

The background of the image is a photograph of a stone wall. The wall is constructed from irregular, light-colored stones with some darker patches and mortar. On the left side of the image, the wall and the area in front of it are in deep shadow, appearing almost black. On the right side, the wall is brightly lit, showing the texture of the stones and the mortar. The lighting creates a strong contrast between the dark and light areas.

What shall we do?

Nehemiah 8:1-18



UMPUA RIVER, ROSEBURG ORE.



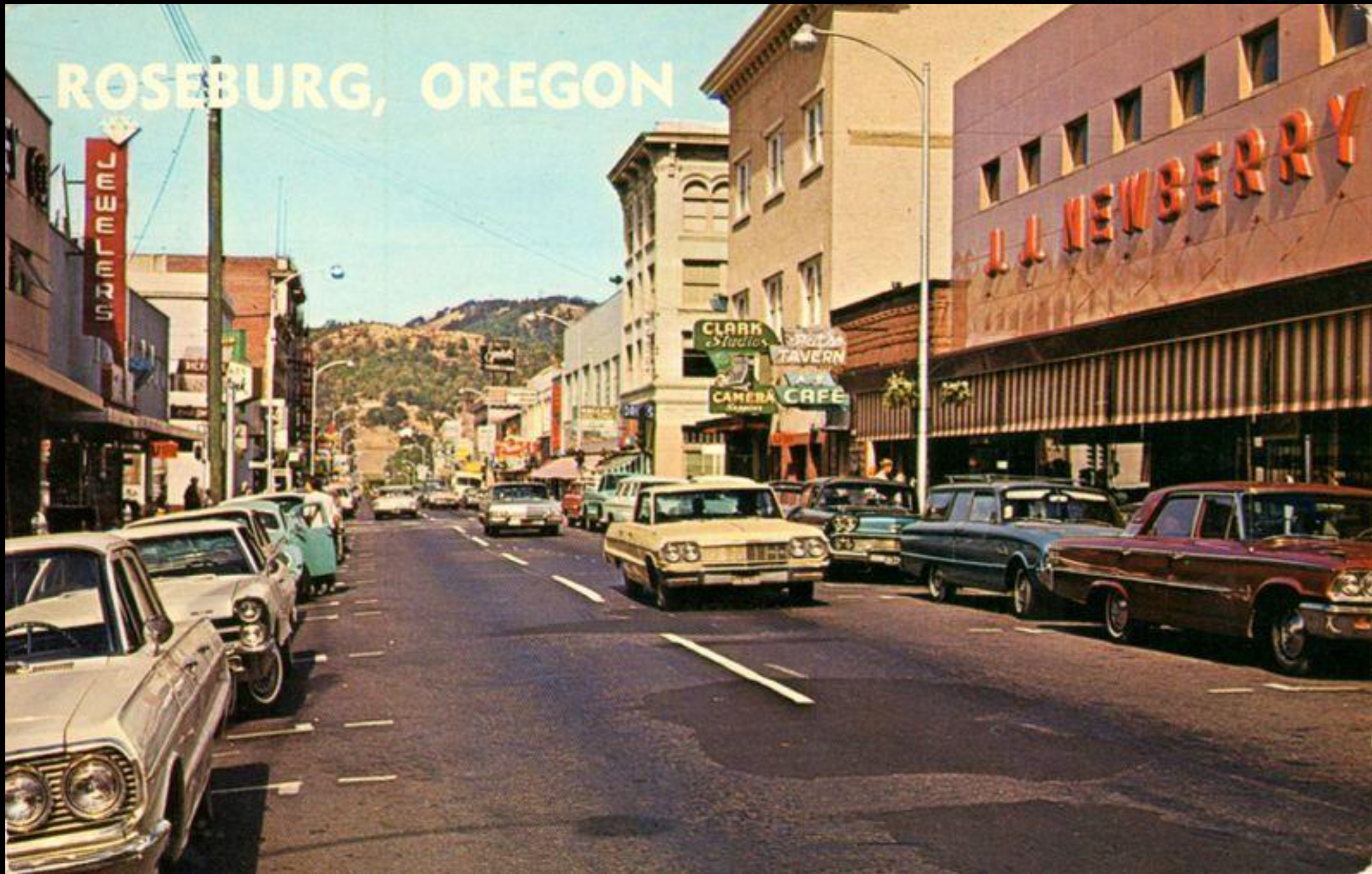


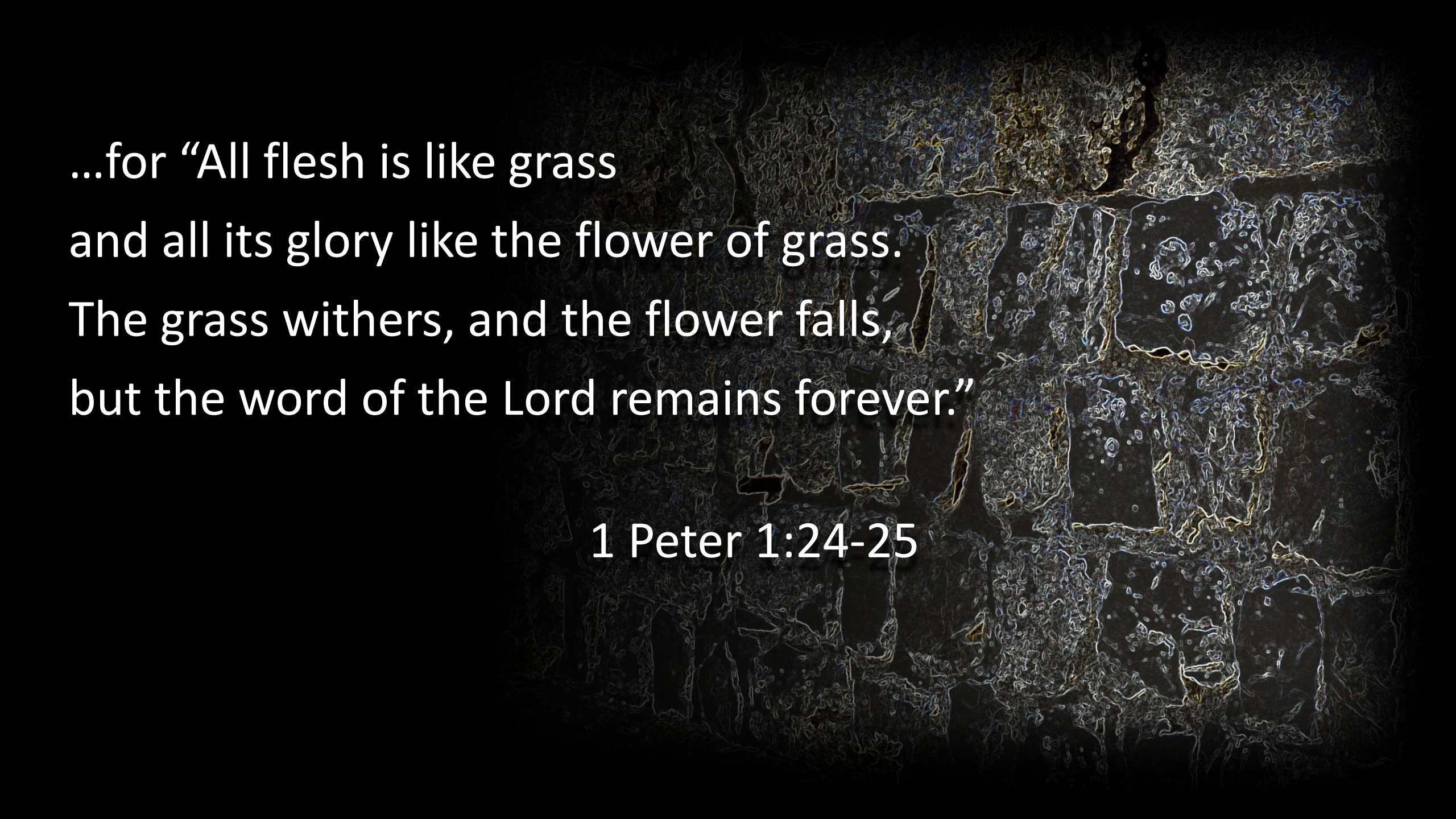
MERCY HOSPITAL, ROSEBURG, ORE. 32 N

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ROSEBURG, OREGON






...for “All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers, and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

1 Peter 1:24-25



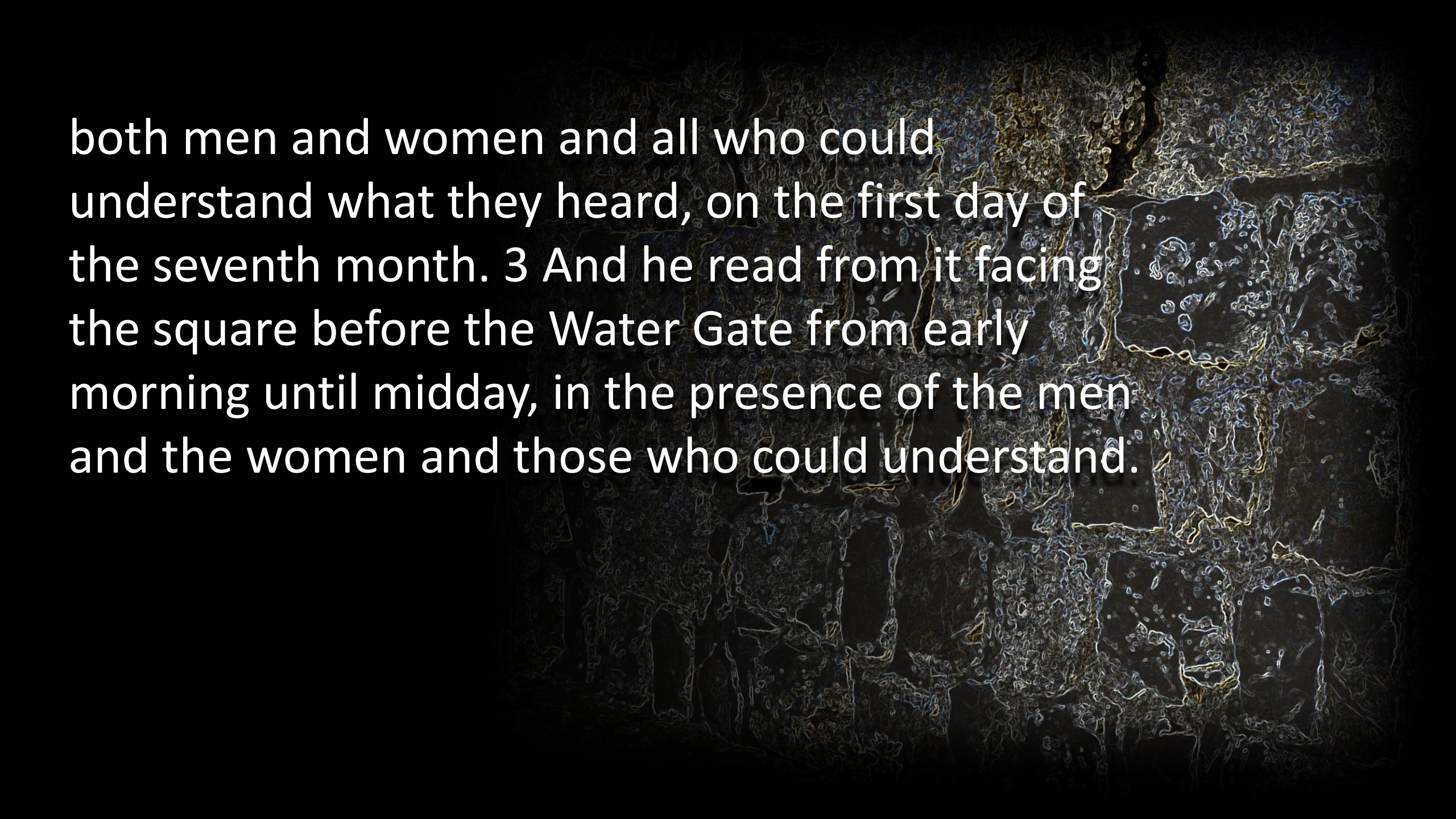
Nehemiah 7:73b- 8:12



And when the seventh month had come, the
people of Israel were in their towns.

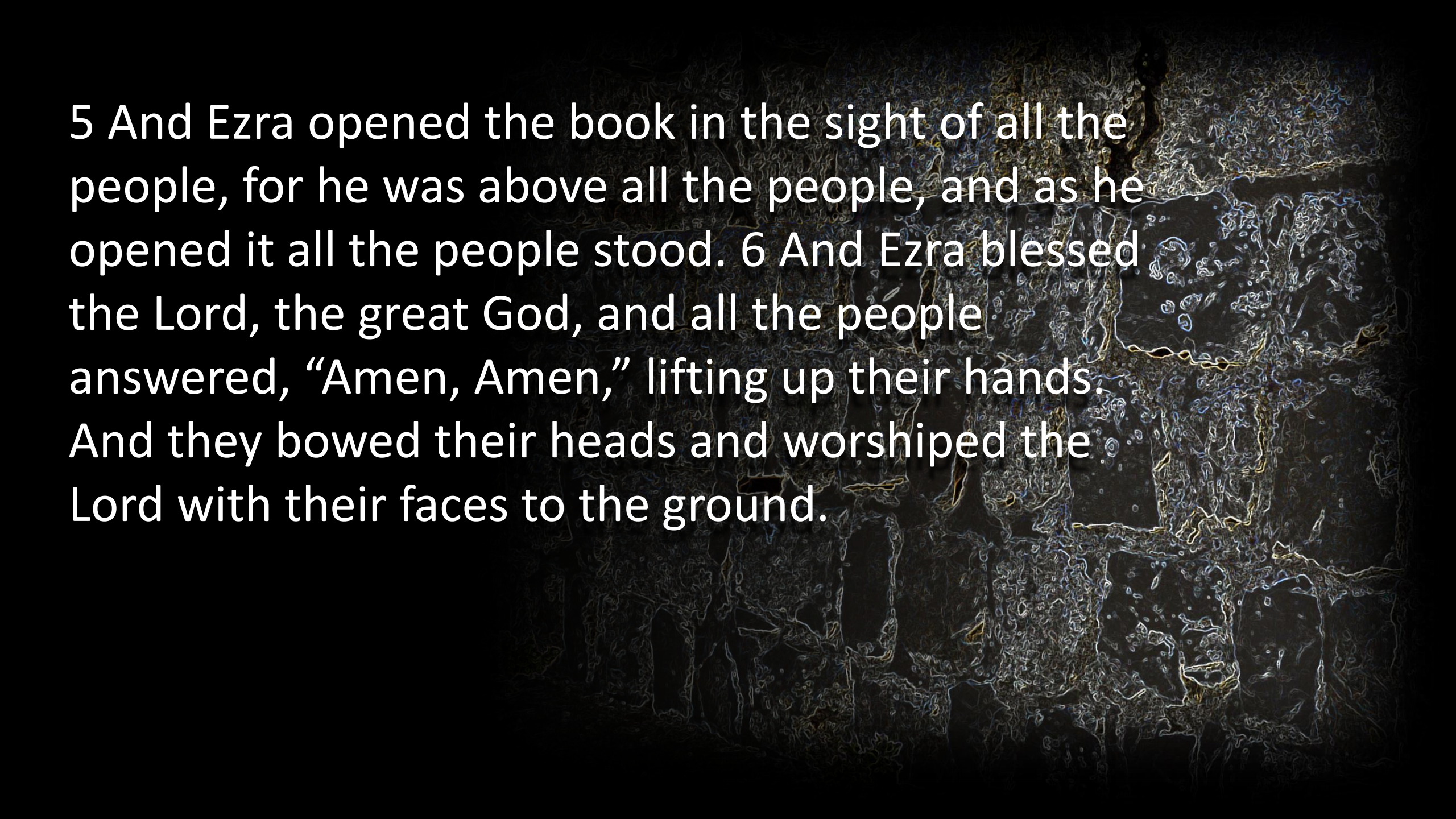
Nehemiah 7:73b- 8:12

1 And all the people gathered as one man
into the square before the Water Gate. And
they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of
the Law of Moses that the Lord had
commanded Israel. 2 So Ezra the priest
brought the Law before the assembly,

