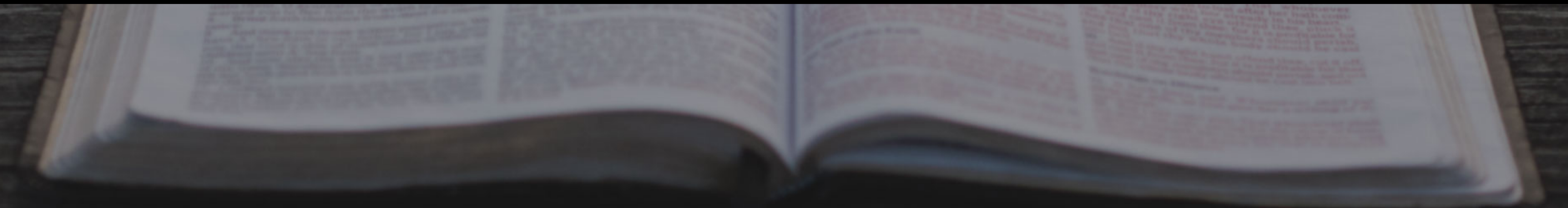




# Q & A





**WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING, WHY  
DIDN'T GOD DESTROY SATAN (WHY DOES HE  
LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY)?**



# 4 INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS:





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## 1. WITHOUT GOD, THERE IS NO PROBLEM OF EVIL/SUFFERING



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**2. SUFFERING/EVIL IS REAL IN PEOPLE'S LIVES**



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**3. FREE WILL IS NOT A BIBLICAL DEFENCE**

**4. SATAN IS NOT THE SOURCE OF ALL EVIL**



An open Bible is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly aged and the text is faint. A solid blue horizontal band is superimposed across the middle of the image, containing white text. The text is centered and reads: "WHAT ANSWER DOES THE BIBLE GIVE TO THE QUESTION OF EVIL & SUFFERING?".

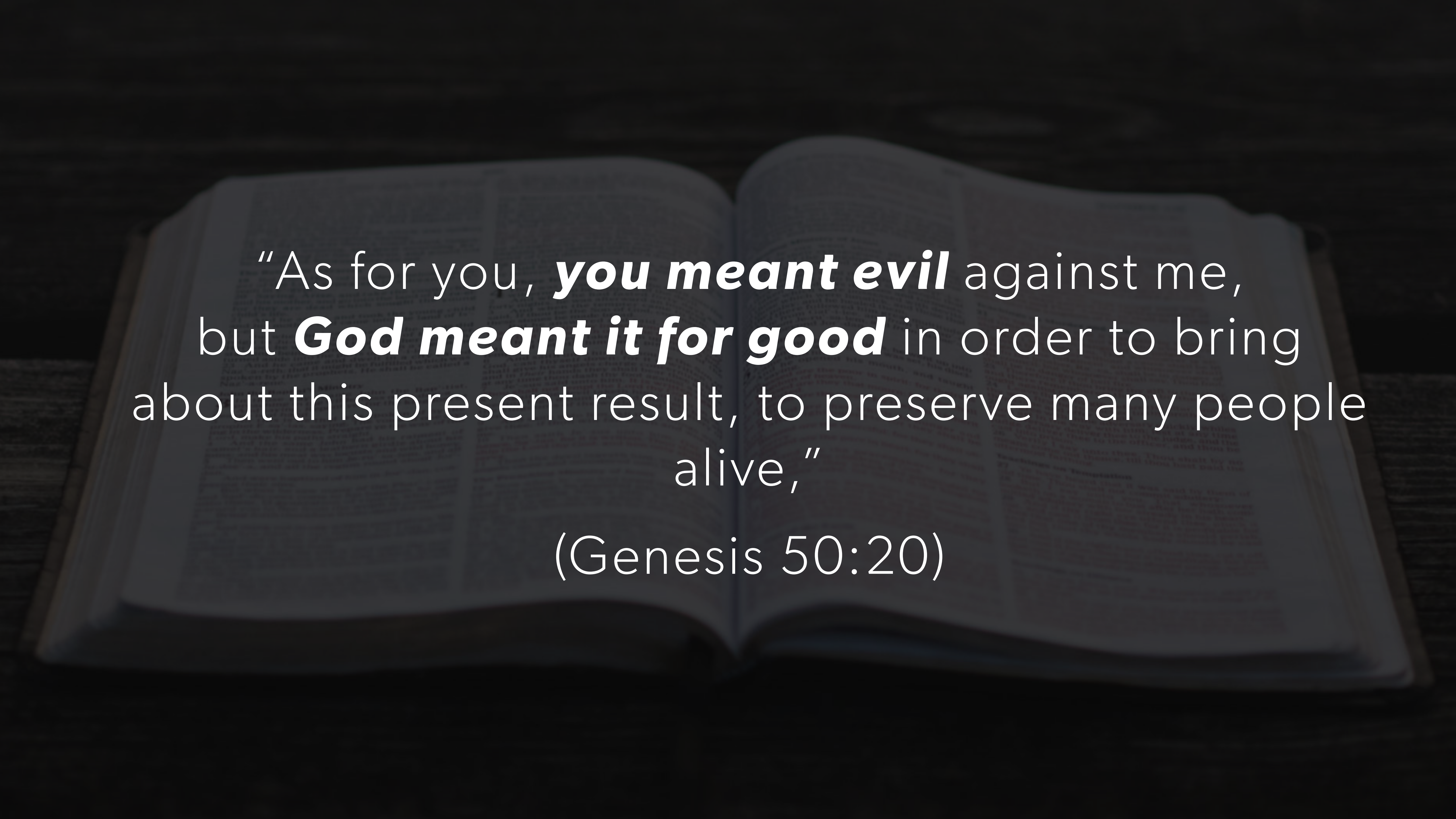
# **WHAT ANSWER DOES THE BIBLE GIVE TO THE QUESTION OF EVIL & SUFFERING?**



An open Bible is shown, lying flat, with its pages slightly aged and showing some wear. The text on the pages is visible but mostly obscured by a dark, semi-transparent overlay. Overlaid on the center of the Bible is a large, bold, white text block. The background is dark, making the white text stand out prominently.

# 1. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD IS GOOD AND IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS



An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly aged and the text is mostly illegible due to the lighting. Overlaid on the center of the open book is a quote in white text. The quote reads: "As for you, **you meant evil** against me, but **God meant it for good** in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive,". The words "you meant evil" and "God meant it for good" are in a bold, italicized font, while the rest of the quote is in a standard sans-serif font.

