

Castle on the Cloud

Numbers 9:15-23



Numbers 9:15-23

- 15 On the day the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant law, was set up, the cloud covered it. From evening till morning the cloud above the tabernacle looked like fire.
- 16 That is how it continued to be; the cloud covered it, and at night it looked like fire.
- 17 Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped.
- 18 At the Lord's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp.



Numbers 9:15-23

- 19 When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed the Lord's order and did not set out.
- 20 Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days; at the Lord's command they would encamp, and then at his command they would set out.
- 21 Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out.



Numbers 9:15-23

- 22 Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out.
- 23 At the Lord's command they encamped, and at the Lord's command they set out. They obeyed the Lord's order, in accordance with his command through Moses.



Rabbit



Dog



Pooh Bear



Castle On The Cloud



Why did God use a pillar of cloud to guide the Israelites?



1) Confidence in God



1) Confidence in God

Rev Joseph Benson termed the cloud as the badge of God's protection, and so became the bond of their allegiance.

Exodus 14:19-20

- 19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them,
- 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

A wooden boardwalk made of grey planks winds through a field of tall, green grass. The boardwalk starts from the bottom center and curves to the left, then back to the right, leading towards a line of trees in the distance. The sky is a dark, overcast grey. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

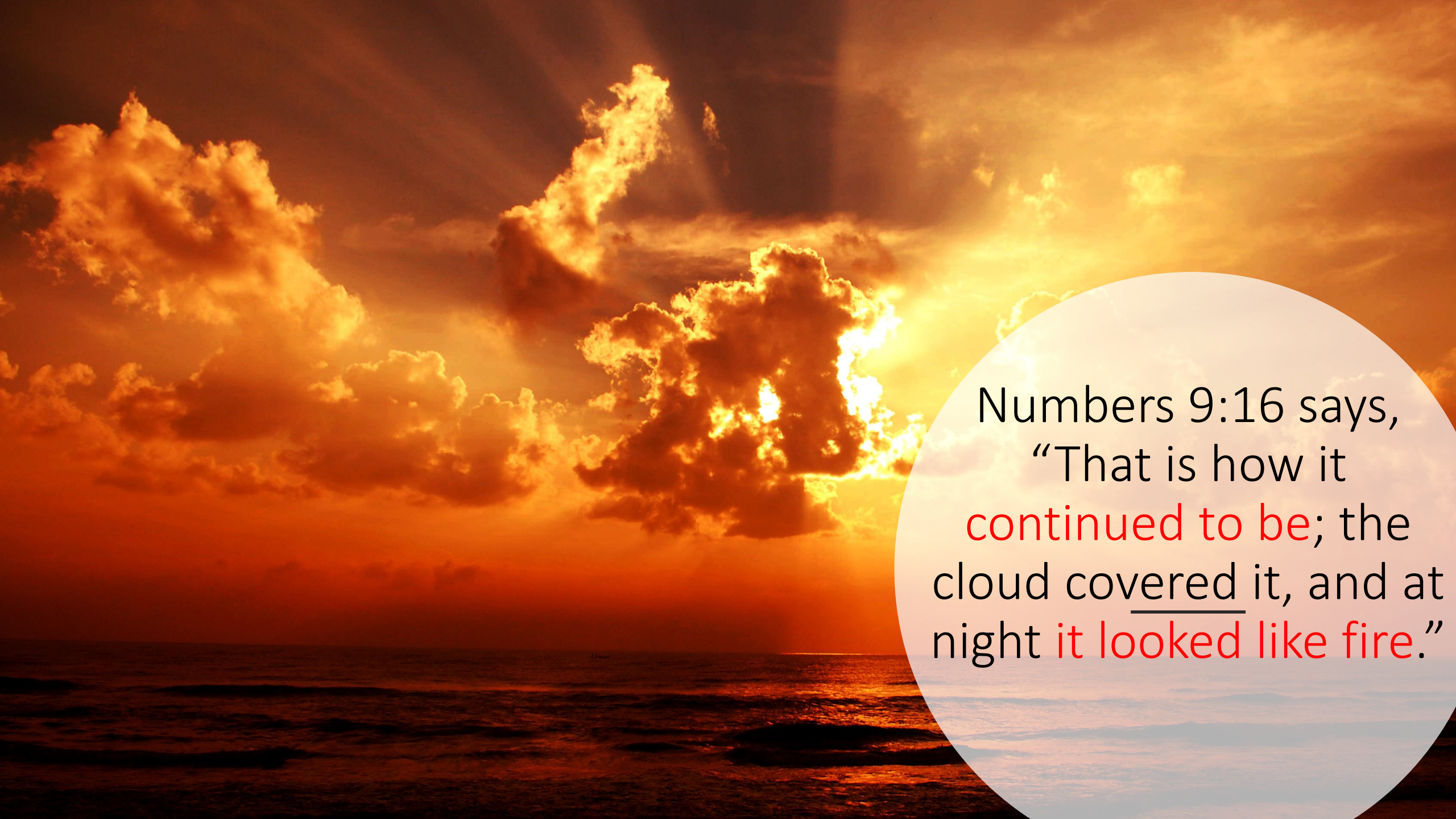
(Raymond
Brown)

The cloud served as an inspiration for the Israelites to have confidence in God, though there were times when their hearts were wilfully or carelessly turned away from him, but he did not remove the cloud: That is how it continued to be. He had promised in his firm agreement that they could count on his unfailing companionship throughout their days.

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1. Confidence in God
 2. Continued Assurance

(Baruch A
Levine)

Fire burned inside the cloud at all times, day and night, except that during the day it was not visible, whereas at night it could be seen in contrast to the enveloping darkness.

