

An aerial photograph of a volcanic landscape. A large, billowing white plume of smoke or ash rises from a central crater, dominating the middle of the frame. The surrounding terrain is rugged and covered in dark, jagged rock formations. Patches of orange-brown and green are visible, likely due to mineral deposits or sparse vegetation. The overall scene conveys a sense of powerful natural forces.

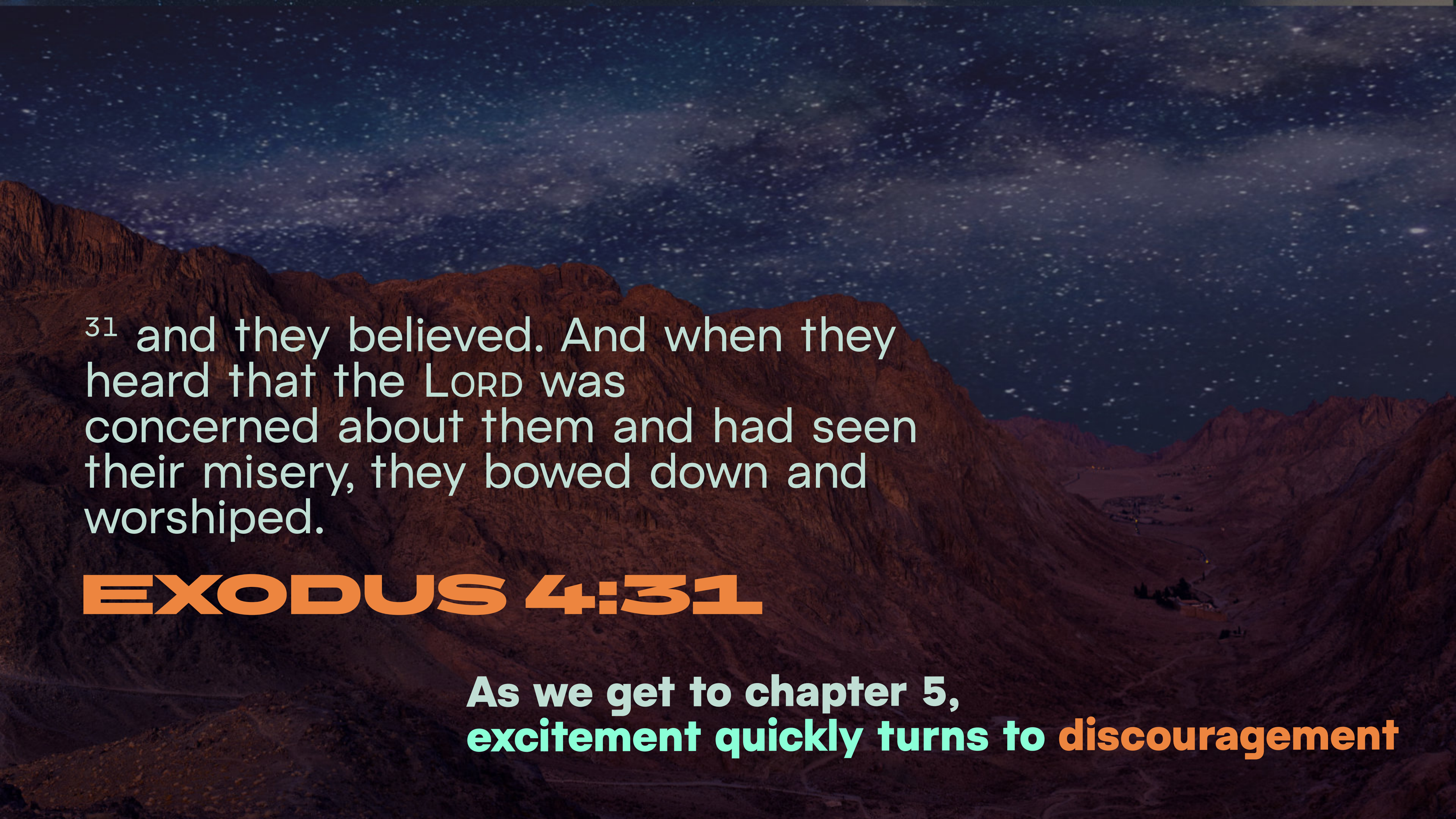
EXODUS

our story of
freedom



Do you ever feel

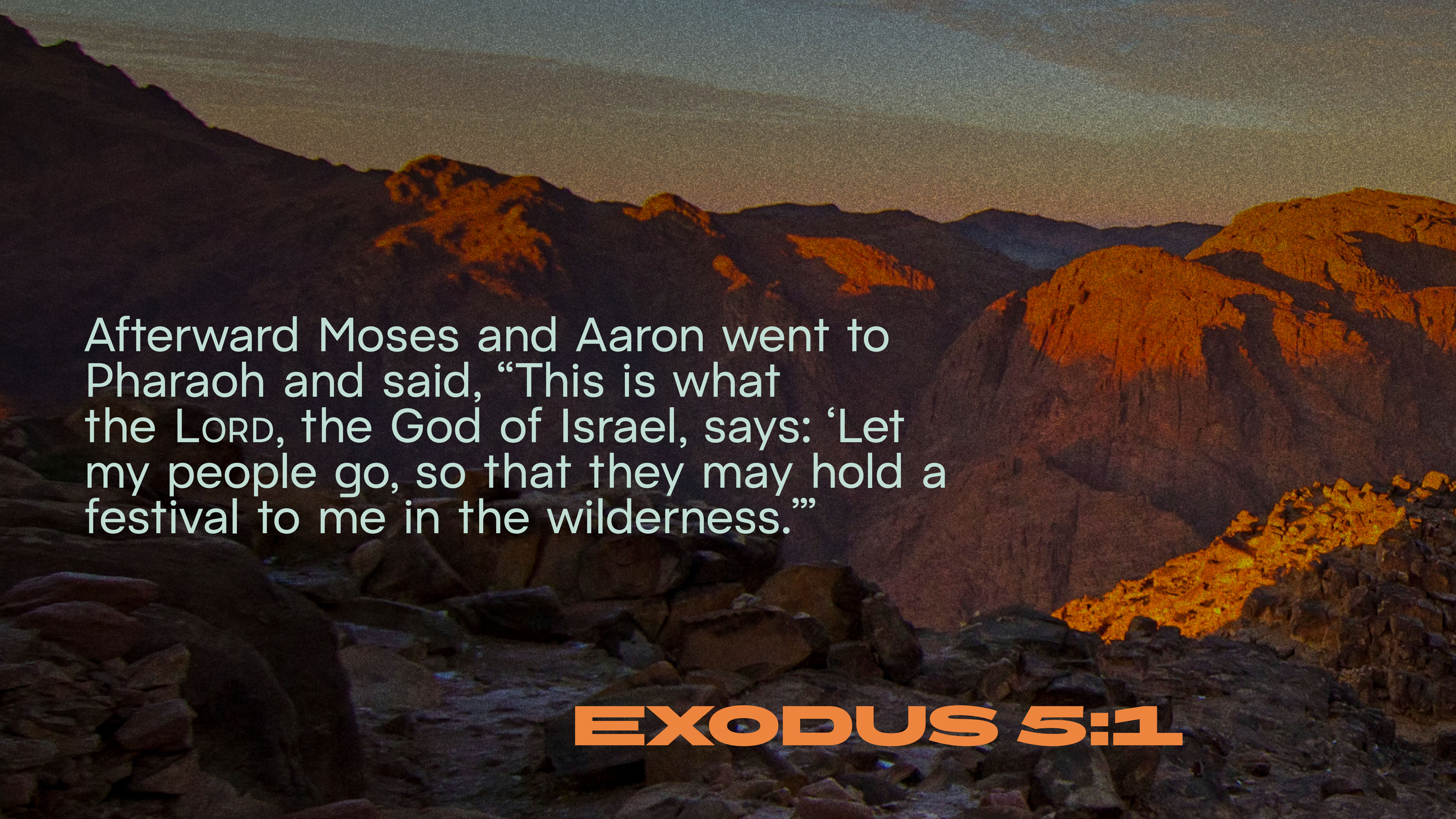
DISCOURAGED?



