

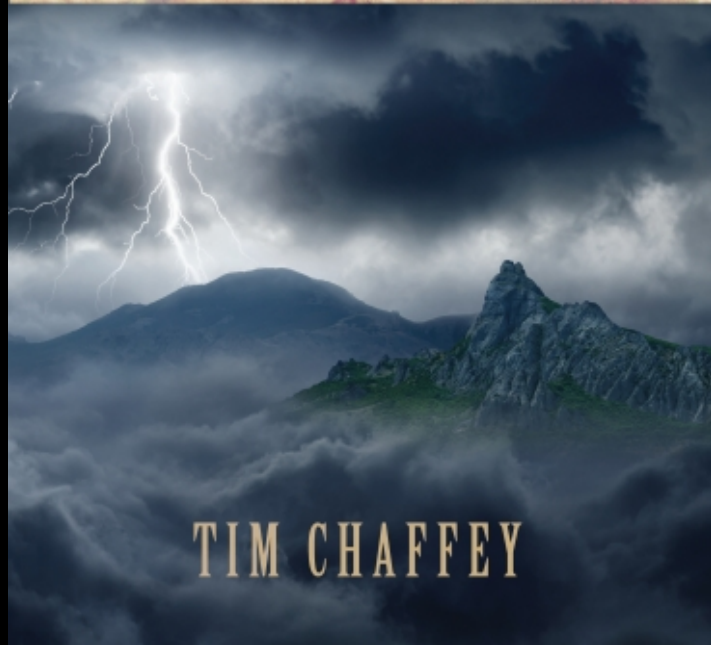
FALLEN

The Sons of God and the Nephilim

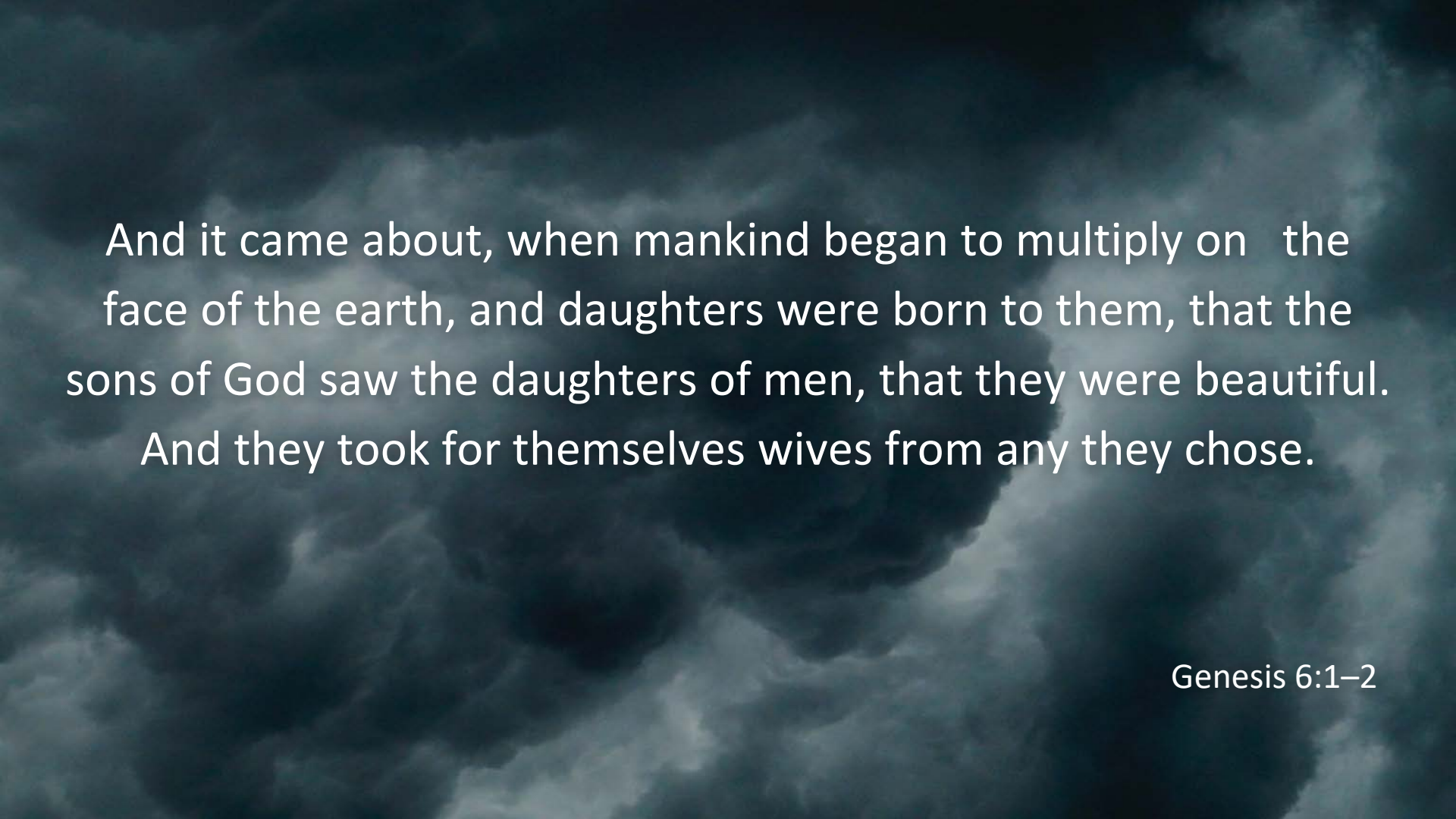
Tim Chaffey, M.Div., Th.M.

FALLEN

THE SONS OF GOD AND THE NEPHILIM



TIM CHAFFEY

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling clouds in shades of grey and black, suggesting a storm or a turbulent atmosphere. The text is centered and written in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

And it came about, when mankind began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful. And they took for themselves wives from any they chose.

Genesis 6:1–2

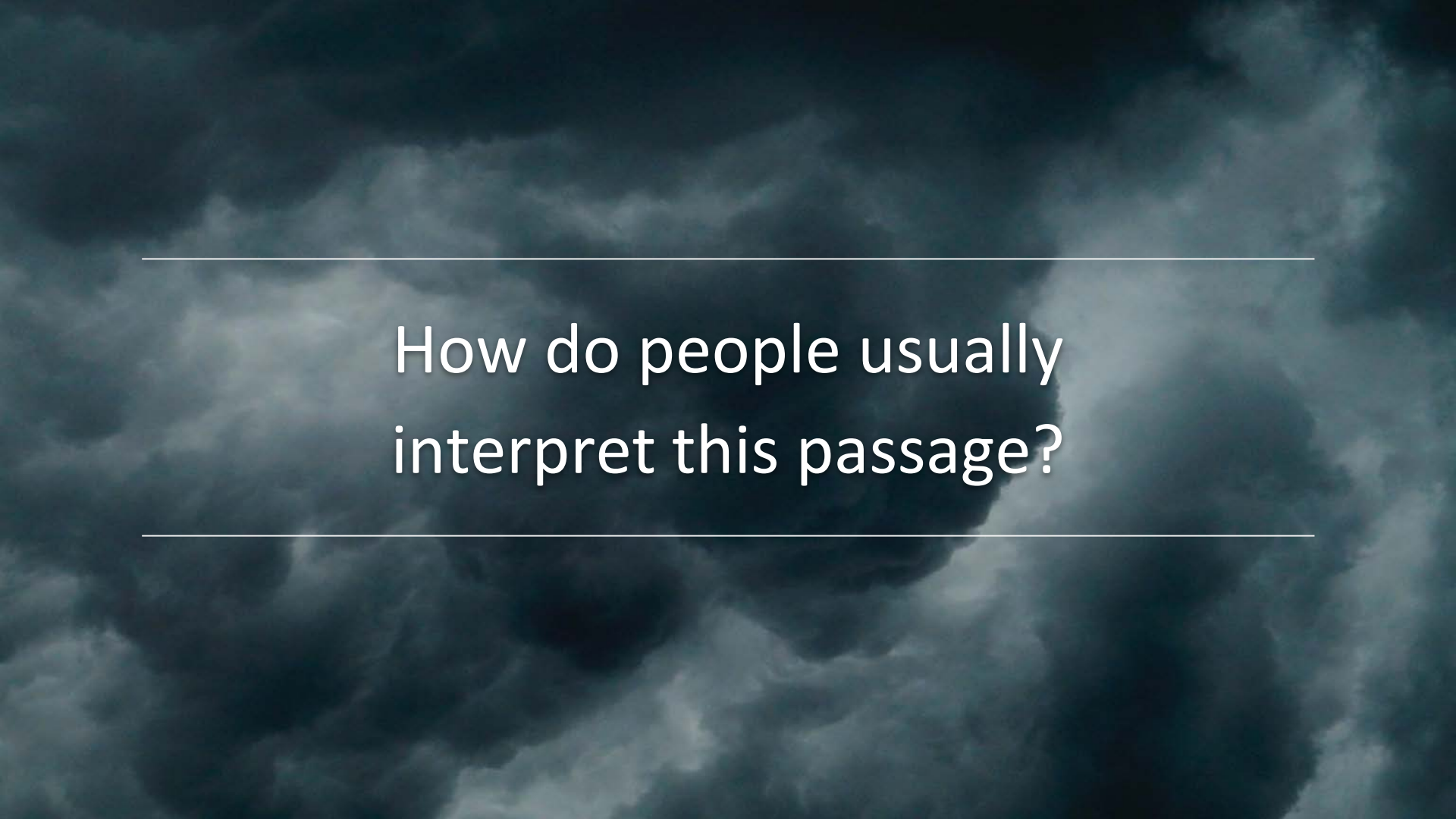
And Yahweh said, “My spirit will not remain with man indefinitely, in that he is flesh; his days will be one hundred twenty years.” The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—whenever the sons of God went in to the daughters of men, who bore to them children. They were the mighty men of antiquity, men of renown.

Genesis 6:3–4

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, filling the left half of the slide.

Key Terms

- Key terms and concepts
 - daughters of men
 - sons of God
 - took wives
 - Yahweh (YHWH)
 - 120 years
 - Nephilim
 - mighty men
 - when or whenever

The background of the slide is a dramatic, high-contrast image of dark, heavy storm clouds. The clouds are in various shades of dark blue, grey, and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. The overall mood is somber and intense.

How do people usually
interpret this passage?

The Sons of God: Three Major Views

- Sethite

- Descendants of Seth (sons of God) married female descendants of Cain (daughters of men)

- Royalty

- Wicked kings, tyrants, or judges who viewed themselves as divine (sons of God) took common women (daughters of men) as wives

- Fallen Angel

- Heavenly beings (sons of God) married women (daughters of men)
- Some think these fallen angels possessed men who married women

The Sons of God: Three Minor Views

- Cainite
 - Descendants of Cain (sons of God) married female descendants of Seth (daughters of men)
- Liberal
 - The passage is borrowed from pagan mythology, likely a polemic with no historical reality
- Demon-possessed men
 - The sons of God were fallen angels who possessed the men who married the daughters of men

A dramatic, low-key photograph of dark, heavy storm clouds. The clouds are layered and textured, with some light breaking through, creating a moody and atmospheric background. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the central text.

Examining the Sethite View

A background image of dark, stormy clouds with some light breaking through, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Sethite View: Positive Arguments

- Genesis 4 and 5 discuss the descendants of Cain and Seth.

A background image of dark, stormy clouds with some light breaking through, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Sethite View: Positive Arguments

- We know some Sethites (Enoch and Noah) were godly and that some Cainites were ungodly (Cain and Lamech).

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a thunderstorm, with some lighter patches where the clouds are thinner or catching light.

Sethite View: Positive Arguments

- The dominant view in church history from 4th century until early 20th century.

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

Sethite View: Weaknesses

- Inadequate explanations for other biblical passages
 - Numbers 13:33
 - 1 Peter 3:18–20
 - 2 Peter 2:4
 - Jude 6

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

Sethite View: Weaknesses

- Why would the offspring be unique?

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

Sethite View: Weaknesses

- Why would a common sin bring about such harsh judgment?

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

Sethite View: Weaknesses

- Why would godly men continually marry ungodly women?

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

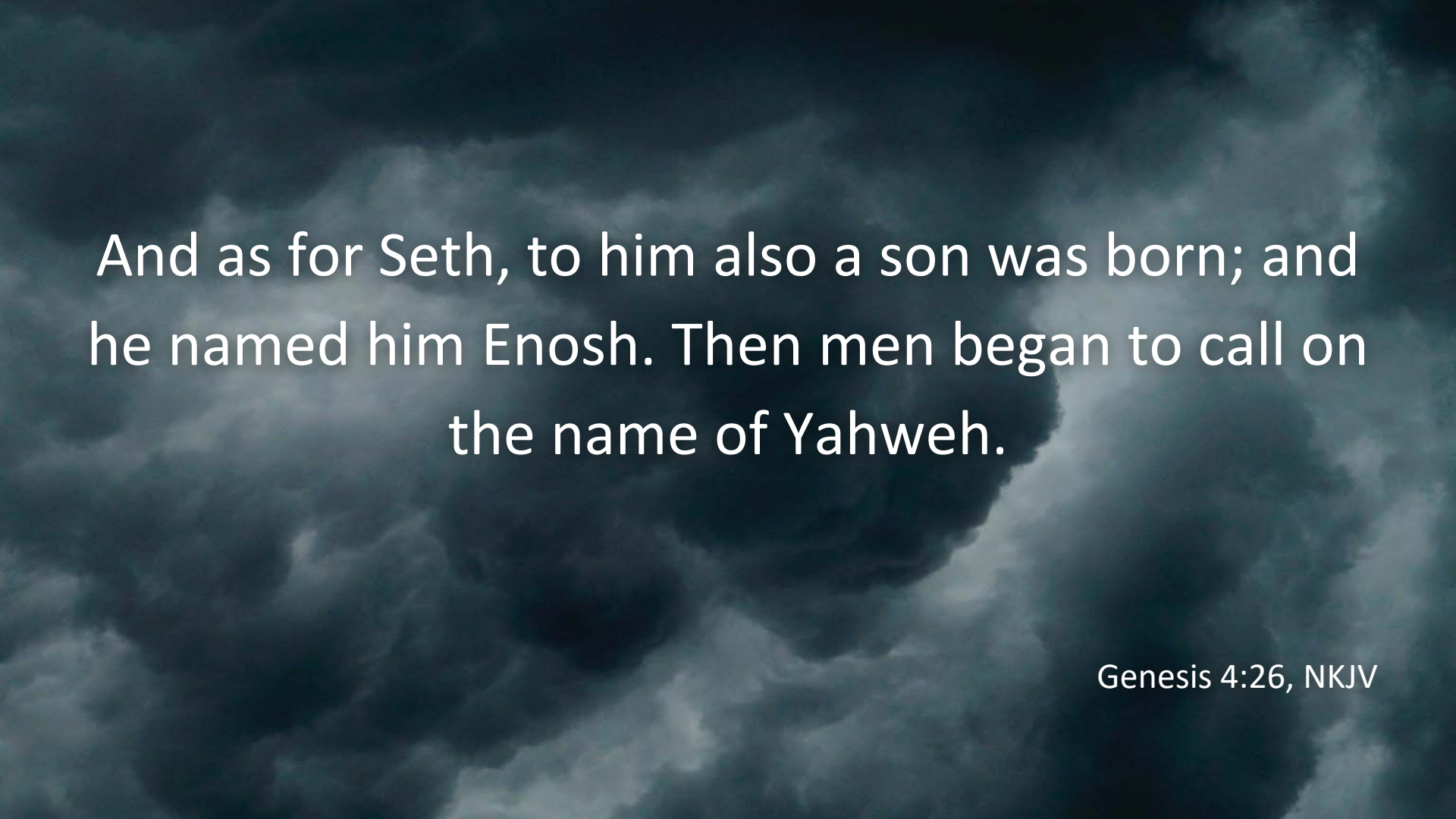
Sethite View: Weaknesses

- Where does the Bible ever tell us that Cain's line was ungodly and that Noah's line were godly?

A background image of dark, stormy clouds with a bright light source breaking through in the center, creating a dramatic, high-contrast scene.

Sethite View: Weaknesses

- Ungodly Cainites?
 - Cain
 - Enoch
 - Irad
 - Mehujael – “smitten by God”?
 - Methushael – “man of God”?
 - Lamech

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The clouds are in shades of deep blue, grey, and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. The overall mood is somber and powerful.

And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of Yahweh.

Genesis 4:26, NKJV

A background image of dark, heavy, and turbulent storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide. The clouds are in shades of dark grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

Sethite View: Weaknesses

- Does “sons” of God imply godliness?

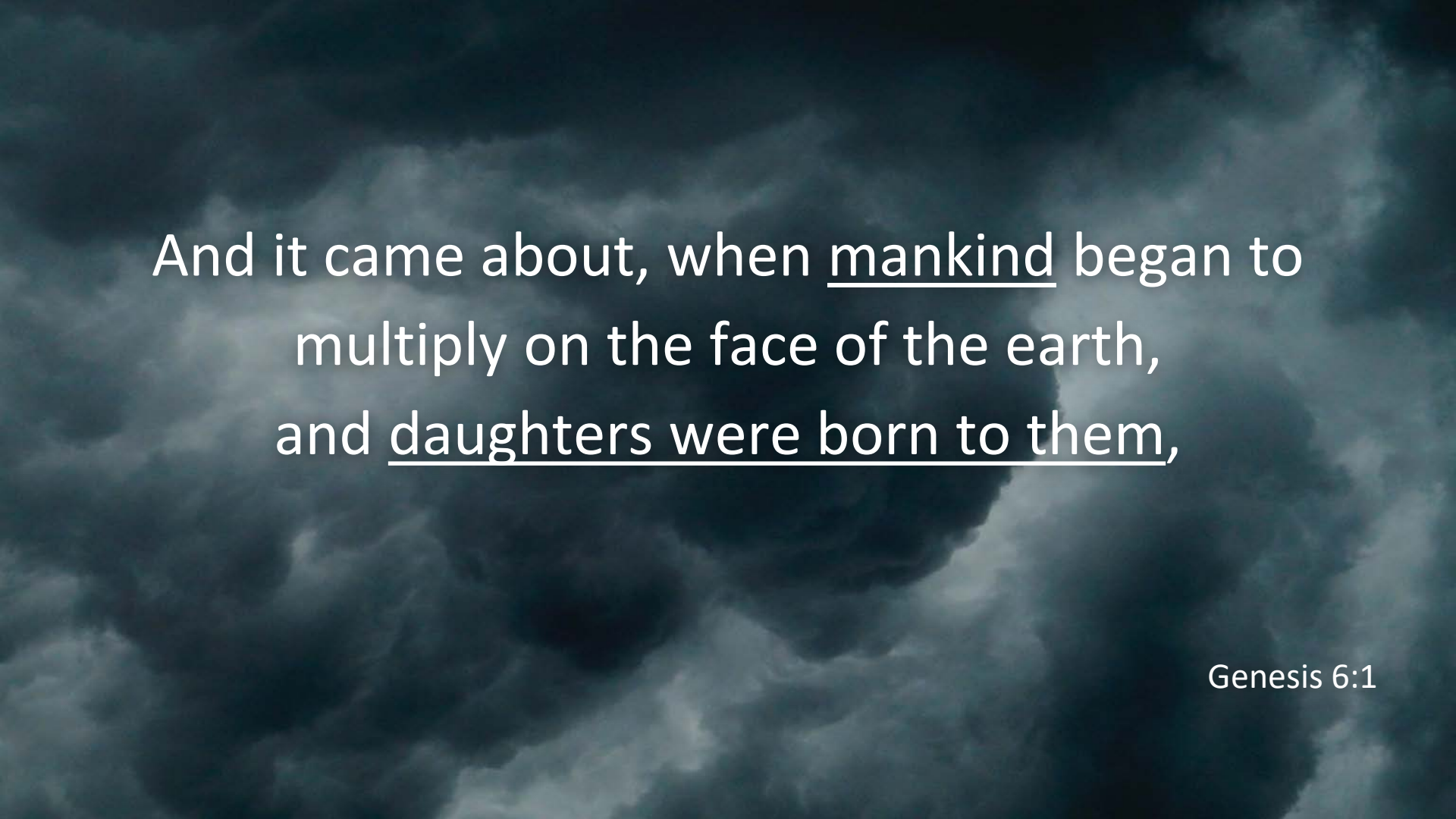
Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?”

2 Kings 2:3, NKJV

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

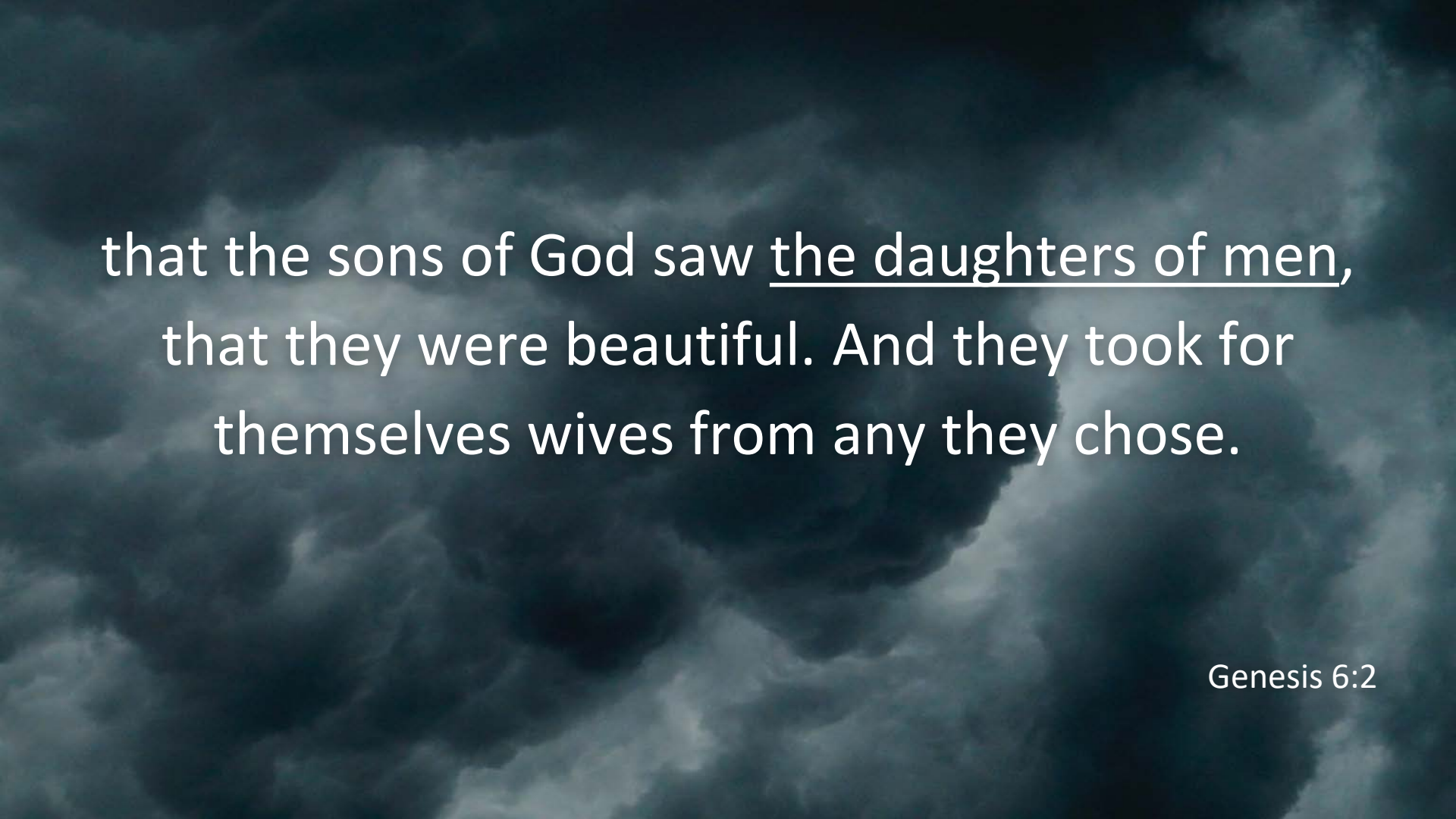
Sethite View: Weaknesses

- Not found in the text

The background of the slide is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The lighting is moody, with some lighter patches where light breaks through the clouds, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks.