A dramatic sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds that are illuminated from behind by the sun, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The sun is partially obscured by a large, dark cloud in the center. The ocean is visible at the bottom, with waves breaking. A large white circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

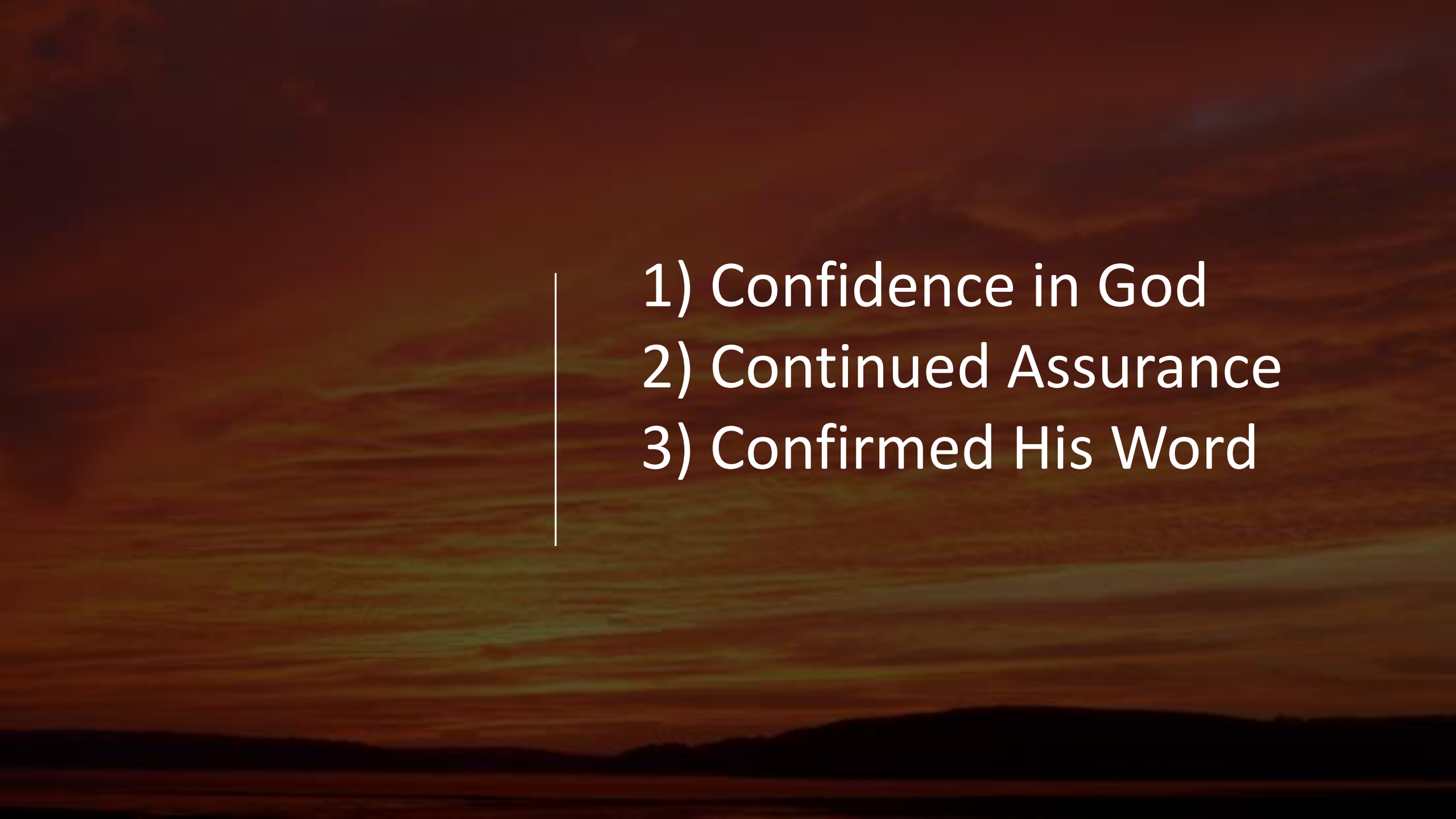
Numbers 9:16 says,
“That is how it
continued to be; the
cloud covered it, and at
night **it looked like fire.**”

Exodus 13:21-22

- 21 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.
- 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Castle on a
Cloud

Les Misérables

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- 1) Confidence in God
 - 2) Continued Assurance
 - 3) Confirmed His Word

(Raymond Brown)

At different times in their history, God lovingly provided his people with visible signs to **confirm his word**: a rainbow in the sky, a flaming bush in the desert of Midian, a gold covered box for them to carry through the wilderness, and this overshadowing cloud; what Calvin called **'symbols of heavenly glory'**.





Philippians 1:6, “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Verse 17 states, “Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped.”

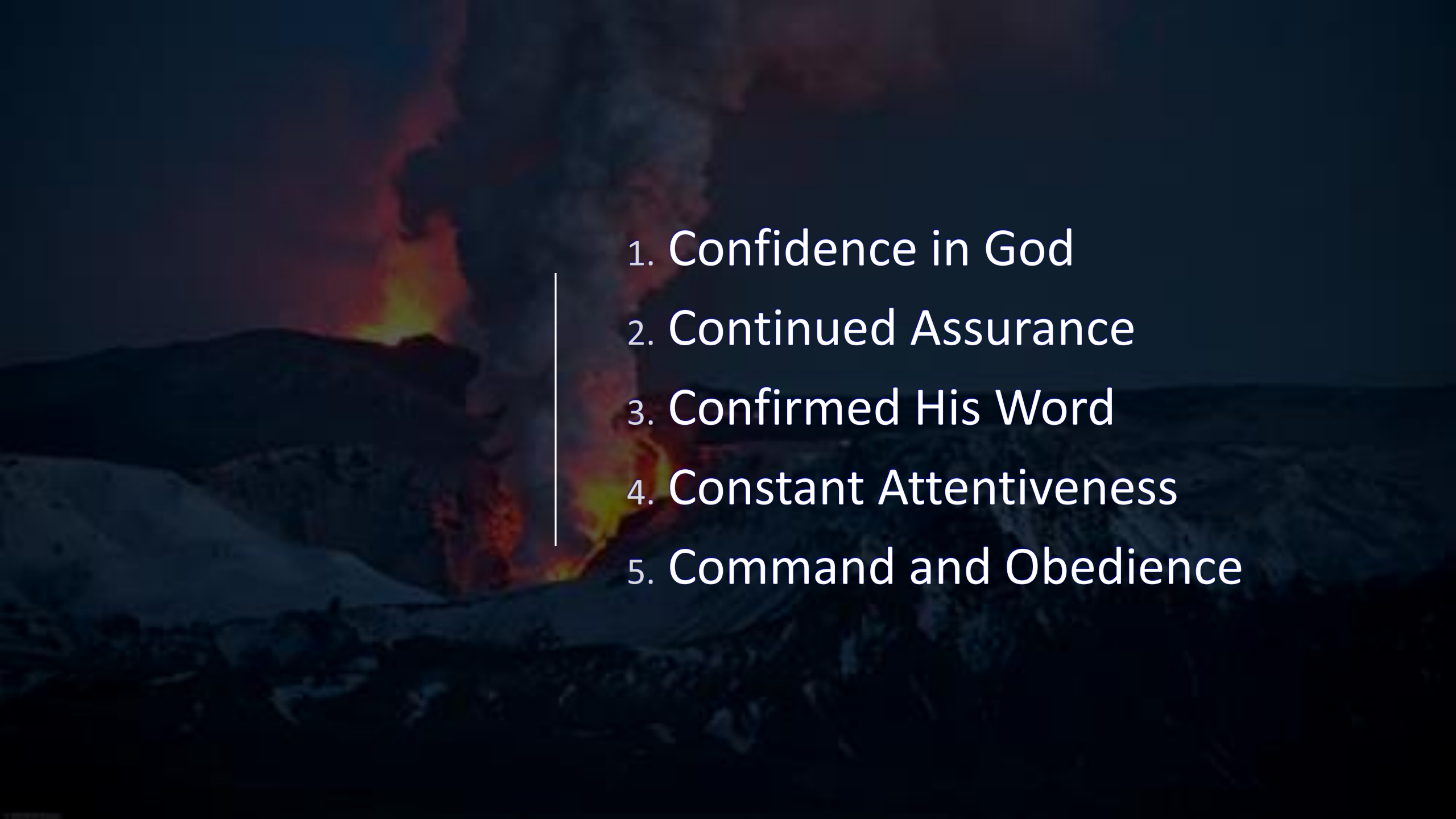
1. Confidence in God
2. Continued Assurance
3. Confirmed His Word
4. Constant Attentiveness

