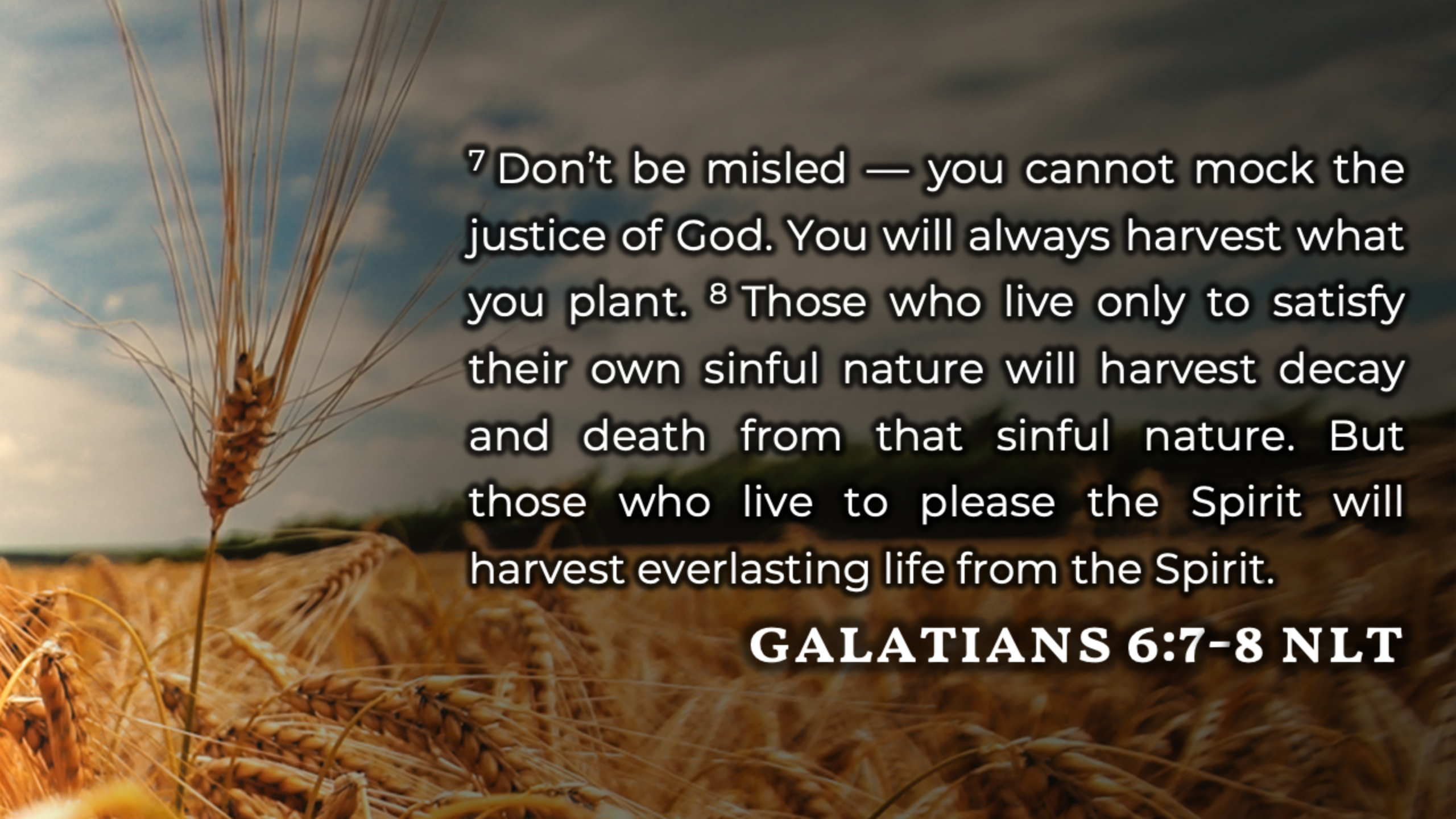





WEEDS
OR
WHEAT



⁷ Don't be misled — you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. ⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

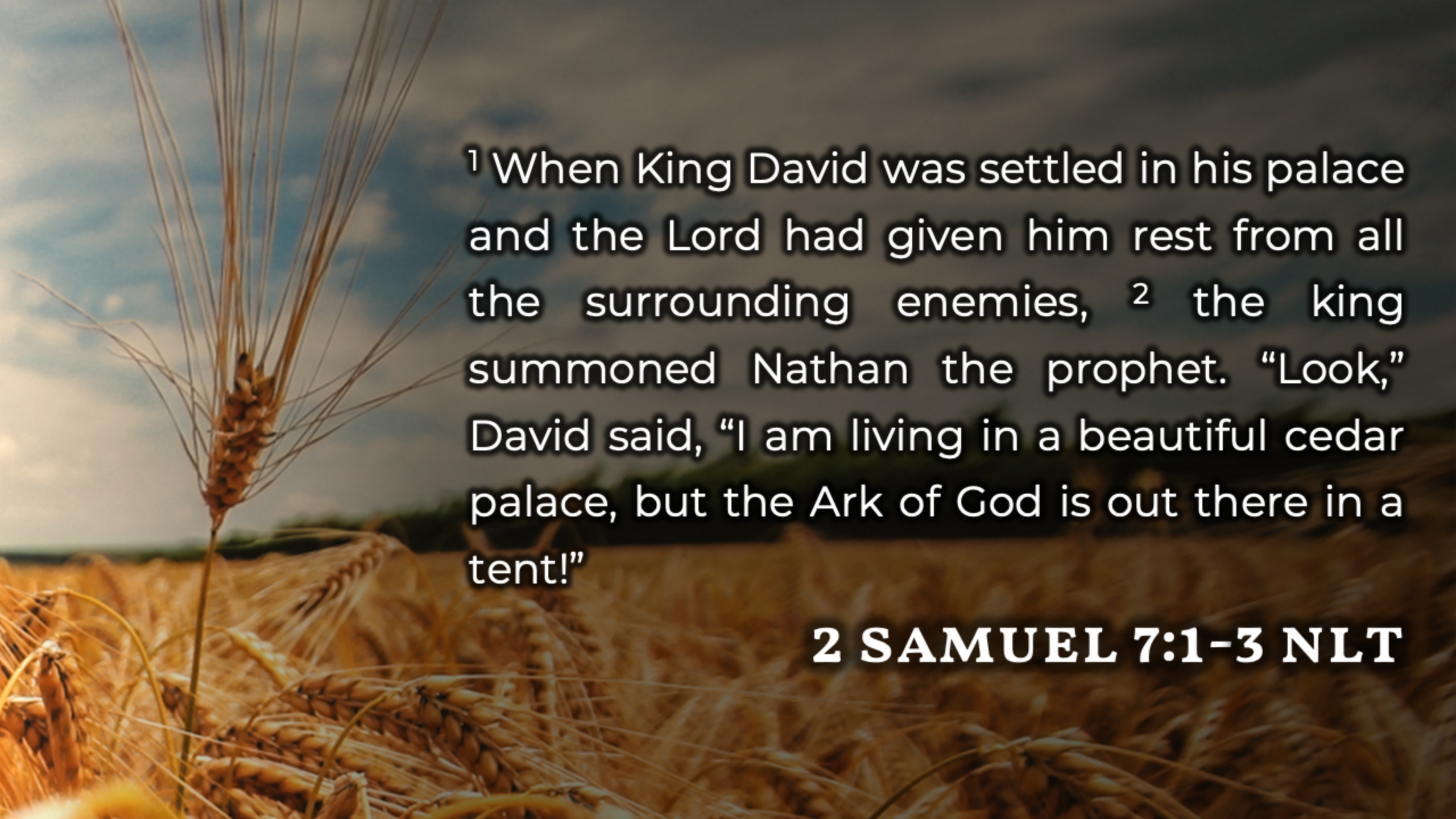
GALATIANS 6:7-8 NLT



GOD WANTS YOU TO GROW.

