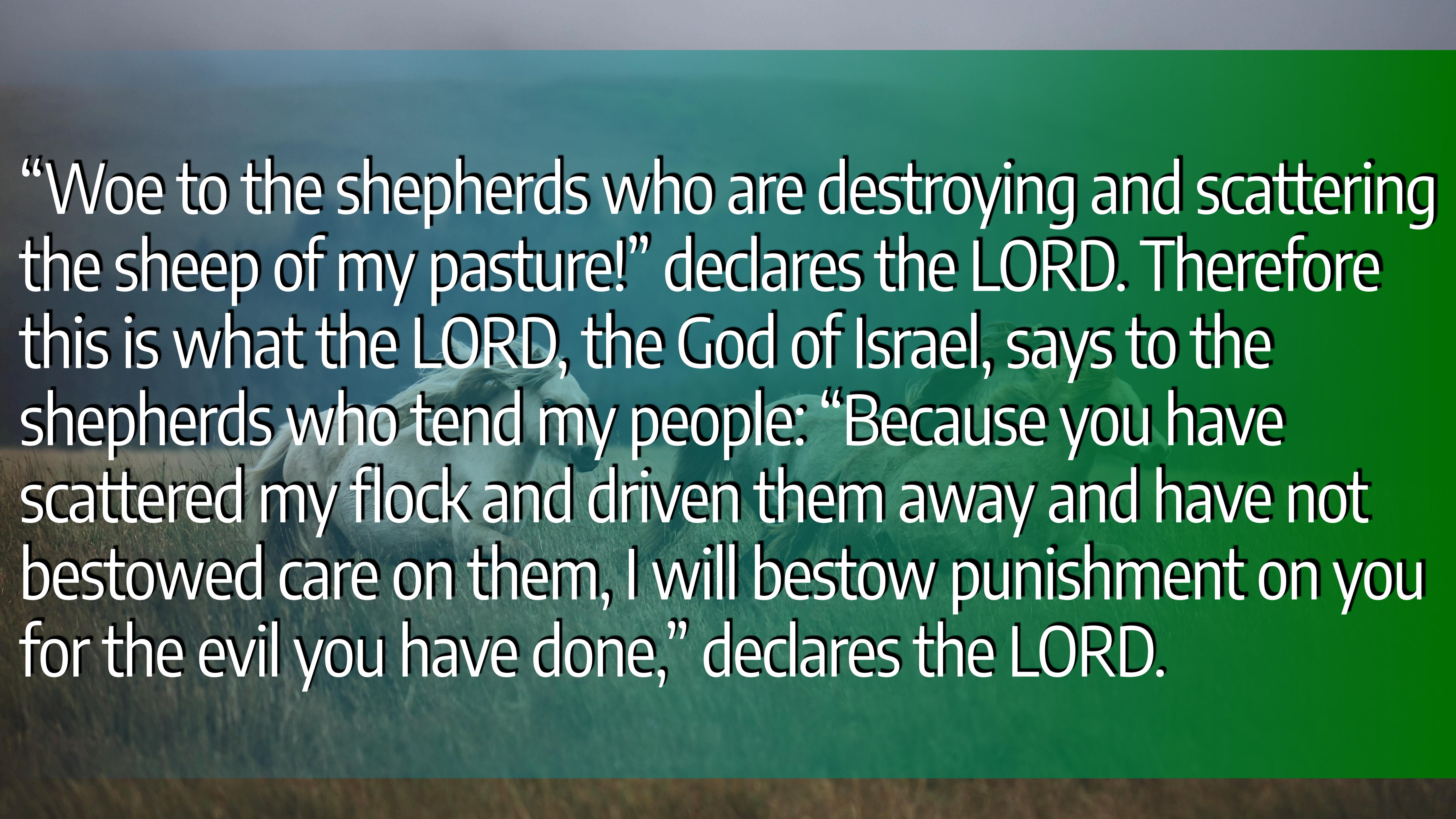


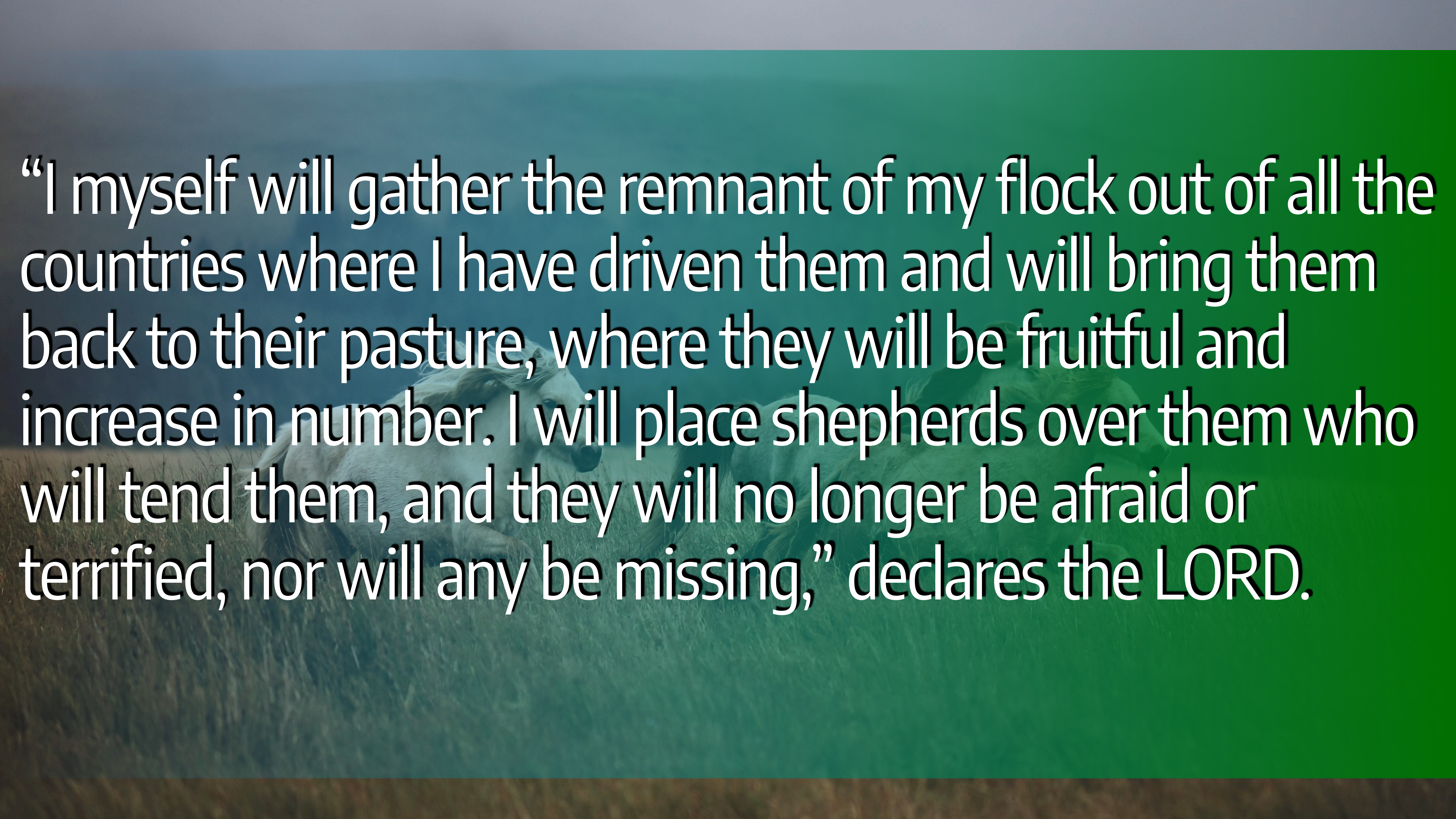
The Life of Jeremiah