³¹ and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

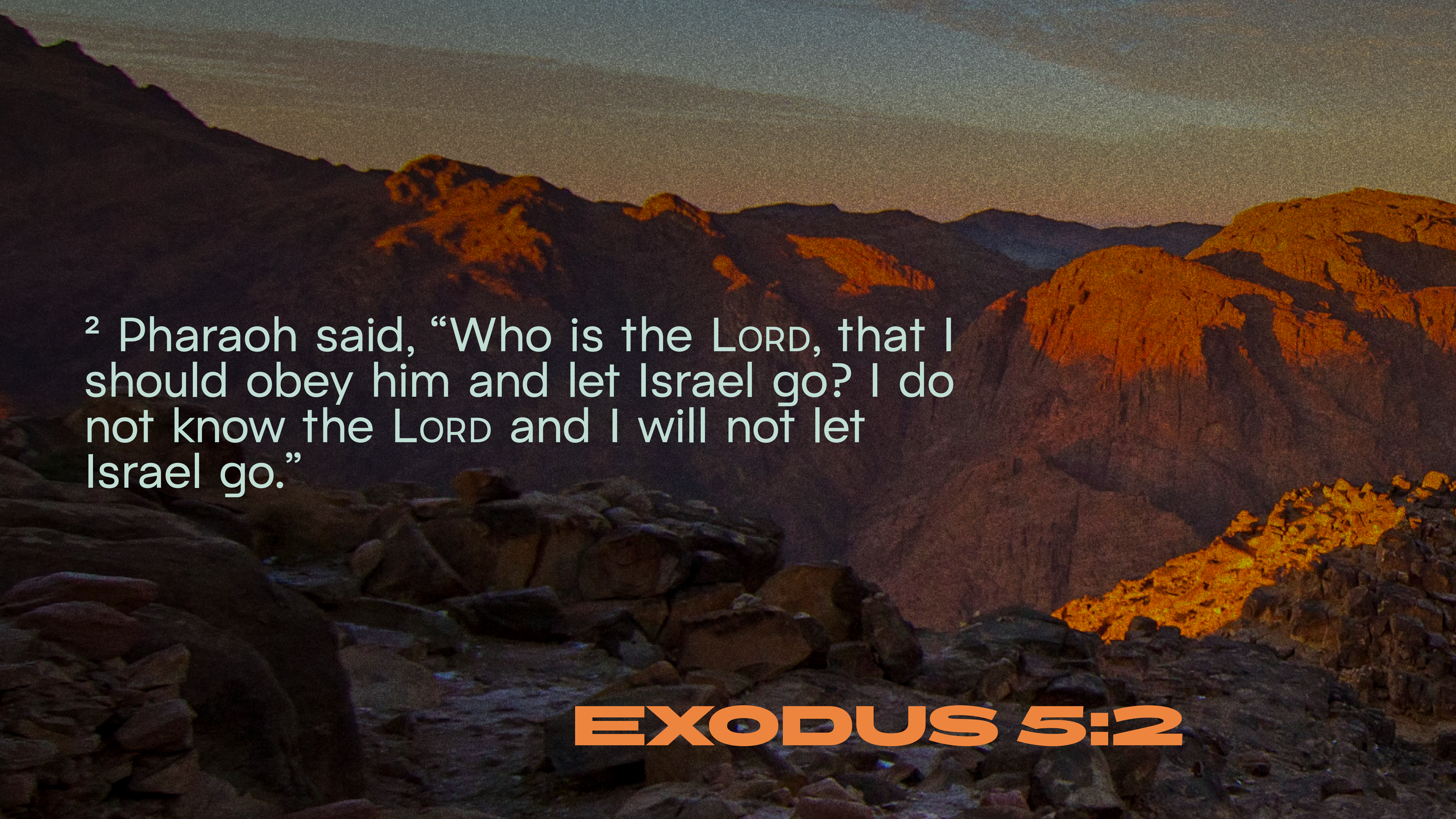
EXODUS 4:31

As we get to chapter 5,
excitement quickly turns to discouragement



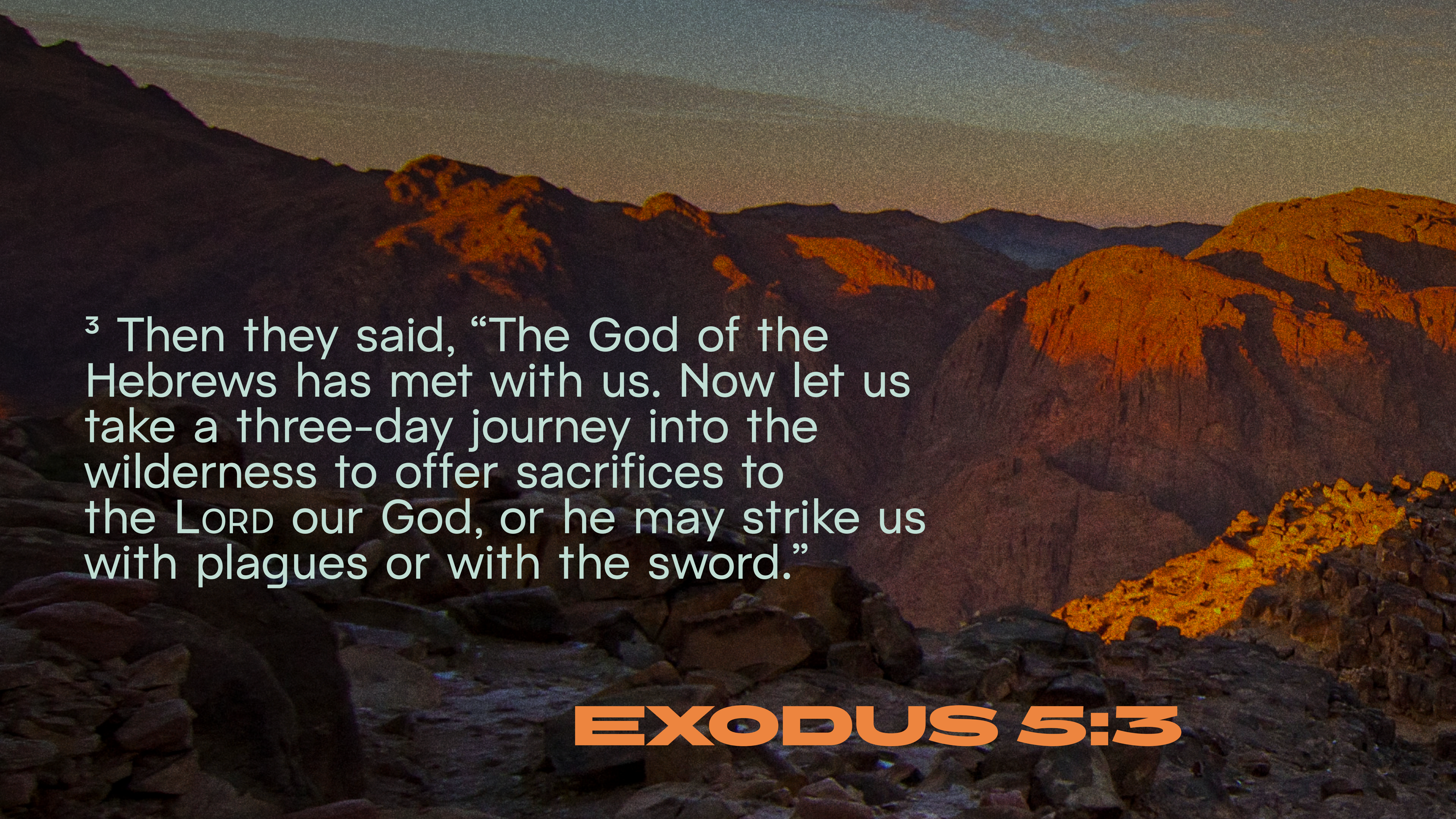
Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.’”

EXODUS 5:1



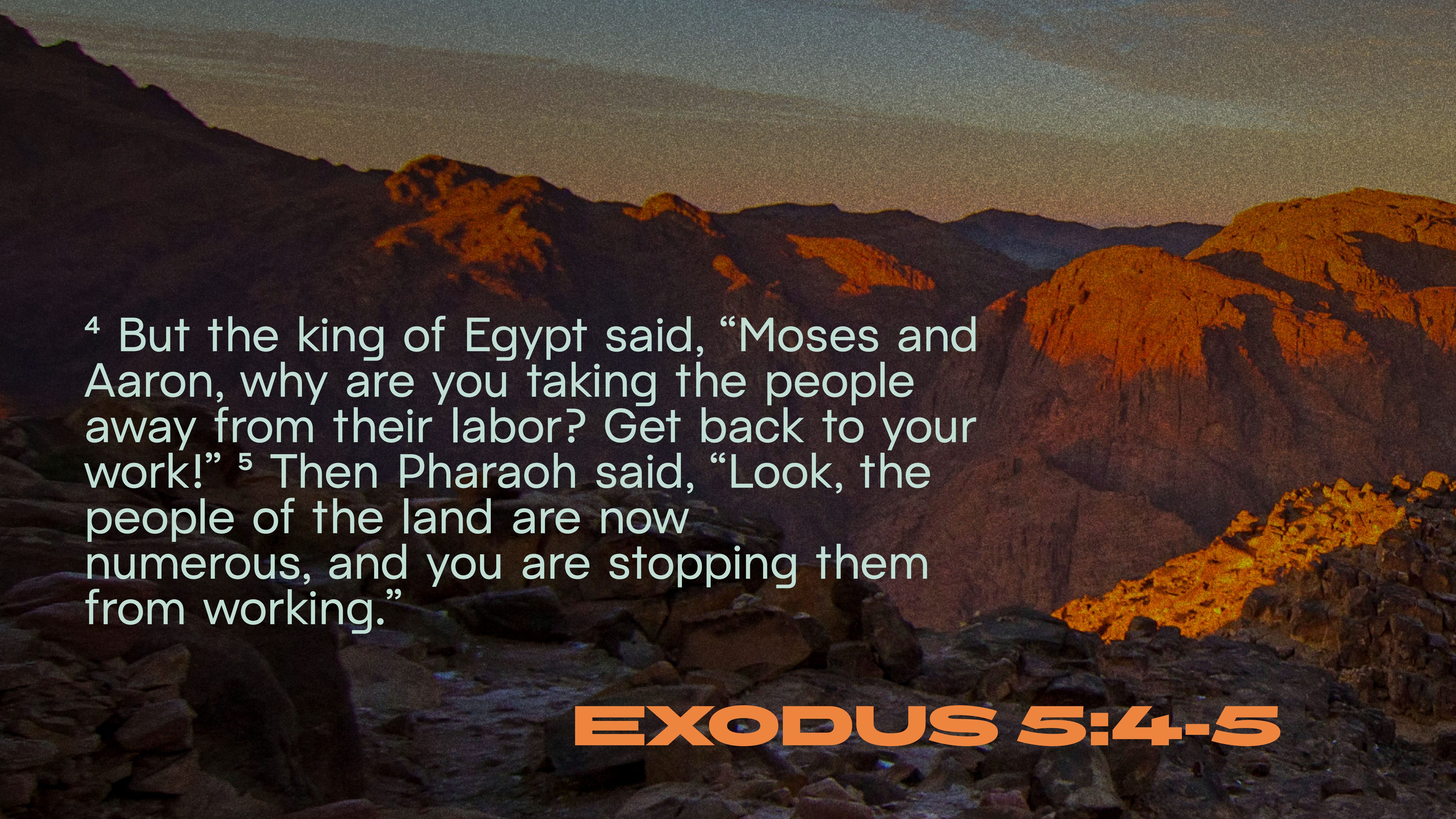
² Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.”

