As He Loves: Doctrine & Devotion in the Book of Ephesians

Week 3

Paul’s Prayer

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp — Reston Bible Church — Sunday, November 15, 2026

In Him We Have…

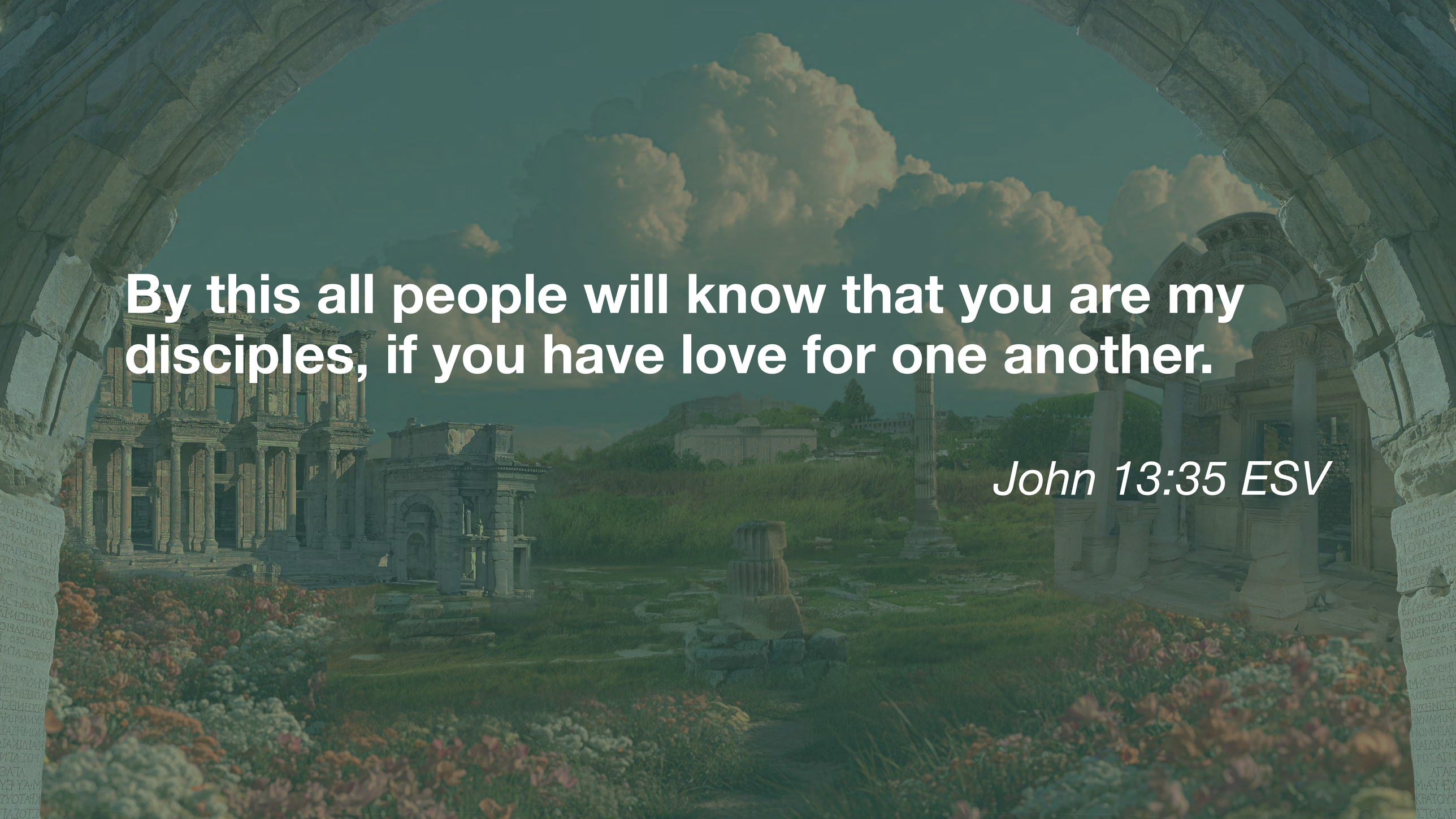
- Redemption
- Forgiveness of sins
- An abundance of grace
- A larger plan of salvation
- An undefiled inheritance
- God’s very Spirit who guarantees that inheritance

1. Paul's Thanksgiving For The Ephesians

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward ALL the saints, **I do not cease to give thanks** for you…

