



# In the Bleak Midwinter

## Acts 1:6-11

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them,

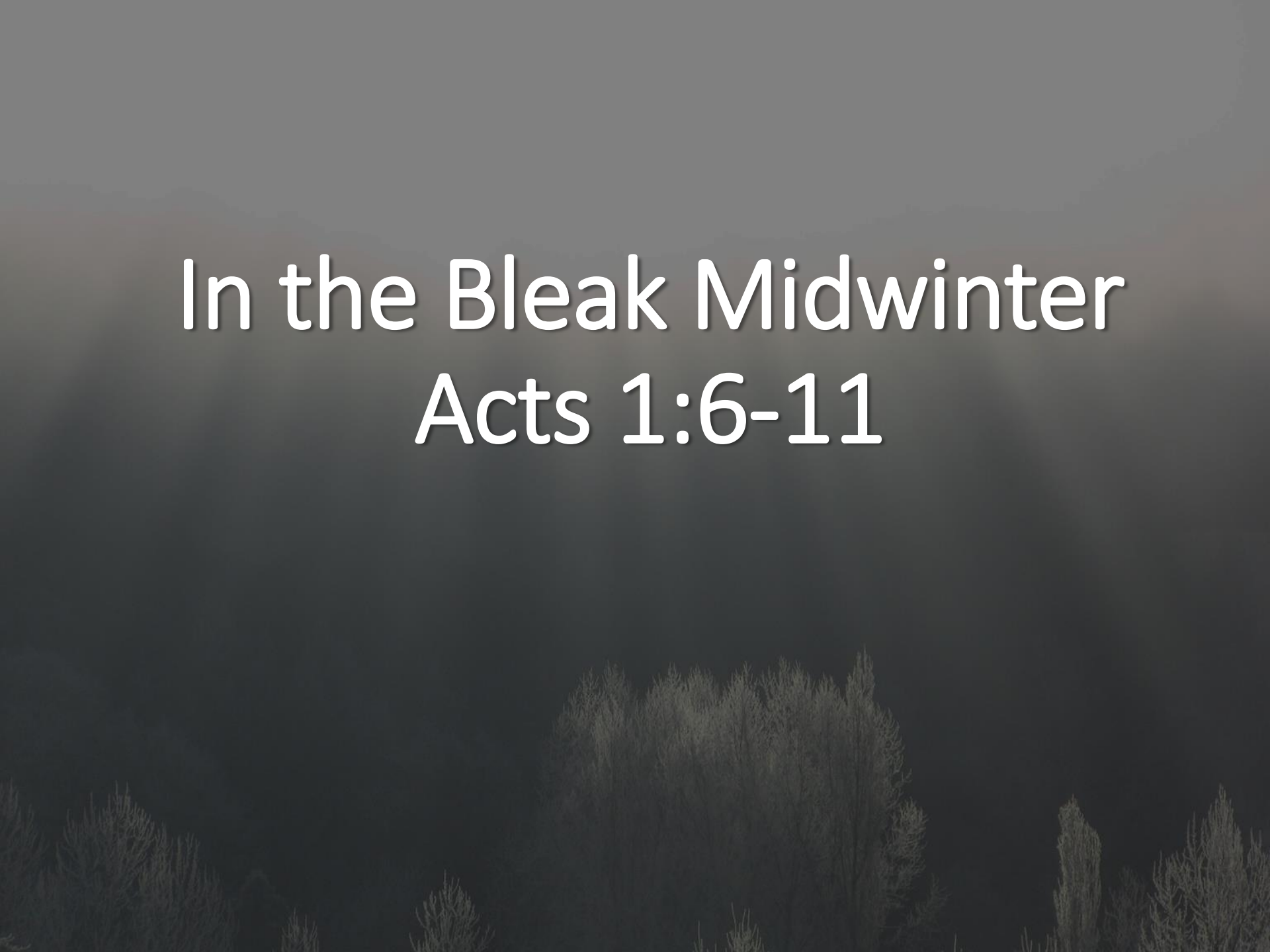
“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said,

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:6-11



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Acts 1:6-11

# I. Expectations altered. (vs.6-9)



And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new *in the kingdom of God.*”

Mark 14:23-25



# Ezekiel 37



I. Expectations altered. (vs.6-9)

II. The bigger picture. (vs.10-11)

And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.



