

There is a cloud...

(1 Kings 18:44)

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How's your vision these days?



How's your **SPIRITUAL vision
these days?**



Bible exhorts us to see rightly



**requires looking beyond our current
circumstances; and into the future**

The background of the entire image is a photograph of rolling sand dunes in a desert, likely the Sahara. The dunes are a warm, golden-brown color and are lit from the side, creating soft shadows and highlights that emphasize their undulating shapes. The sky is a pale, clear blue. Overlaid on this background is a large, semi-transparent, light-pink oval shape that serves as a container for the text.

**“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.**

**¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it?**

**I am making a way in the
wilderness and streams in the
wasteland. (Isaiah 43:18-19)**

Written to Judah during the Babylonian exile



Credit: Catholic
Exchange

Home was 1448km away, a 4-month walk

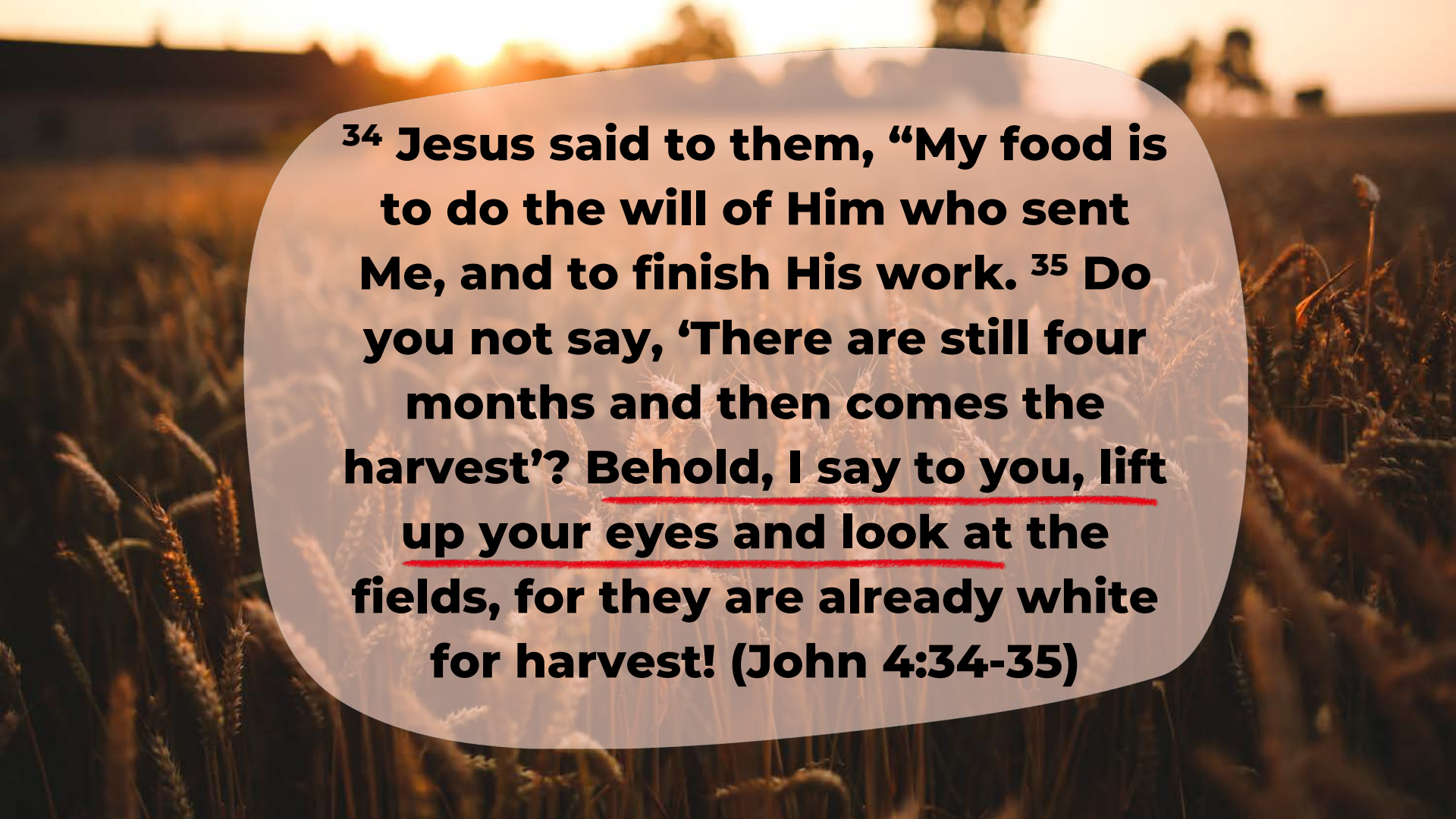
A map of the ancient Near East showing the route of the Long Walk to Babylon. The route is marked with a red line, starting from Jerusalem and heading north through Ramot-Galad, Shechem, and Rabbah-Ammon, then following the Euphrates river through Babylon. The map includes labels for various cities and regions, such as Jerusalem, Ramot-Galad, Shechem, Rabbah-Ammon, Rabbah, Babylon, and the Euphrates river. A red arrow points to the starting point in Jerusalem. The text "900-mile walk, took four months" is written near the route. The title "The Long Walk to Babylon" is at the bottom.

