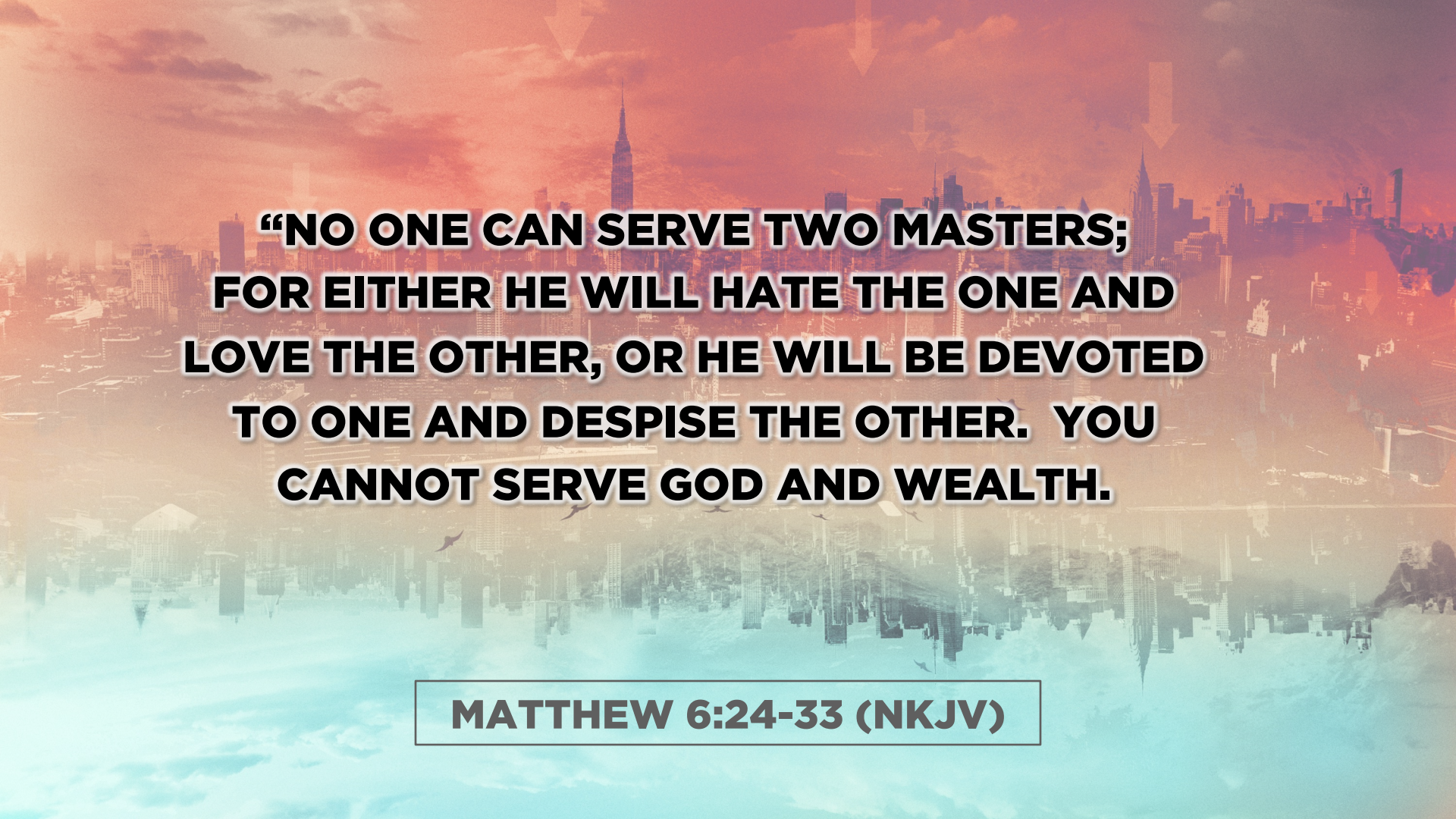




THE KINGDOM OF GOD

ELDER JAMES LEE • 27 AUGUST 2023

MATTHEW 6:24-33



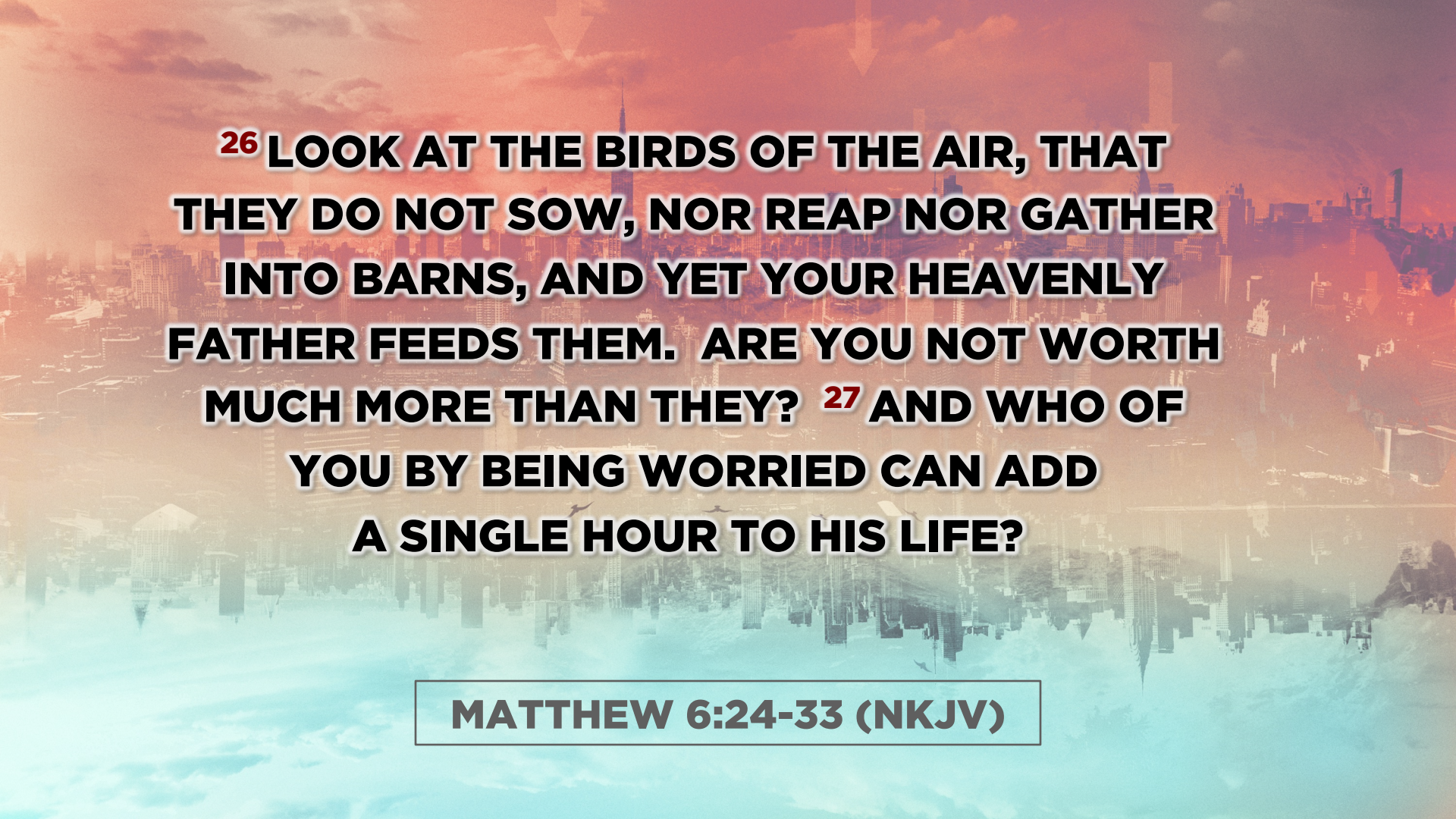
**“NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS;
FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND
LOVE THE OTHER, OR HE WILL BE DEVOTED
TO ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YOU
CANNOT SERVE GOD AND WEALTH.**

MATTHEW 6:24-33 (NKJV)

