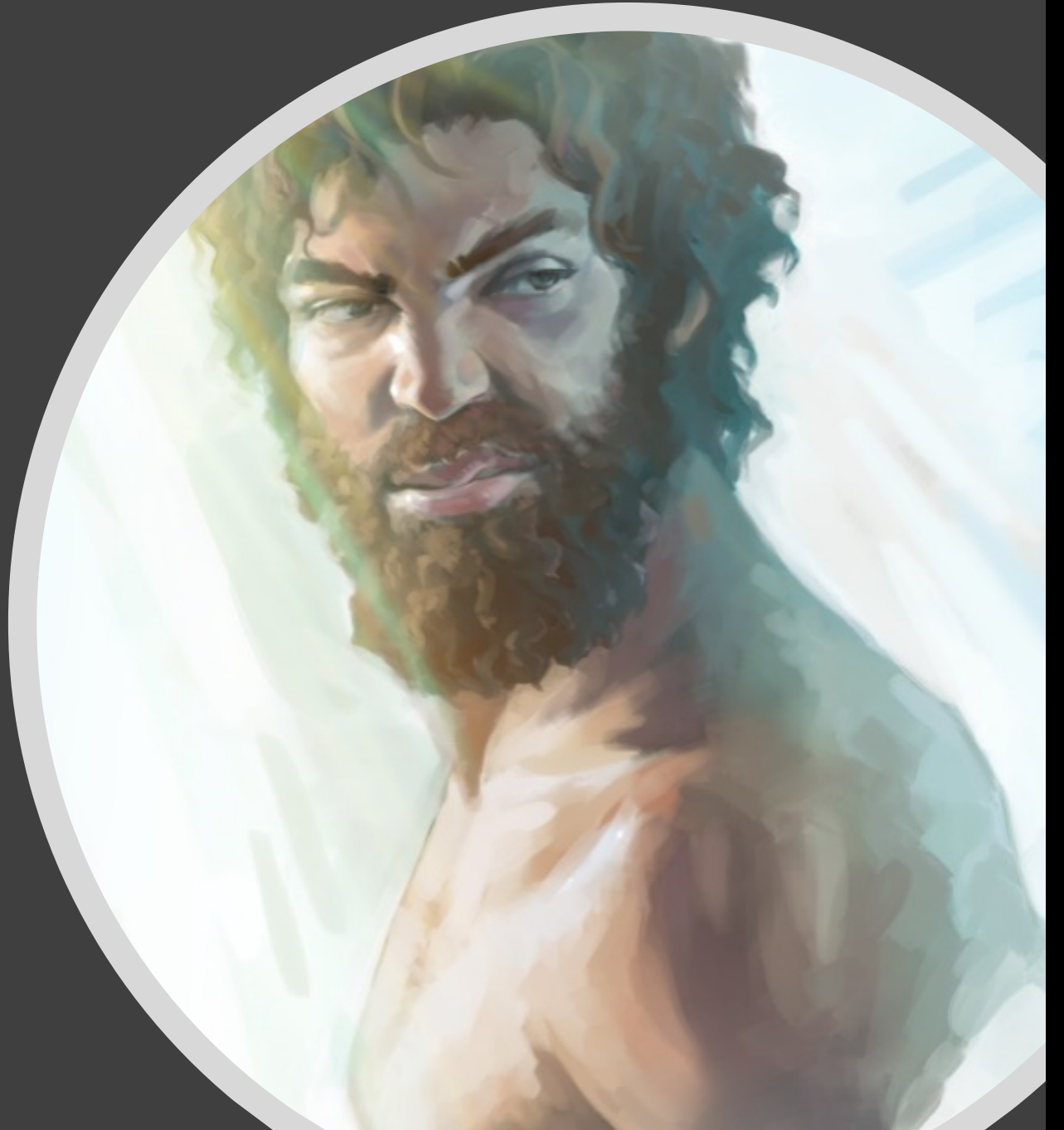


# THE PRIDE OF CAIN

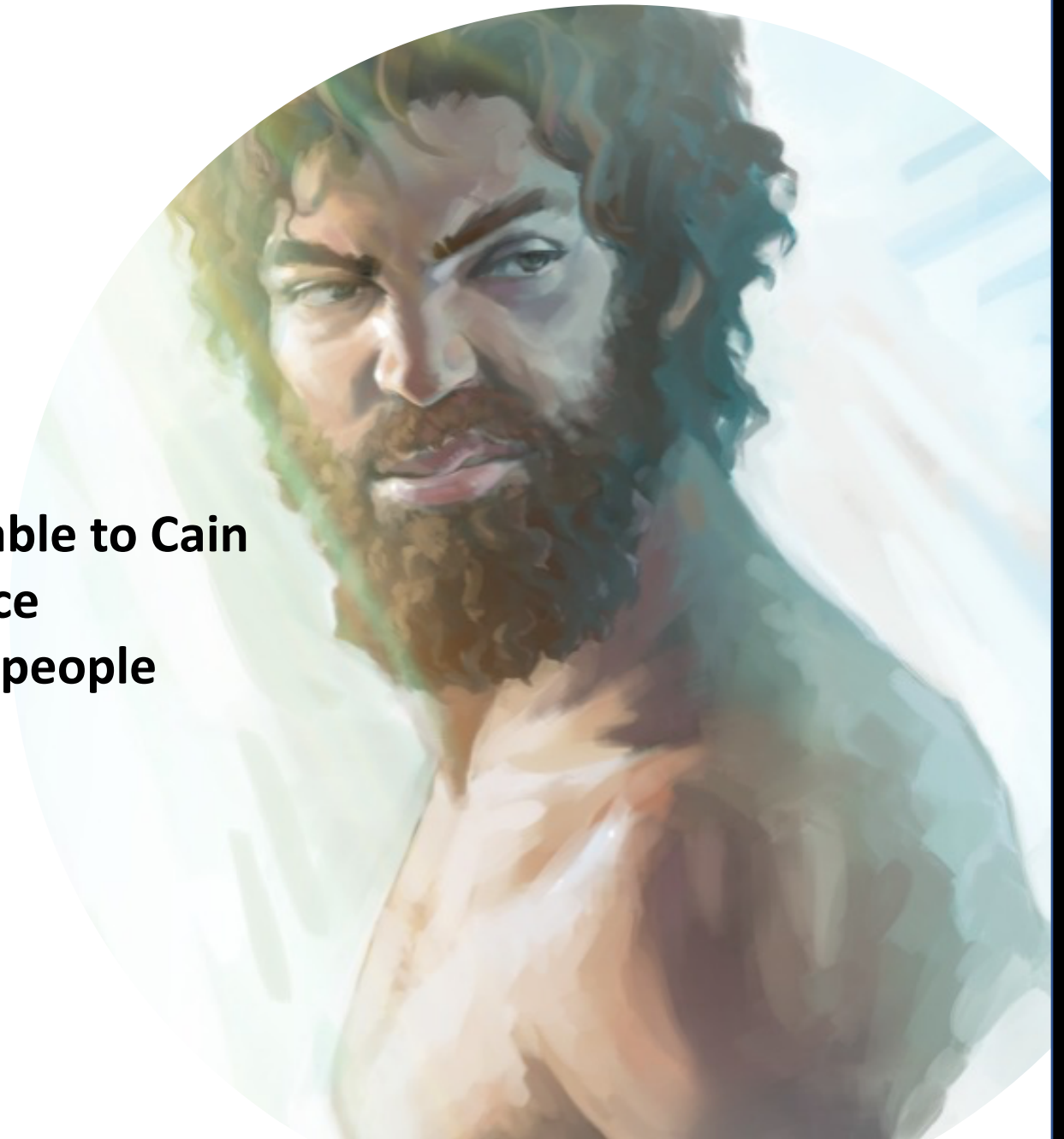


# OVERVIEW

## ➔ The Pride of Cain

- Pride made God's standards unacceptable to Cain
- Pride caused Cain to oppose God's grace
- Pride caused Cain to hate God and His people
- Pride made Cain spiritually blind

