



EXODUS

Set Free to Serve

Fall 2025

EXODUS

Chapter 21:1-32

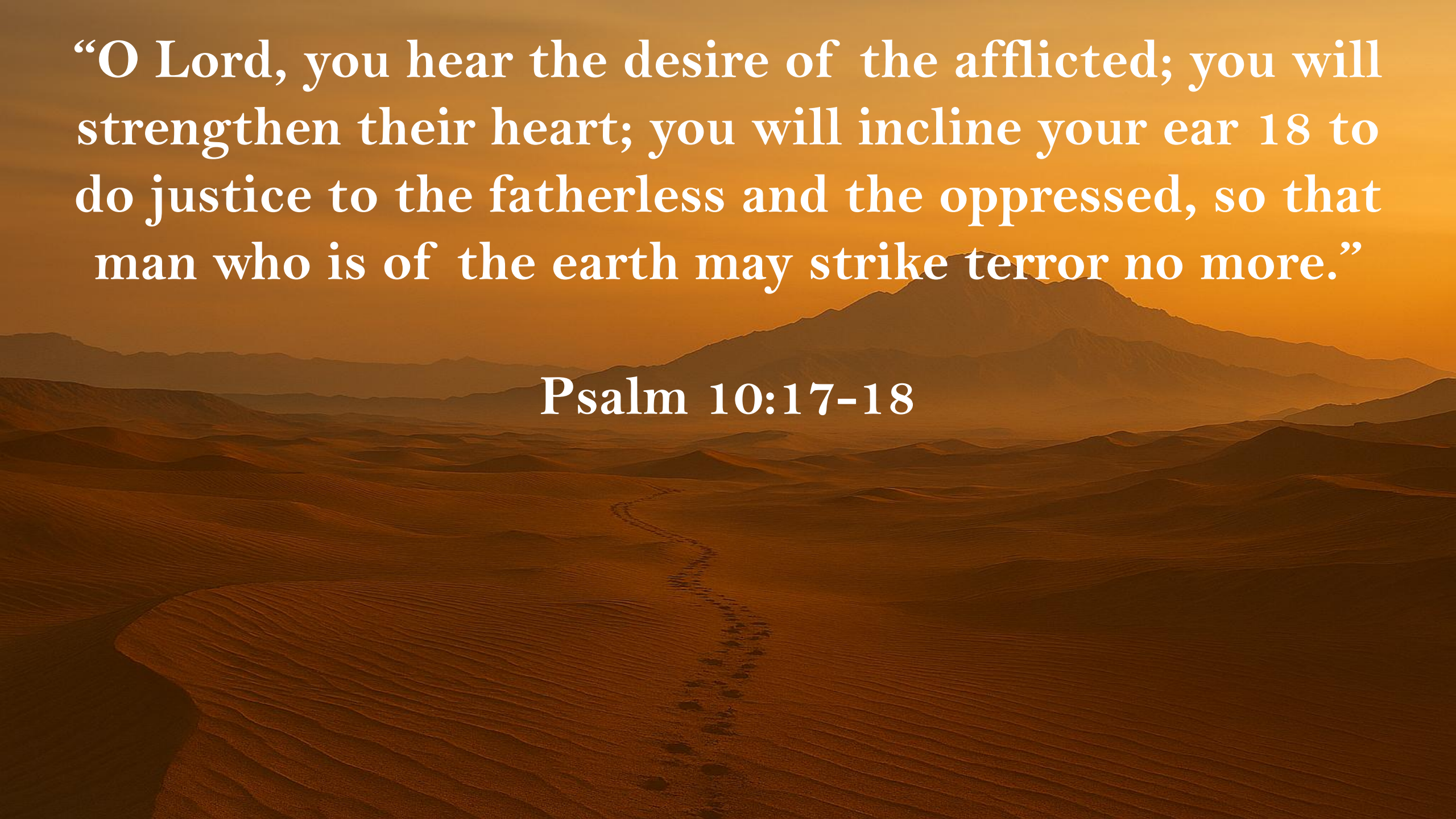
God's Systems for the Vulnerable

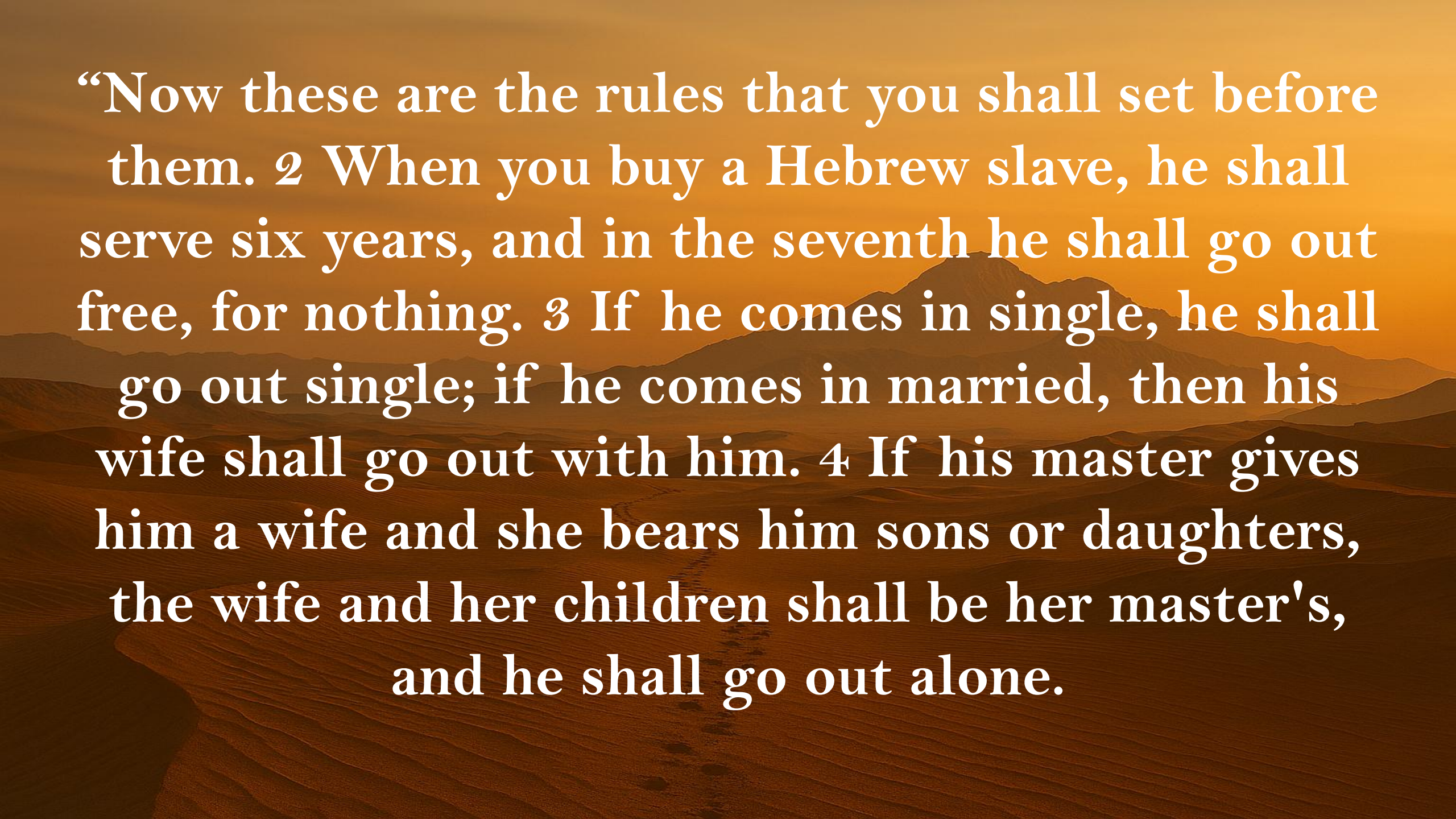


Eved = Servant

“O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.”

