



# **Comfort in ABUSE**

Recompense in the Kingdom

A black and white photograph of a person with long dark hair covering their face with their hand, set against a black background. The person's hand is pressed against their face, with fingers spread, obscuring their eyes and nose. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the strands of hair. The overall mood is somber and evocative.

# THE PROBLEM OF **ABUSE**

A black and white photograph of a woman with long dark hair, covering her face with her right hand. Her fingers are spread, and her palm is facing forward. The background is dark and out of focus.

## **DOMESTIC ABUSE:** the invisible crime

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- British Crime Survey: abuse affects 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men
- Average: 35 assaults before a victim calls the police
- As many as 70% of homeless women report domestic abuse
- It is generational—abused children grow up to be abusers.

## **CHILD EXPLOITATION:** emotional homicide

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- 1 in 3 girls, and 1 in 5 boys are exploited before they are 18
- 90% of victims know the perpetrator in some way. 68% are family.
- 95% use churches as covers
- 2.9 million cases reported in the US every year
- One perpetrator can have as many as 300 victims in a lifetime



DECADES OF UNRELENTING ABUSE

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**part 3: testimony of a unnamed sister**



## A Brief Description

### Terror and Exhaustion

*"My body is really giving out. Its getting harder for me to even work though I know that I have to. My physical body may not be able to handle it right now. If the work comes I will certainly do it somehow. All these years of abuse affected me mentally but now its affecting me physically. The stress is just making me feel so very drained. **This evil man has got to be stopped before he kills me and my kids?!"***

# Why Do Women Stay? Why Is It Not reported?

- Threats to harm the victim, loved ones, or pets
- Threats of suicide—or attempts
- Believing the abuser will take their children
- Religious reasons
- Believing the abuser will change—promised, but never kept
- Self-blame
- Limited financial options
- Believing that violence or conflict is normal
- Believing in the sanctity of marriage and the family
- Limited or no housing options
- Blaming the abuse on something else: alcohol, finances
- Low self-esteem
- Fear of the unknown, of change
- Isolation
- Embarrassment and shame
- Believing no one can help
- Cultural beliefs
- Denial
- Pressure from friends and family to stay
- Economic dependence
- A belief that she still “loves him”



her response in faith



## Her response in faith:

### Complete Trust in God

*"I have been in the Truth since I was 15 years old but I've never really seen and felt it until the worst adversity in my life. **Once I put complete trust in God and gave Him the steering wheel of my life then and only then could I have peace within.** I know that God knows where we were going and how to get there. This adversity has been too hard for me to physically, mentally and spiritually handle alone. Once I completely gave Him the wheel then so many blessings started to happen."*

## Her response in faith:

### Update / Current:

*“The storms are settling down now. God has provided a lovely home for me and my daughter to live. The storms have been extremely heavy but they have taught me and my family to truly rely totally and completely on God. They have taught us to be patient no matter what. They have taught me to pray like I have never prayed before. Truly I am so very blessed and thankful for our God that has never, ever left my side through these heavy storms but instead been with me with His arms around me and my family the entire time. Don't ever give up but keep trusting, believing and pray without ceasing. God loves us all so very much and He will guide you through every storm you are going through now or in the future.”*



THE VERSE THAT ANCHORS THIS SISTER'S HOPE:

*28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, seen from the side, gently cradling a sleeping baby. The woman's eyes are closed, and her expression is peaceful. The baby is lying on its back, also with its eyes closed. The lighting is soft and warm, creating a intimate and comforting atmosphere. The background is blurred, showing hints of a home interior.

God's response:

“As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”

Isaiah 66:13

Norfolk Ecclesial Policy  
On Family Services Pertaining to Abuse and Exploitation  
1.1 WHY THE ECCLESIA NEEDS A POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT  
The creation of the policy stems from our having officially opened a Counseling Service for the Norfolk Ecclesia in which our members are financially supported to receive qualified counseling for a specified period of time, where their trials are beyond the scope and ability of our own members to provide sufficient resources for help. We acknowledge that Brothers and Sisters are subject to the same proclivity to sin as all mankind, and provisions should be made to aid victims of abuse and exploitation, recognizing that this abuse could come from outside or from within the body.

