

ETERNITY



STAYING

Revelation 21-22



...Wish I'd brought a magazine.

The background of the image is a dark, starry night sky. In the lower portion, there is a large, diffuse nebula with a mix of brown, orange, and purple hues. The stars are scattered throughout, with some appearing as bright points of light and others as faint specks. The overall tone is dark and celestial.

The New Heaven and New Earth



God's REDEMPTION
of CREATION



"Cursed is the ground because of you..."

GENESIS 3:17

"The harmony that Adam and Eve enjoyed with God's creation, the peaceful dominion they were given over it, is now broken. The fracture between Adam and creation reflects the fracture between God and Adam. Where Adam's work was toil-less, it is now toilsome. While the earth was once wonderfully subdued, it now yields grudgingly.

Where it was once only fruitful and abundant, it now offers the challenge of thorns and thistles. And while Adam was once bestowed with imperishable flesh, his sin limits the life span of his body. Having rejected God's blessings, he was chose to place his hope in the dust from which he was fashioned."

MATT CHANDLER

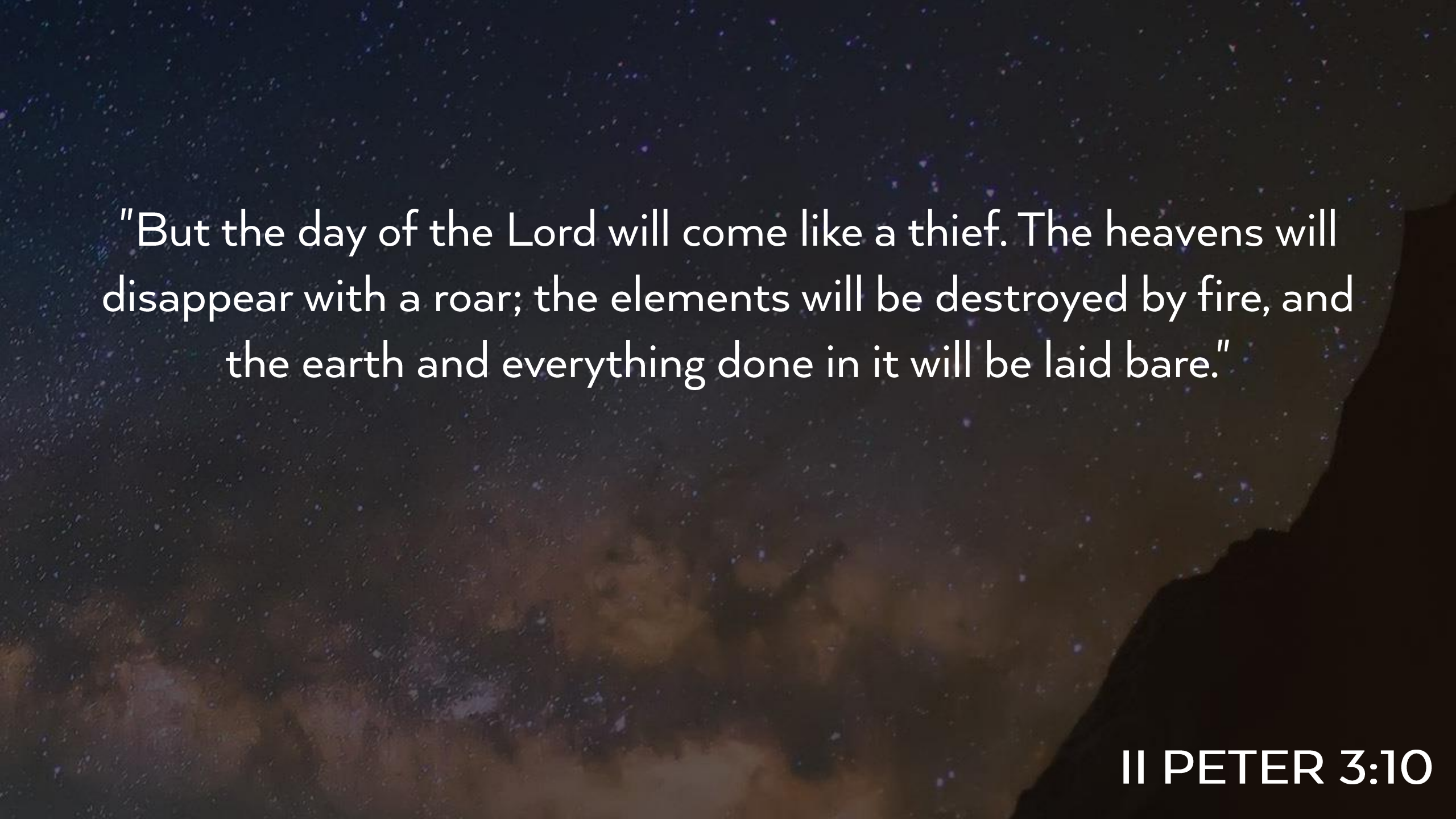
"For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God."