Psalm 10:17-18





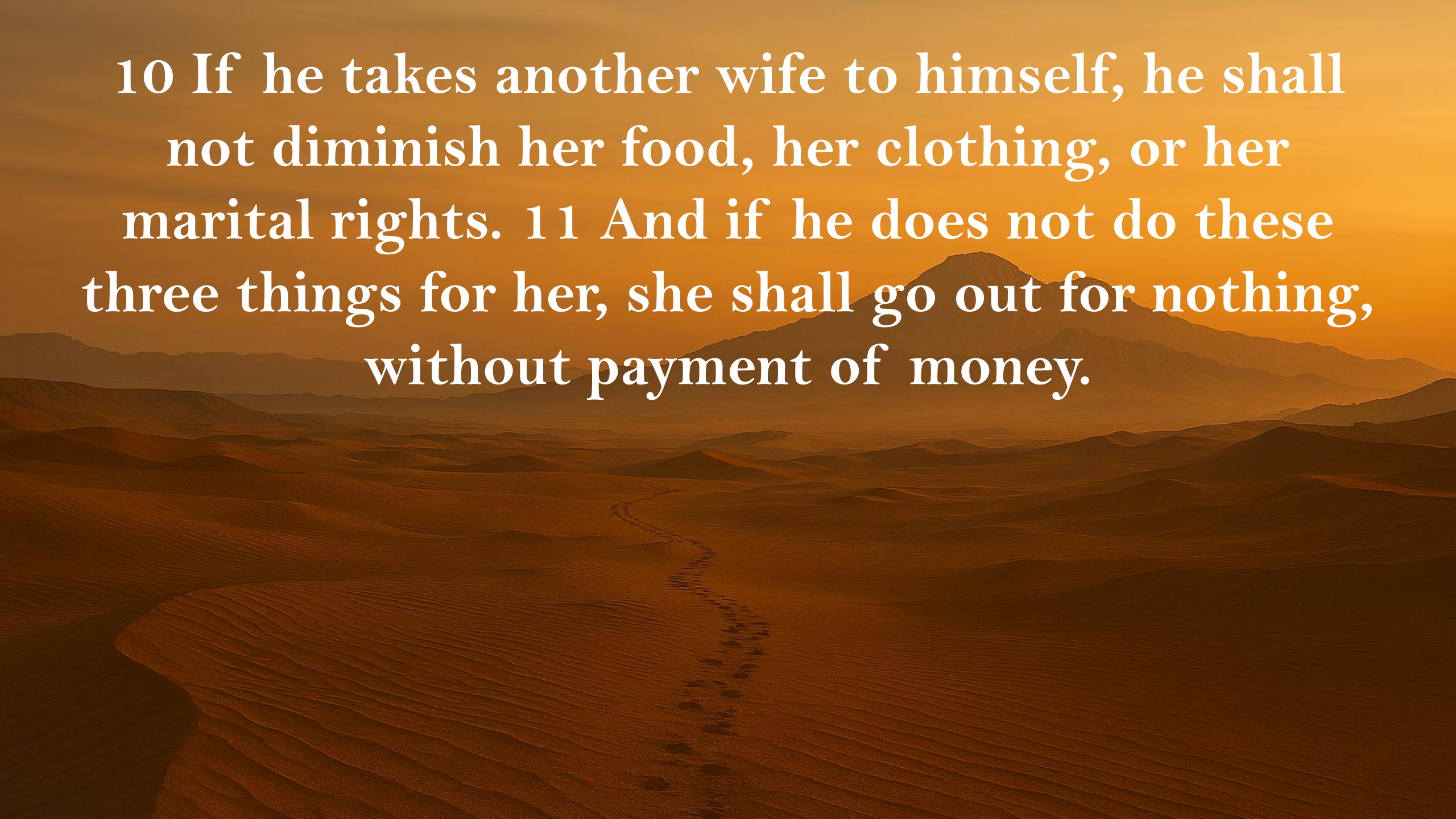
“Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. 2 When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing. 3 If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out alone.