Ephesians 1:15-16a ESV

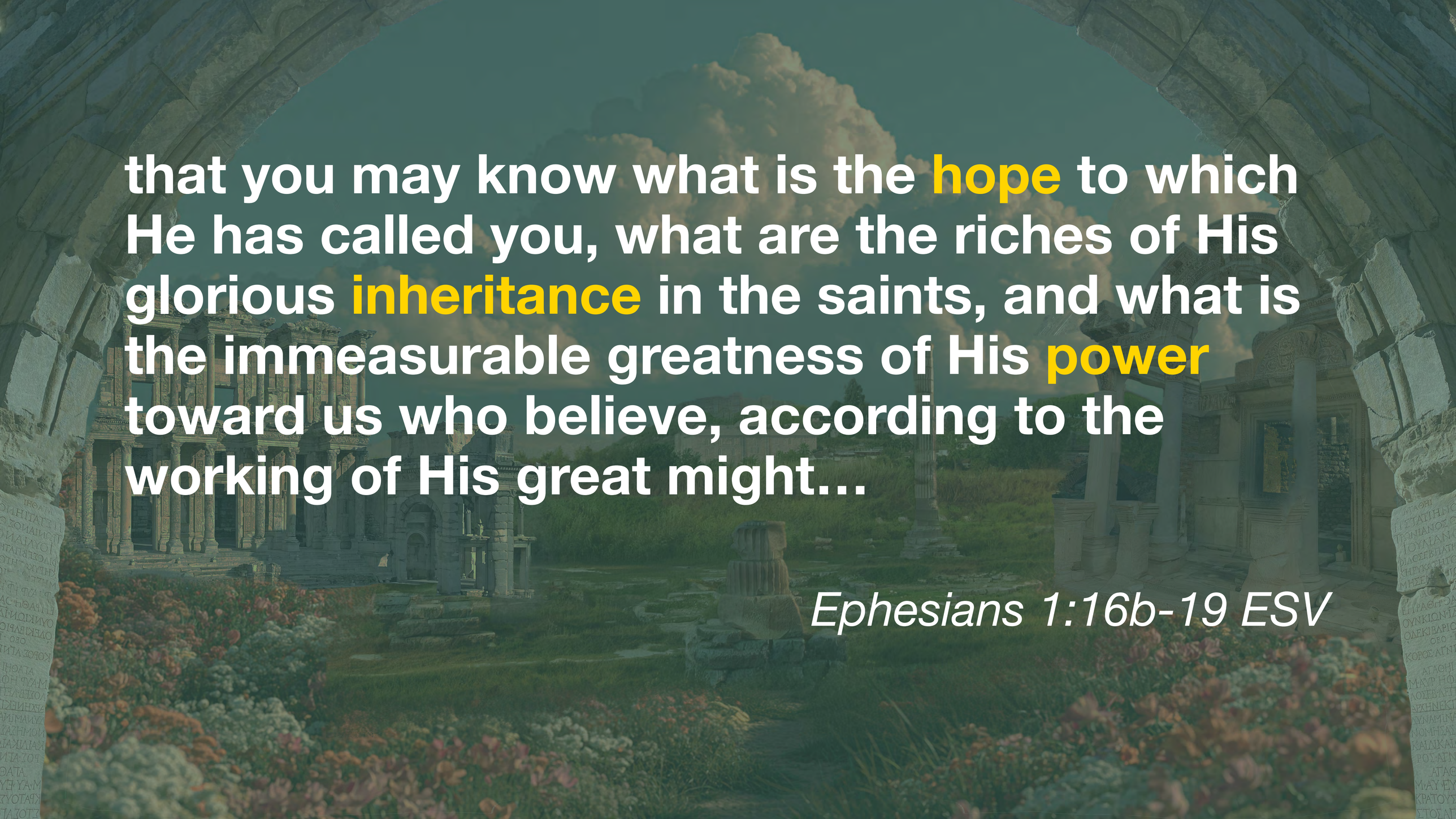

For this reason


By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.
John 13:35 ESV

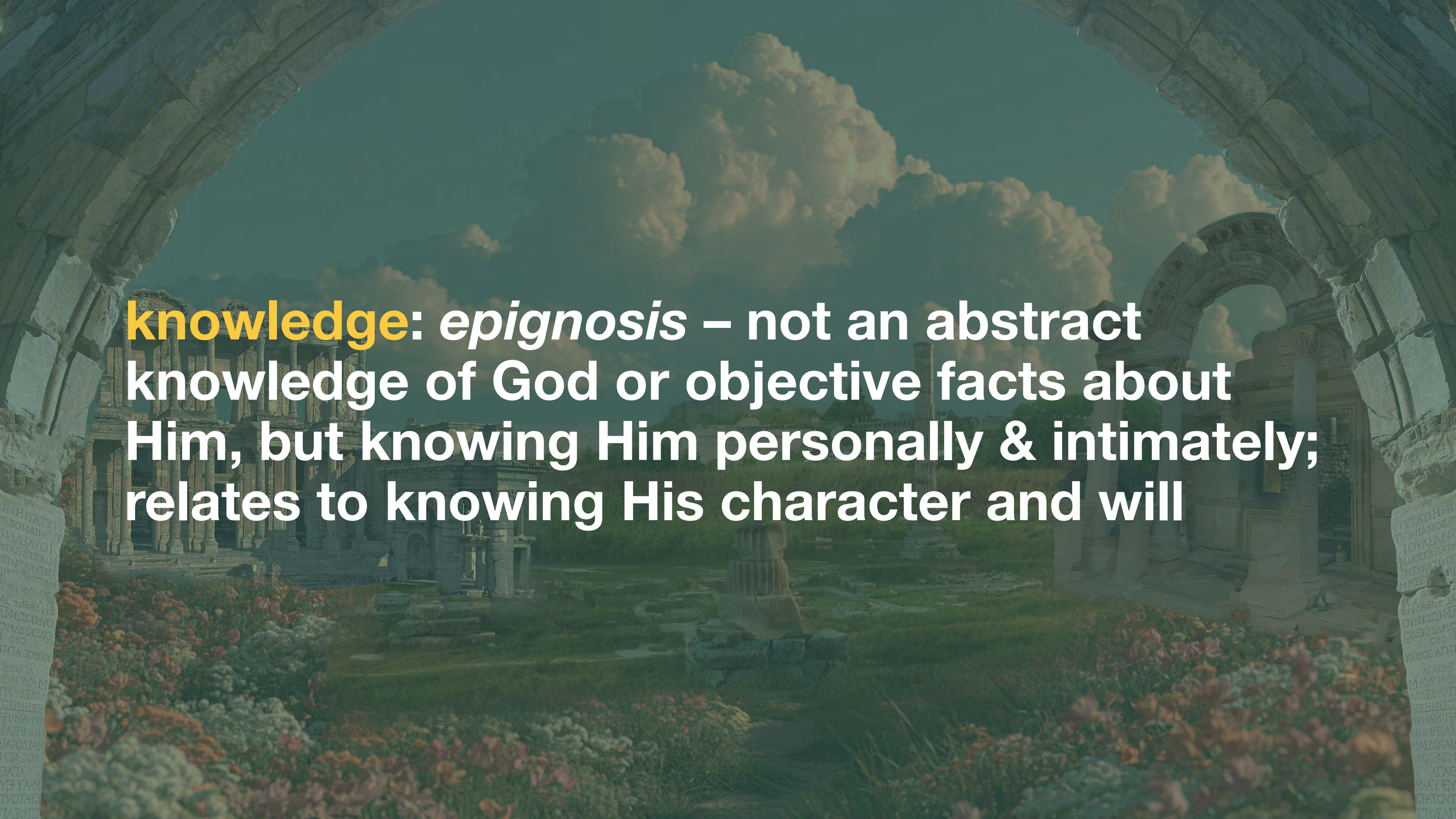

I do not cease giving thanks for you...

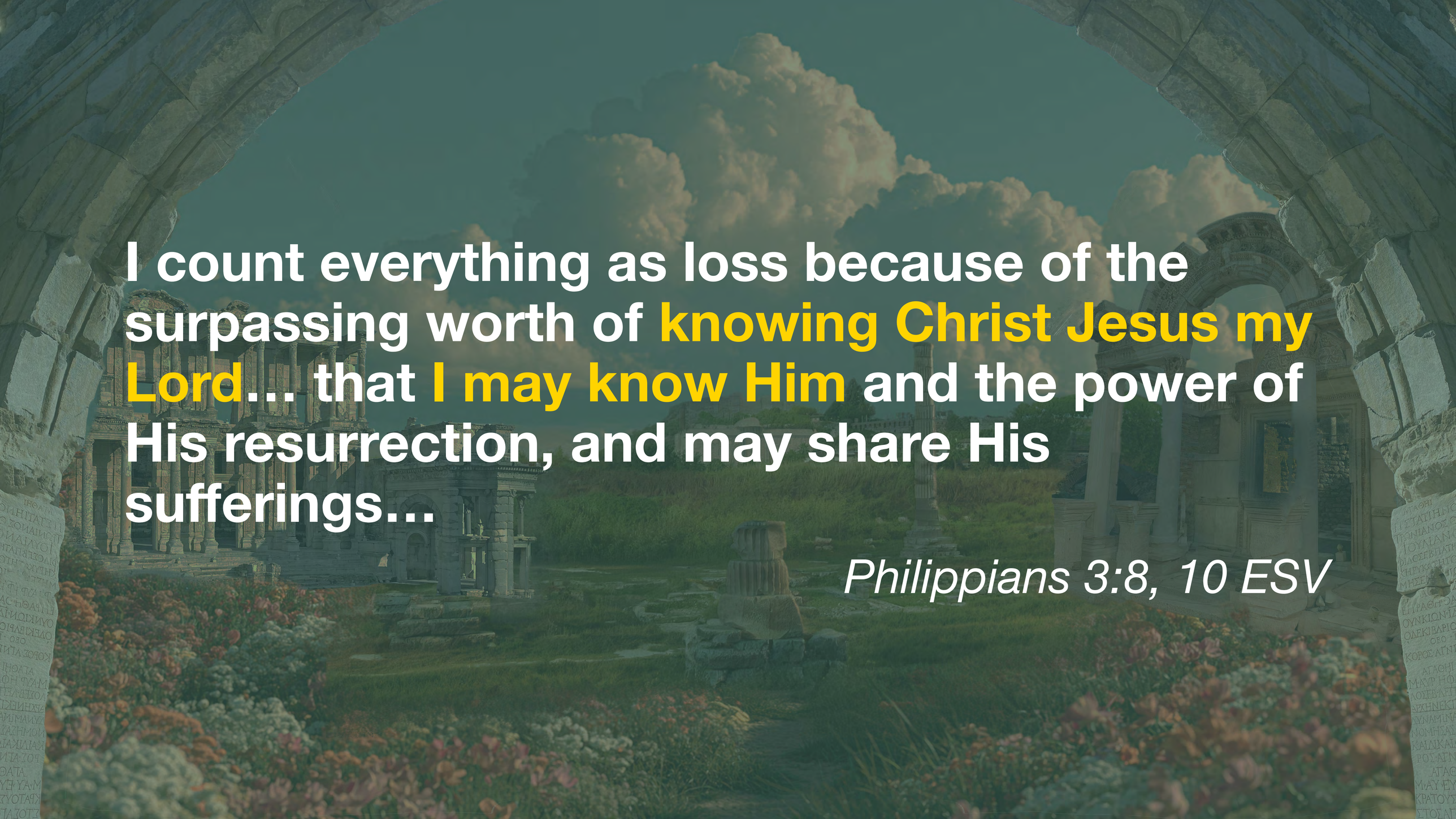
2. Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

…remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the **Spirit of wisdom and of revelation** in the **knowledge of Him**, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened,


that you may know what is the hope to which
He has called you, what are the riches of His
glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is
the immeasurable greatness of His power
toward us who believe, according to the
working of His great might…
Ephesians 1:16b-19 ESV


The Knowledge Of Him

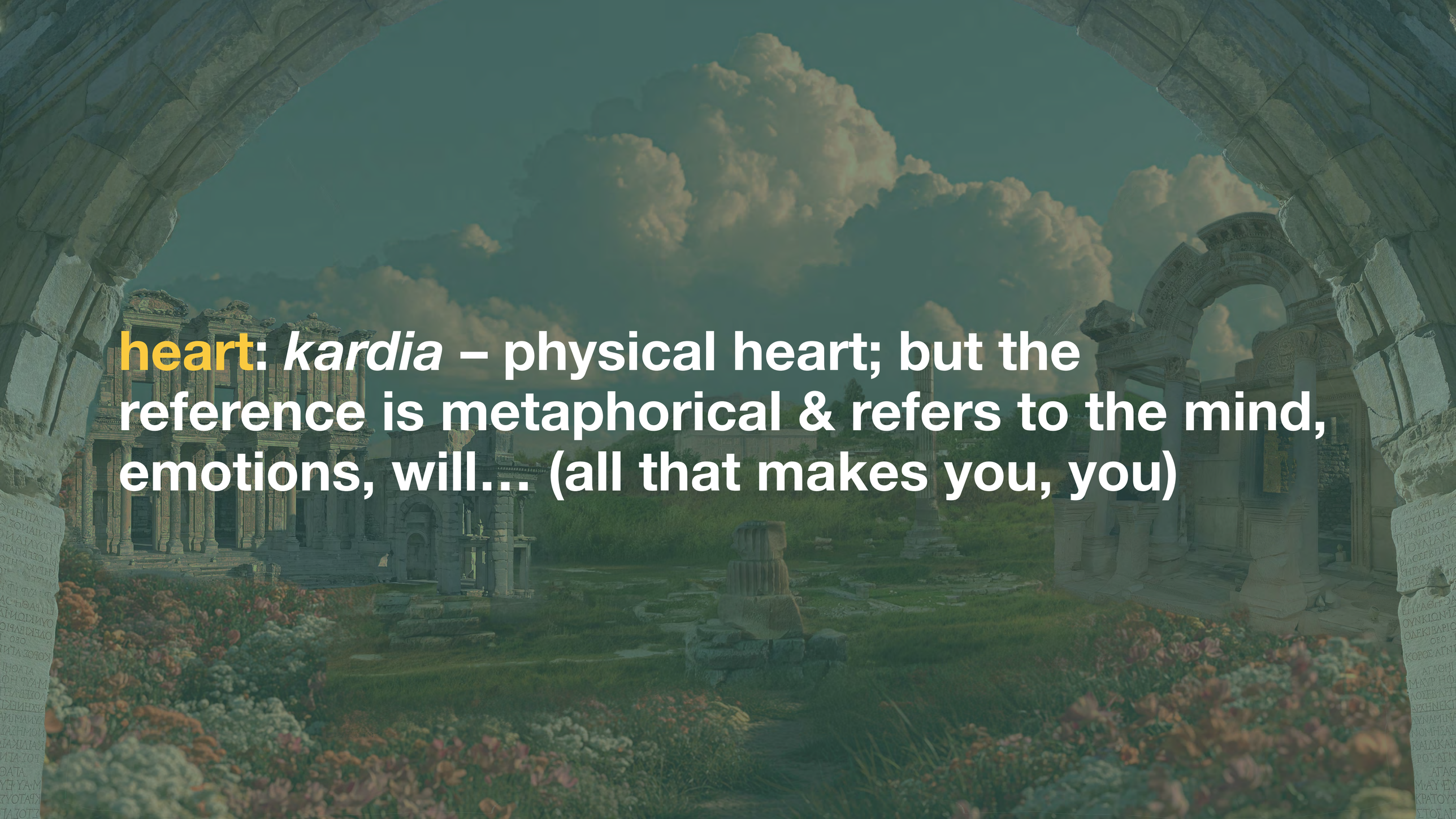

knowledge: *epignosis* – not an abstract knowledge of God or objective facts about Him, but knowing Him personally & intimately; relates to knowing His character and will