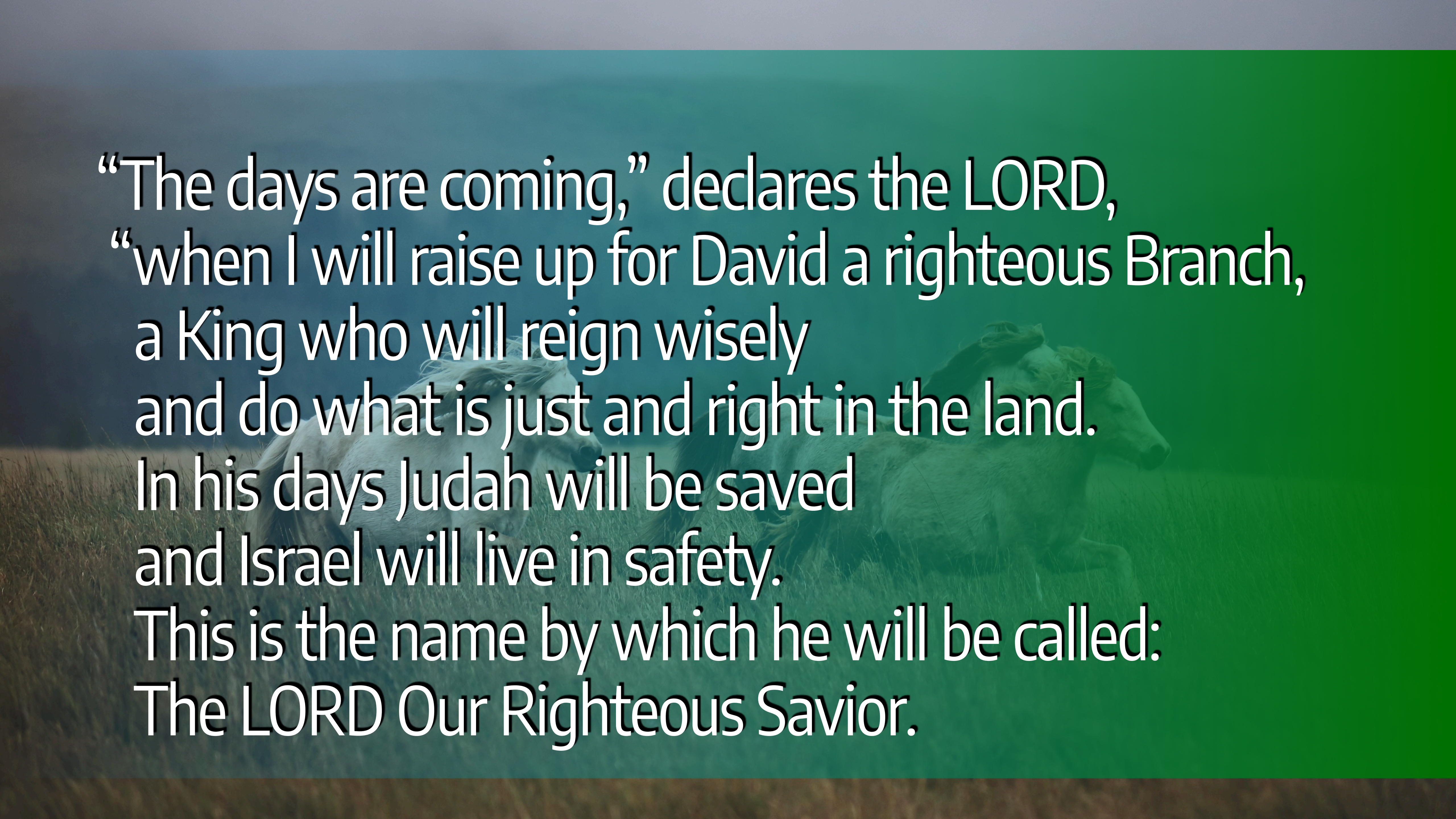
The Lord Our Righteousness
Jeremiah 23:1-8