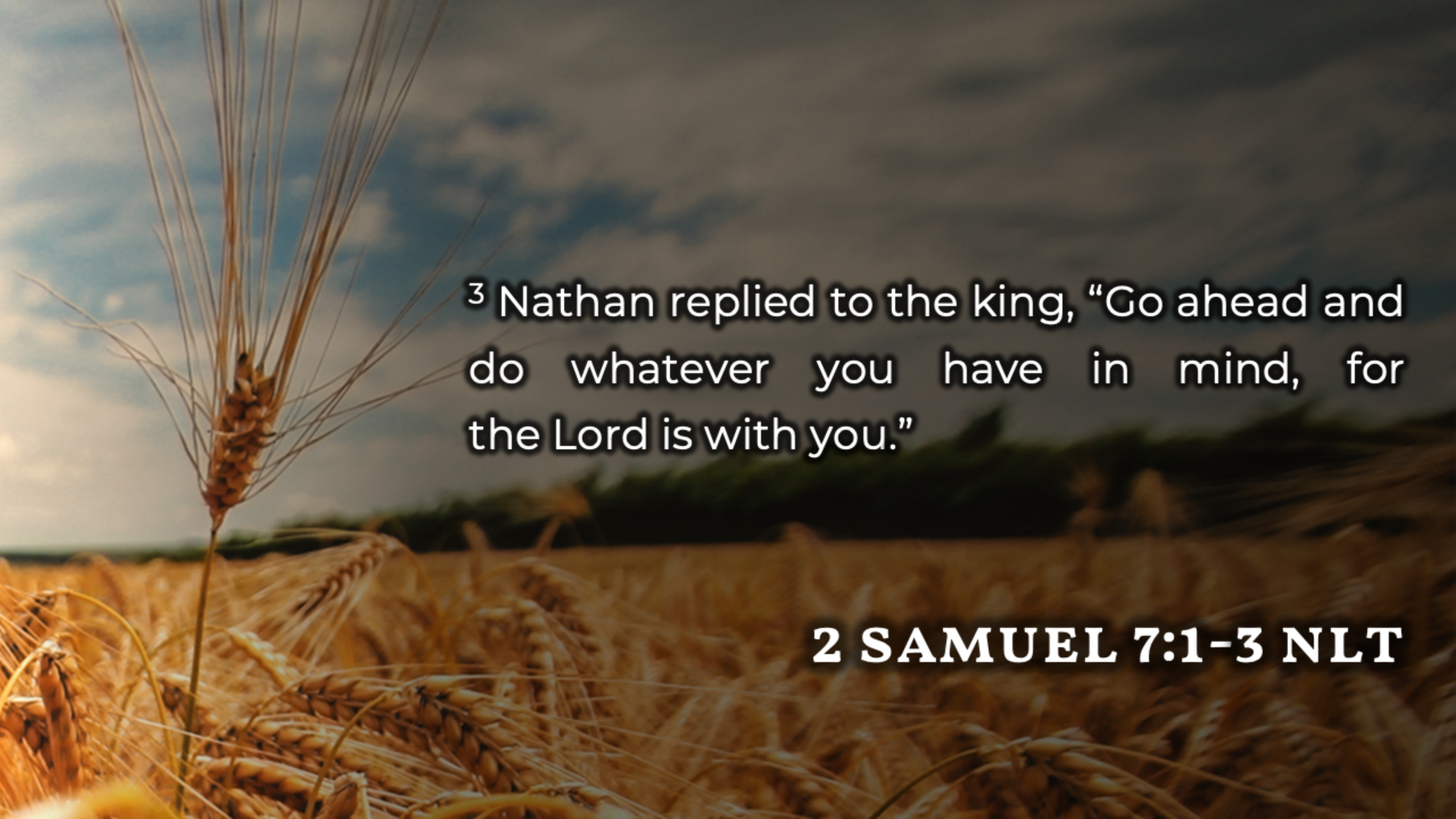


GOD WANTS YOU TO GROW.
GOD HELPS YOU TO GROW.



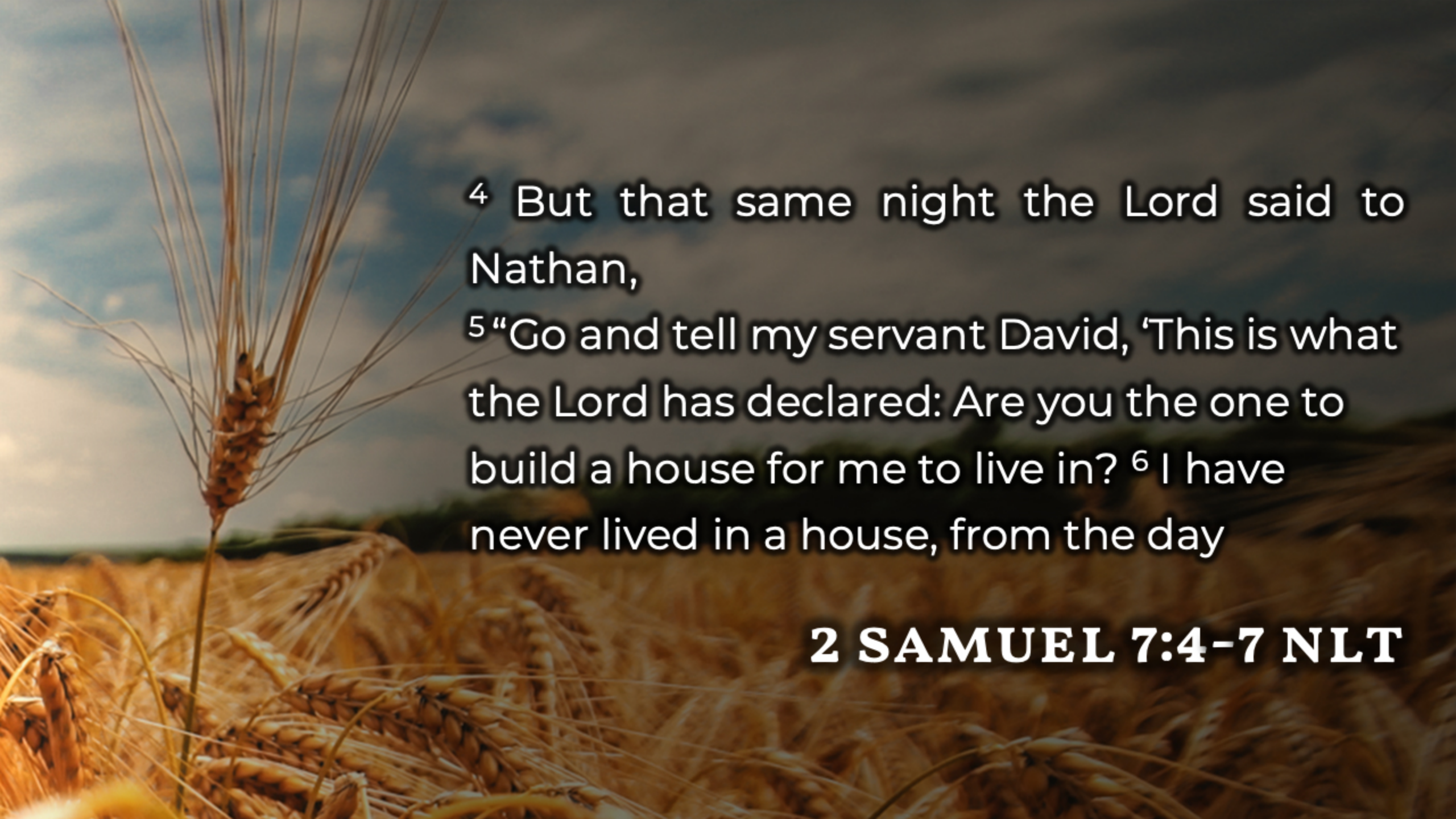
¹ When King David was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all the surrounding enemies, ² the king summoned Nathan the prophet. “Look,” David said, “I am living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of God is out there in a tent!”

2 SAMUEL 7:1-3 NLT



³ Nathan replied to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you."