"As for you, ***you meant evil*** against me,  
but ***God meant it for good*** in order to bring  
about this present result, to preserve many people  
alive,"

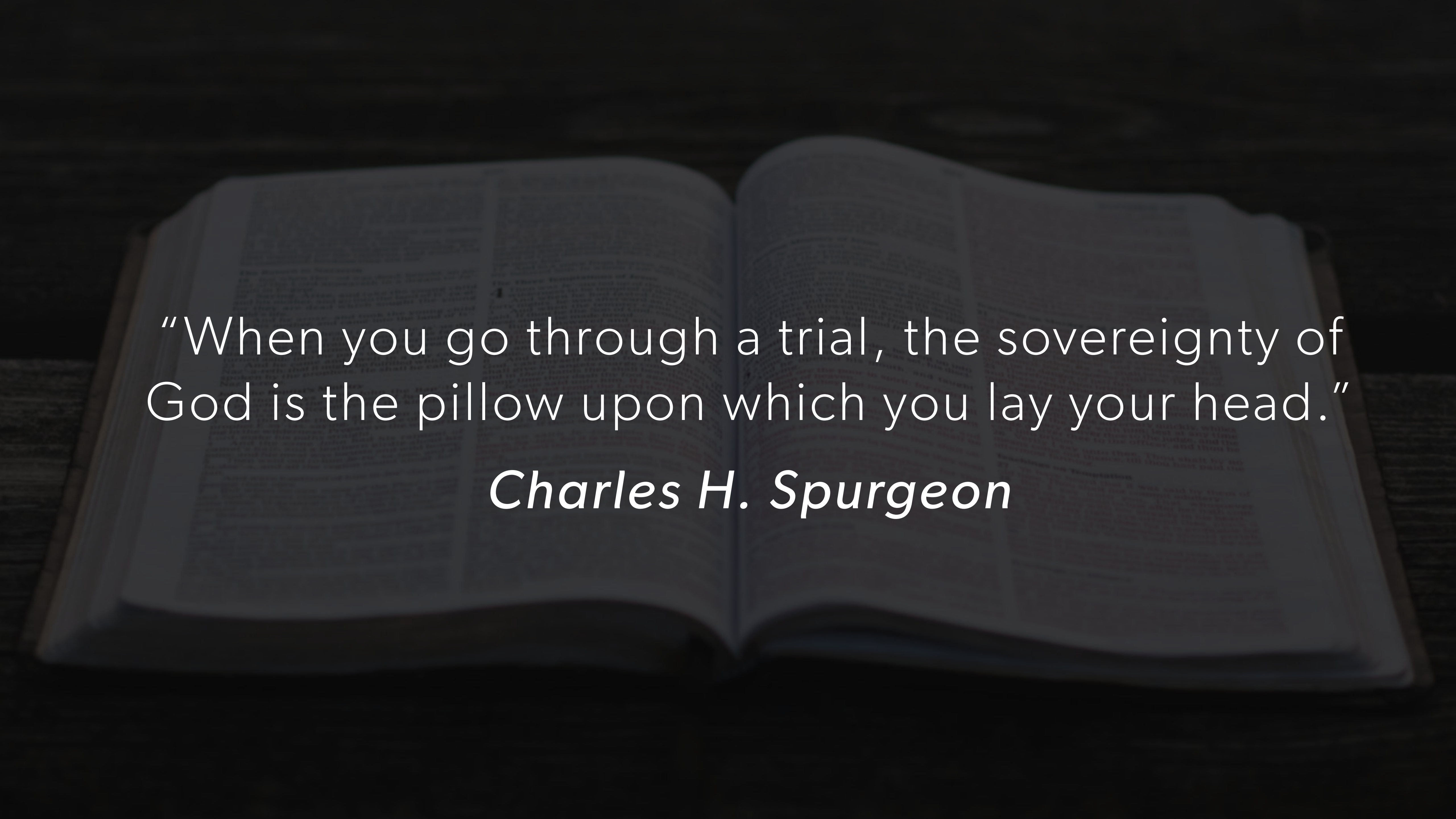
(Genesis 50:20)



“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up **according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed** by the hands of lawless men.”

(Acts 2:22-23)



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely from a Bible or a similar religious text. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is dark and contemplative. Overlaid on the center of the open pages is a quote in white text.

“When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head.”

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

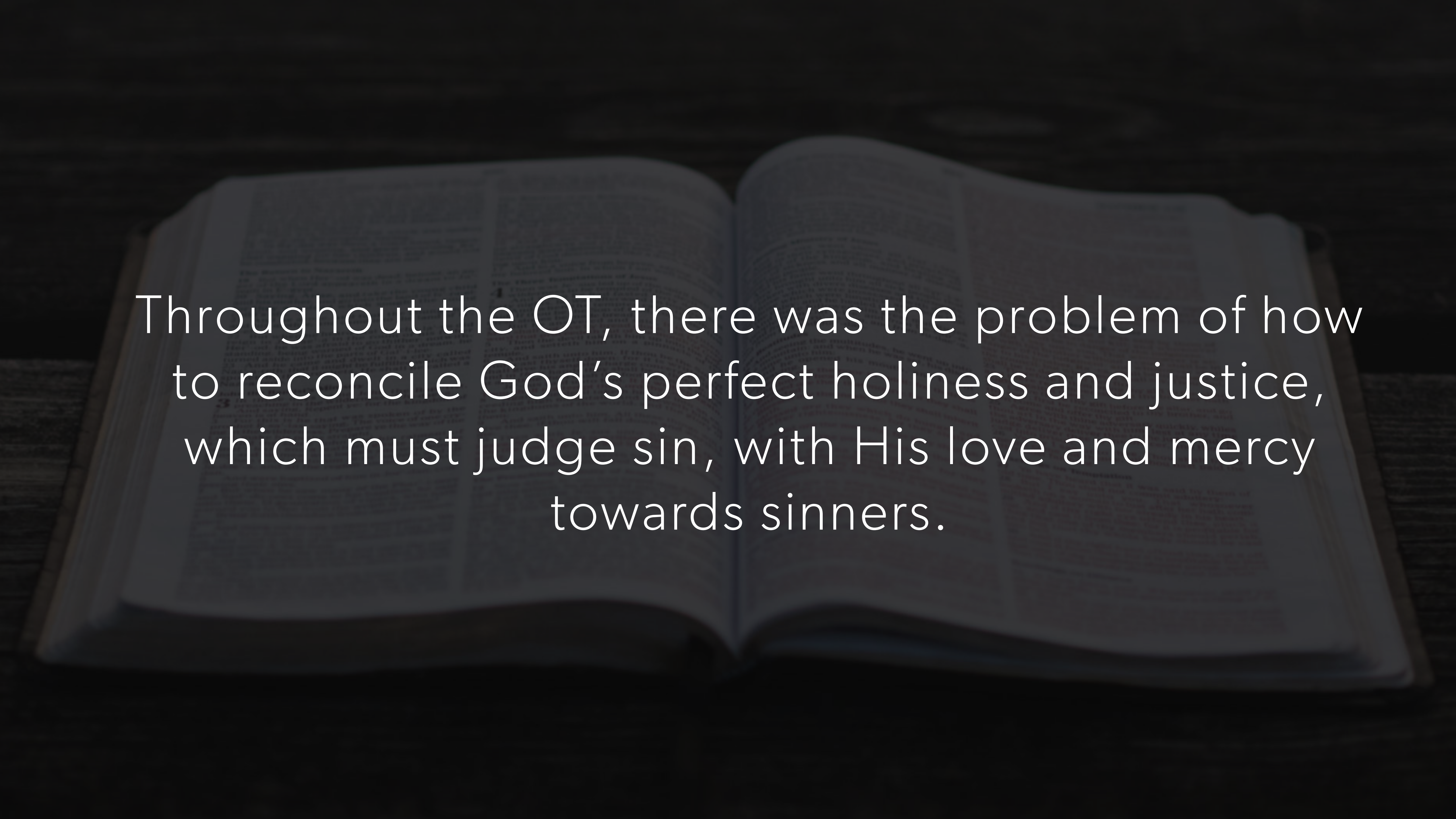


An open Bible is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly aged and the text is visible but not the primary focus. Overlaid on the center of the Bible are two lines of white, bold, sans-serif text. The background is a deep, textured black, making the white text stand out prominently.

