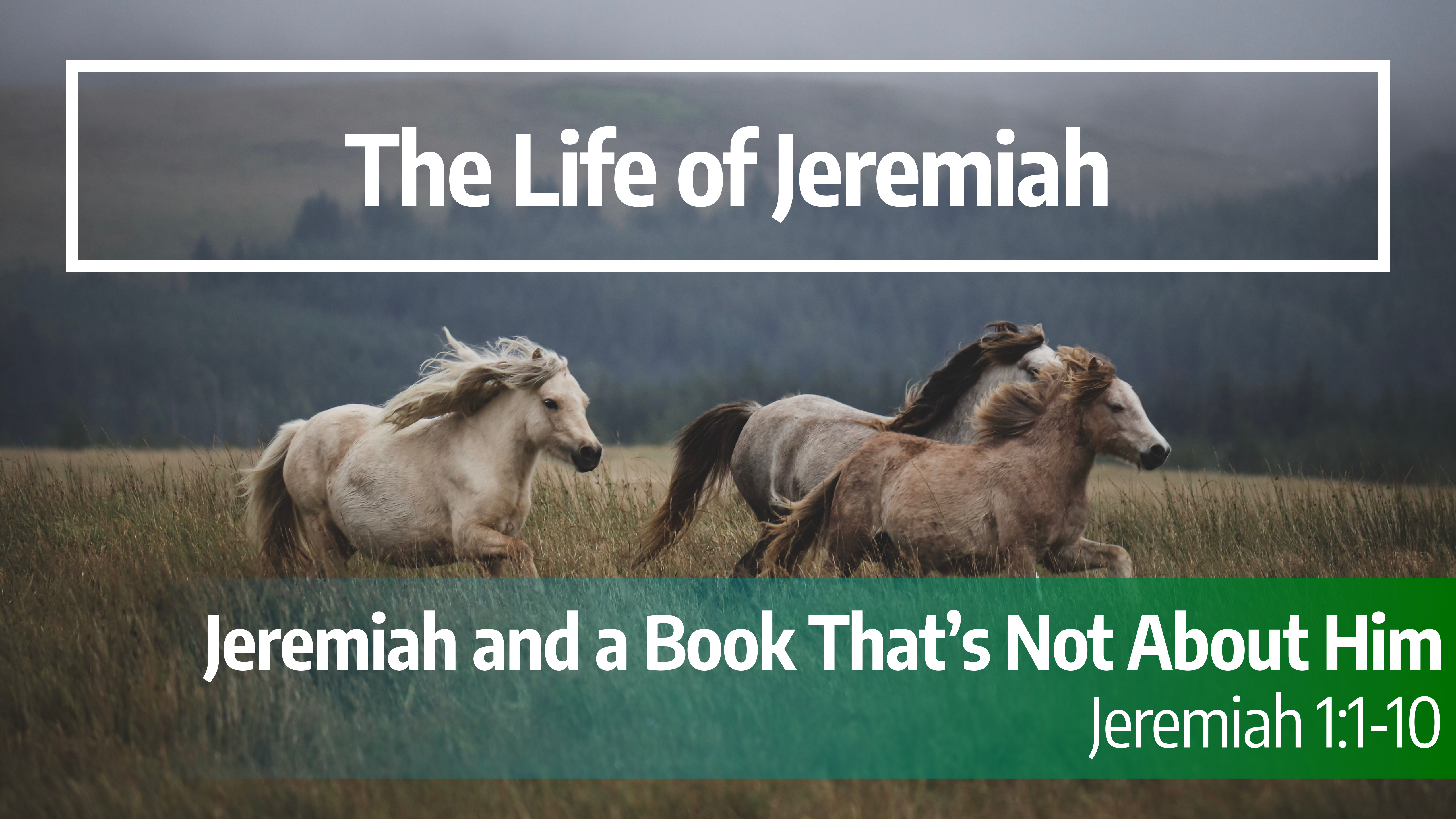
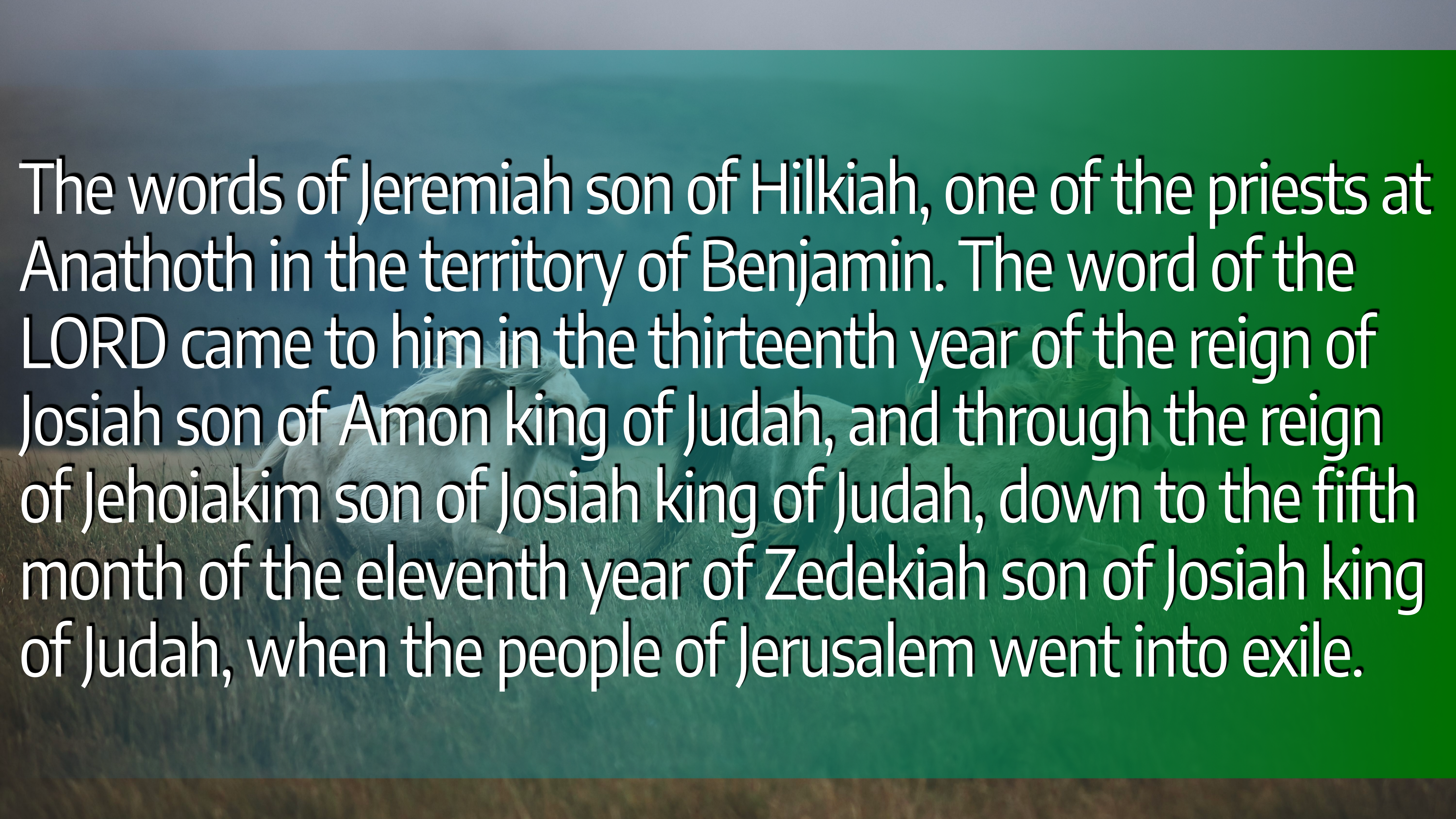


