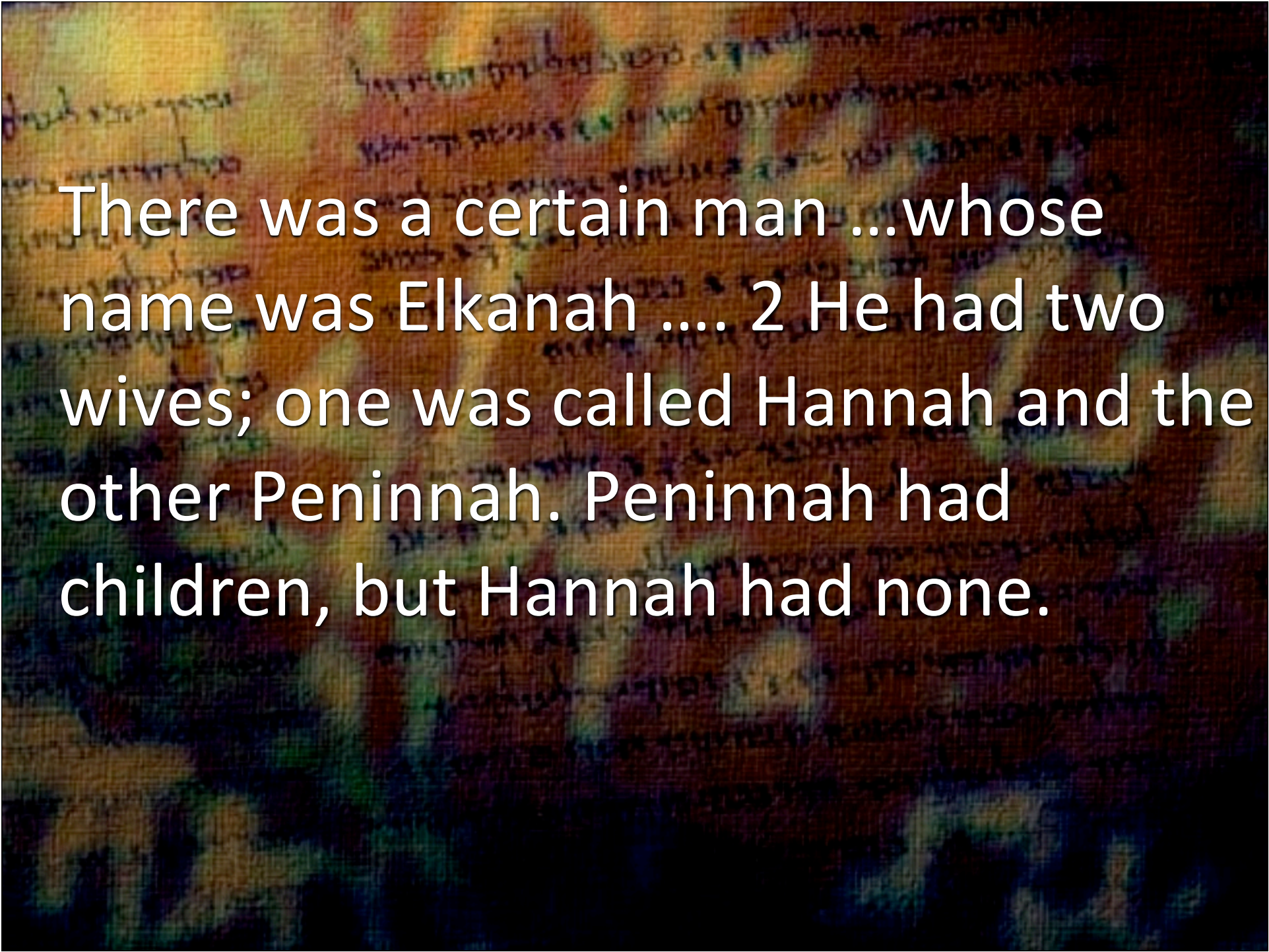




