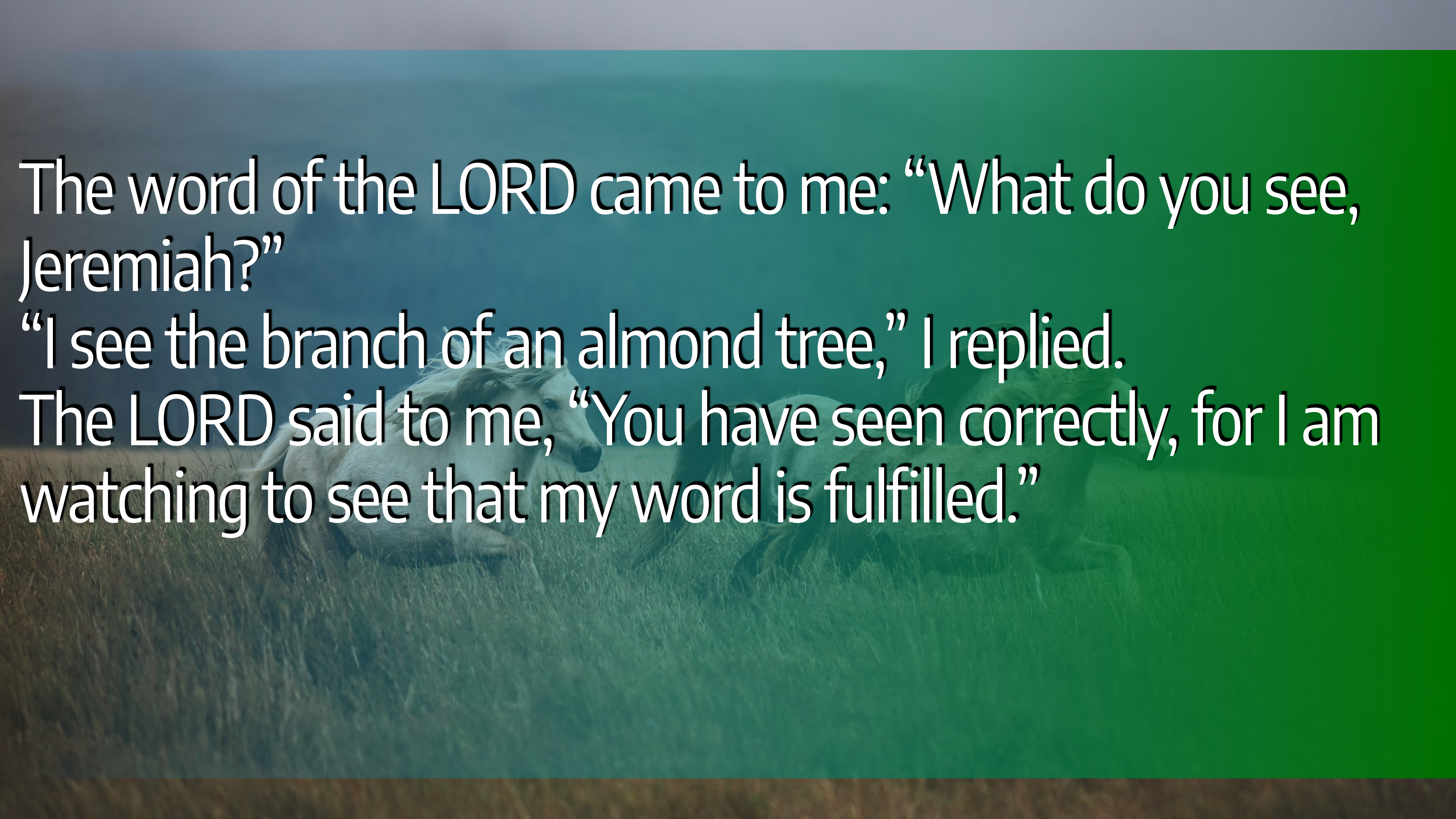


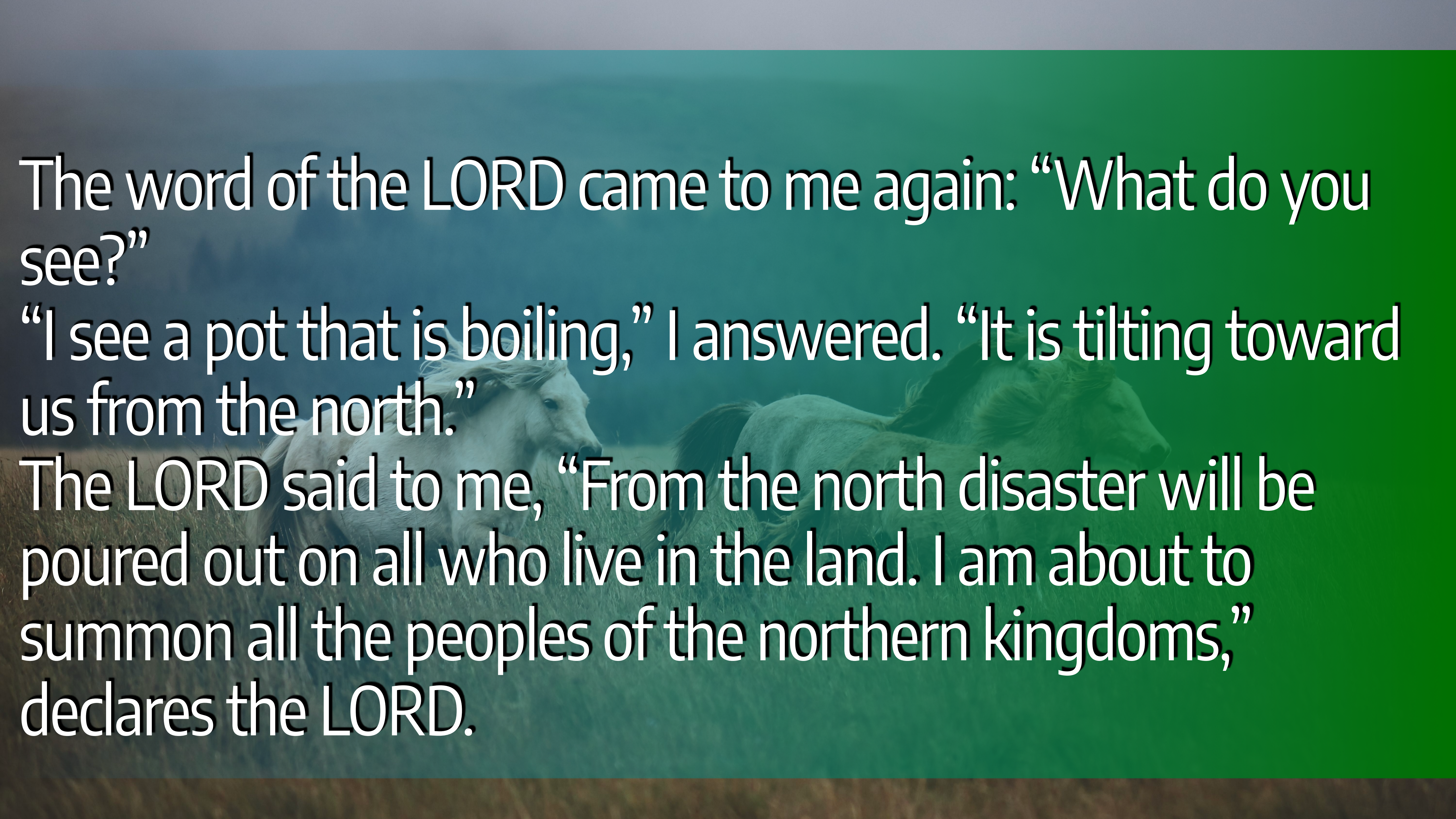
The Life of Jeremiah



Boiling Water at Room Temperature
Jeremiah 1:11-19



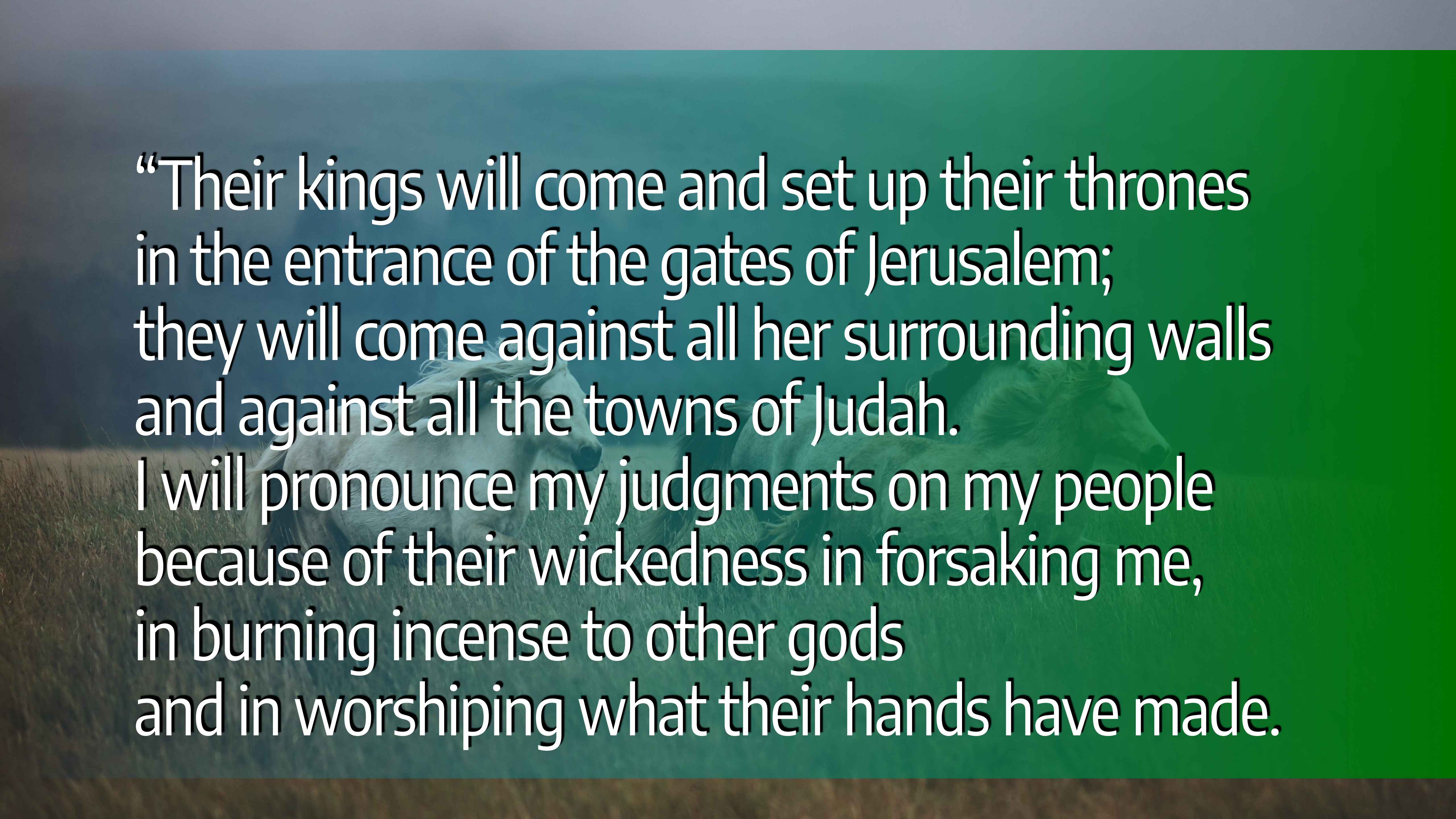
The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you see, Jeremiah?”
“I see the branch of an almond tree,” I replied.
The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.”

