



Conquerors

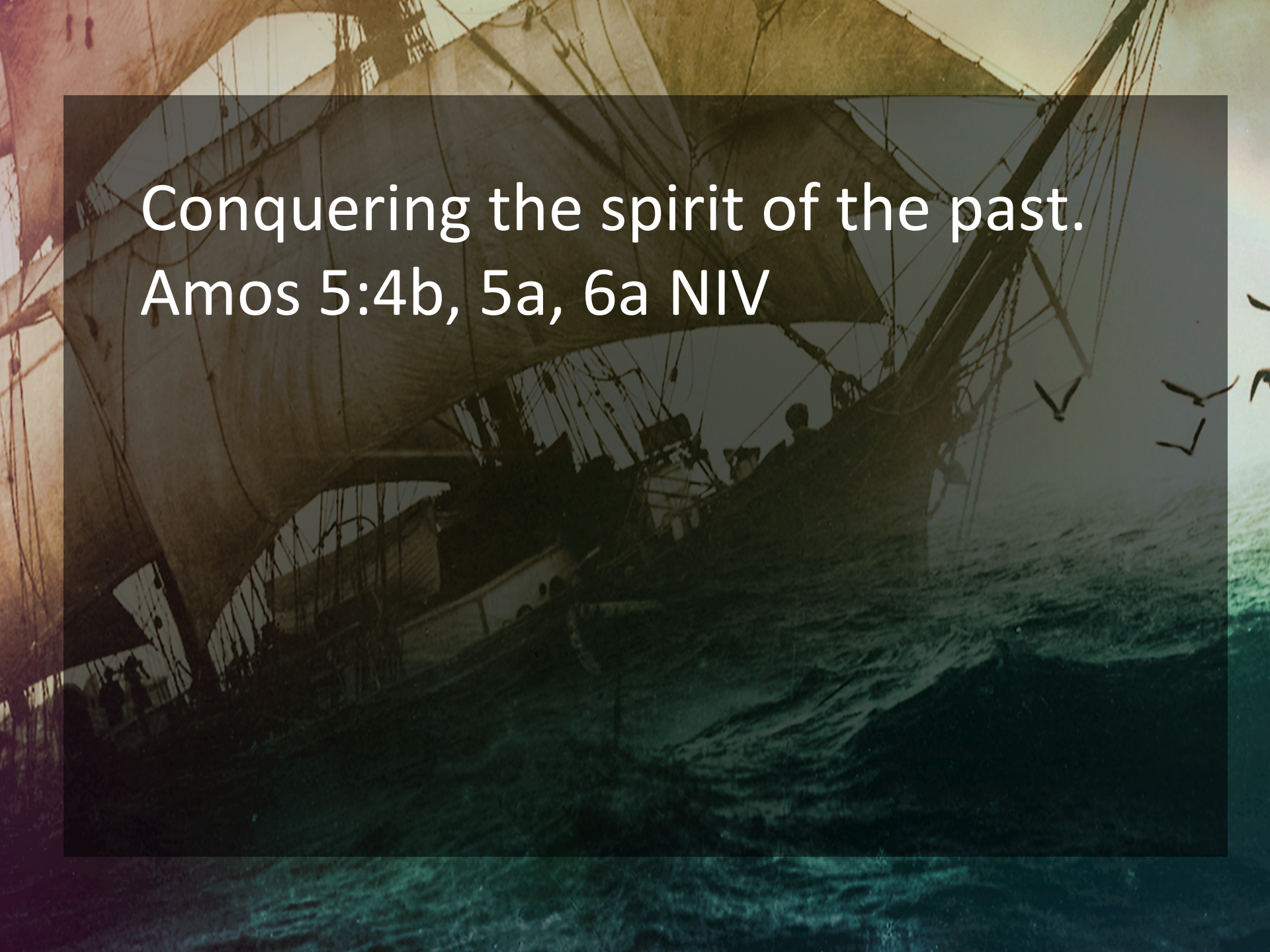
week 4

Conquering the spirit of the past.