## ➔ The faith of Abel



STEINBECK

EAST  
OF  
EDEN



**WHY WOULDN'T CAIN GIVE A  
DECENT SACRIFICE TO GOD?**



**BECAUSE HE WASN'T  
ABEL**



*What makes Cain such a relevant figure, even today?*



## Genesis 4:1-16

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*<sup>1</sup> Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.” <sup>2</sup> Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.*

## Genesis 4:1-16

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*<sup>3</sup> Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.*

## Genesis 4:1-16

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*<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”*

*<sup>8</sup> Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.*

## Genesis 4:1-16

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<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

<sup>10</sup> The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

## Genesis 4:1-16

---

*<sup>13</sup> Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”*

*<sup>15</sup> But the LORD said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.*

*<sup>16</sup> So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.*

# A hopeful beginning

*<sup>1</sup> Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”*

*<sup>2</sup> Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.*



# The Offering

*<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.*

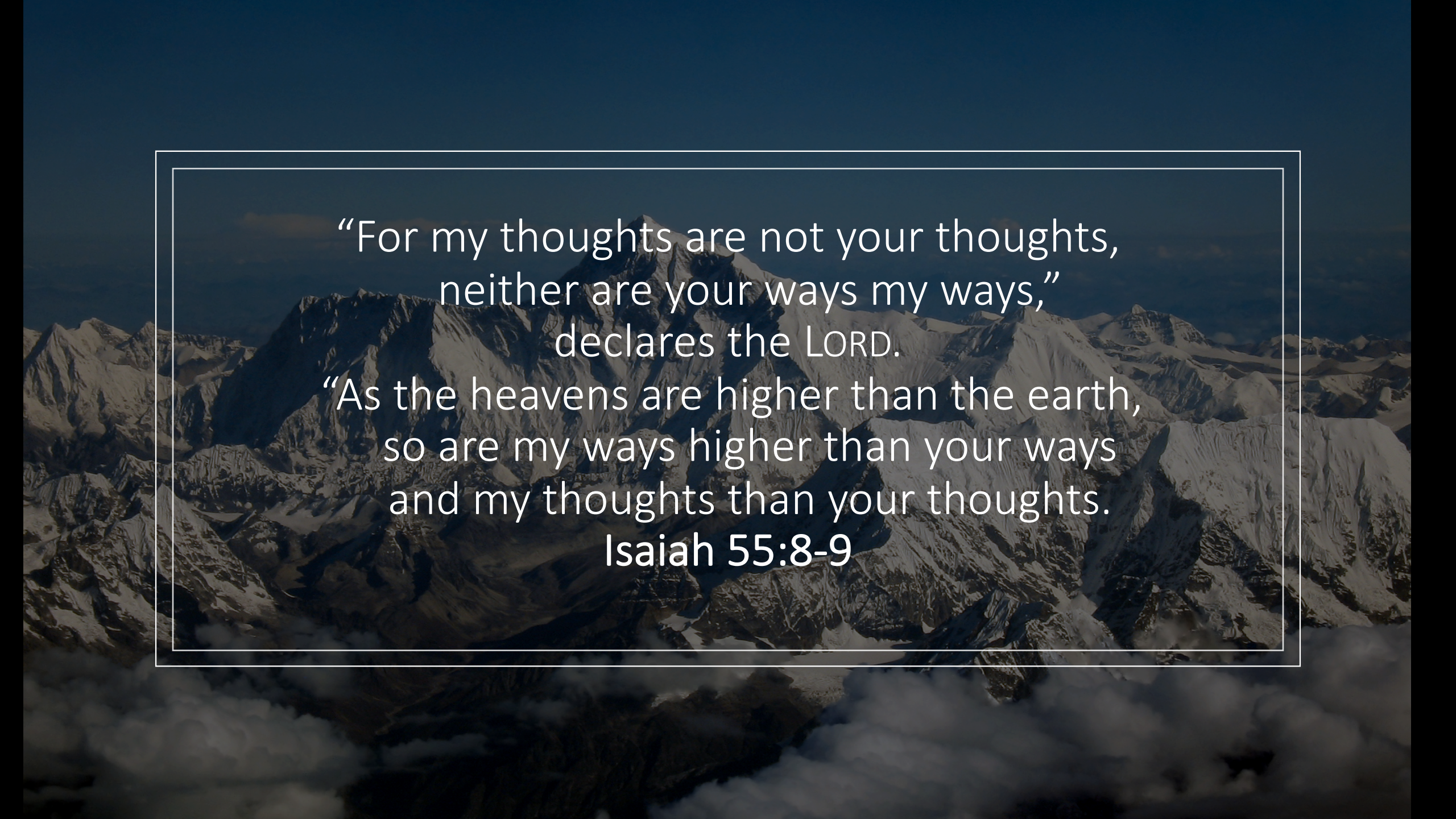


*Cain's anger stemmed  
from a perceived injustice*

Cain thought his offering  
was good enough to be  
accepted and was angry  
when God did not agree

*Do we get angry when God does not agree  
with our standards of good enough?*





“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,”  
declares the LORD.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

*Cain's anger stemmed  
from a perceived injustice*

Cain thought God had no  
right to reject anything  
he offered



## Malachi 1:13-14

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<sup>13</sup> And you say, ‘What a burden!’ and you sniff at it contemptuously,” says the LORD Almighty.

“When you bring injured, lame or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?” says the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> “Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king,” says the LORD Almighty, “and my name is to be feared among the nations.