The background image shows two horses, one white and one dark, in a field. A semi-transparent green rectangular overlay covers the top and right portions of the image, serving as a background for the text.

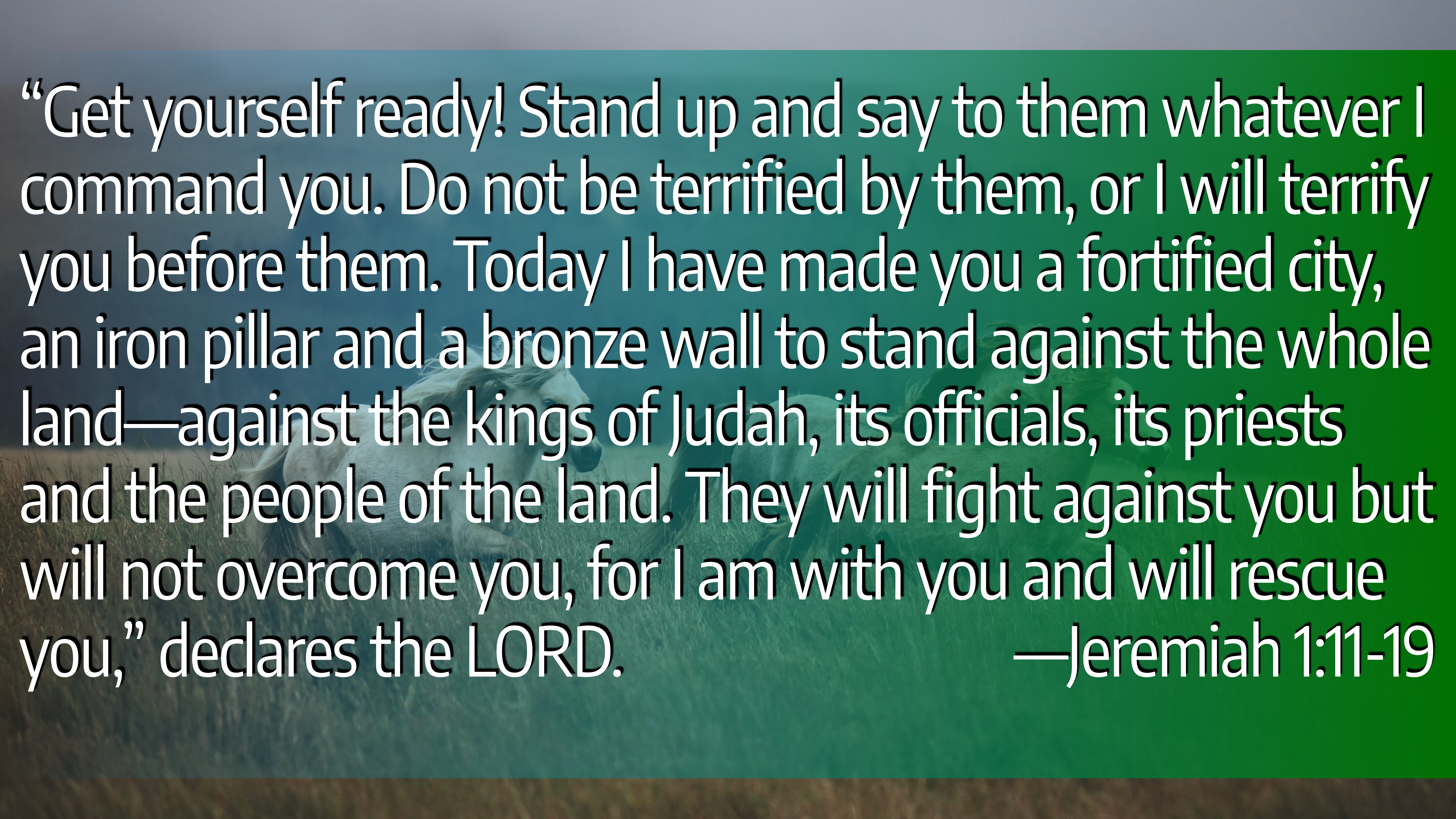
The word of the LORD came to me again: “What do you see?”

“I see a pot that is boiling,” I answered. “It is tilting toward us from the north.”

The LORD said to me, “From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land. I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms,” declares the LORD.

The background of the image shows a herd of horses in a field of tall grass. A semi-transparent green rectangular overlay covers the right half of the image, serving as a background for the text.

“Their kings will come and set up their thrones
in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem;
they will come against all her surrounding walls
and against all the towns of Judah.
I will pronounce my judgments on my people
because of their wickedness in forsaking me,
in burning incense to other gods
and in worshiping what their hands have made.

