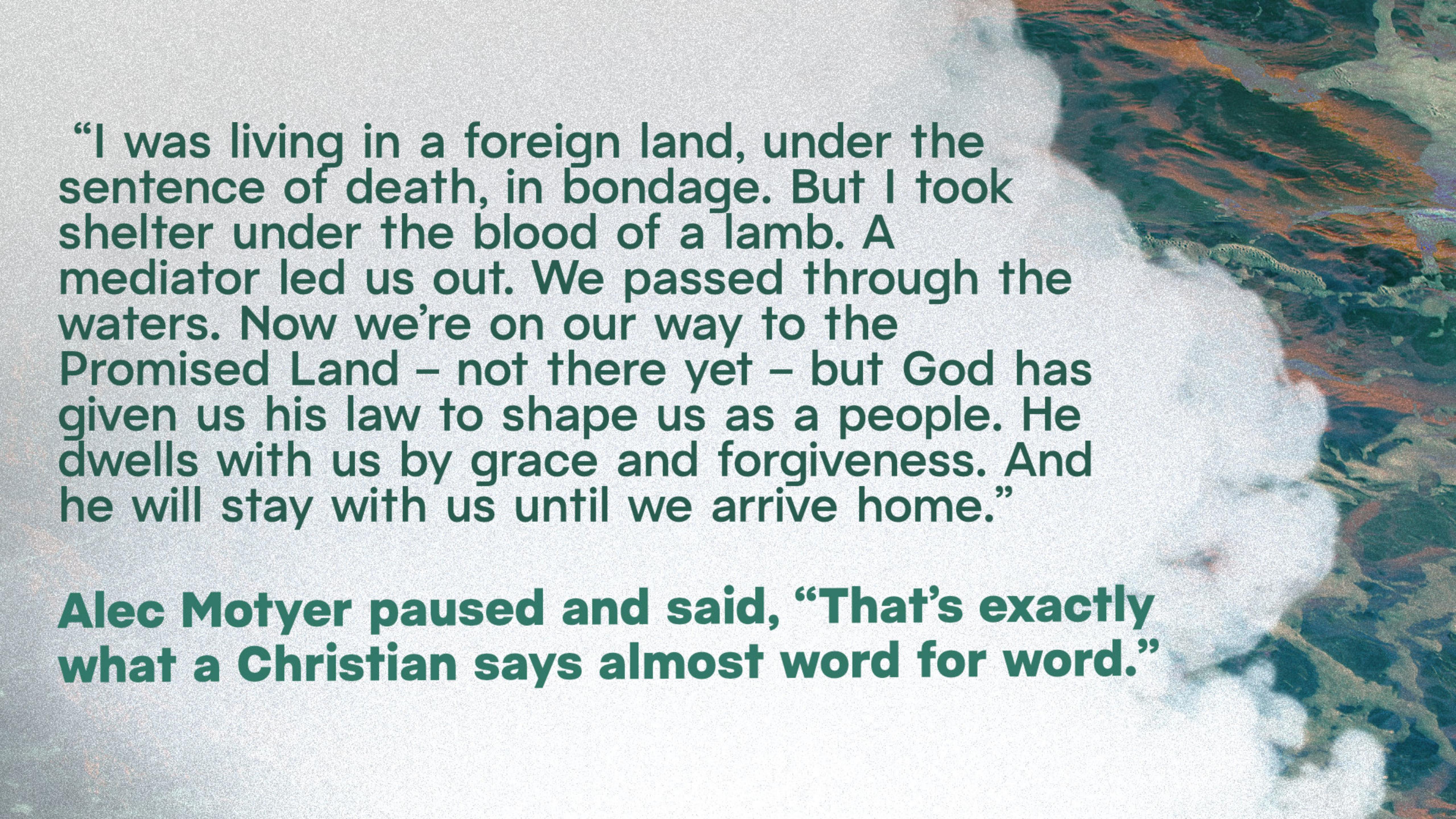




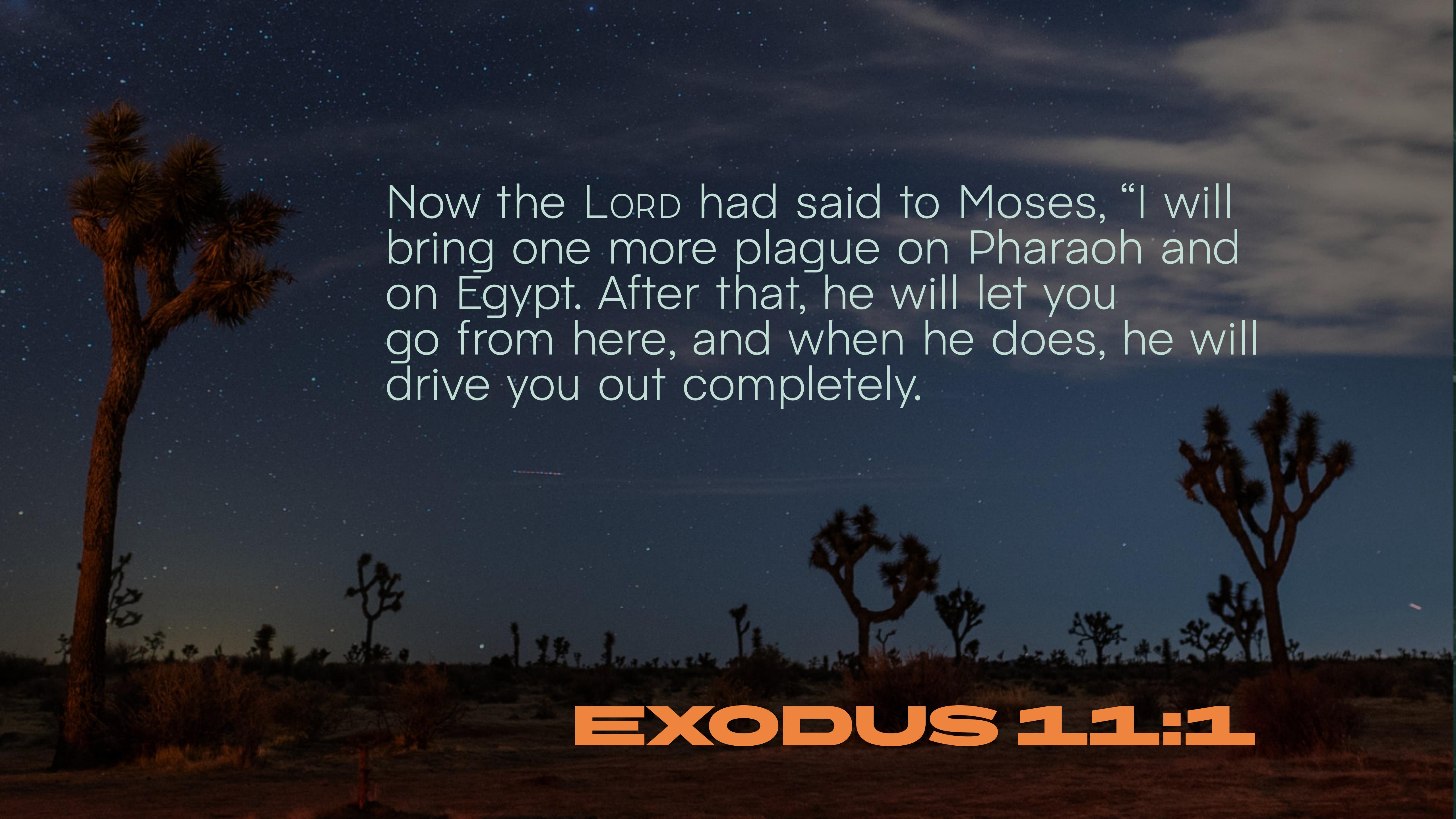
EXODUS

our story of
freedom

A photograph showing an aerial view of a river or stream flowing through a valley. The surrounding land is a mix of green and brown, suggesting a transition between vegetation and perhaps a more arid or rocky area. The river's path is winding, creating a series of small loops as it makes its way through the landscape.

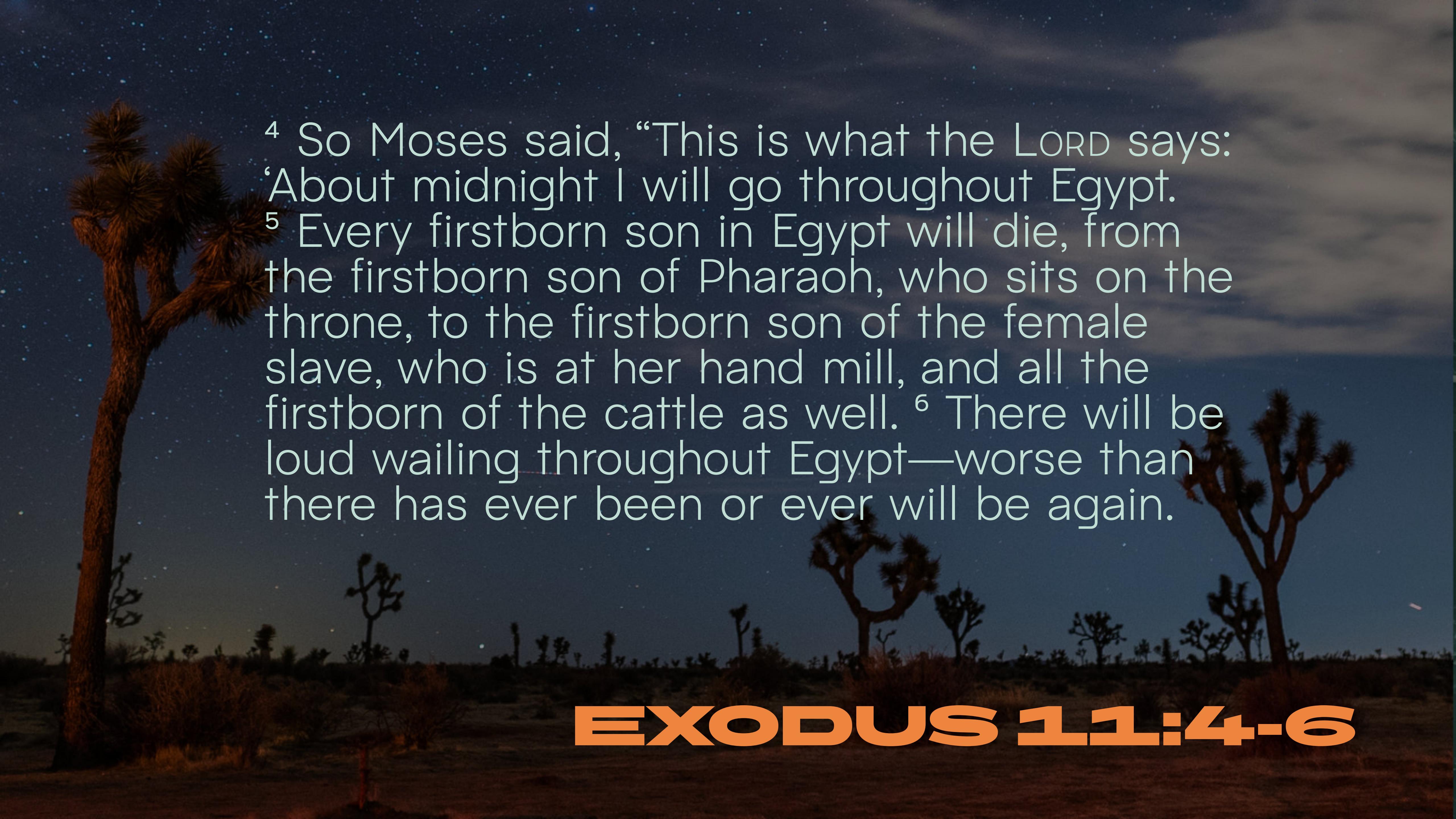
“I was living in a foreign land, under the sentence of death, in bondage. But I took shelter under the blood of a lamb. A mediator led us out. We passed through the waters. Now we’re on our way to the Promised Land – not there yet – but God has given us his law to shape us as a people. He dwells with us by grace and forgiveness. And he will stay with us until we arrive home.”

