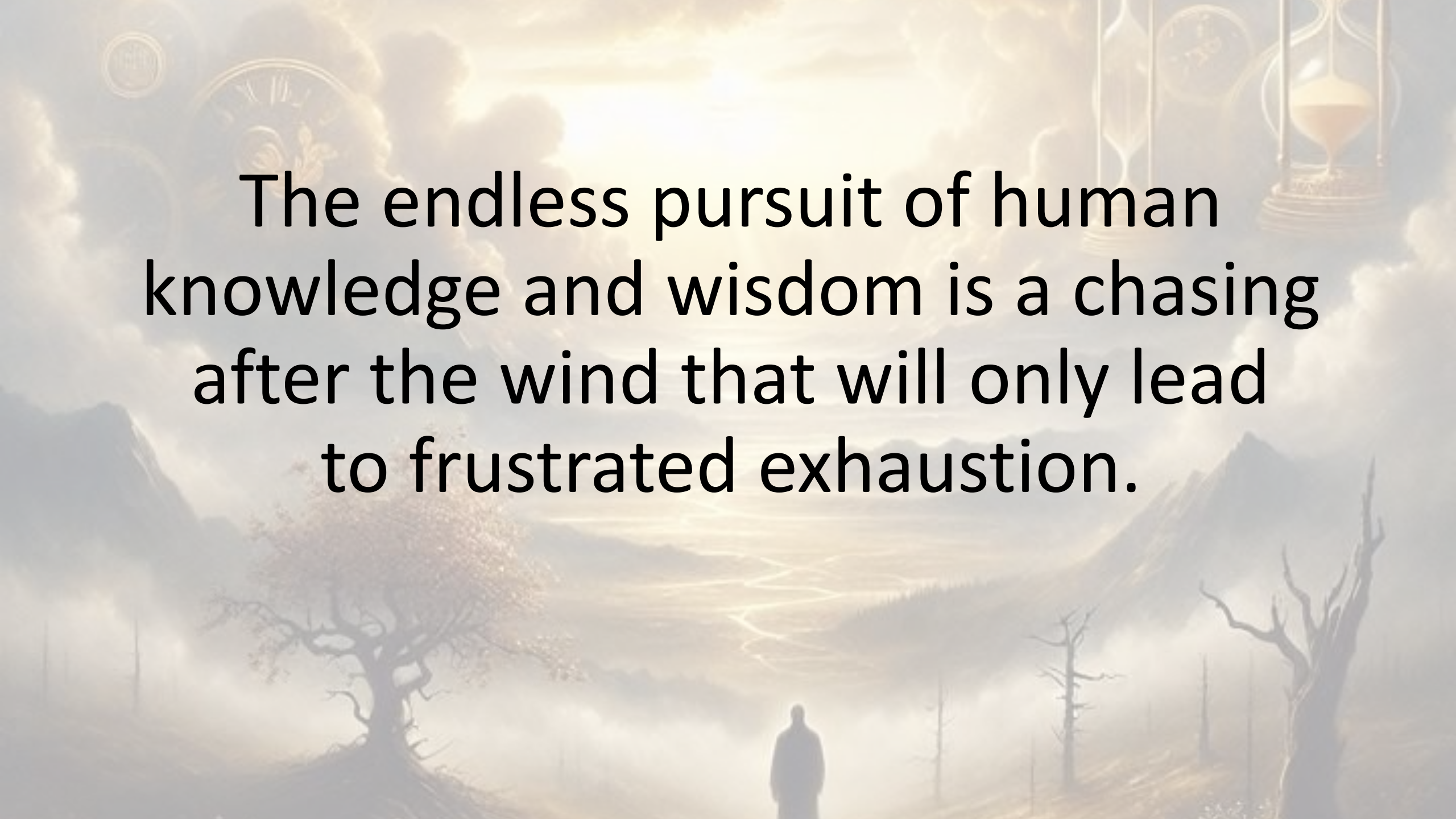
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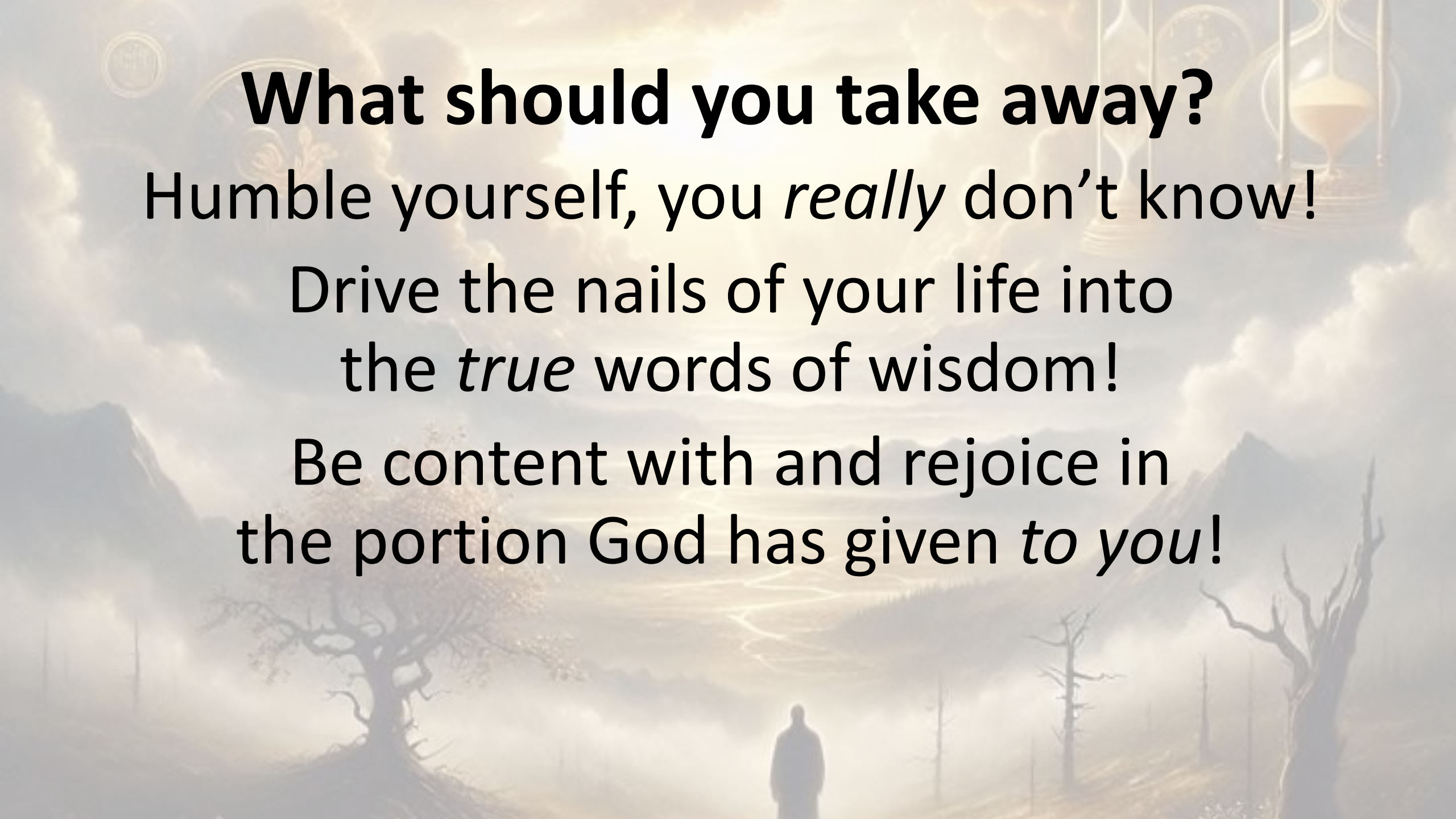
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A surreal, ethereal landscape. In the foreground, a lone figure stands in a misty valley. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a vast, cloudy sky. A large, golden hourglass is visible in the upper right corner, with sand falling from it. The overall atmosphere is one of mystery and contemplation.

