

The Life of Jeremiah



So You Think You Can Run with Horses?
Jeremiah 11:18-12:6

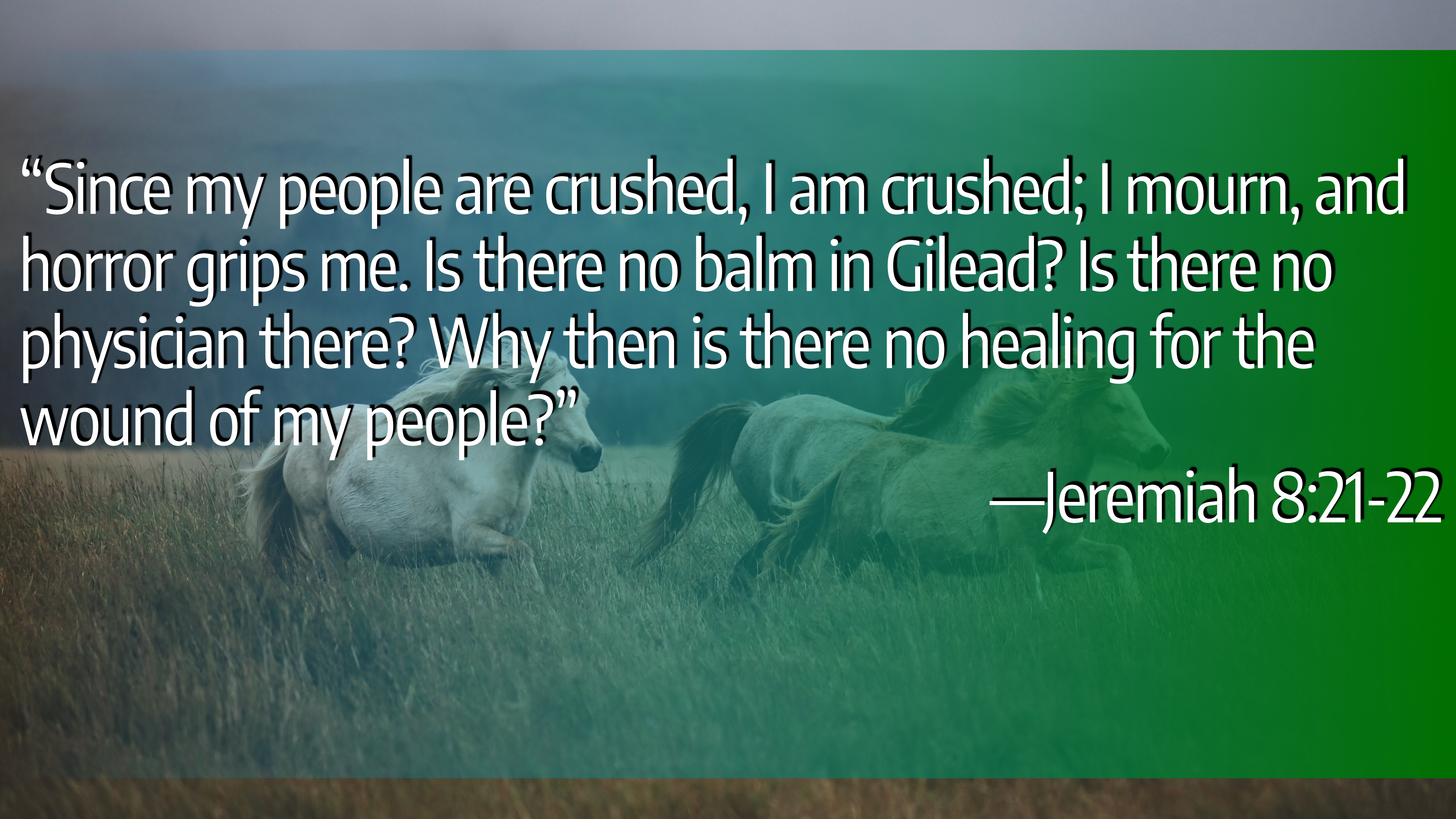


COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

RUN
WITH
EUGENE H. PETERSON
THE
HORSES

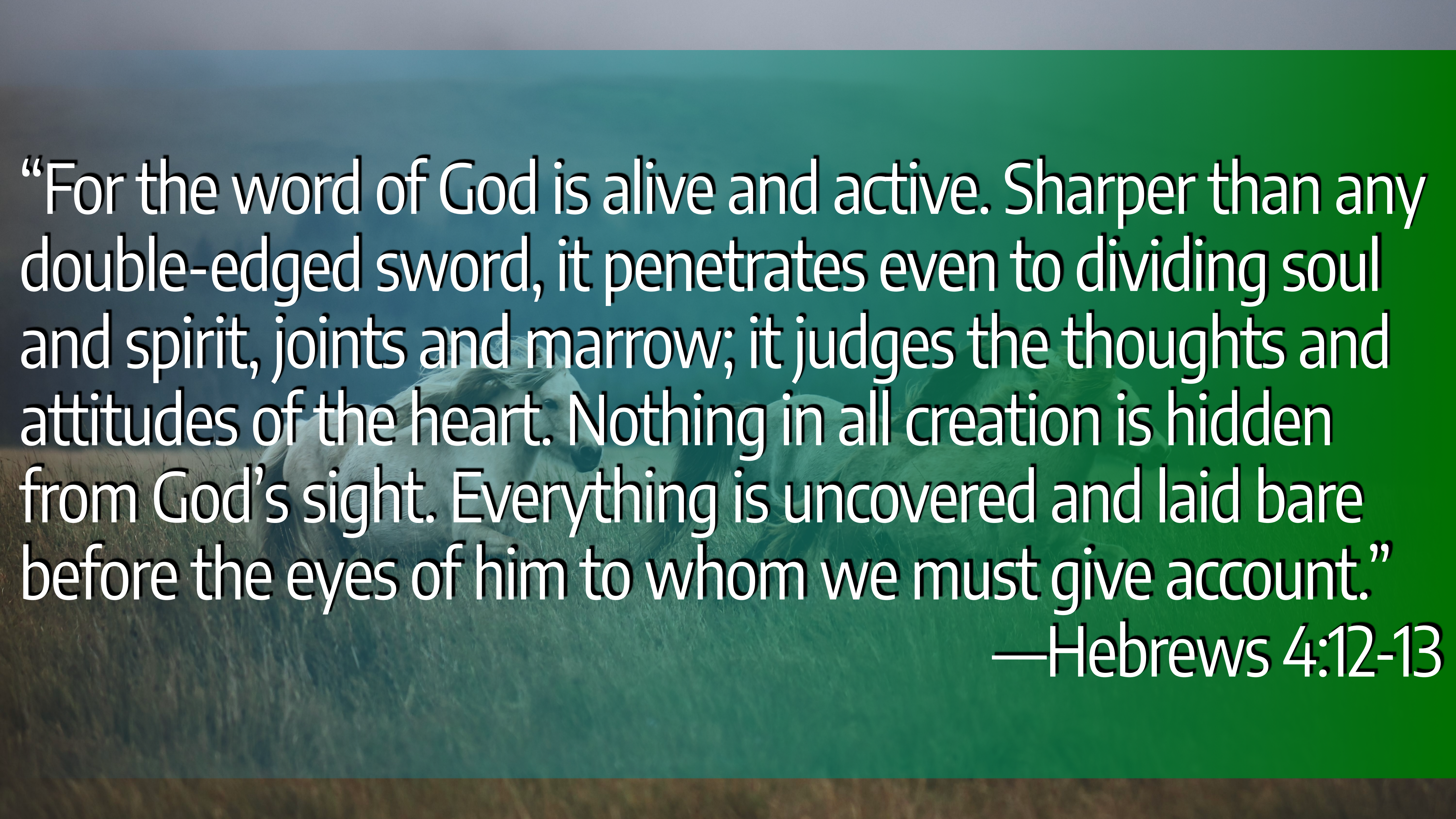
THE QUEST FOR
LIFE AT ITS BEST



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 across the upper portion of the image.

“Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?”

—Jeremiah 8:21-22



