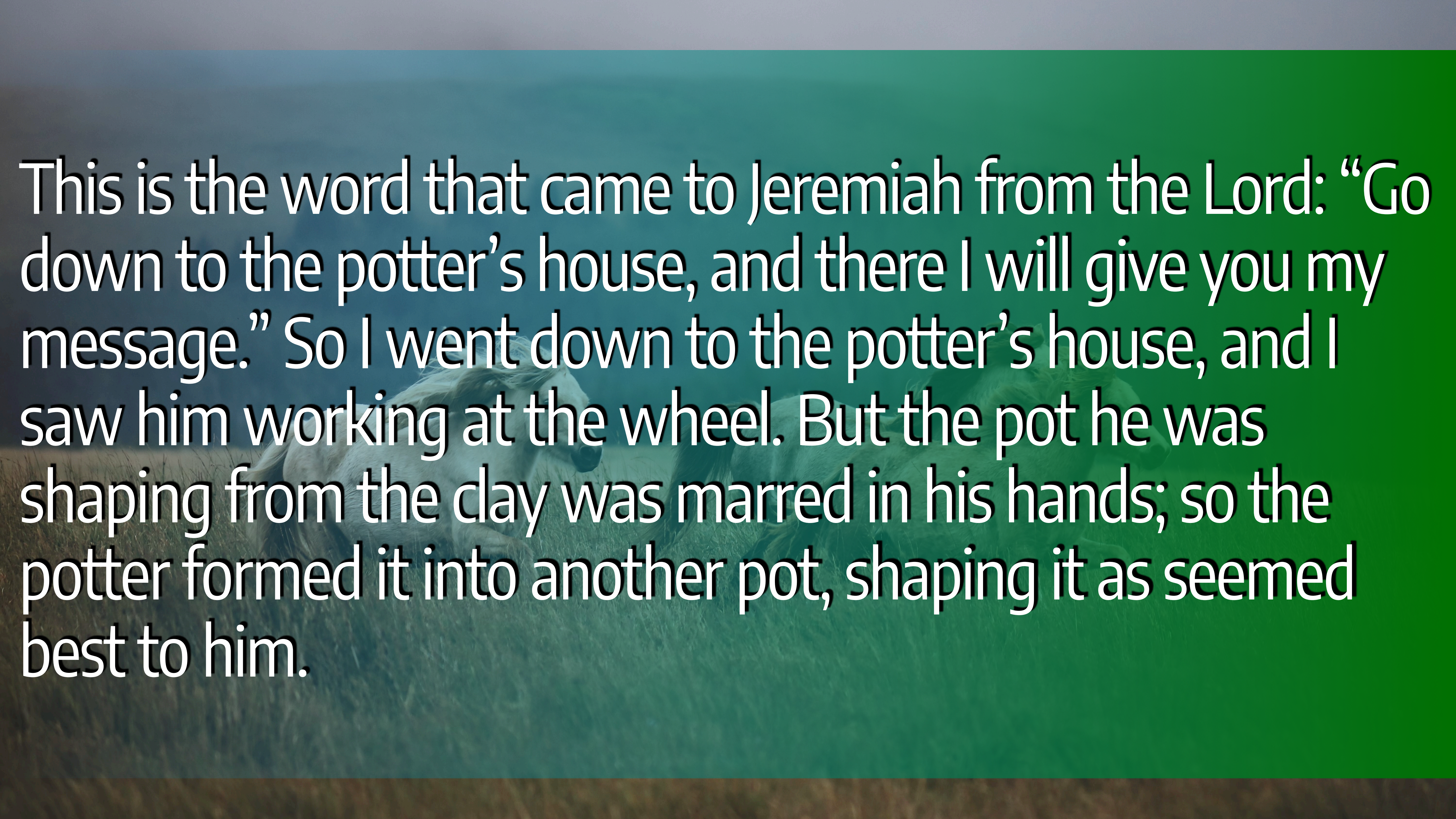


The Life of Jeremiah



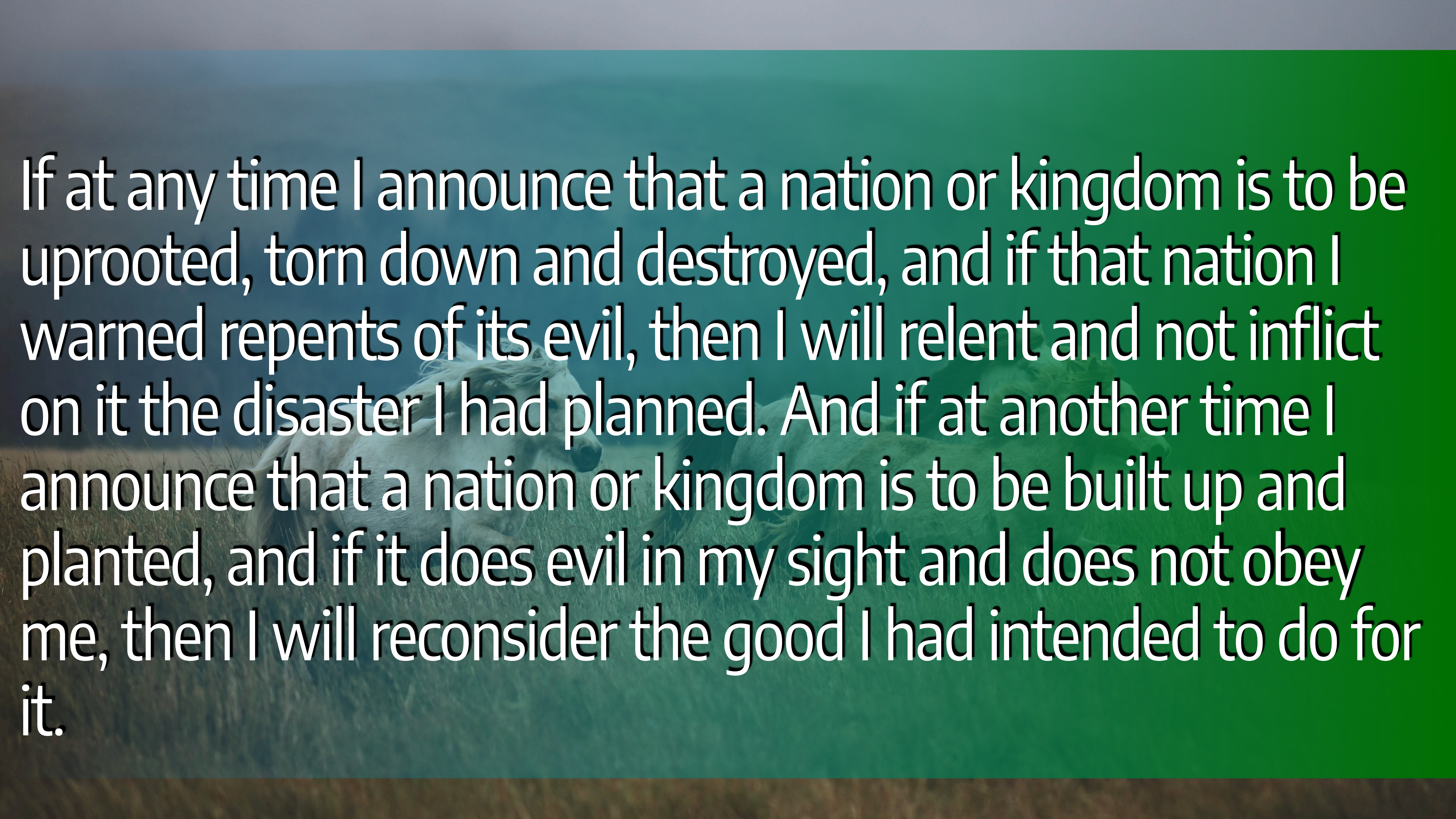
Marred Clay
Jeremiah 18:1-12