THE CURE FOR ANXIETY

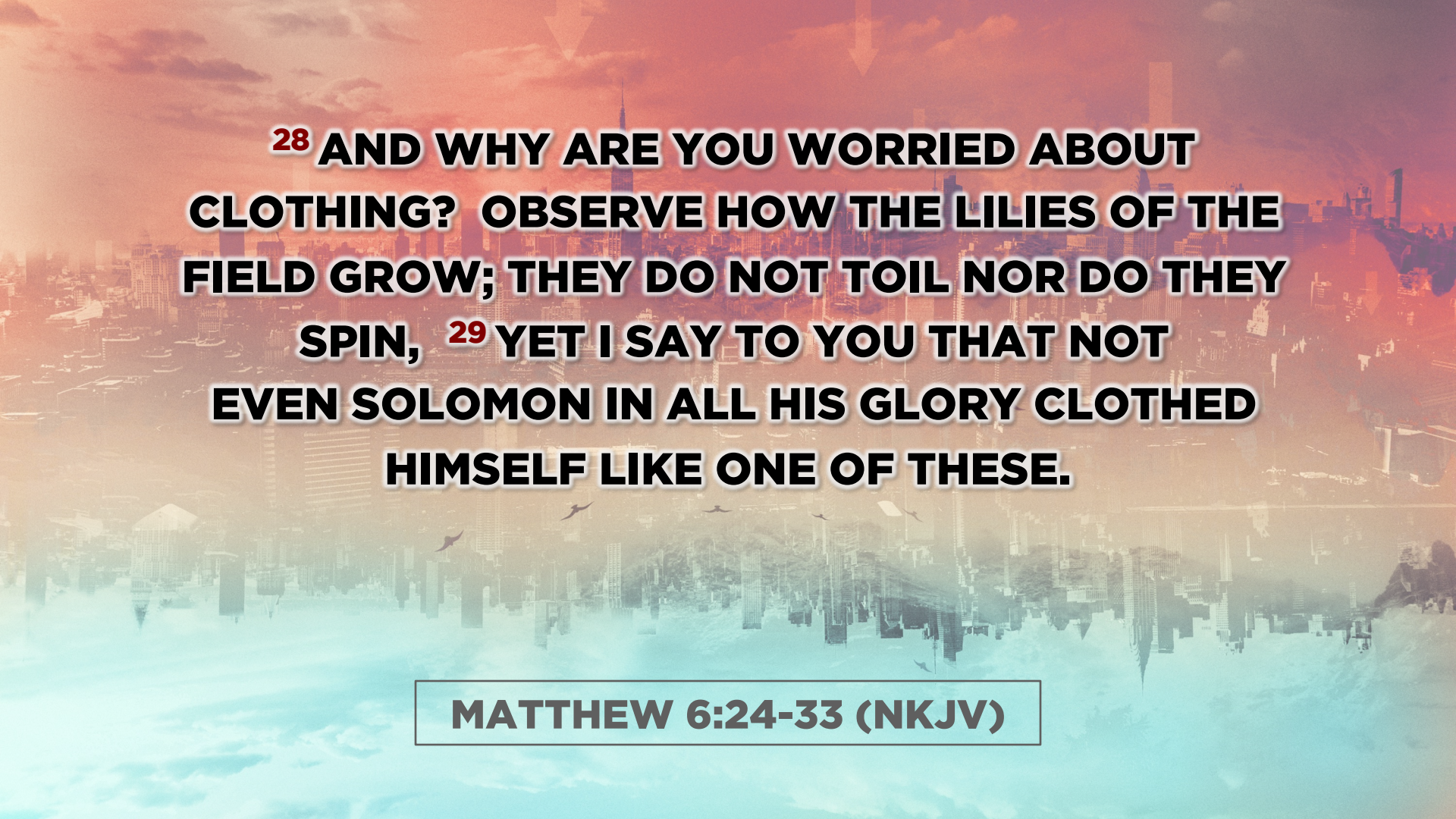
**25 “FOR THIS REASON I SAY TO YOU,
DO NOT BE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR LIFE,
AS TO WHAT YOU WILL EAT OR
WHAT YOU WILL DRINK; NOR FOR YOUR BODY,
AS TO WHAT YOU WILL PUT ON.
IS NOT LIFE MORE THAN FOOD,
AND THE BODY MORE THAN CLOTHING?**

MATTHEW 6:24-33 (NKJV)



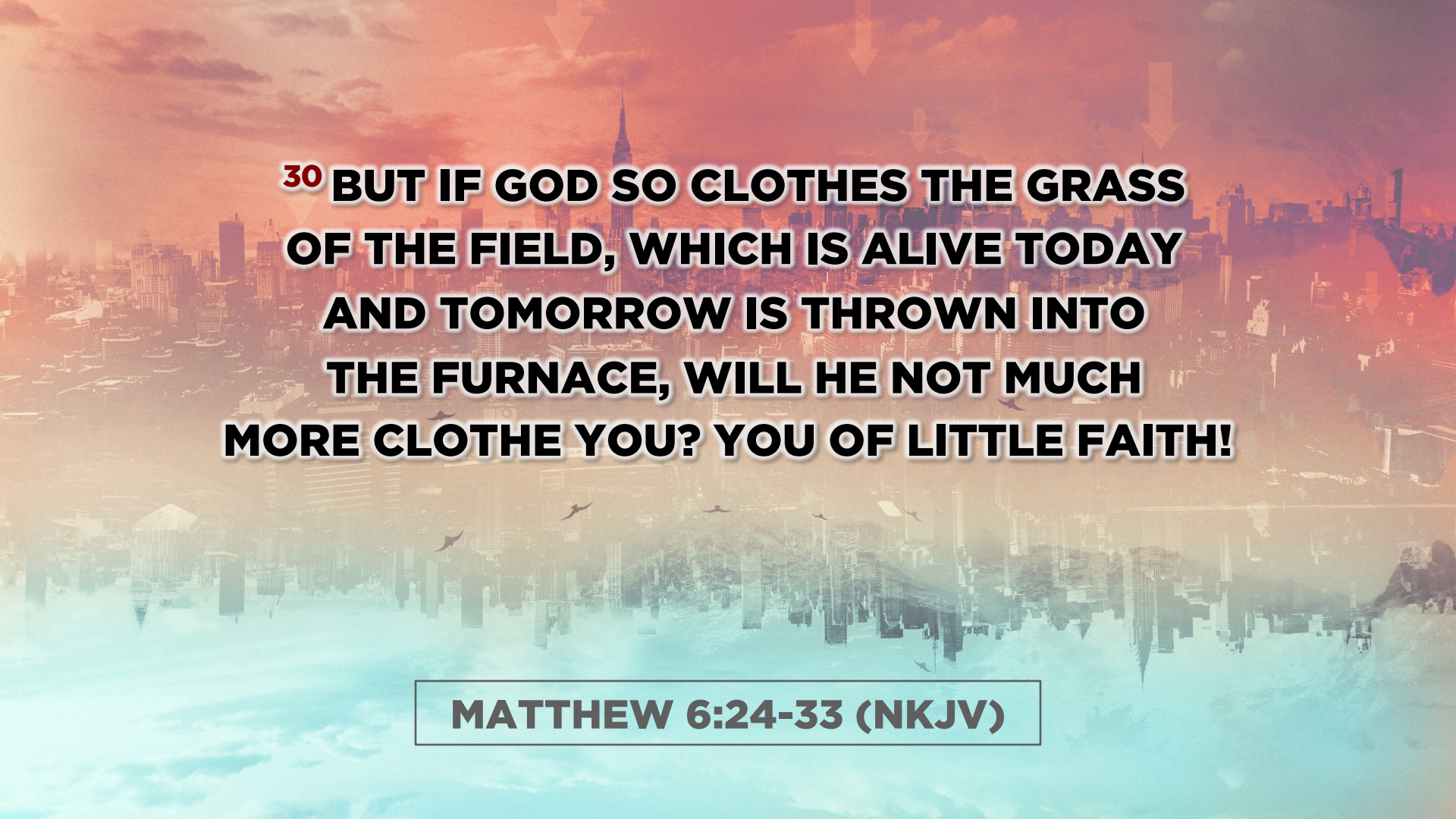
**26 LOOK AT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, THAT
THEY DO NOT SOW, NOR REAP NOR GATHER
INTO BARNES, AND YET YOUR HEAVENLY
FATHER FEEDS THEM. ARE YOU NOT WORTH
MUCH MORE THAN THEY? 27 AND WHO OF
YOU BY BEING WORRIED CAN ADD
A SINGLE HOUR TO HIS LIFE?**

MATTHEW 6:24-33 (NKJV)

A city skyline at sunset with birds flying in the sky.