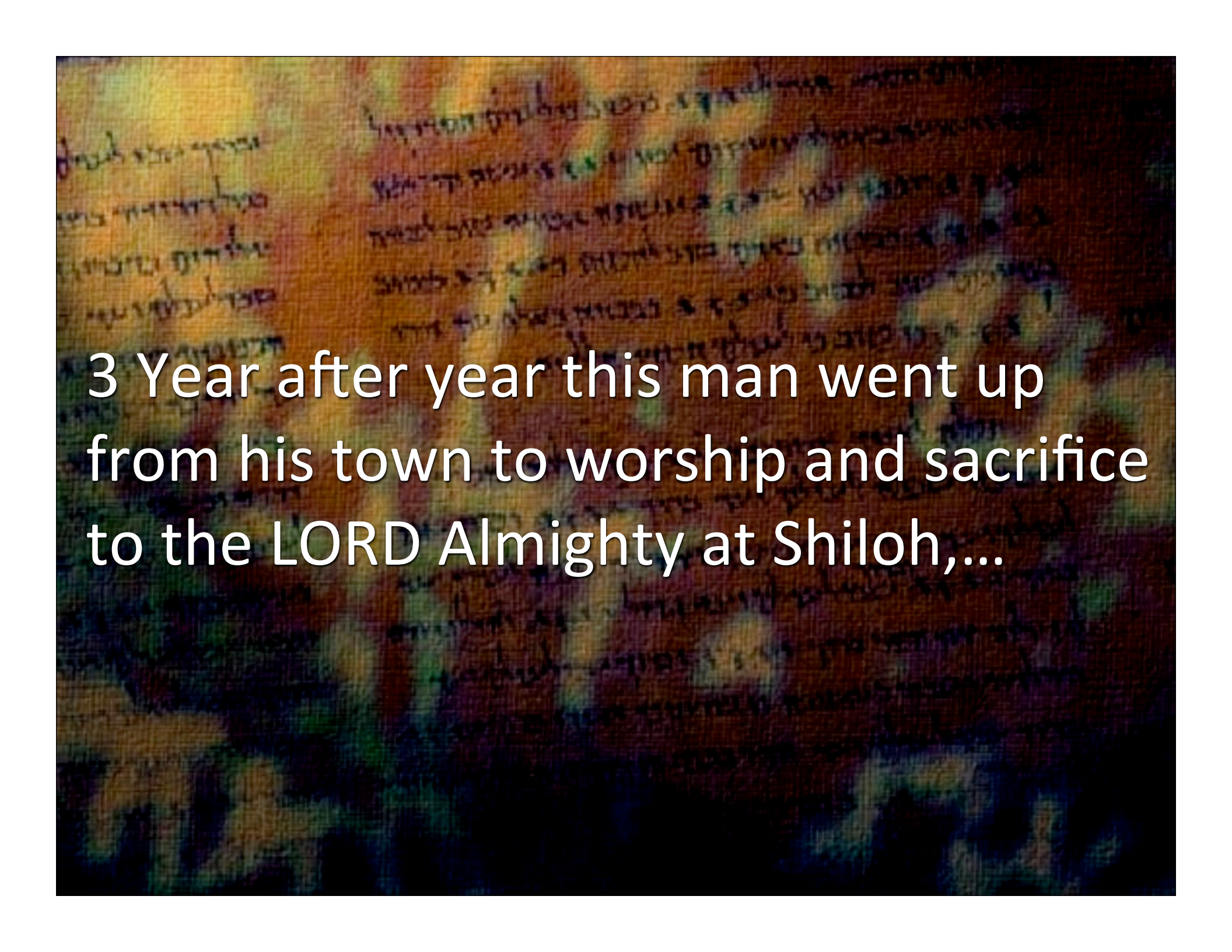
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