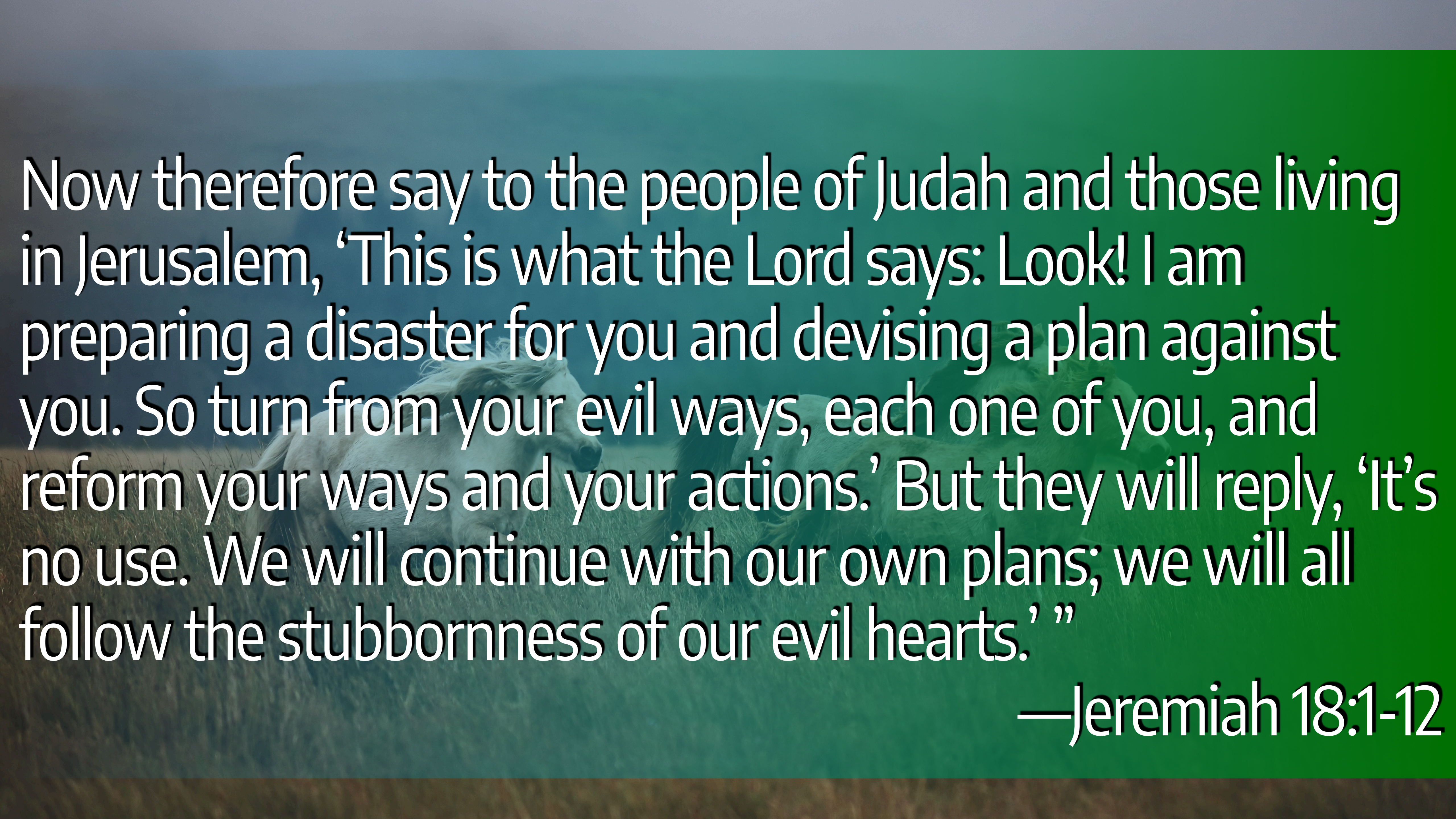
This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the Lord. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.





