



# **Comfort in LOSS**

Retrieval in the Kingdom



UNBEARABLE LOSS

---

## **part 2: testimony of Sister Amy**



Dominiq





A photograph showing a baptism in a swimming pool. An older man with grey hair, wearing a white polo shirt, is on the left, holding the hands of a younger man. The younger man, Dominiq, is on the right, wearing a blue polo shirt with a white 'XS' logo and a Nike swoosh on the sleeve. He is looking down with a focused expression. They are standing in shallow water, and the pool's edge is visible in the background.

Dominiq was baptized 2 months before he fell asleep.



Sister Amy & Brother Dominiq

JUNE 2016 / After his baptism







**Then Dominiq had an accident.**



A man wearing a black baseball cap and a black and white patterned shirt is leaning in and kissing a woman on the cheek. The woman has long brown hair and is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. They are outdoors, with a wooden fence and trees in the background. The image has a soft, slightly desaturated color palette.

THE ONE VERSE THAT ANCHORS AMY'S HOPE:

*“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

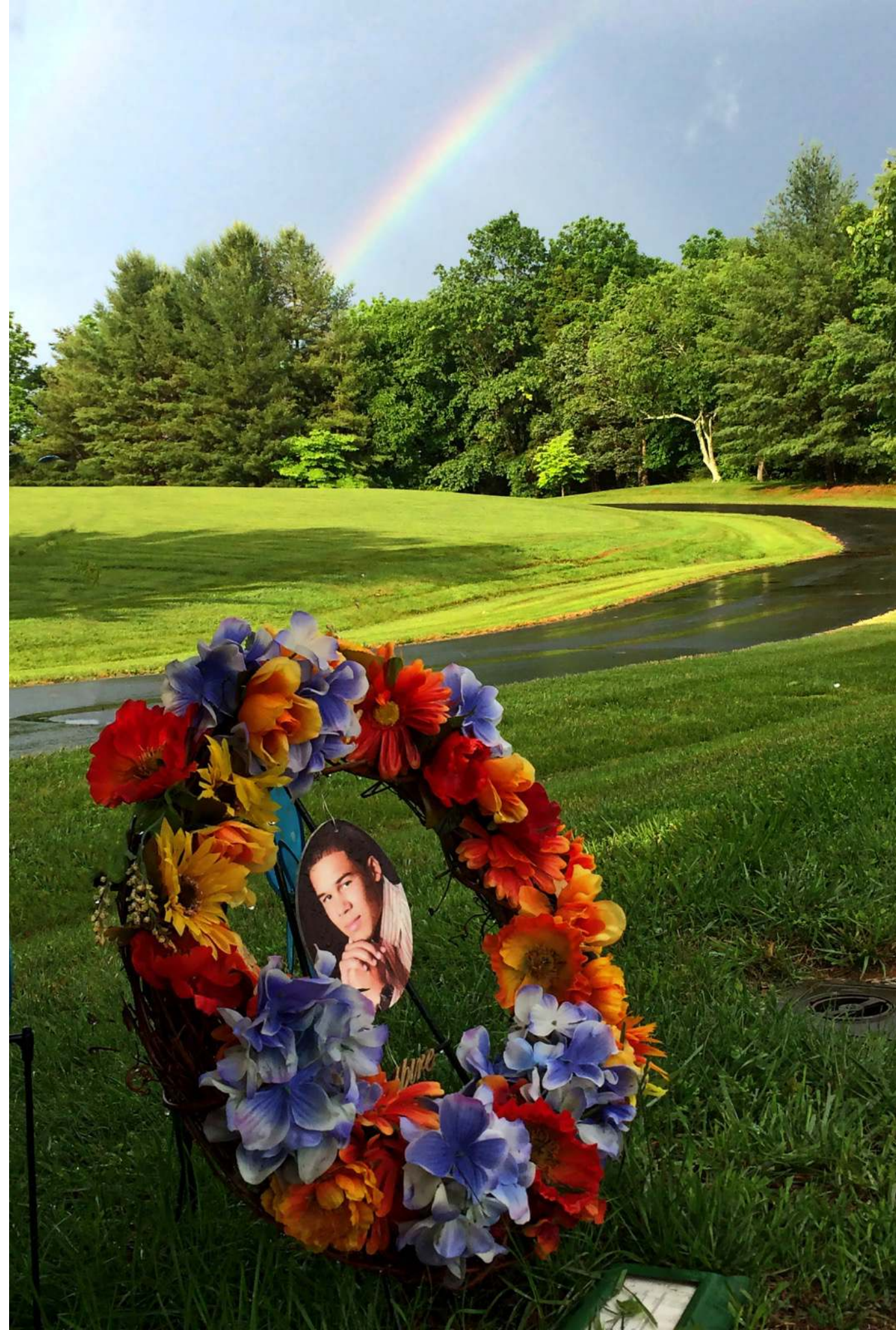
Revelation 21:4 ESV



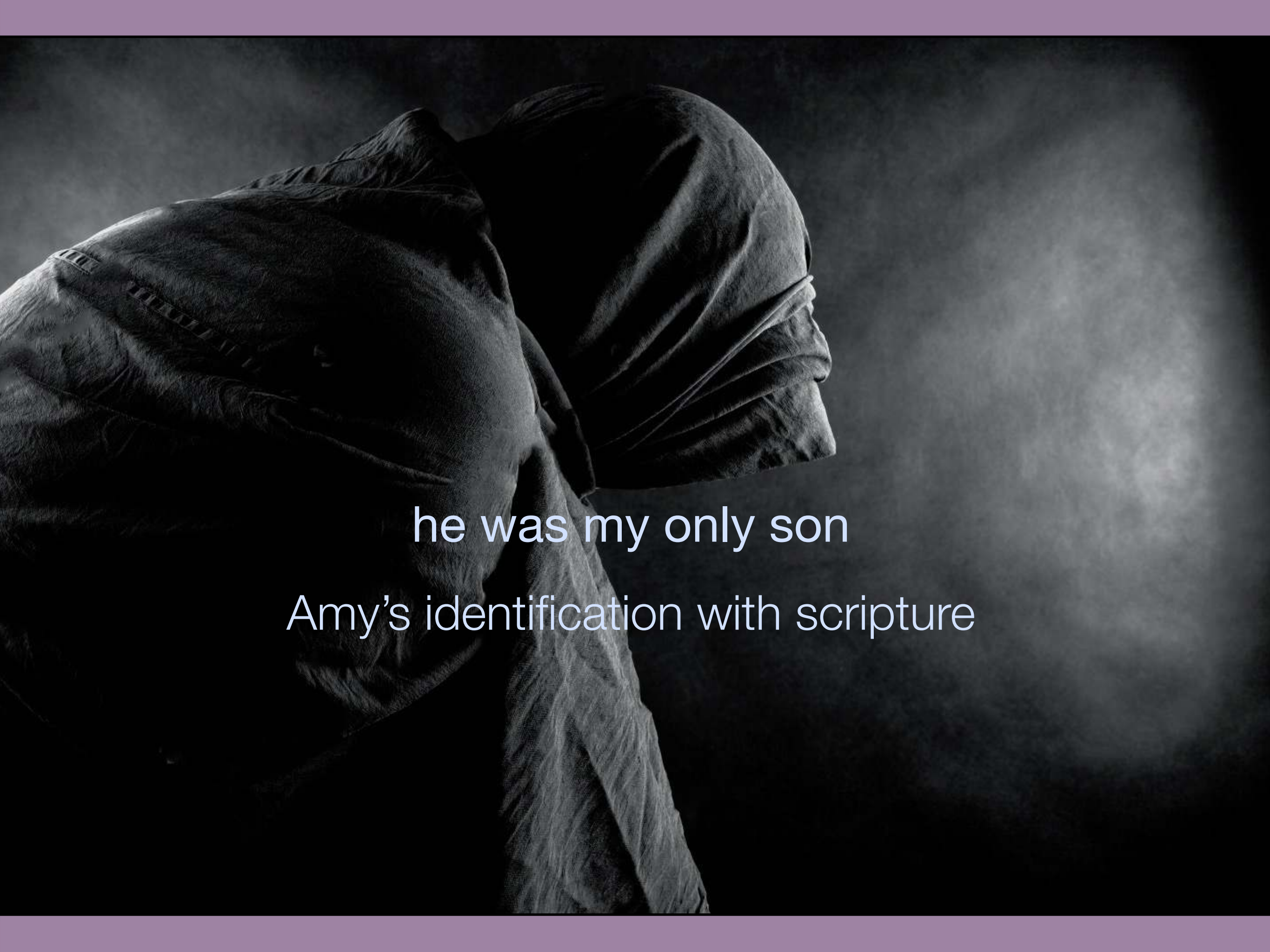
# How close is God?