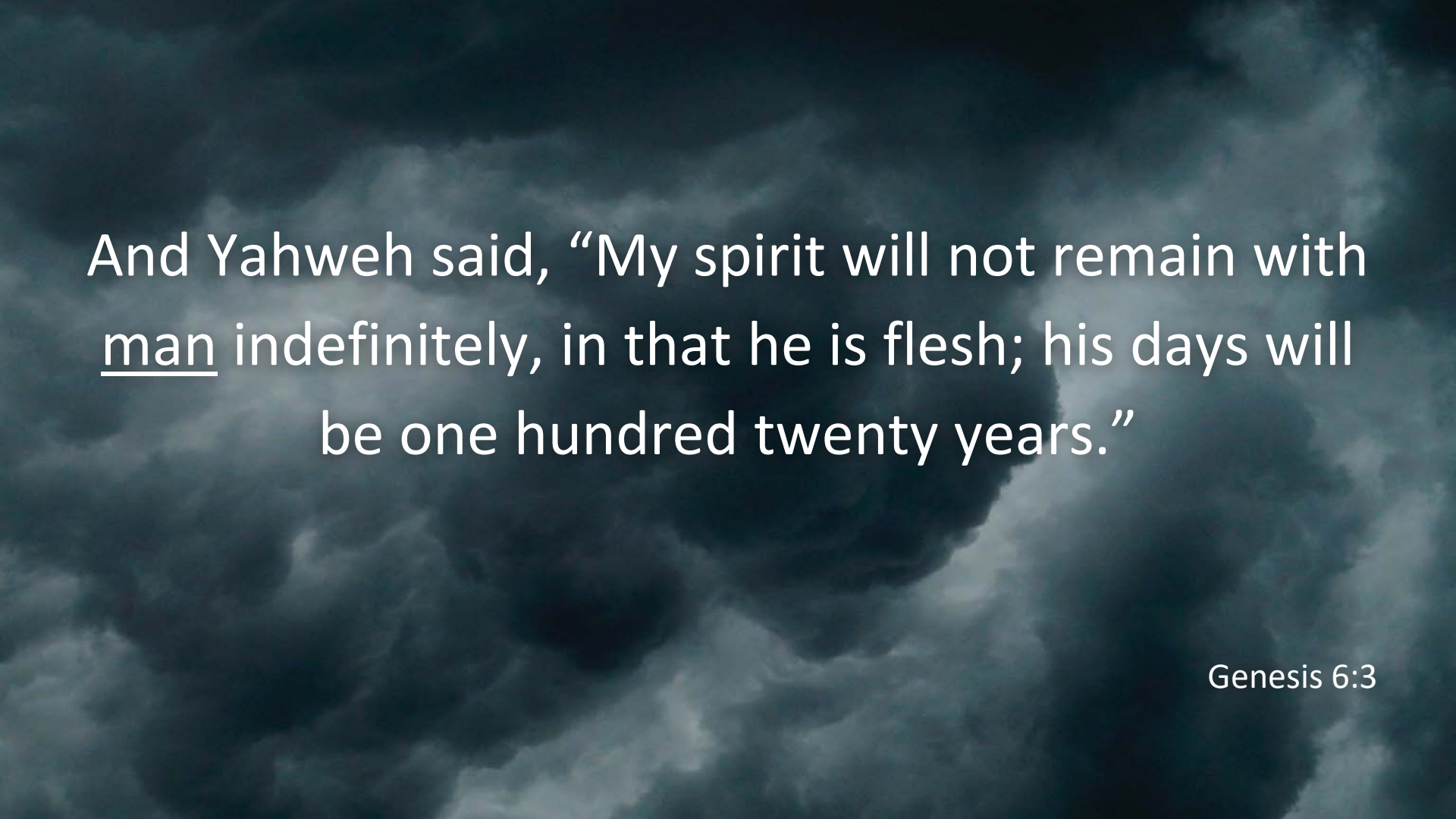
And it came about, when mankind began to
multiply on the face of the earth,
and daughters were born to them,

Genesis 6:1

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that the sons of God saw the daughters of men,
that they were beautiful. And they took for
themselves wives from any they chose.

Genesis 6:2

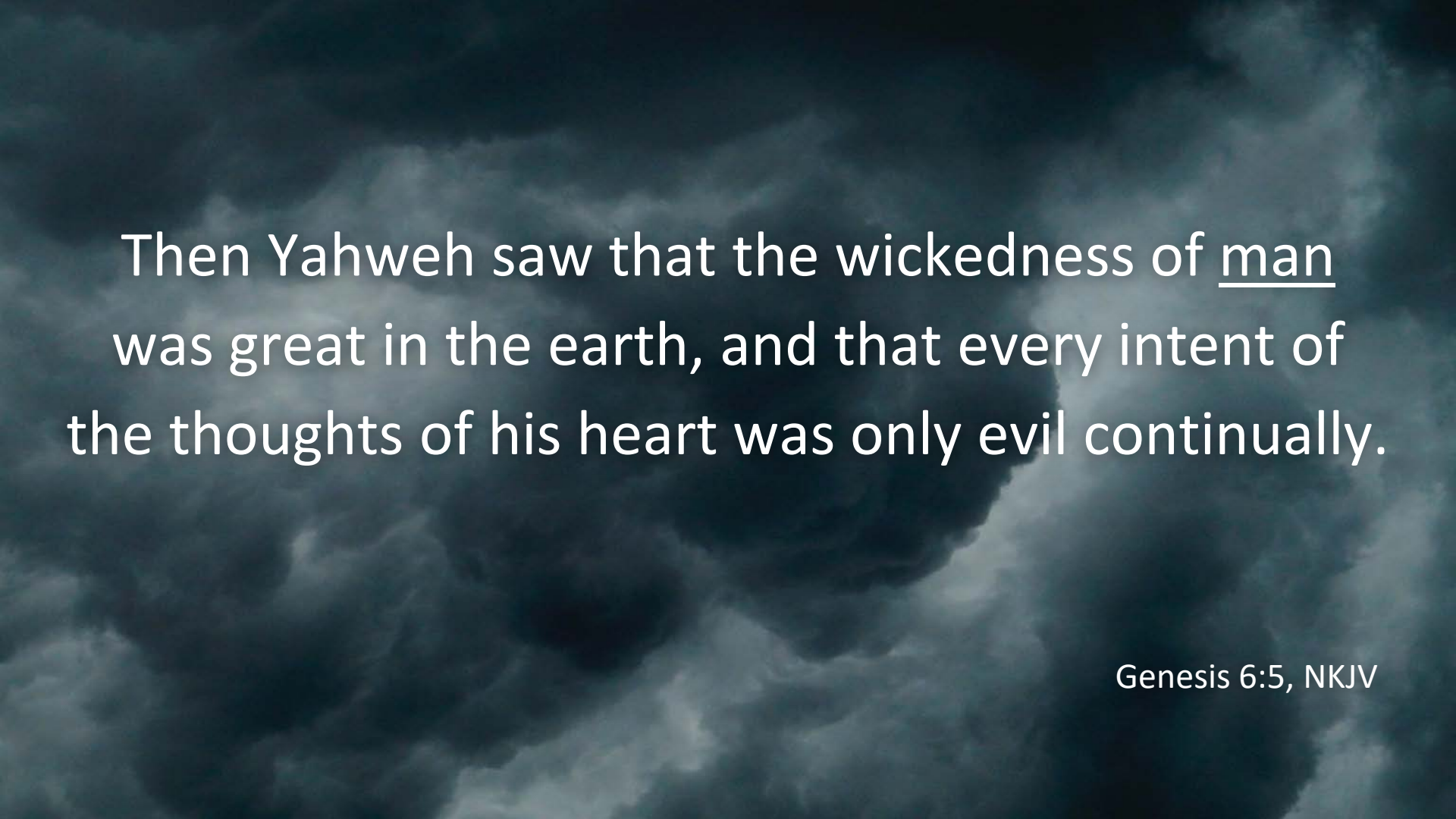
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And Yahweh said, “My spirit will not remain with man indefinitely, in that he is flesh; his days will be one hundred twenty years.”

Genesis 6:3

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—
and also afterward—whenever the sons of God
went in to the daughters of men, who bore to
them children. They were the mighty men of
antiquity, men of renown.

Genesis 6:4

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The lighting is moody, with some lighter patches where the clouds are thinner, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks.

Then Yahweh saw that the wickedness of man
was great in the earth, and that every intent of
the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 6:5, NKJV

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

Sethite View: Weaknesses

- No explanation for post-Flood Nephilim

A background of dark, dramatic, and stormy clouds in shades of grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the central text.

Examining the Royalty View

The background of the left half of the slide is a dark, moody image of storm clouds. The clouds are dark grey and black, with some lighter, misty areas where light is breaking through. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

Royalty View: Positive Arguments

- Some kings in ANE thought of themselves as divine
 - Pharaoh considered a god

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, filling the left half of the slide.

Royalty View: Positive Arguments

- Offspring could be known as “men of renown”

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, occupying the left half of the slide.

Royalty View: Positive Arguments

- Nimrod was a king and was called a *gibbor* (Genesis 10:8–10)

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, occupying the left half of the slide.

Royalty View: Positive Arguments

- *'elohim* is translated as “judges” in Exodus a handful of verses

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

Royalty View: Weaknesses

- Overestimating the “divine” view of kings in the Ancient Near East

A background image of dark, stormy clouds with some light breaking through, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Royalty View: Weaknesses

- No specific mention of kings, judges, etc., in Gen. 1–6

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a thunderstorm, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

Royalty View: Weaknesses

- “Took wives” is an idiom for marriage—not force
 - Abram & Sarai
 - Abraham & Keturah
 - Isaac & Rebekah

A background image of dark, stormy clouds with some lighter patches, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Royalty View: Weaknesses

- Not developed until allegorical hermeneutic became popular among Jewish interpreters

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.


Royalty View: Weaknesses

- *'elohim* is better understood as a term for an inhabitant of the spiritual realm
 - God
 - Members of the divine council
 - Angels
 - False gods / demons
 - Departed spirit of Samuel with Saul and medium (1 Sam. 28)

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a storm front or a dramatic sky scene, with varying shades of grey and black.

'elohim in the Bible

- God – over 90% of the time



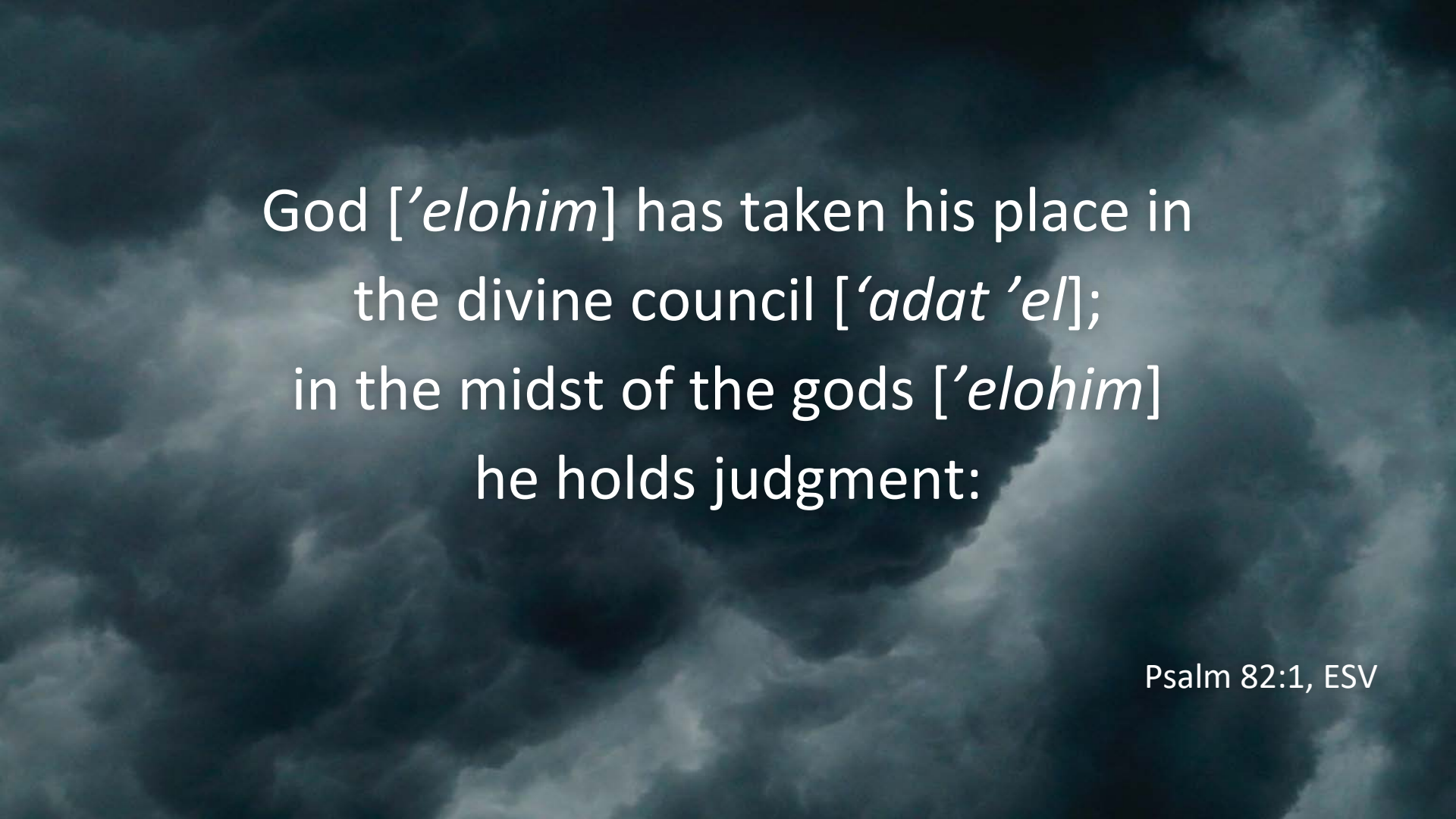
“In the beginning God [*'elohim*] created
the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, filling the left half of the slide.

'elohim in the Bible

- Members of the divine council
 - Angelic beings
 - Sons of the Most High



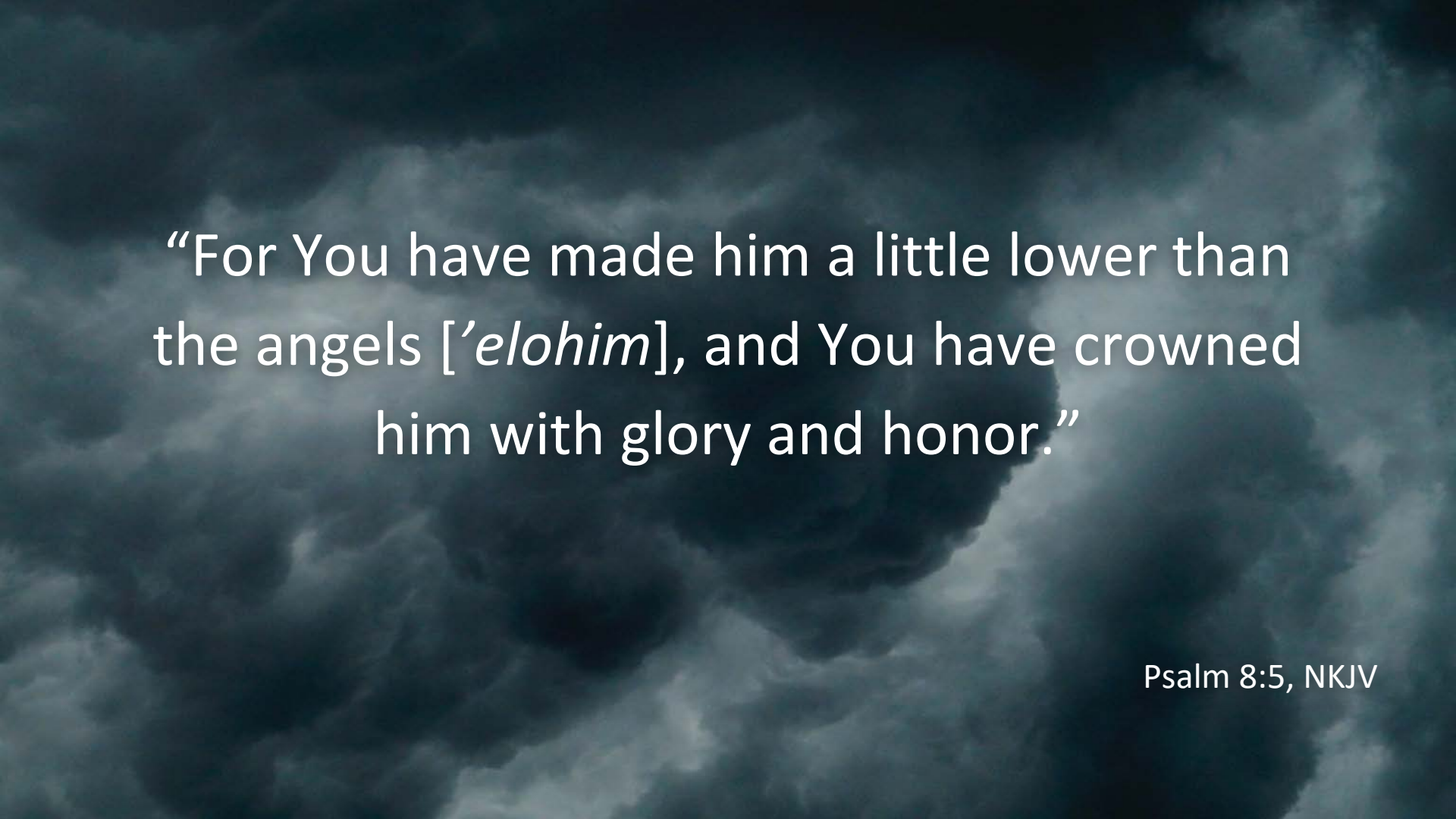
God [*'elohim*] has taken his place in
the divine council [*'adat 'el*];
in the midst of the gods [*'elohim*]
he holds judgment:

Psalm 82:1, ESV

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

'elohim in the Bible

- It can refer to angels



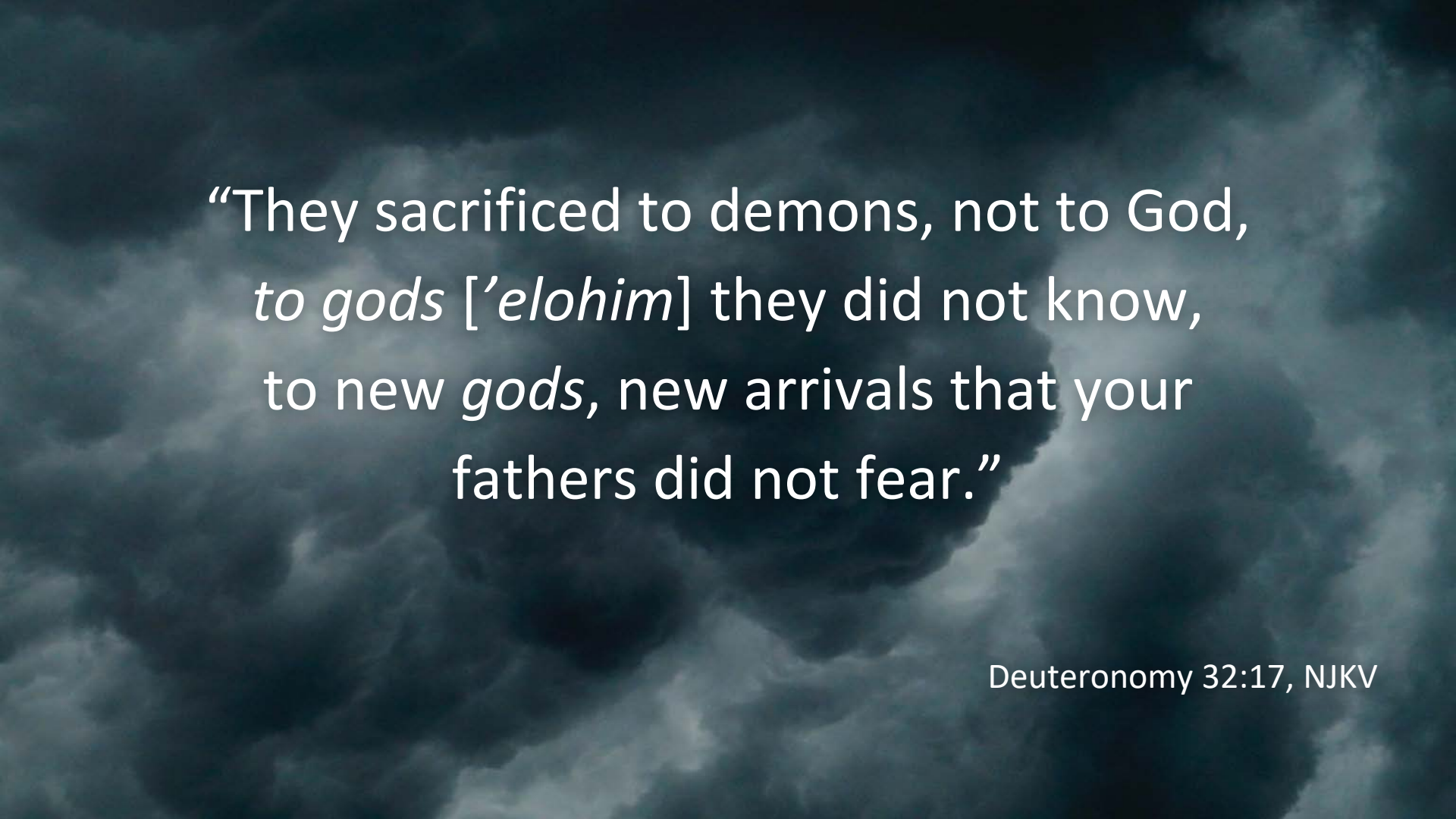
“For You have made him a little lower than
the angels [*'elohim*], and You have crowned
him with glory and honor.”

Psalm 8:5, NKJV

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a storm or hurricane, with a bright light source breaking through the clouds in the center.

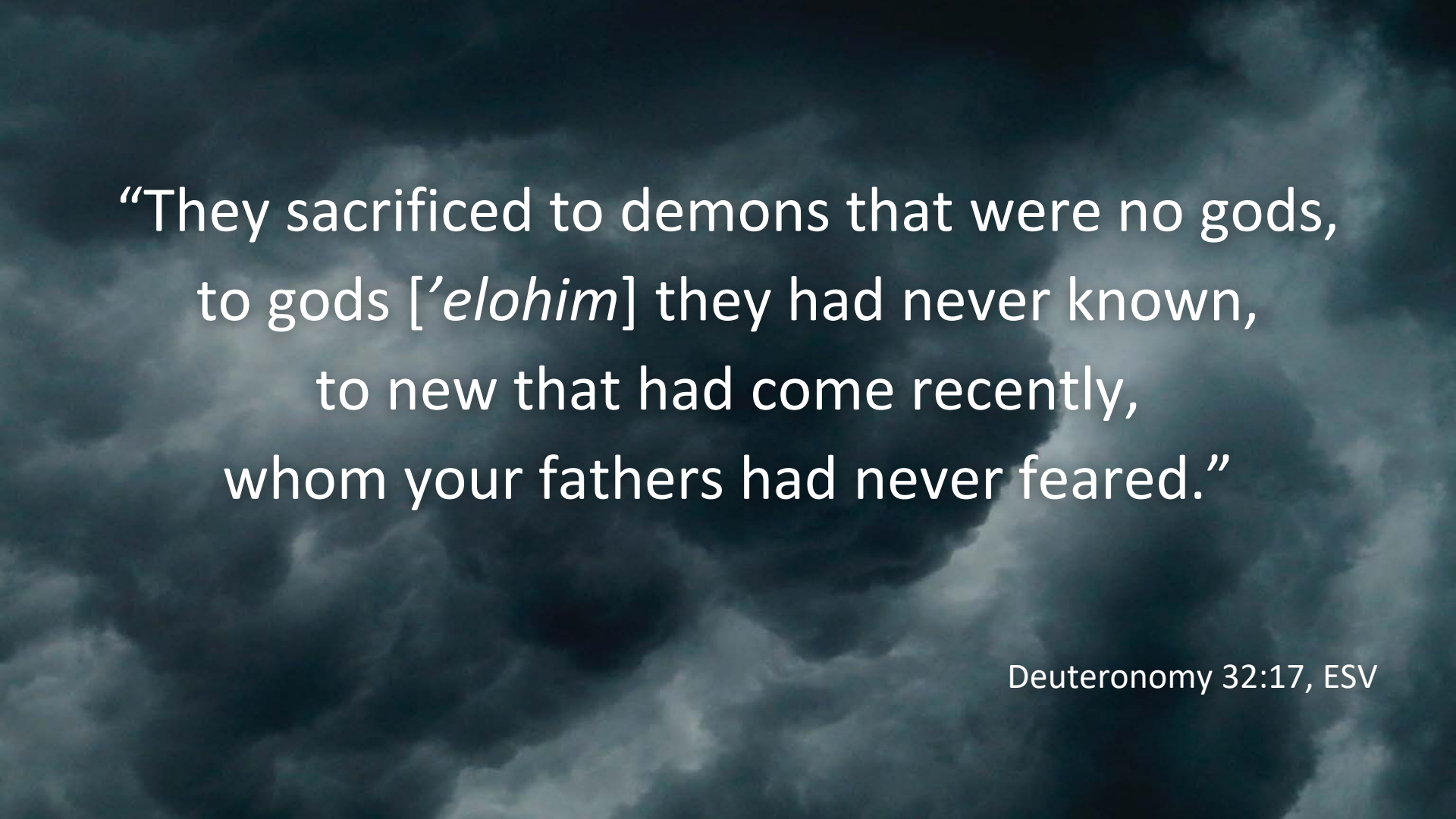
'elohim in the Bible

- It can refer to demons

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The lighting is moody, with some lighter patches where the clouds are thinner, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks.

“They sacrificed to demons, not to God,
to gods [*’elohim*] they did not know,
to new *gods*, new arrivals that your
fathers did not fear.”

