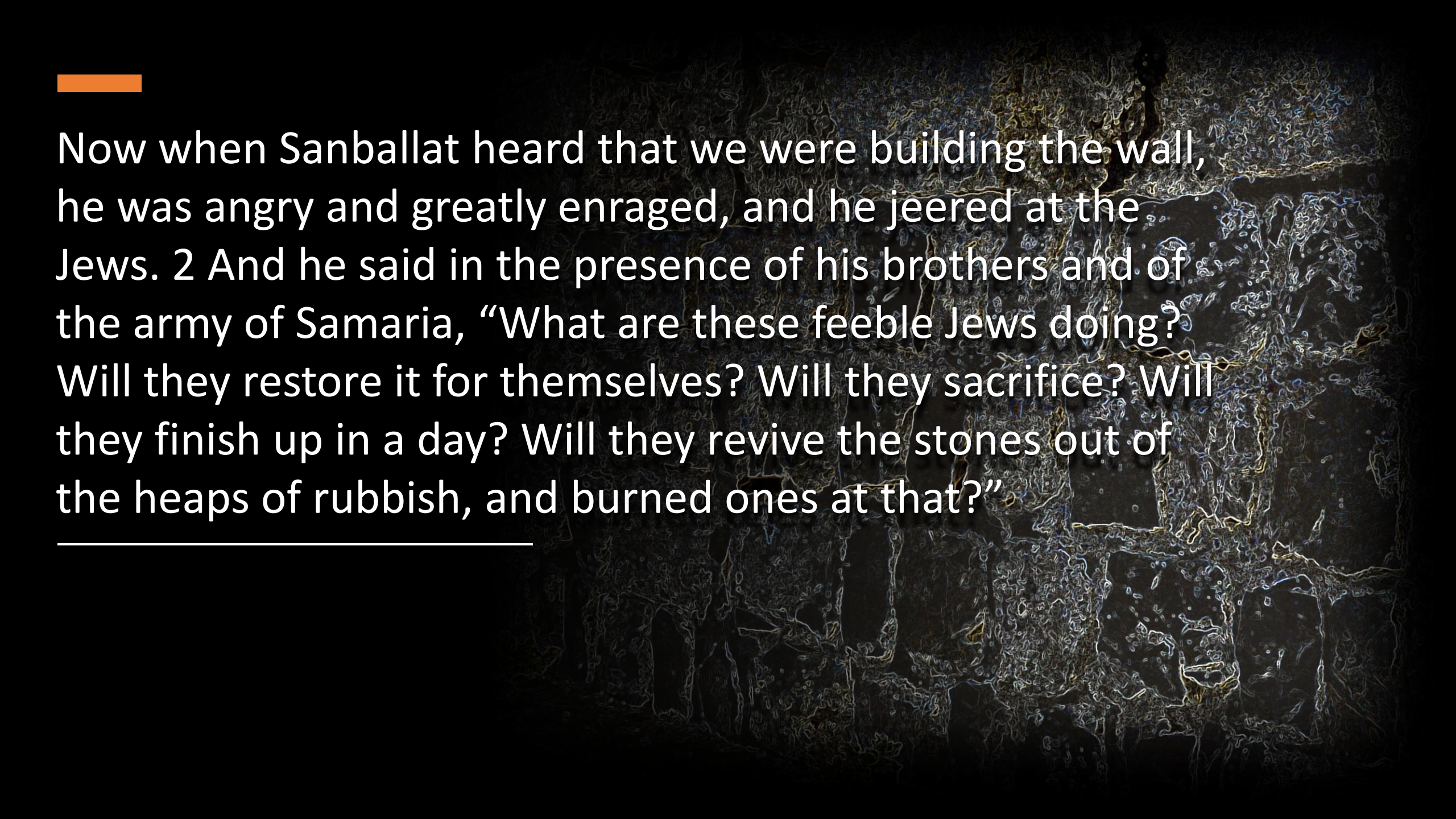
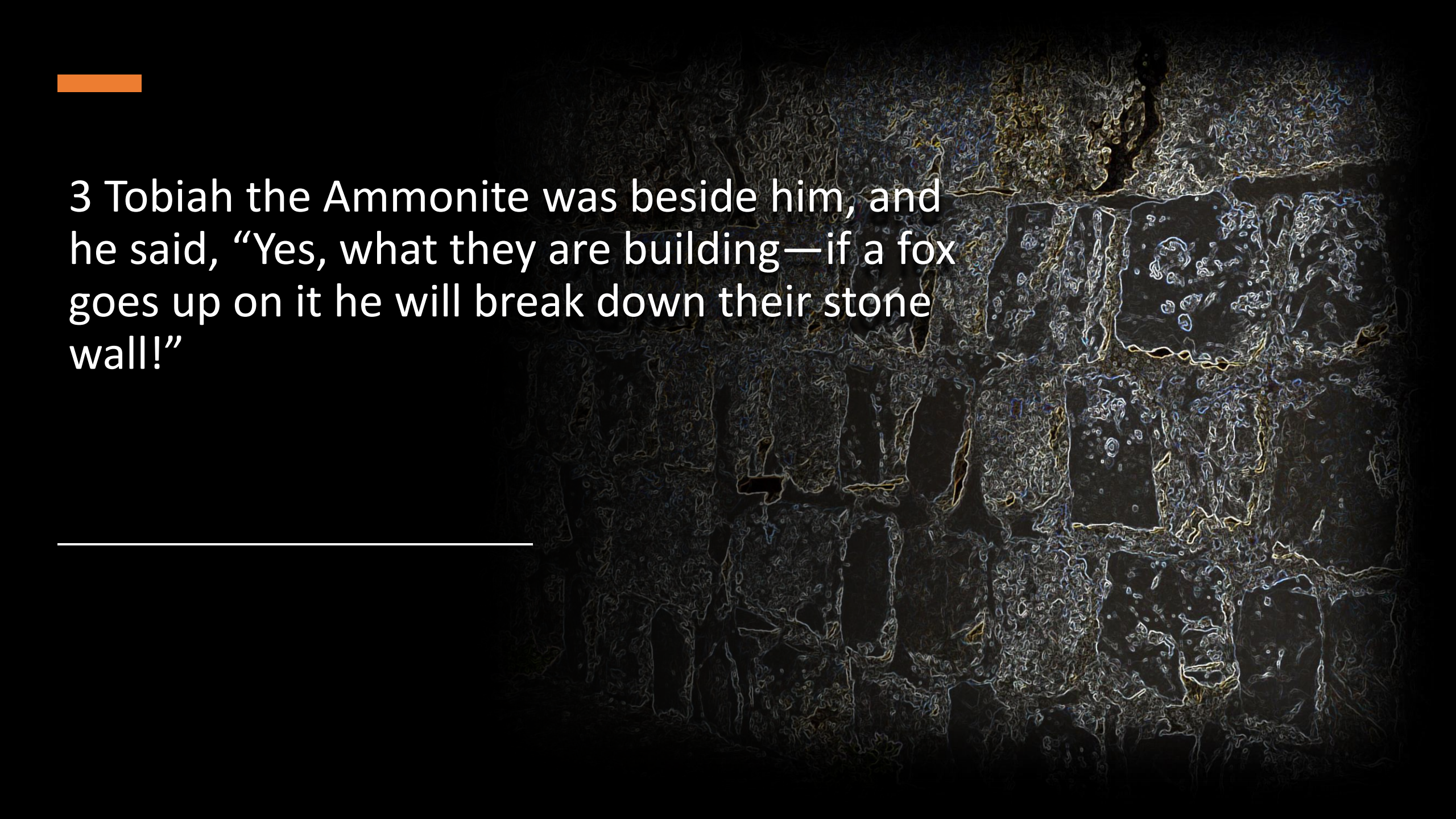
The background of the slide is a photograph of a stone wall. The wall is constructed from large, irregular, light-colored stones, possibly limestone or sandstone, with some darker, more textured stones interspersed. The wall appears to be part of an old building or a fortification. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar. In the bottom left corner, there is a thin white horizontal line. The text is overlaid on the left side of the wall.