“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”
—Hebrews 4:12-13

Because the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying,

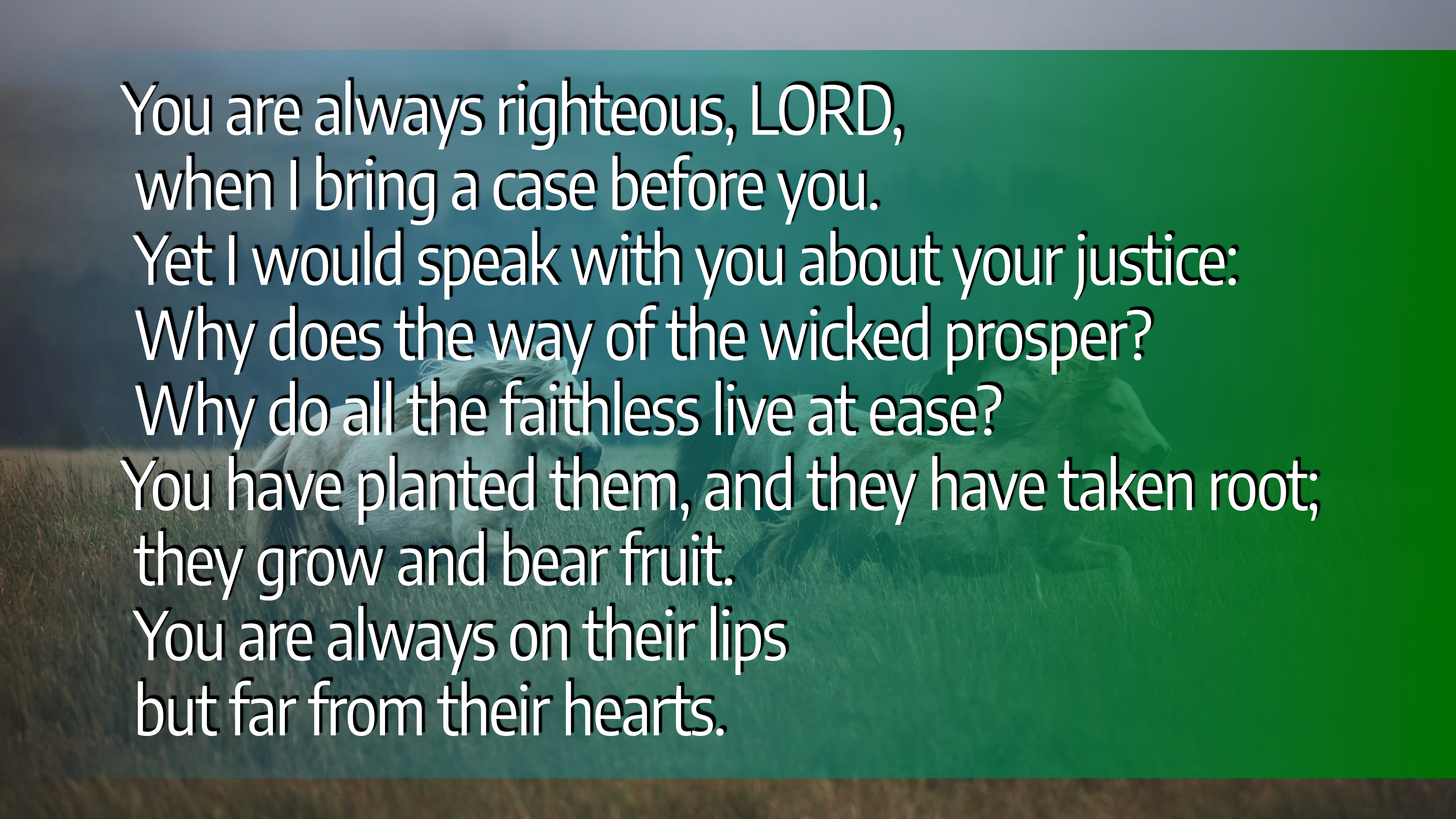
“Let us destroy the tree and its fruit;
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
that his name be remembered no more.”

But you, LORD Almighty, who judge righteously
and test the heart and mind,
let me see your vengeance on them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