I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord… that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings…

Philippians 3:8, 10 ESV


Eyes of your hearts enlightened…
Ephesians 1:18 ESV


heart: *kardia* – physical heart; but the reference is metaphorical & refers to the mind, emotions, will… (all that makes you, you)

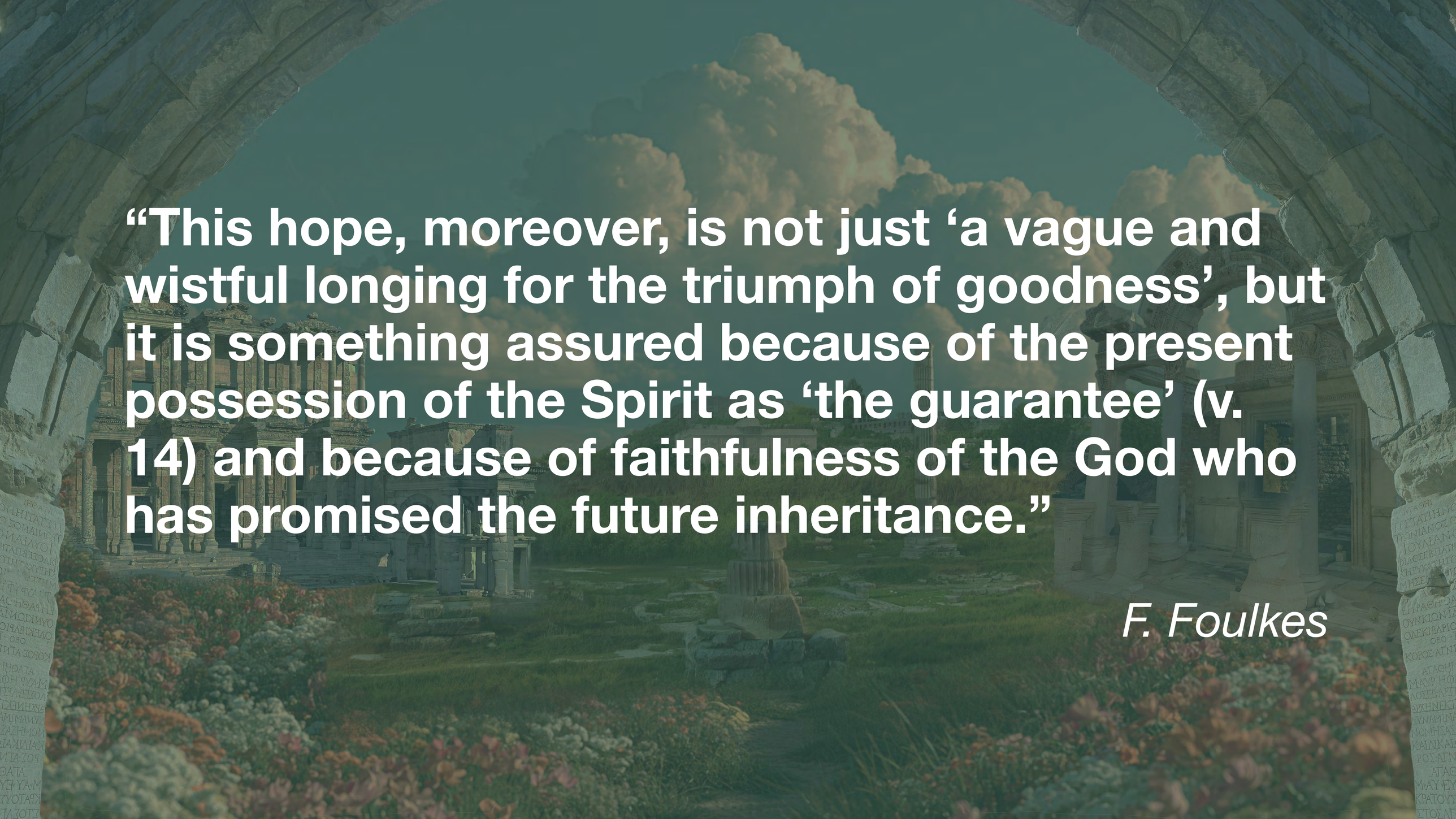


For this people's heart has grown dull…

Matthew 13:15 ESV

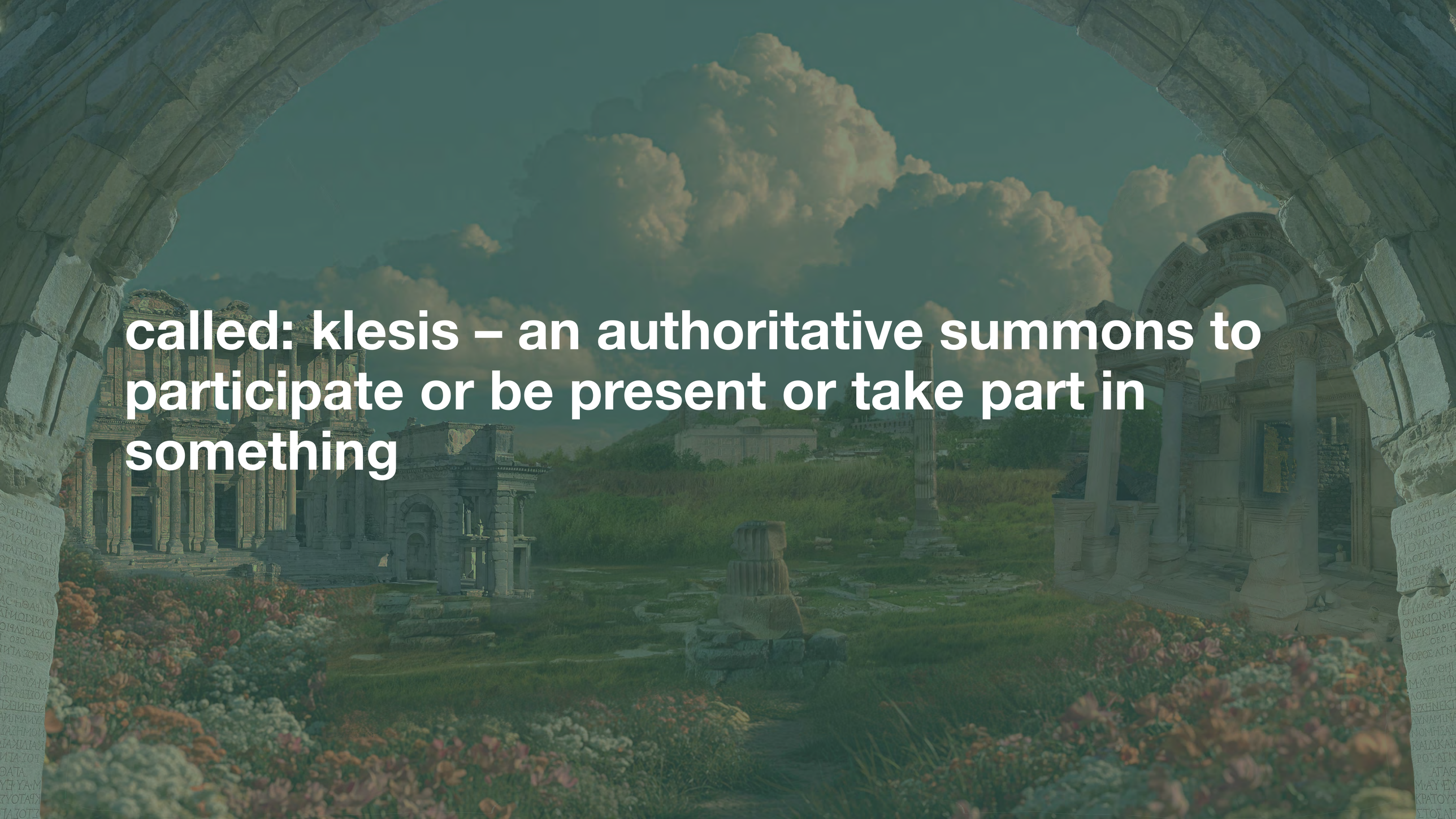
The Hope To Which He Has Called You

hope: elpis – someone or something upon which expectations are centered