Overcoming Opposition

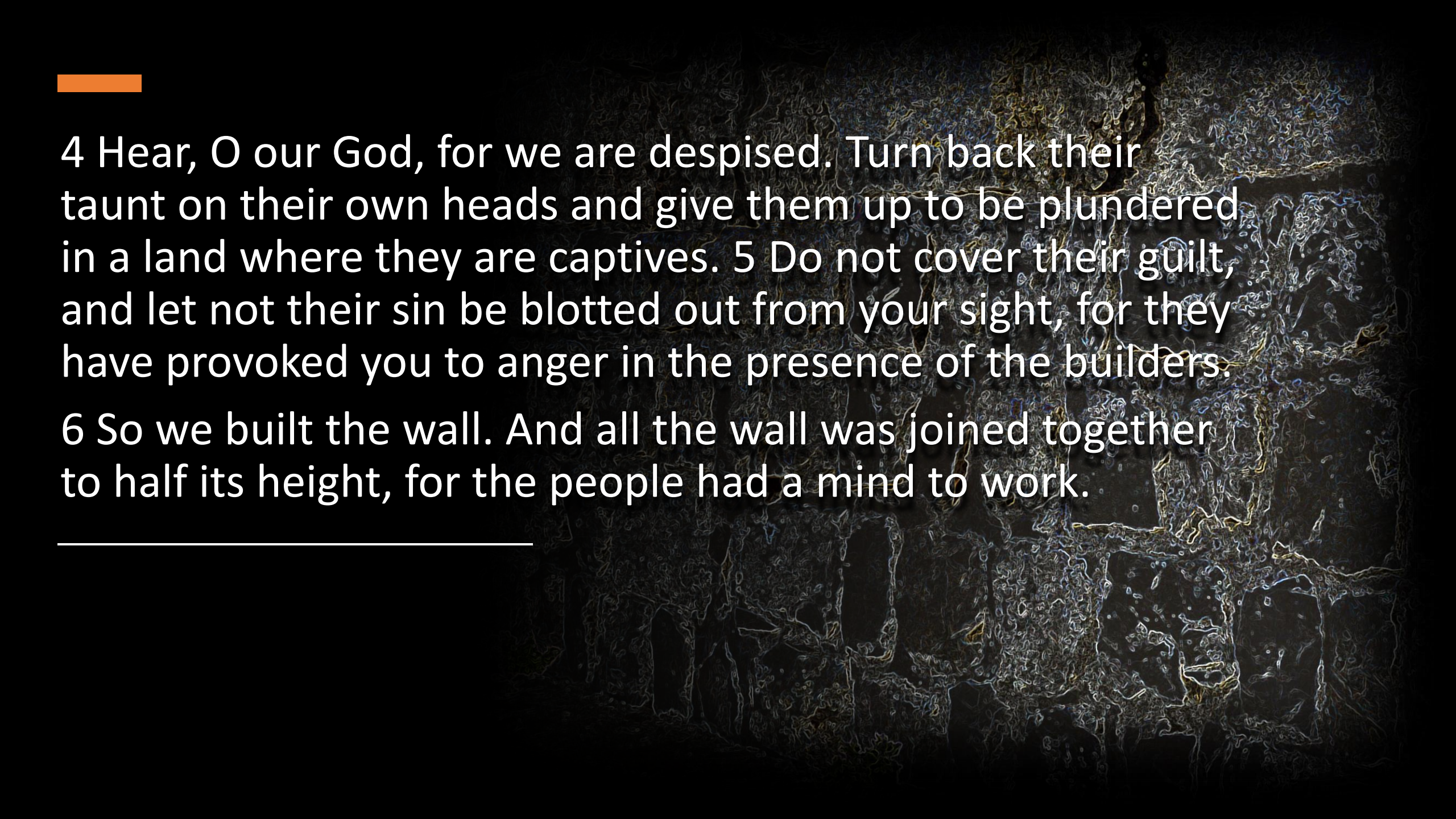
Nehemiah 4:1-9



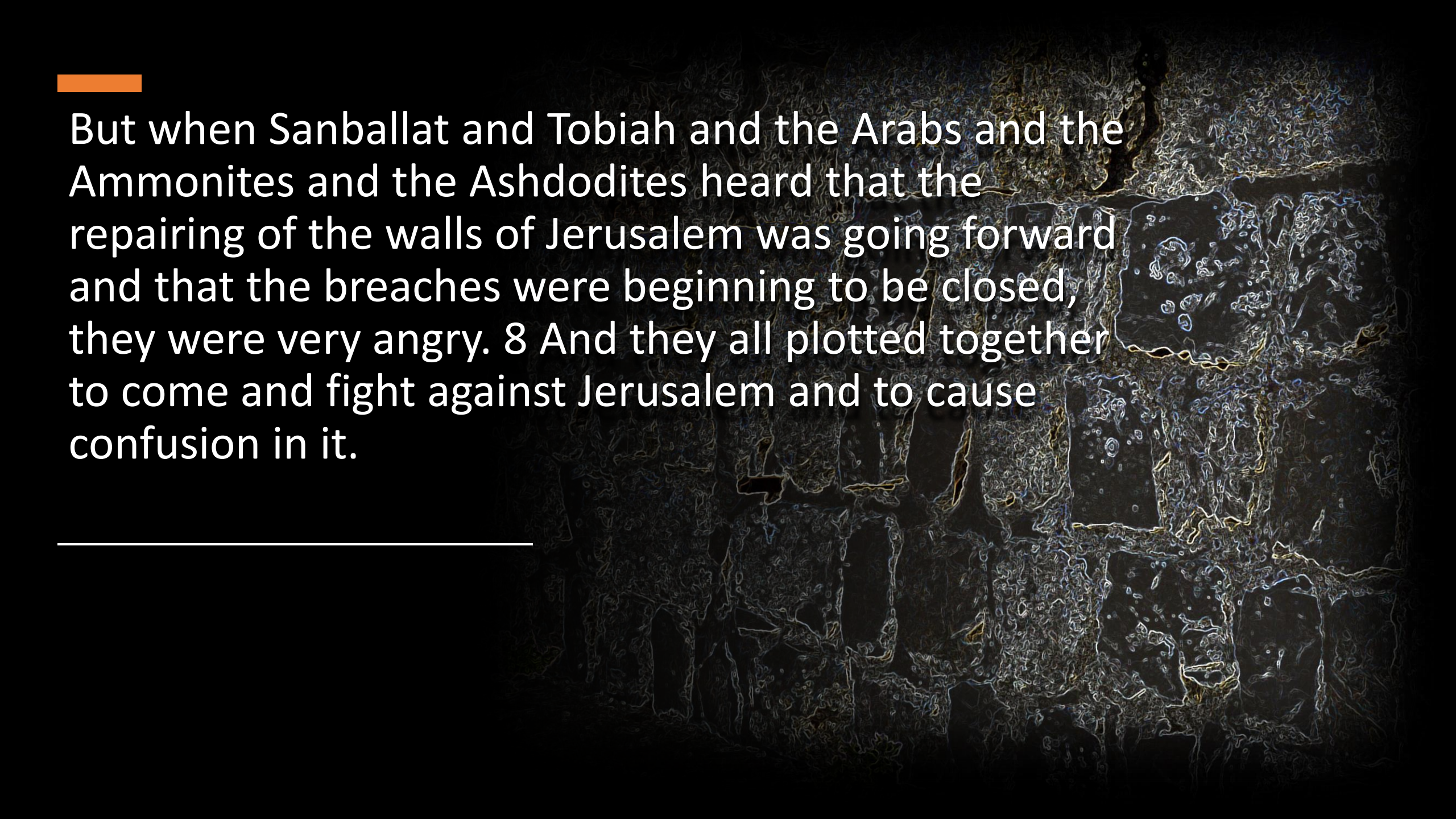
Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. 2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?”



3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”



4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. 5 Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. 6 So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.



But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

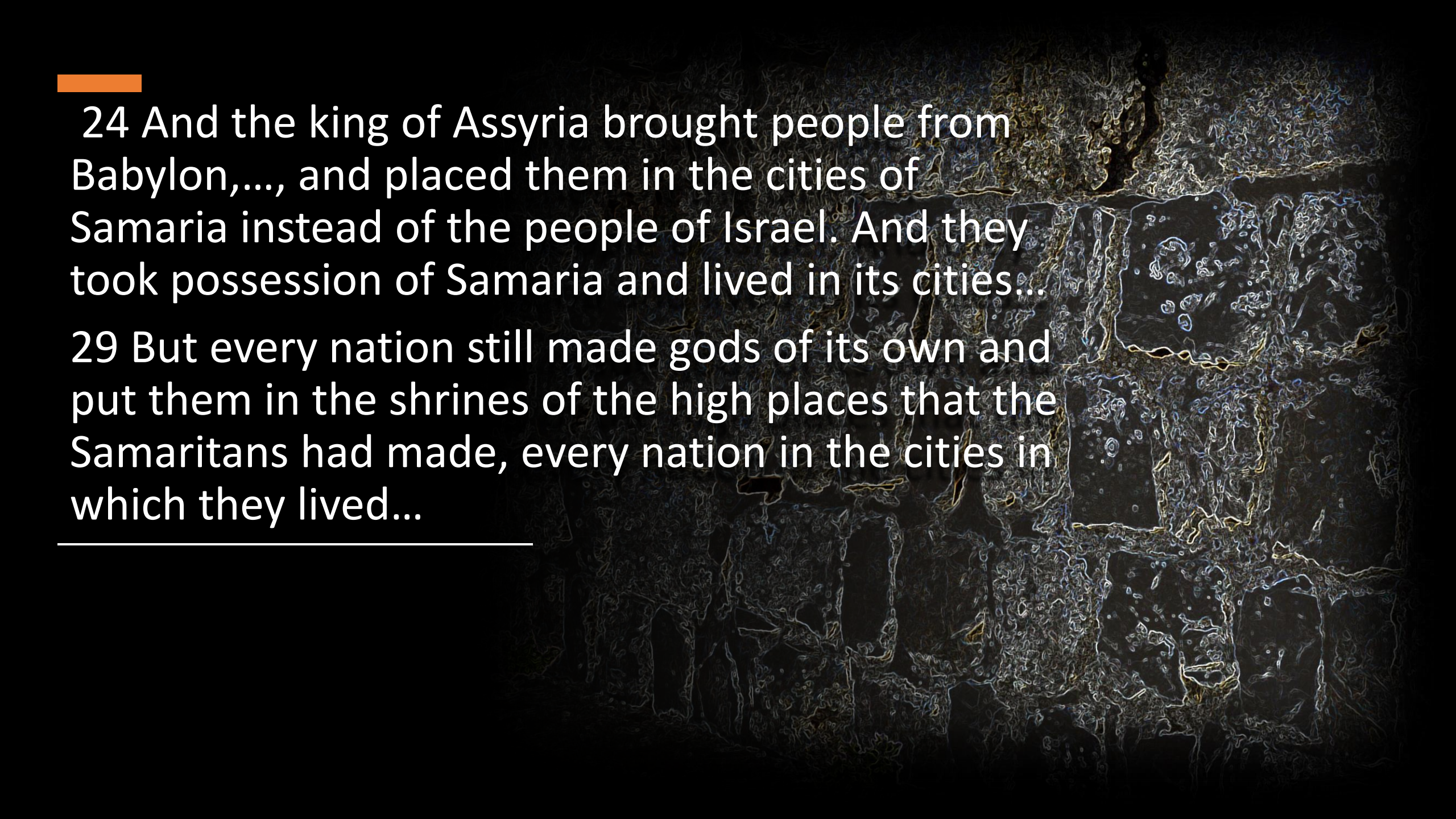


9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard
as a protection against them day and night.

A photograph of a stone wall, likely part of a fortification or a historical building. The wall is constructed from large, irregular, light-colored stone blocks. A small, dark opening is visible in the wall. At the bottom center, a small green plant is growing from the base of the wall. The lighting is dramatic, with the right side of the wall being brightly lit and the left side being in deep shadow.