The endless pursuit of human
knowledge and wisdom is a chasing
after the wind that will only lead
to frustrated exhaustion.



What should you take away?

Humble yourself, you *really* don't know!

Drive the nails of your life into
the *true* words of wisdom!

Be content with and rejoice in
the portion God has given *to you*!

When all is said and done...

The conclusion of it all

The only right response





Ecclesiastes 12:13
When all has been heard...

The only right response?

Fear God!



Ecclesiastes 12:13

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fear God and keep His commandments.

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Psalms 111:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
A good understanding have all those
who do His commandments;
His praise endures forever.



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What does it mean to fear the LORD?

2 Kings 17:34-35

To this day they do according to the earlier customs: they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances or the law, or the commandments which the LORD commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel; with whom the LORD made a covenant and commanded them, saying, “You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down yourselves to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them.”

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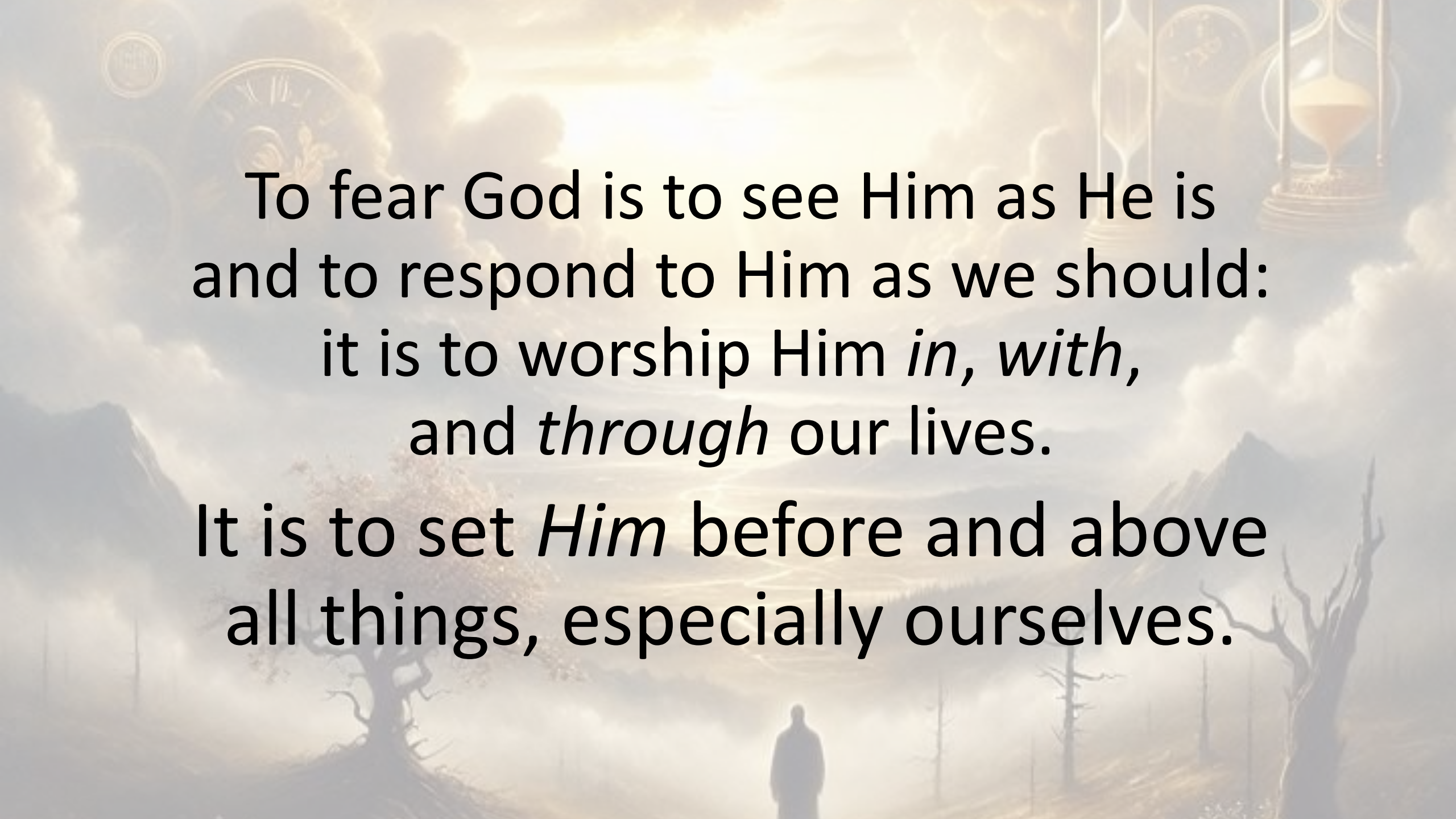
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yourselves to them nor serve them nor **sacrifice to them.**”



To fear God is to see Him as He is
and to respond to Him as we should:
it is to worship Him *in, with,*
and *through* our lives.

It is to set *Him* before and above
all things, especially ourselves.

The only right response...

Fear God!

Obey His commands!



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Obeying the LORD is a key and demonstrable aspect of fearing Him.