A hand holding a magnifying glass over a blurred background, symbolizing attentiveness. The word "ATTENTIVENESS" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters across the center of the magnifying glass's lens.

ATTENTIVENESS



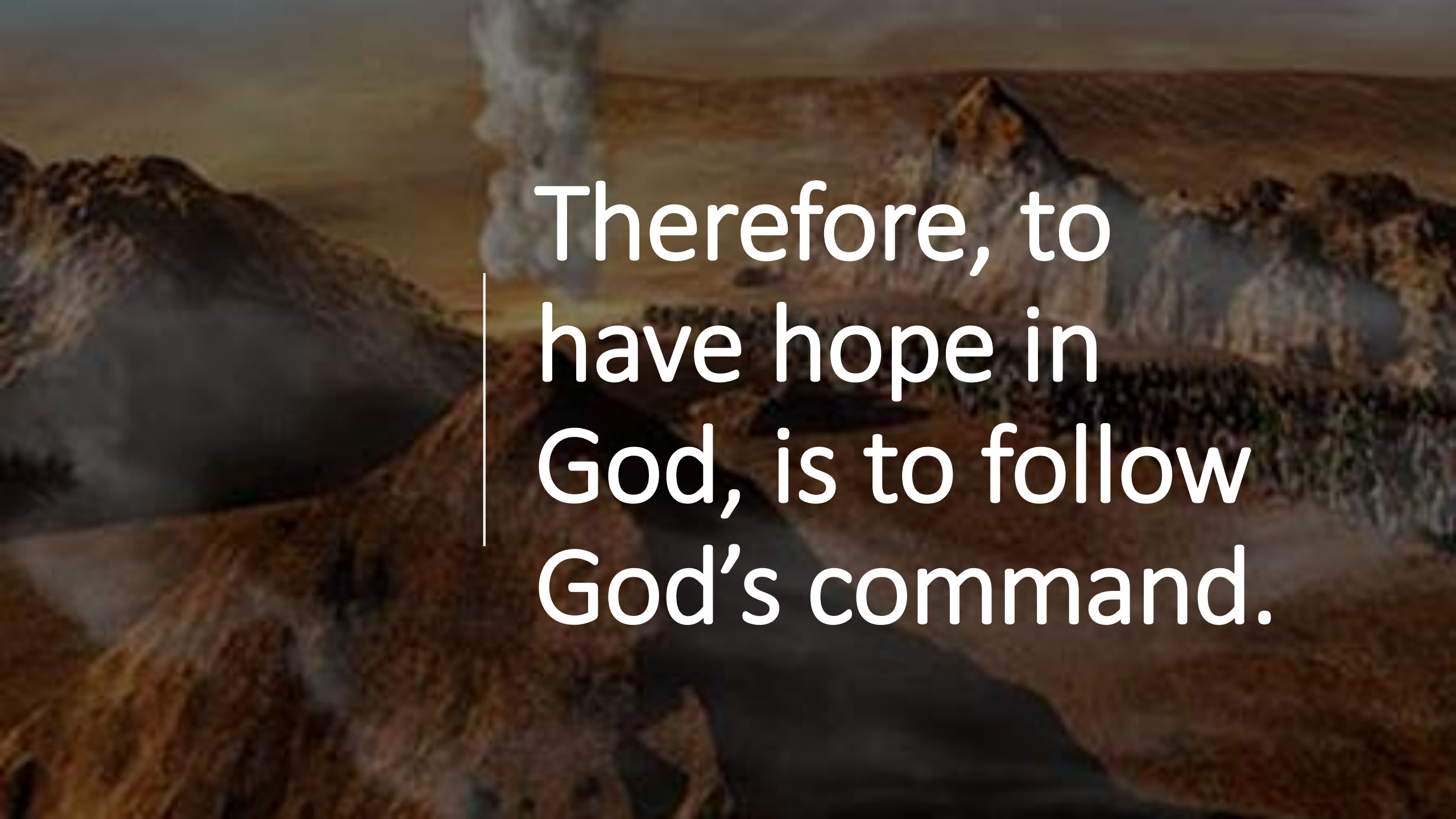
But waiting times are not wasted times. Raymond Brown

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1. Confidence in God
 2. Continued Assurance
 3. Confirmed His Word
 4. Constant Attentiveness
 5. Command and Obedience

