

A dramatic sky with a rainbow and a sunburst. The sun is partially obscured by clouds, creating a bright sunburst effect. A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky, starting from the sunburst and extending towards the bottom right. The sky is filled with dark, moody clouds, with some lighter patches where the sun's rays break through.

The Fear of the Lord

What is the fear of the LORD?

- ▶ the fear of the LORD is absent in much of the Western Church today
- ▶ respect & wonder vs the weight of terror & dread
- ▶ an erroneous picture of God as fickle & vengeful

Two Dictionary Definitions

- ▶ a reason for dread or apprehension
- ▶ extreme reverence or awe

Hebrew: **Yare** = to be afraid, stand in awe, fear.

Greek: **Phobos** = that which causes flight, synonymous with dread & terror.

The LORD . . . He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 (Amplified Bible)

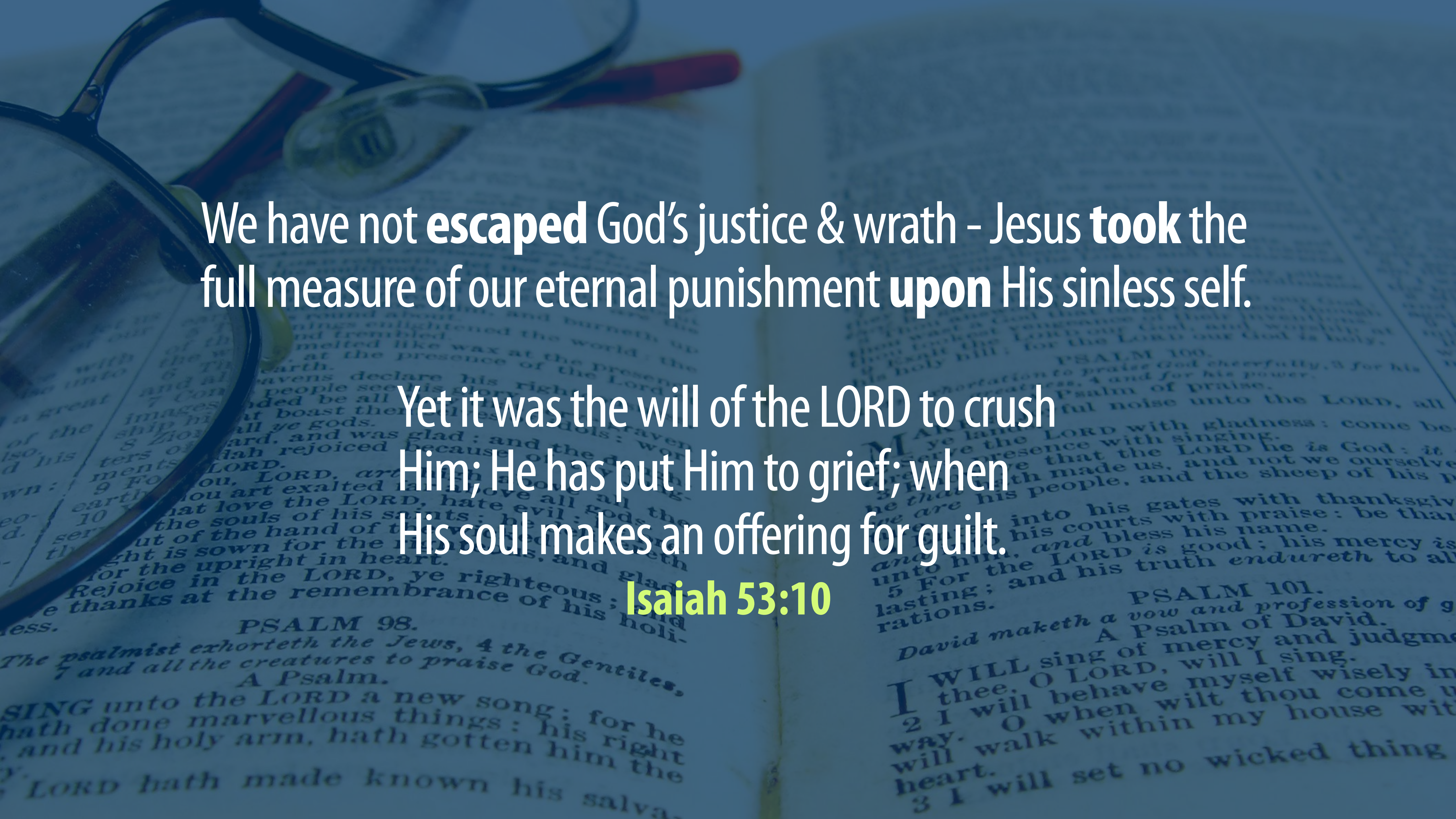
There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

We have not **escaped** God's justice & wrath - Jesus **took** the full measure of our eternal punishment **upon** His sinless self.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt.