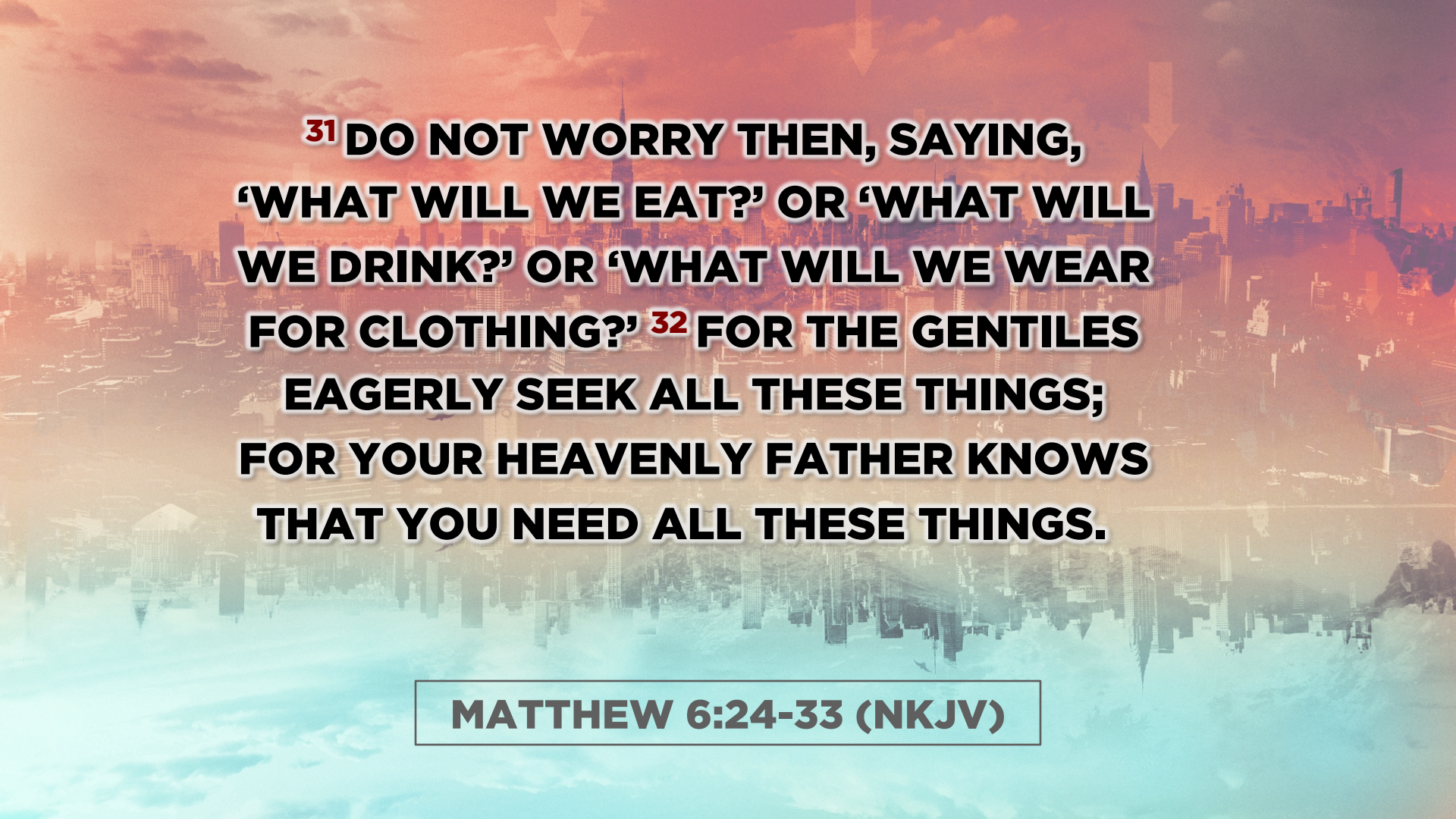
**²⁸ AND WHY ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT
CLOTHING? OBSERVE HOW THE LILIES OF THE
FIELD GROW; THEY DO NOT TOIL NOR DO THEY
SPIN, ²⁹ YET I SAY TO YOU THAT NOT
EVEN SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY CLOTHED
HIMSELF LIKE ONE OF THESE.**

MATTHEW 6:24-33 (NKJV)



**30 BUT IF GOD SO CLOTHES THE GRASS
OF THE FIELD, WHICH IS ALIVE TODAY
AND TOMORROW IS THROWN INTO
THE FURNACE, WILL HE NOT MUCH
MORE CLOTHE YOU? YOU OF LITTLE FAITH!**

MATTHEW 6:24-33 (NKJV)



**³¹ DO NOT WORRY THEN, SAYING,
'WHAT WILL WE EAT?' OR 'WHAT WILL
WE DRINK?' OR 'WHAT WILL WE WEAR
FOR CLOTHING?' ³² FOR THE GENTILES
EAGERLY SEEK ALL THESE THINGS;
FOR YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER KNOWS
THAT YOU NEED ALL THESE THINGS.**

MATTHEW 6:24-33 (NKJV)

A city skyline, likely New York City, is shown under a dramatic, reddish-orange sky. Several large, semi-transparent white arrows point downwards from the top of the frame. The city is reflected in a body of water at the bottom, which has a cyan/blue tint. Birds are visible in flight over the water.

**33 BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS
WILL BE ADDED TO YOU.**

MATTHEW 6:24-33 (NKJV)

Introduction

- **Context of the passage found in:**
 - **verses 24 (the beginning)**
 - **verse 33 (the end of the passage)**

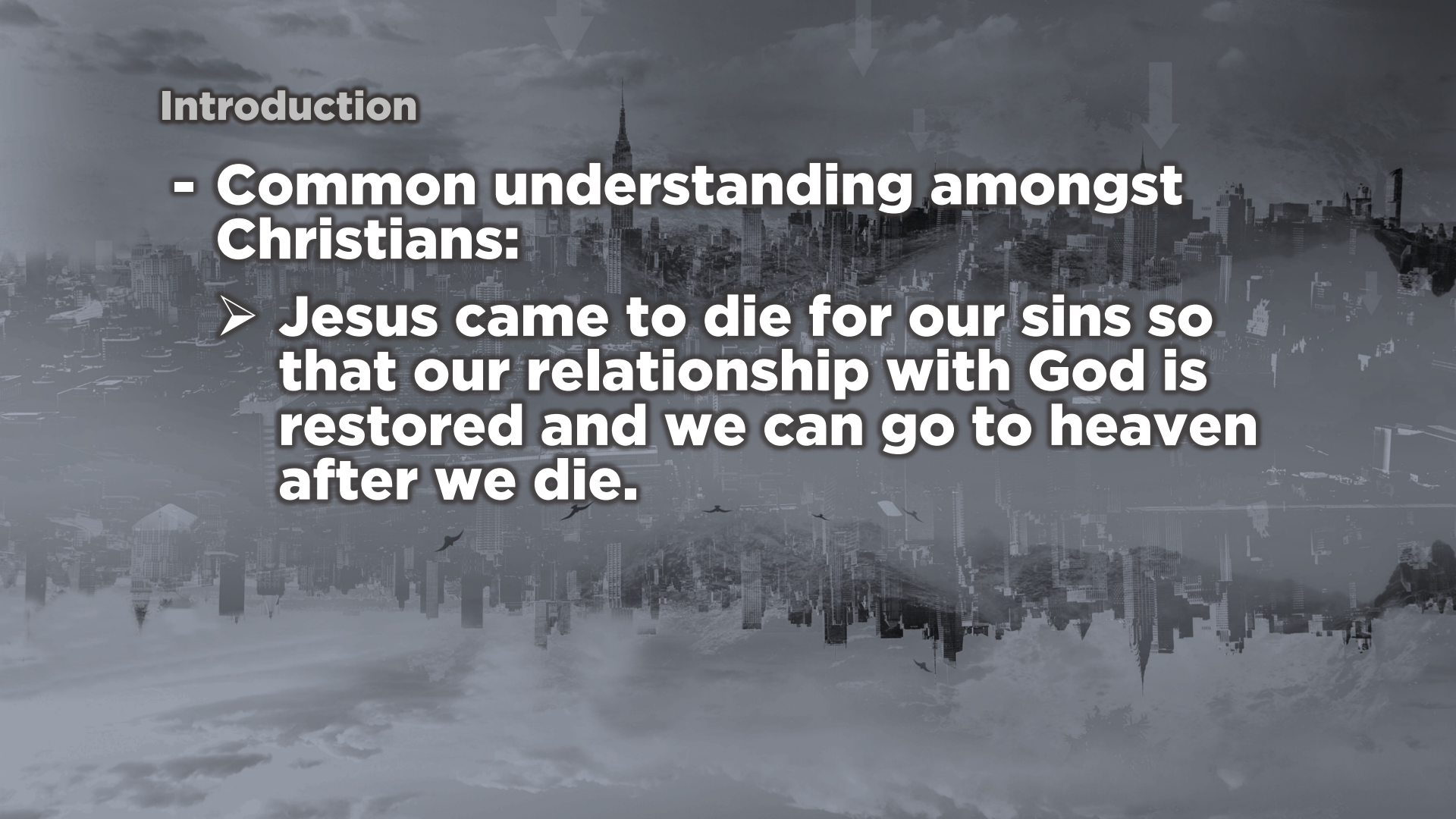
Introduction

- Jesus' main mission on earth was to preach and usher in God's kingdom on earth:

❖ Matthew 4:17

❖ Mark 1:15

❖ Luke 4:43



Introduction

- **Common understanding amongst Christians:**

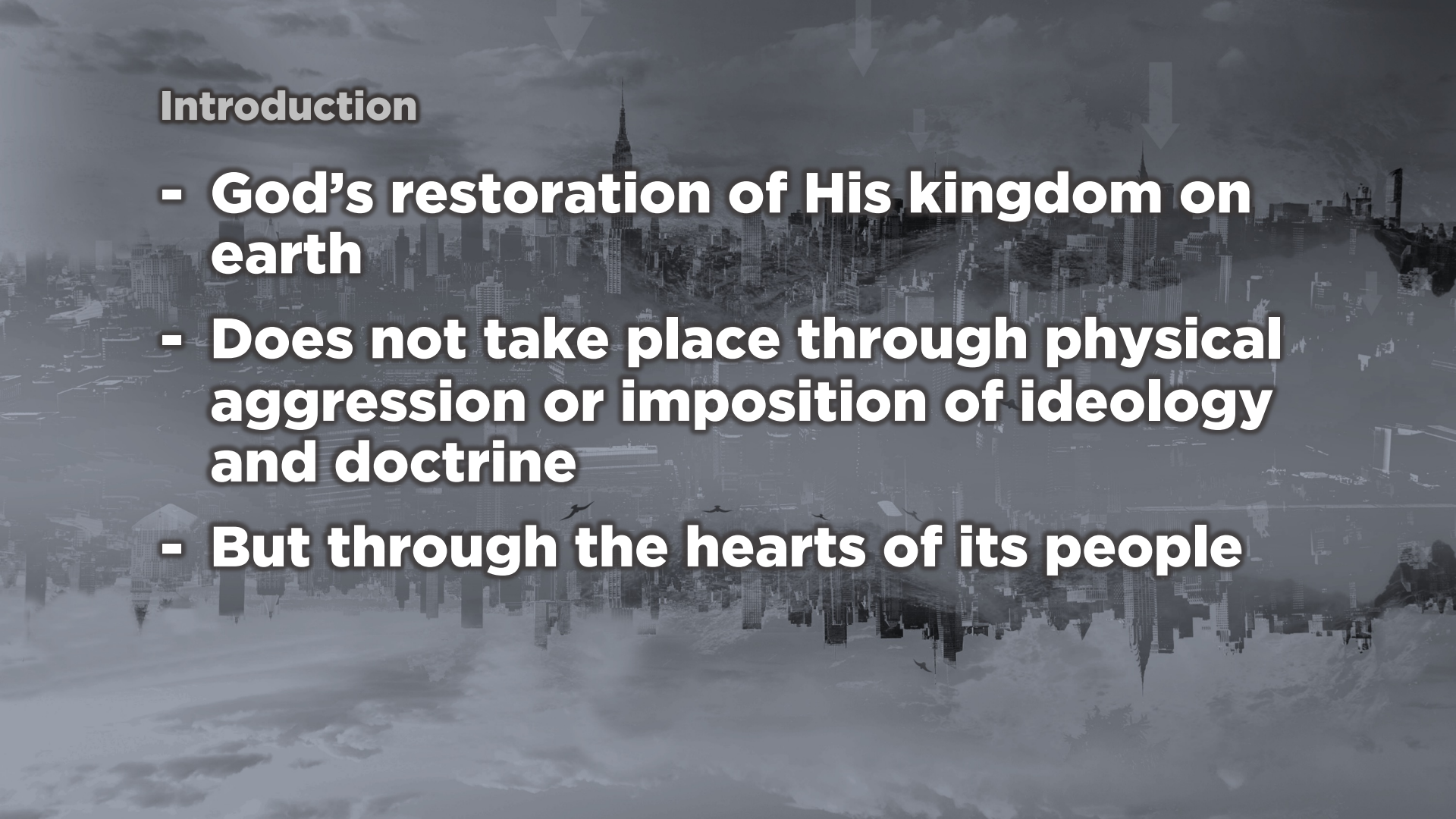
- **Jesus came to die for our sins so that our relationship with God is restored and we can go to heaven after we die.**

Introduction

- Do not paint a complete picture of what the Christian faith is about**
- Jesus dying on the cross for us and us going to heaven after our time on earth is up, is a part of God's grand plan to bring salvation and restoration to earth.**

Introduction

- **The plan culminated in Jesus coming to earth to carry out His mission of ushering God's kingdom and God's reign on earth again.**
- **The stage is now set for God's reign to be restored on earth.**



Introduction

- God's restoration of His kingdom on earth**
- Does not take place through physical aggression or imposition of ideology and doctrine**
- But through the hearts of its people**

Introduction

- Christians are the agents through whom God do so**
- We are saved for a purpose here on earth - to carry out and continue Jesus' mission to bring about the restoration of God's reign and rule on earth.**



Road Map

- i) The Kingdom of God**
- ii) God Reigning Through Us**
- iii) God Reigning In Us**

i) The Kingdom of God

- **The kingdom of God is both a place and a people over which and over whom God reigns as king**
- **A world which is ordered around God's power and love**

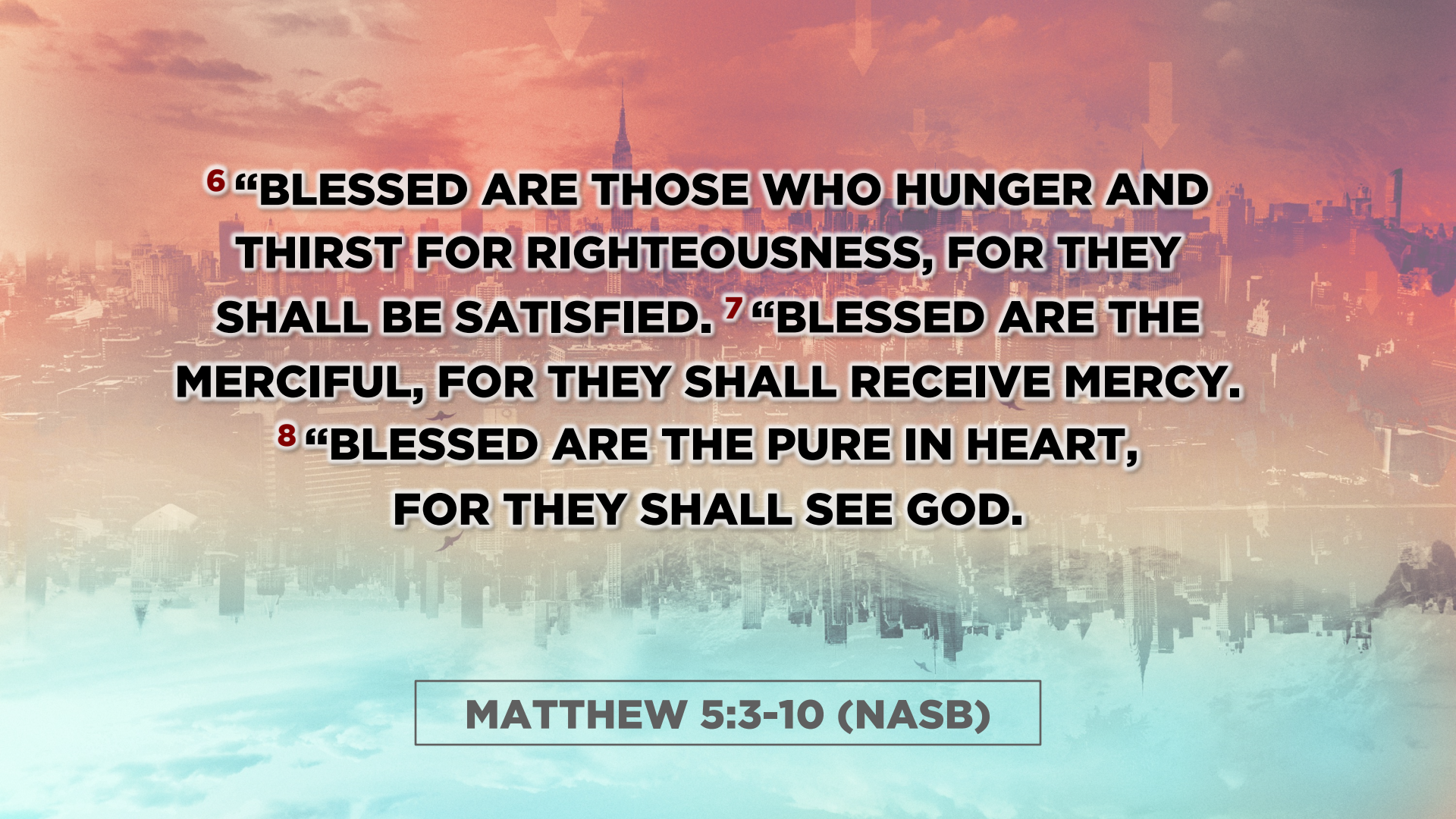


**3 “BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

**4 “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN,
FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.**

**5 “BLESSED ARE THE GENTLE, FOR THEY
SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.**

MATTHEW 5:3-10 (NASB)

The background of the image is a city skyline, likely New York City, with the Empire State Building prominent. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and purple, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Large, semi-transparent white arrows point downwards from the top of the image. The text is overlaid on this background.