**1. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD IS GOOD AND IN  
CONTROL OF ALL THINGS**

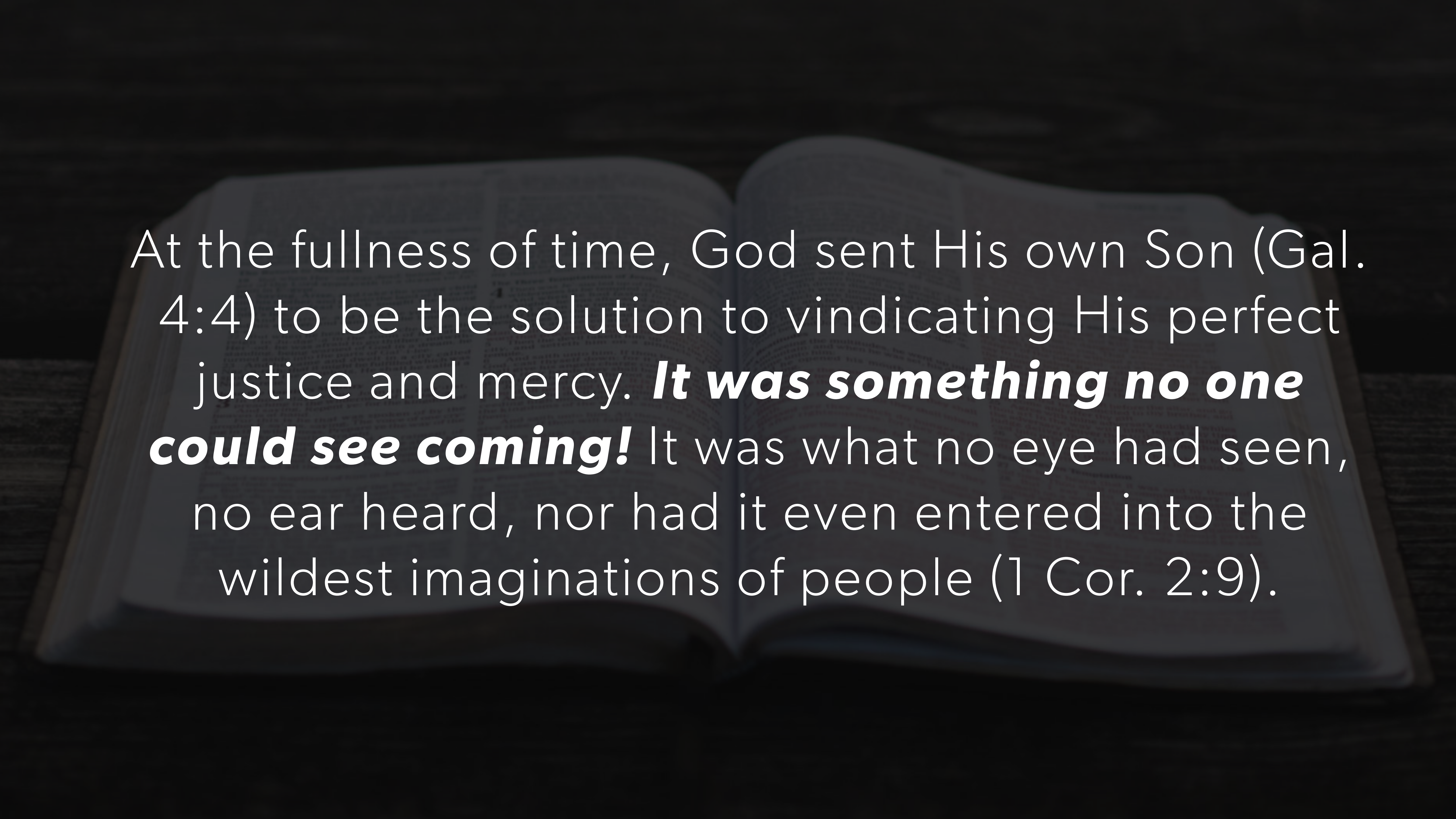
**2. WE CANNOT SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE**



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, illegible text, suggesting it is a Bible or a similar religious text. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is dark and contemplative. Overlaid on the center of the open pages is a large block of white text.

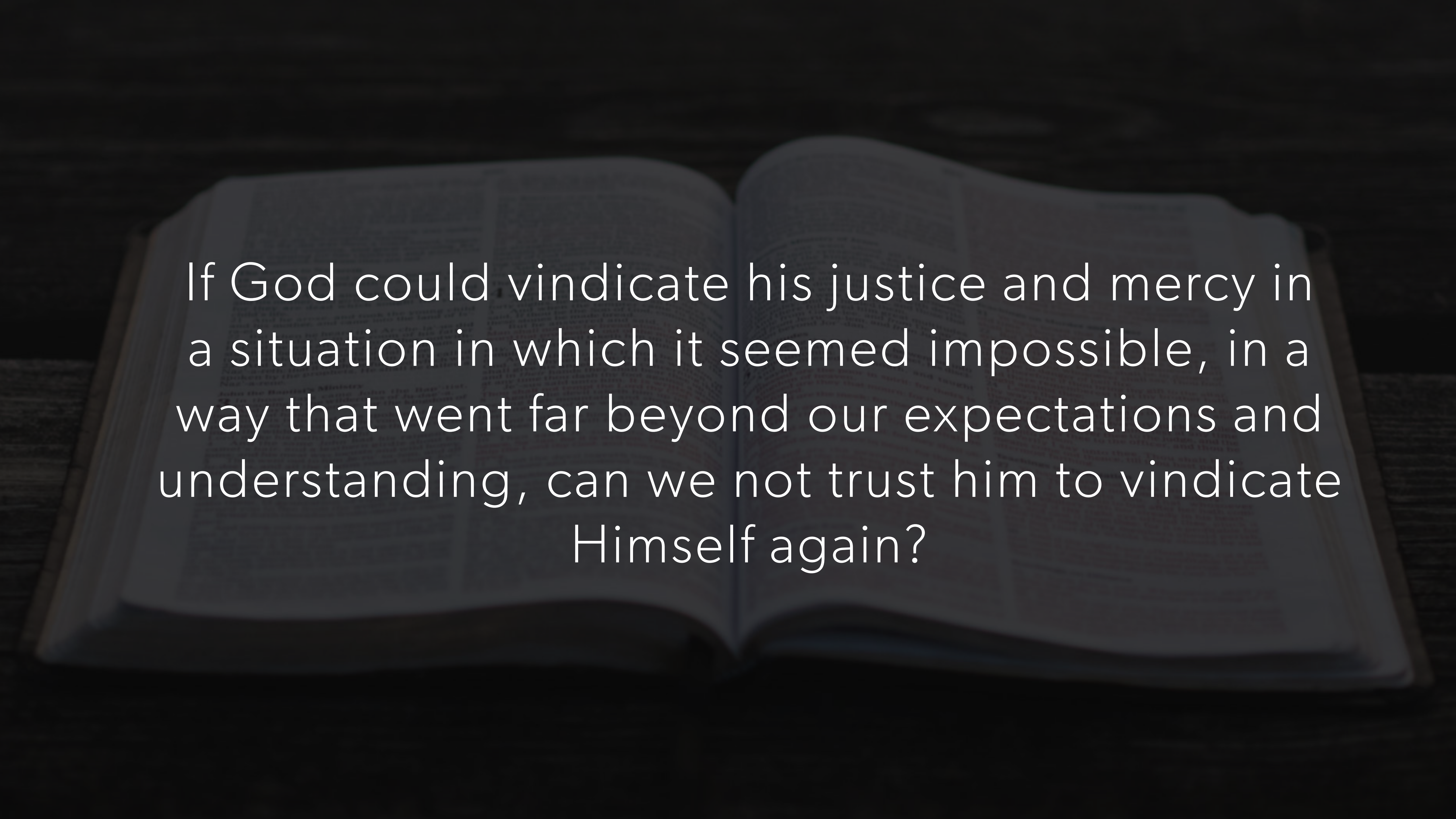
Throughout the OT, there was the problem of how to reconcile God's perfect holiness and justice, which must judge sin, with His love and mercy towards sinners.