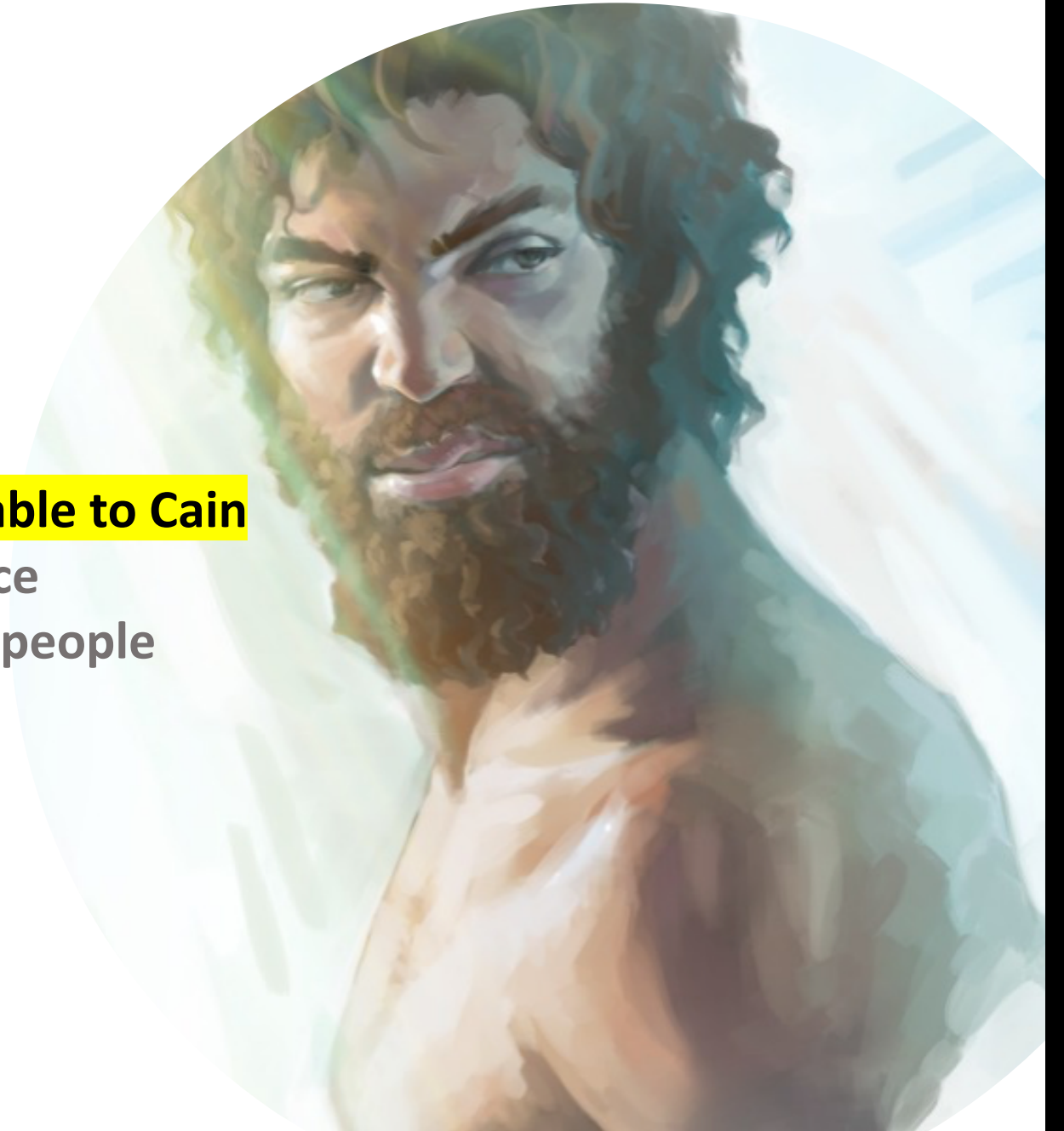


Cain thought God should  
be satisfied with  
whatever was given

Do we behave  
contemptuously toward  
God, thinking that we are  
doing God a favor by  
showing up every Sunday?

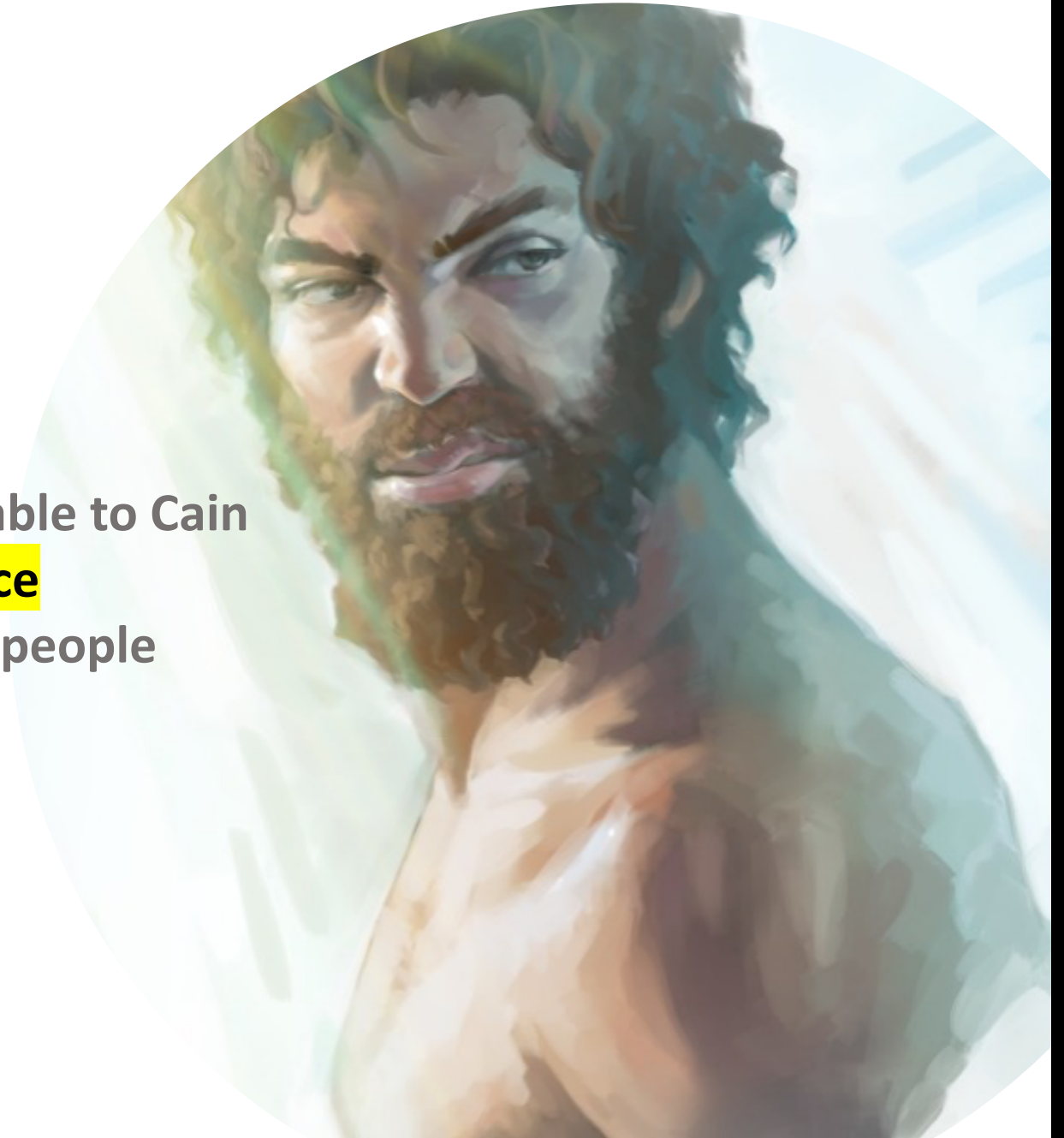
## ➔ The Pride of Cain

- **Pride made God's standards unacceptable to Cain**
- Pride caused Cain to oppose God's grace
- Pride caused Cain to hate God and His people
- Pride made Cain spiritually blind



# ➔ The Pride of Cain

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# The Warning

## DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2007 Michael D. Waters

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.