And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. **And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.**

Luke 24:50-53

1. We do not have the full picture.











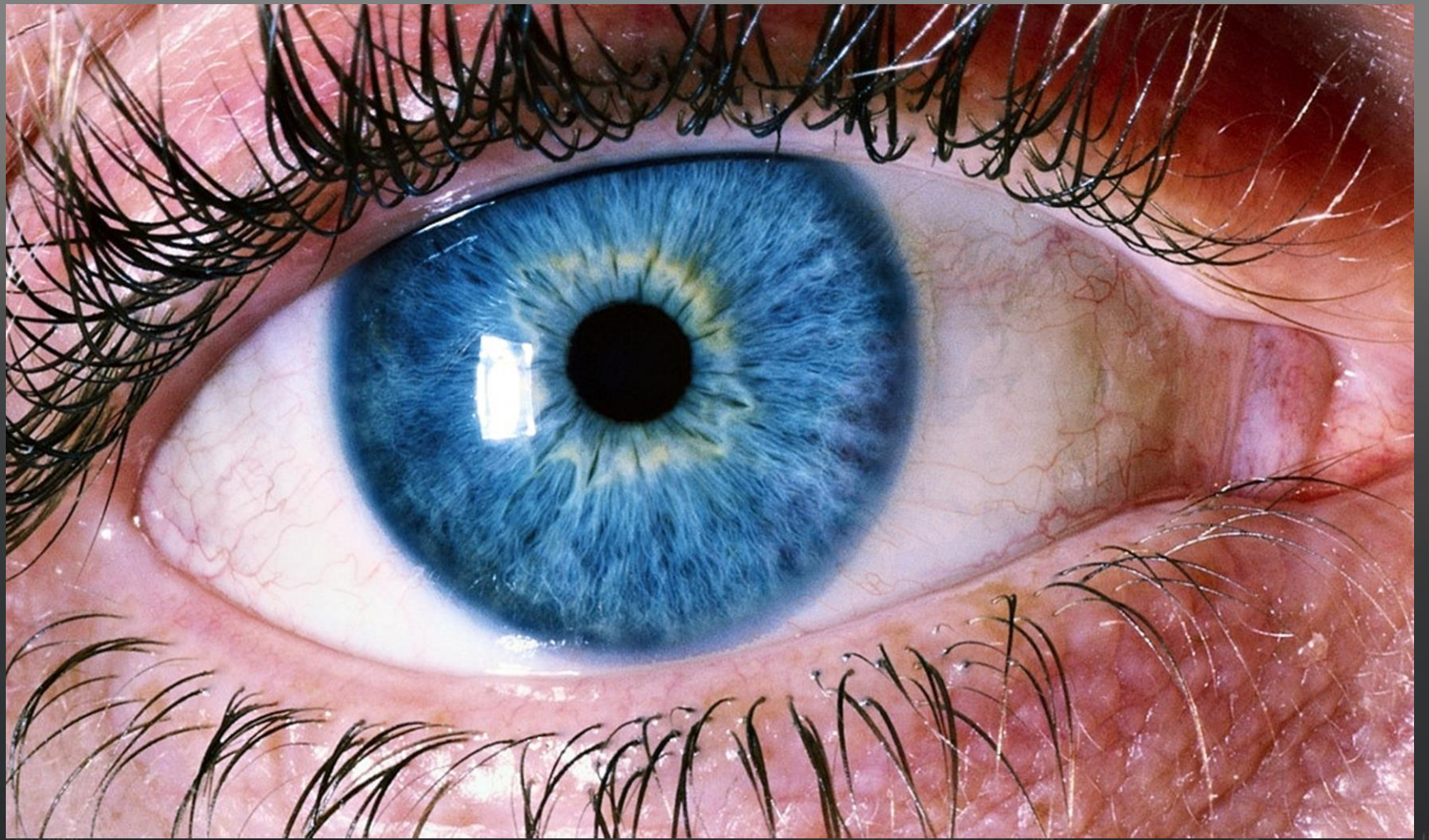










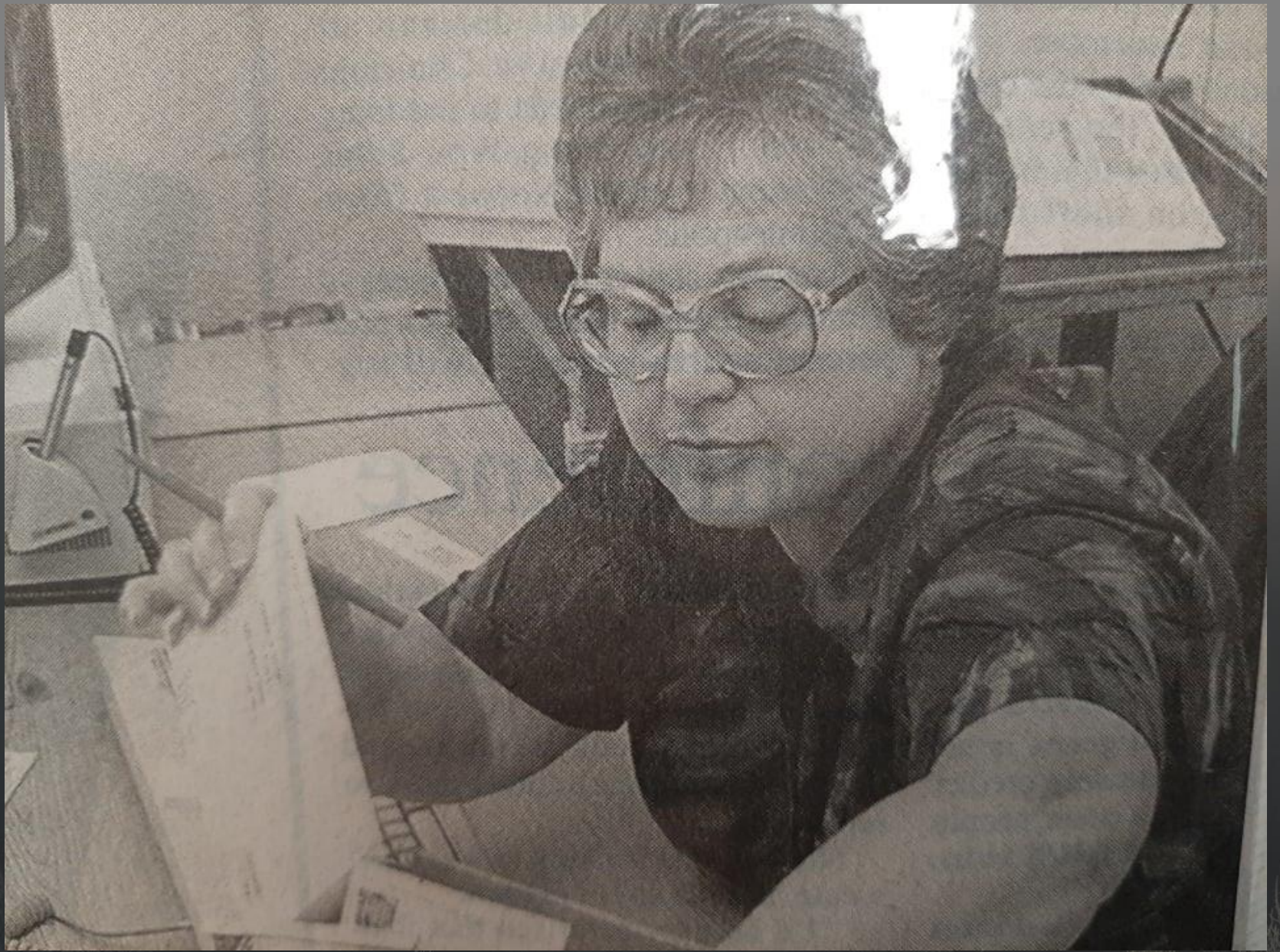












1. We do not have the full picture.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?  
And not one of them will fall to the  
ground apart from your Father. But even  
the hairs of your head are all numbered.  
Fear not, therefore; you are of more  
value than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:29-31

For you formed my  
inward parts;  
you knitted me together in  
my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully  
and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.



My frame was not  
hidden from you,  
when I was being made  
in secret,  
intricately woven in the  
depths of the earth.





Your eyes saw my  
unformed substance;  
in your book were written,  
every one of them,  
the days that were formed  
for me,  
when as yet there was  
none of them.

Psalm 139:13-16



1. We do not have the full picture.

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2. Things are not as bleak as we think.

...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1b-2

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He drew me up from the pit of destruction,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.

Psalm 40:1-2

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1. We do not have the full picture.
2. Things are not as bleak as we think.
3. Remember the truths in God's Word.

# Job chapter 28





William Cowper  
“God moves in a  
mysterious way”



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*Acts 1:6-11*

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