Deuteronomy 32:17, NJKV

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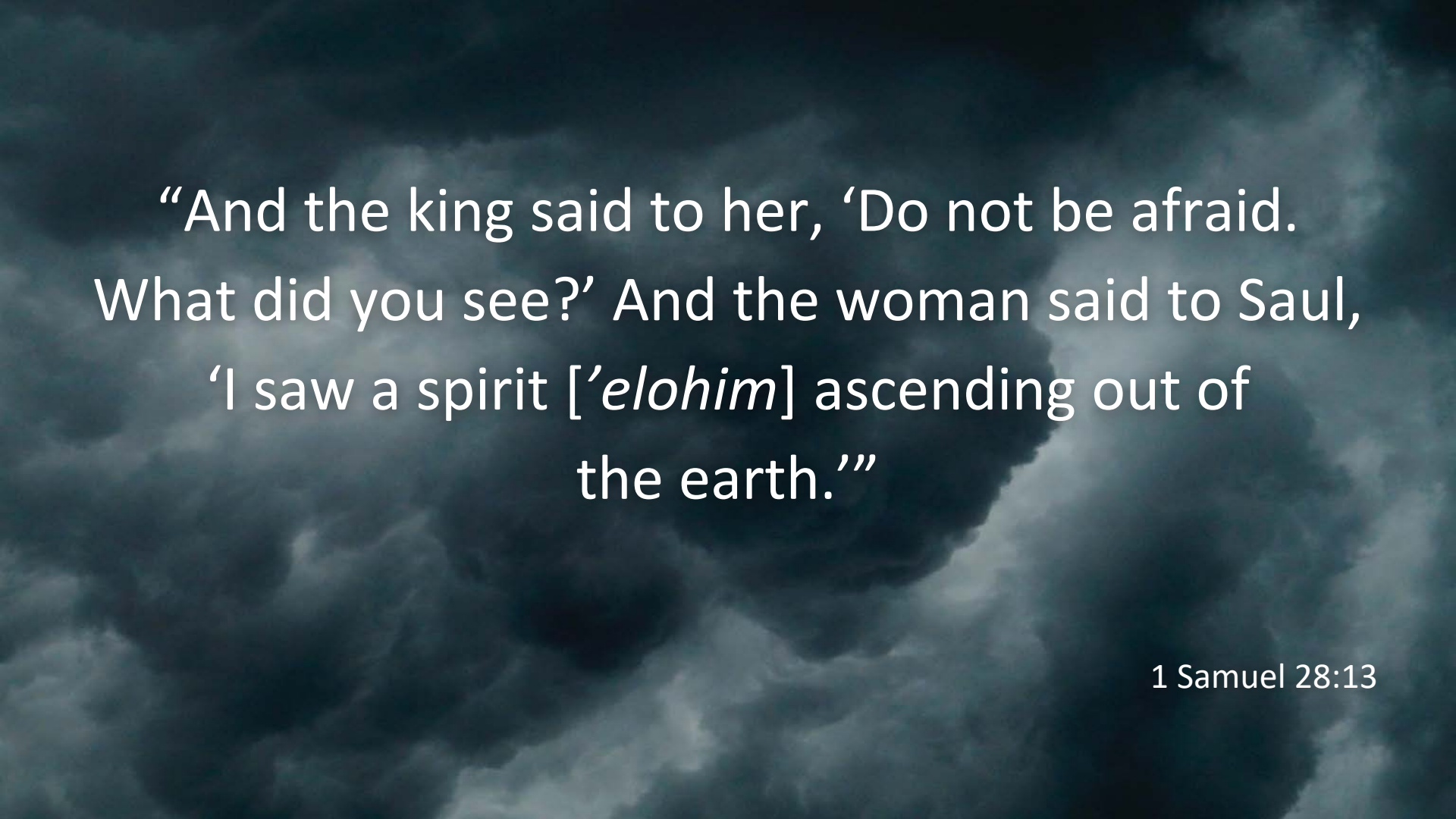
“They sacrificed to demons that were no gods,
to gods [*’elohim*] they had never known,
to new that had come recently,
whom your fathers had never feared.”

Deuteronomy 32:17, ESV

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a storm or hurricane, with a bright light source breaking through the clouds in the center.

'elohim in the Bible

- It can refer to the departed spirit of a person

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling clouds in shades of grey and black, suggesting a storm or a night scene. The text is centered and written in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

“And the king said to her, ‘Do not be afraid.
What did you see?’ And the woman said to Saul,
‘I saw a spirit [*'elohim*] ascending out of
the earth.’”


1 Samuel 28:13



Royalty View: Weaknesses

- *'elohim* is better understood as a term for an inhabitant of the spiritual realm
 - God
 - Members of the divine council
 - Angels
 - False gods / demons
 - Departed spirit of Samuel with Saul and medium (1 Sam. 28)

Are There Other Gods Besides Yahweh?

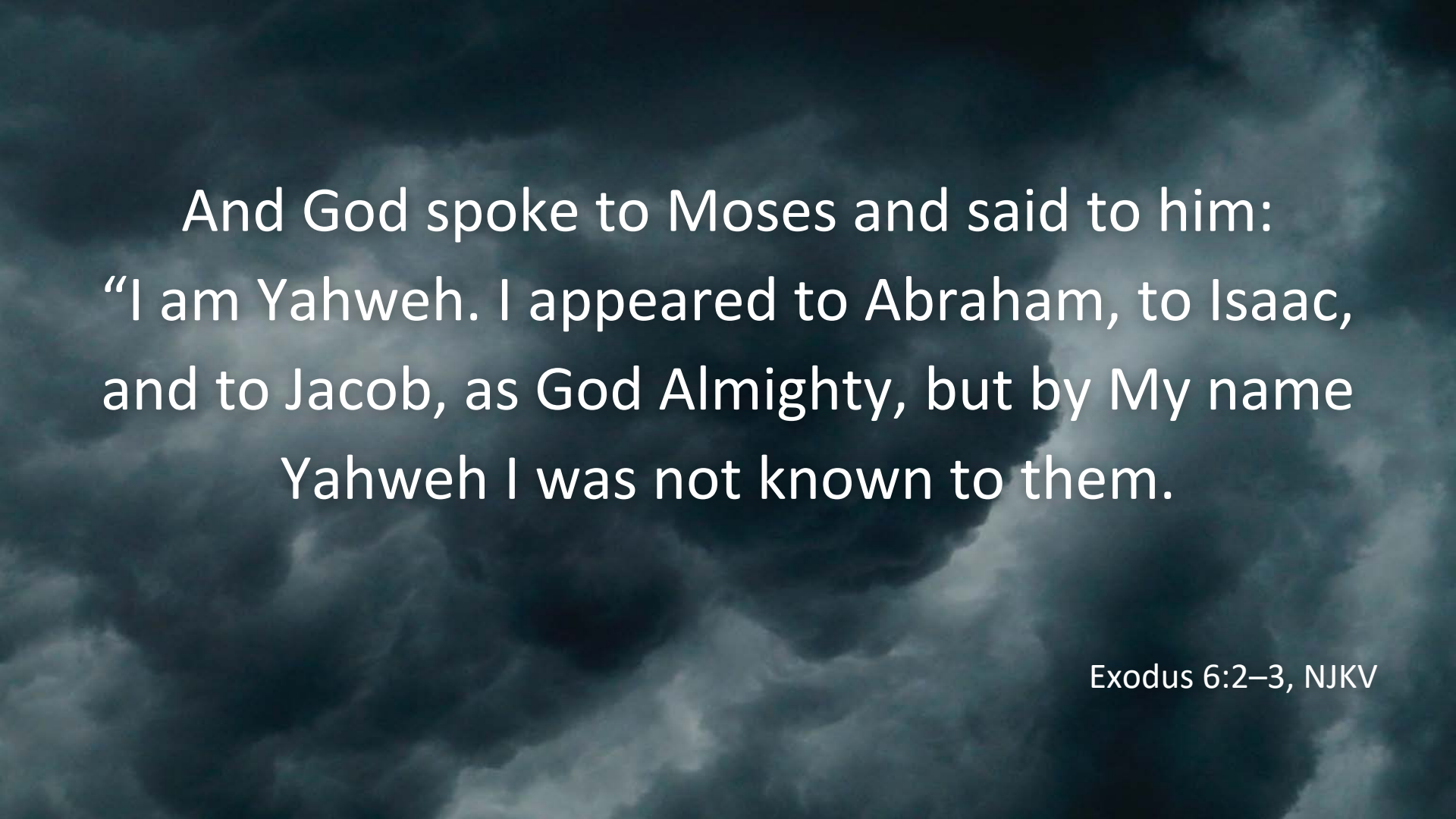
The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The clouds are in shades of dark grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall mood is somber and powerful.

“You shall have no other gods [*'elohim*]
before Me.”

Exodus 20:3, NKJV

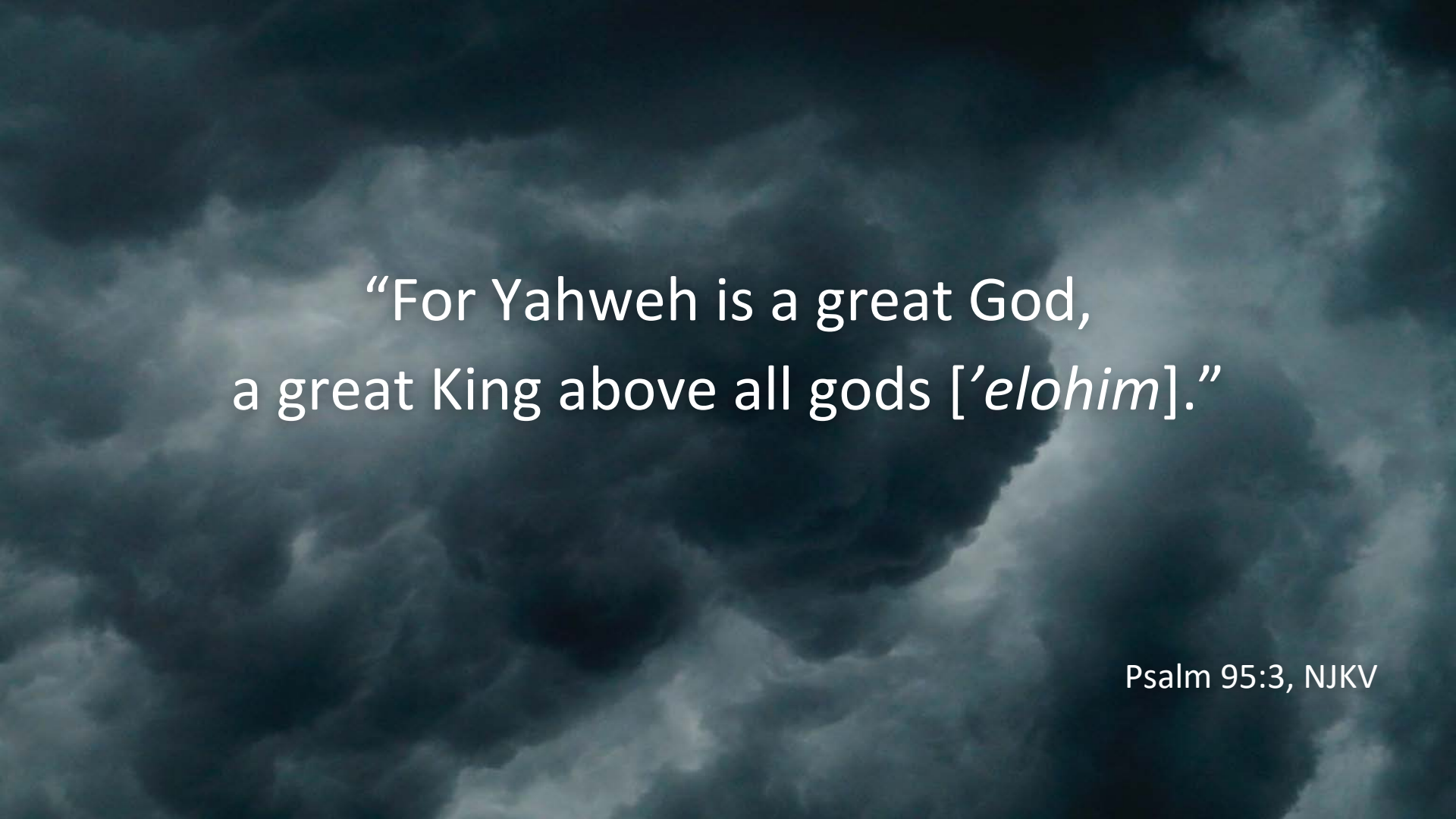
What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

1 Corinthians 10:19–20, NJKV

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And God spoke to Moses and said to him:
“I am Yahweh. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac,
and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name
Yahweh I was not known to them.

Exodus 6:2–3, NJKV



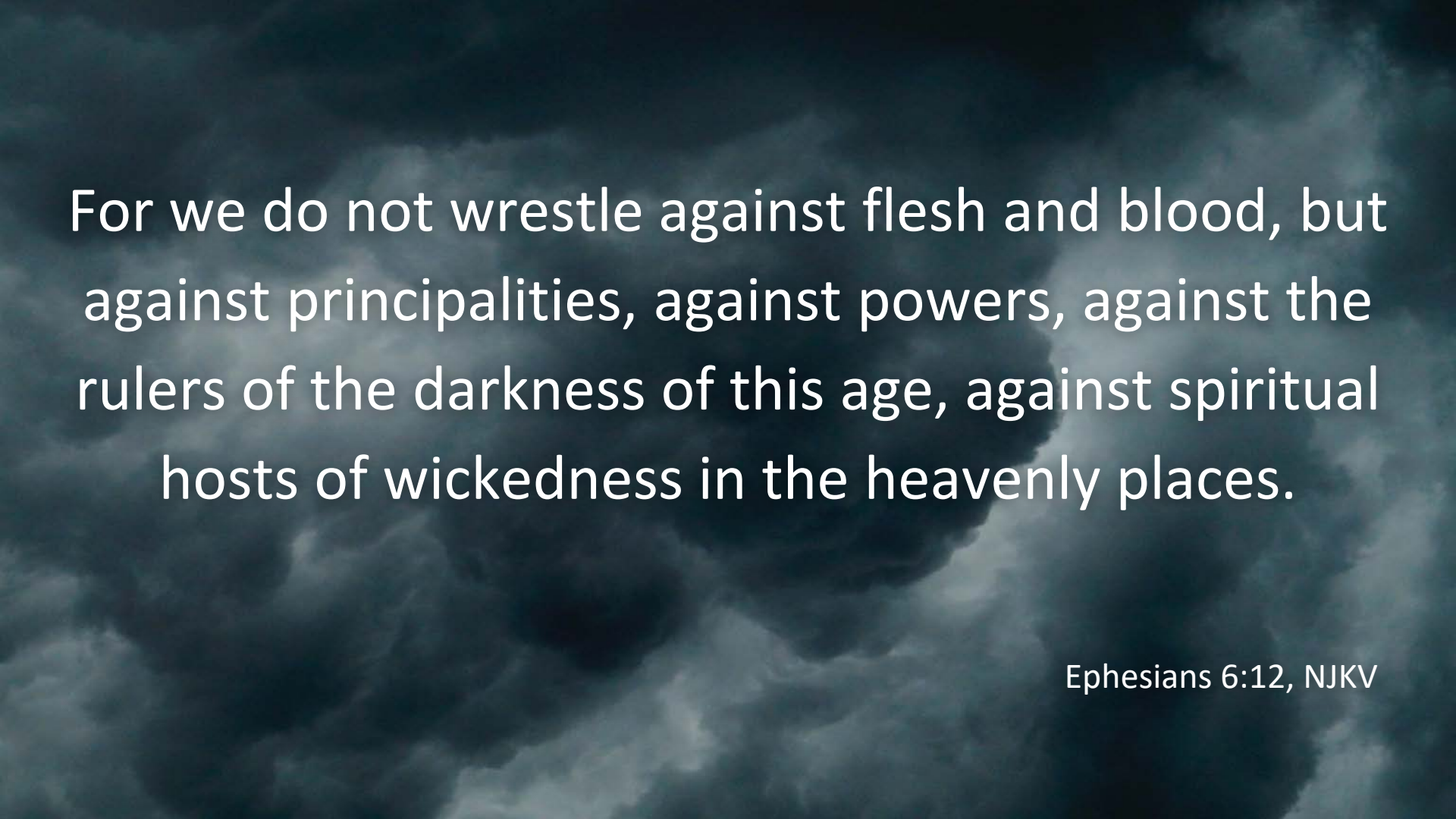
“For Yahweh is a great God,
a great King above all gods [*'elohim*].”

Psalm 95:3, NJKV

Yahweh, who is like You among
the gods [*'elohim*]?

Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
revered with praises, performing wonders?

2 Chronicles 2:5, NJKV

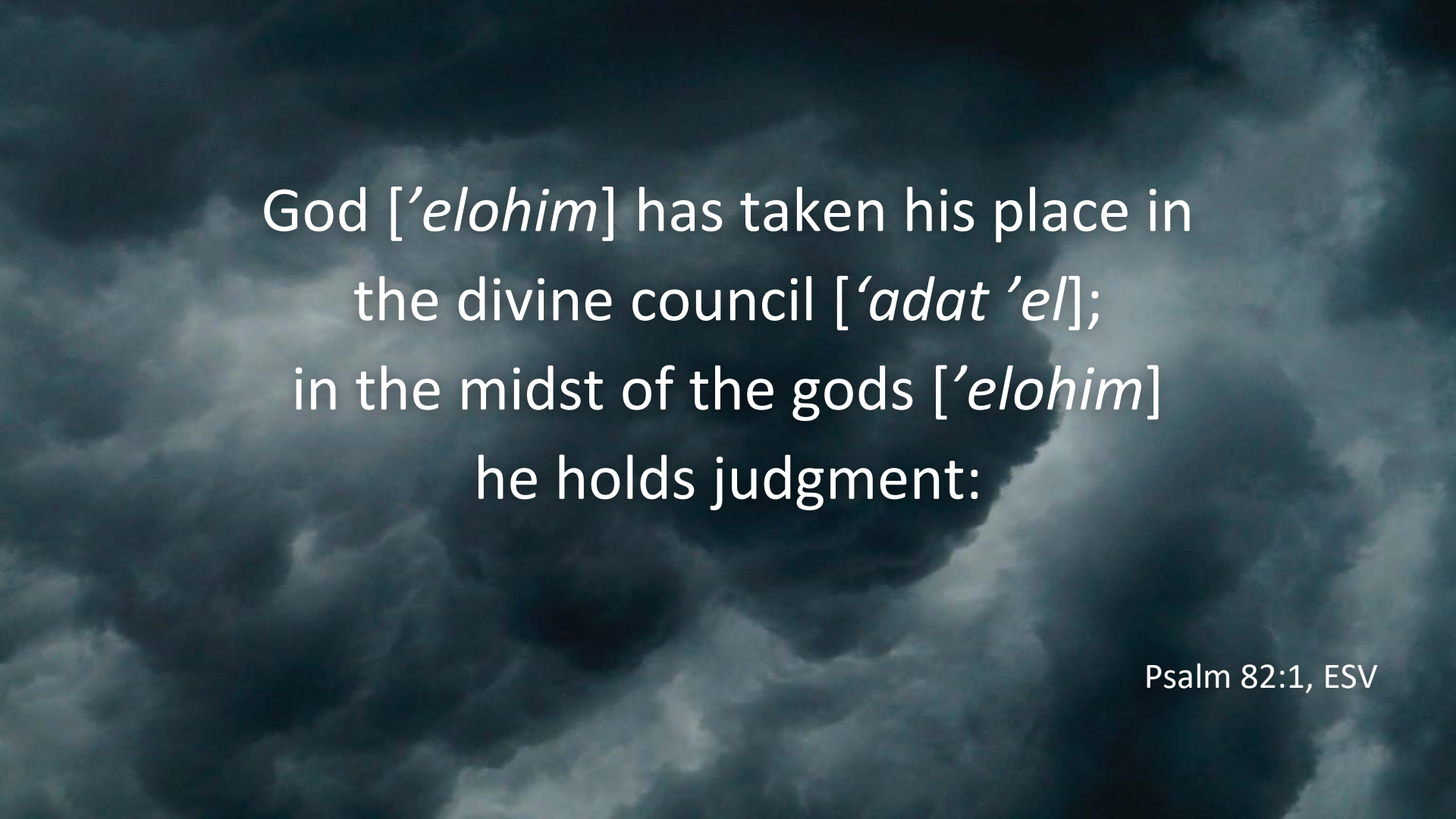
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For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but
against principalities, against powers, against the
rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual
hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12, NJKV

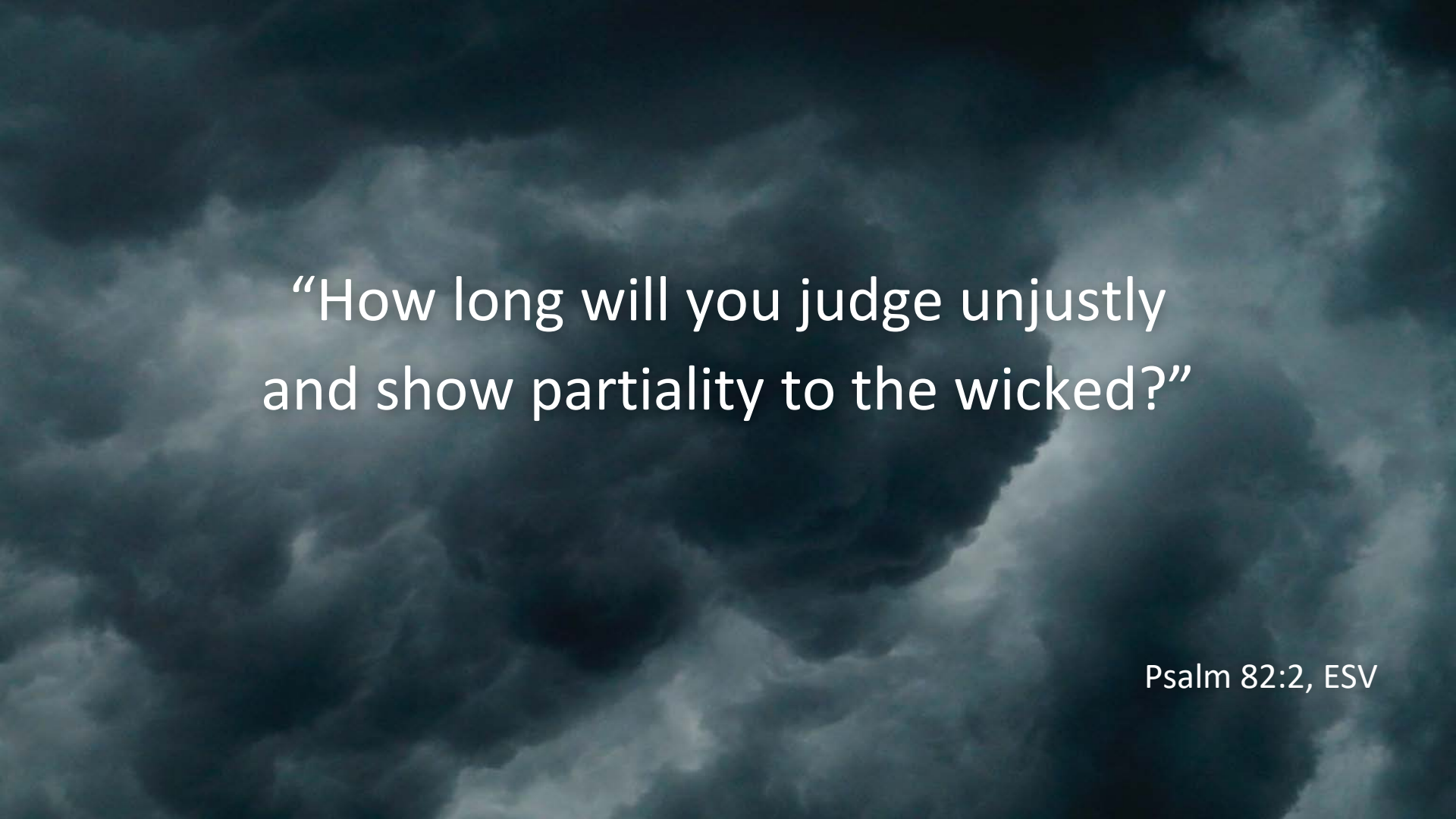
A dramatic, low-key photograph of a dark, stormy sky filled with heavy, textured clouds. The lighting is moody, with some highlights breaking through the darker areas, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. Two thin, white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the central text, framing it.

The Divine Council



God [*'elohim*] has taken his place in
the divine council [*'adat 'el*];
in the midst of the gods [*'elohim*]
he holds judgment:

Psalm 82:1, ESV



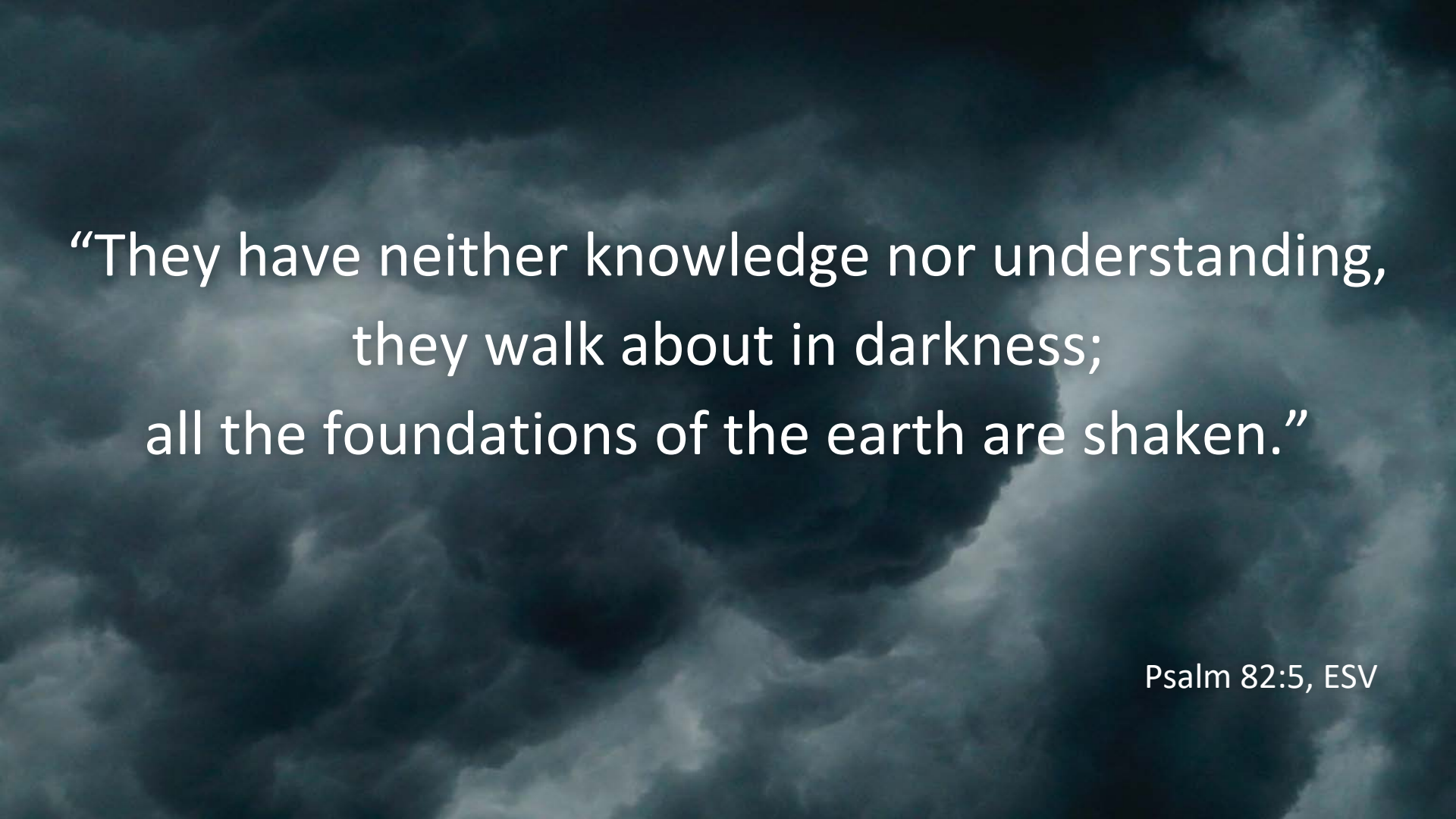
“How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked?”