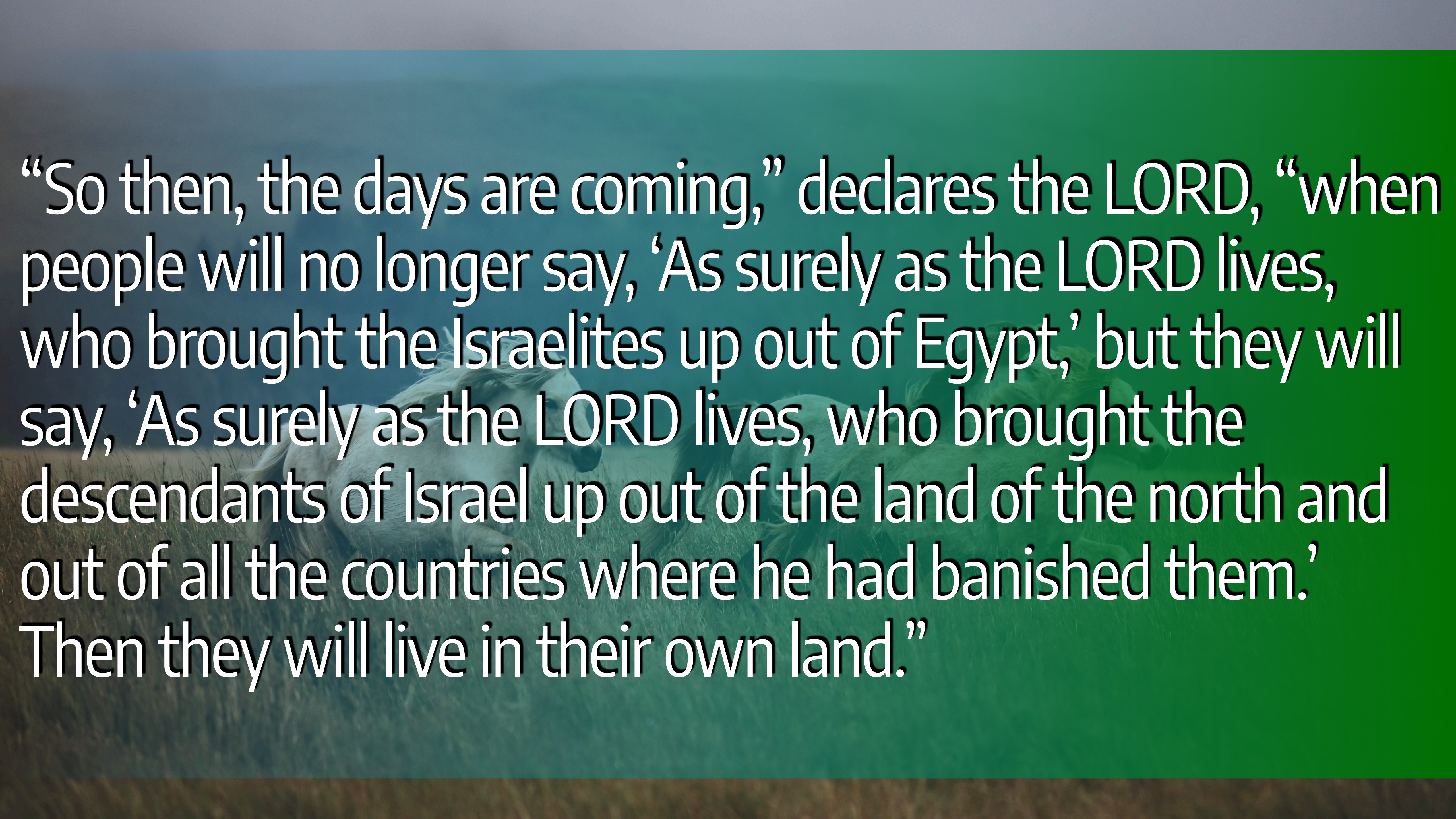
“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD.

A background image showing a shepherd in a field with sheep. The shepherd is wearing a hat and a long coat, holding a staff. Several sheep are visible in the field. The image is overlaid with a green gradient and white text.