EXODUS 5:2



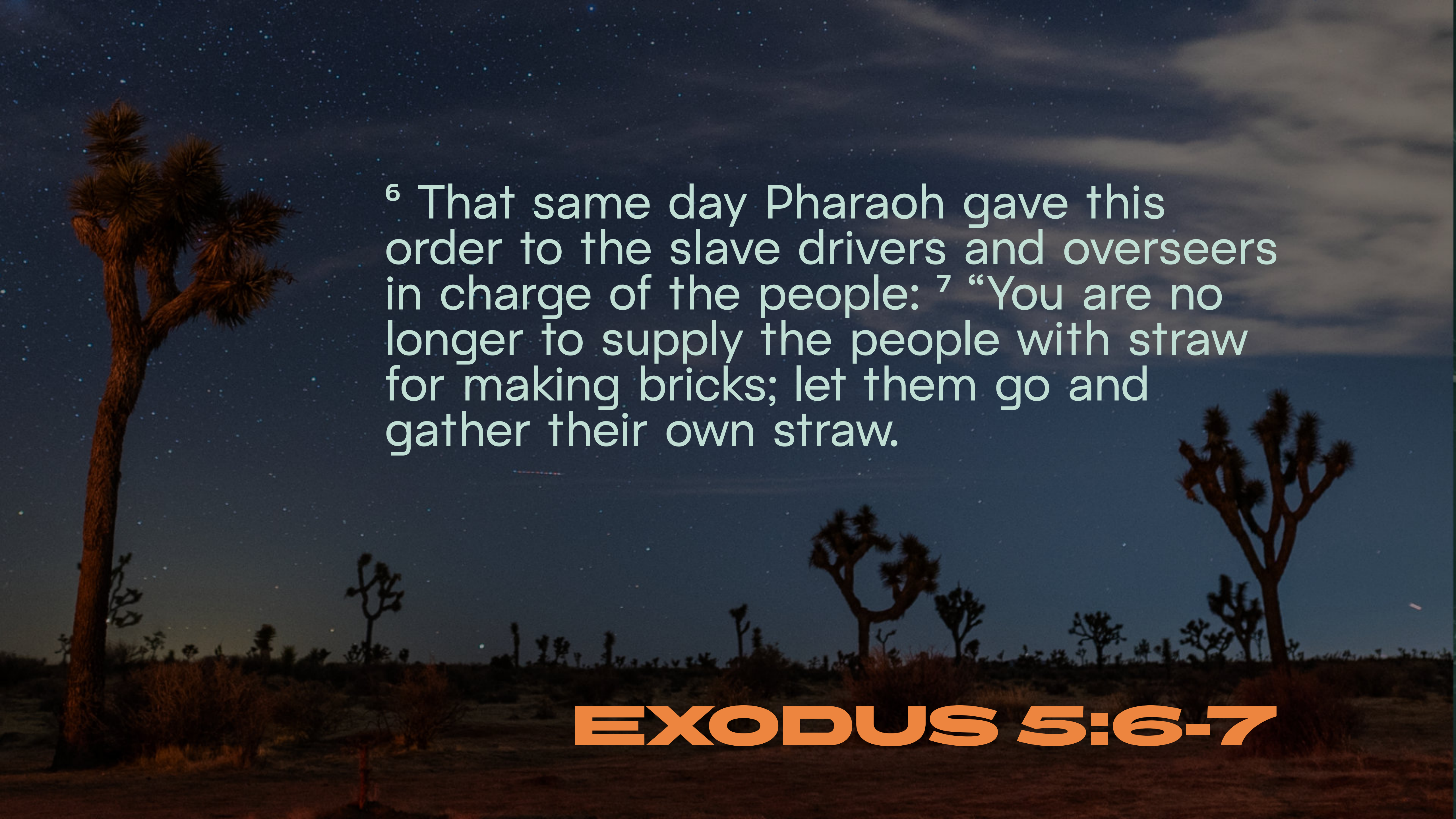
³ Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.”

EXODUS 5:3



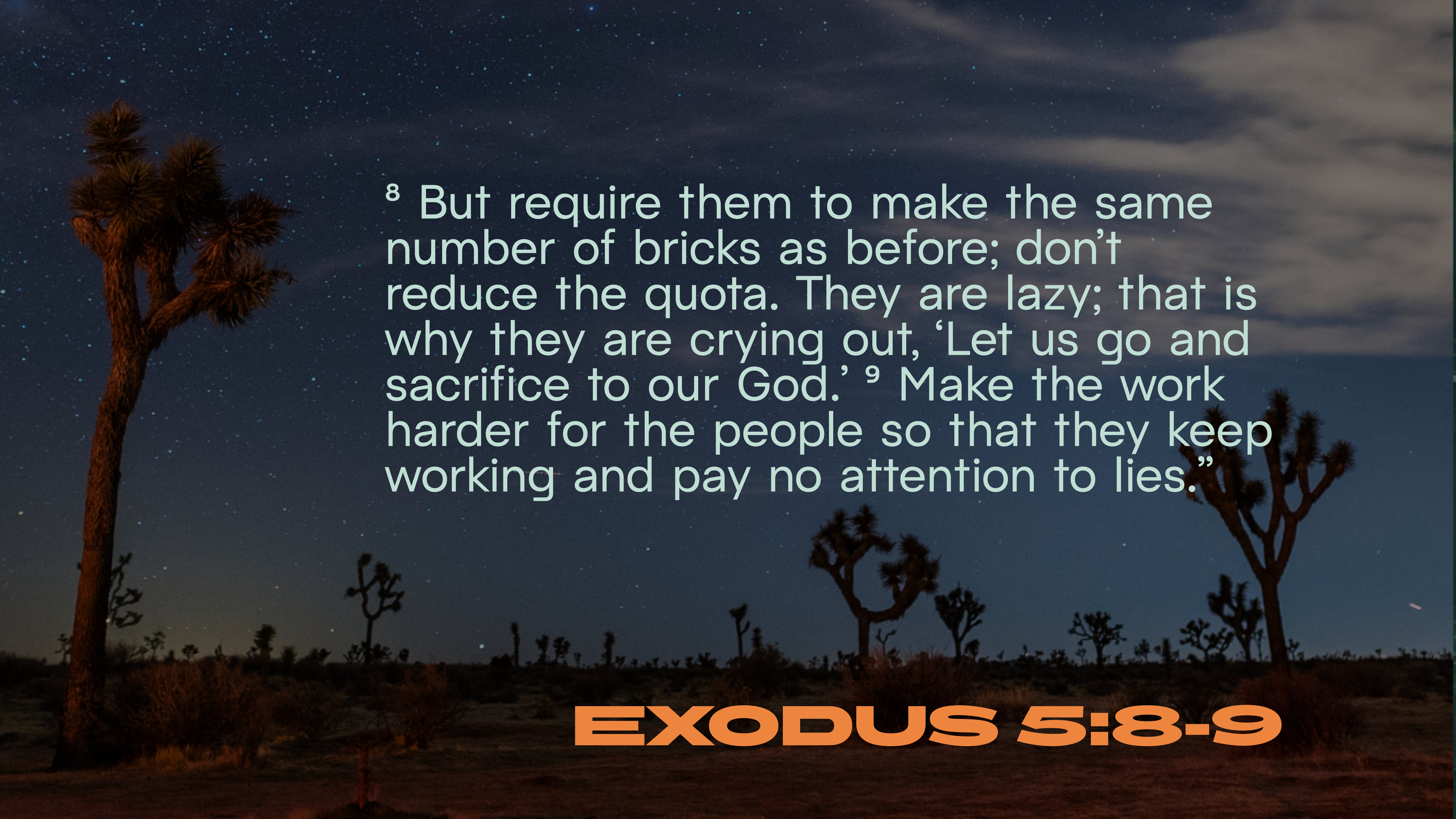
⁴ But the king of Egypt said, “Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!” ⁵ Then Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working.”