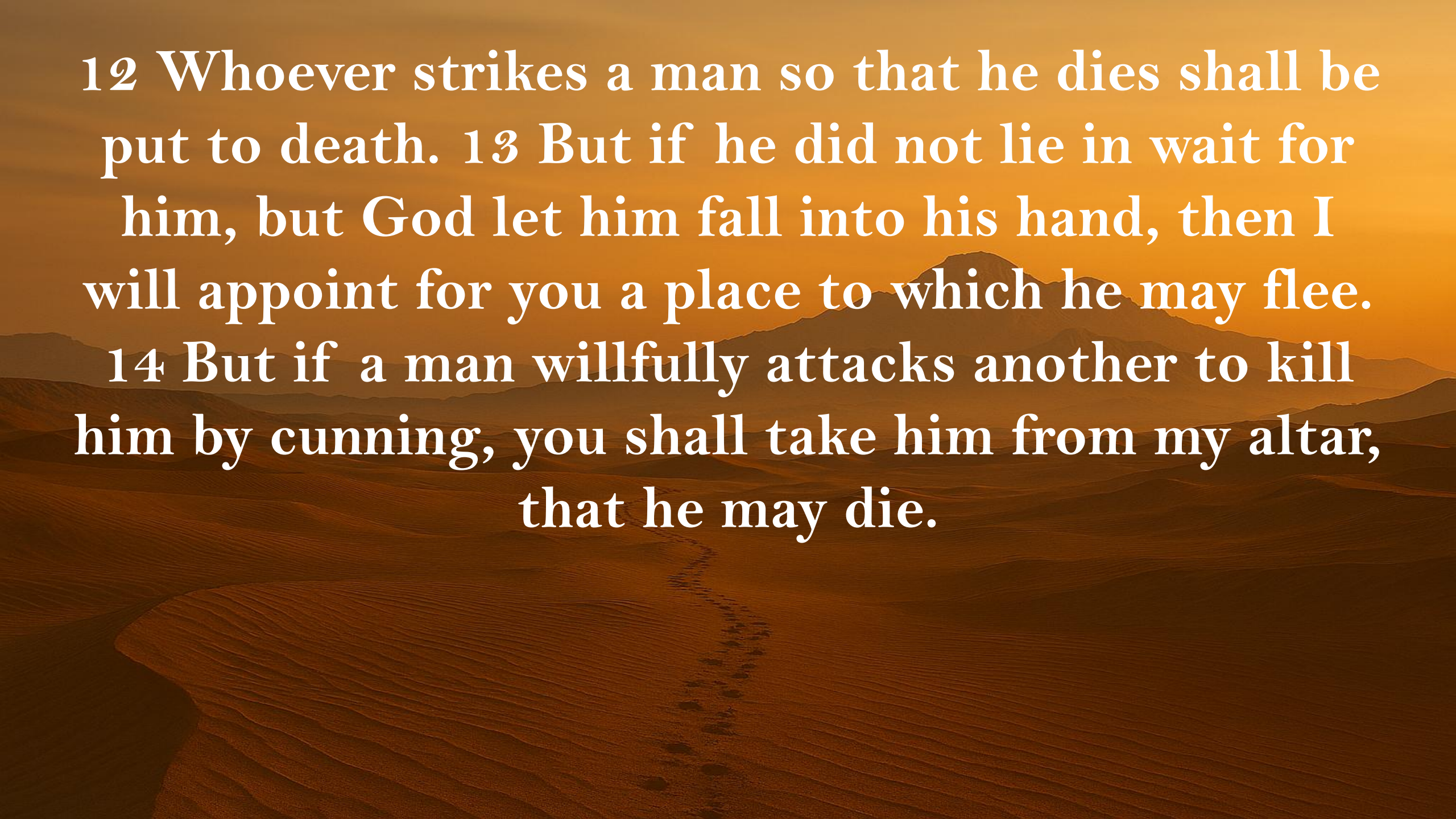
5 But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master,
my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' 6
then his master shall bring him to God, and he
shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And
his master shall bore his ear through with an awl,
and he shall be his slave forever.

7 “When a man sells his daughter as a slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do. 8 If she does not please her master, who has designated her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed.

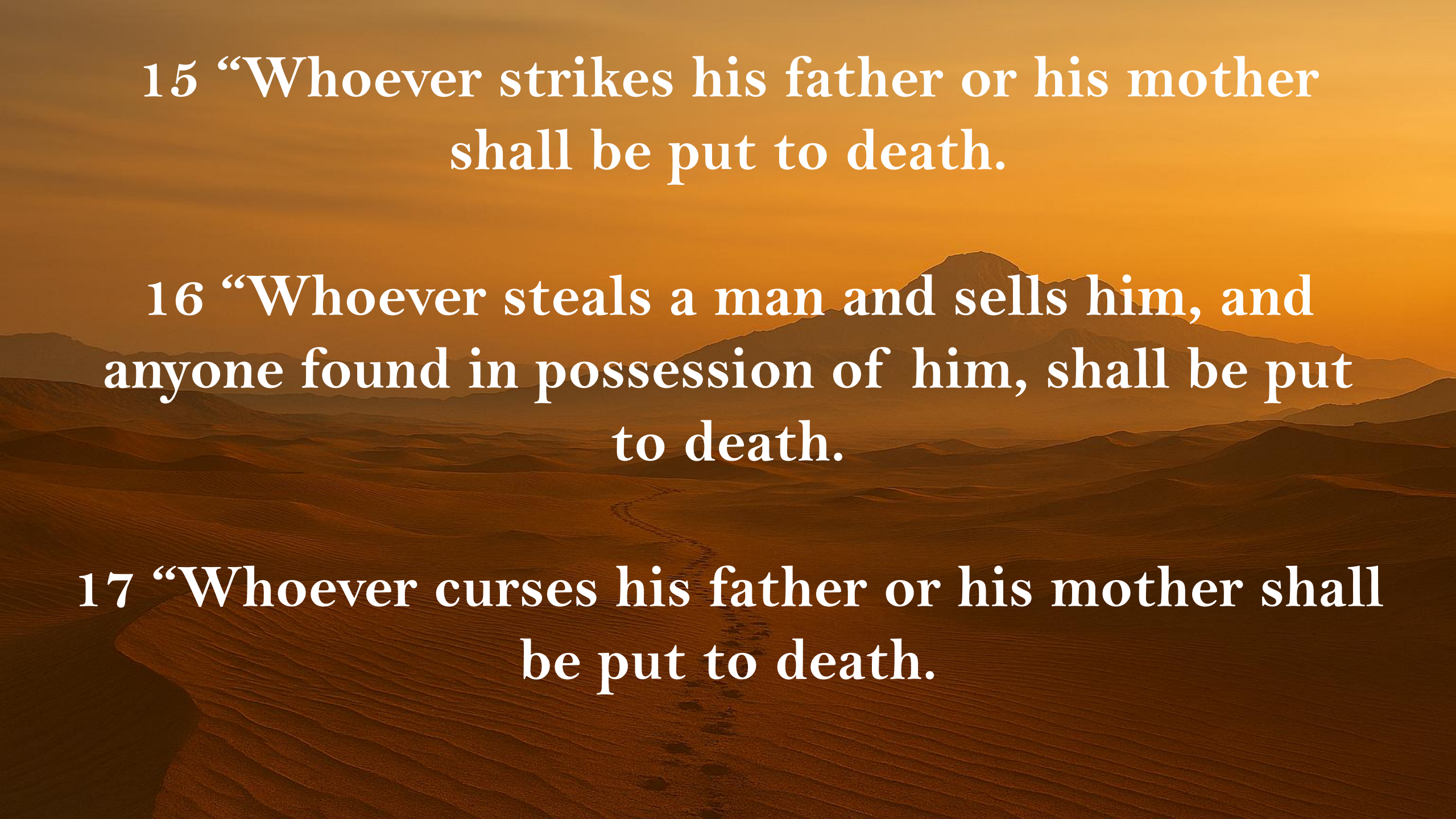
He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has broken faith with her. 9 If he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her as with a daughter.