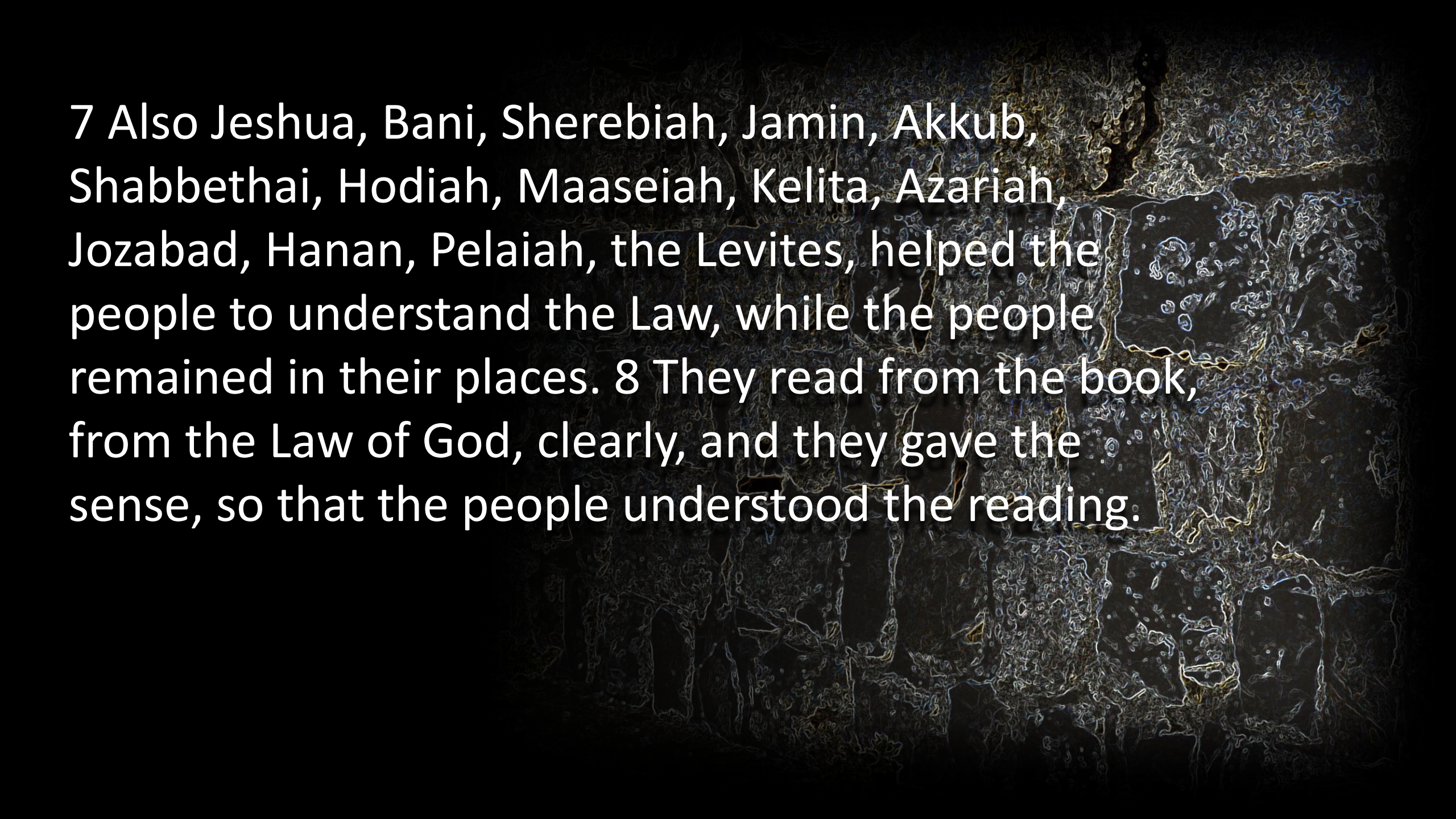


both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. 3 And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand.

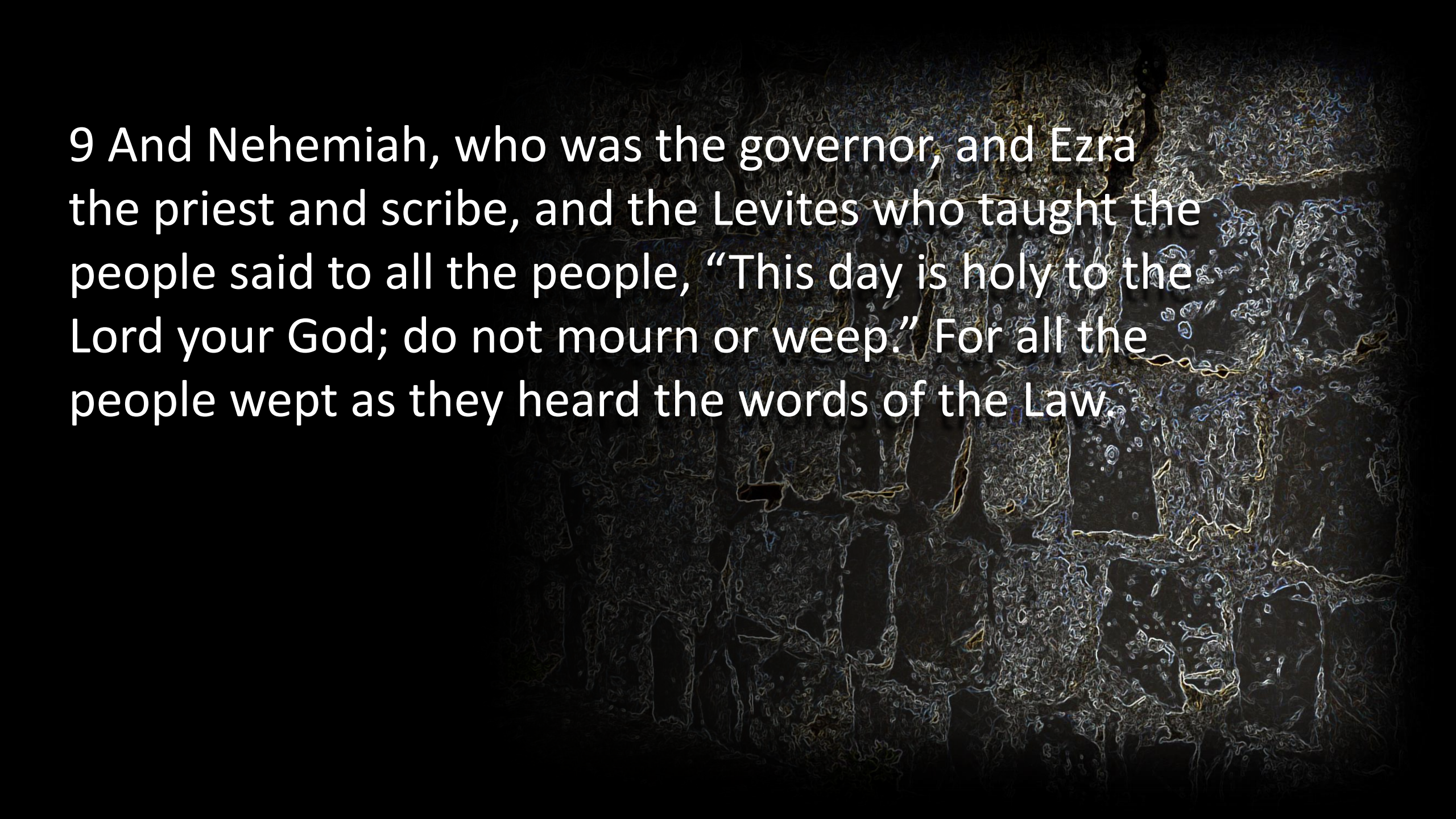
And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. 4 And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishaël, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.



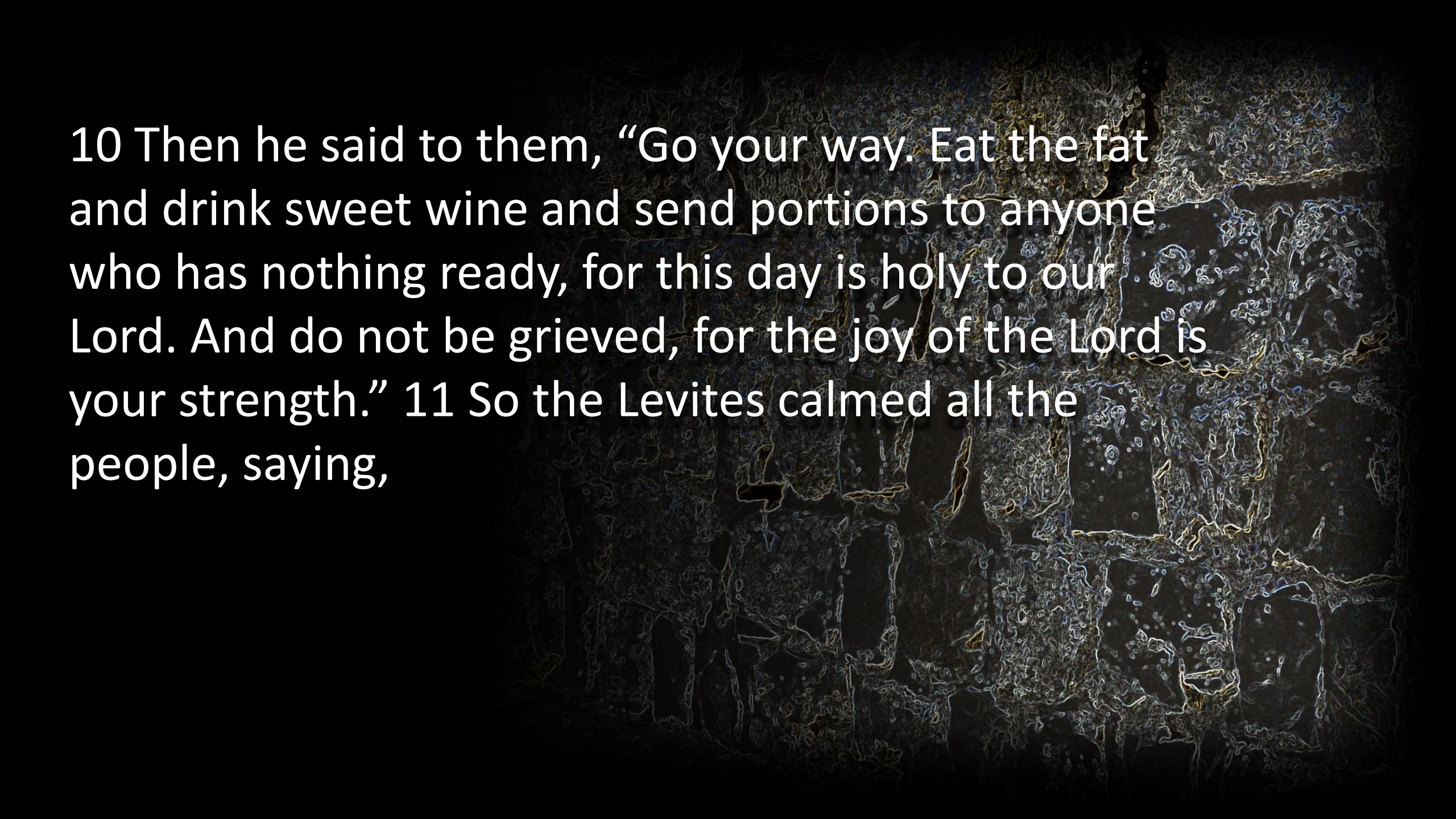
5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.



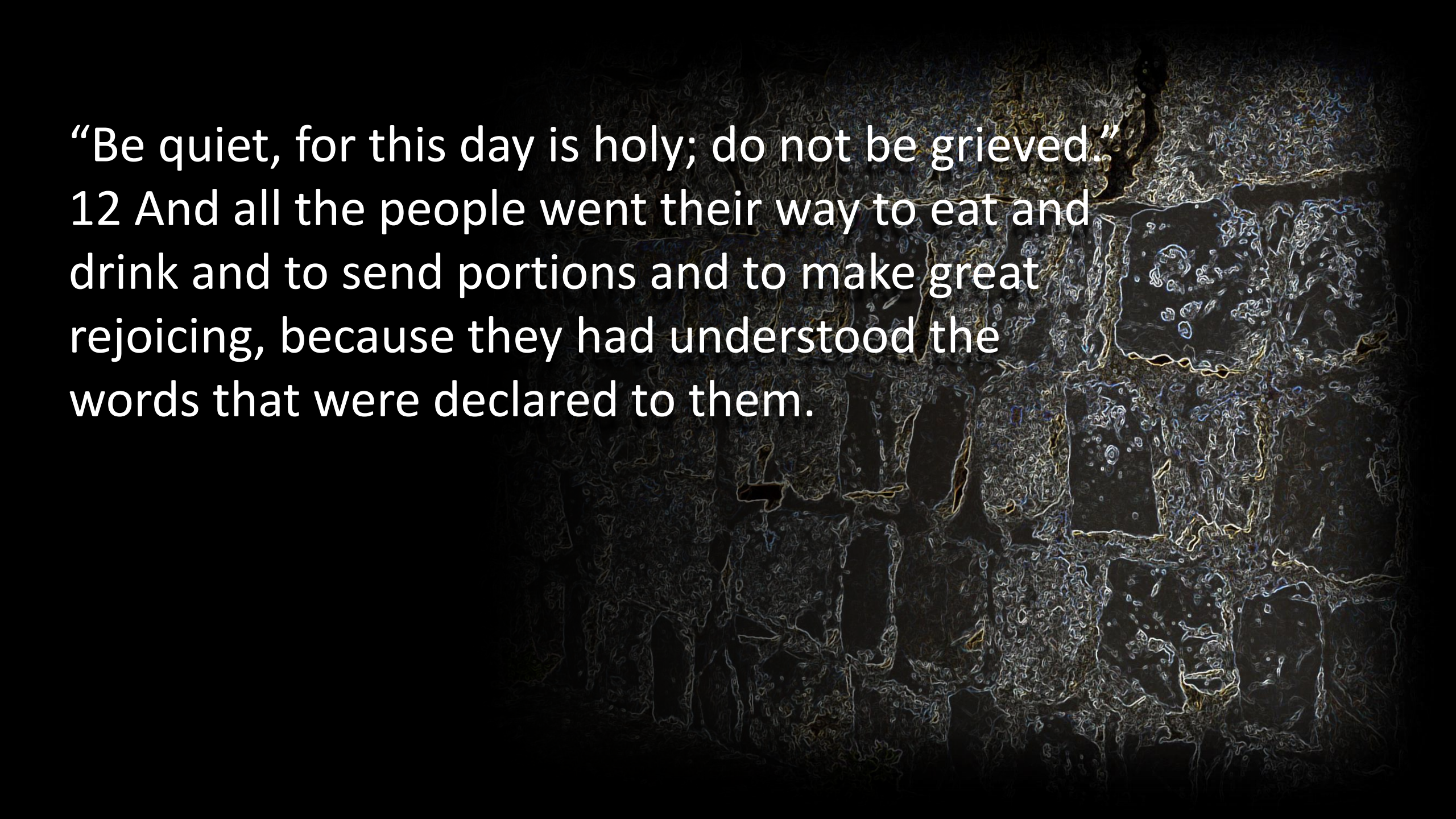
7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. 8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.