---

“God’s promise—waiting for the resurrection.”







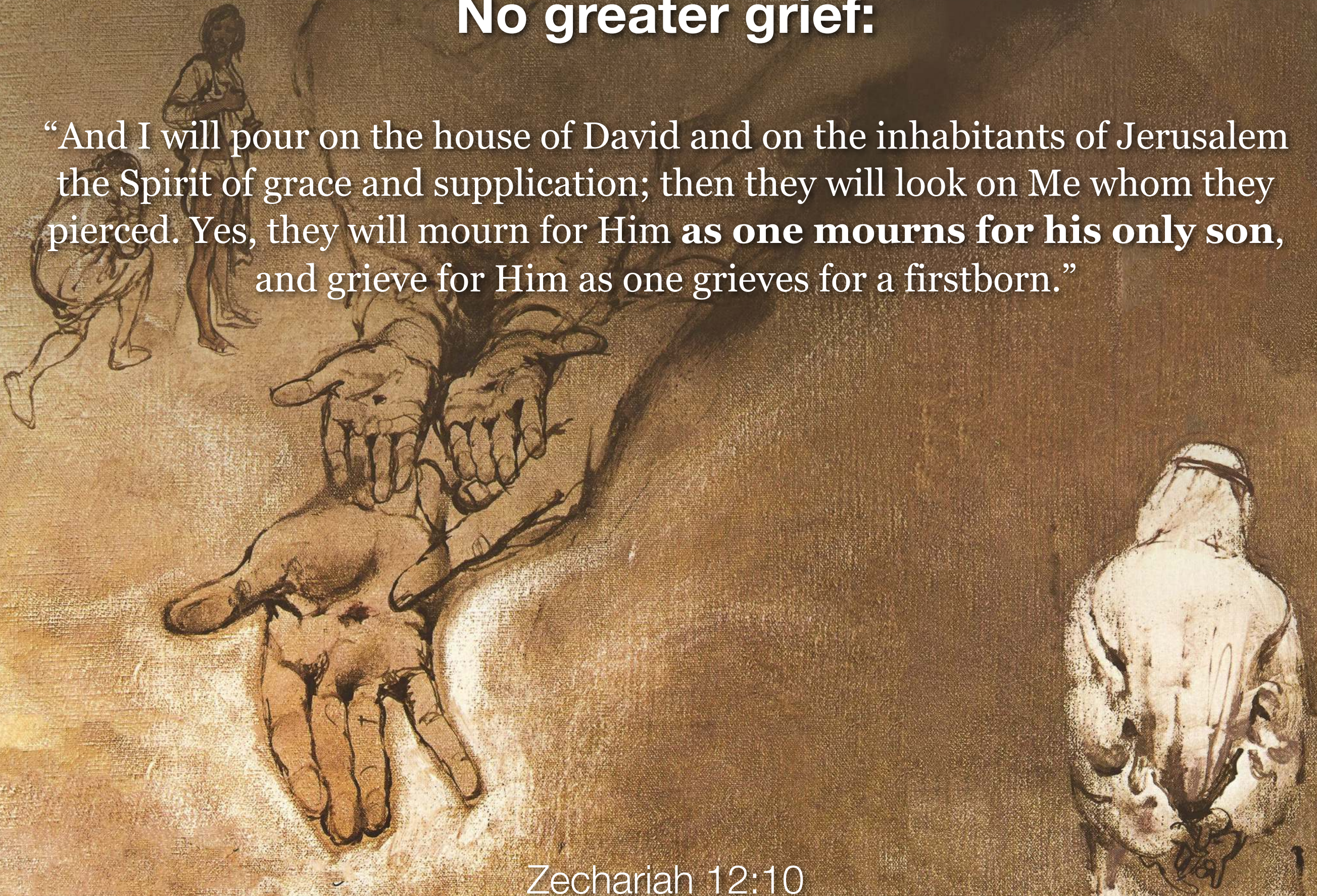
he was my only son  
Amy's identification with scripture



## No greater grief:

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him **as one mourns for his only son**, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

Zechariah 12:10





## Grief too great for comfort:

“And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; ***but he refused to be comforted***; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.”

Gen 37:34-35



# empathy

Sorrow can overwhelm comfort. God understands.

---

“When I would comfort myself against sorrow, **my heart is faint within me.**”

Jeremiah 8:18



# Strong feelings are natural and real:

---

**I felt like screaming to God because wicked people live.**

Scriptural Answer:

“Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. ...For all the day long I have been stricken, and chastened every morning. ...But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, *until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end.* Truly thou dost set them in slippery places; thou dost make them fall to ruin. How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! *They are like a dream when one awakes, on awaking you despise their phantoms.*”

Psa 73:12...20



# Amy's Contrast Between Natural Feelings and Spiritual Knowledge

“Like Rachel weeping for her children, I refuse to be comforted. I feel  
like I’m hanging at the end of a rope, over an abyss,  
where the only thing keeping me from letting go is the  
**knowledge of the resurrection, and seeing my son again.”**

*Sister Amy*



# God Answered Amy with *Personal* Identification

---

“Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into No greater grief: For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. But Zion said, “*The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.*” “*Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?* Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you *on the palms* of my hands;”

Isaiah 49:13-16 (ESV)



## Just recently, two years later...

---

“I’m trying to endure this tragedy and my life until the end by holding onto my Hope Rope and looking earnestly for Christ to Return. It struck me this year that Christ uses the word “endure”. Why would he say endure if things were not painful in this life? To endure acknowledges that there will be suffering. I’m holding on and enduring until Christ comes because I know...