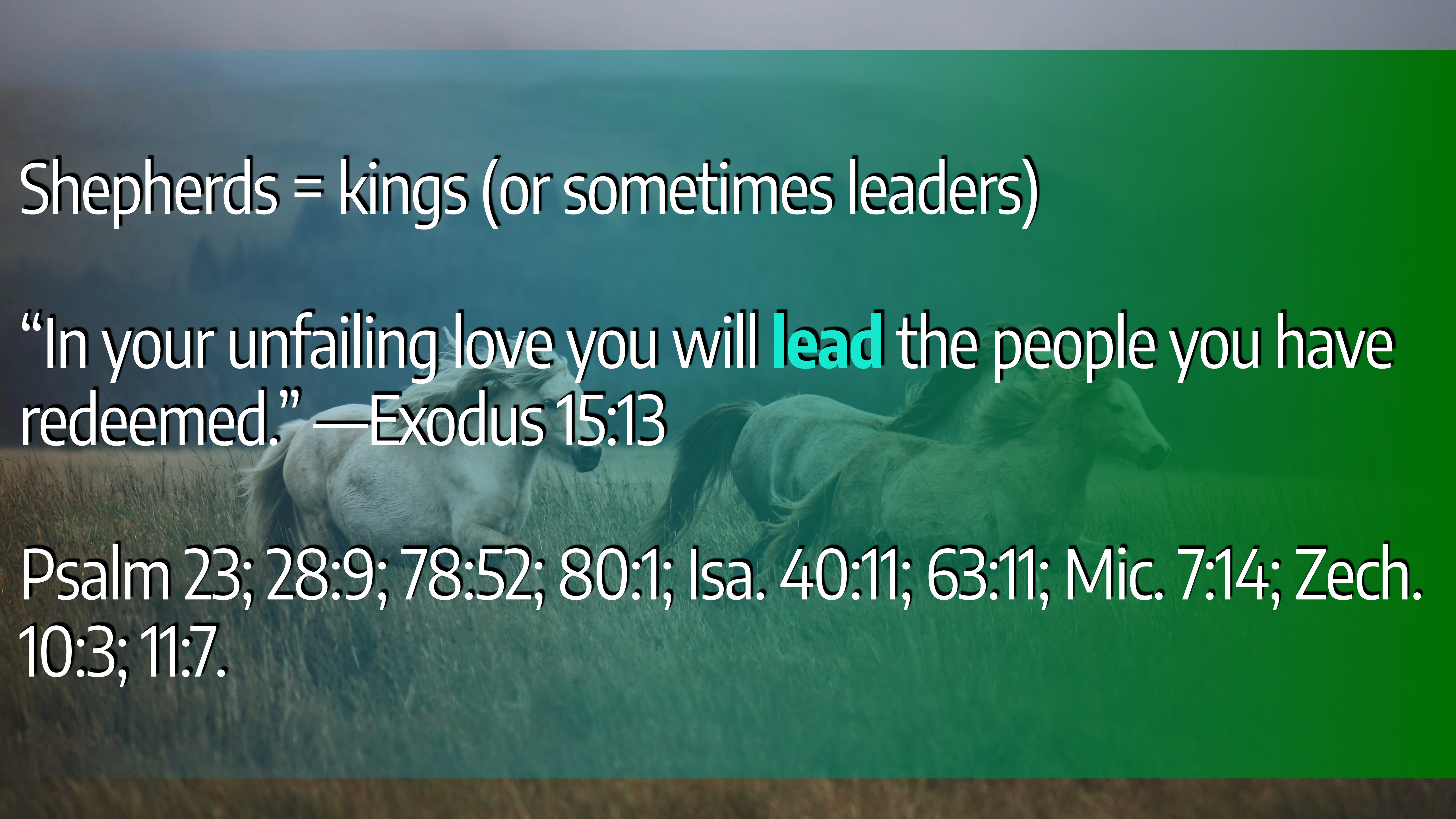
“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.



“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.



“So then, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when people will no longer say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ but they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ Then they will live in their own land.”

A background image of two horses running through tall grass in a field. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text is white, with the word 'lead' highlighted in a teal color.

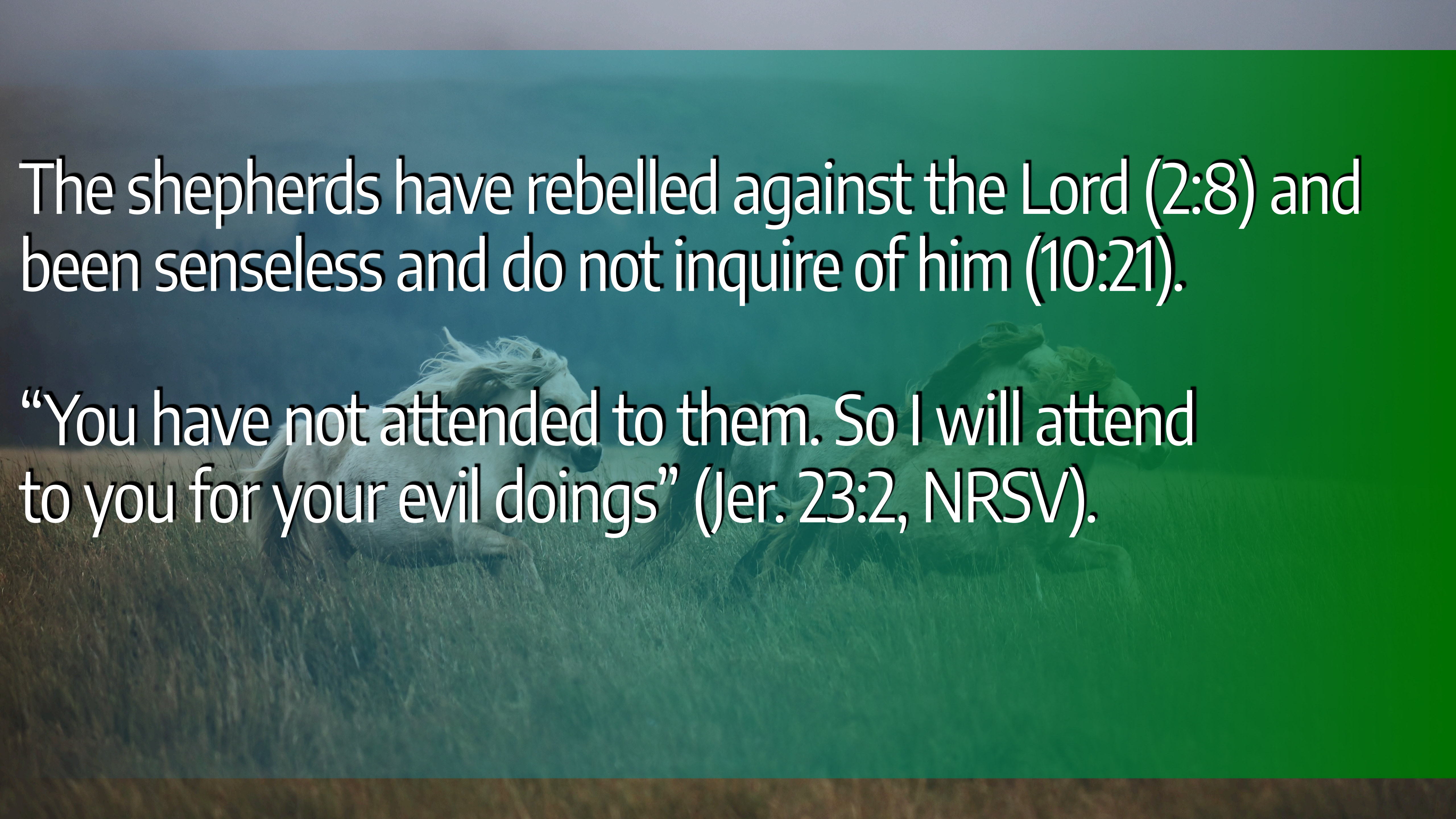
Shepherds = kings (or sometimes leaders)