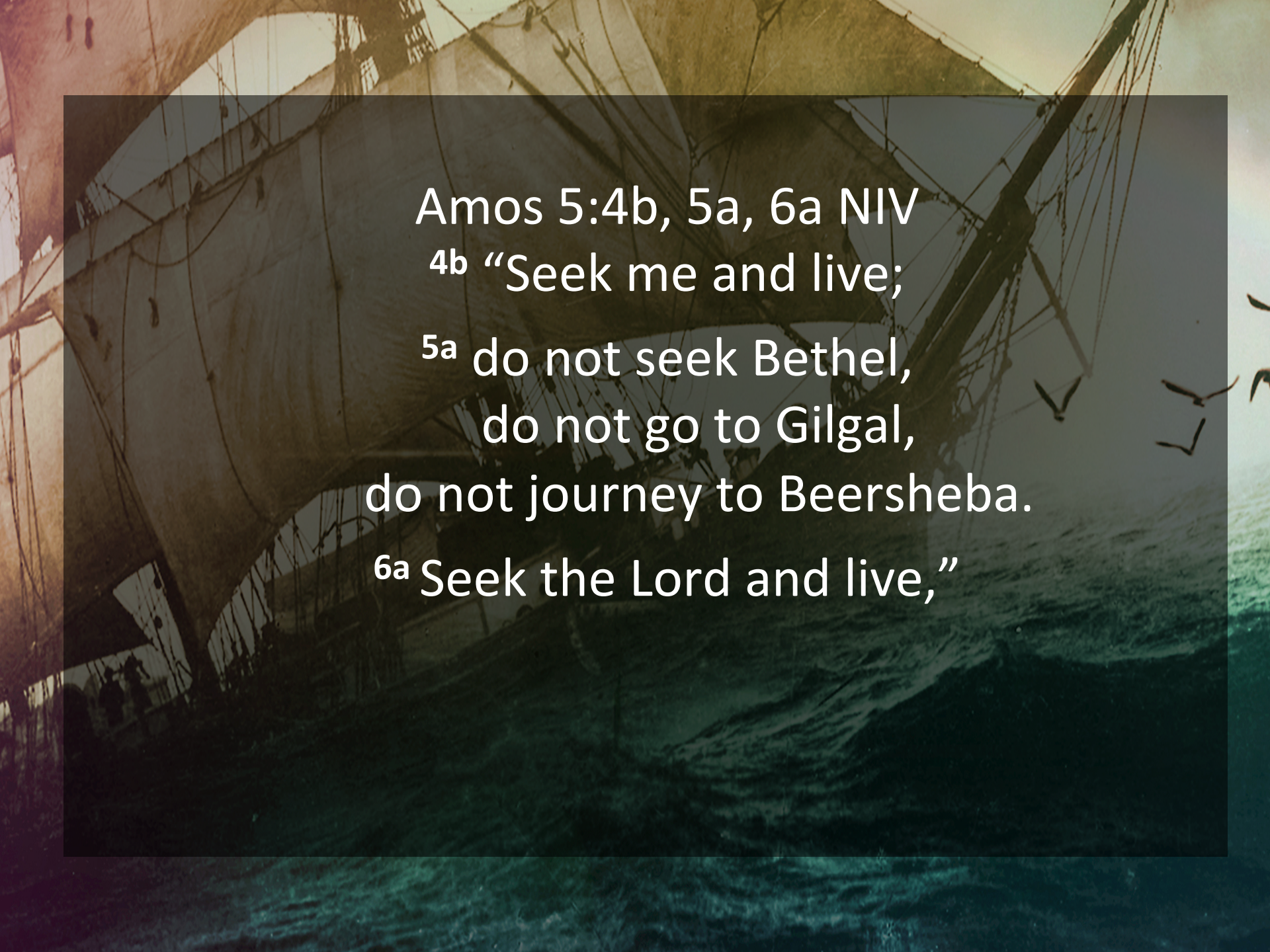


Romans 8:37 ESV

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

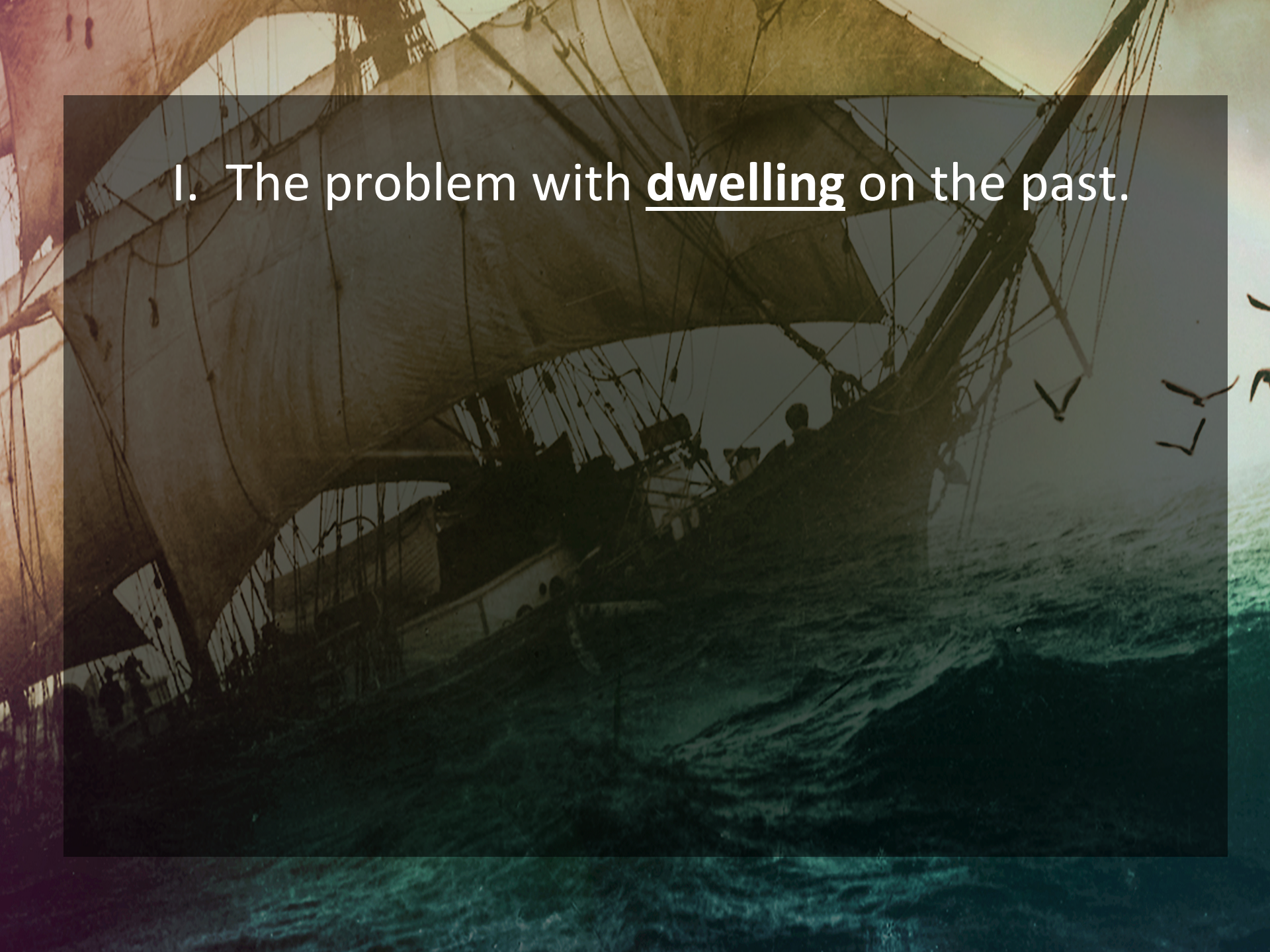


Conquering the spirit of the past.
Amos 5:4b, 5a, 6a NIV



Amos 5:4b, 5a, 6a NIV
4b “Seek me and live;
5a do not seek Bethel,
do not go to Gilgal,
do not journey to Beersheba.
6a Seek the Lord and live,”

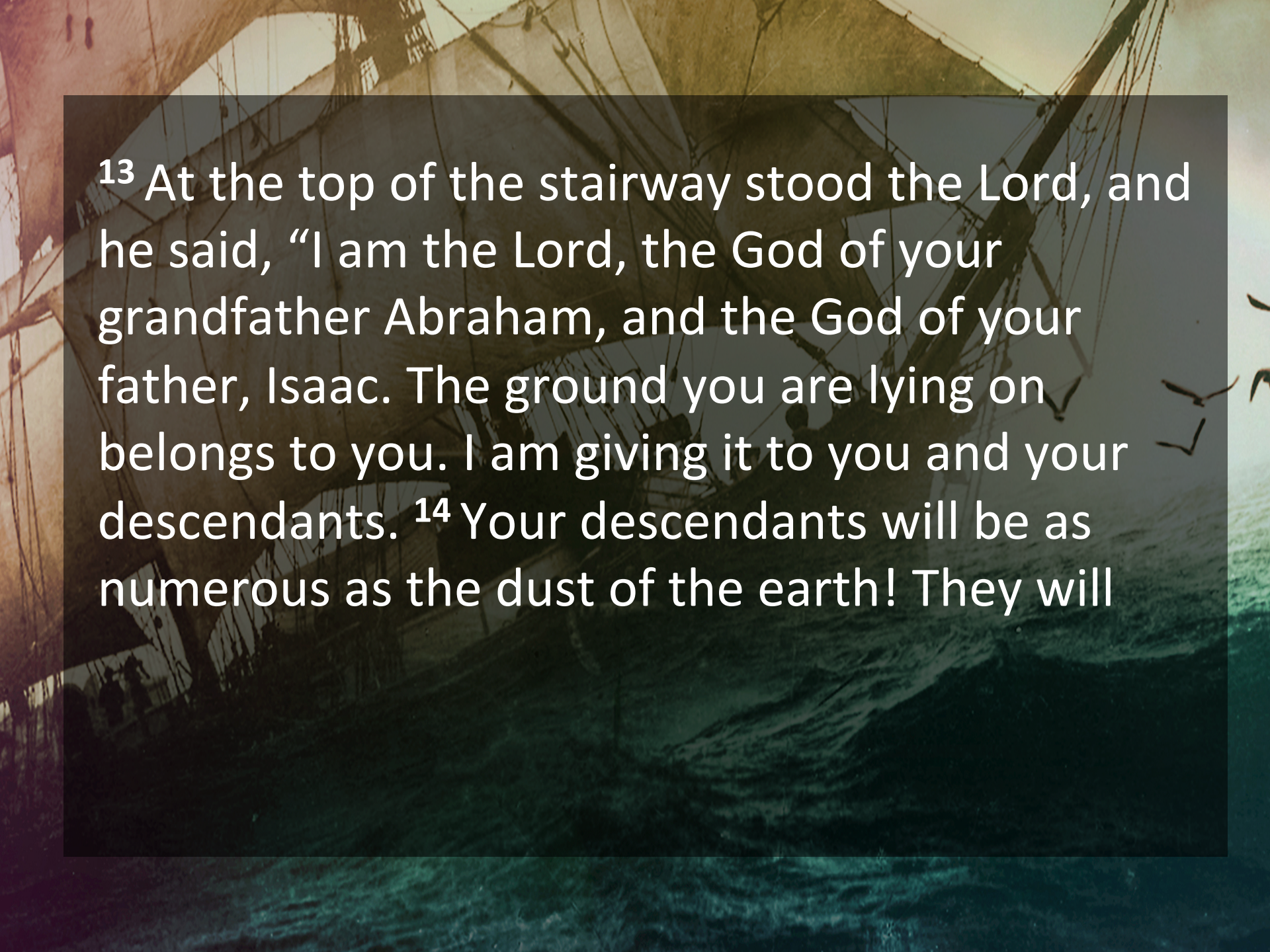
I. The problem with dwelling on the past.