Isaiah 53:10



The Bible instructs us to fear God

- ▶ Deuteronomy 6:13
- ▶ Joshua 24:19
- ▶ 2 Chronicles 19:7
- ▶ Psalm 33:8
- ▶ Proverbs 3:7 (Amplified Bible)
- ▶ Ecclesiastes 12:13

The fear of the LORD is not just respect and wonder, but a reverence so intense that it engenders terror and dread.

By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honoured.

Leviticus 10:3 (NASB)

By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified.

Leviticus 10:3 (NKJV)

God who can measure the oceans in the palm of His hand, tells us in Isaiah 40:12 that the width of the universe can be measured by the span of His hand. By His Word He created the universe and everything in it, including all its energy.

Now that is power!

When I view and consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have ordained — what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of earthborn man that You care for him?

Psalm 8:3–4

Those who did not fear the LORD

- ▶ Satan
- ▶ Adam
- ▶ Cain

And the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart.

Genesis 6:6

Those who did not fear the LORD

- ▶ Inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah
- ▶ Korah
- ▶ Nadab and Abihu

1. Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorised fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.
2. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

Leviticus 10:1-2

Those who did not fear the LORD

▶ Ananias and Sapphira

And great fear came upon the whole church
and upon all who heard of these things.

Acts 5:11

Those who walked in the fear of the LORD

- ▶ Noah feared the LORD and, by his faith and obedience, built the ark that saved the human race.

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household.

Hebrews 11:7

Those who walked in the fear of the LORD

- ▶ Abraham - the LORD first tested his heart, asking him to sacrifice Isaac, the very son through whom all the promises would come. When Abraham obeyed, God declared:

... for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.

Genesis 22:12

Those who walked in the fear of the LORD

- ▶ Joseph - declared I will not sin against God. His fear of God governed not only his private morality but his public leadership.

Do this and you will live, for I fear God.