– GENESIS 4:7 NIV



# GRACE

Sometimes it's hard to  
open your hand, but you  
need to...

PRIDE

*Pride is so dangerous,  
especially when life  
is not going smoothly,  
because it opposes  
everything that comes  
to save you.*



GRACE

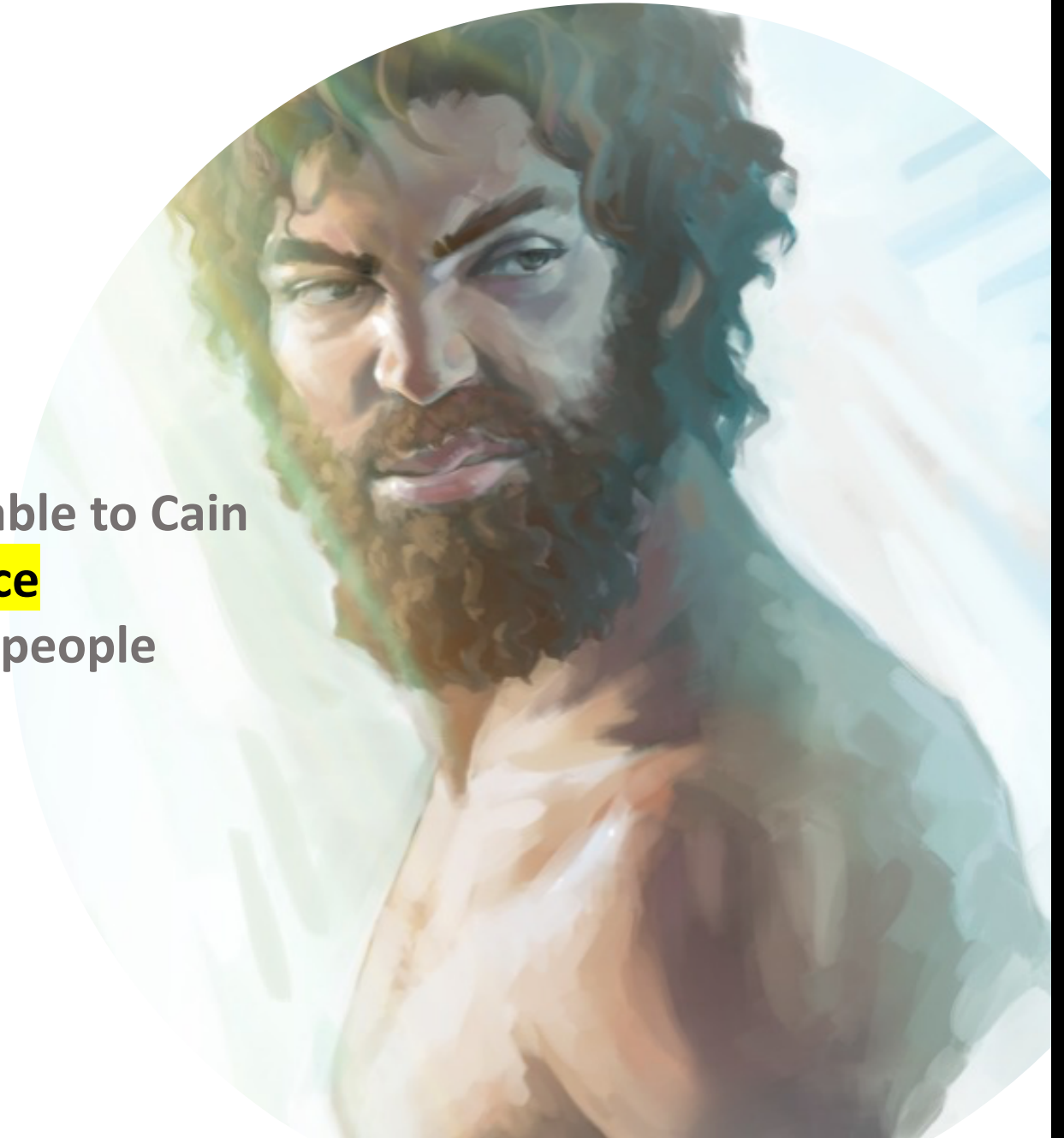
Sometimes it's hard to  
open your hand, but you  
need to...

PRIDE

*Have you ever found  
yourself in trouble but  
refusing to turn to God?*

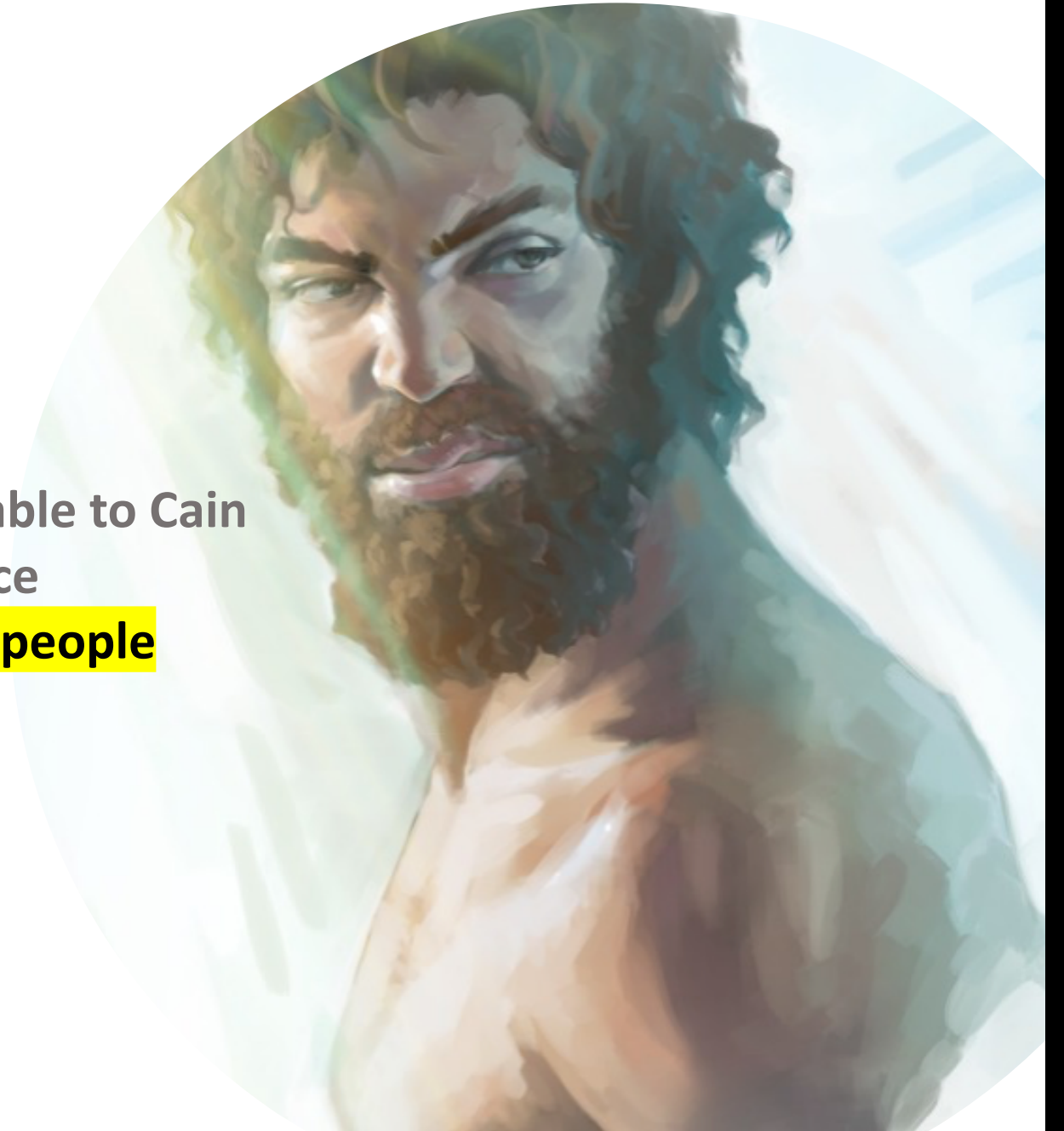
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*Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."  
While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.*