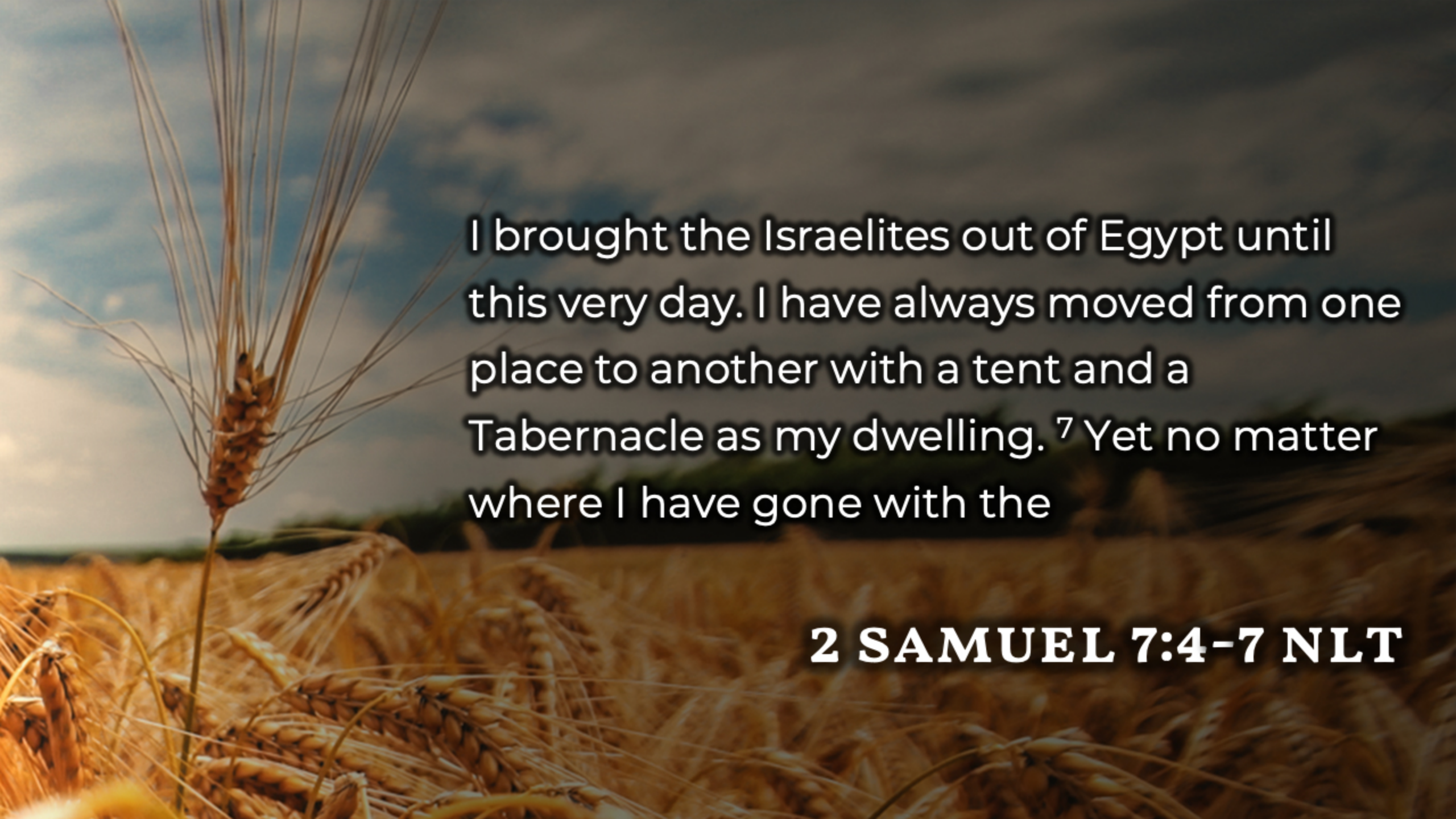
2 SAMUEL 7:1-3 NLT



⁴ But that same night the Lord said to Nathan,

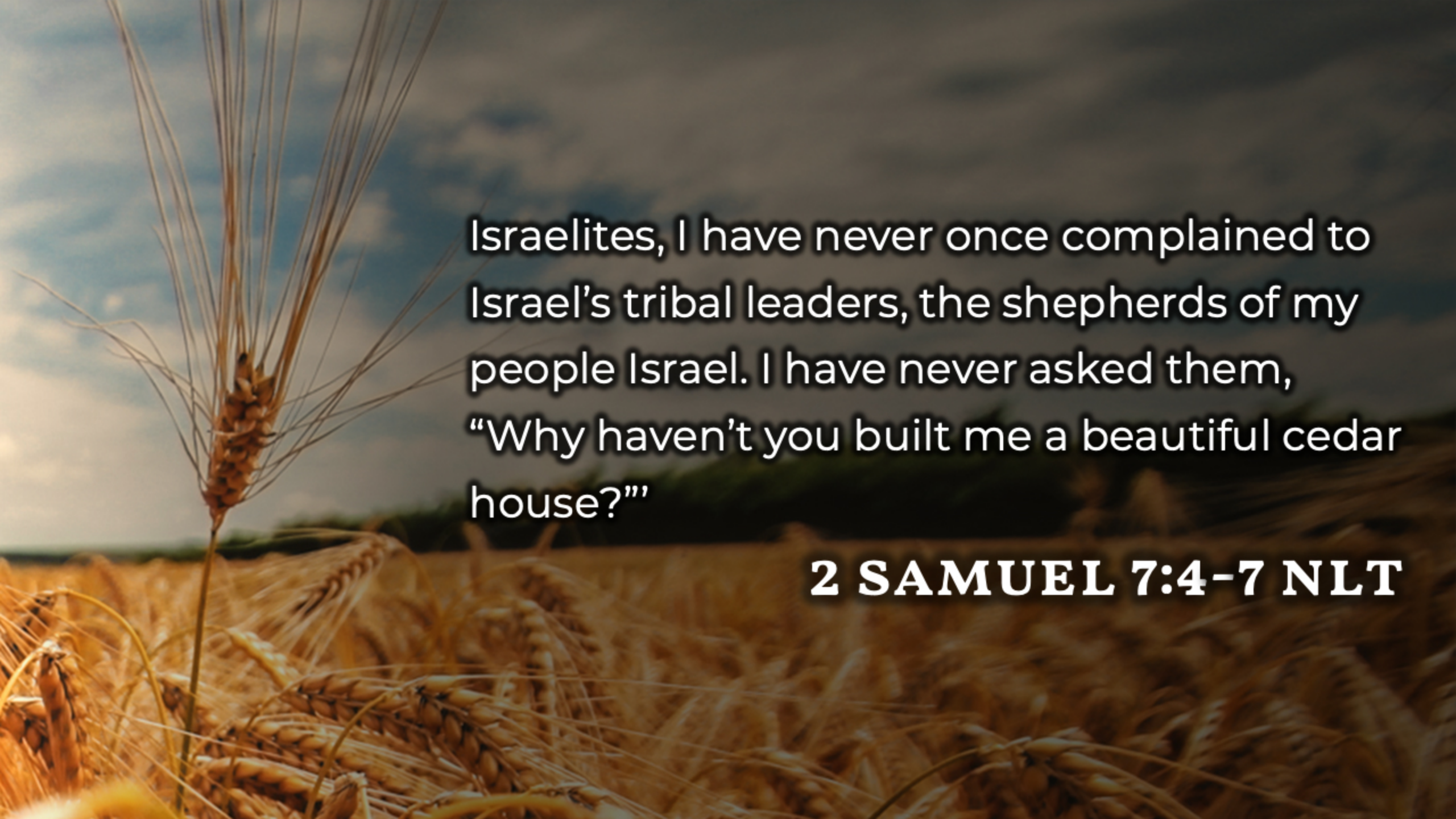
⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord has declared: Are you the one to build a house for me to live in?' ⁶ I have never lived in a house, from the day

2 SAMUEL 7:4-7 NLT



I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until this very day. I have always moved from one place to another with a tent and a Tabernacle as my dwelling. ⁷ Yet no matter where I have gone with the

2 SAMUEL 7:4-7 NLT



Israelites, I have never once complained to Israel's tribal leaders, the shepherds of my people Israel. I have never asked them, "Why haven't you built me a beautiful cedar house?"

2 SAMUEL 7:4-7 NLT



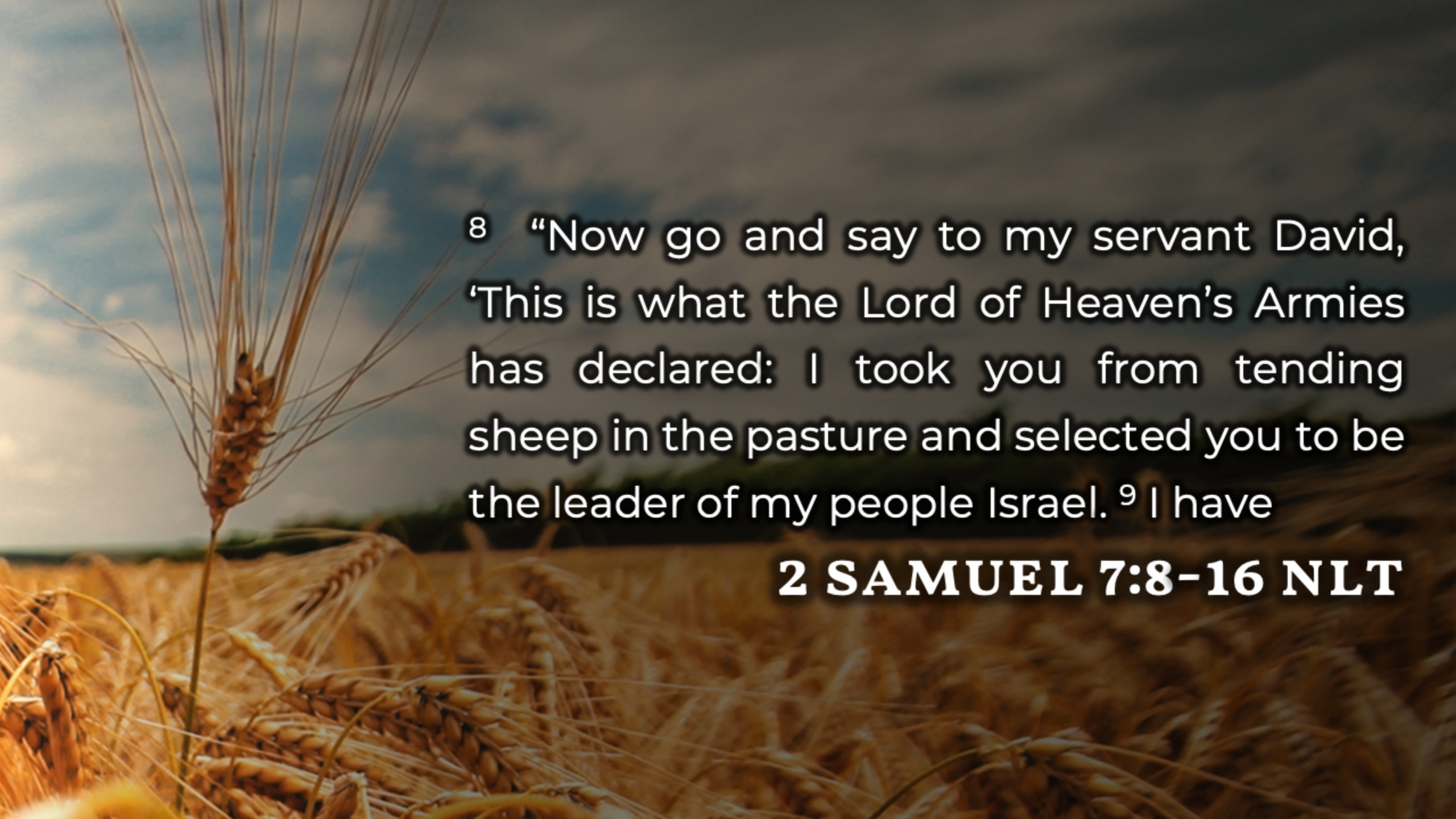
I. WHY DID GOD SAY NO
TO DAVID'S REQUEST?



DAVID'S REQUEST SHOWED A
MISUNDERSTANDING OF GOD
HIMSELF.