EXODUS 5:4-5

A desert landscape at night, featuring a starry sky and silhouettes of Joshua trees. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

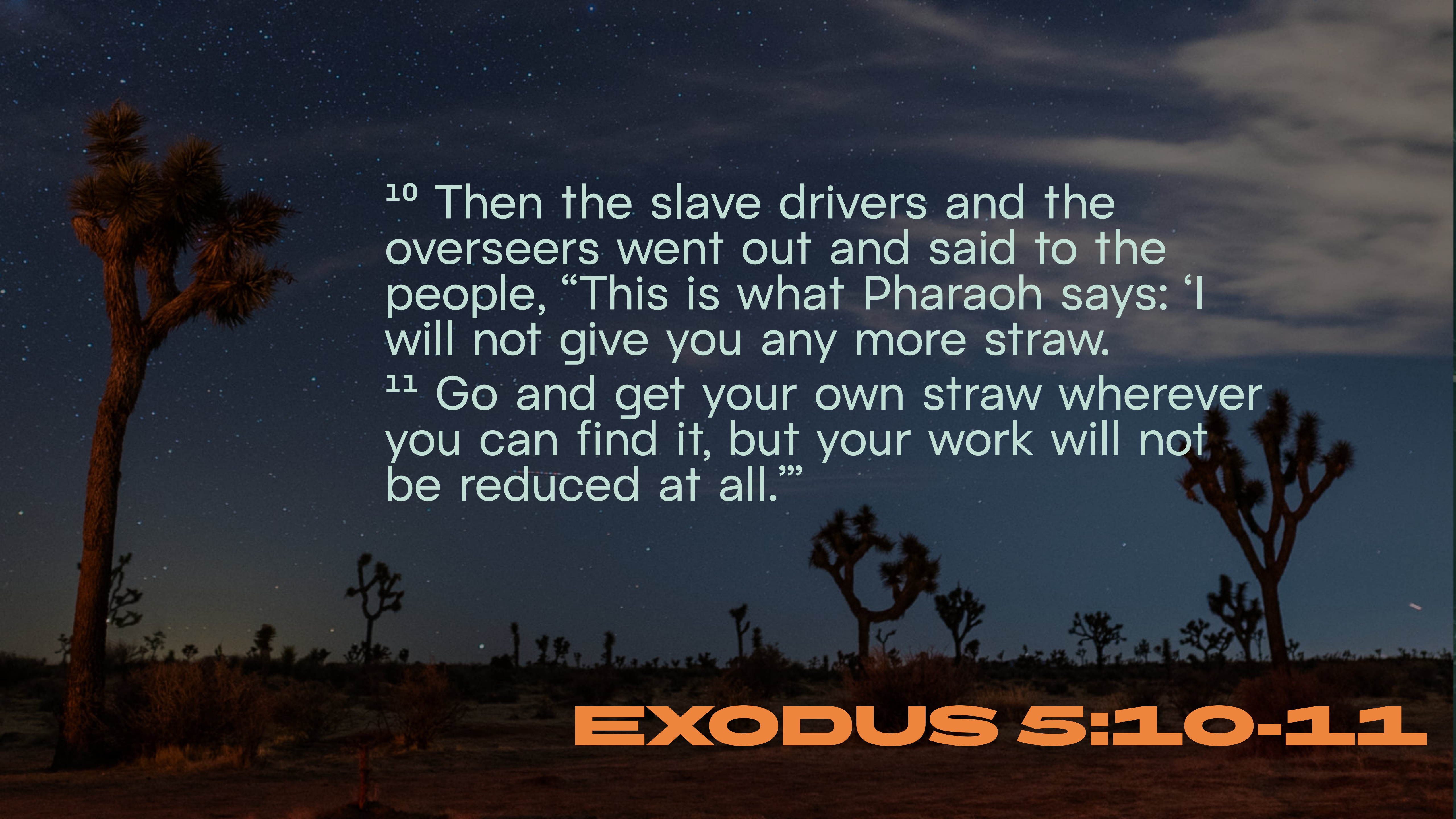
⁶ That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people: ⁷ “You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw.

EXODUS 5:6-7

A desert landscape at night, featuring a starry sky and silhouettes of Joshua trees. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

⁸ But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' ⁹ Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies."

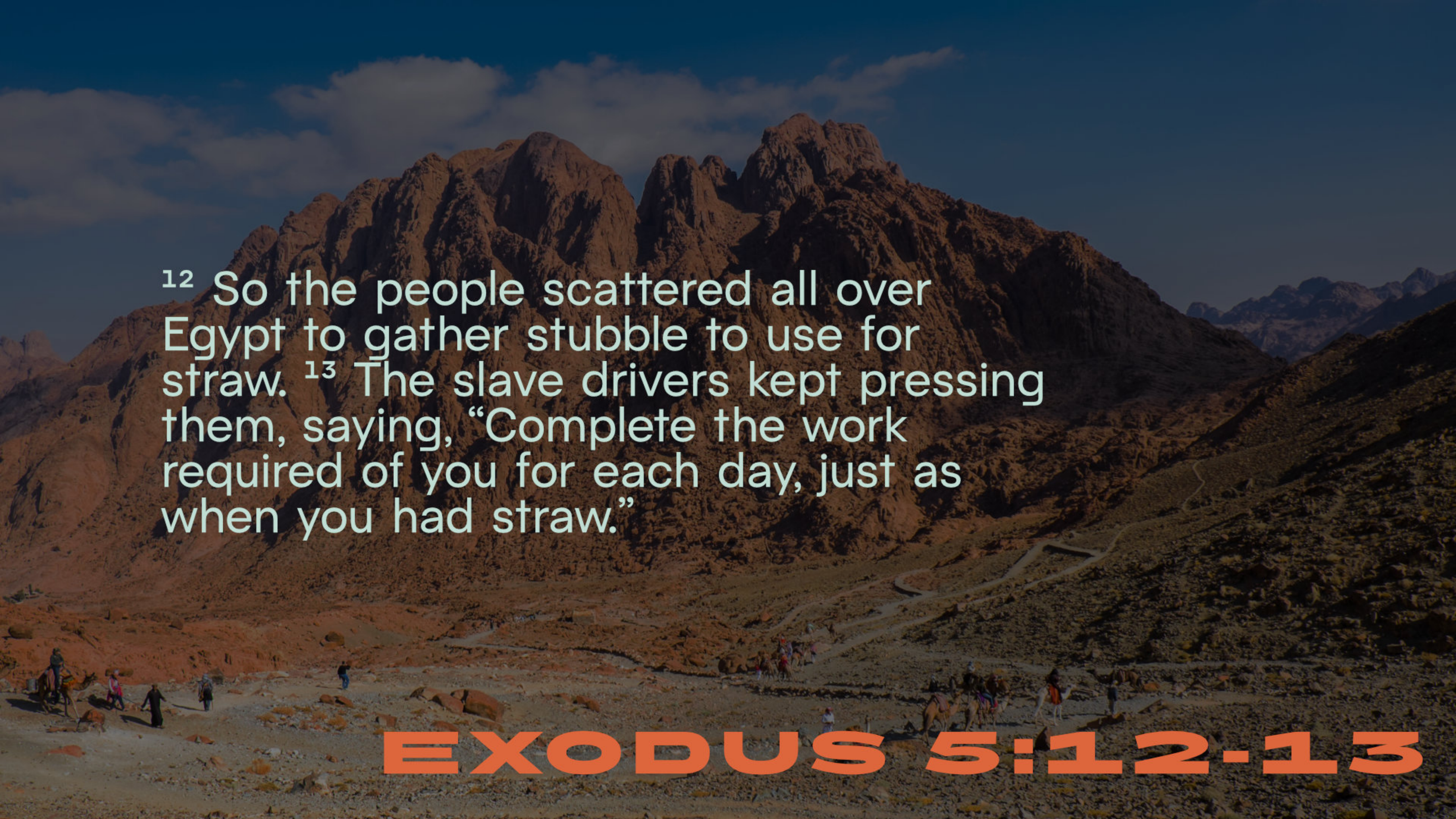
EXODUS 5:8-9

A desert landscape at night. The sky is dark blue and black, filled with numerous stars. In the foreground and middle ground, there are several Joshua trees, their spiky leaves and branching forms silhouetted against the night sky. The ground is dark and appears to be dry earth or sand. The overall mood is quiet and vast.

¹⁰ Then the slave drivers and the overseers went out and said to the people, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I will not give you any more straw.

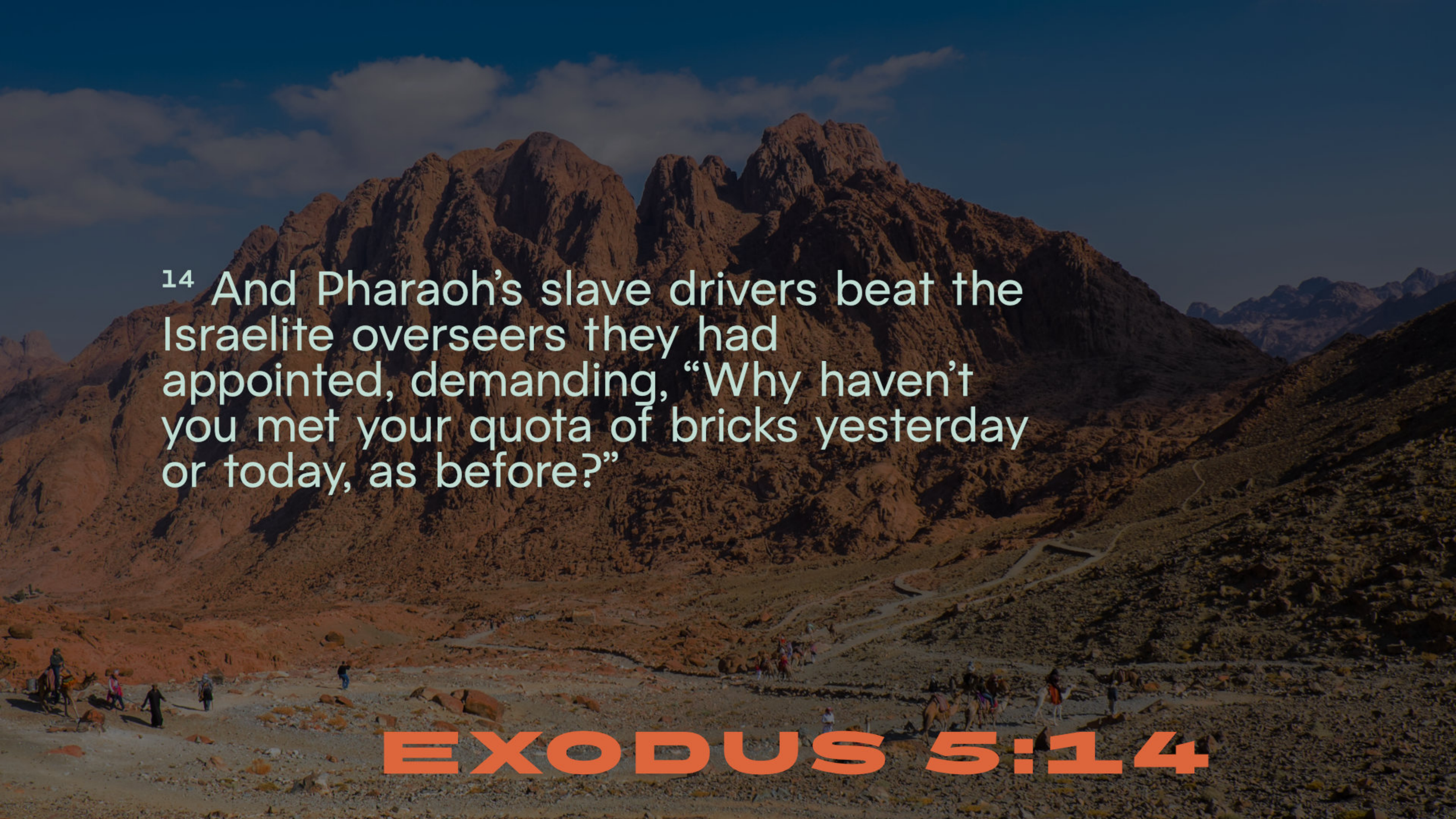
¹¹ Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.”