## Luke 11:50-51

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"Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the **blood of all the prophets that has been shed** since the beginning of the world, **from the blood of Abel** to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, **this generation will be held responsible for it all.**"

## 1 John 3:12

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*Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.*

Just as Cain killed Abel out of envy, and this envy was birthed from pride, so too did the Pharisees want Jesus killed.

# How bad of a sin is pride?

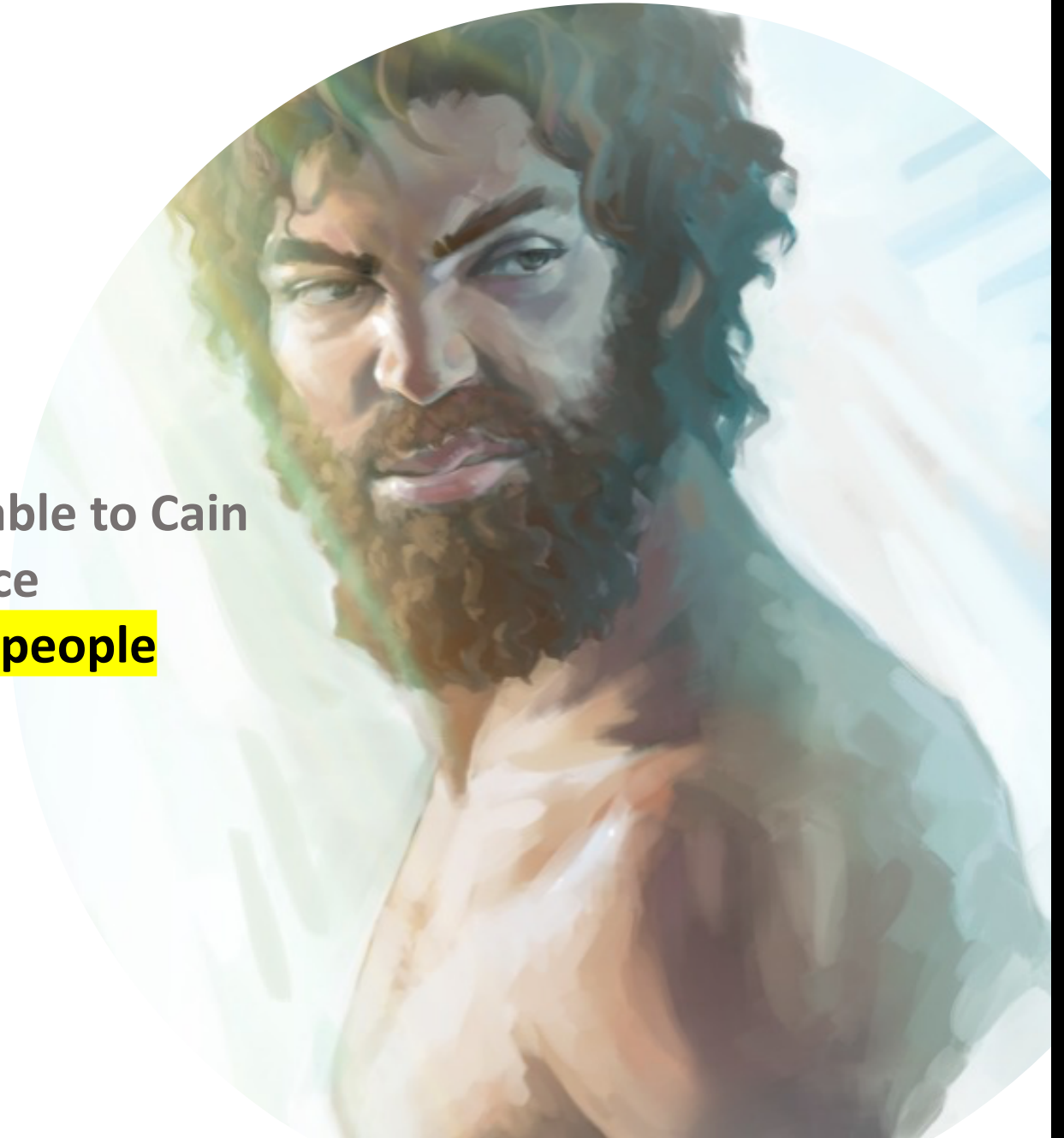
Isaiah 2:12

For the LORD of hosts will have a day *of reckoning*  
Against all who are proud and arrogant  
And against all who are lifted up,  
That they be degraded.