*“I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”*  
John 11:24

I am longing for the day when the following will happen, and I will hear these words, *“Young man, I say to you, arise.”* And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and *Jesus gave him to his mother.”*  
Luke 7:14 And, *“Woman, behold your son!”* John 19:26

# Principle of Loss

---

**A life is not lost, unless it is lost to God.**

“What does it benefit a man to gain the whole world yet lose his life?”

Mark 8:36



A close-up, dark-toned photograph of a man's face, which is mostly obscured by his hands. He is wearing a blue and white patterned sweater. The background is dark and out of focus.

ANOTHER RECENT STORY

# Loss & baptism: A Faithful Father's Plea

---

*“He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.”*

Mark 16:16

A blurry, grayscale image of a person's face and hands, with the text "an unexpected tragedy" overlaid. The image is out of focus, showing a person's face and hands in a dark, moody setting. The text is centered and written in a white, sans-serif font.

an unexpected tragedy



Brother Peter Boon, AU

*January 2017*

---

## **His message on the day of his son's funeral:**

“Two weeks ago a woman just for a moment did not look, or pause to contemplate. Her eyes were closed to an oncoming motorcycle. The tragic result of her decision was the death of my son who we buried today. God demands faith from us. Faith leads somewhere; He that believes ***and is baptized*** shall be saved.”



But James was not baptized.



Brother Peter Boon, AU

January 2017

---

## **A message on the day of his son's funeral:**

“My son, James, like most young people struggled to engage in this course of life. If there is any one small token of value in his death, it is the trumpet call *to make excellent choices*.

Stare with us at his body today...choose your friends well. Choose the places you go to, so they improve you, fill your minds with brave endeavor, choose to generously give away for others and embrace an endearing place for God in your passions so that He can fill your life with the richest meaning.”



## MESSAGE

### **NAAMAN'S SERVANTS:**

*“If the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?”*

### **SOLOMON'S ADVICE:**

*“Remember now your creator in the days of your youth*

Ecclesiastes 12:1 KJV



**LOVE AND HOPE:**

*“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things.”*

*1 Corinthians 13:7*

A close-up photograph of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair. She is looking down, her face partially obscured by shadows, with a sad or contemplative expression. Her right hand is resting on her left arm. The lighting is soft and focused on her face and hair, creating a moody atmosphere. The background is dark and out of focus.

knowing **what to say**, or *not* say



# Knowing what to say

Bro. David Levin's Advice

---

# To the Ecclesia:

BRO. DAVID LEVIN

**“Comfort doesn't come from intellectualizing;**

it comes from being human and allowing grief to have its full expression. We tend to think that displays of emotion mean we lack faith. Just the opposite is true. Our grief shows our love for the deceased and his family; it shows our understanding of mortality and all of its horrible events; it gives us opportunity to show unity, support, love, care, and compassion. Please don't try to short circuit the value of grief. People who are traumatized and aren't processing very much anyway.

**Hugs and tears and even sitting in silence with them communicates more than words.”**



Allow a place for grief; validate feelings.



# How to relate to someone suffering from severe grief:

---

- **Save theology for another time.** There's a place for it later, but not in the trauma of loss. Instead, be sympathetic.
- **Avoid saying: "I know what you're feeling."** They know you don't. Better to say: *"I can't imagine what this is like for you. I have no words, but I'm here."*
- **Help comforts more than words.** Don't say: "Let me know if I can do anything." Do say: *"Tell me what you need right now."* Help with meals, cleaning, lightening the burden of daily affairs.
- **Avoid sayings that attempt to alleviate the pain of grief;** better to be a good listener. You don't have to have answers; you can listen, acknowledge, cry, reminisce, and be present *in silence*.



## Practical support in loss:

---

- **There is no such thing as *recovery* from a major loss.** Hearts are broken that time can't heal. *Peace comes when we reconcile to loss. That anchor is **hope**.*
- **In the months to come, be careful not to avoid them.** The first year is the worst. Beyond that, *it's good to ask how they are doing.* Mention the name of the one that is lost; share your own sadness.
- **Sometimes the bereaved have a change in their social circles.** Accept these shifts; allow their own timetable.
- **Please feel free to contact David Levin** if you have any uncertainties about what might be helpful. He is a mental health professional, specializing in grief and traumatic loss.

**To contact Bro. David Levin:**

**[codaplus4@gmail.com](mailto:codaplus4@gmail.com)**

**(717) 606-6286**

---

DOWNLOAD BRO. DAVID'S FULL ADVICE:

**[www.mintdesign.com/comfort](http://www.mintdesign.com/comfort)**

---

BRO. DAVID'S COMING BOOK:

**“Until Sorrows Cease”**

*Coping and Caring in Times of Loss and Suffering*





what **Yahweh** says



A large, leafy tree stands in the center of a sun-dappled forest. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of green leaves, creating a soft, ethereal glow. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and ferns. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

## **Resurrection is an accomplished fact.**

“13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NKJV)



A large, leafy tree stands in the center of a sun-dappled forest. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of green leaves, creating a soft, golden glow and long shadows on the forest floor. The scene is peaceful and serene, with the tree's thick trunk and sprawling branches dominating the foreground and middle ground. The background is filled with more trees and foliage, creating a sense of depth and a lush environment.

**They will rise again.**

“Yet behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be *brought forth*,  
*both sons and daughters*: behold, they shall ***come forth*** unto you,  
and you shall see their way and their doings:  
*and you shall be comforted.*”

*Ezekiel 14:22 (KJV)*



A large, leafy tree stands in the center of a sun-dappled forest. Sunlight filters through the dense green canopy, creating a warm, golden glow and long shadows on the forest floor. The scene is peaceful and serene, with various shades of green and brown visible in the foliage and ground.

**There will be comfort on every side.**

“Thou, which hast showed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me *on every side*.”

Psa 71:20-21 (KJV)

**Every side of what?**



MEDITERRANEAN  
OR  
GREAT SEA

EPHRAIM

REUBEN

JUDAH

THE HOLY OF LATION

Of what, and where?