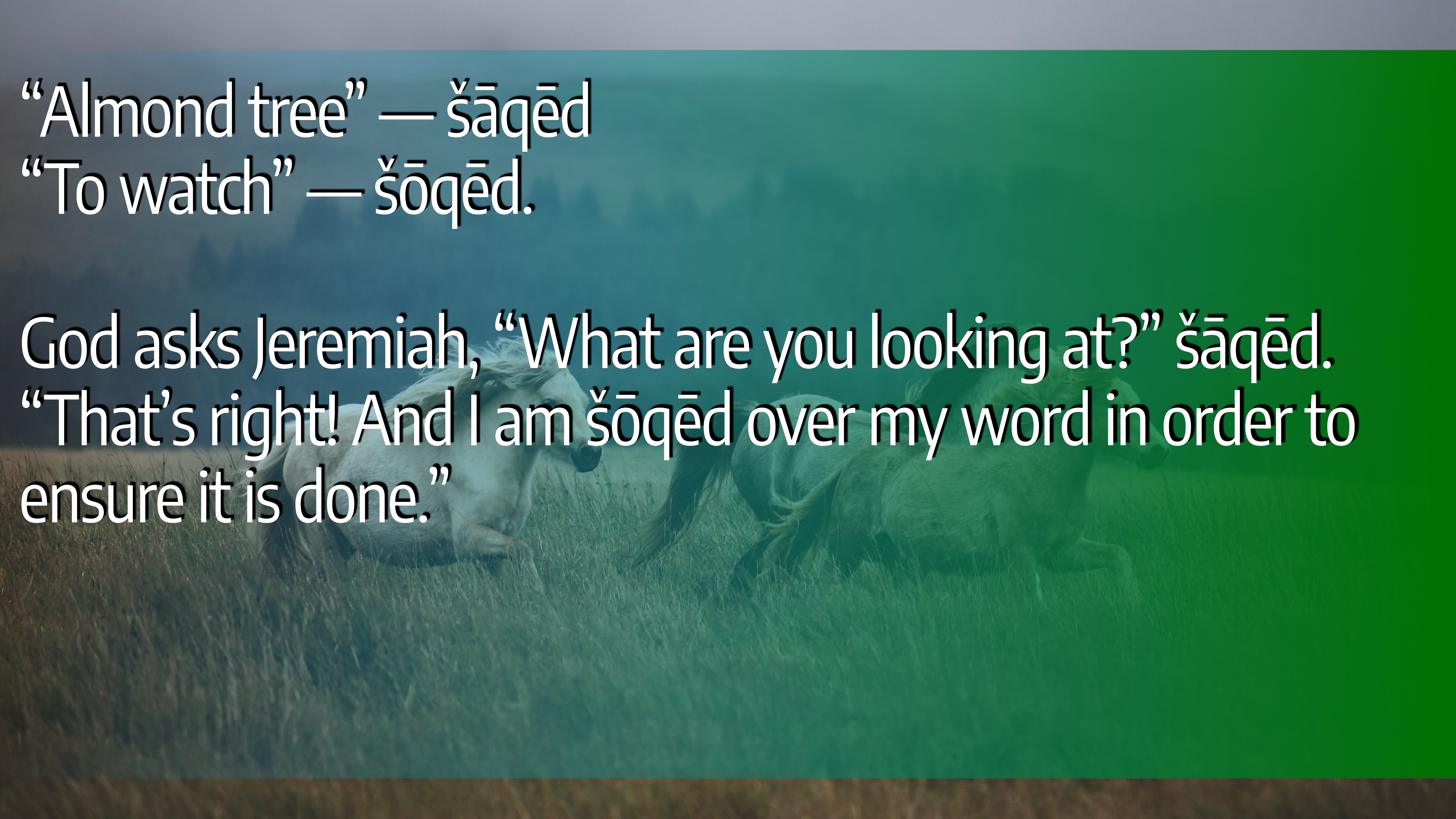


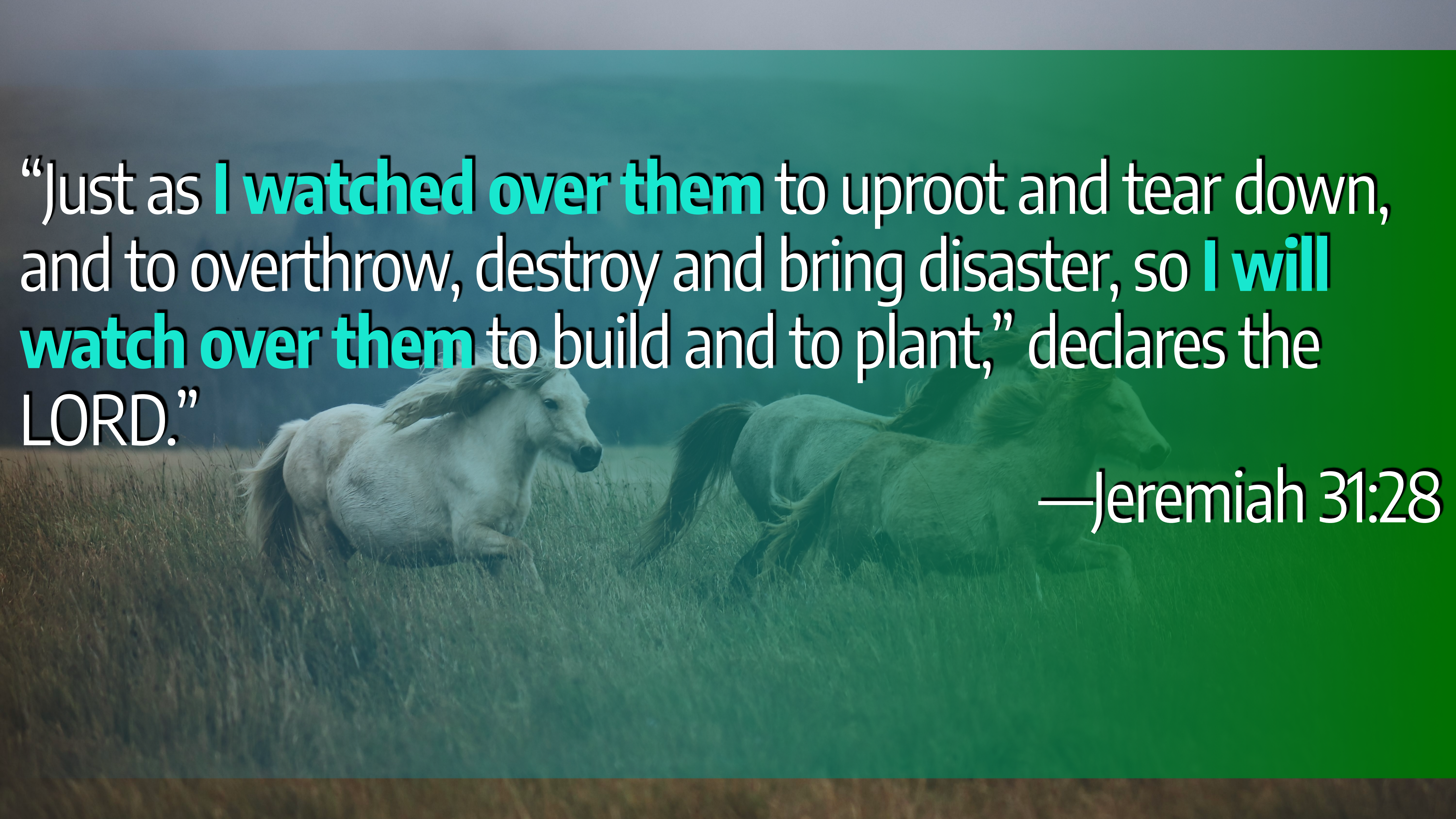
“Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

