



ABRAHAM

*father of the faithful*







**This is me December 1.**



**This is me December 31...**



# INVISIBLE GRACE

GENESIS 21:1-21

Unmet Expectations:

10. We'll have personal helicopters.

Unmet Expectations:

9. We'll live in flying houses.



Unmet Expectations:

8. Mail will be sent via rocket.





Unmet Expectations:

7. We will have both telepathy  
and teleportation.



Unmet Expectations:

6. Eating will no longer be necessary.



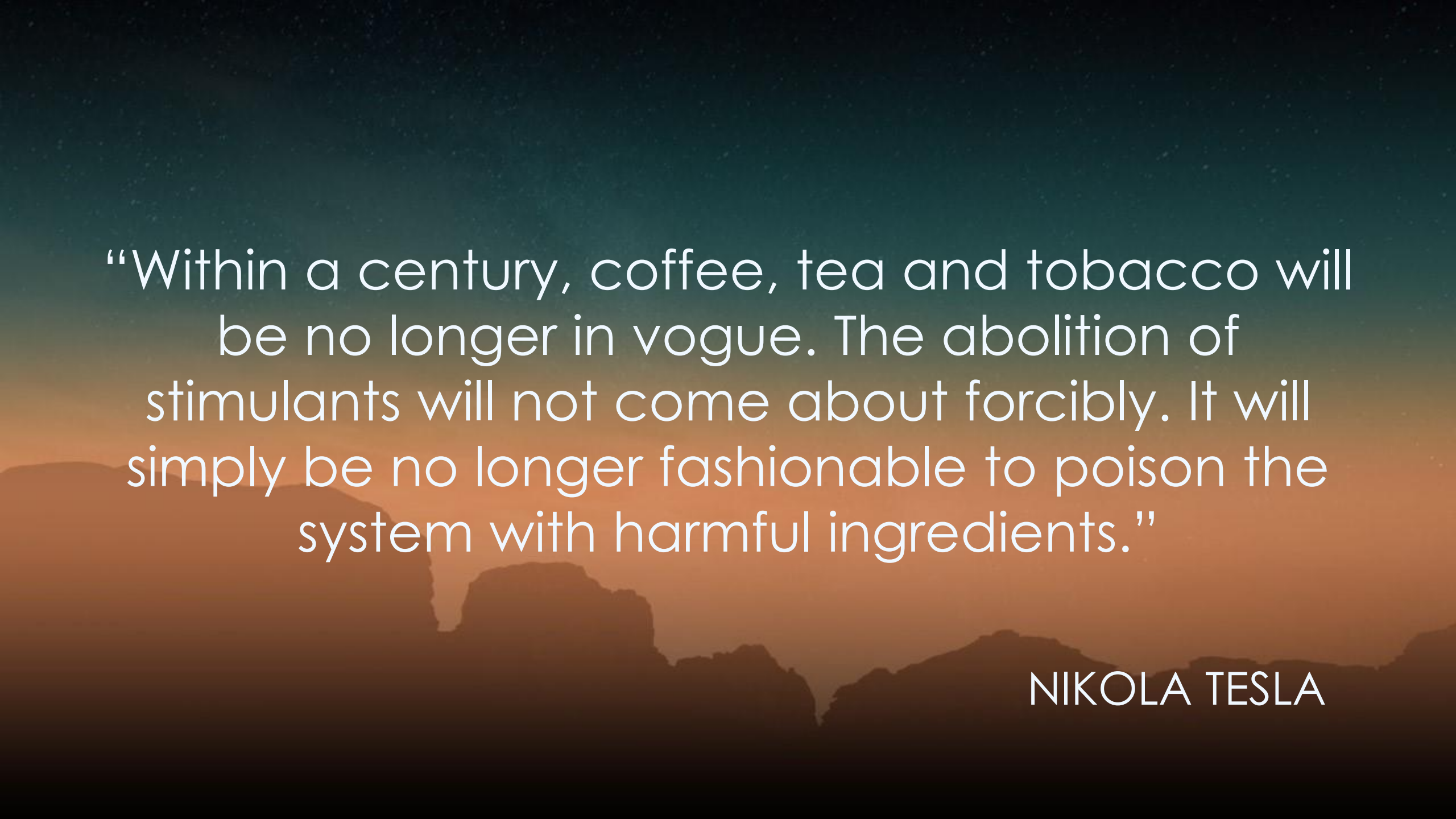
Unmet Expectations:

5. Everyone will be a vegetarian.



Unmet Expectations:

4. Everyone will stop drinking coffee and tea.



“Within a century, coffee, tea and tobacco will be no longer in vogue. The abolition of stimulants will not come about forcibly. It will simply be no longer fashionable to poison the system with harmful ingredients.”