BENJAMIN

SIMEON

MAP

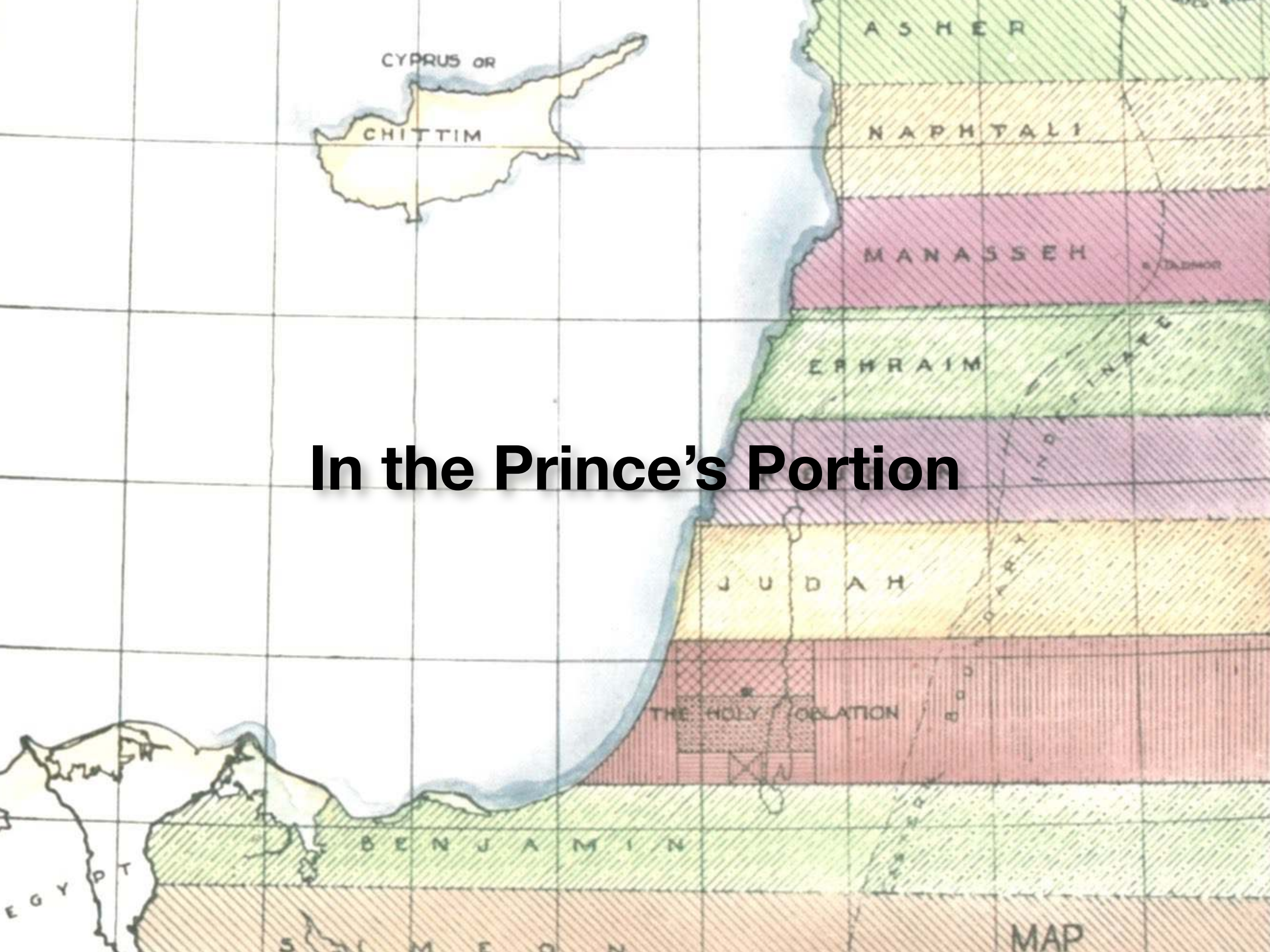
TO ILLUSTRATE THE

RESETTLEMENT OF

ACCORDING TO

ISSACHAR

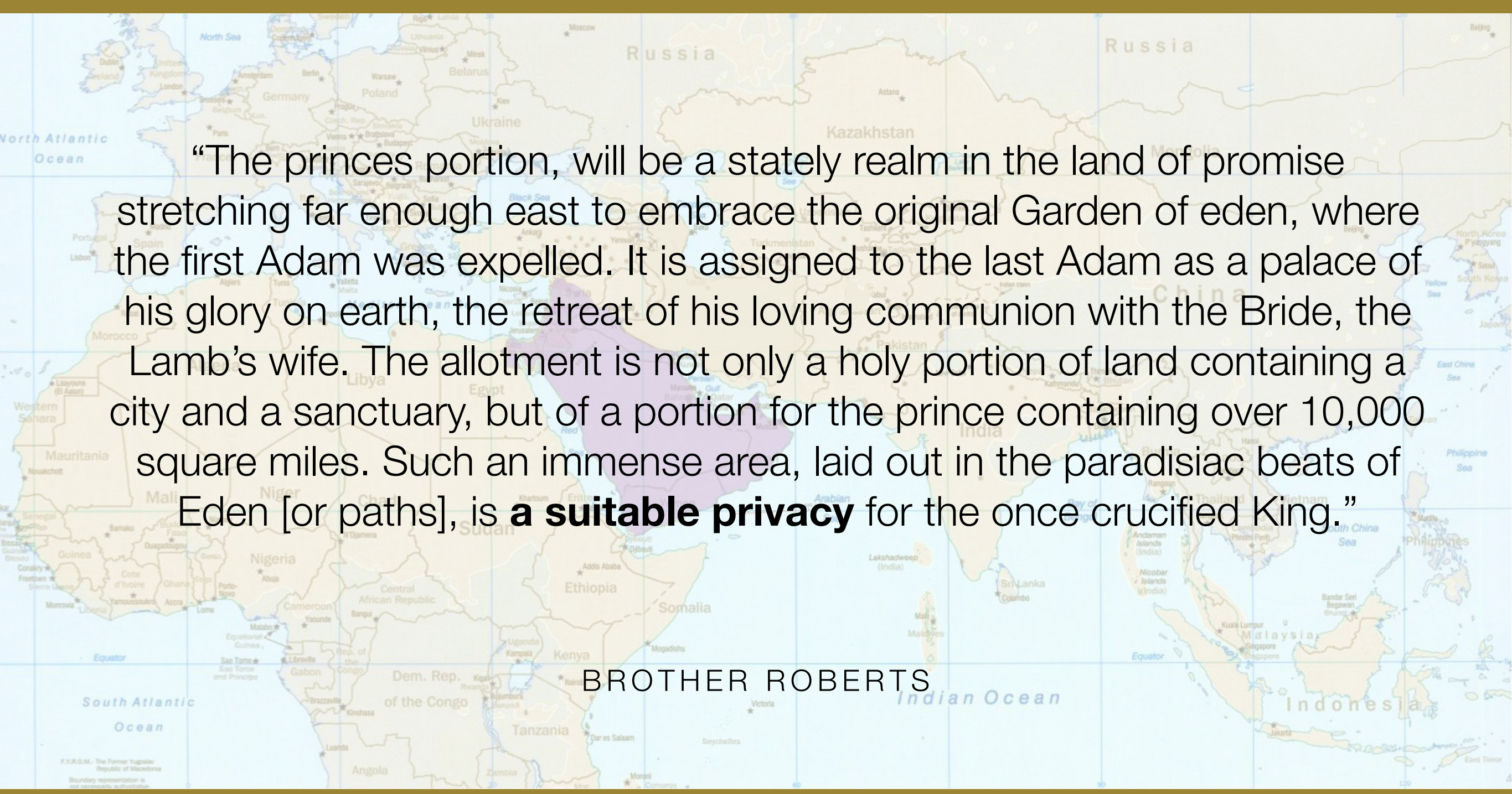




## In the Prince's Portion



# SUITABLE



“The prince's portion, will be a stately realm in the land of promise stretching far enough east to embrace the original Garden of eden, where the first Adam was expelled. It is assigned to the last Adam as a palace of his glory on earth, the retreat of his loving communion with the Bride, the Lamb's wife. The allotment is not only a holy portion of land containing a city and a sanctuary, but of a portion for the prince containing over 10,000 square miles. Such an immense area, laid out in the paradisiac beats of Eden [or paths], is **a suitable privacy** for the once crucified King.”