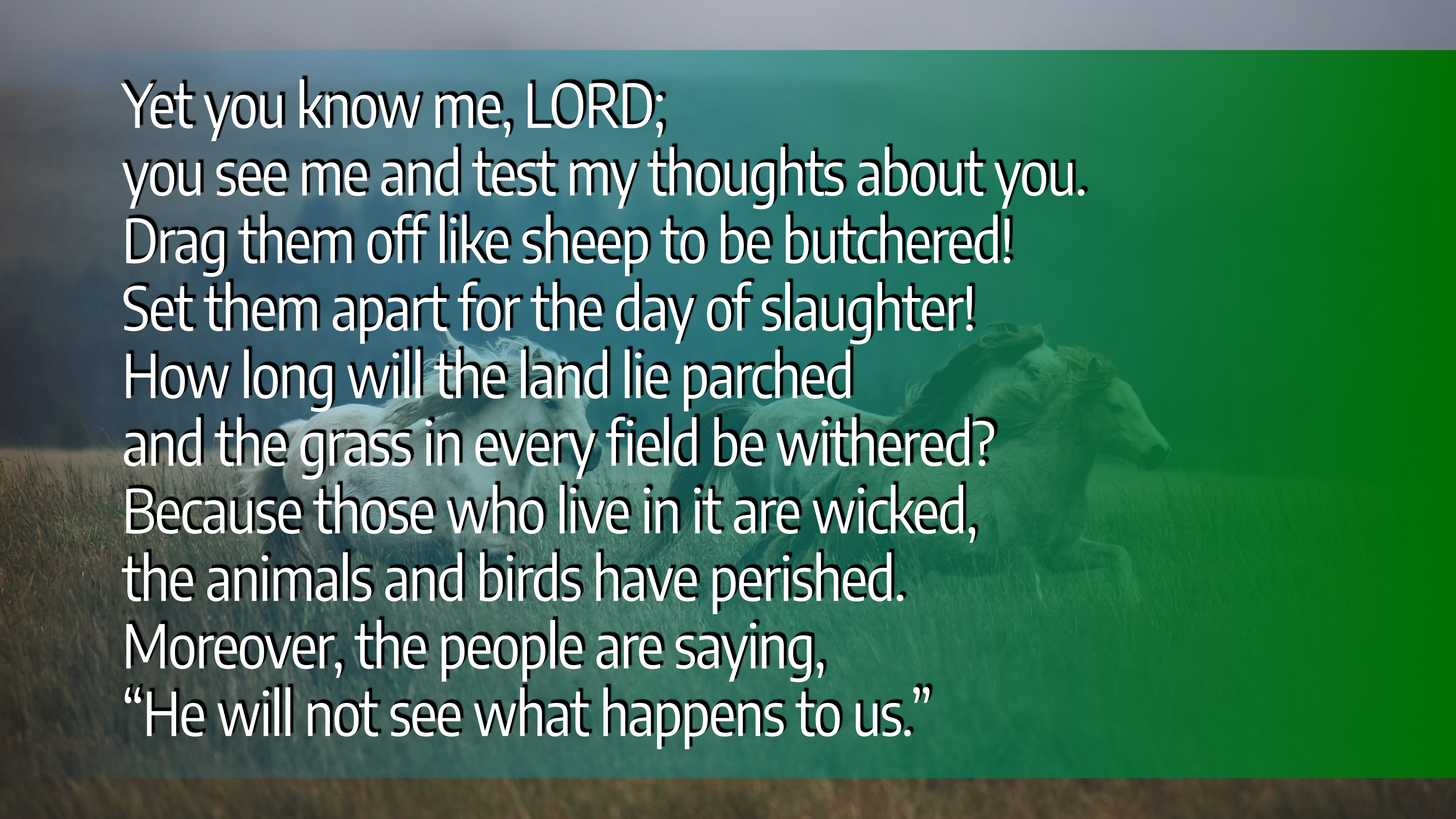
Therefore this is what the LORD says about the people of
Anathoth who are threatening to kill you, saying, “Do not
prophecy in the name of the LORD or you will die by our
hands”

...therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: “I will punish them. Their young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine. Not even a remnant will be left to them, because I will bring disaster on the people of Anathoth in the year of their punishment.”

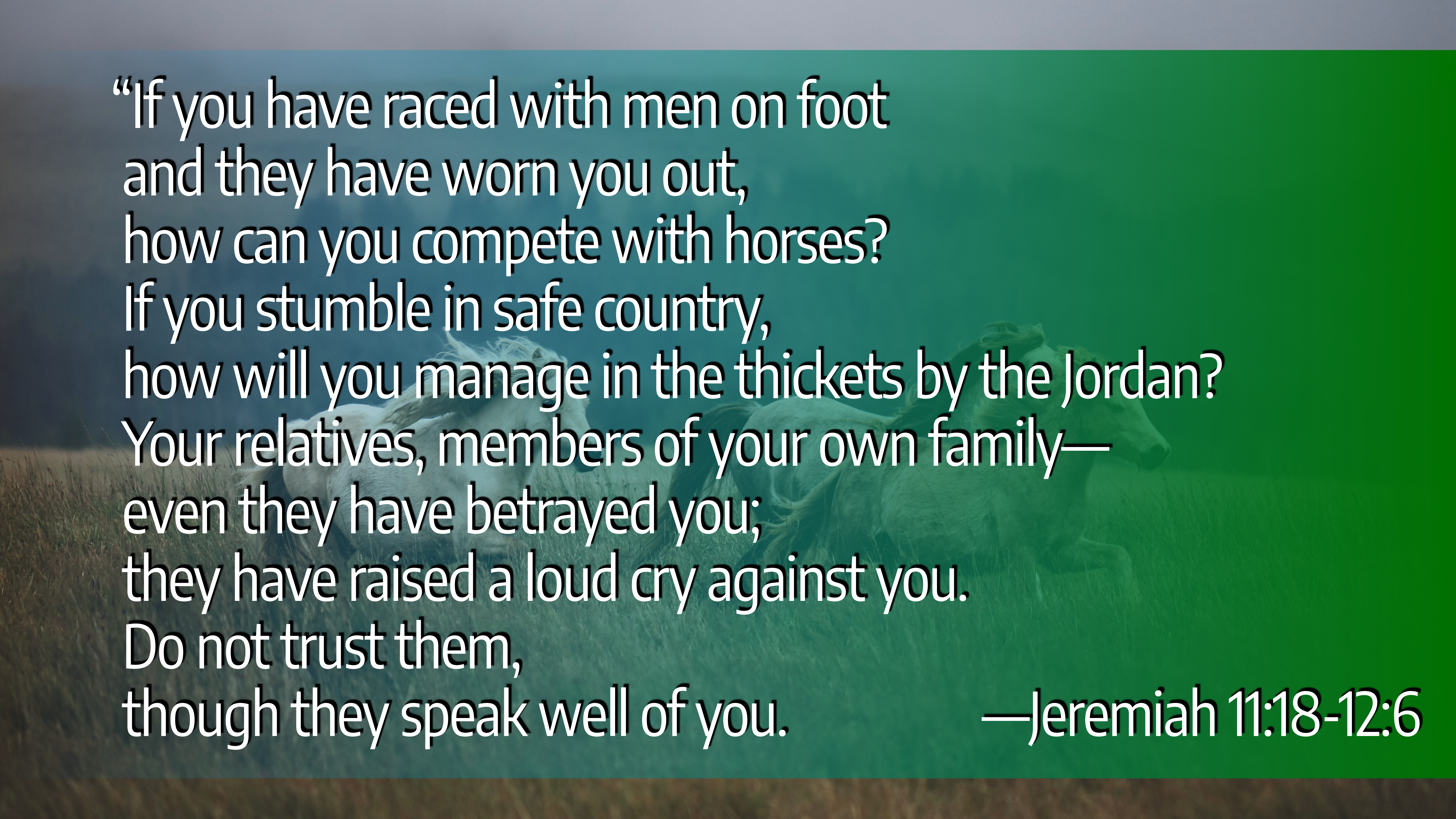




You are always righteous, LORD,
when I bring a case before you.
Yet I would speak with you about your justice:
Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why do all the faithless live at ease?
You have planted them, and they have taken root;
they grow and bear fruit.
You are always on their lips
but far from their hearts.