Alec Motyer paused and said, “That’s exactly what a Christian says almost word for word.”

A dark, star-filled night sky over a desert landscape. In the foreground, several Joshua trees stand tall against the dark background. The ground is covered in low-lying desert vegetation. The overall atmosphere is serene and vast.

Now the LORD had said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.

EXODUS 11:1



⁴ So Moses said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt.

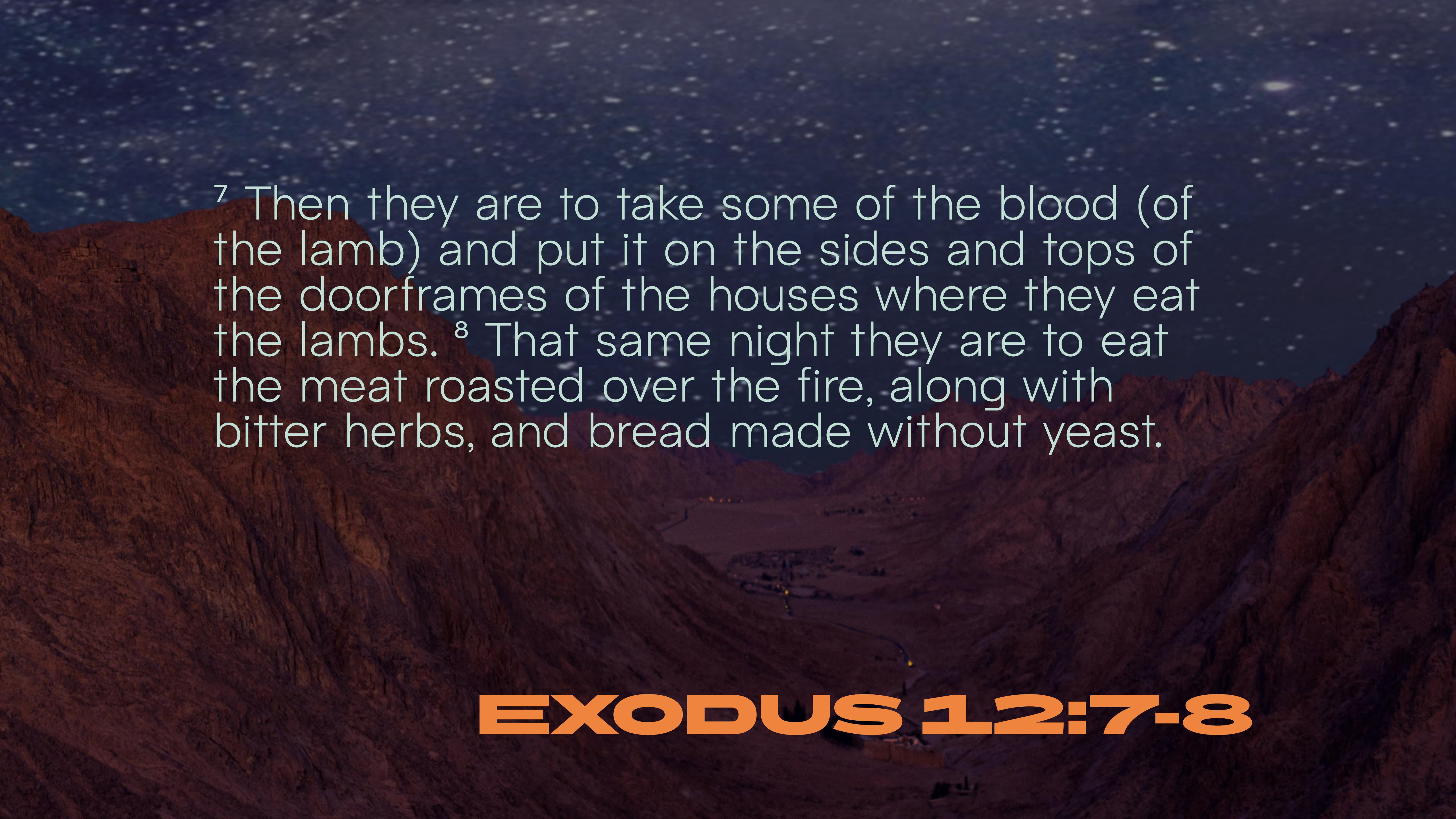
⁵ Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. ⁶ There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again.

EXODUS 11:4-6

WHY THE FIRSTBORN?

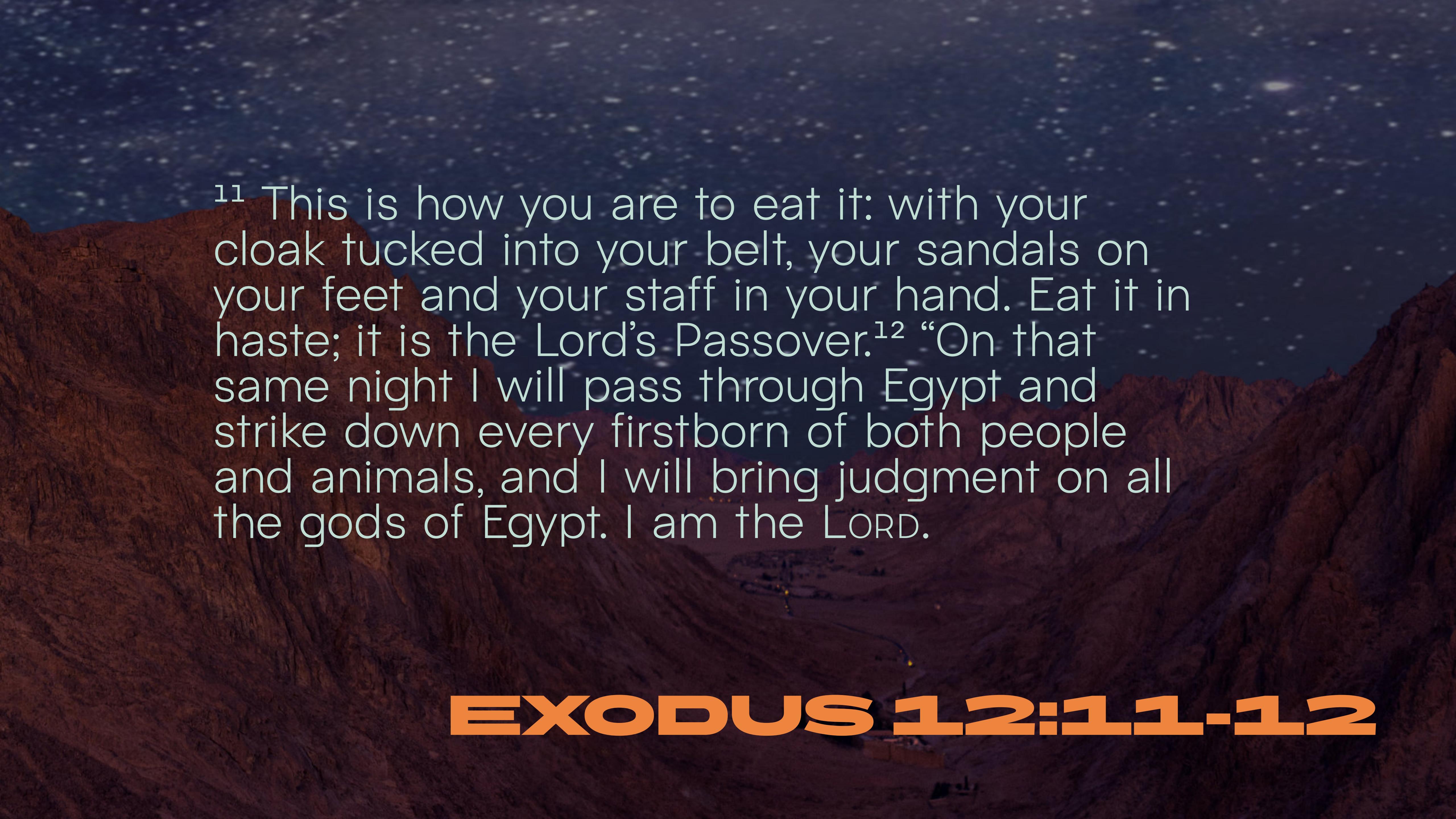
Ancient cultures thought far more *collectively*

