



HARD KNOCKS

AND THE PATHWAY
TO HOPE

Acts 12:19b-24

Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. 20 He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because **they depended on the king's country for their food supply.** 21 On the appointed day Herod, **wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne** and delivered a public address to the people. 22 They shouted, "**This is the voice of a god, not of a man.**" 23 Immediately, because Herod **did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms** and died. 24 But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.

2 Maccabees 9:5-12

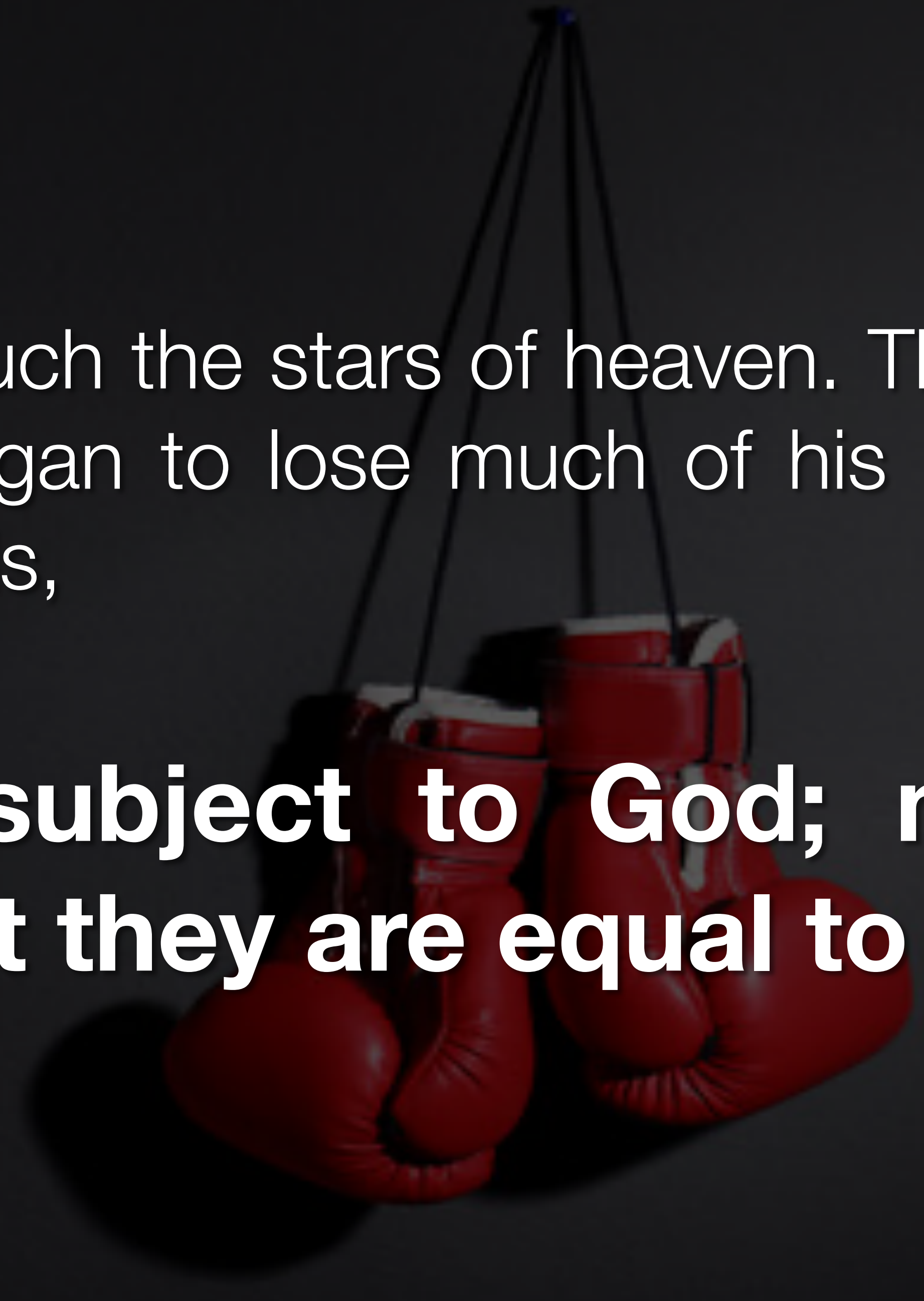
But the all-seeing Lord, the God of Israel, struck [Antiochus Epiphanes] with an incurable and invisible blow. As soon as he stopped speaking he was seized with a pain in his bowels, for which there was no relief, and with sharp internal tortures... 7 Yet he did not in any way stop his insolence, but was even more filled with arrogance...