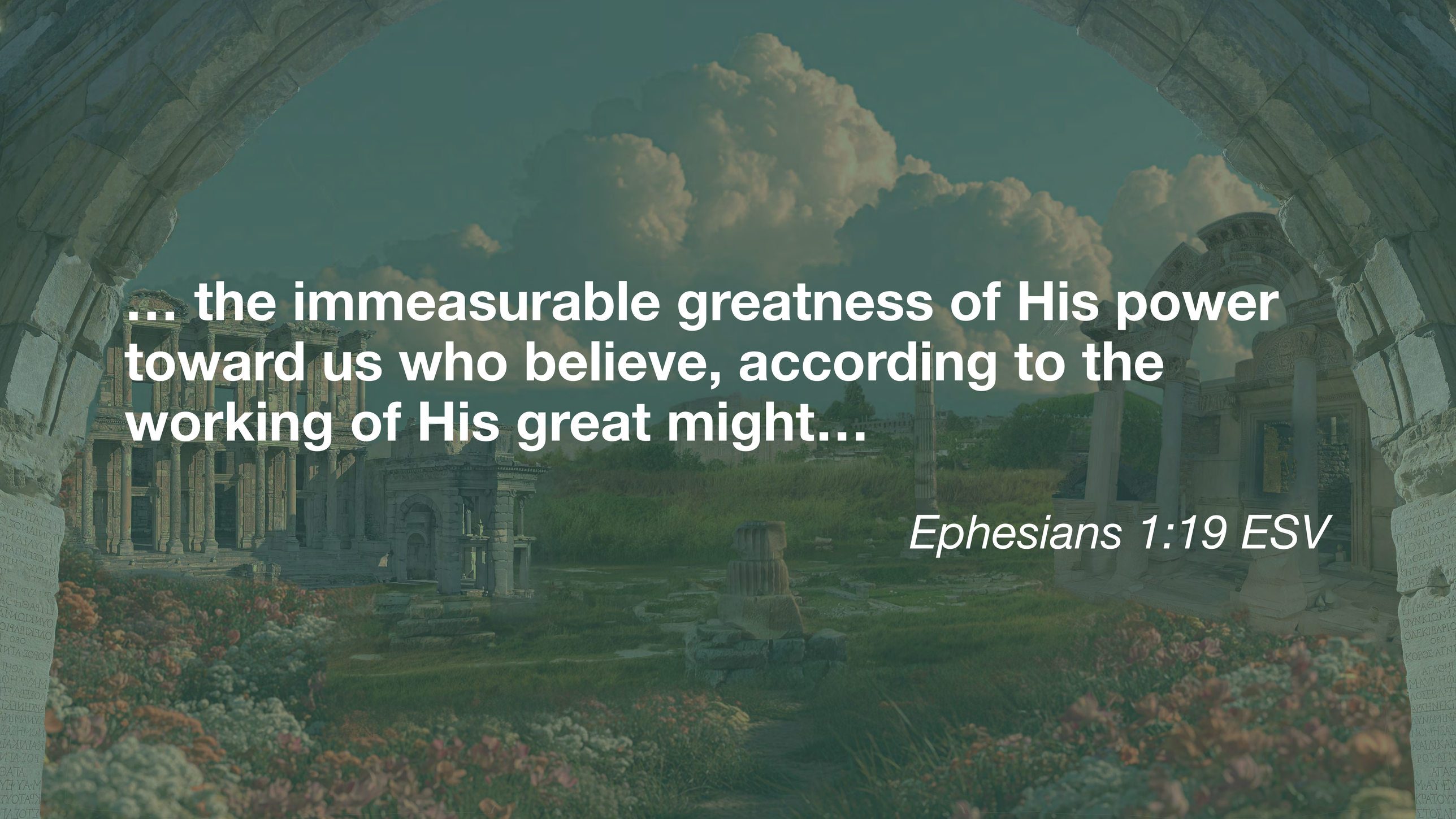


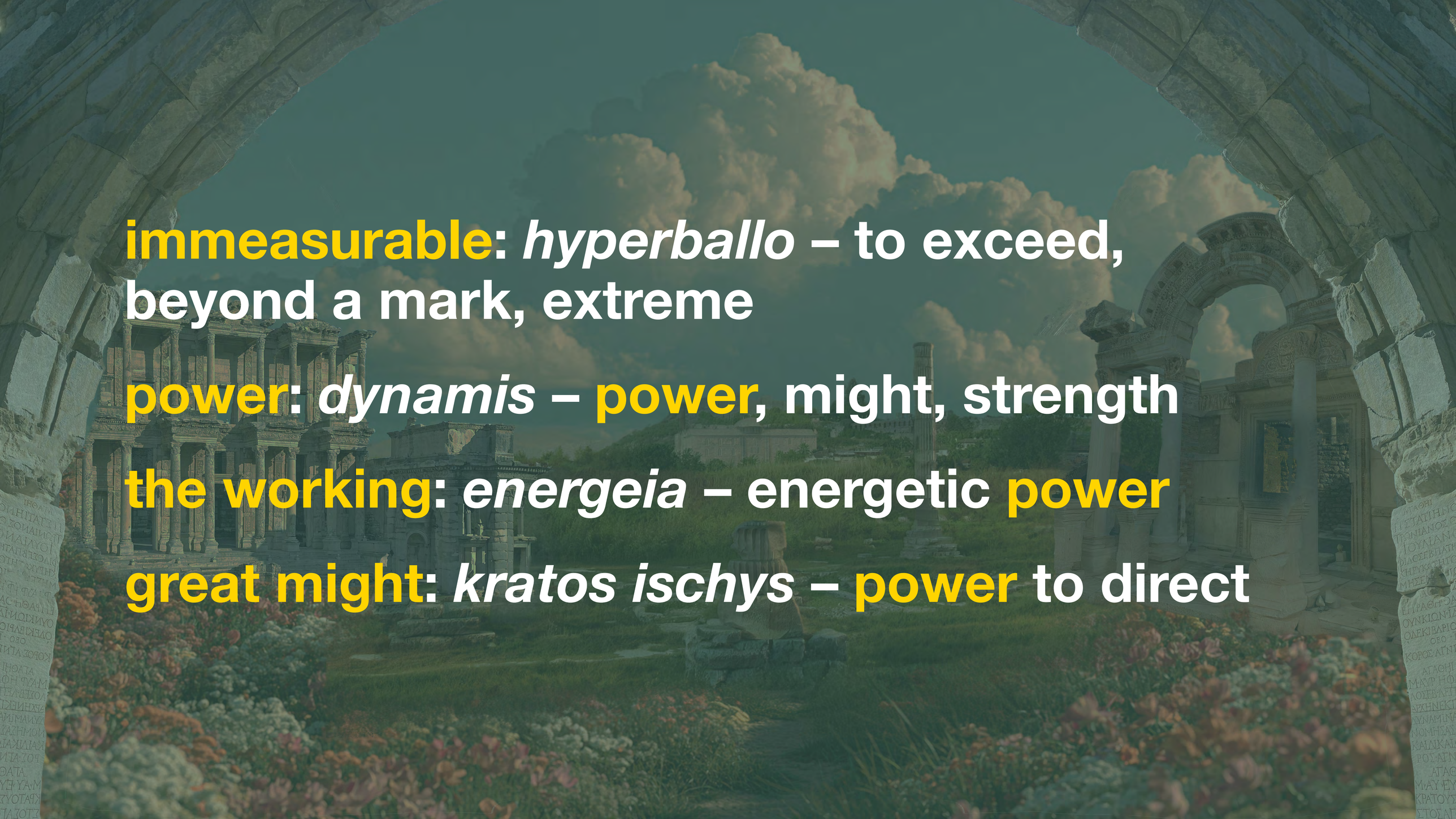
“This hope, moreover, is not just ‘a vague and wistful longing for the triumph of goodness’, but it is something assured because of the present possession of the Spirit as ‘the guarantee’ (v. 14) and because of faithfulness of the God who has promised the future inheritance.”

F. Foulkes


called: klesis – an authoritative summons to participate or be present or take part in something


Riches Of His Glorious Inheritance


… the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might…
Ephesians 1:19 ESV