The firstborn son represented the family itself,
including its guilt



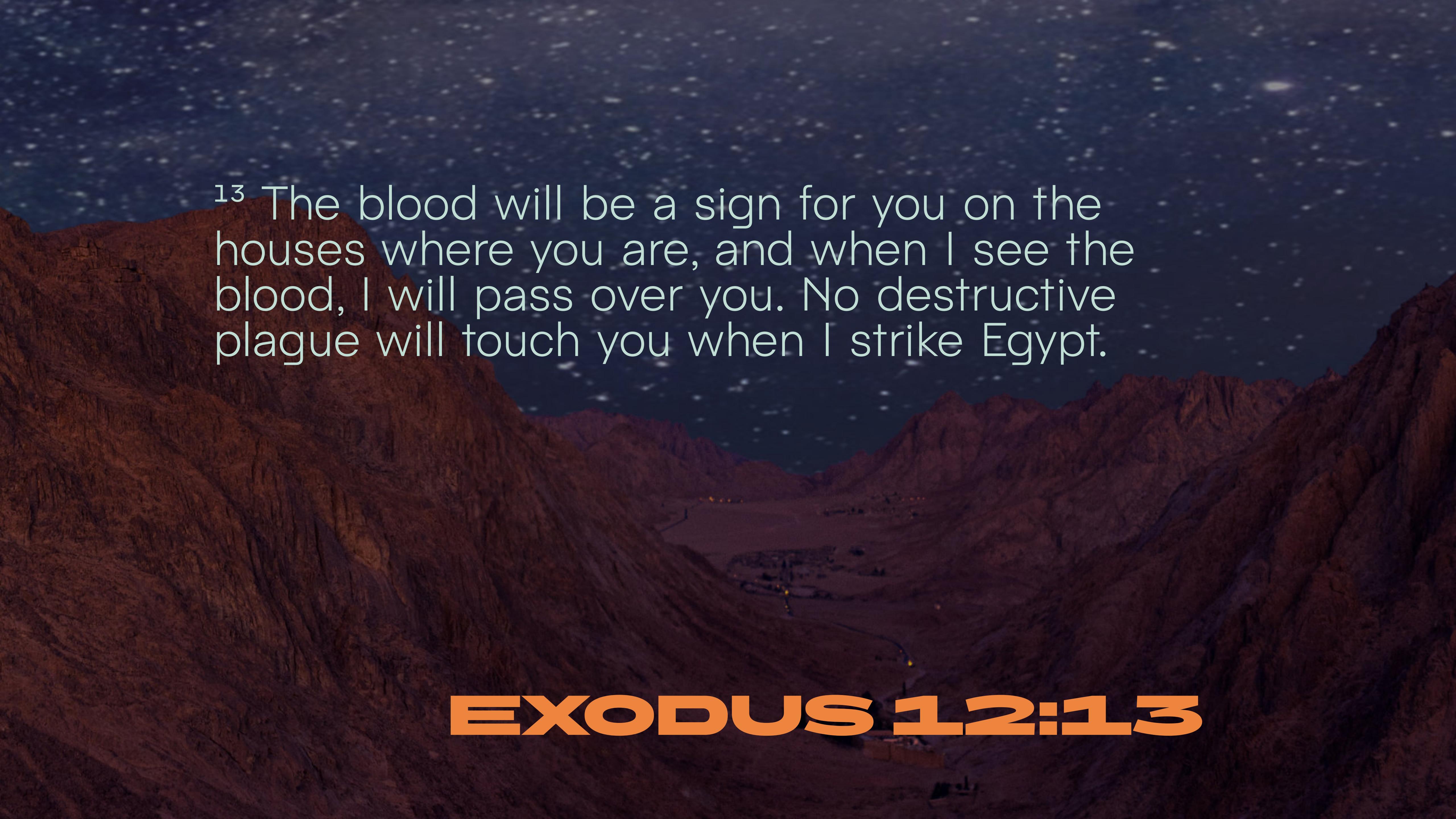
⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood (of the lamb) and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.

EXODUS 12:7-8



¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord.

EXODUS 12:11-12

A dark, atmospheric landscape featuring a range of mountains in the foreground, their peaks silhouetted against a dark sky. Above the mountains, a vast expanse of stars is visible, creating a sense of depth and wonder. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

EXODUS 12:13

A dark, grainy landscape with a road winding through a valley between mountains. The sky is dark with scattered white dots representing stars. The mountains are dark and rugged.

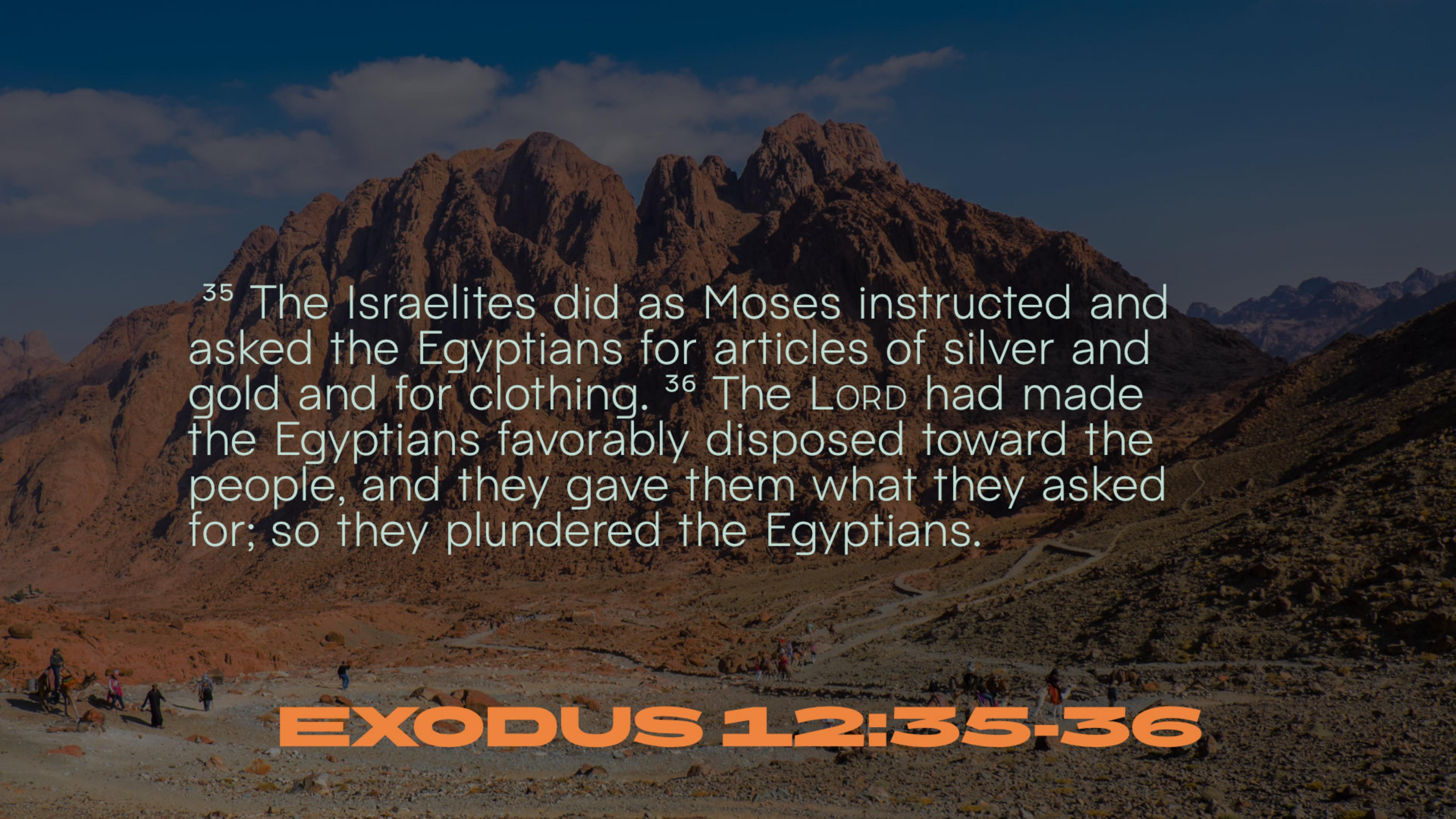
OUR STORY INCLUDES
THE NEED FOR A
SUBSTITUTE

²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

EXODUS 12:29-30

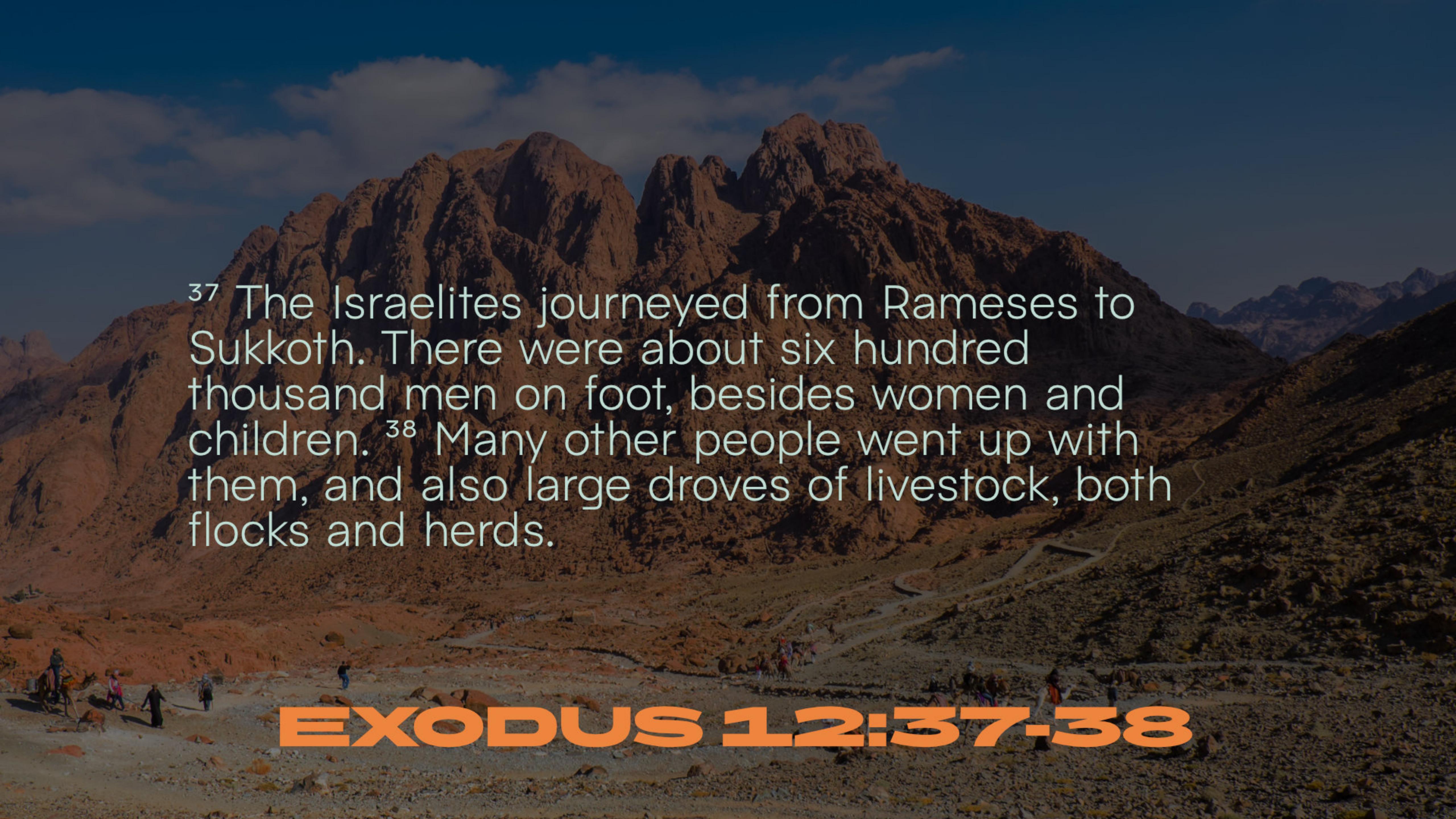
³¹ During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. ³² Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.”

EXODUS 12:31-32

A scenic view of Mount Sinai, showing its rugged, reddish-brown peaks against a clear blue sky with some wispy clouds. A winding path leads up the mountain, and several people are visible at the base and along the trail.