—Jeremiah 1:11-19

“Almond tree” — šāqēd
“To watch” — šōqēd.

God asks Jeremiah, “What are you looking at?” šāqēd.
“That’s right! And I am šōqēd over my word in order to ensure it is done.”



A photograph of two horses running through tall, dry grass. The horse on the left is white with a brown mane and tail, while the horse on the right is dark brown. They are both in motion, running towards the right side of the frame. The background is a soft-focus landscape with rolling hills under a hazy sky. A semi-transparent green overlay covers the right half of the image, where the text is placed.

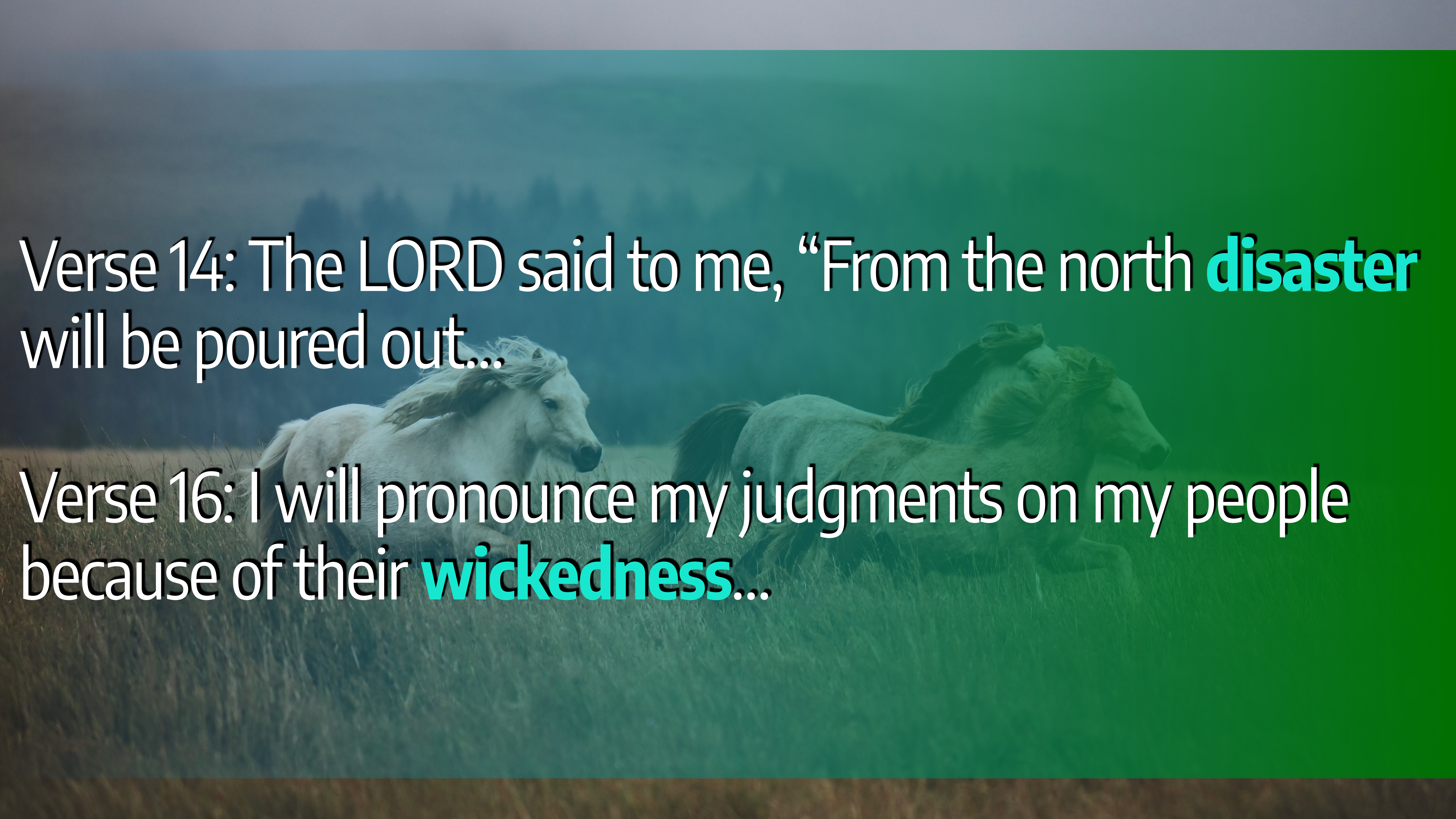
“Just as **I watched over them** to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so **I will watch over them** to build and to plant,” declares the LORD.”

