

A white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, against a background that transitions from a soft orange glow on the left to a deep blue on the right. The dove is positioned centrally, slightly behind the text. The text is written in a white, elegant cursive font with a subtle drop shadow, making it stand out against the background. The overall composition is serene and inspirational.

*Encouragement
Et Expectation
from Elijah*

- 17.** And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;
- 18.** even on My male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out My Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
- 19.** And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke;
- 20.** the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.
- 21.** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Acts 2:17-21

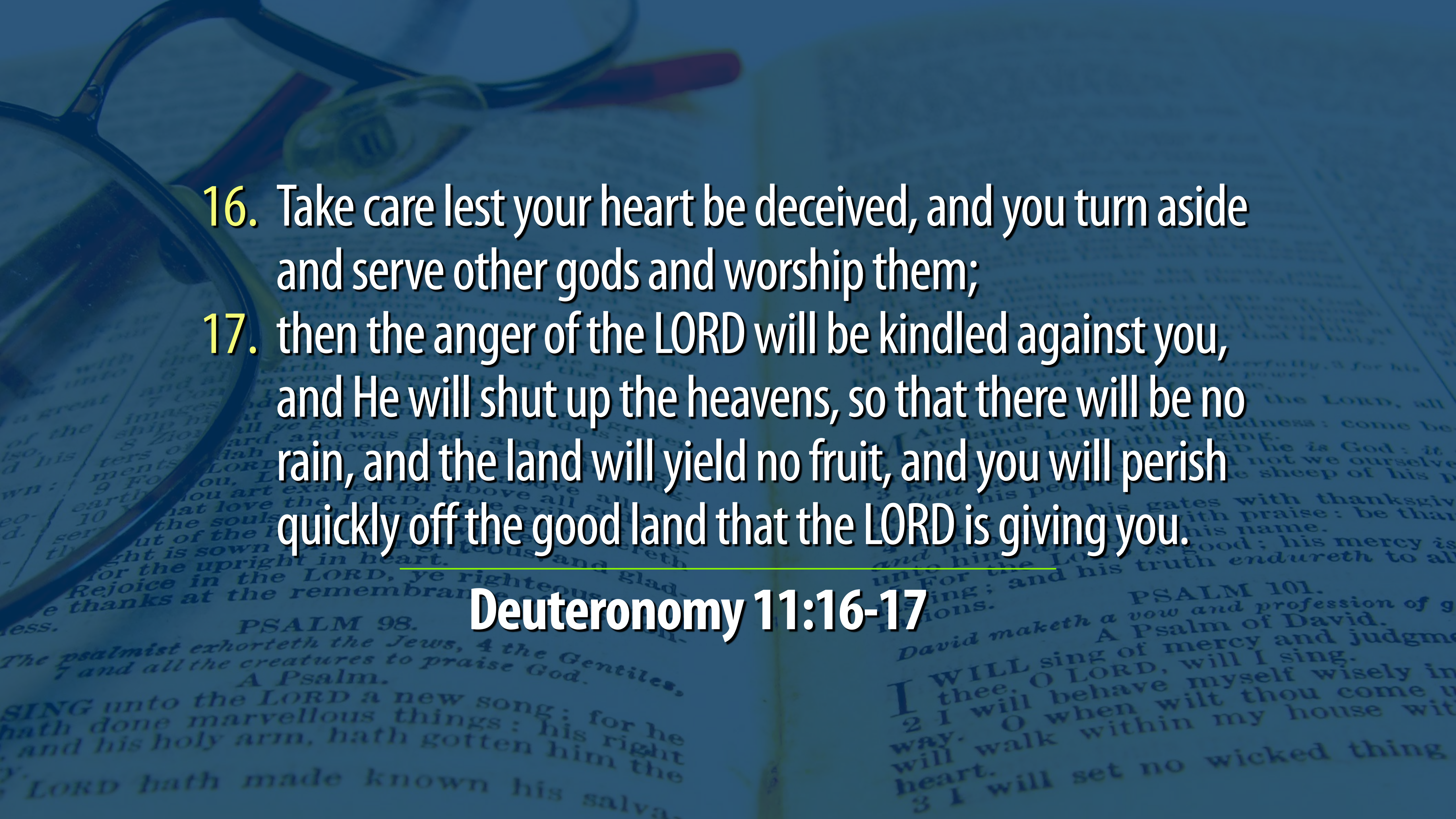
These are the Days - and This is the Word!