m making a way in wilderness...."

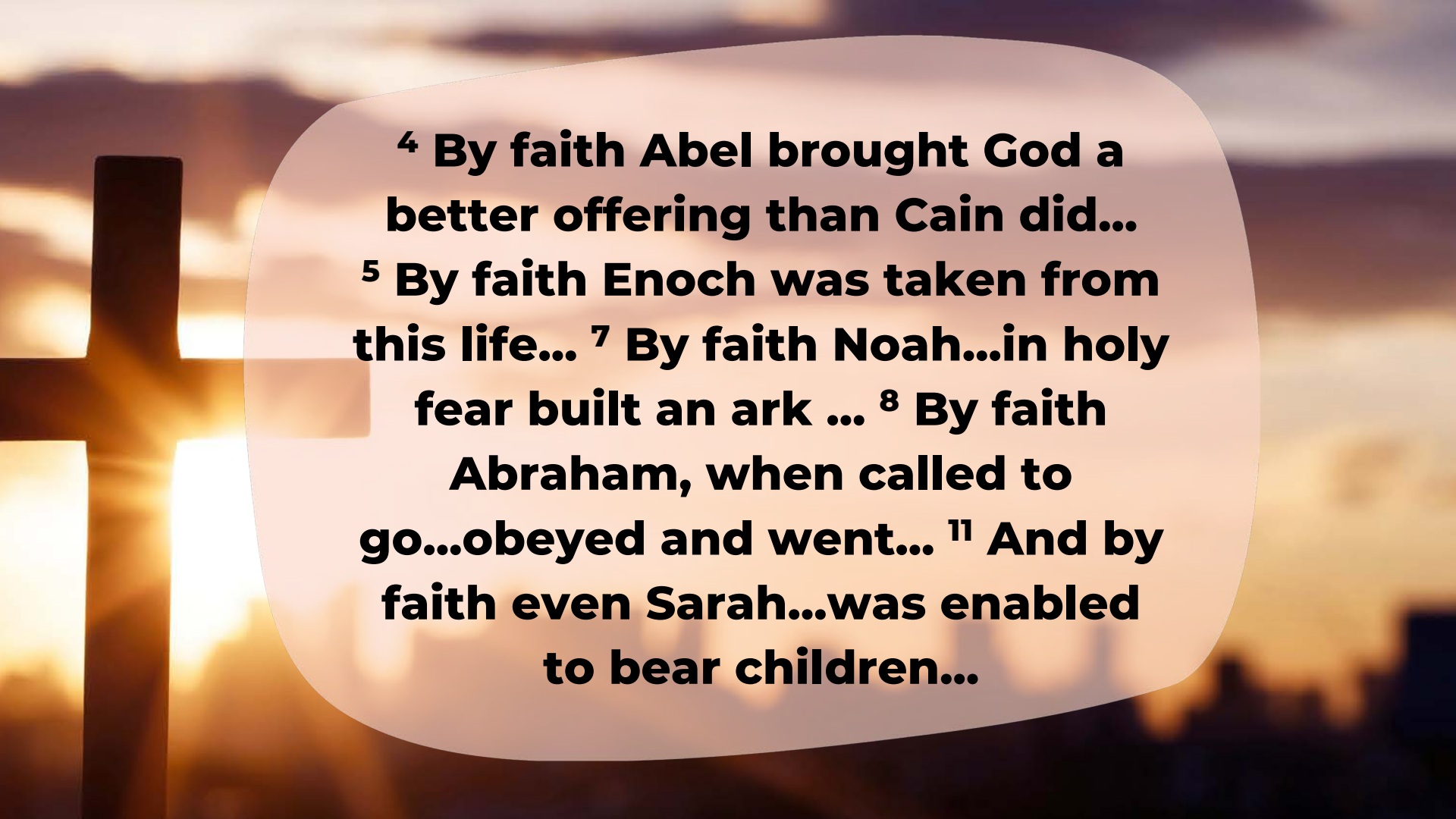
900-mile walk, took four months

The Long Walk to Babylon

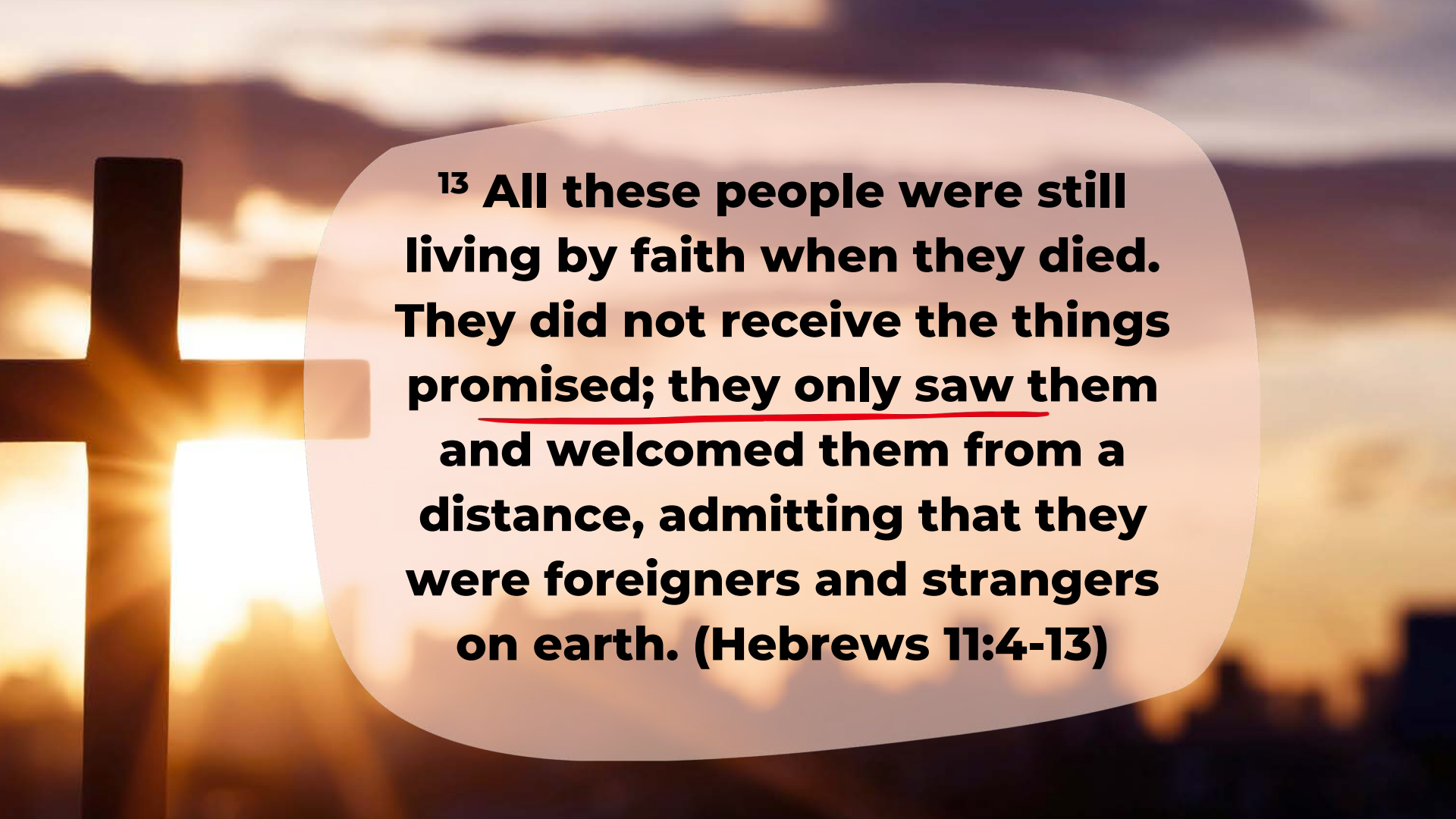
Credit: Catholic Exchange

A photograph of a field of wheat at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The wheat stalks are in the foreground, slightly out of focus. A semi-transparent, light-colored rounded rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (John 4:34-35)



**⁴ By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did...
⁵ By faith Enoch was taken from this life... ⁷ By faith Noah...in holy fear built an ark ... ⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go...obeyed and went... ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah...was enabled to bear children...**



¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. (Hebrews 11:4-13)

Who is King Ahab?