An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly aged and the text is faintly visible. Overlaid on the book is a white text block. The text is a mix of regular and bold fonts, with some words in italics. The overall mood is solemn and reflective.

At the fullness of time, God sent His own Son (Gal. 4:4) to be the solution to vindicating His perfect justice and mercy. ***It was something no one could see coming!*** It was what no eye had seen, no ear heard, nor had it even entered into the wildest imaginations of people (1 Cor. 2:9).



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with faint, illegible text, suggesting it is a Bible or a similar religious text. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the binding in the center. Overlaid on the pages is a large, white, serif text that reads: "If God could vindicate his justice and mercy in a situation in which it seemed impossible, in a way that went far beyond our expectations and understanding, can we not trust him to vindicate Himself again?"

If God could vindicate his justice and mercy in a situation in which it seemed impossible, in a way that went far beyond our expectations and understanding, can we not trust him to vindicate Himself again?



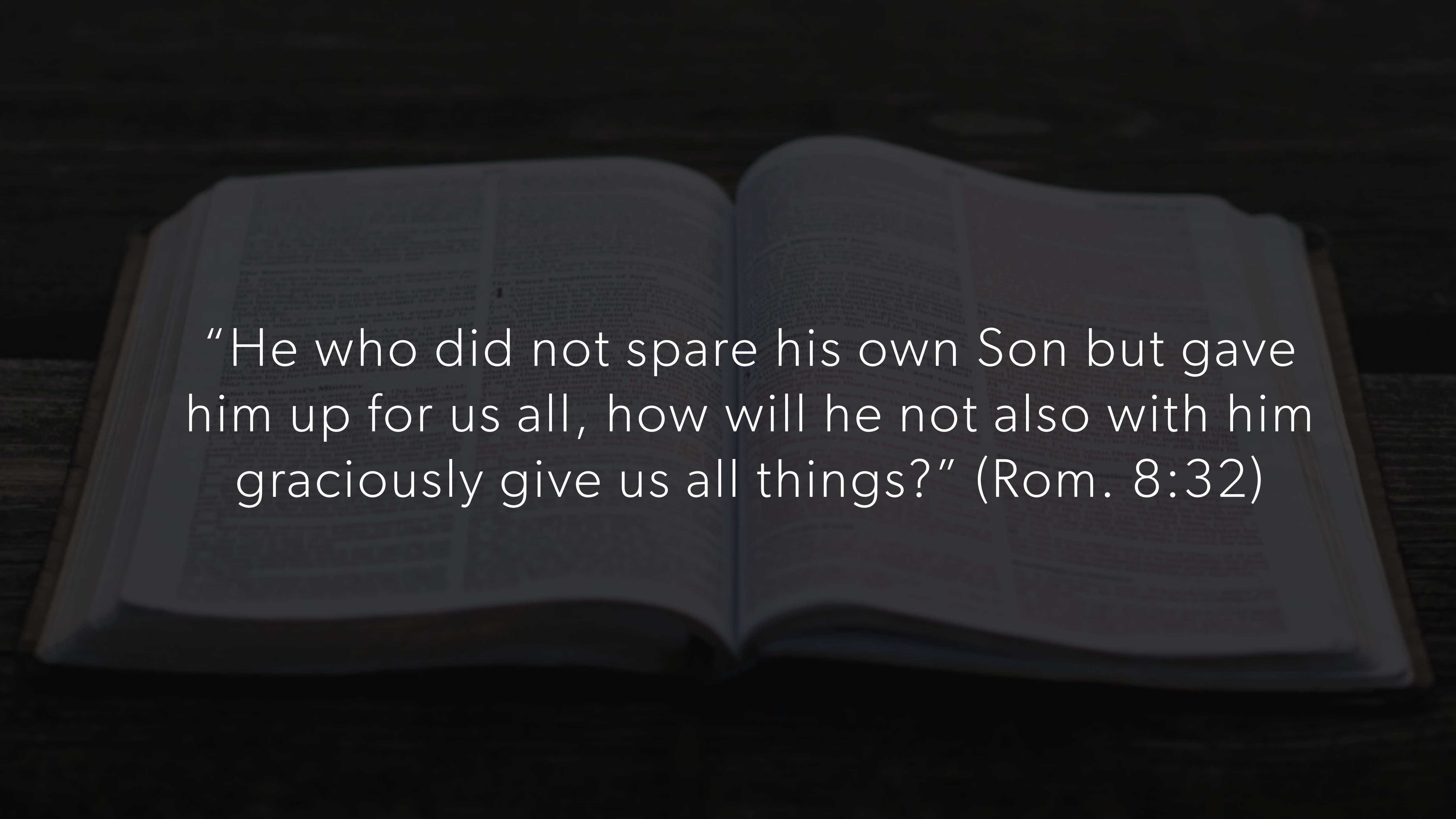
An open Bible is shown in the background, slightly out of focus. The pages are filled with text, and the binding is visible in the center. Overlaid on the Bible are three lines of white, bold, sans-serif text.

**1. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD IS GOOD AND IN  
CONTROL OF ALL THINGS**

**2. WE CANNOT SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE**

**3. WE KNOW THAT GOD IS WORKING ALL  
THINGS OUT FOR GOOD BY LOOKING TO THE  
CROSS!**



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, illegible text, likely from a Bible. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is dark and contemplative. Overlaid on the center of the open pages is a large, white, serif text quote.