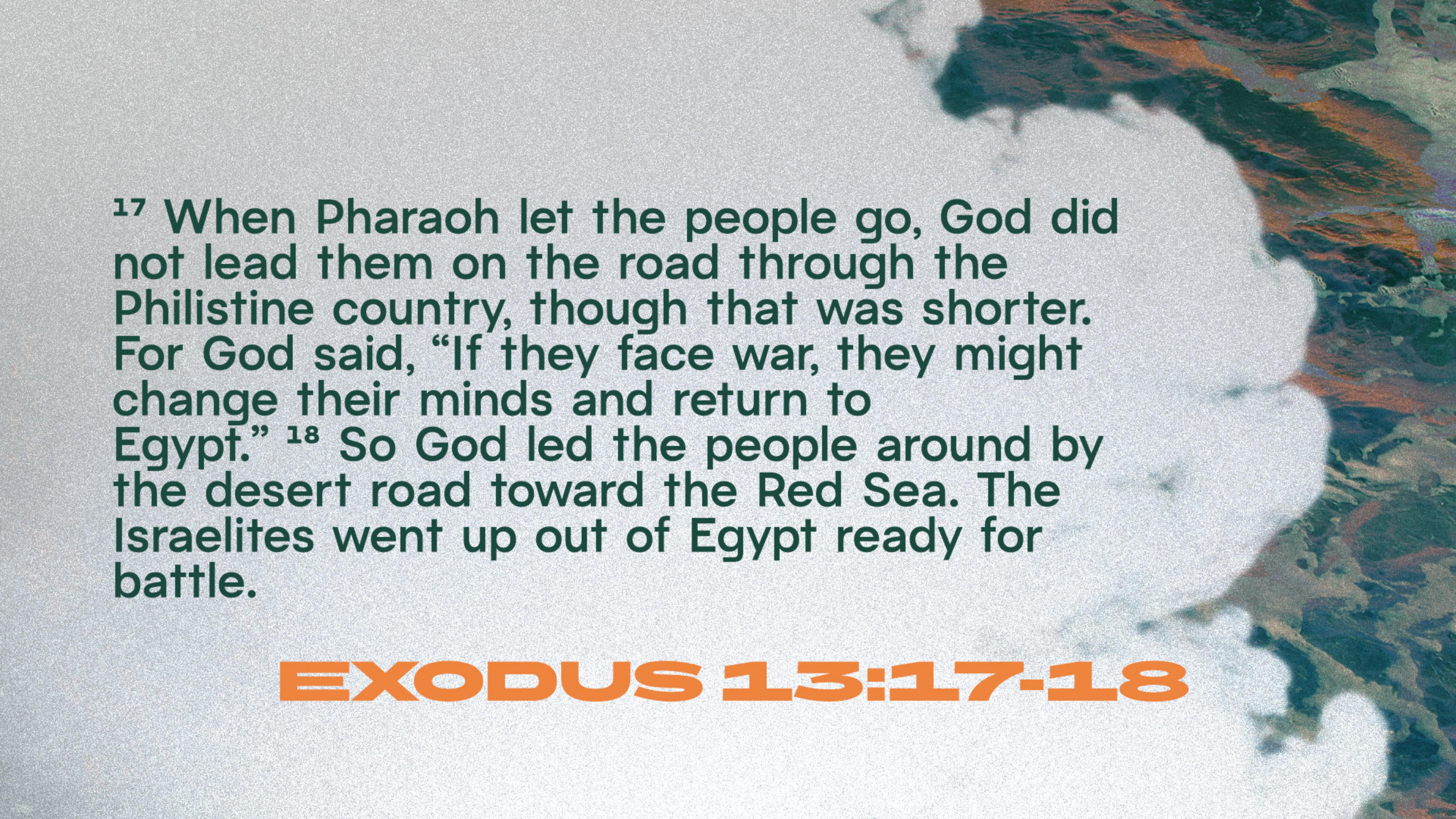
³⁵ The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. ³⁶ The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

EXODUS 12:35-36

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a dirt path winds its way up a hill, with several small figures of people walking along it. The middle ground is dominated by a massive, rugged mountain range with sharp, rocky peaks. The sky above is a deep, dark blue, filled with wispy white clouds. The overall scene is one of a vast, arid, and mountainous environment.

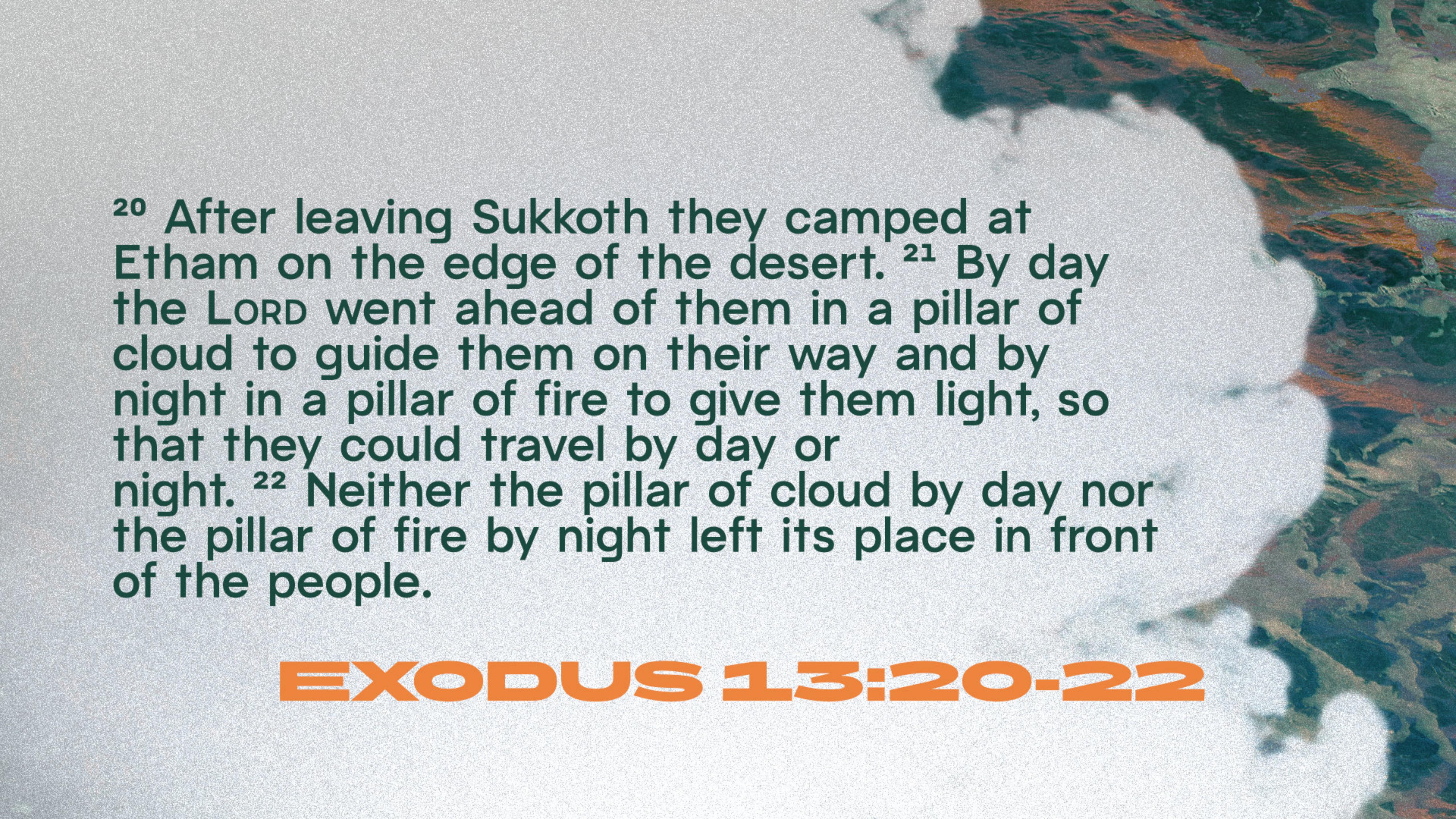
³⁷ The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. ³⁸ Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.

EXODUS 12:37-38



¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” ¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

EXODUS 13:17-18



²⁰ After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. ²¹ By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

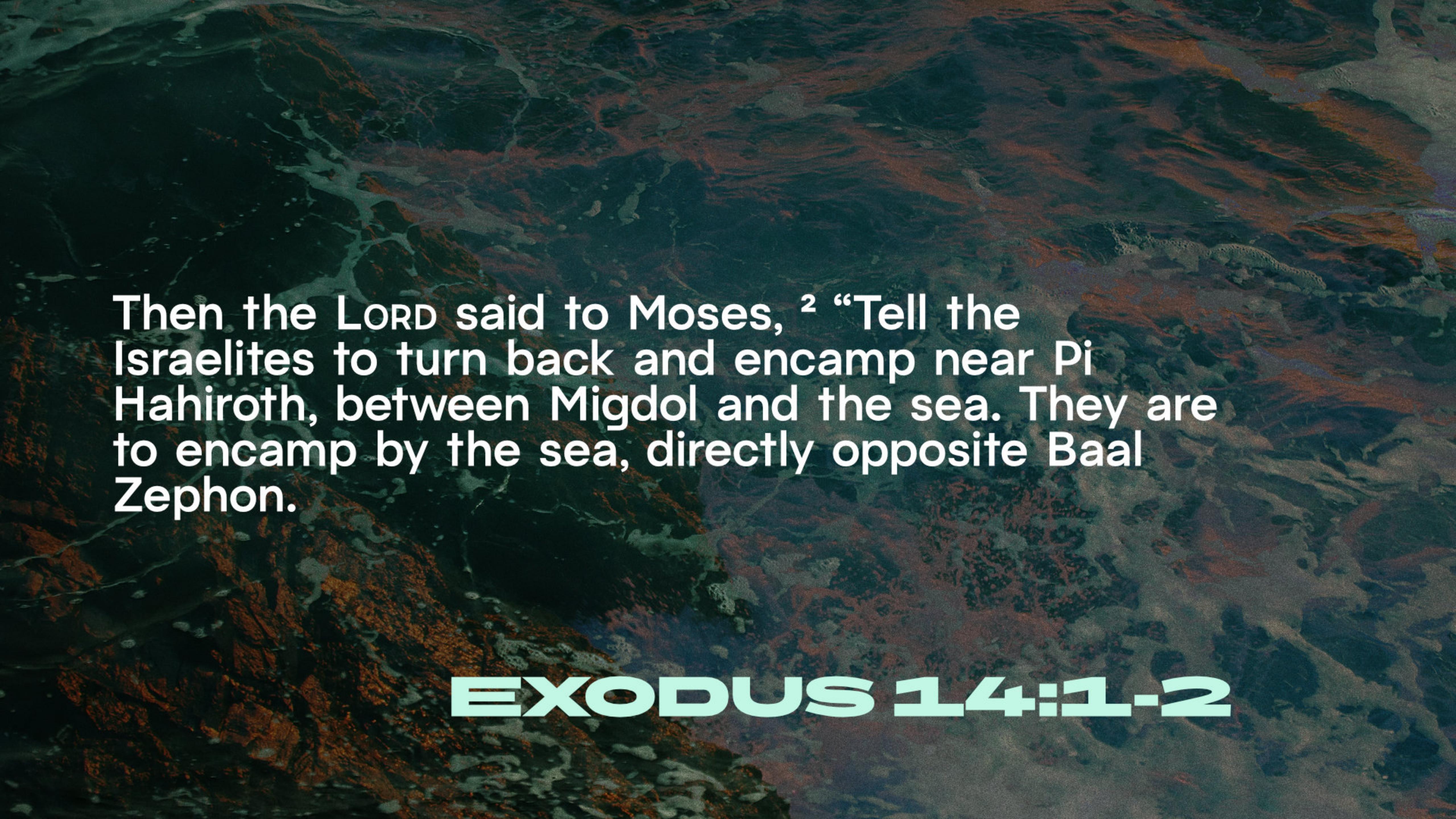
EXODUS 13:20-22



WHY DOES GOD ALLOW THE LONGER OR UNEXPECTED PATH?