—Jeremiah 31:28

Disaster “from the north” in Jeremiah 4:6; 6:1, 22; 10:22; 13:20; 15:12. Babylon is first named in 20:4-6. Climax in 25:8-11.

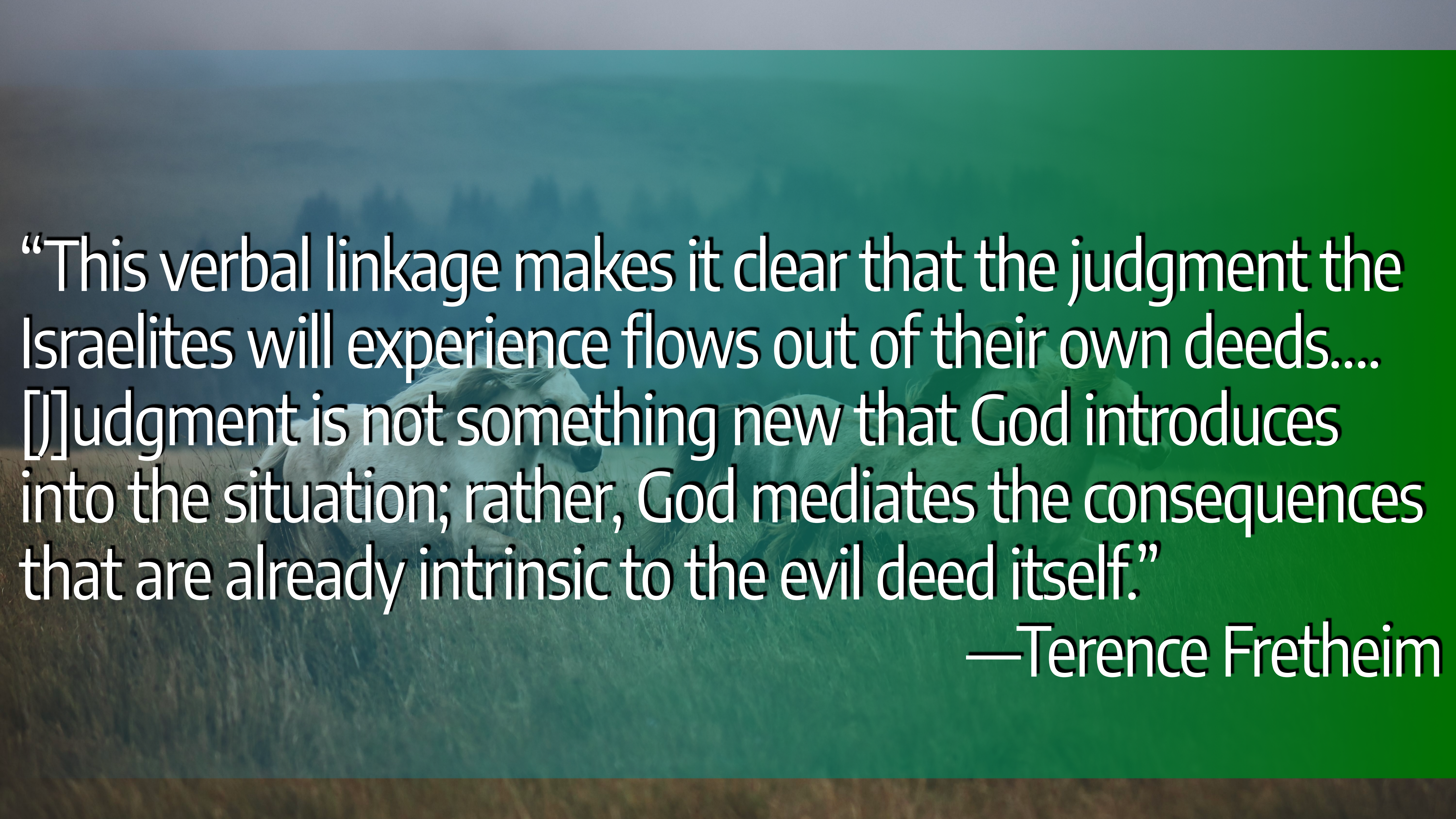
“Because you have not listened to my words, I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon,” declares the LORD, “and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations.” —Jeremiah 25:8-9



The background image shows two horses running through a field of tall grass. The horse on the left is white with some brown patches, and the horse on the right is dark brown. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent green overlay. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Verse 14: The LORD said to me, “From the north **disaster** will be poured out...

Verse 16: I will pronounce my judgments on my people because of their **wickedness**...