**Pride → Critical Spirit → Accuser → Despising / Hating  
God's people**

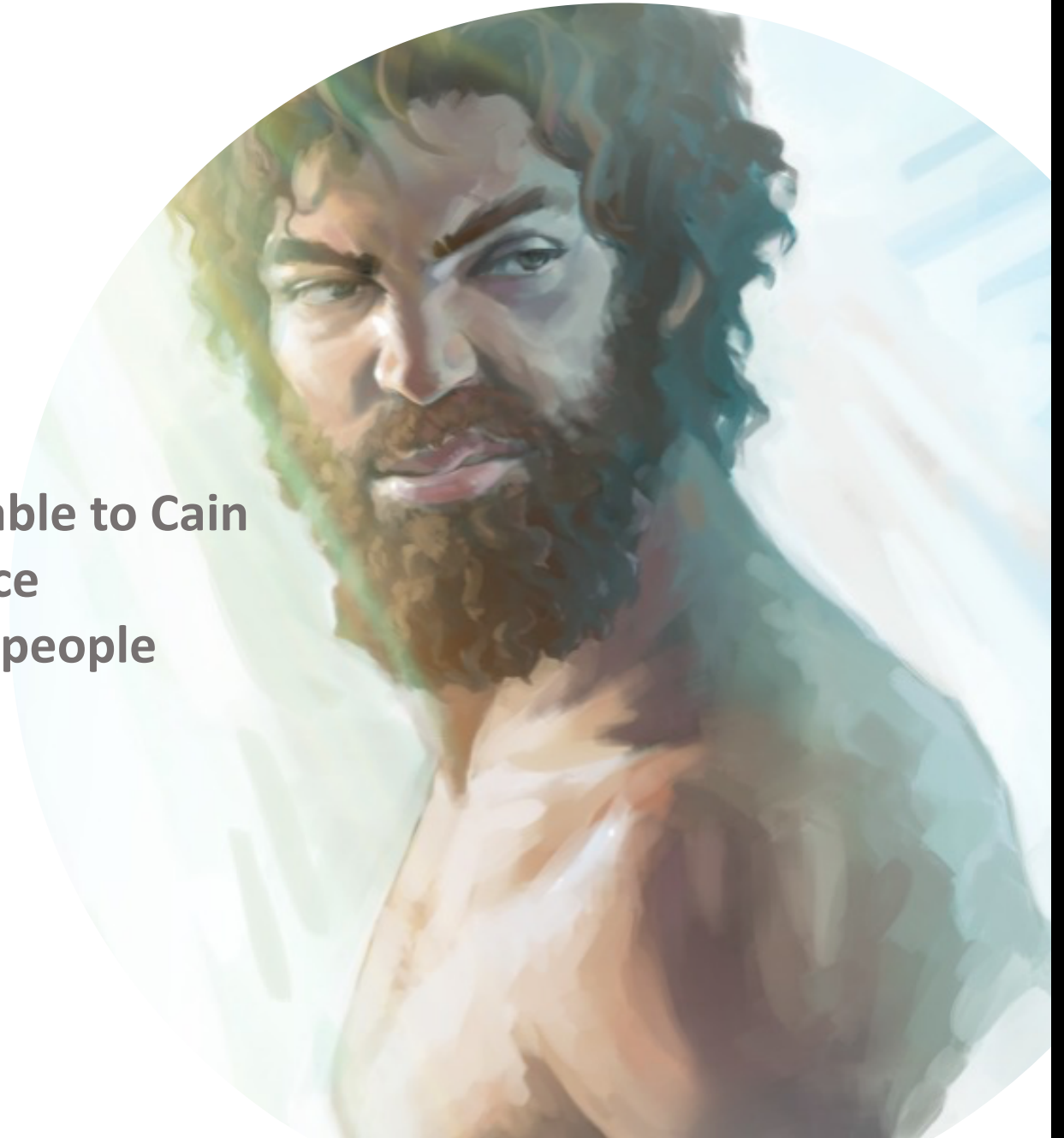
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*“I don’t know,” he replied.*

*“Am I my brother’s keeper?”*

*<sup>10</sup> The LORD said, “What have you  
done? Listen! Your brother’s blood  
cries out to me from the ground.*

# Judgement

*<sup>11</sup> Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."*

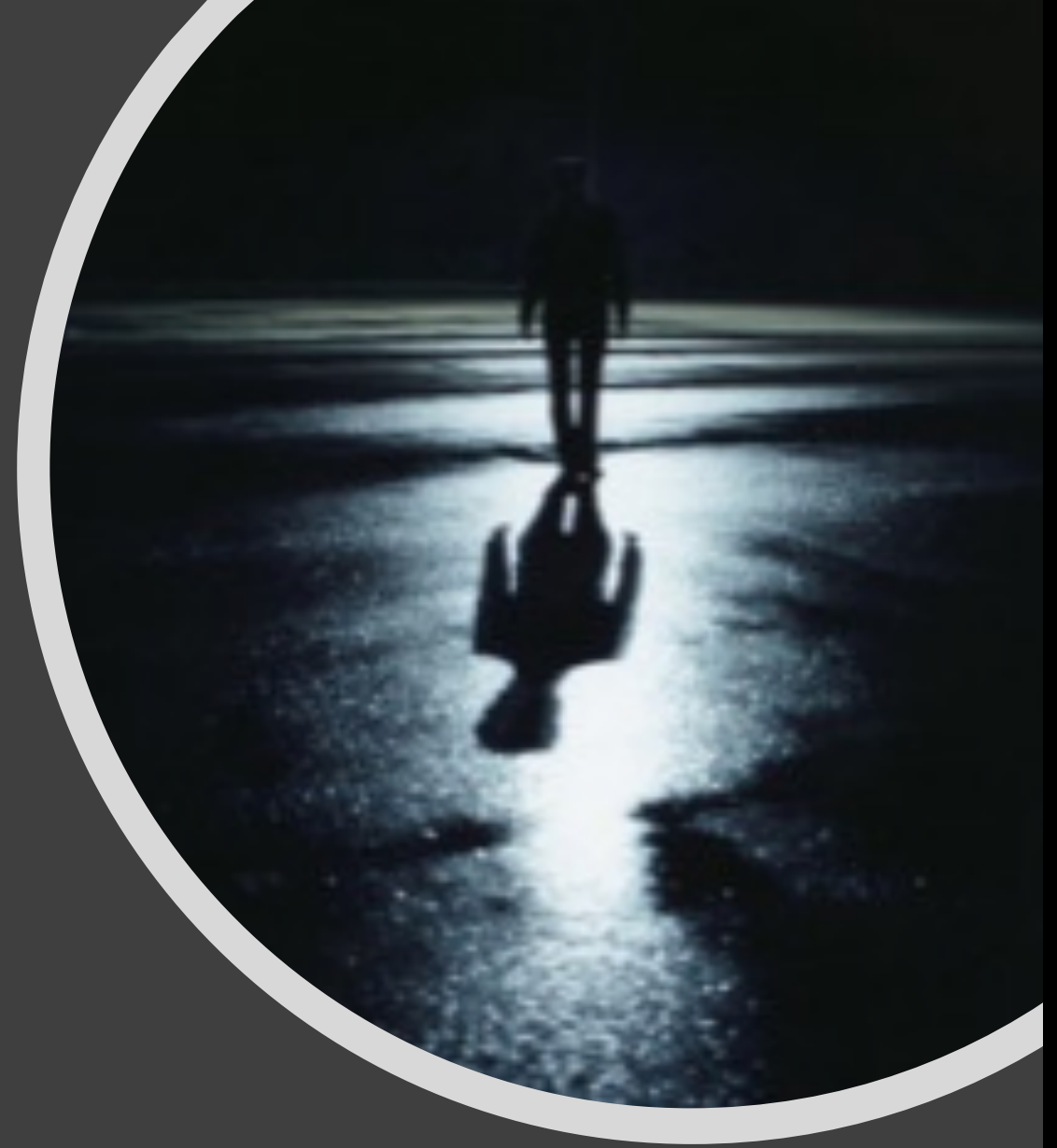
*<sup>13</sup> Cain said to the LORD, "**My punishment is more than I can bear.** <sup>14</sup> Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and **whoever finds me will kill me.**"*