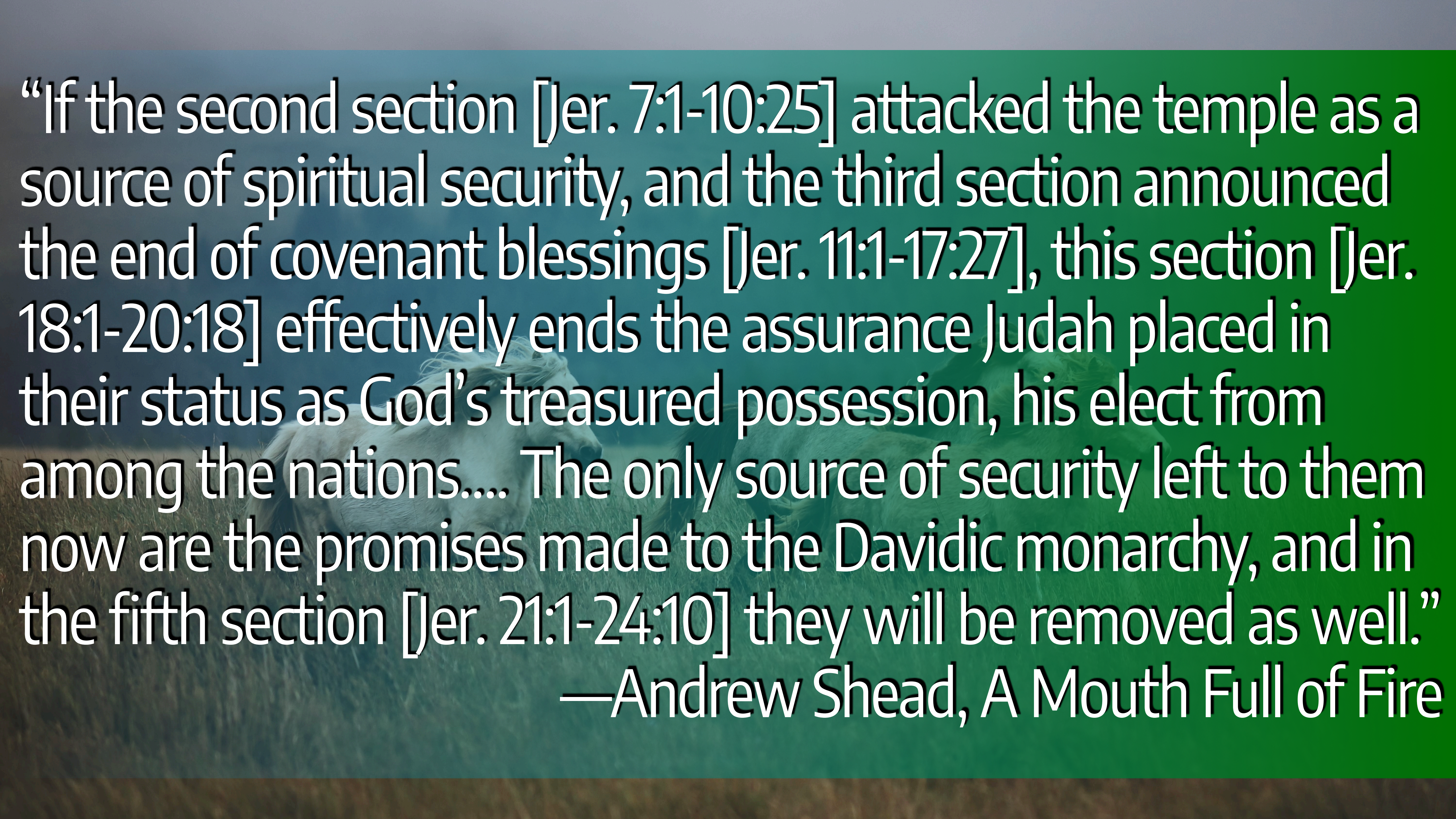
If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.



Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’ But they will reply, ‘It’s no use. We will continue with our own plans; we will all follow the stubbornness of our evil hearts.’ ”