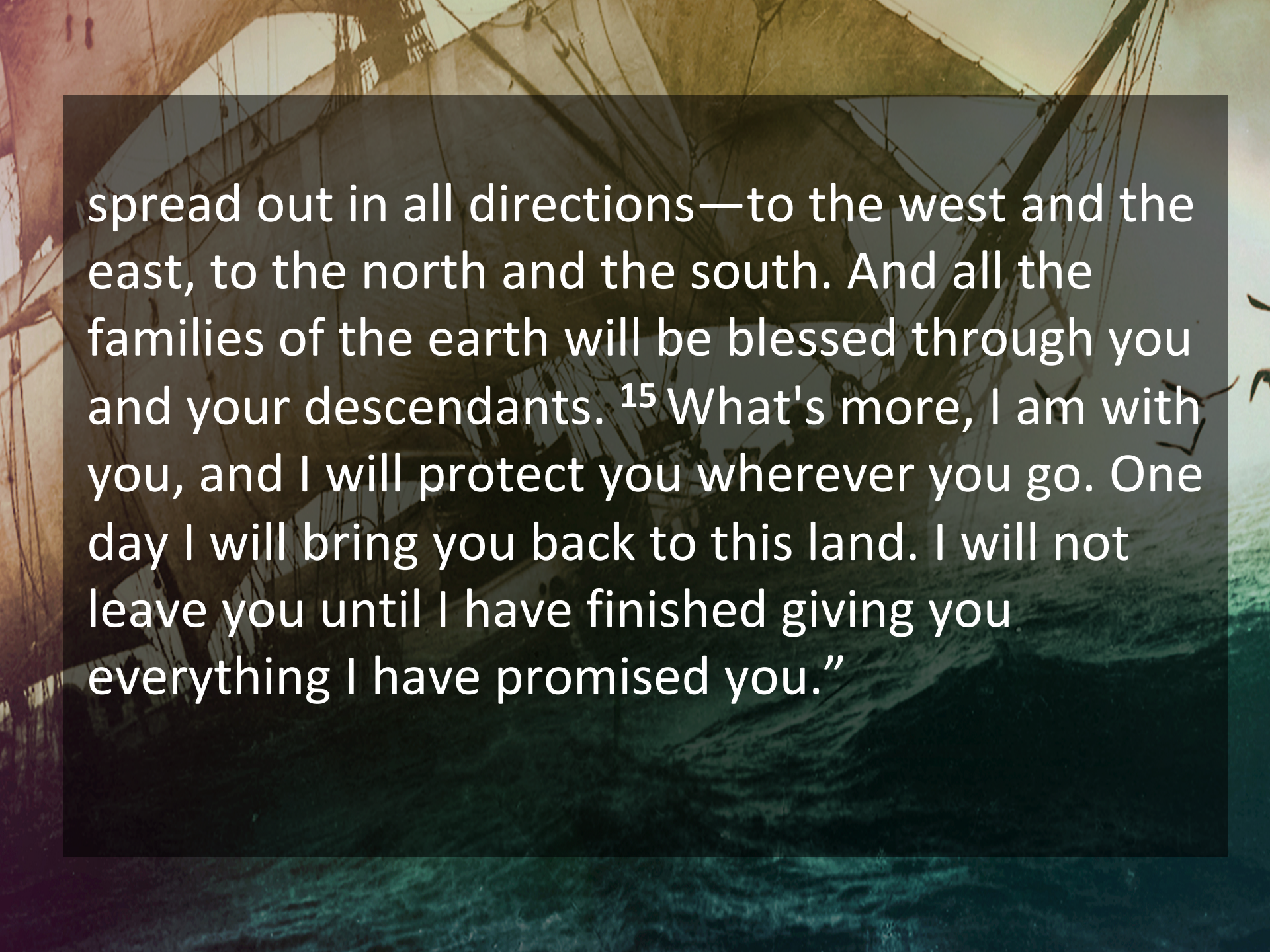
Bethel

Gen. 28:11-19a NLT

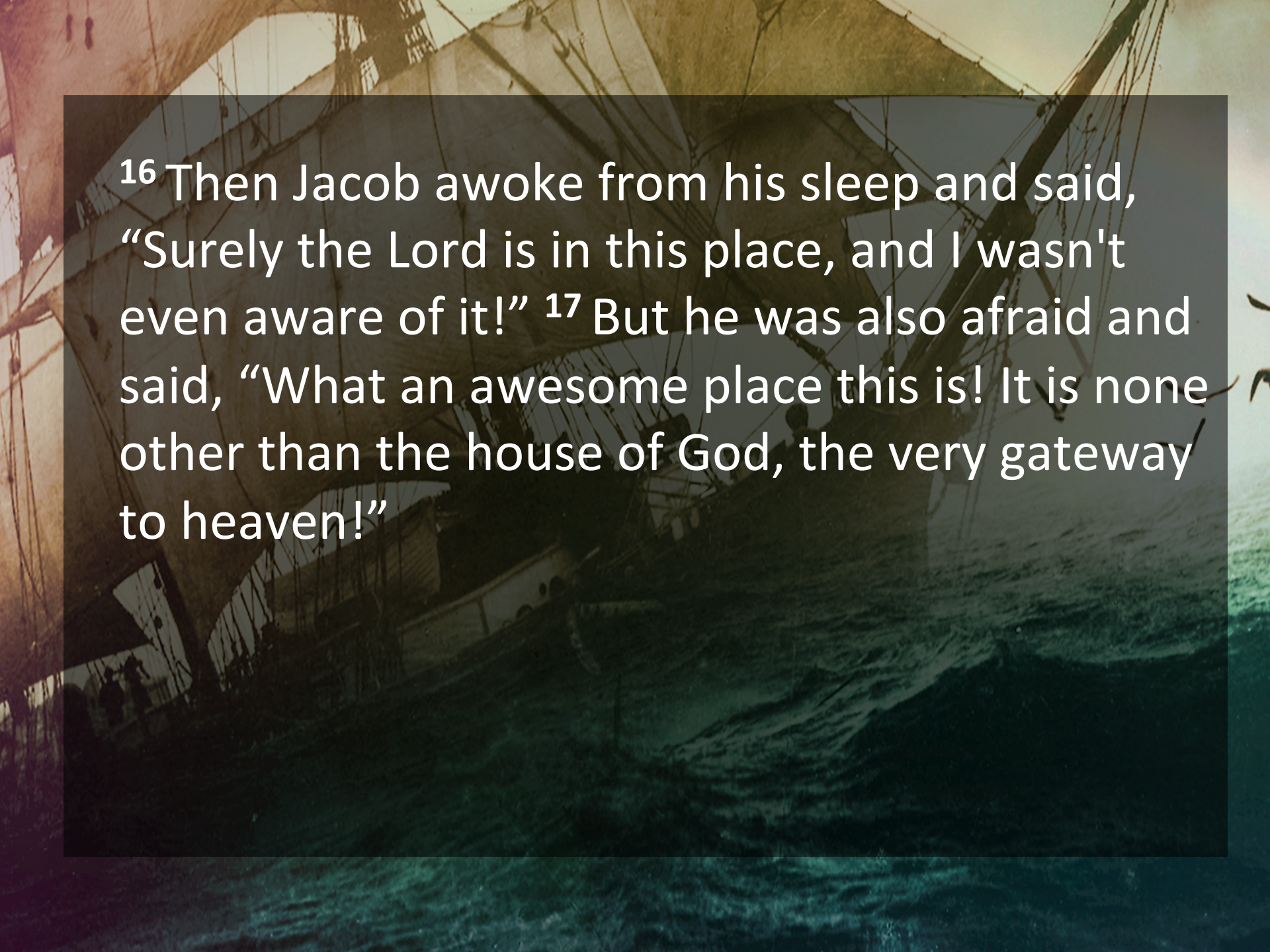
¹¹ At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep. ¹² As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway.