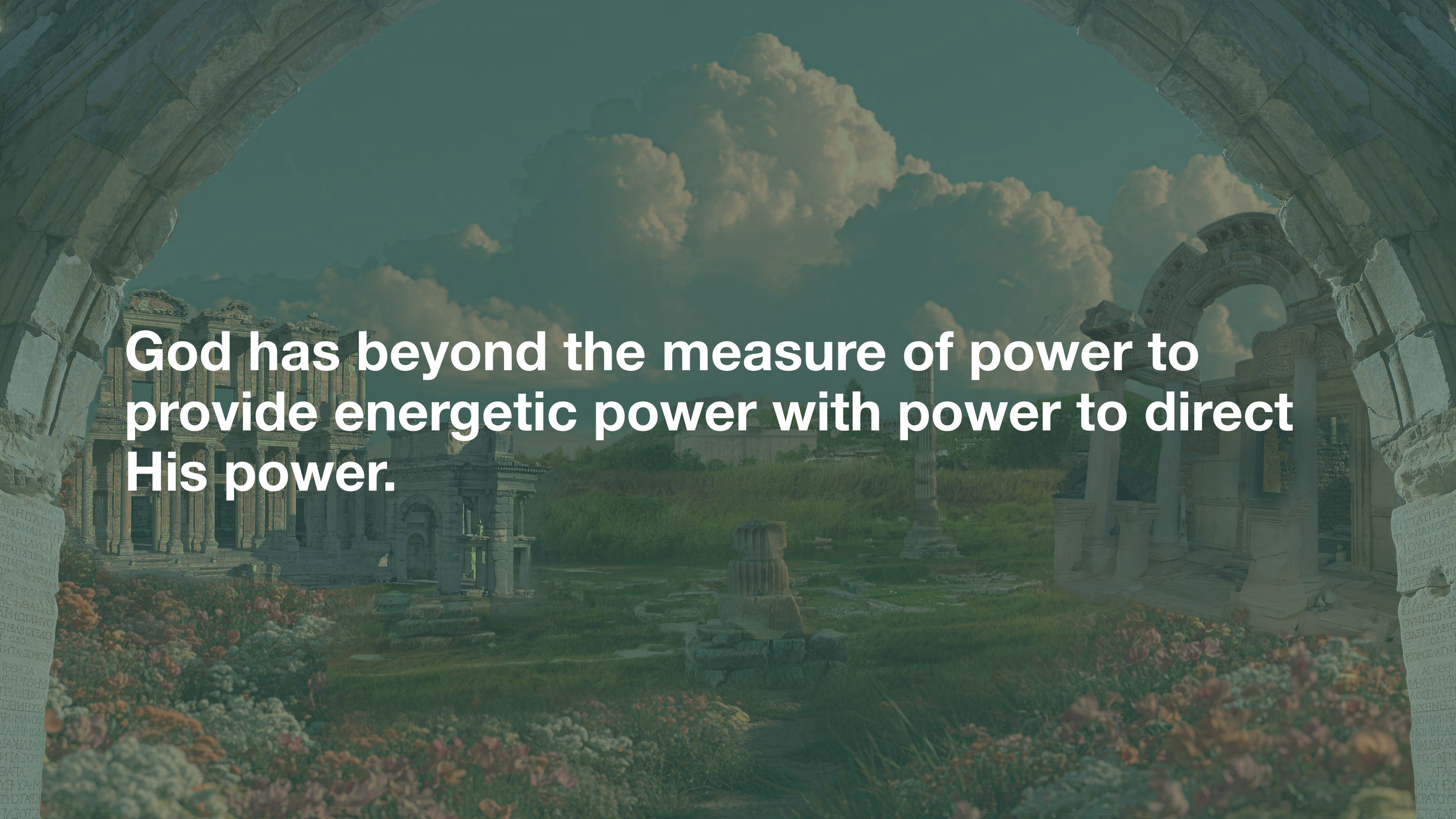


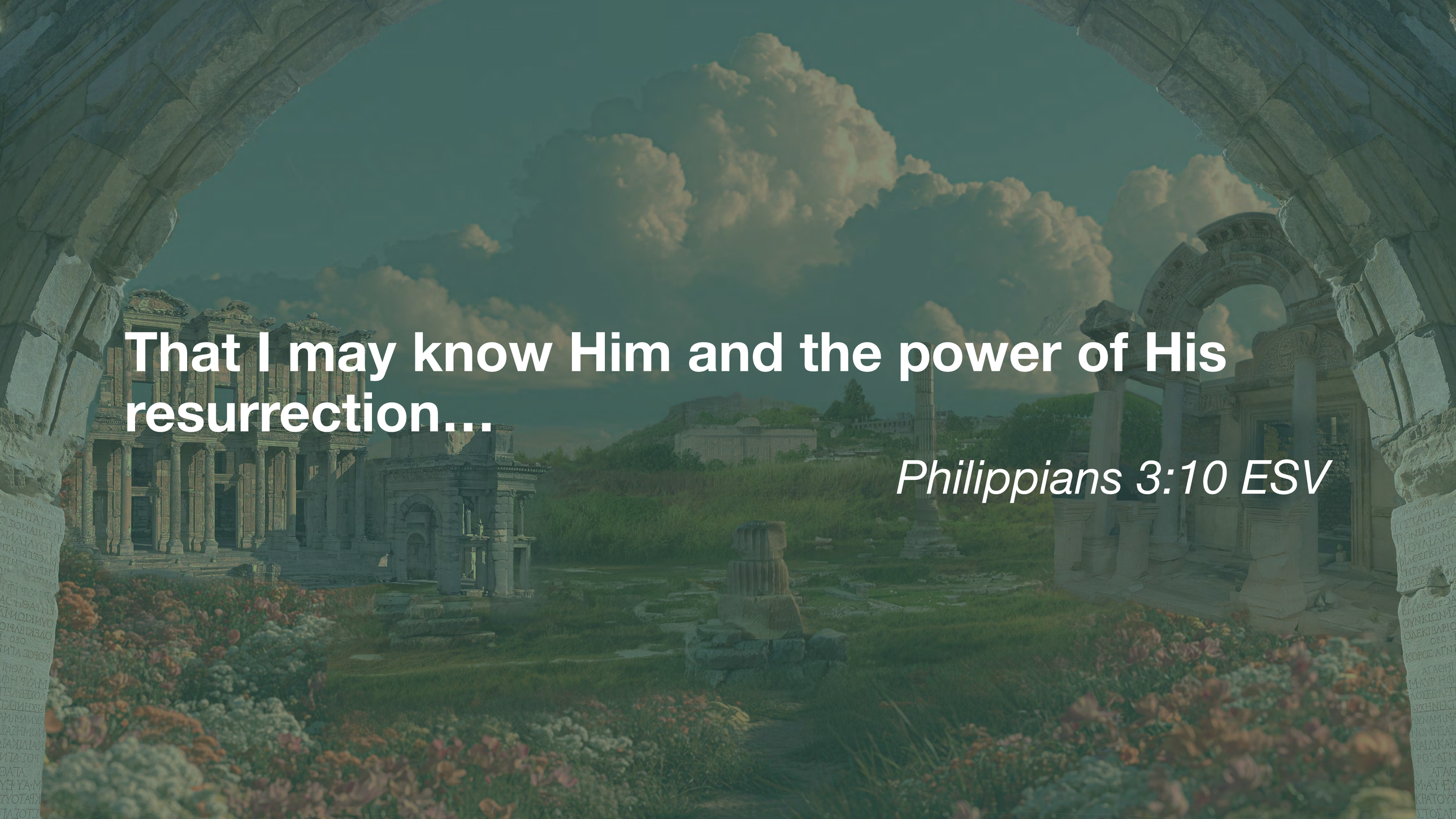
immeasurable: *hyperballo* – to exceed, beyond a mark, extreme

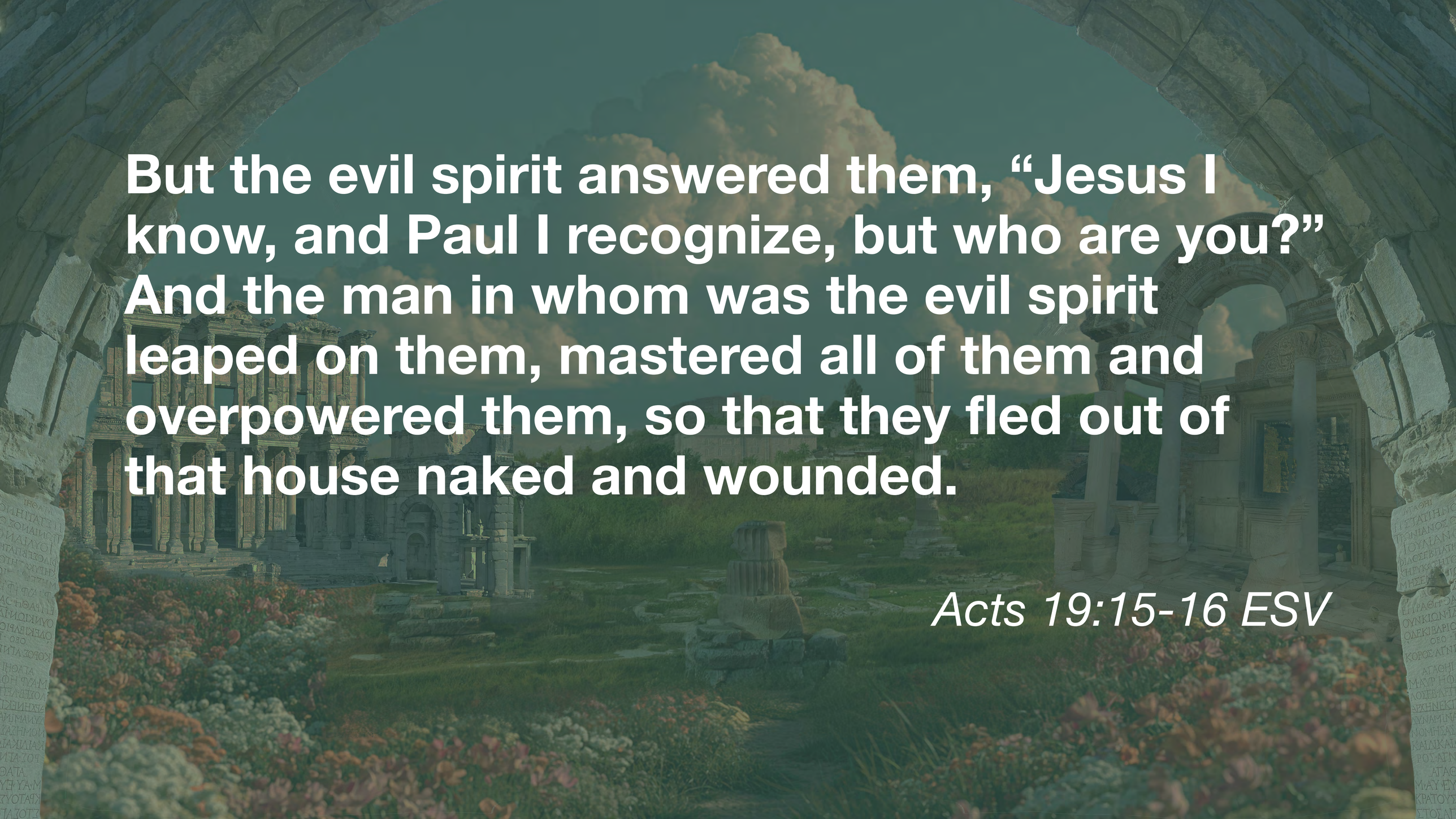
power: *dynamis* – **power**, might, strength