“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32)



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely from a religious or historical text. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the binding in the center. Overlaid on the center of the open pages is a large, white, serif font quote. The background is dark, making the white text stand out prominently.

“I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me  
against the Rock of Ages.”

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

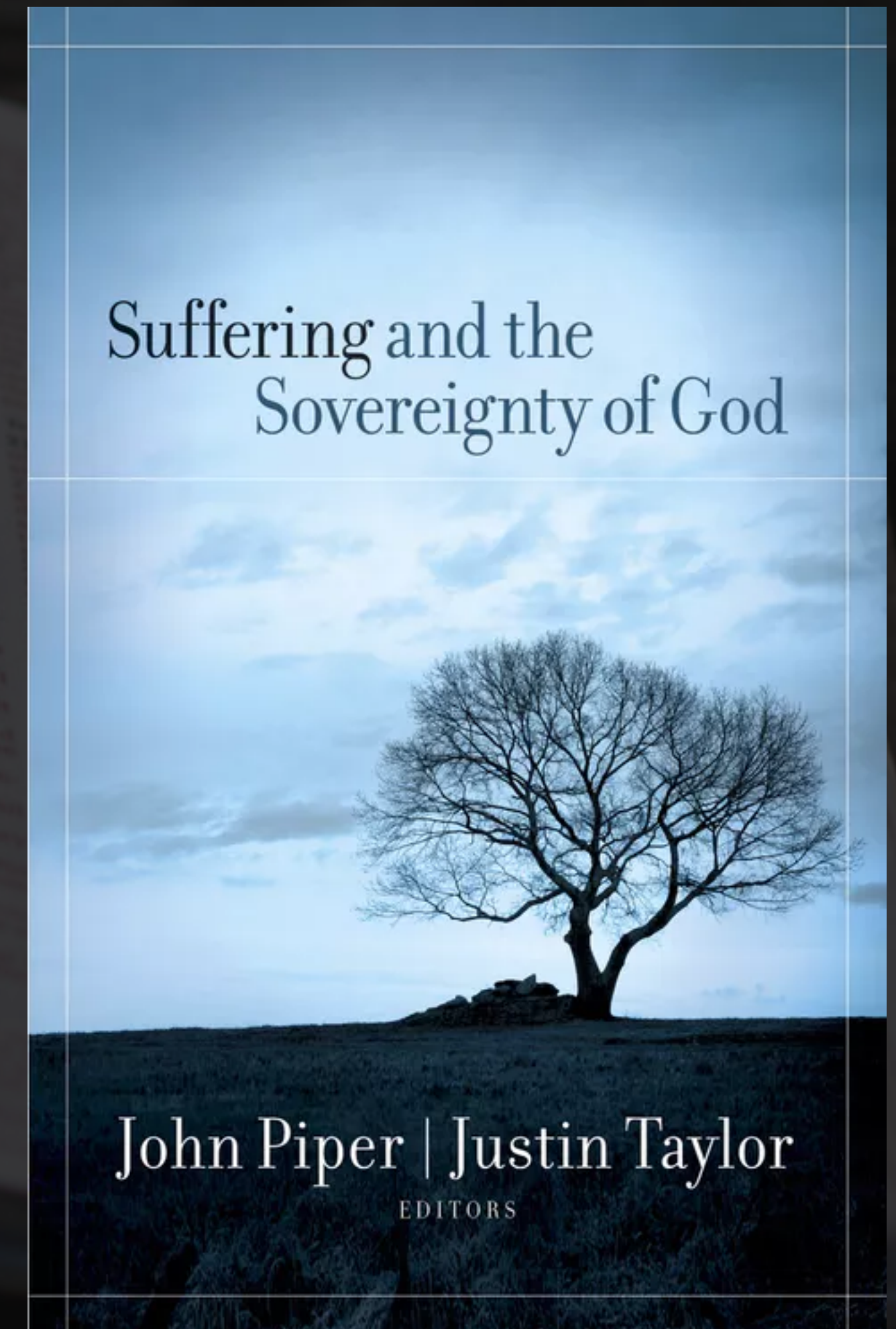


# RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

## *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*

*by John Piper & Justin Taylor*

Available for FREE as a PDF at  
**[desiringgod.org/books](https://desiringgod.org/books)**