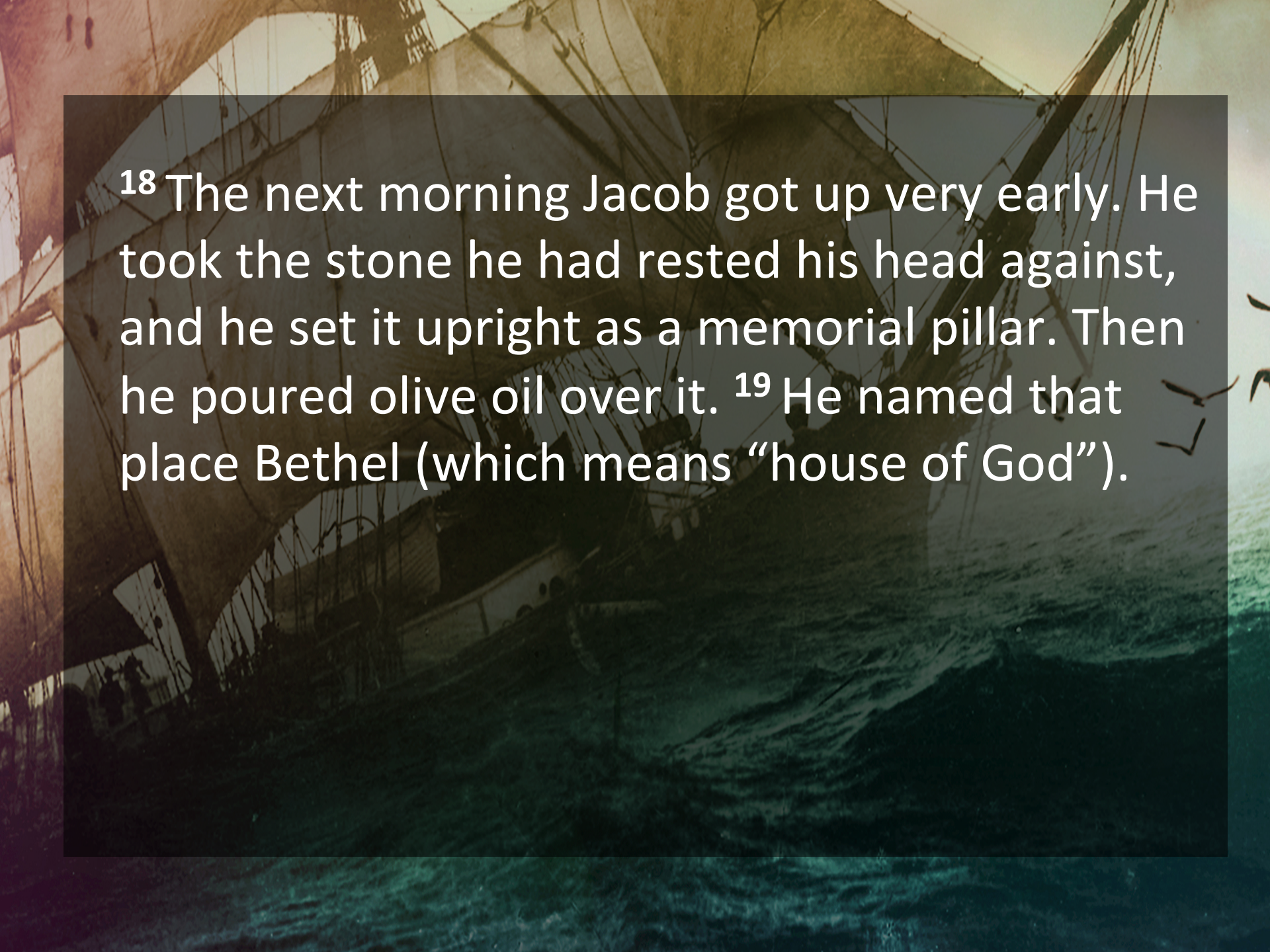
¹³ At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and he said, “I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will

A large wooden sailing ship is shown on the ocean, with its complex rigging and masts visible. The ship is positioned in the upper half of the frame, sailing towards the right. The sea is a deep blue-green color with white-capped waves. In the sky, several birds are seen in flight, scattered across the upper right portion of the image. The overall scene is set against a bright, slightly hazy sky, suggesting a clear day. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey rectangular area in the center of the image.

spread out in all directions—to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. ¹⁵ What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you.”



¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!” ¹⁷ But he was also afraid and said, “What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!”

A large, multi-masted sailing ship is shown on the ocean, likely at sunset or sunrise. The ship's sails are partially visible, and the sky is a mix of orange and blue. Several birds are flying in the sky to the right of the ship. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric.

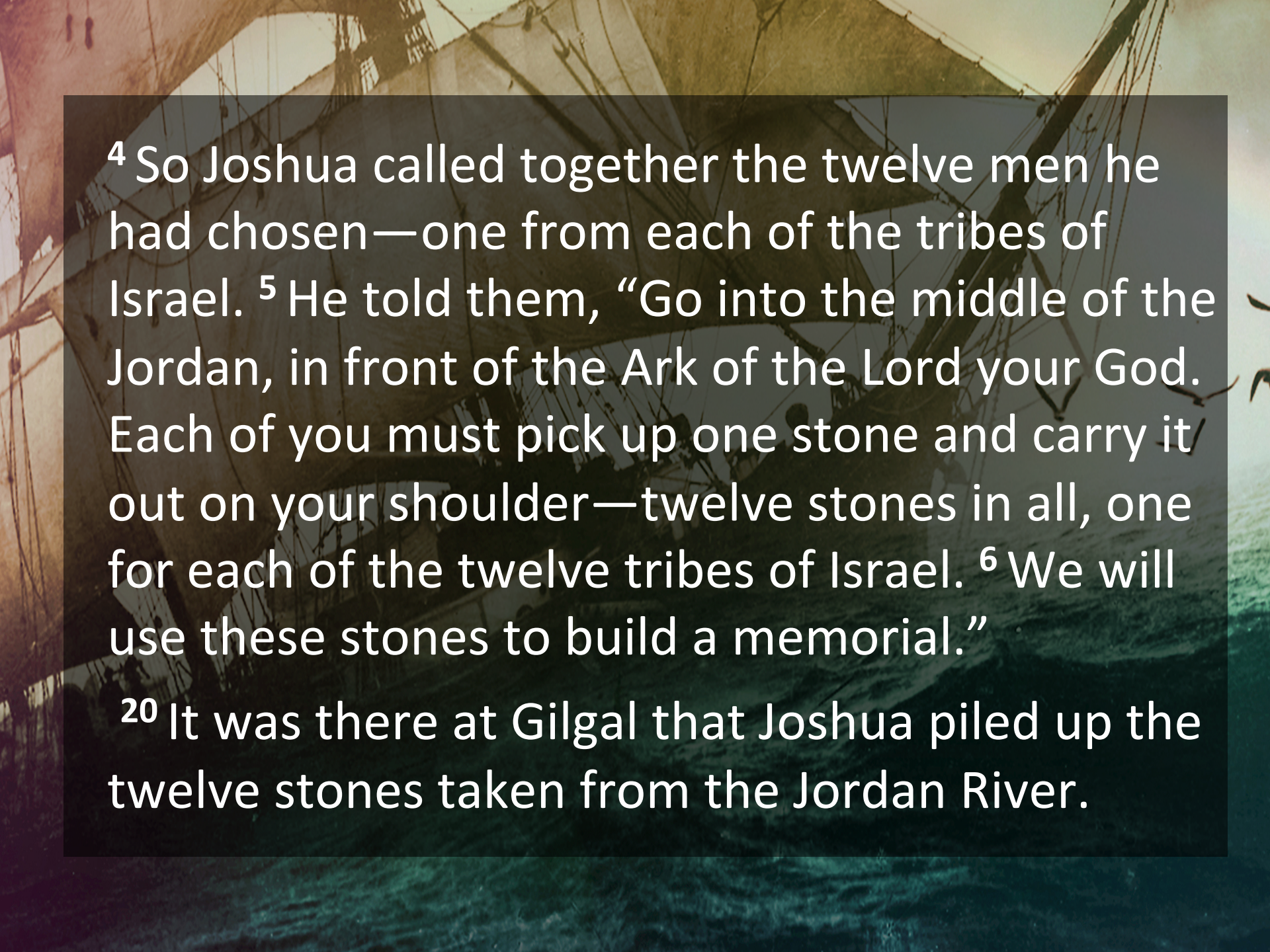
¹⁸ The next morning Jacob got up very early. He took the stone he had rested his head against, and he set it upright as a memorial pillar. Then he poured olive oil over it. ¹⁹ He named that place Bethel (which means “house of God”).



Gilgal

Joshua 4:1-6a, 20 NLT

¹ When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, ² “Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. ³ Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’”



⁴ So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. ⁵ He told them, “Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁶ We will use these stones to build a memorial.”