- **7th king of northern kingdom of Israel**
- **Married Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal of Sidon**



Who is King Ahab?

- **7th king of northern kingdom of Israel**
- **Married Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal of Sidon**



³⁰ Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him. ³¹ He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. ³² He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. ³³ Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to arouse the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him. (1 Kings 16:30-33)

1 Kings 17:1: And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

**1 Kings 18: ¹ And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.”
² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab...**

⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain.” ⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, ⁴³ and said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” So he went up and looked, and said, “There is nothing.

And seven times he said, “Go again.”

44 Then it came to pass the seventh time,
that he said,

And seven times he said, “Go again.”



44 Then it came to pass the seventh time, that
he said, “There is a cloud, as small as a man’s
hand, rising out of the sea!”

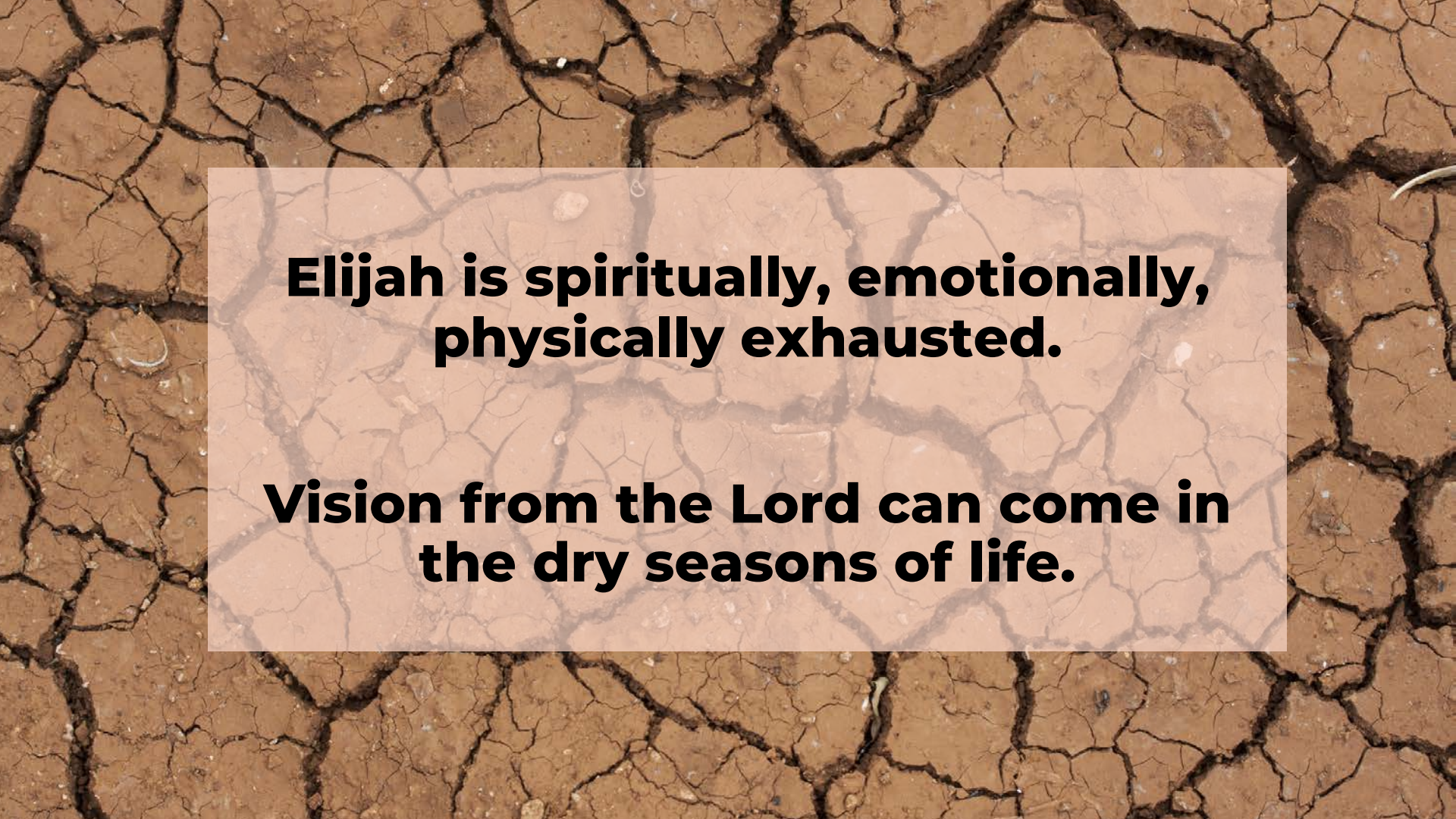
And seven times he said, “Go again.” 