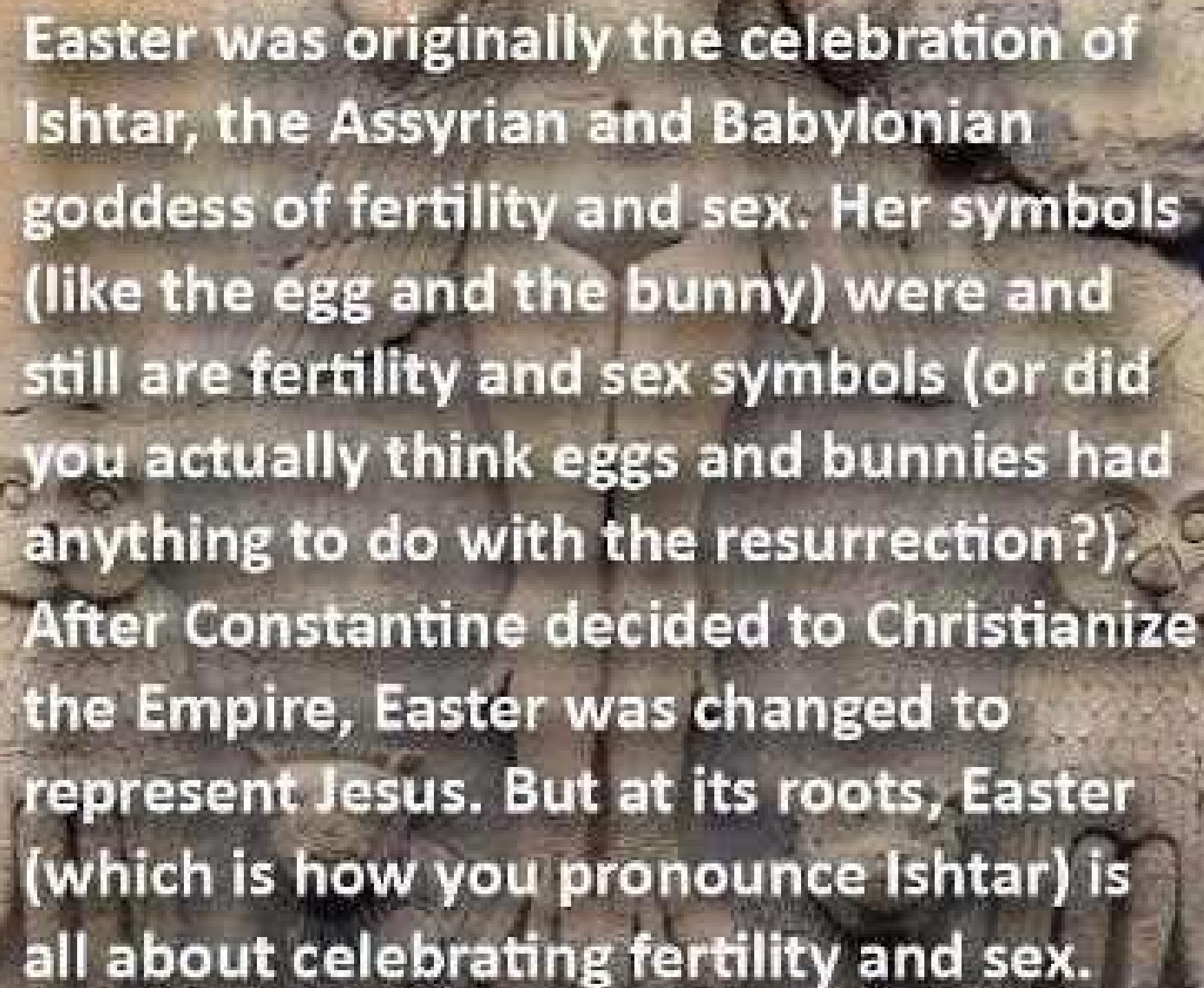




**WHAT DOES GOD THINK ABOUT CHRISTIANS  
CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, EASTER OR TAKING  
PART IN HALLOWEEN?**



This is Ishtar:  
pronounced "Easter".



Easter was originally the celebration of Ishtar, the Assyrian and Babylonian goddess of fertility and sex. Her symbols (like the egg and the bunny) were and still are fertility and sex symbols (or did you actually think eggs and bunnies had anything to do with the resurrection?). After Constantine decided to Christianize the Empire, Easter was changed to represent Jesus. But at its roots, Easter (which is how you pronounce Ishtar) is all about celebrating fertility and sex.

## The Reason for the Season?

Well, since you asked...

*The Early Romans celebrated the Saturnalia on the Solstice, honoring their god Saturn. Saturnalia consisted of days of feasting and gift exchanges*

*\*The Iranian god Mithra was born of virgin birth on December 25th.*

*\*The celebration of the Saturnalia was too popular with the Roman Pagans for the new Christian church to outlaw it, so the new church renamed the day and over time reassigned meanings to the traditions.*

*\*The Winter Solstice is the day with the shortest amount of sunlight, and the longest night. In the Northern Hemisphere, it falls on December 21st or 22nd.*

*\*In Northern Europe the Druids-- the priests of the ancient Celts-- decorated their temples with evergreens- a symbol of everlasting life.*



EVERY EASTER WE SEE THIS MEME SHARED AROUND - LET'S EXAMINE ITS CLAIMS...

This is  
Ishtar:  
Pronounced:  
Easter



Easter was originally the celebration of Ishtar, the Assyrian and Babylonian goddess of fertility and sex. Her symbols (like the egg and the bunny) were and still are fertility and sex symbols (or did you actually think eggs and bunnies had anything to do with the resurrection?). After Constantine decided to Christianize the Empire, Easter was changed to represent Jesus. But at its roots, is all about celebration fertility and sex.

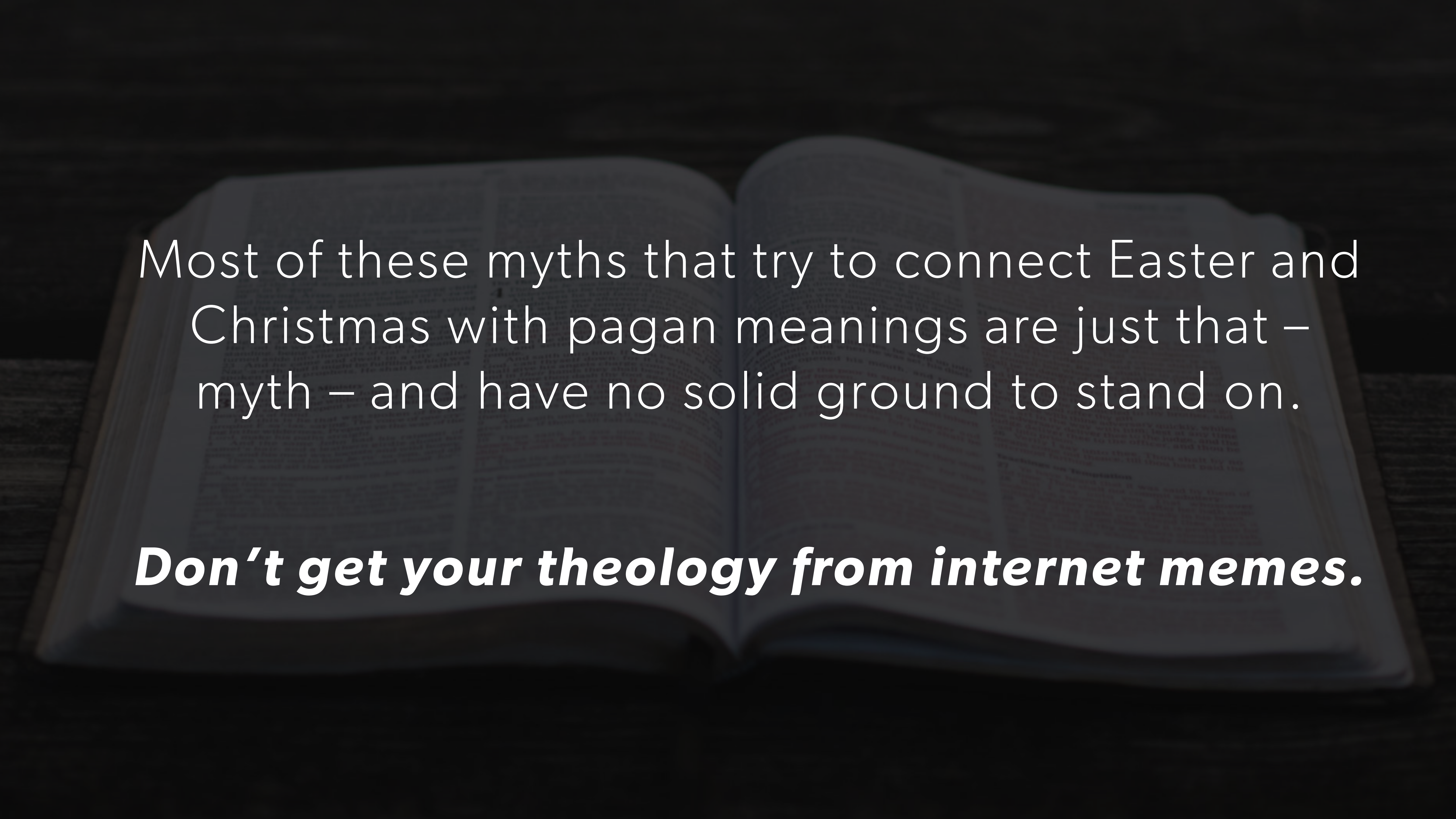
[fb.com/illuminatiTV](https://fb.com/illuminatiTV)