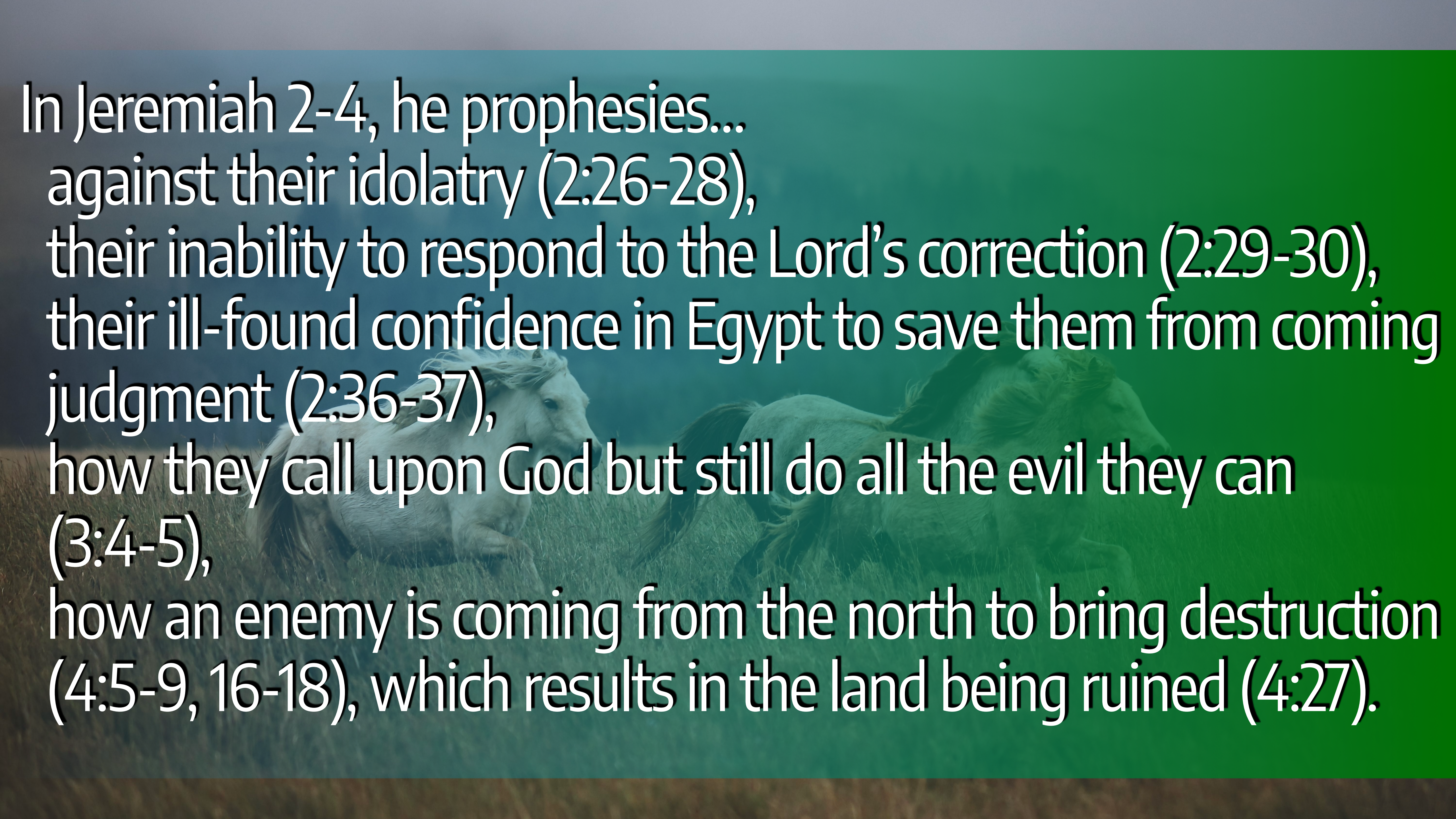


Yet you know me, LORD;
you see me and test my thoughts about you.
Drag them off like sheep to be butchered!
Set them apart for the day of slaughter!
How long will the land lie parched
and the grass in every field be withered?
Because those who live in it are wicked,
the animals and birds have perished.
Moreover, the people are saying,
“He will not see what happens to us.”