10 If he takes another wife to himself, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, or her marital rights. 11 And if he does not do these three things for her, she shall go out for nothing, without payment of money.





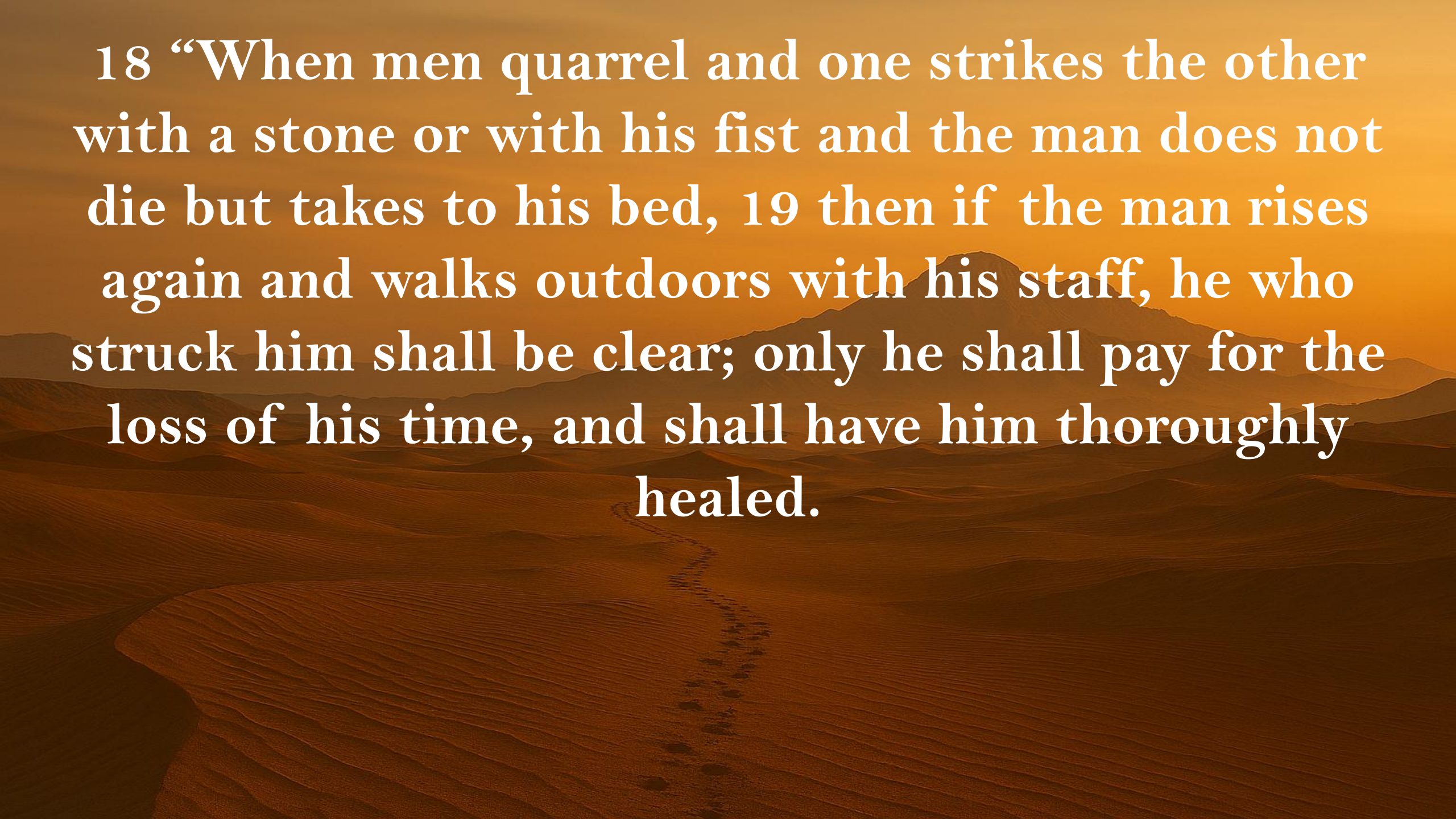
12 Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. 13 But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. 14 But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.



15 “Whoever strikes his father or his mother
shall be put to death.