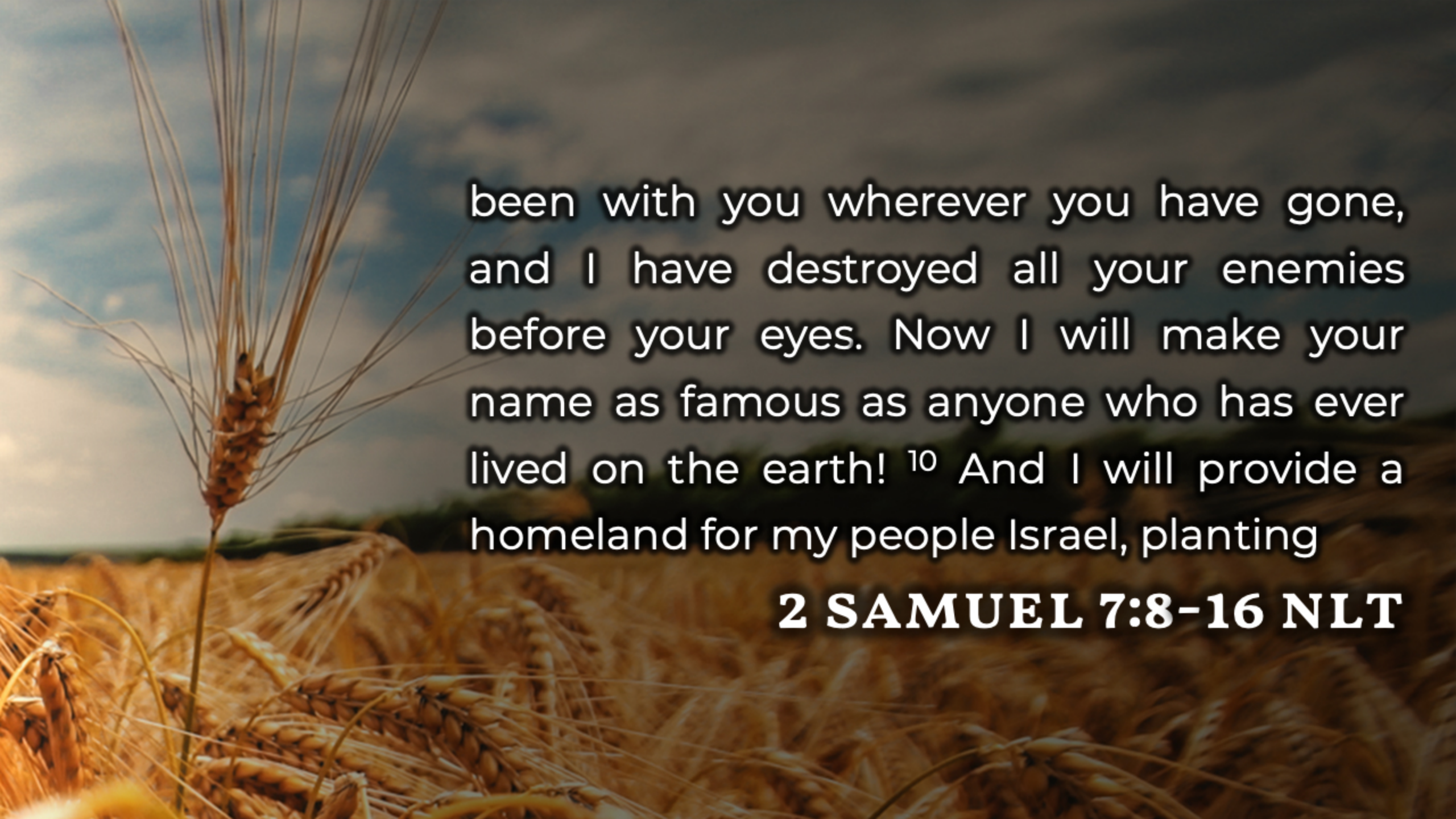


GOD HADN'T ASKED DAVID
TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR HIM.



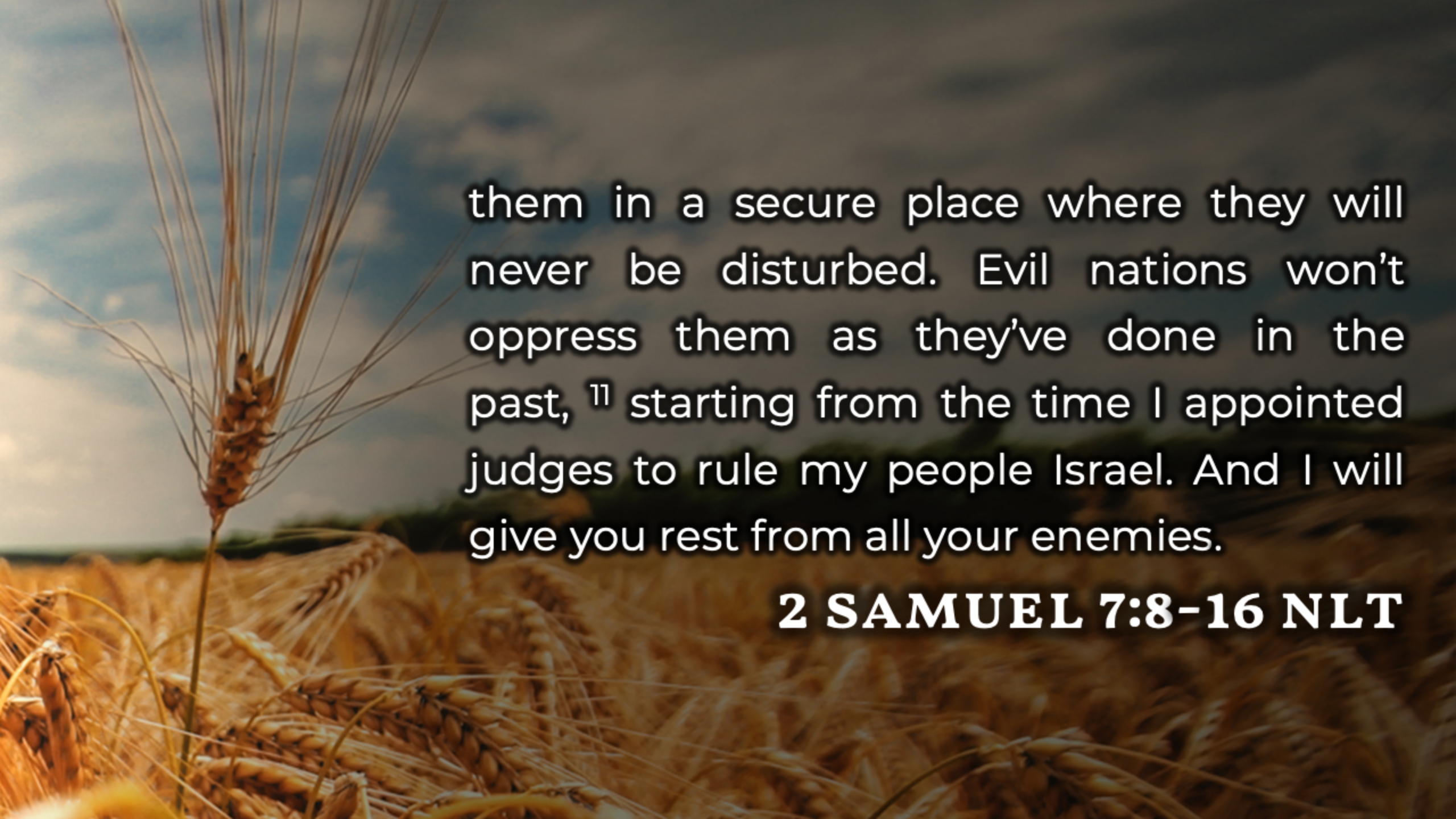
⁸ “Now go and say to my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people Israel.’⁹ I have

2 SAMUEL 7:8-16 NLT



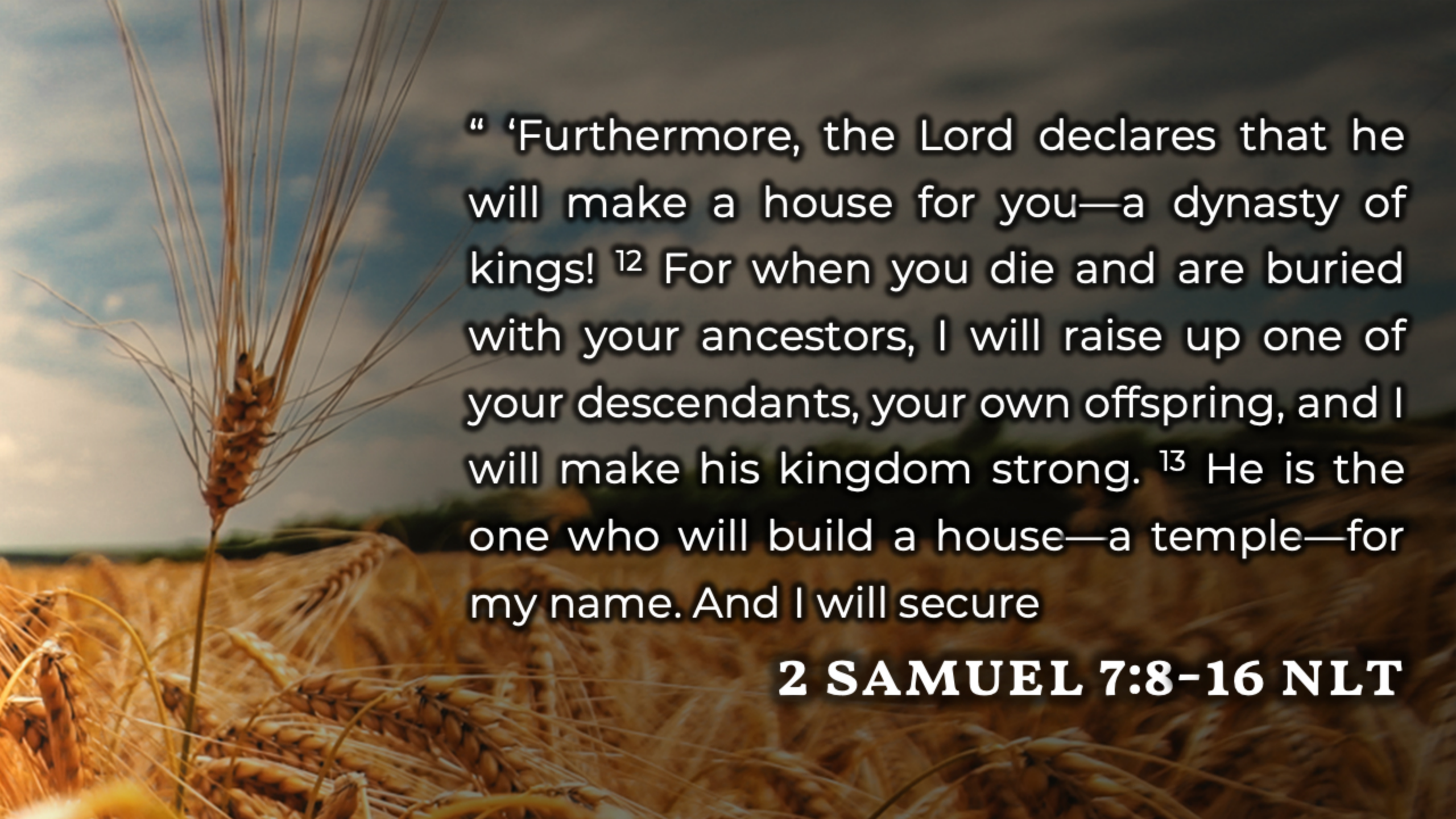
been with you wherever you have gone,
and I have destroyed all your enemies
before your eyes. Now I will make your
name as famous as anyone who has ever
lived on the earth! ¹⁰ And I will provide a
homeland for my people Israel, planting