Psalm 111:10

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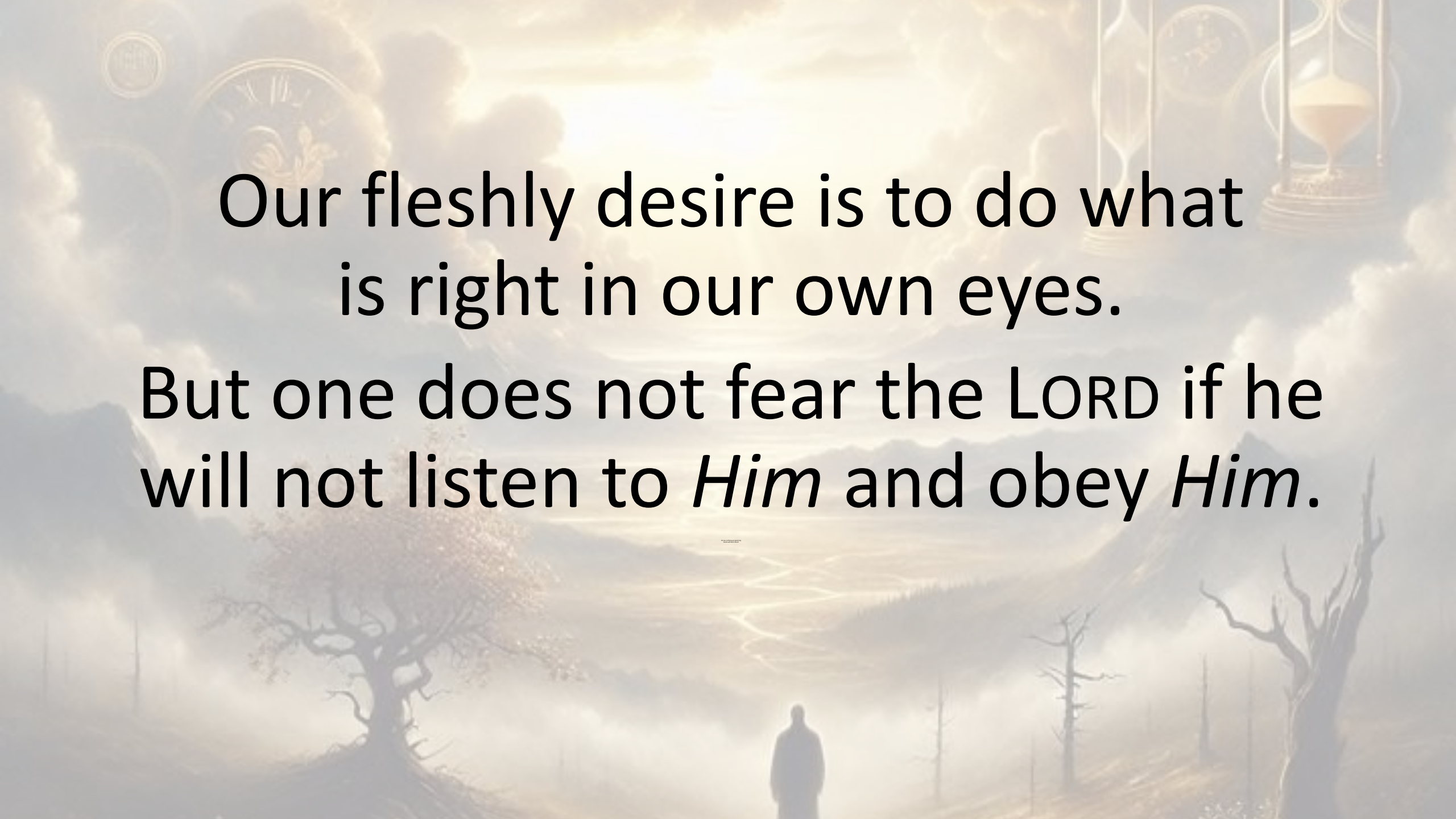
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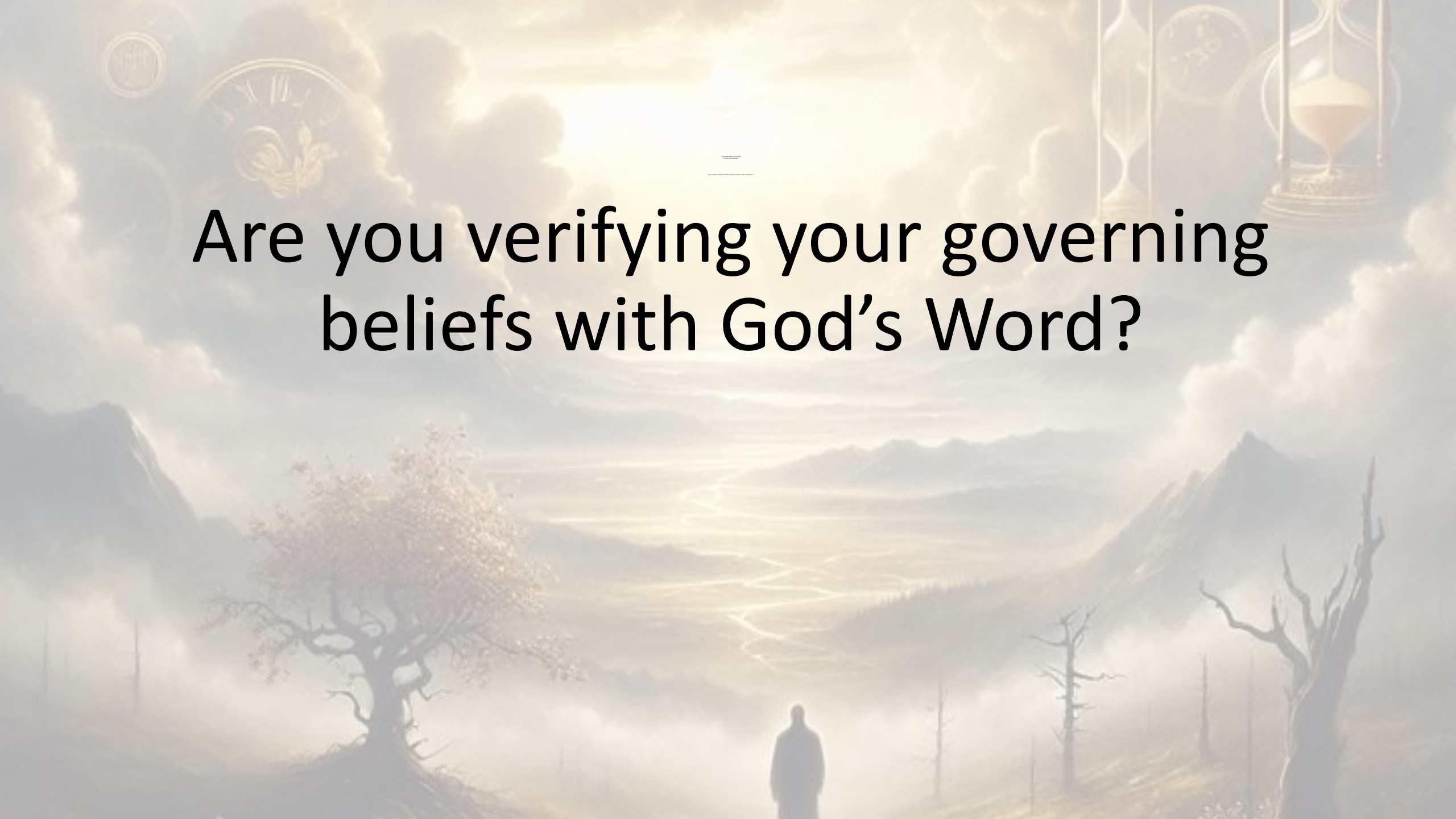
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LORD commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel.

A surreal landscape with a person standing in a valley, a large tree on the left, and a clock face in the sky.

Our fleshly desire is to do what
is right in our own eyes.

But one does not fear the LORD if he
will not listen to *Him* and obey *Him*.



Are you verifying your governing
beliefs with God's Word?

When all is said and done...