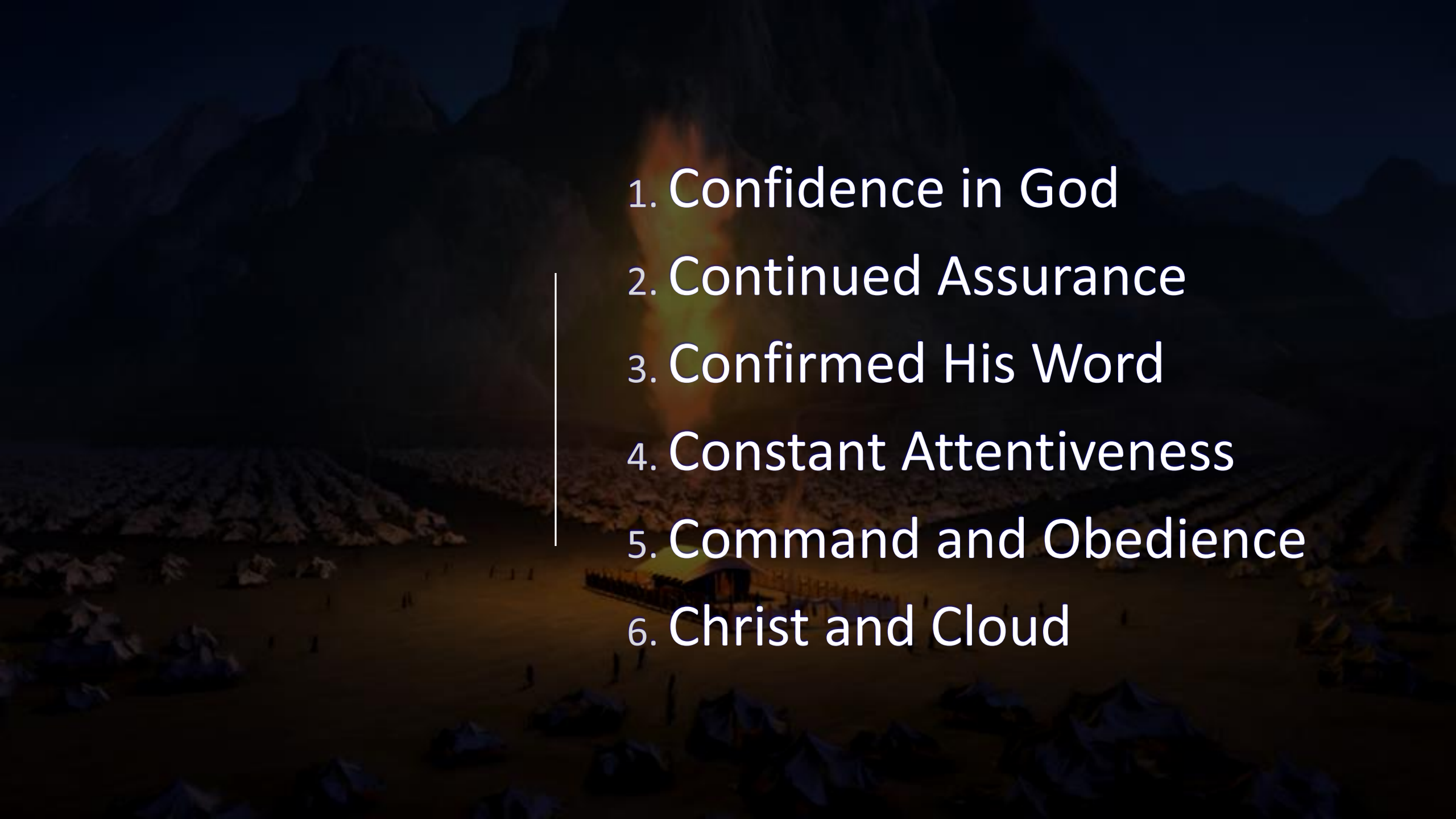


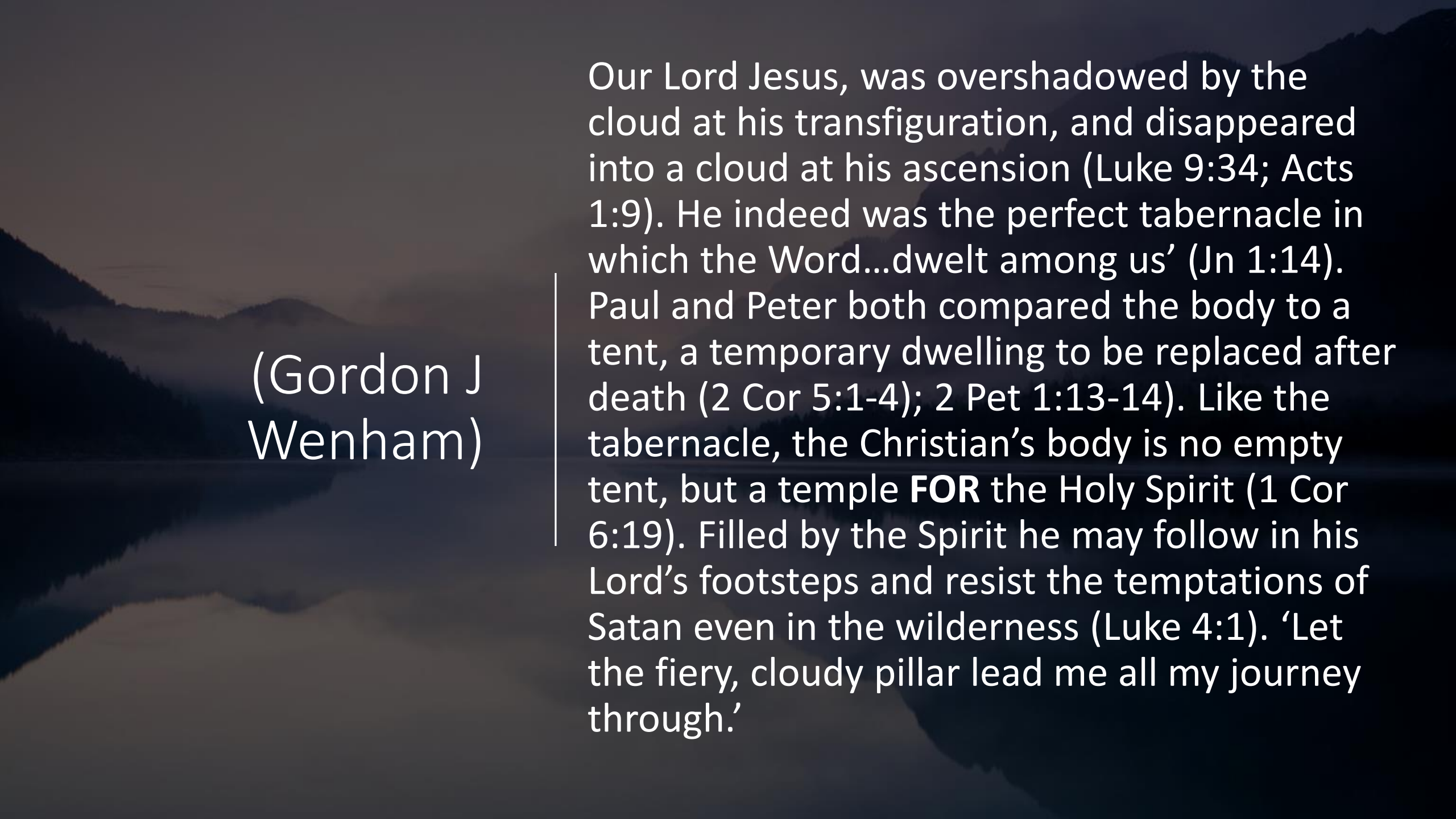
David L Stubbs.