EXODUS 5:10-11



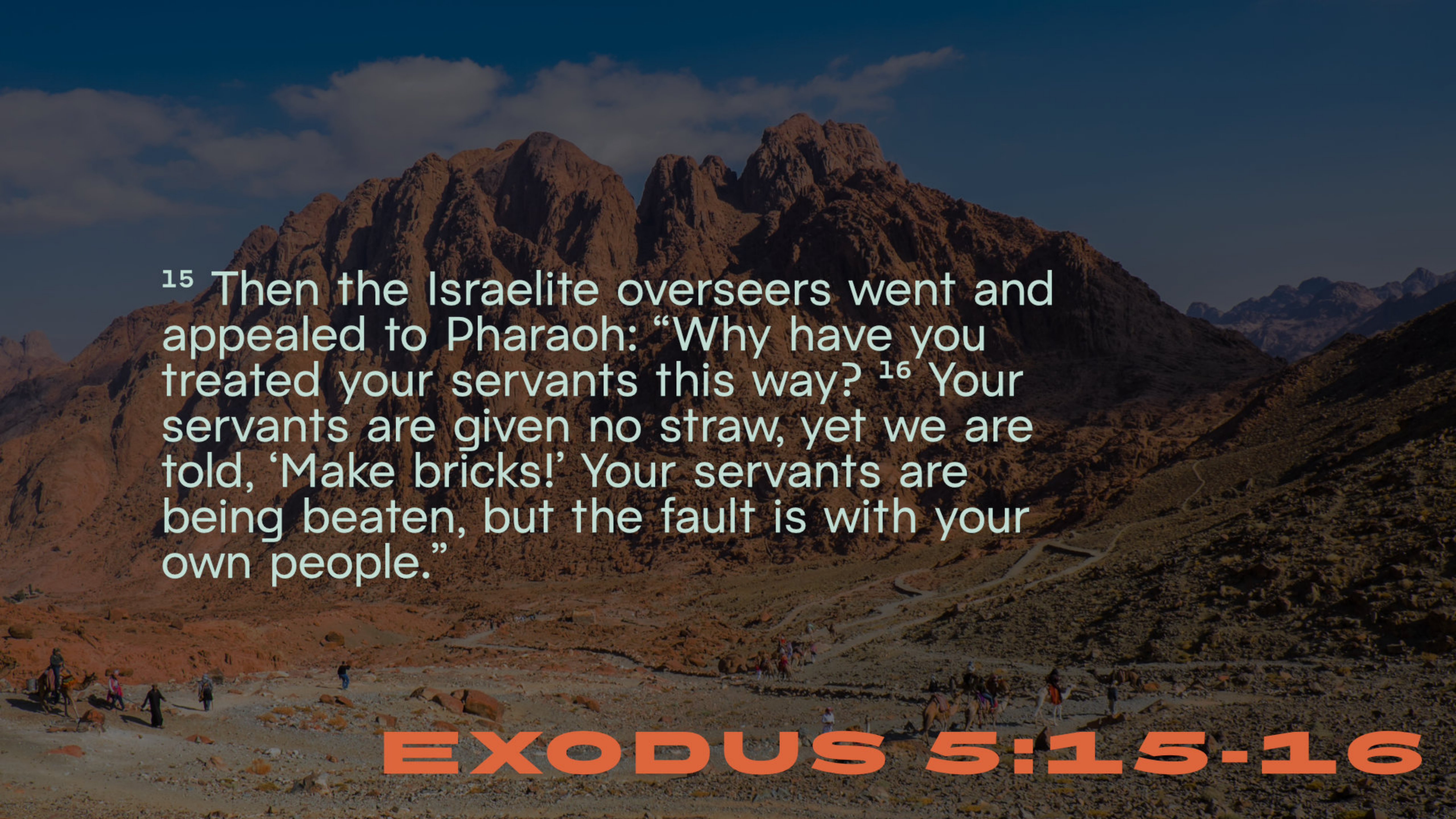
¹² So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. ¹³ The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, “Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw.”

EXODUS 5:12-13



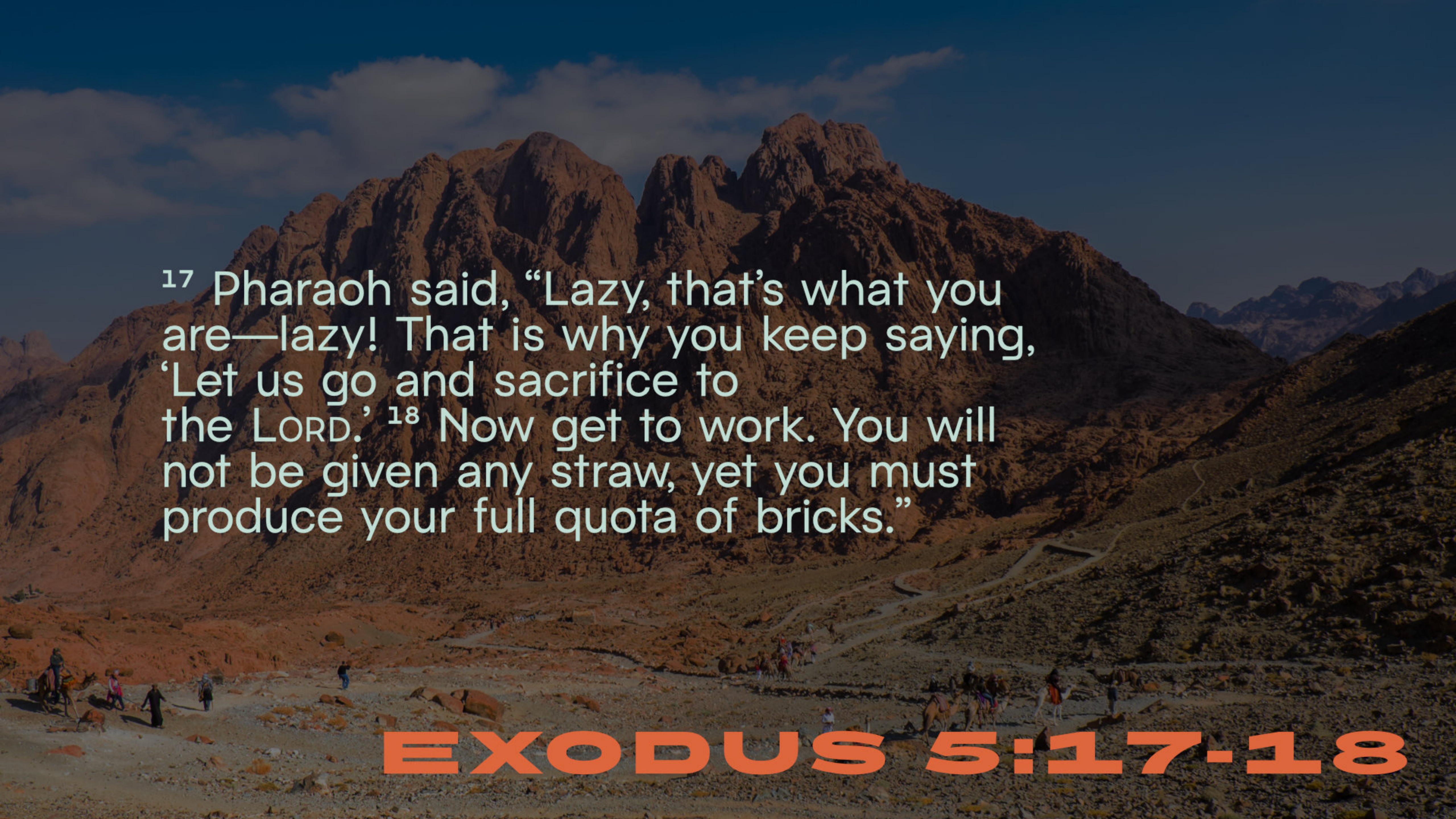
¹⁴ And Pharaoh's slave drivers beat the Israelite overseers they had appointed, demanding, "Why haven't you met your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?"

EXODUS 5:14



¹⁵ Then the Israelite overseers went and appealed to Pharaoh: “Why have you treated your servants this way? ¹⁶ Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people.”