The conclusion of it all

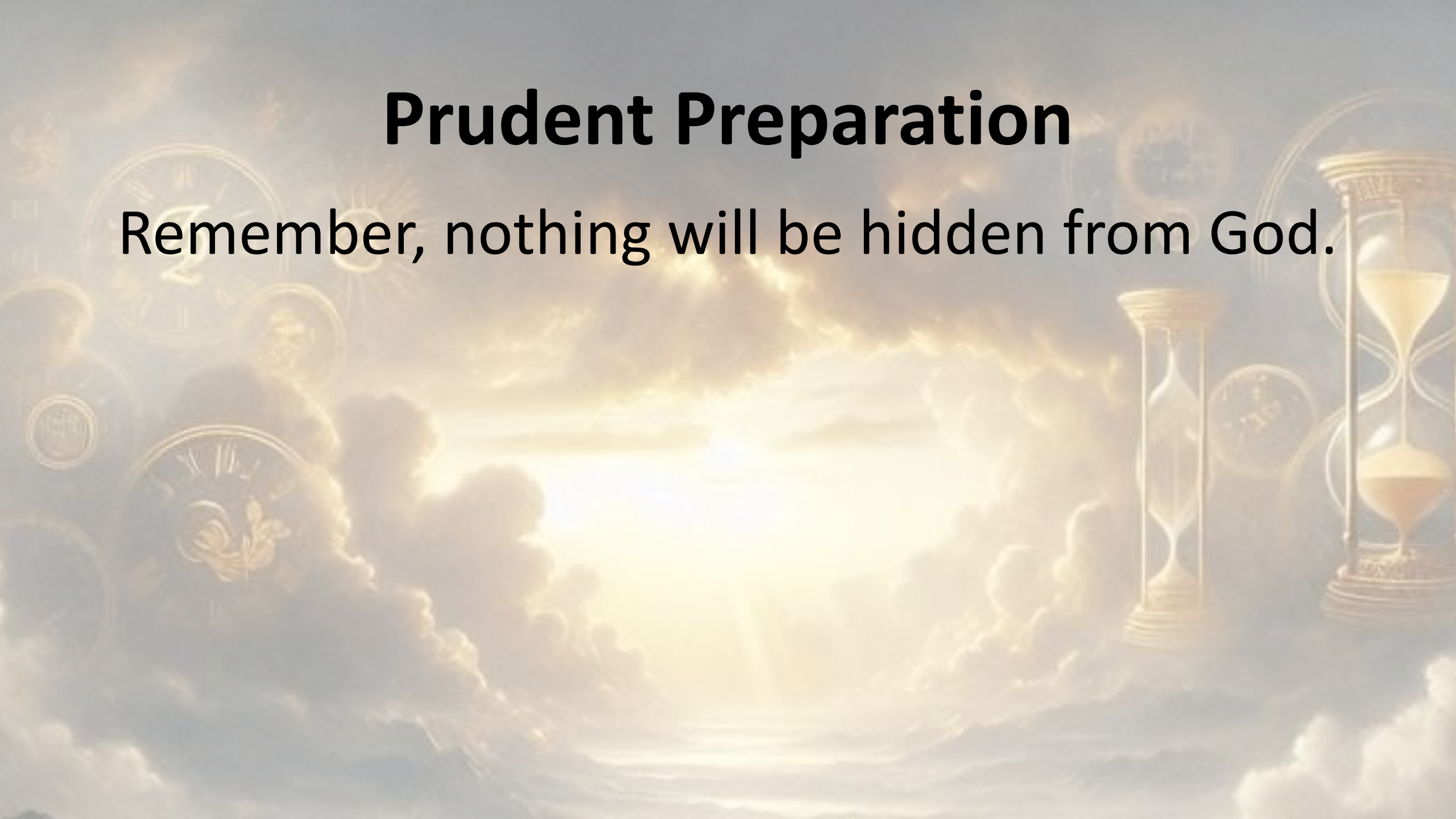
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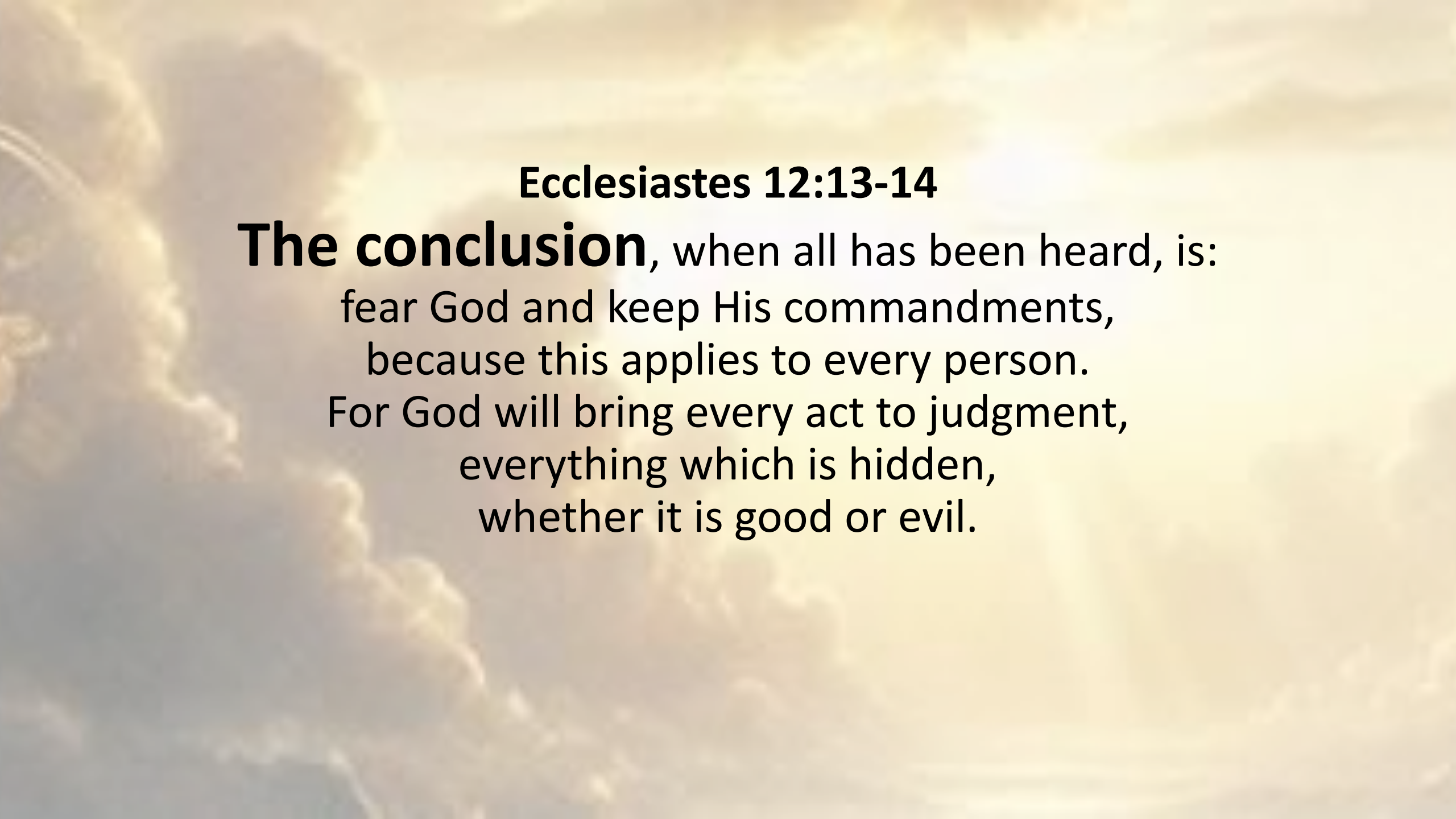
The only prudent preparation



Prudent Preparation

Remember, nothing will be hidden from God.





Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

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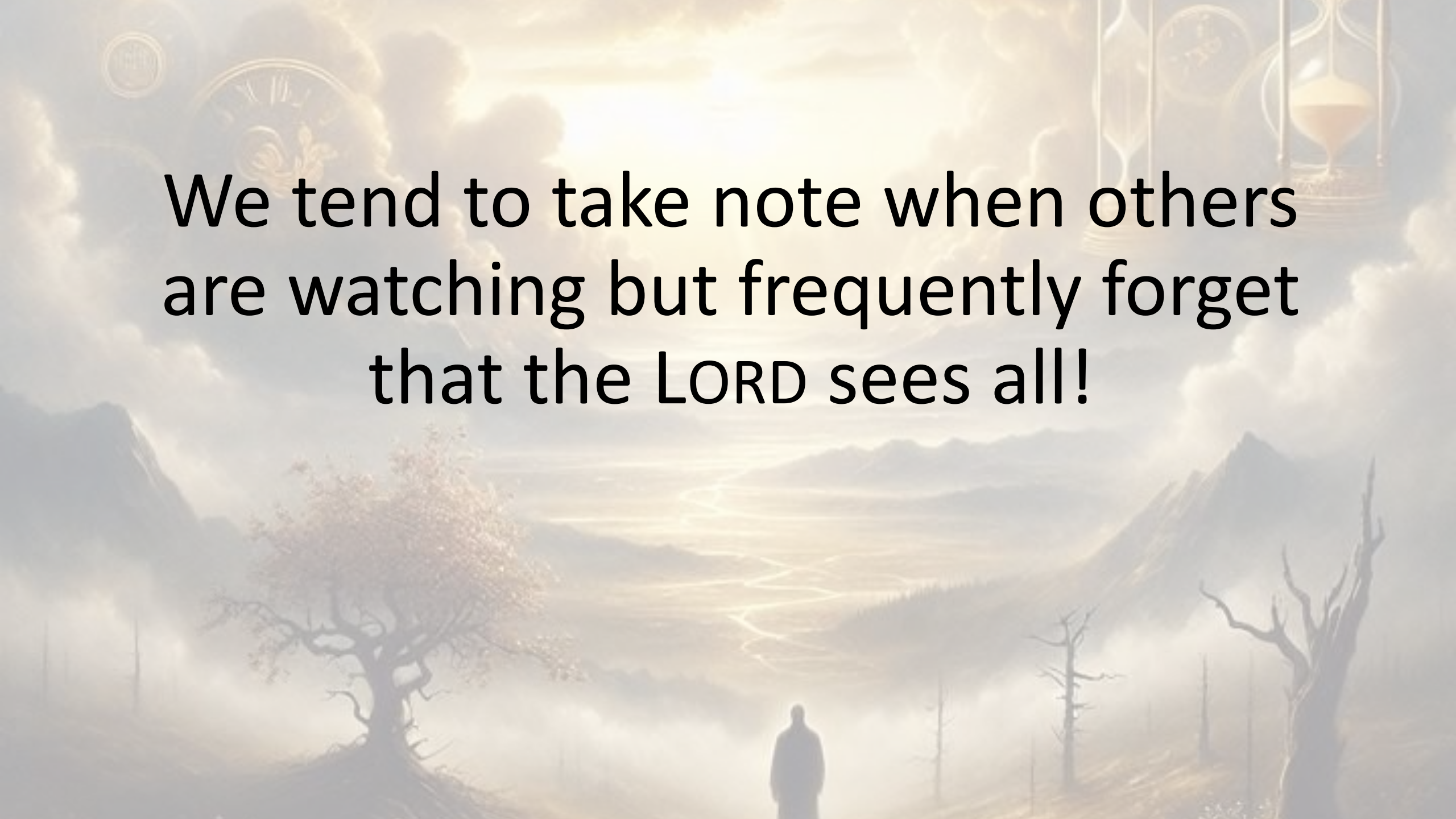
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Hebrews 4:13

And there is no creature hidden from His sight,
but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him
with whom we have to do.

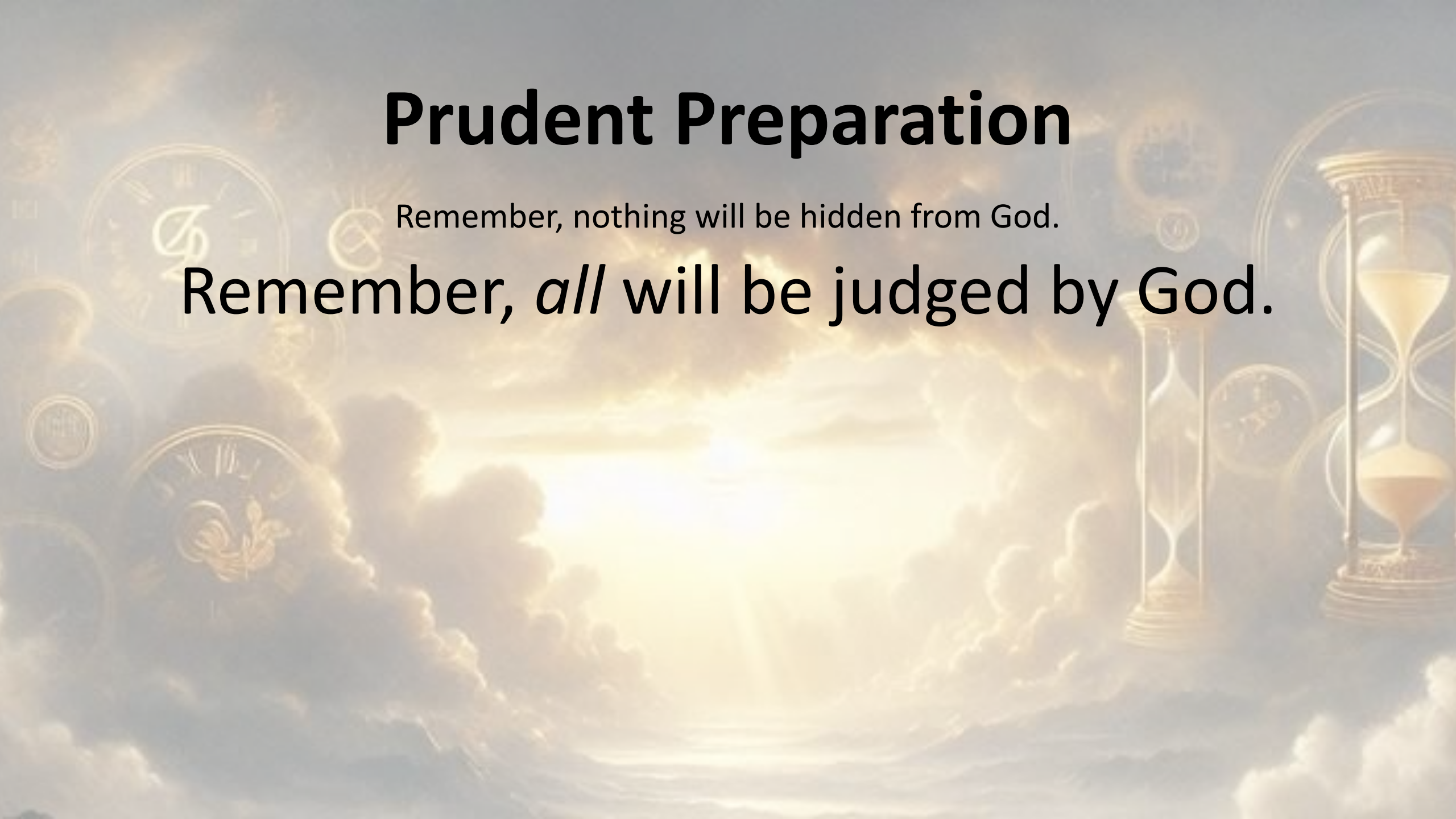


We tend to take note when others
are watching but frequently forget
that the LORD sees all!

Prudent Preparation

Remember, nothing will be hidden from God.

Remember, *all* will be judged by God.