44 Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, “There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!” So he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.’ ”

45 Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. (1 Kings 18:41-45)

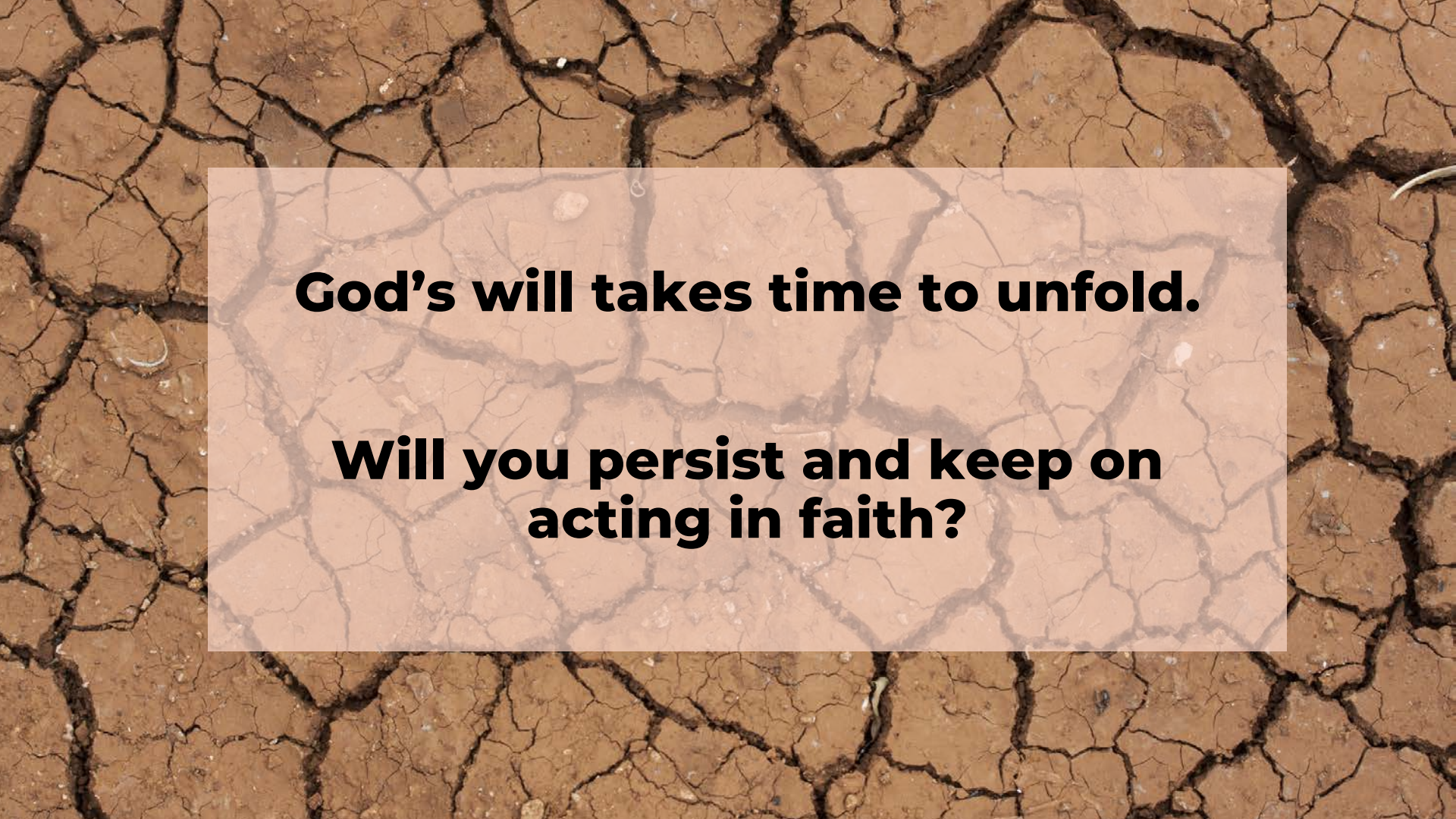
What's happened?