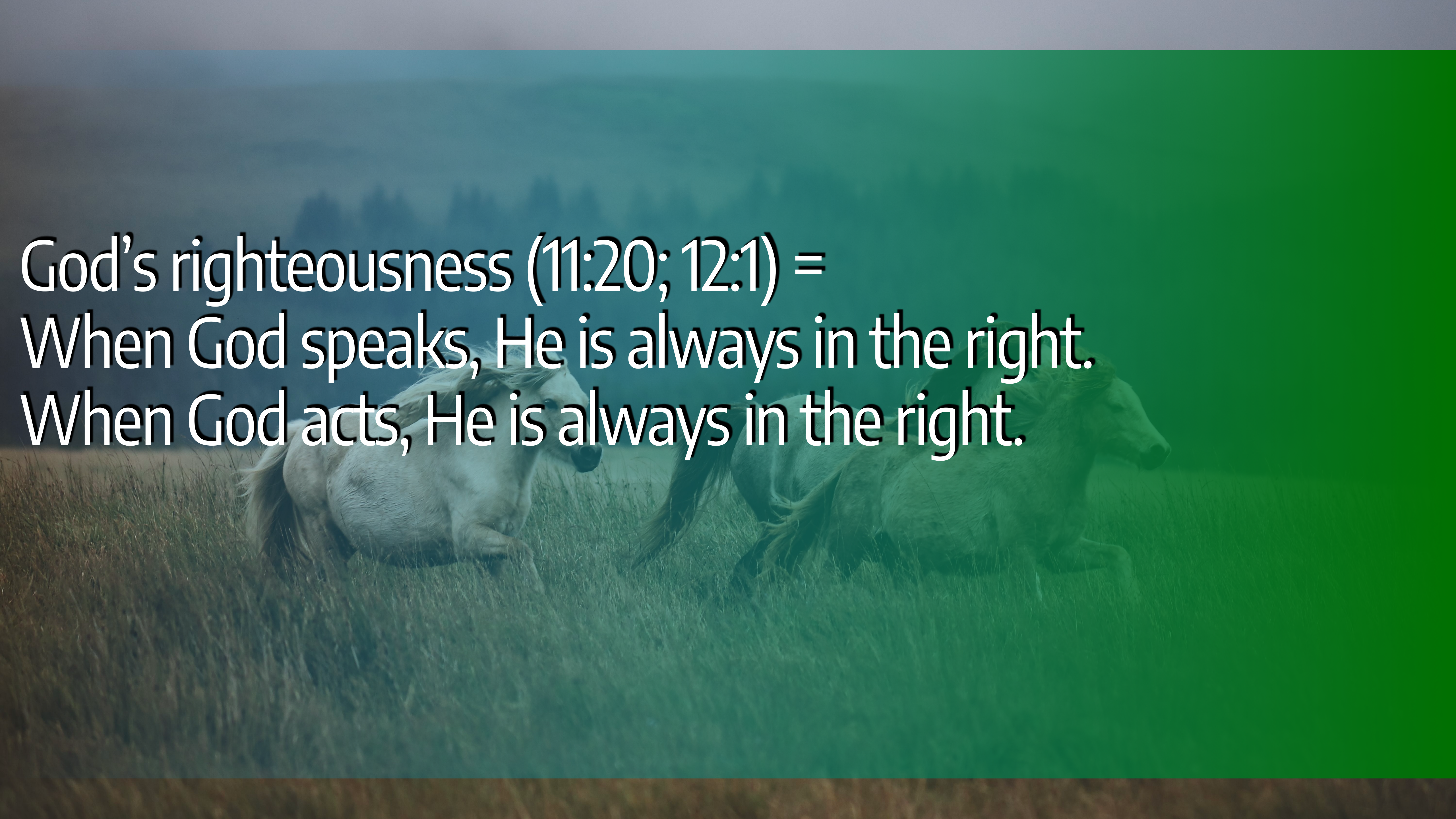


“If you have raced with men on foot
and they have worn you out,
how can you compete with horses?
If you stumble in safe country,
how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?
Your relatives, members of your own family—
even they have betrayed you;
they have raised a loud cry against you.
Do not trust them,
though they speak well of you.

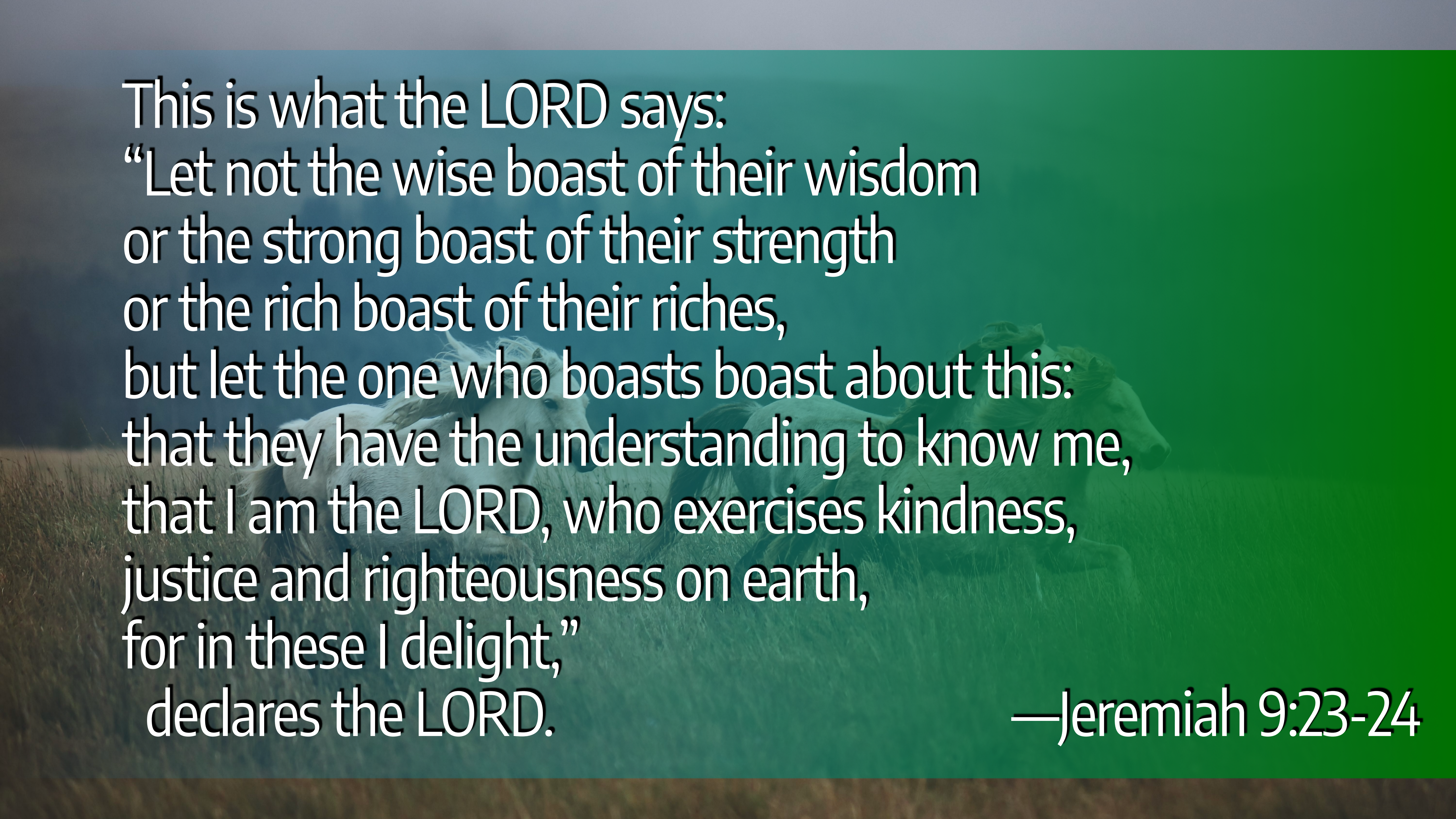
—Jeremiah 11:18-12:6



In Jeremiah 2-4, he prophesies...
against their idolatry (2:26-28),
their inability to respond to the Lord's correction (2:29-30),
their ill-found confidence in Egypt to save them from coming
judgment (2:36-37),
how they call upon God but still do all the evil they can
(3:4-5),
how an enemy is coming from the north to bring destruction
(4:5-9, 16-18), which results in the land being ruined (4:27).