There is a sevenfold repetition of the phrase “at the command of the LORD” (9:18 [twice], 23 [three times]), Great detail is given to all the possible circumstances of Israel’s camping and setting out – in all these circumstances, Israel obeyed God. “This repetition and detail paint a clear picture of the right relationship between God and Israel: God commands and Israel listens and obeys, whatever the circumstances.

A dramatic landscape with a large, dark, rocky formation in the foreground and a bright, hazy sky in the background. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Therefore, to
have hope in
God, is to follow
God's command.

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1. Confidence in God
 2. Continued Assurance
 3. Confirmed His Word
 4. Constant Attentiveness
 5. Command and Obedience
 6. Christ and Cloud



(Gordon J
Wenham)

Our Lord Jesus, was overshadowed by the cloud at his transfiguration, and disappeared into a cloud at his ascension (Luke 9:34; Acts 1:9). He indeed was the perfect tabernacle in which the Word...dwelt among us' (Jn 1:14). Paul and Peter both compared the body to a tent, a temporary dwelling to be replaced after death (2 Cor 5:1-4); 2 Pet 1:13-14). Like the tabernacle, the Christian's body is no empty tent, but a temple **FOR** the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19). Filled by the Spirit he may follow in his Lord's footsteps and resist the temptations of Satan even in the wilderness (Luke 4:1). 'Let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.'

1. Confidence in God
2. Continued Assurance
3. Confirmed His Word
4. Constant Attentiveness
5. Command and Obedience
6. Christ and Cloud
7. Coming of the Spirit

Numbers 11:25

- 25 And the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Then he gave the seventy elders the same Spirit that was upon Moses. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But this never happened again.

Numbers 11:25 King James Version

- “when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, **and did not cease.**”

1 Sam 10:10

When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul, and he joined in their prophesying.

Numbers
11:26-30

26 Two men, Eldad and Medad, had stayed behind in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but they had not gone out to the Tabernacle. Yet the Spirit rested upon them as well, so they prophesied there in the camp.

27 A young man ran and reported to Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!”

Numbers
11:26-30

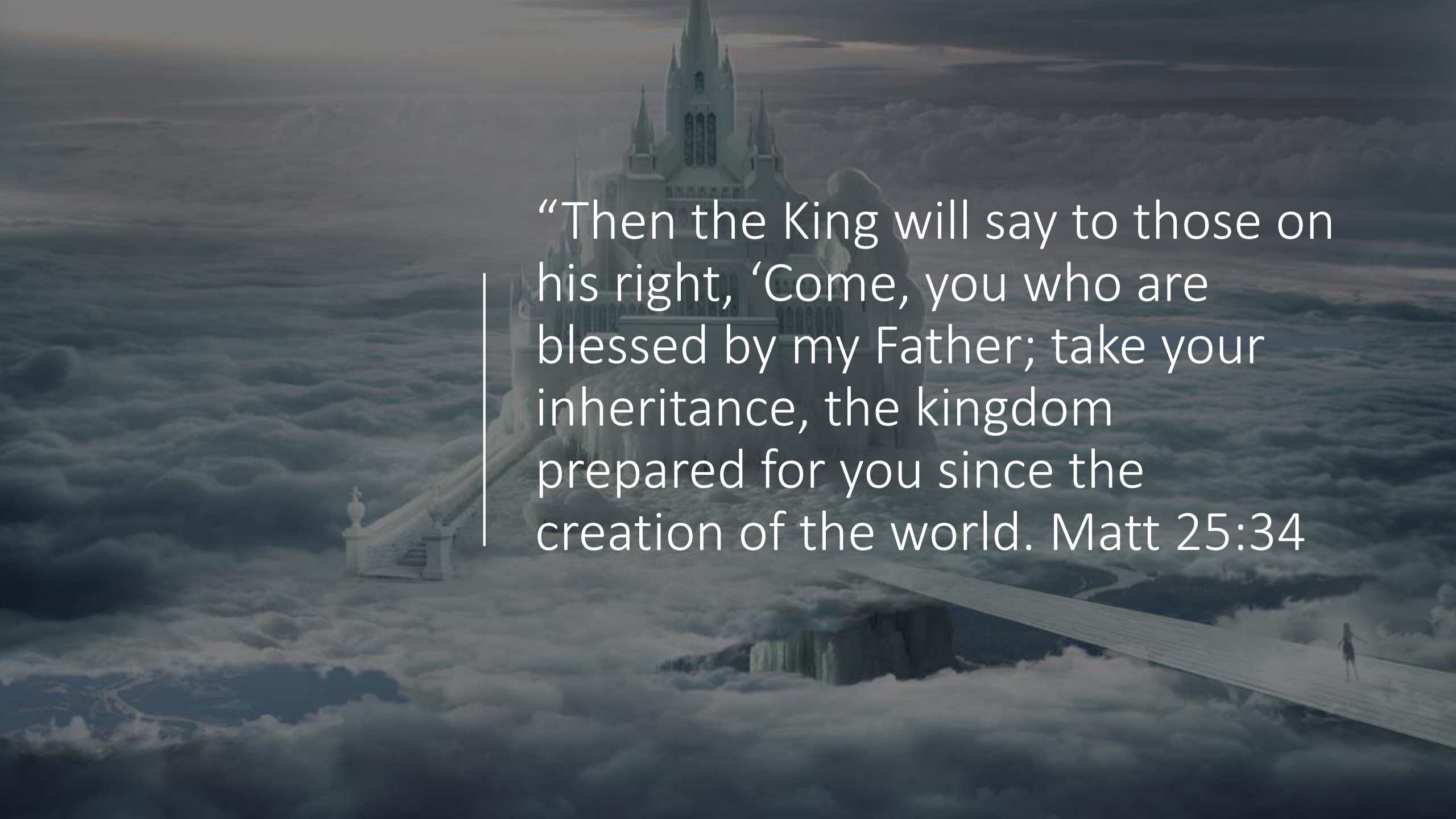
28 Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' assistant since his youth, protested, "Moses, my master, make them stop!"