—Jeremiah 18:1-12



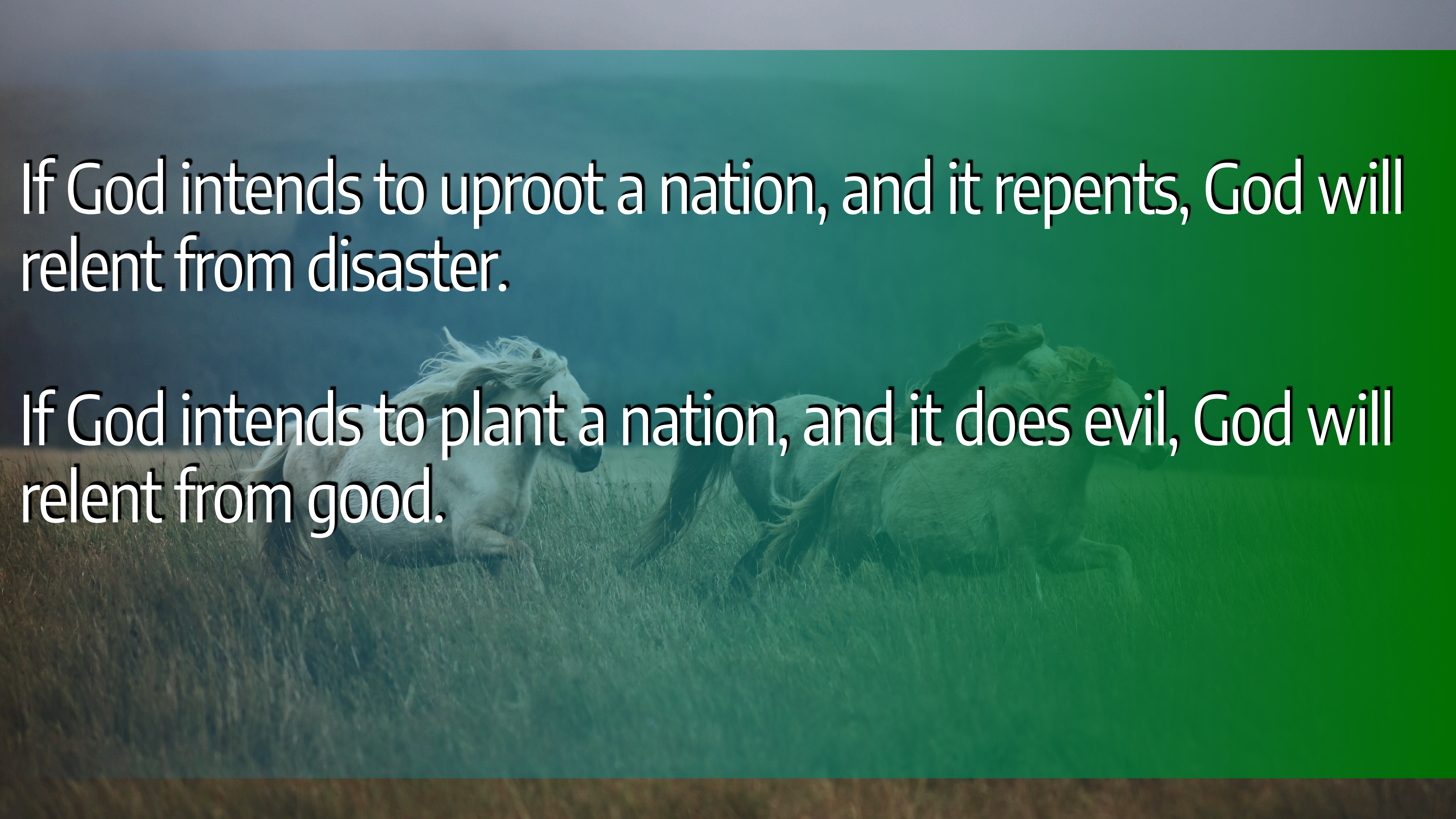


“If the second section [Jer. 7:1-10:25] attacked the temple as a source of spiritual security, and the third section announced the end of covenant blessings [Jer. 11:1-17:27], this section [Jer. 18:1-20:18] effectively ends the assurance Judah placed in their status as God’s treasured possession, his elect from among the nations.... The only source of security left to them now are the promises made to the Davidic monarchy, and in the fifth section [Jer. 21:1-24:10] they will be removed as well.”

—Andrew Shead, *A Mouth Full of Fire*

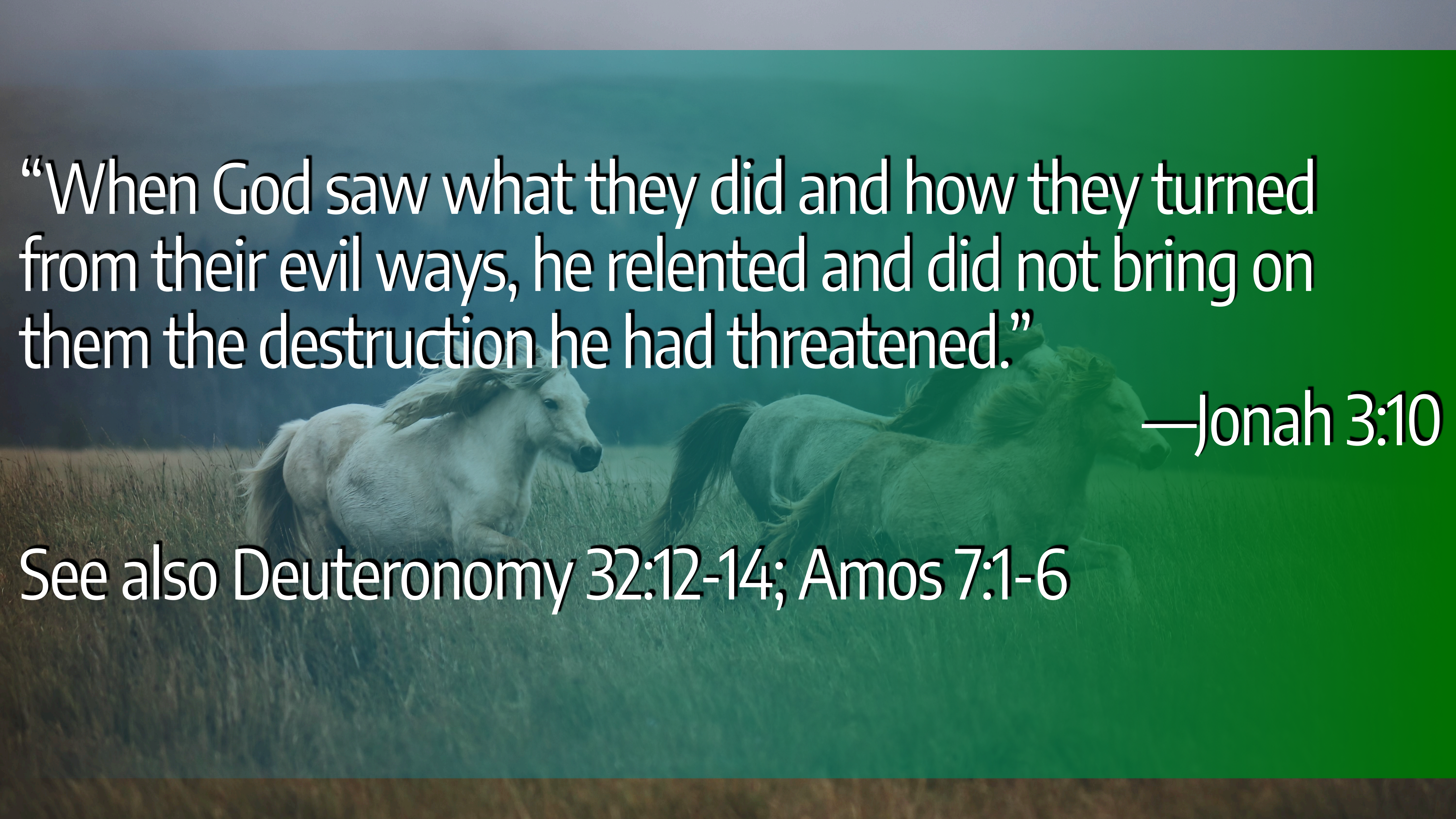
If God intends to uproot a nation, and it repents, God will relent from disaster.