ROMANS 8:20-21

"Why did God subject the natural order to such futility because of the sin of human beings? The natural order did not sin. Humans sinned. But Paul said, 'The creation was subjected to futility.' The creation was put in 'bondage to corruption.' Why? God said, 'Cursed be the ground because of you' (Genesis 3:17).

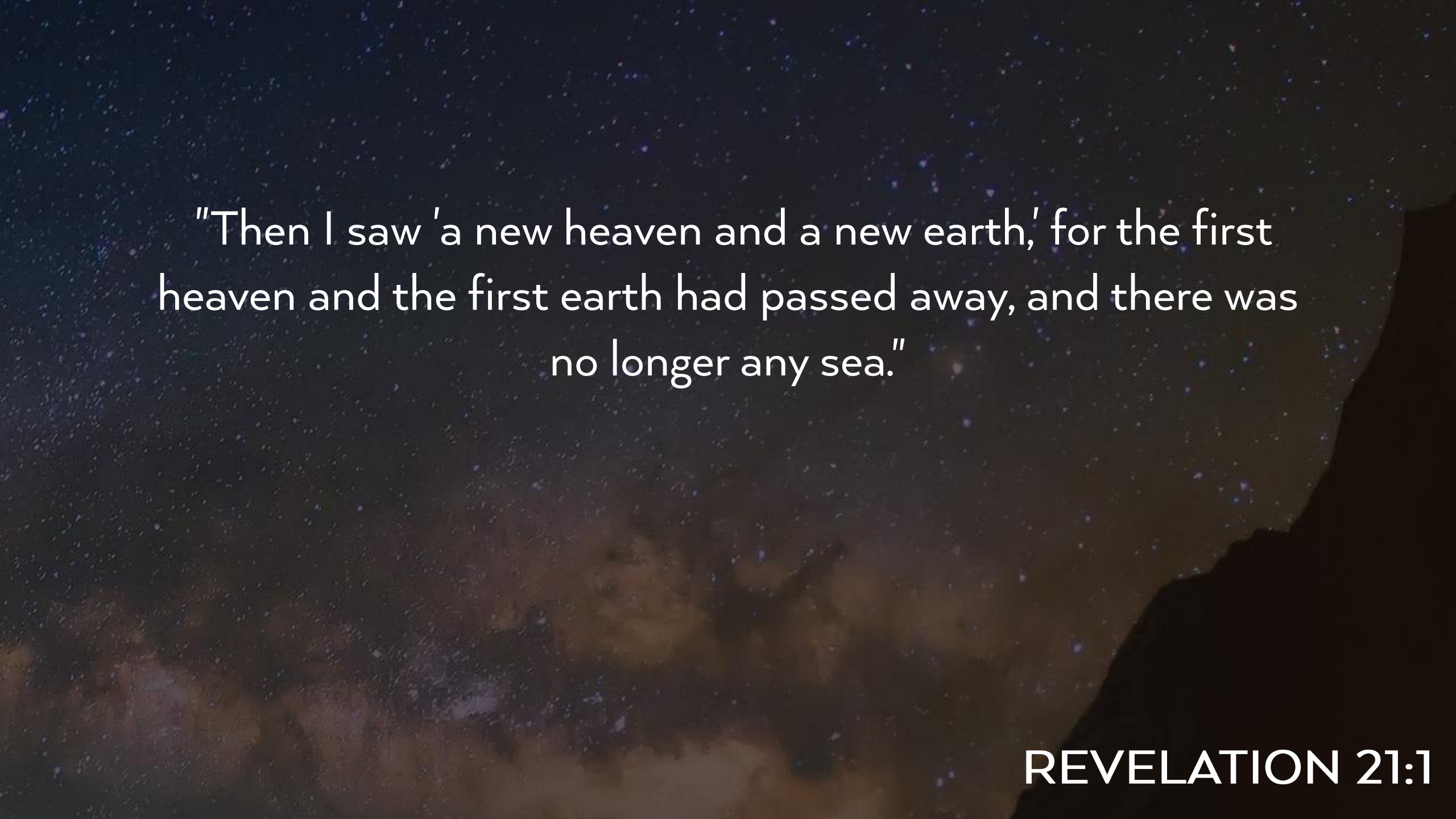
But why? Why are there natural disasters in creation in response to moral failures in man? Why not just simple death for all the guilty offspring of Adam? Why this bloody kaleidoscope of horrific suffering century after century? Why so many children with heart-wrenching disabilities? My answer is that God put the natural world under a curse so that the physical horrors we see around us in diseases and calamities would become vivid pictures of how horrible sin is. In other words, natural evil is a signpost pointing to the unspeakable horror of moral evil."