Officially recommended to us by two Counselors:  
of Eden Counseling Services: our current, local  
of the Simi Hills Ecclesia

## Our ecclesia's response: A Policy

“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”

Mark 9:42 (NKJV)

Arranging Board

January 7, 2017

# Norfolk Ecclesial Policy

## On Family Services Pertaining to Abuse and Exploitation

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# Overview of Policy Sections

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- Introduction and Definitions
- Relevant Scriptures
- State Laws, Including Signs & Reporting
- Victim First Priority
- Reasonable Suspicion as Opposed to Proof
- Consequence to Fellowship
- Confidentiality | Covering and Exposing Sin
- Practical Restoration and Evidence of Change
- Five Steps that Show Repentance

# Focus On Two Sections

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- Introduction and Definitions
- **Relevant Scriptures**
- State Laws, Including Signs
- Victim First Priority
- Reasonable Suspicion as Opposed to Proof
- Consequence to Fellowship
- Confidentiality | Covering and Exposing Sin
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- **Five Steps that Show Repentance**

Board  
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Norfolk Ecclesial Policy

On Family Services Pertaining to Abuse and Exploitation

RELEVANT SCRIPTURES

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# Abuse and Works of the Flesh

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## Works of the flesh relating to abuse:

Gal 5:16-23 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery**, fornication, **uncleanness, lasciviousness**, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, **variance**, emulations, **wrath, strife**, seditions, heresies, 21 envyings, **murders, drunkenness, revelings**, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: *against such there is no law.*”

***With the fruit of the spirit, there is no abuse.***

# Abuse: Counsel and Exposure

## Auxiliary Counsel is Scripturally Justified:

Prov 11:14 “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

## Exposure of Abuse is Scripturally Justified:

Eph 5:10-13 “Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 **Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.**

12 *For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret;* 13 but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light.” (RSV)

# Abuse and Legality

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## Obedience to the Laws of the Land:

*Ecclesial use of State Law becomes necessary in the context of these scriptures.*

Titus 2:15-3:1 “Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. 1 Remind them to **be submissive to rulers and authorities**, to be obedient, to be ready for any honest work.” (RSV)

## Judgment against Lawbreakers:

Rom 13:1-2 “**Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.** For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 **Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed**, and those who resist will incur judgment.” (RSV)

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On Family Services Pertaining to Abuse and Exploitation

EVIDENCE OF CHANGE

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# Five Steps to Repentance • *Evidence of “change of heart”*

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**STEP 1:** What I did that was wrong?

**STEP 2:** Why it was bad for me?

**STEP 3:** Why it was bad for the person (s) I hurt?

**STEP 4:** What I will do to ensure it will never happen again.

**STEP 5:** What I will do to make restitution to the person I hurt.

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to download: Ecclesial Abuse Policy

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

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayerful or contemplative gesture. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The skin tone is light. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. Overlaid on the hands is the text "abuse in scriptures" in a white, sans-serif font.

abuse in scriptures



# Abigail Appeals for Nabal's Life

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“<sup>3</sup> The man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name, Abigail. The woman was intelligent and beautiful, but the man, a Calebite, **was harsh and evil in his dealings.**” ***<sup>17</sup> He is such a worthless fool nobody can talk to him!***”

1 Samuel 25:3,17 (HCSB)



POINT:

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She tried to save his life.