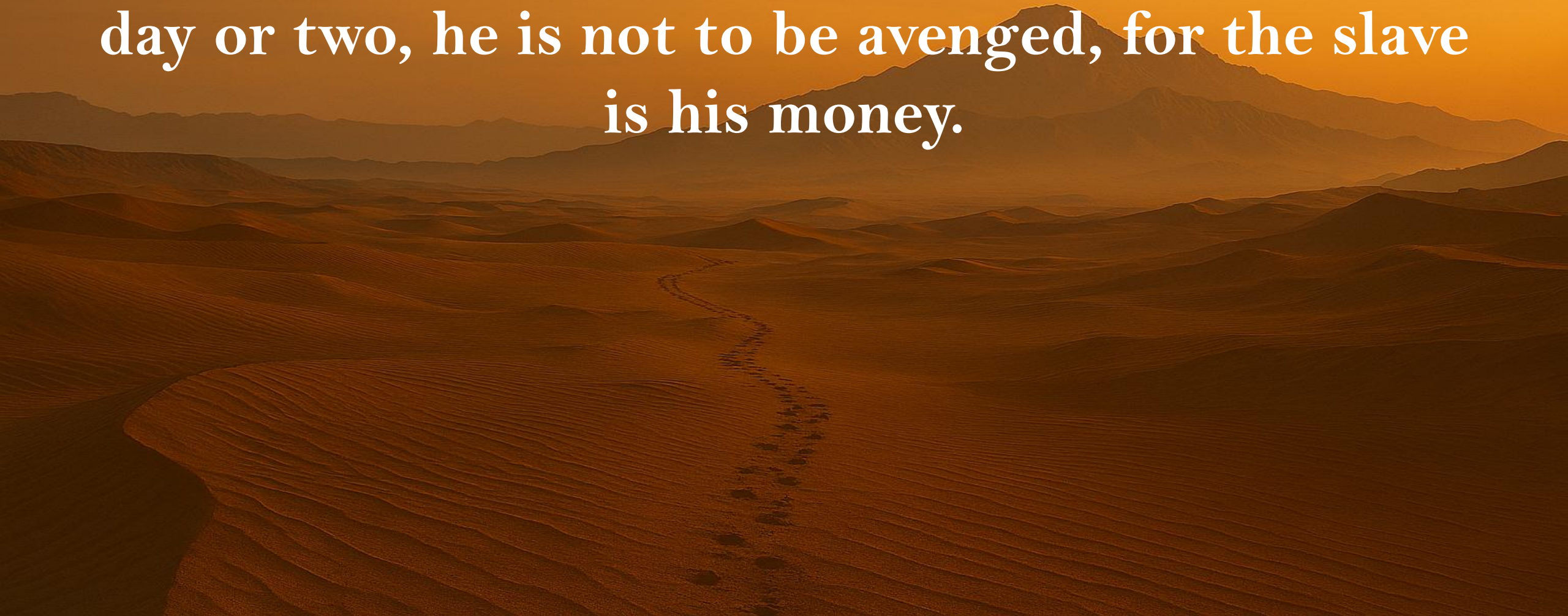
16 “Whoever steals a man and sells him, and
anyone found in possession of him, shall be put
to death.

17 “Whoever curses his father or his mother shall
be put to death.



18 “When men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist and the man does not die but takes to his bed, 19 then if the man rises again and walks outdoors with his staff, he who struck him shall be clear; only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall have him thoroughly healed.

20 “When a man strikes his slave, male or female,
with a rod and the slave dies under his hand, he
shall be avenged. 21 But if the slave survives a
day or two, he is not to be avenged, for the slave
is his money.



22 “When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. 23 But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

26 “When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, he shall let the slave go free because of his eye. 27 If he knocks out the tooth of his slave, male or female, he shall let the slave go free because of his tooth.

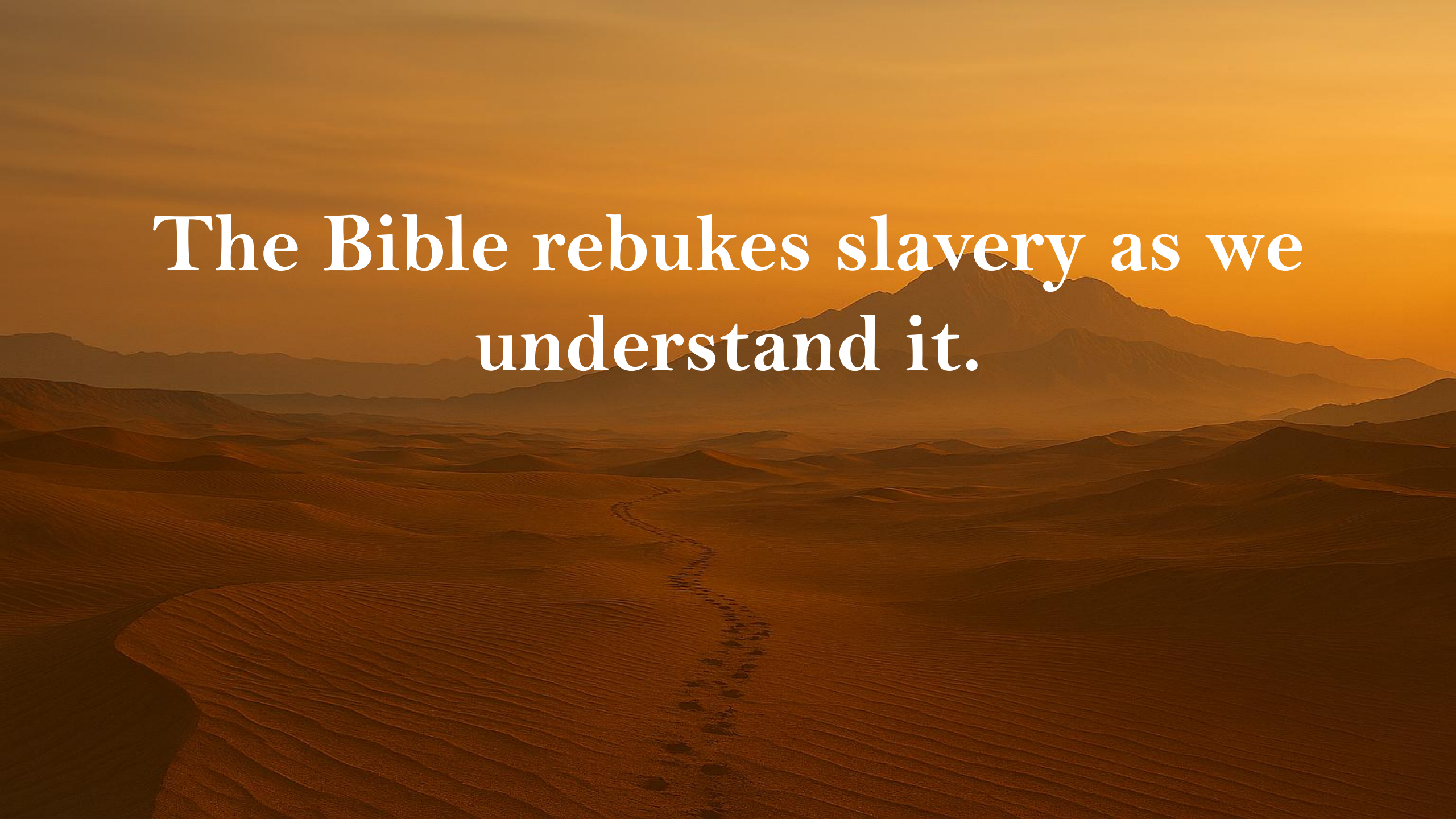


28 “When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable. 29 But if the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death. 30 If a ransom is imposed on him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is imposed on him.