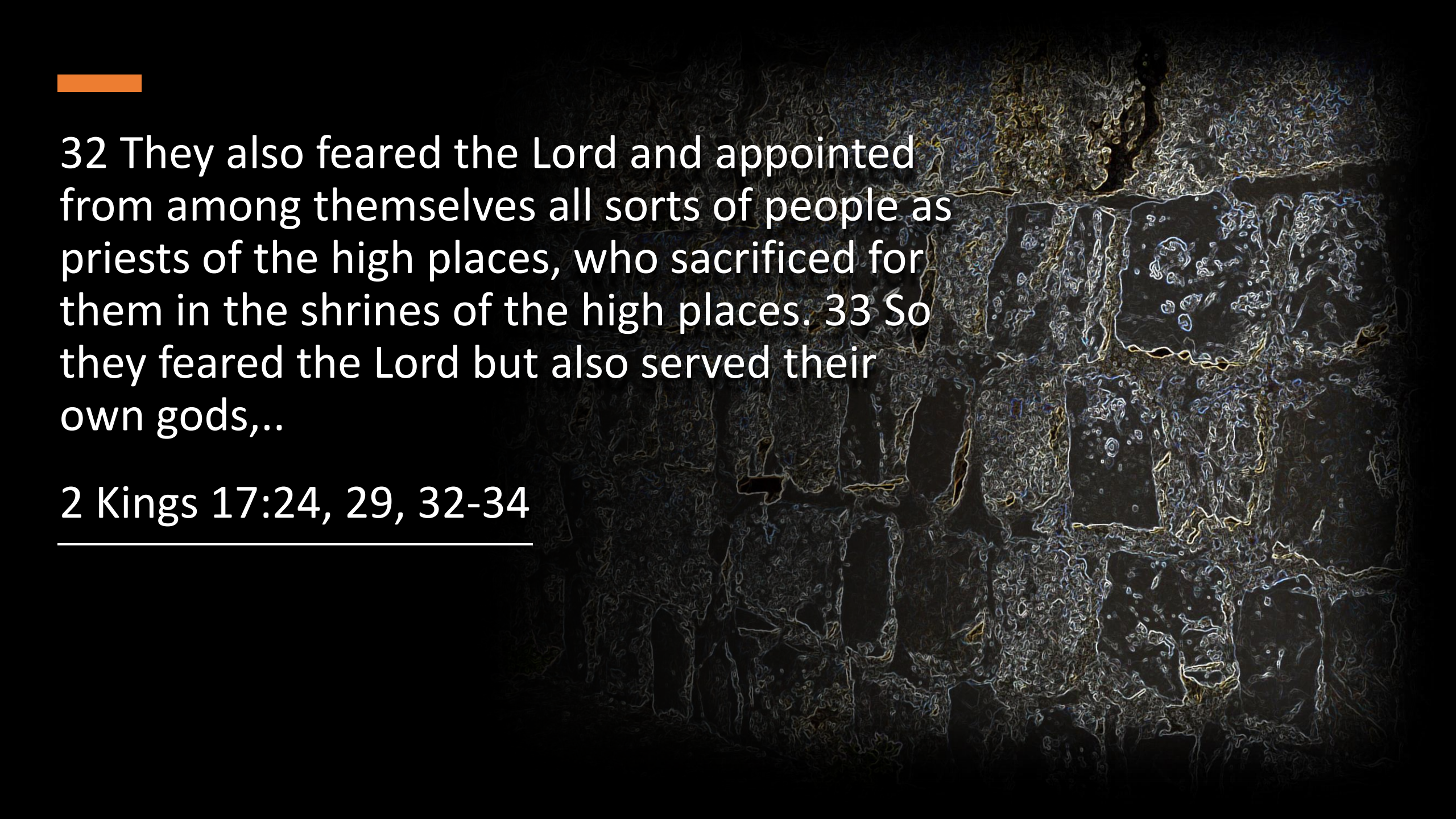
The Taunts of the Enemy





24 And the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon,..., and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the people of Israel. And they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities...

29 But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived...



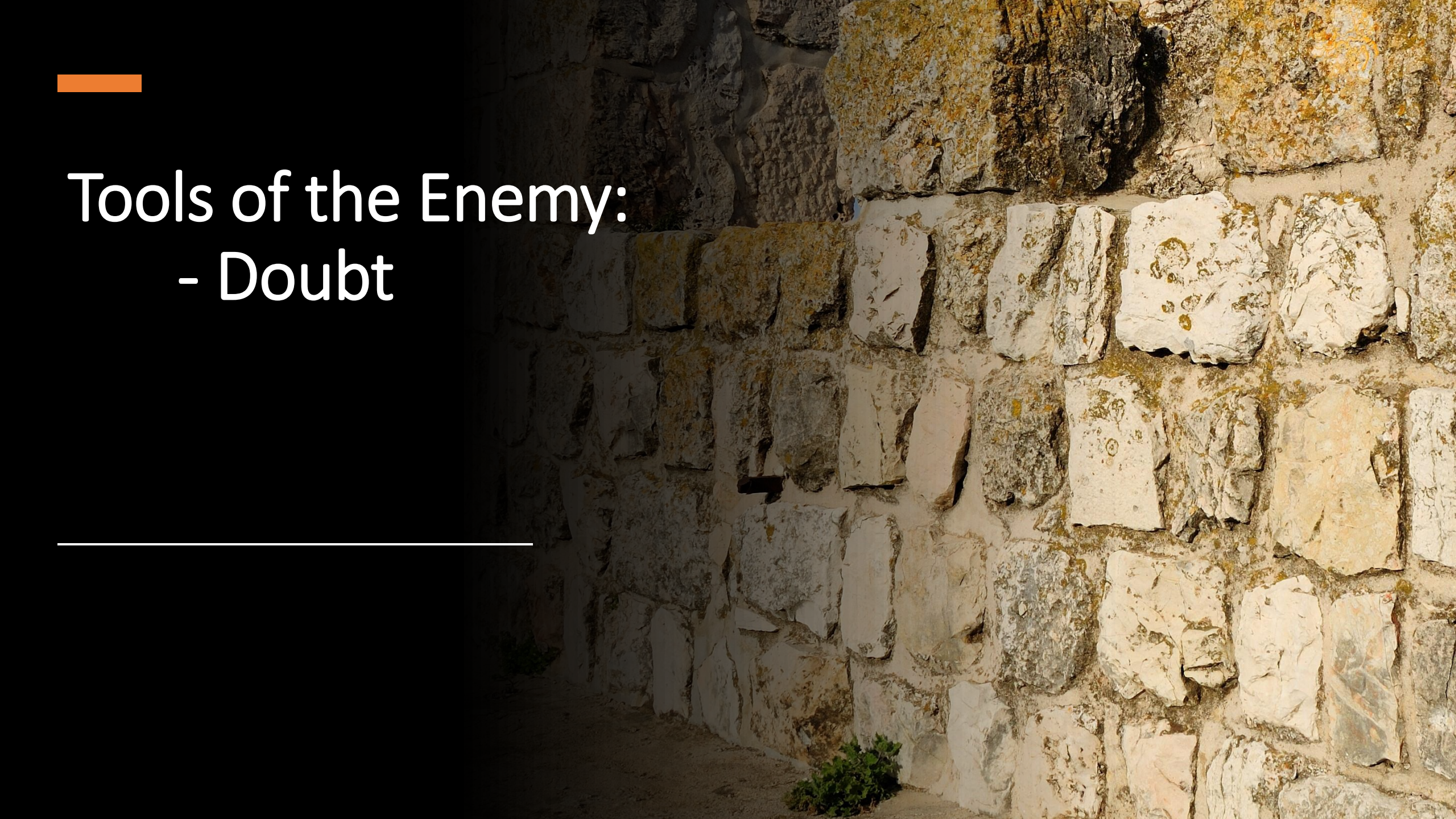
32 They also feared the Lord and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 So they feared the Lord but also served their own gods,..

2 Kings 17:24, 29, 32-34



Tools of the Enemy:

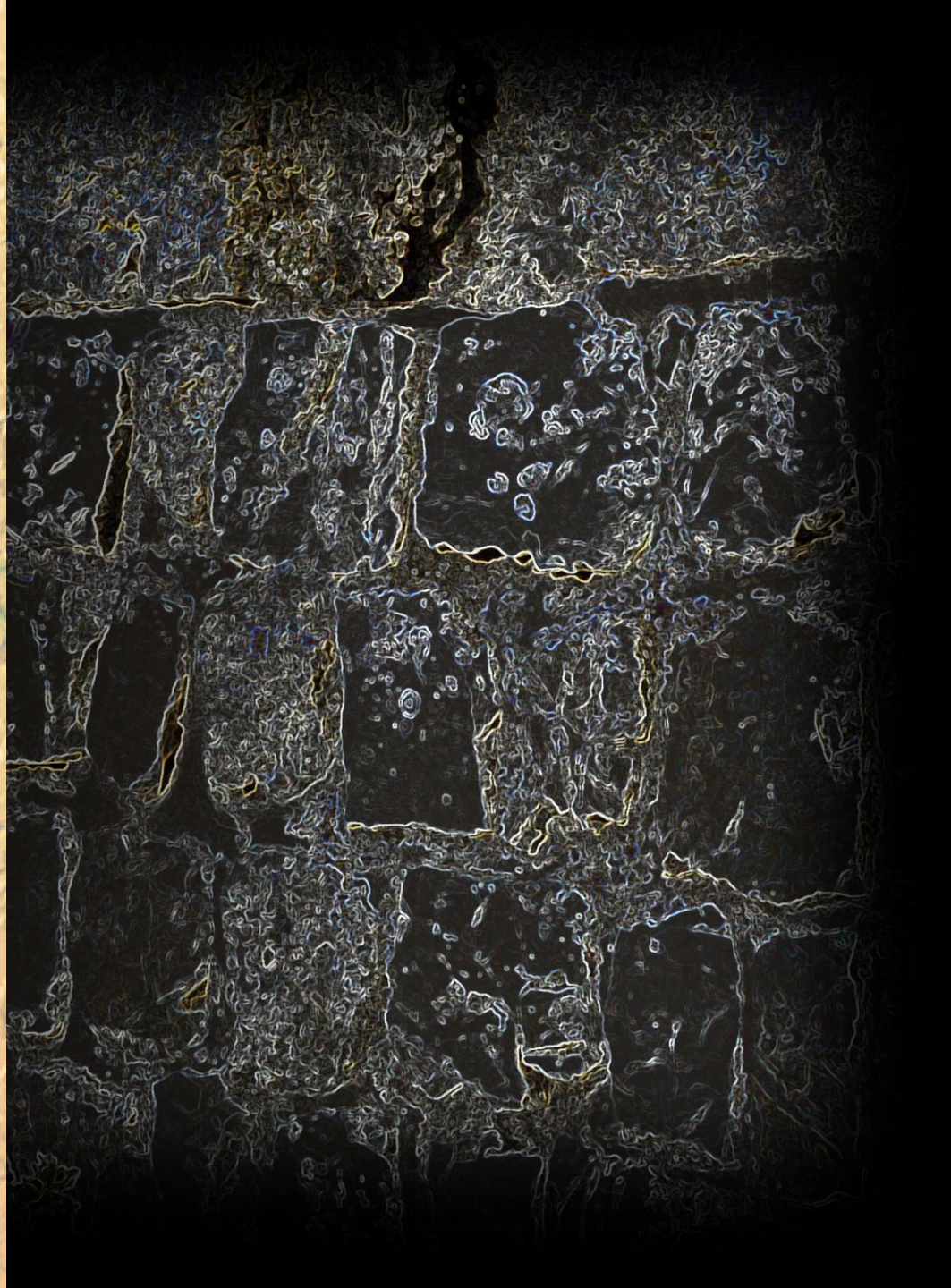
- Doubt





Tools of the Enemy:

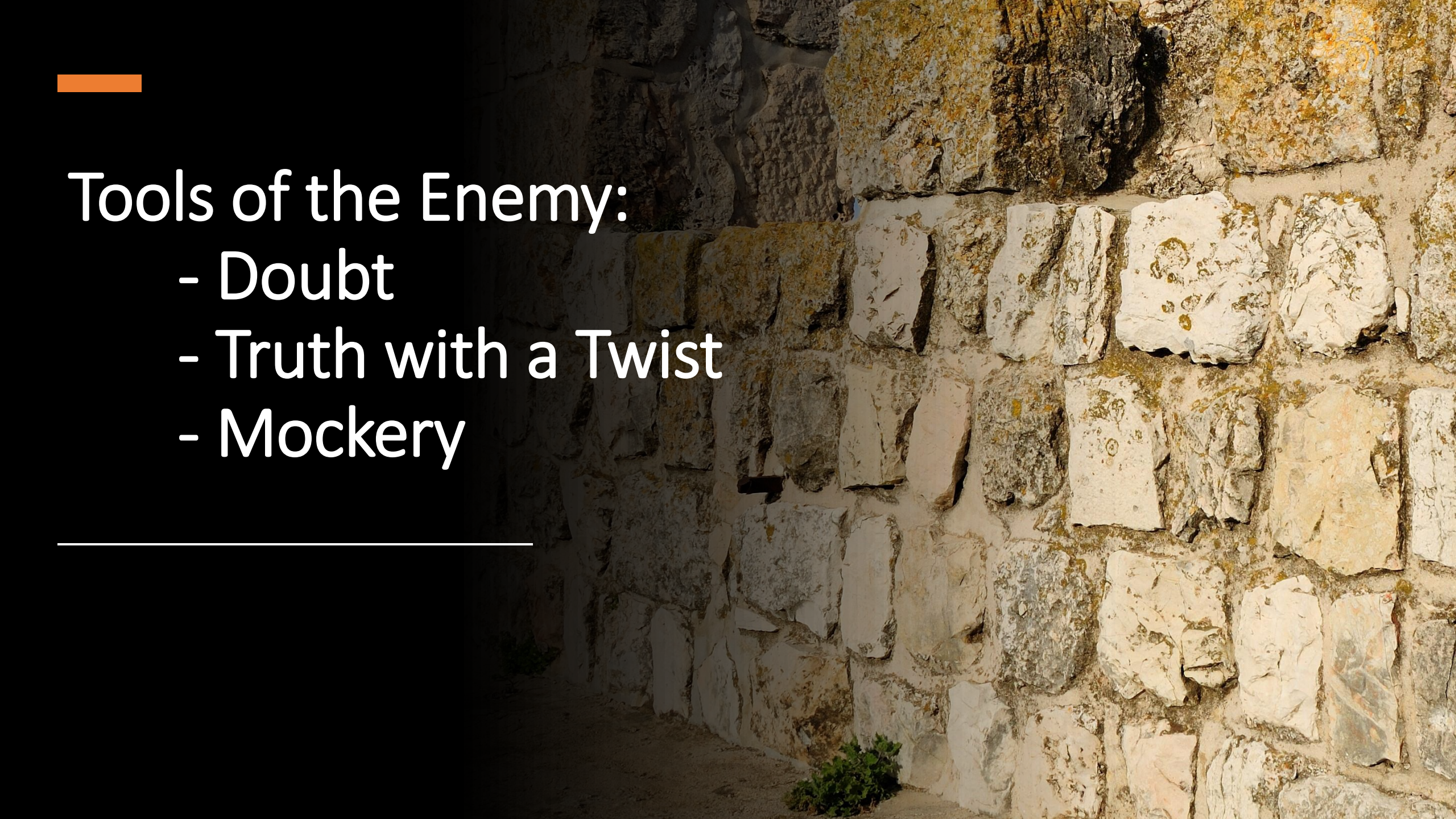
- Doubt
 - Truth with a Twist
-

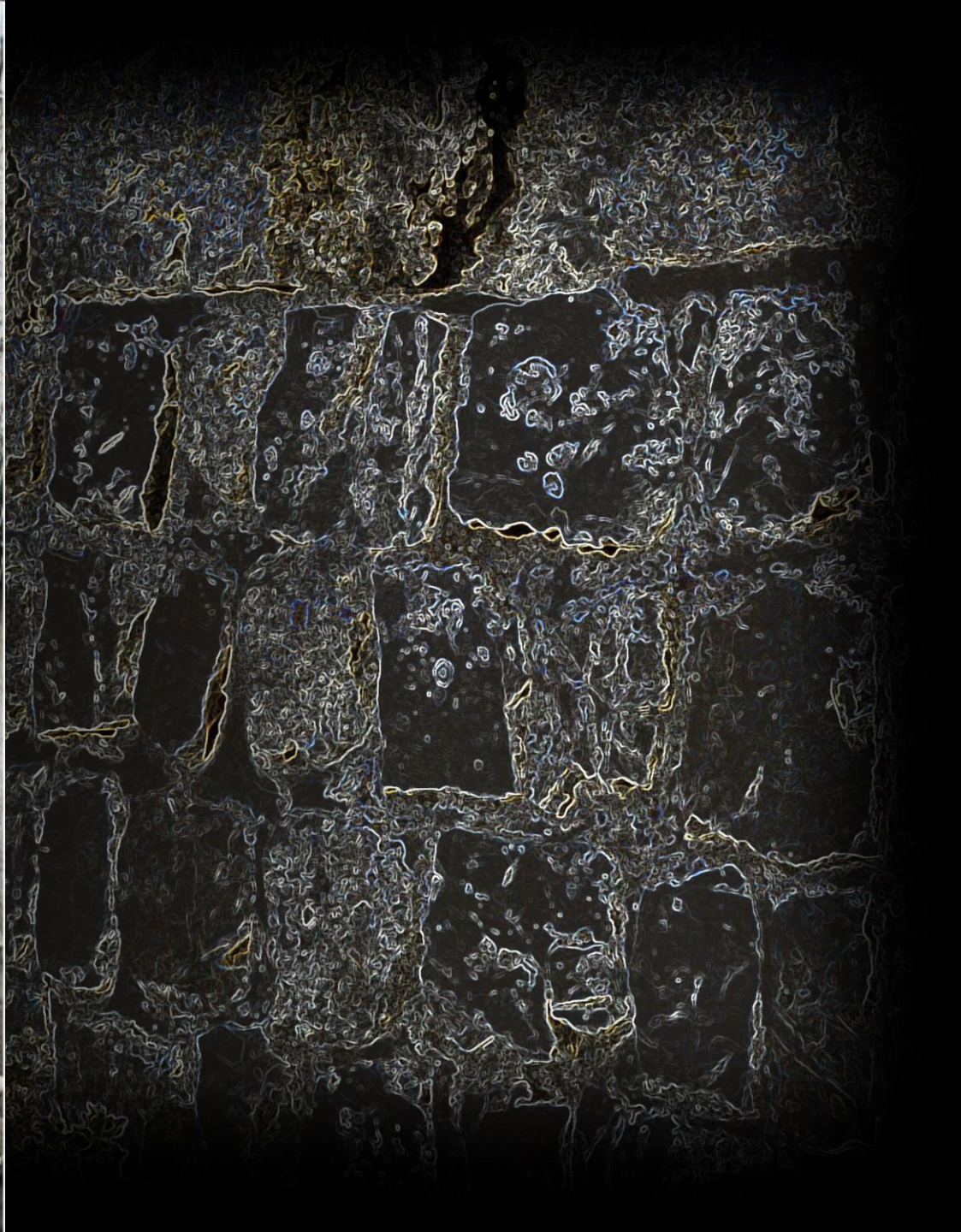




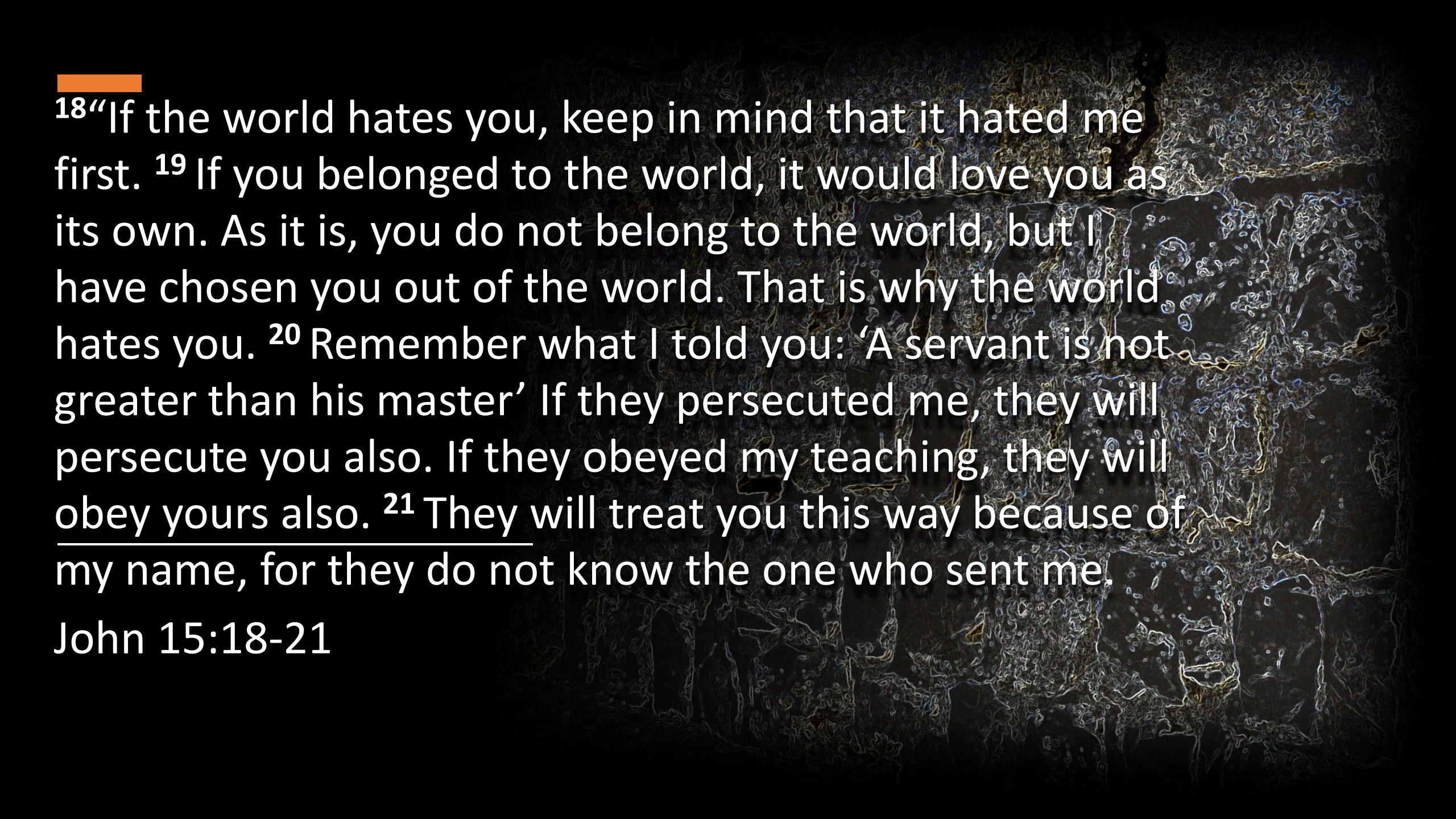
Tools of the Enemy:

- Doubt
 - Truth with a Twist
 - Mockery
-










¹⁸“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.”

John 15:18-21



Indeed, all who desire to live a godly
life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ..

2 Timothy 3:12

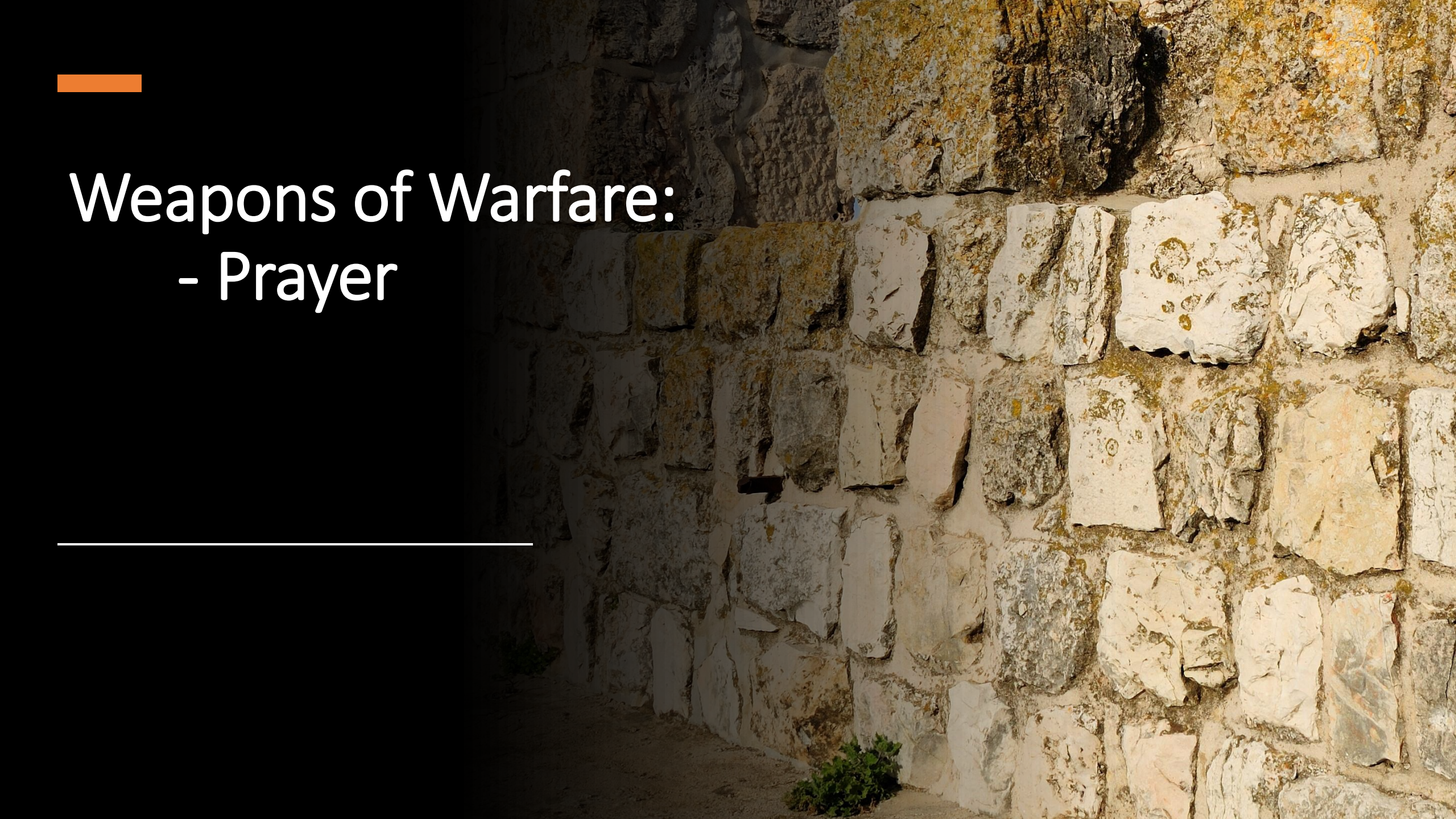


Nehemiah's Response





Weapons of Warfare: - Prayer





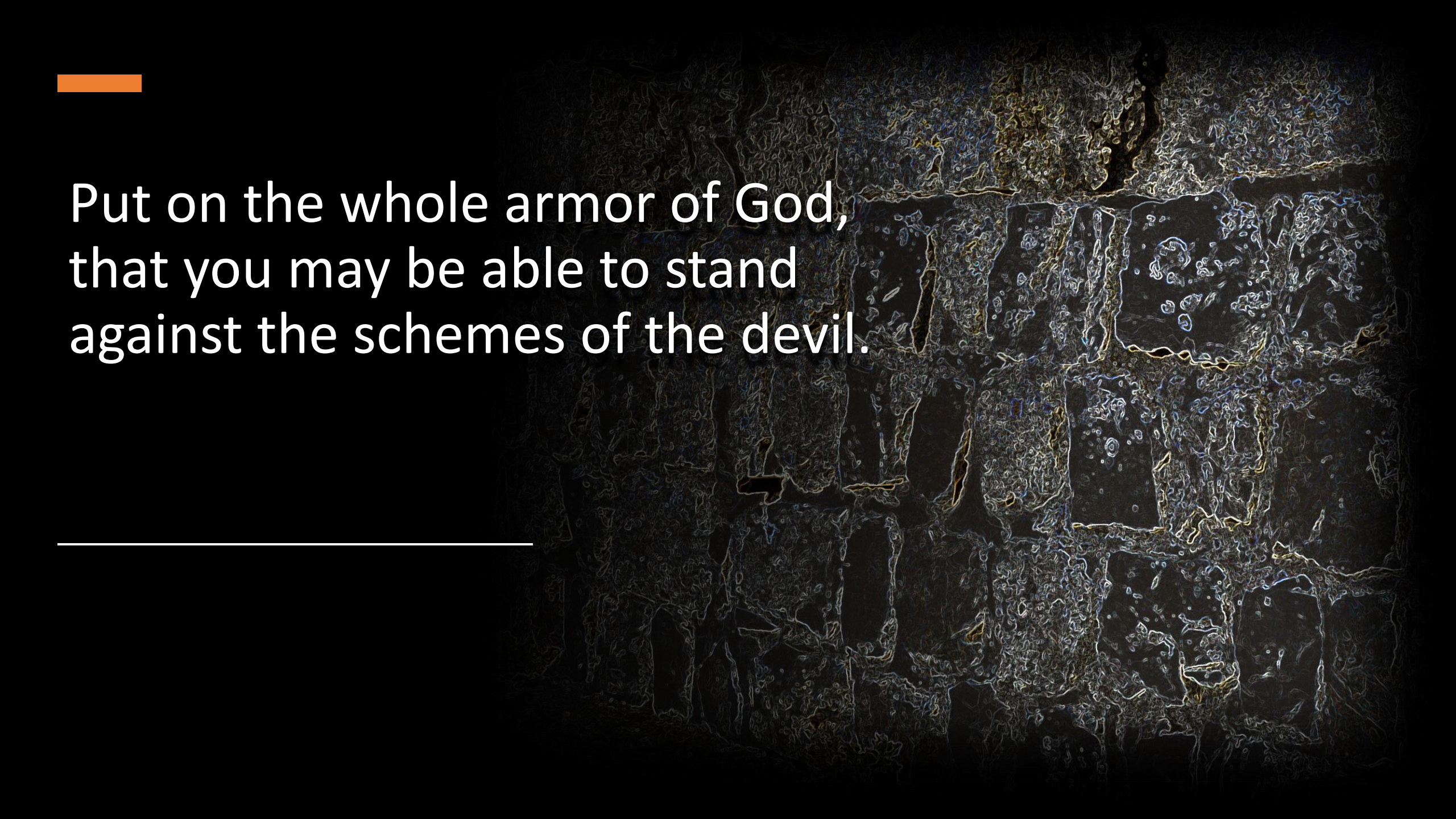
Weapons of Warfare:

- Prayer
 - Get to work!
-

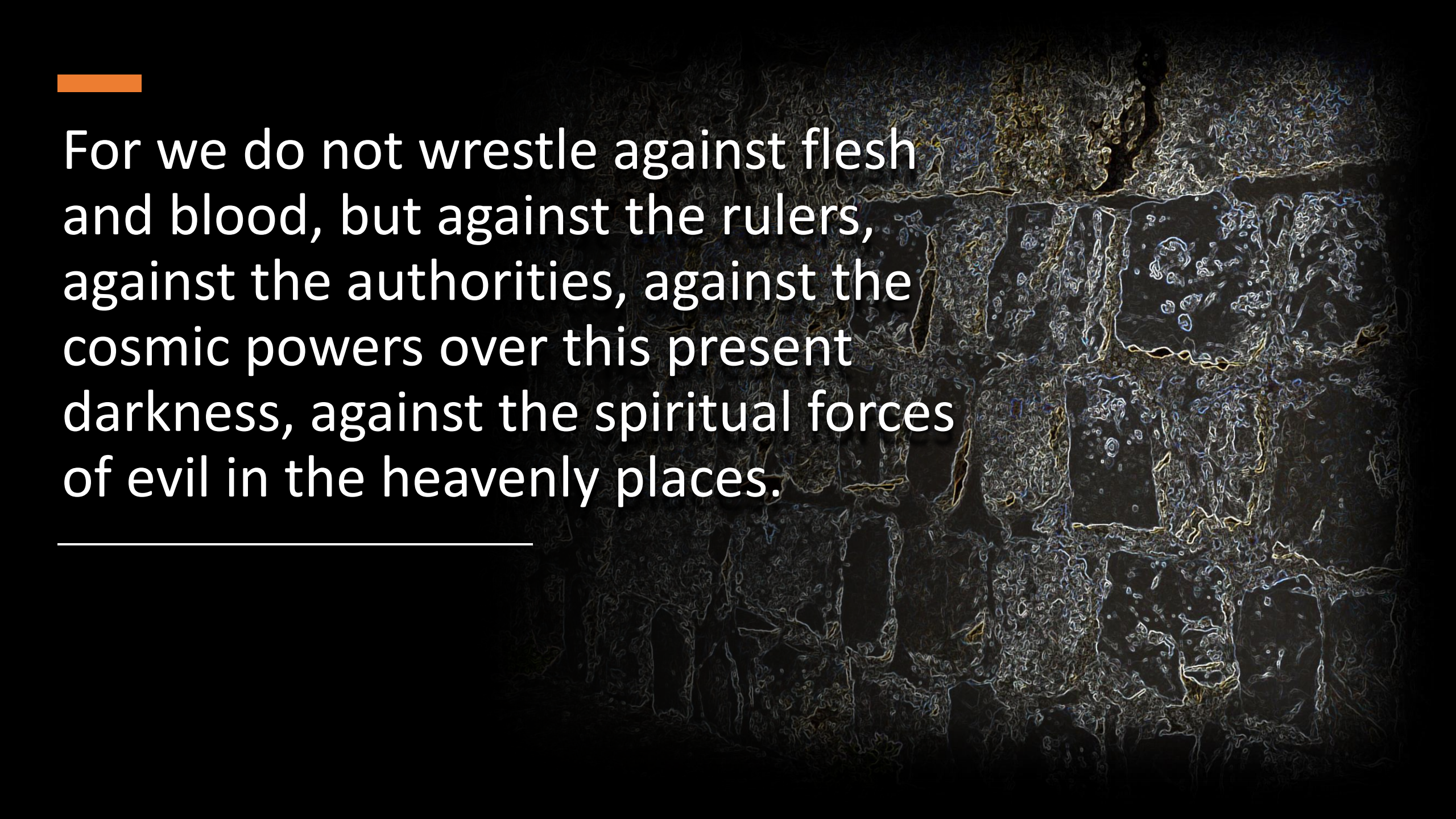


From Taunts to Plots

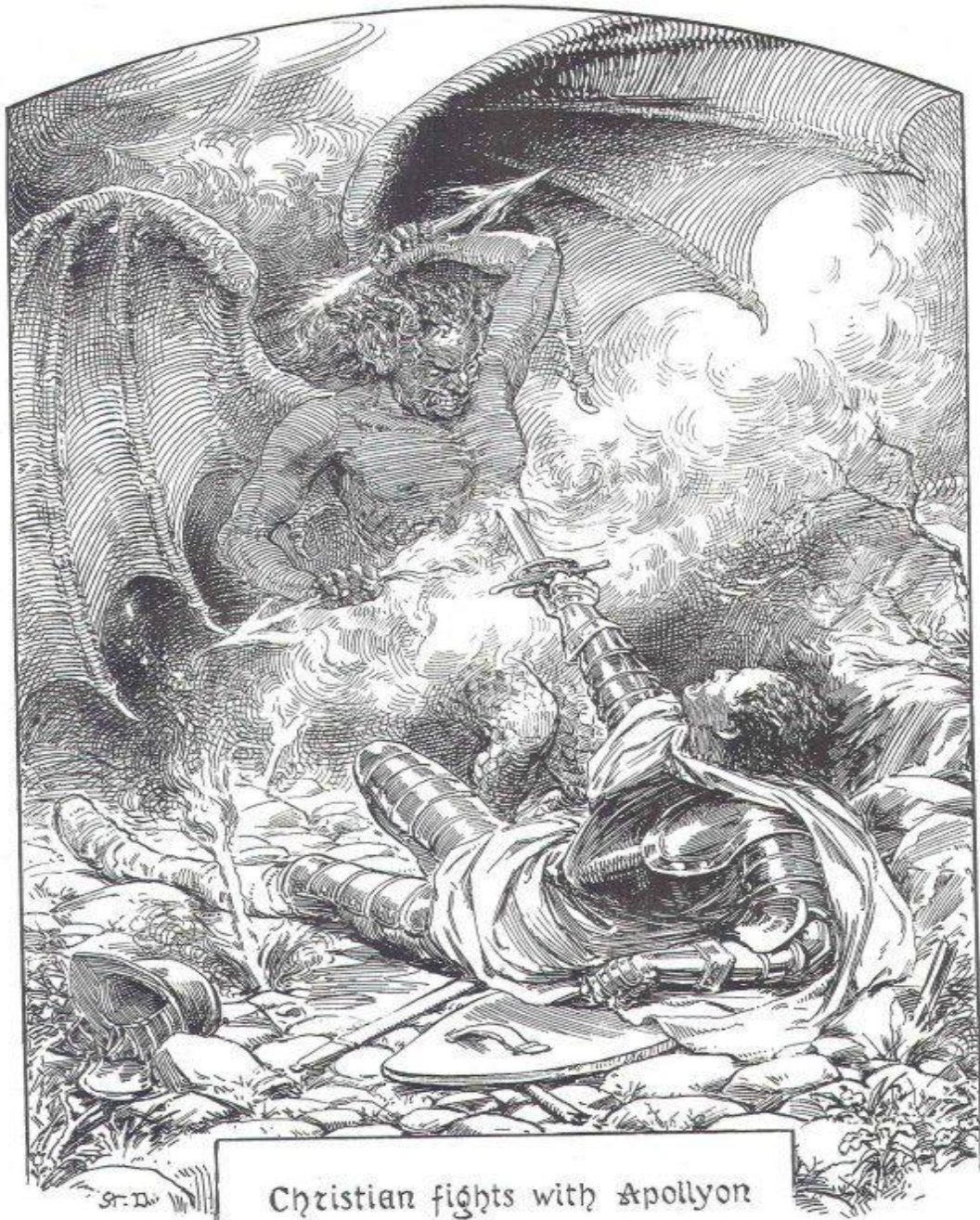




Put on the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to stand
against the schemes of the devil.