**⁶ “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND
THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY
SHALL BE SATISFIED. ⁷ “BLESSED ARE THE
MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL RECEIVE MERCY.
⁸ “BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART,
FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.**

MATTHEW 5:3-10 (NASB)



**9 “BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,
FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD.**

**10 “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE
BEEN PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

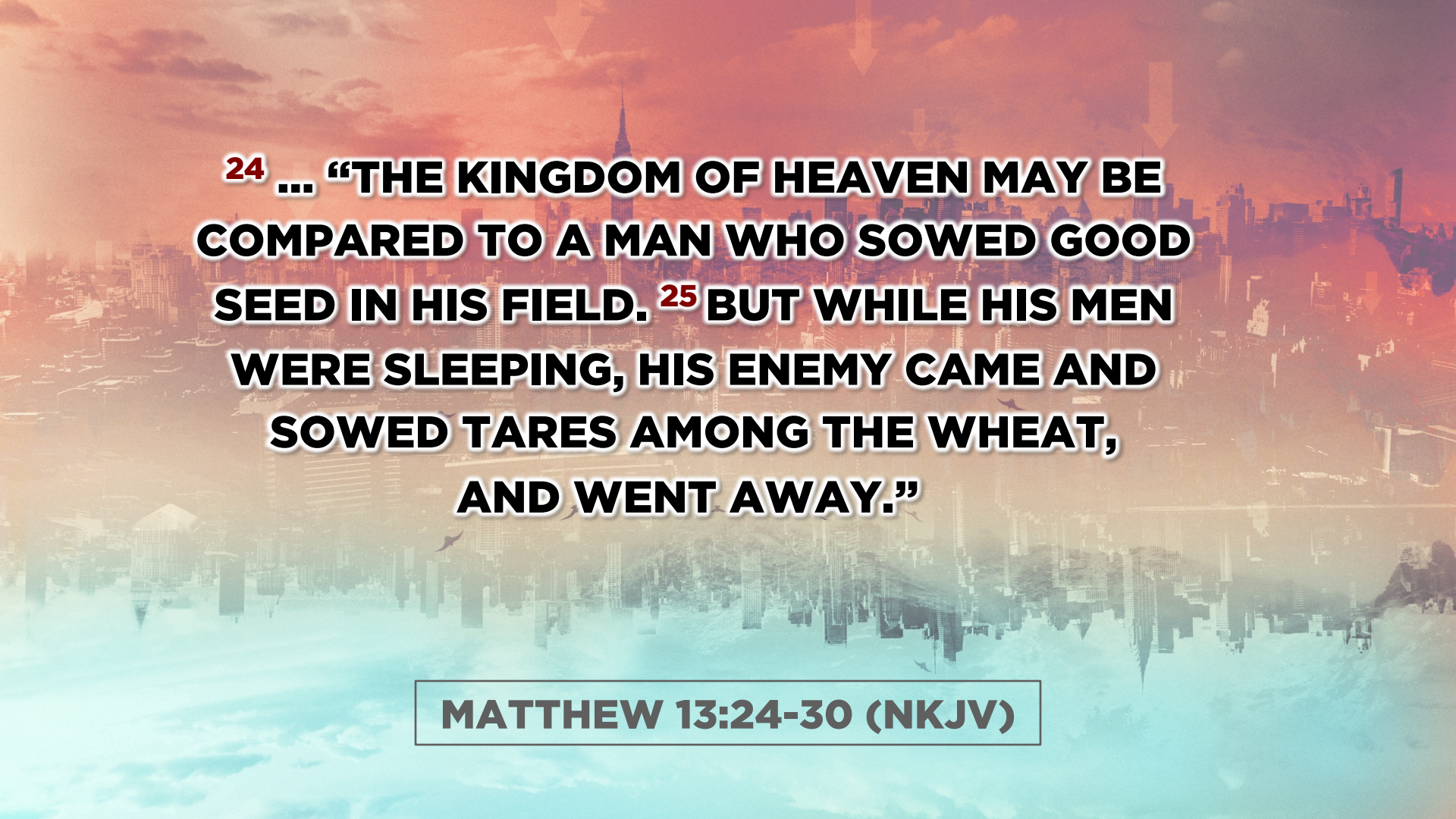
MATTHEW 5:3-10 (NASB)

i) The Kingdom of God

- Revelation 21: New heaven and earth**
- Isaiah 11:6-8: the righteous reign of God**
- In God's kingdom, not only us humans, but animals too will be transformed**
- Different from the world that we know today**

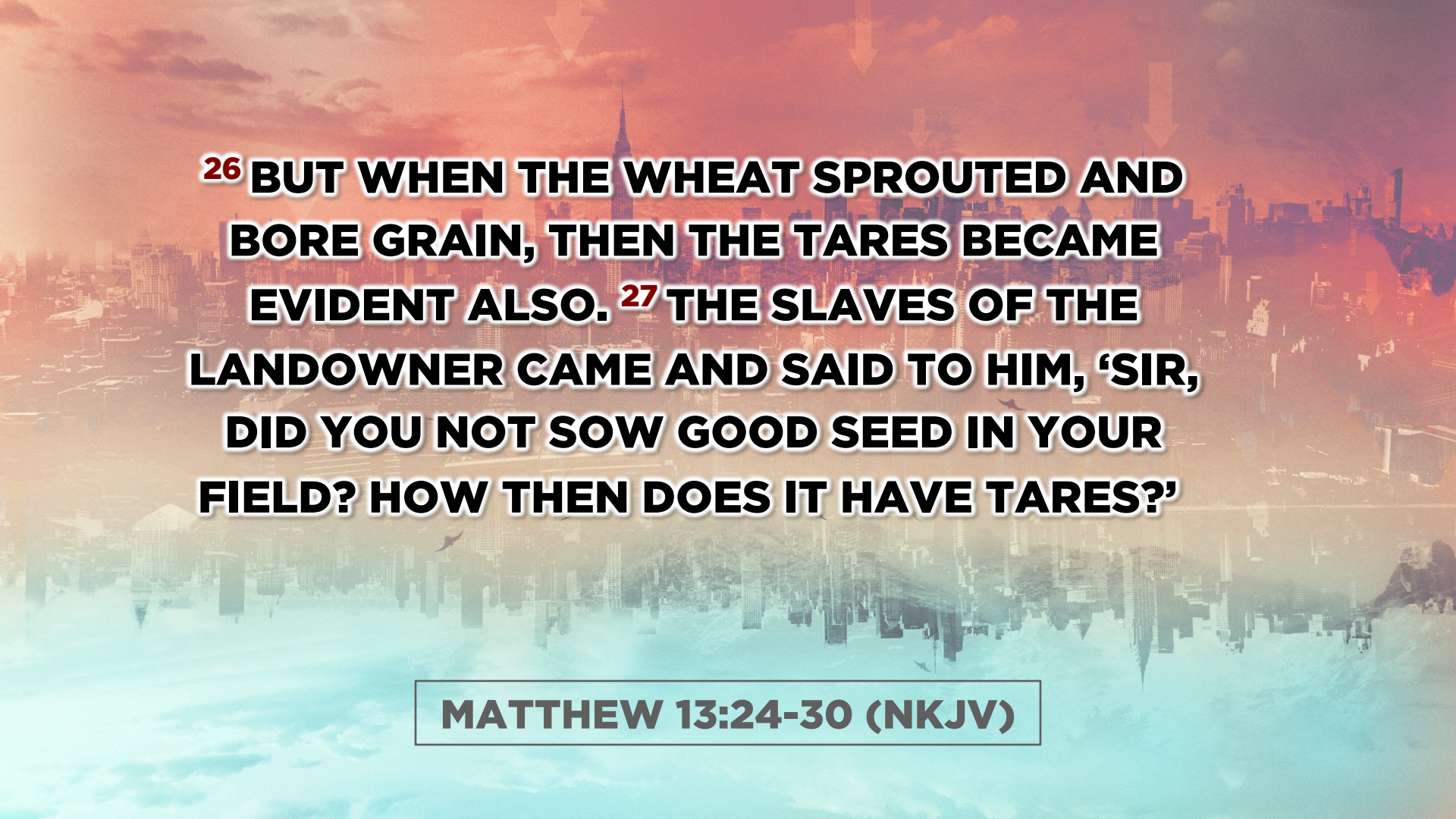
i) The Kingdom of God

- No strive and destructive competition**
- No greed and corruption**
- The kingdom of heaven is “at hand” means God’s reign on earth has started**
- But it has yet to reach its complete and final state.**