29 But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them all!

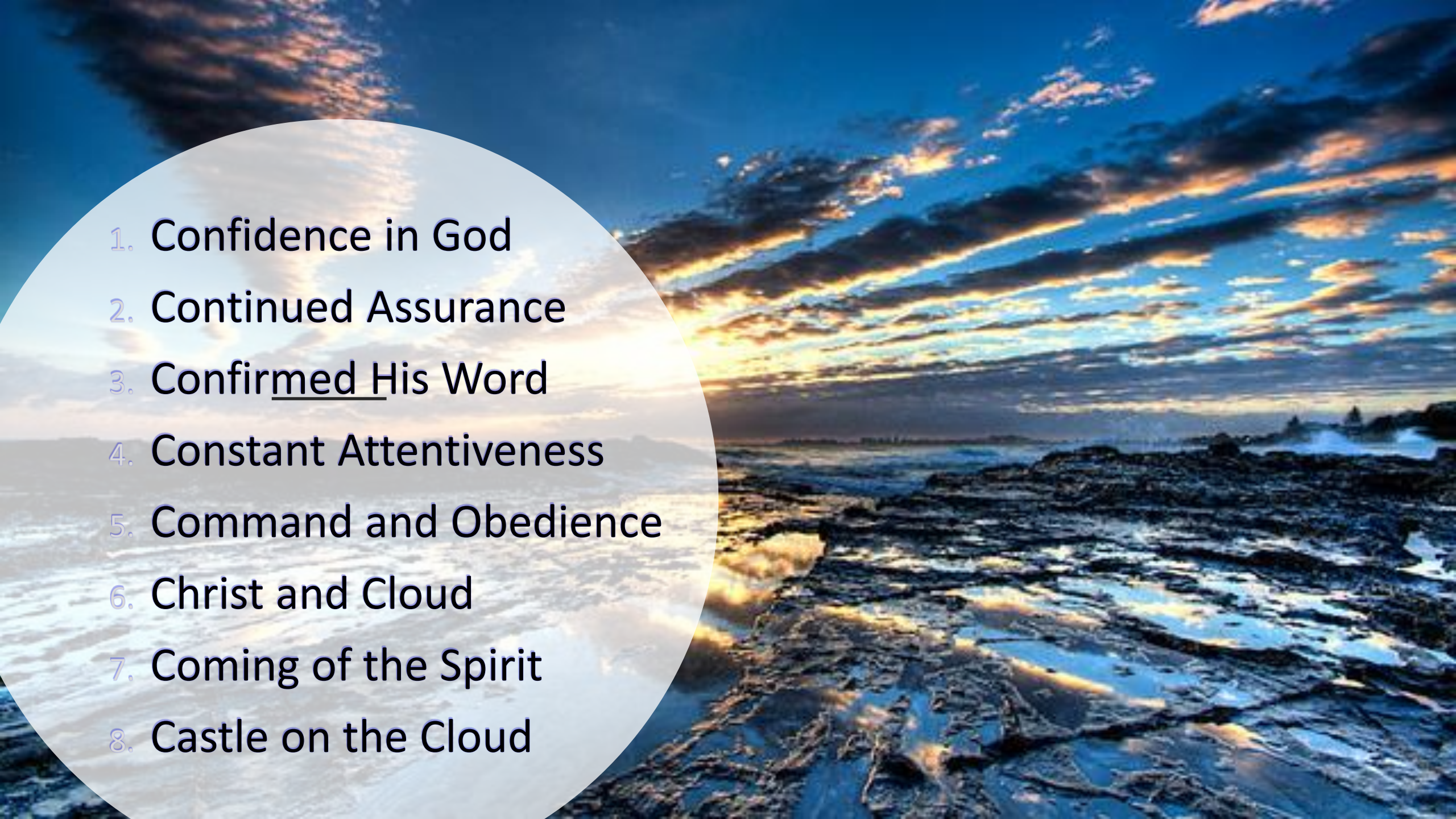
" 30 Then Moses returned to the camp with the elders of Israel.

Rev 21:1-2, “Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.



A surreal landscape featuring a large, ornate castle with multiple spires and towers, situated on a high, rocky cliff. A long, narrow bridge spans across a deep chasm, with a small figure walking across it. The scene is set against a backdrop of a vast, cloudy sky, possibly at dawn or dusk, with a soft, hazy light. The overall tone is ethereal and majestic.