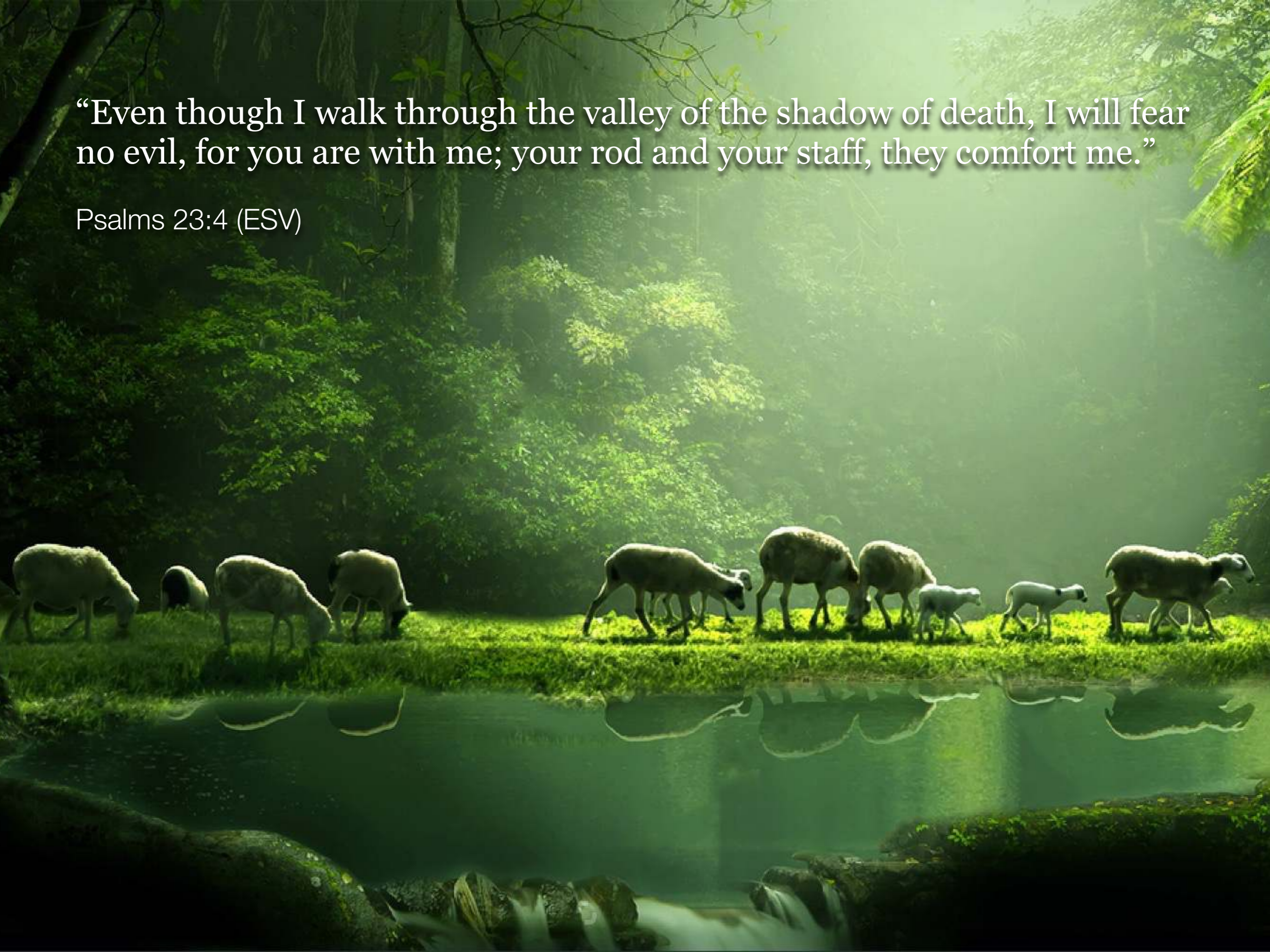
She had no guile.

guilelessness makes sheep vulnerable



“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Psalms 23:4 (ESV)



your rod: for protection and guidance



your staff: for rescue and correction



**Protection and rescue comfort sheep when they are helpless.**



**“Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil.”**

## Vulnerability of abuse according to Solomon:

“<sup>1</sup> Again, I observed all the acts of oppression being done under the sun. Look at the tears of those who are **oppressed**; they have no one to *comfort* them. Power is with those who oppress them; they have no one to *comfort* them.”

Ecclesiastes 4:1 (HCSB Free)

# Justice pleads for correction:

16 “Wash yourselves. Cleanse yourselves. Remove your evil deeds from  
My sight. Stop doing evil. 17 Learn to do what is good. Seek justice.  
**Correct the oppressor.”**

Isaiah 1:16-17 (HCSB)

God *may* work with *both*:

“13 The poor and the oppressor have this in common:  
the Lord gives light to the eyes of both.”

Proverbs 29:13 (HCSB)

# David foreshadows Christ's abuse:

**“<sup>46</sup> How long, Lord? Will You hide Yourself forever? ... <sup>50</sup> Remember, Lord, the ridicule against Your servants —**in my heart I carry abuse** from all the peoples —<sup>51</sup> how Your enemies have **ridiculed**, Lord, how they have **ridiculed** every step of Your anointed. <sup>52</sup> May the Lord be praised forever. Amen and amen.”**

Psalms 89:46-52 (HCSB)

# Solomon's advice about abuse:

“<sup>10</sup> Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and **abuse** will cease.”

Proverbs 22:10 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> “Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself **abuse**, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. <sup>8</sup> Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you;”

“Proverbs 9:7-8 (ESV)

# Paul addresses *separation* in abuse:

“<sup>15</sup> But if the unbelieving partner *separates*, let it be so. In such cases **the brother or sister is not enslaved.**  
**God has called you to peace.**”

1 Corinthians 7:15 (ESV)

A surreal landscape featuring a dark, stormy sky with heavy, dark clouds. Below the sky, a body of water reflects the scene, creating a mirror-like effect. The water is dark and still, with some ripples visible. In the foreground, there are some small, dark, leafless trees or bushes. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks, with some lighter, hazy areas near the horizon. The word "RECOMPENSE" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, centered horizontally.