Psalm 82:2, ESV

“Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted
and the destitute.

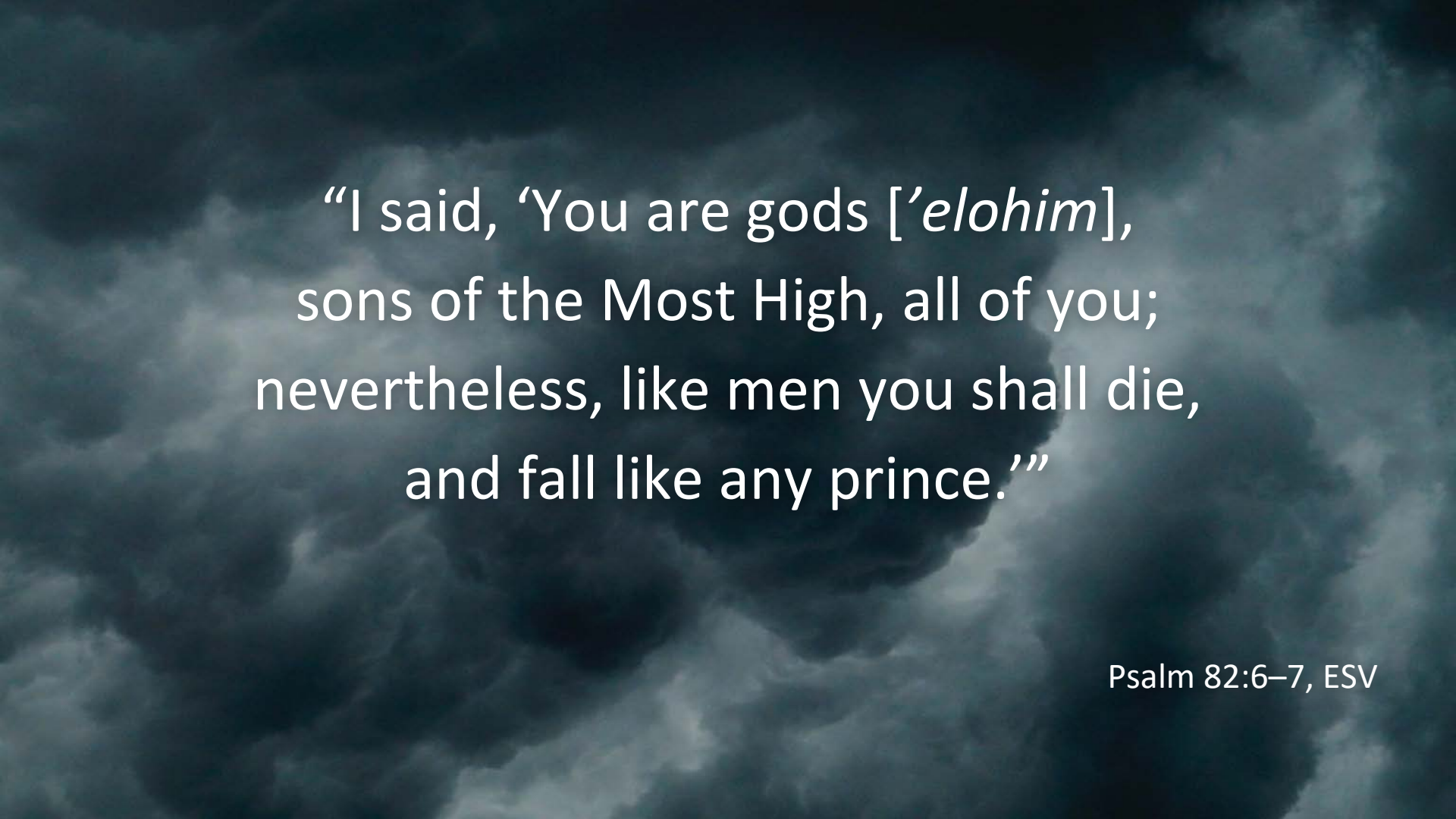
Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Psalm 82:3–4, ESV

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The clouds are rendered in various shades of dark blue, grey, and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall atmosphere is somber and powerful.

“They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
they walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.”

Psalm 82:5, ESV

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“I said, ‘You are gods [*’elohim*],
sons of the Most High, all of you;
nevertheless, like men you shall die,
and fall like any prince.’”

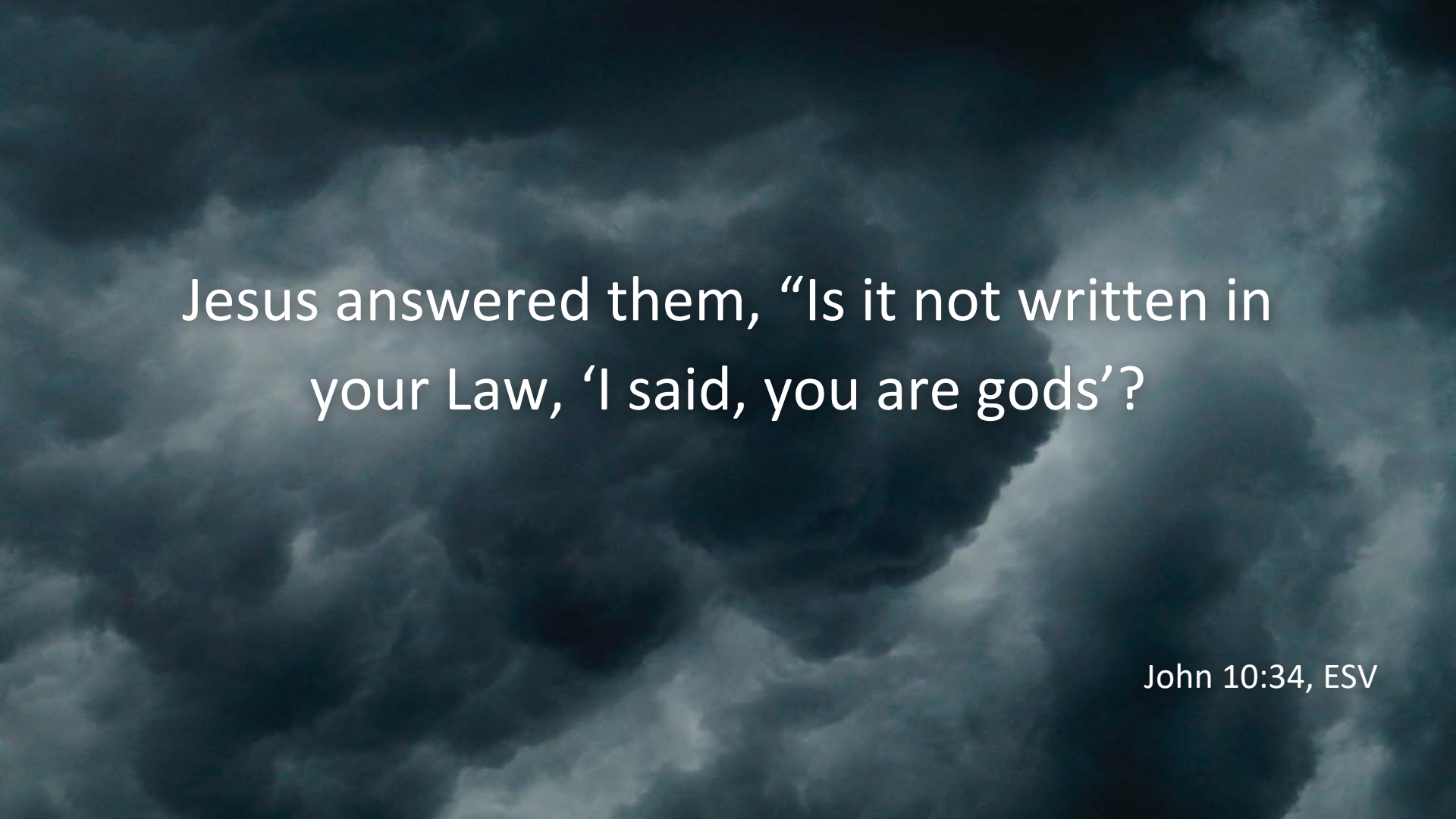
Psalm 82:6–7, ESV

A dramatic, high-contrast image of dark, swirling storm clouds. The clouds are rendered in shades of deep blue, grey, and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. The overall mood is somber and intense.

“I and My Father are one.”

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

John 10:30–31, NKJV

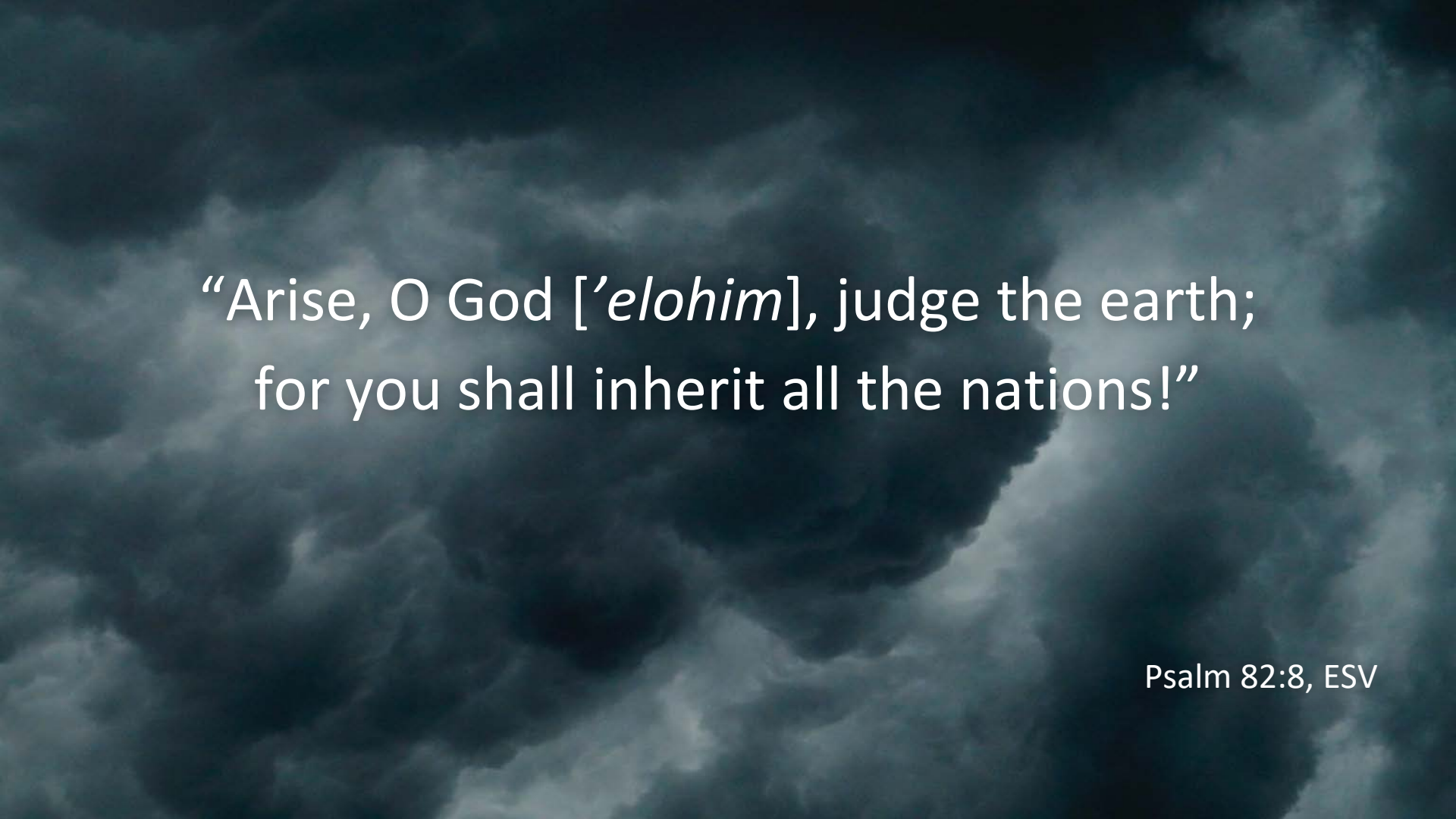


Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in
your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’?”

John 10:34, ESV

If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”

John 10:35, ESV

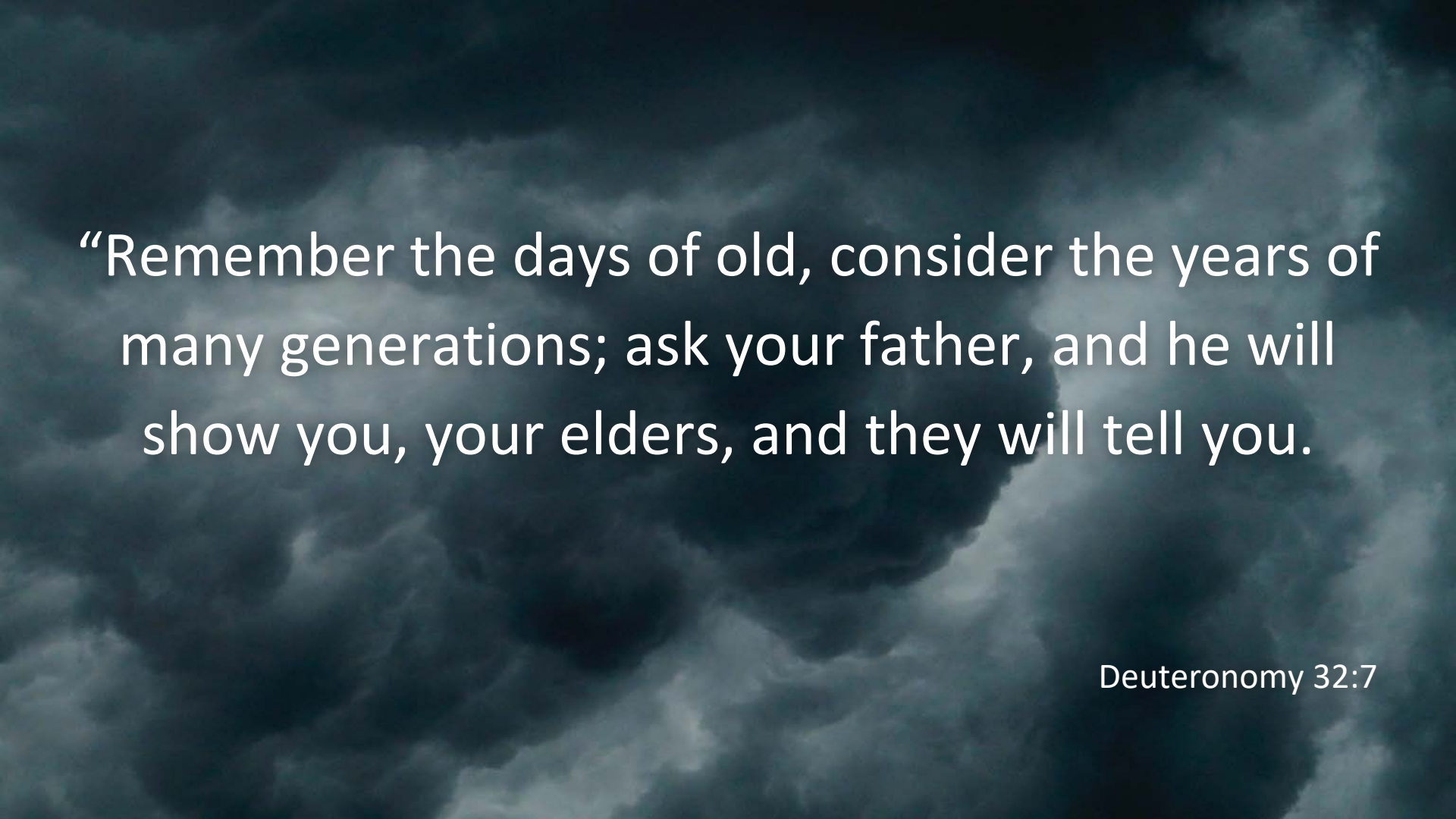


“Arise, O God [*'elohim*], judge the earth;
for you shall inherit all the nations!”

Psalm 82:8, ESV



God Will Inherit All Nations




“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.

Deuteronomy 32:7

When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God [*bene 'elohim*].*

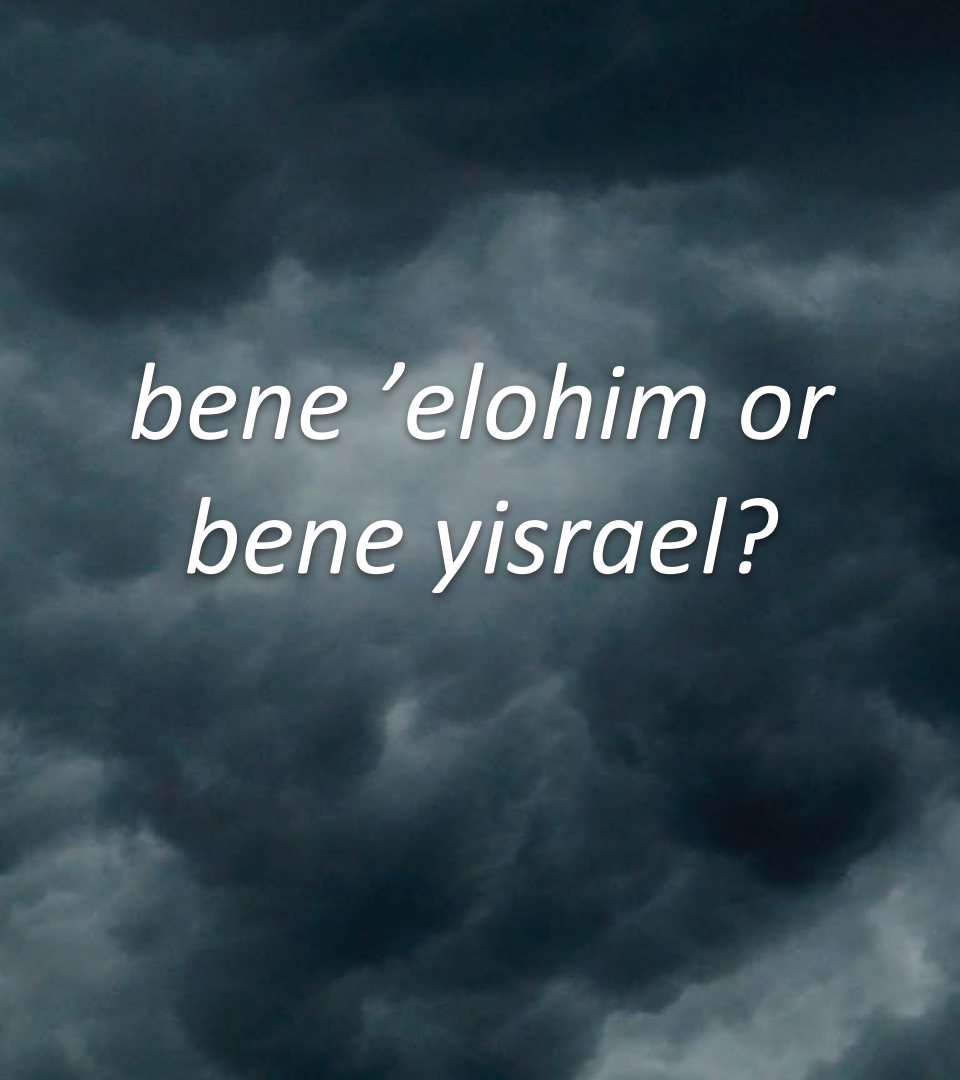
*Masoretic Text has “sons of Israel [*bene yisrael*].

Deuteronomy 32:8, ESV



But Yahweh's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted heritage.

Deuteronomy 32:9, ESV



*bene 'elohim or
bene yisrael?*

- Masoretic (Leningrad Codex)
 - “sons of Israel” (*bene yisrael*)
- Dead Sea Scrolls
 - 4QDeut^j has *bene 'elohim*
 - 4QDeut^q has *bene 'el*____
- Septuagint (c. 3rd cent. BC)
 - “angels of God” (*aggelōn theou*)

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, creating a dramatic and ominous atmosphere. The clouds are in shades of dark blue, grey, and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

Rebellion at Babel

- “Let us go down there and confuse their language.”
(Gen. 11:7)

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely representing the biblical story of the Tower of Babel.

Rebellion at Babel

- God disinherits the nations
 - The pagan gods are allotted to the nations.
(Deut. 32:8, cf. 4:19; 29:26)

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and ominous atmosphere.

Rebellion at Babel

- Yahweh gets Israel, the nation He will found with one man beginning in the Bible's next chapter.

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, filling the left half of the slide.

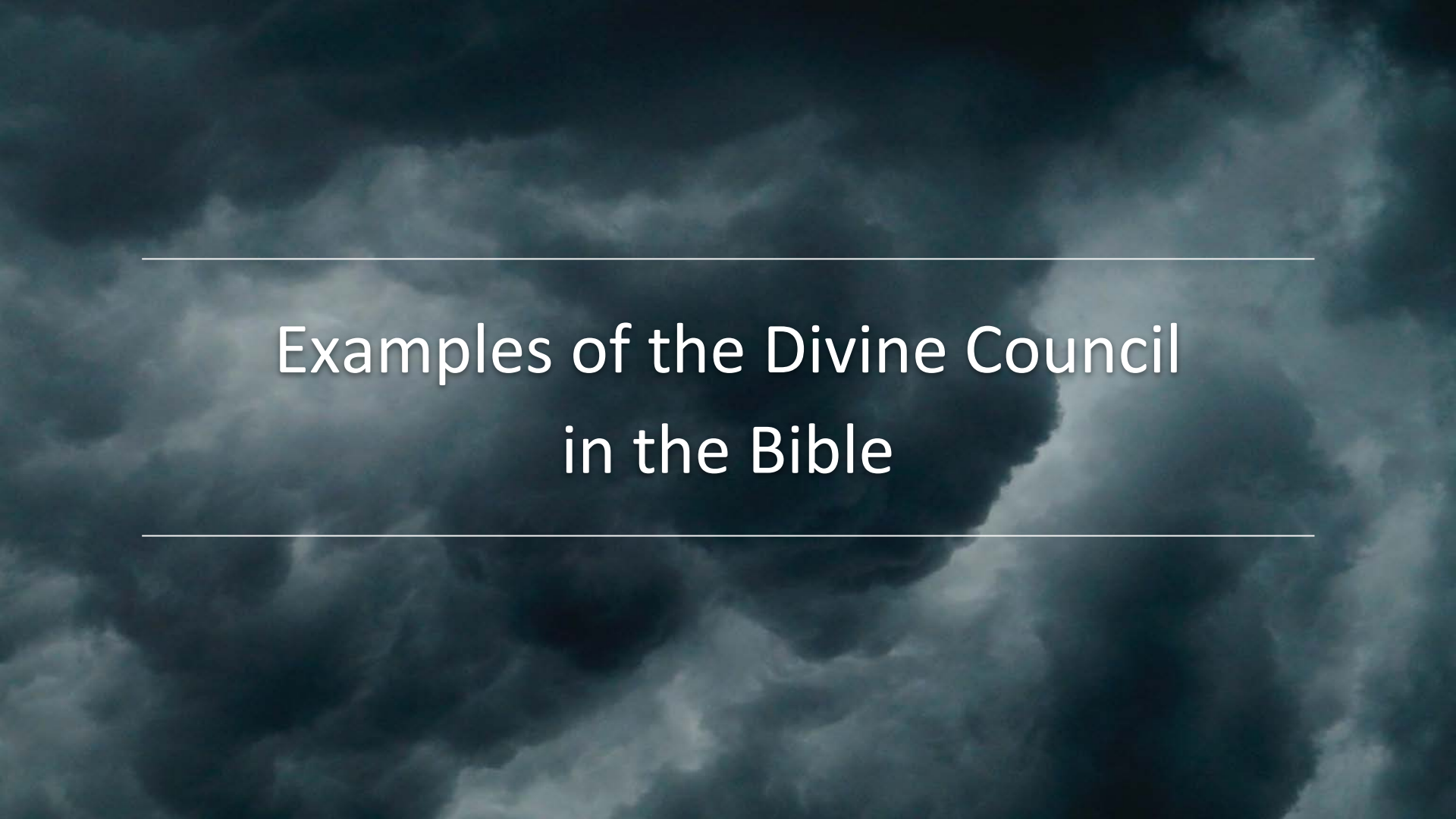
Not Polytheism

- Polytheism generally places all the gods at roughly the same class
- Henotheism is like polytheism, but only one of the gods is worshiped

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, filling the left half of the slide.

Not Polytheism

- The Bible teaches:
 - Many *'elohim* (gods), but there is only one Yahweh
 - Yahweh is an *'elohim* but no other *'elohim* is Yahweh.
 - Only Yahweh is eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, etc.

The background of the slide is a dramatic, low-key photograph of dark, heavy clouds, possibly a storm or a sunset/sunrise scene. The clouds are in various shades of dark blue, grey, and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. Two thin, white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the text, framing it.