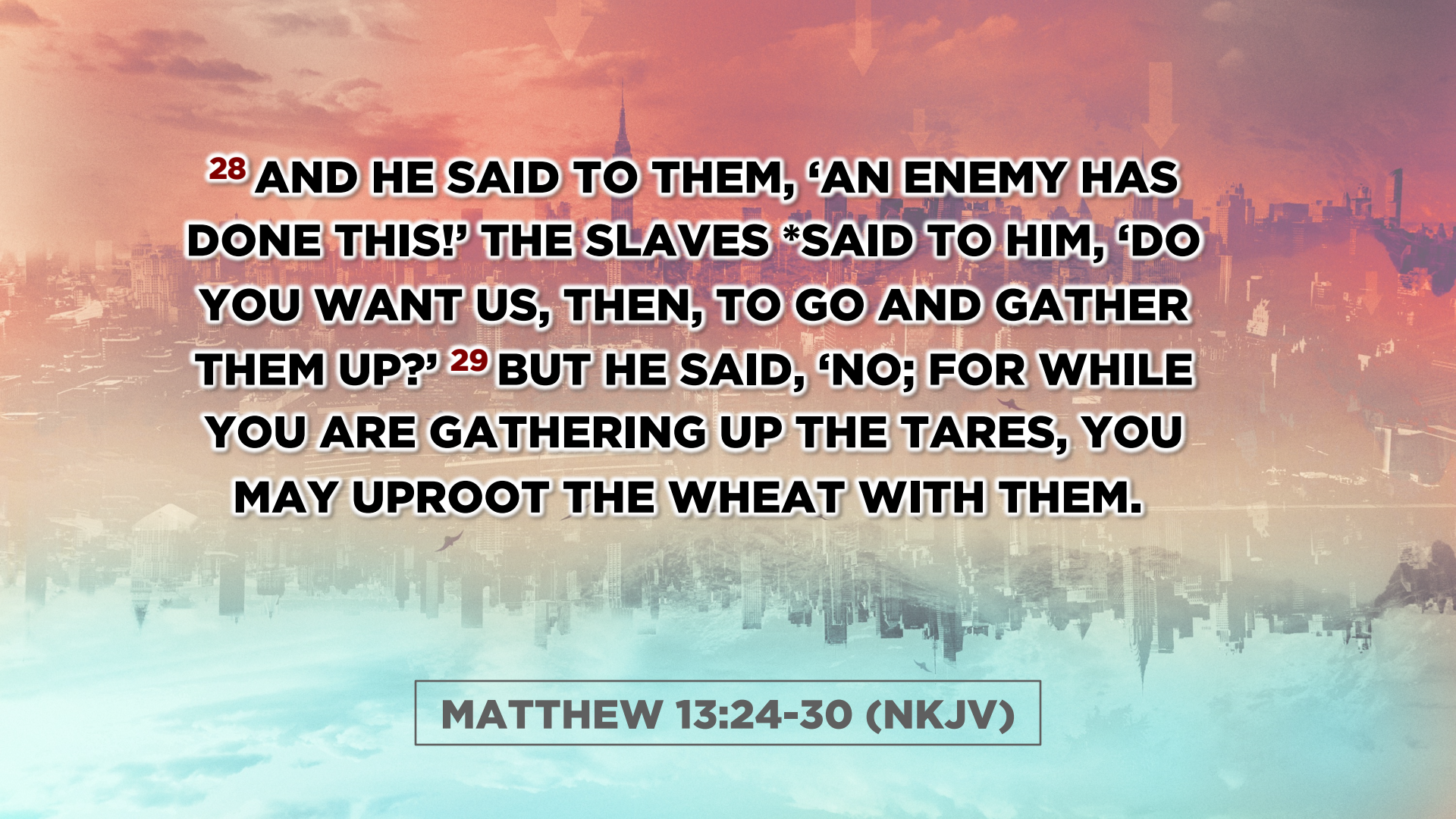
**24 ... “THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MAY BE
COMPARED TO A MAN WHO SOWED GOOD
SEED IN HIS FIELD. 25 BUT WHILE HIS MEN
WERE SLEEPING, HIS ENEMY CAME AND
SOWED TARES AMONG THE WHEAT,
AND WENT AWAY.”**

MATTHEW 13:24-30 (NKJV)



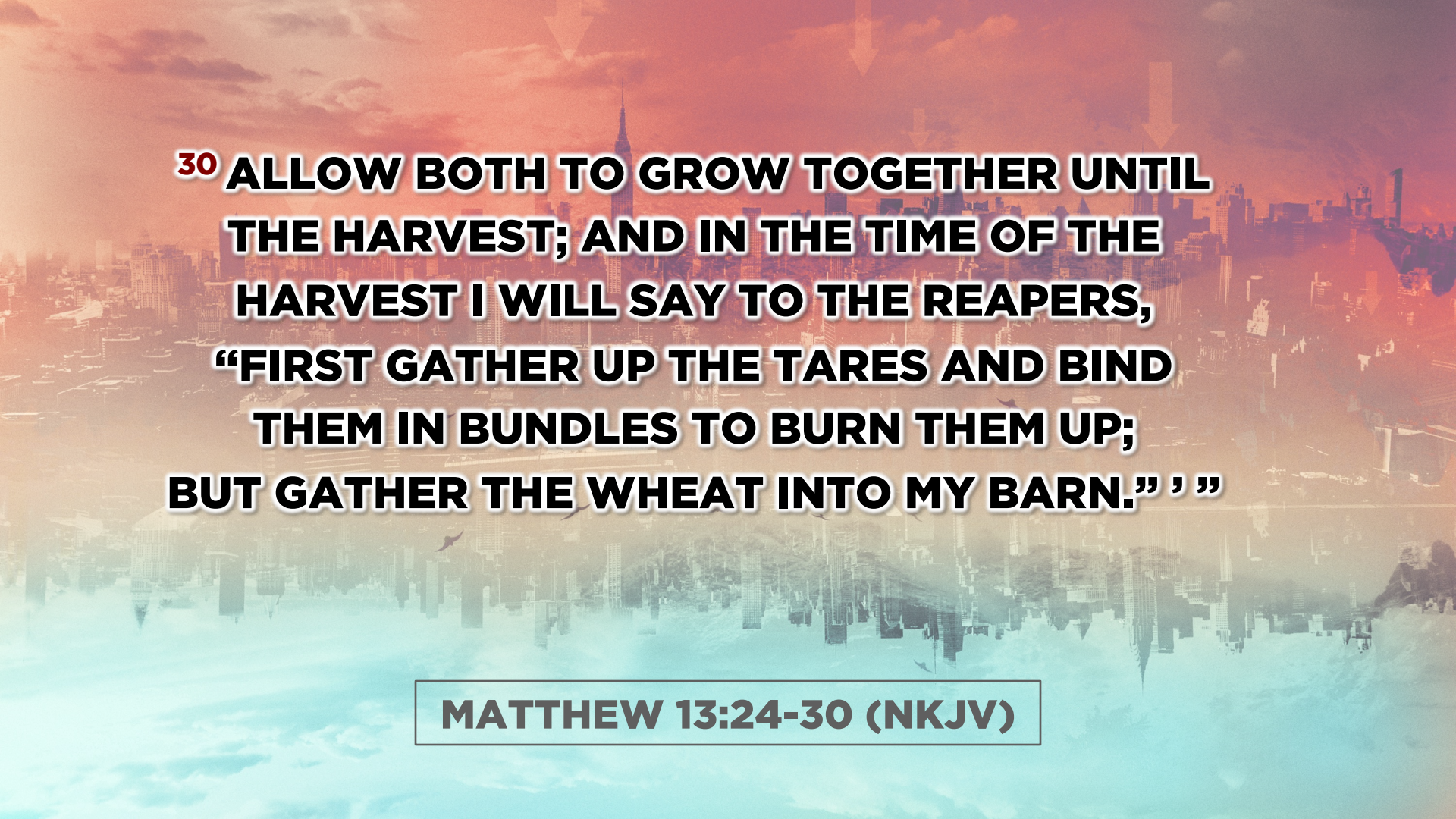
**²⁶ BUT WHEN THE WHEAT SPROUTED AND
BORE GRAIN, THEN THE TARES BECAME
EVIDENT ALSO. ²⁷ THE SLAVES OF THE
LANDOWNER CAME AND SAID TO HIM, ‘SIR,
DID YOU NOT SOW GOOD SEED IN YOUR
FIELD? HOW THEN DOES IT HAVE TARES?’**

MATTHEW 13:24-30 (NKJV)