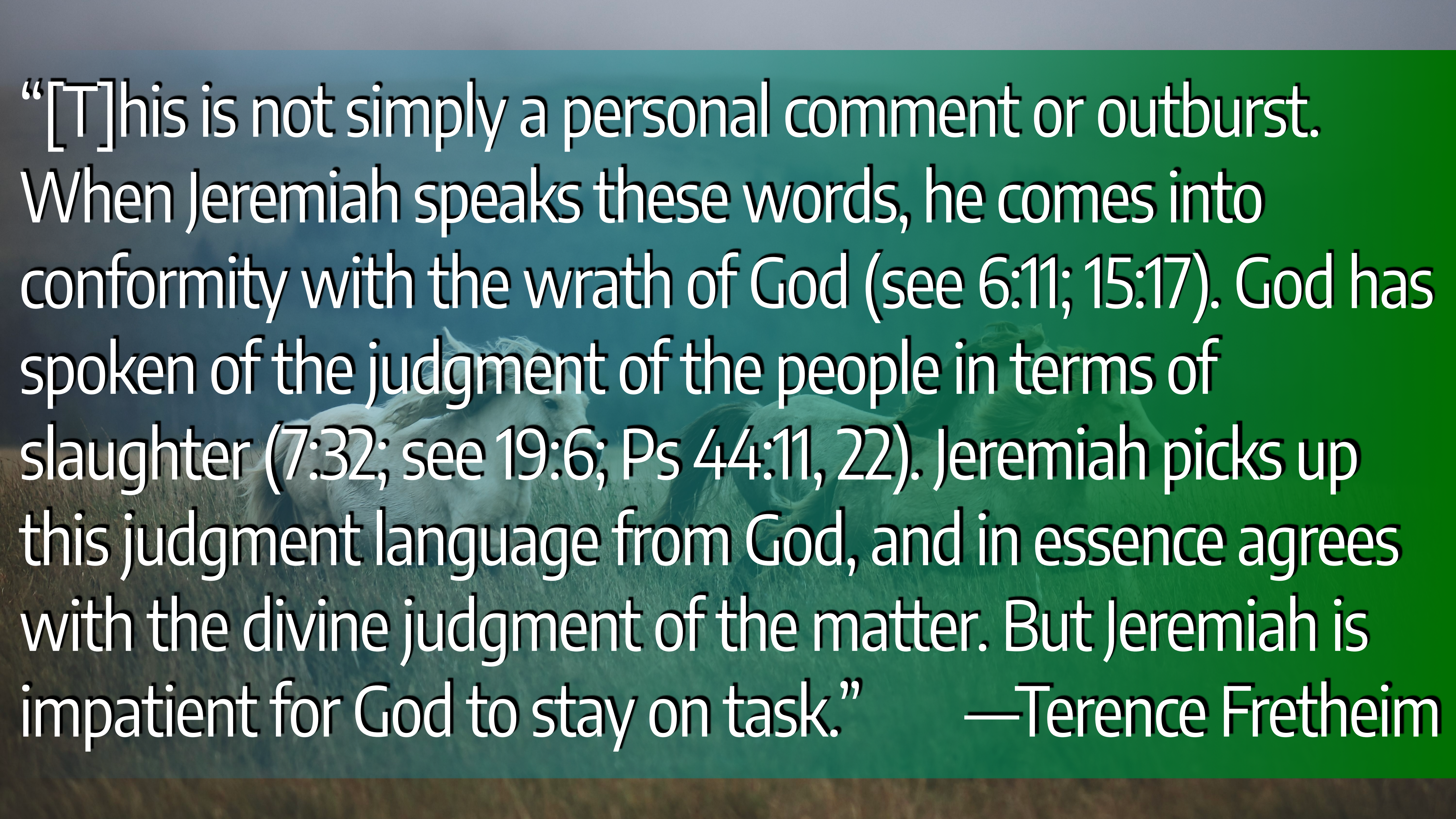
The background image shows two horses running through a field of tall grass. The horse on the left is white with some brown spots, and the horse on the right is dark brown. They are both in motion, running towards the right side of the frame. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent green overlay. Overlaid on the left side of the image is white text.

God's righteousness (11:20; 12:1) =
When God speaks, He is always in the right.
When God acts, He is always in the right.

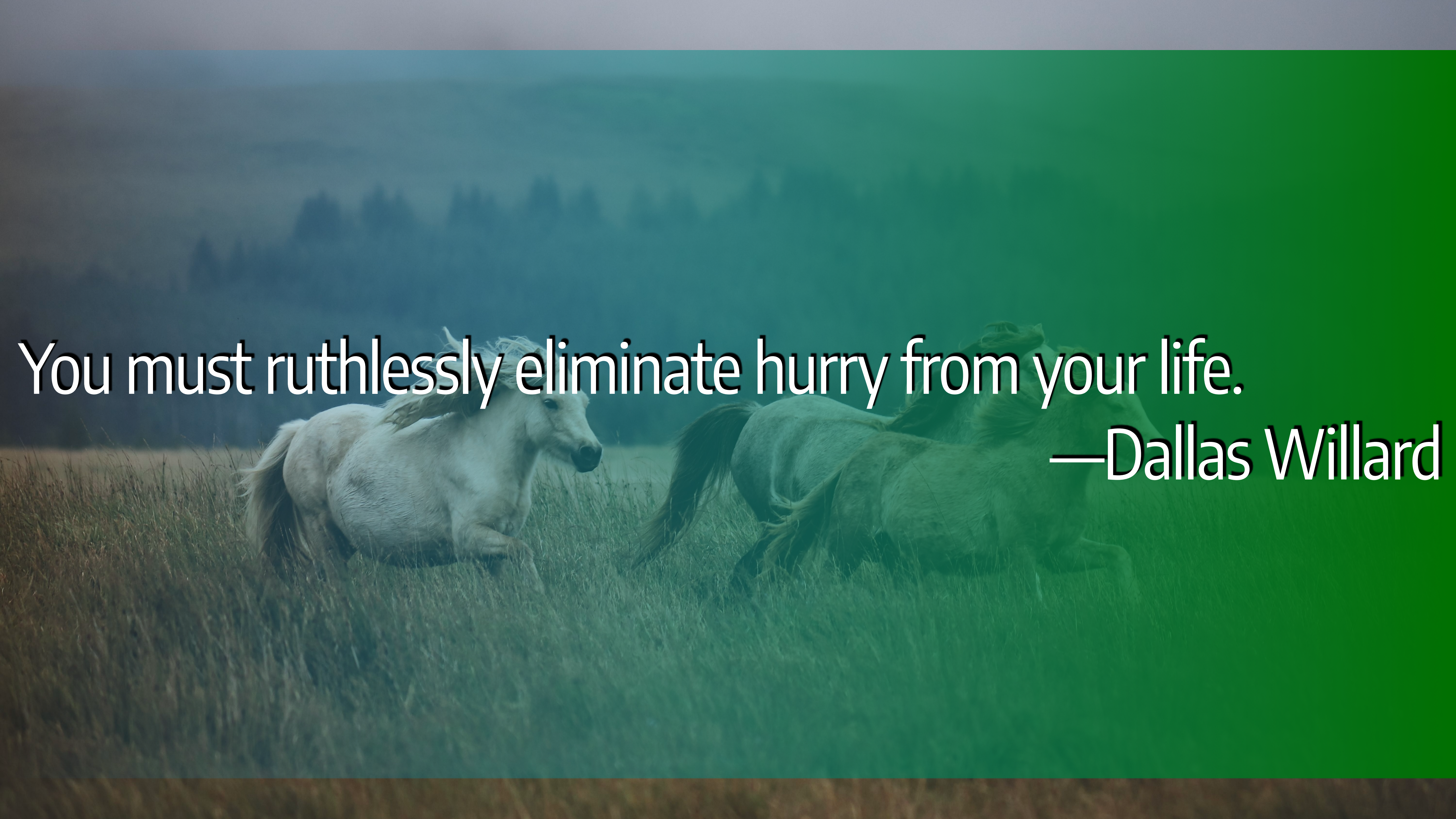


This is what the LORD says:
“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom
or the strong boast of their strength
or the rich boast of their riches,
but let the one who boasts boast about this:
that they have the understanding to know me,
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,”
declares the LORD.