2 SAMUEL 7:8-16 NLT



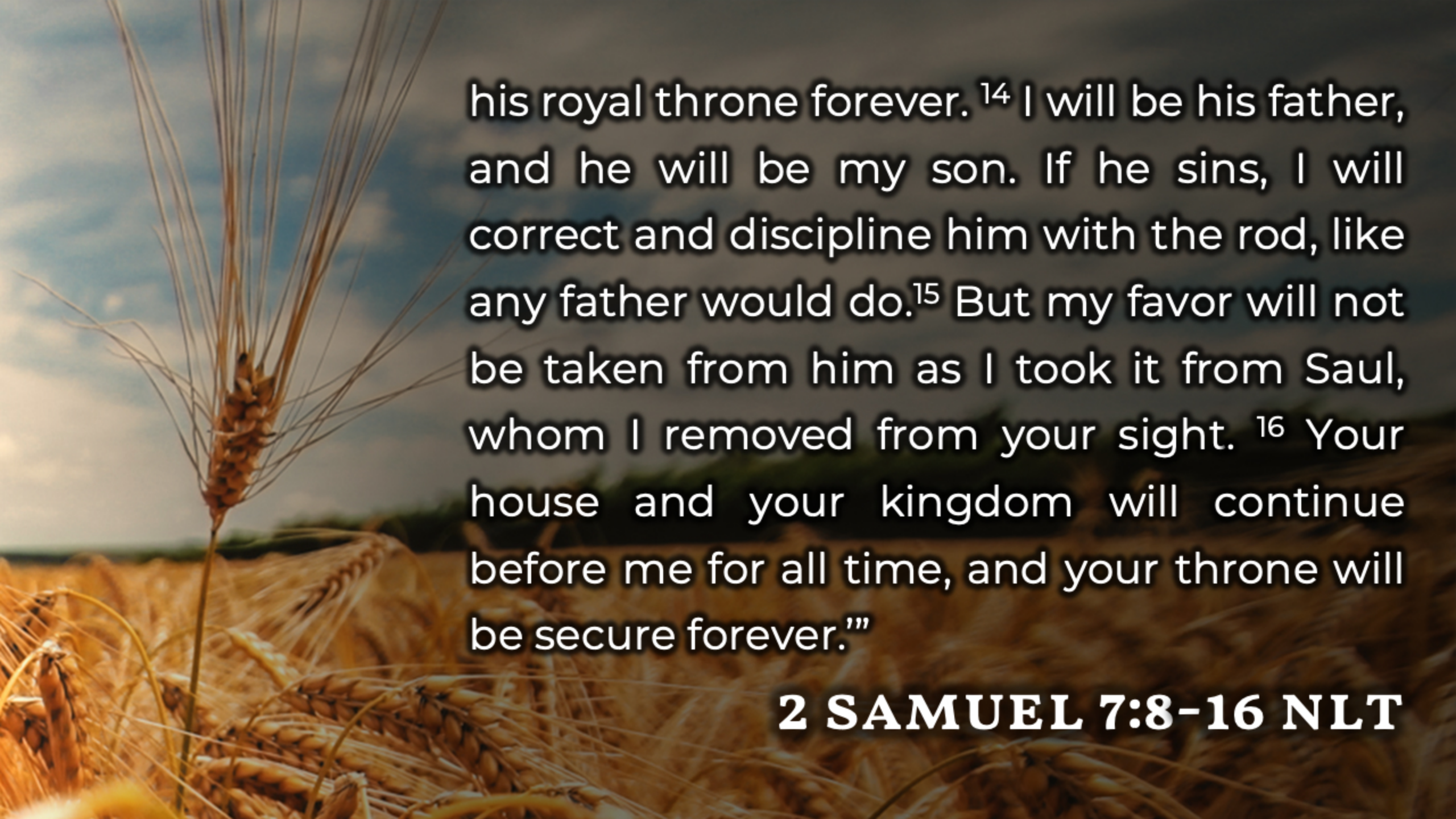
them in a secure place where they will never be disturbed. Evil nations won't oppress them as they've done in the past, ¹¹ starting from the time I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

2 SAMUEL 7:8-16 NLT



“ ‘Furthermore, the Lord declares that he will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings! ¹² For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will secure

2 SAMUEL 7:8-16 NLT




his royal throne forever.¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do.¹⁵ But my favor will not be taken from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from your sight.¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.”

2 SAMUEL 7:8-16 NLT

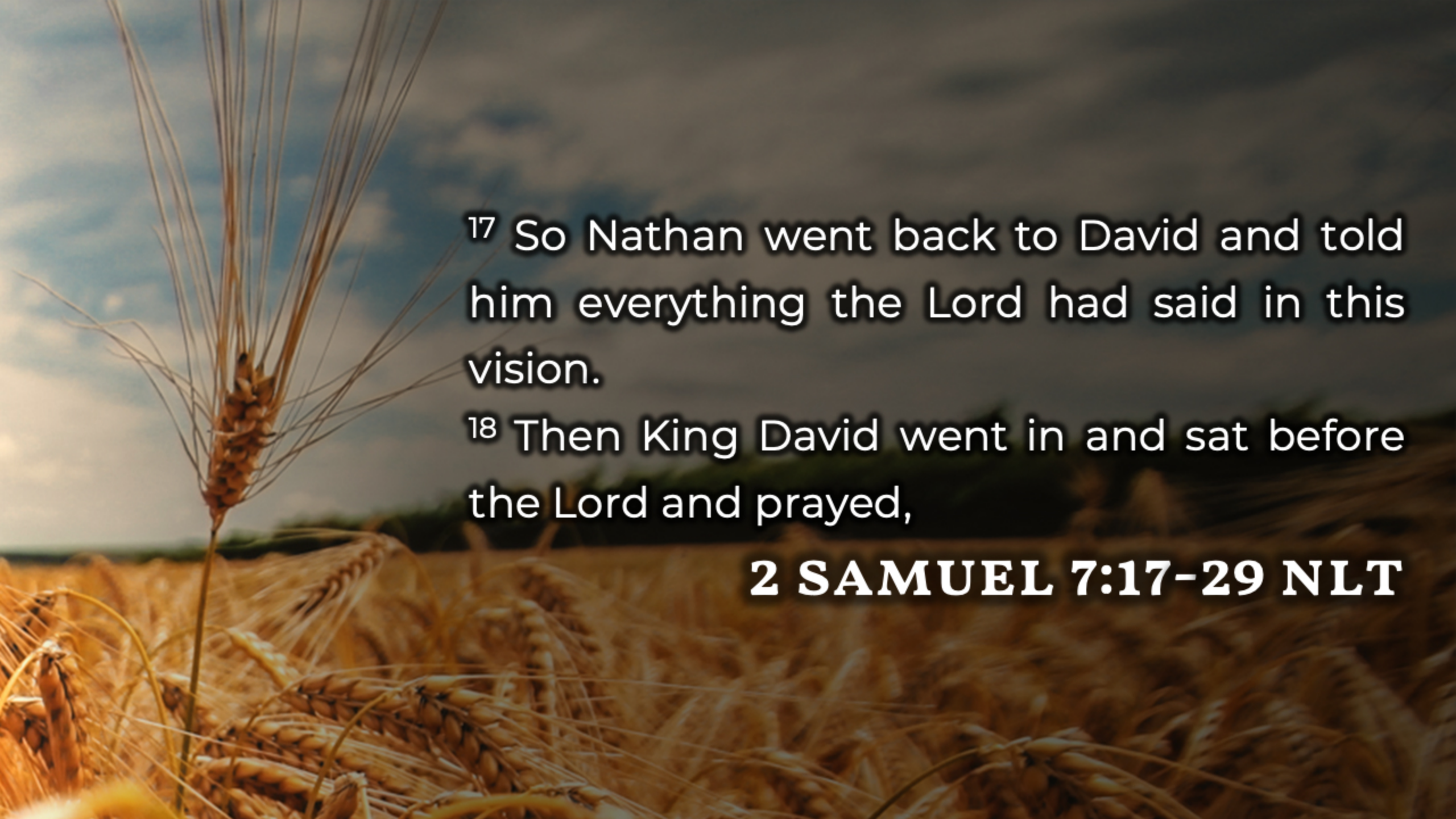


THESE VERSES CONTAIN WHAT IS COMMONLY
KNOWN AS THE DAVIDIC COVENANT.

IN THEM GOD IS COMMUNICATING THAT
HE HAS MUCH MORE IN STORE FOR DAVID
THAN HE EVER IMAGINED.