If God intends to plant a nation, and it does evil, God will relent from good.

A background image showing two horses running through tall grass in a field. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The horses are in motion, with their manes and tails flowing. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

“God’s **immutability** signifies His absolute constancy, His faithfulness to Himself and to His creation. He does not and will not fail to be Himself; He will be holy love.”

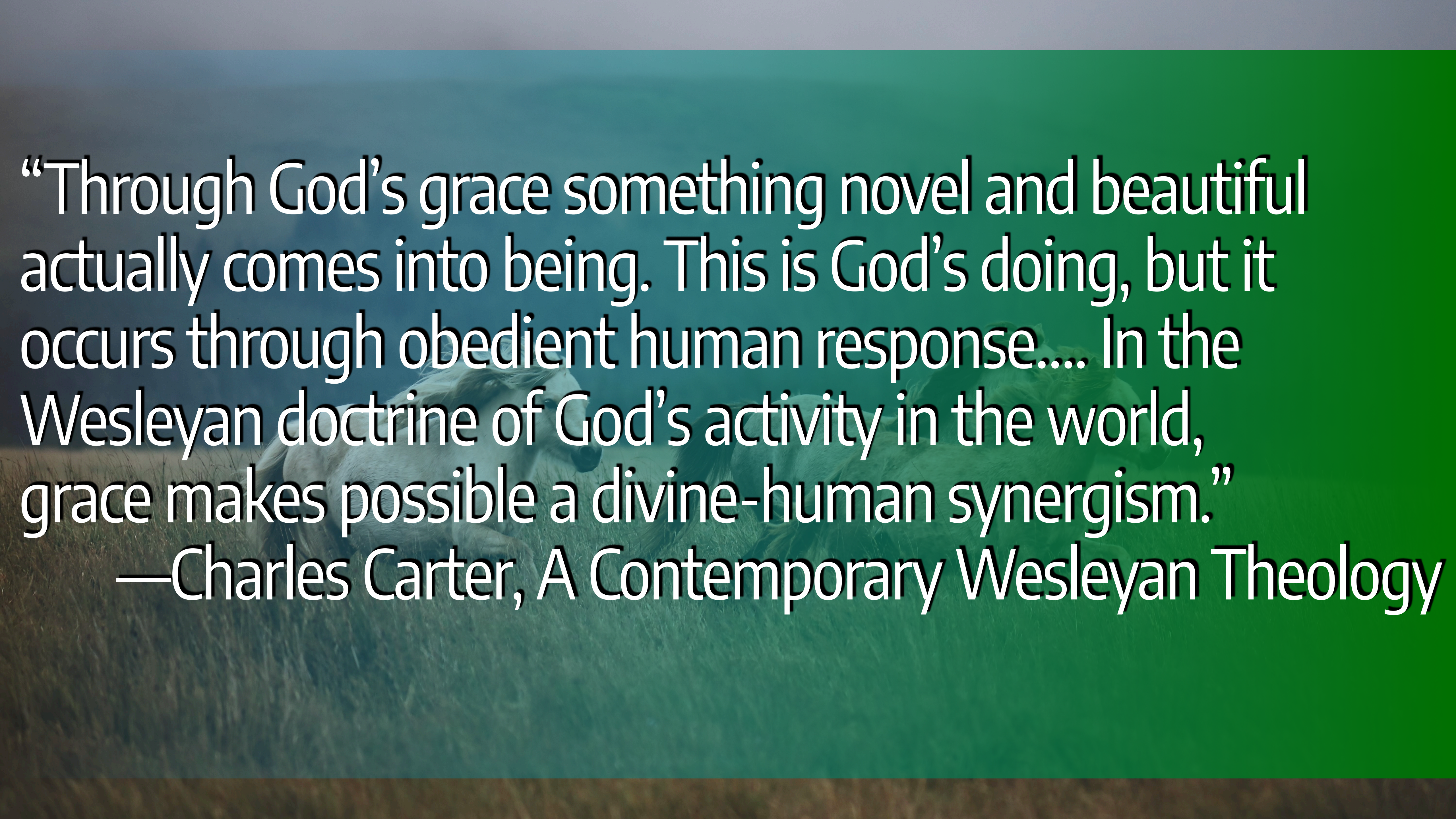


A photograph of two horses running through tall, dry grass. The horse in the foreground is white with some brown patches, and the one behind it is darker. The background is a soft-focus landscape with hills under a hazy sky. A green gradient overlay covers the right side of the image.