NIKOLA TESLA



Unmet Expectations:

3. We'll have robots as therapists.



Unmet Expectations:

2. Nobody will work,  
and everyone will be rich.

# Unmet Expectations:

1. Women will all be built like wrestlers.


"The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him...



Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. And Sarah said, 'God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.' And she said, 'Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.'"

GENESIS 21:1-7

The background of the image is a gradient of colors from a sunset or sunrise. The top half is a dark, deep blue or teal, speckled with small white dots representing stars. The bottom half is a warm, orange-brown glow. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of jagged mountains or hills are visible against the orange light.

Hope makes us vulnerable.

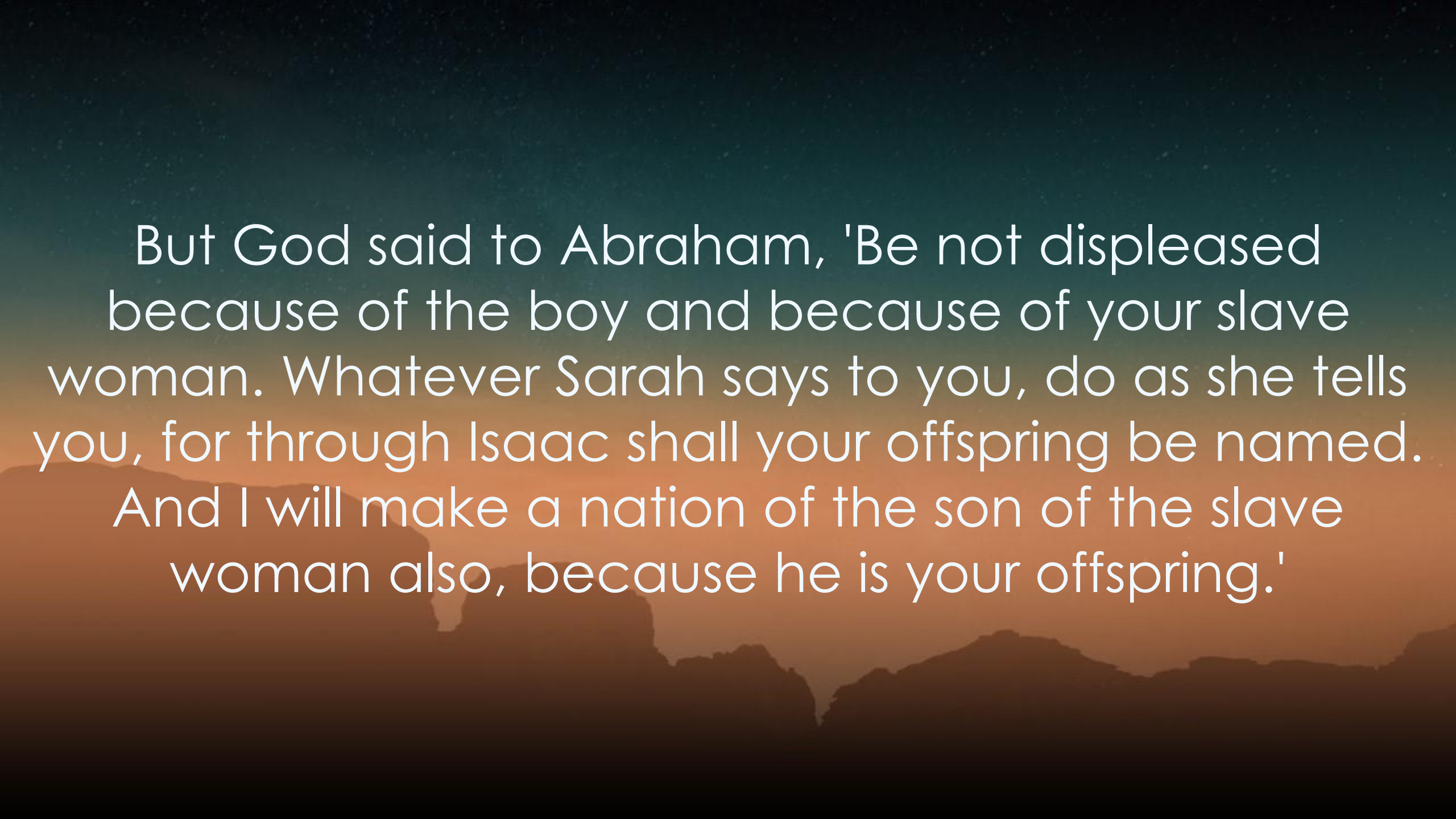


Does our prayer life reveal we  
aren't afraid to hope?

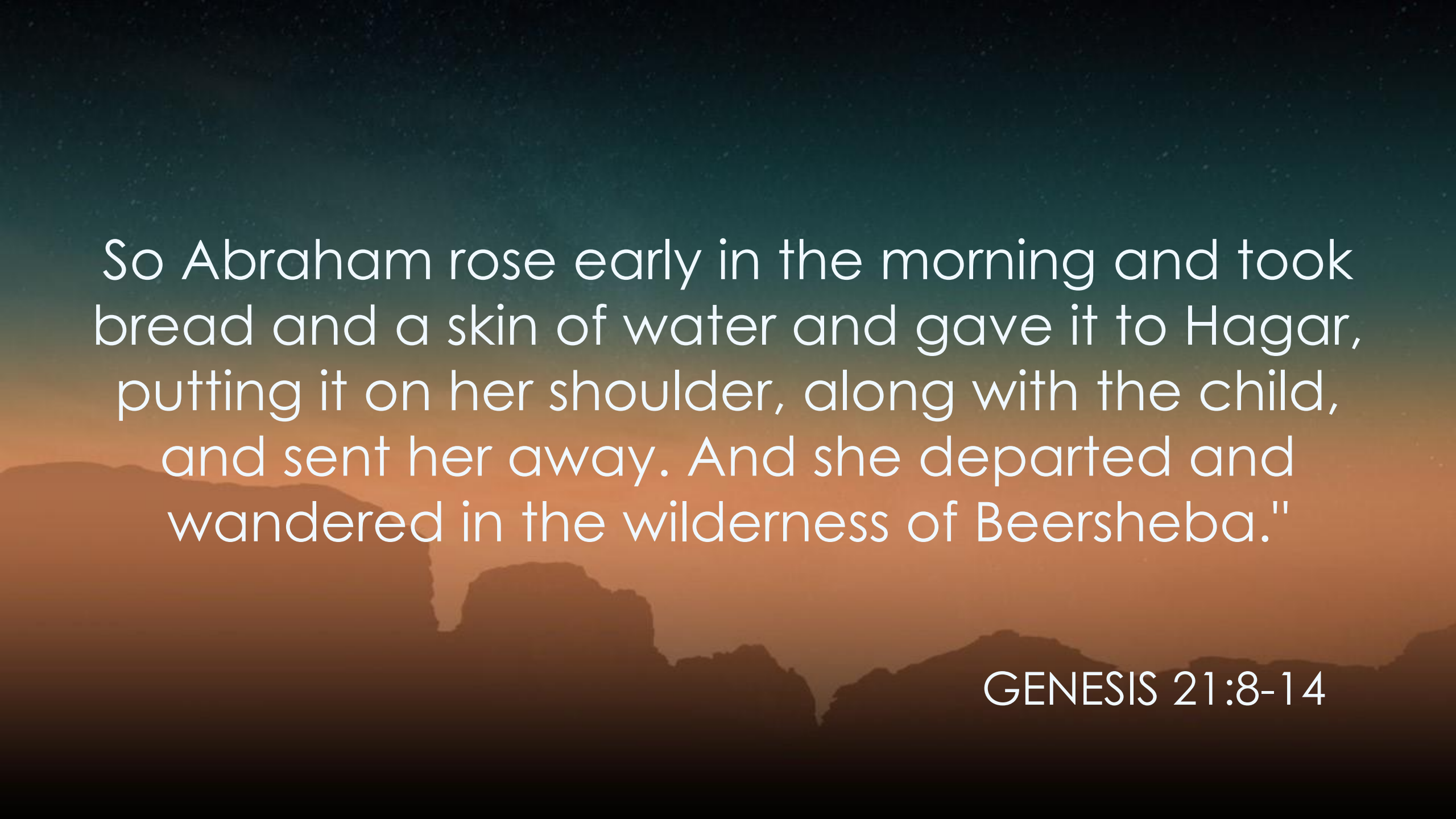
Will our lives reflect the reality  
that God keeps His word?