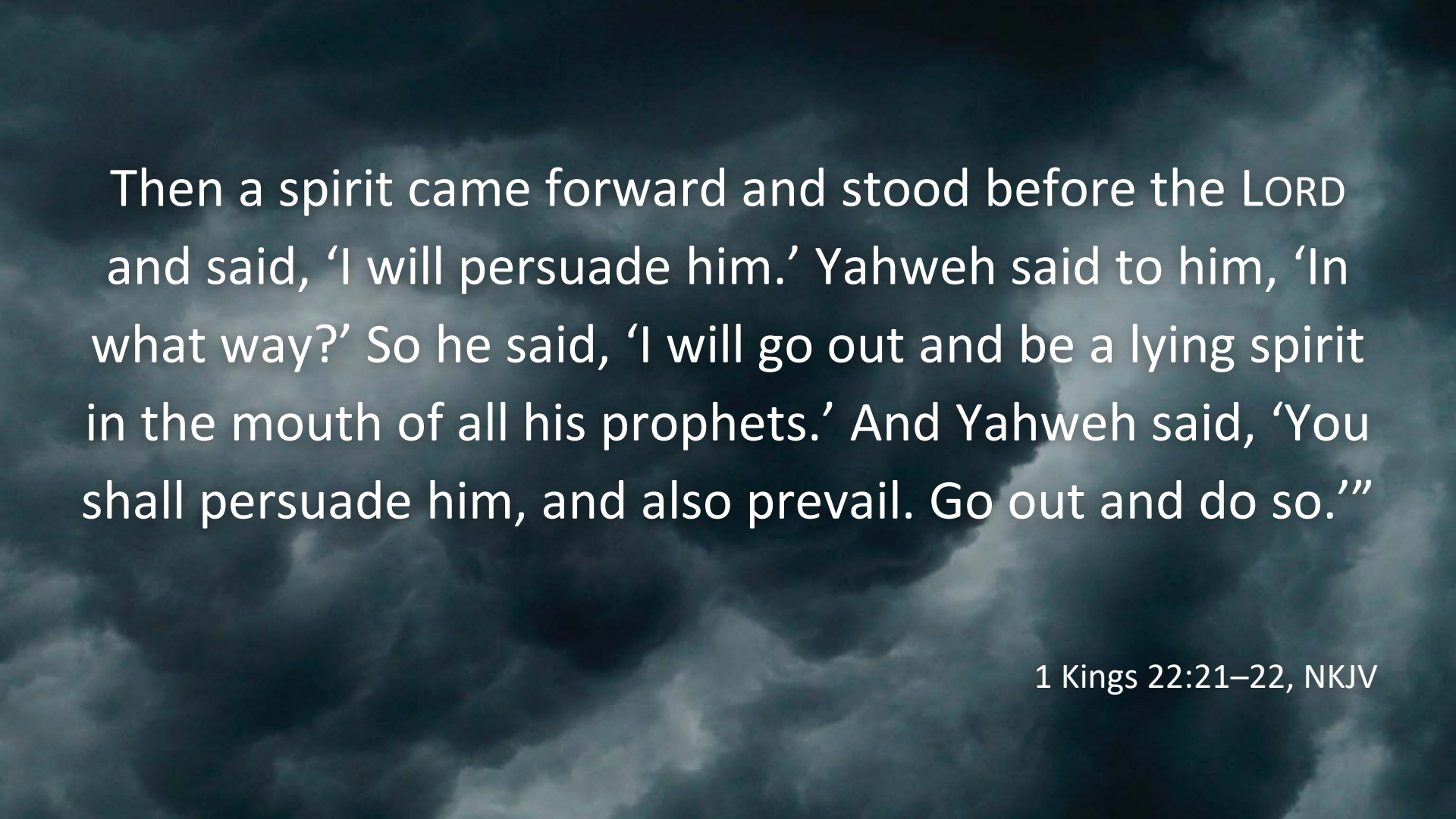
Examples of the Divine Council in the Bible

A dramatic, low-key photograph of a dark, stormy sky filled with heavy, textured clouds. The lighting is moody, with some highlights breaking through the darker areas, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks.

Micaiah and the Divine Council

Then Micaiah said, “Therefore hear the word of Yahweh:
I saw Yahweh sitting on His throne, and all the host of
heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.
And Yahweh said, ‘Who will persuade Ahab to go up,
that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?’ So one spoke in this
manner, and another spoke in that manner.

1 Kings 22:19–20, NKJV

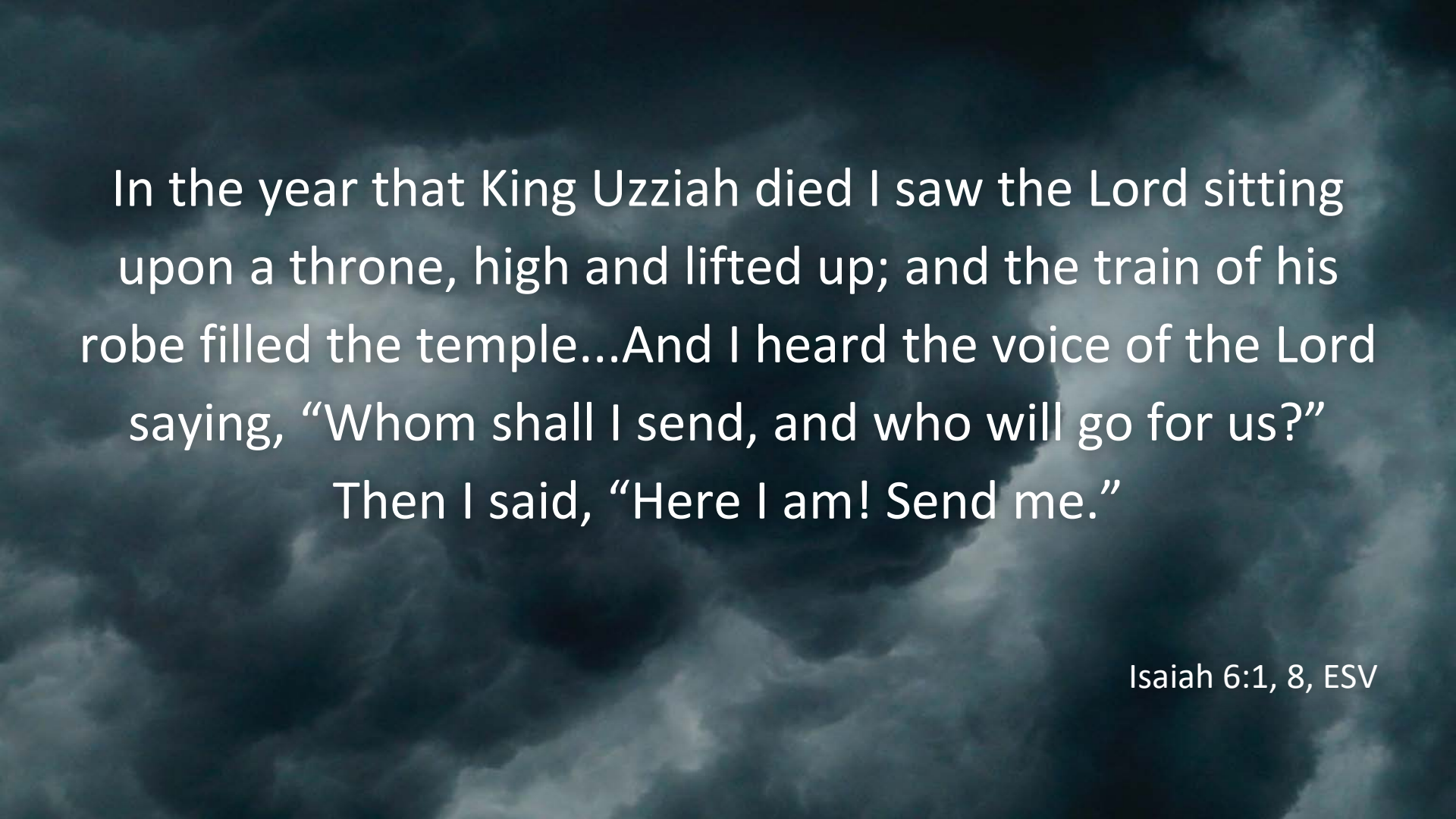
The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The lighting is moody, with some lighter patches where the clouds are thinner, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall tone is somber and intense.

Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD and said, 'I will persuade him.' Yahweh said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And Yahweh said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.'"

1 Kings 22:21–22, NKJV



The Divine Council in Isaiah




In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple...And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

Isaiah 6:1, 8, ESV

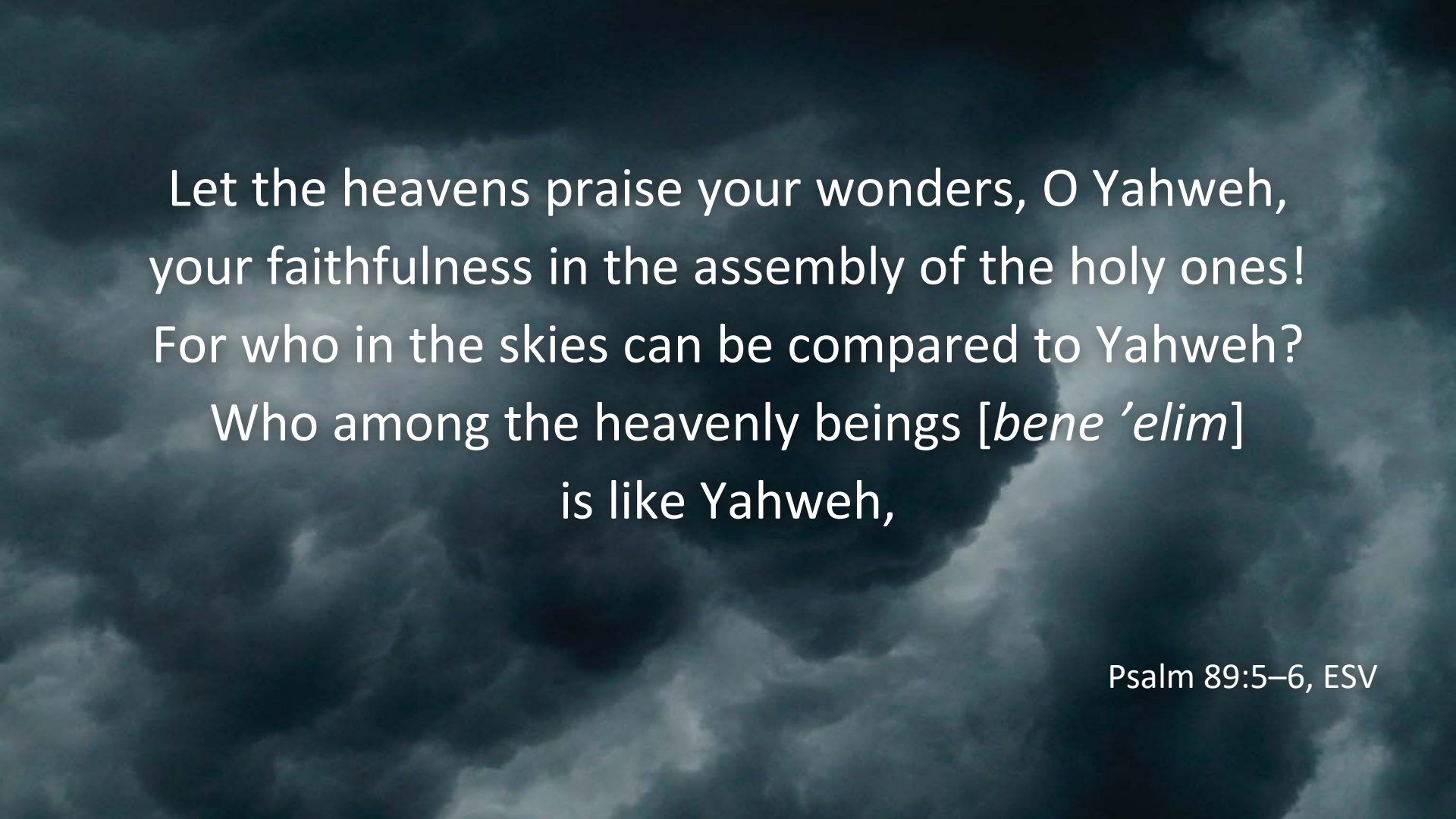
“The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.”

“It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king...”

Daniel 4:17, 24, ESV

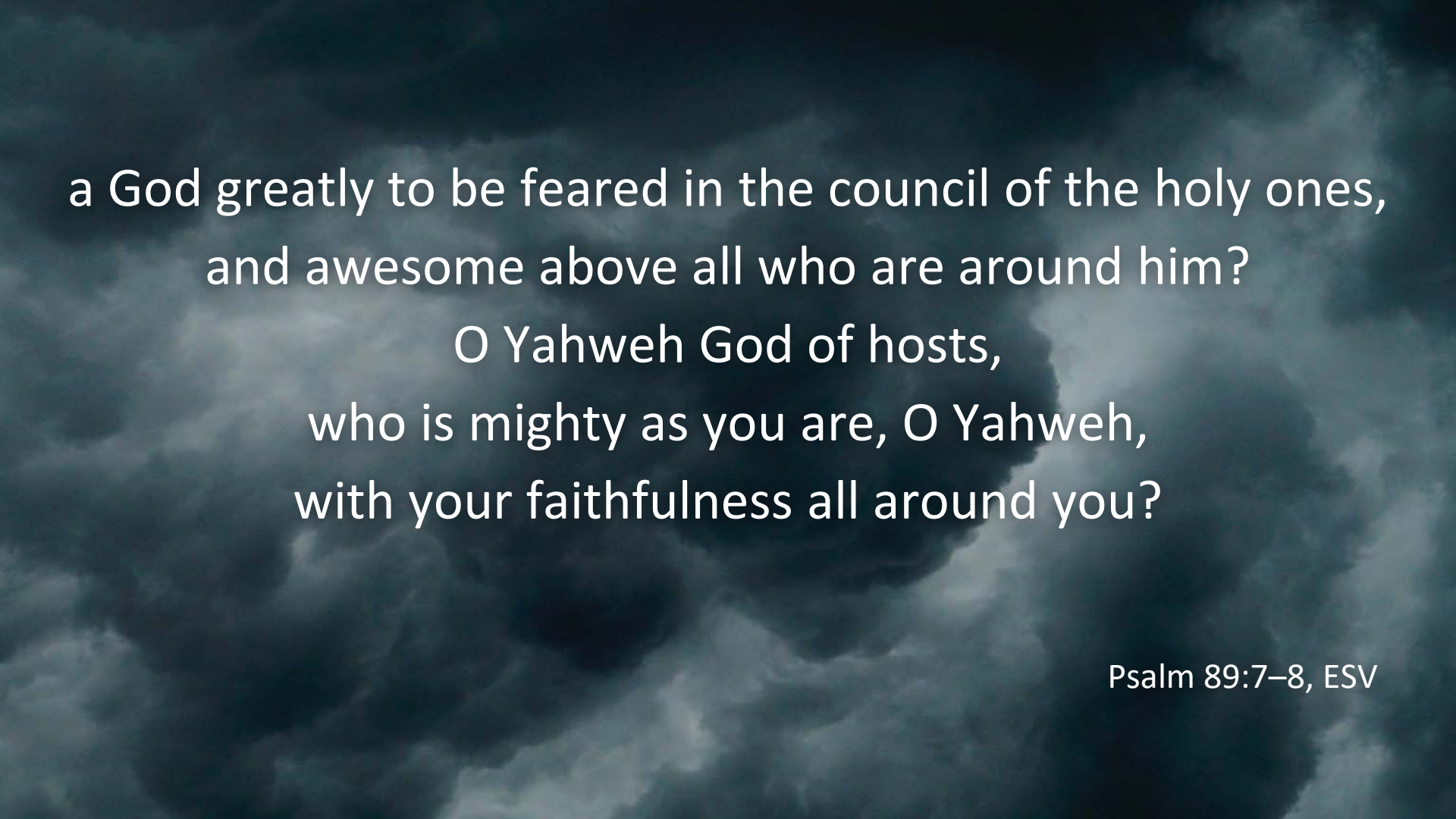


The Divine Council in Psalms



Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Yahweh,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
For who in the skies can be compared to Yahweh?
Who among the heavenly beings [*bene 'elim*]
is like Yahweh,

Psalm 89:5–6, ESV

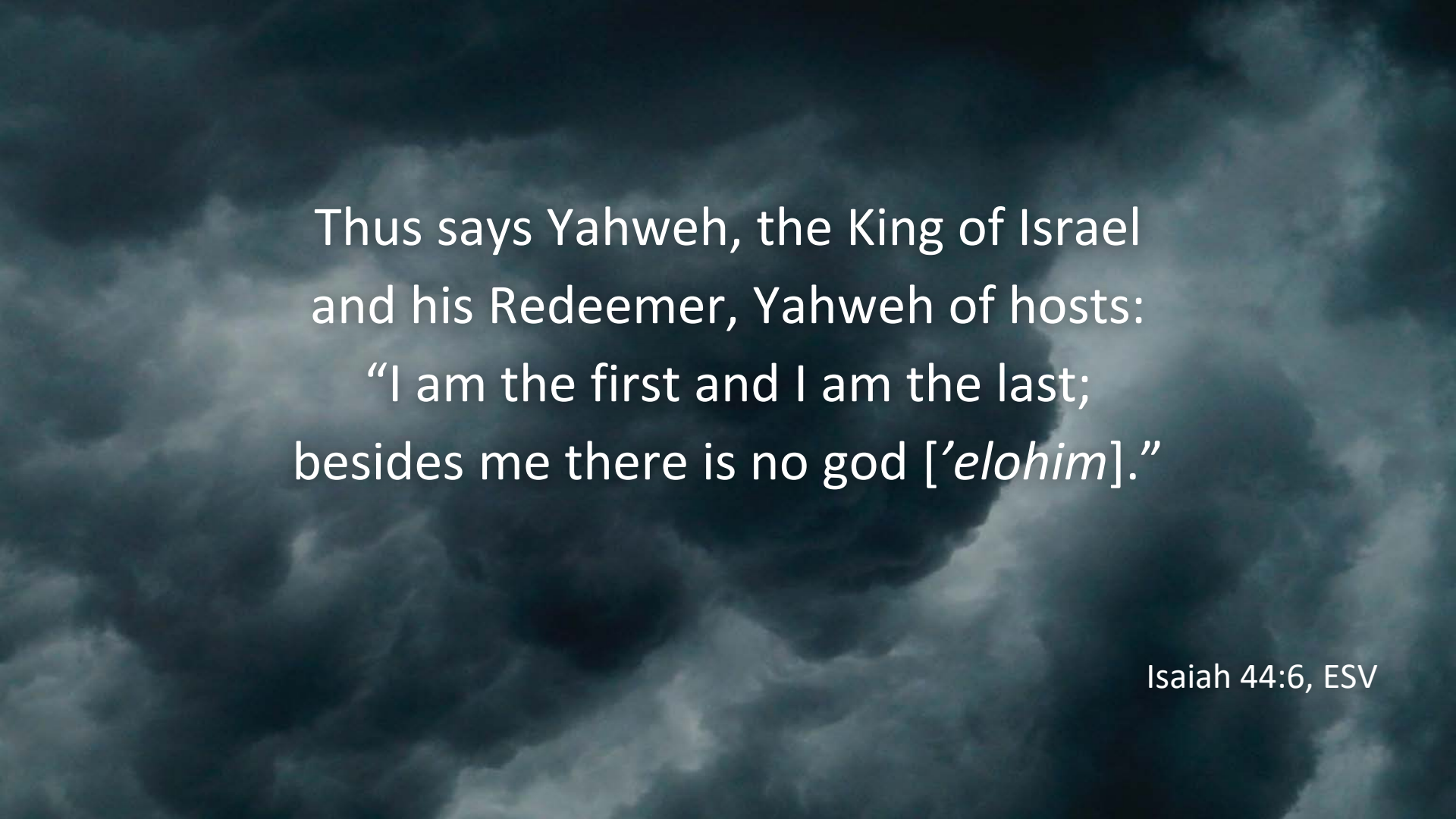


a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?

O Yahweh God of hosts,
who is mighty as you are, O Yahweh,
with your faithfulness all around you?

Psalm 89:7–8, ESV

No other *'elohim* besides God?

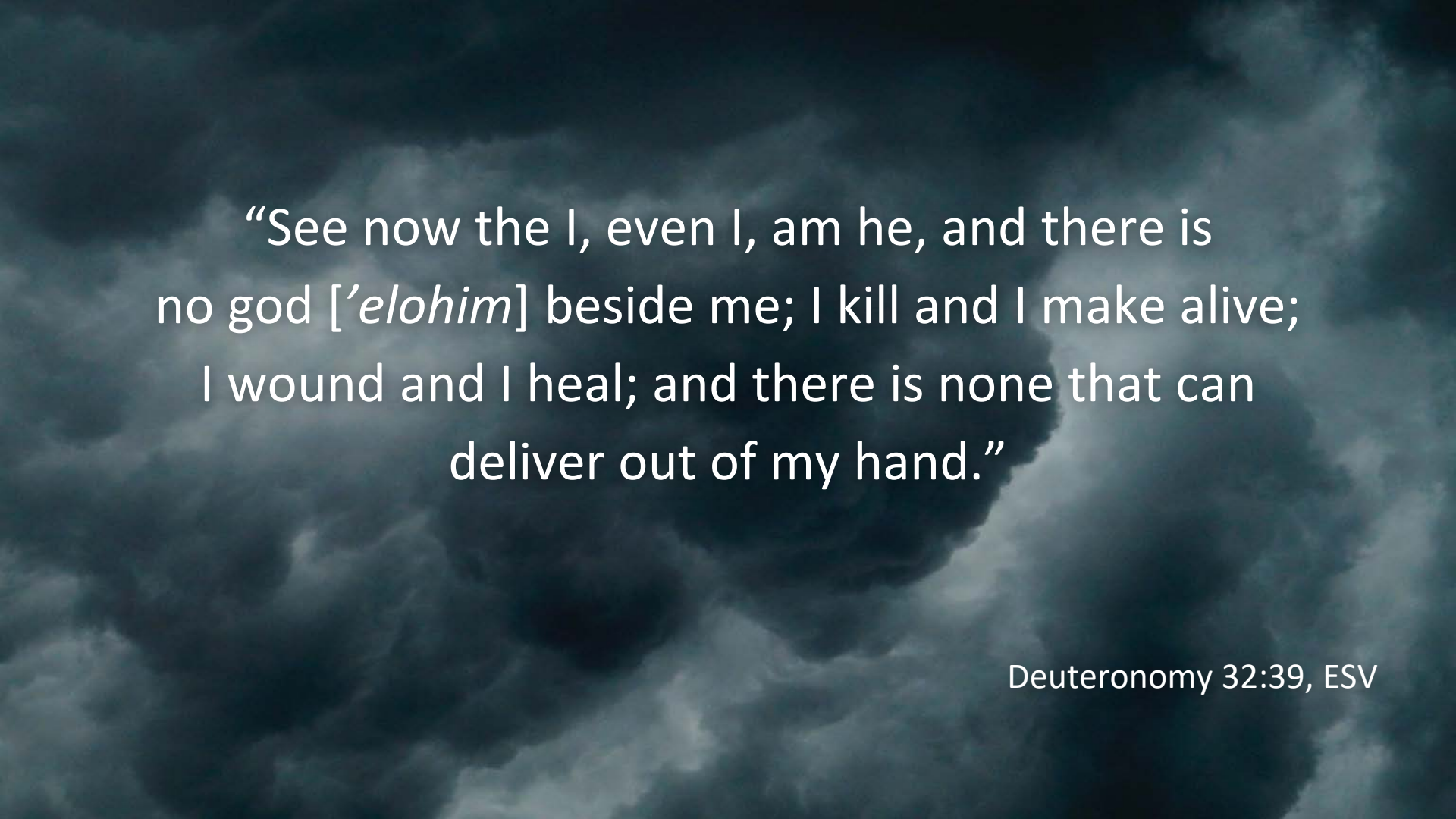


Thus says Yahweh, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, Yahweh of hosts:
“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god [*'elohim*].”

Isaiah 44:6, ESV

Declare and present your case;
let them take counsel together!
Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old?
Was it not I, Yahweh?
And there is no other god [*'elohim*] besides me,

Isaiah 45:21, ESV

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The lighting is moody, with some highlights on the cloud edges, creating a sense of depth and intensity. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks.

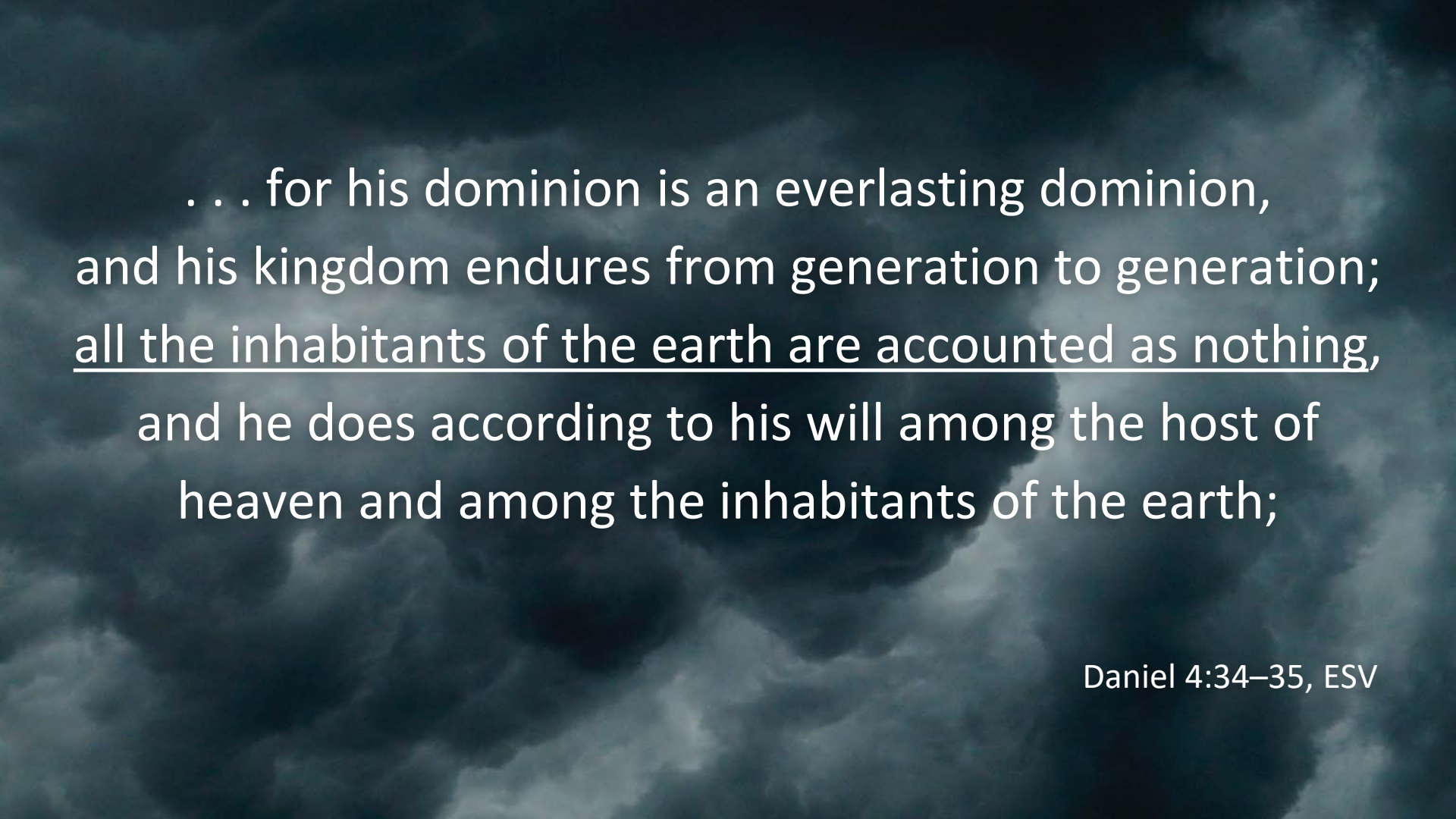
“See now the I, even I, am he, and there is
no god [*'elohim*] beside me; I kill and I make alive;
I wound and I heal; and there is none that can
deliver out of my hand.”