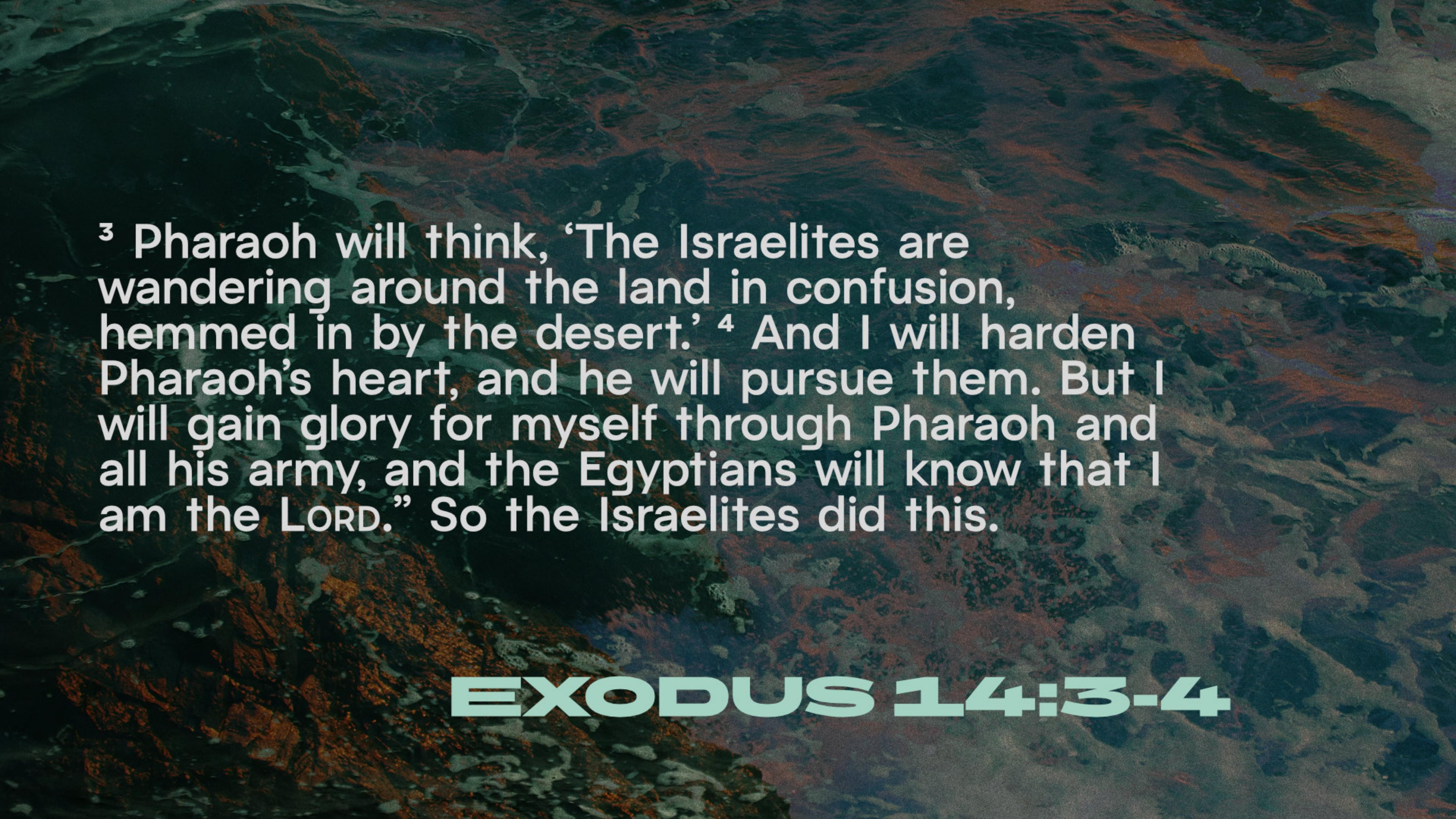
to know *his presence*

to experience *his deliverance*

A dark, high-angle aerial photograph of a coastal region. In the foreground, a winding, light-colored path or riverbed cuts through dark, rocky terrain. The middle ground shows rolling hills and mountains with sparse vegetation. The background features a bright, sandy beach and the calm surface of a body of water under a clear sky.

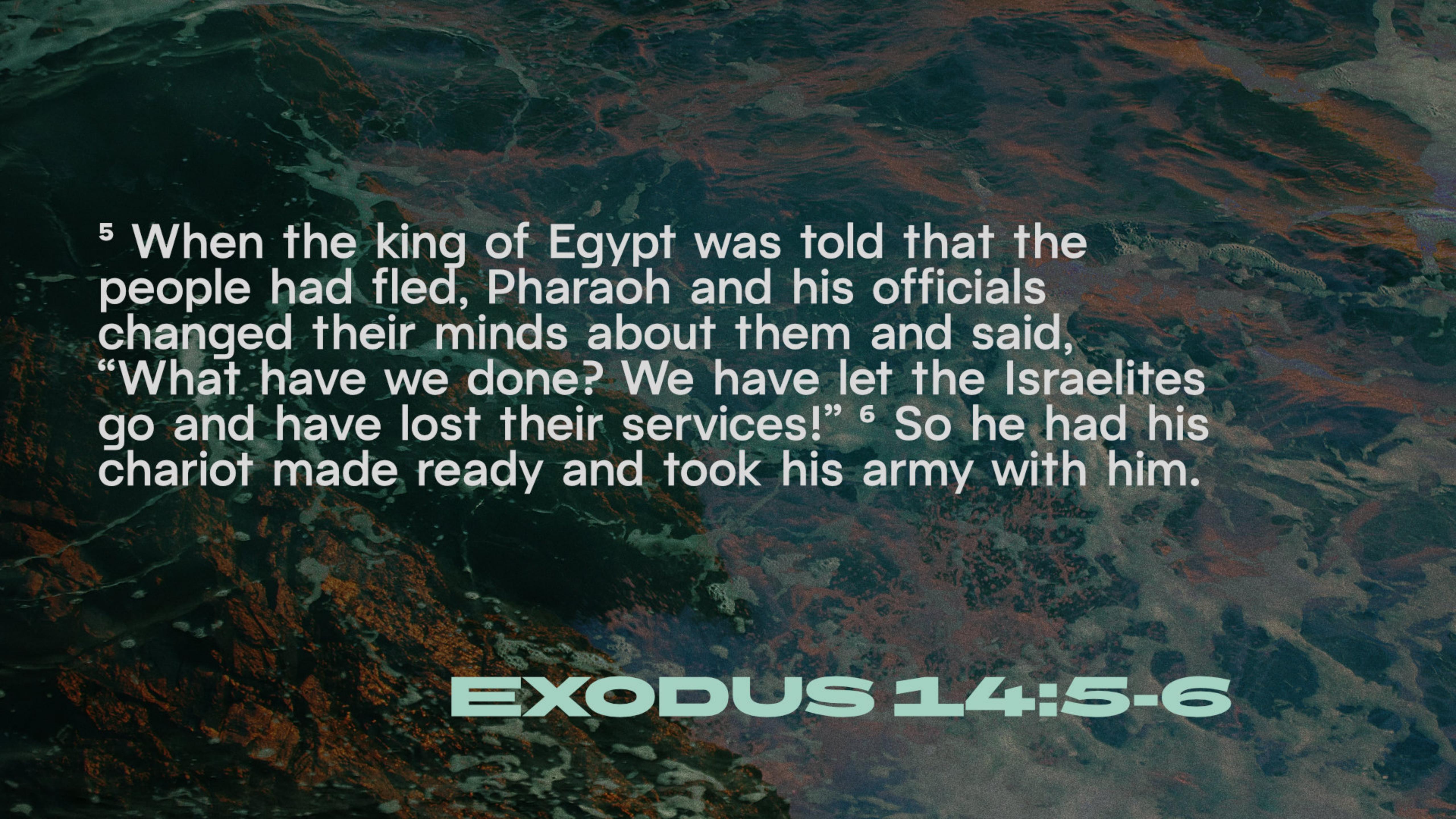
Then the LORD said to Moses,² “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon.

EXODUS 14:1-2



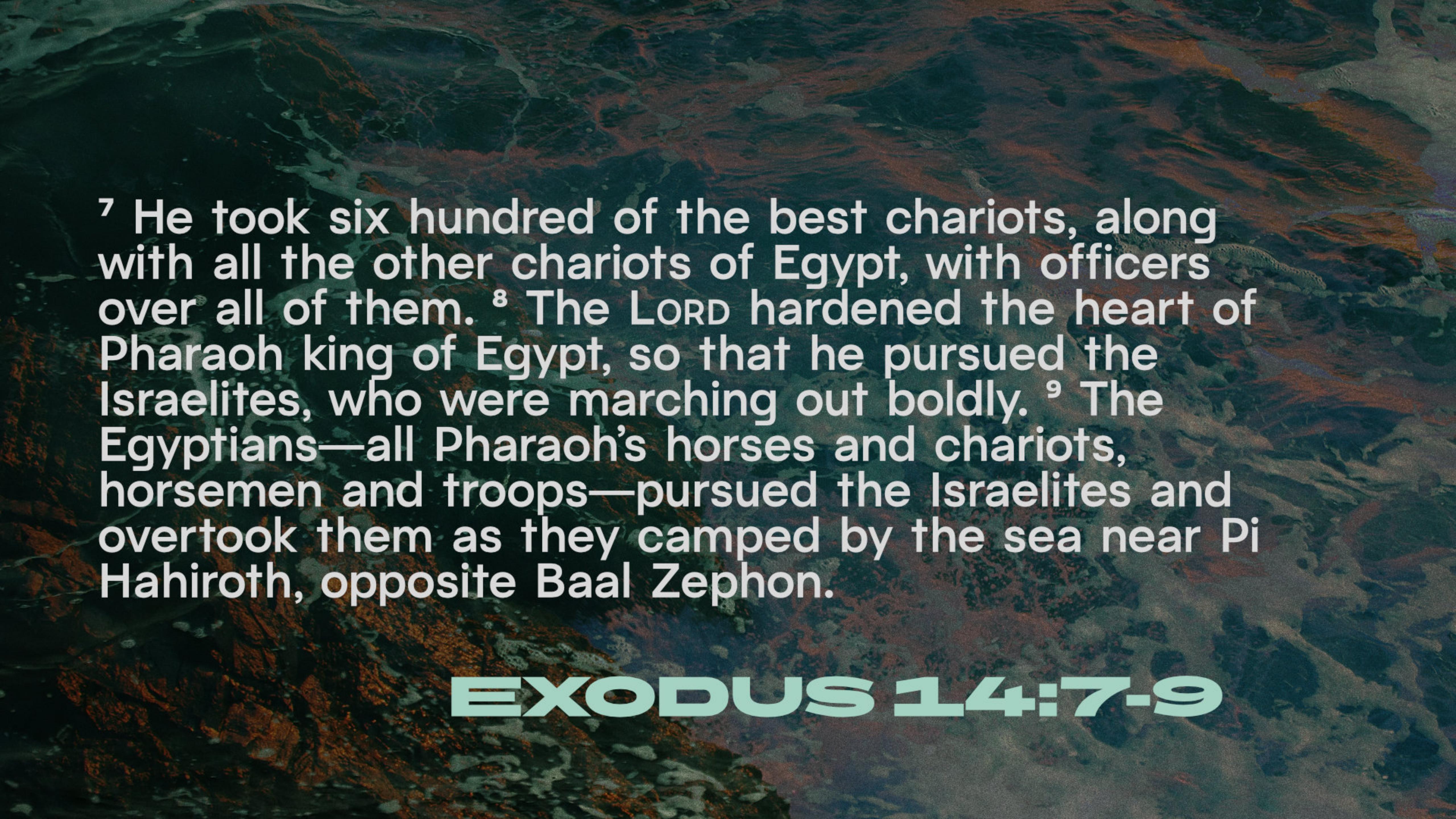
³ Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ ⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” So the Israelites did this.