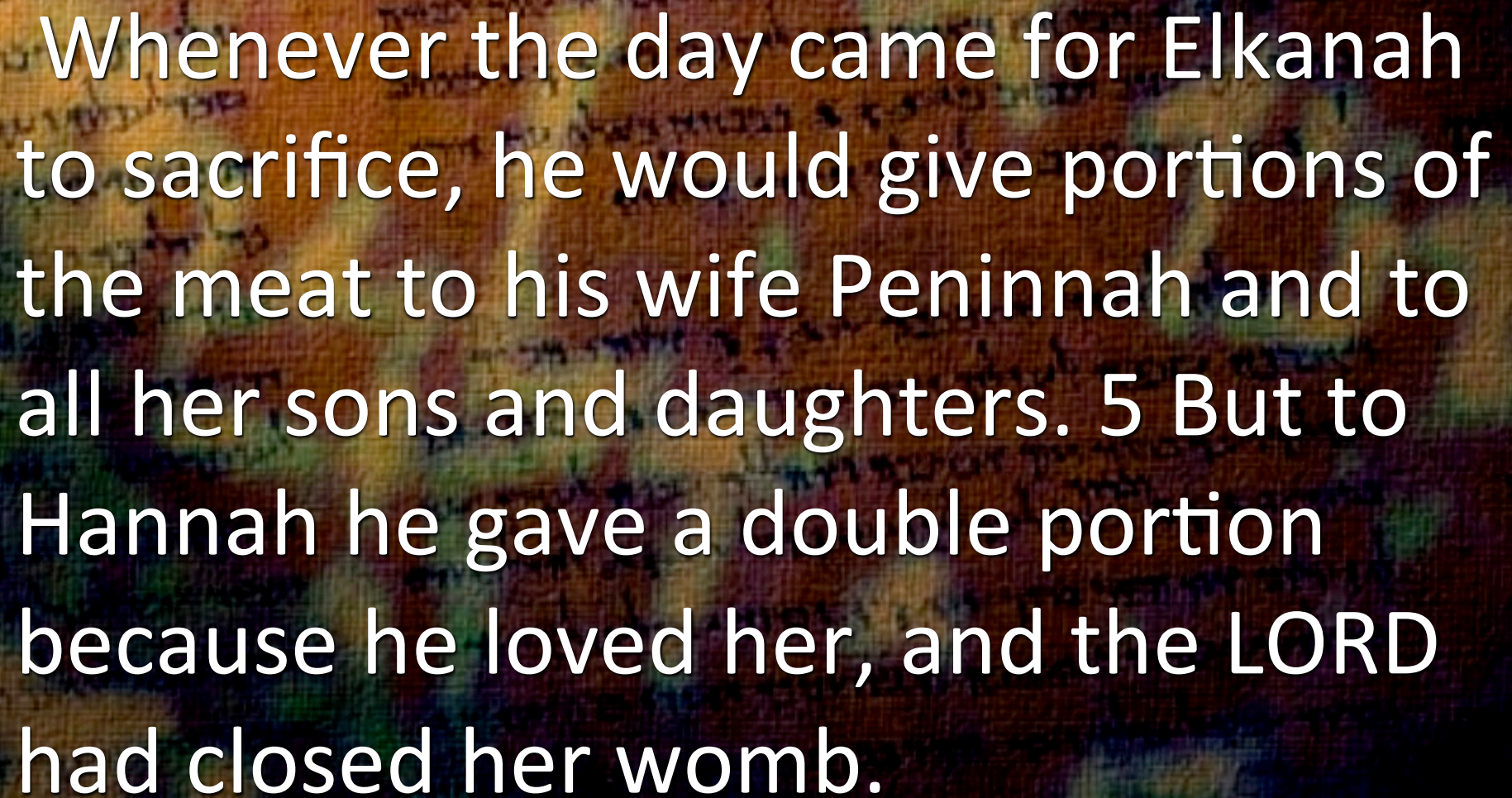