9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.



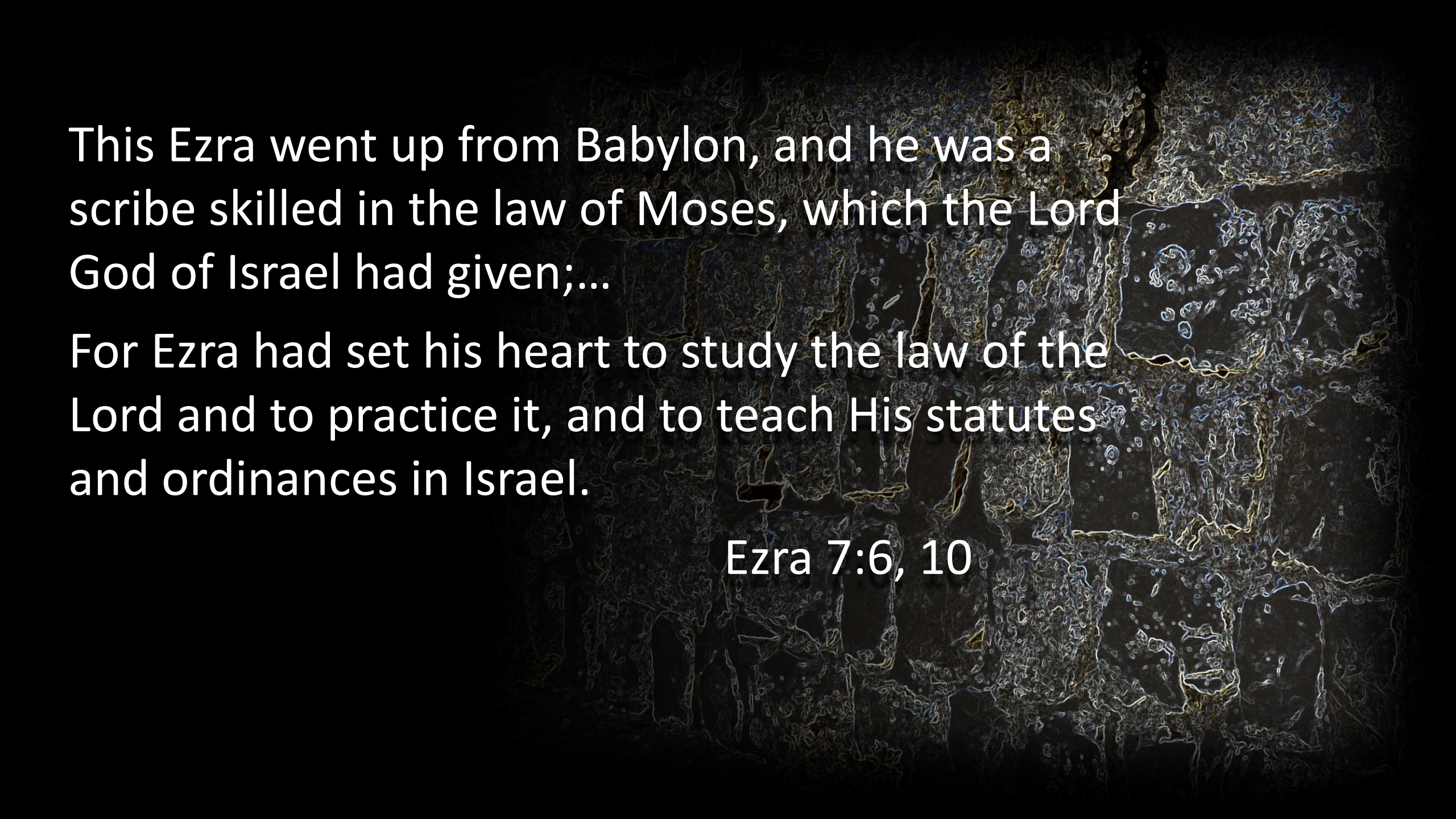
10 Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." 11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying,

The background of the image is a dark, textured field with intricate, glowing patterns of blue and yellow lines. These lines form a complex, web-like structure that resembles a microscopic view of a material or a digital data visualization. The lines are concentrated in the upper right and lower right areas, while the left side is mostly dark.

“Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.”
12 And all the people went their way to eat and
drink and to send portions and to make great
rejoicing, because they had understood the
words that were declared to them.

I. The text is READ.

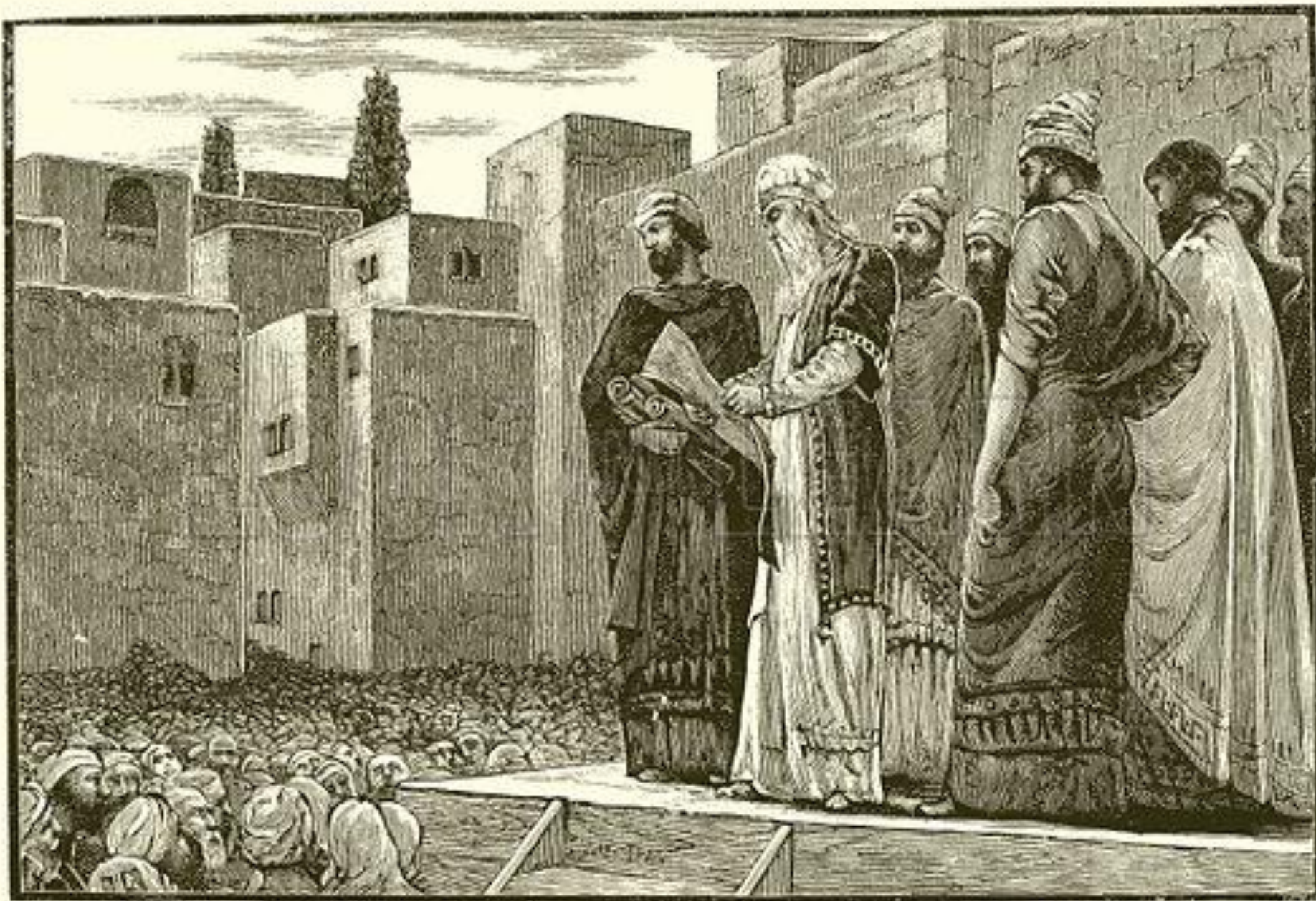




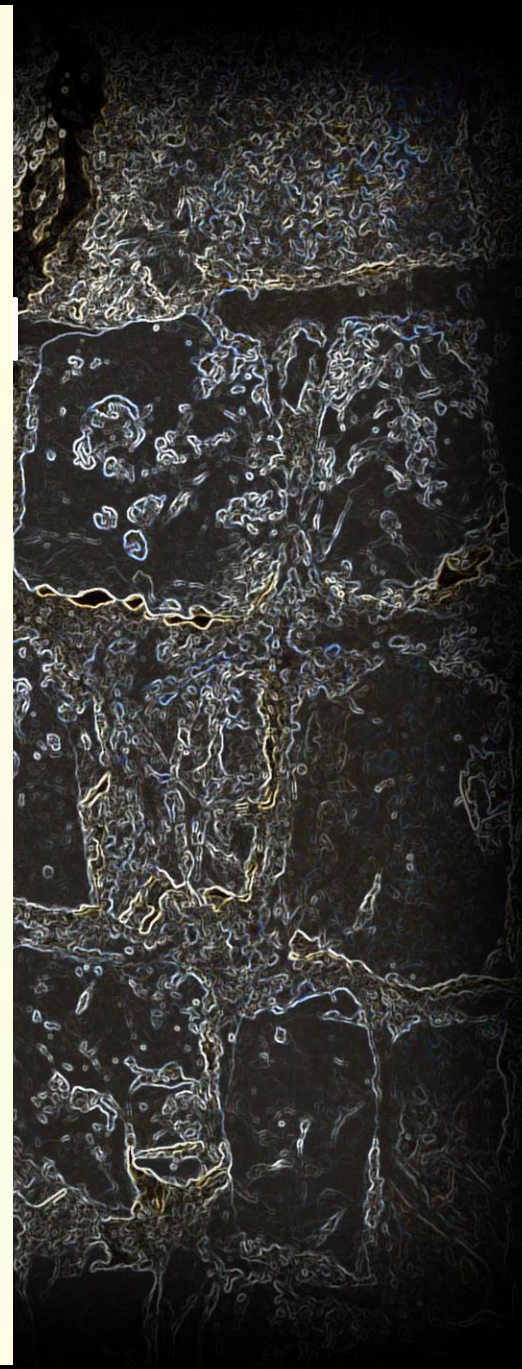
This Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given;...

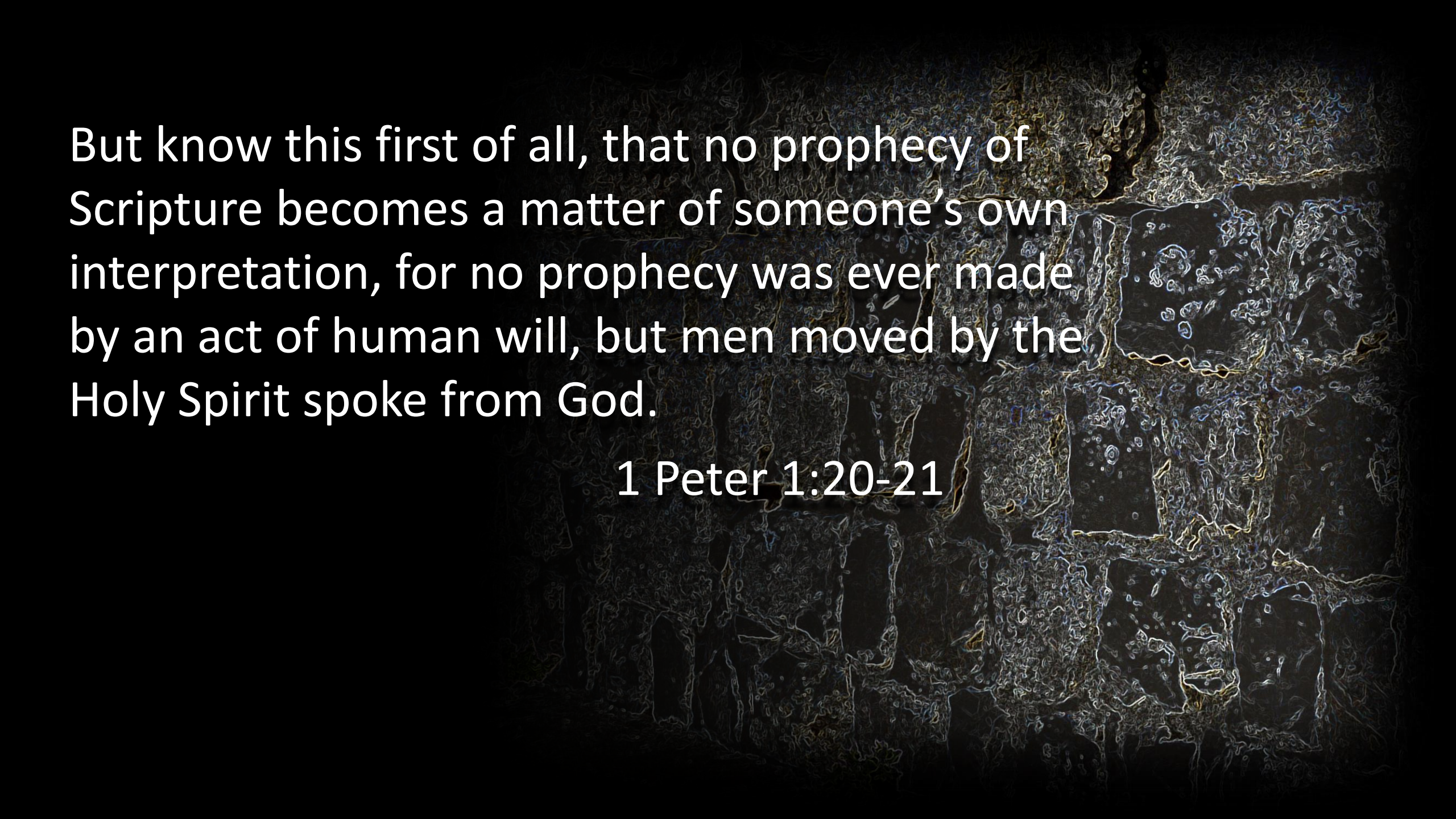
For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.

Ezra 7:6, 10



EZRA READING THE LAW TO THE JEWS.





But know this first of all, that no prophecy of
Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own
interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made
by an act of human will, but men moved by the
Holy Spirit spoke from God.