For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



Christian fights with Apollyon





The Armor of God:





The Armor of God:
- Belt of Truth





The Armor of God:

- Belt of Truth
 - Breastplate of Righteousness
-





The Armor of God:

- Belt of Truth
 - Breastplate of Righteousness
 - Readiness with the Gospel of Peace
-





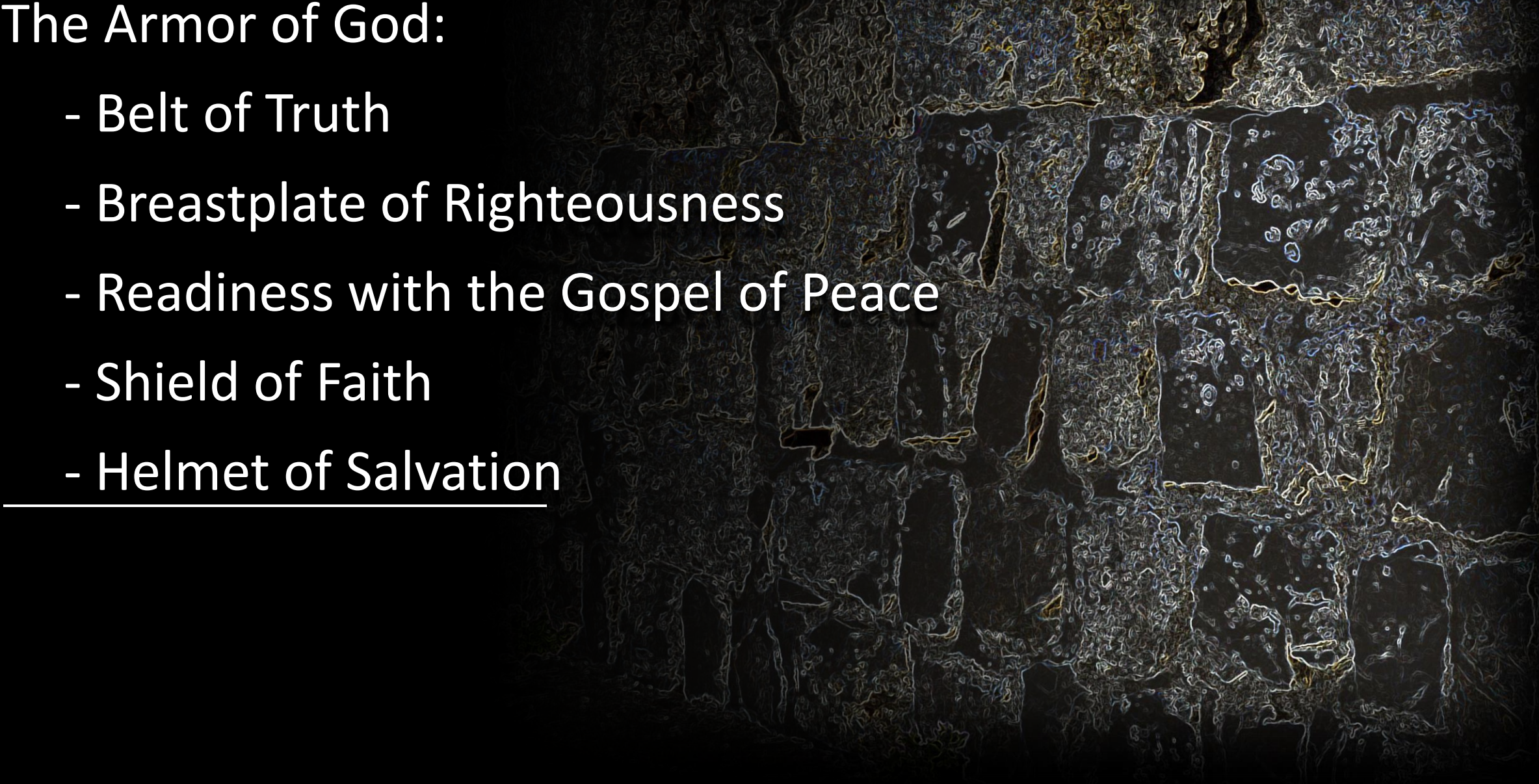
The Armor of God:

- Belt of Truth
 - Breastplate of Righteousness
 - Readiness with the Gospel of Peace
 - Shield of Faith
-





The Armor of God:

- Belt of Truth
 - Breastplate of Righteousness
 - Readiness with the Gospel of Peace
 - Shield of Faith
 - Helmet of Salvation
- 



The Armor of God:

- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Readiness with the Gospel of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit



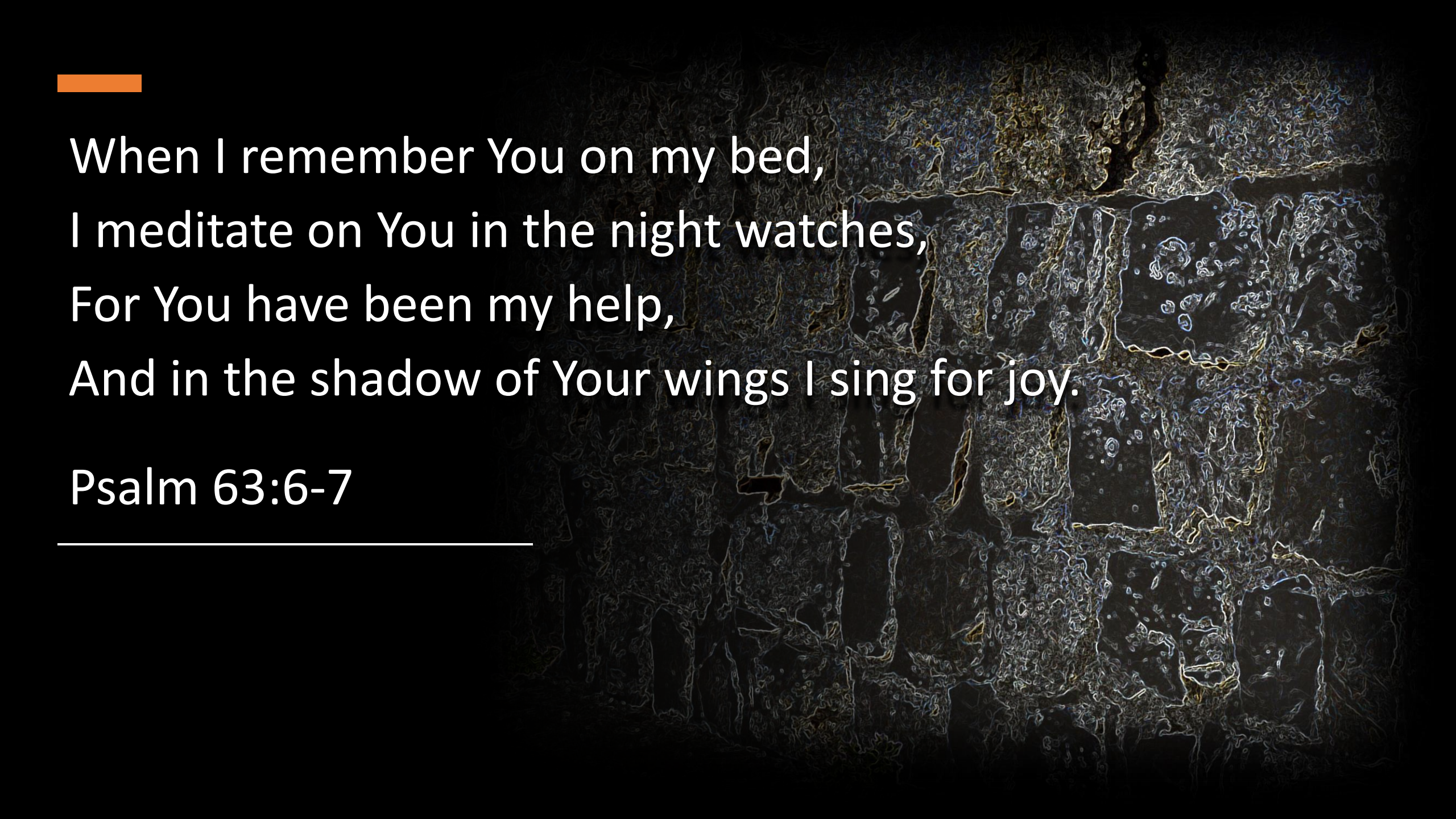


The Armor of God:

- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Readiness with the Gospel of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation

- Sword of the Spirit
- Prayer





When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the night watches,
For You have been my help,
And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.