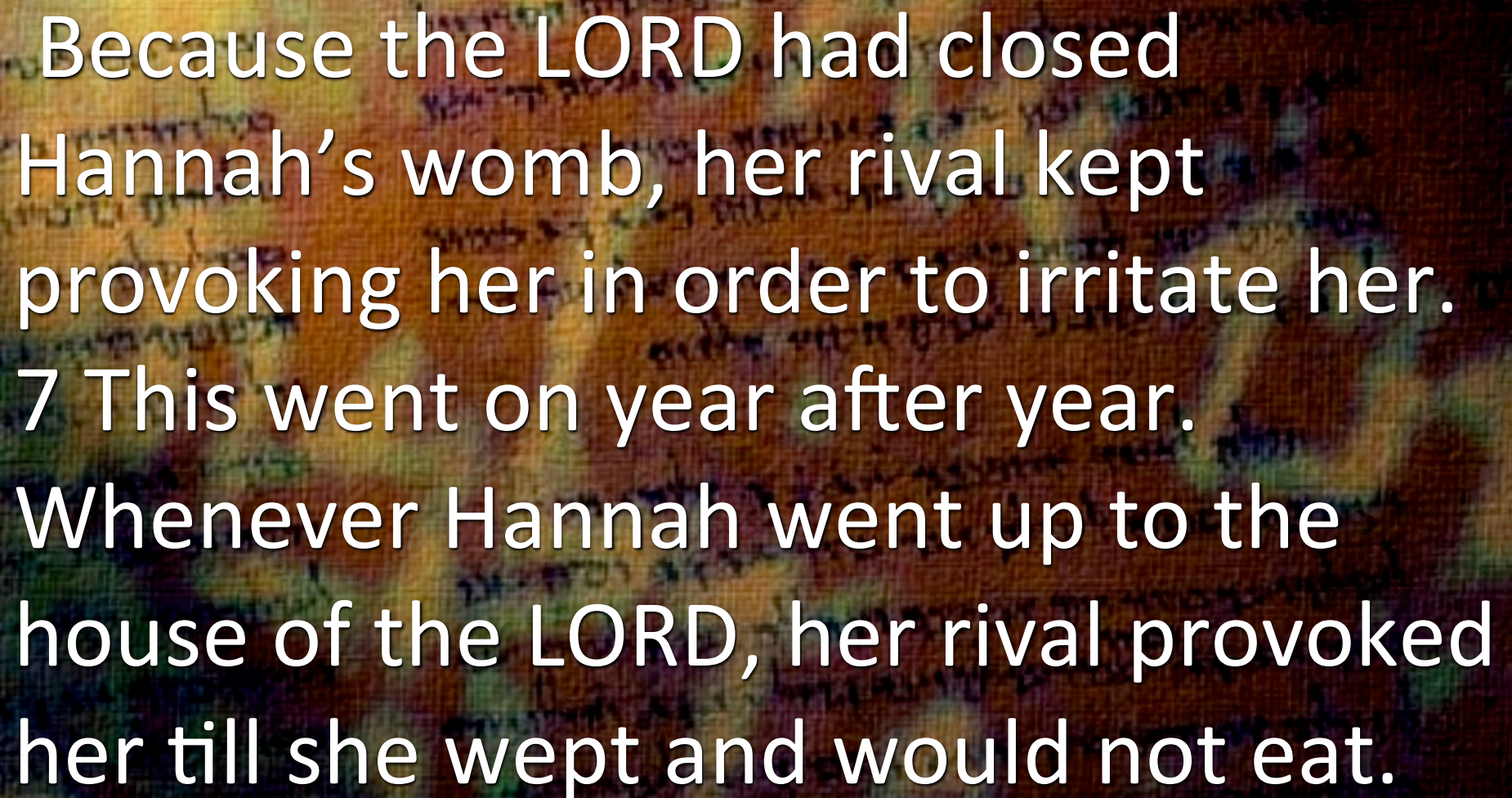
There was a certain man ...whose
name was Elkanah 2 He had two
wives; one was called Hannah and the
other Peninnah. Peninnah had
children, but Hannah had none.