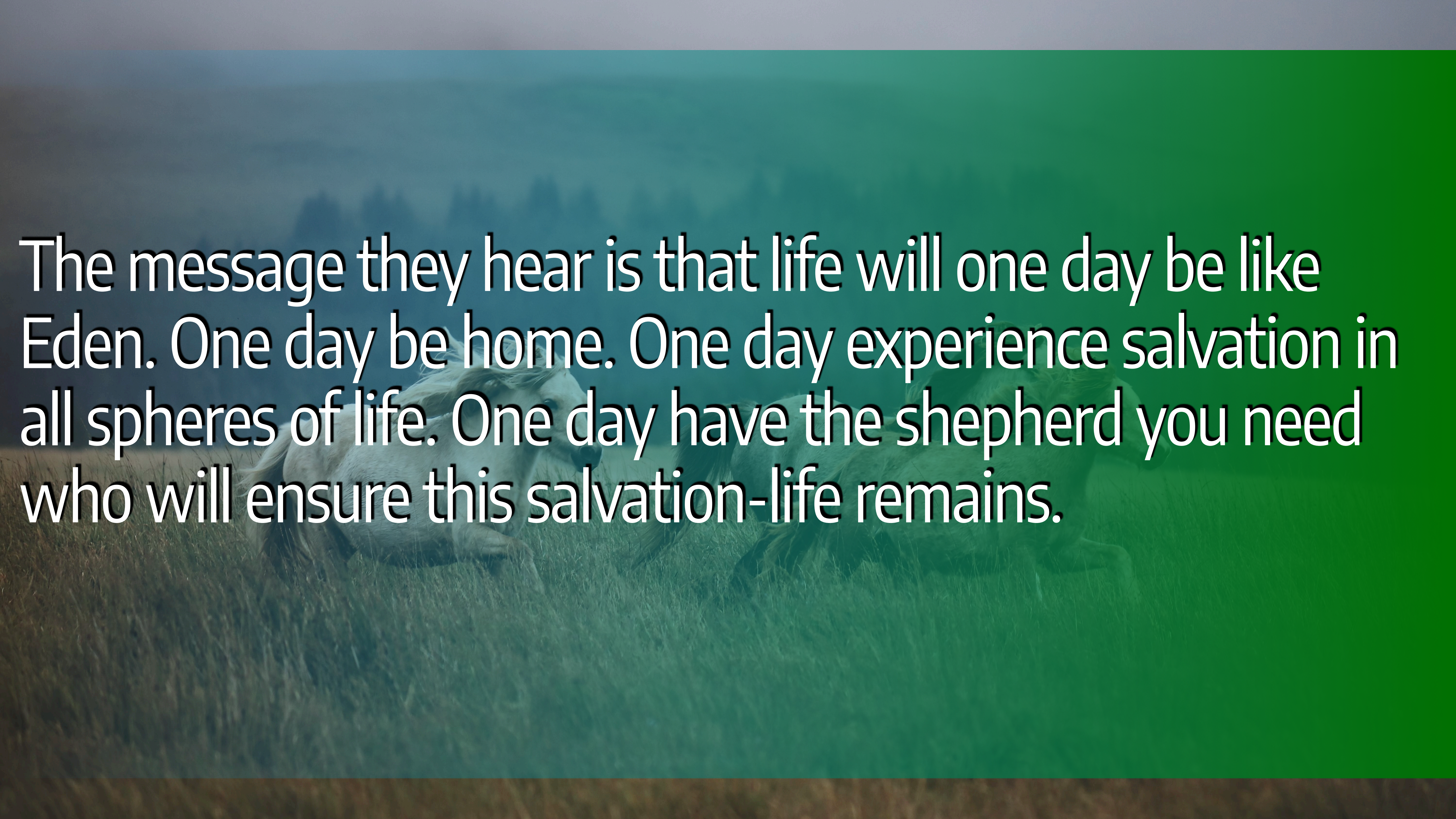
“In your unfailing love you will **lead** the people you have redeemed.” —Exodus 15:13

Psalms 23; 28:9; 78:52; 80:1; Isa. 40:11; 63:11; Mic. 7:14; Zech. 10:3; 11:7.