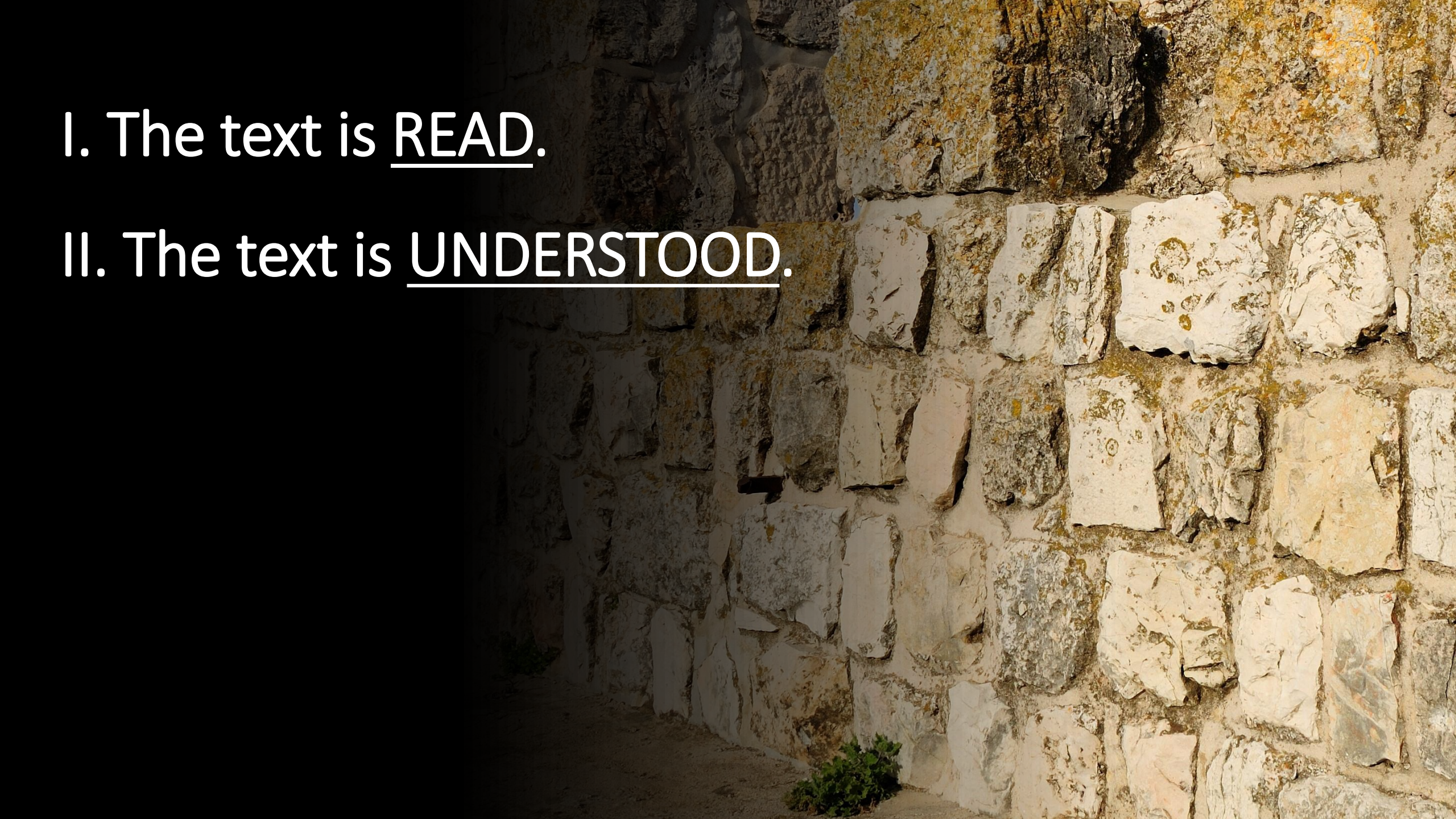
1 Peter 1:20-21

I. The text is READ.



I. The text is READ.

II. The text is UNDERSTOOD.

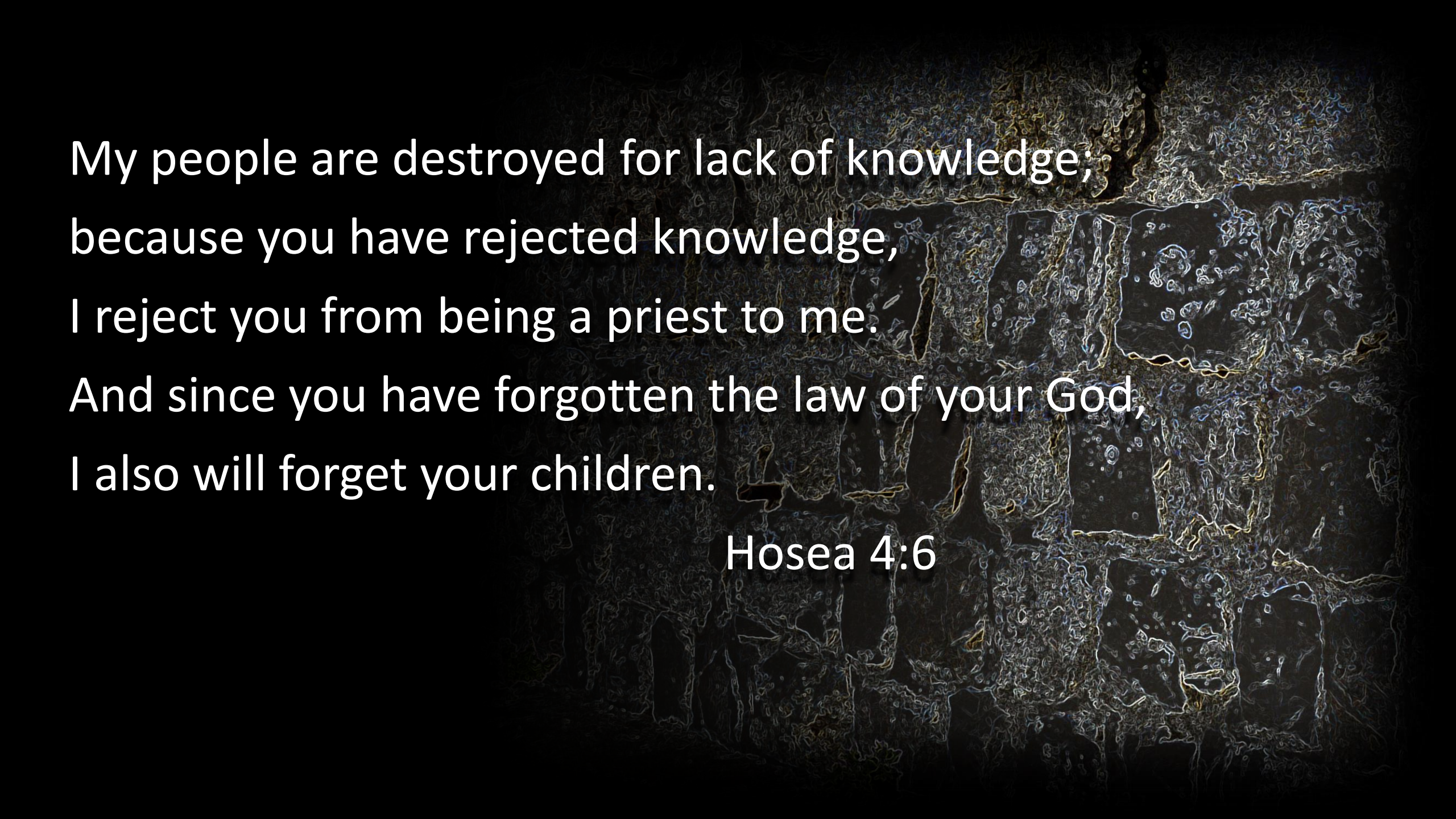


A photograph of a stone wall made of irregular, light-colored stones with some yellowish-brown lichen or moss. On the left side, there is a dark, shadowed opening that appears to be the entrance to a tunnel or a cave. The lighting is dramatic, with the wall being brightly lit and the tunnel entrance being in deep shadow.

I. The text is READ.

II. The text is UNDERSTOOD.

III. Understanding the text GRIPS their heart.



My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;
because you have rejected knowledge,
I reject you from being a priest to me.
And since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

Hosea 4:6

A photograph of a stone wall made of irregular, light-colored stones with some yellowish-brown lichen or moss. On the left side, there is a dark, shadowed opening that appears to be the entrance to a tunnel or a cave. The lighting is dramatic, with the wall being brightly lit and the tunnel entrance being in deep shadow.

I. The text is READ.

II. The text is UNDERSTOOD.

III. Understanding the text GRIPS their heart.

A photograph of a rough, textured stone wall made of irregular, light-colored stones. The wall is illuminated from the right, creating strong shadows on the left side. Overlaid on the left side of the wall is a list of four steps in white text.

I. The text is READ.

II. The text is UNDERSTOOD.

III. Understanding the text GRIPS their heart.

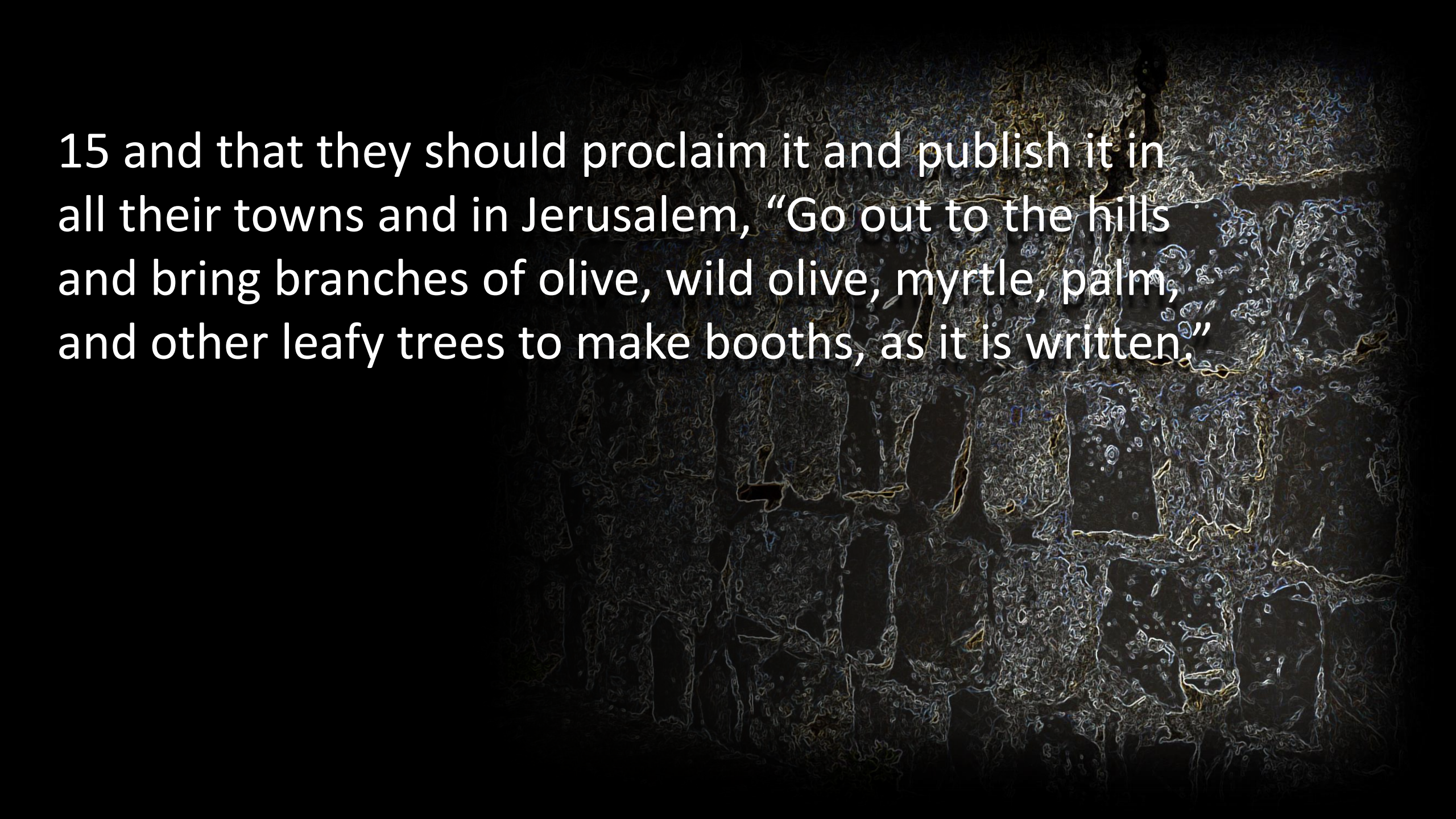
IV. The text is OBEYED.

A photograph of a stone wall, likely part of an ancient structure. The wall is constructed from large, irregular, light-colored stone blocks. To the left of the wall, a dark, narrow tunnel or passage is visible, receding into the distance. The lighting is dramatic, with the wall on the right being brightly lit and the tunnel on the left being in deep shadow. A small green plant is growing at the base of the wall in the lower right corner.

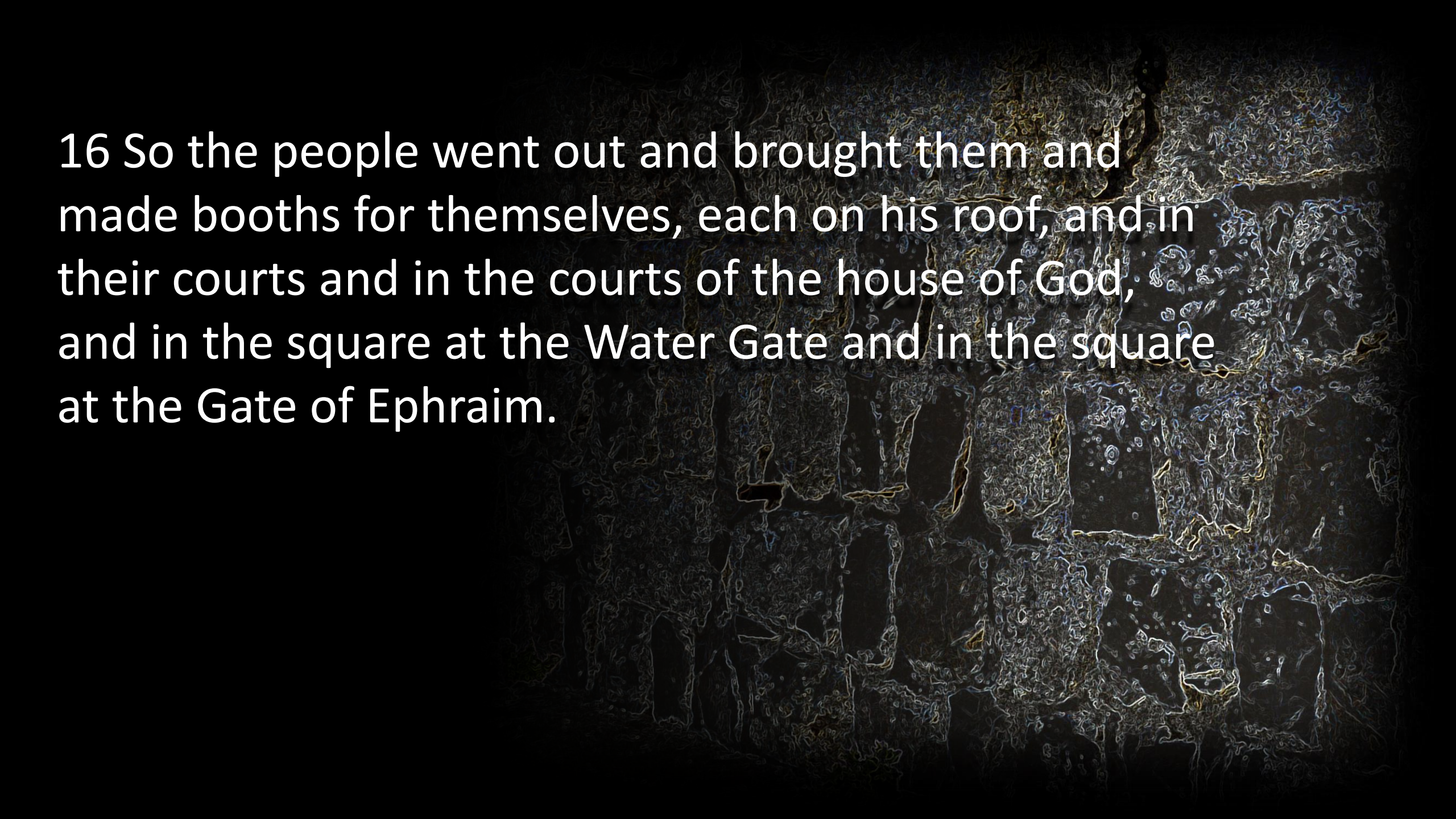
Nehemiah 8:13-18

13 On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law. 14 And they found it written in the Law that the Lord had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month,