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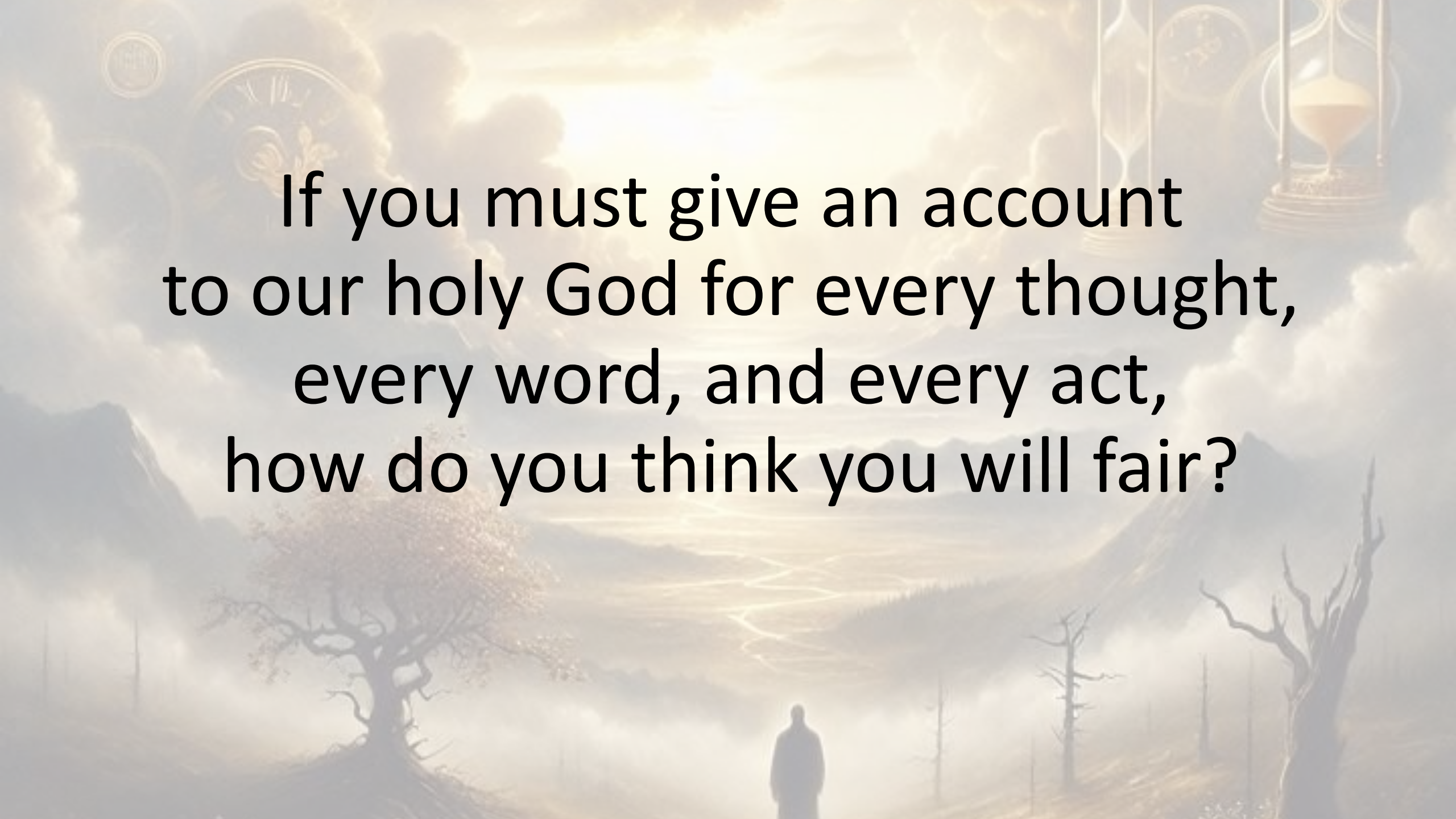
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Matthew 12:36

“But I tell you that ***every*** careless word that people speak,
they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.”

The background is a composite image. It features a hazy, mountainous landscape with a person standing in the center foreground, looking out over a valley. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and wispy clouds. In the upper left corner, there is a faint, circular clock face. In the upper right corner, there is a faint, golden hourglass. The overall tone is contemplative and spiritual.

If you must give an account
to our holy God for every thought,
every word, and every act,
how do you think you will fair?

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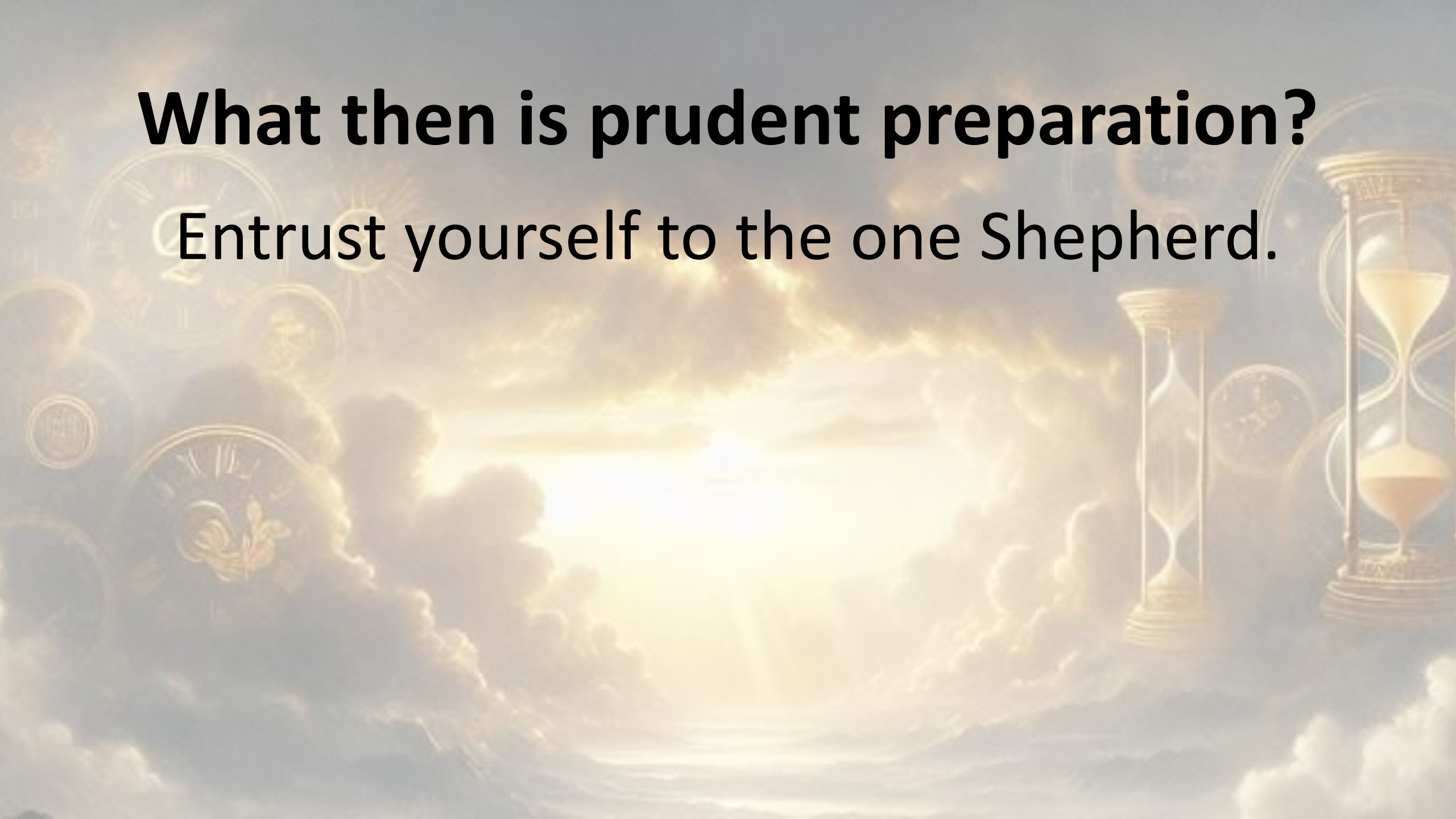
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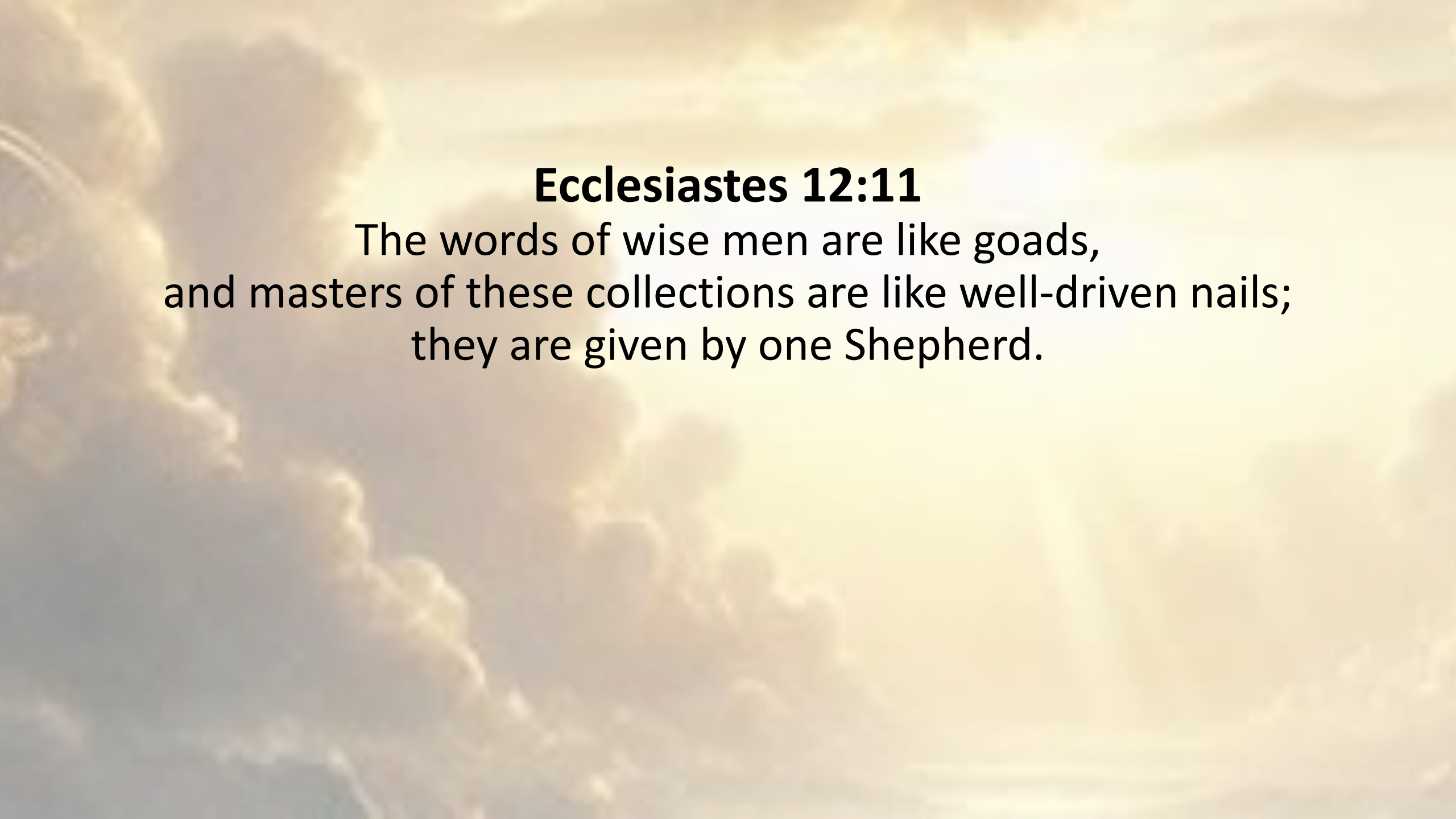
For God will bring every act to judgment,
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This applies to *you*!