The background of the image is a close-up of a scroll with Hebrew text, possibly the Shema prayer. The text is written in a cursive script and is somewhat blurred. The colors of the scroll are dark, with shades of brown, black, and blue. Overlaid on this background is a white text box containing the following text:

3 Year after year this man went up
from his town to worship and sacrifice
to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh,...



Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb.



Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.
7 This went on year after year.
Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.

*Polygamy in the Bible is never pictured
in a positive light. In every rendering of
it in scripture it is a disaster.*



Robert Alter Professor of Hebrew Cal Berkeley

That in all ancient societies everything about one's future depended upon

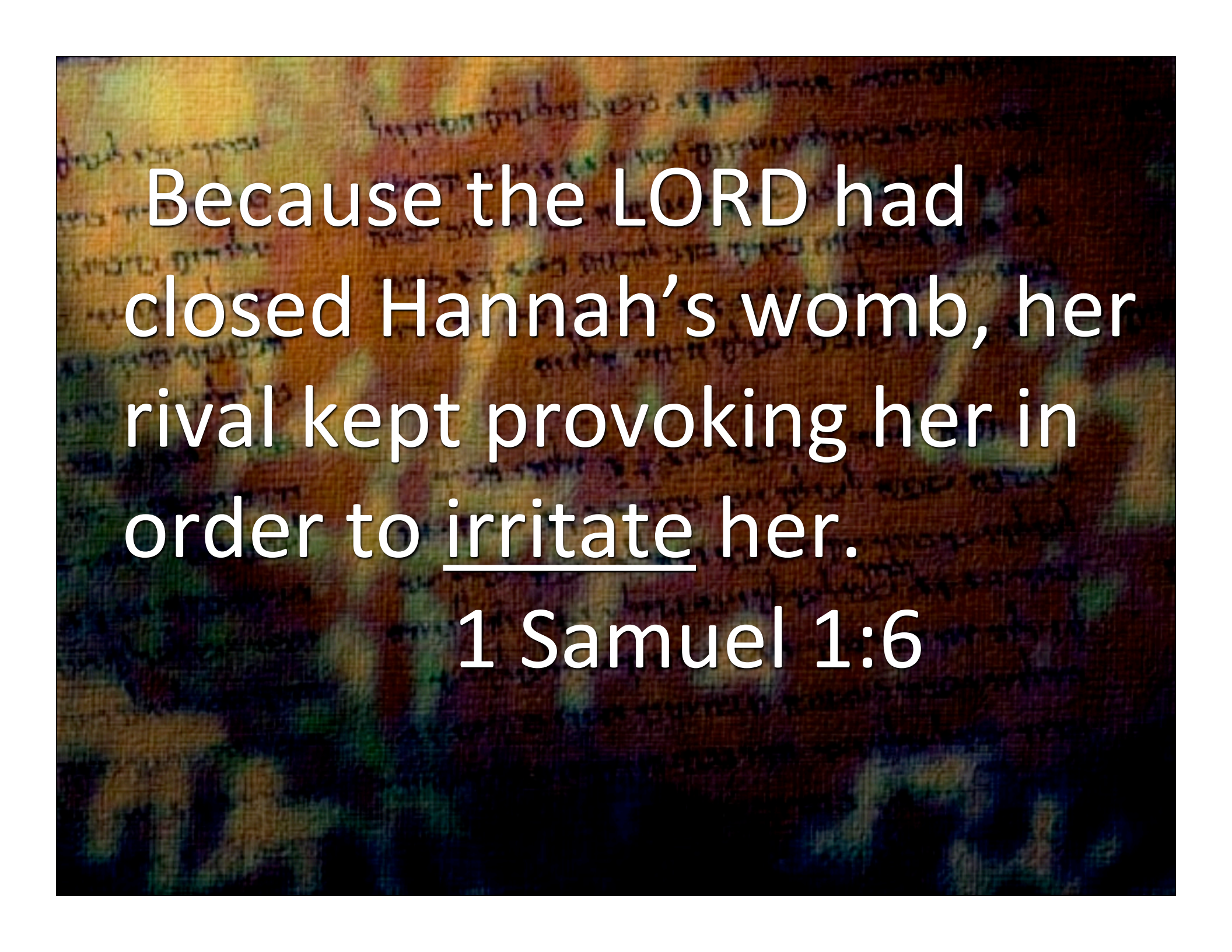
Fertility.



“Barrenness in any Hebrew text is the effective metaphor for hopelessness.”

John H. Bruggeman-
Professor Hebrew Union College





Because the LORD had
closed Hannah's womb, her
rival kept provoking her in
order to irritate her.

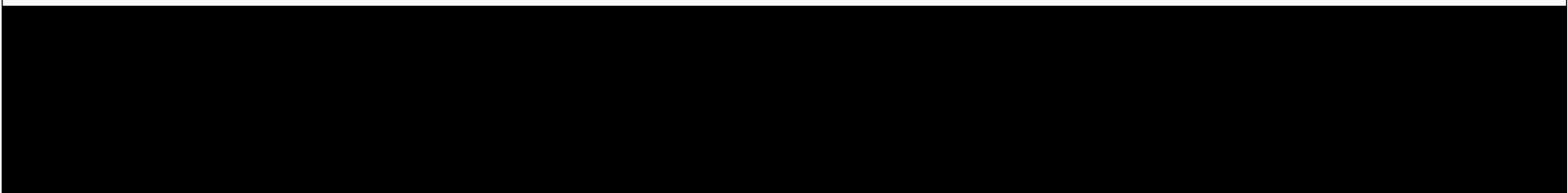
1 Samuel 1:6

WE ASKED SEVERAL MOMS TO
COME IN AND DO ONE THING:



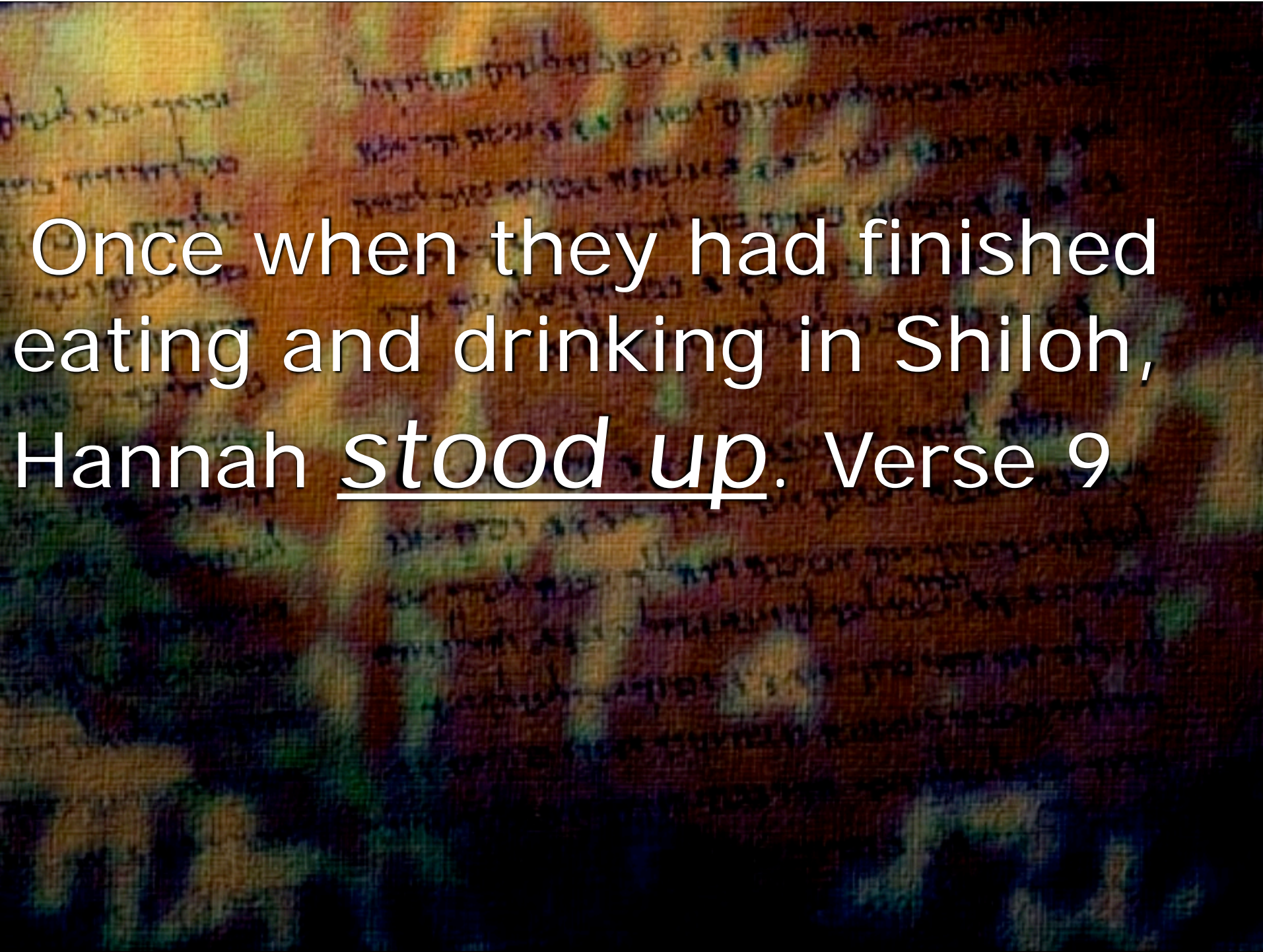


**II. What
changed
Hannah's
outlook?**





This went on year after year.
Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. 8
Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" 1 Samuel 1:7,8



Once when they had finished
eating and drinking in Shiloh,
Hannah stood up. Verse 9

Hannah decided to reject the other hopes, the cultural hope of Peninnah, the societal mainstay of affirmation and she also decided to reject the comfort of Elkanah for her hope.



Robert Alter Professor of Hebrew Cal Berkeley

It is narratively significant that neither Peninnah or Elkanah will suffice for hope any longer.

But in a moment of decisive action she turns from both her sociological hope the hope of Peninnah and her psychological hope with Elkanah to identify with God alone.



Robert Alter Professor of Hebrew Cal Berkeley

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. 11 And she made a vow, saying, “LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”

Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk 14 and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine." 15 "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord.