the working: *energeia* – energetic **power**

great might: *kratos ischys* – **power** to direct

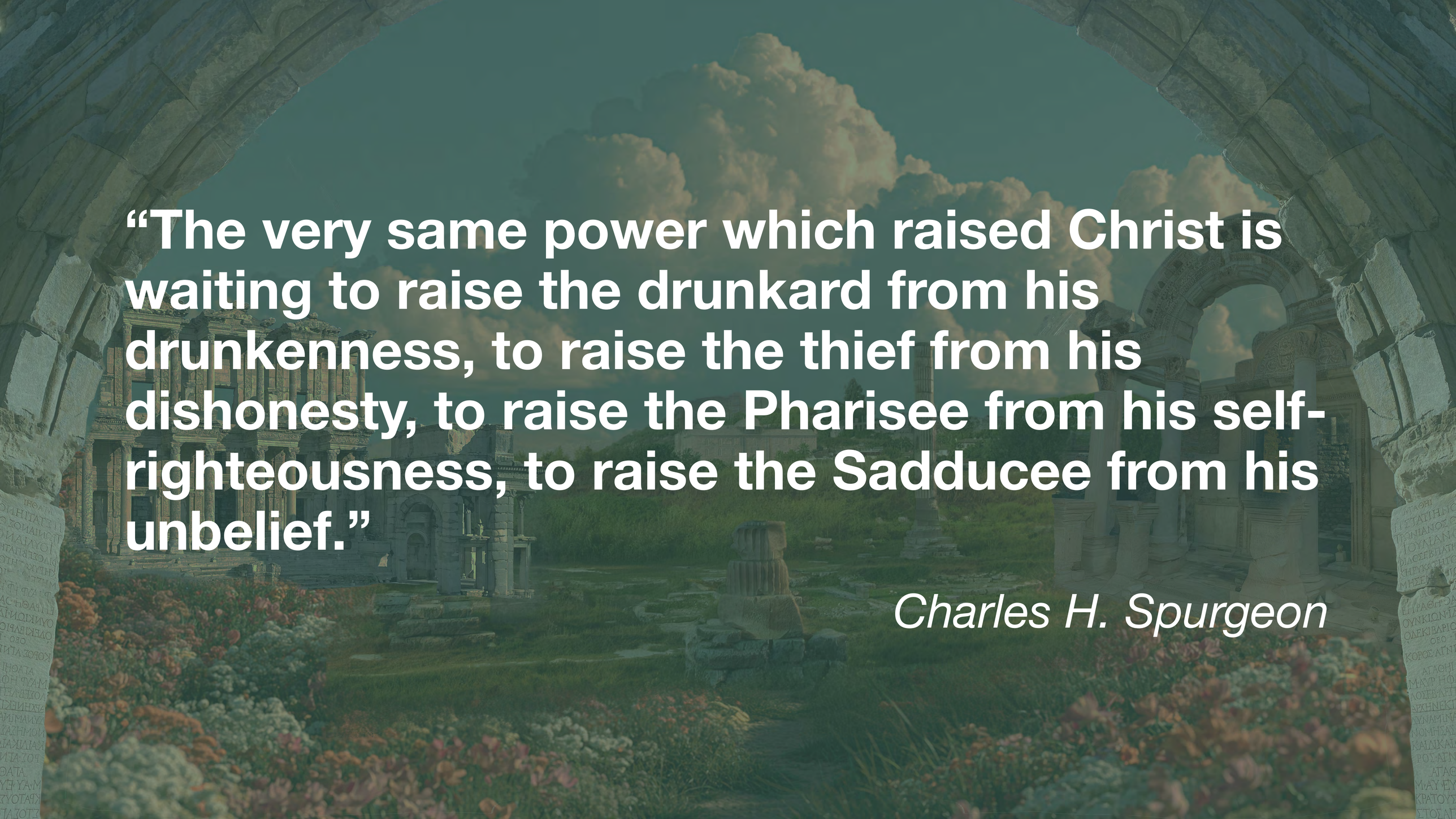

God has beyond the measure of power to provide energetic power with power to direct His power.


That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection…
Philippians 3:10 ESV



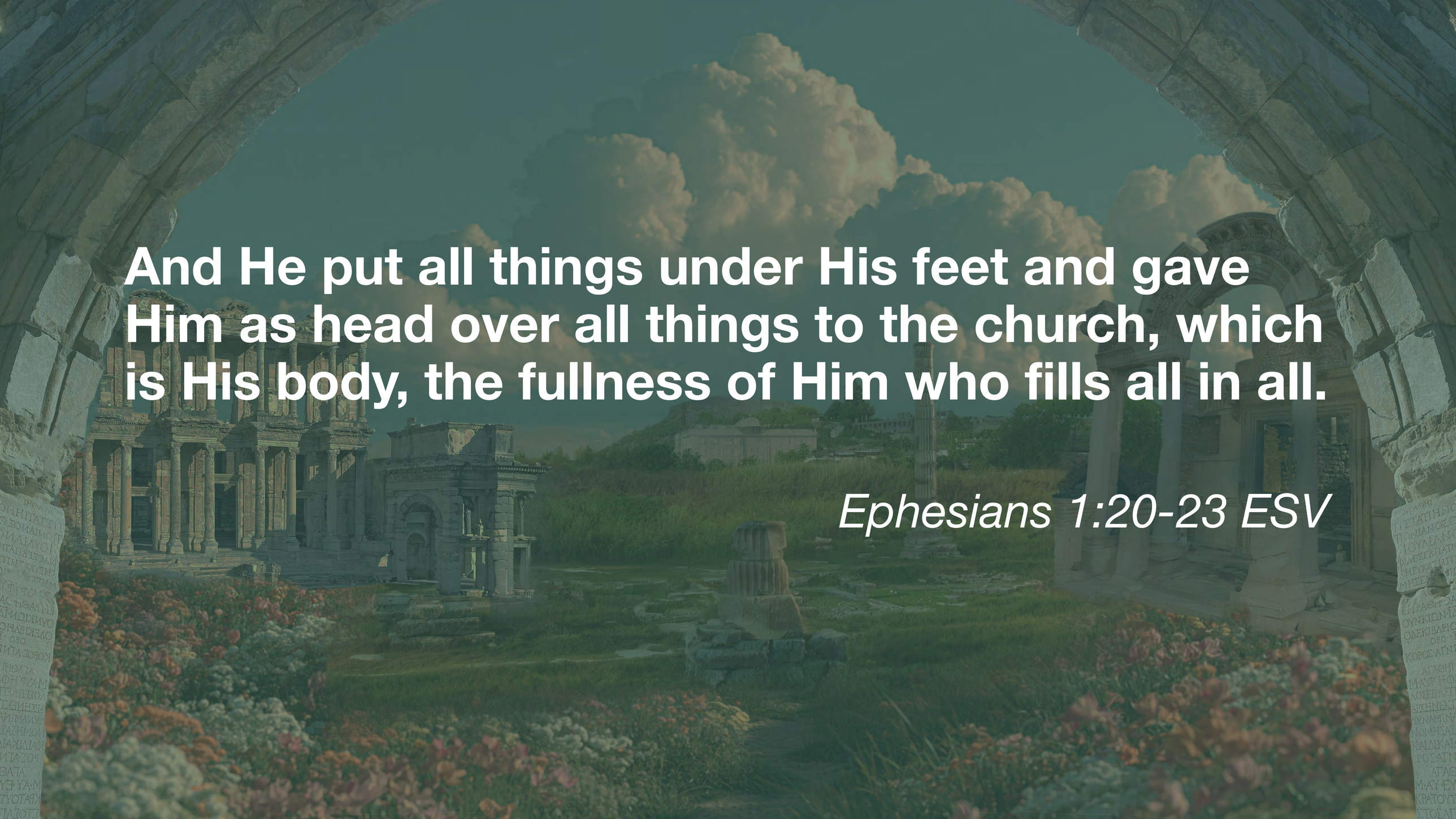
But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Acts 19:15-16 ESV


“The very same power which raised Christ is waiting to raise the drunkard from his drunkenness, to raise the thief from his dishonesty, to raise the Pharisee from his self-righteousness, to raise the Sadducee from his unbelief.”
Charles H. Spurgeon