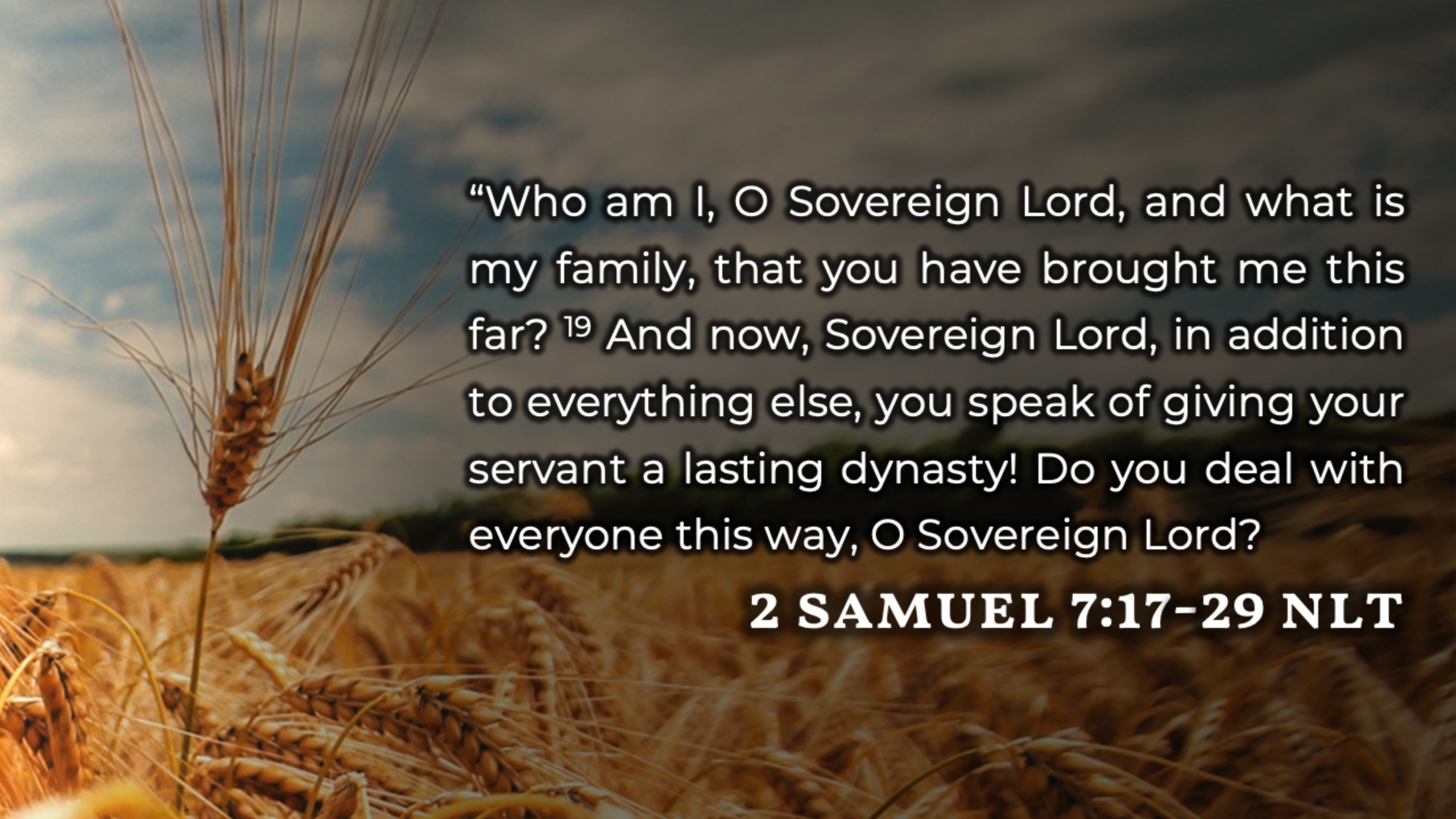
II. WHAT DID DAVID
DO WITH THE “NO”?



¹⁷ So Nathan went back to David and told him everything the Lord had said in this vision.

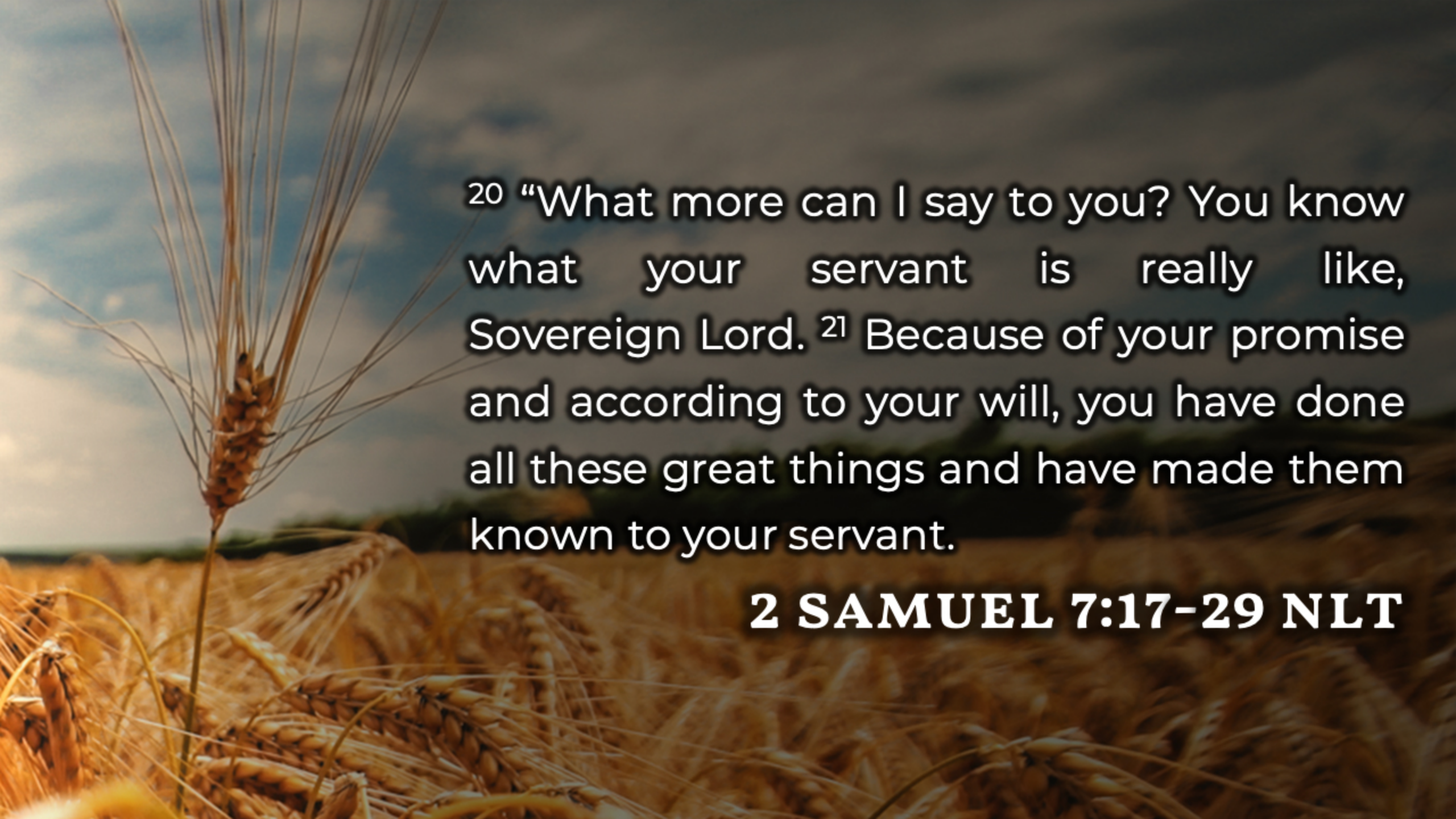
¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and prayed,

2 SAMUEL 7:17-29 NLT



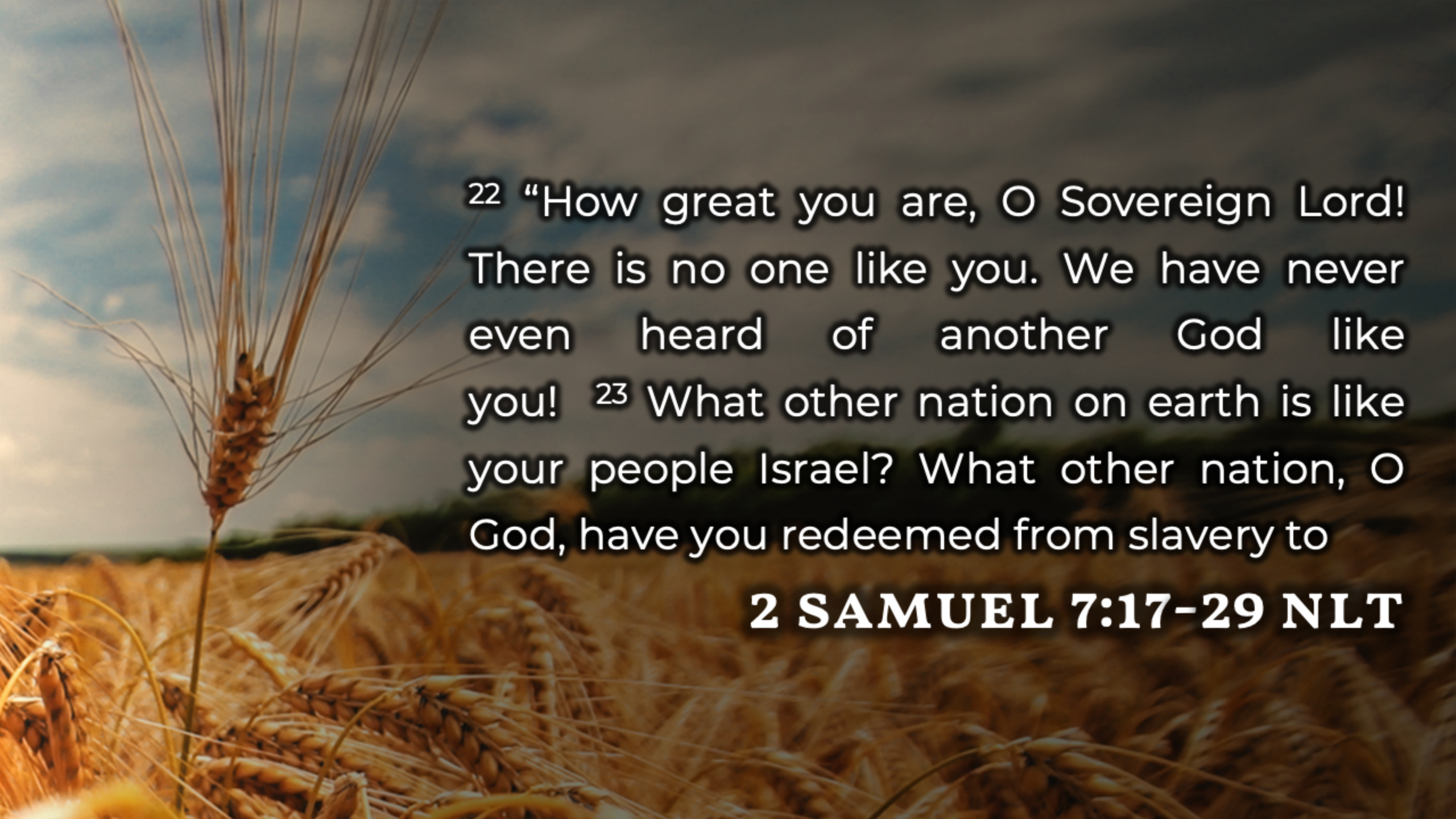
“Who am I, O Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ¹⁹ And now, Sovereign Lord, in addition to everything else, you speak of giving your servant a lasting dynasty! Do you deal with everyone this way, O Sovereign Lord?