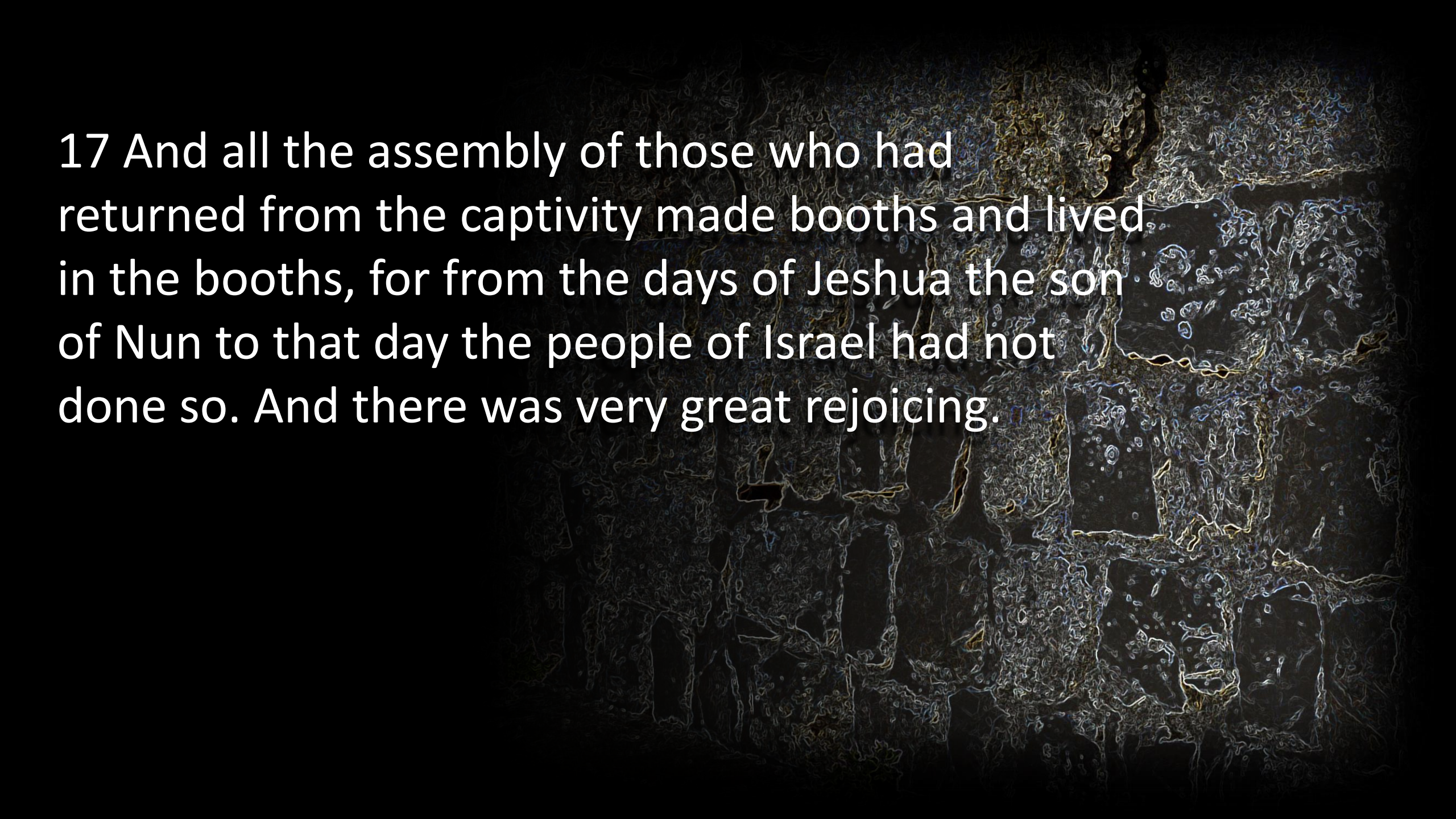
Nehemiah 8:13-18



15 and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, “Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.”



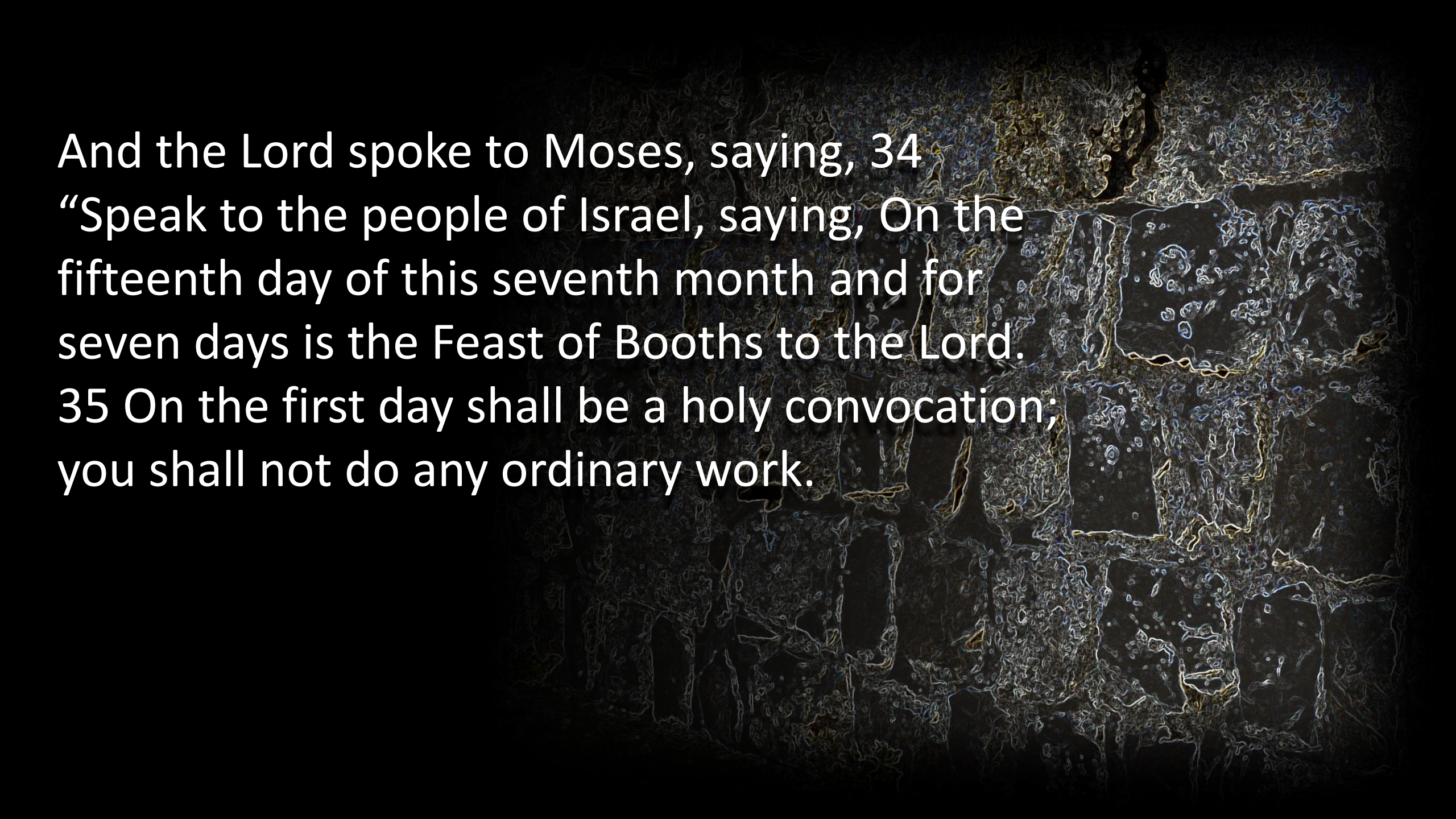
16 So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim.



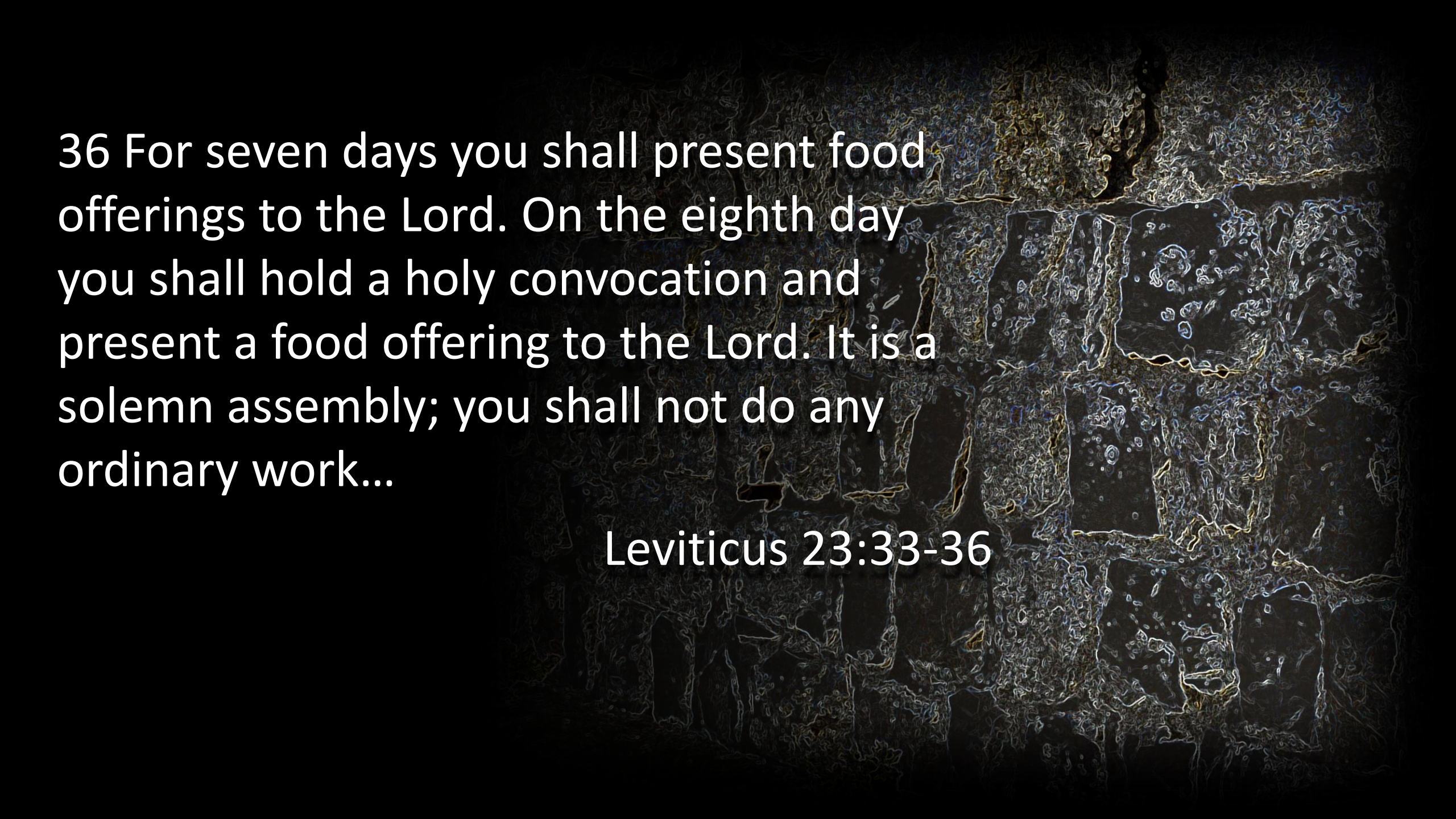
17 And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing.

18 And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.



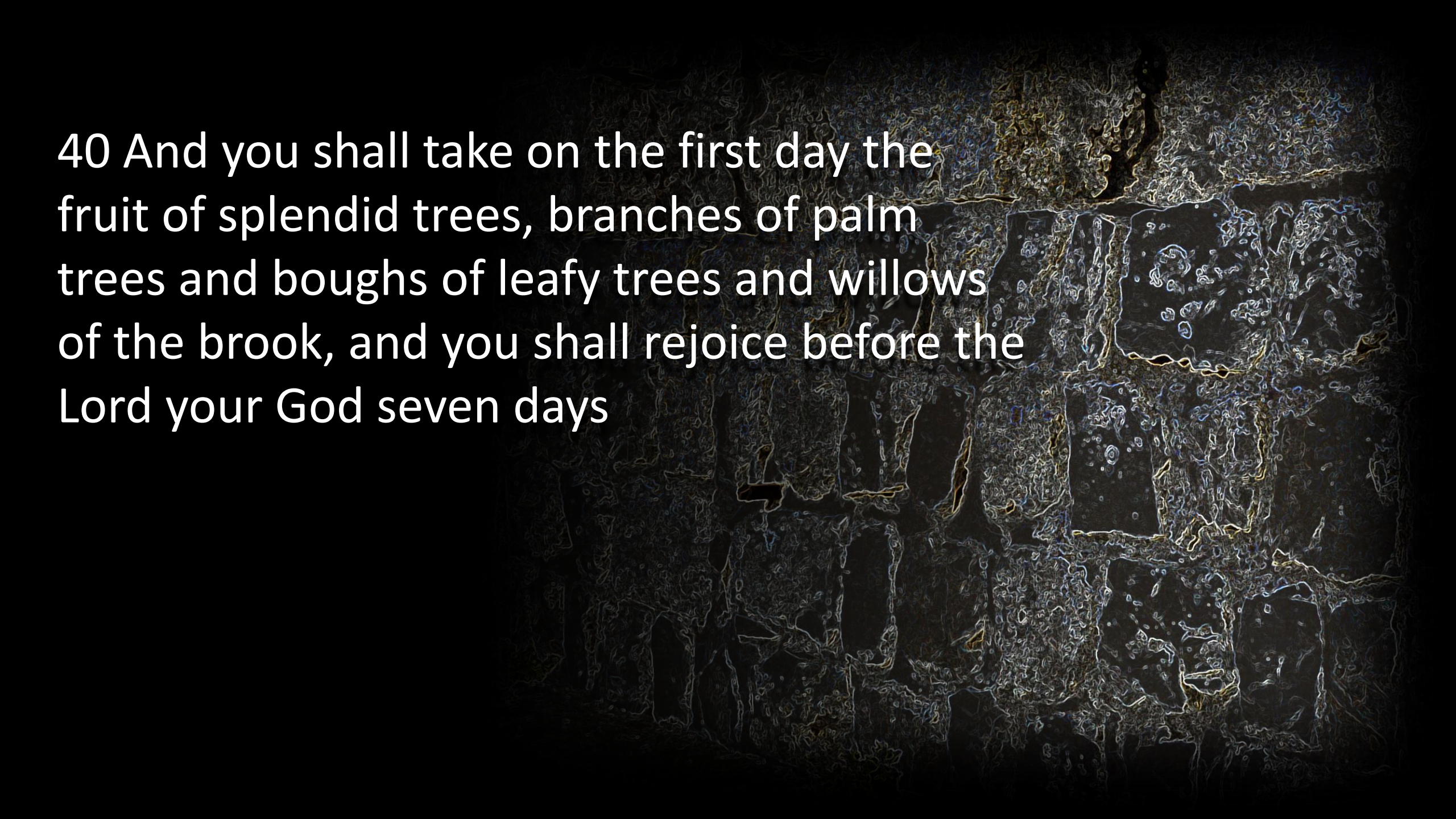


And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 34
“Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the
fifteenth day of this seventh month and for
seven days is the Feast of Booths to the Lord.
35 On the first day shall be a holy convocation;
you shall not do any ordinary work.