- **3 years of drought**
- **Famine in the land
(fed by raven & widow)**
- **Jezebel slaughters the prophets
(2 Kings 18:4)**
- **Confrontation with prophets of
Baal on Mt Carmel**

The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of parched, brown soil. The soil is cracked into a network of irregular, dark brown fissures that create a honeycomb-like pattern across the surface. The lighting is even, highlighting the texture and depth of the cracks.

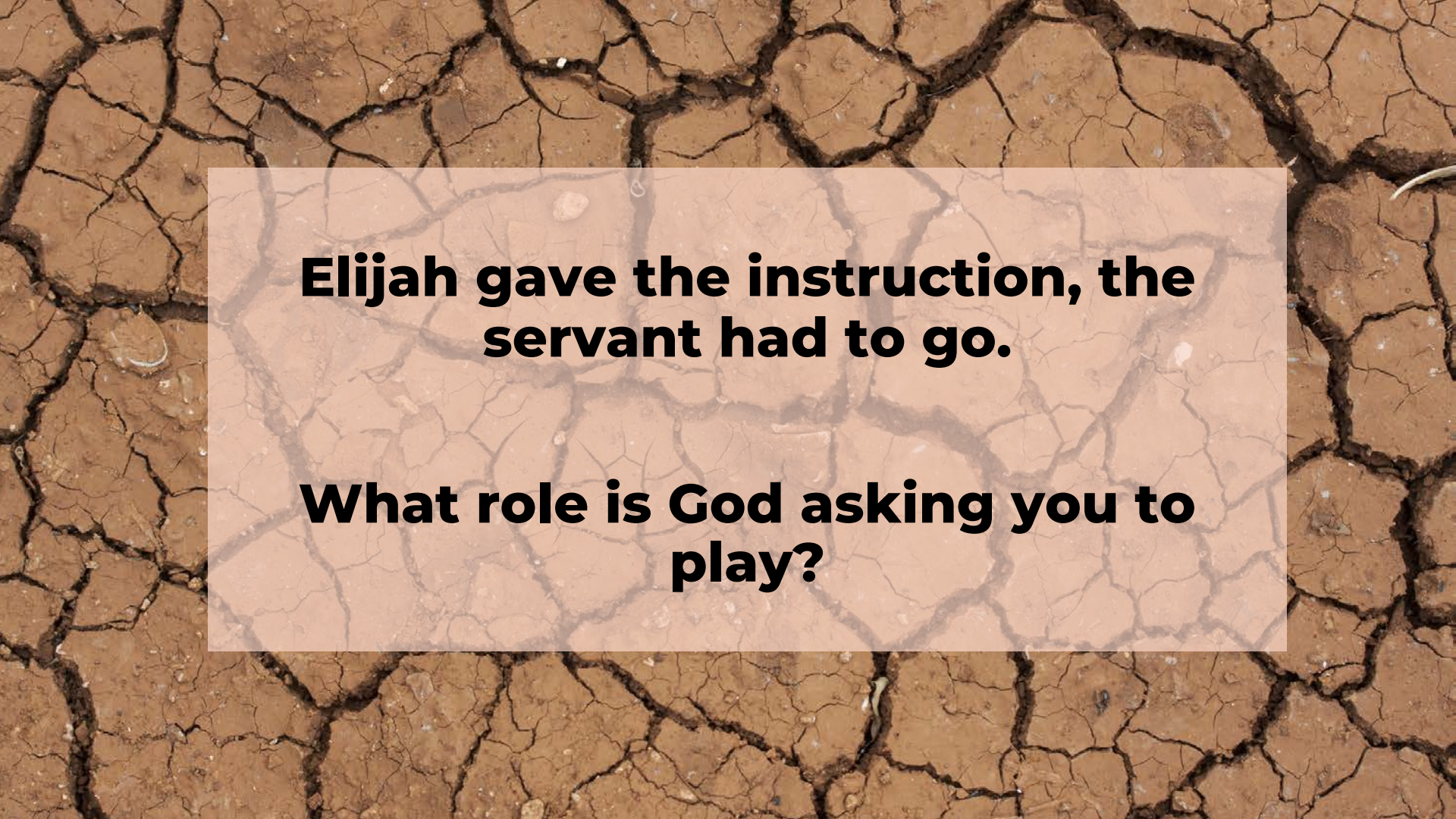
**Elijah is spiritually, emotionally,
physically exhausted.**

**Vision from the Lord can come in
the dry seasons of life.**

The background of the image is a close-up photograph of parched, cracked earth. The soil is a reddish-brown color, and the cracks are deep and irregular, forming a network of polygonal shapes across the entire frame. A semi-transparent light orange rectangular box is centered over the image, containing two lines of bold black text.