# THE FACTS

- 1. ISHTAR ISN'T PRONOUNCED 'EASTER'** - IT ISN'T A SEMITIC WORD. THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD "EASTER" IS MORE PROBABLY LATIN OR PROTO-GERMANIC/SAXON.
- 2. THERE IS NO HISTORICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PAGAN GODDESS ISHTAR AND THE CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION OF EASTER.** THIS IS AN ASSERTION BASED ON NO HISTORICAL EVIDENCE BUT RATHER A MYTH STARTED BY INTERNET CONSPIRACIES.
- 3. ISHTAR WASN'T ASSOCIATED WITH EGGS OR RABBITS AS SYMBOLS.** ISHTAR'S SACRED SYMBOLS WERE THE LION, THE 8-POINTED STAR AND A GATE. IN THE GILGAMESH MYTH (FROM WHICH THIS STORY IS TAKEN) THERE ARE NO SUCH CONNECTIONS, NOR IN ANY OTHER ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN WRITINGS. THE EASTER BUNNY AND EGGS COMES FROM GERMAN TRADITIONS THAT MIGRATED TO THE AMERICAS IN THE 1700S.
- 4. EASTER WAS NOT A PAGAN HOLIDAY THAT WAS CHRISTIANIZED.** IT WAS A DEVELOPMENT OUT OF THE JEWISH PASSOVER FESTIVAL - IN FACT, THE WORD FOR EASTER IN MOST LATIN-BASED LANGUAGES HAS TO DO WITH PASSOVER (EG. PÁSCOA [PORTUGUESE], PÂQUES [FRENCH], PASCUA [SPANISH], PASQUA [ITALIAN]) WHICH IS RELATED TO THE GREEK WORD *PASCHA* (πάσχα - USED IN ACTS 12:4).
- 5. CONSTANTINE (272-337AD) DID NOT CHANGE EASTER INTO A CHRISTIAN HOLIDAY.** ACCORDING TO THE EARLY CHURCH HISTORIAN EUSEBIUS (*CHURCH HISTORY* 5.23.3), SINCE THE SECOND CENTURY CHRISTIANS WERE ALREADY DEBATING ABOUT THE PROPER CELEBRATION DATE OF EASTER - HOW COULD CONSTANTINE 'INVENT EASTER' IF IT WAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED AS A CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION A HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE HE WAS BORN?
- 6. EVEN IF THE WORD EASTER HAS PAGAN ORIGINS, THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM.** SATURDAY COMES FROM 'SATURN'S DAY' - THE ANCIENT GOD OF AGRICULTURE. THURSDAY WAS FROM THE NORSE GOD 'THOR.' JUST USING THE WORD DOESN'T MEAN THAT ANYONE WORSHIPS THOSE GODS.
- 7. EASTER FOR CHRISTIANS CELEBRATES THE LIFE, DEATH & RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST WHICH IS A HISTORICAL FACT.** THE HISTORICAL CASE FOR THE RESURRECTION IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN DEBATED (MANY AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE) AND PROVEN BY SEVERAL SCHOLARS AND THE INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE FOR THOSE OPEN TO LOOK INTO IT. THE BOOK, *THE CASE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS* BY GARY HABERMAS IS A GREAT RESOURCE TO START WITH. HAPPY EASTER!

DON'T GET YOUR THEOLOGY & FACTS FROM MEMES FOLKS... CHECK YOUR SOURCES - EVEN THIS ONE.



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, illegible text, suggesting it is a Bible or a similar religious text. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is dark and contemplative. Overlaid on the center of the open book is a large block of white text.

Most of these myths that try to connect Easter and Christmas with pagan meanings are just that – myth – and have no solid ground to stand on.

***Don't get your theology from internet memes.***



# **THIS IS ULTIMATELY A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE**

“One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord.” (Romans 14:5-6)



## **2 HELPFUL GUIDES**

### **1. Don't go against your conscience**

(Rom. 14:23 – whatever does not proceed from faith is sin)

### **2. Do all things to the glory of God**

(1 Cor. 10:31).





**WHAT ARE THE WAYS IN WHICH GOD SPEAKS  
TO US AND HOW DO WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT  
HE IS?**



## **2 GENERAL WAYS GOD SPEAKS TO US**

### **1. Through Creation**

(Psalm 19 - the heavens declare the glory of God)

### **2. Through our conscience**

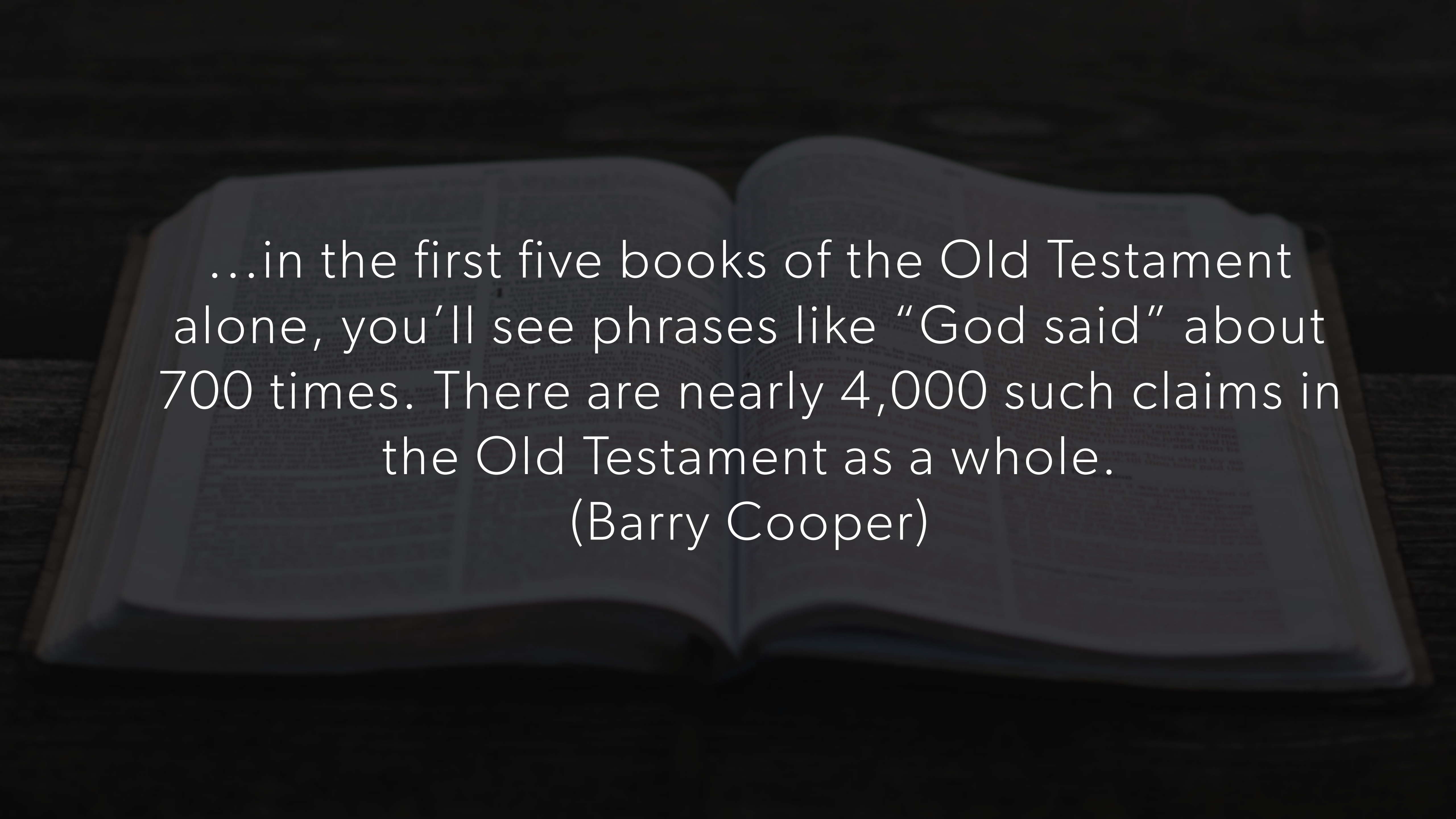
God' has written His law on our hearts (Rom. 2:15)