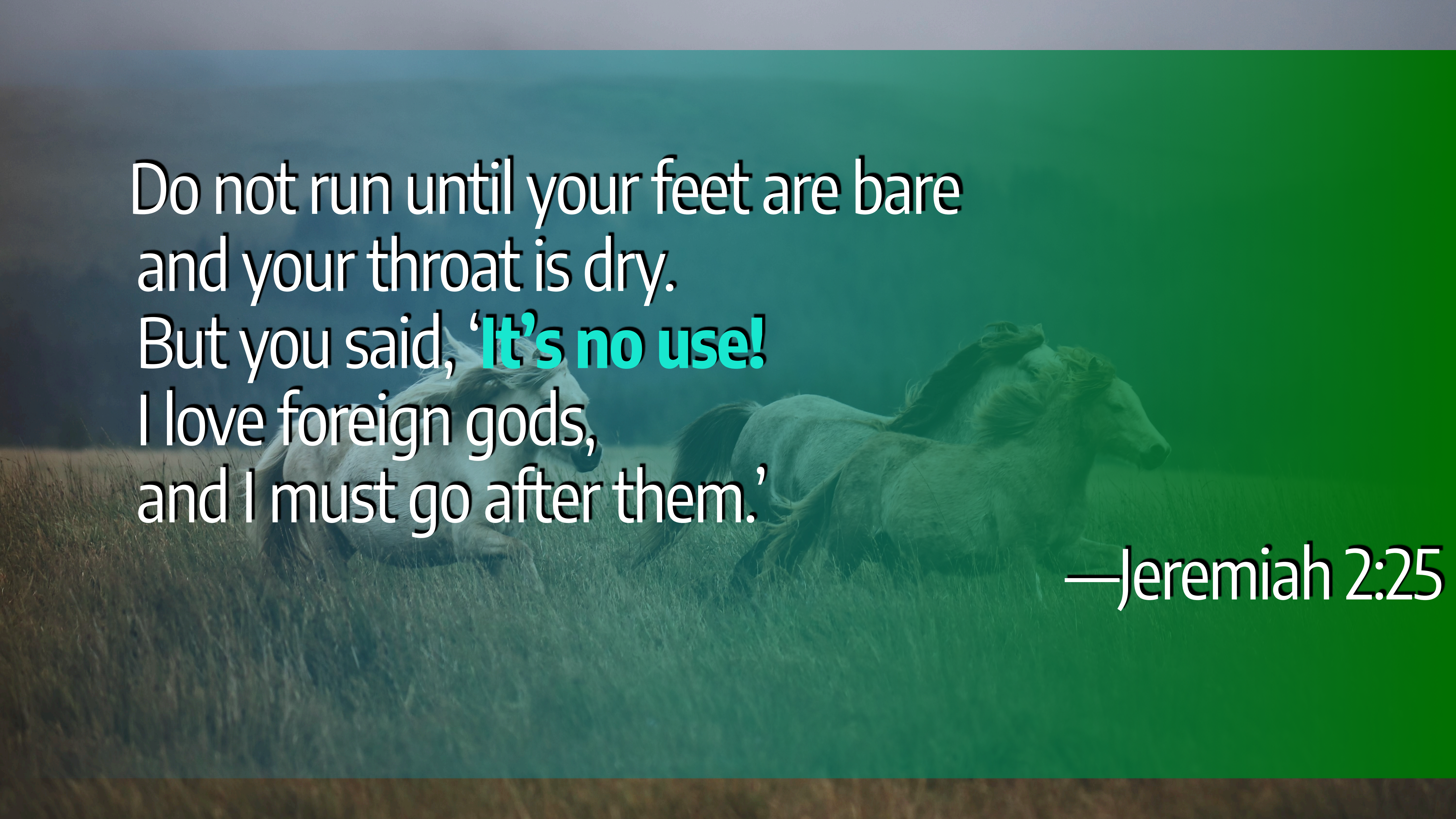
“When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.”