- ▶ What can we learn from Elijah?
- ▶ How can we apply these lessons to our own lives?
- ▶ Do we really believe that God can use in these days?

God Says Startling Things!

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

1 Kings 17:1

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16. Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them;
17. then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you.

Deuteronomy 11:16-17

Why did God choose the withdrawal of rain?

- ▶ King Ahab introduced the new religious system. Baalism.
- ▶ To the pagans, Baal was known as the “god of the rain and weather”.
- ▶ For Elijah to come and declare that the God of Israel was going to withhold the rain for an extended period of time was a direct assault against the idol worship of the day.
- ▶ The God of Israel, the Only Living and True God was making known to His creation who the Creator is.
- ▶ This begins the mark of a showdown between the God of Israel and the idolatrous worship of Baal.

God's Timing, Plans & Purposes Are Perfect

- ▶ Immediately following the delivery of that bold prophetic Word God removes Elijah from the scene!
- ▶ There is further preparation to be done in Elijah.

3. Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.
4. You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”
5. So Elijah went and did according to the word of the LORD. He went and lived by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan.
6. And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

1 Kings 17:3-6

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me;
Your mercy and loving-kindness, O Lord, endure
forever—forsake not the works of Your own hands.

Psalm 138:8 (Amplified Bible)



God Provides in Startling Ways

- ▶ Sent off to the Brook or Wadi Elijah is cut-off from everyone apart from God. Cherith - means 'cut-off'!
- ▶ In the middle of the wilderness, in a country with a prolonged drought and no food nearby God uses 'unclean ravens' a symbol of the world, to feed His prophet.

God Tests Obedience

7. And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.
8. Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah,
9. Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.

1 Kings 17:7-9

10. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."

11. And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

12. And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

1 Kings 17:10-12

And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son."

1 Kings 17:13

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Hebrews 10:36

God Does Startling Things!