EXODUS 5:15-16



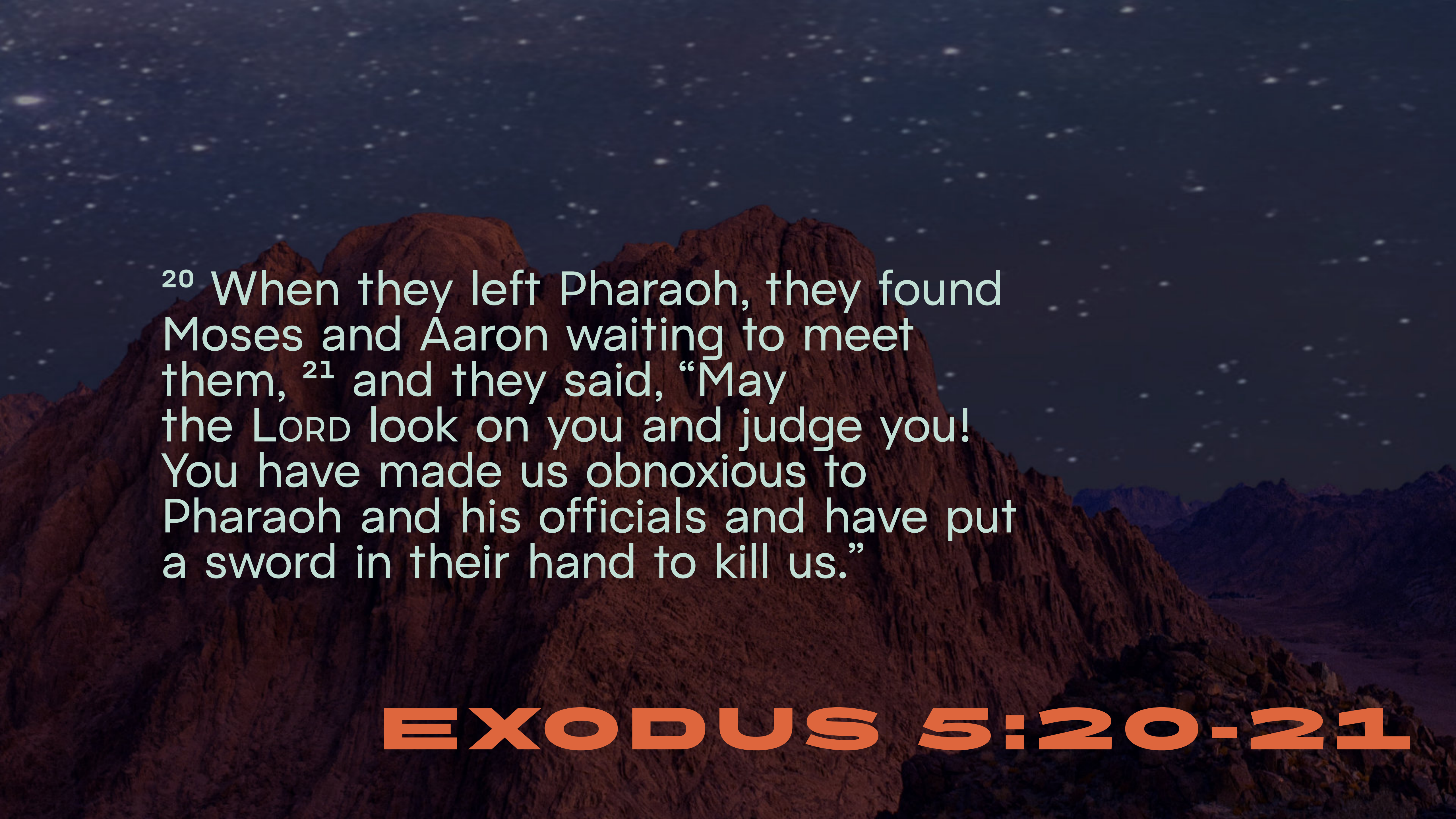
¹⁷ Pharaoh said, “Lazy, that’s what you are—lazy! That is why you keep saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’ ¹⁸ Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks.”

EXODUS 5:17-18



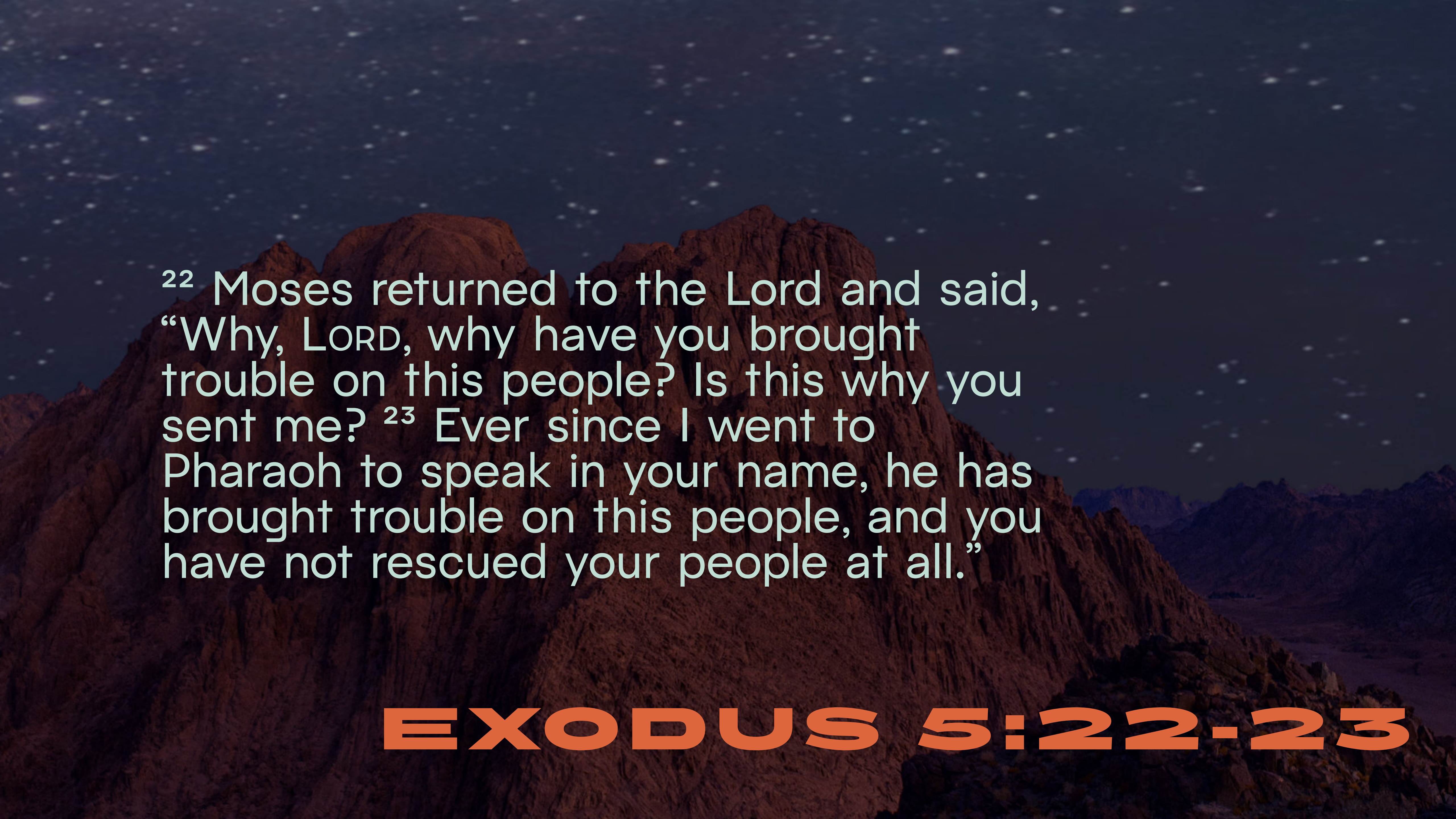
¹⁹ The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, “You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day.”

EXODUS 5:19



²⁰ When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, ²¹ and they said, “May the LORD look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

EXODUS 5:20-21



²² Moses returned to the Lord and said,
“Why, LORD, why have you brought
trouble on this people? Is this why you
sent me? ²³ Ever since I went to
Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has
brought trouble on this people, and you
have not rescued your people at all.”

EXODUS 5:22-23



THERE WAS DISCOURAGEMENT BECAUSE:

- obedience led to opposition
- there was delay before change
- criticism was being thrown around
- expectations didn't match reality