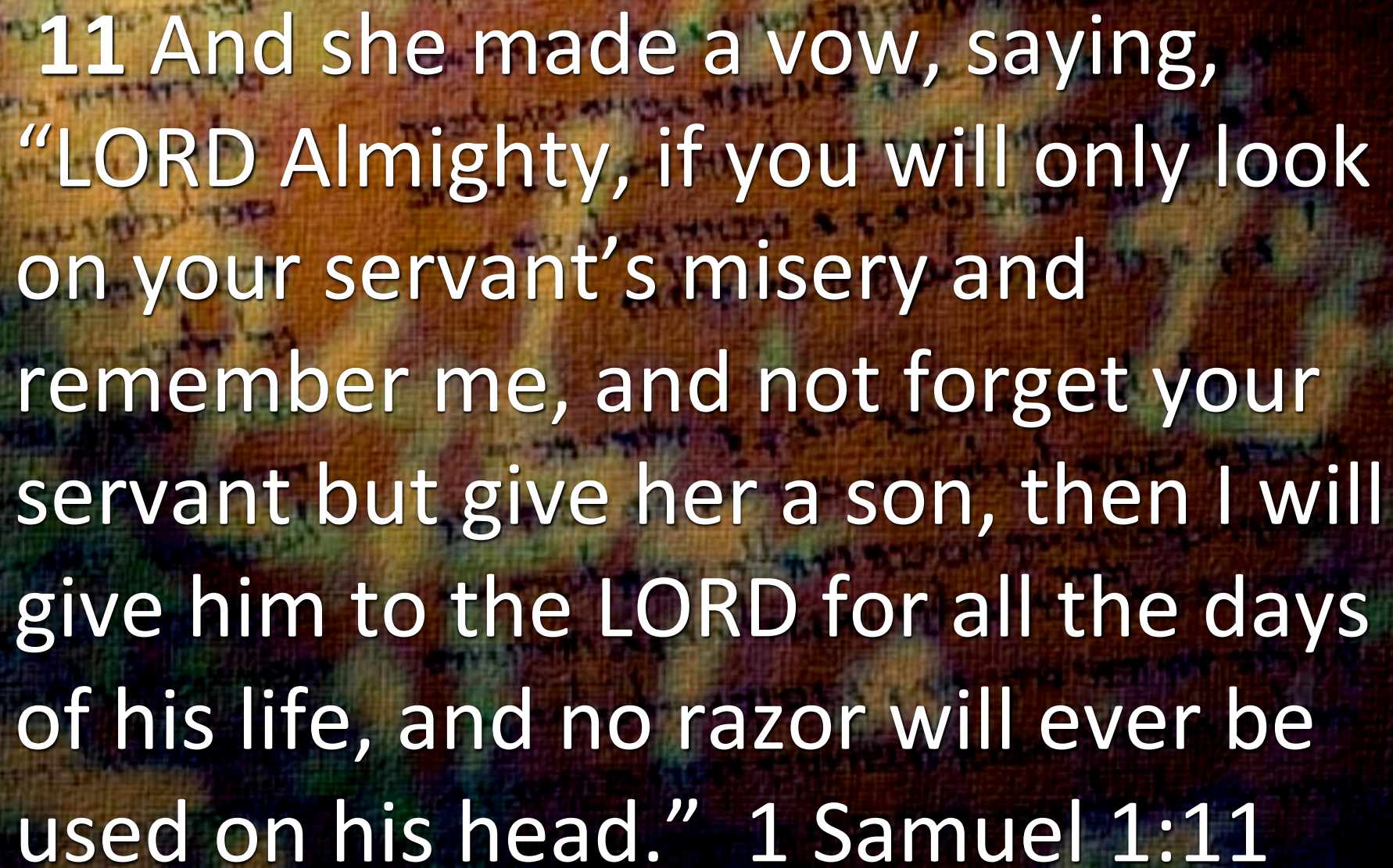
1 Samuel 1:13-15

17 Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."

18 She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

19 Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. **20** So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him." 1 Samuel 1:19,20





11 And she made a vow, saying,
“LORD Almighty, if you will only look
on your servant’s misery and
remember me, and not forget your
servant but give her a son, then I will
give him to the LORD for all the days
of his life, and no razor will ever be
used on his head.” 1 Samuel 1:11