—Jeremiah 9:23-24

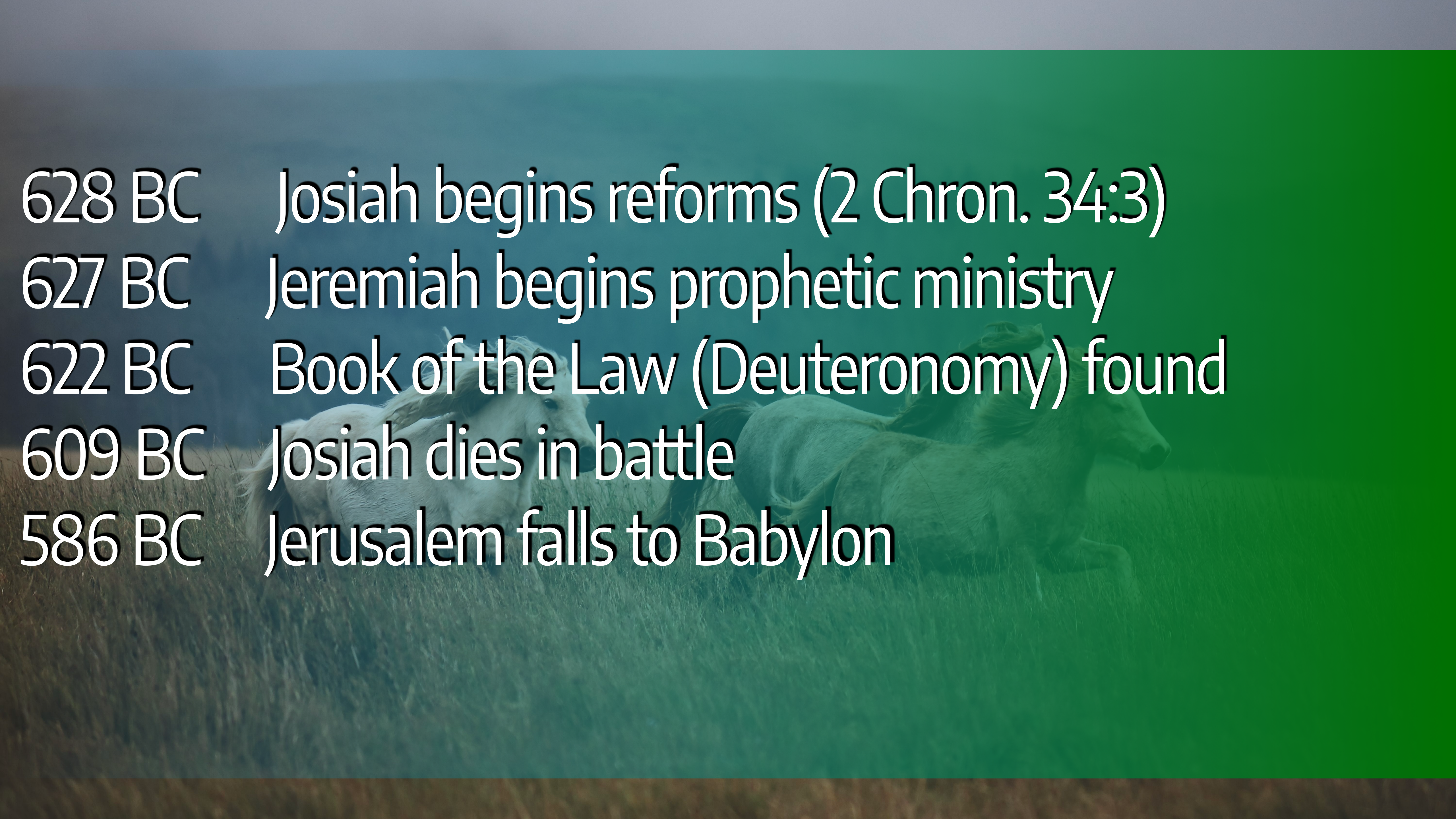


“[T]his is not simply a personal comment or outburst. When Jeremiah speaks these words, he comes into conformity with the wrath of God (see 6:11; 15:17). God has spoken of the judgment of the people in terms of slaughter (7:32; see 19:6; Ps 44:11, 22). Jeremiah picks up this judgment language from God, and in essence agrees with the divine judgment of the matter. But Jeremiah is impatient for God to stay on task.” —Terence Fretheim

A photograph 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 background shows a line of trees under a hazy sky. A semi-transparent green overlay covers the right half of the image, where the text is located.

You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.

—Dallas Willard



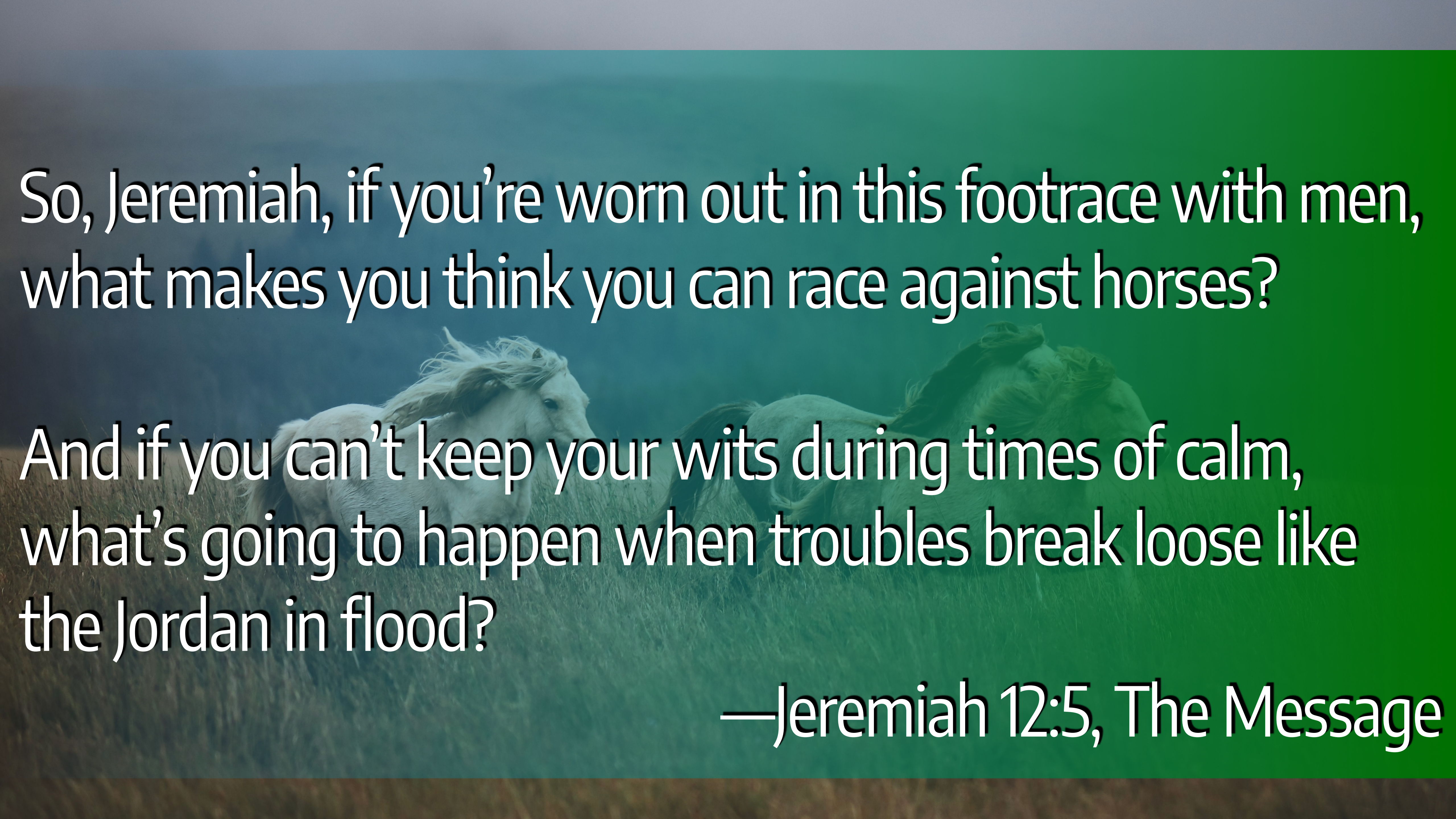
628 BC Josiah begins reforms (2 Chron. 34:3)