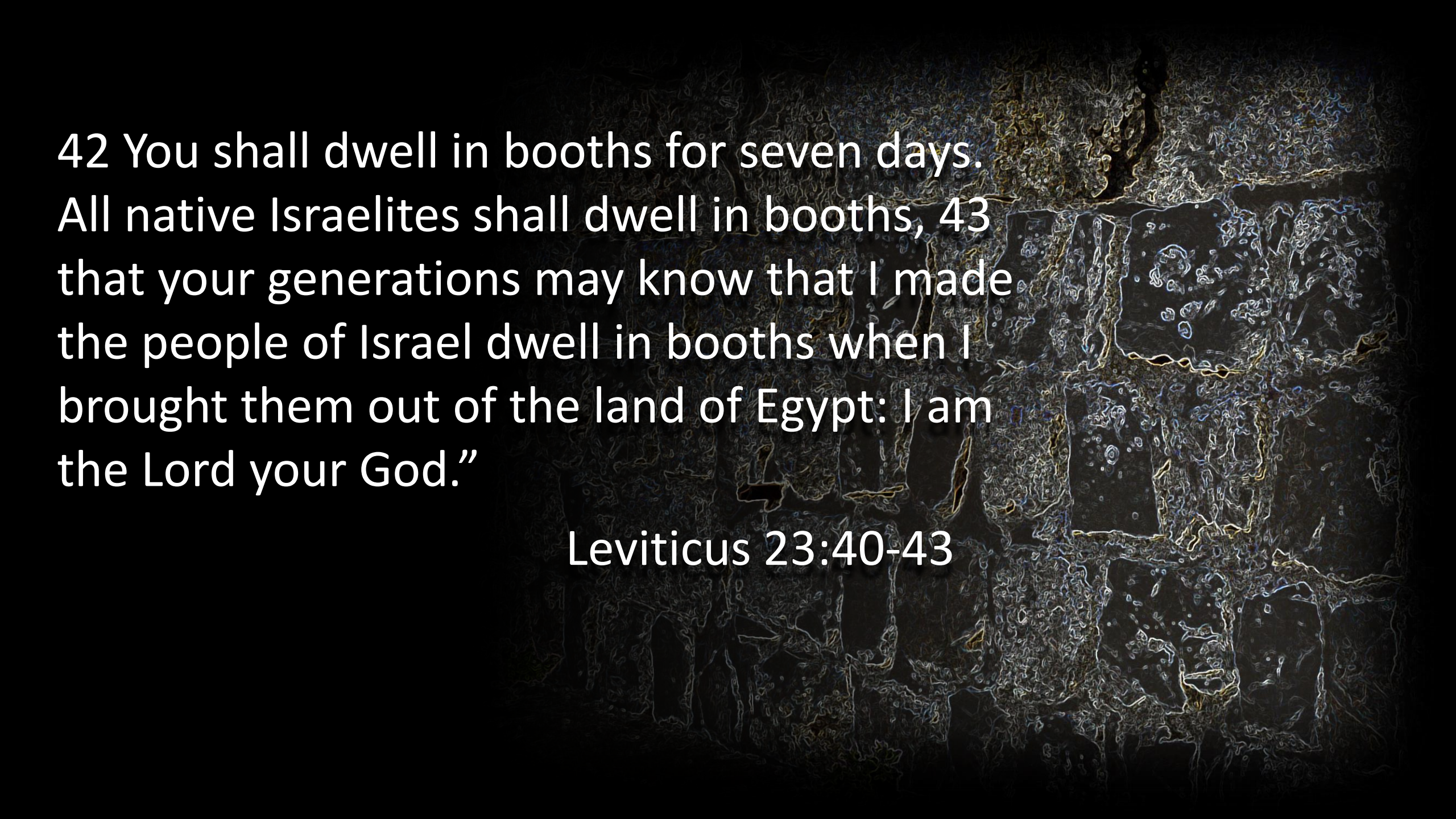
36 For seven days you shall present food offerings to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the Lord. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work...

Leviticus 23:33-36



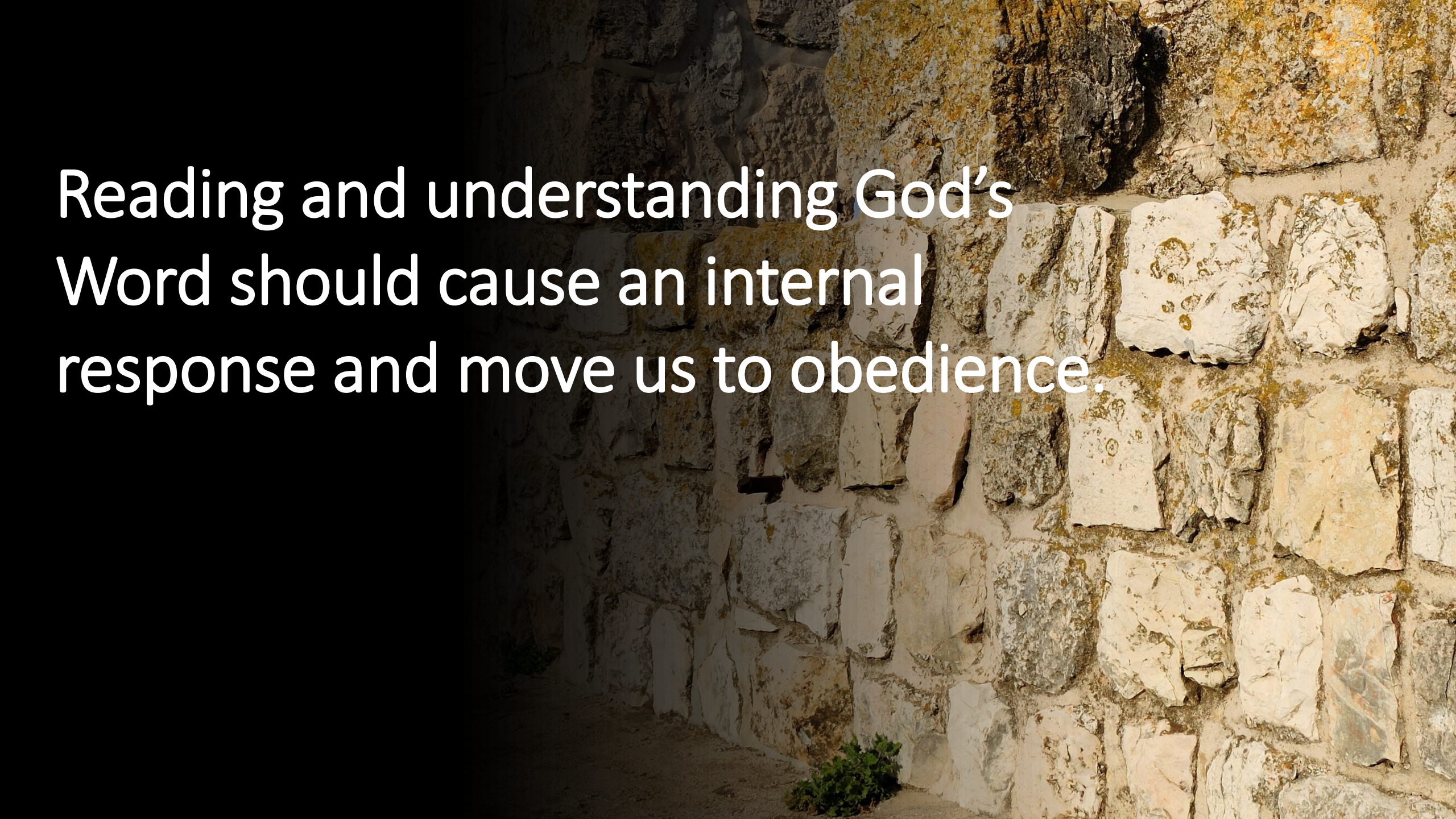
40 And you shall take on the first day the
fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm
trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows
of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the
Lord your God seven days

41 You shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord
for seven days in the year. It is a statute
forever throughout your generations; you
shall celebrate it in the seventh month.



42 You shall dwell in booths for seven days.
All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43
that your generations may know that I made
the people of Israel dwell in booths when I
brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am
the Lord your God.”

Leviticus 23:40-43

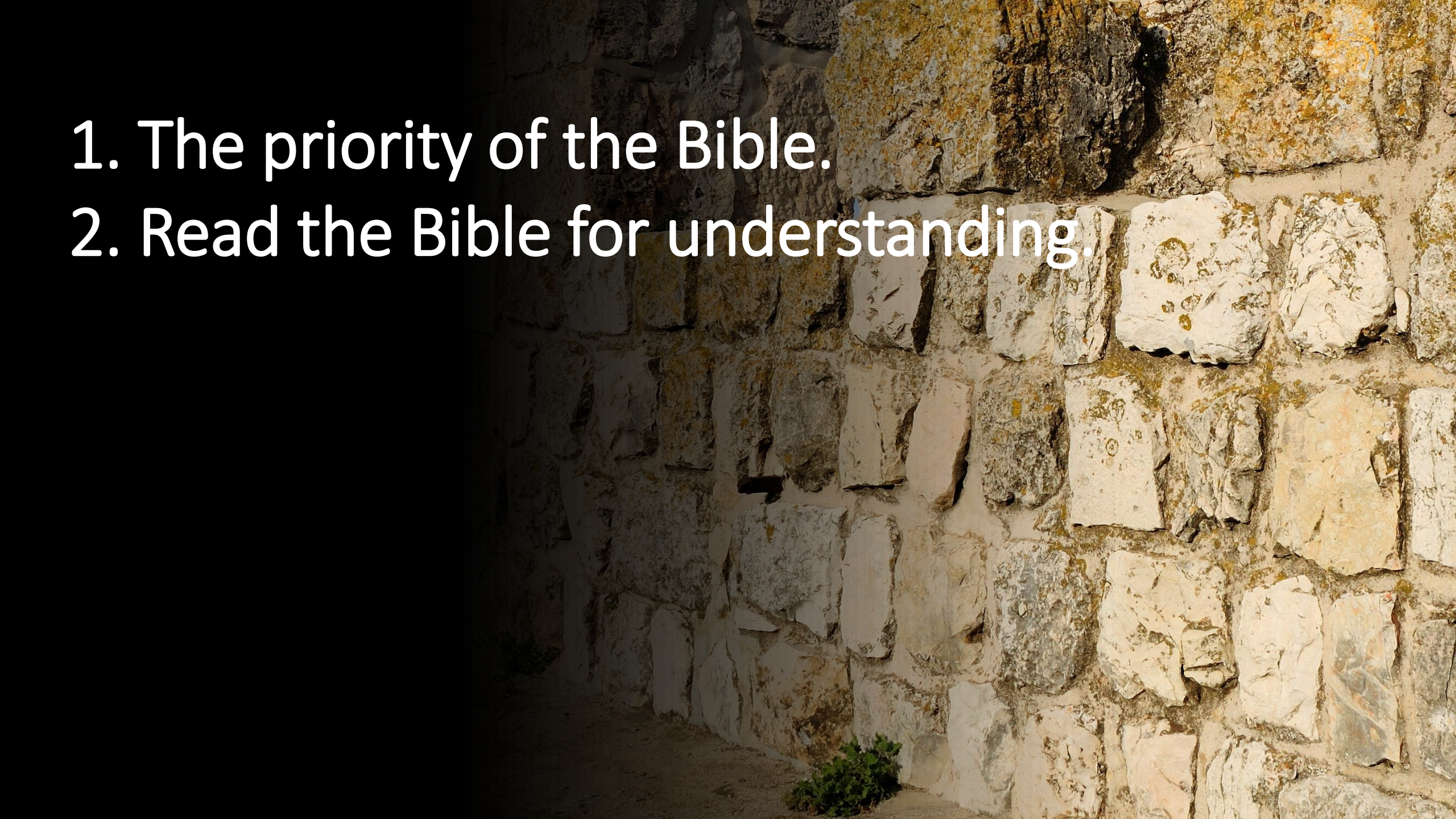
A photograph of a stone wall made of irregular, light-colored stones with some yellowish-brown lichen or moss. To the left of the wall is a dark, shadowed tunnel entrance. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, in white, sans-serif font.

Reading and understanding God's
Word should cause an internal
response and move us to obedience.