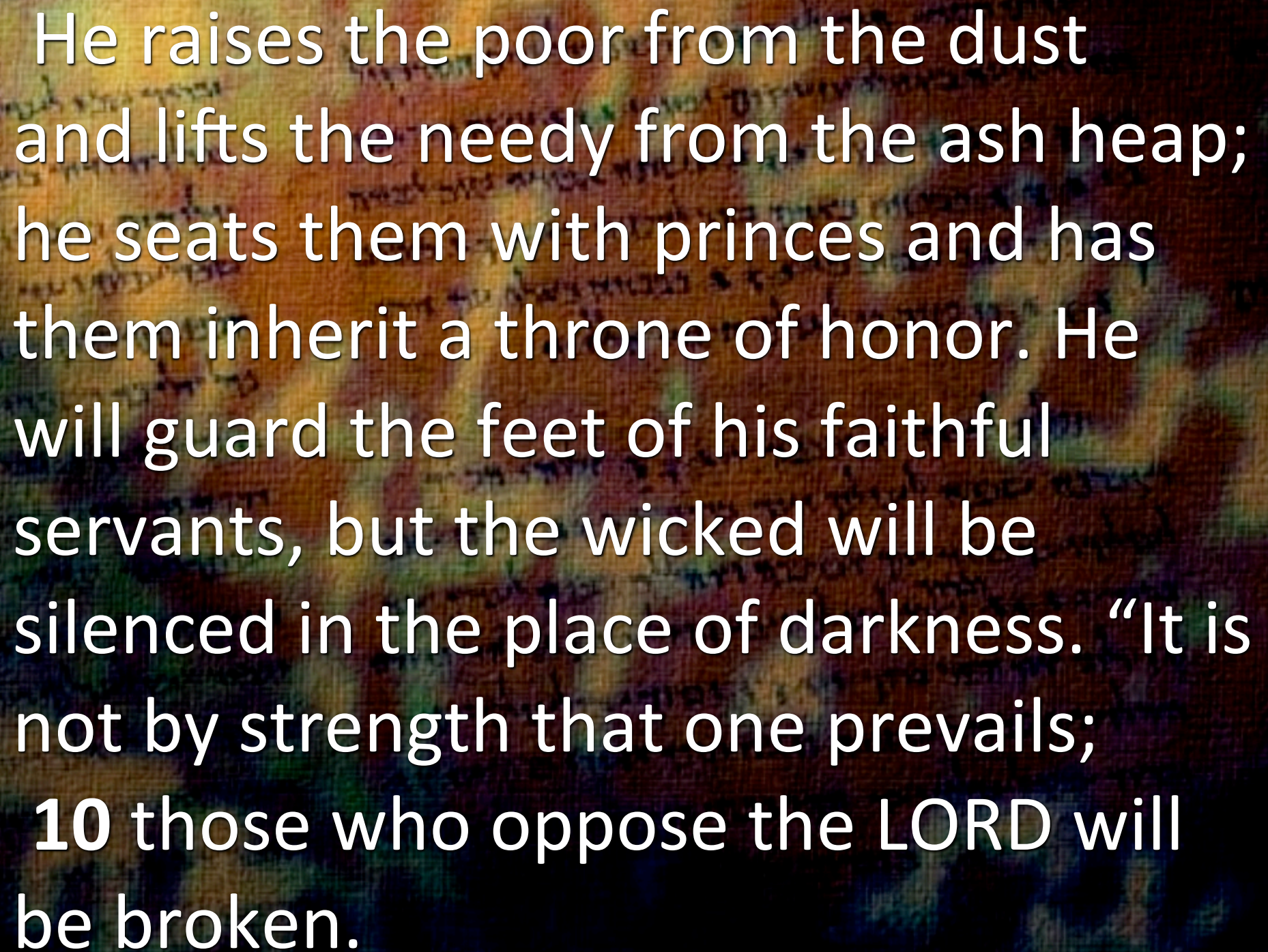


III. What did Hannah learn?

“The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength.

5 Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more.

She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. 2 Samuel 2:4,5



He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes and has
them inherit a throne of honor. He
will guard the feet of his faithful
servants, but the wicked will be
silenced in the place of darkness. “It is
not by strength that one prevails;
10 those who oppose the LORD will
be broken.

**God works through
weakness
not through
strength.**

“Sing, barren woman,
you who never bore a child;
burst into song, shout for joy,
you who were never in labor;
because more are the children of
the desolate woman
than of her who has a husband,”
says the LORD. Isaiah 54:1

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53



2 Take Aways

Hannah teaches us that God's
love is enough

2 Take Aways

Our suffering is never

meaningless

but we'll seldom

know the

meaning

for our suffering in this life.

Psalm 73:25,26

Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire
besides you. 26 My flesh and my
heart may fail, but God is the
strength of my heart and my
portion forever.