# Separation

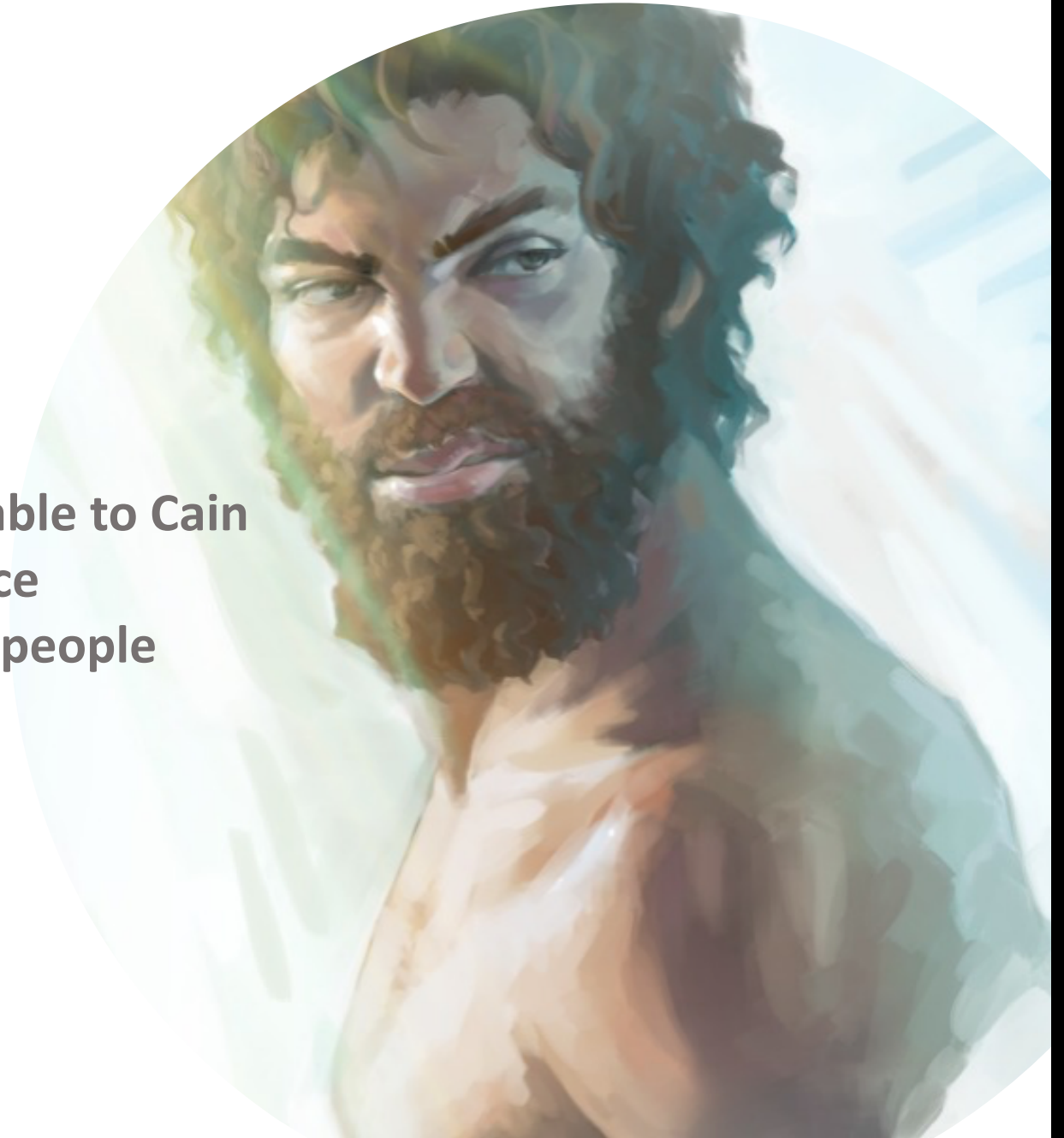
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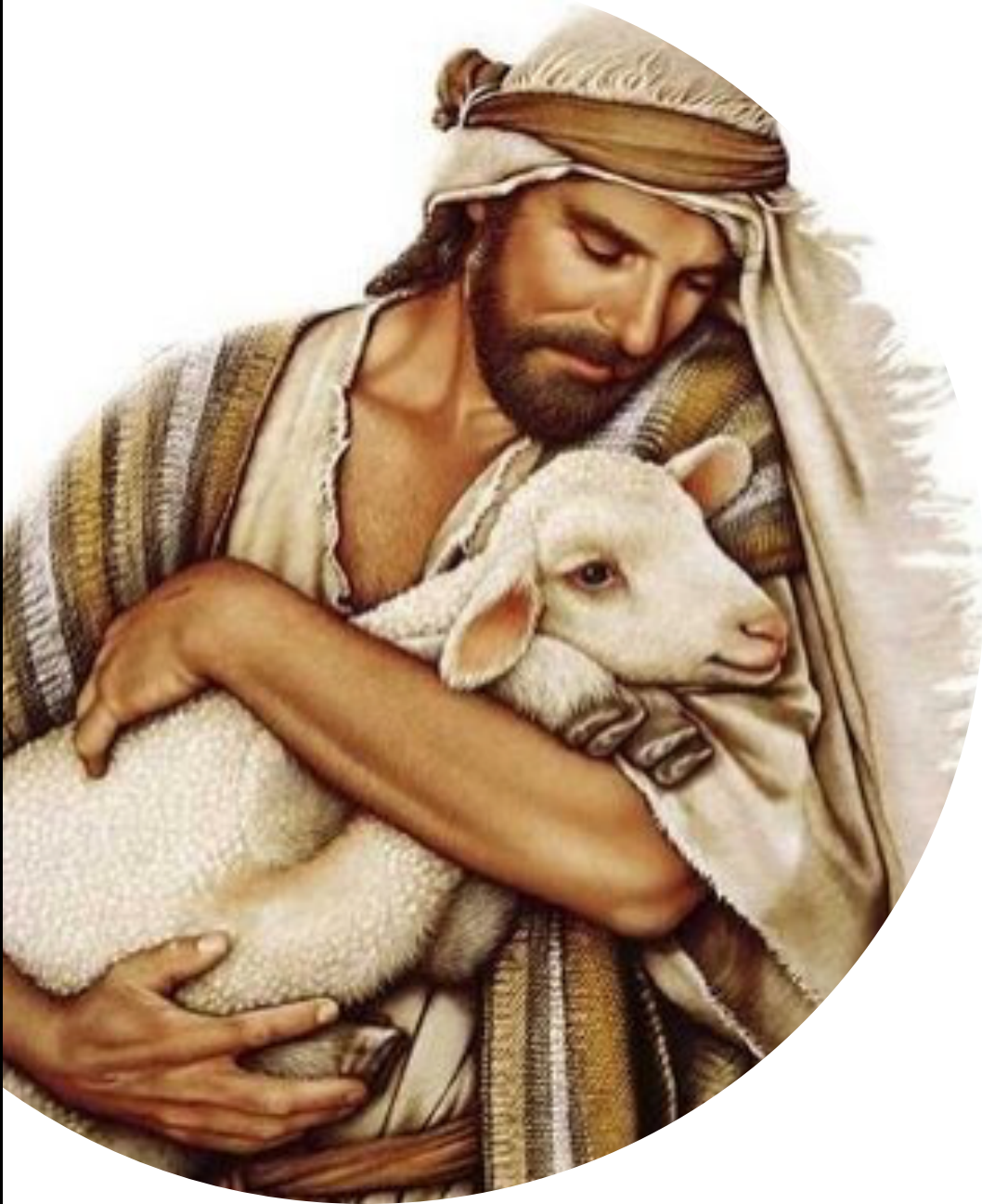
## ➔ The Pride of Cain