EXODUS 14:3-4

A dark, textured background image showing an aerial view of a winding river or coastal area. The terrain is a mix of dark green and brown, suggesting a mix of water, sand, and vegetation. The river or coastline curves through the center of the frame.

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!” ⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him.

EXODUS 14:5-6



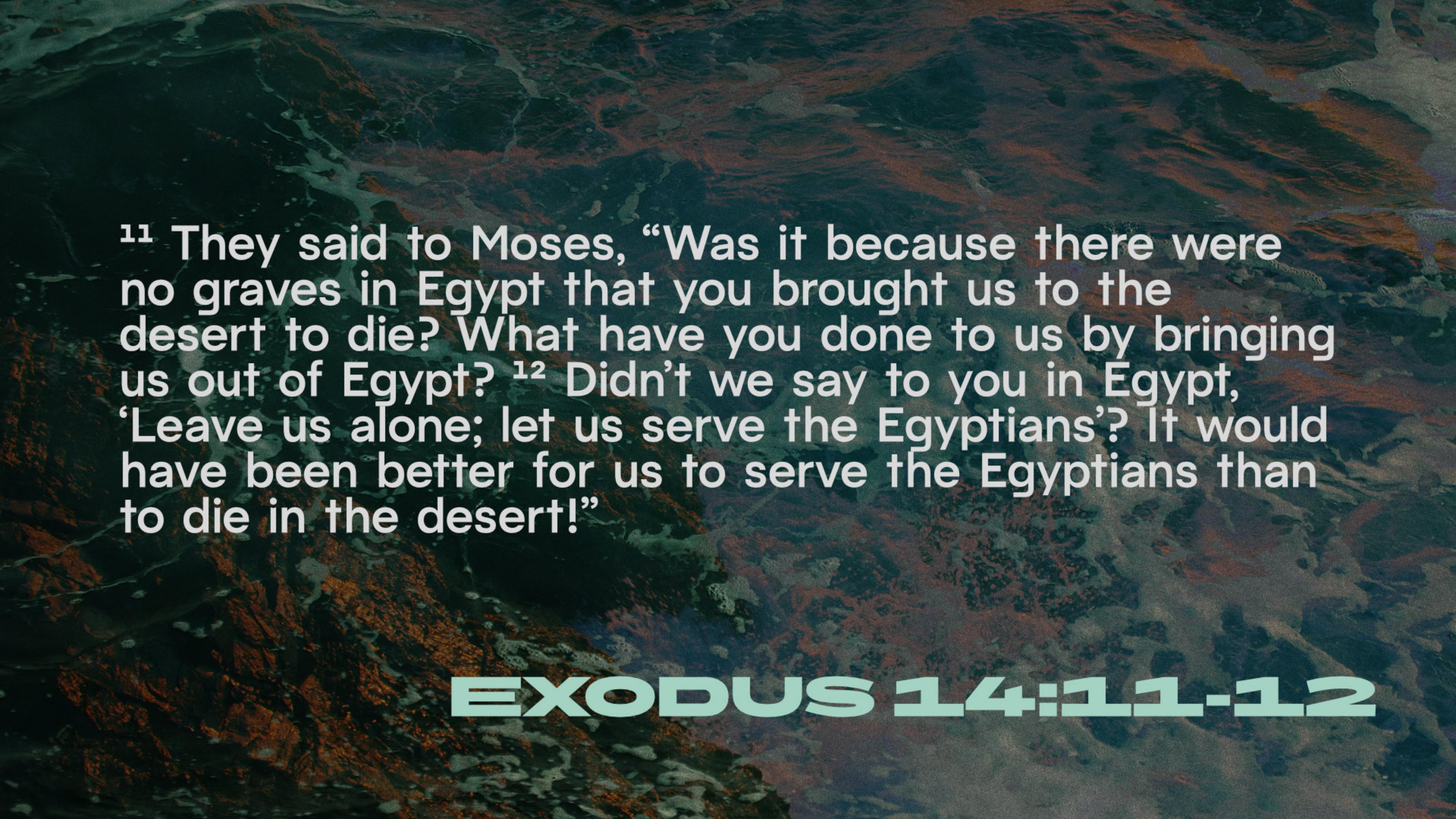
⁷ He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. ⁸ The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. ⁹ The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

EXODUS 14:7-9

A dark, high-angle aerial photograph showing a winding river or coastal area. The terrain is a mix of dark green and brown, suggesting a mix of vegetation and rocky or sandy ground. The river or coastline curves through the landscape, with some lighter-colored areas indicating different types of terrain or water. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

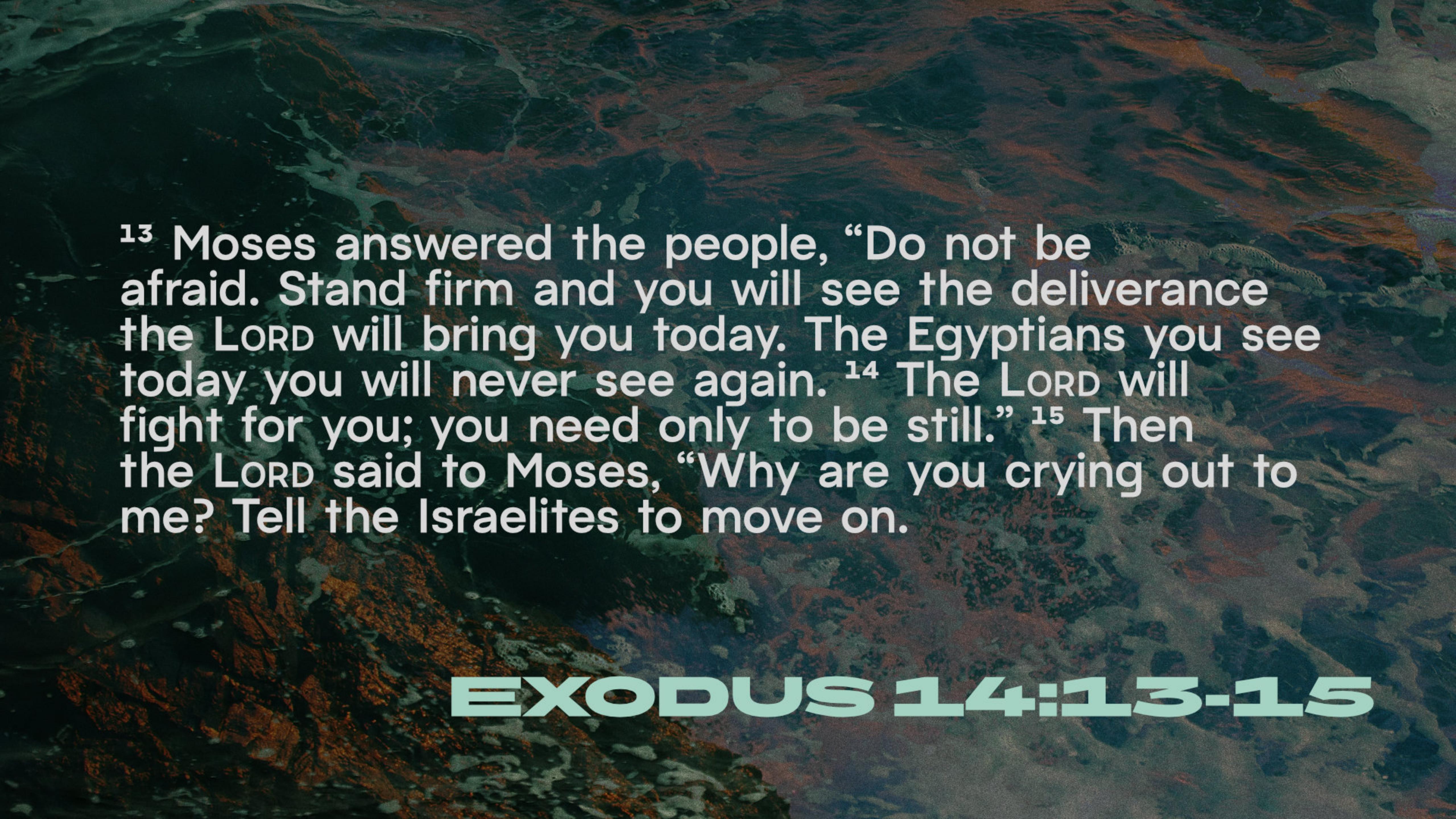
10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up,
and there were the Egyptians, marching after them.
They were terrified and cried out to the LORD.