1. The priority of the Bible.

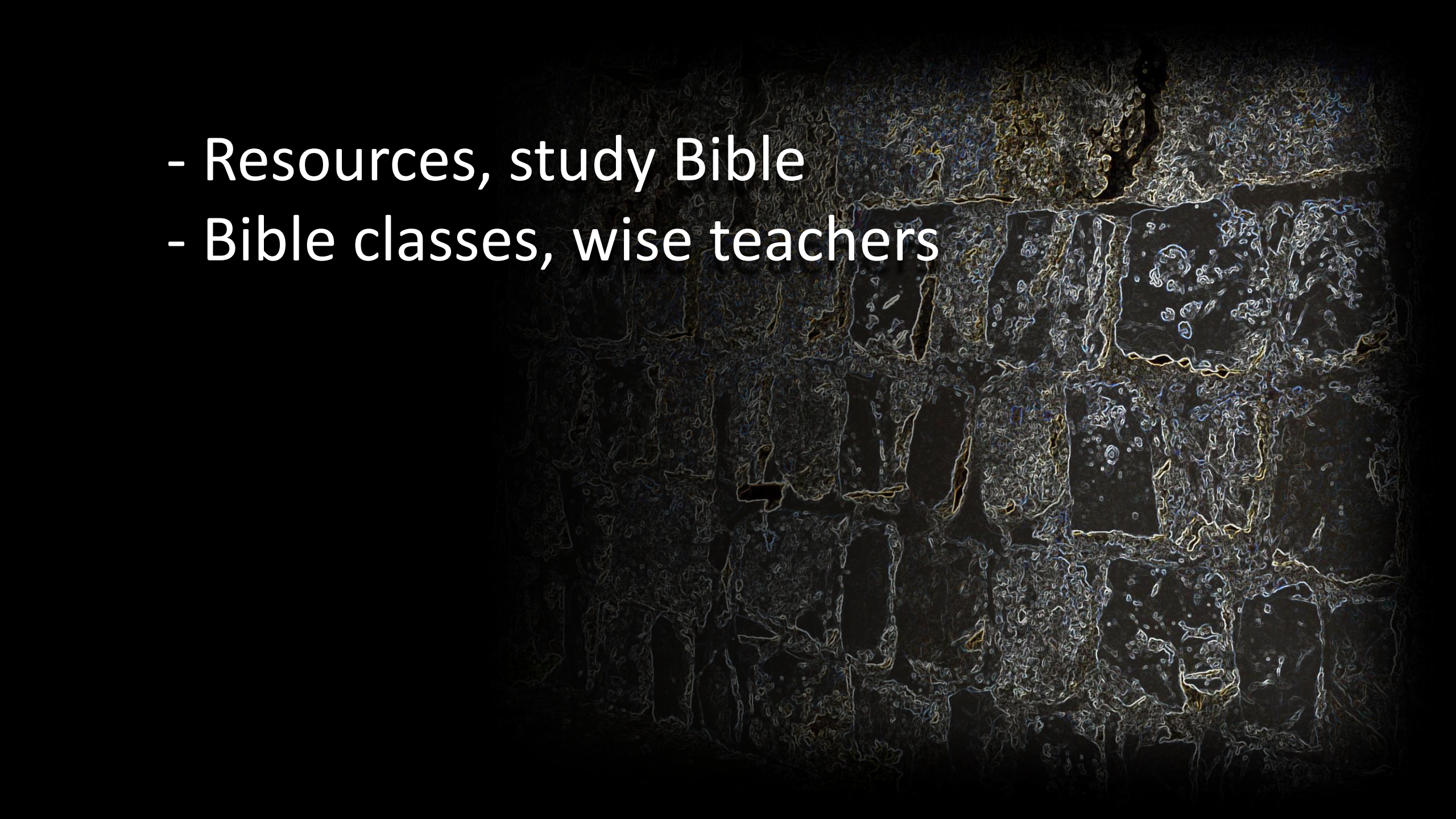


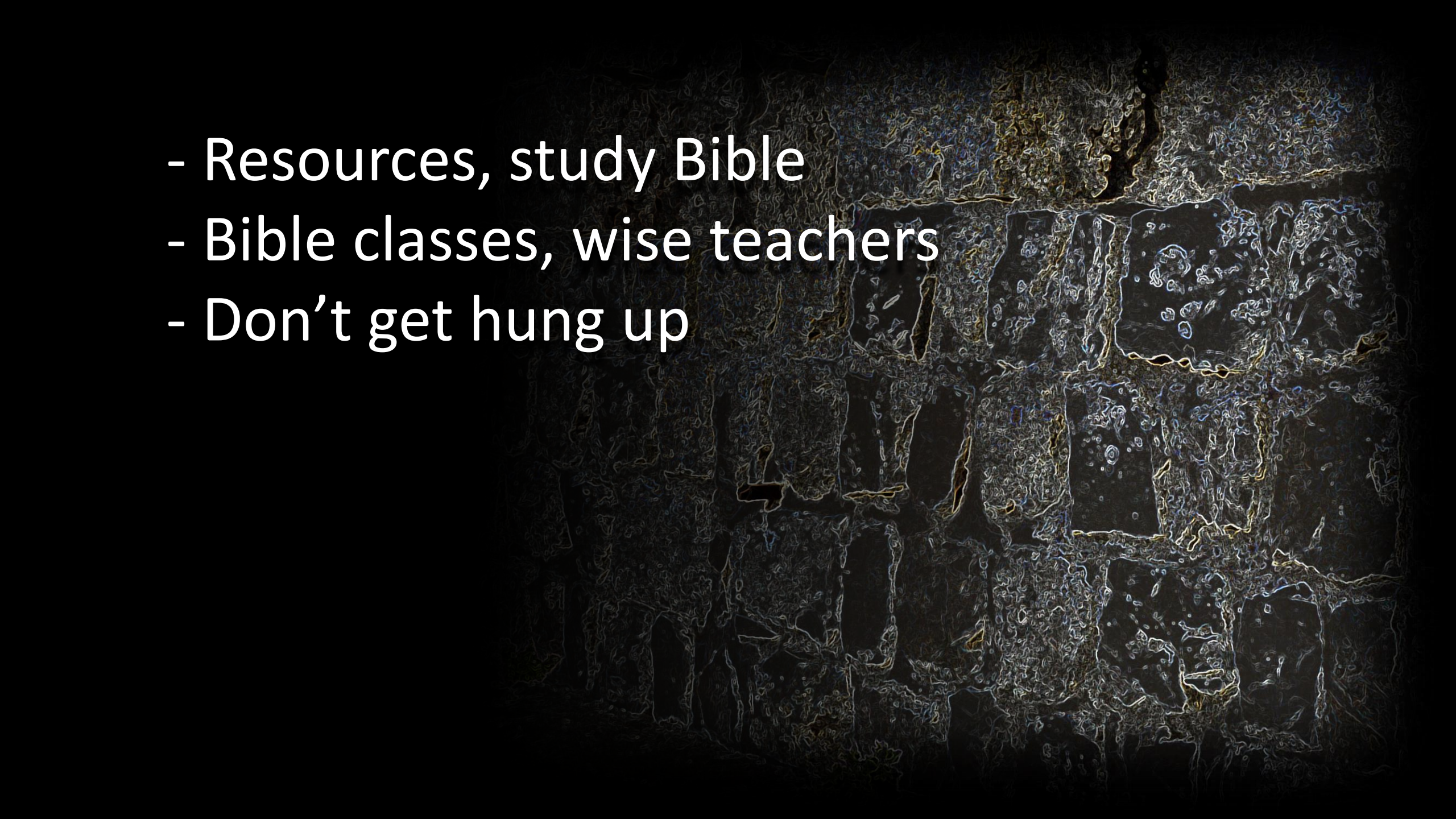
1. The priority of the Bible.
2. Read the Bible for understanding.