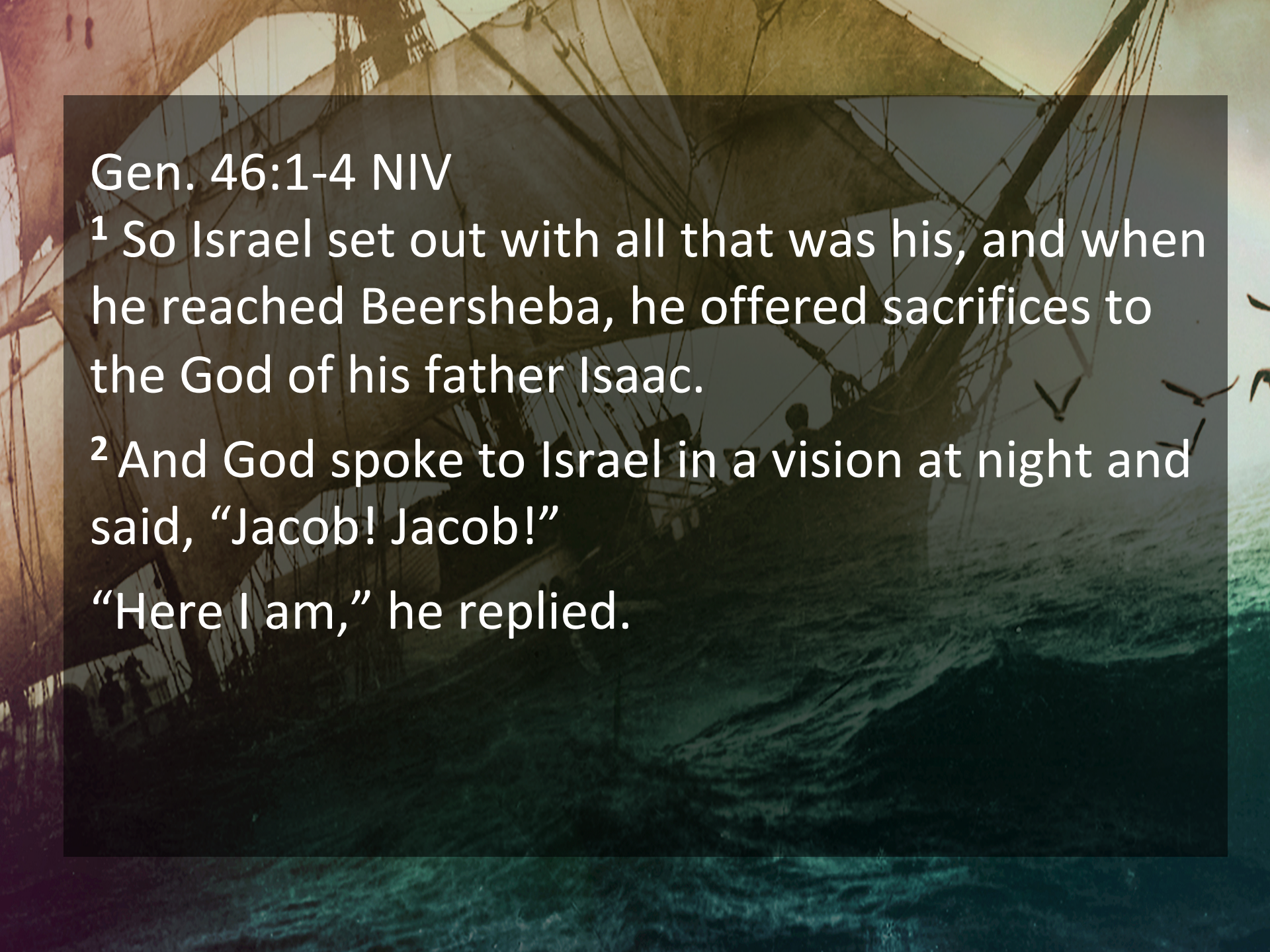
²⁰ It was there at Gilgal that Joshua piled up the twelve stones taken from the Jordan River.



Beersheba

Gen.26:23-25 ESV

²³ From there he went up to Beersheba. ²⁴ And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake." ²⁵ So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord and pitched his tent there.