Psalm 63:6-7

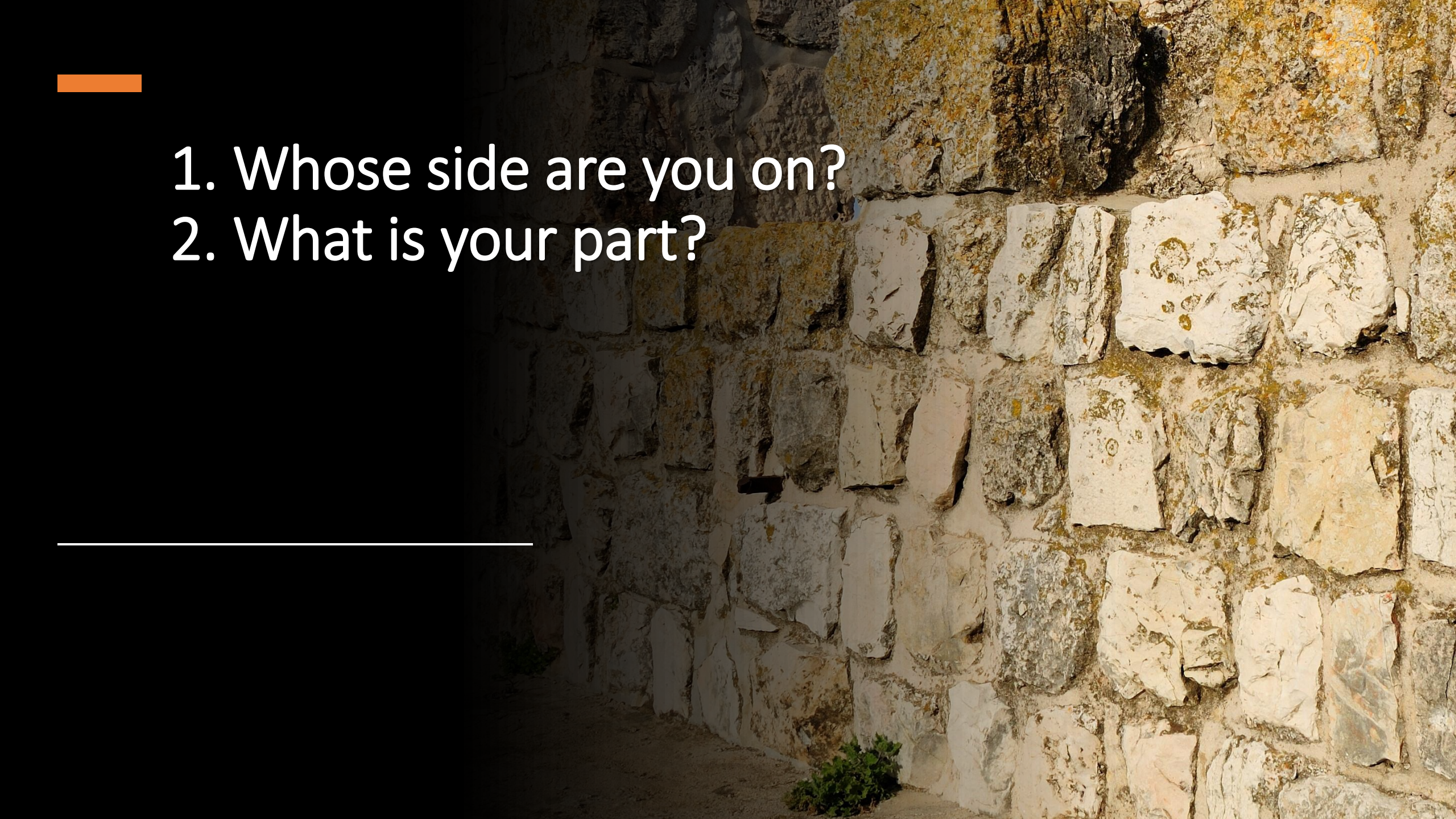


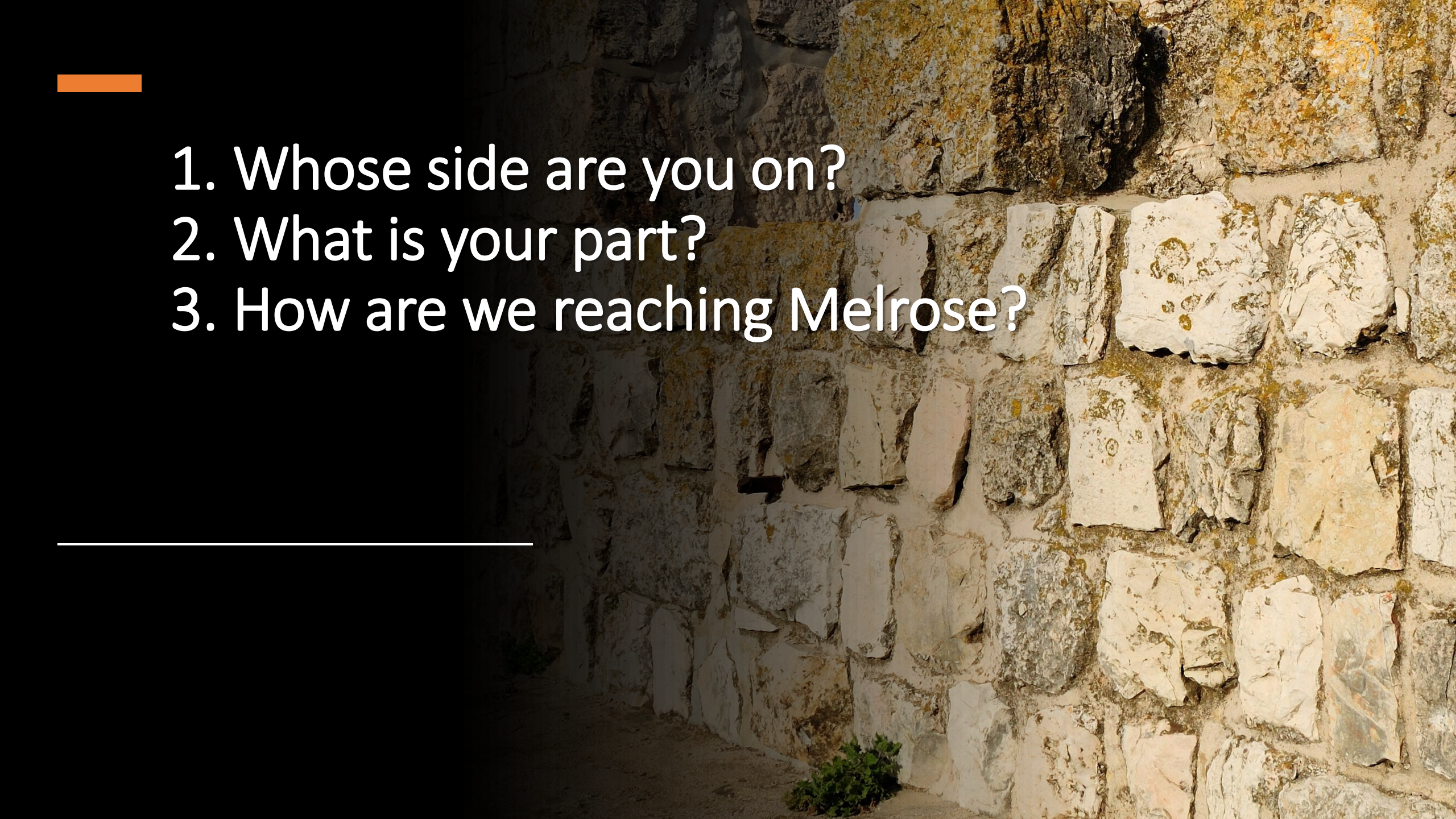
Prayer and Preparation

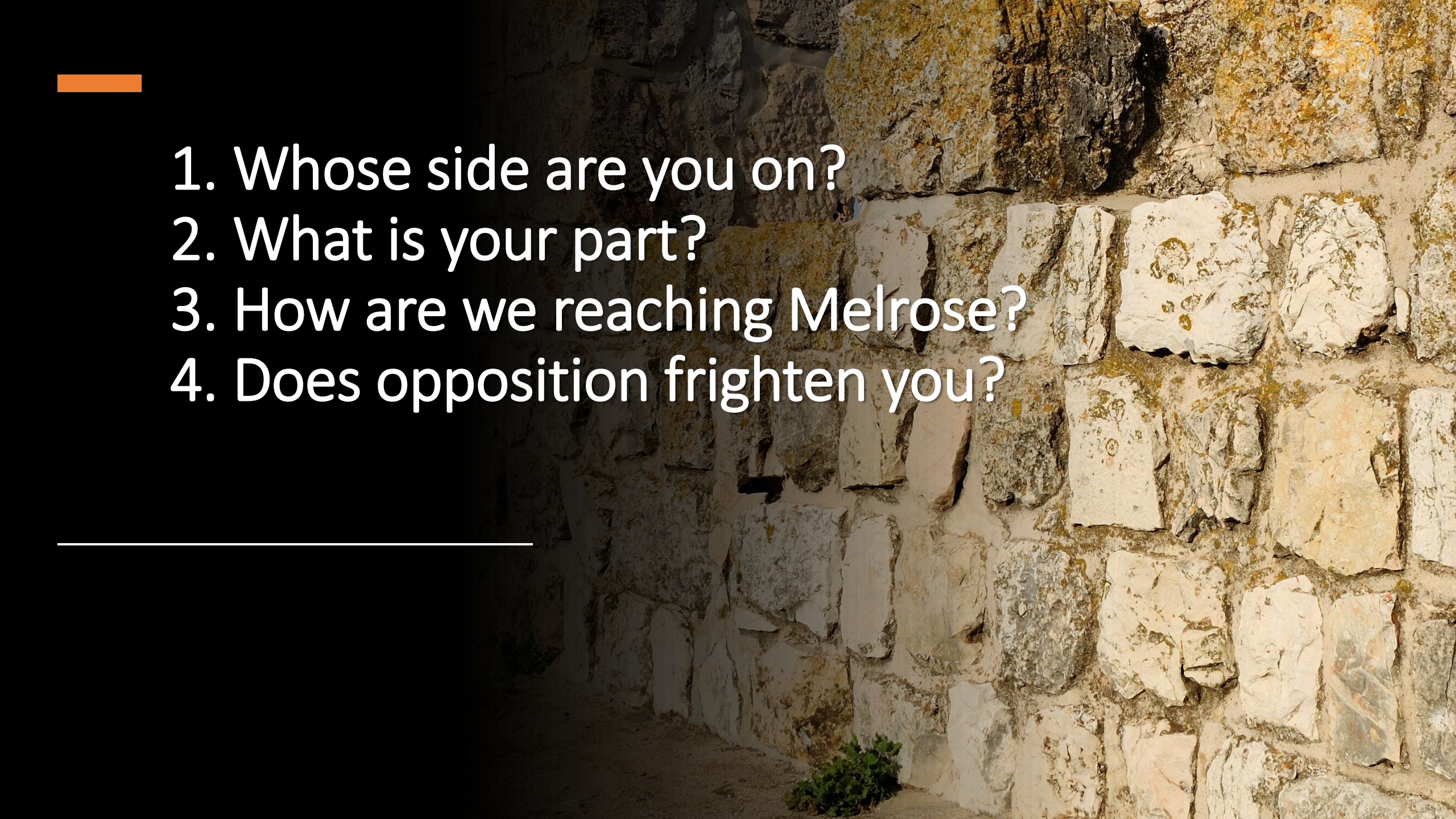


A photograph of a stone wall. The wall is constructed from large, irregular, light-colored stones. The left side of the wall is in deep shadow, while the right side is brightly lit, highlighting the texture and color of the stones. A small green plant is growing at the base of the wall on the right. An orange horizontal bar is in the top left corner, and a white horizontal line is in the bottom left corner.

1. Whose side are you on?

- 
- A photograph of a stone wall, likely made of limestone or a similar light-colored rock. The wall is composed of irregularly shaped stones of various sizes, some showing signs of weathering and discoloration. The lighting is dramatic, with the right side of the wall brightly lit, highlighting the texture and color of the stones, while the left side is in deep shadow, creating a strong contrast. In the bottom left corner, there is a small, dark green plant growing from the base of the wall. The overall composition is vertical, with the wall occupying most of the frame.
1. Whose side are you on?
 2. What is your part?

- 
- The background of the slide is a photograph of a stone wall. The wall is constructed from large, irregular, light-colored stones, possibly limestone or sandstone, with some darker patches and signs of weathering. The lighting is somewhat uneven, with the right side of the wall appearing brighter than the left. In the top-left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar. In the bottom-left corner, there is a thin white horizontal line.
1. Whose side are you on?
 2. What is your part?
 3. How are we reaching Melrose?

- 
- A photograph of a stone wall made of irregular, light-colored stones with some darker patches and mortar. The wall is the background for the text. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar. In the bottom left corner, there is a solid white horizontal line.
1. Whose side are you on?
 2. What is your part?
 3. How are we reaching Melrose?
 4. Does opposition frighten you?



Be strong in the Lord and in the
strength of HIS might!

Ephesians 6:10