627 BC Jeremiah begins prophetic ministry

622 BC Book of the Law (Deuteronomy) found

609 BC Josiah dies in battle

586 BC Jerusalem falls to Babylon

A background image showing two horses running through tall grass. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text is white and positioned in the upper half of the image.

So, Jeremiah, if you're worn out in this footrace with men,
what makes you think you can race against horses?

And if you can't keep your wits during times of calm,
what's going to happen when troubles break loose like
the Jordan in flood?

—Jeremiah 12:5, The Message

We can turn into horses and make our future harder if we're not careful.

—Demonizing

—Speculating

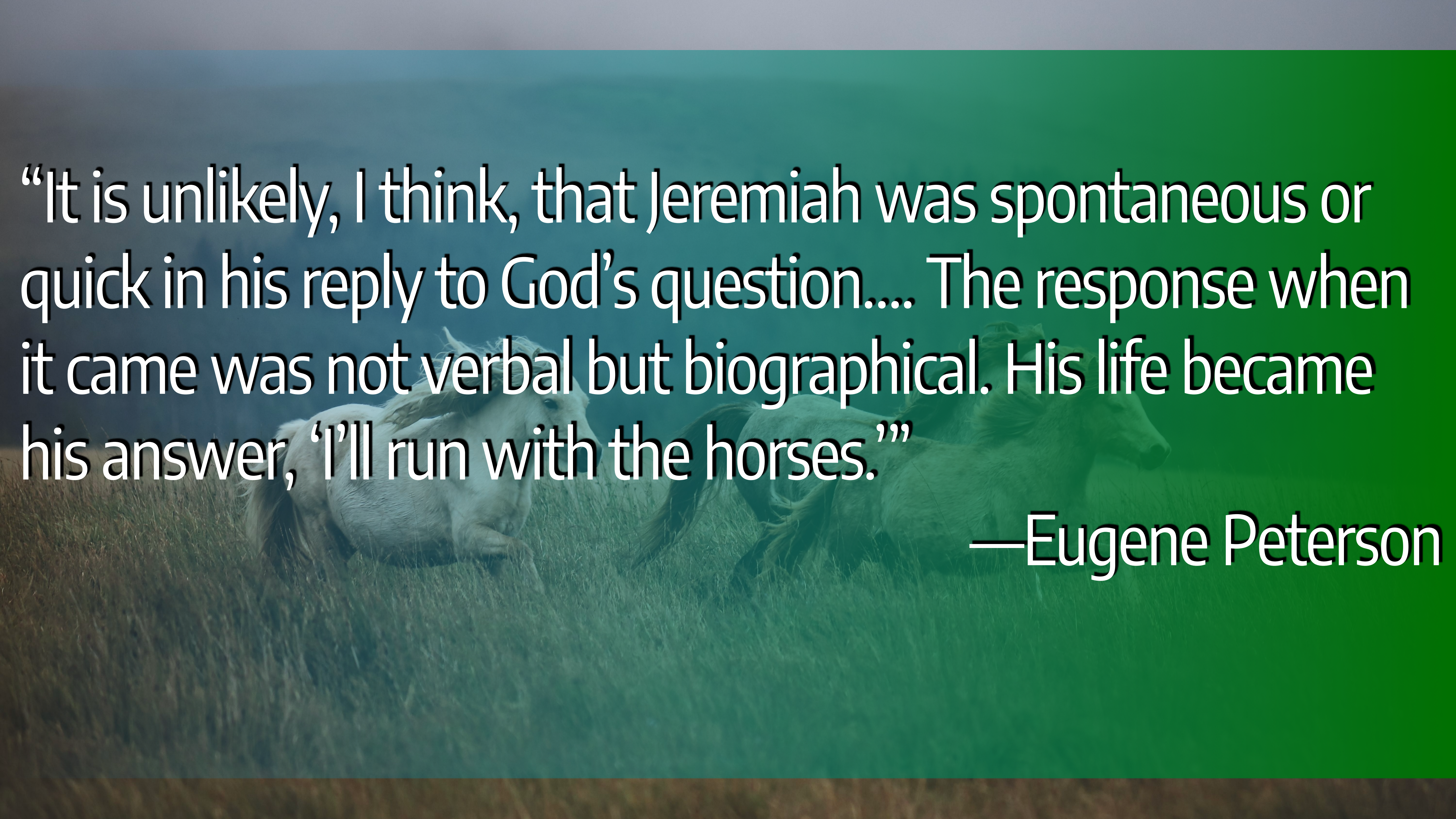
—Assuming

—Bypassing

—Turning on one another

—Talking about instead of talking to



A photograph of a herd of horses running through tall, dry grass. The image is overlaid with a green gradient that is darker on the right side. A white quote is superimposed on the left and center of the image.

“It is unlikely, I think, that Jeremiah was spontaneous or quick in his reply to God’s question.... The response when it came was not verbal but biographical. His life became his answer, ‘I’ll run with the horses.’”

—Eugene Peterson