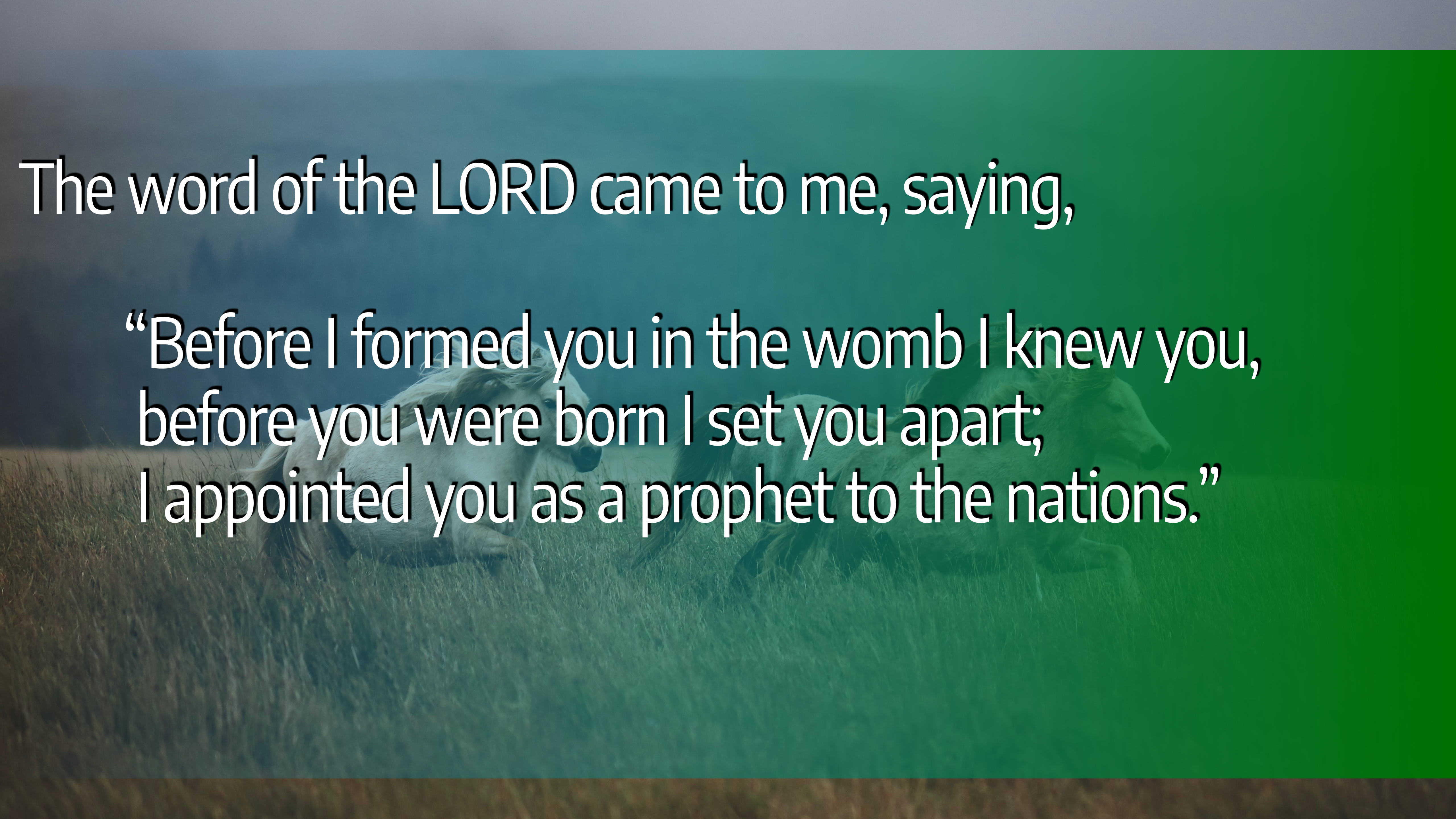
The Life of Jeremiah

A photograph of three horses running through a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The horses are in motion, with their manes and tails flowing. The background is a dark, misty forest. The image is used as a background for the text.