Deuteronomy 32:39, ESV

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere. The clouds are in shades of dark blue, grey, and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

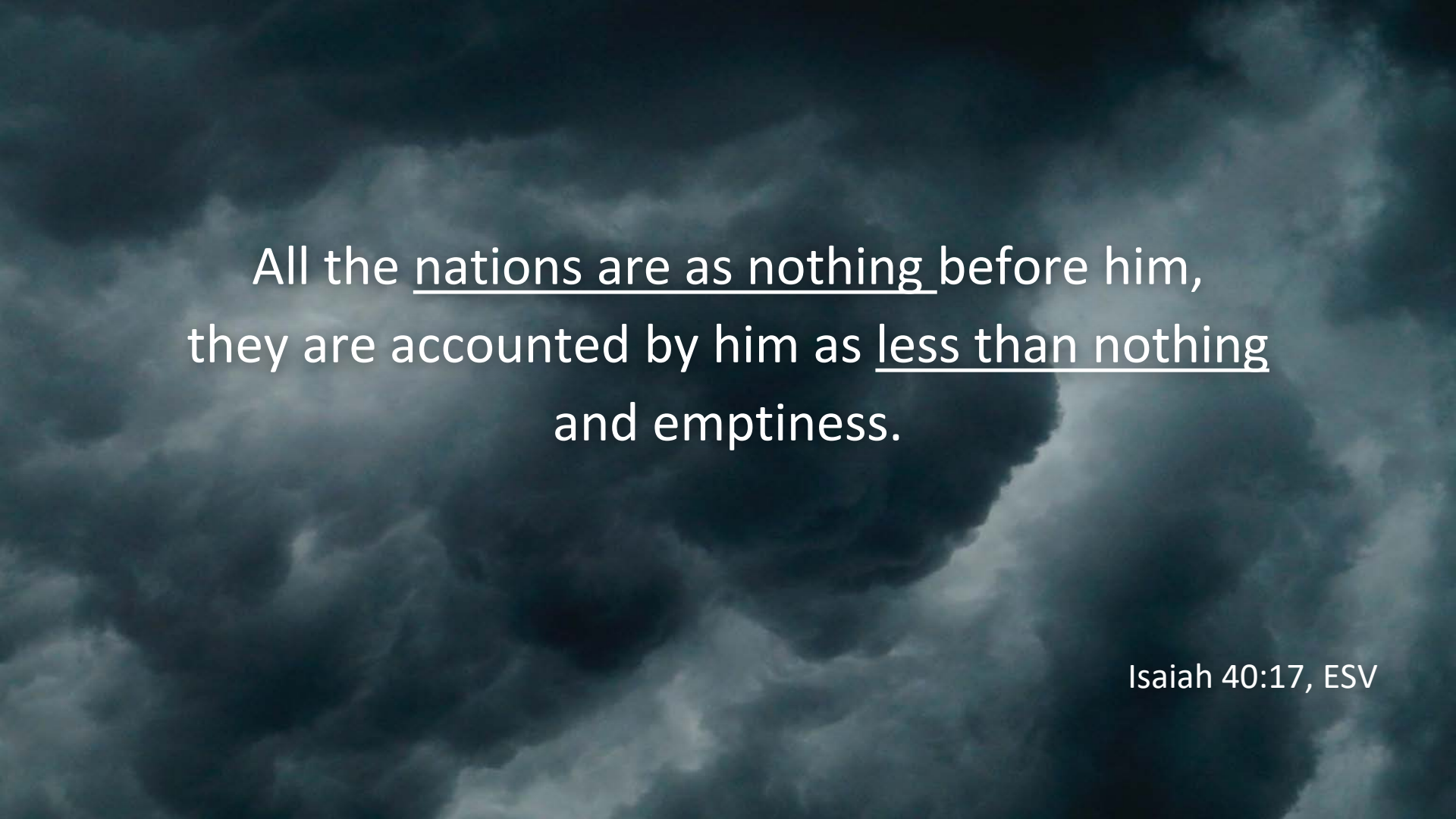
Incomparability not Contradiction

- The Bible uses the language of incomparability
 - Compared to Yahweh, these other *'elohim* are nothing.
 - Same type of language used about people and nations

The background of the slide is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

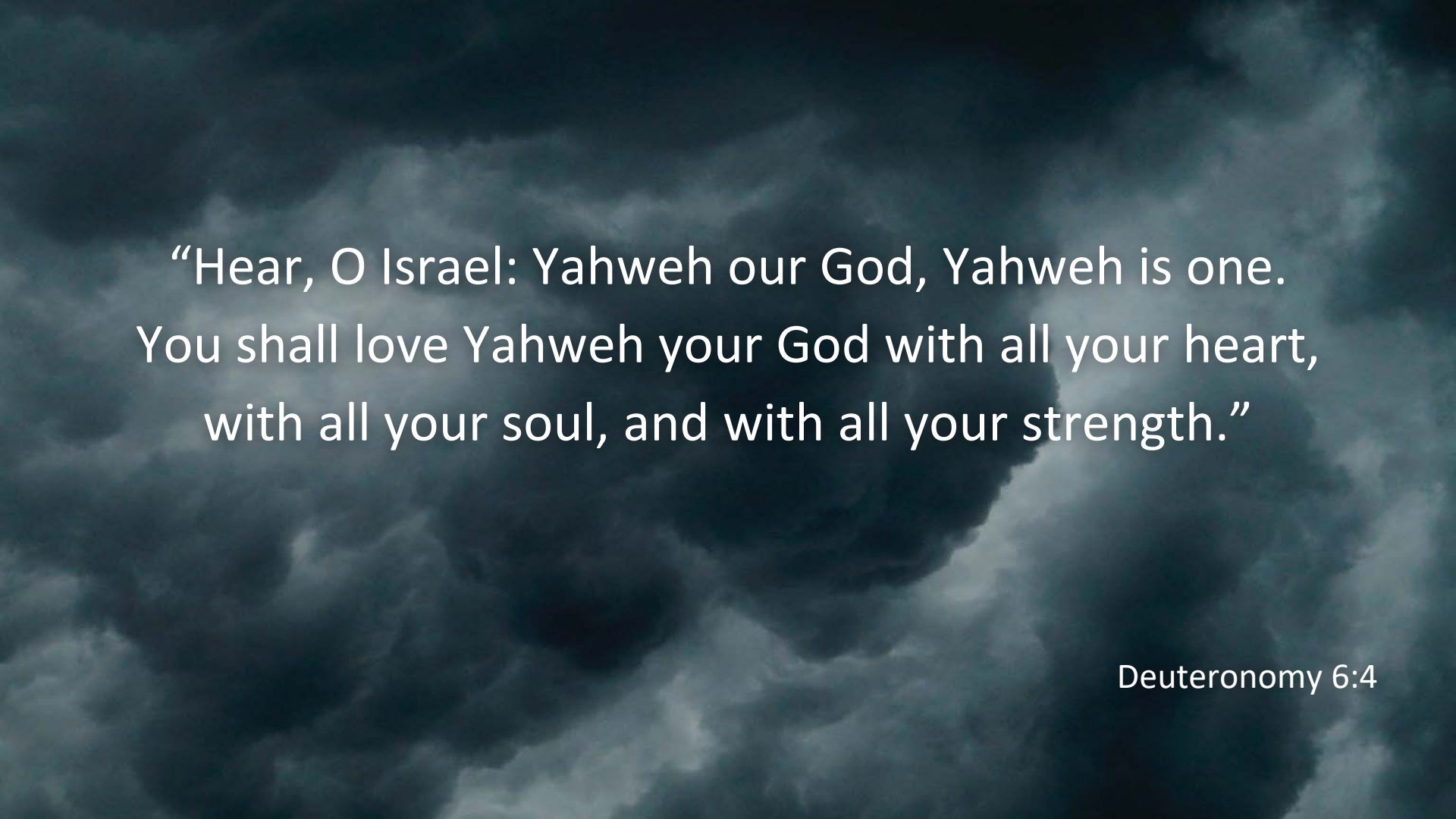
. . . for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;
all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will among the host of
heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth;

Daniel 4:34–35, ESV

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The clouds are in various shades of dark grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall mood is somber and powerful.

All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing
and emptiness.

Isaiah 40:17, ESV

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The lighting is moody, with some highlights on the cloud edges, creating a sense of depth and intensity. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks.

“Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our God, Yahweh is one.
You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Deuteronomy 6:4

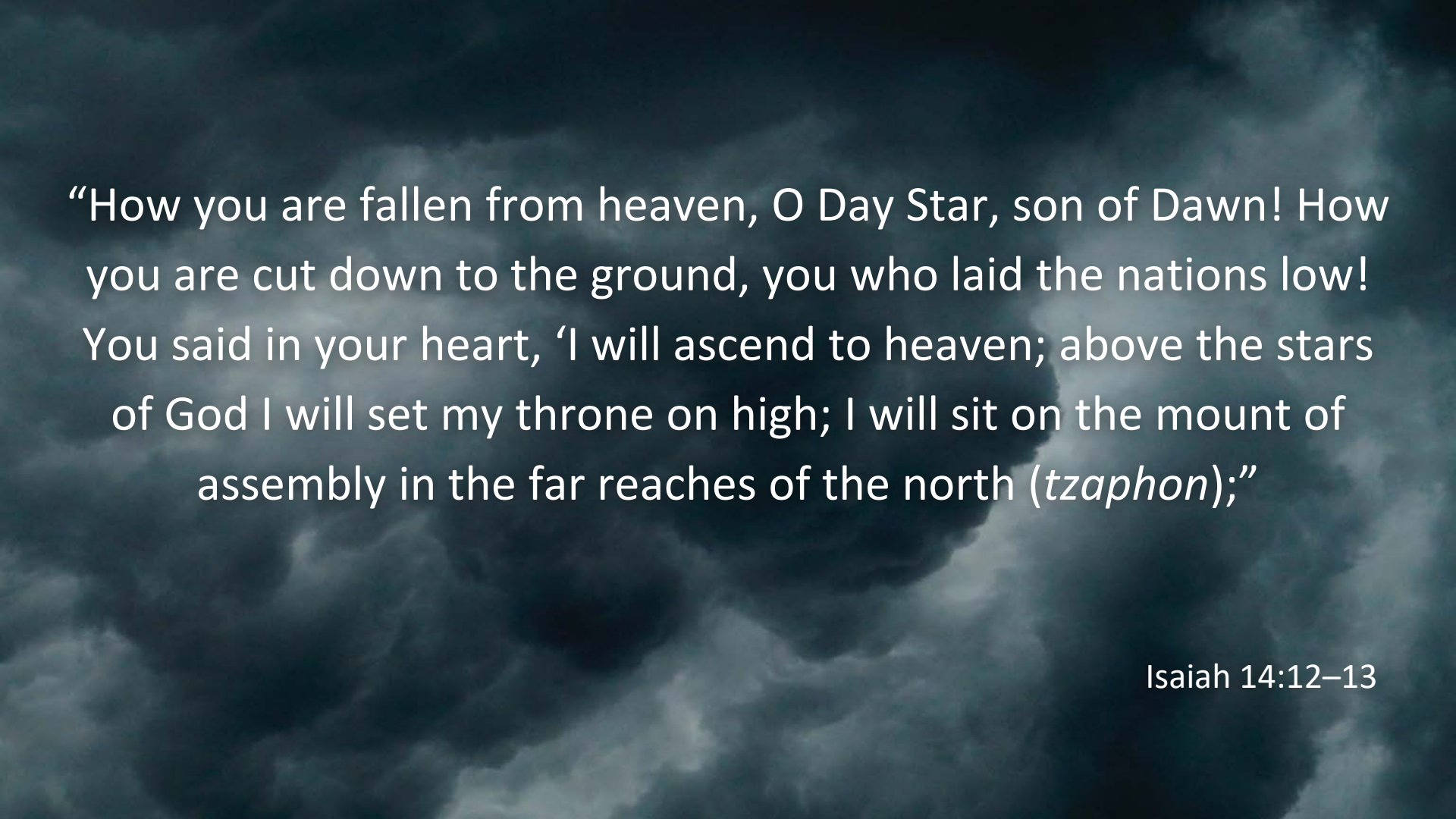
Babel and the Table of Nations

- Japheth 14
- Ham 30
- Shem 26
- Total = 70 people groups
depart from Babel

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, filling the left half of the slide.

Ugarit and Canaan

- Ugarit
 - Language very similar to Hebrew
 - El had 70 sons (*bn 'il*) or gods
 - Congregation of the stars
- Canaan
 - Baal held council over the gods
 - El was his son and equal



“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north (*tzaphon*);”

Isaiah 14:12–13

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and atmospheric setting for the text.

Mountains of the Gods

- Olympus
 - Zeus—Greeks
- Hermon (Sirion, Senir)
 - Deuteronomy 3:9
 - El of the Ugaritic people
- Tzaphon (Zaphon)
 - Baal of the Canaanites
 - See Isaiah 14:12–13



Examining the Fallen Angel View

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a thunderstorm, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. The text is overlaid on the left side of this image.

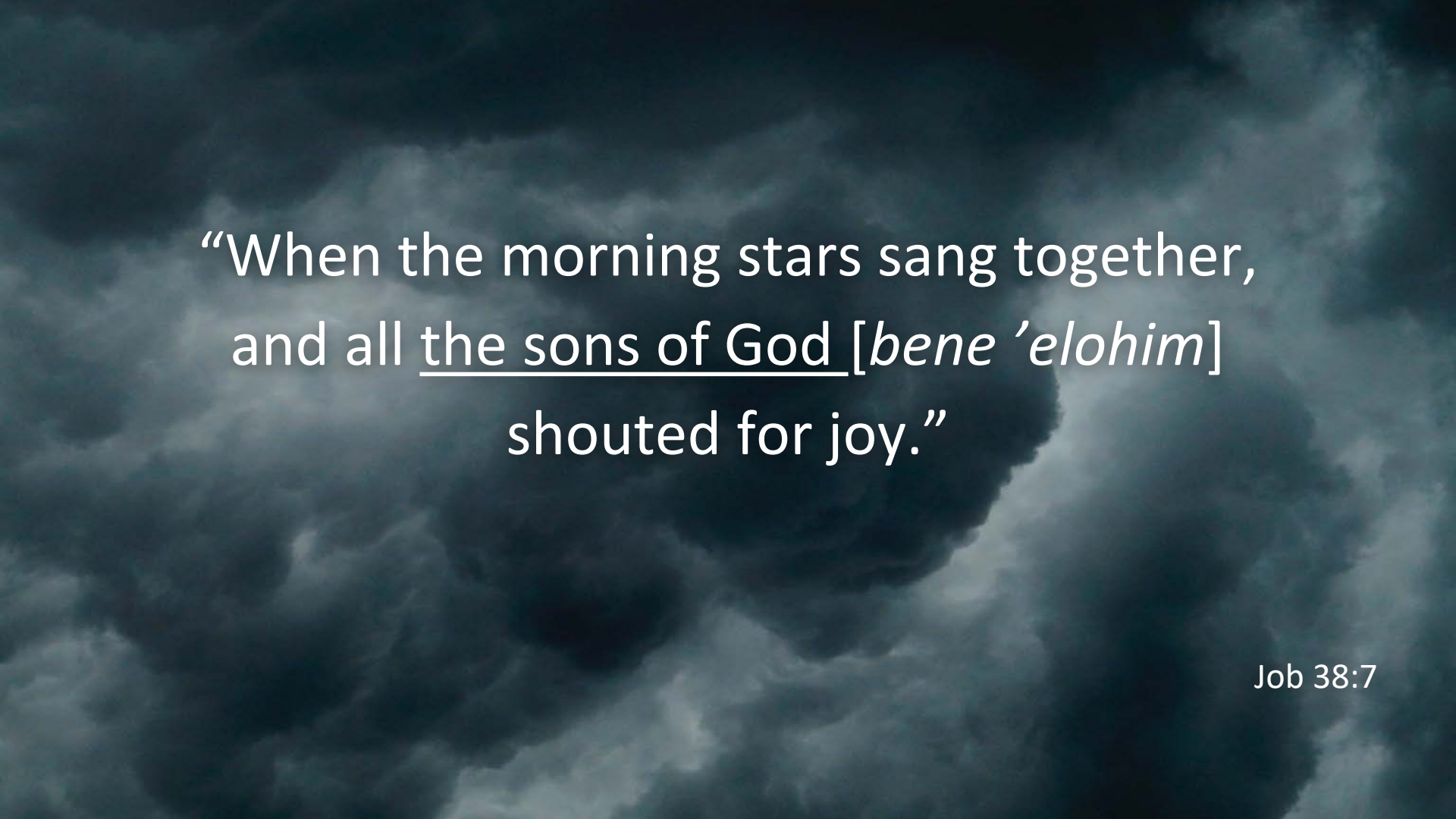
Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- Genesis 4 and 5 discuss the descendants of Cain and Seth.

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a thunderstorm, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. The overall tone is dramatic and somewhat ominous.

Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- *Bene 'elohim* (“sons of God”) refers to angelic beings



“When the morning stars sang together,
and all the sons of God [*bene ’elohim*]
shouted for joy.”

Job 38:7

Now there was a day when the sons of God
[*bene ha'elohim*] came to present themselves
before the Lord, and Satan also came
among them.

Job 1:6

Again there was a day when the sons of God
[*bene ha'elohim*] came to present themselves
before the Lord, and Satan also came among
them to present himself before the Lord.

Job 2:1

“When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the
peoples according to the number of the sons of God
[bene ’elohim].”

Deuteronomy 32:8, ESV

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely from a movie or TV show, with a white lightning bolt visible in the lower right. The text is overlaid on the left side of this image.

Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- *Bene 'elohim* (“sons of God”) refers to angelic beings
 - Aramaic equivalent does too

“But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods [*bar elahin*]...Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants...”

Daniel 3:25,28, ESV

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a thunderstorm, with some lighter patches where the sun or moon might be breaking through. The overall tone is dramatic and somewhat ominous.

Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- *Bene 'elohim* (“sons of God”) refers to angelic beings
 - Aramaic equivalent does too
 - Similar terms also refer to angels

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness
in the assembly of the holy ones! For who in the skies can be
compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings [*bene
elim*] is like the Lord, a God greatly feared in the council of the
holy ones, and awesome above all those who are around Him?

Psalm 89:5–7

Ascribe to Lord, O heavenly beings [*bene elim*] ,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

Psalm 29:1–2

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, filling the left half of the slide.

Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- New Testament passages seem to confirm this view

“For Christ died also for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah...”

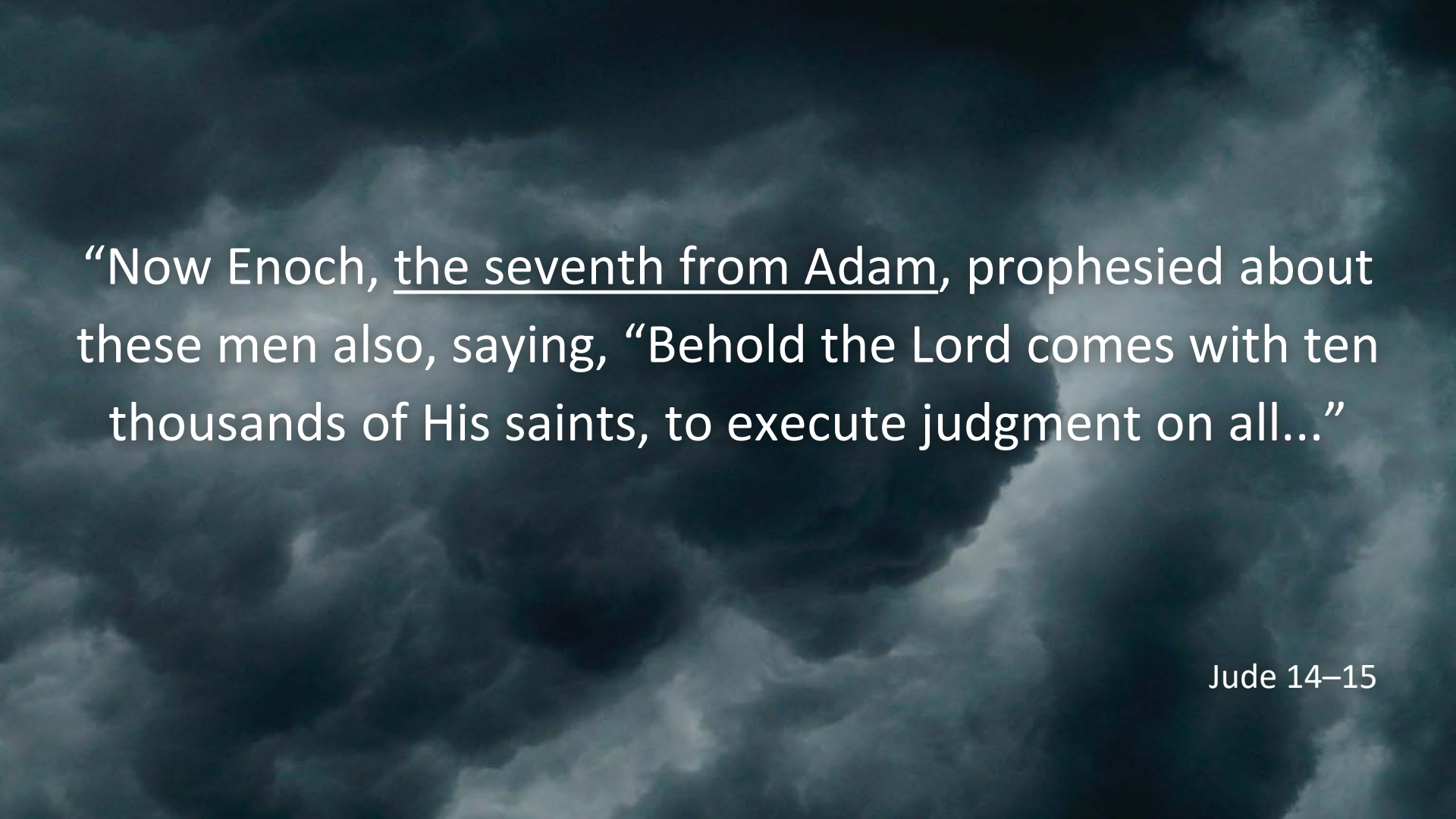
1 Peter 3:18–20

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them to hell (*tartarosas*) and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.

2 Peter 2:4–5

“Now I desire to remind you...that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”

Jude 5–6

The background of the slide is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The lighting is moody, with some lighter patches where the clouds are thinner, creating a sense of depth and intensity.

“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all...”

Jude 14–15

The background of the slide is a dark, moody image of storm clouds, with shades of grey, blue, and black, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- Earliest Jewish view
 - Septuagint (c. 3rd cent. BC)
 - 1 Enoch
 - Book of Jubilees
 - Genesis Apocryphon
 - Damascus Document
 - 2 Baruch
 - Judith
 - Testament of Reuben
 - Testament of Naphtali

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and atmospheric setting for the text.

Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- Earliest Christian view
 - (c. 150) Justin Martyr
1 Apology 5
 - (c. 200) Irenaeus of Lyons
Heresies 16.2
 - (2nd cent) Athenagoras
A Plea for the Christians, 24

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- Earliest Christian view
 - (c. 200) Clement of Alexandria
Miscellanies 5.1.10
 - (c. 200) Tertullian
Idolatry 9; *Veiling* 7
 - (c. 220) Pseudo-Clementine
Recognitions, 1.29

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and atmospheric setting for the text.

Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- Earliest Christian view
 - (c. 250) Commodianus
Instructions, #3
 - (c. 300) Lactantius
Divine Institutes, 2.15
 - (c. 325) Eusebius of Caesarea
Preparation, 5.5

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere. The clouds are in shades of dark blue, grey, and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

Fallen Angel View: Positive Arguments

- Consistent hermeneutic
- Explains severe judgements
 - Flood
 - Reduced Lifespan
- Explains origin of Nephilim

The background of the slide is a dramatic, high-contrast image of dark, stormy clouds. The clouds are dense and layered, with some lighter patches where light breaks through, creating a sense of depth and intensity. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks.

Addressing Objections to
the Fallen Angel View

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and atmospheric setting for the text.

Can Angels Take Human Form?