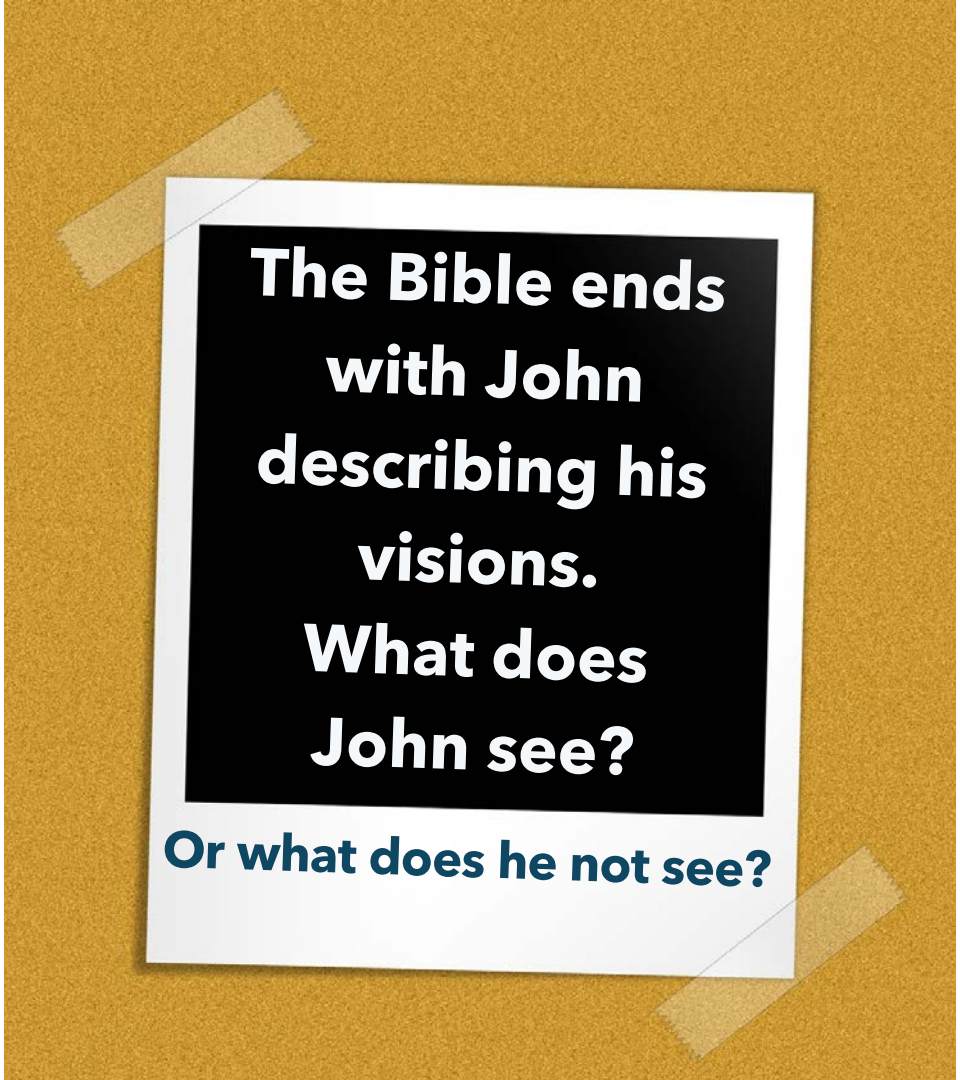
God's will takes time to unfold.

**Will you persist and keep on
acting in faith?**

The background of the image is a close-up photograph of parched, cracked earth. The soil is a reddish-brown color, and the cracks are deep and irregular, forming a network of polygonal shapes across the entire surface. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the dry soil.

**Elijah gave the instruction, the
servant had to go.**

**What role is God asking you to
play?**

A Polaroid-style photograph of a text card pinned to a corkboard. The card has a white border and a black center. The text is in white and blue. The corkboard is a textured, light brown color. Two pieces of tan tape are visible, one at the top left and one at the bottom right of the card.