Jeremiah and a Book That's Not About Him
Jeremiah 1:1-10

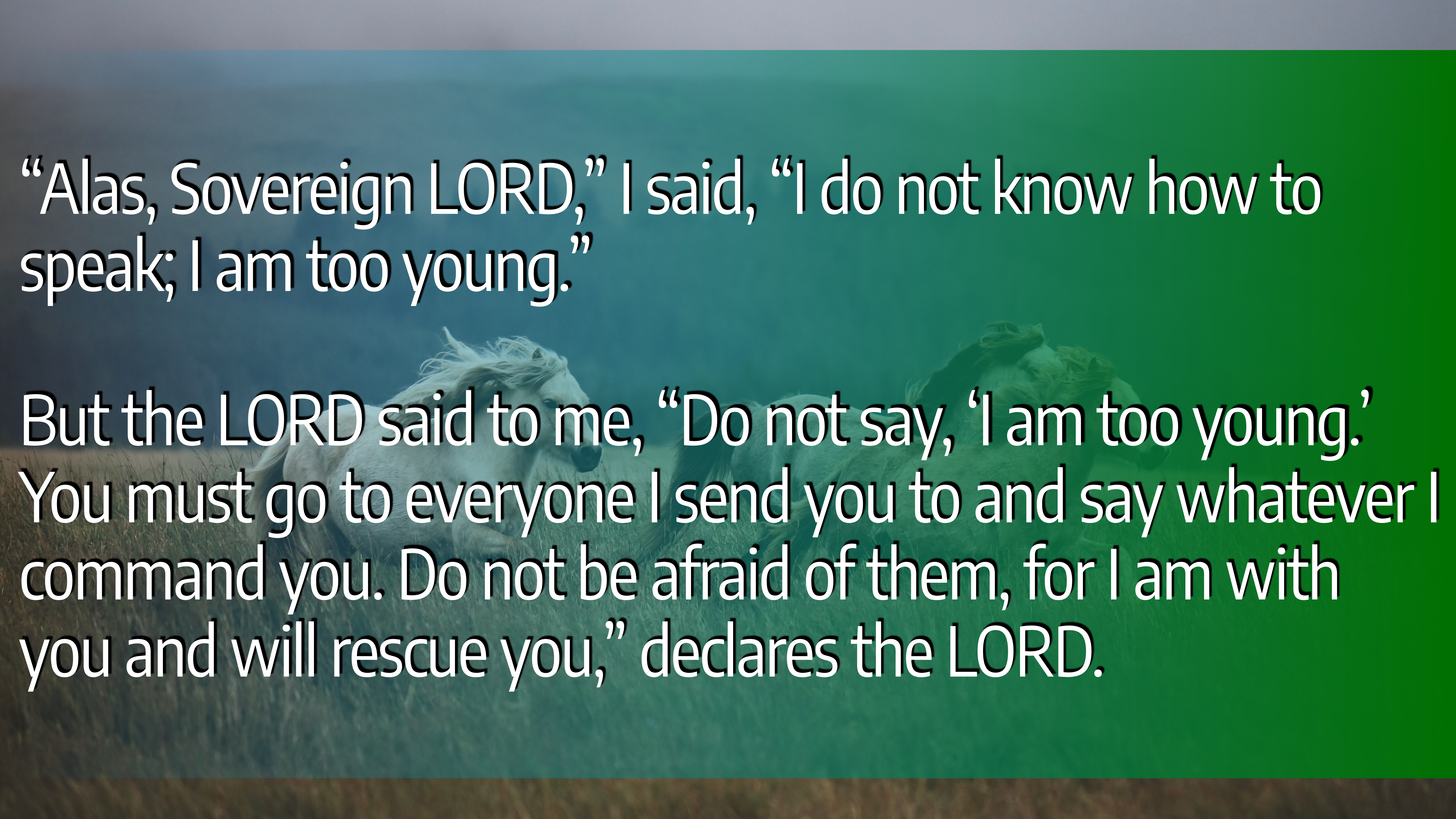


The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

The background image shows two horses, one white and one dark, lying down in a grassy field. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent green overlay. The text is written in white, bold, sans-serif font.

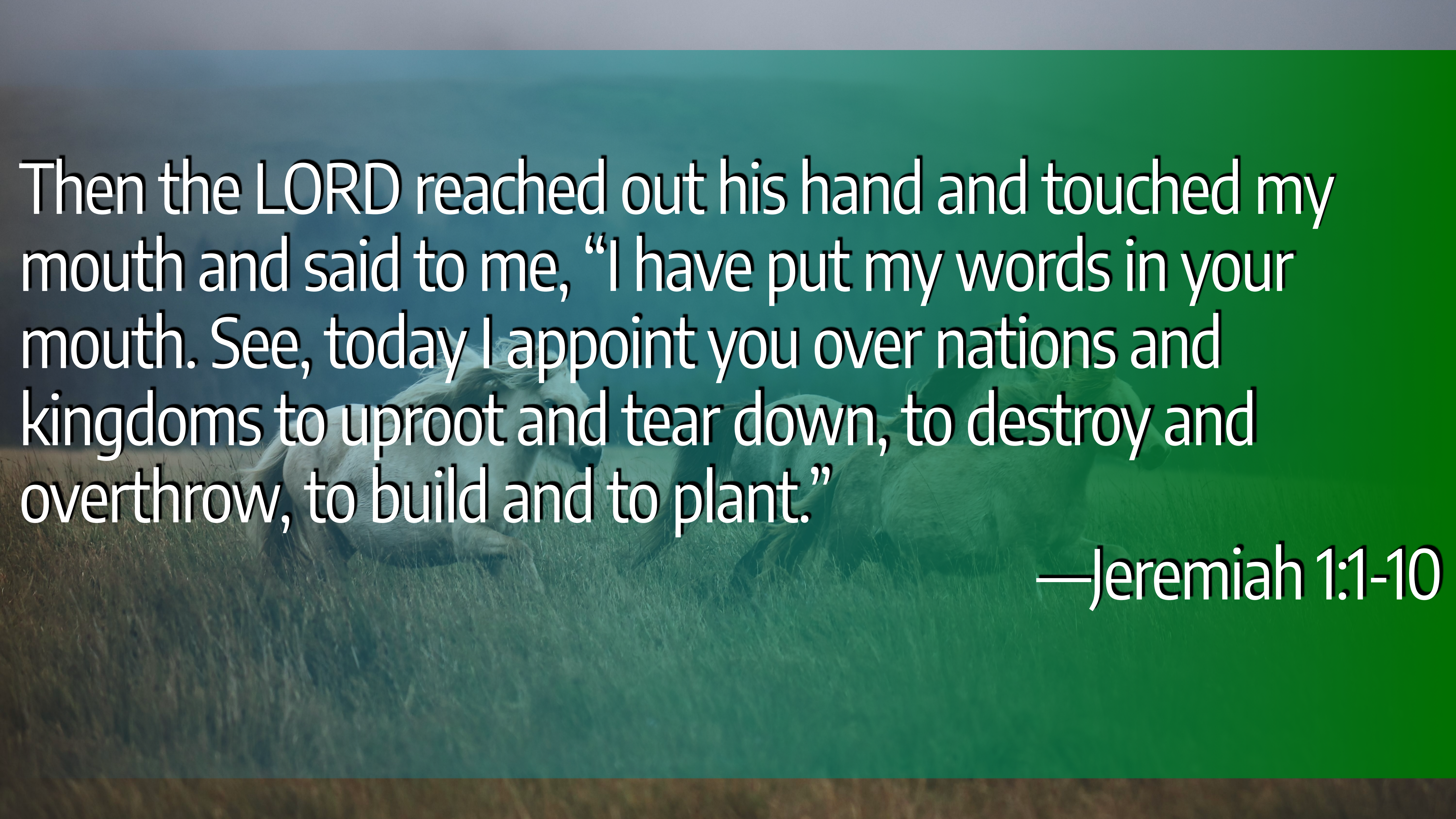
The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”