BROTHER ROBERTS





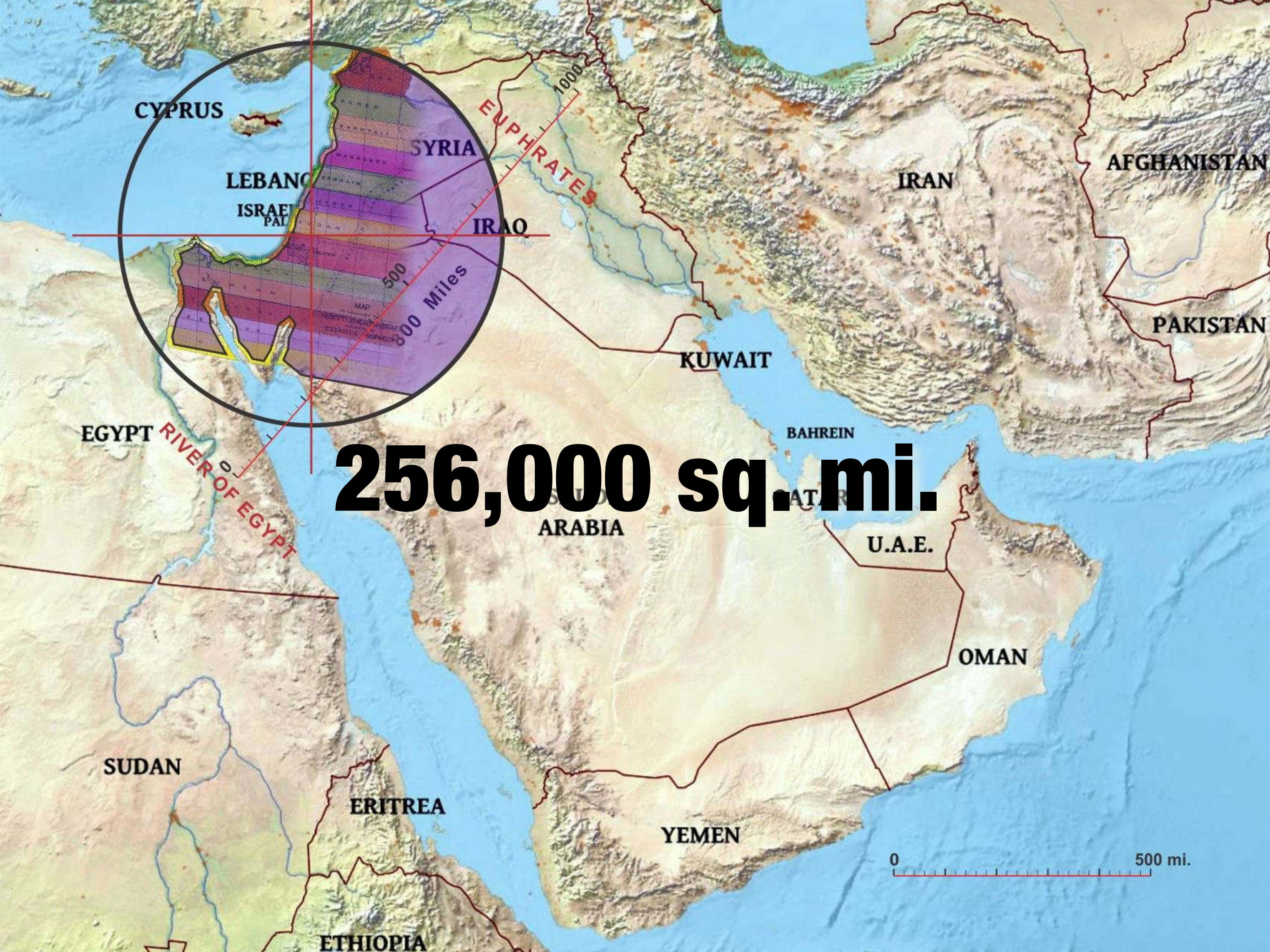
**10,000 sq. mi.**





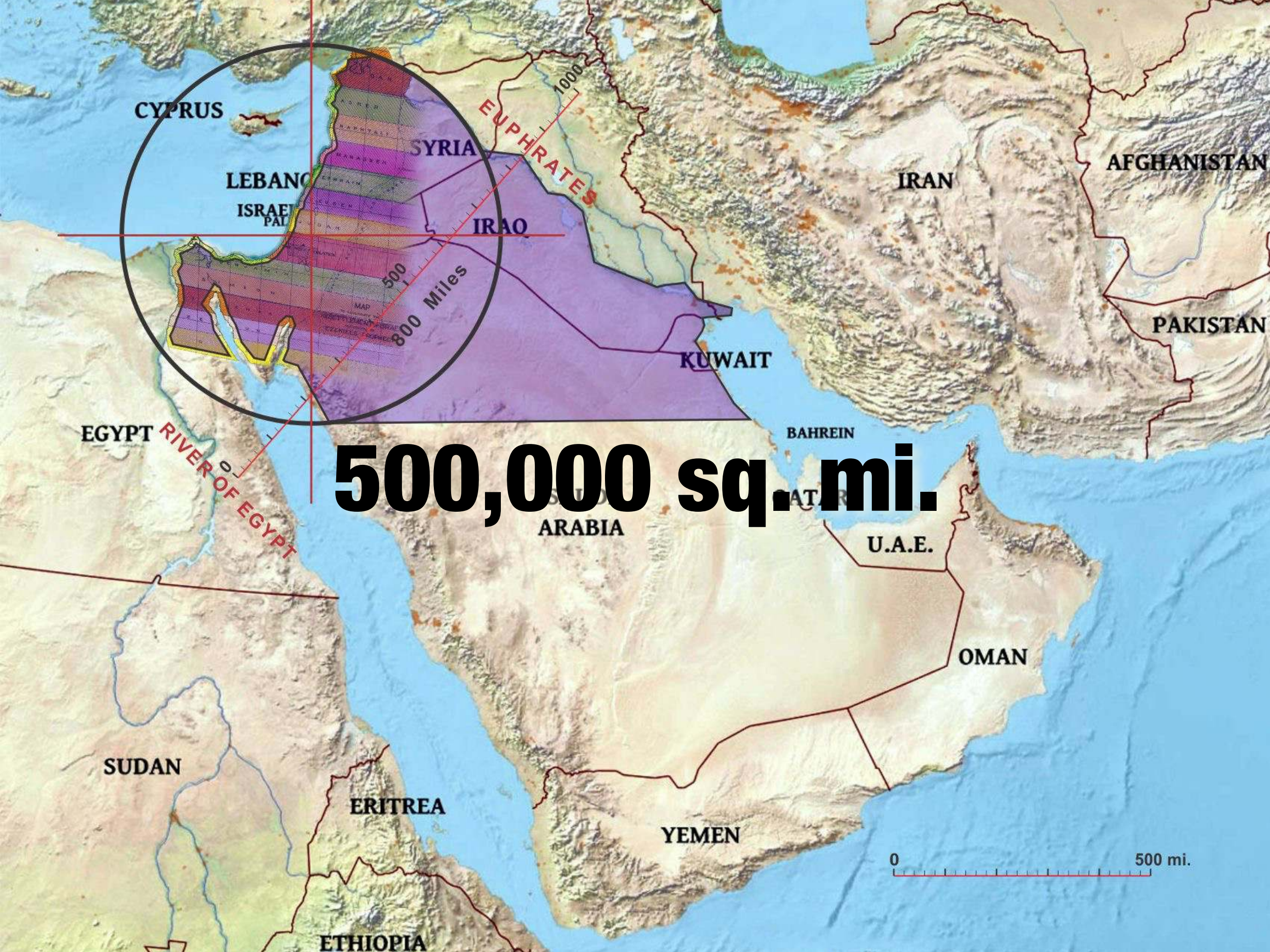
**40,000 sq. mi.**





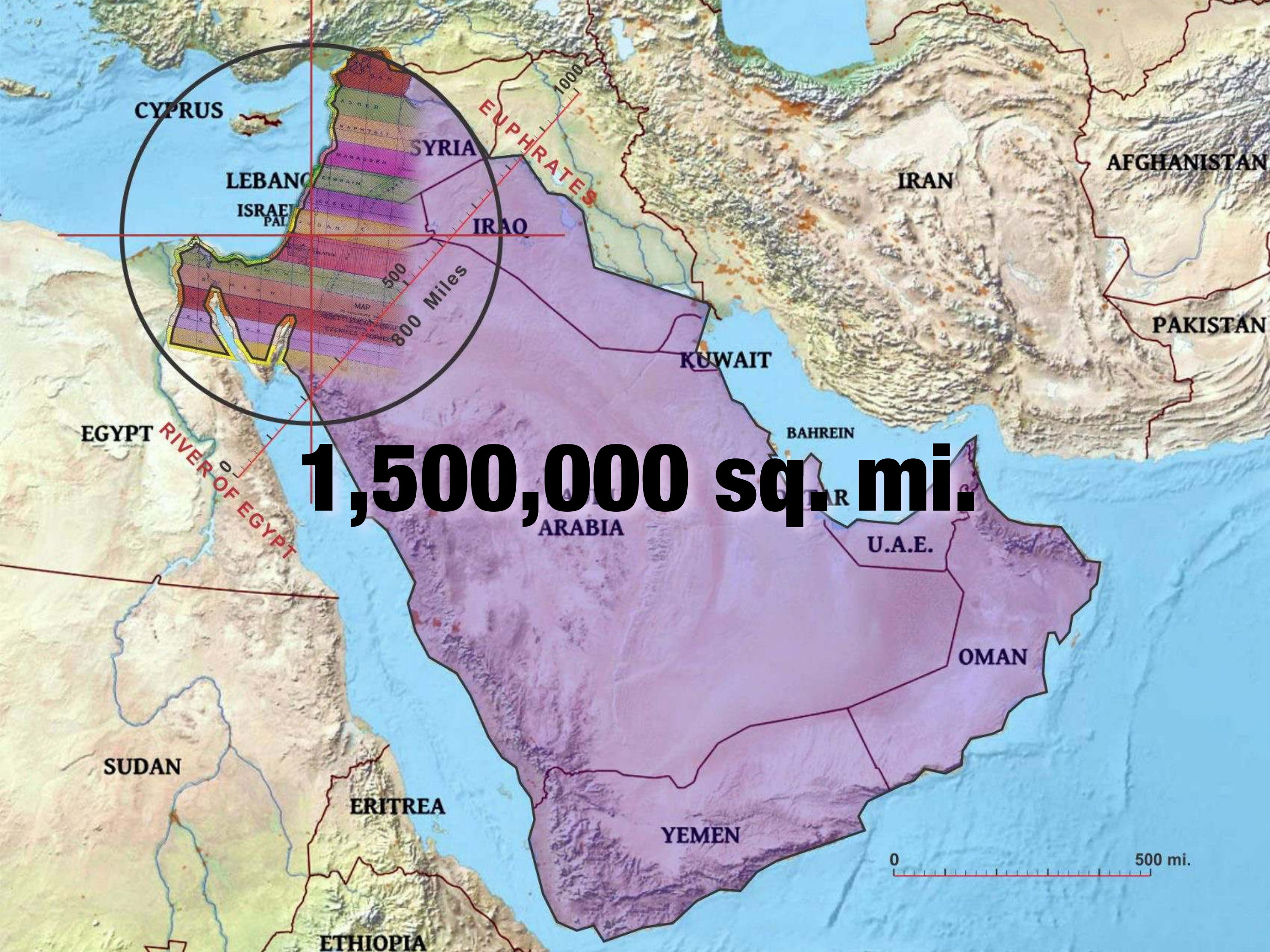
**256,000 sq. mi.**





**500,000 sq. mi.**





CYPRUS

LEBANON

ISRAEL  
PALESTINE

SYRIA

EUPHRATES

IRAQ

IRAN

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN

KUWAIT

BAHREIN

QATAR

U.A.E.

OMAN

YEMEN

ERITREA

SUDAN

ETHIOPIA

1,500,000 sq. mi.

EGYPT  
RIVER OF EGYPT

0 500 mi.



# A SUITABLE PROPERTY





# EXTENTS

“On the map before me, there are four rivers which flow together, and at length form a river which falls in to the Persian Gulf. This indicates the country called **Eden**, which is watered by these rivers. This country, in after ages, came to be denominated **‘the Garden of the Lord’**; and the kings who reigned in it, **‘the Trees of Eden.’** So that the name of it came to be applied...more especially as the future **paradise** is to occupy a considerable portion of its ancient limits.”

“In the Septuagint, the word garden is transferred without translation. **Paradise** is a Persian word adopted into the Greek and expressed in Hebrew as *pardes*. It signifies a park, a forest, or preserve; a garden of trees of various kinds, a delightful grove. It is found in these texts: *‘I made me gardens (**paradises**) and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kinds of fruits,’* and *‘A garden enclosed (a **paradise**) is my sister spouse.’* The latter text is representative of that part of Eden over which Solomon reigned; and metaphorical of its beauty, fertility, and glory, when the Heir of the vineyard, the *‘greater than Solomon’* shall come to Zion, and **‘marry the land’** of Eden, as defined in the everlasting covenant with Abraham.”