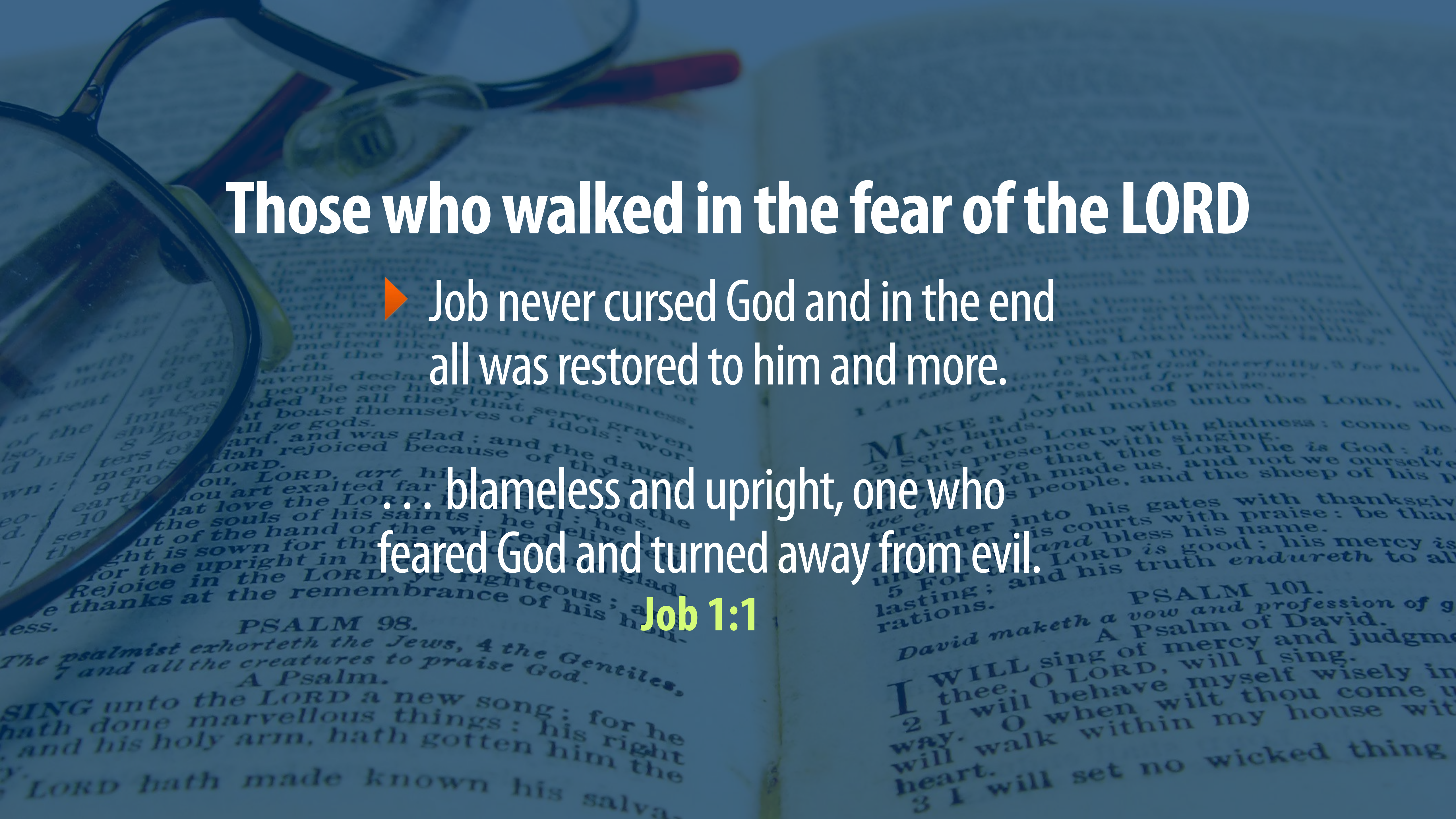
Genesis 42:18

Those who walked in the fear of the LORD

▶ Job never cursed God and in the end all was restored to him and more.

... blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

Job 1:1



Those who walked in the fear of the LORD

▶ David - did God accomplish much through the life of David who feared Him?

But I, through the abundance of Your steadfast love, will enter Your house. I will bow down toward Your holy temple in the fear of You.

Psalms 5:7

Those who walked in the fear of the LORD

- ▶ Hezekiah - described in Jeremiah 26:19 as one who reverently feared and entreated the LORD.
- ▶ Nehemiah, responsible for rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and ruling with justice and righteousness.

The former governors laid heavy burdens on the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God.

Nehemiah 5:15

Those who walked in the fear of the LORD

- ▶ The Early Church - after the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:11 records that great awe and strange terror and dread seized the whole church.

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the LORD and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

Acts 9:31

The church became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the LORD, and with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers.

Acts 9:31 (N.L.T.)

To fear the LORD is a choice

- ▶ a healthy choice that leads to knowledge
- ▶ a choice that leads to life

**To fear the LORD is not a burden.
It is a gift and it is a blessing and a choice.**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

Psalms 111:10

The fear of the LORD leads to life: then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