3. The Exaltation Of Jesus

… that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

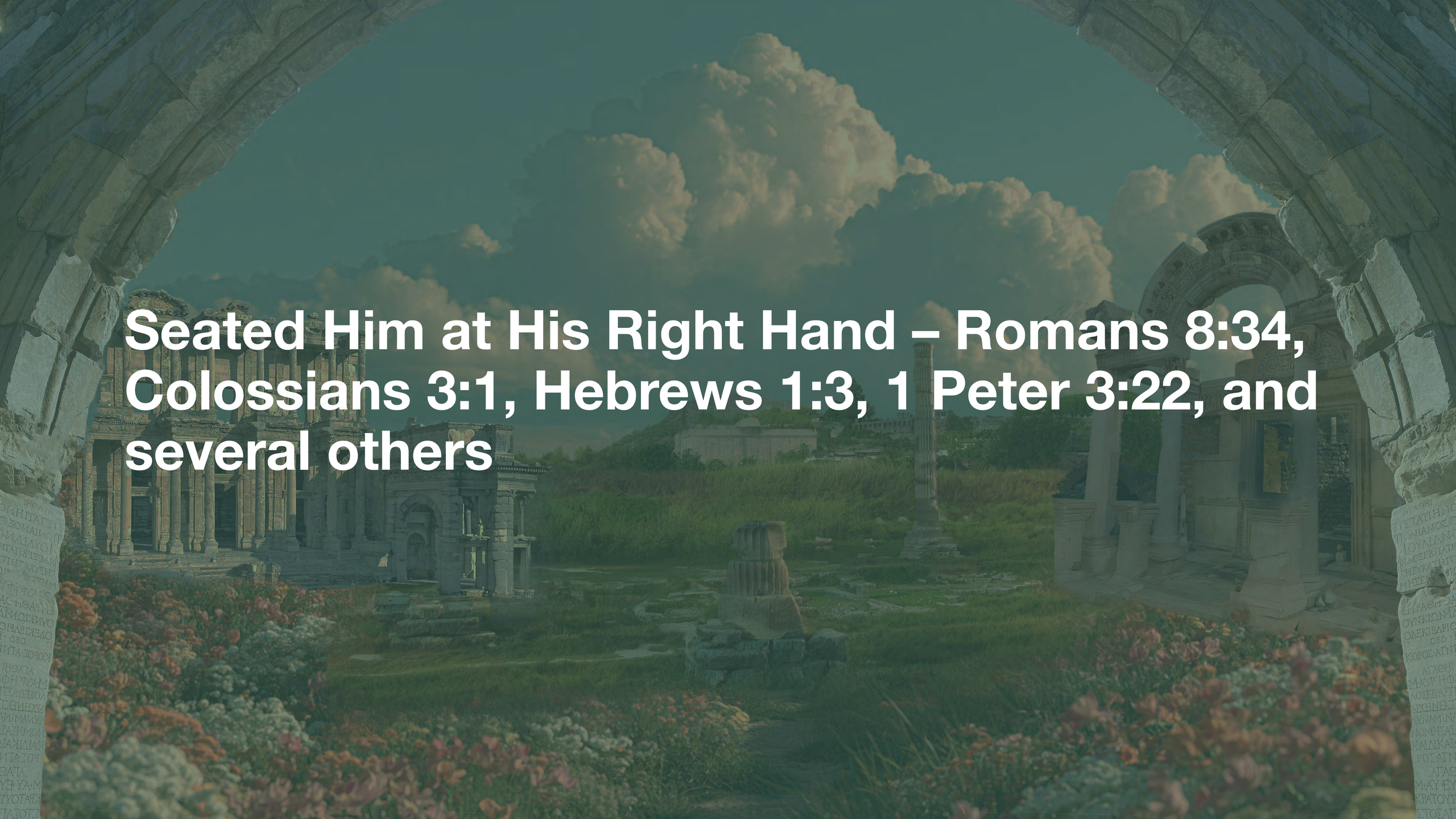


And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:20-23 ESV



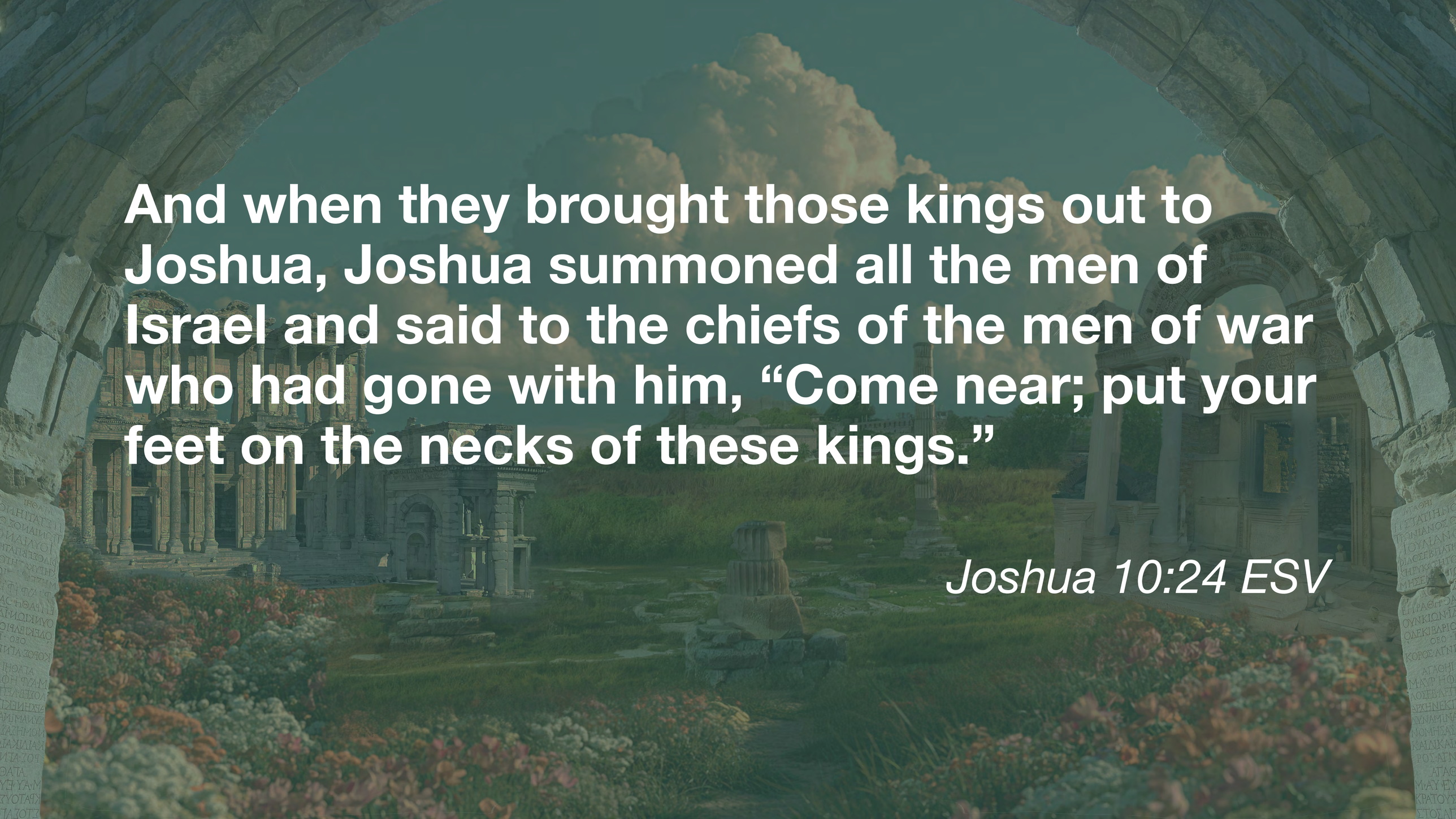
He Raised Him From The Dead – Not Just Resuscitated


Seated Him at His Right Hand – Romans 8:34, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3, 1 Peter 3:22, and several others

Put All Things Under His Feet…

For “God has put all things in subjection under His feet…”

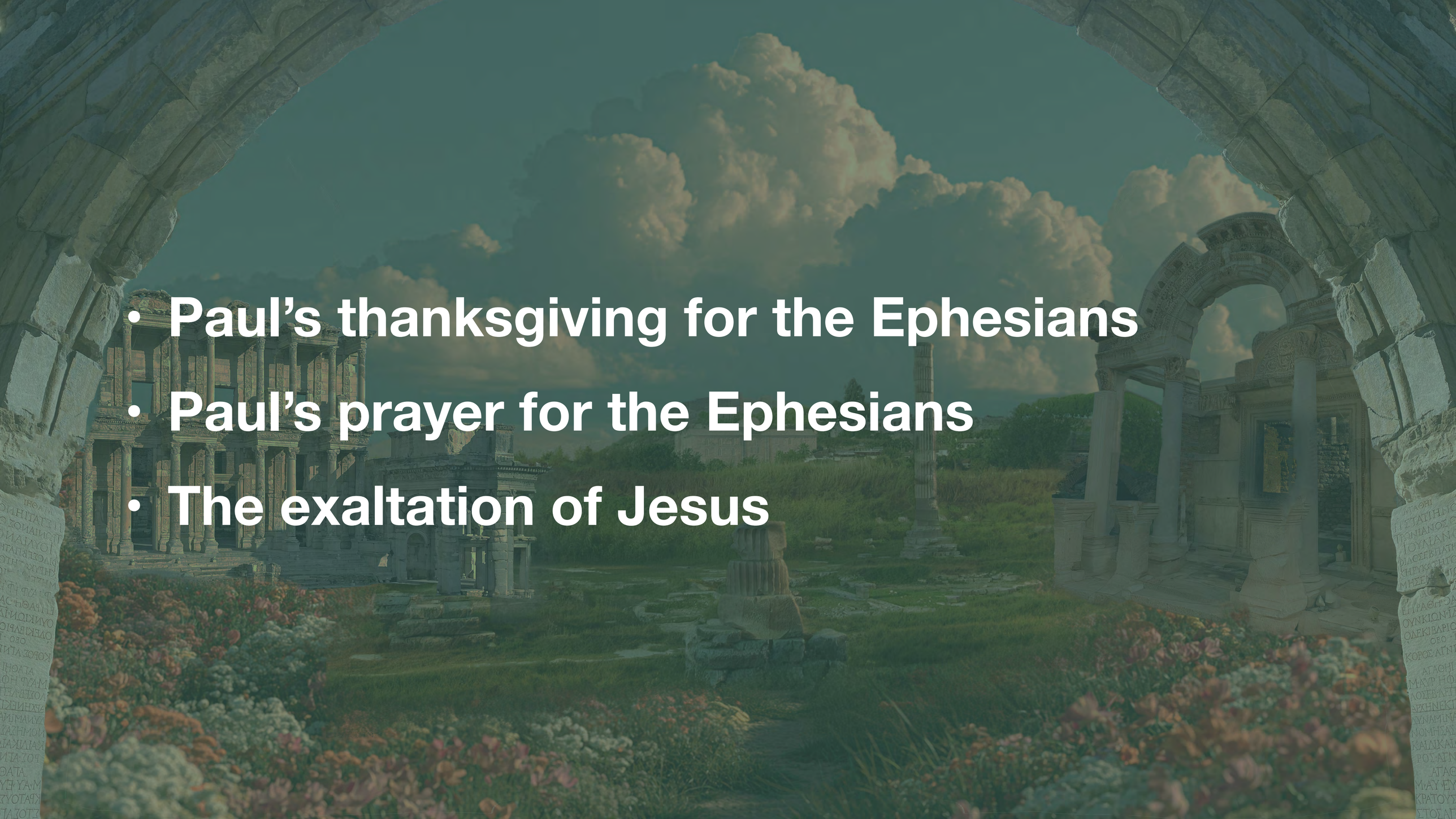
1 Corinthians 15:27 ESV



And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.”