—Jonah 3:10

See also Deuteronomy 32:12-14; Amos 7:1-6



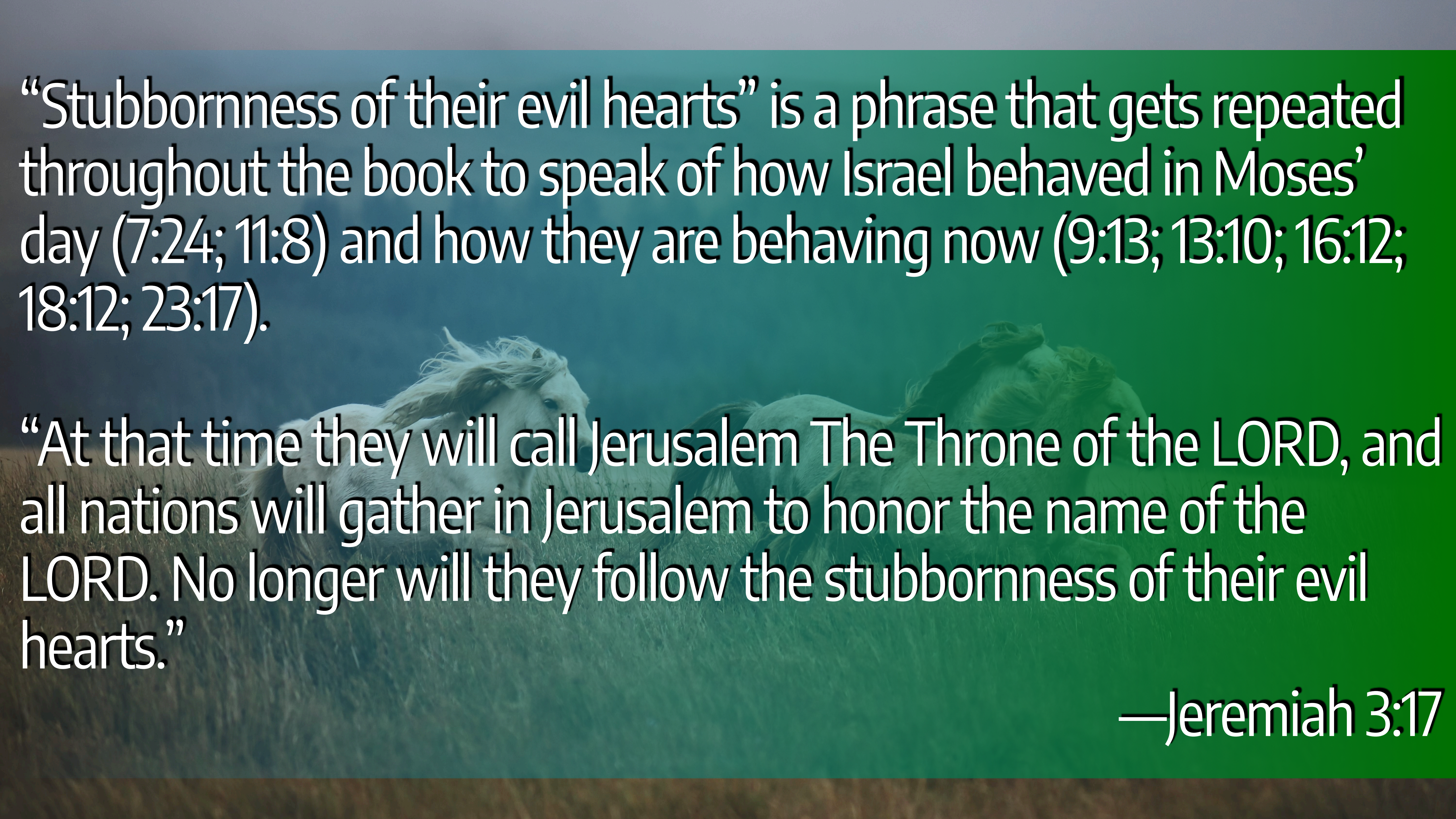
“Through God’s grace something novel and beautiful actually comes into being. This is God’s doing, but it occurs through obedient human response.... In the Wesleyan doctrine of God’s activity in the world, grace makes possible a divine-human synergism.”
—Charles Carter, *A Contemporary Wesleyan Theology*

The background image shows two horses running through a field of tall grass. The image is covered with a semi-transparent green overlay. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Do not run until your feet are bare
and your throat is dry.

But you said, '**It's no use!**
I love foreign gods,
and I must go after them.'

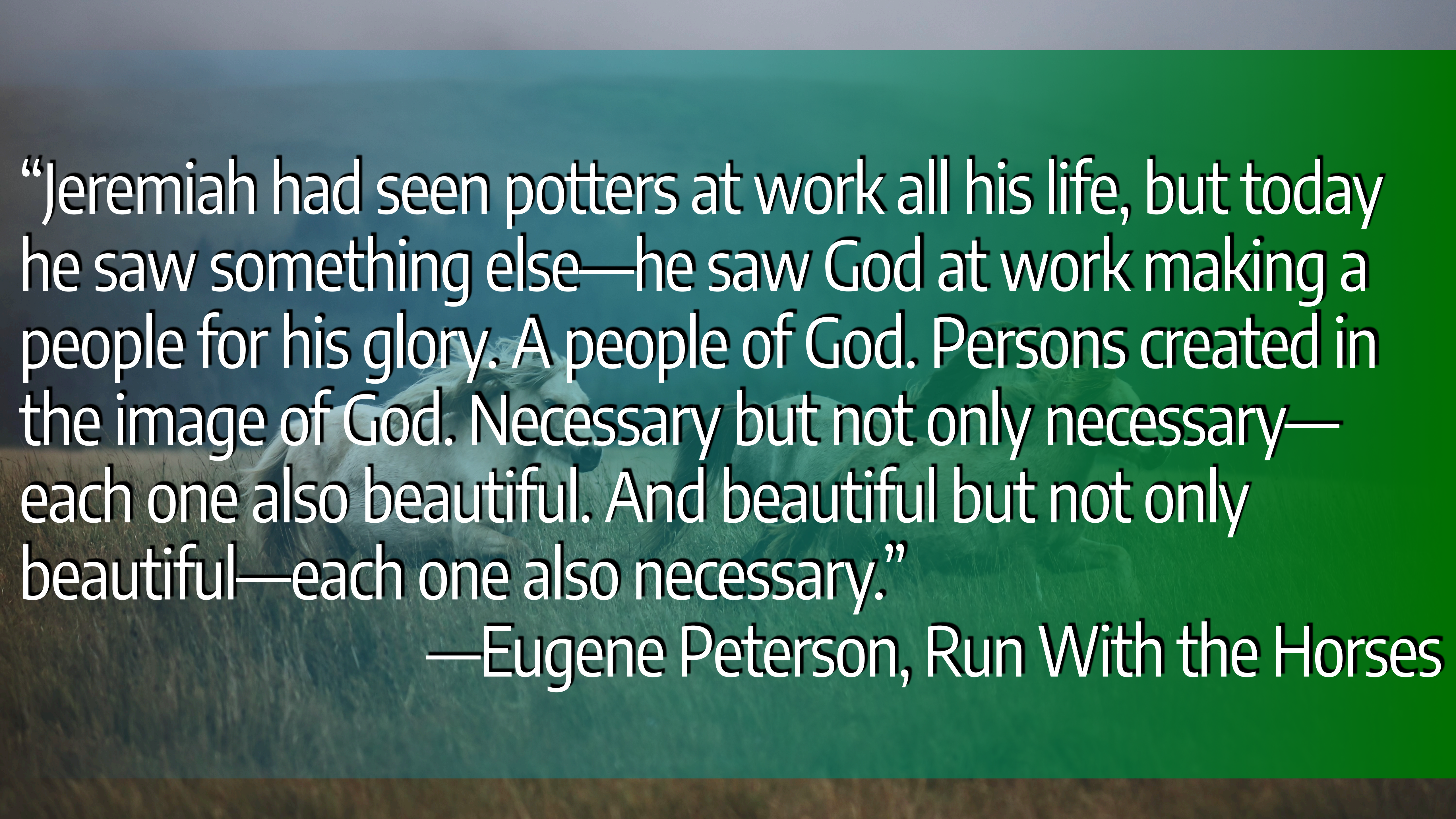
—Jeremiah 2:25

A background image showing two white 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.