- Old Testament examples
 - Gabriel to Daniel (Daniel 9)
 - Two angels to Abraham and Lot (Genesis 18)
- New Testament examples
 - Angels at the tomb (Matthew 28)
 - Entertaining angels unaware (Hebrews 13:2)

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, filling the left half of the slide.

Angels Are Not Formless

- Angels are localized
 - Not omnipresent
 - A spiritual body
- They are frequently described in Scripture
 - Not invisible, bodiless beings

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The colors range from deep, dark blues and greys to lighter, misty greys where the clouds are more diffused. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

Are Angels Capable of
Procreating with Humans?

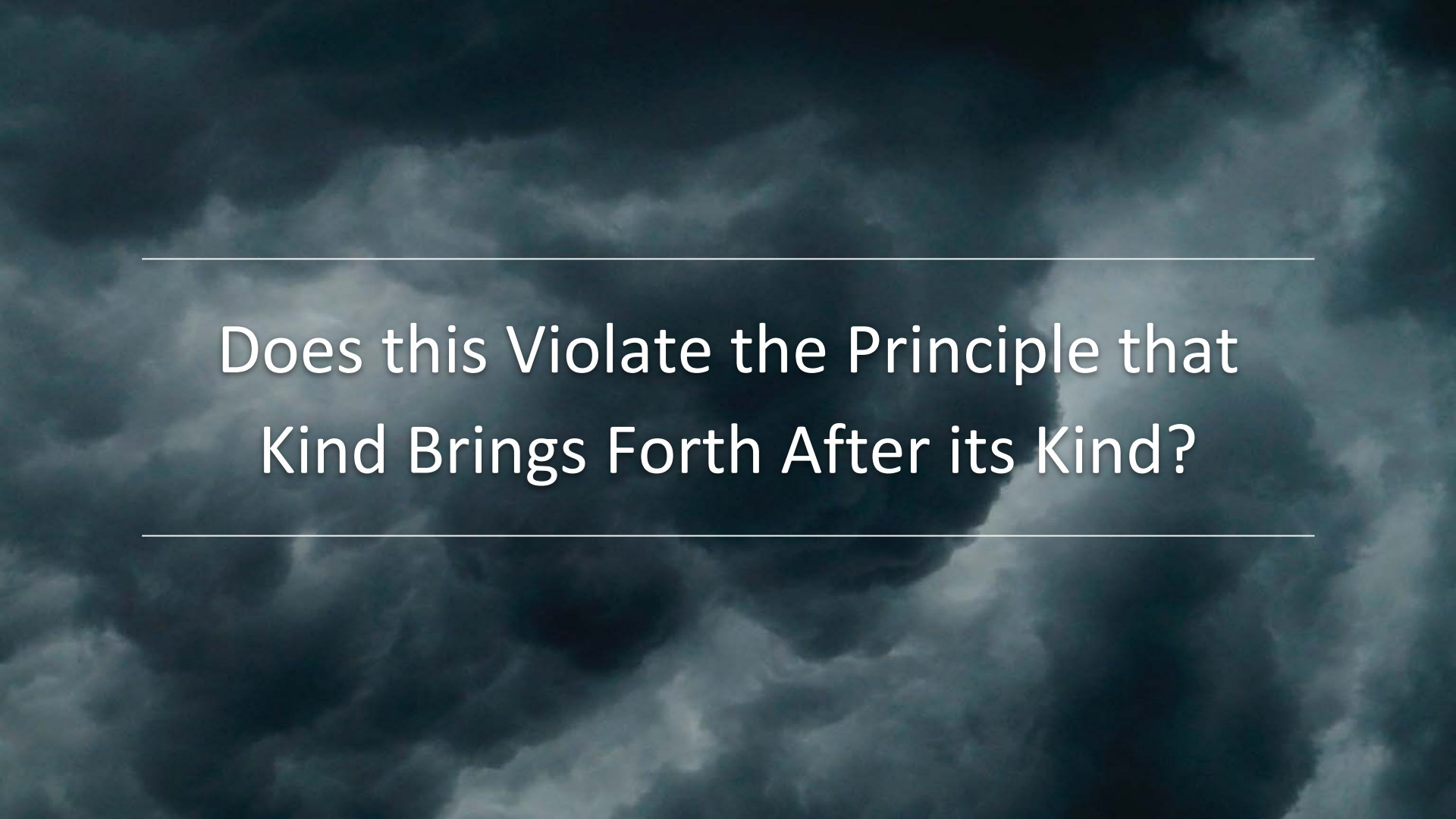
A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Can Angels Procreate?

- Angels perform human acts
 - Ate and drank with Abram
 - Grabbed Lot by the hand
- What about fallen angels?
 - Did Satan manifest during temptations of Jesus?
 - Are demonic “plagues” of Revelation 9 physical?
 - They might even create...

“Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents.”

Exodus 7:10–12

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The colors range from deep blues to dark greys, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. Two thin, white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the central text, framing it.

Does this Violate the Principle that
Kind Brings Forth After its Kind?


A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Violation of Kinds?

- Genesis doesn't say this about humans
- The issue is whether angels took on human form
 - The offspring were men
- Are angels made in the image of God?

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The colors range from deep, dark blues and greys to lighter, misty greys where light breaks through. The overall mood is somber and intense.

Would God really allow such
evil and disgusting actions?

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely from a movie or TV show, with a bright light source breaking through the clouds in the center.

God Would Never Allow It?

- The Yuck Factor
 - False idea of what it was like
 - Hypocritical for those who aren't disgusted by Thor and Jane, etc.
- God allows all sorts of evil
 - Rape, murder, incest, etc.

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The colors range from deep, dark blues and greys to lighter, misty greys where light breaks through the clouds. Two thin, white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the central text, framing it.

Would the Bible Really
Call this Marriage?

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

Marriage?

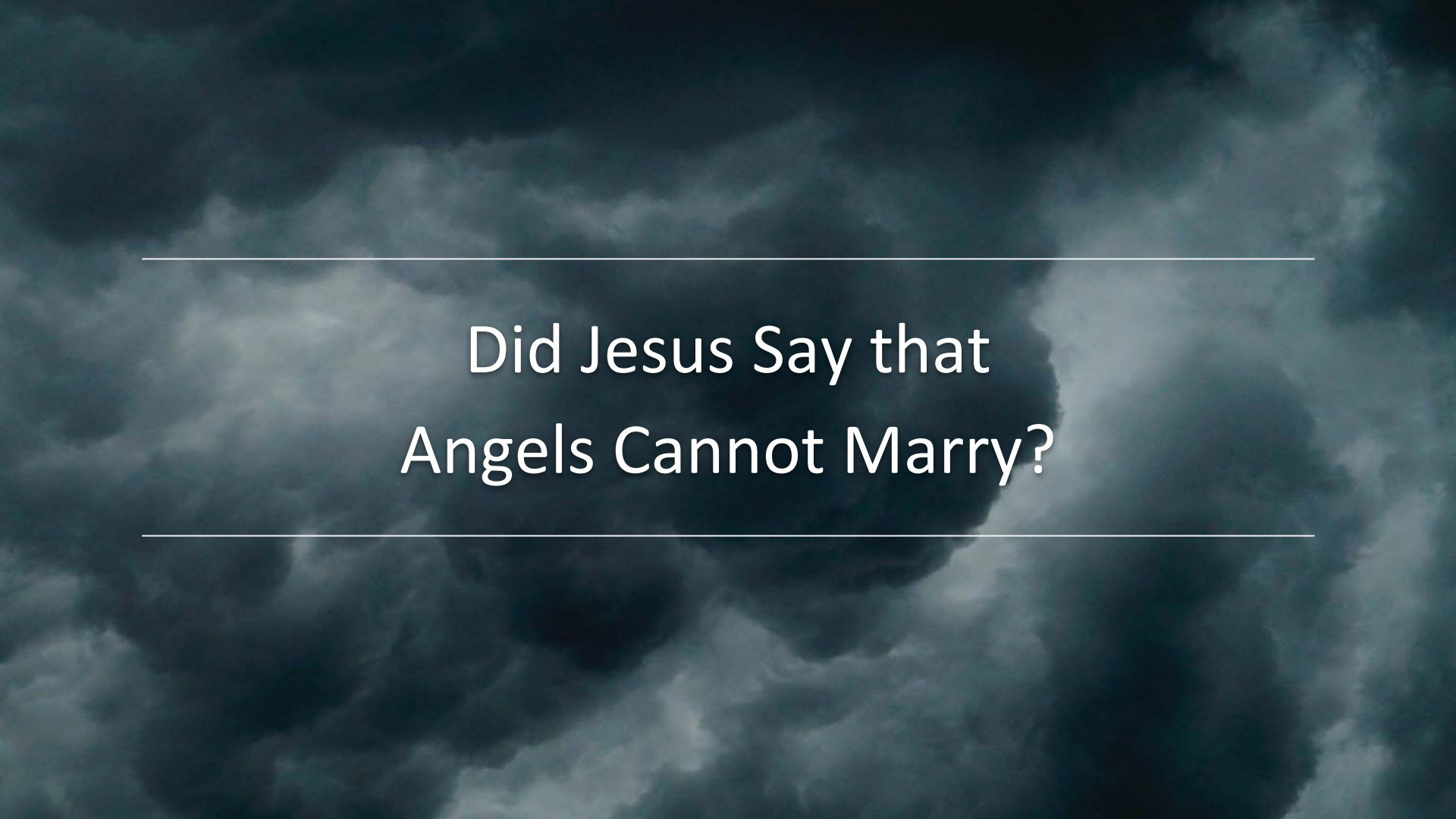
- Not Ideal
 - Polygamy is called “marriage”
 - Non-ideal can still be marriage
- True worship and false worship
 - It is still called worship

Why Would the Bible Call Ungodly
Beings Sons of God?

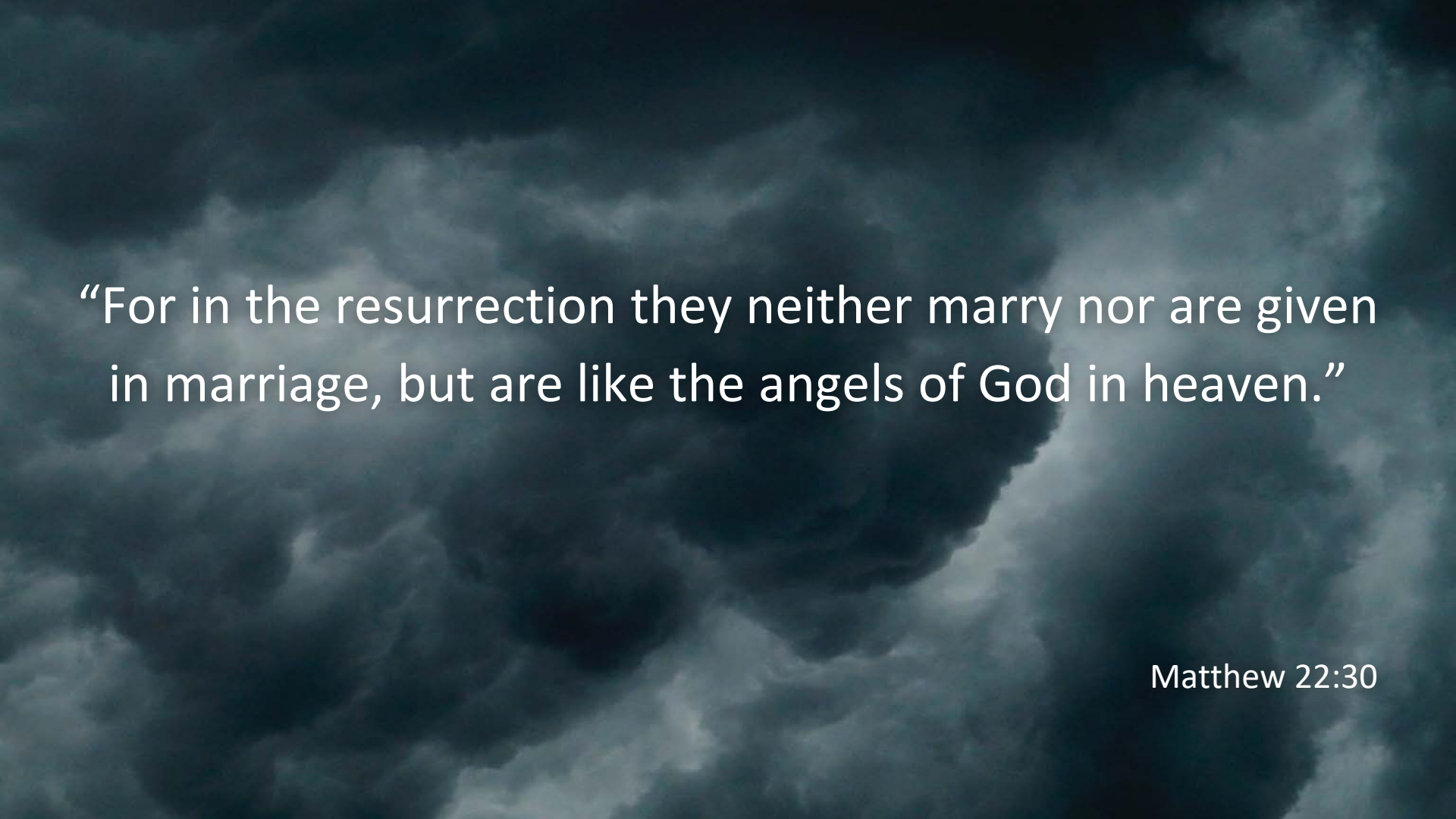
A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere. The clouds are in shades of dark grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

Ungodly Sons of God?

- Christians are sons of God
 - Yet we still sin
- “Sons of” refers to a class
 - Sons of God may not refer to all angelic beings but just a special class of them

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The colors range from deep, dark blues and greys to lighter, misty greys where light breaks through the clouds. The overall mood is somber and intense.

Did Jesus Say that
Angels Cannot Marry?



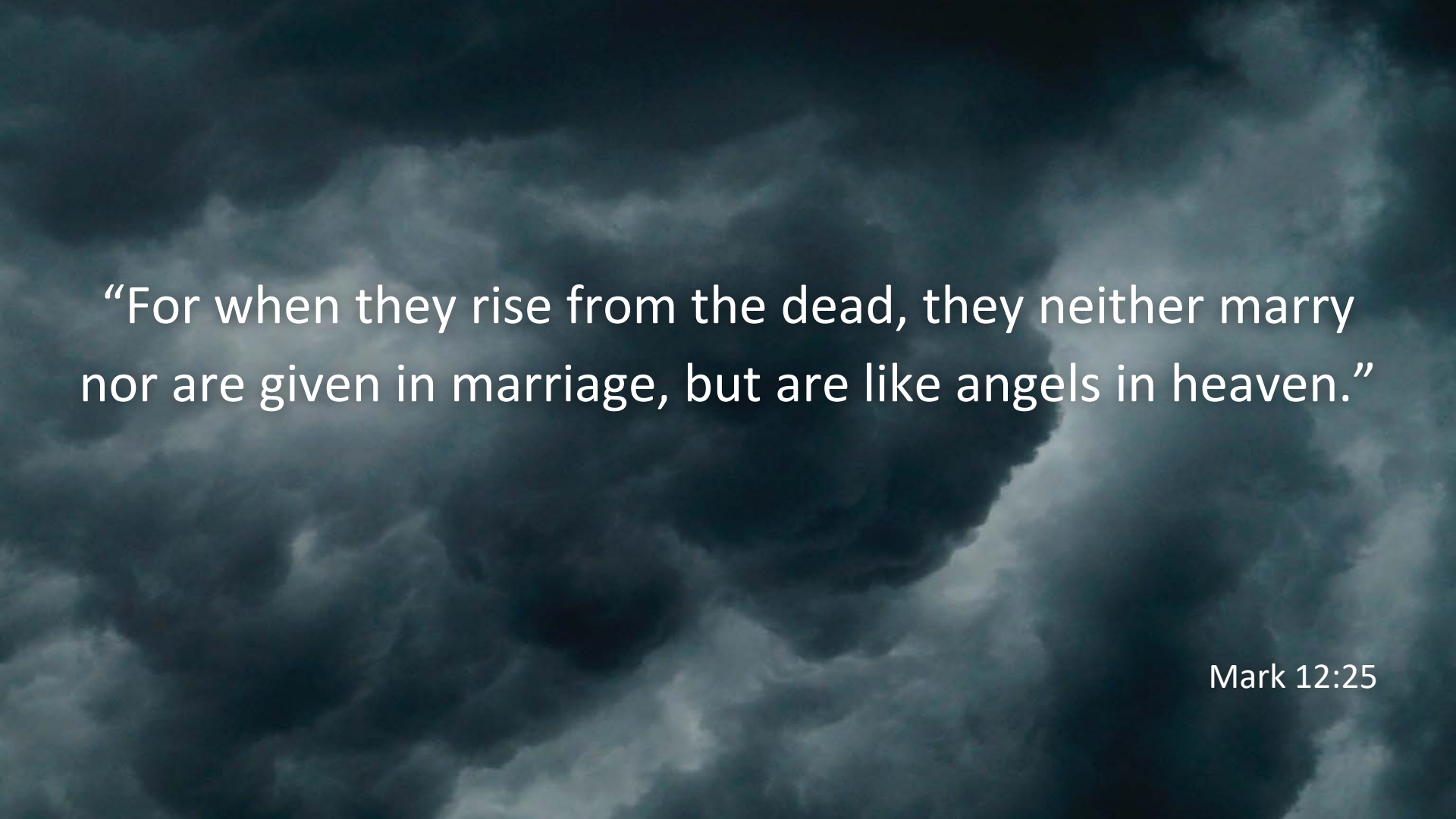
“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels of God in heaven.”

Matthew 22:30

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Can Angels Marry?

- Jesus spoke about the angels *in heaven*
 - He did not address those that left heaven
- He said godly angels “do not” marry
 - He did not say whether they were capable

A background of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, creating a dramatic and somber atmosphere. The clouds are dense and layered, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

“For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”

Mark 12:25

A background image of dark, swirling, stormy clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Can Angels Marry?

- In Luke's version Jesus may have endorsed the Fallen Angel view
 - He connected angels with sons of God

Jesus answered and said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.”

Luke 20:34–36

Was Fallen Angel View Borrowed
from Pagan Mythology?

Genesis 1–11 in Pagan Cultures?

- Creation accounts
- Fall accounts
- Flood accounts
- Babel accounts
- Gods and demigods

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and moody atmosphere.

Borrowing from Pagans?

- Allegorical hermeneutic arose among Greek philosophers to “save” the stories of their gods
 - The gods and their actions were reinterpreted to stand for something else

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a storm or hurricane, with a mix of dark grey and black tones, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Borrowing from Pagans?

- The Sethite and Royalty views were developed after the rise of the allegorical hermeneutic

Why Would the Fallen Angels Do This?

The background of the left side of the slide is a dark, moody image of stormy clouds in shades of grey and black.

Why Would Angels Do This?

- They saw women were beautiful and longed for them
- Perhaps an attempt to taint the Messianic bloodline
- Perhaps an attempt to attain immortality

120 Years: Three Views

- Countdown

- A popular idea that God gave man a 120-year period to repent before He sent the Flood.

- Jubilees

- A Jubilee is a 50-year period. This view states that man will be on earth for 120 Jubilees (6,000 years).

- Lifespan

- God pronounced that man's lifespan would be reduced from 900+ years to a maximum of 120 years.

A background image of dark, heavy, and turbulent clouds, suggesting a storm or a dramatic atmosphere. The clouds are in shades of dark grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

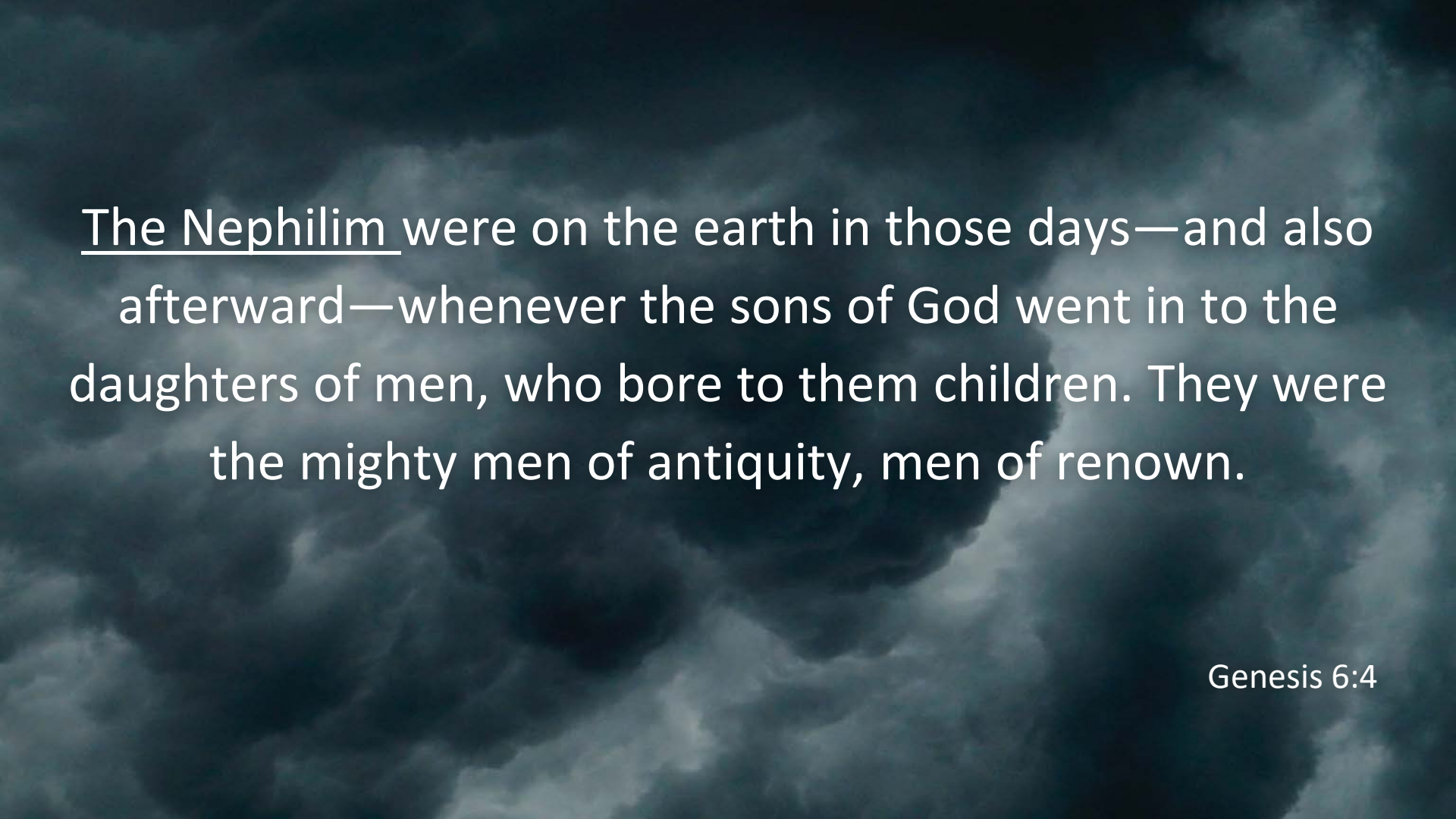
Lifespan View

- Curbing man's potential for wickedness
- Only one person (Jehoiada) lives past 120 after Moses

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

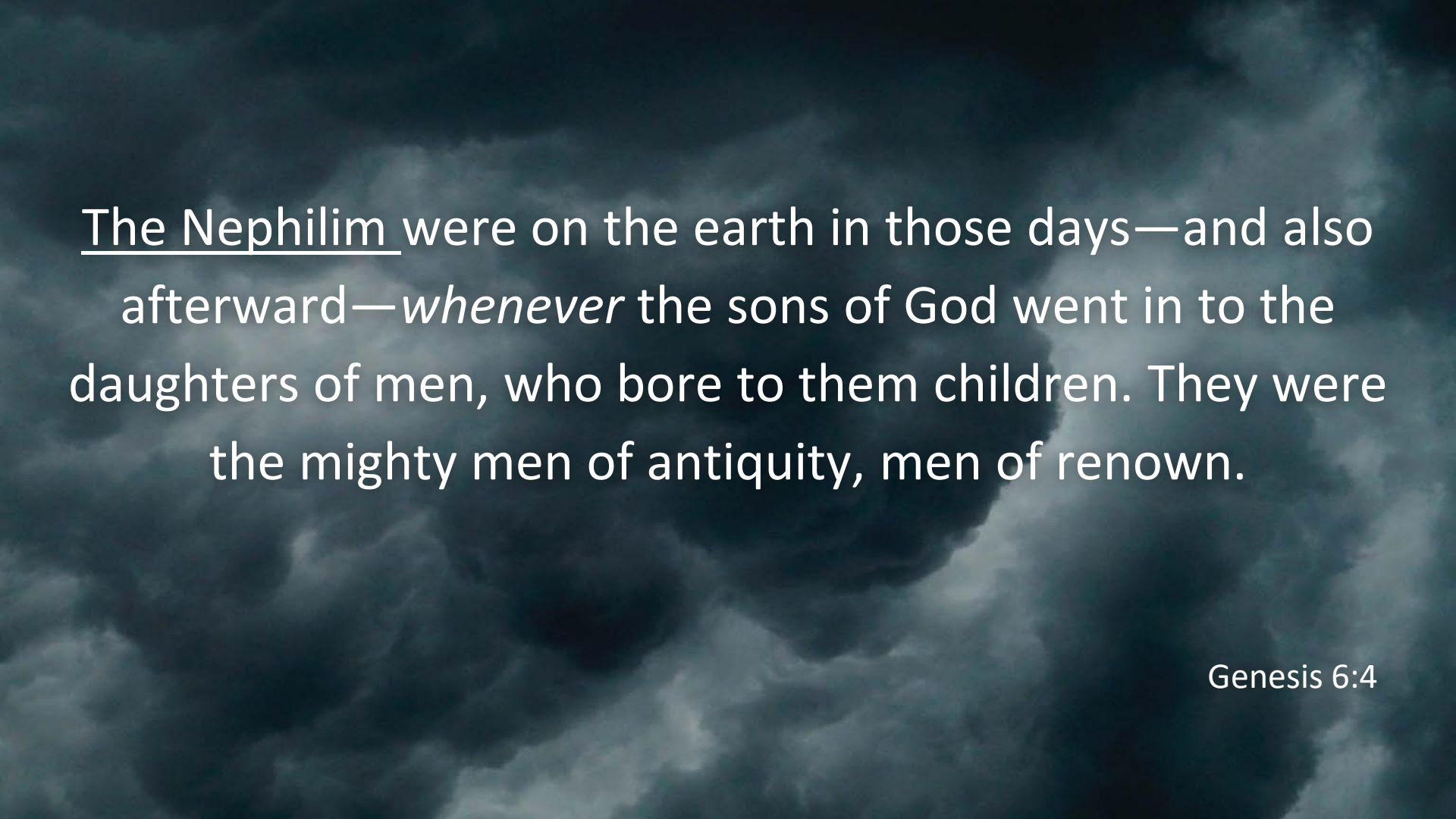
Lifespan View

- The Bible stops recording age at death shortly after Moses
- Answers why we don't live 900+ years and why we don't surpass 120 today.