"And the child grew and was weaned.  
And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac." And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son...



But God said to Abraham, 'Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.'



So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba."

GENESIS 21:8-14



Sometimes God's grace operates  
in ways we cannot see.

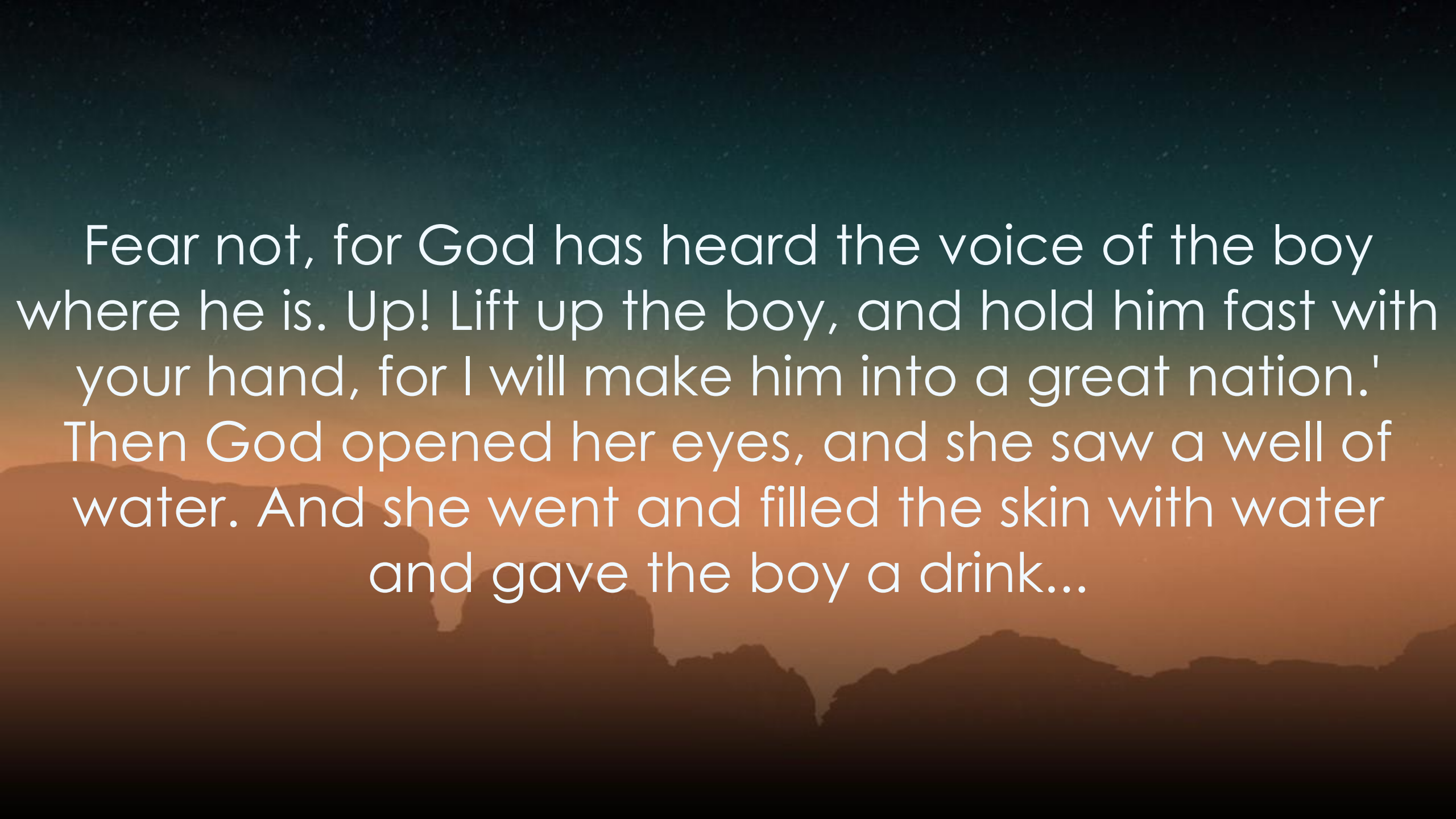




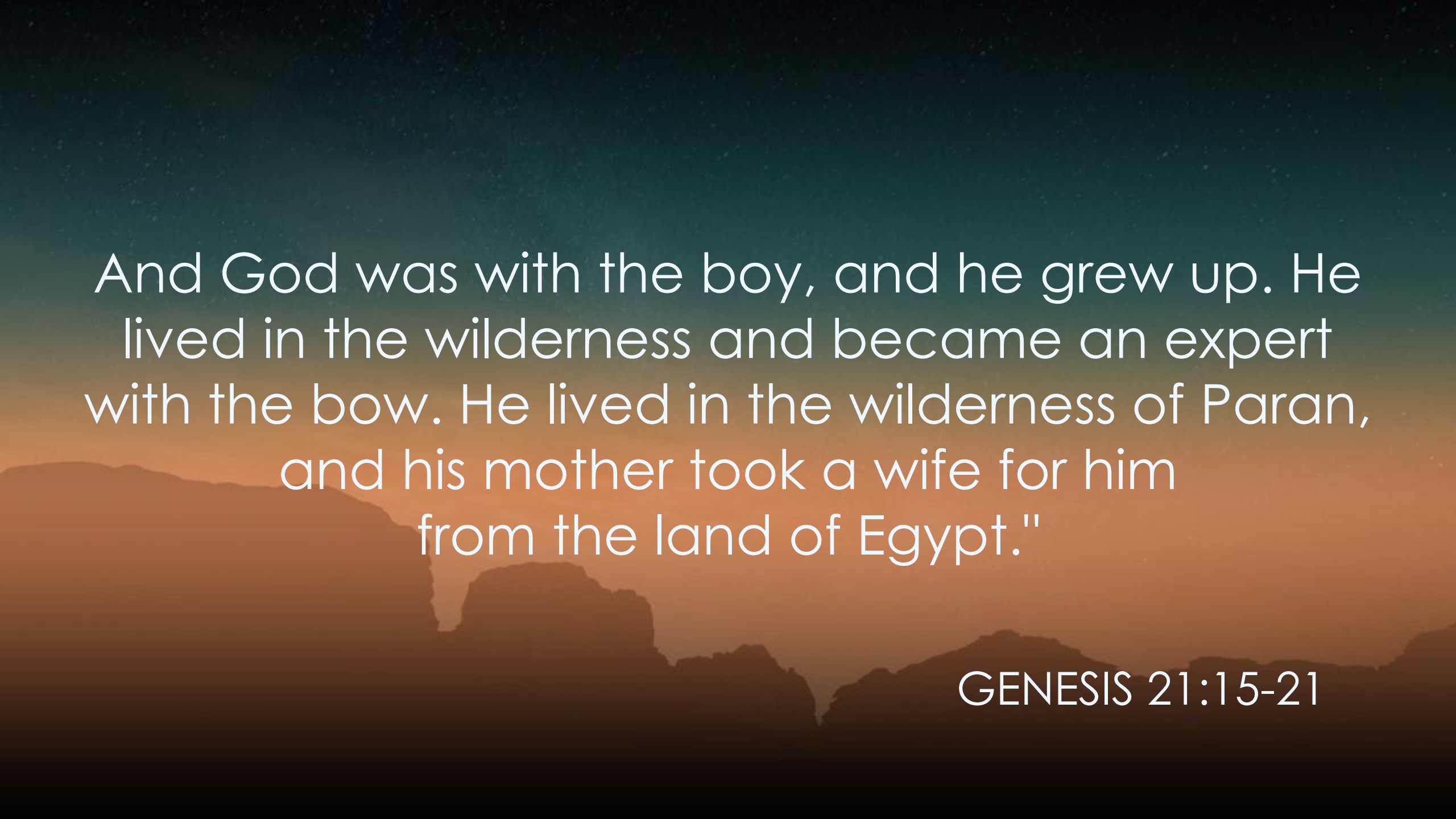
"God was taking up the tangled threads of His servant's life, weaving them into his own divine pattern, and overruling everything for good."

GRIFFITH THOMAS

"When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, 'Let me not look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar?...