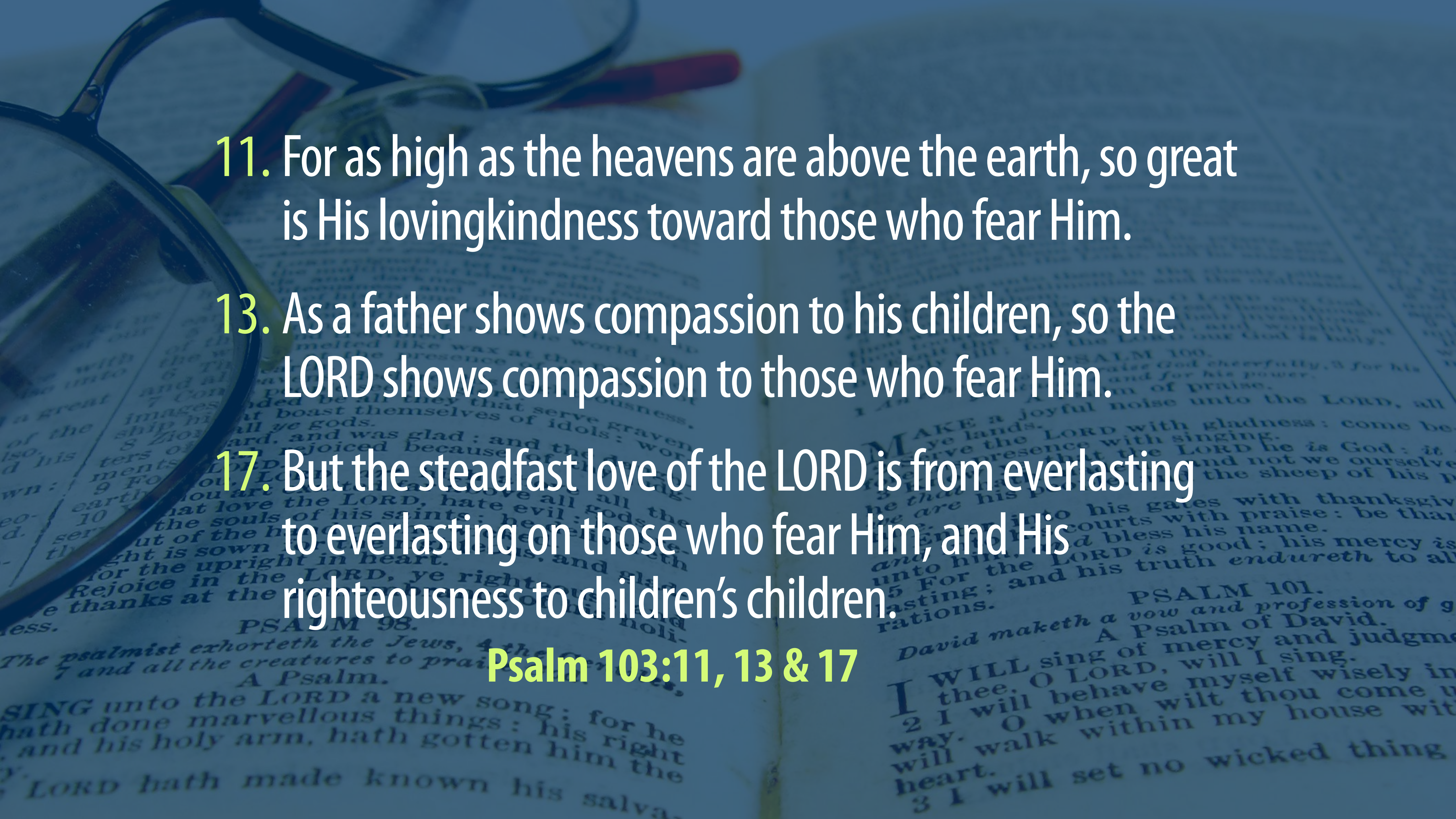
Proverbs 19:23

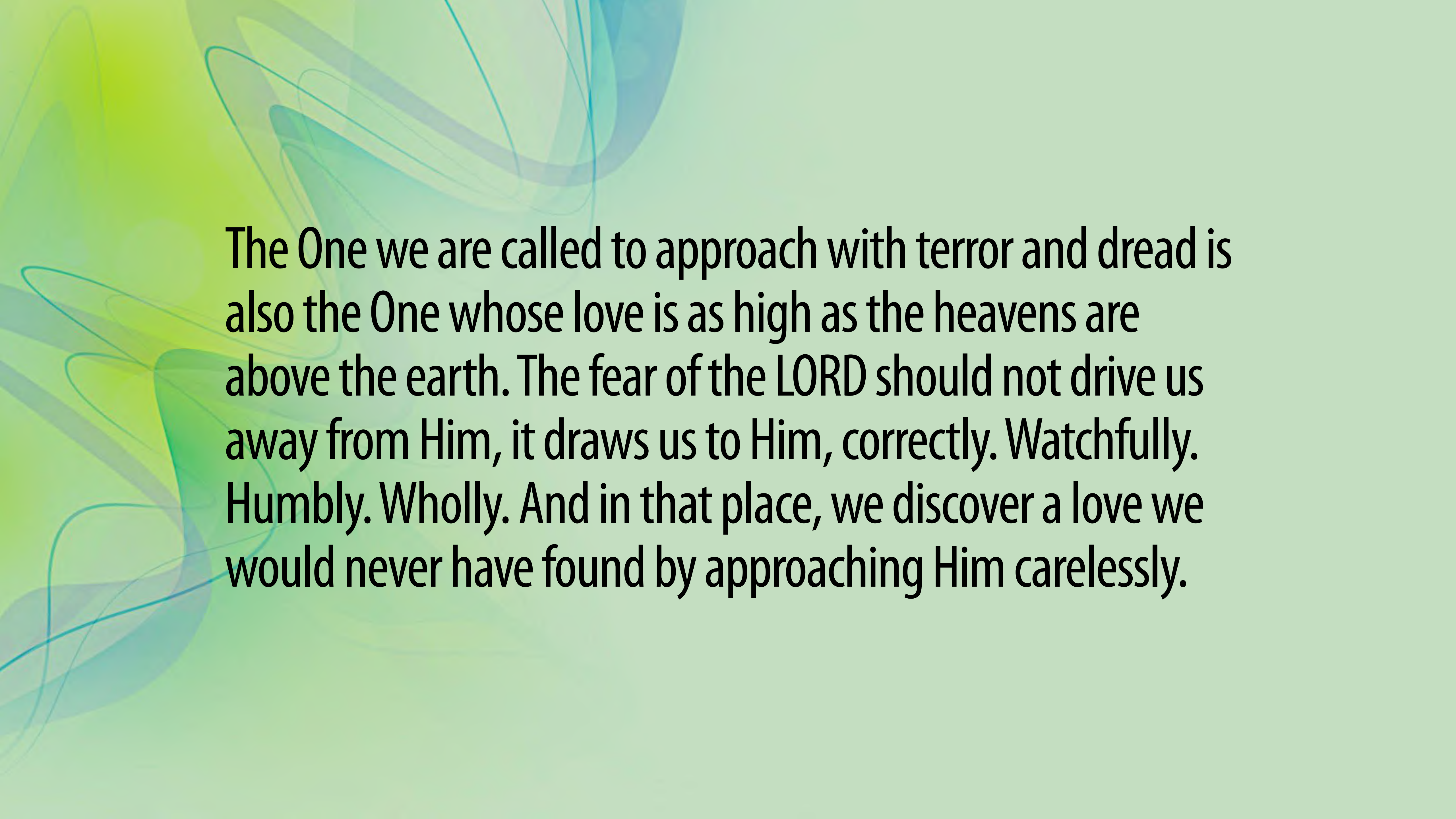
11. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.

13. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

17. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.