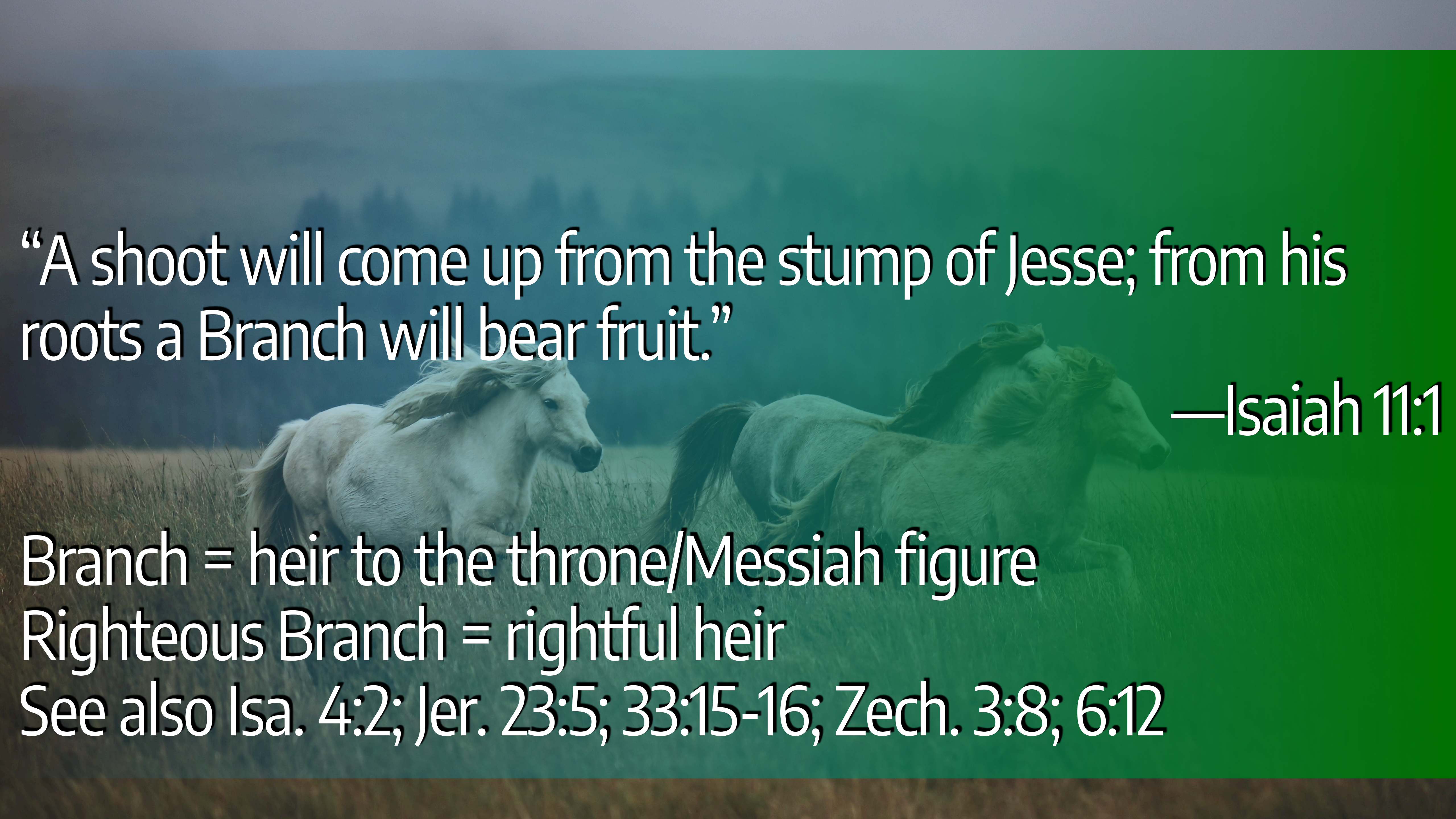
The shepherds have rebelled against the Lord (2:8) and been senseless and do not inquire of him (10:21).

“You have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings” (Jer. 23:2, NRSV).

A photograph of two white horses lying down in a field of tall, dry grass. The horses are positioned horizontally across the middle of the frame. The background is a soft-focus landscape with rolling hills under a pale sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter, which serves as a background for the white text.



The message they hear is that life will one day be like Eden. One day be home. One day experience salvation in all spheres of life. One day have the shepherd you need who will ensure this salvation-life remains.

A background image showing 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. They are both running towards the right side of the frame. The background is a soft-focus landscape with trees and hills under a hazy sky.

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.”

—Isaiah 11:1

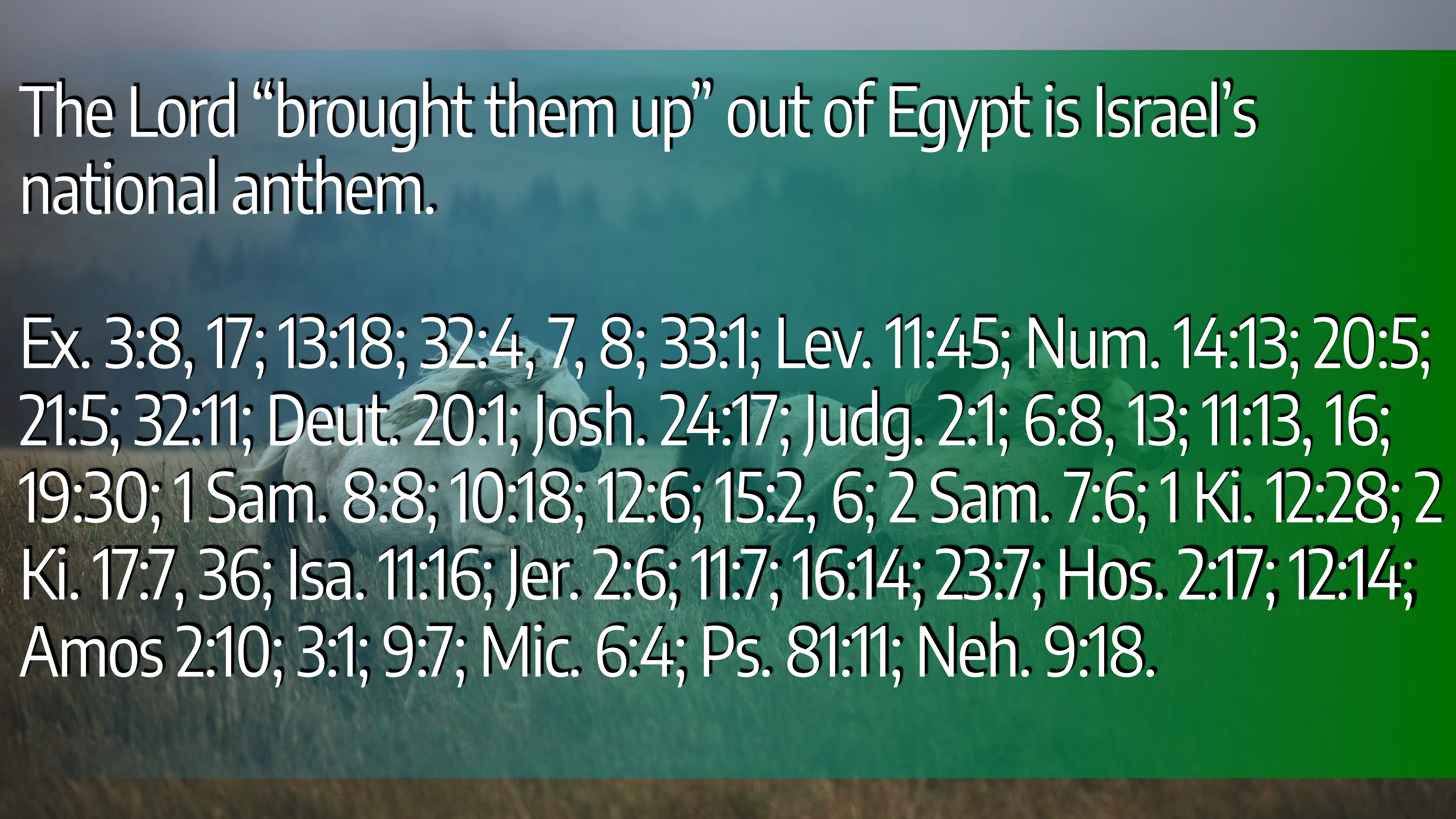
Branch = heir to the throne/Messiah figure