2 SAMUEL 7:17-29 NLT



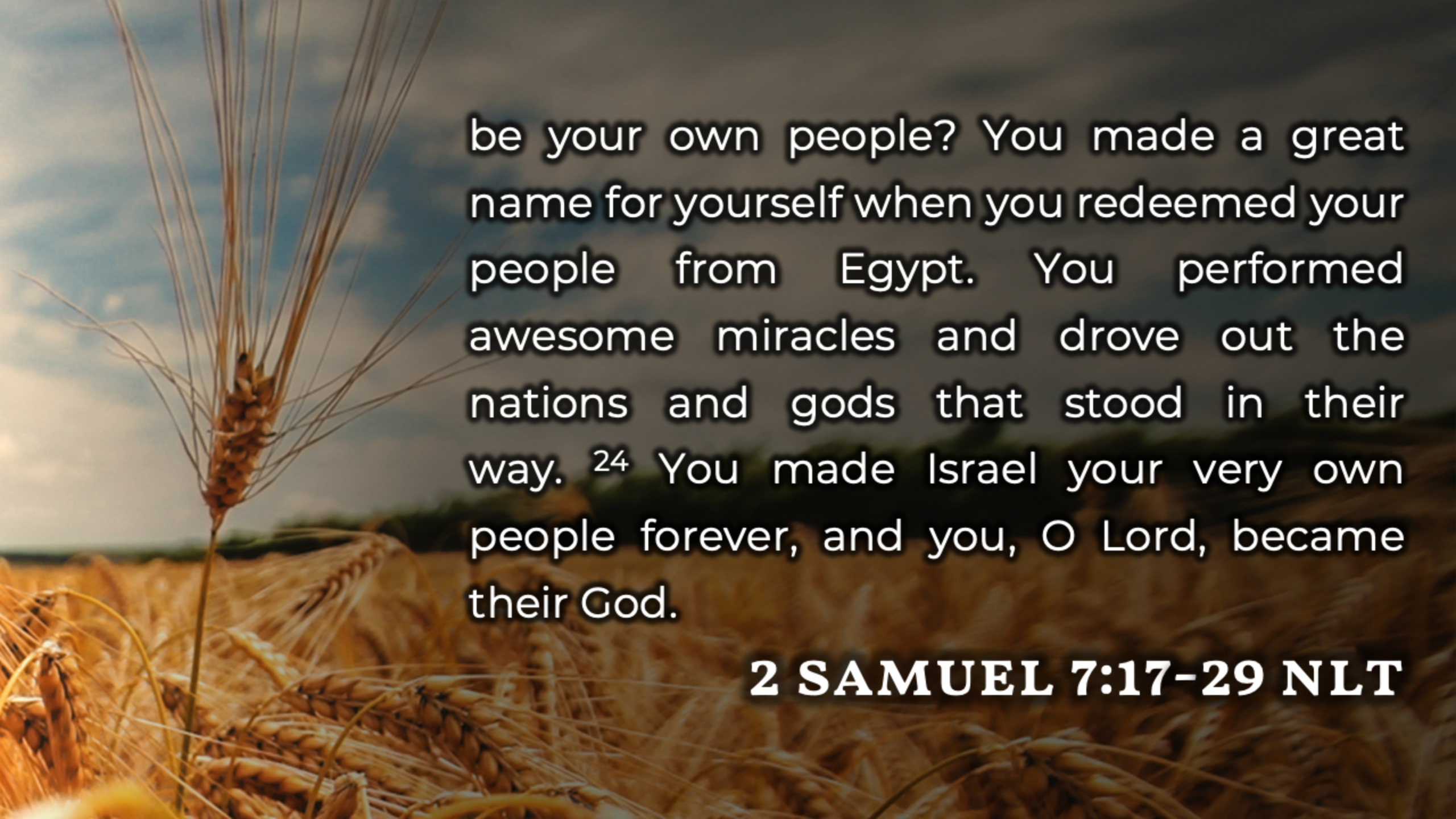
²⁰ “What more can I say to you? You know what your servant is really like, Sovereign Lord. ²¹ Because of your promise and according to your will, you have done all these great things and have made them known to your servant.

2 SAMUEL 7:17-29 NLT




²² “How great you are, O Sovereign Lord!
There is no one like you. We have never
even heard of another God like
you! ²³ What other nation on earth is like
your people Israel? What other nation, O
God, have you redeemed from slavery to

2 SAMUEL 7:17-29 NLT



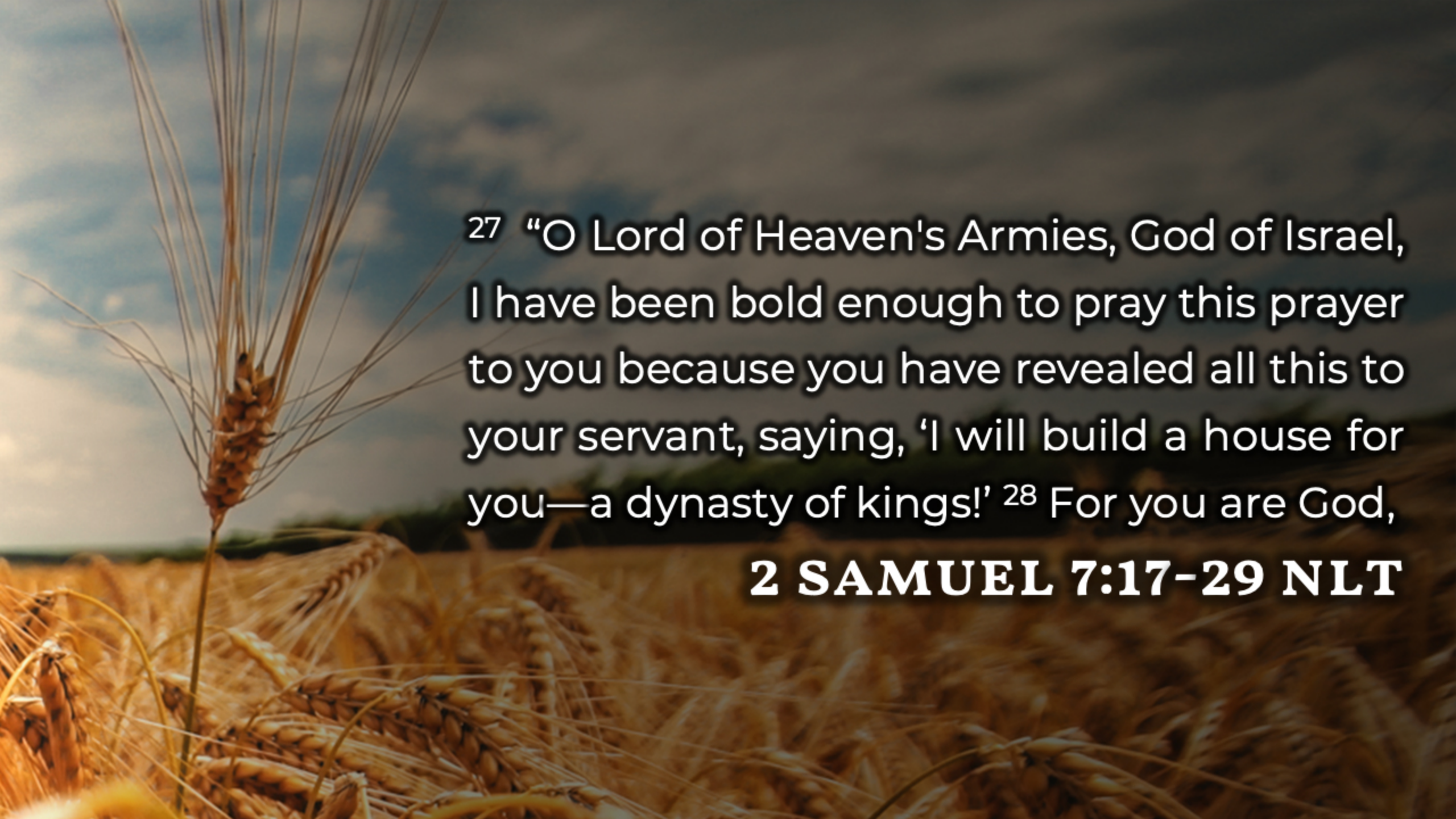
be your own people? You made a great name for yourself when you redeemed your people from Egypt. You performed awesome miracles and drove out the nations and gods that stood in their way. ²⁴ You made Israel your very own people forever, and you, O Lord, became their God.