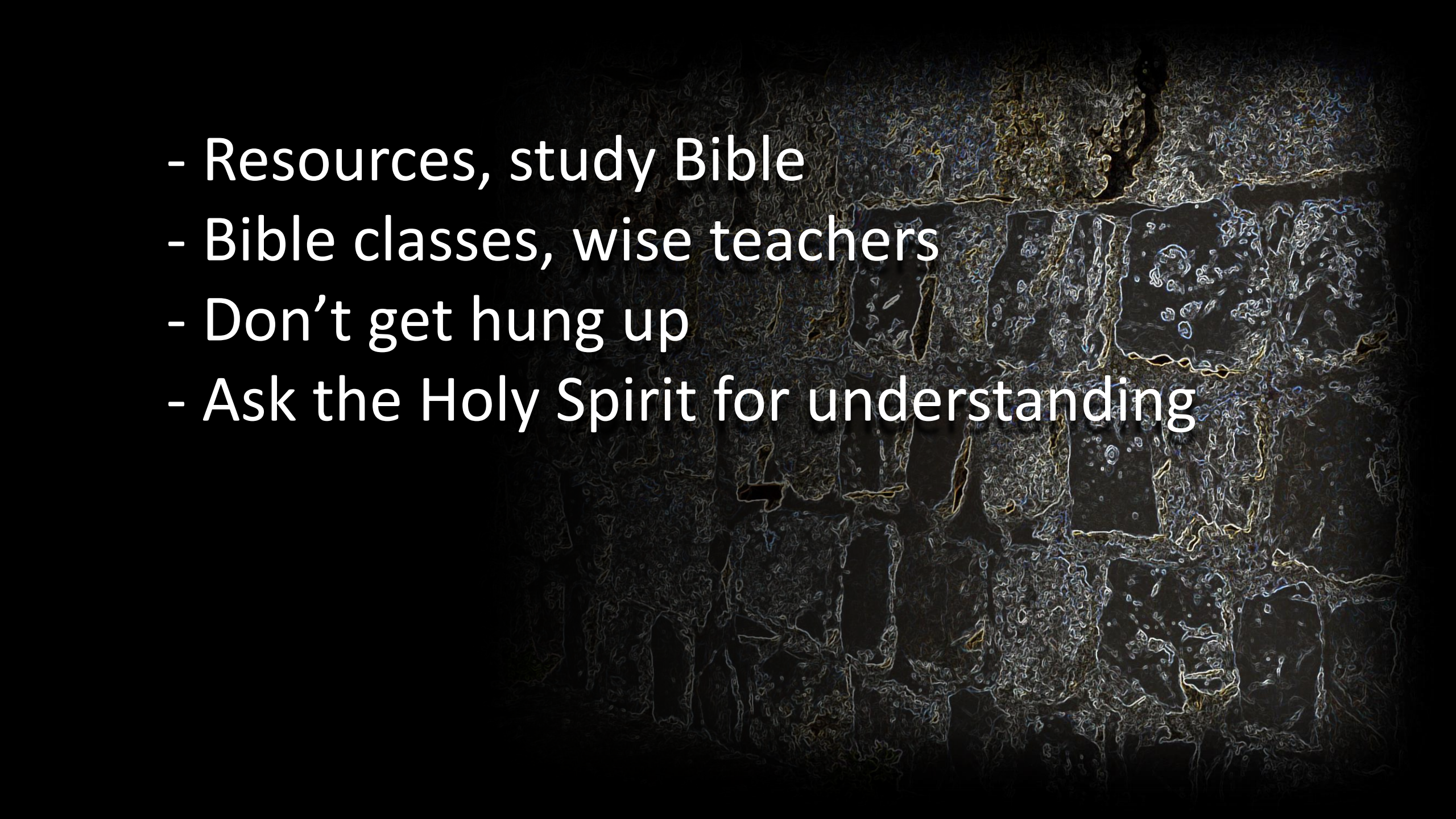


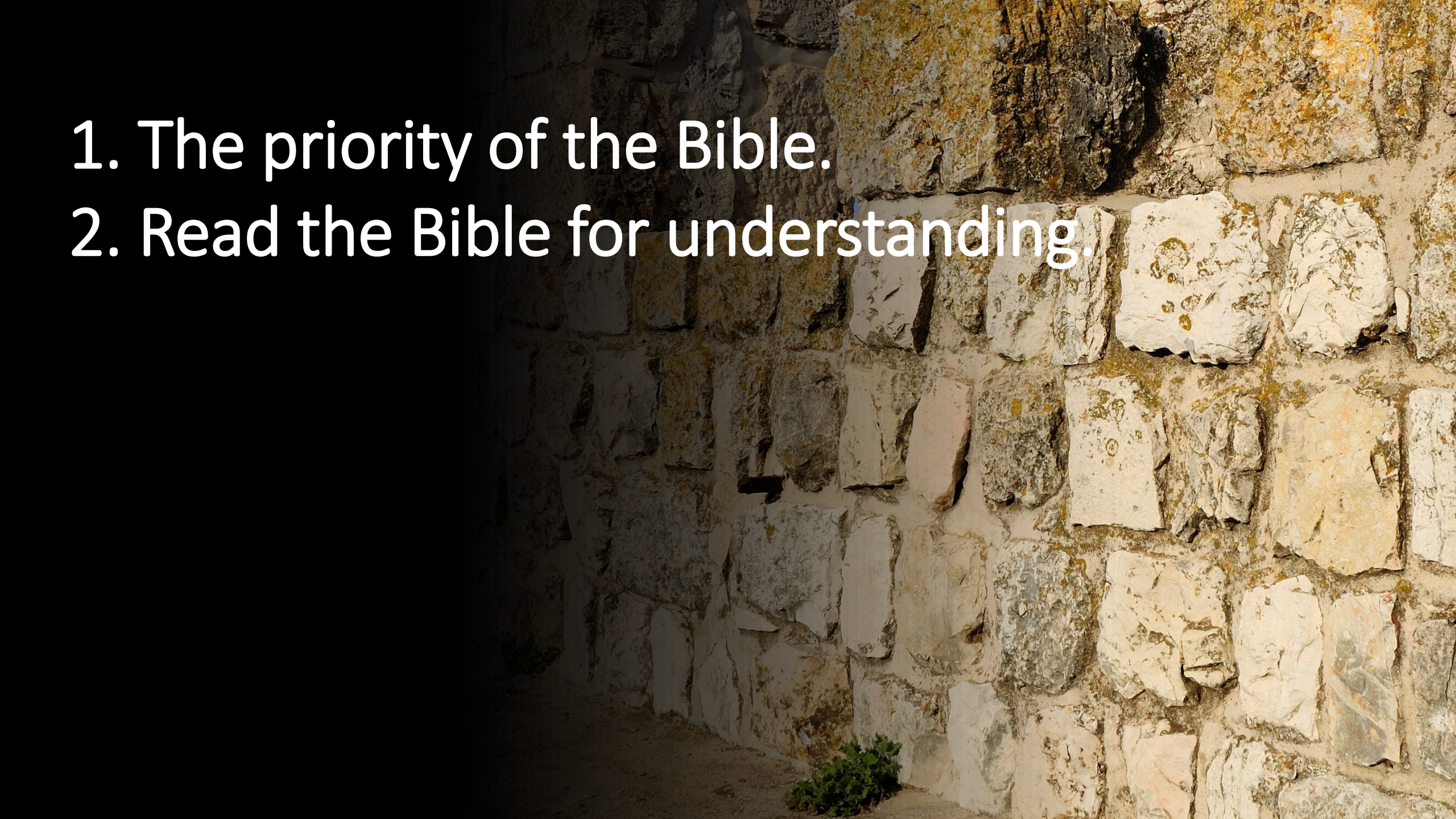
- Resources, study Bible

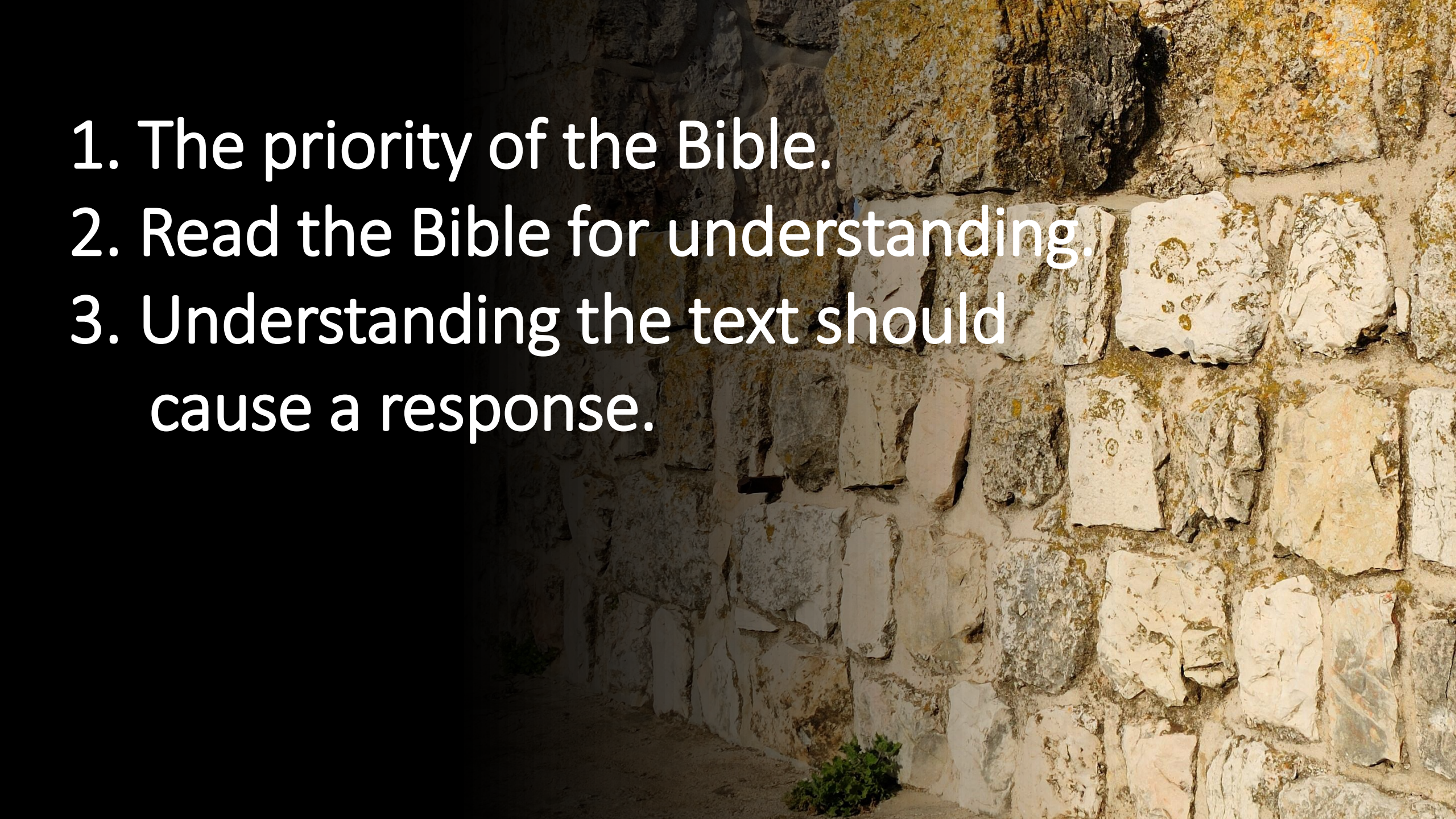


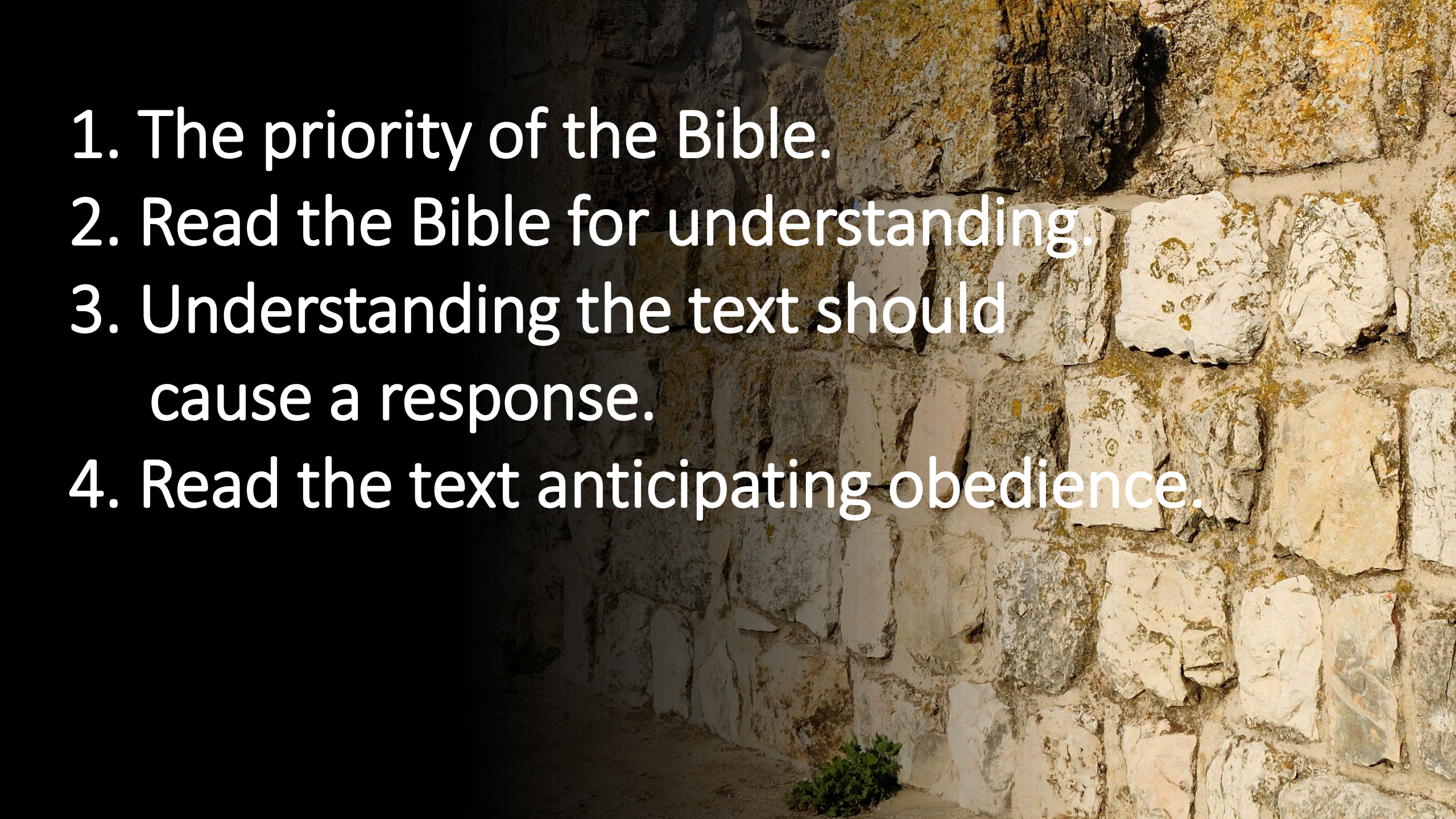
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- Resources, study Bible
 - Bible classes, wise teachers

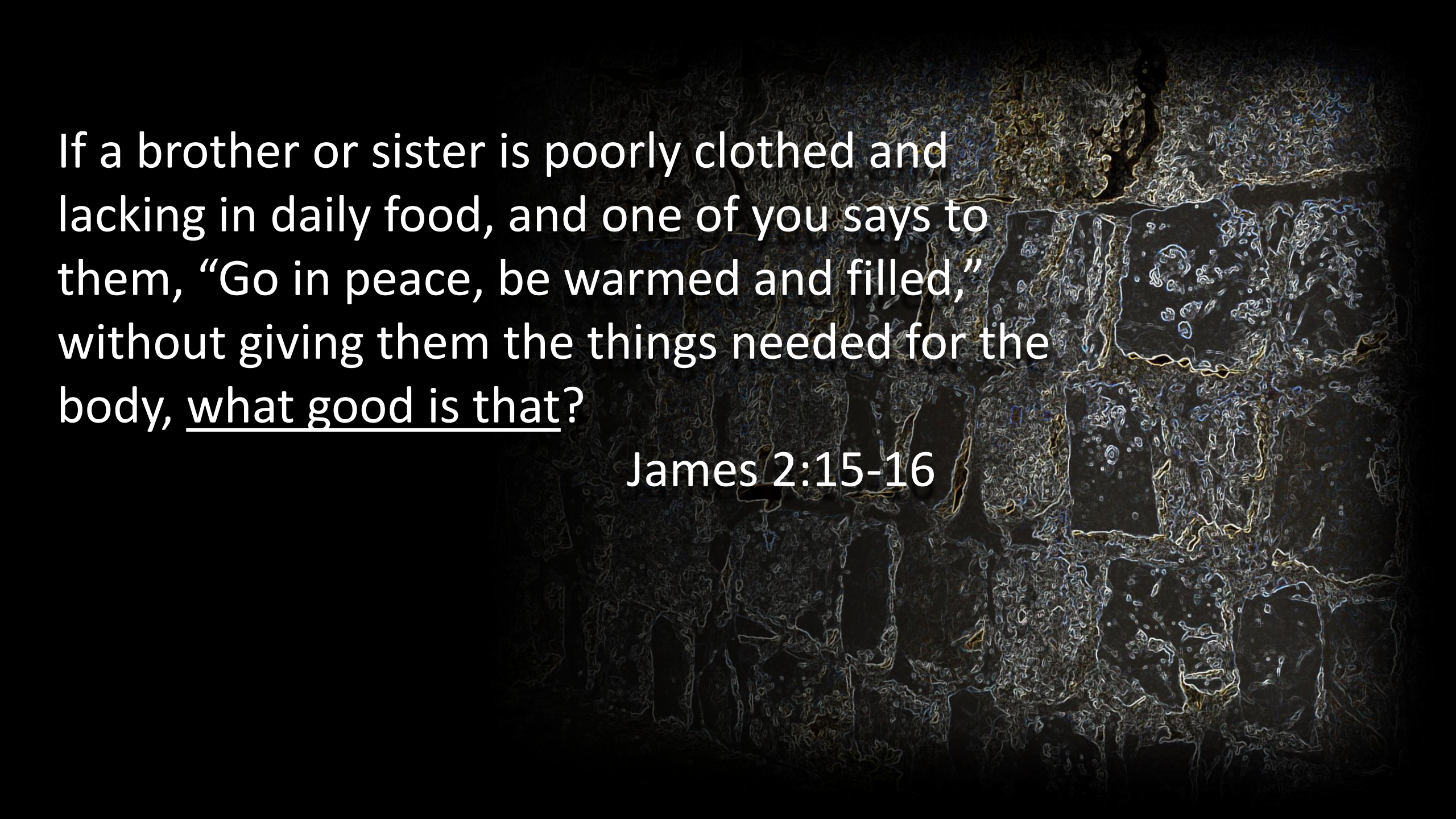
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- Resources, study Bible
 - Bible classes, wise teachers
 - Don't get hung up

- 
- Resources, study Bible
 - Bible classes, wise teachers
 - Don't get hung up
 - Ask the Holy Spirit for understanding

- 
- A photograph of a stone wall made of irregular, light-colored stones with some yellowish-brown lichen or moss. On the left side, there is a dark, shadowed opening that appears to be the entrance to a tunnel or a cave. The lighting is dramatic, with the wall on the right being brightly lit and the tunnel entrance being in deep shadow.
1. The priority of the Bible.
 2. Read the Bible for understanding.

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- The background of the image is a photograph of a stone wall. On the left side, there is a dark, shadowed opening that appears to be the entrance to a tunnel or a cave. The wall is constructed from large, irregular stones of various shades of grey, tan, and brown, some of which are covered in moss or lichen. The lighting is dramatic, with the wall on the right being brightly lit and the tunnel entrance being in deep shadow.
1. The priority of the Bible.
 2. Read the Bible for understanding.
 3. Understanding the text should cause a response.

- 
- A stone wall made of irregular, light-colored stones with some darker patches and moss. A dark, vertical shadow is cast on the left side of the wall. A small green plant is growing at the base of the wall on the right.
1. The priority of the Bible.
 2. Read the Bible for understanding.
 3. Understanding the text should cause a response.
 4. Read the text anticipating obedience.

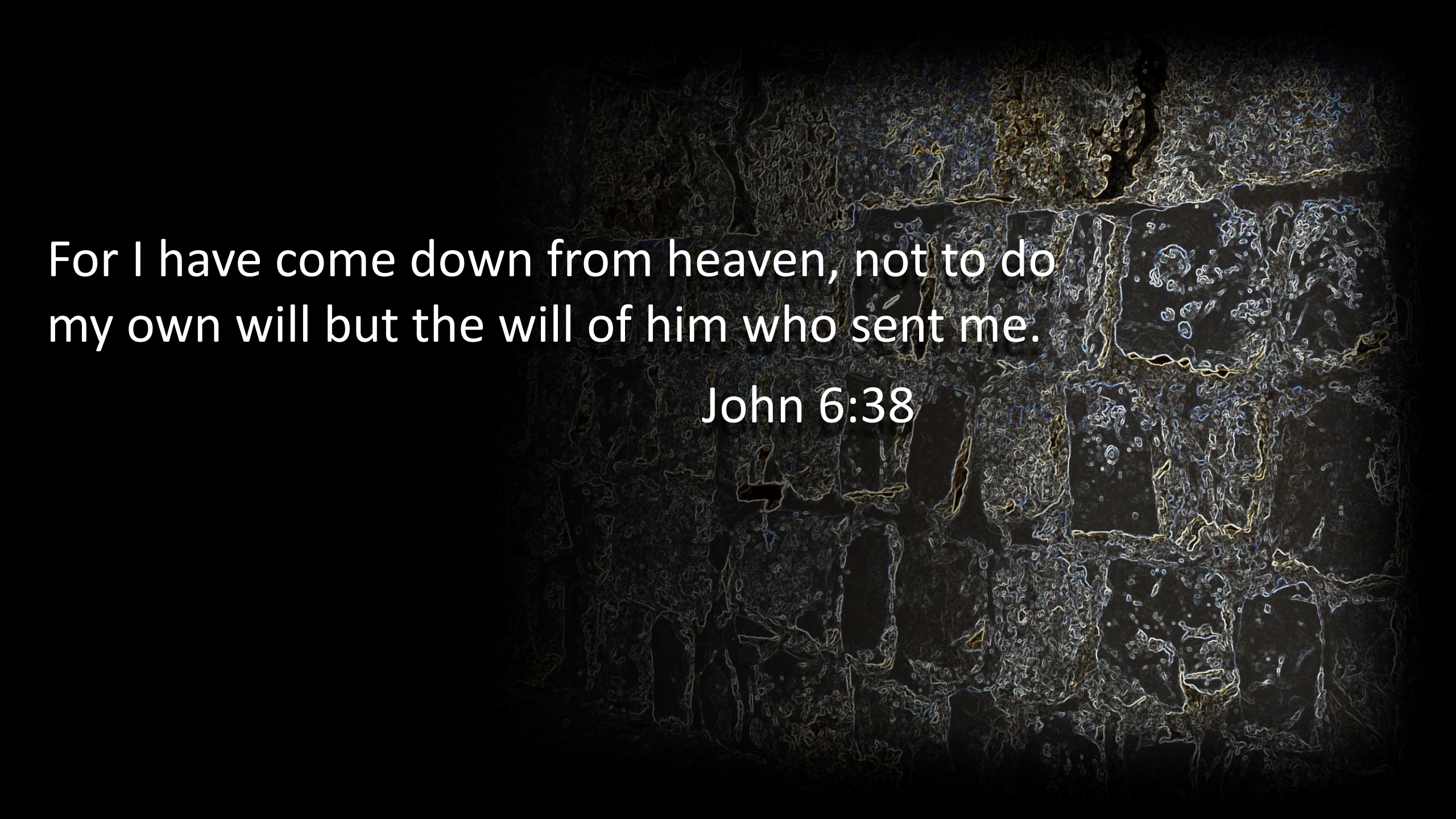


If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

James 2:15-16

Application:

1. The priority of the Bible.
2. Read the Bible for understanding.
3. Understanding the text should cause a response.
4. Read the text anticipating obedience.



For I have come down from heaven, not to do
my own will but the will of him who sent me.

John 6:38