“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

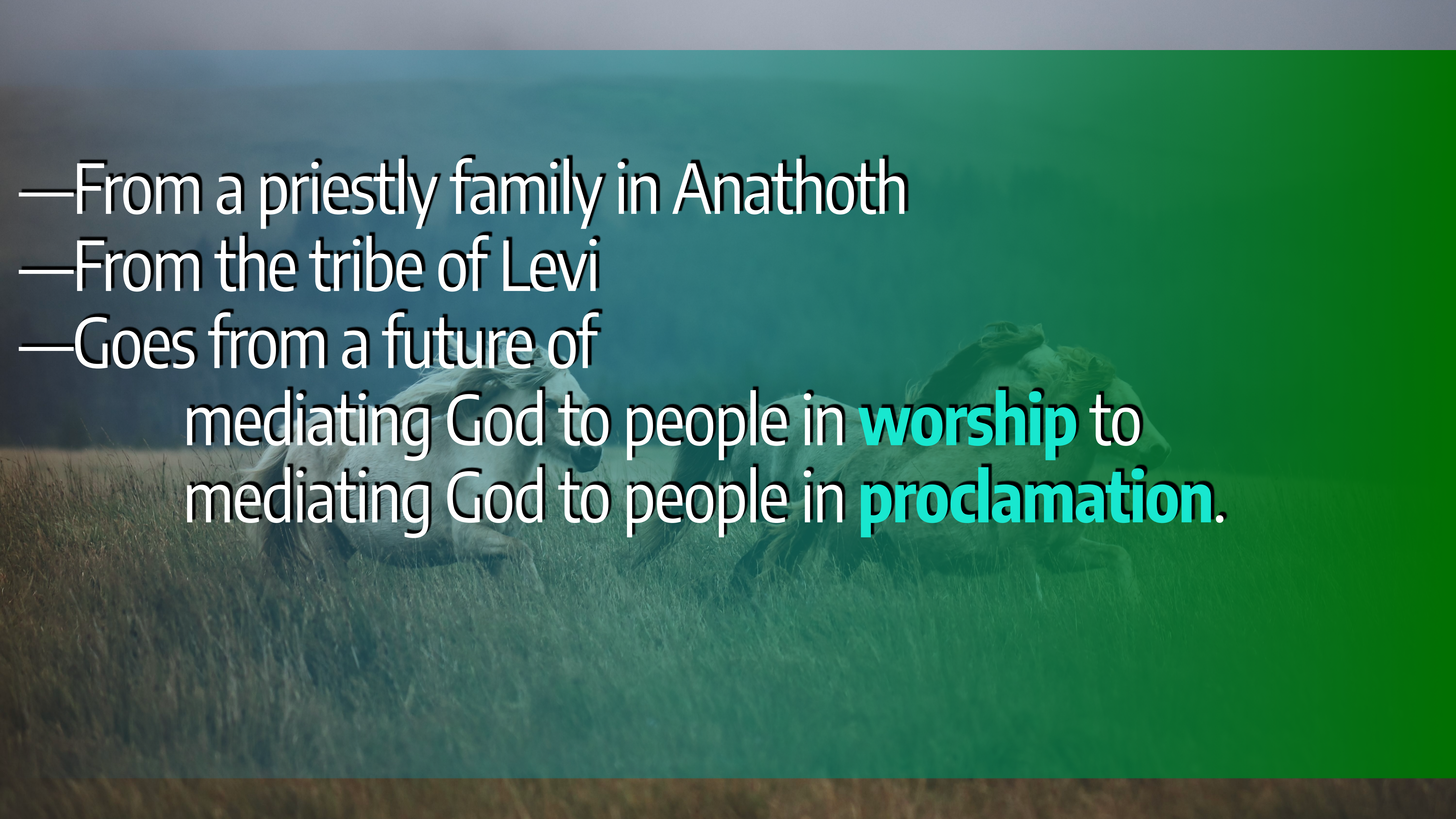
A photograph of a herd of white horses grazing in a field of tall grass. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the upper portion of the image.

Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

—Jeremiah 1:1-10

Jeremiah may mean “the Lord exalts,” “the Lord hurls,” or “the Lord raises up against.”