EXODUS 14:10



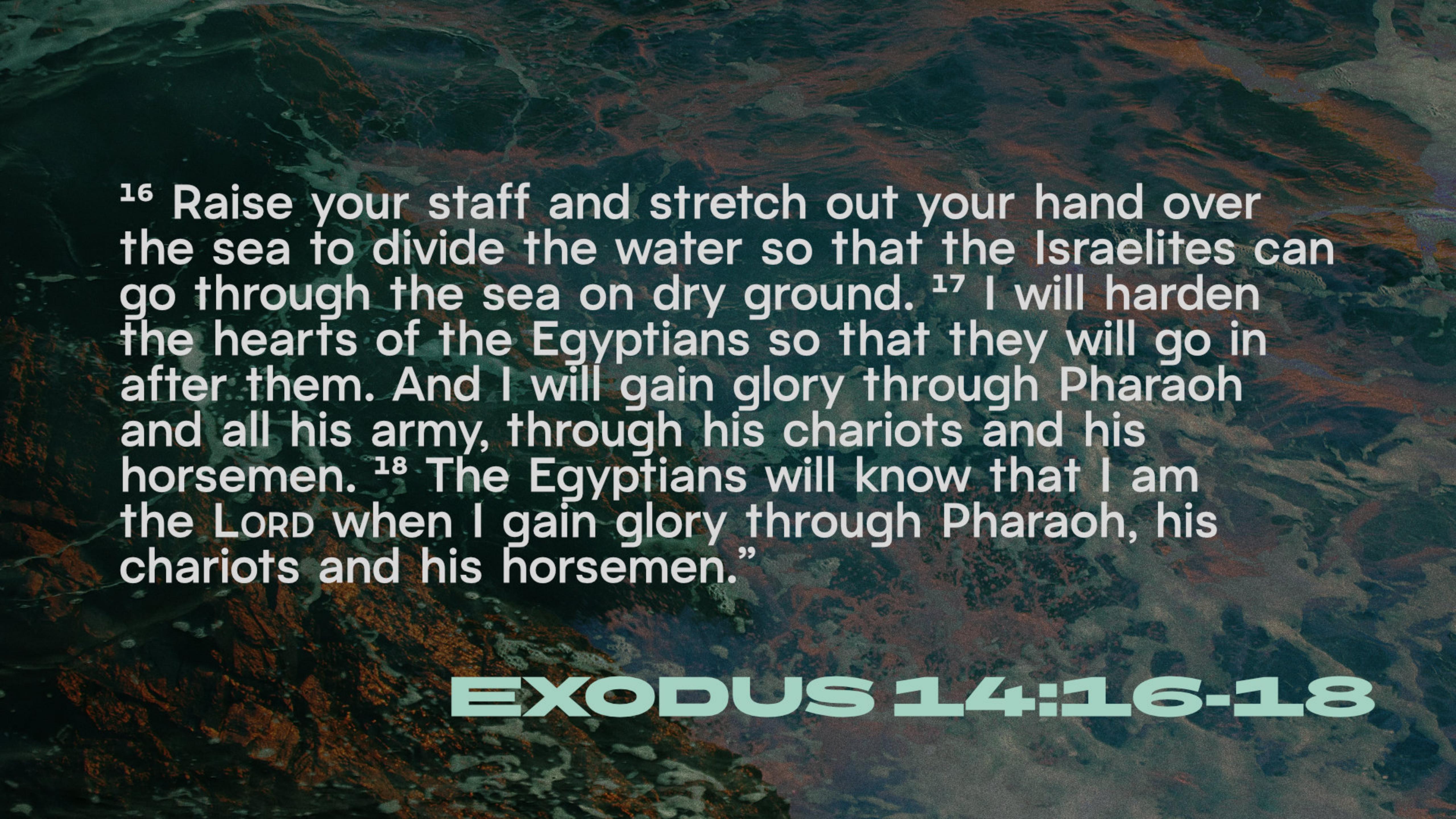
¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

EXODUS 14:11-12



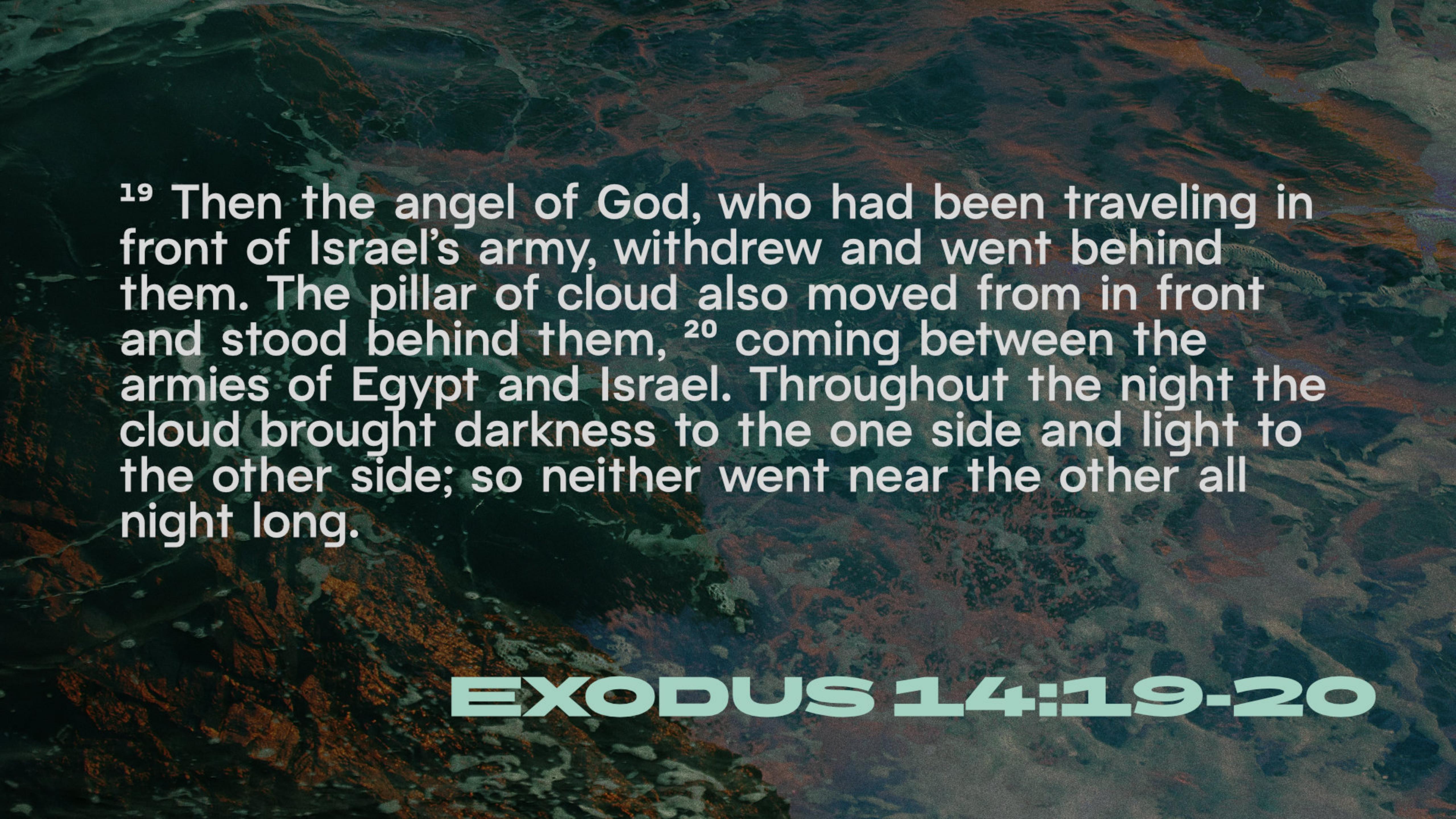
¹³ Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.

EXODUS 14:13-15



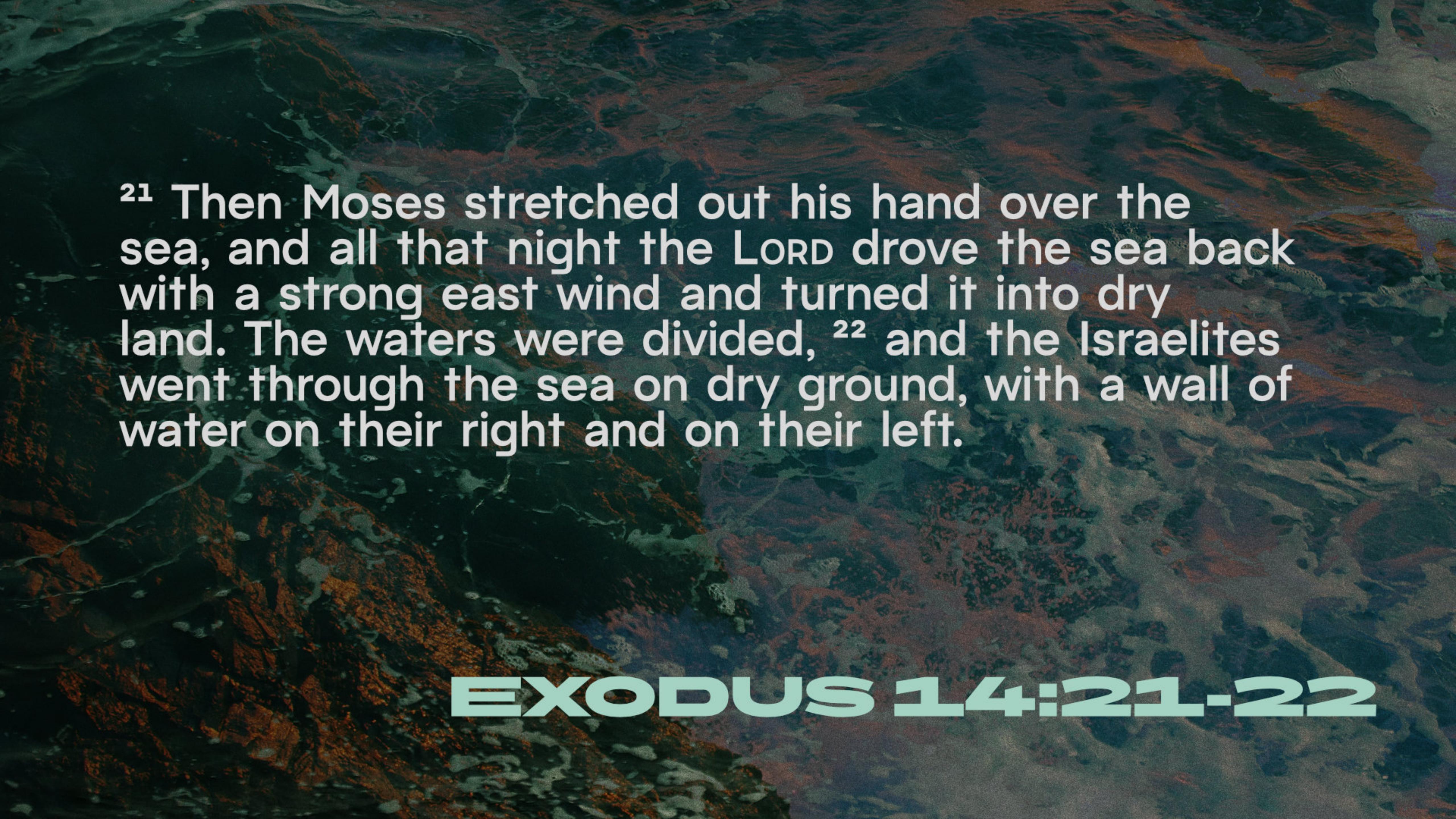
¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