**28 AND HE SAID TO THEM, 'AN ENEMY HAS
DONE THIS!' THE SLAVES *SAID TO HIM, 'DO
YOU WANT US, THEN, TO GO AND GATHER
THEM UP?' 29 BUT HE SAID, 'NO; FOR WHILE
YOU ARE GATHERING UP THE TARES, YOU
MAY UPROOT THE WHEAT WITH THEM.**

MATTHEW 13:24-30 (NKJV)



**30 ALLOW BOTH TO GROW TOGETHER UNTIL
THE HARVEST; AND IN THE TIME OF THE
HARVEST I WILL SAY TO THE REAPERS,
“FIRST GATHER UP THE TARES AND BIND
THEM IN BUNDLES TO BURN THEM UP;
BUT GATHER THE WHEAT INTO MY BARN.” ’ ’**

MATTHEW 13:24-30 (NKJV)

i) The Kingdom of God

- Jesus explained the parable in verses 37 to 43.**
- God's kingdom is growing here on earth through His people, as symbolized by the wheat, even as the world continues to degenerate in its sin and corruption, as symbolised by the tares.**

i) The Kingdom of God

- But there will come a day, when sin and godlessness will meet its judgment and God's reign will be fully restored.**



ii) God Reigning Through Us

- **God had originally created man to reign and rule over the earth with Him.**
- **Model of God working with and through man continues to apply in God's plan to bring restoration to the world.**

ii) God Reigning Through Us

- **God's image bearers and representatives here on earth.**
- **God asserts His rule and reign through us, His people.**
- **God asserts His reign over the earth through the way we live.**



ii) God Reigning Through Us

- DPM Lawrence Wong gave a speech at the Institute of Policy Studies' 35th Anniversary Conference:

➤ **new social compact Singapore aspires towards in the next phase of our development as a nation**

ii) God Reigning Through Us

➤ **challenges the world is currently facing:**

“We are in a more dangerous and troubled external environment. We face rapid technological changes which will bring about more disruptive impact for workers.”

The background of the slide is a photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, during sunset or sunrise. The sky is a deep orange and red, with large, semi-transparent white arrows pointing downwards. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky.

ii) God Reigning Through Us

Domestically, we have to deal with social trends with long-term consequences, including a rapidly ageing population, concerns that social mobility, while still strong relative to other countries, is starting to slow down, and greater anxieties and stresses felt by various groups in society.”



ii) God Reigning Through Us

- If we want to talk about impacting our society and allowing God to reign over Singapore through us, this is the environment we will have to operate in.**

ii) God Reigning Through Us

- **DPM Wong spoke about 3 areas of what he called shifts in our social compact:**

1

- **new approach towards defining success and broader recognition of skills and vocation**

ii) God Reigning Through Us

- **DPM Wong spoke about 3 areas of what he called shifts in our social compact:**

- **moving away from material definitions of success**
- **towards a definition that is more about a sense of purpose and fulfillment**

ii) God Reigning Through Us

- **DPM Wong spoke about 3 areas of what he called shifts in our social compact:**

- **more inclusive in our recognition of talents and celebration of success**
- **opportunities for those who have experienced setback to bounce back**

ii) God Reigning Through Us

- **DPM Wong spoke about 3 areas of what he called shifts in our social compact:**

2

- **care and support for the vulnerable, poor and needy (VPN)**
- **support for our seniors**

ii) God Reigning Through Us

- **DPM Wong spoke about 3 areas of what he called shifts in our social compact:**

3

- **greater sense of solidarity as a nation**
- **“we need to be less about ‘I’, ‘me’ and ‘mine’ and more about ‘we’, ‘us’ and ‘ours’**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, during a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and yellow, with some clouds. Large, semi-transparent white arrows point downwards from the top of the image. The text is overlaid on this background.

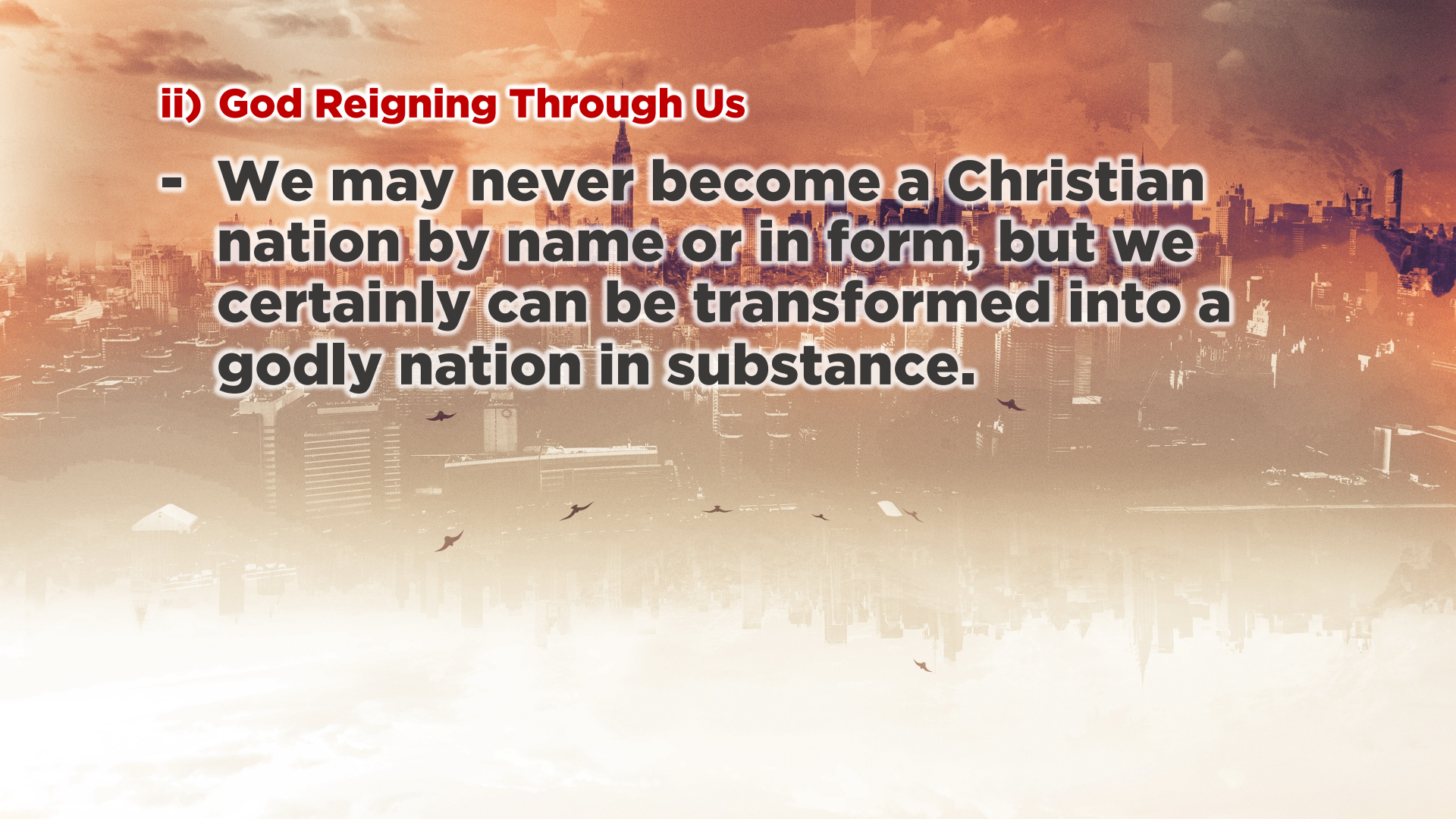
ii) God Reigning Through Us

- Those who have succeeded must do their part to uplift others**
- Many of the things DPM Wong spoke about resonated with me when I thought about how the Church in Singapore can impact our communities and society**



ii) God Reigning Through Us

- Consistent with biblical values and what the bible teaches**
- Tremendous opportunity for Christians in Singapore to play our part in bringing about this transformation to our nation**



ii) God Reigning Through Us

- We may never become a Christian nation by name or in form, but we certainly can be transformed into a godly nation in substance.**



ii) God Reigning Through Us

- **“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”:
We need to pray this over our nation.**
- **We must play our part, daily, to allow
God to reign over Singapore through
us.**

ii) God Reigning Through Us

- Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which though small and tiny when sown, but becomes a tree when fully grown.**