31 If it gores a man's son or daughter, he shall be dealt with according to this same rule. 32 If the ox gores a slave, male or female, the owner shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

Exodus 21:1-32 (ESV)

The Bible rebukes slavery as we
understand it.



16 “Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.”



God's Systems for the Vulnerable



God's Systems for the Vulnerable

1) God's systems create opportunity.



13 “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I myself made a covenant with your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, saying, 14 ‘At the end of seven years each of you must set free the fellow Hebrew who has been sold to you and has served you six years; you must set him free from your service.’ But your fathers did not listen to me or incline their ears to me. 15 You recently repented and did what was right in my eyes by proclaiming liberty, each to his neighbor, and you made a covenant before me in the house that is called by my name,

16 but then you turned around and profaned my name when each of you took back his male and female slaves, whom you had set free according to their desire, and you brought them into subjection to be your slaves.

17 “Therefore, thus says the Lord: You have not obeyed me by proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and to his neighbor; behold, I proclaim to you liberty to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine, declares the Lord. I will make you a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

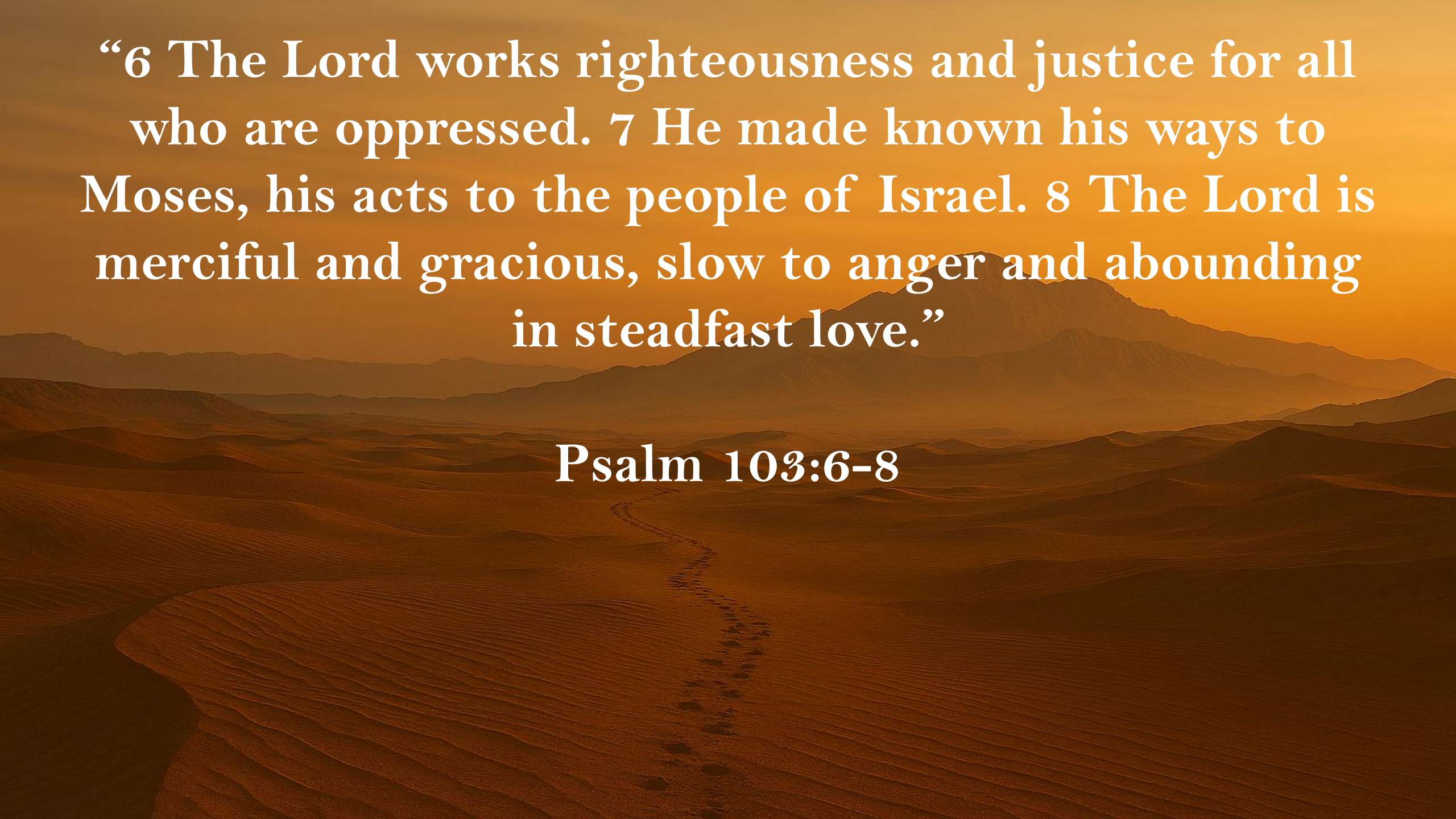
Jeremiah 34:13-17

God's Systems for the Vulnerable

- 1) God's systems create opportunity.
- 2) God's systems give dignity through provision and protection.

God's Systems for the Vulnerable

- 1) God's systems create opportunity.
- 2) God's systems give dignity through provision and protection.
- 3) God's systems provide justice.