Righteous Branch = rightful heir

See also Isa. 4:2; Jer. 23:5; 33:15-16; Zech. 3:8; 6:12

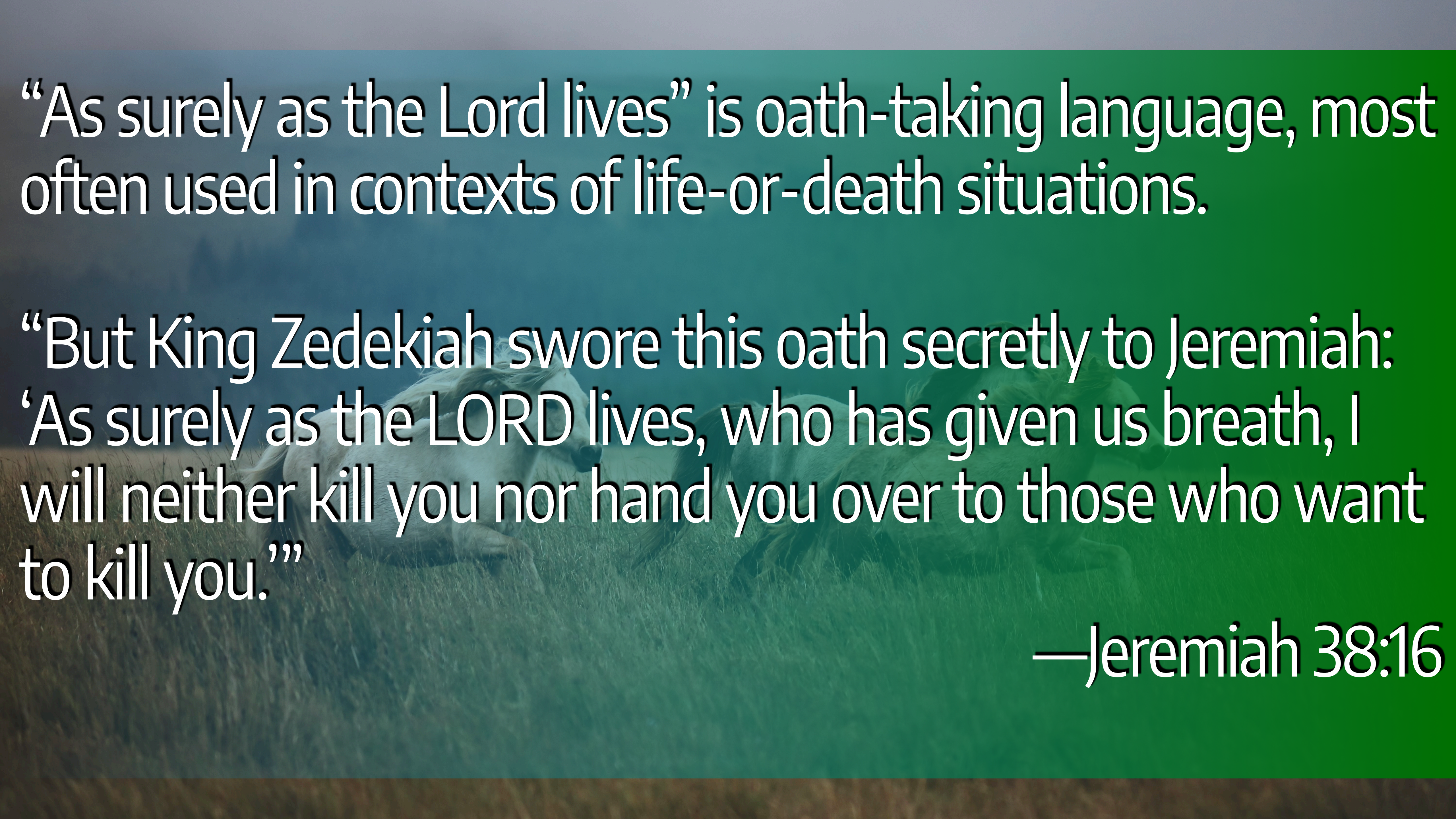
Ancient Near East = king is the image of the god.
Israel = king is appointed by God, but every person is made in God's image.

King's responsibility is to bring about justice and righteousness (2 Sam. 8:15; 1 Ki. 10:9; Ps. 72:1; Jer. 22:3, 15), for these are things that God himself loves and is (Job 37:23; Ps. 33:5; 36:7; 89:15; 97:2; 99:4; 103:6; Isa. 33:5; Jer. 9:23).

A white horse is shown in a field, partially obscured by a green overlay that covers the right side of the image. The horse is facing left, and its head and neck are visible. The background is a soft-focus field of grass.

The Lord “brought them up” out of Egypt is Israel’s national anthem.