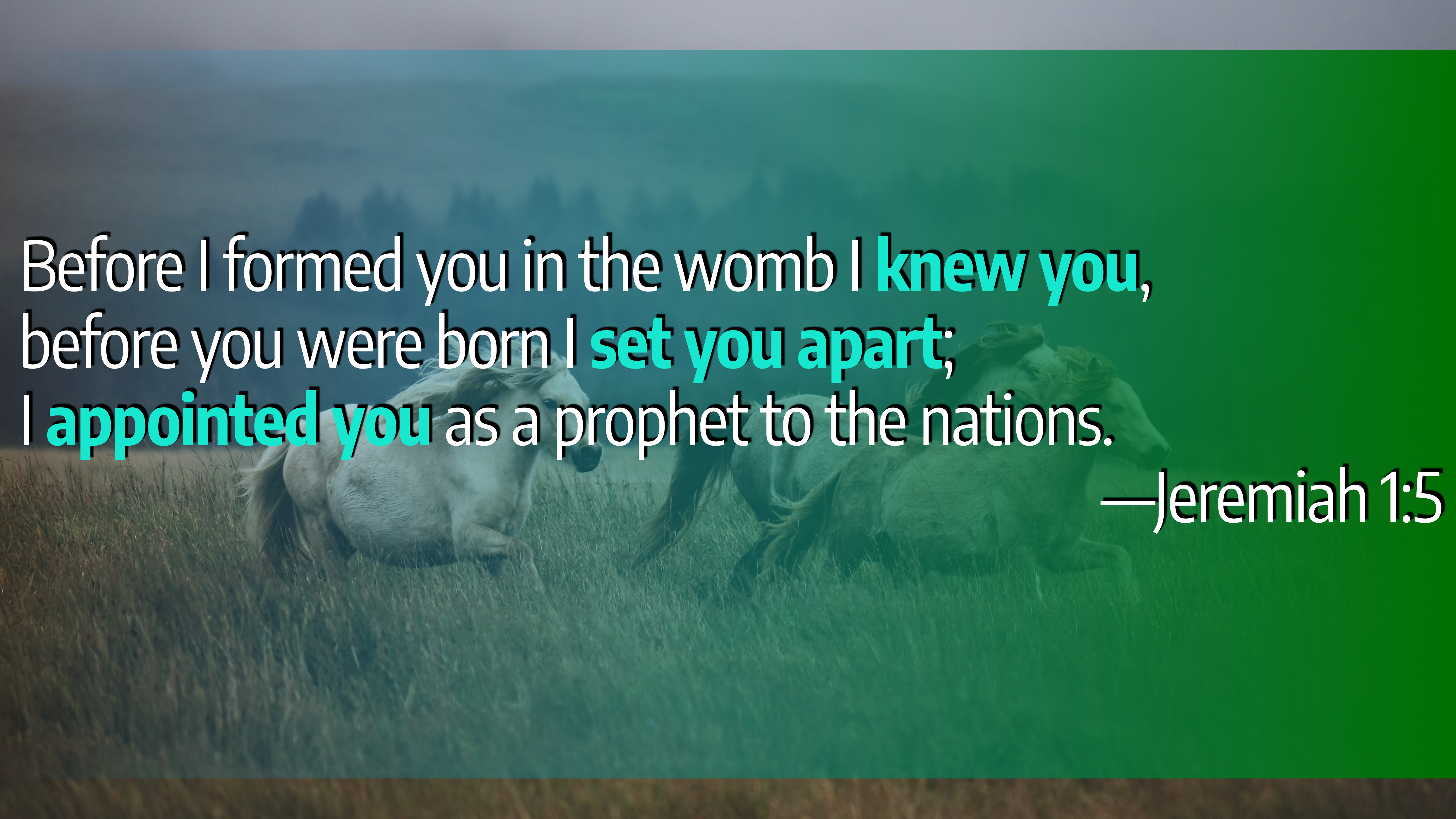
- 
- The background of the slide features a photograph of two white horses lying down in a field of tall, dry grass. The image is partially covered by a semi-transparent green gradient that is darker on the right side. Overlaid on this background is a list of three bullet points in white text. The words 'worship' and 'proclamation' are highlighted in a bright cyan color.
- From a priestly family in Anathoth
 - From the tribe of Levi
 - Goes from a future of mediating God to people in **worship** to mediating God to people in **proclamation**.

Prophets

1. Indictment: Judah has forsaken the Lord by worshiping other gods.
2. Judgment: An enemy from the north.
3. Instruction: Repent/return!
4. Aftermath: Return from exile and a new covenant.

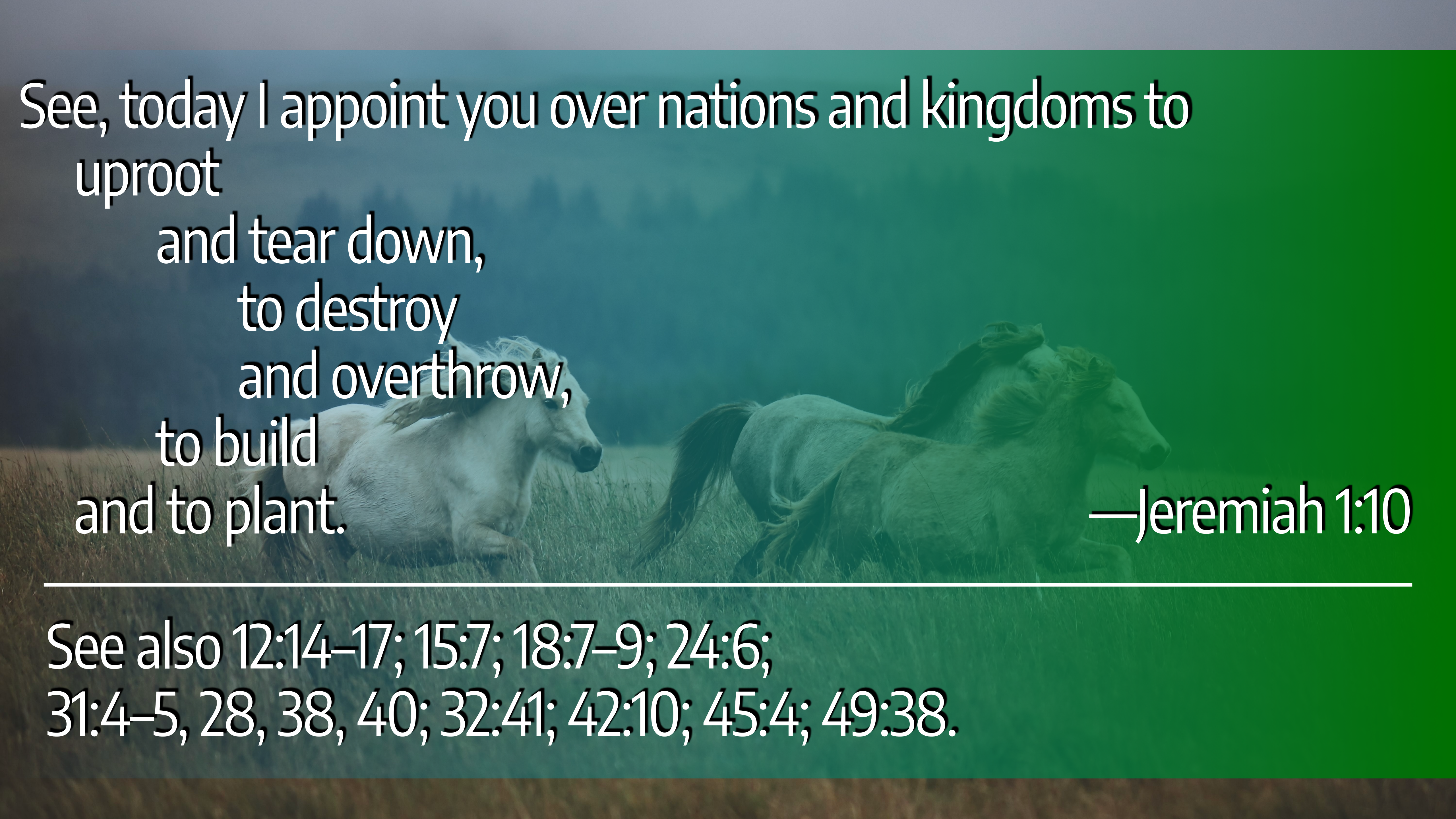
Jeremiah's call is unique and universal.