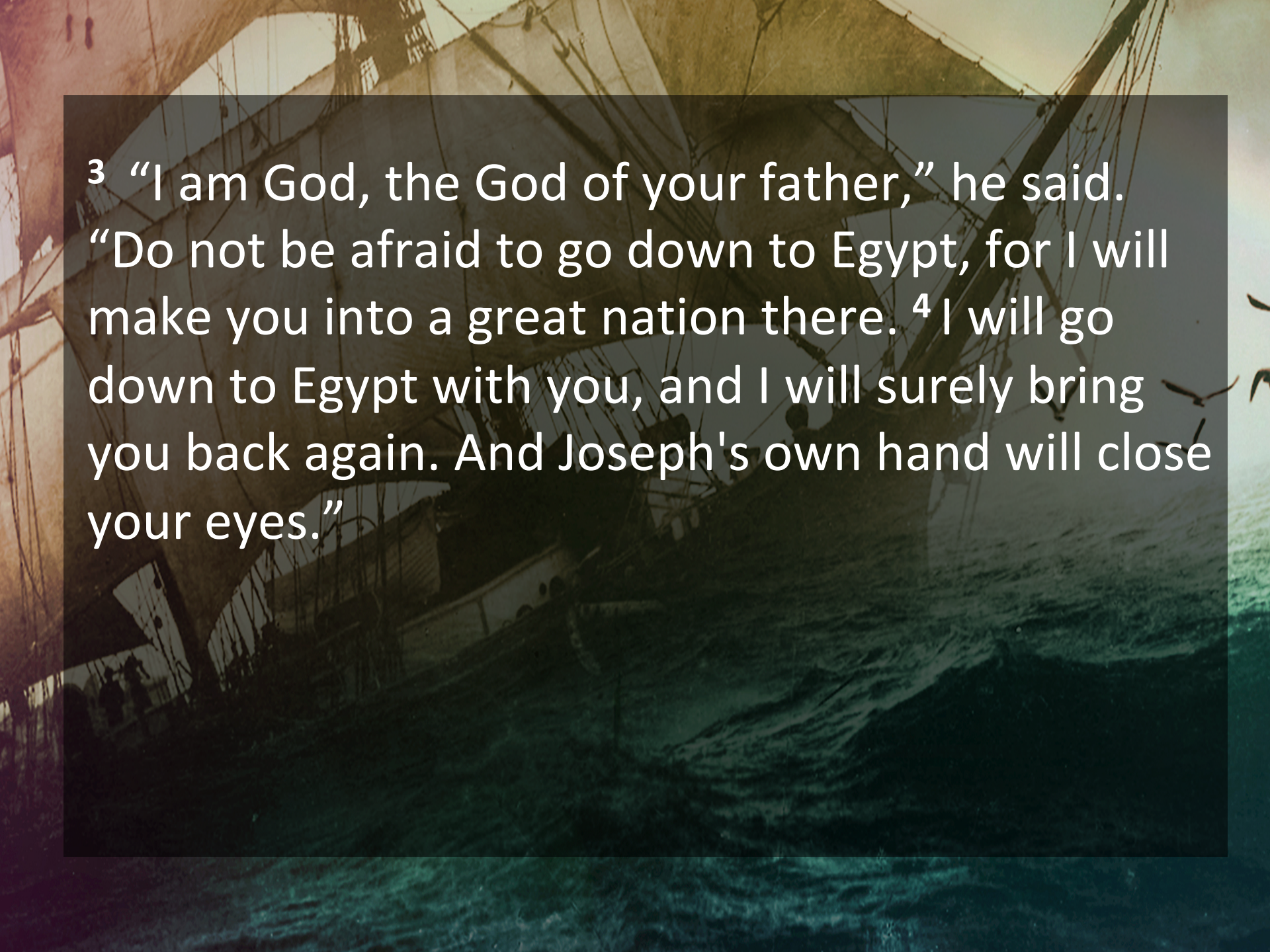


Gen. 46:1-4 NIV

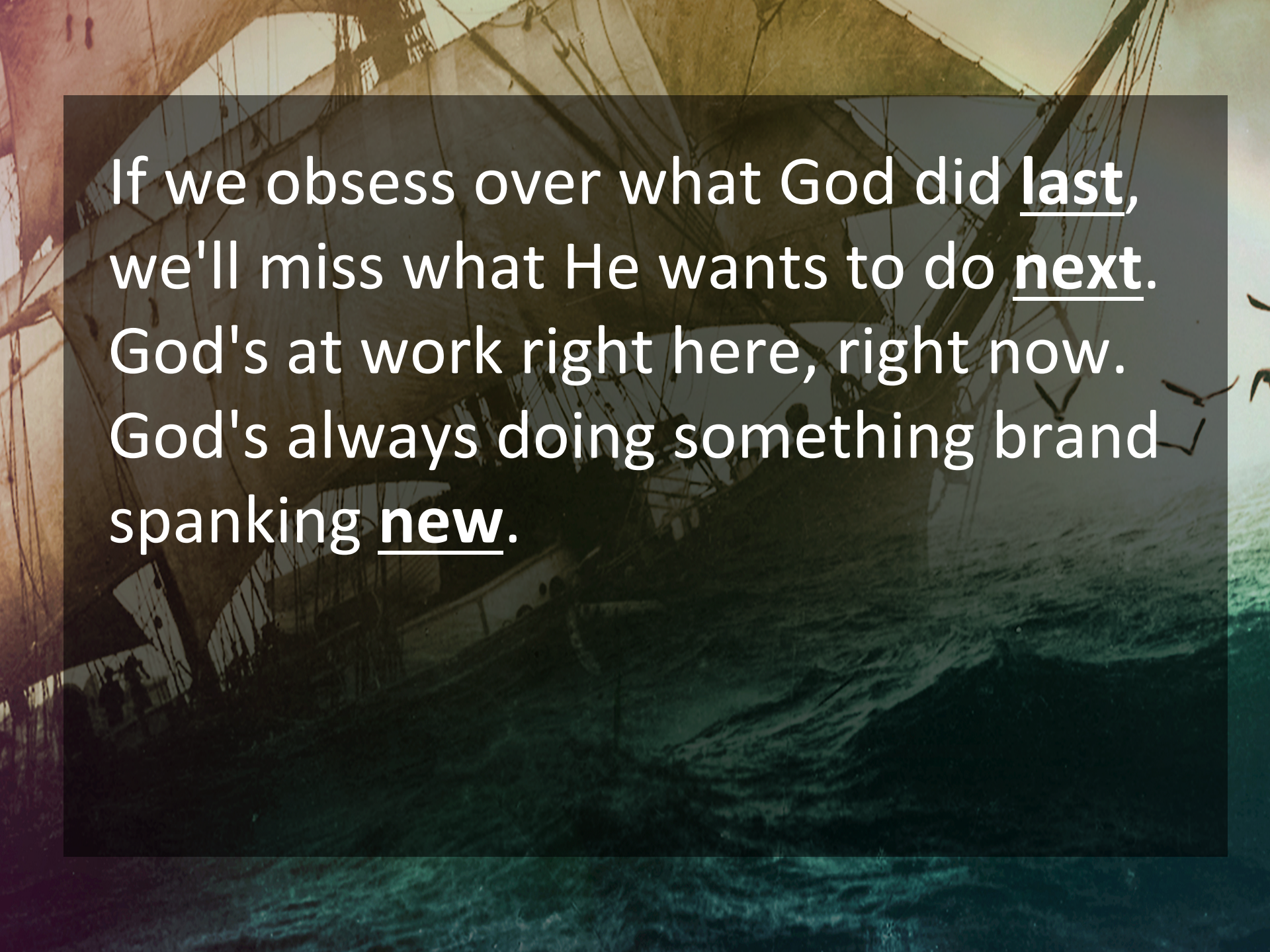
¹ So Israel set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

² And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, “Jacob! Jacob!”

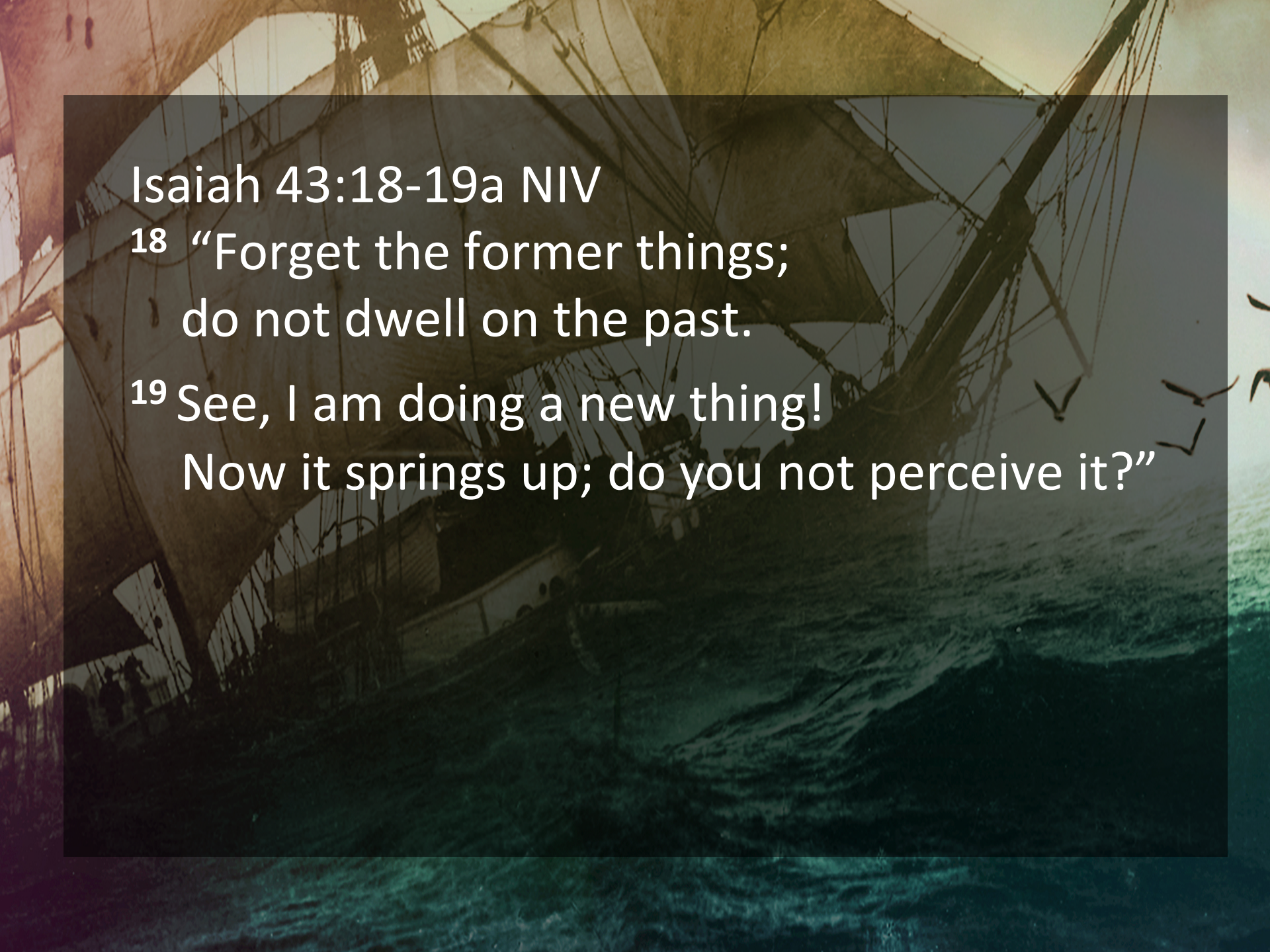
“Here I am,” he replied.



³ “I am God, the God of your father,” he said. “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. ⁴ I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes.”

A large wooden sailing ship is shown on the ocean, with its complex rigging and masts visible. The ship is tilted slightly to the left. The water is a deep blue-green color with white-capped waves. In the sky, several seagulls are flying. The overall scene is dramatic and evocative of a historical maritime journey.

If we obsess over what God did last,
we'll miss what He wants to do next.
God's at work right here, right now.
God's always doing something brand
spanking new.

A large, multi-masted sailing ship is shown on a dark sea at night. The ship's sails are partially illuminated, and the rigging is visible against the dark sky. Several birds are flying in the sky to the right of the ship. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric.