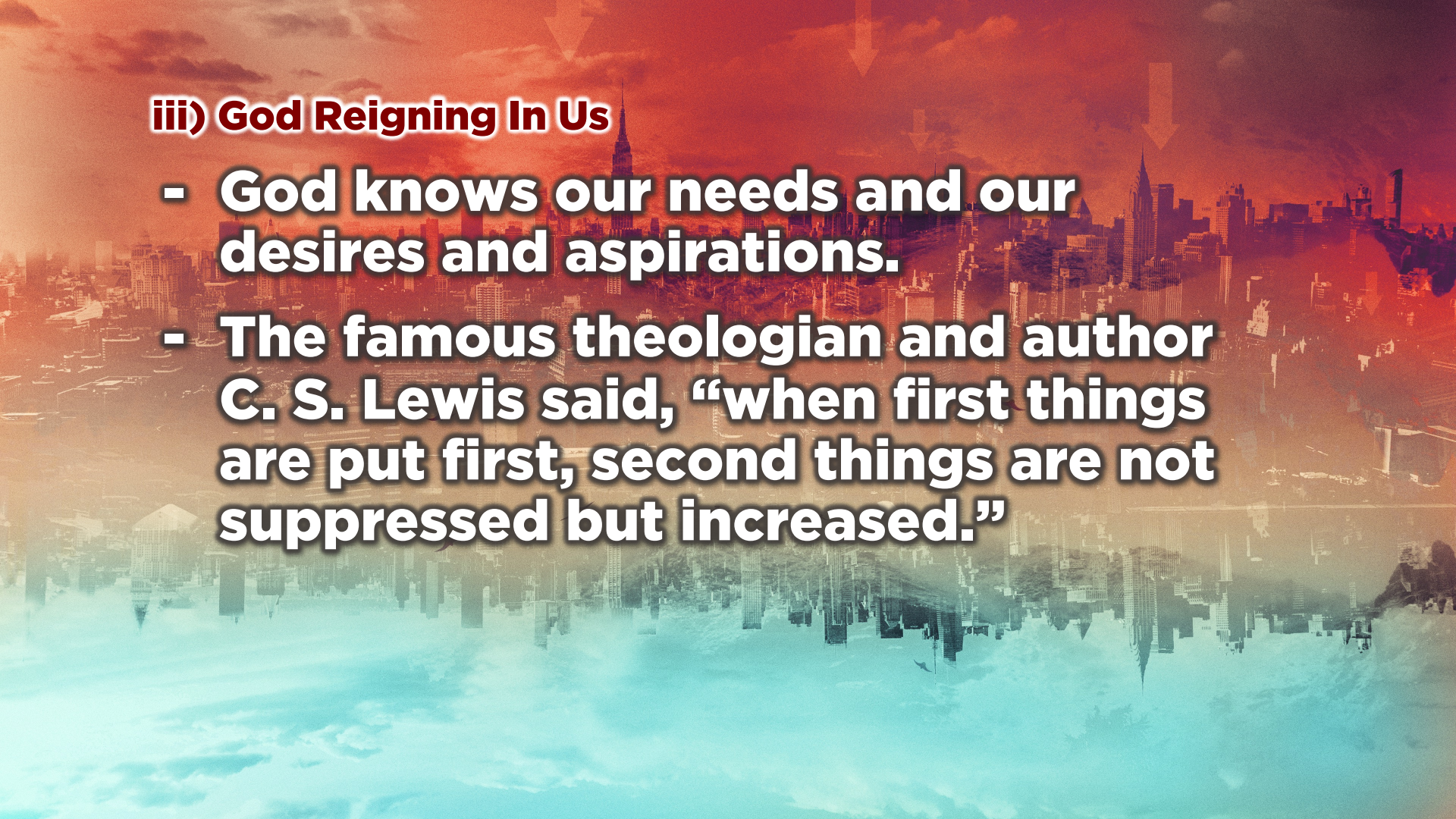
iii) God Reigning In Us



A city skyline, likely New York City, is shown at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and purple. The city's reflection is visible in the water in the foreground. Several birds are flying in the sky. Large, semi-transparent white arrows point downwards from the top of the image.

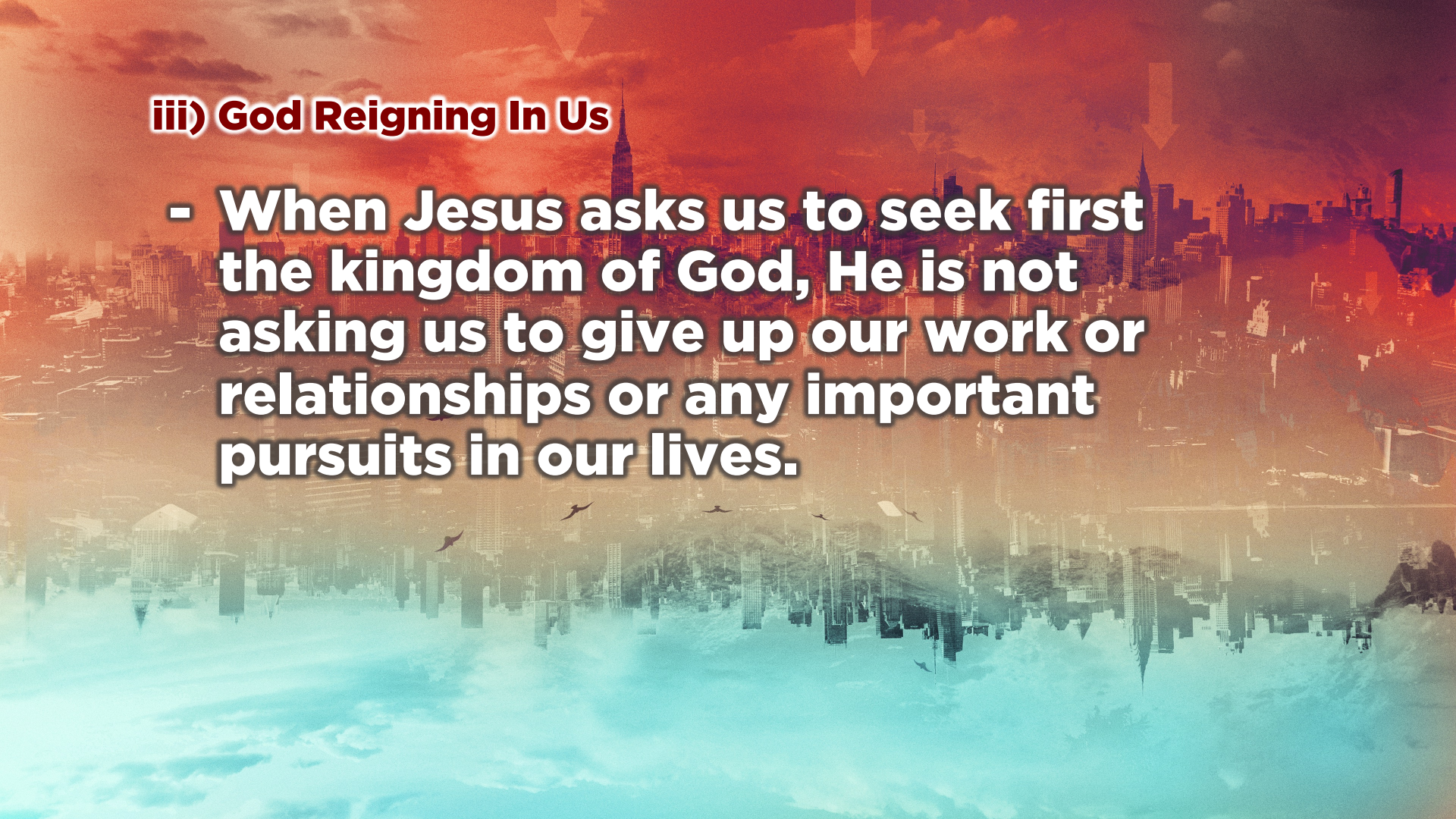
**“BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND
HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE
THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU.”**

MATTHEW 6:33 (NKJV)



iii) God Reigning In Us

- **God knows our needs and our desires and aspirations.**
- **The famous theologian and author C. S. Lewis said, “when first things are put first, second things are not suppressed but increased.”**



iii) God Reigning In Us

- When Jesus asks us to seek first the kingdom of God, He is not asking us to give up our work or relationships or any important pursuits in our lives.**

iii) God Reigning In Us

- **Jesus is asking us to make the pursuit of God's kingdom and its righteousness the center of everything else we are pursuing.**

iii) God Reigning In Us

- Potential futility of many of our pursuits when God is not at the center**
- God is not just one of the many things we need to juggle and balance in our lives.**

iii) God Reigning In Us

- **God reigning in our lives is to have God reigning over EVERY aspect of our lives.**
- **Only when we put God first will our needs and desires and aspirations be truly and fully met.**

iii) God Reigning In Us

- God is saying, put Me first in your heart:

- Let Me help you.**
- Let Me provide for you.**

A surreal cityscape, likely New York City, with a dramatic red and orange sky. The bottom half of the image is inverted, showing a cyan-colored reflection of the city. Several birds are flying in the sky. Faint, semi-transparent arrows point downwards from the top of the image.

Conclusion