The background image shows two horses, one white and one dark, lying down in a grassy field. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent green overlay. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Before I formed you in the womb I **knew you**,
before you were born I **set you apart**;
I **appointed you** as a prophet to the nations.

—Jeremiah 1:5

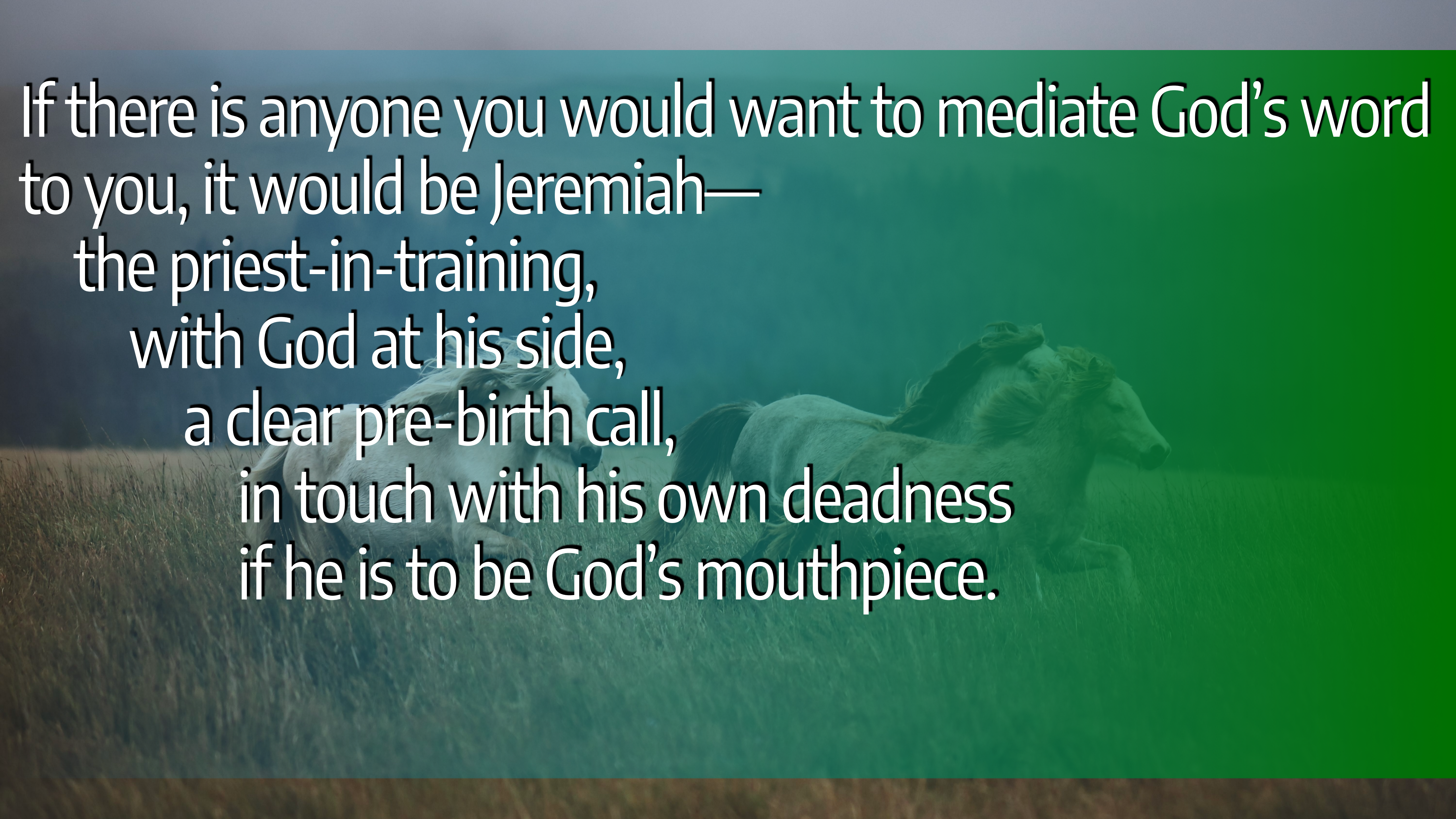
A background image of two horses running through a field of tall grass. The horse on the left is white with some brown spots, and the horse on the right is dark brown. They are both running towards the right side of the frame. The image has a green tint overlay.