“6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

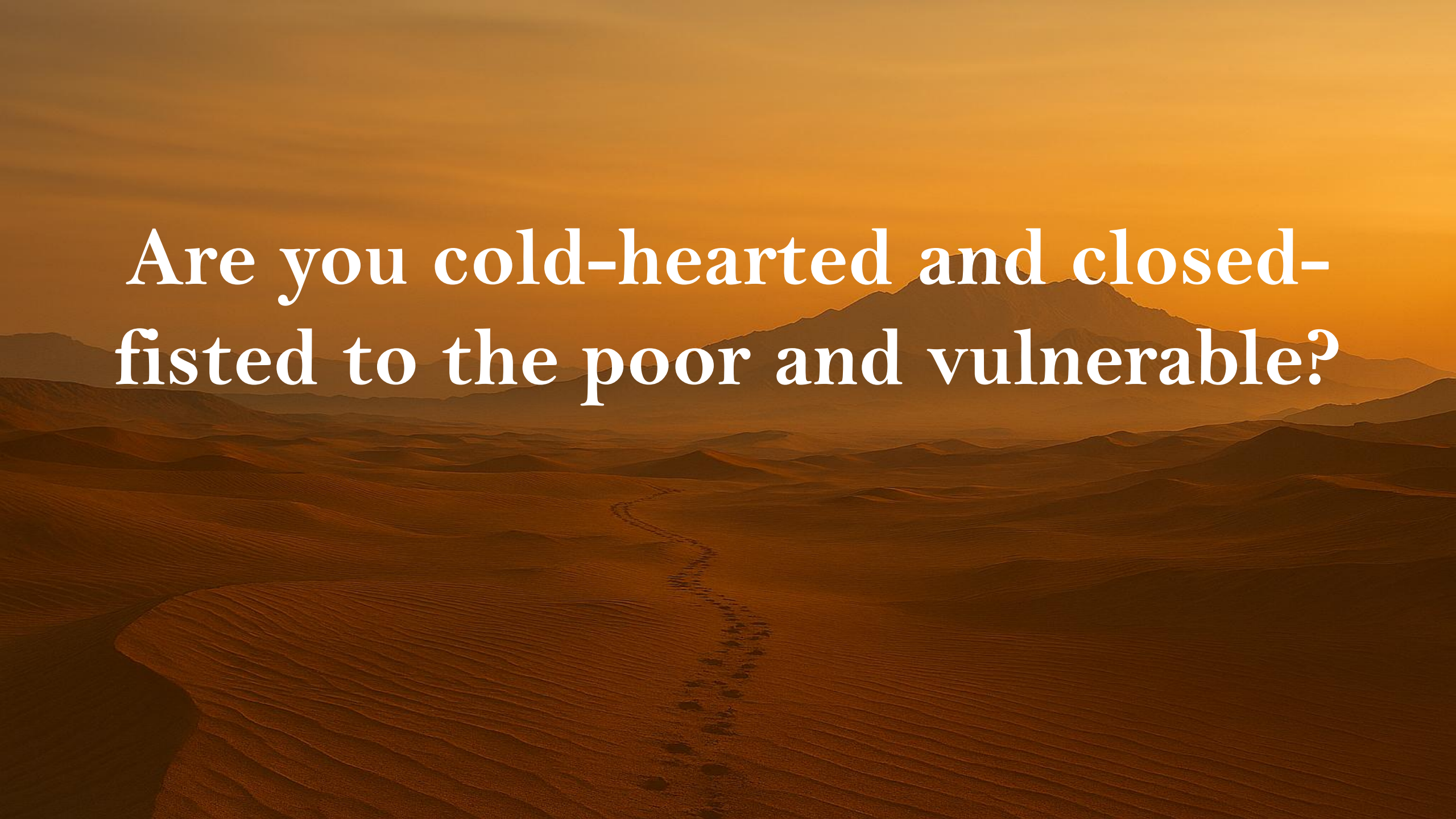
Psalm 103:6-8



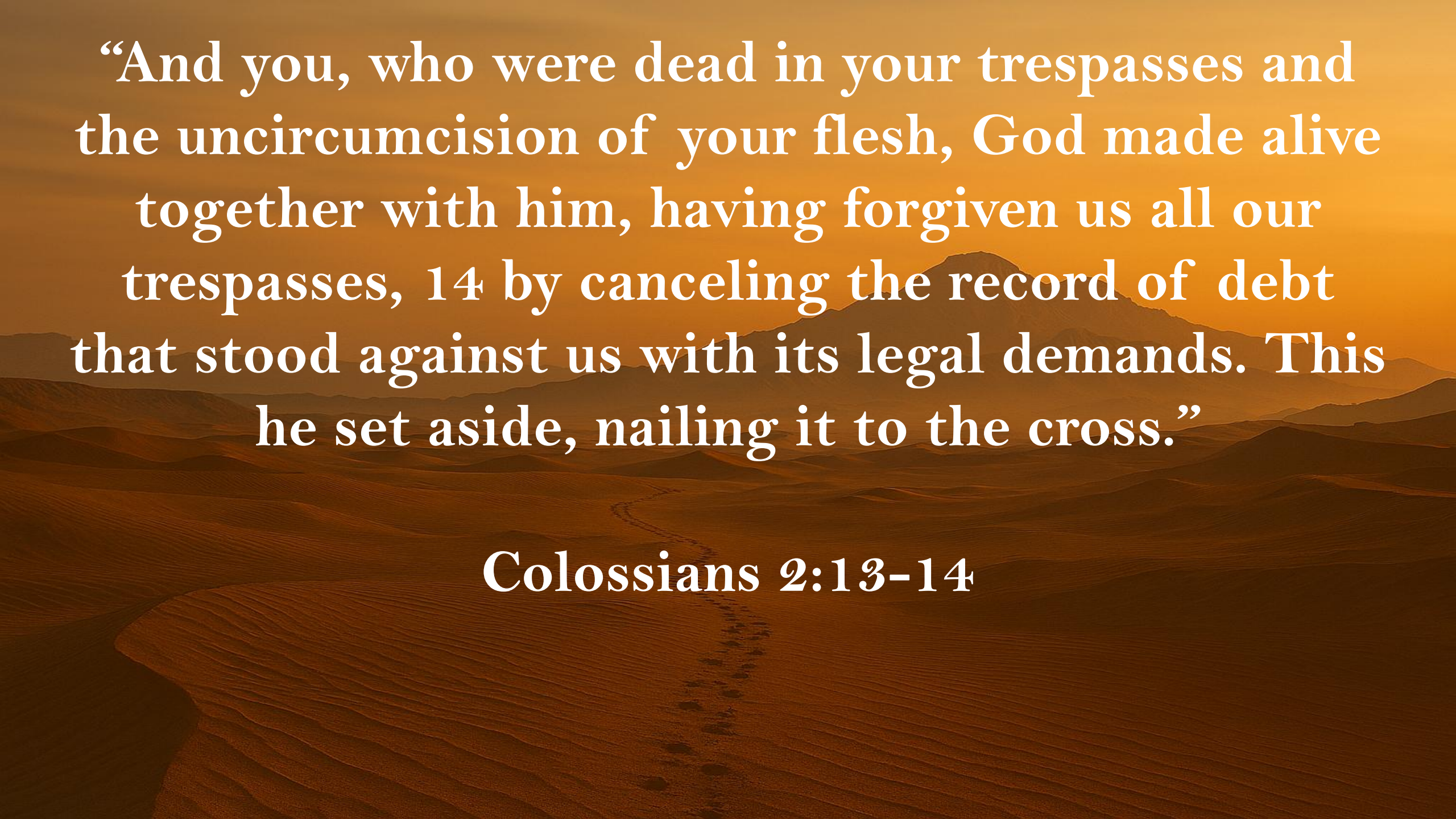
We support good justice systems.