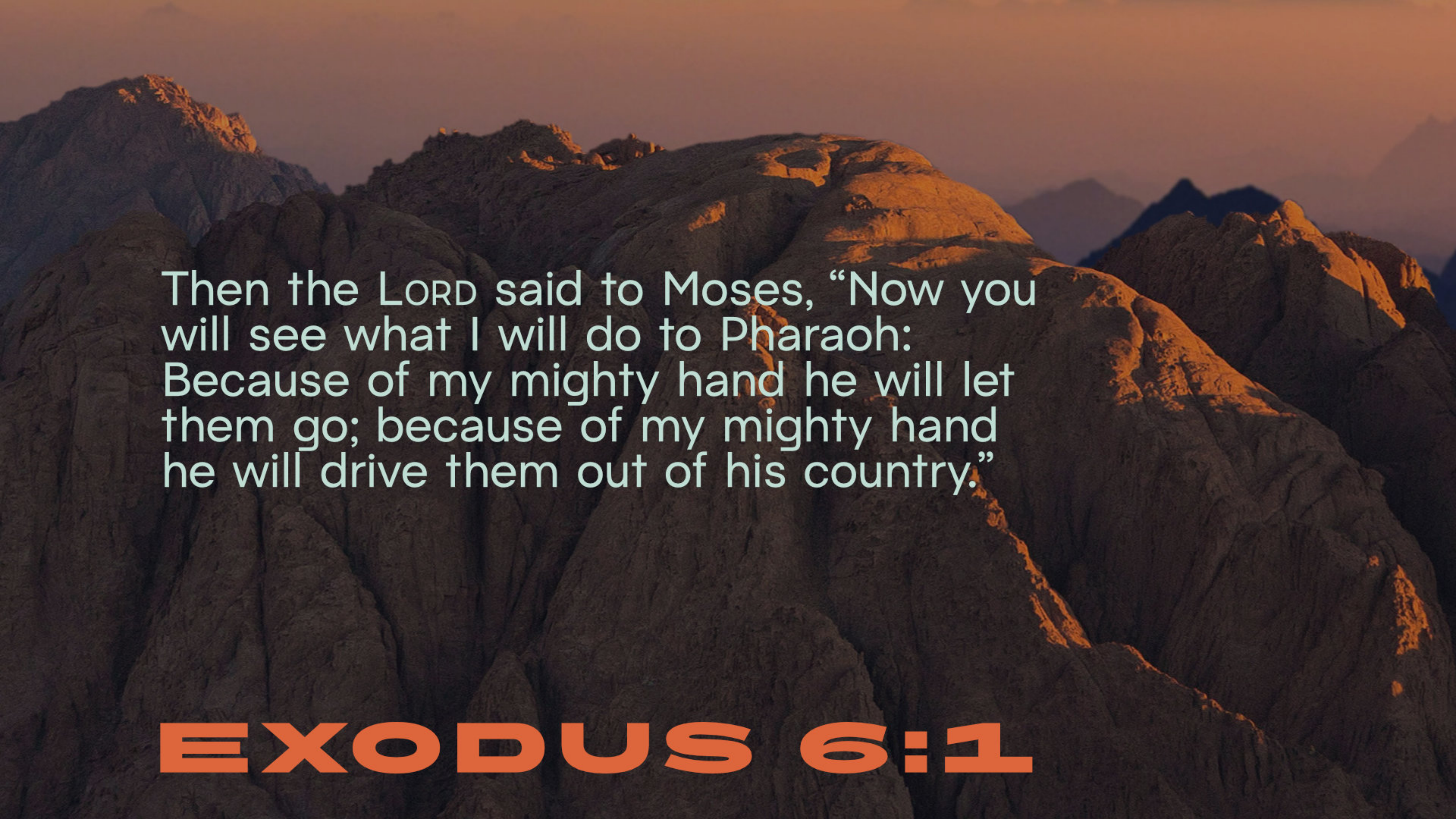
PRAYERS OF LAMENT AND COMPLAINT

“bad things happen to good people... they complain with great freedom and at considerable length to their God. And Scripture does not seem to regard these complaining prayers as anything other than wisdom.”

-J.I. Packer

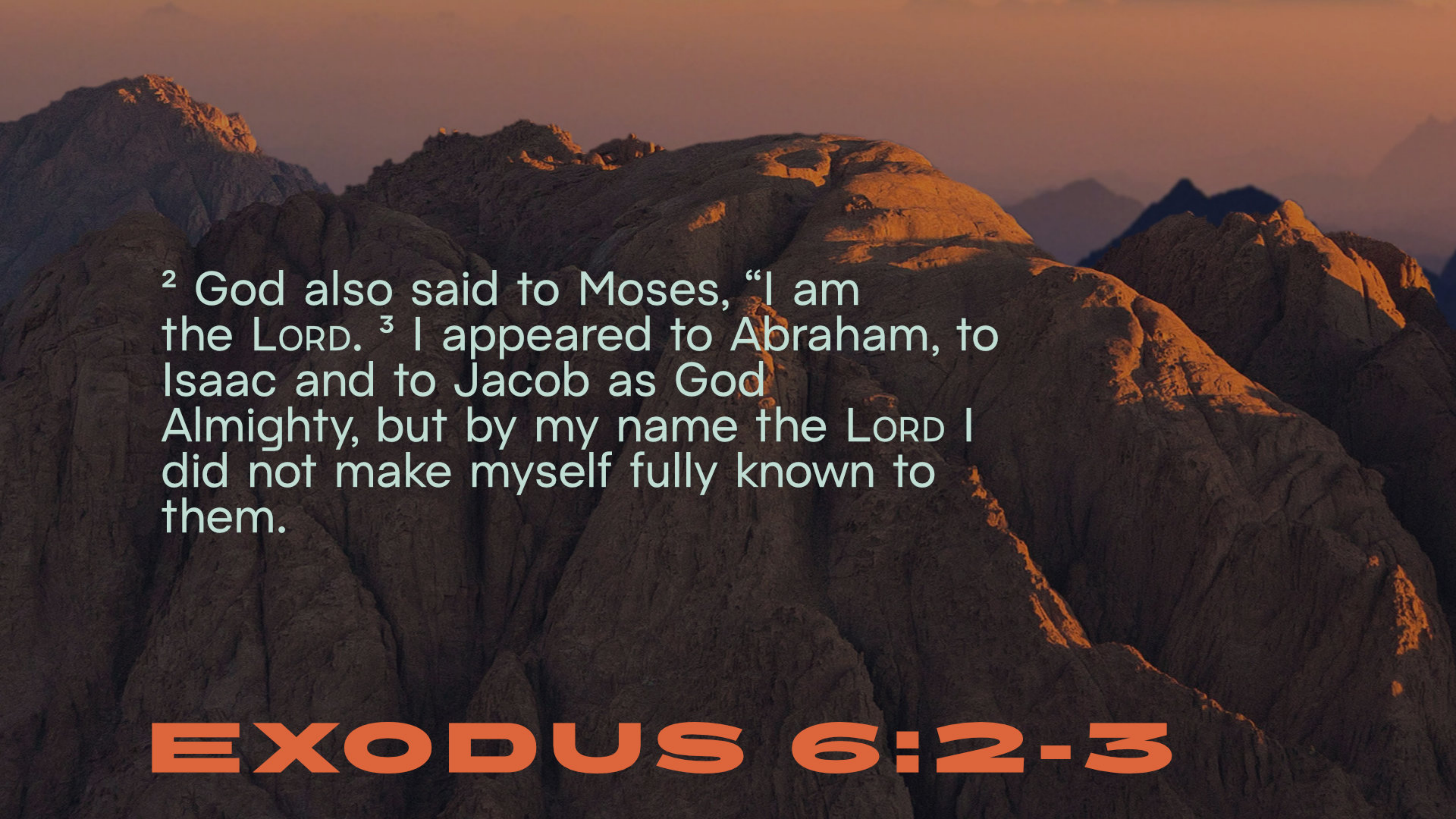
“We are to offer and submit both our thoughts and our feelings in prayer to God.”

-Tim Keller



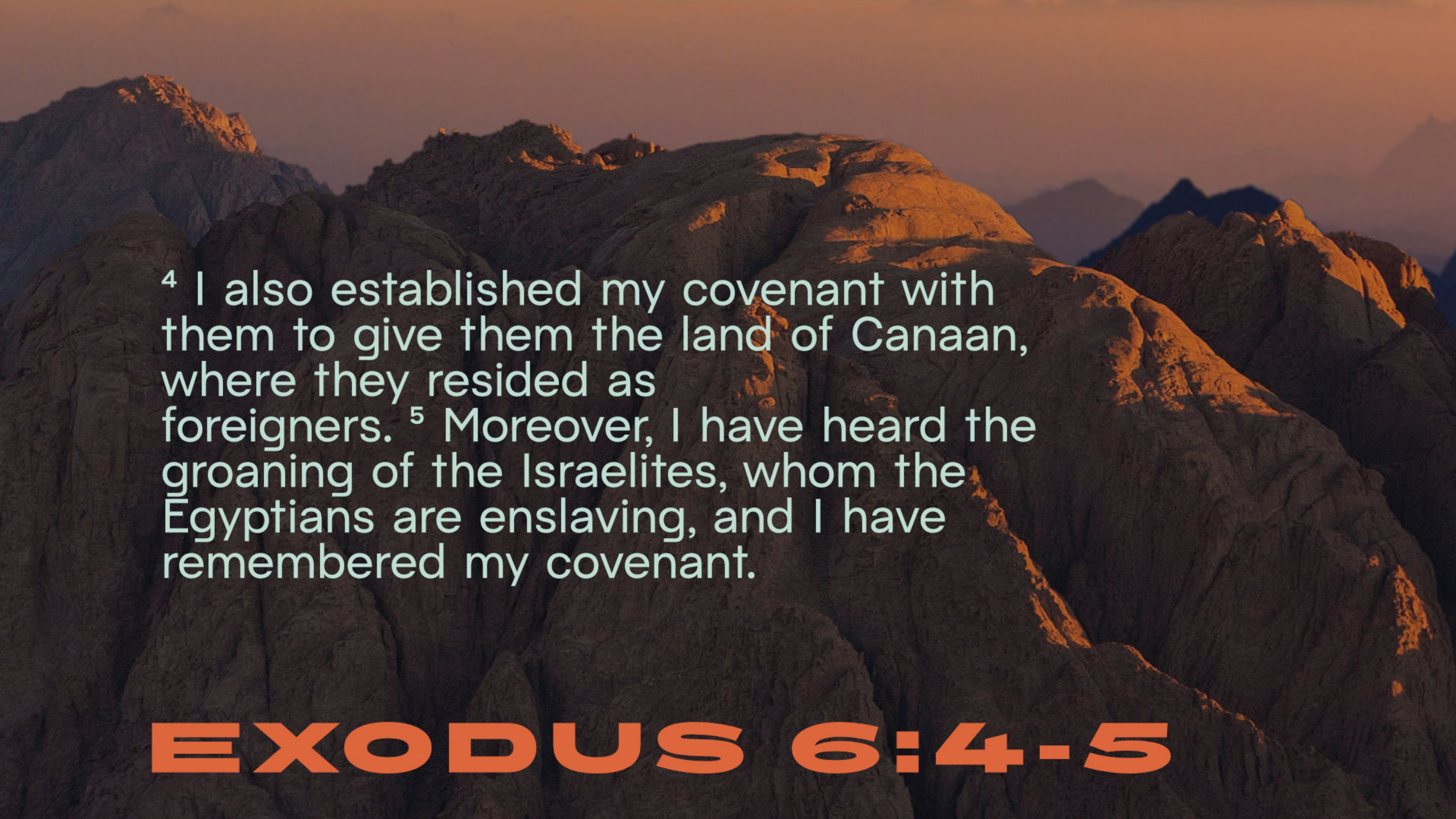
Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.”