See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to
uproot

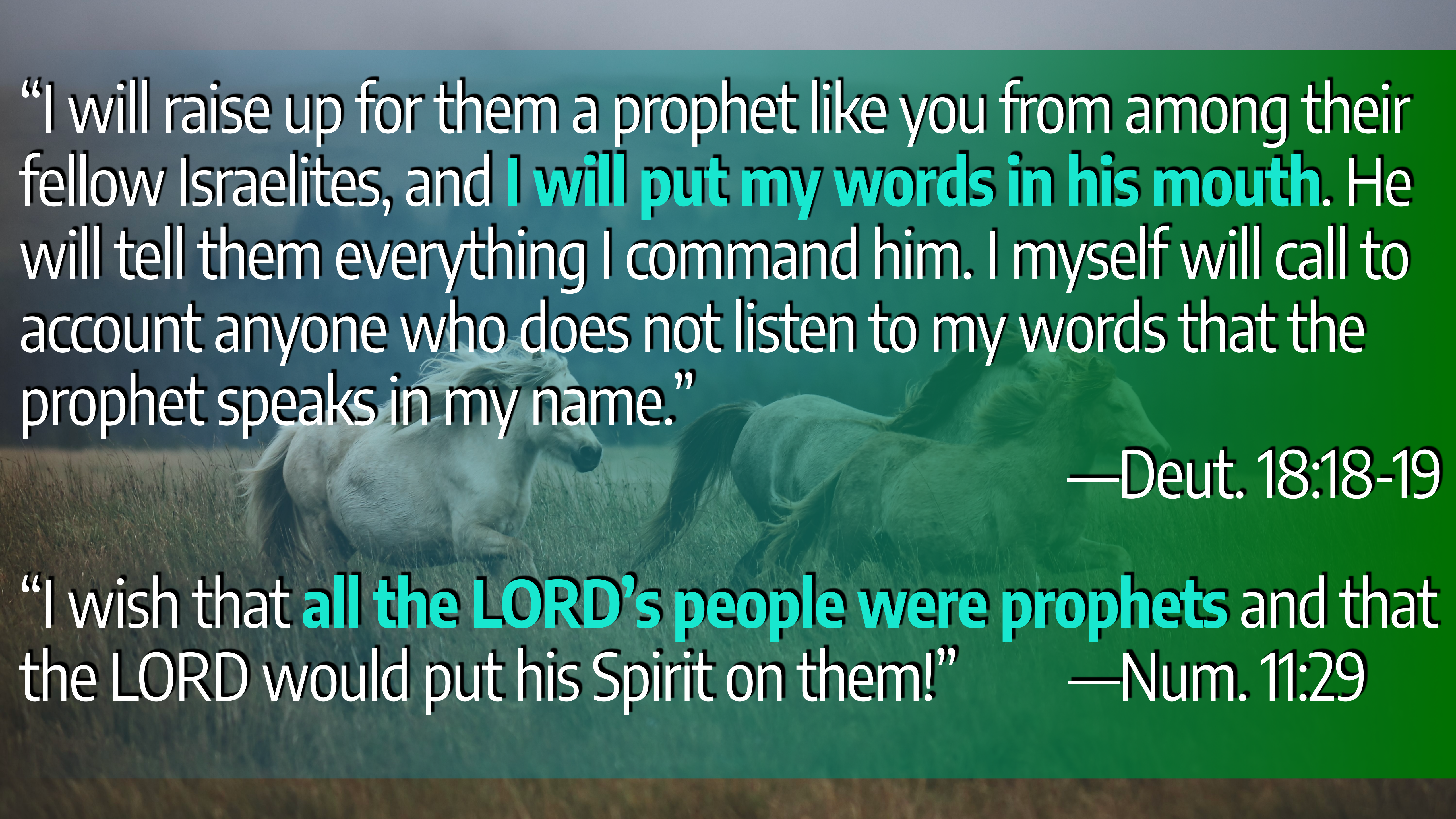
and tear down,
to destroy
and overthrow,
to build
and to plant.

—Jeremiah 1:10

See also 12:14–17; 15:7; 18:7–9; 24:6;
31:4–5, 28, 38, 40; 32:41; 42:10; 45:4; 49:38.

The background image shows two horses running through a field of tall grass. The image is overlaid with a green gradient that is darker on the right side. The text is white and positioned on the left side of the image.

If there is anyone you would want to mediate God's word
to you, it would be Jeremiah—
the priest-in-training,
with God at his side,
a clear pre-birth call,
in touch with his own deadness
if he is to be God's mouthpiece.

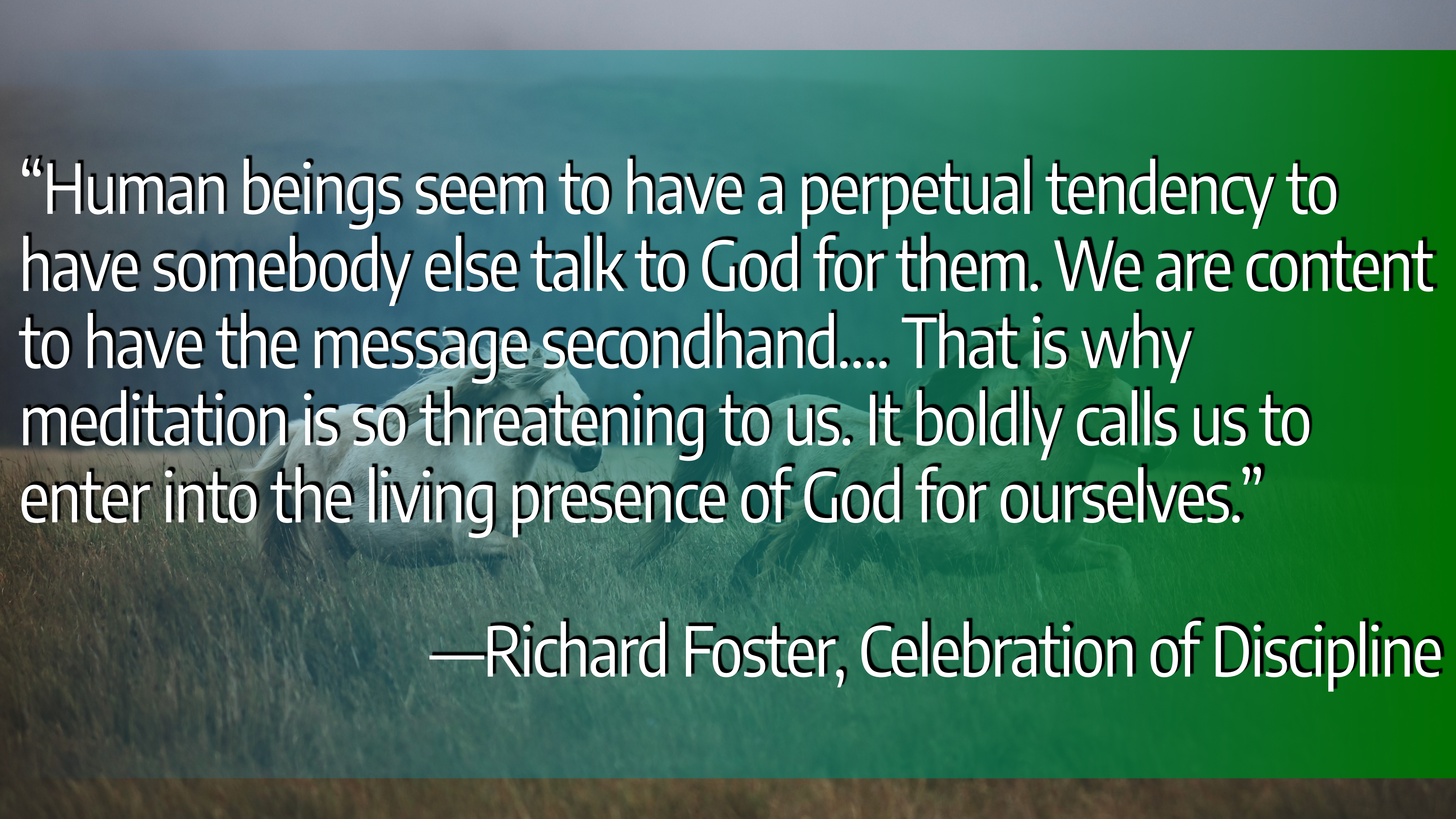
A background image showing two white horses running through a field of tall grass. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text is written in white and cyan colors.