Dr. THOMAS / Elpis Israel / Eden, pp.55-58





**a dwelling place**



What would that look like up close?







paradise



A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a dense tropical forest. Sunlight filters through the thick canopy of various green leaves and branches, creating a hazy, ethereal atmosphere. The light rays are visible as bright, diagonal streaks against the darker green foliage. The composition is filled with the intricate patterns of leaves and the vertical lines of tree trunks.

Eden restored





fertile gardens





“Your bones shall flourish like an herb.”

Isa 66:14



A full-page background image showing a majestic mountain range with rugged, rocky peaks and patches of green vegetation. The mountains are reflected perfectly in a still, clear lake in the foreground. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue. The overall scene is peaceful and awe-inspiring.

“Break forth into singing, O mountains:for the LORD has  
comforted his people”

Isa 49:13



“The Lord will comfort Zion: He will comfort all her waste places”

Isa 51:3





A photograph of a lush garden filled with numerous red roses. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with some showing deep red petals and others as buds. The green leaves of the rose bushes are visible, creating a dense background. The ground is covered with dry, brownish mulch. The text "blossoming deserts" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the upper middle of the image.

blossoming deserts

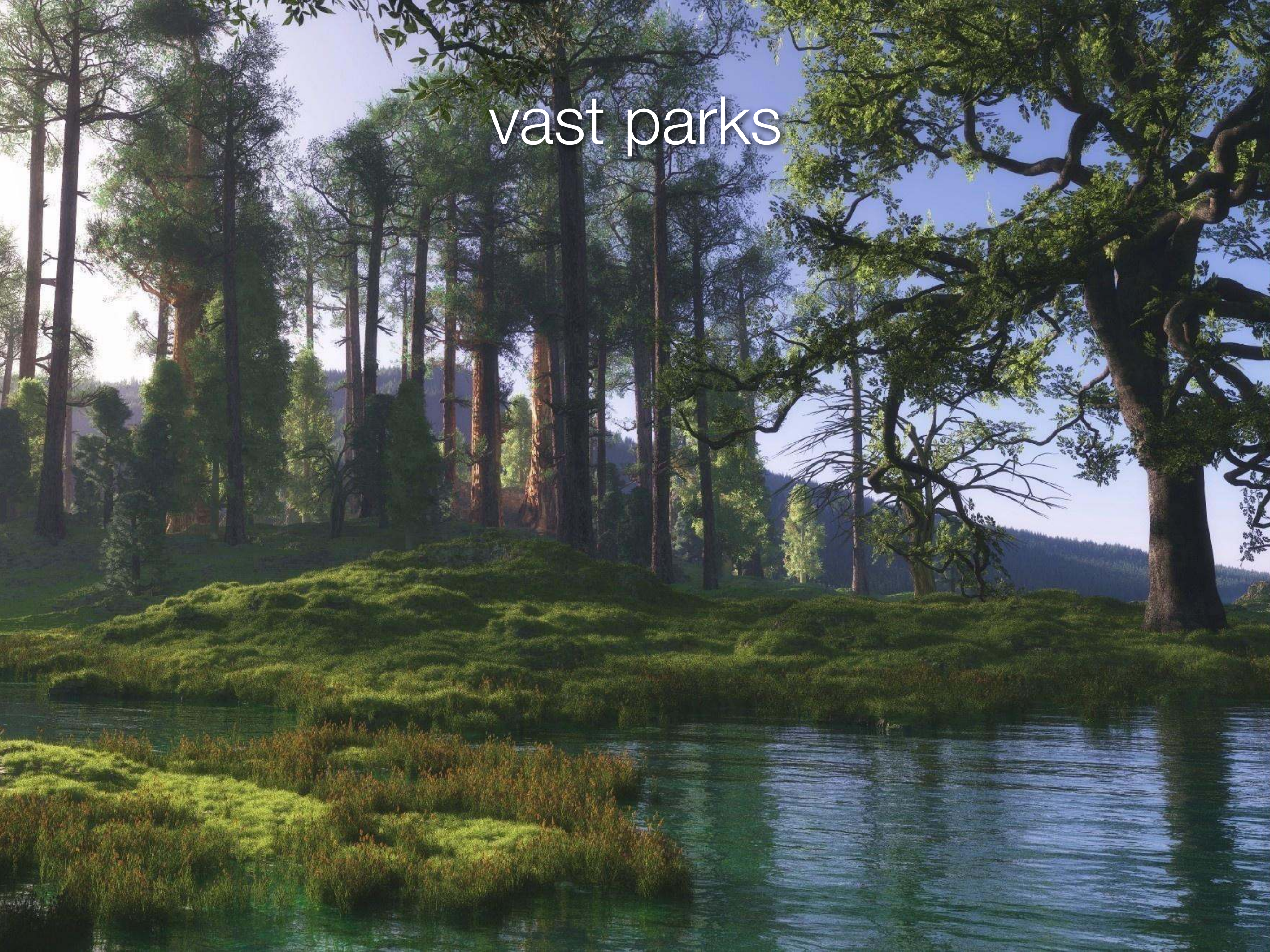


pristine coastlines





vast parks





beautiful dwellings





vineyards





“wine on the lees well refined”