EXODUS 6:1



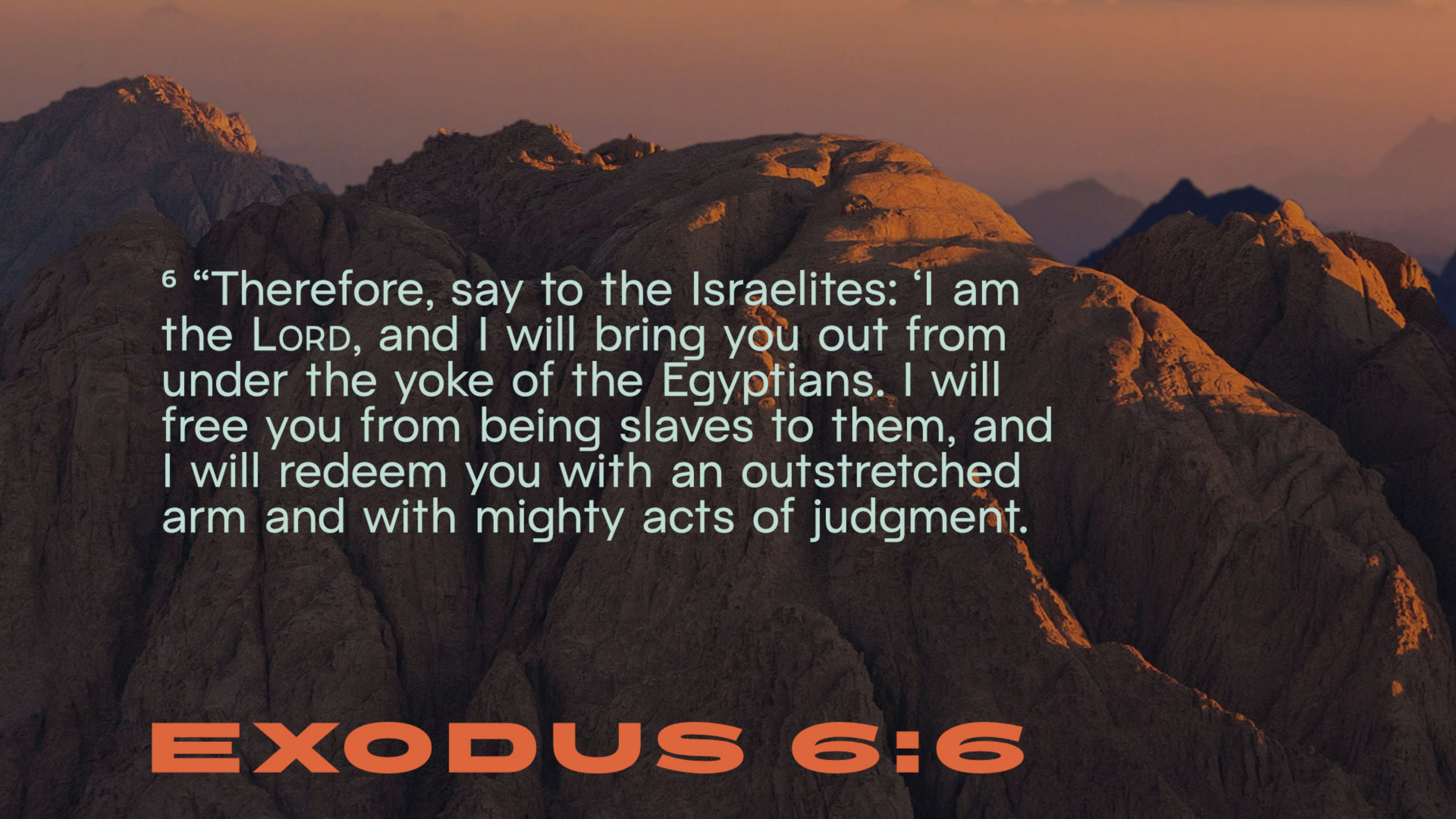
² God also said to Moses, “I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself fully known to them.

EXODUS 6:2-3



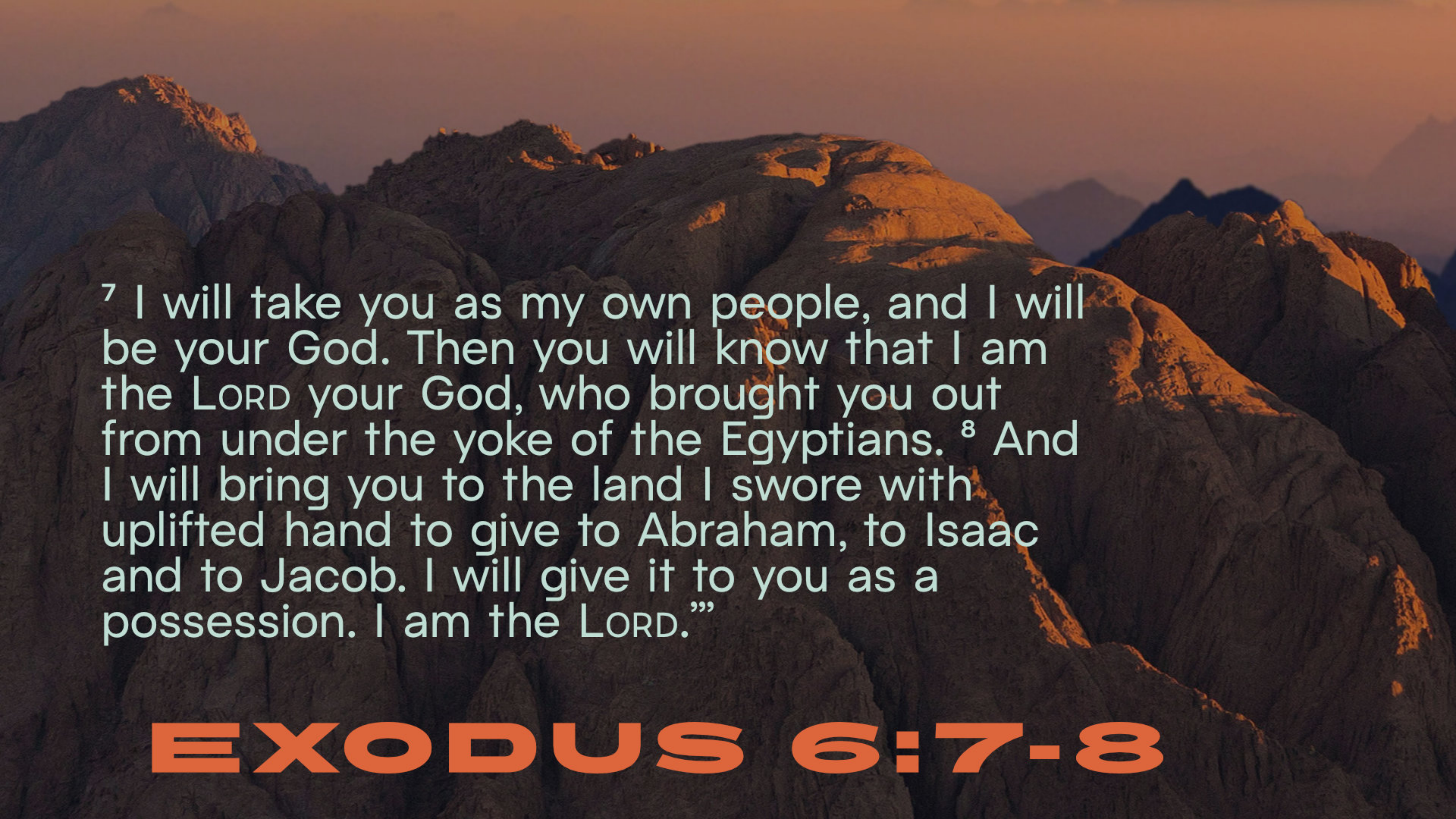
⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. ⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

EXODUS 6:4-5



⁶ “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

EXODUS 6:6



⁷ I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. ⁸ And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.”

EXODUS 6:7-8



FIND ENCOURAGEMENT because God is in control

"Now you will see"

***"Because of my mighty hand
he will let them go"***



FIND ENCOURAGEMENT because God is committed

"I am the LORD"

"I will"

EXODUS 6:3

³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but **by my name the LORD I did not make myself fully known to them.**

Yahweh/ LORD is found repeatedly in Genesis, so what does this mean?

**JESUS' LIFE, DEATH,
AND RESURRECTION**
reveal God's commitment to you!



FIND **ENCOURAGEMENT** because God is compassionate

⁹ Moses reported this to the Israelites but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.

EXODUS 6:9



**They didn't listen because they
were discouraged (*short of breath*)**

**Are you short of breath?
Struggling to hear and receive?**