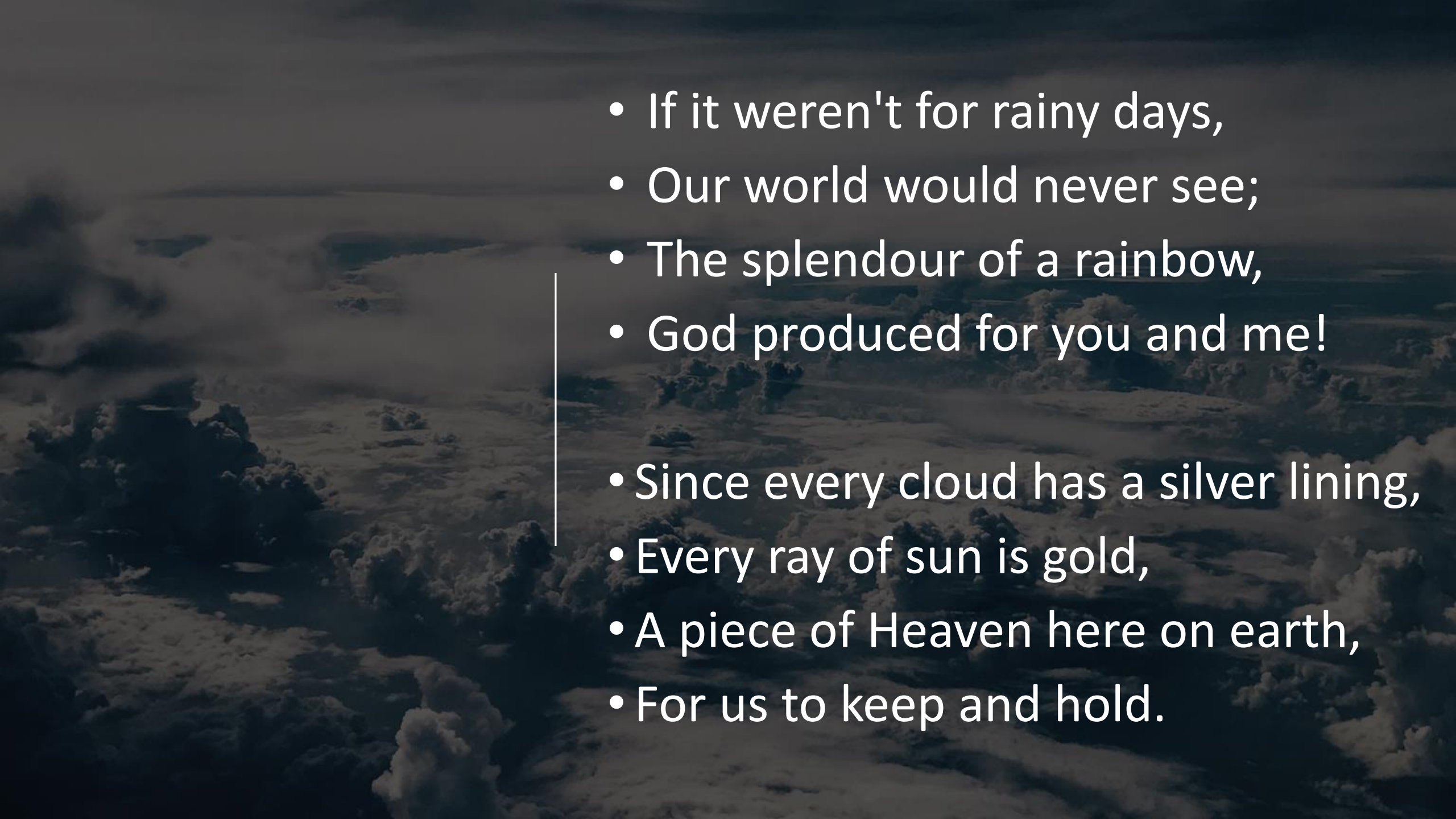
“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. Matt 25:34

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1. Confidence in God
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 6. Christ and Cloud
 7. Coming of the Spirit
 8. Castle on the Cloud

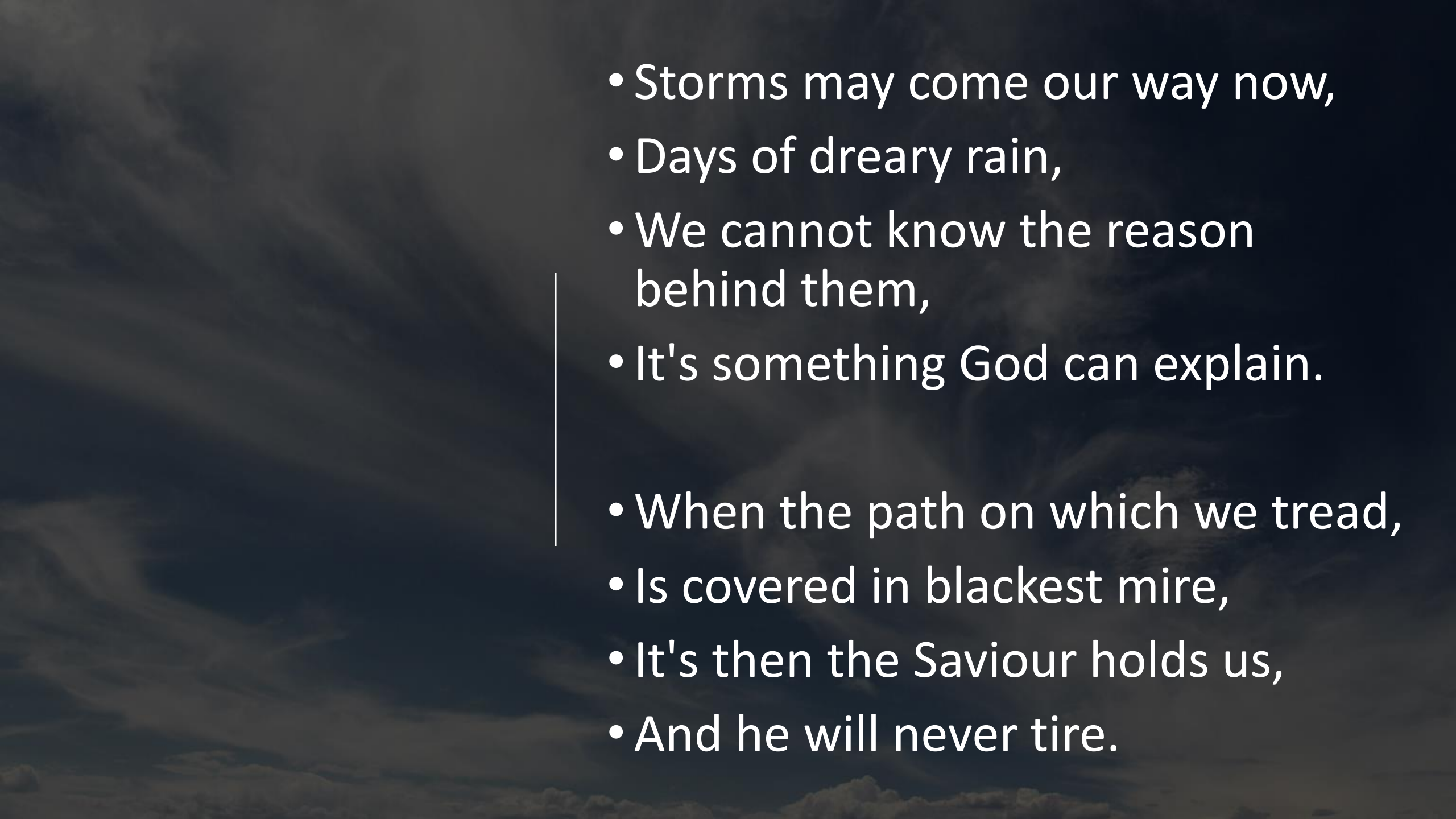
Poem written
by Rachel
Marie
Bentham,
titled, Every
Cloud.