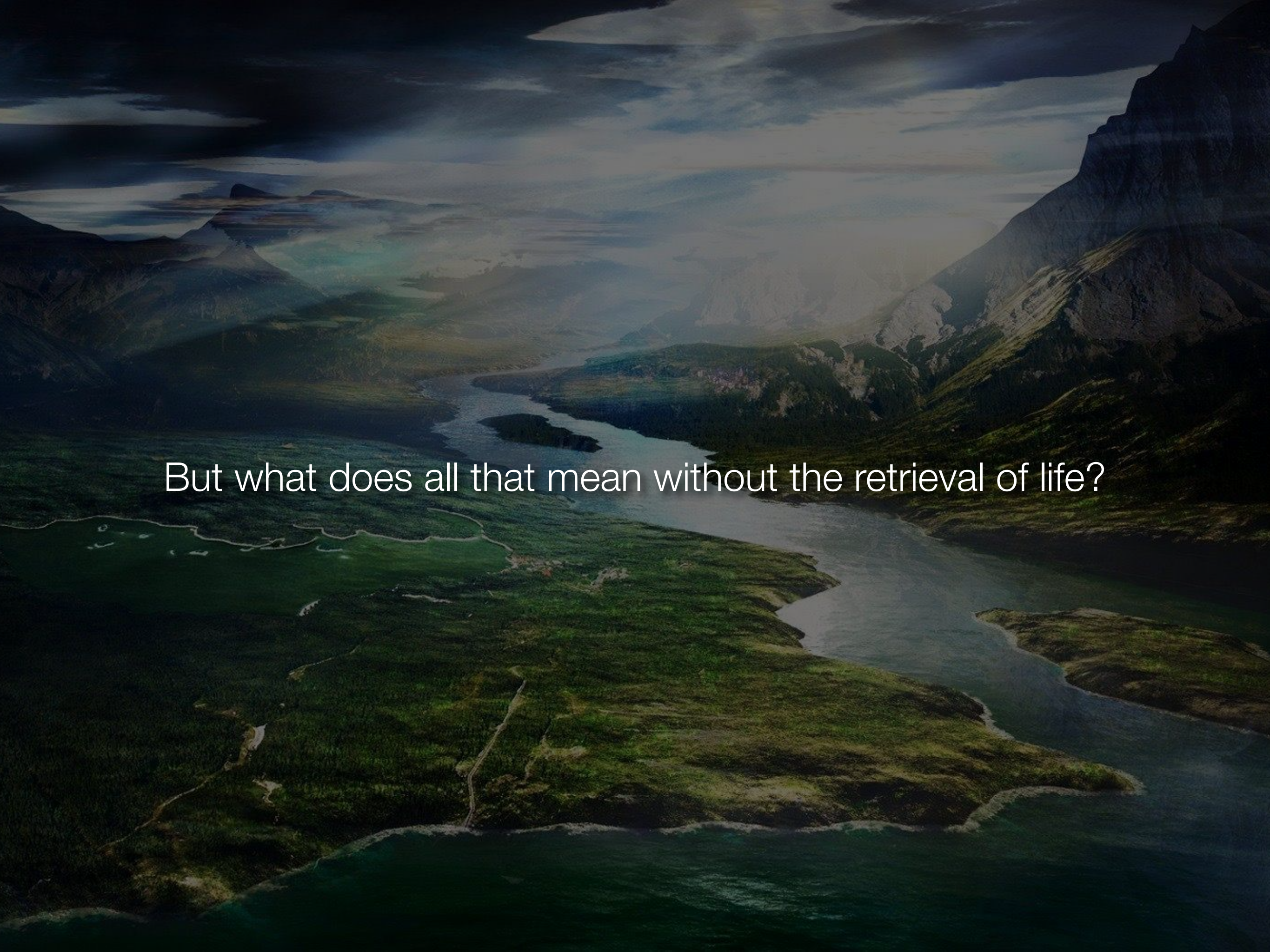


A dramatic landscape painting of a mountain valley. A river flows through the center, surrounded by lush green fields and dense forests. In the background, majestic mountains rise under a sky filled with dark, swirling clouds. A bright light source, possibly the sun or moon, is visible behind the clouds on the right, casting a glow over the scene. The overall mood is awe-inspiring and powerful.

“Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.”

Psalms 2:8 (ESV)



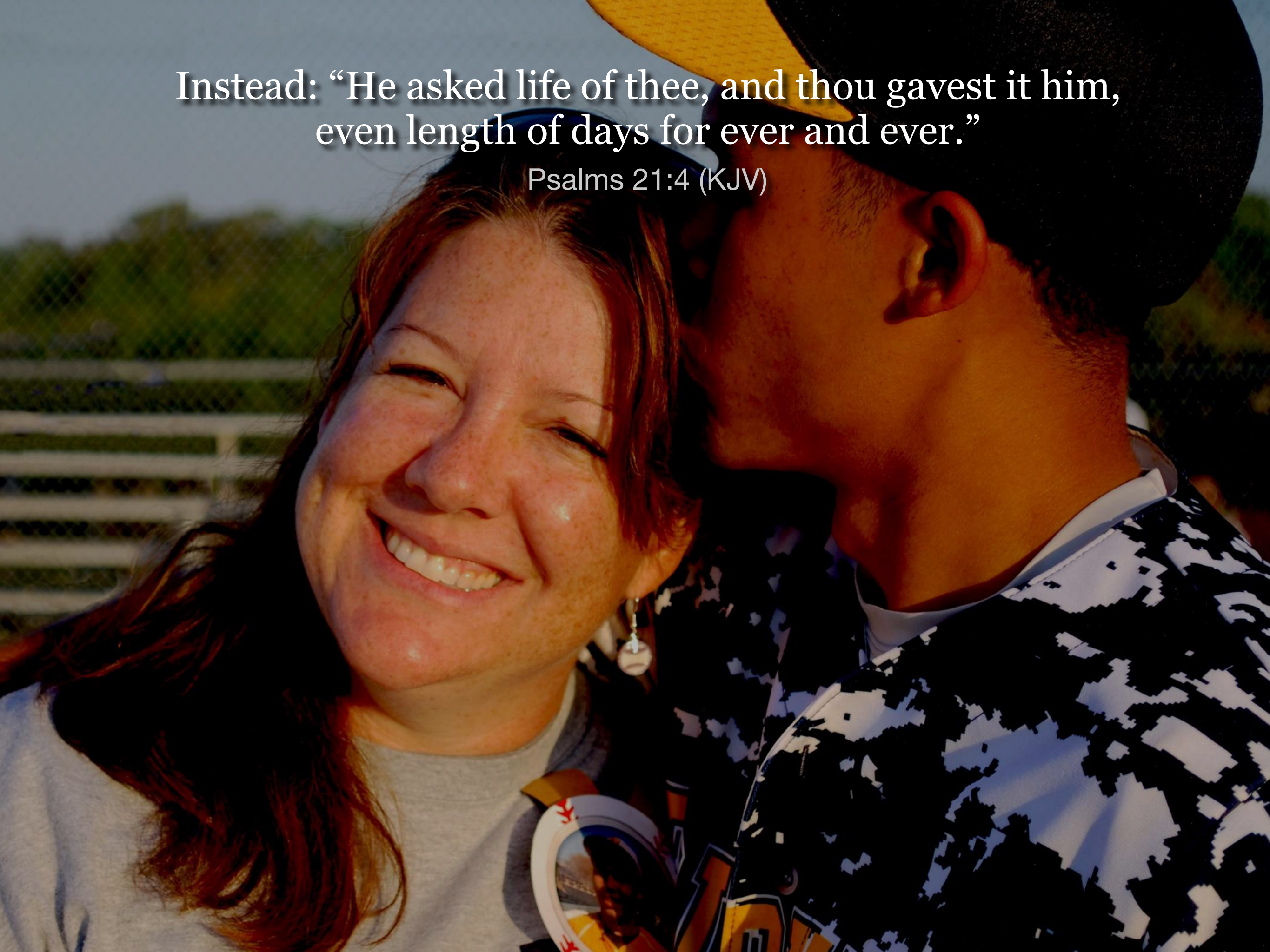
A dramatic landscape painting featuring a winding river that flows from a distant mountain range towards a large, calm lake in the foreground. The river is flanked by steep, rugged mountains with patches of green vegetation. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, suggesting an approaching storm or late evening light. The overall mood is somber and contemplative. The text "But what does all that mean without the retrieval of life?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

But what does all that mean without the retrieval of life?



Instead: “He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him,  
even length of days for ever and ever.”

Psalms 21:4 (KJV)





Your life, engraved in the palms of his hands.









Isaiah 25:6-9 (KJV)

6 And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.



An aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a large, cleared hillside with visible tire tracks slopes down towards a dense forest of green trees. To the right, a dirt road winds through a forest with some autumn-colored trees. The middle ground shows a valley with a mix of green and brown trees, and a winding road. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The text "for the former things are passed away" is overlaid in the center of the image.

for the former things are passed away