# RECOMPENSE



# MALACHI

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a message for husbands and fathers

MALACHI 4

# **FIRE** AND **LIGHT**

How God will deal with abusers who tortured his beloved; and little ones.

IN OTHER WORDS:

**Like the sun, God's judgment has two aspects:**

**FIRE**

it will burn up the wicked

LIGHT

it will heal the faithful

B O T H   A R E   H I S   R E C O M P E N S E .

FIRE



“For behold the day comes, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yes and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” Malachi 4:1

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LIGHT



“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go forth, and grow up as calves from the stall.” Malachi 4:2

“And ye shall tread down the wicked;  
for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet  
in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.”

Malachi 4:3 (KJV)

**Then I will draw near to you in judgment.**

I will be a swift witness against deceivers, against adulterers, against liars, against those who oppress workers, widows and children, against those who turn strangers away, and *do not fear me*, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:5 (paraphrased)

The day that is coming  
shall burn them up.  
Mal 4:1

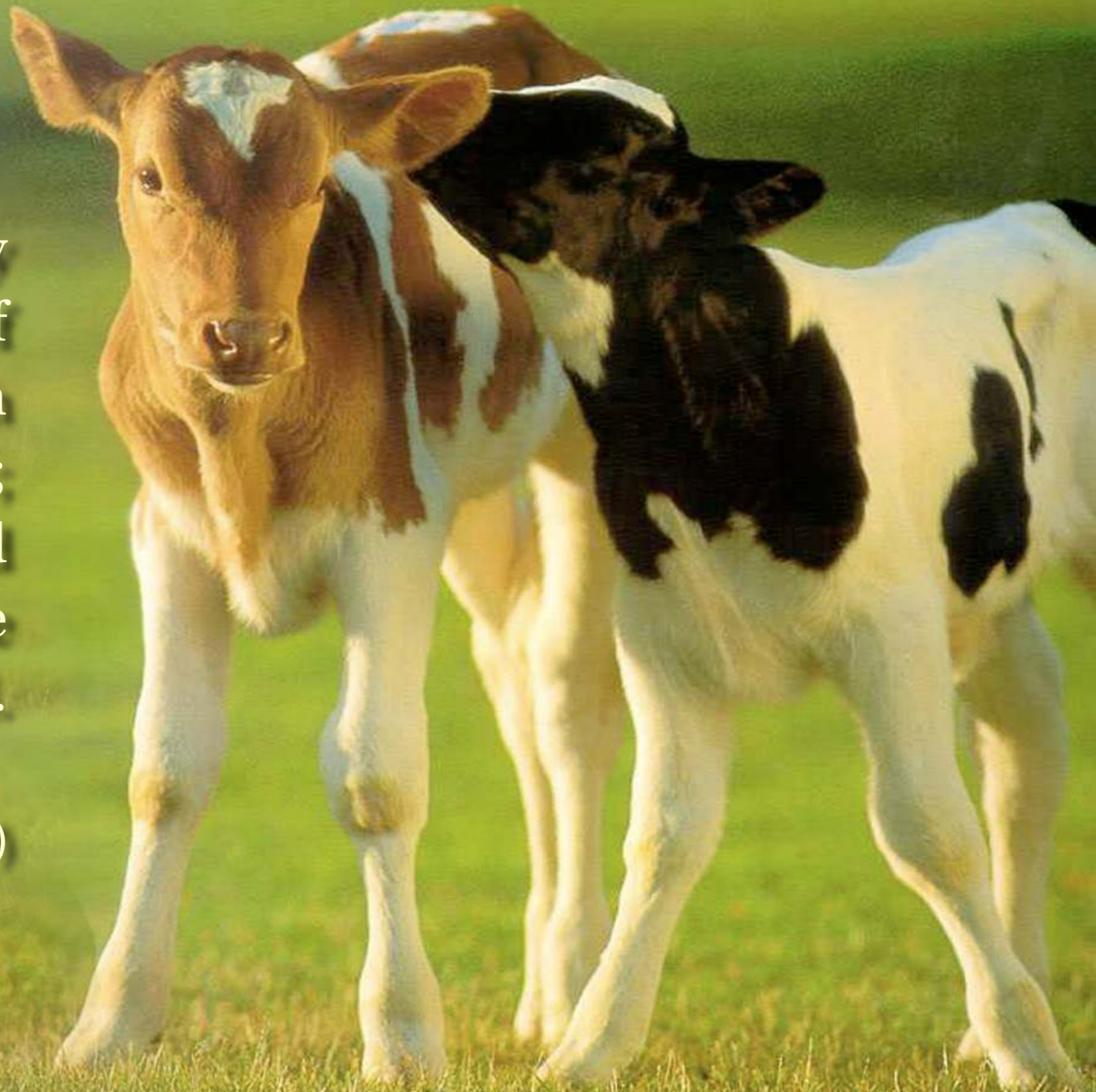


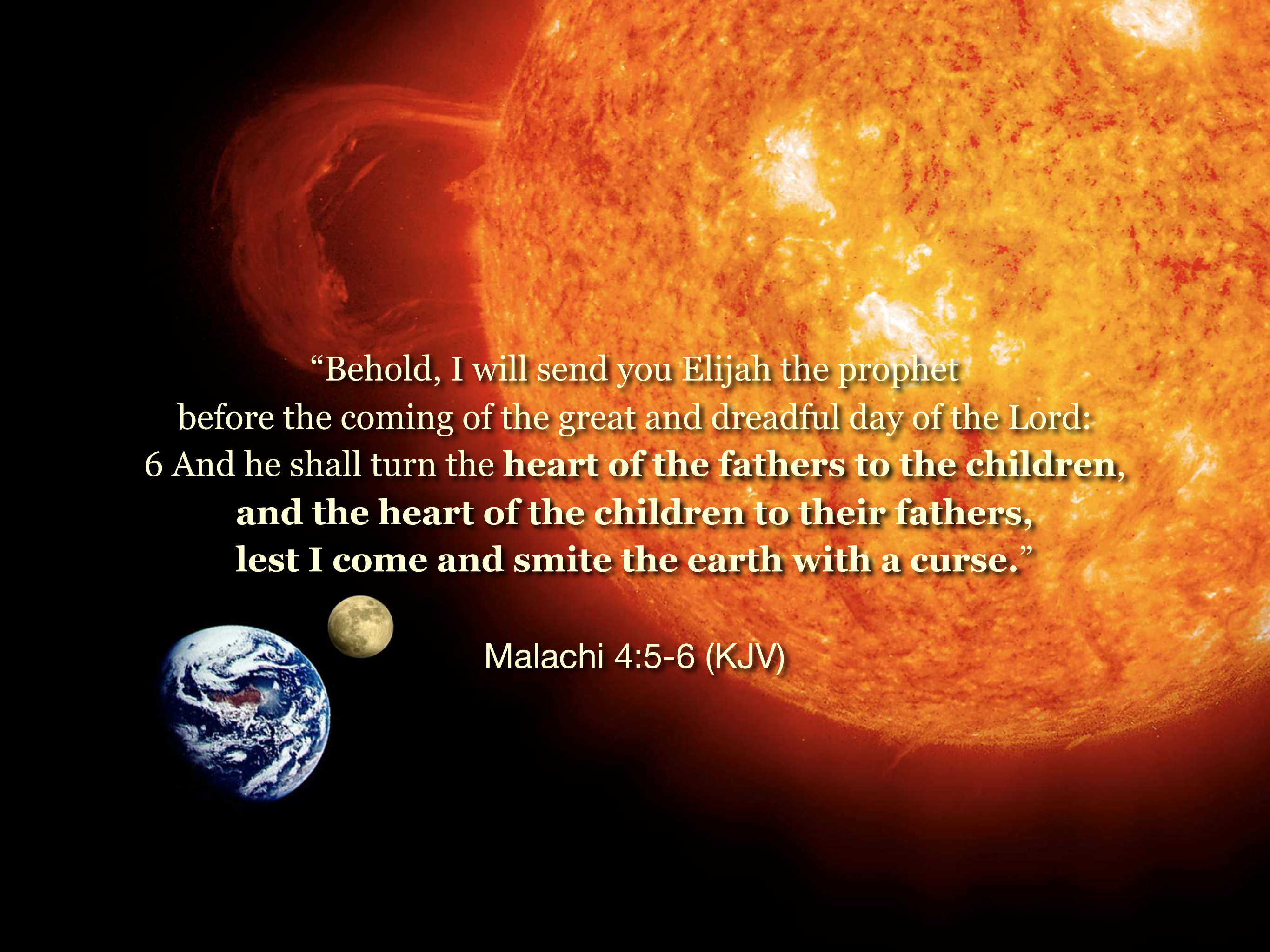
And you shall go forth and  
grow up as calves of the stall.  
Mal 4:3



But unto you that fear my  
name shall the Sun of  
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grow up as calves of the  
stall.

Malachi 4:2 (KJV)





“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:  
6 And he shall turn the **heart of the fathers to the children,**  
**and the heart of the children to their fathers,**  
**lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”**

Malachi 4:5-6 (KJV)