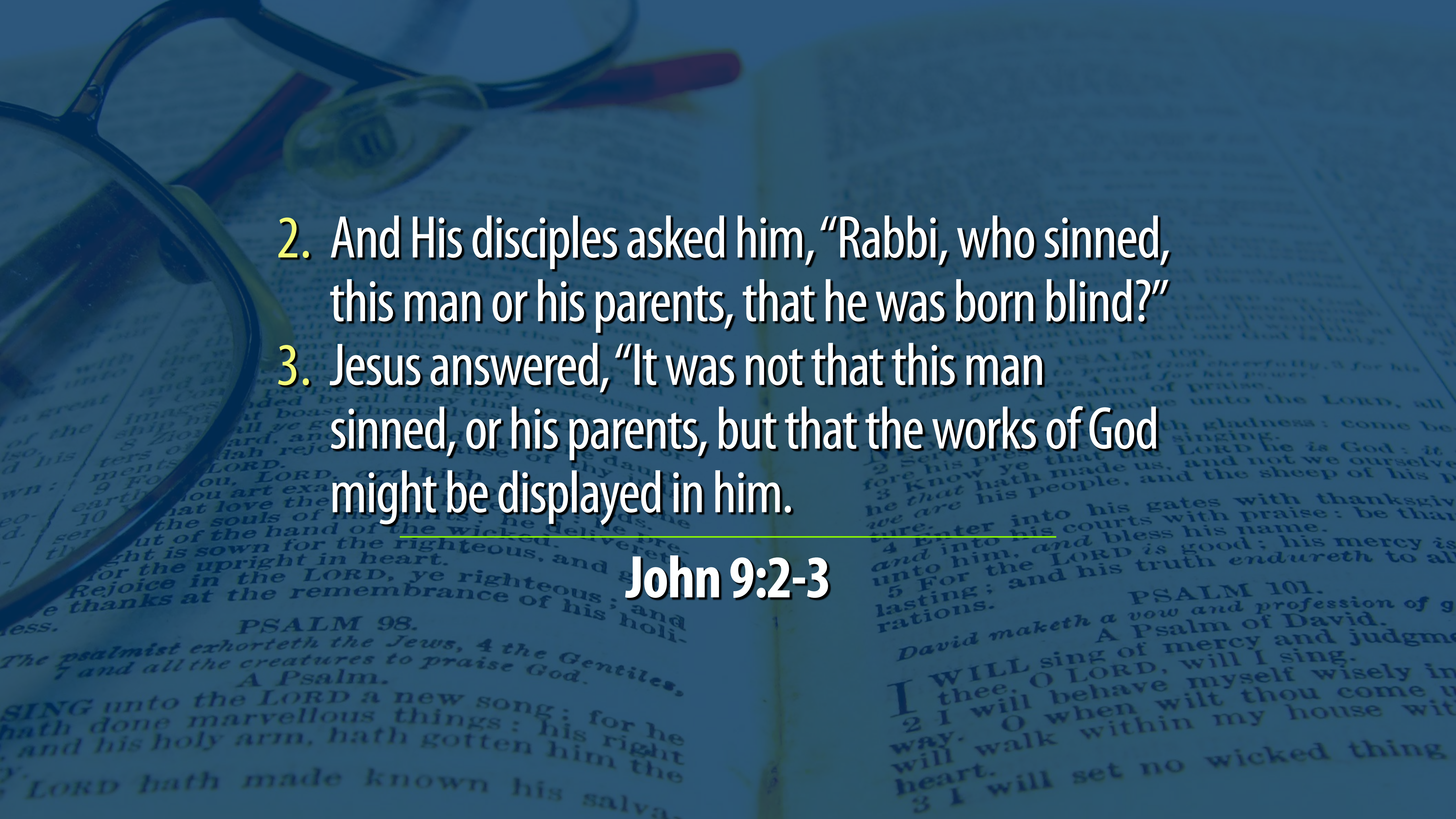
14. For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.'"
15. And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days.
16. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that He spoke by Elijah.

1 Kings 17:14-16

Expect the Unexpected

17. After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.
18. And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!"

1 Kings 17:17-18

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2. And His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
3. Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

John 9:2-3

And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed.

1 Kings 17:19

And he cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?"

1 Kings 17:20

21. Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again."
22. And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived.
23. And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives."
24. And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

1 Kings 17:21-24

Persistent Faith Despite the Circumstances

Faith had been demonstrated by both the widow and Elijah because:

- ▶ the woman entrusted her child unto the hands of the prophet
- ▶ the prophet entrusted the woman's child unto the power of God!

**This type of faith becomes the breeding ground
in which the Lord is able to do miracles!**

What a powerful picture of the reality, that the God of Israel is not only a supplier of needs, the sustainer of all, and keeper of all, but He holds the power over death itself!

- ▶ Can we say with some old-time saints: “You can’t make me doubt Him, cause I know too much about Him!”
- ▶ God is **STILL** in the business of making Himself known through His Word, His provision and His answers!

“Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth!”

1 Kings 17:24

How we long for people to see and know, that the God that we see and know, is evident in us and through us!

**Elijah is simply a human being, just like us,
with a nature like ours BUT he -**

- ▶ prayed earnestly
- ▶ believed passionately
- ▶ obeyed radically to some extreme requests from God!

Do we genuinely and expectantly believe:

- ▶ that: **These are the Days - and This is the Word!**
- ▶ what we have learned from Elijah?
- ▶ that we can apply these lessons to our own lives?
- ▶ that God can use us in these days?

Do we genuinely and expectantly believe that:

- ▶ God will SAY startling things to us
- ▶ God's timing, plans & purposes are perfect
- ▶ God will provide in startling ways
- ▶ God tests obedience
- ▶ God will DO startling things
- ▶ we are to expect the unexpected
- ▶ we can show persistent faith despite the circumstances

12. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

13. Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

John 14:12-14