Isaiah 43:18-19a NIV

¹⁸ “Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”



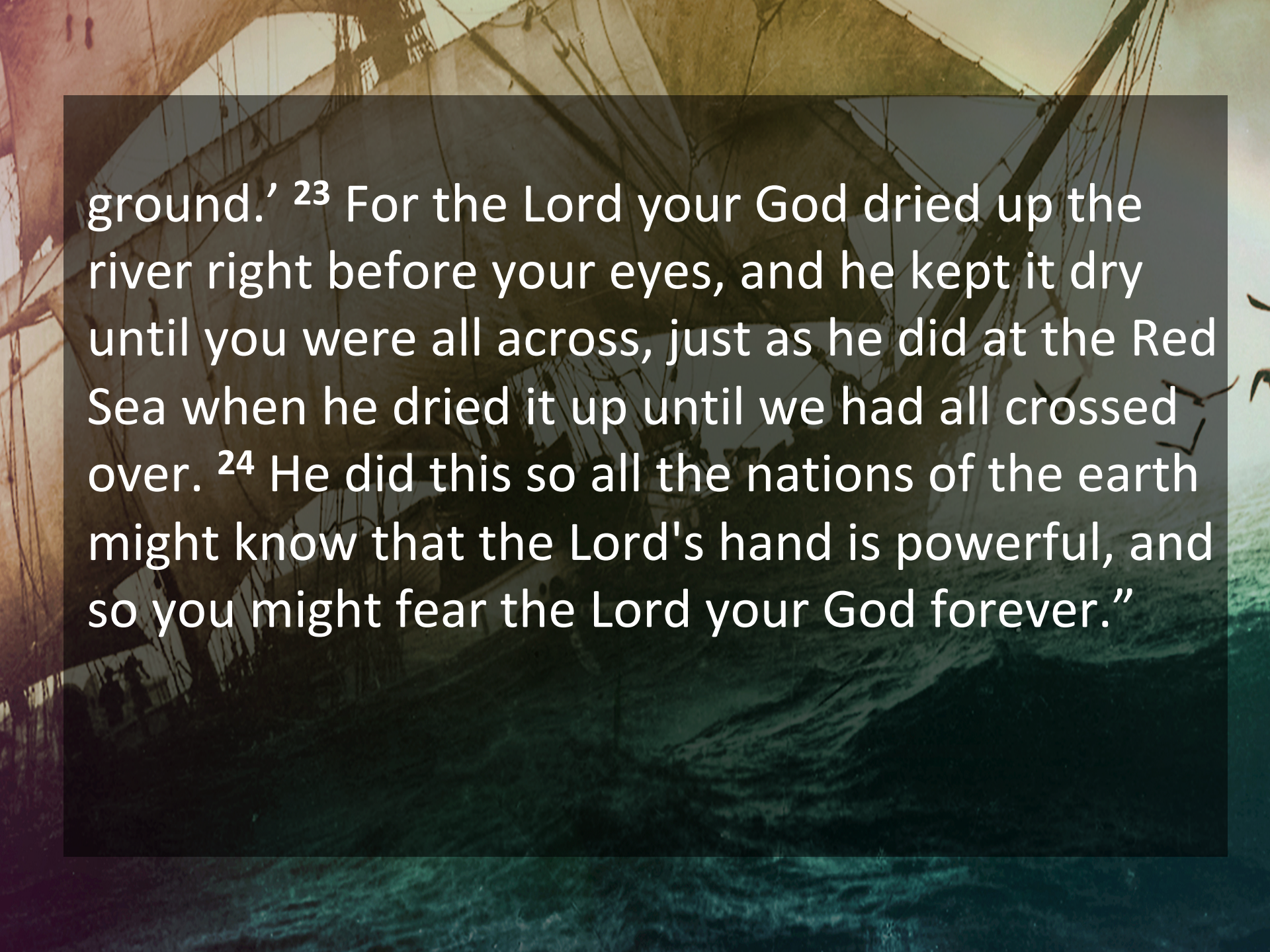
II. The true purpose of the past.



Joshua 4:20-24 NLT

²⁰ It was there at Gilgal that Joshua piled up the twelve stones taken from the Jordan River.

²¹ Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ²² Then you can tell them, ‘This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry



ground.’ ²³ For the Lord your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea when he dried it up until we had all crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the Lord's hand is powerful, and so you might fear the Lord your God forever.”



The true purpose of the past is...

- So young ones can know God is faithful.
vs. 21-23



The true purpose of the past is...

- So young ones can know God is faithful.
vs. 21-23

- So unbelievers can know God is powerful.
vs. 24a

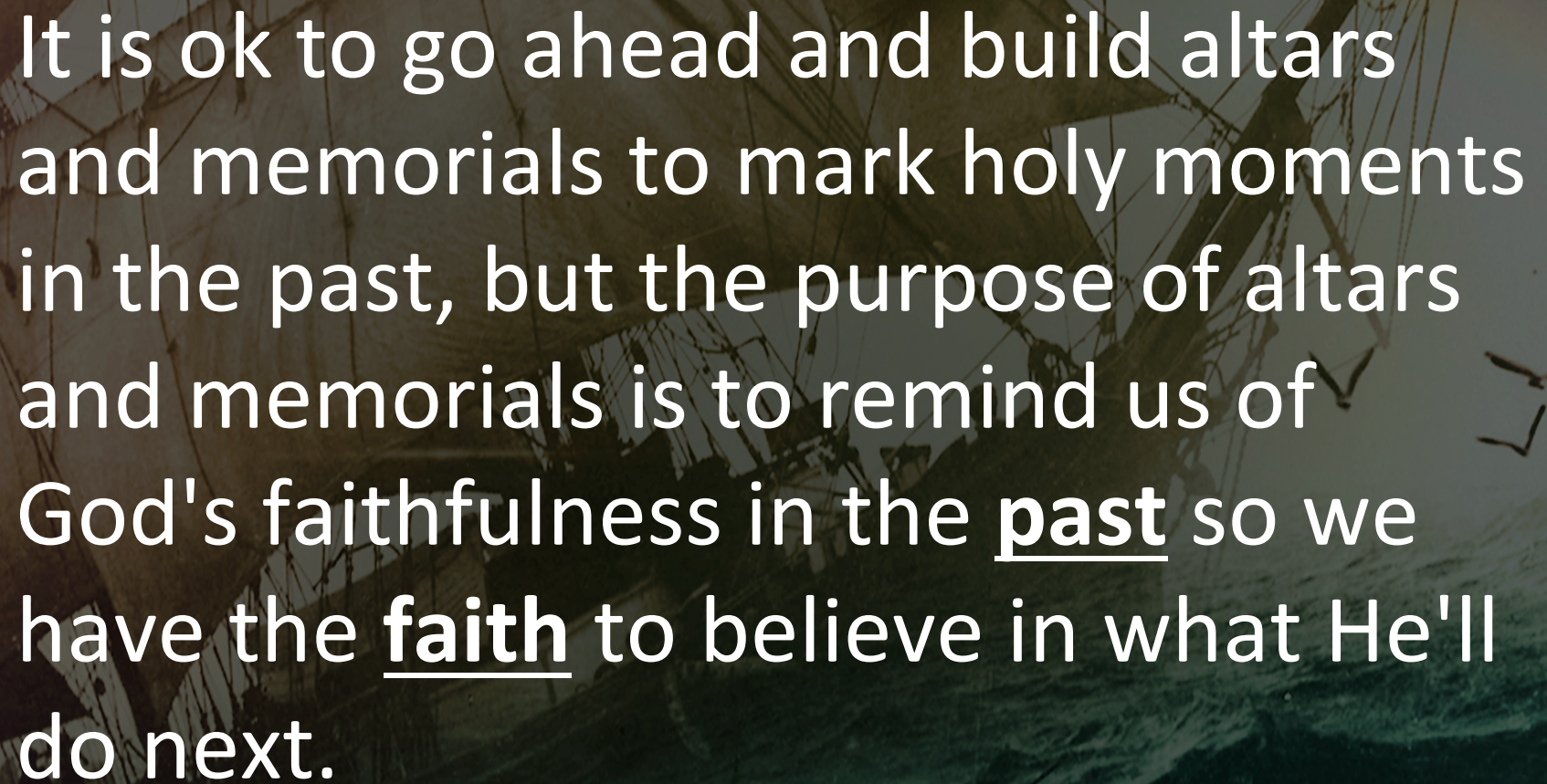


The true purpose of the past is...