“Stubbornness of their evil hearts” is a phrase that gets repeated throughout the book to speak of how Israel behaved in Moses’ day (7:24; 11:8) and how they are behaving now (9:13; 13:10; 16:12; 18:12; 23:17).

“At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.”

—Jeremiah 3:17

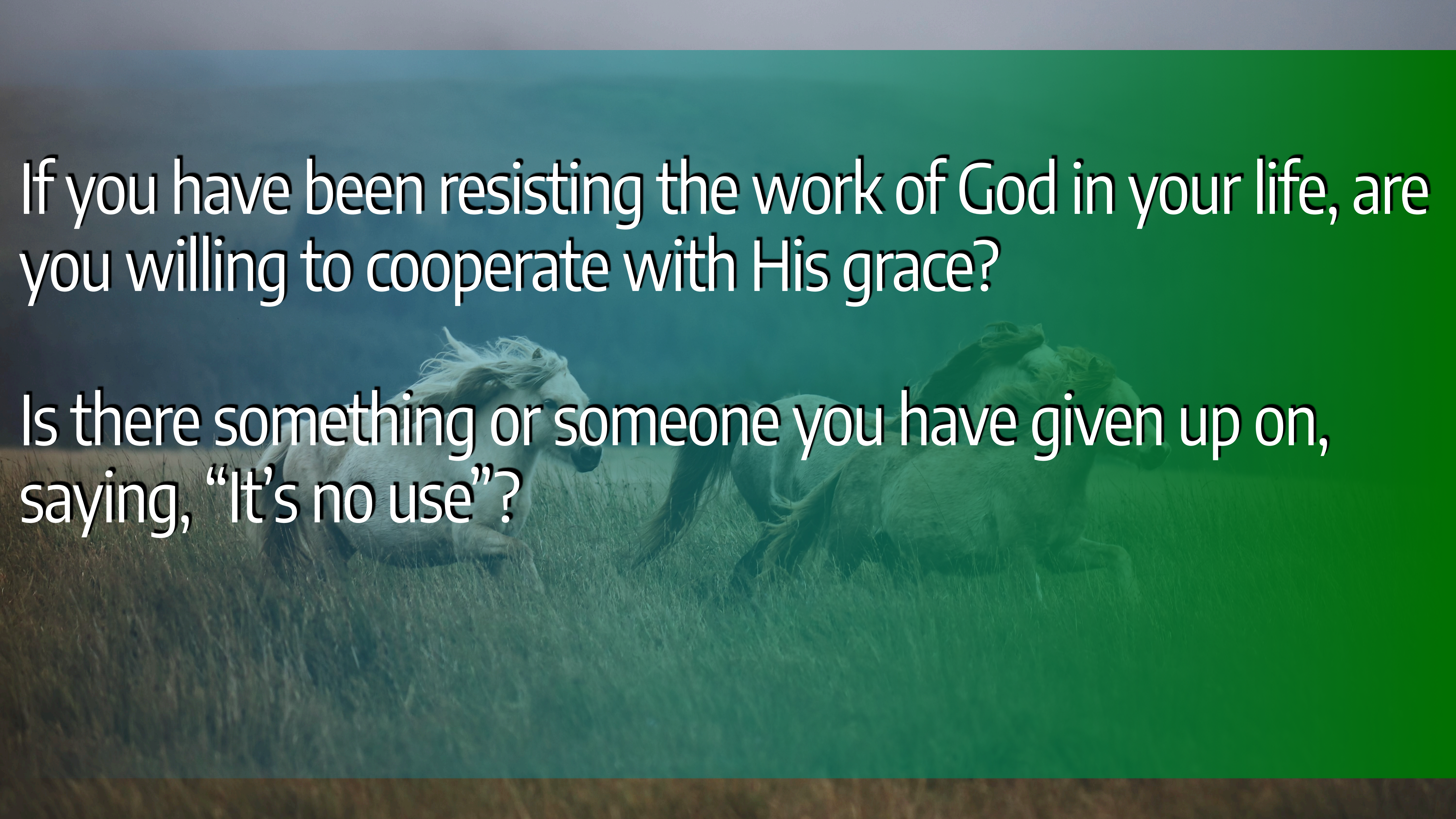
A photograph of a herd of horses running through a field, overlaid with a green gradient and white text. The horses are in motion, and the background is a soft-focus landscape.

“Jeremiah had seen potters at work all his life, but today he saw something else—he saw God at work making a people for his glory. A people of God. Persons created in the image of God. Necessary but not only necessary—each one also beautiful. And beautiful but not only beautiful—each one also necessary.”

—Eugene Peterson, *Run With the Horses*

If you have been resisting the work of God in your life, are you willing to cooperate with His grace?

Is there something or someone you have given up on, saying, "It's no use"?

A background image showing two horses running through tall grass. The image is overlaid with a green gradient that fades from the top to the bottom, where it becomes a solid green. The horses are in motion, with their manes and tails flowing. The overall tone is inspirational and hopeful.