Ex. 3:8, 17; 13:18; 32:4, 7, 8; 33:1; Lev. 11:45; Num. 14:13; 20:5; 21:5; 32:11; Deut. 20:1; Josh. 24:17; Judg. 2:1; 6:8, 13; 11:13, 16; 19:30; 1 Sam. 8:8; 10:18; 12:6; 15:2, 6; 2 Sam. 7:6; 1 Ki. 12:28; 2 Ki. 17:7, 36; Isa. 11:16; Jer. 2:6; 11:7; 16:14; 23:7; Hos. 2:17; 12:14; Amos 2:10; 3:1; 9:7; Mic. 6:4; Ps. 81:11; Neh. 9:18.



“As surely as the Lord lives” is oath-taking language, most often used in contexts of life-or-death situations.

“But King Zedekiah swore this oath secretly to Jeremiah: ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who has given us breath, I will neither kill you nor hand you over to those who want to kill you.’”

—Jeremiah 38:16

Who are we? We are Israel, the chosen people of the Creator God.

Where are we? We are in the Holy Land, focused on the temple; but **we are still in exile.**

What is wrong? We have the wrong rulers.

What is the solution? Our God must act again to give us the true sort of rule—his own kingship exercised through properly appointed officials.

Jesus is the wise king (Matt. 11:19; Mark 6:2; Luke 2:40, 52; John 1; 1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 2:3).

Jesus is the righteous one (Acts 3:14; 7:52; 22:14; 1 John 2:1, 29; 3:7).

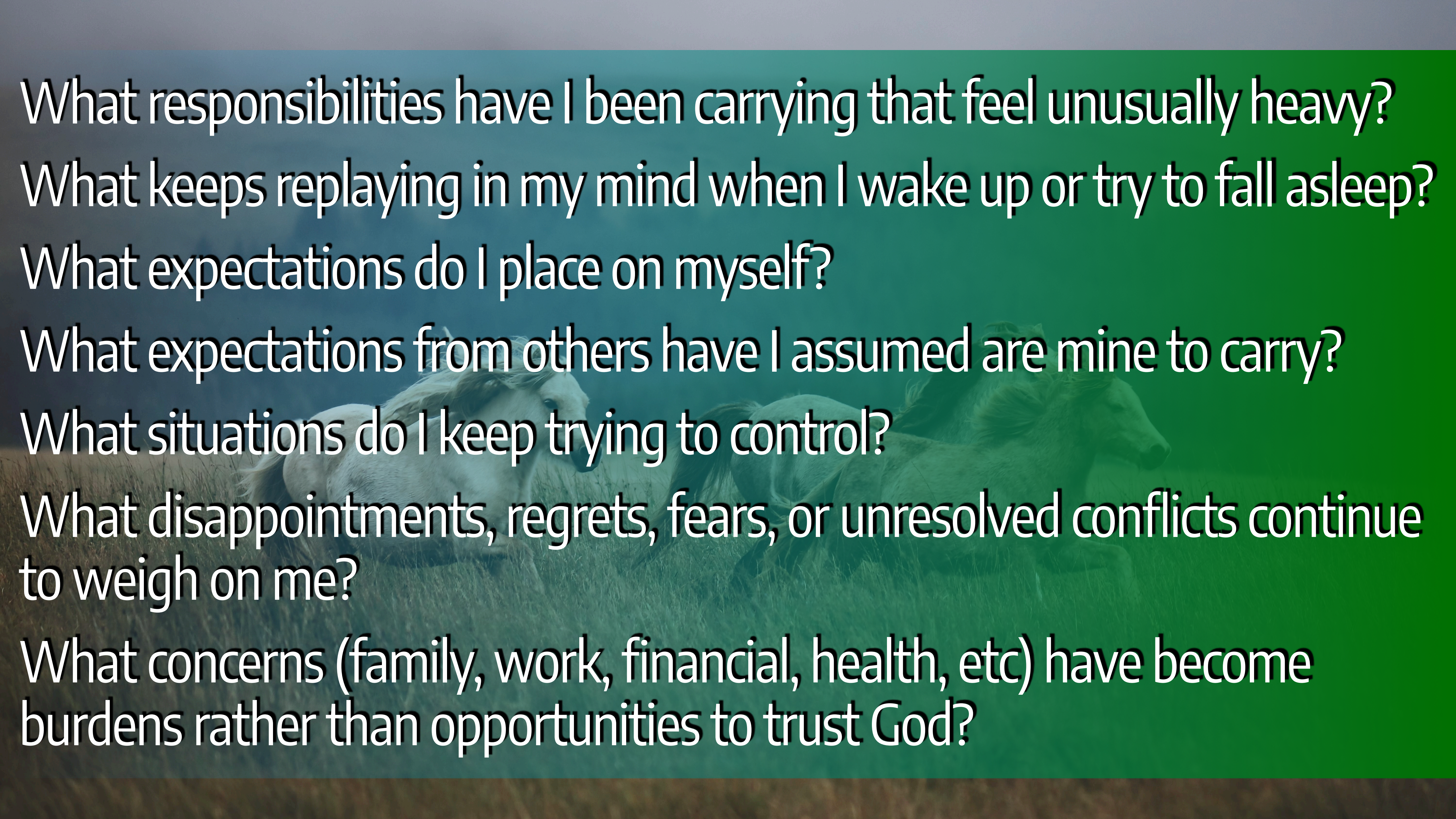
Jesus is the one who judges justly (Matt. 12:18-20; Jn. 5:30; Acts 17:31; Heb. 1:8; Rev. 19:11).

Jesus is the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11, 14), the Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20), and the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4).

O vos ómnes qui transítis per víam,
O all you who walk by on the road,

atténdite et vidéte:
pay attention and see:

Si est dólór sícút dólór méús.
if there be any sorrow like my sorrow.



What responsibilities have I been carrying that feel unusually heavy?

What keeps replaying in my mind when I wake up or try to fall asleep?

What expectations do I place on myself?

What expectations from others have I assumed are mine to carry?

What situations do I keep trying to control?

What disappointments, regrets, fears, or unresolved conflicts continue to weigh on me?

What concerns (family, work, financial, health, etc) have become burdens rather than opportunities to trust God?