**The Bible ends
with John
describing his
visions.**

**What does
John see?**

Or what does he not see?

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”



**¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne
and the elders and the four living creatures,
and fell on their faces before the throne and
worshiped God, ¹² saying:
“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,
Thanksgiving and honor and power and
might, Be to our God forever and ever.
Amen.” (Rev 7:9-12)**





“Harrison Bergeron”

**A short story
by Kurt
Vonnegut**

**A society with
“perfect equality”**

**The intelligent wear
earpieces playing loud
noises to stop them from
thinking.**

**The beautiful wear masks
to hide their beauty.**

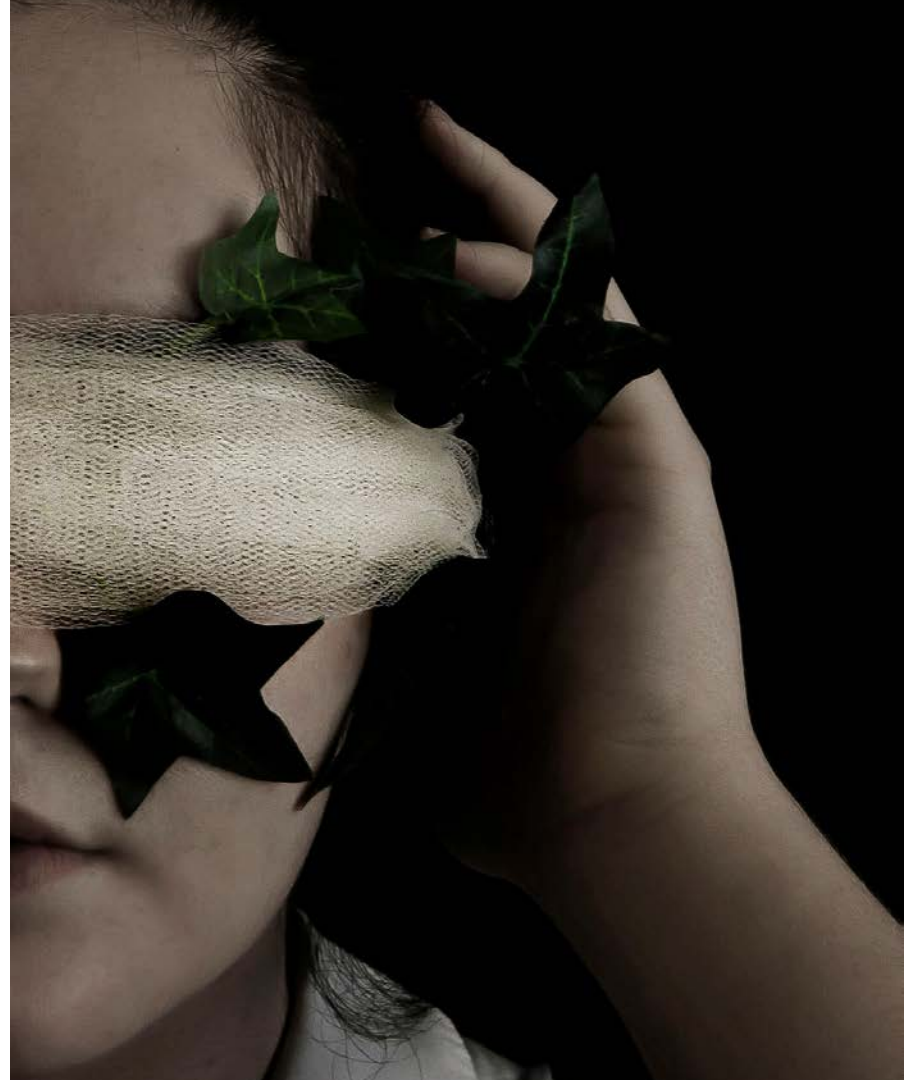
**The strong are loaded
with weights so they
cannot move with ease.**

**The world will steal
your God-given
vision...**

Dull your senses...

**Blunt your cutting
edge...**

Wear you out



**“Write the vision
And make it plain on tablets,
That he may run who reads it.**

**³ For the vision is yet for an appointed time;
But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
Because it will surely come,
It will not tarry.**

**⁴ “Behold the proud,
His soul is not upright in him;
But the just shall live by his faith.**

(Habakkuk 2:2-4)



**“There is a cloud, as small as
a man’s hand...”**



(1 Kings 18:44)