EXODUS 14:16-18



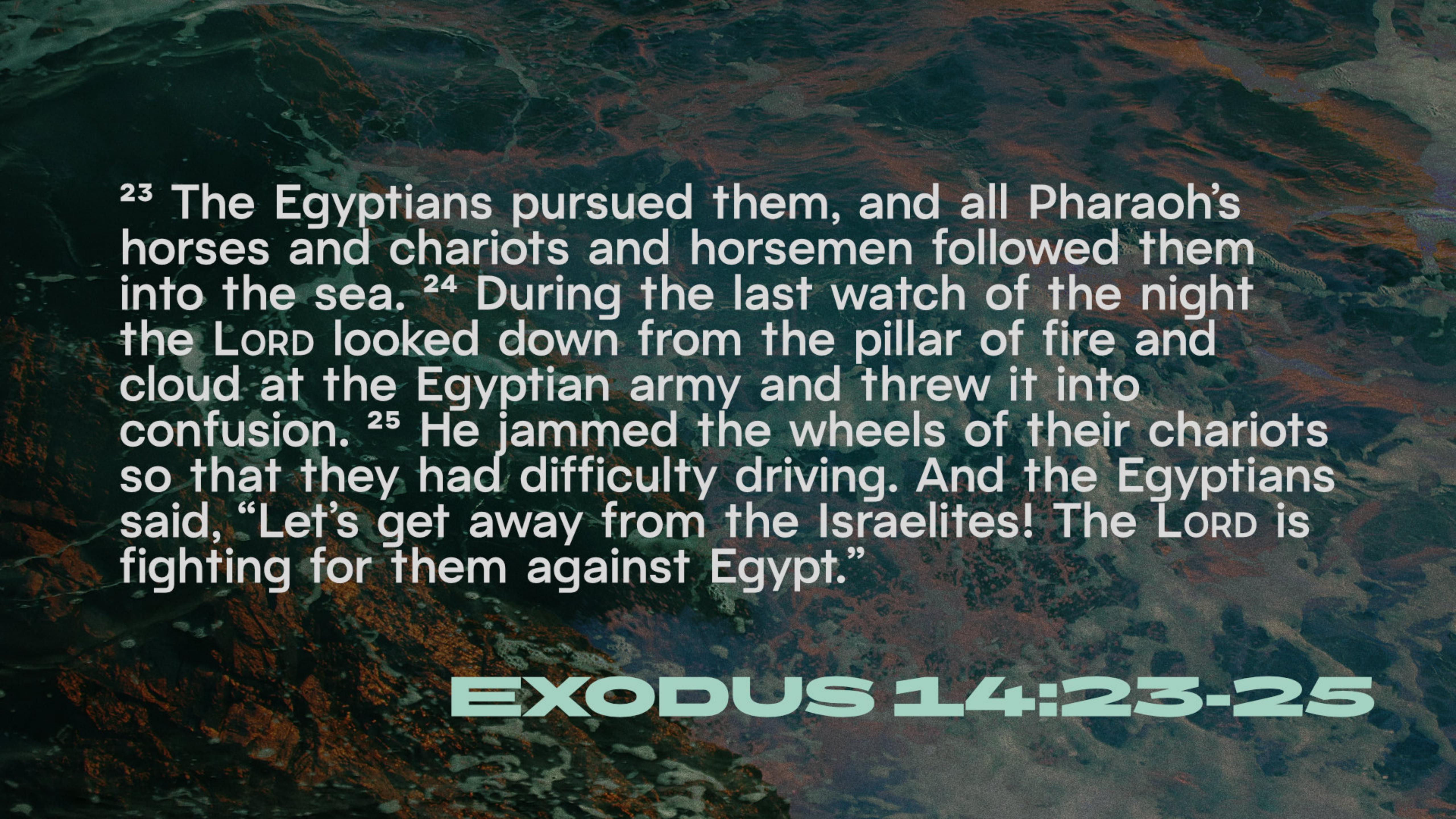
19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, **20** coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

EXODUS 14:19-20



21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

EXODUS 14:21-22

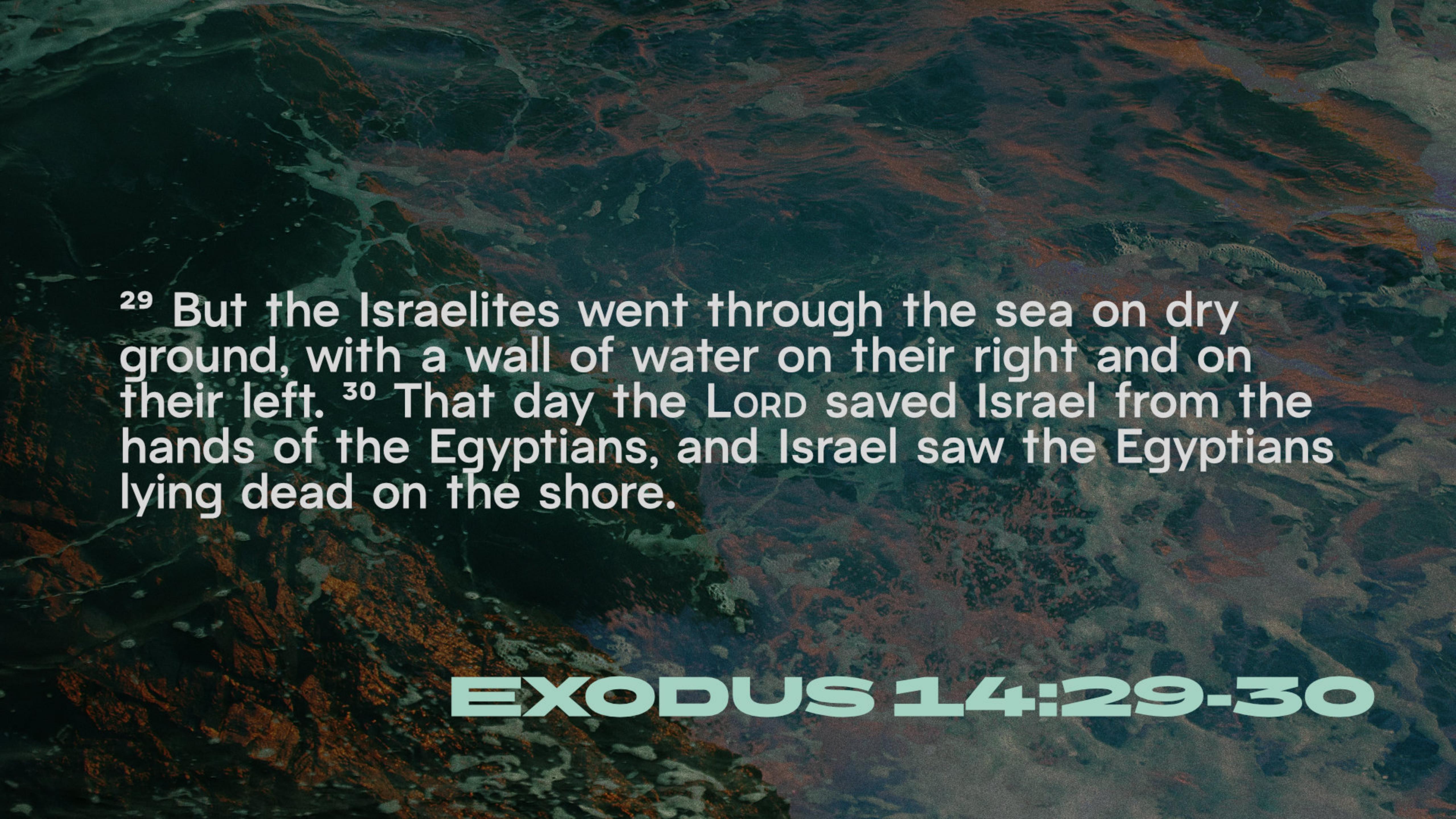


23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. **24** During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. **25** He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

EXODUS 14:23-25

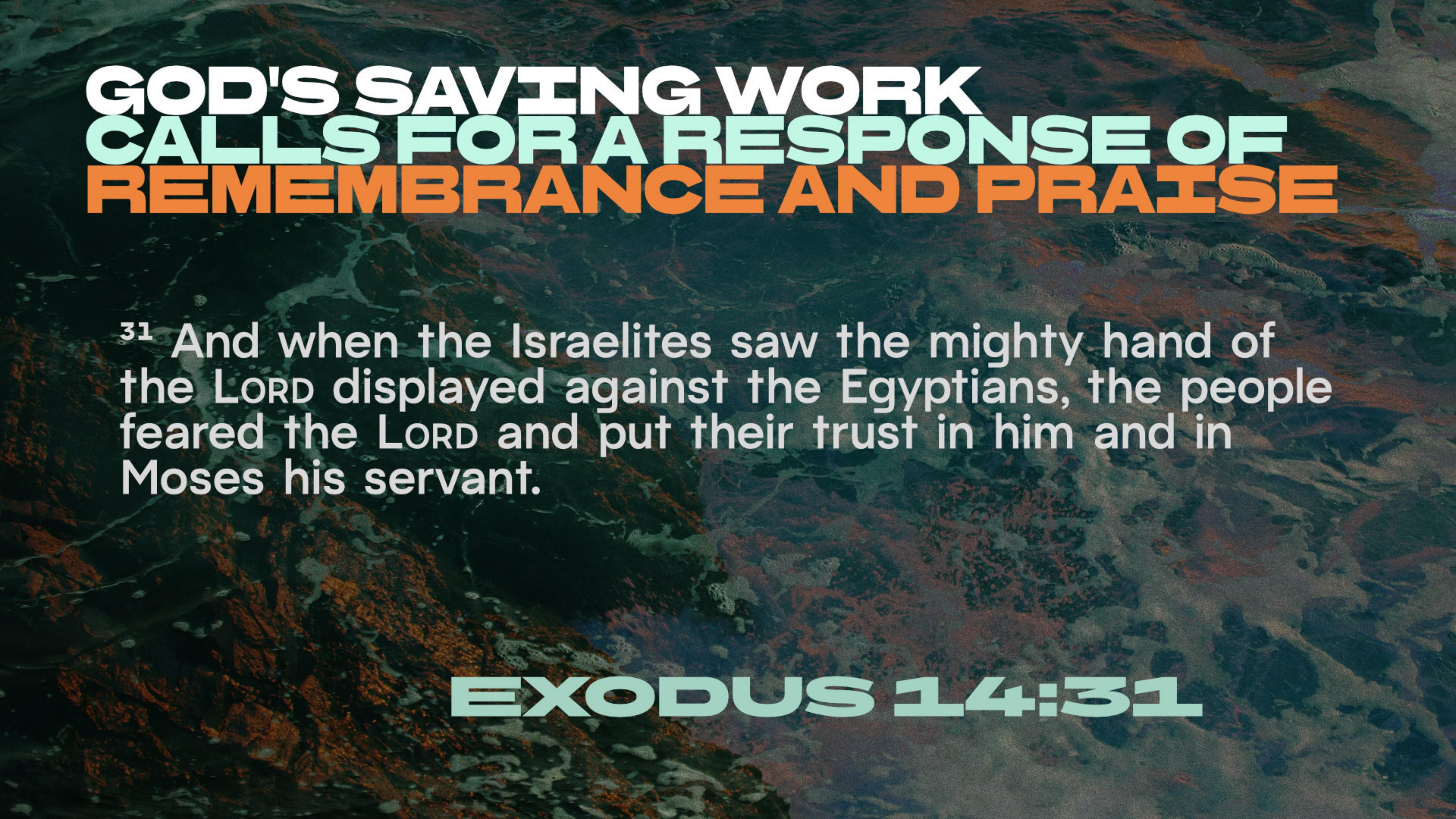
26 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” **27** Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. **28** The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

EXODUS 14:26-28



29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. **30** That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore.

EXODUS 14:29-30



GOD'S SAVING WORK CALLS FOR A RESPONSE OF REMEMBRANCE AND PRAISE

³¹ And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

EXODUS 14:31



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?