2 Maccabees 9:5-12

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He thought that he could touch the stars of heaven. Then it was that, broken in spirit, he began to lose much of his arrogance and... he uttered these words,

“It is right to be subject to God; mortals should not think that they are equal to God.”

But now Herod's distemper greatly increased upon him after a severe manner, and this by God's judgment upon him for his sins: for a fire glowed in him slowly, **which did not so much appear to the touch outwardly as it augmented his pains inwardly...** His entrails were also exulcerated, and the chief violence of his pain lay on his colon; an aqueous and transparent liquor also settled itself about his feet, and a like matter afflicted him at the bottom of his belly. Nay, farther, his privy member was putrified, and **produced worms.**

- *Josephus*





Caduceus



**Rod of
Asclepius**

Genesis 3:4-7

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, **and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**” 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked;

Romans 1:18-20

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Romans 1:21-23

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Romans 1:24-27

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. **25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised.** Amen. **26** Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. **27** In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Romans 1:28-31

Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

How to be a decomposing god:

- Glory Seeking



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- Glory Seeking
- Truth Redefining



How to be a decomposing god:

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- Self-Righteous Judging



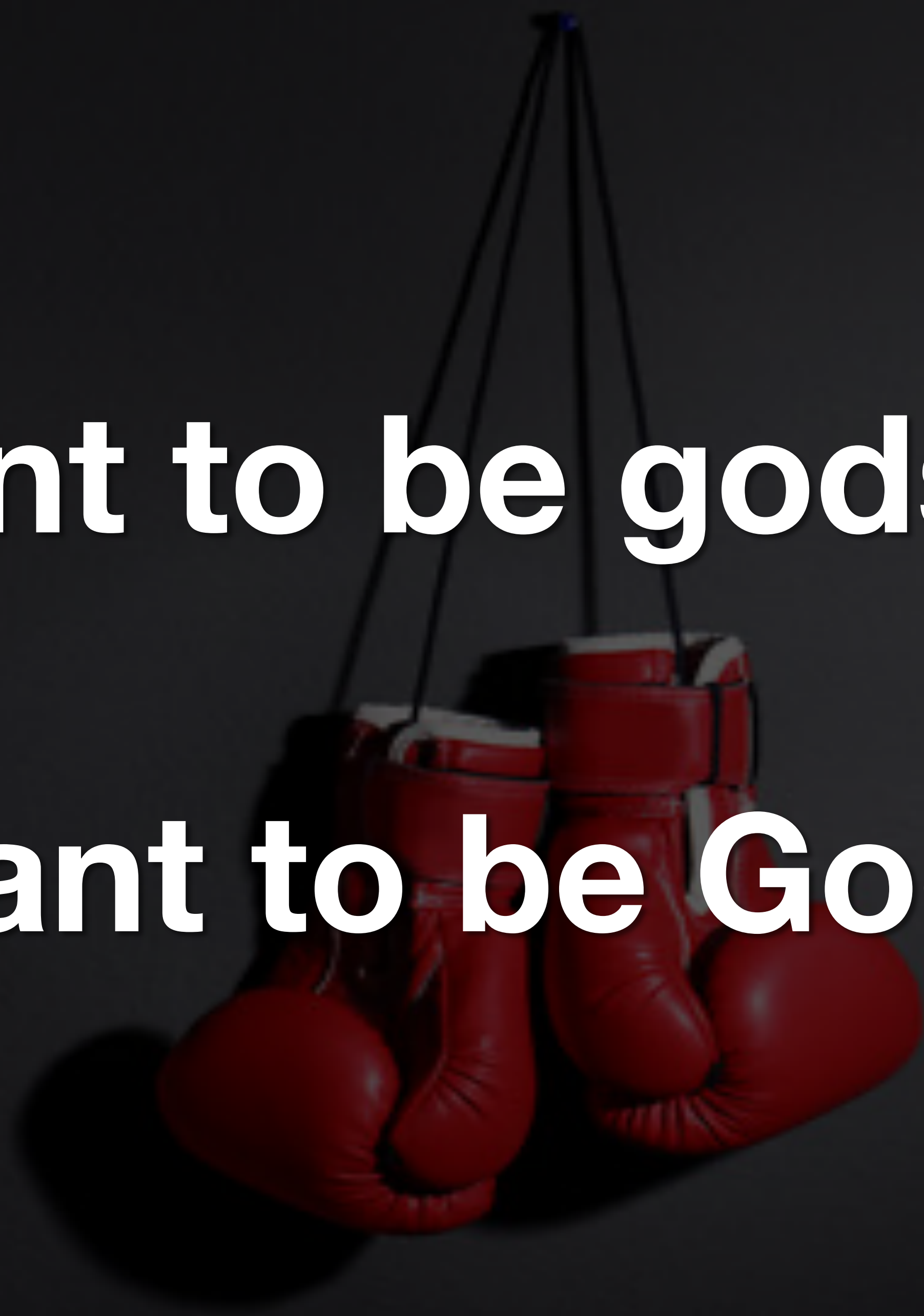
How to be a decomposing god:

- Glory Seeking
- Truth Redefining
- Self-Righteous Judging
- Control Grasping



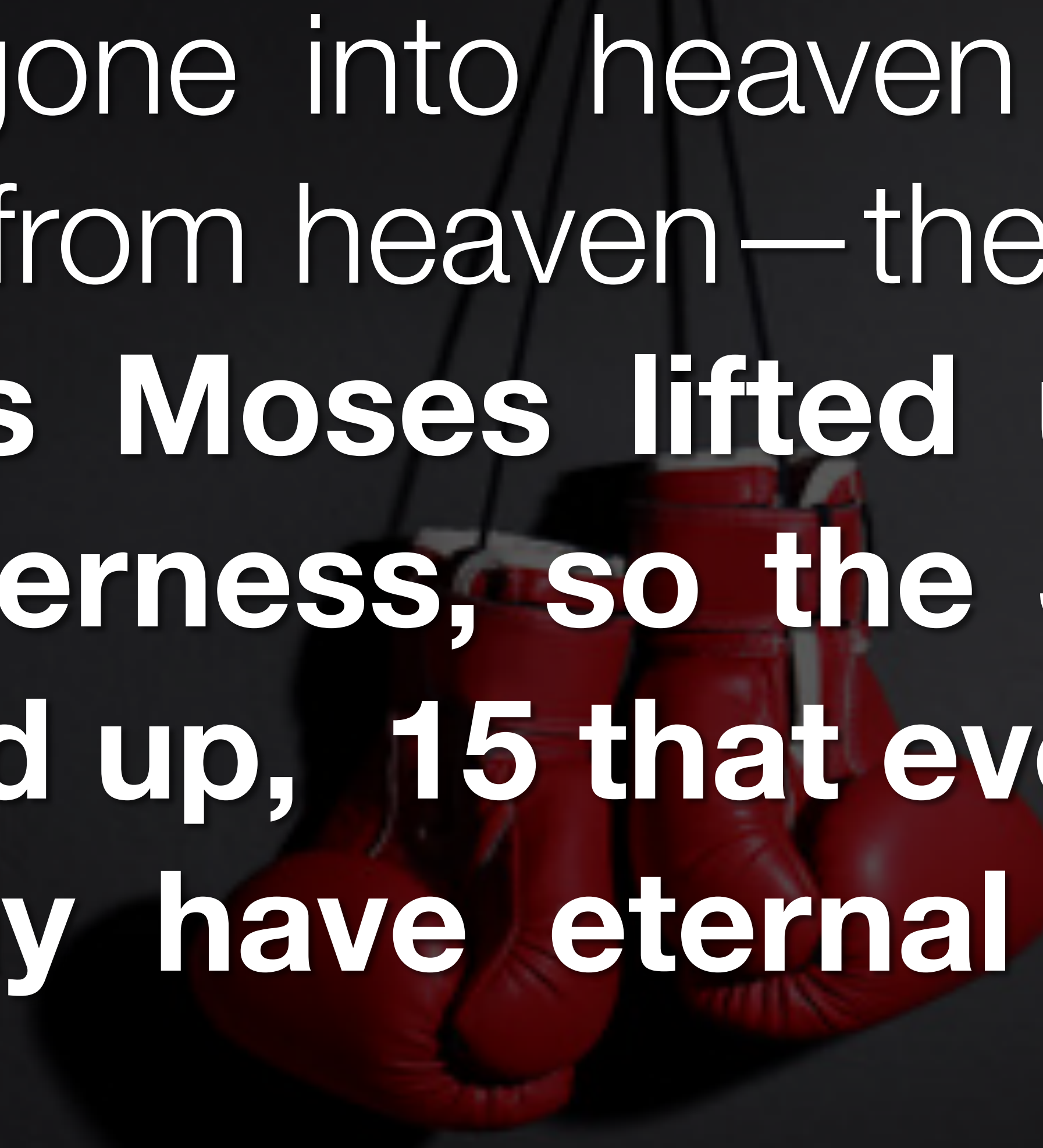
Do you want to be gods?

Or do you want to be God's?



John 3:13–15

No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. **14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”**



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