What then is prudent preparation?

Entrust yourself to the one Shepherd.





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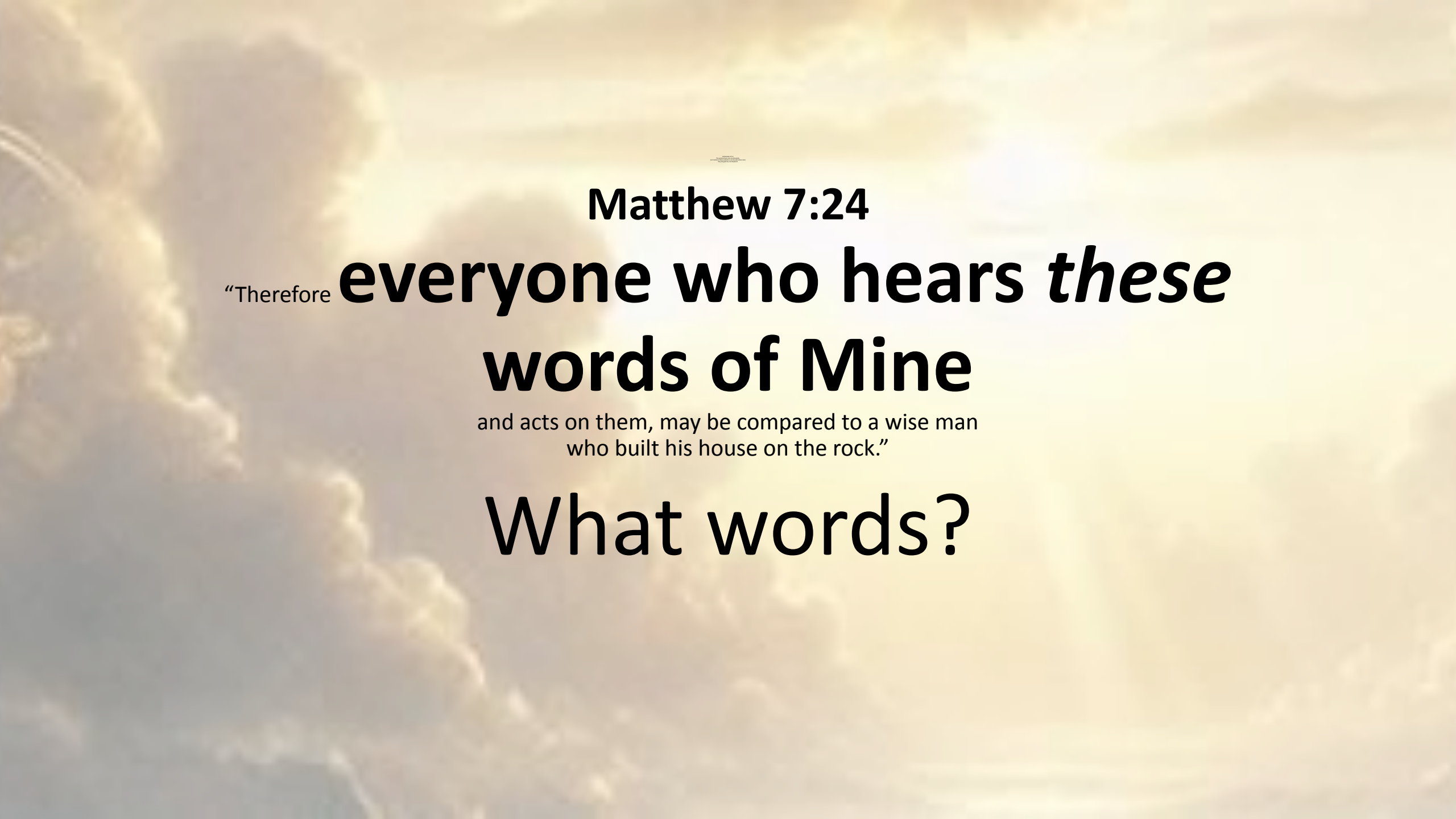
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Matthew 7:24

“Therefore everyone who hears *these* words of Mine
and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man
who built his house on the rock.”