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and **I will put my words in his mouth**. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.”

—Deut. 18:18-19

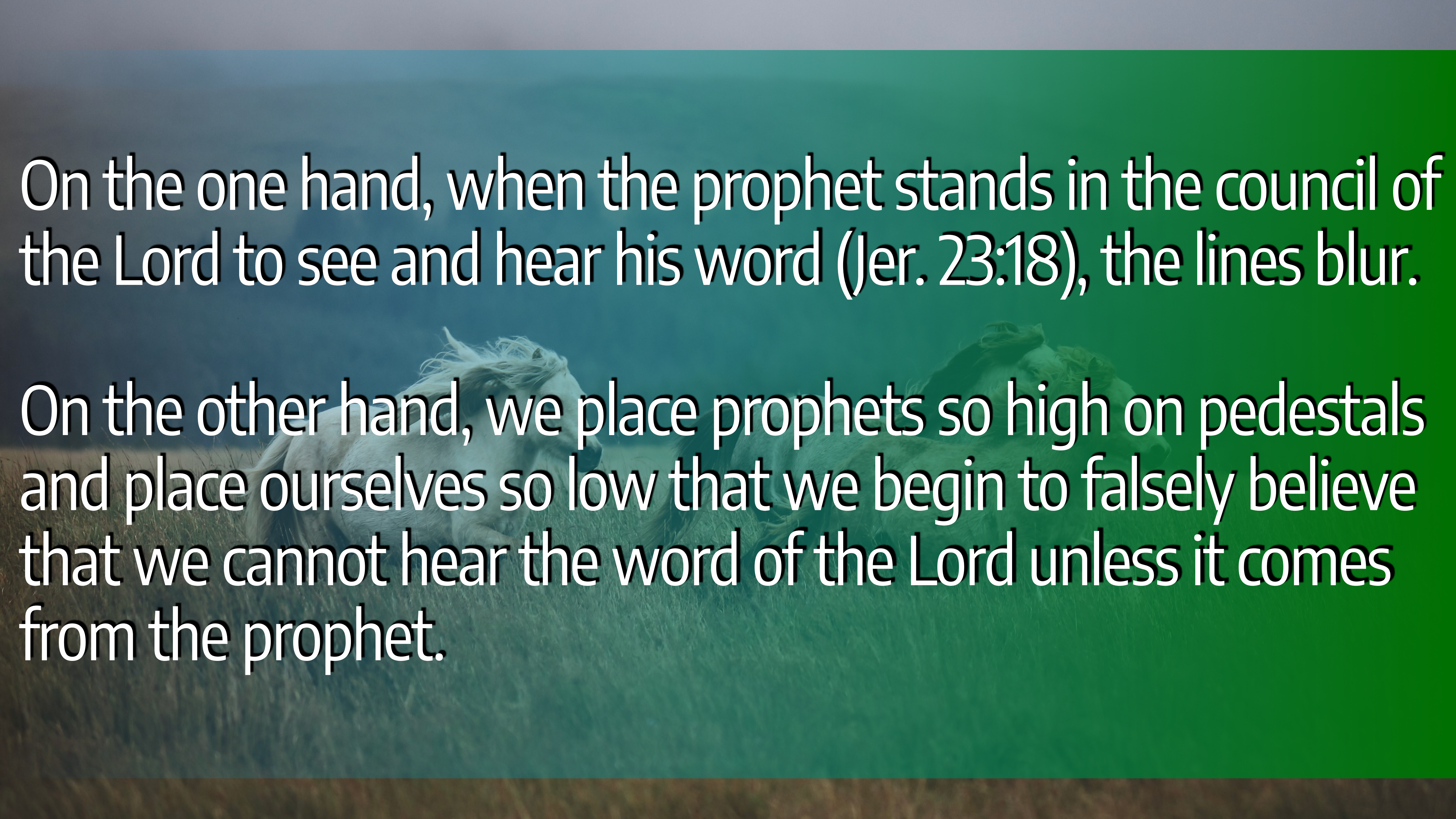
“I wish that **all the LORD's people were prophets** and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

—Num. 11:29



“Human beings seem to have a perpetual tendency to have somebody else talk to God for them. We are content to have the message secondhand.... That is why meditation is so threatening to us. It boldly calls us to enter into the living presence of God for ourselves.”

—Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

A background image showing two white horses galloping through a field of tall grass. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid clearly. The horses are in motion, with their manes and tails flowing.

On the one hand, when the prophet stands in the council of the Lord to see and hear his word (Jer. 23:18), the lines blur.

On the other hand, we place prophets so high on pedestals and place ourselves so low that we begin to falsely believe that we cannot hear the word of the Lord unless it comes from the prophet.

The main character of the book is not Jeremiah.

“The word of God is the subject of the book of Jeremiah, addressing us just as it once addressed him ... It is like a human character, and indeed it is effectively the main character in the book of Jeremiah ... [which] more than any other book in the Old Testament, demands to be understood as a systematic exposition of the word of God.” —Andrew Shead

Do we ever say to God, “I don’t know how to understand what I read; I am too _____”?



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