Psalm 103:11, 13 & 17





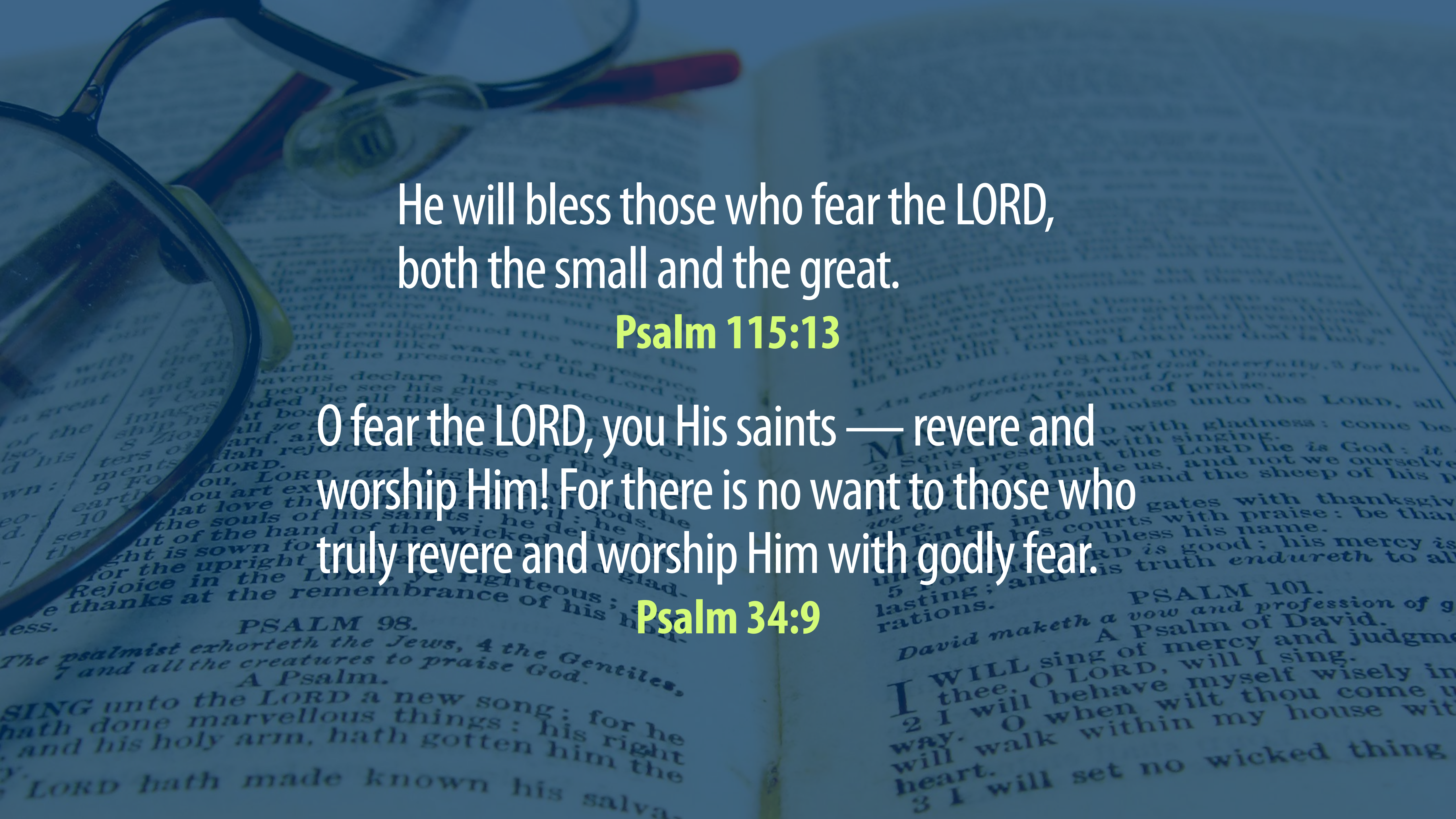
The One we are called to approach with terror and dread is also the One whose love is as high as the heavens are above the earth. The fear of the LORD should not drive us away from Him, it draws us to Him, correctly. Watchfully. Humbly. Wholly. And in that place, we discover a love we would never have found by approaching Him carelessly.

He will bless those who fear the LORD,
both the small and the great.

Psalm 115:13

O fear the LORD, you His saints — revere and
worship Him! For there is no want to those who
truly revere and worship Him with godly fear.

Psalm 34:9



The fear of God keeps us from sinning. After the people witnessed the thunder and lightning and smoke at Sinai and were terrified, Moses tells them:

Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of Him may be before you, that you may not sin.

Exodus 20:18–20

Don't be afraid of the circumstances, but do fear the LORD, that you may not sin.

The Fear of the LORD in the New Testament

Believers did not lose the fear of the LORD, it was preached and they reminded one another of it regularly. Jesus Himself tells His disciples in Luke 12:4–5 to fear God. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:11 that even as a Spirit-filled believer, it's the fear of the LORD that compels him to persuade men to be reconciled to God.

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, my beloved work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2:12

God's end-time, remnant church are those who are working out their salvation with fear and trembling, those who can truly say they know the fear of the LORD in them.

Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. **Fear God.**

1 Peter 2:17

If we are fearing the LORD as Scripture directs, then we are unlikely to become complacent in our relationship with Him or in our relationships with others. We are living for Him alone, putting others before ourselves, and offering Him all of ourselves in worship and in service.

We must prepare ourselves for the pouring out of His Spirit upon the land. We cannot dwell carelessly in His presence. **We cannot worship Him irreverently. We cannot be flippant or casual in our hearts in the way we approach Him, nor in the way we serve Him.** For those who are in Christ, we are those who can come near Him boldly and with confidence before His Throne but we still come with reverential awe and fear and treat Him as Holy. **We are His children, but He is still our King!**