The background of the image is a desert landscape at sunset. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with some light clouds. In the distance, there are dark, silhouetted mountains. The foreground is filled with rolling sand dunes, some of which have fine ripples. A path of footprints leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground, disappearing into the distance.

We support good justice systems.
We provide for and protect the
vulnerable.

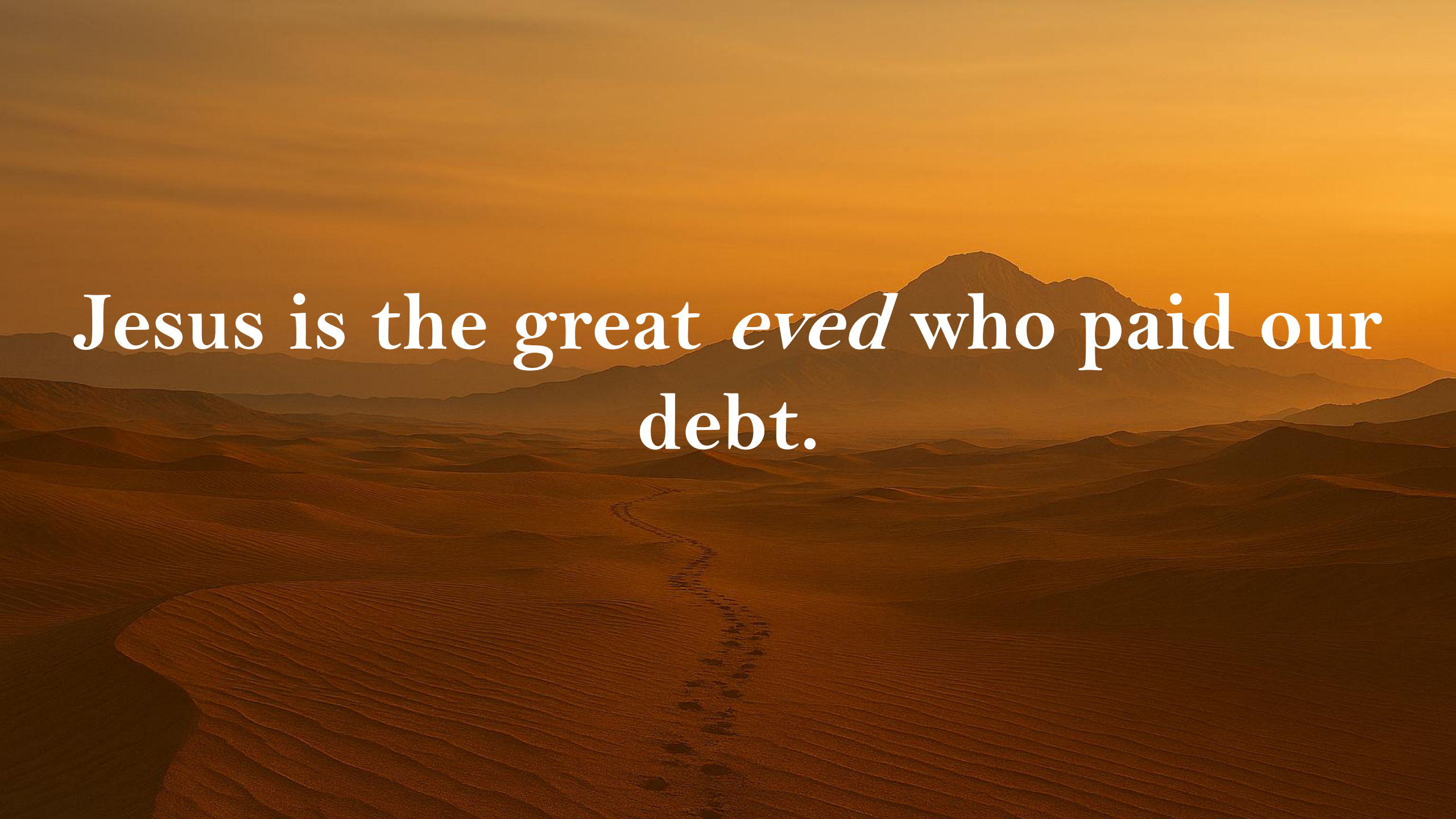


Are you cold-hearted and closed-
fisted to the poor and vulnerable?



“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

Colossians 2:13-14

A desert landscape at sunset. The foreground is filled with rolling sand dunes, their ridges and valleys illuminated by the warm, golden light of the setting sun. A narrow, winding path, marked by footprints, leads from the bottom center towards the horizon. In the distance, a range of mountains is silhouetted against the bright orange and yellow sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Jesus is the great *eved* who paid our
debt.