- Every cloud has a silver lining,
- I know this to be true,
- Every time you see a sunbeam,
- They're shining back at you.

- When you see a rainbow,
- Its beauty bright and full,
- Remember that the rainbow
- Could ne'er be here at all...

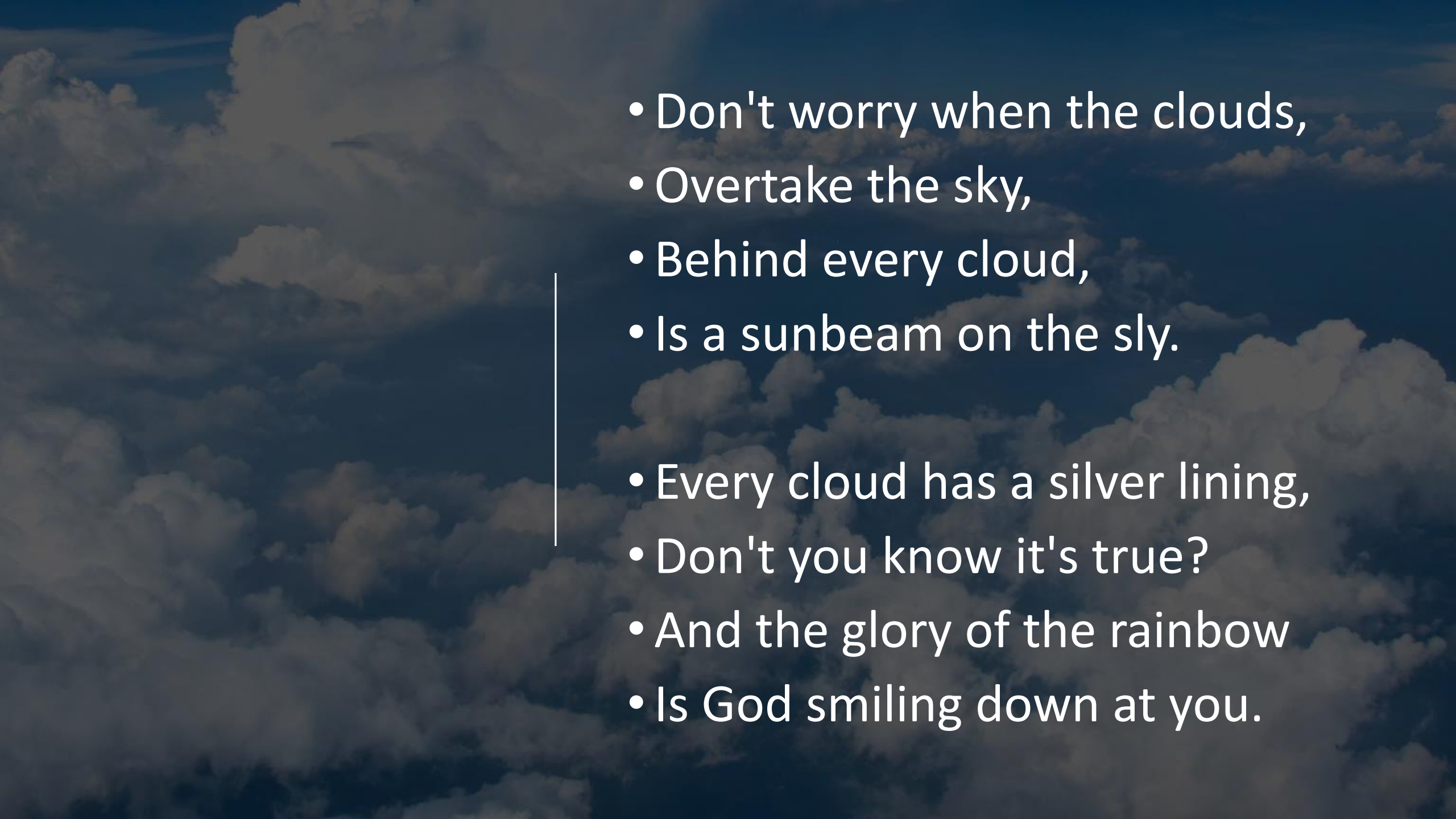
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- If it weren't for rainy days,
 - Our world would never see;
 - The splendour of a rainbow,
 - God produced for you and me!

 - Since every cloud has a silver lining,
 - Every ray of sun is gold,
 - A piece of Heaven here on earth,
 - For us to keep and hold.

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- Storms may come our way now,
 - Days of dreary rain,
 - We cannot know the reason behind them,
 - It's something God can explain.
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- When the path on which we tread,
 - Is covered in blackest mire,
 - It's then the Saviour holds us,
 - And he will never tire.

- We may fall and stumble,
- When the road is dark as night,
- But to God that is no trouble,
- He is our very sight.

- We cannot see in darkness,
- As blind and helpless mice,
- We trip upon the stony path,
- Trouble holds us in a vice.

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- Don't worry when the clouds,
 - Overtake the sky,
 - Behind every cloud,
 - Is a sunbeam on the sly.

- Every cloud has a silver lining,
- Don't you know it's true?
- And the glory of the rainbow
- Is God smiling down at you.