JOHN PIPER

The background of the image is a dark, starry night sky. In the lower right corner, there is a dark silhouette of a mountain range. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

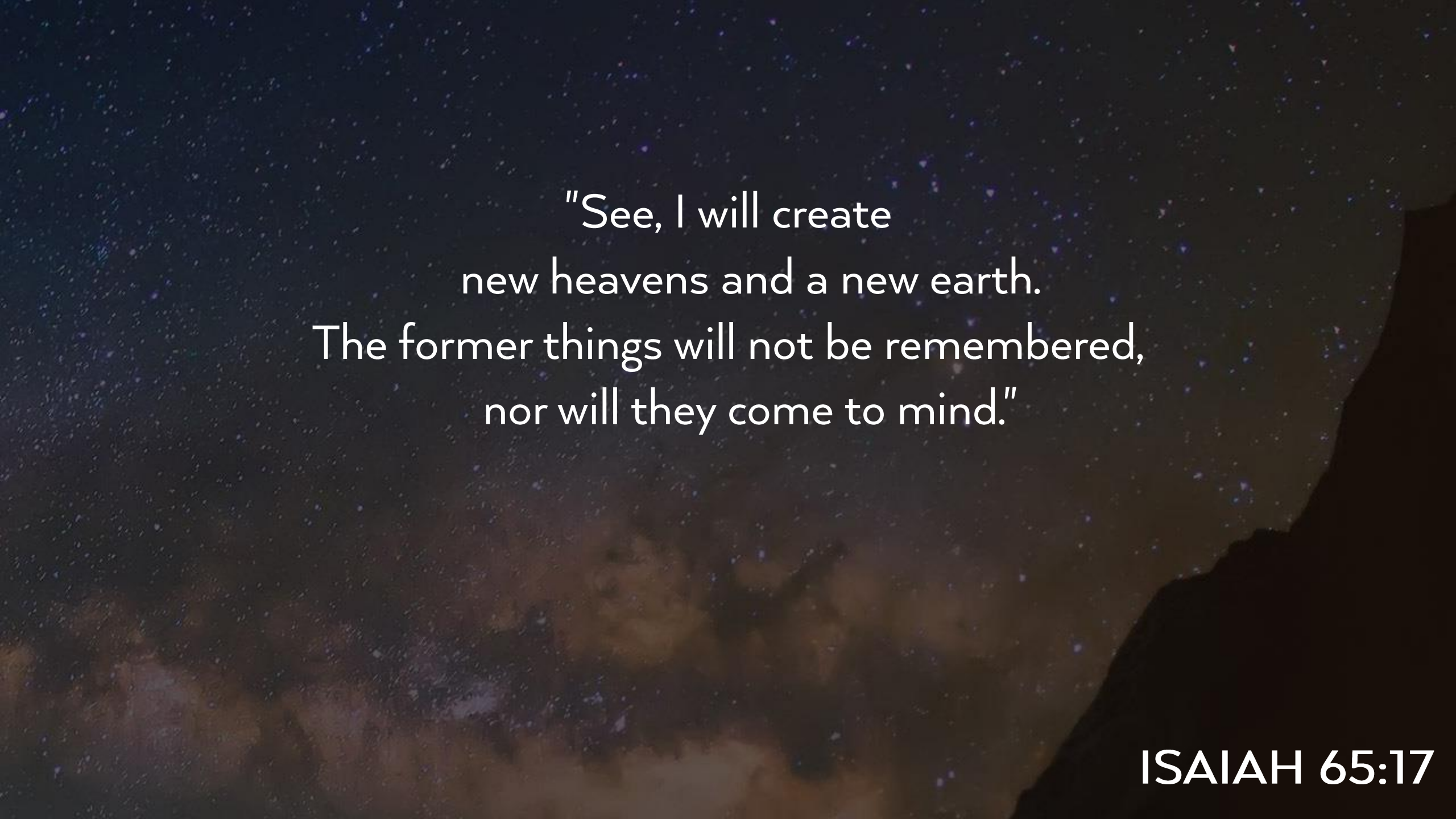
"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare."

II PETER 3:10

A starry night sky with a dark silhouette of a mountain range in the foreground. The stars are scattered across the dark blue and black expanse, with some appearing as bright white dots and others as faint, colorful specks. The mountain range is dark and jagged, occupying the lower right portion of the frame.

"Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."

REVELATION 21:1



"See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind."

ISAIAH 65:17

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

REVELATION 21:4



God's LIFTING
of the CURSE



God's PRESENCE
with US



Our NEW HOME in a NEW CITY...
the DESCRIPTION of NEW JERUSALEM

"It's NOT the STREETS of GOLD, JASPER WALLS, and
PEARLY GATES that make HEAVEN ATTRACTIVE,
it is the PRESENCE of GOD!"

D.L. MOODY