2 SAMUEL 7:17-29 NLT



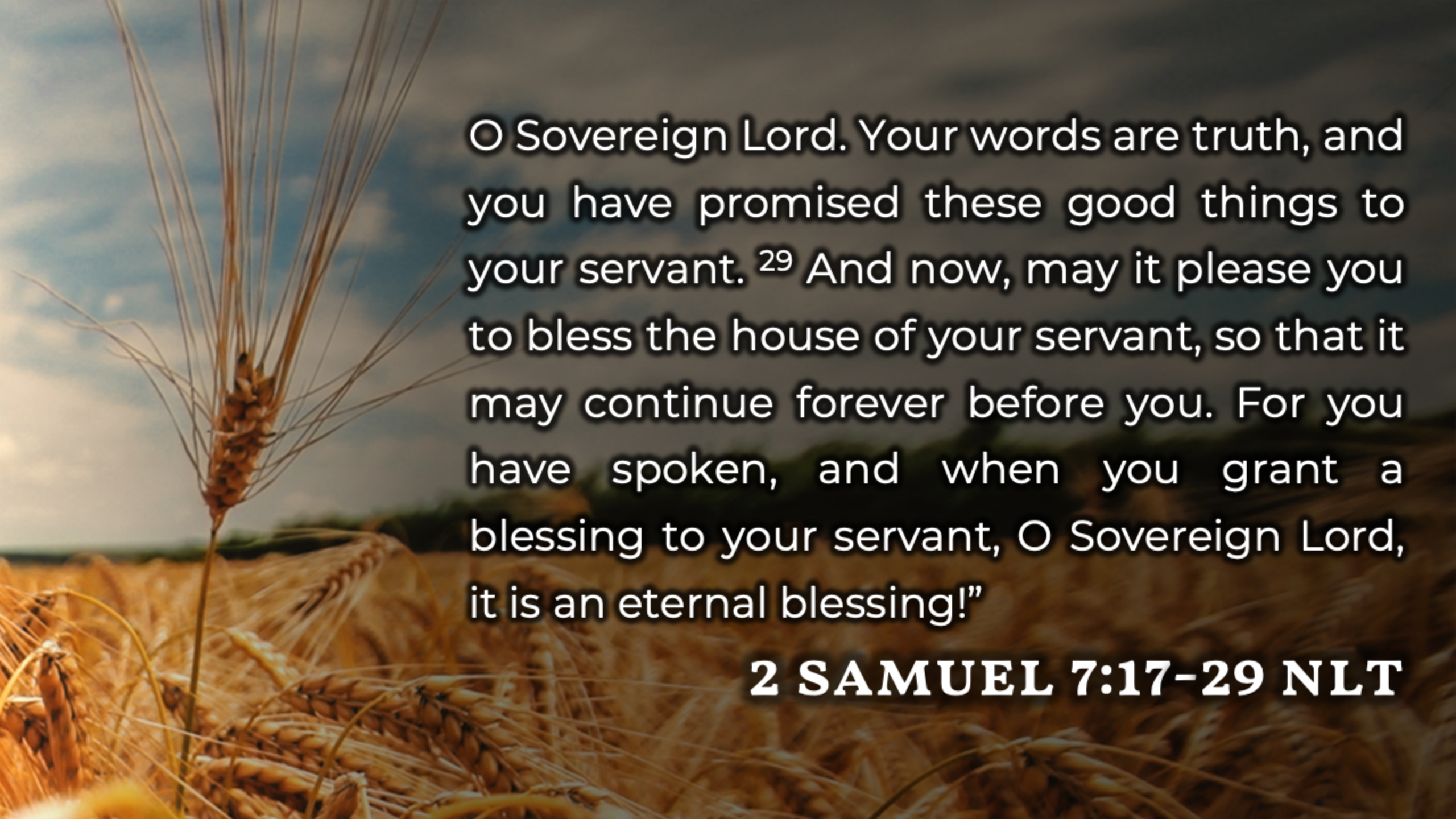
²⁵ “And now, O Lord God, I am your servant; do as you have promised concerning me and my family. Confirm it as a promise that will last forever. ²⁶ And may your name be honored forever so that everyone will say, ‘The Lord of Heaven’s Armies is God over Israel!’ And may the house of your servant David continue before you forever.

2 SAMUEL 7:17-29 NLT



²⁷ “O Lord of Heaven's Armies, God of Israel, I have been bold enough to pray this prayer to you because you have revealed all this to your servant, saying, ‘I will build a house for you—a dynasty of kings!’ ²⁸ For you are God,

2 SAMUEL 7:17-29 NLT



O Sovereign Lord. Your words are truth, and you have promised these good things to your servant. ²⁹ And now, may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you have spoken, and when you grant a blessing to your servant, O Sovereign Lord, it is an eternal blessing!”

2 SAMUEL 7:17-29 NLT



DAVID RESPONDS TO GOD
IN WORSHIP.



DAVID RESPONDS TO GOD
IN WORSHIP.

DAVID UNDERSTANDS THAT
GOD IS IN CONTROL.



DAVID RESPONDS TO GOD
IN WORSHIP.

DAVID UNDERSTANDS THAT
GOD IS IN CONTROL.

DAVID UNDERSTANDS THAT
GOD HAS THE AUTHORITY.



III. HOW TO NAVIGATE THE
“NO’S” IN OUR LIVES.



LOOK FOR GOD'S GRACE.



LOOK FOR GOD'S GRACE.

In David's mind he was going to build a structure that would last for hundreds of years.

In God's mind He was going to build a dynasty that would last forever.



IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITY.



IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITY.

When God says no, it eliminates something and that opens up opportunities for something else.

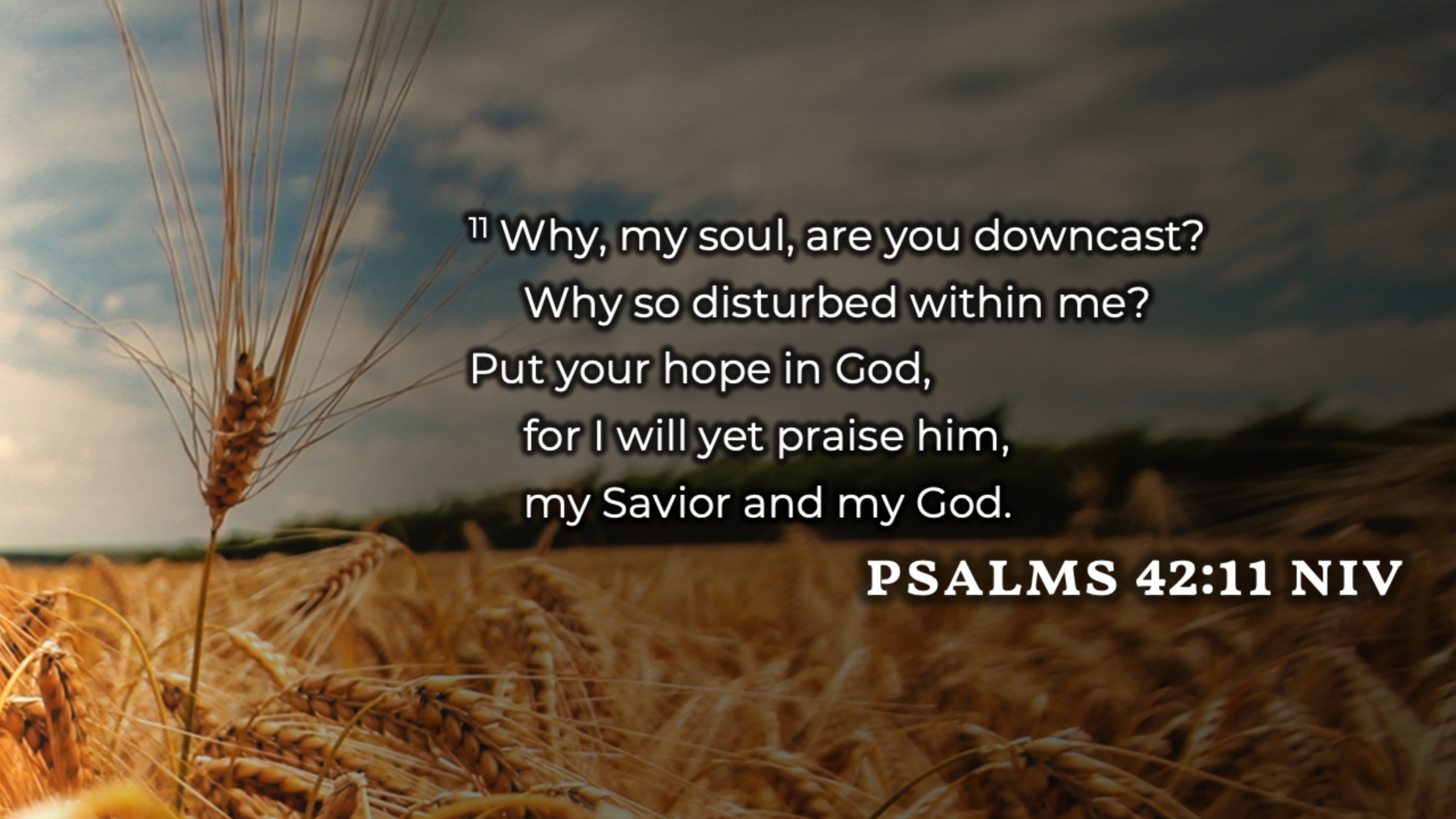


FOCUS OUR WORSHIP.



FOCUS OUR WORSHIP.

If we don't focus our worship on God, we can detach from God instead of depending on God.



¹¹ Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

PSALMS 42:11 NIV



EMBRACE THE MISSION.



EMBRACE THE MISSION.

⁶ Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of

ACTS 16:6-10 NLT



EMBRACE THE MISSION.

Asia at that time. ⁷ Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. ⁸ So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas.

ACTS 16:6-10 NLT



EMBRACE THE MISSION.

⁹ That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” ¹⁰ So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

ACTS 16:6-10 NLT

A close-up photograph of a golden wheat field. The foreground shows several wheat stalks in sharp focus, with their long awns extending upwards. The background is a vast field of similar wheat, slightly out of focus, under a bright, overcast sky with soft, white clouds. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by the golden-brown of the wheat and the pale blue and white of the sky.

**YOUR GROWTH PROCESS CAN BE
HELPED OR HINDERED BY HOW
YOU RESPOND TO “NO”.**