The background of the slide is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The lighting is moody, with some highlights on the cloud edges, creating a sense of depth and intensity. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks.

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—whenever the sons of God went in to the daughters of men, who bore to them children. They were the mighty men of antiquity, men of renown.

Genesis 6:4

The background of the slide is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling clouds in shades of grey and black, suggesting a storm or a turbulent atmosphere.

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—*whenever* the sons of God went in to the daughters of men, who bore to them children. They were the mighty men of antiquity, men of renown.

Genesis 6:4

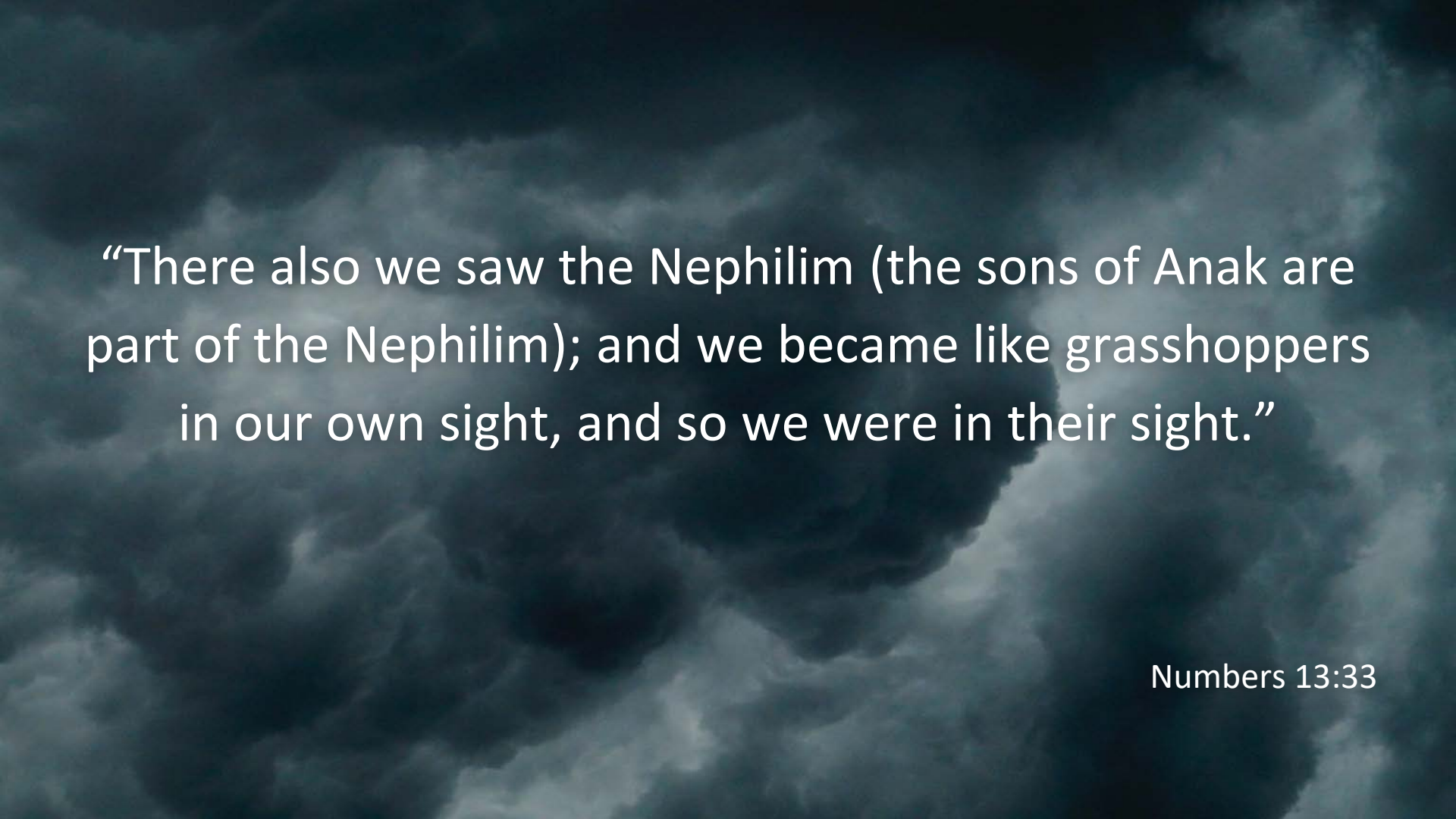
A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, likely a thunderstorm, with some lighter patches where the clouds are thinner or catching light.

Who Were the Nephilim?

- The offspring of the sons of God and the daughters of men
- They were *gibborim* (mighty ones), but not all *gibborim* were Nephilim.

What Does Nephilim Mean?

- Does not mean “fallen ones”
 - Hebrew verb *naphal* would become *nophelim* or *nephulim* if used as a noun (participle)
- Aramaic noun *naphila* becomes *nephilin*
 - Hebrew form would be *nephilim*
 - Plural noun means *giants*

A dramatic, dark, and stormy sky with heavy, swirling clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a somber and intense atmosphere.

“There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Numbers 13:33

Did the Spies Lie about Giants?

- Nephilim described as giants in Numbers 13:33
 - Anakim are of the Nephilim
 - Spies compared themselves to grasshoppers

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Did the Spies Lie about Giants?

- Cowards but they didn't lie about the giants
 - "True report" of bad tidings; compare with Joseph's report in Genesis 37:2
 - The spies did not lie about giants in the land; the narrator, Moses, tells us that the sons of Anak were in Hebron

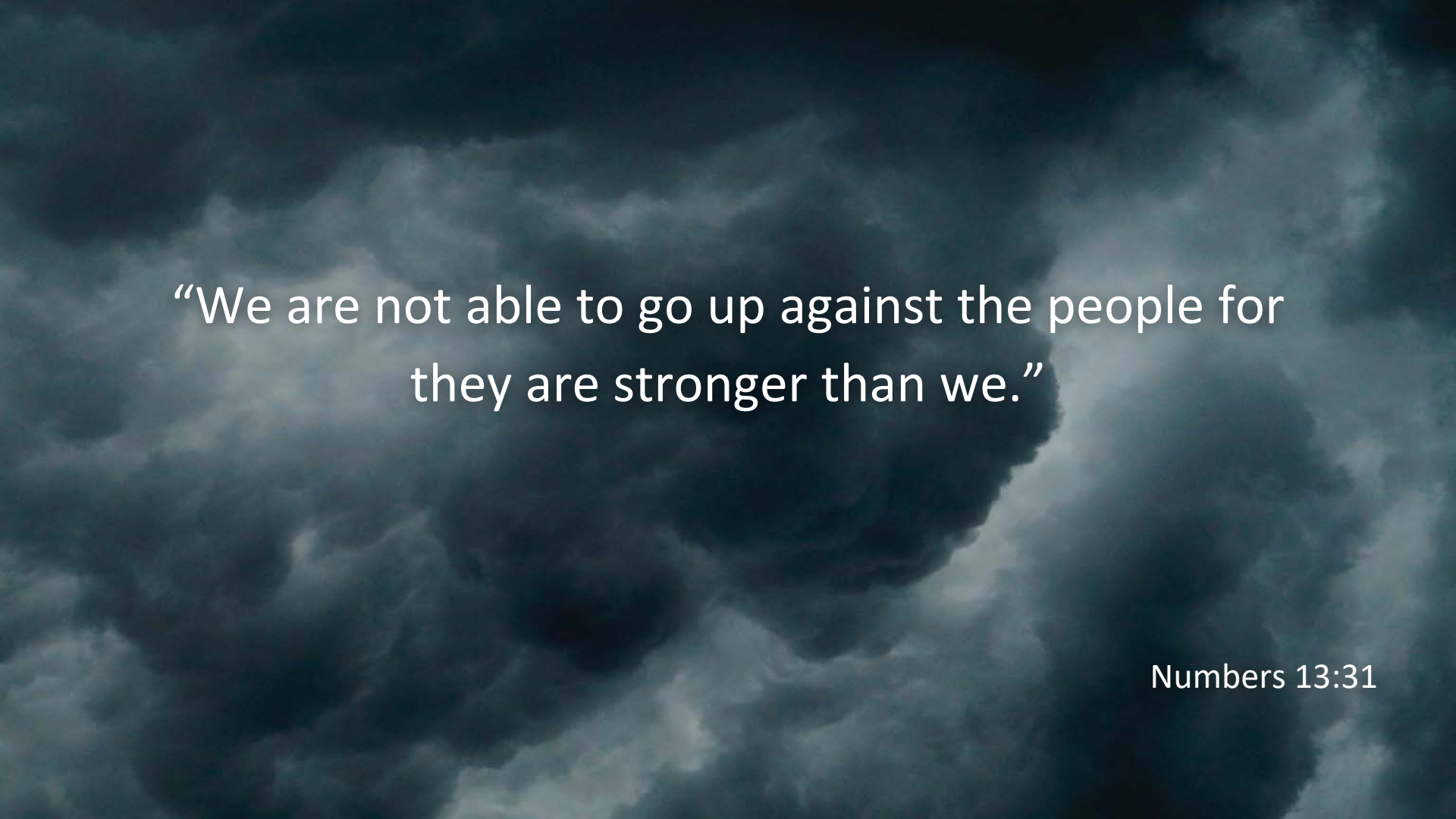
“So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath. And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, were there.”

Numbers 13:21–22

Why Were the Israelites Afraid?

Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.”

Numbers 13:27–28

The background of the image is a dramatic, low-angle shot of a dark, stormy sky. Large, billowing clouds in shades of deep blue, grey, and black dominate the frame, creating a sense of tension and power. The lighting is moody, with some highlights catching the edges of the clouds, suggesting a bright light source just out of view, possibly the sun or moon breaking through the storm.

“We are not able to go up against the people for
they are stronger than we.”

Numbers 13:31

And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.”

Numbers 13:32

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and ominous atmosphere.

Man-eating Giants?

- “Devours its inhabitants...”
- Common idea in literature
 - Jack and the Beanstalk (giants live between heaven and earth)
- Common in ancient Jewish literature
 - Book of Enoch, Jubilees, etc.

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and atmospheric setting for the text.

Mythological Connection?

- Joshua drove them toward the Mediterranean
- Roughly 200 years later, the battle of Troy took place
 - Odysseus' first stop was the island of the Laestrygonians
 - Second stop was the island of the Cyclops
 - Both featured man-eating giants

What Happened to the Nephilim?

And at that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim from the mountains: from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.

Joshua 11:21–22, NKJV

A background image of dark, heavy, grey and black storm clouds, filling the left half of the slide.

What Happened to Them?

- Joshua eliminated them from the Promised Land except in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds, creating a dramatic and ominous atmosphere.

What Happened to Them?

- David and his mighty men apparently finished them off
- The giants were under the *kherem* (devoted to destruction)

A background of dark, dramatic, and stormy clouds in shades of grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through.

Got Questions?

Where Were the Nephilim Based?

- And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak were there. (Numbers 13:22)
- What else was Hebron called?
 - Kirjath (Kiriath) Arba – “city of Arba”
 - Mamre

Hebron – Village of the Patriarchs

- “Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron...” (Genesis 13:18)

Hebron – Village of the Patriarchs

- So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron)...Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. (Genesis 23:2, 19)

Hebron – Village of the Patriarchs

- Then Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had dwelt. (Genesis 35:27)

Hebron – Village of the Patriarchs

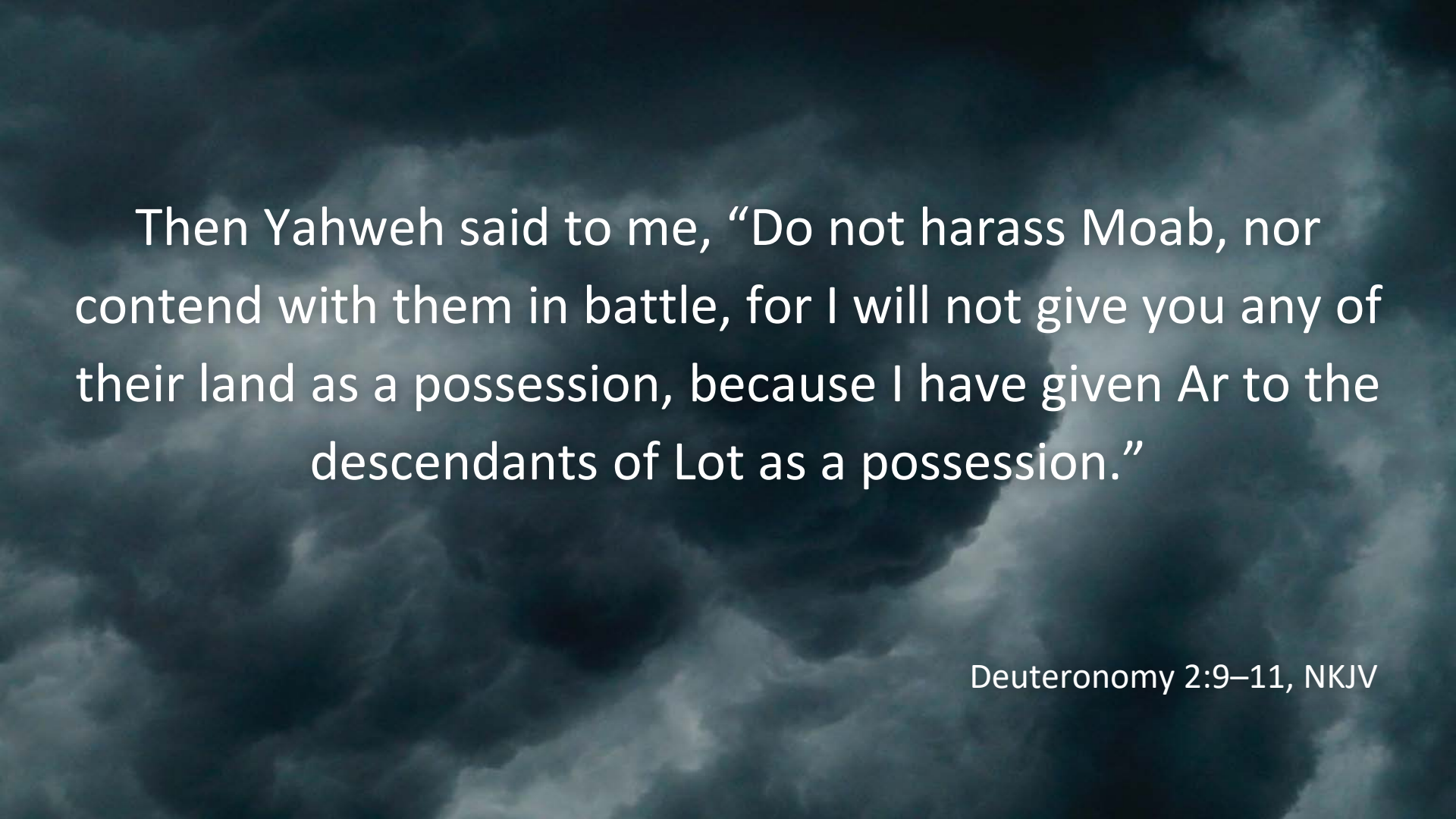
- Then he said to him, “Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me.” So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem. (Genesis 37:14)

Hebron – Village of the Patriarchs

- So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them. For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre... (Genesis 50:13)

In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim, and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which is by the wilderness.

Genesis 14:5–6, NKJV

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, swirling storm clouds. The lighting is moody, with some highlights on the cloud edges, creating a sense of depth and intensity. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks.

Then Yahweh said to me, “Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.”

Deuteronomy 2:9–11, NKJV

(The Emim had dwelt there in times past, a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim. They were also regarded as giants, like the Anakim, but the Moabites call them Emim...)

Deuteronomy 2:9–11, NKJV

And when you come near the people of Ammon, do not harass them or meddle with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as a possession.

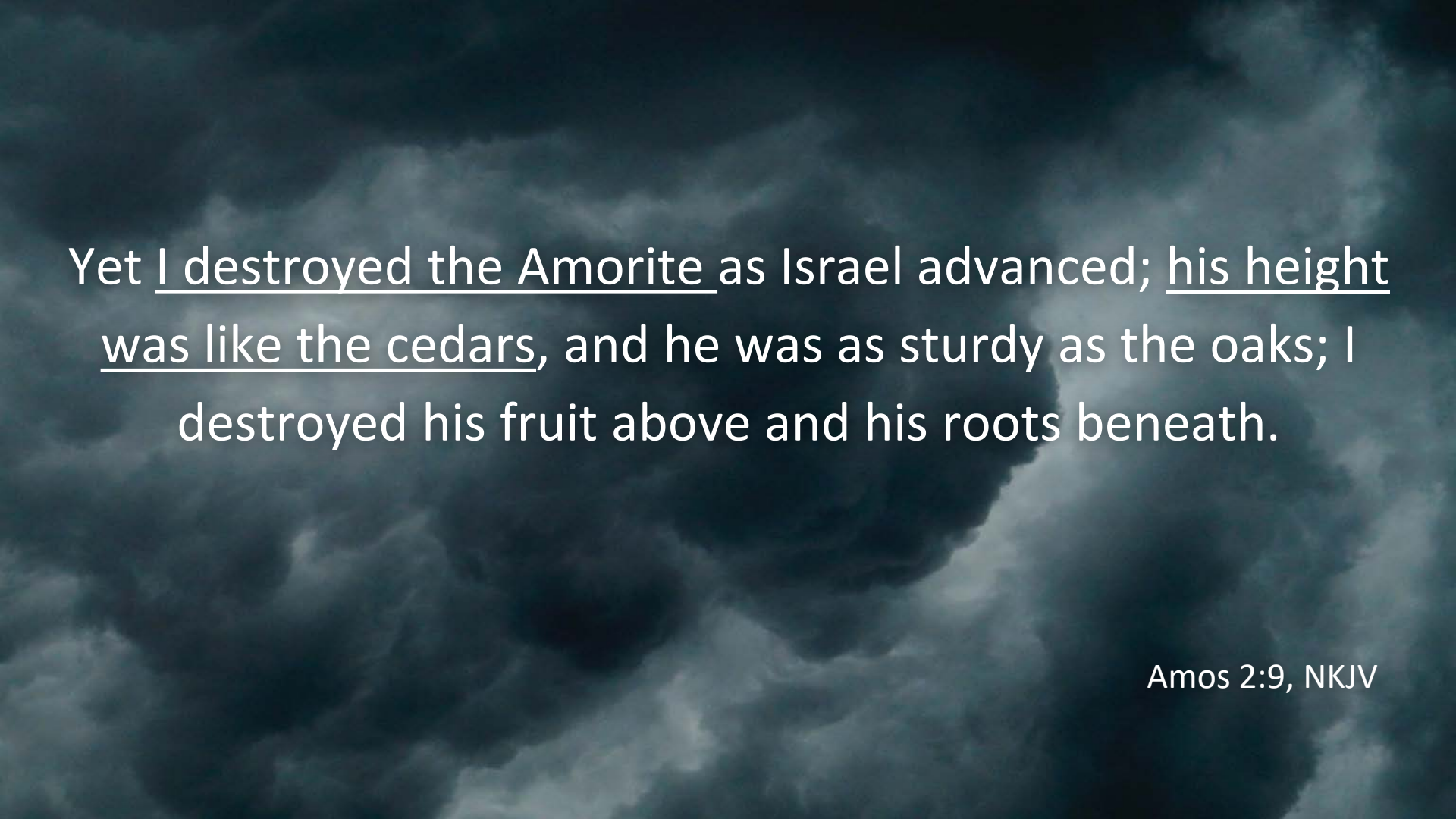
Deuteronomy 2:19–21, NKJV

(That was also regarded as a land of giants; giants formerly dwelt there. But the Ammonites call them Zamzummim, a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim. But the LORD destroyed them before them, and they dispossessed them and dwelt in their place...)

Deuteronomy 2:19–21, NKJV

Giant Clans

- Anakim
- Nephilim
- Rephaim
- Emim
- Zuzim (Zamzummim)
- Amorites



Yet I destroyed the Amorite as Israel advanced; his height
was like the cedars, and he was as sturdy as the oaks; I
destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath.

Amos 2:9, NKJV

A background of dark, dramatic, and stormy clouds in shades of grey and black, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the central text.

Did They Suffer from Gigantism?

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and somewhat ominous atmosphere.

Gigantism?

- Entire clans of giants in Scripture
- Modern “giants” are usually the result of a tumor on the pituitary gland
 - Do not have “giant” children
 - Suffer from numerous health problems and are not like warriors

Robert Wadlow - 8'11"



How Tall Was Goliath?

- Goliath
 - 6'9" or 9'9"?
 - Ancient textual evidence slightly favors shorter Goliath
 - Internal evidence seems to suggest the larger Goliath
 - Coat of mail – 125 pounds
 - Spearhead – 15 pounds

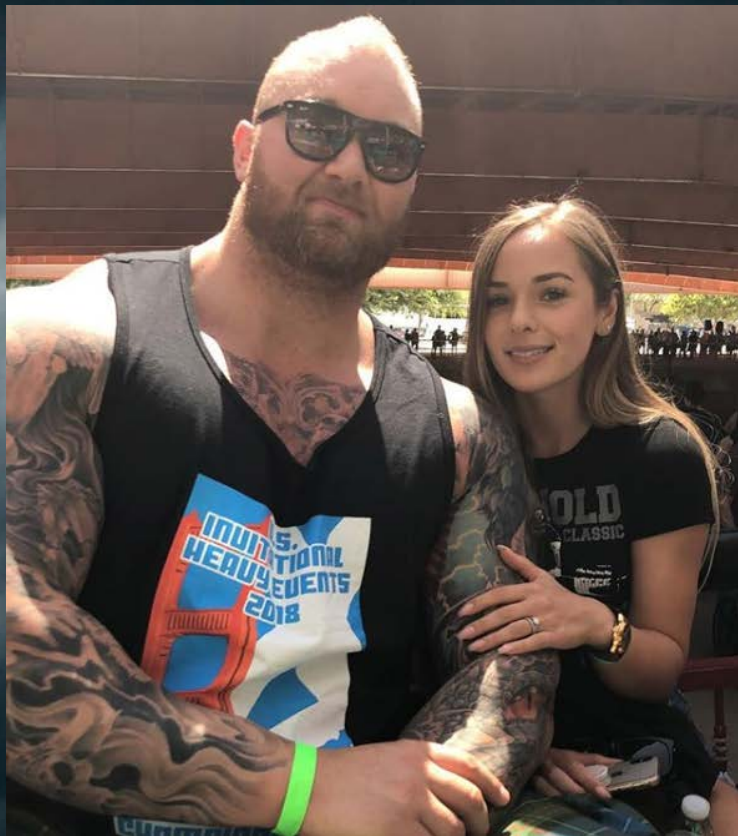
Tim with Goliath Spear



Brian Shaw (left)
Hafthor Bjornsson (right)



Hafthor Bjornsson
with wife Kelsey
6'9" and 5'2"



A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, filling the left half of the slide.

How Tall Was Goliath?

- Goliath
 - Was he measured by David's cubit? Was David short?

How Tall Were the Israelites?

- Numerous scholars cite Victor Matthews, *Manners and Customs in the Bible*, rev. ed.,
 - Page 3, “...short in stature (averaging about 5 feet tall for males)”
 - No documentation other than generic reference to burials
 - Describing people in Patriarchal period—not David’s time

How Tall Were the Israelites?

- *Bible and Spade* (1995),
“Tomb And Teeth: A
Dentist’s View Of Ancient
Israelites”
 - Khirbet Nisya cave (period of Judges)
 - 792 teeth plus jaw fragments
 - Average height about 5’6”
 - “Estimates from other sites (including nearby Jerusalem 400 years later) suggest males ranged from 5’4” to 5’8” in height.”

A background image of dark, swirling storm clouds in shades of grey and black, creating a dramatic and intense atmosphere.

How Big Was David?

- He wielded Goliath's sword
- Older brother was big
- Saul offered his armor to David
- Called a mighty man of war before Goliath
- Had already killed a bear and lion barehanded

How Tall Was Goliath?

- Goliath
 - Egyptian records speak of the Anakim and describe them as being up to 8'7"
 - Shasu spies are depicted as being very tall

Shasu spies
(kneeling in center)



For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants. Indeed his bedstead was an iron bedstead.
(Is it not in Rabbah of the people of Ammon?)
Nine cubits is its length and four cubits its width,
according to the standard cubit [i.e. “by the cubit of a man”].

Deuteronomy 3:11, NKJV

How Big Was Og?

- Og
 - Bed – 6' x 13'6"
 - If Og were as tall as his bed is long, and built to my proportions (6'9" and 250 pounds), then he would have weighed 2000 pounds

A dramatic, low-angle shot of a dark, stormy sky filled with heavy, dark grey and black clouds. The lighting is moody, with some lighter patches where light breaks through the clouds. Two thin, white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the central text.

Got Questions?