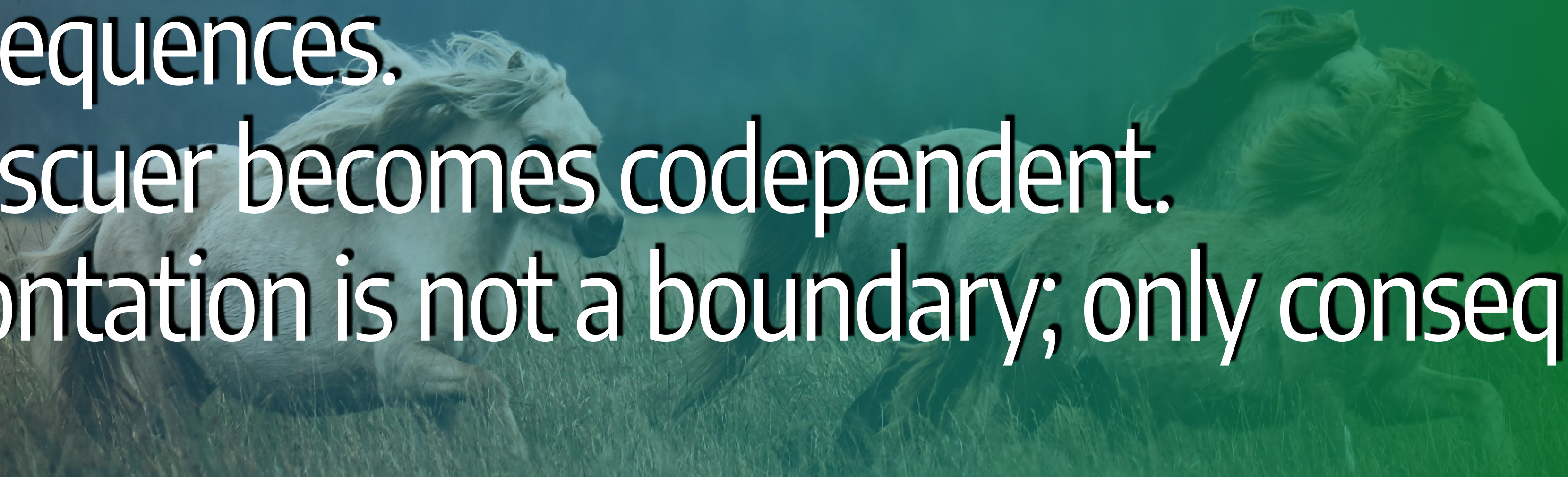


“This verbal linkage makes it clear that the judgment the Israelites will experience flows out of their own deeds....
[J]udgment is not something new that God introduces into the situation; rather, God mediates the consequences that are already intrinsic to the evil deed itself.”

—Terence Fretheim

The Law of Sowing and Reaping

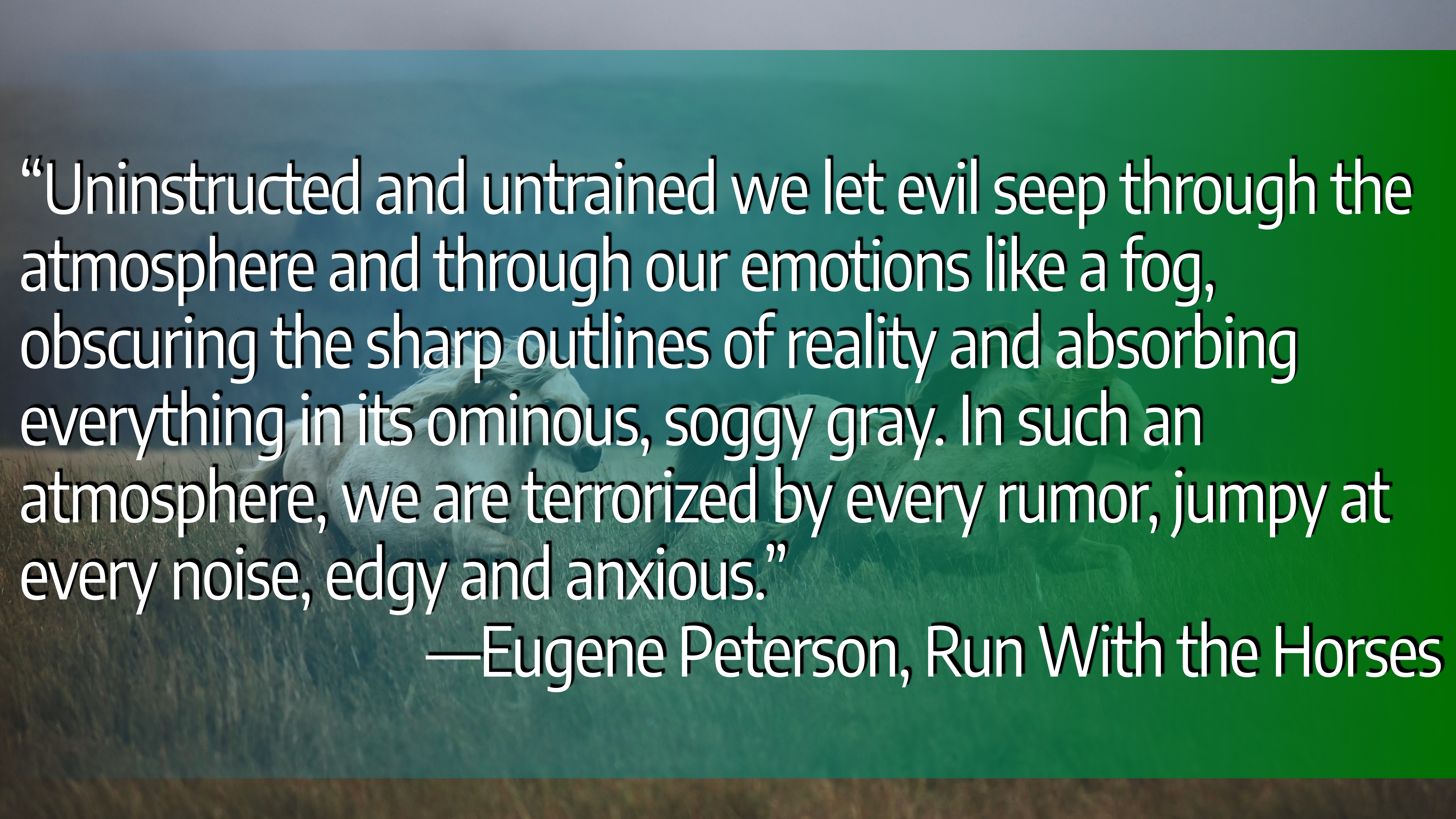
- What we do has consequences.
- Rescuing another person prevents them from suffering the consequences.
- The rescuer becomes codependent.
- Confrontation is not a boundary; only consequences are.