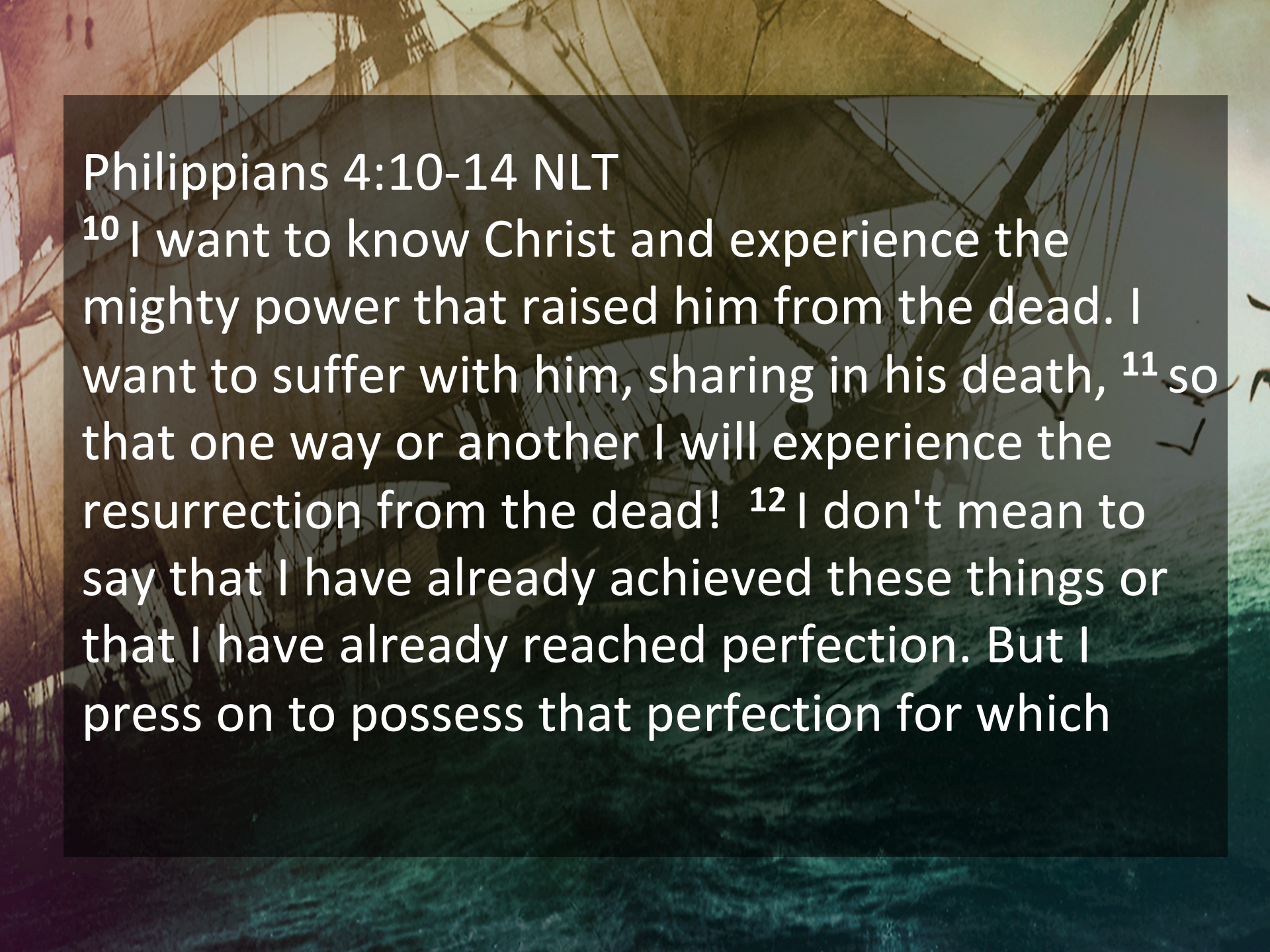
- So young ones can know God is faithful.
vs. 21-23

- So unbelievers can know God is powerful.
vs. 24a

- So you can know, obey and worship God with
profound awe and reverence.
vs. 24b

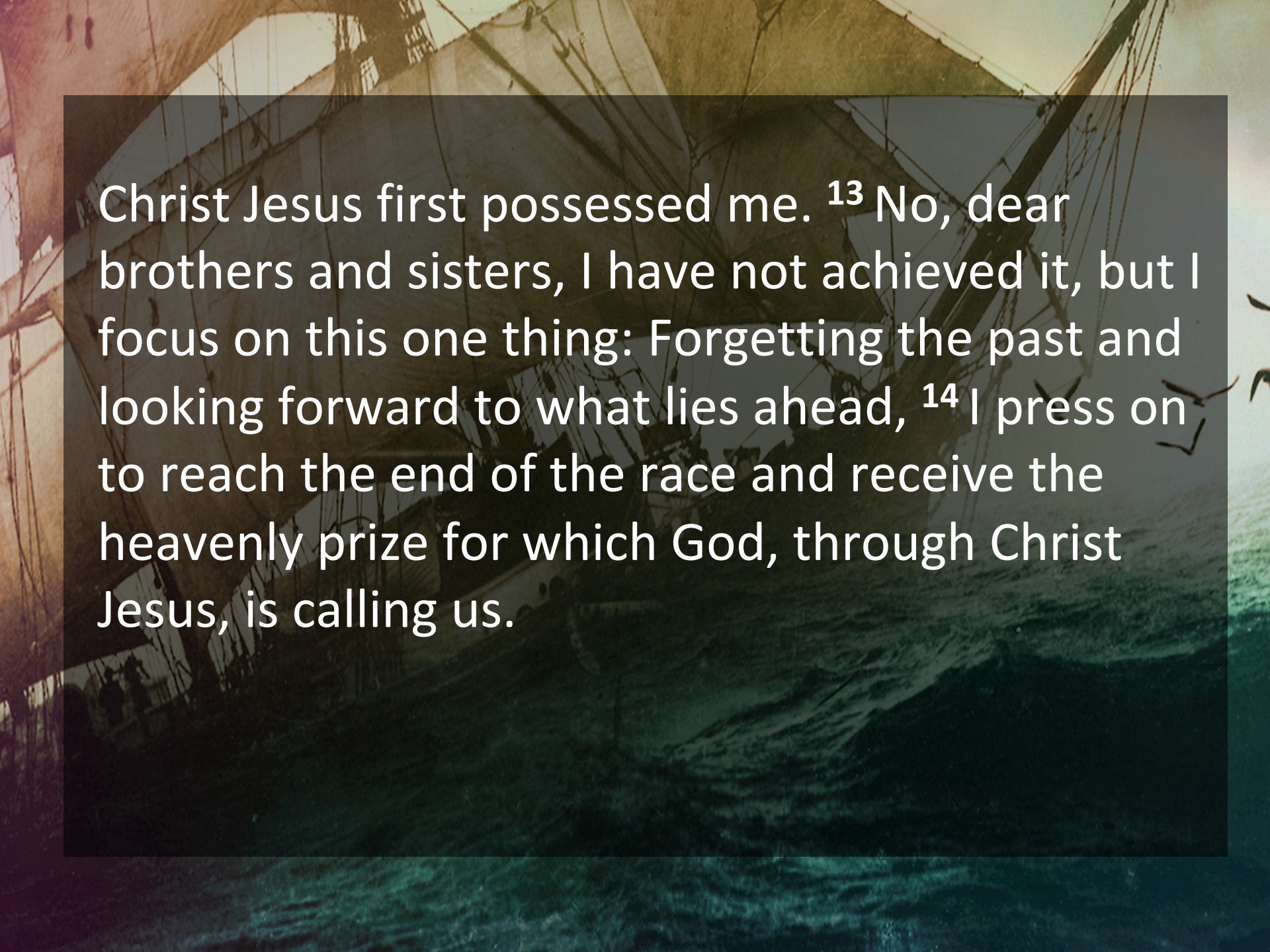
A large sailing ship with multiple masts and sails is seen from a low angle on the ocean. The sky is filled with several birds in flight. The overall scene is somewhat dark and atmospheric, with a mix of blue, green, and brown tones.

It is ok to go ahead and build altars and memorials to mark holy moments in the past, but the purpose of altars and memorials is to remind us of God's faithfulness in the past so we have the faith to believe in what He'll do next.

A large sailing ship with multiple masts and sails is seen from a low angle, sailing on a dark, choppy sea. The sky is a mix of blue and green, with several birds in flight. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric.

Philippians 4:10-14 NLT

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which

A large, multi-masted sailing ship is shown on a dark, choppy sea. The ship's sails are partially visible, and the rigging is intricate. In the upper right, several birds are seen in flight against a lighter sky. The overall scene is dramatic and evocative, suggesting a long journey or a quest.

Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