Joshua 10:24 ESV


The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
Romans 16:20 ESV



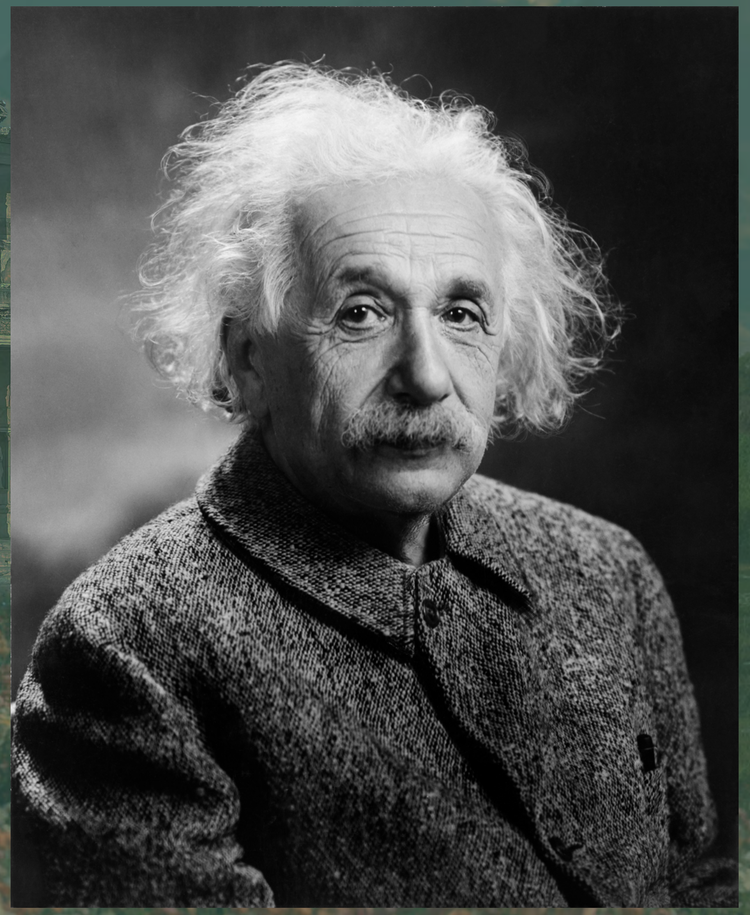
- Paul’s thanksgiving for the Ephesians
- Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians
- The exaltation of Jesus

1. Develop & Express A Spirit Of Thanks

I do not cease to give thanks for you…

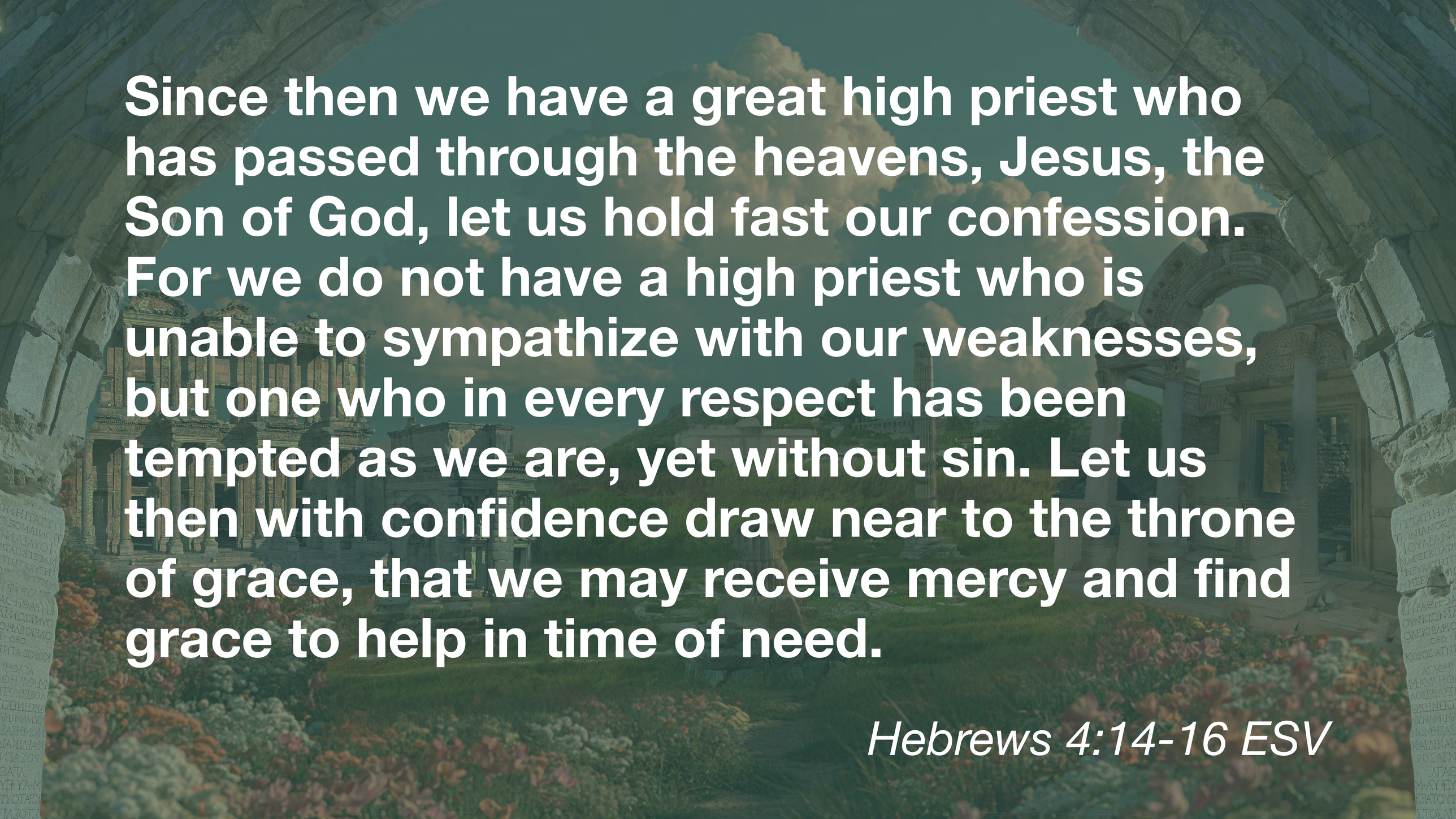
Ephesians 1:16 ESV

2. Seek To Know Jesus Better



“The more I learn, the more I realize I don’t know.”

Albert Einstein



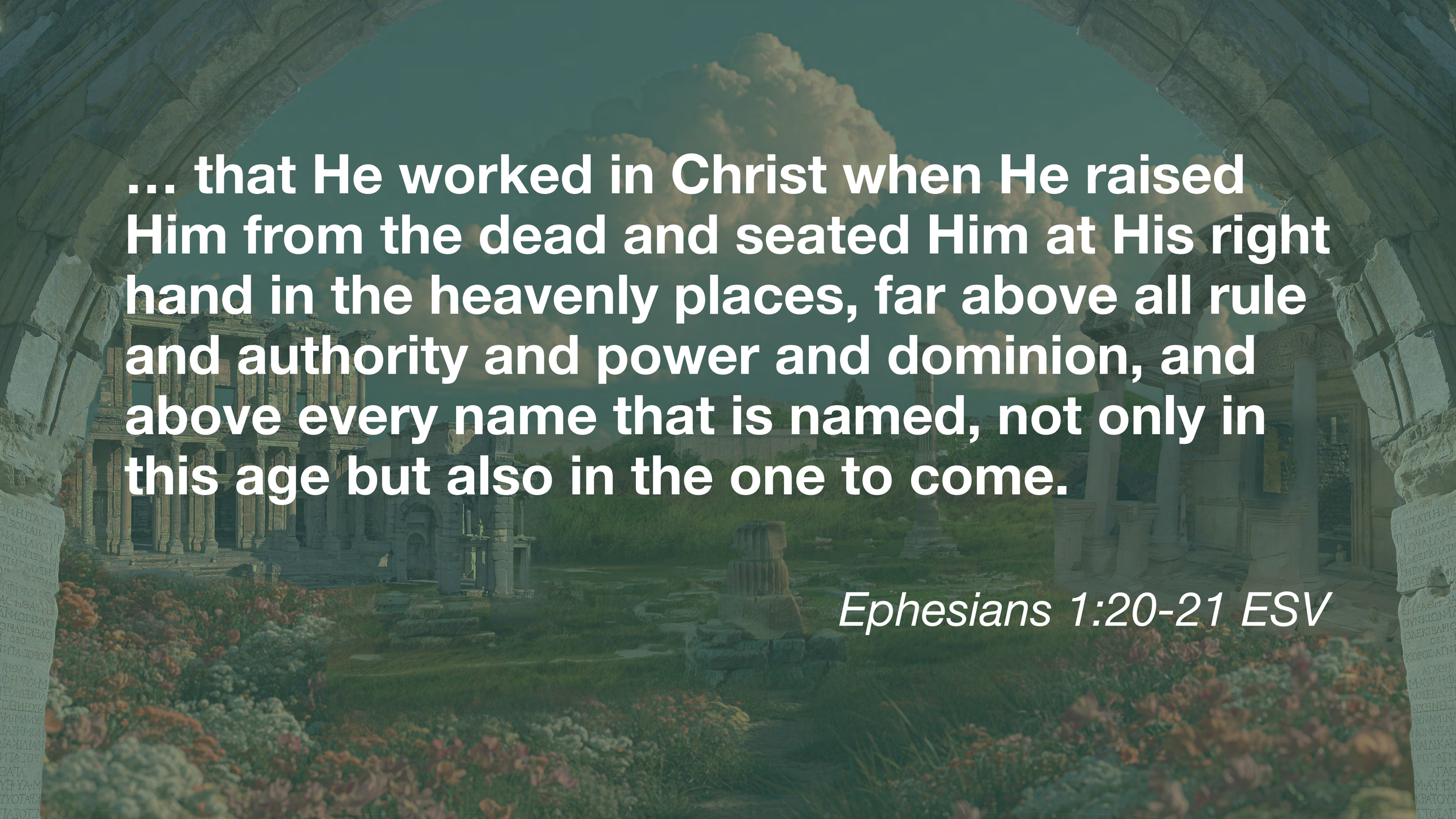
Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV



“You will never be satisfied just to know about God. Really knowing God only comes through experience as He reveals Himself to you.”

Henry Blackaby



… that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:20-21 ESV