God's judgments, or his justice (Hebrew: mishpat), has been missing from kings on David's throne (Jer. 21:12; 22:3, 13), from any of its leaders (Jer. 5:4-5), and from the people in general (5:28; 7:5).

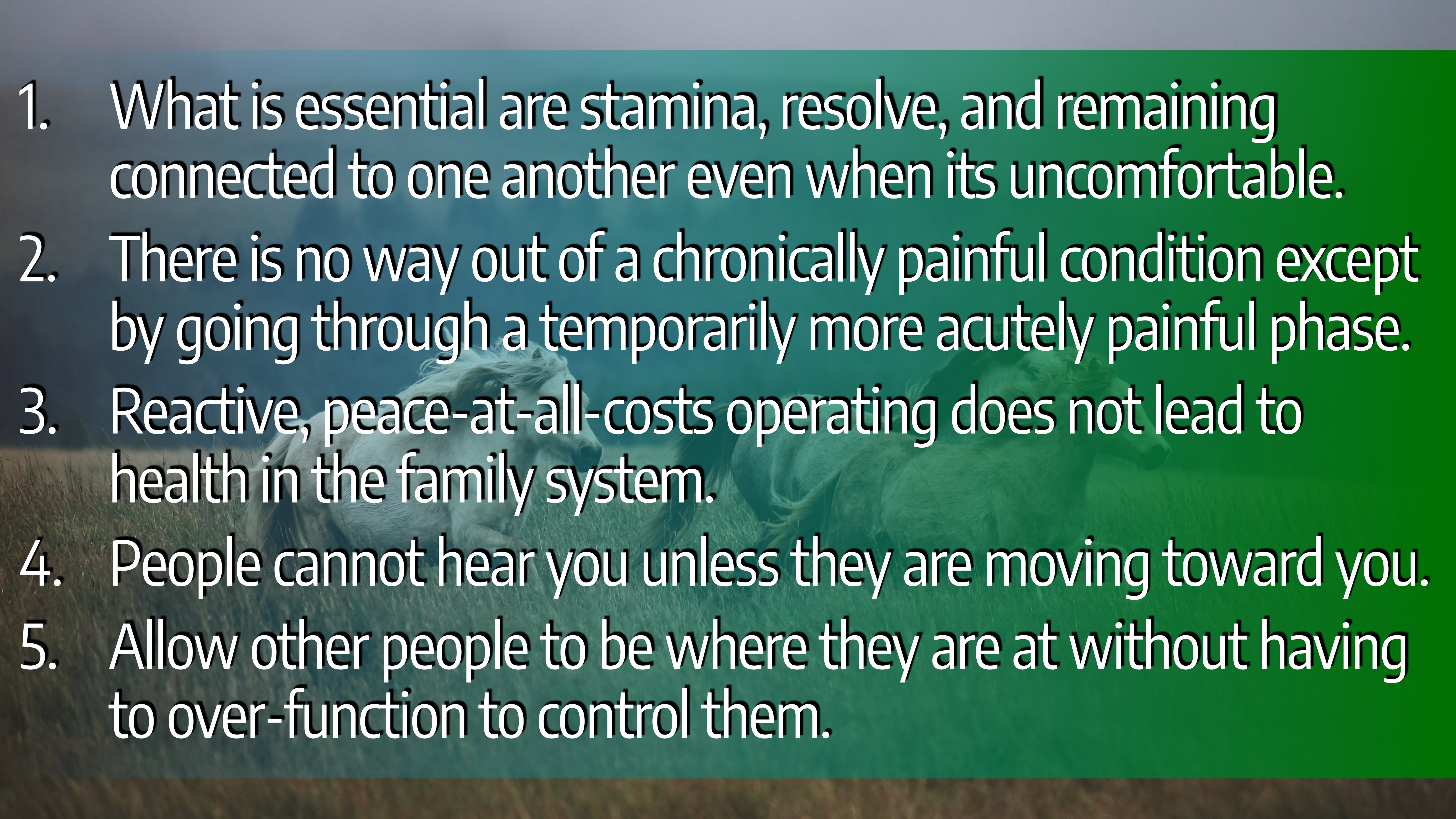
Even the stork in the sky
knows her appointed seasons,
and the dove, the swift and the thrush
observe the time of their migration.
But my people do not know
the **requirements** of the LORD. —Jeremiah 8:7

Indictments	In Jeremiah	In Deuteronomy & Kings
Forsaking Yahweh	2:13, 17, 19; 5:7, 19; 9:12; 16:11; 17:13; 19:4;	Deut. 28:20; 29:24; 31:16-17
Burning incense to other gods	7:9; 11:12-13, 19; ch. 44	1 Ki. 3:3; 2 Ki. 23:5, 8
Worshiping what their hands have	10:3, 9; 25:6, 7, 14; 32:30; 44:8	Deut. 4:28; 27:15; 31:29



“Uninstructed and untrained we let evil seep through the atmosphere and through our emotions like a fog, obscuring the sharp outlines of reality and absorbing everything in its ominous, soggy gray. In such an atmosphere, we are terrorized by every rumor, jumpy at every noise, edgy and anxious.”

—Eugene Peterson, *Run With the Horses*

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1. What is essential are stamina, resolve, and remaining connected to one another even when it's uncomfortable.
 2. There is no way out of a chronically painful condition except by going through a temporarily more acutely painful phase.
 3. Reactive, peace-at-all-costs operating does not lead to health in the family system.
 4. People cannot hear you unless they are moving toward you.
 5. Allow other people to be where they are at without having to over-function to control them.