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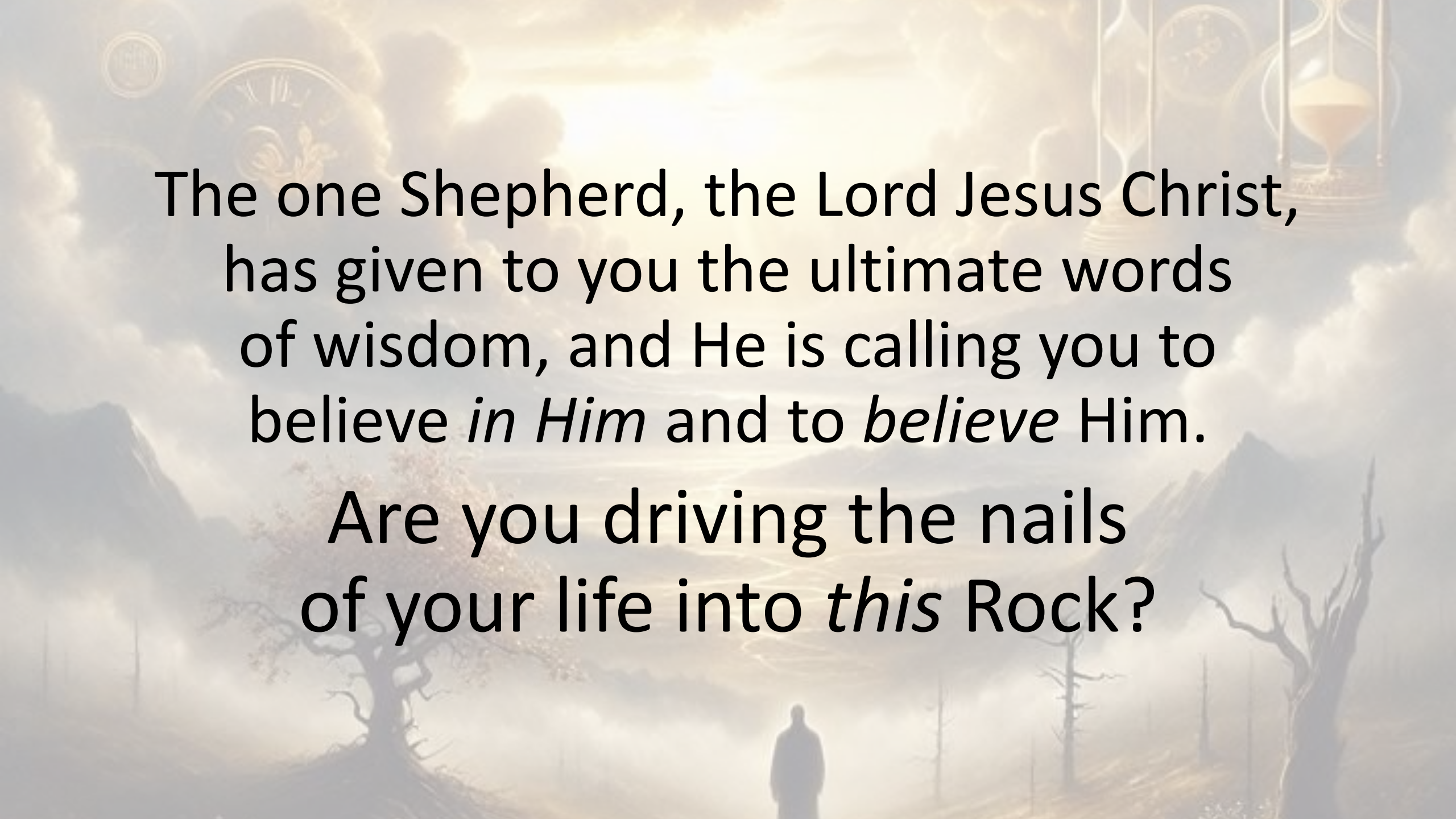
What words?



Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved.

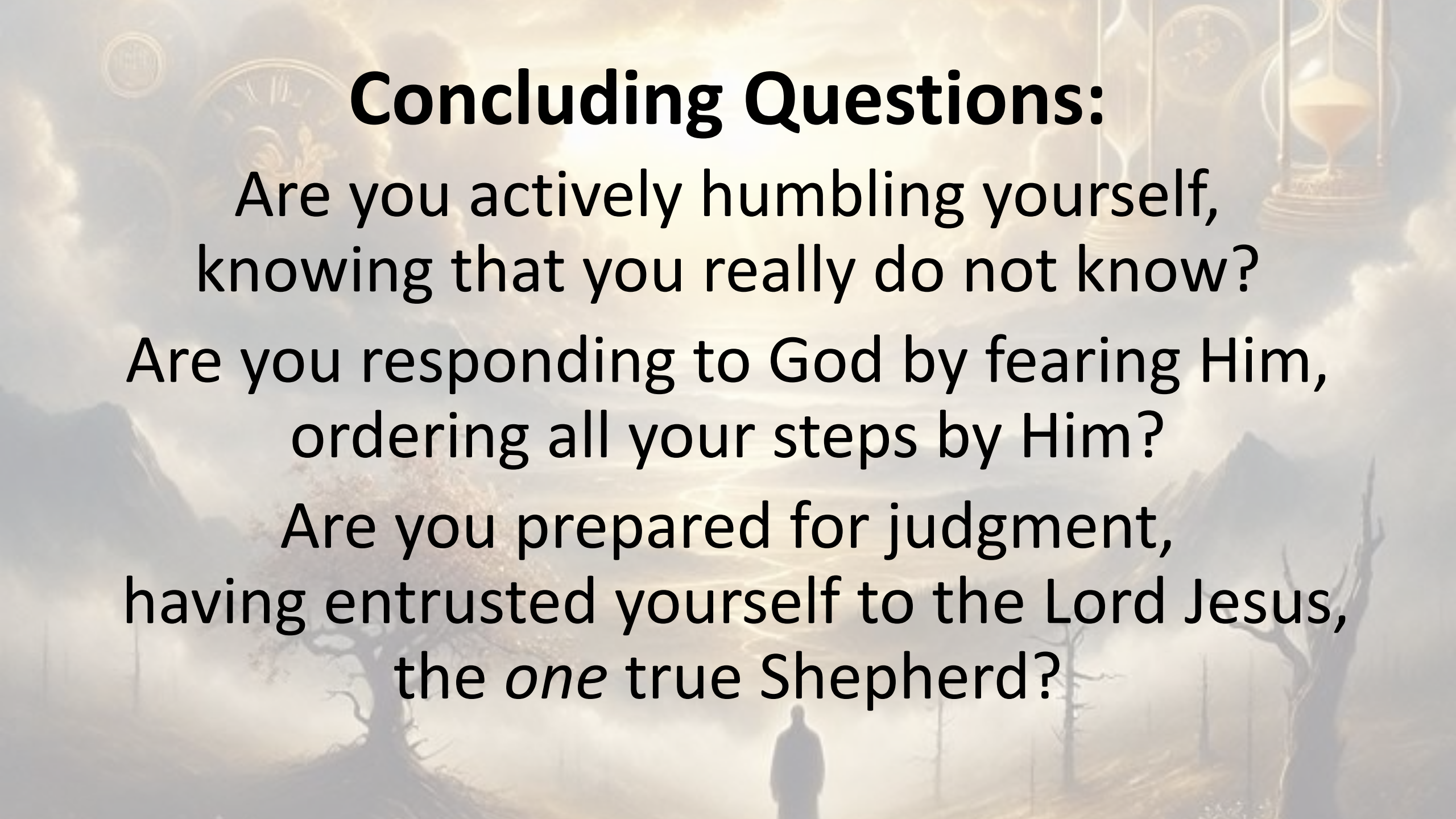
Romans 10:17

For faith comes from hearing,
and hearing by the word of Christ.



The one Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ,
has given to you the ultimate words
of wisdom, and He is calling you to
believe *in Him* and to *believe* Him.

Are you driving the nails
of your life into *this* Rock?



Concluding Questions:

Are you actively humbling yourself,
knowing that you really do not know?

Are you responding to God by fearing Him,
ordering all your steps by Him?

Are you prepared for judgment,
having entrusted yourself to the Lord Jesus,
the *one* true Shepherd?