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*Anger, violence, and eternal separation from God – this is the natural progression of pride in our lives, if left unchecked.*



➔ A Better Way –  
The Faith of Abel

## Hebrews 11: 1- 4

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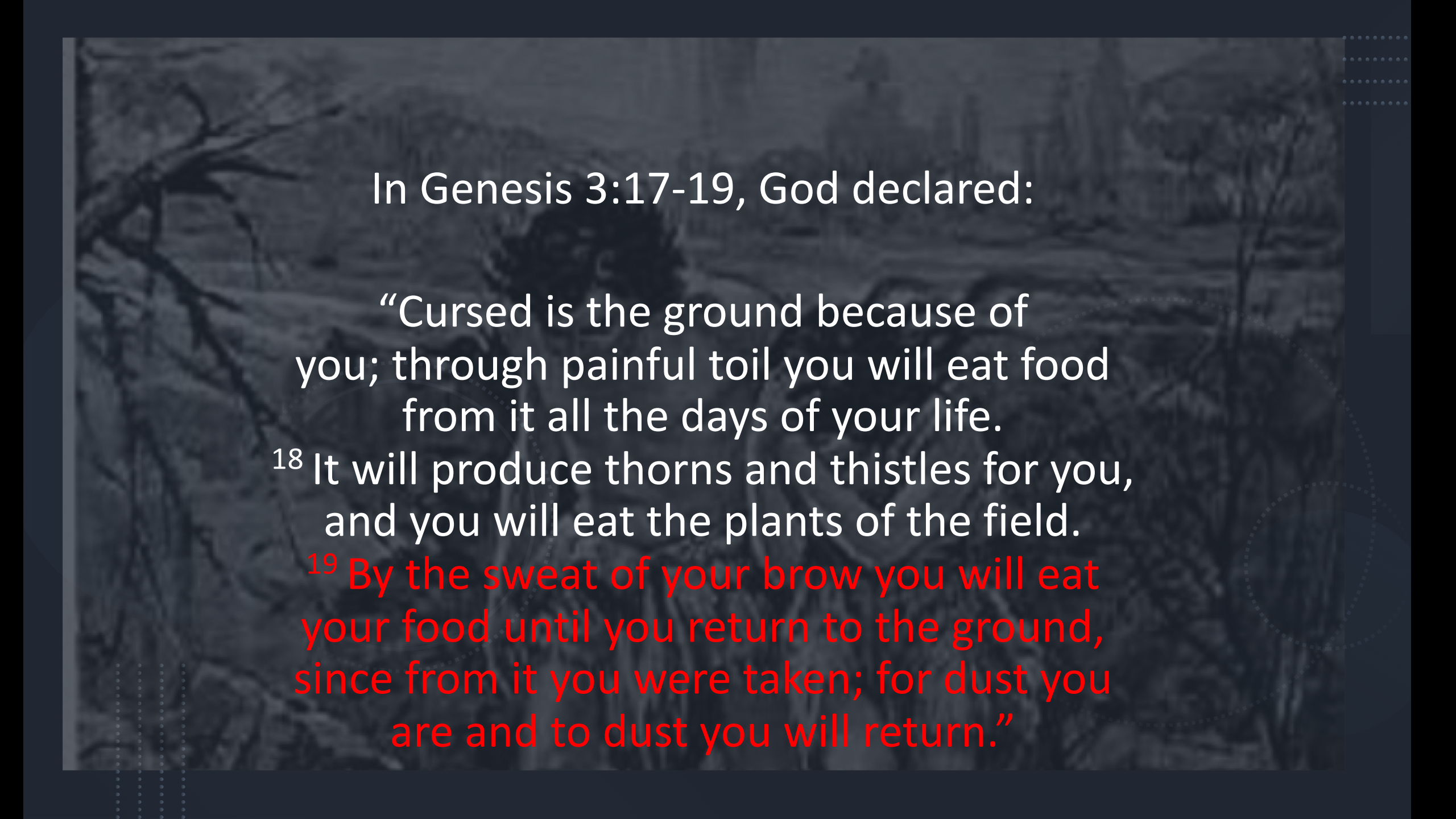
<sup>1</sup> Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

Unlike his father and  
brother, Abel chose a  
different path





In Genesis 3:17-19, God declared:

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”



# Food in those days

## Genesis 1:29

God said to mankind – “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”

## Genesis 3:17 and 18

God says “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.”

## Genesis 9:3

Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

# Luke 11:50-51

"Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the **blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel** to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all."

***Jesus considered Abel a prophet***



## Hebrews 11: 4

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.



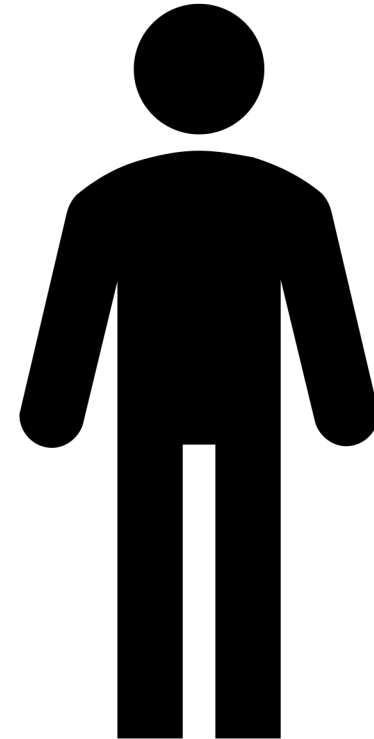
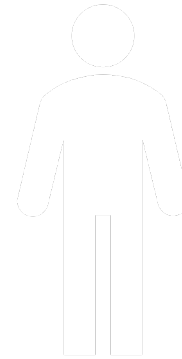
# What has faith got to do with humility?

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*Faith is in and of itself, an act of humility → to trust in Christ's finished work on the cross, and not on our own works to redeem ourselves.*



I am so sorry, it is my fault, I cannot afford to pay you but I deserve the full punishment, therefore I don't want to ask for leniency.



I am so sorry, it is my fault, I cannot afford to pay you but I deserve the full punishment. Please have mercy on me.

# SUMMARY

*The way to escape pride is to grow in our faith*

Pride rejects God's standards

Pride opposes God's grace

Pride makes us hate God and His people

Pride makes us spiritually blind

Faith sees God's standards as the only standards that matter

Faith is desperate for God's grace

Faith causes us to love God and His people

Faith shifts our focus from the temporal to the eternal





Cain was not the proudest person recorded in the Bible, but he left his pride unchecked.

You don't need to have a lot of pride, a little bit is enough to destroy you.

Is there pride you have to deal with?