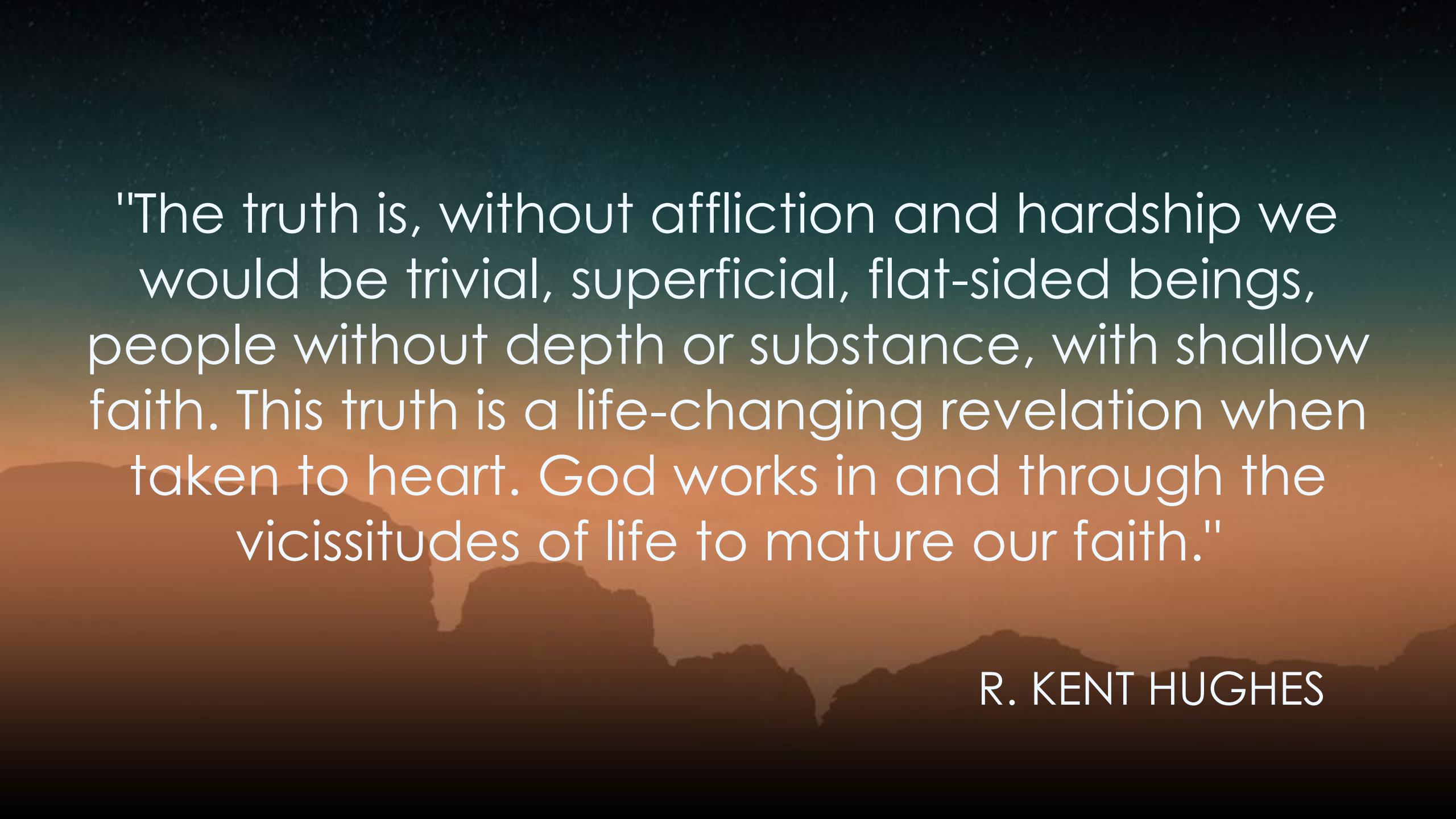
Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.' Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink...

The background of the image is a scenic landscape during sunset or sunrise. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon. Silhouetted mountains and hills are visible in the foreground and middle ground, adding depth to the scene. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt."

GENESIS 21:15-21





"The truth is, without affliction and hardship we would be trivial, superficial, flat-sided beings, people without depth or substance, with shallow faith. This truth is a life-changing revelation when taken to heart. God works in and through the vicissitudes of life to mature our faith."

R. KENT HUGHES