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, illegible text, suggesting a Bible or a similar religious text. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is dark and contemplative. Overlaid on the center of the open book is a large, bold, white text.

**THE SPECIFIC WAY THAT GOD SPEAKS TO  
US IS THROUGH HIS WORD**

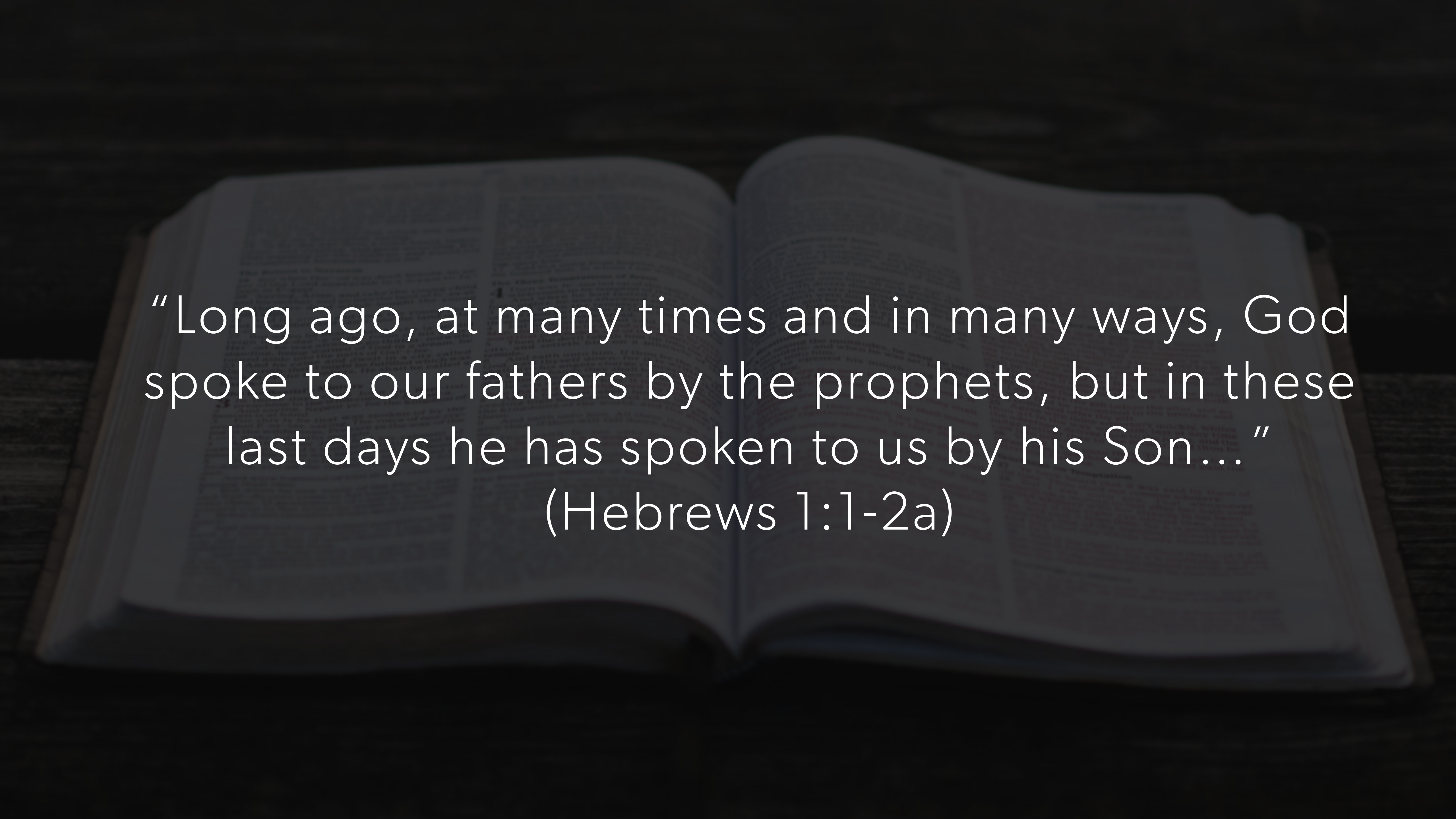


An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly aged and the text is faint. Overlaid on the book is a white text quote. The quote reads: "...in the first five books of the Old Testament alone, you'll see phrases like 'God said' about 700 times. There are nearly 4,000 such claims in the Old Testament as a whole." Below the quote is the attribution "(Barry Cooper)".

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(Barry Cooper)



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, illegible text, likely from a Bible. The entire image is dimmed with a dark, semi-transparent overlay, making the background appear dark and moody. Centered over the open pages is a quote in white, sans-serif font. The quote is split across two lines, with the first line being longer than the second. Below the quote, the reference '(Hebrews 1:1-2a)' is written in the same white font, centered horizontally.

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...”  
(Hebrews 1:1-2a)



**Hebrews 3:7** says, "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says." Note the word "says," not "said." He goes back and quotes Psalm 95...

**Hebrews 4:12** concludes that the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. It is alive. It is active. The conclusion is that the Bible speaks to us today



An open Bible is shown, lying flat. The pages are filled with text, but the text is faded and mostly illegible due to a dark, semi-transparent overlay. The Bible is centered in the frame, and the lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the binding in the center.

**The problem is many people think that it  
takes too much work to read the Bible.**



**2 Peter 1:19** says that scripture is a more-sure word than even the majestic first-hand experience he had of the transfiguration!

**1 Corinthians 14:37–38** says, “If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.”



An open Bible is shown in the background, slightly out of focus. The pages are filled with text, and the binding is visible in the center. The overall image has a dark, moody aesthetic with a semi-transparent black overlay.

**IF YOU WANT TO HEAR GOD SPEAK TO YOU,  
READ YOUR BIBLE.**

**IF YOU WANT TO HEAR GOD SPEAK AUDIBLY  
TO YOU, READ YOUR BIBLE OUT LOUD!**



# RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

*Prayer and the Voice of God*  
by Philip Jensen & Tony Payne

Available for purchase at  
**amazon.com**

